



Thomas and William Branch of Henrico and Some of Their Descendants

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THOMAS AND WILLIAM BRANCH OF HENRICO AND
SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

BY WILLIAM CLAYTON TORRENCE

In the year 1907 Mr. James Branch Cabell issued his very interesting work, entitled *Branchiana, Being a Partial Account of the Branch Family in Virginia*, and in 1911 appeared his further contribution to the family history in the little (only in size, however), volume *Branch of Abingdon, Being a Partial Account of the Ancestry of Christopher Branch of Arrowhattocks and Kingsland in Henrico County and the Founder of the Branch Family in Virginia*. Owing to the clearly defined limitations of the scope of his research for *Branchiana* Mr. Cabell should not be blamed for overlooking the almost innumerable descendants of Christopher Branch through his eldest and second sons; and particularly as Mr. Cabell's interest centered in the descent from the youngest (so called) son of the immigrant from whom Mr. Cabell descends. This immediate branch of the family should feel under great obligation to their kinsman for his *Branchiana* as should all of the descendants of Christopher Branch, the "founder" for his *Branch of Abingdon*.

It may as well be stated that "personal interest" in the descent from Thomas Branch, eldest son of Christopher, and in William Branch, second son of Christopher, inspired the research of which the appended data are the result. In investigating a "family matter" the compiler of these notes struck a clue which carried a member of his household back in a double line to Christopher Branch and on further investigation, discovering such an interesting field for research, he made many notes of others in this line of descent than the persons in whom he was directly interested.

Aside from any matters of purely personal interest, the study of the descendants of Thomas Branch, who is proved to have been the eldest son of Christopher Branch, the immigrant, develops the fact that "according to the ancient law of primogeniture" the

"headship" of the Branch family in the United States most probably resides among his descendants.*

*I am fully aware that this statement is a contradiction of that in *Branchiana*, p. 73, where Mr. Cabell says: "Colonel James Ransom Branch . . . is to-day, according to the ancient law of primogeniture the head of the Branch family of Virginia." Colonel Branch may in fact be the "representative" of the line descending from Benjamin Branch (1732-1786) of Willow Hill, Chesterfield County and thus (*provided* there are no living male representatives of Benjamin Branch and Edward Branch of Chesterfield who [according to position given them in *Branchiana*, pages 46 and 47] were respectively *eldest* and *second* son of Benjamin Branch [1732-1786]) "representative" in the male line of Christopher Branch, of Charles City County son (and presumably *third* son) of Christopher Branch, the immigrant. But the ancient law of primogeniture to whose provisions Mr. Cabell implicitly appeals by his statement would most certainly, before sanctioning so positive a statement, take cognizance of any *possible* or *probable* descendants of Thomas Branch (1623-1694) who is *proved* to have been the eldest son of Christopher Branch, founder of the line in Virginia. Unfortunately Mr. Cabell does not tell us by what process of elimination he reached the conclusion which his statement proclaims. The production of the proofs would, of course, throw to the ground the claim here tentatively made, but until the proofs are produced one is forced by merely the circumstantial evidence afforded by the fact that there were male descendants of the name (claiming through Thomas Branch [1623-1694]) living in Virginia as late as 1800, and people of the name of Branch are living at the present time claiming descent from Mathew Branch (son of Thomas), to consider that the so-called "headship" of the family resides among these latter.

Of course there is nothing vitally important about this matter of "headship" of a family nor does any significance attach to such a matter in the mind of an American. But it would be interesting to any one to know who really is the "representative" of Christopher Branch in Virginia—or in the United States as for that matter—for whoever should be proved (in strict accordance with the terms of the law primogeniture) to be the "representative" of Christopher Branch, the immigrant, will also have been proved (according to the data given in *Branch of Abingdon*) to be the "representative" of Richard Branch of Abingdon, in Berkshire, England, born ante 1500, died 1544 (the earliest identified ancestor of this family). Richard Branch, of Abingdon died in 1544 leaving as *eldest* son Thomas Branch, of London, draper, who, dying in 1565 *without issue*, placed "representation" in William Branch of Abingdon, the second son. William Branch (born post 1524; died 1602) had, as *eldest* son, Thomas Branch, who died in 1603, *without surviving issue*, and as *second* son,

A brief statement of the record of Christopher Branch, the immigrant, will be of interest here.

