

Williford Family

BY AN OLD REPORTER

ROBERT BRYANT

On March 26, 1723, Robert Bryant patented 90 acres north of Moratock (Roanoke) River in Bertie County adjoining William Bennett, Thomas Bryan, and Cullen Pollock. On November 15, 1732, the will of Thomas Gale of Isle of Wight County named wife Alice Gale, daughter Mary Bryant, etc. On September 20, 1745, Robert (RB) Bryant of Isle of Wight County sold Thomas Bryant 40 acres north of Tarraro Creek on Miry Branch (a grant to John Lawhon on August 7, 1725), witnessed by Joseph Garner, Sr. and Joseph Garner, Jr. On November 7, 1747, Robert (RB) and Mary Bryant sold Lewis Bryant for 31 pounds current Virginia money 325 acres (from a grant to John Pope on July 22, 1738) north of Meherrin River and east of Tarraro Creek on Spring Branch adjoining Simon Everett and John McMiall, witnessed by Joseph Garner, Thomas (T) Bryant, and Jacob Simon.

Robert Bryant made his will in Southampton County on August 28, 1750, probated on November 8, 1750: (1) wife and executrix Mary Bryan; (2) son and executor William Bryan, land on Terraro Creek; (3) daughter Morning; (4) daughter Ann; (5) granddaughter Elizabeth Garner; (6) son and executor Thomas Bryan; (7) son Robert Bryan; (8) son John Bryan; (9) daughter Alice; (10) daughter Rebecca; (11) daughter Mary Garner; (12) son Gail Bryan; (13) daughter Sarah; (14) daughter Elizabeth; and (15) witnesses Lewis Bryan, Andrew Mackmial, and Robert Gilliam. The account of the estate of Robert Bryant was examined on April 9, 1752, by Howell Edmunds, Henry Crafford, and Chaplain Williams, and was signed by administratrix Mary Bryant.

Children of Robert Bryant and wife Mary Gale:

1. William Bryant
2. Morning Bryant
3. Ann Bryant
4. Thomas Bryant
5. Robert Bryant, Jr. On September 3, 1756, Robert Bryant, John Hinton, William Hinton, and George Wimberly of Johnston County gave a power of attorney to Joseph Wimberly, Merchant, of Bertie County, to receive from Elizabeth Hinton, administratrix of William Hinton, all sums due them in Chowan County, witnessed by Hardy Hinton and Zachariah Wimberly.
6. John Bryant
7. Alice Bryant
8. Sarah Bryant
9. Rebecca Bryant
10. Mary Bryant married Joseph Garner.
11. Gale Bryant
12. Elizabeth Bryant

On April 20, 1731, Walter (W) and Sarah (S) Bryant of the Lower Parish of Isle of Wight County, Yeomen, sold Edward Taylor for 4,000 pounds of tobacco 200 acres (from a patent to John Bryan on April 20, 1682) S. W. of the head of a Branch of the Southern Branch of Nansemond River adjoining Thomas Mason and Robert Johnson; also, 30 acres adjoining, west of the Southern Branch, being the land given to Walter Bryan by his brother Samuel Bryant adjoining John Bryant and the land "William Bryan gave to his Brother Walter Bryan," witnessed by James (I) Bryant, Joan (I) Bryant, and John Britten.

On November 19, 1736, Walter (W) Bryant of the Lower Parish deeded for love to his brother Samuel Bryant 200 acres (from a patent of 941 acres to Hodges Council, Sr., in 1677, and bequeathed by said Council to his daughter Christian, wife of Edward Bryant, on August 9, 1699, whose son and heir conveyed it to James Bryant who deeded it to Walter Bryant), witnessed by Joseph (I) Horton, John Lee, and Augustin Simon. In November, 1737, Walter (W) Bryant of the Lower Parish deeded to his brother-in-law Richard Gay of the same Parish for love 200 acres (from Mason's patent of 1,000 acres on March 29, 1666-67, "less ten foot Square Excepted for a burying place the place where lyeth buried Sarah Bryant my Mother near the Southern Branch of Nancemond." On November 20, 1737, Hardy Council sold Walter Bryant of Newport Parish for 10 pounds current Virginia money 100 acres on Beaver Dam Swamp and Watering Place Branch. On November 28, 1843, Walter (x) Bryant of Isle of Wight County sold John Bryant for 25 pounds current money 78 acres north of Meherrin River excepting a lot "Ten foot Square as a Buriall Place," east of Swet House Swamp on Long Branch, witnessed by Robert Carr and William Watkins.

WILLIAM BRYAN

William Bryan of Craven County was probably a son of William Bryan of Edgecombe County. He made his will in Craven County on December 12, 1746, probated on June 16, 1747: (1) wife and executrix Ann Bryaa, half the slaves, one-third the movable estate, use of half the home plantation; rest of slaves and movables equally to all six children; (2) son and ex-

ecutor William Bryan, reversion of 125 acres of the home plantation; (3) daughter Elizabeth Bryan; (4) son Lewis Bryan, 100 acres called "Holley Neck" bought from Gunston Allen at the head of Smith Creek; (5) son John Bryan, 125 acres called "Kit's Neck"; (6) daughter Anne Bryan; (7) son Jesse Bryan, land "had of John Bryan" on Goose Creek and "Cohoon's Savanah"; (8) brother and executor Joseph Bryan; and (9) witnesses Lazarus Pearse, James Carraway, and William Carraway, Jr.

Anne Bryan signed her will in Craven County on October 15, 1767, probated on March 9, 1773: (1) son and executor William Bryan, slave, horse, large looking glass, silver spoon, large oval table, safe, half the cattle on Hatteras Banks; (2) son and executor John Bryan, slave, 40 acres north of Neuse River and west of Island Creek (bought from John Starkey and called "Fort Neck"), mare, cow, and calf, spice mortar and pestle, silver table spoon, half the cattle on Hatteras Banks, labor of free black boy Asa until his indenture expires; (3) son and executor Jesse Bryan, 150 acres bought from Thomas Carraway north of Neuse River and east of Smith Creek, 100 acres bought from Samuel and Isaac Easlick north of Neuse River and the head of Orchard Creek, 4 slaves, labor of two free black boys until their indentures are out, 2 horses, and residue of the estate; (4) daughter Mary Cook, one shilling sterling money; (5) daughter Elizabeth Dawson, ditto; (6) grandson Joseph Stockley, ditto; (7) grandson John Dawson, idtto; (8) witnesses James Carraway, Ann Carraway, Gideon Carraway, and Elias Justes.

Children of William and Anne Bryan:

1. William Byan
2. John Bryan
3. Jesse Bryan
4. Mary Bryan married a Cook.
5. Elizabeth Bryan married a Dawson.
6. Lewis Bryan
7. Anne Bryan