

*My Book: The First Three Hundred years
1676 - 1970 By Eleanor Covington
McSwain*

LAND DEED TO WILLIAM LEAKE FROM JOHN USSERY, 1767
AT "LAKE ISLAND" EAST SIDE OF LITTLE RIVER

Anson deeds, April 28, 1767: "Between John Ussery and Elizabeth, his wife of Anson Co., and William Leake of Buckingham Co., Va., for 230 pounds a tract of land on the northeast side of Great Pee Dee River, "being a tract granted to John Francis by his Majesty, King George II, dated June 21, 1746, and by said John Francis conveyed to Richard Touchstone and by him to Frederick Touchstone, Christopher Touchstone and Henry Touchstone, and by said Frederick Touchstone conveyed to John Ussery." "Beginning on the north side of Pee Dee River at hickory at "Lake Isle," "east side of Little River" (at Little's Mill today) and South Buffaloe, south 160 poles, then east 156 poles, then N. 8 poles, west 420 poles to Little River, thence down the various courses of the same to the first beginning, containing 300 acres more or less."

William Ussery, Surveyor General

*Wit.: Rebecca Mask
Solomon Gross*

*Judith Leake
William Leake*

How Did Frederick Touchstone Get the Tract Above?

Anson deeds, Jan. 15, 1763: Henry Touchstone to Frederick Touchstone for 20 pounds, 250 acres on "east side of Little River" at "Lake Island," granted John Francis, and from him to Richard Touchstone, from Richard Touchstone descended to Henry Touchstone, Heir-at-Law; adj. Christopher Touchstone; part of grant was conveyed to Stephen Touchstone by Richard. Wit.: Matthew Raiford, Charles Robinson. (Robertson)

John Francis from Wales, June 21, 1746, died 1798, killed by the Indians, was at Welch Neck, S. C. (Society Hill), sold land to the Touchstones. (Va. Militia) Charles Robertson b. 1740, Md., died Tenn., 1798, was Major and Judge (p. 345 Va. D.A.R.), represented Richmond Co., N. C., in the House of Commons in 1784—street named for him in Rockingham, N. C.) Matthew Raiford had a "ford over Little River where Cross Creek Road crossed Little River, 1771." (p. 73, McBee, Anson Deeds.)

THE TOUCHSTONES HAD A MILL AT "LAKE ISLAND," 1768
(LITTLE'S MILL TODAY)

In 1768, Henry Williams received a grant of 200 acres of land at "Lake Island" in Anson Co., "on the east side of Little River," beginning at a black oak "on the hillside, about 1 and ½ miles above Touchstone's Mill," dated 25 Jan. 1768, Robert Edwards, Surv.

This is "about 1 and ¼ miles above Little's Mill" on the east side, today . . . taking the road that leads to Ex-Way . . . travel about this distance and "on top of the hill," is a very old settled place.

THE LEAKE FAMILY

The Leake family came to America in the person of William Leake (a first cousin of the distinguished admiral, Sir John Leake, who settled in what is known as Essex Co., Va., in 1685. (Spottsyl-

*St. Peter's Parish
d. 1725 Goochland Co., Va.
b. 1664 Nottingham, Eng.
created Earl Scarborough 1645*

vania Co., formed from Essex in 1720, Essex formed in 1692, name changed from Rappahannock Co., which was the old Tidewater Co., and not the Rappahannock of today.)

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WILLIAM AND MARY BOSTIC LEAKE came to America in 1685, married in England. (The Bostic family was outstanding in England and Maryland. See affidavit of the Presbyterian Elders of Maryland to Col. Thomas Dockery, 1769, p. 143 . . . John Bostic, Elder in Elk Presbyterian Church, Md.) "*Bostic Branch*" was mentioned in a grant by his Majesty, King George, to John Cole in 1767, "*leading from Matthew Raiford Bridge,*" (on Little River) to *Bostic Branch.*" William Bostic b. 1750, Dover, Del., died in Morgan Co., Ga., 1811 (p. 434 Va. D.A.R.) Gen. George Graham's nephew, Marcus H. Bostick, died at the Battle of Manassas. (See p. 133.) Children of William and Mary Bostic Leake: (Among them.)

