

Some English Halleys
and Hawleys
Who Emigrated to America

By

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In Chancery Proceedings (Hamilton), 12 Feb., 1675 (179, 79) is the pedigree following:¹

| | | |
|---|---|-----------|
| Thomas Halley of Peterboro yeoman (died <i>circa</i> 1642) | = | Elizabeth |
| | | |
| Robert Halley (died <i>circa</i> 1658) | = | Edith |
| | | |
| Thomas Halley born <i>circa</i> 1655) | | |

It has been suggested that the elder Thomas Halley (died *circa* 1642) may, just possibly, have been a brother of Humphrey Halley, vintner, formerly haberdasher, who was the grandfather of the famous astronomer bearing that surname. We have no evidence of this, one way or the other. Nor have we any facts to indicate whether or not the younger Thomas Halley (born *circa* 1655) was identical with, or related to, the Thomas Halley, born in England, *circa* 1662, who is mentioned elsewhere as the ancestor of the Halleys in Virginia.²

In *The Gentleman's Magazine*, for 1802, part 2, pp. 877-888; (London, September, 1802), appears this "Obituary":

"July 13. In the prime of life, at Petersburg, in the State of Virginia, America, Mr. Thomas Halley, merchant, a native of Pontefract, Yorkshire."

There was a family of Halley, in Yorkshire,³ who were, perhaps, the ancestors of the Virginia Halleys. We have no proof of this. Nor do we know of any connection between the Halleys of Yorkshire and those of Derbyshire.

In a book entitled 'Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666,' by George

¹ *Notes and Queries* (London. —), eleventh series, vol. vii, page 204.

² "Colonial Families of the United States," vol. ii, pp. 302-307; Baltimore, 1911.

³ *Notes and Queries* (London, 1928), vol. 155, p. 116.

Cabell Greer; (Richmond, Virginia: W. C. Hill Printing Co., 1913), we find, on page 143, these entries:—

Halley, Merciful, 1635, by Capt. Adam Thoroughgood.

Halley, Joseph, 1637, by James Berry, Accomack County.

Halley, John, 1656, by Major Wm. Lewis.

The surnames “Halley” and “Hawley” were spelled rather indifferently and were, at times, used almost interchangeably, during the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, although there were, at least, two distinct and separate families bearing those names respectively.

Burke's ‘Peerage and Baronetage,’ (80th edition), page 1115, (London, 1921), mentions one James Hawley, of Brentford, county Middlesex, born in 1558, who married twice, and had “several children, some of whom settled in America.”⁴

It is said that the town of Hawley, Massachusetts, was settled by one Hawley who married a Mary E. Peake.⁵ We do not know of any connection between this Hawley, and the Joseph Hawley, who is said to have been born at Parwich, Derbyshire, in 1609, emigrated from England to America, in 1629 or 1630, and settled at Stratford, Connecticut, where he was the first town recorder. He was Deputy of the General Court, 1665–1687, and died in 1690. He married, in 1646, Katharine Birdsey, who died in 1692. These facts about Joseph Hawley, of Stratford, Connecticut, are gathered from various sources.⁶ Many of his descendants are living now in America.

According to a tradition, there were three brothers surnamed Hawley, of whom, it is said, one settled in Massachusetts, one in Virginia and one went further south.⁷ The Halleys in Virginia used and still use the old pronunciation “Hawley”, which, indeed, was the pronunciation of the surname of the famous astronomer, during his own life-time. The Kentucky descendants of the Virginia Halleys, however, pronounce the name with a short “a”, making it rhyme with “Sally”.

Mr. George Sherwood's ‘American Colonists in English Records,’ first series, page 23, (London, 1932), contains some references to “The Ark”, sailing to Maryland, in September, 1633, with a pinnacle called “The Dove”. Mention is made of Gabriel Hawley of London, gent., aged 34, in 1635, who had lived in Virginia ten months. His name appears, also, as Gabriel Halley. Reference is made to “Mr. Jerome Hally”.

⁴ Cf. *Notes and Queries* (London, 1933), vol. 165, p. 16.

