

**A HISTORY AND GENEALOGY  
OF  
THE COCKRUM FAMILY  
IN AMERICA**

by

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**GENEALOGICAL DEPARTMENT  
CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

*Let not ambition mock their useful toil,  
Their humble joys, and destiny obscure;  
Nor grandeur hear with a disdainful smile  
The short and simple annals of the poor.*

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*James Cockrum line*

In 1703-04, Joseph Cockerham of King William Co. sold 800 acres of land, 600 acres to Robert Byrd, and 200 acres to his son, William. In 1717 Christopher Smith and William Cockerham received a grant of land in Reedy Swamp, Caroline County, adjoining King William County. Henry Cockerham bought 400 acres of land in King William County on May 15, 1737. In 1743 Henry sold a portion of this land to his brother, John Cockerham, and John's son Philip. These same three men would be later found in Lunenburg County.

In November, 1769, Cumberland Parish of Lunenburg Co., Va., paid one Henry Cockram 10 shillings for installing a tub in a spring at the Reedy Creek Church. Early records show many Cockerhams holding land in Lunenburg County, and after Mecklenburg County was divided from Lunenburg, also in that County. Records show that this Henry also spelled his name Cockerham, which was the accepted spelling for those who were literate.

In 1685 two brothers, James Cockram, age 21, and John, age 18, became involved in the Monmouth Rebellion in England. They were probably simple country boys of southwest England who were caught up in events which surrounded them. When the Duke of Monmouth was beheaded by order of his uncle, James II, Monmouth's rank-and-file were condemned to death by hanging, drawing, and quartering, as befitted felons and traiters against the crown. Monmouth's officers met this fate, the ranks being commuted to service of ten years' penal indenturehood in the colonies. Many were shipped to Barbados, Antigua, and the "Sugar Islands" to work in the cane fields; James and John Cockram seem to have ended up in Barbados. Their sale identified them as "combers".

In 1711 the will of one Hugh Cockran of Collston, S.C. was filed, showing a wife, Elizabeth (Edwards), daughter of William Edwards, a son, William Edwards Cockran, and a daughter, Mary. William Edwards Cockran married Harriet Bryan and had sons Hugh (d. 1759), William (d. 1757), and sons Jonathan and James born after 1730, and daughter Elizabeth born after 1733.

In September 1758, the Virginia Assembly paid Peter Cockran 5 pounds for a horse killed in the Shawnee Expedition.

On October 16, 1765, an effort was made to garnishee the wages of a Virginia soldier, Peter Cockran, to recover 8 pounds owed by his wife. This was in Augusta Co. This same Peter, originally a Pennsylvanian, in 1768, after three years of litigation, sold 32 acres of land for 120 pounds to give a neighbor access to his other land.

The Bounty Act of 1761, in effect, encouraged free emigration from the British Isles to the Colonies by offering paid transport, a small cash subsidy, and 100 acres of land. On Oct. 26, 1766, one David Cockran (from Ireland) arrived and was paid a bounty and given 100 acres of land. Benjamin Cockran age 20, arrived aboard the Admiral Hawke, John McAdam, master, on Jan. 5, 1768. This was the Benjamin Cockrum active in the Mecklenburg (N.C.) Regulators just prior to the Revolution. On Jan. 23, 1773 arrived aboard the Britannia, Jane, Hugh, Martha, Agnes, and Margaret Cochran. John Cochran arrived Jan. 6, 1773 aboard the Pennsylvania Farmer. All were given free passage, a small cash bounty, and 100 acres of land each. All were described as "poor Irish Protestants from Londonderry". Again, probably more Scotch than Irish, and from stock planted in Ulster the previous century by Cromwell. Charleston, S.S. was the port of debarkation. These Cockrums, however the spelling, were a tiny part of the great wave that was known in American History as the "Scotch-Irish Migration".

