

SOME BEASLEY FAMILIES OF THE COLONIAL SOUTH

**A PRELIMINARY STUDY OF CERTAIN FAMILIES WITH THE
SURNAME OF BEASLEY-BEAZLEY-BEEZLEY-BEESLEY IN
VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, AND NORTH CAROLINA, FROM
THE SEVENTEENTH AND EIGHTEENTH CENTURIES**

By John D. Beatty, CG

ARCHIVE

**This Document, was last updated Oct 2015. Significant new information and corrections are
available. Please use this ONLY as a general guide.**

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INTRODUCTION

Beasley is a relatively uncommon English surname and is derived, according to etymologist Patrick Hanks, from Beesley, a place in Lancashire. The word itself may come from the Old English *bēos* “bent grass,” and *lēah* “woodland clearing.”¹ Persons of this surname appear in the middle and southern American colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, though never in large numbers.

In the first decade of the twenty-first century, a group of male-line descendants with this surname initiated a Y-chromosomal DNA study with Family Tree DNA of Houston, Texas, in a search for clues about the origins of several Beasley families scattered throughout the southern and Midwestern parts of the United States.² The results of the project, still on-going at this writing, have been posted to a website hosted by *Worldfamilies.net* and on a separate Beasley DNA website under the administration of Doug Beezley.³ Thus far the study has revealed members belonging to several diverse haplogroups, including Groups E, I, and R1b. The latter group, the largest of the three, includes several groups or clusters deemed unrelated and falling into four distinct subgroups that the project administrator identifies by color: Blue, Green, Yellow, and Red.

The Blue Group is represented by Part 3 in this book, a family to which I belong through a paternal great-great grandmother, and represents a group of Beasley men with ancestors in northern Virginia and Craven County, North Carolina. A few other lines with close matches have been traced to South Carolina and other parts of North Carolina and are likely closely related. This volume will show that most of these lines have their origin with a Beasley family living in Baltimore County, Maryland, in the late seventeenth century. The Green Group is represented by descendants of Augustine/Austin Beasley of Craven County, North Carolina, a man who had ties to members of the Blue Group but who may himself have been an illegitimate child. Further research and Y-DNA testing of a wider number of Austin’s descendants may be necessary to prove this theory and establish Austin’s haplotype with greater certainty.

The families in the Yellow Group, represented by James Beezley, born circa 1762, of Halifax County, Virginia, and the Red Group, founded by Thomas Beasley, born in 1771 in Virginia, are not explored in this volume. However, they may have ties to one of the other family groups represented here, with the link not yet revealed by extant test results. Indeed, the Y-DNA of the Beasley families represented in Parts 1, 2, and 4, has either not been tested or not reported to the DNA website. Further testing of additional descendants may help clarify the relationships of these families.

Genealogists working on all of the above families have encountered brick walls in their research and have been unable to identify common ancestors, even when they have had close Y-chromosomal matches with others in their respective color groups. Making all of these efforts more complicated has been the plethora of genealogical information available online, much of it undocumented and some of it either incorrect or inconsistent with direct evidence.

In an effort to examine some of the larger families of this surname living in the southern American colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, I have undertaken the compilation of this small volume. I have used the word “preliminary” in the title to indicate that it is by no means a finished work or the final word on any of the lines represented here. I have relied heavily on published compilations of original records from Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina, as well as some digitized material, but I have not made exhaustive searches in all of the related archives or made extensive use of original records, since they were not readily available to me at the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne. Nevertheless, I have attempted to present an array of evidence on four separate family groups or clusters of Beasleys in the hope that it will promote additional research and give impetus to the Y-DNA studies already underway. Future revisions are expected.

Because the genealogical studies are still on-going and not in their final form, the reader is advised to use the information presented here judiciously, bearing in mind that further examination of original records

¹ Patrick Hanks, ed., *Dictionary of American Family Names* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2003), 1: 120.

² <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/beasley/results>: accessed 30 September 2014.

³ <http://beasleygenealogy.net/index.php/the-beasley-dna-project>: accessed 30 September 2014.

may yet shed more light on these families. I have deliberately chosen not to extend them into the nineteenth century out of considerations of space. Some unresolved issues include the following:

- The parentage of Bennett and James Beasley of Caroline County, Virginia, discussed in Part One, remains unknown. The two likely brothers *may* be descendants of William¹ of Essex County, Virginia, through his son Henry², but the jury is still out, and the question might find at least a partial resolution with a study of Y-chromosomes from other male-line descendants of the Essex County group. Also unresolved is the identity of John Pitts Beasley, whose descendant matches the Blue Group haplotype at 12 markers and who may or may not be related to the Essex County group. The Essex County family may be part of the Yellow Group, as suggested by a recent DNA test, but more research is necessary to reach that conclusion.
- The likely relationship of Robert¹ and Stephen¹ Beasley, explored in Part Two, also remains in question. Were they brothers, uncle and nephew, or more distantly related? Further research may yet yield more clues.
- In Part Three, there are many unresolved issues. One involves the likely close relationship of John² and William² Beasley, who cannot be proven as brothers despite their appearance in Baltimore County records at about the same time. Were they both sons of an earlier John Beasley of Anne Arundel County? Also unsolved is the unproven parentage of a group of Beasley siblings, born in the 1760s, who were closely related to the Lindsey family of Frederick County, Virginia, who had ties to William². Finally, was Major³? Beasley a member of this line as seems to be confirmed by autosomal DNA results?
- In Part Four, I address the question of the paternity of Thomas⁴ Beasley of Beaufort County, North Carolina, and whether he was the son of Francis³ of Chowan Precinct or some other son of James².

All of the above questions defy easy answers, even after an extensive examination of both direct and indirect evidence. My hope is that, with greater participation of Beasley male-line descendants in the Y-DNA project and further examination of unpublished and unindexed original records, further evidence will come to light. The author welcomes corrections, additional research, and the inclusion of new information from the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries that is well-grounded in original records with appropriate source citations.

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PART 1

WILLIAM BEASLEY OF ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

The Beasley-Beazley family of Old Rappahannock and later Essex and Caroline counties, Virginia, was by far the largest of this surname in eighteenth-century Virginia. Because the family was well-documented from an early date, some descendants of unrelated Beasley families have laid claim to its progenitor, William, as the source of their own lineages without having any basis for doing so. Among the descendants of William, the surname appears as “Beasley” in many records of Essex County, but is “Beazley” in most of the Caroline and Orange County records.

This family followed a settlement pattern common to many Virginia families. The immigrant William was transported from England by a local Virginia landowner in order to claim land. Once established and free of his indenture, he put down roots in the Tidewater county of Old Rappahannock, which later split into Richmond and Essex counties, with the family’s holdings now in Essex in the parish of St. Ann’s. The family relied heavily on tobacco for its livelihood and used it as currency. As the eighteenth century progressed, the family became somewhat more prosperous, and some members moved inland to higher ground in search of less expensive land. Caroline County, immediately contiguous to the west, became the first place of outside settlement, followed by Orange County, even further west in the foothills of the mountains that was part of the Virginia Piedmont.

No extensive Y-chromosomal DNA studies of male-line descendants of this family have been undertaken, though it may be part of the Yellow Group. Having more such data could significantly enhance our knowledge of many of the unattached or marginally-attached families listed here.

1. WILLIAM¹ BEASLEY/BEEZLEY was born say 1650, possibly slightly earlier, likely in England. He died in St. Ann’s Parish, Essex County, Virginia, after 21 January 1718/9, when he wrote his will, but before 17 November 1719, when it was probated.⁴ He married first (____), whose identity is unknown but who was likely the mother of his children. He married second, before 1710, **MARY RIPLEY**, daughter of Richard Ripley of Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, Virginia, and later of St. Ann’s Parish, Essex County.⁵ It is unclear whether she was the mother of any of his children, though judging from the likely ages of her siblings in Richard Ripley’s will, she was probably a younger second wife of William and may have been childless.

Few details of William Beasley’s early life are known. At least two men named William Beasley lived in Virginia in the mid-seventeenth century: one in Northumberland and later Westmoreland County and the other, the subject of this genealogy, in Old Rappahannock County.

The other William first appears in the records on 1 December 1653, when, as “William Beesly,” he and John Draper offered depositions on behalf of Vincent Cox for a court session in Northumberland County, Virginia. The court sought evidence of when Cox arrived in the colony, the length of his apprenticeship, and whether he had served sufficient time with his master. William testified, as summarized by the court:

William Beesly his Depo. William Beesly aged 22 yeares or thereabouts being sworne and examined saith That he this Depont came into this Colony of Virginia in the ship called the Honor in wch ship came one Vincent Cox servant to Mr Bullocke and the said ship came to anchor in Virginia about the 8th or the 10th day of October last was fower yeares and further this Depont saith not. William Beesly his marke.⁶

The court then summarized William’s testimony on 20 February 1653[/4]:

⁴ Essex County, Virginia, Will/Deed Book 16: 119-120, William Beezley will; transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

⁵ *Ibid.*, Will/Deed Book 13: 414, transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Deeds and Wills, No. 13, 1707-1711* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1963), 23.

⁶ Beverley Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts* (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 1: 393, citing Northumberland County Records, 1652-1655.

Whereas it doth appeare unto ye Court by ye Deposition of Wm: Beesley and John Draper that Vincent Cox came into this Country ye 10th day of Octo: last was fower yeares and tht ye saide Cox was solde or assigned by John Pettitt to Mr. Richard Cole for ye serving him, the saide Cole ye remaindr: of fower yeares as by ye saide Assignemt may more at large apeare wch: said line of service ye Court doth declare that ye saide Cox hath served according to ye last assignemt. The Court doth ordr: that hee ye saide Cox shalbe free from ye saide Cole his service and that ye saide Mr. Cole shal pay all chardges of Court.⁷

The document implies that William, the deponent, was born about 1633 and also that he arrived in Virginia with Cox on the *Honor*. This birth date is almost certainly too early for William¹ of Old Rappahannock County. One of the keys of distinguishing this earlier William from William¹ is his close association with John Draper. A later record in the same Northumberland County court book dated 20 July 1657 lists William Beasley together with John Draper, Elizabeth Russell, Stephen Banbury, Samuel Gosling, and Robert Warner and Mabell who were transported by John Bennett, who was, in turn, granted 350 acres by the court in Northumberland County.⁸ The association with Draper suggests that this is the same William who gave the deposition. Similarly, a William Baseley, son of John, was named as a legatee in the will of William Duckworth of Westmoreland County dated 13 July 1665.⁹ It remains unclear whether this is the same man or a third William.

This early William Beasley was listed again with John Draper and Elizabeth Russell in a second headright as being transported by Henry Roach of Westmoreland County on 4 June 1658.¹⁰ Roach received 140 acres on the “Matchotick” River, but the date of the grant offers little indication of when this William may have arrived in Virginia, since the grants could be issued decades after a person was transported. Again, his association with Draper strongly implies that he was the same man in the 1653 deposition.

Likely he was the same William who appears fleetingly in other records of Westmoreland County, often as Basely or Bazeley. On 22 March 1665/6, William Overett and George Browne obtained a headright for 400 acres in Westmoreland County “on the branches of the Nomeny River.” It was described as beginning at the corner tree of land surveyed for Thomas Dias standing in Mr. Richard Stereman’s line, running southwest “to red oake in line of land surveyed for Wm Basely & Edward Haly.”¹¹ It is unclear whether this is the same man who was transported. However, this same William “Basley” is mentioned again on 25 September 1668 as having land adjoining Edward Halley and Andrew Read in Westmoreland County between the Potomac and Rappahannock rivers in a grant made to Thomas Beale and Randolph Kirk.¹² He appears again as William Bazeley with Edward Hally in Westmoreland County in a grant to Thomas Ludwell.¹³ A William “Peasley” was granted 390 acres on the south side of “the freshes of the Yorke River” on 25 October 1666, but this is almost certainly a different man than either the others.¹⁴

William¹ Beasley or Beezley, the subject of this sketch and genealogy, lived in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, an area comprising modern-day Essex and Richmond counties along the Rappahannock River. He was probably younger than the other man and did not appear in Virginia records until more than a decade after the other. There is no evidence that the two were related. William¹’s earliest likely recorded appearance occurred on 18 February 1666, when William Fogg was granted a headright of 650 acres on the south side of the Rappahannock River in Old Rappahannock County for transporting William Baseley together with Henry Knowles, Edmund Bird, Richard Badger, James Lee, Elizabeth Clampe, Thomas Fogg, Edward Smith, and William Tanner.¹⁵ As was stated above, the 1666 year was not necessarily William’s

⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Northumberland County, Virginia, 1652-1657* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 27, citing original page 43.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 9, citing original page 137.

⁹ Augusta B. Fothergill, *Westmoreland County, Virginia Wills 1654-1800* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 1973), 8.

¹⁰ Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1666*, 1934 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991), 367, citing Patent Book 4, page 176.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 546, citing Patent Book 5, page 546.

¹² Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume 2, 1666-1695* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 45, citing Patent Book 6, page 176.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 84, citing Patent Book 6, page 327.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 1, citing Patent Book 6, page 3.

¹⁵ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume 2, 1666-1695*, 25, citing Patent Book 6, page 87.

date of immigration; he could have lived in the colony a number of years before this date. On 6 March 1668[9], as William “Peasley,” he joined Will Fogg in witnessing a deed between John Warren and Richard West for land in the same county.¹⁶ If he was 21 when he witnessed the document, he would have been born at least by 1647, though sometimes slightly younger men witnessed documents. When West signed over his title to the land on 3 January 1669/70, William joined Fogg again but this time was referred to as “William Beasley.”¹⁷

For much of the 1670s William’s whereabouts are unknown, since the court records of Old Rappahannock are lost for this period. On 25 April 1681, William “Beasby” was mentioned in a deed from Valentine and Mary Allen to Walter Stallard for land in “Sittingbourne” [Sittenburne] Parish, Rappahannock County.¹⁸ The Allens granted to Stallard 200 acres on the south side of the Rappahannock River and discharged to Stallard “all bargaines and incumbrances made or to be made by me” including “the rents wch shall be hereafter due to or: Sovereigne Lord ye King & a Lease made to William Beasby [sic] onely excepted.”¹⁹ This is likely the same man as William¹ Beasley, since Samuel Stallard, whose relationship to Walter Stallard is not known, later witnessed William’s will, which serves as possible evidence of a close association between the two families. The deed shows clearly that William was renting land from Allen and was not a landowner in his own right. This location was possibly the same land described later as being 100 acres in St. Ann’s Parish, Essex County “formerly called Sittenburn Parish” as referenced in the deed of John Evans to John Martin on 8 April 1708.²⁰

William became indebted to several people during this period, and the local court granted his creditors “attachments” or garnishments against his estate. The language of these court records in referring to his estate is misleading, because he was not deceased. Instead, the garnishments pertained to his estate or property. The first such attachment occurred on 2 October 1684, and “was granted to Mr. Jno. Rice against the Estate of Will. Beasley according to a petition returnable to next court.”²¹ At the same court session a second attachment was granted to Captain Samuel “Bloomfeild” for nine hundred pounds tobacco and cask returnable to next court.²² At a court session two months later on 3 December 1684, the court granted Bloomfield an attachment for the same nine hundred pounds of tobacco “ag[ains]t the Estate of William Beasley” to be paid out of a suit against the estate, “unless said Beasley shall make appeare at the next Court that any part thereof is paid and that to be deducted out of this order.”²³ This reference makes clear that the property of only one man was being garnished.

The suits for debt against William’s estate continued for several years. On 7 April 1686, the court again affirmed the attachment granted to John Rice against the estate “returnable next Court.”²⁴ On 2 April 1690, the court granted another attachment to Rice “as Marrying the Administratr[i]x of Colnll Wm Travers” against the estate of William “Beaseley.”²⁵ (Rice had married Travers’s widow, who also had a claim against the estate). Two other records followed in which William was referred to in the records as “John” Beasley. While it remains uncertain whether there two Beasleys, John and William, more likely the

¹⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia (1670-1672), Part II, Deed Book 4, 27 January 1669/70-7 March 1671/2* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 74, citing Rappahannock County, Virginia, Deed Book 4: 255.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 75, citing Deed Book 4: 255.

¹⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed & Will Abstracts of (Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia (1677-1682) (Part II)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 85, citing original pages 321-322.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*

²⁰ Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 13, 1707-1711, pages 91-93, abstracted in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia, Deed and Wills, No. 13, 1707-1711* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1963), 23.

²¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of (Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia, 1683-1685* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 39, citing Order Book 1683-1685, page 42.

²² *Ibid.*

²³ *Ibid.*, 55, citing original Order Book 1683-85, page 59.

²⁴ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of (Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia, 1685-1686* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 40, citing Order Book 1685-87, page 150.

²⁵ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of (Old) Rappahannock County, Virginia, 1689-1692* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 12, citing Order Book 1689-92, page 161.

references to John were clerical errors. One record pertained specifically to a debt of 2,400 pounds of tobacco and cask.²⁶

On 7 August 1690, the court granted an attachment for John Bataile against William's estate, "according to declaracion [sic], the Plaintiff being assignee of Richard Willis, administr[ator] of Richard Bray."²⁷ In February 1690/1, the court granted a judgment to Bataile against William Beasley for 309 pounds of tobacco with cask "upon Bill to be pd with cost of suit."²⁸

William's problems with creditors continued into 1692. On 10 June of that year, the court mentioned "Wm Beezley being return'd *non est Inventus* at the Suit of Farratt Evers." He was called forth but did not answer and made no appearance. The court then granted Evers an attachment against the estate.²⁹

Old Rappahannock County was abolished in 1692, and the land it comprised was divided into Richmond and Essex counties. Sittenburne Parish was renamed St. Ann's Parish and was located in Essex. William's name continues to appear in the records of the new county. On 23 February 1694[5], Robert Payne of Essex County sold 100 acres to John Ransome, and the deed mentioned William's property. It described the land as located on the south side of the Rappahannock River "back in ye woods bounding on ye land of William Bezeley, beginning at a marked red Oake."³⁰ On 11 January 1696/7, William "confessed Judgement" or admitted to the court his indebtedness to Wm Smith & Company, merchants of Bristol, England, for 400 pounds of tobacco and casks from a bill dated 5 March 1694.³¹ On 10 January 1698/9, his land was mentioned adjoining a tract of 100 acres in a deed from Nicholas and Ann Copeland to Thomas Ramsey.³² An Essex County Rent Roll of 1704 lists Wm Beasley on 100 acres.³³

On 10 August 1705, as "William Beasley Sen.," he acquired what appears to be the first land of his own ownership, purchasing from Samuel and Mary Carter of St. Ann's Parish for 2,250 pounds of tobacco an unspecified tract described as "the within menconed [sic] Deed of Sale."³⁴ Beverly Fleet, who abstracted the records, added a note that he could not find the full deed recorded in the registers, so one cannot determine the precise location of this property.

Some inferences about William's land can be drawn from several other deeds of the period, but none of them involved him directly. A deed of 8 April 1708 between John Evans and John Martin mentions specifically the "tract whereon William Besley now liveth containing 100 acres" in St. Ann's Parish, formerly Sittenburne, and was described as a "level peice [sic] of good land adjoining to a peice [sic] of barren land on the north line of 500 acres purchased by Wm Beale from Thomas Page and Elizabeth."³⁵ Another deed between Augustine Smith and Henry Armistead dated 8 February 1710/1 mentioned 1,142 acres between "Occupatio" and the branches of Lucas's Creek "within sight of the house of William Beasley."³⁶ These deeds help establish that by 1710, William held more than 100 acres, some of it in leasehold, in the vicinity of Occupation Creek in the upper part of St. Ann's Parish. He lived apparently in close proximity to what became known as Vauter's or Vawter's Church, built near the time of his death.

Before 1710 and possibly about 1703 or even earlier, William married Mary Ripley, daughter of Richard Ripley of St. Ann's Parish, perhaps as his second or later wife. Estimating Mary's age and that of her father can be difficult from the existing documents. What is known for certain is that the Ripley family came from

²⁶ Ibid, 18, citing Order Book 1689-92, page 167, 178.

²⁷ Ibid, 34, citing Order Book 1689-92, page 184.

²⁸ Ibid, 52m citing Order Book 1689-92, page 203.

²⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Record Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1692-1693* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 3, citing Order Book 1692-93, page 4.

³⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Record Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1694-1695* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 76, citing Deeds and Wills Book 1694-1695, page 337.

³¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Record Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1695-1699* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 31, citing Essex Order Book 1695-99, page 42.

³² Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Record Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1697-1699* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 70, citing Essex Deeds and Wills 1695-99, page 297.

³³ Louis des Cognets Jr., *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records* (Princeton, NJ: Louis des Cognets Jr., 1958), 134.

³⁴ Beverly Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, 2nd ed., volume 2 (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988), 118-119, citing Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 12, page 110.

³⁵ Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 13, 1707-1711, pages 91-93, abstracted in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia, Deed and Wills, No. 13, 1707-1711* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1963), 23.

³⁶ Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Deeds and Wills No. 13, 1707-1711*, 104, citing original pages 370-373.

Gloucester County, Virginia. Richard Ripley patented 400 acres in Winter Harbor near New Point Comfort on 29 January 1651.³⁷ His holdings were later referenced as being at Mockjack Bay.³⁸ On 26 September 1678, John Degge patented 200 acres in “Kingstone Parish” in Gloucester County, beginning at the line of Richard Ripley.³⁹ On 20 October 1688, Mr. Motram Wright patented 1,000 acres in Kingston Parish adjoining land of Robert Gregg, John “Degg,” and John Gardner, and the grant mentioned the 400 acres patented to Richard Ripley on 29 January 1652, which Ripley had later sold to Charles Sallet.⁴⁰ It is not clear how this early Richard, mentioned in 1652, related to the later Richard. They could be one and the same, in which case Richard would have been born before 1630 and would have been very advanced in age at the time of his death. More likely, however, they represent two different generations, with Mary’s father being a younger Richard, born say 1650. The destruction of most of the early Gloucester County records makes a complete identification difficult.

On 10 April 1703, Richard Ripley of Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, purchased 300 acres in Essex County from John Hawkins of Sittenburne Parish, Essex County, for £30 and 3,000 pounds of tobacco.⁴¹ The land adjoined that of Edward Martin, and the deed was witnessed by William Smither, Samuel Stallord, and John Rutherford. Since Richard Ripley does not appear in Essex County at an earlier date, it is possible that William Beasley married Mary Ripley about 1703-1704, shortly after Richard’s purchase. Richard, now of Essex County, acquired an additional 50 acres of land on 11 March 1703/4 from Mary Ward of Sittenburne Parish, “part of 1,150 acres lying on the fork of the Occupasie.”⁴² On 8 February 1705/6, he bought from Daniel Magirt for 700 pounds of tobacco a neck of land comprising 30 acres located between the Rappahannock and Mattipony rivers. It was described as beginning at “the Widdow Ward’s corner, along Panels line and Occupation Swamp,” being part of an earlier grant to Magirt and one Gibbins.⁴³ Taken together, the deeds show Richard Ripley to have been a planter of modest holdings but slightly more successful than William Beasley, while both men had land on Occupatio or Occupation Creek in Essex County.

Richard Ripley wrote his will on 3 June 1710.⁴⁴ It described him as being “very sick and weake of body” and included a number of bequests. To his son Richard he left “all my land lyeing in the fork of Occupation being by estimation 100 acres.” To his son Thomas Ripley he left a tract of 100 acres on the north side of Occupation Run adjoining Col. Richard Covington. To his son John Ripley he left “my now dwelling plantation being by estimation 150 acres.” To his daughters Elizabeth Smith, Dorothy, Sarah, Ann, and Mary Beasley he left each one cow. John and Thomas also received cows. Dorothy received a feather bed. Sarah and Ann were to share a mare called Nimble, while son John received a mare called Dobiny. Dorothy, Sarah, and Ann, all unmarried, were given free liberty to occupy the land given to Thomas and John. The will also mentioned cooper’s tools, given to Thomas, and carpenter’s tools and a hand mill, given to John. Richard left the remainder of the estate to his “loving wife Elizabeth,” whom he made his executrix.⁴⁵ The will was proved on 14 June 1711 with Edmond Connally and Thomas Ramsay as securities. An inventory was filed later that year by James Landrum and William Golding and included one hand mill, one cask, two hogs, a pair of wool cards, and a steer, totaling in value about £3.⁴⁶ William was not specifically mentioned in association with the estate. Judging from the three unmarried daughters, Richard Ripley Sr. was probably near the age of William Beasley or only slightly older, leading to the conclusion that Mary (Ripley) Beasley was considerably younger than her husband.

The Essex County records mention William Beasley twice more. On 3 December 1715, his land was described as being located on the branches of the Lucas Creek in a sale of land between Martin Willard and

³⁷ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1666*, 223, citing Patent Book 2, page 357.

³⁸ *Ibid.*, 267, 417.

³⁹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1666-1695*, 190, citing Patent Book 6, page 659.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*, 328, citing Patent Book 7, page 685.

⁴¹ Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, 2: 43, citing Deed and Will Book No. 11, 1703-06, page 32.

⁴² *Ibid.*, 2: 104, citing original Deed and Will Book 11, page 215.

⁴³ *Ibid.*, 2: 125, citing original Deed and Will Book 12, page 168.

⁴⁴ Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Deeds and Wills No. 13, 1707-1711*, 117, citing original page 414.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, volume 2, page 3, citing Essex County Deeds and Wills 14, page 7.

Silvester Patty.⁴⁷ Adjoining him were John Martin and John Williams. On 22 May 1717, he was described as being of St. Ann's Parish and was fined "for not frequenting his p[ari]sh church pursuant to Law."⁴⁸ Regular church attendance was mandatory at that time.

William made his will on 21 January 1718/9 in Essex County. It was abstracted as follows by Dorman:

Will of William Beezley, being sick and weak in body, dated 21 Jan. 1718 [1719].

To my eldest son William fifty acres of land adjoining to the plantation where he now lives. After his decease to his eldest son William.

To my son Benjamin forty acres of land adjoining to the plantation where he now lives and also all the land I have of that side of the branch next to John Pitts.

To my son Henry fifty acres of land lying next to my son Benjamin.

To my son John fifty acres of land lying next to my son Henry's land.

All the remaining part of my land to my son Charles Beezly.

Unto my loveing wife Mary Beezly all my personal estate.

My loveing wife Mary Beezly executrix.

William (X) Beezley

Wit: Saml. Stallord, Ann (X) Phillips, Charles Adkion [Atkinson].

17 Nov. 1719. Presented in court by Mary Beezley, executrix. Proved by Saml. Stallord and Charles Atkinson.⁴⁹

The will offers several insights about William's economic status. First, his real property holdings appear to be more extensive than the 1708 deed from John Evans indicates. It totaled at least 190 acres and probably more, given that the amount given to Charles was not defined. As has been shown, William had now become a landowner, but neither he nor his father-in-law owned slaves, which ranked them at the yeoman level of Virginia society. Second, William was probably illiterate, given that he was unable to sign his will or other records except with his mark. His surname appears phonetically in the record and differs from how his name was recorded in other Essex County documents. On 17 November 1719, the will of William Beezley, deceased, was presented by Mary Beezley, his executrix, and was proved by oaths from Samuel Stallord and Charles Atkinson.⁵⁰

Children of William Beasley/Beezley, likely from an unknown first wife rather than from Mary (Ripley), born in likely in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia (birth order uncertain, presented, with the exception of Martha, as listed in the will):

2. i. **WILLIAM² BEASLEY**, b. say 1682-85; m. **MARY** (____).
3. ii. **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, b. say 1685-1690; m. **ELIZABETH** (____).
4. iii. **HENRY BEASLEY/BEAZLEY**, b. say 1685-1692.
5. iv. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1688-1695; m. (1) **WINIFRED** (____); (2) **ELIZABETH** (____) **COGHILL**.
6. v. **CHARLES BEASLEY**, b. say 1695-1700.
- vi. possibly **MARTHA BEASLEY**, b. say 1695; d. Essex County Virginia, before 18 September 1753, testate.⁵¹ She is said to have married about 1715, **CORNELIUS REYNOLDS**. Martha is not named in William's will, and her placement here remains speculative. Cornelius died testate in Essex County, with his will dated 15 April 1734 and proven 18 February 1734/5.⁵² The will names his wife Martha and contains bequests for sons William and Cornelius and daughters Sarah, Anne, Margaret, and Mary, with Broumfield Long as a witness. Martha's will is dated 10 March 1753 and names son Cornelius and the following daughters: Elizabeth Rucker, Ann Beazley, Margaret Leandall, Mary Goodloe, and grandson Cornelius Reynolds, son of William, deceased. Executors were son Cornelius and son-in-law Thomas Rucker, with David Disham, Thomas

⁴⁷ Ibid, volume 2, page 62, citing Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 14, page 426

⁴⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia 1716-1723 (Part I)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 27, citing original page 37.

⁴⁹ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

⁵⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1716-1723 (Part II), Essex County Virginia 1716-1723 Order Book (Part II), 17 September 1718 to 17 May 1720* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 105, citing Order Book 1718-1720), 378.

⁵¹ Essex County, Virginia, Will Book 9: 246.

⁵² Essex County, Virginia, Will Book 5: 320.

Reynolds, and Wiliam Moore as witnesses. This family had close ties to the family of Charles² and William², which is suggestive of a relationship, but it remains unproven. Martha's daughter Ann married James³ Beazley, the possible though unproven son of Henry². Cornelius Reynolds Jr. served as executor of the estate of Charles² in 1766, while Thomas and Elizabeth (Reynolds) Rucker sold Charles land in Caroline County. Cornelius Beazley, likely Charles's son, was apparently named for Cornelius Reynolds.

2. WILLIAM² BEASLEY II (*William¹*), the oldest son of William Beasley, was born probably in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, say 1682. He died in Essex County, Virginia, before 19 March 1745, when his will was probated.⁵³ He married **MARY** (___).

William was named first in his father's will, together with his son, William³, and inherited fifty acres "adjoining to the plantation where he now lives,"⁵⁴ suggesting that he had already purchased or received land from his father before 1719. Perhaps he was the William "Biesle" mentioned in the will of Thomas Pietrooss dated 27 December 1715, in which Pietrooss authorized the sale of land "lying by William Biesle" to be sold to cousin Thomas Petrose, the son of John Petrose and wife Ann, which was next to the land of Henry Biesle.⁵⁵ (Note that Bennet Beasley would later marry into the Pietross family, and it raises the possibility that Bennet was the son of Henry). On 18 February 1720, William's land was mentioned as adjoining that of John and Mary Landrum in a deed by the Landrums, then of Spotsylvania County, to Nicholas Adkinson of Essex County.⁵⁶

William appears fleetingly in other records of the period, mostly in connection with road building. On 17 March 1723, he joined James Boulware, Mark Boulware, Benjamin Boulware, William Vawter, John Willard, Edward Clark, Benjamin Vawter, and Daniel Neele Jr. in petitioning the court for "a Rolling Road down to John Vawter's Rolling House."⁵⁷ The court ordered that the road be built. Such roads were necessary as more fields of tobacco were cultivated and casks were packed for export.

On 20 December 1726, the court ordered that "Wm Beezely be summoned to answer ye petition of Joan Newberry for her Corn & Cloaths due by Law."⁵⁸ The order book does not offer other details about the suit, but perhaps it Newberry had accused William or his livestock of damaging her crops. On 21 June 1727, the suit was dismissed.⁵⁹

The following day the court ordered William to "clear a Road from Wm Goulding's House the most direct way to the King & Queen Road yt comes from Elias Blackburn's House to Thomas Ship's Plantation with ye male laboring titheables in ye sd Precincts & also ordered yt he be Surveyor of ye same & keep it in order according to Law & make a lawful Bridge & Causeway over Occupancy Swamp where ye Road shall cross ye sd Swamp."⁶⁰ It is possible that the court ordered the building of the road in direct response to the Newberry suit, recognizing that the county needed a road in this part of the county. The court followed up more than a year later on 21 September 1727 and noted that the order was "not complied with because

⁵³ William Beazley will (1744), transcribed in Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Will Abstract of Essex County, Virginia, 1743-1745, Essex County Will Book No. 7, 1743-1747 (This Book Being Pages 1-324 of the 1743-1747 Will Book, 17 May 1743-21 May 1745)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 82-83, citing original Essex County, Virginia, Will Book 7, pages 273-277.

⁵⁴ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

⁵⁵ Thomas Peatrooss will (1715), transcribed in Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, 2: 73, citing Zessex County Deeds and Wills, 1714-171, page 583.

⁵⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex county, Virginia (1721-1724), Deeds, Bonds & Letters of Attorney Deed Book 17, 20 February 1721-20 October 1724* (McLean, Virginia: Ruth & Sam Sparacio, 1988), 32, citing Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 17, pages 148-150.

⁵⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1723-1725 (Part 1), Essex County, Virginia Order Book 1723-1725 (Part I) 17 September 1723-21 July 1724* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 57, citing original page 90.

⁵⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1725-1729 (Part I), Essex County, Virginia, Order Book 1725-1729 (Part I) 16 March 1725 to 21 September 1727* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 42, citing Essex County order Book 1725-29, page 42.

⁵⁹ *Ibid*, 60, citing original page 105.

⁶⁰ *Ibid*, 68, citing original page 124.

Mr. Richard Covington said it spoil his Brothers land & that there was another way where the Road might go that was not above an hundred yards about.”⁶¹

William’s road building efforts continued into 1728. On 21 June, the court ordered him to be a surveyor and clear a road from William Goulding’s house through Beverly’s Old Field “Leaving Henry Beesley’s House & Thomas Ship’s Plantation on ye right hand to ye King & Queen Road.”⁶² On 19 November 1728 the court ordered that William be summoned “to answer the Comp[lain]ts of Wm Beverly for not clearing his Road according to the order of this Court.”⁶³ On 17 December, the complaint was dismissed.⁶⁴

On 18 January 1737, William was named in a suit, together with the younger Richard Ripley, William Ramsey, and Charles Hart, all of whom were tenants in St. Ann’s Parish. All were ordered turned out of their premises, possibly for debt.⁶⁵ Ramsey and another tenant, Caleb Elliott, pleaded not guilty of the charge of trespass, while Ripley and William Beasley failed to appear after receiving lawful notice. The court granted the fictitious “John Thrustout” the right to recover against the fictitious “Richard Holdfast” and against Ripley and William, while the cases of Ramsey and Elliott were continued. The reason for the eviction was not stated in the record, but perhaps they had gotten into arrears in their rents.

William appeared on a voting list for the election of burgesses at the courthouse on 20 November 1741, when he cast his vote for William Beverley.⁶⁶ He is probably the same William who appears again on the list casting another vote for James Garnett.⁶⁷

William made his will in Essex County on 8 December 1744, and it has been transcribed as follows:

In the Name of God Amen, I William Beazley of Essex County being sick & weak but of perfect sense & memory do make this my last Will & Testament. Imprimis I give my Soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it me being sure of a joyful Resurrection at the Last Day and my body to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors hereafter named; & for what Estate it hath pleased God to give me after my just Debts are paid I will & bequeath as followeth:

First, my desire is that my now living Wife Mary Beazley have the use of all my Estate both real & personal during her natural life, she making no waste nor sale of any of the same but what is lawful to support her & her Children in the time of her Widowhood.

2ndly I give to my Son Richard Beazley Five pounds currency after his Mother above mentioned in deceased.

3rdly I give to my Daughter Eliza: Beazley my Negro man Bob after her Mother above mentioned is deceased to her and her heirs forever.

4thly I give my Negro woman named Jone to my Daughter Ann Beazley after her Mother is deceased during her natural life and after the said Ann Beazley is deceased my will is that the said Negro Jone be my Grandson Gowin Beazeleys & his heirs forever.

5thly I give to my Daughter Mary my Negro man named Sambo after her Mother is deceased, she the said Mary, now the wife of James Willard to have full use of the said negro and not the said Willard her now Husband to have any rite or benefit of the same only she and the heirs of her body lawfully begotten.

6thly I give to my Daughter Martha Beazley after her mother’s decease the choice of my feather beds & furniture and the choice of my Cows and Calves.

7thly The remainder of my will is after my Wife’s decease be equally divided among my Children namely Richard, James, Ann, Mary, Elizabeth & Martha: to them and their heirs forever.

⁶¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1725-1729 (Part II), Essex County, Virginia, Order Book 1725-1729 (Part II) 21 November 1727 to 20 March 1728/9* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 3, citing original pages 192-193.

⁶² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1725-1729 (Part II), Essex County, Virginia order Book 1725-1729 (Part II), 21 November 1727 to 20 March 1728/29* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 24, citing original page 224.

⁶³ Ibid, 78, citing original page 268.

⁶⁴ Ibid, 87, citing original page 275a.

⁶⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Abstracts of Land Trials of Essex County, Virginia, 1711-1741* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 90-92.

⁶⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1738-1742), Deed Book No. 22, 20 February 1738-15 February 1742* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 76, citing Essex County, Virginia Deed Book 22, pages 309-314.

⁶⁷ Ibid, 80.

Lastly I constitute and appoint my loving Wife Mary Beazley Executrix of this my last Will ... and Testament. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Eight day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred Forty and four.

Sign's & sealed in the presence of John Covington, Richard Holt, Edward Vawter.
William his mark "M" Beazley⁶⁸

Mary Beazley probated the will on 19 March 1744[5], and the court proved it with the oaths of John Covington and Richard Holt. Mary Beazley, John Covington, and John Harrison were held and firmly bound to Thomas Waring, James Garnett, Francis Smith, Samuel Hipkins, Henry Young, and Rice Jones, all justices of the peace in Essex County, for £500 sterling. Mary made her own mark in the will book.⁶⁹

The will is notable in several respects. First, William, the son named in his father's will of 1719, is not mentioned in this document and was thus presumably dead by 1744. Second, son James is mentioned only in the list of children at the end of the will and is not given a specific bequest. Later deeds show him to have moved to Orange County, North Carolina.

Children of William Beasley and Mary (___), all likely born in Essex County, Virginia, with William likely the eldest and the order of the others uncertain:

7. i. **WILLIAM³ BEASLEY**, b. say 1705; possibly m. ___ **PITTS**.
8. ii. **RICHARD BEASLEY**, b. say 1708; m. **ANN PITTS**.
9. iii. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1710; m. **ANN (___)**.
- iv. **ELIZABETH BEASLEY**, b. say 1710-12; unmarried in 1744.
- v. **ANN BEASLEY**, b. say 1712-15, possibly later; she was unmarried in 1744.
- vi. **MARY BEASLEY**, b. say 1712-15; m. **JAMES WILLARD**.
- vii. **MARTHA BEASLEY**, b. say 1715-20; she was unmarried in 1744.

3. BENJAMIN² BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (*William¹*), the second son of William Beasley, was born in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, say 1685-90. He died in Essex County, Virginia, intestate, in 1757.⁷⁰ He married **ELIZABETH (___)**.

In 1719, Benjamin received from his father forty acres "adjoining to the plantation where he now lives and also all the land I have of that side of the branch next to John Pitts."⁷¹ On 23 January 1728, John Pitts made his will in St. Ann's Parish and made a bequest to grandson John Pitts for land "from the fork north west course to Benjn Beasley's line to the bounds of my aforesaid grandson."⁷²

Benjamin was of St. Ann's Parish on 16 May 1737 when he sold land to Mark Boulware.⁷³ For 1,030 pounds of tobacco, Benjamin sold a tract of land described as "beginning at a small red oake and Hickery Corner to lands of John Willard, Sylvester Patty, and also to the sd Mark Boulwares Whereon Augustine Atherton now lives thence bounding with the said Mark Boulwares line to the sd Benjamin Beasleys Spring Branch thence down the same binding thereon its several courses to John Hitts Deceased land thence North with the line of sd land crosses Dorses Spring Branch to a White oak corner."⁷⁴ Benjamin made his mark while his wife Elizabeth relinquished her dower.

⁶⁸ William Beazley will (1744), transcribed in Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Will Abstract of Essex County, Virginia, 1743-1745, Essex County Will Book No. 7, 1743-1747 (This Book Being Pages 1-324 of the 1743-1747 Will Book, 17 May 1743-21 May 1745)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1991), 82-83, citing original Essex County, Virginia, Will Book 7, pages 273-277.

⁶⁹ Ibid, 83.

⁷⁰ Clayton Torrence, *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 28.

⁷¹ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

⁷² John Pitts will (1728) in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia, Wills, Bonds, Inventories, Etc., 1722-1730* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1961), 93; citing Essex County, Virginia, Wills, Bonds, Inventories No. 4, 1722-30, page 388.

⁷³ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1733-1738, Deed Book 20, 17 July 1733-20 February 1738* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 96, citing Essex County, Virginia Deed Book 6, pages 326-328.

⁷⁴ Ibid.

On 12 January 1750, Benjamin's land was listed as adjoining that of Thomas Waring in a deed between Chesley French Boulware and Thomas Tiller.⁷⁵ He continued to reside in Essex County as late as 1754. A deed between Mark Boulware and Caleb and Margaret Elliott dated 14 January 1754 mentioned land that Boulware had purchased from William Boulware and Benjamin Beasley adjoining that of Martin Willard, Charles Beasley, and Edward Vawter, and it also refers to the line of John Pitts Jr.⁷⁶ On 4 December 1755, Benjamin's name was recorded as supporting Captain Francis Waring in an election for burgesses.⁷⁷

Benjamin's land was mentioned in a deed of gift between John Pitts Jr. and son David Pitts on 24 February 1758, with his land said to adjoin that of David Pitts Sr., Patrick Landrum, and Martin Willard.⁷⁸ He was named again, this time as deceased, in a deed dated 18 August 1767 between Francis Barbee of Caroline County and Edward Vawter, acting as executor of the estate of Ann Barbee.⁷⁹

Benjamin has been confused in some online sources with Bennet Beasley of Orange County, Virginia, but they were not the same men. Benjamin died intestate in Essex County in 1757, and an inventory of his estate was filed in 1758.⁸⁰ The inventory names his wife Elizabeth and a John Beazley, who served as his administrator and was probably his son. He had possibly other children, but only John is known, and he remains unproven:

Child of Benjamin Beasley/Beazley and Elizabeth (___), born in Essex County, Virginia:

10. i. probably **JOHN³ BEAZLEY**, b. say 1705-10; m. **MARY (___)**.
- ii. possibly **CHARLES BEASLEY**, b. say 1715-20; m. **NANCEY (___)**. He was possibly the Charles who died intestate in Caroline County, Virginia, before 9 April 1772. He is mentioned as having adjoining land in a deed between Mark Boulware and Caleb and Margaret Elliott in Essex County on 19 November 1753. He appears later on 17 August 1754 as witness to a deed in Essex County between Berryman and Mary Brown and James Garnett.⁸¹ Sometime after this date he apparently moved to Caroline County, where he is difficult to distinguish in some records from his cousin, Charles Beasley Jr. Charles was deceased before 9 April 1772, when, "on the motion of Nancey Beazley, who having taken the Oath prescribed Law, Letters of Administration against his [sic] Husband Charles Beazley, deced, Estate is granted her."⁸² Robert Woolfolk, Richard Woolfolk, Thomas Laughlin, and John Gatewood were ordered to appraise the estate at the same time.⁸³ No children are identified, but possibly he had children.

[Possibly others]

4. HENRY² BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (*William¹*), the third son of William Beasley, was born in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, say 1686-92, possibly later. There is no record of him after 1739, but he may have died in Essex or Caroline County without a probate record. The name of his wife is unknown.

In his father's 1719 will, Henry received "50 acres of land next to my son Benjamin" in Essex County.⁸⁴ He was mentioned as being seated on 50 acres near that of either his father or brother William "Biesle" in the will of Thomas "Peatrooss" dated 27 December 1715, so he occupied the land before his father's 1719 bequest.⁸⁵ Thomas Peatrooss had a son John. Bennet Beasley would later marry Ann, widow of a John Peatrooss (either the son or nephew of Thomas), which suggests that Bennet was possibly Henry's son, given that they lived in the same neighborhood and the two families had adjoining land.

⁷⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1749-1751* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1993), 79, citing Essex County, Virginia Deed Book 24, pages 115-117.

⁷⁶ Lydia Sparacio Bontempo, *The Antient Press, Virginia Court Records, Deed & Will Book, Essex County, Virginia, Deeds 1753-1754, Wills 1750* (No place: Antient Press, 2004), 19-20, citing original page 364.

⁷⁷ Mary Marshall Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1772-1786* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2006), 96.

⁷⁸ Mary Marshall Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1752-1761* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2006), 125.

⁷⁹ Mary Marshall Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1761-1772* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial roots, 2006), 97.

⁸⁰ Clayton Torrence, *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982), 28.

⁸¹ Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1752-1761*, 67.

⁸² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1771-1772* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 95, citing original page 430.

⁸³ *Ibid.*

⁸⁴ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

⁸⁵ Thomas Peatroos will (1715), transcribed in Fleet, *Virginia Colonial Abstracts*, 2: 73, citing Essex County Deeds and Wills 1714-17, page 583.

Henry first appears in his own right in the Essex County court records in 1722 when a suit brought against him by Robert Jones was dismissed.⁸⁶ On 18 June 1728, Henry “Beesley’s” house was mentioned in a road order to his brother William that also included neighbors William Goulding and Thomas Ship near the King & Queen Road.⁸⁷

On 15 September 1729, Henry purchased a tract of land from his brother John, now of Caroline County, for 1,500 pounds of tobacco.⁸⁸ It included “all that parcell of land which was given unto the sd John Beazley by William Beazley late of Essex County” containing 50 acres “with all & singular ways, woods all other profits belonging (onely the sd Beazley doth except halfe an acre of land conveniently adjoining and including the Burying Place).”⁸⁹ This cemetery was probably the burial site of their father, though no gravestones are known to be found there.

Henry was appointed jointly with William Clark “or either of them” executor of the will of James Landrum of St. Ann’s Parish and made his mark as a witness.⁹⁰ On 13 November 1739, Henry “Beazley” of St. Ann’s Parish, Essex County, sold to Edward Vawter of the same county for 2,000 pounds of leaf tobacco clear of cask the tract of 92 acres in Essex County.⁹¹ It was described as “being the land the said Henry Beazley now lives on it being the land which was left by William Beazley to his said Son Henry Beazley...Bounded Beginning near the head of a Branch that headeth up in Beazley’s old field and on the South side of the said Branch and in the line of the land of Mark Boulware, thence with the said Boulware’s line & also with the line of Benjamin Beazley North to the land of Payne now Warings thence with the said line binding thereon South to the Road which leadeth to Caroline Court, thence with the said Road South East to the Corner of the woods thence by the Woods side East to the Beginning.”⁹² The deed was witnessed by Nicholas Atkinson and Aaron Sadler, but no wife released a dower, indicating perhaps that Henry was not married at the time.

What became of Henry after 1739 is not known. He may have been the father of both Bennet and James Beazley, though there is no evidence of a relationship except for the Peatross connection previously discussed. Bennet’s marriage to Ann, widow of John Peatross, whose uncle, Thomas, was a neighbor of Henry, places him in the same vicinity.

Possible though unproven children of Henry Beasley, born probably in Essex County:

11. i. possibly **BENNET³ BEASLEY**, b. say 1710; m. **ANNE (____) PEATROSS**.
12. ii. possibly **JAMES BEASLEY/BEAZLEY**, b. say 1715-20; m. **ANN REYNOLDS**.

5. JOHN² BEASLEY (*William¹*), the son of William Beasley, was born in Old Rappahannock County, Virginia, say 1688-1695. He was still living as late as 1768, when, as a resident of Caroline County, he sold land in Spotsylvania County.⁹³ Hence, he could not have been the John Beasley who died in Caroline

⁸⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County Virginia, 1716-1723 (Part IV)*, Essex County Virginia 1716-1723 Order Book (Part IV) 17 October 1721 to 16 July 1723 (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1990), 46, citing Order Book 1721-1723, page 670.

⁸⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1725-1729 (Part II)*, Essex County, Virginia order Book 1725-1729 (Part II), 21 November 1727 to 20 March 1728/29 (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 24, citing original page 224.

⁸⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1728-1733), Deeds, Bonds & Letters of Attorney Deed Book No. 19, 18 March 1728-19 July 1733* (McLean, Virginia: Ruth & Sam Sparacio, 1989), 17; citing Essex County Deed Book 19, pages 44-46.

⁸⁹ Ibid.

⁹⁰ Henry Beasley will (1738), transcribed in Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Will Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1735-1743), Will Book No. 6, 20 January 1735-17 May 1743* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 77, citing Essex County, Virginia Will Book 6, p[age] 219-220.

⁹¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1738-1742), Deed Book No. 22, 20 February 1738-15 February 1742* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 29, citing Essex County Deed Book 6, pages 113-116.

⁹² Ibid.

⁹³ William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1971), 267.

County, Virginia, before 10 June 1762, intestate, this either being his son or the son of his brother, Charles.⁹⁴ He was probably the John Beasley who died testate in Caroline County before 10 January 1771.⁹⁵ John married (1) **WINIFRED** (____). She was dead before 1748. He married later, possibly (2) in Caroline County, Virginia, before 13 March 1748/9, **ELIZABETH** (____), widow of James Coghill.⁹⁶

There is a great deal of misinformation online and in published sources about the identity of this John. Some sources claim that he was the same person of this name who settled at Beasley Island and Beasley Swamp in Craven County, North Carolina. Since the John Beasley of Essex and later Caroline County, Virginia, had a wife named Winifred, as did John of Craven County, the two men have been conflated.⁹⁷ As will be shown in Part 3, John of Craven County belonged to an entirely different family. Indeed, many genealogists ignore the evidence showing John Beasley in Caroline County for many decades in records that connect him directly with his brother, Charles. The dates do not align for his ever being in Craven County.

Twila Birnie Shafer and Francis Beasley Odell also make erroneous claims about this John, asserting without evidence (except from an old undocumented DAR application of Sarah Lavinia Zink) that he was born in England in 1717, married a “Jane Cagwell” in 1737, and died in Orange County in 1792. They cite the correct deeds between the elder John and his son Charles in Spotsylvania County, but then misrepresent what the records actually show.⁹⁸ There is no evidence of a death for a John Beasley in Orange County in 1792, and it is likely that the DAR application, submitted at a time without any supporting documentation, is incorrect.

John Beasley, son of William, appears several times in the early Essex County records. He received “fifty acres of land lying next to my son Henry’s land” in William’s 1719 will.⁹⁹ In February 1724, the Essex County court declared that Thomas Honey, “a servant boy belonging to John Beezly,” was adjudged to be thirteen years old for the payment “his levys.”¹⁰⁰

John moved very early to Caroline County, Virginia, which was created, in part, from Essex and King and Queen Counties in 1728. On 15 September 1729, he and his wife Winifred of Caroline County sold to his brother Henry “all that parcell of land which was given unto the sd John Beazley by William Beazley late of Essex County,” containing 50 acres “with all & singular ways, woods all other profits belonging (onely the sd Beazley doth except halfe an acre of land conveniently adjoining and including the Burying Place.”¹⁰¹ The deed was witnessed by Samuel Biswell, Richard Billups, and Nicholas Adkinson, while Winifred Beazley relinquished her dower to the above tract on the following day. John was mentioned again in an Essex County deed of 13 November 1739 when the land he had sold to his brother Henry was sold by Henry to Edward Vawter.¹⁰²

In Caroline County, John Beasley was referenced in many records involving the building of roads, a necessary task as the county grew and more fields of tobacco were cultivated. His frequent coupling with

⁹⁴ T. E. Campbell, *Colonial Caroline: History of Caroline County, Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1954), 478; John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1983), 78, citing original page 313.

⁹⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1770-1771* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 59, citing original page 115.

⁹⁶ F. Edward Wright, *Caroline county, Virginia, Marriage References and Family Relationships* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2012), 9.

⁹⁷ The records of the Craven County, North Carolina, court show that Winifred Beasley applied for letters of administration for the estate of her late husband John Beasley in the May Court Term, 1755; see Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1749-1756* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 1987), 73, citing Craven County, North Carolina Court Minute Book 4, [273]-202.

⁹⁸ Twila Birnie Shafer and Francis Beasley Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio* (No place: the Authors, 1946), 33.

⁹⁹ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

¹⁰⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County Virginia, 1723-1725 (Part II), Essex County, Virginia Order Book 1723-1725 (Part II) 22 July 1724-15 March 1725* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 45, citing original page 260.

¹⁰¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1728-1733), Deeds, Bonds & Letters of Attorney Deed Book No. 19, 18 March 1728-19 July 1733* (McLean, Virginia: Ruth & Sam Sparacio, 1989), 17; citing Essex County Deed Book 19, pages 44-46.

¹⁰² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia (1738-1742), Deed Book No. 22, 20 February 1738-15 February 1742* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 29, citing Essex County Deed Book 6, pages 113-116.

Charles Beasley in the court order books suggests that these were the two brothers. Historian T. E. Campbell states that both John and Charles were responsible for building the famed Three Knotch Road in Caroline County as early as 1730, though court records do not support this early date.¹⁰³ Both are also credited for keeping the feeder roads leading to Roy's warehouse from Drysdale Parish in excellent condition.¹⁰⁴ On 10 May 1733, the court ordered Edward Tinsley to be surveyor of the road from Loyd's Quarter to Poe's Bridge "in the room of John Beasley."¹⁰⁵ On 13 November 1736, the court, on the motion of John Taylor, gent., ordered that William Daniel, John Beasley, and Charles Beasley "view the road between Thos. Rucker's and Charles Beasley's across the head of Daniel's mill and make report."¹⁰⁶ On 14 May 1737, the court ordered that John "be overseer of the road from William Watson's to the County line and that he take his own, Wm Watson, Wm Powell, David Tinsley, and Phil: Tinsley's people to assist him in clearing the same."¹⁰⁷ On 9 June 1739, the court ordered John Beasley, Charles Beasley, and John Powell to view the most convenient way "to make a bridle way to turn out of Portobago road to the County line to go to Daniel's Mill."¹⁰⁸ On 13 June 1740, John sat on a jury.¹⁰⁹

In 1742, John encountered a legal problem, the first of several involving the Pickett family, with whom he apparently feuded. On 13 November 1742, Major Picket "quitam &c" brought a suit for debt against John Beasley, and William Waller was assigned by the court to act as John's attorney.¹¹⁰ At the same session he was named to a jury in a case involving a horse race.¹¹¹

His road building efforts continued into the 1740s. On 11 March 1742/3, the court ordered that a road be cleared through the plantation of William Daniel Jr., and it was ordered that the "gangs" of John Beasley and William Daniel perform these duties.¹¹² He was again impanelled on a jury at the same time as well as on many later occasions.¹¹³ On 13 May 1743, James Coghill Jr. was ordered to be overseer of the road from Daniel's Mill to the so-called Three Notched road by John Beasley's land and the church road from Mace Pickett's to the people at Col. Diggs's quarter.¹¹⁴ At the same session Mayes or Mace Pickett joined the crown in a suit of debt against John, but John prevailed in a jury trial.¹¹⁵ Both John and Pickett were forced to pay costs of witnesses on their behalf. Pickett paid the costs of Robert Coleman, William Powell, and Ann Beasley (whose relationship to John is not known) while John paid the costs of Andrew Lyon, Mary Vaughn, John Hart, Thomas May, and Samuel Biswell.¹¹⁶ The feud with the Picketts would continue into later court sessions.

On 12 August 1743, the court ordered that Thomas Ship, John Beasley, Charles Beasley, and David Tinsley appraise the estate of Richard Goode.¹¹⁷ On 10 February 1743/4, he was ordered with Charles Beasley, William Daniel, and Cornels [Cornelius] Reynolds to appraise the estate of Eliza Cowing.¹¹⁸

By the mid-1740s, John began to appear in court records with other Beasleys in addition to Charles. On 11 January 1744/5, he appeared on a jury with Bennet Beazley, though no relationship was implied by the

¹⁰³ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 77.

¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 108.

¹⁰⁵ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1732-1740, Part One, 1732-1734/5* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1965), 33, citing original page 73.

¹⁰⁶ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1732-1740, Part Two, 1734/5-1737* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1966), citing original page 387.

¹⁰⁷ Ibid, 93, citing original page 424.

¹⁰⁸ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1732-1740, Part Three, 1737-1740* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1967), 56, citing original page 542. See also 58-59, citing original page 545.

¹⁰⁹ Ibid, 95, citing original page 616.

¹¹⁰ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book 1740-1746, Part One, 1740-1742/3* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1971), 83, citing original page 138.

¹¹¹ Ibid, 84, citing original page 140.

¹¹² John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1973), 2, citing original page 159.

¹¹³ Ibid, 3, citing original page 162.

¹¹⁴ Ibid, 11, citing original page 177.

¹¹⁵ Ibid, 14, citing original page 184.

¹¹⁶ Ibid, 15-16, citing original pages 187-188.

¹¹⁷ Ibid, 28, citing original page 214.

¹¹⁸ Ibid, 47, citing original page 249.

record.¹¹⁹ (Bennet was possibly a nephew). On 8 March 1744/5, Winney “Weasley” [Beasley], an infant under 21 years old, was charged with trespass by Mace Pickett and wife Elizabeth. John Beasley, her “next friend,” appeared in court on her behalf and the case was dismissed, “being agreed.”¹²⁰ Winney was likely short for Winifred, the name of John’s wife, and hence she was perhaps his daughter, though the relationship remains unproven.

Road work orders continued into 1745 and represented a regular duty for John. On 8 March 1744/5, William Powell petitioned the court for a “convenient bridle way from Powell’s plantation to the Main Road.” David and Philip Tinsley, Samuel Major, and John Beasley were ordered to view the road, presumably with a plan for its construction.¹²¹ The order continued in the April court, and in addition to the Tinsleys, Major, and John Beasley, the names of John Sneed, Thomas Croucher, and James Lindsey were added to continue to “view” a possible road.¹²²

As John grew older, he was continually called upon to appraise estates, sit on juries, and provide testimony for neighbors in various suits. On 10 May 1745, John appeared in court on behalf of William Smith in a case brought against Smith by Thomas Wilshire. The court ordered Smith to pay John 125 pounds of tobacco for five days’ attendance at court.¹²³ On 13 September 1745, the court ordered John Sneed, John Beasley, Charles Beasley, and Charles Beasley Jr. to appraise the estate of Moses Daniel.¹²⁴ On 14 October 1748, the court ordered John, Charles, George Penn and Moses Penn to appraise the estate of Robert Foster.¹²⁵ On 11 March 1748/9, he joined Charles Senior and Junior and William Beasley, probably his nephew, in appraising the estate of Langworth Thorp.¹²⁶

T. E. Campbell writes that during this period, John Harvie of Essex, a major trader and creditor in the region, failed in his business, and many of his creditors demanded payment. Harvie owed money to John Beasley, who sued him for debt and received an attachment or claim to a chest of Harvie’s silver, considered his most liquid asset.¹²⁷

At about this time John began an association with the Coghill family through his marriage to Elizabeth, widow of James Coghill. On 27 May 1745, John exhibited an account against the estate of James Coghill, which was allowed.¹²⁸ On 13 March 1748/9, William Daniel Jr. presented a case against John Beasley and Eliza his wife, who was administratrix of James Coghill, for trespass on the case.¹²⁹ The Coghills and the Majors were closely connected in Caroline County and lived in the same neighborhood. On 11 May 1744, James Coghill, heir at law of James Coghill, appealed to the court about its proof of the elder James’s will the previous March. An attorney for the executor had opposed the claim, but the court granted the appeal. James Coghill and Samuel Major acknowledged themselves indebted to John Gough, executor of James Coghill’s will, for £20 in case James Coghill does not appear at the next general court to appeal the will.¹³⁰

William Taliaferro brought a suit against John on 12 August 1749, and proving his account, recovered £5.6.8.¹³¹ On 9 December 1749, John provided an account to the court for the settlement of James Coghill’s estate.¹³² Campbell, in his history of Caroline County, states that the other heirs of James Coghill forced James Coghill Jr. out as executor and substituted John Beasley in his place, but this does not seem to be substantiated by the court records.¹³³ Eliza appeared again in her own right on 9 February 1749/50, when

¹¹⁹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1973), 5, citing original pages 343 and 345.

¹²⁰ *Ibid.*, 11, citing original page 355.

¹²¹ *Ibid.*, 10, citing original page 353.

¹²² *Ibid.*, 14, citing original page 462.

¹²³ *Ibid.*, 21, citing original page 475.

¹²⁴ *Ibid.*, 39, citing original page 522.

¹²⁵ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1968), 2, citing original page 122.

¹²⁶ *Ibid.*, 14, citing original page 135.

¹²⁷ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 121.

¹²⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746*, 60, citing original page 83.

¹²⁹ *Ibid.*, 15, citing original page 136.

¹³⁰ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 61, citing original page 276.

¹³¹ *Ibid.*, 43, citing original page 170.

¹³² *Ibid.*, 57, citing original page 185.

¹³³ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 473.

the court ordered Thomas Harris to pay her 375 pounds of tobacco for fifteen days of attendance at court giving evidence on his behalf against Micajah Pickett.¹³⁴ John had also given evidence against Pickett, suggesting that a lingering feud continued with this family.¹³⁵ He was still living and considered fit on 11 May 1750, when he was ordered with John Jr. to serve on a crew to construct a new road with Charles Beasley Jr. as overseer.¹³⁶ On 13 August 1752, a slave boy Harry owned by John was judged to be seven years old.¹³⁷ Another slave child, Jack, was judged to be ten on 12 October 1752.¹³⁸

The feud with the Picketts continued into the 1750s and 1760s. The court ordered his old adversary, Mace Pickett, to pay John 125 pounds of tobacco for testifying in court on 12 July 1753.¹³⁹ Thomas Pickett was ordered to pay him 75 pounds of tobacco for three days' attendance against Robert Stokes on 10 November 1753.¹⁴⁰ In 1762, Isabelle and Daphne, two slaves belonging to John, were sentenced to receive 15 lashes each at the whipping post for perjury after it was determined that they had lied on the witness stand in the trial of the slave Daniel, the property of John Pickett, for the murder of Pronton or Purton, a slave belonging to Samuel Major.¹⁴¹ Their motivations are unclear, but perhaps John's dislike of the Picketts influenced their testimony. Both John and Elizabeth gave testimony at the trial.¹⁴²

On 10 March 1758, a free African American, Francis Fly, was arrested for hog stealing. John Vawter, John Beasley, Eliza Beasley, and Elias Blackburn all gave testimony against him, and Fly was ordered to pay £10 or receive 25 lashes.¹⁴³

John apparently became interested in acquiring land in Spotsylvania County late in his life, though he never moved there. Some problems of consistency exist, however, that make this attribution subject to other interpretations. On 6 April 1756, as "John Beasley of Caroline County," he purchased from Aquilla and Elizabeth Johnson a tract of 300 acres for £30 in a deed witnessed by Richard Woolfolk, William Wood, and Benjamin Boughan.¹⁴⁴ On 3 November 1759, he was described as a "husbandman" or small landowner of Caroline County when he deeded 100 acres in Spotsylvania County to his son, Charles, with John Sutton, Margaret Sutton, and Gedion Coghill as witnesses.¹⁴⁵ Presumably this was part of his earlier 300-acre purchase. The presence of Gedion/Gideon Coghill would seem to tie him to the same Coghill family in Caroline County, since Gideon was a son of James Coghill, Elizabeth's first husband.¹⁴⁶ On 29 September 1768, John Beasley (probably the elder John) sold the remaining 200 acres of Spotsylvania lands to William Chowning of Caroline County with William Hill Jr., William Stevens, and Micajah Stevens as witnesses.¹⁴⁷ A problem that arises from these records is the fact that Elizabeth never appears with her husband to relinquish her dower. Hence, despite the presence of Gideon Coghill, one cannot be certain if these Spotsylvania deed references pertain to the elder or younger John of Caroline or to an entirely different person. Probably it is the same John, but Elizabeth's absence remains unexplained.

John and wife Elizabeth were still living in Caroline County on 9 July 1762, when Mary Pickett was ordered by the court to pay them both 50 pounds of tobacco for two days' attendance at court.¹⁴⁸ On 16 February 1765, Sarah Rennolds settled a suit for debt against John Hart and John Beasley, presumably but

¹³⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746*, 64, citing original page 194.

¹³⁵ *Ibid*, citing original page 195.

¹³⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 11, citing original page 131.

¹³⁷ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1970), 84, citing original page 334.

¹³⁸ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Four, 1742-1754* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1971), 3, citing original page 351.

¹³⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Four, 1742-1754*, 41, citing original page 407.

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid*, 64, citing original page 441.

¹⁴¹ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 337.

¹⁴² Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762*, 37-38, citing original pages 243-244.

¹⁴³ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1756-1758, Part Two, 1756-1758* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1977), 78, citing original page 342.

¹⁴⁴ William Armstrong Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume I, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1971), 202.

¹⁴⁵ *Ibid*, 212.

¹⁴⁶ James Henry Coghill, *Family of Coghill, 1377 to 1879* (Cambridge: Lberside Press, 1879), 103.

¹⁴⁷ Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume I, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800*, 267.

¹⁴⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Three, 1762-1763* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1988), 5, citing original page 335.

not certainly this John.¹⁴⁹ On 14 September 1765, John Beasley and others pressed a suit in chancery against Sarah McDonald, and the court ordered the examination of Ann Okey and Ann Tool as evidence in the case.¹⁵⁰ On 9 October 1766, a deed of trust from John Beasley Sr. to Charles Beasley, William Beasley, and Christopher [no surname listed] was recorded at court, and it was described as being “in trust for John Powell,” with Thomas Reynolds and Edmund Beasley as witnesses.¹⁵¹ A second deed of gift in a separate court entry of the same day from John Beasley (no indication of “Senior”) to Edmund Beasley was also recorded with William Hill and John Powell as witnesses. Undoubtedly these refer to the same man, the elder John. These deeds offer evidence that Edmund was probably a son of John. William’s presence may indicate that there were two men named William, one the son of Charles and the other of John. As has been shown above, on 29 September 1768, John Beasley of Caroline County (without any reference to Elizabeth) sold to William Chowning of Caroline 200 acres in Spotsylvania County, with John making his mark and witnesses being William Hill Jr., William Stevens, and Micajah Stevens.¹⁵²

John Beasley was probably the same who died testate in Caroline County before 10 January 1771, with William Hoard, Charles Beasley, John and Israel Sneed ordered to appraise the estate.¹⁵³ The will itself does not survive. At the same court session, Thomas (Jervise?) declined to serve as executor, and the sheriff was ordered to summon James Beasley, one of the heirs, to contest the will’s validity. Shortly after his death possibly this John Beasley was named posthumously, with wife Elizabeth, as plaintiffs in a suit with Zachariah Coghill against John Dickenson and Sarah McDonald.¹⁵⁴ Though the record does not list him as deceased, the case was likely initiated in court before his death. It remains the last reference to him in any of the court records.

