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*W. Wayne Smith
Moscow, Idaho.
from the author
July 1936.*

NOTES
ON
THE WINN FAMILY
OF
VIRGINIA, SOUTH CAROLINA
AND
GEORGIA

BY
DEAN F. WINN
MAJOR, MEDICAL CORPS

U. S. ARMY
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F O R E W O R D

If the biography of John Marshall, or the story of the Lee family of Virginia, are studied, it soon becomes apparent that one is reading the history of our country. The many families of lesser fame, who made up the population of our colonies, were no less important in making this history. So it seems to me that research into records of our American ancestors is a matter of legitimate interest to their descendants.

It is the common experience of most of us to take little interest in genealogy. It is perhaps a natural attitude amidst the pressing problems of our daily lives. Yet there are few of us who, sooner or later, do not develop a passive or an active curiosity concerning the people from whom we came.

It is likewise the common experience of most of us to have grown up with relatives or friends about us who had priceless information about our antecedents, information never recorded, alas, but which could have been had for the asking. I believe this thoughtless disinterestedness and the failure to record salient facts about our ancestors is largely responsible for the paucity of information usually encountered when some interested individual undertakes to unravel the tangled threads of family history.

In the summer of 1934, while on leave of absence from the Panama Canal, I was stimulated to look into our family history by the finding of some old family bibles and other records pertaining largely to our maternal ancestors. Further investiga-

tion soon brought to my attention the fact that neither I, nor any of my immediate family, had anything but the vaguest ideas of Winn history, nor was it known just where this data could be found. The subject seemed to have been completely ignored by recent generations. Inasmuch as a great many sources were accessible for obtaining information about our maternal antecedents, I utilized my remaining time in collecting this data, resolving, at the same time, to concentrate on the Winns should an opportunity ever arise. This chance came in the summer of 1935 when I was again granted leave of absence. Having become impressed by the large number of individuals on our maternal side who had rendered conspicuous public service, I was at first chiefly interested in this phase of the Winn family. However, as I became more and more absorbed in my genealogical hobby, and as previously unsuspected avenues of information opened before me, I found myself becoming interested in tracing the origin of the family and in recording data concerning its various branches. My efforts have been of quite an amateurish nature, there being no funds available for the employment of professional genealogists. During this summer my researches have taken me to Macon, Atlanta and Decatur, Ga.; Columbia and Winnsboro, S.C.; Richmond, Va.; the Confederate Archives of the War Department, Washington, D.C.; Philadelphia; New York City; Carlisle and Gettysburg, Pa. In addition I have secured valuable information through correspondence and conferences with various people in Alabama, Georgia, South

Carolina, Philadelphia, Idaho, etc.

I have been impressed by the fact that on several occasions when inquiry was made as to the origin of Minor Winn of Fauquier County, Virginia, I was informed that there was little likelihood of finding anything definite, so many of the County records having been lost through negligence or destroyed by invading armies. There are at present several hundred thousand colonial and civil war documents on file in the Virginia State Archives which have never been indexed. It is possible that some of these records may throw light upon the subject, but reference to them in their present shape is quite impracticable. Should any of my family ever become interested in ferreting out more facts about our ancestors, I can assure them that the most cordial cooperation may be expected from those in charge of the various State Archives.

In writing this history I have not felt the urge of the professional genealogist to please his clients, nor have I been concerned "with heraldic pretensions and fanciful lineages." It has rather been my purpose to set forth in an orderly manner whatever facts, theories and traditions I have been able to gather, and to let the reader accept them for what they are worth. A due regard for accuracy has been exercised but the record will doubtless contain many errors.

D.F.W.

O R I G I N

I believe that all investigators are agreed that the Virginia Winns, and probably the other American branches, are descended from the noted Welsh family of Gwynne, Wynne, Wynn, Winne, or Winn - motto on Arms: Vim Vi Pellere Licet. Recorded data, plus some necessary deductions due to the lack of authentic records, make it reasonably certain that our family is directly descended from this ancient family of Wales, antedating the Christian era. Private and public records, history and pedigree charts of Welsh genealogists have all contributed data to perpetuate the history of the family, and the Gwynnes, Wynnes, or Winns who came to America in 1611 are believed to be lineal descendants of the Welsh line of the same name that claims Caradac and Cimbeline as ancestors.

Mrs. Clara L. Redding, of Waycross, Ga., a descendant of Minor Winn, of Fauquier County, Virginia, contributes the following notes:

"Shakespeare, whose magic pen excelled in portraying ideal types of womanhood, never pictured a sweeter wife than the innocent and lovely Imogene, daughter of Cimbeline, the Welsh King of early Britain, and those interested in a study of the Gwynne or Winn family trace back with pleasure the direct and well-proved ascent of that family of Caradac, leader of the Silures, whose father was King Cimbeline, supposed to be the King Cimbeline of Shakespeare's story. The latter King had a treacherous wife, and Caradac had a treacherous step-mother, Cartismandua, Queen of the Brigants, by whom he was basely surrendered to the Romans.

"According to history, Caradac, or Caractacus, son of Cimbeline, was one of those ancient Britons, who in A.D. 47, refused to submit to Claudius after the Southeastern portion of the Island of Britain had been gradually molded into the Roman Empire.

"He ruled the Silures, who inhabited South Wales, and the Ordovices of North Wales, who with their leader stout-

ly and successfully resisted invasion, and it was not until after many years of warfare that Caer Caradac, the stronghold and home of the British leader, which occupied a hill in Shropshire near the confluence of the Coin and Teme, was captured by the Romans and with it his wife and family.

"Caradac, himself, sought shelter at the court of his step-mother, Cartismandua, whom he had formerly befriended, but who betrayed him and treacherously surrendered him to the Romans, A.D. 51. He was conveyed to Rome where his magnanimous behavior secured him the admiration of his captors and clemency at their hands.

