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Source: "Historical Virginia Families," by John Bennett Boddie.

GRAY FAMILY.

Thomas Gray 1/ (1593-1685) of James City and Surry Counties, Virginia, arrived as a boy of 15 in 1608. He survived the "year of starving," and the Indian massacres of 1622 and 1642, and all the other trials and tribulations of the earliest English settlers of what is now the United States. His first marriage was apparently in Virginia in 1618. In the "Musters of the Inhabitants in Virginia 1624/25" (Hotten, Page 228) there were listed: Thomas Graye, Margaret his wife, Jone their daughter aged 6 years, William, their sonn, aged 3 years."

In 1635 Thomas Gray patented 550 acres in James City County "On S side of the maine river over against James Citty, adj. on the E. to the plantation now in his possession & to land of Captain Perry, running along by Rolfes Cr. & S. into the woods upon the Cross Cr. (creek), 100 acres due as an Ancient Planter at or before the tome of Sit Thomas Dale, 50 acres for the personal adventure of Anis Gray his first wife, 50 acres for the personal adventure of Rebecca Gray his now wife, and 350 acres for transportation of his two sons, William Gray 2/ & Thomas Gray 2/ and 5 servants: Jon. Bishopp, Robert Browne, Robert Welshe, Luke Misle, Jon. Banckes." (Virginia Land Office Book 1, page 283).

This patent is identical with one issued-apparently a reissue- May 26, 1638, except that, as shown in "Cavaliers & Pioneers," Page 105, the name of his first wife was stated as "Avis:" this was probably not an actual change but a slight difference in the appearance of the written word. Others have interpreted the word as "Annis."

In 1639 Thomas Gray 1/ patented 400 acres in James City County, upon the head of Gary's Creek, for the transportation of 8 persons: Richard Deane, Franceis Fiveash, Allen Sadome, William Short, John Hancoke and 3 Negroes.

In 1642 Thomas Gray 1/ patented 100 acres in James City County on the east side of Gray's Creek, adjoining his own land, for the transportation of two persons: George Graves & William Browne.

On March 14, 1652, Thomas Gray 1/ patented 800 acres in Surry County, on south side of James River at the head of Smith's Fort Creek, adjacent (to) land of John Kemp; 400 acres thereof were granted said Gray (on) July 30th, 1639, and 400 acres were purchased by said Gray of Samuel Abbott. (Land Office Book 3, page 158).

On March 7, 1653, Thomas Gray Sr. 1/, aged 60 years or thereabouts, deposed that Daniel Hutton (In the Valentine Papers, p. 556, this name is printed as Daniel Shelton)" in the time of his sickness not long before his departure did bequeath his whole estate to Rebecka his wife verbally. (Surry County Deed Book 1, p. 41).

Thomas Gray 1/ married twice. The name of his second wife was Rebecca. The name of his first wife, who was probably the mother of five children, was listed in the "Muster" of 1624/25 as "Margaret" but this may have been an error on the part of the recorder as in land patents by her husband her name appears to have been "Avis" or "Anis" or possibly "Annis."

Thomas Gray 1/ had five children, in the following order:

1. Jane Gray 2/ (1619-16) sic, m. John Hux (1613-16).
2. William Gray 2/ (1622-1714), m. ca 164-, Mary----? had four children.
3. Thomas Gray 2/, (ca. 1625-1676) d. S.P. (single person).
4. John Gray 2/, (ca. 1627-1683), m. Mary___ had 1 daughter.
5. Francis Gray 2/, (ca. 1630-1679). (See later).

William Gray 2/ (1622-1714) lived in Surry County, Virginia. In 1677 William Gray 2/ & John Gray 2/, planters of Surry County, being joint heirs of Thomas Gray 1/, sold Col. Thomas Swann 100 acres lying between Col. Swann's land and the mouth of a creek formerly called Smith Fort Creek but now called Gray's Creek. Witnesses: Thomas Busby, Robert Penny. (Surry County Deed Book 12, p. 145).

In 1860** (sic) William Gray 2/ patented 680 acres in Surry County, adjoining Mr. Richard Briggs, Mr. William Edwards, and Mr. Robert Ruffin, being part of 800 acres granted in 1668 to William Harris of Surry County and by him sold in 1679 to the said William Gray 2/. (Virginia Land Office Book 7. p. 27).

** This was probably meant to be 1680?

In 1679 William Gray 2/ sold to Robert Kae of Isle of Wight County and Nicholas Wilson of Surry County a 99- year lease, of a water mill, made to said Gray by Robert Parke and Mary, his wife. (Surry Co. Deed Book 12, p. 252).

