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THE HUGUENOT ABRAHAM MICHAUX
AND DESCENDANTS

(Continued)

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THE MICHAUX BIBLE

The Michaux Bible is believed by many of the Michaux descendants to contain valuable genealogical data about the Michaux Family; especially about the children of Abraham Michaux and his wife Susanna Rochet. After long search, the Bible was found in the Library of Union Theological Seminary in Richmond, Virginia. In this Bible the statement is made that it "was sent to the family of Abraham Michaux by his parents. It is said to have been sent from England. Printed in 1657—see Preface. The parents of Abraham Michaux thought that there were no Bibles in the new settlements of America."

On the blank leaves between the Old and New Testaments is a statement dictated by Mrs. Martha Venable, grand daughter of Ann Madelin Michaux who married Richard Woodson. She states that "she remembered well her grandmother, and from her lips received the above statement." The statement gives the story of the "Little Nightcap" somewhat as given by Dr. W. D. Morton; says that the family "came from Holland to Stafford County, Virginia", where "they resided for some time"; and repeats the tradition that "the inhabitants there, the previous settlers (at Manakin Town), thought" that the family was not entitled "to their portion of the land granted by King William to the Huguenots, as they had not come in time to encounter the hardships of the first settlements."

On the inside back cover of the Bible, in a bold hand, is written in two places, "Paul Michaux Was born In ye year of our Lord 1078, March 17th." The statement has no meaning unless it was the intention of the writer to say that Paul Michaux was born in 1708. This is the only statement in the Bible of genealogical value.

Alexander Brown quotes a family tradition: "Abraham Michaux was the nephew of the celebrated M. James Saurin, minister of the French Church of the Savoy, in the Strand, London, in the year 1703." Mr. Brown states that "A prayer book, with this note in French inscribed on a blank page, 'M. Saurin, minister, has sent this Book of Common Prayer to his nephew, Abraham Mischeaux, in Virginia', was presented in 1857 by N. F. Cabell, Esq., through Bishop Meade, to the Theological Seminary at Alexandria."* Mr. Brown then says that the family tradition has "in the course of time gotten somewhat mixed", and quotes Smiles, who says:

* "Cabells and Their Kin", p. 271.

"Jacques Saurin was the greatest of the Protestant preachers. He was the son of an advocate at Nismes, whose three sons all took refuge in England: Jacques, the pulpit orator; Captain Saurin, an officer in William's army; and Louis, sometime minister of the French Church in the Savoy, and afterwards Dean of St. Patrick's, Ardagh. From Louis were lineally descended the Right Revd. James Saurin, Bishop of Dromore, and the Honorable William Saurin, Attorney-General for Ireland from 1807 to 1821. Jacques Saurin was one of the ministers of the French church in Threadneedle Street, London, in 1701-1705; he then went to the Hague. . ."

CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM MICHAUX AND SUSANNA ROCHET

There are several papers extant, each supposed to be authoritative, giving the names of the children of Abraham Michaux and his wife Susanna Rochet. One of these gives the following:

"1) Jacob married Judith Woodson; 2) John; 3) James; 4) Paul; 5) Abraham, killed by the Indians; 6) Jane married Legrand; 7) Susannah married Quinn; 8) Judith married Morgan; 9) Elizabeth married Sanborn Woodson; 10) Agnes married Richard Woodson; 11) Nannie died unmarried; 12) Esther married Cunningham."

Another paper gives 13 children, but names only 12:

"His sons were Jacob, John, Paul, Abraham, and one not named. Daughters, Ann, Jane, Madelin, Susanne, Olive called Jude, Elizabeth, Amanda, Mary called 'Easter'."

This was taken from a paper which the writer states he got from Mrs. Martha Venable, while he was on a visit to her home in Prince Edward County. But it differs from the list given by Mrs. Venable in the Michaux Bible, which is as follows:

"Abraham Micheaux and Susannah Roche by their marriage had 12 children—7 daughters and 5 sons. The daughters were Jane (or Jane Magdalen) who married Le Grande. Nannie (1st) never married. Susannah married Quinn. Judith married Morgan; Elizabeth married Sanbourne Woodson; Nannie married Richard Woodson; Esther married Alexander Cunningham. The sons were Jacob, who married Judith Woodson, John, James and Paul." (Then in pencil some one has added "and Abraham").

Another list is given as follows:

"Jacob, John, Paul, Abraham, Anne, Jane, Magdalene, Susanna, Judith, Elizabeth, Amanda, and Esther."†

† "The Huguenot, Bartholomew Dupuy and Descendants", page 229, by B. H. Dupuy.

