

The Three  
STEPHEN BINGHAMS  
of  
West Point, King William County, Virginia  
1750 to 1850  
and  
beyond

What Original Records Taught A Researcher  
About The Three Stephen Bingham of West Point,  
King William County, Virginia

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## INTRODUCTION

In the area that became the United States of America only four Bingham arrived as settlers during the colonial era and remained to raise families. Stephen Bingham of West Point, King William County, Virginia was one of the four. I came in contact with him through sources at the Connecticut Historical Society. Previous Bingham researchers had corresponded with some of Stephen's descendants. Their letters were filed with Bingham material relating to Thomas Bingham of Sheffield, Yorkshire, England and Saybrook, Norwich and Windham, Connecticut.

Thomas Bingham had a brother, Stephen, born in Sheffield, Yorkshire in 1633. His marriage to Sara Brag in 1652 seems to be recorded in the Worksop, Nottinghamshire Parish Register. At least, that is what appears online as the result of a findmypast search. Based on this one little piece of information some researchers have linked the Yorkshire Stephen Bingham to the Stephen Bingham who died in Virginia in 1759. Such a stretch does not fit the definition of acceptable evidence.

Thomas Bingham of Connecticut and his descendants were the subject of the Bingham Association's 1996 book: "*The Bingham Family in the United States. The Descendants of Thomas Bingham of Connecticut*". As the main author, I was assisted by over one hundred contributors. Everything we published was backed by reliable sources all of which are referenced in the book. Periodic *Updates* added to the book so that the 1996 Bingham book brought the descendants of Thomas Bingham of Connecticut to the year 2020 and corrected a plethora of errors in Theodore Alfred Bingham's (TAB) 1927-1930 three volume study also titled "*The Bingham Family in the United States*". Volume three of TAB contains a few entries for Stephen Bingham the first of Virginia. Finding this undoubtedly encourages some researches to try to make a connection with the Thomas Bingham family of Connecticut.

Although still under copyright, 95 years for books published 1923-1978, Ancestry digitized and placed online a copy of the 1927-1930 TAB three volumes. Researchers should give preference to the 1996 more accurate and comprehensive volume. Two copies were donated to libraries in each state. A copy in a different format than the book and each *Update* is available for download at **[donnabinghammunger.com](http://donnabinghammunger.com)**

Neither has evidence been found to link Stephen Bingham, the first, of King William County, Virginia with the Bigham family of Pennsylvania and Ireland. In fact, we do not know whether Stephen Bingham the first of Virginia was originally a Bigham or a Bingham. English clerks tended to prefer the English spelling, *Bingham*, rather than the Irish spelling *Bigham*.

Findmypast digitation of English and Irish BMD records is another source for a Stephen Bingham born in England or Ireland in the early 1700s and married about 1735. So far, no record for a Stephen Bingham on their website qualifies. This means we have no evidence documenting the origin of Stephen Bingham the first of De La War Town, West Point, King William County,

Virginia. Nevertheless, the material and information I have gathered on Stephen Bingham of Virginia needs to be available for public use so researchers do not need to reinvent the past again.

Using the letters from the Connecticut Historical Society, family sources deposited in the Library of Virginia, and other secondary sources, the following article will relay how much is known, up to 2024, about Stephen Bingham the first of King William County, Virginia, his son Stephen Bingham the second, of King William County, Virginia, and his grandson, Stephen Bingham the third, of King William County, Virginia and Williamsburg/Brooklyn, New York.

## SOURCES

Stephen Bingham of West Point, King William County, Virginia has been an enigma, a riddle for genealogy and history. The only sources we had for him seemed to be his 1759 Will and a few notices in the *Virginia Gazette*. This is a grand misconception and patently not true. In fact, for Stephen Bingham and his descendants, in addition to his will and notices in the *Virginia Gazette*, we have six second hand family sources and numerable tangential sources.

The family sources we have are of three types: letters, bible record, and personal memory manuscript.

### Four Family Letters

The four letters were composed in the 1870s by fourth generation family members born between 1779 and 1825; deaths ranged from 1859 to 1915. None of the authors were alive when either the first or second Stephen Bingham lived; only one personally knew the third Stephen Bingham, son John H. Bingham of Brooklyn, NY. John is the only one who can give us accurate dates as he had “old papers” he referred to.

The letters, listed below, were sent to Walter F. Bingham of Philadelphia in 1870 and 1871. They were from John H. Bingham of Brooklyn, N.Y., L.W. Lambeth of Lynchburg, VA, John W. Schoolfield of Memphis, TN, and Charles Wesley Bingham of Christiansburg, VA, all descendants or spouses of descendants of Stephen Bingham of Virginia. The letters were written in response to a circular letter Walter F. Bingham sent as he worked on his hobby of family genealogy. Walter had also obtained Daniel Havens Bingham’s mass of notes, which he organized. Using these sources Walter F. Bingham prepared a nearly publishable manuscript, but he died before publication. His manuscript and all notes went to Daniel Havens Bingham’s grandson, W.H. Miller. General Theodore A. Bingham, later located Walter’s material and incorporated the manuscript into the 1898 edition of *The Bingham Family in the United States*.

In the 1970s these letters were in Connecticut Historical Society, Hartford, CT. I took notes and made copies of the letters which I have and which will remain part of my collection. The Connecticut Historical Society has become the Connecticut Museum of Culture and History and as of 2025 claims not to have found the letters.

1. John H. Bingham to Walter F. Bingham, Nov 27, 1870.

John H. Bingham (1829-1887) was the oldest son of Stephen Bingham and Julia Brotherton.

2. L.(afayette) W.(Washington) Lambeth to Walter F. Bingham, Jan 23, 1871.

- L.W. Lambeth (1824-1893) was the third son of Elizabeth Gaines Bingham and George Kemp Lambeth.
3. John W. Schoolfield to Walter F. Bingham, Feb 5, 1871.  
John W. Schoolfield (1798-1878) married Frances Anna Dudley, daughter of Anna Maria “Nancy” Bingham and William Dudley. Nancy Bingham was the oldest child of Stephen Bingham and Anne Gaines.
4. C.(harles) W.(esley) Bingham to Walter F. Bingham, Feb. 6, 1871.  
C.W. Bingham (1837-1915) was a son of William George Henry Bingham and Martha Jane Wright. His Bingham grandparents were Stephen and Ann Gaines

### One Bible Record

The author of the Bible record, Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne (1779-1859), was the son of William Claiborne (1748-1809) of Sweet Hall, King William County, Virginia and Mary Leigh, daughter of Ferdinando Leigh and Mary/Martha Cole. Nathaniel’s father, William, was the son of Nathaniel Claiborne and Jane Cole Claiborne, sister of Mary Cole and the second wife of the first Stephen Bingham. William was about eight years old when his father died in 1756 and nine or ten in 1757 or 1758 when his mother married Stephen Bingham the first of King William County. William would have known Stephen for one or two years before Stephen died in 1759. Consequently, William was able to pass on some family details to his son, Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne.

5. Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne and others, Claiborne Family Bible Record, 1720-1913. The Library of Virginia, Digital Image. (N. H. C. began in 1810; Bible published 1803.). The Library of Virginia, Digital Image [lvaimage.lib.va.us/Bible/24288/index.html](http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/Bible/24288/index.html)

### A Personal Memory Manuscript

The author of the personal memory manuscript was Gustavus A.R. Meredith (1825-1896), a grandson of the second Stephen Bingham by Stephen’s marriage to Ann Gaines. His mother was Mary Lawton Bingham, his father, Henry Hickman Meredith. Mary Bingham was a daughter of Stephen Bingham and Ann Gaines. G.A.R. Meredith lived in Manchester, VA. He married Mrs. Frances T. Martin March 21, 1849 in Manchester, VA.

G.A.R. wrote his manuscript in a small notebook he made by inserting new paper into an old cover dated 1756. He believed the original owner of the old cover was the Stephen Bingham living in West Point in 1756 and consistently calls him “Old Stephen Bingham” never realizing that his Old Stephen Bingham was actually the second Stephen Bingham of West Point, Virginia. G.A.R. also believed that Old Stephen Bingham was born in England, but when he came to America he did not know. We can safely say that no relative alive in the 1870s knew when and from where the first Stephen Bingham arrived in America.

G.A.R.’s. manuscript is under copyright law. If you want to read it yourself. you will need to order a copy from the Wilson Library, University of North Carolina.

6. Gustavus A.R. Meredith, Family Papers. Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. ([finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/04126](http://finding-aids.lib.unc.edu/04126))

## Tangential Sources

In addition, I have gleaned all I could find relating to the Stephen Bingham using online records such as Henning's Statutes at Large, Land and Property Records, U.S. Census Records, etc. These, I have included as part of the text. They either run along in the sentences or are in parentheses at the end of a sentence or paragraph. I prefer this method of notation over footnotes and endnotes because I like to see the source for the statement right away rather than interrupt my train of thought while I look elsewhere on the page or need to search the back of the book or the end of the online article. Most of us don't bother to read footnotes and endnotes; we might be more inclined to do so if they were imbedded in the text, especially when one is reading online.

## GEOGRAPHY

Wait! Before you read on; you should know something of the area where the Stephen Bingham lived. As every researcher knows, if you want to know more than an ancestor's name, birth, marriage, and death dates, you need to familiarize yourself with the geography and history surrounding that ancestor. For that reason, I begin this article with John Henry's map of King William County and surrounding area. Thomas Jeffrey embellished and published the map in London about 1770. Henry claimed that most of the counties were drawn from actual surveys. If you go to the digital image on the Library of Congress website - <http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.gmd/g3880.ct000431> - and read the text across the bottom of the map you will find "a concise account of the number of inhabitants, the trade, soil, and produce of that Province."



John Henry - A new and accurate map of Virginia wherein most of the counties are laid down from actual surveys. With a concise account of the number of inhabitants, the trade, soil, and produce of that Province. 1770

Find on the map above: WILLIAMSBURG (lower right corner), James Town, Brick House, De la War (Delaware Town), West, Claiborne Ferry, Claiborne, Court House, Pamunkey River, Mattapony River, York River, New Kent County Court Ho.

Readers should also know about county formation and the original records available for the only area of Virginia we can identify with this Stephen Bingham: New Kent, King and Queen, and King William counties. King William County was Pamunkey Neck in early colonial days, first part of Charles River (name changed to York in 1643), then New Kent, and finally King &

Queen counties. Local records before King William's establishment in 1702 would have resided in those courthouses. As there was negligible - if any - English settlement on Pamunkey Neck prior to 1654 when New Kent was formed, records from York County would tell us little."

"Pamunky Neck was part of New Kent until 1691, during its first rush of - mostly illegal and extralegal - English settlement. County records pertaining to King William would have been numerous at New Kent Courthouse and highly valued by historians today. But the clerk's office and jail burned the night of July 15, 1787. John (Price) Posey, was identified as the leader of a small band of arsonists. He confessed and was hanged in Richmond the following January." To continue the story about Posey and intervening fires, see Bibb Edwards, King William County Historical Society Newsletter, July 2012, [kingwilliamhistory.org](http://kingwilliamhistory.org).

But again, any records that would provide information about those days - and the founding families of King William - were lost in fires. The fire in the King & Queen clerk's office in 1828 was extensive and probably fatal to pre-King William records. County resident John Walker wrote in his diary it was "supposed by an Incendiary in the night A.M". Then, again, sixty years later, March 10, 1864, Union General Kilpatrick ordered his troops to burn down the King and Queen County Court House in revenge for the death of Col. Ulric Dahlgren during a controversial raid the previous week. Only one building on the Court House grounds survived.

In his article, Bibb Edwards also states that anything pertaining to King William remaining after the Posey fire in New Kent would have been destroyed in April, 1865 when New Kent records, sent to Richmond for safekeeping, burned during the Evacuation Fire."

Continuing with Edward's remarks about the more well known 1885 fire: "The 1885 clerk's office was located beside the courthouse where the old jail now sits. There seems to be no extant photograph; all we know of its construction is that it was...brick, two stories high, and covered with slate," and..."fairly large." "We trust it complimented the courthouse architecture. It was likely one room. There was no stove, only a large wood-burning fireplace with a five-foot square hearth on the first floor."

"The best account of the fire is found in the *Richmond Dispatch*, Tuesday, January 20th. The fire was first noticed about 6 AM Sunday (January, 18), well before dawn. By 9 AM the building had collapsed. Little was done to stem the fire; indeed it seems little could have been done." Edwards concludes by assessing several possible excuses presented at the time and concludes that "We may never know for certain the origins of the fire that cold Sunday morning,"



## SECTION I

### 1. STEPHEN BINGHAM THE FIRST

1. Stephen BINGHAM of West Point, King William County, Virginia  
Born: 1700-1716  
Mar (1): abt 1737, Name Unknown  
Mar (2): abt 1757, Jane Cole Claiborne; Born: abt 1713; Mar. (1) Nathaniel Claiborne (1716/7-1756);  
Died: bf 1787  
Died: Aug, 1759; Will dated 22 August 1759

#### Stephen's Origin

Five family sources briefly mention the first Stephen Bingham:

1. The Claiborne Bible called him Capt. Bingham;
2. L.W. Lambeth wrote that the father of Stephen may be John, an Englishman.
3. John H. Bingham wrote that he had always been led to believe that his great grandfather, Stephen Bingham, was born in England, but did not find among the old papers any data of his birth.
4. John W. Schoolfield wrote that his wife, whose mother was a Bingham, frequently heard her mother speak of her grandfather as being English or certainly of English descent.
5. C.W. Bingham could contribute nothing.
6. G.A.R. Meredith confused the first and second Stephen Bingham. Meredith thought Stephen was born in England and was an owner of vessels, but he did not know at what time he came to America. Meredith continued without making clear which Stephen he was writing about the first or second.

Extant records do not solve the issue of Stephen's origin. No English Parish record for Stephen has been found. Likewise, no Virginia colonial record naming Stephen, other than the *Virginia Gazette* and, a copy of his Will have been found.

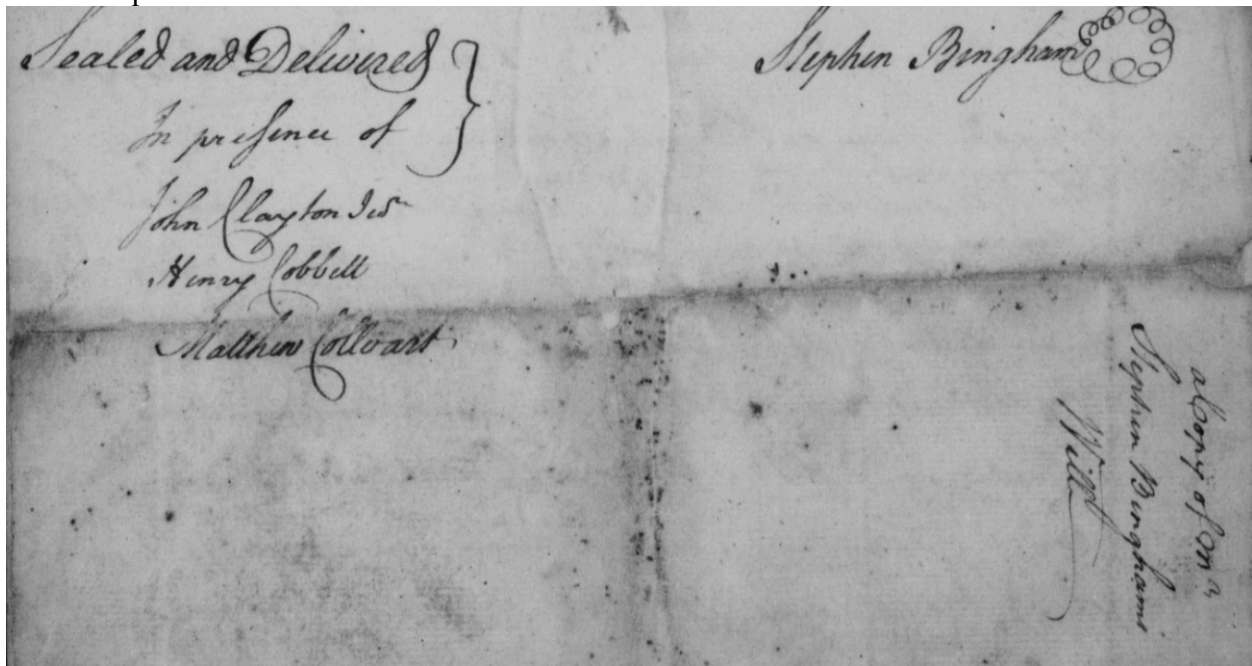
However, research identified two John Bingham who could have been Stephen's father.

1. One is a John Bingham of St. Paul's Parish, Stafford County, Virginia. A John Bingham died there in 1717. Stafford fronts on the Potomac River about a day's horse ride north west of West Point.. (Virginia, U.S., Extracted Vital Records, 1660-1923. Ancestry.com)
2. The other is a John Bingham witness to the will of Edward Fellix of St. John, Wapping County, Middlesex, England, a mariner. Fellix, late of the merchant ship *Caleb and John*, was deceased in Virginia. The will was written 19 November 1723 and probated in London 20 October 1729. These two dates probably indicate that Fellix and maybe his witnesses had been involved in the Atlantic trade for at least six years. (Survey Report No. 4586, Virginia Colonial Records Project, lva-virginia.libguides.com)

## Stephen's Will

We know more about the first Stephen Bingham, today, than the combined family sources revealed in the 1870s, mainly due to his Will and secondary sources dating from his time. Concerning his own family in particular, his Will gives us the names and relative ages of his six living children, and his then wife's name. The oldest child, Susannah, was over 18, married and not living at home; Alice was still at home and over 18; Leah, and Rachel were both at home and under 18; Stephen and Jack, both under 21, were also still at home. Current wife, Jane Bingham, was pregnant. Long ago, researchers identified her as Jane Cole who married first, Nathaniel Claiborne. Much more, following, about children and wife.

Stephen wrote his Will 22 August 1759 and died shortly after. Twenty-six years later, 1787, Stephen's son, Stephen Bingham the second, submitted a copy of the Will as evidence in a petition to the Virginia General Assembly. A century later, January 18, 1885, a fire in the King William County clerk's office destroyed all original Wills. [lva.virginia.gov (Research Notes Number 30 Lost Records Localities)] Were it not for the Assembly's manuscript copy of Stephen's Will we would know almost nothing about him, but by working our way through the Will, item by item, we learn quite a bit.



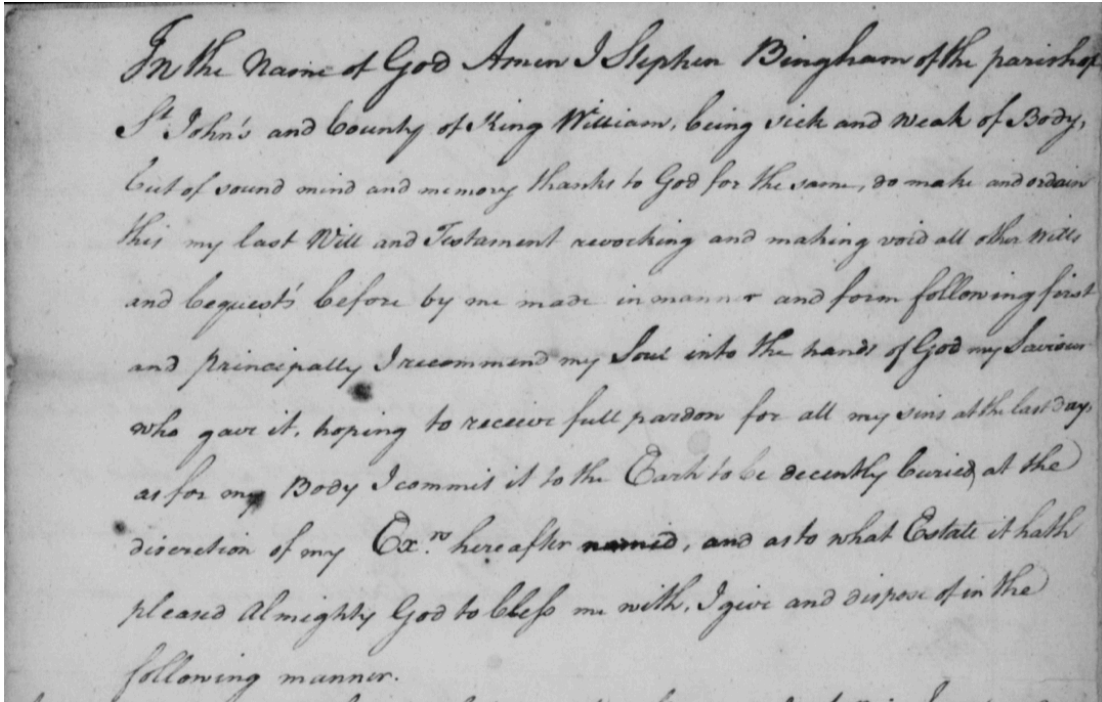
Last page of existing copy of  
Stephen Bingham's Will  
See Lower right corner

Although transcribed copies and abstracts of the Will exist, such as in the *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 4, p. 311, Ancestry.com, the manuscript copy is available only at the Library of Virginia. My suggested pathway is lva-virginia.libguides.com, then click on Legal Resources, then Legislative Petitions, then search Bingham, Stephen, then click on Available Online, then click on Available at: Rosetta Repository. Do note that other pathways may not respond or may require membership.

## PREAMBLE

### Residency

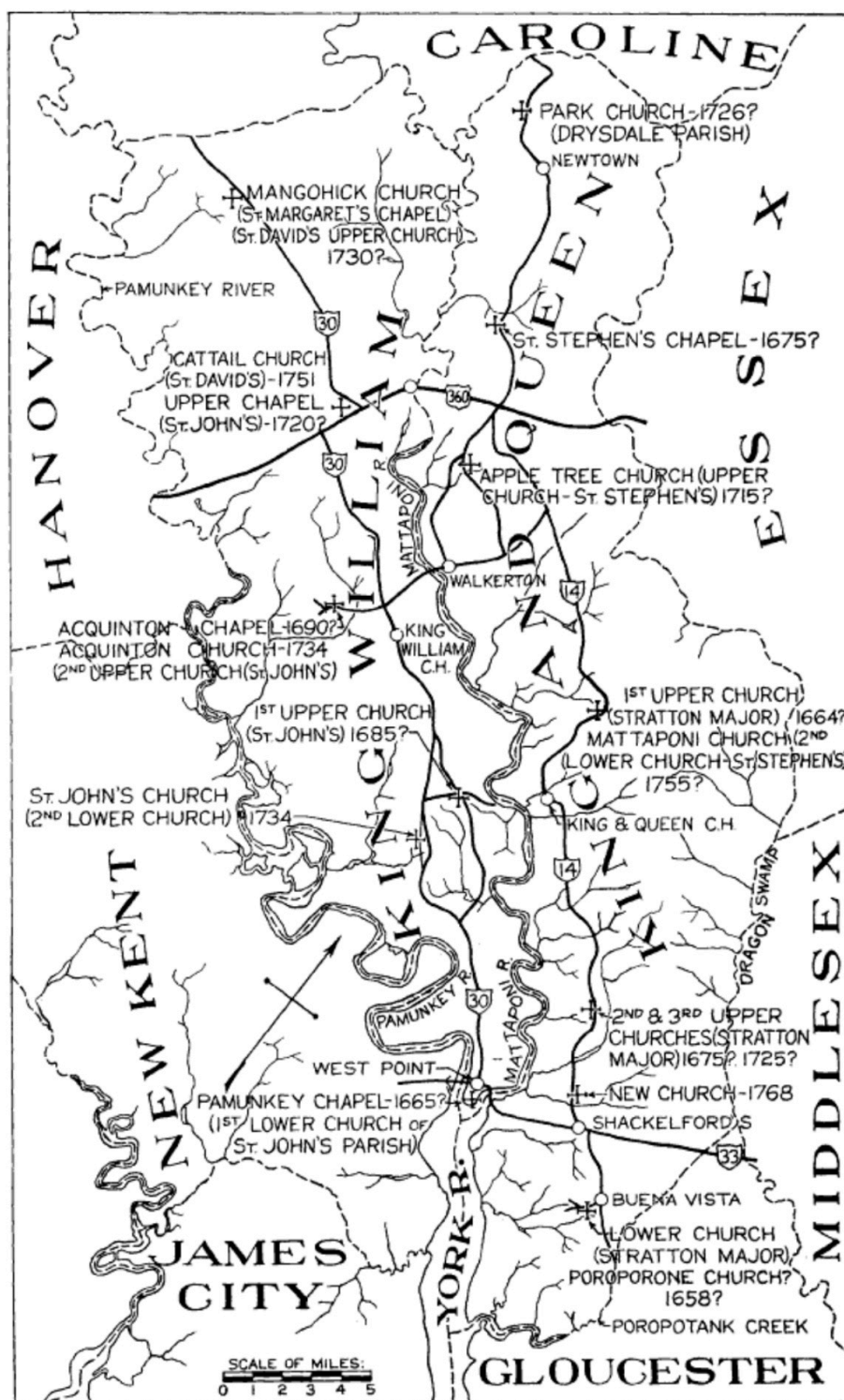
The preamble begins by confirming Stephen's residency in St. John's Parish, King



In the Name of God Amen I Stephen Bingham of the parish of  
St John's and County of King William, being sick and weak of Body,  
but of sound mind and memory thanks to God for the same, do make and ordain  
this my last Will and Testament revoking and making void all other wills  
and bequests before by me made in manner and form following first  
and principally I recommend my Soul into the hands of God my Saviour  
who gave it, hoping to receive full pardon for all my sins at the last day,  
as for my Body I commit it to the Earth to be decently buried at the  
discretion of my Ex.<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named, and as to what Estate it hath  
pleased Almighty God to bless me with, I give and dispose of in the  
following manner.

William County. From this simple statement we know he lived in the southern portion of the county. In 1720 the colonial assembly split St John's Parish into southern and northern sections. They named the northern section St. Margaret Parish and left the southern section as St. John Parish. Earlier, in 1701 when King William County was set off from King and Queen County, St John's Parish had been coterminous with the new county boundaries.

St John's Parish had two Anglican churches in 1720, an Upper Church and a Lower Church at West Point. Over the course of their already long existence the buildings had been repaired and enlarged, but by 1720 they were both too old and small to be serviceable. In 1729 the vestry agreed to build two new churches, but due to lack of funds for two, settled on one in 1731. The new church building, the 2nd Lower, or St. John's Church on the map, was completed about 1734. Located about ten miles northwest of West Point and four miles north of Sweet Hall, St John's was the church that Stephen and family would have attended. (See [oldstjohns.org](http://oldstjohns.org))



Map of King William and King and Queen Counties  
showing early churches

From George C. Mason, "Colonial Churches of King and Queen and King William Counties...."

The importance of knowing Stephen's resident church is understanding the role that Anglican churches, now called Episcopal, played in county administration. Virginia followed the English system of governmental organization until the Anglican Church was disestablished in 1782. That meant that due to a 1661 law "births burials and marriages which shall happen within the precincts of the parish" were to be recorded in the parish vestry book, not by the county. (Hening's Statutes, Vol. 2, pg. 44-55, [vagenweb.org](http://vagenweb.org)). Stephen and family's records while a resident of St. John's Parish would have been recorded in the vestry book if any of his children or his first wife had been born or died there and his death would have been recorded, if a vestry book existed. However, between 1742 and 1764 St John's either had no resident minister or one about whom little is known hence various historians think it is likely that no vestry book was ever generated during this period, the same period Stephen lived in St. John's Parish.

Three other Parish laws would have affected Stephen directly. One, passed by the Virginia Assembly in 1705 and again in 1744 required all persons age twenty-one years and upwards to attend church at least once a month, presuming, of course, that a minister would be in attendance. This law included fines for non-compliance and provisions for exceptions. (Hening, Vol. 3, pg. 360; Vol. 5, pg. 226, [vagenweb.org](http://vagenweb.org)) A second law improved in 1705 and tweaked in 1710 required parishes to oversee, once every four years, property line walks, renewal of markers and resolve disputes within their jurisdiction. This was called Processioning and parishes were to keep permanent written records. (Hening, Vol. 5. p 529-33) If these laws had been enforced in St John's Parish we would know more than we do about Stephen. (See Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet for more detail and more articles)

Parishes had other responsibilities such as paying for all parish expenses; monitoring moral behavior and sending offenders to the county court; caring for the poor, the aged and infirm, the sick and insane, and for orphans and other homeless children. Many parishes supported elementary schools mainly to teach English and writing. These functions were all paid for by a parish levy. Parishes and counties shared the task of defining tax precincts, but each family head, such as Stephen, was responsible for paying the parish levy. (On Parish responsibilities see Arthur P. Middleton, "The Colonial Virginia Parish", *Historical Magazine of the Protestant Episcopal Church*, Vol. 40, pp.431-446, [jstor.org](http://jstor.org); On Tithables and Processioning see Bob's Genealogy Filing Cabinet, [genfiles.com](http://genfiles.com)).

St John's Parish Church building is still standing as a tourist attraction, but used only occasionally for special purposes. For a full discussion of parish development in King William and King and Queen counties see "The Colonial Churches of King and Queen and King William Counties, Virginia," George C. Mason in *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 23, pp.440-464, [jstor.org](http://jstor.org). To learn more about the history of St. John's Episcopal Church see [stjohnswp.org](http://stjohnswp.org).

As a resident of King William County Stephen was also responsible for paying both county levies and an annual tax on tithables. Both were regulated by the General Assembly and based on each householders self-prepared list of tithables. The restated tithable act of 1748 defined a tithable as "all male persons of the age of sixteen years and upwards, and all negroe, mulatto, and Indian women of the same age, except Indians tributary to the government and all wives of free negroes, mulattoes, and Indians...". (Hening, Vol. 6, Chap XXI, pp. 41-44, [vagenweb.org](http://vagenweb.org)). Stephen, as head of the household, needed to compile and submit that list to the county sheriff and pay the precinct tax collector. (Taxes in Colonial Virginia (VA-NOTES), [lva-virginia.libguides.com](http://lva-virginia.libguides.com)).

## Health

Stephen's Will next contained the obligatory legal statement concerning health, his "being sick and weak of Body, but of sound mind and memory..." thus assuring that he was competent and aware of how he wanted to distribute his estate. Usually Wills do not divulge the testator's actual illness, disease, or condition. Stephen's Will did eliminate certain conditions that affect mind and memory and did indicate that he was no longer fit for bodily labor.

We can at least ask a few questions that do have some answers such as what were the most common infectious diseases in 18th century Virginia and what was epidemic in 1759? Historians of medicine know, as Anne R. Davis so ably discusses in her online article, "Distempers and Physic, Virginia's Health in the Eighteenth Century" (Northern Neck of Virginia Historical Society, Vol. LXVI, 2016) that the most deadly infectious diseases were malaria, yellow fever, typhoid fever, smallpox, and dysentery. Davis cites Wyndham Blanton's comment in his book *Medicine in Virginia in the Eighteenth Century* ([babel.hathitrust.org](http://babel.hathitrust.org)) that those diseases were frequently topics of "table talk and letter writing". Malaria and smallpox appeared frequently throughout the coastal plain of colonial Virginia. A few journal-keeping planters, especially Robert Carter and James Gordon both of Lancaster County on the Rappahannock River, documented their experiences with communicable diseases. Blanton also commented on the connection between seagoing trading vessels and the high number of yellow fever cases reported by a Dr. Mitchell who practiced along the Rappahannock. Where Stephen Bingham lived at West Point, the Mattaponi and Pamunkey Rivers joined to form the York River, the next river system south of the Rappahannock. This was certainly a marshy location of tidewater Virginia made more susceptible to diseases by the large number of seagoing trading vessels landing there.

The two diseases of Col. James Gordon's concern were measles and whooping cough. He recorded that all of his family, about 30, had had the measles by July 6, 1759 ("Journal of Col. James Gordon, of Lancaster County, VA," *William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 11, No. 2, Oct., 1902. p. 106). Perhaps Stephen Bingham was a victim of measles or of complications from measles? According to Ernest Caulfield, MD, Hartford, Connecticut pediatrician and author of several articles on historical epidemiology of colonial America, the measles epidemic of 1758-59 "was the most widespread one experienced by the colonies up to that time" ("Early Measles Epidemics in America", *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine*, Vol. 15, NO. 40). The epidemic began in New England and was in full sway there by January, 1759. In contrast to the low fatality rate in New England, a report from New Jersey indicated a very severe disease "with not a house exempt, not a family spared from the calamity." Measles also hit Philadelphia as evidenced by the Christ Church report that twenty-two persons died from measles in 1759. (Early Measles Epidemics in America. *Yale J. Bill. Med.*, 1943, 15, 531-556.) According to Gordon's record, measles had moved into Virginia by late spring and early summer 1759.

## Revoke and Burial

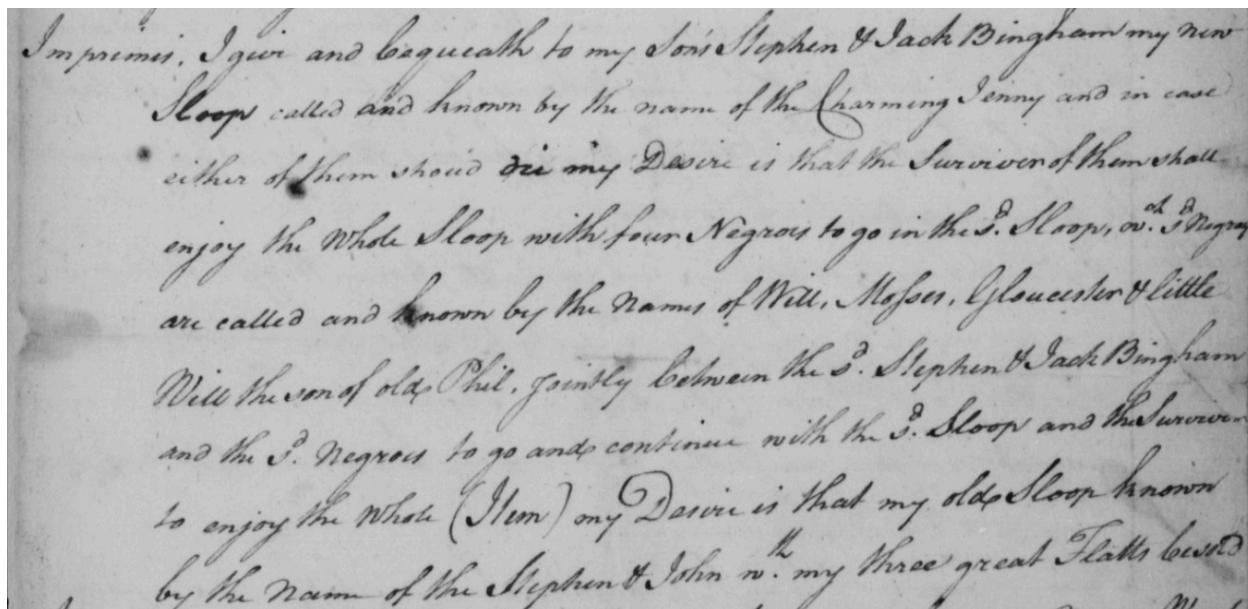
The rest of the preamble to Stephen's Will was normal with two exceptions: debts and burial. He made no specific provision for his debts to be paid and he left no burial instructions. Maybe he had no debts - one of his Items asked that his "outstanding debts be collected", not paid - and the preamble asked his executors to pay for his decent burial which he left to their discretion. Or,

maybe Stephen's mind and memory were not as sound as the will claimed? Could these missing items indicate that Stephen may not have written or dictated his own Will, but that family members aided the composition? Little items like this beg the researcher to dig deeper.

Stephen did revoke and make void all other Wills and Bequests. He also asked God to receive his soul, to pardon his sins, and to dispose in the manner listed in the Will, the Estate that God had blessed him with.

### IMPRIMIS The *Charming Jenny*

Stephen's list of bequeaths began with an Imprimis, meaning "in the first place". He wanted his sons, Stephen and Jack (John), to be the new joint owners of his new Sloop, the *Charming Jenny*. They also were to receive the four Negroes who worked the Sloop: Will, Moses, Gloucester and little Will, the son of old Phil. If either of Stephen's sons should die, the survivor would become the sole owner of the Sloop and the Negroes.

A photograph of a handwritten manuscript snippet, likely a page from Stephen's Will. The text is written in cursive and matches the transcription provided in the adjacent block. The paper appears aged and slightly discolored. The handwriting is clear but shows some ink bleed-through from the reverse side. The snippet is a portion of a larger document, with the word "Imprimis" at the beginning of the first line. The text describes the bequest of a sloop named "Charming Jenny" and four enslaved men to Stephen and Jack Bingham, with provisions for the survivor if one dies.

Stephen named his new sloop, *Charming Jenny*, apparently in honor of his second wife, Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham. Jenny was the common English nickname for Jane. The earliest record for the *Charming Jenny* is the 1759 entry in Stephen's Will. The *Virginia Gazette* had not published a notice about the sloop's arrival, but its existence probably dates to 1757 when Stephen and Jane married.

The *Charming Jenny* may have been built locally. A "goodly portion" of the ships that entered and cleared the Port Hampton naval office in 1752 were built in Virginia. For example, William Byrd II and his neighbors had been building their own sloops since the early 1700s. By 1768 there were extensive mills and a large shipyard at Berkeley Plantation and warehouses and a shipyard at Swinyard's Plantation, both on the James River. The sloop became the most common

colonial vessel. It had a single mast with fore and aft sails and it was fast sailing for coastal and West Indies trading. More about the *Charming Jenny* later.(Evans, Cerinda W., "Some Notes on Shipbuilding and Shipping In Colonial Virginia." EBOOK 46731, [gutenberg.org](http://gutenberg.org))

## ITEM 1

### The Old Sloop and the three great Flatts

Item 1 is the last sentence of the Imprimis. Stephen asked that his old Sloop, the *Stephen and John* and his three great Flatts be sold.

Tying together Stephen's request in the Imprimis to keep the sloop, *Charming Jenny*, with his request in Item 1 to sell the sloop, *Stephen and John*, raises questions about what Stephen did for a living and why he came to West Point? Searching for hints to answers begins with the only written evidence dating from Stephen's time that mentions his name or anything associated with him.

The sources are four notices, following, about the sloop "*Stephen and John*" in the *Virginia Gazette*, the official newspaper of Virginia. printed in Williamsburg 1737-1780, then moved to Richmond when the capital moved. ([colonialwilliamsburg.org](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org))

1. On the 14th of March, 1751 the *Virginia Gazette*, in its usual notice of incoming and outgoing trading vessels, noted that Stephen Bingham's new vessel, the Sloop *Stephen and John* had "Entered Inwards, in York River" on February 25.
2. In the same notice under date February 26, 1751, the Sloop *Stephen and John* "Cleared Outwards" for Barbados with Robert Necks, meaning Necks was Captain. (*Virginia Gazette*, Hunter: March 14, 1751, p. 3, col. 2)
3. The *Stephen and John* under Robert Necks returned from Barbados on May 17 (*Virginia Gazette*, Hunter: June 13, 1751, p. 3, col.2. No following outward notice appeared in the *Gazette*.
4. Instead, the fourth and last record, dated December 5, 1755 named Stephen Bingham advertising "for sale at Yorktown next York Court day, the Sloop *Stephen and John*, now lying at West Point". (Dorman, J. F., "Extracts from the *Virginia Gazette* for 1755-1756", The Virginia Genealogist. [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org)).

Based on these notices, we know that Stephen was engaged in the West Indies trade. His was the typical case of a small ship, owner dispatched under a licensed captain, carrying a small cargo owned by several people. The cargo usually consisted of grains as well as lumber and all sorts of foodstuffs such as beef, and pork, beans, butter, even geese. On the return the ship would bring rum, molasses, sugar, ginger, cocoa, cotton, and occasionally a Negro slave. (Sargent, Charles W., "Virginia and the West Indies Trade, 1740-1765" (1964). [digitalrepository.unm.edu/hist\\_etds/276](http://digitalrepository.unm.edu/hist_etds/276)); (Bell, Herbert C., "The West India Trade Before the American Revolution", The American Historical Review, 22: 272-287, [jstor.org](http://jstor.org))

With his three great flatts Stephen, or his enslaved workers, could easily make it up the Pamunkey River to Hanover, King William County. As Malcolm Harris points out in his article, "The Port Towns of the Pamunkey," (Wm&M Qtr, 23: 493-516, [jstor.org](http://jstor.org)) people today would not think that vessels "loaded with foreign merchandize" sailed the Pamunkey as far upstream as the town



of Hanover and floated back down “reloaded with Tobacco, shingles, and other things”. Where the Pamunkey met the York river the vessels spread sail and went on to sea. “It was slow and tedious commerce, replete with dangers and difficulties.”

Harris goes on to tell us that across the Pamunkey from West Point was the site of the earliest port town on the Pamunkey: Brickhouse. The ferry from Brickhouse to West Point was running as early as 1702, long before the ferries further up the river. The price for a man was 1 shilling, for a man and a horse 18 pence. (Hening, III: 219). Tobacco growing in that area of the Virginia tidewater grew rapidly over the years. In 1742 William Basset built a tobacco warehouse at Brickhouse. In 1748 the ferry price for a man or a man and a horse from Brick House to West Point or return had dropped to 9 pence. (Hening, 6: 16)

Delaware Town at West Point was a good location for Stephen’s West Indies trade. One of sixteen towns Virginia designated as ports of entry and clearance in 1705, as Harris points out, “there was enough activity around the place to bring travellers to the stores and the ship landing”. (Harris, 2: 577; Hening, Statutes At Large, 3: 415) Stephen could also have been the ferry-keeper, but since ferry-keepers were selected by the county and King William county records were lost in fires, we have no evidence. Furthermore, due to the lack of deeds we don’t know when Stephen settled at West Point other than it was after 1707 when the original Delaware Town lot deeds were recorded.

We also have no evidence that Stephen arrived at West Point directly from a different English speaking country. We do, however, have an intriguing local record from St. Paul’s Parish, Stafford County. Stafford County fronts on the Potomac River about a day’s horse ride slightly northwest of West Point. A John Bingham died there in 1717. (Virginia, U.S., Extracted Vital Records, 1660-1923. Ancestry.com) If possible, this John Bingham needs to be researched to establish or deny a connection to Stephen.

Going back to Item 1 and the sale of the *Stephen and John*, perhaps that sloop was too small for the amount of goods Stephen wanted to transport? Maybe that’s an indication of how profitable the West Indies trade was in the mid-1700s? Traders seemed to value a sloop more by how many hogsheads it could carry than by any other measure. A 1768 advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* announced in bold type “A SLOOP of about SIXTY HOGSHEADS” was for sale with no mention of length or crew required. (Virginia Gazette: Rind, March 31, 1768, p. 3) One hogshead held about 1,000 pounds of tobacco or 52-53 imperial gallons so 60 hogshead could carry over 3,000 gallons of wine or molasses or about 60,000 pounds of tobacco. Obviously, the *Stephen and John* did not sell in 1755 when its sale notice appeared in the *Virginia Gazette*, or it would not have appeared in Stephen’s 1759 will as needing to be sold. Perhaps the sons wanted to keep it? We can find no later notice advertising its sale.

As for the three great Flatts that Stephen wanted sold, he undoubtedly used them to transport hogsheads of tobacco and other goods. A Flat was a boat with a flat bottom that could navigate in water as shallow as 4 feet. From early colonial times Flats were the workhorses of river transportation. They were straight across fore and aft and usually their ends were or could be closed. Many had small cabins. Some even had masts. If used for ferrying they needed to be large enough to carry horse, cart and people. Being great Flatts, Stephen’s must have been larger than usual. He might have used his Flatts for both river hauling and ferry running. Either reason could have caused him to buy lots at the tip of West Point in Delaware Town. All we can say for certain

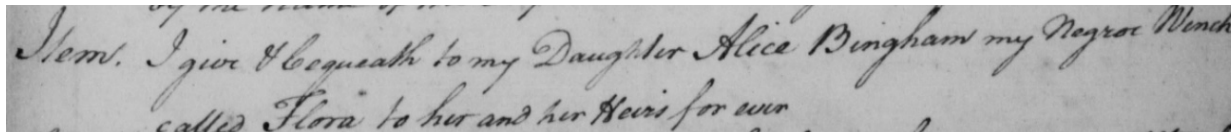
is that in the course of the *Virginia Gazette's* existence, we cannot find an advertisement for the sale of Stephen's three great Flatts.

#### ITEMS 2, 3, 4

##### Alice, Leah, Rachel and their surrogate mothers

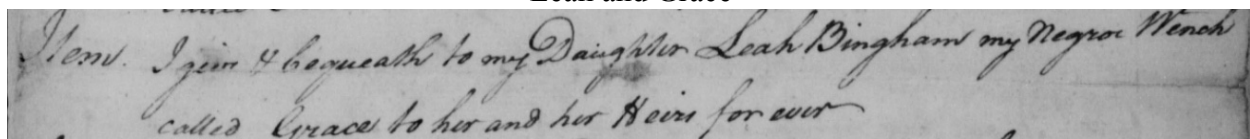
Stephen continued his list of bequests with his daughters still at home and probably in order of age. Each was to receive a "Negroe Wench" or surrogate mother and lady-in-waiting, so to speak "for her and her Heirs forever". These women had probably raised the girls from birth. Their presence as part of the family is an indicator that Stephen's socio-economic position was relatively high. It may also indicate that Stephen's children were born in Virginia. It could also be a clue that Stephen, himself, and his first wife were born in Virginia and accustomed to the tradition of each baby and child being cared for by its own "nanny."

##### Alice and Flora



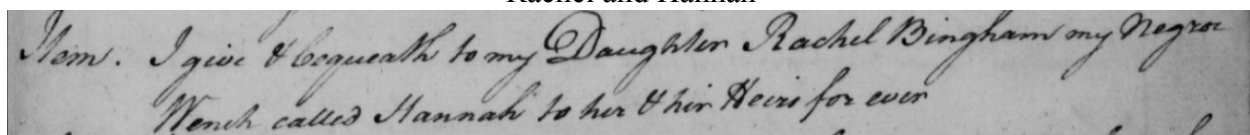
Alice appears in three more Items later on in Stephen's will. From one of those Items we know Alice was of age, that is eighteen or older, because she was not included with the other at home daughters who were specifically identified as "before they come to age". For a female to be of age and marry without parental consent in colonial Virginia she needed to be eighteen or older. (Laws in Early Virginia. [freepages.rootsweb.com](http://freepages.rootsweb.com)) Alice is not named in any family source.

##### Leah and Grace



Leah was clearly under the age of eighteen as Leah was one of Stephen's two children whose bequests were to be divided among the remaining children should she die before coming "to age". Read more about Leah, following.

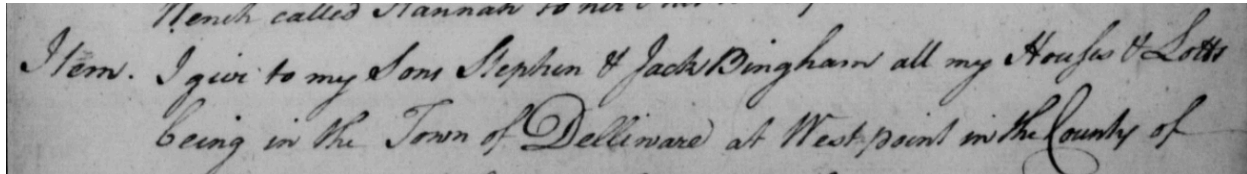
##### Rachel and Hannah



Rachel appears in other Items in Stephen's will also. Rachel was also clearly under the age of eighteen. As with Leah, her bequests were to be divided among the remaining children should she die before coming "to age".

ITEM 5  
Town of Delaware Houses and Lots  
Jack's Age

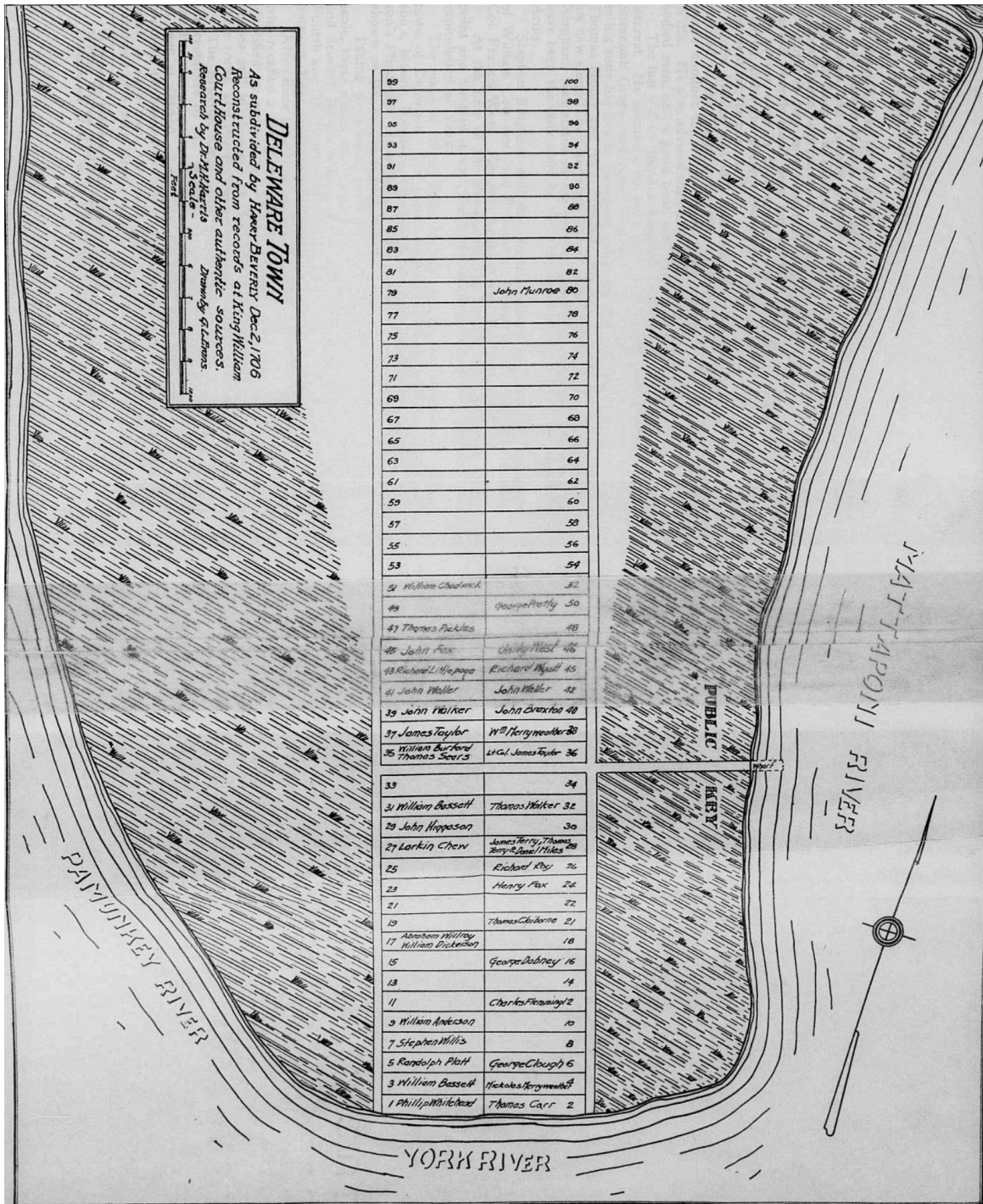
Stephen and Jack were to receive all their father's "Houses & Lotts" in the "Town of Delaware at West point in the County of King William".



This bequest helps in aging Stephen and Jack. In Virginia a person needed to be 16 to take possession of inherited land. Family source 2 gives son Stephen's birth date as February 14, 1741 making him 18 years old in 1759 when his father died, thus old enough to inherit land. No source has a birth date for Jack, but we can presume from this bequest that Jack was old enough to inherit land, also. That would make him just a few years younger than Stephen, that is 17 or 16. Do note that the boys could not sell property until they were 21 years old and neither was old enough to be executors of their father's Will since a person also needed to be 21 to sign a bond.

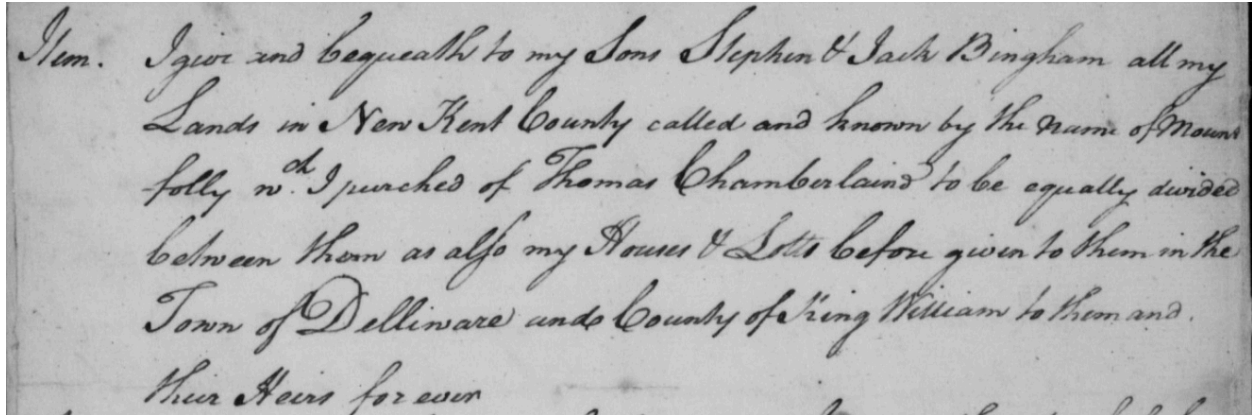
Stephen did not record how many lots and houses he owned in the Town of Delaware or where they were located, but a layout of the original Delaware town lots does exist. The town, itself, consisted of 50 acres. Surveyor Henry Beverly, in 1706, divided each acre making 100 half acre buildable lots. Each lot was 132 feet deep and 165 feet wide. Thirty-nine lots sold by June, 1707 when purchasers received their deeds. Harris's map names these buyers on their Lotts and he lists them in *Old New Kent County*, volume 2, page 577. The town plot layout with original owner's names follows. Stephen is not on the list of original 1707 purchasers,

Although Malcolm H. Harris's article "Delaware Town" and "West Point" in King William County, VA (The William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 14, , No.4, Oct, 1934, pp.342-351. Jstor.org) is a good discussion of Delaware Town, his map reconstructed from records in the King William County Court House is not included. See the original plot map, following, and in Elizabeth Stuart Gray, "West Point's History" "kingwilliamhistory.org, or reachconsultingva.files.wordpress.com.



ITEM 6  
Mount Folly

Stephen and Jack were also to receive all of their father's lands in New Kent County called and known by the name of Mount Folly which he purchased of Thomas Chamberlaine [Chamberlayne] "to be equally divided between them...."



Item. I give and bequeath to my Sons Stephen & Jack Bingham all my Lands in New Kent County called and known by the name of Mount Folly w<sup>ch</sup> I purchased of Thomas Chamberlaine to be equally divided between them as also my Houses & Lots before given to them in the Town of Dellaware and County of King Williams to them and their Heirs for ever

Mount Folly was not a plantation. It was a 1400 acre tract of farm land with a 100 foot high hill that gave it the prefix "Mount". Along the rivers and streams of tidewater Virginia, it is unusual for land to be that high above sea level. The run off from a 100 foot high hill would have created a goodly amount of fresh water for pastured animals. However, Mount Folly was not a plantation. It had no "substantial house" as Harris put it. Stephen had bought the tract in 1752, a year after he entered the York River with his sloop *Stephen and John*.

The tract's history is like a movie of everyday life amongst the rich and wealthy in colonial Virginia. Harris takes us on a viewing in volume 1, pages 12-15. Originally, the property was a small 800 acre tract called Mount Holly. Mount Holly went through a few owners to Col. Daniel Parke in 1673. Parke had come to Virginia from England before 1665. With hard work, he climbed the political ladder in York County and ended his career as Secretary of State for the entire Colony, 1678 to 1679. Shortly before Parke died in 1679, he bought a 700 acre tract adjoining Mount Holly. These two tracts made up the 1600 plus acres of Mount Folly.

Upon Parke's death, the Mount Folly land passed to his son, 10 year old Daniel Parke, Jr.. Mount Folly was placed in care of others while Daniel, Jr. went to England for his education. About 1685 Daniel Jr. returned to Virginia, married and, with family help, climbed the political ladder. Ambition and the War of the Spanish Succession took him back to England in 1697. In 1705 Queen Anne appointed him chief governor of the Leeward Islands. Daniel Jr. died, debt heavy, in the Leewards in 1710. His property in the Leeward Islands could have paid off his debts. Instead, he willed his estate there to an illegitimate daughter and willed his debt and his property elsewhere, including Mount Folly, to his two legitimate daughters: Frances Parke, the wife of John Custis IV, and Lucy Parke, the wife of William Byrd II. Thus, Byrd and Custis became involved in settling Daniel Parke, Jr's debts.

William Byrd II and John Custis IV were politically prominent, wealthy Virginians. Byrd



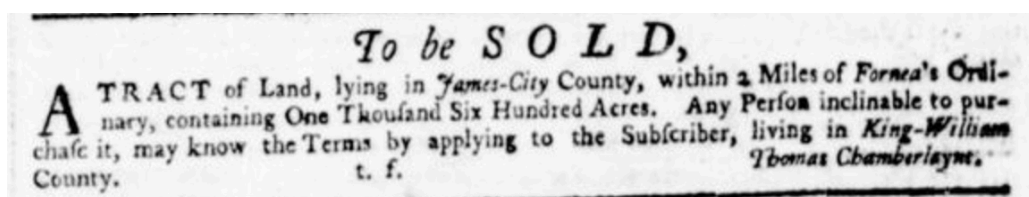
was the primary heir to his father's fortune and a member of the Virginia Governor's Council. Among other activities, Byrd is credited with the survey of the Virginia-North Carolina border, the establishment of Richmond and Petersburg, and for writing and publishing books that are still read, today. His Westover Plantation where he was buried is a National Historic Landmark.

John Custis IV was the very wealthy father of Martha Washington's first husband, Daniel Parke Custis whose mother was Frances Parke. (When George Washington married Martha Dandridge Custis, he became responsible for the Custis properties).

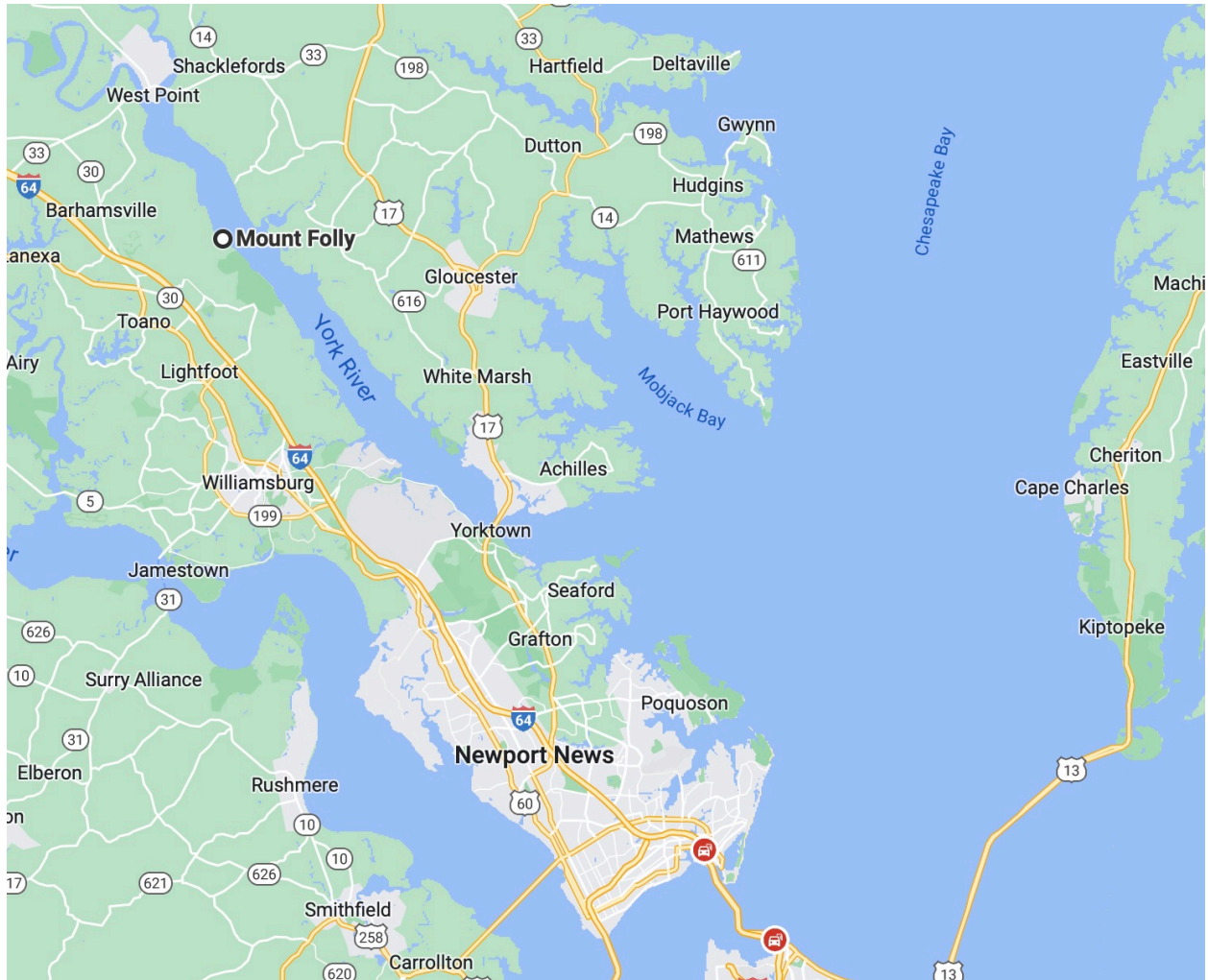
In 1712, two years after Daniel Parke, Jr. died, Byrd agreed to buy out Custis's share of Mount Folly in return for Custis paying half of Parke's Virginia debts. Byrd did not sell Mount Folly immediately, but returned to England. When wife Lucy Parke Byrd died in England in 1716, Mount Folly went into holding for her one year old daughter, Wilhelmina Byrd.

Wilhelmina lived in England until she was about eleven years old then moved to Virginia with her father and step-mother in 1726/7. Age 25 in 1740, Wilhelmina married Thomas Chamberlayne of New Kent County. Thomas Chamberlayne was a son of Elizabeth Littlepage and William Chamberlayne. Elizabeth Littlepage was a sister of Susan/Susannah Littlepage, the first wife of Col. Francis West, the same Francis West whom Stephen Bingham's wife, Jane Cole married after Stephen died. (For Littlepages see Torrence, Clayton. *Winston of Virginia and Allied Families*. Richmond, VA., 1927, pp. 426-28. ancestry.com) The Littlepage family plantation, called Cumberland, was on the south side of the Pamunkey River near the New Kent Courthouse (see on Henry's map, before).

Upon William Byrd's death in 1744, Wilhelmina and Thomas Chamberlayne inherited Mount Folly and other property. They proceeded to sell the tracts, one by one, and invest in their home property in New Kent County. Eight years later they were ready to sell Mount Folly, but needed to have the entail removed before the tract had clear title. They petitioned the General Assembly in February, 1752 for clear title. (Hening, Laws of Virginia, February 1752, Chap. LII, pp. 319-21, vagenweb.org) The following for sale announcement appeared in the Virginia Gazette on April 24, 1752 and following days.



We can thus date Stephen Bingham's purchase of Mount Folly to 1752. Stephen undoubtedly wanted the land for its location and agricultural abilities. From Col. William Byrd's diary in which he recorded reports from an overseer at Mount Folly, we know the land grew tobacco successfully. It also had a great deal of marshland along two creeks which made ideal pasturing for cattle, horses, hogs and sheep. Tidewater Virginia farmers used marsh grasses to feed their stock, saving drier land for tobacco. Mount Folly's location fronting on the York River gave access by water, preferable for a person with a sloop and flats.



The map above, a 2022 Google map, shows the relative locations of West Point, Mount Folly, Williamsburg, Yorktown and Chesapeake Bay. The map below, a dark, difficult to read 1865 map of the roads, shows the relative locations of West Point, Brick House, and Mount Folly.





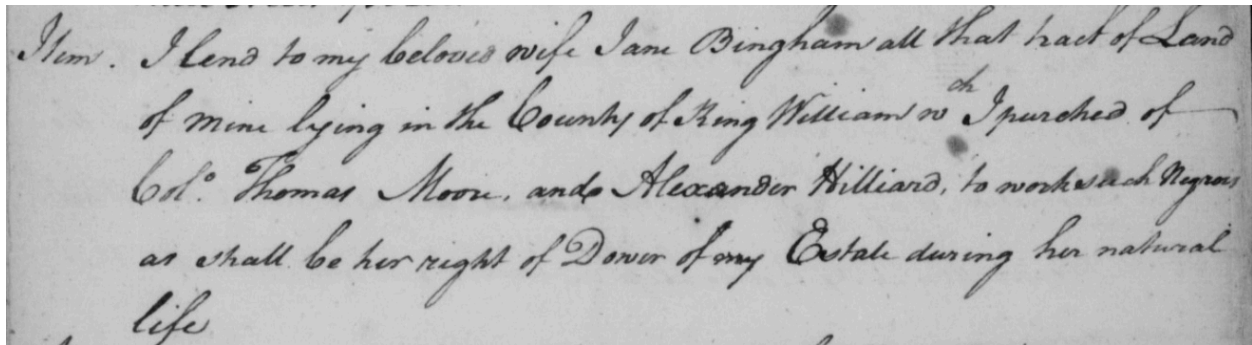
Map of New Kent, Charles City, James City and York counties.  
 Confederate States of America. Army. Dept. of Northern Virginia. Chief Engineer's Office.  
[hdl.loc.gov/loc.ndlpcoop/gvhs01.vhs.00367](http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.ndlpcoop/gvhs01.vhs.00367)



## ITEM 7

### Jane Bingham, Stephen's second wife

Stephen Bingham, the first, mentioned wife Jane Bingham for the first time in this seventh item in his Will. Note, Stephen wrote, "I lend...that tract of land of mine", lying in King William County that he had purchased from Col. Thomas Moore and Alexander Hilliard along with the Negroes necessary to work the tract, as her right of Dower of his estate during her natural life.



*Item. I lend to my beloved wife Jane Bingham all that tract of Land of mine lying in the County of King William so purchased of Col: Thomas Moore, and Alexander Hilliard, to work such Negroes as shall be her right of Dower of my Estate during her natural life*

Jane Bingham was born Jane Cole, daughter of William Cole of Boldrup Plantation, Warwick County, Virginia. The fifth of eight children of a prominent colonial family, she married young, about age 15 or 16 as was the custom in early Virginia. Her husband was Nathaniel Claiborne, thus she became Jane Cole Claiborne. Nathaniel, of the prominent Claiborne family, was about 19. Jane and Nathaniel lived at Sweet Hall, King William County. which he had inherited from his father, Cap't Thomas Claiborne in 1732.

Nathaniel's father, Thomas Claiborne and Nathaniel's mother, Ann Fox Claiborne, built Sweet Hall around 1720 and lived there with their large family. See Sweet Hall nomination form for the National Register of Historic Places, [dhr.virginia.gov](http://dhr.virginia.gov). Thomas died age 51 years, 8 months, 15 days on August 16, 1732. (Claiborne Family Bible Record, 1621-1954. Library of Virginia). Ann died not long after Thomas on 8 May 1733 age 48 years, 10 months, 17 days. They were both buried in Sweet Hall Cemetery. (Dates and ages differ slightly by source.).

Nathaniel inherited Sweet Hall. His and Jane's first child, Mary Cole Claiborne was born 7 March 1735 at Sweet Hall. Nathaniel and Jane had five or six more children between 1736 and 1748, for a total of two boys and four or five girls.

Nathaniel died age 40 or 41 from gout so severe that after age 26 he could not walk. (Hale, *Roots in Virginia*, 111) In his will, dated 1 September 1756, he left the Sweet Hall property, house, and ferry to his oldest son, Thomas. (Note that the Claiborne Family Bible record does not include a death date for Nathaniel.) Thomas, 20 years old, was probably in Norfolk, VA where he studied law. Thomas's only brother, William, who was 6 or 8 years old was sent to live with his Uncle William Claiborne at Windsor Farm, in Sussex County, Virginia. Jane was left at Sweet Hall, probably with two daughters and managing the Sweet Hall/Claiborne's Ferry.

The Sweet Hall ferry had been running over the Pamunkey River since 1720 when Thomas Claiborne, Nathaniels' father, had built Sweet Hall and received legislative authorization to run a

ferry “from Sweet Hall ... to the mouth of Tank’s Queen’s Creek”, now Mill Creek, in New Kent County. (Henings Statutes, Vol. 4, p. 93.) In 1748 the General Assembly consolidated its ferry legislation to provide constant coverage of major transportation routes and to set a consistently fair fee. Two routes were available for Claiborne’s Ferry, then operated by Nathaniel. One was from Sweet Hall to Claiborne Gooch’s and return and the other to Richard Littlepage’s and return. (Hening, Statutes, Vol 6, p. 17)

About a year before Nathaniel died, Dansie’s ferry had begun operating nearby. The Sweet Hall and Dansie’s ferry approaches were so close together on the New Kent side that travelers going from west to east had trouble telling them apart but the actual river crossing and the ordinary accommodation at Dansie’s were better than Sweet Hall.

Both the competition from Dansie’s ferry and Nathaniel’s death must have hurt the Sweet Hall ferry business prompting Jane’s notice in the April 22, 1757 edition of the *Virginia Gazette* (Hunter, Pg 4, Col. 2) confirming that Claiborne’s Ferry was operating despite rumor to the contrary. (Note: two issue of *Virginia Gazettes* were published 1756 and 1757. I checked all)

The notice also tells us that Nathaniel died between 1 September 1756, the date of his will, and 22 April 1757, the date of the notice. Since Nathaniel Claiborne was the operator of Claiborne’s Ferry, Jane would not have needed to place the notice unless his death had not created the rumor.

Thus we know that Stephen Bingham and Jane Cole Claiborne married after April 22, 1757 when Jane placed the advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* using her Claiborne surname and certainly no later than April, 1759 for by then Jane was pregnant with a child by Stephen. Jane would have been about 39 years old and Stephen at least 42 years old if not older.

If Stephen did operate the West Point ferry and he was also a flatboat hauler, he and Jane would have known each other as neighbors.

### Jane’s Tract

Under Virginia colonial law Stephen Bingham needed to provide for wife Jane by bequeathing her one third of his estate. He also needed to provide for the possibility that his unborn child with Jane might be a boy who would live long enough to have the right to inherit a portion of his father’s estate. Hence, Stephen was lending Jane the use of the tract of land he had bought from Moore and Hilliard until she died. After her death the land would transfer to the child, if a male. The will fails to say what should happen to the tract after Jane died, if the child were a girl! (Padgett, Patricia Ann, “Legal Status of Women in Colonial Virginia, 1700-1785,” (1967). Dissertations, Theses, and Masters Projects. Paper 1539624619).scholarworks.wm.edu)

The tract that Stephen had bought from Moore and Hilliard was undoubtedly under tobacco cultivation and returning a good income as we can tell by Stephen including in his bequest to Jane, “to work such Negroes as shall be her right of Dower”. Note that Stephen made no comment about buildings on the tract. According to [encyclopediavirginia.org](http://encyclopediavirginia.org) “between 1750 and 1755 tobacco cultivation was centered in the Upper James River, the York River, and the Rappahannock River regions, with each area exporting about 83,000 hogsheads (barrels filled with dried, pressed tobacco leaf) during this period, while the Lower James River shipped only about 10,000 hogsheads. About 1759 or soon after Stephen’s death, tobacco production began to move

to inland counties west of the Rappahannock and York River area. ([encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/tobacco-in-colonial-virginia](http://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/tobacco-in-colonial-virginia))

Stephen could have bought this tobacco tract from Thomas Moore any time after Moore's father's will was probated since it was most likely part of a larger tract that Moore had inherited. Thomas Moore's father, Augustine Moore, died in 1743. Known as "Old Grub Moore" for the amount of land he cleared in King William County, Augustine was a very wealthy land owner and developer who owned Chelsea Plantation. (Chelsea Plantation is the second oldest Virginia Plantation open for tours. It is on the National Register of Historic Places) On his death, Augustine Moore willed several tracts to son Thomas. According to researchers working on *The Papers of George Washington*, Thomas Moore became "a financially troubled planter who ... was... forced to sell much of a prosperous estate". (*The Papers of George Washington, Revolutionary War Series*: letter "From George Washington to John Park Custis..." [founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-05-02-0325](http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-05-02-0325)) Thus, Thomas Moore may have been eager to sell to Stephen Bingham.

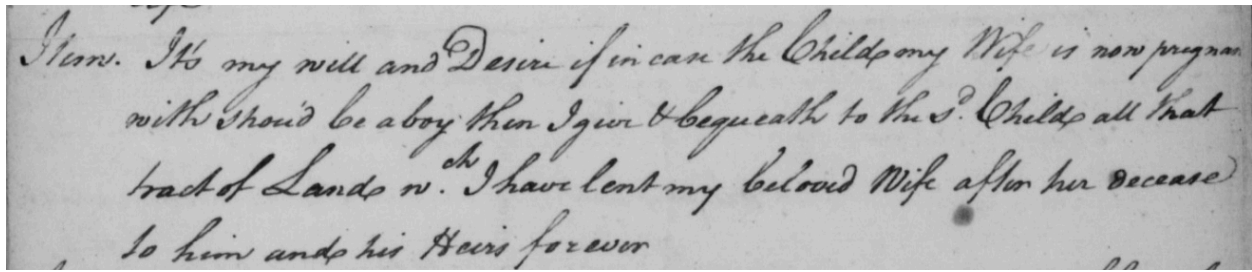
We have no record of how many acres the tract included, only that it was part of a much larger tract originally patented by Henry Fox. Henry's grandson, Rev. John Fox inherited some of this larger tract and sold to Augustine Moore. (Cocke, Ellen M., *Some Fox Trails in Old Virginia, John Fox of King William County*. Richmond, VA, 1939, [babel.hathitrust.org](http://babel.hathitrust.org)) By comparing the description of the tract in Augustine's will with the land that Henry Fox sold to him, and with the description of the tract that Stephen, son of Stephen, sold to Thomas Butler, Jr. in 1792, we can locate this tract, lying ten miles up Pamunkey Neck from West Point. See following as I show on a map of King William County. (See also Section II, Stephen Bingham the Second; so far, I have not identified Alexander Hilliard.)



Approximate location of Jane's Tract outlined in black  
on Henry's 1770 map of King William County

ITEM 8  
Stephen's Posthumous Child  
and  
Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham West

In Item 8 Stephen provided for his unborn child with Jane. Should the child be a boy, the boy was to inherit the tract of land Stephen lent to Jane after her death.



Item. It is my will and Desire if in case the Child my Wife is now pregnant with should be a boy then I give & bequeath to the s<sup>d</sup> Child all that tract of Lands w<sup>ch</sup> I have lent my beloved Wife after her decease to him and his Heirs forever

Stephen's unborn child with Jane was a boy. We know almost nothing about him other than name, military service, and death. Jane named her Bingham son, Roscow Cole. He was her third son and seventh child. She was in her early to mid forties when he was born. The name, Roscow, came from Jane's mother's maiden name Mary Roscow. According to Torrence's *Winston of Virginia and Allied Families*, Mary's father was William Roscow, Jr. of Blunt Point, Warwick County, Virginia where he owned a plantation of more than 1,000 acres. Cole came from Jane's father's surname. Jane's father was Col. William Cole of the 1,350 acre Boldrup Plantation also in Warwick County. The history of both properties is online. While Cole managed his plantation, he also dabbled in politics. At two different times he represented Warwick County in the House of Burgesses; later he was sheriff for the county. He was also a vestryman and Visitor to William and Mary College as his father was a founder. Today, both properties lie within Newport News. Read much more about Roscow Cole Bingham, later. (Note: Clayton Torrence worked as a bibliographer at the Virginia State Library in Richmond, Virginia, from 1906 to 1910; as secretary of the Valentine Museum from 1910 to 1918; and as editor of the William and Mary Quarterly historical papers from 1915 to 1918. His *Winston of Virginia* is well documented).

ITEMS 9, 10, 13, 15  
Stephen's Personal Property

These four Items are closely related. In Item 9 Stephen asks that all his "Stocke of Cattle, Horses, Hoggs & Sheep be sold". In Item 10 he asks that all his household furniture be distributed equally between his wife and children. Item 13 is more difficult to interpret. Stephen asks that his Negroes not already named or part of his wife's one-third share, be set apart, but "kept together to work for the Benefit and Support of the Children" and equally distributed among his living children after his wife's death. In Item 15 Stephen asks that the profit from the sale of his "Stock and Sloop and Flatts", from the sale of surplus crops, and from the collection of debts owed him, be invested for the benefit of his five children at home and his unborn child, if it lives.



Item. My Desire is that all my Stocks of Cattle, Horses, Hogs & Sheep be sold by my Ex<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named

Item. My Will and Desire is that all my Household furniture be equally divided between my loving Wife and my Children at the discretion of my Ex<sup>rs</sup> hereafter named

Item. It's my will and Desire that all my Negroes not before given be equally Divided amongst my five Children namely Stephen, Jack, Alice, Leah and Rachel Bingham after my beloved Wifes Thirde shall be set apart by my Ex<sup>rs</sup> and after her decease it's my desire they be equally Divided amongst my <sup>5</sup> five Children or the Survivors of them, and it's my desire that all the Negroes w<sup>ch</sup> shall belong to my <sup>5</sup> Children after my Wifes Thirde shall be set apart, shall be kept together to work <sup>for</sup> the Benefit and Support of <sup>5</sup> five Children and in case either of my <sup>5</sup> Children should die namely my two Daughters, Leah & Rachel Bingham before they come to age or marry then it's my desire that their parts be equally divided amongst the Survivors of them, and it's my desire that my <sup>5</sup> Children be paid their parts of the Negroes as they come of age or the Girls should marry

I leave my Will and desires that all my outstanding debts be  
 collected and put to Interest with what moneys shall arise  
 from the sale of my Stocks and Sloop and Flatts for the benefit  
 of my five Children, and what Crops shall be made by my 3.  
 Children's Negroes, after maintaining them and the Negroes, be  
 sold by my Ex<sup>r</sup> and the money put out yearly for the benefit  
 of my 3. five Children namely Stephen, Jack, Alice, Leah and  
 Rachel Bingham, and the Child which my beloved Wife is now  
 pregnant with in case the 3. Child lives

These simple statements indicate that Stephen had quite a diverse income from water transport, trade, farming, and money lending, but they also leave many unanswered questions. Apparently he wanted the cattle, horses, hogs, and sheep sold because Mount Folly where they had been pastured was to be sold. Wanting his furniture distributed is puzzling, however. His will does not ask that lots and houses be sold. Distributing the furniture would leave an empty dwelling for his widow and children. Maybe this was a request to occur sometime in the future? Also, where were the Negroes to grow the crops, the surplus of which would be sold and the profits invested for the benefit of the children? Finally, note that Stephen had no outstanding debts to be paid. Instead, he had outstanding loans to be collected. This tidbit of information puts Stephen in the top economic category of Virginia colonists. Furthermore, money collected from the sale of his Stocks and Sloop and Flatts, from his outstanding loans, and from profits from his crops was to be invested in interest bearing ways.

These four items seem to show Stephen trying to clear his slate. He knew the girls would marry, but he mentioned no specific dower for them except that they "be paid their parts of the Negroes as they come of age or the Girls shou'd marry". Some of the provisions were not to take place until after his wife died and others he left to his executors' discretion. Probating his will would not be quick and easy.

#### ITEM 11 Susannah Bingham Green Mourning Rings

In Item 11 Stephen acknowledged his married daughter, Susannah Green, for the first time. He bequeathed her ten pounds to buy a mourning ring.

Susannah was undoubtedly Stephen's eldest child and definitely the only child who had married before Stephen died. She was probably in her early twenties in 1759. Although we know her spouse's surname was "Green", Stephen's Will does not tell us his first name nor where they lived. With the limited records available we find no "Green" in 1759. However, the tax list records in 1782 show an Ambrose Green owned 125 acres in King William County. Since Stephen made no provision for getting the ten pounds to Susannah perhaps that is a clue that his executors knew where Susannah lived. Had she married Ambrose Green and lived in King William County? Stephen wanted Susannah to buy her own mourning ring.

Mourning rings in mid-18th century Virginia were a valuable item of Atlantic trade, a business that Stephen had engaged in and that his sons continued - judging by the following announcement in the *Virginia Gazette* for 16 January 1761 (Hunter, p.4, col. 1.)

The name or initials of the person for whom the ring was worn were usually inscribed on the inside. Many rings were plain gold, others had single jewels or were more fancy in design. In her book, *Colonial Virginia: Its People and Customs*, Richmond, 1917, Mary Newton Stanard discussed mourning rings. She also included ads from the *Virginia Gazette* such as the following one in the 4 June 1772 Purdie and Dixon edition, p. 3, col. 2.

#### ITEMS 12 and 14 Alice Bingham

These two items, together, read as if Alice soon would marry. For this reason, Stephen wanted her to have her part of his estate immediately after his death. In addition, if the arrangements in the other items that involved her were not to her liking, Stephen's executors were to give her the same amount of money he gave her sister, Susannah, when she married. The total amount - whichever way Alice chose, was to include Flora's value at "Fifty pounds". Stephen emphasized that he was doing this to prevent all future arguments.



Item. It is my Desire that if in case my Daughter Alice Bingham should like to be contented with what I shall hereafter give her that then my Ex<sup>or</sup> shall pay her the same sum of money as I gave my Daughter Green, w<sup>ch</sup> will appear by my Books and of her Brother's selling down allowing Fifty pounds for the Negroe Wench w<sup>ch</sup> I have before given her, and this I do to prevent all future Disturbances that may arise hereafter

Item. My Will and desire is that my Daughter Alice Bingham have her part of my Estate w<sup>ch</sup> I leave her paid <sup>her</sup> by my Ex<sup>or</sup>.

ITEMS 16, 17, 18  
Particularly Valuable Personal Property

Very specifically, in Item 16 Stephen gives the watch he is “now” wearing to son Jack and in Item 17 Stephen gives the gold Buttons he “now” wears to son Stephen. In Item 18 Stephen remembers to give all his clothes and a piece of blue broad cloth, a piece of Drugget, a piece of thick sett and a piece of fine white linen to sons Stephen and Jack.

Item. I give & bequeath to my son Jack Bingham my Watch which I now wear

Item. I give and bequeath to my Son Stephen Bingham my gold Buttons w<sup>ch</sup> now I wear

Item. I give and bequeath to my Sons Stephen and Jack Bingham all my Wearing Apparel, a piece of blue broad cloth, a piece of Drugget, a piece of thick sett and a piece of fine white linen.

Items 16 and 17 tell us that despite being “sick and weak of Body” Stephen was up and dressed as a gentleman wearing gold watch and gold buttons. The watch and the buttons were Stephen’s most valuable items of jewelry.

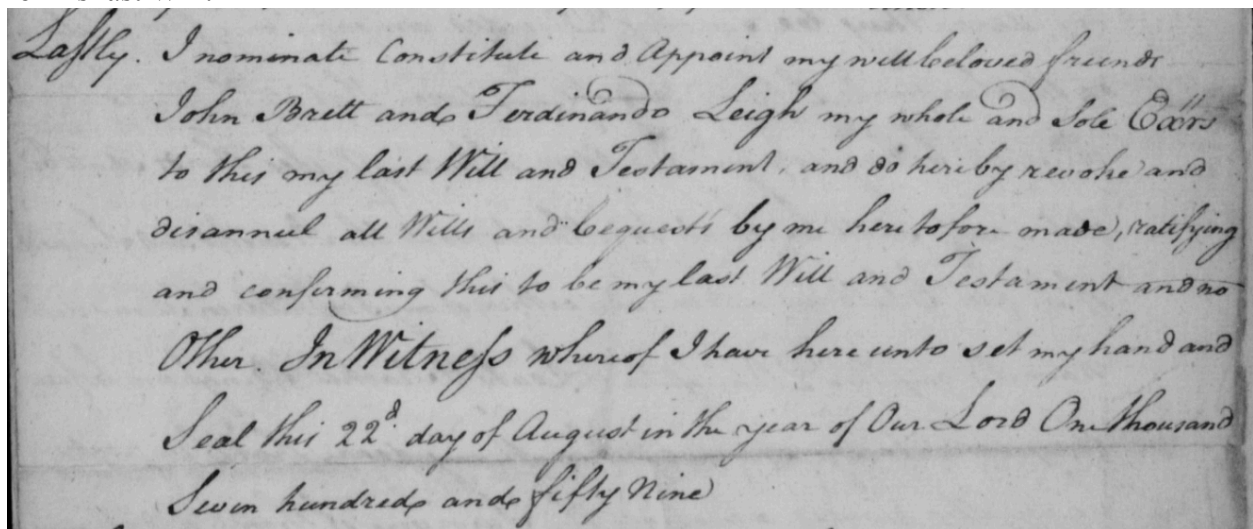
Stephen finished his list of bequeaths by leaving his personal wearing apparel and unused fabric to his sons. The fact that these items are listed in a bequeath tells us their value for they all would have been imported items. Broad cloth or Broadcloth was a wide, dense, plain weave, imported wool fabric used for men's suits in Virginia from the founding of Jamestown. ("Textiles and Independence in Colonial America", Colonial America char.txa.cornell.edu). These suits consisted of a long coat that fell to the knees, a waistcoat that was the precursor to today's vest, and knee-length pants called breeches. Under the waistcoat, men wore a long white linen shirt tucked into the breeches. During the 1700s, men wore a cravat, which is a neck cloth made of white linen. Wealthy men wore cravats embellished with lace or fringe; working class men wore an informal, basic cravat. Both styles called for the fine, white linen that Stephen left his sons.

