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GRG

# Journal

## The Jacobite Rebellion of 1715

By John Blankenbaker

As a result of the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715 in Scotland, George Hume spent nearly all of his adult life in Virginia where he became a respected surveyor including areas inhabited by Germanna people. Also, he was an ancestor of several Germanna families. For these reasons it is instructive to examine why there was a Jacobite Rebellion in 1715.



*James Francis Edward Stuart, Catholic son of the deposed King James II of England, was called the "Old Pretender." He landed in Scotland in 1715 to lead the Jacobite Rebellion but, disappointed by poor prospects for a victory, left for the Continent.*

Henry VIII of England declared himself to be the head of the Catholic church in England. This was not long after the start of the Reformation in the 1520s. Henry did not desire to change the practices of the church in England, but as the head of it he could approve his divorce from Catharine of Aragon which the pope in Rome would not approve. Down through the succeeding monarchs, changes were made in what become known as the Church of England. Not all of the monarchs were staunchly Catholic or Protestant though many showed some inclination to one belief or the other.

In 1588, during the reign of Elizabeth I, who was a daughter of Henry VIII, Philip of Spain looked upon himself as the lay leader of the Catholics in Europe. He felt that he was beholden to return England to the Catholic fold. At this time, many the citizens in England regarded themselves as Catholic but within the framework of the English church.

Philip assembled an army and a navy for the invasion of England. His navy was the largest in the world at that time and highly regarded. The fleet, called the Armada, progressed to the English channel. The defending English fleet was only about half the size of the Armada but they had some advantages. They knew the navigation problems of this area, they had faster ships though they were smaller on the average, and they had larger cannon that they could fire at three times the rate of the Spanish guns. The Spanish were not well supplied logistically and they had shortages in water and munitions. Also, they were suffering from an epidemic of influenza.

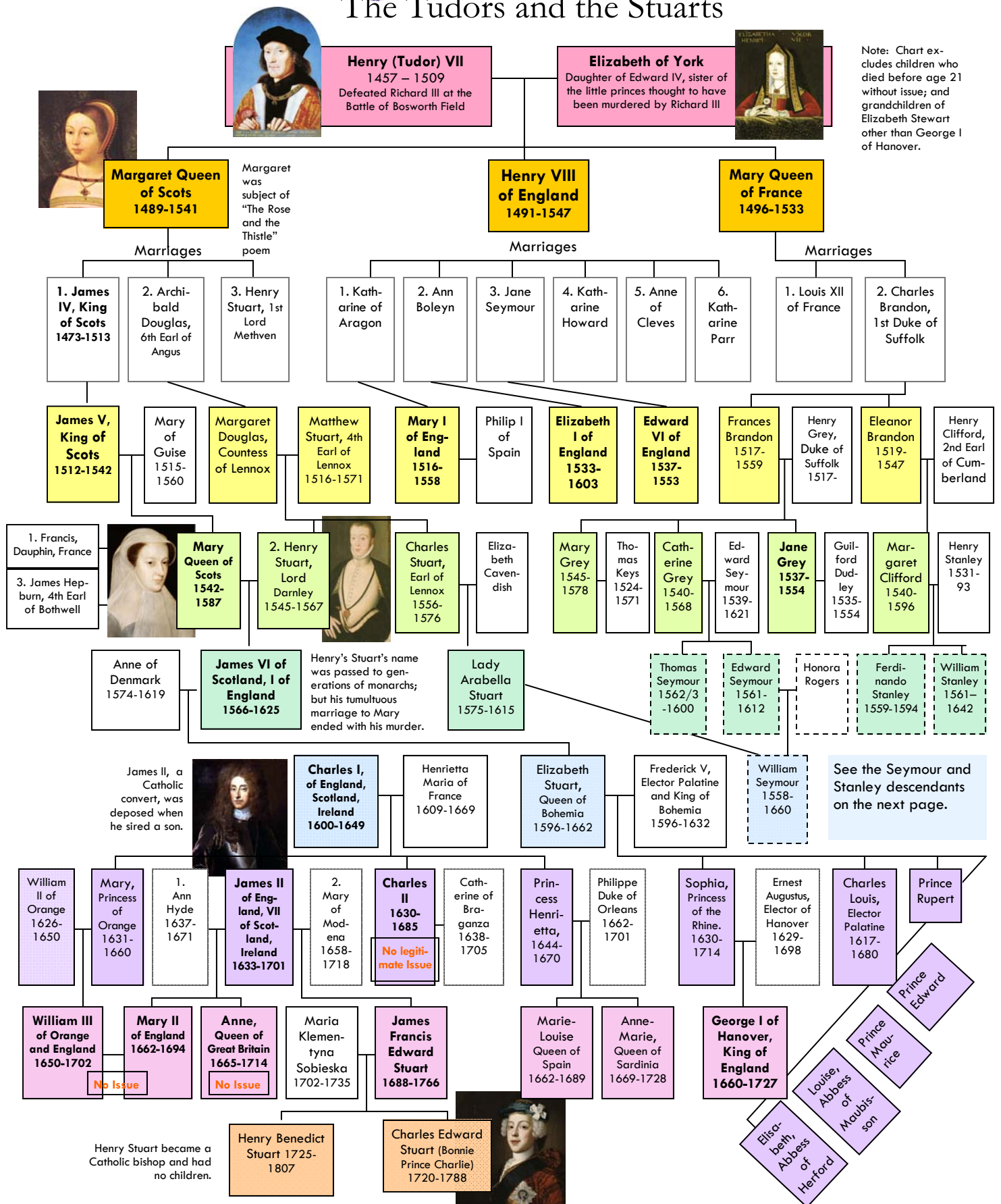
The English attacked the anchored ships on the Continental side of the channel at night with fire ships that caused panic among the Spanish who cut their cables and attempted to flee. The English were able to sink a large number of the disorganized Spanish ships. After a battle at sea the next day, the Spanish decided upon retreat via the North Sea around Scotland and back to

