

## Out of the Mist – A Search for Richard Bostick’s Roots

### Chapter 2 - Charles Bostock The Progenitor

The first evidence for Charles Bostock, the Virginia immigrant and progenitor of most Bostick’s originating from the southern colonial states, was in a land patent recorded on April 7, 1671. In that patent record George Poole, Richard Farthingale, Richard Barrington and John Forsith were granted 600 acres in Gloucester County adjoining Henry Corbell for the transport for Charles Bostock, Charles Hatcome, John Gregory, Elizabeth Wood, etal.<sup>1</sup> The patent record did not indicate the location of this grant. However, a search of the original grantee’s [Henry Corbell] records indicated that the 600 acre parcel was adjacent to land owned by Colonel Richard Lee. Richard Lee was the Secretary of State for the Colony of Virginia, and a major land owner of the period.

Although Colonel Lee acquired numerous properties in Virginia between 1643 and 1664, only four were identified as being in Gloucester County. Gloucester was formed as a county in 1651. Other grants may also have been in Gloucester County, but were simply identified as being on the north side of the Charles [York] River. The parcel adjacent to Henry Corbell’s tract was specified as being on Dogwood Springs Branch. The other three parcels in Gloucester County were identified as being on the north side of the Charles [York] River or at the head of Poropotank Swamp. Poropotank River [Creek] joins the York River from the northeast about ten miles below present day West Point. It is likely that the Corbell Tract for which Charles Bostick was transported was located in the general area of the Poropotank River as illustrated in Figure 2-1.

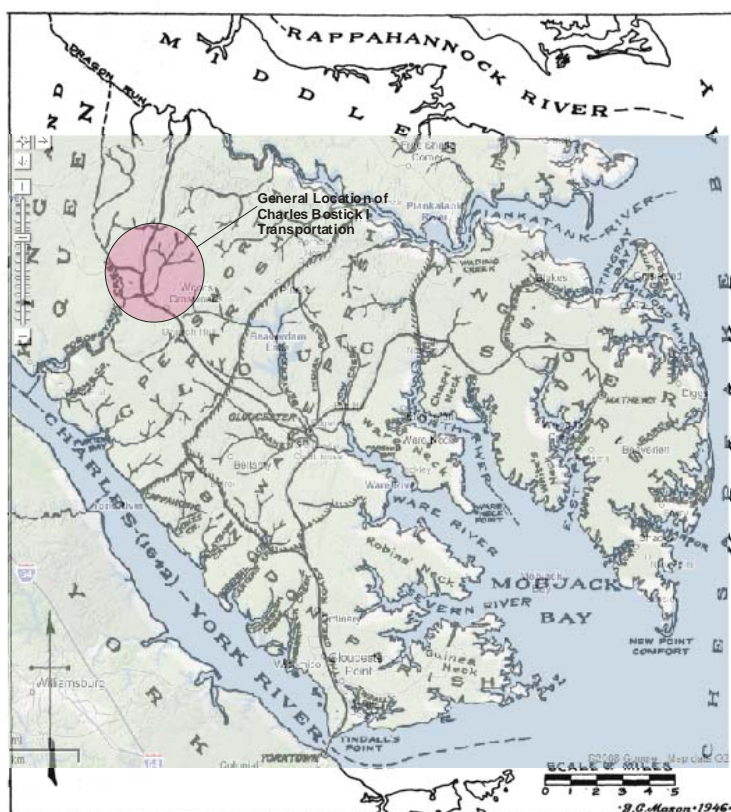


FIGURE 2-1  
Gloucester County Map Circa 1651

The next record for Charles Bostick I was in Bruton Parish on December 8, 1679 where he was shown as owing 500 pounds of tobacco for the use of the County. Bruton Parish was originally known in about 1635 as Middle Plantation Parish and was situated between the York and James Rivers. In 1658 Harrop Parish from James City County merged with Middle Plantation

<sup>1</sup> Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia, page 29, Ancestry.com

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Parish to form the Middletown Parish. In 1674 the Marston Parish from York County merged with Middletown Parish to form Bruton Parish.<sup>2</sup> Bruton Parish encompassed the town of Williamsburg, the site of the Bruton Parish Church, and contained approximately 100 square miles.

The precise boundary of Bruton Parish is difficult to establish with certainty. But from the foregoing description of its formation, it is clear that in 1674 it contained portions of northern York County, and James City County, and may have included a southern portion of New Kent County.

New Kent County was formed in 1654 and was situated between the Chickahominy River on the west and the ridgeline between the York River and Rappahannock River on the east. The county boundary extended indefinitely inland from James City, York and Gloucester counties as illustrated in Figure 2-3. The fact that Charles Bostick was being assessed for “use of the County” suggests that he was a resident within the parish boundary. However, since Bruton Parish appears to have encompassed portions of three different counties, it is near impossible to identify his county of residence.