Christopher¹ Branch (son of Lionel and Valentia [Sparke] Branch, of London) was born in England in 1602 and died in Virginia, 1681. On September 2, 1619, he was married in St. Peter's, Westcheap, London, to Mary Addie, spinster, daughter of Francis Addie, of Darton, County York, husbandman. They came to Virginia in the ship *London Merchant* in March, 1619-20, and settled in the present Henrico County where they were living "att ye Colledg Land" in February 1623-4 with their son Thomas² Branch, nine months old. Christopher² Branch later patented land and first lived at or near Arrowhattocks on the north side of James River finally settling at Kingsland on the south side of the river (almost opposite Arrowhattocks) in the present Chesterfield County, near Proctor's Creek, at that time, and for many years afterwards, Henrico.

Christopher¹ Branch was one of the viewers of tobacco in Henrico in 1639 and in an Assembly convened January 1639 was one of the representatives for Henrico County in the House of Burgesses.* In 1656 he was a justice of the peace for Henrico.

Christopher¹ Branch's will dated June 20, 1678, was probated in Henrico County, February 20, 1681-2.†

1. Christopher¹ and Mary (Addie) Branch, had issue:

2. i. Thomas² Branch, of Henrico Country, born 1623, died 1694; married Elizabeth ———.
3. ii. William² Branch, of Henrico County, born about 1625, died about 1676; married Jane ———.

Richard Branch, who died ante 1602, *without issue*, and as *third* son Lionel Branch, of London, whose apparently only child Christopher Branch was the "founder" of the Branch family in Virginia.

I here raise this question of representation hoping that it may be productive of starting a search on the part of some one who has the time to settle the matter.

* Stanards' *Colonial Virginia Register*, p. 60, says 1639; *Branchiana*, p. 28, says 1629. This last date is probably a typographical error.

† The above facts are from *Branchiana*, p. 25-31, and *Branch of Abingdon*. The will of Christopher Branch is given in full in the last named publication, p. 121, *et seq.*

iii. Christopher² Branch, born about 1627, died 1665; moved to Charles City County where he was a justice of the peace in 1657. The name of Christopher Branch's wife is unknown. It is with the descendants of Benjamin³ Branch, third son of Christopher² Branch that *Branchiana* deals.

2. Thomas² Branch (*Christopher*¹) of Henrico County. He was born 1623; died about 1694 or 5. He lived on a part of the "Kingsland" tract on the south side of James River, Henrico County.

Thomas² Branch married Elizabeth (whose surname is unknown).^{*} Thomas² and Elizabeth Branch, had issue:

4. i. Thomas³ Branch, of Henrico County.
5. ii. Matthew³ Branch, of Henrico County.
6. iii. James³ Branch, of Henrico County.
- iv. Elizabeth³ Branch married Melchizedeck Richardson.
- v. Martha³ Branch married Richard Ward.

^{*} The will of Edward Deeley, of Henrico Parish and County, dated October 18, 1688, probated June 1, 1689, makes bequests as follows: to *cousin Matthew Branch*, land and plantation, all tobacco I have in hands of William Glover and John Davis will all materials provided to go towards the house now building and what remains unfinished to be at said Branch's cost; to said Branch a negro during term of ten years and then he to be free; to *James Branch*, a cow and calf; to each of *Thomas Branch, Junr' his daughters*, one cow; to Richard Ward's daughter, a cow; to Robert Broadway, my horse; to Dorothy Blackman, a young mare, to William Blackman, junr, John Blackman, Elizabeth Blackman, Henrico Parish Church, John Bromfield, William Blackman, Charles Douglass, Mr. Good, Joshua Step, and William Glover, bequests; *my brother Thomas Jefferson*, executor (Henrico Records). I have been unable to find any further explanation of the relationships mentioned in this will. "Cousin" applied to Matthew Branch may have meant nephew, as that was the common acceptance of the term at this date.