⁵ *Notes and Queries* (London, 1916), 12th series, vol. i, page. 9.

⁶ “The Compendium of American Genealogy,” vol. v, p. 765, *passim*; see, also, *ibid.*, Index.

⁷ *Notes and Queries* (London, 1916), 12th series, vol. i, page 9.

The 'State Papers—Domestic,' edited by Bruce, contain the entries following:

1635. Sir John Harvey and Mr. Halley (of Virginia and Maryland respectively) say to Whitehall (London) Council that Public Mass exists in Maryland.
1636. Mr. Halley (of Maryland) to notice payments of the "Black George".

These latter entries, however, refer to the family of Hawley, properly so named, rather than to that of Halley.⁸

HALLEYS IN AMERICA.¹

Among some of the Halleys, in Virginia, there is a tradition, that, from England, came "three brothers", one of whom settled in Massachusetts, one in Maryland and the other in Virginia or further south.² We have not been able to confirm this tradition by documentary evidence. We have already shown that the surnames "Halley" and "Hawley" were often interchangeable and, sometimes, pronounced alike. The spelling of surnames even so late as the seventeenth or eighteenth century was far from uniform.

Of the Halleys or Hawleys in Maryland, we find very little information. Jerome Hawley, one of the gentlemen in attendance upon Queen Henrietta Maria, was a Councillor of Maryland, *circa* 1630–1637.³ He was a brother of Henry Hawley, who, for many years, was Governor of Barbadoes, and of William Hawley, a squire, in 1650, of the Protestant Declaration of Maryland. He was, also a brother of James Hawley, of Bramford (? Brantford), county Middlesex, England. He may have been identical with the Jerome Hawley, in Northumberland county, Virginia, in 1655 (Westmoreland County, Virginia, not having then, as yet, been created). Jerome Hawley was one of the first settlers at Fort Tobacco, Maryland. This is on the Maryland side of the Potomac River, opposite the place, in Virginia, where, as shall be seen directly, James, Henry and Edward Halley settled at about the same time (? *circa* 1630–1637).

This Jerome Halley was, no doubt, identical with the "Mr. Halley of Maryland," mentioned in the "State Papers—Domestic," edited by Bruce, as shown in our previous paper.

Jerome Halley (or Hawley) probably married and had issue. Some of his possible descendants may be among the unidentified Halleys (Hawleys) mentioned in the miscellaneous notes collected by Mr. Henry I. Hutton, of Warrenton, Virginia, but not accessible to us now.

⁸ *Ibid.* (1933), vol. 165, page 16.

¹ Based, largely, upon data supplied, *circa* 1927, by Mr. Henry I. Hutton, of Warrenton, Virginia, who had long been collecting material relating to the early history of the Halley family, in Virginia. See *Notes and Queries* (London, 1915), 11th series, vol. xii, p. 339; *ibid.* (1916), 12th series, vol. i, pp. 9, 187.

² *Ibid.* (1916), 12th series, vol. i, p. 9.

³ *Virginia Historical Magazine*, vol. ix, pp. 170–171.

We come next to the Halleys in Virginia, who, invariably, pronounce the name like "Hawley." There were three Hawley brothers, Edward, Henry and James, at Nomony, Westmoreland County, Virginia, in 1665. Nomony is only a short distance from that section of Westmoreland County where Thomas Halley settled. The latter may have been related to the three Hawley brothers at Nomony, who bore the Christian names that have been used by the Virginia Halleys for several generations.

James, Henry and Edward Halley (their surname sometimes takes this form), had several grants of land in Westmoreland county, Virginia, from Governor William Berkley, at various times, from 1665 to 1710, for transporting settlers from England to Virginia. We regret the absence of any information concerning their descendants.

We must, therefore, commence our formal tabulation of the genealogy of the Halleys in Virginia, with:

(1) Thomas Halley, who was born in England, *circa* 1662, and was the progenitor of a large and representative branch of that family in Virginia. In the "Diary,"⁴ of Henry Simpson Halley (1789-1872), a great-grandson of the above named Thomas, it is recorded that the latter was born in Wales, but we have no other authority for this statement.