May 19, 1682, Charles Bostwicke, of New Kent County, was ordered committed to the custody of the Sheriff of York County, for, “words greatly encouraging the present distractions, by cutting up Tobacco plants.”<sup>3</sup>

“In connection with the order for the committal to custody of Stephen Tarleton and Charles Bostwicke, it is of interest to note (1) that the former had been somewhat deeply implicated in Bacon’s Rebellion, that in May 1682 he was under arrest for complicity in the Tobacco Riots, and that nevertheless within three and a half years



FIGURE 2-2  
Bruton Parish Church – Built ~ 1684

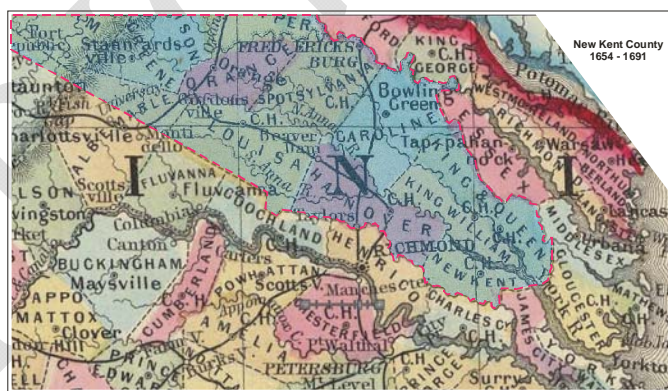


FIGURE 2-3  
New Kent County Boundary 1654 - 1691

<sup>2</sup> [www.brutonparish.org/history](http://www.brutonparish.org/history)

<sup>3</sup> The Vestry Book of Blisland (Blissland) Parish, New Kent and James City Co. VA 1721-1786, Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, pp XLV, L, XLIX.



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thereafter he was holding the prominent position of vestryman in St. Peter’s Parish, and that (2) a certain Charles Bostwicke was one of the signers of the Blisland Grievances of 1677 and that in the year 1689 Charles Bostisk was appointed a processioneer in St. Peter’s Parish.”

Blisland Parish is believed to have been formed in October 1653. New Kent County was formed in 1654. During this time period it was common for county boundaries to be delineated by and encompassed the underlying parish. Blisland Parish is believed to have been contained entirely within New Kent County, although the boundaries of Blisland Parish are in some dispute. For example, it is uncertain whether any of the area within Pamunkey Neck, the area that later became King William County, was included within Blisland Parish. The approximate boundary of Blisland Parish apparently ranged between the Chickahominy River and the York/Pamunkey Rivers, extending from Bruton Parish on the south and indefinitely on the north as illustrated in Figure 2-4. Between the time of its formation in 1653 and 1678, Blisland Parish would also have contained the area identified as St. Peter’s Parish and St. Paul’s Parish.