The will of Thomas Branch, Senior, of Henrico County, dated 25th 8br [October] 1688 was proved in Henrico County 1 February 1694. He alludes to himself as "being in a sickly Cracy Condition but of sound and perfect memory" [evidently his "Cracy Condition" was physical, not mental!]. To my three sons, Thomas, Matthew and James, 5 shillings each; residue of goods and chattles to wife Elizabeth, but should she die before testator then said goods and chattles to be equally divided between testator's aforesaid 3 sons "only I give to my two daughters, Elizabeth

3. William² Branch (*Christopher*¹) of Henrico County, who died in 1676, many years before his father.* He married Jane

Richardson and Martha Ward, 5 shillings each to buy a ring. Wife, Elizabeth, whole and sole executrix. Witnesses: William Glover, Christopher Branch, Ann Branch.

The will of Elizabeth Branch, Senior, of Varina Parish, Henrico County, dated 2 August 1697, was proved 20 August 1697. To son Thomas Branch, bed that standeth with the head to the partition on the left hand the door as one cometh in, with all furniture belonging thereto, also 5 pair sheets (one pair being Holland), my long table and form, a great copper kettle, an iron pot known by the name of the long pot, and one belmettle skillet; son Matthew Branch, 1 pair "new curtains and vallens to the bed he hath had already," five pair sheets (one being Holland), chest of drawers, drawing table and small forme, biggest brass kettle, second great pot, one pot called the new pot being made of iron, chafing dish, pair fire dogs; son James Branch, feather bed that standeth on the right hand as one cometh from the door to the chimney with the curtains and vallens and all other furniture belonging to said bed; 5 pair sheets (one being Holland) half this present crop of wheat, one great iron pot, one small iron pot, small brass kettle, negro man Mingo; daughter Elizabeth Richardson, suit of wearing clothes, my riding gown, and twelve pence in money; son-in-law Melchizedeck Richardson, half crown to buy him a pair of gloves; son-in-law Richard Ward, half crown to buy him a pair of gloves; granddaughter Martha Branch, all my wearing clothes in general, linnen and wollen, shoes and hose; three sons Thomas, Matthew and James, before mentioned, residue of estate to be qually divided between them except that half the wheat, after James hath his, is to be divided between Thomas and Matthew, and 2 cows called Nanny and Cherry and one cow calfe and half an ox which I give to son James and other half of said ox to son Thomas; residue of goods and chattles to be equally divided between sons Thomas and Matthew; sons Thomas and James executors. Witnesses: Joseph Tanner, John X Cocke.

* December 1, 1697, Thomas Branch of County and Parish of Henrico to John Cocke and Obedience, his wife, the daughter and one of the co-heirs of John Branch, late deceased. For £5 sterling, conveys 100 acres at "Kingsland" or near thereto in county aforesaid, formerly given to *Jane (the grandmother of said Obedience)*, and wife of William Branch (son of Christopher Branch) and father to John Branch, and to the heirs of said William Branch as by deed on record in Henrico Court may appear, etc. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1697-1704, p. 39.)

(whose surname is unknown).† *She* married *second* William Baugh, Jr., and *third*, Abell Gower.

William² and Jane Branch had issue:

- i. William³ Branch, who died without issue.
7. ii. John³ Branch, of whom hereafter.
- iii. Sarah³ Branch, nothing further is known of her.
- iv. Mary³ Branch, married *first*, Thomas Jefferson; *second*,

