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patent granted to Colo. Augustine Warner, that fell to Charles Lewis, in the division between him and his brother Fielding. This not only completed, but formed Locust Grove, and was its most valuable part. It extended to one of the branches of the Matapony river, and on it was the beautiful grove in which Thomas Minor, Jr., built his new residence. Then he deserted the old mansion, on Farishe's, and suffered it to decay.

To have acquired such an estate in about 25 years, Thomas Minor, Sr., must have been an excellent farmer, and he probably brought with him some capital which gave him a start.

Captain Thomas Minor inherited the whole of Locust Grove, pretty well stocked, and made it the seat of overflowing hospitality as long as he lived. He was enabled to keep up his lavish liberality by the compensation which the United States gave him for his services in the long war for their independence. On the 4th of July, two weeks before his death, he gave to a large company of his friends and neighbors—men, women and children—an outdoor entertainment and barbecue, which proved to be his affectionate and generous farewell. Locust Grove was sold for a division among the heirs. Elizabeth Taylor was ten years younger than her husband, and survived him. Then she lived with her son, Dr. Hubbard Taylor Minor, at his residence, Kenmore, very near Spotsylvania Courthouse.

There were Minors, also, in Westmoreland, King George, Loudoun, and Fairfax counties, and no connection has been positively established between them and the Doodeses.

In this magazine, Vol. I, p. 272, is an account of some Minors who removed from Westmoreland county to Loudoun county. The records of Westmoreland show that one John Minor received, in 1696, a grant from James Neale for 772 acres of land. Deed Book 2, p. 48. Now, it was in 1675 when Minor Doodes and his son, Doodes Minor, the less, or younger, were naturalized in Virginia, the second time. How old the younger Doodes then was is not known, but from 1675 to 1696 is just 21 years; and when John Minor received that deed from James Neale he was most probably at least 21 years of age. Is it at all likely that he was descended from the younger Doodes, who did not become a Minor, nor get married until some time after 1675? Moreover, the sons of Doodes Minor are all given us by his biographers and not one of them was named John. I conclude, therefore, that there were Minors in Virginia entirely separate from those who came through the naturalized and re-named Doodeses. This investigation shall be continued in some of the older counties of the State.

Joseph Minor has been mentioned. One with that name obtained a grant of 1,325 acres in Lunenburg county on the 25th of July, 1749.



THE FAMILY OF JOHN MOORE
OF CAROLINE AND KING GEORGE COUNTIES

Contributed by MRS. JANE MOORE (GRAY) HAGAN

I have recently come into possession of copies of the wills of John Moore, of Caroline and King George Counties, and Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway Moore, his wife, both probated in King George County, Virginia, in 1759 and 1760 respectively.

As a descendant, as I believed, of their daughter, Jane Moore who married Erasmus Taylor, of Orange County, I was puzzled by the statement in Hayden's *Virginia Genealogies*, page 674, that the said Jane Moore was born December 22, 1728, when it is evident that Rebecca (Catlett) Conway was at that date still the wife of Francis Conway; the said Francis Conway and

Rebecca Catlett's youngest child, Nelly Conway, having been born January 9, 1731 (*Ibid*, page 244). Hayden gives these dates, but makes no attempt to explain the discrepancy. He quotes (*Ibid*, page 244) excerpts from the wills of John Moore and his wife, Rebecca (Catlett) Conway-Moore; but certainly could not have carefully studied their contents.

Now with copies of these wills in my possession and having carefully studied them, it seems that there can be no mistake, and that there are grounds for the belief that Jane Moore (wife of Erasmus Taylor) was the daughter of John Moore by a wife previous to his marriage to Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway; the name of his first wife being as yet unknown, though possibly her baptismal name was Jane. The evidence for this belief lies in these facts: (1) Jane Moore (wife of Erasmus Taylor) was born December 22, 1728; (2) the will of John Moore, dated July 29, 1758, probated December 6, 1759, names "my wife Rebecca Moore"; "my son William Moore" (who was under 21 years old); "my daughter Jane Taylor", "my grand-daughter Jane Thomas"; executors "my loving wife, the said Rebecca Moore, Erasmus Taylor, James Madison and my son William" (3) the will of Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway-Moore, dated November 6, 1759, probated 1760, refers to "my late husband John Moore" and names "my son William Moore", under 21 years of age; "my four grandsons, to-wit—Francis and Catlett Conway and Francis and Ambrose Madison", "my grandson James Madison, Jun.", "my son Francis Conway and Sarah, his wife", "my daughter Nelly Madison", "my niece Mary Gillison the wife of Mr. John Gillison", "unto Jane Taylor, wife of Mr. Erasmus Taylor", "my granddaughter Mary Conway", "my son-in-law James Madison and my son William Moore", "my son-in-law James Madison and my daughter Nelly, his wife"; executors "my son-in-law James Madison & my son William Moore".

