

THE DOGGETT FAMILY IN TIDEWATER, VIRGINIA 1669 to 1769

In 1669 Reverend Benjamin Doggett left his home in England and set sail for the new world of Virginia to preach and to minister to the souls of those early pioneers. He left behind one small child and brought wife Jane and a baby son Benjamin. He must have had great faith in his God and his Church of England, but also grave fears about bringing up a family in the wilds of a new world. Life would be rugged, comforts few, and education and advantages for families uncertain.

This was a time of political upheaval and religious unrest. Charles II had been restored to the throne after the reign of Cromwell. In Virginia Gov. Berkeley was serving his second term replacing Richard Bennet who served under Cromwell. "Bacon's Rebellion" and trouble over Indians and restrictions of trade occupied the colonists. Jamestown the Capital of Virginia and meeting place of the Virginia Assembly was burned never to be rebuilt.

Brent Family History says Reverend Benjamin was the son of a "woolendraper" of Ipswich, England and that he received his education at St. John's College 1654-1655 and at Cambridge 1659-1662, then was made curate of Stoke. Ministers of the Church of England were required to be graduates of Cambridge therefore this record would seem to be true. We know that he was sent to serve as minister in Lancaster County, Virginia, and that he served Christ Church and organized St. Mary's White Chapel. The original White Chapel was built in 1669, was added to in 1740, deserted after the Revolutionary War, rebuilt in 1830, and stands today in a beautiful woodland setting—a tribute to its first minister and its faithful members.

On Sunday July 5, 1959 a bronze memorial Tablet in memory of Reverend Benjamin Doggett was unveiled in St. Mary's White Chapel. His body lies buried under the chancel. The tablet was presented by descendants of Reverend Benjamin including this writer and her brother James Doggett.

"MEMORIAL TABLET UNVEILED SUNDAY TO FIRST RECTOR

A tablet was presented and unveiled at St. Marys White Chapel Sunday, July 5, by Mrs. Roger Donaldson on behalf of the descendants, Mrs. Calvin Forester, Port Arthur, Texas, Mrs. Exa D. Clark, San Augustine, Texas, James Anderson Doggett, Greensboro, N. C., Anna W. Doggett, Princeton, W. Va., Mrs. E. C. Hope, York, S. C., Denzil Doggett, Indianapolis, Indiana, Mrs. Hamilton Kellen, Silver Spring, Md. and Mrs. Roger L. Donaldson, Morattico, in memory of the first permanent rector of St. Mary's White Chapel, Rev. Benjamin Doggett.

He was born the son of William Doggett of Ipswich, England, where he was born in 1636.

Rev. Mr. Doggett was educated at Cambridge University in England where he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1658/9 and his master of arts degree in 1662.

After being a schoolmaster in Stoke, England, he came to Colonial Virginia before 1670.

In 1670 he was presented to the governor of Virginia for induction as rector of Trinity Parish. He became rector of St. Mary's White Chapel and rector of Christ Church Parishes and served until his death in 1682.

His devotion for St. Mary's White Chapel summed up in these few words. "I bequeath my soul and body to God that gave it, my body to be buried before ye pulpit in St. Mary's White Chapel".

The authority for previous history on the memorial tablet to be unveiled was by Dr. G. MacLauren Brydon, court records and "Colonial Churches in Virginia" by Dr. Goodwin.

Copied from Rappahannock Record
July 6, 1959

Edith Lambeth Alexander and her sister Kathryn Lambeth Zarker visited Cambridge University in England October 1967, and viewed the 300 year old record of our immigrant ancestor Rev. Benjamin Doggett. Kathryn's husband, Dr. Zarker of Vanderbilt University was a visiting lecturer at Cambridge University at this time. Edith and Kathryn, descendants of Rebecca Doggett and Rev. John Lambeth, were the first of Guilford Doggetts to visit the school attended by Rev. Benjamin Doggett.

