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THE MOSELEY FAMILY IN AMERICA
THE MOSELEY GENEALOGY (The Virginia Line)

By Robert B. Moseley, July 1919

"My father has said, and I have been told by Harry Grandison Moseley, of Buckingham County, Virginia, that originally there were three brothers who came to America at the same time. My father says that one came to Castine, Maine; one to Mattapan, Massachusetts, and the other to Norfolk, Virginia. There may be some truth to this as we are informed in the early records, that a George Moseley came to Elizabeth City in 1635 age 20, in the ship "Assurance," and in the same year one Henry Maudesley came to Mattapan, Massachusetts. But, previous to this one John Moseley in 1627 sailed from Plymouth, England; settled in Dorchester 1630 and died there in 1661."

The first one of our name as coming to Virginia is Joseph who arrived in the "Providence" in 1623 age 21. He is also mentioned as living in Elizabeth City in 1623 in another record.

In 1634 a Joseph Moseley sailed from London for Virginia age 18.

In 1635 George Moseley who has already noted above. Greer's "Early Virginia Immigrants" lists fifteen Moseley's coming to Virginia between 1623 and 1666, viz: Joseph 1637, Norfolk County; Robert 1640, James City County; William, 1642 Charles County; Francis, 1647; Elizabeth, 1640 Northumberland County; Samuel, 1650; Joseph 1650 York County; William, 1650; Richard 1653; Ann; William and Arthur, 1653, Lower Norfolk County; Susanna, 1653, Lower Norfolk County; Robert 1654, Westmoreland County.

We know from records, that our ancestor, Robert Moseley died in Prince William County, Virginia in 1787, and that he owned land in St. Mary's County, Maryland, which is just across the Potomac River from Westmoreland and Prince William Counties, Virginia, it is possible that the immigrant, Robert Moseley, who settled in Westmoreland County, Virginia in 1654, is our ancestor, although there is an interval of 100 years during which time we have no recorded proof.

THE MOSELEY FAMILY

Sometimes research on family history is extremely difficult. One scratches and scrapes for even the smallest hint of a clue which might pertain to his/her family. Other times, one gets lucky. Someone else, who has been very careful to document the research, has already written a book and the connecting lines simply fall into place. Such was the case with the Moseleys, who were evidently one of the prominent families of early Virginia.

The information which follows came from several places. Some was graciously shared by Joyce Moseley Pierce of Overland Park, Kansas.[1] Her ancestry back from John James Trabue was luckily the same as ours. But much also was taken from some material found at Salt Lake City's Family History Library, a manuscript called The Moseley Line, by Robert Brainard Moseley, 1942,[2] and a book, A Moseley Genealogy, by Thomas Byrd Moseley, Jr., 1985.[3] This information was supplemented by charts, also found there, compiled by Alice Granbery Walter of Virginia Beach, Virginia [undated].[4] Other portions of the following story came from a booklet written in 1909 by Robert Ephraim Moseley of Nicholasville, Kentucky.[5] The booklet was loaned to me by Crockett A. Harrison, a genealogist from Grove City, Pennsylvania. The part of the family history from John James Trabue Moseley to the current time came from the following sources: The Maxeys of Virginia by Edythe Maxey Clark,[6] The Trabue Family in America, 1700-1983 by Yates and Trabue,[7] Kentucky Genealogies and Biographies, Book VII, by Battle, Perrin, and Kniffin,[8] and my own research among original records in various libraries.

WILLIAM MOSELEY

The immigrant ancestor of the Moseleys was William. This is a fact, and can be proven by Virginia records. However, almost nothing is known for certain about his roots. It is fairly accepted that he was born in England, resided for a time in Holland, was respected and trustworthy, and that he went to Virginia between 1642 and 1650.[2]

Several genealogists have speculated about who William's parents were. According to Mrs. Pierce's sources, he was born in England in 1606, christened 17 December of that year, to Richard and Katherine [Smith/Smyth] Moseley. This Richard Moseley, married earlier to Ellen Ackeley, married secondly to Katherine Smith about 21-24 September, 1604, at St. Margarets, Westminster, England. They had 2 known children. The first son was named Henry and was baptized 17 July 1605. The second was William, perhaps the William who came to Virginia. Richard was buried 31 August 1619/20, and Katherine, 2 April 1640.[1] and

(2)