In 1688 William Gray 2/ sold to Mrs. Charles White 136 acres which had been patented in 1654 by Eliza Hutton and which had descended to the said William Gray 2/ as next cousin & heir. (Deed Book 3, p. 3).

In 1689 William Gray 2/ sold to Robert Caufield 680 acres, of which 490 acres had been purchased of William Harris, son of Thomas Harris, deceased, and the remainder patented by the said William Gray 2/ in 1680. Witnesses: Arthur Allen, Wm. Smith. (Deed Book 3, p.??).

William Gray 2/ in his will dated February 8th, 1710, recorded October 20th, 1714, gave a cow to Henry Clark and a cow to Charles Judkins, and left the remainder of his estate to be equally divided between his wife and his son, Thomas Gray 3/. Witnesses: were Wm. Foster and David Andrews. (D.B. 5, p. 212).

William Gray 2/ married, 164- Mary _____ and had four children: (1) Lydia Gray 3/. She was probably the Lydia who m. 1st Samuel Judkins (d. 1672) and m. 2nd Capt. Thomas Pitman. (2) Gilbert Gray 3/ (ca. 164-d. ca. 1710) died as a single person. (3) John Gray 3/ (ca. 1650-1708) died as a single person. He left legacies to "my sister Lidia, my brothers Thomas 3/ & Gilbert 3/, and my father." His father William Gray 2/ was executor. (4) Thomas Gray 3/ (ca. 1652-ca. 1717), married _____ and left one son, Thomas Gray 4/, who was an orphan in 1717 and chose William Foster as a guardian.

Thomas Gray 2/ (ca. 1625-1676), of Surry County, Va. apparently never married. In his will dated April 16, 1676, and proved May 2, 1676, he gave to his brother Francis Gray 2/ draughts of hogs, to the wife of Francis Gray 2/, his linen cloths, to his brothers John 2/ & William Gray 2/ his plantation with all the land belonging therewith, and to his three brothers, Francis 2/, John 2/ & William Gray 2/, the remainder of his estate, to be equally divided. Witnesses: were Nathaniel Knight & Jno. Ironmonger.

On May 2, 1676, his will was proved by Mr. Nathaniel Knight & John Jennings, and Francis Gray 2/ qualified as administrator, with Thomas Sorsby and George Foster as his securities.

John Gray 2/ (ca. 1627-1683) lived in Surry Co., Va. On Nov. 2, 1675, John Gray Sr. 2/ was ordered to pay to Wm. Tooke 500 pounds of tobacco according to the will of Ridley, deceased, 1671, for the services of John Gray Jr. 3/, one year more. (Surry County Order Book 1671-90, p. 104.

On Nov. 4, 1678, John Gray 2/ confessed judgement to Mr. Robert Ruffin for 400 pounds of tobacco (O.B. 1671-90, p. 241). John Gray 2/ in his will dated May 16, 1683, proved July 3, 1683, gave one third of his estate to his wife, and

the remainder (except for his housing and land) to his daughter with reversion, should she die before coming of age or marrying, to the children of his brother William Gray 2/. His housing and land he gave to his "cousin" John Gray 4/, son of William Gray 3/. He gave a cow to his "cousin" William Gray 3/, son of Francis Gray 2/ (brother). He made his wife executrix and desired his brother William Gray 2/ and his "cousin" William Gray 3/, to see his will was performed. Witnesses: were John Foster & Thomas Bage. (D.B. 12, p. 330).

On July 3, 1683, Mary Gray was granted probate on the will of (husband) John Gray 2/, deceased. John Moreing, Mr. George Foster & Mr. Thomas Crews were appointed appraisers of the estate. (O.B. 1671-90, p. 408). The widow, Mrs. Mary Gray married 2nd time in 1683 to Robert Nicholson.

Capt. Francis Gray 2/ (ca. 1630 (?)-1679), of Surry County, Virginia was the youngest son of the immigrant Thomas Gary 1/ (1593-1658). On Nov. 3, 1658, Francis Gray 2/ for a consideration assigned his right in certain land patents to his brother, Thomas Gray 2/. Witnesses were Jno. Gittings & Samuel Swaine. (Surry County Deed Book 1, page 175).

In 1662 William Browne, William Simmons, Nathaniel Knight, Henry Francis, Francis Gray 2/, etc..(were) on a special jury panel. (D.B. 1, p. 185). In 1662 Francis Gray 2/ bought a heifer of Henry Briggs (D.B. 1, p. 210). ON January 26, 1662/63, Francis Gray 2/ deeded to John Tatum 100 acres in Surry County of Chippoakes Creek, adjacent said Tatum's land lately purchased of John Rawlings. Witnesses: Elias Osborne, Selby Sparrow. (D.B. 1, p. 213).