Virginia Magazine of History says Reverend Benjamin was the first minister to serve so long—13 years and was evidently not included in those ministers spoken of by Gov. Berkeley when he said "As of all other commodities, so of this, the worst are sent to us." The Assembly of Virginia to a large extent controlled the churches therefore various duties devolved on the clergy. In cases of drunkenness the clergy administered reproof before punishment. Persons guilty of swearing were fined 5 shillings for each offense—the fine paid to the church. All persons were required to attend church service on Sundays. A fine of 50 lbs. of tobacco was imposed on those who failed to attend. Counties were divided into parishes and tithes required of all males over 16 years of age white or black; one tithe if single two if married. Orders of sheriffs concerning county elections were read from pulpits.

Schools were maintained in all parishes and orphans generally received their schooling free. Money was often willed to parish schools. Books were precious possessions often mentioned in wills. Reverend Benjamin sent his books back to England to be sold.

There were approximately 2,000 slaves in Virginia when Reverend Benjamin arrived. The question of their church relation and baptism was decided by the Assembly. "Baptism doth not alter the condition of person as to his bondage or freedom," therefore slaves were baptized and attended church. Reverend Benjamin does not mention slaves in his will but his son Benjamin mentions "Wingo" and his grandson John mentions "Dick and Sary."

The pay of an earlier minister of Christ Church, Rev. Samuel Cole, was 10,000 pounds of tobacco "in cask". This was likely the pay of Rev. Benjamin also. The Vestry men were supposed to collect the tobacco and deliver it in casks ready for sale. A boxed compartment for receiving tobacco was built in Old Christ Church. In 1680 Rev. Benjamin was able to buy 350 acres of land from George Flowers. This land he willed to his three sons Benjamin, Richard, and William "unless they marry before the age of two and twenty." Three children Richard, William, and Anne were born in Virginia. The old English custom

of mourning rings was observed by Rev. Benjamin as he directed his wife Jane to buy a mourning ring and set aside 20 lbs. in his will for Mr. Thomas Marlin and Mr. Jo Mullin to buy mourning rings when he passed away. He also directed that his body be buried under the chancel of St. Mary's White Chapel.

According to wills found in Virginia State Archives the three sons of Reverend Benjamin left 17 descendants. Christ Church Parish included part of both Lancaster and Northumberland Counties and consequently we find the family scattering as it married and settled. Richard 1670-1721 married Elizabeth Bushrod and left two sons Bushrod and George. William 1676-1718 left one son William and daughter Jane. Benjamin the oldest son who was born in England 1664 and died in 1723 was married twice and had 13 sons and daughters. We do not find the name of his first wife mentioned but his second wife was Mary Thraikill a widow. His second son John mentioned in his will is the ancestor from whom this family descended. We do not have the exact date of his birth but think it was 1700 as he first paid his tithe along with his father and brother Benjamin in 1717, according to Mr. Thomas Carter's list of tithables in St. Mary's White Parish. Many old vestry books were lost or destroyed therefore marriage and birth dates can only be estimated from wills and court records. John Doggett married Mary and settled in Northumberland County in Christ Church Parish where he died in 1739 leaving his wife, Mary and four small children, Elizabeth, John, Benjamin, and William.

In Northumberland Court Record Book Y 1738-1743 pages 68-69 "Appraisement of estate of John Doggett" was returned before Court of Northumberland Co Va. Feb. 11-1739—Mary Doggett Adm.

Appraisers

James Garner
A. Haynie
Sam Winsted

Articles mentioned besides his produce corn, tobacco, cows, hogs, sheep were

2 slaves Dick and Sary	spinning wheel
parcel of leather	25 lbs feathers
parcel of books	16 lbs good pewter
earthen ware	2 beds and 3 chairs
woolen cloth	chest and 2 tables
1 hat	skillet and frying pan
piggin and a pail	14 lbs old pewter
sewing cotton	gun and powder
wooden ware	some lumber
1 pr buckles	

In Northumberland Co. Record Book 3-1753-1756 we find that Mary Doggett is now Mary Garner and that she received pay for board, schooling, and clothing for orphans of John Doggett. Elizabeth the daughter was married to George Learfere Brown and is not mentioned in this record. A list of purchases for the orphans as given by the mother is most interesting as the items mentioned have names never heard any more, in fact mean very little to modern readers.

