

The Mysterious and interesting Family of John and Ann Stubbleson Ferguson

By [Richard Ferguson](#)

As far as positively proving the origin of our Ancestor John Ferguson, husband of Ann Stubbleson, no one that I know of has ever proved his place of birth or where he came from to America. The closest anyone has come, in my opinion, is John Markham Ferguson who was a Grandson of Samuel Yancey Ferguson.

Basically John Markham Ferguson found records from the old Tolbooth Prison in Edinburgh Scotland that show John and James Ferguson as undesirables that were to be sent to Barbados. In another document, it states that several so called undesirable people were being sent to Virginia as indentured servants. It stated that any of the Barbados bound persons that desired to go to Virginia as indentured servants could do so.

Apparently James and John Ferguson chose to do so. None of the warrants show them as being chosen or directed to the Ship Phoenix of Leith under the Master James Gibson. But passenger list of the arrivals on the Ship Phoenix of Leith show John and James as disembarking the ship in the Port of York, Yorktown, Virginia. The names are spelled in several varieties in the documentation mentioned. Some have them as FFargefon, some as Fargeson and some as Farguson.

DOW book 047-pg 109 12 Nov 1666 states importation of 39 + 19 persons into York County. John and James' names appear on this document. In this document, it states John and James FFargefon were sold. This' along with John being listed on the Headright list is evidence that both men were indentured servants. An indentured servant had to work for his master for 10 years to pay for his passage to the Americas. If he completed the 10 years, he was to be given +b acres of land and a new suit of clothes. Most were released in their 9th year and were given nothing. It is thought that this was the case with John.

James, on the other hand, is thought to have died before he completed his 10 years or died shortly afterwards if he did. I have never found any documentation on James after his arrival other than the documents mentioned. The Phoenix of Leith sailed from the Port of Edinburgh on or about May of 1666.

The November 1666 Headright list also shows John and James FFargefon's names on it.

Virginia Patent Book 6-pg 045 volume 2 pg-013 25 April 1667 shows John and James as part of 60 people being transported to New Kent County Virginia.

Virginia Patent Book 6 pg 314 & 316 6 October 1670 shows John and James in Accomacke County Virginia. Same book pg 482 27 October 1673 also shows them in Accomacke County Virginia.

A Scottish researcher by the name of David Dobson also states in his book, the original Scottish Colonist of Early America, page 50, that John Ferguson arrived in York County Virginia before 11 Dec 1666 on the ship Phoenix of Leith out of the port of Edinburgh Scotland. James Gibson being the Master of the ship.

James Ferguson, John's brother, was indentured to Otho Thorp in Virginia before he left Scotland.

The next record that I have found on John is Virginia marriage record book D page 129 1683. This shows the marriage of John and Ann Stubbleson. I am confident that this is my ancestor as DNA testing has proved that. Now do I know that this John Ferguson is the same one that came from Scotland, Tolbooth Prison? No I do not know for sure, but I have found no other John Ferguson that came to America around this time that fits the bill so to say. I am satisfied, myself, that the John and James Ferguson that came here from Scotland in 1666 is our Ferguson line. Do not take this as absolute as it is not by any means. It is just to my satisfaction. Any other researcher that has a different thought is welcome to share and encouraged to do so. The only way we learn is by sharing information. I would love to be able to positively prove the birth place/origin of our John Ferguson of Essex County Virginia. Be it what I believe or what someone else is able to prove.

Everything said the John and Ann Stubbleson Ferguson family is an amazing family to study. I have made many good friends and found many family members from my 29+ years of researching this family. A few of the people that contributed an awful lot to my research are the late Walter Brewster, the late Mrs. Jean C. Agee, Jon Ferguson, Jean Nichols, and all the wonderful folks at the Chester District Genealogical Society. There are many, many more that have contributed to my research, and I offer a thank you to you all.

As we all know, John Ferguson married Ann Stubbleson who was the last surviving daughter of Stubble Stubbleson. It is recorded that John had seven children

1. Carry Ferguson 1683 - 1742, married 1st Class Caston, 2nd Henry Perkins;
2. Sarah Ferguson 1684 - 1740 married Thomas Redd;
3. John Ferguson 1685 - 1769 married Sarah Gatewood;
4. James Ferguson (my line) 1687 - 1741 married Ann Markham;
5. Joseph Ferguson 1691 - 1717 never married;
6. Samuel Ferguson 1693 - 1777 married Ann Brown; and 7. Mary Ferguson 1695- 1752 married Joseph Rogers.

1. Of these seven children, Carry has been thought to have been a child by a previous marriage. The thinking behind this is the way John referred to Ann in a deed he made to a Mr. Jewel. He called her "my now wife Ann" and stated that he would cause her to sign her right of dower. This is the land that Ann inherited from her father Stubble Stubbleson. Some seem to think that this infers that he was married before Ann. The other is the fact that John did not mention Carry in his will. As there is a span of several years from the time John and James were sold into servitude and when John and Ann's record of marriage shows up, I will concede that there may have been a wife before Ann.

I do think that it is a play on words and cannot be proven either way.

