

ANDERSON OF BUCKINGHAM:
A CASE STUDY IN FAMILY RECONSTRUCTION
WITHIN A "BURNED COUNTY"

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(Continued from V. 27, p. 19)

Part II

Parental Family of William Anderson (1788-1852)

William Anderson and his wife Mary "Polly" Couch of Buckingham Co., Va., had been dead for a decade and more when yet another fire gutted the county courthouse. Destroyed in that year 1869 were the remains of the estate settlements, marriage records, land transactions and court suits which would customarily be used to identify those children censuses suggest were born to the couple in the 1810-1830 period—as well as comparable records needed to identify the birth family of William.

In the first segment of this genealogical excursion¹ through the burned county of Buckingham, there was outlined the investigative process by which the children of William and Polly were identified and their outmigrations were tracked. In the present segment, the outline will progress backwards to identify the birth family of William and to trace his antecedents elsewhere, while providing much peripheral data on the family of his wife,

STEP ONE: REVIEW OF PROBLEM

According to the Anderson family Bible that was located in the possession of a previously-unknown branch of this

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¹ *The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 27, pp. 3-19, reprinted in *Genealogy* (quarterly of the Family History Section, Indiana Historical Society), no. 78, July 1983, pp. 1-11.

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family, the William Anderson who married Miss Couch in Buckingham was born 28 Nov. 1788.² However, the Bible identifies neither father, nor mother, nor place of birth. As Virginia researchers are painfully aware, censuses for the period of William's birth and childhood are either non-existent or seriously incomplete, making it impossible to identify potential fathers through that standard source. While various auxiliary resources also identified several of William's children by name, these records failed to hint at the identity of his siblings. They did indicate, however, that the social and economic radius of this family was a broad one, extending across several of the James River counties. Moreover, the studied surname is a common one, and—as is often the case in problem situations such as this one—there existed even within Buckingham a number of contemporaneous William Andersons.

Given these facts, the documentation process required not only a study of the William who was married to Polly Couch, but also a study of all William Andersons in the region. All extant data on these men had to be ferreted out and appropriately sorted between them, in order to establish a distinctive identity for each. Only in this way might it ultimately be argued that any man proposed as father of William was indeed his father and not, just as likely, the father of one or another of the various Williams.

STEP TWO: REANALYSIS OF KNOWN DATA IN A SPECIFIC SEARCH FOR CLUES TO PARENTAGE

At this point, a search for parentage must begin with an assessment of the known body of data and extraction of available clues to origins. This review spotlighted six salient points:

— The William under study was the only William Anderson of Buckingham who resided along James River. (Therefore, within the remainder of this study he will be identified as William of James River.)

— County land tax rolls identify his James River residence at 18 miles north of the courthouse.³ Contemporary maps show the nearest settlements to be across

² The William Anderson Family Bible is presently in the possession of Mrs. O. D. Campbell, 390 Woodland Dr., Lynchburg, Va.

³ See particularly the assessments for the 1814-22 period, reels 51-52, Buckingham County Land Tax Rolls, Virginia State Archives, Richmond. The fuller series of land tax records used in this study (1781-1850) is found

the river in Albemarle County. In particular, William's plantation, mill, and tanyard should have lain between (but opposite) the old James River villages of Howardsville and Scottsville.

— Several distinctive family names appear among the the given names of the children of William of James River: Benjamin Dabney, Thomas Overton, Elizabeth Howard, Harriet Smith, and James Smith.

— Family tradition among the descendants of William's son Benjamin Dabney (as reported in the prior article, p. 4) held that he was related to the Gilmers, Minors and Dabneys of Virginia and that he was a cousin of Nathaniel Anderson, early pioneer of Memphis, Tenn.

— In-laws have been identified as the Couch family, William being wed to the daughter of Capt. James Couch.

— The religious orientation of William of James River is unknown. Evidence exists that his wife became a Baptist about 1845.⁴ However, no earlier data on church affiliation has been found for either of them.

STEP THREE: IDENTIFICATION OF AVAILABLE RESOURCES

Four basic options exist to the genealogist who is confronted with a "burned courthouse" problem, and all must be exploited to the fullest:

A) Survey of published literature.

B) Identification and utilization of any courthouse resources which may have escaped the fire or any "re-constituted" records that were filed thereafter. In the specific case of Buckingham County, as discussed in the earlier article, one pre-file volume remains in the courthouse: Plat Book I.

C) Identification and utilization of auxiliary resources for the county which may be available in other repositories. The principal records extant for the time period and geographical area involved in this case are:

1) Land and personal tax rolls on file in the Virginia State Archives.

on reels 50-55. Henceforth in this paper the numerous references to these rolls will not be footnoted individually. The cited year and entries can be located easily in the series. Personal tax rolls, which also exist from 1782, are arranged similarly in chronological order at the state archives and will hereinafter be cited by year only in the text.

4 Obituary of "Sister Anderson, Consort of Wm. Anderson, deceased," [Richmond] *Religious Herald*, 26 Jan. 1860.

2) Court Order Book—Buckingham, 1781-1782, original in same repository.

3) Buckingham Co., Va., Court Records, 1805-1873, a collection of microfilmed "loose papers" available on loan through the Genealogical Society of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints, as Microcopy #911083.

4) Extant microfilmed newspapers, identifiable (as in all counties and states) through the Library of Congress' series *Newspapers in Microform* (available in reference section of good research libraries).

5) State level legal records, available at major libraries in published form through *Virginia Reports* as well as the journals of the house and the senate.

D) Research in surrounding counties. As also mentioned earlier, William of James River, his in-laws, and several of his sons were known to have extensive business interests in the counties that lay above, below and across the river from Buckingham. It might be hypothesized at least initially (until and unless proven otherwise) that William's paternal family displayed a similar economic pattern. The potential in this case was particularly promising since those surrounding counties (Louisa, Fluvanna, Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford and Campbell) have extensive record holdings, much of which has been abstracted and published for a convenient preliminary survey of the counties.

As is invariably the case, the investigative process required the frequent re-examination of many of these references as data uncovered in one source provided leads that had to be pursued in resources already used. Therefore, for brevity in this paper, the remainder of the "steps" have been simplified to some degree and only outline the investigations that yielded positive results.

