

Benjamin Cannon of Henrico Co., Virginia and His Descendants

1. Benjamin Cannon (b. bef. 1710 – d. aft. 21 Dec. 1768)

The parents of Benjamin Cannon are not known. He first appears in Henrico Co., Virginia in 1731, when he and his wife Susannah were granted a deed of gift from John Walters, the father-in-law of Benjamin Cannon.¹ There are other Cannons present in Henrico Co. A John Cannon (John Cannon I) who married Ester (Hester) Pledge left a will in Henrico Co. in 1696 naming sons John (John Cannon II), William (William Cannon I) and Joseph, and a daughter Mary.² After the death of her husband, Ester (Pledge) Cannon remarried to Abraham Childers, Jr., the son of Philemon Childers, Sr.. Abraham Childers Jr. and his wife Hester were granted administration of the estate of John Cannon I.³ John Cannon II married Mary Price, daughter of John Price and Jane Pew.⁴ His 1732 will, probated in 1734 in Henrico Co., names sons John (John Cannon III) and William, and daughters Mary, Elizabeth, Jane, and Judith.⁵ William Cannon I married Judith Woodson, daughter of Robert Woodson and Elizabeth Ferris.⁶ We know of two children: John and Elizabeth.⁷ William Cannon I owned land in Buckingham and Goochland counties. John Cannon, the son of William Cannon I, married his first cousin Mary Cannon, daughter of John Cannon II and Mary Price.⁸ Elizabeth Cannon married Abraham Childers III, first cousin of Abraham Childers, Jr. who married Hester Cannon.⁹ It seems likely that Benjamin Cannon is related to the other Cannons that originate in Henrico Co. Unfortunately, many of the records in Henrico Co are destroyed. However, the existing records do indicate some connection between Benjamin Cannon and the other Cannons from Henrico Co.

Benjamin Cannon married Susannah Walter, daughter of John and Mary Walter. On 1 Jan. 1731 John Walters made a deed of gift to Benjamin Cannon and his daughter Susannah Cannon of 100 acres in Henrico Co. on White Oak Swamp.¹⁰ Benjamin and Susannah Cannon were granted a life estate and the remainder was granted to the children

¹ Henrico Co. VA Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, p. 335. (Weisiger 2, p. 136)

² Henrico Co. Wills and Deeds, 1688– 1697, p. 677 (Weisiger 1, p. 61-62).

³ Henrico Co. Wills and Deeds, 1688– 1697, p. 710 (Weisiger 1, p. 65).

⁴ Henrico Co. Wills and Deeds, 1710– 1714, p. 79 (Weisiger 1, p. 114-15). The will of John Price dated 15 December 1710 names daughter Mary Cannon to whom he left two ewes. The will was recorded in February 1711.

⁵ Henrico Co. VA Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, p. 465. (Weisiger 1, p. 198).

⁶ Dennstedt, pp. 185, 187-90; Dorman, p. 716.

⁷ Albemarle Co. Virginia Order Book 1744-1748, p. 308. In August 1747, on motion of Isaac Bates, John Cannon, heir at law of William Cannon and Theodorick Webb were summoned to appear in court and show cause why Isaac Bates should not be granted administration of the estate of William Cannon. (Dennstedt, p. ___)

⁸ See note 5. John Cannon II named his daughter Mary, wife of John Cannon, in his will.

⁹ Goochland Co. Virginia Deed Book 3, p. 222-223 (Dennstedt, p. ___). William Cannon deeded 400 acres in Goochland Co. to Abraham Childers and his wife Elizabeth for life, then to William Cannon Childers and his heirs. The father/daughter relationship between William Cannon and Elizabeth Cannon is inferred from the deed.

¹⁰ See note 1.

of Susannah Cannon. On 29 Jan. 1731, a similar conveyance was made to James Connaway (Conway) and his daughter Anne wife of James Connaway. Both deeds were witnessed by Charles Cannon and Abraham Childers. Both deeds were recorded on 7 Feb. 1731.

The witnesses to the deed of gift from John Walter to Benjamin Cannon and his wife, are likely related to Benjamin Cannon, but the nature of the relationships are not currently known. The relationship with Charles Cannon is presumed because they both share the same surname and are mentioned in the same deed. Charles Cannon appears in several other records in Henrico Co.¹¹, but none reveal his relationship to Benjamin Cannon. Abraham Childers married Elizabeth Cannon, daughter of William Cannon I and Judith Woodson.¹² William Cannon I, the father of Elizabeth Cannon, died intestate in 1747¹³ and his land would have passed by primogeniture to his oldest son John. It is certainly possible that William Cannon I had other sons. Benjamin Cannon appears to be about the same age as Elizabeth Cannon and could possibly be her brother. However, no conclusive proof exists of the relationship between Benjamin Cannon and William Cannon I or his daughter Elizabeth.

In the November 1741 court session in Henrico Co., two deeds involving Benjamin Cannon were acknowledged and recorded.¹⁴ The first deed was from James Conway and his wife Ann and Benjamin Cannon to Christopher Christmas. The second deed was from James Conway and his wife Ann, and Benjamin Cannon and his wife Susannah to John Robertson Sr. The later deed was proved by Christopher John Thomas.

On 9 April 1749, Mary Walters, widow of John Walters, conveyed to Benjamin Cannon and his wife Susannah her interest in land in Henrico Co. that was devised to her for life by her husband in a will dated 30 Sept. 1734.¹⁵ John Walters granted the remainder interest in the land after the death of his wife Mary to his son John Walter. The land was on the south side of East branch. Because John Walters Jr. died intestate without issue and Mary surrendered her life estate, the plantation descended to Benjamin Cannon and Susanna Cannon in right of the wife, and to James Conway and Anne his wife in right of the wife, co-heirs and sisters of John Walters, Jr. On 1 May 1749, Benjamin Cannon and Susannah sold their 1/2 part of the land to Richard Cottrel.¹⁶

Benjamin Cannon and his wife moved to Cumberland Co. sometime prior to 1753. On 26 Feb. 1753, George Carrington conveyed a tract of land in Cumberland containing about 200 acres to Benjamin Cannon.¹⁷ Both parties are identified as residents of Cumberland Co. The land, part of larger tract of 5650 acres granted to George Carrington by patent dated 1 March 1743, was bounded by John and David Pryor, George

¹¹ Henrico Co. VA Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, p. 240, 495. (Weisiger 1, p. 119, 162)

¹² See note 9.

¹³ See note 7.

¹⁴ Henrico Co. Court Orders, 1737-1744, p. 160 (Weisiger 4, p. 84.)

¹⁵ Henrico Co. VA Deeds, 1737-1750, p. 100 (Weisiger 4, p. 62).

¹⁶ Henrico Co. VA Deeds, 1737-1750, p. 101 (Weisiger 4, p. 63).

¹⁷ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, p. 52 (TLC 1, p. 15).

Carrington, David Reynolds, and Phineas Glover. This deed reveals another connection between Benjamin Cannon and Elizabeth Cannon Childers, daughter of William Cannon I. One of the daughters of Abraham Childers III and Elizabeth Cannon Childers married a David Pryor who was deceased by the time of the deed. The John and David Pryor mentioned in the deed as neighbors are likely the grandchildren of Abraham Childers III and Elizabeth Cannon.

On 26 Feb. 1753, the same day George Carrington deeded property to Benjamin Cannon, he also conveyed an adjacent tract of land in Cumberland Co. containing about 200 acres to David Reynolds.¹⁸ The land is also part of the 5650 acre patent to George Carrington dated 1 March 1743 and was bounded by Benjamin Cannon, George Carrington, and Phineas Glover.

Benjamin Cannon is mentioned in records of Cumberland County several times in 1755. On 24 March 1755, Benjamin Cannon witnessed a deed from Edward Daniel of Albemarle to Francis Amos of Cumberland.¹⁹ On 26 March 1755, on motion of Benjamin Cannon, the court ordered that he be paid 75 lbs tobacco for appearing as witness for John Taylor in his claim against Jacob Mosby.²⁰ On March 25 and March 26, Benjamin Cannon served on several Cumberland County juries.²¹

On 30 Oct. 1756, Benjamin Cannon, planter of Cumberland Co. conveyed the land given to him by deed of gift from John Walters to Jeremiah Cannon.²² Benjamin Cannon and Jeremiah Cannon are both identified as being of Cumberland Co. On 1 Nov. 1756, Jeremiah Cannon, planter of Cumberland Co., conveyed the same tract of land to Richard Cotrell, planter of Henrico Co. for 20 lbs.²³ A reasonable inference can be made that Jeremiah Cannon is the son of Benjamin Cannon. Benjamin Cannon and his wife were granted a life estate only in the land by John Walter. The remainder interest was granted to the children of Susannah Cannon. It appears that Benjamin Cannon conveyed the land to his son Jeremiah in order to merge the life estate with the remainder interest so that the land could be sold to Richard Cotrell.

Benjamin Cannon was named as executor in the will of Michael Rowland dated 30 March 1757.²⁴ Jeremiah Cannon witnessed the will. Benjamin Cannon presented the will of Michael Rowland to the court on 23 May 1757 and the will was recorded.²⁵ Benjamin Cannon subsequently presented an inventory of the estate to the court on 27 Feb. 1758.²⁶ Benjamin Cannon presented an accounting of the estate to the court on 24 August 1764.²⁷

¹⁸ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, p. 51 (TLC 1, p. 15).

¹⁹ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, p. 210 (TLC 1, p. 43).

²⁰ Cumberland Co. Order Book, June 1749-May 1756, pg. 268.

²¹ Cumberland Co. Order Book, June 1749-May 1756, pg. 257, 258, 267

²² Henrico Co. Deeds, 1750-1774, pg. 467 (Hutchinson, pg. 71).

²³ Henrico Co. Deeds, 1750-1774, pg. 468 (Hutchinson, pg. 71).

²⁴ Cumberland Co. Will Book 1, 1749-1769, p. 136 (Reynolds, p. 12).

²⁵ Cumberland Co. Court Order Book May 1756 –June 1762, p. 469 (Fretwell 1, p. 25).

²⁶ Cumberland Co. Will Book 1, 1749-1769, p. 148 (TLC 2, p. 56-57).

²⁷ Cumberland Co. Court Order Book 26 July 1762 –24 July 1764, p. 56 (Fretwell 2, p. 19).

On 27 June 1757, Benjamin Cannon conveyed a tract of land in Cumberland Co. containing 50 acres to his presumed son Jeremiah Cannon.²⁸ Both parties are identified as Cumberland County residents. The land was part of land conveyed to Benjamin Cannon by George Cannon where Benjamin Cannon was then living. The portion of the land conveyed to Jeremiah was bounded by David Reynolds line.

On 19 February, 1759, Benjamin Cannon conveyed 100 acres of land to William Rowland for 35 pounds.²⁹ The land was part of the tract on which Benjamin Cannon lived, which he acquired from George Carrington. William Rowland is the son of Michael Rowland. The will of Michael Rowland requested that Benjamin Cannon be paid \$100, which is the remaining balance for land purchased by Michael Rowland from Benjamin Cannon, and that Benjamin Cannon convey the property to his son William Rowland.

On 24 Aug. 1761, Benjamin Cannon granted 62 acres of land in Cumberland Co. to Drury Woodson.³⁰ The land was adjacent P. Glover, John Prior, Jeremiah Cannon, and Joseph Cannon. Susannah Cannon, wife of Benjamin Cannon, appeared in court and released her dower rights in the land.³¹ It has been noted above that John Pryor was a grandchild of Abraham Childers III and his wife Elizabeth (Cannon) Childers.

