

## *Descendants of John Stephenson Sr.*

### *Generation No. 1*

**1. John Stephenson<sup>1</sup> Sr.** was born Bef. 1634, and died Bef. 1677. He married **Christian Unknown**. She died Aft. 1678.

Notes for John Stephenson Sr.:

#### Deeds and Land Grants:

1. Land grant dated to Epaphroditus Lawson dated September 3, 1649, of 700 acres on Rappahanock River lying about 12 miles up the north side to the mouth of Slaughters Creek separating the land of John Carter, for the importation of 14 persons whose names are maintained in the records under this patent. PB 2:180.

2. William Clapham Jr. of Rapa. in Lancaster County to John Stephenson dated July 12, 1654, 700 acres in Rapa. about 12 miles up, as may appear in a patent dated Sept. 3, 1649, a neck of land on Slaughters Creek parting the land of Major John Carter; signed with a mark; witnessed by Thomas Madestard and John Goldsborough; recorded [illegible], 1654. Lancaster DB 1:139.

#### Court Records:

1. Recorded by Mr. Fox: Mr. Stevens 4 tithables. Lancaster County Court Orders, 1652-1656, p. 238.

Child of John Sr. and Christian Unknown is:

+ 2            i. John Stephenson<sup>2</sup> Jr., born May 12, 1656; died 1727.

### *Generation No. 2*

**2. John Stephenson<sup>2</sup> Jr.** (John Stephenson<sup>1</sup> Sr.) was born May 12, 1656, and died 1727. He married **Elizabeth Edwards**, daughter of Charles Edwards and Mary Unknown.

Notes for John Stephenson Jr.:

#### Deeds and Land Grants:

See item 1 under Deeds and Land Grants in the notes for John Stephenson Sr.

1. John Stephenson of Isle of Wight County to Robert Griggs and Thomas Payne dated February 10, 1678, 12,400 pounds of tobacco for land on Slaughters Creek in Lancaster County, which his father John Stephenson bought from William Clapham deceased according to a covenant recorded in Lancaster County Court dated July 12, 1654, and according to the patent granting said land to Epaphroditus Lawson, deceased, on September 1649, situated on Slaughters Creek which divides said land from the land of Coll. Jno. Carter; witnessed by Thomas Lewis and James Ridley; recorded February Court 1678. Lancaster DB 4:307.

The above deed is followed by (i) a statement dated October 27, 1677, of Christian Stephenson, widow of John Stephenson, consenting to the sale by her son John Stephenson of land on Slaughters Creek and relinquishing her dower rights and appointing John Lawson and Rowland Lawson as attorneys to consent for her in county court; witnessed by Josiah Harrison and Richard Bdd [?]; recorded February Court 1678; and (ii) a statement dated October 27, 1677, of Christian Stephenson certifying that her son John Stephenson was 21 years of age on May 12, 1677; recorded February Court 1678. Lancaster DB 4:308.

2. John Wakefield and wife Sarah to John Stephenson dated April 3. 1680, [no consideration stated] for 150 acres in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, adjoining a branch and the main branch, part of a patent of 755 acres: witnessed by John Jones and James Baron. IW DB :431.

#### Court Records:

1. The Isle of Wight County, Virginia, court records contain the following entry in June 1694: "John Stevenson being summoned as evidence for Nicholas Wilson against Capt. Robert Randolph and Anne his wife executrix of Col. James P??? deceased and the said Stevenson not appearing, he is thereupon fined for his default according to law." IW DB 1:court orders, p. 37.

Will dated November 23, 1726 (proved February 27, 1723) (IW WB 3:16) (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

"In the name of God amen I John Stevenson of the Upper Parish of Isle of Wight County being very sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to almighty God for it and calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty on the earth [?] wish to make this my last will and testament in manner and form following first and principally I commit my soul to God my creator and redeemer and have through the birth and death of my own beloved saviour and redeemer Jesus Christ to have full redemption of all my sins and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executrix hereafter named.

First and principally I do give and bequeath unto my son John Stevenson one heifer of about two years old.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto son Abraham Stevenson one loose coat.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto son Thomas Stevenson one old flock [?] bedd with one small rugg and one sheet of bolster and one ??? saw.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto my son Charles Stevenson ye value of 20 shillings.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto my son George Stevenson one pare of letther gloves.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary Stevenson one feather bed and bedsted one byde [?] rugg and all other furniture thereunto belonging and one pine chest and one small pine box and one iron pott of about three gallons and pott hooks and three pewter dishes and two pewter plates and one young cow and calf by her side and two heifers of about two years old and three young ewe.

Item. I do give unto my son William Stevenson all my lands to him and his heirs and half of my cattle being equally divided after legaties paid and other half of my cattle to my loving wife being equally divided between my son William and my wife.

Item. I do also desire that my son William Stevenson shall have full possession of the said cattle by the fourth day of May next.