On Sept. 4, 1666, Francis Gray 2/ acknowledged hid deed to his brother Thomas Gray 2/ of the plantation on which Mr. Hely lived and which his said brother Thomas Gray 2/ had since let to Mr. Dickerson. (D.B. 1, p. 275).

In 1686 Thomas Gray 2/ & Francis Gray 2/ in the Tithables taken by Mr. George Jordan. In 1673 Francis Gray 2/ confessed judgement to Harry Francis for 400 pounds of tobacco & caske with costs. (O.B. 1671-90, p. 22). In 1674 Francis Gray 2/ defendant, vs. Col. Thomas Swann; judgement for plaintiff 2769 pounds of tobacco. (O.B. 1671-90, p. 72). In 1675 Francis Gray 2/ & Mary Gray sold to Thomas Crews a parcel of land in Surry County, bounded by lands of Thomas Gray 2/, George Foster & Col. Thomas Swann, near the mouth of Gray's Creek. Witnesses: Wm. Thompson, Fra. Summer. (O.B. 1671-90, p. 69).

On May 2nd 1676, Francis Gray 2/ qualified as administrator of the estate of his brother Thomas Gray 2/, deceased, with Thomas Sorsby & George Foster as his securities. (O.B. 1671-90, p. 126).

In 1677 Francis Gray 2/ in the list of tithables of Surry County. Captain Francis Gray 2/ apparently made no will. He died in 1679 and his widow, Mary Gray, qualified as administratrix; she gave bond for 40,000 pounds of legal tobacco, with Roger Potter & George Foster as her securities. Witnesses: Thomas Jordan, William Edwards. Recorded June 25, 1679 (D.B. 1, p. 1).

Captain Francis Gray 2/ married ca. 165-, Mary_____ and had one son, Captain William Gray 3/ who died in 1719, and three daughters. The latter have not been positively identified but they appear on the basis of available data to be those shown in the following list.

Children:

1. Margaret Gray 3/, m. William Harris (d. 1720) m. 2nd Thomas Taylor.
2. Mary Gray 3/, m. Edward Moreland (d. 1723).
3. Elizabeth Gray 3/, m. James Nicholson (d. 1723).
4. Capt. William Gray 3/ (1661-1719) (See Below).

Mrs. Mary Gray (mother of above) married 2nd time to Owen Myrick in 1679.

Capt. William Gray 3/ (1661-1719) of Surry County, Virginia was the only son of Capt. Francis Gray 2/, who died in 1679. He was Sheriff in 1700, a Justice of the Peace in 1710, and a member of the House of Burgesses in 1710, 1712, 1713, 1714 and 1715. He was a member of the Court in 1716. (O.B. 1713-1718, p. 93).

In 1685 William Gray 3/, planter, of Southwark Parish, Surry County, Virginia sold Samuel Plaw 400 acres, recently purchased of SION HILL, adjacent Holly Bush Swamp near Mr. Warren's line. Witnesses: Robert Ruffin, Wm. Newsum. Mrs. Elizabeth Gray gave Robert Ruffin power of attorney to relinquish her dower rights and this was proved by William Williams. (Surry Co. Deed Book 2, p. 39).

On Nov. 7, 1690, William Gray 3/, aged 28 years or thereabouts, testified as to the processing of the lines between the lands of Capt. Robert Randall now in possession of Thomas Swann and the lands of Thomas Crews. (D.B. 3, p. 184). In the Virginia Quit Rent Rolls for Surry County in 1704, Capt. William Gray 3/ was listed with 1750 acres and William Gray Jr. 4/ with 1050 acres.

In 1710 Capt. William Gray 3/ sold to William Browne 4 acres in Surry County at Horse Bridge on the head of Gray's Creek, 3 acres thereof being on the south side and the remainder granted to the said William Gray 3/ by the Court of Surry County for the purpose of building a water mill. (D.B. 5, p. 14). Capt. William Gray 3/ in his will, dated June 3, 1719, proved Nov. 18, 1719, left legacies to his son William Gray

4/ and to the latter's four sons (William 5/, Robert 5/, Joseph 5/, & Thomas Gray 5/); to his son Gilbert Gray 4/, then unmarried; to his daughters Mary Gray 4/, Priscilla Gray 4/, & Faith Ruffin 4/; and to his grandchildren William Andrews, Elizabeth Edwards, William Gray 5/ & Wm. Ruffin. His son Gilbert Gray 4/ was appointed executor. This will was witnessed by Nichl. Magget, Robert Judkins, & Samuel Maget.

