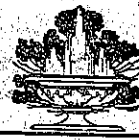


The Mobley's

and

Their Connections



BY

WILLIAM WOODWARD DIXON

BOOK I.  
EARLY HISTORY.

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To Florence Grace Feaster:

As you are descended from Norris, the Secretary of William Penn, and also from the first Moberly in America by his wife Phoebe Lovejoy, kindly permit the dedication of the first book of this family history to you.—the Author.

Encouraged by Charles Fox in the year 1680, a new sect had arisen in England styling themselves, FRIENDS, but called in derision by all other religious denominations, Quakers. William Penn was one of these, a nobleman who had been four times imprisoned. He petitioned for a grant of land in America with the result that history tells. Connected with the first settlement of Pennsylvania is the love story of the first Moberley, now spelled Mobley, who came to this country and from whom our family are descended. He came direct from England with William Penn. It has been thought for a long time that this Moberley was the son of a baronet. He was descended from a baronet Sir Edward Moberley in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. This Moberley had three sons, one succeeded to the title and Estates and became Sir Edward Moberley. He had one brother who went into the church and became a bishop; the third bought a commission in the English army. His name was William, went to India, amassed a fortune, returned and bought an estate near Sheffield. His son Edward purchased a large estate in Cheshire and was a country gentleman.

WILLIAM MOBLEY I.

On one occasion the father, Edward Moberley, was about to go on a trip to London with one of his dependents, Adam Varnadore. He called his son William to superintend the planting of some apple trees in his absence in a

certain field during his stay in London. The son objected to the spot in which he was directed to plant the trees, saying the site selected did not suit him, and that the trees should be planted elsewhere. The father insisted and enjoined that the trees be put out as he directed while away. With that the elder Moberley and the elder Varnadore went on to London. Adam Varnadore had a son Adam, the companion of young William Moberley. Edward Moberley, the father, and Adam Varnadore, the father, returned from London to find the trees set out against the wishes of Mr. Moberley. In concert both fathers pulled up a sion of the trees with which each whipped his own son soundly. The boys enraged under the lash ran away together. They got into a ship belonging to William Penn, the founder of the colony of Pennsylvania. On board Penn's ship was a beautiful girl, Phoebe Lovejoy, a governess of Penn's household. She was a girl of good family, educated and refined. Phoebe Lovejoy was a Quakeress, and to her must be ascribed the oft repeated statement, that the Mobleys have quaker blood in their veins. In talks around the family fireside, down from one generation to another, Phoebe is said to have been a relative of Penn or his wife, and that she was as accomplished as she was fair and beautiful, that she was as good as she was lovely. She and William Moberley loved in secret, and upon reaching America were married without the knowledge of Penn, the Proprietor of the province of Pennsylvania, and of course all-powerful. Fearing his displeasure, not to speak of his anger against young Moberley, they fled to the Indians and concealed themselves among them. This is not strange for the Indians lived toward Penn and his people in the spirit of their chief's address to the colonists, "we will live in love with Penn and his children as long as the moon and the sun shall shine." That promise was never broken.

When William Moberley landed in Pennsylvania he was 18 years old. After the marriage and uncertain life

for two years he moved to a point in Maryland, near what was called a few years ago, Point Tobacco. He and his wife settled down in that State and raised eight sons. How many daughters we cannot find out. We cannot ascertain whether there were any daughters at all. When the youngest son was a boy of 5 years and after the death of his wife whom he deeply mourned, William Moberley, stricken with loneliness and sorrow, craved the sight of father, the old home, and native land. He returned to England, sad of heart and much changed in physical appearance. He had left a beardless youth, he returned a bronzed, hardened pioneer of the New World. So great was the transformation of physique, of manner and expression, that his father not only did not know him but pronounced him an impostor. The matter of his identity the father could not for the moment be brought to believe. He had sought him over a third of a century and as one whom his enfeebled eyes would never behold again. William Moberley with the tales of his childhood, of how he had incurred his father's displeasure about the apple tree scions, his flogging, his running away with young Adam Varnadore, and at once going to the window and pointing out the orchard and the very spot he was whipped, convinced his father that he, indeed, was his long absent boy: Whereupon it may be imagined a scene of affection and reconciliation. William Moberley remained but a short time in England and returned to Maryland, died there, and was the first of our Mobley ancestors whose body given to him in the Old World returned to its mother Earth in the New.

## CHAPTER II.

## THE FIRST MOBLEY IN SOUTH CAROLINA.

Edward Moberley, son of the first Moberley in America, was the first one of that name to come to South Carolina, some of the family now say as early as 1735, but circumstances and contemporaneous events lead one to believe that it was later, more likely between the years 1758

and 1761, for soon after his arrival he and his sons and one Hans Wagner participated in the troubles and war with the Cherokees. The Cherokees went on the war path, scalped some white settlers, burned their homes and took Fort Loudon. The second William Bull was then the Royal Lieutenant Governor of the Colony. He got together and mobilized a body of up country people with rifles and placed them under the command of Thomas Middleton. Francis Marion was among them. A force of British regular troops were sent under Colonel Grant to assist the up country people also. The friendship commenced with the Mobleys and Francis Marion in this war lasted as long as the life of General Francis Marion. The Mobleys still bear testimony to that friendship in the Christian names of their descendants.