Item. I do give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth Stevenson three sows and piggs and all the rest and residue of my estate when all my just debts and legaties are paid. I do apoint my wife to be my full and lawfull executrix of this my last will and testament disannulling and revoking all wills and testaments by me made as witness my hand this 23rd day of November 1726.

Thomas Sherrard [?] Abraham Baggitt

John (his mark) Stevenson"

#### Estate Records:

1. An inventory of the estate dated March 25, 1727, included 18 head of cattle, 15 hogs, 9 sheep, 1 hare [?], 3 iron pots, 9 pot hooks, 2 pair of pot racks, a brass kettle and a brass skillet, an iron spit, a set of iron wedges, a frying pan, 3 saws, 3 schythes, 2 narrow axes, a broad axe, 10 old wood and 3 feather beds and furniture, 8 bedsteads, 3 chests, 2 boxes, 1 trunk, a spinning wheel, 12 cidar casks, fire tongs, 1,300 nails, 2 pairs of cotton cards, 2 pot racks, 4 water pails, a washing tub, 4 tankards and 2 pewter cups, a candlestick, 3 pewter basins, 9 pewter dishes, 7 pewter plates, a dozen pewter spoons, an old chair, a bridle and saddle, a grinding stone, a pair of cart wheels, 2 pair of wound yarn stockings, a pair of men's worsted, 3 men's coats, 3 jackets, 4 pairs of men's britches, a looking glass, 10 glass bottles, a table cloth and 6 napkins, a pair of men's shoes, 2 muslin neck cloths, a spade and a mare filly. IW WB 3:19.

[The apparent discrepancy between the 1727 date of this inventory and the 1728 date when John's will was proved was probably the result of the court clerks' use of the year of the old calendar for the date of the inventory and the year of the new calendar for the date the will was proved.]

#### English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records (The Learning Company 2001):

1. "A List of her Maj'tys Qt. Rents in the Isle of Wight County 1704" includes Jno. Stevenson as owning 150 acres. Others listed include Edw'n Boykin and Arthur Allen [see deeds 2 and 3 under Deeds in the Notes for John (d. 1737), John's son], Charles Edwards and James Briggs [see Deeds in the Notes for John (d. 1737), Thomas Sherrer [who follows John in the list and may have been one of the witnesses to his will set forth above], and William West, Nehemiah Joyner and Thomas Joyner [see Virginia Deeds and Land Grants in the Notes for Abraham].

2. "The Present State of Virginia for the Year 1714" lists 168,026 acres and 1,223 tithables in Isle of Wight County.

### Bacon's Rebellion

In 1676 the Virginia colony erupted in armed rebellion against the royal government. The immediate cause of the rebellion were Indian raids on the frontier against which Governor Berkeley would not allow reprisals. However, the grievances of the rebels extended back to 1660 when Parliament passed the Navigation Acts following the restoration of the monarchy. The Navigation Acts ended the free trade previously enjoyed by Virginia and required that all goods imported into the colonies come from England and all products produced in the colonies be exported only to England. As a result, prices of tobacco, Virginia's principal product, dropped substantially to a level at which it was no longer economic to grow tobacco.

In 1676, following the continuation of Indian raids, Nathaniel Bacon of Henrico County raised a force and marched into North Carolina to fight the Indians without the authority of the Governor. Upon Bacon's return, Governor Berkeley proclaimed him a rebel and set a reward for his capture. On June 23, 1676, Bacon's force captured Jamestown without resistance. The House of Burgesses was in session and the presence of Bacon and his force of small planters and frontiersmen obtained the passage of a number of bills establishing new rights against the royal government. In the face of the support of Bacon, Governor Berkeley and a few of his supporters fled to the Eastern Shore. At the end of December 1676, a fleet with a regiment of royal troops arrived from England carrying three commissioners of King Charles II to investigate and report on the causes of the rebellion and attempt to restore order. Berkeley sailed for England, and the commissioners announced that the King would protect all informers and petitioners who came forward to state their cases.

In March 1677, a list of 26 grievances were presented by certain residents of Isle of Wight County. A number of residents of Upper Parish in Isle of Wight County replied by disassociating themselves from the list of grievances. Among the signers of this reply was Charles Edwards, the father-in-law of John Stephenson. In April, a little over a month after the list of grievances, the signers recanted in the Isle of Wight court and requested mercy from the royal government.

In January 1677, William West, was captured leading a rebel force to attack a loyal fort. In October of that year, a number of people, including John Stevenson, signed a petition praying that West's life be spared and that his estate be restored to his wife and children. It is likely that the signers of the petition were either active rebels or sympathized with the rebels. After being condemned to death, West escaped.

See J. Boddie, *Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County Virginia* (1938), Vol. 1, pp. 144-66.

It should be noted that a William West owned land adjacent to the land received by John Stephenson's son Abraham in his 1715 land grant. See item 1 under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants in the Notes for Abraham.

#### Children of John Jr. and Elizabeth Edwards are:

- + 3      i. John<sup>3</sup> Stephenson III, born Bef. 1692; died 1737.
- + 4      ii. Abraham Stephenson Sr., born Bef. 1695; died Aft. 1762.
- + 5      iii. Thomas Stephenson, born Bef. 1705; died 1770.
- 6      iv. Charles Stephenson.