#### COCKRUMS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

It is an old axiom that the comfortably well-to-do are conservatives, and the poverty-ridden have-nots are easily excited to revolution. The Cockrums were not affluent, most being poor backwoodsmen by the time of the Revolution. In large numbers they flocked to the recruiting center when the colonies revolted against England. A list of Cockrums allied spellings who served in the Revolutionary forces has been given from Gwathmey's Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution, Dietz Press, Richmond, and The American Genealogical and Biographical, v. 31, Middleton, Conn., 1960.

1. Cockram, Daniel, 1747, Va. Mil. filed for land bounty after Rev. (Cockram).
2. Cockram, Henry, 1747, 2nd Va. Regt. (Cockran, Cockron, Cockrum).
3. Cockram, John, 1752, N.C. War Records, N.C. (Cockran).
4. Cockram, Samuel, 1747, Cpl. 1st, 10th Va. Regts, Va. Rev. War Recds. (Cockran, Cockrum). Land warrant no. 1998.
5. Cockram, William, Va. Mil. Sgt. 1st, 10th, & 14th Regts of Cont. Line. (Cockran, Cockrum).
6. Cockran, Abner, 1757, Pvt, mss. Revol. War Records.
7. Cockran, Adam, 1757, Pvt, mss. Revol. War Records.
8. Cockran, Bacchus, 1757, Pvt, mss. Revol. War Records.
9. Cockran, Benjamin, 1757, Capt. Chas. Polk's Co., N.C. Militia.
10. Cockran, Charles, 1747, Va. Revol. War Records.
11. Cockran, Daniel, 1757, Va. Mil. Rev. Recds; 7th Va. Regt. Appld. for land.
12. Cockran, David, Cpl. 3d & 4th Va. Rgt. of Cont. Line. (Cockrum)
13. Cockran, Dennis, 1747, Va. Rev. War Records. Infantry.
14. Cockran, Edward, 1747, Va. Mil., Clark's Illinois Regiment.
15. Cockran, George, 1747, Va. Mil., Clark's Illinois Regiment.
16. Cockran, James, Ensign, 1747, Va. Mil. Records.
17. Cockran, John, 1747, 5th Va. Regt. of Continental Line.
18. Cockran, John, 1757, mss, Pvt. Deserter; Revol. War Records.
19. Cockran, John, mss, Seaman, Revol. War Records.
20. Cockran, Matthew, 1747, Va. Mil. Ga. pensioner, pension no. 532118. Lived in S.C. 1790; in Lincoln Co. Ky. 1800; Morgan Co. Ga. 1820-46. Age list is wrong. Matthew b. about 1760.
21. Cockran, Obadiah, 1747, vet. of 5th & 11th Va. Regts. of Cont. Line. (Cockrum). Served Valley Forge, Monmouth, White Plains, Georgia Campaigns.
22. Cockran, Simon, 1747, Va. Mil. Revol. War Records. (Cockren)
23. Cockran, Thomas, N.C. Revol. War Records.
24. Cockran, Tobias, N.J. Pvt. Revol. War Records, N.J.
25. Cockran, William, 1757, N.Y. Revol. Muster Rolls.
26. Cockrans, Joseph, 1747, Va. Mil. Revol. War Records.
27. Cockrem, Daniel, 1757, N.Y. Revol. War Records.
28. Cockrem, Thomas, 1757, N.Y. Revol. War Records.
29. Cockren, Edward, 1747, Va. Mil. Revol. War Records.
30. Cockrin, Patrick, 1757, mss, Revol. War Records.
31. Cockron, Peter, 1747, Cpl. Va. Mil. Revol. War Records.
32. Cockrum, Richens, Capt. Scott's Co., Recorded in War Dept.
33. Cockrum, Squire, 1757, Pvt., N.J. Mil. Revol. War Records.
34. Cockrum, William, 1757, Pvt., N.J. Mil. Revol. War Records.
35. Cockrum, William, 1767, Drummerboy, 8th Va. Cont. Regt. of Line. Served in Carolinas and Georgia under Gates and Greene in Co. of Capt. Clarendon or McClannan, and in Regt. of Col. Hammond. Was at Camden, Charlotte, and at Yorktown. Drew pension of \$80 per yr (file designation no. SC 30962).

