

Branchiana

BEING A PARTIAL ACCOUNT OF

The Branch Family in Virginia

BY

JAMES BRANCH CABELL

"Hæc est

Vita solutorum misera ambitione gravique."



PRINTED BY

WHITTET & SHEPPERSON,

RICHMOND, VA.

Copyright, 1907, by JAMES BRANCH CABELL.

All rights reserved.

Published October, 1907.



The Branch

To

John Patteson Branch

**This volume is with a double fitness dedicated, as being both
the first to suggest its compilation and the most
eminent living member of the family
which it commemorates.**

Contents

	PAGE
THE COMPILER'S FOREWORD	5
THE BRANCHES IN EUROPE AND IN NEW ENGLAND	13
THE DESCENT OF THOMAS BRANCH OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND	23
THE DESCENDANTS OF THOMAS BRANCH OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND.	59
THE WIFE OF CHRISTOPHER BRANCH OF KINGSLAND	103
THE WIFE OF CHRISTOPHER BRANCH OF CHARLES CITY	107
THE WIFE OF BENJAMIN BRANCH OF HENRICO	111
THE WIFE OF BENJAMIN BRANCH OF CHESTERFIELD	129
THE WIFE OF CAPTAIN BENJAMIN BRANCH OF WILLOW HILL	145
THE WIFE OF THOMAS BRANCH OF WILLOW HILL	149
THE FIRST WIFE OF THOMAS BRANCH OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND.	157
THE SECOND WIFE OF THOMAS BRANCH OF PETERSBURG AND RICHMOND	173

Illustrations

THOMAS BRANCH	<i>Frontispiece</i>
JAMES READ BRANCH	<i>Facing p.</i> 18
JAMES RANSOM BRANCH	" 36
JAMES ROBINSON BRANCH	" 54
JOHN PATTESON BRANCH	" 70
THOMAS BRANCH	" 88
THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH	" 114
WILLIAM ADDISON BRANCH	" 132
MELVILLE IRBY BRANCH	" 152
CARTER WHEELRIGHT BRANCH	168

The Compiler's Foreword

The Compiler's Foreword

*"Sur les tombeaux de mes ancêtres,
Les âmes desquels Dieu embrasse,
On n'y voyt couronnées ne sceptres."*

It has appeared expedient that these gleanings from the county records of Henrico and Chesterfield, and from certain other sources, be put into some accessible shape, since, though at odd times during the last twenty years there has been published concerning the Branch family of Virginia a variety of information, the information has in most instances been incorrect.

Now, the persons the compiler treats of have been dead for many decades; and it may safely be assumed of any of us that, once dead, we are, and of necessity, condemned to an eternal misrepresentation, whether it be in the detraction of our enemies that the lie endure or in the panegyrics of our epitaphs. Yet the fiction, if it aim toward the neighborhood of plausibility, should very rarely condescend to brutal fisticuffs with an established fact, since the latter is proverbially stubborn; and in this instance the records of Henrico and of Chesterfield still exist, and are approachable by all men.

These records form the basis of this compilation, which endeavors but to make clear the direct ancestry of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond—born 23d December, 1802, died 15th November, 1888—and of his two wives.

For the little book has no pretensions to be considered as a history of the Branches. Among the many and devious ramifications of an unusually prolific family a single line of descent is herein traced out, and quite stolidly; since the compilation, as you are to remember, grasps neither at a compelling grace of language or at any originality of trope. Such-an-one committed such-and-such an action on a specified date, and the event was sworn to by So-and-so, and afterward was duly recorded at this-or-that place; and it is the compiler's business simply to write down the fact without metaphor: and there on a pin-point you have the scheme of the ensuing volume.

Within judicious limits, however, the compiler has not denied himself the privilege of attempting to deduce from the established fact each and every circumstance that would in common reason accompany it. This is not, perhaps, the ordinary custom of genealogists; but as it chanced the compiler is not by avocation a genealogist, and in consequence has aimed less at the construction of a historical romance than at a faithful transcription, and at times a re-arrangement, of certain musty items from quite uninteresting wills, and deeds of gift, and transfers of land, and many similar abominations of an equal dreariness.

And for this same reason the Branch pedigree is unadorned by even a solitary potentate. The compiler might more gorgeously have informed you, say! that a certain female ancestor of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," was supposedly a person whom the Ruler of Somewhere,

for reasons unstated, and discreetly so, delighted to honor; or have dwelt with heavier emphasis upon the fact that a certain male progenitor of his "came over," as the phrase runs, with William the Conqueror.

For such is the pleasing and the inexpensive custom of all genealogists: whereas, contrariwise, the present copyist confesses, with appropriate humility, that the Branches of Virginia trace back an established lineage to not a single Scandinavian pirate, and no lineage at all to any lady who, in her be-sonneted heyday, was proven very compassionate to the pangs of amorous royalty. Shuffle over it as you may, the authentic forebearer of this family was merely an honest and God-fearing yeoman whose reputation is not attestedly enhanced by even the tiniest infraction of the Decalogue.

It is undeniable, however, that the progenitors of this same yeoman sprang of an ancient and a not uninteresting origin; and certain by-ends of mythology have, in consequence, been lightly touched upon. But to the compiler, at least, these traditions appear of very minor importance.

For, grant that Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" was, even as legend claims, a lineal descendant of Caius Licinius Stolo, and that within his more immediate ancestry one might enumerate, "by scores half-emperors and quarter-emperors," and a dozen or two of kings let us say, and an infinity of dukes—enumerate, in fine, just such a list as all genealogists so heartily love to catalogue. Grant this, and the stark fact remains that he shared any one of these honors with an odd million or so of his contem-

poraries, ranging say! from pickpockets to the most august of the period; so that, as it concerned the terrestrial circumstances of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," the thing was wholly immaterial, either one way or another;—and the considerate person will come a deal nearer to the marrow of the man by reflecting that at his death his library consisted of two Bibles, and both of them the worse for constant usage.

Yet, doubtless, the romantic can derive a thrill of genuine pleasure from the reflection that, to however infinitesimal a degree, they share the blood of this-or-that more sumptuous individual of antiquity; as to the romantic it will doubtless be apparent that the trivial doings of certain thrifty and industrious planters some centuries or more ago are scarcely worthy of perpetuation.

But there are two ends to every stick. It was the Virginian Branches, and their like, who converted a wilderness, a little by a little, into the America of to-day; and their task was tediously achieved, and without ostentation, and always the ship had its resplendent figure-head, as always it had its hidden, nay! the grimy, engines, which propelled the ship. And, however much America may differ from Utopia, to have assisted in the making of America is no mean distinction.

To be descended of a line of czars, or from a house of emperors, is, at the worst, an empty braggartism, or, at most—upon the plea of heredity—a handy palliation for iniquity; and to be descended of sturdy and honest and clean-blooded folk is preferable, perhaps, since, upon quite

similar grounds, it entitles one to hope that even now, "when their generation is gone, when their play is over, when their panorama is withdrawn in tatters from the stage of the world," there may yet survive of them "some few actions worth remembering, and a few children who have retained some happy stamp from the disposition of their parents."

August, 1906.

**The Branches in Europe and in New
England**

The Branches in Europe and in New England

More immediately the Branch family is of Norman origin, the first mention of the name in written history, so far as is now known, occurring in the Chronicle of John Brompton (who flourished *circa* 1118), in a list wherein he enumerates

*“Les nons de grauntz dela la mer,
Qe vindrent od le conquerour,
William Bastard de graunt vigoure,”*—

as he terms them.

Or, in other wording: “The names of the great men who crossed the sea with the conqueror, William the Vigorous.” Brompton gives but the surnames, for a cogent reason which he states; and they are so arranged as to assist the memory of the reader alike by rhyme and rymth and alliteration.

So that, beginning with

*Maundevely et Daundevely,
Ounfrawyle et Downfrevyle,*

Brompton comes presently to

*Morten et Mortimer,
BRAUNZ et Columber.*

And, true, the spelling of the family name is here none too accurate: but Brompton was merely transcribing from a list compiled some years before his birth, and, as by good luck it chanced, many lists of the same sort have been preserved even to our time in the archives of several churches, written upon great pages of vellum, and decorated with the title of *The Book of the Conquerors*.

And in such lists—the sources of the Brompton list—as they have been published by André Duchesne (and by others) from the various charters and so on now in Battle Abbey, you will find that the name is invariably spelt as Braunche.

The Licinian Family

The surname of the Branch family is thus easily traced back to the eleventh century; but legend claims for the Branches a far greater antiquity, and at least attempts to identify them with the Licinian family of old Rome.

For within “that immense register where Pliny has deposited the discoveries, the arts and the errors of mankind”—as, it may be, that in this connection Gibbon not unappositely terms the *Naturalis Historia*—one may read (in Book XVII., Chapter I.), how “the trees have furnished surnames also to the ancients, such, for instance, as that . . . of Stolo to the Licinian family, such being the name given by us to the useless suckers that shoot from trees; for the best method of clearing away these shoots was discovered by the first Stolo, and hence his name.”

And legend claims that the Licinian family, in conse-

quence, adopted as its insignia a green branch, and that from this same emblem its descendants have always taken their surname: thus in France their name was Branche; and in Spain and Italy, Branca; and in Normandy, Braunche; and, presently, in England, Branch.

Caius Licinius Stolo

Here were indeed an ancient ancestry were the claims of legend a shade more authentically buttressed; for the first member of the Licinian family to attain any particular prominence, so far at least as the knowledge of the compiler extends, was that

CAIUS LICINIUS STOLO, who, in 367 B. C., as tribune (compare Livy VI., 35, 42, as well as other annalists), drew up and proclaimed the celebrated Licinian rogations, which in reality converted Rome from an oligarchy into a republic.

The Emperor Licinius

And by an odd turn of fate, so distinguished did his race afterward become that, in 307, a Roman emperor—and the incarnation of despotism—made it his proudest boast to be a descendant of this same tribune. It is true that the boast now appears to have been but a vainglorious fiction, and the

EMPEROR LICINIUS, in fact, to have sprung from some obscure and Dacian origin; yet none the less is it worthy of remark that relationship with the Licinian family was then an honor which a master of half Europe might see fit to covet.

The Branch Surname

The preceding legends are but legends, and they are given but as legends; still, however improbable it may appear that any family should adopt this-or-that emblem as its badge, and subsequently from that same emblem derive and preserve its permanent name, it must be remembered that in actuality the thing has been done more than once.

The family aforetime regnant in England that as Counts of Anjou had adopted for their device a sprig of broom—the *planta genesta*—and were in consequence henceforward known as the Plantagenets—here, of course, is a very clamant instance of this: and, indeed, hundreds of other cases might readily be cited; so that, all in all, it is a deal more easy to shrug aside the Licinian origin of the Branches than it is to disprove it.

The Branch Arms

And with all this, the present compiler has, in reality, very little to do. He attempts but to record the fortunes of the Branches in Virginia. Yet, in passing, it is not to be supposed that when such defensive armor came into use that the features of every second person were screened by a visor, and in consequence unrecognizable—that, at this time above all others, the insignia of any family might lightly be disregarded.

Here was the origin—and the very practical origin—of all latter-day heraldic vanities; since, as Clark points out, “though now matters of form and ceremonial, and sub-



Yours
J. H. Brown

ject to the smile which attaches to such in an utilitarian age, armorial bearings were then of real use and importance, and so continued as long as knights were cased in plate and their features thus concealed. At that time leaders were recognized in the field by their insignia alone"—and so on. The insignia of the Branches, however anciently chosen, would have been, in consequence, quite naturally adopted as a conspicuous part of the design when this family came to plan its arms.

The arms of the Branch family, as its descendants bear them to-day, are:—Argent, a lion rampant gules, oppressed by a bend dexter sable. Crest:—Out of a ducal coronet or, a cock's head proper, in its beak a *branch vert*,—or in other wording, the "green branch" of the Licinian family. The arms have no motto.

But a variant, and, as it appears to the compiler, a more ancient and the correct form of these arms is:—Argent, a lion rampant gules, armed azure, oppressed with a bend sable. Crest:—Out of a ducal coronet or, a cock's head azure, combed gules, holding a branch vert. These arms, also, have no motto.

They were assumed in the latter half of the twelfth century by the descendants of that Braunche who, with William the Conqueror, both invaded and overcame England in 1066.

And, true, in any blazonry of the arms, "the branch vert" appears to form but a minor part of the design; yet it should be remembered that this crest originally was the ornament borne by the armed warrior upon his helmet,

and hence in battle conspicuous from a far greater distance than the arms proper which were painted upon his shield.

The Branches in England

With the history of the Branch family in England the compiler has at the present moment no concern; yet, in passing, it is as well to mention that in England the Branches first settled in Wiltshire, and more lately, as it would appear, removed to the County of Kent.

Tradition states that the great-grandfather of the Branch who emigrated to Virginia was none other than the

SIR JOHN BRANCH, who *circa* 1485, was Lord Mayor of London; and that a son of this same Sir John Branch was the

WILLIAM BRANCH, sometimes known as William Flower, one of the most notorious of the Protestant sufferers during the reign of Mary I.

He had formerly been a monk at Ely, but had abjured the Roman Catholic religion to become a too-zealous Protestant; and on Easter Day, 1555, at St. Margaret's, Westminster, during the actual celebration of the Holy Communion, William Branch attacked and stabbed the officiating priest, although not mortally.

He was brought before Edmund Bonner, then Bishop of London, who argued with him for a long while on religious matters, and eventually offered him a pardon on condition that he recant his Protestant opinions and conform to the Church of Rome.

William Branch refused; and in consequence, the hand which had committed the crime having first been severed from his wrist, he was chained to a stake before St. Margaret's Chapel, which was the scene of the atrocity, and there burned alive.

This person, according to tradition, was, by his son, John Branch, a grandfather of the Peter Branch who emigrated to the Colony of Massachusetts in 1638, and, by his son, Thomas Branch, a grandfather of the Christopher Branch who emigrated to the Colony of Virginia in the March of 1619-20.

It is from the latter two that the Branches of New England and the Branches of Virginia trace their descent.

The Branches in New England

The aforementioned Peter Branch sailed for Massachusetts in the *Castle*, as previously recorded, in the year 1638, and died during the voyage. His will, made in favor of his only son, John Branch, was the first will to be recorded at Boston.

This same John Branch, the only son of the foregoing, more lately married Mary Speed, and more lately still settled at Branch Island, which lies some ten miles north of Plymouth Rock, and as yet retains its ancient name.

From this John Branch descend the Branches of New England.

**The Descent of Thomas Branch of Peters-
burg and Richmond**

The Descent of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond

THOMAS BRANCH of Petersburg and Richmond, in Virginia, was a descendant, in the seventh generation, of

CHRISTOPHER BRANCH of "Arrowhattocks" and "Kingsland,"—the latter being, according to tradition, a son of that

THOMAS BRANCH who was a son of

WILLIAM BRANCH, the Protestant fanatic, who was, in turn, a son of the

SIR JOHN BRANCH that was (*circa* 1485) Lord Mayor of London.

And here we have the faëry land of tradition, and henceforward build upon the less lively-tinted foundation of the county records of Henrico and of Chesterfield.

Christopher Branch of Kingsland

CHRISTOPHER BRANCH of "Arrowhattocks" and "Kingsland," in Henrico County, the founder of the Branch family in Virginia, was born in England—and, presumably, within the County of Kent—about the year 1600; and he married there very early in life.

With his wife, Mary Branch, whose maiden name is unknown, he emigrated to Virginia in the March of 1619-20, so that in the February of 1623-4, according to

the first census ever taken of the inhabitants of Virginia, Christopher Branch was living in Henrico; and the muster of January, 1624-5, names Christopher Branch, his wife, Mary Branch, and their son, Thomas Branch, then nine months old, as resident "att ye Colledg Land."

They had come to Virginia in the *London Merchant*, of 300 tons, which vessel was despatched from Tilbury-hope, in England, by the Virginia Company, in the March of 1619-20, with 200 colonists on board, and reached Virginia some time during the spring of the same year, after a prosperous voyage, during which but one passenger had died.

The precise location of the Branch home at this period is indeterminate, as the College Land was a rather extensive tract set aside by the company, whereon "to erect and build a college in Virginia, for the training and bringing up of infidel's children to the true knowledge of God and understanding of righteousness."

The company designed, in fact, both to Christianize and educate the neighboring Indians; and to this intent it was decided (26th May, 1619), that "a certain piece of land be laid out in Henrico, which should be called the College Land, and for the planting of the same to send presently fifty good persons to be seated thereon, and to occupy the same according to order, and to have half the benefit of their labour, and the other half to go to setting forward the work and for maintenance of the tutors and scholars."

The scheme, at first enthusiastically taken up by the

King and "the several bishops of this kingdom," was abandoned after the Great Massacre of 1622, when the Indians, under Opechancanough, very nearly succeeded in exterminating the Colony, and the assigned lands were thrown open to the public; but it was as one of these "fifty good persons" that Christopher Branch came to America, and he and his wife were among the scant sixty settlers of the College Land who, somehow, survived the massacre; and their oldest son was born upon the heels of it.

It was ten years before Christopher Branch—on the 20th October, 1634—patented a hundred acres of land at "Arrowhattocks," in Henrico County, which then comprised the present Chesterfield. This "Arrowhattocks" appears in Captain John Smith's map on the north side of James River, a short distance above the present Dutch Gap; but the eventual and permanent home of Christopher Branch was at "Kingsland," a plantation almost immediately opposite "Arrowhattocks," on the south side of the river, in what is now the County of Chesterfield, where, on the 14th of September, 1636, he patented another hundred acres of land.

A successful tobacco farmer, he subsequently augmented this modest tract both by purchase and by the taking out of other patents, until he had acquired a rather large plantation in the extreme northeast of Chesterfield, bounded upon the east by James River and upon the south by Proctor's Creek. The present Kingsland Creek ran

through his property and takes its name from the former home of Christopher Branch.

He must have come to Virginia very little better than a pauper; but that he subsequently became a man of means, as means then went, and of prominence in at least his county, is evinced by the frequency with which his name occurs in the scant records of the time and the many honorable offices which he occupied.

He was, in 1639, to cite an instance, with his immediate neighbor, Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," one of the viewers of tobacco "from the World's End to Henrico,"—it having been decided by an act of the Assembly that "there be yearly chosen and appointed Men of Experience and in dignity for the Carefull Viewing of each Man's crop of Tobacco"; and he had represented his county in the Virginia House of Burgesses in the year 1629; and was in 1656 appointed one of the justices of the peace for Henrico.

A glance at the various land patents taken out by Christopher Branch is not without interest.

On the 20th of October, 1634, as recorded, Christopher Branch—then of "Arrowhattocks"—leased a hundred acres of land "adjoining the land granted to John Griffin and John Sheffield, and abutting easterly on the main river."

On the 8th of December, 1636, Christopher Branch patented 250 acres "at 'Kingsland,' bounded on the east by the Main river and westerly by the Second creek,"—this being the land formerly "granted to John Griffin,

fifty acres for his personal adventure, and 200 for the transportation of four persons." It is interesting to note that within the year Christopher Branch has in some inexplicable fashion acquired and annexed all of his immediate neighbor's land.

Again, on the 14th of September, 1636, as recorded, Christopher Branch patented a hundred acres "in Henrico County, bounded on the east by the river, over against 'Harrow Attocks,' and on the west by the head of Proctors' Creek. Due: by exchange with James Place, and due Place for the transportation of two servants, Richard Pierce and James Hunt."

This looks as though Christopher Branch had traded his hundred acres at "Arrowhattocks" for an additional hundred at "Kingsland," and had finally cast his destiny upon the south side of the river; and there is no further definite record after this date of his ever owning property upon the northern side of the James. This patent, by the way, was subsequently renewed by Sir John Harvey, when Governor of Virginia, and 300 acres added.