### Also See:

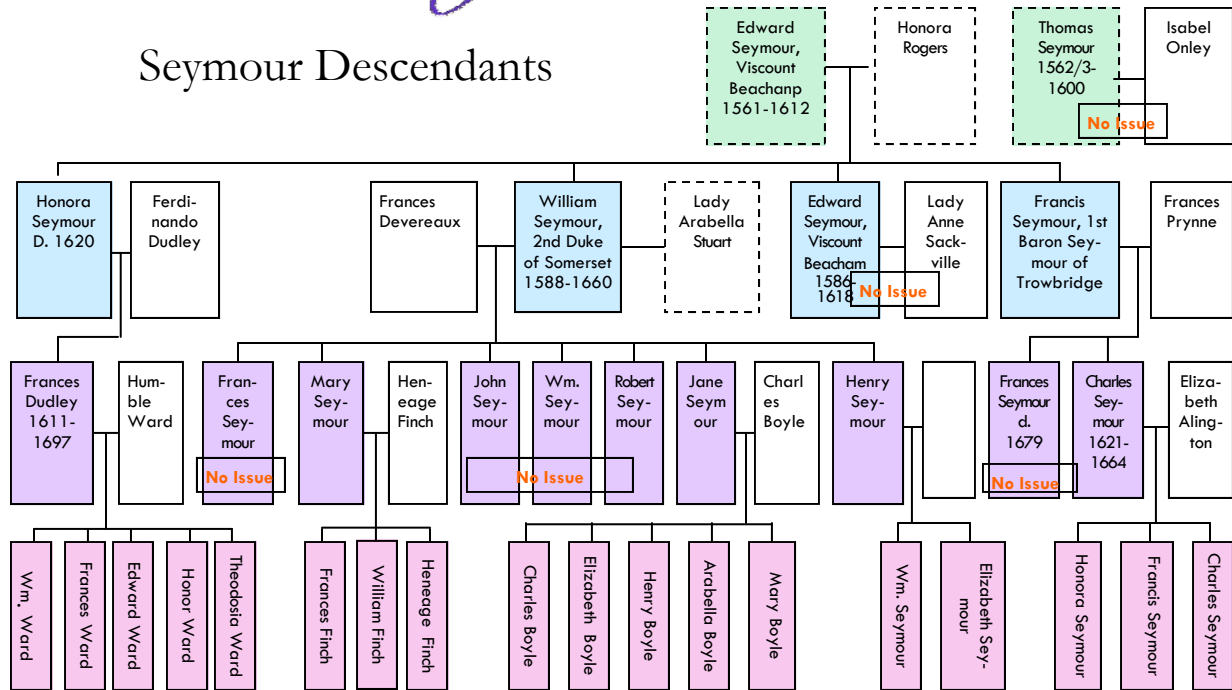
**John Fishback, Revolutionary War Soldier and Germanna Descendant, by Suzanne Collins Matson, p. 8**

**Spotswood Comes To Virginia, by Michael L. Oddenino and Suzanne Collins Matson, p. 13**

## The Tudors and the Stuarts



## Seymour Descendants



*Descendants of Mary, Queen of France, are living today, in the above line from her great-granddaughter Catherine Grey who married Edward Seymour. Many of them descend from the 2nd marriage of William Seymour who had secretly married Arabella Stuart. William escaped to the Continent from the wrath of Queen Elizabeth I, while Arabella died in the Tower of London. Information in chart from [www.thepeerage.com](http://www.thepeerage.com).*

Spain with about half of their original number. This was perhaps the most important single battle in modern European history. Had Philip won and been successful in sending his army into England, the whole course of history in England and North America could have been changed.

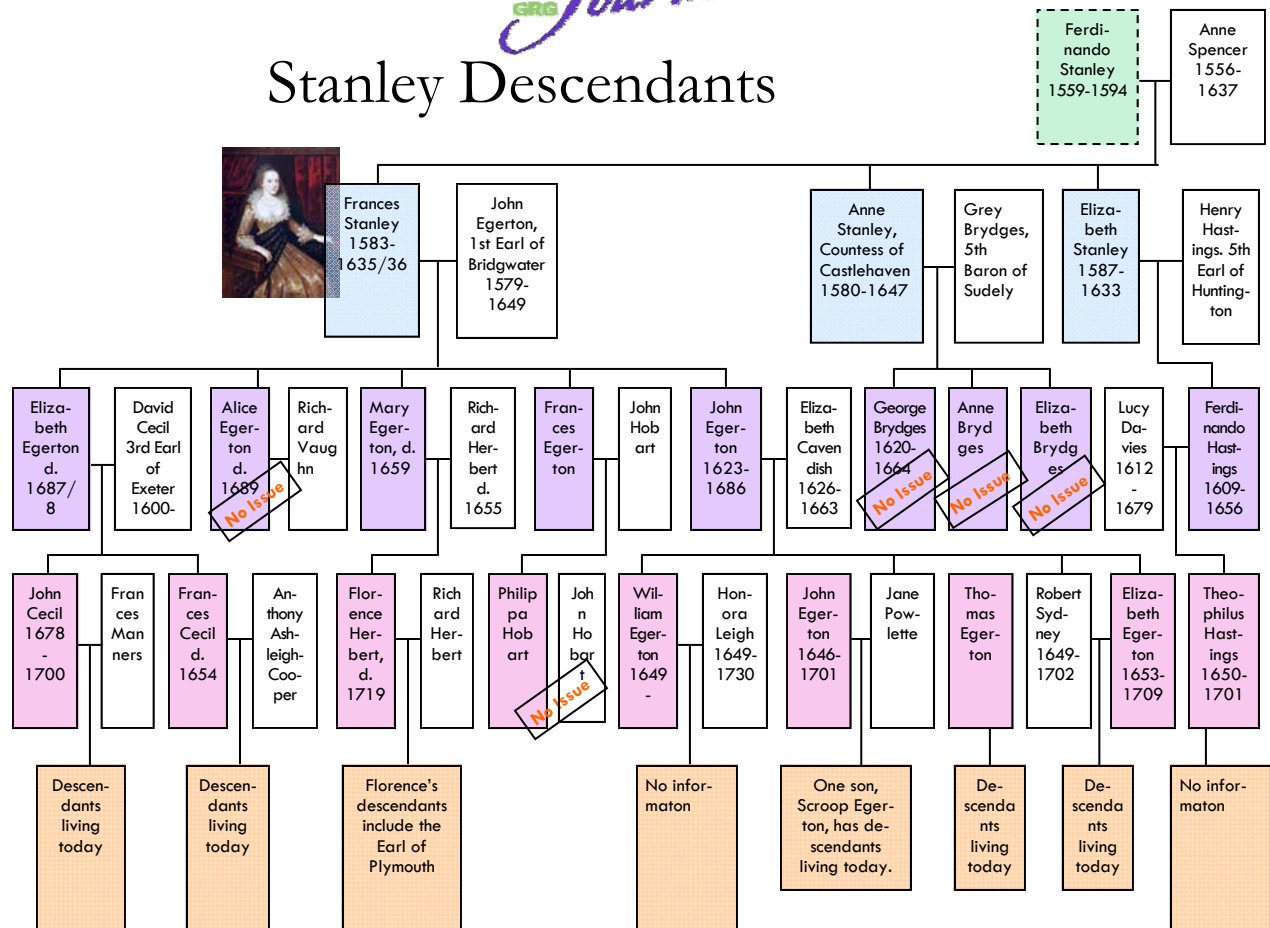
In view of the Spanish intentions, the English viewed the Catholic church less favorably. At the same time, more extreme forms of religious thoughts were developing in England and Scotland that were definitely Protestant. John Calvin, an early leader in the Reformation, influenced the development of the Presbyterian church in Scotland. In England, the Puritans became a prominent though small force. These Protestant groups were strongly opposed to the Church of England since they did not approve of a church hierarchy that included bishops.

