

William and Mary College

Quarterly Historical Magazine

VOL. XXIV

OCTOBER, 1915.

No. 2

LYNCH LAW

It is an undeniable fact that lynching is more frequent in the South than in the North, and various reasons have been assigned. One of the most popular explanations is that the rate of illiteracy is greater in the South than in the North. But since the objective lesson furnished by the most cultured nation in the world, it ought to be pretty well demonstrated that there is no necessary connection between education and respect for law. To the government of Germany the international law appears as "a scrap of paper," and even those rules whose essence is humanity have been ignored, whenever in its opinion the success of its military measures is promoted by so doing. If it is true that lynching is more prevalent in the South than in the North, the North, nevertheless, has by far the greater number of rascals. The lawless men in the South are often, in many respects, praiseworthy and honorable. Men like the Allens, who some years ago shot up a court in Virginia, were totally unlike the thugs and gunmen of the Northern cities, who are depraved from center to circumference. Doubtless, if the murderers of Leo Frank in Georgia were discovered, many of them would be found to be leaders in the church and in the community in which they live—men who would scorn to take a cent unjustly. On the other hand, the Northern murderer is rotten all the way through. He does not like the men who killed Leo Frank in mistaken indignation at a crime, snatch an accused from the officers in charge, but he murders for money. He is generally a thief as well as a mur-

that Alice his wife, arrived in the Bona Nova in April 1622,¹ and Boyse's servants Robert Hollam, aged 23 came in the Bonaventure, August 1620² and Joseph Royall, aged 22 in the Charitie, July 1622.

Josuah Chard, aged 36 came in the Seaventure, May 1607, and Ann, his wife, aged 33, in the Bonny Bess 1623; John Dod aged 36 came in the Susan Constant Aprill 1607 and Jane his wife aged 40; William Vincene, aged 39, in the Mary & James and Joane, his wife aged 42; Thomas Harris, aged 38, came in the Prosperous in May —, Adria, his wife, aged 23, in the Marmaduke in November 1621, and Ann Woodlase, their kinswoman, aged 7. Harris' servant Elizabeth ——— aged 15 years in the Margaret & John 1620. John Price, aged 40, came in the Starr in May — and Ann, his wife, aged 21, in the Francis Bonaventure, August 1620, and Mary, a child, aged 3 months; Hugh Hilton, aged 36 came in the Edwine, May 1619; Richard Taylor, aged 50, in the Mary Margaret in September 1608 and Dorothy,

¹ Hannah Boyse, daughter and heir of Luke Boyse, late of Henrico, decd., patented in Nov., 1635, 300 acres in Henrico adjoining land of her mother Alice Edlowe; due 50 acres for her personal adventure and 50 acres for the personal adventure of her father, and 200 acres for transportation of servants, viz.: Thomas Lewis, Robert Hollum, Joseph Royall, Edward Holland and Oliver Allen. (*Virginia Magazine*, V, p. 97.)

² Robert Hollam, patented 1,000 acres in Henrico Co., adjoining Edward Osborne and opposite to the fallen [Falling] Creek (due for transportation of 20 persons), 2 June, 1636. Ann Hallam on 6 May, 1638, patented 1,000 acres in Henrico adjoining Richard Cocke and towards Bremono and towards Turkey Island Creek. It appears from records in Henrico, April, 1680, June, 1691, and August, 1705 (dates of records of several deeds), that certain lands were patented by the relict of Mr. Robert Hallam and by her granted to the daughters and heirs of said Hallam, viz.: Sarah wife of John Sturdivant of Charles City Co., and her two sisters. It also appears that the said Sarah Hallam married first Samuel Woodward, of Charles City Co. (by whom she had Samuel Woodward of Boston, Mass., in 1705) and secondly, John Sturdivant of Charles City Co. Ann (another daughter of Mr. Robert Hallam) married John Gunday and had a son John Gunday of Gloucester Co., Virginia, in 1691. (*Virginia Magazine*, V, p. 212.) There was a receipt given by one Thomas Hallam 14 April, 1656, and recorded in the General Court. (*Giles Carter of Virginia, Genealogical Memoir*, p. 38.)

his wife, aged 21, in the London Marchannt in May 1620 and Mary, their child, aged 3 months; Taylor's servant, Christopher Browne, aged 18, came in the dutie in May 1620; Thomas Oage, aged 40, came in the Starr in May —; and Ann, his wife, in the Neptune in August 1618, and Edwin, their son, aged 2 years; Robert Greenleafe, aged 43, came in the Tryall August 1610, Susan, his wife, aged 23, in the Jonathan in May 1620 Thomas, their son, aged 3 years, and Ann, their daughter, aged 22 weeks.¹ Henry Coltman, aged 30, came in the Noah, August 1610; and Ann, his wife, aged 26, in the London Marchannt, May 1620. Hugh Price, aged 35, came in the William & John, January 1618, Judith, his wife, aged 24, in the Marygold, May 1619, and John, his son, aged 2 years. Thomas Farmer, aged 30, came in the Tryall in 1616 Thomas Sheppy, aged 22, came in the Supply in January 1620. Allexander Bradway, aged 31, came in the Supply, January 1620, Sisley, his wife, aged 28, in the Jonathan, May 1620 and Adria, their daughter, aged 9 months. William Sharp, aged 40, came in the Starr in May —, Elizabeth, his wife, aged 25, in the Bonaventure, August 1620, Isaac, his son, aged

