

WILLIAM BOBBITT JUNIOR 1675 - 1738
 Son of William Bobbitt from Wales

The laws of primogeniture used in England were also used in the English colonies. These laws gave the first born son, the right to hold or inherit all the real property of his father. The will of every man with a son had to be written with generous gifts to the eldest son or the will could be contested in court.

William Bobbitt Junior inherited the land of his father. The 95 acres that was first granted to William Bobbitt Senior on October 27, 1673 was left by law to his first born son, William Bobbitt Junior. The 95 acres of land was sold by William Bobbitt Junior to John Peterson in 1711. The money received for the sale was used to purchase additional land with surveys that were recorded in Prince George County.

June 1, 1712....."Surveyed for William Bobbitt of Prince George County, a tract of land on the south side of Jones Hole Swamp, in Prince George County, 90 acres of land. Surveyed by Robert Bolling."

December 6, 1718."Surveyed for William Bobbitt of Prince George County, a tract of land, on the left side of Rocky Run, 254 acres. Surveyed by Robert Bolling."

Robert Bolling and his family are frequently mentioned in the records and history of Prince George County, from 1661 to 1798. The Bolling family name is found in the same locations and among the records of the Bobbitt family. The land granted to John Bobbitt of Sussex County, adjoins the land of Robert Bolling in 1798, and was described in the land transfer from Joel Newman to John Bobbitt.

William Bobbitt Junior was the eldest son of William Bobbitt Senior, from Wales. He was a brother of John Bobbitt of Chowan Precinct in North Carolina. He was a brother of James Bobbitt of Hanover County, Virginia.

William Bobbitt Junior married Mary Green, who was a sister of Sarah Green, the wife of John Bobbitt of Chowan. William Bobbitt born in 1675, married in 1695, and died in 1738. His children would have been born between 1695 and 1725. It is evident that he lived his entire life in Prince George County. He was a tobacco farmer, a law abiding citizen, and a member of the established Church of England. He had at least three sons and probably several daughters.

Our studies name the three sons as William Bobbitt Junior, (III) Lewis Bobbitt, and James Bobbitt. All three are named and logically placed by the records of the period.

William Bobbitt III, was first mentioned by implication in the records of the vestry of Bristol Parish. The vestry decided on November 15, 1736 to pay to William Bobbitt Senior, 100 shillings for the burying of John Dulaney. Or the son of William Bobbitt Junior could have lived in the area and been old enough to cause the vestry to refer to William as "Senior". We also know from this record that William Bobbitt Junior, referred to as Senior, was still living in 1736.

William Bobbitt III was undoubtedly the eldest son of William Bobbitt Junior. He inherited the property purchased on Rocky Run. We do not know what happened to this property as the records for the period were destroyed in the War between the States. Before 1728, Lewis Bobbitt had purchased land for himself, which indicated that Lewis knew that he would not inherit the land of his father. James the youngest son of William Bobbitt Junior, purchased land in 1752 and had been a land owner prior to that date.

We know very little about William Bobbitt III. His name seems to have been confused with the name of BOBLITT. Several persons with the name of Boblitt appear in the records in the time and location of William Bobbitt III. Descendants appear in the county of Bedford, parts of Kentucky, and Ohio. In some instances the name is Boblitt and in some instances the same families are listed as Bobbitt. It is a common mistake in the spelling of the name, and in its pronunciation at the present time.

William Bobbitt III would have been born between 1695 and 1700. He could not have been the husband of Lucy Bobbitt who left a will in Bedford County in 1788 in which she left property to her son, Randle, "not yet of lawful age". William Bobbitt III is said to have married Mary Hill but I can find no evidence or record to support this information. It is likely that the William Bobbitt who moved to and lived in Baltimore County, Maryland was a son of William Bobbitt III. There are no other Bobbitt families or names that can be positively identified as sons of William III, nor are there any ancestors left free without a connection to one of the early established families. There is nothing in the records to indicate that William Bobbitt III went to North Carolina.

Lewis Bobbitt, the second son of William Bobbitt Junior, is a part of our family studies in North Carolina. Lewis was born in 1704. The first mention of Lewis Bobbitt was in the land patent of Richard Jones, in which it is stated that one of the boundaries of the property of Richard Jones was a corner of Lewis Bobbitt's land, in the county of Prince George. We know that Lewis Bobbitt owned this land prior to September 28, 1728, the date of the Richard Jones patent.

Lewis Bobbitt is next recorded in the Bristol Parish records. The birth of his son, Miles Bobbitt, on January 22, 1731 is entered, with the notation that he was the son of Lewis and Elizabeth Bobbitt.

Lewis Bobbitt left his property in Virginia in 1753 to move to North Carolina. The history of Lewis Bobbitt is part of the family history of North Carolina. Lewis was the father of three sons, Miles Bobbitt, William Bobbitt, and Lewis Bobbitt Junior. The sons of Lewis and Elizabeth Bobbitt reached their maturity in what is today Warren County, North Carolina.

James Bobbitt son of William Bobbitt Junior, purchased land in 1752 in what was then Lunenburg County. Later it was divided into Halifax County and there are several records of James Bobbitt and his family recorded in Halifax County. The land was actually located in what was formed into Pittsylvania County in 1767.

Landon C. Bell in his book "Sunlight on the Southside" best describes what was happening to the descendants of William Bobbitt Junior and the descendants of James Bobbitt, his brother.

"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.

"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 rapidity of the settlement of the territory is indicated by a few outstanding facts, such as that within seven years there was a population of such numbers in the new section so remote from Brunswick court house that a new county, Lunenburg, had to be created, and this area in turn was subdivided into new counties as, Halifax in 1752, Bedford in 1754, and Pittsylvania in 1767."