Notes for Charles Stephenson:

See "Deeds" in the notes for Charles Edwards.

- 7 v. George Stephenson.

Notes for George Stephenson:

See "Deeds" in the notes for Charles Edwards.

- 8 vi. Mary Stephenson.  
9 vii. William Stephenson, died Abt. 1737.

Notes for William Stephenson:

Estate Records:

1. A will of William has not been found in the records. However, the Isle of Wight Court records do contain an inventory by the administrator (unnamed) dated April 30, 1737, which included 20 sows and sheep, 12 head of young and old cattle, an old horse and an old bridle and saddle, a pair of old cart wheels, a new coat and jacket, various farm implements, cooking utensils, 2 feather beds and furniture, a table, chests, trunks and boxes, a half dozen leather chairs, 23 pounds of new pewter and a half dozen pewter plates, 6 pounds of old pewter and a dozen spoons, cedar casks, a spinning wheel, a small trading [?] gun and 1 negro boy 14 years old, as well as other items. IW WB 3:166.

2. The records also include an accounting of the estate on November 26, 1739, including 10 shillings owed to Catherine Stephenson "by the hand of Jo. Doles", 1 pound 17 shillings 7 pence to be paid Catherine Stephenson by order of court, and a balance due the estate of 42 pounds 4 shillings 11 pence. IW WB 3:240.

### *Generation No. 3*

**3. John<sup>3</sup> Stephenson III** (John Stephenson<sup>2</sup> Jr., John Stephenson<sup>1</sup> Sr.) was born Bef. 1692, and died 1737. He married **Katherine unknown**. She died 1753.

Notes for John Stephenson III:

John's birth date is estimated based on the assumption that he was at least 21 years old at the date of deed 2 under Deeds below.

Deeds:

1. Assignment dated January 23, 1690, by John Sojourner to John Dole of a patent dated April 20, 1689, to John Sojourner of 162 acres in Isle of Wight County adjoining John Sojourner, James Atkinson, a branch and Edward Boykin; signed by John and Mary Sojourner [with their marks]; witnessed by John Davis and John Harris. IW DB :32.

2. John Doll [or Dole] to John Stephenson (both of Upper Parish in Isle of Wight Co.) dated December 8, 1712, 1,900 pounds of tobacco for a tract of land and plantation in the Upper [Parish] containing 162 acres adjoining John Sojourner and the ??? Branch; witnessed

by Joseph Parnell, William Moore and John Sherer. IW DB 2:231.

3. Edward Boykin to John Stevenson dated January 25, 1723, diverse good consideration, especially 5 shillings, for 104 acres on the northwest side of the Third Swamp in Isle of Wight County, being part of a patent formerly granted to Maj. Arthur Allen dated October 20, 1691, and sold by him to Edward Boykin by deed dated August 9, 1692, adjoining a deep branch and other landmarks on John Sugoner's line and John Stevenson's former land; signed by Edward Boykin [with a mark]; witnessed by Arthur Smith Jr. [no mark indicated] and Joseph Turner [with a mark]. IW DB 2:601. (See patent dated October , 1691, to Maj. Arthur Allen for 525 acres between the third swamp and the main Blackwater. PB 8:175.

4. Edward Boykin to John Stevenson dated January 26, 1723, 5 pounds for the same land described in deed 3 above, with a reference to the earlier deed; signed by Edward Boykin [ ]; witnessed by . IW DB 2:602.

5. See also deed 1 under Deeds in the Notes for William and deed 1 under Deeds in the Notes for Solomon.

Will dated February 24, 1728/9 (proved May 23, 1737) (IW WB 4:163) (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

"I John Stevenson of the Isle of Wight County in Virginia do make this my last will and testament in manner and form as followeth first I recommend my soul to almighty God the maker and giver of it Second to my body to the earth to be buried by my executors hereafter named and all my worldly goods I give as followeth ---  
Item I give and bequeath to my son John Stevenson five shillings current money and no more --  
Item I give unto my son Peter Stephenson the parcel of land that I bought of Edward Boykin being one hundred and four acres to him and his heirs forever --- Item I give to my son Solomon the plantation as I now live on it being one hundred and sixty two acres to him and his heirs forever ---  
Item I give to my son George fifteen hundred pounds of tobacco out of my estate to be paid to him at the age of eighteen Item I give to my son William all my carpenters and wheel wright tools and cow and calf and my ???? --  
Item I give to my son George one cow and calf and one cross cut saw and one iron pott  
Item I give to my son Solomon one cow and calf my stilyard [?] and grind stone --  
Item I give to my daughter Mary one cow and calf two pewter dishes two pewter plates one small chest one dozen of spoons --- Item I give to my daughter Elizabeth one cow and calf two pewter dishes two pewter plates half dozen of pewter spoons and one small chest --  
I give all the rest of my estate to my wife Katherine during her widowhood but if she marry then that part to be equally divided between my wife and these five children Mary, William, Elizabeth, George and Solomon I do make nominate and appoint my loving wife Catherine be my executrix of this my last will and testament as witness my hand this 24th day of February 1728/9. To him and his heirs forever interlined ---  
Francis Exum Jo[seph] Ward ---

