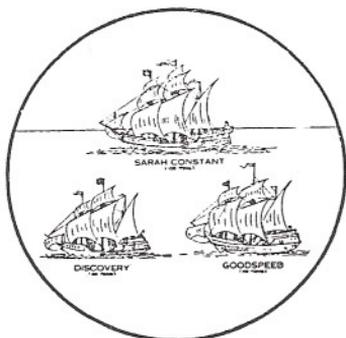


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TYLER'S QUARTERLY HISTORICAL



THE SARAH CONSTANT, GOODSPEED AND DISCOVERY
The Ships That Brought the Founders of the Nation to Jamestown, 1607.

and

GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE

EDITOR: LYON G. TYLER, M. A., LL. D.

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HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL NOTES.

NICHOLAS. At the northeast corner of Grove Avenue and Mulberry Street in Richmond there stands a triangular sandstone marker inscribed: "Arnold's picket driven in Jan. 4, 1781, by Col. J. Nich——." Col. John Nicholas commanded the Virginia Militia in this quarter, and the marker shows that Arnold's visit was not altogether undisturbed.

CHRISTIAN. Susanna Christian, as guardian returns the profits of the estates of Edmund Christian, Turner Christian, Wm. Brown Christian, Elizabeth Christian and Susanna Christian. *Charles City Co. records, 1768.*

"INDIAN FIELDS." This place in Charles City County, as its name suggests, was an open space formerly cultivated by the redmen. In 1763 it was owned by Francis Hardiman, who by his will that year gave it to his son John. It comprised 600 acres and in 1773 John Hardiman devised 150 acres to Francis Irby. He had three children: Anne married Peter Eppes; (2) Stith married Rachel Tyler, and (3) John, an officer of the Revolution, who died a bachelor. When Judge John Tyler moved to Charles City County from his native county, James City, he apparently stayed some time with his sister, Rachel, who married Stith Hardiman, for one of his poems is dated 1772 from "Indian Fields."

WATSON: (See William and Mary College Quarterly XXVI, 228-231; XXVII, 133, 134). There is an advertisement in the *Va. Gazette* for Feb. 11, 1775, of "the purchase I lately made of Warner Washington, together with 2000 acres of land more or less, whereof 500 acres adjoin the house and the rest in two tracts contiguous &c." The advertiser was Jonathan Watson and the house "High Gate House" in Gloucester Co., Va. For the Washington tombs at "High Gate," see William and Mary College Quarterly II, 225, 226.

ERROR, p. 46, Thomas White Sydnor's first marriage was Oct. 15, 1840, instead of Oct. 15, 1810.

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THE WASHINGTON-WRIGHT CONNECTION AND SOME DESCENDANTS OF MAJOR FRANCIS AND ANNE (WASHINGTON) WRIGHT.

By CHARLES ARTHUR HOPPIN.

"Mr Francis Wright," gentleman, captain, major, surveyor, attorney, sheriff and justice of Westmoreland county, is abundantly of record as having increased the excellence of the social position and material independence of his father, Captain Richard Wright, whose will was proved December 10, 1663 [Northumberland Record Book, 1658-1666, page 114]. The many records indicate that his intellectual activities were of a professional rather than a mercantile nature, as at no time is he recorded as a merchant though he was a ship-owner. As the third child in his father's will he may not have been the oldest, but he received the largest and most valuable part of the real estate. If the youngest child he could not have been aged above two years at his father's death, about December 1, 1663, nor more than five years if the eldest son. Although he may have gone in 1665 with his mother to the home, in Lancaster county, of her second husband, the estimable David Fox, Sr., Gent., and even have remained with her awhile after her third marriage to Col. St. Leger Codd of Lancaster and Northumberland counties, a strict compliance with the terms of his father's will would have required him to remain under the control of that eminent gentleman, his uncle Col. Nicholas Spencer. That it was to the influence of Spencer that Francis Wright received, either in England or by a private tutor in Virginia, his excellent education one scarcely can doubt, for that worthy scion

writes, under date of August 25, 1920, that the account sent us is a true copy of the entry as made by her in December, 1907, from a copy of the diary then in the possession of another descendant, the late A. M. Sinke, formerly of Bethel, Ohio, who had stated to Miss Vessie Riley in 1907 that he had personally known his grandmother, the said Nancy (Riley) Clark; Mr. Sinke's daughter, May, is the wife of Francis E. Crane, of 1335 Herschel Ave., Cincinnati, Ohio, principal of the Columbian school in that city. Miss Vessie Riley's extract from the diary of Nancy (Riley) Clark reads:

"Indian Hill, Clermont County, Ohio, February 14, 1849.

