

WHO AM I?
A Jeter Family Saga

Author and Compiler


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Europe is in France, Mount Blanc, although the people of France (Gaul at that time) did not care much about having the highest mountain, their concern was in just plain living.

However, on the Mediterranean side they had a coastal city, that of Marseilles. This was where the Etruscans came into Europe, long ago. It was referred to, in early times, as the capital of Gaul.

Suddenly, without warning, the peace of Gaul was broken by wild tribes from the Alps, who came to plunder and kill. They destroyed Marseilles and the people in that part of Gaul called for help from the Romans of Spain. The Romans came and, as was their habit, they stayed. The land along the coast of the Mediterranean became what the Romans called Provincia (a Province). Seeing how rich and fertile Gaul was, the Romans wasted no time taking over political power. When and where they could they introduced their religion, Catholicism. Gaul became known as France when the Franks took over in 400 A.D.

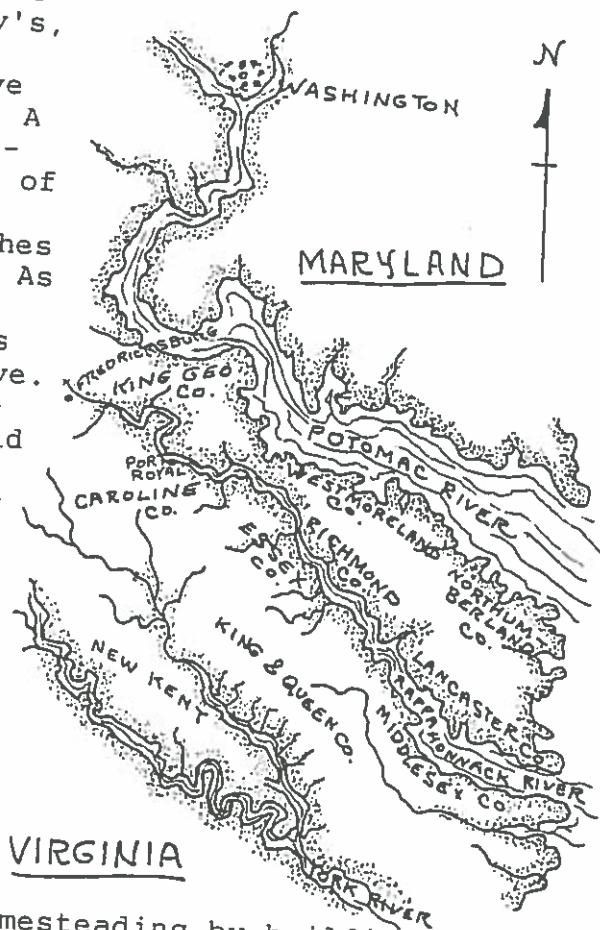
As time went on, Catholicism became popular in France and was the official religion of France. The priests insisted on taxing the people more and more. They were virtual dictators. At first many people did not express their religious convictions, if they had any, and paid their taxes as were assessed, living without being molested physically. But when it came to any sort of political activity they were questioned about their religion.

Often times, they were ridiculed and even suffered some physical punishment unless they declared the Catholic vows. Finally, the "Grand Monarch of France," King Louis the 14th, decreed that all France be Catholic. Along here, somewhere, came Martin Luther from Germany, who taught a different philosophy. Also, a man named John Calvin came and taught what he called Calvinism. These were the beginnings of Protestantism. The king was, no doubt, furious and he decreed that there be a death penalty for non-Catholics. It became a thing of entertainment when a person or persons were to be put to death, reminding one of the persecution of the Christians in early Roman times. The execution was by the use of an ax-like bladed machine that beheaded the victim.

The non-Catholic people could no longer tolerate this barbarious practice. Some of them gathered together and organized a group called the Huguenots. Among the organizers were Jeters. Enough pressure was put on the king and his court to stop the executions, and brought about an agreement where the Huguenots could move in to a seacoast area called La Rochelle. Here they could live and worship as Protestants, but could not take active part in National Politics.

After arriving in the Virginia Colony he came to settle in Essex County, in a part that was later to be called Caroline County.

The areas of Caroline County were divided into parishes: St. Mary's, St. Margaret's, and later St. Asaph's (a name believed to have come from St. Asaph of Wales). A parish was a neighborhood, a designated area harboring members of a church or political site. At first the churches in the parishes were unpretentious structures. As the general economy grew in the parishes and towns, the churches became larger and more attractive. The same applied to the schools; as the districts prospered so did the schools improve. Public places such as courthouses, city halls, and later assembly halls came into being. Even municipal parks were set aside in the larger towns for public recreation and lounging. Here I must pause for I am getting ahead of my story and most of these improvements came about quite some time after John Jeter, the Immigrant, stepped ashore in the Virginia Colony.



John Jeter I (Immigrant) began homesteading by building a small one-room cabin, close to the Rappahannock River in the upper region of Virginia. Here he lived and planned his life while hunting, trapping, and fishing for food. His excess furs were traded for a few head of livestock, perhaps calves just after they were weaned. When they were ready he found a way to have the heifers bred, the males he probably sold.

In a short time, John was able to claim land of his own. He did so by accumulating many hundreds of acres of beautiful land along the upper part of the river valley in which he lived. He built a four-room, one-and-a-half-story log home with a fireplace. Then he established a home orchard of a variety of fruits and perhaps a vineyard.

It is not known if he was married and had the help of a wife to plan and build his house, to plant the orchard, and to clear a spot for the home vegetable garden or not. At any rate, sometime

during these activities he did acquire a wife, but her name has been lost in the mist of time.

As John I's children grew up, some stayed in the valley with their father and developed farms from the acres of this first John Jeter. Eventually there were many Jeters in Virginia that took part in the development of the British Colony.

FAMILY GROUP SHEET

JOHN JETER I (Immigrant); b ca 1680*, Suffolk, England; d by 9 April 1736, Caroline Co., VA; m Bride's name unknown, place unknown.

Children:

1. John II; b ca 1706, Essex** Co., VA; d ca 1781, Caroline Co., VA; m (1) _____ *** ca 1725, (2) Elizabeth Murrah, ca 1753, Caroline Co., VA.
2. Thomas; b ca 1709, Essex Co., VA; d 1765, Amelia Co., VA; m Winifred _____ ****, ca 1740.
3. William; b ca 1711, Essex Co., VA; Essex Co., VA; d 1797, Edgefield Co., SC; m Margaret Vaughan, ca 1741, Spotsylvania Co., VA.
4. Nicholas; b ca 1713, Essex Co., VA; d 1787, Caroline Co., VA.
5. Samuel; b ca 1715, Essex Co., VA; d 1795, Granville Co., NC; m Mary Dudley (possibly second wife).
6. Joseph; b ca 1717, Essex Co., VA; d 1749, Lunenburg Co., VA; m Mary Tait.
7. Henry; b ca 1719, Essex Co., VA; d 1743, Caroline Co., VA.

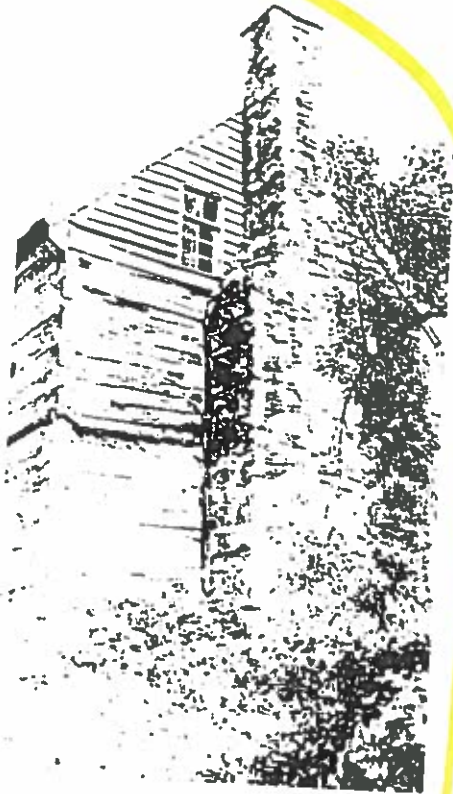
No known military record for John Jeter I (Immigrant) outside of protecting his own family from the dangers of Indian attacks.