Item	Price
3 yds. country cloth	36 lbs tobacco
1 hat	14 lbs tobacco

2 yds. Striped Holland	22½ lbs tobacco
1 pr. Stockings	15 lbs tobacco
2 yds. Oznabrigs	10 lbs tobacco
2½ yds. Spriggs	15 lbs tobacco
2½ yds. D*	16½ lbs tobacco
To Sam O. for schooling	60 lbs. tobacco

Benjamin was evidently the baby of the family judging from the amount of goods purchased for him compared to John and William. Benjamin required 2 and 3 yards of material while John and William got 5 and 10 yards. Benjamin did not have shoes, irish linen, shalloon and pennestone bought for him. Board for the orphans was 600 lbs of tobacco per year. Benjamin and William were still not 21 when the first division of John Doggett's estate was made in 1755. Therefore we estimate that the oldest son John was 21 also the sister Elizabeth. William was probably born in 1736 and Benjamin the youngest the year his father died, 1738. We find Benjamin's signature on a petition to dissolve Christ Church Parrish and form a new one in 1759 because of debt incurred by former vestry men.

James Garner and Mary Doggett had one son James Garner Jr. born in 1748 and registered in Christ Church Parish Register of Births.

In the same register we find other births recorded that are related to the family.

Ann Doggett Brown—born to George and Elizabeth Brown 1754

Hannah Webb—born to John and Hannah Webb July 3, 1747

Lucy Webb—born to John and Winnefred Webb September 14, 1751

Isaac Webb—born to John and Winnefred Webb May 31, 1753

Hannah Webb married Benjamin Doggett and Lucy Webb married his half-brother James Garner Jr. John Doggett the oldest of the orphans of John Doggett married Ann Garner his step sister.

Mary Doggett Garner died in 1766 leaving the following will recorded in Northumberland Court Record January 12, 1767.

MARY GARNER — WILL — 1767 — Northumberland Co.

In the name of God Amen, I Mary Garner of St. Stephen's Parish County of Northumberland and Colony of Virginia, widow, being very sick & weak of body, but of perfect sence and memory thanks be to Almighty God for the same, and considering the uncertainty of this mortal life do think it necessary to make this my last will in manner and form following Viz.

Item, I give my soul to Almighty God that gave it me, hoping through the merits of my blessed Saviour Jesus Christ to have Remission of all my sins, and my body to the Earth from whence it came to be decently buried at the Discretion of my Exors hereafter mentioned.

Item, I give to my daughter Elizabeth Brown one shilling sterling.

Item, I give to my son John Doggett one shilling sterling.

Item, I give to my son William Doggett one shilling sterling.

Item, I give to my son Benjamin Doggett one shilling sterling and four Barrels of Indian Corn to them my aforesaid children & to their heirs forever, they

nor none of them to have any other part or parcel of my estate of what kind and quality soever.

Item, I give all the rest of my Estate be it of what kind or quality soever, after my just debts & funeral expenses are paid to my son James Garner and his heirs forever.

And lastly I appoint my good Friends & Neighbours Mr. William Thomas Junr & Mr. William Oldham to be my executors, managers & overlookers of my Estate. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale in Northumberland County this 17th day of August 1766.

Mary her
mark Garner

Sealed & Deliver'd in
Presence of Joseph Powers
George Garner, George Oldham

My desire is that my daughter Elizabeth Brown may have have all my waring cloths, except what I have already given. And also my saddle & Bonnett I desire Anne Doggett may have.

Recorded Jan. 12, 1766

THE DOGGETT FAMILY IN PIEDMONT VIRGINIA 1769 to 1832

After the death of Mary Garner we do not have further record of her son William Doggett nor her daughter Elizabeth Brown as no mention of them is found in records of Mecklinburg County Records. We do not know exactly when these related families of Webbs, Garners, and Doggetts moved to Lunenburg and Mecklinburg Counties in Piedmont Virginia, nor the dates and places of marriages of John Doggett and Anne Garner, of Benjamin Doggett and Hannah Webb, and James Garner, Jr., and Lucy Webb.