John Stephenson"

Estate Records:

1. An inventory of the estate by the executrix Catherine Stevenson admitted to record at the Isle of Wight County Court on July 25, 1737, included 29 head of cattle, 9 sheep, 40 hogs, 4 chests, 3 beds and furniture and 3 bedsteads, 4 chairs and 2 frames, 2 broad cloth coats and 2 jersey coats, a corduroy jacket, 2 pairs of leather britches, 2 pairs of linen britches, 2 pairs of stockings, a silk handkerchief, a pair of leather gloves, a pair of mittens, a looking glass, cooking utensils, an old gun, a razor and hone, a tobacco box and cutting knife, 1 cabinet, 2 bibles and 1 testament, 2 spinning wheels, a cedar cask, axes, saws, awls and other tools, a pair of spectacles, 1,154 pounds of tobacco, various farm implements, 34 pounds of cotton, 14-1/2 pounds of wool, a pair of silver buttons, 7 pounds 8 shillings 8 pence cash, and numerous other items. IW DB 4:174.

Notes for Katherine unknown:

Will dated August 31, 1750 (proved ) (SH WB 1:109) (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

"In the name of God amen I Katherine Stephenson of the County of Southampton being sick and weak but praise be to God of perfect sense and memory do make and appoint this my last will and testament Imprissis [?] I humbly recommend my soul to God that gave it stedfastly trusting to his gracious acceptance thereof and my body I commit to the earth to be decently interred at the discretion of my executor hereafter named and for what worldly estate it hath pleased God of his goodness to bless me with I give and dispose thereof as follows ---  
First I give and devise to my son George Stephenson one pewter plate Item I give and devise to my son William Stephenson one pewter plate Item I give and devise to my daughter Elizabeth Matthews and Sarah Stephenson the wife of Solomon Stephenson all my clothes to be equally divided ---

Item I give and devise after my funeral expenses are paid and discharged all the rest and residue of my estate real and personal to my son Solomon Stephenson And lastly I nominate and appoint my son Solomon Stephenson to be executor of this my last will and testament hereby revoking and making void all other wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore made In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this thirty first day of August Anno Dom 1750 ---

Signed sealed and delivered

In presence of us . . .

Timothy Thorp

Charles Spence

Katherine (her mark) Stephenson

I give and devise to my daughter Mary Matthews one pewter plate being for above --- "

Estate Records:

1. An inventory of the estate by the executor Solomon Stevenson recorded in the Southampton County Court on September 13, 1753, included 4 pewter dishes, 4 pewter basins, 4 pewter plates, a pewter flaggan, a pewter tankard, a pewter cap and sifter, a brass candlestick, an iron candlestick, a bed and furniture, an old chest of spectacles and case, a looking glass, 5 new aprons and 2 old ones, 2 cotton shifts, 2 vest coats and mantle, 2 pairs of

gloves and 1 pair of stockings, a spice mortar and pestle and a pair of fire tongs. SH WB 1:129.

Children of John Stephenson and Katherine unknown are:

- 10 i. John<sup>4</sup> Stephenson IV, born Bef. 1711.

Notes for John Stephenson IV:

The virth date of John is estimated based on the assumption that he was at least 18 years old at the date of his father's 1728 will. See Will under the Notes for John (d. 1737).

Deeds:

1. John Williford to John Stephenson dated November 23, 1739, "in consideration of the natural love and affection which I do have to my friend John Stephenson and also for divers other good causes and more especially for" consideration of 5 pounds , for 100 acres, lying in the middle of 300 acres which Williford "entered and surveyed" on the south side of the Main Blackwater Swamp adjoining John Williford, Micajah Edwards and Peter Stephenson; signed by John and Mary Williford; witnessed by John Williford [Jr.?] and Martha Williford. IW DB 5:415.

- 11 ii. Peter Stephenson, born Bef. 1711.

Notes for Peter Stephenson:

The birth date of Peter is estimated based on the assumption that he was at least 18 years old at the date of the 1728 will of his father John. See Will in the Notes for John (d. 1737).

Deeds and Land Grants:

1. William Crocker to Peter Stephenson (both of Isle of Wight Co.) dated April 1, 1737, 7 pounds for 100 acres on the south side of the Main Blackwater Swamp, part of 265 acres patented by John Williford and sold to William Crocker, adjoining John Williford, ???? Mercer, ???? Edwards and Moss Branch; signed by ; witnessed by Matthew Jordan and Samuel Person [?]. IW DB 5:149.

2. Land grant to John Williford dated March 23, 1733, of 265 acres on the south side of the main Blackwater Swamp adjoining Robert Mercer and William Edwards. PB 15:192.