- (1) WALTER LEAKE m. Judith Mask. He was born 1704. (See Vol. X, p. 127-129, Colonial Records of N. C.) *Mask Ferry* was a famous crossing over the Pee Dee River during the Rev. War. Robert J. Steele's grant in 1798 (see p. 132), mentions the *Mask tract*. James Cotton was captured and brought to *Mask Ferry* where the Rev. soldiers encamped. Matthew Covington in his Rev. War affidavit referred to *Mask Ferry* on page 69. *James Marshall* b. 1735, Brunswick Co., Va., died 1818, (Will) Anson Co., named his grandson, *William Mask*. Children: (among them)

Estates settled 23 Nov. 1782

- (1) WILLIAM LEAKE married Judith Moseley. He was born 1734, died 1797, served in Capt. John Mark's Company of Va. (Capt. John Mark b. Albemarle Co., Va., Aug. 24, 1745, d. Ga. 1816.) (See *Hennings Statues at Large, Va. Rosters*: William Leake, Jr., Capt. James Crump b. Leesburg, Va., 1758, d. *Montgomery Co., N. C.*, 1800; Major William Wall d. *Rockingham, N. C.* 1801, Major William Pickett; Joseph Martin; David Parsons, John Smith, Lieut. Col., b. 1710, d. 1782, *Johnston Co., N. C.*, near Lillington; Andrew Randle b. *Brunswick Co., Va.*, 1754, died 1799 *Montgomery Co., N. C.*, Isham Randle b. 1758, d. 1835, Edwardsville, Ill., *Capt. Crump's Co., Col. Ledbetter's N. C. Regiment 1781*; Capt. William Covington, *Essex Co., Va.* (p. 96, *Crozier's Va. Militia.*) Children:

Pension Claim S 7136

NSDAR #1209

Will 20 Apr 1843

P. July 1844

- (1) WALTER LEAKE b. Nov. 30, 1761, d. 1844 at Rockingham, N. C., married 1783, Hannah Pickett b. 1766, d. 1809, dau. of Major and Sheriff William Pickett, and his (2) wife, Mrs. Mourning Raiford Pickett, widow of William Robards.

Children: (8)

- (1) WILLIAM PICKETT LEAKE b. 1786, married 1806, Nancy Poythress Wall, dau., of John Wall, Sr. (1746-1831) & Martha ("Patty") Cole

Children: (records of only two here.)

- (A) Col. John Wall Leake b. 1817, m. his first cousin, Ann Leake, born 1821, dau. of Walter Francis Leake and his wife, Mary Cole Leake. (They set out the big tree in the Henry C. Wall yard, and it is a beauty spot of the town of Rockingham to this day.)

- (B) James A. Leake b. abt. 1830, m. Ann Eliza McRae, sister of Octavius McRae, Wadesboro, N. C.

- Children:
- (1) John Duncan Leake m. Effie Neville Bennett, b. May 22, 1867, d. April 8, 1957 in Wadesboro, N. C. Her father was Judge R. T. Bennett, a Colonel in the Civil War, whose wife was Kate Shepherd Bennett. She had two sisters: Mrs. R. E. Little of Wadesboro, and Mrs. Kate Shepherd Bennett (Mrs. John T.), who at one time lived at Rockingham, N. C., her sons: Tyler and Jack. (On p. 420, *OUR KIN*, is a picture of Neville Bennett, Jr., and his wife, Jane, in a group picture with Robert Covington, b. 1821, son of Thos. Sands Covington, b. 1794—he a son of John Covington of Will of 1797—see p. 49-51 & Hebron Church, Bennettsville, S. C.

Children of John Duncan Leake:

*Kate Leake b. 1896, m. 1934, Frank L. Dunlap; Shepherd Leake m. Mr. Prichett; Mrs. William Shultz; John Duncan Leake, Jr.

**Colonial Dames of America.*

- (2) Walter Francis Leake, b. 1799, son of Walter Leake, b. 1761, d. 1879, m. Mary Cole, dau. of Peter Hunter Cole, b. 1774 and his wife, Nancy Love, dau. of William Love—*first Clerk of Court of Richmond Co.*, and his wife, Molly Crawford Love. William Love d. before 1794, was the son of Col. David Love, Rev. War soldier, and his wife, Miss

Blewitt (p. 159), dau. of Wm., a sister of Thomas Blewitt.

Children:

(A) Hannah Pickett Leake, b. 1824, m. Robert L. Steele, b. 1821, d. 1895.