Essex County Deed book 12 page 103 records John Ferguson deeding land to his son-in-law, Class Caston, and wife, Cary 1705/06.

Essex County Deed Book 14 page 239 13 May 1714 records Cary Caston being bonded as executive of the estate of Class Caston.

Essex County will book 3 page 208 16 May 1719 records Cary Perkins inventory of debts collected on the estate of Class Caston. She had married Henry Perkins by this time.

Essex County will book 6 page 172 records Cary Perkins bonding as executrix for the estate of Henry Perkins.

2. Sarah Ferguson 1684 - 1740 is mentioned in John Ferguson's will as the wife of Thomas Redd. I have no further information on them.

3. John Ferguson 1685 - 1769 married Sarah Gatewood. In Essex County will book 6, 1762 - 1775, is recorded John Ferguson's will. In it he names his wife, Sarah, as executrix and names each of his children and their husbands. John's daughter, Katherine Ferguson, was the wife of Captain Benjamin Hale of Essex County Virginia.

4. James Ferguson 1687 - 1741 married Ann Markham. It is my opinion that this is where the earlier researcher, John Markham Ferguson, got the middle name Markham from, James Ferguson shows up in several documents Essex County Court records. He witnessed many documents, filed law suits and was sued himself. One of the most important documents is a power of attorney document where he gives a friend power of attorney to handle the sale of his property in Essex County Virginia. This is land that his father, John Ferguson, had left him in his will. James and wife Ann left Essex County somewhere around 4 Dec 1739 and moved to Goochland County Virginia. They were following their son James Jr and his wife Agnes Adams

Ferguson who were already in Goochland County. On 18 Dec 1739 his friend exercised his power of attorney in the sale of the land mentioned above so we know he had left before 18 Dec 1739. Unfortunately, James Ferguson Senior did not live long after moving from Essex to Goochland County. He wrote a will and signed it 12 Dec 1740. His will is recorded in Goochland County will book 3 page 429 and is dated 21 July 1741.

James and Ann Ferguson had four children we know that he named in his will: James Ferguson 1715 - 1785 married Agnes Adams; Elizabeth Ferguson 1706 - 1774 married John Scandland Craine; Ann 1719 - 1747 married John Carter Croxton and John 1721 - 1778 married Elizabeth Ward, All of these children had married and started homes of their own. That being said, John makes a statement after naming each of these children that after his wife's death that the remainder of his estate is to be divided between the children that now live with her. This seems to infer that there are still minor children in the home.

In John Boddie's, Historical Southern Families, Vol 3 page 228 gives an account of the Foster family in Caswell County, North Carolina which he lists the family of John Perkins and his wife Rachel. Boddie goes on to tell that John and Rachel have 4 children listed in the Douglas Register of Goochland County Virginia as being baptized there. The Douglas Register is the earliest known record of births, baptisms and marriages in Goochland County. Boddie goes on to say that Rachel may be the daughter of James Ferguson of Goochland County Virginia whose will was probated in 1741. In this same register are found the names of Sarah Ferguson, married Richard Ogilby, Mary Ferguson married David Knowling and Samuel Ferguson married Elizabeth Dunsmore. Only DNA will be able to prove or disprove these last four suspected children.

James Ferguson Jr. married Agnes Adams about 1734. Not long after his father's death in 1741, James and Agnes began to sell their land in Goochland County. On 20 November 1753, James sold 75 acres of land to an adjacent land owner David Parrish. Then in 30 October 1759 James sold 367 acres to Richard Johnson. This was land that Agnes had inherited from her father and is described as being on Licking Hole Creek. Deed book B page 293 & 294 Granville County North Carolina records the sale of 250 acres of land by Evan Ryland to James Ferguson for 18 pounds 15 shilling in 1754. Apparently James and Agnes left Goochland County after selling the first land, 75 acres, to David Parrish in November of 1753 and bought land in Granville County North Carolina.

Deed book G page 325 & 326 Granville County North Carolina records the sale of 200 acres of land by James Ferguson to Joseph Linsy 6 Feb 1765.

On 10 May 1765 there was a Land Grant given to James Ferguson in Craven, now Chester County, South Carolina for 200 acres of land. On 12 December 1767 there is another land Grant given to James Ferguson for 300 acres of land. The above documents can be found at the Chester District Genealogical Society.

The children of James are:

1. William Robert Ferguson 1736 1781 married Patience last name unknown. This is the Great Great Grandfather of James Eldridge Ferguson, Governor of Texas.
2. James Ferguson La 1740 - 1780 married Mary Lawrence. This is the Tory Colonel that died at what was known as Huck's Defeat in the Revolutionary War.
3. Paul Ferguson 1742-1824 married Elizabeth Ann Sutton.
4. Robert Ferguson 1745 - 1795 married Elizabeth Martin.
5. Abraham Ferguson 1751 - 1826 married Jane Gnderat.
6. Adams Ferguson 1753 - 1822 married Elizabeth "Betsy" Finley. This would be my line
7. Samuel Ferguson 1755 - 1817 married Isabella Barber.
8. Agnes Ferguson 1765 - 1848 married Edward Steadman.