

SEVENTEENTH CENTURY
ISLE OF WIGHT COUNTY
VIRGINIA

*A History of the County of
Isle of Wight
Virginia*

*During the Seventeenth Century
Including Abstracts of the County Records*

— VOLUME 1 —

John Bennett Boddie



HERITAGE BOOKS

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the Francis Branch who made his will in Bertie, N. C., in 1739. This is probably the family of John Branch, Colonel of the Halifax County militia during the Revolution and father of John Branch, Governor of North Carolina in 1817.

BOYKIN.

Edward Boykin was the owner of 1100 acres of land in 1704. He made his will in 1726 and same was probated in 1728. He gave his son John 530 acres, and upon the death of his wife Anne the balance of his estate was to be divided among all of his children but his other children were not named. Beside John who died in 1729 leaving no will, the others appear to be Thomas, Edward and William. William married Margaret, daughter of Ralph Vicars and made his will in Isle of Wight in 1734. Edward was probably the Edward Boykin who made his will in Northampton County, N. C. in 1743 and Thomas Boykin died there in 1748. (See Grimes' Abstract of Wills, p. 43)

A Francis Boykin, said to be the son of John, made his will in Northampton in 1761. He was the father of William Boykin who married Elizabeth Bryant and moved to Camden, S. C. about 1755. Their son Francis married Catherine. He was a Lieutenant in the 3rd S. C. Troops and later a major in Middleton's regiment of infantry during the Revolution. Francis died in Baldwin County, Georgia in 1821. His son was Dr. Samuel Boykin (1786-1848) who was the father of Thomas Cooper Boykin (1836-1902) and the grandfather of James Chambers Boykin of Selma, Alabama.

Francis Boykin of Isle of Wight, a member of this family, married Anne, a daughter of John Marshall who died in 1784 and gave the property where the present

Court House is located to Francis and his daughter. Francis was a Second Lieutenant in the First Regiment of the Virginia Line, commanded by Patrick Henry, during the Revolution. He was Sheriff of Isle of Wight in 1792 and died in 1805. About 1800 he proposed to build a Court House, Clerk's Office and Jail on his farm located on the Western Branch of the Nansemond River about eight miles from Smithfield; and offered to exchange that property for the Court House property in Smithfield. After the exchange was made the Smiths claimed that inasmuch as the Court House property in Smithfield was no longer used for public purposes, it had therefore reverted to them.² Francis brought an action of ejectment in the District Court at Suffolk but lost the case. He bequeathed the property in question to his son Francis Marshall Boykin and his daughter Amice who married James Johnson, M. C. 1813-1820.

Francis Boykin made his will the 7th of October, 1803, and same was probated 2nd April, 1805. He mentions his daughter Nancy Boykin, sons John and Francis M. Boykin, and the executors were son Francis and Andrew Woodley.

Francis Marshall Boykin was Lieutenant Colonel of the Isle of Wight regiment during the war of 1812. He married Fannie Godwin, daughter of Anthony Godwin and Medora his wife, also a Godwin, daughter of Jonathan Godwin who made his will in 1762. Anthony was a son of Jeremiah Godwin and his wife Mary Holladay who were married May 18, 1748.

Francis Marshall Boykin, II, his son (1806-1863), married Hester Ann Briggs. He was a member of the Virginia State Senate and a General of the State Militia.

2. Va. Mag. 3, p. 195.

Their son, Francis M. Boykin, III, (1837-1906), was a major in the 31st Virginia regiment in the Civil War and fought at the battle of Cedar Mountain. He was promoted Lieutenant Colonel and was captured at the Battle of Sailor Creek and confined on Johnson's Island. He married Ellen Burton George and one son, Hamilton Godwin Boykin, lives in Richmond.

CLAY.

John Clay was the first of this family in Virginia. He was living at Jordan's Journey, Charles City County, in 1625, when he made a muster of his family in the census of that year, as follows:

“John Claye, in the Treasurer, February, 1613

Ann, his wife, in the Ann, August, 1623.

William Nichols, servant, aged 26 in the Duke, May, 1619.”

On the 13th of July, 1635, he was granted 1200 acres in Charles City County, bounded on the land of Captain Francis Hooke—to the head of Wards Creek and east upon the same, and north by the James River. 100 acres due him as an Ancient Planter before the time of Sir Thomas Dale and 1100 acres for the transportation of 22 persons.

August 23, 1643, John Wall patented 1790 acres on Chippoakes Creek, between John Hooke and William Pilkington, adjacent John Clay and John Freme.

One William Bailey patented 400 acres of land in Charles City, May 1st, 1655, “part of a dividend of 200 acres granted Captain Francis Hooke 26 October, 1637, and assigned to John Clay and John Freme and by inheritance descended unto William Clay son of said John and by William Bailey purchased of said William Clay, the younger.”