Elizabeth was possibly still living as late as 11 May 1780, when she acknowledged in Caroline County two deeds of gift respectively to Benjamin Beasley and Augustine Beasley, both of whom were likely her sons.¹⁵⁵ Thomas and Benjamin Reynolds offered oaths of proof as witnesses of the deeds. On 12 July 1782, William Pickett brought a suit against Elizabeth, Benjamin, and Augustin [sic], but failing to prosecute it, the case was dismissed.¹⁵⁶

Children of John Beasley, perhaps with wife Winifred (___), born probably in Caroline County, Virginia:

- i. **WINIFRED “WINNEY”³ BEASLEY**, b. after 1723 (say 1730); named as Winney “Weasley” in a suit for trespass brought by Mace and Elizabeth Pickett on 8 March 1744/5, with John Beasley, her “next friend,” appearing on her behalf, since she was under age 21.¹⁵⁷ Winifred may have married (1) **JOHN GOUGE/GOUCH** and (2) **MICAJAH PICKETT**. The evidence remains only circumstantial and cannot be proven. On 14 March 1747, Winney Gouch petitioned the court in Caroline County to administer the estate of John Gouge, with John Beasley and Aaron Quisenberry as securities.¹⁵⁸ A year later on 8 July 1748, William Dixon petitioned the court against Micajah Pickett and Winney his wife.¹⁵⁹ No document exists to

¹⁴⁹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1764-1765, Part Three* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1989), 10, citing original page 378.

¹⁵⁰ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1990), 1, citing original page 180.

¹⁵¹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline county, Virginia Order Book, 1765-1767, Part Three, 1766-1767* (Falmouth, Virginia: John Frederick Dorman, 1991), 20, citing original page 411.

¹⁵² Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800*, 267.

¹⁵³ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 483; Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline county, Virginia, 1770-1771*, 59, citing original page 115.

¹⁵⁴ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1771-1772* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 231, citing original page 230.

¹⁵⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1778-1781* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 81, citing original page 229.

¹⁵⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1781-1783* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 43, citing original page 108.

¹⁵⁷ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746*, 11.

¹⁵⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Court Order Book 1746-1754, Part One, 1746-1748*, 14.

¹⁵⁹ Ibid, 72.

- prove that she was the same person in all of these records, but it remains a possibility, given that Winifred is a somewhat unusual name and that these families all lived in the same vicinity.¹⁶⁰
- ii. **JOHN BEAZLEY JR.**, b. say 1720-25; d. Caroline County, Virginia, possibly intestate before 10 June 1762, when his estate was appraised by Oliver Towles Jr., James Lindsay, Richard Ship, and William Beazley.¹⁶¹ John first appears in the Caroline County court records on 15 August 1747, when he won a case against Benjamin Whitehead for £1.15.¹⁶² He was mentioned on 11 May 1750 in a road order with Charles Beasley Jr. as overseer and John Beazley Sr. assisting.¹⁶³ He began to assume slightly larger civic roles by the mid-1750s. On 11 December 1755, he was ordered with Charles Beasley, William Harrison, and Thomas Pickett to appraise the estate of William Powell.¹⁶⁴ On 10 June 1756, he was appointed overseer of a road in the room of William Daniel Jr.¹⁶⁵ On 10 February 1757, John was again appointed overseer of a road running from Charles Beasley Jr.'s property to that of James Lindsay.¹⁶⁶ The following April, William Daniel Jr., Joshua Lindsay, Charles Beasley Jr., the Widow Powell's, and David Tinsley's people were ordered to work on the road.¹⁶⁷ His wife and children, if any, are not known.
 13. iii. **CHARLES BEASLEY**, b. say 1730; m. **SUSANNAH (ALLEN?)**.
 - iv. probably **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**, b. say 1730-35. It is difficult to distinguish him from his cousin in the Caroline County records. He was probably the William who, with Charles, received a deed of trust from John Beazley in Caroline County on 9 October 1766. Perhaps he was the William Beazley whom Dicey King charged with assault and battery on 12 August 1771.¹⁶⁸ The case continued on 14 September but no verdict was shown.¹⁶⁹ He may be the William in whose room Thomas Garnett was appointed overseer of a road in Caroline County on 9 March 1780.¹⁷⁰
 14. v. probably **EDMUND BEAZLEY**, b. say 1735-40; m. **ELIZABETH (___)**.
 15. vi. possibly **REUBEN BEASLEY**, b. say 1735-40; m. **(___)**.
 - vii. possibly **CHRISTOPHER BEAZLEY**, b. say 1740.

Children of John Beasley, probably with second wife Elizabeth (___), widow of James Coghill:

- viii. **JAMES BEAZLEY**, b. say 1748; listed as an heir in his father's otherwise unrecorded will. On 10 February 1771, the court in Caroline County summoned him to appear to contest the validity of the will.
16. ix. **BENJAMIN BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750; m. **(___)**.
17. x. **AUGUSTINE BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750; m. **(___)**.

6. CHARLES² BEASLEY (*William¹*), the son of William Beasley, was born in Old Rappahannock or Essex County, Virginia, say 1695-1700. He died in Caroline County, Virginia, before 9 January 1766. T. E. Campbell also shows 1766 but gives no other details.¹⁷¹

Charles received "all of the remaining part of my land" from his father in the latter's 1719 will, but of what exactly it consisted is not known.¹⁷² He moved to Caroline County at an early date, probably soon

¹⁶⁰ For a discussion, see "Janet and Robert Wolfe Genealogy," <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~bobwolfe/gen/mn/m2137x3941.htm#FN29>; accessed 2 June 2014.

¹⁶¹ T. E. Campbell, *Colonial Caroline: History of Caroline County, Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1954), 478; John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1983), 78, citing original page 313.

¹⁶² Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part One, 1746/7-1748*, 43, citing original page 62.

¹⁶³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 78, citing original page 218.

¹⁶⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1755-1758, Part One, 1755-1756*, 59, citing original page 134.

¹⁶⁵ *Ibid.*, 77, citing original page 168.

¹⁶⁶ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1756-1758, Part Two, 1756-1758* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1977), 25, citing original page 249.

¹⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 37, citing original page 270.

¹⁶⁸ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1771-1772*, 36, citing original page 294.

¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*, 64, citing original page 360.

¹⁷⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1778-1781* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 72, citing original page 215.

¹⁷¹ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 479.

¹⁷² William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

after the county was created in 1728. On 10 May 1733, he petitioned the court to order Thomas Rucker to be “surveyor of the road in his room.”¹⁷³

Charles purchased or leased several tracts of land in Caroline County, but the extent of his holdings remains unclear due to the loss of the early deed books. He acquired land from Henry and Mary Powell in 1735, but its description is not known; however, the Powells’ acknowledged their “deeds of lease and release of land indented to Charles Beasley” and were recorded on 13 June 1735.¹⁷⁴ A similar deed of lease between Charles and Philip and Johanna Tinsley occurred on 12 March 1735/6, when Tinsley acknowledged them and Johanna released her dower.¹⁷⁵

With his brother John, Charles became involved with road building in Caroline County. On 13 November 1736, the court, on the motion of John Taylor, gent., ordered that William Daniel, John Beasley, and Charles Beasley “view the road between Thos. Rucker’s and Charles Beasley’s across the head of Daniel’s mill and make report.”¹⁷⁶

Charles’s name also appeared in connection with other small suits. On 12 May 1738, William Daniel received a judgment from the Caroline County court for an attachment or garnishment against James Hearn.¹⁷⁷ The constable made the return, listing several persons indebted to Hearn, including both John Beasley and Charles Beasley. “Charles Beasley declared he has in his hands belonging to Hearn 117 pounds of tobacco. It’s ordered he pay the same to Daniel and that the other persons pay to Daniel what shall appear.”¹⁷⁸ On 12 May 1738, a case by Frederick Coghill against Charles Beasley was dismissed when both parties agreed.¹⁷⁹

Charles acquired more land of an undetermined amount from Thomas Rucker and his wife Elizabeth and from James Rucker and his wife Margaret, which was affirmed at court on 14 September 1739.¹⁸⁰ He also had at least one slave. At a court session on 10 October 1740, Harr[y], a Negro boy belonging to Charles Beasley was judged to be nine years old, while another unnamed male slave belonging to Charles Beasley Jr. was judged to be ten.¹⁸¹ This record offers the first evidence of there being two people named Charles, likely father and son.

On 14 January 1742/3, Charles Beasley and John Beasley sat on a jury for an action of debt brought by several persons named Harris against Eliza and Moses Pen, executors of John Pen.¹⁸² On 11 February 1742/3, Charles and John, together with John Sneed, were ordered to lay out a road for David Tinsley.¹⁸³ On 12 August 1743, he was ordered with John Beasley, David Tinsley, and Thomas Ship to appraise the estate of Richard Goode.¹⁸⁴ On 10 February 1743/4, he was again ordered with John Beasley to appraise the estate of Eliza Cowing.¹⁸⁵ On 11 May 1744, the surveyor of the three notched road at Charles Beasley’s to Portobago Road was presented to the court for not keeping posts of directions.¹⁸⁶ During this same period he served on several juries.¹⁸⁷ On 11 August 1744, a presentment against Charles by a grand jury was dismissed, though the charge was not specified in the order book.¹⁸⁸

¹⁷³ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1732-1740, Part One, 1732-1734/5* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1965), 33, citing original page 73.

¹⁷⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1732-1740, Part Two, 1734/5-1737* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1966), 10, citing original page 296.

¹⁷⁵ Ibid, 32, citing original page 330.

¹⁷⁶ Ibid, 70, citing original page 387.

¹⁷⁷ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1732-1740, Part Three, 1737-1740* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1967), 13, citing original page 479.

¹⁷⁸ Ibid

¹⁷⁹ Ibid, 15, citing original page 480.

¹⁸⁰ Ibid, 64, citing original page 557.

¹⁸¹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book 1740-1746, Part One, 1740-1742/3* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1971), 2, citing original page 8.

¹⁸² Ibid, 88, citing original page 147.

¹⁸³ Ibid, 89, citing original page 150.

¹⁸⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 28, citing original page 214.

¹⁸⁵ Ibid, 47, citing original page 249.

¹⁸⁶ Ibid, 60, citing original page 274.

¹⁸⁷ Ibid, 65-66, 68-69.

¹⁸⁸ Ibid, 74, citing original page 305.

Charles gifted his son Charles Jr. an unknown tract of land, and while the deed itself does not survive, the gift was acknowledged by the Caroline County court on 12 April 1745.¹⁸⁹ Charles served on a jury on 14 June 1745 in case involving Peter Williams against Thomas Pitman of Drysdale Parish for the theft of a hog.¹⁹⁰ On 13 September 1745, Charles was ordered with John Beasley and Charles Jr. and several others to appraise the estate of Moses Daniel.¹⁹¹

Court records document a series of disputes involving Charles, beginning with Henry Powell in 1746 or early 1747. On 14 February 1746/7, Powell pressed charges on an unknown cause, but the court found in Charles's favor and ordered that he recover his costs, possibly for building a road.¹⁹² However, during the March term the court ordered Charles to pay John Beasley 225 pounds of tobacco for nine days' attendance at court in providing testimony for him,¹⁹³ as well as 380 pounds of tobacco to James Zachary, and 680 pounds of tobacco to Richard Keese.¹⁹⁴ On 9 July 1748, Mannis Fegan pressed charges against Charles Beasley for trespass, assault, and battery, but this case may have pertained to the younger Charles.¹⁹⁵ On 14 July 1749, a slave boy named Jack that he owned was judged to be ten years old.¹⁹⁶ On 9 February 1749/50, he testified on behalf of Thomas Harris in a case against Micajah Pickett in which John Beasley also testified.¹⁹⁷ Three more slaves belonging to him, Frank, Jenny, and Tom, were judged by the court to be ten, eight, and eight years old respectively on 12 October 1750, 13 August 1752, and 13 September 1753.¹⁹⁸

By the mid-1750s, Charles's court appearances became less frequent. On 10 November 1752, the court ordered John Hipkins to pay Charles 150 pounds of tobacco for six days' attendance at court.¹⁹⁹ William Hord was appointed overseer of a road in Charles's room on 8 May 1755.²⁰⁰ On 11 December of the same year, he joined John Beasley Jr. and Thomas Pickett in appraising the estate of William Powell.²⁰¹ On 12 November 1756, he was ordered with Charles Story, William Heard, and Thomas Croucher to settle the estate of Thomas Jackson.²⁰² On 11 August 1757, he was ordered with Charles Story and Thomas Dudley to view a road proposed by John Sneed Jr.²⁰³ In 1760, he continued to live in the vicinity of Thomas Pickett and Oliver Towles, and his road that lead by Pickett was said to be in disrepair.²⁰⁴ On 13 August 1761, he was ordered with Thomas Dudley and Ralph Bowdry to view a "convenient bridgeway from Reynolds and McKinny's to the main road."²⁰⁵ On 12 November of that year, he was appointed overseer of a road in the room of Joshua Lindsey.²⁰⁶ On 11 March 1762, he was appointed with Oliver Towles and Thomas Ship to appraise the estate of Joel Halbert.²⁰⁷ He was ordered with William Howard and James Lyndsay to appraise the estate of Thomas Croucher in September 1763.²⁰⁸ He was living on 10 May 1764, when Thomas Dudley and Thomas Heath and their gangs were ordered to build a road from the glebe to Colonel Baylor's, and

¹⁸⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746*, 15, citing original page 464.

¹⁹⁰ Ibid, 26-27, citing original page 489.

¹⁹¹ Ibid, 39, citing original page 522.

¹⁹² John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Court Order Book, 1746-1754, Part One 1746/7-1748* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1968), 6, citing original page 18.

¹⁹³ Ibid, 10, citing original page 21.

¹⁹⁴ Ibid, 6, citing original page 18.

¹⁹⁵ Ibid, 79, citing original page 107.

¹⁹⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 34, citing original page 159.

¹⁹⁷ Ibid, 64, citing original page 195.

¹⁹⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 5, citing original page 235, and 84, citing original page 334; John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Four, 1742-1754* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1971), 49.

¹⁹⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Four, 1742-1754*, 10.

²⁰⁰ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1755-1758, Part One, 1755-1756* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1976), 13, citing original page 49.

²⁰¹ Ibid, 59, citing original page 135.

²⁰² Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1755-1758, Part Two, 1756-1758*, 17, citing original pages 235-236.

²⁰³ Ibid, 55, citing original page 302.

²⁰⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part One, 1759-1760* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1982), 84, citing original pages 136-137.

²⁰⁵ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762*, 41, citing original page 248.

²⁰⁶ Ibid, 49, citing original page 263.

²⁰⁷ Ibid, 55, citing original page 273.

²⁰⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Three, 1762-1763*, 65, citing original page 453.

from Charles Beasley to Charles Beasley Jr.²⁰⁹ He appears to have purchased land from William and Elizabeth Daniel, which was acknowledged at court on 14 June 1764.²¹⁰

On 14 June 1765, the court ordered Thomas Dudley to serve as overseer of a road “from the Glebe by his own house into the Courthouse road and to have besides his own hands Hannah Curtis’s quarter, William Harrison’s, Ann Beazley’s quarter, Charles Beazley’s quarter, John Pemberton, Henry Pemberton, William Ale, John Billups, Abraham Martin Sr., Thomas Chandler, Henry Webster, John and Moses Webster to help clear and keep it in repair.”²¹¹ The identity of Ann Beazley referenced nearby is also unknown. Later that year, Cornelius Beasley was ordered to serve as overseer of the same road with the same hands, possible indirect evidence that Cornelius was the son of Charles.²¹²

Charles was certainly dead by 9 January 1766, when his will was proved by William and Reuben Beasley, who were both witnesses.²¹³ On 12 June 1766, Cornelius Reynolds took an oath to serve as the executor of the will.²¹⁴ Campbell lists these as separate records, but they pertain to the same estate.²¹⁵ Since the actual will does not survive, one cannot determine for certain the identity of his wife or children.

Probable children of Charles Beasley and unknown wife, born in Caroline County, Virginia:

18. i. **CHARLES³ BEASLEY JR.**, b. say 1720-25; m. (____).
19. ii. probably **WILLIAM BEASLEY/BEAZLEY**, b. say 1725; m. **ANN (HURT?)**.
iii. possibly **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1725-1730; his existence cannot be confirmed. He was probably not the John Beasley who died intestate in Caroline County before 10 June 1762, with Oliver Towles Jr, James Lindsey, Richard Ship, and William Beazley as appraisers, since the appointment of his brother as an appraiser would seem unlikely.²¹⁶ More likely, however, he was the John Beasley listed as a defendant, together with Samuel Major, Richard Major, George Major, William Harrison, Jacob Daniel, Grace Noble, Richard Bowler, Thomas Pickett, and John Sneed in a case brought by “Mess” Pickett on 12 August 1773.²¹⁷ Perhaps he was the John Beasley who died testate before 10 March 1785, when David Jameson, Richard Blanton, and Richard Sneed were ordered by the Caroline County court to “settle and divide the Estate of John Beasley, deceased, according to Will and report such their proceedings to the Court.”²¹⁸ His will has not survived, and his children, if any, are not known.
20. iv. probably **CORNELIUS BEAZLEY**, b. say 1730; m. (____).
v. possibly **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. say 1730-35. He first appears in the Caroline County records on 15 March 1754, when he lost a case for debt to William Allison and declared that he had written the obligatory note requiring him to pay Allison 2,000 pounds of tobacco.²¹⁹ On 13 November 1783, he was appointed overseer of a road in the room of Cornelius Beazley.²²⁰ On 11 December 1783, he was ordered to appraise the estate of Elizabeth Rennolds.²²¹ His association with the Reynolds or Reynolds family continued into 10 November 1785, when John Rennolds, assignee of Thomas Beazley, who was, in turn, assignee of Joseph Rennolds, entered into a suit against Richard Waters and Cornelius Rennolds.²²² Thomas’s legal actions

²⁰⁹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1764-1765, Part One* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1989), 33, citing original page 119.

²¹⁰ Ibid, 50, citing original page 162.

²¹¹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part One, 1765* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1990), 6, citing original page 6.

²¹² John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1990), 59, citing original page 285.

²¹³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766*, 60, citing original page 286.

²¹⁴ Ibid, 68, citing original page 299.

²¹⁵ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 479.

²¹⁶ T. E. Campbell, *Colonial Caroline: History of Caroline County, Virginia* (Richmond, Virginia: Dietz Press, 1954), 478; John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1983), 78, citing original page 313.

²¹⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1773-1774* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 6, citing original page 358.

²¹⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1781-1785* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1995), 11, citing original page 479.

²¹⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia, Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Four, 1742-1754*, 81.

²²⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders., Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1783-1784* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 33, citing original page 308.

²²¹ Ibid, 35, citing original page 313.

²²² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1786*, 18, citing original page 159.

continued into 11 August 1786, when Robert Wright won a suit for debt against John Melear and Cornelius Rennolds for 8,900 pounds of tobacco, and Thomas was named as security for the defendants' appearance.²²³ The earlier case also continued, and on the same day, John Rennolds, assignee of Thomas Beasley, won a verdict of £44.8, but the judges allowed it to be satisfied for half at £22.4.²²⁴ Melear was apparently not able to pay and appealed to the court on 13 May 1785 for special bail, but he was ordered to remain in the custody of the sheriff, and judgment against him continued, with Thomas as his security.²²⁵ On 11 May 1787, Thomas came into court and "entered himself Special Bail for Defendant according to Law," that defendant being Richard Ship.²²⁶ On 12 July 1787, Thomas was possibly the same who was reported as an Ensign in the Virginia Militia.²²⁷ It remains uncertain whether Thomas married or had children.

- vi. possibly **RICHARD BEASLEY**, b. say 1730-35. He first appears in Caroline County on 9 August 1764, when Andrew Anderson won a suit against him for trespass. Richard confessed judgment of £3.19.3.²²⁸ On 12 September 1765, Foster Samuel was ordered to be overseer of a road that passed the land of the following persons, including John Chenall, Ralph Farmer, Muse Taylor, Francis Barber, Foster Samuel, Thomas Samuel, Richard Beasley, Abel Cook, John Cook, William Cook, and David Landrum.²²⁹ On 14 September 1765, John Ritchie and Company brought suit against Richard on unspecified charges, possibly for debt. Richard did not appear, and the court passed judgment for the plaintiffs for £12.²³⁰ On 9 July 1773, the court in Caroline County ordered Ambrose Vaughn to pay him 550 pounds of tobacco for attending court for 22 days in a case against Robert Ferguson.²³¹ In 1787, Richard began a series of cases of his own in court against his debtors. On 8 March 1787, he brought a suit against John Dedlake, claiming that the defendant "should pay the costs and condemnation²³² of the Court or render his body to Prison in execution for the same." Dedlake, with his attorney, claimed the debt had been paid and "put himself upon the Country." The case continued to a later court session. In a second case, Richard prosecuted William Sutton for debt on 9 March 1787, but the jury extended the suit as well.²³³ In a third case brought on 14 March 1787, Richard brought as suit against John Norment and was awarded £2.4.11.²³⁴ A fourth case brought the same day against William Massey and William Southworth also resulted in victory, with the court awarding Richard £12.18.²³⁵ Two more cases brought that day against Moses Pruett and jointly against Richard Sims and John Lucas also brought victories and small settlements.²³⁶ On 15 May, the court awarded Richard victories against Sutton for £10.6 and against Delake for £7.3.²³⁷ He continued to prosecute Norment, together with Robert Woolfolk Jr., for debt and won a second suit on 11 August 1787 for £7.4.²³⁸ On 14 August, Richard Roy was ordered to pay Thomas 50 pounds of tobacco for two days at court against James Pitts Jr.²³⁹
21. vii. possibly **EPHRAIM BEAZLEY**, b. say 1735; m. **WINNE/WINIFRED** (___).

7. WILLIAM³ BEASLEY (*William²⁻¹*), the son of William Beasley and Mary (___), was born in Essex County say 1705. He died before 1744, probably in Essex County, but there is virtually no evidence for his life. Perhaps he married a relative of the Pitts family, but this assertion remains only speculative.

²²³ Ibid, 95, citing original page 293.

²²⁴ Ibid, 101, citing original page 299.

²²⁵ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1787*, 55, citing original page 47.

²²⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (1)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), 83, citing original page 36.

²²⁷ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (2)*, 49, citing original page 140.

²²⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1764-1765, Part One*, 74, citing original page 224.

²²⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1765-1767, Part One*, 1765, 71, citing original page 144. See also Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 361.

²³⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia (1765)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989)75, citing original page 190.

²³¹ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1773*, 96.

²³² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (1)*, 2, citing original page 450.

²³³ Ibid, 18, citing original page 473.

²³⁴ Ibid, 39, citing original page 510.

²³⁵ Ibid, 50, citing original page 525.

²³⁶ Ibid, 52, citing original page 528.

²³⁷ Ibid, 99, citing original page 61, and 101, citing original page 63.

²³⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (2)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), 73, citing original page 177.

²³⁹ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (2)*, 86, citing original page 196.

William was named in the will of his grandfather, to whom he was directed to receive a plantation of 50 acres after the decease of his eldest son William.²⁴⁰ However, he was not named in his father's will of 1744, which suggests that he was dead by this date. The question of whether he married and had children has vexed a number of genealogists, but such claims fall purely into the realm of speculation. Some attempts in undocumented online sources assert that he married Ann Pitts, daughter of Robert Pitt(s) and Harriet (Villiers), and that he was the father of John Pitts Beasley, born say 1730.²⁴¹ William might also be the father of Gowin Beasley, mentioned in the will of William² but who does not seem to fit with either Richard or James. However, Gowin's presence begs the question why he was named and John Pitts was not.

The Pitts family, as has been shown, had close ties to the family of William², whose land adjoined that of John Pitts. Ann Pitts had an illegitimate child with Richard³ Beasley, below, and Richard moved with his family to Amelia County, where John Pitts Beasley later moved. However, there is no certainty that John Pitts Beasley was named for this Pitts family.

Child of William Beasley and possibly ____ (Pitts), all speculative, probably born in Essex County, Virginia:

- i. probably **GAWIN/GOWIN⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1730-35; no record after 1744, likely died young.

Of unknown but possible connection: **JOHN PITTS BEASLEY**, b. before 1741; d. Warren County, North Carolina, before May 1792, testate, with is will dasted 31 August 1783, leaving all of his property to wife **ELIZABETH** (____), but not naming specifically his children.²⁴² His wife is often wrongly reported as Sarah Lilse, but as is shown in Part 4 of this book, the John Beasley who married her belonged to the Beasleys of Chowan County, North Carolina, and was not John Pitts Beasley. John Pitts Beasley was in Bute County, North Carolina, in 1777. An estate sale held on 16 December 1805 listed Thomas, Barnet, Pitts, John, and James Beasley, among others, who were perhaps his children.²⁴³ John Pitts Beasley's placement as a child of this William is discussed above, but thus far there is insufficient evidence to confirm a relationship based only on a similarity of names. Further Y-DNA testing of male-line descendants of the Essex County group may strengthen this hypothesis, but thus far his placement remains inconclusive.²⁴⁴

8. RICHARD³ BEASLEY (*William²⁻¹*), the son of William Beasley II and Mary (____), was born in Essex County, Virginia, say 1708. He died in Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, Virginia, before 26 September 1771, when his will was proven.²⁴⁵ He married in Essex County about 1728, **ANN PITTS**.

Some misinformation about this Richard and the identity of his wife has found its way into print. Sudie Rucker Wood, in her *Rucker Family Genealogy*, published in 1932, identifies Richard's wife erroneously as "Nancy Ambrose."²⁴⁶ It would appear that she derived the surname from the naming of Ambrose without examining the court records of Essex that correctly identifies Ambrose's mother.

On 18 March 1728, the Essex County court indicted Richard for assaulting and beating William Boulware, but it decided that "there is no cause for the said Richard's being held to the Peace" and discharged him.²⁴⁷ On 19 March 1728 the court presented him for having a bastard child with Ann Pitts,

²⁴⁰ William Beezley will (1719), transcribed in John Frederick Dorman, *Essex County, Virginia Records, 1717-1722, Deeds, Etc., No. 16, 1718-1721, Wills, Inventories and Settlements of Estates No. 3, 1717-1722* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1959), 56.

²⁴¹ Leonard J. McCown, "Lord Pitts and the Beasley Family (Thoughts of Leonard J. McCown)," *Beasley-L Archives*, web posting, (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/read/BEASLEY/2000-11/0975084774>: accessed 15 May 2014).

²⁴² John Pitts Beasley will abstract, Warren County, North Carolina, Will Book 6: 97, abstracted in Mary Hinton Kerr, comp., *Warren County, North Carolina Records, Volume III, Abstracts of Will Books, 1779-1814* (Warrenton, NC: Mary Hinton Kerr, 1969), 47.

²⁴³ Warren County, North Carolina, Will Book 14: 221, in *ibid*, 172.

²⁴⁴ McCown, "Lord Pitts and the Beasley Family (Thoughts of Leonard J. McCown),".

²⁴⁵ Richard Beasley will abstract in Gibson Jefferson McConnaughey, *Will Book 2, Amelia County, Virginia* (Amelia, Virginia: Mid-South Publishing co., 1980), 10-11

²⁴⁶ Sudie Rucker Wood, *Rucker Family Genealogy* (Richmond, Virginia: Old Dominion Press, 1932), 519.

²⁴⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1725-1729 (Part II), Essex County, Virginia order Book 1725-1729 (Part II), 21 November 1727 to 20 March 1728/29* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 95, citing original page 282.

whom he had just married. He “confessed Judgmt to the Church Wardens of St. Anns Parish for five hundred pounds of tobacco & or fifty shillings current mony & costs,” which he was ordered to pay.²⁴⁸

Sometime after this date, Richard left Essex County and moved to Amelia County, Virginia. On 20 March 1745, he patented 400 acres “on both sides of the Little Nottoway River.”²⁴⁹ A few months later on 1 August 1745, he patented an additional 403 acres on “the upper or North side of Flatt Creek.”²⁵⁰ In 1756, the court ordered that he be paid £50 worth of tobacco for two day’s attendance at court.²⁵¹

Richard wrote a will in Amelia County, Virginia, on 9 April 1770.²⁵² He left to his wife Ann all of his lands and slaves and all other estate, real and personal. After her death or remarriage the property was to be divided between his son Ambrose Beasley, “called Ambrose Pitts by some people,” as well as Ambrose’s three children, Richard Jr., William, and Ann.²⁵³ No appraisal was made of the estate. The will was witnessed by James Baldwin, Mary Brooks, and Bartholomew Dupuy and was proven on 26 September 1771. An inventory of his slaves was made on 23 April 1772 and included the men named Jack and Caesar, the boys Joe, Sharper, and Sam, the women Patt and Pad, and the girls Jane Fillis, Phebe, and Judy.

Child of Richard Beasley and Ann (Pitts), born probably in Essex County, Virginia:

22. i. **AMBROSE⁴ BEASLEY** alias **PITTS**, b. before November 1728; m. **SARAH (RYLAND?)**.

9. JAMES³ BEASLEY (*William²⁻¹*), the son of William Beasley II and Mary (___), was born in Essex County, Virginia, say 1710. His date and place of death are unknown, but he was living in North Carolina in 1778. He married **ANN** (___).

There is a great deal of confusion about this James in online sources. He has been confused with a different James, a contemporary and apparent cousin, who also had a wife named Ann. One James lived in Orange County, *Virginia*, the other in Orange County, *North Carolina*. They were, however, two different men.

James was mentioned only in passing in the will of his father and was not left a specific bequest. The defining document that characterizes his identity is a deed dated 9 March 1778, when James Beasley and wife Ann of Orange County, *North Carolina*, sold to Younger Pitts of Caroline County, Virginia, 50 acres of land that James’s father William Beasley had owned at the time of his death bounded by James Samuel and land now in possession of Mary Beasley.²⁵⁴ He also granted the right to all rents due from the use of said land “since the death of Mary Beasley the mother of sd James Beasley.”²⁵⁵ The deed was witnessed by Living Pitts, James Bates, and William Bates. Younger Pitts and wife Susannah later sold this tract on 3 March 1780 to Ambrose Pitts, with the deed mentioning the previous purchase from James and Ann Beasley.²⁵⁶

These deeds prove that James had moved to North Carolina and was not the same as the James Beasley in Orange County, Virginia, who lived in Virginia consistently throughout the eighteenth century.

What became of James after the 1778 deed in North Carolina is uncertain.

10. JOHN³ BEAZLEY (*Benjamin², William¹*), apparently the son of Benjamin Beasley and wife Elizabeth (___), was born in Essex County, Virginia, say 1705. He died there testate before 15 May 1759.²⁵⁷ He married **MARY** (___). There is no evidence for her maiden name despite the attempts of some

²⁴⁸ Ibid, 101-102, citing original page 287a.

²⁴⁹ Amelia County, Virginia, Patent Book 25: 40.

²⁵⁰ Ibid, Book 22: 363.

²⁵¹ Amelia County, Virginia, Order Book 4: 30.

²⁵² Amelia County, Virginia, Will Book 2: 7.

²⁵³ McConnaughey, *Will Book 2, Amelia County, Virginia*, 10-11.

²⁵⁴ Mary Marshall Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1772-1786* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2006), 59, citing Essex County, Virginia, Deed Book 31, page 380.

²⁵⁵ Ibid.

²⁵⁶ Ibid, 93, citing 31: 527.

²⁵⁷ Essex County, Virginia, Will Book 11, page 181.

genealogists to assign her one. Some online sources attempt to place this John as a son of John², but this assertion is unlikely, given John³'s association with Essex County and the fact that John² appears to have divested himself of all of his Essex County holdings when he moved to Caroline County.

John³ Beasley is probably the same who served as administrator of Benjamin's estate in 1757 and filed an inventory in 1758. There is no other evidence for the relationship, but it would appear likely, especially given his association with the Vawter family with whom Benjamin was also closely connected.

John was of St. Ann's Parish when he made his will on 14 November 1758. His wife Mary received a life estate. His son John received five shillings. To son Richard he gave "all and Singular my land that I now possess" including land "my father bought" from "my uncle Charles Beasley of Caroline." He added a provision that if his Negro wench Tener should have children, the eldest should go to "my eldest daughter Elizabeth," the second to "my youngest daughter Sarah" and the third to son-in-law John James. After his wife Mary's death, the estate was to be divided evenly between children Richard, Elizabeth, and Sarah. The will was witnessed by James Atkinson, Richard Beasley (who made his mark) and Edward Vawter, and John signed the will with his mark. It was probated on 15 May 1759.

Mary was probably the Mary Beasley listed with William Pitts, David Pitts Jr., and Edward Vawter as witnesses to a bill of sale of James Pitts of Essex County and associated with a suit brought by Andrew Anderson for personal property purchased of James's father, John Pitts, of King and Queen County.²⁵⁸ She continued to occupy the land as late as 17 February 1777, when her property was recorded adjoining that of Edward Vawter and Thomas Pitts in a deed between Captain Robert Waring and wife Catharine of Essex County to Thomas Pitts.²⁵⁹

Children of John Beasley and wife Mary (___), born in St. Ann's Parish, Essex County, Virginia:

- i. **JOHN⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1730. His wife was possibly **PATTY (SULLIVAN?)**.²⁶⁰ He received only five shillings in his father's will, suggesting that he had either received his inheritance beforehand or was disinherited. He was possibly the John "Bezlee" listed as a witness to the deed of Richard and Mary Holt of King and Queen County to Francis Graves of Essex County on 19 September 1763.²⁶¹ He was probably the John Beasley who died testate in Essex County, Virginia, in 1777, with his will mentioning "my children" without names.²⁶²
- 23. ii. **RICHARD BEASLEY**, b. 1736; m. **MARTHA COOK**.
- iii. **ELIZABETH BEASLEY**, possibly m. **JOHN JAMES**.
- iv. **SARAH BEASLEY**

11. BENNET(T)³ BEASLEY (?Henry², William¹), a possible but unproven son of Henry Beasley, was born before 1717 and perhaps about 1710, possibly in Essex County, Virginia. He died in Orange County, Virginia, before 28 September 1758.²⁶³ He married in Caroline County, Virginia, about 1743, **ANNE (___)**, widow of John Peatrass/Peatross, who was perhaps a second wife. His name appears in records as both Bennet and Bennett.

Bennet's identity and parentage have perplexed genealogists, and indeed, there is no document that firmly establishes the identity of his father. This sketch does not attempt to provide such proof. Perhaps he was a son of Henry Beasley, who was a neighbor of Thomas "Peatroos" and whose parcel of 50 acres of land was mentioned in Thomas's 1715 will. William Beasley II would also live in the same vicinity as the Peatross family, but one can rule out William II as Bennet's father. It should be stressed that any connection between Bennet and Henry remains *speculative* and *unproven*.

²⁵⁸ Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1752-1761* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Press, 2006), 146, citing original page 157.

²⁵⁹ Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1772-1786*, 43, citing Deed Book 31, page 295.

²⁶⁰ Sharon J. Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials: Genealogies of Some Colonial Families* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co.,), 97.

²⁶¹ Brewer, *Essex County, Virginia Land Records, 1761-1772* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Press, 2006), 37, citing page 220.

²⁶² Sharon J. Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials: Genealogies of Some Colonial Families* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1991), 97.

²⁶³ Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2: 277-279, cited in John Frederick Dorman, *Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2, 1774-1778* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1961), 57.

Bennet first appears in Caroline County on 11 March 1737/8, when two petitions he filed, one against John Harvey/Harvie and the other against John Draper, were dismissed, with both parties having agreed.²⁶⁴ Harvey was a major trader and importer in Caroline County to whom many owed money. On 9 June 1739, Paul Micou, “assignee of Bennett Beasley” won a judgment against John Bell and was awarded 985 pounds of tobacco.²⁶⁵ In 1743, he apparently witnessed the will or codicil of Robert Smith, since he appeared in court on 8 July 1743 with Oliver Towles to prove the codicil.²⁶⁶

At about this time, Bennet married Anne (____), the widow of John Peatrass/Peatross. A John Peatross was mentioned in 1715 as a son of Thomas “Peatroos,” whose land adjoined Henry Beasley. However, genealogist Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis asserts that the John Peatross whose widow married Bennet Beasley was the nephew of Thomas Peatroos and the son of John and Ann Peatross.²⁶⁷ Anne had two children, Matthew Peatross and Mary Peatross, from her first marriage. On 10 December 1743, the court ordered Bennet to pay William Smith 75 pounds of tobacco giving three days of evidence at court in a case of John Harvie/Harvey versus Ann “Peatrass.”²⁶⁸ On 10 August 1744, Bennet returned an account on the estate of John Peatrass as settled by William Taliaferro.²⁶⁹ On 10 November 1744, Bennett and wife Anne, administrators of John Peatrass, brought suit against James Zachery, which was dismissed.²⁷⁰ (The case would later reappear in the court dockets on 8 March 1744/5, and Bennet and Anne won their suit against Zachary and received a judgment of £2.14.2.)²⁷¹ During the same period on 7 March 1743/4, Bennett and Ann were plaintiffs in a suit against William Cope in Spotsylvania County.²⁷² On 12 May 1749, Bennet was named as guardian for Matthew Peatross, orphan of John, in Caroline County, with Matthew Peatross and Daniel Triplett as securities.²⁷³

Bennet continued to reside in Caroline County for several more years and appeared in court on a variety of small matters. On 13 April 1744, Bennet was ordered with several others to appraise the estate of Thomas Catlett.²⁷⁴ On 8 June 1744, Joseph Niplett, a boy indentured to Bennett, was judged by the court to be twelve years old.²⁷⁵ The boy, later called Joel Niblet, was released from his service for freedom dues on 9 November 1750.²⁷⁶ He brought a suit against John Willson, a bricklayer, on unspecified charges on 10 May 1745, which the court dismissed.²⁷⁷ A second suit on 15 June was also dismissed.²⁷⁸ However, on 14 September, the court finally rendered a verdict in Bennet’s favor for £1.8.10½.²⁷⁹

Bennet was arrested in Caroline County in the fall of 1747 after being accused of breaking into the store of Thomas Johnson, gentleman. According to the court order books, he was committed to jail “after finding in his possession sundry pieces of gold lace &c.”²⁸⁰ The court found, however, that the facts “are not so sufficiently proved that he may have any further trial” and was discharged from jail after paying a security of £50 for good behavior. He was listed in the records of neighboring Essex County later that year on 18 December 1747, when he received payment from the estate of Henry Dungan by administrator Dr. John

²⁶⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1732-1740, Part Three, 1737-1740* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1967), 8, citing original page 471.

²⁶⁵ Ibid, 55, citing original page 541.

²⁶⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 23, citing original page 201.

²⁶⁷ Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, *Tidewater Virginia Families: A Social History* (Urbanna, Virginia: Virginia Lee Hutcheson Davis, 1989), 125-126.

²⁶⁸ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 43, citing original page 242.

²⁶⁹ Ibid, 71, citing original page 298.

²⁷⁰ Ibid, citing original page 329.

²⁷¹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-1746*, 11, citing original page 355.

²⁷² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Spotsylvania County, Virginia, 1742-1744* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1996), 63, citing original page 259.

²⁷³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 26, citing original page 148.

²⁷⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 55, citing original page 267.

²⁷⁵ Ibid, 63, citing original page 280.

²⁷⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1752, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 9, citing original page 239.

²⁷⁷ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-46*, page 19, citing original page 471.

²⁷⁸ Ibid, 30, citing original page 499.

²⁷⁹ Ibid, 42, citing original page 528.

²⁸⁰ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part One 1746/7-1748*, 52, citing original page 74.

Dungan.²⁸¹ The following year he prosecuted a case against Richard Taliaferro for trespass, assault, and battery, which was dismissed by the court after the two parties agreed.²⁸²

Bennet continued to appear in court in the ensuing years, though not under serious charges. On 11 July 1751, he was ordered to be overseer of a road from “Bushes Old Field” to Taliaferro’s Mill.²⁸³ However, the following day, William Fowler sued both him and Thomas Dudley for debt. Since neither appeared at court, Bowler was granted the judgment for £73.14.4 and 2,956 pounds of tobacco, both substantial sums.²⁸⁴ (Bowler won a much smaller judgment against James Beasley at the same time). Dudley confessed the judgment, but Bennet evidently lacked the money and was imprisoned, with John Miller and Francis Stern posting bail.²⁸⁵ The case continued into 14 March 1742. Both Bennet and Dudley were represented by an attorney, Obediah Merriott, but the court found that “the writing obligatory is the handwriting of the defendant.” Both men were deemed to owe the original amount assessed, but the court halved the amount to £36.16.2 and 1,478 pounds of tobacco with interest from 11 May 1750.²⁸⁶

Bennet moved to Orange County, Virginia, about 1750. On 27 May 1750, he was of Caroline County when he purchased from Benjamin Porter for £27 a tract of 380 acres “on the south side of Rappadan River being a patent granted to Benjamin Porter 29 May 1749.”²⁸⁷ On 8 April 1754, Bennet purchased from Thomas Wood Sr. a tract of 200 acres located at the Great Mountains and adjoining land belonging to Thomas Chew and James Beasley, part of a larger grant to Chew in 1739.²⁸⁸ On 25 September 1755, on the application of James Beasley, the court ordered Bennet, with John White and David Zachary or any two to obtain apparently to assess a tract of 96 acres on the Goose Pond Mountain valued at £16.1.6 that included some 55 peach trees, 10 apple trees, and four cherry trees.²⁸⁹ Bennet purchased an additional 267 acres from Col. Thomas Chew on 22 July 1756, the land being in St. Thomas Parish.²⁹⁰

After his move to Orange County, Bennet appeared less frequently in the Caroline County records. However, he appeared there a final time on 10 February 1758, (after he had written his will), when he prosecuted a case against Abraham Estes for £3.12.8½ and won the judgment.²⁹¹

Bennet made his will in Orange County on 7 January 1758.²⁹² In it he made bequests to his two step-children Matthew and Mary Peatross, each of whom were to be paid £6.3.0 when they came of age as shares of their father’s estate. Matthew was also to receive £4.10.0 per year in rent, beginning in 1756, from land in Caroline County. Bennet’s “beloved wife Ann” received all household goods, three head of cattle of her own choosing, and “one negro wench Nan.” The land he purchased from Benjamin Porter, “being 360 acres,” was to be sold at the discretion of his executors. All the remainder of the estate was to go to son Jeremiah Beasley, including money for his use from the sale of land when he comes of age. The plantation on which Bennet lived was not to be sold but was to be used by his widow Ann for her life and then go to son Jeremiah. Ann Beasley and Captain W. Bell served as joint executors, and witnesses included Honourias Powell, James Beasley, and John White. James Beasley and White proved the will in Orange County on 28 September 1758, and an estate sale was held on 23 August 1759.²⁹³ An inventory valued at £69.15.4 was presented by John Goodall, William Riddle, and William Scott on 16 November 1758.²⁹⁴

Child of Bennet Beasley, possibly by his wife Anne (___) Peatross, born in Caroline County, Virginia:

²⁸¹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Will Abstracts of Essex County, Virginia, 1748-1750* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 87, citing Essex County, Virginia Will Book 1748-1750, pages 288-289.

²⁸² Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part One 1746/7-1748*, 75, citing original page 100.

²⁸³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1752, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 28, citing original page 261.

²⁸⁴ *Ibid.*, 32, citing original page 265.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*, 50, citing original page 285.

²⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, 66, citing original page 308.

²⁸⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1743-1759)* (McLean, Virginia: Sam Sparacio, 1985), 116, citing Deed Book 11: 233-236.

²⁸⁸ *Ibid.*, 152, citing Deed Book 12: 220-222.

²⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 128, citing Deed Book 11: 65.

²⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 165, citing Deed Book 12: 345-348.

²⁹¹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1755-1758, Part Two, 1756-1758*, 74, citing original page 337.

²⁹² Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2: 277-279, cited in John Frederick Dorman, *Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2, 1774-1778* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1961), 57.

²⁹³ *Ibid.*, 59.

²⁹⁴ *Ibid.*, 57.

24. i. **JEREMIAH⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1745; m. **SARAH⁴ BEAZLEY** (*James³, ?Henry², William¹*), his apparent first cousin.

12. JAMES³ BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (*?Henry², William¹*), a possible but unproven son of Henry and almost certainly the brother of Bennet (above), was born probably in Essex County, Virginia, say 1715-20. One website gives his birth date as “10 April 1725” but without documentation.²⁹⁵ He died in Orange County, Virginia, on or about 12 August 1803, according to a family Bible record of his son James that was at one time a part of his Revolutionary War pension file.²⁹⁶ He married in Orange County about 1745 (possibly 19 May) **ANN (REYNOLDS?)**, probable daughter of Cornelius Reynolds, whose wife, Martha, was said to be Martha (Beasley).²⁹⁷ If true, and if James was the son of Henry, James and Ann would have been first cousins once-removed. Ann is said to have been born on 2 November 1725 and died in Orange County, Virginia, on 27 February 1810, from the same Revolutionary War application.²⁹⁸

As discussed previously under the entry for James³, son of William, there is a great deal of confusion online about these two men named James Beasley. Both had wives named Ann and both lived in counties named Orange, one in Virginia, the other in North Carolina. It has been shown from deed records that William’s son James lived in Orange County, North Carolina, in 1778, while this James, the subject of this sketch, remained in Orange County, Virginia, throughout the eighteenth century. He was almost certainly the brother of Bennet Beasley, whose will he witnessed in 1758. The relationship is further strengthened by the fact that his daughter Sarah married Bennet’s son Jeremiah, who would have been her first cousin. Thus, direct evidence exists linking James to Bennet. However, while some indirect evidence exists to support Bennet’s link to Henry through the Peatross family, there is no evidence linking James to Henry, and indeed, James did not give the name Henry to any of his known children.

Like Bennett, James was involved financially with John Harvie. He first appears in records of Caroline County on 15 February 1745/6, when he brought suit against the estate of John Harvie/Harvey, and the court awarded him £1.10.½ current money.²⁹⁹ In other matters, on 10 March 1749/50, John Pickett brought suit against James and received a judgment of 500 pounds of tobacco.³⁰⁰ On 12 July 1751, William Bowler received a judgment against him for £1.13.9 while also obtaining a much more substantial settlement against Bennet.³⁰¹ He offered testimony on 13 March 1752 that he has 100 pounds of tobacco in a case between William Johnston and Nicholas Willard.³⁰² The following day the sheriff served him an attachment, ordering him to deliver that tobacco to the sheriff for sale.³⁰³

James appears to have moved to neighboring Orange County, Virginia, slightly before Bennet. On 20 September 1748, he witnessed a deed between Benjamin and Elizabeth Coward and David Zachary in St. Thomas Parish.³⁰⁴ On 7 November 1748, he purchased from Thomas Chew a tract of 300 acres on Goose Pond Mountain at the fork of Swift’s Run adjoining Thomas Wood’s plantation.³⁰⁵ When Chew sold land on Swift Run to Thomas Wood on 24 January 1750, the deed described it as being above James’s land.³⁰⁶ His land was among those ordered by Zachary Taylor of Orange County on 28 June 1753.³⁰⁷

²⁹⁵ *Family Central Family History Services*, website (<http://www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=6051:8056&ref2=6051:8057>; accessed 12 June 2014).

²⁹⁶ Revolutionary War Pension Applications, James Beazley (Mary Beazley, widow’s pension), W5044. This file is now empty, and no documents are associated with it on Fold3. At one time it did contain records, which have been abstracted online, see “Southern Campaign American Revolution Pension Statements and Rosters,” website (<http://revwarapps.org/w5044.pdf>; accessed 12 June 2014).

²⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

²⁹⁸ Descendants of James Beazley, website (<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>; accessed 12 June 2014).

²⁹⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-46*, page 64, citing original page 573.

³⁰⁰ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 74, citing original page 214.

³⁰¹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 32, citing original page 265.

³⁰² *Ibid.*, 65, citing original page 305.

³⁰³ *Ibid.*, 67, citing original page 308.

³⁰⁴ Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1743-1759)*, 99, citing Deed Book 11: 94-95.

³⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 100, citing Deed Book 11: 101-104.

³⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, 115, citing Deed Book 11: 224-225.

³⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, 147, citing Deed Book 12: 162.

After Bennet Beasley's move to Orange County, the deed records show that the two had close associations. James's land was described as adjoining that of Bennet Beasley and Thomas Chew at the Great Mountains and on both sides of Swift Run when Bennet purchased land there on 8 April 1754.³⁰⁸ On 25 September 1755, upon the application of James Beasley, the court ordered Bennet Beasley, with John White and David Zachary or any two to obtain apparently to assess a tract of 96 acres on the Goose Pond Mountain valued at £16.1.6 that included some 55 peach trees, 10 apple trees, and four cherry trees.³⁰⁹ James served as a witness of Bennet's will in Orange County on 7 January 1758.³¹⁰

James continued to appear consistently in Orange County, Virginia, records until his death, sometimes purchasing land and often inventorying the estates of others. He purchased 96 acres from Charles Curtis and wife Margery on 28 August 1755, the land located at the Great Mountains and "the south east side of the Piny Mountain."³¹¹ On 23 November 1758, James made a series of land sales and a purchase. He and wife Ann sold to John Page in two separate deeds a tract of 253 acres on Goose Pond Mountain, being part of the original grant to Thomas Chew, and a second tract of 96 acres on Great Mountain purchased from Charles Curtis.³¹² They sold to Robert Cave 47 acres on Swifts Run.³¹³ Finally, they purchased 400 acres from Mathew Davis on that day.³¹⁴

James continued to have an interest in the area around Swift's Run and purchased 285 acres there from John and Elinor Goodall on 24 May 1759.³¹⁵ He purchased an additional nine acres there from James and Winnifred Coursey on 26 May 1762.³¹⁶ On 28 March 1765, he and Ann sold to William Kendal 99 acres on Roches River, "being the land Mary Cave now lives on."³¹⁷ On 28 May 1767, they sold to Alexander Ogg 100 acres "lying on one of the branches of the Buffalo River joining lands which William Smith sold to John Mallory."³¹⁸ On 28 June 1770, he purchased 115 acres on Swift Run from George Anderson Jr. and wife Mary.³¹⁹

Of his duties as an appraiser, James was among several people who inventoried the estate of Francis Williams on 26 March 1767.³²⁰ He inventoried the estate of Honorias Powell on 24 March 1767 and that of Thomas Walker on 3 March 1770.³²¹ Four years later he inventoried the estate of John Early on 20 October 1774.³²² He witnessed the wills of Charles Goodall on 17 May 1776 and of William Riddel on 22 December 1776.³²³ On 2 September 1782, James entered into an agreement with his son-in-law, John McMullans of Rockingham County, over an unnamed slave woman in the possession of James's daughter "Theodoshe" with a proviso that if the woman has children they should be distributed among McMullan's children, named as James, Patrick, Mary, John, and Catharine.³²⁴ This agreement was referenced again in a later deed book dated 17 September 1796, when James loaned the slave, now named as Pegg, to daughter Theodosia for her life and for the lives of Theodosia's five children, now named as Thomas, Elizabeth, Nancy, William, and Milly (different from the earlier deed).³²⁵ Witnesses included James Beasley Jr., Charles Beasley, and William Beasley.

³⁰⁸ Ibid, 220-222, citing Deed Book 12: 220-222.

³⁰⁹ Ibid, 128, citing Deed Book 11: 65.

³¹⁰ Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2: 277-279, cited in Dorman, *Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2, 1774-1778*, 57.

³¹¹ Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1743-1759)*, 161, citing Deed Book 12: 302-305.

³¹² Ibid, 177, citing Deed Book 12: 485-491.

³¹³ Ibid, citing Deed Book 12: 491-494.

³¹⁴ Ibid, citing Deed Book 12: 495-497.

³¹⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1759-1778)* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1986), 1, citing Deed Book 13: 9-11.

³¹⁶ Ibid, 30, citing Deed Book 13: 279-281.

³¹⁷ Ibid, 55, citing Deed Book 13: 493-494.

³¹⁸ Ibid, 72, citing Deed Book 14: 135-136.

³¹⁹ Ibid, 116, citing Deed Book 15: 224-225.

³²⁰ Dorman, *Orange County, Virginia, Will Book 2, 1774-1778*, 76.

³²¹ Ibid, 78, 84.

³²² Ibid, 102.

³²³ Ibid, 107, 109.

³²⁴ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County Virginia*, 47, citing Deed Book 18: 128-129.

³²⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Records of Orange County, Virginia, 1795-1797* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1995), 96, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 162.

Even late into his life, James continued to be an active land speculator and investor. He purchased 100 acres on Swift Run from Mathew and Ann Davis on 28 August 1783, with Edmund Beasley as a witness.³²⁶ On 22 June 1786, James and Ann sold to John Williams 280 acres on Beaver Dam Run.³²⁷ He purchased 100 acres from Charles Pearsey on 28 April 1788.³²⁸ He purchased 287 acres on the Chapple Road from William and Elizabeth Bell and Thomas and Mary Barbour on 26 January 1793.³²⁹

At the end of his life, James made a series of deeds to his married children and sons-in-law. On 17 February 1796, he and Ann sold to son-in-law Jacob Paul a parcel of just over 87 acres on Old Chapple Road, while James Beazley Jr. and wife Mary sold Paul a second parcel of just over 28 acres at the same location on the same day.³³⁰ James and Ann sold to their son James Jr. on 19 February 1796 a tract of 356 acres on Old Chapple Road.³³¹ On 4 November 1798, he sold to four grandchildren, James Beazley, John Beazley, Nancy Beazley, and Sally Williams (all children of his son John), two tracts containing 100 acres on the Octunia Line.³³² On 7 August 1799, after he had written his will, James and Ann deeded to son Charles Beazley 179 acres on Swift's Run.³³³ On 22 March 1800, James and Ann sold to son James Jr. 100 acres on Swift's Run.³³⁴

James made his will in Orange County on 12 December 1798. He named his sons James and Charles, leaving them both land. He also listed his other children, including Sarah Beazley, Ann Jones, Theodoshea Mullans, Elizabeth Watts, Mildred Neel, John Beazley (already deceased), Edmond Beazley, and William Beazley, all of whom had received their portions and "are not to receive any more of my estate." Cash was to be divided among sons James and Charles Beazley and daughter Catey Paul. His wife Ann and son James were appointed executors, with David Goodall, William Davis, Jeremiah Benson, and John Beazley as witnesses. The will was probated on 24 October 1803.³³⁵

The dates of birth of James and Ann's children come from an undocumented website, and the dates cannot be verified.³³⁶

Children of James Beazley and Ann (Reynolds), born in Orange County, Virginia:

- i. **JOHN⁴ BEAZLEY**, b. possibly 10 April 1747, according to one website,³³⁷ but this date remains unproven; d. Orange County, Virginia, before 24 October 1782.³³⁸ His estate was appraised by Belfield Cave, John Gholson, and John Snell.³³⁹ Torrence shows this John as dying testate, but no will is known.³⁴⁰ He married **MILDRED DURRETT**.³⁴¹ They had children Nancy, James, John, and Sarah. He purchased 125 acres in Orange County from John and Esther Gholson on 22 March 1781.³⁴²
- ii. **ANN BEAZLEY**, b. say 1753; d. Orange County, Virginia, before 29 April 1809; m. Orange County before 27 August 1772, **RUSSEL JONES**.³⁴³ He died testate in Franklin County, Georgia, with his will dated 21 December 1827 and probated 3 March 1828.³⁴⁴

³²⁶ Ibid, 55, citing Deed Book 18: 218-219.

³²⁷ Ibid, 83, citing Deed Book 18: 486-88.

³²⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1786-1791* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1988), 57, citing Deed Book 19: 247-249.

³²⁹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1791-1795* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1988), 45, citing Deed Book 20: 173-174.

³³⁰ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1795-1797*, 32-33, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 56-58.

³³¹ Ibid, 34, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 60-61.

³³² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1795-1797*, 93, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 396-397.

³³³ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1799-1800* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), 47-48, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 530-531.

³³⁴ Ibid, 71, citing Deed Book 1798-1803: 30-31.

³³⁵ James Beazley will (1798) in Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1778-1821)* (McLean, Virginia: Sam Sparacio, 1985), 76.

³³⁶ Family Central Family History Services, website (<http://www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=6051:8056&ref2=6051:8057>; accessed 12 June 2014).

³³⁷ Ibid.

³³⁸ Ibid.

³³⁹ Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1778-1821)*, 8.

³⁴⁰ Clayton Torrence, *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1982), 28.

³⁴¹ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>; accessed 12 June 2014.

³⁴² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County Virginia*, 33, citing Deed Book 18, pages 435-436.

³⁴³ Ibid, citing Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1759-1778)*, 146.

³⁴⁴ Thelma Faye Cain Prince, *Our Southern Ancestors* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1985), 211.

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- iii. **EDMUND BEAZLEY**, b. say 1755; d. no record. He married in Wilkes County, North Carolina, on 26 September 1787, **NANCY MOORE**.³⁴⁵ He later moved to Franklin County, Georgia, where he witnessed a transaction between Randolph Holbrooks and brother-in-law Russel Jones on 25 May 1797, and he entered the land lottery from there in 1805 but did not secure any land. His children, if any, are not known.
 - iv. **THEODOCIA BEAZLEY**, b. 16 June 1757,³⁴⁶ cited in LDS records, or May 1755, according to information calculated from her tombstone;³⁴⁷ d. Wilkes County, North Carolina, 16 June 1844, and buried in Horton Cemetery.³⁴⁸ She married in Orange County, Virginia, before 1769, **JOHN McMULLAN**. He died in Elbert County, Georgia, December 1817.³⁴⁹
 - v. **ELIZABETH BEAZLEY**, b. say 1758-59; d. according to one source, on 16 August 1833 in Orange County, though this source is not referenced.³⁵⁰ She married in Orange County on 4 June 1778, **WILLIAM WATTS**.³⁵¹
 - vi. **JAMES BEAZLEY**, b. 10 August 1760;³⁵² d. Orange County, Virginia, 18 May 1821.³⁵³ He married in Orange County on 14 January 1779, **MARY SANFORD**. She later applied for a Revolutionary War widow's pension based on her husband's military service, and the accompanying file, now largely lost except for extracts, contained a family Bible with a considerable amount of birth and death information. Mary died in Greene County, Virginia, on 16 September 1852.³⁵⁴ They had children: John (b. 6 August 1780); Sanford (b. 24 March 1783); Nancy (b. 11 May 1786); Elizabeth (b. 4 February 1789); Robert (b. 9 May 1791); James (b. 18 February 1794); Mary "Polley" (b. 10 April 1797); Lucy (b. 27 September 1799); and Durrett (b. 9 February 1802).³⁵⁵
 - vii. **SARAH BEAZLEY** b. say 1762, possibly earlier; d. Orange County, Virginia, 18 July 1854; m. **JEREMIAH BEASLEY**, her first cousin. At least one genealogist has questioned her placement here,³⁵⁶ but Jeremiah's challenge of his father-in-law's will would seem to support her identity.
 - viii. **MILDRED BEAZLEY**, b. say 1765 (one source gives the date specifically as 30 May 1765);³⁵⁷ d. Shelby County, Kentucky, 16 July 1840.³⁵⁸ She married in Orange County on 3 August 1782, **MICAJAH NEAL**.³⁵⁹
 - ix. **CHARLES BEAZLEY**, b. 16 April 1770;³⁶⁰ d. no record; he was living apparently in Shenandoah County, Virginia, 21 November 1842, when he gave a deposition about his brother James's Revolutionary War service, which was included in the widow's pension file of James's wife, Mary (Sanford).³⁶¹ He married in Orange County, Virginia, on 1 October 1792, **ELIZABETH WAIT**.³⁶² They had the following possible children, all unproven: Charles, William, Polly, Harriet, and Nancy.
 - x. **CATHERINE "CATY" BEAZLEY**, b. 13 July 1772;³⁶³ d. Orange County, Virginia, 7 May 1810, according to a family Bible in the widow's pension file of her sister-in-law, Mary (Sanford) Beazley.³⁶⁴ She married

³⁴⁵ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Wilkes County, North Carolina, 1778-1868* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 13.

³⁴⁶ LDS Ordinance Record cited in <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>: accessed 12 June 2014.

³⁴⁷ Ibid.

³⁴⁸ Samuel Sebastian, *Cemetery Records, Wilkes County, N.C.*, 1: 105.

³⁴⁹ LDS Ordinance Record cited in <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>: accessed 12 June 2014.

³⁵⁰ *Family Central Family History Services*, website (<http://www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=6051:8056&ref2=6051:8057>: accessed 12 June 2014). The other online source, which is referenced, cites no record for her death.

³⁵¹ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 195.

³⁵² James Beazley Bible in Revolutionary War Pension Applications, James Beazley (Mary Beazley, widow's pension), W5044, transcribed in (<http://revwarapps.org/w5044.pdf>: accessed 12 June 2014).

³⁵³ Ibid.

³⁵⁴ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>: accessed 12 June 2014.

³⁵⁵ James Beazley Bible in Revolutionary War Pension Applications, James Beazley (Mary Beazley, widow's pension), W5044, transcribed in (<http://revwarapps.org/w5044.pdf>: accessed 12 June 2014).

³⁵⁶ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000092.htm>: accessed 12 June 2014.

³⁵⁷ *Family Central Family History Services*, website (<http://www.familycentral.net/index/family.cfm?ref1=6051:8056&ref2=6051:8057>: accessed 12 June 2014).

³⁵⁸ Katherine Reynolds, *Some Descendants of Younger Neal of Chatham County, North Carolina* (Houston, Texas: The Author, 1965), 71.

³⁵⁹ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 131.

³⁶⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1778-1786* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1986), 36, citing a register of selected births cited originally in Orange County, Virginia, Deed Book 18: 6.

³⁶¹ Revolutionary War Pension Applications, James Beazley (Mary Beazley, widow's pension), W5044, transcribed in (<http://revwarapps.org/w5044.pdf>: accessed 12 June 2014).

³⁶² Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 15.

³⁶³ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1778-1786* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1986), 36, citing a register of selected births cited originally in Orange County, Virginia, Deed Book 18: 2.

³⁶⁴ Revolutionary War Pension Applications, James Beazley (Mary Beazley, widow's pension), W5044, transcribed in (<http://revwarapps.org/w5044.pdf>: accessed 12 June 2014).

(1) **FIELDING NEAL** in Orange County, Virginia, on 22 October 1787.³⁶⁵ She married (2) **JACOB PAUL** in Orange County on 15 August 1793.³⁶⁶

- xi. **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**, b. about 1774; d. Orange County, Virginia, intestate before 28 January 1799.³⁶⁷ It is not likely that he was the William who married in Orange County on 25 December 1797 Elizabeth “Betsy” (Powell) Riddel, widow of William Riddel.³⁶⁸ (This was likely the son of Jeremiah). Instead, he likely married **MARY (DAVIS?)**, who later married, after his death, Henry Hammer in Rockingham County. William’s daughter Catherine became the ward of Henry Hammer in 1799.

13. CHARLES³ BEAZLEY (*John², William¹*), the son of John Beasley possibly with wife Winifred, was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1730-35, though Shafer and Odell claim 1738, which is possible but probably slightly too late.³⁶⁹ He was probably the Charles “Beesley” who died in Mason County, Kentucky, after 14 February 1803, testate.³⁷⁰ He married **SUSANNAH (ALLEN?)**, whose surname is shown as “Allen” by Shafer and Odell without supporting documentation.³⁷¹ These authors, taking as their source an early DAR membership application, also assert that Charles was the son of John Beasley (whom they wrongly identify as an English immigrant) and one “Jane Cagwell,” for whom there is no contemporary documentation. Some of Shafer and Odell’s claims are contradicted by a sketch of Jephtha C. Beasley in the 1882 *History of Brown County, Ohio*, but this source also contains inaccuracies.³⁷²

This Charles Beasley is likely the same, who, with Zachary Coghill, was apprenticed to Honourous Powell and was discharged on 14 September 1750.³⁷³ (Honourous Powell would serve as a witness to the will of Bennet Beasley). Both Charles and Coghill were ordered to pay John Lindsay 100 pounds of tobacco for testifying in their behalf.³⁷⁴ On 3 November 1759, he received 100 acres in Spotsylvania County from his father John of Caroline County in a deed of gift.³⁷⁵

On 5 May 1760, Charles Beasley and wife Susanna sold to Charles Curtis for £35 100 acres in Spotsylvania, perhaps the same land given to him by his father.³⁷⁶ Witnesses included Z. Lewis, Joseph Brock, Edward Herndon, and James Redd. Charles then purchased from Benjamin and Mary Perry of Berkeley Parish 100 acres there, which Perry had purchased of Joseph Willoughby.³⁷⁷ Witnesses included Joseph Pulliam, James McDonald, Benjamin Mastin, John Arnold, and David Pulliam. On 7 July 1789, Charles and Susannah sold to John Long this same 100 acres in Berkeley Parish for £46.20.³⁷⁸ No witnesses were recorded. On 4 January 1790, Charles and Susannah sold to Charles Beasley Jr. for £50 a tract of 165 acres in Spotsylvania County, witnessed by David Partlow, John P Martin, Ann Clauton, and Eliza Lollis.³⁷⁹ Charles was still living on 26 June 1792, when, with Henry Beasley and others, he witnessed a deed between Patrick and Peggy Donally and Joshua Long to Mathew Carpenter.³⁸⁰

Charles is probably the same who moved to Mason County, Kentucky, though other than the fact that his wife was named Susannah and evidence from the *History of Brown County, Ohio* that the family hailed from Spotsylvania County, there is no conclusive proof that the two men were the same. There is no record of either a will or probate record for him in Spotsylvania County, which supports the view that he left the

³⁶⁵ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 131.

³⁶⁶ *Ibid*, 136.

³⁶⁷ <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~dbcompton/beazley/i0000103.htm>: accessed 8 October 2014.

³⁶⁸ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 16.

³⁶⁹ Shafer and Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio*, 33.

³⁷⁰ Charles Beesley will (1803), transcribed in Annie Walker Burns, *Record of Wills in Mason County, Kentucky, for the Period of Years 1788 to 1851* (Wallins Creek, Kentucky: Annie Walker Burns, 1933), 62-63.

³⁷¹ Shafer and Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio*, 33.

³⁷² *History of Brown County, Ohio* (Chicago: W. H. Beers & Co., 1882), Part 2: 52.

³⁷³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 3, citing original page 234. See also Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 445, 448.

³⁷⁴ *Ibid*, 4, citing original page 234.

³⁷⁵ Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County*. 212.

³⁷⁶ *Ibid*, 215.