STEP FOUR: SURVEY OF PUBLISHED LITERATURE

Publications on the county of Buckingham itself are sparse, and no concretely useful data were found in any of them;⁵ however, a sizable number of genealogies

⁵ For example, see John Frederick Dorman, "A Guide to the Records of Buckingham County," *The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 6, pp. 121-24; Anne Bradbury Peebles, "Buckingham County, Virginia, and the Southern Parts of Early Albemarle," in *Special Aids to Genealogical Research on Southern Families* (National Genealogical Society, *Special Publications*, No. 15; Washington, 1962), pp. 25-28; and Edythe Rucker Whitley, *Genealogical Records of Buckingham County, Virginia* (Dayton, Ohio, 1984).

exist which treat various Anderson families of Virginia. Most tantalizing of these were:

A) W. P. Anderson, *Anderson-Overton* (Cincinnati, Ohio, 1936). A work which definitely qualifies as one of the most confusing genealogies ever published, *Anderson-Overton* included one family unit of alledged Buckingham residence, whom the author reconstructed as follows (pp. 302-03):

Thomas Anderson b. Feb. 1755; m. Sarah "possibly Smith as two of her children had that middle name."
Issue:

John Smith Anderson
Sarah Smith Anderson m. _____ Winfrey
Ann Anderson m. _____ Couch
Wm. Anderson
Thomas Jefferson Anderson
Maria Gist Anderson
Polly Anderson m. _____ Couch

As is too often the case with published genealogies, the author's documentation is highly inadequate. There is one cryptic citation, "Haring v. Gist, 1881 a. 1472 Petition ... 1883. a. 1371 W." with no identification of the court in which the case was heard or the repository in which the files might be found. A notation following several subsequent abstracts offers scant additional help: "Obtained for the author by Emily Lawn, a public record agent [i.e.: record searcher] of London."

Efforts, by English investigators, to locate the referenced case have proven fruitless. Meanwhile, Anderson's muddled abstracts offer no evidence that the William Anderson alleged to be the son of Thomas was the William under study—aside from the "Couch connection," on which much dependency could not be placed since different branches of families often intermarried with the same other families. While these abstracts proceeded to name numerous heirs of the children attributed to Thomas, none of the known children of William of James River was included.

B) Sarah Travers Lewis (Scott) Anderson, *Lewisess, Meriwethers and Their Kin* (Richmond, 1938). Mrs. Anderson's work likewise offered potentially useful data that was both tantalizing and frustrating. The Anderson line that she sketched (with no documentation at all) was replete with the family names claimed as kin by descendants of William's son B. D.: Dabneys, Overtons, Minors and Gilmers. Moreover, one Anderson who appears prominently in the work (David of Robert, Jr., by Mary Overton) is said (pp. 286-87) to have resided at Scottsville in Albemarle County, which places him almost directly across the river from the William under study. David is further said by the

author to have had sons:

— Nathaniel (with no reference to a possible removal to Memphis)

— William who married Maria Guest (not Gist), who removed to England and whose death without issue resulted in lengthy probate proceedings there a number of years later

— Thomas, about whom the author says nothing more other than the fact that he was "of Buckingham."

Again, as in the case of W. P. Anderson's reference to a British court case, London researchers have not been able to locate the alleged probate proceedings for William and wife Maria "Guest". However, it has been possible to establish that Maria's family name was indeed the same as the "Gist" referenced by W. P. Anderson.⁶ Similarly, it is easily verified that David of Albemarle was the father of one William, Nathaniel, and Thomas, as Sarah Anderson alleged;⁷ and it can be further established that Nathaniel's son, Nathaniel, Jr., moved westward to Memphis in 1823.⁸

In sum—as is commonly the case—published genealogical resources offered circumstantial evidence to suggest antecedents for William of James River. However, documentary proof (or disproof, if such had been the case) of William's parentage had to be established through the analysis and correlation of unpublished primary resources.

STEP FIVE: IDENTIFICATION OF THE VARIOUS WILLIAM ANDERSONS IN BUCKINGHAM

The five available federal censuses for Buckingham during the lifetime of our subject (1810-1850) indicate that there were at least four William Andersons in the

6 See, for example, William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia*, v. 11 (Richmond, 1823), p. 54; the 1768 letters of Samuel Gist to John Smith, published in Eugenia G. and Preston G. Glazebrook, *Virginia Migrations, Hanover County* (Richmond, c1943), v. 2, pp. vii-viii, 18-25, 30-31, 39; and Reginald M. Glencross, "Virginia Gleanings in England," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, v. 37, pp. 39-42.

7 Will of David Anderson, 3 Oct. 1789, abstracted in William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia County Records*, v. 7, p. 115; will of Elizabeth Anderson, Albemarle Co., Va., Will Book 4, p. 159.

8 Mary Catharine Murphy, *Guardians' Bonds of Albemarle County, Virginia, 1783-1852* (Charlottesville, 1968), pp. 35, 41; William L. Norford, *Marriages of Albemarle County*

county:

1) William Anderson, born c1790, enumerated 1810-50. Subject of this sketch. The published index to the 1840 federal enumeration of Virginia identified this individual as "Anderson, William, Jr." However, close analysis of the penmanship on the microfilmed census return indicates that the name should be read "Anderson, Wm. (T.)." This important point will be developed subsequently.⁹

2) William Anderson, Sr., born c1760-1765, enumerated 1810-1840.

3) William Anderson, Jr. [erroneously shown as William Sr. in the published index to the 1810 Virginia enumeration],¹⁰ born 1765-70, enumerated 1810-1830.

4) William K. Anderson, born 1794-1804, enumerated 1820.

However, when the full range of resources available for this "burned" county are utilized—especially the extant tax rolls which exist almost annually from 1782—the above list may be extended to possibly nine men of the same name:¹¹

1) William Anderson, adult resident c1771-81, of Anderson's Meeting House in lower Buckingham (Separatist Baptists under René Chastain)¹²

2) Capt. William Anderson, Sr., taxed c1782-1811, planter near New Canton [possibly same as No. 1]

3) Capt. (inspector) William Anderson, Jr., taxed c1787-1837, planter near New Canton & Webb's Creek; apparent son of No. 2

4) William Anderson, taxed c1805-1852, planter, tanyard owner and mill operator on James River—the subject of this research

5) William Anderson, taxed c1827-1833, Hatcher's Creek, heir of René Chastain and apparent offspring of No. 1

6) William Anderson, taxed 1827 only, W. Holiday Creek

7) William H. Anderson, taxed 1838-1850, lot owner in town of New Canton [possibly two successive men]

and Charlottesville, Virginia, 1781-1929 (Charlottesville, 1956), p. 1; *Elmwood: History of The Cemetery. Biographical Sketches* (Memphis, 1874), pp. 97-136.

9 Ronald Vern Jackson and Gary Ronald Teeple, *Virginia 1840 Census Index* (Bountiful, Utah, 1978), p. 7.

10 Ronald Vern Jackson, David Schaefermeyer and Gary Ronald Teeple, *Virginia 1810 Census Index* (Bountiful, Utah, 1975), p. 7.