Benjamin Cannon is listed in the processioning records for Cumberland county. In 1755 processioning for Cumberland Co., Benjamin Cannon was listed in the precinct between Willis River, Randolph's Creek, the Buckingham Co. line, and River Road.³² In the 1759 processioning of Cumberland County, Jeremiah and Benjamin Cannon were listed in the precinct between Willis River, Randolph's Creek, the Buckingham County line, and River Road.³³ In 1763, Benjamin Cannon is listed in processioning for Cumberland Co. in the precinct between Willis River, Randolph's Creek, the Buckingham county line, and River Road.³⁴

The last record of Benjamin Cannon found is a marriage bond issued 21 Dec. 1768 in Cumberland Co. to William Cox to marry Francinia Cannon, daughter of Benjamin Cannon "of this county."³⁵ A Benjamin B. Cannon is named as surety. If the Benjamin B. Cannon named as surety is the father of Francinia Cannon, then we have some clue about Benjamin's middle name. As explained below, the name Benjamin Bartlett Cannon appears in at least five generations of Cannons. Therefore, it is possible that the middle name of Benjamin was Bartlett. The person named as surety on the marriage bond could

²⁸ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, 1752-1760, p. 418

²⁹ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, 1752-1760, p. 463 (TLC p. 94)

³⁰ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 3, p. 190

³¹ Cumberland Co. VA Order Books 1767-1787, p. 391

³² Blomquist 1, p. 26.

³³ Blomquist 1, p. 132, 134; Blomquist 2, p. 36.

³⁴ Blomquist 2, p. 48.

³⁵ Elliot, p. 38.

also be the son of Jeremiah. There is no reason to believe that Benjamin had a son named Benjamin.

There is no record of Benjamin Cannon's death, which appears to be sometime after 27 May 1768. He was likely born prior to 1710, so he would have been at least 58 in 1768. He did not leave a will in Cumberland Co., nor is there any estate record. No will or estate record for his wife Susannah has been found.

Children of Benjamin Cannon and Susannah Walter

2. Jeremiah Cannon m. Elizabeth Elam (?)
Francinia Cannon m. William Cox

2. Jeremiah Cannon (b. bef. 1736 - d. 1767)

Jeremiah Cannon is likely the son of Benjamin Cannon and Susannah Walter. He may have married twice: first to Susannah and second to Elizabeth. The maiden name of his first wife is not known. The maiden name of Elizabeth is generally believed to be Elam. Jeremiah Cannon died in Goochland Co. in 1767. His will named his second wife Elizabeth and three sons, William, Thomas, and Benjamin. He may have had other children. Fanny Cannon, who married James Walker in Goochland Co. may be a daughter of Jeremiah Cannon. He may have other sons who are not named in his will.

A series of land transactions in Henrico Co. provide part of the evidence that Jeremiah Cannon was the son of Benjamin Cannon. Benjamin Cannon and his wife were granted a life estate in a tract of land in Henrico Co. by John Walter, father of Susannah Walter.³⁶ The remainder interest was granted to the children of Susannah Cannon. On 30 October 1757, Benjamin Cannon conveyed the land to Jeremiah Cannon. On 1 November 1757, one day after acquiring the land, Jeremiah Cannon conveyed the same land to Richard Cottrel.³⁷ His first wife Susannah relinquished her dower.³⁸ It appears that Benjamin Cannon conveyed the land to his son Jeremiah in order to merge the life estate with the remainder interest so that the land could be sold to Richard Cottrell.

Land transactions in Cumberland Co. also suggest a relationship between Benjamin Cannon and Jeremiah Cannon. On 27 June 1757, Benjamin Cannon conveyed a tract of land in Cumberland Co. containing 50 acres to his presumed son Jeremiah Cannon.³⁹ The land was part of land on which Benjamin Cannon lived, which was conveyed to Benjamin Cannon by George Carrington. Thus, Jeremiah Cannon apparently lived on land adjacent to his father.

³⁶ Henrico Co. VA Wills and Deeds, 1725-1737, p. 335. (Weisiger 2, p. 136)

³⁷ Henrico Co. Deeds, 1750-1774, pg. 467, 468 (Hutchinson, pg. 71).

³⁸ Ibid. There may be a transcription error in the abstract of the deed provided by Hutchinson, which identifies Susannah as the wife of Jeremiah.. The actual deeds should be consulted to confirm this transcription.

³⁹ Cumberland Co. Deed Book 2, 1752-1760, p. 418

Jeremiah Cannon was a soldier in the colonial militia, however, little is known about his service. At a court held 20 July 1757, the court adjudged Jeremiah Cannon a soldier.⁴⁰ Then on 25 June 1757 the court discharged Jeremiah Cannon from his duties. On 28 June 1757, Jeremiah Cannon is appointed a soldier in the militia.⁴¹

Jeremiah Cannon is listed in the processioning records for Cumberland county in 1759, along with his father Benjamin Cannon.⁴² They are both listed in the precinct between Willis River, Randolph's Creek, the Buckingham County line, and River Road. In 1763, Jeremiah and Benjamin Cannon are listed in the same precinct.⁴³

Jeremiah Cannon is mentioned in a few miscellaneous records in Cumberland Co. He was a witness to the will of Michael Rowland.⁴⁴ His father Benjamin Cannon was named executor in the will. He is identified as a neighbor in the deed from Benjamin Cannon to Drury Woodson on 24 August 1761. Other neighbors named in the deed include P. Glover and Joseph Cannon. The relationship of Jeremiah Cannon to Joseph Cannon is not known. Joseph Cannon is possibly a brother.

Jeremiah Cannon made his will in Goochland County on 1 February 1767.⁴⁵ His will was proved on 15 December 1767. The will of Jeremiah Cannon names his second wife Elizabeth and three sons, William, Thomas, and Benjamin. The naming of a son Benjamin is further evidence that Jeremiah was the son of Benjamin Cannon. Jeremiah Cannon bequeathed his wife the land on which he lived, nine head of cattle, and other livestock, household furnishings to raise his children and one black horse. He granted the land on which he lived to son William after the death of his wife and gave son Thomas a contingent interest in the land should son William die without heirs. He directed the sale of one horse to discharge his debt and directed that the remainder of his estate be equally divided between all his children. Jeremiah's wife Elizabeth and his son Benjamin Cannon are named as executor. However, there is no record of Benjamin Cannon in Goochland Co.

Jeremiah Cannon may have had children not named in his will. It is also generally believed that Jeremiah had a daughter Fanny who married James Walker. There is some support for this belief. Fanny Cannon, who married James Walker, named a daughter Elizabeth Elam. However, further proof is needed. Possible sons include Joseph Cannon, who lived adjacent Benjamin and Jeremiah Cannon, and Joel Cannon who died in Caswell Co. in 1832. However, further research is needed before any firm conclusions can be made.

⁴⁰ Morton, p. 230.

⁴¹ Cumberland Co. VA. Order Book, May 1756-June 1762, part IIb, p. 483.

⁴² Blomquist 1, p. 132, 134; Blomquist 2, p. 36.

⁴³ Blomquist 1, p. 164, 165; Blomquist 2, p. 48.

⁴⁴ Cumberland Co. Will Book 1, 1749-1769, p. 136 (TLC 2 p. 52-53).

⁴⁵ See note 37.

Children of Jeremiah Cannon

3. Benjamin Cannon (m. 1. Mary East; 2. Henningham ?)
William Cannon
Thomas Cannon (m. 1. Rachel Walker; 2. Sarah Bettis)
Fanny Cannon (m. James Walker)

Possible children of Jeremiah Cannon

Joseph Cannon
Joel Cannon

3. Benjamin Cannon (b. bef. 1746 - d. 1800)

Benjamin Cannon was likely the son of Jeremiah Cannon. He was born prior to 1746 since he was named as an executor in his father's 1767 will. He married first to Mary East, daughter of Joseph East of Louisa Co., Va. His second wife, named in his estate records, was Henningham. Her surname is not known, but she may be a relation of George Carrington, whose mother and daughter were both named Henningham. Benjamin Cannon died in Stokes Co. North Carolina in 1800. Nine children of Benjamin Cannon have been identified. They are Bartlett, Zachariah, Dabney, Catherine, Mary, Joel, Thomas, William, and Elizabeth. Four of the children are identified explicitly in existing records. Joel and Thomas are identified as minor orphans in guardianship records. Catherine and Mary are named in deeds in Stokes Co. The other five can be inferred from existing records.

Goochland Co. records do not contain much information about Benjamin Cannon. It appears that he moved to Louisa Co., where he likely married his first wife, Mary East, daughter of Joseph and Mary East. The 1768 list of tithables in Louisa Co. includes Benjamin Cannon, who appears as a thithable in the household of Joseph East (Davis, p. 14). Joseph East was charged with three tithes in 1768 including Benjamin Cannon and a slave named Fanny. Benjamin Cannon also appears as a tithable in Joseph East's household in 1769 and 1770 (Davis, pp. 20, 25). In 1773, Benjamin Cannon appears in the Louisa Co. tithable list with 12 tithes. (Davis, p. 43). In 1774 and 1775, Benjamin Cannon is listed with 3 tithes including a slave named Nan (Davis, pp. 51, 59). No deeds in Louisa Co. mention Benjamin Cannon, so he apparently did not own land in Louisa Co.

Benjamin Cannon first appears in Henry Co., Virginia in 1783. He is referred to in the Henry Co. records as Benjamin Kennon. However, it will be shown that Benjamin Kennon of Henry Co. and Benjamin Cannon of Stokes Co. NC are the same person.

On 8 March 1783, James East, Senr. and his wife Ellphan of Henry Co., Virginia sold to Benjamin Kennon (Cannon) for the sum of five pounds, 106 acres on Horsepasture Creek. Witnesses to the deed include John Watson, John, Salmon, and Bowles Abbington.⁴⁶

⁴⁶ Henry Co., Virginia Deed Book 1, p. 305-306 (Adams 1, p. 110)

On 24 March 1786, James East, Sr. of Henry Co. sold to Benjamin Kennon (Cannon) several tracts of land.⁴⁷ The first was a tract containing 117 acres on the south side of Horsepasture Creek. The second part included 320 acres of land on Camp Branch including the land patented by James East on 10 April 1781 and a part of the land patented by him on 1 June 1782. The April 10 patent contained 286 acres.⁴⁸ The June 1 patent contained 287 acres.⁴⁹ Benjamin Kennon subsequently sold this land acquired from James East on 25 March 1791 to James Cook for 100 pounds.⁵⁰

On 25 April 1791, Benjamin Kennon (Cannon) sold to William Woolard for 50 pounds, 200 acres of land on the head branch of Bull Run, which was part of 287 acres patented by James East.⁵¹ This appears to be part of the June 1 patent to James East. A matching record conveying this land to Benjamin Cannon has not been found.

Benjamin Cannon moved to Stokes Co., North Carolina in 1795. He purchased 400 acres of land on Snow Creek from Peter Hairston.⁵² The deed was not recorded until September 1808, 8 years after the death of Benjamin Cannon. He is also mentioned as an adjoining neighbor in a grant to Joseph Welsh dated 18 Nov. 1795.⁵³

Benjamin Cannon first appears in the property tax records of Stokes Co. in 1796. He is also listed in the tax records in 1797. The tax lists for 1795 were not available. Benjamin Cannon is not listed in the property tax records from 1790 – 1794.