³⁷⁷ *Ibid*, 413.

³⁷⁸ *Ibid*, 426.

³⁷⁹ *Ibid*, 438.

³⁸⁰ *Ibid*, 456.

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area. He was perhaps the Charles Beasley who received a grant of 1,200 acres on Glenn's Creek in Fayette County on 26 December 1782, but he was still in Virginia well after this date.³⁸¹ (A John Beasley had grants there at about the same time). He moved to Kentucky probably in the late 1790s.

If this is indeed the same Charles, he made his will in Mason County on 14 February 1803, which is transcribed as follows:

In the name of God amen, I Charles Beasley of the County of Mason and Commonwealth of Kentucky being at present in a weakly frail state of health, tho of sound mind and memory – thanks be to God for the same.

Calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men to die do make and ordain this my last will, that is to say, principally, and first of all, I give and recommend my soul to God, who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in decent Christian Burial at the discretion of my executors to be named in this will, nothing doubting but that the General resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty [power] of God and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and from vis:

First I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Susannah Beasley all my real and personal estate after my debts and funeral expenses are paid, to enjoy the same as she has done heretofore.

Secondly I give and bequeath to my son Ezekiel Beasley after his mother's death the land and all improvements whereon I now live.

Thirdly I desire that the whole moveable property negroes and all be sold at public sale by my executors at the death of my wife Susannah, and the product to be equally divided amongst my children now surviving, but in the case any of them should die between the date of this will and the death of my wife, then and in that case their share shall be divided amongst their children.

Last of all I do hereby appoint my beloved sons John, Jepthe, Benjamin, Nathaniel, and Ezekiel Beasley executors to this my last will and testament, revoking by these present all former wills by me made.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 14th day of February 1803. Charles Beasley (seal)
Signed, sealed, and delivered in the presence of George Mitchell, James Hayman, Sarah Hayman.³⁸²

The will was probated on 12 September 1803.³⁸³ According to Shafer and Odell, Susannah Beasley died in 1814.³⁸⁴ There was no separate probate record for her, but an inventory of Charles Beasley's estate occurred in Mason County on 27 September 1814 with Benjamin and Ezekiel Beasley mentioned, and a sale followed on 13 December 1814, with Ezekiel and Benjamin Beasley listed among the purchasers.³⁸⁵ An inventory of slaves had occurred two years earlier on 18 May 1812, with the slaves mentioned as being Lucie, Hannah, Orange, Sally, and Jane.³⁸⁶ Another account dated January 1816 referred to the cost of "digging Susannah Beasley's grave."³⁸⁷

Children of Charles and Susannah () Beasley, born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia:

- i. possibly **MARY BEASLEY**, b. say 1757; d. Brown County, Ohio, 1 September 1813, aged 56, and buried in the Beasley Cemetery with Jeptha and Benjamin Beasley. Her identity remains uncertain, and she was not named in her father's will.

³⁸¹ Willard Rouse Jillson, *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 76.

³⁸² Charles Beasley will (1803), transcribed in Annie Walker Burns, *Record of Wills in Mason County, Kentucky, for the Period of Years 1788 to 1851* (Wallins Creek, Kentucky: Annie Walker Burns, 1933), 62-63. The original will was recorded in Mason County, Kentucky, Will Book B: 342-344.

³⁸³ Jana Sloan Broglin, *Mason County, Kentucky, Wills and Estates Book B, 1798-1809* (Indianapolis: Heritage House, 1999), B24.

³⁸⁴ Shafer and Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio*, 33.

³⁸⁵ Jana Sloan Broglin, *Mason County, Kentucky, Wills and Estates Book C, 1809-1815* (Indianapolis: Heritage House, 1999), C63, C65.

³⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, C38.

³⁸⁷ Jana Sloan Broglin, *Mason County, Kentucky, Wills and Estates Book D, 1815-1819* (Indianapolis: Heritage House, 1999), D5.

- ii. **CHARLES BEAZLEY Jr.**, b. say 1760; d. probably before his father, since he was not named in his will. He purchased from his parents a tract of 190 acres in Spotsylvania County in 1790. Shafer and Odell claim that he was at Bryan's Station, Kentucky, in 1782, and was captured by Indians, after which he returned to Virginia. This account is possible. Some online sources contradict this story and show a birth date of 4 May 1779 and death date of 30 August 1849 in Spotsylvania, but this is erroneous, given his purchase of land in 1790.
- iii. possibly **HENRY BEAZLEY**, b. say 1760-65; he witnessed a deed with Charles, his possible father, in Spotsylvania County in 1792, though this could be another near-relative and not Charles's son. He was not named in Charles's will, indicating that he had likely died before 1803.
- iv. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1760-65; d. Adams County, Ohio, before 2 February 1821, when the state legislature approved the appointment of Horatio Bruce to act as agent of his estate.³⁸⁸ Shafer and Odell state that he was identical to Judge John Beasley of Adams County, Ohio. He married **SARAH/SALLY** (____). He was likely the John Beasley who settled with Daniel Boone at Boonesborough or Boone's Station and later served during the Revolutionary War with Charles Beasley at Bryan's Station, Kentucky, in 1782. He also fought at the Battle of Blue Licks the same year. He was reportedly captured by Indians but later escaped. He worked later as a surveyor under Nathaniel Massie, along with his brother, Nathaniel, and was an early settler in the Virginia Military District of Ohio. He has sometimes been confused with John Beezley of Champaign County, Ohio, who died testate in 1813.
- v. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1760; he is said to have been killed by Tories in South Carolina during the Revolutionary War.³⁸⁹
- vi. **JEPHTHA BEASLEY**, b. 20 August 1769;³⁹⁰ d. Brown County, Ohio, 9 April 1858;³⁹¹ m. **SARAH FISHER**.
- vii. **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, b. (calculated) 13 December 1772; d. Brown County, Ohio, 24 July 1851, aged 78 years, 7 months, 11 days, according to his tombstone in Beasley Cemetery; m. **ANNA ALLENTHORP**, who d. 7 December 1841, aged 61.
- viii. **NATHANIEL BEASLEY**, b. 19 May 1774; d. Brown County, Ohio, 27 March 1835; m. **SARAH SUTTON**. He was an early and prominent settler of Adams County before moving to Brown County, assisting his brother John as a surveyor under Nathaniel Massie. He was elected a Major General during the War of 1812.³⁹²
- ix. **EZEKIEL BEASLEY**, b. say 1776; d. Mason County, Kentucky, before 8 February 1823, when an inventory of his estate was filed.³⁹³ The inventory included listing of slaves Hannah and Orange (both of whom had belonged to his father), a slave named Jerry, and cooper's tools. He apparently married **JANE** (____).

14. EDMUND³ BEAZLEY (*John², William¹*), likely the son of John Beasley, was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1730-40, possibly later. He apparently married **ELIZABETH** (____).

On 9 October 1766, a deed of trust from John Beazley Sr. to Charles Beazley, William Beazley, and Christopher [no surname listed, possibly Beasley] was recorded at court, and it was described as being "in trust for John Powell," with Thomas Reynolds and Edmund Beazley as witnesses.³⁹⁴ A second deed of gift in a separate court entry of the same day from John Beazley (no indication of "Senior") to Edmund Beazley was also recorded with William Hill and John Powell as witnesses. These deeds together offer evidence that Edmund was likely the son of John.

Edmund lived in Caroline County in the 1770s and 1780s. On 9 May 1771, John Goodrich entered an indictment against Thomas Collins Jr., and against Charles Chewning, Micajah Stevens, Edmund Beazley, and Elizabeth Beazley, all apparently for attending unauthorized worship.³⁹⁵ There is no immediate

³⁸⁸ *Acts of the State of Ohio*, 130-134.

³⁸⁹ *History of Brown County, Ohio* (Chicago: W. H. Beers & Co., 1882), Part 2: 52.

³⁹⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁹¹ *Ibid.*

³⁹² *Ibid.*

³⁹³ Jana Sloan Broglin, *Mason County, Kentucky, Wills and Estates Book E, 1819-1823* (Indianapolis: Heritage House, 1999), E41.

³⁹⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline county, Virginia Order Book, 1765-1767, Part Three, 1766-1767* (Falmouth, Virginia: John Frederick Dorman, 1991), 20, citing original page 411.

³⁹⁵ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia*, 92, citing original page 194. See also Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 212, 436.

evidence whether the Elizabeth mentioned was Edmund's wife or mother, though perhaps it was his wife. He was possibly the Edmund Beazley listed as a soldier in Caroline County in the Revolutionary War.³⁹⁶

On 14 November 1782, Robert Beverley brought a suit against David White and Edmund Beazley. Neither of the defendants appeared, and so the court passed a judgment for the plaintiff, fining the defendants £18.6 and costs.³⁹⁷ The following day, Beverley again pressed a suit against Edmund and co-defendant Richard Waters. Neither man appeared. The two were fined 1,440 pounds of tobacco with interest.³⁹⁸ Edmund was appointed overseer of the Three Notched Road to Toombs Ordinary in the room of Charles Beazley on 8 September 1785.³⁹⁹ On 15 June 1787, Edmund recovered a debt of £2 against William Parr, while a second suit the same day against John Roy was delayed.⁴⁰⁰ Edmund was a plaintiff against William Clift on 12 September 1788 on unspecified charges, but the case was dismissed.⁴⁰¹

15. REUBEN³ BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (*John², William¹*), the son of John Beasley and first wife Winifred (___), was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1735-40. While his date and place of death have not been proven, he may have been the Reuben Beesley who died in Surry County, North Carolina, before November 1781, when his name appears in a single court record.⁴⁰² The name of his wife is unknown.

Reuben witnessed the will of Charles Beasley in 1766 and testified about in on its presentment at court on 9 January 1766, a fact that would make him unlikely to be Charles's son.⁴⁰³ Later he was listed as a soldier in the Revolutionary War in Caroline County, but the precise details of his service are unknown.⁴⁰⁴

It appears likely that Reuben left Virginia during the Revolution and moved to Surry County, together with other members of his extended family. He left no known will or probate record. On 14 November 1781, the Surry County court recorded that William and Martha Beesley, orphans of Reuben, chose Richard Goode as their guardian.⁴⁰⁵ There is no indication of the ages of the children. William was perhaps the same who appeared later in land records in Surry and Stokes County.

Children of Reuben Beasley and unknown wife, born possibly in Caroline County, Virginia:

- i. **WILLIAM⁴ BEESLEY/BEAZLEY**, b. say 1765-68. On 18 December 1786, William witnessed a deed from John Martin to Richard Goode for 100 acres on both sides of Lick Creek of the Townfork in Surry County, and the association links him to his guardian.⁴⁰⁶ On 20 October 1788, he witnessed the sale by Barnabas and Michael Fare to John Fare of a tract on Blews Creek in Surry County.⁴⁰⁷ In 1789, Stokes County was created from Surry, and William appears to have resided in the new county. He maintained close ties to the Fare/Fair family and resided on Blews or Belews Creek. He purchased 200 acres on what was described as "Beloose Creek" from Stephen Hinlin of Burke County on 27 January 1789.⁴⁰⁸ Two years later on 1 November 1791, he purchased from John Low 38 acres on the north fork of what was termed "Belose Creek," with the deed witnessed by A. Robinson and Robert Sapp.⁴⁰⁹ On 2 December 1791, he purchased from Barnabas and Michael Fare an additional 62 acres there.⁴¹⁰ William's land transactions in the area continued. On 2 March 1793, he purchased from John Freeman 100 acres on "Belews" Creek, with the deed witnessed by A.

³⁹⁶ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 373.

³⁹⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 84, citing original page 202.

³⁹⁸ *Ibid*, 94, citing original page 222.

³⁹⁹ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1787*, 82, citing original page 96.

⁴⁰⁰ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787 (2)*, 38-39, citing original pages 124-125.

⁴⁰¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1788* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1999), 91-92, citing original page 462.

⁴⁰² Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina Court Minute Abstracts (1761-1785), Volume I* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n.d.), 33; citing Surry County Court Minutes volume 1.

⁴⁰³ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1990), 59, citing original page 285.

⁴⁰⁴ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 373.

⁴⁰⁵ Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina Court Minute Abstracts (1761-1785), Volume I*, 33.

⁴⁰⁶ Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Book D: 143, in Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book D (1779-1790)*, 19.

⁴⁰⁷ *Ibid*, D: 165-166.

⁴⁰⁸ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 1: 45; abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, Vol. 1 (1787-1793)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n.d.), 6.

⁴⁰⁹ *Ibid*, Deed Book 1: 142-143; abstracted in *ibid*, 19.

⁴¹⁰ *Ibid*, 1: 289-90; abstracted in *ibid*, 34.

Robinson and John Free.⁴¹¹ That same month he sold to John Quillin 180 acres on “Beloose Creek” at Barney Fare’s line.⁴¹² Later that year, when John Fair sold land to John Watson in the same area, the land adjoined that of William and of Daniel Evans.⁴¹³ William deeded land to Seth Alday “adjoining his old line” and the property of Jesse Walker on 26 October 1793.⁴¹⁴ Witnesses included Anthony Robinson and David Dalton. On 14 January 1794, William sold to Charles Davis 120 acres in Stokes County on the north fork of “Belows” Creek.⁴¹⁵ The deed was witnessed by John Freeman and Martha Beasley. Martha’s presence strengthens the view that this William is identical to the one named in the Surry County orphan’s record.

- ii. **MARTHA BEESLEY**, b. say 1768-70; she was apparently unmarried as of January 1794, when she witnessed a deed of her brother, above.

16. BENJAMIN³ BEASLEY (*John², William¹*), the probable son of John Beasley and his second wife Elizabeth (___), was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1750.

On 11 May 1780, Elizabeth Beasley, presumably but not certainly the widow of John, acknowledged in Caroline County two deeds of gift respectively to Benjamin Beasley and Augustine Beasley, both of whom were likely her sons.⁴¹⁶ On 10 November 1785, the Caroline County court reported that a new road would begin at “the lower end of Benjamin Beasley’s Plantation leading towards the Courthouse.”⁴¹⁷ On 9 September 1785, James Bowdry was ordered to pay Benjamin Beasley 75 pounds of tobacco for three days attendance at court.⁴¹⁸ On 14 September 1786, Robert Beverley won a case for debt against Benjamin for 2,972 pounds of tobacco, which was halved with interest.⁴¹⁹

There is no record of what became of him.

17. AUGUSTINE³ BEASLEY (*John², William¹*), the probable son of John Beasley and second wife Elizabeth (___), was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1750. Perhaps, though not certainly, he was the Augustine who died in Fayette County, Kentucky, before April 1808, intestate.⁴²⁰

On 11 May 1780, Augustine received one of two deeds of gift (along with Benjamin) from Elizabeth Beasley, presumably John’s widow, for land in Caroline County.⁴²¹ He was associated with Orange County at about the same time. On 27 April 1780, he was of Caroline County when he purchased 116 acres on Terry’s Run in Orange County from Laurence Egbert.⁴²² His land in Orange County was mentioned as being located on the Lawyer’s Old Road adjoining Benjamin Haley and Samuel Grady in a deed between Thomas and Frances Walker and Robert Young dated 22 April 1793.⁴²³ Augustine apparently later sold fifteen acres of land on Wesel Run in Orange County to Robert Young and Benjamin Hyde, since the deed was referenced in a later one dated 25 January 1797, also between Young and Hyde.⁴²⁴ His land was

⁴¹¹ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 23; abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1797)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n. d.), 33.

⁴¹² Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 1: 372, abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, Vol. 1 (1787-1793)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n. d.), 43.

⁴¹³ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 23; abstracted in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1797)*, 33.

⁴¹⁴ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 44; abstracted in *ibid*, 7.

⁴¹⁵ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 177-178; abstracted in *ibid*, 33.

⁴¹⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1778-1781* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 81, citing original page 229.

⁴¹⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1786* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1995), 20, citing original page 163.

⁴¹⁸ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1787*, 99, citing original page 127.

⁴¹⁹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1786-1787* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), 44, citing original page 362.

⁴²⁰ Fayette County, Kentucky, Book A.

⁴²¹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1778-1781* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 81, citing original page 229.

⁴²² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1778-1786* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1986), 24, citing Deed Book 17: 318-319.

⁴²³ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1791-1795*, 52, citing Deed Book 20: 194-195.

⁴²⁴ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1795-1797*, 79, citing Deed Book 1795-1800: 133-136.

referenced again on 26 April 1802 in a deed between James and Hope Inskeep and Benjamin Lancaster.⁴²⁵ On 14 August 1804, he served as administrator of the estate of Henry Webster, and his name was entered beside a deed record between Benjamin Adams and Henry Webster on 23 April 1778.⁴²⁶

Children of Augustine Beasley and unknown wife, born either in Caroline or Orange County, Virginia:

- i. **JOHN⁴ BEAZLEY**, b. say 1770; m. **SALLY EAVES**, daughter of William Eaves, 8 June 1791, in Orange County, Virginia.⁴²⁷
- ii. **SARAH BEAZLEY**, b. say 1772; m. **BLED SOE WRIGHT** in Orange County, Virginia, on 26 December 1791.⁴²⁸
- iii. **VALENTIN(E) BEAZLEY**, b. say 1776; d. Greene County, Virginia, 31 August 1845; married in Orange County, Virginia, on 30 June 1803, **FRANCES "FRANKY" POWELL**.⁴²⁹ Some of their descendants are included in an article published in *Greene County Magazine*.⁴³⁰ His children (all born in Orange County) included: James (b. about 1806); Elizabeth (b. about 1811); Nancy (b. about 1814); and Louisa J.
- iv. **BETSY BEAZLEY**, b. say 1780; m. Capt. **JOSEPH THOMAS** in Orange County, Virginia, on 25 February 1802.⁴³¹

18. CHARLES³ BEASLEY Jr. (*Charles², William¹*), the son of Charles Beasley, was born in either Essex or Caroline County, Virginia, say 1725. He was not likely the Charles Beasley who died in Caroline County, Virginia, before 9 April 1772, with Nancy Beasley, his wife, as administrator, this perhaps being the son of Benjamin.⁴³² He was more likely the Charles who died there in 1781, with Thomas and Benjamin Beasley as joint executors.⁴³³ He is styled "Charles Beasley Jun." in many records before 1766 in Caroline County, but afterwards following his father's death he appears only as Charles Beasley or Beasley.

Charles first appears in the records of Caroline County on 10 October 1740, when two slaves were appraised: Harr[y], a Negro boy belonging to Charles Beasley Sr., who was judged to be nine years old, while another unnamed male slave belonging to Charles Beasley Jr., who was judged to be ten.⁴³⁴

Charles Jr. appears again on 13 May 1743, when Henry Powell brought a suit against him for trespass, assault and battery.⁴³⁵ The jury found in Powell's favor. On 12 April 1745, Charles Beasley acknowledged his deed of gift to his son Charles, which is proof of their relationship.⁴³⁶ On 9 May 1746, he was appointed a constable, an indication of his rising influence in the parish.⁴³⁷ Constables were dangerous positions at that time, having to enforce unpopular laws involving the church or tobacco, and there were a number of fatalities.⁴³⁸ Campbell, in his history, *Colonial Caroline*, lists Charles as serving in 1740 and 1742. Few constables served more than three years.⁴³⁹

Charles was close to the family of his uncle, John Beasley, and on 10 March 1748/9, the court acknowledged his purchase of land from William and Ann Beasley, though the deed itself does not survive.⁴⁴⁰ (They were likely his brother and sister-in-law). He continued to serve as constable, and on 14 March 1748/9, the court appointed Ambrose Blackburn to succeed him.⁴⁴¹ On 14 July 1749, a slave boy

⁴²⁵ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1800-1802* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1997), 100, citing Deed Book 1798-1803: 351-353.

⁴²⁶ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1778-1786*, 2, citing Deed Book 17: 17-18.

⁴²⁷ Therese A. Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia, 1757-1880* (Bishop, Georgia: Iberian Publishing co., 2002), 15.

⁴²⁸ *Ibid.*, 209.

⁴²⁹ *Ibid.*, 16.

⁴³⁰ "Descendants of Valentine Beasley," *Greene County Magazine*, volume 9 (2006-7): 24-25.

⁴³¹ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 181.

⁴³² Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 484.

⁴³³ *Ibid.*, 487.

⁴³⁴ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline county, Virginia, Order Book 1740-1746, Part One, 1740-1742/3* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1971), 2, citing original page 8.

⁴³⁵ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1740-1746, Part Two, 1742/3-1744*, 13, citing original page 181.

⁴³⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1740-1746, Part Three, 1744-46*, page 15, citing original page 464.

⁴³⁷ *Ibid.*, 69, citing original page 583.

⁴³⁸ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 361, 363.

⁴³⁹ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴⁰ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 11, citing original page 131.

⁴⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 23, citing original page 146.

named Sam under his ownership was judged to be nine years old.⁴⁴² On 11 May 1750, Charles was ordered to serve as overseer of a road from Charles Beasley's to James Lindsey's, with Sherwood James, William Powell, James Willard, James Carr, John Beazley Sr. and Jr., Robert and John Hunly, and Henry Webster's people assisting.⁴⁴³

Charles posted bond with George Brasfield when Edward Brasfield was appointed administrator of the estate of William Bullard on 11 January 1750/1.⁴⁴⁴ He was taxed in Caroline County at a levy of 150 [pounds of tobacco?] on 15 November 1751.⁴⁴⁵ On 8 February 1759, he was ordered with Abraham Martin and Benjamin Whitehead to appraise the estate of John Hunley.⁴⁴⁶

He continued to build roads through the 1760s, though after his father's death he ceased to be styled "Junior" in the records. On 13 March 1766, and Charles Jr., he and Samuel Major "and their gangs" were ordered to assist William Hoard in constructing a bridge over Tuckahoe Swamp.⁴⁴⁷ On 10 March 1769, he was ordered with William Daniel, John Sneed, and Benjamin Sneed to view a road to be turned by George Alsop.⁴⁴⁸

During the 1770s, Charles was frequently litigious, bringing suits for debt as well as being asked to appraise estates. On 9 March 1770, William Hord Jr. brought a case against him on unspecified charges and was awarded 45 shillings by the court.⁴⁴⁹ The original record book is badly faded. Charles was probably the same who with William "Hoard," Israel Sneed, and John Sneed, was ordered to appraise the estate of John Beazley on 10 January 1771, this likely being his uncle.⁴⁵⁰ On 9 May 1771, he was ordered with Thomas Croutcher, Richard Ship, and William "Heard" to appraise the estate of Thomas Daniel.⁴⁵¹ Later that year on 14 September he sued William Reynolds for a debt, which was continued to a later session.⁴⁵² On 14 November he was ordered with Thomas Ship, William Marshall, and William Hord to appraise the estate of Daniel Johnston.⁴⁵³ On 16 November he prevailed in his suit against Reynolds but was awarded only one shilling and three pence in addition to fifteen pounds with interest.⁴⁵⁴ Charles is likely the one in whose room James Taylor was appointed overseer of a road on 9 January 1772.⁴⁵⁵ On 9 April 1772, he sued William Reynolds and Richard Johnston for £38.7.6. The defendants did not appear but were allowed to be discharged with the payment of only £19.3.11.⁴⁵⁶

Although he was becoming more advanced in age, Charles was probably the Charles Beazley charged with assault and battery by Griffin Carter on 8 July 1773.⁴⁵⁷ Ann Beazley, possibly his sister-in-law, gave a deposition in the case. On 9 September 1773, Charles's slave, Peter, was judged to be fourteen years old.⁴⁵⁸ The case by Griffin Carter was brought up again on 11 July 1782, nearly a decade after first being introduced, but the court abated the suit because of the defendant's death.⁴⁵⁹

⁴⁴² Ibid, 34, citing original page 159.

⁴⁴³ Ibid, 78, citing original page 218.

⁴⁴⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 12, citing original page 243.

⁴⁴⁵ Ibid, 46, citing original page 280.

⁴⁴⁶ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part One, 1759-1760* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1982), 2, citing original page 3.

⁴⁴⁷ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766*, 64, citing original page 293.

⁴⁴⁸ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline county, Virginia, Order Book, 1767-1770, Part Two, 1768-1770* (Falmouth, Virginia: John Frederick Dorman, 1992), 28, citing original page 312.

⁴⁴⁹ Ibid, 107, citing original page 490.

⁴⁵⁰ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia*, 59, citing original page 115.

⁴⁵¹ Ibid, 91, citing original page 192.

⁴⁵² Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts from Caroline County, Virginia, 1771-1772* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1992), 53, citing original page 335.

⁴⁵³ Ibid, 65, citing original page 363.

⁴⁵⁴ Ibid, 83, citing original page 403.

⁴⁵⁵ Ibid, 88, citing original page 415.

⁴⁵⁶ Ibid, 97-98, citing original page 436.

⁴⁵⁷ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts from Caroline County, Virginia, 1773* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 81, citing original page 317.

⁴⁵⁸ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts from Caroline County, Virginia, 1773-1774*, 7, citing original page 361.

⁴⁵⁹ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1781-1783*, 27, citing original page 67.

Charles died testate in Caroline County before April 1781, when his will was proved by Thomas and Benjamin Beazley, who were granted probate, possibly as joint executors. John Blanton, Robert Wright, Israel Sneed, and Thomas Garnett were appointed as appraisers. The will itself does not survive.

Children of Charles Beazley, unproven:

- i. probably **THOMAS BEAZLEY**
- ii. probably **BENJAMIN BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750-60.
- iii. possibly **EPHRAIM BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750-60.
- iv. possibly **CHARLES BEAZLEY**, b. before 1755; possibly the same who was of Stokes County, North Carolina. See addendum at the end of this chapter.

19. WILLIAM³ BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (?Charles², William¹), probably the son of Charles Beasley, was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1725-30, and died there before 12 February 1778, testate.⁴⁶⁰ He married before 10 March 1748/9, **ANN (HURT?)**, possible daughter of William Hurt (d. 1796).⁴⁶¹

William Beasley first appears in the Caroline County records on 13 November 1747, when William Daniel and wife Eliza acknowledged their deed indented to William.⁴⁶² William is placed under Charles, even though John Beasley, his likely uncle, also had dealings with the Daniel family and appraised an estate with him.⁴⁶³ On 10 March 1748/9, William and wife Ann acknowledged their deed indented to Charles Beasley Jr., who was probably his brother.⁴⁶⁴ Perhaps it was this Ann, and not the wife of Bennet, who received 200 pounds of tobacco when the court ordered John Smith to pay her for eight days' attendance at court.⁴⁶⁵ On 10 June 1762, William was listed along with Oliver Towles, James Lindsay, and Richard Ship as an appraiser of the estate of John Beasley, which serves as indirect proof that he was not John's son.⁴⁶⁶ In 1766, he was possibly the William Beazley who testified in court as a witness to the will of Charles Beazley, though this may have been his cousin.⁴⁶⁷ On 14 June 1764, William and Ann again acknowledged a deed to Charles Beasley Jr., who was probably William's brother.⁴⁶⁸

William continued to appear in a variety of small legal matters into the 1770s. On 11 August 1768, he was probably the William who was ordered to be overseer of a road in the room of Robert Garrett.⁴⁶⁹ He was also probably the William Beazley listed with Thomas Reynolds, Robert Wright, and Oliver Segar ordered to appraise the estate of Philip Tinsley on 13 October 1774, and the same who was appointed overseer of a road in the room of Thomas Crutcher on 12 May 1774.⁴⁷⁰ On 9 March 1775, William Tinsley and wife Mary acknowledged their deed to William Beazley.⁴⁷¹ William's will was proved at court on 12 February 1778 with John (Dishma?), and John (faded) offering proof as witnesses, and of which Joseph Beazley was an executor.⁴⁷² The will itself does not survive. Israel Sneed, William Daniel, John Blanton, and Richard Blanton were ordered to appraise the estate.⁴⁷³

Children of William and Ann (Hurt?) Beasley, born in Caroline County, Virginia:

⁴⁶⁰ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 486.

⁴⁶¹ Wright, *Caroline County, Virginia Marriage References and Family Relationships, 1728-1800*, 9.

⁴⁶² Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1746-1754, Part One, 1746/7-1748*, 53, citing original page 75.

⁴⁶³ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 14, citing original page 135.

⁴⁶⁴ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Two, 1748-1750*, 11, citing original page 131.

⁴⁶⁵ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1746-1754, Part Three, 1750-1752*, 29, citing original page 263.

⁴⁶⁶ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1759-1763, Part Two, 1760-1762*, 78, citing original page 313.

⁴⁶⁷ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766*, 60, citing original page 286; see also Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 479.

⁴⁶⁸ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1764 (Part 1)* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1989), 51, citing original page 162.

⁴⁶⁹ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1767-1770, Part One, 1767-1768* (Falmouth, Virginia: John Frederick Dorman, 1992), 90, citing original page 211.

⁴⁷⁰ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1774-1778* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1994), 35, citing original page 572, and 27, citing original page 558.

⁴⁷¹ *Ibid.*, 45, citing original page 587.

⁴⁷² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1774-1778*, 82, citing original page 51.

⁴⁷³ *Ibid.*

- i. **JOSEPH BEAZLEY**, b. say 1745.
 - ii. **MARTHA BEAZLEY**, b. about 1748; d. Franklin County, Kentucky, 10 January 1843, aged 95.⁴⁷⁴ She married **HENRY CRUTCHER**, who died testate in Franklin County, Kentucky, with his will dated 12 September 1806 and probated March 1807.⁴⁷⁵ The will mentions wife Martha and children Joanna Sacra, Isaac, Elizabeth Pemberton, Catherine Cook, Henry, and Reuben. The will specified, "whereas by the death of Mrs. Ann Beazley of Caroline County, Virginia, and the will of her deceased husband, Wm Beazley" he (Henry Crutcher) was "entitled by marriage" to property to be divided between sons Henry and Reuben. Executors were sons-in-law William Cook and James Sacra, and Jesse Brown and Edmund Beasley. "Though living to this ripe age, Martha Beazley Crutcher retained the faculties of her mind clear and vigorous to the last, In her old age she would entertain her children of the third generation with vivid descriptions of the scenes of her Virginia home during the thrilling days of the Revolution, of which she was probably the last surviving witness in this portion of the county."⁴⁷⁶
 - iii. possibly **EDMUND BEASLEY**, b. say 1750; he was co-executor of Henry Crutcher's will in Franklin County, Kentucky in 1806.
 - iv. possibly **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, b. say 1750; he could be the Benjamin "Beasely" who died testate in Woodford County, Kentucky, with his will dated 16 June 1796. There is no proof. The will named wife Caty and children Sarah, Tabitha, Thomas, Phoebe, Elizabeth, and Charles with the executor being Edmund Beasely.⁴⁷⁷ Perhaps this Edmund is the same one who was co-executor of Henry Crutcher.
- [possibly others]

20. CORNELIUS³ BEAZLEY (?Charles², William¹), probably a son of Charles Beasley, was born in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1730. He died there before 1803. His relationship is unproven but is suggested by the association of Cornelius Reynolds as executor of Charles's estate, indicating a close relationship.

Cornelius first appears in the Caroline County records on 14 June 1764, when he was ordered to pay Benjamin Reynolds 175 pounds of tobacco for seven days' attendance at court in a suit against one McCoy.⁴⁷⁸ On 14 November 1765, he was ordered to be overseer of a road and to have several quarter hands, including those of Charles Beazley and Ann Beazley. This association offers possible indirect proof of his connection to the elder Charles, though no relationship was stated in this record.⁴⁷⁹ On 13 June 1771, he was ordered to pay Robert Johnston 250 pounds of "Nett Tobacco" for attending court on his behalf in a case against Christopher Singleton.⁴⁸⁰ The Singleton case was entered into the court records the following 12 August, when Cornelius, with Thomas White, sued Singleton for unspecified damages for £22 and won the case.⁴⁸¹ In November 1777, the Caroline County court ordered that "the male laboring Tithes of William Gray in this County do work on the Road whereof Cornelius Beazley is Overseer."⁴⁸² [Ephraim Beazley, probably the same who was the son of Cornelius, was named in a bond proved at court in Caroline County on 13 August 1778, together with Thomas Pickett, John Hart, and James Bradley and issued to Elizabeth Reynolds and proved on oaths from Thomas Beazley and John Carter.⁴⁸³

Cornelius served as a security for John Melear, and both were named as defendants by Robert Wright in a suit dated 11 June 1784.⁴⁸⁴ This case continued into 9 September 1785, but Cornelius, with John Melear, made no appearance, and the court awarded Wright 7,762 pounds of tobacco, but as was usual in these

⁴⁷⁴ *Genealogies of Kentucky Families from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1981), 752.

⁴⁷⁵ Henry Crutcher will (1806) in Mrs. William Breckinridge Ardery, *Kentucky Court and Other Records from Original Court Entries* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972), 2: 41.

⁴⁷⁶ *Genealogies of Kentucky Families from the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society*, 753.

⁴⁷⁷ Woodford County, Kentucky, Will Book A

⁴⁷⁸ John Frederick Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1764-1765, Part One* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1989), 51, citing original page 162a.

⁴⁷⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book 1765-1767, Part Two, 1765-1766*, 59, citing original page 285.

⁴⁸⁰ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1771-1772*, 3-4, citing original page 214.

⁴⁸¹ *Ibid*, 34, citing original page 289.

⁴⁸² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline county, Virginia, 1774-1778*, 76, citing original page 36.

⁴⁸³ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1774-1778*, 4, citing original page 112.

⁴⁸⁴ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1783-1784*, 59.

cases, the judges halved that amount with interest until paid.⁴⁸⁵ Later, on 9 November 1787, Cornelius sued Melear and recovered as judgment of 4,519 pounds of tobacco.⁴⁸⁶

Cornelius died testate in Caroline County, though his will does not survive Benjamin Vawter was named as executor. On 2 September 1806, Cornelius Beazley, his son, entered a chancery suit in Carolina County against Benjamin Vawter and naming his siblings: Ann, Mildred, William, Edmund, Charles, Christopher, Theodorick, and Ephraim.⁴⁸⁷ From this record one is able to reconstruct his children.

Children of Cornelius Beazley with an unknown wife, born in Caroline County, Virginia (order uncertain):

- i. **CHARLES BEAZLEY**, b. say 1755.
- ii. **CORNELIUS BEAZLEY**, b ca. 1757 (aged 66 when he applied for a Revolutionary War pension on 4 August 1824 in Frederick County, Virginia); d. after 7 March 1837, Pike County, Missouri. There were two different men named Cornelius Beazley in the Revolutionary War in Virginia. This one, from Caroline County, enlisted as a soldier in 1777 and served under Col. Moses Hazen in the Continental Army. After being discharged at Morristown, New Jersey, on 18 March 1780, he served in several small tours of duty and fought at the Battle of Brandywine. (The other Cornelius Beazley, not related, was a native of Charlotte County, Virginia, and died in Marengo County, Alabama, after 5 February 1840; he joined several brothers, including Thomas and William in the Army, and served in Captain William Morton's Company.)⁴⁸⁸
- iii. **ANN BEAZLEY**
- iv. **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**
- v. **EPHRAIM BEAZLEY**, b. 1 February 1762, and was aged 70 and living in South Farnham Parish, Essex County, Virginia. He served under Col. Porterfield and Major Charles Magill, enlisting in October 1779 from Caroline County. He was at the Battle of Camden but later became ill and was hospitalized, recovering his health after the war. He moved to Culpeper County in 1791 and Essex County in 1794. He died after 9 March 1833.⁴⁸⁹
- vi. **MILDRED BEAZLEY**
- vii. **CHRISTOPHER BEAZLEY**
- viii. **THEODORICK BEAZLEY**
- ix. **EDMUND BEAZLEY**

21. EPHRAIM^{3?} BEAZLEY (?Charles², William¹), of unknown parentage but possibly a son of Charles Beasley/Beazley, was born say 1735-40. He died in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, before 2 July 1805, testate.⁴⁹⁰ He married **WINNE/WINIFRED** (___). Some sources identify her maiden name as Pleasants.

Ephraim's placement with Charles stems from the fact that Cornelius³ gave a son this uncommon name, while Ephraim had a grandson named Cornelius. Ephraim also had a son named Charles. There are no documents that would directly tie Ephraim to Cornelius or to Charles², however, so his placement must remain speculative. Beyond the common names, there is no certain evidence that he belongs to the Beazley family of Essex County.

Ephraim seems to have moved early to Spotsylvania County and was first named in a deed of 6 April 1761, when he purchased from Joseph Hewell and wife Frances 150 acres in Spotsylvania County.⁴⁹¹ On 15 July 1762, Ephraim and wife Winne sold to John Partlow of Caroline County 150 acres in Spotsylvania.⁴⁹² On 7 November 1763, he was St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, when he purchased from John Waggener and wife Rachel 122 acres there.⁴⁹³

⁴⁸⁵ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1787*, 94, citing original page 119.

⁴⁸⁶ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1787-1788* (McLean, Virginia: Antient Press, 1999), 25, citing original page 261.

⁴⁸⁷ Caroline County, Virginia, Chancery Suit, 2 September 1806, Box 1, A-Bo.

⁴⁸⁸ John Frederick Dorman, *Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications* (Washington, D.C.: John Frederick Dorman, 1961), 6: 1-2; citing Pension No. S34648.

⁴⁸⁹ Ibid, 3-4, citing Pension no. S6597.

⁴⁹⁰ Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Will Book 6: 96.

⁴⁹¹ Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume I, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800*, 219.

⁴⁹² Ibid, 227.

⁴⁹³ Ibid, 232.

Perhaps he was the same Ephraim who appears again on 20 February 1765 in the will of Beverly Stanard, when Stanard left to his son Larkin “my tract of land in this county called Standford, whereon Ephraim Beezley, my Overseer, now lives.”⁴⁹⁴ Later deeds link this Ephraim both to the family of James Mitcham and to Larkin Standard, but there is no certainty that all of the records pertain to the same person.

On 20 March 1767, Ephraim’s land was listed as adjoining a tract of 309 acres sold by John and Robert Farish to Ambrose Carlton of Caroline County.⁴⁹⁵ He purchased from James Mitcham three and three-quarter acres in Spotsylvania on 29 March 1774.⁴⁹⁶ The same year on 17 November he purchased 28 acres from John and Elizabeth McCalley.⁴⁹⁷ Possibly he was the Ephraim listed as a soldier in the Revolutionary War, serving from Caroline County, although this is by no means certain and could be a different man.⁴⁹⁸ Larkin Stanard and wife Elizabeth sold Ephraim, evidently the same one as the overseer in the 1765 will, 30 acres in Berkeley Parish on 8 September 1780.⁴⁹⁹ Had Ephraim moved from St. George to Berkeley Parish, or were these two different men? On 10 February 1786, John Dawson sold Ephraim 50 acres in Berkeley Parish, witnessed by James Mitcham, Richard Coleman, Ephraim Beezley (possibly his son), and Micajah Poole.⁵⁰⁰ On 14 August 1786, he witnessed a deed between Larkin Stanard and James Mitcham.⁵⁰¹ On 1 February 1791, Mitcham sold Ephraim 40 acres he had purchased from Larkin Stanard.⁵⁰² On 23 May 1797, Ephraim deeded 148 acres to William Beazley.⁵⁰³ In the Direct Tax of 1798, he is shown to be the owner of eight slaves in Berkeley Parish on 1 October 1798. Also listed there were William and Ephraim Jr., each with two slaves.

Ephraim’s will is dated 7 December 1798.⁵⁰⁴ He was described as being of Berkeley Parish. It was proved on 2 July 1805. The will names the following children: William, Ephraim, Sarah, Nancy, Ann/Anny, Charles, Elizabeth, Mary, and Henry.

On 20 July 1805, Harry Beazley deeded property to his siblings, including William Beazley and wife Elizabeth, Ephraim Beazley and wife Dorothy, Mathew Carpenter and wife Sarah, Harry Duerson and wife Nancy, William Oliver and wife Anny, as well as Charles Beazley, Elizabeth Beazley, and Mary Beazley. The deed claimed that during their lifetime, Ephraim Beazley, their father, deeded to Harry a tract of land for £94, land on which Harry then resided. Ephraim did not have power of attorney at the time to convey the property to him. The remaining heirs, recognizing their father’s intent, deeded the land to Harry in fee simple.⁵⁰⁵

Both of Ephraim’s sons, William and Ephraim Jr., married daughters of James and Lucy Mitcham, and James Mitcham is associated with the elder Ephraim in several deeds. Lucy Mitcham’s will dated 16 January 1797 mentions sons-in-law William Beazley and Richard Estes. Legatees include daughter Mary Bates and daughters Caty Estes, Elizabeth Beazley, Mary Bates, and “my last daughter Dorothy Beazley as provided for by the will of her late father James Mitcham.”⁵⁰⁶

Children of Ephraim Beazley, apparently with wife Winne, born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia:

- i. **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**, m. **ELIZABETH MITCHAM**.
- ii. **EPHRAIM BEAZLEY**, m. **DOROTHY MITCHAM**.
- iii. **SARAH BEAZLEY**, m. **MATHEW CARPENTER**.
- iv. **NANCY BEAZLEY**, m. **HENRY/HARRY DUERSON**.
- v. **ANN/ANNY BEAZLEY**, m. **WILLIAM OLIVER**.
- vi. **CHARLES BEAZLEY**

⁴⁹⁴ Beverly Stanard will (1765) in *ibid*, 22, citing Will Book D, page 207.

⁴⁹⁵ *Ibid*, 254.

⁴⁹⁶ *Ibid*, 310.

⁴⁹⁷ *Ibid*, 317.

⁴⁹⁸ Campbell, *Colonial Caroline*, 373.

⁴⁹⁹ Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800*, 355.

⁵⁰⁰ *Ibid*, 395.

⁵⁰¹ *Ibid*, 403.

⁵⁰² *Ibid*, 439.

⁵⁰³ *Ibid*, 499.

⁵⁰⁴ Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Will Book G: 96-99.

⁵⁰⁵ Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Deed Book Q: 509.

⁵⁰⁶ Lucy Mitcham will (1797), in Crozier, *Virginia County Records, Volume 1, Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800*, 53.

- vii. **ELIZABETH BEAZLEY**
- viii. **MARY BEAZLEY**
- ix. **HENRY/HARRY BEAZLEY**

[Larkin Beazley, who married Dolly Grimes in Caroline County, Virginia, on 11 September 1804, is probably a grandson of Ephraim, based on the fact that he was likely named for Larkin Stanard (Larkin being a highly unusual name). However, the identity of his father is not known.]

22. AMBROSE⁴ BEASLEY alias PITTS, (*Richard³, William²⁻¹*), the son of Richard Beasley and Ann Pitts, was born before November 1728, out-of-wedlock but was later legitimized. He died before 29 August 1794 in Nottoway County, Virginia. According to Sudie Rucker Wood, the name of Ambrose's wife was **SARAH RYLAND**, but no other information is given about her.⁵⁰⁷ He appears in records both under Beasley and Pitts.

He served as executor of his father's will in 1770. His children are identified from his father's will.

Children of Ambrose Beasley and Sarah (Ryland), born in Essex or Amelia County, Virginia:

- i. **RICHARD BEASLEY II** (called "Richard Beasley Jr." in his grandfather's will), b. say 1748; d. Wilkes County, Georgia, 17 May 1810, m. **JANE "JINSEY" YARBROUGH**. He was in Wilkes County before 1807, when he gave to his daughter Martha Beasley of Nottoway County, Virginia, power of attorney to act on his behalf there.⁵⁰⁸
- ii. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. say 1750; d. 4 December 1802; m. **MARY** (____).
- iii. **ANN BEASLEY**, b. say 1752; m. **ARCHIBALD YARBROUGH**.

23. RICHARD⁴ BEASLEY (*John³, Benjamin², William¹*), the son of John Beasley and wife Mary (____), was born in Essex County, Virginia, say 1736. He died in Stokes County, North Carolina, before September 1804. He married about 1755 **MARTHA (COOK?)**, apparently the daughter of Robert and Mary (____) Cook, though there is no direct evidence of her identity.⁵⁰⁹ Some of Richard's descendants have autosomal DNA matches with members of the so-called Blue Group of the Beasley Y-DNA Project.

Richard received all of his father's land in Essex County in his 1759 will. He moved after this date to Caroline County, Virginia, where his children were born, and later to Surry County, North Carolina. In 1787, he purchased from Enoch Conley 184 acres on Bakers Branch of the Dan River in Surry County adjoining James Tilley, part of a 400 acre tract that had been surveyed for Tilley. The deed was witnessed by Joseph Cloud, John Nunns, and Robert Beasley, who made his mark.⁵¹⁰

Richard's land was located in the newly-created Stokes County, North Carolina, which was created from Surry in 1789. Of the two men of this name listed on the federal census of 1790 in Stokes County, the elder Richard, who owned eight slaves, was located next door to Moses Willis and Watson Collins and lived several doors from William Beasley. His household included two males under 16, two of and over 16, four females, and eight slaves.⁵¹¹ The other, undoubtedly his son, lived in a smaller household with one male under 16, one male 16 and over, one female, and no slaves.⁵¹² On 25 February 1795, the elder Richard purchased from Jonathan Harrison 100 acres on Marshals Creek on a branch of Bigg Creek in Stokes County.⁵¹³ Two years later on 25 February 1795, he witnessed a deed there between Richard Pruitt and James Taylor of Patrick County, Virginia, for 100 acres on the Dan River.⁵¹⁴

⁵⁰⁷ Wood, *Rucker Family Genealogy*, 519.

⁵⁰⁸ Nottoway County, Virginia, Deed Book 3: 263.

⁵⁰⁹ A useful though not fully documented account of Richard's marriage and descendants can be found online at Sandi Conklin, "Descendants of John Beasley," website (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/n/Sandi-Conklin/GENE3-0001.html>; accessed 14 June 2014).

⁵¹⁰ Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Book D: 86-87, in Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book D (1779-1790)*, 11.

⁵¹¹ 1790 U.S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, page 540, col. 3, line 2, Richard Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 28 January 2014).

⁵¹² Ibid, page 541, col. 2, line 22, Richard Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 28 January 2014).

⁵¹³ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 165; in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1797)*, 30.

⁵¹⁴ Ibid.

Richard made his will in Stokes County on 15 October 1800. He left to his widow Martha the “full injoyment [sic]” of his estate “during her life.” He left to his son Jeremiah Beasley “all my land where I now live and all plantation utentials [sic] and stock of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep, and all my household goods of all kinds and all tools.” The other children, he said, “I have portioned of before and further my will is that my wife and my son Jeremiah would not divide the estate but keep it together as they might think proper.” The other children named were William Beasley, Peggy Cooper, Benjamin Beasley, Robert Beasley, Richard Beasley, Molly Taylor, Patty Harrison, James Beasley, Sally Nunn, Thomas Beasley, and Suckia Coomer, each of whom he gave five shillings. James Cook and Tyre Riddle were named joint executors.⁵¹⁵

Children of Richard Beasley and Martha (Cook), born in Virginia:

- i. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1756; d. Stokes County, North Carolina, before December 1804; He married **ELIZABETH** (____). His will in Stokes County was dated 27 August 1804, which included a bequest that he wife should keep their children together and raise them, but they were not named.⁵¹⁶
- ii. **MARGARET “PEGGY” BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1758; m. (____) **COOPER**.
- iii. **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1760; d. Patrick County, Virginia, 24 April 1841. He married in Stokes County on 30 September 1791, **RACHEL PRATHER** (b. ca. 1769), daughter of Thomas and Eleanor (Gaither) Prather. Benjamin served in the Revolutionary War, enlisting in King and Queen County in 1779.⁵¹⁷ He had moved to King and Queen County in the 1770s, and then moved to Stokes County, North Carolina, after the war before 1790. In 1831 he moved to Surry County, North Carolina, and the following year he settled in Grayson County, Virginia. Children, born in Stokes County, included: John (b. 5 September 1792), Susanna (b. 24 February 1794), Enoch (b. 28 March 1796), Nancy (b. 21 March 1798), and Ammon (b. 27 March 1800).⁵¹⁸ Benjamin received a North Carolina state grant of 100 acres on Beaverdam Creek, adjoining land of Lewis Conner, in Stokes County on 16 July 1795.⁵¹⁹ Robert Beasley had land in the same vicinity.
- iv. **ROBERT BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1762; d. Stokes County, North Carolina, before March 1811, when his will was probated.⁵²⁰ He married **CATY** (____), who was named in his will. Children, born probably in Stokes County, North Carolina, included: James (b. say 1791); Isham (b. say 1794); Jonathan (b. say 1796); Richard (b. say 1798); Henry (b. say 1800); Elisha (b. say 1802); Rachel (b. say 1806). Robert first appears in Surry County in 1787, when he witnessed a deed Enoch Conley and Richard Beasley, who may have been his brother.⁵²¹ He was enumerated on the federal census of 1790, living close to the younger Richard Beasley in a household that included only a male 16 and over and a female.⁵²² He received a state grant of 100 acres on Beaver Dam Creek in Stokes County on 16 July 1795, which was described as adjoining the former survey of James Tilley and David Alps.⁵²³ His will in Stokes County, dated 19 September 1810, named wife Caty, to whom he left his estate during her widowhood. He also mentioned his two eldest sons, James and Isham, to inherit “when they come of age.” He also mentions “my children” but does not name them specifically. He named his brother, Benjamin, and James Cook as co-executors.⁵²⁴
- v. **RICHARD BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1764; d. apparently in Lawrence County, Indiana, between 1840 and 1850. He married probably in North Carolina about 1788, **ELIZABETH McGINNIS**. They moved to Nashville, Davidson County, Tennessee, about 1806, and then to Kentucky about 1811. Children: Ephraim

⁵¹⁵ Richard Beasley will (1804), Stokes County, North Carolina Will Book 2: 55, in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina Wills, Volumes I-IV, 1790-1864* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1985), 33.

⁵¹⁶ William Beasley will (1804), Stokes County, North Carolina, Will Book 2: 58, in *ibid*

⁵¹⁷ F. Edward Wright, *Caroline County, Virginia Marriage References and Family Relationships, 1728-1800* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2012), 8-9.

⁵¹⁸ Conklin, “Descendants of John Beasley,” website (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/c/o/n/Sandi-Conklin/GENE3-0001.html>; accessed 14 June 2014).

⁵¹⁹ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 226, in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1797)*, 41.

⁵²⁰ Stokes County, North Carolina, Will Book 2: 119, in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina Wills, Volumes I-IV, 1790-1864*, 45.

⁵²¹ Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Book D: 86-87, in Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book D (1779-1790)*, 11.

⁵²² 1790 U. S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, page 542, col. 2, line 2, Robert Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 28 January 2014).

⁵²³ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 226, in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1797)*, 41.

⁵²⁴ Stokes County, North Carolina, Will Book 2: 119, in Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina Wills, Volumes I-IV, 1790-1864*, 45.

(b. say 1787-88); Aaron (b. say 1790); Jesse (b. say 1792); Silas (b. say 1794); James (b. say 1795); Richard (b. say 1804); Elizabeth (b. say 1806); William (b. say 1810). He was enumerated on the federal census of 1790 in Stokes County, North Carolina, in a household with one male under 16, one male 16 and over, one female, and no slaves.⁵²⁵

- vi. **MARY BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1766; m. **JAMES TAYLOR**.
- vii. **MARTHA "PATSY" BEASLEY**, b. Caroline County say 1768; m. **JONATHAN HARRISON**.
- viii. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1770; d. no record. He married (1) **SALLY REA** in Patrick County, Virginia about 1790. He married (2) **SARAH HARRIS** in Patrick County about 1794.
- ix. **SARAH "SALLY" BEASLEY**, b. Virginia, say 1776; d. Stokes County, North Carolina, about 1847; married **WILLIAM NUNN** about 1802.
- x. **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. Virginia, say 1778; d. after 1840, possibly in Patrick County, Virginia; m. **HANNAH GOING**. Children: Catherine Beasley, Harden Beasley, Shadrach Beasley, Hannah Beasley, Polly Beasley, Thomas Beasley (b. 1811).
- xi. **SUSANNAH "SUKEA" BEASLEY**, b. Virginia, say 1780; m. **WILLIAM COOMER**.
- xii. **JEREMIAH BEASLEY**, b. Virginia, say 1780-82; d. Stokes County, North Carolina, 1824; m. **ELIZABETH** (____).

24. JEREMIAH⁴ BEASLEY/BEAZLEY (*Bennet³, ?Henry², William¹*), the son of Bennet Beasley and Ann (____), was born probably in Caroline County, Virginia, say 1750. He married his likely first cousin **SARAH BEAZLEY** (*James³, ?Henry², William¹*). Proof of their marriage can be found when he challenged the will of his father-in-law in Orange County on 5 June 1804, but his suit was unsuccessful.⁵²⁶

Jeremiah lived in Orange County, Virginia, for a number of years after his father's death. He sold to John Page a tract of 90 acres on Swift Run Pass in Orange County on 26 February 1767.⁵²⁷ Sarah was not listed as releasing her dower, however. On 25 July 1770, Jeremiah and Sarah together sold 380 acres near the Blue Ridge formerly granted to Benjamin Porter.⁵²⁸ Both appeared again on another deed to John Page for 122 acres in the "Spurs of the great mountains joyning Page's land."⁵²⁹

About 1778, Jeremiah moved to Rockingham County, where he was a captain in the Revolutionary War. Martin Petry, a son of Matthew Peatross, served for a time in his company. He was a purchaser at the estate sale of Simon Powell in Orange County on 11 November 1772.⁵³⁰ In 1790, Jeremiah and Sarah Beasley of Rockingham County sold to John McMullan (his brother-in-law) of Orange County 310 acres on Swift Run in Orange County.⁵³¹ On 12 November 1801, he purchased from William and Elizabeth Davis of Stokes County, North Carolina a tract of 585 acres lying partly in Rockingham and partly in Orange.⁵³² Jeremiah's land was still mentioned in Orange County in the vicinity of Great Mountain on 24 November 1802.⁵³³

Children of Jeremiah and Sarah (Beazley) Beasley, born apparently in Orange County, Virginia:

- i. probably **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**, b. say 1777; d. Orange County, Virginia, about 1799, not to be confused with his cousin William, son of James, who was born and died at about the same time. He likely married in Orange County on 25 December 1797 **ELIZABETH "BETSY" (POWELL) RIDDEL**, widow of William Riddel.⁵³⁴
- ii. **MARY "MOLLY" BEASLEY**, b. ca. 1776; d. Rockingham County, Virginia, November 1853; m. **HONORIAS POWELL**.
- iii. **SARAH "SALLY" BEASLEY**, b. ca. 1778; m. **MATTHEW POWELL**.

⁵²⁵ 1790 U. S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, page 541, col. 2, line 22, Richard Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 28 January 2014).

⁵²⁶ Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1778-1821)*, 76.

⁵²⁷ Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1759-1778)*, 72, citing Deed Book 14: 131-132.

⁵²⁸ *Ibid.*, 116, citing Deed Book 15: 225-227.

⁵²⁹ *Ibid.*, 154, citing Deed Book 16: 85-88.

⁵³⁰ Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1778-1821)*, 97.

⁵³¹ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1791-1795*, 52, citing Deed Book 20: 441-442.

⁵³² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records: Deed Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia, 1800-1802*, 100, citing Deed Book 1798-1803: 351-353.

⁵³³ Ruth Sparacio and Sam Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1821-1838)* (McLean, Virginia: Sparacio, 1986), 167.

⁵³⁴ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 16.

- iv. **BENNETT BEASLEY/BEAZLEY**, b. say 1780; d. Orange County, Virginia, before 23 February 1824, testate.⁵³⁵ He married in Orange County on 24 July 1797, **MARY BRYAN**.⁵³⁶ Bennett's will, dated 31 May 1823, left a third of his estate to wife Mary, "including my mansion house and orchard. He freed his slave Bob after Mary's death. He left his "other part of land" to his brother James Beasley after paying his nephew Stephen Miller. William Kite and Henry Hansbarger were named as executors.⁵³⁷ Mary's will, dated 12 December 1831 and probated 26 December 1831 left to her sister Sarah Long "all my stock of every kind" and appointed George Deane as executor.⁵³⁸ They had no children.
- v. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1782; named in his brother's will of 1823.

⁵³⁵ Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1821-1838)*, 16, citing Will Book 6: 139-140.

⁵³⁶ Fisher, *Marriages of Orange County, Virginia*, 15.

⁵³⁷ Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Orange County, Virginia (1821-1838)*, 16.

⁵³⁸ *Ibid*, 86, citing Will Book 7: 391-392.

UNATTACHED BEASLEYS IN CAROLINE COUNTY

MARY BEASLEY, of unknown parentage, was ordered by the court to pay a debt of £8.6.5 to Alexander Aberdeen & Company in Caroline County on 13 June 1755.⁵³⁹

MARK BEAZLEY, born say 1760, was named in a suit as a plaintiff against Joseph DeJarnett in Caroline County on 10 June and 9 July 1784.⁵⁴⁰ This case was continued on 10 September 1785, when the court specified that the action was for debt and awarded Mark a judgment of £18 but could be discharged on payment of £9 with legal interest from January 1784.⁵⁴¹ There is no further record of him.

ADAM BEAZLEY, of unknown parentage, was named as a son-in-law by right of his wife Lucy in the will of John Gaunt, whose will was presented in Caroline County on 14 August 1788.⁵⁴² Adam Beasley (their son?) married Fanny Vawter in Caroline County on 15 May 1799.

CHARLES BEAZLEY OF SURRY AND STOKES COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

CHARLES BEAZLEY was born before 1755 at an unknown place. He died in Stokes County, North Carolina, before June 1819.⁵⁴³ He married **MARY** (____). He could be an undocumented son of Charles³ Beasley (*Charles*², *William*¹) of Caroline County, Virginia, though he does not appear to have had interactions with other descendants of the Essex-Caroline County group that settled in Stokes County, and efforts to establish his precise ancestry have been inconclusive due to the loss of Caroline County's records. Male-line descendants of his son Edmond suggest a connection to the so-called Yellow Group of the Beasley Y-DNA Project.

Charles was a tavern keeper in Surry County, North Carolina, and on 16 November 1787, the court granted him leave to keep the tavern with James Gaines as his security.⁵⁴⁴ The license was renewed in 1789 with Matthew Moore and John Childress as securities, the record specifying that the tavern was at Charles's house.⁵⁴⁵ On 9 February 1788, he purchased a slave girl named Sall for £100 pounds Virginia money from Henry Tillery, witnessed by David, John, and Elisha Childress.⁵⁴⁶ That same year the court appointed Charles collector for a district known as "Beasleys."⁵⁴⁷ Two years later on 12 May 1790, he obtained from Richard Goode, sheriff, for five shillings, a tract of 100 acres in Surry County adjoining Grizel Smith, whom Charles had won in a judgment against Daniel Bennett.⁵⁴⁸

Charles was likely the same person of this name who held land in the new adjoining Stokes County. On 17 August 1790, he purchased from Henry France of Henry County, Virginia, a 300-acre tract on Snow Creek on the bank of Raccoon Creek and adjoining Matthew Moore's line.⁵⁴⁹ Witnesses were Elisha Childers [sic] and William Bridgman. Three years later his land was described as adjoining land purchased by Elisha Childress on Crooked Creek and located on the south side of the so-called "wagon road."⁵⁵⁰

⁵³⁹ Dorman, *Caroline County, Virginia Order Book, 1755-1758, Part One, 1755-1756*, 22, citing original page 66.

⁵⁴⁰ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1783-1784*, 49, 90.

⁵⁴¹ Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Orders, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1785-1786*, 8, citing original page 142.

⁵⁴² Sparacio, *Virginia County Court Records, Order Book Abstracts of Caroline County, Virginia, 1788*, 70, citing original page 437.

⁵⁴³ Stokes County, North Carolina, Will Book 3:31, 28 January 1818; abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina Wills, Volumes I-IV, 1790-1864* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1985), 60.

⁵⁴⁴ Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Volume II Surry County, North Carolina Court Minutes (1786-1789)* (Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n.d.), 42.

⁵⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 68.

⁵⁴⁶ Jo White Linn, comp., *Surry County, North Carolina, Wills, 1771-1827* (Salisbury, NC: Jo White Linn, 1992), 82.

⁵⁴⁷ Absher, *Volume II Surry County, North Carolina Court Minutes*, 60; 62.

⁵⁴⁸ Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Book D: 453, abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Surry County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book D (1779-1790)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, 1976), 44.

⁵⁴⁹ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 1: 61, abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Record of Deeds, Vol. 1 (1787-1793)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n.d.),

⁵⁵⁰ Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 64-65; abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, Book 2 (1793-1794)* (North Wilkesboro, NC: Mrs. W. O. Absher, n.d.), 11.

Charles was enumerated in Stokes County as Charles “Beasley” on the first federal census of 1790; his household included a male under 16, two males over 16, three females, and one slave.⁵⁵¹

As the years passed, Charles began purchasing inexpensive land from the State of North Carolina. He received a grant of 50 acres on 10 January 1795, the land being located on Raccoon Branch at the waters of Snow Creek, adjoining his former entry and also near the holdings of William Chandler and John Easley.⁵⁵² Months later on 18 November 1795, he purchased several parcels, all granted on the same day. They included 1,400 acres on Snow and Crooked Creeks, and three more parcels on Snow Creek of 65 acres, 281 acres, and 100 acres.⁵⁵³ His neighbors in these grants included Henry Childress, Warham and John Easley, Benjamin and John Farmer, and many others. On 9 September 1796, he obtained two state grants for 100 and 200 acres on Crooked Creek, and again Childress and John Farmer had adjoining land.⁵⁵⁴ In 1800, Charles was aged of and over 45 and enumerated in Stokes County on the federal census, together with a female of 45 and over, and two slaves.⁵⁵⁵

Charles wrote a memorandum dated 28 December 1818, which later served as his will, though the court did not receive it specifically as such.⁵⁵⁶ He gave to his daughter Nancy Childress, widow of Elisha Childress, \$1 and support from his estate. He gave to his wife Mary a lifetime estate. He gave to his son, presumably Edmond, his slaves named Sal, Barbea, Hapton, Hannah, Tapney, Betty, Rachel, Sarah, and Gilley. Executors included his wife Mary and son Edmond, with Obadiah Dodson as witness. The memorandum was presented to the June court 1819.

Children of Charles Beasley, apparently with wife Mary (___), born in Surry or Stokes County, North Carolina:

- i. **NANCY BEAZLEY/BEASLEY, m. ELISHA CHILDRESS.**
- ii. **EDMOND BEASLEY**

BEAZLEY FAMILY OF BUCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Buckingham County is located in central Virginia and was home to John Beasley, whose ties to other Virginia families of this name are not known. The deeds and other records of this burned county are largely destroyed, though some wills, including those of John and his wife Bridget survive.

JOHN BEAZLEY was born at an unknown location say 1730 of unknown parents. He died in Buckingham County, Virginia, before 13 May 1782, testate.⁵⁵⁷ He married **BRIDGET FUQUA**, daughter of Joseph and Anna (Sampson) Fuqua.⁵⁵⁸ She was born say 1730-35, apparently in Charles City County, Virginia, and died in Buckingham County before 9 April 1793, testate.⁵⁵⁹ Her father is proved by a deed in Cumberland County, Virginia, dated 21 October 1782, in which Joseph Fuqua deeded slaves to his children Joseph Fuqua Jr., William Fuqua, John Fuqua, Jane Sampson and husband William Sampson, “Bridge Beasley,” Margaret Weatherford and husband William Weatherford, Elizabeth Hill and husband John Hill, and Sara

⁵⁵¹ 1790 U.S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, page 545, col. 3, line 14, Charles Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 28 January 2014).

⁵⁵² Stokes County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2: 86, in *ibid*, 16.

⁵⁵³ *Ibid*, 2: 223-226; abstracted in *ibid*, 41.

⁵⁵⁴ *Ibid*, 2: 318-319, abstracted in *ibid*, 58.

⁵⁵⁵ 1800 U.S. Census, Stokes County, North Carolina, page 545, line 5, Charles Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M32, roll 22; digital image, *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 3 February 2015).

⁵⁵⁶ Stokes County, North Carolina, Will Book 3:31, 28 January 1818; abstracted in Mrs. W. O. Absher, *Stokes County, North Carolina Wills, Volumes I-IV, 1790-1864* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1985), 60.

⁵⁵⁷ “Notes from Burned Counties – Buckingham,” *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, volume 5 (July 1967): 66.

⁵⁵⁸ Alya Dean (Smith) Irwin, *Fuqua – A Flight for Freedom, Allied Families* (Houston, Texas: Alya Dean (Smith) Irwin, 1974), 12. Francis Sampson left a will in Goochland County, Virginia, dated 16 January 1738, in which Joseph Fuquay [sic] signed as a witness. The will was recorded in Goochland County, Virginia, Will Book 4: 499. His widow, Bridget, left a will dated 3 March 1757, in which she left one shilling to Joseph Fuqua, who was not specifically named as her son-in-law (Goochland County, Virginia, Deed Book 7: 157).

⁵⁵⁹ “Notes from Burned Counties – Buckingham,” *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, volume 5 (July 1967): 66.

McGehee and husband Jacob McGehee, “in consideration that the said Joseph Fuqua is now advanced in age and for some time past inform so as not to be able to look after his own business.”⁵⁶⁰

As early as 1764, John Beazley resided in Buckingham County, and his name appears with that of Sarah Daubings on a tithable list being taxed on two tithes, 325 acres, and no wheel carriages.⁵⁶¹ The reason for his pairing with Sarah Daubings is unexplained; she may have been his mother who had remarried or perhaps a sister who co-owned the land with him. Sarah was also taxed on her own 200 acres on the same list.⁵⁶² In 1773 and again in 1774, John was listed with his sons Jonathan and William, assessed on five tithes in 1773 and six in 1774.⁵⁶³

On 17 May 1779, John signed his name to a petition with others living in Tillotson Parish, Buckingham County, who complained that “in [the] above half of the said Parish & County there is no church nor vestry man.”⁵⁶⁴ The petitioners hoped that the old vestry of the present church in the lower part of the county would be dissolved and a new one created that would offer them representation.

John Beazley wrote his will in Buckingham County on 18 November 1781, and a copy survives among loose papers in the Library of Virginia.⁵⁶⁵ He left to his wife Bridget “the plantation and manor place whereon I now live. He also left to her his slaves and stock, afterward they would be divided equally to all of his children. He left to his four sons, Charles, William, John, and Jonathan “all my lands on the Brown Mountain in Amherst County also all my lands on Rock Island Creek, also all my land on muddy Creek also all my land I hold or claim on Arthur Creek” to be sold and the monies equally divided. To his four daughters, Winney, Mary, Salley, and Nancy, he left each 150 acres “of the back land of the Tract whereon I now live.” If any of them should die without an heir of their body, the land was to return to the estate. He left to three other sons, James, Fuqua, and Hiram, “all my River Land not before bequeathed and plantations whereon I now dwell” to be equally divided at the discretion of his executors and possessed by them when they attain 21 years of age. The stock was to be sold and equally divided, except for a horse, which he gave to his son John. He appointed his wife Bridget, his sons Charles and William, and David Walker as joint executors. He signed his name as “John Beazley,” suggesting that he was literate and was preserving a spelling of the name often associated with the Caroline and Orange County Beazleys. Witnesses included Benjamin Hurt, Judith Hurt, and Thomas Wood. The will was proven on 13 May 1782.