3. Joseph Griffin to Peter Stevenson (both of Southampton Co.) dated March 12, 1750, 5 shilling 9 pence, and "especially for the love and affection that the said Griffin hath for the said Stevenson", for 50 acres on the south side of the main blackwater swamp in Southampton Co. adjoining Peter Stevenson, Lawrence Lancaster and Joseph Griffin; signed by ; witnessed by . SH DB 1:195.

4. See also Deeds in the Notes for Peter's brother John.

- 12 iii. Solomon Stephenson, born Bef. 1711.

Notes for Solomon Stephenson:

Solomon's birth date is estimated bsd on the assumption that he was at least 18 years old at the date of his father John's 1728 will. See Will in the Notes for John (d. 1737).

Deeds and Land Grants:

1. Land grant dated August 20, 1740, to Lewis Burwell of 3,600 acres on the north side of the Main Blackwater Swamp adjoining Ruben Cooke, Abraham Jones, a pocoson, Solomon Stephenson, Samuel Croft, William Camp, the third swamp, the Great Swamp, John Clark, John Blackwell, Francis Williamson, the Indian branch, a small branch, the main road, the Main Blackwater Swamp and Brawler's branch, 1,800 acres being part of a larger tract formerly granted to Dr. Robert Williamson by



opatent dated June 6, 1666, and 500 acres being part of a tract granted to Robert Williamson, son of Dr. Williamson, by patent dated October 30, 1686, and such land being conveyed to Lewis Burwell. PB 19:703.

2. Land grant dated July 30, 1742, to Samuel Crofts of 300 acres on the north side of the main Blakwater Swamp adjoining William Camp, Samuel, Croft, Joseph Hollyman, John Hollyman, Arthur Crocker, Samuel Taylor, Thomas Moore, Rubin Cook and Solomon Stephenson. PB 20:433.

3. Solomon Stephenson to William Copher (both of Newport Parish in Isle of Wight Co.) dated January 27, 1745, 20 pounds for 162 acres granted to John Sojourner by patent dated April 21, 1689, and sold by him to John Doll and by John Doll to the father of Solomon Stephenson [see item 2 under Deeds in the Notes for John (d. 1737); signed by ; [no witnesses shown]. IW DB 7:217.

4. Land grant dated August 16, 1756, to Solomon Stephenson of 145 acres in Southampton County on the east side of Angelica Swamp adjoining Jonas Matthews and Hugh Matthews. PB 33:177.

- 13 iv. George Stephenson, born Aft. 1710.
- 14 v. William Stephenson.

Notes for William Stephenson:

Deeds:

1. William Stephenson (of Newport Parish in Isle of Wight Co.) to William Coper (of Southward Parish in Surry Co.) dated May 7, 1739, "a valuable consideraton [not specified]" for a tract of land in Newport Parish containing 104 acres, which his father bought from Edward Boykin by deed dated January 26, 1723 [see items 3 and 4 under Deeds in the Notes for John (d. 1737)]; William signed [with a mark]; witnessed by [illegible] Crocker, Samuel Crofts, [illegible] Hollyman and William Crocker. IW DB 5:326. [In John's will, he left this land to his son Peter. See Will in the Notes for John (d. 1737). It is unclear how William came to own this land. Presumably, he acquired it from his brother Peter after his father's death.]

- 15 vi. Mary Stephenson. She married Unknown Matthews.
- 16 vii. Elizabeth Stephenson. She married Unknown Matthews.

**4. Abraham Stephenson<sup>3</sup> Sr.** (John Stephenson<sup>2</sup> Jr., John Stephenson<sup>1</sup> Sr.) was born Bef. 1695, and died Aft. 1762. He married **Ann Unknown**.

Notes for Abraham Stephenson Sr.:

Abraham's birth date is estimated based on the assumption that he was at least 21 years old at the date of the 1715 land grant described in item 1 under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants below.

Virginia Deeds and Land Grants:

1. Land grant dated March 23, 1715, to Abraham Stephenson of 145 acres, for the importation of three people, Charles Barker, Anthony [?] Harvey and William Arrington, on the south side of the main blackwater swamp adjoining John Joyner and William West. PB 10:272.\*

2. Land grant dated March 23, 1715, to John Joyner of 225 acres on the east side of Seacock Swamp and south side of the main Blackwater Swamp adjoining Abraham

Stephenson, William West and Seacock Swamp. PB 10:260.\*

3. Land grant dated August 14, 1716, to Nehemiah Joyner, for the importation of two people, on the south side of the main blackwater swamp adjoining John Joyner and Abraham Stephenson. PB 10:291.\*

4. Abraham Stevenson and wife Ann to Thomas Stavenson [relationship not stated] dated December 6, 1723, one shilling [gift?] for 100 acres adjoining Seacock Swamp, long branch and meadow branch; signed Abraham Stavenson [no mark indicated]; witnessed by William Washington and Frances Person. IW DB 2:273.

