

FLETCHERS OF WALLOPS NECK,
Accomack County, Va.

Fletchers of Wallops Neck

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Introduction

This Fletcher line proved to be a complicated one. The results of researching it are not entirely satisfactory. Chart I shows two questionable points, in which the records do not give enough information to prove the connections. The first one is not too serious. While proof is lacking here, the circumstances were such that a valid assumption could be made, based on no new recorded Fletcher entries to the Eastern Shore.

The failure to find the name of the father of Nathan Fletcher is more serious. A connection with him and the Fletchers of the Messongo-Jenkins Bridge area can be sensed from the records. And since both the other Fletcher families on the Eastern Shore left no connected line of descendants, a tie-in has been made with them. This could be entirely erroneous. Both the Messongo-Jenkins Bridge Fletchers and the Wallops Neck Fletchers married into the Wallop family and the Drummond family. Their relationship could have come from these marriages or another, undetermined common ancestor. In a way, the fact they married into the same families could indicate they were related, for during this period of Eastern Shore history, travel was restricted and cousins tended to marry cousins.

Chart III, showing the Messongo-Jenkins Bridge Fletchers, while not a part of the line traced here, has been included. It shows descendants of that line who owned land in Wallops Neck, namely, Thomas E. Fletcher and Douglas D. Fletcher. Douglas D. Fletcher lived at Wattsville in the early 1900s.

While it was necessary to delve into the Messongo-Jenkins Bridge Fletchers, in order to separate them from those of Wallops Neck, Chart II can be considered a by-product, since the main focus of this research was not on that line. Consequently, no documentation is given for Chart II and no apologies are made for possible, minor inaccuracies.

Chart III is entirely accurate. The records are very clear from the time Nathan Fletcher first appeared in 1772 to the death of John G. Fletcher's widow in 1967.

The reader will find the same name spelled in different ways throughout the report. In each case, the spelling found in the particular record has been used. There also have been instances when a person's middle initial is shown differently by different records.

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Early Fletchers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

The earliest Fletcher name appearing in Eastern Shore of Virginia records is that of a James Fletcher, head right in 1635 for William Stone when the latter patented 1800 acres of land in present-day Northampton County.¹ William Stone had paid the passage of thirty-six persons, including himself and brother Andrew, to the Colony of Virginia, thereby entitling him to the 1800 acres at the rate of fifty acres per person. This land was located "at the blunt point between Hungers Creek and Mattawomens". Also listed among Stone's head rights were: Robert Chessheire, William Davis and Henri Armitrading (ancestor of the Trader family).

William Stone had imigrated to Virginia from Northamptonshire, England, in 1628 and was appointed governor of the state of Maryland in 1648, after patenting the land on the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

The records do not give the name of James Fletcher again. Other of William Stone's head rights continued to live on the Eastern Shore after working off their three-year indenture periods, and raised families here, leaving present-day descendants. It can be assumed that James Fletcher did likewise, without owning land or leaving a will.

In 1653, the name of Left Coll. George Fletcher was included among a group of men "nominated as assistants to attend the Governor and Secretairie for the settlement of the peace" in Northampton County.² This document was issued by the Governor of Virginia in response to a protest made by Northampton inhabitants the preceeding year against the tax of 46 pounds of tobacco per polloster. The "Secretairie" of this official document was Capt. William Claiborne, Secretary for the Colony of Virginia, who had been appointed in September 1632 as head of

¹ Nugent, Nell Marion, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1732, vol. I, p. 28.

² Whitelaw, Ralph T., Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties, vol. I, p. 30.

the "Commissioners for the Plantacon of Acckawmacke". He was in charge of the 500 acre "Scretary's Land" where the first court meeting for Accomack-Northampton were held at "The Towne". It appears that Claiborne did not live in this area, as he was settling Kent Island in the upper Chesapeake Bay during the period, but he returned here for court meetings. His name appears also on early Northampton County records as he leased the "Secretary's Land" for twenty-one year periods.

Leonard W. Johnson, in Ebb and Flow (P. 52), states that George Fletcher, the associate of William Claiborne in opening up the trade of the upper Chesapeake, was an English merchant on the Eastern Shore. He further states that, in 1646, Claiborne and Fletcher were represented in legal proceedings by James Fletcher, attorney of Eltham, County Kent, England, who was a brother to George Fletcher. Eastern Shore of Virginia records give no evidence of George Fletcher owning land here, having a family here or dying here.

Northampton County records include a document made by John Wilcocks on 17 April 1660³ showing he owed Richard ffletcher of London, Merchant, a "parcel" of tobacco, for which he was making payment with one two-year old heifer.

In 1666, the name of a George Fletcher appears, again, as a head right for Alexander Williams when he patented 600 acres of land in Accomack County.⁴ This land was actually in the neighborhood of present-day Snow Hill, Maryland, but at the time the patent was issued, Virginia was claiming land north of the present Md.-Va. line. The state of Maryland reissued this patent at a later date.

The names of John and Susan Fletcher were included as head rights for Mrs. Ann Toft, when she patented 2000 acres of land in Accomack County in 1668/9.⁵

³ North. Deeds, Red Ink IX, p. 46.

⁴ Nottingham, Statton, Certificates and Rights, Accomack Co., Va. 1663-1709, p. 30.

⁵ Ibid, p. 40.

Mrs. Toft's land was in Gargathy Neck on the creek by the same name, which later became Kegotank Creek in Metompkin District. No descendants have been found of John and Susan Fletcher.

On 28 July 1685, a record was made in Northampton County of a deposition of "John ffletcher, master of the Shipp Portsmouth Pinch naow Ryding in Cherri-stone Creek on the Eastern Shore in Virginia."⁶ John Fletcher was evidently ill and died on 13 July before this deposition was recorded. He appointed his brother-in-law, one William Swan to take charge of the ship. There is no indication that John Fletcher, master of the Portsmouth Pinch, was an Eastern Shore resident.

The first Fletcher whose name continually appears in Eastern Shore records, was a William Fletcher. He gave a deposition on 29 September 1672, in which he was described as being 26 years of age "or thereabouts".⁷ He stated that he was in the company of an Edward Grindly (Greenly?) between Nuswattox and Occahanock Creeks and heard him speak of a Mr. Browne paying seven pounds for Grindly's passage. The deposition was signed by William ffletcher.

William Fletcher's name continued to appear in Accomack County records, as he gave other depositions in 1673 and 1689⁸ (giving his age as 46 years). He entered a cattle mark in 1674⁹ and agreed to raise a child of Mary Windham's in 1677.¹⁰ On 20 January 1674, Tobias Sellvey (Selby), Chirurgion, deeded 150 acres of land to his daughter, Elizabeth, and her husband, William Fletcher.¹¹ The land was located between Pungoteague and Craddockville. On 4 April 1699,

⁶ North. Order Book & Wills, 1683-1689. p. 153.