Bridget’s will was written in Buckingham County on 1 April 1792 and named her sons Fuqua and Hiram Beazley; daughter Mary Palmer and Mary’s daughter Nancy; Susanna Robertson, whose relationship was not stated; sons William, John, and James Beazley; and daughters Winny Hurt and Sally Cason. Her son William Beazley and Nixon Palmer were appointed co-executors.⁵⁶⁶

Children of John Beazley and Bridget (Fuqua), born in Virginia, order uncertain:

- i. **CHARLES BEAZLEY**, b. say 1749; he signed a petition from Tillotson Parish on 17 October 1787, together with his brother, John, opposing an act by the House of Delegates to seize the property of the former established Anglican Church and to request that the glebe be distributed evenly to the community.⁵⁶⁷ He may have lived as late as 1814, and his land was located at Rock Island Creek.⁵⁶⁸
- ii. **WILLIAM BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750-52. His name appears on a list of tithables with his father and brother Jonathan in 1773 and 1774, indicating that he was likely of majority age at that time.⁵⁶⁹ He was recorded on

⁵⁶⁰ Cumberland County, Virginia, Deed Book 6: 132, Joseph Fuqua to Joseph Fuqua Jr. et al., 21 October 1783; transcribed on *Rootsweb* (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~fuqua/Main%20Database/mdb029.htm>; accessed 19 November 2014).

⁵⁶¹ “A List of All the Tithes, Lands and Wheel-Carriages in Buckingham County for the Year Anno Domini 1764,” transcribed in Edythe Rucker Whitley, *Genealogical Records of Buckingham County, Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1984), 4.

⁵⁶² *Ibid.*, 5.

⁵⁶³ *Ibid.*, 9.

⁵⁶⁴ Mary Bondurant Warren, *Buckingham County, Virginia, Church and Marriage Records, 1764-1822* (Athens, GA: Heritage Papers, 1993), 16.

⁵⁶⁵ John Beazley will (1782), transcribed in Jeanne Stinson, comp., *Early Buckingham County, Virginia, Legal Papers, Volume 1: 1765-1806* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Co., 1993), 2-3.

⁵⁶⁶ Bridget Beazley will (1792) abstracted briefly in “Notes from Burned Counties – Buckingham,” *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, volume 5 (July 1966): 66.

⁵⁶⁷ Warren, *Buckingham County, Virginia, Church and Marriage Records, 1764-1822*, 25.

⁵⁶⁸ Roger G. Ward, *Buckingham County, Virginia Records, Land Tax Summaries & Implied Deeds, 1782-1814* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Co., 1993), 1: 28.

⁵⁶⁹ Whitley, *Genealogical Records of Buckingham County, Virginia*, 9.

- a tax list there in 1800, being taxed on one white male and two horses.⁵⁷⁰ He was alive as late as 1814 with land adjacent to William Davis on the Appomattox River in Buckingham County.⁵⁷¹
- iii. **JOHN BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750-55. On 17 October 1787, he signed a petition with his brother, Charles requesting that the former glebe land of the Anglican Church be distributed evenly to parishioners.⁵⁷² He continued to advocate for their sale on another petition dated 15 November 1794.⁵⁷³ He owned land on Fishpond Creek adjoining Thomas Hall and James S. Webb.⁵⁷⁴
 - iv. **JONATHAN BEAZLEY**, b. say 1750-52. His name appears on a list of tithables with his father and his brother William in 1773 and 1774, indicating that he was of majority age at that time.⁵⁷⁵
 - v. **WINNEY BEAZLEY**, m. in Prince Edward County, Virginia, on 19 May 1783, **OBADIAH HURT**.⁵⁷⁶
 - vi. **MARY BEAZLEY**, b. say 1753-60; d. before October 1803; she m. say 1780 **NIXON PALMER**.
 - vii. **SALLEY BEAZLEY**, b. say 1764; she m. in Buckingham County on 14 October 1782, **WILLIAM CASON**.⁵⁷⁷
 - viii. **NANCY BEAZLEY**, m. in Prince Edward County on 4 December 1784, **ZACHARIAH ARNOLD**.⁵⁷⁸
 - ix. **JAMES BEAZLEY**, under 21 in 1781. He moved to Prince Edward County, Virginia, and from there initiated a chancery suit against Floyd Hurt and others.⁵⁷⁹
 - x. **FUQUA BEAZLEY**, under 21 in 1781; he married in Prince Edward County, Virginia, on 6 October 1792, **RACHEL HURT**.⁵⁸⁰
 - xi. **HIRAM BEAZLEY**, under 21 in 1781; he married in Prince Edward County, Virginia, on 17 December 1798, **ELIZABETH FORE**.⁵⁸¹

⁵⁷⁰ Ibid, 32.

⁵⁷¹ Ward, *Buckingham County, Virginia Records, Land Tax Summaries & Implied Deeds, 1782-1814*, 1: 28.

⁵⁷² Warren, *Buckingham County, Virginia, Church and Marriage Records, 1764-1822*, 25.

⁵⁷³ Ibid, 28.

⁵⁷⁴ Ward, *Buckingham County, Virginia Records, Land Tax Summaries & Implied Deeds, 1782-1814*, 1: 28.

⁵⁷⁵ Whitley, *Genealogical Records of Buckingham County, Virginia*, 9.

⁵⁷⁶ Catherine Lindsay Knorr, *Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1754-1810* (No place: Catherine Lindsay Knorr, 1950), 40.

⁵⁷⁷ Randy Kidd and Jeanne Stinson, *Lost Marriages of Buckingham County, Virginia* (Athens, Georgia: Iberian Publishing Co., 1992), 110.

⁵⁷⁸ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1754-1810*, 3.

⁵⁷⁹ http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/full_case_detail.asp?CFN=147-1783-011#img; accessed 19 November 2014.

⁵⁸⁰ Knorr, *Marriage Bonds and Ministers' Returns of Prince Edward County, Virginia, 1754-1810*, 6.

⁵⁸¹ Ibid.

PART 2

ROBERT BEASLEY AND STEPHEN BEASLEY OF HENRICO AND CHESTERFIELD COUNTIES, VIRGINIA, AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS

The Beasleys of Chesterfield County were represented by two separate families: one headed by Robert Beasley and the other by Stephen Beasley. Both were contemporaries and used several common names in their respective families, and both had connections to the Cheatham family. These connections have led to speculation that they may have been brothers or possibly uncle and nephew. However, no direct evidence has yet been found that would confirm their relationship, and no known Y-chromosomal studies have been conducted of male-line descendants.

1. ROBERT¹ BEASLEY, of unknown parentage, was born say 1675, possibly in England. He died in Dale Parish, Chesterfield County, Virginia, after 12 February 1762.⁵⁸² As shown in evidence below, he married **MARY CURTIS**.

Robert was possibly the same person of this name who first appears in the records of Prince George County, Virginia, in 1682, when he was reported being transported by William R. and Robert Bolling “of Prince George County in the Parish of Bristol,” for which Bolling received land on the south side of the Appomattox River.⁵⁸³ He appeared in Charles City County in 1694 as Robert “Besley,” together with Will Peterpoole and others in a grand jury in the July court.⁵⁸⁴ He was named again in 1695, when William R. Bolling, now of Charles City County, claimed him for a headright land grant.⁵⁸⁵

Before 1711, Robert married, possibly in Henrico County, Mary Curtis, daughter of John Curtis. On 1 October 1711, John Curtis, planter, of Henrico County, deeded to his daughter Mary “Besely,” wife of Robert Besely, “planter in Charles City County,” 308 acres of land on the south side of Proctor’s Creek which had been conveyed to him originally by Richard Lygon and adjoining that of Captain John Worsham.⁵⁸⁶ Witnesses included William Soane, Francis Patram, and Richard Ligon. Mary Curtis, wife of John, relinquished her dower. Robert moved to Henrico County after this deed. Five years later on 4 June 1716, John Elam sold to Robert Beasley of Henrico County 100 acres, also on the south side of Proctor’s Creek, which had been granted originally to Martin Elam and adjoined that of Mr. Robert Hancocke.⁵⁸⁷ Witnesses included John Pride and Arthur Moseley Jr. Robert and Mary sold to this latter tract to Moseley on 4 July 1726 in a deed witnessed by James Akin Jr., Henry Charles Featherston, and William Robertson.⁵⁸⁸

On 24 March 1725, Robert “Beasely” obtained a grant of 400 acres in Henrico County on the south side of Swift Creek adjoining Jonathan Cheatham and on the south side of Dry Creek.⁵⁸⁹ Three years later on 20 August 1728, Robert and Mary sold to Curtis Cates a portion of this tract, which was bounded by Robert’s other holdings and land owned by Jonathan Cheatham.⁵⁹⁰ Robert and Mary sold another tract of unknown description to Cates in September 1838, but only Mary’s relinquishment of her dower was recorded.⁵⁹¹

⁵⁸² Robert Beasley will (1762), Chesterfield Count, Virginia, Will Book 1: 537; abstracted in Benjamin B. Weisinger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1979), 54.

⁵⁸³ Prince George County, Virginia, Patent Book 7: 99; cited in Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 98.

⁵⁸⁴ “Robert Beasley,” website, *Rootsweb* (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evekinn/beasley.htm>: accessed 14 June 2014).

⁵⁸⁵ Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 98. This grant is not found in Nugent’s *Cavaliers and Pioneers*.

⁵⁸⁶ Benjamin B. Weisinger III, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1706-1737* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1985), 28, citing Henrico County, Virginia Wills & Deeds, 1710-1714, page 100.

⁵⁸⁷ *Ibid*, 49, citing Henrico County Deeds 1714-1718, page 90.

⁵⁸⁸ *Ibid*, 80, citing Henrico County Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, page 33.

⁵⁸⁹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 3: 300, citing Patent Book 12, page 397.

⁵⁹⁰ Benjamin B. Weisinger III, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1737-1750* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1985), 2, citing Henrico County Deeds from Miscellaneous Court Records, volume 3, 1725-37, page 1084.

⁵⁹¹ *Ibid*, 72, citing court minutes from September 1838.

Chesterfield County was created from Henrico in 1749, and after this date, Robert's land was located in the new county. On 29 September 1751, his land on Swift Creek was mentioned adjoining that of Jonathan Cheatham in a deed between Curtis Cates, now of Amelia County, and Thomas Cheatham Jr. of Chesterfield County.⁵⁹² The deed was witnessed by Francis Cheatham, Thomas Howerton, and Benjamin Beasley. Robert's name appears on a list of tithables in 1756.⁵⁹³

Robert wrote his will on 12 February 1762.⁵⁹⁴ Describing himself as being of Dale Parish, he left to his wife Mary a feather bed and other household articles. He left to his son William "the plantation I love on, being land I bought of Curtis Keatt." He named William as his executor. The will was witnessed by Christopher Cheatham, William Farmer, and Christopher Bass. The three men also turned in an inventory of the estate with a value of £52.18.3.⁵⁹⁵

Genealogist Sharon Doliente has speculated that Robert had additional children who were not named in his will.⁵⁹⁶ She argues that Robert was likely the father of John Beasley, who died testate in Nottoway County, Virginia, before 1794, in addition to William. She also asserts that there was likely yet another brother, Robert Jr., who married Betty Winningham. As shown with evidence below, both John and the younger Robert are likely identical to the sons of William², and not his brothers.

Child of Robert Beasley and Mary (Curtis), born perhaps in Henrico County, Virginia:

2. i. **WILLIAM² BEASLEY**, b. say 1710; m. **FRANCES ROBERTSON**.
- ii. possibly **FRANCES BEASLEY**, b. say 1712; she witnessed with Richard Walthall and Mary Bass a deed between Marmaduke Chetham and William Chetham in Henrico County on 4 May 1734.⁵⁹⁷

2. WILLIAM² BEASLEY (*Robert¹*), the son of Robert Beasley and wife Mary (Curtis), was born in Henrico County, Virginia, say 1710. He died in Chesterfield County, Virginia, after 14 December 1789, testate. He married **FRANCES ROBERTSON**. She was the daughter of William Robertson of Manchester Parish, Chesterfield County, and in Robertson's will dated 18 April 1774, he left to his "son-in-law William Beasley" one shilling sterling.⁵⁹⁸

On 22 November 1755, William purchased from William Riggins a tract of 200 acres on Suppony Creek, which Riggins had purchased from Peter Akin and Akin from Henry Walthall.⁵⁹⁹ The land was bounded by the holdings of William Walthall and Peter Akin, and the deed was witnessed by George Worsham, Sarah Worsham, and John Martyn.

William wrote his will in Dale Parish, Chesterfield County, on 14 December 1789.⁶⁰⁰ He gave to his sons Robert and William land in Lunenburg County, which he had purchased from William Parrott, to be divided equally between them. To his wife, whom he did not specifically name, he left the land where he lived for her use during her widowhood until their sons John and Archer were 21. Then, Archer was to receive 100 acres on Great Branch next to Henry Nunally's Estate opposite the lands of Charles Hamlin and Charles Hatcher. John would receive 100 acres next to John Bolling and the Great Branch. To his son Robertson he gave the remainder of his Chesterfield County land for him to receive after his wife's death. To his wife, he left the remainder of his estate for her life and maintenance and "for schooling my six young children," whom he names as Nancy, Archer, John, Robertson, Frances, and Polly." His unnamed wife, John Robertson and Jesse Cogbill were named co-executors, and the will was witnessed by Edward Goode, John Cogbill, and Thomas Daves. The identity of William's widow, Frances, is known from her appearance

⁵⁹² Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1749-1756* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1986), 25, citing Chesterfield County Deed Book 1: 265.

⁵⁹³ "Robert Beasley," website, *Rootsweb* (<http://homepages.ancestry.com/~evekinn/beasley.htm>; accessed 14 June 2014).

⁵⁹⁴ Chesterfield County, Virginia, Will Book 1: 537, in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 54.

⁵⁹⁵ *Ibid.*, 55.

⁵⁹⁶ Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 65-66.

⁵⁹⁷ Weisiger, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1706-1737*, 137, citing Wills and Deeds Book 1725-1737, page 443.

⁵⁹⁸ William Robertson will (1774), Chesterfield County, Virginia Will Book 2: 340.

⁵⁹⁹ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1749-1756*, 71, citing Chesterfield County Deed Book 2: 344.

⁶⁰⁰ William Beasley will (1789), abstracted in Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1774-1795* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger III, 1979), 96, citing Chesterfield County Will Book 4: 435.

as his executrix on 31 December 1792, when she submitted to the court an inventory of his estate.⁶⁰¹ The will was proved by Frances Beasley, executrix, earlier on 11 June 1792.⁶⁰²

Children of William Beasley and wife Frances (Robertson), born in Henrico County, Virginia:

3. i. **ROBERT³ BEASLEY**, b. say 1728-30; m. **ELIZABETH “BETTY” WILLINGHAM**.
ii. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. say 1733.
iii. **NANCY BEASLEY**,
iv. **ARCHER BEASLEY**
4. v. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1736; m. **ANNE (EASLEY?)**.
vi. **ROBERTSON BEASLEY**
vii. **FRANCES BEASLEY**
viii. **POLLY BEASLEY**

3. ROBERT³ BEASLEY (*William², Robert¹*), the son of William Beasley and Frances (Robertson), was born in Henrico County, Virginia, say 1728-30. He died apparently in Wilkes County, Georgia, about 1794, intestate. He married in Lunenburg County, Virginia, about 1762, **ELIZABETH “BETTY” WILLINGHAM**. Though her name is sometimes shown erroneously as “Winningham,” she was the daughter of John Willingham, who left a will in Lunenburg County dated 2 February 1750. She is sometimes shown as Elizabeth Jane Willingham, born 2 May 1727 in Prince George County, Virginia, but this date cannot be confirmed. Given the birth date of her son Jarrell in 1778, it is not likely that she was born at this early date.

Robert moved early to Amelia County, Virginia, and his name appears on tax lists there between 1750 and 1756 with land holdings below or near Flatt and Nibbs creeks.⁶⁰³ From here he moved to Lunenburg County but was still of Amelia when, on 1 November 1757, he purchased from Thomas Willingham and Daniel Malone a tract of 100 acres on the north side of the Meherrin River.⁶⁰⁴ He appears to have settled there, for two years later he was a witness to a deed there between Robert Malone and Edward Hatcher.⁶⁰⁵

Robert had several roles in Lunenburg County during the 1760s. He served as an appraiser for the estate of Edward Haley.⁶⁰⁶ He paid taxes on three tithes and 500 acres on Henry Balgrave’s list of 1764.⁶⁰⁷ The court appointed Robert overseer of a road from the Charlotte County line to Willingham’s banks on the South Meherrin River in 1766.⁶⁰⁸ The following year he was overseer of another road from Cut Banks on the Meherrin River to the county line.⁶⁰⁹ His name appears on a series of tax lists in Lunenburg between 1769 and 1783.⁶¹⁰

After this date, Robert left Lunenburg County and moved to Georgia, selling 200 acres to Gustavus Hendrick of Charlotte County in 1786.⁶¹¹ In 1785, he was of Lunenburg County when he purchased from John Harvey 537 acres on Fishing Creek in Wilkes County, Georgia.⁶¹² On 6 August 1787, still of Lunenburg County, Robert and wife Betty sold to Stephen Beasley of Granville County, North Carolina, a tract of land, with the deed recorded in Granville.⁶¹³

Children of Robert Beasley and Elizabeth (Willingham), born in Lunenburg County, Virginia:

- i. **MARY⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1760; she married **JOHN HUDSON** about 1782.

⁶⁰¹ Ibid, 109.

⁶⁰² Ibid, 169.

⁶⁰³ “Robert Beasley,” website (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evekinn/beasley.htm>: accessed 14 June 2014).

⁶⁰⁴ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 5: 44.

⁶⁰⁵ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 5: 390.

⁶⁰⁶ Lunenburg County, Virginia, order Book 9: 316.

⁶⁰⁷ “Robert Beasley,” website (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evekinn/beasley.htm>: accessed 14 June 2014).

⁶⁰⁸ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Order Book 12: 23.

⁶⁰⁹ Ibid, 12: 70.

⁶¹⁰ “Robert Beasley,” website (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~evekinn/beasley.htm>: accessed 14 June 2014).

⁶¹¹ Ibid.

⁶¹² Ibid.

⁶¹³ Granville County, North Carolina, Deed Book O: 582.

- ii. **CHRISTIAN BEASLEY**, b. say 1762; she married in Lunenburg County on 9 November 1785, **JOHN WHITLOCK**.
- iii. **STEPHEN BEASLEY**, b. Dec 1764; d. Granville County, North Carolina, before November 1854. He married **SARAH "SALLY" POMFRET**.
- iv. **ROBERT C. BEASLEY**, b. say 1766; d. Wilkes County, Georgia, about 1830.
- v. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. say 1770; d. about 1822.
- vi. **SARAH "SALLIE" BEASLEY**, b. say 1773.
- vii. **JARRELL BEASLEY**, b. 1778; d. Troup County, Georgia, 1854.

4. JOHN³ BEASLEY (*William², Robert¹*) was born in Henrico County, Virginia, say 1736. He died in Nottoway County, Virginia, after 19 February 1791 but before 4 September 1794, testate.⁶¹⁴ He married **ANNE** (____). Her maiden name is unknown, but she had possible connections to the Easley family and may have been herself an Easley.

In her book, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, Sharon Doliente writes extensively about this John and contends that he was an unrecorded son of Robert¹ Beasley.⁶¹⁵ This theory would appear to be unlikely, based on his estimated age, and more likely he was of the third generation, the John Beasley named as a son of William² in 1789. He had obvious close ties to Robert³ Beasley (above), and Dolinate correctly points out that both men purchased land in Lunenburg County at the same time. John was of the county of Amelia on 1 November 1757, when he purchased from Isham Malone a tract in Lunenburg on Ledbetter's Creek.⁶¹⁶ On 31 March 1760, he returned a procession for Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, with Edward Hatchett and Robert Beasley, reporting for himself, also listed.⁶¹⁷

John returned to Amelia County shortly after this date. On 26 November 1761, he listed Amelia County as his residence when he sold to Thomas Harding 230 acres on the lower side of Little Creek in Lunenburg County.⁶¹⁸ In June 1762, he purchased from Robert Rowland 240 acres in Amelia County on the south side of Lazaretta Creek.⁶¹⁹ On 10 June 1764, he was possibly the "John Beazley," whose name appears on a list of tithables compiled by Thomas Bedford for Cornwall Parish, Lunenburg County, even though he was living in Amelia County.⁶²⁰ He was reported present with Joseph Hightower, Col. Bannister, and William Jennings in a processioning to the vestry on 23 September 1767.⁶²¹ Two years later he was reported on 600 acres and 12 tithes in Amelia County.⁶²²

John continued to acquire land in Amelia County in the next decade. On 22 April 1769, he purchased 285 acres on the south side of Lazaretta Creek formerly granted to Robert Rowland.⁶²³ He patented an additional 26 acres in the same area on 15 June 1773.⁶²⁴ During the Revolutionary War, on 4 June 1776, he applied successfully to serve in the state militia.⁶²⁵ On 7 March 1778, he purchased from Anderson Bagley 24 acres in Amelia County on the north side of the Church road where Thomas Oakley formerly lived, joining the lines of the said Oakley, the said Bagley, the tract Charles Irby purchased of Francis Belcher, and John Beasley's line.⁶²⁶ On 22 August 1780, the Amelia County Commissioners paid him £525 for food, likely supplied to the Army.⁶²⁷ A year later on 6 September 1781, he sold 231 acres to Robert Easley Beasley, described as being below Yarbrough Old Rolling Path which John had purchased of John Milner

⁶¹⁴ Nottoway County, Virginia, Will Book 1: 537-538, reprinted in Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 90-91.

⁶¹⁵ Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 65.

⁶¹⁶ Ibid, citing Lunenburg County Deed Book 5: 44-48.

⁶¹⁷ Landon C. Bell, *Cumberland Parish, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1746-1816, Vestry Book, 1746-1816* (Richmond, Virginia: William Byrd Press, 1930), 507.

⁶¹⁸ Lunenburg County, Virginia, Deed Book 7: 224.

⁶¹⁹ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 7: 637.

⁶²⁰ Landon C. Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside: Lists of Tithes, Lunenburg County, Virginia, 1748-1783* (Philadelphia: George Ferguson, 1931), 216.

⁶²¹ Bell, *Cumberland Parish*, 526.

⁶²² Bell, *Sunlight on the Southside*, 245.

⁶²³ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 10: 219.

⁶²⁴ Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 67.

⁶²⁵ Ibid, citing the *Virginia Historical Magazine*, 15: 21.

⁶²⁶ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 14: 403.

⁶²⁷ Dolinate, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 67.

near Lazaretta Creek.⁶²⁸ He purchased 312 additional acres on the church Road from Anderson Bagley on 14 February 1783.⁶²⁹ He sold to Leonard Beasley 130 acres on Lazaretta Creek on 23 February 1785.⁶³⁰ Later that same year on 5 May, he sold 124 acres to George Snellings.⁶³¹ Throughout this period, John's name appears on land tax lists in Amelia County.⁶³²

In 1789, John's land became located in Nottoway County, Virginia, which had been created from Nottoway Parish, Amelia County, during the previous year. The following year John began making gifts of land to various sons. On 26 January 1790, he gave to his son Daniel for love and affection 130 acres on the Church Road bounded by the Long Branch.⁶³³ On the same day he conveyed to his son Thomas 120 acres "lying in the fork of the long branch and Lazaretta up to Richard Smith's line."⁶³⁴

John wrote his will in Nottoway County on 19 February 1791.⁶³⁵ He left to his loving wife, whom he does not specifically name, "my land & Plantation whereon I live," located on the Church Road near Richard Ligon's land, as well as four slaves (Sall, Phill, Janey, and Faney), the household utensils and furniture, and half of his orchards, with the other half of the orchards to go to sons Daniel and Thomas for the purpose of schooling the under-age children. He gave to son Daniel his land below the Church Road and bounded by the Long Branch, containing about 100 acres, as well as some furniture and livestock. To his son Robert E. Beasley he gave that part of his land below Yarbrough's Road as well as furniture and livestock. To his son "Len" he gave land above Yarbrough's Road containing 130 acres, as well as furniture and livestock. To his son Thomas he gave 120 acres at the fork of the Lazaretta, and again the bequest included furniture and livestock. To his son Liberty he gave, after his mother's death. A tract of 125 acres located southeast of the Church Road adjoining land of Peter Hinton, Richard Ligon, and Miss Craddock. He left to his daughter Mary Jennings a slave named Lucy and her future increase. To his daughter Nancy Clark he left the slave girl Dilsey. To his daughter Ritter, who was unmarried, he left a slave girl named rose. At the death of Ritter's mother, she also received the slave Jenney and her future increase. To his son Stephen, he gave 100 acres, including "that part of my land bounded by Rob. Beasley's land, the Lazaretta and Yarbrough's Road." Like the others, he also received various furniture and livestock. To his three sons, Archer, Easley, and David, all underage, he left four slaves (Cloe, Mary, Phillis, and Dolly) with their future increase. At the death of their mother, they are also to receive Sall, Phil, and Fanney and other household items. Finally, John willed that if his son Liberty comes of age when John's wife is still living, Liberty is to live with her. If they should disagree, then the land should be equally divided with his wife taking her choice. His sons Stephen and Archer were named as executors. John signed the will with his mark. The will was witnessed by William Sneed, Charles Sneed, P. Randolph, Alexander Sneed, and Herbert Stow, and was proven in court on 4 September 1794. An inventory was filed in April 1795.

Sharon Dolinate, in her extensive study of the descendants of this John Beasley, asserts that all of his children were from John's marriage with Anne, but this assertion remains unproven and cannot be confirmed by the will. The birth order of the children remains uncertain, though clearly from the language of the will, some were much younger than others.

Children of John Beasley, possibly all with wife Anne (Easley?), born in Amelia County, Virginia:

- i. **ROBERT EASLEY^d BEASLEY**, b. say 1757-60; living in Nottoway County in 1799. He married in Amelia County on 24 November 1781, **ANN WINFREE**.⁶³⁶ Child: *John Winfree Beasley*, named in the will of his maternal grandmother, Ann (____) Winfree, in 1795.⁶³⁷

⁶²⁸ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 16: 5.

⁶²⁹ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 16: 175.

⁶³⁰ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 17: 118.

⁶³¹ Amelia County, Virginia, Deed Book 17: 205.

⁶³² Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 68-69.

⁶³³ Nottoway County, Virginia, Deed Book 1: 42.

⁶³⁴ Nottoway County, Virginia, Deed Book 1: 43.

⁶³⁵ Nottoway County, Virginia, Will Book 1: 537-538, reprinted in Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 90-91.

⁶³⁶ Kathleen Booth Williams, comp., *Marriages of Amelia County, Virginia, 1735-1815* (No place: Kathleen Booth Williams, 1961), 8.

⁶³⁷ Nottoway County, Virginia, Will Book 1: 129.

- ii. **DANIEL BEASLEY**, b. say 1760-62; living in Nottoway County, Virginia, in 1804, when he sold land to John Robertson.⁶³⁸ He married **SARAH** (____).
- iii. **LEONARD BEASLEY**, b. 11 April 1764;⁶³⁹ d. Laurens County, South Carolina, 13 September 1844, intestate.⁶⁴⁰ He married between 1791 and 1800, **ANN "NANCY" CLARK(E)**. Children: 1. *Clark Beasley*; 2. *Mary Clark Beasley*; 3. *Martha Beasley*; 4. *Burrell C. Beasley*.⁶⁴¹
- iv. **STEPHEN BEASLEY**, b. say 1766; d. after 1810. His wife and children are unknown.⁶⁴²
- v. **MARY BEASLEY**, b. say 1768; she married before 1791, **JOHN JENNINGS**. Children: 1. *Coleman Jennings*; 2. *Nancy Jennings*; 3. *Elizabeth Dickerson Jennings*; 4. *Mary Beasley Jennings*.⁶⁴³
- vi. **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. 1770; d. Laurens County, South Carolina, 3 March 1770, testate.⁶⁴⁴ He married **MARTHA "PATSY" (MAY/MAYES?)**. Children: 1. *Mary Beasley*, b. ca. 1791, d. 1854; 2. *Elizabeth W. Beasley*, b. 18 March 1793, d. 23 May 1869; 3. *Ann Beasley*, b. ca. 1795-96; 4. *Jane Beasley*, b. 20 June 1798, d. 24 February 1869; 5. *Dorothy M. Beasley*, b. say 1800-1801; living in 1831.⁶⁴⁵
- vii. **ANN BEASLEY**, b. say 1771; m. Amelia County, 5 December 1786, **WILLIAM CLARKE**.⁶⁴⁶ Children: 1. *John West Clarke*; 2. *Mary "Polly" Clarke*; 3. *Easley Clarke*; 4. *Lucy Spain Clarke*; 5. *Rebecca Clarke*; 6. *William Archer Clarke*.⁶⁴⁷
- viii. **LIBERTY BEASLEY**, b. possibly 1776; d. Nottoway County, Virginia, 1815, testate. He married **SARAH FOULKES** but had no children.⁶⁴⁸
- ix. **RITTER (HENRIETTA?) BEASLEY**, b. say 1778; unmarried in 1794.
- x. **ARCHER BEASLEY**, b. say 1780; living in 1795, no record.
- xi. **EASLEY BEASLEY**, b. say 1782; living in 1797, no record.
- xii. **DAVID BEASLEY**, b. say 1784; d. Nottoway County, Virginia, 1804, intestate.⁶⁴⁹

1. STEPHEN¹ BEASLEY, of unknown parentage but possibly a brother or nephew of Robert¹ (above), was born say 1695, possibly earlier. He died in Chesterfield County after 20 December 1766, testate.⁶⁵⁰ He is sometimes called the son of Stephen Beasley and Sarah (Morgan) of Philadelphia in various undocumented websites, but there is no evidence for this assertion.

The earliest reference to Stephen in Henrico County occurs in the May Court of 1720, when Edward Tanner's deed to Stephen "Beesly" was recorded.⁶⁵¹ Later, on 1 December 1729, James Akin Jr. sold to Thomas Tanner a plantation where Tanner was then seated, and the deed described it as adjoining land belonging to the orphans of Daniel Worsham and the land of Stephen Beasley near the head of Proctor's Creek.⁶⁵² In the September court, 1744, a deed was recorded between William Byrd Esq. and Stephen Beasley.⁶⁵³ Though the deed itself does not survive, the land was likely that which Stephen later mentioned in his will and located on the Licking Branch of Falling Creek in what later became Chesterfield County. On 1 September 1746, he purchased from John Tanner of Dale Parish 100 acres north of Proctor's Creek bounded by land of Thomas Tanner and his own land.⁶⁵⁴

⁶³⁸ Nottoway County, Virginia, Deed Book 2: 547.

⁶³⁹ Doliente, *Some Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 73.

⁶⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁶⁴¹ Ibid, 76.

⁶⁴² Ibid, 80.

⁶⁴³ Ibid.

⁶⁴⁴ Ibid, 81.

⁶⁴⁵ Ibid, 85-86.

⁶⁴⁶ Williams, *Marriages of Amelia County, Virginia, 1735-1815*, 25.

⁶⁴⁷ Doliente, *Some Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 86.

⁶⁴⁸ Ibid, 86-87.

⁶⁴⁹ Ibid, 88-89.

⁶⁵⁰ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 53-54; citing Chesterfield County Will Book 1: 533.

⁶⁵¹ Weisiger, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1706-1737*, 168.

⁶⁵² Ibid, 108, citing Henrico County Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, page 254.

⁶⁵³ Weisiger, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1737-1750*, 94.

⁶⁵⁴ Weisiger, *Henrico County, Virginia Deeds, 1737-1750*, 31, citing Henrico Wills and Deeds 1744-1748, 202.

Stephen also speculated in land in neighboring counties. In 1734 he patented land in Prince George County in that portion that later became Amelia County.⁶⁵⁵ He obtained two more grants of 400 and 800 acres there in 1745 and 1750 in Amelia County.⁶⁵⁶

A year after the creation of Chesterfield County from Henrico in 1749, the court there ordered Stephen to pay a debt to Peter Farley and made him a surveyor of roads.⁶⁵⁷ Stephen made a deed of gift “for love and affection” to his son Stephen Jr. on 2 August 1751.⁶⁵⁸ The tract consisted of 400 acres, “being part of the 509 acres bought by said Stephen Sr. of Wm Byrd Esq. next to lands of Thomas Farmer, William Hatcher, Henry Farmer, and Thomas Sadler.”⁶⁵⁹ On 5 June 1754, Stephen purchased additional 576 acres from Byrd on both sides of Lower Licking Branch of Falling Creek.⁶⁶⁰ Less than a year later on 4 April 1755, he sold 143 acres of his Falling Creek property to Ephraim Blankenship.⁶⁶¹

Stephen made his will in Chesterfield County on 20 December 1766.⁶⁶² It was a complex document that contained many bequests. He left to his wife Tabitha 400 acres in Chesterfield County, located on the south side of Proctor’s Creek, “being land where I live,” and after her death, it was to pass to son Thomas. He also left to his wife a tract of land on the lower side of the Licking Branch of Falling Creek, which he had purchased from William Byrd Esq. After his wife Tabitha’s death, the property was to pass to daughter Ann. He left to Tabitha for her life 200 acres in Amelia County “adjoining land where my son Peter lives,” which after her death was to pass to Peter. Also after Tabitha’s death, all slaves and furniture were to be divided among all of their children, except for his son Josiah. He instructed his wife to “maintain my son Josiah, who is afflicted with a disorder and unable to care for himself. If she dies before Josiah, my son Peter [is] to care for him.” He left to Peter 100 additional acres in Amelia County “joining land I have already given him.”

The will continued with other bequests. Stephen’s son Benjamin was to receive a slave. His grandson, Archibald (son of Benjamin), received £40, while four granddaughters, also children of Benjamin who were not specifically named, each received £25. Stephen left to his son Thomas the “land and plantation where my son Stephen formerly lived in Chesterfield, which I purchased of Vanderhood and Hon. Wm Byrd.” He was also to receive slaves and £50. Stephen’s daughter Obedience received the other part of his land on Licking Branch, “lately purchased of Byrd.” He left a slave to his granddaughter Tabitha Hatcher. To granddaughters Sarah and Ann Cheatham, daughters of his daughter Tabitha, he left £25, and he stated further, “I release her husband William Cheatham from £45 I lent him.” He left a slave to his granddaughter Ann Edwards. All of the remainder of the estate was to be divided equally among the children except for Josiah. He appointed his wife Tabitha and son Peter as joint executors, while witnesses included William Hatcher, Nathaniel Hatcher, and Obediah Hatcher.

Stephen lived for some months beyond the writing of his will. On 7 March 1767, he deeded to his son Thomas “for love and affection to my son” a tract of 700 acres on the north side of Proctor’s Creek, when Stephen had purchased from William Byrd and from one Vanderhood.⁶⁶³

Tabitha Beasley wrote her will in Chesterfield County on 22 July 1771.⁶⁶⁴ She gave to her son-in-law Samuel Hatcher two slaves. To her granddaughter Ann Beasley, daughter of Thomas Beasley, she left one slave named Nell, “who is to go with her mother Amy to my daughter Obedience Hatcher until granddaughter Ann Beasley is 7.” If Ann dies, then Nell was to go to her brothers and sisters. Tabitha left £20 to William Cogbill. To her granddaughter Tabitha Beasley, daughter of Benjamin, she left a gold ring and silver shoe buckles. To her granddaughter Mary Bass she left a gold ring. To her daughter Frances Bass

⁶⁵⁵ Doliente, *Maryland and Virginia Colonials*, 66, citing Prince George County Patent Book 15:233.

⁶⁵⁶ Ibid, citing Patent Book 22:272 and 30:16.

⁶⁵⁷ *Chesterfield County, Virginia Court orders, 1749-1752* (Miami Beach, Florida: TLC Genealogy, 1991), 35, 37.

⁶⁵⁸ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1749-1756*, 24, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 1: 254.

⁶⁵⁹ Ibid.

⁶⁶⁰ Ibid, 58, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 2: 161.

⁶⁶¹ Ibid, 67, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 2: 281.

⁶⁶² Stephen Beasley will (1766) abstracted in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 53-54; citing Chesterfield County Will Book 1: 533.

⁶⁶³ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deed Book #5, 1764-1768* (Richmond, Virginia: Rocky Ridge Press, 1990), 44, citing original page 484.

⁶⁶⁴ Tabitha Beasley will (1771), in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 77, citing Chesterfield County Will Book 2: 45.

she left a side saddle and bridle. To her children Peter Beasley, Thomas Beasley, Ann Edwards, and Benjamin Beasley, she left each one shilling. She named her son Benjamin as her executor. The will was witnessed by William Hatcher, Obedience Hatcher, and Hannah Turner.

Some genealogists have theorized that Stephen Beasley Jr., below, was the son of the elder Stephen by an earlier wife, while Frances Bass was the daughter of Tabitha from a previous marriage.⁶⁶⁵ While this scenario is possible, there is no evidence in Chesterfield County records to suggest that this was the case. The elder Stephen might well have given his eldest son Stephen land without implying that he was only a half-sibling. Frances Bass was not mentioned in the elder Stephen's will, but perhaps she had already received a dowry at her marriage. Her omission does not necessarily imply that she was not his daughter.

Children of Stephen Beasley and Tabitha (Cheatham), born in Chesterfield County, Virginia, order uncertain, other than Stephen probably being the eldest son:

- i. **OBEDIENCE² BEASLEY**, b. say 1720; d. Dale Parish, Chesterfield County, Virginia, after 12 February 1771, when she wrote her will,⁶⁶⁶ but before 5 August 1774, when it was probated.⁶⁶⁷ She married **WILLIAM CHEATHAM**. William Cheatham of Dale Parish, Chesterfield County, made his will on 27 April 1751, giving to his wife Obedience the use of labor of four slaves for her widowhood, and then leaving the said slaves to sons William, Thomas, and Christopher.⁶⁶⁸ He left to his son Thomas a plantation on Dry Creek to son Thomas, which son Christopher received the plantation where William lived. He left a slave to daughter Obedience Cheatham and a slave girl to daughter Ann Hill. He left to his daughter Mary Cheatham three slaves and various household items. Stephen Beasley Jr. was among the witnesses. Sons Thomas and Christopher were both underage on 2 March 1753, when they came into court and chose Obedience as their guardian.⁶⁶⁹ Obedience's own will was written in Dale Parish on 12 February 1771. She named her grandson William Cheatham, orphan of deceased son Christopher, to receive a slave and 40 shillings. Other orphans of Christopher, namely Christopher, Thomas, Lucy, and Polly, each received 40 shillings. The remainder of the estate was divided three ways: a third to go to son William, a third to son Thomas, and a third to her five grandchildren.⁶⁷⁰
- ii. **STEPHEN BEASLEY Jr.**, b. say 1722; d. Chesterfield County, after 21 August 1752, when he wrote his will, leaving to his father "all of my land" and the rest of his estate "equally divided between my brothers and sisters."⁶⁷¹ The will was witnessed by Valentine Winfree, William Farmer, and Isham Farmer. He was unmarried and died without children. In 1750, a slave named Dick in his possession was judged to be 12 years old.⁶⁷²
2. iii. **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, b. say 1728; m. **OBEDIENCE CHEATHAM**.
- iv. **FRANCES BEASLEY**, b. say 1730; m. **CHRISTOPHER BASS** and had issue a daughter Mary Bass, who was left a gold ring in her grandmother Tabitha's will of 1771. Frances Bass received a side saddle and bridle.
3. v. **PETER BEASLEY**, b. say 1732.
4. vi. **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. say 1734; m. (____).
- vii. **TABITHA BEASLEY**, m. **SAMUEL HATCHER**.
- viii. **ANN BEASLEY**, m. **PETER EDWARDS**. On 19 May 1766, Lodowick Farmer sold 150 acres in Chesterfield to Peter Edwards, with the deed witnessed by Samuel Hatcher, Thomas Beasley, and Stephen Beasley.⁶⁷³ On 6 August 1767, Tabitha Beasley deeded to Peter Edwards 350 acres on the lower side of Licking Branch of Falling Creek.⁶⁷⁴ Ann Edwards received a shilling in her mother's will.
- ix. **JOSIAH BEASLEY**, mentally disabled at the time of his father's death and unable to share in the distribution of the estate.

⁶⁶⁵ <http://boards.ancestry.com/localities.northam.usa.states.virginia.counties.chesterfield/402/mb.ashx>; accessed 26 July 2014.

⁶⁶⁶ Obedience Cheatham will (1771) in *ibid*, 99-100, citing Chesterfield County Will Book 2: 250.

⁶⁶⁷ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1774-1795*, 117, citing Chesterfield County Order Book 6: 50.

⁶⁶⁸ William Cheatham will (1751), in *ibid*, citing Chesterfield county Will Book 1: 90.

⁶⁶⁹ *Ibid*, 66.

⁶⁷⁰ Obedience Cheatham will (1771) in *ibid*, 99-100, citing Chesterfield County Will Book 2: 250.

⁶⁷¹ Stephen Beasley will (1752), in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 12, citing Chesterfield County Will Book 1: 93.

⁶⁷² *Chesterfield County, Virginia Court Orders, 1749-1752*, 82.

⁶⁷³ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deed Book #5, 1764-1768* (Richmond, Virginia: Rocky Ridge Press, 1990), 31, citing original page 373.

⁶⁷⁴ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deed Book #5, 1764-1768*, 47, citing page 504.

2. BENJAMIN² BEASLEY (*Stephen¹*), the son of Stephen Beasley, was born in Henrico County say 1728. He died in Chesterfield County after 12 December 1781, testate.⁶⁷⁵ He married **OBEDIENCE CHEATHAM**, daughter of Charles Cheatham and Obedience (Cheatham) Cheatham. In a will recorded as a deed in Chesterfield County dated 1 March 1765, Charles Cheatham left a series of bequests to his children and grandchildren and included a bequest of a slave named Phillis to Obedience Beasley, his daughter, and Obedience Beasley, his granddaughter, whom he specified as Benjamin's daughter.⁶⁷⁶

Benjamin witnessed a deed between Curtis Cates and Thomas Cheatham Jr. in Chesterfield County on 29 September 1751, signing with his mark. His presence in this record places him in the vicinity of the family of Robert Beasley, above, though no relationship was stated.⁶⁷⁷ He purchased from William Byrd a tract of 200 acres on the south side of Falling Creek on 19 May 1753.⁶⁷⁸ He served on the vestry of Dale Parish on 5 December 1760.⁶⁷⁹ On 22 September 1763, he purchased from William Byrd 164 acres bounded by William Cheatham, Benjamin's own land, and land of Benjamin Horner and Thomas Cheatham.⁶⁸⁰

On 3 July 1767, in what appears to be a puzzling court record, Benjamin Beasley was appointed guardian of Achelus, Susanna, Obedience, Tabitha, and Benjamin Beasley, who were reported to be his own children.⁶⁸¹ The reason for the appointment is not known, but the names are roughly a close match to those later mentioned in his will.

Benjamin's will was dated 12 December 1781, and he described himself as being "sick in body but of sound memory & in my perfect senses."⁶⁸² He left to his son Peter, who was under 21, a tract in Amelia County between Deep Creek and Little Creek adjoining his brother, Peter's land. He left to his son Daniel another tract in Amelia County on the south side of Deep Creek adjoining land of Nathan Fletcher and George Davenport. He left to his wife Obedience "the tract of Land whereon I now live" in Chesterfield County, as well as slaves named Nell, Moses, Jack, and Bowser. After her death the land was to pass to their son, Samuel, while the slaves were to be divided among all of Benjamin's children as soon as Peter reached the age of 21. To his son, Thomas, Benjamin left a tract of land in Chesterfield purchased from Nathan and Benjamin Horner adjoining Daniel Horner and Archibald Cary's land. "The remainder of my Estate consisting of Negroes Stock Money & every else to me appertaining" was to be divided equally among all of the children, sons and daughters, when Peter reached 21. If either daughter married before that time, she was to be lent the use of the slaves until such time that the full division could take place. To his daughter Susannah, Benjamin lent the use of slaves Lyddy and Joe. To daughter Obedience he lent the use of slaves Judy and John. To his daughter Tabitha he lent the use of Edy and Sam. Each daughter also received a horse and saddle. Each daughter was to pay their brother Thomas £25 when the estate was divided. Further, he believed that his wife Obedience was with child, and if it is a son, he is to receive £100 by the rest of the children, equally divided. If a girl, she is to share in the estate with the other daughters. Stephen appointed Mathew Cheatham, James Furguson, Daniel Horner, Peter Beasley, and Stephen Beasley as his executors, and the will was witnessed by Cheatham, Furguson, and Horner.

Children of Benjamin Beasley and Obedience (Cheatham), born in Chesterfield County, Virginia:

- i. **ARCHIBALD/ACHELUS³ BEASLEY**, b. say 1750; d. before 1781. He was living at the time of his grandfather Stephen made his will, in which he received £40. He was not named in his father's will, indicating that he was likely deceased by this date.
- ii. **SUSANNAH BEASLEY**
- iii. **OBEDIENCE BEASLEY**
- iv. **TABITHA BEASLEY**

⁶⁷⁵ Benjamin Beasley will (1781), in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1774-1795* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger, 1979), 29.

⁶⁷⁶ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deed Book #5, 1764-1768*, 29, citing page 353.

⁶⁷⁷ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1749-1756*, 25, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 2: 265.

⁶⁷⁸ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1749-1756*, 32, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 1: 362.

⁶⁷⁹ Benjamin B. Weisiger III, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Deeds, 1756-1764* (Richmond, Virginia: Benjamin B. Weisiger, 1989), 34.

⁶⁸⁰ *Ibid*, 61, citing Chesterfield Deed Book 4: 621.

⁶⁸¹ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 147.

⁶⁸² Benjamin Beasley will (1781), transcribed online, *Rootsweb* (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/va/chesterfield/wills/beasley05.txt>; accessed 26 July 2014).

v. **BENJAMIN BEASLEY**, living in 1767 but apparently deceased by 1781.

v. **THOMAS BEASLEY**

vi. **DANIEL BEASLEY**

vii. **PETER BEASLEY**, b. after 1767; under age 21 in 1781.

3. PETER² BEASLEY (*Stephen¹*), the son of Stephen Beasley, was born in Henrico County, Virginia, say 1732. He was living in Amelia County, Virginia, as late as 1782, but appears to have died at an unknown location before 1788.

Peter inherited a total of 300 acres in Amelia County in his father's will, 200 of which were to come to him after his mother's death.

On 3 September 1788, Stephen Beasley was declared by the court in Amelia County to be the son and heir of Peter Beasley.⁶⁸³ However, there is no record of Peter's will or estate.

Child of Peter Beasley:

i. **STEPHEN³ BEASLEY**, b. say 1760; living in 1788.

4. THOMAS² BEASLEY (*Stephen¹*), the son of Stephen Beasley, was born in Henrico County, Virginia, say 1734. He died in Chesterfield County, Virginia, before 6 January 1775, intestate, with Benjamin Beasley and later Matthew Cheatham as administrators.⁶⁸⁴

In his father's will of 1766, he inherited the plantation on Proctor's Creek after the death of his mother.

The identity of Thomas's wife and the names of his children, if any, are not known with certainty. However, he was possibly the father of at least one son.

Possible children of Thomas Beasley and unknown wife:

i. **STEPHEN³ BEASLEY**, of uncertain parentage but perhaps a son of Thomas Beasley (son of Stephen), died in Chesterfield County, Virginia after 10 November 1791, when he wrote his will.⁶⁸⁵ He married **MARTHA CHEATHAM**, daughter of Thomas Cheatham, in Chesterfield County on 20 September 1791.⁶⁸⁶ Less than two months after his marriage, he became ill and died. In his will, he named as his sole heir his wife Martha, and if she is pregnant, the said child after her death. If he leaves no heirs of his body, then after Martha's death his property would go to the children of his sister, Anna Stone. Stephen named as co-executors Thomas Cheatham Sr., Matthew Cheatham, James Ferguson, and Thomas Cheatham Jr., while "Prudence" Cheatham, William Cheatham Jr., and Christopher Cheatham served as witnesses.

ii. **ANNA BEASLEY**, m. (____) **STONE**

UNPLACED BEASLEYS IN CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

WILLIAM BEAZLEY, of unknown parentage, wrote a will in Chesterfield County in 1764. He was apparently unmarried and had no children. He left his estate, which included 200 acres of land and slaves, to Henry Irby, son of Jean Irby.⁶⁸⁷ Witnesses include Thomas Searles, John Rudd, and John Rowlett.

LOVESY/LEROY BEASLEY died in Chesterfield County intestate before 13 July 1793, when his estate was appraised by Thomas Ashbrooke, John Belcher, and Moses Farguson.⁶⁸⁸ Earlier, on 9 April 1793, Martha Beasley was granted administration of the estate of Lovesy Beasley.

⁶⁸³ Amelia County, Virginia, Order Book 19: 75, in Bel Hubbard Wise, *Amelia County, Virginia Will Book 4, 1786-1792* (No place: Bel Hubbard Wise, n.d.), 41.

⁶⁸⁴ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 119, 138.

⁶⁸⁵ Stephen Beasley will (1791) in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1774-1795*, 91, citing Will Book 4: 397.

⁶⁸⁶ *Chesterfield County, Virginia Marriage Bonds, 1771-1852* (Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1936), 9.

⁶⁸⁷ William Beazley will (1764?) in Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1749-1774*, 98, citing page 237.

⁶⁸⁸ Weisiger, *Chesterfield County, Virginia Wills, 1774-1795*, 109.

PART 3

BEASLEY FAMILIES IN COLONIAL MARYLAND, AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS IN VIRGINIA, NORTH CAROLINA, KENTUCKY AND OHIO

This group of Beasleys remains, in many ways, the least documented and most elusive of the four family groups represented in this volume. Persons of the name of Beasley-Beesley appeared in Maryland in the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries, but they made little lasting imprint in local records and are difficult to connect, if indeed they were related at all to one another. Francis Beasley, who arrived in Anne Arundel County before 1650, had at least one son, John, whose descendants, if any, remain unknown. Two Beasley men, John and William, appear in Baltimore County in the early eighteenth century, but it is impossible from available evidence to link them to the Anne Arundel family. However, Y-chromosomal studies of descendants of William and John, the so-called Blue Group of the Beasley DNA Project, suggest a close relationship between the two men. They may have been brothers, but no other documentary evidence exists to show a relationship. John and his sons left Baltimore and moved to an area known as “Beesley’s Island” in Craven County, North Carolina, while William’s probable children settled in the mountainous area of Frederick County in northern Virginia. Attempting to connect all of the descendants of both men has proved exceedingly difficult. Other close matches within this Blue Group include descendants of one John Beasley, born in South Carolina in 1780; James Beasley, born in North Carolina about 1760 and died in Wake County, North Carolina, after 1790;⁶⁸⁹ and John Beasley, born in North Carolina about 1750. All three may be descendants of John of Beesley’s Island, but thus far their lineage is not known.

FRANCIS BEASLEY FAMILY OF ANNE ARUNDEL

1. FRANCIS¹ BEASLEY was born in England say 1625. He was killed at the Battle of the Severn, near Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, on 24 March 1655.⁶⁹⁰ He married **ELIZABETH** (____).

Francis arrived in Maryland before 29 July 1650, when he petitioned for a grant of 400 acres in Anne Arundel County for having transported his wife Elizabeth and their two children, John and Elizabeth.⁶⁹¹ The latter patent, called Beasley’s Neck, was not formally registered until 1674, when his son John sold it.⁶⁹² On 10 December 1651, Edward Selby assigned him rights to a tract of 100 acres that were part of a 300-acre parcel on a neck of land between Mr. Durand’s Creek and Thomas Lawrence’s Creek.⁶⁹³

Francis’s background in England remains unknown. There is no evidence that he was related to Edward Beasley, who also settled in Maryland at about the same period.⁶⁹⁴ As the Civil War raged in England, Francis allied himself, perhaps prior to his arrival, with the Puritan forces led by Oliver Cromwell. In Maryland, the war had led to a complex series of disputes over the charter and the Catholic Calvert family (the Lords Baltimore), who were proprietors of the colony. In 1654, a group of Puritan settlers objected to giving an oath of fidelity to Lord Baltimore, leading to the Puritans taking control of the colony and the Assembly. The

⁶⁸⁹ See Public Member Trees, *Ancestry.com* (<http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/64176985/person/40118048566>; accessed 24 October 2014). James’s wife is misidentified as Mary Sanford, confusing this James with James, son of James and Ann (Reynolds) Beasley, outlined in Part 1. He was living in Wake County, North Carolina, in 1790, and his household contained five males under 16, one male above 126, and three females (1790 U.S. Census, Wake County, North Carolina, page 272, line 10, James Beezley; National Archives microfilm publication M437, roll 7. Frederick Beezley, living nearby, was perhaps his brother. See the discussion of this family under Oxford Beesley (#10), below.

⁶⁹⁰ Donna Valley Russell, *First Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1649-1658* (New Market, Maryland: Catoctin Press, 1999), 1: 7.

⁶⁹¹ *Ibid*, citing Patents, 15: 355; 17: 619.

⁶⁹² *Ibid*, xiv.

⁶⁹³ *Ibid*, 7.

⁶⁹⁴ On 11 August 1655, Henry Pope, planter of Putuxent, sold to John Senclare, planter of Putuxent, a tract of land adjoining Edward “Basley” and Robert Kingsberry (Patent Record A & B, 1650-1657, f. 292). George Bussey was granted administration on the estate of Edward Beasley, deceased (no date), (*Ibid*, f. 245). See V. L. Skinner Jr., *Abstracts of the Proprietary Records of the Provincial Court of Maryland, 1637-1658* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2002), 186, 192.

supporters of the Calverts and their governor, William Stone, himself a Puritan, retaliated. Stone relinquished his governorship, but then was persuaded to resume it and force the Puritans out the Assembly at Providence. The Battle of the Severn resulted from the conflict between these two factions. Francis had allied himself with William Fuller, leader of the Puritan faction. The two forces met near Annapolis on 24 March 1655, and only a few men were killed. Francis fell in the conflict, together with William Ayres (a soldier); Thomas Marsh, and John Underhill.⁶⁹⁵

Afterward in 1657, Francis's widow Elizabeth, as "Widdow Besley," petitioned the General Assembly for relief, "her husband being Slain in the Publique Service Leaving behind him four Small Children."⁶⁹⁶ The number "4000" is written after her name, probably an allotment in pounds of tobacco to pay for her support. Her name appears again under "Debts due from the Publique to be paid at Providence" with the sum of 2000.⁶⁹⁷ Her name appears a third time as "widow Beasley" under "Due from the Publique to be paid at Potomocke River," again with the sum of 2000.⁶⁹⁸ A few additional details about these payments appear in the Patent Books. In 1657, the Assembly ordered payment of the accounts of Capt. Fendall, Mr. Parr, Mr. Spry, Mr. Hostkeys, John Cobreth, and "widow Besley & her 4 small children."⁶⁹⁹ A later accounting lists two payments to widow Besley or Beasley, one to be paid at Providence with John Underwood, Thomas Beeson, and Mr. Norwood, the other to be paid at the Potomac River, including widow Beasley, Robert Francklin, John Underhill, and Mr. Beard.⁷⁰⁰

Children of Francis Beasley and Elizabeth (___), the first two likely born in England, the remaining two in Anne Arundel County, Maryland:

2. i. **JOHN² BEASLEY**, b. England say 1645; m. (___).
- ii. **ELIZABETH BEASLEY**, b. England say 1648. She was probably the Elizabeth Beasley named in the will of William Harris of Anne Arundel County dated 20 September 1669.⁷⁰¹ No relationship to Harris is known. She was likely a single woman because she is not identified as either a wife or a widow as are other women named in the will. Harris, who apparently had no children, listed a number of unrelated heirs for items of personal property after his wife Elizabeth's death, one of whom was Elizabeth Beasley. He stated: "Then I give to Elizabeth Beasley my wives best cloathes wastcoat and one serge peticoat and one red cloth peticoat and three shirts and one pair of shoes and my best green apron."⁷⁰² There is no record of whether Elizabeth married after this date.
- iii. unknown child, b. say 1652.
- iv. unknown child, b. say 1654.

2. JOHN² BEASLEY (*Francis*¹), the son of Francis and Elizabeth (___) Beasley, was born probably in England say 1645. His date of death is not known, and the name of his wife has not been identified.

On 18 March 1672, John sold to Richard Hill a tract of 200 acres in Anne Arundel County known as Beasley's Neck, a grant originally obtained by his father but never formally recorded. The area was resurveyed on 3 February 1673 and described as follows:

By virtue of a special warrant granted unto Richard Hill of Ann Arundell County, Gent. These are in humble manner to certifie that I George Yate Deputy Surveyor under Baker Brook, Surveyor Generall, have laid out and resurveyed for the s'd Hill all that parcel of land called Beasley's Neck lying in s'd county at the mouth of the Ann Arundell River and in a creek called Beasley's Creek. Begins at a Persimmon tree standing on a point of marsh at the mouth of s'd creek and bounds on the s'd river.

⁶⁹⁵ Peter Cottrell, *English Civil War in the American Colonies*, publication date unknown, reproduced as a digital manuscript (http://www.ecwsa.org/English_Civil_War_in_the_American_Colonies.pdf; accessed 28 June 2014), 59.

⁶⁹⁶ William Hand Browne, ed., *Archives of Maryland: Proceedings and Acts of the General Assembly of Maryland, January 1637/8-September 1664* (Baltimore: Maryland Historical Society, 1883), 1: 363.

⁶⁹⁷ *Ibid.*, 1: 364.

⁶⁹⁸ *Ibid.*, 1: 365.

⁶⁹⁹ Skinner, *Abstracts of the Proprietary Records of the Provincial Court of Maryland, 1637-1658*, 208.

⁷⁰⁰ *Ibid.*, 209.

⁷⁰¹ William Harris will (1669), in Anne Arundel County Land Records Book 1H, page 189, cited in Rosemary B. Dodd and Patricia M. Bausell, eds., *Abstracts of Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland* (Pasadena, Maryland: Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, n.d.), 1:29-30.

⁷⁰² *Ibid.*

The grant record then adds a note showing John's relationship to Francis:

To the Right Honourable the Lord Proprietary: The humble petition of Richard Hill sheweth that on 3/18/1672, the Petitioner purchased of John Beasley, son and heir of Francis Beasley, a parcel of land called Beasley's Neck of 200 acres. Upon a resurvey by virtue of a special warrant the tract was found to be but on 159 acres and no more. Your petitioner asks that he be granted rights to the balance of 90 acres. Petition granted. A warrant of 490 acres granted to Richard Hill one hundred acres thereof by the renewal of a warrant in that quantity and 90 acres more resulting from his Lordship's grant of the remainder of rights to 250 acres due to Francis Beasley.⁷⁰³

On 18 November 1680, Thomas Driffield and John "Beasley" were sureties for a bond exhibited by Robert Clarkson, who was administrator of the estate of Evan Trucker in Anne Arundel County.⁷⁰⁴

John later obtained a second grant of 109 acres in Anne Arundel County known as "Beasley's Lot" on 20 July 1684.⁷⁰⁵ No details are known about the land's sale. On 19 June 1703, Thomas Cockey of Anne Arundel sold to John Wood a tract of land called Cockey's Addition that was bounded by land "laid out for John Beasley," though there is no evidence that he was living at that time.⁷⁰⁶ John was possibly the "J. Beasley" who witnessed the will of William Hopkins in Anne Arundel County, together with G. Hodges, A. Corbett, and Geo. Hodges, on 26 July 1702.⁷⁰⁷

What became of John after this date is not known. It is possible that he was the father of several children, but their identities cannot be proven in county sources. It is also not known when and how John disposed of his land at Beasley's Neck.

Possible child of John Beasley, born perhaps in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, speculative and unproven:

- i. possibly **THOMAS³ BEEZLY/BEEZLEY**, b. say 1680-90; d. after 1723, no record. A Thomas "Beazly" married **ELIZABETH IVES** on 29 October 1720 in St. Anne's Parish, Anne Arundel County.⁷⁰⁸ Thomas was probably the same person listed as being from Anne Arundel County, who was later imprisoned for debt. In October 1723, he was part of a group of prisoners who petitioned the proprietor of the colony for relief from their continued imprisonment. The group also included Thomas Turner of Charles County, and Christopher Belrose, Thomas Cobb, John Gould, and John Ferrell, all of Anne Arundel County.⁷⁰⁹ They stated they were in "Deplorable Circumstances not being able to redeem their bodies with all the Estate or Interest they have in the World which they would readily surrender up and Part with to their Severall and respective Creditors if they would Accept of the same."⁷¹⁰ The assembly passed an act to require the creditors to pay the prison fees of the defendants at ten pounds of tobacco per day. Otherwise, they would be discharged upon swearing an oath that they have surrendered to their creditors all of their estate. If any of them are arrested again they would be forced to stand in a pillory for two hours and have their left ears cut off.⁷¹¹ It is possible, though unlikely, that he was the Thomas Beezley who later settled in Onslow County, North Carolina.

[Perhaps others, see below.]

⁷⁰³ Robert W. Hall, *Land Grants in the Middle Neck Hundred of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1650-1704* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 42-43.

⁷⁰⁴ V. L. Skinner Jr., *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 2006), 4: 175, citing Liber 12A: 190.

⁷⁰⁵ Peter Wilson Coldham, *Settlers of Maryland, 1679-1783* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2002), 41, citing Patent Book 32: 152.

⁷⁰⁶ Rosemary B. Dodd and Patricia M. Bausell, eds., *Abstracts of Land Records of Anne Arundel County, Maryland* (Pasadena, Maryland: Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, n.d.), 2: 73.

⁷⁰⁷ Donna Valley Russell, *First Families of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1649-1658* (New Market, Maryland: Catocin Press, 2002), 2: 74.

⁷⁰⁸ F. Edward Wright, *Anne Arundel county Church records of the 17th and 18th Centuries* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, n.d.), 86.

⁷⁰⁹ Archives of Maryland, volume 38: 328.

⁷¹⁰ Ibid, 38: 329.

⁷¹¹ Ibid, 38: 332.

**WILLIAM AND JOHN BEESLEY OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND
AND SOME OF THEIR DESCENDANTS**

1. **(Unknown)¹ BEESLEY/BEASLEY** was born say 1650 or perhaps earlier. He could be John Beasley, son of Francis, (above), of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, but except for the time frame and vicinity, there is no evidence, direct or indirect, to link that John to the Beasleys of St. George's Parish, Baltimore County. Neither the deed records nor the early probate records of early Baltimore County offer a clue about this Beasley's identity. He may well have lived in England, with his sons William and John being early Maryland immigrants. As stated in the introduction, William and John are placed tentatively as brothers, but no direct evidence exists for making this assertion other than that they were contemporaries in Baltimore County in the early decades of the eighteenth century. Results of a Y-DNA study of their male-line descendants indicate a close match and a common ancestor.⁷¹² However, the linking of the two as brothers is at best a conjecture, and they could have been first cousins or even more distantly related.

The wife of this first Beasley has not been identified, but perhaps she was related in some way to the family of Thomas Oxford and wife Susanna (____) of Somerset County, Maryland (see below). "Oxford," a highly unusual name, was used as a given name among the descendants of John² Beasley, below, and Thomas Oxford was probably related to a Mary Beasley, who resided with him when she was named in the 1690/1 will of Sarah Saunders.⁷¹³ Many years later on 26 September 1749, Samuel "Uxford," whose relationship to Thomas Oxford, if any, is not known, had a grant in Craven County, North Carolina, adjoining that of John Beasley, who had also settled there.⁷¹⁴

Possible children of this unknown ____ Beasley:

2. i. **WILLIAM² BEESLEY**, b. say 1670-80; m. **DOROTHY** (____).
3. ii. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1685; m. **WINIFRED** (____).
- iii. possibly **MARY BEASLEY/BEAZELY**, b. say 1670-75 (she was under age 21 in 1691); d. after 1691. Mary was named as a "kinswoman" of Sarah Saunders, widow of John Saunders, of Somerset County, Maryland, in her undated will probated on 5 March 1690/1.⁷¹⁵ Sarah bequeathed to Mary Beazely "for & in Consideracon of the Tend^r: Love & affection borne to my Kinswoman Mary Beazely living with my Cosen Thomas Oxford" of Somerset County, one "Cow Calfe together with all her increase for Ever except every other Bull Calfe until my Kinsewoman shall Marry or attaine the age of one & Twenty years."⁷¹⁶ The will was witnessed by Samuel Hopkins Sr. and Jr., John Saunders, and Sarah Saunders. Sarah Saunders had a complex relationship with her cousin, Thomas Oxford of Mattapony Hundred, Somerset County. Earlier on 11 February 1690/1, Sarah testified that Thomas had visited her home on two occasions, once prior and once after her marriage to John Saunders (when John was absent), and both times had attempted to rape her.⁷¹⁷

2. **WILLIAM² BEESLEY/BEEZLEY**, (-?-¹ Beesley), of unknown parentage, was born say 1670-1680, possibly though not certainly in Maryland. He died in Baltimore County, Maryland, by 11 April 1715, when Dorothy Beesley, together with William Jenkins, posted a bond of administration for his estate.⁷¹⁸ William Beesley had apparently married **DOROTHY** (____), whose identity is unknown but who was perhaps a sister or close relative of William Jenkins. She died after 1725 at an unknown location.

⁷¹² "Beasley/Beazley/Beezley/Beesley/Beasly/Beardsley DNA Project," *Family Tree DNA* (<https://www.familytreedna.com/public/beasley>; accessed 1 July 2014).

⁷¹³ Sarah Saunders will (1690/1), Somerset County, Maryland, transcribed in *Archives of Maryland*, volume 405: 80; database, Maryland State Archives (<http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/000001/000405/html/am405--80.html>; accessed 2 July 2014).

⁷¹⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 1 (1735-1752)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 167, #2429.

⁷¹⁵ *Archives of Maryland*, volume 405: 80; database, Maryland State Archives (<http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/000001/000405/html/am405--80.html>; accessed 2 July 2014).