5. John Joyner and wife Elizabeth to Abram Stevenson dated November 5, 1725, one shilling for 188 acres adjoining Seacock Swamp, Cabing branch on the north side of Seacock Swamp, Meadow Branch and Seacock Swamp [reads like a lease]; witnessed by Thomas Atkinson and Isaac Brawler. IW DB 2:722.\*

6. John Joyner and wife Elizabeth to Abraham Stevenson dated November 6, 1725, 20 pounds for 188 acres adjoining Seacock Swamp, Cabing branch and meadow branch [refers to "lease" for the same land dated November 5, 1725 (item 5)]; witnessed by Thomas Atkinson and Isaac Brawler. IW DB 2:273.\*

7. Nehemiah Joyner and wife Elizabeth to Abraham Stevenson dated May 16, 1729, one shilling [gift?] for 72 acres adjoining Caben Branch and Seacock Swamp; witnessed by Ben Joyner, Mary Smith, William Arrington [see item 1 above], Thomas Stevenson, Frances Gregory and George Branch. IW DB 2:722.\*

8. John Summerall to John Smith dated May 14, 1733 [last number unclear], 5 shillings for 420 acres on the Blackwater Branch in the lower parish of Isle of Wight County adjoining Bridgeman Joyner [or Joyner], Thomas Man, James Bryan, Richard Booth, [illegible] and William Mayoe, such land granted to John Summerall by patent dated April 20, 1687; witnessed by Abraham Stevenson, Thomas Stevenson and Nathan Williams. IW DB 4:245.

9. Abraham Stevenson and wife Ann and Arthur Stevenson [relationship not stated] to Thomas Stevenson [relationship not stated] dated November 23, 1738, 15 pounds for 90 acres adjoining John Joyner, William West and Meadow Branch; Abraham, Ann and Arthur signed [with their marks]; witnessed by Jesse Browne and George Branch. IW DB 5:444.

10. Abraham Stevenson and wife Ann to William Boykin dated November 24, 1739, 27 pounds for [acreage not stated] adjoining Seacock Swamp and Meadow branch; signed by Abraham [with a mark]; witnessed by George Branch and William Pope. IW DB 5:445.

11. Land grant dated August 30, 1744, to William West of 50 acres on the north side of Seacock Swamp adjoining Benjamin Williamson, Abraham Stephenson and William West. PB 22:153.

12. Land grant dated January 12, 1746, to John Doles of 170 acres on the Main Black Water Swamp adjoining Thomas Joiner, Thomas Stephenson, Abraham Stephenson, Terrapin Swamp and the Long Branch. PB 25:379.

\*Note: Benjamin, John and Nehemiah Joyner were brothers. See will of Thomas Joyner dated April 21, 1708 (IW WB 2:486) in which Thomas Joyner left land on Cabin Branch and Seacock Swamp to his sons John and Nehemiah.

## History of Virginia Land Grants

Land grants, or patents, were granted by the Virginia Company, which was granted a charter by the Crown to colonize Virginia. The Virginia Company was authorized to grant land patents, and copies were maintained in the records of the Virginia Company in England. One copy of the patent was given to the patentee, to produce in the event of a dispute as to ownership or to provide to the new owner when the land was transferred by deed. Upon the death of the patentee, the patent passed to his heirs. In 1620, as an additional safeguard, the Virginia Company decided to maintain a duplicate of the patent in Virginia, and copies are now maintained in the Virginia Land Office.

In order to encourage immigration and settlement of the colony, the Virginia Company provided that any person who paid his own way to Virginia or paid for the transportation of another person would be entitled to a grant of 50 acres of land for each such person. The person so transported to Virginia was known as a "headright". See the Introduction to *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623--1800* (1934) ("Cavaliers and Pioneers"), Vol. I, p. xi. The grant of 145 acres to Abraham Stephenson in 1715 (item 1 under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants above) was an example of this type of grant.

The land in Pamunkey Neck and on the south side of the Blackwater River, including the area of Abraham's 1715 patent, was originally allocated by treaty to the Indians in 1677 for their exclusive use. However, leases of land were granted by the Indians to white settlers, and other settlers took possession of part of this land, in violation of the treaty. A committee of the House of Burgesses was formed to study the title disputes that resulted between white settlers and various Indian tribes and, in 1699, issued a report that white settlers should be granted land in this area and that title to certain land previously occupied by white settlers should be confirmed by land patents. See *Report by the Committee for Examining Claims to Land in Pamunkey Neck, and on the South Side of Blackwater Swamp, and to Consider of the Most Proper Meanes to Settle the Northern & Southern Bounds of Virginia*, dated June, 1699, transcribed in *Virginia Colonial Records, English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, Patents* (The Learning Company 2001).

## History of the Development of Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties

Isle of Wight County was created in 1637 and originally included what is now Southampton County. Southampton County was created in 1749, and the dividing line between Isle of Wight and Southampton Counties is the Blackwater River. The land grant to Abraham and the other land described under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants above was located just west of the Blackwater River in present Southampton County.