(1) Thomas Halley emigrated from England, *circa* 1679 or before, for his name appears in the Parish Register, in 1679, of the place now known as Truro parish. He settled on Dogue Run, a small stream which empties into the Potomac River, just below Mount Vernon, then in Westmoreland County. Here he built a log cabin wherein he and his good wife reared their family.

At that time, *circa* 1679, Alexandria was an Indian village. While Thomas Halley was living on Dogue Run, he was captured by some of the neighboring Indians, tied, and carried up the Potomac River to the place which is now Harper's Ferry. One night, after he had been securely tied and placed for the night, between two Indians, they all fell asleep. As the Indians slept, he picked up a mussel shell, cut the rope with which he was bound, slipped from between his two companions, and taking the trail, homeward, arrived in safety before he was overtaken. The Indians reached his log cabin a few hours after his arrival. They looked in and said: "Tom, is that you?" Strange to relate, they did not try to harm him, but each and all fled away quietly to their own haunts. This incident is recorded in the "Diary" of Henry Simpson Halley (1789-1872).

(1) Thomas Halley married, but the name of his wife has not been found. We do not know whether he was married in England or America. If in England, he must have returned there after settling in Virginia, because he was, presumably quite young when he emigrated from England, *circa* 1679. If his son, James, was born in England, as shown elsewhere,⁵ it would prove that he

⁴ The "Diary" was, in 1927, in the possession of Mr. Henry I. Hutton, of Warrenton, Virginia.

⁵ "Colonial Families of the United States," vol. ii, page 302; Baltimore, 1911.

(Thomas) did return to England, for James Halley was born in 1707, twenty-eight years after his father, Thomas, first came to Virginia. Of Thomas Halley's family, we have no authentic record, save of the one child, James.

(2) James Halley, the son of Thomas Halley just mentioned, was born June 14, 1707, possibly in England. James Halley was a prosperous planter. At the time of his death, in 1792, he owned several plantations, and quite a number of slaves.

(2) James Halley died at his home "Pleasant Green", near Fairfax Court House, July 6, 1792. He married Elizabeth Simpson (daughter of Richard Withers Simpson) who was born November 8, 1717, and died July 22, 1785. James Halley and Elizabeth, his wife, had issue:

- (3) i. William, died in 1806, in the 85th year of his age.
- (4) ii. James II., died in his 92nd year.
- (5) iii. John.
- (6) iv. Richard.
- (7) v. Francis.
- (8) vi. Henry Simpson.
- (9) vii. Mary Mountjoy.
- (10) viii. Susan.
- (11) ix. Sallie (or Sarah).
- (12) x. Sybil, who married Jesse Peake.⁶
- (13) xi. an infant, died.
- (14) xii. an infant, died.

Valuable and extensive collections were made by Mr. Henry I. Hutton, of Warrenton, Virginia, relative to later generations. Some other particulars, however, have appeared, in type, elsewhere.⁷

SUPPLEMENTAL DATA:

The sixth child of James Halley and Elizabeth Simpson, his wife, was Henry Simpson Halley, born 18th May, 1762, in Fairfax County, Virginia. He married 8th June, 1786, Elizabeth Hampton (born 21st Sept., 1762; died 24 Sept., 1824), by whom he had nine children, among whom was Samuel Halley, born 29 April, 1798, in Fairfax County, Virginia. This Samuel Halley, who died at Lexington, Kentucky, 30 July, 1872, married Miriam Elkin, 8 May, 1827, and had nine children. Among the latter was Henry Simpson Halley born near Boonesboro, Kentucky, 18 March, 1840; married Alice Hunter Bell, 9 June, 1870, and had four children, the eldest of whom was the late Dr. Samuel Hampton Halley (born 21 Sept., 1871), of Lexington, Kentucky. For further data concerning the Halleys in Kentucky, see "Colonial Families of the United States", vol. ii., pp. 302-307; Baltimore, 1911.

⁶ *Notes and Queries* (London, 1916), 12th series, vol. i, pp. 9, 187.

⁷ "Colonial Families of the United States," vol. ii, pp. 302-307; Baltimore, 1911.