T.B. Moseley believes William of Virginia was the son of an earlier William (1562-1643), lawyer and cloth merchant, from Middlebury, Holland, who, after moving to Gunnersburg, Middlesex, England, married Dorothy Helmes, daughter of Sir Edward Helmes, of Burford, Oxfordshire, in 1599. The elder William was said to have been a prosperous cloth merchant in trade between England and Holland. He had a town house in London and a country place in Gunnersburg. If this was the father of William, the immigrant, the child was baptized 10 December 1606, according to the parish records of Barburton, Nottinghamshire. (3)

Although nothing, at this time, is certain about William's early life, some inferences can be made. First, he had an education above the average man of his day. At a time when many men in affluent circumstances in Virginia signed their names using a mark for their signature, William wrote out his will in his own hand. Secondly, he had probably been apprenticed to the Society of Merchant Adventurers in London. This Society was brought into being by Edward III for the furtherance of English trade in the markets of the principal towns on the continent of Europe. At first, they had dealt mostly in wool and cloth, but by the time William entered the Society, perhaps about 1622, its members were interested in a large number of commodities, varying from cloves, beans, diaper "napkening," and wax, to beer. (2)

William married Susanna Burnett Blackmore, daughter of Ralph/Rolf and Magdalen (Clarke) Burnett. Magdalen was thought to be the daughter of Thomas and Margaret (Fox) Clarke, who had married in 1575. The Burnetts, Susanna's parents, had married in 1594, and their eleven children were born, noting baptismal dates, from 1595 to 1617. The children's names were: Susanna, Margaret, John, Ralph, Magdalen, Thomas, Mary, Margaret (II), Elizabeth, Esther (Hester), and Joseph. The first daughter, Susanna, was baptized at the Church of St. Benet Fink in London on 7 December 1595. (3)

Susanna Burnett, William Moseley's wife, had been married first to Arthur Blackmaer/Blackmore. The couple had had at least one child, Susanna, who was born in London, and Arthur had died in 1626. (3) It is interesting that the elder Susanna then married William, who was eleven years her junior. The very first reference in records pertaining to William surrounded this marriage. There was a lawsuit heard at The Hague in Holland, apparently in 1634. A widow van Ring brought suit against William to obtain payment owed her for a certain front house and warehouse. It seems that her husband had rented the property to Arthur Blackmaer for a year. Before the lease expired, Arthur died, and William married Susanna, his widow.

Mme. van Ring, who was evidently administering her late husband's estate, claimed that neither Mr. Blackmaer nor his widow had ever paid the rent, and the judges agreed that William, having married into the situation, did indeed owe the full amount and costs.[2]

William and Susanna had two known children, William, born around 1634 in England, and Arthur, born in Rotterdam, Holland. As for occupation, the elder William was possibly an agent in Holland for English exporters of beer or an overseer of some sort. In the Port Books for London were found items referring to him as "conserge" or steward. Each of the entries listed beer for the cargo exclusively.[2]

It is thought that William came over to the Colonies perhaps as early as 1642. A William Moseley appeared in the records of Charles City County then. Several possible reasons have been put forth as to why the Moseleys immigrated. He could have been a Loyalist, and the death of Charles I, king of England, at the hands of Oliver Cromwell, may have given him no choice but to go as far away as possible. Or, relatives, friends, or business contacts may have influenced his decision. The reason may have been primarily economic. The Merchant Adventurers Society in Holland was gradually ceasing their operations there. The English were not particularly popular in Holland and hadn't been for some time.[2]

For whatever reason, the Moseleys with William's step-daughter, Susanna Blackmaer Robinson, a widow, having put their affairs in order by 14 August 1649 [the date of the preparation of Susanna Robinson's will], turned their attention to sailing westward. It is not known on what ship the Moseleys embarked. They were said to have arrived in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, later called Princess Anne County, in 1649. He received headrights [grants of 550 acres] for transporting himself, Susanna, their three children, and six other persons into the Colony. In records, William referred to his land as being on the eastern branch of the Elizabeth River.[2] There they built a home which they named "Greenwich." [In the 18th century, it was renamed "Rolleston" after a Moseley ancestral home in England.][3] The general location of the home, no longer there, was said to have been about five miles from the center of what is now Norfolk.[2]

William was appointed Justice of Lower Norfolk County from March 16, 1649, to April 26, 1655. From that time, he was usually referred to, in the records, as "Mr." Moseley, or with the designation "Gent." following his name. According to Channing's U.S. History, v.2, p.519, "The County authorities were appointed by the Governor and were the leading men in their Counties. The County Court became the local governing body in Virginia." Thus is indicated William's high

social position in the Colony.[2]