It will be noticed that the will of John Moore names "my son William Moore", "my daughter Jane Taylor", "my granddaughter Jane Thomas", while the will of his wife Mrs. Rebecca Moore, while specifying her relationship to every other legatee in her will, yet in making bequest "unto Jane Taylor, wife of Erasmus Taylor" does not mention any relationship. The inescapable conclusion is that Jane Moore (born December 22, 1728, wife of Erasmus Taylor) was not a daughter of Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway-Moore, but was a daughter of John Moore by a previous marriage. The complete texts of the wills of John Moore and his second wife, Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway-Moore are presented below.

The ancestry of John Moore remains a mystery in spite of the efforts of some genealogists who have placed him two or three generations later in an effort to connect him with the Moores of Chelsea. He could have been a son of Augustine Moore, who died in 1688, but this has not been proved.

John Moore's will (see below) establishes his ownership of lands in

¹Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, Vol. XXXIV, pages 269-271.* gives records from an ancient Taylor family Bible (printed in 1767) of several generations, in which the record appears that Jane Moore was born December 22, 1728; died September 1812; married October 13, 1749, Erasmus Taylor.

*Genealogies of Virginia Families (Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc., 1981), Vol. V, 417 et seq.

Caroline County and lots in the town of Port Royal (in Carolina County). Since John Moore was living in King George County when he made his will in July 1758, although he did not own any land in that County, it is probable that upon his marriage to Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway, widow of Francis Conway, he moved across the Rappahannock River from Caroline County to her home in King George County, the site of which later became Port Conway, which was finally inherited by her son Francis Conway. This idea is implied, rather than expressed, in record of an act of Assembly in 1752 for allowing a free ferry to be kept at Port Royal "from the said town over Rappahannock river, to the land now in the possession of John Moore, in the County of King George" (Hening, *Statutes at Large . . . of Virginia*, Vol. VI, page 296). This spot is now spanned by the new Madison Bridge, named in honor of James Madison, Junior (later President of the United States), son of James Madison and his wife Nelly Conway, and who was born, March 5, 1751, at the home of his maternal grandmother, Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway-Moore, which at that time occupied the land.

To sum up: the Moore connection now stands as follows: John Moore (died 1759) married first (probably Jane) and had issue: (1) Jane Moore, born December 22, 1728; died September 1812; Married October 13, 1749, Erasmus Taylor (born September 15, 1715; died 1794) of Orange County; (2) Moore (a daughter) married Thomas, and had Jane Thomas John Moore (died 1759) married secondly (certainly after 1731) Mrs. Rebecca (Catlett) Conway and had issue: (1) William Moore, under 21 years of age when his parents made their wills, and therefore born after 1738.

WILL OF JOHN MOORE

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I John Moore of the County of King George and Colony of Virginia being low in health but of sound and disposing mind and memory for which I bless God, Do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) I will that all such debts as I shall justly owe at the time of my death and my Funeral Charges & Expences be in the first place paid by my Executors herein after named & as to my Estate both Real & Personal I dispose thereof as follows.

First I give and bequeath to my loving wife Rebecca Moore my Riding Chair and two horses known by the name of Buck and Swallow and also one third part of my stocks of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep and one third part of my household Furniture together with Five Negroes the most valuable or such as she shall think fit to choose out of the number I shall leave at the time of my death all which said Respective Articles and things I give and bequeath unto my said wife absolutely forever.

Item. I give and devise unto my son William Moore all that tract or parcel of land that I purchased of William Stevens situate lying & being in the County of Caroline, Also all that tract or parcel of land that I purchased of Peyton Smith situate lying & being in the said County and adjoining the said land purchased of the said William Stevens together with two lots or half acres of land No. 16 & 17, situate lying and being in the town of Port Royall in the said County of Caroline according to the Plan and survey of the said Town all which said tracts of land lots and premises with their appurtenances I give and devise unto my said son William Moore for and during the term of his natural life and from and after his decease, I give and Devise the said lands lots and premises to such child or children of my said son

William as he by his last will and Testament or other instrument in writing subscribed with his own proper hand shall direct & appoint and to his and their heirs forever.