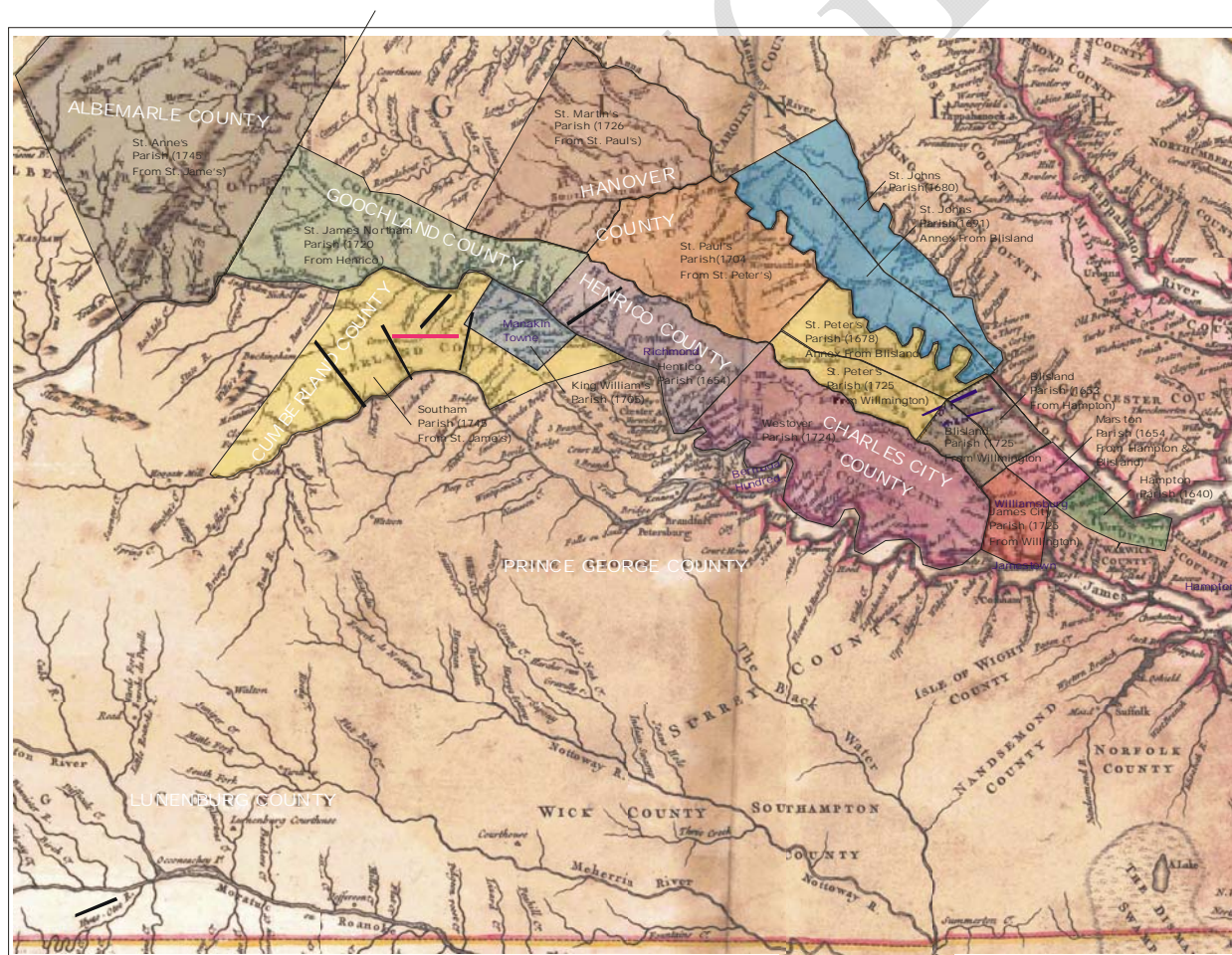


FIGURE 2-4  
Colonial Virginia Parish Map

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Since Charles Bostick was noted in the arrest warrant as a resident of New Kent County, it is unclear why he would have been ordered committed to the Sheriff of nearby York County. The grievance and “riot” referred to by Chamberlayne in the Blisland Parish Vestry Book were adjuncts to events known to historians as the “Bacon's Rebellion”. Charles Bostick arrived in Virginia Colony in the midst of a rather turbulent time. Indian raids and murderous assaults upon the outlying plantations were commonplace. Various Acts by the British government caused a precipitous decline in the value of tobacco, the primary commodity of the day. A seemingly indifferent Governor Berkeley placed great strain on the smaller, poorer planters. Frequent pleas to the General Assembly in Jamestown by the upcountry yeoman farmers for a security force to put down the Indian threat went unheeded. The following discussion presents a worthy accounting of the events leading up to and during the so-called “rebellion”.

“The central figures in Bacon's Rebellion were opposites. Governor Sir William Berkeley, seventy when the crisis began, was a veteran of the English Civil Wars, a frontier Indian fighter, a King's favorite in his first term as Governor in the 1640's, and a playwright and scholar. His name and reputation as Governor of Virginia were well respected. Berkeley's antagonist, young Nathaniel Bacon, Jr., was actually Berkeley's cousin by marriage. Lady Berkeley, Frances Culpeper, was Bacon's cousin. Bacon was a troublemaker and schemer whose father sent him to Virginia in the hope that he would mature. Although disdainful of labor, Bacon was intelligent and eloquent. Upon Bacon's arrival, Berkeley treated his young cousin with respect and friendship, giving him both a substantial land grant and a seat on the council in 1675.

Bacon's Rebellion can be attributed to a myriad of causes, all of which led to dissent in the Virginia colony. Economic problems, such as declining tobacco prices, growing commercial competition from Maryland and the Carolinas, an increasingly restricted English market, and the rising prices from English manufactured goods (mercantilism) caused problems for the Virginians. There were heavy English losses in the latest series of naval wars with the Dutch and, closer to home, there were many problems caused by weather. Hailstorms, floods, dry spells, and hurricanes rocked the colony all in the course of a year and had a damaging effect on the colonists. These difficulties encouraged the colonists to find a scapegoat against whom they could vent their frustrations and place the blame for their misfortunes.

The colonists found their scapegoat in the form of the local Indians. The trouble began in July 1675 with a raid by the Doeg Indians on the plantation of Thomas Mathews, located in the Northern Neck section of Virginia near the Potomac River. Several of the Doegs were killed in the raid, which began in a dispute over the nonpayment of some items Mathews had apparently obtained from the tribe. The situation became critical when, in a retaliatory strike by the colonists, they attacked the wrong Indians, the Susquehannogs, which caused large scale Indian raids to begin.

To stave off future attacks and to bring the situation under control, Governor Berkeley ordered an investigation into the matter. He set up what was to be a disastrous meeting between the parties, which resulted in the murders of several tribal chiefs. Throughout

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the crisis, Berkeley continually pleaded for restraint from the colonists. Some, including Bacon, refused to listen. Nathaniel Bacon disregarded the Governor's direct orders by seizing some friendly Appomattox Indians for "allegedly" stealing corn. Berkeley reprimanded him, which caused the disgruntled Virginians to wonder which man had taken the right action. It was here the battle lines were about to be drawn.

A further problem was Berkeley's attempt to find a compromise. Berkeley's policy was to preserve the friendship and loyalty of the subject Indians while assuring the settlers that they were not hostile. To meet his first objective, the Governor relieved the local Indians of their powder and ammunition. To deal with the second objective, Berkeley called the "Long Assembly" in March 1676. Despite being judged corrupt, the assembly declared war on all "bad" Indians and set up a strong defensive zone around Virginia with a definite chain of command. The Indian wars which resulted from this directive led to the high taxes to pay the army and to the general discontent in the colony for having to shoulder that burden.

The Long Assembly was accused of corruption because of its ruling regarding trade with the Indians. Not coincidentally, most of the favored traders were friends of Berkeley. Regular traders, some of whom had been trading independently with the local Indians for generations, were no longer allowed to trade individually. A government commission was established to monitor trading among those specially chosen and to make sure the Indians were not receiving any arms and ammunition. Bacon, one of the traders adversely affected by the Governor's order, accused Berkeley publicly of playing favorites. Bacon was also resentful because Berkeley had denied him a commission as a leader in the local militia. Bacon became the elected "General" of a group of local volunteer Indian fighters, because he promised to bear the cost of the campaigns.