Elizabeth was succeeded by her cousin James of Scotland who was at the time James VI of Scotland. He became James I of England. At this time England and Scotland were separate entities. Though James had Tudor ancestors as did Elizabeth, James is considered as the start of the English Stuart dynasty. James was succeeded by his son Charles I who became embroiled in disputes with Parliament. The extreme forms of the Protestants sided with Parliament because they did not believe in bishops or monarchy. One leader of the Parliamentary forces was Oliver Cromwell who had developed a well-trained army. He had little trouble in overthrowing the forces of Charles I who was beheaded. For a few years, until he died, Cromwell was the executive head of the government.

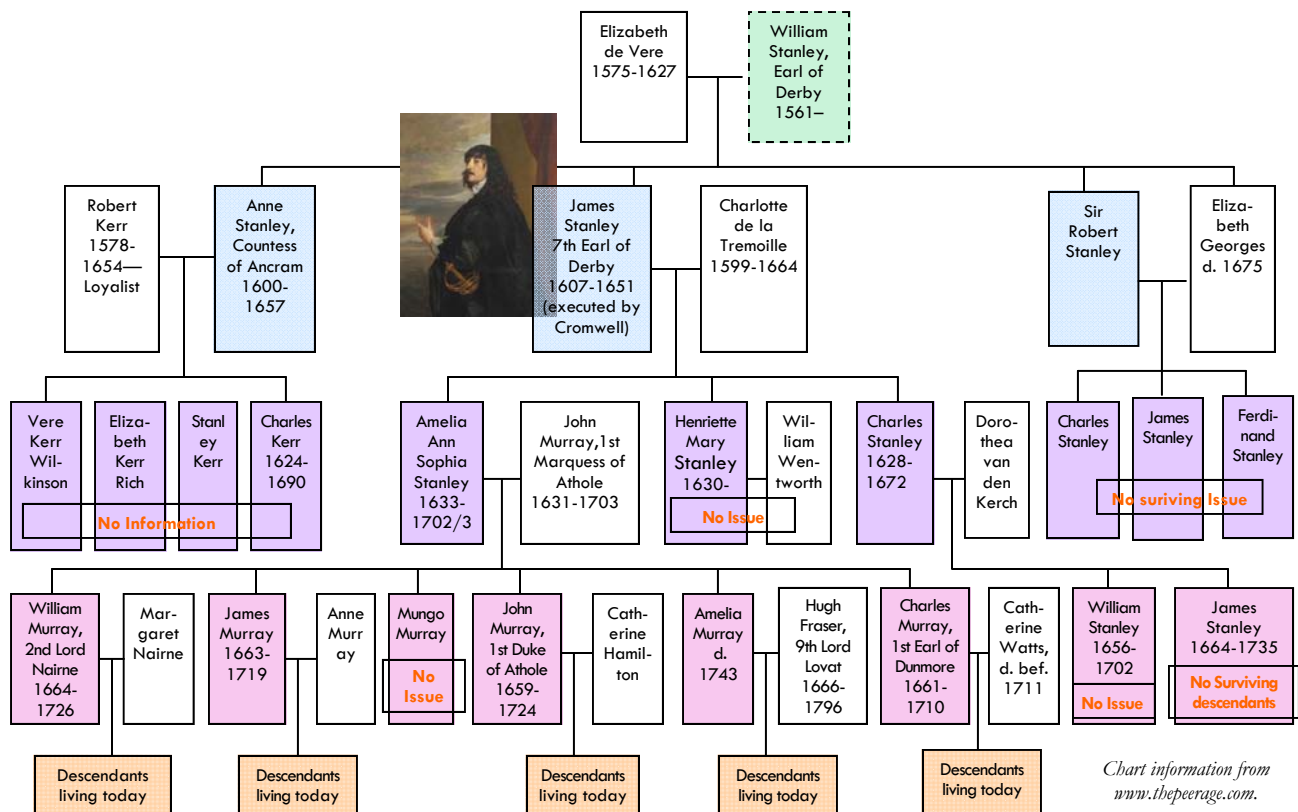
The English citizens generally preferred the hierarchies of bishops and the monarchy. After the death of Cromwell, the son of Charles I, another Charles, was invited back from exile to take the crown. In gratitude to some of his supporters during his exile, Charles II created the Northern Neck Proprietary of Virginia. He also settled his family's debt to the Penn family by yielding up what became Pennsylvania. Charles II had no legitimate heirs and he was succeeded by his brother James II.

James II was an avowed Catholic who attempted to restore the English church to the Catholic fold. This could imply a potential for foreign domination to which the English were adverse. When James' second and Catholic wife gave birth to a son in 1688 who would be the natural heir, many people were alarmed. A group of the nobility invited William of Orange to overthrow James. William had married Mary, the elder daughter of James by his first wife, and Mary was a Protestant as was William. William landed in England in 1688 with a small force. Many of the people in James' army favored the Protestants and they deserted James. William won easily and James went

# Stanley Descendants



*Mary of France's great-grandsons, Ferdinando Stanley and William Stanley, have descendants living today, above and below. One of William Stanley's descendants included the last British Governor of Virginia, the 4th Earl of Dunmore.*





into exile.

Parliament declared William and Mary to be joint sovereigns. When Mary died in 1695, William remained on the throne. He was succeeded in 1701 by Anne, the younger sister of Mary. While Anne was pregnant seventeen times, no child lived for long. So when Anne died in 1714, the question as to her successor arose. In Scotland, there was a sentiment to restore James II to the throne. The ancient Stuart line had originated in Scotland and the restoration was less motivated by religion than by support for a “native son.” The effort to restore James II to the throne was the origin of the Jacobite rebellion of 1715.

A few years previously, the English Parliament had enacted an Act which required the king and his wife to be Protestants. After Anne’s death, her nearest Protestant relative was her first cousin, (King) George of Hanover, who was invited to become King of England. He accepted and this became the start of the Hanoverian line.