"The wife of Caradac is said to have been a daughter of Gwynn ap Collwynn, one of the Princes of Wales. The Gwynns were therefore, according to ancient genealogists, descended from the rulers of the Brigantes and the Princes of Wales.

"The Gwynns, ancestors of Nicholas Gwynn, lineal descendants of the Welsh family, are found among the earliest planters of the Virginia colony. The name is spelled variously. The dropping of the letter "G" occurred in the eleventh century when Owen Gwynned married Glawdys and they became progenitors of the present line of Princes of Wales. He married secondly his cousin, Christian, from whom issued the Wynnes of Gwydir, as shown in the pedigree chart, and upon the tablet in Gwydir Chapel, - Owen Gwynned, a lineal descendant of Gwynn ap Collwynn, Lord of Dyfed, Prince of North Wales, being a descendant of the two lines known as Gwynn and Wynn. His descendant, Owen Gwynn, Esq., was one of the large contributors to the sustenance of the American colonists in 1610. Capt. Owen Gwynn, Esq. is in the list of lords, esquires, gentlemen, etc., who came to America under the 2nd charter in 1611, when the boundaries were enlarged so as to include 'diverse islands lying within three leagues of the coast.' He then became proprietor doubtless of the island long known as Gwynn's Island, sometimes wrongly called Fisher's Island. He was the son of Sir John Winn (1553-1626) by his wife Sydney, daughter of Sir Wm. Gerrard. At the death of his older brother, Sir Richard Wynn, Baronet of Gwydir, in 1649, this Owen who had been knighted, succeeded to the Baronetcy. He married Grace, daughter of Hugh William. Their son, Col. Hugh Wynn, represented Gloucester Co. in the House of Burgesses 1652-1690 and was prominent as vestryman (1652-1677) with Charles Tompkins, The Washingtons, Bayers, and many others.

Capt. Peter Wynn, of the King's Council, 1608, came over with Capt. Newport in the ship 'Mary and Margaret' with Sir Thos. West. The battle of Point Pleasant, the first of the Revolution, was fought on Gwynn's Island."

The following is quoted from a personal letter from Judge Robert H. Winn, of Mt. Sterling, Ky., who has gathered considerable information about the Winn family:

"Gwydir was the seat of the Wynn family in the 1500's. It was burned some years ago, and is now an attractive ruin. Up on the north coast of Wales is Plas Mawr, built by Robert Wynn, a son of Sir John, in about 1560. It is an interesting old house, now a museum for antiques. The present seat is Wynnstay, near Ruabon, in Wales. It is occupied by Sir Watkins Williams Wynn, born a Williams, who took the name of Wynn on his marriage to the daughter of the household. It is a noble house, about a half mile back from the road, and approached through an avenue of elms almost inconceivable in their size and dignity.

"In his History of the Gwydir Family, old Sir John brings the family from 800 A.D. down to 1500 A.D., giving the direct lines. After that time, and during the immigration to America, there is uncertainty, if not obscurity, for a good many years. One genealogist has brought down a line which she claims to be direct, but which she cannot, or at least she has not, substantiated with any desirable certainty. The repetition of the names John, William, Minor, Robert and Owen, down into our own immediate tribe, is the most exact proof that I have been able to put my hand upon."

From several sources I have received the following description of an interesting memorial of the Wynne family:

GWYDIR CHAPEL, LLANRUST.

"This beautiful structure was erected in the year 1633 by Sir Richard Wynne, of Gwydir, from a design by Inigo Jones, and was for many years the burial place of the illustrious family of Gwydir. At the sides of the Chapel, fixed in panels of wood, are several engravings in brass, illustrative of the personages who are interred below; and in the east corner is a tablet of white marble containing the following remarkable pedigree, comprising a period of five hundred years:

'This Chapel was erected A.D. 1633, by Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir, in the County of Carnovan, Knight and Baronet, Treasurer to the High and Mighty Princess Henrietta Maria, Queen of England, Daughter of Henry the Fourth, King of France, and Wife to our Sovereign Lord King Charles; where lyeth buried his father Sir John Wynne of Gwydir, Knight and Baronet, Son and Heir to Morris Wynne, Son and Heir to John Wynne, Son and Heir to Merodith Wynne, which three lie buried in the Church of Dolwyddelan, with tombs over them. This Meredith was Son and Heir to Evan, Son and Heir to Robert, Son and Heir to Meredith, Son and Heir to Howell, Son and Heir to David, Son and Heir to Griffith, Son and Heir to Caradac, Son and Heir to Rederick, Lord of Angelsea, Son to Owen Gwynned, Prince of Wales, and young brother to David, Prince of Wales, who married Emma Plantagenet, sister of King Henry III. There succeeded this David three princes - his nephew Leolinus Magnus, who married Joan, daughter of King John, - David, his son, nephew to King Henry III, - and Llewellyn, the last Prince of Wales of that house and line who lived in King Edward I's time.

'Sir John Wynne married Sydney, who lyeth here, daughter of Sir William Gerard, Knight, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, by whom he had issue: Sir John Wynne, who died at Lucca, in Italy; Sir Richard Wynne, now living; Thomas Wynne, who lyeth here; Owen Wynne, now living; Maurice Wynne, now living; Robert Wynne, who lyeth here; Roger Wynne, who lyeth here; William Wynne, now living; Ellis Wynne, who lyeth buried at Whitford in the County of Flint; Henry Wynne, now living; Peter Wynne, who lyeth here; and two daughters - Mary, now living, married to Sir Roger Mostyn in the County of Flint, Knight, and Elizabeth, now living, married to Sir John Bodville, in the County of Carnarvon, Knight.'

"Beneath this inscription is a superb engraving of Dame Sarah Wynne, one of the daughters of the old Chevalier, Sir Thomas Middleton of Chirk Castle, and wife of the above mentioned Sir Richard Wynne; she died June 16, 1671. This piece of engraving was executed by one William Vaughan, in a style of elegance hardly to be met with, and may be justly recorded among the first productions of the age in which he lived.