Joseph Mattox.‡

† Search in the remaining Henrico County Records for the maiden name of Mrs. Jane Branch-Baugh-Gower has proved, so far, fruitless. She was born about 1640 (Deposition, made Xber 1, 1688, stating her age as about 48 years. Henrico Records, Vol. 1688-97, p. 25.) The will of Jane Gower, of Parish and County of Henrico, dated December 7, 1709, was proved in Henrico Court January, 1710; grandson William Cox and my daughter Mary Cox, all my outlands; granddaughters, Obedience Turpin and Priscilla Wilkinson, to be equally divided between them, the land I now live on called the great Stone; grandson William Farrar, feather bed, rugg, pair blankets, pair sheets, pillow and boulder, grandson Abel Farrar, feather bed, boulder, pillow, blanket, rug and pair sheets; granddaughter Mary Womack, four silver spoons; granddaughter Mary Wilkinson 4 silver spoons; granddaughter Obedience Turpin, four silver spoons; granddaughter Martha Wilkerson, chest of drawers, oval table, diaper table cloth, one dozen napkins; to Priscilla Farrar, bed, boulder, blanket, rug; to John Spike, bed he lies on with furniture thereto belonging; to William Womeck, two breeding sows; daughter Mary Cox, all stock except 2 cows; granddaughter Priscilla Farrar, silver porringer; my sister Hatcher, damask gown and petticoat; grandson Abell Farrar, iron pot, silver tumbler, table standing in the chamber, two pewter dishes; granddaughter Priscilla Farrar, iron pot, table with drawer in it, pewter dish; grandson William Farrar, 2 pewter dishes, my biggest tumbler, silver; granddaughter Judith Womack, box iron and heaters; daughter Mrs. Mary Cox, residue of estate and she named as executrix. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1710-1714, p. 35.)

The mention of "*my sister Hatcher*" in Mrs. Jane Gower's will but serves to make the problem of Mrs. Gower's family name more intricate. It must suffice here to state that no positive, and very little circumstantial, evidence has been adduced to settle the question. The statement in *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XVII, p. 401, that Mrs. Jane Gower was the *daughter* of Edward Hatcher of Henrico is erroneous as the only Edward Hatcher (of that period) was born about 1633 (Henrico Records) and was therefore only about *seven years old* at the time of Mrs. Gower's birth.

‡ For an account of the Jefferson descent see *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XXIII, p. 173, *et seq.*

4. Thomas³ Branch (*Thomas*,² *Christopher*¹) of Henrico County, was born about 1658 (Henrico Records, Vol. 1710-14, p. 48), and died in 1728. In a deed dated December 2, 1697, he is called "Thomas Branch, the *eldest son* of Thomas Branch, who was the eldest son of Christopher Branch, late of Henrico, deceased" (Henrico Records). Thomas Branch married Elizabeth, daughter of George Archer, of Henrico County.*

The will of Thomas³ Branch, of Henrico County, dated December 4, 1727, was probated December, 1728.†

* Henrico County Orphans Court 12 October, 1688, "Mr. Joseph Royall Guard of ye orph^s of Geo Archer decd doth give acc^t that he hath taken up two mares belonging to ye s^d Orph^s one of which he hath del^d to Tho Branch who marryed Eliz^a Archer (one of ye sd Orph^s) wch delvy ye s^d Branch in Court acknowledgeth and ye other he hath exchanged wth Sam^{ll} Knibb for another wch now hath a foal." Henrico Records, Orphans Court 1677-99, p. 23.

† Will of Thomas Branch, dated December 4, 1727, probated December, 1728, son Thomas, negro girl Hannah, large copper kettle, high bed and bedstead, rug, blankets, curtains, vallence, pair best sheets, boulder and cases (standing in upper chamber on right hand of the stairs), great looking glass, chest of drawers in the lower chamber, six largest Russia chairs leather, silver tumbler, gun, large table cloth and form, pair andirons, large iron pot called the soap pot; son William, negro boy Tom, negro girl Sarah, bed in ye chamber, bedstead, rug, blanket, pair sheets, great chest in lower room, one bole, six Russia leather chairs of the second sort, three silver spoons, oval table, brass kettle about 18 or 20 gallons; son James 280 acres land on deep bottom of Proctor's Creek, negro woman Pegg, two negro children Matt and Jack, bed, bedstead, rug, blanket, sheets "which his brother Thomas and he allways lie on," new iron pot and pot hooks, 3 silver spoons, six of the old high leather chairs; daughters Tabitha Mitchell, Agnes Worsham, Elizabeth Punch, Frances Tanner, Amey Branch, each 10 shillings credit in a London store, daughter Mary Tatum £16 credit in some London store; daughter Martha, bed and bedstead, rug, blanket and sheets "which she and her sister now lies on in the lower chamber" and 12 shillings to buy a ring, one chest that she calls hers; daughter Margery, £8 currency to buy a bed; sons William and James, 3 old guns; wife Elizabeth during widowhood, for maintenance of her and her family labor and benefit of 3 negros, viz.: Mingo, Doley, and Peter and if she marries said Mingo and Doley to my son Thomas, said Peter to my son James; wife Elizabeth, during life, use, profits and increase of residue of personal estate and my goods movable and immovable and all crop now on plantation except legacies herein mentioned, and after