To start a plantation, of course, required crops and stock, and although the Moseleys seemed to have had a scarcity of money, they did have some capital. In 1650, an arrangement was made with neighbors to exchange nine head of neat cattle, two draught oxen, two steers and five cows for certain pieces of jewelry valued at 612 guilders which Susanna had brought from Holland. Susanna, herself, penned a courteous and well-worded letter to the purchasers verifying the value of the jewels, saying that she had traveled from Rotterdam to The Hague to show them to the goldsmiths. The letter is still preserved and found with the deed dated 10 November 1652.[2]

William died in Lower Norfolk County in 1655. His will, written 29 June 1655, was recorded 15 August of that year (Norfolk CO Will Book for 1655.) His heirs were his nephew, his grandchild (by his step-daughter), his wife, and his two sons. The same day the son William was granted a probate of the will of his father, he also qualified as administrator on the estate of his deceased mother. Her inventory was entered into the books 8 February 1655/6 [1656]. [2]

ARTHUR MOSELEY I

Arthur Moseley, son of William and Susanna (Burnett) Moseley, was born in Rotterdam, Holland, in about 1635/7. He immigrated to lower Norfolk City, Virginia, with his parents when he was about 12 or 14. There is reason to believe he settled on or near Broad Creek, a tributary of the Elizabeth River about a mile from the old plantation, where he lived for thirty years or more, leaving, about the year 1690, to live in Norfolk town.[2]

Because there was record found of a court case to be held in 1658 between Arthur, plaintiff, and his brother William, defendant, it is suggested that they may not have been on the best of terms. However, no further record of the case could be found, so the nature of the dispute is lost. Arthur was a member of the House of Burgesses for Norfolk County in 1676, that momentous year in which Nathaniel Bacon rebelled against the tyranny of Governor Sir William Berkeley and burned Jamestown. From the land records, it is known that Arthur had active land purchases and sales. He also sold tobacco.[2]

In 1689, Arthur was a purchaser of lots for a new town, now the busy shipping and naval city of Norfolk. However, his title was defective as he had never naturalized himself and was still considered an alien. In 1680, the Virginia Assembly had enacted a simple requirement for naturalization. All one had to do was to apply to the Governor, and if no objection were entered, a person was simply granted citizenship by declaration of the

Governor. It seems strange that Arthur had not done that earlier. However, he was naturalized by 16 September 1692. In 1694, he was given a license to keep an ordinary [a tavern] in Norfolk Town.[2]

Arthur I eventually married three times. The name of the first wife, however, is unknown. Secondly, he married Sarah Hancock [see the Hancock section]. His third wife was Ann Hargrave/Hargrove, born ca.1653, daughter of Richard Hargrave, of Lower Norfolk, Virginia.[2]

His will, written February 1, 1700, proved 1702/3, was so torn and mutilated, that the particulars of his estate are mostly unknown. It did, however, list children. Although there is disagreement between researchers about there being other children whose names were not able to be read in the will, and which children came from which wife, the determination of Robert Brainard Moseley is here used.[2]

Children of Arthur Moseley and his first wife were:

Joseph Moseley, who lived in Lower Norfolk, will proved 20 March 1712/13, leaving wife Blandina and daughter, Frances;
Benjamin Moseley, of Newtowne, Princess Anne County, proved 15 June 1717, leaving wife Elizabeth, children Daniel, Benjamin, Axwell, and Dinah;

Children of Arthur Moseley and Sarah Hancock were:

Susanna Moseley, born ca.1659, married before 1700 John Pierce;[4]
Mary Moseley, born ca.1661, married before 1700 Robert Thorowgood;[4]
William Moseley, born ca.1663, married Mary;[4]
Edward Moseley, born ca.1665, married Sarah Woodson, daughter of Robert Woodson of Henrico CO before 1689, and Mary Emperor, daughter of Tully Emperor, died 1720;[4] Through Edward descended William Moseley, the first governor of Florida. All the above four children of Arthur's were named in their maternal grandmother's will.[2]
Arthur Moseley [see information following];
George Moseley, born by 1677, married (1st) Edith and (2nd) Mary, was a carpenter, died 1726;[4]

Children of Arthur Moseley and Ann Hargrave were:

Amos Moseley, born by 1684, married Elizabeth Emperor, daughter of Tully Emperor;[2]
Anthony Moseley, born between 1689-96, married Frances [4], will proved in Princess Anne County in 1735;[2]
Luke Moseley, born ca.1695, married Ann, was Tobacco Commissioner for the upper precinct of Princess

Ann County in 1725;[4]

ARTHUR MOSELEY II

Arthur Moseley II was born by 1667 at Norfolk County, Virginia. In 1688/89 in Henrico County, Virginia, he married Sarah Hancock, born about 1673, daughter of Robert and Joan (Ligon) Hancock [see the Hancock and Ligon sections]. [2] Arthur and Sarah were probably first cousins.

