

MORTON FAMILY OF HENRICO, PRINCE EDWARD AND BRUNSWICK COUNTIES, VIRGINIA

By James Walter Allen

This family of patriots has been long neglected by historians as well as by those who should be in possession of its magnificent achievements in establishing the nation.

With a view of eliciting further interest in the family heritage and adding to the membership rolls of our many patriotic societies, the following data concerning the Morton Family is respectfully submitted:

John Morton

The records of Henrico Co. Va. (Book I (1677-1692) p. 225 archives) show that John Morton married Joane Hughes, widow, in 1682.

In 1700 John Morton transferred 200 acres of land in Chickahominy Swamp to William Randolph, being 1 moiety or one half of the tract he bought of John Woodson "where I now live." (D B 1697-1704 p. 192 Henrico 1700), also vol. 4 p. 1961 val. papers 1698.

In 1720 John Randolph of York Co. Va. transferred to Thomas Moreton, Joseph Moreton and John Moreton of Henrico planters 436 acres for 32 lbs, on South Side of white oak swamp to be divided as follows: Thomas Moreton 212 acres next to Chickahominy swamp; Joseph Moreton 112 acres next adjoining and the remaining 112 acres to John Moreton, which descended to him from his deceased Father William Randolph—(Valentine rec. vol. 3 p. 1375). In will of Capt. William Randolph 1713—(Val. papers vol. 3, p. 1368-9), sons John and Richard are given all 3 tracts bought of John Woodson, Sam Knibbs and John Morton estimated at 900 acres on Chickahominy; son Richard the upper part and son John the lower part. In this deed William Randolph Joseph Royal Jr. and Henry Wood signs lease and release (B1719-1724 p. 36 1720).

This John Woodson is son of John Woodson who died in 1684,—Woodsons history says his wife was unknown, but he married Sarah the widow of John Brown. In 1677 (Henrico Co. rec. 1677-1692) John Woodson presented account of estate belonging to orphans of John Brown deceased, wife of said Woodson and mother of said orphans and with consent of said John this his wife Sarah Woodson shall have in her care the estate belonging to said orphans, (Abel Gower and John Clark securities.) Jeremiah Brown being of age in 1684. Temperance Batte wife of Thomas Batte (in 1688) and Solomon Knibbs (in 1704) son of Sam Knibbs all asked for, and got their portion of the late John Brown estate.

In 1681 John Woodson married orphan of Samuel Tucker (probably Mary) (p. 155). Samuel Tuckers widow married John Pleasants. Her maiden name was Jane Larcom. She died 1708. John Pleasants died 1698—(Val. papers vol. 2 p. 1078). (& W&M Q. vol. 11 p. 51).

In 1698 (Rec. 1697-1704 p. 97) John Woodson Sr. of Henrico Co. for 2000 lbs. of tobacco transferred lands to John Morton—(details not legible). John Morton had at least 3 sons as will appear from land transfers later on as follows: