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## A CONTRIBUTION TO THE COLEMAN-LEAK GENEALOGY

by IRENE Moss Sumpter\*

The Douglas Register (Richmond, 1928, p. 74) under marriages, gives the following: "Leek . . . & Ja. Coleman . . . 1751."

It is the purpose of this article to identify James Coleman who married Elizabeth Leak (or Leake or Leek) daughter of Walter and Judith Mask Leak of Goochland County, Virginia.

The Douglas Register, familiarly known to all interested in family history, was kept by the Reverend William Douglas who came to St. James Northam Parish, Goochland County, Virginia, on October 12, 1750. In September 1753 according to the "Foreword" of the book he began keeping a record of the marriages performed by him, and it was kept from then until "near the time of his death" in 1798. Hence, the marriage of a Leek lady to one James Coleman was among the first performed by Douglas after he assumed the duties of minister of St. James Northam Parish.

A branch of the Coleman family evidently settled early in Goochland County as we find there the will of one Samuel Coleman dated April 1, 1748 (Deed and Will Book 5, p. 481). His wife was Ann (maiden name unknown) as will be seen from a copy of Samuel Coleman's last will and testament, which follows.

In the name of God Amen. I, Samuel Coleman, being very sick and weak in Body but of perfect sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in Manner and Form following. First, I bequeath my Soul to God and my Body to the earth to be decently buried according to the discretion of my Executors hereinafter named.

Item: I give to my dear and loving wife, one young cow, I likewise lend unto my beloved wife Ann Coleman my whole estate during her life or widowhood, and after her death or marriage to be divided as followeth:

Item: I give to my two sons Jas. Coleman and Saml. Coleman the land and plantation whereon I now dwell to be equally divided in quantity between them.

<sup>\*</sup>Mrs. Sumpter and her husband, Ward C. Sumpter, of Bowling Green, Kentucky, wrote A Contribution to the Duke-Moss Genealogy published in the July 1954 issue of our magazine.

Item: I give to my other two sons Jno. Coleman and Danl. Coleman my set of Black Smiths Tools & after my debts and funeral charges are paid and defrayed then the residue of my estate both real and personal to be equally divided amongst all my children.

I constitute and appoint my beloved wife Ann Coleman and Jacob Oglesby my Executors of this my last will and testament revoking all other wills heretofore made as witness my hand and seal this first day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty eight.

Test: Rob. L. Woodson Jno. Wright

John [X] Pryor

SAMUEL COLEMAN [Seal]

At a Court held for Goochland County Septem. 20, 1748. This will was proved by the oaths of Robt. L. Woodson, Jno. Wright and Jno. Pryor and witnesses hereto to be the last will and testament of the said Samuel Coleman deceased which was thereupon admitted to record.

We see from the above will that in 1748 Samuel and Ann Coleman had the following children: James, Samuel, John, and Daniel. It is the son James Coleman in whom we are interested. In his will Samuel gives "to my two sons Jas. Coleman and Saml. Coleman the land and plantation whereon I now dwell to be equally divided in quantty between them." James Coleman evidently lived a while in Goochland County, married Elizabeth and later lived in Albemarle County, as on November 16, 1784, James Coleman and his wife, Elizabeth Coleman, of Albemarle County, Virginia, made a deed to one Archer Payne of the County of Goochland to "334 acres of land on Beaverdam Creek and is the land whereon Samuel Coleman dec'd. father of the said James Coleman did dwell." (Goochland County Deed Book 14, p. 144.)

On January 31, 1788, James Coleman of Albemarle County made his will (Will Book 3, p. 323), but it was not recorded until eight years later, September 1796. His wife Elizabeth must have died in the interim between the deed and the will as no mention is made of her in his will. The will follows.

In the name of God Amen I, James Coleman, of the County of Albemarle being weak in body but of sound judgment and memory do constitute and appoint this my last will and testament, in the first place I commit my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it my body to the earth to be buried in a decent Christian like manner at the discretion of my Executors hereafter mentioned and touching my worldly

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affairs, in the first place my desire is that all my just debts be first paid and as touching my worldly estate I give and dispose of it in manner following. To wit: I give and bequeath unto my two daughters Judith Coleman and Jane Coleman two hundred and ten acres of land so extending the plantation whereon I now live joining Richard Woods Maureys John Baileys and John Gillums lines also all my plantation tools to them and their heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Coleman two hundred acres of land lying joining Benjamin Taylor Edwin Gibson, James Cumbling and John Gillum also fifty six acres joining Col. Woods and Taylor also one hundred acres of land lying joining Robert Layne and John Baileys line to him and his heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my son Samuel Coleman and Judith Coleman my bed and furniture to be equally divided between them to them and their heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto Mary Hatter one hundred thirty acres of land more or less lying in Amherst on Tye river so extending the plantation on which she now lives to her and her heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter Lucy Watson one hundred and forty six acres of land being part of the tract of land whereon Bartlot Jerrol now lives on to her and her heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my daughter Susannah Johnson one hundred and forty six acres of land being part of the aforesaid tract of land on which the aforesaid Jerroll lives to her and her heirs forever.

Item—I lend unto my daughter Maskey Jerrol one hundred and forty six acres of land enclosing the plantation whereon she now lives during her life and then to be equally divided among all her children to them and their heirs forever.

Item—I lend to my daughter Ann Bunnfield one hundred and forty six acres of land being part of aforesaid tract whereon the said Jerroll now lives on to her during her life and then to the issue of her body and to their heirs forever, and if she is without issues then my will and desire is that their legacy should be equally divided among all the children included in this will.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my granddaughter Nancy Isbell one hundred acres of land lying joining of James Reid and being part of the aforesaid tract that Jerroll now lives on to her and her heirs forever.

Also my desire and will is that the two entries that I have in Amherst County be sold and the money equally divided among all the children included in this will and farther my will and desire is that my still and blacksmith tools be sold and the money applied to pay my debts and the money arising from the sale of my negroes that I sold to my son Samuel Coleman be applied to discharge my debts and if there should be any left after discharging my debts then my will and desire is that it be equally divided among all the children included in this will.

I do hereby constitute and appoint Samuel Coleman, John Hatter and John Bunnfield my sole executors of this my last will and testament and I do disavow and revoke all other wills and testaments whatsoever in witness whereof I have hereunto

set my hand and affixed my seal this thirty first day of January in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty eight.

Signed and delivered in presence of:

JAMES [X] COLEMAN [Seal]

Talton Woodson Joseph Hobb Edwin Gibson

Proved at Albemarle Court Sept. 1796 by oath of Talton Woodson and further at Albemarle June 1797 by oath of Edwin Gibson a second witness thereto and ordered to be recorded.

Please note the given names of the children of James and Elizabeth Coleman, as recorded in the above will:

- 1. Judith Coleman
- 2. Jane Coleman
- 3. Samuel Coleman
- 4. Lucy Watson
- 5. Susannah Johnson
- 6. Maskey Jerroll
- 7. Ann Bunnfield (or Brunfield)
- 8. Mary Hatter

Later in this article, after a review of the Leak family we will again refer to the names of these children as additional evidence that the Elizabeth, wife of James Coleman of Goochland and Albemarle counties was, Elizabeth, daughter of Walter Leak of Goochland.

It is known that the Leak family lived early in Goochland County, Virginia. In fact, Leakes were there in its beginning in 1727 when it was a part of Henrico. This is well documented in *Kinfolks*, by William Curry Harllee (New Orleans, 1934-1937, I, passum). Four miles west of Goochland, in Goochland County, is the small community of "Leake" and a cemetery containing stones bearing the name.

According to Harllee the immigrant ancestor of the Goochland Leakes was one William Leake, who with wife Mary Bostick, came to this country from England about 1685. They lived at "Rocky Spring," the Leake ancestral home in Goochland County. When Mary Bostick and William Leake came to this new country they brought with them the family Bible, still owned by descendants, which until 1932 remained in the "Rocky Spring"

home. At that time "Rocky Spring" was sold out of the family, and the Bible found a new abode after reposing in the same place for approximately 247 years. Pictures of the title page and fly leaf are given in General Harllee's book (I, 240, 241).