- *ca dates are based on circumstantial evidence only.
- **This part of Essex Co., VA became Caroline Co. in 1727.
- ***Circumstantial evidence indicates that she may have been a Dabney, daughter of John Dabney of Caroline Co., VA.
- ****Circumstantial evidence indicates that she may have been the daughter of _____ Presley and Winifred Griffen.

SOURCES: "Essex Co., VA Deeds & Wills No. 13, 1707-1711" and "Caroline Co., VA Order Books," both by John Frederick Dorman; "Our Kin" by Mary Denham Ackerly & Lula Eastman Jeter Parker; "The Jeter Mosaic" by Grata Jeter Clark; "Marriages of some Virginia Residents 1607-1800" by Dorothy Ford Wilfeck.

around Virginia, beginning a guerrilla-type warfare against the Colonists. This warfare continued for quite a long time and many Virginians took part in the conflict. I have not found a record of the Jeters taking part, but am sure that they contributed to the defense of their adopted country as they did later in the Revolutionary War.

John Jeter I (Immigrant) had long since passed on to his rewards and his sons were now fully grown with households of their own. Of this John Jeter's children only one is verified thru documentation and that is John Jeter II. There were six other children born of this union as you can see on page 25, accepted thru circumstantial evidence. There may have been more children in John's family, but these were the only ones who appeared on Caroline County documents and court records. My line runs thru John Jeter II and William Jeter, Sr.



Picture of the Jeter Virginia Home donated by Arlene Phoenix, descendant from the Thomas Jeter line/ John Jeter I (Immigrant), 1135 Lynn St., Lebanon, MO 65536. Photo taken in 1949.

John Jeter II, accepted as the oldest son, married twice in the span of his life and mentioned in his will that he had eleven children by each wife. Somehow his will was carried down to the town of Washington, Georgia, for back in the late 1950's I had the pleasure of seeing and holding it in my hands. The lady who showed me the will said that during the Civil War the will, along with other documents, had been hidden in a cistern to keep the Union soldiers from destroying them. Unfortunately, I was not able to locate the will last year when I contacted the curator of records in the town of Washington. One of the things in the will that was quite interesting was John's gift of one thousand dollars and a slave to each of his children. These gifts certainly indicated that the Jeter family had prospered while living in Caroline County, Virginia.

John Jeter II's first wife has not been identified, but the children by this marriage are believed to have been: John III; Edmund, Sr.; James; Elizabeth; Ambrose; Elijah, Sr.; and William. Here again circumstantial evidence plays a big

Chapter One

where William Jeter's estate reverted from Ann Jeter, widow, it is very likely that this was Ann Jeter, widow of William Jeter. It does not appear that any other Nancy Jeter fits into this time period so well. The minister who married Nancy Jeter and William Miller, John Sorrill, also performed the ceremony for Susannah Jeter, daughter of John Jeter II by his second marriage, to James Cash/Chash on 20 January 1797. I do not know what church John Sorrill belonged to.