Benjamin apparently died intestate in Stokes Co., North Carolina before September 1800. There is a record for his estate maintained by the North Carolina State Archives. Administration of the estate was granted to his second wife Henningham Cannon on 2 September 1800.⁵⁴ Henningham entered into an administration bond with Joseph Cloud and John Salmon Sr. as sureties.⁵⁵ Henningham Cannon petitioned the court to appoint Joseph Cloud, James Davis, Alexander Burge, and Thomas Cardwell, or any three of them, commissioners to settle the estate of Benjamin Cannon and to set off a portion of the estate both real and personal for Henningham Cannon.⁵⁶ The petition was granted during the December 1800 term of the court.⁵⁷ During the December 1800 term of the

⁴⁷ Henry Co., Virginia Deed Book 3, p. 233-234 (Adams 2, p. 39)

⁴⁸ Land Office Grants D, 1780-1781, p. 862

⁴⁹ Land Office Grants F, 1781-1782, p. 160

⁵⁰ Henry Co., Virginia Deed Book 4, p. 195-96 (Adams 2, p. 122)

⁵¹ Henry Co., Virginia Deed Book 4, p. 269-70 (Adams 2, p. 132)

⁵² Stokes Co. Deed Book 5, p. 232. Stokes Co. Record of Deeds, North Carolina State Archives.

⁵³ Stokes Co. Deed Book 2, p. 231 (Absher, p. 42)

⁵⁴ Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Stokes County - County Court Minutes Dec. 1798-Dec. 1800, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.301.4, p. 153.

⁵⁵ Administration Bond from Estate Papers of Benjamin Cannon, Stokes Co. Record of Estates 1790-1849, 1861-1869, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.508.1

⁵⁶ Petition from Estate Papers of Benjamin Cannon, Stokes Co. Record of Estates 1790-1849, 1861-1869, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.508.1;

⁵⁷ Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Stokes County - County Court Minutes Dec. 1798-Dec. 1800, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.301.4, p. 172

court, Henningham presented an inventory of the estate property to the court and the inventory was recorded.⁵⁸

The given name of Benjamin Cannon's wife suggests that she is related to George Carrington, who was involved in several transactions with the elder Benjamin Cannon. George Carrington was a prominent citizen of Cumberland and Goochland Counties. He was the son of Paul Carrington Sr. of Barbados and Henningham Codrington. He migrated to Virginia in 1721 at the age of 10 with his sister Anne and brother-in-law Joseph Mayo. George Carrington had many children, including a daughter named Henningham, who married John Bernard. The name Henningham is common in many generations of George Carrington's descendants. Because of the relationship between the elder Benjamin Cannon and George Carrington, and the relative rareness of the name Henningham outside of the Carrington family, it seems probable that Benjamin's wife is related to George Carrington; she is perhaps a grandchild of George Carrington. Research is continuing to identify the parents of Henningham.

An undated inventory in the Benjamin Cannon estate records lists the personal property and concludes with the following statement:

This statement as brought forward is what of the dec'd estate the Administratrix finds in her hands, except four negros to wit Nan, Charles (infirm) a negro Girl Called Cuz a boy named Frank which the Administratrix discovers in an Item of one called Joseph East in his last will and testament bequeathed to Mary Cannon and her heirs when the youngest Child comes of age, if Mary Cannon was Wife of the dec'd Benjamin Cannon is [he?] one of the heirs."⁵⁹

The statement in the inventory, while a little confusing, confirms that Benjamin Cannon was previously married to Mary East, daughter of Joseph East. Joseph East died in Louisa Co. in 1772. The will of Joseph East made in 1768 names a daughter Mary Cannon to whom he bequeathed a slave named Nan and her increase for her life and after her decease to the children lawfully begotten by Mary Cannon when the youngest child comes of age.⁶⁰ The slave Nan is identified as part of the estate of Benjamin Cannon.

During its December term, the court appointed Bartlett Cannon as the guardian of "Joel Cannon and Thomas Cannon heirs and orphans of Benjamin Cannon Dec'd."⁶¹ The guardian bonds entered into by Bartlett Cannon are in the Benjamin Cannon estate

⁵⁸ Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Stokes County - County Court Minutes Dec. 1798-Dec. 1800, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.301.4, p. 171.

⁵⁹ Inventory from Estate Papers of Benjamin Cannon, Stokes Co. Record of Estates, N.C. Division of Archives and History 1790-1849, 1861-1869, C.R. 90.508.1.

⁶⁰ Louisa Co. Will Book 2, p.147 (Chappelar, p. 32)

⁶¹ Minutes of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions, Stokes County - County Court Minutes Dec. 1798-Dec. 1800, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R. 90.301.4, p. 178.

papers.⁶² Bartlett is likely the eldest son of Benjamin and brother of Joel and Thomas. A summons issued by the Stokes County court orders Bartlett Cannon to appear and provide an accounting for the estate of the orphans of Benjamin Cannon.⁶³ The summons indicates that Bartlett Cannon had not previously presented an account of the estate of the orphans. Apparently, the summons was never served. An annotation on the summons signed by the sheriff states that Bartlett Cannon “is not to be found in Stokes.”

It appears that Bartlett Cannon, along with four of his brothers, moved to Knox Co. Tennessee in 1800 following the death of their father, which explains why an accounting was never made. The brothers moving to Knox Co along with Bartlett were Zachariah Cannon, Dabney Cannon, Joel Cannon, and Thomas Cannon.

Henningham Cannon remained in Stokes Co. along with several of the children of Benjamin Cannon. Henningham Cannon is listed in the 1800 census for Stokes Co. NC.⁶⁴ Her household includes three males under 10 (likely William and 2 others), one female 10-15 (likely Elizabeth), and one female 26-45 (Henningham). Based on the age given in the 1800 census, Henningham was born between 1755 and 1774.

