

INTRODUCTION TO SECOND EDITION OF ORANGE COUNTY
VIRGINIA FAMILIES, VOLUME II.

During the past month I have been on the go seeking confirmation of books already published and finding new data. In New York I searched for evidence of the report that the Brockmans had an interest in the land occupied by Trinity Church, but the law suit on this property was long and extended and did not give the names of the fifty litigants. Henry Brockman could well have been one of them. In Charlottesville, Virginia I had the help of Mrs. Mildred Marshall and the spouse of Eva Martin, the county clerk who is collecting all the data from law suits. The origin to the title of the 350 acres of land in Albermarle County owned by Samuel Brockman, the first, is still not solved, although he certainly acquired it when it was either a part of New Kent, Hanover or Louisa, although the Essex County deeds ran right up to this line and a conveyance could well have been made in error. Either it was bought and the deed lost or else it was inherited from former owners. This land, sold to John White in 1779 was next to Jason Bocock, who lived in the Priddy's Creek area. In 1806 Nimrod Branham, as executor of the estate of John White sold this 350 acres to Jason Bocock, adjoining the latter's property, and the tax records in the Land Book at Richmond show that Jason had 500 acres which most likely included the land bought from White's administrator.

In 1816 the Heirs of Jason Bocock sold off their father's land in a dozen transactions so that it is impossible to identify the purchaser of the Brockman land. In 1816 the Heirs sold 133 acres to Samuel Brockman (wife Ann Sims) and it is most likely that this was a part of the original plot as these old timers always went back to their ancestor's property to acquire it and die on it. Another tract was sold to Mildred Flint in 1820, and Richard Durrett's daughter, one of them married a Flint or Flynt. In 1824 another sale to Michie and in 1842 another to William Browning. The home of Samuel Brockman was apparently the old Sims homestead "Green Plains". March 2, 1798, the Commissioners of the County offered at auction, with the consent of Agatha widow of William Sims and the Heirs, the Sims homestead. Samuel Brockman bid in two-thirds of the total of 238 acres, the other one-third of 79 and three-quarters acres, was the widow's dower, that is Agatha the widow of Capt. William Sims, and this would include the homestead, Green Plains. With the consent of the widow and with a consent to the reversion, the children of William Sims gave up their interest in Green Plains to Samuel Brockman for a price. This was on November 8, 1799, and since he lived there for sometime and died and was buried there in 1807, it is obvious that this was the Green Plains property, and that Agatha the widow went to live there on her dower land with her son-in-law Samuel Brockman.

Curiosity as to the title of property of 370 acres is aroused by a deed May 2, 1775, D.B. 6, page 472, when Thomas Jones, son of Orlando Jones, who was ancestor to Martha Dandridge, and Patty his wife, Richard Durrett, and William Brockman, gave up their interest in the 370 acres to Jason Bocock for a price and it would appear that this deed reflects an inheritance of these three men. The elder Richard Durrett married Sarah Marshall, daughter of Elizabeth, a later one is said to have married a Terrill, and we don't know who were the wives of William Brockman and Thomas Jones. Were they all sisters? Thomas Jones left a Will at Orange April 28, 1788, naming two children Elizabeth and James, but wife Patty was not mentioned, therefore deceased. In 1777, Thomas Jones exchanged 57 acres in Albermarle for land owned by William Brockman

in Orange. The elder Richard Durrett died and left a Will at Albermarle 1784, referred to in Wood's History of Albermarle, and this date ties in with the transfer of 370 acres in 1788. I searched the lower courts in York, James City and the files of the Virginia Gazette and found the administration of John Murre in the Isle of Wight in 1702. At Williamsburg I found evidence of the homestead of the Singletons, and the sale of the estate of Richard Singleton. There were also records of John, Daniel, who died at Orange, Anthony, Mary, John, and it is assumed because of the dates that Richard Hunt Singleton was spouse of Mary Brockman. At Bruton Church, in 1753, Sarah, Richard and Mary Singleton were baptized, which would be the right age to have been children of Mary Brockman Singleton. I saw the Bolling records at Williamsburg and John Bolling married a Brockman, and Mary Singleton's daughter married John Crittenden Webb, and they were in York, and there it was in plain print, John Brockman, buried by the Rev. Mr. Hudson from Bruton Church in 1696. Elizabeth Brockman married Anthony Street, and right there in Hanover were and are the Streets, so we now know that the Brockmans lived in the York area before moving up to King and Queen, and there was the Shurlow hundred area where Isaac Madison lived and the family moved up along with the Brockmans. Although a genealogist assured me that she had checked the records I found in plain writing that in 1737-39 Mrs. Brockman with two over 21, and John Brockman lived in the Thos Graves precinct in Orange, so that Mrs. Brockman was mother of Samuel and most likely Rebecca Salmon Brockman, and it is likely that grandson Samuel married Rebecker Salmon, and she died 1814. In the National Archives at Washington, I found that Jesse Brockman, probably son of Samuel and Mary Bell enlisted in the Revolution on Feb. 13, the same day as Major Brockman, and his death is recorded May 30-31, 1778 and that he enlisted for a year and received pay up to Feb. 16, 1779, when he was discharged. He was in the 7th Infantry under several different commanding officers. In June 1778 Major Brock is shown as having joined the 7th Infantry "since muster" and served in the 3rd., 5th., and 7th. Infantry and the war record is confused and each are called Brock and each Brockman, so it is fair to assume that there were two Major Brockmans in the Revolution and that when they were both in the 7th. one was called Brock to keep their pay separate, and the latter is shown as a waggoner. The first Major Brockman was discharged February 1779, but the second Major Brockman, this time, received pay in May 1779. To settle a long dispute, I could just say that the first Major son of John married Mary Patterson in 1779, soon after leaving the army and the second one married Nancy, daughter of John Mercer, formerly of Caroline but who left a Will at Duplin, S. C. naming daughter Nancy Brockman. Thomas Brockman of Albermarle signed his name boldly as Thomas Brockman, but poor Joseph who was stricken with palsy had to sign with an X. Thomas was 75 in 1834, and Joseph, 78 in 1721, John Brock or Brockman enlisted March 1, 1777, and died on the 18th. John Brockman (Elizabeth Burris) was appointed Lieut. 1777 and William Brockman son of John and Mary Collins Brockman was made a Lieut. Elizabeth Brockman, a daughter of William Brockman, Jr. and wife, Mary Smith, married a Harris and had children James (son Overton) Calvin, Mary Polly, who married William Mahannes. Elizabeth Harris, widow, married Samuel Mahannes May 28, 1816. Her marriage to Harris was Nov. 2, 1812. Deed Book 58, page 230, February 1859, has a deed from Heirs of Elizabeth Mahanes to Thomas Gilbert, Feb. 1859, which approximates her death. The heirs are shown as F. M., Cornelia E., Austin M., Emily A. Leake, C. P. Shepherd, and Mildred Shepherd.

October 15, 1957
Midland Bank Building,
Minneapolis, Minnesota.

W. E. Brockman