

RANDALL AND MARY BAYLEY HOLT OF SURRY COUNTY, VIRGINIA

Randall Holt, the son of Randolph Holte (1541-1607) and Elizabeth Potts (1545-16??), was born in the parish of Prestbury, Cheshire, England, in 1607. His parents were married in St. Peter's Church in Prestbury, which was then nearly 700 years old, having replaced a Norman Chapel that stood on the grounds. The Holt surname goes back many centuries in Cheshire. Randall, at the age of 13, was indentured to his mother's brother, Dr. John Potts, who brought him to Jamestown VA on the ship "George" in 1620. During his indenture, while lasted until 1626, he learned not only medical treatments but also farming and social skills. Dr. Potts practiced medicine in Jamestown where he kept an office and a comfortable home. He also had a large farm on Lower Chippokes Creek where he raised tobacco which was shipped back to England. As promised, when Randall completed his term of indenture, he was given "a suit of apparel from head to foot" as required by law, along with four bushels of corn. In 1626, he married Mary Bayley, daughter of John Bayley, who was one of the wealthiest men in the community. When John died, Mary, his only surviving child, inherited 500 acres of land on Hogg Island in the James River. Randall added 400 acres in 1636 and another 400 in 1639, 710 in 1642, and 1650 in 1622, according to land records. Randall died in 1650; he is believed to be buried at Lawnes Creek Parish Church Cemetery, leaving only one heir, Randall II, born in 1642.

Randall II inherited his father's land holdings and married Elizabeth Hansford in 1661. She was the daughter of Colonel John and Elizabeth Hansford, of York County, and the widow of Christian Wilson. They reared a family of six children: namely, **John** (1664-1707) m. Mary Binns; **Thomas** (1664-1730) m. Frances Mason; **William** (1665-1726) m. Elizabeth Seward; **Jane** m. John Hancock; **Lucy** m. Joseph Montford; and **Elizabeth** m. Thomas Edwards. Randall II received the commission of Major in the British Colonial forces and served in the House of Burgesses, the local governing body. In 1668, he was appointed Justice of Surry County. He died in 1679, owning 1450 acres on Hogg Island. The place was so named as it was used in the summer to graze the hogs of the local farmers and they were retrieved in time for fall butchering. The Hogg Island property passed out of the Holt family in 1769. It is now a nature conservatory operated by the State of Virginia.

The children of John and Mary Binns Holt, named in his will, were: John, David, Charles, Joseph and Benjamin. John inherited all of his father's land. At one time he operated a ferry between Hogg Island and the mainland. In 1707, John committed suicide—this being unlawful, all of his land reverted to the British Crown. The matter went before the Court and Queen Anne ruled that his estate be returned to his heirs.

The children of Thomas and Francis Mason Holt were: Elizabeth, Mary, Katherine, Martha, James who married Anna O'Sheal. Sons Henry, Francis and Thomas died young. Thomas served in the House of Burgesses and as a Justice, Sheriff and Coroner of Surry County.

William and Elizabeth Seward Holt had William m. Mary; Thomas m. Anne Newsom; Charles m. Elizabeth Preston; and daughters Tappahanes, Elizabeth, Anne and Mary. In his will, William left his son, William "my trooper's arms" and to his son Thomas "all my land on the south side of the Nottaway River where I now live". The remainder of the estate was divided equally among the children.

Later generations of this family moved into Halifax County, NC, Abbeyville SC, Tennessee, Utah and eventually Texas via Louisiana.

THE HOLT'S OF WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA

Brothers **JOHN AND WILLIAM HOLT** were very active in the Williamsburg Community which was the Revolutionary capital of the new Commonwealth of Virginia from 1776 to 1780. Until recently their parentage had not been determined. However, when John died his will indicated that he had brothers, William 1730-1791; David 1728-1787, m. Rebecca Belk; and Dibdall, 1727-1810 m. Elizabeth Cocke; and a sister Mary, later wife of Rev. Samuel Davies, a Presbyterian minister who served as President of Princeton College in New Jersey. Family records show these were the children of David Holt (1685-1787) married to Margaret Dibdall. David was the son of John (1664-1707) and Mary Binns Holt, who was a son of Randall II, born in 1642, the son of the immigrant Randall I, who arrived in Jamestown in 1620.

John Holt was born in 1720, and settled in Williamsburg where he conducted business as a merchant and served as a Justice of York County, Vestryman of Bruton Parish Church and as the Mayor of Williamsburg. He married Elizabeth Hunter, who was the sister of William Hunter, a printer and editor of the Virginia Gazette. They had a son, John Hunter Holt, and a daughter Elizabeth. John Holt opened a store in 1746 on Duke of Gloucester Street where he sold "all kinds of merchandise, goods, haberdashery, china, groceries, etc. Business took a downturn and he was forced to sell his business and property in 1754. He moved to New Haven, CT, where he was associated with James Parker in the printing business. He moved to New York City in 1760, and published the New York Journal and later the New York Gazette and Post. In 1770, he returned to Virginia and established a printing shop which was managed by his son. As a declared Whig, he was persecuted by the British, to the extent that his equipment was destroyed on several occasions. He returned to New York City where he died January 30, 1784, at the age of 64 and lies buried in St. Paul's Graveyard, in New York City. He was eulogized as "a high churchman, a good writer, and a warm advocate for the causes of his country".

William Holt, the brother of John, born in 1730, lived in Williamsburg where he too was a merchant and an influential citizen. He was Mayor from 1776 to 1781 and in 1776 was made a Commissioner of Admiralty. During the Revolution, he served as a Commissary of the Army. In 1760, he purchased his brother's store and operated it until 1770. It had been severely damaged by fire and had been rebuilt and is now known as "Holt's Storehouse" which you can see if you visit Williamsburg today. The three sugar loaves over the door indicated it was a grocery. It is now a private residence and not open to visitors. He owned considerable property in the town but it can't be adequately identified as many records have been lost in repeated fires over time. William, born 1730, died in Williamsburg on 11 January, 1791. He was first married to Mary Enloe. His second wife, Peachey Davenport Purdie Holt bought the Norton-Cole House in 1781. It has been restored and early in the 1900's served as the home of the President of Colonial Williamsburg. William and Mary Enloe Holt, had a son, John Enloe Holt, who served as Mayor of Norfolk for 20 years, dying in office in 1832. He was Mayor in 1824 when Lafayette visited Norfolk during his American Tour.

The Williamsburg newspaper reported on December 23, 1785, the marriage of Miss Betsy Holt to Robert Coleman, who, in 1807, became the Mayor of Williamsburg. Also, on November 4, 1775, the paper announced the birth of triplets the prior Sunday, to William Holt and his spouse.