John Thomas Jeter, Sr.'s marriage leads to another of John Jeter I (Immigrant)'s sons, William Jeter, Sr. of Caroline and Lunenburg Counties, Virginia, as well as Edgefield County, South Carolina. William was born about 1711 in Essex County, Virginia (later Caroline County). William married Margaret Vaughan, daughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth Vaughan of Spotsylvania County, Virginia. A number of researchers have claimed that Elizabeth Vaughan was the daughter of Martin and Eleanor Vaughan and granddaughter of Cornelius and Elizabeth Vaughan, but Mrs. Barbara B. Lindauer of New Carrollton, Maryland, a descendant of Martin and Eleanor Vaughan, was kind enough to furnish proof to my cousin and editor, Margie Harbath, concerning the lineage. This proof came from a new book "Amherst County, Virginia Records" by Carol Graul, pages 17 thru 20. King and Queen County Court dated 26 January 1735, concerning Cornelius Vaughan; "Spotsylvania County Records" by Crozier, page 33; Chancery Court Suit brought in Amherst County, Virginia about 1791 concerning the children of Martin and Eleanor Vaughan, giving the names as: Cornelius, Anne, John, and Mary. Elizabeth Vaughan may have been a Shields for there is a record of an Elizabeth Shields, daughter of James Shields who died in 1727, reference William and Mary Quarterly, Volume 5, 1st Series, page 117, marrying a _____ Vaughan. There is more on William and Margaret Jeter's family in Part II, Chapter Two.

William and Margaret's second to last child was Priscilla and she was born in Lunenburg County, Virginia about 1760. She grew to womanhood in a loving, tight-knit family and, as was often the case in early colonial days, she fell in love with her cousin, John Thomas Jeter, Sr., and married him.

It was destiny that brought about the union of John Thomas and Priscilla in the year 1777 and it is quite probable that their marriage took place at the home of one of her brothers or sisters, as her father, William, moved his family to Edgefield County, South Carolina about 1776, leaving behind the children who had married and were established in Virginia. As Priscilla's father was a large landowner in both Virginia and South Carolina, and she was mentioned only briefly in her father's will of 1793 (probated in 1797 in Edgefield County), she no doubt received her dowry at the time of her marriage to John Thomas.

WILLIAM JETER, SR.
 married ca 1741
 MARGARET VAUGHAN

: WILLIAM, JR. m (1) MARY PHILLIPS (2) LUCY SPEED : Children: Charlotte Rebecca Charles P. William III Sarah George John Speed - LEGISLATOR FROM EDGEFIELD Martha M.	: PARTHENIA m CRADDOCK VAUGHAN	: ANCRIDGE m _____ HOWLETT	: CALPHARNA m BARTHOLOMEW BAKER	: HENRY (HAL)	: JOSEPH m MARY _____ : : : Children: Samuel Sterling Thomas Sarah m. VANDY CLAYTON Margaret Mary Elizabeth	: CORNELIUS (NEAL) m SARAH LOVELACE : : : Children: Jesse John?
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: JAMES m MARY CROSBY : : : Children: William Eliezer Argulus Victor Elizabeth Crews James Randolph Littleberry John Crosby Mary Crosby Richard Crosby Thomas Crosby David Sims Sarah Crosby	: ARGULUS m NANCY _____	: ELEAZER m ANNA MOSELEY : : Children: George W. Mary Penelope Melville Annette Mira Jane Jesse Moseley James Milton William Eleazer	: ELIZABETH m JOSIAH CREWS	: SARAH m JNO. CROSBY	: NANCY m GEORGE? MOSELEY : : Child: George	: DELILAH m _____ GARRET	: PRISCILLA m (1) JOHN THOMAS JETER (2) DAVID JESTER (3) BENJAMIN MOSELEY/MOSELY : Children: (1) John Thomas, Jr. (1) William (1) Elizabeth (1) Nancy (3) Sarah (Sallie) (3) William B.	: MARGARET m MINOR KILCREASE
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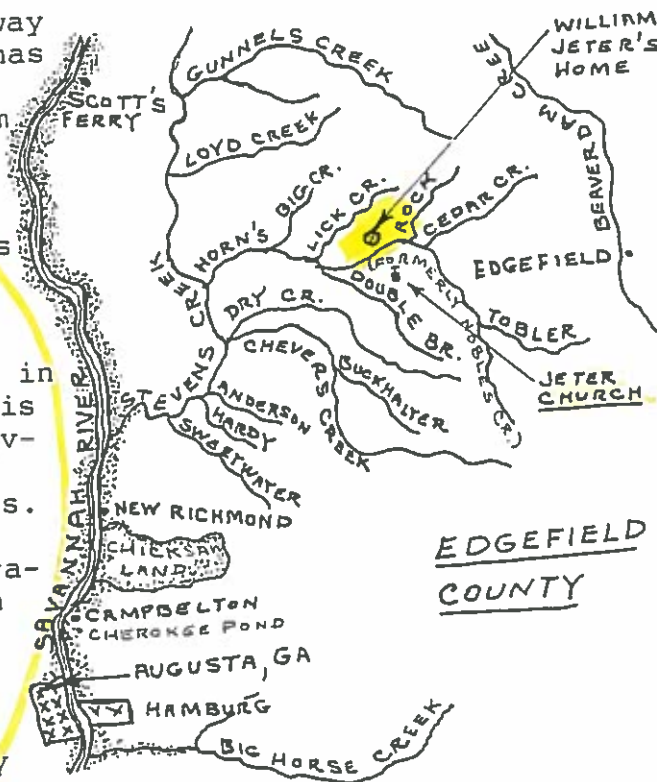
Chapter Two

