

VA.057 A DISCUSSION ON THE EDWARD HILL FAMILIES OF SHIRLEY
PLANTATION IN EARLY CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

Entered in September of 1988 by Robert R. Hill of Brandon,
Florida.

Source: The Chapter entitled "Genealogy with Brief Sketches,"
that is found in the book entitled "Colonial Men & Times," by
Mrs. Lillie DuPuy (VanCulin) Harper.

THE HILL FAMILY OF SHIRLEY HUNDRED, CHARLES CITY COUNTY, VA.

Comments by Robert Hill: Most of this information comes from
the chapter or section of the above book that is entitled
"Genealogy, with Brief Sketches of the Allied Families."

The information in the above book appears to be of great
value but the text of the book is very difficult to follow.
Often times the information is in the form of a simple
statement, and no date is given for an event such as a deed
or marriage, leaving one to speculate on the subject. This
was very frustrating.

Another problem was that often times the information given
was not listed chronologically, making it difficult to
establish just which Edward Hill it related to.

A good example is that there were apparently four generations
of Edward Hills of Shirley. A genealogical chart that is
marked as page 15 from a book entitled "A History of Shirley
Plantation" leaves off the very first Edward Hill, who was
the ancestors of the Hills of Shirley. This Edward Hill lived
in Elizabeth City County, and while he did not live at
Shirley, I am of the opinion that he should have been
included on the chart, since he was the progenitor of the
Hill lines of Shirley. It would have made it much easier to
understand what generation a particular Edward Hill belonged
to.

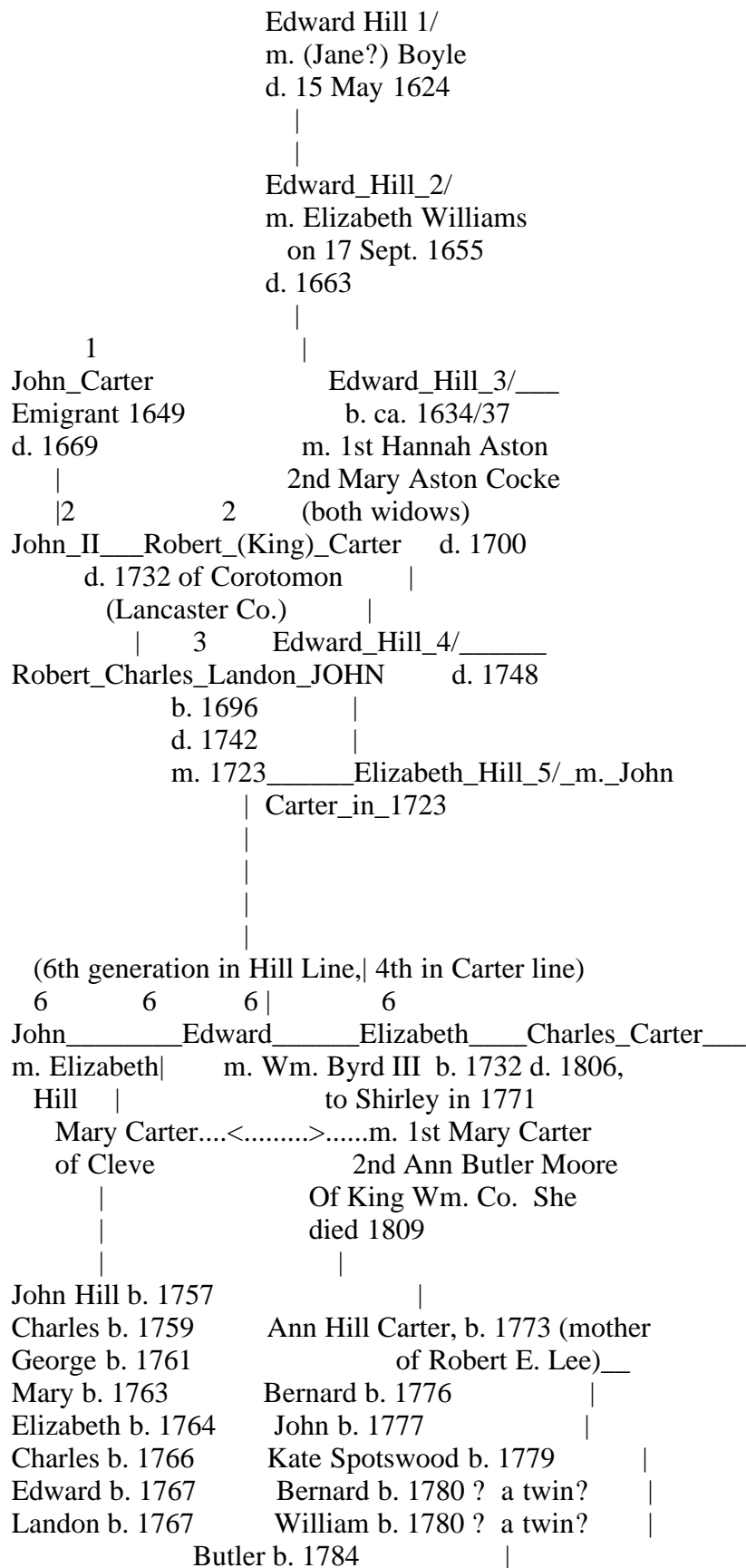
The chart also listed Edward Hill 3/ as marrying Elizabeth
Williams while all of the records say it was Edward Hill 2/.
Other marriages appeared to be wrong also.