⁷ Acco. Orders, Wills & C, 1671-1673, p. 149.

⁸ Acco. Orders, Wills & C, 1673-1676, pp. 121-122.

⁹ Ibid, p. 229.

¹⁰ Acco. Orders, 1676-1678, p. 48.

¹¹ Acco. Wills & Etc, 1692- 1715. Part I, p. 135.

William Fletcher, Cordwainer, and Elizabeth, his wife, deeded their son, Matthew, 50 acres of land that had been given them by Tobias Sellvey in his will.¹²

William Fletcher wrote his will on 13 November 1710 and it was probated on 5 December of the same year.¹³ He left his wife, Elizabeth, his plantation for her lifetime and then it went to his son, William. Personal property was devised to son Matthew, son Thomas heired a boat and compass and two other sons, Batterton and Brandon, inherited "heffers". Daughters Elizabeth Hall, Dorothy Parker, Mary Croucher, Rosannah and Frances were named. Witnesses were Thomas Hall and George Farmer.

On 5 July 1712, son Thomas Fletcher bought 300 acres of land on the north side of Mesongo Creek from Richard Bayly for 45 pounds.¹⁴ While nothing in the deed states this Thomas was the son of William Fletcher, who died testate in 1710, this Thomas, in his will of 1736/7,¹⁵ left to an only son, Henry, and his heirs. If Henry had no issue, Thomas Fletcher's property was to go to William Fletcher's son William, who could only have been a nephew. As will be shown later, Henry Fletcher contested the will of his cousin Matthew Fletcher in 1772, claiming his land as heir-at-law.

On 5 December 1715, William and Elizabeth Fletcher's son Matthew, Cordwainer, bought 150 acres "at head of Nandeule Creek near Mr. Robert Andrews" (Pungoteague area), from Charlton and Elizabeth Smith of Somerset County, Maryland, for 9500 pounds of tobacco.¹⁶ Matthew Fletcher died in December 1719 and his will shows

¹² Acco. Wills & Etc., 1692-1715, Part II, p. 135.

¹³ Acco. Wills & Etc., 1692-1715, Part III, p. 7.

¹⁴ Ibid, p.90.

¹⁵ Acco. Wills & Deeds, 1729-1737, p. 77.

¹⁶ Acco. Deeds, Wills & Etc., 1715-1728, Part I, p. 12.

he had no direct heirs.¹⁷ He left his 150 acre plantation to Brand Fletcher (his brother) and if he should die without heirs, it was to go to brother William Fletcher. The 50 acre tract given him by his parents in 1699, was to go to brother Batterton Fletcher and to brother William, if Batterton died without heirs. Each of his sisters were left "6 puter plates a pece". Brother Thomas was not named.

At the same time that William Fletcher and his sons are shown in Accomack County records in the late 1600s and early 1700s, Northampton County records show another Fletcher family there. On 5 October 1685, Robert Fletcher bought 200 acres of land between Nassawadox and Matchapungo, from Thomas and Barbary Barton.¹⁸ He and his wife Frances sold this land in 1688 to John Dorman.¹⁹ Robert Fletcher left a will in 1694²⁰ naming his widow as Mary and a son Robert, who was to be of age at eighteen years and who inherited personal property from his father. Son Robert died in 1728, leaving a wife, Winiford and two sons, William and Robert.²¹ Nothing more is found in the records on this family after the son William Fletcher left a recorded will in 1746 devising his personal property to his brother Robert and sister Esther White and her two sons.²²

The inventory of a Stephen Fletcher was recorded in Northampton County in 1713.²³ He died intestate and no direct descendants can be determined from the records. A Stephen Fletcher is shown bringing suit in Northampton County in 1752, however, and the name continues to 1802 when Stephen and Susey Fletcher were

¹⁷ Ibid, p. 237.

¹⁸ North. Deeds, Wills & C, 1680-1692. p. 116

¹⁹ Ibid, p. 260.

²⁰ North. Orders & Wills, 1689-1698, p. 294.

²¹ North. Wills Deeds & C, 1725-1733, p. 112.

²² North. Wills & Inventories, 1740-1750. p. 251.

²³ North. Deeds, Wills, 1708-1717, p. 303.

"allowed as witnesses".²⁴ Kirk Mariner in Revival's Children (p. 40) tells of Stephen Fletcher of Hog Island insisting that Rev. Thomas Smith accompany him back to the island to preach, circa 1880 and of an Isma Fletcher of Hog Island, who was the principal pillar of the church there for decades. A William Fletcher died in Northampton County in 1831 and his 62 acre "plantation" on Hog Island was surveyed and divided among four children; Catherine, Sally, William and Charles Fletcher.²⁵ This appears to be the line of Charles and Margaret Fletcher, whose son, J. Westly Fletcher, born in Northampton County, married in 1870, Nancy Claville of Chincoteague Island.²⁶ Charles W. Fletcher married 17 September 1838, in Northampton County, Margaret Scott, daughter of John Scott.²⁷

While Eastern Shore of Virginia records do not show a family connection, it is logical to suppose the James Fletcher, head right for William Stone in 1635, was the father of William Fletcher, d. 1710; Robert Fletcher, d. 1694; and Stephen Fletcher, d. 1713. The records do not show an actual connection between these three men, however, there is no doubt but that they were contemporaries, and the records do show them living in the same general location. William Fletcher, as a young man, was located between "Naswattox and Occahanock Creeks", the neck of land north of William Stone's patent. Robert Fletcher's wife, Frances, the widow of Obedience Johnson, deeded land to her son on Nassawadox Creek in 1684.²⁸ One of the witnesses to the inventory of Stephen Fletcher was Francis Wainhouse, who owned land on Occahannock Creek.²⁹

²⁴ North. Orders, 1801-1807, p. 90.

²⁵ North. Plat Book #2, plate 107.

²⁶ Acco. Mar. Reg. #3, 1853-1896, p. 27.

²⁷ Mar. Lic. Bonds of North. Co., 1706-1854, p. 34.

²⁸ Whitelaw, p. 496.

²⁹ Ibid., p. 559.

