Exploring

the

Oldest Continuous

Court Records of America

compiled by

Traci Johnson, Northampton County Circuit Court Clerk

Frances Bibbins Latimer

Jean Mihalyka

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EXPLORING THE OLDEST CONTINUOUS COURT RECORDS OF AMERICA

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NORTHAMPTON COUNTY DEPUTY CLERKS

Mary Kellam	Susie Sample	Victoria Morgan
Mabel Owens	Emily Purvis	Antoinette Smith

BOOK COVER

The document on the cover of this publication is located in the Northampton County Clerk's Office. It was copied from the Common Law Order Book, 1821 - 1831. Several cases are recorded here including a conviction for murder for which John Griffeth received twelve years in the public jail and penitentiary house.

This book was funded by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

The Virginia Foundation for the Humanities (VFH) brings the humanities fully into Virginia's public life, assisting individuals and communities in their efforts to understand the past, confront important issues in the present, and shape a promising future. The VFH grant program accepts proposals from nonprofit organizations seeking funding to develop public humanities programs for audiences in Virginia. Since 1974, VFH has awarded more than 2,500 grants, bringing scholars and citizens together to promote a greater understanding of the humanities.

Introduction to the Court Records of Northampton County Virginia

Exploring the Oldest Continuous Court Records of America, is a collection of historical documents compiled from records located in the Northampton County, Virginia, Clerk's Office. Although one of the earliest records is dated 1628, the Court Records for Northampton County are continuous from 1632 to the present. The twenty-four documents in this collection focus attention on the value and importance of these old records as we strive to understand the past in an ever-changing present. Many of the people active in these documents have familiar surnames because they are the ancestors of people who live on the Eastern Shore today.

These records tell of different times beginning with the difficulties of a few people moving to the Eastern Shore wilderness in the 1600s, forming a government, providing a labor force, obtaining land, erecting buildings, and resolving disputes. Through county records and vital registers we see couples getting married and occasionally divorced, starting families, living and dying. The lives of many generations of Eastern Shoremen are played out on these historic pages.

The building on the right is the old Court House. It was built in 1731. It was used until 1795. Later it was sold and used as a store. In 1913 it was torn down to make space for the Confederate Monument. It was rebuilt next to the old Clerk's Office.

The Northampton County Court Records include Court Order, Deed, Will, Minute, Chancery, and Plat Books. In addition, there are Birth, Death, and Marriage Registers. These Court proceedings allow observation of change in the social order and land ownership, change in population, and change in marriage, divorce and other laws. Through land records and deeds the researcher is able to trace how the land was used.

While age and unstable paper composition have made the pages in these books brittle, the commonwealth of Virginia and other organizations have worked to restore and preserve many of the volumes. More recent books and registers are printed on acid free paper and are more stable. It is important that they remain on the shelves and available for use. Many are difficult to read because of ancient handwriting and the age of the documents, but the stories they tell are familiar.

Twenty-five hundred copies of this booklet are available free of charge to any person in the Northampton County community. This project was made possible by a grant from the Virginia Foundation for the Humanities.

Northampton County

Clerk's Office and Court Records

It should surprise noone that Northampton County, on Virginia's Eastern Shore, is rich in historic recognition. First called Ye Kingdome of Accawmack, Captain John Smith explored this area in his first venture away from the Jamestown settlement in 1608. In 1611 Sir Thomas Dale proposed garden plots for the colonists and by 1614 this became a reality with the establishment of Dale's Gift: the Company Gardens. In search of salt, Virginia Company men were dispatched to the Peninsula. Ye Kingdome of Accawmack became the eighth shire in the Colony of Virginia. In 1642, influenced by Obedience Robins of Northamptonshire in England, Ye Kingdom of Accawmack was renamed Northampton.

In 1643 by an Act of the General Assembly, Northampton County was divided into two counties. The lower county retained the name Northampton and the upper county was named Accawmack, later it was changed to Accomack. Accomac refers to the town. In 1663 the two counties were reunited to be permanently divided in 1670.

In the first of several Northampton County Court books, the name Accawmack appears frequently. In fact the spines of these record books are labeled with the name of the upper county that had been the name of the combined area and reminding us that these two counties had been one.

By 1632 Court was being held in "Towne" on the Secretary's Land near Cherrystone. In the beginning court was held in the homes of citizens and taverns called ordinaries. For more than a hundred years the Court records were kept in private homes. As late as 1706 there was no dedicated space for the Clerk's business and as citizens complained that the records were inaccessible.

> In 1706 Andrew Hamilton set forth as his position the neglect of the Clerk of the Record for the county and Col. John Custis Esq declares in open court that he would keep the records of the county no longer then the Clark can provide for himself to some convenient place it is there fore ordered that the Clark provide some

> convenient place such as the court approves of by the next court and give notice to the people where the office is kept and do keep the records safe and give due attendance.[1]

In the Court Records no mention is made of building a Clerk's Office, but on 28 March 1710 John Abdell was ordered by the Court to repair the Clerk's Office in this County. Also, on that day William Perry was ordered to repair to the Clerk's Office for attending to his business.

Northampton County Court Houses

In 1655 an Act of Assembly provided that courts in Virginia were to be held at two places alternately. Hungars Creek was to serve as the dividing line for north and south sites for court. Later that year an Act of Assembly required that one place in each county be designated for court. Also at the seat of local government a church, prison, and public mart should be maintained.

By 1664 the first Court House was ordered to be built at the "Towne." Court was held there for thirteen years.

Residents in northern Northampton County were not pleased with the long distance travel to the "Towne" to the Court House. In 1677 after complaints and controversy by vote it was decided that the court be moved to the "Hornes".

In 1687 William Kendall II offered Northampton County 50 acres, if the Court House could be built there. The offer was accepted and the court ordered that a Court House be built...

> "twenty-five feet longe with an outside chimney, A convenient prison and all other things necessary for a court bee with all convenient speed built upon the said land."[2]

Before that court building could be erected, Joseph Godwin offered forty acres of his land. In addition to donating the land he also offered to pay the cost build a Court House. This proposal was too good to pass up. It was ordered that the William Kendall land be returned to him.

1689 Joseph and Mary Godwin deeded forty acres of land for the county use. March 1690 the justices of Northampton County Court ordered that the next session be held in the new Court House. This building was used for 25 years.

By 1715 the Court House in Northampton County was in need of repairs. A new building was provided for the use of the Court built by William Rabyshaw.

> This day William Rabyshaw hat undertaken the building and erecting up a Courthouse at a Place called the horns. Old field upon the land of Mr. Savage for seven thousand pounds of tobacco accorning to dementions hereafter mentioned viz; The said Courthouse to be thirty foot long and twenty foot wide from inside to inside well framed of sawed timber except gice [joist] and plate and to be overstated of eight foot pitch from sill to plate and to be covered with white oak shingells the Sape to be taken out; upon Oake Laths wheather boarded with good three quarter old pine Plank with an outside Chimily to be well Lathed and filled in and Plastered; with a good Paire Stares; all the upper flower to be Layed with good pine Old Planke and the under part of the said flower to be well Plained; two dores to be well hinged with hooks and hinges to the said house

Old Court House was built in 1731, continued in use until 1795. It was sold by the county to be used as a store until 1913. The 1899 Court House is seen to the left rear of this building.

> within the care where the Justices is to Sett and the to bee raised and to be Layed with plained Old pine Plank Sawed out of Old Pine and the Sitt Benches to be well Plained and the Railes for the Bare and a Dore at Each End of the bare to be well hinged with hooks and hinges and to be an Earthen Flower except where the Justices is to Sitt and that to be done as aforesaid and Same to be viewed by two honest workmen as he goes a Long and all to be Compleated which is in the Yeare Seventeen hundred and Sixteen and the said Rabyshaw forthwith repaire to the Clark Office and theire enter in bond with good Security for his performance of the said Courthouse.[3]

By 1730 Northampton County Court records show the Court House out of repair. It was decided to built a new one out of brick. That building was complete in 1731 and replaced by the Court House in 1795 by the second brick Court House.

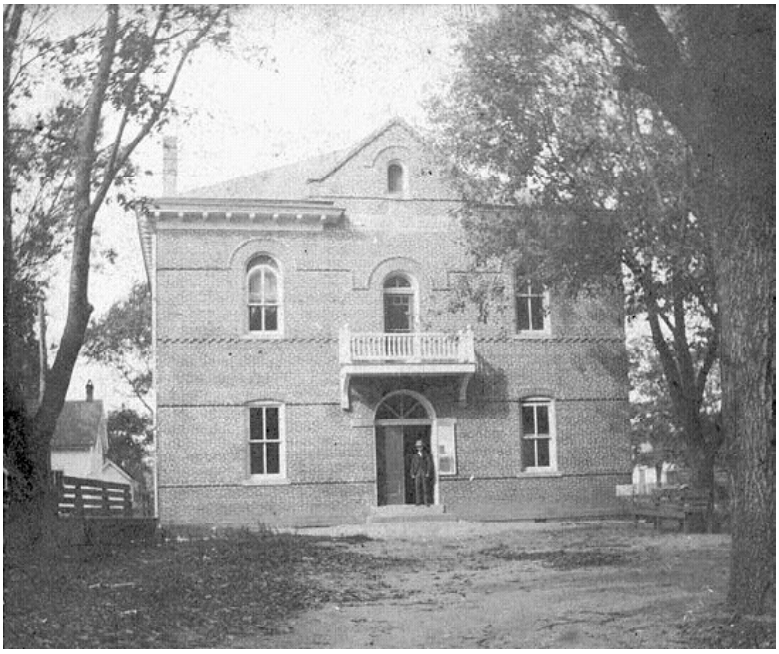
After it was vacated, county sold it to be used as a store. In 1913 it was torn down, moved and restored. It stands to the north of the Court House Green adjacent to the old Clerk's Office.

The old Clerk's Office on the left dates to circa 1750. It stands beside the old Court House.

The next Court House was ordered to be built in 1795 and in use for over one hundred years. It was replaced by the Court House which was built in 1899. The third brick Court House was vacated in 2005 and stands empty at the head of the Court Green.

In 1773, 21 acres south of the Court House were divided into lots and sold. On Dec. 10, 1785, George Savage, a naval officer from Northampton County, petitioned the General Assembly to have the Naval Office, then located in Bridgetown, moved to Eastville. The petitioner found from experience the Bridgetown location to be very inconvenient and that Northampton Court House is a place much better adapted to the business in every respect.[4] This petition was referred propositions and passed. Slowly Eastville began to grow and become the hub of Northampton business and social activity.

This Court House was built in 1795 and was used until 1899, when it was torn down to make space for a new Court House.



Court House and Clerk's Office constructed 1899

New Northampton County Court Complex

Clerks of Court Northampton County

Henry Bagwell	1632	
George Dawe	1638	
Thomas Cooke	1641	Late in 1641 Richard Lee signed document, later the Cooke signature began to appear.
Edwin Conway	1642	
Edmond Matthews	1648	
John Boys	1658	
Robert Hutchinson	1659	
William Melling	1665	
Daniel Neech	1670	
John Culpeper	1671	When the counties reunited under the name Northampton, Culper became Clerk of the Upper Court and Daniel Neech for the Lower Court.
Daniel Neech	1674	
Hancock Custis	1703	
Robert Howson	1705	
James Locker	1720	
Hillary Stringer	1721	
Godfrey Pole	1722	
Thomas Cable	1729	
Griffin Stith	1743	
William Stith	1783	Griffin Stith signed as Clerk and then William Stith signed
Thomas L. Savage	1791	
Caleb B. Upshur	1813	
Nathaniel J. Winder	1821	
Lewis O. Rogers	1844	
LaFayette Harmanson	1852	
James M. Brickhouse	1869	
Gilmor S. Kendall	1884	
T. Sanford Spady	1891	
Rodman W. Nottingham	1899	
George T. Tyson	1912	
Thomas James	1954	
Clyde Gibb	1973	
Kenneth Arnold	1990	Kenneth Arnold became ill during his second term which was completed by Traci Johnson, Deputy Clerk.
Traci Johnson	2003	Traci Johnson became the first woman elected to the office of Circuit Court Clerk in Northampton County, Virginia.

Getting Started

Orders, Wills, Deeds, Etc. No. 1, 1632 - 1640, Accawmack County is the first Court Order Book in the Clerk's Office in Northampton County and contains the first Court Orders, Deeds, and Wills in this county. It is the beginning of the oldest continuous court records. Although there are several records in the Clerk's Office that date to 1628, these are not continuous. This book has been rebound and preserved. Note that "Accawmack" is inscribed on the spine.

Book One in the Northampton County Clerk's Office.

Several pages at the beginning of the volume are missing and the first three extant pages are too mutilated to be readable. These pages contain fragments of two court sessions with Captain Thomas Graves, Captain Edmund Scarborough, Mr. John Howe. and Mr. Roger Sanders present as commissioners of the first court and with Captain Edmund Scarborough, Mr. Obedience Robins, Mr. John Howe, and Mr. Roger Sanders present at the second court. Appearing on those pages in the order given are the names of Mr. William Andrews, Hugh Hayes, Thomas Hunt, Firebrasse, Mr. Edward Drew, Robert Die, and Mr. Bagwell. The pagination indicated by bold-face numbers in brackets in the following record is not the original but one made many years later. This book was transcribed and edited in 1954 by Susie Ames.

ORDER BOOK ONE, PAGE ONE, JANUARY 7, 1632/33

[4] [A Court held at Acchawmacke] the 7th day of January 1632/1633. Present Capt. Thomas Grayes, Capt. Edmund Scarborrow, Mr. Obedience Robins, Mr. John How, Mr. Roger Sanders.[2]

[It is ordered] by this Court that the now Churchwardens [shall have power] to distrayne upon the goodes and Chattells of [all such of the] inhabitantes of Achawmack that have not paid their duties of Corne and tobacco onto the minister according to [an] Act made by the last Generall Grand Assembly [dated] the 4th of September 1632 And that the [said Church] wardens deteyne the said goodes and Chattel1s until satisfaction be made according to the tennor [and int]ent of the said Act.

Jane Winlee brough suit against [James] Knott for the misusage of her son, Pharaoh, an apprentice to James Knott. After examination Knott was found delinquent and was ordered to remedy the situation and pay Court costs. If complaints of mistreatment are ever brought to the attention of the Court again, the indenture between Knott and Pharaoh will be void and Pharaoh returned to his mother.

Alexander Bradburne acknowledged a debt of two barrels of corn to Nicholas Grainger[?]. It was therefore ordered that Alexander pay the debt or else be jailed until satisfaction be made. *[Paid a half.]*

Suite was commenced in Court by Elizabeth Hainie against Thomas Powell for Corne and tobacco which was referred to agreement between themselves.

Edward Drew and Thomas Powell doe acknowledge to owe to be indebted unto our Soveraine Lord and King for one hundred pounds starling The condition of this obligation is, that if the said Edward Drew appeare at the next Court held at Accomack[?] that then this shalbe in presence Thomas Grayes[?].[5]

Burgesses

In 1643 Ye Kingdom of Accamacke was named the eighth original shire in the Virginia Colony. As a shire (County) Accamacke was entitled to and received representation in the House of Burgesses, as well as the responsibility to pay taxes. Several years after being designated a shire, the name of Accamacke was changed to Northampton. The name change came about through the influence of Obedience Robins, a settler from Northamptonshire in England. For a few years, representatives from Northampton were called for and sent to James City to serve in the lower chamber of the House of Burgesses. And then for no known reason four years passed and no call came from the Governor and no representatives were sent from Northampton County. By March 1652 citizens of Northampton County had lost their patience and drafted the Northampton Protest. When the Governor's call went out for the fall session, a call was sent to Northampton. On November 25th 1652 Lieutenant Colonel Obedience Robbins and Stephen Chariton answered the request to serve the Eastern Shore in the Virginia House of Burgesses.

Northampton Protest, At Court 30 March 1652

Wee whose names are under written this daye made choyce of by the Inhabitants of Northampton Countie in Virginia to give Informacons and lnstruccons to the gent Ellected Burgesses for this present Grand Assemblie (in relacon to such matters as conduce to our peace & Saftie). And for the Redresse of those agreevances wch (art prsent) wee are capable & sensible of in our Countie of Northampton.

Imprimis. Wee the Inhabitants of Northampton Countie doe complayne that from tyme to tyme (pticular yeares past) wee have been submitted & bine obedient unto the paymt of publeq Taxacons. Butt after the yeare 1647,

since that tyme wee Con-ceive & have found that the taxes were very weightie. But in a more especiall manner (undr favor) wee are very sensible of the Taxacon of fforty sixe pounds of tobacco p. poll (this present yeare). And desire that the same bee taken off the charge of the Countie; further-more wee alledge that after 1647, wee did understand & suppose our Countie of Northampton to bee disioynted & sequestered from the rest of Virginia. Therefore that Llawe wch requireth & injoyneth Taxacons from us to bee Arbitrarye & illegall; forasmuch as wee had neither summons for Ellecon of Burgesses nor voyce in their Assemblie (during the time aforesd) but only the Singlur Burgess in September, Ano., 1651. Wee conceive that wee may Lawfullie ptest agt the pceedings in the Act of Assemblie for public Taxacons wch have relacon to Northmton Countie since the year 1647.