Drugget was a heavy felted fabric usually of wool or wool and cotton, perhaps also called linsey-woolsey because it was not all wool. It was used as a floor covering, also for clothing. It was not 36 inches wide, so narrower and not as valuable as broad cloth.

Thick sett may be high quality linen where there are more strands of warp than usual making a thicker, stronger, longer lasting fabric. Stephen's fine white linen would have been made from a high quality thread and have a high thread count. Although the middle colonies grew hemp that was processed into strands in a fulling mill, ship builders usually bought the finished product for weaving into rope. Fine linen was imported. (Facts on Clothes in Jamestown, Virginia During Colonial Times, leaf.tv)

#### LASTLY Executors

Stephen Bingham revoked and disannuled, meaning canceled completely, all earlier wills and bequests and appointed John Brett and Ferdinando Leigh, his "well beloved friends", executors for his last Will.



Lastly. I nominate Constitute and Appoint my well beloved friends John Brett and Ferdinando Leigh my whole and Sole Executors to this my last Will and Testament, and do hereby revoke and disannul all Wills and bequests by me heretofore made, Ratifying and confirming this to be my last Will and Testament and no other. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this 22<sup>d</sup> day of August in the year of Our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and fifty Nine

John Brett may have been one of Stephen's beloved friends, but for us he is almost impossible to identify; too many records have been lost. Stephen's John Brett could be the John Brett who lived in King William County and advertised in the *Virginia Gazette* in 1746 a two mast boat for

sale. The boat was built with Mulberry timber, had a 20 foot keel, a 3 foot beam, a large forecas-  
tle, good sails and rigging, and was only 12 months old. Prospective buyers could view the boat  
moored on the Mattaponi River about a mile above Mantapike Warehouse. (Parks: April 10, 1746, p.  
4, col.2.)

This John Brett could be related to George Brett, the ship builder, who lived in Prince William  
County and built a schooner for Daniel Parke Custis Esqr. Custis died in 1757 owing George-  
Brett £20. (III-B. Schedule B: General Account of the Estate, c. October 1759, founders.archives.gov, Original:  
The Papers of George Washington, Colonial Series, vol. 6, pp. 252-261.) George and John were probably  
grandsons of the George Brett who died in Charles County, Maryland in 1705. The shipbuilding  
George Brett was born before 1719 and died in Prince William County in 1762. All of George  
Brett's claims against John Brett were quit claimed in 1770 by Henry Brett, executor of George  
Brett's will and probably John Brett's brother. (Prince William County, VA, Deed Bk R, 1768-1771, p.  
224.) George, John and Henry Brett were definitely descendants of George Brett of Charles Coun-  
ty, Maryland, who died 1705. The problem with this scenario is that Brett researchers have John  
Brett, the brother of Henry and the cousin of George being born about 1739 and dying in 1815 as  
Cap't John Brett of Revolutionary War service. A birth date of 1739 would mean that this John  
Brett was too young to be Stephen Bingham's beloved friend and an executor of his will.

Another John Brett living at the same time could qualify as Stephen Bingham's beloved  
friend. He was Captain of a war ship in the British Navy and his name appeared in more than one  
*Virginia Gazette* notice. The first in March 1745 when, as Captain Brett of the Sunderland sailing  
with Captain Geary of the Chester, the two captured a French Man of War bound from Missis-  
sippi to Rochefort, France. The second in 1755 when Capt Brett was listed as Captain of the  
Chichester in an account of armament fitting at Portsmouth, England. A third time, again in  
1755, John Brett was listed as Commander of the Chichester (64 Guns/520 Men) serving in the  
British fleet operating in and about America. According to Cy Harrison, *threedesks.org.*, the next  
year, 1756, John Brett was Captain and Commanding Officer of the 90 Gun Saint George. He  
was then offered a rear admiral's commission, but refused it and went into retirement. This may  
not be accurate. Captain John Brett was still in the news in 1768 when the *Virginia Gazette* car-  
ried a notice announcing that he had departed Boston bound for London with the Comptroller of  
British Customs on board. Apparently by 1779 John Brett had retired as he was included in the  
list of officers receiving half pay. Considering Stephen Bingham's sailing ability and involve-  
ment in the Atlantic trade and with the similarity in age, it is possible that this John Brett was  
Stephen's beloved friend, but considering this John Brett's profession how could he ever act as  
executor to a will in Virginia? Maybe he didn't?

The John Brett on the King and Queen County 1782, 1787, 1789, 1790 tax returns might  
qualify except that he would have been quite young in 1759.

At any rate, it appears that Ferdinando Leigh, did much of the necessary probate work. We  
know he was involved with collecting money owed to Stephen and that all debtors did not come  
forward readily. About a year after Stephen's death, when probate was nearly completed, Leigh  
filed a suit in Virginia's General Court against John West (Stephen Bingham's nephew by marriage to  
Jane Cole) for debt on a bond: Ferdinando Leigh exr. of Stephen Bingham (K.Wm.) v. John West  
&c. (K.Wm). (This John West was the only John West alive at this time in King William County. Another John  
West lived in Fairfax County. Many researchers have mixed these two West families.) This case languished in

court for several years. Wills were filed for probate in the county of the deceased if the estate was valued at under 100£, but Wills valued over 100£ could be filed with the General Court. Since we don't know the total value of Stephen's estate and probate records for Stephen do not exist, we don't know where the Will was filed. (To understand the General Court see Dewey, "New Light on the General Court of Colonial Virginia", *Wm & Mary Law Review*, Vol. 21.1, 1979, pp.1-14)

Perhaps Leigh did not file the case to force West to pay up, but rather to have the debt removed so probate could be completed? Thomas Jefferson, practicing law in 1771, acted as attorney for the case. Using the 1736 Virginia statute that extended habeas corpus to civil cases, Jefferson argued that the suit should be removed because it was too old to be heard. On May 2, 1771 Jefferson wrote in his Memorandum Book "Ferdinando Leigh exr. of Stephen Bingham (K.Wm.) v. John West &c. (K.Wm) Actn. Debt on a bond. Removd. by Hab. Corp."

Ironically, although John West was no longer in debt to Stephen, Ferdinando Leigh now was in debt to Jefferson. Jefferson had charged Leigh £5 for his service and included that in his Memorandum Book List of balances due June 1. 1771. This same debt showed up in Jefferson's Memorandum Book for 1773 in a List of balances due and again in 1774 on his List of balances assigned over to Edmund Randolph when Jefferson retired from practice before the General Court. (Memorandum Books, Vol. 1, pp. 230, 359); (Hening, Vol. IV, Aug 1736, CH VII: 489); (Carpenter, Habeas Corpus in the Colonies, AHR, 8:18-27, jstor.org)

Ferdinando Leigh was not only a well beloved friend of Stephen Bingham, he was also Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham's older sister's second husband. Mary Cole's first husband had been Thomas West. Thomas and Mary had one child, John, before Thomas died in 1744. It is this John West, the only John West in King William County at the time, that Ferdinando Leigh was suing for failure to pay his debt to Stephen Bingham's estate. Essentially, Ferdinando was suing his step-son, John West. No wonder John did not pay the debt. His stepfather, Ferdinando, had probably told him not to. In other words, Ferdinando Leigh brought the suit to have the debt legally removed. (Stanard, *The Colonial Virginia Register*, 115-16).

John West had inherited the family's West Point property when his father, Thomas, died. Still a young child, he had no means to work the property so it was probably when he turned twenty-one that he applied to the General Assembly to have the entail docked on 1,000 of the acres, allowing him to sell a portion of the property and spend the proceeds to buy negro slaves who would work the land. The General Assembly granted the request in November, 1761, with the proviso that one half of the slaves be female. (Hening, Vol. VII, CH XIII: 488-90).

Researchers have been trying to assign a birth place to Ferdinando Leigh with no success. Although similar given names such as Ferdinand, Gilbert, William, seem to associate him with the Thomas Leigh family of Middleton, Yorkshire, England, no records yet found give us a clue about his birth place. (The Leigh Family 2, fomp.co.uk) We cannot say that Ferdinando Leigh arrived at West Point, from England about 1740. (Purser, *Descendants of Ferdinando Leigh*, yumpu.com), but we do know that before March 1751 he owned 850 acres near Ruffin's Ferry (on the Mattaponi) as he ran a notice in July, 1752 that three branded horses, not his, had lived there that since March 1751. (*Virginia Gazette, Hunter*, p. 3, col. 2). On November 16, 1754, Ferdinando Leigh ran another announcement, this time about a Run Away "Mulatto Wench", about 26 Years of Age, trained in carding and spinning. (*Virginia Gazette, Hunter*, p.4, col 1) In November 1771 Ferdinando had another Run away slave situation. This time it was an argument over who owned Peter, a tall, thin, black

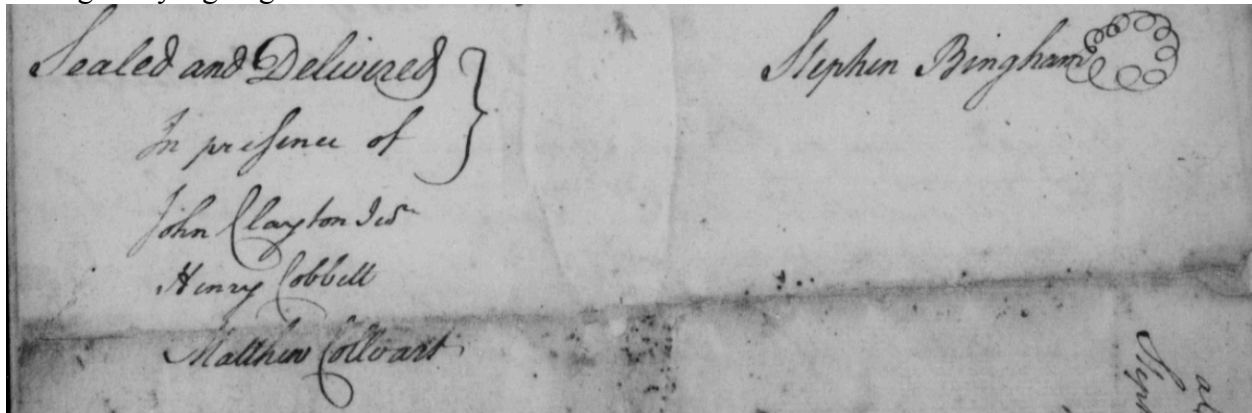
Negro Fellow who had eloped to work for William Cole in Charles City County. (*Virginia Gazette, Purdie and Dixon, Nov. 12, 1771, p. 2, col. 3*).

Ferdinando apparently left King William County in 1773 or 1774 for on February 3, 1774 the *Virginia Gazette* announced the Sheriff's sale on Wednesday the 16th of four tracts of land including Leighs 850 acres with CROPS and CORN near Ruffin's Ferry. (*Virginia Gazette, Purdie and Dixon, p. 3. Col. 2*). The last time Ferdinando Leigh's name appeared in the *Virginia Gazette* was February 19, 1780 when his son-in-law and executor of his will, William Claiborne, announced from Petersburg that all persons having demand against Ferdinando Leigh's estate should apply for payment. (*Virginia Gazette, Dixon and Nicholson, p. 3, col. 2*)

## SEALED AND DELIVERED

### Witnesses

The phrase "Sealed and Delivered In presence of" is simply another way of saying this Will is absolute and final and these three witnesses, John Clayton Senr, Henry Cobbett, Matthew Collvart agree by signing their name.



Virginia colonial probate law required the signature of three witnesses if the will was written or dictated by the writer ahead of time. Stephen had either written or dictated his will before he signed it with his witnesses present on August 22, 1759. The question is, who were these witnesses?

John Clayton, Sr. was the Clerk of Gloucester County for more than fifty years, but he kept himself busy with his tobacco plantation and traveling around Virginia and elsewhere collecting plants and seeds for his *Catalogue of Herbs, Fruits, and Trees Native to Virginia*. Clayton was Virginia's first true botanist and a member of the American Philosophical Society, the Swedish Royal Academy of Sciences, and the Virginia Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge. Julianne, Marianne, and Dictionary of Virginia Biography. "John Clayton (1695–1773)" *Encyclopedia Virginia*. Virginia Humanities, (22 Dec. 2021). Web. 04 May. 2023) Clayton was about 64 years old in 1759 when he signed Stephen's Will, unless the signer was son "John Clayton, Junr.", who lived in St John's Parish, King William County in 1759 and undoubtedly knew Stephen as well. (*Virginia, Spotsylvania County Records, 1721-1800, Deed Bk E, 1751-1761: 211. Ancestry.com*) We have no proof which Clayton signed Stephen's will because the version we have is a copy and may contain translation errors. However, when I look at the first strokes of the abbreviation following the word Clayton, I

see the strokes of a J not an S in the transcribed hand written copy. Perhaps the typescript copy is wrong - it definitely is in spelling Cobbett as Cobbitt.

Henry Cobbett, not Cobbitt as in *Tyler's Quarterly*, was the head of the only Cobbett family in King William County. We do not know when he arrived, but it was before 1759 when he signed as a witness to Stephen's Will. Henry was Stephen's neighbor at West Point. In 1768 he was probably the license holder to operate the Brick House to West Point ferry when he advertised his five lots, houses and ferry for sale. He may have operated the ferry from before Stephen arrived or he may have taken over the ferry and bought the five lots from Stephen's estate after Stephen died. Read more about Cobbett later.

Witness Matthew Collvart left no records. His surname spelling does not lead to any person. When pronounced sloppily, Calvert could sound like Collvart. Calverts settled in Maryland. There were few Calverts in colonial Virginia. Was this third witness simply a sham to comply with the legal requirement of a third witness? As far as the life of Stephen Bingham is concerned, the witnesses to his Will are not important. In fact, the Will may never have been probated.

So what have we learned about the first Stephen Bingham of King William County, Virginia that we did not already know? I think, a much better picture of where and how he lived, how he earned a living, who some of his neighbors and friends were and, next to come, much more about his family.

#### STEPHEN BINGHAM THE FIRST, CHILDREN by his first wife, name unknown

- 1a.1. Susannah abt 1737 (see before)
- 1a.2. Alice abt 1739 (see before)
- 1a.3. Stephen. (see Section II)
- 1a.4. John (Jack) (Lost at Sea)
- 1a.5. Leah (see following)
- 1a.6. Rachel (see following)

by his second wife, Jane Cole Claiborne

- 1b.1. Roscow Cole (see Section II)

1a.5. Leah  
Daughter of Stephen, the First

Stephen's daughter Leah was not "of age" when her father died in 1759. That is, she was not yet 18 years old, the age when a female could marry without father's consent. Subtracting 18 from 1759, Leah could not have been born before 1742. Keeping Stephen's children within the usual progression of births, I suggest a birth year of 1745 for Leah as shown previously. She was certainly older, or the same age, as sister Rachel and younger than brother Jack.



Leah married a John Leigh. Not enough records have survived to accurately identify the parents of this John Leigh. Plenty of researchers have tried; several ideas are afloat. I will float one more: Ferdinando Leigh was an executor of Leah's father's (Stephen) will. He farmed and lived on 850 acres between Ruffin's Ferry and Delaware Town where the Stephen Bingham family lived. Ferdinando might have assumed responsibility for finding spouses for Stephen's two young daughters, Leah and Rachel, females with no property to offer as a dowry. Another avenue of research is the Leigh family of King and Queen County

Fortunately, we have family sources to give us some knowledge of the Leighs. One is a set of notes Belle Jenkins Hook wrote. Born in 1837, Belle was a granddaughter of Susannah Leigh Trice. Susannah was a daughter of Rachel Bingham and Richard Leigh. Anita Darnell, a more recent descendant, genealogist, and frequent contributor to the Montgomery County (Tennessee) Genealogical Journal (1971-1981), included Belle's comments in three letters to the Bingham Association in 1970 and 1971. The letters are currently in possession of the Bingham Association. The full series of the Montgomery County Genealogical Journal is available on several websites.

Another source is from Anita Darnell's own research. Anita augmented the notes from Belle Jenkins Hook with her own research so that her letters include information such as Leah and Rachel Bingham married brothers John and Richard Leigh; where they lived; the names of their children and birth years.

In addition to these family letters, other family researchers, particularly Virginia Refo, but others also mentioned in writings by Curtis Booker and Dick Purser, have studied the same Leigh line and placed significant material online, all of which other researchers need to read.

Since the purpose of this article was to make stored research available, mainly about the first Stephen Bingham of Virginia, which expanded into research on his son, the second Stephen Bingham of Virginia and grandson Stephen Bingham of Virginia and New York, I am only including for his lesser known children material that is verified by records or the personal knowledge of others.

Leah and John Leigh's marriage is not documented, but Darnell's family sources give it as "about 1767". They give John's birth date as "Mar. 10, 1742". If correct, John was about 25 years old when he married "his first wife", Leah, and she was about 22 years old. John did not mention Leah in his will when he named his children. Leah had died in 1787 and John had remarried long before he dictated his will.

John Leigh was illiterate. He proved this by signing his name with an X (John X Leigh) as a witness to a 1781 deed between William Leigh and Matthew Mills. (Image 292 of 684, film 30227, Bks 7-9, 1776-1789, Deeds, 1748-1917, Albemarle County, County Clerk; United States, Virginia, Albemarle, Land and Property. familysearch.org) For his will, composed in 1819, John claims to have set his hand and affixed his seal which is how he solved his problem of not being able to write. Further evidence of illiteracy is in the 1850 U.S. Census entries for son's John Bingham Leigh (Lee) and Sullivan Leigh (Lee). John Bingham Leigh's (Lee) entry shows all four members at home, John, wife Rachel, daughters Martha and Jane, all unable to read or write. Sullivan's entry shows that John's and his sister, Patsy (Leigh) Ellis and his own wife, Mary, could not read or write. Father John and his son's John and Sullivan all lived in Orange County, North Carolina. Both Johns were

“Laborers” by occupation, but, of course, they also both needed land to provide food for their families. Sullivan’s occupation was farmer.

Exactly when John and Leah moved from Delaware Town, West Point, Virginia to North Carolina is unknown. Many researchers think they went to Orange County, North Carolina when they married in 1767. However, their son John Bingham “Jack” Leigh, age 77 on the 1850 U.S. Census, reported Virginia as his birthplace about 1773. Son, Sullivan, born 1777, in 1850 reported his birthplace as North Carolina.

If they moved to North Carolina before 1771, county formation combined with deeds indicate they settled in what was the southeast part of Orange County. Hillsborough would have been the county seat where land entries and deeds were recorded. But Hillsborough was a long walk away so many deeds were not recorded or recorded years later.

In 1771, Wake County was formed partly from the southeast strip of Orange County where John and Leah lived. Thus, in 1787 when John Leigh bought land in Orange County from Jeremiah Spencer, John was a resident of Wake County. Ninety years later, in 1881, Durham County was formed between Orange County and Wake County, taking land from both. John Leigh did not move from one county to another, except in 1787. Otherwise, it was the county that changed its footprint.

Apparently Wake County was not well organized before the Revolutionary War. Hillsborough, the county seat of Orange County, continued some jurisdiction. For instance, in 1782 when John was awarded Revolutionary Pay Voucher No. 622, it was from Hillsborough, Orange, NC, 13 February 1782: “John Leigh exhibited his Claim and was Allotted Six Pounds 8 Shillings Specie”. (North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers, 1779-1782, Image 41 of 923, familysearch.org)

By 1790, after Leah had died and John had bought the Spencer tract, both he, and Richard Leigh, lived in Orange County, North Carolina as documented by the list of taxpayers in Orange County in 1790 and Revolutionary War voucher paid for one day of service, 1 January 1790. (“List of taxpayers in Orange County in 1790,” Vol. 26, Pp. 1301-2, Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, docsouth.unc.edu); (Ancestry does not have Orange County digitized and familysearch makes it difficult to see the book entry. For the book entry (page 96) search United States, Bureau of the Census. Heads of families at the first census of the United States taken in the year 1790: North Carolina,” Washington: Govt. Print. Off., 1908. hathitrust.org or ia904700.us.archive.org); (North Carolina Revolutionary Pay Vouchers, 1779-1782, Image 297 of 923, familysearch.org)

John and Leah’s children are documented in John’s will, but not specifically labeled as Leah’s. Darnell’s sources claim that

- Alec was their first born in 1768
- followed by Caty 1770,
- John Bingham 1773,
- Susannah 1775,
- Washington 1780,
- Martha/Patsy 1783
- and Leah 1787.
- The list misses Sullivan, 1777.

Most of these children can be identified in North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-1800, Orange. Ancestry.com as follows:

Lee, Alee & Couch, Jesse x, 23 Jan 1789 Bond (Orange County, p. 96, Image 103 of 628).

Leigh, Catharine & John Hust, 23 Feb 1796

Leigh, Jack B. Rachel Gray. 10 Dec. 1798

Leigh, Washington & Polly Trice, 30 Dec 1801 (image 5347 of 10218)

Leigh, Leah & Richmond Harris, 31 Dec 1805 (Image 3873 of 10218)

Leigh, Sullivan & Nancy Shepperd, 27 March 1809

Leigh, Sullivan & Catharine Clifton, 13 Nov 1828

Leigh, Sullivan & Mary Lambeth, 1 Oct 1842

Leigh, Patsey & Nathan Ellis, 1 Jan 1817

John's will named two other children before Alecy: Jane and Richerson. Contemporary researchers are tending to ascribe them to a previous marriage of John Leigh's. Jane was lost in the records, but might have been alive in 1819 when John included her in his will. Richerson has a presence in the Virginia Historical Society Records. He lived and worked in King William County, Virginia until his death age 84 on 24 September 1850. Thus, he was born in 1766. (Orange County, North Carolina, Will Bk D, p.593, Image 763 of 782, film 19484; or North Carolina Probate Records, 1735-1970, Orange, Vol. D: familysearch.org)

It is possible that Jane and Richerson were Leah's children. If Leah was born in 1745 and married at age 18, (1763), she could have been the mother of Jane born 1764, Richerson born 1766, and Alecy born 1768. Furthermore, that scenario fits Sullivan's claim that he was the fifth child and third son.

A second point makes me question the idea of a different mother for Jane and Richerson. Leah and John could have named their first born child, Jane, just as Richard Leigh and Rachael Bingham named their first child Jane. Leah and Rachael were sisters, perhaps twins? Their birth mother died when the sisters were young and their father, Stephen, married second, Jane Cole Claiborne. Jane became Leah and Rachel's step-mother. For both girls to name their first born child, Jane, could be a sign of respect for their step-mother.

A third point to add to the quandary about Richerson is that non-existing records simply don't tell whether he did not move to North Carolina with the family or whether he did move and returned to Virginia. It certainly was not unusual in the colonial south to place young children with a family member who would provide a good education. Existing Richerson papers indicate that he was literate. Of course, it is possible that Leah was a second wife and Alecy her first born. Records don't exist to prove the situation one way or another.

Leah died in February 1787, apparently associated with the birth of her daughter, Leah, who survived. John was left with a new born baby and seven other children at home as none had yet married. I have found no deed showing that John bought acreage during the entire time that Leah lived with him in North Carolina. Somehow, they provided for their own food, but may have lived in the rapidly growing town of Hillsborough as a tenant where John could easily find work as a laborer.

After Leah's death, John married 14 September 1787, Caty Watts, daughter of Samuel and Catherine Watts. (North Carolina, U.S., Marriage Records, 1741-2011, Orange County Marriage Bonds - Abstracts, Ancestry.com) Undoubtedly, in conjunction with this marriage John bought a 200 acre tract of land from Jeremiah Spencer. Richard Leigh and Samuel Watts witnessed the deed. The tract had one side on a stream branch and was located near Richard Leigh's land and dwelling. From here on the history becomes one of John Leigh's life with the exception of tracing Leah's children.

Two years after John bought his tract near Richard, Richard sold his tract to George Herndon. (North Carolina, Orange County, Record of Deeds, 1755-1756. 1768-1840; general index to deeds, 1752-1868, Bk.4, p. 455, image 350 of 885, familysearch.org) At this time, the extended Herndon family was buying up much of the land in that area and establishing businesses hoping to attract residents who were shopping in Chapel Hill because the road to Hillsborough was not well maintained. (See a map). John Leigh's new tract was well positioned so when the Herndon's and cousins moved on, Leah and John's son Sullivan bought up several of the Herndon tracts. Sullivan's son and Leah's grandson, Richard Stanford Leigh, built a house on one of the tracts in 1835 that is now the oldest house in Durham County and the center attraction of Leigh Farm Park. (Anderson, Jean B., Durham County: A History of Durham County, North Carolina. 2nd ed. rev, and expanded. Durham: Duke University Press, 2011, pp. 69-70.)

Although John had written his will in 1819, he did not die until 1821. Eight of Leah's children received bequests in John's 1819 will. Be aware that other children not included in the will might have been born to John and Caty. Following is a chart of John's bequests to his children.

John's bequest to

Jane 5s

Richerson 5s

to Leah's children:

Alecy 5s

Caty 5s

Leah 5s

Susanna 20s

Patsey one bed and furniture

to Caty's children

Nancy one bed and furniture

Betsey one bed and furniture

Dianna one bed and furniture

Balance of Estate, Land, Negroes, Horses, Cattle and all other property sold and money equal between following eleven

Leah's children

Jack B Leigh

Sullivan Leigh,

Washington Leigh

Patsey Ellice

Caty's children  
Richard Leigh,  
Samuel Leigh,  
Thomas Leigh,  
Ewel Leigh  
Nancy Garrard,  
Betsey Leigh  
Dianna Leigh,

1a.6. Rachel  
Daughter of Stephen the First

For Rachel, we do have a few records with her name. The earliest is a 1781 deed on which her name appears as Rachel Leigh, a witness with spouse Richard Leigh. Since we have only a book copy of the deed, it is impossible to tell if she wrote her own signature, but it does place her with Richard Leigh and with William Leigh who was buying land in Albemarle County, Virginia. At the time, William Leigh was of Caswell County, North Carolina. John Leigh was also a witness as discussed earlier. The deed was not recorded until November 8 1782 after Richard Leigh, Rachel Leigh, and John Leigh appeared in a court held for Albemarle County and testified its authenticity. (United States, Virginia, Albemarle, Land and Property, Albemarle County, County Clerk, Deeds, 1748-191, Bks 7-9, 1776-178, film 30227, Image 292 of 684, familysearch.org)

As with Leah, family sources give us an outline of Rachel's life. They suggest she married Richard Leigh 1767 or before, probably in King William County, Virginia, where Rachel grew up. This marriage year is suggested by the known date of their second daughter's birth: 4 November 1770. Considering the following Mecklenburg County deeds both of the children would have been born in Virginia. Using the usual two year interval, Richard and Rachel's first child's birth would be 1768 and Richard and Rachel's marriage would be 1767 or before. (Montgomery County Historical Society, Montgomery County, Tennessee Family History Book, Turner Pub., 2000, p. 322; Montgomery County Family History Book Documents, Circa 2000, mcgtn.org)

Richard Leigh first appeared in the existing records April 13, 1772 when he bought 152 acres in Mecklenburg County, Virginia. The deed claimed he was resident in the same Mecklenburg parish as the seller. (Virginia, Mecklenburg, Land and Property, Deed records, 1765-1905, Bk. 3, p. 332-3. Image 207 of 620, film 32533, familysearch.org; Virginia Refo) One witness to the deed was William Leigh whom some researchers think was an older brother. We do know that William was from King and Queen County, Virginia, when he bought 400 acres in Mecklenburg County, Virginia in September, 1771 six months before Richard bought his own land. (Virginia, Mecklenburg, Land and Property, Deed records, 1765-1905, Bk 3, p. 245-7, Image 163-5 of 620, film 32533, familysearch.org; Virginia Refo, Oct 25, 1997, Genealogy.com) Perhaps Richard was living with William in Mecklenburg County when he bought his Mecklenburg tract in 1772.

Richard's deed helps to set a birth year for him. Colonial law required a male to be 21 years old to buy land. Thus, Richard was born in 1751 or before and only a few years apart in age from Rachel for whom we gave a birth year of 1743 to 1745 as discussed before. If we use the custom

of marriage for the female at age eighteen, the age when no parental consent is required, Rachael could have been born in 1749. In one of her family letters, Anita Darnell suggested that Richard was born about 1744.

Richard sold his Mecklenburg County land the year after he bought it: May, 1773 - as Virginia Refo points out - at a loss. (Virginia, Mecklenburg, Land and Property, Deed records, 1765-1905, Bk. 4, p. 74. Image 378 of 620, film 32533; Virginia Refo) Refo suggests that Richard returned to King William County and married Rachel about this time, but that cannot be correct since Richard and Rachel's second child was born in 1770 as pointed out earlier.

Richard's name does not appear in existing records again until the 1781 deed that Rachel and John also witnessed as discussed before. Since that deed was between William, then living in Caswell County, North Carolina and Matthew Mills of Guilford County, North Carolina, for land in Albemarle County, Virginia, the three witnesses appeared in the Albemarle County Court to verify the deed. Consequently, it is difficult to say where Rachel and Richard actually lived.

We don't find Richard and Rachel in the records again until 1789 when they bought 200 acres in Orange County, North Carolina. They were then residents of Orange County, themselves. The seller was Farthing (Farthmand) Grissam. Richard paid 116 pounds specie. Rachel's name, of course, was not on the deed. The tract was land locked and contained no dwelling, meaning they intended to use the tract for farming only. The deed was not recorded until August, 1793. (United States, North Carolina, Orange, Land and Property, Bk. 5-6, p. 6-7, Image 507 of 885, familysearch.org)

In 1790, Richard and Rachel did sell the land they lived on. The buyer was George Herndon. The tract of 250 acres adjoined Herndon land on one side and a creek on another side. The deed was dated January 20, 1790 and recorded August, 1791. The selling price was 170 pounds specie. (North Carolina, Orange County, Records of Deeds, 1755-1756. 1768-1840; general index to deeds, 1752-1868, Leigh, Richard, Bk. 4, p. 455, Image 350 of 885, familysearch.org).

As Anderson relates in her *Durham County* history, the Herndon clan owned considerable land south and southeast of what is today the city of Durham. "Zachariah Herndon, a physician, established partnerships with other men to run commercial enterprises". They bought up as much land as they could for stores, cotton gins, and other businesses. Herndon cousins lived to the south and west of the Herndon lands and "there, too had, settled John Leigh in the 1780s ...." as discussed before. (Anderson, *Durham County*, p. 60, *dokumen.pub\_durham-county*) The 1790 Orange County List of Taxpayers, St. Mark's District corroborates Richard and John Leigh living in the same district and the only Leighs in Orange County. (Colonial and State Records of North Carolina, doc-south.unc.edu)

By 1790 Rachael and Richard's two children, daughters Jane and Susannah, were married and out of the house. Deeds do not tell us where Rachael and Richard lived between 1790 and 1795, but in 1795 they bought a 200 acre tract from Robert Turner on the south side of the Eno River where the Little River enters. Richard paid one pound specie per acre for Tucker's houses, gardens, cleared land, woodland, water and water courses. Richard and Rachel lived on this tract for about 10 years. Today, the land is in northwest Durham County. (Orange Deeds, 1795, Vol. 5, pp. 462-63, Film 19475, Image 749 of 855, familysearch.org)

Richard and Rachel prepared to move again in 1806, this time to Tennessee. They were part of a large family group composed of daughters Jane Chisenhall, her spouse Reuben and Susannah Trice and her spouse James, all their children, and the entire Trice family. Richard and Rachel sold their Eno River tract to John Marshal in 1806. The deed was recorded May, 1808.



(Deed Book 13, p. 120, Film 19477, Image 620 of 870, familysearch.org) Richard sold one other tract of 150 acres before leaving Orange County. Riley Vickers, Senr., the buyer, paid Richard “one Negro boy called Ben and one dark Roan Gelding.” for the land. (29 Oct 1806, Deed Bk. 12, p. 325-26, Film 19477, Image 536 of 870; Recorded Feb 1807, familysearch.org)

Three brothers of the Trice family seem to have instigated the move to Tennessee. Whitley’s book, *Red River Settlers*, has entries for brothers Edward, James, and John. James Trice, Susannah Leigh’s spouse, had bought land for the family in 1806 near Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee where the Red River joined the Cumberland River. The family apparently arrived in 1807 for in 1808 James bought more land adjoining his home tract.(Montgomery County, TN, Deeds, Bk., C-D, 1805-1809, pp. 659-661, Film 320858, Image 405-7 of 437, familysearch.org) We do not know exactly when other family members arrived, but we do know that in 1816 several lived along the same road leading from the mouth of the Red River to John Trice’s. (*Red River Settlers*, 76, 134)

Susannah’s spouse, James Trice built Trice’s Landing on the Cumberland River so farmers coming down the Red River would have a place to reload their “barrels of pork, beef, and hogsheads of tobacco for further shipment down the Cumberland River to the Ohio River to be shipped to England. Currently, a small, scenic park, TriceLandingPark, with plaque commemorates the spot in Clarksville, TN.

When Richard and Rachael Leigh arrived in Tennessee they may have lived with one of their daughters. Richard’s name under the spelling Leigh or Lee does not appear in the deeds. Do note that Tennessee simplified the spelling of Leigh to Lee. Also note that Edythe Whitley in her *Red River Settlers* book has confused the Leigh and Lee families; see p. 40.

Seven years after arriving in Montgomery County, Tennessee, Richard died. He had dictated his will, also called a “Deed of Gifts”, 21 April, 1814 and died before the July court term when the will was proved ie. recorded. He would have been about 70 years old. Three obligatory witnesses signed his will. Richard left everything to Rachael during her life time. Upon her death, half of his estate was to go to his “Chizenhaul” (Chisenhall) grandchildren, whose mother was his daughter, Jane, and half to James Trice, husband of daughter Susannah. Remember, at this time, it was custom to leave everything in the husband’s name, if the husband was alive, even if intended for the wife and children. The will named each of the nine living Chisenhall children as of 1814. Using the spelling in the will, they were:

Sinthy,  
Mirdith,  
Sary,  
Elisha,  
Lee.  
Thirsa,  
susannah,  
Rachael,  
Elizabeth.

Keep in mind, these spellings are phonetic. Richard was partially illiterate. One copied record shows that he could write or print his first name, but all records we have access to are copies of the original. In addition a researcher or two have substituted their idea of what the child’s full first name was; for instance ,Thirsa is named Mithursia in a tree or more. Google will take you to

those websites, but will also tell you, “It looks like there aren’t many great matches for your search”, a polite way of saying there is no such word. The same researchers also have the wrong year for Jane’s death. One other note re phonetic spelling, Chisenhall was also spelled with a z in place of the s.

The will also named Richard’s four Negroes, Cate, Salena, Morgan and Mary and their increase that the nine grandchildren were to have and hold. Richard left his other Negroes, Gilbert and Mahale, to James Trice. The easiest read of Richard’s will is a typed transcription at Ancestry.com: Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008. See a hand written transcription at Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Montgomery, Wills, 1810-1818, Vol. B, p. 192, Image 122 of 295, familysearch.org.

Richard made this unusual arrangement because Reuben Chisenhall, the father of his grandchildren and husband of daughter Jane, was an extremely poor provider. As soon as the Chisenhall’s settled in Montgomery County, Richard’s name appeared on the List of Insolvents for 1808. (Montgomery County Court Minutes 1808-1810; Red River Settlers, p. 131) This little tidbit of information helps us date Richard and Rachael’s move from Orange County, North Carolina to Montgomery County, Tennessee and may be more significant for that reason than noting his economic status since the list named 44 insolvent county residents! Many of the families who moved to Tennessee were too poor to pay their taxes.

Reuben Chisenhall appeared on the 1820 U.S. Census for Montgomery County, Tennessee. At that time, both he and spouse Jane were over 45. They had 9 children of their own at home, 3 boys and 6 girls. Another white female over 45 completed the free white residents. Reuben also had 10 slaves; 5 were under 14 and only 1 female was over 25. By 1830, when Richard’s and Rachel’s will was finally settled, Reuben was dead. Mrs. Jane Chisenhall was listed as head of household. She was the 1 female 50 thru 59. There were 4 other white persons at home, but only 2 slaves - one boy and one girl - both under 10.

Richard Leigh’s estate was inventoried, but not completely, as the sale of his personal property shows, and results reported to the court at its October term. Items included equipment necessary to maintain a small farm and enough carpentry tools to show that Richard was a builder and carpenter by trade. He might also have had a small still for making whiskey; his inventory included 20 gallons of whiskey, and \$72.50 due his estate. Rachel needed to buy back enough tools to keep the small farm running and she bought back the 20 gallons of whiskey in three batches paying \$12.50, \$13.76 1/2, and \$29.12. The sales report included names of buyers, items bought, and amount paid. Both the inventory and the sale report are also available at the previously mentioned Ancestry database.

The will was not completely settled, however, until Rachael died. After Richard’s death, she lived another twelve years. Rachel died near the end of 1826, probably December. She would have been in her late seventies, unusually old for that time. Even as early as 1816 or 1817 the county court called her “old Mrs. Lee” when they ordered Edward, James and John Trice, and two other men “to lay off and mark out a road the nearest and best way from old Mrs. Lee’s to the mouth of Red River.” (Montgomery County Court Minutes, 1816-1817, Overseers of Roads, Red River Settlers, p. 134)

Six court documents spanning three years involve the settlement of Rachel’s estate. As usual, the inventory reveals the most detail about their lives. James Trice, their daughter Susannah’s

husband took the inventory and submitted it during January Court term, 1827. It consisted of a sparse amount of normal household items, a few farm items including a plough, a few farm animals including a horse and side saddle, and a small quantity of stored food; also \$7.25 cash and two notes, one on William Riggins for \$32.50, the other on W Jones for \$24.00.

The second document, transcribed on the same page as the first, is the account of the sale of the property in the inventory also noted as submitted January term 1827, but headed with the date of 18 November 1828 for the sale. Someone copying the original from a piece of paper into a book made a mistake. Perhaps both the inventory and the sale took place in 1826? (Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Montgomery, 1826-1829, Vol. E, p. 64, Image 60 of 316, familysearch.org)

The third document was the report of vouchers submitted against the estate of Rachel and Richard Lee recorded 21 July 1828. There were 14 in all amounting to a total of \$67.25. One of the vouchers was toward the administration of Washington Lee's estate. Washington was a son of Leah and John Leigh. He had moved to Montgomery County with his uncle Richard and aunt Rachel. His full name was George Washington Leigh, but Lee in Tennessee. He died 26 July 1826 and was buried in the Trice-Leigh-Johnson Cemetery, New Providence area of Clarksville. (findagrave.com; Tennessee Probate Court Books, 1795-1927, Montgomery, 1826-1829, Vol. E, p. 357, Image 208 of 316, familysearch.org)

Document four, recorded 24 July 1828 was the division of the estate, in dollars, between Jane Chisenhall and James Price. After all expenses and money set aside for one unsettled voucher, each received \$36.14 and 3/4 cents. For more detail see pages 345-46, Image 202 of 316 of Tennessee Probate Court Books.

Document five, recorded January, 1829, regards the settlement of the outstanding voucher for William Riggins's expenses as guardian of Rachel's heirs between her death and the settlement of the total estate of Richard and Rachel. William Riggins was Theresa's spouse. He claimed expenses of \$219.50 mainly caring for the Negroes. See details on page 428, Image 243 of 316 of Tennessee Probate Court Books.

Richard's and Rachel's estate was finally closed in April, 1829 with document six, the division of the Negroes amongst the heirs. It is from this document that we get the most accurate spelling of the children's names: (p. 504, Image 284 of 316)

Rachel  
Betsy  
Susan  
Cinthia  
Shurzy  
Sally  
Meridith  
Leigh  
Patsy

by his second wife, Jane Cole Claiborne 1b.1. Roscow Cole (see Section II)

## SECTION II

### 1a.3. STEPHEN BINGHAM THE SECOND

Born: 14 Feb 1741 (John H. Bingham), or 27 Feb 1742 (C.W. Bingham for W.G.H. Bingham)

Mar (1): abt 1762, ? Hobday (Schoolfield Letter)

Mar (2): abt 1787-88, Ann Gaines (Schoolfield Letter)

Died: 27 Jan 1808 (John H. Bingham Letter)

#### Sources

The second Stephen Bingham was the main emphasis of the four family letters and the Meredith Family Papers. However, John H. Bingham, son of the third Stephen Bingham was the only one, who knew both birth and death dates for the second Stephen. Charles Wesley, using his father's "old Bible" knew Stephen the second and wife, Ann Gaines, death dates and ages at death in years and months, or days. A few knew that Stephen had been married twice. Lambeth, Schoolfield, and Meredith contributed names and dates for all the second Stephen's living children. Without these sources, we would not be able to identify all of Stephen's children who lived, but with these sources we can trace his children to the 1850 U.S. Census or beyond. From there, other researchers can move on.

Meredith wrote that the second Stephen Bingham married young. He and Schoolfield were the only ones to record the names of the surviving children by his first wife. The comment that Stephen married young is corroborated by the 1810 U. S. Census which recorded Stephen's oldest child, William, surname spelled Benjham, age 45 or over. Subtracting 45 from 1810, William's birth year would need to have been 1765 or before and Stephen's marriage year between 1760 and 1765. That means Stephen could not have been more than 24 when he first married. He definitely was "of age" to marry without consent so he probably married in 1762 or 1763 when he was 21 or 22 years old.

Meredith also thought that Stephen's first wife was a Miss Corbin. The Corbin plantation in King and Queen County, Laneville, lay directly across the Mattaponi River from West Point as shown on Henry's map of Southern Portion of King William County. Stephen did have business dealings in King and Queen County, but Corbin records do not document a Corbin marrying a Bingham. The Corbin family genealogy, based on actual records, is outlined in several volumes of the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* freely available at [jstor.org](http://jstor.org) and [onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu).

It is possible, however, that a Cobbett was Stephen's first wife. Henry Cobbett was a witness to the first Stephen's Will and he continued to help Stephen, the son, after the death of his father as discussed later.

A word of caution about the G.A.R. Meredith source: the author confuses the second and first Stephens in places and often refers to the second as "Old Stephen Bingham" probably to separate the second Stephen from his son, the third Stephen with whom G.A.R. was a close relative and friend.

According to Frances “Anna” Dudley Schoolfield in husband John W. Schoolfield’s letter, the second Stephen Bingham “was twice married and had twelve children by each of his wives.” Of the first marriage, however, the Schoolfield letter named only four children: William, Richard, Rachel, and Lea. Calculating from U.S. Census records, these four children were born between 1765 and 1775. We know a little bit about each as will appear later. The Schoolfields also named a Hobday as Stephen’s first wife. The 1704 Quit Rent Roll for King William County did contain an Edward Hobday. Hobday owned 150 acres. The name Hobday did not appear in King William thereafter.

#### A father’s will to Honor, or Not

The year 1760 opened with the second Stephen Bingham the new head of the Bingham family of Delaware Town, West Point, King William County, Virginia. At age eighteen or nineteen, he had responsibility for his three younger siblings, Jack, if alive, maybe seventeen, Rachel about fifteen, and Lea, about thirteen. Their step-mother, Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham and her new son, Roscow Cole Bingham, undoubtedly lived with them until Jane remarried. Roscow, the son Stephen the first had never known, was born in December, 1759 a few months after Stephen’s death.