CHART I
Early Fletchers on the Eastern Shore of Virginia

1st generation

2nd generation

3rd generation

4th generation

5th generation

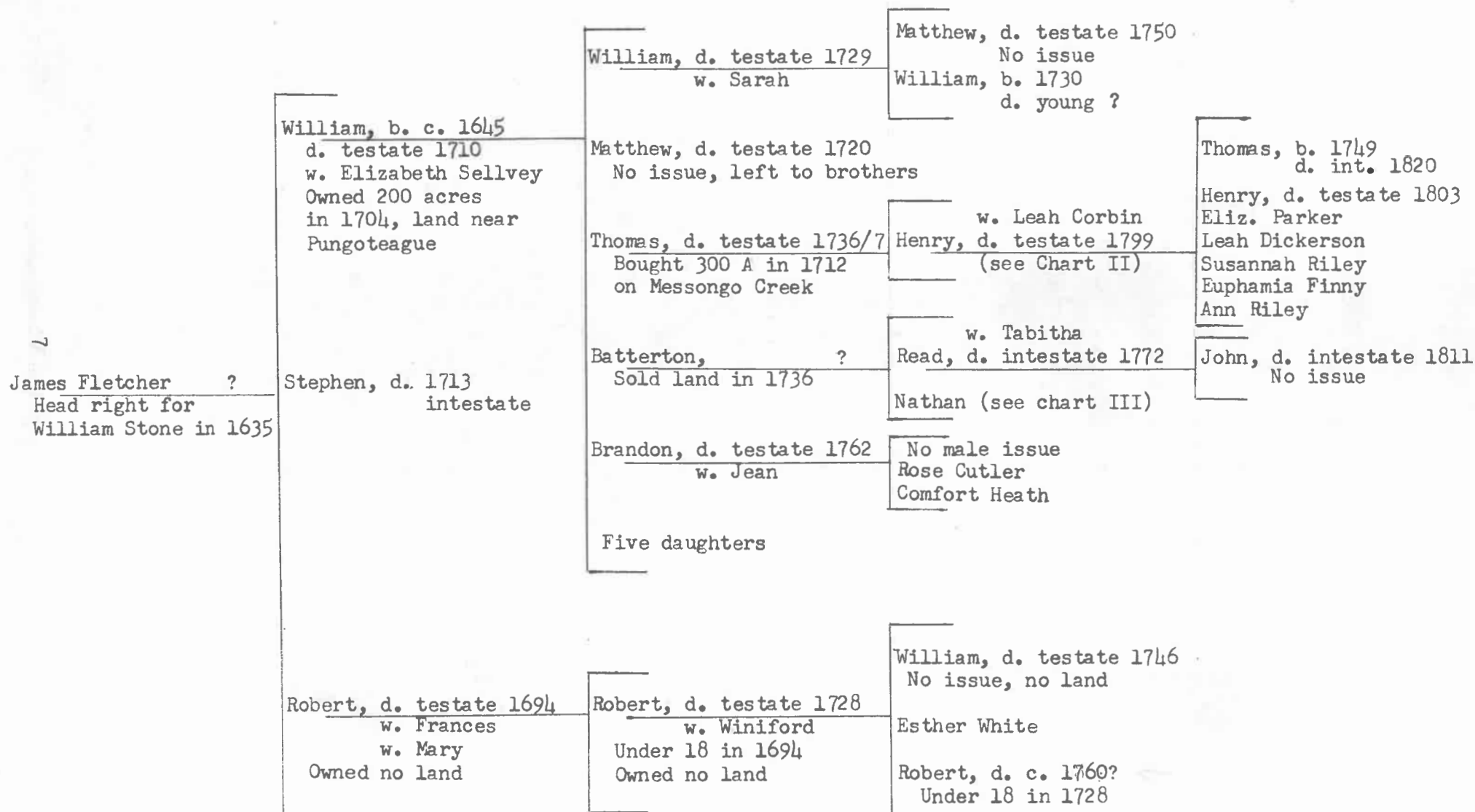


CHART II
The Messongo- Jenkins Bridge Fletchers

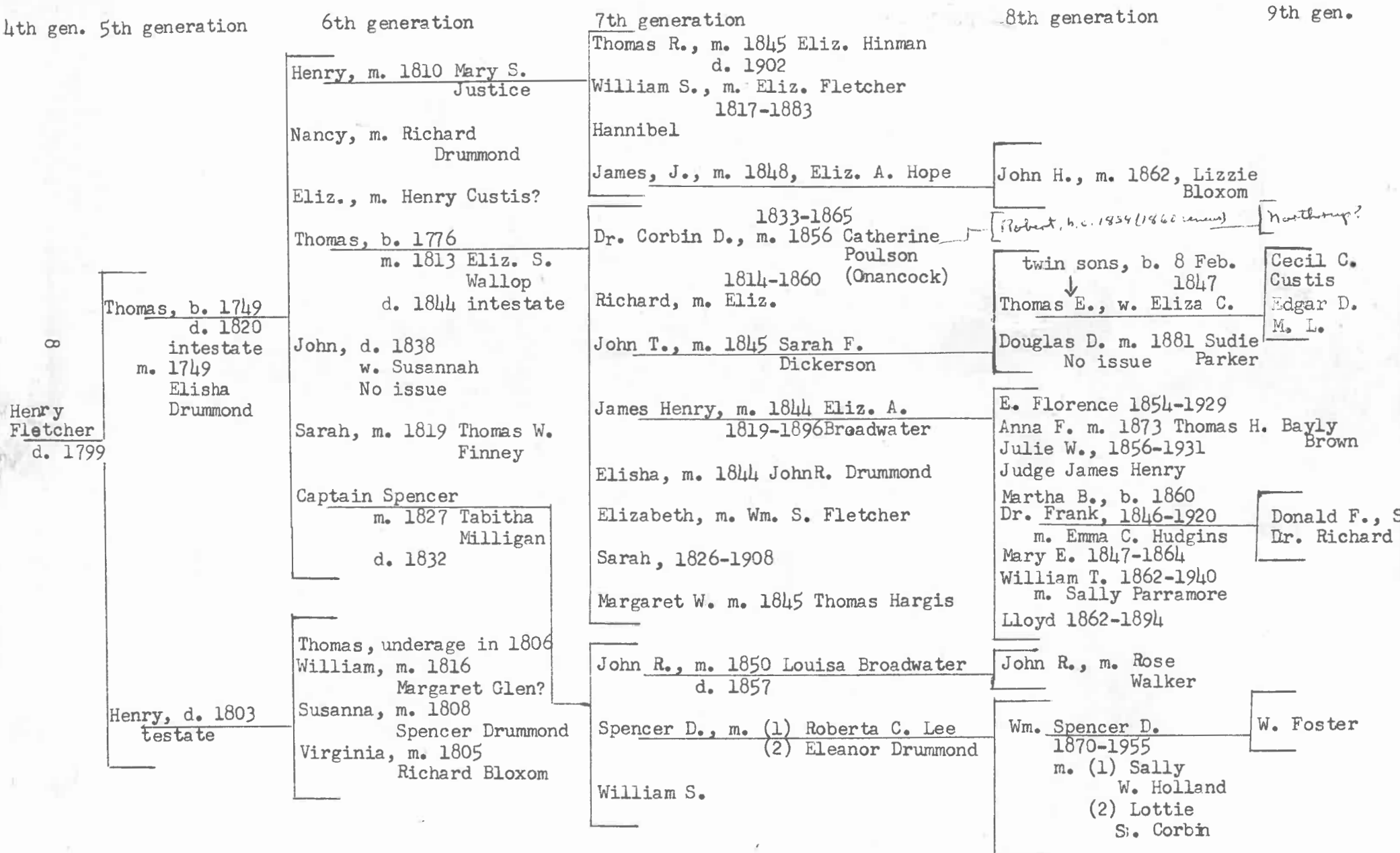
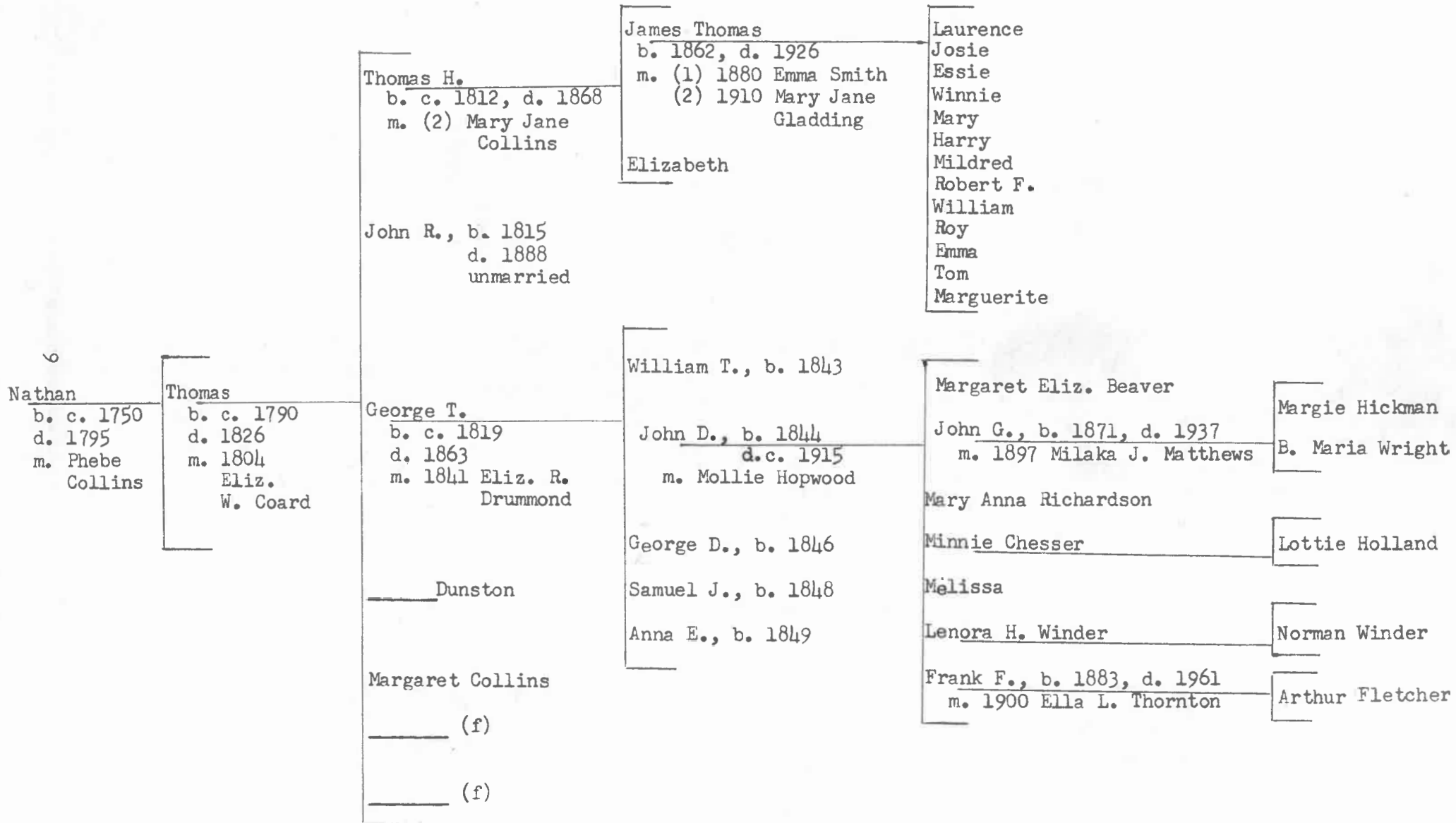


CHART III
Nathan Fletcher and Descendants



Nathan Fletcher

The line being researched can be traced directly back to a Nathan Fletcher whose name appears on Accomack County records only twice during his lifetime.

On 28 February 1772, Nathan Fletcher brought suit against Edward Joynes.¹ The nature of the suit is not given, only that an agreement was reached and the case dismissed. It can be assumed that Nathan Fletcher was 21 years of age or older, to have brought the suit, placing his birth around 1750 or earlier.

Nathan Fletcher's name was included in a list of those persons in Accomack Parish who were "insolvent in the tax collected" on 29 April 1784.² He owed 13 shillings 6 pence and was living in the northern part of Accomack County.

Thomas Collins, in his will, written on 22 August 1786 and probated on 29 October 1786,³ named a daughter as Pheby Fletcher. On 28 September 1795, the court appointed George Wallop and Phebe Fletcher to administer the estate of Nathan Fletcher.⁴ David Watts and Spencer Watts were securities. These two records show that Nathan Fletcher had married Phebe Collins, daughter of Thomas, sometime before 1786, and the men named in settling his estate place him as living in the Wattsville-Wallops Neck area of Accomack County.

There are a number of possibilities as to Nathan Fletcher's parentage. It seems highly unlikely that he was, himself, an immigrant to Accomack County. While he could have moved here from the Western Shore of Virginia, this too seems remote, since by the time of his death in 1795, there had been Fletchers^{here} for 150-160 years. It should be mentioned, however, that the name Nathan Fletcher was a

¹ Acco. Orders, 1770-1773, p. 322.

² Acco. Orders, 1783-1784, p. 297.

³ Acco. Wills, 1788-1794, p. 107.

