



Nuckolls Kindred Worldwide

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NUCKOLLS SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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USING VESTRY BOOKS FOR FAMILY HISTORY

The Hanover Historical Society published an article in 1976 that began, "In 1704 when St. Paul's Parish was formed ... it contained the area between the Pamunkey and Chickahominy rivers, to Matadeguine Creek on the east, and to the northwest theoretically...indefinitely. Sixteen years later Hanover County was formed using these same boundaries...In 1702 a petition of the upper inhabitants of the Parish was presented by John Kimburros, **James Nuckolls** and Richard Corley laying down that they were remote from the church and it was agreed that a church 20x40 be built."

From the Vestry Book of St. Peter's in 1702 "...It is ordered that a new Church or Chapell be built (upon the upper Side of Mechumps Creek adjoining to the Kings Road.)" Mechumps Creek can be seen on a modern Hanover County map, flowing into the Pamunkey River, coming from the west just south of Hanover Court House. These names compare with an earlier order in the Vestry Book of St. Peter's on "this 4th day of May 1689...In pursuance of an Act of Assembly enjoying ye Remarking of each mans Land in Each Particular Parish one in four years...each vestry doe putt their Parishes in to P'sincts and appoint a time for ye Prossioning and Remarking ye bounds of Each mans land." The next to last precinct contains the names "James Nuckles, Rich. Caudry, Jn. Kimbour and ye Rest of his neighbors. The Inhabiters belonging to St. Petters Parish in Pamamuch Neck Viz: Mrs. Susana Page, Tho. Spencer, Jno. Burross, Mrs. Gouch, James Henderson, Wm. Turner,,Tho. Carr, Rich Chastin, James Adams, **Tho. Nickols**, Edm. Smith, Hen. Dillan, Capt. ffran Page, Mr. Goodwin."

In 1708 in the St. Paul's Vestry Book "The land of Abraham Cook, **James Knuckles**, Jno. Kimbrow, Tho. Bradley and Henry Bos, lying adjacent to each Other being made one precinct, of Which the Said **James Knuckles** and John Kimbrow were appointed Overseers..."

The 'Act of Procession' comes from the earliest Virginia settlements when the persons holding land long a road or water way would

line up in order before the Vestrymen to declare the boundaries of their property. As the number of settlers increased these neighborhoods were divided into precincts where the land owners would meet to agree on their boundaries and an appointed 'captain' and his partner would make the actual written report. The word 'procession' is so similar to the word 'possession' that they are often confused. A piece of land might be dedicated to helping pro-



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vide support for the ministers--called the 'Glebe,' and the Vestrymen would see that this land was used profitably. These activities are quite different from the minister's responsibilities to christen, marry, bury and preach so the records may be kept separately.

In 1716 "The lands of Maj. Nich Meriwether, **James Knuckols**, the Glebe, Mr. Carrs Orphans, Col. Mann Page, Majr. Curtis and Mr. Edwd. Garland being made one Precinct of which Maj. Meriwether & **James Knuckols** were appointed Overseers made no return."

"At a vestry held at ye upper church in St. Pauls Parish ye 22 day of August 1727: The lands of Capt. Garland, John Garland, Edw. Garland, Jun., Carr's Orphans, Col. Page, **Ja. Nuckles Sen.**, John Mitchel, Rob Pennington, Col. Bird, Wm. Meriwether, Tho. Hickman, John Blalack, Madam Littlepage, and Wm. Terrel being made one precinct."

This may be the last mention in the Vestry Book of James Nuckolls, Senior born about 1670. This birthdate is estimated from his early appearances in the St. Peter's Registry with Elizabeth for the christening of their children--Edward 1686, James 1695 and Isabell 1697.

In 1727 there is also a precinct that appears to be that of his son James. "Ordered into one precinct for processing, the lands of Wm. Clapton's Orphans, John Haden, Anthony Pate, James Brewer, Mary English, Jonathan Ashworth, Wm. Hanes, Adam Reatherford, David Gwin, Widd. Broadhurst, Edmund Massey, Sam. Bumpass, **James Nuckols**, Benj. Wheeler..." As with his father, James born 1695 repeatedly appeared in a precinct with some of these names. This is also true with the grandson **Nathaniel Nuckols**.

James' second wife **Susannah Nuckols**, possible mother of **Samuel** and **William** is named in

a precinct with families similar to those in her husband's earlier precinct.

In 1731 "Order'd into one precinct for processioning, the land of Peter Garland Gent., John Garland, Manoah Chiles, Carrs Orphans, Col. Page, **Susannah Nuckols**, John Mitchel, Wm. Bounsher, Col. Bird, Ralph Hunt, Wm. Meriwether, Tho. Hickman, John Blalack, the Gleebe, Madam Littlepage, Butlers, Wm. Terrel's, Wm. Jennings, Matth. Jennins.;" Note that just as her husband did, Susannah appeared between Page and Mitchel.

In 1744 "Order'd into one precinct for processioning the Lands of Wm. Byrd Esq., Col Page's Orphans, **Susannah Nuckols**, Anthony Pouncy, Marshal Dregg, Carr's Orphans, John Mitchels Orphanms, John Joyner, the Glebe land, Cap Bickerton...present, Francis Smith, Marshal Dregg, Mr. Booth & **Wm. Nuckols**."