I have spent several weeks re-reading the article, thinking
about and analyzing the data, checking dates and comparing
those dates to the individuals life time (viz birth and
deaths dates that have been given) and have come to
conclusions set forth below as best that I can understand. I
do hope that this will be of some help to others.

Robert R. Hill

Genealogical Chart of Shirley Plantation

EDWARD HILL 1/ DID NOT LIVE AT SHIRLEY PLANTATION



Mildred b. 1786	
Lucy b. 1789	
Wm. Fitzhugh b. 1791	
Culphemea b. 1796	
Robert E. Lee	
1771-1804 m. Mary Nelson	
of Yorktown	

CAPTAIN EDWARD HILL 1/.

Shirley Plantation was one of the earliest tobacco plantations in Virginia and was first settled in 1613 and was producing for export by 1616.

Now Captain Edward Hill 1/ lived in Elizabeth City County, adjacent to Charles City County, Virginia, where Shirley Hundred and later Shirley Plantation was located. Edward Hill 1/ died and was buried in Elizabeth City, Virginia on 15 May 1624. He did not live at Shirley that we know of.

Va. Historical Magazine, Vol 3, Page 156 states that "Edward Hill, the first person bearing this name in Virginia was Edward Hill of Elizabeth City County and who was buried in that county on May 15th, 1624. He is also referred to as the "ancestor of the Hills of Shirley." (Reference: "Old King William Homes & Families," Page 64). Thus he has been assigned as Edward Hill 1/.

On the 9th of September 1622, "Master Edward Hill" had distinguished himself by a brave and successful defense of his house against the Indians. Among the Duke of Manchester's MSS. is a letter from Edward Hill, Elizabeth City, Virginia, dated 14th April 1623 to his brother John Hill, Mercer, (a dealer in very fine goods) on Lumbard Street, London and another letter to his "father in law" Mr. Richard Boyle of London.

It should be noted that the article does not say he fought at Shirley, simply that he defended his house bravely.

Another interesting article states that "At a court held at James City on 19th of February 1626, a Jane Hill is mentioned as living at Shirley. Was this his wife and her name was Jane Boyle, daughter of Richard Boyle?"

It was his son Colonel Edward Hill 2/ who first purchased Shirley ca. 1660.

COLONEL EDWARD HILL 2/

Reference Va. Historical Magazine, Vol 16, Page 14:
Land Patents issued.... The Corporation of Elizabeth City,
Edward Hill, 100 acres Planted, May 15, 1625. Now it must be
remembered that the first Edward Hill had died exactly one
year before, to the date of this patent, thus it could not be
Edward Hill 1/ that received this patent. I think it was his
son Edward Hill 2/.

Colonel Edward Hill 2/ acquired Shirley property in 1660 and
his descendents still own it. He was called Colonel or Sir
Edward Hill.

I believe him to be the Edward Hill that married Elizabeth
Williams on the 17th of September 1655 in Charles City
County, Virginia.