# THE COCKERHAMS (COCKRUM, COCKRAM) OF DORSET, ENG. AND SURRY CO., VIRGINIA.

William Cockerham, b. 1593, in Dorset, England, registered his pedigree there in 1623, at the time of the Heralds' Visitation to Dorset. He registered five generations, including three generations prior to himself, his own generation, and the children he then had.

1. George Cockerham of Hunington in com. Devon.

1. George Cockerham of Collington in Devon.

2. William Cockerham of Purbeck in Dorset. (Purbeck is an isle off Dorset) m.m. Alice, daughter of Thomas Covell of Wichampton in Dorset.

1. William Cockerham, son and heir b. 1593.

m. Anne, daughter of William Wall

1. Catherine Cockerham b. 1617; 2. Mary Cockerham b. 1619.

2. Dennis Cockerham b. 1601.

While the early generations are undated, computing 25 yrs to a generation pushes George Cockerham of Hunington in Devon back nearly to 1500 and clearly connects the Dorset Cockerhams with those of Devon, who usually appear spelled Cockram. The same William Cockerham who registered the pedigree in Dorset in 1623 migrated to Virginia in 1639 from out of Isle of Wight aboard the ship Robert Eley. His landing is recorded under Cockrum" but thereafter he spells it "Cockerham". He is listed as "Captain" William Cockerham, holding a county office in Isle of Wight County, a., in 1663. "Lt. Wm. Cockerham" patented 1230 acres of land in Surry Co. on Feb. 27, 1656 "on the SW side of James River behind Hog Island Marsh, adjacent John Bland, William Caufield, to head of David William's land hence to Nicholas Spencer's deer field, 1100 acres due as marrying the daughter of Mr. William Spencer", and 130 acres for transportation of three persons. "On May 14, 1666, he and Charles Barham patented 850 acres for the transportation of 17 persons, among whom were John and Mary Cockerham, probably William's children." (taken from Historical Southern Families, v. iii, Boddie, p. 184.) Since John is ignored in Capt. Wm. Cockerham's will, and a younger son by Ann Spencer, his 2nd wife, married in Virginia, was declared "eldest son and heir", John is not Capt. William's son, but more likely a nephew or cousin. William Spencer, ancient planter, came over with Capt. Christopher Newport in the "Sarah Constant" in 1607. He was Burgess from Mulberry Island in 1624 and 1632. Ann Spencer, daughter of William, married William Cockerham. Her sister, Elizabeth, had married Major Robert Sheppard, Burgess for James City 1648-50, and on Sept. 7, 1654, he wrote a note to her "Dear Brother Cockerham", signing it "your loving sister, Elizabeth Sheppard". William Cockerham started as Lieutenant of Militia and rose to Colonel of the Surry Regt. He was Burgess for Surry 1663 and 1665, and died May 13, 1669, at which time Robert Spencer and others gave bond for the guardianship of his orphaned sons, William and Thomas.

William (II) Cockerham (1659-1707), declared of full age Nov. 2, 1680, as "eldest son and heir" of Capt. William Cockerham and Anne, his wife", made deed Sept. 3, 1688. He married prior to July 3, 1686, (1) Hannah \_\_\_\_\_, who joined in a deed of that date, and (2) Mary \_\_\_\_\_. His will was dated July 1, 1706, probated March 4, 1706, mentions brother Thomas, wife Mary, and son William, under age in 1706. Wm. II and brother Thomas were Surry footsoldier in the Bacon Rebellion of 1687. Thomas, brother of Wm. II, gave receipt to John Fenley for his portion of his father's estate Nov. 2, 1686. He made his will Jan. 17, 1709, probated May 15, 1717. He named wife Elizabeth, Grandson Samuel Benson, under 21, son Timothy, and daughters Ann and Priscilla. There seems no record of this family in Surry after 1717.