After Bacon drove the Pamunkeys from their nearby lands in his first action, Berkeley exercised one of the few instances of control over the situation that he was to have, by riding to Bacon's headquarters at Henrico with 300 "well armed" gentlemen. Upon Berkeley's arrival, Bacon fled into the forest with 200 men in search of a place more to his liking for a meeting. Berkeley then issued two petitions declaring Bacon a rebel and pardoning Bacon's men if they went home peacefully. Bacon would then be relieved of the council seat that he had won for his actions that year, but he was to be given a fair trial for his disobedience.

Bacon did not, at this time, comply with the Governor's orders. Instead he next attacked the camp of the friendly Occaneechee Indians on the Roanoke River (the border between Virginia and North Carolina), and took their store of beaver pelts.

In the face of a brewing catastrophe, Berkeley, to keep the peace, was willing to forget that Bacon was not authorized to take the law into his own hands. Berkeley agreed to pardon Bacon if he turned himself in, so he could be sent to England and tried before King Charles II. It was the House of Burgesses, however, who refused this alternative, insisting that Bacon must acknowledge his errors and beg the Governor's forgiveness.

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Ironically, at the same time, Bacon was then elected to the Burgesses by supportive local land owners sympathetic to his Indian campaigns. Bacon, by virtue of this election, attended the landmark Assembly of June 1676. It was during this session that he was mistakenly credited with the political reforms that came from this meeting. The reforms were prompted by the population, cutting through all class lines. Most of the reform laws dealt with reconstructing the colony's voting regulations, enabling freemen to vote, and limiting the number of years a person could hold certain offices in the colony. Most of these laws were already on the books for consideration well before Bacon was elected to the Burgesses. Bacon's only cause was his campaign against the Indians.

Upon his arrival for the June Assembly, Bacon was captured, taken before Berkeley and council and was made to apologize for his previous actions. Berkeley immediately pardoned Bacon and allowed him to take his seat in the assembly. At this time, the council still had no idea how much support was growing in defense of Bacon. The full awareness of that support hit home when Bacon suddenly left the Burgesses in the midst of heated debate over Indian problems. He returned with his forces to surround the statehouse. Once again Bacon demanded his commission, but Berkeley called his bluff and demanded that Bacon shoot him.

"Here shoot me before God, fair mark shoot."

Bacon refused. Berkeley granted Bacon's previous volunteer commission but Bacon refused it and demanded that he be made General of all forces against the Indians, which Berkeley emphatically refused and walked away. Tensions ran high as the screaming Bacon and his men surrounded the statehouse, threatening to shoot several onlooking Burgesses if Bacon was not given his commission. Finally after several agonizing moments, Berkeley gave in to Bacon's demands for campaigns against the Indians without government interference. With Berkeley's authority in shambles, Bacon's brief tenure as leader of the rebellion began.

Even in the midst of these unprecedented triumphs, however, Bacon was not without his mistakes. He allowed Berkeley to leave Jamestown in the aftermath of a surprise Indian attack on a nearby settlement. He also confiscated supplies from Gloucester and left them vulnerable to possible Indian attacks. Shortly after the immediate crisis subsided, Berkeley briefly retired to his home at Green Springs and washed his hands of the entire mess. Nathaniel Bacon dominated Jamestown from July through September 1676. During this time, Berkeley did come out of his lethargy and attempt a coup, but support for Bacon was still too strong and Berkeley was forced to flee to Accomack County on the Eastern Shore.

Feeling that it would make his triumph complete, Bacon issued his "Declaration of the People" on July 30, 1676 which stated that Berkeley was corrupt, played favorites and protected the Indians for his own selfish purposes. Bacon also issued his oath which required the swearer to promise his loyalty to Bacon in any manner necessary (i.e., armed service, supplies, verbal support). Even this tight reign could not keep the tide

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from changing again. Bacon's fleet was first and finally secretly infiltrated by Berkeley's men and finally captured. This was to be the turning point in the conflict, because Berkeley was once again strong enough to retake Jamestown. Bacon then followed his sinking fortunes to Jamestown and saw it heavily fortified. He made several attempts at a siege, during which he kidnapped the wives of several of Berkeley's biggest supporters, including Mrs. Nathaniel Bacon Sr., and placed them upon the ramparts of his siege fortifications while he dug his position. Infuriated, Bacon burned Jamestown to the ground on September 19, 1676. (He did save many valuable records in the statehouse.) By now his luck had clearly run out with this extreme measure and he began to have trouble controlling his men's conduct as well as keeping his popular support. Few people responded to Bacon's appeal to capture Berkeley who had since returned to the Eastern Shore for safety reasons.

On October 26th, 1676, Bacon abruptly died of the "Bloodie Flux" and "Lousey Disease" (body lice). It is possible his soldiers burned his contaminated body because it was never found. (His death inspired this little ditty; "Bacon is Dead I am sorry at my hart That lice and flux should take the hangman's part".)

Shortly after Bacon's death, Berkeley regained complete control and hanged the major leaders of the rebellion. He also seized rebel property without the benefit of a trial. All in all, twenty-three persons were hanged for their part in the rebellion. Later after an investigating committee from England issued its report to King Charles II, Berkeley was relieved of the Governorship and returned to England where he died in July 1677.