This book contains the genealogy of Houton Clark and his ancestors; also of Nancy Riley and her ancestors, which I have commenced to copy off from old books I have had many years; wherein I noted many things obtained from my grandfather, Ninnian Riley, my father Gerrard Riley and my mother Frances Wright-Riley.

[signed] Nancy Riley-Clark.

Gerrard Riley was a lad of seventeen when he with his parents moved to North Carolina.* Soon after their arrival there was a call for volunteers to guard the settlement against the Tories or refugees as they were called. John Wright was the leader and they mustered at his place. Wright led his little band out and guarded the settlement.

Some time afterwards, Mrs. Lucretia Whitlock, wife of one of his [John⁵ Wright's] neighbors, fell in a trance. When she awoke she said the Tories would gain the day. She persuaded her husband and some of her neighbors to go join the Tories.

As soon as John Wright heard that some of his neighbors had started to join the Tories, and that his brother Baptist [Baptist], William Cook, had also gone he caught his horse

*Gerard Riley went to North Carolina from Maryland with his father Ninian Sr. and grandfather Solomon Riley. It was James Riley of Montgomery county, Maryland, who on November 25, 1784, purchased 250 acres of land in North Carolina of Benjamin² Elsberry when the latter removed therefrom to Georgia. Gerard Riley was converted at the mammoth camp-meeting at Cane Ridge, Kentucky, where twenty thousand people assembled in 1799 or 1800. He and his uncle, John Riley (who married Sarah daughter of our ancestor Isaac⁴ Elsberry) both became Baptist preachers. Gerard's gravestone at Bloomfield, Illinois, reads: "Gerard Riley, a Baptist Minister of the Gospel who died December 26, 1832." His widow, Frances⁶ (Wright) Riley died in 1835 at Bethel, Ohio, where resided her son Zachariah Riley who died there in 1877.

and rode all night after them. He overtook them at daylight after riding nearly forty miles through the dark night.

He tried to get them to come back, but they refused. Finally Cook returned with him, but Whitlock went on, joined the Tories, and was killed in a few days afterwards. So his wife's trance proved the loss of her husband.

While serving his country John Wright took a violent cold that settled on his lungs and caused his death, six or seven years afterwards. But he lived to see the end of the war, peace proclaimed and the eagle with her thirteen arrows and stripes over the free land of Columbia. This he desired and lived to see.

He had married Ann Williams in Fauquier Co. Va., where they both were raised. They had eighteen children, six sons and twelve daughters. Several of them were married before they moved to North Carolina. They settled on Deep Creek, waters of the Yadkin River, where they both lived on the same farm until death; but their children moved to different states.

John Wright drew near his end, and while on his death bed he suffered much, but bore it all with Christian patience and was perfectly resigned to the will of God. When dying, and gone to all appearance, had ceased to breathe, his wife screamed out in the anguish of her heart. She could not give him up. He opened his eyes and said, 'my dear, it is you that keeps me here.' His oldest son took his mother out of the room and begged her not to make a noise. He then closed his eyes in death in his fiftieth* year.

His wife was left with nine children living with her, and nine more that were married. Some lived near. Her oldest son, Thomas, was a Baptist and lived on an adjoining farm. She had a good farm and two old negroes. She lived on the same farm until her death, and raised her children. Some of them were very small when their father died. They all married and moved away,—some to Kentucky, some to Missouri, some to Alabama. Daniel a great farmer lives in Alabama now; James and family in South Carolina. John

*Inasmuch as he was the father of eighteen children, and his death is recorded in the Bible of his son Thomas⁶ Wright as on October 30, 1789, his will proved in May, 1790, and his own affidavit declares that he was married in 1753, it is evident that he was about ten years older at death. Also, as "he lived to see the end of the war, peace proclaimed," he could not have died in 1779 as has been imagined, for the war did not end until late in the year 1781 and the peace was not signed and proclaimed until September, 1783.