⁷¹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷¹⁷ *Ibid.*, volume 191: 40, (<http://aomol.msa.maryland.gov/000001/000191/html/am191--40.html>; accessed 2 July 2014).

⁷¹⁸ Robert W. Barnes, *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1989), 36.

William Beesley lived in Baltimore County, which was created from Anne Arundel County in 1659.⁷¹⁹ He did not own land, does not appear in tax or church records, and made little imprint in known historical sources. He and Dorothy were perhaps the parents of several children living in St. George's Parish, Baltimore, in the first decades of the eighteenth century, but these relationships remain unproven. Of the three parishes extant at the time in Baltimore County (St. Paul's, St. John's, and St. George's), St. George's was located in the northeastern part of the county in an area that is now part of Harford County. It bordered the Chesapeake Bay and Cecil County.

Dorothy Beesley took her oath as administratrix of William Beesley of Baltimore County on 11 April 1715, and she promised to file an inventory of his personal property before 11 July 1715. Both she and William Jenkins signed with their marks in the presence of Richard and Rebecca Colegate.⁷²⁰ The inventory of the estate has not survived, and the probate record does not specifically identify Dorothy as William's widow, though it would appear to be a logical interpretation of the evidence.

Two men named William Jenkins lived in Baltimore County in the second decade of the eighteenth century and died between 1720 and 1721. William Jenkins, who posted bond with Dorothy in 1715, died in Baltimore County intestate in 1720, with Hezekiah Balch serving as his administrator.⁷²¹ He was not the William Jenkins born on 4 July 1675 at Annemessex, Somerset County, Maryland, the son of William and Ann (Studley) Jenkins.⁷²² This other William married Sarah Cullen about 1698 and on 2 August 1715, purchased from George Freeland 50 acres on the north side of Deer Creek in Baltimore County. He later died there testate with his will dated 22 November 1720 and proved 2 May 1721.⁷²³ There is no evidence of a relationship between the two Williams. The question of whether William Jenkins, who posted bond with Dorothy, was, in fact, a close relative and possibly a brother of Dorothy merits further investigation but cannot be proven from extant sources. However, Hezekiah Balch, Jenkins's administrator, remains a key figure in unraveling a part of the Beesley-Balch-Jenkins connection.

As a widow, Dorothy likely married Hezekiah Balch in St. George's Parish before November 1717. Balch was born about 1686, and an unreferenced genealogy places his birth in Baltimore County, the only son of Thomas and Agnes (Somerville) Balch.⁷²⁴ He died at an unknown location about 1745, though there does not appear to exist either a will or probate record for him in Maryland. He had previously married Martha Ann (Bloomer), who died in St. George's Parish in January 1716/7.⁷²⁵ The place and time frame of Hezekiah's marriage to Dorothy are consistent with her being the widow of William Beesley, and Hezekiah's role as the administrator of William Jenkins's estate links the families together. Hezekiah and Dorothy Balch had three children baptized and mentioned in the St. George's Parish records: Thomas, born 4 November 1717; Hezekiah, born 6 March 1721; and Mary, born 2 October 1725.⁷²⁶

As a citizen of some means, Hezekiah became the master of Alice Carrington, a female servant and felon transported from England and bound to him in 1726.⁷²⁷ She would later give birth to several illegitimate children with multiple fathers, including a daughter Johannah with William Beesley.⁷²⁸ The record suggests

⁷¹⁹ Perhaps, though unlikely, William was one of several creditors of James Wantland, ironmonger, of Anne Arundel County, who was awarded a judgment on 24 December 1714, but more likely this was a London-based creditor. See Rosemary Dodd and Patricia Bausell, *Abstracts of Land Records, Anne Arundel County, Maryland* (Pasadena, Maryland: Anne Arundel Genealogical Society, n.d.), 3: 104.

⁷²⁰ "Maryland, Register of Wills Records, 1629-1999, Baltimore County, Administrative Bonds, 1721-1767," pages 43-44, digital image, *Familysearch* (www.familysearch.com); accessed 18 July 2014).

⁷²¹ Testamentary Proceedings, Liber 4, folio 306. See V. L. Skinner, *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 2008), volume 15 (1719-1721), 126.

⁷²² *Early Vital Records, Somerset County, Maryland*, website, page 120 (<http://files.usgwarchives.net/md/somerset/vitals/earlyvitals02.txt>); accessed 9 September 2014. William Jenkins and Ann Studley married in Somerset County on 25 August 1674, and the couple had, in addition to William, a daughter Elizabeth, born 24 September 1676.

⁷²³ Steven Butler, "Steven Butler's Family History Website," website, <http://www.watermelon-kid.com/family/bios/jenkins1.htm>; accessed 12 July 2014).

⁷²⁴ David R. Balch, *The Balch Family of Maryland: The First Five Generations* (No place: David R. Balch, 2010), page 7; digital book, <http://www.balchgenealogy.com/1st-5thGeneration.pdf>; accessed 12 July 2014.

⁷²⁵ *Ibid*, page 9.

⁷²⁶ Bill Reamy and Martha Reamy, *St. George's Parish Registers, 1689-1793* (Silver Spring, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1988), 24-25.

⁷²⁷ Edith Ziegler, "The Transported Convict Women of Colonial Maryland, 1718-1776," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, volume 97, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 31, note no. 71.

⁷²⁸ *Ibid*.

that this younger William was Dorothy (____) Beesley Balch's son from her previous marriage, and it would explain how he became acquainted with Alice.

Of the children listed for William and Dorothy (____) Beesley, none are proven. The indirect evidence cited above places William of St. George's Parish as a probable son of William and Dorothy, since they both lived in that parish and were of age to be his parents. Elizabeth Beezley, who married Edmund Lindsey, was also of St. George's Parish at the time and of age to have been William and Dorothy's daughter. The couple would have a son Hezekiah, perhaps named for Hezekiah Balch. The other children, Major and James, are unproven and are placed here tentatively, though they were contemporaries of the younger William in Frederick County, Virginia, at a later period, and Major lived near William in Kentucky.

Children of William Beasley and wife Dorothy (____), born in Baltimore County, Maryland:

4. i. likely **ELIZABETH⁴ BEEZLEY**, b. say 1705; m. **EDMUND LINDSEY**.
5. ii. possibly **JAMES BEESLEY**, b. say 1705-10; m. (____).
6. iii. likely **WILLIAM BEEZLEY/BEESLEY**, b. say 1710; m. (____).
7. iv. possibly **MAJOR BEESLEY**, b. say 1710-15; m. [**MARTHA BRANSON?**].
8. v. likely another son, name unknown, b. say 1715.

3. JOHN² BEASLEY/BEESLEY (-?-¹ *Beesley*), of unknown parentage, was born possibly though not certainly in Maryland, say 1685. He was not likely born in North Carolina as is claimed in many genealogical websites. He died in Craven County, North Carolina, before May 1755, intestate.⁷²⁹ He married **WINIFRED** (____), who survived him and was named administratrix of his estate, but she may have been a later wife and is not proven as the mother of his children.

Much erroneous information about John has appeared in various online sources. Some researchers have claimed that he was identical to John Beasley of Essex and Caroline counties, Virginia, son of William (see Chapter 1, number 5). This assertion can be demonstrated as false, given the continuous evidence of that John in the Caroline County records. Other genealogists have invented for him a wife called "Sarah Joann Cagwell Jenkins." There is no evidence in the historical record of Maryland, Virginia, or North Carolina for such a person. More likely this name has been cobbled together from several sources, with "Cagwell" being borrowed from Shafer and Odell's *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio*. We have demonstrated that the Beasleys of Caroline and Spotsylvania counties were entirely separate from this one.

The earliest record of John Beasley can be found in Baltimore County, Maryland, on 7 November 1719, when, as John "Beasly," he witnessed with Edward Edwards a deed between Abraham Taylor and John Taylor for the sale of 100 acres.⁷³⁰ He does not appear in the deeds in his own right or as a witness to other documents. However, the deed links John to Abraham Taylor, whose family also became established in Craven County, North Carolina, and whose daughter married John's son, Solomon. Abraham Taylor moved to Craven County about 1727. He made his will there in 1751, naming daughter Prudence, granddaughter Dina (daughter of son John), wife Ede, son-in-law George Marshall, and other children to divide the estate, including, Jacob Taylor, Rachel Beesley, Joseph Taylor, and Abraham Taylor.⁷³¹ Abraham's daughter Rachel married Solomon Beasley (see below). Jacob Taylor would later serve as guardian and master for James Beasley, son of Oxford, in 1741.⁷³²

John Beasley probably moved to Craven County with the Taylors. On 3 April 1733, his name appears with Solomon and Oxford Beasley on a petition to the North Carolina Executive Council, requesting to have the

⁷²⁹ Stephen Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume III: Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798* (Keysville, VA: Stephen Bradley, 1993), page 6, #53.

⁷³⁰ John Davis, *Baltimore County, Maryland Deed Records, Volume One: 1659-1737* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1996), 319.

⁷³¹ Abraham Taylor will (1751), Craven County, North Carolina, Will Book 5: 262.

⁷³² Wyenette Parks Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730 thru 1741, Book II*, (Durham, NC: Wyenette Parks Haun, 1987), 138, #284.

Craven County Council meet at New Bern near the Neuse River, instead of at Edenton.⁷³³ In 1734, John “Beesly” joined John Durham in giving security of £100 for John Short to keep a ferry over the Neuse River.⁷³⁴ In 1743, he served as foreman on a jury in Craven County.⁷³⁵ At the same court session he brought a suit on unspecified charges against Phill Trapnall, and a jury awarded him £29.⁷³⁶

John obtained several land grants in Craven County. On 9 September 1735, he petitioned for a warrant of 200 acres in Craven Precinct in what was then Bath County on the north side of the Neuse River beginning at White’s Branch.⁷³⁷ He next obtained a grant for 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River on 29 June 1738.⁷³⁸ Then on 20 April 1745, he was granted a patent for 200 more acres, also on the north side of the Neuse River, a tract that became known as “Beesley’s Island.”⁷³⁹ This grant was later referenced on 29 January 1765 in a deed between William Barber and Joseph Gadd.⁷⁴⁰ John sold to William Beasley, his likely son, 100 acres on north side of the Neuse River (perhaps part of his earlier grant) for £20 on 15 July 1747, with the document witnessed by William Peters, John Collins, and John Hollinsworth.⁷⁴¹ On 20 April 1750, he sold to William Barber 100 acres on the north side of the Neuse, being part of his 1745 grant.⁷⁴²

At the June court, 1747, John petitioned the court as “John Beasley Sr.,” and prayed “that as he is stricken in years & incapable of Labour ~~that~~ he may be Exempted from publick taxes & Levies & all publick Services.”⁷⁴³ The court recommended that the petition be granted and sent to the General Assembly for approval. John died in Craven County probably in the spring of 1755. On 13 May 1755, the court in Craven County recorded:

The Court being moved that Winifred Beasley have letters of admōn of the Estate of Jn^o decd her husband ordered that she has admōn accordingly giving security in £140 post^d viz John Hollinsworth and Simon Beasley and that Mr. Secretary have notice to issue the same.⁷⁴⁴

On the same day, the court recognized a deed of sale between William Beasley to Lucretsy Beasley for a tract of 100 acres in Craven County, with the sale proved by oath of John Hollinsworth.⁷⁴⁵ No records of the estate sale exist in the records of Craven County. However, the loose estate records of “John Beeslie,” dated May 1755 and returned 13 August 1755, exist in the papers of the North Carolina Secretary of State.⁷⁴⁶ Buyers at the sale included Simon Beeslie, “Benja. Beeslie,” John Beeslie, Solomon Beeslie, “Vieniah” Beeslie, William Beeslie, James Beeslie, and Winifred Beeslie. Several others were also purchasers, including Abraham Taylor.

Evidence of John’s children is thus largely circumstantial. The connection of Simon, Benjamin, John, Solomon, Viennah, William, James, and possibly Winifred suggest that they were his children, grandchildren, or other close relatives. The association of Simon, William, and Solomon Beasley with John Hollinsworth and other members of the Hollinsworth family in subsequent deed records serve as evidence of a probable link that the three were siblings, though whether there was a familial relationship to the Hollinsworths is not

⁷³³ <http://files.usgwarchives.net/nc/craven/court/alter01.txt>; accessed 2 July 2014. See also Robert J. Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1664-1734* [Colonial Records of North Carolina, Second Series, Volume VII] (Raleigh, NC: Department of Cultural Resources, 1984), 303.

⁷³⁴ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730-1741, Book II* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 1981), 46, #84.

⁷³⁵ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes (Pleas and Quarter Sessions), 1742-1748, Book III* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 1983), 41, #400-401.

⁷³⁶ *Ibid.*, 42, #404.

⁷³⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 1 (1735-1752)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 29, #371.

⁷³⁸ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 1996), 57, # 386, citing Deed Book 1: 352. See also Robert J. Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1753-1754* [The Colonial Records of North Carolina], Second Series, Volume VIII (Raleigh, NC: Department of Cultural Resources, 1988), 80, 86.

⁷³⁹ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, XXX

⁷⁴⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 78, #1755.

⁷⁴¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 146, #2263.

⁷⁴² Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, 78, #532, citing Deed Book 1: 468.

⁷⁴³ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes (Pleas and Quarter Sessions), 1742-1748, Book III*, 108-109, #596.

⁷⁴⁴ Craven County Court Minutes, 1753-1758, page 40, microfilm roll 3, C-028-30003, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

⁷⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴⁶ Stephen Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume III: Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798* (Keysville, VA: Stephen Bradley, 1993), page 6, #53.

known. The association does suggest the possibility of a family tie, however, and the family is perhaps connected to the Hollinsworth family of Queen Anne's County, Maryland.⁷⁴⁷

An extensive amount of information about John Beesley's descendants can be found in various undocumented online sources, but not all of the claims made in these sources can be substantiated in other direct sources.

Probable children of John Beasley, perhaps with wife Winifred (____) or perhaps with an unknown first wife, born likely in Baltimore County, Maryland, order uncertain:

9. i. **SOLOMON^d BEESLEY**, b. say 1707; m. **RACHEL TAYLOR**.
10. ii. **OXFORD BEESLEY**, b. say 1710; m. (____).
11. iii. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. say 1712; m. (____).
12. iv. **SIMON BEASLEY**, b. say 1715; m. **FEARNOT** (____).
 - v. probably **BENJAMIN BEESLEY**, b. ca. 1720; he was a purchaser at John Beesley's estate sale in 1755. He is too old to have been Solomon's son, who was under age in 1789. He does not appear in Craven County land records in his own right, however. He may have moved to some other locality.
 - vi. **VIENNAH BEESLEY**, b. say 1720; d. Craven County, North Carolina, after 2 May 1757, when she wrote a will. She was a purchaser at John Beasley's estate sale in 1755, but apparently was not married. Two years later, as "Urayner" or "Viayner Besley," she left to "my well beloved daughter Elizabeth Besly" four cows and calves, three yearlings and their increase, a horse, a bed, a scythe, three plates, and a linen wheel, in a deed dated 2 May 1757, which was witnessed by James Besly, Lucresy Besly, and Charles Hollinsworth.⁷⁴⁸ Child of Vienah Beesley by an unknown father, possibly born out-of-wedlock: i. *Elisabeth Beesley*, b. say 1738-40; in 1757, the court in Craven County recorded her livestock mark as "the Mark of Elizabeth Beesly, daughter of Elisabeth Vianah Beesly," which was registered as "two under Bitts in the left Ear the Right Ear a Crop and under Bitt."⁷⁴⁹ Some undocumented sources state that Viannah married one John Barber, but there is no evidence of such a relationship, and she probably died unmarried, since she does not appear under the name Barber in her will.
13. vii. probably **JOHN BEESLEY JR.**, b. say 1715-20.
- viii. probably **LUCRETIA BEESLEY**, b. say 1720. She was not a purchaser at her father's estate. However, she appears in several deed records in connection with William Beesley (possibly her father but more likely her brother). On 8 May 1754, William sold to "Lucrecy" Beasley, 100 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, witnessed by George W. Blake and John Hollinsworth.⁷⁵⁰ This was apparently the same deed that the court in Craven County recognized as a deed of sale between William Beasley to Lucretsy Beasley on 8 May 1755, with William selling a tract of 100 acres in Craven County and the sale proved by oath of John Hollinsworth.⁷⁵¹ On 9 August 1757, she sold to William Davis 100 acres on the north side of the Neuse River in a deed witnessed by Charles Hollinsworth, Elijah Coy, and Benjamin Brown.⁷⁵² There is no further record of her, and she possibly died unmarried.
- ix. possibly **WINIFRED BEASLEY**, no record. She is often assigned as a daughter of John in various online sources since she was among the names of the purchasers at the 1755 estate sale, but a more likely interpretation of the record is that she was John's widow of the same name. Several undocumented online genealogies assign John Barber as her spouse, but there is no direct or indirect evidence of their marriage. Her placement as a daughter must be considered conjectural and unproven.

4. ELIZABETH³ BEEZLEY (?William², -?-¹ Beesley¹), probably a daughter of William Beesley, perhaps with wife Dorothy (____), was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, say 1700-1705. She died in Frederick County, Virginia, after 1751, when she and her husband co-signed a lease.⁷⁵³ She married in St. George's

⁷⁴⁷ "Our Hollinsworth Family in America," *Rootsweb*, (<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~jayken/hollingsworth/hr/650103129.htm>; accessed 14 November 2014).

⁷⁴⁸ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Deed Books 6, 7, 8, & 9 10* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2005), 118, #3251, citing Deed Book 9-10: 373.

⁷⁴⁹ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1757-1763, Book V*, 8, #32.

⁷⁵⁰ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Books 3, 4, 6, 7, 1744-1755*, 86, #3024.

⁷⁵¹ Craven County Court Minutes, 1753-1758, page 40, microfilm roll 3, C-028-30003, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

⁷⁵² Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 6, 7, 8, & 9-10*, 125, #3311.

⁷⁵³ Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Book 6: 42-43.

Parish, Baltimore County, Maryland, on 20 or 28 February 1725, **EDMUND LINDSEY**.⁷⁵⁴ The slightly later record in the same volume shows the groom as “Edmond Linzey.”⁷⁵⁵

Indirect evidence in Frederick County, Virginia, links Elizabeth to the younger William Beesley. Edmund Lindsey, born say 1697, left Baltimore for Frederick County about 1733. Many years later on 6 September 1770, he gave a deposition in the Hite-Fairfax lawsuit in which he stated that “he has been a resident in the County of Frederick about thirty seven years and has constantly lived” there, which places the year at about 1733, shortly after the time they disappear from the Baltimore County records.⁷⁵⁶ On 3 October 1760, Edmond Lindsey sold to Edmond Lindsey Jr. a tract of land on a branch of the “Shanando” (Shenandoah) River called the Long Marsh, containing 26 acres, being part of a larger grant of 745 acres granted to John Lindsey by Lord Fairfax on 2 April 1751.⁷⁵⁷ Witnesses included Jacob Lindsey, William Beesley, and Abraham Lindsey. The following day a release was signed by Edmund and Elizabeth Lindsey, his wife, acknowledging receipt of 50 pounds for the above 26 acres.⁷⁵⁸ On 10 February 1762, William Beasley and Edmund Lindsay served as markers for the grant of Leonard Eckstine, “assignee of William Beasley,” who obtained 164 acres at Opeckon adjoining Lewis Neil and Thomas Helmes.⁷⁵⁹ These records show that Edmund Lindsey and William Beesley lived in the same neighborhood and were neighbors.

On 18 November 1767, Edmund Lindsey Sr. sold to Robert Hollinsworth of Frederick County a tract of 200 acres for sixty pounds.⁷⁶⁰ On 1 March 1770, he leased to Edmund Jr. a series of tracts that were described as being part of either a 1766 grant to the elder Edmund or an earlier grant to John Lindsey of 1751.⁷⁶¹ He also leased land to Jacob Lindsey, who, like Edmund Jr., was also probably his son.⁷⁶² On 6 August 1770, he rented 200 acres in Frederick County for fifteen years to Joseph and Isaac Elledge.⁷⁶³ Edmund would later convey an additional 11 acres to Edmund Jr. in a deed of 1771, which Edmund Jr. would later sell to Robert Hodgen.⁷⁶⁴

While Elizabeth does not appear in records after 1751, Edmund was still living in Frederick County in 1782.⁷⁶⁵ As Edmund Lindsey Sr., he disposed of most of his land in a series of deeds dated between 10 and 18 May 1782. On 18 May 1782, he sold to John Lindsey Sr. a tract of 294 acres on Long Marsh adjoining Robert Hodgen and already in possession of John Lindsey.⁷⁶⁶ On 10 May, he sold to Thomas Lindsey a second tract of 294 acres on Long Marsh already in Thomas’s possession.⁷⁶⁷ Edmund left no known will, and the names of his children are based largely on associations from his deed records.

Children of Elizabeth (Beesley) and Edmund Lindsey:

- i. **JOHN^d LINDSEY/LINZEY**, b. St. George’s Parish, Baltimore, 28 January [1731?];⁷⁶⁸ he was living in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1782, when his father deeded him land on Long Branch.⁷⁶⁹

⁷⁵⁴ Bill Reamy and Martha Reamy, *St. George’s Parish Registers, 1689-1793* (Silver Spring, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1988), 25.

⁷⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, 36.

⁷⁵⁶ Edmund Lindsey deposition (1770), quoted in Hunter Branson McKay, *Fairfax Land Suit, Transcript of a Copy in the British Museum* (Belmont, MA: No publisher, 1951), 1620-1621.

⁷⁵⁷ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books 5, 6, 7, 8, 1757-1762* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1990), 43; citing Frederick County Deed Book 6: 62.

⁷⁵⁸ *Ibid.*; citing Frederick County Deed Book 6: 64.

⁷⁵⁹ Peggy Shomo Joyner, *Abstracts of Virginia’s Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Frederick County, Virginia, 1747-1780* (No place: Peggy Shomo Joyner, 1985), 49.

⁷⁶⁰ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books 12, 13, 14, 1767-1771* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1991), 15; citing Frederick County Deed Book 12: 137-138.

⁷⁶¹ Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books 12, 13, 14, 1767-1771*, 117; citing Deed Book 13: 219-222.

⁷⁶² *Ibid.*, citing Frederick County Deed Book 12: 223-224.

⁷⁶³ *Ibid.*, 132; citing Frederick County Deed Book 13: 352.

⁷⁶⁴ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 17 and 18, 1775-1780, plus Early Troop Records, 1755-1761* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1993), 11; citing Frederick County Deed Book 17: 58-60.

⁷⁶⁵ Susan Grabek, “The Lindseys of Long Marsh, Virginia,” website (<http://mimpickles.com/lindsey.group2/patriarchs.htm>; accessed 1 July 2014).

⁷⁶⁶ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 19 and 20, 1780-1785* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1995), 46; citing Frederick County Deed Book 19: 330.

⁷⁶⁷ *Ibid.*, 47; citing Frederick County Deed Book 19: 332.

⁷⁶⁸ Lucy Harrison transcription of the St. George’s Parish register, transcribed by Susan Grabek in the Lindsey family website (http://mimpickles.com/lindsey/st_georges_parish.htm; accessed 1 July 2014). Reamy does not provide the year of John’s birth in his transcription of the St. George’s register, but Pickles claims to have seen an earlier transcription by Harrison giving the birth date as 1731.

⁷⁶⁹ Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 19 and 20, 1780-1785*, 46; citing Frederick County Deed Book 19: 330.

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- ii. **EDMUND LINDSEY JR.**, b. say 1730-35, no record; d. Newberry County, South Carolina, after 16 March 1816 and before 27 September 1819, testate, with his will naming a wife Mary and children Nancy Hughes, Ruthe Pearson, William Lindsey, Edmund Lindsey, and Phoebe Oglivie.⁷⁷⁰ Edmund served in the area of Fort Pitt in Pennsylvania during the Revolutionary War. Although there are no extant service records, he deposed on 11 November 1778 that he and several other men were taken prisoner by men who said they were acting on orders given by Col. John Stephenson. He was fined two months' pay and forced to serve a tour of duty in the Virginia militia.⁷⁷¹ After the war he moved to Newberry County, South Carolina.⁷⁷² In 1765, before the war, he had purchased two tracts in Frederick County, Virginia, from Thomas Lindsey and Elizabeth, his wife, whose relationship is not known.⁷⁷³
 - iii. **JACOB LINDSEY**, b. probably in Virginia before 1746; d. Wilkes County, Georgia, about 1823; m. Elizabeth Abrell, daughter of John Abrell of Berkeley County, Virginia, whose will dated 3 January 1772 and proved 16 June 1772 mentions daughter Elizabeth Lindsey, wife of Jacob Lindsey.⁷⁷⁴
 - iv. probably **HEZEKIAH LINDSEY**, b. say 1740-46; lived in Hamilton County, Ohio, and gave testimony in the Revolutionary War pension application of Alice (Beasley), wife of Andrew Chalmers. His naming suggests his mother's connection as a step-daughter of Hezekiah Balch.
 - v. possibly **WILLIAM LINDSEY**
 - vi. probably **THOMAS LINDSEY**, who received a tract of 294 acres in Frederick County, Virginia, from Edmund Sr., on 10 May 1782.⁷⁷⁵

5. JAMES³ BEEZLEY/BEASLEY (?William², -?-¹ Beasley), possibly though unproven as a son of William Beasley and Dorothy (___), was born perhaps in Maryland say 1705-10. His placement as their son remains highly speculative. His date and place of death are not known.

Almost no information is known about James, save for several appearances in the Frederick County court records. It cannot be ascertained from any source that he was related to either William or Major Beasley, but he lived in the same county where they later lived and was a contemporary of them. In March 1743, he filed a suit against John Evans for trespass, assault and battery.⁷⁷⁶ According to the court docket, "The Defendant Appeared and pleaded that it was the fault of the Plaintiff's Own Assault and the Plaintiff Replied it was of The Defendant's Own wrong and the defendant Joining in the Issue the Trial thereof is Referred until the next Court."⁷⁷⁷ On 13 April 1744, the case was continued, but a month later it was dismissed, with the parties having agreed.⁷⁷⁸ After this date he disappeared from the records.

It is impossible from these three references to determine whether James married or had children. He does not appear in the land records, which suggests that he was either poor or remained in the area only briefly. Perhaps he was the grandfather of several children (listed below under unknown), who were born in the vicinity of Frederick County between 1759 and 1768, and whose parentage remains undetermined. Perhaps their grandfather was an unknown sibling, #9 below.

Possible though unproven child of James Beezley, perhaps instead the son of an unknown brother of James, see #8 below, born in Virginia:

14. i. [?] **JOHN⁴ BEASLEY/BEEZLEY**, b. say 1730.

⁷⁷⁰ Edmund Lindsey will (1816), Newberry County, South Carolina, Will Book G: 247-249.

⁷⁷¹ Edmund Lindsey deposition 11 November 1778, Virginia General Assembly, House of Delegates, Speaker Executive Communications, Letters and Depositions, 1778, Accession no. 36912, Library of Virginia, Richmond. A transcription can be found online at "The Lindseys of Fort Pitt (Pittsburgh) ca. the Revolutionary War," (http://mimipickles.com/lindsey/fort_pitt/fort_pitt_lindseys.htm; accessed 1 July 2014).

⁷⁷² Grabek, "Edmund Lindsey in Newberry Co., South Carolina," website, (http://mimipickles.com/lindsey/south_carolina/newberry/edmund.htm; accessed 1 July 2004).

⁷⁷³ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 9, 10, 11, 1763-1765* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1990), 110; citing Frederick County Deed Book 11: 69-70.

⁷⁷⁴ Yvonne Johnson Hardy, "Eureka! Jacob Lindsey Senior Identified," *Alabama Genealogical Society Magazine*, volume 31 (Fall/Winter 1999): 34-40.

⁷⁷⁵ Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 19 and 20, 1780-1785*, 47; citing Frederick County Deed Book 19: 332.

⁷⁷⁶ John David Davis, *Frederick County, Virginia Minutes of Court Records, 1743-1745* (Bowie, MD: Heritage Books, 2001), 29.

⁷⁷⁷ Charles Hamrick and Virginia Hamrick, *Frederick County, Virginia, Court Order Book 1 (11 November 1743 to 6 December 1744)* (Athens, Georgia: New Papyrus Publishing, 2007), 63; citing Frederick County Order Book page 61/5.

⁷⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 77; citing Order Book 75/4; and 111; citing Order Book 109/1..

6. WILLIAM³ BEEZLEY (*William², -?-¹ Beesley*), probably a son of William Beesley and wife Dorothy (____), was born in Baltimore County, Maryland, say 1710. He died in Kentucky, perhaps in Fayette or Bourbon County, before 4 March 1780, when land he had purchased in Kentucky was sold by his son John, his heir at law.⁷⁷⁹

Little is known of William's early life. Given the connection of his likely sister Elizabeth Beezley with the parish of St. George's, Baltimore, William was probably the William Beesley who fathered an out-of-wedlock child, Johannah, with Alice or "Alse" Carrington in St. George's Parish in 1731.⁷⁸⁰ However, it is clear that they did not marry and that Alice was not the mother of his other children.

Alice's parentage is not known. She had been transported from Kent, England, as a convicted felon on unknown charges in June 1726 and brought to Maryland on board the ship *Loyal Margaret*.⁷⁸¹ Once in Baltimore, she was bound as a servant to Hezekiah Balch.⁷⁸² As has been shown above, Balch had married a woman named Dorothy in St. George's Parish, Baltimore, about 1717 and served as administrator of William Jenkins there in 1720, a tie that links this wife with Dorothy, the widow of the elder William Beesley, who died in Baltimore County in 1715 and had probated his estate with Jenkins.⁷⁸³ Alice Carrington's criminal past seems to have followed her to the new colony. Before her relationship with William, she was tried for bastardy in August 1729, naming Thomas Baker as the father of the child.⁷⁸⁴ She had another daughter, Mary (surname and paternity unknown), who was bound at that time to Hezekiah Balch until she was aged 16.⁷⁸⁵ After giving birth to Johannah in 1731 and naming William Beesley as the father, she gave birth to a fourth out-of-wedlock child, a son named "James Hogg alias Carrington," who was bound to James Lee in November 1733.⁷⁸⁶

William's appearance in these records is fleeting, and he cannot be linked to other men at this time in the area. He is unlikely to have been the William "Bausley" who with wife Elizabeth baptized a son John on 6 December 1734 and a daughter Jeselila on 10 June 1745 in St. Paul's Parish, Baltimore County.⁷⁸⁷ "Bausley" is more likely a variant of Bosley.

Similarly, another man, William "Boozley" or "Bossley" appeared in St. John's Parish, Baltimore County, at a slightly later period. While he was probably a different person, he was also charged with impropriety. In February 1736, the vestry of St. John's Parish made several notations of William "Boozley." It issued a summons for "for Mary Brown [and] for Wm. Boozley for holding unlawful communications with each other."⁷⁸⁸ Later it noted, "Mary Brown and Wm. Boosley being likewise summoned appeared and has promised to refrain from all unlawfull practices."⁷⁸⁹ On 6 June 1737, the vestry noted that "William Bossley, Mary Brown, Robt. Collings, and Anne Silbe returned to court for not separating and refraining each other's company according to their promises made to the vestry."⁷⁹⁰ Genealogist Robert Barnes identifies this William as the son of Walter Bosley, born 11 March 1712/3, whose will was proved on 3 April 1754.⁷⁹¹

William Beesley probably left Baltimore not long after fathering Johannah. He is of the right age to have been the "Wm Beezley" who witnessed a deed between George Martin of Cecil County, husbandman, and

⁷⁷⁹ John Beezley, Heir at Law of Willm Beezley, His Assignment of Land in Kentucky County, Old Kentucky #498 to #502, 4 March 1780; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky; photocopy supplied to the compiler by Dan McDonough (Springfield, Ohio), June 2009.

⁷⁸⁰ Barnes, *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759*, 97.

⁷⁸¹ Edith Ziegler, "The Transported Convict Women of Colonial Maryland, 1718-1776," *Maryland Historical Magazine*, volume 97, no. 1 (Spring 2002): 31, note no. 71. Ziegler cites the Baltimore County Court Proceedings, HWS#6: 277, Maryland State Archives. See also Peter Wilson Coldham, *King's Passengers to Maryland and Virginia* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1997), 31.

⁷⁸² Henry C. Peden Jr., *Bastardy Cases in Baltimore County, Maryland, 1673-1783* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2001), 25.

⁷⁸³ V. L. Skinner, *Abstracts of the Testamentary Proceedings of the Prerogative Court of Maryland* (Baltimore: Clearfield, 2008), volume 15 (1719-1721), 126.

⁷⁸⁴ Barnes, *Baltimore County Families, 1659-1759*, 97.

⁷⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁸⁶ *Ibid.*, citing 28: 274, 277; 30: 139; 128: 75).

⁷⁸⁷ Bill Reamy and Martha Reamy, *Records of St. Paul's Parish* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 198), 1: 9. See also Barnes, *Baltimore County Families*, 59.

⁷⁸⁸ *Vestry Records, St. Johns & St. George's Parish, Harford County, Md.*, typescript (No place: No publisher information, n.d.), 275.

⁷⁸⁹ *Ibid.*, 276.

⁷⁹⁰ *Ibid.*, 281. See also Peden, *Bastardy Cases in Baltimore County, Maryland, 1673-1783*, 13.

⁷⁹¹ Barnes, *Baltimore County Families*, 59.

Hugh Boyde of Philadelphia County for a tract of land in Cecil County on 14 August 1734 (Cecil County adjoined St. George's Parish), but the identity of this William cannot be established with certainty.⁷⁹² Other witnesses included Francis "Somorfield," John Graham, Edward Jackson, and John Jones. By the 1750s William had settled in Frederick County, Virginia, at about the same time as Major Beesley, who was probably his brother, and Edmund Lindsey, who was almost certainly his brother-in-law. They appear only fleetingly in the extant county records. No land grants have been discovered for William or Major in either Frederick or Loudoun County, but both are often referred to in other Northern Neck grants as owning land adjoining other grantees.

William may have spent time in Philadelphia in the 1740s prior to settling in Virginia, but it is unlikely that he was related to other Beasley families there. A William Beasley married Sophia Sharaden at Christ Church, Philadelphia, in 26 June 1742, and two decades later Stephen Beezley married a Miss [Abigail] Harrison in the same parish on 31 October 1765.⁷⁹³ Earlier in 1734, the names of Stephen and Simon "Bazlee" or "Beezalee" appear in an account book listing them as shipbuilders in Philadelphia.⁷⁹⁴ Indeed, the family of Stephen and Simon Beasley is well documented in other sources, but there is no direct evidence to connect them to the William Beasley who married Sophia Sharaden.⁷⁹⁵ Members of the Goforth family, William, Rachel, and Ann, would also marry in Christ Church Parish, while Aaron Goforth was listed as a shipbuilder in Philadelphia with Stephen and Simon Beasley.⁷⁹⁶ Some genealogists have identified Aaron Goforth and wife Mary (Poole) as the parents of William Goforth, born in Philadelphia on 1 April 1731 and died in Hamilton County, Ohio, on 2 November 1807.⁷⁹⁷ William Goforth, as will be shown, had ties through business with John Beezley (#15 below).

While these associations are intriguing, no conclusive evidence exists to identify the William Beasley in the Christ Church Parish record as the same who lived in Frederick County, Virginia, the father of John (#15). William of Frederick County, the subject of this sketch, was likely an Anglican by tradition, having been a member of St. George's Parish, Baltimore, so his possible marriage in Christ Church parish, another Anglican Church, is not far-fetched. However, no other supporting evidence can be found to identify him as the same man.

By 1760, William Beezley or Beasley appears under his own name in Frederick County, recorded only as a witness or as an adjoining landowner. However, no land grants or deeds have been found under his own name. On 3 October 1760, William witnessed with Abraham Lindsey and Jacob Lindsey (probably his nephews) a deed between Edmond Lindsey, his likely brother-in-law, and Edmond Jr. for a tract of land on a branch of the "Shanando" River in Frederick County.⁷⁹⁸ On 10 February 1762, Leonard Eckstine, "assignee of William Beasley," obtained 164 acres at Opeckon adjoining Lewis Neil and Thomas Helmes. Serving as markers for the survey were William Beasley and Edmund Lindsay.⁷⁹⁹ No deed or court records are extant to show how Eckstine became William's assignee.

⁷⁹² June D. Brown, *Abstracts of Cecil County, Maryland, Land Records, 1734-1753* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 1999), 6.

⁷⁹³ "Marriage Record of Christ Church, Philadelphia, 1709-1806," *Pennsylvania Archives*, series 2, volume 8: 25.

⁷⁹⁴ Harrold E. Gillingham, "Some Colonial Ships Built in Philadelphia," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, volume 56 (April 1932): 164, 167.

⁷⁹⁵ According to a genealogical work that is largely undocumented, Stephen Bazelee or Beasley, an English Baptist, married Sarah, eldest daughter of Sir James Morgan, 4th Baronet of Llantarnam. They were expelled from England and settled in Philadelphia. Stephen died there on 4 January 1749, and both are reportedly buried in the Baptist burying ground in La Grange Place, Philadelphia. Their children included: 1. Sarah, who m. (1) in 1721, Thomas Williams, (2) (___) Allen; (3) Richard Morrey; 2. John, b. 1716, m. Elizabeth Evans in 1738; 3. Stephen, who m. Hannah Palmer, 29 January 1729 in Pennypack Baptist Church, Philadelphia; 4. Frances, who m. Zephaniah Holwell; 5. Simon, who m. Jean (___) before 1737. John Beasley and Elizabeth (Evans) were the parents of: 1. Sarah (m. Col. Joseph Marsh); 2. Capt. Stephen Beasley, the ship-builder, b. 26 May 1742, d. 16 November 1814, m. Abigail Harrison (Stephen was captain of the guard boat *Viper* during the Revolutionary War; 3. John Beasley, m. Martha (___); 4. Thomas Beasley, b. 25 August 1747, d. infancy; 5. Mary, b. 14 February 1749, m. Humphrey Fullerton; 6. Elizabeth, b. 18 November 1753, m. Peter Marot. See Appleton Morgan, *History of the Family of Morgan from the Year 1089 to Present Times* (New York: Published privately, 1902?), 165-169.

⁷⁹⁶ "Marriage Record of Christ Church, Philadelphia, 1709-1806," *Pennsylvania Archives*, series 2, volume 8: 111; Gillingham, "Some Colonial Ships Built in Philadelphia," *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, 56: 164.

⁷⁹⁷ "Goforth Family," *Rootsweb*, (http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~scanderson/Web%20Cards/WC01/WC01_298.HTM: accessed 23 July 2014).

⁷⁹⁸ Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Books 5, 6, 7, 8, 1757-1762*, 43; citing Frederick County Deed Book 6: 62.

⁷⁹⁹ Joyner, *Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrants & Surveys, Frederick County, Virginia 1747-1780*, 49.

The following year on 27 June 1762, William's land and that of Thomas Helm adjoined a tract granted to Lewis Neill.⁸⁰⁰ On 2 July of the same year, William's land, along with that of George Neavill, Patrick Rice, John Warford, and John Madden, adjoined a grant made to Joseph Reeder.⁸⁰¹ On the same day, he was listed with Thomas Helm, Richard Chapman, and Joseph Reeder as having land adjacent to John Warford's grant. On 27 December 1764, Peter Luke, assignee of Capt. Charles Smith, obtained a grant on the Opekon from a survey that adjoined the heirs of John Neill, deceased, as well as William Beasley, Thomas Helm, Lewis Neill, Meredith Helms, and Cuthbert Bullet.⁸⁰² Two years later John Warford and wife Alice, now of Loudoun County, leased their tract to William Bilbro, and again it was described as adjoining William Beasley and Thomas Helms.⁸⁰³ Bilbro sold another tract of seven acres in the same area to Jacob Searly at the same time, with both Beasley and Helms listed as adjoining owners.⁸⁰⁴ On 4 November 1767, Edmund Lindsey Jr. sought power of attorney for Mary and John Reagan on behalf of his children (not named), and in the court hearing that followed William Beasley was summoned to show why Edmund's children should not be bound out.⁸⁰⁵ As late 18 May 1781, Peter Luke sold land to James Abernathy in Frederick County, with the land adjoining property belonging to the heirs of John Neill, as well as William Beasley's survey, and land belonging to Thomas Helm.⁸⁰⁶ Probably all of these references but the last likely pertain to the same William Beasley or Beasley, and the repeat occurrence of the names of his neighbors reflects a well-established neighborhood of Reederes, Helmses, Lindsays, Neills, and Warfords. The entry from 1781 may refer to a younger man, perhaps the son of the earlier William.

William may have spent time in Loudoun County, which adjoins Frederick County, though he cannot be found in the Loudoun records. Isaac Beesly, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner, claimed that he was born in 1753 in Loudoun County and stated that he knew this fact based on "a record of his father" whose name was not specified. One of Isaac's sons, possibly the eldest, was named William. There are no Beesleys in the Loudoun County deeds or court minutes during this time, but the presence of William in neighboring Frederick County, and the fact that others in William's acquaintance lived in Loudoun, suggests the possibility of a relationship. John Beezley, who spent time in Monongalia County where Isaac served during the Revolutionary War, named his eldest son William and another son Isaac. The continued presence of Isaac in Virginia in this period suggests that his father might have remained there.

During the 1770s, William settled in Kentucky, perhaps in the company of Major Beasley, his probable though unproven brother. Some accounts list a William Beasley who settled first in an area now part of Clark County on Lulbegrud Creek and near a place called Pigeon Roost. An unsourced article states that the area of "Major and William Beasley's cabin" was among the earliest established north of the Kentucky River and has now been entered on the National Register of Historic Places.⁸⁰⁷ It remains unclear whether the William referenced here was Major's brother or son. Marquis Calmes, Major's old neighbor in Prince William County, Virginia, also settled in this area, together with John Harper and a surveyor, William Sudduth. According to one account, Sudduth plotted an area for Calmes, as well as a lot for William "Beasley's" cabin, a blockhouse, several salt licks and springs, and a waterfall on a branch of Upper Howard's Creek.⁸⁰⁸ The association with Calmes makes it likely that these Beasleys are the same as those in Frederick County, even if the identity of William in this reference remains unclear.

A William Beasley, whose identity remains unclear, settled at Boone's Station or Boonesborough, a settlement founded by Daniel Boone in modern-day Madison County, Kentucky. The settlement endured the fierce hostility of local Indian tribes, and William reportedly died there, perhaps as a result of Indian hostilities,

⁸⁰⁰ Ibid, 113.

⁸⁰¹ Ibid, 128.

⁸⁰² Ibid, 97.

⁸⁰³ Amelia C. Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 9, 10, 11, 1763-1767* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia C. Gilreath, 1990), 119; citing Frederick County Deed Book 11: 130. Gilreath transcribes his name as "Beaveley (?)."

⁸⁰⁴ Ibid, 125; citing Frederick County Deed Book 11: 171.

⁸⁰⁵ "The Two Davids," webpage (http://www.doclindsay.com/spread_sheets/2davids_spreadsheet.html; accessed 9 September 2014).

⁸⁰⁶ Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia, Deed Books 19 and 20, 1780-1785*, 29; citing Frederick County Deed Book 19: 225.

⁸⁰⁷ Harry Enoch, "Where Is Old Indian Fields?" *Central Kentucky News*, 11 October 2007 (http://articles.centrankynews.com/2007-10-11/news/24924574_1_trading-post-indians-gate...; accessed 27 June 2014).

⁸⁰⁸ Harry Enoch, "Where Was the Pigeon Roost?" *Central Kentucky News*, 28 December 2006, (http://articles.centrankynews.com/2006-12-28/news/24935383_1_pigeon-birds-flocks; accessed 27 June 2014).

in 1776.⁸⁰⁹ The scarcity of records obscures the precise identity of this William, but perhaps he was connected to Charles Beazley and Susannah (Allen), (#13) referenced in Part 1 of this book.

The elder William, the subject of this sketch, lived to a slightly later period. About 1775 he moved into what later became Fayette County, Kentucky, in the company of his possible brother Major and a John “Beasly,” who was apparently Major’s son and not William’s own son of the same name. William and John entered land at a place called Lydia’s Mount on a dividing ridge between Licking Creek and Elkhorn Creek. Major and John each received grants in Kentucky for having raised crops of corn there as early as 1775 and for living in their respective areas at least a year before 1778.⁸¹⁰

William’s grant was not recorded in the *Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission*, and there is no indication on the grant that he had raised a crop of corn as had other grantees. On 23 December 1779, he obtained a grant for 400 acres of land in Fayette County, Kentucky, with a small parcel also located in Bourbon County.⁸¹¹ When the land was surveyed later in 1793 for “John Beasley Heir at Law to William Beasley,” it was described as follows:

Beginning at a Sugar tree & Elm sapling, running thence South 253 poles to (B) a Stake thence w. 253 Poles to C, a Stake thence N 253 Poles to D, a Stake, thence E 253 Poles to the Beginning, Including an Improvement known by the name of Lydia’s Mount & an Elm tree marked with the letters AB on the centre of the [blank]⁸¹²

The survey also listed 1,000 acres of land, received by means of Preemption Warrant no. 1242 and entered by John Beezley, William’s heir, on 21 December 1782. Four lots of 250 were measured out using a similar system of metes and bounds. Robert Parker made the survey, witnessed by William Hunt and David Goodnight, and a note in the survey book indicates that all of the land was later assigned to Samuel Price. The Land-Office Treasury Warrant certificate no. 1242 bears a date of 28 December 1780 and indicates that the land was purchased for £400.

William was deceased before 4 March 1780, when John Beezley, his heir and oldest son, sold all of William’s claims in survey numbers 498 through 502, as indicated above, to Samuel Price for apparently £200. The record is faint and difficult to transcribe, but it contains John’s signature:

John Beezley Hare [sic] at Law to William Beezley Deceased [illegible] do assign over unto Samuel Price all the Lands or [illegible] of Lands and preemption of Land of the sd William Beezley Dec’d on the western waters in Kentucke County or in any of the back country or settlements for the value of two hundred Pounds to me in hand paid in Case of eny [sic] Dispute I am ready to prove my Self the oldest son of my father William Beezley. [Illegible because of fold in document]. By my hand this Forth Day of March 1780. John Beezley Thos Gold Cetty Gold⁸¹³

A note on the verso of the document states that the grant was for land in Kentucky survey numbers 498, 499, 500, 501, and 502. On 29 April 1794, Governor Isaac Shelby of Kentucky issued a formal grant to Samuel Price, “Assignee of John Beasley, Heir at Law of William Beasley,” for the 400 acres.⁸¹⁴

Because of the indication that he was deceased, William could not have been the William “Beazley” who purchased a lot in the town of Losantiville (now Cincinnati) in 1789-90, since he was clearly dead by this date. Perhaps this was a son, although his identity remains undetermined (see below).⁸¹⁵

⁸⁰⁹ Nancy O’Malley, *Searching for Boonesborough* (Boonesborough, Kentucky: Kentucky Heritage Council, 1989), 27.

⁸¹⁰ Kentucky Historical Society, *Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission, 1779-1780* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 71-72.

⁸¹¹ Kentucky Land Office, Kentucky Land Survey Book, Survey Nos. 498, 499, 500, 501, & 502, recorded 23 October 1793, pages 320-323; manuscript grant book, Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky; photocopy supplied to the compiler by Dan McDonough (Springfield, Ohio), June 2009.

⁸¹² Ibid.

⁸¹³ John Beezley, Heir at Law of Willm Beezley, His Assignment of Land in Kentucky County, Old Kentucky #498 to #502, 4 March 1780; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky; photocopy supplied to the compiler by Dan McDonough (Springfield, Ohio), June 2009.

⁸¹⁴ Old Kentucky Grant Book 3: 545-549; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky, See also Jefferson Entry Book A: 8, 17 January 1780; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky.

⁸¹⁵ Robert Clarke, *Information Wanted with References to the Early Settlers of Losantiville (now Cincinnati)* L Record of the Distribution and Sale of Lots in the Town of Losantiville (now Cincinnati) 1789-90 (Cincinnati: R. Clarke & Co., 1870), 647.

Of the children of William Beezley, only John is proven as his son, while Johannah was likely his illegitimate daughter, based on the parish register of St. George's, Baltimore. The others are suggested by association to William and John and their locations but remain unproven.

Illegitimate child of William Beezley and Alice Carrington, born in St. George's Parish, Baltimore:

- i. **JOHANNAH^d CARRINGTON**, b. 2 September 1731;⁸¹⁶ no further record.

Children of William Beezley and an unknown wife, likely born in Virginia, possibly Loudoun or Frederick County:

15. ii. **JOHN^d BEEZLEY**, b. say 1740; m. (1) "**S**" [**SARAH?**] (____); (2) **RACHEL** (____) **PRICKETT**.
16. iii. probably **ISAAC BEESLEY**, b. ca. 1753; m. (____).
iv. probably **WILLIAM BEAZLY**, b. say 1750-55. This younger William was probably the same one referenced in Frederick County, Virginia, as late as 14 August 1785, when the heirs of Joseph Reeder, namely Elyah Reeder and his wife Jemimah of Fauquier County, Jacob Reeder, Stephen Reeder, Thomas Lake and Elizabeth his wife, Thomas Hubble and his wife Mary, and William Grove and wife Elenor, all of Loudoun County, agreed to provide a lease to a tract of land in Frederick County to Josiah Hubert. The land was located "on the drains of the long marsh and Opeckon" and adjoined George Nevell, John Maddin, William Beasley, and John Warford.⁸¹⁷ He was possibly the same William who later purchased a lot in Losantiville (Cincinnati) in 1789-90, though there is no proof of his relationship other than the fact that John Beezley also settled there at a slightly later period.⁸¹⁸

7. MAJOR³ BEESLEY (?William², -?-¹ Beesley,), possibly a son of William Beesley and possibly though unproven as a brother of William³ Beezley (above), was born perhaps in Maryland say 1710-15, though there are no known records placing him there. He died after 1782 in Jefferson County, Kentucky. His naming suggests that a surname was used as a first name, but the maiden name of his mother is not known. He allegedly married one "Martha Branson," according to an undocumented family history.⁸¹⁹ Her name cannot be confirmed independently in original records.

One of the most promising pieces of evidence connecting Major with William can be found in the results of an autosomal DNA study. A descendant of Major's daughter, Martha (Beesley) Robbins, has a match with a Doug Beezley, a direct male-line descendant of William³.⁸²⁰ Autosomal DNA matches remain imprecise, however, and while it does establish a genetic link between Major (who may not have living male descendants) and William, it is unclear whether William and Major were brothers or cousins.

On 29 November 1736, Major first appears as a landowner with holdings adjacent to Mann Page, Robert Carter, and Marquis "Calmeze" [Calmes] in Prince William County, Virginia, in a land grant to Lord Fairfax.⁸²¹ Nearly a decade later he appears again on 8 May 1745 in Frederick County, testifying in a civil suit brought by Marques Calmes against Garret O'Neal over the ownership of personal property. Major stated that, as "Garnishee in this Cause ... declared he had no more of the Deft's Estate in his Hands than a Large Barrow, two Ducks & a Drake" at the time the attachment was served.⁸²²

In the 1760s, Major moved to Rowan County, North Carolina, perhaps in the company of his possible brother, William, or perhaps with a son named William. He does not appear to have owned land. His name appears on a Rowan tax list dated 1768 in the district of William Millikan, an area now in southern Guilford

⁸¹⁶ Reamy, *St. George's Parish Registers, 1689-1793*, 39.

⁸¹⁷ Amelia Gilreath, *Frederick County, Virginia Deed Book 21, 1785-89* (Nokesville, Virginia: Amelia Gilreath, n. d.), 81.

⁸¹⁸ Clarke, *Information Wanted with References to the Early Settlers of Losantiville (now Cincinnati)* *L Record of the Distribution and Sale of Lots in the Town of Losantiville (now Cincinnati) 1789-90*, 647.

⁸¹⁹ Sarah Robbins Lehman, *Back Creek: The Robbins (Robins) and Their Kin of Randolph County, North Carolina* (1991), n. p.

⁸²⁰ Doug Beezley to John D. Beatty, 27 January 2015, reporting a match with "oldford49" in the "Jennifer Ford Family Tree" on *Ancestry.com* (www.ancestry.com; accessed 27 January 2015). "Oldford49," who is likely Jennifer Ford, descends from Martha through her son, Jacob Robbins (say 1771-1845) and wife Elizabeth (Rousch).

⁸²¹ Gertrude E. Gray, *Virginia Northern Neck Grants 1694-1742*. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), 122, citing Grant Book E: 34. See also Cecil O'Dell, *Pioneers of Old Frederick County, Virginia* (Marceline, MO: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1995), 210.

⁸²² Frederick County, Virginia Court Minutes, 8 May 1745 in *Frederick Findings*, , vol. 8, no. 2 (Summer 1995): 86; vol. 7 no. 1 (Spring 1994): 28.

and northern Randolph counties.⁸²³ He was listed as “Major Beazeley” with a single poll, next to James Robins, his likely son-in-law, also one poll, and Isaac “Beazeley,” probably his son, also with one poll. William Beezley, possibly his brother but more likely his son, appears elsewhere on the same list.

After a time in North Carolina, Major, probably with his son John, moved to Kentucky and joined his probable brother, William. For a time they were associated with Daniel Boone. Some accounts list them in an area known as Indian Old Fields in a group of settlers that also included Marquis Calmes Sr. and Jr., and Benjamin Berry.⁸²⁴ The cabin of William and Major was said to be among the earliest constructed north of the Kentucky River. This area was also known as Pigeon Roost, a landmark in what is now Clark County, Kentucky, on Lulbegrud Creek.⁸²⁵

On 10 January 1780, Major obtained a grant of 400 acres at Stewart’s Spring in Jefferson County, Kentucky.⁸²⁶ The grant, as transcribed, places Major’s settlement there as early as 1775:

Major Beasly by John Holder this day claimed a settlement & preemption to a tract of land in the District of Kentucky lying on the dividing ridge between the Waters of Salt River & the Ohio including a spring called Stewarts about 15 Miles from the falls by the said Major Beaslys raising a Crop of Corn in the year 1775 & residing in the Country 12 Months before the year 1778 satisfactory proof being made to the Court they are of Opinion that the said Beasly has a right to a settlement of 400 Acres of land to include the above location & the preemption of 1000 Acres adjoining & that a Certificate issue accordingly.⁸²⁷

John Beasly, probably Major’s son, had a grant at the same time in the same area, as did William Beezley, his brother, in a grant later surveyed to William’s son John.⁸²⁸ Nearly three years later on 22 December 1782, Major obtained a second grant for 1,000 acres on the falls of the Ohio River, apparently the same tract for which he had obtained a preemption in 1780.⁸²⁹

Children of Major Beesley and an unknown wife, possibly Martha (Branson), born likely in Frederick or Prince William County, Virginia:

- i. **MARTHA⁴ BEESLEY**, b. say 1740; d. Randolph County, North Carolina, about 1784, at which time her husband remarried. She allegedly married **JAMES ROBBINS** in Rowan County, North Carolina, about 1768, though there is no extant marriage bond. James Robbins, possibly a native of Wales, was listed on a tax list that year with his name appearing next to those of Major and Isaac Beesley.⁸³⁰ The family moved to Guilford County, where James served in the Revolutionary War from 1777 to 1780 as a Private in Dawson’s Company of militia.⁸³¹ He later married as his second wife after 1784, Elizabeth “Betty” (___), who may have been surnamed Yount. James Robbins made his will in Randolph County, North Carolina, on 3 August 1799, in which he named his wife Elizabeth and friend Henry Yount as co-executors and mentioned the “schooling of his children” but only son Haman by name.⁸³² Various websites identify children of James Robbins from both of his marriages, but none of the studies are based on direct evidence.⁸³³ Possible though unproven children of Martha (Beesley) and James Robbins, born in North Carolina: 1. *Jacob Robbins*, b. say 1771, d. Blount County, Alabama, 1845; 2. *Philip Robbins*, b. say 1772; 3. *Tyson Robbins*, b. say 1773; 4. *William “Bell Maker Bill” Robbins*, b. about 1775, d. Randolph or Rowan County, North Carolina, 12 May 1838; 5. *Jonathan Robbins*, b. say 1776, d. 1827. Additional children, including Martha, Eli, Elizabeth Mary, Enoch, and Haman, were allegedly born to James Robbins’s second wife.

⁸²³ Jo White Linn, *Rowan County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1757-1800: Annotated Transcriptions* (Salisbury, NC: Jo White Linn, 1995), 97.

⁸²⁴ Harry Enoch, “Where Is Old Indian Fields?” *Central Kentucky News*, 11 October 2007 (http://articles.centrankynews.com/2007-10-11/news/24924574_1_trading-post-indians-gate...; accessed 27 June 2014).

⁸²⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸²⁶ Willard Rouse Jillson, *Old Kentucky Entries and Deeds* (Louisville: Filson Club, 1926), 174, citing Grant Book A: 7.

⁸²⁷ Kentucky Historical Society, comp., *Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission, 1779-1780* (Easley, SC: Southern Historical Press, 1981), 71-72.

⁸²⁸ *Ibid.*, 71.

⁸²⁹ *Ibid.*, citing Grant Book A: 224.

⁸³⁰ Linn, *Rowan County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1757-1800: Annotated Transcriptions*, 97.

⁸³¹ North Carolina, Daughters of the American Revolution, *Roster of Soldiers from North Carolina in the American Revolution* (Durham, North Carolina: North Carolina Daughters of the American Revolution, 1932), 95.

⁸³² James Robbins will (1799), Randolph County, North Carolina, Will Book 2: 48.

⁸³³ See for example Richard Robbins, “Descendants of Ian Robbins,” website (<http://ourfamilyhistorysite.weebly.com/robbins.html>; accessed 15 July 2014).

- ii. probably **ISAAC BEESLEY**, b. say 1740-45; listed as a taxable in Rowan County, North Carolina, in 1768, next to Major "Beazeley" and James "Robins."⁸³⁴
- iii. probably **WILLIAM BEASLY/BEESLEY**, who was taxed in 1768 in Rowan County. His subsequent whereabouts is not known. Perhaps he was the William "Beesley" who died at Boonesborough, Kentucky, in 1776, though the identity of that William remains uncertain.⁸³⁵ More likely he remained in North Carolina and was the William who was taxed in 1778 in Captain Cox's District, Rowan County, North Carolina.⁸³⁶
- iv. probably **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1750. He obtained a land grant recorded next to Major's in the certificate book of the Virginia Land Commission, described as "lying on the dividing ridge of Licking Creek & Elkhorne near the head of Coopers Fork Known by the Name of Lidia Mount by said decedent raising a Crop of Corn in the year 1775 & residing in the Country 12 Months before the year 1778," which entitled him to receive 400 acres and a preemption for an additional 1,000 acres.⁸³⁷ William Beasley, his uncle, had a grant in this same area that was later claimed by his son John as "heir at law." However, the certificate book of the Virginia Land Commission makes no mention of John being William's heir, which would seem to distinguish the two men, even though the grant was located in the same area.

8. (unknown) BEASLEY (*William², -?-¹ Beesley*), was probably a son of William and Dorothy Beesley and born in Maryland about 1715. His presence is conjectural, and he has not been documented in Virginia records. He could be #6 James Beasley, referenced above, or he could be a different brother, name unknown. His age and time frame make him likely too old to have been the father of a group of six children born to a later Beasley man, perhaps the son of this man. The children, through their Lindsey connections, were almost certainly related to this larger family, however. The inability to find proof that James (#5) married and had children makes the possibility of an unknown brother in this family group a factor that must be considered. If he did exist, it was he, and not James, who was the father of John Beasley #15, below.

9. SOLOMON³ BEESLEY/BEASLY (*John², -?-¹ Beesley*), the son of John Beasley perhaps with wife Winifred (___) or perhaps with an earlier wife, was born in Maryland say 1707. He died in Craven County, North Carolina, after 13 November 1789, but before March 1791, when his will was probated.⁸³⁸ He was a purchaser in the estate sale of his father, John, in May 1755, an important record tying the two together.⁸³⁹

Solomon married first **RACHEL TAYLOR**, daughter of Abraham Taylor. She is sometimes given the middle name of "Ede" or "Eda" in various online sources, but there is no authority in original records for a middle name. She was not named in Solomon's 1789 will, indicating that she had probably predeceased him. As previously stated, Abraham Taylor had moved from Baltimore County, Maryland, to Craven County, North Carolina, in the late 1720s. His will in Craven County (also filed in Johnston County) was dated 2 April 1751 and named among other children a daughter Rachel Beesley, indicating that she was alive at that time.⁸⁴⁰ The Taylor family would continue to have close ties to the Beasley family. Solomon may have married a second time after Rachel's death, given the large number of children, many of them under age, in 1789. If so, this second wife also likely predeceased him and was not named in his will.

In April 1733, Solomon joined his father John and likely brother Oxford in petitioning the North Carolina Executive Council to move the seat of Craven County from Edenton to New Bern.⁸⁴¹ His name appears next to that of John's. Solomon obtained a grant from Gov. Gabriel Johnston for 500 acres on both sides of Core Creek on the south side of the Neuse River in Craven County on 14 February 1739.⁸⁴² He later sold off portions of this land. On 22 October 1743, as Solomon Beesley, "planter," he sold to Thomas Herring 70 acres on the upper side of Core Creek below the "Grate" or Gale Branch. The land was described as beginning at a cypress on the creek and joining the "foot" of Solomon Beesley's "causey" and to his back line, and thence to a fork

⁸³⁴ Linn, *Rowan County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1757-1800: Annotated Transcriptions*, 97.

⁸³⁵ O'Malley, *Searching for Boonesborough*, 27.

⁸³⁶ Linn, *Rowan County, North Carolina Tax Lists, 1757-1800: Annotated Transcriptions*, 140.

⁸³⁷ *Certificate Book of the Virginia Land Commission*, 71.

⁸³⁸ Solomon Beesley will (1789), Craven County, North Carolina, Will Book A: 240.

⁸³⁹ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume III: Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798*, 6, #53.

⁸⁴⁰ Abraham Taylor will (1751), Craven County, North Carolina, Will Book 5: 262. See also Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1994), 7: 110; record no. 516.

⁸⁴¹ Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1664-1734 [Colonial Records of North Carolina, Second Series, Volume VIII]*, 303.

⁸⁴² Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I, 57, #387*, citing Deed Book 1: 352.

granted in 1739 to Solomon.⁸⁴³ Witnesses included John Vernam and Simon “Beaseley.” On 15 March 1744, he sold to Samuel Slade 100 acres on Core Creek above Miry Branch, witnessed by George Stringer and Robert Taylor.⁸⁴⁴ On 28 August 1749, he sold to William McCoy another 50 acres on Core Creek, witnessed by Samuel and John Slade.⁸⁴⁵

More grants and sales of land followed in the 1750s. Solomon obtained two separate grants of 400 and 100 acres on the west side of Core Creek near the fork of Snake Root Branch on 1 July 1752.⁸⁴⁶ He obtained another 400-acre grant in the same area near Solomon’s Branch on 30 March 1753.⁸⁴⁷ He sold to William Sevell or Sivell 150 acres on the east side of Core Creek on 28 April 1753.⁸⁴⁸ On 11 August 1759, as Solomon “Beeslie,” he purchased 160 acres on the north side of Core Creek from John Turner.⁸⁴⁹

Solomon and Abraham Beesley were witnesses on 2 October 1760 to a deed in Craven County between Samuel Blackford and Blackford’s sons-in-law, James Little and John Little.⁸⁵⁰ Solomon obtained a grant for 150 acres on Harris’s Branch of Core Creek in Craven County adjoining Nathaniel Smith and John Bryant on 23 December 1763.⁸⁵¹ He gave 60 acres to Abraham Beesley, which was acknowledged in court in July 1764.⁸⁵² He entered 200 additional acres in Craven County adjoining his own line in September 1766.⁸⁵³ He purchased another 200 acres on both sides of his main branch on 24 April 1767.⁸⁵⁴ He was probably the Solomon Beasley, and not his son of the same name, who purchased from Farnifold Green and Richard Nixon on 12 June 1775 a tract of eight acres on the south side of the Neuse River and the west side of Core Creek.⁸⁵⁵ He sold to John Beasley, presumably his son though not specified in the deed, a tract of 140 acres on the north side of Core Creek, witnessed by Richard Nixon and William Beasley.⁸⁵⁶ In March 1787, the court in Craven County declared Solomon “an aged man” and exempted him from paying taxes.⁸⁵⁷ Solomon was still living in Craven County in 1790 and was enumerated on the federal census near his son John.⁸⁵⁸

Solomon Beesley wrote his will on 13 November 1789 in Craven County.⁸⁵⁹ He left to his son Benjamin “my Plantation whereon I now dwell including all the land I hold below John Beesley’s line upon the South side of Beesley Branch to Core Creek.” If Benjamin died without heirs, then the plantation was to go to Solomon’s son James. To son Samuel Beesley he left “all the land I hold below John Beesley’s line [on the] north side of Beesley Branch to Core Creek.” If Samuel should die before age 21, then his land should go to Solomon’s son James. He also bequeathed to James “one Negro man named Sam.” To daughter Elizabeth Hall he left 20 shillings “current money of the state of North Carolina.” To granddaughter Sidney Civil he left a feather bed and a weaver’s loom. To “each of my youngest sons,” not named, he left a feather bed and furniture. Solomon left to his sons John, William, Benjamin, James, and Samuel “one small mare and her increase, my son John to have the first Colt, William the next and Benjamin the next and Samuel the next... John is to have the mare in his barn.”

Solomon ordered his executors to sell the rest of his horses and cattle at a public sale and divide the money evenly among the following children: Abraham Beesley, Solomon Beesley, Vilator Dyar, Ann Heath, Martha

⁸⁴³ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2004), 67, #1685. See also Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2 (Deeds Dated 1706/7-1765), Book II* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 2005), 85, #579.

⁸⁴⁴ *Ibid.*, 112, #2003.

⁸⁴⁵ *Ibid.*, 161, #2382.

⁸⁴⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 2 (1753-1756)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 79, #s 1208 and 1209.

⁸⁴⁷ *Ibid.*, 113, #1735.

⁸⁴⁸ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Books 3, 4, 6, 7, 1744-1755* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 2005), 139, #789, citing Deed Book 7: 300.

⁸⁴⁹ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2, 3, #20*, citing Deed Book 1: 15.

⁸⁵⁰ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2004), 50, # 1554.

⁸⁵¹ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial Land Records in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 3 (Land Warrants & Index)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 10, #5514.

⁸⁵² Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, 1764-1771, Book VI*, 12, #66.