The first South Carolina Mobley had married Susanah DeRuel and of this union were six sons and six daughters, William, Clement, Benjamin, Edward, John, Samuel, Polly, Susanah, Sallie, Elizabeth, Keziah, and Dorcas. We know this much that Clement married Mary Fox, Ben married the widow Hill, Edward, Susanah, Sallie, Elizabeth, and Keziah all married Meadors. Dorcas married Richard Hill and John married Mary Beam. The youngest son of the first South Carolina Moberley was Samuel, who married Mary Wagner daughter of Hans Wagner, and had four sons and eight daughters to live to maturity. Recurring to an incident of early history, it can be substantiated that the Moberleys came to South Carolina shortly after Braddock's defeat when so many Pennsylvanians, Virginians, and Marylanders settled in the upper part of South Carolina. And it can be said with certitude that when the Patriarch Edward Mobley came, he brought not only his own family, but with him were families of his brothers and sisters and their children.

On the route, on the banks of the Yadkin River, they admitted into the caravan of travelers Hans Wagner, a Hollander. At the time his family consisted of himself and a number of daughters. He joined the Moberleys to

immigrate to South Carolina for the better security of his family of daughters, recognizing at the same time that the gentle air of refinement of the Moberley women would be an educative and cultural force upon the lives of his family.

It has been assigned as the reason for the Moberleys leaving Maryland for the Colony of South Carolina, that it grew out of the continual unsettled condition of Maryland politics in respect to property rights, but as no specifications have been given as to just what the older Moberleys meant by that, we are induced to give an incident that more likely caused the migration. It must be remembered that when William Moberley ran away from his father's home in England he took with him young Adam Varnadore who married and continued in his capacity as a dependent worker for the Moberleys. We find the Varnadores with the Moberleys in Maryland, and they came on to this State with them. They are here now, and some have confirmed in statements to Miss Marion Durham the family tradition of the run away of the two boys from England to America. The first Edward Moberley it is said left Maryland on account of incidents growing out of a trial in the Courts of that colony. It seems that the Presiding Judge was severe in his rulings and sentence in a case against an indentured to service white man of Edward Moberley's. Either it was a Varnadore or a Varnadore was present, but, this is pretty certain, Mr. Moberley treated the Court with contempt, kicked and otherwise assaulted the Judge in the Court House. This cost him no doubt a good deal, and afterward, as the Judge had his friends and connections in the colony, there ensued from time to time many fights and difficulties about the matter. After the Moberleys came to South Carolina, being the only Episcopalians in their neighborhood, it is said that, whenever religious discussion engendered high feeling in dispute they were taunted with disfigured tales of the reasons why they left Maryland which invariably brought on the lie and a fight.

As stated the first S. Carolina Moberley and his sons and Hans Wagner with the riflemen and British troops went on long marches, engaged the indians in battle and put them to flight to a large Indian town. The whites followed them, burned their shacks to ashes. The Cherokee Chief, Attakullakulla (Leaning Chief) asked the whites for peace. Afterward he went to Charleston and smoked a pipe of peace with Gov. Bull, among an assembly of people in silence.

The Moberleys settled on what is known as Poplar Ridge, the East side of Beaver Creek. Hans Wagner and his family of girls, no boys, near Reedy Branch. Past the meridian of life he was so solicitous of their welfare that he constructed a strong fort of white oak logs, hewn twelve inches square, for their protection, and when there was danger from the Indians, the neighbors would gather there to defend themselves, with Hans Wagner and his girls. By certain means not very creditable to the Hamptons—the Moberleys were fretted about their lands for a long while and moved a few miles from the place of their first location further to the East and built another fort, and near it erected later the Moberley Meeting House which we will refer to later. Hans Wagner stood his ground against whatever potent influence the Hamptons had brought to bear on the Moberleys and with his girls held the fort until he got his grant confirmed. The Beams, another family were also harrassed in the same way by the Hamptons but held their ground.

Hans Wagner married five times. One of his wives was a French woman, Marie DeLashmette. She was the mother of our ancestress, Mary Wagner, who married Samuel Mobley. Another wife of Hans Wagner was Elizabeth Johnstone. She was the mother of Nancy Agnes Wagner who married Capt. Andrew McLean whose daughter Katie married John Mobley. Therefore it may be well to note right here that the descendants of John Mobley and his wife Katie are descended from Hans Wagner through two wives, Marie DeLashmette and Eliza-

beth Johnstone. The DeLashmette name in this country has been corrupted to DeLashmet, and I have seen it written Lashly in information furnished me as to the wife of Clement Moberley a son of the first South Carolina Moberley. The first DeLashmette to come to this country, Mr. Wade Brice informed Miss Marion Durham, was the Marquis DeLashmette, that he was a French nobleman, banished from France for political offences against the Monarchy of Louis XIV., that he owned nearly a principality of land, some on the Yadkin River in North Carolina, that he once owned the lands on which Mr. Brice lived and now owned by his widow, Mrs. Matilda Brice, near Woodward, S. C. The deed is on record here at Winnsboro. Some have thought the Marquis moved with other DeLaschmettes to Kentucky, but that is an error. He went from South Carolina to Chickahominy, Mississippi.

#### ANDREW McLEAN.

The McLean family, of which Captain Andrew McLean was such a distinguished member as a Revolutionary soldier, came to this country from the Isle of Mull, off the coast of Scotland and settled in South Carolina, finally locating in York County. His family were violent against the mother country and were whigs to the marrow bone after the Revolutionary war. He was a high degree Mason, a brave soldier, and had exposed himself with such intrepidity in skirmishes and battles that it was said that "there was scarcely an inch on his body that had not received a wound in the defence of his country." In politics after the Peace of Paris and Versailles, he transferred his fighting qualities to the party of Jefferson and Jackson and disinherited his only beloved daughter "Katsy" for marrying into a family who entertained different views of government. Many times it has been told me, how Uncle John Mobley had to take Katie McLean up behind him and gallop away with her. Captain McLean became a Major of a regiment, was an educated and accomplished gentleman and was present when General