(Note: here is a good example of an important event, the
marriage of a Col. Edward Hill to Elizabeth Williams, but no
dates were given, leaving one to speculate as to which Edward
Hill married Elizabeth Williams).

There was an article on the Hill Family printed by the
Richmond Standard (no date given) that states or implies it
was Edward Hill 2/ that married Elizabeth Williams.

Note by Robert Hill: In 1677 a Mrs. Elizabeth Howe of London
left jewelry to her granddaughter Henrieta Hill of Shirley,
on James River, and to Sarah Hill, Elizabeth Hill and their
mother (who was) Mrs. Howe's daughter, who was Mrs. Edward
Hill. I suspect this was the mother of Elizabeth Williams
who had probably re-married in England to a Howe.

Comment by Robert Hill: Again no date of this newspaper
article was given and one can only speculate as to when the
marriage occurred.

Reference to Patents Vol 5, page 86 at Land Office, Richmond,
Virginia, is the following: Quote .."Captain Ed. Hill
received by will from Col. Ed. Hill 4000 acres on
Rappahannock River. Deed dated September 28, 1664."

This was Edward Hill 3/, receiving land as a result of his
father's will (Edward Hill 2/). Apparently Edward Hill 2/ was
a Captain at this time, later becoming a Colonel.

It appears that his son Edward Hill 3/ built the present
house as early as 1723. Shirley at one time contained more
than 200 slaves and about 170,000 acres of land. It was
Edward Hill's 2/ great-granddaughter, and Edward Hill's 3/
granddaughter Ann Hill Carter, that was the mother of Robert
E. Lee.

Colonel Edward Hill 2/, of "Shirley, Charles City County,"

was a Member of the House of Burgesses for Charles City County in 1639, 1642, 1644, 1645, 1647, 1649-54, Speaker of the House in 1644 & 1645 and a member of the Council in 1654. He lived a short time in Maryland and was chosen Governor by the Insurrectionary party but was taken prisoner by Governor Calvert.

Reference Va. Historical Magazine Vol 13, Page 194: "Three notable Indian Battles"...." The first was between the Ricahecreans in 1656 and the English under Colonel Edward Hill, assisted by one hundred Pamunkey warriors under Totopotomoi, was fought in Hanover County, near the creek now bearing the name of "Totopotomoi." I believe this to be Edward Hill 2/ who died in 1663.

"Patents, Vol 5, Page 86, at Land Office, Richmond, Va....."Captain Ed Hill received by will from Colonel Ed. Hill, 4000 acres on Rappahannock River. Deed dated September 28, 1664."

It appears to this writer that the above Deed was the final act of the will of Colonel Edward Hill 2/ to his son Edward Hill 3/, who was probably just a "Captain" at the time of his inheritance and became a Colonel later in time.

COLONEL EDWARD HILL 3/

Now Colonel Edward Hill 3/, son of the above Edward 2/, appears to have been born ca. 1634-1637 and died on 30th November 1700 and it is said that portraits of both he and his wife are said to be hanging at Shirley. (Which wife)?

He was a member of the Council in 1677, Colonel and Commander in Chief (of Charles City, County?).

I believe that Colonel Edward Hill 3/ may have married twice, first to the widow Hannah Aston (widow of Col Walter Aston) and secondly to Mary Aston Cocke, the widow of Richard Cocke (1600-1665) and a daughter of Col. Walter Aston, probably by his first and unknown wife. His second wife Hannah had re-married to a Colonel Edward Hill in 1656 and I think this was Edward Hill 3/.

Discussion of the Marriages of Edward Hill 3/.

This article says that Colonel Walter Aston died on 6th April 1656 at age of 49, who had a land grant on August 12, 1646 of 1041 acres in Charles City County, Virginia. His wife is named in the patents (of) Warbrow or Norbrow. Col Aston was married twice, first to ?? and and 2ndly to a woman named Hannah, who after his death, married Colonel Edward Hill and had children. Because there were children of this marriage I believe this is supporting evidence to be the younger Colonel

Edward Hill 3/.

This article goes on and says QUOTE: "Col. Jordan had many relatives in Surry. In a petition recorded in Surry on January 14th, 1656, Hannah Hill states that her husband (meaning Col. Aston) had died intestate and asks that his brother in law, George Jordan, be granted administration on the Estate." END OF QUOTE.