Thomas³ and Elizabeth (Archer) Branch had issue:

i. Thomas⁴ Branch, of Henrico, later Chesterfield County. His will bears date October 30, 1765, and recorded in Chesterfield County, devises to William Branch, land and plantation whereon my brother William Branch formerly lived on Appomattox River; residue of estate to Henry Mitchell, Edward Osborne, Robert Goode, son of Robert Goode, deceased, Josiah Tatum, Branch Tanner, Christopher Branch, Tho Branch Willson and John Goode, and they are named as executors. (Chesterfield County Will Book, No. 1, p. 536.)

ii. William⁴ Branch, of Henrico, later Chesterfield County. The will of William Branch, of Henrico, dated October 4, 1741, and recorded in Chesterfield County, devised to brother Thomas Branch, whole estate real and personal and he is named as executor. (Chesterfield County Will Book, No. 1, p. 336.)

iii. James⁴ Branch, of Henrico County, will dated August 5, 1736, probate October, 1737, devises to sister Martha Branch, a negro girl; to sister Margery Branch, a negro girl; brother Thomas Branch £10 currency; brothers Thomas and William Branch, residue of estate and they are named as executors. Witnesses: John Worsham, Edward Osborne, Jr.; Josiah Tatum. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1725-37.)

iv. Tabitha⁴ Branch married ——— Mitchell.

v. Agnes⁴ Branch married, *first*, Edward Osborne; *second*, John Worsham. Administration on the estate of Edward Osborne, deceased, was granted to Agnes Osborne, at Henrico Court September 1724. Benjamin Branch and Thomas Branch, Jr., sureties (Henrico Records, Vol. 1719-24). On October 11, 1726, John Worsham, Jr., and Agnes, his wife, convey two negroes (Lucy and Sarah) to said Agnes' sons William and Joseph Osborne (Henrico Records, Vol. 1725-37, p. 62).

vi. Elizabeth⁴ Branch married *first*, Robert Goode; *second*, Page Punch; *third*, Edward Curd.‡

her decease the same to be equally divided between my *three sons and two daughters who are unmarried*. Wife Elizabeth, executrix and guardian to all my children that are under age. Witnesses: Richard Ward, Junior, Higginson X King, Charles Griffith. Henrico Records, Vol. 1725-37, p. 221).

‡ Mrs. Elizabeth (Branch) Goode-Punch-Curd, died November 30, 1766 (*Virginia Cousins*, p. 37). The proof of Elizabeth⁴ Branch's three marriages comes in this way. Thomas³ Branch in his will dated December 4, 1727, names his *daughter Elizabeth Punch*. In record of an Orphan's Court held for Henrico Co. October 5, 1725 is mention of Page Punch who

Robert and Elizabeth⁴ (Branch) Goode had issue:

(a) Robert⁵ Goode, born July 19, 1711, died March 6, 1765; married Mary Turpin, born September 1720, died March 6, 1765, daughter of Thomas and Obedience (Branch) Turpin.

(b) Francis⁵ Goode, of whom nothing further is known.

Page and Elizabeth⁴ (Branch-Goode) Punch had issue:

(c) Mary⁵ Punch.

vii. Frances⁴ Branch married Lodowick Tanner of Henrico and Amelia Counties. An account of the Tanner Family will be given in the next issue of the QUARTERLY.

viii. Mary⁴ Branch married ——— Tatum.

ix. Amy⁴ Branch. Query: Did she marry Henry Branch?

x. Martha⁴ Branch } They were unmarried as late as August,

xi. Margery⁴ Branch } 1736.