Stephen the first’s sons, Stephen and Jack, honored Stephen’s Will by continuing in his footsteps. They kept the *Charming Jenny*, the West Point houses and lots, and the Mount Folly tract. They continued Atlantic and West Indies trading and they continued to be land owners. (L. W. Lambeth letter)

In other respects, Stephen and Jack did not honor their father’s will. Since neither boy was old enough to sell landed property, but both were old enough to sell personal property, circumstantial evidence and tax records indicate they did not sell the three great flats, the sloop *Stephen and John*, nor all the cattle and horses. The boys sold only the high maintenance hogs and sheep.

#### Atlantic Trading

In early 1760, several months after their father died, Stephen and Jack made or renewed arrangements with an unknown ship captain, to send the *Charming Jenny* on a trading trip, maybe to England, but definitely to Ireland. Although the British colonial government did not recognize Ireland as a destination, ships often detoured to Dublin. As R.C. Nash of the University of Manchester, England, has shown, the value of Irish trade with British America actually peaked between 1758 and 1762. (Nash, R.C., “Irish Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries,” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Jul., 1985), pp.329-356, Jstor.org; researchgate.net)

An advertisement in the *Virginia Gazette* on January 16, 1761 announced “a very large assortment of the best and most fashionable MOURNINGS” was due to arrive” any day at Hampton Road aboard the *Charming Jenny* as she had been scheduled to sail for Virginia early in November 1760. Linen made and sold in Ireland or resold in England was the preferred fabric for Mourning clothing. Imported gloves were also considered a necessity as part of mourning dress. Clothing made of the best linen produced from the Irish flax industry, had become quite fashionable among the Virginia Planter aristocracy. (Smyth, W. J. “Flax Cultivation in Ireland: The Development

and Demise of a Regional Stable,” mural.maynoothuniversity.ie.) Mourning wear began the process of burial and proclaimed the wealth and status of the well born and bred. Items such as bombazine fabric, black buckles, crape, black satin ribbon, linen, black stockings, black thread, handkerchiefs, sheeting, ties and mourning rings were so universally wanted in Virginia that local stores often ran out of stock. (Wolf, Casey. “Momentos Mori: The Materials of Mourning”, projects.cah.ucf.edu). Between 1758 and 1762 linen was the fourth most valuable product exported from Ireland. (Nash, R.C., “Irish Atlantic Trade in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries.” *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 42, No. 3 (Jul., 1985), pp. 329-356. jstor.org.)

### Step-mother Jane and Half-brother Roscow

A few years after his father’s death, Stephen’s step-mother, Jane, married Col. Francis West, her brother-in-law. Their marriage probably coincided with the second Stephen’s marriage as it was British colonial custom that when the daughter-in-law took over the household, the widowed mother-in-law moved to her own new home. If so, that would date Jane’s third marriage to 1762 or 1763.

Col. Francis West and his brother Thomas West had inherited the West Plantation of about 4000 acres at West Point on the Mattaponi River, shown just north of Delaware Town on Henry’s map. Thomas moved onto the plantation with his wife Mary Martha Cole, Jane’s older sister. When Thomas died, the plantation went to his son John. That left Francis with a 615 acre tract he had inherited from his brother, Nathaniel, which may be the tract on Drury Lane where Francis lived. Both Ryland and Harris claim that Francis West sold his property on “Drury Lane” at this time, but they disagree about where Jane and Francis West lived after they married. Harris says that West sold his Drury Lane Plantation to Drury Ragsdale and moved to the Bingham Plantation to live with Jane and Roscow. (Harris, Vol. II, p. 636). Harris was referring to the tract that Stephen intended for Roscow, but loaned to Jane until her death. In his Will, Stephen mentioned no dwelling house on that tract. Ryland, instead, wrote that both Stephen, the second, and Francis West “lived in West Point” in 1779 when Baylor Hill composed his diary. This would mean that Jane, Roscow, and Francis West lived together at West Point, which I believe is more probable. (Elizabeth Hawes Ryland in “Hill Diary”. Excerpts in Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, 9th Collection. ancestry.com; see red arrow on following map). Although 9 miles north of West Point along the main King William County road, “Drury Lane” was only 2.5 miles from St. John’s Church and the tract of land Stephen had loaned Jane to be saved for Roscow. (compare with map of Jane’s Tract) “Drury Lane” is still an operating farm. Its address in 2022 was 12405 Mount Olive Cohoke Road. The owners specialized in organic eggs and chicken.

Wherever he lived, Francis West was prominent in King William County. He had been sheriff and burgess, Justice of the Peace and Colonel of militia. We have no record of a marriage date for Jane Bingham and Francis West, but we do know from West’s death announcement in the Virginia Gazette and General Advertiser for July 6, 1796 that West was 94 when he died, thus born in 1702 and fifty-seven years old when Stephen, the first, died.

When Jane and Francis married a few years later West would have been in his early sixty’s when he became Roscow’s step-father and Roscow would have been 3 or 4 years old. By then, Francis West had only two living children of his own: William who was born about 1735





Map of King William County, Va.  
 Confederate States of America.  
 Army Department OF Northern Virginia.  
 Chief Engineers Office and B.L. Blackford  
 loc.gov

would have been in his mid twenties and Susannah who was born 15 March 1744 would have been in her late teens. (Quarles, Mary Louise, "Records of the Richeson Family." *The William and Mary Quarterly*. Vol. 26, No. 4 Apr 1918, pp. 259-264. jstor.org.) Francis West's two other children, Agnes and Frances, both possibly born about 1734, may have been twins, had died in the late 1750's. Each was married; Agnes left four children, Frances, none.

Due to the lack of records in King William County, it is impossible to be precise with West family dates. To compound research difficulties on the Francis West family, recent researchers have mixed the Wests of King William County with the Wests of Fairfax County. For more information on Francis West of King William County see the article, "The West Family," in Starnard's column, "The Critic," in the *Virginia Chronicle*, Vol. 2, No. 21, 3 Feb 1889, virginiachronicle.com)

### A Waiting Letter

The next record for Stephen the second was dated October 1, 1767 and comes from the *Virginia Gazette*. It is merely his name in "A List of LETTERS in the Post Office at WILLIAMSBURG". and reads: Stephen Bingham, West Point. (Purdie and Dixon, p. 1, col. 2)

### The Mount Folly Tract An Early Surviving Tax List

The following two years, 1768 and 1769, Stephen appeared in the James City County Sheriff's Tax Books for the Mount Folly tract. In 1768 his tax on the 1,400 acres was £1.s15.d7 and his tax on 3 farm hands, also called tithers, was 5 shillings each. He paid both in full. In 1769 the tithing rate increased to 7 shillings per tither, so for the 3 farm hands Stephen paid 21 shillings tax. The taxes on the 1,400 acres remained the same. This means Stephen was paying the entire tax on the Mount Folly land he and Jack inherited and probably means that Jack had already been lost at sea. The three tithers were enslaved workers above 16.

Henry Cobbett, one of the witnesses to Stephen the first's Will, was listed immediately following Stephen the second on the 1768 tax list. Cobbett was responsible for three tithers, or farm hands, but no land so Cobbett must have shared use of the Mt. Folly tract, perhaps with both Stephens. Cobbett did not live in James City County, either, nor was he on the James City County 1769 tax list. (James City County, Virginia, Tax Book 1768-1769, p. 31; film 8359391, (Image 47, 105 of 163), familysearch.org.)

Instead, Cobbett was making plans to return to England. He owned five lots with houses and "all convenient out-houses", and a public house in Delaware Town, in addition to the ferry run to and from Brick House. - all of which he advertised for sale in 1768 in the *Virginia Gazette*, Purdie and Dixon, 7 April 1768, p. 3, col. 2. The ad directed potential buyers to deal directly with Cobbett until the auction date of 30 April 1768 or with "Mr. William Smith at the Brick House". Cobbett proclaimed that he intended to leave the colony in the fall of 1768. We shall meet Henry Cobbett again, later.

## The Bingham-Meredith Court Case

In 1769 Stephen the second, and Samuel Meredith involved themselves in a contentious disagreement ending in a court case. Although we may never know what the case was all about, we do know some of the other individuals involved thanks to Thomas Jefferson's 1769 legal notations. Apparently Stephen initiated the suit against Samuel Meredith.

Meredith lived in King and Queen County near Dudley's Ferry and just across the Mattaponi River from West Point. He was a brother of William Hickman Meredith. Their father was Col. William Meredith. Samuel was born about 1720 and had married Christina Gregory, daughter of Richard Gregory and Agnes West. Agnes was a sister of Francis West whom Stephen's step-mother married.

Samuel Meredith was also an ancestor of G.A.R. Meredith author of the Meredith Family-Manuscript, one of our important sources. G.A.R. was a grandson of Samuel's brother William Hickman Meredith making Samuel a grand uncle of G.A.R. They did not know each other, however. Samuel probably died before 1782 when his 340 acres in King and Queen County was listed as Samuel Meredith Est for tax purposes, meaning he had died by then. G.A.R. Meredith was born in 1825.

Also involved in the legal case were John G. Frazer, R.C. Nicholas, (John) Tazewell, and Thomas Jefferson, himself. John G(ustavus) Frazer was a brother of William Frazer of Frazer's Ferry on the Mattaponi River ten to fifteen miles up river from West Point. John was a merchant trading with the West Indies and a clerk for others. He had storehouses and a lot in Delaware Town at West Point.

Trouble began in 1770 when Thomas Moore accused John Frazer of skimming personal expenses. Quite an argument ensued in the *Virginia Gazette*. Frazer eventually gave up his trade and West Point property and joined the American Navy during the Revolution. Frazer then met John Paul Jone and talked him into buying a "small estate" in Virginia. The deal fell through, however, when Jones failed to come up with the money. Harris relays more story about John G. Frazer in *Old New Kent County*, Vol. II, pp. 572, 579, 649, 656, but has no more biographical information.

R.C. Nicholas was a prominent Virginia lawyer. He studied law under George Wythe and practiced until he became the Treasurer of Virginia in 1766 when he turned over many of his cases to Thomas Jefferson. (Wikipedia)

John Tazewell practiced and taught law in Williamsburg. He was clerk of several pre-revolutionary Virginia committees and conventions and post-revolutionary clerk of the House of Delegates. After 1778 he was judge of the General Court. (history.house.virginia.gov)

The Bingham-Meredith court case listed in Jefferson's memorandum book was probably never heard. Samuel Meredith either wanted the case transferred to or reviewed by the General Court. To accomplish this a writ or order of certiorari needed to be obtained.

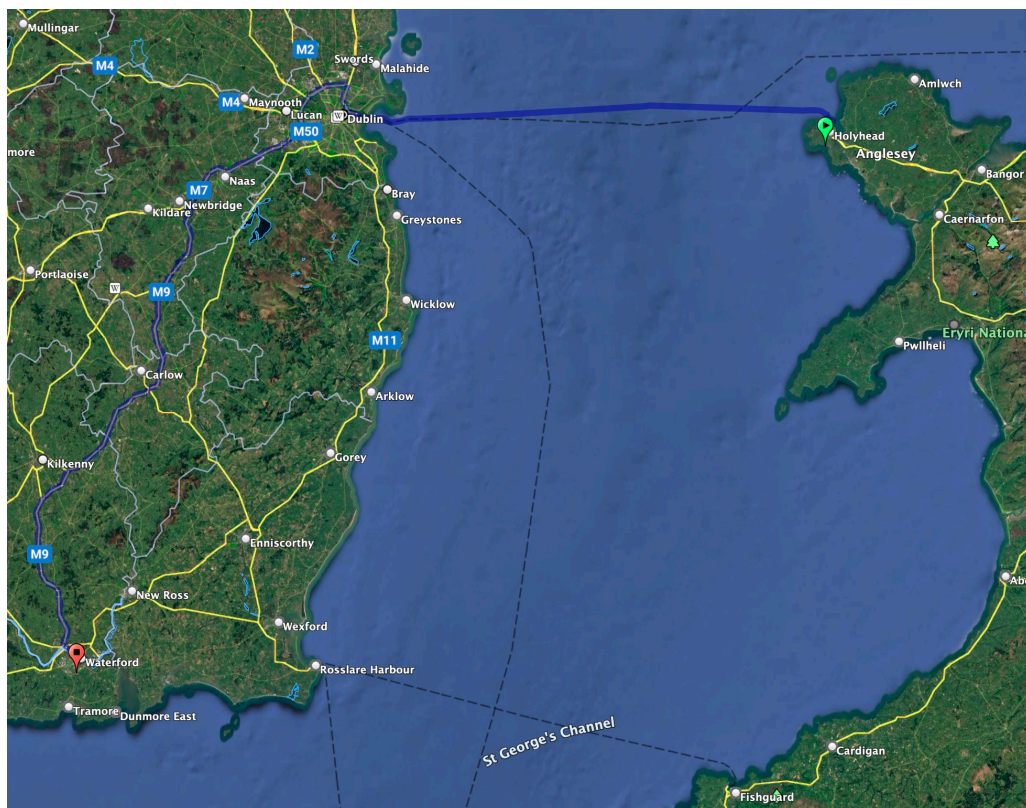
Stephen Bingham did not want the case moved to or reviewed by the general court so Stephen Bingham told John G. Frazer, who was probably Stephen's clerk, to employ R.C. Nicholas to oppose, but Nicholas was not taking business so Frazer directed Tazewell to employ Jefferson to oppose removing the case to the General Court. Jefferson wrote no entry in his legal notations that the case was transferred or heard. In August 1774, Jefferson retired from practice before the



General Court and turned over his unfinished cases “for which the clients must have credit in my accounts” to Edmund Randolph. Neither Stephen Bingham nor Samuel Meredith are on the list. (Jefferson, Thomas; James A Bear, jr. ed; Jefferson’s Memorandum Books, Vol. 1, pp. 91, 359-63, Princeton University Press, 1997)

### Demise of the Charming Jenny

Who would think that the *Charming Jenny* would play an international role in “planned wrecking? Certainly, Stephen the second, and Jack, if alive at the time, had a heart-wrenching surprise in late fall 1773. They would have read in the *Virginia Gazette*, on a mid-December day, a notice about the wreck of the *Charming Jenny* “when every Person on Board, except the Captain [Chicot/Chilcot], perished.” The sloop was “bound from Dublin to Waterford”, but “wrecked



near Holyhead.” The “whole Cargo, save one Cask of Geneva [wine], and two Puncheons of Rum, was lost. The neighbouring Inhabitants, instead of assisting the unfortunate Survivor, plundered whatever escaped the Fury of the Waves, even to cutting away the Pockets from the Captain’s Wife, whose Corpse was driven ashore of that inhospitable Coast.” (*Virginia Gazette*, Rind, December 9, 1773, P. 1, Col. 3)

The wreck had happened on Thursday, September 16, 1773 and was first reported in England in *The Gentleman’s Magazine*, Vol. 43, p. 464, Historical Chronicle section. See [onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu](http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu), and later reported in the British, *The Annual Register*, 1773, Vol. 16, P. 136-37, [babel.hathitrust.org](http://babel.hathitrust.org).

To make matters worse, the plundering Welshmen living near the wreck site took away all they could. Two men, Parry and Roberts, were apprehended and brought before the Salop (Shropshire's old name) assize or county court in 1774. Both were found guilty of plundering a great part of the cargo, but the judge suspended sentence based upon a plea of arrest of judgment. The case was then referred to a panel of judges who decided against both men. One man, Roberts, was respited. The other man, John Parry, "a person of fortune" was executed in March, 1775. (*Annual Register*, # 162, 1774, p. 148-49; *The Gentleman's Magazine*, 1775, Vol, 45, p. 202, [babel.hathitrust.org](http://babel.hathitrust.org))

We do not know how Stephen and Jack reacted to this news, but if they were still the owners of the *Charming Jenny*, its wreck certainly put an end to their Atlantic trading business. That the *Virginia Gazette* reprinted the original announcement indicates that someone in Virginia did own the *Charming Jenny*. Although the loss of the *Charming Jenny* may have ended Stephen and Jack's ? trading with Ireland, they would have lost it two years later when the British Prohibitory Act went into effect in December, 1775 stopping all trade between England and its thirteen colonies in America and made American ships and cargo open to seizure by the British Navy.

Aside from being part of Stephen and Jack's lives, The *Charming Jenny* played her own role in history. She was part of an ongoing controversy over the practice of planned wrecking. A few historians, plus many fiction writers, developed the idea that a high percentage of British ships were actively wrecked by people onshore using false warning lights, then plundering the ships for their cargo. Only in the last several years have historians sought to prove this false. Still, some wanted to believe that specific wrecks , such as one in Wales in 1774, were caused by the use of false lights. Historian Geoffrey Place traced the origin of this claim to a falsified article written by an overzealous newspaper reporter. Place went on to show that records document only four individuals executed for wrecking and one of those was John Parry for plundering the *Charming Jenny*! Recently, the argument was put to bed with Cathryn J. Pearce's 2007 doctoral thesis published in book form in 2010 under the title, *Cornish Wrecking, 1700-1860: Reality and Popular Myth*. (Cathryn J. Pearce: [port.ac.uk](http://port.ac.uk))

### Stephen and the Alan Cameron Case Prologue to War

The year 1774 brought another serious issue for Stephen the second: his store, or storehouses at West Point were broken into the night of July 21-22 and a trunk robbed of several expensive items belonging to James Wallace and/or Allen Cameron. Strangely, nothing else in the store or storehouses was taken, or at least advertised as taken. Items taken were just as strange: "A Silver Watch, Maker's Name Amico, No. 225, London, to which is a Steel Seal ciphered A C in a Piece, and the Crystal of the Watch is broke; some Leather Snuff Boxes of a new Construction; a superfine Black Coat and Waistcoat, Velvet Breeches, a light coloured Drab Coat with Silver plated Buttons, black Doeskin Breeches, twenty white Shirts, most of them ruffled, marked A C, a Scarlet Cloak, Gauze Aprons, Ruffles, and Handkerchiefs, Linen Waistcoats and Breeches, Silk and Thread Stockings, a small Portmanteau Trunk, &c." (Wallace and Cameron. *Virginia Gazette*, P & D, July 28, 1774, P. 3, col. 2.)

How was Stephen Bingham involved, if at all, and who were James Wallace and Allen Cameron? Judging by the contents taken from the trunk, the robber or robbers were looking for something in particular. The watch and clothing appeared to belong to one man, not two. From searching both names elsewhere in the *Virginia Gazette* Allen Cameron and James Wallace were found involved with Lord Dunmore's War. Furthermore, an announcement headed Manchester, January 30, 1776 said that James Wallace and Allan Cameron intended to leave the colony. At this time Manchester was a town in Chesterfield County and a major seaport especially for the tobacco and slave markets. (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, December 22, 1775, p. 1, col. 2-3; *Virginia Gazette*, Purdie & Hunter, February 10, 1776, p. 3, col. 2). It certainly seems that the Wallace and Cameron whose trunk was robbed at Stephen Bingham's store were the same two men who, in 1776, intended to leave the colony.

So, was this the same Alan Cameron who was involved in Lord Dunmore's War? Lord Dunmore's War was the last attempt to open the area west of Virginia and Pennsylvania for safe settlement before the Revolutionary War began. The Shawnee, Delaware and Mingo tribes were contesting ownership with intruding settlers. At the same time Virginia and Pennsylvania were contesting control of Pittsburg and the land at the forks of the Ohio River.

Lord Dunmore was John Murray, the Royal governor of Virginia. He was a staunch loyalist on the side of the English and against the colonial movement for independence. He sought the favor of western settlers by trying to drive out Indians and open more western land for settlement. His actions resulted in several skirmishes lumped together as Lord Dunmore's War. After six months, April/May to November/December 1774, interest waned, but Dunmore/Murray had suspended the House of Burgesses before his war had begun so the Virginians had no legal authority on their side. Consequently, Dunmore/Murray was not forced out of Virginia until after he had ordered Royal Navy sailors to remove gun powder from the Williamsburg Powder magazine.

This Dunmore incident caused militia to mobilize in early May, 1775. On May 2 the King William County Militia under Holt Richeson marched to Doncastle's Ordinary on the New Kent road where they found Patrick Henry and the Hanover County Militia camped. The two militia groups were prepared to march on to Williamsburg where they expected to find Dunmore/Murray and demand reimbursement for the gunpowder taken. Instead they were confronted by Carter Braxton, a very wealthy resident and political figure of King William County. Braxton defused Henry's over zealous agitation by pledging "to have the powder paid for out of his father-in-law's royal accounts". Braxton's father-in law was none other than Richard Corbin, Deputy Collector of the Royal Revenue in Virginia. (Carter Braxton, [encyclopediavirginia.org](http://encyclopediavirginia.org))

Stephen would have been very aware of this particular Dunmore/Murray event as Carter Braxton lived near him, in an "elegant house" at West Point, and judging by Braxton's tax of 400 in 1782, more than several lots, also. In comparison, Stephen's 1782 tax on his 7 lots including house and other buildings was 90. Braxton had moved to West Point after his plantation home at Chericoke was destroyed by fire on December 19, 1776. He lived at West Point until he took a salaried job with the Virginia Council of State beginning January 23, 1786. ([encyclopediavirginia.org](http://encyclopediavirginia.org))

Dunmore continued his attempts to control Virginia for another year, but eventually left Virginia. He went first to New York, then returned to England in July/August 1776. (Much has been written about Dunmore's War. For details do a Google search, but not AI.)



The Alan Cameron of Lord Dunmore's War was also a staunch loyalist. In Scotland he was the head of a branch of the clan Cameron. He claimed he had come to Virginia from Errach, Inverness-shire, Scotland to buy land in the back country. However, William Johnson proved in a 1941 article that Alan Cameron really had come to Virginia directly from South Carolina, where he had served as British agent under John Stuart, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Department of the South. Following that experience, Cameron left South Carolina for Virginia where he met Lord Dunmore/John Murray. Dunmore/Murray commissioned Cameron lieutenant under loyalist Lt. Col. John Connolly. With Dr. John F.D. Smith, also a native of Scotland, they made up a threesome.

Under instructions from General Gage, Connolly was to travel to the Royal Post at Detroit to form a regiment "in the back parts of Canada" and gain the cooperation of the whites and Indians in the Upper Ohio River area. The three made it as far as Hagerstown where Cameron, Connolly, and Smith/Smyth were taken prisoner on November 19, 1775 and imprisoned in Philadelphia in January, 1776.

On Christmas Day in December 1776, after nearly a year of confinement Cameron, Connolly, and Smyth attempted an escape. Cameron seriously injured his ankles in the attempt and ended up in a private home under the care of its owner, a woman. There he remained until he took "a French leave" on May 19, 1777. The next month, on June 20th, he and a friend appeared at Cape May, New Jersey and tried to board a British man-of-war. Arousing suspicion, Cameron and friend were identified and held in custody until sometime in 1778 when they were released to return to Britain.

Cameron made his way to Scotland where he recovered from his ankle and foot injuries and went on to a "long and illustrious military career" culminating in Knighthood and the rank of Lieutenant General. He died March 9, 1828. (Johnson, William Thomas, "Alan Cameron, A Scotch Loyalist in the American Revolution," *Pennsylvania History*, vol. 8, No. 1 (Jan., 1941, pp. 29-46.jstor.org)

Nothing I have found identifies all records for an Allen, Allan, Alan Cameron as belonging to the same Alan Cameron, yet nothing precludes it either. One of the sticky points is the identity of James Wallace. That name appears only in the two *Virginia Gazette* articles referred to here. Wallace could have been a servant and traveling companion for Cameron, Wallace could have been the friend who turned up at Cape May with him, or Wallace could have been a fictitious person Cameron was using as a decoy. The trunk contents appear to belong to only one person. But that does not answer how the January 30, 1776 *Virginia Gazette* announcement from Manchester, Chesterfield County, Virginia came about if the Alan Cameron of Lord Dunmore's War was being imprisoned in Philadelphia at the same time.

We'll never know if the contents of the trunk were found and/or returned, who the thief was, how many Allen, Allan, Alan Camerons were in Virginia at that time, or if the episode caused damage to Stephen Bingham's business. The episode does corroborate that Stephen Bingham's place at West Point was used as a stopping off and storage place for people traveling north or south through the southern colonies. This episode was probably as close as Stephen ever got to Lord Dunmore's War. Stephen, himself, was not a loyalist.

## Stephen and the Revolutionary War

### 1b.1. Roscow Cole Bingham, Stephen's half-brother's Military Service and Death

For Stephen's half-brother, Roscow, the impending war was entirely different. In December, 1775 Roscow turned sixteen, the age all white males were required to enlist in their district's militia. After the April, 1775 skirmishes at Lexington and Concord; after Americans seized Fort Ticonderoga in May, 1775; after the Second Continental Congress on June 14, 1775 resolved to raise six companies of riflemen from Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia to aid New England; after George Washington became commander in chief of the Continental forces on June 15, 1775; after the June 17, 1775 Battle of Bunker Hill; Virginia county delegates meeting in July, 1775 voted to raise two complete regiments for the defense and protection of their colony and dominion and to divide the state into sixteen military districts, each with its own battalion, the existing militia embedded as minute men. All eligible males age 16 to 50 were required to serve in the county militia. (Hening, *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 9, p. 1-35)

Roscow lived in the militia district of Gloucester, Middlesex, Essex, King and Queen, and King William counties. His friend, Baylor Hill, of King and Queen County turned sixteen about the same time as Roscow so the two boys joined the militia about the same time. A few months after Roscow and Baylor registered for the militia, the Virginia Legislature, on June 8, authorized the formation of a new military group: a light horse regiment composed of six troops. Both Roscow and Baylor transferred from the militia to the 2nd troop of light horse as cadets under Cap't. Benjamin Temple of King William County. Temple was in his early 40s; well known in the county; had married Mollie Baylor, daughter of Robert Baylor; and lived on the Mattapony River Pres Qu'ile estate that Benjamin had inherited. Benjamin Temple had military experience in the French and Indian War and was a county Justice of the Peace. (Hening, *Statutes, Ordinances of Convention*, May 1776, Ch 13, p. 137, 141 May 1776; Harris, 820-23; "Benjamin Temple" [toddsarchives.com](http://toddsarchives.com))

After the Declaration of Independence was publicly proclaimed in Philadelphia on July 8, 1776, Temple appeared to be more than eager to begin training his troop of light horse. On July 26 he placed an ad in the *Virginia Gazette* announcing that he would be attending nearby county court days hoping to purchase horses to mount his troops. The horses needed to be Sorrels and Bays that were young, strong, and active. (*Virginia Gazette*, Purdie, July 26, 1776, pg. 3, col. 3.)

Temple obtained enough horses for his troop to train in Williamsburg through the end of the summer and into fall. On November 5, 1776 his troop, along with the other five troops, were officially mobilized and the entire regiment of six troops was transferred to the command of the Continental Army as the 1st Continental Light Dragoons, or as some records say "First Regiment, Light Dragoons" with Theodorick Bland, a planter and physician of Prince George County, as Lt. Colonel. Bland had been Captain of the 1st Troop. Roscow and Baylor thus became privates. (Hening, *Statutes, Ordinances of Convention*, May 1776, Ch 13, p. 137, 141 May 1776; The Bland Papers, Vol. 1, p. xxv, [archive.org](http://archive.org)).

Despite their transfer to the Continental Army, the Light Dragoons moved slowly out of Virginia on their way north to join Washington. Washington, desperate to have light horse for scouting duty, wrote a letter to Bland dated 30 December 1776, between the Battles of Trenton (December 26) and Princeton (January 3), asking him to leave behind the prisoners he was bringing

along to be exchanged and “advance with the Horse, as quick as you possibly can.” Part of the regiment apparently arrived at Morristown in early January. (“From George Washington to Major Theodorick Bland or the Officer Commanding the Virginia Light Horse, 30 December 1776; Founders Online, National Archives, [founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-07-02-0379](https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-07-02-0379). {Original source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol.7, 21 October 1776-5 January 1777, ed Philander D. Chase, Charlottesville:University Press of Virginia, 1997, p. 485.]

Roscow may have remained with the prisoners who, at Washington’s request, were to be left at a “convenient Place” until further order, or he may not yet have left Virginia. At any rate, Roscow arrived at Washington’s headquarters in late February, 1777. Roscow’s pay record indicates that he was on active duty from February 20 through March 24. (See later)

On that same March 24th, Baylor Hill wrote in his diary he had been keeping almost daily, “this day poor Roscow Bingham departed this world after a short illness, with the Pluracy”. This short entry tucked away in a friend’s diary is the best evidence we have to corroborate Roscow’s date, place, and cause of death.

Pleurisy, or inflammation of the membranes that surround the lungs, was a well known condition. Common causes are viral and bacterial infections and pneumonia.

Roscow’s pleurisy could also have been caused by smallpox or a smallpox vaccination. On February 6, 1777 Washington had ordered Dr. William Shippen, to inoculate the entire Continental Army. Fear of smallpox seemed to be slowing recruitment of soldiers. (“Washington Inoculates an Army”, American Battlefield Trust, [battlefields.org](https://battlefields.org))

Baylor Hill continued in his diary with further comments about his own and other soldiers’ bout with smallpox or smallpox inoculation. See following extract:

Monday the 24th March 77	
	At Parson Greens all day.
	this day poor Roscou Bingham <sup>28</sup>
	departed this world after a
	short Illness, with the Pluracy
25	At Parson Greens all day, very
	Sick w <sup>th</sup> Small pox. d <sup>o</sup>
26	At Parson Greens all day
27	At Dittos all day D <sup>o</sup>
	this day I broke out w <sup>th</sup> y <sup>e</sup> .Spox
28	At Parson Greens A <del>tt</del> =day went
	to the meeting house to a Fun <sup>l</sup>
	Sermond & ret <sup>d</sup> in an hour
29	Went to where the men with
	the Small pox Stay'd from
	there to Cap <sup>t</sup> Jones's Quarters
	and ret <sup>d</sup> to my Q <sup>rs</sup> at night
	this day I was off <sup>r</sup> of the Day
30	Went to Cap <sup>t</sup> Jones's Q <sup>rs</sup> to din=
	ner, from there to our mens Q <sup>rs</sup>
	and return to my Q <sup>rs</sup> at night

*A Gentleman of Fortune: The Diary of Baylor Hill*, John T Hayes, ed. The Saddlebag Press, Fort Lauderdale, FL. Library of Virginia, Archives; Note: Hayes annotation is not always accurate. For instance he confuses Parson Green in the center of Morristown with the man who was minister of the Presbyterian Church in Hanover, VA. see online Morristown Historic Sites - , Revolutionary War New Jersey; Excerpts from the Hill Diary in Beverly Fleet's Virginia Colonial Abstracts, King and Queen County are only for that county.

Three months later the *Virginia Gazette*, of June 6, 1777, Purdie p. 2, col. 3 brought Roscow's death to the attention of the Virginia public when the newspaper published the sad news that Roscow had died "seized with a fever" at General Washington's headquarters.

*Deaths.* Mr. ROSCOW COLE BINGHAM, cadet in capt. Temple's company of light dragoons; a young gentleman of undaunted courage, and whose many virtues rendered him conspicuous to the whole circle of his acquaintance. He was nobly stepping forth in the glorious defence of his country, but was seized with a fever, and died at general Washington's headquarters, after a short illness, with the patience and resignation of a Christian.

The *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War* confirm Roscow's death date as 24 March. (Ancestry.com; Fold3.com) All other dates and places given in all other records are not accurate and must be discarded.

B	1 Light Dragoons.	Continental Troops.
Roscow Bingham		
Priv. 2 <sup>d</sup> Troop		
Appears on a		
Return		
of the Names &c of those Officers and Men in Col Bland's Regiment of Light Dragoons Who have had pay Drawn for them and Who have not Received it		
(Revolutionary War.)		
Return dated		
Not dated, 17		
Time due, from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> March		
Sum due Amount Dollars, 9 <sup>12</sup>		
Remarks: Died w <sup>th</sup> mch		

Just a week after Roscow's death, Washington promoted Bland to Colonel, 31 March 1777. Bland "actively" commanded his regiment until March 1778. Later in 1778, the Purdie and Dixon August 21 issue of the *Virginia Gazette* published a list of money in the hands of the paymaster general of the continental army owed mainly to deceased privates. Roscow's name was on the list. The army owed him 9 Dollars. The list came from Col. Bland's Pay Rolls for the "1 Regt. Light Dragoons. Col. Theodorick Bland, 1777-1783" available on line at Fold3.com as part

of Revolutionary War Rolls. The original list shows Roscow was actually owed \$9.12 for his service from 20 February through 24 March. The clerk failed to write the year, 1777, on that page.

*A Return of the Names & of their Officers and Men in Col. Bland's Regiment of Light Dragoons Who have had pay Drawn for them and Who have not Received it*

Names	Rank	Time due	Sum due Amount. Dollars	Troop	
John Henry	Serjeant	from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	31 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>12</sub>	1 <sup>st</sup> Troop	Appointed the 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to a com <sup>d</sup> in the Virg <sup>a</sup> Reg <sup>t</sup> Artillery
Henry Babue	Private	from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	11 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>12</sub>	1 <sup>st</sup> Troop	Which was not paid till 1 <sup>st</sup> August 1777
James M <sup>c</sup> Callion		from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 1 <sup>st</sup> May	19 <sup>32</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	In Virginia
William Batcheldine		from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	3 <sup>20</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Troop	Died 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Roscow Bingham		from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	9 <sup>12</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Died 2 <sup>nd</sup> March
Roscow Bingham		from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	52 <sup>56</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	In Virginia
Daniel Bletcher		from 20 <sup>th</sup> Feb <sup>y</sup> to 31 <sup>st</sup> March	6 <sup>0</sup> / <sub>100</sub>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Died 2 <sup>nd</sup> March

Neither did the newspaper list include dates, so some people assumed the list was for 1778 and made that Roscow's year of death. We can only wonder if someone made application to the paymaster general or his deputy, as instructed, to receive the money due Roscow?

The entry in the Claiborne Family Bible stating that Jane's son, "Capt Roscow Bingham fell in the battle at the taking of Genl Burgoyne" is pure family fantasy. In the first place, Roscow was a private, he was never a captain. In the second place, General Burgoyne was never taken. After his troops lost at the Battle of Saratoga October 17, 1777, Burgoyne returned to England. For a year, 1782-83, he was commander in chief of the English military in Ireland. Political changes then forced him to retire. For his second career he became a prominent author in England. (Dixon Ryan Fox, "Burgoyne, Before and After Saratoga," *The Quarterly Journal of the New York State Historical Society*, Vol. 10, No. 2 (April, 1929, pp. 128-137. [jstor.org](http://jstor.org))

Burgoyne's troops languished in Cambridge, MA until November 1778 when they were marched overland to Albemarle Barracks in Charlottesville, VA for imprisonment. To read more of their fate see "After Saratoga - Convention Army," [nps.gov](http://nps.gov). In the third place, none of Washington's troops fought in the Battle of Saratoga. General Horatio Gates supported by General Daniel Morgan, and Col. Henry Dearborn won the battle for Freeman's Farm and a few days later Benedict Arnold, without a command, led an assault on Burgoyne at Bemis Heights so devastating that a few days later Burgoyne asked for a cessation of hostilities.

Despite what is written elsewhere, Roscow was a 17 year old private in the 2nd Troop of the 1st Light Dragoons, Continental Troops when he died, March 24, 1777 at General Washington's Headquarters in Morristown, New Jersey. Roscow would have had his 18th birthday in December, 1777.. If Roscow's mother, Jane, was living when Roscow died (altho I doubt she was), she would have been in her mid sixties.

A few comments in publications about King William county, especially Ryland, suggest that Roscow, Jane, and third husband, Francis West, actually lived at West Point on one of Stephen's lots and that Stephen was more father than half-brother to Roscow. Stephen was thirty-six when Roscow died. Francis West was seventy-five when Roscow died. Roscow's family would have

been devastated by his death. He had been the youngest of Stephen the first's children and a living memory of him.

Two years after Roscow's death, when Baylor Hill was stationed in Winchester, Virginia and on leave, he visited Stephen Bingham at West Point. Hill spent the night of March 7, 1779 at Bingham's Tavern on his way back from Petersburg where he had gone shopping for cloth for himself. His diary entries read: (March)

**6 This morning early I crost at Woodson's from thence to Petersburg, with some expectations of geting some Cloth and for myself, but was disappointed**  
**Sunday Mr 7. 1779 Early this morning, set of from Petersburg, over at Woodson's, to Hudson's Tavern to Breakf't from there to Ruffin's Ferry, from there to West point that night**  
**8th After breakfast went from Bingham's Tavern to Col'o Braxton's from there to Mr Moore's where I stay'd two hours, from there to Frazers Ferry, from there to King and Queen C't House, where I stay'd 'till night when I set of from there in Comp'y with several young Gent'm up to Mrs Molly Tunstalls where we made but a short**

"Hill Diary. Excerpts from the Revolutionary Diary of Baylor Hill." *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, Vol. II, p. 520. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)

Although Baylor Hill did not record why he went out of his way to overnight at Stephen Bingham's, there is a possible connection between his visit and the Musquett (musket), Cartouch Box, Bayonett &etc that Stephen submitted as an impressed item in May, 1781 and credited to the militia in the Commissioners Book 4. p. 335. Baylor Hill had stopped at Stephen Bingham's to return Roscow's personal possessions. The King William County Court Book uses the date September, 1781 for Stephen's impressment of the musket, etc. Stephen, in turn, gave Roscow's musket and musket equipment to the King William County militia about the same time Major General Lafayette was camping at Chelsea in King William county waiting for reinforcements and readying the local militias for the Battle of Yorktown against Lt. General Cornwallis which began September 28, 1781. (Read "*The Equipment of the Virginia Soldier in the American Revolution*" and master's thesis by Andrew John Gallup, [scholarworks.wm.edu](http://scholarworks.wm.edu).)

As to why Baylor Hill was stationed in Winchester, Virginia in 1779, he was there to guard prisoners of war, mainly Hessians. The Hessians were moved to Winchester in the fall of 1777 to be among the mainly ethnic German residents. At first they lived with and worked for German families. As more prisoners than could be handled arrived, British and Hessian alike, a barracks building was partially completed in 1778. Never finished, the barracks gave way to cabins in the woods outside of Winchester. About thirty cabins were completed in 1779 and 1780. (Virginia and Prisoners of War in the American Revolution, [virginiaplaces.org](http://virginiaplaces.org); [rasnickfamily.org/thehessianbarracks](http://rasnickfamily.org/thehessianbarracks)) For more about Baylor Hill start with his Wikipedia entry.

### Stephen and the Revolutionary War Public Service Impressment, Claims and Warrants

The Revolutionary War also affected Stephen in a direct way by the impressment of his ferry services, use of his flat boats, and taking of beef and corn. The same *Ordinance of Convention*, July 1775, Henning, Vol. 9. Ch. 1, p. 24, that authorized the formation of militia districts, authorized the impressment of "necessaries" such as carts, wagons, horses, boats for public service. A

certificate with the item's value was given for the item impressed. This early Ordinance was amended by several subsequent Acts of Assembly: Vol. 9, May 1777, Ch 7, p. 293; Vol. 10, May 1780, Ch, 8, p. 233-34; Vol. 10, Oct 1780, Ch. 5, pp. 344-46; Vol. 10, Nov 1781, Ch. 20, p. 468-69. This last act for accepting claims and issuing warrants passed in November, 1781 after Cornwallis surrendered his troops at Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The act authorized county courts to receive all claims made by impressment and ascertain the value in specie so a proper method could be adopted for paying off the claimants. The county court books were then submitted to the public claims commissioners in Richmond, Virginia's new capital. Under these acts Stephen submitted in his own and Jack/John's name ten claims for items impressed and services provided. My following chart places these claims in chronological order.

#### Claims:

##### King William County

1780, Aug 7, Archd Gotgrave to Stephen: boat impressed 19 days at 5s: £2.10.0  
1780, Oct 29, Edward Walden to Stephen: Ferriages: £1.0.0  
1781, Jan 9, James Hubbard to Stephen: Ferriages at 1/6: £0.4.6  
1781, May, Stephen: Musquett, Cartouch Box, Bayonett &tc: £5  
1781, June 26, William Plummer to Stephen: Ferriages: £0.9.0  
1781, Aug 25, Benj. Cluverius to Jack: Hire boat impressed 13 days at 10s: £6.10.0  
1781, Aug 25, Benj. Cluverius to Stephen: boat impressed 13 days at 7/6: £4.17.6  
1781. Nov 15. William Hunkin to Stephen: 275 lb Beef at 3d lb: £3.8.9,  
(KW Crt Bks, p. 2, 31, Library of Virginia, Archives)

##### James City County

1782, April 9: Bingham, Stephen 2 bushels and half of Corn (not valued, but listed at 12/6 Barrel  
(JC Crt Bk, p. 1-2, Library of Virginia, Archives)

##### King and Queen County

1781, June 29, Stephen Bingham gave to Christopher Ware certificate for 27 days hire of a Flat @  
10s day: £13.10.0  
(K&Q Crt Bk, p. 2, Library of Virginia, Archives)

#### Warrants

##### King William County

1783, October 2: to Stephen Bingham for ferriages Oct 1780 & Jan & May 1781: £0.11.3 (Com Bk 3, p. 241)  
1783, October 2: to Stephen Bingham for beef &etc: £10.16.3 (Com Bk 3, p. 239)  
1783, October 2: to John Bingham for boat hire: £6.10.0 (Com Bk 3, p. 239)  
1783, December 18: United States to Stephen Bingham for a Musquett &C. May 1781: £5. (Com Bk 4, p. 335)

(These records are also available online at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) under the title Revolutionary War public service claims recorded in county court booklets, lists & index (Va.) and Revolutionary War public service claims, commissioners [sic.] books. 1783.

NOTE: The Commissioners' Books are erroneously tagged claims; they are actually warrant books. A claim is a request for something; a warrant is an order to do something.

See also "A Guide to the Impressed Property Claim Records of the Auditor of Public Accounts, 1776-1794. [ead.lib.virginia.edu](http://ead.lib.virginia.edu))

Note that Stephen's claims for his county of residence, King William, were his only claims honored: (1) the ferriages for October 1780 and January and May 1781, (2) that Stephen received



more for his beef than claimed, and (3) that his donation of the musket, cartouche box and bayonet were warranted as claimed; John's claim for boat hire in August 1781 was also warranted as claimed. This does not mean that John was alive in 1781. There is no record of any sort for John. Stephen could well have submitted this claim in John's name. For more information about John, read on.

By my calculation, the total value of Stephen's claims was 37 pounds, 9 shillings, 9 pence  
£37.9.9

By my calculation, the total amount warranted or allowed was £22.17.6

Subtracting the amount warranted from the amount claimed leaves £14.12.3.

Comparing what the warrants were for with the claims made, we see that the beef was covered at more than the claim; that John/Jack's boat hire was covered as requested; that the musket etc. was covered as requested, but Stephen's boat impressment and ferriages claims were not all honored. Probably the proper paper work was missing. Nevertheless, Stephen lost at least £14 plus pounds on public service impressments.

### Stephen and the Revolutionary War Taxes

The Revolutionary War also increased Stephen taxes. Everyone needed to help pay for the war. Almost as soon as Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown, October 19, 1781, ending the fighting of the Revolutionary War, the Virginia General Assembly voted to establish a permanent revenue. A land tax and a personal property tax would replace the tithing tax, but the rules of 1777 would be followed. Land and lots without regard to buildings would be taxed at 1 pound per 100 pound value. The new personal property tax included a poll tax of ten shillings on every free male citizen of Virginia over twenty-one and a ten shilling tax on every slave. In addition, two shillings was assessed for every horse, mare, colt and mule; three pence per head for all neat cattle; five shillings per wheel for all coaches, chariots, phaetons, four-wheeled chaises, stage wagons for riding carriages, chairs and two-wheeled chaises; fifty pounds for every billiard-table and five pounds for every ordinary license. (Hening, Statutes, Vol. 10, Ch. 40, pp.501-17)

Using these tax amounts, Stephen's 1782 tax was probably the same as his 1777 tax:

a land tax of 1% of £90 assessed on his 7 lots at West Point (18s)  
and a personal property tax on one male over twenty (himself) (10s)  
8 slaves - 4 were Ferryman (80s)  
6 horses (12s)  
9 cattle (27d)  
1 Ordinary License (£5)  
his tax for 1782 due in 1783 would have been £11 2s 3d

In October, 1782 the General Assembly amended the tax structure slightly. Land and lot tax rose an additional 50% or 10 shillings on the pound. This brought Stephen's land tax to £1/7, or 9s more. Personal property tax was also increased: now all free white males and all male slaves were taxed at 10s each, stud horses at the amount for one service, 6s per wheel for all riding ve-

hicles, and £5 for an ordinary license. By my calculation, this increased Stephen's 1783 tax by almost £2 to £13/ 3.

Virginia, as all states, needed to raise money to pay for its portion of the three million dollar revolutionary war bill while at the same time raising money to run its own state government, and for redeeming certificates granted for impressed goods. Accomplishing this task became a herculean task for the Virginia General Assembly. Acts were passed, tweaked, repealed for years while debts were paid, before a stable system would take effect. Consequently, taxes changed frequently and sometimes were even postponed. For instance, the 1782 tax collection was postponed to August 1, 1783, and then, again, to February, 1784. A 1784 tax list was not composed and the taxes due June 1, 1784 were continued to March 25, 1785, and even then only half the taxes were due June 1, 1785, the other half September 1, 1785.

By 1786, the General Assembly realized that it needed to streamline tax collection. They introduced special tax commissioners, standardized how tax lists were to be recorded in quadruplicate in tax books, and where the books were to be kept. This process produced the tax books we refer to today. The forms for recording the taxes are available on pages 253 and 254 of Henning's *Statutes At Large*, Volume 12, Chapter 6, October, 1786. [vagenweb.org](http://vagenweb.org). The bottom line remained the same, however. Taxes after the revolutionary war took a much greater part of one's income than tithing ever had.

To demonstrate these changes for Stephen and his family I have constructed a chart of sorts combining Virginia tax laws and Stephen and wife and children's taxes. The source I have used are the original tax books held by the Library of Virginia, filmed by the LDS, and available online at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). For a free copy, contact me directly.

Besides tax liability, the tax lists reveal other information about Stephen and his family. For instance: range of years for Jack's birth date and disappearance; Stephen's "downsizing" after his second marriage; names of some of his slaves; son Richard's age and death; daughter Elizabeth as a young entrepreneur; Stephen's years as a ferry-keeper; Stephen's death; Stephen's wife, Ann's, death; Stephen's relative wealth; and on the list can go.

### Stephen and Ann Stephen's Second Life Begins

Stephen began his second life about 1787 when he decided to clean up his business affairs and marry Ann Gaines. Ann was 24 years younger than Stephen; her birth date was 14 March 1764: she was the age of Stephen's children. Remember, however, Stephen had married young. He was only in his mid forty's when he married Ann. The eighth of nine children, Ann was nine years old when her father, Francis Gaines died in 1774 and she was seventeen when her mother, Betty Gaines died about 1782. The Gaines family lived in King and Queen County at Gainesborough, located between the Great and Little Heartquake creeks about 15 miles from West Point. By the time Ann married Stephen, her brother, Francis, owned Gainesborough. For more on this Gaines family see Malcolm Harris, *Old New Kent County*, Vol. 1; Bishop Meade, "Parishes in King and Queen and King William. - Stratton Major", Article XXXIII in *Old Churches, Ministers, and Families of Virginia*, [archive.org](http://archive.org); *The Vestry Book of Stratton Major Parish...* [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org).

The age difference between Stephen and Ann certainly did not bother them for they had eight children between 1789 and 1808, all of whom lived beyond 1850. Between the second and third child there was a space of six years, and between the seventh and eighth a space of four years, so it is conceivable that they had twelve children as family sources say and that four children died, but there are no records to corroborate the statements that Stephen had twelve children by each wife.

### Stephen and Ann Jane's and Roscow's Tract

Ann was probably instrumental in encouraging Stephen to obtain ownership of the tract of land that his father, Stephen, the first, had willed to his second wife, Jane Cole Claiborne Bingham. The land was Jane's dower right, that is, her widow's share of his estate which according to law was to be worth one-third of his estate. She was to hold the tract as a life estate. When she died the tract was to go to their unborn child. See previously Item 7 of Stephen, the first's Will.

The child, Roscow Cole Bingham, was born in December 1759, soon after his father Stephen's death. Jane later married Col. Francis West. Jane, Roscow, and Francis are thought to have lived together on Jane's tract as Harris explained in volume 2, pp. 676-77 of *Old New Kent County*..... We do know from the King William County tax records that West paid taxes on a 250 acre tract in St. John's Parish 1782 through 1787. This was the only tract he paid taxes on so could have been the same tract. If they had lived on the tract, the tract could only have remained in West's hands if Jane had died before Roscow and Roscow had died intestate. That is exactly what happened. In other words, here is proof that Jane died before 1777 for we have evidence of Roscow's death, intestate, in 1777 as explained previously.

Harris went on to say that Stephen had tried to remove Francis West from the tract, but his efforts "were of small benefit". This time Stephen's actions indicated he was serious. Probably following legal advice, he began by placing a notice in the *Virginia Gazette* of September 13, 1787 announcing his intention to petition the next Assembly to invest him with a fee simple estate in the tract "at present occupied by Col. Francis West" and that had "belonged to my brother (by the Father's side) Roscow Bingham". Roscow's age is then translated incorrectly as 31. Stephen dated this notice August 15, 1787, but it was published a month later. The easiest place to access a copy of the notice is Ancestry.com under Virginia, U.S., Extracted Vital Records, 1660-1923, Image 270 of 850.

The legal issue of vesting the tract in Stephen was complicated by three issues: (1) Roscow died intestate, (2) even if he had not died intestate he was under age to write a will leaving land to anyone, (3) when Roscow died in 1777 half-blood brothers, the term today half-brothers, could not inherit from each other. For a good discussion of inheritance rights of collateral kin see Carole Shammas, "English Inheritance Law and its Transfer to the Colonies, *The American Journal of Legal History*, Vol. 31, pp. 145-163, [Jstor.org/stable/845880](http://Jstor.org/stable/845880).

Stephen's petition to the General Assembly, dated November 8, 1787 explained the situation in detail, recognized that a revised law allowed children of the half-blood to inherit from each other, and diplomatically asked for an act of the Honorable House vesting the tract "in just persons as shall be entitled thereto according to the now existing Laws regulating the modes of De-

scent". Read a copy of the petition following. Along with the petition, Stephen sent a copy of his father's Will as proof for his bequest. Thus the first Stephen's Will made it into the legislative archives and survived the court house fires.

To the Honorable the Speaker & Members of the Gen.  
Assembly — The Petition of Stephen Bingham Assembly —  
Sheweth, That y<sup>r</sup>. Petitioner is the eldest Son & Heir of  
Stephen Bingham late of the County of King William deceased,  
That y<sup>r</sup>. ~~laid~~ Petitioner's said Father being in his life time  
seised of a valuable tract of Land, in said County, by his  
last Will & Testament, gave the same to a Roscoe Bingham  
a Son w<sup>h</sup> he had by a second marriage, & who was the only child  
he had by that marriage — That y<sup>r</sup>. laid Petitioner's said Brother  
having grown up to man's Estate, entered into the American  
Army, in defence of the Liberties of his Country, but unhap-  
-pily lost his Life in that Memorable Cause, and dying under  
Age, was incapable by Law of making a Will, whereby he  
might have disposed of his <sup>laid</sup> Estate to his nearest Relations — That  
y<sup>r</sup>. Petitioner, tho' by the Policy of the then existing Law was  
incapable of inheriting the Lands of a Brother, by the half Blood  
Yet, understanding that the subsequent just & equal provisions  
of the Legislature, have superseded that barbarous & Gothic  
Institution — that Children of the half blood were incapable of  
Inheritance from each other — is embolden ~~to~~ humbly to come  
forward, and to pray that y<sup>r</sup>. you w<sup>d</sup>. take his Case into Consider-  
-ation & by an act of y<sup>r</sup>. Honorable House Vest the said Land in such  
Persons as shall be entitled by thereto according to the now existing  
Laws regulating the modes of Descent, or to grant any other  
Relief in the Premises, as to y<sup>r</sup>. Wisdom shall seem most just —  
And y<sup>r</sup>. Petitioner as in Duty bound shall ever pray —

Bingham, Stephen: Legislative Petition Number 36121,  
Box 134, Folder 23, also microfilm roll 103, Library of Virginia

The revised law Stephen referred to titled “An act directing the course of descents” was passed October, 1785 to go into effect January 1, 1787. However, the law did not spell out in so many words the right of half-blood collateral by descent, only ascent. That would be why Stephen asked for an act vesting the land in just persons entitled thereto. For Stephen’s petition see Library of Virginia Legislative Petitions. For the October, 1785 act of descent see Hening’s *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 12, p. 138.

As early as 1776, Thomas Jefferson, Edmund Pendleton, and George Wythe had begun a post war revisal of Virginia laws to make them more republican than the autocratic they were. Most of the suggested reforms were enacted by the General Assembly in 1785 and 1786, but many reforms were not in place until 1792. Stephen’s action to obtain title to his deceased, intestate, half-brother’s land contributed to the revisal. For a discussion of the revisal effort see Charles T. Cullen’s article. “Completing the Revisal of the Laws in Post-Revolutionary Virginia”, *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 82, No. 1 (Jan., 1974), pp. 84-99, jstor.org

Stephen needed to wait a little over a year for the Assembly to pass the act he requested. Dated December 10, 1788, the act titled “An act releasing the escheat accruing on the death of Roscow Cole Bingham, deceased” actually did more than grant Stephen the land; it forbade the commonwealth and all its offices from taking land by escheat due to a “defect of heritable blood”. In other words a half-brother could inherit from his half-brother. This act applied, however, only to the commonwealth/state and not to private business. The tract had never actually reverted to the state as West would not have paid taxes on it if it had. For the act see below from Hening’s *Statutes at Large*, Vol. 12, p. 694.

#### CHAP. XXXVII.

#### *An act releasing the escheat accruing on the death of Roscow Cole Bingham, deceased.*

[Passed the 10th of December 1788.]

I. WHEREAS Roscow Cole Bingham, deceased, was in his lifetime seized in fee-simple, under the will of his father Stephen Bingham, of a certain tract of land, lying, and being, in the county of King William: And it is represented to this present general assembly, that the said Roscow Cole Bingham, departed this life under age, intestate, and without leaving any person capable by law, of inheriting the said land, and that Stephen Bingham, would, but for the impediment of half blood, have been the heir of the said Roscow Cole Bingham, and it is not reasonable that

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the commonwealth should derive benefit from a principle of escheat, inconsistent with the genius of republican government: *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*, That all the right, title, interest, claim, and demand, which now exists in the commonwealth, or upon any office, hereafter to be found, shall be established therein, shall pass, descend, and vest, in and to, the same person, or persons, and in the same manner, as if no defect of heritable blood had taken place; saving however to all persons, and bodies, politic, and corporate, other than those claiming under the commonwealth, all legal or equitable rights, which they might have asserted to the said land, if no defect of heritable blood had taken place.

According to the tax lists, Francis West paid no land taxes after 1787. He did, however, pay personal property taxes in 1788 on 2 Blacks above 16, 1 Black Male 12-16, and 1 horse, and in 1789 on only 1 horse. These figures certainly indicate that Francis West had finally vacated the Jane-Roscow tract. West probably moved in with his son, William West, who still had his own 490 acres. Francis would have lived there until his death in 1796, age 94. At no time did Stephen Bingham pay taxes on any land other than his lots at West Point. (See Appendix Taxes)

Instead, Stephen and Ann sold to Thomas Butler, Jr. what turned out to be the 182 acre tract. Butler paid 182 pounds or one pound per acre. Ann was not able to travel to the county court house to sign the deed so two of the deed witnesses, James Hill and Isaac Quarles, secured Ann's independent approval at home, 10 May, 1793. The deed between Stephen and Ann Bingham and Thomas Butler, Jr., dated September 10, 1792, survived the 1885 King William Court House fire, was photostated and bound in volume 3, pages 14 and 38-40 (Image 46-48 of 577) of the collection titled "Miscellaneous records (photostats), 1702-1884 and deposited at the Virginia State Library in Richmond about 1929. The original surviving deeds were returned to the King William County clerk's office. The Genealogical Society of Utah microfilmed the Photostats in 1947. They are online at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org), film 32093. See also Conolly, Beverly R., *King William County Virginia Records, 1702-1806, Record Books 1-5 including surviving fragments*. Iberian Publishing, [genealogyresources.org](http://genealogyresources.org). The King William County Historical Society in 2020 completed transcription with index onto thumb drives of Record Books 1 and 2. For more information contact them. My transcription follows.

"Beginning at a corner stake on the Church near Wm. Toler's fence, thence along the said Fox's line north Forty two Degrees West one Hundred and forty Eight poles to a corner stake on Cohoake road, thence along the said road to Robert Price's Corner Cedar, thence north Sixty eight Degrees East Thirty nine pole to a corner to the said Price's corner Hickory, thence North Thirty Eight Degrees east Thirty pole to a Corner in Bull Swamp where the road Crosses to Frazers Ferry, thence down the meanders of the said Bull Swamp to Lipscomb's corner Ash and Poplar, thence South Twenty-four Degrees west Twenty pole to a Corner Holly, thence South Fifty Degrees Two Hundred & Thirteen pole along the said Lipscomb & Toulers line to the Beginning place together with all Houses, Buildings, wood ways waters, Profits?"

Since the deed did mention houses and out buildings it would have been possible for Jane and Francis West to live there. They may even have had the buildings constructed. Another deed dated 22 July 1793 named Stephen Bingham's land as adjoining on "the path that leads to the lower church" so helps to identify Stephen's tract, although the composer was not aware that Stephen had sold the tract. (Conolly, Beverly R., *King William County Virginia Records, Books 1-5, Iberian Pub., p. 46 from Book 3, p. 21, 22 July 1793*). Evidence from the tax lists verify that neither Stephen nor William West paid taxes on acreage after 1792. It is interesting to note that in 1793 when Butler was first taxed for the tract, it was for 183 acres and continued to be that amount each year. The discrepancy in acreage between the 250 acres that West had paid taxes on and the 182-183 acres that Stephen sold to Butler is not explained.

## Stephen and Ann West Point Lots

From 1782, when the extant King William County tax lists begin, through 1819, we can follow Stephen's and Ann's West Point lot ownership and ferry and ordinary operation; but between 1760 and 1782 we have scant knowledge. We do not know how many West Point lots with houses in the town of Delaware Stephen and Jack inherited from their father. See Item 5 previously. Neither did their father's will say he was a ferry operator, only that he had three great flat boats.

In 1782 the tax list shows Stephen with 7 lots at West Point and 8 slaves, enough to operate a ferry line, and an Ordinary License. Since Stephen and Jack inherited more than one lot, "lots" plural in his father's will (see previously) we do not know if all 7 lots were inherited or if Stephen bought some lots on his own? For instance, when Richard Wyatt died in 1768 he directed his two son's to sell the lot in Delaware Town to Stephen Bingham if he desires it. Wyatt's father, Cap't. Richard Wyatt had bought that particular lot, number 44, as an original purchaser in 1707. (Harris, Vol. 1, p. 394; Conolly, 23-24) The lot was several blocks away from where Stephen's lots were located so he did not buy it.

We do know that Henry Cobbett, Sr., a witness to Stephen's father's Will, offered his five West Point lots with houses and "all convenient out-houses", and a public house in addition to the ferry for sale in 1768. (See earlier) Although Cobbett failed to name the ferry run, we know it was not Dudley's over the Mattapony. (See later). This information may indicate that the second Stephen did not take over a ferry run after his father died and questions whether his father ever operated a ferry.

This same Henry Cobbett had been sharing pasturage with Stephen at Mount Folly. Perhaps he was such a good friend of Stephen the first, that he simply stepped in to help the young Stephen, the second, by taking over the West Point-Brick House ferry run and by buying a few of the first Stephen's lots?. By 1768, Cobbett had decided to return to England. Perhaps it was at this time that the second Stephen became the owner of 7 lots at West Point and the keeper of the West Point - Brick House ferry run? (*Virginia Gazette, Purdie and Dixon, 7 April 1768, p. 3, col. 2*)

Apparently, Cobbett did not go to England, or, if he did, he returned to Virginia. Cobbett's wife, Ann Cobbett, advertised the settling of his estate in June, 1777. At that time she lived in New Kent County, but William Smith held Henry Cobbett's "Books and Papers" in King William County. (*Virginia Gazette, Dixon and Hunter, 13 June 1777, p. 2, col. 2, and Purdie, 20 June 1777, p. 1, col. 1.*) This was not the last of Henry Cobbett.

A year after his wife advertised her desire of "settling all Accounts due to and from the Estate of ... Henry Cobbett, deceased," someone lost "a red LEATHER POCKET BOOK" containing 120 dollars, "a copy of the register of the ages of Henry Cobbitt's children, and a certificate of the oath of fidelity and allegiance of the subscribers to this commonwealth." William Richardson (of New Kent County), the author of the *Virginia Gazette* notice, offered a "TEN POUNDS reward" for whomever brought the pocket book to him.

Cobbett's West Point lot with the public house could have been where Stephen had his ordinary. Operating a public house also called an ordinary, later tavern, in association with a ferry run



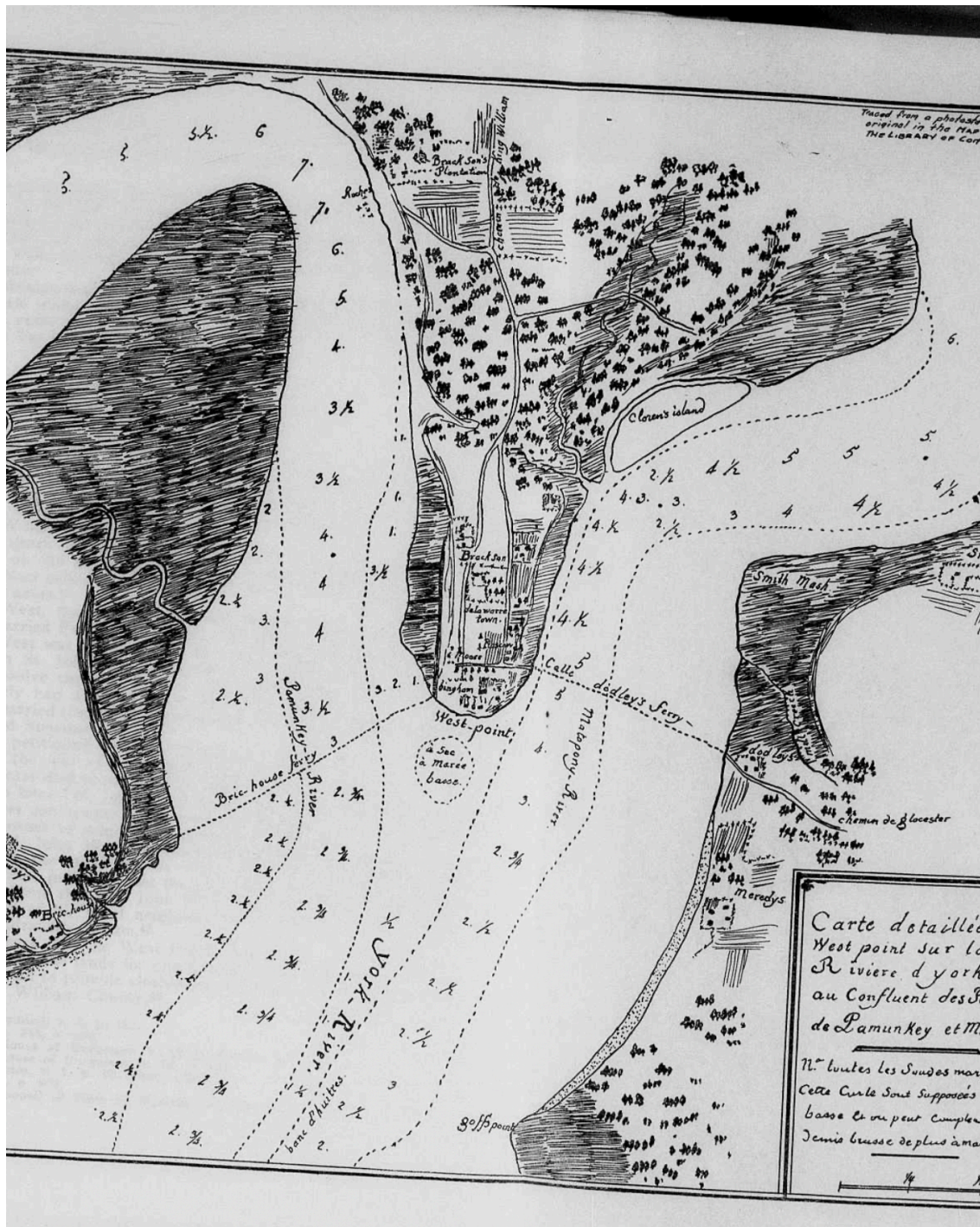
was a specific privilege of ferry keepers. Although they needed to pay for a separate ordinary license, no other ordinary was allowed within five miles. Therefore, Henry Cobbett and Stephen Bingham could not have had ordinaries at West Point at the same time. In the southern colonies the term “ordinary” was used in colonial times instead of tavern. After the colonies declared independence, the revised Virginia Statutes used the term Tavern. From Baylor Hill’s description of his visit to Stephen at West Point (see previously) we know that Stephen’s ordinary was in operation in 1779 and offered both meals and beds. The 1748 Act for the Settlement and Regulation of Ferries...gives a comprehensive coverage of ferry and ordinary requirements and locations. Other than rate changes and the establishment of new ferry lines and the removal of old ferry lines this act was in effect until 1792. (Hening, *Statutes*, Vol. 6, pp. 13-23)

Other lots would have been for the store or storehouse involved in the Alan Cameron case (see previously) and for housing his ferrymen.. Stephen and his family would have lived in a house or two on yet another lot. So, if the kitchen were on a separate lot as described in Augustine Moor’s will, that would account for five of the seven lots. Augustine Moore’s will of 1742 describes a dwelling house at West Point on one lot, a store on a second lot, and a kitchen on the third lot. He left the dwelling house and store lots to son Bernard and the kitchen lot to son Thomas! (see Augustine Moore’s will in *Spotswood Genealogy*, rootsweb.com).

One family source, Gustavus A.R. Meredith thought that Stephen, the second, whom Meredith called “Old Stephen Bingham”, owned 18 acres at West Point with the north and south boundaries running in parallel lines across the Point from the Pamunkey to the Mattaponi Rivers and that Stephen’s dwelling house stood on the corner “obliquely opposite and south of the old grave yard”. Harris was more specific: he located Bingham’s “between First and Second between Main Street and ‘D’ Street”. (Harris, “Delaware Town” and “West Point”, *Wm & M Quarterly*, Vol. 14, No. 4 (Oct, 1934) p. 347, jstor.org)

While the dwelling house was probably in that location, Stephen certainly did not own 18 acres. Eighteen acres would have been 36 lots (See previously). No tax list shows Stephen paying taxes on more than 7 lots. These 7 lots might well have been adjacent to each other in one long row, but since each lot was one-half acre in size, 7 lots gave Stephen three and one-half acres. The first map following shows Bingham location and surrounding environs in 1781. The second map following shows West Point streets of 2020..

From 1782 through 1799 Stephen retained his 7 lots at a static valuation of 90£ although the tax on the lots continued to increase. In 1800 he transferred one lot to his son, Richard, leaving himself with 6 lots. More later about the West Point lots and son Richard.



1781Map of West Point at the confluence of the Pamunkey and Mattapony Rivers  
loc.gov/item/gm71002171





Older Walking Tour Map of West Point

## Stephen's West Point Ferry and Ordinary

Stephen's ferry-keeping, and ordinary business were intertwined. In colonial times a ferry keeper often managed an ordinary or tavern where travelers could eat and sleep. The 1748 Virginia ferry law sought to attract ferry keepers by not requiring a fee for giving bond on the ferry operation, and by allowing ferry-keepers to operate an ordinary by paying only the half of the license fee that went to the governor (colony). A bond on the ordinary operation was still required. (*Hening, Statutes, Oct. 1748, Vol. VI, p. 23.*) All ferry routes and fees were established by the legislature as were ordinary requirements.

West Point had two legislative established ferry routes: (1) over the Pamunkey river West Point to Brick House and return and (2) over the Mattapony river West Point to Dudley's and return. Stephen would have been the county authorized ferry-keeper for these two runs. A third legislative approved route over both the Mattapony and Pamunkey rivers, Dudley's to Brick House and return, was operated by the Dudleys during Stephen's time, but established by Edward Guthry in 1702 when the ferry was called Gutteries. Harris is wrong on the 1748 ferry runs. See Hening before.)

The number of enslaved workers Stephen had and if he had an ordinary license, were reported on the King William County Personal Property tax lists, and are the only sources for Stephen's ferry and ordinary business. As explained earlier, the tax lists began in 1782, long after Stephen took over as the West Point ferry-keeper. For the six years, 1782 through 1787, Stephen had between 8 and 5 enslaved male workers over twelve years of age, enough to run a ferry operation. He also had an ordinary license, although not recorded every year. Along with the male workers, Stephen would have had enough female workers to tend the ordinary. (see Appendix Stephen Taxes)

A big change occurred with Stephen's taxes in 1788. He no longer had an ordinary license and his number of recorded Blacks dropped to 2, one above 16 and one 12 to 16. That was the same year he married Ann Gaines. Their number of enslaved Blacks gradually returned to Stephen's 1782-1787 number so that in 1799 they had 4 Blacks above 16. For the first time the term "ferrymen" was written on his tax record and that notation continued through 1807. By then Stephen and Ann had 7 Blacks above 16 and 1 Black 12-16. However, the ordinary license, did not return to the tax list after 1787.

Stephen may have given up the ordinary business due to competition from Ruffin's ferry further up the Pamunkey River. (see earlier and Appendix Ferry) By the 1780s travelers were preferring the mid-peninsula crossing of King William County, Ruffin's ferry to Frazer's ferry. Another explanation for the lack of an ordinary license was the difficulty in finding help. The slave trade into Virginia was closed in 1778 and a 1782 law allowed slave holders to free their slaves without government approval. Although not a popular law, many took advantage of it, enough so that it would have discouraged buying and selling slaves. There is always the thought, also, that Ann Gaines may not have wanted her children brought up around an ordinary. Stephen continued to be the West Point ferry-keeper without an ordinary from 1800 through 1807.

## Stephen's Death

The will that Stephen the second had prepared before he died, January 27, 1808 is not extant. Tax records tell us that Ann automatically became the owner of the West Point lots and houses, but had only her one third dower right to the Mount Folly tract. These lands went into the life estate category meaning that Ann owned them for the rest of her life. Some of the tax lists entered the abbreviation "est" for life estate on her record. Only after Ann died could Stephen's estate be completely settled, as it eventually was. (See Later.)

Letters from Lambeth and Schoolfield, and the G.A.R. Meredith manuscript provide names and other important information about the children. When their father died, Anna, the oldest, was 18 soon to be 19 and married with one child; Elizabeth, the second child had just turned 18, Mary was 12, Stephen was 10, John was 8, Martha 5, William G.H. 4, and Julia Ann minus 6 months; see all later.

## After Stephen's Death The West Point Ferry and West Point Lots

King William County tax lists are the major source for all we know about the West Point Ferry and the West Point lots after Stephen's death. From 1810 until Ann moved to Campbell County her name appears in place of Stephen's on the land and personal property lists. For instance, the 1810 entry for Ann Bingham uses the phrase "4 ferrymen" following the entry for 5 slaves over 16 so we know that Ann had the West Point ferry running when the list was composed in 1809. After 1810 and for the rest of the time she lived at West Point, Ann had only 2 slaves above 16. That is undoubtedly when the West Point Ferry stopped running.

As with the ferry, Ann took over ownership of the West Point lots after Stephen died. Unlike the ferry, however, the West Point lots remained in the extended Bingham family until 1839. Under Ann Bingham on the tax list, the lots had no change in value for 1809 and 1810. From 1810 on, amounts were in dollars not pounds. In 1813 the lots were noted on the tax list as "Not well improved". Ann had no difficulty with the taxes on the lots, she simply had no money to pay them. The 1811 tax book shows James B. Littlepage and John Ruffin each paying part of the tax due. The balance was added to the tax for 1812. Littlepage and Ruffin might have been paying off a debt they had owed Stephen. The 1812 and 1813 tax books show the tax in arrears being added to the tax due. Tax books for 1814 are missing. In 1815, however, Ann was definitely preparing to leave West Point or had already left as she took out a loan to pay part of her taxes and the rest was paid by Thomas O'Neale. O'Neal appears only on the 1817 Personal Property Tax list of New Kent County. (familysearch film 8574128, Image 10 of 772) He does not appear on the New Kent County Land Tax for any year. O'Neal may be the Thomas L. O'Neal who died in Essex County in 1835. I found nothing to explain why O'Neal paid over half of Ann's taxes due.

Ann, the 6 lots, and their tax were still on the 1816 King William County Land tax list, as they were also in 1817, 1818, and 1819, but her residence had changed to "unknown". Ann had moved to Lynchburg, Campbell County, in 1816 before the 1817 tax list was prepared. Since she had no funds to pay her outstanding tax bill, there was no reason to tell the county tax collector

that she had moved. For more about the West Point lots see Stephen the second's children by wife one: 1a.3a.4. Leah.

### After Stephen's Death Mount Folly

A year after Stephen's death his Mount Folly tract of 1400 acres was advertised for sale. Our sources are tax records, again, plus a very descriptive advertisement in the Richmond *Enquirer* dated January 12, 1809. (*Enquirer, virginiachronicle.com*) The sale was to take place on January 27, if fair, if not the next fair day. The land would be surveyed before the sale. Historically thought to be about 1400 acres, James City, County had always allowed the land to be divided between Stephen and Jack's estate on the tax lists with Stephen responsible for the taxes on 1400 acres. Accuracy was needed for the sale, however, and to determine the amount and boundaries of Ann's dower right to one third of the exact acreage.

The purchase of the land came with an interesting quirk - the buyer would be allowed a credit "until the younger son of said Bingham, arrives to the age of twenty one years, which will be sometime in the year eighteen hundred and twenty-three." Stephen's younger son was William George Henry Bingham. His son, Charles Wesley Bingham, authored one of the 1871 family letters in which he wrote: "My father was Born the 15th nov 1804...." This gives us a two year discrepancy between the advertisement and the letter. I am inclined to believe the letter as it also says that William George Henry "was only four years old when his Father died."

**W**ILL BE SOLD, at public auction, on  
Friday the 27th day of January next, if  
fair, if not the next fair day, the *PLANTATION*,  
called and known by the name of Mount-Folly,  
lying on York River, in James City county, be-  
longing to the estate of Stephen Bingham, de-  
ceased, containing by estimation, fourteen hun-  
dred acres, including Marsh, said Land will be  
surveyed prior to the day of sale, and will be  
sold, subject to the widow's dower. The pur-  
chaser will be allowed a credit until the younger  
son of said Bingham, arrives to the age of twenty  
one years, which will be some time in the year  
eighteen hundred and twenty-three. Bond and  
approved personal security, as well as a deed of  
mortgage on the said land, will be required.—  
Possession will be given on the day of sale, for all  
the land except the part laid off for the widow's  
dower. The above sale will take place in com-  
pliance of Stephen Bingham's will, as well as a  
decree of King William Court.  
B. LIPSCOMB, Dep'ty. for  
Wm. GREGORY, Sheriff  
january 12. oawzw

In addition to the credit allowed, the purchaser needed to provide a bond and approved personal security as well as a deed of mortgage on the land. Possession would be given on the day of sale. All of this was overseen by B. Lipscomb, Deputy for Wm. Gregory, Sheriff.

The result of the sale in 1809 could not be made available until the 1810 land tax list was completed so 1810 was the first year that Ann's name appeared on the James City, County list. The purchaser of Mount Folly's reduced acreage was James Banks. Ann's dower right gave her 382 and 2/3 acres valued at \$1.02 an acre for a total value of \$389 and a tax of \$.98. James Banks received 764 and 2/3 acres for a total value of \$779, but a tax of only \$.96. The taxes increased in 1811 to \$1.87 for Ann, but decreased for Banks to \$.75. Bank's portion of Mount Folly must have included all the marsh land.

Ann's name remained on the James City, County Land Tax list through 1822 although she had died in 1819. By 1823 Banks had also died. All 1147 plus acres was credited to his estate. (James City, County Land Tax Lists, film 29939, Images 176, 182, 190, 201, 220, 234, 249, 263, 277, 290, 303, 332, 345, all of 509, familysearch.org). At no time did Ann have any personal property in James City, County, meaning she kept no slaves on her acreage. One wonders if Banks had full use of Ann's acreage and sent her an annual payment for her share of the profits, and, considering her record in King William County, if she ever paid taxes due? There is no indication that Stephen's younger son, William George Henry Bingham received any benefit from the Mount Folly acreage.

#### After Stephen's Death Ann Gaines Bingham

Stephen's death in January, 1808 left Ann, age 43 soon to be 44, with six children at home and one not yet born. Ann was also a grandmother. Her oldest child, Anna Marie "Nancy" was already married and had one child. Ann's second child, Elizabeth, was 18 and already a business woman in her own right. Mary, the third child was 11 going on 12. Stephen, the fourth child and first son, was 9 going on 10. John, the fifth child was 7, not to be 8 until 12 December 1808. Martha had just turned 5. William George Henry would not be 4 until November 1808. Julia, the 8th child would not be born until July 12, 1808. Essentially that meant that Ann had six children under 12 years of age to care for with little or no income. More on all the children later. As mentioned earlier, Ann kept the ferry running for a few years and she might have had some money coming in from her Mount Folly acreage, but not enough to stave off the 1813 tax notation that her West Point lots were "Not well improved." How she managed is anyone's guess.

So, when the opportunity arose, Ann moved her family to Lynchburg, Campbell County. The year was most likely 1816. By 1817 The King William County tax book listed her residence "unknown", but she remained on the tax list through 1819. As customary, the tax lists covered the previous year. We do know that 1815 was the last year that anyone paid anything toward her King William County taxes.

A move to Lynchburg in 1816 would be most consistent with the tax records. See more under 1a.3b.2. Elizabeth. Lynchburg was a growing city of opportunity compared to the dying community of shipping and trade at West Point. Almost due west of West Point, Lynchburg was on the west side of Richmond near the foothills of the Blue Mountains.



By the time Ann moved her family from West Point, Lynchburg was considered to be a much healthier place to live. It was also a growing town with abundant job opportunities. Lynchburg had overtaken West Point as a center for tobacco warehouses as growing tobacco moved inland. Processing and shipping tobacco to Richmond by boat on the James River was central to its economy. Beginning in 1817 a toll bridge project to replace the James River ferry at 9th Street in Lynchburg was part of the construction of the Salem Turnpike running from Petersburg to Roanoke and on over the Blue Mountains to the west.

Ann first appeared on the Lynchburg Personal Property Tax List in 1819. She had 3 slaves over 16, definitely not the 15 or 20 that G.A.R. Meredith ascribed to her in his family manuscript (Image 382 of 873). In the same year, 1819, George Kemp Lambeth, Elizabeth's husband, had 5 slaves over 16, 1 slave over 12, and 1 horse. (Image 393 of 873). Lambeth's personal property had been the same in 1818 as 1817, the first year Lynchburg's personal property taxes are online. There is no Land Tax record for Lynchburg available online for this period.

Ann and her children, as long as they remained with her, lived "in the small Brick House on the hill about 200 yards north east of the old White House...." (G.A.R. Mss) Presumably, both houses belonged to George Kemp Lambeth.

Ann Gaines Bingham had no chance to pay her 1819 personal property taxes. She died April 8, 1819 before they were due. She was 55 years, 24 days old. (C.W. Bingham letter). G.A.R. Meredith wrote that Ann "was Buried in the old Methodist grave yard. Near the north line of the grave yard wall, and about 30 yards from the east corner of the Burying ground enclosure". (G.A.R. Mss) The old Methodist grave yard is the same as the Old City Cemetery at 401 Taylor St. ("Old City Cemetery", Lynch's Ferry, Fall 2006, [lynchsferry.com](http://lynchsferry.com); see also Old City Cemetery, [gravegarden.org](http://gravegarden.org); [maps.google.com](http://maps.google.com).)

### After Stephen's Death The Settlement of his Estate

Two years after Ann Gaines Bingham died Stephen's estate was finally settled. In November 1821 the court accepted the final report and allotment among his heirs and asked that the report be recorded. Stephen's will could not have been settled before Ann died because she retained some rights to their joint property in more than one county. Holding property in more than one county meant the estate settlement needed to be overseen by a state circuit court. In the 1820s Virginia had only local courts but created a circuit court whenever a judge presided over the local or Husting's Court, an old British term for a local court.

In June 1821 the Judge presiding over the Lynchburg Husting's or local court recorded his appointment of commissioners to allot and divide Stephen's estate among his living heirs. To identify the heirs, the names of living spouses were included as shown in the copy of the book entry following.

June Court, 1821, p. 102.  
Lynchburg, Virginia, Hustings Court, Minute Book 6, 1820-1821.  
[lva.virginia.gov](http://lva.virginia.gov) for microfilm and Lynchburg Circuit Court, [vacourts.gov](http://vacourts.gov)

— forw<sup>rd</sup>. Victor  
 ordered that Henry M. Dillake, Joseph Schick,  
 John Curle & Jeph L. Perry, <sup>any three of them</sup> do allot and divide  
 the estate of Stephen Bingham dec<sup>d</sup>. amongst his  
 Bingham, ~~re~~ remarried with Eugene Sullivan,  
 Ann Dudley, formerly Ann Bingham, Eliza S.  
 Bingham, who intermarried with Geo. K. Lambeth,  
 Mary Bingham, who intermarried with Henry  
 Meredith, Stephen Bingham, John S. Bingham  
 Martha Bingham, George Bingham & Julia  
 Bingham, the last four. Infants under 21 years of age  
 children of S. Stephen Bingham dec<sup>d</sup>, & make report to  
 this court.

The Judge also ordered that George K. Lambeth, Elizabeth's husband, be appointed guardian for Stephen and Ann's two youngest children under the age of 14 years: William George Henry "George" and Julia. The law required Lambeth to enter a \$1,000 bond. Elizabeth, of course, would be the actual guardian. The entry, itself, is only a recording after the act, not before, which makes George's age misleading. As relayed earlier, George (William George Henry) was born November 15, 1804. When he was 8 or 9 years old he moved to Lynchburg with mother Ann. Soon after the move, mother Ann placed him with a Lynchburg carpenter to learn the trade. Not liking that kind of work, George ran away from home and "followed the sea when he was from Ten to Twenty years old". (ie. 1814-1824) Because he was under 14 when he left home and his whereabouts were supposedly unknown, he legally remained the age he was when he left home, until he returned home. (C.W. Bingham Letter; G.A.R. Meredith Mss)

Ordered that Geo. K. Lambeth be appointed Guardian  
of ~~and the children of~~ George Bingham & Julia  
Bingham, infant children of Stephen Bingham dec.  
<sup>under the age of 14 years</sup>  
who thereupon came into court & entered into bond in  
the penalty of \$1000 — conditioned as the law directs  
with Henry M. Dillake his security.

June Court, 1821, p. 111.

Lynchburg, Virginia, Hustings Court, Minute Book 6, 1820-1821.  
lva.virginia.gov for microfilm and Lynchburg Circuit Court, vacourts.gov

The commissioners appointed to divide and distribute Stephen's estate submitted their report in October, 1820, but the judge did not order it to be recorded until November, 1821. Following is an official copy of the statement that the report was made and the order to have it recorded.

The commissioners heretofore appointed to divide  
& distribute the estate of Stephen Bingham dec. made  
their report to this which is ordered to be recorded

November Court, 1821, p. 194.

Lynchburg, Virginia, Hustings Court, Minute Book 6, 1820-1821.  
lva.virginia.gov for microfilm and Lynchburg Circuit Court, vacourts.gov

The commissioners' report follows. Note that the commissioners had actually met and divided the estate on October 4th, 1820. All of the formal dates of the documents were recording dates. Especially revealing is the value of Stephen's estate twelve years after his death. Note that it was only \$787.86 composed of sales from the estate at \$546.32 and hire of Negroes for 1819-1820 at \$241.54. After expenses of settlement at \$149.28, only \$638.58 was available to be distributed to his nine heirs. That amount was to be \$70.9533 each, except for the two minor children who were allotted only \$7.56 each. Cash was not available for any of the heirs to receive their full amount. Ann, Eliza(beth), Mary, Stephen, John G., and Martha received small portions. Julia would have received her portion when she came of age and George would have received his when he returned home.

*Dr The Commissioners in acc current with the estate of Stephen Burgham decd*

<i>to am<sup>ts</sup> Sales of estate</i>	<i>546 32</i>				
<i>" " fees of Negroes for 1819 &amp; 1820</i>	<i>241 54</i>				
		<i>By am<sup>ts</sup> paid secondary charges by George K Lambeth for acc<sup>ts</sup> White to us</i>	<i>77 15</i>		
		<i>" Am<sup>ts</sup> due Henry Hollard etc</i>	<i>20 44</i>		
		<i>" " " Septm B Harrison</i>	<i>10 00</i>		
		<i>" " " John H Pleasant</i>	<i>6 25</i>		
		<i>" " " Stephen Burgham</i>	<i>44</i>		
		<i>" " " Deeds Rose</i>	<i>20 00</i>		
		<i>" " " Commissioners for settling this acc<sup>ts</sup></i>	<i>15 00</i>	<i>149 28</i>	
		<i>Balance</i>		<i>638 58</i>	
				<i>787 86</i>	

*Forwards*

<i>Due each Legatee</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>Leah Sullivan</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	
<i>Anna Sledge</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	
<i>Olga G Lambeth</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>10 00</i>	<i>60 95 1/2</i>	
<i>Henry Hollard etc</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>18 30</i>	<i>52 65 1/2</i>
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>7 00</i>	<i>63 95 1/2</i>
<i>Stephen Burgham</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>9 00</i>	<i>61 95 1/2</i>
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>10 25</i>	<i>60 70 1/2</i>
<i>John G Burgham</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>	<i>7 50</i>	<i>63 45 1/2</i>
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		<i>70 95 1/2</i>
<i>Martha Burgham</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>George Burgham</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>John Burgham</i>	<i>70 95 1/2</i>		
<i>Due sundries present account</i>	<i>579 53</i>	<i>72 13</i>	
<i>George K Lambeths Am<sup>ts</sup></i>	<i>444 30</i>	<i>643 66</i>	
<i>W<sup>th</sup> by her for Negro hire</i>	<i>23 50</i>		
<i>W<sup>th</sup> Burgham Bond</i>	<i>33 50</i>		
<i>Mellum Watters bond</i>	<i>24 00</i>		
<i>Balance Negro hire uncollected</i>	<i>9 00</i>		
<i>Cash on hand</i>	<i>44 00</i>	<i>648 66</i>	

*Agreeable to a commission to us directed by the Hustings Court of Lynchburg we the undersigned have this day met by appointment and proceeded to settle and divide the estate of Stephen Burgham decd as per account current and statement annexed*

*Witness our hands*

*October 4<sup>th</sup> 1820*

*Henry St Darlake*  
*John Bards*  
*Joseph Roberts*

*Lynchburg Hustings Court November term 1820*

*The commissioners appointed at a former court to divide and distribute the estate of Stephen Burgham decd make this report to this court which was ordered to be recorded*

*Attest*

*John Woods*

## STEPHEN BINGHAM THE SECOND, CHILDREN

by first wife: Hobday, Corbin, Cobbett?