"On the south side are two pyramidal columns of variegated

ted marble decorated with the material insignias, one to the memory of Meredith Wynne, the other to Sir John Wynne and Sydney his wife; on their pedestals are Latin inscriptions in black marble, which have been thus translated:

'To the memory of Meredith Wynne, a descendant of Owen Gwynned, Prince of Wales, who under happy auspices, founded the House of Gwydir, removed and endowed the Church of Saint Gwyddelan, during the third Tournean Expedition in the fifth year of Henry VIII. He died in the month of March 1526.'

'To the memory of John Wynne of Gwydir, Knight and Baronet, with Sydney, the daughter of William Gerrard, Knight, Chancellor of the Kingdom of Ireland, the wife of his youth, to whom she bore eleven sons and two daughters; they lie here waiting the appearance of Christ in Glory.'

"Between the above monuments is a small tablet of white marble to the memory of John Wynne ap Meredith, with a Latin inscription to the following effect:

'John Wynne ap Meredith, an inheritor of his father's virtues, a just and pious man, to whom Euna, his wife, brought five sons and two daughters. He died 7th of July 1559.'

"On the floor is a stone effigy in armour with the feet resting on a lion couchant, of Howell Coetmore ap Griffith Vychan ap Dafydd Gam, alias Goch, natural son of David, Prince of Wales, from whose descendants, according to tradition, Gwydir was purchased by the Wynnes.

"Near to the effigy of Howell Coetmore is the underpart of a stone coffin in which Llewellyn ap Iorworth, surnamed the Great, the son-in-law of King John, was buried at the Abbey of Conway; to the coffin is fixed a piece of brass with the inscription:

'This is the coffin of Leolinus Magnus, Prince of Wales, who was buried at the Abbey of Conway, which upon dissolution was removed thence.'

"On going from the Chapel to the Church you pass over a large square flag of free stone, having on its sides a Latin inscription thus translated:

'To the memory of the sons of John Wynne of Gwydir, Knight and Baronet, who died during their father's lifetime; John, Knight, was buried at Lucca in the free State of Italy in the year of his age 30, of our Lord 1613; Robert, who had entered into Holy Orders, in the year of his age 24, in the year of our Lord 1617; Thomas, Roger, Peter, in their minority. Death! a Vapor! Behold! We have existed.'

"In the Chancel between the reading desk and the Communion table is a flag of free stone, on the remains of Margaret Vaughan, heiress of Caergai; she was esteemed the Sappho of her age; many of her poetical productions are still extant.

"The carved oak gallery is said to have been removed here from the Abbey, upon the dissolution of that religious house. Under the above mentioned gallery, in the church, in a pew belonging to Kyfidy, is a Latin epitaph to the memory of Griffith Lloyd, of Bryniog, Rector of this Parish; this is said to have been written by himself and has been much admired for its singularity. It runs thus:

'Once the underserving schoolmaster,
Then the more underserving lecturer,
And last of all, the most underserving Rector of this parish,
Do not think, speak, or write anything evil of the dead.&"

The following notes on the origin of the Winn family were received in a personal communication from Prof. W.Wayne Smith, University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho, who has made an extensive

study of the subject:

"The Winns are a very ancient and honorable family, of Welsh origin, lineal descendants of the Kings of Britain and the Princes of Wales, and connected by marriage with the best families of England and America. The family has produced many prominent pioneers, soldiers, statesmen and men of letters on both sides of the Atlantic.

"This eminent family deduces male descent through their immediate ancestor, Rhodri Lord of Angelsey, the younger son of Owen Gwynned, Prince of North Wales, from Anarawd, King of North Wales, the eldest son of Rhodri Mawr, King of all Wales. This last monarch, the descendant of a long line of regal ancestors, antedating the Christian era, succeeded to the crown of Powys on the demise in A.D. 643 of his father Mervyn Vrych, King of Powys, and by inheritance and marriage acquired the Kingdom of North Wales and South Wales. Rhodri Mawr who was slain in battle with the Danes A.D. 876 left by his wife Anhard, (daughter of Meurick, Lord of Cardigan), three sons, Anarawd, Cadel, and Mervyn. The family is called the Gwydir Family from Gwydir in the vale of Conway, Carnarvon County, Wales; purchased from David ap Howell of Coytmore, by Meredith ap Ievan, 8th in descent from Owen Gwynned. Meredith married Alice, daughter of William ap Griffith of Cochwillian, County of Carnarvon, and had a son John, the first to assume the family name of Wynne, meaning in the Welsh language 'White.' The name has been variously spelled, sometimes with the ancient Welsh initial letter 'G' making the name Gwynne or Gwin; others have spelled it Wynne, Wynn and lastly Winn.

"John Wynne, son of Meredith of Gwydir, 21st in descent from Rhodri Mawr, was born A.D. 1500 and died 1559. He married Ellen Lloyd, daughter of Maurice - or Morris - ap John, and had Maurice, Griffith and Robert. Maurice Wynne married Jane, daughter of Sir Richard Buckley of Beaumaris, Knight, and was father of Sir John Wynne; married second Catherine, daughter of Tudor ap Robert Vychan, and had Edward Wynne. Sir John Wynne of Gwydir, born 1553, died March 1, 1626, knighted by James I in 1606, and created a Baronet in 1611, a very distinguished member of the family, was the author of the 'History of the Gwydir Family,' a well known antiquarian and a friend of the King. He graduated from Oxford and held many positions of trust and honor; married Sydney, daughter of Sir William Gerard, Lord Chancellor of Ireland, and Dorothy, daughter of Andrew Barton of Smithills of Lancashire. To them were born eleven sons and two daughters, from whom are descended a numerous posterity.