Three of the participants in the Jacobite rebellion were Sir George Hume, his brother Francis, and Sir George’s son, another George who was only 17. These three were captured at Preston and received severe sentences but these were reduced. Sir George lost his estates. Francis was transported to Virginia in 1716 where his second cousin once removed, Alexander Spotswood, purchased his freedom. However, Francis was an embarrassment to Spotswood who was a supporter of King George. Spotswood’s solution was to send Francis to Germanna to be the overseer of the Germans there. This far westward location would keep Francis out of the limelight. However, Francis died within a year and was buried at Germanna.

George Hume landed in Virginia in 1721 after a few years of enforced servitude on slave ships. At first his prospects looked bleak but he was able to obtain accreditation as a surveyor from William and Mary College. George was well prepared for this as he had studied mathematics in Scotland. As a surveyor he was very successful and was appointed a Crown surveyor in 1751.

## “The 1715”

“Jacob” is Latin for “James.” Louis IV of France pledged to support the son of deposed James II, James Francis Edward Stuart in a fight to retake the crown of England. Support in Scotland for James was due primarily to Scottish nationalism and supported by Catholics, Episcopalians and enemies of the Clan Campbell.

At the urging of James Stuart, the Scottish Earl of Mar raised the Clans in September of 1715 and occupied Perth and northern Scotland with 5000 men. He sent 2000 men south to join rebelling Border Jacobites, but once there, dissension between the commanders meant that no decisive action was taken. The army then moved into England, but lost a number of Highlanders who refused to leave Scotland. In November they occupied Preston, where they received no help from the English populace and eventually surrendered to government troops.

The Earl of Mar tried to remove his remaining force south, but was blocked at the Firth of Forth by government troops in mid-November. He was an indecisive commander despite having good troops, and he withdrew to Perth.

James Stuart did not arrive until the end of December, too late to provide better leadership or inspire more troops. As the government troops marched north, he deserted the cause. The remaining Jacobites withdrew to the north where they dispersed or went into exile. The Scottish clans were disarmed by the government; some members of the Rebellion were executed, more were transported to the colonies, and their lands were taken.



*The Return of the “Old Pretender” James Edward Francis Stuart*

# Ancestry of George I, the first Hanoverian King of Great Britain

1. George I of Great Britain  
1660-1727



2. Ernest Augustus, Elector of Hanover



William supposedly suffered bouts of insanity.

4. George, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg



8. William, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg

16. Ernest, Duke of Brunswick-Lüneburg

17. Sophia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin

18. Christian III of Denmark

9. Dorothea of Denmark

19. Dorothea of Saxe-Lauenburg

20. George I, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt

10. Louis V, Landgrave of Hesse-Darmstadt

21. Magdalene of Lippe

5. Anne Eleonore of Hesse-Darmstadt

22. John George, Elector of Brandenburg

11. Magdalene of Brandenburg

23. Elisabeth of Anhalt-Zerbst

24. Louis VI, Elector Palatine

12. Frederick IV, Elector Palatine

25. Elisabeth of Hesse

6. Frederick V, Elector Palatine

26. William I, Prince of Orange

13. Louise Juliana of Orange-Nassau

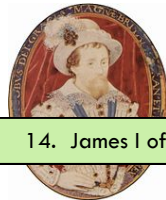
27. Charlotte of Bourbon



Sophia rebuffed the advances of Charles II. Had she outlived her cousin Queen Anne, Sophia might have been Queen of England in her own right.

3. Sophia, Princess Palatine of the Rhine

28. Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley



14. James I of England

29. Mary Queen of Scots



The sister of Charles I of England, Elizabeth's husband built the "English" wing of Heidelberg Castle for her.

7. Princess Elizabeth Stuart of Scotland

30. Frederick II of Denmark

15. Anne of Denmark

31. Sophia of Mecklenburg-Schwerin



Mary was the granddaughter of Margaret Tudor, sister of Henry VIII.

Four of the grandchildren of George Hume married Germanna descendants, three Criglers and one Fink. There were other Hume and Germanna descendant marriages, see the referenced articles. (Thus some of the Second Colony descendants share genes with Alexander Spotswood.)

The entire period from Henry VIII to William and Mary was a time of conflicting views between Catholics, the Church of England, and the more extreme Protestant groups. This is reflected in Virginia where the Church of England was the approved church at the expense of the Catholics and non-Anglican Protestant groups. Also, it was a time of conflict between the crown and parliament with the latter gaining more strength. The Jacobite rebellion was a late attempt to thwart the will of Parliament.

#### References:

1. Karl R. Hume, "George (Hume) Home, Surveyor," *Beyond Germanna*, vol. 7, n. 1, p.363f. Many references to the history of the Hume family are given in this.
2. Karl R. Hume, "Hume and Wilhoit/Wilhite Connections," *Beyond Germanna*, vol. 7, n. 2, p.371f.
3. Turner, Edward Raymond. *Europe 1450-1789*, Doubleday, Page & Company, 1923.
4. *The Encyclopaedia Britannica*, Thirteenth Edition, 1926.

## Who Could Be Monarch?

### How Mary I, Elizabeth I and James I of England Dealt with Their Tudor and Stuart Cousins

The founder of the Tudor line, Henry VII, had three surviving children: Henry VIII, Margaret of Scotland, and Mary of France. Henry VIII's line died out when his three children, Edward VI, Mary I, and Elizabeth I, died childless.

Henry favored the children of his younger sister, Mary of France, as did his son Edward VI, whose mother Jane Seymour had ties with that family. Mary of France had born two daughters from her second marriage to Charles Brandon; the daughters, in turn, bore only daughters who survived infancy: namely, the three Grey sisters and Lady Margaret Clifford.

One sister, Lady Jane Grey, was installed as Queen upon Edward's death, but after nine days the Privy Council, allied with Mary I (Bloody Mary) sent Jane to London Tower. Mary had Jane Grey executed.

Elizabeth I, who followed Mary, kept close watch on the two remaining Grey sisters. They could marry only with her permission, but each made secret marriages. Elizabeth imprisoned Catherine Grey, although Catherine managed to have two sons while in London Tower before she died, only 27 years old. No proof of the marriage could be found, however, so the children were declared illegitimate. (The supposed husband, Edward Seymour was imprisoned for a time and fined for "seducing a virgin of royal blood.") Mary Grey, dwarfish and ugly, married an older man, but Elizabeth immediately arrested her and sent him abroad in the Navy. Only after he died was Mary released, becoming a Maid of Honor shortly before she died, childless. As Catherine's sons were de-legitimized they could not inherit the throne.

