

## GRIFFIS OF SUSSEX

Thomas Griffis, the first of his family in Sussex, was deeded land in Prince George and Surry (later Sussex) as follows: "John Nickeels, late of Va., now of the London merchants, deeds to Thomas Griffis of Va., in consideration of £ 100, sterling, paid by Mr. Robert Hodson for Mr. Thomas Griffis, 450 acres, lying part in Surry and part in Prince George, north side of main Blackwater Swamp. (P.G. 1714-28, p. 206).

Travis Morris, later mentioned in Thomas Griffis' will as his "brother in law" was also deeded land in Prince George about the same time as Thomas Griffis. It is difficult to tell whether Morris married Griffis' sister or that Griffis married his sister. Griffis had a son named "Travis" and Morris had a son named "Griffis".

On Dec. 12, 1715, William Short and Elizabeth, his wife, of P. G. Parish of Wyanoke, deeded Travis Morris of the same 100 acres along the line of Mr. Richard Pidgeon and Thomas Adams, then to mouth of Cross Creek. Wits. Wm. Bishop, Robert Short, Thomas Harrison. (do. -86)

Thomas Griffis appointed his wife and his brother-in-law, Travis Morris, executrix and executor of his estate, so he probably married, Mary, sister of Travis Morris. He moved to Surry County where he died in 1726. His will was dated April 8, 1726, and probated Sept. 21, 1726, as follows: "to wife Mary land and plantation extending to Frenchman's Branch; son Thomas land on other side of Branch, also Troopers arms and saddle; sons Edward and Travis 100 acres of land on Three Creeks in Isle of Wight to be equally divided; son John all land in Prince George; daus. Jane, Mary and Elizabeth, personalty. Wife and brother-in-law Travis Morris to be executors. Wife to have care of children until 21. Wits: Edward Holloway, Thos. Eldridge." (Bk. 7, p. 649).

His widow, Mary, married Gilbert Hay, for on Oct. 19, 1726, inventory of his estate was presented by Mary Hay, executrix. (Bk. 7, p. 650). Gilbert Hay, who had no children, evidently raised his young step-children and survived his wife. His will was probated in Surry April 18, 1758. (Wills 1754-58, part 1, p. 138). He seems to have given his step-children property inherited from their mother and then remembered his own relatives.

He gave to his "son-in-law" (step-son) John Griffis 2 negroes; "to Thomas Griffis, son of Edward Griffis, my plantation in Sussex whereon Edward Griffis now lives with 125 acres of land. \*\*\* To Betty Prince, wife of Nicholas Prince, the labor of 3 negroes during her life, also feather bed, rug, a mare and filly and a chest. To my cousin (nephew) Gilbert Hay, son of Charles Hay, 125 acres in Sussex joining the land I first gave Thomas Griffis, it being the lower end of my land. \*\*\* To Nathan Prince one negro girl after his mother's decease. \*\*\* To Nicholas Prince one negro boy, after his mother's decease; To Jane Jarrett, wife of Nicholas Jarrett my negro boy Robin. To my sister Ruth Slowman, wife of William Slowman, a negro boy. To Stephen Johnson one feather bed, etc. To James Holloway, son of John Holloway, my best horse. To Mary Weaver, wife of Edward Weaver, a negro girl. To Edith Griffis, dau. of Thomas Griffis, feather bed, etc. To brother Richard Hay my still. To Betty Tatum, one negro boy. Rest of estate not devised to be sold and proceeds equally divided among my godchildren, Gilbert Hay, Lucy Cotton, Richard Corlisby, Jane Jarrett, Stephen Johnson, James Holloway, Lucy Griffis and Betty Prince. Exrs., Edward Weaver, James Holloway. Wits. Wm. Cooke, James Cooke, John Johnson.

#### Children of Thomas and Mary Griffis:

- I. Thomas, made his will in Sussex in 1764.
- II. Edward, m. Catherine \_\_\_\_\_. Gilbert Hay gave his son Thomas a plantation. Edward Griffis' will was probated 1763, on Jan. 4th. He mentions his wife, Catharine, and son, Thomas Griffis. Wit. Henry Ivey, Richard Hay, Frances Hay.

#### Children from Register:

1. Thomas, b. Sept. 5, 1749.
2. Edward, b. Dec. 26, 1753.
3. John, b. Feb. 2, 1755.
4. William, b. Mar. 8, 1758.
5. Ede, b. Mar. 26, 1761.

#### III. John, lived in Prince George.

- IV. Travis, m. Ann, dau. of John SLEDGE. He patented 146 acres in Sussex in 1756.

#### Children from Register:

1. Rebecca, b. April 29, 1751.
2. Allen, b. Nov. 16, 1758.
3. Joshua, b. Mar. 9, 1762.

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V. Jane, m. Nicholas Jarrett.

**Children from Register:**

1. Mary, b. Dec. 18, 1750.
2. Lucy, b. June 6, 1753.
3. Henry, b. Sept. 12, 1755.
4. Nancy, b. Oct. 16, 1762.

VI. Mary, m. Edward Weaver, son of John Weaver and  
COOK. Edward Weaver's will was probated in  
 1772.

**Children from Register:**

1. Edward, b. Feb. 7, 1738, will pro. 1777.
2. Susanna, b. June 6, 1741.
3. Travis, b. Mar. 18, 1743.
4. Amy, b. Sept. 17, 1746.
5. Lucy, b. Sept. 29, 1749.
6. William, b. Nov. 16, 1752.
7. Winney, b. Oct. 12, 1755.
8. John, b. Feb. 26, 1760.

VII. Elizabeth, m. Nicholas PRINCE. Two children, Nathan  
 and Nicholas Prince are mentioned in Gilbert Hay's will.

**EXPLANATION  
 of the  
 PECHE-CORNISH-EVERARD-MILDMAY CHART**

The Peche family became Barons by writ in the time of Edward I, and therefore are shown in the Peerage of England. Also, they were Knights in the days of Edward I and appear in the "Knights of King Edward", published by the Harleian Society.

Hamon Peche, who died about 1185, married Alice, daughter of Robert Peverell. She was the second of four sisters who became co-heirs of their brother, William Peverell. (The Complete Peerage by G. E. Cokayne, vol. X, p. 333) (Knts. King Ed. I, Harl Soc. Vol. 83, p. 23).

Gilbert Peche, his eldest son, who died in 1212, married Alice, daughter of Walter Fitz Robert and sister of Robert Fitzwalter, the famous Magna Carta Baron.

Hamon, son of Gilbert, died in 1241. He married "Eve, a foreigner". (G. E. C.)

Gilbert Peche, their son, married first, Maude de Hastings, secondly Joan, daughter of Simon de Creye and widow of Richard de Dover. (do). Maude de Hastings was the elder daughter of

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