

EXCURSUS— HATCHER

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The Hatcher family is of English origin, where it has been, distinguished for several centuries. In Blore's History of the County of Rutland, England, published in 1811, is given the genealogy of the Hatcher family from 1553 to 1730, also the coat of arms, described thus:

Arms — Azure, a Chevron between six Escalloped Shells, Argent.

Crest— An arm embowed, vested azure, charged with three bars, argent, and holding, in a hand proper, a bunch of Olive, vert.

On the same page as the genealogy, mention is made of the church at Careby, Lincolnshire, where are several quaint tombs of the Hatchers of the sixteenth century. In an old book belonging to the rector at Careby is the following:

'In the reign of Elizabeth. 1558 to 1663, John Hatcher, Doctor of Physic, purchased some property in Careby. John Hatcher's son and heir, Thomas, was an eminent literary character and correspondent of Leland(?) Born November 3, 1660. Sir John Hatcher of Careby, High Sheriff of Lincolnshire in 1610."

Thomas Hatcher was a member of parliament during the Cromwellian Revolution, and was one of the commissioners sent to Edinburgh "to treat of a nearer union and confederacy with the Scottish nation" and helped frame the famous "Solemn League and Covenant," which was adopted by parliament, September 17, 1643. Sir Harry Vane was a member of this same commission, he having returned to England from America a few years previous and entered parliament. Tradition says that our first American ancestor, William Hatcher, came over in company with Sir Harry Vane, the latter going to Massachusetts.

William Hatcher located in Virginia, where he received a grant of 200 acres of land in Henrico county in 1636. He was a successful planter and politician. He was born in 1614 and received his education before he left England. He was elected a member of the house of Burgeses from Henrico county, Virginia in 1614 and was reelected in 1615. He was compelled to beg the pardon of house of burgeses for calling the speaker Col. Edward Hill an athiest, a blasphemer and a devil." He was afterward elected burgess in 1658 and again in 1659. In 1676 he was fined a large quantity of pork for the part he took in Bacon's Rebellion, which Bancroft, in his History of the United States, says was "the early harbinger of American Nationality". In 1678, he was presented by the grand jury for not attending church. He married — and died in 1680 at the age of sixty six. He left issue:

I. Benjamin Hatcher, born in Henrico county, Virginia in 1644, married in 1680 Elizabeth Greenbaugh, daughter of John Greenbaugh. He was an extensive planter and slave owner in Henrico county, Virginia. His plantation being known as "Varina". He had four sons: William, Benjamin, John and Henry Hatcher. Of William, Benjamin and John, to the writer nothing is known except that they were large landed proprietors in Henrico county, Virginia. Henry Hatcher was a very extensive planter and slave owner and lived in the parish of St. James Southam, Goochland county, Virginia. He married Susannah Williamson, daughter of Thomas Williamson, and had issue: Frederick,

Archibald, Drury, Elizabethh, Judith and Susannah Hatcher.

Of these children Frederick was born in Goochland county, and received a fine a fine education. On January 13, 1756, he married Sarah Woodson, daughter of John Woodson, who was fourth in descent from Dr. John Woodson, of Dorsetshire, England. who came to Virginia with Sir John Harvey as a surgeon to a company of soldiers in 1619. On reaching manhood, Frederick Hatcher located in Cumberland county, Virginia, where he was a prominent planter and slave owner. He was a member of the Cumberland committee of safety during the Revolution. He was a member of the Established Church, and was, for many years vestryman of Lyttleton parish. He died in Cumberland county. where his will was probated June 23, 1783. His wife survived him many years, dying in 1813. They had issue as follows:

Major John Hatcher, born in Cumberland county, where he was educated. cated. He was in the Revolutionnary War, and for many years represented Cumberland county in the Virginia legislature. He was commissioned major of the seventeenth regiment, Virginia militia, April 29, 1794; Dr. Blair Burwell of Indian Camp, Virginia, writing under date of November 13, 1893, says: "He was a man much respected in his county and dispensed a bounteous hospitality. He married a Miss Gentry and raised a large family of children, six sons and six daughters, and many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren live about the old county, and are among its, best citizens."

Benjamin Hatcher, born in Cumberland county, Virginia was a member of Captain Edward Carrington's company of minute men, 7th