⁸⁵³ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Records in North Carolina*, volume 3, part 1, 196, #2999.

⁸⁵⁴ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Records in North Carolina*, volume 3, part 2, 23, #3605.

⁸⁵⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 20, 21, 22, 23, & 24* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2008), 69; citing Deed Book 22: 130.

⁸⁵⁶ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 25, 26, 27 & 28* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2009), 2, citing Deed Book 25: 20.

⁸⁵⁷ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1787-1891, Book IX* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 2006), 2 (5).

⁸⁵⁸ 1790 U. S. Census, Craven County, North Carolina, page 432, column 2, line 45, Solomon Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7.

⁸⁵⁹ Solomon Beesley will (1789), Craven County, North Carolina, Will Book A: 240.

Cotton, Mary Miller, and John Beesley. The remainder of the estate both real and personal was to be divided into six equal parts, with five parts going to his five youngest sons and sixth share to granddaughter Sidney Civils. Finally, he appointed his sons Solomon Beesley, John Beesley, and "Trusty Friend George Bryan" as executors. The will was witnessed by John Fanning, Solomon Beesley, Elisha Beesley, and James Taylor. At the March term 1791 in Craven County, Elisha and John Beesley and George Bryan appeared and testified to the veracity of the will.

The birth order of the children is uncertain, though clearly from the will Solomon had distinguished a group of older children, perhaps born to his first wife Rachel Taylor, from a group of younger children. The older children, named perhaps birth order, include Abraham, Solomon, "Vilator," Ann, Martha, Mary, and possibly John, though he is also grouped with the younger children. Elizabeth Hall appears to be younger than her sisters. The other younger sons include William, Benjamin, James, and Samuel, with Samuel being under 21 in 1789.

Children of Solomon Beesley and Rachel (Taylor), born in Craven County, North Carolina, order given as they appear in Solomon's will:

- i. **ABRAHAM⁴ BEESLEY**, b. say 1735-40; d. New Hanover County, North Carolina, before September 1803, testate.⁸⁶⁰ Abraham was a witness to deeds in Craven County in 1760 (with his father) and 1763, which indicates that he was likely of age by 1760.⁸⁶¹ He married **MARY** (___), whose surname is sometimes shown as Heath without direct or even indirect evidence. Abraham moved to Duplin County before 1778, and on 21 July 1780, entered 50 acres on the north side of Carr's Branch.⁸⁶² He served from Duplin County during the Revolutionary War as a Private in the state militia, with the evidence based on a single pay voucher.⁸⁶³ (His birth date is stated incorrectly as 1750 by J. D. Lewis). Abraham later moved to New Hanover County. In his will, dated 5 January 1803, he left a third of his estate to his wife, Mary, which estate, at her death, was to go to his four youngest children: John, James, Rachel, and Elizabeth. To his daughters Rachel and Elizabeth he left two-thirds of his cattle, equally divided. To his son James he left that part of the Moore Survey below Horse Branch. He also left tracts to Rachel and Elizabeth. His elder sons Abraham and Solomon served as co-executors.
- ii. **SOLOMON BEESLEY JR.**, b. say 1740-50; d. after 1794, uncertain location. His wife and children are not known with certainty and are not listed in the Duplin records.⁸⁶⁴ Solomon moved from Craven County to Duplin County, North Carolina, and had land adjoining that of his brother Abraham and of Austin/Auston Beesley on 2 October 1778.⁸⁶⁵ He entered land there on 20 January 1779, described as 80 acres on the east side of Maxwell Swamp and west side of Reedy Meadow adjoining his own corner and land of Auston Beesley and James Williams.⁸⁶⁶ On 2 January 1785, as "Solomon Beesley Jr.," he sold to Charles Elin of Craven County a tract of 180 acres on Moor Creek near Rattlesnake Branch in Craven County adjoining Fearnot Beesley's patent.⁸⁶⁷ In 1787, he purchased from James Dickson a slave named Peggy.⁸⁶⁸ He sold 450 acres to Dickson in Duplin County in 1791.⁸⁶⁹ He disappears from the county by the mid-1790s and likely died in some other locality. He is not to be confused with a different Solomon Beesley (b. 1777), his nephew, the son of his brother, John, who moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee, or with another nephew Solomon, b. 1772, the son of Abraham, who lived in New Hanover County.

⁸⁶⁰ Abraham Beesley will (1803), New Hanover County, North Carolina, Will Book AB: 81, abstracted in Mae B. Graves, *New Hanover County Abstracts of Wills* (Wilmington, North Carolina: Old New Hanover Genealogical Society, 1981), 24.

⁸⁶¹ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 50, #1554; 87, #1813.

⁸⁶² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstract of Land Entries, Duplin Co., NC, 1778-1795, Sampson Co., NC, 1784-1795 and 1853-1860* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1990), 90.

⁸⁶³ J. D. Lewis, *NC Patriots 1775-1783: Their Own Words* (Little River, SC: J. D. Lewis, 2012), 2 (Part 2): 56.

⁸⁶⁴ Several undocumented online trees lists his wife as Keziah (Pemberlon/Pemberton) and children as Thomas; John; Rebecca, b. 4 February 1792, d. Wilkinson County, Georgia, 20 May 1853, m. John Rutherford; Sarah; Anne; Solomon III (of Covington County, Alabama, in 1850); and James, b. ca. 1790 (of Emanuel County, Georgia). See <http://www.genfan.com/getperson.php?personID=I36274&tree=MASTER>; accessed 11 November 2014.

⁸⁶⁵ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstract of Land Entries, Duplin Co., NC, 1778-1795, Sampson Co., NC, 1784-1795 and 1853-1860* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1990), 25.

⁸⁶⁶ *Ibid.*, 38.

⁸⁶⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 25, 26, 27 & 28* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2009), 57; citing Deed Book 26: 343.

⁸⁶⁸ Leora H. McEachern, *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes, 1788-1791, Part 2* (Rose Hill, North Carolina: Duplin County Historical Society, 1979), 32.

⁸⁶⁹ Leora H. McEachern, *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes, 1791-1795, Part 3* (Rose Hill, North Carolina: Duplin County Historical Society, 1980), 9.

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- iii. **VILATOR [VIOLETTA/VELAIRE?] BEESLEY**, b. say 1748; d. allegedly Barnwell County, South Carolina, between 1796 and 1801; she is identified under the last name of Dyar in her father's will, but she allegedly married about 1768, **THOMAS DYER/DYESS**, who, according to undocumented sources, moved to Barnwell County, South Carolina.⁸⁷⁰
 - iv. **ANN BEESLEY**, b. say 1745-50; m. ____ **HEATH**.
 - v. **MARTHA BEESLEY**, b. say 1750; m. **CLIFTON COTTON**.
 - vi. **MARY BEESLEY**, b. say 1750; m. ____ **MILLER**.

Children of Solomon Beesley possibly from an unknown second wife, born in Craven County, order uncertain:

- vii. **JOHN BEESLEY**, b. say 1752-55; d. Rutherford County, Tennessee, after 1806, possibly as late as 1819; m. **ANN (McCOY?)**. There is a great deal of confusion about the identity of this John in various online accounts, and many researchers misidentify him as the John Beasley who was allegedly born 23 February 1755 and died in Darlington District, South Carolina, before 23 February 1808, testate and who married about 1772, Margaret "Peggy" (Smith?).⁸⁷¹ While Y-DNA evidence links that John to the Blue Group, he was not likely the son of Solomon. He had no son with this name, and there is no direct evidence linking him to Craven County. By contrast, Solomon's son John is well-documented in Craven County records. It was he, who with Ann Beesley witnessed a deed between Thomas Carlton and James Allen in Craven County on 1 September 1777.⁸⁷² He witnessed a deed between his cousin, Elisha Beesley, and his father, Solomon, on 30 December 1782 for a tract of 180 acres on the Neuse River adjoining holdings of Charles Aclen (whose daughter Cassandra would marry John's son Solomon).⁸⁷³ In December 1786, the Craven County court named John as guardian for Christopher, Elizabeth, and Casander (Cassandra) "Aclen," orphans of Charles Aclen, with Solomon Beesley posting a guardian bond.⁸⁷⁴ John was likely also the one enumerated in Craven County on the federal census of 1790, living near his father, Solomon.⁸⁷⁵ On 10 March 1790, John sold to William "Besley," apparently his brother, 60 acres on the south side of the Neuse with Benjamin "Besley" as a witness.⁸⁷⁶ William sold land to John at the same location at the same time, though the deed is incomplete.⁸⁷⁷ John also witnessed with Solomon Beesley (probably his son and not his brother) the will of Willis Mecoy in Craven County on 9 October 1800.⁸⁷⁸ Both John and Solomon also witnessed the will of Mary Miller in Craven County on 20 May 1802.⁸⁷⁹ On 19 October 1803, described as "John Beasley of Craven County, North Carolina," he purchased from Thomas Armstrong 1,200 acres on Stones River in Davidson County, Tennessee, with the recorded in Rutherford County, Tennessee.⁸⁸⁰ On 14 February 1805, now of Rutherford County, he sold 175 acres to Michael Kinnard.⁸⁸¹ On 4 January 1806, he sold to Solomon Beasley 300 acres on the west side of Overalls Creek in Rutherford County, and at the same time sold 676 acres to John McCoy.⁸⁸² These records provide solid evidence that he moved to Tennessee. Child: *Solomon Beesley*, b. 15 June 1777, who married in Craven County on 12 April 1799, Cassandra Eclin/Acklin.⁸⁸³ He moved to Rutherford County, Tennessee, with his father and left a family Bible

⁸⁷⁰ <http://www.geni.com/people/Velaire-Dyess/6000000008153682328>; accessed 9 October 2014.

⁸⁷¹ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=jokramer&id=100656>; accessed 21 October 2014. There is no independent corroboration for the above dates. No tombstone record for John exists in Darlington County.

⁸⁷² Pruitt, *Craven County, NC Deed Books 20-24*, 110, citing Deed Book 23: 171.

⁸⁷³ *Ibid*, 164, citing Deed Book 24: 309.

⁸⁷⁴ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1779-1786, Book VII* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 2004), 142, citing Craven County Court Minute Book 1779-1786, 656 [folio 29].

⁸⁷⁵ 1790 U. S. Census, Craven County, North Carolina, page 432, column 2, line 41, John Beezley; National Archives microfilm publication M637, roll 7.

⁸⁷⁶ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 25, 26, 27, & 28*, 88; citing Deed Book 27: 206.

⁸⁷⁷ *Ibid*, 91; citing Deed Book 27: 229.

⁸⁷⁸ Willis Mecoy will (1800) in Stephen E. Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 2, 1742-1801* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2001), 95, record no. 485 (112).

⁸⁷⁹ Mary Miller will (1802), abstracted in Stephen E. Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 3, 1801-1812* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2004), 28 (74/204).

⁸⁸⁰ Rutherford County, Tennessee, Deed Book A: 23, in Helen C. Marsh and Timothy R. Marsh, *Land Deed Genealogy of Rutherford County, Tennessee* (Greenville, SC: Southern Historical Press, 2001), 1: 5.

⁸⁸¹ Rutherford County, Tennessee, Deed Book A: 67; in *ibid*, 1: 14.

⁸⁸² *Ibid*, A: 364-365, in *ibid*, 98.

⁸⁸³ Sharyn Guthrie, *Craven County Marriage Bonds* (Morehead City, North Carolina: Sharyn Guthrie, 1990), 20. See also Jeannette Tillotson Acklin, *Tennessee Records: Bible Records and Marriage Bonds* (1933; Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967), 358.

identifying him as John's son and naming his children.⁸⁸⁴ He is often confused in various online sources for his uncle of the same name.

- viii. **WILLIAM BEESLEY**, b. 23/25 April 1762; d. Butler County, Kentucky, 25 September 1847 per his Revolutionary War pension file.⁸⁸⁵ He married in Craven County, North Carolina, on 3 February 1784, **ELIZABETH P. TAYLOR**.⁸⁸⁶ He served as a Private in the North Carolina Militia under Capt. David Roach and Col. Benjamin Exum, and fought at the Battle of Camden.⁸⁸⁷ He was apparently the William Beesley whom the Craven County court released from paying a poll tax in March 1785, since his name had been double entered.⁸⁸⁸
- ix. **ELIZABETH BEESLEY**, b. say 1765; m. ____ **HALL**.
- x. **BENJAMIN BEESLEY**, b. say 1765; d. no record after 1814 [the federal census records of Craven County in 1810 are lost]. His land was described as adjoining that of John Beesley between Duck Pond and a branch of the Neuse River on its south side in a deed from John Watts on 18 April 1796.⁸⁸⁹ Benjamin married in Craven County on 13 February 1797, **ELIZABETH HEATH**; possibly he was the Benjamin who married (2) in Craven County on 3 February 1814, **SARAH GRAY**.⁸⁹⁰ He brought suit in Craven County against Walter Allen on unspecified charges in June 1786.⁸⁹¹ On 9 September 1811, he purchased from Joseph Bell 504 acres in a series of six tracts on the south side of the Neuse River, adjoining land of William Beesley, and John Beesley.⁸⁹² He sold this land to Joseph Rhem on 7 June 1813.⁸⁹³ On 12 March 1814, Benjamin Beesley of Craven County sold to Daniel Daughity and William Palmore a tract of 200 acres at the mouth of the main branch of Core Creek, land "granted to Solomon Beesley sr who devised it to his son Benjamin Beesley."⁸⁹⁴
- xi. **JAMES M. BEESLEY**, b. 28 August 1772; d. Craven County, North Carolina, 8 April 1834.⁸⁹⁵ He married in Craven County on 9 March 1795, **DELANEY WADSWORTH**.⁸⁹⁶ On 6 February 1797, he purchased a slave girl named Edney, aged 5, from Ephraim Daugherty.⁸⁹⁷ On 3 September 1798, he purchased two tracts of 100 and 160 acres each from William Mecoy Jr., with the land adjoining the holdings of William Solomon, and John Beesley.⁸⁹⁸ He purchased from Joseph Rhem 100 acres in the south side of the Neuse and west side of Core Creek adjoining John Beesley in an undated deed, acknowledged in June 1817. The land had earlier been part of a grant to Solomon Beesley.⁸⁹⁹ James's will in Craven County, dated 8 November 1833 and proved in the May Court, 1844, named his daughter Anna Nunn and her husband John Nunn; his daughter Clarissa Cannon; his son Needham B. Beasley; his son James M/W. Beasley; and daughters Julia and Mary M. Beasley.⁹⁰⁰ Delaney was possibly the "Sarry Beasley" named as a daughter in the will of Ignatius Wadsworth dated 20 January 1806 in Craven County, with James Beasley as co-executor.⁹⁰¹
- xii. **SAMUEL BEESLEY**, b. after 1768, and under age 21 in 1789. He married in Craven County on 2 August 1796, **SARAH ARNOLD/ARNEL**.⁹⁰² On 17 December 1799, he joined his brother James in selling to his cousin Elisha Beesley a slave named Sam.⁹⁰³ On 5 December 1799, he sold to his brother James 100 acres on the mouth of School House Branch near the mouth of "Beesley's great Branch."⁹⁰⁴

⁸⁸⁴ Acklin, *Tennessee Records*, 358. The children were: Lavina, b. 24 October 1801; Durant, b. 13 May 1803; Christopher, b. 19 July 1804; Needham, b. 20 August 1804 [sic, probably 1806 or later]; Louisa, b. 16 November 1812; and Katherine, b. 27 April 1820.

⁸⁸⁵ Elizabeth Beaseley, widow's pension application no. W9352, for service of William Beaseley (Pvt. North Carolina Militia, Revolutionary War), U.S., Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900; NARA microfilm publication M804; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C.

⁸⁸⁶ Guthrie, *Craven County Marriage Bonds*, 20.

⁸⁸⁷ J. D. Lewis, *NC Patriots 1775-1783: Their Own Words* (Little River, SC: J. D. Lewis, 2012), 2 (Part 2): 57.

⁸⁸⁸ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1779-1786, Book VIII*, 80 (339).

⁸⁸⁹ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co, NC, Books 32, 33, & 34* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2011), 74; citing Deed Book 32: 698.

⁸⁹⁰ Guthrie, *Craven County Marriage Bonds*, 20.

⁸⁹¹ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1779-1786, Book 8*, 126 (560).

⁸⁹² A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co, NC Books 38 & 39* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2013), 26; citing Deed Book 38: 182.

⁸⁹³ *Ibid*, 74; citing Deed Book 38: 465.

⁸⁹⁴ *Ibid*, 93; citing Deed Book 39: 39.

⁸⁹⁵ Beasley Family Cemetery, Jasper, Craven County, North Carolina, James Beesly [sic] marker.

⁸⁹⁶ Guthrie, *Craven County Marriage Bonds*, 20.

⁸⁹⁷ Pruitt, *Craven County, NC Deed Books 32-34*, 109; citing Deed Book 33: 41.

⁸⁹⁸ *Ibid*, 126; citing Deed Book 33: 168.

⁸⁹⁹ Pruitt, *Craven Co., NC Deed Books 38 & 39*, 216; citing Deed Book 39: 827.

⁹⁰⁰ James Beasley will (1833), abstracted in Stephen E. Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 5, 1827-1839* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2005), 33 (73/371).

⁹⁰¹ Ignatius Wadsworth will (1806) in Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 3, 1801-1812*, 45-46 (116/253).

⁹⁰² Guthrie, *Craven County Marriage Bonds*, 20.

⁹⁰³ Pruitt, *Craven Co., NC Deed Books 32-34*, 192; citing Deed Book 34: 86.

⁹⁰⁴ *Ibid*, 202; citing Deed Book 34: 173.

Of unknown relationship to Solomon Beesley:

AUGUSTINE “AUSTIN” BEASLEY, b. ca. 1755;⁹⁰⁵ d. Duplin County, North Carolina, after 22 September 1822 and before January term 1823, testate.⁹⁰⁶ His death date is sometimes reported as 30 September 1822, reputedly from a tombstone that is not original to his death date.⁹⁰⁷ He married (1) in Duplin County on 12 January 1783, **MARY GUY**,⁹⁰⁸ he married (2) in Duplin County on 15 December 1803, **MARY “POLLY” (HOLLINSWORTH) CARROLL**.⁹⁰⁹ In July 1762, the court in Craven County “ordered that Ezekiel Williams, an Orphan Boy aged 13 Years and Augustine Williams Beesley an Orphan Boy aged Seven Years Be Bound to Benjamin Saunderson Untill they attain to the age of Twenty one Years to learn the art or Mystery of a Cooper.”⁹¹⁰ His paternity is unknown, and most genealogists studying this family accept that Augustine was identical to Austin/Auston, who appears in later records of Duplin County, but the connection remains unproven. Some researchers have conjectured that he was a son of John⁴ and grandson of Oxford³. Perhaps alternatively he was an illegitimate child, possibly a grandson of Solomon or of the elder John through one of their daughters, even though the court record specifies him as an orphan. Still others contend he was a stowaway from England. None of assertions can be proven, but one male-line descendant, testing his Y-chromosome through the Beasley Y-DNA study, shows a different haplotype from other members of the Blue Group, a fact which has led project administrators to place Austin in the so-called Green Group of the study.⁹¹¹ More testing of other male-line descendants of other sons of Austin is necessary to determine whether Austin’s Y-chromosome was indeed different from others in this family. Austin had definite connections to the Craven County group. Researchers Susan Prince and Mark Beasley assert that as Austin Beasley, he witnessed a sale of land between Solomon and Abraham Beasley on 20 August 1776 in Duplin County and also purchased land there himself from William Rigby.⁹¹² On 2 October 1778, “Auston” entered 180 acres on both sides of Maxwell Creek in Duplin adjoining his own line and the lines of Solomon and Abraham Beasley.⁹¹³ In 1787, Abraham sold to him a tract of 100 acres on Millers Mill Branch that was ordered registered.⁹¹⁴ Austin’s will in Duplin County was dated 30 September 1822 and included bequests to his wife Mary for land west of the Alligator Pond on the north side of Millers Creek which he had purchased from Jacob Mathis. Also listed were the following children: Austin Beesley; Bass Beesley; John Beesley; Bryan Beesley; Lemuel Beesley; Hillery Beesley; Ally Galvin; Elizabeth Beesley; Nancy Beesley; Mary Beesley; Sarah Gore; Kittyann Beesley; and Edwenna Beesley.

10. OXFORD³ BEESLEY/BEASLEY (*John², -?-¹*), the likely but unproven son of John Beasley, was born probably in Maryland say 1705-10. His date of death is not known but occurred after 1745. He did not leave a probate record in Craven County and is not named in records there after 1751. Two of his sons were bound into apprenticeships in 1741, but they were not described as orphans in court records. The identity of Oxford’s wife is not known, though some undocumented online sources list her name as “Nancy.” Y-DNA studies of Oxford’s descendants tie them to the Blue Group of the Beasley DNA Project, strengthening the conjecture that Oxford was indeed a son of John.

Oxford was not among the purchasers of property from John Beasley’s estate in 1755. He may have been deceased by this date. His placement as a son of John is suggested by other associations he had in Craven County, including the signing of petitions and his land holdings in the same general vicinity as members of

⁹⁰⁵ A family tradition passed down among Austin’s descendants, of uncertain origin, states that he was born in England and came to North Carolina as a stowaway. See <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=lanastl&id=I63425>: accessed 11 November 2014. There is no contemporary evidence in eighteenth century records of Austin’s birth in England, and it would appear unlikely, given his connection to Abraham and Solomon Beasley Jr.

⁹⁰⁶ Austin Beesley will (1822), abstracted in William L. Murphy, *Genealogical Abstracts, Duplin County Wills, 1730-1860* (Rose Hill, North Carolina: Duplin County Historical Society, 1982), 6. See also Chesebro Genealogy @ Rootsweb website, <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=lanastl&id=I63425>: accessed 15 October 2014.

⁹⁰⁷ <http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=gr&GRid=113142651>: accessed 31 October 2014.

⁹⁰⁸ Cora Bass, *Marriage Bonds of Duplin County, North Carolina, 1749-1868* (Clinton, North Carolina: Cora Bass, 1959), 5.

⁹⁰⁹ Ibid.

⁹¹⁰ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1757-1763, Book V*, 117, #575.

⁹¹¹ <http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=lanastl&id=I63425>: accessed 11 July 2014;

<http://duplin.lostsoulsgenealogy.com/family/beasleyfamily.htm>; <http://beasleygenealogy.net/index.php/the-beasley-dna-project?start=2>: accessed 11 July 2014.

⁹¹² Susan Prince and Mark Beasley, “The Beasley Family,” webpage (<http://duplin.lostsoulsgenealogy.com/family/beasleyfamily.htm>): accessed 30 October 2014).

⁹¹³ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Land Entries: Duplin Co., NC 1778-1795, Sampson Co., NC, 1784-1795 and 1853-1860*, 25.

⁹¹⁴ Duplin County, North Carolina, Deed Book 1-A: 507-508; see also McEachern, *Duplin County Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Abstracts of Minutes, 1788-1791, Part 2*, 9.

John's family. His naming suggests a surname being used as a first name, and it has already been pointed out the connection of Thomas Oxford of Somerset County, Maryland, to Mary Beasley, also in Maryland. Mary was possibly John² Beasley's sister.

By April 1733, Oxford was living in Craven County and of age when he joined his father and brother, Solomon, in petitioning the North Carolina Executive Council to move the county seat from Edenton to New Bern, although his name appears on a different part of the petition.⁹¹⁵ On 19 October 1737, Robert Bond sold to John Sasser "a good right & title & warrant" to a tract of land on the east side of Broad Creek in Craven County, "which Oxford Beasley formerly lived on."⁹¹⁶ On 19 February 1740/1, Oxford sold to William Charlton 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River in a deed witnessed by Loinell Lee and James Anderson.⁹¹⁷ Oxford received additional land in a patent at Beasley's Island on the north side of the Neuse River in Craven County on 10 April 1745. This land was later referenced in a deed dated 1 January 1751 between William Charlton and Lewis Bryan.⁹¹⁸ In 1749, John Hollinsworth (who had close associations with the John Beasley family), obtained a 600-acre grant in Craven County, with a portion of the tract connected with Oxford Beasley's corner tree.⁹¹⁹

Oxford appears to have been absent from Craven County for an extended period of time, and his children were taken out of his custody. Perhaps he had been imprisoned for debt or had left the area for unknown reasons. Perhaps he was a sailor away at sea. The court records of Craven County fail to shed light on his disappearance. In 1740, at the same court session that his sale of land to William Charlton was approved and recorded,⁹²⁰ the court instructed the sheriff to "Summons [sic] the persons which have the Children of Oxford Beasley in Custody to appeare here Next Court."⁹²¹ Two children did appear, James and John, both of whom were under age and bound out to apprenticeships, but they were not identified as orphans.

Children of Oxford Beasley and unknown wife, born apparently in Craven County, North Carolina:

- i. **JAMES⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1727-32; d. unknown, possibly in Wake County, North Carolina, though there is no evidence there for the settlement of his estate. In 1741 in Craven County, "Jacob Tayler brought into Court an Infant Boy named James Beasley, son of Oxford Beasley & prayes to have him bound unto himself."⁹²² His age was not stated, but James was bound to Tayler until the age of 21 to learn to learn "the art or mystery of a Cordwainer & Tanner & to learn him to Read the Bible in the English tongue & to write a ledgible hand and to find said apprentice sufficient meat drink Washing & Lodging & to give his sd apprentice two Suites of apparel from top to toe at the Expiration of the sd term."⁹²³ Jacob Taylor was the son of Abraham Taylor and brother of Rachel Taylor, who had married Solomon Beasley. This James could be the James Beasley who sold to William Daves 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River in Craven County on 20 August 1757.⁹²⁴ What became of him after this date is uncertain, but he may have moved to Wake County. In March 1778, William Watson obtained a grant on the north side of Crabtree Creek "joining James Beasley's line" and including improvements that had formerly been his property.⁹²⁵ James was perhaps the father of several children, all of whom lived in Wake County, birth order uncertain: 1. *James Beasley*, who had a grant in Wake County on 9 August 1779⁹²⁶

⁹¹⁵ Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1664-1734* [*Colonial Records of North Carolina, Second Series, Volume VII*], 302.

⁹¹⁶ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, 12, #79, citing Deed Book 1: 93.

⁹¹⁷ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, 70, #472, citing Deed Book 1: 422.

⁹¹⁸ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, 78, #529, citing Deed Book 1: 466.

⁹¹⁹ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume I (1735-1752)*, 177, #2583.

⁹²⁰ Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730 thru 1741, Book II*, 105, #211.

⁹²¹ *Ibid*, 106, #212.

⁹²² Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730 thru 1741, Book II*, 138, #284.

⁹²³ *Ibid*.

⁹²⁴ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Book 2*, 66, #452, citing Deed Book 2: 322.

⁹²⁵ Weynette Parks Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina Land Entries, 1778-1846* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1980), 19; citing original page 68.

⁹²⁶ Margaret M. Hofmann, *North Carolina Abstracts of State Grants* (Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina: Margaret M. Hofmann, 2003), 2: 180.

and was living in Wake County in 1790;⁹²⁷ 2. *John Beasley*, d. Wake County before 30 May 1797, intestate;⁹²⁸ 3. *Frederick Beasley*, d. Wake County before 3 September 1797, intestate;⁹²⁹ 4. possibly *William Beasley*, who had a land grant in Wake County on 11 April 1780, the same day as Henry, and was living in Wake County in 1790;⁹³⁰ 5. possibly *Henry Beasley*, who received a land grant the same day as William and was also living in Wake County in 1790.⁹³¹ The unusual given name of "Oxford" is preserved within the family of this younger James, who had a grandson named "Ephraim Oxford Beasley," born in 1826. Y-DNA studies have linked descendants of this younger James to the Blue Group of the Beasley Y-DNA Project.

- ii. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1730-35; d. probably in Craven County before 1764, no record, when his likely children were apprenticed there. He was under age in June 1741, when the Craven County court identified him as Oxford's son and bound him to John Barber, though the record did not specify John's age or a relationship, if any, to Barber.⁹³² On 11 December 1755, it was possibly this John or his uncle of the same name who sold to "Jaems" Beasley 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, part of a 1738 grant with the recipient not named. Witnesses included William "Beeslie," John Hollinsworth, and Lewis Bryan.⁹³³ Some researchers have attempted to identify this John Barber as a brother-in-law of Oxford, but no direct or indirect evidence has been found to support this theory. At least two children are proposed for this John Beasley, both unproved: 1. *Lafley/Laughlin Beesly*, b. ca. 1755, a boy apprenticed at age nine as a cooper to Michael "Coone" or Koonce in June 1764 in Craven County (later in 1774 proving a deed between Michael and Christian Koonce); and 2. *Asmy Beesly*, b. ca. 1757, a girl apprenticed at age seven to Philip Miller in June 1764 in Craven County.⁹³⁴ Laughlin Beasley served as a Private under Capt. Jacob Johnston and Col. Abraham Sheppard in 1776 in the Dobbs County Militia, fighting at the Battle of Moore's Creek Bridge.⁹³⁵ Some researchers also theorize that Augustine/Austin Beasley/Beesley (see above under Solomon) was also his son, since he was also apprenticed in Craven County, though his apprenticeship occurred two years earlier than Laughlin and Asmy. The record does not identify his father.⁹³⁶

11. WILLIAM³ BEASLEY (*John², -?-¹*), the son of John Beasley, was born in Maryland say 1712. [Some online genealogies show him dying in Currituck County, North Carolina, in 1791, but there is no probate record for him there, and thus there is no evidence for his date and place of death].

William purchased from John Beasley, his father, 100 acres on the Neuse River for £20 on 15 July 1747, with the document witnessed by William Peters, John Collins, and John Hollinsworth.⁹³⁷ At the March term in 1748, the court in Craven County appointed him constable for his district and ordered that he "Repair &

⁹²⁷ 1790 U.S. Census, Wake County, North Carolina, page 272, line 10, James Beezley; National Archives microfilm publication M437, roll 7. He was charged with "indictment for a rescue" together with his unnamed wife and John Beasley in 1802, the same session that a Mary Beasley was charged with assault and battery against Elijah Pope. See Weynette Parks Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, 1801-1803, Book V* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1985), 106-107. He was likely the father of Joshua and Daniel Beasley, based on deeds from James Sr. to Joshua and Daniel, recorded in the February term of the Wake County court. See Weynette Parks Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, 1808-1811, Book VII* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1995), 120.

⁹²⁸ Wake County, North Carolina, Will Book D: 89; cited in Frances Holloway Wynne, *Abstract of Record of Wills, Inventories, Settlements of Estates, 1771-1802, Wake County, North Carolina* (Fairfax, VA: Frances Holloway Wynne, 1985), 114. Buyers at the estate sale included Frederick Beasley, James Beasley, Johnathan Beasley, and William Beasley.

⁹²⁹ Wake County, North Carolina, Will Book D: 384; in *ibid.*, 140. Buyers at the estate sale included Mary Beasley and Polly Beasley. William Beasley is listed as his orphan in 1808 (Wake County Will Book 8: 78). Frederick was accused of fathering an unnamed illegitimate child with Huldry Ren in 1789 and ordered to pay her £5 per year for five years (Weynette Parks Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1787 thru 1792, Book II* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1979), 42. He purchased land from John Beasley in 1792 (*Ibid.*, 86). Barnabas "Barnaby" Beasley, Charles Beasley, John Beasley, Angelena Beasley, William Beasley, and Wilie Beasley were listed as his heirs in the Wake County court and placed under the guardianship of William Pope (Weynette Parks Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina County Court Minutes (Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions), 1797 thru 1800* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1985), 38, 150). Martha/Patsy/Patty Beasley, who challenged Frederick's estate settlement and was earlier charged with inciting a riot, was perhaps also a daughter (*Ibid.*, 2, 115; see also Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, 1793 thru 1796*, 3: 132). Later Frederick Beasley, evidently Jr., was listed with Angelina Beasley as apparently an heir under the guardianship of William Pope (Haun, *Wake County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, 1808-1811, Book VIII*, 25).

⁹³⁰ Hofmann, *North Carolina Abstracts of State Grants*, 2: 103.

⁹³¹ *Ibid.*

⁹³² Haun, *Craven Precinct-County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1730 thru 1741, Book II*, 139, #287.

⁹³³ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 6, 7, 8, & 9 10*, 85, #3020.

⁹³⁴ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes, 1764-1771, Book VI*, 2, #7; Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Court Minutes, 1767-1778, Book VII*, 59, #174.

⁹³⁵ Lewis, *NC Patriots 1775-1783: Their Own Words*, 2 (Part 2): 57.

⁹³⁶ <http://www.genfan.com/getperson.php?personID=I37778&tree=MASTER>; accessed 11 November 2014.

⁹³⁷ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 146, #2263.

Qualify accordingly to Law.”⁹³⁸ In 1749, apparently in his role as constable, he joined others in making a return to the court of a list of masters, mistresses and overseers in their respective districts.⁹³⁹

William continued actively to acquire land. He petitioned for a grant of 200 acres in Craven County on 4 October 1748.⁹⁴⁰ In September 1751, he followed with an additional 160 acres.⁹⁴¹ Later, he purchased from Joseph Bryan 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River on 10 February 1753.⁹⁴² He made an oath to the court in Craven County in 1754 that “his Rights consist of ---Three White Persons,” apparently references to the return he was required to make as constable.⁹⁴³ On 8 May 1754, William sold to Lucrecy Beasley, possibly his sister, 100 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, with the deed witnessed by George W. Blake and John Hollinsworth.⁹⁴⁴ This was apparently the same deed that the court in Craven County recognized as a deed of sale between William Beasley to “Lucretsy” Beasley on 8 May 1755, (the same day that Winifred Beasley was appointed administrator of the elder John Beasley’s estate), with William selling a tract of 100 acres in Craven County and the sale proved by oath of John Hollinsworth.⁹⁴⁵

William was among the purchasers at the estate sale of John Beasley in 1755.⁹⁴⁶ That same year William witnessed a deed between John and James Beasley, who may have been his brothers or his nephews, the sons of Oxford Beasley.⁹⁴⁷ On 7 September 1756, William purchased from Thomas Bonner, cooper, of Beaufort County, for 50 barrels of tar, a tract of 400 acres on Watery Branch in Craven County which had been part of the 1745 grant to Hardy Bryan.⁹⁴⁸ On 1 February 1757, he sold to Joshua Hill, saddler, 200 acres “near Hart’s line” that had been part of a 1748 grant to Joseph Bryan.⁹⁴⁹

William had a series of other land sales between 1759 and 1760, all in Craven County. On 21 March 1759, he sold to Joseph Anderson 80 acres on the north side of the Neuse River and east of the Great Swamp, with the deed witnessed by John Hill, Benjamin Beasley, and Kezra/Kezia Hill.⁹⁵⁰ On 18 August 1759, William sold to William Wright of Beaufort County a tract of 80 acres, also on the north side of the Neuse River and the east side of the Great Swamp in Craven County.⁹⁵¹ On 5 December 1760, William sold to James Taylor of Craven County 100 acres on the east side of Swifts Creek and the west side of Pometo Swamp, beginning at a dogwood and joining the line between Taylor and Hill, all part of a grant to Joseph Bryan in 1748.⁹⁵² On 8 October 1760, William sold to Joshua Hill, cooper, 200 acres on Watery Branch originally granted to Hardy Bryan in 1745.⁹⁵³ The deed was witnessed by Joseph Bryan and John Hollinsworth and is similar to an earlier deed to Hill from 1757. There is no record of him in Craven after this date, and he did not apparently die there.

No children are known, but perhaps John Beasley of Darlington County, South Carolina, was his son. (See below under John³).

12. SIMON³ BEESLEY (*John², -?-¹ Beasley*), the son of John Beasley, was born in Maryland say 1715. He died in Craven County, North Carolina, after 17 December 1759, when he wrote his will,⁹⁵⁴ but before July

⁹³⁸ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Court Minutes (Pleas and Quarter Sessions), 1742-1748, Book III*, 120, #633.

⁹³⁹ Weynette Parks Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1749 thru 1756, Book IV* (Durham, NC: Weynette Parks Haun, 1987), 2, #4.

⁹⁴⁰ Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1753-1754 [The Colonial Records of North Carolina], Second Series, Volume VIII*, 225, 260, 268. See also Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 1 (1735-1752)*, 166, #2418.

⁹⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 275.

⁹⁴² Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Books 3, 4, 6, 7, 1744-1755*, 138, #783, citing Deed Book 7: 282.

⁹⁴³ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1749 thru 1756, Book IV*, 65, #251.

⁹⁴⁴ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, Deed Books 3, 4, 6, 7, 1744-1755*, 86, #3024.

⁹⁴⁵ *Craven County Court Minutes, 1753-1758*, page 40, microfilm roll 3, C-028-30003, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina.

⁹⁴⁶ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume III: Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798*, 6, #53.

⁹⁴⁷ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1749-1756, Book IV*, 72, #271.

⁹⁴⁸ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 6, 7, 8, & 9-10*, 119, #3263.

⁹⁴⁹ *Ibid.*, 111, #3216.

⁹⁵⁰ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 23, #1321.

⁹⁵¹ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 13, #1239.

⁹⁵² Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 12, #1228.

⁹⁵³ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina Deed Abstracts, Deed Book I, Deed Book 5, 1707-1775, Book I*, 98, #684, citing Deed Book 1: 586.

⁹⁵⁴ Simon Beasley will (1759), Craven County, North Carolina Will Book N: 240, 246-247.

1760, when his will was proved in court.⁹⁵⁵ He married **FEARNOT/FEARNOUGHT** (____), who survived him and was living as late as 1777.

Simon "Beaseley" witnessed the deed of Solomon "Beasley" to Thomas Herring on 22 October 1743, which would connect him to Solomon, although no relationship was specified in the deed.⁹⁵⁶ He purchased land in his own right on 16 March 1747/8, when, as a "labourer," he purchased from John Fonvielle, planter, 200 acres in Craven County on the north side of Core Creek, with the deed witnessed by Charles Hay, John Fonvielle Jr., and William Brice Fonvielle.⁹⁵⁷ He petitioned for 100 acres in Craven County in April 1749.⁹⁵⁸ On 30 March 1750, Simon "Besely" of Craven County sold to William "Daves" 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, with the deed witnessed by John Hollinsworth Jr. and William Deen Pinkett.⁹⁵⁹ (Daves or Davis would later sell a 100-acre portion of this tract to John "Beesly" on 18 April 1758.)⁹⁶⁰ Simon was a purchaser at the estate sale of John Beasley in Craven County in 1755.⁹⁶¹

Simon wrote his will in Craven County on 17 December 1759.⁹⁶² He left to his wife Fearnot all of his household goods and made her sole executrix. If she should die before all of his children turned 21, then William Brice Fonville was to be executor. To his son Ezekiel he gave a plantation "whereon I formerly lived upon the mouth of the Rattle Snake Branch" containing 100 acres. If he should die without heirs, then daughter Dorcas was to inherit the plantation. To his son Elisha he left "the Plantation whereon I now live" containing 100 acres. To his daughter Elizabeth Beesley he left 100 acres on the upper side of Rattle Snake Branch, which Dorcas was to inherit should Elizabeth not survive. He left to daughter Dorcas two feather beds and two pots. The will was witnessed by Solomon Beesley and Samuel Slade Jr., and Simon signed the will with his mark.

Fearnot or "Fearnought" Beasley continued to actively manage her late husband's land holdings. On 25 October 1765, she obtained a grant of an additional 200 acres on Rattlesnake Branch on land bordering Simon Beasley's line (possibly the younger Simon; see above under William).⁹⁶³ In 1767, James Carmack received a grant adjoining the land of Fearnought Beasley on Core Creek.⁹⁶⁴ She was also likely the Widow Beasley mentioned in grants on Core Creek in 1761⁹⁶⁵ and 1768.⁹⁶⁶

Fearnot resided in Craven County late into the 1770s. On 9 December 1775, she placed her mark on a deed between her son Elisha and James Beasley for 100 acres on the Neuse River.⁹⁶⁷ On 14 July 1775, as "Fearnaugh Beasley," she declared she was the present proprietor of a grant to Simon Beasley dated 1 February 1774 on the west side of Core Creek, and she wished to "make know the bounds" and called on Samuel Slade to give testimony, with John Fonvielle, Francis Fonvielle, William Brice Fonville, John Tomlinson, and others as witnesses.⁹⁶⁸ On 31 May 1777, she deeded to her son Elisha "for natural and motherly love" a tract of 174 acres, all of her livestock, and all other goods except her wearing apparel.⁹⁶⁹ The deed suggests that her other children had died by this date, though their fate is uncertain. Fearnot was described as deceased in a deed dated 26 January 1785, when Willis Mecoy sold 100 acres on the south side of the Neuse to Elisha Beasley.⁹⁷⁰

Children of Simon Beesley and Fearnot (____), born in Craven County, North Carolina:

- i. **EZEKIEL⁴ BEESLEY**, b. say 1740.
- ii. **ELIZABETH BEESLEY**, b. say 1742.

⁹⁵⁵ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina County Court Minutes, 1757-1763, Book V*, 67, #322.

⁹⁵⁶ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 67, #1685.

⁹⁵⁷ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 148, #2281.

⁹⁵⁸ Cain, ed., *Records of the Executive Council, 1753-1754 [The Colonial Records of North Carolina]*, Second Series, Volume VIII, 235.

⁹⁵⁹ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 27, #1359.

⁹⁶⁰ Ibid, 27, #1360.

⁹⁶¹ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina, Volume III: Loose Papers and Related Materials, 1712-1798*, 6, #53.

⁹⁶² Simon Beesley will (1759), Craven County, North Carolina Will Book N: 240, 246-247.

⁹⁶³ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 1 (Mar. 1758-Sept. 1766)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 158, #2402.

⁹⁶⁴ A. B. Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 2 (Sept. 1766-Dec. 1768)* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 1994), 25, #3643.

⁹⁶⁵ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 1 (Mar. 1758-Sept. 1766)*, 113, #1699.

⁹⁶⁶ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 2 (Sept. 1766-Dec. 1768)*, 98, #4777.

⁹⁶⁷ A. B. Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven, Co., NC, Books 20, 21, 22, 23, & 24* (No place: A. B. Pruitt, 2008), 77, citing Deed Book 22: 255.

⁹⁶⁸ Ibid, 78, citing Deed Book 22: 283.

⁹⁶⁹ Ibid, 87, citing Deed Book 22: 425.

⁹⁷⁰ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 25, 26, 27 & 28, 44*; citing Deed Book 26: 171.

- iii. **ELISHA BEESLEY**, b. say 1744; d. Craven County, North Carolina, before December court 1809, testate.⁹⁷¹ He married **REBECCA** (___). He sold two tracts of 100 acres each on Rattlesnake Branch in Craven County respectively to John Taylor and James Taylor on 25 September 1774.⁹⁷² He sold to Solomon Beesley, who was either his uncle or cousin, a tract of 180 acres on the south side of the Neuse River on 30 December 1782, with the land adjoining that of Charles Aclin and John Beesley witnessing.⁹⁷³ In his will dated 22 May 1809, Elisha left to his wife his big bay horse, three beds and furniture, his big chest, all of the land where he lived, and a slave named Sam. The couple was apparently childless. He was not the same Elisha Beasley named in the will of Frederick Heath in Craven County, North Carolina, dated 18 February 1818. Frederick had purchased land from that Elisha at an undetermined date. In his will, Frederick included a reference to a daughter, Elizabeth Beasley, deceased.⁹⁷⁴
- iv. **DORCAS BEESLEY**, b. say 1746.

[Note: Some online sources give four additional children, but they are not named in the will: Cloe Ann, Mary, Henry F., and Missouriia. These children remain undocumented in original records. One anonymous researcher claims without evidence that Mary married Vincent Hollinsworth in Ashe County, North Carolina, in 1771.⁹⁷⁵]

Of unknown relationship, if any:

SIMON BESLEY/BEXLEY, b. say 1730-35; he was clearly younger than the earlier Simon. His surname often appears as Besley, but sometimes also as Baxley or Bexley in Craven County court records. He lived for a time in the vicinity of the Neuse River in Craven County as members of the Beesley family, but his identity remains uncertain. He could not have been the son of either Solomon or Simon. Perhaps he belonged to an unrelated family of Bexley, of which he was the sole representative in Craven. The court in Craven County recorded Simon "Besley's" purchase of land from Christopher Dawson in 1761.⁹⁷⁶ In September 1766, Simon "Baxley" witnessed with Thomas Gaskin and Joseph Arthur a grant to Samuel Smith on the north side of the Neuse.⁹⁷⁷ As "Simon Bexley," he obtained 130 acres near Samuel Lawson's land at Shitten Bridge Swamp on 23 December 1763.⁹⁷⁸ As Simon "Besley" he obtained two grants of 50 acres each on 28 April 1768 in Craven County.⁹⁷⁹ On 21 December 1768, Simon "Bexley" entered 100 acres on the north side of Turkey Neck in Craven County adjoining John Thomas and the Widow King.⁹⁸⁰

13. JOHN³ BEASLEY/BEESELY JR. (*John², -?-¹ Beesley*), the likely son of John Beasley Sr., was born say 1720. He can be difficult to distinguish from his nephew, John⁴, the son of Oxford, in Craven County records, but he was clearly older and was a landowner at an earlier date.

John was not a purchaser in the estate sale of the elder John in 1755. However, he was connected to the family indirectly through deed records. On 18 April 1758, William "Daves" (Davis) of Craven County sold to John "Beesly" 100 acres on the north side of the Neuse River in Craven County, with the deed witnessed by John Hollinsworth and Spencer Betts.⁹⁸¹ This tract was evidently part of the same that Daves had purchased from Simon Beesley eight years earlier on 30 March 1750.⁹⁸² Hence, while no other Beesleys witnessed the deed, John would appear to be connected indirectly to Simon. On 11 December 1755, it was possibly this John or his nephew of the same name who sold to "Jaems" Beasley 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse, part of a 1738 grant with the recipient not named. Witnesses included William "Beeslie," John Hollinsworth, and Lewis Bryan.⁹⁸³ On 17 December 1758, he was described as a "mantch" of Craven County when he sold

⁹⁷¹ Elisha Beesley will (1809), transcribed in Stephen E. Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 3, 1801-1812* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2004), 66 (168/338).

⁹⁷² Pruitt, *Craven Co., NC Deed Books 20-24*, 57, citing Deed Book 21: 249.

⁹⁷³ Ibid, 164, citing Deed Book 24: 309.

⁹⁷⁴ Frederick Heath will (1818), in Stephen E. Bradley, *Craven County, North Carolina, Volume 4, 1813-1827* (Lawrenceville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2005), 46 (125/177).

⁹⁷⁵ "Our Family Trees," (<http://onwardbranches.blogspot.com/p/hollingsworth-family-genealogy.html>; accessed 14 November 2014).

⁹⁷⁶ Haun, *Craven County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes, 1757-1763, Book V*, 98, #479.

⁹⁷⁷ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 1 (Mar. 1758-Sept. 1766)*, 194, #2970.

⁹⁷⁸ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 3*, 10, #5506.

⁹⁷⁹ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries in North Carolina, Volume 3, Part 2 (Sept. 1766-Dec. 1768)*, 98, #s 4772 and 4773.

⁹⁸⁰ Ibid, 124, #5188.

⁹⁸¹ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 27, #160.

⁹⁸² Ibid, 27, #1359.

⁹⁸³ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven Co., NC, Books 6, 7, 8, & 9 10*, 85, #3020.

to William Davis 200 acres on the north side of the Neuse River, witnessed by John Hollinsworth and Charles Hollinsworth.⁹⁸⁴ Again, this is probably the older John and not the son of Oxford.

On 12 February 1755, Thomas Lawrence entered 100 acres in Craven County on the north side of the Neuse River on land bordered by John Beasley Sr., John Beasley Jr., and land formerly belonging to William Beasley.⁹⁸⁵ While one still cannot rule out Jr. as being the son of Oxford, he likely represents the elder John's son.

It is likely that this John had children, but their identities are uncertain from the Craven County records. Perhaps he was the father of John Beasley of Darlington District, South Carolina, though this placement is tenuous and unproven.

Could this John be the same who moved to Darlington County, South Carolina, and died there in 1808? See the discussion below. He was likely born too early to be this John, but perhaps he was his father.

Of unknown but possible relationship, perhaps the son of either John³ or William³:

JOHN⁴² BEASLEY/BEASLE, b. say 1740-50 (some researchers claim an exact birth date of "23 February 1755," without supporting documentation - an unlikely theory given that he received a royal land grant in 1773 and would likely have been of majority age at that time); d. Darlington County, South Carolina, before 23 February 1808, testate.⁹⁸⁶ He married **MARGARET "PEGGY" (SMITH?)**. Many researchers assert without evidence that this John was the son of Solomon³, but far better supporting evidence links John Beasley of Rutherford County, Tennessee, who had a son Solomon, as Solomon³'s son (see above). There are no such deeds linking John of Darlington District to Craven County. However, Y-chromosomal DNA studies establish descendants of this John as belonging to the so-called Blue Group of the Beasley DNA Project, making him a possible though unproven descendant of John² Beasley of Beasley's Island.⁹⁸⁷ He could be a son of John³ (above) or perhaps of William³ or perhaps he was even identical to John⁴, son of Oxford³. All of these theories are inconclusive and not supported by Craven County, North Carolina, records.

This John⁴ resided in Cheraw District in what would become Darlington County, South Carolina, before 19 March 1773, when he received a royal grant for 100 acres on "Gumpley Gully" south of Sparrow Branch and the waters of Lynches Creek.⁹⁸⁸ (This grant was later referenced on 7 March 1812, when Abraham Beasley, John's son, sold 80 acres of the grant to his brother, John Beasley Jr., and referenced the land as being part of the grant to John Beasley Sr. in 1773 on Jumping Gulley).⁹⁸⁹ It would appear that this John had a brother, James. On 23 January 1777, the sheriff of Cheraw District ordered the arrest of Elias Duboise and James Beasley on charges of trespass and conversion. The sheriff stated that he left a copy of the writ against James "at the said James's usual place of abode by giving it to his brother, John Beasley."⁹⁹⁰ Unlike John, this elder James did not have a land grant in Cheraw District.

On 16 July 1807, John deeded to his son Abraham "Beasle" 80 acres on Jumping Gulley which John had been granted in 1773.⁹⁹¹ He also deeded to William "Beasle," also his son, a tract of 100 acres in Darlington County on 5 June 1808.⁹⁹² James Beasley, who purchased land from Samuel Hearon on 12 August 1812, was also possibly a son, though there is no document specifically linking him to the others, so his placement must remain speculative.⁹⁹³

John Sr., as "John Beasle," wrote his will in Darlington District on 5 January 1808, which was proved in court on 23 February 1808.⁹⁹⁴ It is evident from deed records that the will did not name all of his children, but his reason for omitting their names is not made clear in the text of the will. He left to his son Daniel the plantation where he lived and ordered that he receive it after the death of his mother, Margaret. John also left to his wife Margaret all of his stock and household

⁹⁸⁴ Pruitt, *Abstracts of Deeds, Craven co., NC, Books 2, 3, & 4, 1708-1765*, 14, #1245.

⁹⁸⁵ Pruitt, *Colonial Land Entries of North Carolina, Volume 2 (1753-1756)*, 199, #2995.

⁹⁸⁶ John Beasle [sic] will (1808), Darlington County, South Carolina, Will Book 2: 680.

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⁹⁸⁸ Brent H. Holcomb, *South Carolina's Royal Grants, Volume Four: Grant Books 25 through 31, 1772-1775* (Columbia, South Carolina: Brent H. Holcomb, 2009), 203, citing Grant Book 28: 479.

⁹⁸⁹ Darlington County, South Carolina, Deed Book CD: 194-195; abstracted in "Darlington County, South Carolina, Grantor Index to Conveyance Books, 1806-1899, A-O," South Carolina State Archives, roll 8.

⁹⁹⁰ Darlington County Historical Commission File, Order no. 5486, Amos Windham v. Dubose and Beasley, Charleston Judgment Rolls, South Carolina State Archives, Box 105A, page 74A-2.

⁹⁹¹ Darlington County, South Carolina, Deed Book A: 363; abstracted in "Darlington County, South Carolina, Grantor Index to Conveyance Books, 1806-1899, A-O," South Carolina State Archives, roll 8.

⁹⁹² Darlington County, South Carolina, Deed Book B: 250; abstracted in "Darlington County, South Carolina, Grantor Index to Conveyance Books, 1806-1899, A-O," South Carolina State Archives, roll 8.

⁹⁹³ Darlington County, South Carolina, Deed Book E: 38-40, in *ibid*.

⁹⁹⁴ John Beasle will abstracted in *South Carolina GenWeb* (<http://www.scisway3.net/darlington/b/beasley.html>; accessed 22 October 2014).

property. He named his son Reuben Beasley and Stephen Thompson (his likely son-in-law) as co-executors, and the will was witnessed by Moses Walters, Abraham Beasley, and Reuben Beasley. He signed the will with his mark.

Deed records between the known children of John and other sources suggest additional children. It has already been shown that the elder John deeded land to sons William Beasley/Beasle and Abraham Beasle, with Abraham being a witness to the will. Abraham would deed 80 acres on Jumping Gulley to John Beasley Jr. on 7 March 1812, it being part of the same land granted to the elder John in 1773. Charles Beasle/Beasley was also a likely son and owned land in the vicinity of Sparrow Swamp, which he and his wife Sally deeded to William Whiddon on 15 April 1813, and a second one acre tract adjoining Daniel Beasley's land to Nathan Hanks on 4 October 1817.⁹⁹⁵ John Lennell Andrews Jr., author of *History of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Lydia, South Carolina, 1789-1989*, notes that two early church members, Rev. Stephen Thompson (who had witnessed the elder John's will) and Ariss Woodham, married sisters Margaret and Rachel Beasley, and states (without documentation) that the sisters were daughters of John and Margaret Beasley.⁹⁹⁶ He also notes that Charles Beasley/Beasle witnessed Thompson's will. Some researchers attribute other children to this elder John, including Stephen, Nancy, and Richard, but these names do not appear to be supported by other records.

14. JOHN⁴ [?] BEEZLEY (?James³, ?William², -?-¹ Beesley), possibly though unproven as a son of James Beesley or perhaps the son of an unknown brother, was born in Virginia say 1730. His date of death is unknown, though it possibly occurred in Berkeley County, Virginia, after 1782. He was the father of at least six children who lived in the vicinity of Loudoun and Frederick counties, Virginia, during the 1760s. He and his unknown wife were deceased, perhaps in the early 1780s, and their children were dispersed. Information about him is so sketchy that he is difficult to place in the historical record. If he were having children in the 1760s, he may have been born in the 1730s, which would make him too young to be a son of William and Dorothy but of age to be a grandson, the son of an unknown child.

In 1782, a John Beasley was recorded on a personal property tax list in Berkeley County, Virginia, with one poll and no slaves.⁹⁹⁷ Berkeley was located in northern Virginia on the Maryland border near Loudoun County, the right area for this group of siblings. No other evidence for John has been found in either place. On 23 June 1787, John Beesley, probably a younger man and perhaps a son of the earlier John, obtained a land office treasury warrant for a grant of land in Monongalia County. The grant itself has not been discovered, but on the basis of other deeds, it may have included as many as 1,000 acres.⁹⁹⁸ Two men, William Robeson or Robertson and Nathaniel Reeves, later claimed to be assignees of portions of this tract, which, coupled by the fact that this John makes no appearance in the Monongalia court records, suggests that he had either died or moved from the area by the 1790s.⁹⁹⁹ The presence of Nathaniel Reeves in this record is significant. He was likely the same Nathaniel Reeves, who later lived in Hamilton County, Ohio, and testified that he knew Alice Beasley, below, when she was a girl while living on Mill or Chill Creek in Berkeley County when Alice applied for a widow's pension after the death of her husband, Andrew Chalmers.¹⁰⁰⁰

It remains uncertain whether John had children, or whether someone close to him (perhaps a brother) was the father a group of children born the Berkeley-Frederick-Loudoun County area of northern Virginia during the 1760s. What little can be deduced comes from a series of affidavits recorded in various Revolutionary War pension files many decades after the fact. Mary (Beezley) Miles reported in a deposition of November

⁹⁹⁵ Darlington County, South Carolina, Deed Book E: 98; G: 237; abstracted in "Darlington County, South Carolina, Grantor Index to Conveyance Books, 1806-1899, A-O," South Carolina State Archives, roll 8.

⁹⁹⁶ John Lennell Andrews Jr., *History of Wesley Chapel United Methodist Church, Lydia, South Carolinas, 1789-1989* (Spartanburg, South Carolina: Reprint Company, 1992), 18.

⁹⁹⁷ Augusta B. Fothergill and John M. Naugle, *Virginia Tax Payers 1782-87* ([?]: The Authors, 1940), 9.

⁹⁹⁸ John Beesley's grant, Warrant #17241, 23 Jun. 1783, is referred to by a claim later made by Dennis Springer as a defendant in a trespass case brought by David Scott in Monongalia County on 9 Sep. 1800. Springer claimed part of the same tract on Dunkard Creek that was disputed by Scott. See Melba Pender Zinn, *Monongalia County, (West) Virginia: Records of the District, Superior, and County Courts* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1990), 2: 205-206.

⁹⁹⁹ See Robert Moody v. John Nicklin, Monongalia County District Court, 5 April 1806. In the case, Moody claimed a portion of land entered by Robert Ferrell, assignee of Nathaniel Reeves, who in turn was the assignee of John Beesley (Zinn, 3:50). The grant was referred to again in Thomas Wilson v. heirs of William Buchannon, April 1819, wherein Buchannon claimed to be assignee of William Robeson/Robertson, who in turn was assignee of John Beasley for 154 acres (Ibid, 8: 132-133).

¹⁰⁰⁰ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 506, Andrew Chalmers, W4152.

1849 that “her brother’s name is Beasley & her sister’s name is Alice Chalmers they are twins and they have a record of their ages which aids her in the time of her age she being between two and three years older than they are.”¹⁰⁰¹ She also stated in the same deposition, “She further states that she was twenty-five years of age when she was married and from the time her age was given her by her parents, her parents died when she was quite young and the family was scattered among strangers, that is the reason why her Brother and sister who now lives in this County does not know about her marriage.”¹⁰⁰² This information, while perhaps unreliable, suggests that the parents died some time their children were very young, perhaps in the early 1780s.

Joseph Dollar outlined members of this family in a letter addressed to his mother, Ruth (Beezley) Dollar, dated 17 September 1814. His letter was later included in Ruth’s application for a Revolutionary War widow’s pension. While not mentioning Mary Miles, he wrote:

I receive your letter with you [?] on the 30th day of August which a sign [?] at satisfaction to hear of welfare and all being in a good state of health. I begin to address you with a few lines to inform you that we are all well att this present thanks be to God for his mercies... I hear of your Brother Silas and is gone over the Misippia. Your Brother Joseph has been here to see us. Aunt Polly Beezley is Dead. Aunt Als Young is going to decay she has lost the use of one side with the Palsy.¹⁰⁰³

The letter indicates that Ruth had at least two brothers living in 1814: Silas and Joseph, as well as a sister, Alice “Young,” whose identity does not square with Alice Chalmers. Aunt Polly Beezley, who was deceased in 1814, may have been the wife of Joseph, though her identity remains unclear. Silas Beasley appears as a deponent in the pension records of both Ruth (Beezley) Dollar and Mary (Beezley) Miles and is declared to be the twin of Alice (Beasley) Chalmers in Miles’s pension.

It would appear that after the deaths of the parents, Silas went to South Carolina about 1780 and spent time in Laurens County, living near Ruth and William Dollar. Alice went to Pennsylvania and lived in the vicinity of Fort Pitt in Westmoreland County, while Mary stayed in Virginia. The four siblings would lose touch for a number of years and were not present at the time of Mary’s marriage to John Miles.

Clearly the group had connections to the Lindsey family, as outlined below. One of the sisters married an unknown Lindsey, possibly William. The families of Hezekiah, Edmund and Stephen Lindsey all settled in Clermont County, Ohio, where they were neighbors of these siblings. Hezekiah would state in Andrew Chalmer’s pension file that his earlier farm in Westmoreland County had adjoined that of John Callahan, Andrew’s stepfather. Hezekiah’s son, John Lindsey, considered Alice (Beasley) Chalmers to be his cousin.¹⁰⁰⁴

The parentage of the following children remains undetermined. Perhaps their father was John, but the precise identity is not known.

Children of (John?) Beezley and an unknown wife, all born in Virginia (Berkeley, Frederick or Loudoun County):

- i. (daughter)⁴² **BEEZLEY**, b. say 1755; m. **[WILLIAM?] LINDSEY**, her cousin. Her husband was likely a son or close relative of Edmund Lindsey, who had married Elizabeth Beezley in 1724 in Baltimore County, but his identity remains uncertain. Their son, Stephen Lindsey, stated in a deposition from Fulton County, Illinois, on 17 October 1843, when he was aged 68, that “in his youth spent days he resided in Barkley [Berkeley] County, Virginia, where he had an aunt, his mother’s sister, whose maiden name was Ruth Beezley – her husband’s name was William Dollar.”¹⁰⁰⁵ He lived with them for several years. He further stated that William and Ruth moved to “Carolina” about 1789 and later to Indiana and Fulton County, Illinois, where Stephen also resided. Children: 1. Daughter (*Elizabeth?*) (Mrs. Custard), possibly the Elizabeth Custard, aged 60, enumerated in

¹⁰⁰¹ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 1721, John Miles, W2682; Mary Miles deposition, 31 [sic] November 1849.

¹⁰⁰² Ibid.

¹⁰⁰³ Joseph Dollar to Ruth (Beezley) Dollar, 17 September 1814, in U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 829; William Dollar/Doller, W22965.

¹⁰⁰⁴ For a useful discussion of this evidence, see Susan Grabek, *Lindsey-L Archives*, website (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/LINDSEY/2007-06/1181668874/>)

¹⁰⁰⁵ Stephen Lindsey deposition, 17 October 1843, in U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 829; William Dollar/Doller, W22965.

- Campbell County, Kentucky, in the federal census of 1830, living next door to Conrad Custard, aged 30-40;¹⁰⁰⁶
2. *Stephen Lindsey*, b. about 1775; living in Fulton County, Illinois, in 1843. For a further discussion, see Susan Grabek's account in the Lindsey-L Archives.¹⁰⁰⁷
- ii. **RUTH BEEZLEY**, b. about 1759; d. Fulton County, Illinois, 19 February 1842.¹⁰⁰⁸ She married **WILLIAM DOLLAR/DOLLER** about 1780 in either Frederick or Berkeley County, Virginia, but there is no extant record of the marriage at the county level. Dollar was of Frederick County, Virginia, and later of Union County, Indiana, but died in Fulton County, Illinois, on 6 September 1838, according to his Revolutionary pension. During the Revolutionary War, he went into service on 15 October 1776 and was discharged 7 December 1779 at Trenton, New Jersey. He served in Capt. Morgan Flanders's company under Marquis Calmes and Thomas Collet within Col. Christian Febiger's Virginia regiment. On 9 July 1822, William applied for a pension from Union County, Indiana, and the resulting packet contains details about his service and family. He received the pension in Fulton County, Illinois, on 22 October 1828.¹⁰⁰⁹ Children of Ruth (Beezley) and William Dollar, according to a family register in the Revolutionary War pension packet of William Dollar: 1. *Mary Dollar*, b. 19 September 1781 (m. John Logan); 2. *Joseph Dollar*, b. 6 September 1785; 3. *Elizabeth Dollar*, b. 5 September 1788 (m. John Thorp and lived in Arkansas); 4. *William Dollar*, b. 2 December 1789 (living in Georgia in 1843); 5. *James Dollar*, b. 29 September 1792 (living in Indiana in 1843); 6. *Jesse Dollar*, b. 6 October 1797 (living in Missouri in 1843); 7. *Lydia Dollar*, b. 4 July 1805 (m. Matthew Tatum of Fulton County, Illinois, who gave a deposition in the William Dollar pension file about the children and their spouses).¹⁰¹⁰
- iii. **JOSEPH BEEZLEY/BEASLEY**, b. say 1762; m. **POLLY** (____). He was living in 1814, when Joseph Dollar reported that he visited him in Indiana.¹⁰¹¹ He was not likely the "Jo. Beasley" living in 1810 in Pendleton County, South Carolina, but his precise location is not known.
- iv. **MARY BEASLEY/BEEZLEY**, b. ca. 1766; d. Clermont County, Ohio, after 1853. She married **JOHN MILES**, nicknamed "Wicked Jack," by her own account, in Loudoun County, Virginia, but she stated in a deposition in her Revolutionary War widow's pension application that she had no documentary evidence of the marriage. The proposed date varies in these depositions, with Mary testifying that she was married on 15 November 1789, 20 December 1790, or 15 April 1791.¹⁰¹² John Miles died in Clermont County, Ohio, with his death reported variously as 8 January 1833, 8 January 1834, and 15 January 1834. By his own account, he served in the Revolution under a Col. Green, who was killed at Monmouth, and a Capt. Thomas Blackwell, and was injured in the left shoulder at the Battle of Brandywine.¹⁰¹³ Mary's statements about John's service are far less reliable, but she stated that he served in the 10th Virginia Regiment under a Captain Buford or Blewfoot, but her statement is not corroborated in earlier statements of her husband. The couple settled in Ohio about 1801. On 18 September 1849, Thomas Shelden wrote to the pension office on Mary's behalf, stating that "I desire on behalf of the old lady your earliest attention as she is very poor and Afflicted (and a township charge)."¹⁰¹⁴ Edmund and Barbara Lindsey also gave depositions included in the application but they did not state their relationship. In 1850, Mary Miles was aged 86, born in Virginia, and living in the household Joseph H. Willmington.¹⁰¹⁵ Child of Mary (Beezley) and John Miles: *Hannah Miles*, b. by her own account, 10 November 1790 (m. John Walker).
- v. **ALICE BEASLEY/BEEZLEY** (twin), b. Loudoun County, Virginia, "on Blue Ridge," 14 November 1768;¹⁰¹⁶ d. Clermont County, Ohio, 5 February 1855.¹⁰¹⁷ By her own account, she married **ANDREW CHALMERS**

¹⁰⁰⁶ Susan Grabek message, 10 November 2011, in *Lindsay-L Archives*, website (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/LINDSAY/2011-11/1320902970>): accessed 27 June 2004.

¹⁰⁰⁷ Susan Grabek message, 12 June 2007, in *Lindsey-L Archives*, website (<http://archiver.rootsweb.ancestry.com/th/read/LINDSEY/2007-06/1121668874>): accessed 27 June 2014.

¹⁰⁰⁸ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 829; William Dollar/Doller, W22965.