It is thus fairly apparent that Christopher Branch met with good luck in his Virginian venture, and achieved success and prominence; but it is unlikely that his life was ever one of luxury. Indeed, it is salutary, in passing, to consider the then condition of Virginia, as recorded by an eye-witness:

"I found the plantations generally seated upon meer salt marshes, full of infectious boggs and muddy creeks and lakes, and hereby subjected to all those inconveniences

and diseases which are so commonly found in the most unsound and most unhealthy parts of England. . . .

"The Colony was this winter in much distress of victual. . . .

"Their houses are generally the worst that ever I saw, the meanest cottages in England being every way equal (if not superior) with the most of the best, and, besides, so improvidently and scatteringly are they seated one from another, as partly from their distance, but especially by the interposition of creeks and swamps, as they call them, they offer all advantages to their savage enemies, and are utterly deprived of all sudden recollection of themselves upon any terms whatsoever. . . .

"I found the ancient plantations of Henrico and Charles City wholly quitted and left to the spoils of the Indians, who not only burnt the houses, said to be once the best of all others, but fell upon the poultry, hogs, cows, goats and horses, whereof they killed great numbers. . . .

"There having been, as it is thought, not fewer than ten thousand souls transported hither, there are not, thro' the aforementioned abuses and neglects, above two thousand of them to be found alive at this present—many of them in a sickly and desperate estate."

In such unenviable circumstances Christopher Branch lived for sixty years, dying at a very advanced age either in the December of 1681 or in the January of 1682.

Immediately previous to his death (2nd November, 1681), he had confirmed a former deed of gift to his eldest son, Thomas Branch, of 300 acres of land in Henrico,

"which Thomas Branch now lives on," the action being necessitated by some irregularity in the earlier deed. This land faced upon James River, and adjoined the land of John Branch—presumably the same John Branch who was the youngest son of William Branch.

It should be borne in mind, however, that Christopher Branch of "Arrowhattocks" and "Kingsland" was not the only Branch who emigrated to Virginia. There was a John Branch who owned land in Elizabeth City County as early as 1636, was a viewer of tobacco for Elizabeth City in 1639, and represented Elizabeth City in the Virginia Assembly in 1641; but who was apparently unrelated to Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," and, so far as is recorded, left no descendants.

Christopher Branch married, as has been said, Mary ———, who died at an early age—apparently before 1630.

By Mary ———, Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" had issue:

I. THOMAS BRANCH of Henrico, the oldest son, born April, 1623, and the only child to survive his father. Thomas Branch died in 1693. He had married Elizabeth ———, and by her had issue:—Thomas, who married Elizabeth Archer, daughter of George Archer of Henrico, and died in 1728; Matthew, who married ———, and died in 1726; James, who died without issue in 1737; Elizabeth, who married Melchizadeck Richardson; Martha; a daughter, name unknown, who married Richard Ward of Henrico; William; Margery; and John.

II. WILLIAM BRANCH of Henrico, born about 1625, presumably the second son, and presumably a namesake of the Protestant fanatic, who died in 1676. William Branch married Jane —— (she married, second, Abel Gower, in his time justice of the peace and sheriff for Henrico), and by her had issue:—William, who died young, *post* 1678, and without leaving issue; John, died in 1788, who married Martha Jones, the daughter of Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds; Sarah; and Mary, who married, first, Thomas Jefferson of Henrico (grandfather of the President), and, second, Joseph Mattox.

III. CHRISTOPHER BRANCH of Charles City County, born about 1627.

Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" died, as has been said, between the 1st of December, 1681, and 1st of February, 1681-2.

An inventory of his goods and chattels, too long to be here cited, was recorded 13th of April, 1682, and vividly illustrates how solely was the wealth of Virginia's earlier inhabitants confined to the possession of lands and of slaves, and of so many pounds of tobacco, since their total value, as fixed by the appraisers, is no more than thirty-eight pounds, seven shillings and ten pence. It should be remembered, however, that the purchasing power of money was then, roughly speaking, about nine times that of the present day.

There are no luxuries in this enumeration; it contains, for the most part, only the bare necessities of life; and the library of Christopher Branch consisted of three vol-

umes, one of which, having an undecipherable title, he bequeathed to his oldest and only living son, Thomas Branch; and for the rest Christopher Branch possessed:

“ One old Bible, valued at 5 shillings.

“ One old ditto, valued at 5 shillings.”

And here is his modest list of live stock:

“ 3 cows, valued at 35 shillings each.

“ 1½ Oxen, one 2 years old, 5 shillings; and one 5 years old at 30 shillings.

“ 2 bulls, one 2 years old at 15 shillings, and the other 6 years old at 25 shillings.

“ 1 yearling calfe.

“ 5 barrowes (gelded pigs), at 15 shillings each.

“ 4 sowes, at 15 shillings each.

“ 2 shootes (shoats), at 6 shillings each.

“ 1 boar, valued at 6 shillings.

“ 1 parcel of pyggs, to be divided amongst themselves.”

The will of Christopher Branch is recorded at Henrico Court-House. It is dated 20th June, 1678, and was recorded 20th February, 1681-2.

Previous to the making of this will, he had conveyed to his son, Thomas Branch, by various deeds of gift, the entire northern portion of the “ Kingsland ” plantation, consisting of at least 540 acres, and probably of more; and it is not an outrageous flight of fancy to presume that the second son, William Branch, had been provided for in similar fashion, since the will ignores the heirs of this William Branch precisely as Thomas Branch and his heirs are therein ignored.

It is possible that to William Branch was allotted the "Arrowhattocks" plantation on the north side of the river, inasmuch as the will makes no mention of this property, which Christopher Branch had unquestionably owned and had unquestionably parted with by the year 1678; but as has been recorded, the lease of 14th September, 1636, would seem to indicate that he had made over at least a portion of "Arrowhattocks" to James Place of Henrico, in exchange for an additional hundred acres at "Kingsland."

By ordinary, it was the custom of our early colonists thus to provide for their sons as they reached manhood; and it is deducible that Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," cannily desirous that as little as possible of his estate be squandered upon taxes, had in his lifetime deeded to his elder sons and to their heirs such lands as he intended to leave them. But his youngest son, Christopher Branch of Charles City County, had died young, leaving three boys, all under age when Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" drew up his will; and it is for them, and for them alone, that the will of their grandfather provides.

Thus to his eldest son, Thomas Branch, the testator bequeaths merely "my great copper ceattle," and the book whose title is undecipherable, and explicitly confirms a previous deed of gift of some 240 acres: and to William Branch and to John Branch (the children of the testator's second son, William Branch), merely the liberty to "fish and fowle" in all the creeks and swamps of his big plantation.

To the testator's grandson, Christopher Branch (the oldest child of the testator's son, Christopher Branch of Charles City County, and then nineteen years old), is left all the land between James River and the Long Slash—and "slash" here denotes a low and wet and overgrown piece of ground—beginning at the mouth of Proctor's Creek and "running upwards on the river to the pinetree that parts my land and my son Thomas's, and from Proctor's Creek at the lower end of the Long Slash, on the inside of the Long Slash, running up to my son Thomas's land." In other words, after deeding the northern portion to Thomas Branch, the testator bequeaths to his grandson, Christopher Branch, the eastern third of the remainder of his "Kingsland" plantation.

There is, however, a condition stipulated, "provided the said Christopher Branch help to build for his brother Samuel Branch a house four lengths of boards, every length to be five feet, with the help of the negroe and Joab, if they live till Samuel Branch be of ability to keep it, and help him to clear a cornfield sufficiently fenced to keep out hoggs and cattle."

For to the testator's grandson, Samuel Branch, then fifteen years old, is bequeathed the second third of "Kingsland," "all land between the Long Slash and the bottom called by the name of Jackes Bottome, beginning at Proctor's Creek and running up to Thomas Branch's land; provided that the said Samuel Branch, with the help of Christopher Branch and the negro and Jobe, build for Benjamin Branch a house,"—and so on, according to

all the specifications of the house to be built for Samuel Branch when he shall come to years of discretion.

For to the youngest grandson, Benjamin Branch, then thirteen years old, is bequeathed the remaining third of "Kingsland,"—"all the land between Jackes Bottome and Proctor's Creek, beginning at Proctor's Creek and running up to my son Thomas's land."

It is also stipulated, with meticulous forethought, that when the two houses come to be built, Christopher Branch is to supply both Samuel Branch and Benjamin Branch with "six locus (locust) posts and two im (elm?) posts," in event of the lands assigned to either containing none at the time of building; and, curiously enough, that if any of the three die under age his lands and property are to go to "the next brother."

This apparently unfair arrangement is perhaps explained by the fact that Christopher Branch is to have for some years the use of the entire estate: for the testator appoints him general manager of "Kingsland" as a whole, and it is to young Christopher Branch that Thomas Branch is to pay such rent for the recently deeded 240 acres "as may be due his Majesty yearly," as well as to Christopher Branch that Samuel Branch and Benjamin Branch are to deliver their annual rental when these two acquire their several portions of "Kingsland"; and it is stipulated that the latter grandsons are to live with Christopher Branch, and under his guardianship, until "they are grown and able to get their land."



James C. Branch, President of the C. S. H. U. N. Y.

James C. Branch

Item, "my part of Jobe's labor (the negro previously mentioned), which is one-half his labor, is to go to the maintenance of Benjamin Branch and Samuel Branch and Sarah Branch." This Sarah Branch, as has been said, was the younger daughter of the testator's second son.

It is then stipulated that a certain "cartway to the woods" running through the plantation of "Kingsland" be always free to the public; and more lately, by an obvious afterthought, that if either Christopher Branch or Samuel Branch, for any reason, refuse to take part in building the stipulated houses, and so on, the delinquent is to pay 600 pounds of tobacco to the brother he has declined to start in life.

Finally, to Thomas Jefferson of Henrico (who had married, *ante* 1678, Mary Branch, the older daughter of the testator's second son, and was by her the grandfather of the President), is left one hogshead of tobacco, of 400 pounds weight, inasmuch as the said Thomas Jefferson is to be, with the younger Christopher Branch, the testator's executor; and all other property of which the testator may die possessed is to be divided equally among Christopher Branch and Samuel Branch and Benjamin Branch and Sarah Branch.

The witnesses of this will are Abel Gower (who had married the widow of William Branch, the testator's second son), and Richard Ward (who had married a daughter of Thomas Branch, the testator's oldest son).

Christopher Branch of Charles City

CHRISTOPHER BRANCH of Charles City County, the third and youngest son of the foregoing, was born about the year 1627.

On reaching manhood he removed from Henrico to Charles City, where he resided for some twenty years.

Owing to the destruction of the earlier records of Charles City, our knowledge of this Christopher Branch is woefully deficient. It is apparent, however, that he married early in life, and it is no mean tribute to his ability and his ranking in public opinion that at the age of thirty, at most, he should have been a justice of the peace for his county—to which office Christopher Branch was appointed in the year 1657.

Christopher Branch of Charles City died in 1665, some fifteen years before his father's demise.

The name of his wife is unknown, as well as the total number of children she bore him. Yet it is presumable that there were but three, the three sons, who, after the death of their father, were entrusted to the guardianship of their grandfather, Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," and for whom the latter, as previously recorded, makes liberal provision in his will.

These children were:

I. CHRISTOPHER BRANCH of Henrico, born 1659, died 1727, who married Anne Sherman Crowley (the widow of John Crowley of Henrico, and the daughter of Henry

Sherman of Henrico), and by her had issue:—Henry; Mary, who married — Walter; Sissarah, who married — Bass; and Bodiane, who married — Cheatham.

II. SAMUEL BRANCH of Henrico, born 1663, died 1700, who married Ursula —, and by her had issue.

III. BENJAMIN BRANCH of Henrico, born in 1665.

The will of Christopher Branch of Charles City County, if indeed he did not die intestate—which was a rare event among our careful colonists of Virginia—perished with the remainder of the Charles City records, so that we have to-day no certain knowledge either as to the exact locality of his plantation or the disposition which he made of it.

Benjamin Branch of Henrico

BENJAMIN BRANCH of Henrico, the third and youngest son of the foregoing, was born in 1665, which was, as has been previously recorded, the year of his father's death.

It is probable that his mother also did not long survive the birth of this third son; the three boys were unquestionably orphaned during the infancy of Benjamin Branch and left with no nearer relative than their grandfather, Christopher Branch of "Kingsland," who reared and sheltered them until his death, which took place about the period that the oldest boy attained to legal manhood.

Under the guardianship of their elder brother, this goal was reached and passed by the younger boys also, and in 1686 Benjamin presumably cleared the western portion of

"Kingsland," and had built for him, by Christopher Branch and Samuel Branch, a house some twenty feet long. There he dwelt a bachelor until the mature age of at least thirty—a very unusual proceeding in that day of early marriages—and farmed his modest plantation on Proctor's Creek with apparently a modest share of success.

But in such records as yet endure concerning the doings of this Benjamin Branch, one lights upon little indicating in his entire life more than a respectable mediocrity. He inherited a small plantation and appears never to have increased its dimensions, or, in any event, not materially, nor to have lessened them; and he occupied no public position, nor apparently enjoyed any particular prominence. One pictures him as being quite contented and a trifle lazy.

True, the host of trivial facts that have been preserved concerning Benjamin Branch of Henrico affords but scant aid to the judgment; it is not particularly illuminating to know that at the inventory of the estate of Thomas Jefferson (who, as recorded, married his cousin, Mary Branch), Benjamin Branch received "ten shillings for a mutton for the funeral"; or that, in 1699, the College of William and Mary brought suit for one pound, five shillings, against Benjamin Branch, as the executor of Edward Osborne.

For, about the year 1695 Benjamin Branch of Henrico, had married Tabitha Osborne, the elder daughter of Edward Osborne of Henrico.

By Tabitha Osborne, Benjamin Branch of Henrico had issue:

I. BENJAMIN BRANCH of Chesterfield, born about the year 1700.

Very shortly after this event Benjamin Branch of Henrico died; and his widow re-married within a year or two, at most, of her first husband's death.

Benjamin Branch of Henrico died intestate, *ante* December, 1706, and a third of his estate was by the court awarded his widow in the November of 1711. This order was carried out in the February of 1711-12.

No record remains concerning what lands were possessed by Benjamin Branch of Henrico at the time of his death, or what was his widow's portion thereof, and the scant fact is recorded that she received three negroes—"Harry, valued at fifteen pounds; Betty, valued at eleven pounds; and Doll, valued at nine pounds."

On a commensurate scale the estate could have been but a modest one; and the enumeration of it was sworn to, on the 20th of August, 1711, by Thomas Cheatham, who had already "married the relict and widow of Benjamin Branch, deceased."

The dead man's son, Benjamin Branch, more lately of Chesterfield County, appeared in the Orphans' Court in the April of 1712, and chose as his guardian his uncle, on the maternal side, Edward Osborne of Henrico.

Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield

BENJAMIN BRANCH of Chesterfield County, the only son and child of the foregoing, was born, as has been said, about the year 1700, and was reared, after his father's death and the re-marriage of his mother, by his maternal uncle, Edward Osborne of Henrico.

The latter was a man of substance and of, at least, a local prominence; he died in 1732, and, in passing, it is interesting to compare the appraisal of his goods and chattels, taken the 2nd of October, 1732, and valued in all at 351 pounds, eight shillings and six pence, with the aforementioned appraisal of the similar belongings of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" (taken just fifty years before, and valued at some thirty-eight pounds), in view of the fact that Christopher Branch was for his period by much the wealthier and the more prominent man. But money was becoming more plentiful in Virginia, and even the luxuries of life were now accessible.

In due time Benjamin Branch attained years of discretion, and, about 1721, took possession of the small estate left by his father. This lying upon the south side of James River, Benjamin Branch became, about 1740, a citizen of Chesterfield, when that county was formed from the lower portion of Henrico; and this inherited plantation he managed to such good effect as materially to increase its extent, and to die, in 1761, a man of considerable landed property.

He had, however, long before this disposed of the plantation he acquired from his father—a third of the original

"Kingsland" plantation, on the north side of Proctor's Creek—and now owned lands in various parts of Chesterfield and Amelia counties; and appears to have made his permanent home upon a plantation which lay to the extreme southwest of the present Chesterfield County and bordered upon the present Sapponey Creek.

Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield married, prior to 1727, his second cousin, Mary Osborne, the elder daughter of Thomas Osborne of Henrico, whom he survived.

By Mary Osborne, Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield had issue:

I. MARY BRANCH, who survived her father, and probably died unmarried.

II. MARTHA BRANCH, who died, presumably unmarried, before 1760.

III. CAPTAIN BENJAMIN BRANCH of "Willow Hill," in Chesterfield County.

IV. THOMAS BRANCH of Manchester Parish, in Chesterfield County, who died unmarried in the latter part of 1778.

V. EDWARD BRANCH, also of Manchester Parish, who died in 1781, having married Lucy (Finney?), and by her leaving issue:—Edward; Thomas; William; Benjamin; Molly; Lucy; Obedience Turpin; Juday Finney; Elizabeth; and Prudence.

VI. OBEDIENCE BRANCH, who married (Edward?) Bass of Chesterfield.

VII. PRUDENCE BRANCH, who married William Thweat of Chesterfield.

The will of Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield is dated 31st December, 1760, and was recorded at Chesterfield Court-House, in 1762.

It bequeaths to the testator's son, Thomas Branch, 1,023 acres of land "below the upper Sappony Creek," in Chesterfield County, and in Amelia County some 200 acres "in the little fork of Nibs Creek," and eight negroes; to the testator's son, Edward Branch, 427 acres of land "above the upper Sappony Creek," and "my part of the Redwater Mill," which was a one-half interest, and ten negroes.

It appears that the testator had previously deeded the other half-interest in this same mill to his oldest son, Captain Benjamin Branch, of "Willow Hill," and the ruins of it, in passing, yet stand beside Redwater Creek, a tributary of Proctor's Creek, in eastern Chesterfield, on what was part of the land originally patented, in 1625, by Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale."

This Thomas Osborne was an ancestor both of the mother and of the wife of Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield, and it was through one of these that the latter most probably acquired the mill; yet the original Branch plantation, as recorded, lay to the immediate north of Proctor's Creek, which formed the boundary line between "Coxendale" and "Kingsland," and it is likely that the mill was originally shared by the two families, as the "Kingsland" side contains no tributary of sufficient importance to supply the necessary power.

The will of Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield likewise bequeaths to the testator's son, Captain Benjamin Branch, one negro; to the testator's daughter, Obedience Bass, three pounds in current money; to the testator's daughter, Prudence Thweat, three pounds in current money; and, finally, to the testator's daughter, Mary Branch, eight negroes and various household goods.

The executors are Thomas Branch (the testator's second son), Edward Branch (the testator's third son), and Robert Goode (presumably the father-in-law of the testator's oldest son).

Captain Benjamin Branch of Willow Hill

CAPTAIN BENJAMIN BRANCH of "Willow Hill," the third child and oldest son of the foregoing, was born about the year 1732.

His sisters, Mary Branch and Martha Branch, were older than he, each of them being born *ante* 1730, but he was the oldest son and the only one abundantly able to provide for himself at the time when his father drew up his will in 1760; it is deducible that at this date Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield had already transferred to his oldest son such portion of the estate as it seemed proper he should inherit, after the example of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland"; he had certainly deeded Captain Benjamin Branch a half interest in the Redwater Mill, and, in any event, the testator's distinction between Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" and his other sons is precisely paralleled by that drawn between

his married daughters, now provided for, and his one unmarried daughter, Mary Branch, who was by this a virgin of rather mature years and unlikely to secure a protector.