Examinations of old Deed Books of Mecklinburg County, Va. show that John Doggett was the first of this family to move into the county.

1763 — Deed Book 5 page 33

John Doggett bought land of Robert Christopher on Irbys Brauch
200 acres for 100 lbs.

1764 — John Doggett listed 2 tithes

1765 — John Doggett was ordered to survey road from Robinsons Road to Old Court House. The Old Court House stood then in what is now Chase City, Va.

1769 — Book 2, p. 284 Mecklinburg Co., Va. Benjamin Doggett of the same county bought 180 acres of land for 50 lbs. from Conway Garner, land lying on branch of Bluestone Creek.

1769 — On the same day James Garner bought 101 acres of land from Conway Garner for 60 lbs.

John Doggett witnessed both deeds.

Court record showed that Conway Garner owed money to Benjamin Doggett and James Garner.

1776 -- John Doggett bought land of Jeremiah Lamkin
200 acres on Bluestone 100 lbs.
Witness James Garner, Benjamin Doggett

1778 -- Benjamin Doggett bought land of Griffin Smith
120 acres for 100 lbs.

The Doggett, Garner and Webb families followed the migration west from Tidewater, Virginia, to Piedmont, Va. as did so many other families. Lunenburg County was formed in 1745 and was called Southside as it lay south of the James River. It was also called the "Old Free State." William Byrd built Bluestone Castle in Lunenburg and after that many families moved in. In 1750 hardly a path or road existed and wolves were a menace. The population of Virginia when Rev. Benjamin came to Lancaster County was about 40,000. By 1750 it was 284,000. Much hard work and many privations faced those early settlers in Piedmont. New religious influences came with migration and strong Baptist and Methodist influence came to the Episcopal Doggetts. There was strife over paying tithes to the Church of England, over marriages performed by Baptist and Methodist ministers. Records were not well kept and a lot of confusion existed. Families had to be dependent upon their own resources for everyday necessities. The Doggett family held closely together witnessing deeds, acting as sureties for marriages. Mecklinburg and Charlotte Counties were cut off from Lunenburg County in 1754 and it is in these counties along Bluestone Creek that the Doggetts settled and were busy on their farms when Revolution came in 1776. Much was required of each farm. John Doggett furnished 600 lbs. of beef, Benjamin furnished 300 lbs. John Webb of Lunenburg Co. furnished corn. We have no record of active service in army.

After the War John Doggett and Anne his wife sold their 400 acres of land to Edward Loafman and moved to Georgia in 1790. This left Benjamin Doggett and his half brother James Garner and their families the only representatives of the family in Piedmont Va.

The Doggett listed on page 637 paragraph 6508 in Doggett-Daggett History by Samuel Bradlee Doggett is this same John Doggett who was born in Northumberland Co., Va. moved to Mecklinburg Co., Va. in 1763 then to Columbia County Georgia in 1790. See DAR record of Mrs. Ione Forester of 3342 7th St. Port Arthur Texas.

The Doggetts of Guilford County, N. C. are descended from Benjamin Doggett who settled on Bluestone Creek in 1769 and from his oldest Son John who bought land in Charlotte County across Bluestone Creek in 1809. The Census record of Mecklenburg County, Va. lists 1790 Benjamin Doggett 11 in family 4 slaves.

We are unable to account for more than 10 members of Benjamin's family but it is likely some member of the family was living with Benjamin at that time but not mentioned in his family records.

The next Census record shows

1820 Benjamin Doggett	9 in family
	19 slaves

This Census record also shows his two oldest sons married with families of their own.

1820 Benjamin Doggett Jr. 5 in family
2 slaves

1820 John Doggett in Charlotte Co. Va.
6 in family 3 slaves.

Benjamin Doggett born Northumberland County Va. 1738, moved to Mecklinburg Co. Va. 1769 died in Mecklinburg Co. 1822 and is buried at Bethel Baptist Church in Skipwith District in an unmarked grave in Doggetts Row. Large stones mark the old graves but no inscription is visible. Benjamin left no will but his estate was inventoried in 1822 and again in 1826.

Hannah Webb Doggett died in 1825 leaving no will. Her estate was inventoried and certain amounts paid into estate of Benjamin.