- 1a.3a.1. William
- 1a.3a.2. Richard
- 1a.3a.3. Rachel
- 1a.3a.4. Lea(h)

by second wife: Ann Gaines

- 1a.3b.1. Anna Maria (Nancy) 8 Mar 1789
- 1a.3b.2. Elizabeth Gaines 18 Jan 1790
- 1a.3b.3. Mary Lawton 16 Oct 1796
- 1a.3b.4. Stephen 10 Oct 1798
- 1a.3b.5. John Gaines 12 Dec 1800
- 1a.3b.6. Martha 29 Jan 1803
- 1a.3b.7. William George Henry 15 Nov 1804
- 1a.3b.8. Julia Ann 12 Jul 1808

### 1a.3a.1. William

Online, there is some confusion about William. The information included herein is based upon both the Schoolfield letter and the G.A.R. Meredith Manuscript.

In addition to Meredith and Schoolfield naming William as Stephen's oldest son by his first wife, we have a marriage record for a William Bingham in Prince George County. The marriage record comes from a copy of the original Marriage Register of the Rev. John Cameron, 1771-1815, Nottoway, Virginia, reproduced on [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org) in Virginia County Marriage Records, 1771-1989. On September 24, 1791 Cameron married William Bingham and Mary Grammer in Prince George County. From previous calculations and from William's age bracket in 1810, he was in his mid-twenties, probably 26, when he married, as was Mary Grammer, also. Most likely this is Stephen the second's William. Prince George County is southwest of King William County on the west side of the James River. It was a rich tobacco growing area.

To set William's marriage more in perspective, his mother had been dead for several years and his father, Stephen, had been married to his second wife for at least three years. (Virginia County Marriage Records, 1771-1989, [familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6ZCK-NGKQ](http://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:6ZCK-NGKQ)) Based upon data from the U.S. Census, William (surname spelled Benjham) in 1810 had 1 free white male 10 thru 15 (born 1795-1800) and 1 free white male 16 thru 25 (born 1785-1794) in addition to himself at 45 and over (born before 1765). He also had 2 free white females 10 thru 15 (born 1795-1800), 1 free white female over 45, his spouse (born before 1765), and 9 slaves. Considering these figures, it seems that William had four children, two boys and two girls (John, Charlotte A., Daughter 2, Richard?). All of them could have been born after 1791 or one of the males could have been born before 1791, hence William's marriage to Mary Grammer could have been a second marriage. The 1800 personal property tax list crediting him with 3 white males over 16, meaning all three were born before 1785, and the 1806 personal property tax crediting him with 5 free white males may simply mean that extended family members were living with him.

We know that William was last listed on the Prince George Land Tax and Personal Property tax lists in 1811. Thus we know that William died in 1810 after the 1811 tax list was made or 1811 before the 1812 tax list was made. That gives us a window of March, 1810 through January, 1811 for William's death. Mary's, name takes William's place on the land tax and personal property tax lists 1812 through 1824. In 1825 the Mary Bingham Estate is listed. Thus Mary died in 1824 age 60 or more.

The Prince George Land Tax lists show that William Bingham and Mary Bingham owned the same 73 3/4 acres every year. (Land Tax lists of Prince George County [Virginia] 1782-1863, film 29957, Image 188 of 869, familysearch.org.) Their personal property did not change much either. For details see Appendix Taxes. (Personal Property tax list of Prince George County, 1782-1863, Film 33061, Image 339 of 503, familysearch.org).

From the Meredith manuscript we have the name of one of William's daughters: Charlotte A.. Meredith says she married a Mr. Davis and lived in Williamsburg, James City County, Virginia. There she was listed on the 1860 U.S. Census, living alone, age 50 and reporting King William County as her birth place. The Williamsburg personal property tax records list Charlotte Davis as early as 1841. (Image 146 of 841) Her spouse was probably a James Davis. Both a James Davis Sr. and Jr. were listed for 1828; thereafter only one of them as James Davis 1834 and 1838. After 1841, Charlotte, alone, appeared in 1844, 1848, 1849, and 1850 when she owed tax on 1 "other" clock. (Image 215 of 84). Charlotte last appeared on the U.S. Census in 1870. She claimed to be 59 years old. The Meredith mss. notes that Charlotte died in 1880. Note the discrepancy in her age between the 1810, 1820 censuses and the 1860 Census. Charlotte may never have known where or when she was born, but it was surely before 1811 when father William died. By 1811 mother Mary was over 45, a little old to have had a baby.

Another child of William might be the Richard Bingham appearing on the 1850 Census in Green, Kentucky.

#### 1a.3a.2. Richard

As with William, both Meredith and Schoolfield agree and name Richard as the second son of Stephen the second, by his first wife. Meredith says this "Richard was the Master of a vessel", that is the person in charge of the crew. So Richard followed the family appreciation of a sea going life.

At the same time, contrary to brother William, Richard owned property at West point. He appears for the first time on the 1800 tax lists for King William County. The land tax list shows him owning 2 lots at West Point while, for the first time, father Stephen has 6 lots instead of 7. Richard's 2 lots were valued at \$200 while Stephen's 6 lots together were worth only \$233. Thus we can tell that Stephen gave Richard one or two of his most valuable lots. From these figures, we can also see why Harris claimed that Stephen owned 8 lots at West Point. Richard is also credited with 4 slaves over 16 years old. In 1801, Richard had added 3 horses to his personal property. He retained these lots and a few Blacks through 1805. (See Appendix Taxes)

How Richard's property at West Point fit in with his profession as Master of a vessel is not clear. Since Richard was born between 1765 and 1775, he could have started working between 1785 and 1790. If he was involved in the Atlantic trade, he had no need for his own housing at

West Point. He either lived at home or on board a “vessel”. However, once he married, he needed housing for his wife and himself.

In 1796, Richard had married Mrs. Patsy Armistead. A copy of the marriage bonds is in Virginia, Various Counties, Marriage Bonds, 1706-1901, familysearch.org. Other sources such as Bentley’s, *Virginia Marriage Bonds* on Ancestry.com, are secondary lists. The marriage took place in Norfolk, Virginia. Patsy may have been the former Elizabeth Maidenkun married previously to an Armstead, originally Armistead. Richard and Patsy may have had a place to live in Norfolk for the first few years of their marriage. Richard may then have decided to settle down with his wife at West Point in 1800 and help father Stephen with the ferry and hauling business.

Richard’s life with Patsy was cut short with his death in the latter part of 1805 or early 1806. The tax lists for 1806 through 1811 list his land and personal property under Richard Bingham Estate meaning wife Patsy owned the property for those years. In 1811 the tax was charged to Lavinia Adams, his niece and daughter of sister Lea, so Patsy had either remarried or died by then. (See Appendix Taxes) Patsy had tried to sell one of the lots to Richard’s “Negro man Slave named Sam” in 1808 and had given her friend, Nelson Root, power of attorney to complete the transaction. Since Richard’s estate was still credited with 2 lots in 1811, the purchase may not have been finalized (Virginia County Court (King William County) Miscellaneous Records (photostats), 1702-1884, familysearch.org, Film 32095, Vol. 5, P. 167, Image 174 of 499)

#### 1a.3a.3. Rachel

Everything we know about Rachel comes from the Schoolfield letter, more specifically, Frances Anna Dudley Schoolfield whose grandmother was Rachel’s step-mother, ie. Ann Gaines Bingham, second wife of Rachel’s father Stephen, the second. Frances Schoolfield only remembered that Rachel married a Fleming. Fleming was a well known name in King and Queen County. Harris discusses the early Flemings, both the New Kent County Flemings and William Fleming who had a plantation in King William County, but lived in Hanover County. One of William Fleming’s daughters married Harry Gaines, son of Robert Gaines. Another son of Robert Gaines was Francis Gaines. Francis was the father of Ann Gaines, Stephen the second’s second wife and Rachel’s step-mother. Undoubtedly there is a connection between Ann Gaines Bingham and the Fleming Rachel married, but this cannot be verified without existing records. (Harries, pp. 182-84, 810-12)

#### 1a.3a.4. Lea(h)

Lea must be researched through the male members of her family. No record with her name on it exists. Fortunately, one tiny clue from the Meredith Mss, together with a tiny clue from the Schoolfield letter, identifies Stephen the second’s daughter who married a “Mr Sullivan, of King & Queen County & lived once at West Point” as this Lea. With this tidbit of information we can identify the Eugene Sullivan whose name appears in parentheses on the King William County land tax for 1820, (on the same line as Ann Bingham), as Lea’s husband.

Knowing that Ann Bingham died in April, 2019, as noted earlier, the significance of Eugene Sullivan’s name appearing on the same line as Ann’s means that Lea, Stephen’s oldest living de-



scendant when he died, had inherited the West Point lots. Probably through Lea, Eugene Sullivan already owned one lot at West Point, perhaps where he and Lea lived. Remember, the male spouse was always the owner of his wife's property. Owning 6 more lots with houses would have given Lea and Eugene additional income. Based upon later evidence, there is reason to think that Eugene was a carriage builder.

Although the 1821 tax list still credits Ann with 6 lots and Eugene Sullivan with 1 lot, the 1822 tax list correctly credits Eugene Sullivan with 7 lots at West Point. From 1822 through 1828 the 7 lots were in Eugene's name and from 1829 through 1838 under Eugene's estate. His estate covered Lea and her children who remained at home. By 1837 Lea had died and all but the younger son, Faugh William Sullivan remained at home. He died in 1838.

In 1839 the 7 lots had passed to James Christian. Christian may have been the spouse of Lea's oldest child, a daughter. Christian and family lived in King and Queen County where he had a 250 acre farm. (Image 372 of 579) He held the lots for 4 years, that is, through 1842.

In 1842 William Penn Taylor, who already owned 29 lots at West Point, bought all the remaining lots and Delaware Town ceased to exist. Taylor planned to build a railway terminus and shipping port. Work on the project began in 1851, but in 1855 Taylor sold the West Point land to the West Point Land and Developing Company. Eventually, the town of West Point was organized and a railroad between Whitehouse and West Point across the Pamunkey River was completed after the Civil War. (For more detail see Harris, Vol. II, pp. 580-82)

Going back to Lea and Eugene Sullivan's children, the 1820 U.S. Census lists 5 children, 2 males and 3 females. The older male was 16 thru 25 so born 1795 - 1804; the younger, 10 thru 15, so born 1805 - 1810. This fits with the older son being Stephen Richard Sullivan born 1803 (1850 U.S. Census); the younger, Faugh William Sullivan, born 1805 (1830 U.S. Census).

Stephen Richard, or S.R., became a wealthy, master carriage maker in Charlottesville, Albemarle County, Virginia. His wife was Frances Ann Wingo, or F.A. Sullivan. (1850, 1860 U.S. Census) Their only child, Mary, died age 5.

A Lavinia Adams lived with S.R. in 1850 and 1860. From the Schoolfield letter we can identify Lavinia Adams as one of Lea and Eugene's daughters: "Mrs. Lavinia Adams & Richard Sullivan of Charlottesville Va were or are Grand children of the first wife". Lavinia was not sure of her age - in 1850 she was listed as 50, but in 1860 she was 65. Neither she nor S.R. appear on the 1870 U.S. Census.

Faugh William Sullivan, the younger son, remained at home at West Point, King William County, Virginia. It is certain that he died in 1838 as noted previously. The 1830 U.S. Census lists himself, the only male, as 20-29, one female also 20-29, and one female 15-19, but the 1830 U.S. Census is not a reliable source. A more reliable source is Louis Burgess's *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*, volume 1, page 404. Burgess entered a record taken from the New Kent County Court of Quarter Sessions, 12 March 184, assigning a guardian for Faugh W[illiam] Sullivan's orphan son William F[augh] Sullivan. Then, on 10 June 1844 the James City County court certified that "Sarah Roberts married [Faugh]William Sullivan; that she is now dead, leaving one child, William [Faugh]Sullivan, her only heir at law." The entry goes on to say that Sarah Sullivan was formerly Sarah Roberts and that her son, William [Faugh] Sullivan was due warrant No. 9071 for 250 acres as an heir of David Pannell, "late a Capt. in the Artillery of the Va. State Line" during the revolutionary war. Sarah Roberts Sullivan was a daughter of William Roberts and Ann Pan-

nell. Ann Pannell's ancestors need to be worked out as online family trees conflict. Lea and Eugene's grandson, William Faugh Sullivan, married Sarah Slater. Their child John Eugene Sullivan became a captain in the army during the Civil War and lived in Richmond, Virginia. (See charles hatton Family Tree, beverly hatton, Ancestry.com; findagrave.com)

by second wife, Ann Gaines

#### 1a.3b.1. Anna Maria "Nancy"

Stephen's oldest child by his second wife was born March 8, 1789. We know the date exactly by calculating backwards from her date of death which was included in the notice of her death published in *The Nashville Christian Advocate*. (Smith, Jonathan K.T., Genealogical Abstract from Reported Deaths, The Nashville Christian Advocate 1857-1860, January-June 1860, tngenweb.org) Her birth year is helpful in estimating the date of her mother and father's marriage as well as her own age at various life events.

Anna, usually called "Nancy" when she was young, left home before she was 16. That was also before her father, Stephen, died. From the Schoolfield letter and the 1810 U.S. Census, we know that she went to King and Queen County where she was known as Nancy.

There, she married before she was 18, that is before 1807. Her second child was born March 4, 1809 when Nancy was 20 and husband William Dudley was dead. Nancy's first child was undoubtedly born in 1807, so she married in 1806 when she was 16, not unusual for the time and place and in step with the death notice comment that her husband lived less than two years after they were married.

Years later, Ann's obituary, in *The Nashville Christian Advocate* included William's middle initial of "C". The details in the death notice, of course, were provided by Ann's daughter and family with whom Ann had lived for many years. The Nashville newspaper's circulation area included West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky. where Ann and her family lived when Ann died..

On the 1810 King and Queen U.S. Census Ann appears as householder Dudley Ann with one free white male under 10, one free white female under 10, 1 free white female 10-15 and one free white female 26-44. The two children's sex and ages are consistent with the Schoolfield letter. In the letter, Frances Anna Dudley Schoolfield knew that her father had died leaving one son and that she was born in 1809 after her father's death. She also knew that her mother had married a William Dudley of Dudley's Ferry, King and Queen Co. The ages of neither of the older females is accurate for Ann, however. Ann would have been 21 years old in 1810 when the census was taken. Perhaps she was fudging her age on purpose or a census taker's mistake in column.

This brings us to identifying the William Dudley whom Ann married and who fathered her two children born between 1800 and 1810. Her husband can't have been the William Dudley of Dudley's Ferry who began operating the ferry in 1772. (*Virginia Gazette*, P&D, March 12, p. 3, col. 2) Harris gives his birth date as 1731 and his death date as 1792. This hardly qualifies him to be Ann Bingham's spouse even though his death date of 1792 is wrong. A note from this William Dudley's grandson, with information taken from an official copy of William Dudley's will, gives the date the will was written as 7 November 1794 and the date the will was admitted to probate

as 12 Jul 1802. Based upon my search of the King and Queen County Land Tax lists, I can say with certainty that the William Dudley, owner of the 290 acres from which the ferry operated, and owner of the ferry license, died after the tax list for 1801 was finished, but before the tax list for 1802 was composed. . (King and Queen County, Virginia, Land Tax Lists, 1782-1863 Film 29941, Images 187, 201 of 616, familysearch.org)

Furthermore, to set the historical record straight, he was not the founder of the ferry as some researchers would have readers believe. Along with many other ferry runs, this run was founded in 1702 by the Virginia General Assembly. At that time the ferry was called Gutteries and operated from the same tract then owned by Edward Guthry. By 1737 the ferry name had changed to Graves and was operated by Robert Willis. After he lost everything in a house fire, Willis sold to John Waller in 1739, but by 1748 the ferry's name was Dudley's. Perhaps William Dudley's father then held the ferry license and William Jr. helped operate it. He would have been too young to buy a ferry license. (Harris, pp. 294-5)

Alfred Bagby, in his book titled *King and Queen County, Virginia*, includes a section on the Dudley family based on a note sent to him by George Fleet Dudley, William Dudley's grandson. The note included a list of the family names in the order in which his grandfather, William Dudley, made bequests in his will. The list included a third William Dudley, the middle of three sons. (Bagby, Alfred, *King and Queen County, Virginia*, 1908, p. 373-75, internetarchive.org and elsewhere). This William did not appear on the land tax lists until his father's estate was settled in 1810. Thus in 1811 the list included, for the first time, William Dudley, Jr., but by then William Jr. was dead, also. His inheritance of the 315 1/2 acres that William Senr. had held in his wife's name, Lydia Wedderburn, went into William Dudley Jr.'s estate.

It was this William Dudley, Jr., who was dead before his daughter, Frances, was born in 1809, and who meets the criteria for Ann "Nancy" Bingham's spouse. Ann might have known him from childhood through her father, Stephen. The West Point Ferry of her father's to Dudley's and Dudley's Ferry to West Point shared the the same route and landings, and competed for passengers and supply deliveries. The landing at West Point was on the Matapony River side of the town of West Point, straight across the Mattapony from Dudley's. The west, or Pamunkey River side of West Point was too marshy for river access. Ann and husband William were probably close in age.

Ann, in her own name, may have received 96 acres on the York River Ferry landing from William Dudley, Senr's estate. (K&Q Tax Lists, Film 29941, 1811-1818) Those 96 acres of agricultural income might have allowed Ann and her children to remain in King and Queen County for awhile. Her final year on the land tax list for King & Queen County was 1819 for 1818 taxes. Thus, Ann Bingham Dudley and one or both of her children moved to Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia in 1818 or 1819 either before or after her mother, Ann Gaines Bingham died there in 1819.

The only other record for Ann while she lived in King and Queen County comes from Malcolm Harris's Vol. 1, p.344 where he writes that "Saml Harris and Ann M. Dudley" were witnesses to Rebecca Parke Corbin's will dated 29 November 1821. "Samuel Harris was a justice and served on the county court for many years." (Harris, p. 348) More about Samuel Harris and his relationship with Frances B. Harris/Shackleford and Ann Dudley, later, under 1a.3b.2. Elizabeth Gaines.

Frances Schoolfield did not mention her brother who died, but G.A.R. Meredith gave the brother's name as Richard. Meredith wrote that "Richard Dudley died about 1825 and was Buried by his grand mother...." But this can't be accurate as his grandmother, Ann Gaines Bingham died in 1819, although Meredith had written that she died in 1830. Another researcher has named the son 'William Henry', which makes more sense, but cited no source. His name actually makes no difference as we know he died young. He could have moved to Lynchburg with his mother and sister, then died in Lynchburg before 1830. However, the Dudleys on the Campbell County 1820 and 1830 census's don't qualify and the only active cemetery in Lynchburg during that time period does not have a burial record for a William or a Richard Dudley. Obviously, he died so young that in the Schoolfield 1871 letter his sister, Frances, had not bothered to mention his name.

Ann did not marry a second time. From the time she arrived in Lynchburg until daughter Frances married in January 1830 we don't know who Ann lived with. However, she was on the Lynchburg Personal Property Tax Lists from 1822 through 1829 with 1 slave over 16. (Images 526, 556, 580, 626, 678 of 873).

Beginning in 1830 Ann Bingham Dudley lived with her daughter Frances Anna's family. Frances Anna had married John W. Schoolfield 5 January 1830. (Virginia, U.S. Select Marriages, 1785-1940, Ancestry.com). The 1830 U.S. Census for Lynchburg, Campbell County shows 4 white persons in John W. Schoolfield's household. The white female 20-29, would be Frances Anna age 21; the white female 40-49 would be Ann Maria Dudley age 41. The white male 30-39 would be John W. Schoolfield age 32; the white male 15 thru 19 was probably John's brother Samuel M. age 19. (see Schoolfield Trees, Ancestry and Familysearch)

G.A.R. Meredith wrote that about 1832 Ann moved with the Schoolfields and their son Willie Weaver to Wytheville where they lived for about two years. We do know they were in Lynchburg on June 11, 1832 when Frances and John's first born child named William Dudley, in honor of his deceased grandfather, died of scarlet fever. (*The Lynchburg Virginian*, June 18, 1832, p. 3, col. 3 in Barber, Lucy, *Marriages and Deaths from Lynchburg Newspapers, 1794-1836*, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1993, Ancestry.com) They were also in Lynchburg when William Weaver Schoolfield, their second child, was born October 12, 1832. A week earlier John had been appointed Postmaster for the Pleasant Hill area of Smyth County. (U. S., Appointments of U.S. Postmasters, 1832-1971, Ancestry.com; original: [archives.org>Home>Research Our Records>Post Office Records>Appointment of Postmasters](https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/3:1:3Q9M-CSK3-93?i=100&cc=1)).

Soon after John received notice of his appointment, the Schoolfields left Lynchburg. They are not on the Lynchburg tax records after 1832, nor do the Wythe County land and personal property tax records have entries in the 1830s for either John Schoolfield or Ann Dudley. The Pleasant Hill area where Schoolfield was to be Postmaster lay in what had been the southern part of Wythe County, the same area that had been taken to form Smyth County. The Schoolfields would have lived at the Post Office. The Virginia General Assembly had authorized Smyth County and the County Seat of Marion at the same time - February 23, 1832, but the town did not exist until town lots were surveyed. Sales began in May, 1832 mainly to speculators. No dwellings were built until after the Court House was completed in 1834. There is no other evidence of Ann Dudley's activities until 1836.

Meanwhile, John Schoolfield was working toward becoming a merchant in the new town of Marion. His first step was to turn in his taxable personal property list to tax commissioner Joseph

W. Davis on February 18, 1734. Schoolfield listed himself as the 1 white, male, and claimed 2 Blacks over 16, one horse, and a Barouche worth \$180. A Barouche was a four wheeled carriage with driver's seat high in front, 2 double seats inside facing each other and a folding top over the back seat. The Barouche may explain their method of transportation from Lynchburg. In addition to Ann Dudley, John had brought along his younger brother, Samuel M. who was 23. One wonders how one horse could manage the load of the four adults plus baby and goods they brought with them? Apparently the Barouche was used only for the move and was sold. It did not appear again on the tax list. (Personal Property Tax, Film 1905726, Image 771 of 881, Familysearch.org)

John W. Schoolfield and family were not alone on this move south. Cousins and brothers James L. and Henry O. Schoolfield, sons of John's Uncle John, were involved also. The town of Marion was on the road southwest from Lynchburg that so many Virginia migrants followed to Kentucky and Tennessee. Called the Wilderness Road by some at that time, today it is known as Interstate 81. James L. and Henry O. were on their way to becoming wealthy merchants in Lynchburg. They planned to sell provisions to Virginians moving west.

In May, 1834 James L. Schoolfield was also in Smyth County when he and brother Henry O. negotiated a deed of copartnership with Robert Thurman, Physician, originally of Lynchburg, but then, also in Smyth County. The copartnership amounted to establishing two businesses, each in its own room in the newly built Court House: a doctor's office for Thurman and a general merchandise store for James L. Schoolfield. The rationale for "helping" Thurman was to set him up so that his income could be applied to the debt he owed John Schoolfield, James and Henry's recently deceased father. The reason for James L.'s merchandise store could well have been competition with his cousin John W. Schoolfield. James did, indeed, beat John in declaring the first merchandise store in Marion. (Smyth County Deed Bk.1, p. 193, film 33980, image 116-7 of 557) The catch is, neither had a merchant's license, yet, so neither were open.

Later that year, on October 24, 1734, John W. Schoolfield bought 1/4 acre lot 15, in Marion from Thomas W. Mercer for \$550.00. (Smyth County Deed Bk 1, p. 271, film 33980, image 155 of 557) Three and a half months later, February 18, 1735, John made \$300 by selling this lot to Shepherd Brown, one of the first Marion lot speculators of Wythe County. (Smyth County Deed Bk 1, p. 302, film 33980, image 172 of 557)

John and James finally got their Merchant licenses in May, 1835 when, apparently, licenses were first sold. Seven potential merchants bought licenses in May and two more in June. John W. was the only one to buy two licenses, James L. bought one. Thus, Marion sold ten licenses to nine merchants. The price per license in Virginia had not changed from pre revolutionary times so was still \$20.00 per year. (Smyth County Personal Property Tax List, 1832-1850, film 1905726, image 817 of 881, familysearch.org)

By this time John W, and, family were renting Lot 1 in Marion from Shepherd Brown and paying \$150 a year in rent for the parcel and house valued at \$2800.00. (Smyth Land Tax Bk, 1832-1846, Film 2025445, image 93 of 626) John L. Schoolfield & Co. owned Lots 23 and 24, both improved with Lot 23 having a storehouse building. (Ibid. image 94 or 626) A deed to Schoolfield for these lots is wanted. John W., Samuel M., and James L. were all on the Personal Property Tax list for 1835. (Images 795 and 810 of 881, film 1905726)

John soon decided to buy Lot 1, house, and out buildings In which they were already living, but he had no ready cash or credit so he turned to his mother-in-law, Ann Bingham Dudley, for

help. On August 18, 1836 Ann loaned him “\$1500.00 with interest thereon” from the day of the loan and \$6.45 cash for recording expenses. (Smyth County Deed Bk 3, p. 381, Film 33981, Image 222 of 584, familysearch.org). On October 13, 1836 John bought Lot 1 from Shepherd Brown. (Ibid, p. 371, Image 217 of 584)

Also in 1836, cousin James L. Schoolfield apparently moved his store from the court house to Lots 23 and 24. (Land Tax, Image 117 of 626). In 1837 cousin Henry O. added his name as a co-owner of both lots although he remained in Lynchburg. (Ibid, Image 152 of 626) John W. was still paying for two merchant licenses and operating two stores. (PPT, Smyth Merchants, Image 873 of 881) Where John W’s stores were located is not clear.

John W. continued as a merchant and lot and land speculator through 1842. On April 3, 1838 he bought Lot 3 in Marion from George W. and John F. Lock. (Smyth Deed Bk 2, p. 205, Film 33980, Image 425 of 557) On the 3rd of November, 1839 he bought Lot 2 in Marion from Elias Groseclose (Ibid, Image 523 of 557) and on the same day sold Groseclose Lot 3. (Ibid, Image 525 of 557) Dealing with Groseclose again, Groseclose transferred 12.5 acres to John W. in 1840. Evidence of this transaction comes from the Land Tax book, not from a deed book. (Film 2025445, Image 292 of 626) The deed may not have been recorded.

By 1842, the financial panic that hit the United States in 1837 had taken its toll in the town of Marion, as in the rest of Virginia and southern states. Many banks in the south and west had failed and the bond market failed in 1842. Conditions were worse where the economy was based on agriculture. From the situation the Schoolfields found themselves in, it appears that no one had money of any sort to pay their bills. Business was being transacted by promissory notes. (*Did Your Ancestors Live through the Panic of 1837?* familysearch.org, blog) John needed help from his mother-in-law, again! This time Ann loaned him \$1108.53 with interest from November 20, 1842 and \$6.45 in cash. (Smyth County Deed Bk 3, p. 381, Image 222 of 584)

Then, in the beginning of 1843, financial turmoil hit John W. and Frances Anna Schoolfield. First of all, Cousins James L. and Henry O. Schoolfield pulled up stakes in Marion and returned to Lynchburg. They sold their Lots 23 and 24 on January 20 to James W. Sheffy for \$450. Sheffy was a family and business friend. Note that John W. named his youngest son, James Sheffy Schoolfield.

Second, and even more interesting, is a deed dated March 20th, 1843, in which John W. Schoolfield deeded to Joseph W. Davis, tax collector, Lot 1, the lot where the Schoolfields lived, and its appurtenances, that is, the lot, house, and personal possessions, and all promissory notes due to him. The cause was Shepherd Brown’s suit against John W. Schoolfield for failure to pay his debt on Lot 1. Schoolfield had become a victim of business by promissory notes. He had no way of paying off his debt to Brown other than assigning all his promissory notes over to Davis to collect and selling the lot and house. The agreement gave Schoolfield one year to collect from his debtors, or Lot 1 and appurtenances would be sold by public sale at the Court House to the highest bidder. The list of debtors is longer than you would imagine. To see the list of names and amount owed go to Smyth County Deeds, Bk. 3, p. 372-3, Image 218 of 584.

Now, at risk of her son-in-law, John W., not being able to repay the two large loans she had given him as noted before, Anna went to the Smyth County Court, herself, and obtained her own order. Since her individual loans were larger than any other debts John owed, the order authorized her to receive the amount of her loan with the required interest and fee, first, before any

others were paid. The court order triggered full bankruptcy proceedings. Anna and John must have developed a scheme.

While the suit from Brown called for a list of notes owed to John, Anna's suit called for a list of notes John owed to others. It also called for the sale of all of John's lots as well as Lot 1 and appurtenances. Furthermore, there was to be no twelve month wait for the public sale; the sale was to be immediate. Consequently, a complete inventory of John's property, both land and personal, needed to be taken. The inventory was included in a second deed of trust to Joseph W. Davis which is in Smyth Deed Bk. 3, pp. 318-386, Images 222-225 of 584, familysearch.org.

Thus, on May 1, 1843, after having given public notice of the time and place of sale, all John's lots, land and personal property were auctioned to the highest bidder, and that highest bidder was none other than Anna Maria Bingham Dudley! She bought Marion Lot 1 and appurtenances, Lot 2, Lot 31 and the 12 3/4 acres adjoining Marion all for \$1060.00. Ezra Sheffey bought Lot 3. Although the sale actually occurred and deeds were submitted for recording in 1843 they were not recorded until 1847. From 1847 on, after the deed was officially recorded, Ann M. Dudley's name appeared on the county land tax records instead of John W. Schoolfield.; see Smyth County Deeds, Bk, 4, pages 339-341, Images 506-7 of 584.

From the purchase of John's property in 1843 until she died in 1859, Anna M. Bingham Dudley owned all the property on which the John W. and Frances Anna Schoolfield family lived both in Smyth County, Virginia and Morgan County, Kentucky.

For example, on the 1850 U.S. Census John W. claims to be a Merchant whose real estate is worth \$50.00, while Anna Dudley who lives in the same household claims no occupation with a real estate value of \$3351.00. The eight living children are ages 0 to 17. They have one, white female age 20 as a helper, no slaves. However. something is awry with the reporting for on the 1850 U.S. Federal Slave Schedule for District 60, Smyth County, Anna M. Dudley is listed owning 5 slaves: 1 Female Mulatto age 56; 1 Black Male age 30, 1 Black Female age 21, 1 Black Male age 17, 1 Black Female age 1. They must have been the work force for the 12 3/4 acres adjoining Marion that John W. had bought in 1840 and Anna now owned.

Claiming bankruptcy in 1843 had not hurt John W.'s reputation. After all, "by the summer of 1842, nine states and territories had defaulted on their debts" and the southern banks lending money to property buyers had defaulted and were being bought by northern banks and European investors. Signs of recovery had begun to emerge by 1843. (Read online "Panic of 1837", economic-historian.com) John W. was still respected enough to be Assessor for the Northern District of Smyth Co. in 1850 and probably other years as well. (see Report to Court, 18 Sep 1850, p. 139, image 101 of 691, Order Book 8, Smyth County Court) John W. Schoolfield was also a Justice of the Peace for Smyth County, at first in 1837, but also at other times such as 1851 when, on January 20 he approved a deed for 80-85 acres on Staleys Creek. (Smyth Deed Bk 5, p. 398, Image 215 of 688) and another deed dated May 2, to the trustees, of which he was one, of the new Methodist Church campground, also on Staleys Creek. (Ibid, p. 401, Image 217 of 688). Again on May 26, 1851 as Justice of the Peace, John approved Anna's sale of Lot 31 in Marion to John Pryde for \$100. (Ibid, p. 430, Image 231 of 688)

John W.'s last days of being a merchant came in 1853 when, on December 1, either he, under Ann's name, or, perhaps, Ann, herself, bought 56 acres adjoining the Methodist Church Camp Ground on Staley's Creek. The deed carried a clause prohibiting Ann, or anyone claiming under



her, to settle “trafficking establishments” on the tract. (Smyth Co Deed Bk 6, p. 137-38, Image 469-70 of 688) Ann, or John W., responded by selling the two tracts adjoining the camp ground. On January 24, 1854 she, or he, sold the 56 acres bought just one month earlier and the tract adjoining the camp ground which she, or he, bought March 28, 1848 from Nancy Ann Dailey, but not recorded until January 18, 1851. (Guaranteed by Henry O. Schoolfield, JP in Lynchburg), (Ibid, Vol 6, p. 154, Image 478 of 688, familysearch.org) These deeds were the last deeds for Ann M. Dudley and John W. Schoolfield in Smyth County. Ann and John W. were no longer on the tax lists either.

Instead, Ann appeared in the 1854 Morgan County, Kentucky tax book owning 646 acres valued at \$800. She had 3 slaves over 16, and 3 slaves under 16, together valued at \$2900; 3 horses or mares valued at \$100; 4 children between 6 and 18; 2 hogs over 6 months; for a total value of \$3800.00. Although she is listed as A M Dudley, we know this is Ann M. because her full name is used in 1855 and the acreage and number and age of slaves is the same. We also know because John W. Schoolfield was on the 1854 tax list with 5 children 6 to 18, but nothing else besides himself. The tax list for John W. Schoolfield in 1855 was the same. The family, now under Anna’s control, it appears, moved to Morgan County and a cotton farm. (Morgan County, Kentucky, Tax Book 1854, Film 8173, Images 792 and 814 of 823; 1855, Film 8174, Images 16 and 43 of 520, familysearch.org) Anna and John W. similarly appeared on the 1856, 1857, 1858 and 1859 Morgan County tax lists.

Ann’s grandson, William Weaver Schoolfield, had not moved Kentucky with the rest of the family, but to Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee in 1855. W.W. had attended Emory and Henry College in Washington County, Virginia as an “Irregular” student in 1849 and maybe longer, at least long enough to become a bookkeeper and obtain a good job in Memphis. (U.S. School Catalogs, 1765-1935, Emory and Henry College, 1949, Ancestry.com) Within ten years he had partnered with the Hanauers, Henry G. Miller, and Hy Thomas to form Schoolfield, Hanauer & Co., Wholesale Grocers and Cotton Factors. (Commercial and Statistical Review of the City of Memphis, Tenn., 1883, books.google.com)

Anna, however, had some unfinished business in Smyth County. The mortgage she carried on the sale of Lots 1 and 2 was not being repaid on schedule. On December 22, 1856 she gave John W. Schoolfield Power of Attorney to either collect the unpaid portion of purchase money due on Lots 1 and 2 or to repurchase the lots. Grandson William Weaver, under power of attorney, had sold the lots and their appurtenances for \$2000 to a man named Walker, but Walker had paid part, only. Note that the person who copied this deed and several others into Bk 7 mistook a 5 for a 3 which accounts for the wrong deed date. (Smyth County Deed Book 7, page 536, Film 33983, Image 307 of 632 should be dated 1856)

John W. was not able to collect the outstanding money from Walker on the sale of Lots 1 and 2. Ann did take the lots back. She rented Lot 1 with dwelling house to A.W. Aston which he bought on September 5, 1859. (Smyth County Deed Bk. 7, p. 550, Image ?) On the same date, Anna sold Lot 2 with its appurtenances to B.F. Mantze. (Ibid Bk 8, p 76-7, Film 33983, Image 387 of 632)

After seven years as a cotton farmer in Morgan county, Anna died on December 28, 1859. She had been ill with asthma for eight weeks. (U.S., Federal Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1885 for Anna M. Dudley; Kentucky, U.S., Death Records, 1852-1965 for Anna A Dudley, Ancestry.com) She was 70 years, 9 months, 20 days old. (Smith, Jonathan Smith, “Genealogical Abstract From Reported Deaths,” *The Nashville Christian Advocate*, January-June 1860) Cotton growing on her 646 acre farm in Morgan County, Kentucky may have contributed to the asthma that was her cause of death. Ann left her land and per-

sonal property to her daughter, Frances Anna, but made Frances's husband, John W. Schoolfield, trustee.(Probate Records, (Morgan County, Kentucky), 1855-1977, Film 1904655, Image 55 of 1,051; Tax Bks 1855-1862, [1861],Film 8174, 1, Image 331 of 520 familysearch.org)

The 1860 U.S. Census shows the Schoolfields at home in West Liberty, Morgan County, Kentucky. John W. headed the family with occupation, Farmer; Frances was second owning the land and personal property. Julia, Virginia, Cassandra, Henry C., Lucy, and James S. are at home.

The 1870 federal census shows the family living in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee. John (Jnoe) W. age 71 was head of household with occupation Gardening; Frances age 61 was Keeping House; Virginia 40, Cassandra 36, Lucy 35, James 34, Grocer, and W.W. 30, Grocer, with spouse Eveline 28 and son Dudley T., and Johnson David a 16 year old Black male living together in Memphis.

The following year, 1871, was when John W. with Frances's help, wrote the Schoolfield letter, one of the family sources for this article.

For researchers who are interested, the family is easy to trace from here on. The life of William Weaver Schoolfield and of the Schoolfield Hanauer Company is especially interesting. See case-law.vlex.com; Tennessee; search both Schoolfield and Lovewell.

#### 1a.3b.2. Elizabeth Gaines

Elizabeth, born 18 January 1790, had just turned eighteen and was already an entrepreneur when her father, Stephen, died in January, 1808. By then she held two merchant's licenses. One she bought for \$10 on September 1, 1806 and the other on May 1, 1807 for \$15. Both were first entered on the 1807 personal property tax list. (King William County, Land Tax Lists include Personal Property Lists 1782-1819, Film 29944, Image 468 of 685) She probably was selling imported merchandise in her father's stores. Elizabeth also held her two Merchants Licenses in 1809, but only one in 1810 and none in 1811. Ibid, Film 29944, Images 484, 518 of 685).

Elizabeth actually had her first experience with business in 1802 when she was 12 years old. In that year and that year only, her name appeared as the person responsible for the 24¢ tax due on two horses. (Ibid, Image 319 of 685)

The year after her father's death, Elizabeth bought three West Point tenancy lots with houses on Main Street for \$100 from William and Mary Toler. The Tolers had bought the lots from Mary Lambeth, probably third wife of John Lambeth (1690-1746). One of John and Mary's sons was Captain Meredith Lambeth (1726-1805). He married Frances Bernard. They and their five sons lived near Stephen and Ann Bingham and family at West Point. The Lambeth's fourth son, George Kemp Lambeth, was born 1773-75 making him sixteen or so years old when Elizabeth was born.

When George K. Lambeth became a 16 year old tither in 1791, he first appeared on the King William County Personal Property Tax List. He continued on the list until he was 19-21 years old and moved to Lynchburg, Campbell County. (Ibid, Film 29944, Images 106, 135; Film 32110. Images 140, 159) It is doubtful that George knew Elizabeth before he left West Point for Lynchburg about 1795, but he certainly came to know her well as explained ahead. (Virginia County Court (King

William County), Miscellaneous records (photostats). 1702—1884; familysearch.org, film 32095, Vol. 5, p. 382, image 399 of 499; also see Ancestry Trees).

Although George's father, Meredith Lambeth was a ship captain, likely engaged in the West Indies trade carrying tobacco and meat out and all sorts of goods and merchandise in, that trade at West Point had almost vanished by 1800. Tobacco growing had been moving to the Piedmont of Virginia for fifty years. Tidewater Virginia land was depleted of nutrients for tobacco growing. Furthermore, the Piedmont offered healthier living. Lynchburg was in the process of becoming "Tobacco Town".

George's brothers Meredith and Washington, and cousin Henry Meredith, had already moved to Lynchburg by 1795 so when George arrived he had a place to live. Jointly, in 1797, Meredith, Washington and Henry had 4 Black Slaves over 16, 1 Black Slave 12-16, and 1 Horse. (Campbell County, Virginia, Land and Property, Film 2024501, Image 401 of 95, familysearch.org) By 1799 George was listed on his own with 1 Black Slave 12-16. Meredith and Washington were also listed separately. (Ibid, Image 471 of 955) In 1801, when George married for the first time, he had 3 Black Slaves over 16 and 1 Horse. but we do not know his occupation. (Ibid, Image 527 of 955)

On 1 July 1801, George married, in Lynchburg, Susan Frances Anderson. Susan was eighteen or over as she was able to consent on her own. (Marriages of Campbell County Virginia, 1782-1810; original Baber, Lucy Harrison Miller, same title, Genealogical Pub. Co., 1980. orig. Lynchburg, VA 1971; Ancestry.com and elsewhere) Over the course of the next eight years, Susan and George had two children, a boy named John who apparently did not live long and a girl named Susan Frances born 9 September 1809.

During this first marriage, George had begun to dabble in property. On June 16, 1802, for £80 he bought a 1/2 acre lot laid off for two 1/4 acre lots for £80 from John and Mary Lynch. The lot adjoined Lynchburg on the lower end and extended from Lynch Street to Second Street running 82 1/2 feet along each street. Lots 62 and 64 lay above and an intended alley below. They had not been added to the 1790 Plan of Lynchburg. (See lynchburghistory.com and Film 31024, Image 20 of 677, Campbell County, Deed Bk.6, p. 13-4, familysearch.org)

George's next land purchase was 27 March 1806. He bought 123 1/2 acres on Opossum Creek from Julius and Nancy Curle for \$370.00. The tract lay south of Lynchburg on the east side of the road to Campbell Court House and adjoined a tract owned by his older brother, Meredith Lambeth. (Campbell County Deed Bk. 7, pp. 306-7, Film 31924. Image 513 of 677) George did not develop this land. By his will, when he died he passed one quarter of it on to each of his four living children. More on George's will, later. Note: The Land Tax lists for Campbell County list this property as 224 1/2 acres.