"The Wynne family took a very active part in the colonization of America. The list of Lords, Knights and

Gentlemen, composing the Company to whom King James I granted the charter to colonize Virginia, contains the names of Captain Thomas Wynne, Owen Wynne, Gentleman, Captain Peter Wynne, and Edmund Wynne Gentleman. (1). Captain Peter Wynne of the King's Council was the first of the Wynnes to come to America. (2). He arrived on the "Mary and Margaret" with Lord de LaWar in 1608 but died in 1609 before his commission as Lieutenant Governor of the Colony reached him. Capt. Owen Wynne, Knight, was one of the largest contributors to the sustenance of the Virginia Colony at Jamestown during the trying times of 1609-10, and came to the Colony in 1611, settling on the island in the Chesapeake Bay off the coast of Gloucester County which for him was named "Gwynne's Island." He returned to Wales in 1649 to become the 3rd Baron Gwydir. His son, Col. Hugh Wynne (or Gwynne) remained in Virginia and was the ancestor of the Gwynnes and Wynnes of Gloucester County and Ilse of Wight County. His son, Owen Wynne, also remained in Virginia. (see infra)

"Captain Thomas Wynne, Knight, was in York County, Virginia, in 1620. He received a large grant of land in York and Warwick counties for his loyal service to the Crown. He resided for some time in the Colony, and left four sons, Thomas, John, Obed and Richard Wynne, the ancestors of the Wynnes of Hanover, Carolina, and Westmoreland counties in Va., some of whom spell the name Winn.

"Edmund Wynne, Gentleman, was granted a plantation by the London Company in 1622, and was in England in 1634; his son, Increase Wynne, was the first white child born in Woburn, Mass. From him are descended the Wynnes of New England.

"Thomas Wynne, born in 1620, settled very early in St. Mary's County, Maryland, then disputed territory between the colonies. He had a son John from whom are descended the Wynnes of Maryland.

* * * * *

(1) 1st Henning, page 83.

(2) Elizabeth Winn Jarvis, in her recent book "Winn and Jarvis," quotes Smith's History of Virginia as stating that in 1606 Capt. Peter Wynne was the first of the Wynne family to come to America; that he arrived on the ship "Mary and Margaret;" that he was a very brave soldier, a member of the King's Council that crowned Powhattan, and was active in the establishment of Jamestown; that he died in 1609. No mention is made of his wife or children. ("Winn and Jarvis" is inaccurate in its record of the descendants of Minor Winn, Senior).

"Capt. Robert Wynne, from Kent County, England, settled in Charles City County, Virginia, before 1657. His sons, Robert, Thomas and Joshua, were the ancestors of the Wynnes of Charles City, Prince George, and Surrey Counties in Virginia.

"Dr. Thomas Wynne came with William Penn to Pennsylvania in 1682. His son Jonathan was the ancestor of the Wynnes of Pennsylvania.

"I have not been able, nor has anyone else so far, to establish the link between the Wynnes of Wales and any branch of the family in America. There was a Thomas Wynne of Gwydir, who died in 1625 leaving a family of sons and among them a Thomas, and it is believed that Capt. Thomas Winn of York Co., Va. 1620, was this Thomas Wynne, grandson of Sir John Wynne of Gwydir. But the proof is still lacking. In fact I do not have a copy of the will of Thomas Wynne, son of Sir John Wynne. The possible connection between our family and that of Sir Owen Wynne (or sometimes spelled Gwynne) of Gloucester County, Va. and Gwynne's Island (sometimes called Fisher's Island) has not been established though some of the Winns of the South have published that line in Virkus. It would be interesting to find who were the children of Owen Wynne of Gloucester and York Counties; he died in Middlesex County April 17, 1721. It is possible that our line is descended from Sir Owen Wynne though I think doubtful Minor Winn of Eden might have been the son of the Capt. John Wynne who is mentioned so often in the William Byrd letters and papers. Eden plantation is said to have belonged to the Byrds and maybe the Capt. Wynne in Byrd's service obtained "Eden" from Byrd and passed it on to his son Minor, or Minor of Eden may have married a Byrd. There are many Winns in that line named Byrd or Bird. If the Capt. John Wynne of the Byrd letters and papers is the one who married Elizabeth Minor, it would account probably for the appearance of the name Minor in so many branches of the Winn family."

In a later communication Professor Smith states that in his opinion the probable descent of the Winne of Fauquier County, Virginia, was as follows, although complete documentary evidence is lacking:-

- 1 - John Wynne (son of Meredith ap Evan, of Gwydir, Carnarvon County, Wales), born in 1500 first to assume the family name of Wynne; married Ellen Lloyd (daughter of Maurice Lloyd ap John); their eldest son was Maurice Wynne.

- 2 - Maurice Wynne of Gwydir, died in 1580; married first Jane Buckley (daughter of Sir Richard Buckley of Leu-
maries, Wales); their eldest son was John Wynne.
- 3 - Sir John Wynne of Gwydir, born 1553, graduated Oxford 1578, Sheriff of Carnarvon County 1588 and 1603, mem-
ber of Parliament 1586, Knighted by James I, May 14, 1606, and made a Baronet June 29, 1611; Lieutenant of Carnarvon County 1615; patron of education; antiqua-
rian; historian of the Gwydir family; died March 1, 1626; married Sydney Gerard, (daughter of Sir William Gerard, Lord Chancellor of Ireland), and had the foll-
owing children: Sir John Wynne; Sir Richard Wynne, 2nd baronet Gwydir, died 1649; Sir Thomas Wynne, died 1625; Sir Owen Wynne, born 1592, 3rd Baron Gwydir, died 1660; Maurice Wynne; Robert Wynne; Roger Wynne; William Wynne, M.P. and Justice; Ellis Wynne; Henry Wynne; Peter Wynne; Mary Wynne, married Sir Roger Mostyn; and Elizabeth Wynne, married Sir John Rodvillo.
- 4 - Sir Owen Wynne, born 1592; 3rd Baronet Gwydir, came over to Virginia in 1611, received a large grant of land in what afterwards became Gloucester County, re-
turned to Wales where he married about 1619 Grace Williams (daughter of Sir Hugh Williams), returned to Virginia in 1620 and occupied his plantation in Gloucester County including the island in Chesapeake Bay adjoining the Gloucester County coast. He re-
turned to Wales in 1649 to become the 3rd Baronet Gwydir, succeeding his brother, Sir Richard Wynne. He died in Gwydir, Wales, in 1660. His known chil-
dren were Hugh, John and Richard.
- 5 - John Wynne, of Westmoreland County, Virginia, born ^{Seston} about 1627, married about 1650 Elizabeth Minor (daugh-
ter of John Minor of Westmoreland Co. Va.); their children were:- Owen, died April 17, 1721; Thomas,
died Oct. 10, 1715; John; Minor, born about 1668, died about 1730; and Richard, born about 1670. John Wynne died about 1690.
- 6 - Minor Winn, born in Westmoreland County, Va. about 1668; settled in Prince William County, Va. in 1710 and died there about 1730. His children were:- William, Thomas, Jesse, Minor, Susan and Betsy.
- 7 - Minor Winn (II), called "Senior" of Fauquier Coun-
ty, Va. was born probably in Westmoreland County, Va. about 1704; was living in Caroline County, Va. 1733 to 1737; later in Prince William County, Va. in 1763; purchased Rockhill Plantation on Little

