

William and Mary College

Quarterly Historical Magazine

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MEMOIRS OF PHILIP MAZZEI

Translated by Dr. E. C. Branchi

Second Installment¹

I never knew anyone in Virginia who could not read or write. Even in the houses of those who work the land with their own hands, or who engage in any of the mechanical arts, there are books, an inkstand and writing-paper; and it is rare that they do not know arithmetic.

Their education causes them to respect those who are better educated, and they think it their right to consult them when in doubt, particularly in matters of public welfare.

The absence of Mr. Jefferson and of a certain Mr. Harvey, who lived about six miles from my house, made most of them come to me.

Another fact which contributed to give them a highly favorable opinion of me was this: about three months after my arrival, some men went to Jefferson to ask for information about me. He told them, "As to his character, I can vouch for him; and as to the rest, I can say that his presence is most useful to me." If he referred to the useful knowledge of England that I had, he did not miss the truth; but the manner in which he expressed himself was such that it produced an opinion of me that surpassed my expectations and often embarrassed me, for people used to come to consult me from every part of the County, which was about one hundred and fifty miles in circumference.

One morning as I stood outside the door of my house, about a dozen persons rode up and dismounted before arriving at the gate of my meadow. They attached their bridles to the gate-post, and then came toward me. After bidding me good morning, one of them said, "You do not know us, but we know you." Then he asked for a half-hour or an hour of my time, if my business permitted. I invited them to come indoors. After they had sat down, they signified to me that they had come to learn the true state of our affairs; and since I had an education which they could not have, it was only just that I instruct

¹In this second installment of Memoirs of Philip Mazzei, the translator has omitted that part of the text which has no connection with Mazzei's life in Virginia.

Jno. Payne, Jr. (1740-1793) m. about 1761 Mary Coles (-----).
Issue—b. at New Garden, N. C. (Guilford College).

Dolly Page, b. 5-20-1768.

Wm. Temple Payne, b. 6-17-1766.

Walter Payne, b. 11-5-1762.

The Paynes returned to Hanover Co., Va., in 1769. Where these children were born:

- (1) Lucy.
- (2) Annie.
- (3) Mary.
- (4) Jno.
- (5) Isaac.

I would like to have data and correspond with the descendants of these children. Address:

Miss Nellie W. Dobbs,
320 Hamilton St.,
High Point, N. C.

Stainback and Hamlin Families

Peter Stainback, Sr., lived in Amelia County, Virginia, in 1774, evidently in that portion of the county afterwards cut off into Nottoway County, for when Nottoway County was formed in 1788, the new house of Peter Stainback was mentioned as the place for the Justices to meet to organize the County. He was residing at the County seat of Nottoway County, in 1793, where he was the proprietor of an "ordinary," or as is now called a "hotel." His will was dated November 3, 1802, and was probated June 4, 1807, in Nottoway County, in W. B. No. 2, p. 353. As he makes no mention of his wife, it is presumed that she was dead at that time. It has been said that he was a soldier in the Revolutionary War, but that assertion has not been verified. True, he furnished supplies to the army, but no actual service as a soldier has been found. In his will he mentions:

Son: Peter, Jr., who settled in Lunenburg Co., Va.

Daughters: Nancy, Mary, and Dolley.

While the will merely mentions his daughter "Mary," other evidence fixes the fact that she was Mary Ligon Stainback. In Vol. 2, pp. 402 and 436, "The Old Free State," by Bell, we find a marriage bond issued in Lunenburg County, April 28, 1807, to Mary Legon Stainback, and Thomas Hamlin (I), born 1758, died 1857, and that they were married May 5, 1807, by John Jones, a Methodist minister. In the work just referred to above, the name "Ligon" is spelled with an "e," but evidence would tend to verify the name as Ligon, there being no family there, who spell the name in that manner. Mary Ligon Stainback was the second wife of Thomas Hamlin I.