## North Carolina Deeds and Land Grants:

1. Elias Fort (of Bertie Co.) to Abraham Stephenson (of Bertie Co.) dated October 23, 1739, 5 pounds for 150 acres of woodland at the time in the actual possession of Abraham, part of a patent granted to William Bennet for 600 acres dated April 1, 1723, on the south side of the Meherrin River and adjoining William Boon, John Bryant and ??? Bennet; witnessed by Arthur Williams, Richard Washington and John I. Washington [with a mark]. Bertie DB E:550.

2. Elias Fort (of Bertie Precinct) to Abraham Stephenson (of Bertie Co.) dated November 4, 1739, 40 pounds silver money for 147 acres at the time in the actual possession of Abraham, part of a patent granted to William Boon for 423 acres dated December 3, 1720, on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining a gut called Cow Island, myerrey [mirey?] branch and the old county line; witnessed by Arthur Williams, Richard Washington and John Washington [with a mark]. Bertie DB E:551.

3. Abraham Stevenson to William Andrews dated May 4, 1745, 30 pounds Va. for 150 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining William Boon, John Bryant and [?] Bennet; signed by Abraham [no indication of a mark]; witnessed by Arthur Williams and Abraham Baggett. NH DB 1:206.

4. Land grant to William Boon dated June 22, 1749, of 100 acres on the northeast side of the Meherrin River between the river and the county line; William Anderson and Abraham Stephens chain carriers. Secretary of State Land Grants 78-B.

5. John Smith to Abraham Stevenson dated November 25, 1751, 18 pounds Va. for 100 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining Nicholas Boon's marsh, the road and the long branch; witnessed by Abraham Stevenson [no Jr. indicated but likely a different person than the grantee Abraham] and Robert Smith; also signed [with a mark] by Elisa Smith. NH DB 2:43.

6. Abraham Stevenson to Abraham Stevenson Jr. dated August 28, 1761, deed of gift to son Abraham of "my land and plantation" on the south side of the Meherrin River and adjoining the Cow Island gut, miry branch, the old country line and the river, and three slaves, Harry, Nan and Ede; signed by Abraham [no indication of a mark]; witnessed by Henry Sharp and Martha Gundal [with a mark]. NH DB 3: 146.

[The land described in deeds 1, 2 and 6 appears to be part of the same land described in a division of 543 acres of land between two heirs of Abraham Jr., Polly Bryant and Dorcas Barnes, dated February 10, 1808, in which the plat shows the land adjoining the Meherrin River, Cow Island gut and the old country line. See item 4 under Estate Records in the Notes for Charles.]

#### Other Early North Carolina Land Grants:

##### Chowan Precinct:

1. 1719 to Joseph Boon--450 acres on south side of the Meherrin River adjoining Kerby's Creek; signed by Thomas Pollock, Richard Anderson, Frederick Jones, John Hecklefield.

LGB 8:178, #771.

2. 1719 to William Bennett--235 acres on north side of the Meherrin River adjoining the County line; signed Charles Eden, Thomas Pollock, Fred. Jones, Richard [S?]Anderson, John Hickfield. LGB 8:183, #793.

3. 1719 to Joseph Boon--495 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining Richard Miller, [?] Sherwood, Joseph Courtney, William Boon, Cream Pond Swamp; witnessed by Charles Eden, Thomas Pollack, Fred. Jones, Richard Sanderson, John Hecklefield. LGB 8:193, #832.

4. 1719 to William Boon--430 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining William Bonn Sr., Slab Branch; witnessed by Charles Eden, Thomas Pollack, Fred. Jones, Richard Sanderson, John Hecklefield. LGB 8:190, #818.

5. 1710 to Thomas Boon--520 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining William Boon Jr., Cream Pond Swamp; witnessed by Charles Eden, Thomas Pollack, Fred Jones, Richard Sanderson, John Hecklefield. LGB 8:190, #819.

6. 1717 to William Bennett--400 acres adjoining Valentine Braswell, William Bryan, Thomas Kerby, Richard Washington,; signed Thomas Pollock, William Reed, Richard Sanderson, [illegible] LGB 3:41, #402.

#### Bertie Precinct:

1. 1723 to Thomas Boon--650 acres in Corory woods adjoining the swamp, Potocasy Creek, Corory Creek; Signed William Reed, C. Gales, J. Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. LGB 3:176, #103.

2. 1723 to Thomas Mandewe--600 acres in Corory woods adjoining the swamp, a branch of Patey's Delight, Corory Swamp; signed by William Reed, C. Gales, J. Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. LGB 3:176, #104.

3. 1723 to Richard Washington--400 acres in Potecasy Woods adjoining Patey's Delight, Richard Vick; signed by William Reed, C. Gales, J. Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. LGB 3:176, #107.

#### Bertie County:

1. 1723 to Nicholas Boon--100 acres on the south side of the Meherrin River adjoining William Boon, William Bennett, Wiliam Kinchen, Miery branch; signed by William Reed, C. Gale, John Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. Bertie LGB 3:175, #99.