River in Fauquier County, Va. in 1765, where he lived until he died in March 1778; married Margaret O'Connor of Ireland and had the following issue:- John, Minor, William, James, Richard, Margaret, Susannah, Mary and Elizabeth. Margaret O'Connor Winn survived him.

One of my correspondents makes this statement - "And so we learn Thos. Winn, son of Sir John Wynne and Sydney Wynne, came to America and signed the 1609 Virginia Charter, returned to Wales and was Knighted. His son, Capt. Thomas Winn, married Dorothy Hines and was in York County Va. in 1620 - 1638 - 1648; patent granted in Westmoreland County 1654; and had sons - Thomas, John, Obed and RichardThe tablet in Gwydir Chapel, in memory of Sir John Wynne and his wife Sydney Gerard, establishes the connecting link between the American Wynnes, Winns, Gwynnes, Wynns, and this ancient family of Gwynnes, Princes of Wales, ancestors of the present King of England."

I must say that I am not so easily satisfied that the connection has been established. The following, quoted from Morrison's "Oxford History of the United States," appeals to me as food for thought:

"By 1790 the Virginia piedmont between the fall line and the Blue Ridge, for the most part a fruitful rolling country, had become the seat of all that was healthy and vigorous in the plantation system. Most of the Virginia statesmen of the revolutionary and republican eras were either born in this region, to adventurous sons of the tide-water families, or, like Washington, grew to manhood in its wilder margins. Socially, Virginia, down to 1865, may be compared to rural England before the industrial era, omitting the villages, and substituting negro slaves for white tenants and laborers. The 'First Families of Virginia,' although in few instances related to the

County families of England, held in corresponding place in the community. They reproduced the high sense of honor and public spirit of the English aristocracy, and preserved the amenities of English country life."

Professor Morrison adds the following footnote:-

"Books by recent Virginia historians, such as T. J. Wertenbaker's 'Planters of Colonial Virginia,' have exploded the nineteenth century tradition that the 'F.F.V.'s' were descended from 'Cavaliers.' Except for a few families such as the Randolphs, they came of the same middle-class, petty squire, and yeoman stock as the early settlers of New England; but their social and economic system had bred an aristocratic attitude and mode of life."

And to quote further from the same authority -

"Below the 'first families,' but continually pushing into their level by marriage, was a class of lesser planters, to which Patrick Henry belonged; a class generous and hospitable, but uneducated, provincial and rude. Below them was an unstable and uneasy class of yeomen, outnumbering the planters in the piedmont. Descended largely from indented servants and deported convicts, these peasants as the gentry called them, were illiterate, ferocious and quarrelsome. Self-contained plantations, with slave artisans and mechanics, created no demand for skilled labor, and made small farms unprofitable. Hence the Virginia yeoman had but the alternative of migrating westward, or of becoming a 'poor white trash' despised even by the slaves."

I can readily understand why a genealogist, employed to furnish a satisfactory lineage, should at once accept Sir John Wynne as the obvious ancestor of all the Kinns. But it is difficult to comprehend why disinterested investigators should apparently persistently ignore other possibilities. (3) (4) (5)

- * * * * *
- (3) The following male members of the Winn (Wynn) family are of record in a compilation of immigrants to Virginia between the years 1623 and 1666 by Geo. C. Green, Clerk Virginia State Land Office, Richmond, Va. ("Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666"). The name following the word "by" is the patentee or party bringing over the immigrant:-

ROWAN

According to the theory which has been accepted by many people, and which differs somewhat from that of Prof. Smith, our line was as follows:-

RICHARD WINN, (1632-1703), the fourth son of Capt. Thomas Wynne (6)(7), and his wife Dorothy Hines, is believed to have married Elizabeth Minor, daughter of Nicholas Minor, a resident of "Northern Neck" at that time. (8)(9) The children of Richard and Elizabeth Winn were:-

1. Richard Winn, born 1670, married first Sarah ..., and second Anne Cocke, May 28, 1711; issue by first wife:
 1. Mary, b. Dec. 16, 1696
 2. Sarah, b. Jan. 17, 1699
 3. Richard, bap. Sept. 28, 1701
 4. Elizabeth, bap April 18, 1703
 5. John, bap. Jan. 20, 1705
 6. Jane, bap. Feb. 15, 1707

* * * * *

Thos. Winn, by John Watson and John Bognall, Westmoreland Co. 1654
Jon Winn, by Henry Lee, York Co. 1653
Garrett Wynn, by Eliz. Barcroft, Isle of Wight Co. 1647
John Wyne, by Mary Catalyn, New Norfolk Co. 1637
Matthew Wynn, by William Julian, Elizabeth City Co. 1636
Hugh Wynn, by Wm. Spencer; Co. 1637
Richard Wynn, by Wm. Owen and Wm. Morgan, Co. 1652.