The Grey sisters' cousin Margaret Clifford Stanley made the mistake of consulting a "wizard" to predict Elizabeth I's death; her doctor, the "wizard" was executed and she was placed under house arrest for the rest of her life. Her son Ferdinando Stanley, Duke of Derby, was approached by conspirators in the "Hesketh" plot to seize the crown, but turned in the plotters, who were executed. Shortly thereafter he died, seemingly poisoned. He left three daughters and has descendants living today. His brother William kept a low profile and seemingly pleased Elizabeth; he has been named as a possible author of the Shakespearean works. He had only surviving daughters.

Elizabeth I named James VI of Scotland as her successor. James was the only surviving child of Mary Queen of Scots, who had been earlier executed by Elizabeth for plotting against her. James had a double descent from Henry Tudor VII because his father Henry Stuart descended from that line. Although Mary of France's descendants had been suppressed by Elizabeth, James imprisoned his cousin Arabella Stuart who had married William Seymour, Catherine Grey's grandson. Arabella presented the only Stuart challenge to James' monarchy. She stopped eating and died childless.

Because the direct descendants of James' son Charles I were either childless or Catholic, England turned to descendants of James' daughter, Elizabeth Stewart, who had married Frederick V, the "Winter King" of Bohemia and Elector of the Palatine. Frederick was the king who built a special wing of Heidelberg Palace because of his love for Elizabeth Stuart. Therefore, George I of Hanover was as much a Stuart descendant, albeit through two females, as his predecessors Anne, Mary, and William of Orange, whose mother, incidentally, was also a Stuart. — *Virginia Rhodes Nuta*





Bracken County, Kentucky, shortly after 1795.<sup>4</sup> He was listed on 22 November 1799 as a taxpayer in Bracken County, Kentucky.<sup>5</sup> The 1800 U. S. Census for Kentucky does not survive, so no information is available about John Fishback and his family from that census.

One son, Alexander, was listed as head of household in the 1810 U. S. Census for Bracken County, Kentucky. The household included a female over the age of 45 who could very well have been his mother, Patty Fishback, since her husband had died in January of that year. Although unable to locate this family in the census records for 1820 and 1830, the statements of neighbors filing affidavits place them still living in Bracken County, Kentucky, during that time.

John Fishback's widow, Patty Fishback,<sup>6</sup> age seventy-nine, made application in Bracken County, Kentucky, on 18 September 1839 and signed by mark for a pension based on his service in the Virginia militia. She was unable to appear in court due to her "advanced age and frail, weak and decrepid [sic] state."<sup>7</sup>

According to that application, John Fishback was drafted as a private into the



William Ranney, 1845, depicting the Battle of The Cowpens

## Battle of The Cowpens

January 17, 1781—Daniel Morgan was in charge of a force of 400 Continental troops, 200 Virginia militia under Capt. John Lawson, 60 South Carolina militia sent to fight west of the Catawba River in South Carolina, and some additional local troops. Cornwallis sent Tarleton to attack Morgan, and Tarleton's 1,150 men and officers, without much rest or food, followed Morgan to The Cowpens near the Broad River.

Morgan believed that the militiamen might run away, as at the Battle of Camden, so he claimed to have arranged his troops backing on the river. He placed South Carolina and Georgia sharpshooters in front of the force. Militia men were in a second row and were asked to fire just two volleys, then, they were asked to withdraw and reform behind the main force. Their activity would mask the main force, a 3rd group of Continental troops, placed on a hill, his best troops, experienced men from Delaware, Maryland, Georgia and Virginia.

The play worked. When the militiamen withdrew, Tarleton believed they were retreating. He ordered his troops, tired and somewhat demoralized by the initial volleys, toward the hill, only to be surprised by the main body of Continental troops. Meanwhile, the militiamen then reappeared from around the hill on one side, a reserve force on the other, to surround the British. About 822 British troops, many the cream of Cornwallis' force, were killed, wounded, or taken prisoner. American losses are believed to have been about 348.

This battle is considered a turning point in the war, lifting the spirits of the Americans in the South and causing Cornwallis to turn his attention to the north.

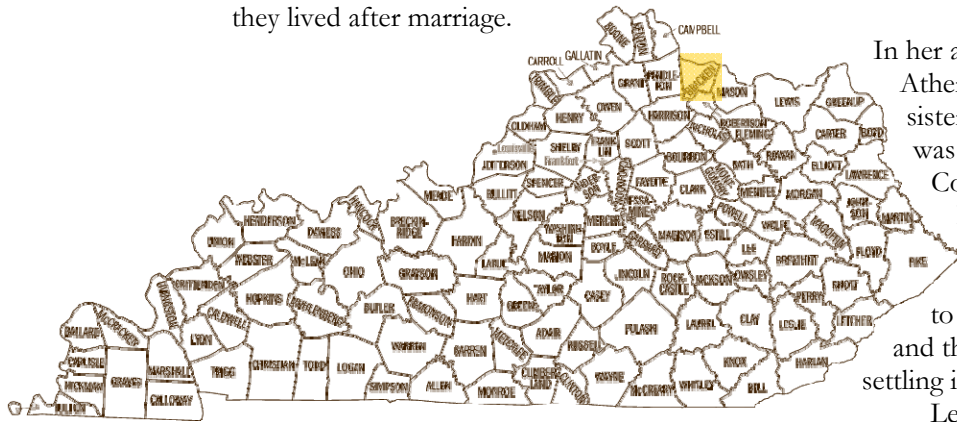
- <sup>4</sup> John P. Alcock. *Fauquier Families: 1759-1799 Comprehensive indexed abstracts of Tax and Tithable Lists, Marriage Bonds and Minute, Deed, and Will Books, and Others* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Company, 1994), 119. John Fishback last appears in the 1795 tithables list for Fauquier County, Virginia.
- <sup>5</sup> G. Glenn Clift. "Second Census" of Kentucky 1800, *A Privately Compiled and Published Enumeration of Tax Payers Appearing in the 79 Manuscript Volumes Extant of Tax Lists of the 42 Counties of Kentucky in Existence in 1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2005), digital image, *Ancestry.com* (<http://www.ancestry.com>: accessed 15 December 2011), 98.
- <sup>6</sup> In the pension application, she is listed variously as Patty, Patsy, and Polly; however, Patty appears to be the name used most frequently. Willis Miller Kemper gives her name as Martha (Pattie) Pickett in his book, *The Genealogy of the Fishback Family In America: The Descendants of John Fishback, The Emigrant, With An Historical Sketch of His Family, 1714-1914* (New York: Thomas Madison Taylor, 1914), 104.
- <sup>7</sup> Pension application of Patty Fishback, widow of John Fishback, R3563, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, digital image, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 December 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication RG 15, M804.

