

Descendants of William LEA

Generation No. 1

1. WILLIAM² LEA (*WILLIAM*¹) was born Bef. 1710 in King & Queen Co., VA, and died 1762 in Caswell Co., NC. He married MARY BARNETT 1732 in Caswell Co., NC. She was born Abt. 1732 in Unknown, and died 1785 in Caswell Co, NC.

Notes for WILLIAM LEA:

Katherine Kerr Kendall's article #444 in the CC Heritage Bk. is the documented work on this family. This "William LEA & Mary BARNETT, of Cobbs Ck.

William LEA probably had a first wife. Mary BARNETT survived him by 20 years. She left will.

William LEA, "Cobb" son of William LEA, of K&Q Co., VA., Mattapone r. Madison's Mill Swamp. 100 A. Brother to : James & Ann (TOLBERT) LEA, "Kilgore". Prob. Sarah (LEA) SARGENT, and John & Ann (CARTER) LEA.

1755, 7 June, Purchased land on Cobbs Ck.

1757. Justice of Peace in ORANGE Co., NC. (There were two William Lea's who served as JP)

1762. Died intestate.

Tax List: Name appears on 1755 Tax List of Orange Co., as " William LEA on Cobs Ck." Inventory of his property in Sep. 1762 by Mary LEA, & John LEA, administrators. (Oldest son.)

[Other Line: John X. LEA, son of "Halifax" & bro. to a William. May 17, 1779 John LEA entered claim for 133 A. of land on Cobbs C., in which deed he described himself as "John LEA", son of William LEA, dec'd". (P. 120. Ben rose: "Report of Research on the LEA family in VA & NC Before 1800."] However we know that this "Halifax" is close to the "Cobb" Lea line and to the William Sergeant and wife Sarah (Lea). See son of Wm. of "Cobbs", Col. George Lea about the 133 acres that border Georges land.

Note: Jan. Court 1827. KKKendall, P. 83. Jan. Court 1827. Inv. Est. P. 135. George W. LEA.

1/3 Part undivided lands belonging to : George W. Lea; William H(enry) Lea; James M. LEA, SOLD.

Interest in negroes now in possession of Catharine LEA. 8 Jan. 1827. Adm. James M. LEA.

These are names of bro.'s, sons of George LEA.

#73. Founders of Lea's Chapel Methodist Church, built in 1755. Orange/Caswell now Person Co. article in "Person Co. Heritage Bk." Names some of the early settlers recorded death's: WILLIAM LEA in 1762. (His dated stone is now supporting the present bldg.) This must be William of "Cobbs ck." as he died suddenly & intestate on that date. JAMES LEA in 1788. This is date of JAMES "KILGORE" LEA, bro. of WILLIAM of "COBBS". WILLIAM SERGEANT in 1762. His wife SARAH is accepted as a LEA and sister of these bros. JOHN LEA, {CARTER}. 1782, his full date is on tombstone. All but JOHN are tied by having received the inheritance of the 100 acres from their father, WILLIAM LEA, on the Matiponi river, Madison's Mill swamp, VA. They are neighbors, and are closely intermarried. They are distinguished from the "Country Line Lea's". Only one cross marriage, between Capt. William Lea's dau. and of the South Hyco & William of "Cobbs" son HENRY. The "Chapel" was built chiefly by these families and others. I would also include the line of Capt. William Lea of south Hyco, one of the "Country Line" group. Note: I.

[Note: At the same time, 10 miles further west on a connecting wagon road, now gone, was another "Chappie" built on Country Line, called "New Hope". These Lea's are sometimes referred to as "New Hope Leas." . So, there are two Chapels, neither of which were supplied by a minister of the English church. The second one is forgotten, and some stories combine the two

Note: I. Capt William LEA, "South Hyco", and bro. to John LEA of "Country Line" had a son George, but he and all his family were off the tax lists by 1784. They migrated. This was the line of ancestor of Ben Rose. Their plantation was this LEA land in Person Co. Many of their offspring appear with the "other" Lea's in MS & LA. They recognise that they are of two separate lines. Letters that show this are on file in Caswell Co., Hist./Genea.

Notes for MARY BARNETT:

Note: Probably his 2nd wife. She survives him by 20 years. Leaves Will.

Son; George was too young to serve in the military between 1775 & 1781. There are Continental vouchers given to him for supplying the army. It is in later years he becomes an NC State Rep. and Senator. In the NC Militia he

will become it's Col. Article, biog.

Another Mary BARNETT m. Josiah PAYNE. They are probably of the same line, as there is a BARNETT of the old Jamestowne families. The ARCHER line is also of the early Jamestowne line which name shows in this line of Lea's. Other Jamestowne names include; Powell, Bates Moore, Tarlton & Carter. There are also at least two families who claim to be of Indian descent, and of the Powhattan group.