Seven female Wynn or Wynns are also listed in the years 1650, 1652 and 1656 as coming to Northampton, Lancaster and Lower Norfolk Counties.

The patentees in these cases received a grant of a certain number of acres for each immigrant brought over. Some of these may have come as servants or as bound apprentices, but this was not necessarily the case. I have discovered no investigators of our family who consider any of the above as possible ancestors, though the first name and date on the list is significant.

- (4) The Virginia Archives exhibit a record of a William Winn, born 1647, who, in 1675, witnessed the will of John Mott in Rapahannock County (now Essex). I have not been able to identify this Winn.
- (5) Book 8, page 55, Va. State Land Office, shows Thos. Winn granted 659 acres for transportation of 14 persons to Va. April 21, 1690; and Book 7, page 583 - 280 acres for transporting 6 persons April 20, 1687; Book 22, page 537 granted land in Prince George Co.

Issue of Richard Winn and Anne Cocks:

1. Thomas (May 16, 1716 - Oct. 10, 1716). (10)
2. MINOR WINN, born 1672, known to have lived in Prince William Co. Va. in 1710 where he probably moved from Westmoreland County. He is said to have settled in "Edan Plantation" and probably married a Byrd, the Byrd family having owned that plantation (11). He was probably the first Minor Winn. The following statement, which seems to becloud the question of the identity of our ancestors, has been made by Mr. Harry L. Winn, of St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Winn is said to be particularly well informed on Winn history:-

"Around 1760 there appear to have been no less than four Minor Winns in Virginia, viz: Minor who came from Wales to Fauquier County about 1700 or later; his son Minor, Jr.; Captain Minor Winn who came to Virginia from Wales in 1732 after a Jacobite uprising there; and lastly, Minor who settled in Prince William Co. in 1710 and had issue: William, Jesse, Thomas, Minor, Susan and Elizabeth."

* * * * *

- (6) Said to have died overseas in 1625, according to Miss M.E. Wood, of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and a recognized genealogist. Miss Wood thinks his will was proved in England and is probably recorded at Somerset House.
- (7) I have been able to make only a cursory examination of the following books which I found in the N.Y. Public Library:-
"The Wynnes" by T.B. Deem, Knightstown, Ind., published 1907 by Aetna Printing Co. Indianapolis, Ind - dealing chiefly with the descendants of Dr. Thos. Wynn, surgeon of Wm. Penn's ship - and containing a lot of Welsh family history: "The History of the Gwydir Family" by Sir John Wynne, Knt and Bart., published 1878; and "Callendar of Wynn Papers, 1515-1690." From the latter I made notes of two paragraphs:-
Mar. 16, 1605/6 - John Wynn of Gwydir's yearly account of receipts and expenditures - specifying the annuities paid to his brothers and other relations and dependents (all named) - his son and heir to have 290 pounds, besides the demesne valued at 240 pounds, "Enough for a wary young man to begin the world with" - Thomas ap John Wynn of Streblyn, five pounds during his life. (page 67).
Also notes on page 54 concerning an indictment of Thomas Wynn and others in 1604 for the murder of a constable during a drunken brawl; and the subsequent marriage of Thomas Wynn, while in gaol, to the daughter of Sir Richard Lewkenor.
- (8) Deed Book C, p. 570, Leesburg, Va. shown a Nicholas Minor, of London Co., deeds land to Minor Winn May 10, 1763; and D.B. C. p. 573 - John Minor a witness to a Nicholas Minor deed.

The children of Minor Winn were:

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| 1. William Winn | 4. MINOR WINN |
| 2. Thomas Winn | 5. Elizabeth Winn |
| 3. Jesse Winn | 6. Susan Winn |

Of these six children I have data on only the third and fourth, viz: Jesse and Minor:

3. Jesse Winn - issue:

1. Jesse Darret Winn, b.1752, moved to Fayette Co. (Lexington) Ky. in 1783 and settled near old Bryant's Station; married Catherine Johnston; issue: six daughters and sons - Richard, Braxton, Stephen and Phillip Byrd. Richard moved to Louisiana about 1800 and his descendants are not known. There is a record of the descendants of his brothers but only the following has come to my notice:

Phillip Byrd Winn, b.1786, married Miss Nicholas; issue:

1. John Nicholas Winn - issue:

1. William P. Winn, Winchester, Ky; issue:
 1. Charles D. Winn, Col. U.S. Army (Ret)
2. Daughter, married Jas. McClure, Paris, Ky. issue:

1. James Winn McClure

3. John S. Winn, Brig. Gen., U.S. Army (Ret)
4. Daughter, married D.C. Lisle; issue:

1. Capt. Lisle

2. William Johnson Winn, Winchester, Ky; married Caroline Sinclair Hord; issue:
 1. Frank L. Winn, Major Gen., U.S. Army (Ret)

This is as far back as that branch of the family has traced its lineage with certainty. But in view of the fact that there are members of this family named "Minor Winn" it is believed that they are descended from the same parent stock as our branch of the family.

4. MINOR WINN: This son being so generally considered as the first of the name about whom much is known, I shall follow the accepted practice and designate him as MINOR WINN, SENIOR, of Fauquier County, Virginia.

* * * * *

- (9) During the time that Richard Winn is recorded in Middlesex County, Va. (1696-1715) there were one or more families of the name of Minor in that county. Data about these Minors is recorded in the Register of Christ Church - births, marriages, etc. (In 1704 the Grand Jury of Middlesex County presented Garret Minor for bringing oysters ashore on the Sabbath Day) These Minors were apparently

MINOR WINN, Sr.

of Fauquier County, Virginia

and his descendants.