Thus ended one of the most unusual and complicated chapters in Jamestown's history. Could it have been prevented or was it time for inevitable changes to take place in the colonial governmental structure? Obviously, the laws were no longer effective as far as establishing clear policies to deal with problems or to instill new lifeblood into the colony's economy. The numerous problems that hit the colony before the Rebellion gave rise to the character of Nathaniel Bacon. Due to the nature of the uprising, Bacon's Rebellion does seem at first glance to be the beginnings of America's quest for Independence. But closer examination of the facts reveals what it really was: a power struggle between two very strong personalities. Between them they almost destroyed Jamestown."

With the main participants in the rebellion having been apprehended and dispatched, it might be assumed that that would have put an end to it. Not so. Although the rebellion did lead eventually to treaties with the Indians and bring a period of relative security, the economic morass that plagued the yeoman farmer persisted. In response to an invitation from the King's Commission sent to the Colony to inquire into the causes of the rebellion, Blisland parishioners authored the following grievance:<sup>4</sup>

"We whose names are hereunto subscribed having heard and read of his Majesty's (Charles II) gracious and most surpassing acts of pardon and Mercy.....do with all

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<sup>4</sup> The Vestry Book of Blisland (Blissland) Parish, New Kent and James City Co. VA 1721-1786, pp XLIII-XLV.



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humility and earnestness implore and lay hold on his Majesty's most gracious act of Pardon aforesaid....and in conformity to his Majesty's royal instructions (prayer imposed upon us yearly, especially the sixty pounds per poll which for two years together was levied upon the Countie, over and beside all ordenaries and legall (-----?) for the publique, Counties and parishe.

Wee present as a most Heavie Greivance the late frequent Horrid and barbarous Murthers Committed and perpetuated upon our ffellow Subjects by the perfidious Indians, the Manifould Rapes and depredations by them Committeed upon our stocks and estates, and still Expectinge releife, but no order was taken but only that wee should drawe together at Least tenne able men to one house, Whereupon ensued the Lamentable burninge of Houses, and Several Kild per the Indians, in adventuringe to goe to there plantation to make some Corne.

We present as a greivance the Greate exactions of shirriffes, althoughe the Compleate Sallarie of Tenn in the Hundred be raised with the Leavie, yet in Case a man hath not tobacco readie at his owne house, he will not receive it at any other place w'thout the allowance of Tenn pounds more for every hundred more.

We present as a greivance, the sellinge of strong drinke at any place where the Countie Courte is kept during the Courte day or what time the Courte shall sitt or Continue, it breeding Matter of protraction in the Countie afayres, to the great expence and Losse of time to those that live remote.

We present as a maniffest Greevance the fort Duties Mentioned in the printed booke of Acts of Assemblie Levied upon the ships for and towards a Magazeene, it being as we Conceive for the use of the publique, notw'hstandinge when we are at any time Called fourth by publicke authoritie upon any Millitarie occation, we are forced to find our selves Amunition upon our private Charge, nor canne we understand, who have, or to what use imployed the sayd Amunition soe rayased to soe Nessesarie and good intent.

We present as a great greevance the imposition of two shillings the Hogshead, we humbly Conceive if Narrowly Looked into, and imploy'd accordinge to the true intent and Meaninge of the express words of the acte, it would Lessen the Leavie and give Mutch Creaditt to the publicke Dated the 2nd day of Aprill 1677 we the subscribers have sett our names or markes”

There were 88 signatories to this grievance, including Charles Bostick, James Garrett and John Baughan. According to Chamberlayne, 23 of these signers were prominent members of St. Peter's Parish vestry, just five years later. Seeing that their grievance had little effect toward redressing the present state of affairs, many colonists continued to express their dissatisfaction by other means. Driven to the brink of ruin, Charles Bostick and other yeomen planters resorted to destroying young tobacco plants, rather than see the fruits of their labor taken from them through excessive taxation. Whether Stephen Tarleton and Charles Bostick were



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punished for their perceived insurrection is unknown. What is known is that Stephen Tarleton and Charles Bostick survived the ordeal and went on to raise their families in St. Peter's Parish.

St. Peter's Parish was created in 1678 from the northern part of Blisland Parish commencing at a line extended westerly from the confluence of the Pamunkey and Mattaponi Rivers, and continuing indefinitely to the northwest. A solid brick structure for St. Peter's Church was erected between 1701 and 1703 as portrayed in Figure 2-5, and is still in use today. St. Peter's Church is steeped in early colonial history. For many years it was the home church for Martha Dandridge Custis. She and George Washington are purported to have taken their nuptial vows in this church. Prior to and following their marriage, George Washington frequently visited friends in nearby Blisland Parish as evidenced by the following excerpts from his diary:<sup>5</sup>



FIGURE 2-5  
St. Peter's Church Erected 1701

“1768, May 7. Came up to Cob. Bassett's to Dinner.

May 8. Went to Church and returned to Dinner.

May 11. Dined at the Glebe with Mr. Davis.

1771, May 15. Dined at Mrs. Chamberlayne's with Mrs. Washington, and returned to Cob. Bassett's in the Eveng.

May 16. Dined at Mrs. Dangerfield's with Cob. Bassett's Family, and returned in the afternoon to Eltham.

May 18. Rid to the Brick House..and returned to Dinner, after which went to Mr. Davis's and Drank Tea.