It is said by one informant that Thomas Hamlin I established a home on a plantation called "Scotland," two miles east of Leaksville, Rockingham County, North Carolina, on the Dan River, and Matrimony Creek. It is said that Thomas Hamlin I. was buried on this plantation, on the hill above the old spring, as were his children, Lucy, Charles, and Thomas II. Children of Thomas Hamlin I. and Mary Ligon Stainback Hamlin were:

1. John.
2. Thomas II. born 1808, died 1859, married Martha Reamy, daughter of James and ----- Hughes Reamy, at Leaksville, Rockingham Co., N. C.

3. Peter Stainback, born January 31, 1808, died November 6, 1891, married June 12, 1832, Virginia Ann Michaux, born January 28, 1812, died August 20, 1889, daughter of Richard Woodson Michaux and Mary Mayo Macon. They moved from Leaksville, N. C., to near New Concord, Calloway County, Ky.

4. Charles, never married.

5. Lucy, never married.

Information desired:

1. Names of parents of Peter Stainback, Sr., and any dates available.
2. Was the wife of Peter Stainback, Sr., and mother of Mary Ligon Stainback, a Ligon? If so, her name, names of her parents, and any dates of birth, death and marriage available.
3. Who was the emigrant ancestor of Peter Stainback, Sr.?
4. Day and month of birth and death of both Thomas Hamlin I. and II.
5. Names of parents of parents of Thomas Hamlin I. with any dates available.
6. Was the Hamlin family one of Huguenot origin, Stephen Hamlin being the ancestor who came to Virginia from England?

Alfred H. Burr,
Box 38,
North Little Rock, Ark.

Macon Family

1. Henry Macon married 1st. Rebecca Mayo, b. 1732, died before 1762, daughter of William Mayo and his second wife Ann Parratt, whom he married in 1731. Children were:

2. William Macon, married Sarah (Sally) Woodson.

3. John Macon, married Martha Todd.

As his second wife, Henry Macon married Frances (Netherland) Carlyle, widow, and daughter of Wade Netherland. She died about 1786. Henry Macon died about 1785, as his will was probated in Cumberland County, Virginia, October 24, 1785.

2. William Macon, married about 1781, Sarah (Sally) Woodson, born September 22, 1761 or 1764 (daughter of Tucker Woodson and Mary Netherland). He died in 1797, for his will was probated September 26, 1797, in Cumberland County, Virginia. His wife died about 1824. Children were:

4. Henry Macon, born March 2, 1782.

5. William Mayo Macon.

6. Mary Mayo Macon, married Richard Woodson Michaux, of Powhatan County, Virginia, son of Captain Joseph Michaux and Judith Woodson.

7. Sally Woodson Macon, married ----- Swann.

8. Rebecca Mayo Macon, married Thomas Redd, of Halifax County, Virginia.

It is said that 1. Henry Macon was a grandson of Gideon Macon, Huguenot, of Virginia, through a son John Macon. Would like confirmation of this statement.

Who was the wife of Gideon Macon, and of his son, John Macon, and when did they die? Would like to have dates of birth and marriage also, if available.

WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY

When were 1. Henry Macon, 2. William Macon, and 6. Mary Mayo Macon, born and married?

Alfred H. Burr,
Box 38,
North Little Rock, Ark.

Maffett and Brent Families

Henry Maffett or Moffett, said to have been born about 1740, and died about 1806, married 1st. -----, 2nd. Margaret Brent, who died about 1819. They resided in or near Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, where all of their children are said to have been born. They were said to have all been members of the Presbyterian Church. Such slaves as Henry Maffett had, he gave their freedom while on his death-bed. Children were:

1. William, who married Catherine Lodge, of Loudoun County, Va., and then moved to Columbiana County, Ohio, in 1809.
2. Sarah, married George Athey.
3. John, born about 1771, died about 1813, married Elizabeth Etcher. Family tradition says he saw service in the War of 1812, as a drummer boy, and at Fort McHenry. If the tradition is correct, the dates above are all not correct.
4. Nellie.
5. Ellen, married Mr. Barrett.
6. Catherine (Katy) married Francis Sidle of Loudoun Co., Va.
7. Elby married John Jordan. They left Virginia with her sister, No. 8. Betty, in 1825, and went to Ohio. Later, the Jordans moved on further to Indiana.
8. Elizabeth (Betty), born October 24, 1804, in or near Leesburg, Loudoun County, Virginia, married in 1827, in Belmont County, Ohio, William Burr. She died in 1892 in McConnellsville, Ohio.