Mary Bostick and William Leake had among others one Walter Leake who married Judith Mask. This fact has been brought to light not only by General Harllee in his Kinfolks but earlier in an article in the Richmond Times-Dispatch (February 14, 1904) and in Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and their Connections, by Henry Morton Woodson (Memphis, 1915, p. 120). The will of Walter Leake is recorded in Goochland County, Virginia (Will and Deed Book 7, p. 279), and reads as follows:

In the name of God Amen, I Walter Leak, of Goochland County make this my last will and testament (being very weak) Revoking all other wills by me formerly made, and appoint this my last, acknowledging in myself in my proper senses, I praise God for the same.

First: Desire my Body to be buried according to the Discretion of my Executors hereafter named, without pomp.

Secondly: that my debts be all paid when due, and as for my Temporal Estate it hath pleased God to bestow upon me, I give as follows: Viz.

Imprimis I give and bequeath to my son Josiah Leak part of the land whereon I now live viz, the south side of the road beginning at Groom's line and thence up the road to the Creek and up the Creek to Cole's Spring Branch, thence up the sd. branch to the line, to him and his Heirs, forever. And the said Josiah is to pay to Samuel Leak Five and Twenty Pounds Currt. Money.

Item—I give and bequeath to my two sons John Leak and William Leak the remainder of the aforesaid land on the North side of the foresd. road that is to say one of them is to have the whole Paying the other for his part in it, and he that will give the other the most for his part of it shall take the whole to him and His Heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my two sons, Mask Leak and Elisha Leak my Piece of land in Albemarle which I bought of Paul Michaux to be equally divided between them in quantity and quality to them and their heirs forever.

Item—I give and bequeath to my three daughters, Mary Christian, Christine Johnston and Judith Leake twenty pounds apiece after their Mother's decease.

Item—I lend to my daughter *Elizabeth Coleman* my Negro Girl Agge to wait on her and to work for her, her lifetime and after her decease the said Agge and her increase if she has any be Equally divided amongst her children.

Item—I lend to my loving wife and desire that she may have the use of all of my Estate during her lifetime or widowhood, both land, Negroes, cattle etc. and after her decease or marriage then these legacies to be paid, and the remainder of my Estate to be equally divided amongst all my children. I also desire that those of my children

which have not been helped towards housekeeping with Bed, Pot and Stock etc. as the others, may be helped with such necessaries equally to what the others have been. I also appoint my loving wife, Judith Leak and my son Josiah Leak Executors of this my last will and Testament, desiring my estate may not be appraised nor give security. Whereunto I set my hand and seal this 31st day of October Anno Dom. 1757.

WALTER LEAK [Seal]

Published in the presence of us John Humber Charles Christian Junr Elizabeth Humber

At a Court held for Goochland May the 16th 1758 this writing was Proved by the Oaths of John Humber and Charles Christian Junr to be the last Will and Testament of Walter Leak decd which was admitted to record. Test: Val Wood Cl. Cur.

Thus the issue of Walter Leak and Judith Mask, his wife, as given in his will are as follows:

- 1. Josiah Leak
- 2. John Leak
- 3. William Leak
- 4. Mask Leak
- 5. Elisha Leak
- 6. Mary Christian
- 7. Christine Johnston
- 8. Judith Leak
- 9. Elizabeth Coleman
- 10. Samuel Leak is given as son by other authorities. While he is mentioned in Walter Leake's will he is not mentioned as "son."

Now please refer back to the children of James Coleman (of Albemarle County) and his wife Elizabeth as mentioned in James' will. There was a Judith, and Elizabeth Coleman's mother was Judith Mask. There was a daughter Maskey. Elizabeth Coleman's mother's maiden name was Mask. There was a daughter Mary, and Elizabeth Coleman's grandmother was Mary Bostick. On the Coleman side there was Samuel, named for James Coleman's father Samuel. A daughter, Ann Bunnfield (or Brunfield) named for her grandmother Ann Coleman.

There were many, many James and Samuel Colemans of this period and it is often a puzzle to unravel their relationships. But in this case where all known dates fit and there seem to be no conflicting statements the picture seems complete.