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died in Florida, leaving two sons and one daughter. He had left his wife and daughter in Carolina. He divided his property giving half to his wife, took his two sons and moved to Florida. He died there leaving his two sons very rich.

Thomas represented Surry Co. in the legislature. His mother wrote a letter with her own hand to one of her daughters* in Ohio, six or eight months before her death, and it was well written. She died in her ninetieth year, and was a Baptist with her husband many years before his death. The most of her children were Baptists."

As twelve of the eighteen children of Captain John⁵ and Ann (Williams) Wright were daughters the most of the descendants bore surnames other than Wright; the records of these children and some of their descendants are reserved for later publication, reference being made, at this moment to the daughter Agatha.

Agatha⁶ Wright, daughter of Capt. John⁵ and Ann (Williams) Wright (John⁴, John³, Francis², Richard¹) was born in Fauquier county, Virginia, about 1756, probably in the house of her grandmother Honour Williams, whose estate was then under the management of Agatha's father, and adjoining the "Pine View" estate of her grandfather, John⁴ Wright, the "Gentleman justice." Agatha married Isaac Elsberry of Buck Shoal township, Surry county, N. C., in 1775, soon after she arrived there, the Elsberry estate therein adjoining that of her father. So seldom was she, like other good wives of good men, of public record that her character and life, like theirs, can be only perceived through the events recorded of her parents, husband and children. Hers may have been the heavier burden, hers the wiser counsel. Nine in number were her children who lived to maturity. In the year 1803, with them and her husband Isaac Elsberry, she made the great journey over the Blue Ridge to Ashe county, North Carolina; thence over the Appalachian mountains to the vicinity of Winchester, Kentucky, following Daniel Boone's trail; thence in 1805 or 1806 to Moscow and Bethel, Ohio. Burying there her husband in 1813 she ere long afterward, according to a formal written statement by the late George Washington Ellsberry, of Mason City, Illinois, 21 April,

*This daughter was either Agatha⁶, then widow of Isaac⁴ Elsberry, or Frances⁶ wife of Gerrard Riley, both of whom were then (about 1824) in Ohio.

1902, reposed for the balance of her life in the home at Xenia, Ohio, of her eminent son, Hon. William Elsberry, who repeated, as a lawyer, judge, state legislator and congressional candidate, the successful predilection for public affairs that had made conspicuous her Virginian forebears. The U. S. censuses of 1830 and 1840 for Xenia both confirm her presence there as a member of her said son's household, and her age was given to the enumerator in 1830 as "between seventy and eighty" years, and in 1840 as "between eighty and ninety." She is understood to have died in 1845 or '46 aged eighty-five. She was the last, in our own line, of a long strong chain of Wrights, of whom the living descendants have reason to be proud, and doubly to feel warranted in making known, at large, the recoverable history of them as hereinbefore writ.

Such tax rolls as remain show Isaac Elsberry to have been in as comfortable circumstances as almost any other young man in Surry county, and there can be no doubt but what his early marriage to Agatha Wright was propitious and happy. So few records were made in Surry of men of private station like Isaac Elsberry, in his time, and not all of those that were made being now extant, what one does find preserved calls for exhibition, and all the more so because some of these tax records are the only existing official evidence of the presence in Surry of Isaac Elsberry for the periods which they cover.

[Original Manuscript in Office of Clerk of the Court of Surry county at Dobson]

"A List of the Taxable Property belonging to Cap^t Wool-dredge's District Received in by me John Elsberry for the year 1780"

"Isaac Elsberry. Entrys [of land] 2; quantity of land, 400 [acres]; slaves, 0; horses, 3; Cattle 3; money in hand £100. Total £760."

[This manuscript bears the attestation at its end of Isaac's father-in-law, Captain John⁵ Wright, who surveyed the estates in 1780]

"1781. Cap^t. Daniel Wright's* District"

"Isaac Elsberry. Lands 400 [acres]. Horses 2; Cattle 3, Money in hand £3. Total, £185."

*Brother of Isaac Elsberry's wife Agatha⁶, and commander of the military and taxation district, a part of Surry county.

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