James Westbrook

* + 1630 - England
	+ *Marriage:* 3 Jan 1697 - Henrico, Virginia, United States
	+ *Death:* 11 Jun 1717 - Virginia, United States
	+ *Parents:* Thomas Westbrook, Joane Aylett
	+ *Spouse:* Elizabeth Puckett

This is an English locational surname which is also recorded in Ireland. It originates from one of the many places called Westbrook, to be found for instance in the counties of Berkshire, Dorset, Buckingham, Hertford, Surrey and the Isle of Wight. The name means 'The village built to the west of the brook'. In pre 7th century Olde English brook, or rather broc, did not mean just a stream. It was a generic word which had different meanings in different parts of the country, and the best that one can is that it always meant water. Curiously whilst there are almost as many places called Eastbrook and Northbrook, there are only two called Southbrook. Locational surnames are generally 'from' names. That is to say names given to people after they left their original homes for whatever reason and moved somewhere else. The easiest way to identify such strangers was to call them by the name of the place from whence they came. Interestingly many of the villages called Westbrook seem to have disappeared and are now only recorded as 'localities,' if they appear on the maps at all. In some instances this may have been because of the draining of the countryside in the 16th to 18th centuries, and the change to sheep farming, which lead to the abandonment of many small places. The ealiest known recording of the surname is probably that of Richard de Westbroc, in the Hundred Rolls of Surrey in the year 1273.

Read more: http://www.surnamedb.com/Surname/Westbrook#ixzz1wCqo7EzZ

* Greer, George C., Early Virginia Immigrants 1623-1666, page 351 as quoted in"Our Westbrook Family" settled on the Potomac. A letter from Virginia Roberts to Harold Medlock, 12/24/1976 "These Westbrooks settled in Virginia--Prince George County where they left [court records](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/2884955/person/-1781011890/story/bef5228e-2cbb-42f5-ae68-928f9d683115?src=search) in 1717(the children of the original James) Letter from Crawford Westbrook to Katherine Westbrook Schoonmaker, 1977 "I have compiled extensive information on the Westbrook family in England and have discovered they lived southwest of London in Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surry, from about 1500 to present day." From Michael Westbrook: James was married twice, his first wife's name is unknown. His second wife was Elizabeth Puckett. It is believed James had 5 children by his first wife and two by his second wife. After the death of James and Elizabeth, the two children of their marriage were placed in the care of Jushaua Irby whose home was in Prince George County, Virginia. James is the founder of the Westbrook family in the Southern part of the United States. He si listed as one of 37 Headwrights in the Patent granted to Peter Knight and Baker Cutt, dated October 13, 1653, for 1,850 acres of land. Since several years went by before a final land grantwas issued it can be assumed that James was in Virginia a while before 1653. It can also be assumed that when James came to the United States he wasa man of eighteen or more years of age. James came from England. References: Virginia Patent Book 3, page 228, Oct 13,1653

Give and grant unto Peter Knight and Baker Cutt 1850 acres situated in the County of no\_\_\_ bounding southerlyupon Captain Brent, his land. Easterly upon Potomack River, Northerly upon the creek called Capawansick. Westerly upon the main woods, and said land being due themby and for the importation of 37 persons into this colony." Among them was James Westbrook. Baker and Cutt were given land [grants](http://trees.ancestry.com/tree/2884955/person/-1781011890/story/bef5228e-2cbb-42f5-ae68-928f9d683115?src=search) for transporting people to become early colonists in the new world. There is a tradition that James was seized at the docks in England and brought to America when he was about eighten years of age. Many years could have elapsed betweem the time that the 37 people were brought to America and the time the grant was finalized for the men who transported them.The date of James#1 arrival is not sure. He must have been married soon after because Jame #2's birth is estimated abt 1649.

Another source says three Westbrook brothers came to America, One to ME,(Westbrook, ME is named after him) The other two settled in Virginia. Westbrook Maine founded 1815 named for Colonel Thomas Westbrook who distinguished himself in the Indian Wars. He was killed in the battle of Quebec and was the son of John or Jobe Westbrook of Ma. (J Morgan Westbrook).

The Westbrooks were of Scottish stock and are descendents of General Tom or Jonathan T. Westbrook. He is reputed to have escaped from England after Cromwell's fall and came to Rochester NY(J.Morgan Westbrook's book)

October 13,1653, "Cavaliers and Pioneers" lists James as one of the 37 passengers brought over by Baker and Cutt.