Children of WILLIAM LEA and MARY BARNETT are:

- i. JOHN³ LEA, b. 1749, Unknown; d. Aft. 1810, Caswell Co, NC; m. (1) UNKNOWN, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Unknown, Unknown; m. (2) PEGGY SATTERFIELD., Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Unknown, Caswell Co, NC; d. Unknown, Caswell Co, NC.

Notes for JOHN LEA:

Note: Called "Widows son". Mary (Barnett) LEA lived 20 years beyond her husband. She was surely his second wife.

John will also have two wives. 1. Unknown. Two sons. Probably an Absolem, b. 1771?

M. 2. Peggy Satterfield. At least 4 sons. "Raleigh Register" newspaper, lists: Peggy 55, Groom, 60. 1779 Claim for 133 acres Cobbs Ck. "Son of Dec'd." His brother George will also repurchase some of this "old Lea land. It borders his land. His is 110 acres owned by boy, Daniel, son of his bro., Joseph Sargent, (died after imprisonment by Cornwallis). This 110 acres was sold to Daniel by John X LEA.

1785: Tax List, CC. Called "Widows son." This separates him from other John Lea's in the area. His father was an important person, and his death was "striking". The jury found his body, fallen on the road from his plantation into town to be without any sign of miss deed. Decided it was "act of God".
1810 Census. 2 sons; 16-26. 2 under 10.

- ii. WILLIAM HENRY LEA, b. Bef. 1751, Unknown; d. 1774, Caswell Co. NC; m. ELIZABETH LEA, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Aft. 1751, Caswell Co. NC; d. Oct 1802, Caswell Co., NC.

Notes for WILLIAM HENRY LEA:

Note: Birth date est. from date of marriage. Age 21 was usual age for male as he could now own land. He m. Elizabeth, dau. of Capt. William LEA of the south Hyc. (Ben Rose Line). Their dau. is only child.

Note: He died "testate". (In one so young it may be that he fell to a sudden illness.)

Note: Called "Henry". Henry will witness the Will of James LEA, father of Major, of "Country Line", written by father in law, Capt. William LEA, (no blood relation to Henry as the witness in a Will cannot be a blood relation), the father of Henry's wife, Elizabeth.

Capt. William LEA will ride and pick up Henry as a witness for the writing of the will of James "Country Line". Capt William is very specific and prompt when 20 years later James died and Capt Wm. immediately rode to the new courthouse of the new Person co. to register the death. There is still not a courthouse in Caswell. He writes a full page "witness" document. KKKendall found the document in the Person co. files at archives, in Raleigh..

Henry is short lived. His widow, Elizabeth, with one child named for her mother, Frances, remarries. This time is to the bro. of Henry, James LEA.

Note: This is one source of several mixup's in Casey's book, Amite Co. But he is having to write decades after from another's records. It seems that William Henry dropped his first name and used Henry.

Notes for ELIZABETH LEA:

Widow Elizabeth will m Henry's bro. James. She dies before James, between Oct 1802 to Sep 1803. Seven children whose names are similar to Capt. Wm's dau.'s names. This is a source of much confusion as they are similar to Capt William Lea's family. A source of Amite Co. MS & confusion in the work of Casey, based on material given to him. There the two lines, of Wm. of "Cobbs" and Capt Wm of "Country Line" get confused, even among the descendants.

- iii. JAMES M. LEA, b. Abt. 1753, Orange Co, NC; d. Sep 1803, Caswell Co, NC; m. ELIZABETH LEA, Abt. 1775, Caswell Co., NC; b. Aft. 1751, Caswell Co. NC; d. Oct 1802, Caswell Co., NC.

Notes for JAMES M. LEA:

Note: James will now marry the widow of his brother, William Henry, and the dau. Elizabeth. Henry did not live much beyond 24 years. His name will be carried in the lines of these Lea's. There is a Major Henry Sergeant, Esquire, who will also figure prominently in these Lea's and Sergeants.

The names of Elizabeth's children will almost duplicate that of her father, Capt. Wm. Lea. As Capt Wm migrates around 1800 they are found in MS, and help to confuse their descendants, and become a source of Casey's confusion.

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- iv. COL, NC & SENATOR, NC GEORGE W. LEA¹, b. Aft. 1755, Orange Co. NC; d. Bef. 1830, Orange Co, NC²; m. (1) JANE DOUGLAS, 24 Feb 1785, Caswell Co., NC³; b. 1762, Caswell Co, NC; d. 1826, Caswell Co, NC; m. (2) MARY WINSTEAD, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Unknown, Caswell Co, NC; d. Unknown, Caswell Co, NC.