¹ Thomas Warren patented Nov., 1635, 300 acres in Charles City County, of which 50 acres were in right of *his wife Susan Greeneleafe*, relict of *Robert Greeneleafe*, for her own personal adventure, and 100 acres in right of her former husband, the said Robert Greenleafe, as an ancient planter, and 150 acres for transportation of ——— and John Fouke, (2 servants) and for the personal adventure of the said Thomas Warren. In July, 1637, Thomas Markham patented 300 acres in Henrico Co. on Four Mile Creek, adjoining Bayly's land and Curles due: 100 acres in right of *his wife Susan the relict of Robert Greenleafe*, to whom (Greeneleafe) it was due as an an ancient planter in the time of Sir Thomas Dale, and 50 acres for her own personal adventure and 50 acres for the personal adventure of the said Thomas Markham and 100 acres for transportation of 2 persons: John Foker and Richard Hall [evidently the same persons in Warren's patent above] (*Virginia Magazine*, IV, p. 201 and VII, p. 69). It has not developed what became of Greenleafe's children. For the interesting historical aspect developed by the repeated granting of lands, as in above patents see Bruce, *Economic History of Virginia in the Seventeenth Century*.

2 years, and Samuel, his son, aged 2 months. Sharp's servant, Richard Vause, aged 20, came in the Jonathan, May 1620.¹

The lists presented above contain 145 names of residents of Henrico and it is not improbable that there are omissions. Just exactly what became of these people is not known; with few exceptions (which I shall presently note) representatives of these names had disappeared from Henrico County when the list of heads of families (the next which is found of record) was made fifty-four years later, in 1679. During the intervening time there were many immigrations and while the names in the lists of 1624 are recognized by only a few, the majority of those in the list of 1679 are to-day household words in this section of Virginia and many of them are well known beyond the limits of the state.

Let us now turn to the list of *Heads of Families in Henrico in 1679*.

This list of heads of families in Henrico, or rather "*An account of ye several fortye Tythables*" as it was officially designated, was made in accordance with a provision of an act of the Assembly which convened 25 April 1679: "*An act for the defence of the country against the incursions of the Indian Enemy.*"²

¹ The names of Elizabeth Perkinson, Robert Turner, Nathaniel Reeue, William Clements and Margaret Berman which appear in the "*List . . . of the Living*" do not appear in the "*Musters.*" All of the names which appear in the "*Musters*" (with the exception of Mrs. Ann Chard, Elizabeth ——— the servant of Thomas Harris, and several of the children) appear in the "*List . . . of the Living.*" Several variations in the spelling of names in the two lists will be noticed thus Boys in the "*List . . . of the Living*" becomes Boyse in the "*Musters,*" Halam in the former becomes Hollam in the latter, Vincent becomes Vincene, Rawse becomes Vause, Sheppy becomes Sheppey, Woodley becomes Woodlase, and it is not improbable that Greene in the "*List of the Living*" is the Greenleafe of the "*Musters.*"

² Hening, *Statutes at Large of Virginia*, Vol. II, p. 433.

mew Chandler, October 1671; Essex Bevill and Amy, his wife, October 1661; Richard Perrin, March 1672; John Stuard (Stuart or Stewart) March 1672-3; Charles Fetherston (Featherstone), September 1672; Timothy Allen, October 1673; Henry Sherman (Sherman), November 1673; Abell Gower (and also a William Gower) was a headright to a patent granted to John Davis in April 1672; Richard Kennon probably did not come into the colony until some time after 1665; William Randolph came to Virginia about 1673;¹ John Pleasants about 1665; William Byrd about 1674; the Ishams about 1656; Thomas Chamberlaine appears twice as a headright to a patent granted to Charles Featherstone in 1672; John Goode came "to Virginia prior to 1660" (according to Goode's *Virginia Cousins*); Abraham Womack (as the name Womecke is generally rendered) was in Virginia as early as 1674 in which year a dispute over the property of his brother William Womack was settled by the General Court Giles Carter appears first as a beneficiary under the will of James Crewe in 1676.²

Of the remaining 83 names in the list for 1679 all that can be positively said in this connection is that their representatives were certainly living in Henrico at the time the records begin in 1677. It is no doubt true, however, that many of them, or their fathers, were in the colony at a considerably earlier date; this seems cir-

Henrico Co., which was recorded in Henrico Court 1 December 1646, and the land conveyed to Batte adjoined the land said Ragsdale lived on. On 18 May 1638 John Cookney had two patents for land in Henrico one of 20 acres "being a swamp within a neck of land" and the other for 150 acres adjoining Joseph Chadd and Richard Taylor.

¹ Henry Randolph (uncle of William Randolph) came to Virginia about 1650 and was for some years a prominent official in Henrico County. For the descendants of Henry Randolph see WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY, IV, p. 125.

