

**Family, VA, Isle of Wight, WOODLEYS**

**THE WOODLEYS OF**  
Isle of Wight County, VA.  
**AND OTHER ANCESTORS**

**BY JAMES FRANCIS CROCKER**  
PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA  
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Family, VA, Isle of Wight, WOODLEYS

Pages 7-9

Milner and Ann, his wife, then of Smithfield, on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 1800, made a deed to **JOHN WOODLEY**. Besides these grandchildren he left the following children surviving him: **MARTHA WOODLEY**, **THOMAS WOODLEY** and **JOHN WOODLEY**, all of whom are mentioned in his will. I do not know what became of **MARTHA WOODLEY**. **THOMAS WOODLEY** went to New Hanover county, NC I find that on the 9<sup>th</sup> of June, 1759, **THOMAS WOODLEY** and **ELIZABETH**, his wife, executed a deed to Peter Rea, (Deed Book 10, page 90), and that **THOMAS WOODLEY** in New Hanover, NC, on the 17<sup>th</sup> of September, 1762, conveyed to **WILLIAM RAND** lot number 14 in Smithfield. The fact that his wife did not join in this deed indicates that she had died. He left a son, **JOHN**, who died in Isle of Wight. **JOHN WOODLEY** married **CATHERINE BOYKIN**, widow of \_\_\_ **BOYKIN**, who had by her first husband the said **BOYKIN** one child, **FRANCIS BOYKIN**, who was a major in the Continental army, and who has descendants now living, of whom I will hereafter make mention. This **CATHERINE BOYKIN** was **CATHERINE BRYANT**, of Northampton county, North Carolina, who is said to have been beautiful and a belle. **JOHN WOODLEY** and the said **CATHERINE** were married before April 30<sup>th</sup>, 1756, for on that day by their deed, they conveyed to **WILLIAM RAND** lot number 7 in Smithfield, (Deed Book 9, page 441). The said **JOHN WOODLEY** received under the will of his father Four Square at which i place he resided during his life. He died testate; his will is dated February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1791, which was I admitted to record October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1791. He mentions his wife **CATHERINE** which would indicate that she was living at the time his will was written. He mentions in his will the following children: **WILLIS WOODLEY**, **JOHN WOODLEY** to whom he gives the Days Neck farm, **SAMUEL WOODLEY**, **ANDREW WOODLEY** to whom he gives Four Square, **ELIZABETH WOODLEY**, and **MOLLY BLUNT**, wife of **WILLIAM BLUNT** of Blunts Castle. He had two other sons, **THOMAS** and **HENRY**. According to a statement which my uncle, Col. **WILLIS HARRISON WOODLEY**, made to his son, **WILLIS HARRISON WOODLEY**, the said **THOMAS** and **HENRY WOODLEY** enlisted as volunteers in the Revolution under their half brother, **FRANCIS BOYKIN**, who was second lieutenant in the company of which **WILLIAM DAVIES** was captain, **WILLIS WILSON**, my great grandfather, first lieutenant, **FRANCIS BOYKIN**, second lieutenant, and **JONATHAN GODWIN**, ensign, of the first Virginia Regiment; one of them died as a prisoner of war, and the other was supposed to have been killed at the storming of Stony Point. The said **FRANCIS BOYKIN** became a major in the Revolution and was a distinguished and gallant officer. While the said **JOHN WOODLEY** left a very valuable estate yet his fortune was greatly impaired during the Revolution, his home being visited by a part of Cornwallis' army, who not only destroyed valuable property but carried off all the family silver which had been buried, the place of burial being betrayed by some of the slaves.

**SAMUEL WOODLEY** died unmarried.

**ELIZABETH WOODLEY** died testate and unmarried

**WILLIS WOODLEY** settled in Gates county, NC, was a member of the North Carolina legislature and left issue, but I have not traced them up;

**ANDREW WOODLEY** was born April 27th, 1769. married on November 9<sup>th</sup>, 1797, **ELIZABETH HILL HARRISON**, the daughter of **JOHN HARRISON** and **ELIZABETH HILL**. This **ELIZABETH HILL** was the daughter of **JOSEPH HILL** and **FRANCES WOODLEY**,

### Family, VA, Isle of Wight, WOODLEYS

daughter of **JOHN WOODLEY** of Day's Neck, a brother of the first **THOMAS WOODLEY**, and son of the first **ANDREW WOODLEY**, the immigrant. It thus appears that he married his cousin. They had the following children: **WILLIS HARRISON WOODLEY**, **FRANCES HILL WOODLEY**, **ANDREW BOYKIN WOODLEY**, **ELIZABETH HILL HARRISON WOODLEY**, **THOMAS WOODLEY**, **MARY ANN WOODLEY**, and **WILLIAM BRYANT WOODLEY**. There were other children but they died before reaching maturity. They were: **MERRITT WOODLEY**, born January 1<sup>st</sup> 1803, died May 12<sup>th</sup>, 1805; **JOSEPH WOODLEY**, born September 18<sup>th</sup>, 1816, died October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1816; **RICHARD S. WOODLEY**, born December 28<sup>th</sup>, 1820, died July 9<sup>th</sup>, 1822, and **HARRIETT WOODLEY**, died August 6<sup>th</sup>, 1810. **ANDREW WOODLEY** died November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1829. He was a man of great force of character, active and successful in business, and took a leading part in the affairs of his county. He held the military rank of major and was for many years the presiding justice of his county court. He in 1807 built the present dwelling on Four Square. When he died the place looked like a busy village with its numerous outhouses, its servant cottages, its stores of merchandise and shops of varied mechanical industries.

Family, VA, Isle of Wight, WOODLEYS

Page 37

**ANDREW WOODLEY**, the said **ELIZABETH HILL WOODLEY** being their sole heir. Their aunt **HARRIET HARRISON** had previously died without issue.

**JOHN WOODLEY.**

**JOHN WOODLEY**, son of **JOHN WOODLEY** and **CATHERINE BRYANT BOYKIN** and brother of Major **ANDREW WOODLEY**, lived in Days Neck, Isle of Wight county, married **ANNE DOYNE**, whose mother was **ANNE HOWARD** and who had a brother named Rev. **JOSEPH DOYNE**, who were from Charles county, MD.

The said **JOHN WOODLEY** and **ANNE DOYNE** his wife had the following children: **JAMES HOWARD WOODLEY**, **ROBERT DOYNE WOODLEY**, **THOMAS WOODLEY**, **MARY WOODLEY** and **CATHERINE WOODLEY**. **THOMAS** and **MARY WOODLEY** seemed to have died young without issue. **ROBERT DOYNE WOODLEY** was a Catholic priest and lived at Port Tobacco, MD, and died there on the 25<sup>th</sup> of October, 1857.

**CATHERINE WOODLEY** married Dr. **LEMUEL C. HOLLAND**, of Suffolk, VA., and died on the 26<sup>th</sup> of March, 1872, in her 59<sup>th</sup> year, leaving two children, **GRANVILLE S. P. HOLLAND** and **ELFRIDA C. HOLLAND**.

**JAMES HOWARD WOODLEY** married **MARY WILSON**, the daughter of **WILLIAM WILSON** and **SARAH DELK**. The said **JAMES H. WOODLEY** died in October, 1856, and his wife, **MARY WOODLEY**, died December 13th, 1864. They had the following children:  
**WILLIAM**

Family, VA, Isle of Wight, WOODLEYS

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