The Gent who are (att prsent) to speake in our behalfe can sufficiently declare what is necessary to bee expressed to this effect wch wee referr to them.

Our desire is that there may bee an annual Choyce of Magistrates in Northmton. And, if our Countie may not have the privilege of a pecular govrmt & propriety (att prsent) granted wthin our prcincts that then you Request and plead that all Causes, Suite of Tryalls (of what nature soever) may bee concerned (for future tvrne), determined in our sd Countie of Northampton.

If there bee a free & genrall vote for a Governor wherein they shall Ellect Mr Richard Bennett Wee the inhabitants of Northampton Countie wth unanimous consent & plenary aprobacon Rendr our voyce for the sd Esq. Bennett.

The people doe further desire that the Taxacons for Horry sixe pounds of tobac a heead maye not be collected by the sheriffe (until answr of the questions from the Grand Assemblie nowe Summoned).

Witness our hands subscribed the day & year aforesd

Stephen Charlton	Wm Whittington
Llevyne Denwood	John Ellis
Jno Nuthall	Steph Horsey [6]

Divorce in Northampton County Court Records

Three documents presented here represent the first divorce recorded in Northampton court records during the colonial period. Dissatisfied with her husband because he has disserted her and is living among the Native Americans, Alice Clawson sues him for divorce. Later Alice Clawson is delivered of a child which William Clawson disowns. Marital discourse may have been common during that period, divorces were rare.

The First Divorce Recorded in Northampton County Court

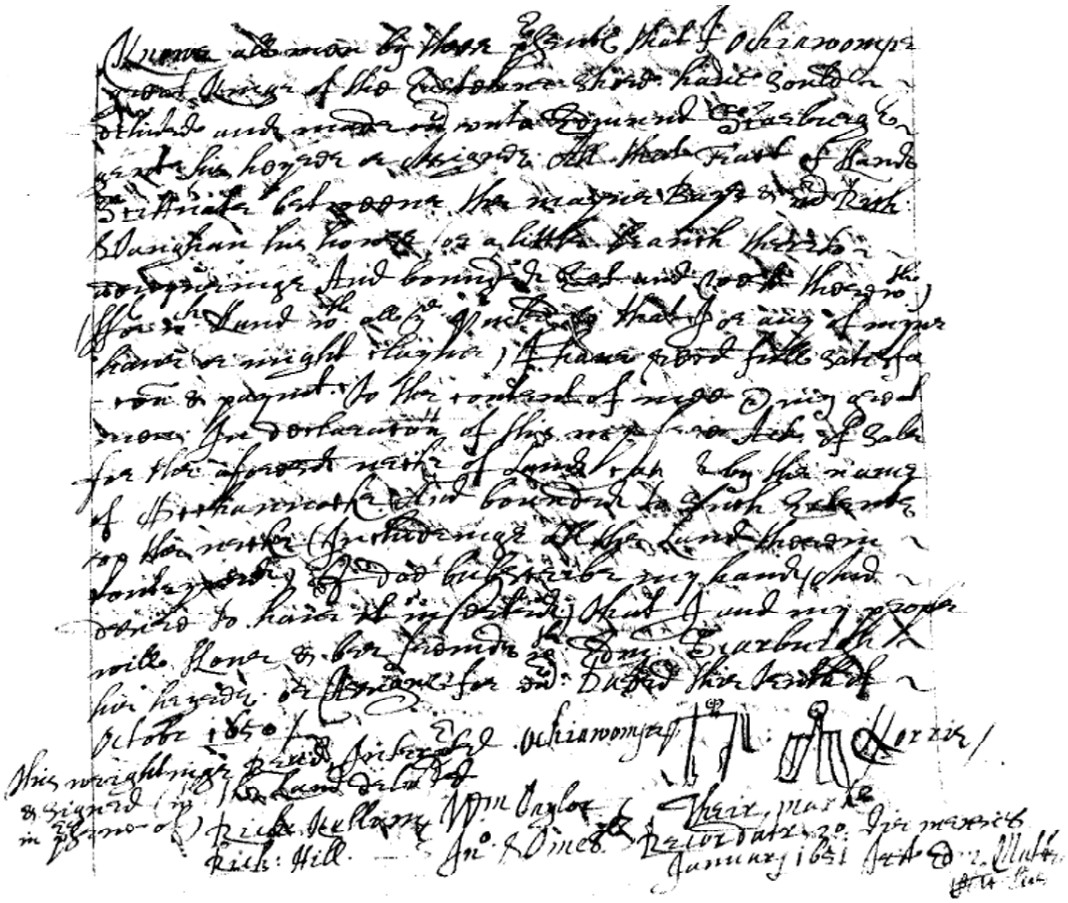
Upon ye complaint brought of Alice ye wife of Wm Clawson it is mainfested and made sufficiently appeared to ye court that ye said Clawson is a very extravigant and unworthy person in his life and conversation; spending his time amongst ye Indians, and demeaning himself in a most licentious, lewd, dishonest manner accding to law and equity, Whereby by the peace petition, his wife: hath much suffered and is probable to continuance in extrernenities of poverty; if not totally, its therefore ordered that ye said petitioner Alice Clawson be hereby authorized to live whereever she shall think fit in this county or elsewhere free from ye disturbance, mollestation, or harm of ye said Wm Clawson, And in case Clawson shall come amongst ye English and challenge to ye said woman. ye petitioner, or any goods appertaining to her that then she take ye assistance of ye sheriff/ or neighbors to rescue her and that further against as the case shall merit.[7]

Richard Hill (being one of the jury) presents that Alice Clawson the wife of William Clawson; who being brought to bed of a child (about 2 months since) And her husband doth disclaim the sd child.

Septimo die May 1655, present ut ante.

Whereas Alice Clawson ye wife of William Clawson of Northampton County in Virginia hath petition ye Cou't for a bill of divorce from Wm Clawson her husband; who (as the Cou't hasth sufficiently bine informed) hath lived in an Adulterous life amongst ye Indyans, the greatest part of ye tyme hee hath bine marryed And is nowe soe Naturelaised to ye pagans that hee is knowne of y^{e} name of y^{e} Emperor of y^{e} Nanticoke Indyans. (sonne in Lawe to Cockasimon y^{e} King of Nanticoke.) The Cou't seriously consider-

A DEED TRANSFERRING LAND
FROM INDIAN CHIEF OCHIWAMP, KING, TO EDMUND SCARBURGH



Picture of the deed transferring land from Indian Chief Ochiwamp, King to Edmund Scarburgh

TRANSCRIPTION OF THE DEED TRANSFERRING LAND FROM INDIAN CHIEF OCHIWAMP, KING TO EDMUND SCARBURGH

Know all men by these presents that I Ochawomre, Great King of the eastern shore have sold delivered and made over unto Edmund Scarburgh Gentleman, his heirs or assignees all that tract of land situated between the main bay and Mr. Rich. Vaughn his house (or a little branch there to adjoining and bounded east and west there with) (for which land with the privileges that I or any of mine have or might claim) I have received full satisfaction and payment, to the content of me or my great men. In declaration of this my free act of sale for the forest neck of land called by the name of Occhannacke and bounded to such extent up the neck (including all the land there in contained) I do subscribe my hand (and desire to have it

entested) that I and my people will live and be friends with Edm. Scarburgh his heirs or assigns forever. Dated the 10th of October 1650.

Ochiawomyre
Norris
Their marks

This writing received and signed with the land delivered in presence of Rich. Kellum, Rich. Hill, Wm. Taylor, John Vines. Recorded date 20 January 1651.[9]

A Famous Marriage Agreement

When John Custis courted Frances Parke, many ardent and love filled letters passed between them. After their marriage discord began and marital bliss was at an end. Their disputes and quarrels became so strident that the couple was forced to seek redress in the form of Articles of Agreement in Northampton County Court.

Nov 1714 Articles of Agreement between John and Frances Custis

[The lengthy document, five sides of a legal-size sheet of paper,-goes on to list some 12 areas to be corrected. These are abstracted below. In so doing much of the flavor of the many words used is unfortunately lost.]

I) Frances will restore to the said John the money, plate & other things that she removed out of his house. She promise not to give anything of value away without the said John's consent.

2) John promises not to sell any of the plate or damask linen which will be restored to him, but he will keep it to pass on to his children.

3) It is mutually agreed between both parties that one shall not call the other any vile names or use any language of oath but behave themselves to each other as becomes a good husband and wife. Frances will not interfer with John's management of his business, John will not intermeddle with Frances' domestic affairs.