11 Unless otherwise indicated, data are taken from the cited tax rolls on file in the Virginia State Archives, Richmond.

12 See Robert B. Semple, *History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia*, ed. by Rev. G. W. Beale (Richmond, 1894), pp. 70, 87, 90, 97.

8) William T. Anderson, taxed for land 1849-1850, Rock Island Creek, son of No. 4

9) William Anderson, taxed 1850, trustee of Pine Grove Church, possibly same as No. 4. It is the 1813 through 1818 land rolls which offer the data most useful in identifying which of the taxed Williams was the husband of Mary "Polly" Couch. In this interval Polly makes a brief appearance on the tax rolls, in the following sequence of entries:

1813 William Anderson. 431 acres, 18 miles N of courthouse, James R.

1814 William Anderson. 429 acres, 18 miles N of courthouse, James R.

Polley Anderson. 2 acres. Anderson Mill, 17 miles N

1815 [Entries duplicate 1814, with additional notation that Polley's 2 acres adjoined the 429 of William]

1816-7 [Duplicate entries]

1818 William Anderson. 431 acres, 18 miles N of courthouse, James R. Notation: "Polly Anderson's 2 acres is conveyed to John Couch"

John Couch. 2 acres. Anderson Mill, 17 miles N of courthouse. Notation "Convd by James Couch"

The seemingly contradictory statements regarding John Couch's acquisition of Polly's 2 acres stems from his controversial handling of the estate of his incapacitated father James, dealings which resulted in a lawsuit against him by one of his siblings.¹³ However, it is apparent from the above tax data, amplified by the testimony in the lawsuit, that the William Anderson who resided along James River was the subject of our search—i.e.: husband of the Polly who appears in the family Bible as daughter of James Couch.

STEP SIX: HYPOTHESIAZATION OF FATHER OF WILLIAM OF JAMES RIVER

In addition to identifying the William who married Polly Couch, this series of tax rolls also provided a vital clue to his parental identity. Throughout the sequence of tax entries outlined above, his name is consistently written: "Anderson, William (S.T.)." (It will be recalled that his name appeared as "Anderson, William [T]" on the 1840 federal enumeration.) The (S.T.) designation continues on the tax rolls, without exception, through his last appearance on the land tax rolls in 1834, and it can be traced backward with equal consistency through

¹³ Lynchburg, Va., Circuit Court, Chancery file 1439.

1800—at which time the appendage to his name appears more fully as "S. Tho." This more explicit "S. Tho." also accompanied his name on the first personal tax roll on which he appeared, that of 1804, Buckingham.

Designations such as these are not at all uncommon on Virginia tax rolls and (to a lesser extent) on early censuses of the commonwealth. As experienced Virginia researchers are well aware, such appendages appear often when more than one individual in the area bore the same name; and they commonly denote a nickname, a place of residence, or "Son of _____." In this case, the presumption is strong that the appendage to his name stood for "Son of Thomas."

That presumption may be adequately verified—indeed, the entire family unit of one Captain Thomas Anderson of Buckingham can be reconstructed—through an analysis of this same series of tax rolls and a correlation of its data with that gleaned from other sources.

STEP SEVEN: RECONSTITUTION OF THE THOMAS ANDERSON FAMILY

The single Thomas Anderson who resided in Buckingham during the period of the birth of William first emerges as a citizen of that county on 18 Nov. 1780. The *Virginia Gazette* of that date carries the advertisement of "Thomas Anderson of Buckingham," offering for rent 150 acres on James River in lower Amherst County with "30 or 40 [acres] opposite in Buckingham."¹⁴ Throughout

14 "Local Notices from the Virginia Gazette," *The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 5, p. 164. The first two actual appearances on record of Thomas Anderson place him in Hanover in 1775. As subsequently shown, he was a resident of that county in January of that year when he married Miss Howard of Buckingham. He appears again that year (*Virginia Gazette*, 6 Oct. 1775, supplement) when he offered a public apology for having made statements that were certainly perceptive, although publicly premature:

Hanover County Committee

An atonement by Thomas Anderson

At a meeting of the committee for Hanover county, September 5, 1775. Whereas I the subscriber have been charged with saying many things injurious to the American cause, and in particular with declaring that this country was in a state of rebellion, and aimed at a state of independence, more than opposition to parliamentary taxation; and whereas due proof is made thereof, before the committee of this county: Now, in order to atone to the utmost of my power, for the injury that may possibly have

the remaining months of the Revolutionary War he appears frequently as Deputy Commissioner or Commissioner of Provisions for Buckingham County, as well as a citizen/patriot making private contributions to the Revolutionary cause.¹⁵

In Oct. 1781 Anderson applied for a new position that was rumored to be available, that of "director" of a "Magazine of Provisions" which would serve the various James River posts of the Southern Army—Charlottesville Barracks, Staunton, and New London. There is no evidence that the position was granted him. When, the following summer, an alternate position was offered by the governor,

been done by me, I do hereby declare, that I am heartily sorry for such my offence; and I do hereby promise, in future, to conduct myself so as to give no just cause of complaint to my countrymen, but to contribute my utmost to the success of the measures adopted for the defence of American liberty.

Thomas Anderson

Hanover, September 5, 1775

The said Thomas Anderson having signed the above concession, is acquitted from farther prosecution; and it is ordered that the clerk do forthwith transmit the same to the printer, to be published in the Gazette.

Bartlett Anderson, clerk.

15 *Calendar of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts*, William P. Palmer, ed., v. 2 (Richmond, 1881), pp. 362, 374, 513, 533. See also Public Service Claims List, Buckingham Co., 1781, and Public Service Claims Court Book, Buckingham County, pp. 19-20, 17, both in Virginia State Archives. According to the public service claims, on 12 May 1781 Anderson filed for reimbursement of the value of unspecified goods provided to the Revolutionary Army. He continues to appear in a similar capacity through the end of 1782, providing 300 pounds of grass fed beef, on 4 June 1781, another 600 pounds shortly thereafter, and another 430 pounds later in that same year. Auxiliary charges for ferrriage for numerous prisoners, guards, and horses, together with "diets" and pasturage for the same individuals, suggests that he also operated a ferry and probably a way-station or tavern along the James River. In 1782 he contributed (albeit under impressment) a "double barrellled gun" to the continental army and in December of that year he appears a final time when one Matthew Anderson (his brother) submitted his bill for 60 days service as "Assistant Commissary to Thomas Anderson."