R. A. Brock gives the list as follows:

"Sons: Jacob, John, Paul, Abraham; daughters: Anne, Jane, Magdalene, Susanna, Olive (June), Elizabeth, Amanda, 'Easter', Mary."†

Another list is contained in a paper left by Mrs. Eunice (Michaux) Hobson, wife of Mr. Haskins Hobson of Powhatan County. She had other valuable papers relating to the Michaux family, which were generously submitted by her daughter, Mrs. Charles E. Ashburner of Norfolk, Virginia. The list as given by Mrs. Hobson is as follows:

Born	Name	Died
1672	Abraham Michaux	1717
	Susanne Rochet	1744

CHILDREN

- 1693 Anne Michaux (Single)
- 1697 Jean, married Peter Legrand
- 1699 Isaac (no record)
- 1700 James
 - Jacob, married Judith Woodson
 - John
 - Paul, had no children
 - Abraham, killed by Indians
 - Susanne, married John Quinn
 - Olive Judy, married Anthony Morgan
 - Elizabeth, married Sanborn Woodson
 - Ann Madelin, married Richard Woodson. She lived to be 86 and died about year 1796.
 - Easter Mary, married Alexander Cunningham

Here are thirteen children. The paper separates the two Annes, who have been made one by many of the descendants and by some of the genealogists. It gives the tradition that Abraham, Jr., was killed by Indians, and it gives a clue to the dates of birth and death of Ann Madelin Michaux, who married Richard Woodson of Henrico and Prince Edward Counties. In the dates of birth of the four oldest children it tallies with the birth records sent from Amsterdam by H. F. Baerselman, already cited.

Serious genealogical damage has been done by the merging of Anne Michaux, born in 1693, with her much younger sister Ann Madelin Michaux, born in Virginia probably 1710/11. To make Richard Woodson's age proper for marrying Anne the First, he is published as having been born "about 1690", and as having married Anne the First in 1715, when

† Virginia Historical Collections, 5:166.

little Ann Madelin was four or five years old.* As Richard Woodson was born probably 1705/6, he was not over nine or ten years old in the year he was married off to Anne Michaux.† Still further to make the dates correct, Richard Woodson's mother, who is said to have been Ann Smith, is published as the daughter of Obadiah Smith (will probated 1746) and his wife Mary Cocke. Richard Woodson's mother may have been a Smith, and may have been a sister of Obadiah Smith; she could not have been his daughter.‡

Of the children of Ann Madelin Michaux and her husband Richard Woodson of "Poplar Hill," it is known that their daughter Elizabeth Woodson was born on June 6, 1740, and that their daughter Agnes was born October 4, 1748. Anne Michaux the First, had she been the mother of these children, would have been 47 at the birth of Elizabeth, and 55 at the birth of Agnes.

Persistent search has not discovered the dates of birth of any of the children of Abraham Michaux who were born in Virginia, except the approximate date of birth of Ann Madelin, as given in Mrs. Hobson's paper, and the date of birth of John Paul Michaux, if the statement written in the Michaux Bible, that "Paul Michaux Was born in ye year of our Lord 1078, March 17th", is interpreted to mean 1708. No field has more pitfalls in it than that of genealogy, but it seems safe to assume that Esther Mary (Esther Mary, one child, not two) Michaux, the youngest child, was born 1712/13.

Abraham Michaux in his will followed a custom of his day, though

* See "The Woodsons and Their Connections", page 34. It would be difficult to find compressed in one page more errors. Despite these and other errors, Mr. Henry Woodson has produced a genealogy of very great value.

† The date of Richard Woodson's birth is arrived at in this way: In August 1722, Ann Woodson, widow of Richard Woodson and mother of Richard Woodson who married Ann Madelin Michaux, petitioned the Justices of Henrico County Court to exempt her son Richard from the levy. The record states that "Anne Woodson petitions that she be exempt from paying levies for her son Richard until he be 21 years of age". The law at that time was that all males of the age of 16 should be declared "titiable, or chargeable for defraying the public, County, and parish charges . . . except such only, as the county court, and vestry, for reasons, in charity, made appear to them, shall think fit to excuse". (Minutes of Court of Henrico, August 1722, page 199. For the law in reference to the age of titiables, see III Hening's Statutes at Large, pages 258, 6, passed October 1705).