2. 1723 to Nicholas Boon--240 acres in Meherrin Wood adjoining the little swamp; signed by William Reed, C. Gale, John Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. Bertie LGB 3:174, #100.

3. 1723 to Henry Gay--210 acres in Meherrin Wood adjoining Kerby's Creek, John Fort; signed by William Reed, C. Gale, John Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. Bertie LGB 3: 175, #101.

4. 1723 to James Boon--210 acres in Meherrin Wood adjoining Joseph Boon, a meadow; signed by William Reed, C. Gale, John Lovick, Richard Anderson, Thomas Pollock. Bertie LGB 3:175, #102.

Northampton County:

1. 1749 to William Boon--100 acres on the northeast side of the Meherrin River, with plat.

2. 1749 to Robert Smelley--1,600 acres in the fork of Kerby's Creek and Corduroy Swamp, with plat.

Children of Abraham Sr. and Ann Unknown are:

- + 17        i. Arthur Stephenson<sup>4</sup> Sr., born Bef. 1719; died 1792 in Northampton County, North Carolina.
- + 18        ii. Abraham Stephenson Jr., born Bef. 1739; died 1791.

**5. Thomas<sup>3</sup> Stephenson** (John Stephenson<sup>2</sup> Jr., John Stephenson<sup>1</sup> Sr.) was born Bef. 1705, and died 1770. He married **Elizabeth unknown**. She died 1776.

Notes for Thomas Stephenson:

Thomas' birth date is estimated based on the assumption that he was at least 21 years old at the date of the 1725 deed from Abraham (item 4 under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants in the Notes for Abraham).

Deeds and Land Grants:

1. See items 9 and 12 under Virginia Deeds and Land Grants in the Notes for Abraham.

2. Thomas Stephenson to Simon Stephenson dated July 14, 1757, deed of gift to son Simon of 100 acres on the south side of Blackwater adjoining the north side of Seacock Swamp, the long branch and Meadow Branch; signed by Thomas Stephenson [with a mark "T"]; witnessed by R. Kello, D. Fisher and Richard Baker. SH DB 2:178.

3. Land grant dated September 26, 1760, to Thomas Stephenson for 400 acres in Southampton County on the north side of Seacock Swamp adjoining Thomas Stephenson, Thomas Doles and Joseph Turner. PB 33:944.

4. Thomas Stephenson to Thomas Stevenson dated February 2, 1763, deed of gift to son Thomas of 65 acres on the south side of Blackwater adjoining meadow branch, Seacock swamp and William Boykin; Signed by Thomaas Stephenson [with a mark "T"]; witnessed by Simon Stephenson, William Stevenson and George Summerall. SH DB 3:230.

5. Land grant dated September 6, 1760, to Richard Mannin of 190 acres on the south side of Black Water Swamp adjoining Joseph Turner, Jonathan Joyner, Samuel Mannin, Thomas Joyner and Joseph Doles. PB 34:767.

Will dated September 7, 1768 (proved February 8, 1770) (SH WB 2:314) (spelling and punctuation as in the original):

"In the name of God amen I Thomas Stephenson sen'r. of the County of Southampton being of sound and disposing mind and memory do make and ordain this my last will and testament as follows [illegible] after recommending my soul to God and my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my exors hereafter named ---

Item I give and bequeath to my son William Stephenson the plantation whereon I now live containing one hundred and five acres being the same more or less and half my cattle half my hogs and half my sheep after his mother's decease and my sorrel colt to him and his heirs forever ---

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Esther Browne wife of Jesse Browne one feather bed and furniture to her and her heirs forever ---

Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Celah Stephenson one bed and furniture one chest to her and her heirs forever

Item I give unto my son Simon Stephenson one cow and calf and all my cloths both linen and woolen to him and his heirs forever

Item I give and bequeath unto my loving wife Elizabeth Stephenson one bed and furniture after her disposing all the rest of my estate of what nature or kind soever or wheresoever it be found I give to be equally divided betwixt my children hereafter named all but the sum of five pounds I give unto my son Matthew Stephenson the sum of five pounds current money of Virginia James Sephenson Thos Stephenson Jr. Simon Stephenson William Stephenson Matthew Stephenson Jane Stephenson the wife of Geo. Summerill Stephen Summerill the son of John Summerill Celah Stephenson Elizabeth Summerill the wife of Thomas Summerill Esther Browne wife of Jesse Browne each of them to have an equal part --- Lastly I do appoint and constitute my loving wife Elizabeth Stephenson and my son Simon Stephenson to be my whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this seventh day of Decemb er one thousand seven hundred and sixty eight.

Signed sealed and acknowledged  
this my last will and testament in  
presence of  
Benjamin B. Turner  
Jamison Turner"

Thos (his mark) Stephenson

Notes for Elizabeth unknown:

Estate Records:

1. A will of Elizaeth has not been found in the records. However, an accounting by William Stephenson, as administrator of the estate, on May 9, 1776, showed debts to Thomas