This brings up the following question: How could she (Hannah) file a petition BEFORE the death of her husband?? I am of the opinion that the date of death for Col. Walter Aston was copied incorrectly and he died on January 14th 1656 and the petition was filed on April 6, 1656. It is possible that the death was on 6th April 1655 and the petition was filed on January 14th, 1656. The original records should be checked for the answer to this question.

At first the thinking was that Hannah Aston was the second wife of Colonel Edward Hill 2/, but based on the following reasons and items, that idea was eliminated.

Reference to Va. Historical Magazine, Vol 16, No. 1, Page 14: Patents issued...The Corporation of Elizabeth City. Edward Hill, 100 acres, Planted, May 15, 1625." End of Quote.

Now we know that Col. Edward Hill 1/ had died in 1624 thus the above was not him but his son Edward Hill 2/. The article then shows (not in chronological order the following, Quote: "Col. (or Sir) Edward Hill married Miss Williams, a beautiful Welsh heiress, they came together to America." End of Quote.

I am of the opinion that Edward Hill 2/ was married to Elizabeth Williams and it was his son Edward Hill 3/ that married first to the widow Hannah Aston and secondly to the widow, Mary (Aston) Cocke ca. 1665.

Virginia records shows that Col. Ed. Hill married Miss Williams in Charles City County on 17th September 1655, just a few months prior to the marriage of Hannah Aston to a Col. Edward Hill, so it was a different Edward Hill that married the two ladies above.

Now we know that Col. Aston, had died on 14 January 1656. We must remember that his widow (who had re-married Col. Edward Hill) had filed a petition on 6th April 1656, for the courts to appoint an administrator for her husband's estate.

This would show that Hannah Aston married Colonel Edward Hill 3/ sometimes between the dates of 14 January and 6 April of 1656. Edward Hill 2/ was already an elderly family man, and there were children born to Hannah (Aston) Hill and her husband, this (younger) Colonel Edward Hill 3/.

It was probably their daughter Hannah Hill 4/ that is listed as marrying Edward Chilton. See later Below:

In Vol. 10 of the William & Mary Quarterly is the following..."Hannah Hill, daughter of Colonel Edward Hill of Shirley in Charles City County, married Edward Chilton, who was a "Barrister" (equivalent to a Solicitor) of the Middle Temple, London and who came to Virginia prior to 1682. No issue."

Again we have valuable information but the author did not give us the date of the marriage, and therefore we can only speculate. Let's discuss what we do know.

Hannah Aston (widow) probably married Col. Edward Hill 3/ sometimes after January 1656 when her first husband died and prior to April 6, 1656, the date of Hannah Hill requested the court for appointment of an Administrator to administer her deceased husband's estate (first husband that is). This was made in Surry County on April 6, 1656 and she was known as "Hannah Hill," indicating she had already re-married Col. Edward Hill 3/.

2nd marriage for Edward Hill 3/.

Reference to Va. Historical Magazine, Vol 3, Page 405 shows that Richard Cocke (1600-1665) married 1st to ??? and secondly to Mary Aston, daughter of Col. Walter Aston and probably to his 1st (unknown) wife. (Note: Remember his 2nd wife Hannah had re-married Col. Edward Hill).

As stated, in 1665, when Richard Cocke died, his widow Mary, re-married Col. Edward Hill of Charles City County and had children. Apparently the first wife (widow) Hannah Aston Hill had died and this was a second marriage for Col. Edward Hill 3/. Note there were children of this marriage and Edward Hill 3/ (b. ca. 1634-37) would be between 28 and 31 years of age, still in the prime of life. Both he and his wife were still young enough and able to bear children.

Discussion on Hannah Hill 4/ and her marriage.

We know that Col. Edward Hill 3/ married the widow Hannah Aston in early 1656. Allowing a year before children, and assuming Hannah Hill 4/ to be the eldest child, would place the earliest birth of Hannah Hill 4/ ca. 1657. (Naturally this is speculation).

In these times, a woman was eligible for marriage as early as 16, so allowing 16-21 for her age would place Hannah's marriage between 1673 and 1678. The records show that her marriage was to a "barrister" (equal to today's Solicitor)

named Edward Chilton, who came to Virginia prior to 1682. There were no children of this marriage.