‡ James C. Southall, in his Genealogy of the Cocke Family (Va. Mag. of Hist. and Biogr., 3:405) gives the birth of William Cocke, father of Mary, as 1655, his death as 1693. He states that he married (2) Sarah Flower "about 1689". Mary was by the second marriage. The wills of Obadiah Smith (made 1744) and of his wife Mary Cocke (made 1753) show that their daughter Ann was not married—unless she had married a Smith, and there is no evidence to show that she married at all.

not an invariable one, by naming his sons first, and, we may presume, in the order of birth, Jacob, John, Abraham, and John Paul. He did not mention Isaac and Jacques (James), both born in Amsterdam, and therefore his oldest sons. It is presumed that Isaac died young; his name is not found after the register of his baptism. Jacques (James) Michaux presents a problem. What became of him? He is not mentioned in his father's will in 1717. There is no mention of him in any deeds in Henrico, Goochland, or Cumberland Counties. In the will of Jacob Michaux (Cumberland County, 1774), the name James is mentioned twice as follows: "I lend unto my beloved wife . . . the land and plantation on which I now live, from the lower end up to the land that was James'"; "I give unto my son Jacob my ferry and tract of land from Paul Michaux's line to that of James' aforesaid". But if these words refer to land formerly belonging to James Michaux, the question arises, why are there no deeds showing the purchase or sale of land? In a letter to Jacob Michaux, written March 8, 1771, from Spitalfield (London) by William Tompkins, in reference to goods shipped by him to Jacob Michaux, he begins with the statement, "My wife's father, Mr. James Michaux, died about six weeks ago, at the age of 70 years".§ Was he Jacques Michaux, baptized in Amsterdam August 15, 1700? The dates fit.

In naming his daughters, Abraham Michaux undoubtedly follows the order of birth. Of the seven, he groups the "three eldest Daughters" and the "three young Daughters", and places Olive Judi between the two groups. Mrs. Hobson's paper follows this order. Exactly where Susanna should be placed is not known. She was probably after Jacob and before Olive Judi, and from the grouping in the will would seem to belong to the upper six. I can find no authority for the published statement that Susanna was born in Holland in 1695, and was mentioned second among her children in the will of her mother Susanna Rochet.|| It would seem strange, if Susanna was born in Holland, that she was not given the rite of baptism, as were the other children named above. One paper states that she married Peter Le Grand in 1713; on what authority I do not know.

It has been published that Jacob was born in Holland in 1700. This does not seem probable. Jacques (James) was baptized in Amsterdam on August 15, 1700, and probably in early infancy. It seems probable that the names Jacques and Jacob were confused by later generations.

John Paul Michaux was born probably 1708—the youngest son. His mother's will seems to indicate that he was, among the sons, his mother's darling—a privilege usually accorded the youngest boy by the mother.

To sum up: The will of Abraham Michaux, and the records of bap-

§ For full letter, see *W. & M. Quarterly*, Second Series, 16:482, quoted by Mr. W. S. Morton.

|| "The Woodsons and Their Connections", page 34. John Paul Michaux was the only child mentioned in the will of his mother.

tism in Amsterdam, indicate the order of birth of the first four of the children, Ann, Jane Magdalen, Isaac, and Jacques (James); and the will indicates the order of birth of the three youngest, Elizabeth, Ann Madelin, and Easter Mary. We can therefore place seven of the children correctly in the line of birth. The remaining six we can place only by inference:

- I. Anne² Michaux, born in Holland, probably in April, 1693, and baptized in May of that year; unmarried.
- II. Jane Magdalen² Michaux, baptized in 1697 in Holland; married Peter Le Grand.
- III. Isaac² Michaux, baptized in Holland in 1699; nothing further known of him.
- IV. Jaques (James)² Michaux, baptized in August 1700 in Holland.
- V. Jacob² Michaux, born probably in Amsterdam or London; married Judith Woodson.
- VI. Susanne² Michaux, married John Quin of Henrico County.
- VII. John² Michaux, born in Virginia; married Sarah ———.
- VIII. Abraham² Michaux, Jr.; died unmarried.
- IX. Olive Judi² Michaux; married Anthony Morgan.
- X. John Paul² Michaux, known as Paul; born probably 1708; married Judith Wilmore.
- XI. Elizabeth² Michaux, said to have married Sanburn Woodson.
- XII. Ann Madelin² Michaux, born probably 1710/11; married Richard Woodson.
- XIII. Easter (Esther) Mary Michaux, born probably in 1712/13; married Alexander Cunningham.

Children of Jane Magdalen² Michaux and Peter² Le Grand*

Pierre Le Grand, his wife, and five children, came over in the second ship bringing French refugees to Virginia, September 1700. Among these children was Pierre (Peter²) Le Grand, who married Jane Magdalen Michaux (baptized in Amsterdam, Holland, January 3, 1697). The date of birth of Peter² Le Grand is not known. The date of his marriage to Jane² Michaux is not known. In one of the family papers it is stated that they were married in 1713, when Jane was 16 or 17 years old. But this does not seem probable. In his will, Peter² Le Grand mentioned his "brother" Jacob Michaux. He bequeathed the home site to his son

* An admirable paper on the three Peter Le Grands and their generations may be found in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 44:257-61 (July 1936); by Mr. Robert L. Haycock.