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## SOME NOTES ON THE COLEMAN FAMILY OF CAROLINE COUNTY, VIRGINIA

By George H. S. King

The primary purpose of this article is to correct the statement made in Cyclopedia of Virginia Biography, Volume I, page 215, that Ann Coleman, daughter of Francis Coleman, Gent: of Calonine county, married Colonel William Green. The following notes are designed to prove that Francis Coleman's daughter Ann (1756-1798) married David Dickinson (1756-1812) of Caroline county; while Ann Coleman, sister of Francis Coleman, married William Green, Gent: of Culpeper county, Va.

In 20 Tyler's Quarterly, p. 166 the compiler of these notes published the will of Francis Coleman, Gentleman, of Caroline county, which was probated 14 November 1771 together with some notes relative to his family. As further data are now available it is thought fitting to include these additional facts with this correction and at the same time call particular attention to the Reverend Clayton Torrence's article on the Coleman family of Caroline county published in the Sons of the Revolution in the State of Virginia Semi-Annual Magazine Volume VI (July-December 1928) Number 2, pages 82-86, for more detailed information.

Robert<sup>1</sup> Coleman was probably born in England circa 1656. He settled in that portion of Rappahannock County which later became Essex county where he wa's justice of the peace 1703, 1708, and 1709. He was sheriff of the county in 1710 and 1712. His will was admitted to probate before the Essex Court 13 August 1713. He married possibly in England Ann (Spilsby?) who married second John Hunter and died in Essex leaving a will proved in 1717. Their son,

Robert<sup>2</sup> Coleman resided in Drysdale Parish, King and Queen County and by 1745 moved to Caroline County. While a resident of King & Queen he married on 26 January 1702/3 Mary Clayton, daughter of Samuel and Susannah Clayton of Gloucester and King & Queen counties. Robert Coleman was doubtless a man of affairs tho the loss of the county records leaves definite facts very scanty. The land office records show he was granted patents for a considerable acreage. The will of Robert Coleman was presented in Caroline County Court 13 May 1748 by Spilsbe Coleman, one of the executors therein named, and was ordered recorded. Their son,

Samuel<sup>3</sup> Coleman was born in King & Queen county, 27 April 1704. In an old vellum bound pocket note book marked "Robert Coleman, His Book", now owned by Miss Blaydes of Spotsylvania county, appear the entries of the marriage of Robert Coleman to Mary Clayton in January 26, 1702/3 and the birth of Samuel Coleman on 27 April 1704. This book also carries entries: "My Mother Clayton died Nov. 1, 1710" and also "Susanna Clayton died Nov. 4, 1710". Samuel Coleman was a licensed ordinary keeper in Caroline county in 1732 and surveyor of the roads in 1734. The court house was built on his land.

Tradition states that Samuel Coleman's wife Elizabeth, was neé Wyatt. She appears on the records as Betty Coleman and by 1749 married Captain William John-

ston of Spotsylvania and Caroline counties.<sup>2</sup> The will of Samuel Coleman was proved in Caroline Court 10 June 1748 by Elizabeth Coleman and Edward Wiatt, executrix and executor therein named.<sup>3</sup>

The Court Order Books of Caroline County afford ample evidence of the names of the children of Samuel Coleman who died in 1748. For Wyatt Coleman, Robert Coleman, Francis Coleman, Spilsby Coleman, Thomas Coleman and Elizabeth Coleman the specific references to the Caroline County Court Orders are given under their respective names which follow.

The will of Captain William Johnston was proved in Caroline Court 12 October 1769, and before June 15, 1771 his wife Elizabeth (Wyatt?) Coleman Johnston was also dead.

The following excerpt is from a chancery suit in Caroline County Court which abated by the deaths of the defendants on 15 June 1771:4

Richard Woolfolk and Mary, his wife; William Green and Ann, his wife; Robert Coleman, Francis Coleman, Elizabeth Coleman, Thomas Coleman (by Thomas Coleman, his guardian); Spilsby Coleman (by Richard Woolfolk, his guardian), Complainants—Against—William Johnston and Betty, his wife; Thomas Coleman and Edward Wyatt, executors of Samuel Coleman, deceased; Defendants. Abates by death of defendants.