Although the records of Caroline County, Virginia, are very meagre, Minor Winn was undoubtedly in that county and moved from there to Fauquier County. Deed Book, 2, page 42,43, Orange, Va. shows a deed to purchase of land in Caroline County by Minor Winn, the land being located in the Great Fork of the Rappahannock River on Potato Run. (12) It is probable that he settled in Fauquier County about the time the settlements were beginning to extend and spread out from the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers about 1732. (13) Deed records indicate that he owned land in Loudon County in 1763 and in Leeds Parish in Fauquier County. He appears to have accumulated a handsome fortune. After two visits to Kentucky (then a part of Virginia) he purchased from the State large and valuable tracts of land, records of which are in the Clerk's office in Fayette County, Kentucky.(14)

* * * * *

aliens as shown II, page 306, refers to their naturalization in 1673 and shown III, page 479, to confirmation of this in 1705. Jean Minor of Proffit, Va. has written a book on the Virginia Minor family (N.Y. Public Library). He states that they were Dutch. He makes no note of this family in Middlesex County having intermarried with Winns, nor does the name "Minor Winn" appear among the descendants of Doodes Minor. Miss Wood is convinced that there was no intermarriage between this family of Minors and Winns.

- (10) See Register of Christ Church, Middlesex County, Va.
- (11) Letter from Prof. V. Wayne Smith, Univ. of Idaho, Nov. 21, 1935.
- (12) There is a tradition in the family that our Minor Winn of Fauquier Co., Va. was the first of our family to come to America from Wales; that he was a baronet and was banished because of his political activities. Mrs. Kate Winn

He was appointed Ordinary in 1769 and he doubtless rendered other useful public service. His Will is dated 21 July 1775.

The following note of it was furnished me by Mr. Alex. S.

Salley of the South Carolina Historical Commission:

Wills I, pages 343-345 - Minor Winn's will.
Mentions wife Margaret O'Connor Winn; sons William, John, James, Minor and Richard; daughters - Margaret Johnson, Mary Smith, Susannah Grant, granddaughter Martha Smith, daughter Elizabeth Smith's children; wife, Margaret O'Connor Winn and son, Minor, executors.

Stephen Tolle }
Thomas White } Witnesses. 21st July 1775
James Fleming } (signed) Minor Winn
Margaret Winn

Codicil (?) - 5th Feb. 1778; proved 23rd March 1778; Book 2, page 29; estate of Minor Winn, deceased. To Minor Winn, Ex. 1786; To attending Loudon Court account of suit of Asaley vs. Hamilton - To taking deed out of Fairfax office and expenses. 1787, cash paid to Clapsam for copies of two wills on acct. of suit A vs. B. - To advertising sale of estate in Alexandria Gazette 1788 - To credit Margaret Winn, deceased. Acct. returned 1796 (15)(16).

Also the following note from Mr. Salley:

Deed Book 2, page 29, 1764, Colonel Richard Henry Lee of Westmoreland County to Minor Winn of Prince William County - said Minor Winn, John Winn, his son, Dorothy, wife of John, and Minor, son of John, etc.etc. - lease of 228 acres in Fauquier County. (17). * * * * *

Kirkpatrick, daughter of James J. Winn, who was a great-grandson of Minor Winn, Sr., states that her father related this story to her.

- (13) See "Life of John Marshall," Vol. I, by A.J. Beveridge, for an excellent description of this region, the manner of living, hardships, customs of the people, etc. 1700 - 1800.
- (14) Dr. J.L.M. Curry in Va. Mag. of History and Biography.
- (15) Another codicil mentions disposition (to Minor Winn, Jr.) of a still for operating a distilling business in which he and Minor, Jr. had been co-partners - dated Feb. 5, 1778, proved March 23, 1778.
- (16) Will Book I, page 375, Warrenton, Va. give an inventory of Minor Winn, Sr's estate: 14 slaves, a large estate and a great bible (willed to Minor, Jr.) It would be interesting to locate this bible through some of Minor

Minor Winn, Senior, according to some reliable authorities was born probably in Westmoreland County, Virginia about 1704 and died in March 1778. As has already been intimated, there remains a great deal of uncertainty about the origin of our first American Minor Winn ancestor. It is probable that documented proof will be eventually uncovered which will clear up the existing confusion.

He married Margaret O'Connor of Ireland and from this union came the following children:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| I. John Winn | VI. Margaret Winn |
| II. Minor Winn, Jr. | VII. Mary Winn |
| III. William Winn | VIII. Susannah Winn |
| IV. James Winn | IX. Elizabeth Winn |
| V. Richard Winn | |

These children of Minor Winn and Margaret O'Connor will be considered, with their descendants, in the order given above:

* * * * *

Winn, Jr.'s descendants.

(17) Other Fauquier County records of interest:

- 1777 - deed from Minor Winn, Jr.
- Book 1, page 345, deed from Minor Winn, Sr. to Minor Winn, Jr. - witnesses by James and Hannah Winn.
- Bill of sale from John Winn to Minor Winn.
- Book 2, page 320 - John Winn sells to Minor Winn, Sr., March 1765, slaves, household furniture, stock.
- Sept. Court, 1764, page 3, Fauquier minutes - John Winn allowed to turn road by his house.
- May Court, 1769, page 268 - Minor Winn appointed Ordinary for one year. Marriage bonds: Minor Winn - Betty Withers, Oct. 17, 1765; James Winn - Hannah Withers, March 3, 1767; Martha Winn - Matthew Smith, Nov. 25, 1771.

JOHN WINN

and his descendants.