Benjamin Cannon had two daughters who were married at the time of his death. They were Mary “Molly” Cannon and Catherine “Caty” Cannon.⁶⁵ Molly Cannon married Daniel Smith on 20 May 1799 in Henry Co.⁶⁶ Catherine Cannon was also married in Henry Co. to James Melvin.⁶⁷ These two daughters remained in Stokes Co. following the death of Benjamin. Daniel Smith, who married Molly Cannon, and Caty Melvin appear in the 1800 census.⁶⁸ The household of Daniel Smith includes 1 male 26-44 years old (Daniel), 2 females under 10, and 1 female 16-25 (Molly). Thus, it appears that Molly Cannon was born between 1775 and 1784. The household of Caty Melvin includes 3 males under 10 and 1 female 26 – 44 (Caty). Thus, it appears that Caty Cannon was also born between 1775 and 1784 and that her husband died before 1800.

Benjamin Cannon had at least two more young children not previously mentioned who remained in Stokes Co with Henningham. They were William Cannon and Elizabeth Cannon. Elizabeth Cannon is likely the young female mentioned in the 1800 census and William Cannon is likely one of the young males. Elizabeth Cannon married Joseph Smith in Stokes Co. around 15 July 1815 (bond).⁶⁹ This was the second marriage for

⁶² Guardian Bonds from Estate Papers of Benjamin Cannon, Stokes Co. Record of Estates, N.C. Division of Archives and History 1790-1849, 1861-1869, C.R. 90.508.__. Interested researchers should note that the estate papers are in two separate folders, one indexed under the name Benjamin Cannon and one indexed under the name Benjamin Kannon. The guardian bonds are in the Benjamin Kannon folder.

⁶³ Summons from Estate Papers of Benjamin Cannon, Stokes Co. Record of Estates, N.C. Division of Archives and History 1790-1849, 1861-1869, C.R. 90.508.1.

⁶⁴ 1800 Census Stokes County North Carolina, Roll 32, p. 559.

⁶⁵ Stokes Co. Deed Book 4, p. 492; Stokes Co. Deed Book 5, p. 434.

⁶⁶ Anderton, p. 48.

⁶⁷ Anderton, p. 63.

⁶⁸ 1800 Census Stokes County North Carolina, Roll 32, p. 563, 573.

⁶⁹ N.C. Marriage Bond No. 000141614.

Joseph Smith, who was previously married to Docia Baker, daughter of Henry Baker.⁷⁰ It may be noted that Henry Baker was an adjoining neighbor of Benjamin Cannon. William Cannon served in the 5th Regiment of the North Carolina militia under Captain John L. Hauser during the War of 1812.⁷¹ After the war, he married Nancy Baker, daughter of Henry Baker and sister of Docia Baker, in Stokes Co., NC. While living in Monroe, Co. IN, William Cannon applied for bounty land for his service in the War of 1812. William Cannon received 40 acres of bounty land in Cass Co. Iowa for his service. In 1878, his widow applied for a pension. William's sister Elizabeth Cannon Smith, at the age of 87, gave an affidavit to support the pension application. In the affidavit, she states that William was born in Henry Co. on 10 Dec. 1792 and was married in Stokes Co. on 13 Feb. 1820 at the home of John Fodderil.

The 400 acres of land on Snow Creek owned by Benjamin Cannon was divided between Henningham Cannon, Caty Melvin, and Daniel Smith. On 8 Feb. 1805, Henningham Cannon deeded to Joseph Smith 33-1/3 acres of land along Snow Creek bounded by Daniel Smith and Henry Baker.⁷² The deed states that the land is "my part of the one-third part of Four hundred acres of land formerly occupied by the late Benjamin Cannon." In 1809, "Henningham Cannon widow of Benjamin Cannon dec'd" and "Caty Melvin daughter of the said Benjamin Cannon" conveyed a one-third share of Benjamin Cannon's land to Daniel Smith "who intermarried with Molly Cannon, daughter and one of the legatees of Benjamin Cannon."⁷³ The deed refers to a "Contract Mutually entered into between Henningham Cannon and the legatees of the said Benjamin Cannon" regarding the land formerly owned by Benjamin Cannon. The deed also states that the land "agreeable to the above mentioned contract was to be equally divided between the said Henningham Catty Melvin and Daniel Smith."

Henningham and the children of Benjamin Cannon apparently made an agreement regarding the division of the land and the 1809 deed was made to put the agreement into effect. The date of the agreement is not given and no details of the agreement are stated in the deed. The number and names of the children are not given, other than Caty and Molly. It appears likely that the children of Benjamin Cannon who moved to Tennessee gave up claims to any land in Stokes Co. in exchange for slaves and possibly other consideration.

Henningham Cannon appears in the Stokes Co. tax lists in 1802 – 1806.⁷⁴ She did not appear in the 1801 tax list. In 1802 she appears in Captain Beazley's district with 133-1/3 acres.⁷⁵ Catherine Melvin and Daniel Smith also appear in the same district with 133-1/3

⁷⁰ N.C. Marriage Bond No. 000141615

⁷¹ Weldon and Related Families, Ancestry World Tree Entry 26687, updated Aug. 23, 2008.

⁷² Stokes Co. Deed Book 4, p. 492.

⁷³ Stokes Co. Deed Book 5, p. 434.

⁷⁴ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, pp. 62, 116, 197, 217, 298.