The children of Samuel and Elizabeth Coleman were:

- (1) Wyatt<sup>4</sup> Coleman was born circa 1732; died post 1795. He appears on the records as Wyatt, Wiat, and Wiatt Coleman, and was the eldest son of his parents. In May 1748, by consent of the court, he choose Edward Wiatt to contest the probate of his father's will. In November 1749 he choose William Green of Culpeper county to be his guardian. As late as 1757 Wyatt Coleman was living in Caroline but before 3 August 1765 he had removed with his wife Sarah to Culpeper county. On this date they conveyed<sup>5</sup> to William Green of Culpeper a tract of 400 acres in Culpeper county which said tract was granted by patent to Robert Coleman, Senior, of King and Queen county (afterwards Caroline) on 25 May 1734 and by the said Robert Coleman, by his will recorded in Caroline County Court, bequeathed to his grandson Spilsbee Coleman, and by the said Spilsbee Coleman bequeath by his will (also recorded in Caroline) to the aforesaid Wiat Coleman, brother and heir at law of the said Spilsbee Coleman.
- (2) Robert<sup>4</sup> Coleman. Edmund Pendleton, Gent: was appointed his guardian immediately after the death of his father.<sup>6</sup> In February 1750/1 Robert Coleman made choice of William Johnston, Gent:, then his step-father, to be his guardian.<sup>7</sup>
- (3) Francis<sup>4</sup> Coleman. Edmund Pendleton, Gent: was also appointed his guardian immediately after the death of his father<sup>6</sup> but on 14 February 1754 he choose Richard Woolfolk to be his guardian<sup>8</sup>; and in November 1755 he choose William Johnston to be his guardian.<sup>9</sup> He must have been nearly of age at this time as he was married shortly thereafter to Hannah Johnston, his step-sister, and daughter of Captain William Johnston and his first wife Ann, daughter of Larkin Chew, Gent: of Spotsylvania. Larkin Chew, William Johnston and Francis Coleman were all sometime members of the House of Burgesses. As pointed out above Francis Coleman's will was proved 14 November 1771. The children of Francis and Hannah (Johnston) Coleman were:
  - (a) William<sup>5</sup> Coleman

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- (b) Samuel<sup>5</sup> Coleman
- (c) Francis<sup>5</sup> Coleman
- (d) Ann<sup>5</sup> Coleman (1756-1798) married 1774 David Dickinson, of whom more subsequently
- (e) Elizabeth<sup>5</sup> Coleman
- (f) Frances<sup>5</sup> Coleman who married Captain William Taylor of Fredericksburg. She died August 1795. (See 25T134)
- (g) Lucy<sup>5</sup> Coleman who married William Dickinson
- (h) Jane Roy<sup>5</sup> Coleman who married in 1789 John Garland Duke of Louisa County who died in 1811. She married second Samuel White and moved to Green county, Kentucky.
- (4) Spilsby Coleman. Like his brother Edmund Pendleton, Gent: was appointed his guardian immediately after the death of his father. On 14 February 1754 Richard Woolfolk was appointed his guardian and in August 1759 Spilsby Coleman choose Richard Woolfolk to be his guardian. The last will of Spilsby Coleman was presented to the Caroline county court by Richard Woolfolk and Francis Coleman, the executors therein named, in October 1764. Wiat Coleman, the heir at law, offered no objection to its probate. 10
- (5) Thomas\* Coleman. Edmund Pendleton, Gent: also qualified as his guardian immediately after the death of his father.<sup>6</sup> On 7 August 1759 Thomas Coleman choose a Thomas Coleman to be his guardian.<sup>11</sup>
- (6) Elizabeth<sup>4</sup> ("Betty") Coleman. Edmund Pendleton, Gent. also qualified as her guardian immediately after the death of her father. On 10 November 1752 William Green was appointed the guardian of Betty Coleman<sup>12</sup>. In 1771 she was still single but in 1804 she is named in the will of her sister Ann Green, as Elizabeth Triplett.
  - (7) Mary Coleman married Richard Woolfolk.
- (8) Ann<sup>4</sup> Coleman married William Green of Culpeper County. He was a considerable landholder in Culpeper county where he died leaving will dated 24 August 1768 and proved 15 October 1770.<sup>13</sup> He mentions his son William Green, and certain land which had been entailed on him "by the will of my late Uncle William Duff"; and then refers to his wife and "my other children" without naming them. To his sister-in-law Miss Elizabeth Coleman, William Green bequeathed a mourning ring.