Now since it says that Edward Chilton arrived in Virginia prior to 1682, it may have been that the marriage took place in 1682 and (assuming Hannah was not the eldest child) should this be the case then Hannah's birth could have been between 1661 and 1666. I tend to think this is the correct facts.

GENERAL EDWARD HILL 4/

Edward Hill 4/. His birth (if known) was not listed but he is said to have died in 1748. He was the son of Edward Hill 3/. Who his mother was is not certain. He was a Lt. Colonel in 1699 and later was General Edward Hill. He was the "Collector of James River in 1716 and was a Member of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, Speaker of the House and Member of the Council, Commander in Chief of Henrico and Charles City Counties in 1656.

His daughter Martha Hill 5/ married Hugh Gifford and the other daughter, Elizabeth Hill 5/, married in 1723 to Secretary John Carter of Carotoman (Lancaster County, Va.) John Carter was born in 1743 and was Secretary of the Colony of Virginia. This Edward Hill died in 1748. I believe this to be the same man that became known as "King Carter."

Brief Review:

Captain Edward Hill 1/ died on 15 May 1624.

Colonel Edward Hill 2/, son of above, died in 1663. He was father to Col. Edward Hill 3/.

Col. Edward Hill 3/, who was born ca. 1634-1637, died 1700.

General Edward Hill 4/, son of Edward Hill 3/, of Shirley, died in 1748.

End of the Hills of Shirley

JOHN HILL OF NORFOLK COUNTY.

VA. CO. RECORDS, VOL. 6, PAGE 154 AND VA. HIST. MAG., VOL 2, PAGE 420:

"A record in Norfolk County, Virginia in 1647 made by John Hill then between 50 and 60 years of age, says that he had continued in Virginia (for) 26 years and upwards and that he had been a book-binder in the University of Oxford and was a son of Stephen Hill of Oxford, England."

IN 1641, Mr. John Hill was Burgess for Lower Norfolk County. He was in the Colony as early as 1621.

"The census of 1624-25 also gives the "Muster of Rebecca Rose, widow, living at West & Shirley Hundred. She was 50 years old and came in the (ship) "Marygold," in May of 1619 and her muster included MARMADUKE HILL, aged 11 (born 1613) and JOHN HILL, aged 14, (born 1610) who came in the same ship. (Va. Hist. Magazine, Vol. 11, page 361).

Note: I do not believe this is the John Hill of Norfolk County, but do wonder if he was connected to Edward Hill 1/?

Norfolk County Marriage Bonds, May 1st, 1731....John Hill and Margaret Wilson, (VA. Co. Records, Vol 6, Page 102.

SOME INFORMATION OF THE HILLS OF NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Following from Over Wharton Parish Register of Stafford County, Virginia:

Page 78, John Hill Departed this life on March 19, 1743

Page 80. William Hill, married Catherine Stacey on September 17, 1745.

Page 86, John Hill, son of William & Catherine, was born October 11, 1751.

Page 87, William Hill, son of William, was born August 4, 1753.

Page 87, Martha Hill, daughter of William & Lydia, was born May 5, 1753.

Page 88, Martha Hill married James Bussel on February 24, 1754. (Could not be the one listed above).

Page 89, George Hill, son of William & Catherine, was born February 19, 1755.

Edward Traube when only a lad entered the Revolutionary Army, was in active defense of his country against the British at Guilford Court House (N.C.) and was at Gates' defeat and also was at Yorktown. When the war was over Traube married 1st Martha Haskins, daughter of Colonel Robert Haskins, an

officer of the Revolution. His second marriage was to ELIZABETH HILL "of the Hills of Surry" both of English origin, descendents of the early Virginia colonist. They emigrated to Kentucky and built themselves a fine home in Woodford County, Kentucky. They were accompanied by his mother Olympia Du Puy Traube (wife of John James Traube, and granddaughter of Bartholomew Du Puy, the well known French Huguenot). She died at his home at age 93 (and is buried on one side of Edward Traube, while Martha Haskins Traube his wife, lies on the other side of Edward. These graves are on the farm there in Woodford County, only the remnants of the tombstones remaining).

Robert Haskins, b. 1732 married Elizabeth Hill. Died 1803.

Edward Traube b. 1760 married Martha Haskins. Died 1814.

END