Virginia militia sometime in 1780 serving under Captain James Winn and Colonel William Washington until sometime in 1781. Patty Fishback stated that her husband always said he had fought at the Battle of The Cowpens in January 1781.

The various pension acts passed by Congress described who was eligible to receive a pension and the conditions under which they could apply based on the provisions of each pension act. Over the years, the requirements changed, and people often applied for a pension based on later legislation. Patty Fishback applied under the Act of July 7, 1838, which granted a 5-year pension to those widows whose marriage had taken place before 1 January 1794 and whose husbands had served at least six months in the military.<sup>8</sup>

John Fishback died on 22 January 1810 or 24 January 1810 in Bracken County, Kentucky. His widow, Patty, stated that he died on 22 January 1810 and that she had never remarried. Their son, Alexander, stated in his affidavit that his father died 24 January 1810. The consensus is that John Fishback died in January 1810 with a discrepancy of days reported by his wife and by his son.

Several of John Fishback's siblings as well as his son and neighbors of the family filed affidavits in support of Patty Fishback's pension application. In these affidavits, they provided vital information about themselves, such as their dates of birth, the dates of their marriages, and the places they lived after marriage.



*Bracken County, Kentucky*

In her affidavit filed 28 January 1839 in Athens County, Ohio,<sup>9</sup> Anne Reade, a sister of John Fishback, stated that she was born 19 January 1760 in Fauquier County, Virginia. She gave the date of her marriage as 18 February 1785 in the same county but did not name her husband. Anne moved to Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1791 and then to Ross County, Ohio, finally settling in Athens County, Ohio.

Letitia Pilcher, also a sister of John Fishback, stated that she was born 12 October 1770 in Fauquier County, Virginia, in her affidavit which was filed 2 February 1839 in Meigs County, Ohio.<sup>10</sup>

According to her statement, she was married 27 April 1797 in Fauquier County, Virginia, and moved to Hampshire County, Virginia, the same year. Later she moved to Athens County, Ohio, and finally settled in Meigs County, Ohio.

Mary Strother, another sister of John Fishback, filed her affidavit 17 June 1841 in Fauquier County, Virginia. She stated that she was 83 years old, thus a birth date about 1758. Mary provided more specific information about John's service by her statement that he departed with his militia unit in the first part of October 1780 and returned home in March 1781. Further she understood that he had served his full tour of duty.

John and Patty Fishback's son, Alexander, filed an affidavit in support of his mother's application for a pension, verifying she was still John's widow as the pension act required. On 18 November 1839 in Bracken County, Kentucky, Alexander stated that he was 50 years old on July last [July 1839], thus born July 1789. He further stated that his mother had remained a widow since the death of his father, John Fishback.<sup>11</sup> Alexander did not mention his father's service in the Revolutionary War as did all the others who filed affidavits, probably because he had no personal knowledge of

<sup>8</sup> <http://germannacolony.com> : See the Veterans of Revolutionary War link for a very concise explanation of the various pension acts passed beginning August 1776 and ending March 1878.

<sup>9</sup> Pension application of Patty Fishback, widow of John Fishback, R3563, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, digital image, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 December 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication RG 15, M804.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>11</sup> Pension application of Patty Fishback, widow of John Fishback, R3563, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, digital image, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 5 December 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication RG 15, M804.

the time his father was away serving in the militia.

On 17 June 1841 James Pickett of Fauquier County, Virginia, stated that he had often heard John Fishback and Dempsey Jackson narrate their actions in the battle of The Cowpens (capture of Tarleton's foot soldiers).<sup>12</sup> There was more than one James Pickett living in Fauquier County at the time of this statement. This James Pickett was a Justice of the Peace and stated that he was well acquainted with John Fishback "in 1783 and a number of years after."<sup>13</sup>

Eli Metcalfe, on 7 August 1839 in Fleming County, Kentucky, gave his affidavit that he was born 13 November 1768 in Fauquier County, Virginia, and lived with his father, John Metcalfe, on the Little River until his marriage on 6 January 1788.<sup>14</sup> He remained in Fauquier County until 1794 when he moved to Mason County, Kentucky and, subsequently, to Fleming County, Kentucky. Eli Metcalfe recounted that he remembered John Fishback enlisting in the militia in 1780 under Captain James Winn and Colonel William Washington and fighting in South Carolina at the Battle of The Cowpens.

A neighbor of John Fishback in Bracken County, Kentucky, Reuben Gill, stated on 15 August 1839 that he had lived in Bracken County about forty years and remembered that John Fishback had settled near him as a neighbor about 1805. He had heard John Fishback speak of his time in the militia serving with General Morgan at the Battle of The Cowpens many years ago.

With the exceptions of Alexander Fishback and Reuben Gill, John Fishback's neighbors and siblings who filed an affidavit on behalf of Patty Fishback's application for a pension stated that John Fishback was drafted in 1780 and served with Captain Winn and Colonel William Washington in the Battle of the Cowpens in South Carolina. Each stated that they lived near the home of John Fishback's father, Philip Fishback, on the Little River in Fauquier County, Virginia. Further, they stated that they knew John Fishback had been drafted and was gone from his home for six months.

The pension application of Patty Fishback as the widow of a soldier of the Revolutionary War was rejected on 28 February 1840. The reason given was that the Virginia militia was not drafted at that time for a term exceeding three months and none of those who were thus drafted served six months. The letter from the pension office at the War Department did not address whether or not John Fishback was present at the Battle of The Cowpens,<sup>15</sup> only that no soldier there served six months under the terms stated by Patty Fishback, widow of John Fishback. Since the statements of



*The reenactor in this photo is from a group that portrays Tarleton's 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment at the Battle of Cowpens. The trees with a small open field beyond is part of the battlefield.*

© Suzanne Collins Matson.

<sup>12</sup> John Fishback and Dempsey Jackson both married sisters who were the daughters of William S. Pickett. It is also very possible that this James Pickett was a brother-in-law of John Fishback and Dempsey Jackson. See John P. Alcock's book, *Fauquier Families*, cited elsewhere for more information. The statement in parentheses is in the original statement attested by James Pickett, Justice of the Peace.