The will of Ann<sup>4</sup> (Coleman) Green was written 20 Sept. 1804 and probated 15 October 1804. She mentions therein the following children: (1) William Green, deceased; (2) Ann Poindexter, deceased; (3) Ellinor wife of Peter Marye; (4) Elizabeth Camp; (5) Mary Thomas; (6) Francis Wyatt Green; (7) Lucy Coleman Pinkard. To her sister Elizabeth Triplett, Ann<sup>4</sup> (Coleman) Green bequeathed a suit of black bumbazett.

## THE FAMILY OF DAVID DICKINSON OF CAROLINE COUNTY

David Dickinson (1756-1812) married first on 24 November 1774 as above mentioned Ann<sup>5</sup> Coleman (1756-1798) eldest child of Francis<sup>4</sup> Coleman, Gent: and Hannah Johnston, his wife, by whom he had twelve children. He married second Mary West, by whom he had two children.

The following family Bible record has been preserved and is now in the possession of Mrs. Benjamin Early of Pratt, West Va. The compiler is indebted to Mrs. J. P. Wardlaw of Richmond, Va., for a verbatim copy of the record.

David Dickinson Born May 29, 1756.

Ann Dickinson Born October 29, 1756.

David Dickinson and Ann his wife were Married the 24th Day of November 1774 by the Reverend Archibald Dick.

The Ages of their Children-

Francis Coleman Dickinson born August 31, 1775—Gossops<sup>15</sup> Mr. Richard Johnson, Mrs. Hannah Coleman, Miss Aggatha Dickinson.

Betsey Wyatt Dickinson born June 10, 1777—Gossops Mr. William Harrison, Mr. Thomas Jones, Mrs. Johnson, Miss Dorithea Bingir<sup>17</sup>, Miss Fanny Coleman.

Lucy Dickinson born December 10, 1778. Mr. Phil Johnson, Mr. Charles Woolfolk, Mr. Dudley George, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Oliver.

Thomas Dickinson born August 9, 1780. Mr. Thomas Coleman, Mr. John Oliver, Mrs. Lucy George, Mrs. Ann Dickinson.

Ann Dickinson born October 26, 1782. Mr. Thos: Guy, Mr. George Guy, Miss Fanny Wortham, Miss Molly George.

Fanny Dickinson born June 30, 1784. Mr. Vivion Minor, Mr. Sam Coleman, Miss Ann Woolfolk, Miss Jane Coleman.

David Dickinson Born Sept. 1, 1785. Mrs. Thos: Guy, Mr. John Sutton, Mr. William Dickinson, Mrs. Guy, Mrs. Watkins.

Samuel Dickinson Born October 6, 1787. Mr. Reuben George, Captain Mickleburough, Miss Lucy Chew Coleman.

John Dickinson Born October 22, 1789.

William Dickinson Born February 23, 1792.

Lucy Dickinson Born Febry: the 14 day 1794.

James O Kelly Dickinson Born March the 25 day 1796.

Ann Dickinson, wife of David Dickinson, (nee Ann Coleman) Departed this life August 25, 1798.

The ages of David and Mary Dickinson's sons Robert and George.

Robert Dickinson born June 28, 1805.

George W. Dickinson born October 2, 1802.

The last will and testament of David Dickinson, Sr., was presented as evidence in a suit styled *Dickinson* vs. *Dickinson* which pended before the Fredericksburg District Court 1824-1838. This document was dated 3 April 1812 and proved 14 September 1812 before the County Court of Caroline. Therein he mentions the following children: (1) Francis C. Dickinson; (2) Elizabeth W., wife of Francis Jackson; (3) Thomas Dickinson; (4) Ann ("Nancy") wife of John Richardson; they removed to Amherst County, Va.; (5) Frances ("Fanny"), wife of William Dickinson; (6) David Dickinson, Jr., who was administrator of his father's estate and died intestate in 1827; (7) Samuel Dickinson; (8) John Dickinson; (9) William Dickinson who removed to Kentucky; (10) Robert Dickinson; (11) George W. Dickinson who died testate in 1826 leaving his entire estate "to my only whole brother" Robert Dickinson after the death of his mother Mary Dickinson.

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