4) The said John promises to pay all the debts that he has already contracted now due against the estate of John and Frances and out of the money or profits he has received from the Estate which is to descend to their children.

5) John further promises to keep a true & perfect account of all the profits & disbursements of his whole estate. He will allow Frances one full moiety after deductions are taken for running the plantations.

6) Frances agrees that the full moiety shall be used for the clothing of herself and children, to provide things necessary for housekeeping, for the children's education and for the general benefit of the family.

7) John will allow towards the maintainence of the family one bushel of wheat and enough Indian com each week. as much flesh of all kinds and sufficient quantities of cider and brandy.

8) John shall allow Frances to keep in the house to do the work the servants she now has - Jenny, Queen& Pompey and also Billy Boy, Little Roger and Anthony to tend the gardens, go on errands or with the coach.

9) Frances is to have liberty to have a white servant if she desires out of the household allowance. The said servant will be also subject to the said John.

10) Frances is to have liberty to have a white servant if she desires out of the household allowance. The said servant will be also subject to the said John.

11) Since it will be 12 months before an account can be had from England of the sale of tobacco. John will pay Frances £50 if there shall be a surplus when his debts are paid.

12) Lastly, Frances agrees that if she exceeds her allowance and runs John in debt and if she does not keep all of the promises made in this agreement, then this writing will be null and void and shall wholly cease. [10]

Small Pox Scare

During the American Revolution, the spread of small pox became an issue. It was thought that the English were using biological warfare, even that slaves were being used to spread the disease. While a system of inoculation against Small Pox was discovered early in the Middle East, Virginia discouraged its use. At the discretion of local authorities individual households were licensed to administer it.

Small Pox Scare in 1775

Whereas Several Negroes in the family of Vianna Gray Jacob of Northampton County widow unfortunately breaking out with the Small Pox and she thinking herself and the next of her family exposed to immediate danger of catching the said Distemper, gave notice thereof to the Sherif, who accordingly summoned all the acting Magistrates of the County afsd to meet at the House of Edmond Glanville of the said County on Saturday the 14th Day of January 1775,

Assembled pursuant to their Summons John Bowdoin, Milton Savage, John Stratton, Henry Guy, Gent. John Harmanson The said Magistrates proceeded to consider whether upon the whole circumstances of the case inoculation of the small pox may be present or necessary or dangerous to the health and safety of the said Vianna Gray Jacob and the neighbourhood On Consideration thereof, they were of opinion that a general allowance of such inoculation would be dangerous to the health & safety of the other Inhabitants of the County but that it is prudent & nccesssary to permit the said Vianna Gray Jacob to have herself & the rest of her family Inoculated And License is therefore granted her for that purpose And it is Ordered that if any other family or families in this County Should hereafter by misfortune or accident have the Infection of the said distemper, that such family is hereby also licensed to inoculate, they & the said Vienna Gray admitting no other person into their families to be Inoculated And that no person in this county do presume to Inoculate the Distemper aforesaid otherwise than above licensed or spread the same by importing from any other place variolous or infectious matter of the said Distemper or by any other ways or means whatsoever

John Bowdoin [11]

A Window on Life and Death: Unborn Children

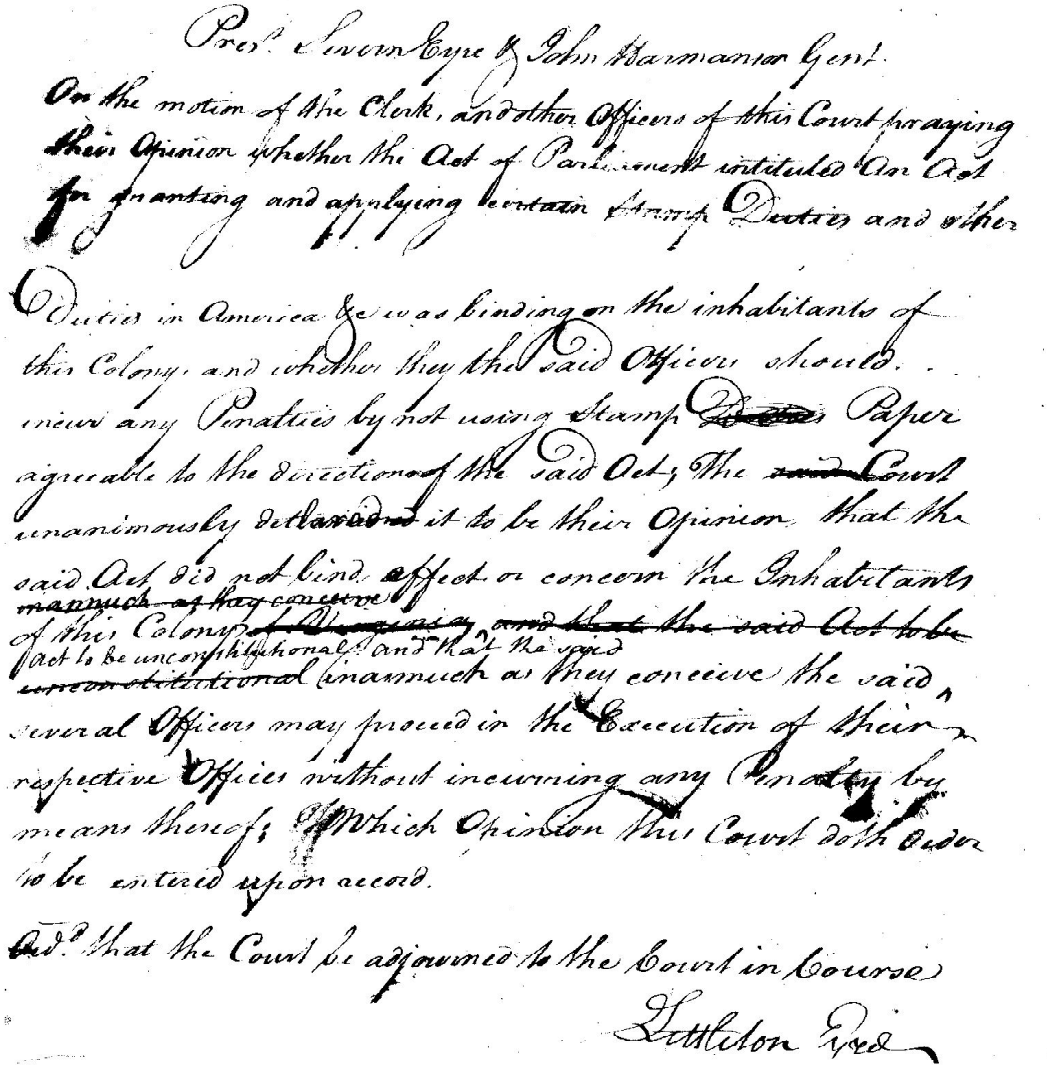
The term "child I now go with" refers to an unborn child. It is usually found in male wills as they seek to provide for an unborn child. In the will below, Rebecca Fisher is preparing for the future of her unborn child while she prepares for her own death.

> Rebecca Fisher: 3 June 1658/28 June 1658-
> To the child I now go with 10 cows and 4 heifers. To my beloved sister Mary Hanby 2 cows and to her daughter 2 heifers. To my well beloved brothers Thomas Stratton, John Bagwell and Thomas Bagwell. To my brother Phillip one feather bed. To my brother Stratton's son Benjamin. To Tobias Selve my god daughter one cow calf. To Hannah Wheeler a cow calf. If child I go with should die then child's estate to be eq. div. by my own three brothers, sister Hanby and my brother Phillip Fisher. Brothers Thomas Stratton and Phillip Fisher overseers. Witt: Elizabeth Selve, Agnes Stratton -p. 11 { 12 } [12]

The Stamp Act of 1766

The Stamp Act of 1765 was the fourth Stamp Act to be passed by the British Parliament but the first to attempt to impose a direct tax on the colonies. The act required all legal documents, permits, commercial contracts, newspapers, wills, pamphlets, and playing cards in the American colonies to carry a tax stamp. The following Northampton County Court Order was the response of Northampton County citizens to the British Parliament.

> The Stamp Act of 1766
> On the motion of the Clerk, and other Officers of this Court praying their opinion whether the Act of Parliament instituted and act granting and applying certain Stamp Duties and other Duties in America &c was binding on the inhabitants of this Colony, and whether they the said Officers should ineur any Penalities by not using Stamp Paper agreeable to the direction of the said Act; The Court unanimously declared it to be their Opinion that the said Act did not bind, effect or concern the Inhabitants of this Colony and that the said Act to be unconstitutional and that the said in as much as they conceived the said several Offies without incurring any Penalty by means there of: Which Opinion this Court doth order to be entered upon record.
>
> Ordered that the Court be adjourned to the Court in Course [13]



Pres.t Lewis Eyre & John Harmanson Gent.