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October 1773, and afterwards was in the regular service and at the battle of Guilford Courthouse. After receiving his education he located about 1800 t6o Manchester, Virginia where he engaged in the export tobacco business. He was president of the Farmers' Bank of Virginia, at Richmond from (?... February 13, 1812 to his death. It is said he served a campain at Camp (?..) below Richmond in the ward of 1812. Dr. Blair Barwell, quoted above, says of him? Mr. Ben Hatcher was a fine looking old Virginia gentleman, tall and sprite, he wore a cue with powdered hair and knee pants with silk stockings and pumps with large silver buckles on them. In summer or fall dress and in winter, short knee pants with high top boots. He owned his horse and lot where he lived in Manchester, and had a good jplantation and negroes in the county of Cumberland, where he and his family spent the summer and fall months of each year. He died I think, severy-eight years of age." He married first Sarah Crump, of Powhatan county, Virginia, a sister of Dr. William Crump and Dr. Abner Crump, also of Martha Crump, who married Dr. Trent of Manchester, the owner of Trent's Bridge from Manchester to Richmond. By this marriage there were three daughters: Polly, who died young;; Elizabeth, who married John W. Nash of Powhatan county and Mary, who married Blair Burwell of Powhatan county; Benjamin Hatcher married second Elizabeth Fowler, sister of Mrs. Emiiy Taylor, wife of the great lawyer, Samuel Taylor of Richmond, The children by this marriage were: Charlotte Hatcher, who married Fredrick Bransford of Richmond, John who married Miss Cunliff of Manchester and second Mary Turpin of Powhatan county; William and Emily Taylor Hatcher, neither of whom ever married. Miss Mary Hatcher, daughter of John Hatcher byhis first marriage with Miss Cunliff, is the only living representative of the family in Richmond at the present time.

Susannah Hatcher, who married John Hobson of Cumberland county, Virginia, Woodville and Charles Hobson of Calhoon county, Kentucky are believed to be descendants of this marriage.

Mary Hatcher, who married Edward Booker of Cumberland county, Virginia. The writer knows nothing of their descendants.

Sarah Hatcher, who was born - and married in 1795, Francis Bransford (born June 30, 1763. in Chesterfield county, Virginia;.

Nancy Hatcher, who married Thomas Gordon of Powhatan county, Virginia. Their children were Henry Gordon, many years sheriff of Powhatan county; Elizabeth Gordon, who married Millenor Stratton; Fanny Gordon, wife of Hiram Harris; and another daughter, whose name the writer has been unable to ascertain, married a Mr. Matthews of Powhatan county, Virginia.

Lucy Hatcher born - in 1775, married in 1795, Benjamin Bransford Sr., who was born, in Chesterfield county, Virginia, December 15, 1769. He was a rich planter and slave owner in Cumberland county, and a prominent Methodist. Lucy Hatcher, his wife, was fond of society in her younger days and one who knew her says she possessed a vivacious manner and fine conversational powers. When about forty years of age, she suffered a stroke of paralysis that made her an invalid the rest of her life. For twenty years she had to be wheeled about in a chair, but was always bright and cheerful and glad to entertain her friends. She was reared in the Episcopal Church but after her marriage joined the Methodist church with her husband. She died November 15, 1835 (?)

II. Edward Hatcher, son of William Hatcher, the emigrant, born in Henrico county, Virginia in 1653. He owned the famous "Neck of Land" plantation. He took part in Bacon's rebellion. He married Mary --- and died in or before 1710. Edward and Mary Hatcher had issue: Sarah, who married - Turpin; Martha who married Richard Gower; William, who married a daughter of John Burton, and died in 1736; John, who married Mary, daughter of Robert Hancock, and moved to Edgecom county, North Carolina, where he was living in 1737 and had there a son John, Seth, Edward, who married in or before 1737; Martha, widow of Joseph Tanner.

III. Henry Hatcher, son of William Hatcher, the emigrant, born in Henrico county, married Ann, daughter of Henry Lound, and died in 1677. They had issue: William, Henry, Ann and Mary Hatcher.

IV. William Hatcher, son of William Hatcher, the emigrant, born in Henrico county, Virginia, and died unmarried in 1694.

The children of William Hatcher, the emigrant, are not given in the order of their births. It may interest some to know that "Varina," "Turkey Island" and "Neck of land, the seat of the early Hatchers have quite a history. These plantations were laid out by the Hatchers and about half a century later came into possession of the famous Randolph family of Virginia. Adams in his life of John Randolph, the statesman says: "Turkey Island, just above the junction of the James and Appomattox Rivers, lies in a region which has sharply attracted the attention of men. In 1675 Nathaniel Bacon lived nearby at his plantation called Curles, and in that year Bacon's famous rebellion gave bloody association to the place. About one hundred years afterward, Benedict Arnold, then a general in the British service, made a destructive raid up the James River, which drew all eyes to the spot. Neither of these disturbances, historic as they are, made the region nearly so famous as it became on June 30, 1859, when fifty thousand northern troops, beaten, weary, and disheartened converged

at Malvern Hill and Turkey Island Bridge, and the next day fought a battle which saved their army and perhaps their cause, without a thought or a care for the dust of the Virginia Randolphs, which two armies were trampling in the cradle of their race. The Hatcher's, long before the Revolution, were battline for the 'rights of the people as against the encroachments of arbitrary power.

V Mary born about 1750 in Cumberland county, Virginia, was married to Francis McGraw.

VI Judith- born -about 1750, in Cumberland county, Virginia, was married to Joseph Michaux.