5. Matthew³ Branch (*Thomas*,² *Christopher*¹) of Henrico County. He was born about 1661 and died 1726. The name of his wife is now unknown.

intermarried with *Elizabeth, relict of Robert Goode, decd* (Henrico Records, Vol. 167 -1739, p. 54). The will of Robert Goode, of Henrico County, dated May 25, 1718, probated July 17, 1718, names sons Robert and Francis Goode; sister Ann; and *wife Elizabeth*, who is named sole executrix. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1716-18, p. 260). The will of Page Punch, of Henrico, dated August 31, 1726, probated November 6, 1727, names daughter Mary (under age); *son-in-law* [step-son] *Robert Goode*; wife [name not given], sole executrix. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1725-37, p. 152). The will of Edward Curd, of Henrico, dated February 4, 1739-40, probated December, 1742, names son Edward Curd; my wife [name not given]; son John Curd; son Richard Curd; to Mary Mackbride, and her son Edward Mackbride; my *daughter in law* [step-daughter] *Mary Punch*; grandson, John Curd; granddaughter Jane Mackbride; daughter Mary Richardson; daughter Elizabeth Williams (Original Wills in Henrico County). The will of Robert Goode, of Chesterfield County, dated September 8, 1765, names daughters Elizabeth and Obedience; son Robert; son Francis; son Thomas; son Samuel; *my mother Elizabeth Curd*; executors, sons Robert and Francis (Chesterfield County Records).

The evidence here given corrects the statement made in Goode's *Virginia Cousins*, page 37, that Robert Goode married Elizabeth Curd. A rather full account of the descendants of Robert and Mary (Turpin) Goode is given in *Virginia Cousins*. Obedience Branch, wife of Thomas Turpin (and mother of Mary Turpin, wife of Robert Goode, above), was daughter of John Branch, son of William Branch who was son of Christopher Branch, the immigrant, and her line of descent will be given in the next installment of this article.

The will of Matthew³ Branch, Senior, of Henrico, dated December 15, 1722, was proved in Henrico County July 4, 1726 and (while the name of his wife is unknown) his children (in the order named in his will) were :*

7. i. Matthew⁴ Branch, of Chesterfield County, married 1750, Ridley Jones.

8. ii. John⁴ Branch, of Chesterfield.

9. iii. Olive⁴ Branch, of Chesterfield.

10. iv. Daniel⁴ Branch, of Chesterfield.

11. v. Thomas⁴ Branch, of Chesterfield.

vi. Phoebe⁴ Branch, of whom nothing further is now known.

vii. Elizabeth⁴ Branch, born ———; died November 7, 1789, married, *first*, November 30, 1730, Stephen Woodson (who died January 18, 1735-6); and *second*, ——— Bates. Stephen and Elizabeth (Branch) Woodson had issue :

i. Matthew⁵ Woodson, born February 25, 1731-2.

ii. Elizabeth⁵ Woodson, born March 19, 1734.

iii. Stephen⁵ Woodson, born September 25, 1735.†

6. James³ Branch (*Thomas*,² *Christopher*¹) of Henrico and Chesterfield Counties was born about 1666 (Henrico County Records) and lived for many years in Henrico County, his home

* Matthew Branch, Senior, of Henrico County, will dated 15 December, 1722, proved 4 July, 1726; son Matthew Branch, plantation I now dwell on, only my wife to have lower half with dwelling house I now live in during her life and half of out houses; son Matthew Branch land lying on head of my brother Thomas Branch and joins to my brother James, commonly called *Berbados*, also a parcel of land joining John Blackman which he bought of John Tullit and so to Grindoll's Run, only my wife to have privilege on my son Matthew's land both here and att *Berbados*, to get timber and fencing for building and keeping in repair the plantation I now live on; son John Branch, whole part of land taken up between my brother James and myself, son [s] Olive and Daniel Branch, land I bought of Mr. John Tullit, said land to be equally divided and son Olive to have that part next to Poewhite and Daniel part next the Reedy Creek; should Olive or Daniel die in non-age, or one before the other, survivor to possess the whole tract; son Thomas Branch, 150 acres which I took up with Captain Jefferson, Thomas Harris and Thomas Turpin; son Olive a gray colt; son Thomas, a black colt; daughter Phebe Branch, a bay mare; daughter Elizabeth Branch, a bay mare. Residue of estate to wife to be disposed of among my children as she pleases. Wife [name not given] whole executrix. (Henrico Records, Vol. 1725-37.)

† WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY, Vol. XVI, p. 285.

falling in the new county of Chesterfield on the latter's creation in 1749.

On August 11, 1711, James Branch, of the parish and county of Henrico conveyed (for £10 sterling) to Matthew Branch, of the same, the interest of the said James Branch in 355 acres on south side of James River in Henrico County as by patent to said Matthew and James Branch in April, 1703. On the same date Matthew Branch, conveyed to James Branch (for £10 sterling) interest of the said Matthew Branch in 355 acres on south side James River in Henrico County, being part of a patent granted Matthew and James Branch in April 1703 (Henrico Records).

On November 2, 1726, James Branch, of Henrico County, planter, conveyed to Henry Vanderhood, of same, Merchant, for £150 currency, 100 acres on south side of James River at a place commonly called Kingsland, which said land was conveyed by Christopher Branch unto his grandsons William and John Branch by deed dated October 17, 1659, and by the said John Branch, the survivor devised unto his daughter Obedience late the wife of Thomas Turpin, deceased, in his will dated January 17, 1687, and by the said Thomas and Obedience, his wife, conveyed to the aforesaid James Branch by deed April 2, 1716. Mary, wife of the said James Branch, relinquished her right of dower (Henrico Records).

James³ Branch's will dated August 19, 1726, in Henrico County was proved in Chesterfield County in the fall of 1749. The will of his wife Mary Branch of Chesterfield County bears date November 28, 1750.*

* The will of James Branch, of Henrico County, dated August 19, 1726, daughters Frances, Elizabeth, Verlinche, Mary and Phoebe Branch and son John Branch, one shilling each; residue of estate left to wife [name not given] to dispose of as she sees fit to children. Witnesses: Thomas Branch, Jr., William Branch, Matthew Branch. Estate appraised October 5, 1749. (Chesterfield County, Will Book, No. 1, pp. 55, 57.)

The will of Mary Branch, of Chesterfield County, dated November 28, 1750, devises personalty to daughters Verlinche Branch, Mary Branch, and Phoebe Hill and to granddaughter Elizabeth Wooldridge and to son John Branch, residue of estate and he is named as executor. Witnesses: John Branch, Jr. Samuel Branch, John Hancock. (Chesterfield County Will Book, No. 1, p. 235.)

James³ and Mary Branch had issue :

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| i. Frances ⁴ Branch. | } Untraced. |
| ii. Elizabeth ⁴ Branch. | |
| iii. Verlinche ⁴ Branch. | |
| iv. Mary ⁴ Branch. | |
| v. Phoebe ⁴ Branch, married _____ Hill | |
| 12. vi. John Branch, of Chesterfield County. | |

(To be Concluded)

BATHURST, A COLONIAL RESIDENCE

The editors are indebted to Judge Lewis H. Jones, of Louisville, Kentucky, for the photogravure of "Bathurst," which appears as the frontispiece of this number. "Bathurst" was built by Francis Meriwether, the old clerk of Essex Co., *circa* 1692, and received its name from his marriage with Mary Bathurst, daughter of Lancelot Bathurst, of Essex County, Virginia, son of Sir Edward Bathurst of Gloucestershire, England, and his second wife, Susan Rich. Upon the death of Francis Meriwether's widow in 1740, the land was divided among his heirs, and the "Bathurst" tract fell to the wife of Theodorick Bland. Bland sold it to Francis Smith who married Lucy, a daughter of Francis Meriwether. From them it descended to their son Meriwether Smith, first member of Congress from that district, patriot, etc. From him it passed to his son, George William Smith, who became governor of Virginia, lost his life in the burning of the Richmond theatre, who early sold "Bathurst" to Major Thomas Ap Thomas Jones, whose mother was daughter of Mary, another daughter of Francis Meriwether, and her husband James Skelton. From them it descended to their only son, Thomas Ap Thomas Jones, the grandfather of Judge Lewis H. Jones, who sold it for £3950 in 1800, and moved to Kentucky.