⁴ Acco. Orders, 1793-1796, p. 379.

common one in other parts of Virginia. A man bearing the name was a head right in Northumberland County in 1652.⁵ The first census of Virginia in 1790, gives five Nathan Fletchers, two living in Amelia County, two in Gloucester County, and one in Hampshire County.⁶

A third possibility is that Nathan Fletcher could have moved into Accomack County from Somerset or Worcester Counties, Maryland. A check of the records there show this to be unlikely also. A William Flutcher is listed by Clayton Torrence in Old Somerset on the Eastern Shore of Maryland (p.465) as one of the early settlers there. He also shows (p. 397) William Flutcher marrying Mary King in Somerset County on 16 November 1672. This couple had two children born at Morumsco, one of whom died as a baby.⁷ The other, a William Fletcher, disappeared from the records. A John Fletcher, tanner, recorded a cattle mark in 1692 in Somerset County and died there, testate, in 1708, leaving no wife or children named in his will. One other Fletcher family was found in Worcester County, Maryland, that of Rev. Thomas Fletcher, rector of All Hallows Church, Snow Hill. Rev. Fletcher died by 8 June 1743, when a bond was issued for the settling of his estate. He left his widow, who had been Sarah Walker and who later married Benjamin Richardson, and seven children: Thomas, John, George, James, Levin, Mary, and Elizabeth. The sons lived in Somerset County, married there and raised families there. None of their sons were named Nathan, nor does the name appear at any time in Worcester or Somerset records.

The fourth and last possibility is that Nathan Fletcher was a descendant of the Eastern Shore of Virginia Fletchers, of one of the three men shown on Chart I

⁵ Nugent, vol. I, p. 258.

⁶ Heads of Families, First Census of Virginia, 1790, pp. 12, 53, 69, and 82.

⁷ While each of the statements made here can be documented, since this is not of the line being traced, full documentation has been omitted.

in the 2nd generation.

Logic would presuppose that Nathan was connected to William Fletcher's son Thomas, who bought land on Messongo Creek in 1712, since this was in the upper Accomack County area, although on the bayside, across the peninsula from the Wattsville-Wallops Neck region. However, descendants of both men have owned land in Wallops Neck, married Wallop descendants and descendants of each have lived in the Wallop Neck area until recent times.

Thomas Fletcher (3rd gen.) left a will in 1736/7, naming an only son Henry, whose children were to inherit, if he had any, and if not, Thomas' property was to go to William, son of William. Son Henry died testate in 1799⁸ naming his two sons as Thomas and Henry. Nathan Fletcher could have been another son, who predeceased his father by four years. This would place Nathan in the 5th generation, most assuredly where he belongs, from the known ages of his descendants.

The discrepancy in this reasoning is that Henry Fletcher's will was made on 27 September 1794, the year before Nathan Fletcher died. Henry was well-to-do, owning over 1000 acres of land, with slaves and other valuable personal property, and left both real and personal property to all his children. He would have named Nathan, had he been a son, at least leaving him a shilling, if he desired him to have no part of the estate. This token gift would have prevented a contest of the will.

In 1772, this same Henry Fletcher had contested the will of his cousin Matthew. Matthew Fletcher died in 1750,⁹ leaving 125 acres of land to Bezelel Watson, and at Watson's death, Henry claimed the land.¹⁰ He presented himself as heir-at-law of Matthew. This claim, in itself, shows that Henry's cousin

⁸ Acco. Wills & C, 1798-1800, p. 126.

⁹ Acco. Wills, 1749-1752, p. 191.

¹⁰ Nottingham, Land Causes, Acco. Co., Va. 1727-1826, p. 68 and Acco. Orders, 1744-1755, p. 477.

William Fletcher (Matthew's brother) could have had no male descendants and, therefore, could not have been the father of Nathan Fletcher.

This leaves Batterton Fletcher (3rd gen.), son of the first William Fletcher, who, in 1736, sold the land his brother Matthew had left him to Josiah Harrison.¹¹ There is no indication in the records that Batterton married or had children. No wife co-signed the deed of 1736, when he would have been 26 years of age, at least, and possibly 5 to 10 years older. However, in 1747, a Read Fletcher bought 125 acres of land "near the head of Andue (Nandua) Creek" in Accomack County.¹² This land was a section of the 1500-acre patent adjacent and northwest of the 660-acre tract that Tobias Sellvey had patented in 1666, part of which Batterton Fletcher sold in 1736. It bordered on land owned by Josiah Harrison and Brandon Fletcher.

It is reasonable to assume that Read Fletcher was a son of Batterton, since the immediate descendants of all Batterton's brothers can be named. As an additional proof of this connection, according to Matthew's will of 1719, the land left to Batterton was to go to their brother William if Batterton had no heirs, so Batterton would have been unable to sell the land if he had no children.

Read Fletcher married Tabitha _____. She had been married twice before, to Blake Clark and Solomon Walter,¹³ and had children before she became the mother of John Fletcher, son of Read. Read Fletcher died in 1772,¹⁴ and his land went to son John. John Fletcher died in 1811, without heirs, and his property was divided between his sisters and half brothers and sisters.¹⁵

¹¹ Acco. Deeds & Wills, 1729-1736, part I, p. 487.

¹² Acco. Deeds, 1746-1757, p. 83.

¹³ Whitelaw, p. 573.

¹⁴ Acco. Orders, 1770-1773, p. 349.

¹⁵ Nottingham, Land Causes, 1727-1826, p. 74.

Although there is no proof, it appears likely that Nathan Fletcher was half brother of Read Fletcher (whose mother was possibly a Read - a family name that appears in the Pungoteague area during this period), and the son of Batterton Fletcher. This would make Nathan first cousin to the Henry Fletcher of Messongo, who died in 1799, leaving his large holdings to his children. It also would place Nathan in the 4th generation of Fletchers, not an impossibility, since Batterton appeared to be the youngest of his brothers and Nathan would have been a son of a second marriage. The fact that Nathan had a grandson named John R. (Read?) Fletcher, b. 1815, seems to substantiate this reasoning.

Of interest to family members would be the record of an inventory and sale of the estate of Nathan Fletcher, made out on 23 October 1795.¹⁶ A number of items are listed, with the prices they sold for, in pounds, shillings, and pence. Among them are: Beds and furnishings, a pine table, seven chairs, 1 Chest, an old gun, 1 Meat Tub, Earthern ware, knives, forks, and 1 dozen Table Teaspoons, 7 pewter Spoons, 1 Sifter, Tea Kettle, 1 Wane, 2 axes, 2 hoes, 1 Hand Saw, 1 Grey Mare, 1 Bay Horse, 1 Sorrel Horse, hogs, Cows, and Geese. The widow, Phebe Fletcher, bought a number of these items. The total sale brought £103..16..7. The account was signed by George Wallop, Exec^r, William Downing, and Solomon Marshall.