On February 22, 1811 George bought 1/2 acre Lot 91 in Lynchburg for \$400. (Film 1994913, Image 161 of 626, Campbell County Deed Bk. A, p. 239) Almost a year later, January 18, 1812, George sold 1/2 of a half acre lot in Lynchburg to William, Smith, and Shubel Bernard for \$200. The lot was in the expanded area to the northwest of the 1790 Plan of Lynchburg. (Film 1994913, Image 204 of 626, Campbell County Deed Bk. B, p. 321)

About this time, George's first wife, Susan, died. We can date her death to after daughter, Susan, was born 9 September 1809 and before George married Elizabeth Gaines Bingham. However, Elizabeth and George's marriage date varies with the source. Son Lafayette Washington wrote in his response to Walter F. Bingham, Jan 23, 1871 that Elizabeth married George Kemp Lambeth 26 December 1812.(Family Source Letter 2) The U.S. and International Marriage Records,

1560-1900 on Ancestry.com also give their marriage year as 1812, but that source is not based on an official record either. G.A.R. Meredith wrote in his manuscript that they married “at Lynchburg about 1815”. The date 26 December 1812 seems to conflict with tax records and birth date of first born child. The year 1815 is more inline with other events in Elizabeth and George’s life together.

George was probably as much as 17 years older than Elizabeth. Some researchers erroneously think that Elizabeth was Susan’s birth mother. Instead, in marrying George Lambeth, Elizabeth became the step-mother of George’s daughter, Susan. (Headstone, Susan Frances, Lambeth Cary, Mem. ID. 127078288, findagrave.com)

Elizabeth and George had one thing in common - both were landlords. However, while George was renting and or selling newly developed lots and houses in Lynchburg, Elizabeth was renting houses at West Point that the tax commissioner in 1813 labeled “not well improved”. Furthermore, Delaware Town, otherwise called West Point was dying. Elizabeth was probably relieved at the prospect of being able to sell her lots and houses and move to Lynchburg.

Elizabeth remained on the King William County Land Tax lists through 1824-1828. However, in August 1816 Elizabeth closed the sale of her three lots at West Point to Dorothy Clack-Reed. (Virginia County Court, King William County, Miscellaneous Records, (photostats), 1782-1884, Vol. 7, p. 14-5, Film 32097, Image 19-20 of 567, familysearch.org) Note that the ownership and taxation of these lots was not handled correctly by the West Point tax commissioners. In 1817 the list showed Elizabeth Bingham owning two lots and Dorothy Clack owning one lot. In 1818 the tax list showed Elizabeth owning two of the lots with residence unknown. In 1819, both Elizabeth Gaines Bingham and her mother, Ann Gaines Bingham, were listed with residence unknown. Remember, this is the year that Ann died. Not until 1824 to 1828 were the entries for Elizabeth removed from the King William tax lists. (See for example (Ibid Film 29944, Images 589, 625, 649, 672 of 685)

The Personal Property tax lists for King William County also continued to list Elizabeth. In 1815 Elizabeth was taxed for three stud horses, 3 cattle, 2 mahogany dining tables, 1 chest of drawers, 5 mahogany dining chairs and 2 looking glasses. (familysearch.org, Film 1987200, Image 421 of 527) Elizabeth kept her valuable furniture the rest of her life as shown in the inventory of her estate after her death.

In 1815 George bought another 1/2 acre lot in Lynchburg - Lot 253 - from John Lynch for \$200. (familysearch.org, Film 1994913, Image 454 of 626, Deed Bk. C) George bought another tract in Lynchburg, on January 21, 1818- Lot 125 - from land speculator Spottswood Dabney Crenshaw. George paid \$832 for the half acre lot with one corner on Sixth and Water street. (familysearch.org, Film 1994914, Image 196 of 505, Deed Bk. p. 305) The Lynchburg Personal Property tax for 1818-1819 shows George and Elizabeth owning 5 slaves over 16, 2 slaves 12-16, and 1 horse. (familysearch.org, Film 1905756, Images 358, 393 of 873)

Then the Panic of 1819 hit Lynchburg! Especially between 1815 and 1819 Lynchburg and Virginia in general experienced a period of rapid expansion and booming land sales. But in 1819 commodity prices, especially cotton, began to fall world wide causing the Second National Bank to begin to call in loans made to local banks. Local banks could not comply. They had made too many loans on lines of credit. Calling in a loan often meant foreclosing on a speculator’s lots or a farmer’s farm. Some of Lynchburg’s lot owning speculators were forced to sell at a loss for ready cash. Spottswood Dabney Crenshaw was one of these speculators.

Crenshaw was a highly respected businessman in Richmond, Virginia when he died in 1859. But when he began his business career in 1815 he over extended his purchase of lots in Lynchburg. By August, 1820 Crenshaw was forced into bankruptcy and deeded all of his lots, notes due him, and personal property to John Lynch, Jr. and James Malloy. See Campbell County, Deed Bk. F, pp. 142-45. Film 32246, Images 556-57 of 753, familysearch.org for a list of all the properties. Crenshaw fled to Richmond and soon took charge of the Columbian Hotel making it “one of the most desirable places of property in the whole city.” Eventually he became “one of the most considerable proprietors of real estate in the city....” (for Crenshaw see findagrave memorial 29357664)

People in Lynchburg must have seen Crenshaw’s troubles brewing and taken action to protect themselves. For instance, on May 20, 1820 George and Elizabeth deeded 1/2 of Lot 125 that they had bought from Crenshaw to George’s brother, Washington Lambeth for \$418. (Familysearch.org Film 32246, Deed Bk F. p. 119. Image 544 of 753) In 1822 Washington deeded the tract back to George and Elizabeth for \$5. (Familysearch.org Film 32247, Deed Bk. G, p. 72, Image 54 of 574)

For readers who want to learn more about the 1819 financial depression specifically in Virginia see Clyde A. Haulman, *Virginia and the Panic of 1819: The First Great Depression and the Commonwealth*. London: Pickering & Chatto, 2008.

The 1820 U.S. Census shows George and Elizabeth with a household of 13 individuals: 3 free white males: George, son John, Elizabeth brother, Stephen Bingham; 1 free colored male; 3 free white females; 4 male slaves; 2 female slaves.

Elizabeth and George had started their own family in 1818. John William was the first born. A catalogue of students of the University of Virginia published in 1878 records his year of birth as 1818. (Students of the University of Virginia, Baltimore, 1878, xtf.lib.virginia.edu) This year agrees with John’s first appearance on the Lynchburg, Campbell County personal property tax list in 1835 when he was 16 and his two student years at the University of Virginia, 1837-1838 and 1838-1839. (Ibid. and U.S., College Student Lists, 1763-1924, Ancestry.com) The middle child, George Henry Lambeth, was born in 1821 or 1822. Military records record his death on 23 April 1865, age 43. (Record of Death and Interment, U.S., Confederate Service Records, 1861-1865. ancestry.com) The last born child, Lafayette Washington Lambeth was born in 1824. Diuguid Records Archives gives a burial date of August 19, 1893 and Spring Hill Cemetery, where he was buried, recorded a death date of August 17, 1893. Cemetery records say he was 69 years old, thus he was born in 1824.

Virginia’s financial problems were generally over by February 5, 1825 when George and Elizabeth bought a tract of 185 acres on both sides of Opossum Creek from Elizabeth and Janatt Gilliam for \$1,000. This tract was farmed and left to Elizabeth in George’s will. (Familysearch.org Deed Bk. 15, pp. 41-2, Film 31028, Image 337-38) A month later, March 8, 1825, George and Elizabeth, sold William Bernard a small piece of Lot 215 for \$5 so he could enlarge his lot. (Bk H, p. 57-8 , Film 1994916, Image 68-9 of 601) George and Elizabeth bought only one more piece of land before George died. That was in 1832 - a lot with all appurtenances beginning at Ninth Street on the north side of Thirteenth Alley. The seller was Christina H. Morris of Gloucester County. George and Elizabeth paid \$700. (Deed Bk. 19, p. 87. Film 31030, Image 359 of 537, familysearch.org. Note: familysearch.org has two sets of microfilmed deeds for Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia)

George had made his will dated April 15, 1828, but he did not die until 1833. He was buried- March 31, 1833. His will was proved May 6, 1833. His date of death was probably March 29, 1833, two days before burial in the Old City Cemetery. (Duiguid Records Archive, gravegarden.org) He was 58 to 60 years old. His cause of death was not recorded. Elizabeth was only 44; daughter Susan 24, married to John Cary; sons John 15, George, 11, Lafayette, 9.

George's will was long and specific. He left all his estate, both real and personal to wife Elizabeth, with great discretion as to how to handle what he specifically left to his children: Susan Frances, John William, George Henry, Lafayette Washington. Although his will was accepted in court on May 6, 1833 his estate could not be completely settled until Elizabeth died more than twenty years later. (Lynchburg, Virginia, United States, Probate Records, Bk. B, p. 90-2, Film 1994886, Images70-1 of 757, Familysearch.org)

George's daughter, Susan Frances, was twenty-three years old when father, George Kemp Lambeth died on March 29, 1833. Susan had married John Cary, twenty-six years her senior, on January 13, 1831. They had been married for a little over two years when her father died. He left Susan his house and lot on West Street, part of lot 215; his house and lot on Lynch Street, part of lot 62; his negro woman Maria and her daughter Fanny and their future increase; and a cherry bedroom set. He also gave her one forth of his unimproved 124 1/2 acre tract on Opossum Creek whenever she should want it surveyed. (Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate records, 1652-1900, Image 525 of 732, ancestry.com)

Susan Frances and John Cary had seven children born between 1831 and 1847. They were Eliza King (1831-1901), Susan Anderson (1834-1854), Miles (1836-1896), John (1839-1896), George Lambeth (1842-1911), Mary Virginia (1845-1894), Frances Mallory (1847-1896). All lived past 1850. See 1850 U.S. Census and Col. Archibald's book, *The Virginia Cary's, An Essay in Genealogy*, New York, 1919 for an accurate list of the children. John and Susan also raised at least three of his sister, Sally Sclater Cary Nelson's children after she died in 1847 and was buried in the Lynchburg Presbyterian Cemetery. (findagrave.com) See 1850 U.S. Census for the Nelson children living with Susan and John. The 1840 census shows the Nelsons with five boys and three girls. The name of one girl, Castine, has been consistently misspelled, but is correct on the 1850 U.S. Census.

John's occupation was teacher and schoolmaster at a Boy's School located in the Masonic Hall in Lynchburg. Many Lynchburg residents considered him a "powerful influence" in town.

Susan Frances died in January 1852, five years before her step-mother, Elizabeth, died in February 1857. Susan was buried in the Presbyterian Cemetery in Lynchburg. (findagrave.com)

John Cary married again, later in 1852, Mrs. Martha A. Holmes of Lynchburg. They moved the family to Richmond in 1856 where he established another school. (Note: Susan's John was not John B. Cary) John may also have been a Confederate soldier during the Civil War. He died in Richmond, Virginia in 1867 and is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery Cary plot. (hollywoodcemetery.org)

After George's death, Elizabeth carried on for twenty-four more years as mother to three sons and landlord in Lynchburg. Land tax was listed under George's Estate; personal tax under her name.

In 1835 she had 1 White Male 16 and above, 4 Black Males 16 and above, 4 Black Males 12 to 16, and 2 Horses etc. (Lynchburg, Campbell, Virginia, Personal Property Tax Lists 1817-1835, Film

1905756, Image 853 of 873). The one white male 16 and over was son, John William, and helps to confirm his birth year as 1818 since the tax lists were composed the year before the taxes were due.

In 1836 John William was still living at home and Elizabeth had 1 less slave 16 and over and only 1 horse. (Ibid., Personal Property Tax Lists, 1836-1850, Film 1905757, Image 24 of 876) But the George K. Lambeth Est paid taxes on two tracts on Opossum Creek, 194 3/4 acres and 185 acres. (Ibid., Land Tax Books, Film 1907192, Image 348 of 783)

By 1837 Elizabeth had reallocated the 194 3/4 acres among her children. The three boys each received 29 3/4 acres. The remaining either all went to George's daughter, Susan, or she received part and Elizabeth sold the rest. (Ibid., Image 439 of 783) Son John William was away at college in 1837 when Elizabeth paid her personal property taxes on April 1, so she paid for no White Male Tithers, only 2 Black Slaves 16 and above and 3 Black Slaves 12-16. The horses were gone, also. (Ibid., Images 52 of 876 and 439 of 783)

The 1840 U.S. Census records all three boys living at home. John William was the 1 free, white male 20 thru 29. George and Lafayette were the two free white males 15 thru 19. The family had 7 slaves, 2 male under 10, 1 male 10-23, 1 male 24-35, 1 male 36-54,; 1 female under 10 and 1 female 10-23.

By 1842 the tax situation had changed. John William Lambeth was living in Halifax County 21 so needed to be listed separately on the personal property tax list. (Film 8249441, Image 703 of 872) Elizabeth was now only responsible for tax on 1 3/4 acres in Lynchburg valued at \$1750 for a tax of \$2.19. George's estate was responsible for the 185 acres on Opossum Creek valued at \$1295 and tax \$1.62; also feet in Lynchburg valued at \$100 and taxed ¢13. George and Lafayette each had their own 29 3/4 acres on Opossum Creek valued at \$148.75 each for a tax of .19¢ each. (Film 1907192, Image 719 of 783)

In 1850 sons George and Lafayette were still living at home. George at 28 had no occupation, as he was helping Elizabeth in what they would have called the real estate business. Elizabeth claimed a real estate value of \$6,000 and George claimed a real estate value of \$4,000. Lafayette was 26, his wife Mary A., 20, and children Eliza F, 3, and John Blair, 1. Lafayette was a practicing physician with a real estate value of \$2,000. The 1850 U.S. Census Slave Schedules show 7 slaves ages 1 through 70, 4 males and 3 females. The females were 1, 3, 25, and 50; the males were 24/26 and 70. Elizabeth's life as a widow seems to have been relatively uneventful until son John William's fatal event in 1854.

### John William Lambeth

John William had moved to Halifax County by 1842 to be near Jane Elizabeth Howerton, daughter of William Howerton, a Virginia Planter. Howerton owned 5,000 acres and had 21 slaves. His children were all girls, however, so he had no male heirs of his own. Jane Elizabeth was probably the oldest of the four daughters and fit into the 1 female 20-29 for the William Howerton family in the 1840 census. This made her about the same age as John who would have been 22 in 1840 and 24 in 1842, certainly old enough to be on his own. The Halifax County personal property tax list for 1842 shows John responsible for tax on one gold watch. (Film 8249441, Image 703 of 872)



John W. and Jane Elizabeth married 19 December 1843 in Halifax County and lived there. (Marriage Register 2, 1842-1853, Halifax County, Virginia, Film 31918, Image 8 of 31, familysearch.org)

By the early 1850's, John was in bad health and suffered from depression. He became so depressed that about the first of April, 1854 he went to Philadelphia seeking medical help. The *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, Vol. 2, No. 225, 24 April 1854, virginiachronicle.com explains what happened thereafter more accurately than the G.A.R. Meredith manuscript.

John could not find a doctor who could help him so he went to his mother's house in Lynchburg instead of returning home. His wife and children joined him in Lynchburg about the middle of April.

On Saturday morning, April 22, 1854, while the family sat talking, John suddenly seized his wife and gashed her throat with his pocket knife. Elizabeth, John's mother, jumped to his wife's aid and sustained a gash on her hand. As his wife attempted to escape, John grabbed her and made two other cuts. She staggered out of the house and fell in the yard.

John was then distracted by his brother Lafayette's two children and attempted to grab them, but their nanny picked them up and threw them over the fence onto the street. John next went for his uncle, W. G. H., who managed to escape so John returned to his wife lying in the yard and slit his own throat, "falling and dying almost instantly".

In the meantime, a neighboring doctor had arrived, but John's wife could not be helped. She bled to death in about 45 minutes.

The Duiguid Funeral Service in Lynchburg took care of all burial needs. John's wife's body was sent to her parents in Halifax County. (Duiquid Burial Records-Old City Cemetery, gravegarden.org) A marked grave in Lynchburg for John William Lambeth has never been found.

John's two children, George Kemp Lambeth and Fannie A. Lambeth, were raised in Halifax County by their Howerton grandparents, William and Elizabeth. George Kemp married Sallie T. Howerton and Fannie A. married Thomas Moon. (See 1850 U.S. Census for William/Elizabeth Howerton and 1860 U.S. Census for Wm/Elizabeth Howerton, Geo/Fannie A. Lambeth)

### The Frances B. Schackleford Will

The year, 1855, brought another concern for Elizabeth Gaines Bingham Lambeth. She and her siblings Mary Lawton, Julia Ann and Ann/Nancy had been named beneficiaries in a Will they were not sure was valid. The Will belonged to Frances B. Shackelford who claimed she was a cousin. (Note: Shackleford and Shackelford were both used)

If Frances B. was a cousin, she and the Bingham-Gaines children would have had the same grandparents: Francis Gaines and wife Betty. Since Francis and Betty Gaines's daughter, Elizabeth, who also went by "Betty", married James Boyd, Senior, it is possible they had a daughter named Frances and gave her the middle name Boyd, thus the Frances B. who was a cousin. But there is no evidence that Elizabeth "Betty" Gaines and James Boyd, Sr. had a daughter, let alone a daughter named Frances.

Despite the lack of evidence they could have had a daughter named Frances B. where B stood for Boyd, or where B. stood for Bird. James Boyd Senior's half brother, Robert, married Frances Bird of Poplar Grove. (See Harris, Old New Kent County)

Regardless of what the B. stood for, Frances B. lived in King and Queen County until after she married George Shackelford in 1835 when she was 51 years old. She and George moved to Amherst County in 1839, sixteen years before she died.

While in King and Queen County Frances B. and Ann/Nancy M. Bingham Dudley, knew each other well. Ann/Nancy named her daughter, Frances Anna, and Frances B. left Ann/Nancy a bequest of ten dollars per annum. In addition, Frances B. chose Frances Anna's husband, John W. Schoolfield, to be executor of her Will.

Frances B. also knew Mary Lawton Bingham Meredith well enough to leave Mary the mulatto slave girl then in her possession and after Mary's death to Mary's daughter, Fanny Meredith.

Frances B. left Elizabeth Lambeth a gold watch and she left Julia Ann Poindexter 500 dollars for son, Stephen Poindexter's, education.

Elizabeth's concern over the validity of the Will could have been over John W. Schoolfield's lack of posting bond as executor of Frances B. Shackelford's large and valuable estate. The day he appeared in court to record the Will, 19 February 1855, the Gaines beneficiaries also appeared to contest the Will. However, the three witnesses failed to appear, consequently, the court continued the case to 19 March. On that day the three witnesses to the Will did appear in Court and took the oath confirming the validity of the Will. Schoolfield also signed a bond of \$30,000.00, the estimated value of Frances B. Shackelford's estate. The court then accepted Frances B. Shackelford's Will for recording and John W. Schoolfield was free to complete the probate. Elizabeth and her siblings dropped their contest.

When Frances B. Shackelford died she was a very wealthy woman. According to the 1850 U.S. Census she owned property in Amherst County worth \$6,000. In addition, the 1850 Slave Schedules credited her with 61 enslaved individuals ages 1 through 82 in what appears to be two or three very large families.

Frances B. inherited her wealth from Samuel Harris. Harris moved to King and Queen County when he married Grace Collins. Grace's parents sold Harris a tract of 214 1/4 acres adjacent to theirs in 1808. Samuel Harris added on to this tract for his home estate of Lombardy Grove. He continued to buy additional tracts so that when he died in 1831 he owned seven tracts for a total of 4,193.37 acres. According to the King and Queen County Land Tax List for 1832, film 29942, image 492 of 960, familysearch.org, Frances B. Harris inherited these seven tracts "Under the Will of Saml Harris".

If Frances B. Harris inherited these tracts was she or was she not related to Samuel and Grace Collins Harris? Or did the B. in her name stand for Boyd as many researchers have settled on? There is no evidence to support either claim. However, the 1810 U.S. Census records one free white female 16-25 as part of the Samuel Harris household. This could be Frances B. as she would have been 25/6 if born in 1784. The 1820 and 1830 U.S. Census's also record a free, white female of appropriate age living with the Harris's. Was this female a relative, a daughter, a ward, or hired help? Frances could have lived with the Harris's in order to care for and provide company for Grace Collins Harris. Grace had no children and after husband Samuel died she wanted nothing to do with land management so returned to her original home. Thus Frances B. Harris inherited Samuel Harris's land.

The tracts remained under her name until she married George Shackelford; see King and Queen County, Land Tax Lists, 1819-1844, Film 29942, Images 492, 529, 562, 597 of 960.

Beginning in 1836 the same tracts that were recorded under Frances's name appeared under George's name. (Image 649, 686, 724, 734, 800, 837). familysearch.org. with the note "By marriage with Frances B.Harris". . (King and Queen County, Land Tax List, 1819-1844 film 29942, images 492, 529, 562, 597, 649 of 960, familysearch.org)

George Shackelford was born in King and Queen County, but moved to Madison County Kentucky in 1802. He and his first wife, Martha Hockaday, had ten children before she died 25 December 1819. From census and tax records, we know that George remained in Richmond, Madison County through 1830 helping to raise his seven living children. George did not appear on the Madison County personal property tax lists thereafter, but beginning in 1832, George's three oldest sons, Edmund L., John H., and William H. were on the Madison County, Kentucky Personal Property Tax lists and continued on the lists for several years.

George, returned to King and Queen County, Virginia between 1830 and 1834. In 1835 he was on the Personal Property tax list for personal property he owned in 1834 with entry as follows: Feb 25 Shackleford Geo: Col<sup>o</sup>: 22 slaves over 12; 4 Horses, Mares, Colts. (Film 007895921, Image 380 of 772, familysearch.org).

Within a few years after their marriage George and Frances began to sell their properties in King and Queen County. Robert Bland, Jr. bought the first two tracts in 1838 according to King and Queen County Land Tax book for 1839, Image 734 of 960. In 1839 Robert Bland Jr., bought three more tracts from George and Frances Shackelford. One of these tracts was the Samuel Harris home estate named Lombardy Grove. Robert Bland was listed as tax payor on the 1840 land tax list for King and Queen County image 772 of 960 at familysearch.org. This is proof that Samuel Harris did not sell Lombardy Grove directly to Robert Bland, Jr., as Malcolm Harris claims on page 348.

By 1840 Frances B. and George had moved to Amherst County. The 1840 U.S. Census for Amherst County shows George as head of household with two free, white females, one age 50-59, the other age 10 thru 14. From other research on George and Frances, we can be sure the 50-59 year old free, white female was Frances and the 10 thru 14 free white female was her niece Fanny Shackelford who had lived with her for several years. The census also shows them with a total of 44 slaves while the Amherst Personal Property Tax List for the same year, 1840, lists George Shackelford with 24 taxable slaves. (Image 332 of 607)

Frances and George lived together for twelve years before he died age 66 in 1847. Frances continued to manage the properties for another eight years before she died age 71 in 1855.

In George's Will, dated 23 November, 1843 he left everything to his wife, Frances B., although he did name all of his children as successor beneficiaries if Frances should die before he died. (Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1900 for George Skackford (sic.), Amherst, Will Books, Vol10-12, 1838-1852, Ancestry.com)

Frances wrote her will dated July 24, 1852, probated February 19, 1855. Her household property was vast and contained many high quality items. Another clue that Frances also inherited all the household items from Samuel Harris's estate. See Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1900, Amherst, Will Books, Vol.13-14, 1852-1858, pp. 456-62; Images 255-262, Ancestry.com for Will, Inventory, and Sale records.

Elizabeth Gaines Bingham, widow of George Kemp Lambeth, died 5 February 1857 age 67. Although entered in the Campbell Register of Deaths (Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1853-1911, [ancestry.org](https://www.ancestry.org)) on a page headed 1856, the months are not in order on the page. Diuguid Burial Records at the Old City Cemetery, [gravegarden.org](https://www.gravegarden.org). show she was buried February 7, 1857. Furthermore, the Court of Hustings for the city of Lynchburg, at their March Term, 1857, received and proved her last will and testament. (Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records for Elizabeth G. Lambeth, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)). Thus, it is correct to state that Elizabeth died in 1857. Son George H. reported her death and gave the cause only as “Complications”.

Elizabeth’s will was dated 14 July, 1854, only a few months after son John William’s murder-suicide event. Will books include her codicil written December 12, 1856. (Virginia, Corporation Court, Lynchburg, Film 32237, Will books, 1809-1924, Bk.D, PP. 153-55, Images 354-55, [familysearch.org](https://www.familysearch.org), or [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), Virginia, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1652-1900) She began her will by giving to sons Lafayette and George, and John’s children, the house and lot named Springfield that her husband, George, had bought for her shortly before he died. Undoubtedly, Elizabeth and sons had been living in this house since George bought it. Elizabeth had already deeded one-third of the house to Lafayette. Samuel Schoolfield was the builder and original owner. The house was apparently quite large. Next in her will, Elizabeth parceled out small amounts of cash to family members including nieces and nephews. Finally, she made provisions for donations to the Methodist Church in Lynchburg and Madison College in Union Town, Pennsylvania, for the scholarship fund run by the Female Aid Society. The bulk of her personal property was to be sold. Son Lafayette was executor. He reported his inventory and appraisal to the court 13 March 1857. (*Ibid.*, p. 212-13, Image 384-5)

George Kemp Lambeth’s estate could now be settled. A court appointed committee conducted the inventory and appraisal and made George’s son, George Henry, administrator. Records were dated April and May 1857. (*Ibid.*, p. 213-14, Image 385) Elizabeth’s personal estate was sold on March 28, 1857. Proceeds amounted to \$3,346.18. (*Ibid.*, pp. 220-22, Images 388-89). On 26 September, 1857 Lafayette reported the sale of Elizabeth’s slaves without listing them by name. They all went to the same buyer. The total amount was \$400.00. (*Ibid.*, p. 226, Image 391) This transaction appeared in the final settlement. George’s personal property was sold on 9 May 1857. Proceeds were \$179.06. (*Ibid.*, pp. 224-5, Image 390-91)

The final settlement of Elizabeth’s estate was rather complicated and not made until March 23, 1858. How it was distributed is explained in detail in *Ibid.* pp. 276-78, Images 693-4. The resulting balance was \$2058.59. The final balance of George’s estate was \$206.06 and dated March 8, 1858. (*Ibid.*, p. 275, Image 418; Note: \$2058.59 had a relative value of \$78,000 in 2023 and \$206.06 had a relative value of \$7,870.00 in 2023. See: [measuringworth.com](https://www.measuringworth.com))

### George Henry Lambeth

Returning to Elizabeth and George Lambeth’s middle son, George Henry, he lived with his mother, Elizabeth, probably until she died. He would have helped with the tenant houses and overseeing his deceased father’s 185 acres on Opossum Creek. (1850 U.S. Census) George married before 1860 when he is shown on the 1860 census living with Willie J. in the dwelling next to brother L.W.. Willie J. was Williamtina Shackelford of King and Queen County, Virginia. She

was the daughter of Richard Taliaferro Shackelford and his second wife, Hannah Catlett. (Shackelford Clan Magazine, Vol. 11, No. 7)

Richard Taliaferro Shackelford's first wife was Elizabeth Shackelford, daughter of Col. Lyne Shackelford and sister of Frances Shackelford. Frances Shackelford married Francis Gaines Jr., Ann Gaines Bingham's brother, and thus became Ann's sister-in-law. (Shackelford Clan Magazine, Vol.11, No.5; Harris, p. 316) Francis Gaines, Jr. inherited the Gaines family property, Gainesborough, but gave it up when he moved to Henrico County as explained earlier. Gainesborough went to Francis Gaines Jr.'s sister, Elizabeth Gaines, who was married to James Boyd, Sr. (Harris, p. 369) Elizabeth and James Boyd, Sr. were the parents of Dr. and farmer, James T. Boyd.

When the Civil War began in 1861, George Henry did not eagerly enlist; he waited for the Third Conscription Act of February 17, 1864. He was then forced to enlist - which he did on February 18. On February 20 he was assigned to Company E of the 1st Regiment Engineer Troops under Lt. Col. Talcott. This regiment was formed during 1863 and 1864 as a laboring force to repair roads, rail track, and bridges. Some members also served as prison guards. Their camp was near Richmond. ("1st Regiment, Confederate Engineer Troops", researchonline.net) George apparently worked on Pontoon Bridges from mid April to mid August. On August 31, 1864 he was reported absent sick since 16 August. On that day he had been admitted to the Confederate States Hospital at Petersburg, VA where he remained until September 23, 1864 when he was furloughed.

There is no record of George's return to his regiment, but he obviously did as he was captured, labeled a "Deserter from the Rebel Army" and admitted to Stone General Hospital in Washington, D.C. on April 15, 1865. Lee had surrendered on April 9 and the Army of Northern Virginia disbanded on April 12, but wrapping up exercises continued until June 2, 1865. George had been apprehended after the fighting in northern Virginia was over. Nevertheless, he was admitted to the Northern Army hospital where he died of "Chronic Diarrhea" on April 23, 1865. George was 43 years old. In honor of his Civil War contributions, George Henry Lambeth was buried in Arlington National Cemetery. See findagrave.com for details.

George's life did not completely end with his death. His wife, Williamtina Ann, began to call herself Willie T., and on the 1870 U.S. Census she was recorded as having a 2 month old child named David H/N. The two lived in Holly Springs, Marshall County, Mississippi in a boarding house run by Morgana Lee. In 1880 the child's name was simply David, age 11. Mother and child lived in Dallas, Texas. Willie was Bh.T., a Dressmaker and David was a News boy. In the 1889 Dallas city directory David N. worked as a salesman for Block Bros. and his mother was "Willie T. (wid Geo H.)", a dressmaker on the corner of Holmes and Forest Ave. (U.S., City Directories, 1822-1995)

David, of course, could not have been George Henry's son. An enterprising researcher in Texas found Mrs. Willie T. Lambeth Keyes's headstone in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Gonzales, Texas and linked the surname Keyes to William Keys born 1837 in Virginia serving as a seaman in 1858. (U.S., Citizenships Affidavits of US-born Seamen at Select Ports 1792-1869, Ancestry.com) Whether he was a seaman ten years later in 1868 is an unanswered question; as is how did Willie T. know this Key/e/s?, Nevertheless, Willie T. had moved far away from Lynchburg, Virginia. She died in 1919 in San Antonio, Texas, near Gonzales, from Apoplexy. (Texas, U.S., Death Certificates, 1903-1982, Ancestry.com)

The 1910 U. S. Census shows that David N(ash), Willie T.'s son who was not a Lambeth, but carried the Lambeth surname, married Hortense Ross in 1897 and that she was born in 1879 in

Tennessee. In 1910 David and Hortense lived in Gonzales, Texas. David was a wholesale grocery salesman. By 1918 they had moved into San Antonio where they lived the rest of their lives boarding at the Crockett Hotel. Sometime before 1910 they had changed the spelling of their surname to Lambeth. Perhaps this was brought about by Willie T. telling both of them who David's father really was? David died in 1956. (Texas. Department of Health, Death Certificate; findagrave.com) Hortense died in 1962. David and Hortense had two sons both of whom died 3-4 years of age and are buried near their parents in Gonzales, Texas. See findagrave for additional details.

### Lafayette Washington Lambeth

Judging by his graduation in 1846, third son, Lafayette Washington, began his medical school education at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1843. He would have spent November through February and possibly longer in Philadelphia doing practical anatomy, and attending lecture and clinical courses. He was fortunate to be studying medicine in the mid 1840s when the use of anesthesia was first applied to dentistry and surgery. ("Annual Announcement of Jefferson Medical College of Philadelphia: Session of 1845-6" (1845). *Jefferson Medical College Catalogs. Paper 70.* [jdc.jefferson.edu/jmc\\_catalogs/70](http://jdc.jefferson.edu/jmc_catalogs/70); "Part I: Jefferson Medical College 1846 to 1854 (pages 55-88)" (1992). *Thomas Jefferson University - A chronological history and alumni directory, 1824 - 1990, edited by Frederick B. Wagner, Jr., MD, and J. Woodrow Savacool, MD, 1992. Paper 16, jdc.jefferson.edu/wagner1/16*

In the same year that he received his MD, Lafayette married Mary Ann Hill, 23 October 1846. (Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)) She was a daughter and oldest child of Jefferson Lee Hill and wife Frances Wyatt. At the time, the Hills lived in Brookville, about six miles southwest of Lynchburg, now part of Lynchburg, Campbell County. In 1850, Lafayette, a practicing physician, his wife, Mary A., and children Eliza F. 3, and John Blair 1, lived with his mother, Eliza (beth) G(aines). Lambeth and brother Geo. H. Lambeth in Lynchburg. (1850 U.S. Census: Virginia, Campbell, Lynchburg)

After his mother died in 1857, Lafayette and family moved to Brookville where he continued his medical practice. The 1860 U.S. Census shows them living in the Western District of Campbell County, not in Lynchburg. Lafayette claimed a real estate value of \$1500 and a personal estate value of \$8,200. When the Civil War began, Lafayette did not immediately sign up to serve as a doctor. Due to his large family, he stayed at home and cared for the local residents. But, on July 3, 1863 he needed to sign up for the duration of the war as a private in the Public Guard for the City of Lynchburg. One record survives of his reporting for duty on October 31, 1864. (U.S., Confederate Soldiers Compiled Service Records, 1862-1865, [fold3.com](http://fold3.com), [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))

After the war and before 1870 as the U.S. Census shows, Lafayette retired from practicing medicine but still lived in Brookville. Both his two older brothers and his mother were dead. Unfortunately, Campbell County reports no will on file for him so we don't know what additional income he had. By 1880, he, wife Mary Ann and the six youngest children had moved back to Lynchburg. This means he lived in the Samuel Schoolfield house called Springfield that he had lived in earlier and that his mother had willed to him and his brothers.

The 1880 U.S. Census only records that he was a Physician (retired). His wife, Mary Ann Hill Lambeth died in 1887 age 58. (Virginia, Lynchburg, Diuguid Funeral Home records, 1820-1971, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)) All eight of their children were living. In fact, all eight lived into the twentieth century!



There being some confusion over the children and their names, an accurate list follows:

Eliza Frances "Fannie" Apr 1848 - 1914  
John Blair 22 Aug 1849 - 15 Dec 1929  
Lafayette W., Jr. Feb 1856 - 5 Jun 1912  
Kemp Lee Mar 1863 - Dec 1/4, 1944  
Nannie James Aug 1865 - 29 Nov 1938  
Eugene M. 1 Apr 1870 - 26 Jan 1907  
Edgar Virginius. 24 Mar 1872 - 11 Jun 1958  
George Lawrence "Larry" 30 May 1874 - 5 Oct 1942

Lafayette died August 17, 1893 of W (Wart) Poisoning. Yes, there is such a thing when one attempts to self-medicate and uses too much salicylic acid. (See what you can learn when you go to the original record! Duiguid Funeral Home Records) He was 69 years old. He was buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg. No headstone now exists

### 1a.3b.3. Mary Lawton

Mary Lawton Bingham, Stephen and Ann Gaines third child, was born 16 October 1796, four and one half years after her older sister, Elizabeth. Her family still lived at West Point, King William County. Her father, Stephen, was 55 years old and her mother, Ann, was 32. When Mary was about 20 years old she moved with her mother to Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia. About a year later, when she was almost 21, she married, on 23 July 1817, Henry Hickman Meredith. He was 45 years old, 24 years her senior, and had been married twice before. (The U.S. Census ages for Henry Hickman Meredith are not accurate. The G.A.R. Mss. gives day, month, year of birth and death for Henry which I have used here.)

Henry Meredith had arrived in Lynchburg in 1788 when he was 16 years old. Both his parents had died before he was 8 years old. G.A.R. Meredith states that Henry first lived with brother William, then with uncle John. He was then sent to Lynchburg, VA to learn the carpenter's trade from his cousin, Meredith Lambeth, with whom Henry's legal guardian, his sister, Ann, was living. (G.A.R. Mss. and Re: Wm Dangerfield MEREDITH, 1884 letter to William M. Meredith, genealogy.com) Meredith Lambeth happened to be George Kemp Lambeth's brother, thus Mary's sister, Elizabeth, 's double brother-in-law.

Henry brought two sons from his previous marriage with him when he married Mary Lawton. The boys, Charles Lewis Meredith and William Dangerfield Meredith were 12 and 10 years old. Their mother, Mary Lewis had married Henry, 11 April 1804, after Henry's first wife, Mary Epps Cobbs had died in childbirth in 1800. Mary Lewis and Henry had had seven children, but five died young.

Despite the age difference, Mary Lawton Bingham and Henry Hickman Meredith remained together until their deaths; Henry, 20 February, 1863, age 90/1 and Mary, 10 September 1866, age 69/70. They had fourteen children between 1818 and 1843. One was stillborn, ten were living in 1876.

Five to six years after Mary and Henry were married, Henry agreed to build a fine house for a Colonel Harston/Hairston of Franklin County. Henry took his sons, Charles and William "Dangerfield", as helpers. Before they had finished the house both sons had married in Franklin County so Henry returned home alone when the house was finished.

Henry's son, Charles Lewis Meredith was 20 years old when he married Susan Hale in Franklin County, Virginia on 11 Jan 1825. Their oldest child, Charles H. Meredith was born in 1826. Their second son, William L. Meredith was born in 1830. During this time Charles Lewis served as Sheriff of Franklin County. After Susan died in 1832 Charles left his sons with his brother, Dangerfield, and went to Jefferson City, Cole County, Missouri. Charles married again in Cole County, Sarah Gordon, 23 April 1835. In 1850 they had six children ages 14 - 3. (Findagrave, AJonesGirl; 1850 U.S. Census under Miradith, Cole County, Missouri, Ancestry.com)

Henry's son William Dangerfield married Sarah Jane, "Sally" Hale, probably sister to Susan Hale, his brother Charles's wife. Their first child, Henry H. was born about 1830 in Franklin County, Virginia. The 1850 U.S. Census records their children born in Virginia through 1834. By 1837 William, family, and brother's sons, had joined Charles in Cole County, Missouri where William and Sally had three more children by 1850. According to "A Jones Girl" on findagrave, William became the first Chief of Police in Jefferson City. He served in that capacity for ten years. In 1849, he joined the Gold Rush with sons Henry and Ed. Henry died in California, but Ed and William made it back to Jefferson City where William died 28 March 1857. See the 1850 U.S. Census and the 1884 G.A.R. Letter to William M Meredith for more details.

Rebecca P. Meredith was Mary and Henry's first child born in 1818. She married William A. Stephens/Stevens 3 April 1844. Depending on when the U.S. Census was taken, William was either two or three years older than Rebecca. They had no children. William was a plasterer. Rebecca did not work outside the home. William died of bronchitis in 1883. Rebecca died 21 April 1889 in an accident. (Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1853-1911, Ancestry.com)

Frances Meredith, second child of Mary Lawton Bingham Meredith was born in 1819 and died in 1829.

Henry H. Meredith, Jr., third born and first male child was born 12 November 1821. He lived at home until he married 6 May 1863, Laura Susan Crawford, in Bedford County. They lived in Otter, Bedford County where they had five children between 1865 and 1869: Henry C., Charlotte, Willie/Winnie, Laura, Edwin H. Laura and Edwin were twins. Henry H. Jr., worked first as Post Master and merchant, then as farmer, but his wife, Laura, reported him as Physician when he died 12 August 1892. Laura died six months later 6 March 1893. See U.S. Census's for 1870 and 1880, and findagrave for references to these dates and information and Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1853-1911.

Mary Lawton and Henry H, Meredith's fourth child, John B. was born in 1822. He died by drowning in 1834, age 12.

Gustavus Adolphus Rose Meredith (G.A.R. Meredith) was Henry Hickman Meredith and Mary Lawton Bingham's fifth child and third son. He was born 22 July 1825 in Lynchburg, VA. and married in Manchester, Va., 21 March 1849, Mrs. Frances T. Martin, daughter of Cap't. William Elliott of Chesterfield County, VA. They had five children: John Henry, 17 August 1850; Gustavus A., 16 December 1852; Ann F., 19 Sep 1855; George W., 18 May 1858; Julia S., 11 Mar 1862. The family was still living together in Manchester in 1878. G.A.R.'s wife Frances T.

died in Manchester, November 12, 1895, age 79. G.A.R. died six months later, also in Manchester, May 14, 1896 age 70 years. (A person making entries in the G.A.R. Mss after G.A.R. died wrote "in his 74 year", but the arithmetic does not add up for that age.)

The sixth child of Mary and Henry Meredith, Mary E., was born September, 1826. She married William Moore, 5 June 1852, lived in Lynchburg, had seven children and died April 3, 1899. Several Trees on ancestry.com and familysearch.org contain accurate information and details.

Christopher Morris Meredith, born 1829, died 25, May 1882, seventh child of Mary and Henry Meredith is likewise well documented on Ancestry and FamilySearch trees.

Martha E. married Augustus Cicero Morrison 29 July 1864 while he was still serving in the confederate army. They lived in Rome, Floyd County, Georgia where Augustus grew up. They had no children. Augustus died 2 June 1909. Martha died December, 1914. They are both buried in Oakland Cemetery in Rome, GA. For more details see Ancestry and FamilySearch Trees and findagrave.

Fanny Boyd, child nine, married her first cousin William Richard Bingham. They had the same grandparents: Stephen and Ann Gaines Bingham. Fanny Boyd's mother, Mary Lawton and William Richards father, William George Henry, were sister and brother. Both Fanny and William were born in 1833. The Lynchburg, Virginia Marriage Register records them both as 27 years old when they married 20 December 1858. William went by his middle name, Richard, much of the time. They lived in the western district of Campbell County. Castle Craig was their post office. By mid July 1860 they had a 6 month old child, Robert S. and by 1880 they had seven living children. Frances died in 1885. William lived until 1903. Both are buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg, VA. Ancestry.com has many trees and records for Fanny and William Richard.

Mildred "Ann" married a baker from Frankfort, Germany! His name was Frederick Douglass. Frederick and Mary were only a year apart in age. She was born in 1836 and he was born in 1837. They married in 24 March 1863 in Lynchburg. Frederick had immigrated in 1847 to escape the revolutions that were building in Germany. When they married, Ann was 24 and Frederick 23. They lived in Lynchburg. In 1870 they had a 6 year old daughter, Leonora and a 4 year old son, Henry J.. Mildred worked as a seamstress. Frederick changed his surname to Dipert before 1880, probably not to be confused with social reformer, Frederick Douglas, 1818-1895. Son Henry J. went by the name Douglas, but daughter Leonora used Dipert.. Frederick died as a Dipert Oct 1900, but wife Mildred Ann died as a Douglas in March 1910. They are both buried in Spring Hill Cemetery, Lynchburg. Julia C./Judith lived with them in 1870. See Ancestry.com and findagrave.

Mary and Henry's next two children died. The child expected in 1838 was stillborn. The child born in 1840, Samuel A., lost his life age 26 as a Confederate soldier in the Battle of Antietam near Sharpsburg, Washington County, Maryland, 17 September, 1862. This battle was the bloodiest of the Civil War. Officially, the combined Confederate and Union armies lost 22,727 dead, wounded, or missing. Jeffry Burden, on findagrave, posted: "Samuel enlisted as a Private in the Lynchburg Beauregard Rifles, Virginia Light Artillery (a/k/a "Moorman's Battery") on 10 May 1861. He was killed in action at the Battle of Antietam (Sharpsburg). He has no known burial place.