⁷⁵ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, p. 62.

acres each.⁷⁶ In 1803 Henningham appears in Capt. Whitlock's District, again with 133-1/3 acres.⁷⁷ Caty Melvin is also listed with 133-1/3 acres.⁷⁸ A Joseph Smith appears with 200 acres and is charged with 1 free poll.⁷⁹ Daniel Smith is not listed. In 1804, Henningham is listed with 100 acres and Joseph Smith is listed with 33-1/3 acres.⁸⁰ Apparently, the 1805 deed from Henningham to Joseph Smith formalized a transfer that occurred in the prior year. Caty Melvin and Daniel Smith are not listed in 1804, though subsequent tax lists shows that they were still present in Stokes County. Henningham Cannon, Caty Melvin, and Daniel Smith all appear in the 1805 and 1806 tax list, each with 133-1/3 acres.⁸¹ Joseph Smith appears in the 1805 with 63 acres and the 1806 tax list with 63-1/2.⁸²

Children of Benjamin Cannon:

4. Bartlett m. Jane Cannon
5. Zachariah m. Elizabeth Edgar
6. Dabney (probably died unmarried)
Catherine m. James Melvin
Mary m. Daniel Smith
Joel
Thomas
7. William m. Nancy Baker
8. Elizabeth m. Joseph Smith

4. Bartlett Cannon (b. ca. 1769 - d. 1860)

Bartlett Cannon, who was appointed guardian of Benjamin Cannon's orphans, is likely the eldest son of Benjamin Cannon. He was born in Virginia, probably between 1769 and 1772. He moved to Knox Co. Tennessee in about 1800 after his father's death and died in Hamilton Co., Tennessee in 1860.

Bartlett Cannon married in Caswell Co., North Carolina to Jane Cannon, which is evidenced by a marriage bond in Caswell Co. dated 20 January 1794.⁸³ The marriage bond identifies the bride and groom as Janey Kennon and Bartlett Kannon. William

⁷⁶ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, pp. 64-65.

⁷⁷ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, p. 116.

⁷⁸ Id.

⁷⁹ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, p. 118.

⁸⁰ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, pp. 197-98.

⁸¹ Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, pp. 217, 219, 298, 300.

⁸² Stokes County List of Taxables 1801-1806, N.C. Division of Archives and History, C.R.090.701.2, pp. 219, 301.

⁸³ Caswell Co. Marriage Bond 000016315, N.C. Division of Archives and History.

Kennon was the bondsman and Joseph Hall was the witness. Jane Cannon is commonly reported to be the daughter of John Cannon and Anne Whitlow. Published biographies suggest that John Cannon was born in Caswell Co. in 1744⁸⁴, which is unlikely because settlement did not begin in Caswell Co. until later. Also, John Cannon and Ann Whitlow married in Goochland Co. on 29 December 1770.⁸⁵ It is more likely that John Cannon was born in Virginia and moved to Caswell Co. for some time prior to moving to Knox Co where he died in 1806.

After the death of his father Benjamin in 1800, Bartlett Cannon was appointed guardian of his younger brothers Joel Cannon and Thomas Cannon. Bartlett Cannon moved to Knox Co. Tennessee, apparently accompanied by Joel Cannon. During the October session of court in Knox Co., Joel Cannon, a minor, chose Bartlett Cannon as his guardian with the approval of the court.⁸⁶ Further research is needed to determine whether Bartlett's other ward, Thomas Cannon, also moved to Knox Co.

On 8 Nov. 1800, Bartlett Cannon purchased 84 acres on the west fork of Turkey Cr. from Joseph Taylor.⁸⁷ Joseph Taylor previously sold 100 acres on the Holston River to John Cannon on 15 June 1795.⁸⁸ The relationship of John Cannon and Bartlett has not been proven. It is believed that John Cannon is the father of Bartlett's wife, Jane Cannon. Zachariah Cannon and Dabney Cannon also moved to the same area of Tennessee, probably at the same time. Zachariah Cannon purchased 122 acres on Turkey Creek from John McClellan on 4 June 1804.⁸⁹ Dabney Cannon owned land in nearby Jefferson Co. along Morris Branch of the Holston River.⁹⁰

Zachariah Cannon and Bartlett Cannon made two interesting land transactions involving the exchange of land for slaves. On 4 Feb. 1806, Bartlett Cannon conveyed the 84 acres on Turkey Creek he purchased from Joseph Taylor to Zachariah and apparently received in exchange "one negro man named Frank."⁹¹ On 7 Nov. 1809, Zachariah Cannon conveyed 206 acres on Turkey Creek to Bartlett Cannon and received in exchange five slaves including "one negro woman named Cuz about 23 years old. Some of the other slaves sold by Bartlett may have been purchased from Archibald Roane on 27 Dec. 1806.⁹² The 206 acre tract included the 84 acres Zachariah previously purchased from Bartlett and the 122 acre tract that Zachariah purchased on 4 June 1804 from John McClellan.

⁸⁴ First Families of Tennessee: A Register of Early Settlers and Their Present-Day Descendants East Tennessee Historical Society, East Tennessee Historical Society, 2000

⁸⁵ Douglas Register

⁸⁶ Knox Co., TN Estate Book, Vol 1, 1792-1811, p. 78.

⁸⁷ Knox Co. Deed Book G, p. 1330.

⁸⁸ Knox Co. Deed Book E, p. 1363.

⁸⁹ Knox Co. Deed Book L, p. 1222.

⁹⁰ Jefferson Co. Deed Book F, p. 12; Jefferson Co. Deed Book Q, p. 422.

⁹¹ Knox Co. Deed Book L, p. 317; Knox Co. Deed Book M, p. 4.

⁹² Knox Co. Deed Book M, p. 1142.