This is the last appearance of Anthony Pouncy who is recorded as selling several properties and migrating to South Carolina. This may also be the last appearance of Susannah. Is she Anthony's sister? In 1654 John Pouncy received a land grant in New Kent and Roger Pouncy signed the Blisland Complaint. There is a Pouncy Tract Road that runs from Richmond into Hanover County. William gave the name Pouncey to his first son with widow Elizabeth Duke. The name seems to be restricted to the one L. Nuckols.

"At a Vestry held for St. Pauls Parish Sept. 30th 1751

Ordered into one precinct for Processing, the Lands of John Bickerton, Francis Smith, Tho. Booth, the Glebe, Mill's, William Thornton, John Pierce, **William Nuckolds**, Robt. Page, Harden Burnley, John Joyners Orphans, John Dregge, John Mitchels Orphans, Widd. Garlands and John

Bickerton and Francis Smith." (Harden Burnley's great-grand daughters married sons of Pouncy Nuckols.)

Research on this area has a serious problem produced by three major fires. The first in 1676 was the burning of Jamestown in the Rebellion lead by Nathaniel Bacon. The second in 1776 was the British burning of the courthouses. The third in 1865 was the Union burning Richmond, the Confederate Capitol, where several counties had stored their records for safety. Many persons have sought to locate every Nuckolls mention but there are few. One of the most interesting is the signature of **James Nuccol/Niccoll** on the Blisland Complaint after Bacon's Rebellion.

Chamberlain wrote in his introduction to the Vestry Book of Blisland Parish, "On January 29, 1677, the commissioners sent over by the English Government to inquire into and report upon the state of affairs in the colony arrived in Virginia. When they let it be known that they would receive and examine 'grievances' that were duly signed and sworn to, many such 'grievances,' complaining of the oppressions which had caused the Rebellion, were presented by the inhabitants of various counties and parishes..." (This actual document is archived at Cambridge University in Magdalen College among the Samuel Pepys' papers.)

Of the eighty-eight signers of the Blisland Complaint many are processioners in St. Peter's Parish in New Kent in 1689. Two--rch. Corley and Roger Pounce are known to have land near the **James Nuckolls** born 1670. John Barnet in 1670 had a patent for 1900 acres in "Pamunkey Neck." There is proof that **James Nuccol** signed a document in 1677 with landholders living below the Pumunkey River and their names or their descendants' names appear in the vestry records of St. Peter's and St. Pauls'. Is he the father of **James Nuckolls** born 1670?

The Latter Day Saints Church has a CD showing the members of the Scottish parishes in the 1600. There are many persons in or near Aberdeen that have a name

that sounds like Nuckolls. There seems to be no other areas where the name is common. Are the Virginia Nuccol/Nuckolls descended from these families? There has been a large effort to collect names of immigrants who might be Nuckols.

Between 1643 and 1651 a John Nuckols received 300 acres. James born 1670 appears on the New Kent County Quit Rent Rolls of 1704 paying for 300 acres. Is this the same land?

The Nuckolls family had a tradition that three brothers came to Virginia--John, James and William. It is possible that **John Nuckolls** had a son **James Nuccol** born about 1650, a grandson **James Nuckolls** born about 1670, and a great-grandson **William Nuckolls** born 1710 and many other descendants.

Submitted by Doris Dell, Nuckolls Society Member.

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WAR OF THE ROSES

A quarrel between the families of York and Lancaster over the right to occupy the English throne brought on a series of cruel civil wars in England in the years 1455 to 1485. The emblem of the Yorkists was a white rose and that of the Lancastrians a red rose. Because of this, the wars were called the Wars of the Roses.

The families of York and Lancaster were descended from King Edward III. Henry VI, head of the Lancastrians, represented the third line of descent from Edward III. Richard, duke of York, was descended through his mother from the fourth son. Thus the Yorkists had a better claim to the throne than the Lancastrians, though they had been passed over in 1399 when Richard II was deposed. The Yorkists would have won no backing later if it had not been for the failure of the English armies in the Hundred Years' War, the mental and physical weakness of King Henry VI, and the excessive taxation and misrule at home.

At first Richard of York planned merely to take the government from incapable persons and secure it for himself. Later his ambition was to seize the crown. His ablest supporter was the earl of Warwick. The earl played so important a part, first on one side and then on the other, that he was called "the kingmaker." On the Lancastrian side the real head of the party was queen Margaret, a young and beautiful Frenchwoman who fiercely resisted attempts to dethrone her husband, Henry VI, and disinherit her son, Edward.