<sup>13</sup> Pension application of Patty Fishback, widow of John Fishback, R3563, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, digital image, *Fold3.com* (<http://www.fold3.com>; accessed 5 December 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication RG 15, M804.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>15</sup> Although today called "the Battle of Cowpens," this engagement was referred to as the Battle of The Cowpens at the time of the Revolutionary War. It took place at Hiram Saunders's cow pens, a pasturing area for cattle, located in present day Cherokee County, South Carolina. See *South Carolina: A History*, by Walter Edgar, published 1998 by University of South Carolina Press, 236.



the people who knew John Fishback at the time of the Revolutionary War say he was gone from home in war service for six months, John may have been requested or volunteered to stay in the militia beyond his original three-month draft term, as pension statements from other soldiers often mention that they did. Unlike those soldiers, John Fishback died before Congress passed the pension act under which he would have qualified, so he never had the opportunity to record an explanation of his war service.

Years after Patty Fishback's death, descendants attempted to obtain pension benefits. In 1880, descendants of John and Patty Fishback, Judge P. B. Swing and W. P. Fishback, Master in Chancery, applied to obtain pension benefits on behalf of the last surviving child of John and Patty Fishback, Thomas Fishback, then 87 years old. The pension office rejected this claim on the grounds that Patty Fishback died without having filed a claim under the Act of March 9, 1878, thus no allowance of pension or arrears could be made to any heirs. The correspondence regarding this claim is found in the pension application file of Patty Fishback, as well as a letter from Willis M. Kemper, author of *Genealogy of the Fishback Family in America: The Descendants of John Fishback, The Emigrant, With An Historical Sketch of His Family, 1714-1914*, to Judge Swing.

In a report to General Nathaniel Greene on 19 January 1781 General Daniel Morgan provided a list of commissioned officers present at the Battle of the Cowpens.<sup>16</sup> General Morgan wrote his report while camped near Cane Creek in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Lieutenant Colonel William Washington of Virginia was listed as commanding the 3<sup>rd</sup> Regiment Light Dragoons. John Fishback stated that he also served with Captain James Winn at the Battle of the Cowpens, but there was no one by that name listed in the report sent by General Morgan to General Greene. Captain James Winn may have been omitted from General Morgan's report to General Greene<sup>17</sup> if he was an officer of the Virginia militia rather than an officer of the Continental Line since General Morgan's report focused only on those officers of the Continental Line.

What little detail known about the service of John Fishback during the Revolutionary War was provided in county court statements under oath by those who had heard him speak of his service in the militia and knew that he was away from home during those months with the militia. His older sister, Mary Strother, stated quite specifically that John left with the militia in October 1780 and returned home in March 1781. The statements of the other siblings were more general in nature, stating only that John Fishback was drafted in 1780, served with Captain James Winn and Colonel William Washington at the Battle of The Cowpens, and returned home after six months.

These affidavits not only testify to John Fishback's war service but also provide a glimpse into the lives of those people who filed them and illustrate the migration patterns of one family from Fauquier County, Virginia, into Kentucky and Ohio. The fact that the siblings provided their affidavits from different counties and states indicates that this family had remained in contact although living in separate locales. Their statements stand as lasting memorials and clear evidence that, even after far-flung migrations over the intervening sixty years, John Fishback's service to his country at the significant Battle of The Cowpens remained alive in the memory of his family and friends.

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<sup>16</sup> Letter from General Daniel Morgan to General Nathaniel Greene, January 19, 1781, Letters from Maj. Gen. Nathaniel Greene, 1776-1785, *Papers of the Continental Congress, compiled 1774-1789*, digital image, Fold3.com (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 7 December 2011); citing NARA microfilm publication RG 360, M247, Roll no. 175, item no. 155, images 541-544, 547-548.

<sup>17</sup> Captain James Winn (Wynn) of Virginia is referenced many times in the pension applications of soldiers who served from Virginia. This author has been unable to locate a militia or Continental Line roster or muster roll that lists a Captain James Winn; however, many records, particularly for militia units, during the Revolutionary War have not survived.

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# Spotswood Comes To Virginia

By Michael L. Oddenino and Suzanne Collins Matson

Alexander Spotswood, Lt. Governor of Virginia from 1710 to 1722, experienced an international life of adventure prior to arriving in the Old Dominion. Some of his exploits were covered in a previous edition of the GRG Journal and now we will look at how and why he ended up in Virginia. Let's examine the challenges Spotswood faced and the effort involved in journeying across the Atlantic Ocean in the early 1700s and the background story on how and why he was appointed Lt. Governor of Virginia.

The Lt. Governor role that Spotswood filled came with the obligation of residing in Virginia and conducting the day-to-day business of government. The actual Governor's position was a sinecure that at the time did not require the Governor to leave England nor do any actual acts of governance relative to the Virginia colony. Often Spotswood is referenced as the Royal Governor but in actuality that honorific and remunerated post belonged to a different individual under whom Spotswood nominally served. Spotswood and the Governor shared the income due the Governor of Virginia. Who was the Governor of Virginia under whom Spotswood served?

James Blair,<sup>1</sup> Commissary of Virginia, wrote the following from London in early January 1704/1705 to Philip Ludwell of James City County, Virginia, "...only that it is in everybody's mouth that the government of Virginia was to be given to my Lord Orkney. My Lord has been entertained with renewed promises, but the thing is not yet declared...."<sup>2</sup> The Earl of Sunderland, Secretary of State, writing to the Committee for Trade and Plantations, Whitehall, on December 10, 1709, ordered the preparation of a Commission and Instructions for the Right Honorable George Hamilton, Earl of Orkney, to be the Governor of Virginia.<sup>3,4</sup> Thus began the chain of events that would ultimately bring Alexander Spotswood to Virginia as Lieutenant Governor and Lord Orkney's representative in 1710.

Robert Hunter, who had also served with the Duke of Marlborough at the Battle of Blenheim, had been appointed the Lieutenant Governor of Virginia in 1707. On his way to the Virginia colony, he was captured by a French corsair and taken to Paris, France, as a prisoner of war. In

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<sup>1</sup> James Blair was the Archbishop of Canterbury's representative in Virginia and, as such, the head of the Church of England in Virginia. He was also appointed president of William and Mary College for life. Politically powerful and easily mixing religion with politics, he was instrumental in the recall of three governors, one of whom was Alexander Spotswood.

<sup>2</sup> Letter to Philip Ludwell from Nathaniel Blakiston, *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 3, No. 1 (July, 1894), 15-16. Published by Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Williamsburg, Virginia, (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/1915498>), accessed: 12 March 2012.

<sup>3</sup> Letter, Earl of Sunderland to Committee for Trade and Plantations, *Correspondence from the Privy Council, Treasury, Customs and Admiralty*, PRO Class C.O. 5/1316, f.111-112.

<sup>4</sup> A number of sources state that Lord Orkney became Governor of Virginia in 1714. From the above order it is clear that he became the Governor in 1709 and was reappointed as Governor of Virginia in 1714 when George I became king.