John², who is the only one of his six children he names. He provided that the remainder of the land should be divided among all his children.† The division did not begin until 1749, at which time four of the children were of age. As John² was given the home site, he was probably the oldest. The first deeds gave the purchaser the right to certain sixths of the land. Alexander² Le Grand, one of the children, transferred his one-sixth in 1753. He had evidently come of age. At the May Court, 1753, James² Le Grand, "infant orphan of Peter Le Grand, deceased, with the approbation of the Court, made choice of Alexander as Guardian". In March, 1755, James² transferred his sixth, being now of age.‡

The order of birth of the children of Jane Magdalen Michaux and Peter Le Grand is not known, except for the two youngest. Their names, as shown in the Cumberland County Deed Books, are as follows:

- I. John² Le Grand. He was living in Lunenburg County in July 1749, and died in Halifax County (taken from Lunenburg in 1752) in 1784. Married Elizabeth Chandler,§ and had issue.
- II. Abraham² Le Grand, married Agathy Nichols, and had issue; died in Pittsylvania County.
- III. Susannah² Le Grand, married Richard Cardwell.
- IV. Peter² Le Grand, of whom later.
- V. Alexander² Le Grand, of whom later.
- VI. James² Le Grand, who was under age in May 1753, and of age in March 1755. In 1763 he married Elizabeth Wade of Halifax County, Va.

Peter² Le Grand, son of Peter², son of Peter¹ the French refugee, married (1) Mary Woodson of Cumberland County, Va. The bond is dated November 27, 1751, with Jacob Mosby as his security. On March 11, 1755, he purchased from Henry Baker and Sarah his wife, and Abraham Baker, all of Prince Edward County, 600 acres of land on both sides of Spring Creek.* Here he established his seat, "Piedmont", about three miles west of Prince Edward Court House (the County had been organized in 1754) and two miles from the present site of Hampden-Sydney College. In recent years the home has been the residence of the Butchers, an English family.

† Goochland County Will Book, 3:45, Feb. 12, 1736—July, 1737.

‡ For full account of these sales, with dates, see *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. 44:258-9, based on Cumberland County D. Bks. 1:27; 1:102; 2:48; 2:236; Order Book May, 1753; Order Book, 1:139.

§ William Chandler, in his will made March 9, 1779, and proved in Halifax County, Va., May 20, 1779, mentions his daughter, Betty, wife of John Le Grand. John Le Grand was one of the executors of the will.

* Prince Edward County Deed Book 1:38.

Peter³ Le Grand soon became prominent in the affairs of church and state. His name appears in 1755 as a vestryman in St. Patrick's Parish. At a meeting of the vestry November 10, 1761, it was ordered that "Mr. Peter Le Grand draw a Plan" for two new churches to be built; and at a vestry meeting in 1762, he and Col. John Nash were each given "Leave to Build a Pugh", the former in "the upper church", near Prospect, and the latter at "Sandy River". In 1765, at a meeting of the vestry at Sandy River church, it was "Ordered that so much of the Church that is done be Received from Peter Le Grand and Christopher Ford as being sufficiently done."[†]

Peter³ Le Grand was a Justice of the Court of Prince Edward County, and represented his County in the House of Burgesses 1758-1776.[‡] At the November Court, 1762, "Peter Le Grand, Esq., produced a commission appointing him Quarter Master General and took the oath."^{**} On May 13, 1765, he received a grant of 804 acres of land formerly granted to Alexander Stevenson, in (then Lunenburg, now) Halifax County, on the branches of Bannister River.[§] In 1773, John Nash, Jr., of Prince Edward County, "made humble suit" for this land, but Le Grand entered a caveat, and it was adjudged to the latter. They were at this time brothers-in-law.

I have been unable to ascertain whether there were any children by Peter³ Le Grand's first wife, Mary Woodson. He married (2) Lucy Nash, daughter of Col. John Nash, Sr., of "Templeton Manor", in Prince Edward County. The date of this marriage is not known. It was in, or before, 1767. On November 23, 1767, is recorded a gift of £250 "in consideration of the love and affection that John Nash, Sr., hath for his daughter, Lucy Le Grand."^{||}

NASH EXCURSUS

John Nash, Sr., son of Abner Nash, was born in Tenby, South Wales. The date of his birth is not known. The will of his brother Thomas Nash, made September 8, 1732, shows that John Nash at that time had two children. He had married, before coming to Virginia, Anne, who is said to have been the daughter of Sir Hugh Owen of Pembrokeshire, South Wales. It is said that the two brothers came to Virginia in 1730, settling in Henrico County.* The earliest mention I have been able to

[†] St. Patrick's Parish Vestry Book.

[‡] Journals of House of Burgesses.

^{**} Prince Edward County Order Book, page 154.

[§] State Land Book 36:717.

^{||} Prince Edward County Deed Book 3:216.

* "Reads and Their Relatives", by Mrs. Shelley Rouse, page 83.