John Webb of Lunenburg Co. died in 1794 and left a will in which he names his daughters Hannah Doggett and Lucy Garner.

Benjamin Doggett and Hannah Webb had three sons, John, Benjamin and Tapley and five daughters, Elizabeth, Lucy, Rebecca, Leannah and Lucinda. Tapley, Elizabeth, Leannah and Lucy died unmarried. Rebecca married Thomas Gregory and Lucinda married William Garner. Lucy Doggett died in 1841 leaving a will recorded in Book 15 p. 382.

Names of those sharing in her estate

Widow of John Doggett—Milly
Children of Nancy Gregory now Dodson
Children of Brother Benjamin
Children of Lucinda Garner
Children of Rebecca Gregory
Brother Tapley
Sister Leannah

Leannah Doggett died in 1862 and left a will recorded in Book 20 p 358. Leannah willed about 25 slaves and names brother Tapley and sisters and all nieces and nephews.

Tapley Doggett died in 1864 and left a will leaving all to nieces and nephews. Benjamin Doggett and John Doggett married sisters, Mary Clarke and Mildred Clarke daughters of Shadrack Clarke and Rebecca Crymes. Benjamin and Mary lived on land adjoining the old home of his father and had seven sons and one daughter Elizabeth who died young. The sons were

Jordan—drowned in Troublesome Creek near Reidsville, N. C.
Dodson Durrell—lost arm in Civil War
Asa David—Served in Civil War
William—poisoned by slaves
Joseph Bedford—married Lucy Barnes
Judson Bennet—married Mary Claiborne
Edward Lee—married Mrs. Redd

Judson Bennet served in a hospital unit during the Civil War. He lived on a farm about six miles from Boydston, Va. His old home with its garden still stands and in 1940 was occupied by two of his daughters, Miss Sue Doggett age 63 and Miss Cicily Davis Doggett age 60. William Doggett their brother lived on an adjoining farm. He was the father of six girls all members of a Seventh Day Adventist Colony in Washington, D. C.

VIRGINIA ANCESTORS

FIRST GENERATION

Reverend Benjamin Doggett

Born in England about 1635

Married Jane

Died Lancaster Co. Va. 1682

Buried under Chancel of St. Mary's White Chapel

Children:

Jane

William

Benjamin

Anne

Richard

SECOND GENERATION

Benjamin Doggett

Born in England 1664

Died Lancaster Co., Va., 1723

Married—First wife not named

Children named in Will, Va. Archives:

Benjamin

Hannah

John

Ann

William

Margaret

Elizabeth

Jane

Married Mary Thraikill 1712 — Widow of Christopher

Children:

Thomas

Mary

Reuben

Winnefred

THIRD GENERATION

John Doggett

Born Lancaster Co. Va. 1700

Died Northumberland Co. Va. 1739

Married Mary

Children named in Will of Mary Doggett Garner:

Elizabeth

William

John

Benjamin

Wife Mary married James Garner

James Garner, Jr., born 1748, registered Christ Church.

Mary Doggett Garner died 1767, Northumberland Co., Va.

FOURTH GENERATION

Benjamin Doggett

Born Northumberland Co. Va, about 1738

Died Mecklenburg Co. Va. 1821

Buried Bethel Baptist Church, Skipwith, Va.

Unmarked grave in Doggett Row.

Married Hanna Webb born July 3, 1747

daughter of John Webb—registered in Christ Church Parish.

Children:

Elizabeth	Rebecca age 55—U. S. Census 1850
Lucy	Leannah age 60
John	Taplèy age 65
Benjamin	Lucinda age 50

FIFTH GENERATION

John Doggett

Born Mecklenburg Co. Va. about 1780

Died Charlotte Co. Va. March 27, 1827

Married Mildred Clarke 1810, daughter of Shadrack Clark and Mildred Crymes.

Born Lunenburg Co. Va. April 6, 1793

Children all born in Charlotte Co. Va.:

Rebecca, born 1811

James William, born Oct. 7, 1813

George Thomas, born July 21, 1816

John, born March 3, 1819