But in case my said son William shall not leave a child at the time of his death to inherit the said lands lotts and premises under the direction and appointment aforesaid then it is my desire and I do hereby give and devise the said lands lotts and premises or such of them as my said son William shall die seized or possessed off unto my Daughter Jane Taylor & her heirs forever. PROVIDED that nothing herein contained is meant or intended to defeat or deprive my said son of his having full power in the said lands lotts and premises to change alter or alienate the same in any manner he shall see fit during his life, only that in case he should dye without such child as aforesaid my said Daughter Jane may have and enjoy all or so much of the said lands lotts and premises as he shall be seized or possessed of at the time of his death any thing therein to the contrary notwithstanding. And in case the contingency of my sons dying without child as aforesaid shall happen whereby the estate and effects given to him shall descend and vest in my said Daughter then I direct that she or her heirs pay unto my Granddaughter Jane Thomas the sum of Two hundred pounds current money which sum I hereby in that case give to the said Jane Thomas & her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Erasmus Taylor and James Maddison two of my Executors hereafter named the sum of Three Hundred Pounds current money to be by them laid out as soon as they conveniently can after my decease in the purchase of a tract or parcel of land which said land so purchased or contracted for by them my said Executors I hereby direct shall be conveyed unto my said son William in like manner as I have herein before disposed of the lands lotts and premises in the said County of Caroline so as that in case he shall dye without a child to inherit my said Daughter Jane may have and enjoy the same.

Item. I give to my Daughter Jane Taylor one Negro Fellow called Moore to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my said Daughter Jane Taylor the sum of One hundred and fifty pounds current money to be paid her within three years after my decease or sooner if the profits of my estate can conveniently raise the same which sum I give unto the said Jane & her heirs. And for this purpose as well as for the support of my said wife and the maintenance and education of my said son I hereby direct, and it is my desire that all my estate be kept together undivided excepting the three hundred pounds herein before bequeathed for the purchase of a parcel or tract of land untill my said son shall attain his age of Twenty one years or marry.

Item. All the rest and residue and remainder of my estate both Real and personal of what nature kind or quality soever not herein before disposed of I give devise and bequeath unto my said son William in like manner as I have herein before given & disposed of my said lands and lotts in the said County of Caroline and in case of his dying without a child as aforesaid I give and bequeath the same unto my Daughter Jane & her heirs forever in manner aforesaid.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Granddaughter Jane Thomas the sum of Fifty pounds current money to be paid her within four years after my decease or sooner if the profits of my estate can conveniently raise the same, which sum I give unto the said Jane and her heirs forever.

Lastly. I do hereby constitute and appoint my loving wife the said Rebecca Moore, the said Erasmus Taylor, James Maddison and my son William, Executors of this my will, desiring that my said estate may not be appraised. And here by revoking making null and void all and every will and wills by me heretofore made declaring this only to be my last will & Testament, In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seale this 29th. day of July, 1758. John Moore (Seale) Probated by Erasmus Taylor and James

Madison, December 6, 1759. This will is recorded in King George County, Virginia, Court.

WILL OF MRS. REBECCA (CATLETT) CONWAY-MOORE

IN THE NAME OF GOD AMEN. I Rebecca Moore of the County of King George and Colony of Virginia being weak in body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory (blessed be God) do make and ordain this my last will and Testament in manner and form following (that is to say) Whereas my late husband John Moore did by his last will and Testament bearing date the 29th day of July 1758, give and bequeath unto me his wife, his riding chair and two horses known by the names of Buck and Swallow and also one third part of his stocks of Cattle, Hogs and Sheep, and one third part of his household furniture together with five Negroes the most valuable or such as I should think fit to choose out of the number he should leave at the time of his death, all of which Respective Articles and things he gave and bequeathed unto me, by the said Will and Testament, absolutely and forever.

And by virtue of the said Will and Testament, I did on the 16th day of July last past, since my husband's decease, make choice of the five following Negroes part of the number my said deceased husband left at his death, to-wit, Negroes Phil, Ben, Sawney, Sarah and Judyth. And whereas Judith one of the said Negro's was big with child when I chose her & is since delivered of a boy which is called Billy, which said child with the rest of the Negroes which I have chosen by virtue of my said deceased husband's will, Namely, Phil, Ben, Sawney, Sarah and Judith, I give and bequeath unto my Son William Moore when he attains the age of Twenty one years and to my Grandson James Maddison, Jun. when he attains eighteen years of age to be equally divided between them; but in case my said Son William Moore should happen to die before he attain Twenty one years of age, it is my Will and desire that then the said Negroes which I have bequeathed to him and would have been his part in case he had attained the age of twenty one years shall be equally divided amongst my four grandsons; to-wit. Francis and Catlett Conway and Francis and Ambrose Madison, And to their heirs forever. And in case the contingency of my Grandson James Madison his dying before he attain the age of eighteen years should happen, my Will and desire is that then the Legacy which I have bequeathed to him shall be equally divided between my two Grandsons Francis and Ambrose Madison & their heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son William Moore my third part of the Silver Spoons left me by my late husband his father, also a mourning ring of thirty shillings value to him and his heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Francis Conway and Sarah his wife each of them a mourning ring of thirty shillings value.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Daughter Nelly Madison a Mourning ring of thirty shillings value; also all my wearing apparel.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my niece Mary Gillison the wife of Mr. John Gillison a mourning ring of thirty shillings value.