James Blair had been ordained in the Church of Scotland at a time when it was allied with the Church of England. He became a missionary in Virginia and founded William and Mary College.

## The Titular Governor of Virginia

George Hamilton, the Earl of Orkney, (1666-1737) descended from ancient Scottish nobility, including Margaret, Princess of Scotland, daughter of James II of Scotland. Through his mother he also descended from the Scottish Douglas family that had married into the Stuart line. He was therefore a distant cousin of Queen Anne and William and Mary.



George Hamilton served in the Williamite wars in Ireland and the Netherlands at the end of the 17th century and was wounded. Later, like Alexander Spotswood, George Hamilton served under the Duke of Marlborough in the War of the Spanish Succession and as a lieutenant-general, he led the final assault on the village of Blenheim in Germany, and received the surrender of its French defenders.

Unlike Spotswood, Hamilton was the son of a Duke, and unlike Spotswood, he married the former mistress of King William of Orange. She was Elizabeth Villiers, who had been gov-

erness to the princesses Anne and Mary during the monarchy of James I. She was also, for 15 years, William's acknowledged mistress and the recipient of his gift of several estates confiscated from James II. Before Queen Mary died, it is said that Mary wanted the affair ended, and William did end the relationship upon Mary's death in 1694. Two men also fought a duel over Elizabeth: John Law killed Edward Wilson, possibly related to blackmail of Elizabeth. Law was initially sentenced to death but ended up in the Colonies, where he was responsible for the Mississippi Bubble.

Such a dangerous woman, now in her late 30's, should be safely married, and in 1695, Elizabeth married George Hamilton. In 1696, he was raised to the peerage and became the Earl of Orkney.



Thereafter, the couple bore three daughters and entertained both George I and II at their estate, Cliveden. Cliveden today is a five-star hotel, where a staircase and gardens traceable to the Earl of Orkney can be seen today.



1709 he was exchanged and released. By that time, Spotswood's appointment to Virginia as Lieutenant Governor had been approved by Queen Anne. Robert Hunter was subsequently appointed the Lieutenant Governor of New Jersey and New York, arriving in those colonies in June 1710, the same month of Alexander Spotswood's arrival in Virginia.

Spotswood enjoyed Royal favor after his heroic actions under the Duke of Marlborough, John Churchill, in the War of Spanish Succession. Queen Anne appointed Spotswood Lt. Governor under Lord Orkney, which represented a much sought-after opportunity for Spotswood to elevate his status and wealth. Spotswood eagerly assumed the role of Lt. Governor of Virginia and would change the shape of the colony during his tenure. But first he had to get there.

On March 31, 1710, Spotswood, who had originally been ordered to sail on the HMS *Norwich*, was ordered to proceed to Spithead with his physician and fifteen servants to sail on the HMS *Deptford* under the command of Captain Tancred Robinson.<sup>5</sup> He apparently left London immediately for Spithead because a letter sent to him by Colonel Nathaniel Blakiston on March 30 arrived after his departure from London.

On the same date, Captain Robinson received his orders from the Admiralty to proceed to Spithead<sup>6</sup> and there provision his ship for a trip to Virginia. He was also informed that he would carry Lt. Governor Spotswood, his physician, and fifteen servants to Virginia in the best accommodations available on the HMS *Deptford*, a man o' war.<sup>7</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Letter to Alexander Spotswood, Esq., Lt. Governor of Virginia, *Letters of the Secretary of the Admiralty*, PRO Adm 2/434, 632.

<sup>6</sup> Spithead is located between the Portsmouth harbor and the Isle of Wight. Historically it has served as one of the major anchorages of the British fleet because it is protected from all winds except those from the southeast. Today the great Royal Naval Reviews take place at Spithead.

<sup>7</sup> Orders from the Admiralty 31 March 1710, *Orders and Correspondence of Captain Tancred Robinson*, Newby Hall Records, Leeds Central Library, NH 2517.

According to Captain Robinson's papers, the HMS *Deptford* departed in convoy with the HMS *Bedford*<sup>8</sup> and a number of merchant ships after April 15, 1710. The ships were traveling in convoy for protection from depredations and capture by the Spanish since England and Spain were at war again. The admiralty had ordered all ships traveling in convoy to travel together as far as their separate destinations would permit for safety.

At the time of Lieutenant Governor Alexander Spotswood's journey to Virginia from England, England and Spain were still embroiled in The War of Spanish Succession.

HMS *Deptford* with its convoy arrived on June 20, 1710, within the Capes of Virginia.<sup>9</sup> The Capes of Virginia refer to Cape Charles on the north and Cape Henry on the south defining the entrance to the Chesapeake Bay on the Virginia coast. On June 21, Spotswood and his party boarded the HMS *Bedford Galley* at Kequotan (present day Hampton, Virginia) for the trip up the James River to Jamestown.<sup>10</sup> Disembarking at Jamestown, Spotswood spent the night at Green Spring, home of Philip Ludwell.

In future articles, we will continue the story of Alexander Spotswood as he travels to Williamsburg, and more information about the War of Spanish Success and the correspondence between Lt. Governor Spotswood and Lord Orkney.



Alexander Spotswood could have studied this map: **“Virginia Und Maryland”** Nurnberg c. 1711-1717. Copper engraving by Herman Moll, a London mapmaker, published in both English and German atlases. It shows newly settled areas, including both English & Indian Plantations, small villages & settlements, land divided into Counties and rivers along the Chesapeake Bay shore. [www.gracegalleries.com](http://www.gracegalleries.com) lists the map for sale.

<sup>8</sup> The HMS *Bedford* was also known as the HMS *Bedford Galley*.

<sup>9</sup> Alexander Spotswood and Robert Alonzo Brock, *The Official Letters of Alexander Spotswood, Lieutenant-Governor of the Colony of Virginia, 1710-1722*: Now First Printed from the Manuscript in the Collections of the Virginia Historical Society, Volumes 1-2, published by the Virginia Historical Society: Richmond, Virginia, 1882, repr.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

Copyright Michael L. Oddenino and Suzanne Collins Matson. This is one of a series of articles about Alexander Spotswood. The first Article “The Adventures of Alexander Spotswood,” appeared in the July 2012 issue.

**Editorial Board:** Suzanne Collins Matson, Michael L. Oddenino, Virginia Rhodes Nuta

**Editorial Goal:** To disseminate knowledge about our ancestors of the First and Second Germanna Colonies of Virginia, and Alexander Spotswood. Contact [vrnuta@verizon.net](mailto:vrnuta@verizon.net) if you wish to submit.

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