Family report has it that Col. Wm. Wynne moved from Surry to Lunenburg and brought with him as members of his household Wm. III Cockerham and Henry Cockerham. Wm. III is reputed to have married Mary Winn, daughter

of Col. Wynne. This "family tradition" seems to have appeared first in Boddie's works, and has since been repeated in other works, including Paul Minff's Life of the Cockerham Family (the descent of William Winn Cockerham). Certainly there was a Cockerham-Winn Marriage, more likely to Henry than to William III. And there is no evidence that William III ever lived in Lunenburg County. Mary Gregg of Memphis, traces all the Lunenburg Cockerhams from the brothers, Henry and John, who came there from King William County. She thinks Joseph of King William County might be their father, although they do not show in his will. It seems more likely that they descended from the John Cockerham who was brought to Virginia in 1666 by Capt. Wm. (I) Cockerham, or from Matthew Cockrum, tenant farmer of Norfolk in 1669.

In November 1769, Cumberland Parish of Lunenburg Co., Va. paid one Henry Cockram 10 shillings for installing a tub in a spring of the Reedy Creek Church. This was certainly Henry Cockerham. Early records show many Cockerhams holding land in that part of Lunenburg Co. which became Mecklenburg Co. in 1765, and also in that of Reedy Creek in Lunenburg. Henry (I) Cockerham's will, dated Sept. 19, 1754, mentions his wife Elizabeth, son William Winn Cockerham, and daughters Frances and Susannah Cockrum. Henry Cockerham was among the Colonial soldiers of Lunenburg in 1754 serving against the French and Indians.

William Winn Cockerham, son of Henry, was married about 1767 to Edith Lavinia Stone, daughter of Richard and Mary Stone. Edith gave him 11 children before she died. On June 20, 1794, William married (2) Nancy Estes, daughter of Elisha Estes, by which marriage he had three additional children. On Jan. 9, 1800, William Winn Cockerham sold the farm on Reedy Creek which he had inherited from his father, and he, Nancy, and fourteen children (some already married) migrated to Laurens Co., Pendleton Dist., S.C. There it is reported that William Winn Cockerham died in 1818. However, a Revolutionary soldier named William Cockrum who was born in 1747 and who served from Henry Co., Va., died in Clark Co., Ala. in 1819. The facts in the pension application fit the known facts concerning Wm. Winn Cockerham. Moreover, a great-granddaughter stated that her great-grandfather changed his name-spelling to Cochran in Alabama. Scattered records illustrate clearly that this family ran the full gamut of spelling of the surname. In various places are found the spellings of Cockerham, Cockeran, Cockurum, Cochran, Cockram, and Cockrum. William Winn Cockerham (Cockrum, Cockram, Cochran) born Lunenburg Co., Va. 1748; died Clark Co., Ala. 1819, age 71. Rev. Sgt. A. Regt. Served 3 yrs, incl. White Plains and Valley Forge. Pensioned Sept. 22, 1819. Annual pension \$96. d. Dec. 12, 1819. Revolutionary Pensioners, v. XIV, Senate Doc. 514, 1st sess., 1833-34. His children follow: 1. Littleberry Cockerham b. ca. 1768. Living Edgefield Co., S.C. 1840. m. Polly Wilkes June 11, 1789; b. Virginia ca. 1770.

Children were Elizabeth, Frances, and others.

2. Letty Cockerham m. Thomas Wren.

3. John Cockerham Sr. b. 1770. Died Amite Co., Miss. Sept. 10, 1843. In 1840 a man reputed to be age 90-100 was living with John Cockerham Jr. in Amite Co., Miss. Present descendants believe this age. It is impossible, as John Cockerham Sr. would then be older than his own father.

1. John Cockerham Jr. b. 1810-20; wife b. 1820-25. Other children of John Sr. were Henry, David, Elizabeth, Nancy, Ann, Thomas, Judy, Phoebe.

Children of Thomas Cockerham were Elizabeth, Henry, Ivy, Cynthia, and Saphronie.

Son of Ivy Cockrum (m. 1. James S. Martin; m. (2) Mrs. Euwice Albritton) was Wm. Riley Cockrum who married Amanda Brown.

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