However this may have been, Benjamin Branch, the younger, very shortly owned a large plantation centering about his residence of "Willow Hill," and had acquired various tracts of land in Chesterfield and Amelia counties; and he was a man of prominence as well as wealth.

Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" was a member of the Chesterfield County Committee of Public Safety in 1774, and for the same year a justice of the peace for Chesterfield, and during the Revolution served as a captain in the Chesterfield Militia; he was awarded in 1777, according to the Militia accounts, "for pay, etc., of his Company of Chesterfield Militia, 229 pounds, four shillings and two pence," and, when tranquillity had been restored he was again appointed a justice of the peace for Chesterfield, and later, first in 1780 and afterward in 1786, was sheriff of Chesterfield.

Here is an honorable record; and it was honorably ended in 1786.

Captain Benjamin Branch "of Willow Hill" had married, about 1755, Mary (Goode?), who probably survived him, or, at least, died later than 1782.

By Mary (Goode?), Captain Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" had issue:

I. BENJAMIN BRANCH of Chesterfield, who married Elizabeth Osborne, the daughter of Edward Osborne of Chesterfield, and by her had issue.

II. EDWARD BRANCH, of Chesterfield, who likewise left issue.

III. ANNE BRANCH, who married — Jones of Chesterfield.

IV. THOMAS BRANCH, of "Willow Hill."

V. OBEDIENCE BRANCH.

The will of Captain Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" is dated 19th April, 1782, and was recorded at Chesterfield Court-House in 1787.

It mentions the testator's wife, Mary Branch, as yet alive, in the April of 1782, when the will was made, and bequeaths to the testator's son, Benjamin Branch, three negroes merely. Again it is evident that the testator, after the usual custom of the Branches, has during his own lifetime bestowed upon his eldest son such land as he intended that eldest son to inherit from his estate.

It bequeaths to the testator's second son, Edward Branch, the plantation (of "Willow Hill") in Chesterfield County, and the half-interest held by the testator in the Redwater Mill, which, as previously recorded, was deeded to the testator by his father *ante* 1760,— and three negroes; and bequeaths to the testator's youngest son Thomas Branch, the testator's plantation and lands in Amelia County, and three negroes.

To the testator's daughter, Anne Jones, is bequeathed three negroes and various household goods, and to his daughter, Obedience Branch, three negroes; and it is

willed that the remainder of the testator's estate be equally divided between his sons, Edward Branch and Thomas Branch.

The executors are "my kinsmen," Edward Bass (the testator's nephew), Edward Branch (the testator's nephew), and Francis Goode (who was probably the testator's brother-in-law).

Thomas Branch of Willow Hill

THOMAS BRANCH of "Willow Hill," in Chesterfield County, was born 4th April, 1767, and was presumably the youngest son, if not the youngest child, of the foregoing.

To him his father had bequeathed, as previously recorded, his lands in Amelia County, but it was not long before Thomas Branch had likewise acquired the plantation of "Willow Hill," in Chesterfield, which his father had left to the older brother, Edward Branch; and there Thomas Branch resided during the latter years of his life.

This must have constituted, in all, a decidedly neat property, even though the exact dimension and location of these lands are now indeterminate; yet Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill" appears to have had scant hankering for political preferments, and the single public office which he is known to have held is that of justice of the peace for Chesterfield, to which he was appointed in the year 1797.

Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill" died 10th September, 1818. He had married, in 1787, Mary Patteson, the daughter of Colonel David Patteson of Chesterfield.

By Mary Patteson, Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill" had issue:

I. ELIZABETH BRANCH, born 20th October, 1788, and died 26th November, 1791.

II. MARY BRANCH, born 28th November, 1790, who married William Lithgow, and had issue:—Thomas, who married Elizabeth Winfree.

III. BENJAMIN BRANCH, born 28th December, 1792, and died 15th July, 1794.

IV. DAVID HENRY BRANCH, born 20th February, 1795, who married Mary Branch, and had issue:—Ariadne, who married William R. Johnson; Octavia, who married Andrew Dunn; Adele, who married Abram Warwick; Martha Patteson; Victoria; and Thomas Henry.

V. MARTHA BRANCH, born 5th March, 1797, who married John R. Walke, and had issue:—a daughter, who married Edwin Friend; Siddenham, who married Susanna Winfree; Hannah, who married Thomas Bransford; Olivia, who married Thomas M. Burfoot; Pank, who also married Thomas M. Burfoot; and John Caspar, who married Lucy Robinson.

VI. OBEDIENCE BRANCH, who married Edward Watkins Anderson, and had issue:—Thomas Oliver; Mary Susan, who married Patrick Finny; Sarah Obedience, who married John Doyle; David Jordan; Samuel Patteson; Waverly Francis; Martha Elizabeth, who married

John A. Miller; and Lucy Anne, who married James Stevenson.

VII. THOMAS TURPIN BRANCH, born 26th August, 1801, and died 27th December, 1801.

VIII. THOMAS BRANCH of Petersburg and Richmond, born 23d December, 1802.

IX. JOHN WILKINSON BRANCH, born 18th January, 1805, and died in infancy.

X. LUCY FRANCES BRANCH, born 18th January, 1805, and died, unmarried, in October, 1855.

XI. JORDAN BRANCH, born 20th April, 1809, who married first Lucy Winfree, and had issue:—Thomas Wiley, who married Louise Lewis; and David Patteson, who married Mary Bransford. Jordan Branch married, second, Caroline Davidson, and had issue:—Waverly; and Lucy, who married Emmet R. Morton.

XII. JULIUS CÆSAR BRANCH, born 20th April, 1811, who married ——— Hinton, and had issue:—Lelia; Margaret; and Ella, who married John C. Drake.

XIII. SARAH BRANCH, born 27th November, 1812, and died 29th January, 1814.

XIV. SARAH PATTESON BRANCH, born 1st May, 1814, and died in the winter of 1826.

Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill" died intestate, as previously recorded, in 1818, and was survived by his wife

and eight of his children; and his wife, Mary Patteson Branch, was, by order of the court, appointed his executrix.

Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond

THOMAS BRANCH of Petersburg and Richmond, the eighth child and fourth son of the foregoing, was born 23d December, 1802, at "Willow Hill," his father's mansion, in Chesterfield County.

This Thomas Branch, on reaching manhood, removed to Petersburg, where he established himself in business as a commission merchant and banker.

He successively founded and carried to success the firms of Thomas Branch and Brother, of Thomas Branch and Sons, of Branch Sons and Company, and of the present Thomas Branch and Company, the latter firm being established in Richmond during the Civil War.

In 1871 Thomas Branch founded the Merchants National Bank of Richmond, Virginia, of which he was president until 1880, during which year he resigned the office, and was succeeded by his third and oldest surviving son, John Patteson Branch. The latter likewise succeeded his father as the head of the banking and commission firm of Thomas Branch and Company.

During his residence in Petersburg, Thomas Branch served as member of the Common Council, as Sheriff, and for several terms as Mayor of Petersburg.

He was a member of the Convention of 1861, and when Virginia left the Union was one of the signers of the

Ordinance of Secession. He had been a Union man until the actual commencement of the Civil War, had voted against Virginia's leaving the Union, and he assented to this measure only when desired to do so by those who had appointed him their representative; but the die once cast, he alike devoted his sons—now five in number—and his not inconsiderable wealth to the defence of his native State, and unflinchingly.

After the Civil War, Thomas Branch made his permanent home in Richmond, Virginia, where he resided until the very end of his long life. In that city Thomas Branch died upon the fifteenth of November, 1888.

In the year 1848, Thomas Branch had met with temporary reverses in business, but within a very short period had discharged his obligations in full; and more lately he was noted for his conservatism as a merchant, and the firm of which he was the head weathered the great panics of 1857 and 1873 unscathed. He died possessed of a considerable fortune.

Shortly after his first marriage, in 1831, he had joined the Methodist Church, and for the remainder of his long and active life was one of its most devoted and most useful members. It has been estimated that he played a conspicuous part in some fifty of the annual conferences; and his pecuniary contributions to the cause of Methodism were proverbially enormous.

In addition, Thomas Branch was treasurer of the Virginia Bible Society, and for many years treasurer of the Magdalen Association, of Richmond, Virginia, and a pro-

fuse assistant of both; and he was also president of the Board of Trustees of Randolph-Macon College.

It here appears appropriate to cite some portion of the well-earned tribute paid to the memory of Thomas Branch very shortly after his decease:

“When such a man dies he merits more than the mere mention of the fact. For his character and life were in many respects marked and conspicuous. He had nearly reached his eighty-sixth birthday. He had lived through nearly three generations, and through all had been, in an emphatic sense, a felt presence and power in society.

“Nature cast him into a positive mould. The negative and the neutral were, as a rule, foreign to his instincts.

“The great questions and interests of the generations through which he lived, whether social, commercial, political, or religious, not only claimed his attention, but roused in him an enthusiastic consideration.

“Whatever the questions or cause he espoused or opposed, it was with ardor and enthusiasm.

“Such was the depth of his convictions, and such the force of his will and the energy of his nature, that whenever he believed a measure ought to be carried, or a thing done, he allowed no opposition to intimidate him or any obstacles to discourage.

“The consequence was he became a man of results. He stepped to the front and there held a conspicuous place for near half a century. . . .

“This was also true of him in his relations to the church. Here, as elsewhere, the elements of his character

forbid to him a negative position. The church of his choice early recognized these qualities, and called him into official station and to representative trusts. Few among us anywhere have filled so long the honored and responsible office of a steward. He has been a conspicuous representative of his church in the Quarterly, Annual and General Conferences. Until disabled by age it was his delight to be at them. His devotion to his church, to her doctrines, her piety, her ministry and all her enterprises, was marked and well known. And for long years he was the faithful trustee, the fast friend and the liberal supporter of Randolph-Macon College.

“But there was one feature of his character that deserves special mention, and that was his catholicity of spirit. While devoted to his own church, he was singularly free from sectarianism. His heart went out to the ministry and brethren of sister churches, and with them he delighted to mingle and to worship. . . .

“His deep interest for many years in the work of the Virginia Bible Society was one of the many evidences of his interest in the progress of our holy Christianity. Such a man can but be missed. For when age had so far disabled him as to take him out of the wonted activities of life, his life continued a benediction to many, even to the last. . . .

“And now the best of all is: His end was peace. Fully sensible of his condition, he expressed no fear of death, and with his trust in his Saviour, full of years, labors, and honors, and crowned to the last with the loving devotion



Joseph Branch Jr.

of a large family circle, and many friends, he bade adieu to his family, and fell asleep with his fathers.

“In the death of this honored citizen the community, the State of Virginia, and the Methodist Church have alike sustained a severe loss. Yet Mr. Branch left his impress for good upon each of them, and his influence will be felt and his name honored for generations yet to come. A useful citizen, an upright and enterprising man of business, and a conscientious, consistent Christian, he lived honored and respected and died regretted and mourned by the entire community. What higher compliment could be paid to any man?”

Thomas Branch married, first, at “Oak Hill,” in Amelia County, on the 19th of October, 1825, Sarah Pride Read, the daughter of John Blythe Read of Wales and Chesterfield.

By Sarah Pride Read, Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond had issue:

I. THOMAS WAVERLY BRANCH, who died in infancy.

II. JAMES READ BRANCH.

III. JOHN PATTESON BRANCH.

IV. SUSAN DOGGETT BRANCH, who married William H. Christian.

V. SARAH FRANCES BRANCH, who married Frederick R. Scott.

VI. THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH.

VII. MARY AUSTIN BRANCH, who died without issue.

VIII. EMILY READ BRANCH, who married George A. Cunningham.

IX. BETTIE ROSALAMA BRANCH, who married Benjamin Suttle, and died without issue.

X. WILLIAM ADDISON BRANCH, who died unmarried, and without issue.

XI. MELVILLE IRBY BRANCH.

XII. EUGENE BRANCH, who died in infancy.

XIII. D'ARCY PAUL BRANCH, who died in infancy.

Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond married, second, in Westmoreland County, in Virginia, on 22d of April, 1857, Anne Adams Wheelright, the daughter of Joseph Wheelright of Westmoreland.

By Anne Adams Wheelright, Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond had issue:

I. CARTER WHEELRIGHT BRANCH.

II. MIRIAM BRANCH, who married Barton H. Grundy.

III. CAROLINA BRANCH.

The will of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond is recorded at the Chancery Court of Richmond, Virginia. It is dated 6th of October, 1888, and was recorded 20th of November, 1888.

The executors are Anne Wheelright Branch (the testator's second and surviving wife), and Carter Wheelright Branch (the testator's ninth and youngest son). The witnesses are James B. McCaw and Richard Irby.

**The Descendants of Thomas Branch of
Petersburg and Richmond**

The Descendants of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond

THOMAS BRANCH of Petersburg and Richmond, as previously recorded, was twice married, and had issue, in all, sixteen children, nine of whom survived him.

Thomas Waverly Branch

THOMAS WAVERLY BRANCH, the oldest child of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 13th August, 1826.

The boy was destined to a brief existence, being bitten at the age of four by a pet dog, which had developed rabies, while the child was playing with it.

Thomas Waverly Branch died of hydrophobia 22nd July, 1831.

Colonel James Read Branch

COLONEL JAMES READ BRANCH, the second son and child of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born at New Market, in Prince George County, 28th July, 1828.

He received his early education in Petersburg, and in 1844 entered Randolph-Macon College, where he graduated with the highest honors in 1847, being then only nineteen.

After a brief career as school teacher, in Lunenburg

County, Virginia, James Read Branch, with his younger brother John Patteson Branch, went into business with their father in Petersburg, the three founding the banking firm of Thomas Branch and Sons, in 1853; and in Petersburg James Read Branch resided until the outbreak of the Civil War, widely known as a distinguished and prosperous merchant.

He married, in Richmond, in Virginia, 3rd December, 1856, his second cousin, Martha Louise Patteson, the daughter of Dr. William Anderson Patteson, (and the granddaughter of James A. Patteson and of Martha Patteson, the daughter of Colonel David Patteson of Chesterfield.)

From the first, James Read Branch had held to the doctrine of State's Rights, and had advocated the cause of Secession. Upon the commencement of hostilities between the North and the South he raised a company of infantry, known as the "Lee Guard", and afterward, when transferred to the artillery, in 1862, known as "Branch's Battery"—which was one of the best equipped and most effective artillery companies in the Confederate Army, serving in the department of North Carolina, and in General Robert Ransom's Division, Army of Northern Virginia.

It was at the Battle of Malvern Hill that Captain Branch figured as the hero of one of the most remarkable fights against well-nigh overwhelming odds which has ever been recorded when for an hour the two guns he commanded held in check twenty-four guns of the Union

forces. Almost every man who followed him was killed, and he himself served one of the pieces until ordered to retire; and this retreat was so successfully conducted that he even managed to preserve both guns.

Through this and similar achievements Captain Branch was, in due course, promoted to the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel; and his command, among other exploits, bore a part in the brilliant capture of Plymouth, where, however, Colonel Branch was so severely and permanently disabled—one leg being broken in no less than three places—that he was in the ultimate, forced to retire from active service, though he retained his command; and his devotion to the cause of the Confederacy burned bright until the last.

During the war, James Read Branch had, in 1863, removed his family from Petersburg to Richmond, in which latter city he resided until the day of his death, 2nd July, 1869.

The circumstances attendant upon this event are not unworthy of somewhat minute detail. Recognizing that the cause for which he had fought was lost, and irretrievably so, Colonel Branch had in peace endeavored to forward the interests of that State which he had already served in war. Virginia was upon the verge of accepting re-admission into the Union; the days of Reconstruction were over and already carpet-baggism tottered.

He entered politics at forty years of age, as a candidate for the Senate, in an earnest endeavor to re-unite the severed races and bring together the negro and the Cau-

casian for the best interests of both,—and supporting Gilbert R. Walker for Governor of Virginia, as against Gideon Wells, the carpet-bag nominee.

The career of James Read Branch as a politician, though brief, developed abilities of a very high order. And in the end, the Conservative party, whose candidate he was, achieved a sweeping triumph.

This was already apparent on July 2, 1869, upon which date a barbecue was arranged on Vauxhall Island—in James River, between Richmond and Manchester, and just above Mayo's Bridge—for the benefit of the colored men of the city, who had avowed themselves in favor of Colonel Walker for governor. Colonel Branch and a number of other gentlemen had taken an active part in the preliminary arrangements.

What follows is quoted from the *Richmond Dispatch* of July 3, 1869; and allowances are to be made for certain extremities of language, and the hackneyed phrases doubly dear to the public journals of that day:—

“It is our painful duty this morning to lay before our readers the particulars of one of the most appalling calamities that ever touched the heart of this community. The city is in mourning. One of her favorite sons has fallen from hopeful, buoyant life into a bloody grave. Three other worthy citizens are dead, and others still have received wounds which render their recovery at least doubtful.

“There are few citizens of Richmond who were not aware that a barbecue was to have been held by the col-

ored voters, who favored the election of Colonel Walker and the adoption of the expurgated constitution, at Vauxhall's Island on yesterday afternoon. About two hundred and fifty of the most respectable colored men in Richmond and Henrico signed the call for this demonstration, and many of our most prominent white citizens manifested a great deal of interest in the enterprise. Among these none were more active than Colonel James R. Branch, whose name headed the Conservative senatorial ticket for this district. He arrived early at the place selected for the barbecue, and was stirring about with great activity, making suggestions, and by his pleasant remarks contributing not a little to the good humor of the party.

"It was not intended to hold the barbecue on Vauxhall's Island, but on the adjacent one, known as Kitchen Island. A suspension bridge, not more than fifty feet in length and about five feet in width, connected them, and to get to the barbecue, of course, this bridge had to be crossed. A policeman, stationed at the end nearest Richmond, was directed to allow none but those having tickets to pass until all the arrangements for the dinner and speaking were consummated.

"The fortunate possessors of tickets passed over singly or in groups, until about seventy-five colored men and at least a hundred whites were over.

"This was the state of affairs, when a colored man rushed up to Colonel Branch—then on Kitchen Island—and informed him that there were a good many Walker

men on the other island who couldn't come over because they did not have tickets. Colonel Branch said: 'Let them all come,' or something to that effect, and went on the bridge, accompanied by another person, whose name we could not learn. He walked rapidly half-way across, and then beckoning to the policeman on duty, exclaimed: 'Let them come on! Dinner is nearly ready! There's plenty of room!'

"The policeman thereupon gave way, and the eager crowd on the other side rushed on the bridge. There was a swaying to and fro. Somebody cried: 'The bridge is giving away,' and in an instant the heavy structure, with its human freight, fell with a crash into the rushing flood below.

"The sound was heard all over both islands, and there was a simultaneous rush to the bridge. The sight that met the eye was appalling. Ten or fifteen human beings were buried beneath the heavy timbers, threatened alike with death from drowning and the crushing weight. Most of them, being only slightly wounded, soon scrambled out, and, grasping the chains and jumping from timber to timber, reached the shore.

"Others, however, were not so fortunate. The first of these was Colonel Branch. He had been struck on the back of the neck by a massive iron chain. Then falling beneath the bridge, he was unable to extricate himself, and lay for several minutes, with the water dashing over his face, struggling in vain. Policeman Kirkman, who was on duty at the end of the bridge nearest Vauxhall's

Island, had his head mashed between two falling beams, and was instantly killed; and others whose names were not until afterwards ascertained, were also badly injured.

"There was no neglect on the part of the by-standers. A score of men, both white and colored, at once plunged into the stream, many of them not stopping to take off their clothing. Through their efforts the injured men were finally extricated and brought to land.

"The scene on Vauxhall's Island after this beggars description. The news, which had flown through the city like wild-fire, drew hundreds of our citizens to the spot, and every one who arrived was at once an anxious inquirer. Men ran hither and thither, asking many questions in one breath; policemen called loudly to the crowd to stand back from the wounded and give them air; and those cooler men of the surgical art, moved more calmly about in search of, or in aid of, some sufferer.

"The bodies of Colonel Branch and Policeman Kirkham were placed in the bowling-alley on the island, and the wounded men were provided for as comfortably and as speedily as possible.

"Colonel Branch was found to have received a severe blow over the right temple, causing concussion of the brain, and a severe cut over the top of the head. It is not thought that these wounds would have caused death, as he struggled so hard after he had fallen into the water. The theory is that he was borne under the water by the weight of the bridge and the crowd upon it, and drowned. After his body had been laid in the bowling-alley, some

one shouted for a surgeon, saying that he was still breathing. In a moment the physicians were at work with every manner of restorative, but all in vain—the spirit of James R. Branch had fled.

“When Colonel Branch was first seen, his head, though bleeding, was above water, and he threw up his hand, at the same time calling for assistance. Several men rushed over to help him. Their weight sank the *debris*, and with it the unfortunate man went under. When he was extricated life was extinct.

“We do not exaggerate the public feeling at the loss of this excellent gentleman and invaluable citizen, when we say that the death of no man in the city would be more deeply deplored. He was one of the most useful men. He was sagacious, energetic, liberal, patriotic. He was quick to foresee, prompt to act, and untiring in his public devotion. He was what, in modern parlance, is styled a “live man”; and he was considered as one of the men just suited to the exigency of the times—created, as it were, for them—to bear an important part in bringing our dear mother Virginia out of the embarrassments and woes in which she is involved and putting her upon her new career of grandeur and power.

“The venerable Thomas Branch, his father, was on the island when the accident occurred, and, though he did not behold it, he soon learned his bereavement from the lifeless body of his son. When all hope of the restoration of his son was gone, he crossed the bridge to wend his way home. He walked as in a dream, with fixed eyes.

There was a delirium of woe in his steady gait and unturning head that struck the deepest chords of sympathy in the breasts of all who saw him."

Colonel James Read Branch, as previously recorded, had married his second cousin, Martha Louise Patteson, the daughter of Dr. William Anderson Patteson of Petersburg and Richmond. They had issue:

I. SARAH READ BRANCH, born 9th October, 1857.

II. ANNE HARRIS BRANCH, born 31st December, 1859.

III. ELIZABETH HALSTED BRANCH, born 4th July, 1861.

IV. COLONEL JAMES RANSOM BRANCH, born 14th December, 1863.

V. MARY COOKE BRANCH, born 16th September, 1866.

SARAH READ McADAMS.

SARAH READ BRANCH, the first child and daughter of James Read Branch and Martha Louise Patteson, was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 9th October, 1857.

She married, in Richmond, Virginia, 6th November, 1878, George Brockenborough McAdams, only son of William McAdams of Pensacola, Florida, and afterward for many years, a prominent business man of Richmond. Mr. McAdams died very suddenly 22d February, 1896.

By George Brockenborough McAdams, Sarah Read Branch had issue:

I. COLONEL THOMAS BRANCH McADAMS, born 12th November, 1879.

II. LOUISE BROCKENBOROUGH McADAMS, born 25th October, 1885.

Colonel Thomas Branch McAdams

COLONEL THOMAS BRANCH McADAMS was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 12th November, 1879.

His early education was acquired at the McGuire School, Richmond, and at Richmond College, where he graduated at the age of eighteen, an unprecedented event, receiving at that time the degree of Master of Arts. He stood foremost in his class at the time of graduation, giving the promise of an exceptional future.

For one year after graduation, he was employed as clerk in the Merchants National Bank, leaving his position to enter the employ of Thomas Branch and Company. He remained with this firm for about five years, when, in December, 1903, he re-entered the employment of the Merchants National.

His ability there won rapid promotion, and, in March, 1904, he was made assistant cashier, and in February, 1906, as the unanimous choice of the Board of Directors, was elected to the office of cashier.

Colonel McAdams is very prominent socially, is colonel on the staff of Governor Swanson, of Virginia, and a Mason of high degree.

He married in Charlotte, North Carolina, 9th October, 1906, Edna Harris McLure, the daughter of Edward Conrad McLure of South Carolina.

They have issue:

I. SARAH READE McADAMS, born 20th July, 1907.



Yours truly
John P. Branch

ANNE BRANCH CABELL

ANNE HARRIS BRANCH, the second child and daughter of James Read Branch and Martha Louise Patteson, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 31st December, 1859.

She married in Richmond, Virginia, 14th November, 1877, Dr. Robert Gamble Cabell, Jr., the son of Dr. Robert Gamble Cabell of Richmond, Virginia.

By Robert Gamble Cabell, Anne Harris Branch had issue:

- I. JAMES BRANCH CABELL, born 14th April, 1879.
- II. ROBERT GAMBLE CABELL, born 27th April, 1881.
- III. JOHN HARRIS CABELL, born 27th February, 1883.

James Branch Cabell

JAMES BRANCH CABELL was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 14th April, 1879.

He graduated from the College of William and Mary in 1898, and afterward took up newspaper work as a profession, being for two years with the *New York Herald*, and more lately with the *Richmond, (Va.) News*.

He abandoned journalism for magazine work in 1901, and has since contributed to various periodicals some forty short stories, novelettes, and so on, and has also published in book form *The Eagle's Shadow*, *The Line of Love*, *Gallantry*, and the present volume.

Robert Gamble Cabell

ROBERT GAMBLE CABELL was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 27th April, 1881.

On graduating from the Richmond High School in 1897 he entered the offices of the Merchants National Bank, and more lately the employ of Thomas Branch and Company, of Richmond, Virginia, and has been since then connected with that firm.

John Harris Cabell

JOHN HARRIS CABELL was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 27th February, 1883.

He graduated, with distinction, from the Virginia Military Institute in 1901, and was for two years afterward a sub-professor at that college. He has been since 1904 a civil engineer in the employ of the United Gas Improvement Company, and has been stationed during this period in various parts of America.

ELIZABETH HALSTED BOWIE

ELIZABETH HALSTED BRANCH, the third child and daughter of Colonel James Read Branch and Martha Louise Patteson, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 4th July, 1861.

She married, in Richmond, Virginia, 16th November, 1881, Walter Russell Bowie, the son of Captain Walter Russell Bowie of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and afterward of Richmond. Mr. Bowie died 14th November, 1894.

By Walter Russell Bowie, Elizabeth Halsted Branch had issue:

I. WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE, born 8th October, 1882.

II. MARTHA PATTESON BOWIE, born 29th July, 1884.

Walter Russell Bowie

WALTER RUSSELL BOWIE was born in Richmond, Virginia, 8th October 1882.

His early education was received at the Pottstown Hill School, in Pennsylvania, whence he passed to Harvard College, from which institution he was graduated, with the highest honors, in 1904. He taught for a year at the Hill School, of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and then resolving to enter the ministry, became a student at the Theological Seminary of Virginia, near Alexandria

COLONEL JAMES RANSOM BRANCH

COLONEL JAMES RANSOM BRANCH, the fourth child and only son of Colonel James Read Branch and Martha Louise Patteson, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 14th December, 1863, and is to-day, according to the ancient law of primogeniture, the head of the Branch family of Virginia.

He was educated at McGuire's, McCabe's, General Robert Ransom's, and Colonel Thomas H. Carter's schools, and at the Richmond College. He entered the Merchants National Bank in 1881 as assistant to Mr. John Morton, who was then teller.

Colonel Branch left the bank when twenty-one years old and went to raising thorough-bred horses and cattle. Later he sold out to Mr. T. L. Blanton, and became senior partner of Branch and Leath, who controlled a syndicate of fourteen theatres in the South, including Richmond and Norfolk.

This partnership being dissolved, Colonel Branch again accepted a position in the Merchants National Bank in 1890, and worked up gradually to the responsible position of special correspondent and chief of the collection department.

Under his supervision this bank's deposits from out-of-town banks became the largest of any institution from Baltimore to New Orleans. In the summer of 1895 he was appointed National Bank Examiner for Virginia, West Virginia, North and South Carolina and Eastern Tennessee.

Colonel Branch made an enviable record while in the City Council of Richmond, Virginia, and by his diligent scrutiny of affairs ferreted out and brought to light large defalcations among city officials which had been in progress for years. He also introduced the resolutions for free baths and reduced fares on street cars for school children.

As a boy, he entered the National Guard as a private, and, owing to his military abilities, he went through all grades, from private to lieutenant-colonel of the First Virginia Cavalry. His examination by the Board of Officers was pronounced to be of the highest character. He was also a member of the Board of Officers, who drew up the regulations for the Virginia Volunteers.

In 1898 President McKinley appointed him major of the Seventh Immune Regiment, United States Volunteer Infantry, in which position Colonel Branch served with distinction throughout the Spanish War.

Colonel Branch was elected, 17th October, 1895, Secretary of the American Bankers' Association, and has held this office ever since; and, dating from that period, has been a resident of New York City.

Colonel Branch married, in Richmond, Virginia, 28th October, 1885, Mary Lilian Hubball, the daughter of Ebenezer Hubball of Baltimore, Maryland. They have issue:

I. JAMES ROBINSON BRANCH, born 23d July, 1886; died 7th November, 1905.

II. MARY COOKE BRANCH, born 21st December, 1887.

III. ALLAN TALBOTT BRANCH, born 20th February, 1890; died 1st July, 1890.

JAMES ROBINSON BRANCH

JAMES ROBINSON BRANCH was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 23d July, 1886.

He was educated in Richmond and in New York City, and was, in 1903, entered as a midshipman at the United States Naval Academy, at Annapolis, Maryland. His tragic death in that city, 7th November, 1905, is not here touched upon, both as a matter that has already been accorded a world-wide discussion, and as one of which the present compiler may not in reason hope to treat dispassionately.

It appears preferable simply to quote the verdict of his class-mates, as having been, in view of all the circumstances, the best-informed and most unbiased judges.

What follows is transcribed in its entirety from "*The Lucky Bag*" of 1907.

"The Class of 1907, in affectionate memory of James Branch, Jr., whose life was sacrificed as a result of the code of honor of the Brigade in the Academy, established for years and enforced for most of our course, have erected a monument over his body in the Naval Cemetery. 'All things work together for good.' His death marks the turn of the tide in the lives of the midshipmen of all classes, from what was deliberately wrong, dangerous and petty to the abolishment of hazing in all its forms, class fighting, and disregard of the law. It marks the greatest advance of standard in the history of the Academy, a seeking and a finding of the higher and nobler type of manliness in duty and character.

"We have only love in memory of our class-mate for his character, honor, courage, and purity of life, that has been an inspiration to all of us who have known him."

Such was the verdict of his class, and circumstances render it the one decisive verdict, since this class alone was capable to judge the vexed affair with intimacy and from every possible viewpoint. They have judged; and their verdict stands immutable.

MARY COOKE MUNFORD

MARY COOKE BRANCH, the fifth child and fourth daughter of Colonel James Read Branch and Martha Louise Patteson, was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 16th September, 1866.

She married in Richmond, Virginia, 22d November, 1893, Beverley Bland Munford, the son of John D. Munford of Richmond and Williamsburg, Virginia.

By Beverley Bland Munford, Mary Cooke Branch has issue:

I. MAY SAFFORD MUNFORD, born 22d November, 1895.

II. BEVERLEY BLAND MUNFORD, born 26th February, 1899.

Colonel John Patteson Branch

JOHN PATTESON BRANCH, the third son and child of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 9th October, 1830.

So much has been already written concerning this illustrious Virginian, that it here appears expedient merely to abridge, with minor alterations, from the biography of John Patteson Branch as it stands in "*Men of Mark*."

"With such parents, Mr. Branch had, by his very birth, a hopeful start in life. His father afforded him the best educational advantages in the public and private schools of his native city, but at the time he would have entered college, his health was poor, and so he turned aside, to engage in the commercial career to which he was intended to devote the remainder of his life; and in 1848 he entered his father's office as a clerk.

"It was at this time that he began to spend many of his spare moments in the study of books on commercial subjects, from which he has derived large help in the pursuit of business.

"Mr. Branch remained in the mercantile business until the outbreak of the Civil War, and then, at once, enlisted in the Confederate Army, and became more lately first lieutenant in the 44th Virginia Battalion.

"He remained in the service of his State until the war closed, and was at Appomattox Court-House when General Lee surrendered his worn-out force to the superior strength of General Grant.

"On the retreat from Petersburg to Appomattox Court-House he was detailed on the staff of Major Snodgrass, who was acting quartermaster-general of General Lee's army.

"On May 12, 1863, during the progress of the Civil War, he was united in happy wedlock to Mary Louise Merritt Kerr, the daughter of Rev. Dr. John Kerr of Petersburg.

"At the cessation of hostilities, Mr. Branch turned his attention to banking, and in 1871, removed from Petersburg to Richmond, in which latter city he has made his permanent home.

"Exigencies of space alone prevent a detailment of the marvelous career that has made of him, perhaps, the foremost man of business in the South; suffice it, that in 1880 he succeeded his venerable father as president of the Merchants National Bank of Richmond, and a trifle later, as head of the banking and commission firm of Thomas Branch and Company of the same city—either of which positions he has occupied ever since, and with marked success.

"While Mr. Branch has never held a civil or political office, and has never aspired to one, he has always been a public-spirited citizen, and as such, interested in questions that concern, in any way, the welfare of his city, his State, or his country.

"He is the author of a number of articles on finance, written primarily for the purpose of instructing the public in things vital to commercial welfare and to business development and to progress.

"In addition, Mr. Branch has been recognized as a leader of the agitation in his city for better streets, for good sewerage and drainage, for pure food, and for all other things aiming toward the improvement of the public welfare—having had a large part in the good work which has resulted in the re-organization of the Board of Health and in the adoption of more effective sanitary regulations.

"He has given the money to his chosen city for the erection of the first building of public baths in the State of Virginia, and has been a liberal contributor to every public charity or work of general interest calling for the gifts of the people at large.

"John Patteson Branch has, in fine, been always foremost in the discussion of subjects of public interest, and ever ready to give his time and labor to promote an enterprise that would help the people, or to prevent any movement which he believed to have within its possibilities of injury.

"Like his father before him, Mr. Branch has always

believed that religion is indispensable both to private and to public welfare, and to individual happiness; and has found the type of religion best suited to his needs in the Methodist Church, which he joined when thirteen years of age.

"He is at this time a steward and a trustee of the Centenary Methodist Episcopal Church, South, in the City of Richmond, a member of the Board of Trustees of the Randolph-Macon system of colleges and academies, of the Board of Trustees of the Methodist Orphanage of the Virginia Conference, and of the Board of Managers of the 'Methodist Institute for Christian Work' in Richmond.

"Mr. Branch has been repeatedly a delegate to the annual and general conferences of his church; and to all these institutions he has given his valuable time and advice, and has made large contributions of money.

"He has recently built and equipped, in memory of his wife, who died in the year 1896, the Branch Dormitory at Randolph-Macon College in Ashland—a handsome and much-needed building and a valuable adjunct to the work of this well-known school.

"And for years Mr. Branch has been one of the largest contributors to the foreign missions of the Methodist Church in the South, and is always appealed to by the Board of Missions in any case of special need."

John Patteson Branch, as previously recorded, married, in Petersburg, in Virginia, 12th May, 1863, Mary Louise Merritt Kerr, the daughter of Rev. Dr. John Kerr of Petersburg. They had issue:

- I. BLYTHE WALKER BRANCH, born 16th March, 1864.
- II. JOHN KERR BRANCH, born 1st May, 1865.
- III. EFFIE KERR BRANCH, born 15th August, 1866.
- IV. MARGARET ELIZABETH BRANCH, born November, 1876.

BLYTHE WALKER BRANCH

BLYTHE WALKER BRANCH, the first child and son of John Patteson Branch and Mary Louise Merritt Kerr, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 16th March, 1864.

He was educated by Professor Blackford, of the Episcopal High School, near Alexandria, Virginia. He received his business education in the office of Thomas Branch and Company, and afterward became a partner in that firm.

Upon changing his residence to Paris, France, he sold out his interest in Thomas Branch and Company, and he is now managing in France the oil business (in that country) of the Galena Oil Company of Franklin, Pennsylvania.

Blythe Walker Branch married, in 1899, Theresa T. Tarrant of Paris, France.

JOHN KERR BRANCH

JOHN KERR BRANCH, the second child and son of John Patteson Branch and Mary Louise Merritt Kerr, was born, in Danville, Virginia, 1st May, 1865.

Upon attaining manhood, he entered business life with his father, and is to-day vice-president of the Merchants

National Bank, and a partner in the firm of Thomas Branch and Company.

John Kerr Branch married, in 1886, Beulah Gould, the daughter of David Gould of New York. They have issue:

I. JOHN AKIN BRANCH, born 19th August, 1887.

II. ZAYDE BANCROFT BRANCH, born 16th May, 1891.

III. LOUISE BRANCH, born 23d February, 1900.

MARGARET BRANCH GLASGOW

MARGARET ELIZABETH BRANCH, the second daughter and fourth child of John Patteson Branch and Mary Louise Merritt Kerr, was born, in Richmond, Virginia, in the November of 1876.

She married, 1st October, 1901, Arthur Graham Glasgow of Richmond, Virginia, and afterward of London, England.

By Arthur Graham Glasgow, Margaret Elizabeth Branch has issue:

I. MARGARET BRANCH GLASGOW, born 8th November, 1902.

Susan Doggett Branch

SUSAN DOGGETT BRANCH, the fourth child and first daughter of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 30th November, 1832.

She married in Petersburg, on 15th March, 1853, Reverend Doctor William H. Christian of Petersburg, and died 20th May, 1860.

By William H. Christian of Petersburg, Susan Doggett Branch had issue:

- I. THOMAS BRANCH CHRISTIAN, born 1st July, 1854.
- II. WILLIAM EDMUND CHRISTIAN, born 14th May, 1856.
- III. MARY SUSAN CHRISTIAN, born 17th May, 1860.

THOMAS BRANCH CHRISTIAN

THOMAS BRANCH CHRISTIAN, the first child and son of Susan Doggett Branch and William H. Christian, was born, in Petersburg, July 1st, 1854.

He was educated at Randolph-Macon College, and subsequently entered business life, being for many years a prominent banker and broker in Richmond, Virginia. He afterward removed to Chicago, where as a member of the Chicago Board of Trade he was well-known in financial circles.

Thomas Branch Christian never married and died without issue.

WILLIAM EDMUND CHRISTIAN

WILLIAM EDMUND CHRISTIAN, the second child and son of Susan Doggett Branch and William H. Christian, was born, in Raleigh, North Carolina, 14th May, 1856.

He graduated at Randolph-Macon College, and afterward at the University of Virginia. Adopting journalism as a profession, he became more lately the Washington correspondent of the *New York Herald*, and during

the Spanish War served brilliantly in Cuba as correspondent of the same paper.

He afterward removed to Atlanta, Georgia, where he is to-day the Assistant-General Passenger Agent of the Seaboard Air Line Railway.

William Edmund Christian married, in Richmond, Virginia, 2nd June, 1885, Julia Jackson, the daughter of General "Stonewall" Jackson.

They have issue:

I. JULIA JACKSON CHRISTIAN, born 5th June, 1887, who married Edmund Randolph Preston of Charlotte, North Carolina.

II. THOMAS JONATHAN JACKSON CHRISTIAN, born 29th August, 1888.

Sarah Frances Branch

SARAH FRANCES BRANCH, the fifth child and second daughter of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 19th October, 1834.

She married, in Petersburg, on 14th April, 1857, Major Frederick R. Scott of Ireland, more lately a prominent banker of Richmond, Virginia.