Benjamin had been married before and had three small children: John, Penelope (Pepy), and Elizabeth. Being a widower with small children he looked for another wife among his friends and neighbors and, as it appears, had a close relationship with the Jeters. Priscilla's youngest brother, Eleazer, had married Anna Moseley and her closest sister, Nancy, was married to George Moseley/Mosely. Priscilla was approximately 31 years of age at the time of this marriage. Benjamin and Priscilla had two children: Sarah (Sallie), born in 1792, and William B., who was born about the time of his father's death in 1795.

It is not known if John Thomas Jeter, Sr.'s children remained with Priscilla after her marriage to Moseley or not. John Thomas Jeter, Jr. and William would have been about eleven years old, Elizabeth about thirteen, and Nancy about nine. Regardless, Priscilla had only four years with Benjamin before his death in 1795. Being about 35 at this time she probably reared her children with the help of the two families. There was a George Moseley, named co-administrator on Benjamin's will, that appears to have taken over the raising of the children after Priscilla's death, according to the 1800 Edgefield County Federal Census. There was no allowance in the census statistics for Priscilla being a member of the family and this rather verifies that she had passed away sometime between 1795 and 1800. Mr. Frank Peugh, a descendant of William B. Moseley (son of Priscilla and Benjamin), was told by his mother that William B.'s father died about the time he was born and that his uncle had raised him which rather backs up my presentation on the way events had occurred. Mr. Peugh has not accepted that Priscilla and Benjamin Moseley were his William B.'s parents and is still working on his lineage.

During the years that Priscilla's brothers and sisters were marrying and having children, her father, William Jeter, Sr., was very busy building up his estate in Edgefield. He had disposed of his properties in Virginia before moving to South Carolina, so he had the means to develop his business.

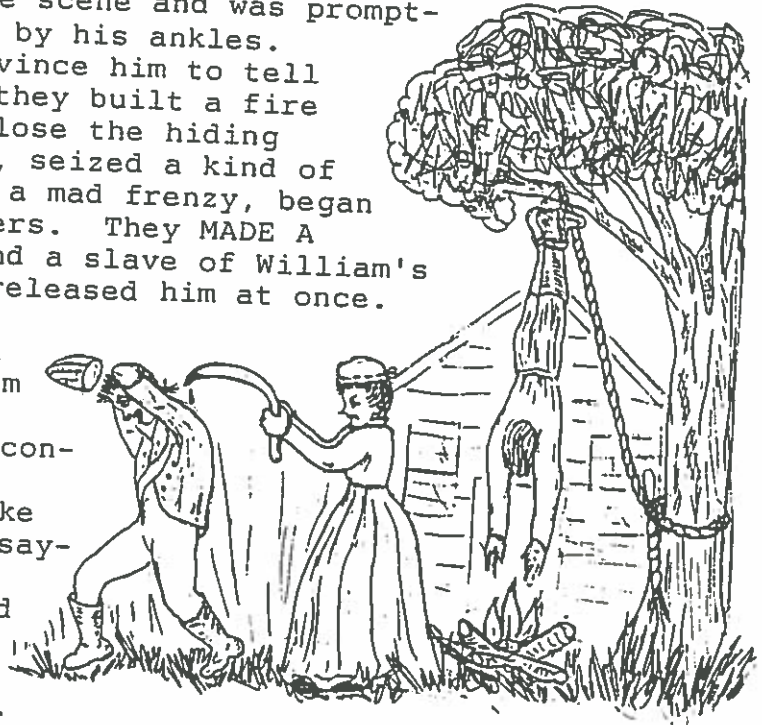
One story handed down from generation to generation that is worth repeating concerns the family's encounter with British soldiers during the American Revolution. William had buried his gold somewhere on the family property