The slaves Frank and Cuz mentioned in the deeds were likely obtained from the estate of Benjamin Cannon. Recall that Joseph East granted a slave named Nan and her increase to his daughter Mary Cannon for life and after her death to the heirs of Mary Cannon. The inventory of Benjamin Cannon's estate listed four slaves: Nan, Charles, a boy named Frank, and a girl named Cuz. Dabney Cannon apparently received the boy named Frank and Bartlett Cannon apparently received the girl named Cuz. On 30 Dec. 1801, Dabney Cannon made a deed of gift in favor of his nephew Benjamin Bartlett Cannon which reads:

For and in consideration of the natural love and affection which I have and bear to my beloved nephew Benjamin Bartlett Cannon, grant all and singular my goods and chattles following: **one Negro boy named Frank**, one sett of hatter's tools, also one improvement of land lying on the hear of Morrisses Branch and waters of Holston [River].⁹³

Benjamin Bartlett Cannon was the son of Zachariah Cannon and was about 1 year old at the time the deed of gift was made. Five years later, his father Zachariah conveyed the slave named Frank to Bartlett Cannon in exchange for 84 Acres on Turkey Creek.⁹⁴ Then on 7 Nov. 1809, Bartlett conveyed the slave named Cuz to Zachariah along with four other slaves in exchange for 206 acres of land on Turkey Creek.⁹⁵ Dabney's ownership of the slave named Frank is convincing evidence that he is the son of Benjamin Cannon and Mary East. Dabney Cannon's subsequent deed of gift to Benjamin Bartlett Cannon proves that Dabney and Zachariah are brothers. Bartlett's ownership of the slave named Cuz is also convincing evidence that he is the son of Benjamin Cannon.

The notion that Zachariah and Bartlett were brothers also has some intuitive appeal since it conforms with traditional naming patterns. Zachariah Cannon named a son Benjamin Bartlett Cannon, the first of that name extending through five generations. If Zachariah Cannon and Bartlett Cannon are sons of Benjamin Cannon, the origin of the name Benjamin Bartlett becomes apparent. The name Benjamin derives from Zachariah's father Benjamin and the name Bartlett derives from Zachariah's brother Bartlett.

On 27 Feb. 1808, Bartlett Cannon sold 57 acres on Hickory Creek from William Hillers.⁹⁶ It is not known how Bartlett came to own this tract of land. On 27 Mar. 1815, Bartlett sold 39 acres on the west fork of Turkey Creek from William Paul.⁹⁷ This parcel may have been part of the 206 acre tract that Bartlett purchased from his brother Zachariah in exchange for five slaves.

⁹³ Jefferson Co. Deed Book F, p. 409 (transcription by Ann Bloomquist)

⁹⁴ See note 86.

⁹⁵ See note 87.

⁹⁶ Knox Co. Deed Book N, p. 172.

⁹⁷ Knox Co. Deed Book P, p. 471.

Bartlett Cannon purchased 100 acres of land at the mouth of Turkey Creek on 3 Jan. 1816 from David Nelson.⁹⁸ On 26 Mar. 1818, Bartlett purchased 30 acres of land on the west fork of Turkey Creek from William Paul.⁹⁹ These purchases bring Bartlett's land holding to 336 acres.

It appears that Bartlett began selling his land in 1819, perhaps in preparation for his move to Monroe Co. On 4 April 1819, Bartlett sold 50 acres on the north side of the Holston River to Joseph Lemons.¹⁰⁰ He sold another 30 acres on the north side of the Holston River to William Smith on 4 Dec. 1818.¹⁰¹ His last sell was 200 acres on Turkey Creek to George Starner on 6 Jan. 1820.¹⁰² There are no further land transactions after 1820, so Bartlett presumably moved in 1820 or shortly thereafter.

By 1830, Bartlett Cannon was residing in Monroe Co., Tennessee, where he appears in the census taken that year.¹⁰³ He was living in the Regiment 67 district. His household includes 1 male 50-66, 1 male 30-40, 1 female 50-60, 1 female 15-20, and 1 female slave 10-24. There are three other Cannons listed as heads of household in Monroe County; James, John, and John R.¹⁰⁴

By 1840, Bartlett Cannon was residing in Hamilton Co., Tennessee.¹⁰⁵ He is identified as Bartley in the census. His household includes 1 male 60-70, 1 male 30-40, and 1 female 60-70. Other Cannons listed as heads of household in Hamilton, Co. include B. B. Cannon, George Cannon, John Cannon, and William Cannon.¹⁰⁶ George, John, and William apparently live in close proximity to Bartlett.

In 1850, Bartlett Cannon was still residing in Hamilton Co., Tennessee with his wife Jane and Robert Cannon.¹⁰⁷ He is identified as Bartley Cannon in the census. Data from the 1850 census provides additional information about Bartlett Cannon. Bartlett Cannon was 81 and his wife Jane was 80. Robert Cannon, whose relation to Bartlett is not known, was 44. The census indicates that both Bartlett and his wife Jane were born in Virginia. Robert Cannon was born in Tennessee. Bartlett is also listed in the 1850 slave schedule with 1 female slave aged 20, and two males slaves aged 4 and 1 respectively.¹⁰⁸

Bartlett Cannon, who was preceded in death by his wife, died in January 1860 in Hamilton. Co., Tennessee.¹⁰⁹ His death is recorded in the 1860 U.S. Mortality Census

⁹⁸ Knox Co. Deed Book P, p. 323.

⁹⁹ Knox Co. Deed Book R, p. 1402.

¹⁰⁰ Knox Co. Deed Book R, p. 208.

¹⁰¹ Knox Co. Deed Book R, p. 225.

¹⁰² Knox Co. Deed Book R, p. 422.

¹⁰³ 1830 Census, Monroe County, Tennessee, Roll 175, p. 102.

¹⁰⁴ 1830 Census, Monroe County, Tennessee, Roll 175, pp. 83, 113, 112.

¹⁰⁵ 1840 Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee, Roll 525, p. 176.

¹⁰⁶ 1840 Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee, Roll 525, p. 144, 175, 177.

¹⁰⁷ 1850 Census, Hamilton County, Tennessee, Roll 432_881, p. 460.

¹⁰⁸ 150 Federal Census, slave Schedule, Roll 432.

¹⁰⁹ United States. Federal Mortality Census Schedules, 1850-1880, Roll T655_27, p. 197.

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Schedule for that year. The mortality census indicates that Bartlett was 88 years old and widowed at the time of his death. The census lists dyspepsia as the cause of death.

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