On the motion of the Clerk, and other Officers of this Court praying their Opinion whether the Act of Parliament intituled An Act for granting and applying certain Stamp Duties and other Duties in America &c was binding on the inhabitants of this Colony, and whether they the said Officers should incur any Penalties by not using Stamp ~~Duties~~ Paper agreeable to the directions of the said Act, The ~~said~~ Court unanimously ~~declared~~ it to be their Opinion that the said Act did not bind affect or concern the Inhabitants of this Colony ~~inasmuch as they conceive~~ ~~and that the said Act to be~~ ~~unconstitutional~~ and that the said Act to be unconstitutional inasmuch as they conceive the said several Officers may proceed in the Execution of their respective Offices without incurring any Penalty by means thereof; Which Opinion this Court doth order to be entered upon record.

Ord.d That the Court be adjourned to the Court in Course

Littleton Eyre

Photograph of the Court declaration that the Stamp Act was unconstitutiona..

God a Woman

Like so many other wills, that of Mary Scott devises her estate to her issue. She is a woman of property, approximately 130 acres, and a sizable collection of goods. Mary Scott departed from the usual opening statement found in most Northampton County Wills, "In the name of God Amen." Whether in jest or a sense of gender equality or simply a missing comma, Mary Scott used the phrase"In the name of God a woman." This is the only will found with such a deviation from the customary form.

The Will of Mary Scott

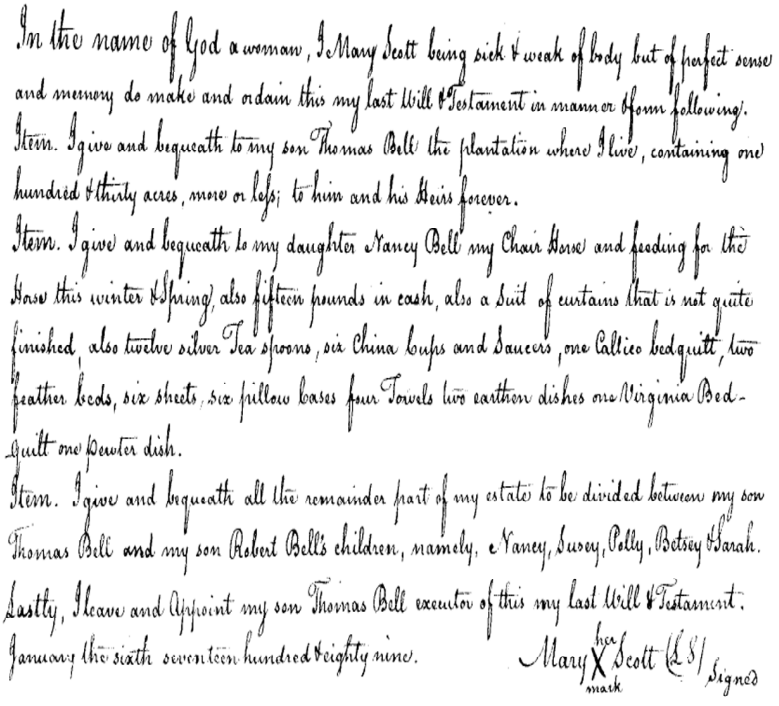
In the name of God a woman, I Mary Scott being sick & weak of body but of perfect sense and memory do make and ordain this my last will & Testament in manner or form following:

Item. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Bell the plantation where I live, containing one hundred & thirty acres, more or less; to him and his Heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my to my daughter Nancy Bell my Chair Horse and feeding for the Horse this winter & Spring, also fifteen pounds in cash, also a Suit of curtains that is not quite finished, also twelve silver Tea spoons, six China Cups and Saucers, one Callico bedquilt, two feather beds, six sheets, six pillow Cases four Towels two earthen dishes one Virginia Bedquilt one pewter dish.

Item. I give and bequeath all the remainder part of my estate to be divided between my son Thomas Bell and my son Robert Bell's children, namely, Nancy, Susey, Polly, Betsey & Sarah.

Lastly, I leave and appoint my son Thomas Bell executor of this my last Will & Testament. January the sixth seventeen hundred & eighty nine. Mary (X) Scott (SS) [14]


In the name of God a woman, I Mary Scott being sick & weak of body but of perfect sense and memory do make and ordain this my last Will & Testament in manner & form following.
Item. I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Bell the plantation where I live, containing one hundred & thirty acres, more or less; to him and his Heirs forever.
Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Nancy Bell my Chair Horse and feeding for the Horse this winter & Spring, also fifteen pounds in cash, also a Suit of curtains that is not quite finished, also twelve silver Tea spoons, six China Cups and Saucers, one Callico bedquitt, two feather beds, six sheets, six pillow bases four Towels two earthen dishes one Virginia Bed-quitt one pewter dish.
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Lastly, I leave and Appoint my son Thomas Bell executor of this my last Will & Testament.
January the sixth seventeen hundred & eighty nine. Mary her X mark Scott (L S) Signed

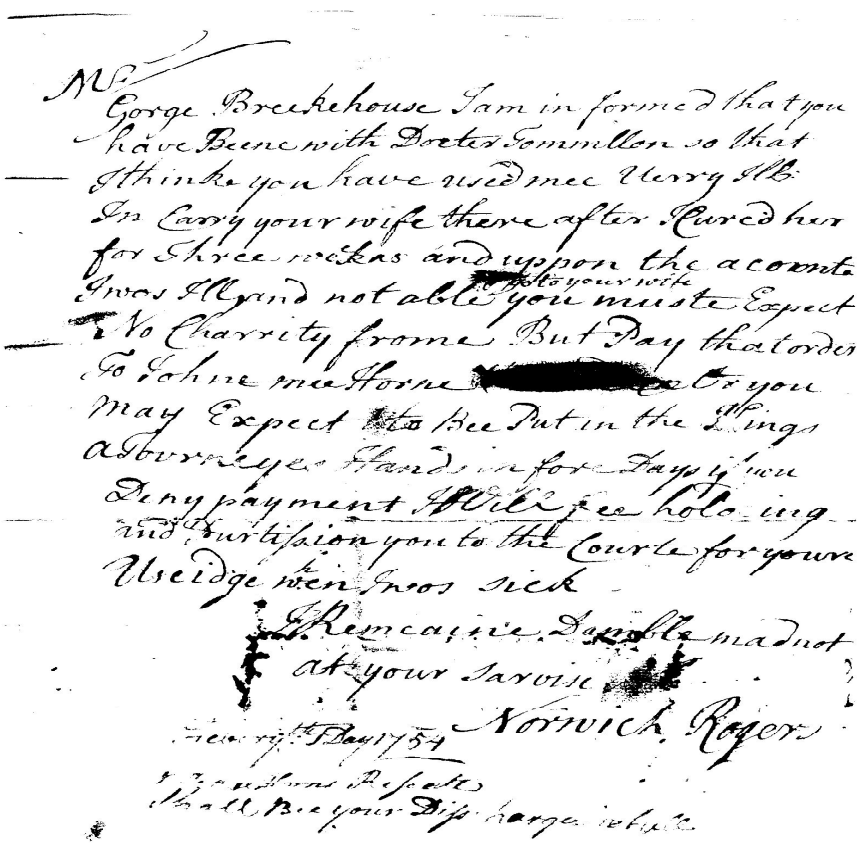
Photograph of the will of Mary Scott, 1789

Altercations

Altercations and other matters of Shore life made their way into court records. This petition executed by Norwich Rogers, doctor, for money owed him by Peter Brickhouse. Dr. Rogers cut a cancer from Mrs. Brickhouse's nose and attended her for two days. The doctor was angry because Brickhouse called Dr. Tomlinson to attend his wife during the illness of Norwich Rogers. This petition was found among the Northampton County collection of loose papers and is a part of the third volume of Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, April 1744 to July 1761, *abstracted by Jean M. Mihalyka.*

Irate letter from Dr. Norwich Rogers to Peter Brickhouse

Mr Gorge Breckehouse I am in formed that you have Beene with Docter Tommillon so that I thin you have used mee verry Ill In carry your wife there after I Cured her for Three Wekes and uppon the acounte I was Ill and not able to go to your wife you must Expect No Charrity frome But Pay that order To Johne mee Horne Or you May Expect to Bee Put in the Kings Atourneyes Hands in fore Days if you Deny payment I Will fee holde ing and Purtifsion and you to the Courte for youre Useedge when I was sick I Remeanine Damble mad not at Your Sarvise Norwich Rogers Mr mee Horns Refeatt shall be your Disscharge in full. [15]


Mr Gorge Breckehouse I am in formed that you have Beene with Docter Tommillon so that I think you have used mee Verry Ill In Carry your wife there after I Cured her for Three wekes and uppon the acounte I was Ill and not able to go to your wife you muste Expect No Charrity frome But Pay that order To Johne mee Horne Or you May Expect to Bee Put in the Kings Atourneyes Hands in fore Days if you Deny payment I Will fee holding and Purtifsion you to the Courte for youre Useidge when I was sick I Remeanine Damble mad not at your Sarvise Norwich Rogers

Photograph of Dr. Rogers' letter.