I. JOHN WINN, eldest son of Minor Winn, Sr. and Margaret O'Connor Winn, was probably born in Prince William County, Va. about 1727, probably in that part of the county from which Fauquier County was formed in 1759 (date and place of birth not proven). He is generally supposed to have died in Rutherford County, Tennessee, but I have recently found fairly convincing proof that his death occurred near Washington, Miss. July 16, 1814 (Draper MSS 13VV114). He married Aug. 17, 1758 (Hebert family bible) Dorothea Wright of Alexandria, Va., a great grand-daughter of John Washington, the immigrant, who was the great grand-father of General George Washington (18). Dorothea Wright was an orphan, the only child of Francis Wright, a "sea Captain." It has been said that she was a

(18) Colonel Joan Washington - m. - Ann Pope
 Moved to Virginia from :
 England 1657; d. 1677 :

.....
Laurence Washington	Ann Washington
m. Mildred Warner	m. Major Francis Wright
:	: (1660-1713)
.....
Augustine Washington	John Wright
M. Mary Ball	m. Dorothy Darnell
.....
Gen. George Washington	Francis Wright
	m. Ann Berryman

	Dorothea Wright
	m. John Winn

school girl, not 15 years of age; that she lived with an uncle in Alexandria and that she eloped with John Winn.

Inured to the hardships of frontier life and having the pioneer's yearning for new lands to conquer, Joan Winn joined the stream of Scotch-Irish which was moving down from Pennsylvania, and settled in the virgin country of Upper South Carolina in what was then known as the Camden District. This migration occurred about 1765, or soon thereafter, after a treaty with the Indians had permitted the opening of this territory to settlement by the Whites. It appears that he was still living in Virginia in 1763 as there is a record of one James Rogers selling to Joan Winn one cow, calf, heifer, one brindle cow, one set of blacksmith's boots, one small sorrell horse, one sorrell mare, one bed, household furniture, pots, pans, pails and piggins (July 24, 1763, deed book D, page 1, Leesburg, Va.) Other evidence indicates that Joan Winn was in Virginia as late as 1765 when he is found witnessing a deed from Minor and Margaret Winn (deed book D, page 494, Warrenton, Va., May 3, 1765). About this time (1765) John Winn is found disposing of his property in Virginia in preparation for his departure for South Carolina. The transaction is recorded as follows in Deed Book 2, page 229, Warrenton, Va:

WINN TO WINN: Know all men by these present that I, John Winn of the County of Fauquier, the colony and dominion of Virginia, planter for and in consideration of 850 pounds current money of Virginia, to me in hand paid by Minor Winn, Senior, in said County and Colony, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, have bargained and sold unto the said Minor Winn, Sr. his executors,

administrators and assigns, one negro man named Tony, five negro boys named Will, Len, Robin, Tom and Moses; four negro women named Grace, Jean, Rashell and old Sarah, two negro girls named Sarah and Elice, 6 feather beds and furniture 3 dozen chairs and 2 chests, 2 leather trunks, one desk, 2 cows and 2 yearlings, one bay cold branded M.V. on the rear buttock, one black mare colt same brand as the others, 1 bay horse named Buck branded T on the rear shoulder and all the rest of my household furniture and effects whatever together with the future increase of the said female negroes, mares, colts and cows; to have and to hold the said negroes and behalf of him, the said Minor Winn, Sr. his heirs, executors and administrators, and assigns forever, and I, the said John Winn do warrant and defend the same with bargain and sold premises from the claim of any person whatsoever.

In witness whereof I have set my hand and affixed my seal this 25th day of March, one thousand seven hundred and 65 years (1765), Signed, Sealed and delivered in presence of Alex Cunningham, Bennett Price, James Roberson./s/ Joan Winn, L.S.

At a Court held for Fauquier Co., the 22 day of March 1765 this Bill of Sale was acknowledged by the said Joan Winn to be his act and deed and ordered to be recorded. Test. H. Brooke, C.C.

While there is, of course, little of record upon which to base assumption, it seems natural and likely that Joan Winn, accompanied by his 15 year old brother, Richard, and perhaps by another brother, William, went from Virginia to South Carolina about 1765 to found a new home, leaving his wife and several minor children in Virginia until adequate accommodations for them could be arranged. (Land grants in South Carolina were made to him certainly as early as 1769). His extensive family connections in Virginia would surely have made it possible for his wife and children to have remained behind while he prepared the new home in what was then a wilderness with only scattered white settlements. His grandson, James J. Winn, has stated that this immigration occurred in 1774 but South Carolina deed

records would appear to make this date erroneous by several years. One other investigator has put the date as 1769.

No covered wagons were in use at this period, and since he had disposed of his effects to his father, the party probably traveled without much impedimenta, going horseback and afoot, with perhaps the help of a two-wheeled cart.

In this connection the following notes taken from Vol. 1 of the "Life of John Marshall" by A. J. Beveridge are of interest:

"Throughout Virginia the roads were execrable and scarcely deserved the name. The few bridges usually were broken. The best road in the State was from Williamsburg, the old capitol, to Richmond, the new, a distance of only 63 miles; yet going at highest speeds, it required two days to make the trip. Traveling in Virginia was almost exclusively by horseback; only negroes walked. According to Griggsby, the familiar vision in our minds of the picturesque coach comfortably rolling over attractive highways, the postillions and outriders, which we now picture when we think of traveling in old Virginia, is mostly an historical mirage, for coaches were rarely seen. There were thousands of respectable men in the Commonwealth who had never seen any other four-wheeled vehicle than a wagon at the time when the Constitution was ratified.

"If horseback journeys were sore trials to the rider, they were desperately hard and sometimes fatal to the poor brute that carried him. In crossing unfordable rivers on the rude ferryboats, the horses' legs were frequently broken or the animals themselves often killed or drowned. As late as 1801 the wilderness was so dense just above where the city of Washington now stands that Davis called it the 'wilds of the Potomac.' In most parts of Virginia persons unacquainted with the locality often became lost in the forests. South of Jamestown the crude and hazardous highways led through 'eternal woods.'

"Whoever dared to take in North Carolina what at present would be a brief and pleasant jaunt then had to go through scores of 'dreary pines' in which the traveler often lost his way and became bewildered in the maze of the forest. Again, the wanderer would find himself in a desolation of swamp and wood without the