that of "Commissioner for settling & adjusting the Titles of claimers to unpatented lands, within the District of Washington & Montgomery," he declined. However, it does appear that he accepted a legislative appointment as one of five trustees named in 1782 to "establish a town at the Courthouse in the County of Buckingham."¹⁶

In the wake of the revolution, late in 1782 or 1783, Thomas temporarily removed across the James River from Buckingham to Hanover. In April of the latter year, he "and wife Sarah" (both identified as residents of Hanover), disposed of a portion of their Buckingham landholdings, along Fish Pond Branch of James River, including "land of great Sycamore Island."¹⁷ However, it does not appear that Thomas abandoned all economic activities in Buckingham during this decade, since on 19 March 1784 another tract of 800 acres was surveyed for him along the waters of Buckingham's Rock Island Creek (a branch of the James).¹⁸ Simultaneously, between 1783 and 1789, the land tax rolls of Hanover assess him for 1595 acres in St. Martin's Parish. A portion of these holdings, some 465 acres identified as being the seat of his residence and lying "in the upper end" of the county, had been deeded to him by David Anderson [subsequently identified herein as his father] and in 1789, after their return to Buckingham, Thomas and Sarah conveyed the family tract back to his father.¹⁹

During the last decade of his life, Anderson continued his prior role as a civic leader of Buckingham, as well as one of the county's largest landholders. By 1796 the frequent surveys appearing in extant Plat Book 1, for lands newly-granted to Thomas, were referring to him as Capt. Thomas Anderson.²⁰ The last land and personal property tax roll (1799) compiled before his death in 1800 assessed Thomas for 3805.5 acres, 20 slaves over the age of 16, 6 slaves aged 12-16, and 15 horses, while the county's extant plat book shows a number of additional surveys, for his estate, of lands whose titles had not been finalized before his death.²¹

16 *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, v. 2, pp. 566-67, v. 3, p. 251; Hening, *op. cit.*, v. 11, p. 29.

17 Bailey Fulton Davis, *The Deeds of Amherst County, Virginia, 1761-1807, and Albemarle County, Virginia, 1748-1763* (Easley, S.C., 1979), p. 201, citing Deed Book E, p. 402.

18 Buckingham Co., Va., Plat Book 1, p. 10.

19 Hanover Co., Va., Court Records 1783-92, p. 329.

20 Buckingham Co., Va., Plat Book 1, pp. 88, 99.

21 *Ibid.*, pp. 84, 88, 99, 100, 115, 174, 212. The 1800 date for the death of Thomas is provided in Peachy

Despite the loss of marriage records for Buckingham County, two wives can be identified for Capt. Thomas Anderson, one fully, one partially. The *Virginia Gazette* on 28 Jan. 1775 carried an announcement of the marriage of "Mr. Thomas Anderson, Junr., of Hanover, to Miss Sally Howard, late of Buckingham."²² Sally (or Sarah) is more fully identified in two subsequent documents: a 1785 survey, in adjacent Campbell County, of 400 acres on "both sides of Main Road on Branches of Archer's Creek and Beaver Creek," made for "Thomas Anderson & wife in Right of Benjamin Howard's Entry," and a simultaneous court suit of "Thomas Anderson and Sarah his wife, late Sarah Howard, sole Daughter and heir of Benjamin Howard, Dec'd" against John Talbot, tried in Campbell County also.²³ Sarah's death apparently occurred between 20 April 1789 (at which time she joined Thomas in the reconveyance to his father of the 465-acre family site) and 3 Aug. 1791 (at which time Thomas alone conveyed a portion of his Buckingham land).²⁴

The only documentable reference to the second marriage of Thomas, which has been found to date, appears in the previously cited Plat Book 1. On 22 Oct. 1805, John Patterson, Surveyor for Buckingham County, recorded his 1801 survey of "162 acres of land ... lower side of Rock Island Creek," which had been made for "Robert Rives, Nathaniel Anderson and John Harris, extrs. of Thomas Anderson." A small sliver of the platted land was marked with an asterisk and carried the following note:

This 15 acres was taken out of this tract the 22nd October 1805 agreeable to the last Will and Testament of Captn. Thomas Anderson Decd and added to the tract of 235 acres and Hill's 150 making in all 400 acres which the said Thomas Anderson willed to his late wife now Mrs. Birks.²⁵

R. Grattan, ed., *Report of Cases Decided in the Supreme Court of Appeals of Virginia*, v. 11 (Richmond, 1855), p. 172, case of *Tapscott v. Cobbs et als.* The date given in this suit is supported by the personal tax series which assessed "Thomas Anderson" in 1799 and the "Thomas Anderson Est." in 1800.

²² Glazebrook, *op. cit.*, v. 2, p. 93.

²³ Campbell Co., Va., Order Book 1, 1781-1785, p. 376; Survey Book I, unnumbered page.

²⁴ Hanover Co., Va., Court Records 1783-92, p. 329; "Records of Hanover County," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 1st ser., v. 21, p. 145.

²⁵ Buckingham Co., Va., Plat Book 1, page number not visible on photocopy supplied by Buckingham County courthouse staff, survey dated 10 July 1801, annotated 22 Oct. 1805.

The identity of the Widow Anderson, "now Mrs. Birks," is partially revealed by the same land tax rolls which enable researchers to piece together Thomas' other heirs and offspring.

Between 1800 and 1803 Anderson's estate was annually charged for seven tracts totalling 3353 acres. The 1804 roll, however, showed drastically reduced holdings. At the same time there first appeared on the roll a female surnamed "Burks" who was taxed for precisely 400 acres:

Dolly Burks 400 acres @ 3 sh 0p total value 60.00.00
The maiden identity of the second Mrs. Anderson, Dolly, has not been established. It is not improbable that she was a Couch and a sibling of the six Couches (children of Captain James) who married offspring of Thomas Anderson. It is noted that when Daniel Couch (another son of Captain James) died in 1811, his heirs included a minor daughter Dolly. It is also noted that the accounts paid by the estate on 6 July 1813, on behalf of the minors, included a payment to one "D. Burks" for money expended for stockings for Daniel's orphaned son John.²⁶

The second husband of Dolly (Couch?) Anderson Burks can be identified as one of two Samuel Burks who resided contemporaneously in Buckingham. Plat Book 1, which noted the subtraction of 15 acres from a corner of Anderson's land, as part of his bequest to his widow "now Mrs. Birks" contains yet another survey of Anderson

26 Bedford Co., Va., Will Book D-4, p. 229; Will Book H-8, pp. 257-64. If this hypothesis proves correct, an interesting situation will exist in which (via a series of eight marriages) seven siblings married a grandfather, five of his children, and one of his grandchildren—i.e.:

Dolly ?Couch	m. 1791-1800	Thomas Anderson
John Couch	m. 1804 (1st)	Anderson
" "	m. 1810-11 (2nd)	Mary "Polly" Anderson
James Bartlett Couch	m. 1800	Ann Anderson
Jesse E. Couch	m. c1810-17	Ann Anderson (widow Couch)
Mary "Polly" Couch	m. 1807	William Anderson
Edward Couch	m. 1813	Sarah Anderson (widow Winfrey)
Marshall J. Couch	m. c1810-13	Winfrey, dtr of Sarah

The Couch-Couch and Couch-Anderson intermarriages were to continue in subsequent generations, as noted further in this paper.

land (p. 99) which carries the notation "15 Acres Surveyd for Saml. Birks 22 Oct 1805, agreeable to Capt. Thos. Anderson's Will." Dolly (not Samuel) appears continuously on the tax rolls through 1811, taxed for her 400 acres on Rock Island Creek; thereafter the land is assessed to Samuel.²⁷ No definite trace of Dolly has been found past this point.

(To be continued)

²⁷ In 1840, Samuel Burks and family are enumerated on the federal census as the next door neighbors of the newly-married William D. Couch (son of James Bartlett Couch and Ann Anderson, and possibly the nephew of Dolly Anderson Burks). By 1850 Wm. D. and wife Jane had removed to Botetourt County (Federal census, Population schedule, Western Dist., p. 1013, dwelling/family 1005), where they shared their home with apparently-twin spinsters, Elizabeth and Mary Burks, born 1818. Elizabeth still resided in the family in 1860 (Botetourt Co., Va., federal census, population schedule, Fincastle P.O., p. 100, dwelling/family 633). It is further noted that twins were also born to William D. and Jane, one of whom was named Dolly. The possibility is worth pursuing that Jane and the twin spinsters who lived with her may have been daughters of Dolly and Samuel Burks. Census data for the Samuel Burks household is compatible with such a hypothesis.

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(Continued from V. 30, p. 187)

PART II, CONTINUED

In the same year in which the Thomas Anderson Estate was diminished and Dolly Burks first appeared on the tax roll (1804), there also appeared five "new" Anderson taxpayers:

John Smith Anderson	417 acres @ 17 sh 9 p	
		total value 370.00.09
Maria Gist Anderson	450 acres @ 16 sh 8 p	375.00.00
William Anderson	431 acres @ 17 sh 5 p	375.06.07
Mary Anderson	552 acres @ 23 sh 7 p	374.18.00
Thomas Jeff ⁿ Anderson	582 acres @ 12 sh 10 ¹ p	374.13.03

While an assumption might be made that the new taxpayers were his heirs, that assumption cannot be automatically made since that same series of tax rolls indicates the existence of at least four other Anderson heads-of-households in the county. Additional evidence supporting a presumption of heirship is needed and is partially found within the auxiliary data shown in each of the above entries. While a wide variance exists in the acreage taxed to the five new Andersons (a fact which might weigh against a presumption of an equitable division among heirs) it must be noted that the total value of each piece of property above is within a few shillings of every other.

Further search of the land rolls revealed that only three other individuals in the county were taxed on land with a value that was anywhere near comparable to the five new Anderson tracts:

James Bartlett Couch	508 acres @ 14 sh 9 p	
		total value 374.13.00
John Couch, Jr.	472 acres @ 15 sh 10 p	375.02.11
Samuel Winfrey	408 acres @ 18 sh 4 p	374.17.00

The landholdings of these eight individuals, when totaled, closely approximate but do not precisely equal the total of the land charged to Thomas Anderson in 1799 plus that surveyed for him between 1800 and 1804. When each of these eight tracts is further traced through

1812 and subsequent tax rolls (which state location) all were found to be in and around the area described as 17 to 18 miles north of Courthouse, or Rock Island Creek of James River, where William Anderson was established and where the lands of Captain Thomas Anderson were surveyed.

Likewise, the above list of taxpayers almost matches the list of Thomas Anderson heirs appearing in the previously cited genealogy by W. P. Anderson—allegedly taken from court proceedings in London which have not been located. The variances that exist between these two lists result not from deficiencies in the tax rolls but apparently from the compilation of an incomplete genealogy by the attorneys involved in the legal suit. Principally, the shortcomings found in the W. P. Anderson abstracts are the omissions of one Anderson daughter who died relatively young and several additional husbands for two of her oft-married sisters.

Using the richly detailed tax rolls, courthouse holdings of surrounding counties, and extant papers of an associated family permits the reconstruction of the following list of children for Captain Thomas Anderson:

1. Sarah Smith Anderson. Sarah's first husband, identified only as a Winfrey in the legal settlement referenced by W. P. Anderson, can be more fully identified as Samuel Winfrey through the Buckingham land tax rolls.

Apparently the first child born to Thomas by his wife Sarah Howard (i.e.: born *ca.* 1776) the younger Sarah actually was married three times, the Winfrey marriage noted by W. P. Anderson being only the first. By Winfrey, whom she appears to have wed *ca.* 1794 (judging by the births of her children as deduced from their own marital and tax data), Sarah bore six children.¹

¹ Commissioner's Report upon the Estate of Sam^l Winfry, Dec'd, Box 1, Folder: 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1818, 1819, Personal Papers File #1219S: Patteson Family Papers, Virginia State Archives. Samuel Winfry's children and heirs are therein identified as: 1) Samuel Winfry, Jr.; 2) Thomas Winfry; 3) Eli Ballowe (by right of marriage to Miss Winfry whose given name is yet unknown); 4) Marshall J. Couch (by right of marriage to Miss Winfry who is therein unidentified but who appears to be the Mariah A. Couch identified as his wife in 1818 and widow in 1829 [DBuckingham Co., Va., Deed Book E, p. 14, and Bedford Co., Va., Deed Book 21, p. 448]); 5) Eliza Winfry (who was not yet married by 18 Jan. 1813); and 6) John Winfry.

Sarah's second marital venture can be likewise traced through a correlation of tax rolls and official documents privately preserved. After Winfrey's death (ca. 1811) his estate was taxed for both his land and the 408 acres inherited by Sarah from her father. Between 1813 and 1815, the assessment for the Anderson land was transferred to Edward Couch (apparently another son of James). Again in 1816 the responsibility for taxes on the land changed hands—this time returning to the charge of Sarah, who is now identified as Sarah S. Couch. Confirmation that Sarah, in the interim, did marry Edward Couch is provided by privately-preserved copies of the 1813 Samuel Winfrey estate settlement which shows the assignment of dower to "Mrs. Sarah Couch, Late Sarah Winfrey."²

In the year 1823 Sarah Couch is dropped from the tax rolls again, a situation occasioned by her taking yet

29 *Ibid.* No document has been found yet which specifically identifies the parentage of Edward Couch. The hypothesis that he is son of Captain James is based upon the following:

1) Edward Couch and Marshall J. Couch are the only two Couch males appearing on the Buckingham tax rolls who do not appear as a head-of-household on the 1810 census. The marriages of both are known to have occurred after that date, and it is probable that they were still in the parental home in 1810.