Capt. William Gray 3/ married ca. 1682 to Elizabeth_____ and had at least seven children. Order of birth not recorded but apparently about as indicated below.

Children:

1. William Gray 4/ (1682-1736) m. 1702 Mrs. Mary (Crawford) Seward (d. 1756). 7 children. (See later).
2. Elizabeth Gray 4/ (ca. 1684?-17), m. Wm. Andrews, had 2 sons.
3. Lucy (?) Gray 4/ (ca.1686 (?)-17), m. John (?) Edwards.
4. Faith Gray 4/ (ca. 1688(?)-ca. 1720) m. ca. 1707 William Ruffin (ca. 1683-1739).
5. Mary Gray 4/ (ca. 1690?-17)
6. Priscilla Gray 4/ (ca. 1692?-17) m. CAPTAIN THOMAS HILL 3/ (1686-1737). He was a brother to Richard Hill 3/ (m. Hannah Briggs) & Robert Hill 3/ (m. Tabitha) who went to & died in Halifax Co., N.C.
7. Gilbert Gray 4/, (ca. 1696?-1764), m. ca. 1720? Margaret_____ (d. 1767). 7 children. (See later).

William Gray 4/ (1682-1736) married 1703, Mrs. Mary (Crawford) Seward, daughter of Robert Crawford and widow of John Seward. On March 31, 1701/02, Mary Gray was executrix of the estate of John Seward. Her account was audited by Robert Crawford & Robert Jarrett. William Gray 4/ was sheriff of Surry County in 1718. His securities were William Browne and William Edwards. He was also a Burgess from Surry 1723-1726.

He made his will March 10, 1731, same probated June 16, 1736. His will is that of a wealthy man as he bequeaths large tracts of land and many Negroes. He gave sons William 5/, Robert 5/, Joseph 5/, Thomas 5/, "Land & plantations where they now live." Also to Robert Gray 5/ he gave "land left me by my father called Babb's land and land purchased by me of my brother Gilbert Gray 5/." To Joseph Gray 5/ he gave land "purchased of Robert Scott lying in Isle of Wight County."

Mrs. Mary Gray's will, dated 1756, showed a daughter Lucy, wife of Howell Briggs; granddaughter Eliza Rose; sons William, Edmund, James, Robert, Joseph & Thomas Gray; also son, William Seward. Witnesses: Gray Briggs, Susannah Gray & Wm. Thorp.

Children:

1. William Gray Jr. 5/, (1703-1744) See later.
2. Robert Gray 5/, (1705-1777). Sheriff of Surry 1740, married Miss Claiborne, moved to Edgecombe Co., N.C.
3. Joseph Gray 5/, (1707-1771) m. Sarah Simmons, dau. of Col. John Simmons. (see later)
4. Thomas Gray 5/.
5. Edmund Gray 5/, under 21 in 1731, given land in Isle of Wight County.
6. James Gray 5/, (1715-1788), under 21 in 1731, m. Sarah____, children: Josiah Gray 6/ m. Betsy West; James Gray 6/, Sarah Gray 6/ m. Richard Powell Davis; Ann Gray 6/, Elizabeth Gray 6/, Susannah Gray 6/, Nathaniel Gray 6/.
7. Lucy Gray 6/, (1711-), m. Howell Briggs.

William Gray 5/ (1703-1744), son of William Gray 4/ (1682-1736), was known at first as William Gray Jr. On January 16, 1734, Thomas Foster of Surry & John Clements of Isle of Wight, deeded him 175 acres in Surry whereon Thomas Foster now lives being the head of a branch and adjoining Ogburn, Allen Warren, Wm. Marriott & Mary Boston. (D.B. 1730-38, p. 515).

He married Elizabeth Browne, daughter of William Browne (1671-1746), widow of William Chamberlayne of New Kent County, Va. & removed to that county where he was a Justice in 1742. On December 9, 1740, as "William Gray of New Kent" he deeded John Harris of Surry the 175 acres above mentioned, "being the land that John Clements, deceased, gave to Thomas Foster by will dated May 12, 1704, and purchased by the said William Gray 5/ of the said Thomas Foster & John Clements the younger. Teste, J. Gray, Gilbert Gray, Robert Gray. (D.B. 3, p. 273).

