

LEWIS BOBBITT SENIOR 1703 - 1769  
 Son of William and Mary (Green) Bobbitt

Lewis Bobbitt was born in 1703 in Charles City County Virginia, in that section of the county which became Prince George County in 1704. Lewis was a son of William and Mary (Green) Bobbitt and a grandson of William Bobbitt from Wales.

The first mention of Lewis Bobbitt in the records was in a land patent of Richard Jones of Prince George County, Virginia. In the land patent of Richard Jones it is stated that one of the bounds of the land was a corner of the property of Lewis Bobbitt. William Bobbitt, the father of Lewis Bobbitt received 254 acres of land on Rocky Run by a land patent in 1725 and it was recorded in patent book 12:278 of Prince George County. The date of the patent to Richard Jones was September 28, 1728. Lewis Bobbitt was married and living on his own farm by 1728.

The Lewis Bobbitt family were members of Bristol Parish which covered Prince George County, Virginia. In the Bristol Parish record the birth of the first son of Lewis Bobbitt is recorded.

*"Miles Bobbitt, son of Lewis and Elizabeth Bobbitt,  
 born 22 nd of January 1731, baptized, April 23, 1732"*

This is the only colonial birth record for a member of the Bobbitt family. Lewis Bobbitt was married in 1726 to Elizabeth Moore and had a family of several daughters and three sons. It is likely the Lewis Bobbitt was married in the "Ferry Chapel" of Bristol Parish where his father and mother attended church.

In 1753, Lewis Bobbitt moved from his property in Virginia to join relatives who lived and owned land in North Carolina. The basic reasons for this move are described in "Sunlight on the Southside" by Landon C. Bell.

"Lord Granville's agents were disposing of land in the piedmont region of North Carolina to settlers at the rate of three shillings of proclamation money for six hundred and forty acres of land and also making large free grants on the condition of seating a certain proportion of settlers.

"In time a part or all of the children of some of the first settlers moved on into the newer country. Sometimes they emigrated by families and groups of families, and it would be difficult to find a Southside family which did not sooner or later contribute its quota of sons and daughters to the moving tide of population which flowed on into the south and southwest."

Lewis Bobbitt and his family, as well as the Moore family were part of this emigration into North Carolina.

"The road from Petersburg, by Spains Tavern (in present day Dinwiddie County), crossing the Nottoway River at Cross' Bridge, thence to North Meherrin River, crossing at Hawkins' Bridge, the South Meherrin River at Barry's Bridge and thence to Skipwith's Ferry on the Roanoke, and thence southward into North Carolina, was one of the notable roads by which uncounted numbers, from the valleys of the James and Appomattox, traveled into North Carolina.

"In 1738 the General Assembly of Virginia passed an act designed to encourage the settlement of lands lying upon the Roanoke River "on the southern boundary of the colony", which lands the act declared were "for the most part unseated and uncultivated."

The first record of Lewis Bobbitt in North Carolina is in the North Carolina State Archives. It was a land survey for Lewis Bobbitt dated June 7, 1749.

*"Survey of land for Lewis Bobbitt, 450 acres in Granville County on the south side of Reedy Creek. By D. Weldon, Surveyor. Witnesses: John Person, Richard Maddrey, Jonathan Carr."*

The records indicate that Lewis Bobbitt did not actually move to North Carolina with his family until the above surveyed land was granted to him by King George II of England. The grant was dated April 24, 1753.

*"King George II of England, to Lewis Bobbitt of Granville County, Planter. 450 acres of land on the south side of Reedy Creek."*

The land of this grant is in present day Warren County, North Carolina. It is significant that the land was located near the land of his double first cousin, William Bobbitt, a son of John Bobbitt of Chowan.

On July 4, 1754, William Bobbitt of Orange County sold his land in Granville County to Thomas Williams. John Richard Bobbitt was living in Granville County after his father, William Bobbitt, and his brother, William Bobbitt Junior had moved to Orange County.

*"William Bobbitt of Orange County to Thomas Williams of Granville County, 550 acres of land on the south side of Reedy Creek, at the mouth of Reedy Spring Gut."*

On March 11, 1760, John Richard Bobbitt received a land grant which mentions that his land touched Thomas Williams line. The land was on both sides of Little Fishing Creek. (This land is in present day Warren County, North Carolina.)

On March 21, 1762, Robert Moore the grandfather of Miles Bobbitt, deeded a gift of land to Miles Bobbitt.

On December 24, 1764, a sale and division of the estate of Robert Moore, deceased, was made. The persons making purchases at this dated sale were mostly the family of Lewis and Elizabeth (Moore) Bobbitt. The names were Nimrod Williams, Christopher Roberson, Lewis Bobbitt, Lewis Bobbitt Junior, Miles Bobbitt, William Bobbitt, William Powell, John Green, Peter Green, Thomas Stroud, and Joseph Duke.

The following deeds tell much about Lewis Bobbitt and his sons.

August 9, 1763:

*"Lewis Bobbitt sells to William Bobbitt, 160 acres of land on the south side of Reedy Creek, joining Lewis Bobbitt."*

October 21, 1765:

*"Lewis Bobbitt to Lewis Bobbitt Junior, both of Bute County. 167 acres of land on the south side of Reedy Creek. Witnesses: William Person Junior, Hannah Duke, Proved by: William Person Junior."*

The last deed and record of Lewis Bobbitt Senior was made in this deed recorded on September 22, 1769 in Bute County, Book 3, page 84.

*"William Person Junior of Bute County, to Daniel Coleman of Halifax County. 125 pounds of Virginia money for 640 acres of land in Bute County on both sides of Reedy Creek Branch, adjoining Lewis Harris, and Colonel Person. Witnesses: Lewis Bobbitt, Elizabeth Bobbitt. Acknowledged by William Person Junior, Martha his wife, relinquishing her dower rights."*

The wife of William Person Junior was Martha Bobbitt a daughter of Lewis and Elizabeth Bobbitt.

Lewis Bobbitt is important to the early history of the family in North Carolina. The detailed records concerning his life are in the first part of our text concerning North Carolina. Lewis Bobbitt was a tobacco farmer. After he moved to North Carolina he reared his family and remained on the land granted to him until his death. In the later years of his life, he and his wife made their home with their son, Lewis Bobbitt Junior.