2) That 1810 census and all prior tax rolls back to 1782 indicate the existence of only two adult Couch males in the county of adequate age to be the father of Edward and Marshall J.: Captain James Couch and Captain John Couch [John Couch, Sr.].

3) Of these two potential fathers, in 1810 John had no young and single adult males (or anyone other than his apparent wife) in his household while James had two males 16-25. One of the two can be accounted for in the person of Marshall J. Couch, a proven son of James. No accounting can be made for the second young male in James' household in 1810, if it not be Edward.

4) The 1797-1812 land tax rolls credited John Couch with 1379 acres of land. The 1813 tax roll assessed his estate with 1359 acres. After a survey made on 2 November of that year [Buckingham Plat Maps, Virginia State Archives] to effect a division of his estate, the 1814 tax roll showed 1324 acres "devised from estate of John Couch" to John Patteson and Thomas Tindall [by right of their marriage with Couch daughters]. Edward, who was still alive in 1814, was not included among the heirs and devisees of John.

another husband. In March 1824 there was initiated in the court of Buckingham County a lawsuit (whose papers also have been privately preserved) labelled *Thomas Patteson & Sarah his wife, formerly Sarah S. Couch, for George Booker v. Marshall J. Couch—Debt.*³ The life of Sarah has not been traced past this point.

2. John Smith Anderson, called "Jack" in the will of his grandmother, was born 1776-81 according to a correlation of ages shown on the 1810 federal census of Buckingham and the 1840 federal enumeration of Hopkins Co., Ky.⁴ The 1805 land tax roll of Buckingham shows his further acquisition "pr A.'s Exors" of another 50 acres formerly belonging to Captain Thomas. The 1813 tax roll places his landholdings "on James River, his place of residence," and the 1814 roll further identifies it as being 18 miles north of the courthouse (as were the lands of the other reconstructed heirs of Captain Thomas). In 1816 John S., his brother William Anderson, and one Marshall J. Couch (William's brother-in-law who was also married to William and John's niece, the daughter of Sarah Anderson Winfrey) were appointed commissioners to divide the estate of Marshall's brother, Daniel Couch, in Bedford County.⁵

The 1817 tax roll drops John as a taxpayer and inserts the comment "John S. Anderson's conv. to Chs. A. Scott." He is similarly deleted that year from the personal tax rolls. John has not been found again until 1840, at which time he surfaces in Hopkins Co., Ky., being named in February of that year as executor of the will of his brother-in-law John Couch. He subsequently was enumerated on the federal census of that year as residing next door to his sister and nephew, Mary and Daniel Couch.⁶ John Smith Anderson has not been tracked past this date.

3. Ann Anderson, whose birth can be bracketed between 1766-84 by age data shown on the 1810 federal census⁷ or after 1776 by the date of her parents' marriage, most probably was born about 1780. While W. P. Anderson

3 Patteson Family Papers, *loc. cit.*, Box 1, folder 1824

4 Albemarle Co., Va., Will Book 4, p. 159, will of Elizabeth Anderson; Buckingham Co., Ky., 1810 census, p. 11a, line 13; *Census of Hopkins County, Kentucky* (Madisonville, Ky., 1970), p. 99.

5 Bedford Co., Va., Circuit Court Will Book 4, p. 229.

6 Annie Walker Burns Bell, *Record of Marriages and Wills of Hopkins County, Kentucky* (Washington, 1937), p. 27; *Census of Hopkins County, Kentucky, loc. cit.*

7 Buckingham Co., Ky., 1810 census, p. 6a, line 13.

shows her married to one Couch of unknown first name, it is apparent that she was actually (and successively) the wife of two of the Couch brothers.

Prior to the 1804 division of her father's estate, Ann married James Bartlett Couch. (The marriage possibly occurred before 1800. James' taxation separately from his father that year, on both land and personal rolls, at least suggests that he maintained his own residence.) The tax rolls further indicate that James Bartlett died in 1809 and that three children later inherited his estate.⁸

Federal census and county tax data indicate that Ann Anderson Couch did not long remain a widow. In 1810 she appears alone, as a slaveowner, with no children—listed consecutively with her brother-in-law Jesse E. Couch, who is assigned children matching known data for Ann, while no prior wife can be found for Jesse.⁹ By 1817 (birth data for the offspring of the union suggest a date by 1813) Jesse was surely the husband of his brother's widow; the land roll of 1817 taxed one

⁸ In 1831 James B. Couch's estate of 262 acres was reduced to 175 acres when young James M. Couch and wife sold 82 acres (roughly 1/3) of it to T. M. Bondurant (according to notation provided on land tax roll of that year). In 1833 the estate was again reduced when young James further sold his share of the portion that had been inherited by B. A. Couch, dec'd, a second son of James B. who apparently died without issue leaving at least one whole brother and two half-brothers. The tax entry for the purchaser in that year, John H. Tapscott, adds the note "Conv by Jas M. Couch: 1/3 of B. A. Couch's portion of his father's land." The estate was further reduced at sheriff's sale in 1835 by 95 3/4 acres being conveyed for taxes to one John Chambers (according to the tax roll) who likewise purchased 106 acres which one Caroline Couch had inherited from the estate of John Turner. (Buckingham Co., Va., 1850 census, dwelling 116, family 116, shows Caroline E. Couch, age 35, and sons, residing next door to the widowed Martha Turner, age 70). Between 1836 and 1842 the 95 3/4 acres remaining in the estate of James B. Couch was taxed as a "resident" estate but in 1843 it was transferred to "Non Resident" status. The remaining heir to the estate has not been identified. The only identifiable non-resident of the county in this complex family in that year was James M. Couch's half-brother William D. (son of Ann by Jesse E.)

⁹ Buckingham Co., Va., 1810 census, p. 6a, lines 12-13.

Charles A. Scott on thr 508 acres (18 miles north of courthouse on James River) which Ann had inherited from her father Thomas. The tax entry carries the further notation "conv^d by Jesse E. Couch & Ann Couch."