Notes for COL, NC & SENATOR, NC GEORGE W. LEA:

Note: Members of the N C Assembly from 1782 to 1800 were; George LEA, (Col. Militia, son of William LEA of "Cobbs Ck." & Mary (Barnett?) LEA), Gabriel LEA, (son of James "Kilgore" LEA,) & Herndon HARALSON. (Note: 1.)

NC Militia: DAR BK. George LEA served as private in NC Militia, with Wm. LEA, (1733-1802): served as private also. (Note: 2.)

Reynolds Land Grant: 1767--Cobbs Ck.--signed by George Lea, & Elijah Reynolds as sureties. Bordered that of William Johnson, Thomas Nealey & Samuel JOHNSTON, Thomas Douglas & D---Van Hook.

Reynolds was b. 1745. May have been related to Sarah Runnels, Dau. of Mary Lea. Mary named her daughter Sarah Runnels & George LEA in her will in (date?).

Executors were: James Lea & her son George. Witnesses were: Richard Eskridge, James Lea, George Lea. The "widow" Lea's land in 1783 joined Eskridge on Cobbs Creek. George Ex: gets 260 a.

1790: County of Person division from Caswell.

Person Co. Taxes: William JOHNSTON & "widow" LEA, Mary.

After Mary "widow" LEA death George reduces land to 165 acres.

His land was in Person but his will was filled in Orange Co. Probate 1830, EX: Wm. A. LEA & Abner LEE. Witt: Abner LEA, Simeon LEA & Lewis Haguewood.

George marries 2nd wife, Mary W. She is "widowed", and in Sep. 19, 1836 m. Samuel JOHNSTON. Requests guardian to 3 sons, Miles, Henry & Wm. Archer Lea, her sons by George.

While holding office, he resided in Leasburg about six years in former house of James Lea. This house stands behind the Johnston/Stanford house, and across road from Solomon Lea. His dau. Mary Logan LEA would m. John JOHNSTON. These are the leading families who founded Leasburg. His son William Archer LEA II m. 1809 Susan Cochran who d. in Arkansas. Their son William Archer, Jr. would be very active in Leasburg, especially in land/lot sales.

Note I. Nancy LEA who m. Paul Haralson was the gr-dau. of John & Rebeka LEA, & the dau. of James LEA. Another Nancy LEA m. Vincent LEA; 1 Nancy BRADSHIER., 2. Nancy LEA., dau. of Carter & Patsy (Hubbard) McNEAL

Court Case: Person Co., June 1805, John LEA, son of "Halifax", appeared in open court & voluntarily admitted the debt of some 65 Lb. owing to Herndon Haralson. Order issued against estate of John LEA by Jacob Van Hook, the then sheriff, and the property sold to highest bidder to satisfy judgement of Haralson. The property was purchased by (Sen./Col) George LEA, and he sold to Henry SARGENT (Maj./Esq.) Nov. 14, 1808. Witt: William LEA & William A. LEA, (son of George.) This land ends up with Dan'l & Delphy Sargent (Source: Ruth L. Heineman, & K. K. Kendall.) This John LEA (Halifax), 1805 is still in Person Co. records, but is living in VA with sons. Dead by 1806, when his estate was sold to highest bidder, George LEA, to settle account with Herndon Haralson. It would seem to be John (Halifax) LEA's son, John X LEA, who comes back to Caswell Co. This land transfer is one of several between these persons, indicating a supportive relationship connection. EX: Joseph Sergeant, his 110 acres purchased from John "X" Lea, just before the Revolution, for his son, Joseph, (6 yrs old). Later, Col. George Lea will buy it back from the young son, now age 20, as he migrates to Pendleton, SC a year before he can legally transfer ownership.

[The proof of Joseph's son, Daniel, age is found in the series of yearly land tax records. His stepfather pays them while he is a minor, then when boy turns 16, they are listed under his name, and Doyle's are reduced by that amount. He could not sell until he was 21, which is why Col. George Lea registers his purchase of the land on Jan. 2, when court open, of the year past when Daniel turned 21. The Doyls had migrated out to Pendleton, SC, a couple of years earlier. The sources of intense investigation by a descendant for a D.A.R. paper on this son is found in verticle files in NC Archives. The correct DANIEL, called DAN'L, son of Steven Sergeant, uncle to child Daniel, was accepted by D.A.R. It is also placed in Genea. NC Archives. The boy's family should use father: Joseph, as he qualifies.]]

Note: 2. Four George LEA's; 1. "George", sells land in Orange Co., to Sam McMurray on Hico, St Lukes Dist. 1769. Land close to Tinch Carter. (Unknown, moved). 2. Col/Sen George, son of Wm & Mary LEA. 3. Son of Capt William LEA of "Country Line". Moved with family. 4. George, son of Zachariah, nephew to Col./Sen. George. Of course, the name will continue in the many lines.