¹⁶ Acco. Wills & C, 1796-1798, p. 258.

Thomas Fletcher, son of Nathan

On 9 August 1804, Thomas Fletcher married Elizabeth Choard.¹ John Wallop was surety. This was likely Elizabeth's uncle, for she was a sister to Authur Coard, William Coard, Nancy Evans (wife of John Evans), Parker Coard and Hessy Brittingham (wife of John Brittingham), and daughter of John Coard and his wife, Ibbly Wallop.² Ibbly Wallop was the daughter of Skinner Wallop and his wife, Elizabeth. Ibbly's brothers and sisters were, John Wallop, William Wallop, George Wallop, Peggy Watts (wife of David) and Polly Welburn (wife of Drummond Welburn). Elizabeth Coard Fletcher's given middle name was likely Wallop, for she is shown in later records as Elizabeth W. Fletcher. It can be deduced from the marriage record that Thomas Fletcher and his wife were born circa 1780, and he would have been about 15 years old when his father died in 1795. The records do not show if he had brothers or sisters.

On 23 August 1817, Thomas Fletcher, son of Nathan, bought $33\frac{3}{4}$ acres of land from William Wallop Hickman, for which he paid \$552.50.³ The land was bordered on the northeast by William Watts' land, "on the east and southeast by Wallops Mill Pond, northwest by Jon^o W. Mifflins line plus a lot of land owned by William Watts called Chances Town to the County Road and thence with said road south to a sink thence by a line of Marked trees from the sink at the road unto Wallops Mill pond aforesaid."

The 1820 census shows Thomas Fletcher and his wife, both aged 26 to 45 years, with 7 children in the household. There were three girls aged 10 to 16 years, one girl under 10 years and three boys under 10 years.

¹ Nottingham, Mar. Lic. Bonds of Accomack County, 1774-1806, p. 12.

² Nottingham, Land Causes of Accomack County, 1727-1826, p. 101.

³ Acco. Deeds, 1817-1818, p. 122.

Thomas Fletcher died in early 1826 or late 1825, for on 25 February 1826, Tabitha (this is obviously a mistake, the name had to have been Elizabeth - see next recording) Fletcher, "taking oath and giving bond according to law in the sum of \$1500, with William Coard and Arthur Coard securities thereto Letters of Administration are granted her on the Estate of Thomas Fletcher, deceased, in due form."⁴

On 27 March 1827, on the motion of Elizabeth Fletcher, administratrix of Thomas Fletcher dec^d, it was ordered by the court that Thomas Waters, Skinner Wallop (Jr.) and James Bowles or any two of them, be sworn commissioners to "state, adjust and settle" the estate of the said Thomas Fletcher and make a report to the Court.⁵

In 1830, the Accomack County census shows Elizabeth Fletcher, aged 40 to 50 years as head of a household containing one female 20 to 30 years, one female under five years, with three males 20 to 30 years and one male 10 to 15 years.

In 1840, Elizabeth Fletcher was again the head of a household. She was then 60 to 70 years of age and the household included one other female, 15 to 20 years; a male 20 to 30 years of age; and another 10 to 15 years.

Elizabeth W. Fletcher, aged 70, was the head of household #768 in 1850, according to the Accomack County census. Living with her were Thomas H. Fletcher, 34, constable, and John R. Fletcher, 28, a farmer. Four households away in #772, lived George T. Fletcher, 32, a farmer, with his family.

In 1860, son John R. Fletcher, aged 42, farmer, was head of household #885, and living with him was 76 year old Elizabeth Fletcher. In household #884 was Thomas H. Fletcher (no occupation given), with wife Mary and a 1 year old child, Elizabeth.

Elizabeth W. Fletcher, widow of Thomas Fletcher, son of Nathan, presumably

⁴ Acco. Orders, 1824-1827, p. 269.

⁵ Ibid., p. 500.

died after the 1860 census was taken. She was not listed in 1870.

The known children of Thomas Fletcher of Nathan and his wife Elizabeth W. were:

1. Thomas H. Fletcher, b. c. 1812 (the dates of birth vary to such an extent, accurate age cannot be determined), d. 1868,⁶ m. 16 September 1857, Mary Jane Collins, aged 27, daughter of James and Elizabeth Collins.⁷

The marriage record gives Thomas H. Fletcher's parents as Thomas and Elizabeth W. Fletcher. There is evidence that he had been married previously, for the 1840 census gives him, aged 30 to 40, as head of a household which included two females, one 30 to 40 years and one 5 to 10 years. No record has been found of this marriage.

On 28 July 1845, Thomas H. Fletcher was appointed Constable by the Accomack County Court⁸ and he was reappointed on 25 June 1849.⁹

He and his (2nd?) wife had four children:

A. Elizabeth Fletcher, b. 1859, as shown by the 1860 census.

B. Twin girls, born and died unnamed in 1860.¹⁰

C. James Thomas Fletcher, b. 1862, d. 1926,¹¹ m. (1) 15 September 1880, Emma E. Smith (1860-1908),¹² (2) 3 April 1910, Mary Jane Gladding (1882-1926).¹³ Tom Fletcher lived at Miona, Virginia. He and his second wife are buried at Downings United Methodist Church, Oak Hall, Virginia. His first wife was buried at Jenkins Bridge. His children by his first marriage were: Laurence, Josie, Essie, Winnie, Harry,

⁶ Acco. Orders, 1867-1869, p. 577. Thomas H. Fletcher's estate to be administered on 26 October 1868.

⁷ Acco. Mar. Reg. #3, 1853-1896, p. 6.

⁸ Acco. Orders, 1842-1845, p. 669.

⁹ Acco. Orders, 1848-1851, p. 161.

¹⁰ Acco. Reg. of Births, 1853-1862, p. 45.

¹¹ Tombstone readings.

¹² Acco. Mar. Reg. #3, p. 63.

¹³ Acco. Mar. Reg. #4, p. 168.

Mildred, Robert F., William, and Roy Fletcher. Children by the second marriage were: Emma, "Little Tom", and Marguerite Fletcher.

2. John R. Fletcher, b. 1815, d. 1888, unmarried.¹⁴ In the 1870 census he is head of a household and living with him are, Elizabeth Fletcher, aged 21 (keeping house), and a James Fletcher, aged 9 years. Since his brother, Thomas H. Fletcher, had died in 1869, it is suggested the latter was his son, James Thomas Fletcher. The Elizabeth could have been brother George Fletcher's daughter. He had a daughter, Anna E., aged 8/12, in his household in 1850.