Item. I give and bequeath unto Jane Taylor the wife of Mr. Erasmus Taylor a mourning ring of thirty shillings value.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my Granddaughter Mary Conway when she attain the age of twenty one years or marries, which shall first happen the sum of fifty pounds current money of Virginia but in case she should happen to die before she marries or come to the age of twenty one years My will and desire is that then the said fifty pounds shall be equally divided between my grandsons Francis and Catlett Conway at the time when my said Granddaughter would (should she die) attain the age of twenty one years.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son in law James Madison and my son William Moore my two executors hereafter named my Chair and horses, also my third part of the stocks of cattle, hogs, and sheep and my third part

of the household furniture which my late deceased husband bequeathed me by his last will and Testament above mentioned. And also all the rest and residue and remainder of my estate of what nature kind or quality soever not herein before disposed of to be my them sold for the payment of my lawful debts and the above legacies and the surplus if any there be, with what money I shall have at my death, and debts due me, I give and bequeath unto my son William Moore and my Grandson James Madison Jun. to be equally divided between them forever.

Item. It is my will and desire that my son in law James Madison and my Daughter Nelly his wife shall have and enjoy the whole legacies which I have bequeathed to my Grandson Jas. Madison Jun. until he attains the age of eighteen years. At which time it is my will that he my said grandson shall take possession of the whole legacies with the increase of the said Negroes to his own proper use forever.

Item. Provided nevertheless that if the above negro child Billy should fall to the part of my Grandson James Madison Jr. and my son William Moore shall refuse to make him the said James his heirs Exors. or Administrators a good and secure right and title to the said Negro Billy within one year after he comes to lawfull age, or if he the said William his heirs, Exors. Adminisrs. or assigns do at any time hereafter sue for and recover the said Negro Billy, it is my will and desire then that the said legacies which I have bequeathed him the said William shall then go to the persons or person of whom the said Negro Billy shall be recovered in lieu thereof forever.

Lastly I do hereby constitute and appoint my son in law James Madison & my Son William Moore Executors of this my last will & Testament directing that my Estate be not appraised. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seals this sixth day of November 1759. Rebecca Moore (Seale) Signed, Sealed, Published, & Declared by the said Rebecca Moore the Testator as and for her Last Will & Testament in the presence of us who were present at the signing and sealing thereof. Wm. Wren, Wm. Harrison, John X (his mark) Brown (Probated 1760). This will is recorded in King George County, Virginia, Court.

SOME NOTES ON THE MORDECAI

By RUTH K. NUERMBERGER,
Curator of Manuscripts, Duke University

The Mordecais were a distinguished and brilliant members contributed to the cultural advancement later years graced the society of Richmond, Virginia head of the family during its years in North Moses Mordecai (1707-1781) was born in Bonn, beth Whitlock in England, and moved to Philadelphia, beth changed her name to Esther and adopted Philadelphia, Jacob, the eldest of three sons, was born one of the large schoolboy delegation which escaped Congress into Philadelphia in September, 1774, and many stirring scenes of the Revolutionary War mother married Jacob I. Cohen of Richmond, Jacob's association with the South.

At the age of twenty-two Jacob married, on Jersey of New York. She was the daughter of Mye Elkahle Cohen. Jacob and Judith (Myers) Mordecai Goochland County, Richmond, Petersburg, Virginia Carolina. To this last place they came about 1790 Jacob carried on a mercantile business, Judith 9, 1796, leaving six small children. In 1798 Jacob ca Myers, a half sister of his first wife, whose Myers.¹

For a time Jacob's mercantile business in Warrenton fortunate speculations in tobacco brought reverses Mordecai embarked upon the most distinguished in 1809 he opened his school for girls in Warren by his older children, together with one or two music, drawing, and dancing. Reverses were not in 1811 a fire destroyed the school building. Nevertheless the session went on. Good teaching gave the school a wide repute, so that for many years be limited to the available accommodations. 7

¹ Gratz Mordecai, *Notice of Jacob Mordecai from 1809 to 1818, of the Warrenton (N. C.) the Publications of the American Jewish Historical Society* (Mrs.) Caroline (Myers) Cohen, *Records of the Mordecai Families from 1707 to 1913* (Washington Family, n.d.). This latter volume and much other information kindly furnished by Mr. John B. Mordecai of Philadelphia. Information has been, however, the large collection of letters now preserved in the Duke University Library.