Notes for MARY WINSTEAD:

Note: Mary must be of the Winstead who m. the sister of Stephen Sergeant, son of Dan'l Sergeant of the Hyco. As Stephen m. Ann Payne (Ware) Richardson, and their dau, Agnes Ware Sergeant then m. Dr. Josiah Asbury Stanfield of Leasburg, and they will inherit and live on the John Johnston property.

Samuel Johnston, guardian of these sons of George Lea, would be father of John Johnston, who m. Mary Logan Lea.

Mary W., widow of George will marry Samuel Johnston: There is record of her requesting the suardianship to 3 sons of George, Miles, Henry & William Archer II. The date is 19 Sep. 1836. It is not clear but the indication is that these are the sons of hers by George. They could be Jane.

Her marriage to Samuel Johnston, was late years. The request for guardianship suggests that she is now widowed and the children are minors.

There is a William Archer LEA who m. 1809 Susan Cochran. She died in AK. Son William Archer, Jr. who was very active in Leasburg. this must be a later person.

- v. SARAH LEA, b. Bef. 1760, Orange Co, NC; d. Aft. 1795, Wilkes Co., GA.; m. PRESTON RUNNELS, Abt. 1795, Wilkes Co., GA.; b. Unknown, Unknown; d. Unknown, Unknown.

Notes for PRESTON RUNNELS:

Note: Part of the great migration to Georgia. Caswell Co., will lose over half of their landholders. It is to land given for service, much of which was bought for the younger generation, while the older veterans stayed home.

- vi. BARNETT LEA^d, b. Abt. 1760, Orange Co, NC; d. Aft. 1810, Person Co., NC; m. MOURNING ROAN, 1782, Caswell Co., NC⁵; b. Unknown, Unknown; d. Unknown, Unknown.

Notes for BARNETT LEA:

Note: A large family. Land next to bro. George, Richard McFarland & Oakley. On tax list in 1784. In 1810 he was over 45.

- vii. RICHARD LEA, b. Bef. 1761, Orange Co, NC; d. 1839, Person Co., NC; m. JENNETT UNKNOWN, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Unknown, Unknown; d. Unknown, Unknown.

Notes for RICHARD LEA:

Note: A very large family. He is on the tax lists by 1777, indicating that he had reached an age to inherit property, and pay taxes, but could not sell until age 21.

The wife's name Jennett, could be her first or last. There is a Mary Logan Lea who is the dau. of Col. George and who m. 8 Jan. 1806, John Johnston. They are the parents of; 1. Jennett Logan and 2. Sarah Price "Sally" Stanfield, 3. William Archer who m. Susan Cochran. I do not believe that this Jennett Logan became the wife of Richard, but was probably named for his wife.

- viii. ZACHARIAH LEA, b. Abt. 1761, Orange Co. NC; d. 1792, Caswell Co. NC; m. ANN UNKNOWN, Unknown, Caswell Co., NC; b. Unknown.

Notes for ZACHARIAH LEA:

Note: His age is deduced from the fact he was age 16 in 1777.

Note: There is an earlier George & Zachariah LEA who leave about 1778. Will of John (Carter) LEA leaves land he purchase of Zachariah to dau. BETTY. (LEA). Is she an "Elizabeth?" But who does she marry?

Note: John (Carter) Lea's family is involved in both church, the founding of Lea's Chapel, land transfers, and marriages down to three generations. At no time is there one with the "Country Line Lea's." If this Carter Lea family was related to theirs then this absence of "cousin" marriages raises a question.

Note: In 5 May 1835 William A.(rcher) LEA m. Sarah H. WRIGHT. This is a third generation link between the families of William "Cobbs" LEA & John "Richland Ck." LEA. See John (Carter) LEA for marriages with WRIGHT family.

- ix. ARCHER LEA, b. Bef. 1762, Orange Co, NC; d. Unknown, Unknown.

Notes for ARCHER LEA:

Note: No information. May have outmigrated to Wilkes Co., GA. However there is an Archer Lea who is in Leasburg at it's founding and he is a large land holder and speculates in the town land. KKKendal published all the land transactions in two vol.'s of 300 pages each, and his name if frequent.

Endnotes

1. Will BK: L. 1830. ., P. 510, "Heirs of Mary Logan Johnston: Jennett Logan Johnston & hes sister SALLY Stanfield."
2. Caswell Co., NC Will Book 1814-1843 KK Kendall.
3. Bond:, Marriage Bond: Witt: Benjamin Douglas..
4. Tax Lists., 1810, over 45.
5. Bond, Bondsman, George LEA, bro.