Between that tax year 1817 and the date of the 1820 enumeration, Ann appears to have died. The latter census (p. 144) shows Jesse with three young sons under the age of 10 and no wife.¹⁰ On Christmas Day 1824, Jesse E. rewed in Bedford County to Doshia Wilkerson, daughter of Parson Wilkerson,¹¹ who bore him several other children prior to the 1832 death noted on Buckingham tax rolls.¹²

4. Thomas Jefferson Anderson, born between 1780 and 1790, according to the 1810 federal enumeration;¹³ his birth most probably occurred 1780-82. About 1809-10, he was bonded in Bedford County to marry Ann Meriweather Thompson, daughter of Waddy Thompson. He remained in possession of his Buckingham County land through 1813,

10 Buckingham Co., Va., 1820 census, p. 144, line 4. One Ann Anderson does appear on the 1820 census (p. 131, line 9), but surely is not the same person. The 1820 Ann resides next door to the older widow Frances Anderson and a few doors from one Olive Anderson—both belonging to a separate "set" of Andersons who resided in a different tax district from those under study.

Only two of the three sons of Jesse E. Couch and Ann Anderson appear to have lived to share in Jesse's estate—William D. and Edward. The 1839 and 1840 tax rolls charge William D. Couch with the assessment for "Edward Couch's Int. in Jesse E. Couch's Est." although it showed no actual division of the land. In 1843 the roll notes that William D. had conveyed to John H. Tapscott, in 1842, "Edwar Couche's int. in Jesse E. Couche's Est.," although, again, the land left by Jesse had not been diminished in acreage. Finally, the 1844 roll states that the entire 334 acres of Jesse E.'s estate (Presumably the shares of William D. as well as young Edward and almost certainly those of the children of Jesse by Doshia) had all been conveyed to Tapscott.

For an additional discussion of William D. Couch, whose wife was possibly a daughter of Widow Thomas Anderson by her second husband, Samuel Burks, see note 27 (*The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 30, p. 187).

11 Bedford Co., Va., General Index to Marriage Bonds, p. 29.

12 Buckingham Co., Va., 1830 census, p. 285, line 26; Bedford Co., Va., 1850 census, dwelling 60, family 60.

13 Buckingham Co., Va., 1810 census, p. 11b, line 16.

but in 1814 his land was assessed to Waddy Thompson with the notation "Conveyed by Tho. J. Anderson." Relocating in Bedford, Thomas is found there as late as the 1829-33 period in which Milton and Silas Sharp were bonded to marry two of his daughters, Mary L. and Maria G. Anderson.¹⁴

5. _____ Anderson, female, born between 1784 and 1794, according to the 1810 federal enumeration; her birth more likely occurred at the earliest end of that time frame. By the 1804 division of her father's estate she had become the wife of John Couch, Jr. (son of Captain James) in whose name her inheritance was taxed, although the presence of a male aged 10-16 in her household in 1810 suggests that the marriage occurred a year or so before 1800 (unless John had been married previously). This unidentified daughter of Captain Thomas Anderson appears to have died shortly after the 1810 census,¹⁵ leaving two sons and a daughter who were raised by her sister (and her replacement as John's wife), Mary Anderson.¹⁶

6. William Anderson, born 28 Nov. 1788, according to his Bible, married Mary "Polly" Couch, daughter of Captain James Couch, on 22 Feb. 1807.¹⁷

7. Mary "Polly" Anderson, apparently born in 1790.¹⁸ Mary was taxed in her own right, for her inherited land, through 1810, but in 1811 the assessment was charged to John Couch who already was in possession of another share

14 Bedford Co., Va., Index to marriage Bonds.

15 Buckingham Co., Va., 1810 census, p. 11a, line 18.

16 If it is presumed that the first three children named in the 1840 will of John Couch were his three oldest children, then these two sons and one daughter by the unidentified first wife would be Edward Smith, John L. and Mary Ann Couch, the latter of whom was by that time the wife of her cousin James D. Couch (son of Daniel).

17 For a fuller biographical sketch than is presented here, see Part I, *The Virginia Genealogist*, v. 27, pp. 3-19.

18 Buckingham Co., Va., 1820 census, p. 143, line 23, brackets her birth between 1775 and 1794. Buckingham Co., Va., 1830 census, p. 283, line 14, places it between 1780 and 1790, while Hopkins Co., Ky., 1840 census, *loc. cit.*, attributes the birth to the 1790-1800 period. If the birth did occur in 1790, then it probably occurred early in that year since she appears to have had one younger sibling and her mother's death may be reasonably dated before 3 Aug. 1791, as previously discussed.

of the estate via his apparent first marriage to Mary's sister.

More commonly called John Couch, Jr. (at least through 1815 when tax rolls indicate that Buckingham's older John Couch had died), Mary's husband appears frequently in records of the surrounding counties. In 1812, as administrator of the estate of his brother Daniel, he petitioned the Albemarle County Court for permission to implement a 50 percent increase in "the rate of ferriage at the Warren Ferry across James River." Permission was granted.¹⁹ In the period 1818-35, John and his wife Mary, together with his brother Marshall J. Couch and the latter's wife Maria A. [Winfrey], were proprietors of various lots in Lynchburg along James River and 2nd Alley, and 10th and 11th Streets between 5th and 7th Alleys, with a "lumber house" being erected by the brothers on one of the river bank properties.²⁰

As possibly the eldest of a large number of siblings, John Couch, Jr., was clearly the most dominant figure of his family. Various documents in the counties of Bedford and Albemarle, and the city of Lynchburg, indicate that he not only served as administrator of the estate of his brother Daniel, but also in the same capacity for brothers James Bartlett, and Marshall J. When in 1817 his father suffered a "palsy stroke" that left him "incapable of attending to his business" and "for the most part confined to his house, very often to bed," John took over the administration of his father's navigation business. It was in the latter capacity that John was sued, in 1821, by his remaining brother Jesse E., who alleged his misadministration of the father's estate. The documents filed in that case, heard in the courts of nearby Lynchburg, richly fill family gaps left by the loss of Buckingham records.²¹

In 1832 John and his brother-in-law William Anderson arranged for the survey of 170 acres of land which they held in common, lying along "some of the small branches of Rock Island Creek." Soon thereafter, it appears, John removed to Hopkins Co., Ky., where in Nov. 1834 he executed a power of attorney in favor of Curtis C. Nunnally of Buckingham to sell his lumber house in the

¹⁹ Nathaniel Mason Pawlett, ed., *Albemarle County Road Orders, 1783-1816* (rev. ed.; Charlottesville, 1980), p. 202.

²⁰ Lynchburg, Va., Chancery File #549, *Couch v. Shoemaker*, and Index to Conveyances.