Children of Hannah P. Leake & her husband, Robt. L. Steele:

(1) Mary Steele b. 1843 m. John Wesley Covington (91), p. 99.

(2) Ella Steele b. 1846, Walter Steele b. 1848, Willie b. 1850, Nannie b. 1852, Fannie b. 1859, Robt. L., Jr., b. 1853, S. W. Steele, b. 1855 (1874 census.)

(B) Mary Leake, dau., of Walter Francis Leake, b. 1799, m. Major John M. Scales b. 1831.

(C) Ann C. Leake m. Col. John W. Leake b. 1817—she b. 1821.

(D) Cornelia Frances Leake m. Rev. Hilliard Parsons b. 1824—he a grandson of Mastin Dukes Crawford, Clerk of Court, Richmond County and his wife, Charlotte Covington b. March 6, 1780—she a dau. of Henry Covington (3), (see p. 153.)

(3) Sally Leake, second child of Walter Leake b. 1761 and Hannah Pickett Leake b. 1766, was born 1788, d. 1873, m. (1) in 1813, Rev. William Terry b. 1774, d. 1827—son of James and Anne Robard Terry, who had grant at what is now *Zion Church*. Rev. William Terry, in 1803, was living at old Sneadsboro, but died in Ala. Anne Robard's mother, Mrs. Mourning Raiford Robard, wife of William Robard d. 1803. She m. (2) Sheriff William Pickett of Anson Co., and by him had two children: Hannah Pickett m. Walter Leake in 1783, and James Pickett m. Miss Kimbrough. Sally Leake Terry m. (2) William Wall Covington (14), son of John (2) and Nancy (Mary) Wall Covington, who in 1801 "*willed him one hundred acres of land at Zion, but "reserved one acre" near the fruit orchard.*" She had no children by Wm. Covington (14)

James and Anne Robard Terry were m. in 1771—he a bro. of *Eli Terry*, Clerk of Court 1800. Sallie Robard the other dau., of Mrs. Mourning Raiford Robard m. Thomas Chiles, who in 1772, had a land grant on Little River, which was completely surrounded by *John Roe's* grant No. 199, file 4161, 200 acres, known as "*Roe's Hazard*" on N.E. side of Little River, beg: "at river bank up various courses to *Thomas Chiles* corner, surv. 27 May, 1772, by William Love, D.S. John Roe willed 200 acres in 1780 to Rachel, the wife of "*Ram Billy Thomas*," and 200 acres to *Samuel Salisbury Chears*, his grandson. It was Sophia Chears who m. Robert Webb, long time member of the

Legislature from Richmond County. (See *Olds Wills, John Webb 1794*, and p. 45, 169, this book.)

Children of Sally Leake & her husband, Rev. Wm. Terry:

(1) Martha R. Terry b. 1814, d. 1883, m. (1) Mr. Richardson, m. (2) James T. LeGrand b. 1790, d. 1853, both buried in the *LeGrand-Baldwin Cemetery* at Mangum — this section known as "*Goose Pond*" — see Col. Thos. Dockery's will, 1795 and Charles Harrington grant, March 19, 1779, 100 acres, chains by *James Phillips, Henry Phillips*. (*Martha Terry and the children of William Covington (14) thus, were step-brothers and sisters.*) Her children referred to his dau. as "*Aunt Mary.*" Children (5).

(1) Fannie LeGrand b. 1840 d. 1906, m. Capt. W. I. Everett b. 1835, d. 1911. Fannie referred to *Mary Amy Covington (50)* who m. *Michael Wall*, son of *John Wall (1746-1831)* as "*Aunt Mary Amy Wall.*" Capt. Everett wrote in his history several times that this "*Aunt Mary Amy Wall,*" was the wife of *Michael Wall*, who was the "*nephew*" of the (*Nancy*) or *Mary Wall* who married *John Covington (2)* about 1770. Michael Wall died in 1863, so Capt. Everett knew, without a doubt, this bit of history . . . that *Mary Wall* married *John Covington (2)* and not *William (1)*.

(2) Jennie LeGrand m. W. E. Crosland. Their dau., Maude Crosland m. in 1901, Paul Cameron Whitlock—he a first cousin of Ada Morrison Nuttall, and Gov. Cameron Morrison, whose mother was a Cameron.