Who were the parents of Henry Maffett, and Margaret Brent?

When and where were Henry Maffett and Margaret Brent born, and when and where did they die? What was the name of the first wife of Henry Maffett?

Would like confirmation or correction of the statement that the children, William, Sarah, John, Nellie, and/or Ellen were children by Henry Maffett and his first wife, whose name is not known; and that the children, Catharine, Elby and Elizabeth were by his second wife, Margaret Brent.

It is family tradition that there was a relationship through Margaret Brent with the family of Lord Baltimore. Could it be that she was a descendant of George Brent, who married Mary Sewell, a step-daughter of Lord Baltimore?

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Duke, Moore, Kelly Families

Juliet Duke, said to have come from England, married 1st. William Moore, said to have been a minister in the Episcopal Church. They resided in or near Baltimore, Maryland. Children by this marriage were:

1. Horace Moore, who moved to St. Louis, Mo.

2. Zedekiah Moore, who moved to Blue Lick Springs, Ky., where he married Mary Patton, about 1805.

3. Elizabeth Moore, died June 10, 1840, married in Montgomery County, Maryland, December 25, 1800, Benjamin Kelly. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Thomas Reed of the Episcopal Church. Brumbaugh's Maryland Records, Vol. 2, p. 561. Afterwards they moved into Bourbon County, Kentucky, and then to Christian County, Kentucky, near Hopkinsville, in 1805.

The next information that the writer has about Juliet Duke, is that of her second marriage to Thomas Kelly, son of Thomas and Hannah ----- Kelly, and brother of Benjamin Kelly, who married 3. Elizabeth Moore, supra. Through this marriage a peculiar relationship arose, for, a daughter became the sister-in-law of her own mother, and a brother became the step-son of the other brother.

The elder Thomas Kelly is said to have been kidnapped from Ireland when a small boy, held for ransom, and finally brought over to this country, and it is thought hired out until his passage was paid out. He was never sure whether or not his name was Kelly or O'Kelly, and as he was so small when taken away, he recalled little of his home. He married Hannah ----- Children were:

1. Joseph, married Elizabeth Somers in Virginia and moved to Christian County, Ky.
2. Thomas, born April 4, 1769, married Juliet (Duke) Moore, (widow, the writer presumes, of Rev. William Moore), and mother of Elizabeth Moore 3, supra.
3. Benjamin, married December 25, 1800, Elizabeth Moore, supra. He died October 7, 1841. They were the parents of sixteen children.

Information sought:

1. Names of parents of William Moore and Juliet Duke, with dates of birth, marriage and death, if possible.
2. Where were William Moore and Juliet Duke born?
3. Maiden name of Hannah Kelly, wife of the elder Thomas Kelly.
4. Dates and places of marriage, birth, and death of Thomas Kelly and his wife Hannah.
5. Dates and places of birth of Elizabeth (Moore) Kelly and Benjamin Kelly.
6. Was Juliet Duke an emigrant? If so, when did she emigrate, on what ship, with whom, if not her family, and to what port did she come?
7. Give names of family she came with, if an emigrant.

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Boggs and Adams Families

William Boggs married Sarah Adams. They lived in or near Smithland, Livingston County, Kentucky. Both were dead by 1816. Sarah Adams Boggs is said to have been buried near Smithland. Children were:

1. Sue, married ----- and moved to Nashville, Tenn. Descendants married into a family named Corbett.
2. Lavinia.
3. Elijah, moved to Bloomington, Illinois, where he married Mary Marshall Adams, oldest daughter of John and Pamela Adams. Later he moved with his family to near Eureka, Illinois.