Politics

"When in the Course of human events it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another and to assume among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation."

This first paragraph of the Declaration of the Independence tells that story of why the Revolutionary War was fought-freedom of the American Colonies from English rule. These words and others were read from the steps of the old court house on August 13th 1776. Philadelphia, the first American capital, was the stage for the signing the document on July 4, 1776. The distance from Philadelphia to Eastville can now be easily traveled in five hours, in 1776 on horseback it took more than a month.

> Declaration of Independence Read on the Steps of the Court House August the 13th 1776
>
> The Declaration of Independence of the Thirteen United States of North America was proclamed on the Door of the Courthouse. And agreeable to a Resolve of the Honbl. the Convention of this State the Magistrates proceeded to take the Oath of fidelity to the State & the Oath of office to take upon them the administration of Justice in the said County of Northampton. John Stratton, Michl Christian, John Harmanson. Nathaniel Savage, John Wilkins, Littleton Savage, John Robins, Henry Guy.
>
> ___ in the last commission of the peace took the Oath of the State the Oath of this office agreeable to the said ordinance, [16]

Manumissions

One of the first deeds used to free slaves after the Act to Authorize the Manumission of Slaves was passed in 1782 freed Jacob Holland and Sarah Marnick. Jacob Holland had a slave marriage with a woman from the next plantation named Judy, owned by Robert Rogers. Soon after Jacob was freed, Rogers purchased a farm in Accomack and moved Judy to Accomack. In 1804, five years after his own emancipation, Jacob paid Rogers $200.00 for Judy. In 1804, Jacob freed Judy.

B. Barlow to her Slaves

Know all men by these presents, that I Betsey Barlow of the County of Northampton and State of Virginia for good Cause and Considerations me hereunto moving, and by virtue of an Act of the General Assembly of Virginia passed in the year of our Lord 1782, entitled "An Act to Authorize the manumission of slaves" do hereby emancipate and set absolutely free the following Negro slaves, to wit, Jacob Holland and Sarah Marnick, to be free and at their own liberty on the first day of .lanuary 1789, as by said Act of Assembly is directed And I do hereby warrant and defend the freedom of the said Negroes against myself, my heirs, executors and administrators as well as against all persons whatsoever claiming title to the same by or from me under the penal sum of one hundred pounds current money of Virginia to be recovered by each of the said Negroes in case of any attempt to deprive them of their liberty by us as above granted In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seal this__day of December Anno Domini 1788

At a Court held for Northampton County the 14th day of -lanuary 1789 [17]

Holland to Judy

Know all Men by the Present that I Jacob Holland late of the County of Northampton & State of Virginia, for good cause's & consideration me hereunto moving and by virtue of an act of General Assembly of the State aforesaid, in that case made & provided, do hereby emancipate and set absolutely free a certain yellow or coloured, woman called Judy which I lately purchased of W. Robert Roger's of the County of Accomack To whom I give the name of Judy Holland to be absolutely free and at her own disposal, as my wife, with all her increase from & after the 14: of January 1805 and I do hereby further warrant & defend unto the said Judy Holland & her increase their Liberty against myself, my heirs, as well as all & every Person claiming or to claim,right, Title or Interest, thereunto by, from or under me- In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand & affixed my Seal this 27: Day of January Anno Domini 1804.- his mark Jacob X Holland(Seal)[18]

Occasionally, A Famous Name

Here and there in our Northampton County Court Records, you will find a name that has national recognition. Here is a property transfer from Daniel Boone.

Daniel Boone Property Transfer, 1792

To all to whom these presents shall come I, Daniel Boone of the State of Kenatucky, Have, for and in consideration of the sum of one hundred pound specie current money of Virginia to me in hand paid by Robert Clark Jacob, the receit whereof I do hereby acknowledge, remised, released, and for me, and my Heirs do forever quit claim unto the said Robert Clark Jacob, and to his Heirs and assigns forever, all my right, interest and title, in and to three thousand nine hundred and seventy four acres of land in the State of Kentucky, the same being the quantity of land which I received by allotment for sundry locations made for the said Robert Clark Jacob, as by an agreement entered into for that purpose, and bearing date the 22nd of November 1781 will more fully appear. And I do by these presents for me and my Heirs remise and release all my right and interest in and to the said three thousand nine hundred and seventy four acres of land aforesaid unto the said a Robert Clark Jacob his Heirs and Assigns forever, free of any claim or distrubance from my or my Heirs.

As Witness my hand and seal at the County of Northampton in the State of Virgina this 16th day of June 1792 and in the sixteenth year of athe Commonwealth.

Witness: Thomas L. Savage Daniel Boone (LS)

Edward Robins

Littleton Savage

At a Court held for Northampton County the 10th day July 1792. This deed of release from Daniel Boone to Robert Clark Jacob was proved to be the act and deed of the said Boone by the eaths of Thomas L. Savage and Edward Robins witnesses thereto and and ordered to be recorded. Test: William Stith C. N. C.[19]

Eccentricities

This lengthy four-page will of Arthur Upshur shows how frightened he was of dying and that in addition he was superstious. He is not buried on the Eastern Shore. Even the brief excerpt transcribed here gives you the flavor of his eccentricities.

Excerpt from Will of Arthur Upshur

With regard to the disposal of mu body after death -I strickly enjoin my Executors to have it placed in a common coffin, the lid of which is upon no account to be shut or screwed down, until corruption so fell' takes place as to render the last services of my friends disagreeable to them nor even then or at any time after is the lid to be fastened down but to be so made of light materials as to fit over the bottom of the coffin. This coffin is in no wise to be sunk deeper under ground than the lid thereof, and that part which lies below the earth to be encased in brick work which is to be raised four feet above ground and door or opening left on one side 18 inches square. close this opening I direct a door suspended by hinges from the top without any fastening as its own gravity will keep it shut. To accomplish this mode of seputture, should my Executors neglect to have it done as ordered leave five hundred dollars out of the mass of my property to any individual who will dig up my body and reinter it according to the true intent & method of burial above described On the top of the brickwork I wish and order a plain White Marble slab with the following inscription deeply carved -viz: "Under this rests the remains of Arthur Upshur who was a child of misfortune and sorrow from his cradle until his death -the result of a feeble constitution and endless vexations of many kinds In the world of spirits, he cherished the fond hope of brighter prospects -My Children whenever affliction overshadow your brow repair hither and look on this marble-It will teach you that happiness is not of this world [20]

Another Altercation Preserved by Our Records

On occasion a skirmish broke out on the Eastern Shore. This quarrel happened because Elizabeth Garrit, along with her children, were assigned to the Alms House in Machipongo. Charges were brought against her, depositions were taken attesting to the assault on Edmund Johnson, the overseer of the of the Poor House. Having been labeled a "pauper" may have caused Elizabeth to be embarrass, she may have struck out in humiliation. Elizabeth was arrested and tried in the Lower court for felonious stabbing. In 1809, her case was sent to the Superior Court where she was found not guilty. A year later she sued Edmund Johnson for "Trespass Assault & Battery." Edmund Johnson was found guilty and forced to pay ElizabetGarrit $70.00, cost of Court and a fee to each of his witnesses.

Elizabeth Garrit assaults the Overseer of the Poor

The Court having heard the evidence and the arguments of counsel as well on behalf of the said Elizabeth Garrit as the Commonwealth, are of opinion that the said Elizabeth Garrit is guilty of the offence with which she is charged and that she be committed for further trial at the next Superior Court of Law to be held for the County and thereupon the said Elizabeth Garrit with George Brickhouse, John Scott and James Johnson her securities came into Court acknowledged themselves indebted to his Excellency John Tyler Esquire Governour of the Commonwealth of Virginia and his Successors, the said Elizabeth Garrit in the sum of one hundred dollars and the said George Brickhouse, John Scott and James Johnson each in the sum of fifty dollars to be liveied of their lands and tenements, goods and chattels respectively if default shall be made in the condition hereunder written. The condition of this Recognizance is such that if the above bound Elizabeth Garrit shall make her personally appearance here on the first day of the next Superior Court of law to be held for this County then this Recognizance to be void or else remain in full force ____ and virtue.