² Thomas Branch (of the 1679 list) and Christopher Branch, Junior, were son and grandson of Christopher Branch of the 1624 list; Edward and Thomas Osborne grandsons of Thomas Osborne, of the 1624 list; William Harris probably the grandson by that name of Thomas Harris of 1624 list, Thomas Shippey was probably the son of Thomas Sheppy of 1625 and Joseph Royall (of 1679) a son or grandson of Joseph Royall of 1624.

tions of the names will not be considered here as the limits of this study preclude the consideration of other material than established facts.¹

Now that we have recorded what is proved as to the English ancestry of these early settlers in Henrico County let us consider the facts presented by the records as to the status of these people from the time of their earliest appearances, and with these facts as a standard we shall not go far wrong in "placing" these Henrico families.

The most powerful of the Henrico families (during the period under discussion) were the Randolphs, Cockes, Eppses and Byrds.

William Randolph (1651-1711) was the descendant, on both sides of the house, of generations of gentlefolk. Henry Randolph (the uncle of William) had gone to Virginia about the middle of the seventeenth century. He occupied the not unimportant political office of Clerk of Henrico from about 1656; and was clerk of the Virginia House of Burgesses from about 1660 to his death in 1673. William Randolph was "well intro-

¹ As nothing can be definitely stated as to the European ancestry of these people it does not seem amiss to give here the approximate years of the births of many of them. These years of birth are approximated from statements made by the parties themselves in making depositions in various cases tried in Henrico County Court. The word *about* should be inserted in every instance between the name of the person and the year. John Howard, 1636; William Hatcher, 1613; Charles Roberts, 1649; James Eakin, 1631; Edward Goode, 1647; Charles Featherstone, 1637; John Willson, 1647; John Huddlesee, 1640; Charles Mathews, 1634; Peter Harris, 1618; Gilbert Jones, 1642; Henry Watkins, 1638; William Giles, 1650; Benjamin Hatcher, 1642 or 4; William Puckett, 1657; Peter Ashbrook, 1649; Thomas Puckett, 1658; Edward Stratton, 1655; John Millner, 1640; Thomas Risbee, 1639; Lewis Watkins, 1641; Abraham Womack, 1644; Edward Hatcher, 1633 or 7; Henry Pue, 1634; Samuel Knibb, 1654; Edward Bowman, 1655; Gilbert Elam, Sr., 1631; Godfry Ragsdale, 1644; Peter Rowlett, 1637; Edward Thacher, 1642; Robert Woodson, 1634; Thomas East, 1640; Giles Carter, 1634; Abraham Childers, 1655 or 6; George Archer, 1654; Bartholomew Roberts, 1637; Thomas Perrin, 1639; John Bayly, 1651; Joseph Royall, 1646; William Clarke, 1637; Henry Lound, 1619; Martin Elam, 1635; Charles Clay, 1645; Thomas Gregory, 1622; Edward Lester, 1640; Robert Bullington, 1632; Anthony Tall, 1655; John Greenhaugh, 1615; Timothy Allen, 1639; John Aust, 1650; Nicholas Perkins, 1646.

duced" at his coming into the colony. He succeeded his uncle as clerk of the county holding the office until 1683 when he was in turn succeeded by Henry Randolph (son of the first Henry). William Randolph occupied during the years of his residence in Virginia nearly every office of either prominence or financial worth in Henrico County: magistrate, clerk, coroner, militia officer (of various grades) member of the House of Burgesses, moreover, he was speaker of the House and clerk of the House and for a short time in 1695 was attorney general of Virginia.

William Randolph married Mary, daughter of Henry Isham (see ante) who settled in Henrico County, was a merchant, militia officer and bore the distinctive "gentleman" affixed to his name. Mrs. Randolph was also the sister of another Henry Isham, who engaged extensively in merchandizing, and of Mrs. Ann Eppes the wife of Colonel Francis Eppes (the third of his name) who was a grandson of the first of the Eppes family in Henrico.

William Randolph left, at his death, a most comfortable fortune and the succeeding generations of his house formed, with him their "founder," a constellation of ability seldom rivalled in the history of the American Colonies.

Of the English ancestry of Richard Cocke (circa 1600-1665) and Francis Eppes (died ante 1655) nothing definite is known,¹ but from their first appearances in the colony, which was quite early, they both occupied a very solid position. Richard Cocke was several times a member of the House of Burgesses and county lieutenant of Henrico. Richard Cocke amassed considerable means for the times in which he lived but just what were his other occupations, besides planting and politics, is not now known. His sons and grandsons, at one time or another, occupied nearly every office of dignity and profit in Henrico County and as the years went by and other parts of the colony

¹ A number of notes on various branches of the Cocke family in England may be found in *Virginia Magazine*, etc., Vol. III, p. 285 and Vol. V, p. 304, et seq, though they contain nothing definite as to the parentage of Richard Cocke of Virginia. Of the English ancestry of the Eppeses, all that may be definitely said is that Francis Eppes, the first in Virginia, probably descended from a family of the name in County Kent. The coat of arms used by the Virginia Eppeses, almost from the time of the immigrant, is that ascribed to Epes or Eppes, of Canterbury, Kent."