1772, April 4. Took a Cold dinner at Mr. Southal's and came up to Eltham in the afternoon.

April 5. Went to see Mrs. Dandridge bryween Breakfast and Dinner.

Nov, 8. At Colo. Bassett's all day.

Nov. 10. Rid up with Mr. Hill to Rockahock, and Plantations in New Kent, and returned, after Dinner with Mrs. Chamberlayne, to Colo. Bassett's at Night. Mr. Custis went with me.”

Note: The Mr. Davis was Reverend Price Davies, Rector of Blisland Parish. Colo. Bassett was Burwell Bassett, son of William Bassett, the High Sheriff of New Kent, and Master of “Eltham”. Mrs. Chamberlayne was the daughter-in-law of William Chamberlayne, owner of Williams' Ferry on the Panumkey. By tradition, it was at Col.

<sup>5</sup> The Vestry Book of Blisland Parish, Churhill Gibson Chamberlayne, 1937, pp LVII and LVIII.

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William Chamberlayne’s house that Washington first met Martha Dandridge Custis. The church referenced was likely the upper church of Blisland Parish at which Burwell Bassett, Washington’s host, was a vestryman.

Charles Bostick and some members of his family were entered in the church vestry book and register as follows:<sup>6</sup>

1. At the vestry of March 4, 1689 Charles Bostick was listed among the landowners of the parish being ordered to processions their lands.
2. Mary, daughter of Charles Bostick was baptized the 24<sup>th</sup> day June of 16\_\_ [year not state].
3. James Crump and Venicia Bostick were married July 14, 1709.
4. Charles Bostick dyed [sic] the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1701.
5. Mary Bostick departed this life December 7, 1709.

The fact that Charles Bostick was ordered to participate in the processioning of parish lands indicates that he was a landowner, although there has been no record found of his receiving a patent. He most likely was indentured for some period (typically three to five years) following his transportation to Gloucester County in 1671. On completion of his indenture it would appear that he moved westward across the York River, settling somewhere between the Chickahominy and York/Pamunkey Rivers. Even though he was reported as “using the County” in Bruton Parish in 1679, it is clear that he was a member of Blisland Parish in 1677 when he signed the Blisland Grievance. Also, in the 1682 warrant, Charles was described as being from New Kent County. Finally, in 1689 Charles was named as a processioner in St. Peter’s Parish. It is possible that Charles moved directly from Gloucester to the upper reaches of Blisland Parish that ultimately became St. Paul’s Parish, or that he may have settled briefly in Bruton Parish before moving on to northern Blisland Parish. Figure 2-6 shows the approximate location of Charles Bostick’s plantation as it was believed to have existed in about 1700.

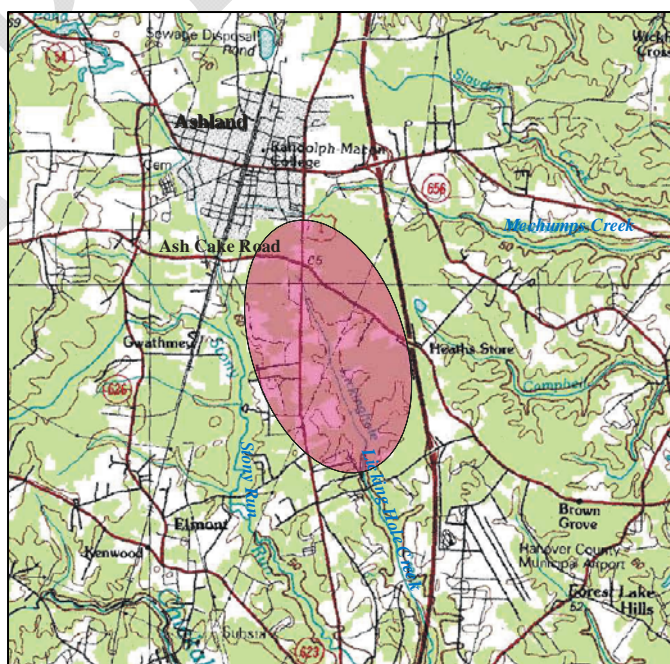


FIGURE 2-6  
Charles Bostick Plantation Location Map – Circa 1700

Mary Bostick who was baptized June 24<sup>th</sup> was noted as the daughter of Charles Bostick in the church register, so there is no dispute about their kinship.

<sup>6</sup> The Vestry Book and Register of St. Peter’s Parish, Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, 1937, pp 21, 341, 411, 421 and 422.

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Unfortunately, the year of her birth was missing from the baptismal record (probably worn away), otherwise a better fix on the timing of Charles' presence in the parish might have been possible. Venicia Bostick, who married James Crump on July 14, 1709, has been assumed to be another daughter of Charles Bostick. Mary Bostick, who died on December 7, 1709, has been assumed to be the wife of Charles Bostick. Lastly, Charles Bostick, who died on January 4, 1701, has been assumed to be the same Charles Bostick who appeared in earlier records in Gloucester and New Kent Counties, and the original immigrant of the Bostick family in Virginia.

In addition to the foregoing Bostick family members, children of James Crump and Venicia Bostick were also recorded in the church register as follows:

1. Mary Crump born to James and Venicia on May 13, 1711.
2. Agnes Crump born to James and Venicia on May 10, 1713.
3. Julius Crump born to James and Venicia on September, 5 1715.
4. James Crump born to James and Venicia on January 23, 1722
5. Jesse Crump born to James and Venicia on March 8, 1725.
6. Mildred Crump born to James and Venicia on April 19, 1728.