John R. Fletcher made his will on 30 September 1887.¹⁵ He left his estate to pay Wattsville Church \$5.00 annually "as long as the Church remains where it is now." He loaned Elizabeth R. Fletcher (his brother George's widow) the farm on which he was living near Wattsville, called Cherry Grove, and all the property thereon, and after her death all his property was to go to the Protestant Methodist Conference. Elizabeth R. Fletcher contested the will, but it was upheld.

3. George T. Fletcher. See next section.
4. Margaret Fletcher, m. David Collins.
5. _____ Fletcher, m. John Dunston
6. _____ Fletcher (f).
7. _____ Fletcher (f), died unmarried before 1848.

¹⁴ This information taken from obituary of John R. Fletcher, in 14 January 1888 issue of The Pensinula Enterprise.

¹⁵ Acco. Wills & C, 1855-1892, p. 400.

George T. Fletcher

George T. Fletcher was born circa 1819.¹ On Christmas Day 1841, he married Elizabeth R. Drummond.² Her parent's names are not given in the marriage record and have not been found.

George Fletcher's name next appears in the records on 21 April 1847, when he and his wife, Elizabeth, join John Dunston (Dunston had to have married one of George Fletcher's sisters, who had died) in selling their share of Thomas Fletcher's of Nathan land. This 2/6 part brought \$235.00 and was sold to John S. Wallop.³ Later in the same year, another sister, Margaret, joined her husband, David Collins, in selling her share of the same property.⁴ The land is located here as being on each side of the stage coach road at Wattsville and Margaret sold "1/6 part as there is six children." John S. Wallop bought this portion also and now owned half the property. He purchased the other half on 10 August 1848⁵, after it was sold by a special commissioner.

As has been stated, George T. Fletcher is shown living in upper Accomack County by the 1850 census, as head of household #772, a 32 year old farmer, with five children. In 1860, his household is #1170 and he is given as a 41 year old farmer.

By 26 October 1863, George Fletcher had died, for on that date the court appointed George Wallop to settle his estate.⁶ His widow, who was a few years older, according to census records, lived until 1888, when she was named in the

¹ Census records.

² Acco. Mar. Reg. #1 and 2, p. 66.

³ Acco. Deeds, 1846-1848, p. 388.

⁴ Ibid., p. 704.

⁵ Acco. Deeds, 1848-1849, p. 273.

⁶ Acco. Orders, 1862-1865, p. 196.

the will of John R. Fletcher.

The children of George T. Fletcher and his wife Elizabeth R. Drummond Fletcher, as shown by the 1850 and 1860 census, were:

1. William T. Fletcher, b. 1843.
2. John D. Fletcher, b. 1844. See next section.
3. George D. Fletcher, b. 1846.
4. Samuel James Fletcher, b. 1848.
5. Anna E. Fletcher, b. 1849.

John Drummond Fletcher

John Drummond Fletcher, shown in the household of his father, George T. Fletcher, by the 1850 and 1860 census, was born in the area of Wattsville, Va., in 1844. As a young man he moved to Baltimore, Maryland. The family Bible shows that he married there on 6 April 1868, at St. Paul's Church, Calvert County, Md., Mary Jane Hopwood, the daughter of John and Mary A. Hopwood.¹ She was born on 11 February 1841 and died 8 July 1894.

It is not known when the family moved back to Accomack County, but John D. Fletcher is listed in the Wattsville area again in the 1880 census as a 36 year old farmer, head of a household. Since there is no 1890 census, he is shown next in the 1900 census living in the household of his elder son, John G. Fletcher, as a retired farmer, aged 56 years. His wife had died seven years before. The 1910 census gives John D. Fletcher living alone, beside the same son. He is listed here as a 65 year old oyster tonger, living on the Wallops Neck Road, near Wattsville, Virginia. Soon after this census was taken he remarried, a Miss Elizabeth Proud, of Wyoming, Delaware, according to family members. It is related that he lived in Delaware with his second wife until his death some four years after the marriage. He was buried in Delaware. There were no children by this marriage.

The children of John D. Fletcher and his first wife, Mary Jane (Mollie), as shown by the Hopwood family Bible and local sources were:

1. Margaret Elizabeth Fletcher, b. 2 June 1869, m. Frank Beaver of Baltimore.
2. John George Fletcher, b. 21 October 1871. See next section.
3. Mary Anna Fletcher, b. 26 April 1873, m. _____ Richardson of Baltimore.
4. Minnie Bell Fletcher, b. 31 September 1875, d. 1962, m. 30 December 1897,

¹ Bible published in 1869 by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Inc., Philadelphia, Pa., now in possession of the Hopwood family.

Robert Chesser of Atlantic, Va.²

5. Melissa D. Fletcher, b. 8 February 1878, d. unmarried.

6. Lenora H. Fletcher, b. 11 June 1881, d. 1846, m. 1 March 1899, Manley Winder of Temperanceville, Va.³

7. Frank Floyd Fletcher, b. 22 April 1883, d. 1 November 1962, m. 19 December 1900, Ella L. Thornton.⁴ Frank Floyd Fletcher lived at Watts-ville, Va., and was the father of Arthur Douglas Fletcher, b. 1905, m. 20 December 1925, Lena Mae Bundick of Assawoman, Va.⁵ They also lived at Watts-ville, and were the parents of Calvin D. Fletcher (b. 1932) of Baltimore, Md., who has a son, Calvin D. Fletcher, Jr.

² Acco. Mar. Reg. #4, p. 20.

³ Worcester Co., Md. Mar. Reg. #3, p. 148.

⁴ Worcester Co., Md. Mar. Reg. #3, p. 34.

⁵ Worcester Co., Md. Mar. Reg. #3, p. 86.

John George Fletcher

John George (Jack) Fletcher, elder son of John D. Fletcher and his wife Mollie, was born while his parents were living in Baltimore, Maryland. It is known from the Hopwood family Bible that he was born on 21 October 1871.

On 15 December 1897, he married Milkie J. Matthews, the daughter of John H. Matthews and his wife Eliza J., of Accomack County, Virginia.¹ In the 1900 census he was listed as head of household #13 in upper Accomack County, a 28 year old farmer with wife, Milky J., 23, and daughter Margie, born August 1899.

In 1910, John G. Fletcher was a 38 year old "Capt. of Motor Boat", with wife Milcha J., 33, and two daughters, Margie and Bernice, were in the household on Wallops Neck Road. It is assumed that Jack Fletcher was "working on the water" at this time, since his father, who was living next door, was listed as an oyster tonger.

Wallops Neck Road was the old road that connected Wattsville with Chincoteague Bay, via Mosquito Creek. It became the road from the mainland to the Chincoteague Causeway and until circa 1950 veered north at Wattsville, passing through present-day NASA, Wallops Station.