so that it would be safe from the British confiscating it. A foster son of his betrayed William's trust and informed the British about the treasure, but he did not know the exact location. The British soldiers came hot-footing it to the Jeter place and were met at the front door by William's wife, Margaret. She refused to reveal the hiding place no matter how "persuasive" they were. The soldiers began an extensive search for the gold; ripping bed clothing, burning, and even tortured a slave for information.

Soon William arrived on the scene and was promptly overpowered and hung up by his ankles. This was not enough to convince him to tell of the gold's location so they built a fire under him to make him disclose the hiding place. His wife, Margaret, seized a kind of corn-cutting knife and, in a mad frenzy, began slashing away at the soldiers. They MADE A QUICK RETREAT. Margaret and a slave of William's extinguished the fire and released him at once.

The British officer who had sent the soldiers to William and Margaret Jeter's place came to the home later and congratulated Margaret for her courage. He offered to shake her hand, but she refused, saying "my hand is for friends only." The officer remarked that if his men were as brave as she he would have had the "uprising" put down. She remarked, "No, you would not, for then you would have had the women to contend with."



The war finally came to an end, the colonists had been able to withstand all the punishment imposed upon them. Even with the problems they had with the French and Spanish, along with the savagery of the Indians in Virginia, and the Revolutionary War, they had acquired their freedom and was able to declare their own country, the United States of America, a free and democratic republic. Much, much, to be thankful for and much to accomplish, like organizing a strong and supportive government. The Indian problems were still going on; in fact, the Indian harassment was intensifying. The colonists knew that they must keep faith and persevere.

South Carolina was a land of opportunity. It offered much to the people who chose to develop it. Notwithstanding the fact that there were great numbers of Indians in the Carolinas. People were

mosquitoes. People who were aware of this endeavored to avoid the marsh-laden stagnant water, a natural breeding environment for the insects.

Records confirm that South Carolina and it's people were good to William Jeter, Sr. and his wife, Margaret. His descendants made fine reputations for themselves. One of their grandsons, John Speed Jeter, became Senator of the state. Almost all of William's immediate sixteen children married well, with established families like Simpkins, Crosbys, Speeds, Vaughans, and Moseleys to name a few. A great grandson, Thomas Bothwell Jeter, served as Governor of the state for a short time in 1880. He had a large, white-framed home on Thompson Boulevard in the city of Union, South Carolina.

Today, just a block or two from the courthouse in the town of Edgefield, one may find a street named "Jeter" after the family. There is hardly a part of the state that one might not find a Jeter today. Some of the places are: Carlisle, Denmark, Whithmire, Winnsboro, Columbia, Spartanburg, Union, Chester, and Greenville.

Enriching as South Carolina was for the Jeter family, they did not all remain there. Word of the land that lay beyond excited their imagination and, combined with an inner quest for new frontiers, many of the family took advantage of the Georgia land lotteries. John Thomas and Priscilla's children somehow took a different trail, for as adults they show up in Kentucky, like their father and other members of the Virginia branch of the Jeter family.