There was also an entry for James Crump's servant, John Groton, died January 9, 1726.

Other persons of interest to the Bostick family also appeared in the St. Peter's Parish Vestry Book and Register. William and Mary Leake and their children appeared several times in the record. Mary Leake's maiden name is known to have been Bostick. It has been speculated by many researchers that Mary Bostick Leake may have shared some kinship with Charles Bostick. This researcher believes that Mary Bostick Leake definitely shared a close kinship with Charles Bostick, either as his sister or first cousin. Evidence in support of this probable kinship is presented in the following chapter on the William Leake family. Relevant entries in the vestry book and register for the Leake family are as follows:

1. William and Mary Leake agreed to keep Richard Bowe and be paid 400 pounds of tobacco for their expenses. Such order was renewed for two subsequent years.
2. William Leake born to William and Mary on July 15, 1694.
3. Peter Leake born to William and Mary on September 19, 1697.
4. Mary Leake born to William and Mary on April 16, 1600.
5. Richard Leake born to William and Mary on December 13, 17\_\_.
6. Josiah Leake born to William and Sarah Leake on November 1, 1738

Beyond the Bostick kindred, there were several other names appearing in the St. Peter's Parish vestry book which also appeared in the St. Paul's Parish vestry book in the early 1700's. The recurrence of these names in close geographic proximity (same precinct) to 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Bosticks strongly suggests that Charles Bostick lived in the same general area as his children. For example all of the processioners appearing in Precinct No. 16 with John Bostick had also appeared in the St. Peter's Parish vestry book, including Joseph Baughan, believed to be a son of James Baughon, a signer of the Blisland Grievance.

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Further evidence of the geographic proximity of Charles Bostick to his assumed children in Hanover County [St. Paul's Parish] is borne out by an entry for Charles Bostick in Precinct No. 15 with William Bostick and William Leake in 1711.<sup>7</sup> In that same year there was another entry for a Charles Bostick in Precinct No. 22. Page 239 appears to be an errata for Page 227, wherein the processioners for Precinct No. 15 was amended to delete Charles Bostick. The same entry [apparently erroneous] appeared on Page 251 for Precinct 15 in 1716 in which Charles Bostick was listed along with William Bostick and Widdow Leake as processioners, but Charles Bostick was missing from the lands actually processioned in that precinct.

One inference that may be drawn from the above listed processioning records is that the referenced Charles Bostick in Precinct 15 for years 1711 and 1716 is that those were trailing entries for the deceased Charles Bostick I. Charles had died in 1701. Had there been a processioning record for 1707, it probably would have reflected an entry for the Widdow Bostick, as Mary Bostick died in 1709. As it was, both Charles I and his wife, Mary, had predeceased the processioning in 1711. It was not uncommon for persons to be reported in a processioning order, even though they may have deceased or moved out of the area prior to the processioning year. Another inference that may be drawn from the foregoing processioning entries is that the Charles Bostick listed in Precinct 15 in 1711 and 1716 was the son of Charles I, and that he had relocated to another part of the Parish, i.e., Precinct No. 22. This researcher is inclined to believe that the Charles Bostick entry in Precinct 15 was for the deceased Charles Bostick, father of William, Charles and John.

The presumed location of Charles Bostick and his sons as illustrated in Figure XX during the period between 1677 and 1723 is based on their immediate proximity to the William Leake Family. Woodson family researchers have establish that William Leake's plantation at Rocky Springs was located on Lickinghole Creek.<sup>8</sup> Based on modern maps, Lickinghole Creek is situated generally in the same location as the creek noted as Beaver Dam Creek on the 1775 map. Assuming that Henry Morton Woodson was correct, this would place the Bostick's plantations just south of the town of Ashland, near the Hanover County Municipal Airport, and about 15 mile north of Richmond.

In summary, it has been established that Charles Bostick arrived in Gloucester County Virginia in 1671, and probably spent several years working off his indenture in the vicinity of Poropotank Creek on the east bank of the York River. Sometime around 1675/6 Charles moved across the York River westward into New Kent County. It is probable that he acquired a small acreage (50 to 100 acres) on the upper reaches of the Chichahominy River. He became embroiled in the grievances of the day, and had some tangential roll in Bacon's Rebellion. Living on the edge of the frontier, he and his family must have endured great hardships and faced great risk to life and property. He, like his fellow frontiersmen, carved a life out of this inhospitable wilderness, and planted the early seeds of the Bostick lineage in America.

Just how Charles came to immigrate to Virginia and from whence he came is a mystery. This researcher has found no one who purports to have the answers to this puzzle. However, one

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<sup>7</sup> The Vestry Book of St. Paul's Parish, Churchill Gibson Chamberlayne, 1937, pp 227, 229 and 239.

<sup>8</sup> Historical Genealogy of the Woodsons and Their Connections, Henry Morton Woodson, pp 121-124.