Although the 1910 census is the last Federal Census that has been released, it is known that Jack Fletcher moved to a farm just north of Wattsville and farmed this land.² His daughters were raised here. In the 1930s he moved to the Collins Farm, south of Wattsville, on the Atlantic Road. This land had belonged to his wife's brother. Jack Fletcher died here on 10 October 1937, aged 66 years.³ He was buried in the Wattsville United Methodist Church Cemetery.

His widow moved to a small home in Wattsville, where she lived until her

¹ Acco. Mar. Reg. #4, p. 20.

² Mr. Earl Dennis, Wattsville, Va., has given the information on this family in their later years.

³ Obituary in the October 16, 1937 issue of The Peninsula Enterprise.

death, aged 92, on 20 December 1967,⁴ when she was buried beside her husband.

Her obituary gives her parent's names as, John K. and Eliza Jane Collins Matthews.

John G. Fletcher and his wife, Milcah A., had only the two daughters:

1. Margie Vanora Fletcher, b. 1899, d. 1976,⁵ m. 21 August 1918, William H. Hickman of Wattsville.⁶ They are buried in the Wattsville Cemetery with both sets of their parents. They had four children: William ~~H~~^{FLETCHER} Hickman, ~~W~~^{ROBERT LEE}, Norris D. Hickman, ~~Fletcher~~ Hickman, and Patricia Hickman.
2. Bernice Maria Fletcher, who is presently married to Thomas N. Wright, and lives on Onancock Creek at East Point. She had one son, born 22 May 1921, who was a flyer during World War II, and was killed in action.

⁴ Obituary in the December 28, 1967 issue of The Eastern Shore News, p. 4.

⁵ Tombstone readings.

⁶ Worcester Co., Md., Mar. Reg. #5, p. 101.

Related Families

Wallop (Wadlow, Waddilow)

The descendants of Thomas Fletcher of Nathan are of a direct line from the first John Wallop in Accomack County, Virginia.

Thomas Fletcher of Nathan married, in 1814, Elizabeth Coard. As has been shown in the section of that name, she was the daughter of John Coard and his wife, Ibbey Wallop. Ibbey Wallop was one of the six children of Skinner Wallop, II, d. c. 1815, and his wife, Elizabeth Douglas, d. 1792. Skinner Wallop, II, was the son of John Wallop, d. c. 1751, and his wife Ann. John Wallop's parents were Skinner Wallop, d. c. 1718, and his wife Elizabeth. The first Skinner Wallop's parents were John Wallop, born in 1631 in England and died c. 1693 in Accomack County, Va., and his wife Rebecca, who was living in Accomack County by 1663. He was a surveyor, who established roads, including the one which bears his name - present U.S. 13, from Zion Church to the Md. line. He owned over 3000 acres of land in Accomack County, including Wallops Neck and Wallops Island.

Douglas

Ibbey Coard Fletcher's mother was Elizabeth Douglas, who married Skinner Wallop circa 1755. Her parents were George Douglas, born 1698 in Scotland and died c. 1758 in Accomack County, Va., and his wife Tabitha Drummond. George Douglas was in Accomack County by 1720, as an attorney, planter, and public official. He held local offices as a church vestryman and major of the militia. He also served as a burgess to the Virginia General Assembly in the mid-1700s.

Source: O'Brien, Sue Morten, The Register of Americans of Prominent Descent. Morten Publishing Co., Inc., Signal Mountain, Tennessee, 1982, pp. 209 and 205.

CHART IV

Related Families

John Wallop, b. 1631
surveyor d. c. 1693
w. Rebecca

Skinner Wallop, d. c. 1718
w. Elizabeth

John Wallop, d. c. 1751
w. Ann

George Douglas, b. 1698
attorney d.c. 1758
m. Tabithia Drummond

Skinner Wallop, II, d. c. 1815
m. c. 1755 Elizabeth Douglas, d. 1792

Ibby Wallop, m. John Coard

Elizabeth Coard, m. 1804 Thomas Fletcher of Nathan

George T. Fletcher

John D. Fletcher

John G. Fletcher

Frank Floyd Fletcher

John George Fletcher lands

From family members: After marrying, John G. Fletcher "quit the water" and became a farmer. He first rented and tended land of Levin T. Parker (wife Medora), located on the west side of the County road from Wattsville to Horntown.

From Accomack County records:

Deed Book 79, p. 494: 20 June 1903 - To John G. Fletcher from John D. Fletcher. \$25 for 1/2 acre in neighborhood of Wattsville. Bordered on north by 15 ft. road, on east by Wise Dunton, on west by John D. Fletcher.

Deed Book 100, p. 61: 4 September 1912 - To John G. Fletcher from James G. Mason and Hamilton B. Mason, heirs of Sallie Logan, deceased, wife of Peter H. C. Mason. \$4250 for 160 acres. On west side of County road from Horntown to Wattsville, Logan Farm, where George Trader, colored, lives.

Deed Book 103, p. 26: 4 October 1912 - John G. Fletcher and M. J., his wife, sell Nelson and Johnson Lumber Co. timber. \$3250. Bordered on north by Moore and Brittingham, on east by field of John G. Fletcher, running south to land of Charles E. Bodley and on west by Charles E. Bodley.

Deed Book 112, p. 499: 1 January 1918 - To John G. Fletcher from W. H. Pruitt and wife Vivian and S. Wilkins Matthews and wife Emma. \$6500 for 104 acres at Wattsville. Bordered north by John O. Johnson, east by County road from Horntown to Wattsville, south by Elijah Hastings, west by Henry and Daniel A. Downing.

Deed Book 117, p. 86: 9 December 1919 - To John G. Fletcher from Darsey S. Downing and wife Ida. \$10,500 for 91.27 acres (see Plat Book #2, p. 35), near Wattsville. Bordered east by County road from Wattsville to New Church, north by said road and Thomas Thornton, west by Otho East, and south by remaining land of said Darsey S. Downing.

Deed Book 118, p. 115: 1 May 1920 - To John G. Fletcher from Esther R. Reeve of

Felton, Delaware. Conveyed to her by D. Edward Snead, by deed dated 19 September 1881. \$10,000 for 117 acres, \$500 paid now and balance on or before 1 January 1921. Bordered on north by John E. Matthews, east by Watt's Bay, south by Edward Miles and L. Y. Thornton, and west by Harry Revell.

Deed Book 119, p. 363: 10 December 1920 - To John G. Fletcher from Esther R. Reeve, now of Haddenfield, New Jersey. \$10,000 for 117 acres near Wattsville. Same land as above. John G. Fletcher pays the balance of \$500.

Mary Frances Carey
September 12, 1984.