Sarah Frances Branch died, in Richmond, 9th June, 1907.

By Frederick R. Scott of Ireland and Virginia, Sarah Frances Branch had issue:

I. JOHN WALKER SCOTT, born 19th January, 1858.

- II. MARY AUSTIN SCOTT, born 10th March, 1859.
- III. FRANCES SCOTT, born February, 1861.
- IV. FREDERICK WILLIAM SCOTT, born 30th August, 1862.
- V. THOMAS BRANCH SCOTT, born 1st May, 1865.
- VI. EDWARD WALKER SCOTT, born 1st May, 1865.
- VII. JAMES HAMILTON SCOTT, born 18th July, 1867.
- VIII. ISABEL SCOTT.
- IX. GEORGE COLE SCOTT, born 23d June, 1875.

JOHN WALKER SCOTT.

JOHN WALKER SCOTT, the first child and son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 19th January, 1858.

He graduated at the University of Virginia, and afterward became a lawyer, practising for many years in Richmond, Virginia.

John Walker Scott died, unmarried, 14th November, 1901.

MARY AUSTIN CAMPBELL

MARY AUSTIN SCOTT, the second child and first daughter of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 10th March, 1859.

She married, 14th June, 1886, Hugh Campbell of Campbelltown, Scotland, and afterward of Richmond, Virginia.

By Hugh Campbell, Mary Austin Scott has issue :

- I. FREDERIC SCOTT CAMPBELL, born 16th June, 1887.
- II. ALEXANDER GOOLD CAMPBELL, born 6th June, 1894.
- III. FREDERICA FRANCES CAMPBELL, born 9th July, 1895.
- IV. MARY AUSTIN CAMPBELL, born 7th October, 1898.

FREDERIC WILLIAM SCOTT

FREDERIC WILLIAM SCOTT, the fourth child and second son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 30th August, 1862.

He entered business life with his father, and afterward founded the banking firm of Scott and Stringfellow, in Richmond, Virginia, of which he is to-day the senior partner.

Frederic William Scott married, 18th October, 1893, Elisabeth Mayo Strother, the daughter of Robert Quarles Strother.

They have issue :

- I. SYDNEY BUFORD SCOTT, born 9th September, 1895.
- II. ISABEL WALKER SCOTT, born 22nd June, 1899.
- III. ELISABETH STROTHER SCOTT, born 8th February, 1901.
- IV. FREDERIC WILLIAM SCOTT, born 5th November, 1903.
- V. MARY ROSS SCOTT, born 4th July, 1906.

THOMAS BRANCH SCOTT

THOMAS BRANCH SCOTT, the fifth child and third son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 1st May, 1865.

He is to-day one of the leading tobacconists of the South.

Thomas Branch Scott married, 31st January, 1894, Dora McGill, the daughter of John G. McGill of Petersburg, Virginia. They have issue:

I. THOMAS BRANCH SCOTT, born 20th September, 1894.

II. FREDERICK R. SCOTT, born 7th August, 1898.

EDWARD WALKER SCOTT

EDWARD WALKER SCOTT, the sixth child and fourth son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 1st May, 1865.

He was educated in Richmond and afterward at Princeton. He afterward removed to Warren, Virginia, and adopted the pursuits of both farming and banking. He is to-day the president of the Esmont National Bank of West Esmont, Virginia.

Edward Walker Scott married, 9th January, 1901, Adelaide Pierson, the daughter of J. Fred Pierson of New York. They have issue:

I. FRED PIERSON SCOTT, born 27th August, 1902.

II. A daughter, born 30th September, 1903; died 27th August, 1904.

III. EDWARD WALKER SCOTT, born 17th September, 1904.

JAMES HAMILTON SCOTT

JAMES HAMILTON SCOTT, the seventh child and fifth son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 18th July, 1867.

He graduated from the Stevens Institute of Technology, in Hoboken, New Jersey, and more lately became general manager of the Richmond Iron Works, in Richmond, Virginia, which position he retained through some six years.

James Hamilton Scott died, in Richmond, Virginia, 24th August, 1901.

He married, 11th October, 1893, Mary Wingfield, the only daughter of the Right Reverend J. H. D. Wingfield, Missionary Bishop of Northern California. They had issue:

I. MARY WINGFIELD SCOTT, born 30th July, 1895.

II. FRANCES BRANCH SCOTT, born 17th April, 1897; died 5th July, 1897.

III. JAMES HAMILTON SCOTT, born 13th September, 1898.

GEORGE COLE SCOTT

GEORGE COLE SCOTT, the ninth child and sixth son of Sarah Frances Branch and Major Frederick R. Scott, was born, in Richmond, Virginia, 23d June, 1875.



He was graduated from Princeton, in 1898, with the degree of Civil Engineer, and from Columbia, in 1899, with the degree of Master of Arts.

George Cole Scott married, 27th September, 1905, Harriet Hildreth Dunn, the daughter of Major Lanier Dunn. They have issue:

I. HARRIET HILDRETH SCOTT, born 1st September, 1906.

Major Thomas Plummer Branch

MAJOR THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH, the sixth child and fourth son of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 10th January, 1837.

He received his early education in Petersburg, and at nineteen entered the University of Virginia, where he remained, however, only during the session of 1856-7, leaving college to return to Petersburg, and in that city to enter business with his father and two older brothers.

Thomas Plummer Branch, at the outbreak of hostilities between the States, cast his fortunes with Virginia, enlisting as a private, in 1861, in a cavalry regiment which had been organized in Petersburg; and his war record henceforward may safely be described as one of unusual brilliancy.

Prior to the mustering of his company into the Confederate service, along with all of Virginia's troops, he served as commissary on Major N. B. Pegram's staff—who was at this period in command of Fort Powhatan, on James River; and when his company was called to the

field, served as a private, first in Nansemond County in Virginia, and more lately, under General J. B. Magruder, in the Peninsula.

Thomas Plummer Branch was, in 1862, elected a Second Lieutenant in "Branch's Battery," which, as previously recorded, had just been organized by his brother, Colonel James Read Branch, from the latter's former "Lee Guards."

In the capacity of lieutenant, Thomas Plummer Branch served with conspicuous gallantry for about a year; and during this period bore a part in the Battle of Malvern Hill, and in the action at Marye's Height, commanded two guns. In addition, he served, under General E. P. Alexander, in the Battle of Fredericksburg, and in the Battle of Sharpsburg, as well as in many other minor engagements.

Lieutenant Branch was, on 17th May, 1863, promoted to the rank of Major, as an Assistant Adjutant General, and was assigned to duty on the staff of General Robert Ransom, stationed just then in Richmond.

As Major Branch, he served in West Virginia and in the eastern portion of Tennessee during the winter of 1863-4; and was captured, May, 1864, in the fight at Drewry's Bluff on James River.

He was thence transferred, as a prisoner of war, to Point Lookout, in Maryland, and afterward to Fort Delaware, immediately south of Philadelphia; more lately still he was removed, with some six hundred other officers of the Confederate Army, and under a bitter fire from the

Charleston batteries, to a stockade on Sullivan's Island, which lies just opposite the town of Charleston, in South Carolina. And finally Major Branch was imprisoned at Fort Pulaski, near Savannah, in Georgia.

Thomas Plummer Branch was, however, exchanged during the latter part of December, 1864; and re-entering the Confederate service, was, in the March of 1865, assigned to duty on the staff of Lieutenant-General R. S. Ewell, who was then stationed in Richmond.

But the war was now drawing to a close; and within less than a month, 2d April, 1865, General Ewell and his entire force had withdrawn from Richmond. Appomattox followed.

Very shortly after the cessation of hostilities, Major Branch removed to Augusta, in Georgia, where he engaged in the cotton business.

He married, 19th December, 1866, very soon after his settlement in Augusta, Effie Stovall, the daughter of Thomas Stovall of Georgia. Effie Stovall Branch, however, died within six weeks of her marriage, so that by this first wife Thomas Plummer Branch had no issue.

Major Thomas Plummer Branch married, second, on the 27th of April, 1871, Annie Irvine, the daughter of Reverend Doctor Robert Irvine of Augusta, in Georgia.

The firm of Branch Sons and Company, which Thomas Plummer Branch—with his younger brother, Melville Irby Branch, now likewise a resident of Georgia—had established in Augusta, met, in the year 1879, with financial embarrassments; but in 1880 the business was re-organized, and every obligation was discharged in full.

For some twenty years thereafter Major Branch was known as one of the most prominent business men of the entire South. He was during this period the president of the Planters' Loan and Savings Bank, in Augusta, as well as of the former Merchants' and Farmers' National Bank, and of the Port Royal and Augusta Railroad.

Thomas Plummer Branch died at Augusta, in the State of Georgia, in the May of 1900.

He had married, first, as previously recorded, Effie Stovall, the daughter of Thomas Stovall of Georgia, by whom he had no issue.

Thomas Plummer Branch married, second, as previously recorded, Annie Irvine, daughter of Reverend Dr. Robert Irvine of Georgia. They had issue:

I. ELIZABETH MARY ORR BRANCH, born 6th February, 1872.

II. JAMES IRVINE CROMBIE BRANCH, born 22d December, 1873; died 15th June, 1875.

III. ANNIE LAIRD BRANCH, born 16th July, 1877.

IV. ROBERT IRVINE BRANCH, born 10th January, 1879.

V. AUSTIN THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH, born 8th August, 1880.

VI. BARRINGTON CROMBIE BRANCH, born 10th September, 1888.

ELIZABETH MARY SIMONDS

ELIZABETH MARY ORR BRANCH, the first child and daughter of Major Thomas Plummer Branch and Annie Irvine, was born, in Augusta, Georgia, 6th February, 1872.

She married, in Augusta, Georgia, 8th March, 1892, John Calhoun Simonds of Charleston in South Carolina.

By John Calhoun Simonds, Elizabeth Mary Orr Branch has issue:

I. ELIZABETH MARY BRANCH SIMONDS, born 2d June, 1895.

II. JOHN CALHOUN SIMONDS, born 5th October, 1897.

ANNIE LAIRD OSGOOD

ANNIE LAIRD BRANCH, the third child and second daughter of Major Thomas Plummer Branch and Annie Irvine, was born, in Augusta, Georgia, 16th July, 1877.

She married, in Augusta, Georgia, 17th November, 1906, Edward Dana Osgood of Massachusetts.

ROBERT IRVINE BRANCH

ROBERT IRVINE BRANCH, the fourth child and second son of Major Thomas Plummer Branch and Annie Irvine, was born, in Augusta, Georgia, 10th January, 1879.

He graduated in 1898, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts, from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, and more lately entered business life in partnership with his father. After the latter's death in 1900,

he formed a partnership with his cousin Steiner Branch, the two organizing the firm of Branch and Company of Augusta, Georgia, and taking over the business of the Augusta Brick Company, formerly headed by Colonel George Alford Cunningham, and for a brief period by George Alford Cunningham, Jr.

AUSTIN THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH

AUSTIN THOMAS PLUMMER BRANCH, the fifth child and third son of Major Thomas Plummer Branch and Annie Irvine, was born, in Augusta, Georgia, 8th August, 1880.

He graduated in 1900, with the degree of Master of Arts, from the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, and subsequently entered the Law School of the University of Virginia. He was admitted to the Virginia bar, March, 1902, and to the Georgia bar in the November of the same year.

He has since that time practiced law in Augusta, Georgia.

BARRINGTON CROMBIE BRANCH

BARRINGTON CROMBIE BRANCH, the sixth child and fourth son of Major Thomas Plummer Branch and Annie Irvine, was born, in Asheville, North Carolina, 10th September, 1888.

He is to-day a student at the Peabody Conservatory of Music, in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mary Austin Branch

MARY AUSTIN BRANCH, the seventh child and third daughter of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 11th February, 1839.

Mary Austin Branch survived both parents and died unmarried, in Richmond, Virginia, 29th May, 1900.

Emily Read Branch

EMILY READ BRANCH, the eighth child and fourth daughter of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 9th April, 1841.

She married in Petersburg, on 14th October, 1863, Colonel George Alford Cunningham of Alabama, then connected with the firm of Thomas Branch and Sons, of Petersburg, and afterward a resident of Augusta, Georgia. Colonel Cunningham died, in Richmond, Virginia, in May, 1905.

By George Alford Cunningham of Alabama, Emily Read Branch had issue:

I. EMILY ANNIE CUNNINGHAM, born 20th August, 1864.

II. BRANCH CUNNINGHAM, born 23d July, 1866.

III. GEORGE ALFORD CUNNINGHAM, born 3d December, 1867.

EMILY CUNNINGHAM LYMAN

EMILY ANNIE CUNNINGHAM, the first child and daughter of Emily Read Branch and Colonel George Alford Cunningham, was born 20th August, 1864.

She married, in Richmond, Virginia, 25th January, 1886, Theodore Benedict Lyman, the son of Bishop Theodore Benedict Lyman of California, and afterward of North Carolina.

Emily Annie Cunningham died in Augusta, Georgia, 28th September, 1894.

By Theodore Benedict Lyman, Emily Annie Cunningham had issue:

I. GEORGE ALFORD CUNNINGHAM LYMAN, born 14th February, 1888; died in 1888.

II. EMILY CUNNINGHAM LYMAN, born 29th May, 1891.

BRANCH CUNNINGHAM

BRANCH CUNNINGHAM, the second child and first son of Emily Read Branch and Colonel George Alford Cunningham, was born 23d July, 1866.

He, on reaching manhood, engaged for a brief period in stock-raising in Albemarle County, in the State of Virginia. He subsequently removed to South Carolina.

Branch Cunningham married, 7th December, 1890, Agnes Genin of New York, and by this marriage had no issue.

He married, second, 6th July, 1900, Caroline Campbell, the daughter of William L. Campbell of South Carolina. They have issue:

I. EMMA BRANCH CUNNINGHAM, born November, 1902.

III. SARAH CAMPBELL CUNNINGHAM, born August, 1904.

GEORGE ALFORD CUNNINGHAM

GEORGE ALFORD CUNNINGHAM, the third child and second son of Emily Read Branch and Colonel George Alford Cunningham, was born 3d December, 1867.

He was educated at Pantops Academy and at Washington and Lee College, in Lexington, Virginia, and more lately became a civil engineer. He was for a long while stationed in Panama, and upon his return to America in 1894, succeeded his father as president of the Augusta Brick Company of Augusta, Georgia.

Not long after his marriage he removed to New York City, and there resumed the practice of his original profession. He is to-day stationed in Alaska.

George Alford Cunningham married, in Augusta, Georgia, 25th January, 1898, Lewis Butts, the daughter of John D. Butts of Georgia. They had issue:

I. GEORGE ALFORD CUNNINGHAM, born 4th March, 1899.

Bettie Rosalama Branch

BETTIE ROSALAMA BRANCH, the ninth child and fifth daughter of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, Virginia, 19th March, 1843.

She married Judge Benjamin T. Suttle of Stafford County, in Virginia, and died at her father's residence in Richmond on 7th April, 1876.

Bettie Rosalama Branch died without issue.

William Addison Branch

WILLIAM ADDISON BRANCH, the tenth child and fifth son of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 26th April, 1845.

At the outbreak of the Civil War he enlisted, under his brother, Colonel James Read Branch, in the Confederate Army, and served throughout the conflict with distinction.

Very shortly after the conclusion of hostilities William Addison Branch emigrated to the West, where he resided for some years as a well-known ranchman.

He died in California in the November of 1880.

William Addison Branch had never married and died without issue.

Melville Irby Branch

MELVILLE IRBY BRANCH, the eleventh child and sixth son of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, 18th February, 1847.

He received his introductory education in and about Petersburg, but in 1863, at the age of sixteen, left school to join the Confederate Army.

He had been, in the November of 1864, appointed by Governor Greenlee D. Letcher of Virginia a cadet to the Virginia Military Institute, which, at that time, was stationed in Richmond. And in consequence, after the Civil War, Melville Irby Branch resumed his interrupted studies at the Virginia Military Institute, where he graduated in 1868.

He removed in the same year to Augusta, in Georgia, where, as previously recorded, he engaged in the mercantile business, in partnership with his elder brother, Major Thomas Plummer Branch. In Augusta, in the November of 1870, Melville Irby Branch married Susan Wilhelmina Steiner, the daughter of John J. Steiner of Ohio, and formerly of Frederick, Maryland.

Subsequently, in 1876, he removed to Columbia County, in Georgia, and adopting the pursuit of farming, settled near Berzelia. His latter residence is known as "Steindorf Farm."

For six years Melville Irby Branch has served in the Legislature of Georgia.

Melville Irby Branch, as previously recorded, married Susan Wilhelmina Steiner, the daughter of John J. Steiner of Ohio. They have issue.

I. HENRY STEINER BRANCH, born 1st October, 1871.

II. MELVILLE CAMPBELL BRANCH, born 24th January, 1875.

III. STEINER BRANCH, born 7th February, 1878.

HENRY STEINER BRANCH

HENRY STEINER BRANCH, the first child and son of Melville Irby Branch and Susan Wilhelmina Steiner, was born 1st October, 1871.

On completing his education he was for a while connected with the Southern Railway, but eventually removed to Berzelia, in Columbia County, Georgia, and

engaged in partnership with his father, in farming at large and more particularly in fruit-raising.

MELVILLE CAMPBELL BRANCH

MELVILLE CAMPBELL BRANCH, the second child and son of Melville Irby Branch and Susan Wilhelmina Steiner, was born 24th January, 1875.

He settled early in life in Richmond, Virginia, and in that city entered the offices of Thomas Branch and Company. His business ability there won for him rapid promotion, and he was in 1906 admitted to a partnership in that well-known firm.

STEINER BRANCH

STEINER BRANCH, the third child and son of Melville Irby Branch and Susan Wilhelmina Steiner, was born 7th February, 1878.

He at first entered business life with his cousin, Robert Irvine Branch, the two organizing the firm of Branch and Company of Augusta, Georgia, as previously recorded. He more lately established his plantation of "Katocton," near Grovetown, Georgia, where Steiner Branch resides to-day.

He married, 2d January, 1902, his cousin, Mary Alston Steiner. They have issue:

I. SUE STEINER BRANCH, born 18th June, 1903.

Eugene Branch

EUGENE BRANCH, the twelfth child and seventh son of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, in the June of 1851.

The boy died in early infancy, expiring in the September of the same year.

D'Arcy Paul Branch

D'ARCY PAUL BRANCH, the thirteenth child and eighth son of Thomas Branch and Sarah Pride Read, was born, in Petersburg, in the February of 1854.

D'Arcy Paul Branch, like his preceding brother, was short-lived and died in the June of 1854.

Carter Wheelright Branch

CARTER WHEELRIGHT BRANCH, the first child and son of Thomas Branch and Anne Adams Wheelright, was born, in Petersburg, 13th August, 1858.

He received his earlier education in Petersburg, Richmond, and subsequently at the Virginia Military Institute, in Lexington, Virginia.

On reaching maturity, Carter Wheelright Branch entered business with his father, and more lately established the brokerage firm of C. W. Branch and Company, which, since the admission of H. Landon Cabell to a partnership, has been known as Branch, Cabell and Company of Richmond, in Virginia.

Miriam Branch

MIRIAM BRANCH, the second child and first daughter of Thomas Branch and Anne Adams Wheelright, was born, in Petersburg, 31st January, 1861.