¹⁰⁰⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰¹⁰ Ibid.

¹⁰¹¹ Ibid.

¹⁰¹² U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 1721, John Miles, W2682; Mary Miles depositions, 10 January 1840, 31 [sic] November 1849, and 16 April 1851.

¹⁰¹³ Ibid.

¹⁰¹⁴ Thomas Shelden letter, 18 September 1849, in *ibid.*

¹⁰¹⁵ 1850 U. S. Census, Clermont County, Ohio, Union Township District No. 22, page 478B (stamped previous page), Dwelling 2901, Household 2924; Mary Miles; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 667.

¹⁰¹⁶ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 506, Andrew Chalmers, W4152.

¹⁰¹⁷ Ibid.

on 20 June 1785 near Pittsburgh, Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania.¹⁰¹⁸ Chalmers was born about 1755 and died in Brown County, Ohio, 25 November 1833.¹⁰¹⁹ According to a deposition in his pension file dated 5 June 1818, he enlisted from Westmoreland County in 1775, serving under Capt. Moses Cason in the Pennsylvania Line (later termed the 8th Pennsylvania), under the command of Col. Eneas McCoy and later Col. Daniel Brodhead. He was discharged at Fort Pitt in 1783 and was at the battles of Brandywine, Paoli, and Germantown. Hezekiah Lindsey, who was perhaps his cousin, deposed at the same time at he was discharged with Chalmers and traveled with him home from the army, a journey of 40 miles. The couple had 13 children, only seven of which were identified in the pension records: 1. *Rebecca Chalmers*, b. 22 April 1786 (m. ____ Conn); 2. *Hannah Chalmers*, b. ca. 1789 and aged about 50 in 1839 (m. ____ Crane and lived in Illinois); 3. *William Chalmers*; 4. *John Chalmers*; 5. *Arianna/Ariance Chalmers*, b. ca. 1798 and aged about 41 in 1839 (m. John Davison); 6. *Isaac Chalmers*, b. ca. 1804; 7. *James Chalmers*, b. ca. 1808.

- vi. **SILAS BEEZLEY/BEASLEY** (twin), b. Loudoun County 14 November 1768;¹⁰²⁰ d. Clermont County, Ohio, after 1850. He was of Clermont County on 9 March 1842, when he offered a deposition on behalf of William Dollar for the latter's Revolutionary War pension application. He stated that "to the best of his remembrance in the year of 1780 A Corporal of a Malitia [sic] in South Carolina in Laurance [Laurens] County ordered or warned William Dollar to muster on a certain day, said Dollar refused and shewed him his discharge which discharge the said Deponent understood to be a discharge from the service from three years in the Revolutionary war."¹⁰²¹ He also testified in the widow's pension application of another sister, Mary Miles, stating that he was aged 80 in June 1849 and that "his sister Mary Miles was always said by his parents to be three years his elder."¹⁰²² This statement would suggest that his parents lived long enough for him to remember them. In his own deposition in this file, he stated that Miles and his sister Mary were living in Clermont County in 1813, and that Miles had earned the nickname of Wicked Jack "on account of his profanity, he being a verry wicked or profane man to talk."¹⁰²³ In the federal census of 1850, Silas was enumerated in Tate Township District no. 220, Clermont County, Ohio, as Silas "Beaseley," aged 81 and born in Virginia, with no real or personal property. Living with him was Alice Chalmers, also aged 81, and Rebecca Conn, Alice's daughter), 64, born in Pennsylvania, with real property worth \$250.¹⁰²⁴

15. JOHN⁴ BEEZLEY (*William³, William², -?-¹ Beesley*), the son of William Beasley and an unknown wife, was born say 1740-1750, almost certainly in Virginia and possibly in Loudoun County, where his probable brother, Isaac Beesly, a Revolutionary soldier and pensioner, was born. He died in Champaign County, Ohio, after 9 August 1812, when he wrote his will, but before 18 January 1813, when it was probated.¹⁰²⁵ He married first a woman known only by the initial "S" from the gravestone of their unmarried daughter, Jane.¹⁰²⁶ He married second **RACHEL (____) PRICKETT**.

Little is known of John Beezley's early life. He lived in northern Virginia and perhaps moved from Loudoun to Monongalia County before 1774. He was *not* the John Beasley at Boonesborough and Bryan's

¹⁰¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁰¹⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰²⁰ Inferred from ibid.

¹⁰²¹ U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 829; William Dollar/Doller, W22965.

¹⁰²² Silas Beasley quoted in an undated letter/affidavit of J. L. Coombs in U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 1721, John Miles, W2682.

¹⁰²³ Silas Beasley deposition, 26 June 1849, in ibid.

¹⁰²⁴ 1850 U. S. Census, Clermont County, Ohio, Tate Township District No. 22, page 158 (handwritten left corner), Dwelling and Household 1196, Silas Beaseley; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 667.

¹⁰²⁵ John Beezley will (1812), Champaign County, Ohio Will Book 1: 16, Champaign County Courthouse, Urbana, Ohio. John's alleged birthplace in Virginia is supposed from the fact his son William was born there. His grandson John, son of William, listed Virginia as the birthplace of his father, yet Jane (Beezley) Graham, another grandchild, lists Pennsylvania. Isaac was a family name passed down for several generations among John's descendants, and an Isaac Beesley, who received a pension for his Revolutionary War service, stated that he was born in Loudoun County in 1753. Perhaps John and Isaac were brothers. Isaac served near Prickett's Fork in Monongalia County during the Revolution, which has particular significance to John's life. See Isaac Beesly pension (Pvt., Virginia Militia), pension no. R710, U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900, NARA microfilm publication M804, roll 203. In 1820, Isaac was enumerated on the 1820 census in Lewis County, Virginia, and nearby were Isaac Beesley Jr. and a John and William Besley [sic.], all of age to be Isaac's sons (1820 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, p. 146-147, National Archives microfilm publication M33, roll 133). John and William were perhaps the sons of Isaac Beezley Sr., who lived in Harrison County, Virginia.

¹⁰²⁶ Metz Cemetery (Noble County, Indiana), Jane Beezley marker, transcribed April 1985.

Station, Kentucky, who fought at the Battle of Blue Licks, as it has been shown in Chapter One that that John was the son of Charles Beazley of Caroline County, Virginia, and was later a judge in Brown County, Ohio.¹⁰²⁷

The earliest record of this John, the son of William, remains his likely service in Lord Dunmore's War in 1774, when he served as a Private in the regiment of Captain Zackquill Morgan of Monongalia County.¹⁰²⁸ Listed with him were Isaac "Prekit" or Prickett, Sergeant, and fellow Privates Josiah Prickett, Jacob Prickett Senior and Jacob Prickett Junior. What became of him immediately after this date remains uncertain, though it is likely that he performed additional military service in western Virginia during the Revolutionary War. In her book *Glimpses into the Past*, a history of Columbia Township in Hamilton County, Ohio, Ramona Kaiser asserts that John, whom she calls "Captain Beasley," was a veteran, but she gives no details and cites no evidence.¹⁰²⁹ Perhaps he was the John Beesley who served at Pittsburgh (Fort Pitt) during the Revolution, though no other details of his service are known.¹⁰³⁰ Perhaps this was John Beesley his cousin (#15 above).

John left Virginia before the end of the Revolutionary War and was in Kentucky by 4 March 1780, when he claimed his father's preemption for a series of tracts in Fayette County, which he sold to Samuel Price for £200. The record, previously transcribed under William, contains John's signature, proving that he was literate:

John Beezley Hare [sic] at Law to William Beezley Deceased [illegible] do assign over unto Samuel Price all the Lands or [illegible] of Lands and preemption of Land of the sd William Beezley Dec'd on the western waters in Kentucke County or in any of the back country or settlements for the value of two hundred Pounds to me in hand paid in Case of eny [sic] Dispute I am ready to prove my Self the oldest son of my father William Beezley. [Illegible because of fold in document]. By my hand this Forth Day of March 1780. John Beezley Thos Gold Cetty Gold¹⁰³¹

A note on the verso of the document dates that the grant was for land in Kentucky survey numbers 498, 499, 500, 501, and 502. On 29 April 1794, Governor Isaac Shelby of Kentucky issued a formal grant to Samuel Price, "Assignee of John Beasley, Heir at Law of William Beasley," for the 400 acres.¹⁰³²

John was already married by this date. The name of his first wife is not known with certainty, though it would appear from the gravestone of daughter Jane that her name began with S, since Jane's grave states she was the daughter of J & S Beezley.¹⁰³³ Perhaps her name was Sarah or Sabra, as both of these names were perpetuated among John's descendants. John married her about 1770, almost certainly in Virginia. She was apparently dead by 1790, and together they had several children.

About 1788, he married (2) Rachel (____) Prickett, widow of a Mr. Prickett, probably Jacob Prickett Junior, who had served in Captain Zackquill Morgan's regiment during Lord Dunmore's War of 1774.¹⁰³⁴ Rachel had lost her first husband in an Indian raid, and she had been left alone to raise three sons, Nicholas, Isaac or Isaiah, and John. She predeceased John and died either in Clermont or Champaign County, Ohio before 1812.

¹⁰²⁷ A John Beasley is often mentioned as having played a prominent role at the Battle of Bryan Station, but this is certainly an error, confusing him with a different John Beazley/Beasley, later of Adams and Crown counties, Ohio, who was the son of Charles Beazley and Susannah (Allen). For example, Virginia Webb Howard, in *Bryan Station Heroes and Heroines* (Lexington, KY: Bryan Station Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, 1930), notes that John Beasley was captured, sent by the Indians to Detroit and later Canada, but returned to Kentucky (page 30). He claimed land near Boonesborough on 20 December 1779 (Commissioner's Certificate Book 1: 91 cited in *ibid*, 142). Twila Birnie Shafer has asserted: "After the Battle of Blue Licks, John Beasley attempted to escape the Indians by swimming the Licking River below the ford. He was captured by them and kept for several months in captivity. A Virginia friend who knew the Indians saved him from the tomahawk. After his release, John settled at Massie's Station, now known as Manchester. He died in 1815, aged about fifty-five. He married a widow named Prickett and of this union three sons were born" (Twila Birnie Shafer and Dr. Francis Beasley Odell, *Descendants of the Sutton-Beasley Family of Brown County, Ohio* [No publication place: 1946], 33).

¹⁰²⁸ Warren Skidmore and Donna Kaminsky, *Lord Dunmore's Little War of 1774: His Captains and Their Men Who Opened Up Kentucky and the West to American Settlement* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 2002), 35.

¹⁰²⁹ Ramona Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past* (Madeira, OH: Madeira Press, 1940), 22.

¹⁰³⁰ John H. Gwathmey, *Historical Register of Virginia in the Revolution*, 2nd ed. (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1987), 54.

¹⁰³¹ "John Beezley, Heir at Law of Willm Beezley, His Assignment of Land in Kentucky County," Old Kentucky #498 to #502, 4 March 1780; manuscript, Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky; photocopy supplied by Dan McDonough (Springfield, Ohio), June 2009.

¹⁰³² Old Kentucky Grant Book 3: 545-549; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky. See also Jefferson Entry Book A: 8, 17 January 1780; Kentucky Land Office, Frankfort, Kentucky.

¹⁰³³ Tombstone of Jane Beezley, Beezley Metz Cemetery, Noble County, Indiana.

¹⁰³⁴ Her marriage is inferred from John's naming of his stepsons in his will. Isaiah Prickett, son of Nicholas (John's step-son), moved with his brother Jacob to Fulton County, Illinois. He reported in a biographical sketch that his family came originally from Virginia, and that his unnamed "grandfather" was killed by Indians, having his career cut short before he had reached the prime of his life" (*Portrait and Biographical Album of Fulton County, Illinois* (Chicago: Biographical Publishing Co., 1890), 212).

The 1787 personal property tax list of Monongalia County, Virginia, records the names of Jacob Prickett and John Beasley living in close proximity. John was taxed on three horses and five head of cattle; Jacob had no livestock.¹⁰³⁵ Monongalia County was a large county at that time, hilly and sparsely populated, located on the Ohio River in what is now West Virginia. The tax list suggests that John had moved back from Virginia after being in Kentucky.

Not long after marrying Rachel, John moved westward to the Ohio Country. Perhaps he traveled with his family by raft down the Ohio River to Cincinnati, where he prospected for land and settled. They arrived in Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio, perhaps as early as 1790 and chose land on the west side of the Little Miami River near the present town of Plainville in a part of Ohio known as the Symmes Purchase. Named for the original purchaser, John Cleves Symmes, the land comprised a narrow strip between the Great and Little Miami Rivers, extending northward from the Ohio River through portions of present-day Hamilton, Butler, Warren, Greene, Clark, and Champaign counties, and ending in part of present-day Logan County. No record of a land purchase exists before 1796, and it is possible that John squatted for a time before formally purchasing the tract.

Ramona Kaiser gives a more detailed account of John's settlement, though she does not include her source. She asserts that "Captain Beasley" first came to Fort Washington, and later "pushed up the valley with his family and a small party of adventurers." She adds: "On their way to the rich, fertile valley of the Little Miami, they were in constant threat of Indian surprises; but the brave little party went ahead until they reached the 'Miami Rapids.' Here the party decided to settle."¹⁰³⁶

With the help of his sons and stepsons, John built a blockhouse of logs near Armstrong's Mill. Kaiser again provides more details: "Captain Beasley immediately started to build his house out of sturdy timber, long seasoned by time. When completed, it was one of the most well built frame houses in the Valley: later it was subject to many severe floods. It still stands today [1940] on Wooster Pike, greatly altered from its original plan, but as strong and sturdy as ever. In the original house, portholes had been made, in order to ward off Indian attacks."¹⁰³⁷

In 1792, John and Rachel were admitted as members to the Columbia Baptist Church, the earliest extant record of them in Hamilton County.¹⁰³⁸ The tradition of Baptist Church membership would persist for many years among their descendants.

The 1790s were turbulent years in southern Ohio, and the early settlers faced opposition to their settlement from the Native American population. Four years after John's arrival, a party of Indians attacked his house in a famous battle that has been enshrined in local memory, perhaps with some distortion in the telling. John D. Shane, a local settler, provided possibly the most complete narrative version in an account preserved among the Lyman Draper Papers at the Wisconsin State Historical Society:

Old John Beasley had 3 stepsons, Pricketts, and 3 his own sons, all pretty well grown. [He] built a blockhouse at Armstrong's Mill, opposite where the railroad now runs along, sometime in 1793. About April 1796, Mr. Beasley went out (having heard the dogs bark) in his shirt, drizzly morning, perhaps for something more. When he got to the door, the Indians shot and missed. He ran in, got his gun, and ran up the stairs to shoot. He was taking aim to fire, when he was shot in the arm, through the port hole, the ball entering right in among the tendons of the arm and lodged in the skin, passing diagonally to the inside of the right arm. A large [illegible] sycamore, the Indian was behind, and he could see his breast just enough to shoot. [He] had seen the Indian's gun, and he hadn't moved, after he fired yet, when Beasley pulled his trigger. The Indian was not found till some years after, his gun and blanket were found up the run a piece, and Beasley said he knew he shot him. The bark of the tree was not grazed, the things were bloody, and he was shot right through. They found a piece of his breast. The boys had kept their guard properly and generally up stairs, but now they were down, and they made so much noise going after them, they (the Indians) thought the house was full of men, and fled.¹⁰³⁹

¹⁰³⁵ Monongalia County Tax List A [ca. 1786], in Nettie Schreiner-Yantis, *1787 Census of Virginia* (Springfield, VA: Genealogical Books in Print, 1987), 2:1315.

¹⁰³⁶ Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 22.

¹⁰³⁷ Ibid.

¹⁰³⁸ Marjorie Byrneside Burress, *Early Rosters of Cincinnati and Hamilton County* (Cincinnati?: The Author, 1984), 49; the name is recorded erroneously in the list as "Brasley", but Beasley is offered as an alternative.

¹⁰³⁹ John D. Shane interview, Lyman Draper Papers, vol. 13, Series CC, 75-79, Wisconsin State Historical Society, Madison, WI.

The Draper Papers contain two variants of the same story. Joseph Sampson recalled that “John Beasley was shot in his own door” the same day that he (Sampson) had been out scouting.¹⁰⁴⁰ James Bousby, another early settler, dated the incident to the summer of 1794, rather than April 1796, and erroneously names the shot man as Isaac Beasley, rather than John:

In the morning he got up and went back and forth, till he could see if he saw anything of them, yet moving so they couldn't fire. As many as 7 or 8 guns were fired at him, all missing, as he ran to the door. His wife, hearing the guns, supposed he was dead and was pushing it too, but he prevailed, and he got in, and then got his gun, and ran upstairs to shoot. Here he was seen through the chink and shot in the arm, the bullet entering above the wrist and coming out at the elbow. By this time his sons, 7 or 8, were up and fired at the Indians, who fled. One was supposed to be killed, but never found. Beasley's was about half a mile from Frazer's Station, where I lived.¹⁰⁴¹

Ramona Kaiser gives two additional accounts of Indian troubles involving the Beezleys, both of which may have occurred after the above event. One story involved an unnamed daughter of John, who was apparently an expert marksman. Kaiser writes:

One day, shortly after the completion of the Beasley home, the Captain's young daughter looked from her window and spied an Indian lurking about the big elm tree to the north of the present site of the old Plainville tavern. By his actions, she determined that he meant no good; and so she quietly picked up her father's rifle, aimed it through the north port hole; and with one decisive shot, the Indian fell to the ground.¹⁰⁴²

Like his daughter, John was also adept with a gun. In another account he apparently shot an Indian with little provocation:

On one occasion, Captain Beasley was just returning to his home an evening in 1795, having gone to the spring, located at the foot of Indian Hill near the present site of the public school, to bring home water for the family. He was surprised to see an Indian close by at the spring. Annoyed at seeing the savage so close to the settlement's water supply, he aimed his rifle and fired. The bullet met its mark, for the Indian fell into the spring and died. This caused such comment, that thereafter the spring was known as ‘Indian Spring.’¹⁰⁴³

John established himself in Hamilton County and seemed little deterred by the troubles with the Indians. On 16 April 1796, he registered a crop mark for his livestock, which the court recorded as “a crop off each ear and a half penny the underside of same and a swallow fork in the left.”¹⁰⁴⁴ On 20 May 1796, John purchased from John Cleves Symmes a tract of land on the north bank of the Little Miami River in Columbia Township for \$100 in certificates. It contained 119 acres, one rood, and five square perches.¹⁰⁴⁵ Witnesses included Hannah Willis, E. Schenck, and Susan Ridley. Later that same year, John's name appeared on the Columbia Township Tax Assessor's Report, though no other Beasleys or Beezleys appear with him.¹⁰⁴⁶ On 23 September 1797, John was listed among the founding members of the Miami Baptist Association, founded in Columbia Township.¹⁰⁴⁷

For a number of years John operated a mill for grinding grain and sawing timber. Mills were a lucrative source of income for early settlers, since they provided a built-in market of local customers who were eager turn their grain into flour or have logs harvested into lumber. Often local mill owners competed for business.

¹⁰⁴⁰ Joseph Sampson notes in *ibid*, vol. 13, Series CC, 95-96.

¹⁰⁴¹ Joseph Bousby account in *ibid*, vol. 14m Series CC, 13-16.

¹⁰⁴² Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 22.

¹⁰⁴³ *Ibid*, 22-23.

¹⁰⁴⁴ John Beazly's crop mark is recorded in Virginia Raymond Cummins, *Hamilton County, Ohio Court and Other Records* (Cincinnati: General Printing Co., 1967), 2: 16.

¹⁰⁴⁵ John Cleves Symmes to John Beasley [sic], Deed of Sale, 20 May 1796, Hamilton County, Ohio Deed Book A: 558.

¹⁰⁴⁶ Columbia Township Assessor's Tax Report for 1796 in L. B. Hamlin, “Taxpayers of Columbia Township,” *Quarterly Publication of the Historical and Philosophical Society of Ohio*, vol. 14 (1919): 3-16. See also Robert D. Craig, *Columbia Township, Hamilton County, Ohio Tax List - 1796* (Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1963).

¹⁰⁴⁷ Anthony Howard Dunlevy, *History of the Miami Baptist Association* (Cincinnati: Geo. S. Blanchard & Co., 1869), 27.

Ramona Kaiser writes that John Armstrong and his father Nathaniel Shepherd Armstrong had attempted to buy John out, but he refused to sell. Consequently, the Armstrongs bought a different tract of 100 acres and built a mill of their own, which became known as Upper Mill.¹⁰⁴⁸

On 3 November 1797, John purchased from William Goforth a tract of 49 acres in Columbia Township for \$124.50.¹⁰⁴⁹ Like the previous tract, it was located on the north bank of the Little Miami River and adjoined the property of Paul Knapper, a settler from Pennsylvania whose daughter Elizabeth would later marry John's son William. Philip Mason and Tabitha Armstrong served as witnesses. That same day, John and wife Rachel sold to Goforth another tract of 49 acres on the Little Miami for the same price.¹⁰⁵⁰ The deed affirmed that the tract had been part of the grant he had obtained from John Cleves Symmes. Rachel signed the deed by making her mark.

In 1800, Hamilton County was divided into several new counties, including Clermont County to its east. Although John's holdings in Columbia Township remained in Hamilton County, his son William and stepsons moved to the new county. According to the 1880 *History of Clermont County, Ohio*, John and Isaiah Prickett, together with William Beasley, settled near Withamsville in Union Township. It further notes that "at this time, the latter [John] was an old man, and both the Pricketts deceased many years ago."¹⁰⁵¹ Almost certainly the article confuses John with his son William, who was not very old at the time. In 1804, Isaiah and Nicholas Prickett, and John's son William Beezley, obtained parcels of land from Churchill Jones, who had received a bounty land in Clermont County.¹⁰⁵² On 21 February 1806, John witnessed a deed between William Goforth and the heirs of Paul Knapper of Hamilton County over a deficiency from an earlier deed from Goforth to Knapper from 1796.¹⁰⁵³ The elder John remained in Hamilton County and was taxed in Columbia Township in 1810.¹⁰⁵⁴

Toward the end of his life, John purchased a new tract of land in Champaign County on 13 April 1812. At the time of the purchase he gave his residence as Hamilton County, and his new land was located in Section 10 of Township 15, Range 13.¹⁰⁵⁵ The tract was still part of the so-called Symmes Purchase between the Miami Rivers. He also sold a series of tracts at about the same time. To William and John Armstrong he sold a "tract on the west end of the island"

John wrote his will on 9 August 1812, using the standard legal language of the time:

In the name of God Amen. I John Beezley being weak in Body but of sound and perfect mind and Memory Blessed be Almighty God for the same - Do make and Publish this my last will and testament in the manner and form following that to say first I give and bequeath to John Pricket my step son one hundred and fifty dollars moveable property. I do also give and bequeath to Nicholas Pricket my second step son one hundred dollars moveable property. I also give and bequeath to Isaac Pricket my third step son one hundred and fifty dollars in moveable property, and I also give and bequeath to Gitta Davis seventy five dollars in Money payable in April one thousand eight hundred and fourteen, and seventy five payable in one thousand eight hundred and fifteen. I also give and bequeath to William Beezley, Joseph Beezley, Thomas Beezley, and Isaac Beezley, and also Jane, Sarah, and Rachael in Equal portion Each, one hundred dollars in paid to - William Beezley and Eighty is due to Joseph Beezley for which he is to Receive a Certificate for one hundred and sixty acres, and also Isaac and Sarah is to Receive forty dollars, of the first payment from Armstrong, such's to be taken out of her part, that is to be Divided. John Mederas is to Receive fifty dollars out of the above payment from Armstrong. And I do hereby appoint Nicholas Pricket and William Beezley Executors of this my last will and testament, hereby revoking all former wills by me made. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand this ninth of August in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twelve, Signed sealed, Published and declared in the presence of us.

¹⁰⁴⁸ Kaiser, *Glimpses into the Past*, 17.

¹⁰⁴⁹ William Goforth to John Beasley [sic], Deed of Sale, 3 November 1797, rec. 4 March 1802, Hamilton County, OH Deed Book E-2:14.

¹⁰⁵⁰ Ibid, 429-431.

¹⁰⁵¹ *History of Clermont County, Ohio* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1880), 443.

¹⁰⁵² Churchill Jones Military Warrant No. 1134, cited in Alma Aicholtz Smith, *The Virginia Military Surveys of Clermont and Hamilton Counties, Ohio 1787-1849* (Cincinnati, OH: The Author, 1985), 115.

¹⁰⁵³ Hamilton County, Ohio, Deed, William Goforth to the Heirs of Paul Knapper, 21 February 1806, photocopy of original deed supplied to the compiler by Dan McDonough (Springfield, Ohio), June 2009.

¹⁰⁵⁴ "Hamilton County Index to Tax List for 1810," in Burris, *Early Rosters of Cincinnati and Hamilton County*, 42.

¹⁰⁵⁵ See Ellen T. and David A. Berry, *Early Ohio Settlers: Purchasers of Land in Southwestern Ohio, 1800-1840* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1986), 22.

The will was witnessed by John Warren, Robert Crosley, and William Christy, and was probated in Champaign County, Ohio, on 18 January 1813.¹⁰⁵⁶ The estate took many years to settle, due in part to a dispute with William and John Armstrong of Hamilton County over \$700 and the deaths of son William and son-in-law Nicholas Prickett before the matter was resolved. John Osborn of Warren County was eventually appointed Administrator *de bonis non*, and the estate was finally settled in 1827.¹⁰⁵⁷

Children of John Beezley by his first wife (Sarah?); the birth order is uncertain, but they are listed in the order that they appear in the will. All were apparently born in Virginia, although this assertion cannot be proved:

- i. [?] **GITTA⁵ BEEZLEY**, b. say 1771; she m. (____) **DAVIS**. No record of her marriage has been found, and no appropriate land or probate record has been discovered that would identify her husband. She cannot be confirmed as John's daughter and she may have been a daughter of Rachel Prickett, John's second wife.
- ii. **WILLIAM BEEZLEY**, b. ca. 1774-75; d. Lagonda, Clark County, Ohio, 12 January 1825, aged 51.¹⁰⁵⁸ (He is sometimes shown with the middle name of "Merriam" without any historical authority). He m. Hamilton County, Ohio, about 1796, **ELIZABETH KNAPPER**, daughter of Paul and Margaretta (Hollebusch) Knapper, baptized in Goshenhoppen Church, Philadelphia County, Pennsylvania, 5 December 1778;¹⁰⁵⁹ d. Noble County, Indiana, 24 February 1841 [1844?].¹⁰⁶⁰ Children, born in Ohio: 1. *John⁶ Beezley*, b. Hamilton County, 22 October 1797, d. Shelby County, Ohio, 5 March 1889;¹⁰⁶¹ 2. *Paul Beezley*, b. Hamilton County (calculated) 15 January 1801, d. Noble County, Indiana, 29 May 1855;¹⁰⁶² 3. *Catherine Beezley*, b. about 1804, d. Knox County, Illinois, after 1855;¹⁰⁶³ 4. *Elizabeth Beezley*, b. (calculated) 16 January 1806, d. Noble County, Indiana, 19 September 1873;¹⁰⁶⁴ 5. *Rachel Beezley*, b. 10 August 1809,¹⁰⁶⁵ d. Clark County, Ohio, 13 August 1889;¹⁰⁶⁶ 6. *Jane Beezley*, b. 11 June 1811,¹⁰⁶⁷ d. Kosciusko County, Indiana, 21 December 1898;¹⁰⁶⁸ 7. *Isaac Beezley*, b. 13 June 1814;¹⁰⁶⁹ d. Kosciusko County, Indiana, 12 November 1862;¹⁰⁷⁰ 8. *Usabra Beezley*, b. 1 June 1816,¹⁰⁷¹ d. Noble County, Indiana, before 1850.¹⁰⁷²

¹⁰⁵⁶ John Beezley will, Champaign County Will Book 1:16, County Clerk's Office, Urbana, OH.

¹⁰⁵⁷ John Beezley estate, Clark County, OH probate file A-348, County Clerk's Office, Springfield, Clark County, OH.

¹⁰⁵⁸ William Beezley tombstone photograph, Sinking Creek Cemetery, Clark County, Ohio, taken by A. A. Mogg for C. F. Beezley, Chicago, Illinois, 27 November 1926; copy, Clark County Historical Society Library, Springfield, Ohio. The tombstone is no longer extant.

¹⁰⁵⁹ *Pennsylvania German Church Records of Births, Baptisms, Marriages, Burials, Etc., from the Pennsylvania German Society Proceedings and Addresses* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 3: 128. The marriage of William Beezley and Elizabeth Knapper is inferred from a deed in Hamilton County, Ohio, dated 18 October 1810, in which Jacob "Nepper," Elizabeth's brother, and other heirs of Paul "Nepper" sold 87 acres on the Little Miami River to National Shepherd Armstrong. William Beezley signed the document, with Elizabeth making her mark. See Hamilton County, Ohio, Deed Book 1: 200, cited in Virginia Raymond Cummins, *Hamilton County, Ohio, Court and Other Records* (Cincinnati: General Printing Co., 1966), 2: 109.

¹⁰⁶⁰ Metz Cemetery (Noble County, Indiana), Elizabeth Beezley marker, transcribed April 1985. The inscription is badly faded.

¹⁰⁶¹ Barbara Adams and Gene Mozley, *Memorial Records of Shelby County, Ohio* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1977), 314. He married (1) in Champaign County, Ohio, on 10 October 1816, Elizabeth Ellsworth (Champaign County, Ohio, Marriage Book A: 606). He married (2) in Sangamon County, Illinois, on 19 March 1860, Silence Barnes (Ellsworth) Kizer (Sangamon County, Illinois, Marriage License no. 869; Springfield Chapter D.A.R., *Marriage License, Sangamon County 1856 through 1865* [Springfield, IL: Springfield Chapter, DAR, 1953], 136.).

¹⁰⁶² Metz Cemetery (Noble County, Indiana), Paul Beezley marker, transcribed April 1985. He married in Clark County, Ohio, on 1 August 1822, Mary M. Plum (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Book 1-B: 28).

¹⁰⁶³ 1850 U.S. Census, Knox County, Illinois, Township 9N 4E, page 460, Dwelling 2097, Household 2171, Catharine Runion; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 113). She married in Clark County, Ohio, on 18 November 1824, Conrad Runion/Runnion/Runyan (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Book 1-B: 86).

¹⁰⁶⁴ Ibid, Eliza Wood marker, transcribed April 1985. She married in Clark County, Ohio, on 16 February 1822, Andrew Wood (no book or license cited; see "Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1958," *Familysearch* <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDFC-L8C>; accessed 18 October 2014).

¹⁰⁶⁵ Clark County, Ohio, Probate File Packets, William Beezley, 1825, #A-295.

¹⁰⁶⁶ Ferncliff Cemetery (Springfield, Ohio), Rachel Paden marker, transcription, *FindaGrave* (www.findagrave.com: accessed 25 January 2013). She married in Clark County, Ohio, on 6 December 1827, James Paden (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Records, in "Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1958," *Familysearch* <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDFC-C57>; accessed 18 October 2014).

¹⁰⁶⁷ Clark County, Ohio, Probate File Packets, William Beezley, 1825, #A-295.

¹⁰⁶⁸ Lester H. Binnie, *Kosciusko County, Indiana, Cemetery Records: Tippecanoe and Washington Townships* (Albion, Indiana: Lester H. Binnie, 1977), 4: 130. She married in Clark County, Ohio, on 29 May 1827, Hezekiah Graham (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Records, Book 1B: 164).

¹⁰⁶⁹ Isaac Beezley Bible Register; owned 2005) by Todd Beezley (Virginia); digital image, *Ancestry.com*: accessed 20 July 2014. The year 1813 is listed in the guardianship file submitted by his mother in the William Beezley estate file, but this date would appear to be wrong.

¹⁰⁷⁰ Ibid; see also Metz Cemetery (Noble County, Indiana), Isaac Beezley marker, transcribed April 1985. He married in Clark County, Ohio, on 8 November 1832, Sarepta McMillan/McMillin (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Book 2: 2).

¹⁰⁷¹ Clark County, Ohio, Probate File Packets, William Beezley, 1825, #A-295.

¹⁰⁷² 1840 U.S. Census, Noble County, Indiana, Washington Township, page 283, line 10, Joseph Harrison; National Archives microfilm publication M704, roll 100; Isaac Beezley v. Heirs of Joseph Harrison, Kosciusko County, Indiana, Deed Book 20: 294, Kosciusko County Courthouse,

- iii. **JANE BEEZLEY**, b. 16 February 1776; d. Washington Township, Noble County, Indiana, 11 November 1847, unmarried. She moved to Indiana with her nephew Paul and sister-in-law Elizabeth, and is buried near other family members in the Metz Cemetery, Noble County.¹⁰⁷³
- iv. **JOSEPH BEEZLEY**, b. ca. 1778; d. Danville, Vermilion County, Illinois, about 1851.¹⁰⁷⁴ He married probably in Ohio about 1801, m. **PHOEBE REEVES**.¹⁰⁷⁵ Children, born in Ohio, probably Champaign County: 1. *Nathaniel⁶ Beezley*, b. about 1801;¹⁰⁷⁶ 2. *John Beezley*, b. 13 February 1803, d. Page County, Iowa, 1 August 1880;¹⁰⁷⁷ 3. *Nancy Beezley*, b. about 1806, d. Warren County, Iowa, 11 September 1855;¹⁰⁷⁸ 4. *Daniel Beezley*, b. ca. 1808; d. after 1850, when he was enumerated with his father in Vermilion, County, Illinois;¹⁰⁷⁹ 5. *Eunice Beezley*, b. ca. 1815; d. Vermillion County, Indiana, May 1848;¹⁰⁸⁰ 6. *Mary Beezley*, b. say 1816; 7. *Rachel Beezley*, b. about 1818, d. after 1860;¹⁰⁸¹ 8. *Joseph Beezley*, b. 11 May 1819, d. Wasco County, Oregon, 9 November 1892.¹⁰⁸²
- v. **THOMAS BEEZLEY**, b. say 1780; d. Vermilion County, Illinois, before 17 March 1832.¹⁰⁸³ He m. **MARY** (____). Children, according to his probate records, included: 1. *William M.⁶ Beezley*, b. 13 September 1803, d. Dallas County, Missouri, 20 July 1880;¹⁰⁸⁴ 2. *Nicholas Beezley*, b. say 1805;¹⁰⁸⁵ 3. *Sally Beezley*, b. say 1807; 4. *Joseph Beezley*, b. ca. 1812.
- vi. **SARAH BEEZLEY**, b. say 1782; of age but probably unmarried in 1812; there is no record of her marriage in Champaign County, Ohio.
- vii. **ISAAC BEEZLEY/BEESLEY**, b. say 1785; d. Montgomery County, Indiana, after 5 July 1827, testate.¹⁰⁸⁶ He allegedly married (1) **SUSANNA** (____);¹⁰⁸⁷ and (2) in Rush County, Indiana on 11 November 1824, **ELEANOR PIXLEY**.¹⁰⁸⁸ Children from first marriage: 1. *Rachel⁶ Beesley*, b. Ohio 11 October 1807, d. Delaware County, Indiana, 27 February 1892;¹⁰⁸⁹ 2. *Sarah Beesley*, b. Ohio about 1810; d. Indiana, about

Warsaw, Indiana. Usabra ("Sabra") married in Clark County, Ohio, on 27 December 1832, Joseph Harrison (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Book 2 in "Ohio, Marriages, 1800-1958," *Familysearch* <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:XDK6-3BH>; accessed 18 October 2014).

¹⁰⁷³ Metz Cemetery (Noble County, Indiana), Jane Beezley marker, transcribed April 1985.

¹⁰⁷⁴ The death is referenced in *History of the Pacific Northwest, Oregon and Washington* (Portland, Oregon: North Pacific History Co., 1889), 2: 208. Joseph was enumerated in Vermilion County, Illinois, in 1850; see 1850 U. S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, District 21, page 361B, Joseph Beezley, Dwelling 155; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 130.

¹⁰⁷⁵ *History of Vermilion County, Illinois* (Chicago: H. H. Hill, 1879), 327.

¹⁰⁷⁶ 1850 U.S. Census, Johnson County, Indiana, Franklin Township, page 71B, Dwelling and Household 96, Nathaniel Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 155. He married in Clark County, Ohio, on 22 February 1821, Sarah Hays (Clark County, Ohio, Marriage Book 1-A: 73).

¹⁰⁷⁷ *Cemeteries in Page County, Iowa* (No place: Works Progress Administration, n.d.), volume 1, "Summit Cemetery," no page number.

¹⁰⁷⁸ Warren County Genealogical Society, *Cemetery and Death Records of Warren County, Iowa* (Marceline, Missouri: Walsworth Publishing Co., 1980), 61. She married (1) her cousin Nicholas Beezley in Vermilion County, Illinois, on 26 August 1827 (Vermilion County, Illinois, Marriage Book A: 8). She married (2) in Polk County, Iowa, on 19 December 1850, Joseph W. Burgett.

¹⁰⁷⁹ 1850 U. S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, District 21, page 361B, Dwelling 755, no household number; Danl Beesley; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 130.

¹⁰⁸⁰ Harold L. O'Donnell, *Eugene Township (Vermillion County, Indiana): The First 100 Years* (Cayuga, Indiana: Harold O'Donnell, 1963), 147. She married in Vermilion County, Illinois, on 14 April 1836, Isaac A. Brown (Vermilion County, Illinois, Marriage Book A: 46).

¹⁰⁸¹ 1860 U. S. Census, Vermilion County, Illinois, Danville, page 568, Dwelling 108, Household 109, Rachael Eaton; National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 233. She married (1) in Vermilion County, Illinois, on 3 September 1835, William C. Vannort (*Marriage License Abstracts, Vermillion County, Illinois, 1826-1852*, 77). She married (2) there on 3 November 1850, Jesse Eaton (*Ibid*, 23).

¹⁰⁸² *History of the Pacific Northwest, Oregon and Washington*, 2: 208.

¹⁰⁸³ "Vermilion County, Illinois, Probate Record Abstracts, 1826-1830," *Illiana Genealogist*, volume 24 (Spring 1988): 39-40.

¹⁰⁸⁴ Bowers Chapel Cemetery (Dallas County, Missouri), William M. Beezley marker. He married in Vermillion County, Indiana, on 6 July 1830, Priscilla Evans (Vermillion County, Indiana, Marriage Book 1: 190).

¹⁰⁸⁵ He married Nancy Beezley, his cousin, daughter of Joseph Beezley, in Vermilion County, Illinois, on 26 August 1827 (Vermilion County, Illinois, Marriage Book A: 8).

¹⁰⁸⁶ Montgomery County, Indiana, Will Book A, abstracted online <http://indianagenweb.com/inmontgomery/wills/wills-early.htm>; accessed 20 July 2014.

¹⁰⁸⁷ No record of this first marriage has been discovered.

¹⁰⁸⁸ "Indiana, Marriages, 1811-1959," digital images, *Familysearch* (www.familysearch.org; accessed 14 November 2014), Rush County, Indiana, Beasley-Pixley, 1824. Eleanor is sometimes shown in various online sources under the maiden name of "Plummer," but the original source for this assertion is not known. I am grateful for Doug Beezley for his extensive research on this family. See Doug Beezley, "beebarschday," *Rootsweb* (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dbeezley&id=I5253>; accessed 16 October 2014).

¹⁰⁸⁹ The original source of these birth and death dates is unknown. See Anonymous, "Reece Family Tree," undocumented family tree, (<http://reece.familytreeguide.com/descend.php?personID=I3159&tree=T1&PHPSESSID=a142ed1be216f9c584c8a2644901eaf>; accessed 15 October 2014). Rachel married in Rush County, Indiana, on 7 June 1825, Absolem/Absalom Sherry; see "Indiana, Marriages, 1811-1959," digital images, *Familysearch* (www.familysearch.org; accessed 14 November 2014), Rush County, Indiana, Sherry-Beazley, 1825.

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- 1852;¹⁰⁹⁰ 3. *Elizabeth Beezley*, b. 19 July 1813, d. Montgomery County, Indiana, 1 October 1838;¹⁰⁹¹ 4. *John Beezley*, b. Ohio about 1814, d. Turlington, Otoe County, Nebraska, 7 September 1892, aged 78;¹⁰⁹² 5. *Cornelius Beezley*, b. about 1814, d. probably Nebraska after 1880;¹⁰⁹³ 6. *David Beezley*, b. 29 December 1817, d. Otoe County, Nebraska, 24 April 1897;¹⁰⁹⁴ 7. *Thomas Beezley*, b. Indiana about 1821.¹⁰⁹⁵
- viii. **RACHEL BEEZLEY**, b. say 1786; she was possibly (though unproven as) the wife of **JOHN REDMOND MEDARIS**, who received a bequest of \$50 in John Beezley's will, but whose relationship, if any, was not otherwise defined.¹⁰⁹⁶

16. ISAAC^d BEESLEY/BEESLY (*William³, William², -?-¹ Beesley*), the likely though unproven son of William Beesley, was born by his own account in 1753 in Loudoun County, Virginia. His Revolutionary War pension preserves this year as his birth date and notes: "He has a transcript in his Bible taken from his father's which purports him to be that age."¹⁰⁹⁷ No Beesley or Beasley has been found among the records of Loudoun County for this time period, however. As was stated earlier, he probably lived at least for a time in the neighboring county of Frederick, where one finds William Beasley at exactly the correct period.

Little is known of Isaac's life. From his pension application one learns that he was drafted as a Private in the militia under the command of Capt. Dudley Evans in March 1778 for a term of six months. At that time he was apparently living in Monongalia County in what is now West Virginia. He marched to Fort Pitt where, coincidentally, a John Beesley, his probable brother, was also stationed, as were members of the Lindsey family. From there, he descended the Ohio River to the mouth of Big Boon Creek, where Fort McIntosh was located, which was defended by what he described as a "six-pounder" cannon. Here the troops had skirmishes with several Indian parties. After six months of service Isaac was discharged, but he was induced to re-enlist because of the "frequent interruptions of the savages upon the settlement that year."¹⁰⁹⁸ During this second stint in the militia, he served under Captain Morgan and was attached to Col. John Gibson's regiment. He marched with his unit into the Ohio territory as far as the Tuscarawas, hoping to drive the Indians from their previous position. He helped build Fort Laurens on the Tuscarawas River in 1779. He saw action against the Indians on a number of occasions, and at one time was in a battle surrounded by the attackers with his unit losing fourteen men.

After being discharged in April 1779, Isaac returned to Monongalia County and, according to his pension file, volunteered as a Private and Indian spy under the command of Captain Springer, his unit being attached to the regiment of Col. Morgan. He was stationed at Pricket's Fort on the Monongahelia River, conducting "spying excursions" on Duncard Creek, Buffalo Creek, Burgaman Creek, and Fishing Creek in Monongalia, Tyler, and Harrison counties. After being discharged in November 1779, he returned to active service in April 1780, re-enlisting as an Indian spy and again stationed at Pricket's Fort. That year proved to be particularly violent, according to Isaac's own account, and in July, a party of Indians attacked the settlement of Dunkard Creek, killing two children and stealing some horses. Isaac joined a party of soldiers who overtook the raiding

¹⁰⁹⁰ Sarah's age is based on her birth date in the 1850 census in Pipe Creek Township, Miami County, Indiana (1850 U.S. Census, Miami County, Indiana, Pipe Creek Township, page 207A, Dwelling 1192, Household 1822, Sarah Knisworthy [sic]; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 160. Sarah married Thomas Kenworthy in Montgomery County, Indiana, on 25 October 1830 (Montgomery County, Indiana, Marriage Book 1: 53).

¹⁰⁹¹ Hutton Cemetery, Montgomery County, Indiana, Elizabeth Flaningham tombstone. She married John Flaningham [erroneously written as "Flanigan"] in Montgomery County, Indiana, on 28 January 1830 (Montgomery County, Indiana, Marriage Book 1: 76).

¹⁰⁹² *Syracuse Journal*, 9 September 1892, page 4. He married Margaret Jane Taylor before 1838.

¹⁰⁹³ 1880 U.S. Census, Red River County, Nebraska, Driftwood, page 366D, Dwelling 233, Household 243, Cornelius Beezley; National Archives microfilm publication T9, roll 754. He married in Henry County, Indiana, on 14 February 1834, Jane Nipp.

¹⁰⁹⁴ Wyuka Cemetery, Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska, David Beasley tombstone. He married in Montgomery County, Indiana, on 21 March 1839, Elizabeth Margaret Johnson (Montgomery County, Indiana, Marriage Book 2: 59).

¹⁰⁹⁵ 1860 U.S. Census, Daviess County, Missouri, Grand River, page 365, Dwelling and Household 125; Thos Beazely; National Archives microfilm publication M653, roll 617.

¹⁰⁹⁶ Beezley, "beebarschday," *Rootsweb* (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=dbeezley&id=1540>; accessed 16 October 2014).

¹⁰⁹⁷ Isaac Beesley (Pvt., Virginia Militia) pension, no. R710; U.S. Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files, 1800-1900; NARA microfilm publication M804; Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, Record Group 15; National Archives, Washington, D.C..

¹⁰⁹⁸ *Ibid*.

Indians at Fishing Creek, killing five and rescuing the stolen horses. After serving seven months, he was discharged, but he remained in the vicinity of Pricket's Fort for the next two years, raising a crop of corn. In May 1782, continuing problems with the Indians induced him to volunteer again as an Indian spy for a period of six months. As before, he was stationed at the fort and followed the same spy route. On one occasion an Indian party surprised Isaac and his companion, James Coon, while they were spying on Benaman Creek. Coon was shot in the left arm, while another ball struck Isaac's hunting shirt, passing through it but leaving him uninjured. The two men attempted to flee their attackers, but the loss of blood from Coon's injury caused him to fall and be scalped. Isaac made his escape back to the fort. He was discharged from further service in September 1782.¹⁰⁹⁹

Little is known of Isaac's life subsequent to the Revolution. He is not recorded on the 1787 personal property tax list in Monongalia County, and he does not appear on the federal census of Virginia in 1810. In his pension application, he claimed to have lived variously in Monongalia and Harrison counties, and at the time [1833] was a resident of Lewis County. He also spent time in Hardy County, for on 4 February 1808 he purchased from Jacob and Mercy Cozad of Greene County, Ohio, a tract of 120 acres on Stone Coal Creek located in Harrison County, Virginia, for \$240, the deed listing him as a resident of Hardy County.¹¹⁰⁰ In 1820, Isaac was recorded on the federal census in Lewis County in a household with a male under 10, a male of 10 and under 16, and male of 18 and under 26, a male over 45, a female of 10 and under 16, a female of 16 and under 26, a female of 26 and under 45, and a female over 45.¹¹⁰¹ He was recorded a final time on the 1830 census, still in Lewis County, living alone, aged of 60 and under 70, with son William nearby.¹¹⁰² He was still living as late as 20 November 1833 in Lewis County, however, when he applied for his pension.

The name of Isaac's wife is not known. He possibly married twice. The Harrison County marriage records list an Isaac Beasley marrying Mary Burk on 30 August 1814, while another Isaac, likely his son, married Judith Booher later that same year in December 1814.¹¹⁰³ The fact that he was alone on the 1830 census enumeration suggests that he had outlived his wives. The names of his children can only be surmised, based on their proximity to Isaac. Ann is proved by her marriage record which states specifically that she is Isaac's daughter.

Children of Isaac Beasley, born in Virginia in areas now part of West Virginia, possibly Hardy or Monongalia County:

- i. **WILLIAM⁵ BEEZLEY**, b. say 1788; he m. in Harrison County, [West] Virginia, 23 October 1811, **HANNAH TAYLOR**.¹¹⁰⁴
- ii. **ANN BEEZLEY**, b. say 1790; she in Harrison County, [West] Virginia, on 5 May 1808, m. **AARON LAMBERT**.¹¹⁰⁵
- iii. **REBECCA BEEZLEY**, b. say 1792; she m. in Harrison County, [West] Virginia, on 22 August 1809, **BENJAMIN TAYLOR**. He was perhaps the Benjamin Taylor, aged 63, living in District 30, Lewis County, in 1850 with wife Elizabeth, who was perhaps a second wife.¹¹⁰⁶ He had children, but which may have come from his marriage to Rebecca, are not known.
- iv. **JOHN BEEZLEY**, b. say 1794, possibly earlier; living in Lewis County in 1820 aged of 26 and under 45. There is no record of his marriage.
- v. **ISAAC BEEZLEY**, b. say 1796, possibly earlier; he married in Harrison County, [West] Virginia, in December 1814, **JUDITH BOOHER[N]**.¹¹⁰⁷

¹⁰⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹¹⁰⁰ Harrison County, West Virginia, Deed Book 8:65, Jacob and Mary Cozad to Isaac Beezlee. The deed was witnessed by Archibald B. Wilson, Elias Stillwell, John Bailey, William Cozad, Joseph Newell, and Lemuel E. Davisson.

¹¹⁰¹ 1820 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, page 147, line, Isaac Beesely; National Archives microfilm publication M33, roll 133.

¹¹⁰² 1830 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, page 231, line 24, Isaac Beasley; National Archives microfilm publication M19, roll 191.

¹¹⁰³ Wes Cochran, *Harrison County Marriages, 1785-1894* (Clarksburg, West Virginia: The Author, 1985), 34, 394.

¹¹⁰⁴ Ibid, 28.

¹¹⁰⁵ Ibid, 23.

¹¹⁰⁶ 1850 U.S. Census, Lewis County, Virginia, page 39, Household 525, Dwelling 527, Benjamin Taylor; National Archives microfilm publication M432, roll 956.

¹¹⁰⁷ Cochran, *Harrison County, WV Marriages*, 34.

OTHER BEASLEYS OF ANNE ARUNDEL AND BALTIMORE COUNTIES, MARYLAND

JOSEPH BEEZLEY, of unknown parentage, was born say 1655. He is identified as a sea captain and rented land in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, but his connection to Francis Beasley, if any, is not known. Joseph lived in that part of Anne Arundel near a tract called Grammar's Parrot. This tract was surveyed for William Parrott on 22 September 1653 and again on 1 July 1667.¹¹⁰⁸ "Capt. Joseph Beasley" was recorded as renting 100 acres at an undetermined date in the latter quarter of the seventeenth century, together with Abraham Mears who had 200 acres and Thomas Miles with 100 acres. This same tract was also documented by a different abstractor: "Capt. Beasley" for 100 acres, together with Abraham Meares and Thomas Miles, at a place called Grammars Parrot, surveyed in 1667.¹¹⁰⁹

Joseph had a long career as a captain, and on 21 February 1705, describing himself as "Joseph Beasley [of] England, mariner," he purchased of Abraham Meares a portion of the land on "Gramers Point, including 80 acres on the east side of the Patuxent River."¹¹¹⁰ The land adjoined another grant of Thomas Miles sold by Meares and his mother Elizabeth.

Likely a different Joseph appeared later in Calvert County. On 23 November 1710, Nathan Smith of Calvert County made his will and bequeathed to his daughter Sarah and her heirs a tract on the north side of Lyon's Creek "bought of Joseph Beazzly."¹¹¹¹

Joseph Beazley/Besely, probably the mariner of 1705, appears at a slightly later period in Anne Arundel County deed records, advertising his rates for purchasing tobacco while his ship was docked nearby. It is not clear if this is the same man. On 9 March 1714, Joseph "Besely," commander of the ship *Baltimore* "now riding at anchor in Herring Bay, publishes the rate of £6 per ton" for tobacco.¹¹¹² On 15 December 1715, he was commander of the ship *Charles* and offered £7 per ton.¹¹¹³ A month later he offered the same rate and did so yet again on 19 November 1717 and 5 January 1718.¹¹¹⁴ There is no record of his possible issue.

ELISA BEESLY received 20 shillings, together with the widow Cainswell, Abigail Rind, Elinor Meek, Susan Pain, Mary Toby, and Eliza Lawly in the will of Jane Burnell, spinster of Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, dated 3 March 1728.¹¹¹⁵

JOSEPH "BEAUSLEY" purchased one half of 100 acres in Baltimore County from William Welsh, son and heir of William Welsh, on 22 December 1755, land which Welsh Sr. had purchased from Thomas Taylor and Walter "Beausley."¹¹¹⁶

BEASLEY FAMILIES OF TALBOT, CECIL, AND KENT COUNTIES, MARYLAND

The families listed below all lived in Maryland during the colonial period, but their relationship to the Beasleys of Anne Arundel and Baltimore counties, if any, is not known. It is likely that there was some interrelationship of at least some of these families, but no evidence has been uncovered thus far that would bring greater clarity.

¹¹⁰⁸ Leslie Jeddie and Neil Keddie, *Land Office Rent Rolls, Anne Arundel County, 1651-1705, Herring Creek Hundred, West River Hundred, & South River Hundred (Folios 1-59)* (No place: Family Tree Bookshop, n.d.), 18.

¹¹⁰⁹ Robert Barnes, *Maryland Rent Rolls: Baltimore and Anne Arundel Counties, 1700-1707, 1705-1724* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976), 127.

¹¹¹⁰ Dodd and Bausell, *Abstracts of Land Records, Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, 2: 139.

¹¹¹¹ Jane Baldwin, comp., *Maryland Calendar of Wills* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1988), 3: 184.

¹¹¹² Dodd and Bausell, *Abstracts of Land Records, Anne Arundel County, Maryland*, 3: 107.

¹¹¹³ *Ibid.*, 121.

¹¹¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 139, 155, 181.

¹¹¹⁵ Craven County, North Carolina, Will Book 6: 132.

¹¹¹⁶ Davis, *Baltimore County, Maryland Deed Records*, 3: 40.

1. ABRAHAM BEESLEY was born say 1680-90. His parentage is unproven. He had no known ties to the Beasley families Anne Arundel or Baltimore counties. Instead, he resided on the other side of Chesapeake Bay in Talbot County on Maryland's eastern shore. He married first **ESTHER/EASTER** (____).¹¹¹⁷ She died in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County, on 16 November 1708.¹¹¹⁸ He married second **MARY NEAL** in St. Peter's Parish, on 22 August 1717.¹¹¹⁹

Abraham served as a witness to the will of John Cox, planter, of Talbot County, Maryland on 3 June 1716, along with Alexander Jeames and Joseph Cox.¹¹²⁰

Child of Abraham Beasley and Esther (____), born in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County, Maryland:

2. i. **JOHN BEASLEY/BEESLEY**, bapt. 18 March 1704;¹¹²¹ m. **MARY MARCHALL**.

2. JOHN BEASLEY/BEESLEY (*Abraham*¹) was baptized in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County, Maryland, on 18 March 1704/5.¹¹²² He married first **MARY MARCHALL** in St. Peter's Parish on 14 November 1727.¹¹²³ He was possibly the John Beasley who was listed as a taxable in Bullenbrook Hundred in 1733.¹¹²⁴ Genealogist Henry Peden claims that Mary married second Thomas Robinson on 22 November 1737, but she may be a different Mary, see below.¹¹²⁵

Children of John Beasley and first wife Mary (Marchall), born in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County:

- i. **ELISABETH BEESLEY**, bapt. 28 March 1729.¹¹²⁶
- ii. **ESTHER BEESLEY**, bapt. 5 October 1732.¹¹²⁷

JOHN BEASLEY, possibly the same as above, married **SARAH NUTTELL** in St. Peter's Parish on 19 February 1739.¹¹²⁸

JOHN BEASLEY of Kent County, Maryland, was born at an unknown location say 1720. He married **MARY** (____) at an unknown location. They resided in Shrewsbury Parish, Kent County. At the March Court 1772, John Beasley, planter, was presented for assaulting William Long and was fined 5 shillings.¹¹²⁹ Perhaps he was the John "Beazley" who served as administrator for James Wallace in Kent County in June 1760, with John Graham and John Wallace signing as next of kin.¹¹³⁰ If so, this John was likely also the John "Beazly" who signed with James Graham as a next of kin of John Graham in Kent County on 4 January 1768. As John "Bearly," he filed an inventory on 3 April 1775.¹¹³¹

Children of John Beasley and Mary (____), born in Shrewsbury Parish, Kent County:

¹¹¹⁷ Henry C. Peden and F. Edward Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Westminster, Maryland: Willow Bend Books, 2000), 7: 17.

¹¹¹⁸ Ibid.

¹¹¹⁹ Ibid.

¹¹²⁰ Jane Baldwin, comp., *Maryland Calendar of Wills* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1988), 4: 118.

¹¹²¹ Peden and Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 7: 17.

¹¹²² Ibid.

¹¹²³ Ibid.

¹¹²⁴ Henry C. Peden Jr., *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2007), 23: 6.

¹¹²⁵ Ibid.

¹¹²⁶

¹¹²⁷ Ibid.

¹¹²⁸ Ibid.

¹¹²⁹ Ibid.

¹¹³⁰ Henry C. Peden Jr. and F. Edward Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1999), 5: 282.

¹¹³¹ Robert W. Barnes and F. Edward Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1996), 2: 150-151.

- i. **ELIZABETH BEASLEY**, bapt. 20 da., 2 mo., 1756.¹¹³²
- ii. **ANN BEASLEY**, bapt. 3 da., 5 mo., 1759.¹¹³³
- iii. **MARY BEASLEY**, bapt. 5 da., 11 mo., 1761.¹¹³⁴
- iv. **JAMES BEASLEY**, bapt. 19 da., 8 mo., 1763.¹¹³⁵

MARY BEASLEY of St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, was born say 1713 of unknown parentage. At the June court 1733, she was found guilty of committing fornication on 10 August 1732 and for begetting an illegitimate child. She was fined 30 shillings.¹¹³⁶ Two years later at the June court 1734, she was found guilty again of committing fornication "to high displeasure of Almighty God to the Evil Example of all others," specifically on 10 June 1733.¹¹³⁷ She was sentenced to receive "twenty five lashes well laid on her bare back tell the blood appear..."¹¹³⁸ She may have been the Mary Beesley who married in St. Peter's Parish, Talbot County, on 22 November 1737, **THOMAS ROBINSON**.¹¹³⁹

PETER BESELEY/BEAZLEY of Kent County was born say 1730 of unknown parentage. He died before 4 February 1772, when his estate was appraised by William Merritt and John Wallace, who assessed its value at £13.3.0, with James Black signing as creditor.¹¹⁴⁰ Thomas Boyer signed as next of kin. John Beazley, administrator, filed inventories on 18 March 1771 and 11 February 1772.¹¹⁴¹ Peter married **MARY** (____).¹¹⁴²

Child of Peter Beseley and Mary (____), born in Shrewsbury Parish, Kent County:

- i. **SARAH BESELEY**, bapt. 20 da., 1 mo., 1768.¹¹⁴³ [In another volume, Sarah is shown as the daughter of John, not Peter].¹¹⁴⁴

JOHN BEAZLEY of St. Paul's Parish, Kent County, Maryland, was born say 1690. He married **ANN** (____). He also had a child out-of-wedlock with **ELIZABETH MARSHALL**.¹¹⁴⁵

Child of John Beazley and wife Ann (____), born in St. Paul's Parish:

- i. **ELIZABETH BEAZLEY**, b. 29 March 1711.¹¹⁴⁶

Illegitimate child of John Beazley and Elizabeth Marshall:

- ii. **MANHA MARSHALL**, b. April 1712.¹¹⁴⁷

JEFFERY BEASLY was associated with both Kent and Cecil County, Maryland. On 20 March 1733, he witnessed a deed in Kent County between Nicholas Riley and Thomas Richford.¹¹⁴⁸ He later served as a private in the Cecil County militia in 1740.¹¹⁴⁹ He married **ELIZABETH** (____) before 6 May 1745.¹¹⁵⁰

¹¹³² Peden and Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 7: 17.

¹¹³³ Ibid.

¹¹³⁴ Ibid.

¹¹³⁵ Ibid.

¹¹³⁶ Ibid, 18.

¹¹³⁷ Archives of Maryland, volume 567: 506.

¹¹³⁸ Ibid, 507.

¹¹³⁹ Peden and Wright, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 7: 18.

¹¹⁴⁰ Ibid.

¹¹⁴¹ Ibid.

¹¹⁴² Ibid.

¹¹⁴³ Ibid.

¹¹⁴⁴ Henry C. Peden Jr., *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2007), 23: 6.

¹¹⁴⁵ Ibid.

¹¹⁴⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁴⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁴⁸ Irma S. Harper, *Fourth Kent Land Records of Kent County, Maryland, 1726-1737* (St. Michaels, Maryland: Irma S. Harper, 2002), 64.

¹¹⁴⁹ Henry C. Peden Jr., *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland* (Lewes, Delaware: Colonial Roots, 2007), 23: 6.

¹¹⁵⁰ Henry C. Peden Jr., *Cecil County, Maryland Marriage References, 1674-1824* (Lewes, Delaware, Colonial Roots, 2008), 18.

JETHRO BEAZELY of Cecil County married **ELIZABETH** (____).

Children of Jethro and Elizabeth, born in St. Mary Anne's Parish, Cecil County:

- i. **ANN BEAZELY**, b. 10 August 1739.¹¹⁵¹
- ii. **ELIZABETH BEASELY**, buried, St. Mary Anne's Parish, Cecil County, 20 September 1739.¹¹⁵²

THOMAS BEASLY was taxed in Island Hundred, Talbot County, in 1733.¹¹⁵³

AMBROSE BEASLY was a planter of Talbot County, b. ca. 1654 and testified that he was about 60 in 1714.¹¹⁵⁴

EDWARD BEASLEY of Cecil County married (1) **ELIZABETH** (____) before 1766 and resided in St. Mary Anne's Parish, later known as North Elk Parish.¹¹⁵⁵ He later married (2) **ANN** (____) there on 19 May 1774.¹¹⁵⁶ She was born, according to a record made as an adult as "Ann Bazley, wife of Edward," on 28 October 1753.¹¹⁵⁷

*Children of Edward and first wife Elizabeth, born in St. Mary Anne's Parish, Cecil County:*¹¹⁵⁸

- i. **ANN BEASLEY**, b. 16 March 1768.
- ii. **SARAH BEASLEY**, b. 16 November 1769.
- iii. **ELIZABETH BEASLEY**, b. 14 August 1771.
- iv. **JOHN GREENLAND BEASELY**, b. 29 August 1773.

Child of Edward and second wife Ann, born in St. Mary Anne's Parish, out of wedlock:

- v. **ABRAHAM BEASLEY**, b. 28 November 1774.¹¹⁵⁹

¹¹⁵¹ Ibid.

¹¹⁵² Henry C. Peden, *Early Anglican Church Records of Cecil County* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1990), 62.

¹¹⁵³ Peden, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore of Maryland*, 23: 6.

¹¹⁵⁴ Henry C. Peden Jr., *Maryland Deponents, 1634-1799* (Westminster, Maryland: Family Line Publications, 1991), 11.

¹¹⁵⁵ Peden, *Early Anglican Church Records of Cecil County*, 68.

¹¹⁵⁶ Ibid.

¹¹⁵⁷ Ibid.

¹¹⁵⁸ Ibid.

¹¹⁵⁹ Ibid.

PART 4

ROBERT BEASLEY OF ALBEMARLE COUNTY, (LATER PERQUIMANS COUNTY), NORTH CAROLINA AND SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS

The family of Robert Beasley has been studied extensively online but has had little formal analysis in print. Especially useful, however, is Gwen Boyer Bjorkman's study on *Rootsweb*¹¹⁶⁰ and a lengthy study by Kenneth R. Boyd of Bel Air, Maryland, whose work is no longer accessible on the Internet but who is often referenced by other earlier researchers. Unlike any of the other Beasleys represented in this volume, this family likely had either a Quaker origin or displayed early sympathies for Quakers in the seventeenth century. Several researchers have speculated about the origins of Robert, with some claiming without supporting proof that he was the son of George Beasley (1586-1651) of Goosenargh, Lancashire, and wife Annie (Middleton).¹¹⁶¹ At least one online tree traces his supposed lineage to the fifteenth century, again without documentation.¹¹⁶² The original records of North Carolina offer no evidence of Robert's nativity in Lancashire or that he was the son of George and Annie of Goosenargh. Until other direct records are found, Robert's precise origins in England and his parentage remain unknown.

1. ROBERT¹ BEASLEY was born probably in England say 1630. He died in Perquimans Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, before March 1694/5, intestate.¹¹⁶³ He married three times. He married first **SARAH** (____).¹¹⁶⁴ Various researchers have ascribed different maiden names for her, including Scofield, Loadman, and Petit, but there is no evidence of her maiden name in any North Carolina source. A "Sarah Basly," likely her daughter, received a cow in the will of James Loadman of Perquimans District, which was dated 14 November 1694 and probated 8 April 1695.¹¹⁶⁵ This fact has led some researchers to ascribe "Loadman" erroneously as Sarah's maiden name. Loadman's land adjoined that of Robert Beasley in Perquimans Precinct, but he did not state a relationship to Sarah in the will, and hence she was likely only a neighbor (the daughter of Robert and the elder Sarah) and not a blood relation. The elder Sarah, wife of Robert, died about 1688, at least four years before James Loadman's will. Robert married second in Berkeley Parish, Albemarle County, North Carolina, on 9 September 1689, **JOHANNA JENKINS**.¹¹⁶⁶ She died about 1693. He married third about 1694, **MARY** (____), who survived him and filed a petition to divide his estate that was to take effect by the end of March 1694/5.¹¹⁶⁷

Robert settled in North Carolina after the births of his first two children but before 1678. He lived in Albemarle County in that portion known as Berkeley Precinct, which later became known as Perquimans Precinct. His name first appears in the records of Berkeley Parish, when "Robe. Ffrancis Besely, son of Robert Beseley & Sarah his wife was born ye 11th of July 1678."¹¹⁶⁸ A year later on 4 August 1679, according to the same source, Peter Jones died "and was buried at Robert Beesleys."¹¹⁶⁹

¹¹⁶⁰ "Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, "Baker, Beaman, Boyer, Crown, Estep, James, McBee, Nusbaum, Shalby, Turner and Related Families, *Rootsweb* (<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=gwenbj&id=I2009278>; accessed 4 August 2004).

¹¹⁶¹ See "Pedigree Resource File," database, *Familysearch* (<https://familysearch.org/pal:/MM9.2.1/3QZB-WKQ>; accessed 4 August 2014); see also <http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.beasley/2473/mb.ashx>; accessed 3 August 2014.

¹¹⁶² Beasley DNA Project, *WorldFamilies.net* (<http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/beasley/pats>; accessed 4 August 2014).

¹¹⁶³ J. R. B. Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 1: 141-142.

¹¹⁶⁴ Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1980), 9.