In 1739, William Gray 5/ patented 5000 acres in Goochland County, Virginia where some of the name still resides. On December 4, 1744, he again deeded land in Surry "left him" by the will of William Gray 4/, deceased, by will dated March 10, 1731. His children were Ethelred Gray 6/, who married a daughter of Capt. William Drew; Lucy Gray 6/, mentioned in will of Captain William Browne.

Gilbert Gray 4/, son of William Gray 3/ Sr. (1661-1719) lived in Surry County where he made his will April 8, 1758, probated December 10, 1764 (Will Book 9). Same is as follows: "To son Joseph Gray 5/ 550 acres given testor by the will of said testor's father, exclusive of that known as Babbs, containing 360 acres, also gives Joseph Gray 5/ a tract purchased by said testor of the Vestry of the Parish of Southward, adjoining said 550 acres. Daughter Eliza Marriott 5/, wife of Mathias Marriott, 3 Negroes. Daughter Sarah Gray 5/ 3 Negroes and one bed and furniture. Daughter Lucy Gray 5/ 3 Negroes, one bed & furniture. Son John Gray

5/, son James Gray 5/ 4 Negroes, one bed & furniture and the tract of land known as Babbs given the testor by the will of said testor's father. Wife Margaret, the remainder of his estate during her natural life or widowhood. Executrix, testor's wife; Executor, testor's son Joseph Gray 5/. Witnesses: Robert Gray, Hartwell Cocke, George Dawson."

Children:

1. Joseph Gray 5/ m. ??
2. John Gray 5/ m. Mary___?
3. Eliza Gray 5/ m. Mathias Marriott (17 -1774).
4. Sarah Gray 5/ m. Thomas WASHINGTON JR.
5. Mary Gray 5/ m. Christopher (?) Clinch.
6. Lucy Gray 5/, died as single person 1773, left legacies to brothers John Gray 5/ & James Gray 5/, the latter under age.

Joseph Gray 5/ (1707-1771) m. first on December 14, 1729, Sarah Simmons, daughter of Col. John Simmons. The name of his second wife whom he married in 1748 in unknown. Col Joseph Gray 5/ was a Burgesses from Isle of Wight County 1736-1749. His land fell in Southampton County, where he was one of the first Justices of the County Court in 1749; Sheriff in 1751; Burgesses 1755 to 1769. His will was dated August 30, 1769 and proved June 13, 1771.

Children of 1st wife (V.M. 30, p. 64).

1. William Gray 6/ (1732-1750) died single.
2. Mary Gray 6/ (1734-) m. 1st Littleton Tazwell, m. 2nd Rev. William Fanning.
3. Elizabeth Gray 6/, (1736-1761).
4. Anne Gray 6/, (1738-).
5. Sarah Gray 6/, (1739-), m. Major James Wall.
6. John Gray 6/, (1741-1760).
7. Edwin Gray 6/, (1743-1790) see below.
8. Peter Gray 6/ (1745-1761).
9. James Gray 6/ (1747-1807).

Children by 2nd wife:

10. Joseph Gray 6/, (1749-1754).
11. Lucy Gray 6/, (1751-), m. 1769 Col. John Flood Edmunds, of Brunswick Co., Va.
12. Jane Gray 6/, (1753-1754).

Colonel Edwin Gray 6/, married Julia Godwin, daughter of Thomas Godwin of Nansemond County, Va. He was a Burgesses 1769-1774, of the Virginia Conventions of 1774, 1775 and 1776; and of the House of Delegates and State Senate. He made his will on September 23, 1786 and it was probated in June of 1790.

Children:

1. Joseph Gray 7/, will proven in Southampton County, Va.

- in 1820, children: Sons James Gray 8/ & Joseph Gray 8/
Daughters: Sally Gray 8 & Nancy Gray 8/.
2. Edwin Gary 7/, m. 1st Julia Gray, 2nd Mrs Gray nee Lewis. He was Member of Congress from Southampton Co., Va. 1799-1813.
 3. Thomas Gray 7/, m. Mrs. Brewer nee Cocke. His will was dated September 6, 1831 and proven in Southampton Co., Va. on September 9, 1831. Children: Catherine Gray 8/ m. Richardson; Edwin Gray 8/ m. 1 (???), 2nd Charlotte Langston; Joseph Gray 8/ m. Evelyn Davis; Anne Gray 8/; Robert Gray 8/ m. Mary Nicholson; Mary Gray 8/ m. Thomas Ruffin.
 4. Mary Gray 7/ m. September 1788 Daniel Simmons.
 5. Henry Mills Gray 7/ m. Martha Hynes, made will 1814.

END OF DATA