Miriam Branch married, on 19th November, 1884, Colonel Barton Haxall Grundy of Richmond, in Virginia. They have issue:

I. THOMAS BRANCH GRUNDY, born 6th April, 1886; died 1st February, 1904.

II. BARTON HAXALL GRUNDY, born 30th March, 1888.

III. ANNE WHEELRIGHT GRUNDY, born 25th April, 1890; died 8th September, 1890.

IV. CARTER BRANCH GRUNDY, born 8th July, 1891.

V. MIRIAM BRANCH GRUNDY, born 21st December, 1892.

VI. CHARLES MILLER GRUNDY, born 23d February, 1897; died 23d May, 1897.

Carolina Branch

CAROLINA BRANCH, the third child and second daughter of Thomas Branch and Anne Adams Wheelright, was born, at Jones's Springs, in North Carolina, 11th July, 1862.

**The Wife of Christopher Branch of
Kingsland**

The Wife of Christopher Branch of Kingsland

Concerning the wife of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" very little is known, save that her Christian name was Mary, and that he married her in England, prior to the year 1619.

MARY BRANCH accompanied her husband in his voyage to Virginia, as is explicitly shown by the aforementioned "Muster of the Inhabitants in Virginia," taken January, 1624-5, which names among those living at the College Land in Henrico:

"Christopher Branch, came in the *London Marchant*.

"Mary, his wife, in the same Shipp.

"Thomas, his sonne, aged 9 Months."

Now, the *London Merchant*, so far as is recorded, made but one voyage to Virginia, sailing in the March of 1619-20; so that this muster, in itself, enables one to determine the exact date of Christopher Branch's emigration, as well as the fact that he had married previous to the year 1620.

It is worthy of note that the colonists, "at this first sending," were all "single men, unmarried," except "some few to be sent for planting the College Land," of which number Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" evidently made one.

It is presumable that Mary Branch had borne her hus-

band an older child than this Thomas Branch, and that this child had succumbed, as indeed did a majority of the colonists' children, to the Famine Winter of 1622.

Mary Branch bore at least two other sons, William Branch of Henrico, and Christopher Branch of Charles City, and died long before her husband—apparently about 1630.

**The Wife of Christopher Branch of Charles
City**

The Wife of Christopher Branch of Charles City

Owing to the total destruction of the earlier Charles City records, nothing very definite is known concerning the wife of Christopher Branch of Charles City, save that he married her *ante* 1658, and that she bore her husband three sons—Christopher Branch, Samuel Branch, and Benjamin Branch, all of Henrico—and presumably did not long survive her husband's premature death in 1665.

The Wife of Benjamin Branch of Henrico

The Wife of Benjamin Branch of Henrico

Benjamin Branch of Henrico married, about 1695, Tabitha Osborne, the oldest child and daughter of Edward Osborne of Henrico.

TABITHA OSBORNE was born about 1677, and had by her first husband, apparently, but one child, Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield; and after the death of Benjamin Branch of Henrico, she re-married, *ante* 1711, taking for her second husband Thomas Cheatham of Henrico, by whom it is not recorded that she left any issue.

Captain Thomas Osborne of Coxendale

Tabitha Osborne was a descendant of

CAPTAIN THOMAS OSBORNE of Coxendale, in Henrico. This county, it is necessary to repeat, then comprised all the land west of Charles City between the Chickahominy and the Appomattox.

Thomas Osborne was born in England, about the year 1590, but left England for the Colony of Virginia in 1619, sailing in "the *Bona Nova*, of 200 tons, sent August, 1619, with 120 persons"; as the records of the company have it, "in the beginning of August last, in the *Bona Nova*, were sent 100 persons for public service, chosen with great care and extraordinarily furnished,"—all of these persons being future colonists, "fifty for the Company's land and fifty for the College Land."

The voyage was leisurely but prosperous ; and the Muster of 16th February, 1623-4, mentions Thomas Osborne as living at the College Land.

And, again, the Muster of January, 1624-5, enumerates among the inhabitants of the College Land :

“ Lietenñt Thomas Osborne, arrived in the *Bona Nova*, 1619.

SERVANTS

“ Daniell Sherley, aged 30 yeres, came in the *Bona Nova*, 1619.

“ Peeter Jordan, aged 22, in the *London Merchant*, 1620.

“ Richard Davis, aged 16 yeres, in the *Jonathan*, 1620.”

The title of lieutenant, acquired one knows not how in England, was more lately exchanged for a captaincy, on 4th July, 1627, by virtue of a commission granted by Sir George Yeardley, then Governor of Virginia. For, as a retaliatory measure, the Governor at this time “thought it fitt that we should draw out partyes from all our plantations & goe uppon the Indians & cut downe their corne;” and in consequence, upon the date aforementioned, “Lef-tenant Thomas Osborne” was appointed by the Governor to lead the settlers of “the necke of land and the College Land” against the tribes of the Saax Powhattans.

History does not detail the results of this expedition, but it was thereby that Thomas Osborne acquired the title of captain, which he retained for the remainder of his long life.

Meantime, Thomas Osborne had settled, in the year 1625, at “Coxendale,” on the south side of James River,



J. P. Mauch

in the extreme northeast of the present Chesterfield County, and corresponding to the present "Cox's Dale."

Christopher Branch's plantation of "Kingsland,"—which he patented, as recorded, in 1635,—lay immediately north of "Coxendale," being separated from it by Proctor's Creek; and it is not unnatural that this close proximity in a sparsely-settled country should have resulted in many marriages between the families of Branch and Osborne.

Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" and Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" were near neighbors for some thirty-odd years, and presumably—if one allows for the slight disparity in their ages—on terms of considerable intimacy; they grew from obscurity to affluence and prominence together, and year by year, as the one patented land to the north of Proctor's Creek the other would patent land to the south of it, till presently the twin plantations of "Kingsland" and "Coxendale" had grown to rank among the largest in all southern Henrico.

Captain Thomas Osborne held in his day many positions of honor. In the year 1629 he represented Henrico (with Christopher Branch of "Kingsland") in the Virginia House of Burgesses; and (again with Christopher Branch of "Kingsland") was one of the viewers of tobacco "from the World's End to Henrico" in 1639. Always the two men are somehow bracketed together.

In addition, Captain Thomas Osborne was "commissioner for the upper parts of Henrico" in 1631, and a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses for the years 1630-31-32-33.

The last attested act of Captain Thomas Osborne was to take out yet another patent of land on Proctor's Creek in 1637; but it is known that he survived until, at least, 5th November, 1667, at which date Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" assigned to Thomas Lockett of Henrico all rights for the transportation of Alexander Wood to this country—which would have entitled Captain Thomas Osborne to some fifty acres of land.

All record of the deed itself has perished, but it is alluded to in a much later deed, when, on 24th of December, 1682, the same Thomas Lockett transferred the same rights to Thomas Burton, and by a casual parenthesis enabled us to determine that Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" was alive as late as 1667; and of Captain Thomas Osborne there is in the scant records of the time no further mention.

Nor is there in the Virginia records at any time even a casual mention of his wife. A legitimate son, one Thomas or Edward Osborne, and born before 1620, Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" had beyond question; and inasmuch as Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" brought no wife or child to Virginia in 1619, and was at the period of his emigration a man of thirty or upwards, it is not extravagant to suppose that the wife of Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" had died before this, in England, and that he subsequently sent back to England for his only son, since that son attestedly was living in Virginia before the year 1640.

The will of Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale"

is not recorded at Henrico Court-House. A will he indisputably left, apportioning his estate between his two grandsons, and inasmuch as the county records of Henrico previous to the year 1677 have perished, and from that year exist in tolerable fullness, the fact is pretty clearly established that Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" died before 1678; and, as has been previously shown, later than the November of 1667.

He had issue, so far as known, only one child, a son, whom he survived.

(Edward) Osborne of Henrico

This only son of Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" was, perhaps, the

THOMAS OSBORNE of "Pasbeheighes," referred to in the "Muster of the Inhabitants of Pasbehays, belonging to the corporation of James City, and in the maine," taken 30th January, 1624-5.

This mentions among "The men of the Governor's Men at Pasbehaighs" one

"Thomas Osborn, aged 18 (came to Virginia), in the *Francis Bonaventure*."

And a word of explanation is here necessary: The thrifty Virginia Company of London had hit upon the scheme of providing for the Governor of Virginia's salary, "so as to ease the Company henceforward of all charge in maintaining him," by assigning to the Governor some 3,000 acres, which cost the company nothing, and procuring tenants (at a rate of six pounds each to the com-

pany, which was the cost of their transportation), to farm these assigned acres, with the understanding that one-half the revenue of these tenants was to go to the Governor.

Eighty of these "Governor's men" were sent to Virginia in 1620, the *Bonaventure* transporting some of them, and it is possible that Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" embraced this opportunity of securing free transportation for his heir, and that his son and this Thomas Osborne of "Pasbehaighes" were one and the same person.

This is possible, but no more; for, upon the other hand, it appears unlikely that any one in the comfortable circumstances which Captain Thomas Osborne beyond doubt already boasted should have bound over his only son to a quasi-slaveryhood; and the probabilities are rather in favor of this son of Captain Thomas Osborne having been the

EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico who patented (2nd June, 1636) some 400 acres of land in Henrico County—"adjoining a swamp called the great swamp, and the river"—fifty acres of the same being due for his personal adventure, and 350 acres for the transportation of seven persons.

This is the sole mention that now exists of this Edward Osborne, and his will, if it was ever probated, has perished with the earlier records of Henrico.

The son of Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," whatever may have been his Christian name, died in Virginia about the year 1650—certainly not earlier than 1646—having had issue:

I. THOMAS OSBORNE of "Coxendale," born 1641, with whom we shall hereafter have to do.

II. EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico.

Edward Osborne of Henrico

EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico, the younger son of the foregoing, was born in 1646.

At the death of Captain Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," his estate was divided between his two grandsons—both of whom had survived their father—in what proportion it is impossible to say, although it is apparent that to Edward Osborne's share fell the northern part of the plantation.

He appears to have farmed it prosperously, and to have increased its dimensions; and the last act recorded of Edward Osborne is that within the last year of his life, on 1st of June, 1696, he purchased some 200 acres of the southern portion of "Coxendale," which his elder brother, now dead, had inherited, and had long ago deeded to his own eldest son.

It is not recorded that Edward Osborne of Henrico ever held any political office or took any part in public life.

He died about the beginning of the year 1697, and it is to be regretted that the ambiguous wording of his will prevents estimation of what lands he then possessed, since he was undoubtedly well-to-do in the world.

Edward Osborne of Henrico married, prior to 1676, Tabitha Platt, the daughter of Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge," in Virginia, whom he survived.

By Tabitha Platt, Edward Osborne of Henrico had issue:

I. TABITHA OSBORNE, who, as previously recorded, married Benjamin Branch of Henrico.

II. EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico, born *post* 1677, and died in 1732, leaving issue.

III. MARTHA OSBORNE.

The will of Edward Osborne of Henrico County, in the Parish of Varina, is recorded at Henrico Court-House. It is dated 6th of January, 1696, and was recorded 1st of April, 1697.

To the testator's son, Edward Osborne, is bequeathed "all my lands in generall," which is an unhappily ambiguous wording as concerns the genealogist.

To this only son is also bequeathed a bewildering enumeration of miscellaneous chattels:

"One negro woman named Moll, with her increase (excepting the first child she bringeth, which I give to my daughter, Martha Osborne), and one negro boy named Tom, and three cows, not above six years old, and two feather beds, and their furniture, and one square musled gun with a French lock, and my little gunn, and two young sows, with pigg, and one pott of four or five gallons, and one small pott of two and a half gallons (both iron potts with hooks), and one pair of Running Iron Racks, and my best chest with lock and key, and two horses, one of seven years and the other of three years,

and three large and two small puter dishes, and ten plates of pewter, and four Ewes, and two new Calfskin Cheirs, and one brass skimmer and ladle, and one Coller-harness and Cart saddle."

All of this is to be delivered to the younger Edward Osborne when he reaches the age of nineteen.

To the testator's daughter, Martha Osborne, is bequeathed in similar fashion.

"Two coves and a heifer of two years, and one steer of four years, and two Ewes, and three deep puter dishes, and one Feather bed, and an old Rugg, and blankets half-worn, and one great chest with lock and key, and my small new chest with lock and key."

All this is to be delivered to Martha Osborne when she reaches the age of sixteen, or if she marry earlier, upon her wedding-day. This stipulation shows very vividly how Oriental was the age of marriage among our early Virginians.

The testator's daughter, Tabitha Osborne Branch, now married to Benjamin Branch of Henrico, is not mentioned in the will, and it is deducible that the testator had previously provided for her; but the testator appoints his son-in-law, Benjamin Branch, to be his executor, to him "committing the tuition of Edward Osborne and Martha Osborne" until the boy shall be nineteen and the girl sixteen, or until either of them shall marry.

The witnesses of this will are Samuel Branch (the brother of Benjamin Branch of Henrico), and Martha Osborne (the widow of the testator's older brother), and Joseph Tanner (the half-brother of the testator's wife).

Tabitha Platt Osborne

About 1675, Edward Osborne of Henrico married, as previously recorded, Tabitha Platt, the daughter of Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge."

TABITHA PLATT OSBORNE was born about 1660, and died between the years 1692 and 1695, being survived by her husband.

To him, as recorded, she had borne two daughters and a son.

Gilbert Platt of Fauldinge

This Tabitha Platt was the daughter of

GILBERT PLATT of "Fauldinge," who was born in England about 1620.

The first mention of Gilbert Platt occurs 12th of February, 1635, when Elizabeth Parker, a widow, patented 200 acres at Varina within the County of Henrico. Of this land one hundred acres were due to her "in right of her first husband, William Sharpe, who was an ancient planter in the time of Sir Thomas Dale," and the remaining hundred for "the importation of two servants, Gilbert Platt and John Newman."

Gilbert Platt thus came to Virginia in an exceedingly humble capacity; and concerning the first forty years of his stay in the Colony no record exists.

But about 1660, at latest, he had risen somewhat in the world, and had married a woman well-to-do in her own right—Mary Tanner, the widow of Joseph Tanner of Henrico—and was appointed, 20th of August, 1677, the

legal guardian of her four children, Joseph, Edward, Mary and Martha Tanner.

Yet Platt himself appears always to have been a person of small means; even the plantation of "Fauldinge" (or "Bauldings," as is written with equal frequency) which Gilbert Platt hereafter farmed, was but a portion of the estate left by his wife's first husband, and held by Gilbert Platt in trust for the Tanner children during their immaturity; and the records of Henrico strikingly attest that his domestic life during this period was far from tranquil.

He first appears at variance with his wife over a portion of Gilbert Platt's own estate, which by a deed dated 1st of June, 1680, Gilbert Platt had made over to her. The nature of their dispute is now undeterminable, but the affair, which was aired in the Henrico courts, and somehow settled there, was presumably the origin of yet further hearthside trouble for Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge."

For his wife's son by her former marriage—her elder son, one Joseph Tanner—was by this a full-grown man; and by the August of the same year Joseph Tanner and his stepfather had come to physical violence. There are pages of depositions by those who witnessed the difficulty, but of these that of "John Seawood, aged about twenty-four," is perhaps the most complete and curious.

Here follows an abridgement of the same. It appears that as Gilbert Platt came home one evening Joseph Tanner, son to Mrs. Platt, who was splitting kindling wood somewhere near the door of the house—for some unex-

plained cause, and perhaps merely in fun—threw three or four pieces of lightwood at his stepfather; and that the latter passed on into the house, and there complained to his wife of the treatment he had received, and for his pains was promptly called a liar, since, as Mrs. Platt explained, she had reared her children so carefully that in common reason none of them would ever have been guilty of such outrageous conduct. Upon the heels of this, young Joseph Tanner came into the room, and accused his stepfather of having slandered him at a certain Mrs. Farrar's.

What followed is here cited in full:

“And Mr. Platt said:

“‘Come, lett us have a box or two,’ and the said Joseph replied:

“‘Noe, but let me get a tobo: sticke (a tobacco stick), and then I will box with you,’ and told the said Platt that he had nothing to doe with the house.

“And Mr. Platt said:

“‘I built the house, and I paid for it’; and Joseph said:

“‘Well, what if you have? you shan’t come into the house,’ and Mr. Platt said:

“‘And you shall see I have something to doe with the house, for I will goe and pull down one of the puncheons before your face,’ and Joseph told him that when he had done splitting of lightwood he would follow him, and when he had done he catcht up a stake, and followed him, and strucke at him with the stake, and he fell downe, and lay a good while, and Joseph said:

“‘Noe, you have nothing to doe with it; you thinke to scare me with your bull-beggars (bug-bears?); goe, and tell them, if you will; here’s adoe (here’s an ado?) with an old cockatrice!’”

There is some ambiguity as to how this affair was settled; but the evidence plainly points to strained relations among the members of Gilbert Platt’s domicile, in which Gilbert Platt evidently got the worst of it; for on the twenty-eighth of the following March, according to a deed by him acknowledged in court, on the 1st of April, 1681, “Gilbert Platt resigns to Joseph, Edward, Mary and Martha, orphans of Joseph Tanner, deceased, all his rights to their plantation at ‘Bauldings,’ and engages never to trouble them for any thirds or any part thereof.”

Plainly, the older Joseph Tanner had died intestate; and should Mary Platt die before her second husband he would be entitled to some share in her widow’s third; and it is into an explicit renunciation of this right that Mary Platt and her children have hectored him.

Gilbert Platt deserted them very shortly. He was discharged of his trusteeship of “Fauldinge” 1st of October, 1683, and Joseph Tanner was appointed in his place; and Gilbert Platt appears to have spent the last years of his life, being then in very ill health, with his son-in-law, Edward Osborne of Henrico.

It was at the residence of Edward Osborne that Gilbert Platt died in the spring of 1692.

The will of Gilbert Platt aforetime of “Fauldinge,” in Henrico County, is recorded at Henrico Court-House; it

is dated 10th April, 1691, and was recorded 1st June, 1692; and it is a laconic document.

The testator bequeaths to his wife, Mary Platt, precisely one shilling. The legacy is eloquent.

To the testator's daughter, Tabitha Osborne, is bequeathed "my bed and what is belonging to it."

And for the rest it is to his son-in-law, Edward Osborne of Henrico, that Gilbert Platt unconditionally bequeaths "everything else that properly belongs unto me, for and in consideration of his trouble and the care he hath taken of me in my sickness."

By his disastrous marriage with Mary (Brown?) Tanner, Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge" had issue:

I. TABITHA PLATT, who, as previously recorded, married Edward Osborne of Henrico.

Mary (Brown) Platt

The wife of Gilbert Platt of Henrico, as previously recorded, was by her first marriage the widow of Joseph Tanner of Henrico, and it is probable that her maiden name was

MARY BROWN, inasmuch as William and Mary College, in 1699, brought its aforementioned suit against Benjamin Branch of Henrico, "as the executor of Edward Osborne, who married the executor of John Brown." This same John Brown was presumably the father of Gilbert Platt's wife; and she had at least one sister, Martha (Brown?) Stratton, who was the second wife of Edward Stratton of Henrico, and died in 1696.

The will of this Martha Stratton, who survived her husband, is dated 24th of July, 1692, and was recorded at Henrico Court-House 1st April, 1696; it mentions the testator's "Sister (Mary) Platt," and "her daughter, (Mary) Liggon," and appoints the former to be the executrix of the estate—which was not large.

To Mary Platt is left "the best pair of Bodices except one that I have, and my pedicoats w'ch I spun, and my specticles, and my yellow waistcoats."

On 30th April, 1687 (the deed being recorded on 1st June of the same year), Mary Platt signed a release claim upon such portion of her first husband's estate as had been willed to her second son, Edward Tanner of Henrico. It is not presumable that Edward Tanner had just come of age; but, in any event, he has inherited from his father's estate "some 200 and odde acres"; and in consideration of his mother's relinquishing all claim to the property he is to pay her "twenty shillings a year in money, or in tobacco, at a penny a pound, for seven years, or till Mary Platt's death."