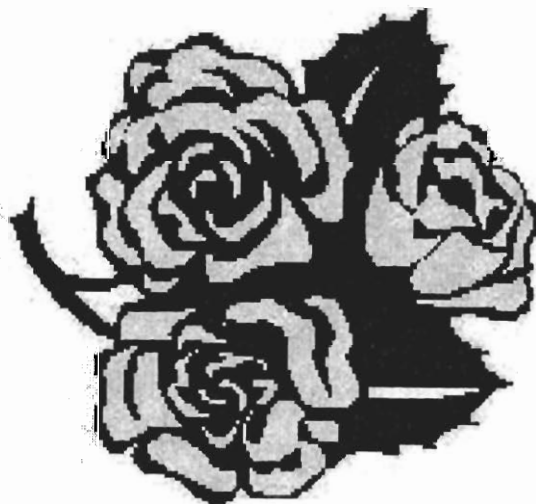
The struggle began when Richard of York won the battle of St. Albans in 1455 and secured control of the government. Four years later the contest was renewed. Richard was finally killed by the forces of Queen Margaret at Wakefield in 1460. His son, however, with Warwick's help, became king as Edward IV, the first of the Yorkist line. Henry VI was imprisoned. Then Warwick quarreled with Edward IV and helped Queen Margaret drive him from England and restore Henry VI in 1470. The next year Edward returned, and Warwick

was killed in battle. King Henry's son was murdered at Tewkesbury in 1471. Queen Margaret's forces were destroyed, and she was captured. Several Lancastrians were executed. The king himself was assassinated on the day that Edward IV reentered London and seized the throne once again.

This ended the first period of the struggle. Fourteen years later war broke out again. Henry Tudor, the last Lancastrian representative, defeated and killed Richard III, the last Yorkist king, at the battle of Bosworth Field on Aug. 22, 1485. The victor became king as Henry VII, thus ending the Wars of the Roses. The following year Henry married Elizabeth of York, the daughter of Edward IV. After this marriage the white and the red roses were united in the rose of the Tudors, the emblem of a new line of English kings.

The Wars of the Roses broke the feudal power of the nobles and effectively marked the end of the Middle Ages in England. Many of the ruling nobles had been slain during the wars, and their estates were confiscated by the Crown.

Source - Compton's Encyclopedia



DEATH OF A NUCKOLLS 28TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 1882

One of the most contested cases in the history of Robertson County, Tennessee was that in which S. B. Hopkins was tried for the murder of Dr. John W. Nuckolls. Hopkins' sister, Laura Hopkins Jones, married Dr. Nuckolls on June 5, 1878. Shortly after the marriage, the couple moved into a residence in Springfield, the former home of Judge True. After a short period of time, the couple began to quarrel constantly. Mrs. Nuckolls claimed the house was haunted. She would invite neighbors over, who would keep a watch with her and at intervals, tapping would begin on the floor under Mrs. Nuckolls.

Gill Walling, a young carpenter, was hired, presumably by Dr. John, to see if he could locate the source of the tapping. One night Gill hid beneath the house and found that the tapping was not coming from under, but above the floor at points where Mrs. Nuckolls walked in going about the house. It was discovered that she had a belt under her clothes from which an iron ball was suspended, this ball being attached to a piece of rubber which caused it to bounce as Mrs. Nuckolls moved about. Finally, unhappy, Mrs. Nuckolls returned to her family home on North Main Street.

Some time after, Dr. John went to the Hopkins home to see his son. He was denied admittance. A quarrel ensued in which it was claimed the doctor attempted to shoot a member of the family. S. B. Hopkins, who was then residing in Nashville, learned of the attempt by Dr. John upon his father's life; came to Springfield armed with a double-barreled shotgun. The following morning, February 28, 1882, as Dr. Nuckolls was passing

down the street leading to the Depot, he was shot by Hopkins. The prosecution claimed from the window of a saloon. The theory advanced by the defense was that Hopkins was on the sidewalk, and that Nuckolls was shot while attempting to draw his revolver. No one saw the shot fired, and much conflicting testimony was produced during the trial that followed, which was moved to Nashville on a change of venue, which resulted in the acquittal of S. B. Hopkins.

Another incident which took place that morning was the arson fire of the schoolhouse and the Methodist Episcopal Church South, which was situated next to each other. No one could give the time as to the fires or the murder of Dr. Nuckolls. Some believed the fires were set before the murder to draw everyone from downtown. Some Robertson Countians believed the fires were set after the murder to assist in S. B. Hopkins escape from town. Two brothers, Harry and John Hooper, were also charged with arson on the church and schoolhouse. Both the murder and arson case was tried in Nashville and all three were acquitted of all charges. After the trial, Bunch Hopkins moved to Texas. Both families involved in the case were prominent people of Robertson County. No killing has occurred that caused more excitement in Robertson County than the death of Dr. John Nuckolls.

Source - From the Springfield I Have Known, by Charles Love, Goodspeed History of Robertson County: page 852, Robertson County Circuit Court Minutes, 1882, page 551-555.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Yearly Dues \$30.00

Benefits include Newsletters, Reunion Updates and more.

Nuckolls Society objective is to fund the typesetting, editing, printing and copyrighting of the new Nuckoll's book, Second Edition, "THE FIRST VIRGINIA NUCKOLLS AND KINDRED".

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NUCKOLLS REUNION

There is another Nuckolls Reunion held each year in Henryetta, Oklahoma on the Sunday before Labor Day.

Back issues of the Newsletter can be ordered for \$3.00 each, including postage. Send remittance to Sandi Koscak.

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