²¹ Lynchburg, Va., Chancery File #549, *loc. cit.*, and Chancery File #1439, *Couch v. Couch*.

town of Lynchburg—a property subsequently described in the *Lynchburg Virginian* as "that large and Commodious Stone Building ... known by the name of Couch's Lumber House, situated on the margin of the river, immediately below the bridge."²²

John did not similarly dispose of his Buckingham lands after his move. In 1839 another 42 acre tract which he owned jointly with William Anderson was surveyed for the pair,²³ and John continued to be taxed on the property through his death. In 1840, the buildings on John's property, which had been valued at \$3542 on the 1838 tax roll but had depressed in price to \$800 by 1839 due to a nationwide financial panic, inexplicably "disappeared" from the 1840 assessment—perhaps lost to fire. It was in this year that John died in Kentucky, drafting his will on 16 Feb. 1840. His widow, the former Mary Anderson, was still alive when the federal enumeration was made that summer, but has not been tracked past that point.²⁴

8. Maria Gist Anderson, apparently the last infant born to Captain Thomas by his wife Sarah Howard, was named for Maria Gist (daughter of Samuel Gist by his wife Mary Massie, the widow of the Gould Hill merchant, John Smith) who had eloped *ca.* 1767 with Thomas' brother William.²⁵ Upon the death of Sarah, the older Maria Anderson (nee Gist) took her namesake "as an infant & adopted [her] with the fondness of a mother." The young Maria Gist Anderson was left a generous bequest in the 1793 will (codicil dated 1795) of her uncle and adopted

²² Buckingham Co., Va., Land Plat Book I, p. 27; Lynchburg, Va., Deed Book M, p. 73; *Lynchburg Virginian*, various issues, Jan. 1836.

²³ Buckingham Co., Va., Plat Book I, p. 23.

²⁴ Will of John Couch, *loc. cit.* Children identified by John in his last will and testament were: Edward Smith, John I., Mary Ann (wife of Jas. D. Couch), Sarah Elizabeth (wife of Joseph Roots), James Daniel, Nicholas Meriweather, Thomas Gaffena [Jefferson], Curtice Nunally, Orville Gist, Geo. Calvin, and Susan Rebecca. As executors, he named his brother-in-law, John S. Anderson, and his son-in-law and nephew, James D. Couch.

²⁵ Eugenia G. and Preston G. Glazebrook, *Virginia Migrations, Hanover County* (Richmond, c1943), v. 2, pp. vii-viii, 18; letter of Samuel Gist to John Smith [Jr.], 26 Jan. 1768, in *ibid.*, pp. 30-31; letters of John Norton to John Hatley Norton, 1766-68, in Frances Norton Mason, ed., *John Norton & Sons* (Richmond, 1937), pp. 25-30, 43-48.

father, William Anderson, who was at that time a merchant residing at Vauxhall, parish of Lambeth, Great Britain.²⁶ It appears that young Maria remained in England thereafter with her adopted mother. Between 1804 and 1806, her inheritance from her father was taxed in Buckingham in her own name, but an annotation on the 1807 roll indicates that her interest was purchased by James Bartlett Couch, her brother-in-law.

No adequately documented evidence has been found, past this point, relating to the life of Maria. The W. P. Anderson account of the London litigation between Haring and Gist, 1881, cites as defendants "Samuel Gist, Martin Pearkes & Mary his wife, late Mary Anderson, Wm. Fowks, John Anderson now dec., Wm. Beddis & Maria Gist his wife, late Maria Gist Anderson, an infant represented by the said Mary Pearkes, late Mary Anderson, her guardian." It would appear from the foregoing that the first Maria Gist, widow of William Anderson, was remarried to Pearkes, and that the wife of Beddis was the orphaned child of Thomas and Sarah Howard Anderson. The 1881 date attributed to the abstract is inconsistent with the details given. Most, if not all, of the above individuals should have been deceased long before that time. It would appear that the case was initiated a number of decades prior to 1881 and that it possibly remained in litigation until the date which W. P. Anderson abstracted from the notes of his London researcher in the 1930s.²⁷

The English will of William Anderson, among other records, provides the needed documentary evidence to establish that Captain Thomas Anderson, Gent., of Buckingham, was one and the same Thomas, son of David and Elizabeth Mills Anderson of Albemarle. Among the numerous provisions of his will, William identifies the infant Maria Gist Anderson as his niece and adopted daughter, refers to the estate of "my grandfather Mills ... in Virginia," and variously mentions his brothers Thomas, Nathaniel, and David, and his brother-in-law Dabney Minor. The three brothers, as well as William himself and Minor's wife Ann, are likewise named as children in the wills of David, Sr., and Elizabeth Mills Anderson. Similarly the last testament of Elizabeth includes a bequest to "grandson Jack Anderson, son of Thomas Anderson," of 465 acres in Hanover County, while it has

²⁶ Will of William Anderson, in Reginald M. Glencross "Virginia Gleanings in England," *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, v. 37, pp. 39-42.

²⁷ W. P. Anderson, *Anderson-Overton* (Cincinnati, 1945), pp. 302-03.

been shown that Thomas of Buckingham left a son and heir named John [i.e., "Jack," by nickname].²⁸ The property thereby bequeathed to Thomas' son, moreover, appears to be the same 465 acres which David, Sr., sold to Thomas, and which Thomas and wife Sarah of Buckingham reconveyed to David, Sr., in the 1780s by an indenture in which the land was described as that "on which Thomas formerly lived."²⁹ Additionally, in a letter of 6 Aug. 1782, dated at Buckingham, Thomas referred to David Anderson, Jr., of Hanover, specifically identifying him as his brother.³⁰

The link between Thomas of Buckingham and David, Sr., of Albemarle, thus established, marks the completion of this genealogical excursion through the burned county of Buckingham. It also marks the beginning of a new family odyssey through three generations of Andersons that already have been extensively researched (David, Sr.³, Robert, Jr.², Robert, Sr.¹) and through such other equally prominent Virginia lines as the Massies, Overtons, Cloptons, and Booths.³¹

28 Will of Elizabeth Anderson, Albemarle Co., Va., Will Book 4, p. 159.

29 Hanover Co., Va., Record Book 1783-92, p. 329.

30 *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*, v. 3 (Richmond, 1883), p. 251.

31 The previously cited genealogy by Sarah Anderson, *Lewisess, Meriwethere and Their Kin*, offers much on these ancestral lines; regrettably the work is almost entirely undocumented, although the publication has been found to be far more reliable than many of its genre. A similarly informal overview can be found in Bessie Lamar Anderson Calvert's chapter, "Anderson," published in Mrs. John Bennett Boddie, ed., *Historical Southern Families*, v. 15 (Baltimore, 1971), pp. 201-20.