Mary (Brown?) Platt, the wife of Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge," was (according to her sworn statement on qualifying as her sister Martha Stratton's executrix), born in 1638. She died in 1699, having survived two husbands.

Mary (Brown?) married first, as has been said, Joseph Tanner of Henrico, who died about 1659, and by him had issue:

I. JOSEPH TANNER, who married the widow of Matthew Turpin, and died *ante* 1699.

II. EDWARD TANNER, who survived his mother.

III. MARY TANNER, who married Joseph Liggon of Henrico, and by him left issue.

IV. MARTHA TANNER, who married, first, Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds, and, second, — Haskins; and by her first marriage left issue.

Mary (Brown?), by her second and not over-happy marriage with Gilbert Platt of "Fauldinge," had issue only one child:

I. TABITHA PLATT, who, as previously recorded, married Edward Osborne of Henrico.

The widow of Gilbert Platt survived her second husband by some eight years, dying in 1699.

The will of Mary Platt is dated 18th of March, 1699, and was recorded at Henrico Court-House 1st of February, 1699-1700.

It bequeaths to the testator's son, Edward Tanner, all cattle belonging to the testator which he has in his possession, and, in addition, twelve pounds in current money; and to the testator's grandson, Joseph Liggon, some 200 acres of land in Henrico County, on Swift Creek.

The other legacies are inconsiderable; and the document is chiefly valuable as mentioning the testator's daughters Martha Haskins and Mary Liggon—who is named as executrix—and the testator's grandchildren, Thomas Jones (the son of Martha Haskins by her first marriage), and Joseph Liggon, Phœbe Liggon, and Lucretia Liggon, who were the children of Mary Tanner Liggon, the testator's oldest daughter.

**The Wife of Benjamin Branch of
Chesterfield**

The Wife of Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield

Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield married, prior to the year 1727, his second cousin, Martha Osborne, the daughter of Thomas Osborne of Henrico. She was born about 1710, and died before the year 1760.

This MARTHA OSBORNE was a descendant of

CAPTAIN THOMAS OSBORNE of "Coxendale," who, as previously recorded, had issue :

I. (EDWARD?) OSBORNE of Henrico.

(Edward?) Osborne of Henrico, as previously recorded, had issue :

I. THOMAS OSBORNE of "Coxendale."

II. EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico.

Thomas Osborne of Coxendale

THOMAS OSBORNE of "Coxendale" was the older son of his father, (Edward?) Osborne of Henrico, and was born in the year 1641.

To his share fell the lower portion of his grandfather's estate, which portion was presumably the larger of the two, and in consequence, retained the name of "Coxendale."

This Thomas Osborne, though he took no prominent

part in public affairs, was, whether it were by inheritance or acquisition, at his death, in 1692, a man of substance; his land-holdings were by inheritance extensive, and he had added to them continuously; and his last act, so far as is known, was, in 1690, to patent an additional ninety-five acres.

The furnishings of his house and farm were valued at 208 pounds, fifteen shillings and eleven pence—which approximated to a present-day value of some \$10,000; and, in addition, there is an item in his inventory which hints at a distinct literary taste rather unusual for his neighborhood and period:

“A parcel of old books, viz., 1 large Q'rto Bible, Josephus in folio, and 5 or 6 or do. valued at one pound, six pence.”

For the time and locality this is the collection of a bibliomaniac.

Thomas Osborne of “Coxendale” at his death left 1692. He had married Martha —, whose maiden name is unknown.

Thomas Osborne of “Coxendale” at his death left issue:

I. THOMAS OSBORNE of the Parish and County of Henrico.

II. JOHN OSBORNE, born *post* 1674.

The will of Thomas Osborne of “Coxendale” is recorded at Henrico Court-House. It is dated 2d of October, 1691, and was recorded 1st June, 1692.



W. A. Brauch

It is evident from a perusal of the document that the testator has already given his older son and namesake such lands and personal property as he intends that son to have; of the latter it is impossible to swear to more than four silver spoons, but one may reasonably imagine that the gift was somewhat larger; and the lands assigned the younger Thomas Osborne, as was latterly attested by a deed which this Thomas Osborne gave in 1696, lay to the north of his father's possessions, and adjoined those of the testator's brother, Edward Osborne of Henrico.

To the testator's second son, John Osborne, is bequeathed 200 acres of "my plantation called 'Fearing,' alias 'Coxendale,' on condition that a hundred of these acres adjoin "the land where my son, Thomas Osborne, now liveth," and that the other hundred be laid out so as to adjoin both "the land where Philip Turpin lives" and be "conjoined to the land I lately patented, where William Bass lives," which land contained, by estimation, some ninety-five acres; and this land also is bequeathed to John Osborne.

To the testator's older son is bequeathed "one negro, unless I give it to him during my lifetime," and two silver spoons, "of ye same sort whereof he hath had four already." And it is rendered apparent that a part at least of the younger Thomas Osborne's lands have been merely loaned him, for he is to retain his present home merely during the lifetime of the testator's wife; yet there is no provision for its subsequent disposal after that event. Indeed, the entire document has a haphazard air, and a re-

arrangement of its several clauses is necessary to render it even partially intelligible.

To the testator's wife, Martha Osborne, is bequeathed "the house where I now live, and my orchard," and the testator's wife is appointed his executrix.

The remainder of the estate—lands, slaves and chattels—is to be divided between John Osborne and Martha Osborne equally; and if John Osborne chance to die before reaching the age of eighteen, two-thirds of the estate is to go to Martha Osborne, and one-third to the testator's elder son, Thomas Osborne of Henrico, "or his heir, if a male, and not else." And at eighteen John Osborne is by the testator authorized to make a will and to dispose of the property assigned him as he may elect.

No provision is made for the event of Thomas Osborne's having only female children, nor for Martha Osborne's dying before John Osborne reaches eighteen, nor for Thomas Osborne's dying before Martha Osborne; everywhere one scents an 'abysmal unpracticality which renders it the more astounding that Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" ended his life, as he unquestionably did, a far wealthier man than he began it; and that the will did not result in a lawsuit must be imputed to the direct intervention of blind chance.

The witnesses of the document are Thomas Jefferson (who married the granddaughter of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland"), and Philip Turpin, and Samuel Branch (the grandson of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland"), and Samuel Hickman.

By an inventory, taken 1st of October, 1692, the chattels of Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," as previously recorded, were valued at 208 pounds, fifteen shillings and eleven pence.

Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" had, as previously recorded, married Martha ———, who survived her husband, and married Thomas Edwards of Henrico within a year of Thomas Osborne's death—before 20th August, 1692, when she and Thomas Osborne of Henrico asked the court to appoint an appraiser for the estate of Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," deceased.

This was done 1st of September, 1692, the appraisers being Captain William Randolph, Captain Francis Epes, Captain William Farrar and Henry Randolph.

Thomas Osborne of Henrico

THOMAS OSBORNE of the Parish and County of Henrico, the older son of Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" and Martha ———, as evidenced by his father's will, was a man grown and managing his own plantation in 1691; and must in consequence have been born about the year 1670.

He had acquired from his father, as previously recorded, the northern portion of the latter's lands; as is proven by a deed given by this younger Thomas Osborne, 1st June, 1696, in which he conveys to his uncle, Edward Osborne of Henrico, the father of Tabitha Osborne Branch, some 200 acres of his inherited lands.

For therein, in consideration of twenty-five pounds, Thomas Osborne conveys to Edward Osborne "one part

of my plantation—beginning at the mouth of Garden Creek, and running up the creek on the east side of the creek to the bridge, and there crossing the bridge made by Edward Osborne to Edward Osborne's plantation, and thence running along Edward Osborne's line to Matthew Turpin's line, and along Matthew Turpin's line to the river, and down the river to where it began—being by estimacon 200 acres."

This property—and the clause is of importance—is conveyed with all rights, "in as large and ample manner to all intents and purposes as the same was granted to my great grandfather, Captain Thomas Osborne, by patent."

For this deed is chiefly valuable as showing that, in effect, Thomas Osborne of Henrico was not disinherited by his father, as a casual inspection of the latter's will would undoubtedly suggest: the original plantation of "Coxendale" had been divided, as previously recorded, between Edward Osborne of Henrico and Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale," the former acquiring the northern portion; the latter certainly bequeaths not an ell of land to his oldest son, and yet some four years later here is the younger Thomas Osborne disposing of land which was a part of the original "Coxendale," and which adjoins the line of Edward Osborne.

Hence the deduction is obvious that again the father has provided for the oldest son in his own lifetime, and has at some earlier period deeded to him, in this instance, the northern portion of the older Thomas Osborne's share of "Coxendale."

This is further demonstrated by a less venerable transfer of land, when, on 2d of August, 1697, Thomas Osborne of Henrico sells to Philip Turpin, for thirty pounds, one hundred acres of land, "more or less," which tract is bounded thus: "to begin at a run called the Red Water at the maine Roade, thence down the said Roade to a pine marked four wayes, thence along a line of marked trees to a Chestnut standing by the Red Water, then crossing the Red Water to a line belonging to the Antient Patent of 'Coxendale,' thence up that line to a Chestnut, marked four wayes, on the line of the land of Henry Hatcher (called 'Proctor's'), then down to the Red Water, and so following the Red Water to the place where it first began."

From this time on, the land-holdings of Thomas Osborne of Henrico were bounded on the north by Garden Creek, and on the east by James River, and on the south by the lands of his younger brother, John Osborne, who had by this come to maturity and had inherited his share of their father's property according to the terms of their father's will as previously recorded.

This is attested by a deed mutually given by Thomas Osborne and his oldest son—yet another Thomas Osborne—on 5th of January, 1732, in which they convey to Thomas Friend, for fifty pounds, some fifty acres of "Coxendale"—which fifty acres on the south adjoin "the line of John Osborne." Clearly, Thomas Osborne of Henrico had retained for himself only the central portion of the land given him by his father; yet it is equitable to

add that he had, somehow, acquired a tidy property on Dry Creek, then in Henrico County, but now in Chesterfield.

Thomas Osborne of Henrico died in the earlier half of 1733.

He had married, before the year 1691—if a strict construction be placed upon the wording of his father's will,—and presumably before 1689, Martha Branch, the widow of John Branch of Henrico (the son of William Branch, and the grandson of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland"), and the daughter of Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds.

By this Martha Jones, Thomas Osborne of Henrico had issue:

I. THOMAS OSBORNE of Henrico.

II. EDWARD OSBORNE of Henrico.

III. MARY OSBORNE, who, as previously recorded, married Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield.

IV. ELIZABETH OSBORNE, who died unmarried before the year 1730.

V. CICELY OSBORNE.

The will of Thomas Osborne, Senior, of the Parish and County of Henrico, is recorded at Henrico Court-House; it is dated 27th of February, 1730, and was recorded in the June of 1733.

It bequeaths to the testator's sons, Thomas Osborne and Edward Osborne, the testator's plantation on James

River; and Edward Osborne is to have the lower portion, "where I now live," as well as 200 acres of the testator's property on Dry Creek in Henrico.

To the testator's daughter, Cicely Osborne, is bequeathed "all her mother's clothes" and various household goods.

The will also mentions the testator's daughter, Elizabeth Osborne, now deceased.

To the testator's daughter, Mary Osborne Branch, the wife of Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield, is bequeathed:

"One Negro Woman Named Amy to her the Said Mary Branch and to her Heirs forever, and in case she have any Issue my Will is her Daughter, Mary Branch, shall have the first child, and her Daughter Martha the Second Child, to be given them and their Heirs forever, and my Will is further that my Daughter Mary shall pay Yearly 20 shillings a Year towards the maintaining of her Sister Sissy, or forfeit the Said Negro Amy to her Brother, Thomas Osborne. . . . I give to my Daughter Mary also a Chest of Drawers, a Looking Glass and a Still."

The executors are Thomas Osborne and Edward Osborne, the two sons of the testator.

Martha Jones Osborne

Thomas Osborne of Henrico married, before 1691, and presumably before 20th August, 1689—at which date Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" was appointed guardian to the children of John Branch, deceased,—the widow of John Branch of Henrico, the youngest son of William

Branch of Henrico, and the grandson of Christopher Branch of "Kingsland."

She died, to all appearances, before 1730, within which year, as previously recorded, her second husband drew up his will, and made of her no mention.

The maiden name of this Martha Branch was
MARTHA JONES.

By her marriage with John Branch, Martha Jones had previously had issue:

I. PRISCILLA BRANCH, who married, first, Edward Skerme of Henrico, and, second, Joseph Wilkinson.

II. OBEDIENCE BRANCH, who married, first, John Cocke of Henrico, and, second, Thomas Turpin of Henrico.

These were the children whose guardianship Thomas Osborne of "Coxendale" assumed in 1689.

The children of Martha Jones Branch by her second marriage, with Thomas Osborne of Henrico, have been previously enumerated.

Thomas Jones of Pasbehaighes

Martha Jones was a descendant of

THOMAS JONES of "Pasbehaighes" and Bermuda Hundreds.

This Thomas Jones, with his wife, Margrett Jones, came to Virginia in the same ship that transported Christopher Branch of "Kingsland" and his wife, Mary Branch, that is, the *London Merchant*, leaving England in the March of 1619-20.

Thomas Jones settled at "Pasbehaighes," but more lately removed to Bermuda Hundreds, where he spent the remainder of his life.

He had issue:

I. THOMAS JONES of Bermuda Hundreds.

Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds

This THOMAS JONES, the only child, so far as is recorded, of Thomas Jones of "Pasbehaighes," married Mary ———, and died *ante* 1679.

Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds had issue:

I. THOMAS JONES, Second, of Bermuda Hundreds, died 1689, who married Martha Tanner, the daughter of Gilbert Platt's wife by her first marriage, with Joseph Tanner, and left issue.

II. REPPS JONES of Henrico, who died unmarried in 1689.

III. (ELIZABETH?) JONES, who married Philip Turpin of Henrico.

IV. MARTHA JONES, who, as previously recorded, married, first, John Branch of Henrico, and, second, Thomas Osborne of Henrico.

Mary Skerne

The widow of Thomas Jones of Bermuda Hundreds re-married very shortly after her husband's death, her second choice being Edward Skerne of Henrico.

This second marriage took place presumably about 1679, and in any event before 9th of August, 1684, at which date there was a general settling up of the estate of Mary Skerme's first husband; and upon this occasion Thomas Jones, Second, of Bermuda Hundreds, conveyed to his brother, Repps Jones, one hundred acres of land, as "part of the dividend left by my father, Thomas Jones, deceased," and divided with "Mary Skirm, his mother," certain tracts at Bermuda Hundreds,—a part of the same estate,—which presumably constituted the customary widow's third.

By her second marriage, Mary Skerme had issue:

I. EDWARD SKERME of Henrico, who married Priscilla Branch, the daughter of John Branch, and died in 1699, without issue.

II. MARY SKERME, who married ——— Broadnecks of Henrico.

The will of Mary Skerme, the elder, is dated 16th of November, 1707, and was recorded at Henrico Court-House 1st September, 1710.

It mentions the testator's grandchildren, Matthew Turpin, Philip Turpin, Martha Turpin, and Elizabeth Turpin,—all the children of Elizabeth Jones Turpin; the testator's grandchildren, Thomas Osborne, Martha Osborne and Mary Osborne,—the children of Martha Jones Osborne; the testator's daughters, Martha Osborne and Mary Broadnecks; and the testator's son-in-law, Philip Turpin.

The witnesses are the testator's son-in-law, Thomas Osborne of Henrico, and Thomas Cheatham, Senior (the same Thomas Cheatham who married Tabitha Osborne Branch, the widow of Benjamin Branch of Henrico).

**The Wife of Captain Benjamin Branch
of Willow Hill**

The Wife of Captain Benjamin Branch of Willow Hill

Tradition asserts that Captain Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" married a member of the well-known Goode family of Chesterfield County, in which event her maiden name would have been

MARY GOODE; but no authoritative record exists as to who were her parents.

Yet, in passing, the tradition is substantially supported by the fact that one of the executors of Captain Benjamin Branch's will is a Francis Goode of Chesterfield, whom the testator explicitly calls "my kinsman," and that this kinship cannot be accounted for except by supposing this Francis Goode to have been a relative of Captain Benjamin Branch's wife.

It should be borne in mind, also, that a Robert Goode is one of the executors of the will of Captain Benjamin Branch's father, Benjamin Branch of Chesterfield, and is in that document coupled with the testator's sons, Thomas Branch and Edward Branch—which circumstance hints at a close alliance already existent in 1760 between the families of Branch and Goode; and the obvious hypothesis is that this Robert Goode was the father of the Mary Goode who married Captain Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill," as well as the father of that

Francis Goode who, in 1760, was "a kinsman" of Captain Benjamin Branch and one of his executors.

The assumption is a hypothesis that undoubtedly explains a nebulous point in the family line, but it is a hypothesis and nothing more.

All that is positively known concerning the wife of Captain Benjamin Branch of "Willow Hill" is: that her Christian name was Mary; that he married her prior to the year 1762, at the very latest,—since she had borne him four children by 1767,—and presumably about 1755; that she bore him five children, if not more than five, and that in all likelihood she survived her husband, or, in any event, did not die before the year 1782.

The facts are meagre, but every known fact tends to buttress the supposition that the wife of Captain Benjamin Branch was Mary Goode, the daughter of Robert Goode of Chesterfield.

**The Wife of Thomas Branch of Willow
Hill**

The Wife of Thomas Branch of Willow Hill

Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill," as previously recorded, at the age of twenty and in the year 1787, married

MARY PATTESON, the daughter of Colonel David Patteson of Chesterfield.

She was some three years her husband's junior, having been born 28th of September, 1770.

Mary Patteson Branch bore to Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill" the goodly number of fourteen children and died 20th of August, 1825.

In tracing the descent of Mary Patteson the genealogist is again hampered by the vexatious paucity of the Charles City records, since it was in that county that the first Patteson to emigrate to Virginia made his home.

He was a descendant of the Patteson family of Scotland, and bore as arms:—Argent, guttée de poix, a lion rampant sable; on a chief of the last, three escallops or. Crest:—a pelican in her piety, all proper.

Here as in the Branch crest, is an obvious pun, the play upon words being in this case derived from the Latin *patior*, I suffer.

David Patteson of Charles City

DAVID PATTESON was living in Charles City County prior to 1700. He was, as has been said, presumably the first member of his family to emigrate to Virginia, though it is barely possible that this David Patteson was a son of the Thomas "Pattison" who died in Charles City County on the Whitsunday of 1725.

In any event, this was beyond any reasonable doubt the same David Patteson who in 1714 received a grant of land in southern Henrico County, which then embraced the County of Chesterfield.

He continued personally to reside in Charles City, and in that county one finds little save the baptismal records to assist in filling out the lists of his offspring.

Yet, in accordance with their testimony, this David Patteson had issue:

I. SARAH PATTESON, who was baptized 24th of March, 1700.

II. ANNE PATTESON, baptized 2d of November, 1701.

III. DAVID PATTESON, baptized 14th of October, 1703.

IV. THOMAS PATTESON (and his Christian name is perhaps noteworthy, as hinting at a relationship with the aforementioned Thomas "Pattison"), baptized 13th of December, 1708.

V. CHARLES PATTESON, baptized 6th of May, 1711.



W. H. H. H.

VI. JONATHAN PATTESON, baptized 6th of June, 1713, who emigrated to Lunenburg and left issue.

VII. OBEDIAH PATTESON, baptized 10th of February, 1717.

VIII. GIDEON PATTESON, baptized 17th of July, 1720.

It should be borne in mind that these dates are merely those of the children's baptisms—which then almost invariably took place two days after the child's birth,—and that there was perhaps a child born between David Patteson and Thomas Patteson.

David Patteson, Second, of Charles City

DAVID PATTESON of Charles City, third child and oldest son of the foregoing, was born, as previously recorded, in the October of 1703.