Mary and Henry's thirteenth child was Julia C. until she died in 1918 when she became Judith C. for the Virginia official death records. The person reporting Julia's personal information to the state was a Davis who lived in Roanoke, probably a son of Julia's younger sister Octavia. Julia never married. After she left home, probably when her mother died in 1866, she lived with her older sister Mildred Ann. (1870 U.S. Census) In 1880 Julia had her own dwelling house number in Lynchburg. Her occupation was "room keeping". In 1900 she was back living with sister Mildred. Both of them were seamstresses. Mildred died in 1910 so Julia moved to the Brookville area of Lynchburg where she rented a home and had her "own income". She reported her age as 60. She was actually closer to 68 and was probably born in 1842. Her death certificate says she was 79 when she died in 1918, but she was probably 76 (Virginia, U.S., Death Records 1912-2014, Ancestry.com)

Mary and Henry's child fourteen was Emily Octavia Meredith. She went by both her first and middle names. She married William Boyd Davis, 28 July 1864. He was from Mobile, Alabama. Her birth year on her grave stone, December, 1841, and her birth year on the 1900 U S Census, December, 1842, differ by a year. In June, 1900 when the census was taken, she was E.O. Davis, widow, age 57. If accurate, she would have turned 58 in December 1900 making the year 1842 the accurate year for her birth. She and William Boyd Davis had had seven children. Four were living in 1900, two at home: Mary Etta and Hugh Scott. Other children at home in 1880 were Samuel Henry, William Lafayette and Edward Hatchett. Emily Octavia's husband, John Boyd Davis, had a general insurance company in Lynchburg called Davis, Childs & Co. He died 25 September 1900, a year before she did. See more records online,

#### 1a.3b.4. Stephen Bingham The Third

(See SECTION III)

#### 1a.3b.5. John Gaines

John Gaines Bingham was 7 years old when his father, the second Stephen Bingham of West Point, died. Born at West Point, himself, 12 December 1800, John would have had little memory of his father. Mother Ann Gaines Bingham and older siblings Anna Maria, Elizabeth, Mary, and Stephen (the third of West Point, see Section III) would have raised him. When he was 16, John moved with his family to Lynchburg, Virginia. At that time he had seven siblings, four older and three younger. Judging by his later occupation as cabinet workman on furniture and fixtures (1850 U.S. Census, Lafayette, Mississippi), mother Ann Gaines arranged to have John learn the carpenter's trade, perhaps with Meredith Lambeth, his sister Elizabeth's husband's brother. John probably stayed in Lynchburg until his mother died April, 1819. Although John was not yet 21, he was then on his own and that is probably when he left Virginia for Alabama.

The 1830 U.S. Census shows him living in Huntsville, Madison County, Alabama, with wife, two sons under 5, and one female slave. He had married Sarah Biddle, January 26, 1826, in Huntsville. (Alabama, U.S., County Marriage Records, 1805-1967, Madison, 1818-1895, image 73 of 592, ancestry.com) A word of caution here, about the online trees that give birth dates in the early 1830's for

John's two sons. Francis "Frank" Gaines Bingham could have been born in February 1830 before the census was taken later in the year, but neither son could have been born after 1830 and be under 5 on the 1830 U.S. Census. The son's mother, Sarah Biddle Bingham, died in August 1834 according to online trees, but no record is cited to verify this date.

However, we do know she had died before John Gaines Bingham married Mariah Fisher 19 February 1835. (Alabama County Marriages, 1809-1950, [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)) Mariah was just a year younger than John and was born in Virginia, also. Their first two children were born in Alabama, Sarah A.E. in 1837 and John H. in 1839. However, their third child was born in Mississippi in 1843. In 1840 John G. Bingham is listed on the Lowndes County, Mississippi U.S. Census with one male under 5 (John H.), one male 10-15 (Francis/Frank G.), one male 30-40 (John G.), one male 60-70 (?); one female under 5 (Sarah A.E.), one female 30-40 (Mariah Fisher Bingham).

By 1850 John G. and Mariah had moved to Lafayette County, Mississippi. The 1850 U.S. Census records John's age as 45, but should be 50. Mariah is 44, Sarah A.E. is 13, John H. 11, and Martha F. 7. Son Francis "Frank" G., from his first marriage, is missing.

In 1850 Frank G. was 20 years old and on his own. He, not the entire family as G.A.R. Meredith thought, went to Tennessee and settled in Memphis. On June 4, 1853, he married Elizabeth Dean in her home town of Clarksville, Montgomery County, Tennessee. (Tennessee, U.S. Compiled Marriages, 1851-1900. [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)). The 1850 U.S. Census (Tennessee, Montgomery, Not Stated) shows her age to be 15, living at home with five siblings and stonecutter father E.H. Dean.

Frank and Elizabeth had settled in Memphis, Shelby County, Tennessee by 1855. Frank worked as a salesman, perhaps for the same grocery and cotton company as his cousin, William Weaver "W. W." Schoolfield. W.W. Schoolfield was Francis's second cousin. He had also settled in Memphis in 1855 where he had a bookkeeper's job. (See previously: 1a.3b.1. Anna Maria "Nancy" Bingham. Note: Frank G.'s father and W.W.'s grandmother were brother and sister.) W.W. was only two years younger than Frank. They became good friends. Frank even named one of his two sons Weaver. Unfortunately, Frank was only 36 years old when he died in Memphis 20 October 1866. (Tennessee, U.S., Wills and Probate Records, 1779-2008, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com))

Frank Gaines Bingham's father, John Gaines Bingham, and his family left Mississippi shortly after 1850. They moved to Dallas, Texas where carpentry jobs were expected to be plentiful. Dallas County had been formed in 1846 and the town of Dallas was incorporated in 1856. John and Mariah bought town lots 7 and 8 in block 14. The first county taxes, levied in 1858, cite Mariah, not John G. as principal. In fact, John G. never appears on the tax lists, or any other record after 1850. The John that does appear is son John Henry. Bingham. Consequently, we can conclude by the preponderance of evidence, that John G. died within a few years after moving to Dallas, that is between 1850 and 1857. This explains why G.A.R. Meredith wrote in his manuscript that John "was never heard of any more" after writing to his brother in New York, about 1845, telling him "he was about to start to Texas". (Note: taxes assessed in one year are due the following year, hence if Mariah was Principal in 1858, she was Principal in 1857 so John was dead by the month in which the taxes were assessed. (Texas County Tax Rolls, 1837-1910. [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org)))

Mariah Bingham was listed as Principal for taxes 1858 through 1865. Son John H(enry) lived with his mother until he married in 1869 in Collin, Collin County, Texas. John Gaines's two daughters also married and lived in Texas. Sarah A.E., also called Sallie, married E.C. Powers. Martha "Mattie" Fort married W.R. "Will" Traugher/Trauber. The families are easy to research from here to the present.

#### 1a.3b.6. Martha

Martha M., fourth daughter and sixth child of Stephen and Ann Gaines Bingham, was born in West Point, King William County, Virginia like all their other children. Her birth date was 29 January, 1803, almost exactly two years after brother John Gaines and a year and a half before brother William George Henry. Along with the rest of her siblings and mother, she moved to Lynchburg, Campbell County about 1816 when she was thirteen years old.

She was twenty-nine years old when she married William Shands on 25 October, 1832. At that time, 29 was old for a first marriage. Although we don't have an exact birth date for William Shands, the 1850 U.S. Census records his age as 37 indicating he was born about 1813 while later censuses indicate he was born in 1810. To obtain a marriage license he needed to be at least 21 on 11 October, 1832 when he and Martha obtained their marriage bond. Since his gravestone claims he was 70 when he died 23 August 1882, he must have been born in 1812. Thus Martha married a man 9 years younger than herself. (Register of Marriages, Lynchburg City, Virginia, familysearch.org; shelly's tree, ancestry.com)

Although they married in Lynchburg, Martha and William lived in the Brookneal area of southeastern Campbell County. William was a carpenter in the construction industry. They had five children, all girls, between 1834 and 1847: Anna Eliza 1834 - 1894, Octavia Judith 1836 - 1878, Martha Julia 1838 - 1917, Emaline 1841 - aft 1860, Frances M. 1847 - 1921. (Family Tree K8GR-GJ4, familysearch.org)

Martha died between the birth of her last child, 13 March 1847 and 18 Jan 1849 when William married Missouri Hayth. (Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940, Ancestry.com). Martha's daughters remained with their father and step-mother until their own marriage.

#### 1a.3b.7. William George Henry

Stephen and Ann Gaines youngest son, William George Henry, usually called WGH, had quite a large family, consequently many descendants thus prompting a large collection of family research available online. Some of the facts researchers have posted are documented and accurate, some are not correct. The facts herein are the most accurate available. They come from both family sources and official records.

According his son, Charles Wesley Bingham, WGH was born 15 November 1804, at West Point, King William County, Virginia. (C.W. Bingham family letter) This date fits nicely within the birth years of WGH's siblings. His next older sibling, Martha, was born almost two full years before and his next younger sibling, Julia, was born three and a half years later. However, WGH could have been born 15 Nov 1805, as others claim, and easily fit under the guardianship requirement when his father's estate was finally settled in 1821. (see After Stephen's Death, The Settlement of his Estate)

Accepting 15 November 1804 as WGH's birth date, he would have been only 3 years and almost 3 months old when his father, Stephen, died 27 January 1808. Note that son Charles Wesley wrote that WGH was 4 years old when his father died. WGH remained at West Point with his widowed mother and siblings, including Julia Ann born six months after her father's death.

When WGH was 8 or 9 years old his mother moved the family to Lynchburg. This would have been 1813 when WGH was 9 years old. (see After Stephen's Death Ann Gaines Bingham). Howe-

er, as mentioned several places earlier, the move to Lynchburg was more likely 1816. WGH would have been 12 years old. G.A.R. Meredith says that his mother “Put him with Mr Lindsey Shoemaker a Carpenter in Lynchburg to learn the trade. he did not stay very long with Mr Shoemaker, before he Ran away from him and went down [the James River] to Richmond on a small Boat.” This comes close to corroborating Charles Wesley’s statement that when his father was from ten to twenty years old he followed the sea. From Richmond, WGH walked about 50 miles to West Point and soon shipped on a vessel and went to sea. But the sea was not the ocean. During much of the time he was following the sea he was actually on the vessel that carried loads of stone and “threw it overboard in the Hampton Roads to Build the Rip Raps”. The year was 1817 when this building occurred. Named the Rip Raps from the Rip Rap Shoals in Hampton Roads, the 15 acre artificial island at the mouth of the Hampton Roads harbor area was part of the harbor defenses. (See *Building the Rip Raps at Hampton Roads*)

After being “at sea” for about three years according to Charles Wesley, WGH went to Gloucester County, Virginia. WGH’s attraction to Gloucester County could have been his oldest sister, Ann Maria “Nancy” Dudley. She lived near Dudley’s ferry about 20 miles northwest of Gloucester County until their mother died in 1819 and Ann moved to Lynchburg. (See before) How WGH supported himself in Gloucester County is not known, but since he later claimed his occupation as farmer and had never lived on a farm before he left home, he probably worked as a hired farm hand.

While in Gloucester County WGH turned 21 and married Martha Wright. Martha was the daughter of Thomas B. Wright. The earliest year she could have legally married would have been 1823. Also remember that WGH, born in November 1804 would not have turned 21 until November 1825. G.A.R., in his manuscript, emphasizes that WGH, “a free man 21 years old married in Gloucester County to Miss Martha Wright”. Based upon John S., his oldest child’s age at date of death, - 54 years old - died 14 December 1881 - we calculate a marriage for WGH in 1826 since John S. was born in November 1827. (Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1853-1911, ancestry.com)

After he married, WGH returned to Campbell County, Virginia with wife Martha and possibly two children 5 and under, a boy and a girl: John S. born 19 November 1827 and Julia A. born 2 September 1829. At least we know for certain that the family lived in Campbell County when the 1830 U.S. Census was taken. (1830 U.S. Census, Lynchburg, Campbell, VA)

Either before or when they returned to Lynchburg, WGH would have contacted his siblings and learned that he had a legal guardian, George Lambeth. George was the husband of WGH’s oldest sister living in Lynchburg, Elizabeth, and George was holding a small amount of money due WGH from his deceased parents’ estate.

As developers and landlords, George and Elizabeth could have helped WGH and Martha find their own place to live. They, themselves, owned land on both sides of Opossum Creek, a total of 185 acres. (See After Stephen’s Death, The Settlement of his Estate). The tract that WGH and Martha bought was also on Opossum Creek. Furthermore, Opossum Creek is about six miles from Lynchburg and G.A.R. Meredith wrote in his Mss that WGH settled “about 6 miles from Lynchburg where he followed the occupation of farmer for many years”.

Martha’s parents, Thomas B. Wright and wife Elizabeth Ann joined in the purchase of the



sixty acre tract with all appurtenances. (Campbell County Deed Bk 18, p. 287 (Image 162 of 537, LDS film 008190132) The tract adjoined lands of Allen Wylie after whom WGH and Martha named their son born in 1835. The tract had gone through several owners until Lorenzo Howell became owner due to his wife Lucy's dower right. The one dollar sale price in the deed was not the total sale price. This was a deed of trust used by buyers who had no down payment money. In WGH and Thomas Wright's case, they transferred the title of the property to trustees Chiswell Dabney and John Young as security for a loan of \$150.00, the true cost of the tract. By February 21, 1834 WGH and Thomas Wright had fully paid for the tract so a release deed was executed and the tract officially transferred to Bingham and Wright. (Ibid., Deed Bk. 19, p. 353; Image 491 of 537) A month later, on March 10, 1834, WGH, wife Martha, Thomas Wright, wife Elizabeth Ann, sold the tract to James Glass using a similar deed of trust. (Ibid., Deed Bk. 19, p. 353) Farming did not suit WGH!

Somehow WGH found a more suitable job - he became a toll gate keeper for the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike. The Turnpike was begun in 1818 to assist settlers moving into western Virginia, especially the Salem area. The road reached the town of Liberty, now Bedford, in 1828 and Salem in 1836. It had five tollgates. G.A.R. alerts us to WGH's new job when he writes that "in 1841, he [WGH] was employed to keep a Toll Gate on the Lynchburg and Salem Turnpike 2 1/2 miles west of Lynchburg. He remained at that Place 12 or 15 years, then went to farming again near Lynchburg. finally his mind got very much impaired and in 1872 was sent to The Lunatic asylum at Staunton Va. where he Died the next year." (G.A.R. Meredith Mss)

Although G.A.R. was a little off on his years WGH's Turnpike job explains why WGH appears on the 1840 U.S. Census as William H. Bingham living in the Souther District of Bedford County. The ages and sex of the children in the census fit the ages and sex of WGH's children in 1840 minus his oldest, John S. WGH, however, does not appear in the Bedford County land or tax records. That can only mean that he and family lived in a Turnpike owned house while he was Tollgate Keeper. He probably started his job about the time he sold his sixty acre tract in 1834 and not 1841 as G.A.R. wrote, and he probably held the job for eleven years before he returned to Campbell County in 1845.

By then WGH had managed to save enough money for a down payment on two tracts of farmland with all their appurtenances. Located on Lynch's Road. One tract contained 136 3/4 acres, the other 102 1/2 acres. On April 5, 1845 WGH paid Thomas Old and wife Eliza cash for both tracts, the total being \$750.00. The tracts probably adjoined each other. (Ibid., Deed Bk. 27. P. 74, Image 54 of 528)

The 1850 U.S. Census shows that WGH was doing well. He had 60 acres under cultivation and 144 acres unimproved. The cash value of his farm was \$1270.00 and his farming equipment \$116.00. He had 4 horses, 6 asses or mules, 6 milk cows, 2 other cattle. 20 sheep, 20 swine, in all valued at \$430.00. In the previous year, his farm produced 75 bushels of wheat and 30 lbs. of butter. (U.S., Selected Federal Census Non-Population Schedules, 1850-1880, ancestry.com) WGH also reported owning 2 male slaves, a silver watch, a clock and a 4 wheeled carriage. (Virginia, Campbell County, Personal Property Tax Film 2024505, Image 229 of 310, Familysearch.org) In addition, his oldest son John S., 24, married, with his family lived in the next dwelling and reported his occupation as farmer. WGH's other children, lived at home, but there is a problem with the census's accuracy. The list of children begins with Julia, age 21 and ends with Stephen, age 22, a Laborer. Stephen age 22

does not appear in records again. Instead, this is probably an entry for John S(tephen) because the person providing the names and ages of the children did not realize that only children living at home were to be reported. WGH's other children all lived at home and were listed in birth order: William B. sic R., 19; Christopher F., 17; Allen W. 15; Charles, 12; Martha, 10; Elizabeth, 7; Lesley J., 5; Henry C., 2., not 21 as others have interpreted.

WGH and Martha had one more child born after the 1850 census: Mary Lavinia. She was born in 1851 and in 1860 was the only child left living at home. According to Virginia County Marriage Records, 1771-1989, familysearch.org, Mary married Thomas Jefferson Johnson, 8 October 1872. They lived in Scottsville, Albemarle County, Virginia.

By June 1851, however, WGH was pressed to settle a debt of \$150 he owed Harrison Farmer, a fellow farmer. Consequently, WGH used his unimproved tract of 136 3/4 as collateral to guarantee payment of the debt within 12 months during which he retained ownership and if the debt was not paid the tract would transfer to Joel P. Leftwich. With Farmer's approval, Leftwich could then sell the tract, pay the amount due on the debt, and keep any amount over that. (Campbell County Deed Bk. 28, p. 381, Film 31034, Image 470 o 528) Although online Campbell County records do not go beyond 1850, research in records after 1850 would show if WGH paid off this debt within the year, or whether he lost the tract to Leftwich and the tract was sold.

Whatever happened to WGH's land, the 1860 U.S. Census tells us he was no longer farming and all of his children except Mary, the youngest, born 1851, had either left home or died. Using the name Wm G. he lived in the western district of Campbell County in the Castle Craig postal district and gave his occupation as laborer.

The 1860 U.S. Census shows Richard and Francis B. with six month old son, Robert living next door to WGH. Richard had married Fanny, short for Francis, Boyd Meredith 22 December 1858 (G.A.R. Mss; Virginia, U.S., Marriage Registers, 1853-1935, Lynchburg (City) 1853-1901, Ancestry.com) Fanny Boyd was a daughter of Mary Lawton Bingham Meredith, Richard's aunt, thus Richard married a first cousin. Richard's occupation was Laborer.

WGH's sons John S. and Christopher F. had moved to Appomattox County, Virginia, before 1860. John S. had married Margaret about 1847 and had five children by 1860. WGH's daughter Julia A. was 31 in 1860 and lived with her brother John S.

Christopher had married Nancy E. Hendrick in Appomattox County on 24 November 1858. Nancy was also born in Campbell County. John S. and Christopher were carpenters. (Virginia, U.S., Marriage Registers, 1853-1935, Ancestry.com)

Charles W. had moved to Christiansburg, Montgomery County, Virginia. In 1860 he was married to Mary J., age 17. He was a wagon maker. Sister Martha A. lived with him.

In 1860 Allen Wiley had a job as stonecutter in Marion County, Tennessee. He was 25, married to Anna E., 18, and had a one year old daughter Martha Ann. His younger sister Leslie J., 16, lived with them. By 1862 Allen returned to Virginia and enlisted in the Confederate Army. After the war he lived in Albemarle County where, in 1870, he worked for the railroad.

WGH's daughter Elizabeth must have died between 1850 when she was recorded on the U.S. Census as 7 years old and 1854 when she was not listed as one of WGH's daughters and a legatee in her Aunt Elizabeth Gaines Lambeth's will.

WGH's son , Henry C., only appears as a two year old on the 1850 U.S. Census.

Over the course of the 1860s, WGH's mental decline was such that he was admitted to the Western State Lunatic Asylum (Western State Hospital) in Staunton, Virginia in September, 1869. He does appear on the 1870 U. S. Census as a patient classified as Insane, a legal term used to qualify for admission. WGH's daughter Mary, age 19, moved in with brother Allen in Albemarle County. Wife Martha went to Christiansburg to live with son Charles Wesley. Two years and eight months after admission, WGH died May 4, 1872. Wife Martha lived another seventeen years. She died December 24, 1889. (Western State Hospital Records, Library of Virginia); (Virginia, U.S., Death Registers, 1883-1911, ancestry.com)

#### 1a.3b.8. Julia Ann

Julia Ann was the daughter Stephen Bingham, the second, never knew - she was born July 12, 1808 at West Point, King William County, Virginia, six month after Stephen died. When Julia was about 8 years old her mother, Ann, moved her family to Lynchburg, Campbell County, Virginia. Lynchburg, thus became home to Julia and her older siblings: William, Martha, John, Stephen, and Mary. Older sister Elizabeth also lived in Lynchburg, but was married and had her own home. Anna Maria "Nancy", her oldest sister also moved to Lynchburg, but probably not until 1819 when their mother Ann Gaines Bingham died.

Upon her mother's death, Julia Ann became a legal orphan at eleven years of age. When her father's will was settled after her mother's death, George K. Lambeth, Julia's sister Elizabeth's husband, became Julia's guardian. Julia probably lived with Elizabeth and George. The 1820 U.S. Census for Virginia, Lynchburg shows G.K. Lambeth with one free white female 10 thru 15 which fits Julia's age of 12 in 1820. (Ancestry.com)

On November 9, 1829 Julia married Garland Poindexter. (Virginia, U.S., Select Marriages, 1785-1940, familyhistorylibrary film 32235, p. 36) They lived in Bedford County when the 1830 U.S. Census was taken. They had no children yet as they had not been married long enough, but they did have a female slave 10-23 with two children, a boy and a girl under 10. In 1840 Julia and Garland lived in Amherst County which lies north of Bedford, but adjoins Lynchburg. They had no children, but they did have 12 slaves. They must have had the same 4,000 acres they had in 1850 when they had 13 slaves. The oldest slave was 35 and seven of the slaves were under 10. They really had only 3 male and 2 female slaves who could work the fields well. The rest were children ranging in age from 2 through 10.

By 1850 Julia and Garland also had their own children: Betty A.G. 10, Garland H. 8, Frances A. 6, Stephen B. 2. Between 1850 and 1860, Garland added 5,000 acres to his land holdings making 9,000 acres in all. His personal value had also grown to \$12,770. Julia was recorded as Judy, age 52, Bettie A., 20, Garland 18, F. A. 15, and Stephen 11. Living with them was the minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, G.C. Vandislice ?, 23. (1850, 1860 United States Census) The 1860 Slave Schedule shows they had 13 slaves, three younger than 5, the rest over 5.

Julia's son Garland H. Poindexter enlisted in the Confederate army when the Civil War began. He was 18 years old. He signed up in Lynchburg on May 10, 1861 and was mustered in the same day as a Private in Capt. Shoemaker's Horse Artillery, Beauregard Rifles, Virginia Light Infantry, Capt. M.N. Moorman's Company. By August 10, 1861 he was "In Hospital sick". He was back on the Company Muster Roll for November and December, 1861; Jan and Feb 1862. He was

able to continue in active service until 5 August 1862 when he was killed in action at Miller's Hill, Brandy Heights, near Culpepper County Courthouse. His father took action to secure his back pay and his body. He was buried in Lynchburg, but it may not have been a year later as recorded in the *Lynchburg Daily Virginian*, but 18 August 1862, 13 days after he was killed. (US, Civil War Service Records, Confederate, Virginia, 1861-1865, fold3.com)

Julia, his mother, must have sunk into a deep depression for she died within a few years, most likely, 1864. Death and burial records for her are missing. Garland, remarried 24 July, 1866 in Culpepper, Sophie E. Stigler. He was 61, she was 37 and had not been married before. She was from Fauquier County, Virginia. (Virginia, U.S., Marriage Registers, 1853-1935, ancestry.com) After Garland died in 1875 Sophie returned to Rappahannock, Fauquier County where she lived with her 24 year old niece in 1880.

Julia's son Stephen would have been 18 years old and the only child at home when his father remarried in 1866. The 1870 U.S. Census shows Stephen living at home. age 20, with his father, his father's new wife, Sophia, and his sister, Bettie G, age 29. Stephen was working as a Farm Hand. (Bettie G. disappears from records after 1870.)

After 1870, Stephen's life underwent a marked change: the 1880 U.S. Census shows Stephen Poindexter, born Virginia, living in the Stockton State Insane Asylum, San Joaquin County, California! The Stockton State Hospital Records show that Stephen Poindexter, age 27, born Virginia, arrived in California in 1873 and settled in Merced County where he worked as a laborer. Three years later, May 1876, Stephen was arrested for evidence of insanity and jailed. Witnesses complained of his suicidal disposition that had been on going for three months with no interruption and was only getting worse. If allowed to go at large they thought he was liable to injure himself or others. His behavior was so serious that when jailed he attempted to kill himself by butting his head against the edge of the iron doors in his cell. Following Stephen's examination by two doctors, the Merced County Judge, on May 24, 1876, committed Stephen to the State Insane Asylum in Stockton, the only mental health facility in California at the time..

Stephen's physical condition upon admission, May 30, 1876, was "good". When questioned about the cause of his mental problems, Stephen reportedly claimed that he was in "Fear of losing his Estate in Virginia". He also thought "his father and brother were insane". Stephen lived in the hospital for twenty-two years. He died January 1, 1898 of Pleuro-pneumonia, a severe inflammation of the lungs. His name is not among those buried in the hospital cemetery. (Stockton State Hospital Records: Male Patient Index; Synopsis of Commitment; Commitment Register; Register of Deaths, California State Archives)

### SECTION III

#### 1a.3b.4. STEPHEN BINGHAM THE THIRD

Born: 10 October 1798 (John H. Bingham Letter),  
Mar (1): 1821-2, Elsey Meredith (G.A.R. Manuscript)  
Mar (2): 1828, Julia H. Brotherton (G.A.R. Manuscript)  
Died: 18 March 1857 (John H. Bingham Letter)

#### Sources

We have two major secondary sources for Stephen the third; both are family sources written by close relatives about the same time. One is Stephen the third's oldest son, John H. Bingham's letter to Walter F. Bingham, Nov 27, 1870. (Original now not found in Connecticut State Library nor Connecticut Historical Society. I hold a copy made in the late 1970s.) The letter contains vital birth dates and other information. The second indispensable source is G.A.R.'s manuscript begun in 1876 intended to be a little history of the Bingham and Merediths as far as he personally knew and what little he gained from his fore fathers. G.A.R.'s mother, Mary, was sister to Stephen the third, thus G.A.R.'s uncle. A close friendship developed between G.A.R. and Stephen the third, after they first met when both were adults. G.A.R. relates some valuable family history.

#### Stephen's Childhood

Like his father and grandfather Stephen Bingham the third, was a ship captain and sea-going trader. He spent his early life in West Point, King William County, Virginia, where he was born October 10, 1798. Named for his father and grandfather, he was the first boy, but fourth child of Stephen the second's, second marriage. Stephen, the third's three older sisters were two, eight and ten years older than he. He eventually had two younger brothers, John Gaines and William George Henry, and two younger sisters, Martha and Julia Ann.

Stephen lived at West Point, King William County, for eighteen years. During those years he would have learned how to handle ferry boats, sail the the rivers and, possibly, the ocean. However, tobacco growing had moved inland to the Virginia foothills and Lynchburg was rapidly becoming the tobacco trading center of Virginia. His mother could no longer support her family on the income she could make at West Point so, in 1816, she moved her family to Lynchburg. Her second oldest daughter, Elizabeth, who had recently married, lived there and offered valuable support.

Lynchburg was a relatively new town in the early 1800s. It had been settled in 1757 when John Lynch began a ferry run across the James River. The town itself was incorporated in 1805 when city blocks and lots were surveyed. By 1850 Lynchburg was a major tobacco trading center and the second wealthiest city in the United States. Elizabeth had married one of the developers, George Kemp Lambeth. (See before)

Although sufficient evidence exists to claim 1816 as the year that Stephen the third, his mother and family moved to Lynchburg, 1819 was the first and only year his mother, Ann Gaines, appeared on the Personal Property Tax List for Lynchburg; Stephen was on the list, also. Remember, tax lists are dated by the year the tax is due, but the amount of the tax, itself, represents the previous year. Stephen was in the free white male 16 and over category. He would have been 21 or 22 years old. (United States, Virginia, Campbell, Lynchburg, Taxation, Personal Property Tax Lists, 1782-1850, film 8151820, Image 382 of 873)

### Stephen's First Marriage

From the G.A.R. manuscript that Stephen married Elsey Meredith "about 1821". Their marriage was short, they had no children, but Stephen was on the 1822 personal property tax list with one slave 12 and over. Elsey died in May, 1823 according to Diuguid burial records. She was buried May 13, 1823. After her death Stephen "went to sea" and "was not heard from any more for 20 years". (G.A.R. Mss)

### Stephen's Occupation

It was only by happenstance, in 1844, that G.A.R. Meredith spotted Stephen Bingham when both were in Richmond, Virginia. G.A.R. was a 19 year old sauntering along the wharf at Rockett's Landing in Richmond when he thought he recognized the Captain who was supervising the unloading of his ship. After at least ten minutes watching him, G.A.R. climbed up the rope ladder on the side of the vessel and asked "is this Captain Bingham. yes, and who are you" replied the Captain. "Sir, My name is Meredith", G.A.R. said. The Captain "at once exclaimed, My Dear Boy. My Sister Mary's Son". He then took G.A.R. by both hands and jumped with him to the main deck. After introduction to the crew, Captain Stephen Bingham took his nephew, G.A.R., to the cabin where they talked through supper and on until midnight and again in the morning until G.A.R. had told his uncle all that had happened in the different branches of the family.

### Stephen's Second Marriage

Then Captain Stephen told G.A.R. "his life the Past 20 years". He had left Lynchburg when G.A.R. was a baby and went to Richmond, down the James River on a Batteau. He then walked to West Point, about 50 miles, and soon shipped on a vessel and went to sea and had been following the sea ever since. He had seen many hardships and had been wrecked several times.

He then told G.A.R. how he found his second wife. He had been on a long voyage to the West Indies, "was taken with the ship fever and was out of his head for several weeks." When the ship he was on was at some place in New York, they sent him ashore with strangers. "After a long time, he came to his right mind and the first thing he remembered was a lady standing by his bedside with a Bowl of Soup trying to get him to take some of it." He soon realized he was in a strange place, but the strangers took care of him and the young lady nursed him until he was well. "He soon made her a solemn vow and he went to sea. But returned again and not long after

that all things was aranged and Capt. Stephen Bingham and Miss Julia Brotherton of Bridge Port was married.” (G.A.R. Mss)

### Stephen’s Residence and Family

In the more than eighteen years he had been married before meeting G.A.R., Stephen had lived mainly in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, N.Y. The letter from Stephen’s son John H. Bingham to Walter F. Bingham includes the name and birth dates of the children in his family. Those born before 1844 when G.A.R. and Stephen first met were: John H., the oldest, born September 30, 1829; Julia Ann, June 19, 1831; Stephen, March 4, 1833 (died before Stephen D. was born); Mary E., June 16, 1835; Stephen D., November 15, 1837; George W., February 26, 1840.

Sometime before 1844 Stephen had brought his family to Richmond to live, but after one year they moved back to New York. After the two days with G.A.R., Stephen sailed for New York and G.A.R. sailed up the Canal for his home in Lynchburg.

Two years passed. On September 8, 1846 G.A.R. and “uncle Stephen” with his “Top Sale Schooner named the *Rochester*” met again in Richmond. This time Stephen invited G.A.R. to go with him to New York to meet his family. G.A.R. was “Dreadful Seasick” on the trip which took eight days. They arrived in New York September 16, went ashore and “up to uncle Stephen’s house. No. 106 North Ninth St Williamsburg long island”. “at this time his only Daughter Julia was in Lynchburg Va. on a visit and his little son Stephen [Stephen D, age 9] was with us on the Voyage.”

The next day, September 17, G.A.R. was back on the ship when he was taken so sick he had difficulty getting back to his uncle’s house. He went to bed and in the afternoon the Doctor came. After examining him the Doctor said he had “Billious Fever of the worse kind”. (Bilious fever was a term applied to certain intestinal and malarial fevers especially typhoid, malaria, hepatitis or to elevated temperature and bile emesis.). By December 12 G.A.R. had recovered enough to sail back to Virginia with his Uncle Stephen. On the way their ship was run into at night and so badly damaged they could not make headway so drifted about for several days. A pilot boat finally found them and towed them to Hampton Roads where they stayed for several days due to a bad storm. When the storm was over they were towed to Richmond. G.A.R. went home to Lynchburg where he stayed for 18 months and Stephen took the ship to Norfolk for repair after discharging his cargo. (G.A.R. Mss)

The next time G.A.R. visited his Uncle Stephen and family was late September to December 1848. This involved a trip up the Hudson River with Capt. S.B. Lamkin of the Schooner *Lady Lake*. After spending five or six weeks at Cold Spring so Lamkin could unload at the West Point (New York) Foundry, they returned to Williamsburg NY. Stephen had just returned from a trip to South Carolina, but made one more trip south before stopping at home to pick up G.A.R. and return him to Richmond, Virginia.

By then it was late December 1848. Instead of going to Lynchburg, G.A.R. went to Manchester, bought out a friend’s carpenter shop, married and went to work at his trade. He was still able to see his Uncle Stephen who “often came to Richmond” and to keep track of his still growing family..



Stephen had four more children, all boys, after his son George W.'s birth in 1840. They were Jeremiah B. born June 12, 1841/2; George D.G. born July 22 1844?; William H. born May 14, 1847; Charles F. born March 31, 1849.

However, by 1850 only four of his children were alive: John H. 21, Julia 19, William 3, Charles 1. William later died, 31 May 1861, leaving three of ten children to survive to adulthood: John H., Julia Ann, and Charles F. (All birth dates are from John H. Bingham letter to Walter F. Bingham, Nov. 17, 1870, Brooklyn, N.Y.)

### Stephen's Death

About 1855/6 Stephen the third was "wrecked at sea" again. "he was loaded with Lumber from Savanah Bound to Boston..." "his vessel filled with water and all his men was washed over Board except himself, his son Stephen and one man. They lashed themselves to the lumber and remained so for six days without anything to eat or water. finally his last man Died, and him and his son was picked up by a vessel and carried to Boston. He had three Ribs and the Bridge of his Nose Broken in the wrecking of his vessel. he Remained in Boston Six weeks and was then taken home on a Bed to Williamsburgh New York ...."

As soon as he was able, Stephen went to sea again. For about a year he captained the seven Packet Schooner called the *New York* sailing between New York and Richmond. About the year 1858 he left Richmond on the 22nd February and on the 2nd March this vessel, the *New York*, was lost at sea. He had his son Stephen and seven sailors with him. All went down with the vessel, and not a thing belonging to the vessel was ever seen afterwards. (G.A.R. Mss)

After Stephen died, wife Julia and son Charles F. lived with Julia's daughter, Julia, and her husband James Cook. The 1860 U.S. Census for Brooklyn, Ward 16 verifies this. Although Julia's surname is misspelled, her age listed as 50 is close to accurate and Charles's listed age of eleven is accurate. We can't tell, however, whether they shared a different house or whether one family moved in with the other because between 1850 and 1860 Williamsburg merged with Brooklyn. Williamsburg probably became Ward 16 within Brooklyn.

Julia, Stephen's wife, died in Williamsburg April 9, 1861, age 53. She was buried in Cyprus Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn, New York where many of her children were buried. (findagrave.com)

### STEPHEN BINGHAM THE THIRD, CHILDREN

by his second wife, Julia Brotherton

- 1a.3b.4b.1. John H., 30 Sep 1829
- 1a.3b.4b.2. Julia Ann, 19 Jan 183
- 1a.3b.4b.3. Stephen, May 4, 1833
- 1a.3b.4b.4. Mary E., June 16, 1835
- 1a.3b.4b.5. Stephen D., Nov 15, 1837
- 1a.3b.4b.6. George W. ,February 28, 1840
- 1a.3b.4b.7. Jeremiah B., June 12, 1841
- 1a.3b.4b.8. George D.G., July 22 1844
- 1a.3b.4b.9. William H., May 14, 1847

#### 1a.3b.4b.1. John H(enry)

John H., author of the family source letter and Stephen's first child was born 30 September 1829. (John H. Bingham to Walter F. Bingham, Nov 27, 1870) He became a seaman, but at age 21 in 1850 he lived at home. (1850 U.S. Census, New York, Kings, Williamsburgh) In 1858, May 27, he married Emma Barry of Brooklyn. Their first child, Mary, was born in 1860, Sarah, their second child was born in 1862, and Julia, their third child and daughter was born in June 1865. Unfortunately Julia died 17 December, 1865 from Convulsions and Apnea. John had become a ship fastener and Emma's mother, Elizabeth, lived with them. (New York States Census 1865; New York, New York, U.S., Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948, Ancestry. com)

In 1870 daughter Mary E. was 17 and a Dress Maker, Emma was keeping house, daughter Sarah S. was 8. They lived in Brooklyn, Ward 15. In 1870, John also applied for Letters of Administration to settle his mother's small estate. This was nine years after his mother's death. Apparently there was disagreement between the three living children over their mother's personal property. (Kings County, Surrogate Court, Bingham, Julia. Film 005515941, Image 2434 of 4646)

The 1875 New York State Census shows that daughter Sarah, age 13 lived at home and John and Emma had a 20 year old boarder. John was still a ship fastener. In 1880 neither of their daughters lived at home, but they had a 4 year old son, John H. "Harry". John had a job as a watchman. He, his wife Emma and son Harry all died in 1887 from Typhomalarial Fever caused by Salmonella Typho which was usually spread by contaminated food or water. Harry died first April 9, then Emma April 25, and John H. November 22. They were buried in Cyprus Hills Cemetery. (New York, New York, U.S., Index to Death Certificates, 1862-1948, Ancestry.com)

#### 1a.3b.4b.2. Julia Ann

Julia Ann, born June 19, 1831, married James A. Cooke of Brooklyn, September 9, 1850. (John H. Bingham Letter). James Cook/e's occupation in 1860 was painter. Julia and James had four children: Mary Matilda born 1851; John H. born 1853; Julia B. born 1855; Stephen born 1859. Julia's mother, Julia Brotherton Bingham and son Charles F., Julia's youngest brother, lived with Julia, John and family. (U.S. Census 1860) Julia's mother, Julia, died in 1861 (see before). The New York State Census for 1865 lists two more children for Julia and John: George born 1860/61 and Henry born 1865. John was still a painter. Julia's brother Charles lived elsewhere. The 1870 U S Census lists seven children at home: Mary 19, John 17, Julia 15. Stephen 11, George 9, Edmund (Edwin Henry) 5. Kadwald 3. John had switched occupations from painter to Dancing Teacher. Julia died April 14, 1874, leaving several minor children. She was buried in Cyprus Hills Cemetery, Brooklyn. A James Cook died July 26, 1874 and was buried in the same cemetery according to Cyprus Hills Cemetery Records on findagrave.com. Tracing the children is difficult. The 1875 New York State Census records the oldest son, John H. Cook, age 23, boarding with the John E. and Mary Weste family in Brooklyn. John H's. 's occupation was "ship painter." He died at 31 years of age on December 30, 1884 and was buried in Cyprus Hills Cemetery, also. George E. was buried in Cyprus Hill Cemetery as well. He died 1 March 1887 in Brooklyn.

1a.3b.4b.3. Stephen

Stephen, born May 4, 1833, died before 1837 when Stephen D. was born.

1a.3b.4b.4. Mary E.

Mary E., born June 16, 1835 and who married a Meredith, was deceased by 1870 according to brother and letter writer, John H. Bingham.

1a.3b.4b.5. Stephen D.

Stephen D., born November 15, 1837, did not marry. He died at sea March 2, 1858 along with his father Stephen the third, of West Point, King William County, Virginia.

1a.3b.4b.6. George W.

George D., born February 28, 1840, was dead before July 22, 1844 when George D.G. was born.

1a.3b.4b.7. Jeremiah B.

Jeremiah B., born June 12, 1841; died June 1850, age 9 when a “pile of timber” fell on him. (New York, U.S., U.S. Census Mortality Schedules, 1850-1880, ancestry.com)

1a.3b.4b.8. George D.G.

George D.G., born July 22 1844, died before 1870.

1a.3b.4b.9. William H.

William H., born May 14, 1847, Died 31 May 1861 (Cyprus Hill Cemetery Memorials, findagrave.-com)

1a.3b.4b.10. Charles F.

Charles F., born 31 Mar 1849; died unknown. G.A.R. wrote that “Charlie is married and lives in Bristol Pa in October 1871”. Charles married Sarah/Elizabeth Hagerman about 1875. In 1880 they lived in Bristol, Bucks County, Pennsylvania with their 5 year old son Samuel H. (1880 U.S. Census). They had a second son, John Henry, born 1884. As adults, both sons, Samuel and John, lived in Bristol for several years and worked as clerks for the Pennsylvania Railroad. Before 1940 they had both moved to Philadelphia, but still worked as clerks for the Pennsylvania RR.

The older son, Samuel Hagerman, had married Caroline Gilbert and had one son, Leonard Lawrence born 10 December 1902. Leonard became a career army officer retiring at the rank of colonel in 1954 after 30 years service. He then married Eliza Turner Lewis, a divorcee and clini-

cal psychologist at Leavenworth Army Prison in Kansas. They had no children. They settled in Eliza's home town of Eden, Rockingham County, NC where Leonard died 24 May, 1983. (findagrave; more online)

The younger son, John Henry, whom Charles named for his oldest brother, married Mabel Stetson in 1913. They had two daughters, Dorothy Louise (1920-2012) and Helen Elizabeth (1925-2004). Dorothy married Donald F. Berry and had four children. Helen married Joseph Francis Kavanagh and had two sons and one daughter. (findagrave; more online)

## CONCLUSION

Research for this long article revealed no evidence relating the Stephen Bingham family of West Point, King William County, Virginia to the Thomas Bingham family of Connecticut. Yes, there are gaps in time when no records exist, but researchers cannot fill a gap with a leap of faith. Neither does the preponderance of evidence suggest a connection between the two Bingham families.

Research does tell us that English clerks speaking and writing English used the English spelling for a surname. Thus Bigham, the Irish spelling, became Bingham for English clerks and for the entire family. In Virginia, only when a Bigham of Irish origin insisted, did the spelling of his surname remain Bigham.

Other clues indicate the first and second Stephen Bingham's familiarity with Ireland. Their Atlantic trade definitely dealt with Irish merchandise. Likewise, the wreck of the *Charming Jenny* happened shortly after the ship left Dublin on the voyage to Virginia. The people whom Stephen the first associated with in Virginia, such as the Claibornes, also suggest a common Irish attraction. Furthermore, few members of the Stephen Bingham family actively participated in the revolt from England. Since research does not indicate where Stephen the first was born, until it does, there is no point in guessing.

Instead, the research presented in this long article makes it possible for others to correct their many errors and to continue their tree to the current generation. I have done this on purpose so that others can freely benefit from my research. I ask only one thing as a thank you - a proper citation for the facts that are used. A proper citation includes the verified source for the original record followed by the citation that led to the original record, that is, this article.