(3) Ermine LeGrand m. Thomas R. Baldwin, son of Dudley Baldwin, who was the third son of Jesse Baldwin, who served in the Rev. War, b. 1760. D.A.R. No. 150237, N. C. Children: Minne b. 1870, m. as (2) wife of W. T. Covington (9A-1) in 1896; Virginia; Homer Baldwin, Sheriff; Thomas R. James; Daisy Anderson of Albemarle, N. C., Bertha Hicks of Biscoe; Stella m. James Page of Charlotte.

(4) Nash LeGrand m. Mrs. Maggie Moore Leak.

(5) James T. LeGrand b. 1849, d. 1901 m. Rebecca Wilson (1856-1917), both buried at East Side Cemetery, Rockingham, N. C.

Children:

(A) Nash LeGrand b. 1892, d. 1957.

(B) Mary (May) b. 1880, d. 1950 m. 1903, W. R. Land of Hamlet, N. C. b. 1877, died 1945.

- (4) JUDITH MOSELEY LEAKE, dau., of Walter & Hannah P. Leake m. (1) William Terry Cole, b. 1784, d. 1814, son of Stephen Cole (Will 1839) and Nancy Terry. Judith m. (2) Thomas Steele b. 1786, d. 1837, son of Robert J. Steele, Sr. (1750-1816), born in Eng., died in Richmond Co., at Little's Mill. (See old cemetery there.) After Thomas Steele's death in 1837, Judith m. (3) his brother, Robert J. Steele, Jr., b. 1791, d. 1866, who in 1838 built the Robert Johnson brick house in Rockingham. Children by William Terry Cole:

First Set:

- (1) Stephen Cole of Ansonville, N. C., Will 1889, wife, Sallie Shelton (Anson Wills).
 - (2) Second Set: Col. Walter L. Steele, b. 1823; Robert L. Steele, b. 1821.
- (5) JAMES PICKETT LEAKE, b. 1805, d. 1877, m. 1830 Jane Wall Crawford, dau. of *Thomas Crawford, Jr.*, b. 1788, son of Col. *Thomas Crawford and Rebecca Covington (VI) Crawford*. Thomas Crawford, Jr. m. Harriett Wall b. 1789, dau. of John Wall, Sr. (1746-1831). James P. Leake was the youngest of eight children. We do not have the records of the other three in this family.

Children:

- (1) Thomas Crawford Leake b. 1831, d. 1913, graduated from the University of N. C. in 1853, m. 1855 Martha Ann (Pattie) Wall b. 1839, dau. of Michael (Mial) Wall b. 1801, and his wife, Mary Covington (50), dau. of William Wall Covington (14). Mial or Michael Wall was the son of John Wall, Sr., and in his Will, book 5, p. 24, Richmond Co., d. Feb. 1863, stated: "*Henry C. Wall and Thomas C. Leake, son-in-law, Executors.*"

Children: (7 sons and two daughters.)

- (1) Mamie Wall Leake b. 1859 m. 1882, Hon. Walter L. Parsons b. in Camden, S. C., in 1858, son of Rev. Hilliard Crawford Parsons, b. 1824—he a son of Rev. James Parsons b. 1795 in Montgomery Co., N. C., and his wife, Mary Elizabeth (Charlotte) Crawford, dau. of *Martin Dukes Crawford*, long time Clerk of Court, b. 1779, and his wife, Charlotte Covington, dau. of Henry Covington (111).
- (2) James P. Leake, Jr., b. 1861, m. Connie Dockery, dau. of Capt. James Dockery, son of Thomas Dockery, Jr. b. 1770/71, and his wife, *Nancy Covington* (33)—she a dau. of *Benjamin Covington (V)*.

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Children:

- (1) Pickett Leake; (2) William Leake; (3) Concord Leake, m. and living in Mississippi.
- (3) William C. Leake (Doc), b. 1863, d. 1918, m. 1895, Nancy Pegues of S. C. He was a graduate of Bingham School at Mebane, and at the age of 30 years became Pres. of the Pee Dee Mfg. Co. in 1893. At the close of the Civil War, his father's farms pillaged and plundered, his slaves freed, he moved to Rockingham and invested his capital largely in cotton mills, and became a pioneer in this industry in this state. In 1874 his father organized the Pee Dee Mfg. Co., and a little later the Roberdel Mfg. Co. The whole town turned out for his funeral.