The Deposition of Edmund Johnson who is Stewart of the Poor House-says that on July last the said Elizabeth Garrit came to the Poor House with an Order to the said Stewart to receive her and her three children, which was accordingly done; that the said Elizabeth not liking the appearance of the Poor House and abusing the said Stewart, this Deponent ordered her to

behave better or he would make her, and after some altercation between them, the said Stewart took her by the arm and told her to carry her bed up stairs, whereupon she struck him and then he threw her down and told her to behave, which she appeared to do; he then let her go and she carried her bed up stairs; a short time afterwards he heard some abusive language from her and he went up stairs and found her sharpening her knife upon which she told him that if he came near her she would let out his guts; that some time after this she left the Poor House and returned again about Christmas with another Order to admit her two children and not her, she finding a bed, which she brought and used similar language and again an altercation of the same kind took place that after this, to wit, the 20th of May last she came again to the poor House after having been repeatedly directed by the said Stewart not to come there; and the Stewart being absent, when he retuned he found she had taken the bed which according to the Order of the Overseers had been brought there for the accommodation of her children. He ask why she would come when directed not to do so and in consequence another altercation took place, in course of which much abusive language as to the Poor House and Stewart ensued; He ordered her to return the bed and go away which she refused to do and threatened him again with knife and seeing her put her hand in her pocket he kicked her, she drew the knife and took hold of the bed which she three over the fence, he then laid hold of her with intent to take away the knife when she stabbed him under the hip, he then threw her down and with the assistance of another person took away the knife after receiving several cuts of the hands and shewing her out of the bounds of the Poor House directed her to come there no more.

Jenny Davis of the said Elizabeth Garrit that she would stab Johnson, she saw her when she did stab him and she said that one or the other of them should be to hell before night.

Sarah Taylor proves that the said Elizabeth Garrit told her at her house of the skuffle between her and Johnson, that she had stabbed him and would prepare another [knife] with two edges that should reach him.

Sarah Mathews proves the said Elizabeth Garrit abuse of Johnson and her threats in the month of March last that she would see his insides before she was done with him. [22]

A Typical Will

Robert Hadlock, a native of Ireland who had lived in Virginia for more than forty years, died on Nov. 26, 1831. This is a typical will with the exception that Robert Hadlock,who appears never to have been married, leaves his property to his daughter's mother. After the will was probated, Lewis R. Matthews, the husband of Hadlock's daughter petitioned to have the will set aside giving all the proceeds of the will to his wife immediately. Matthews had been married to Harriet just a year.

Robert Hadlock Will

I, Robert Hadlock of Northampton County, Virginia, do make this last will and testament in manner and form following: that is to say I give and bequeath to Fanny Turner the use and benefit of the house

2nd I give and bequeath to my daughter Harriet by Fanny Turner the use and benefit of my whole estate real and personal not herein before given until she arive to the age of twenty one years at which period I give the whole estate herein before given my said daughter & to the heirs of her body begotten forever.

3rd The property herein before given to Fanny Turner during her life, at her death I give to my daughter Harriet subject to the same restrictions as the property herein given to my sd daughter.

4th & lastly I hereby constitute and appoint Jno Addison & Lewis R. Matthews Exor to this my last will & Testament hereby revoking all former wills heretofore by me made.

In witness whereof I have here with set my hand & seal this the 7th day of July 1831 signed sealed published and declared as & for the last will Robt Hadlock in the presence of __

Robert Hadlock

At a Court held for Northampton County the 18th day of November 1831.[23]

Lewis R. Matthews' Petition to the Virginia General Assembly

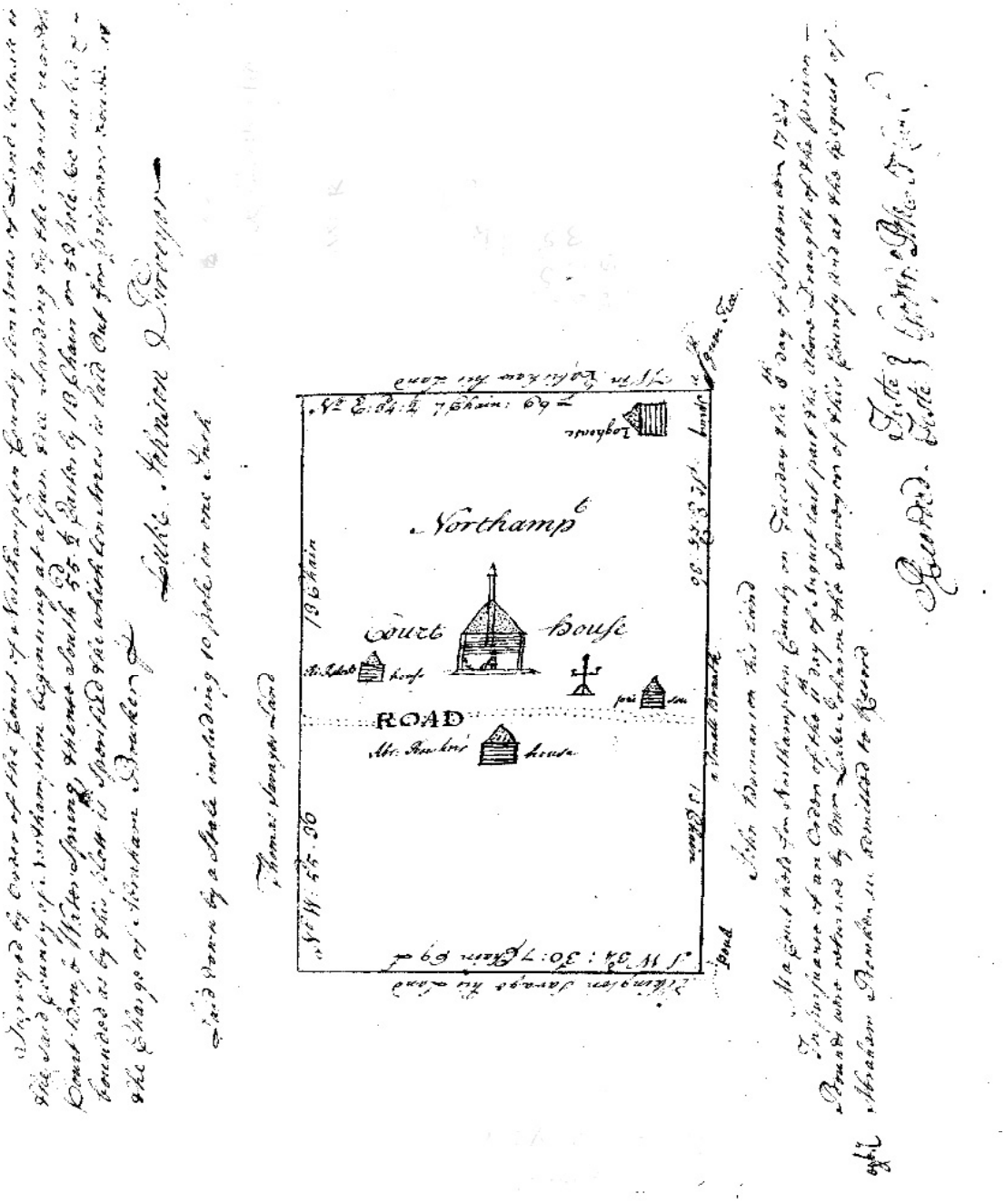
On 26 November 1831 Lewis R. Matthews represented to the General Assembly that Robert Hadlock of Northampton County died seized and possessed of real and personal estate, that Robert Hadlock was an Irishman

by birth and had lived within the Commonwealth of Virginia upwards of forty years before his death, that he left no relations or heirs in this commonwealth or the United States. A paper signed by Mr. Hadlock, purporting to be his his last Will and Testament has been presented to the County Court of Northampton for probate. Upon examination of witnesses the Court determined that the said paper was sufficiently proved as a will of peronal estate, but not as to the real estate, and admitted the same to record as the last will of Robert Hadlock as to his personal estate.