¹¹⁶⁵ James Loadman/Lodman will (1694) in Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1994), 2: 8, no. 69.

¹¹⁶⁶ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 33.

¹¹⁶⁷ J. R. B. Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 1: 141-142.

¹¹⁶⁸ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 9.

¹¹⁶⁹ *Ibid.*

On 5 March 1687, Robert purchased from David Blake all rights to a tract of land on the north side of the Perquimans River adjoining Peter Gray's land, with the deed witnessed by Gray and Stephen Manwaring or Mannering.¹¹⁷⁰ The following year he recorded his crop mark for livestock at the Perquimans Precinct court on 1 April 1689, the mark being "a cropp in the left eare & a slit in the right ear."¹¹⁷¹ Joanna Jenkins, his future wife, recorded her mark at the same time.

At about the same period Robert's name appears in Quaker records as a witness to several marriages. On 19, 8th Month 1687, he signed as a witness to the marriage of John Belman and Sarah Wilson at the house of Jona Phelps. Johanna Jenkins, his future wife, was also a witness.¹¹⁷² His name appears again on 1, 4th month 1689 as a witness to the marriage of Gabriel Newby, son of William Newby of Nansemond County, Virginia, to Mary Tomes, daughter of Francis Tomes of "Paquimance" in Albemarle, recorded in the quarterly meeting at Ann Nicholson's house.¹¹⁷³ He also witnessed the marriage of William Bogue to Eliner Perisho, both of "Paquimance" or Perquimans, on 5, 6th month, 1689.¹¹⁷⁴ His presence in these records suggests a strong sympathy for the Friends, but in none of the lists is he formally recorded as a member.

Robert continued to acquire land in Perquimans Precinct. On 5 October 1690, he purchased from James Johnson "my labour, that is to say my fencing & house, Excepting my Young Apple trees & peach trees," in a deed signed by James and Rachel Johnson and witnessed by Charles Macdaniel and Samuel Nicholson.¹¹⁷⁵ On 7 February 1693/4, he proved his rights to land by entering the names of six persons in order to secure a grant or headright for additional land. Those names included those of himself, his wife, and two children, as well as two others: Robert Beasley, Sarah Beasley, James Beasley, Johanah Beasley, Richard Cheston, and Sarah Cheston.¹¹⁷⁶ His relationship to the Chestons or Chestones, if any, is not known. He received 282 acres for transporting the same six persons on 13 March 1693/4.¹¹⁷⁷ Another grant for 200 acres followed soon after on 31 March 1694 for transporting James Johnson and Rachell his wife, William Johnson, and James Johnson Jr.¹¹⁷⁸

The first of the above grants was made official on 1 May 1694 in a grant from William, Earl of Craven, and specified 282 acres on the Perquimans River adjoining land of Peter Gray.¹¹⁷⁹ The second patent, dated 1 June 1694, comprised a grant of 218 acres adjoining the land of James Loadman, Robert's own land, William Bogue, Richard Cheston, and Peter Gray.¹¹⁸⁰ Loadman, as has been shown, left a will the same year in which he left a cow to "Sarah Basly," though no other relationship is stated or inferred.¹¹⁸¹ Later in 1694, Robert proved four additional rights in order to obtain additional land: James Beasley, Peter Jones, An [illegible], and Mary Lacy, with the grant assigned to Thomas Leper.¹¹⁸² A later grant named John Lacy,

¹¹⁷⁰ Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Book A, Deed No. 50, in Ellen Goode Winslow, *History of Perquimans County* (Raleigh, North Carolina: Ellen Goode Winslow, 1931). See also Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct Court Minutes, 1688 thru 1738* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1980), 3-4; citing original page 8.

¹¹⁷¹ Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct Court Minutes, 1688 thru 1738* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1980), 1; citing original page 2.

¹¹⁷² William Wade Hinshaw, *Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1978), 1: 1.

¹¹⁷³ Gwen Boyer Bjorkman, *Quaker Marriage Certificates: Pasquotank, Perquimans, Piney Woods, and Suttons Creek Monthly Meetings, North Carolina, 1677-1800* (Bowie, Maryland: Heritage Books, 1988), 86.

¹¹⁷⁴ *Ibid.*, 87.

¹¹⁷⁵ Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Book A: Deed no. 55; in Weynette Parks Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729, Book I* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1983), 8; citing Deed no. 55. See also Weynette Parks Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1987), 6, citing original page 13.

¹¹⁷⁶ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706*, 8; citing original page 18; and 19; citing original page 46. See also William B. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, North Carolina: State Printer, 1886), 1: 396.

¹¹⁷⁷ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706*, 19; citing original page 46.

¹¹⁷⁸ *Ibid.*, 20; citing original page 47.

¹¹⁷⁹ North Carolina Patent Book 1: 307, in Mrs. Watson Winslow, *History of Perquimans County, North Carolina* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), 324. See also Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706*, 44, citing original pages 116-117.

¹¹⁸⁰ North Carolina Patent Book 1: 16, in Winslow, *ibid.*, 324; see also *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706*, 47; citing original pages 123-124.

¹¹⁸¹ James Loadman/Lodman will (1694) in Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1994), 3: 56.

¹¹⁸² Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Land Warrants and Surveys, 1681-1706*, 2, citing original page 3.

Mary a Negro, James Hunter, and Elizabeth Randall, with Robert transferring his right to Leper on 31 March 1694.¹¹⁸³

Before the time of his land acquisitions, Sarah Beasley, Robert's wife, died, and the records of Berkeley Parish include notice of his second marriage: "Robert Besley & Johanah Jenkins tooke etch other as man & wife before me Alexander Lillington this 9th of Septem. 1689."¹¹⁸⁴ In March 1693, he received payment for "foure days attendance and six days goeing and coming" to court, while Johanna Beasley, his wife, was paid for one day.¹¹⁸⁵ Johannah appears to have died not long after this date.

Robert and an unnamed wife, apparently Johannah, were referenced in a court case in Perquimans Precinct filed in January 1692[3]. Steven "Manwaren" brought the suit against Robert in a case of debt, but a jury found "no cause of action" and ordered Manwaren to pay the costs. In a further notation, "that whereas Robart Besle petitioned ye court for ~~him selfe~~ his wife Atendin apone ye account of Steven Mannwaren on _ day ordered yt Steven Manwaren pay to Robert Besle fife Shillens & six penc."¹¹⁸⁶ The court required Robert to pay eleven shillings to William Vos and eleven to Robert Brightwell for their costs.

Shortly after this date but before the following March, Robert died intestate in Perquimans Precinct. At the March court 1694/5 in the records of the Superior Court in Chowan County, North Carolina, Mary Beasley, Robert's widow, petitioned for her dower of a third of the estate. The remainder was to go to his children, who were not named in the record, with the division to occur by the end of that month.¹¹⁸⁷ The following year on 13 April 1696, Richard Naylor mentioned in his will the cattle in the possession of "Robert Beasley of "Poquomins" [Perquimans].¹¹⁸⁸ An undated petition of "Robart Beasly" from the 1690s claimed that Charles Mackdanel was indebted to him for £7.5.0, and the court granted him an attachment for cattle and hogs of Mackdanel to cover the cost.¹¹⁸⁹

The identity of Robert's third wife, Mary, remains uncertain. The Berkeley Parish registers refer to her as Mary Jones in the marriage records of two of her children, Mary and Ann, but it is clear that this was her married name prior to her marriage to Robert. Perhaps she was a widow of Peter Jones, who had died at Robert Beasley's house in 1679. The first marriage of Mary's children from this first marriage occurred in 1699: "John Morgen ye Son of James Morgen and Jean His Wife Was Married to Mary Jones ye daughter of Mary Jones ye Rellock of Robart Beasle th 2 day of September Anno 1699."¹¹⁹⁰ The second reference was recorded two years later in 1701: "[P]eter Albertson ye Son of Albertso [sic] Albertson and Mary His Wife was Married to Ann Jones ye daughter of Mary Beasley Widdow ye 17 [?] day of August 1701 by Mr. Bret."¹¹⁹¹ Mary continued to live for several more decades, and on 17 March 1735, her step-grandson James Beasley presented to the court an inventory of her estate that included an unnamed slave boy.¹¹⁹²

The identities of Robert and Sarah's children are proven from several sources. James and Johanah Beasley are named in a headright record of their father in 1694.¹¹⁹³ Later, when James married Mary Crolepy, he was referred to as the son of James and Sarah.¹¹⁹⁴ Francis Beasley's birth was recorded in Berkeley Parish in 1678,¹¹⁹⁵ while Sarah is referenced as the daughter of Robert and Sarah in her 1702 marriage record.¹¹⁹⁶

Children of Robert Beasley and wife Sarah (____):

2. i. **JAMES² BEASLEY**, b. England, about 1674; m. **MARY CROPLEY**.

¹¹⁸³ Ibid, 21; citing original page 50.

¹¹⁸⁴ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 33.

¹¹⁸⁵ William B. Saunders, ed., *Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, North Carolina: P. M. Hale, 1886), 1: 386.

¹¹⁸⁶ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Court Minutes, 1688 thru 1738, Book I*, 16; citing original page 35.

¹¹⁸⁷ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 1: 141-142.

¹¹⁸⁸ William B. Saunders, *Colonial Records of North Carolina* (Raleigh, North Carolina: State Printer, 1886), 141-142.

¹¹⁸⁹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct Court Minutes, 1688 thru 1738*, 40; citing original page 99.

¹¹⁹⁰ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 45; citing original page 64.

¹¹⁹¹ Ibid, 46; citing original page 66.

¹¹⁹² Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 2: 40, no. 353 (27).

¹¹⁹³ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Warrants and Surveys, 1661-1706*, 8.

¹¹⁹⁴ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 62.

¹¹⁹⁵ Ibid, 9.

¹¹⁹⁶ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 409.

- ii. **JOHANAH BEASLEY**, b. England, about 1676; she was named as a headright of Robert Beasley in a patent of 1694, and she was likely the Johana Beasley who witnessed the will of James Loadman on 19 November 1694.¹¹⁹⁷
- 3. iii. [**ROBERT**] **FRANCIS BEASLEY** (called “Francis”), b. Berkeley Precinct, Albemarle County North Carolina, 11 July 1678;¹¹⁹⁸ m. (1) **HANNAH SUTTON**; (2) **MARY BENTLEY**.
- iv. **SARAH BEASLEY**, b. say 1682; she was named in the will of James Loadman dated 14 November 1694. She married in Perquimans Precinct, on 5 May 1701, **THOMAS GRAY**.¹¹⁹⁹ The marriage record specifies that she was the daughter of Robert and Sarah, and Thomas as the son of John Gray and “Tobia” (Tabitha Hackett).

2. JAMES² BEASLEY (*Robert¹*), the son of Robert and Sarah (____) Beasley, was born in England about 1674. He died in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, after 10 April 1720, when he wrote his will, but before 28 July 1720, when it was proved.¹²⁰⁰ He married in Berkeley Parish, Albemarle County, North Carolina, on 17 March 1695/6, **MARY CROPLEY**, daughter of John Cropley and Ann (Vines?).¹²⁰¹

James Beasley was recorded with his sister Johanah in his father’s headright of 1694.¹²⁰² Two years later, the records of Berkeley Parish recorded his marriage: “James Beasle ye Son of Robert Beasle and Sarah his wife was Married to Mary Cropleye Daughter of John Crople and Ann his Wife ye 17 day of March Anno 1695/6.” On 19 March 1699/1700, he recorded his crop mark in Perquimans Precinct as “a Croke on the Left eare And A Slett In ye Right And A Halfe peney on ye under Side.”¹²⁰³

Soon after his marriage James moved to Chowan Precinct with his wife. On 10 April 1704, he and wife Mary sold a tract of 282 acres on the Perquimans River adjoining Peter Gray (land granted to his father Robert Beasley) to Francis Wells.¹²⁰⁴ The deed referenced James’s stepmother, stating only that “my Father’s Widow’s Right of Dower only Excepted.” Wells would later sell this land to Gabriel Newby on 17, 7th month 1706, and the deed would refer to both James and Robert.¹²⁰⁵ Later that same year, Wells and his wife Elizabeth sold to James a tract of 200 acres on the Chowan River which Wells had purchased in 1696.¹²⁰⁶

James became a person of prominence in his district. On 11 October 1708, he was listed as a member of the House of Burgesses for Perquimans District.¹²⁰⁷ On the 27th of that month, as “Mr. James Beasley,” he joined Levi Truwitt in making a motion regarding the encouragement of the settlement of the government.¹²⁰⁸ On 20 July 1715, he received an appointment as a justice of the peace for the general court of Chowan Precinct.¹²⁰⁹ His name appears on a tax list of Old Albemarle County dated 16 August 1716, when he was assessed on 840 acres of land and three polls, paying a tax of £3.6.0.¹²¹⁰

During this same time James also became active on the vestry of St. Paul’s Parish in Chowan County. On 15 December 1707 the church wardens John Blount and Nathaniel Chevin “encouraged Mr. James Beaseley to attend this Vestry in Order to be established a Reader and he appearing in order thereunto, and

¹¹⁹⁷ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 2: 8, no. 69.

¹¹⁹⁸ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 9; see also Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 3: 207.

¹¹⁹⁹ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 409.

¹²⁰⁰ James Beasley will (1720), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 3: 7.

¹²⁰¹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 44; citing original page 62.

¹²⁰² Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Book of Warrants and Surveys, 1661-1706*, 8.

¹²⁰³ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct (County) Court Minutes, 1688-1738, Book I*, 25; citing original page 59.

¹²⁰⁴ Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729, Book I*, 34; Deed no. 226.

¹²⁰⁵ *Ibid.*, 38; Deed no. 262.

¹²⁰⁶ Margaret M. Hoffmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books, 1696-1723* (Weldon, North Carolina: Roanoke News Co., 1984), 138, citing Chowan County Deed Book 1: 51.

¹²⁰⁷ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca. 1737*, 38, citing original page 137.

¹²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, 44, citing original page 152.

¹²⁰⁹ Hoffmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books, 1696-1723*, 212, citing Chowan County Deed Book 1: 7.

¹²¹⁰ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca. 1737*, 93, citing original page 268.

there being no Vestry, he is willing to Officiate in the Station of a Reader of Divine Service until a Vestry meet and approve off [sic] and agree with him.”¹²¹¹

James appears to have assumed at least two offices in the parish. On 10 December 1711, the wardens were ordered to pay “James Bea[sley]” for a desk in the church as soon as the funds could be raised.¹²¹² A year later, he was in Chowan Precinct when he witnessed the will of Esther Pollock on 20 May 1712.¹²¹³ On 4 May 1717, he was made church warden along with Edward Moseley, during which time there was a division of the parish into eastern and southwestern sections, and the vestry collected the sum of five shillings per pole of every “tythable.”¹²¹⁴ On 15 September 1717, he was grouped in records with other members of the vestry, together with Nicholas Crisp, Thomas Luten, Samuel Patchet, and Henry Bonner.¹²¹⁵ He completed his term on the first of January 1717[8],¹²¹⁶ but continued to be listed with the vestry as late as 20 August 1719.¹²¹⁷

With his time in Chowan County relatively short and becoming ill before reaching old age, James wrote his will on 10 April 1720.¹²¹⁸ He left to his wife Mary his plantation where he lived for her use during her life. Upon her death, it was to pass to his son, James. To his sons Francis and Robert he left his land on Welches Creek, and if they died before they came of age, the land was to pass to sons Samuell and William. He left to his wife her dower of one third of his personal estate, and he also named her as succeeding executor for the will of Vines Cropley, for which he was then executor. He named his son James as the succeeding executor of his brother Francis² Beasley’s will. Finally, he named his wife Mary and son James as his joint executors. The will was witnessed by Ann Steward, James Hoopers, and E. Moseley, and was proved 28 July 1720.

Mary Beasley, James’s widow, was assessed in 1721 on 1,090 acres of land, for which she paid a tax of 18 shillings and two pence.¹²¹⁹

Children of James Beasley and Mary (Cropley), born in Old Albemarle County, North Carolina:

4. i. **JAMES³ BEASLEY JR.**, b. say 1696-97; m. **MARY** (____).
5. ii. **FRANCIS BEASLEY**, b. say 1700; m. (____).
6. iii. **ROBERT BEASLEY**, b. say 1702; m. **CHRISTIAN LUTEN**.
 - iv. **SAMUEL BEASLEY**, b. say 1705; no record of marriage or children. In his will dated 13 November 1735, he left a heifer to John Beasley and another to Mary Beasley, but he did not specify his relationship to either (they were likely his nephew and niece, children of his brother, James). He left a horse to Francis Beasley, whom he called his brother, and a cow to his grandmother (not named). He also left silver clasps to his brother, James Beasley, a cow and a calf to Thomas “Hutssoon,” and a cow to James Beasley Jr. Witnesses included William Cropley, Thomas Bentley, and Elizabeth Wells, but the will was not probated.¹²²⁰ Several online sources state wrongly that he named a brother Thomas Beasley, but this is not supported in what appears to be the most detailed transcript of the will (see below).
 - v. **WILLIAM BEASLEY**, b. say 1708; d. probably North Carolina, 19 1st Month (March) 1754;¹²²¹ no record of spouse or probate. It remains highly unlikely that he was the William Beasley, who, with John Jones and Henry Bonner of Chowan Precinct, was bound to Charles Eden, governor, for £20 on 18 April 1721 in support of Florence Beasley, administratrix of Walter Beasley, deceased.¹²²² The date is too early for the record to be this William, and the identities of Walter and Florence are unknown.

¹²¹¹ Raymond Parker Fouts, *Vestry Minutes of St. Paul’s Parish, Chowan County, North Carolina, 1701-1776* (Cocoa, Florida: GenRec Books, 1983), 10.

¹²¹² *Ibid.*, 20.

¹²¹³ Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1993), 5: 71; record no. 380.

¹²¹⁴ Fouts, *Vestry Minutes of St. Paul’s Parish*, 22.

¹²¹⁵ *Ibid.*, 22-23.

¹²¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 24.

¹²¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹²¹⁸ James Beasley will (1720), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 3: 7, no. 38.

¹²¹⁹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca. 1737*, 129, citing original page 335.

¹²²⁰ Samuel Beasley will (1735), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 5: 6; record no. 27.

¹²²¹ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, 324. Winslow’s source appears to be Quaker but is not known.

¹²²² Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Book F-1: 136; in Margaret M. Hofmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, 1696 to 1723, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books* (Weldon, North Carolina: Roanoke News Company, 1984), 68, record no. 541.

[As stated above under Samuel Beasley, some researchers have ascribed to this couple another son, Thomas Beasley, b. say 1698, possibly earlier, d. Onslow County, North Carolina, before 3 July 1733,¹²²³ testate. There are numerous problems with this attribution, not the least of which being that he was not named in James's will. Indeed, there is no evidence, either direct or indirect, of this proposed relationship. He was not named as a brother in Samuel Beasley's 1735 will (above) as has been claimed by Winslow.¹²²⁴ Thomas married Elizabeth (____). His loose will dated 15 April 1733 in Onslow County named two sons: John (called "only son"), and Thomas, also inexplicably called a son, both born before 1733. The parentage of this Thomas is not known.]

3. [ROBERT] FRANCIS² BEASLEY (*Robert*¹), the son of Robert and Sarah (____) Beasley, was born as "Robe. Ffrancis Besley" in Berkeley Parish, Albemarle County, North Carolina, on 11 July 1678.¹²²⁵ He was called "Francis" in nearly all subsequent records. He wrote his will in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County on 17 April 1719, but was deceased before 20 May 1719, when it was probated.¹²²⁶ He married first in Albemarle County on 15 May 1701, **HANNAH SUTTEN/SUTTON**, daughter of Joseph and Deliverance (Nicholson) Suttin.¹²²⁷ She died there on 7 November 1702.¹²²⁸ He married second say 1703 **MARY BENTLEY**, who survived him.¹²²⁹ She was allegedly identical to the Mary Bentley, daughter of Robert Bentley, who was born in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, on 29 August 1662, and was previously the wife of Cornelius Leary.¹²³⁰

Francis made his earliest appearance in Perquimans Precinct, Albemarle County, serving on a jury in July and October 1700.¹²³¹ He began acquiring land in there on 8 October 1700, when he purchased from Robert Fendall 340 acres on the southwest side of the Perquimans River which had been formerly patented to John Fendall but lapsed for "want of settling." It had been re-granted to Robert Fendall by Henderson Walker.¹²³² On 4 July 1701, he purchased two tracts each of 275 acres from Anthony Alexander and wife Ann, both adjoining his own land on its uppermost side and running down the Perquimans River on the south west side.¹²³³ The Alexanders acknowledged the sale in court.¹²³⁴ In 1702, a year after his marriage, Francis served on a petit jury for the county court, investigating a local death.¹²³⁵ That same year on 2 September 1702, Francis and Hannah, his wife, sold to Thomas Gray 190 acres of the above purchase, described as being on the southwest side of the Perquimans River adjacent to William Hall's land.¹²³⁶

In addition to these sales, Francis assumed other small roles in the local administration of the county. He acknowledged his deed to Gray at the court session held in January 1703, and at the same time was made surveyor of highways.¹²³⁷ On 9 July 1706, the court ordered John Parrish, Francis "Beesley," and Samuel Phelps to be packers for their precinct. Parrish was assigned to serve as packer from the head of the Little River to its mouth, and then up the Perquimans River to Lilley's Creek. Francis and Phelps were to serve as packers for the remainder of the precinct, with the court requiring them to take appropriate oaths.¹²³⁸ That same year he served on a grand jury investigating the death of Evan Thomas.¹²³⁹ On 9 February 1707,

¹²²³ Thomas Beezly will (1733), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 5: 6; record no. 28.

¹²²⁴ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, 324.

¹²²⁵ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 9; see also Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 3: 207.

¹²²⁶ Francis Beasley will (1719), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 3: 7, no. 37.

¹²²⁷ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 46; citing original page 66.

¹²²⁸ Ibid, 41; citing original page 56. See also Ellen Goode Rawlings Winslow, *History of Perquimans County, North Carolina* (1931), referenced in <http://perquimans.lostsoulsgenealogy.com/family/robertbeasley.htm>; accessed 18 August 2014.

¹²²⁹ "Descendants of William Bentley," (<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/b/e/n/Allan-L-Bentley/GENE6-0004.html>; accessed 18 August 2014). This work cites John Bennett Boddie, *Southern Historical Families*, 16: 169.

¹²³⁰ Ibid.

¹²³¹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct (County) Court Minutes, 1688-1738, Book I*, 26-27; citing original pages 64 and 67.

¹²³² Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681-1729*, 24; citing Deed no. 161.

¹²³³ Ibid, 25; citing deed nos. 167 and 168.

¹²³⁴ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct (County) Court Minutes, 1688-1738, Book I*, 30; citing original page 74.

¹²³⁵ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, and Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 5.

¹²³⁶ Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729*, 29; citing Deed no. 197.

¹²³⁷ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct (County) Court Minutes, 1688-1738, Book I*, 48; citing original page 118.

¹²³⁸ Saunders, *Colonial Records of North Carolina*, 1: 656.

¹²³⁹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca 1737*, 37, citing original page 134.

he was named as a defendant in a lawsuit brought by Thomas Peterson and wife Joannah, who was administratrix of William Jefferys, thought the verdict was not recorded.¹²⁴⁰

Francis continued to acquire land. Perhaps he was the Robert Beasley who was assessed on 218 acres in Perquimans in 1709, though he appears ordinarily as Francis in all other records.¹²⁴¹ On 9 April 1713, he obtained a patent for 635 acres on the southwest side of the Perquimans River adjoining land of William Hall.¹²⁴² He was described as a carpenter of Albemarle County on 3 January 1715/6, when he sold to William Haughton of Chowan Precinct a tract of 400 acres in Albemarle, including 260 acres formerly laid out to William Charlton near Yeopim and 140 acres in possession of his tenant, Arthur Chilton.¹²⁴³ On 10 April 1716, he purchased from William and Abigail Bounds a plantation and land on Yoapim Creek which Bounds had purchased from Richard Morris.¹²⁴⁴ On 8 October 1717, Francis received a grant of 435 acres at the head and side of Spring Branch adjoining William Hall, John Pierce, John Hawkins, a Mr. Clayton, and Major Lillington.¹²⁴⁵ This tract was later located in Chowan County. On 21 May 1718, he purchased from John and Rose Bennett a tract of 200 acres in Cashigh Neck adjoining John Sessions, Nathan Moor, and Ward Berry, land which Bennett had purchased from Edward Berry.¹²⁴⁶ He sold to Charles Denman on 19 February 1718[9] the plantation and land in Perquimans Precinct that he had purchased from Robert Fendall and Anthony Alexsander, containing in all 635 acres.¹²⁴⁷

Francis wrote his will in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County on 17 April 1719.¹²⁴⁸ Describing himself as a “calpenter,” (apparently carpenter), “very sick and weak in Body,” he left to his son “Jeames” a plantation on the south side of the Perquimans River as well as personal property. To his son Robert he left 200 acres of land on the north side of the Morattock River. His wife Mary was to enjoy 100 acres of this land and to have the remaining part of lodging. His son Robert received a pair of pot trammels. He named his brother, James Beasley, and John Smithwick as co-executors and signed the will with his mark. Witnesses included John Sesshions, William Mizell, and John Bentley.

Child of Francis Beasley and first wife Hannah (Sutton), born in Perquimans Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina:

- i. **ROBERT³ BEASLEY**, b. 6 November 1702;¹²⁴⁹ died young before 1707.

Children of Francis Beasley and second wife Mary (Bentley), born in Perquimans Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina:

- ii. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. 5 August 1704;¹²⁵⁰ d. Bertie County, North Carolina, after 2 January 1758, testate. He married **SARAH** (___); no children. In 1721, as “Jas. Beasley son of ffrancis Beasley,” he was assessed on 435 acres and paid 7 shillings and 3 pence.¹²⁵¹ Perhaps he was the “Jeams Beasley” who witnessed with his mark the will of Joseph Trowell on 29 January 1735.¹²⁵² His will dated 2 January 1758 and proved in the January court stated that he was “sick and weak in Body” and named William Bentley, son of John Bentley,

¹²⁴⁰ Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina: Colonial Court Records, Estates papers, 1665-1775* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 2000), 10: 47; record no. 90.

¹²⁴¹ *Ibid.*, 174, citing original page 459.

¹²⁴² Land Patent Book 8: 254.

¹²⁴³ Margaret M. Hofmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, 1696 to 1723, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books* (Weldon, North Carolina: Roanoke News Co., 1976), 110-111.

¹²⁴⁴ Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729, Book I*, 51; citing Deed no. 366.

¹²⁴⁵ Land Patent Book 8: 168.

¹²⁴⁶ Hofmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, 1696 to 1723, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books*, 138.

¹²⁴⁷ Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729, Book I*, 63; citing Deed no. 439.

¹²⁴⁸ Francis Beasley will (1719), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 3: 7, no. 37.

¹²⁴⁹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths & Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 34; citing original page 45.

¹²⁵⁰ *Ibid.*, 37; citing original page 50.

¹²⁵¹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous Records, 1678 to ca. 1737*, 129, citing original page 335.

¹²⁵² Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 5: 93; record no. 494.

to whom he left three pewter plates. The remainder of his estate he left to his godson Luke Smithwick. He named his friends John Smithwick of Bertie and John Ward as co-executors.¹²⁵³

7. iii. **ROBERT BEASLEY**, b. 1 December 1707;¹²⁵⁴ m. **SARAH BAPTIST**.
iv. **HANNAH BEASLEY/BEEZLEY**, b. 29 December 1714;¹²⁵⁵ she probably m. in Wilkes County, North Carolina, circa 1746, **THOMAS BENTLEY**.¹²⁵⁶

4. JAMES³ BEASLEY (*James², Robert¹*), the son of James Beasley and Mary Cropley and styled occasionally as “James Beasley the Younger,” was born in old Albemarle County, North Carolina, say 1696-98, though he is often confused in various sources with that of his cousin, the son of Francis Beasley and Mary (Bentley), born in 1704.¹²⁵⁷ He died in Chowan County, North Carolina, about 1742, when his estate was probated.¹²⁵⁸ He married **MARY** (___), who was possibly a sister of Thomas Falconer, who would call her son James his “nephew” in his own will.

As “James Beasley the younger,” he obtained 378 acres in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, from John Lovick, the tract being granted originally to Thomas Clark but had lapsed and the assignment of the patent was regranted.¹²⁵⁹ The following year his father named him as successive executor for the will of his uncle, Francis Beasley, and was granted the right to succeed the ownership of his father’s plantation upon the death of his mother.¹²⁶⁰ In 1721, as “Jas. Beasley son of Jas. Beasley,” he was assessed on 378 acres in Chowan Precinct and paid a tax on six shillings, three pence.¹²⁶¹ In 1729-32, while living in Chowan Precinct, he was assessed a quit rent on 578 acres, paying £10.2.0.¹²⁶²

On 6 November 1727, James “Beseley” of Bertie Precinct, cooper, sold to Thomas Pierce Jr. of Chowan Precinct 435 acres on the south west side of the Perquimans River adjoining land belonging to Henry Clayton, John Handcock, and Major Lillington. The deed was witnessed by John Bentley, John Barten, and William Smith.¹²⁶³ He was probably the James Beasley who witnessed the will of Ann Lillinton of Chowan Precinct on 26 January 1724.¹²⁶⁴ James died intestate in Chowan Precinct in 1742. A division of his estate listed his unnamed widow, his sons John and James, his daughter Mary, and his son Thomas.¹²⁶⁵

Many of James’s children were mentioned later on 31 January 1756 in the will of Thomas Falconer of Chowan County.¹²⁶⁶ Falconer named a number of more distantly-related heirs in his will, and the document was remarkable for the amount of detail it included. He left to his wife Sarah the place “where I now live” to have during her lifetime, and then it would pass to his “nephew,” James Beasley. He left shirts to John Beasley, son of James Beasley. Then, he directed that the “residue of my estate [is] to be sold & after my debts paid my surplus to James, son to John Beasley; Thomas, son of James Beaseley [sic], & Mary Pain, daughter of James Beaseley.” Robert Beasley was among the witnesses, together with James Francis, Edward Robins, and Elizabeth Rowsum.

James’s widow, Mary, was probably the same who married second (___) Frasier, with whom she had a son, Jeremiah Frasier, and third, before 1754, (___) Woollard. She was named as Mary Woolard in the

¹²⁵³ Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina (From Secretary of State Papers)* (Keyesville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1994), 8: 6; cirting record no. 24.

¹²⁵⁴ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths & Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 47; citing original page 68.

¹²⁵⁵ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths & Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 55; citing original page 88.

¹²⁵⁶ <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/b/e/n/Allan-L-Bentley/GENE6-0006.html>; accessed 26 September 2014.

¹²⁵⁷ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina, Perquimans Precinct, Births, Marriages, Deaths, & Flesh Marks, 1659 thru 1820*, 5.

¹²⁵⁸ Hathaway, *North Carolina Genealogical Register*, 2: 259.

¹²⁵⁹ Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Book C-1, page 13.

¹²⁶⁰ James Beasley will (1720), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 3: 7, no. 38.

¹²⁶¹ Haun, *Old Albemarle County, North Carolina Miscellaneous records, 1678 to ca. 1737*, 129, citing original page 335.

¹²⁶² *Albemarle County, North Carolina, Quit Rents in Arrears, 1729-1732* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 2007), 16.

¹²⁶³ Haun, *Perquimans County, North Carolina, Deed Abstracts, 1681 thru 1729, Book I*, 100; citing Deed no. 689.

¹²⁶⁴ Beasley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 5: 52; record no. 278.

¹²⁶⁵ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 2: 259.

¹²⁶⁶ Thomas Falconer will (1756), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 8: 27, record no. 117.

division of property of her son James in 1754. In her will in Chowan County dated 17 November 1788,¹²⁶⁷ she left to her son John Beasley a slave man called Port and a woman called Pearl, as well as two silver table spoons, one cleaver, and one iron pestle. To her daughter Mary Bunch she left a slave boy named George, “my riding Chair,” to silver table spoons, one bed and furniture, and one cedar chest. It cannot be demonstrated with certainty that Mary Payne/Paine later married a Mr. Bunch. To her granddaughter Ann Frasier, daughter of Jeremiah Frasier, she left one bed and furniture and six silver tea spoons. To her son Jeremiah Frasier she left a slave man called Little Port, a bed and furniture, a two-year-old filly, “my largest walnut table,” and “all my Plantation utensils & my Household and kitchen Furniture except what has been before bequeathed unto him.” To her grandson Richard Frasier, son of Jeremiah, she left a slave boy named Dick and a two-year-old mare. To her grandson Francis Beasley, specifically described as the son of John, she left to heifers. To granddaughter Mary Vail, whose parents were not named, she left a slave woman called Lettice. To granddaughter Sarah Roberts, whose parents were not named, she left a slave woman named Tillah. To her sons John Beasley and Jeremiah Frasier and daughter Mary Bunch she left all of her money, to be equally divided among them. To her granddaughter Sarah Beasley, whose father was not named, she left a slave child named Davy. To John Frasier, son of Jeremiah, she left a mare and colt. All of the remainder of the estate was to be divided equally among the three children. Sons John Beasley and Jeremiah Frasier were named as co-executors. She signed the will with her mark, a large M.¹²⁶⁸

Thomas Beasley does not appear in the will, nor were any of his children named, and there is no record of them being disinherited. It is likely that he died before his mother, but his children were not named as heirs by their grandmother.

Children of James Beasley and wife Mary (___), born in Chowan County, North Carolina:

8. i. **JOHN⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1724; m. **SARAL LILSE/LILES**.
 - ii. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1728; d. Chowan County, North Carolina, 1754, unmarried. His estate was divided in Chowan County in 1754 and included Mary Woollard, his mother; John Beasley; Mary Payne, wife of Peter Payne; and Thomas Beasley.¹²⁶⁹
 - iii. **MARY BEASLEY**, b. say 1730; she m. (1) by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 18 October 1751, **PETER PAYNE/PAINE**,¹²⁷⁰ she m. (2) by bond in Chowan County, on 8 May 1758, **MICAJAH BUNCH**.¹²⁷¹
9. iv. **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. say 1732; m. **MARTHA (___)**.

5. FRANCIS³ BEASLEY (*James², Robert¹*), the son of James Beasley and Mary (Cropley), was born in old Albemarle County, North Carolina, say 1700, possibly later. The name of his wife is unknown, though some sources claim that she was “Deborah Thompson” without any accompanying evidence.¹²⁷²

Francis was named as a co-heir with his brother Robert of a certain tract of land on Welches Creek in Chowan County in the 1720 will of his father, James. He was later named as a friend and co-executor of the will of John Simons on 2 June 1731.¹²⁷³ Simons instructed that Francis may take custody of the children and “may Take them and Bring them up in the Capinters [sic] Trade.”¹²⁷⁴ An undated account of expenses

¹²⁶⁷ Mary Woollard will (1788), loose will in “Chowan County Record of Wills, 1694-1808,” microfilm no. C.024, 80002; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹²⁶⁸ Mary Woollard will abstract in Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 2: 31.

¹²⁶⁹ Mary Beth Beasley Enoch, *Beasley Blood*; abstracted in (<http://genforum.genealogy.com/beasley/messages/2654.html>; accessed 16 September 2014). See also Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, 324.

¹²⁷⁰ Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800, *Genealogy Trails*, website (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html; accessed 19 September 2014).

¹²⁷¹ Ibid.

¹²⁷² See for example <http://www.ourfamtree.org/browse.php/Freancis-Beasley/p37044>; accessed 16 September 2014.

¹²⁷³ John Simons will (1731), in Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 5:84; record no. 447; see also Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 11: 62-63; record no. 101.

¹²⁷⁴ Ibid, 5:84; record no. 447.

incurred by Francis as executor of this estate mentioned a Mary Beasley, whose relationship was not stated.¹²⁷⁵ Other accounts from 29 July 1732 mentioned Robert Beasley, likely his brother.¹²⁷⁶

Francis left no will, and his date and place of death remain unknown. Some researchers have claimed that Francis was the father of Thomas Beasley of Beaufort County on the basis of a deed of 10 October 1783. Recorded in Martin County, North Carolina, Thomas Beasley of Beaufort County sold to Francis Ward 320 acres on the side of Welches Creek, being part of the 640-acre patent of James Beasley of 1716.¹²⁷⁷ From this evidence Thomas would appear to be a grandson of James, but he could not have been the son of either James Jr. or Robert. That leaves either Francis or William as likely candidates for Thomas's father, and his placement with Francis remains conjectural.

Possible son of Francis Beasley with an unknown wife:

10. i. **THOMAS⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1735; m. **MARY HARDISON**.

6. ROBERT³ BEASLEY (*James², Robert¹*), the son of James Beasley and Mary (Cropley), was born in old Albemarle County, North Carolina, say 1702. His date of death is not known but occurred after 1739. He married in Perquimans County, North Carolina, before 19 July 1735, **CHRISTIAN LUTEN**, daughter of Thomas Luten.¹²⁷⁸ Some websites have erroneously published the above date as that of their marriage, but the exact date is not known and occurred more likely before 1730.

The standard interpretation of this family in many online incarnations is that Robert³ (James²) married Sarah Baptist, while Robert³ (Francis²), his cousin and contemporary, married Christian Luten. This theory is not borne out by a careful study of the evidence, and it is almost a certainty that the two men have been confused. As shown below, this Robert had land adjoining Vines Cropley, his uncle, while William Cropley deeded land to Robert and Christian's son, Thomas, for love and affection – a fact that implies a close familial relationship. Thus, James's son Robert had such a connection to the Cropleys, while Francis's son Robert did not, and the Cropley deed specifically named Robert and his wife Christian.

In his father's 1720 will, Robert received a tract of land on Welches Creek together with his brother, Francis. He was taxed in Chowan Precinct in 1729-32 on 370 acres, paying a quit rent of £1.17.6.¹²⁷⁹ On 29 December 1732, he was probably the Robert who purchased from John Willard and wife Christian for £200 a tract of 470 acres in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County, "butting on Vines Cropleys head line."¹²⁸⁰

Robert was probably the "Robart Beasley" who witnessed the 1753 codicil to the will of Christopher Arenton in Chowan County.¹²⁸¹ On 25 October 1755, the vestry of St. Paul's Parish, Chowan County ordered John Benbury and Robert Beasley to "Procession all The Lands That are Included between William Horskinses Mill Swamp, The Sound side and Yeopim River and make return Thereof To April Court Next according To Law."¹²⁸²

Robert was probably the same person of this name who purchased from John Willard and wife Christian, on 29 December 1732, a tract of 470 acres in Chowan Precinct adjoin land of Vines Cropley, with William Gardner, John Gardner, and Christopher Gale, as witnesses.¹²⁸³ On 19 July 1735 (the date often given erroneously for their marriage), Robert and wife Christian joined Constance Luten in selling to Thomas

¹²⁷⁵ Ibid, 11: 63; record no. 101.

¹²⁷⁶ Ibid, 11: 64; record no. 102.

¹²⁷⁷ Martin County, North Carolina, Deed Book A: 473; transcribed in *Martin County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deed Book A, 1774-1787* (Williamston, North Carolina: Martin County Historical Society, 1993), 84.

¹²⁷⁸ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, 300.

¹²⁷⁹ *Albemarle County, North Carolina, Quit Rents in Arrears, 1729-1732* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 2007), 16.

¹²⁸⁰ Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books W-1 191729-1738), C-2 (1738-1740), D (1748-1806) and Various Earlier and Later Dates* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 1998), 1: 7; citing Deed Book W-1: 235-236.

¹²⁸¹ Stephen E. Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina (from Secretary of State Papers)* (Keysville, Virginia: Stephen E. Bradley, 1994), 7: 4; record no. 15.

¹²⁸² Raymond Parker Founts, *Processioners' Records, Chowan County, North Carolina, 1755/1756; 1764/65; 1795-1797; 1800 and 1808* (Cocoa, Florida: GenRec Books, 1993), 37; citing original page 79a.

¹²⁸³ Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books W-1 (1729-1738), C-2 (1738-1740), D (1748-1806), and Various Earlier and Later Dates*, 7, record no. 41; citing Chowan County Deed Book W-1: 234-235.

Luten for £105 a tract of 200 acres in Chowan Precinct. The plantation, known as the Tottering Bridge Plantation, had been granted to Major Thomas Luten in a patent dated 6 November 1707.¹²⁸⁴

On 15 July 1739, William Cropley of Chowan Precinct deeded to Thomas Beasley, son of Robert Beasley and wife Christian, “for love & affection” a tract of 400 acres “on the Sound side” in Chowan County, apparently on Albemarle Sound, excepting 100 acres to W. Harrison and 50 acres to Will Steward. Cropley added, “If sd Thos. Beasley shall die before he comes to the age of 21 years or should die without Issue then [the land shall] fall to Christian Beasley wife of the abovesd Robt. Beasley and her heirs &c.”¹²⁸⁵ He exempted from the gift “so much as sd W. Cropley shall have occasion to Cultivate for my own use during my Natural Life.” This deed suggests a close familial tie to Vines Cropley, which would be evident if this Robert was the son of James Beasley and Mary (Cropley), and not, as widely claimed, the son of Francis Beasley and Mary Bentley.

Child of Robert Beasley and Christian (Luten), born in Chowan County, North Carolina:

- i. **THOMAS⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1730 (aged under 21 in 1739); no further record.

7. ROBERT³ BEASLEY (*Francis², Robert¹*), the son of Francis Beasley and Mary (Bentley), was born in Perquimans Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, on 1 December 1707. He died in Chowan County, North Carolina, after 11 November 1766, when he wrote his will.¹²⁸⁶ He married **SARAH**, possibly surnamed **BAPTIST** and who was perhaps the daughter of Dr. Benjamin Baptist and Mary (Clark). The will of Benjamin Baptist/Baptist, written 24 March 1752 and proved 15 June 1752 in Chowan County, named only his wife Mary and a son, Edmund.¹²⁸⁷ Hence, Sarah’s placement as a daughter remains speculative, but the naming of her son suggests a connection to this family. Sarah apparently survived her husband, though Robert did not list her by name in his will.

As discussed in the above sketch, much confusion exists in published sources about the identity of this Robert³ and attempts to distinguish him from his first cousin, son of James², who was his contemporary. While the wife of Francis’s son Robert³ is nearly always shown as Christian Luten, in fact he remains the best candidate for the one who married Sarah Baptist.

Robert wrote his will on 11 November 1766 in Chowan County. He left to his wife, whom he did not specifically name, a slave whom he termed “my Negro Fellow called Prince,” a feather bed and furniture, a horse called Dude and her colt, three cows, a heifer, various hogs and sheep, a small blue trunk, and an assortment of other household items, pewter, china, and earthenware plates. The remainder of the estate, both real and personal, he left to his only son, John Baptist Beasley, while giving his wife “the use of the House wherein I now Dwell with all part of the Land and Plantation whereon they stand to my said Wife during her natural life in full satisfaction of any claim of Dower.” He also gave to his wife the labor of three slaves, the fellow Sam, the wench Cuxhabo [?], and the girl Phillis, but all three and their increase was to pass to his son on the wife’s death. He named his son as his sole executor. Witnesses included John Simons, John Norcom, and Angele Simons. The date of probate of the will was not stated.

Child of Robert Beasley and Sarah (Baptist), born in Chowan County, North Carolina:

11. i. **JOHN BAPTIST⁴ BEASLEY**, b. say 1735; m. **ELIZABETH BLOUNT**.

¹²⁸⁴ Ibid, 12, record no. 67; citing Chowan County Deed Book W-1: 258-260.

¹²⁸⁵ Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books W-1 (1729-1738), C-2 (1738-1740), D (1748-1806), and Various Earlier and Later Dates*, 30, record no. 164; citing Deed Book W-1: 353.

¹²⁸⁶ Robert Beasley will (1756), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book A: 222; see also loose will in “Chowan County Record of Wills, 1694-1808,” microfilm no. C.024, 80002; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹²⁸⁷ Benjamin Baptist will is among the loose wills in the North Carolina State Archives, not seen by me on the roll of loose wills for Chowan County, no. 80003. Hathaway writes that his wife’s surname was Clark, that they lived on a farm called Strawberry Hill near Crisp Creek, three-eighths of a mile from Edenton. He died in 1753, and in 1901, a plow reportedly unearthed a stone slab marking his grave, though the inscription has not been published. See Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 2: 470.

8. JOHN⁴ BEASLEY (*James³, James², Robert¹*) the son of James Beasley and Mary (____), was born in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, say 1724. He died in Chowan County, North Carolina, before September 1801, when his will was probated.¹²⁸⁸ He married in Chowan County by bond on 30 September 1752, **SARAH “LILSE”** or **LILES**, with George Liles and Thomas Bonner as bondsmen.¹²⁸⁹

John was named in the settlement of his father’s estate in Chowan County in 1742, together with his brothers James and Thomas, his sister Mary, and his mother.¹²⁹⁰ He was probably the John Beasley who witnessed the will of William Benbury in Chowan County on 27 February 1755.¹²⁹¹ He also likely witnessed the will of John Blount in Chowan County on 8 December 1753.¹²⁹² On 7 January 1758, he deeded to his brother Thomas Beasley a tract of 378 acres in Chowan County that had been granted to their father, James Beasley, on 7 November 1722.¹²⁹³ During the Revolutionary War, he was likely the John Beasley who served as a Major in the North Carolina Militia under Col. James Blount, along with his cousin, John Baptist Beasley.¹²⁹⁴

John left a will in Chowan County dated 8 February 1795.¹²⁹⁵ He gave to his son George Beasley “the land and plantation whereon I now reside.” He directed that all of his personal estate be sold and divided among his children, not specifically named. He left two gray mares to his son Francis Beasley, and at his death, the increase to be “equally divided among his children.” He left another mare to his son James Beasley and at his death, the increase to be “equally divided among all my children unless he should have heirs of his body lawfully begotten, then and in that case I give the said mare with her increase to the said heirs.” He appointed his son George and his son Robert as joint executors. The will was witnessed by Richard Benbury and Richard Garrett and was proved in court in September 1801.

From the will it is possible therefore to discern four sons of John: George, Francis, James, and Robert, though their birth order is uncertain with Robert probably the eldest. (For unknown reasons, Robert’s name is often omitted from online genealogies of this family). Sarah (Lilse/Liles) had apparently died by this date. The 1788 will of John’s mother, Mary Woollard, named only his son Francis as an heir among his other sons; however, she also named a granddaughter Sarah Beasley, who was also likely a daughter of John. It is uncertain who the father was of another granddaughter, Mary Vail, unless she was John’s daughter Mary Beasley, who had earlier married Simeon Long (see below).

Children of John Beasley and Sarah (Lilse/Liles), born in Chowan County, North Carolina, order uncertain:

- i. probably **MARY⁵ BEASLEY**, b. say 1753; she m. by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 4 June 1773, **SIMEON LONG**, with John Beasley as bondsman.¹²⁹⁶ Perhaps she was identical to Mary Vail, named in the will of her grandmother, Mary Woollard, in 1788. If so, a record of her marriage to ____ Vail has not been located.
- ii. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1754; d. possibly though not certainly in Warren County, Georgia, after 14 May 1799 but before 3 June 1799, testate. His wife is shown in various online pedigrees as **ANN PATE**, though there is no record of this marriage in Chowan County. Moreover, there is no direct evidence linking the Warren County man to Chowan County. He received a mare in his father’s will. The will of John Beasley of

¹²⁸⁸ John Beasley will (1795), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 166-167; “Chowan County Will Books B and C,” microfilm C.024, 80005; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹²⁸⁹ Winslow, *History of Perquimans County*, 300; citing the Chowan County loose marriage bonds. See also *Genealogy Trails* website (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html; accessed 19 September 2014).

¹²⁹⁰ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 2: 259.

¹²⁹¹ Bradley, *Early Records of North Carolina*, 7: 10; record no. 46.

¹²⁹² *Ibid.*, 7: 12-13; record no. 61.

¹²⁹³ Weynette Parks Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books C-1, Unk., Misc. Deeds Dated 1723-1759, Volume 3* (Durham, North Carolina: Weynette Parks Haun, 2004), 122, record no. 727; citing Deed Book H-1: 255.

¹²⁹⁴ Lewis, *NC Patriots 1775-1783: Their Own Words*, 2 (Part 1): 186; 2 (Part 2): 57.

¹²⁹⁵ John Beasley will (1795), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 166-167; “Chowan County Will Books B and C,” microfilm C.024, 80005; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹²⁹⁶ “Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800, *Genealogy Trails* website (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html)” accessed 19 September 2014).

- Warren County, Georgia, named a wife Ann and the following children: Richard Beasley, William Beasley, Elizabeth Henry, James Berel, and Polly.¹²⁹⁷
- iii. **ROBERT BEASLEY**, b. say 1760; he m. (1) by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 9 February 1790, **ELIZABETH ELLIOTT**.¹²⁹⁸ He m. (2) by bond in Chowan County, on 13 September 1793, **REBECCA WILKINS**.¹²⁹⁹
 - iv. **GEORGE BEASLEY**, b. say 1765; d. Chowan County, North Carolina, before March 1810, testate.¹³⁰⁰ He married by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 19 October 1790, **ELIZABETH BANNER**.¹³⁰¹ George's will, dated 10 February 1810, left to his unnamed wife during her natural life "the house in which I now live and the one half of the cleared land running parallel with the ditch from the main road and through the swamp to Kentucky road." He also gave her his slaves Tom, Toney, Aggy, Molly, and Dover, two beds, bedstead and bed clothes, Windsor chairs, six flag buttoned chairs, one loom and one half of the materials belonging to it, a dining table, and all china. To his daughter Penelope Lassiter he left the slave woman Rachel and all of her increase, as well as furniture. To his daughter Mary Beasley he left the slaves Jane and Austin. To daughter Elizabeth Beasley he bequeathed the slaves Isaac and Sucky. The slaves Dave and Hannah were to be divided among Penelope Lassiter, Mary Beasley, and Elizabeth Beasley. He left to his daughter Margaret Beasley a slave named Milly. To his son Richard he left the plantation he purchased from Edward Haughton. If Richard dies without heirs, the plantation was to be divided between daughters Deborah and Margaret Beasley. He left to his daughter Deborah Beasley a slave named Bridget. To his son Nathaniel Beasley he left a plantation on the sound, and if he dies before reaching 21 and without lawful heirs, the plantation was to be divided among daughters Penelope Lassiter, Mary Beasley, and Elizabeth Beasley. The money from the sale of the perishable property was to be divided among all of the children. The property willed to his wife was to be divided among Richard Beasley, Nathaniel Beasley, Deborah Beasley, and Margaret Beasley. He nominated Clement H. Blount and "Thos" [?] Allen Lassiter as co-executors, and the will was witnessed by Richard Paxton and T. White. In a codicil he left a slave named Stephen to son Richard Beasley and a slave boy Bill to son Nathaniel Beasley.
 - v. **FRANCIS BEASLEY**, b. say 1768-70; he m. by bond Chowan County, North Carolina, on 4 January 1791, **ELIZABETH JONES**.¹³⁰²
 - vi. probably **SARAH BEASLEY**, b. unknown, but named in the will of her grandmother, Mary Woollard, in 1788.

9. THOMAS⁴ BEASLEY (*James³, James², Robert¹*), the son of James Beasley and wife Mary (___), was born in Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, say 1732. He died in Chowan County, North Carolina, in 1785, according to a probate record that was filed a decade after his death.¹³⁰³ He married **MARTHA** (___), who died in Chowan County, North Carolina, before December 1809, testate.¹³⁰⁴

Thomas was named in the estate settlement of his father James in 1742, together with his brothers John and James and sister Mary.¹³⁰⁵ However, he was not named in his mother's will because he had predeceased her. On 7 January 1758, his brother John had deeded to Thomas Beasley. "for love good & affection," a tract of 378 acres in Chowan County that had been granted to their father, James Beasley, on 7 November 1722.¹³⁰⁶

Thomas Beasley died intestate in Chowan County in 1785, but a petition to settle his estate was not filed until 9 June 1795. At that time, his son Samuel petitioned the court as follows: "Mr. Thomas Beasley pf the

¹²⁹⁷ John Beasley will (1799), Warren County, Georgia, Will Book A: 38.

¹²⁹⁸ Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800, *Genealogy Trails* website, (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html: accessed 19 September 2014).

¹²⁹⁹ Ibid.

¹³⁰⁰ George Beasley will (1810), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 299-300; "Chowan County Will Books B and C," microfilm C.024, 80005; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹³⁰¹ "Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800," *Genealogy Trails* website, (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html: accessed 19 September 2014).

¹³⁰² "Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800," *Genealogy Trails* website, (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html: accessed 19 September 2014).

¹³⁰³ Hathaway, *North Carolina Genealogical Register*, 2: 258.

¹³⁰⁴ Martha Beasley will (1806), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 241; "Chowan County Will Books B and C," microfilm C.024, 80005; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹³⁰⁵ Hathaway, *North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, 2: 259.

¹³⁰⁶ Haun, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Deed Books C-1, Unk., Misc. Deeds Dated 1723-1759, Volume 3*, 122, record no. 727; citing Deed Book H-1: 255.

county and state aforesaid dying Intestate in the year of one thousand seven hundred and eighty five being possessed of lands lying in the county aforesaid, your petitioner being arrived to the age of twenty one and the eldest of two sons Begs the Honourable Court will grant an order for the division of the said lands.”¹³⁰⁷ The resulting record named his widow Martha, sons Samuel and Joseph, daughter Elizabeth Beasley, and sons-in-law James and Joseph Ming.

Martha Beasley wrote her will in Chowan County on 6 November 1806. She left to her children Sarah Ming, Ann Ming, Samuel Beasley, Joseph Beasley, and Elizabeth Houghton one dollar each. She left to her grandson Samuel Ming “my riding horse.” To grandson Joseph Ming she left a cow and calf, a bed and furniture. To granddaughter Sarah Ming she also left a cow and calf, and to grandson Henry Beasley she left a heifer. She named her son-in-law James Ming as executor, with witnesses William Homes and Samuel Gregory. She signed the will with her mark.

Children of Thomas and Martha (____) Beasley, born in Chowan County, North Carolina:

- i. **SARAH⁵ BEASLEY**, b. say 1768; she m. **JOSEPH MING** as inferred from the probate records of her father.
- ii. **ANN BEASLEY**, b. say 1770; she m. by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 23 February 1790, **JAMES MING**.¹³⁰⁸
- iii. **SAMUEL BEASLEY**, b. say 1774; d. Gibson County, Indiana, about 1840; he m. Orange County, North Carolina, on 28 April 1798, **MILDRED “MILLEY” HURDLE**.¹³⁰⁹
- iv. **JOSEPH BEASLEY**, b. say 1776; he m. by bond in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 5 April 1806, **SARAH MINOR**.¹³¹⁰
- v. **ELIZABETH “BETSEY” BEASLEY**, b. say 1778; she m. in Chowan County by bond on 26 January 1806, **LEMUEL HAUGHTON**.¹³¹¹

10. THOMAS⁴ BEASLEY (?Francis³, James², Robert¹ or possibly ?William³, James², Robert¹), the possible though unproven son of Francis Beasley, was born in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, say 1735. He died in Beaufort County, North Carolina, after 8 September 1792, testate.¹³¹² He married in Tyrrell County, North Carolina, on 28 April 1761, **MARY HARDISON**, the daughter of John and Olive (____) Hardison.¹³¹³ John Hardison’s will dated 27 November 1778 in Martin County, North Carolina, included a bequest of £20 to daughter Mary Beasley.¹³¹⁴ She died after 1792.

Thomas’s connection to the family of James² Beasley is known solely from a deed of 10 October 1783 that was recorded later in Martin County, North Carolina. In it, he described himself as a resident of Beaufort County and sold to Francis Ward 320 acres on the side of Welches Creek, being part of the 640-acre patent of James Beasley of 1716.¹³¹⁵ Witnesses included Benjamin Hardison and Nathaniel Webb. The deed does not delineate the identity of Thomas’s father, but presumably he was either Francis or William.

Thomas witnessed the will of Mary Smaw in Beaufort County on 12 April 1782.¹³¹⁶ He wrote his own will in Beaufort County on 8 September 1792, but the date of its probate is uncertain.¹³¹⁷ He gave to his wife Mary Beasley a loan of two-thirds of the plantation where he lived and the use of five slaves. To his son Thomas he left the remaining third of the plantation, “beginning on Thomas Smawe’s line... running back from the River ... [and] millpond.” He was to inherit the remaining two-thirds upon his mother’s death. The elder Thomas left to his son Francis (called “Frances”), who was under 21, a tract of 186 and a

¹³⁰⁷ Court petition cited in <http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.paul/107.181.185.1.1.1.1/mb.ashx>; accessed 18 September 2014.

¹³⁰⁸ “Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Bonds, 1741-1800,” *Genealogy Trails* website, (http://genealogytrails.com/ncar/chowan/marr_bonds_1741_1800.html; accessed 19 September 2014).

¹³⁰⁹ Brent H. Holcomb, *Marriages of Orange County, North Carolina* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), 20.

¹³¹⁰ Frances T. Ingmire, *Chowan County, North Carolina Marriage Bonds* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 1984), 3.

¹³¹¹ *Ibid.*, 23.

¹³¹² Beaufort County Genealogical Society, *Beaufort County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1720-1868* (Washington, North Carolina: Beaufort County Genealogical Society, 1990), 24; citing Beaufort County Will Book A: 243.

¹³¹³ Frances T. Ingmire, *Tyrrell County, North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1761-1862* (Signal Mountain, Tennessee: Mountain Press, 2003), 6.

¹³¹⁴ John Hardison will (1778), Martin County, North Carolina, Will Book 1: 61; “Martin County, North Carolina Record of Wills, 1774-1868, Volumes 1-2,” roll no. C.063, 80001; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹³¹⁵ Martin County, North Carolina, Deed Book A: 473; transcribed in *Martin County, North Carolina, Abstracts of Deed Book A, 1774-1787* (Williamston, North Carolina: Martin County Historical Society, 1993), 84.

¹³¹⁶ Beaufort County Genealogical Society, *Beaufort County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1720-1868*, 297.

¹³¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 24.

half acres on Cross Swamp. He left two slaves to his daughter Sarah Beasley. Two more slaves were to be shared by the following children: James, Robert, Francis [Francis], Elizabeth, and Mary. His son James also received a slave. He named his sons Thomas, James, Robert, and Francis as joint executors. Witnesses included William Hardison, Sarah McKeel, and Rebekah McKeel.

Children of Thomas Beasley and Mary (Hardison), born in Beaufort County, North Carolina (order uncertain except Thomas being the eldest):

- i. **ELIZABETH⁵ BEASLEY**, b. say 1762.
- ii. **THOMAS BEASLEY**, b. say 1764. He witnessed the will of Seth Pilkington Willson in Beaufort County on 20 May 1790.¹³¹⁸ He also witnessed the will of Hardy Jones there on 29 December 1800, in which his own son, Francis Jones Beasley, received 50 acres.¹³¹⁹
- iii. **ROBERT BEASLEY**, b. say 1766.
- iv. **JAMES BEASLEY**, b. say 1768. He witnessed the will of Nathan Archbell in Beaufort County on 9 January 1803.¹³²⁰
- v. **MARY BEASLEY**, b. say 1770.
- vi. **FRANCIS BEASLEY**, b. say 1772-73 (under age 21 in 1792).
- vii. **SARAH BEASLEY**, b. say 1774 (unmarried in 1792).

11. JOHN BAPTIST⁴ BEASLEY (*Robert³, Francis², Robert¹*), the son of Robert Beasley and Sarah (Baptist?), was born in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, say 1735. He died in Chowan County, North Carolina, after 23 January 1790, testate.¹³²¹ He married say 1766, possibly in Chowan County, **ELIZABETH BLOUNT**. She was the daughter of John Blount and wife Sarah (Vail) and was named as Elizabeth in John Blount's will of 8 December 1753 in Chowan County.¹³²² She was also identified specifically as Elizabeth Beasley in the will of her mother, Sarah Blount, dated 6 June 1769, together with her daughters Rebecca and Martha Beasley.¹³²³

At the time of his father's death in 1766, John Baptist Beasley, his only child, received the entire estate. He does not appear to have been an active purchaser or speculator of land in his own right, though his will suggests that he did purchase some land from Cornelius Moore. On 6 July 1771, he served as co-executor for the will of Levi Creecy in Chowan County.¹³²⁴ In June 1777, he was co-executor of the will of Edward Vail.¹³²⁵ During the Revolutionary War, he had an extensive career as a Major in the North Carolina Militia, serving under Col. James Blount.¹³²⁶

John Baptist wrote his own will in Chowan County on 23 January 1790. Describing himself as being "weak in body but of sound mind and memory," he left to his wife, whom he did not specifically name, the use of several slaves, including the woman Phil, the girl Clarissa, the men named Cato, Harry, and Ben, an old woman named Dinah, and a boy named Sam, all for use during her natural life or widowhood. After her death, these slaves were to be divided equally among his children. John also gave to his wife a yoke of oxen, two bay mares, a riding chair (and moneys to have it repaired), and all household and kitchen furniture.

The will continued with other provisions to his children. John Baptist gave to his son Joseph Beasley the land called Piercis, "which my father bought from Robert Neseby, also three hundred acres of my Back land which I bought of Cornelius Moore, and if not enough in that parcel whatever may be wanting to make up the quantity must be taken of the land Joining the land thereto." The land called Preints [?] and those

¹³¹⁸ Beaufort County Genealogical Society, *Beaufort County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1720-1868*, 344-345.

¹³¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 363.

¹³²⁰ Beaufort County Genealogical Society, *Beaufort County, North Carolina, Will Abstracts, 1720-1868*, 13.

¹³²¹ John Baptist Beasley will (1790), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 87; in "Chowan County Record of Wills, 1694-1808," microfilm no. C.024, 80002; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹³²² John Blount will (1748), original will.

¹³²³ Sarah Blount will (1769), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book A: 144; in "Chowan County Record of Wills, 1694-1808," microfilm no. C.024, 80002; North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

¹³²⁴ Levi Creecy will (1771), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book 1: 47, in *ibid.*

¹³²⁵ Edward Vail will (1777), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book A: 320, in *ibid.*

¹³²⁶ Lewis, *NC Patriots 1775-1783*, 2 (Part 2): 57.

plantations called Leargs [?] and Cropleys with all back land not given to Joseph should be divided equally between sons Frederick and John “by two men of good judgment.” His son John shall have his choice of the land as well as a blacksmith slave named Jack and tools. He gave to son Joseph his slave carpenter George, and to Frederick a slave named Ned, a shoemaker. He gave to his daughter Martha Beasley a slave named Jim, and to daughter Mary Blount Beasley a slave named Bill. His slave boy Will was to be apprenticed to M. W. Clements to learn the art of house carpenter and joiner. Frederick was to have a share of the remaining slaves. John was to have the right of hiring out slaves at his own discretion. The remaining slaves were to be divided among daughter Mary Blount Beasley, son Frederick Beasley, and daughter Rebecca Swann (she having received her portion of the estate at the time of her marriage). Finally, John named his friend Frederick Norcum and sons John Beasley and Joseph Beasley as co-executors. The will was signed and witnessed by John Hoskins, Joseph Parish, and John Leary.

Children of John Baptist Beasley and Elizabeth (Blount), born in Chowan County, North Carolina, order uncertain, except that Rebecca and Joseph were likely the two eldest:

- i. **JOSEPH⁵ BEASLEY**, b. say 1767-70; d. Chowan County, North Carolina, before September 1801, testate.¹³²⁷ He allegedly married first **ELIZABETH NORCUM**.¹³²⁸ He married second in Chowan County on 21 September 1799, **CATHERINE GALLETY**.¹³²⁹ Joseph’s will was dated 2 April 1801 and named a son, John Baptist Beasley, whom he placed in the custody of his brother, Frederick. His brother was also instructed to “Educate or have him Educated as he may think best” for his good. If his son should die before the age of 21, then his property was to be given to his mother, Elizabeth Beasley. If she should die beforehand, then she should have power in her will to dispose of the property. He named his brothers John and Frederick as his co-executors. Son of Joseph Beasley: *John Baptist⁶ Beasley II*, b. 5 May 1796; d. Washington County, North Carolina, 13 December 1855.¹³³⁰
- ii. **REBECCA BEASLEY**, b. say 1770; m. ____ **SWANN** and is called Rebecca Swann in her father’s will.
- iii. **MARTHA “PATSY” BEASLEY**, b. say 1772; she allegedly married on 9 June 1791, **CORNELIUS RYAN**, though there is no record of the marriage in Chowan County.¹³³¹
- iv. **JOHN BEASLEY**, b. say 1774; d. Chowan County, North Carolina, before December 1814, testate.¹³³² He married in Chowan County, North Carolina, on 27 April 1799, **NANCY SLADE**.¹³³³ The will contains a lengthy description of various parcels of property that are to be sold at his death and the monies distributed equally for the “benefit of my four beloved children,” who he does not name. He also left a legacy of \$50 to his sister Martha and also named his brother, Frederick, as guardian of his children. He also left bequests to Miss Margaret Harvey; Miss Martha Harvey; Mrs. Granberry; Mrs. Fred W. Hatch and her sister Sarah; Aunt Blount; Mrs. Dickinson; cousin Sarah; Miss Norfleet; his nephew John Beasley; his cousin Clement S. Blount; Fred W. Hatch; and Ebenezer Pettigrew. Witnesses included Ann Blount and Sarah P. Blount.
- v. **MARY BLOUNT BEASLEY**, b. say 1776.
- vi. **FREDERICK BEASLEY**, b. 1777; d. Union County, North Carolina, 1 November 1845; he allegedly m. **MARY WILLIAMSON**.¹³³⁴

¹³²⁷ Joseph Beasley will (1801), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book B: 174-175;

¹³²⁸ Ray Gurganus, “Our Family Tree,” website (<http://www.ourfamtree.org/browse.php/Frederick-Beasley/p37060>; accessed 2 October 2014).

¹³²⁹ Ingmire, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1742-1868*, 3.

¹³³⁰ John Baptist Beasley tombstone, Grace Episcopal Church Cemetery, Plymouth, Washington County, North Carolina.

¹³³¹ Gurganus, “Our Family Tree,” website (<http://www.ourfamtree.org/browse.php/Frederick-Beasley/p37060>; accessed 2 October 2014).

¹³³² John Beasley will (1814), Chowan County, North Carolina, Will Book C: 26-29.

¹³³³ Ingmire, *Chowan County, North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1742-1868*, 3.

¹³³⁴ Gurganus, “Our Family Tree,” website (<http://www.ourfamtree.org/browse.php/Frederick-Beasley/p37060>; accessed 2 October 2014).

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