To him, as the oldest son, his father presumably bequeathed the lands he had patented, in 1714, in Henrico County.

This David Patteson had married *ante* 1722. The maiden name of his wife is unknown.

David Patteson, Second, of Charles City County, had issue:

I. JAMES PATTESON, baptized 10th of February, 1723, who had, with other issue, James A. Patteson.

II. COLONEL DAVID PATTESON, born in 1724.

III. ANNE PATTESON, baptized 19th of March, 1725.

IV. Another daughter, baptized in 1728.

Colonel David Patteson of Chesterfield

COLONEL DAVID PATTESON of Chesterfield, the second child and son of the foregoing, was born in 1724.

Though not the oldest son, he appears to have inherited his father's lands in Henrico, which Colonel David Patteson unquestionably possessed during the Revolution and after, though they were by this a part of Chesterfield,—to which county he permanently removed about 1755.

Colonel David Patteson, though he seems to have inherited no great wealth originally, was in his latter days one of the most distinguished men of his time and neighborhood.

He served against the British during the War of the Revolution, and at the cessation of hostilities occupied the honorable position of Colonel-Commandant of Chesterfield; he was a member of the Virginia House of Delegates for the years 1786-92-93-94; and he represented Chesterfield (with Stephen Pankey, Junior,) in the Virginia Federal Convention of 1788, which met at Richmond in the June of that year and ratified in the name and behalf of the people of Virginia, the present Federal Constitution.

In passing, Colonel David Patteson was one of the narrow majority of ten which decided that the State accept the Constitution.

Colonel David Patteson married, *ante* 1752, Mary Anderson, who was, according to tradition, a sister of the Claiborne Anderson of Chesterfield whose will was recorded at Chesterfield Court-House in 1771.

By this Mary Anderson, Colonel David Patteson of Chesterfield had issue :

- I. ANNE PATTESON, baptized 18th of June, 1754.
- II. SAMUEL PATTESON, who married Elizabeth Darra-cott.
- III. LUCY PATTESON, who married J. W. Winfree.
- IV. FRANCES PATTESON, who married Robert Gilliam.
- V. MARTHA PATTESON, who married her cousin, James A. Patteson.
- VI. MARY PATTESON, who, as previously recorded, married Thomas Branch of "Willow Hill."

**The First Wife of Thomas Branch of
Petersburg and Richmond**

The First Wife of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond

Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond first married, in Amelia County, on 19th of October, 1825, as previously recorded, Sarah Pride Read.

SARAH PRIDE READ was born 8th of August, 1808, and died 3d May, 1855.

She was the second daughter of

JOHN BLYTHE READ of Wales and of Chesterfield County, in Virginia.

John Blythe Read

JOHN BLYTHE READ was born in Wales, 3d of June, 1776. No record has been preserved concerning his ancestry, but he bore as arms:—Argent, three butter-churns or; which in every detail corresponds to that of the well-known Welsh family of Read.

By his first marriage with his cousin, Martha Blythe (born 24th of December, 1776, died 5th of May, 1804), John Blythe Read had issue:

I. JOHN FOWNES READ, born 5th of January, 1803, and died 11th of June, 1804.

By his second marriage with Susanna Pride, the daughter of John Pride of Chesterfield, John Blythe Read had issue:

I. FRANCES PRISCILLA READ, born 28th of September, 1806, died 28th of November, 1807.

II. SARAH PRIDE READ, born 8th of August, 1808, who married Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond.

III. ELIZABETH ROSINA READ, born 16th of August, 1810, died 2d of July, 1811.

IV. JOHN PRIDE READ, born 3d of June, 1812, died 4th July, 1813.

V. EMILY SUSAN READ, born 20th of November, 1814, died 25th of October, 1820.

VI. JAMES BLYTHE READ, born 10th of March, 1817.

John Blythe Read of Wales and Chesterfield, died 15th of January, 1818.

Susanna Pride Read

SUSANNA PRIDE READ, the second wife of the foregoing, was born 21st of January, 1787, and died 16th of April, 1817.

The inscription upon the tomb of Susanna Pride Read, in Old Blandford Churchyard, near Petersburg, in Virginia, may here be fitly cited as not entirely lacking in interest. Follows a verbatim copy:

Sleep soft in dust await the Almighty will,
Then rise unchanged and be an angel still.

Beneath this stone
Repose the remains of

Mrs Susan Read

The virtuous affectionate wife of

John B. Read

Daughter of John and Priscilla Pride
of Chesterfield County

Born on the 21st of January 1787

And departed this life

The 16th of April Anno domini 1817

Could blameless manners or affection warm

Could the mild virtues still to memory dear

Or innocence the rage of death disarm

An early victim had not rested here

Nor had a husband mourn'd his doom severe

Nor infant sorrows stream'd around the grave

Nor weeping relatives mix'd the falling tear

Such was her worth could worth exception crave

Earth's dreary cell would ne'er that form beloved enslave.

On her left lie her three children

Frances Priscilla Read

Born 28th Sept 1806 died 28th Nov 1804

Elizabeth Rosina Read

Born 16th August 1810 died 2n July 1811

John Pride Read

Born 3n June and died 3n July 1813

Sacred to their memory

This tomb is dedicated by her husband

And their father.

Close beside this monument stand the tombs of John Blythe Read and of Emily Susan Read, the daughter of John Blythe Read and of Susanna Pride.

Susanna Pride Read was the daughter of John Pride of Chesterfield, as previously recorded; and in consequence, a descendant of

WILLIAM PRIDE of Henrico.

William Pride of Henrico

Of this WILLIAM PRIDE, presumably born about 1630, and died *ante* 1677, we have no record save a mere mention of his name in a deed given by his son in the year 1732, wherein the latter assigns certain properties inherited from his father. This, however, was presumably the original emigrant to America and the founder of the Pride family in Virginia.

William Pride of Henrico had issue:

I. WILLIAM PRIDE, Second, of Henrico, born about 1650.

William Pride, Second, of Henrico

This WILLIAM PRIDE, born about 1650, the only son, so far as known, of the foregoing, makes his first appearance in the county records, 10th December, 1677, deep in litigation with one William Bevin, concerning a tobacco crop they had raised on shares—the two families (for the evidence shows that William Pride was already a married man, though he appears as yet to have had no children)

being by the original agreement, to share Bevin's house during the raising of this crop, as some protection against the neighboring and hostile Indians.

And by the original agreement, William Pride was to have had one-third of the proceeds; but history does not detail the final decision of the court.

William Pride of Henrico appears to have started life as a tobacco-farmer on a small scale and gradually to have amassed a competence.

He inherited land in Henrico, as has been recorded, from his father; and, 1st of December, 1692, he purchased yet more land in that county, of William Randolph *et al*, which transaction resulted in a tedious lawsuit, of some fifteen years' duration, and eventually lost by William Pride, who was adjudged, 1st of July, 1710, to owe William Randolph the impoverishing damages of five shillings and six pence.

On 1st of October, 1695, William Pride transferred a considerable tract of land in Henrico to his daughter, Wynifred, the wife of Benjamin Lockett, with a reversion, in the event of her having no children, to his own sons.

For some thirty years thereafter, one finds absolutely no mention of William Pride in the records of Henrico; but all subsequent entries concerning him fully demonstrate that during this period he had materially increased the list of his worldly belongings.

On 3d of October, 1726, William Pride purchased from John Peterson of Isle of Wight, for sixty-nine pounds, some 208 acres on the north side of Swift Creek; and at

the same date from Philip Jones of Henrico, for five pounds, one acre on the south side of Swift Creek.

He sold, on 15th of July, 1732, to David Nunnally, for thirty pounds, some 300 acres of his patrimony—this being described as a portion of the land “inherited by William Pride by the will of his father, William Pride, deceased.”

This deed, to which previous allusion has been made, is doubly important, both as giving the name of William Pride’s father, and (by attesting that the will of this father had been formally recorded at Henrico Court-House), as demonstrating that the elder William Pride died before 1677,—since his will is not included in the records of that county, which, since 1677, exist in tolerable sufficiency.

On the 2d of March, 1733, William Pride of Henrico transferred, for five shillings, to his son, John Pride, 110 acres on Swift Creek, in the present Chesterfield County, then a part of Henrico,—this being a part of the land originally patented by the older William Pride; and the 110 acres, also on Swift Creek, which the younger William Pride had bought of Richard Walthall by a deed dated 7th of September, 1724.

On the 31st of July, 1736, William Pride transferred to the same son, John Pride, for fifty pounds, the 211 acres on Swift Creek which William Pride had earlier purchased from Henry Randolph, by a deed dated 14th of May, 1711.

William Pride had married before the year 1677, and died at an advanced age, *post* 1736.

William Pride, Second, of Henrico had issue:

I. HOLLCOT PRIDE, who apparently was born *post* 1677, and apparently died young.

II. WILLIAM PRIDE, who appears never to have married, and died without issue early in 1764.

III. JOHN PRIDE of Dale Parish, in Henrico County.

IV. WYNIFRED PRIDE, who married Benjamin Lockett of Henrico.

John Pride of Henrico

JOHN PRIDE of Dale Parish, in Henrico, third son of the foregoing, was born about 1680, and died *post* 1736.

The first mention of his name occurs 1st of April, 1696, when he bought from Edward Matthews, in exchange for "3,000 pounds of tobacco and one steer" seventy acres of land in Henrico County, on the north side of James River, and at this date, to all appearances, started in life as a tobacco-farmer.

Yet within a breath let it be added that John Pride could have been, to all appearances, little more than a boy at this period; since the entire recorded evidence tends to show that his father had no issue born prior to 1677, and that John Pride was the third son; and that it is likely this property was, in reality, purchased by William Pride, Second, of Henrico, but in the name of his son, John Pride.

However this may have been, John Pride of Henrico patented 247 acres "on the north side of Appomattox," at Deep Creek (in what is now the western portion of Chesterfield County), on the 17th of August, 1725; and acquired from his father, as previously recorded, in 1733 and 1736, some 420 acres of adjacent land on Swift Creek.

He transferred to Samuel Hix, on 5th of December, 1726, for fifty pounds, some sixty-nine acres on "Turkahoe Creek,"—which is now known as the "Turkey Branch" of Swift Creek in Chesterfield County; and transferred to his son-in-law, John Hill, on 4th of February, 1726-7, some 123 acres on Deep Creek, a moiety of the land John Pride had patented in 1725; and transferred to Charles Cannon, on 1st of April, 1727, for twenty-five pounds, some 375 acres on "Turkahoe Creek."

The lands owned by John Pride of Henrico are to-day easily locateable; they lay to the extreme central west of Chesterfield County, and were bounded on the north by Swift Creek, on the east by Deep Creek, and on the west by Turkey Branch; and the present Genito road bisects what was once his plantation.

John Pride of Henrico married, prior to 1720, Susanna (Puckett?).

By Susanna (Puckett?), John Pride of Henrico had issue:

I. JOHN PRIDE, born 1720, who married Frances —, and had issue.

II. WILLIAM PRIDE of Chesterfield, born 19th of December, 1721.

III. PUCKETT PRIDE, born 2d of September, 1728.

IV. A daughter, name unknown, who married John Hill of Henrico, and left issue.

William Pride of Chesterfield

WILLIAM PRIDE of the Parish of Dale, in Chesterfield, the second son of the foregoing, was born the 19th of December, 1721, and died in 1774. He became a native of Chesterfield, as aforetime his near neighbors the Branches and the Osbornes had done, by the division of that county from Henrico about 1740.

In addition to his lands in Chesterfield, most probably inherited from his father's estate, William Pride acquired property in Amelia County, which he likewise farmed to apparent profit.

William Pride died, as has been said, in 1774. He had married, *ante* 1745, Elizabeth ———, who, in all likelihood, survived her husband.

At his death William Pride of Chesterfield left issue:

I. JOHN PRIDE of Chesterfield and Amelia counties.

II. PETER PRIDE, to whom his father bequeathed his plantation in Chesterfield County, but who died without issue and unmarried in the latter half of 1804, and apparently in destitute circumstances.

III. THOMAS PRIDE, who died unmarried, in the latter part of 1779, leaving his entire estate to his older brother, John Pride of Chesterfield and Amelia.

The will of William Pride of the Parish of Dale, in Chesterfield, is recorded at Chesterfield Court-House; it is dated 4th of October, 1749, and was recorded in 1774.

It bequeaths the testator's lands and plantation in Amelia County to the testator's son, John Pride; to the testator's son, Peter Pride, the testator's plantation in Chesterfield; and mentions the testator's three children and his wife, Elizabeth Pride.

It will be noted that this will was drawn up at the age of twenty-eight, some twenty-five years before the death of the testator; and it is not impossible that during that period other children were born to him, for whom, through carelessness he neglected to provide.

The executors are Elizabeth Pride (the testator's wife), and Field Archer, and James Hill (who was probably the testator's nephew).

John Pride of Chestertfield and Amelia

JOHN PRIDE of Chesterfield and Amelia counties, in Virginia, the oldest child and son of the foregoing, was born about 1741, and died in 1796; and it was to him, as previously recorded, that his father bequeathed his properties in Amelia County.

More lately, this John Pride became a man of some prominence and of wealth.

Very early in life he was appointed by Thomas Nelson (25th of April, 1759) deputy clerk of Henrico County, serving under Thomas Adams; and he was perhaps the same John Pride who served upon the Amelia County



@ L. R. L. L. L. L. L.

Committee of Public Safety during the Revolution (appointed the 3d of May, 1775).

But it should be remembered that it is always difficult to distinguish between this John Pride and his cousin, the John Pride of Amelia County—son to John Pride and Frances Pride—who was a member of the Virginia Federal Convention of 1788. Both owned extensive lands in Amelia, and were prominently identified with the affairs of that county; and both bestowed upon their children, approximately, the same Christian names.

All in all, the tangle is perplexing; but for our present purposes it is, happily, solved by the undisputed fact that while Susan Pride—the daughter of John Pride of Amelia—on 4th December, 1764, married John Booker of Amelia, another and a somewhat more youthful Susan Pride—the daughter of John Pride of Chesterfield and Amelia counties—in the latter half of 1805, undeniably married John Blythe Read of Wales and of Chesterfield.

John Pride of Chesterfield and Amelia died, as has been said, in 1796, owning at the time extensive lands in Chesterfield, Amelia and Charlotte counties, and in the State of Kentucky.

His personal property was more lately appraised at 2,422 pounds, six shillings and three pence, which was for the period a considerable sum.

The will of John Pride, recorded at Chesterfield Court-House, is dated November, 1795, and was recorded in 1796.

It bequeaths to the testator's son, Thomas Pride, all

the testator's lands in Chesterfield County, which are to revert, after the failure of Thomas Pride's heirs, to the testator's son, John Alexander Pride.

The four daughters of the testator—Sally Pride, Elizabeth Pride, Priscilla Pride and Susanna Pride—are to have a home upon the plantation, and be "maintained so as to keep them in credit"; and the plantation in Chesterfield called "Frogpon"—now unlocateable—is left to all six of the previously mentioned children equally.

To the testator's son, Peter Pride, is bequeathed the tract of land on the north side of Stanton (*sic*) River, in Charlotte County, which the testator purchased of Markus (*sic*) Gibbon. The lands in Kentucky are to be divided equally among the testator's sons, Peter Pride, James Pride and John Alexander Pride.

A codicil, dated 26th of November, 1795, leaves the "Frogpon" plantation, including the lower part of 600 acres, to be shared between the testator's sons, John Alexander Pride and James Pride, and bequeaths to the testator's son, Peter Pride, the 125 acres "adjoining Captain John Hill's land,"—who was probably the testator's cousin.

The executors are James Pride (the testator's son) and Captain Jesse Cogbill and Hill Cogbill (who were perhaps the testator's brothers-in-law).

An inventory of the estate was taken 9th March, 1797.

John Pride of Chesterfield and Amelia married *ante* 1765, Priscilla (Cogbill?).

By Priscilla (Cogbill?), John Pride of Chesterfield left issue:

- I. JAMES PRIDE.
- II. THOMAS PRIDE, who died in 1823.
- III. JOHN ALEXANDER PRIDE, who died in 1818.
- IV. PETER PRIDE.
- IV. PETER PRIDE.
- VI. ELIZABETH PRIDE, who married John Simpson.
- VII. PRISCILLA PRIDE.
- VIII. SUSANNA PRIDE, who, as previously recorded,
married John Blythe Read of Wales and Chesterfield.

**The Second Wife of Thomas Branch of
Petersburg and Richmond**

The Second Wife of Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond

Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond married, second, as previously recorded, Anne Adams Wheelright, the daughter of Joseph Wheelright of Westmoreland County, in Virginia.

ANNE ADAMS WHEELRIGHT was born the 28th of October, 1827, and in Westmoreland County married Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond on the twenty-second of April, 1857. They had issue, as has been said, three children.

Inasmuch as the distinguished family of Wheelright has previously been traced through all its ramifications, and the history of it previously printed, it appears here neither expedient nor necessary to enter into a detailed account of the Wheelright lineage.

Suffice it that the founder of this family in America was John Wheelright of Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

John Wheelright of New Hampshire

JOHN WHEELRIGHT was born in England in 1594. He was there for many years a clergyman of the Established Church. In 1636, however, he emigrated to Massachu-

settled and settled at Boston, where latterly he was chosen as pastor of a branch church in what is now Braintree.

On account of a sermon delivered in Boston, soon after his arrival in that city, the General Court pronounced John Wheelright to be guilty of "sedition and contempt." After some months' delay he was banished from the Colony, and in 1638 founded what is now the town of Exeter, in New Hampshire.

John Wheelright in 1646 was permitted to return to Massachusetts, and there, in 1654, published his well-known "Vindication." In 1662 John Wheelright settled as pastor in Salisbury, in New Hampshire, where he spent the remainder of his long life.

He published in 1645 *Mercurius Americanus*.

John Wheelright of Massachusetts and New Hampshire died in 1679, leaving issue; and from him descended the Wheelright family of New England, as well as the Wheelrights of Virginia.

Joseph Wheelright of Westmoreland

JOSEPH WHEELRIGHT of Westmoreland County, in Virginia, a great-grandson of the foregoing, was born in New Hampshire, in the year 1801. He was educated at Harvard College, and subsequently adopted medicine as his chosen profession.

Joseph Wheelright more lately still removed to Virginia, where he settled in Westmoreland County, and dwelt there for many years, a physician of wide repute and of the highest standing. He died in 1864.

Joseph Wheelright of Westmoreland had married very early in life Louisa Dodge of New Hampshire. She was born in 1809, and was, upon her father's side, the descendant of a long line of New England clergymen.

By his marriage with Louisa Dodge, Joseph Wheelright of Westmoreland had issue:

I. FREDERICK WHEELRIGHT, who died in infancy.

II. THOMAS WHEELRIGHT, who never married, and died without issue.

III. SARAH WHEELRIGHT, who married Major Henry Dashiell.

IV. ANNE ADAMS WHEELRIGHT, who married Thomas Branch of Petersburg and Richmond.

V. FREDERICK WHEELRIGHT, who married, first, Maria Collins, and, second, Ellen Hungerford.

VI. WILLIAM HENRY WHEELRIGHT, who married Margaret Kearfott.

VII. REBECCA WHEELRIGHT, who married John Fallen.

Errata

On page 75 the sub-head should have been set in small italics to denote the third generation in descent from Thomas Branch.

On page 135 for "Epes" read "Eppes."

On page 171 the fifth line should read:
"V. SALLY PRIDE."

By a deplorable error the distinguished name of Wheelwright has been spelt throughout this volume as "Wheelright": as is disastrously apparent on pages 3, 56, 57, 101, 102, 175, 176, and 177.