Lewis R. Matthews has been advised by the law of the land that the real estate of Robert Hadlock escheats to the commonwealth. Robert Hadlock by his will gave the whole of his real and personal estate to Harriet Matthews, the wife of Lewis Matthews after a life estate in a small part of the real estate to a certain Fanny Turner. Mr. Matthews had been advised that the General Assembly is in the constant practice of releasing the rights of the commonwealth in property.[24]

Survey of Prison

This survey was made by Luke Johnson in 1724 at the direction Abraham Bowker. It is a survey of the of the grounds on which the prison was ordered by the Court to be built in 1724. More than a layout of the planned building, it provides a picture of Eastville during this period. The Court House, the whipping post, the road that passes through the town in front of the Court House, and several houses. At the edge of the drawing are the property lines for Elkington and Thomas Savage and a notation of a small branch which may be Little Sugar Run.



Survey of Prison planned in Eastville during the early 1700s [21]

SOME LEGAL TERMS FOUND IN COURT RECORDS

abated ..... nullified

agreed ..... settled agreeably between plaintiff & defendant

appeal ..... to remove a case or request so that it be moved to a higher court

attachment ..... the act of taking or seizing property by virtue of a writ or summons

bound out ..... an individual legally obligated by the Court to serve another for a specified term.

capias ..... a writ generally addressed to the sheriff

chattles ..... articles of personal property

condem ..... to find or adjudge guilty

confessed ..... guilt or responsibility acknowledged by the accused

contest ..... to oppose, resist or dispute the case made by a plaintiff

dates, dating ..... the dates in this time period are of the Julian calendar whose New Year began on 24 March. The calendar was changed in 1752 to the Gregorian with the New Year beginning 1 January.

deed of gift ..... a deed executed and delivered without considerations

default judgment ..... a judgment rendered in consequence of the non-appearance of the defendant

deposition ..... written testimony of a witness who is under oath, often used in court when oral testimony cannot be obtained

detinue ..... act of detaining a person or article wrongfully

devisee ..... the person who is given land, clothing etc by a will

dower ..... the part of a deceased man's estate assigned by law to his widow

ejectment suit ..... a suit to recover lands

femme sole ..... single woman

freedom dues ..... money, clothing, etc due a servant at end of his indenture

grantor/grantee ..... seller/buyer of land, house, etc

imparlance ..... time given to either of the parties to an action to answer the pleading of the other; time to try to settle amicably

indenture ..... a deed or contract between two parties regarding real estate

informer ..... one who brings the offense to the attention of authorities

intestate ..... one who died without a will

judgment contested ..... judgment opposed by one of the parties in a case; appeal usually filed.

Lawyer's fee ..... charge for service's usually 150 - 155 lbs tobacco letters of administration appointment of an administrator to settle an estate

metes and bounds ..... description of property lines

nar, narrative ..... declaration of the facts of a case

nihal dicit ..... says nothing, says no more

non assumption ..... the act of non assuming or not taking upon one's self; especially a debt

non est inventus ..... dismissed

non suit ..... 1) voluntary: when the plaintiff abandons his case and settles for the costs 2)involuntary: when the plaintiff neglects to appear or when he has given no evidence on which a jury could find a verdict

note of hand ..... see: promissory note

nunc ..... nuncupative; description of a will meaning oral, not written

obligation bond ..... an agreement or tie binding one to pay a certain sum or perform some duty or task

oyer and terminer ..... to have and determine a case in Court

peace bond ..... a bond bought to insure the individual's good behavior

petition ..... supplication of an inferior to a superior person

presentment ..... a report made to the Court by a busy body, a nosey person or the Grand Jury of an offense by a person

processioner ..... one who walks the bounds of property

promissory note ..... a written promise by one party to pay another party a certain sum of money at a specified time or on demand

quitrent ..... a rent paid by the tenant of a freehold by which he goes quit and free, ie: discharged from any other rent.

recognizance bond ..... a bond assuring appearing, answering or keeping the peace

relict ..... widow

reptication ..... a reply made by the plaintiff in an action to the defendant's plea or in a suit in chancery to the defendant's answer

scire facias, sci fac ..... a judical writ

security to appear ..... money posted to ensure the appearance of an individual at Court

signed by his/her mark .. ..person cannot write but makes a mark

subpoena ..... a judicial writ requiring a person to appear in court to give testimony

sums, summons ..... writ for the sheriff to notify a person to appear in court

testator ..... one who dies leaving a Will

trespass on the case ..... the form of action adopted for the recovery of damages for some injury sustained by a party from the wrongful act of another, unaccompanied by direct force

viewers ..... men selected to scrutinize the feasibility of laying a new road; to establish a water mill; etc

wanted ..... verdict at court

writ of replevin ..... process by which a plaintiff recovers personal property unlawfully retained

writing obligatory ..... technical name by which a bond is described in pleading a case

GLOSSARY OF LATIN TERMS

As you read older records, you may come across some Latin terms. Below is a list of commonly used Latin words. If the word that you have come across is not in this list, try consulting a Latin dictionary.

Anno Domini (A.D.) - in the year of our Lord

circa, circiter (c., ca., circ.) - about

connubium - marriage

et - and, both

et alii (et al.) - and others

et cetera (etc., &c.) - and so forth

familia - household

filiam - daughter

filium - son

Imprimis, item - also, likewise

mater - mother

mater familias - (female) head of household

mensis (menses) - month(s)

nepos - grandson. Also meant "nephew" in some records.

neptis - granddaughter. Also meant "niece" in some records.

nota bene (N.B.) - take note

obit - (he or she) died

obit sine prole (o.s.p.) - (he or she) died without offspring

pater - father

requiescat in pace (R.I.P.) - rest in peace

septimo seventh (seen in dates as well as phrases, such as the legality of a birth occurring in the seventh month (*septimo mense*) after conception

sic - so, thus

testes - witnesses

ultimo (ult.) - last

uxor (ux, vx) - wife

Verbi Dei Minister (V.D.M.) - minister of the word of God

videlicet (viz, vizt) - namely

Notes

1. Northampton County Orders, etc., No. 14, 1698-1710, p. 279.
2. Northampton County Deeds, Wills &c, No 11, 1680-1712, pp. 194-195.
3. Northampton County Book No 15, 1710-1716, p. 201.
4. George Savage Pettion to Virginia General Assembly.
5. Accawmack County Orders, Deeds, Wills &c., Volume No.1, p. 4.
6. Northampton County Orders, Deeds, Wills &c., Volume No. 4, pp. 66-67.
7. Northampton County Orders, Deeds, Wills &c., Volume No. 4, p. 236.
8. Northampton County Orders, Deeds, Wills &., Volume No 5, p. 135.
9. Northampton County Order Book Volume No. 4, p. 35.
10. Northampton County Loose Papers Transcribed by Jean M. Mihalyka.
11. Northampton County Minute Book No. 28, p. 280.
12. Northampton County Deeds, Will Book, etc. Volume No. 9, p. 11.
13. Northampton County Minute Book No. 27, p. 31.
14. Northampton County Will Book No. 28, p. 83.
15. Northampton County Loose Papers Transcribed by Jean M. Mihalyka.
16. Northampton County Minute Book No. 28, p. 330.
17. Northampton County Deed Book No. 22, p. 241.
18. Northampton County Deed Book No. 24, pp. 471-472.
19. Northampton County Deed Book No. 22, p. 480.
20. Northampton County Will Book No. 38, 1829-1853, pp. 5-9.
21. Northampton County Deeds and Wills, etc 1718-1725, Volume 23, p. 209.
22. Northampton County Order Book No. 35, pp. 89-90.
23. Northampton County Will Book, No. 38, p. 16.
24. Lewis R. Matthews' Petition to the Virginia General Assembly, 1831. This document is the only record contained in this booklet that is not a Court record. It is included because it explains the ownership of this land which is still known as Hadlock or in some cases Hadlocktown.

References

1 Ames, Susie, *The Country's Garden: Dale's Gift*, Eastville, Va: Hickory House, 1998.

2 Durant, David N. *Raleigh's Lost Colony.* New York: Atheneum, 1981.

3 Mihalyka, Jean M., Comp. *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases*, Vols I and II, Eastville, VA: Hickory House, 1997.

4 Quinn, David Beers. *Raleigh and the British Empire.* London: Hodder and Stoughton, 1947.

5 Quinn, David Beers, ed. *The Roanoke Voyages, 1584–1590.* 2 vols. Reprint. New York: Dover, 1991.

6 Turman, Nora Miller, *The Eastern Shore of Virginia 1603-1964*, Bowie, Md: Heritage Books, 1964.

7 Whitelaw, Ralph, *Virginia's Eastern Shore, A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, Gloucester, Mass: Peter Smith, 1668.

8 Winton, John. *Sir Walter Raleigh.* New York: Coward, McCann, 1975.

9 Wise, Henry A., *Over on the Eastern Shore*, Onancock, Va: The Eastern Shore New, Inc., 1962.

Shelves of the Northampton County Court Orders or Deed Books.