Children:

- (1) William Leake married Miss Gibson.
- (2) Thomas Leake.
- (4) James W. Leake, Jr. b. 1865 (1874 census).
- (5) Mial Leake b. 1867, m. Sadie Smith of Fayetteville, sister of Mrs. Frances Smith O'Brien (Buren) and Cooper Smith—Mrs. W. E. Covington.
- (6) Mary J. Covington b. 1859 (1874 census).
- (7) Thomas Crawford Leake b. 1869, m. Mary Ledbetter, wid. of Settle Dockery, Sr.

Children: *Hal Leake m. Peggy Plexico.*

ELLERBE SPRINGS OF LONG AGO

Thomas Crawford Leake died in 1923. He owned the famous Ellerbe Springs Hotel and Recreation Center, which the people of Richmond County enjoyed for over a hundred years. Col. William Ellerbe of Cheraw, S. C. (Will 1820), purchased the springs in 1803 from Michael Crawford, son of John, Sr. Rev. John McFarlan, Pres. Minister, had a summer cottage there. (His wife was Rebecca Ellerbe, dau. of Thomas Ellerbe, Capt. in Rev. War, a bro. of Col. William.) *Mrs. Margaret Bethune, age 91, was buried at the "Fairgrounds" in 1838, so stated the old Harmony Church records, organized in 1800, and moved to Ellerbe Springs. Until a few years ago, this large white church stood on the hill, with its slave gallery, and a few early graves nearby. Now stands on this sacred spot, a Rest Center. Mrs. Margaret*

Bostic Bethune was the grandmother of Bethune Bostic McKenzie b. 1807, son of Kenneth McKenzie, an elder in the old church.

The Supreme Court Records in 1872 stated: "Bethune Bostic McKenzie, W. L. Covington, and John W. Leake, sureties for the bond of Rev. J. A. Covington in 1857, Adm., of the estate of John P. Covington, "three of the most solvent men in Richmond County."

- (8) Frank Leake, b. 1871, m. Gertie Webb, sister of Crawford Webb. Henry C. Webb m. Gertie Alden, dau. of Mrs. Frank Alden, who m. (2) Thos. B. Covington, b. 1845, d. 1926, son of W. L. Covington (46). Judge A. A. Webb now serving in the District Courts, son of Henry C. Webb, is a grandson of Stephen Webb. Dr. W. P. Webb, father of Addie and Carey Webb, is a kinsman—all can be traced back to Henry Covington (1) this book.

OTHER ENTERPRISES OF THE LEAKE FAMILY

Did the Leake family come into possession of the *Mask Ferry* over the Pee Dee River, following the Rev. War? The 1911, Richmond County map shows the *Leake Ferry* at or about the same location. Other enterprises of the Leake family were: The Leake, Wall and McRae Mfg. Company, the Bank of Pee Dee, and the Richmond County Savings Bank.

IVY FROM WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE'S TOMB

In 1928, Mrs. Nancy Pegues Leake on her return from a trip to England, sent a few sprigs of Ivy from the tomb of William Shakespeare to the author of this book, who, at that time, was County Home Agent with the State College Extension Dept., Washington Co., Plymouth, N. C.

With special ceremony, apropos the occasion, the Ivy was planted by a corner of the historical old town's court house. At that very moment, the famous dirigible, *Los Angeles*, floated serenely by on its airborne voyage down the great Roanoke River. Today, the Ivy covered walls of the old court house afford a picturesque place for politicians making campaign speeches, and group pictures.

POST OFFICES 1872

The Raleigh Register gives the following Post Offices, 1872: *Bear Branch*, where Rev. Frank Sanford had a school, *Bostic Mill* (above Ellerbe), *Capel Mill*, *Covington*, *Laurel Hill*, *Laurinburg*, *Little's Mill*, *Mangum* (formerly Goose Pond), *Powellton*, *Powhatan*, *Rockingham*. (No Hamlet or Ellerbe—the 1850 map shows "Fair Grounds" where the General Assembly decreed that Fairs should be held for exchange of commodities, about 1792.

MERCHANTS IN ROCKINGHAM, 1874

The population of Rockingham in 1874 was 454. Merchants in town: 1872, *Covington-Everett*. (This was John Euclid Covington (9A2-1) and Capt. W. I. Everett). Col. John W. Leake was Pres. of Great Falls Mfg. Co., with R. L. Steele, Sec.

His tomb is inside
Trinity Church