As early as 1689, Arthur II appeared in the Henrico County records, but he probably had migrated there some time before that, possibly at the same time as the Hancocks. His name was listed there frequently after that in land transactions and as a witness on documents covering conveyances of others. As near as can be ascertained, the Moseleys who first came to Henrico held land and settled somewhere along both sides of the present boundary separating Chesterfield and Powhatan Counties, from what is now Moseley, Virginia, to a point near the Appomattox River. In 1724, Arthur seemed to have been temporarily embarrassed financially. He had increased his holdings near the Appomattox River in 1712, but in 1724, his son, Arthur, Jr., and Samuel Hancock were granted the same land, because Arthur, Sr., had failed to pay the quit-rents [taxes by the king].

Arthur married a second time to Elizabeth Cox [1], widow of John Jameson, in 1727 at Jamestown, Virginia. Arthur's will was dated February 22, 1728/29, and it was proved 6 July 1730 in Henrico County. In it, he named 7 children, and possibly 8. [2] [Arthur didn't make it clear whether his heir, Judith Parmst, was his daughter or not. One researcher thought so, another did not.]

Children of Arthur Moseley and his wives, Sarah Hancock and Elizabeth Cox, were:

Arthur Moseley, Jr., born ca. 1699, was Undersheriff of Henrico in 1722, had a plantation in Powhatan CO [2], married Martha Branch, widow of John Cocke [4], killed by a fall from his horse in 1736, will bequeathed, besides land, a library of books; [2]

William Moseley, born by 1708, since by the will, he was living on a plantation of his own in 1728;

Mary Moseley, married Mr. Giles;

Robert Moseley, [see information below]; *son Sarah*

Sarah Moseley, married Mr. Walker;

Judith Moseley, married Mr. Parmst;

Thomas Moseley, inherited the plantation where his father lived, and said to have been captain of Henrico Militia in 1758; [2]

Francis Moseley, thought to be the only child of Arthur and Elizabeth; [4]

F.C.S.
ROBERT LIGON MOSELEY

Robert Ligon Moseley, third son of Arthur and Sarah Hancock Moseley, was born in 1700 at Henrico County, Virginia.[1] In 1725, he married Sarah Taylor, the daughter of Richard and Rebecca [Cocke] Taylor of Moseley's Junction in Bristol Parish, Henrico County, having come from Norfolk County.[2] Sarah had been born at Henrico County in 1704.[1]

Robert inherited 275 acres on Spring Run from his father in 1730. He also acquired other land from time to time. The Moseleys later moved to what is now Chesterfield County, Virginia. His brother, Arthur, had a plantation adjoining Robert's; Arthur's was located over the line in what is now Powhatan County.[2]

Robert died at a young age, early in 1734, his will proved in June of that year. According to his will, he had only three sons: Francis, Arthur, and Robert. As was the custom of the time, minor children were given guardians by the court. Records have been found in 1738 in which son Arthur chose Thomas Moseley, probably his uncle, as his guardian, and at the same time, son Robert chose his Uncle William for his. No records were found for son Francis.[2]

Robert's widow, Sarah, married again in 1736 to John Bondurant, Jr. [See the Radford/Bondurant section.] It is not known when Sarah died.[1]

F.C.S.
ROBERT PETER MOSELEY

Robert Peter Moseley, son of Robert Ligon and Sarah Taylor Moseley, was born 14 February 1732 in Henrico County, Virginia, in what was known as Dale Parish, a few miles southwest of Richmond. He served on the Grand Jury in Henrico County in 1756.[2]

On 23 September 1756 at Manikin Town, Virginia, he married Mary Magdalene Guerrant, age 16, a French Huguenot [see the Trabue/Guerrant section]. His name was mentioned in several land transactions, but as several new counties were being formed from Henrico during this time, one has to check the records in each to find him. He lived for more than fifteen years on a 528-acre plantation he called "Summerville" which almost adjoined Manikin Town. In 1777, the family moved to Chesterfield County on the head branches of Falling Creek. It may have been that the land at "Summerville" had become worn out by continuous and too extensive cultivation of tobacco.[2] During that time, Robert was said to have been a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War.[1]