

First Generation

1. **JOHN¹ ROBERTSON (ROBINSON)** was born ca.1660. **JOHN** died 1721 in Henrico Co., VA, at 61 years of age.¹ He married **MAVELL EAST** in Henrico Co., VA, ca. 1690. **MAVELL** was born ca. 1670. **MAVELL** was the daughter of **THOMAS EAST** and **UNKNOWN**. **MAVELL** died before 1737.²

We believe this John Robertson (Robinson) was the brother of our ancestor Thomas Robertson (Robinson). (See the biography of Thomas Robertson, 1668-1741.) We have carefully documented our descent from Thomas and Elizabeth Robertson. We want to make known what we have learned about John and Mavell, but we also want you to be aware that this line of descent has not been fully documented and should be researched by anyone claiming descent from John and Mavell.

John Robinson was a "collar maker" who probably made collars for horses. John wrote his signature on the few documents that we have found, his sale of land in 1696 to Henry Turner, his deed of land in 1714 to his son, John Jr., and his 1719 witness to the will of Charles Scruggs. Few men of his day could read or write.

Mavell East Robinson had two brothers, Thomas East Jr. and Edward.³ Mavell's brother Thomas East Jr. and Thomas Cardwell were married to sisters, both daughters of Ann Perrin. Thomas Cardwell's daughter Eleanor was married to Richard Williams, schoolmaster and teacher of English. Thomas Cardwell gave Eleanor and Richard land on Gilley's Creek in 1713 and they became neighbors of John and Mavell who had patented land on Gilley's Creek in 1703.

Thomas East, Mavell's father, was overseer for Mr. Thomas Cocke's Turkey Island Plantation in Henrico County, Virginia. Mr. Cocke was a Justice from Henrico County in 1677 and a man of great wealth and prestige. In 1675, he named a John Robinson as one of 62 headrights when he was granted 3087 acres of land in Henrico County on the north side of the James River and the south side of the Chickahominy Swamp adjoining land taken up by Mr. Beauchamp.⁴ It is possible that Thomas East married Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Cocke and sister to Thomas Cocke. Richard Cocke died in 1665 and his will, after bequests to his sons, read: "any other son or their heirs that shall after my decease first possess said land, shall pay to my daughter Elizabeth Cocke, for her portion L100 sterling. If he or they shall refuse payment or fail to make same to said Elizabeth when she is 17 years old or at day of her marriage, which ever shall be first, then the land to be extended to her use until said sum be paid by annual value of the land..."⁵ In 1672 Thomas Cocke of Pickthorne Farm, son of Richard, granted Thomas East a parcel of land: "lying and being within line of what land he now holds but is part of that land belonging now to me and to my brother, given by will of our father. He shall have the land forever before any other person, he paying for the same what it may then be thought reasonable worth. If it fall to my share to have it, he only paying the acknowledgement of renting it every year by payment of one ear of corn the 25th day of December yearly til the 20 years be expired, which will be the 25th day of September 1688."⁶ This would indicate that Thomas East had been on the land for four years before this contract was put into writing in 1672. It is clear that Thomas East was seated on land granted to Richard Cocke, father of Elizabeth. This deed was produced in Henrico County Court in 1691: "a case between ye subscribed Cocke and East for ye above mentioned land and owned per both plaintiffs."⁷ We could not locate the court's decision concerning this case. Thomas East's first wife, perhaps Elizabeth Cocke, had died by 2 October 1685, when the marriage license of Thomas East to Dorothy Thomas was recorded in Henrico County, Virginia.⁸ Thomas East's remarriage might have been the reason the Cocke's tried to regain control of the land they had previously given to him.

In May, 1726, Thomas East Sr., "being old and almost blind and unable to care of myself for common necessaries to support life and likewise in consideration of his care and overseeing of my