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researcher has hinted at a possible connection to a London scrivener, which has some intriguing elements worth further exploration.<sup>9</sup>

A Charles Bostock became an apprentice to a Roger Bouthe, Scrivener, on April 11, 1595 in London.<sup>10</sup> In the apprenticeship registry Charles was shown as the son of Robert Bostocke, late of Bostock, County of Cheshire, Gentleman. On February 4, 1615 Charles Bostock took on an apprentice named Giles Bostocke [Bostock], son of William Bostock of Sevenoaks, County of Kent, Carpenter, deceased. This Charles Bostock became a member and vestryman of St. Bartholomew by the Exchange Church in downtown London, where he actively served until his death. A directory of parish members showed Charles Bostock living nearby to the church on Threadneedle Street in 1602/3.<sup>11</sup> A registry for 1625 showed that Charles Bostock had moved about one-half block westward on Threadneedle Street. A registry from 1665 showed Charles' son, Thomas Bostock living in the same general location on Threadneedle Street.

Before delving into the records of St. Bartholomew By Exchange, it is necessary to introduce another character. In his LWT dated April 26, 1631, Richard Croshaw bequeathed his rather large estate to hundreds of family members and friends around London and his home county of Derbyshire.<sup>12</sup> Charles Bostock was identified in the will as its scrivener and was paid the sum of five pounds for this service. In addition to having acted as the scrivener for Mr. Croshaw's LWT, Charles Bostock was also acknowledged and honored as Croshaw's "ancient friend" with a bequest of 50 pounds for Charles Bostock's five children. In a codicil to the will further bequests were made with two pounds to the scrivener, ten pounds to each of his two sons, five pounds to each of his three daughters, and five pounds to his godson, Roger [Bouthe]. Both Charles Bostock and his son, Thomas Bostock, witnessed the LWT.

Richard Croshaw was a wealthy London merchant, whose lucrative trade as a goldsmith allowed him to amass a relatively large estate of

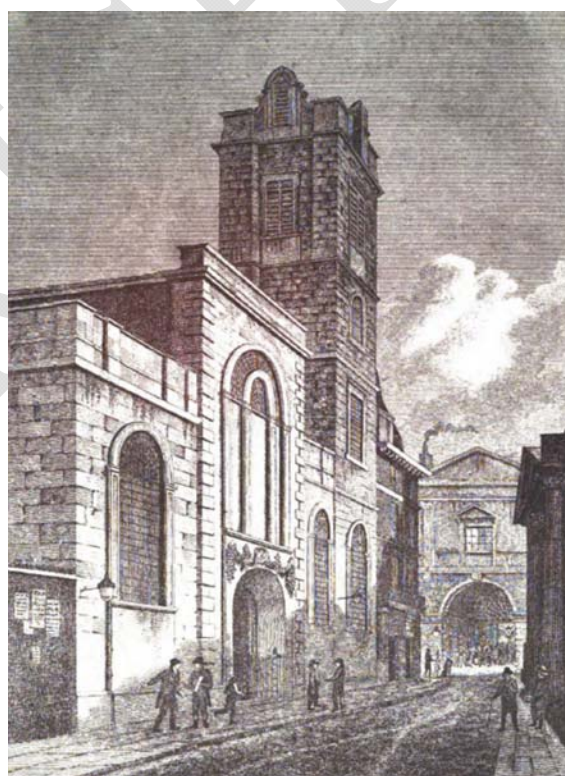


FIGURE 2-7  
St. Bartholomew By Exchange Circa 1630

<sup>9</sup> Bostick's of Duplin County, NC, Wanda Karyn Bostic, <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeiothb/Bostock.html>, updated May, 2008.

<sup>10</sup> "The Common Paper: Subscriptions to the oath, 1417-1613", Scriveners' company common paper 1357-1628: With a continuation to 1678 (1968), pp. 20-49. URL: <http://www.britishhistory.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=35896&strquery=bostocke> Date accessed: 24 November 2008.

<sup>11</sup> *The Vestry Minute Books of the Parish of St. Bartholomew Exchange in the City of London 1567-1676*, Edwin Freshfield, 1890, p xlvii.

<sup>12</sup> *Virginia Colonial Records, 1600's-1700's*, Genealogical Publishing Company, CDROM, p 607.

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properties and assets. Since no children nor spouse were mentioned in the LWT, it might be assumed that he had no children and perhaps never married. Numerous cousins, nieces and nephews were mentioned along with a sister. Like Charles Bostock, Richard Croshaw was a long time member and vestryman of St. Bartholomew By Exchange. In fact, Charles Bostock and Richard Croshaw first appeared in the vestry minutes at the same time on January 5, 1594. Charles Bostock appears in the record on that date in the company of Roger Bouth, the scrivener with whom Charles started his apprenticeship April 11, 1595. Roger Bouth was a church warden and longtime member of St. Bartholomews.

Charles Bostock and Richard Croshaw went on to become Vestrymen and to hold various offices within the church until their deaths in 1631-33, including Church Warden, Assessor, Auditor, Questmen, Overseer, and Constable. One his death in 1631, Richard Croshaw bequeathed an endowment of 100 pounds to St. Bartholomews for the reading of a weekly sermon.

Following his father's death in 1633, Thomas Bostick and his business partner, George Allestre commenced membership in St. Bartholomews on November 16. Thomas Bostock appears to have followed into his father's craft as a scrivener. In the LWT of Elizabeth Aston dated April 12, 1647, the servant of Thomas Bostick, scrivener, was witness.<sup>13</sup> George Allestre continued to be reported in the minutes as partner to Thomas Bostock up until 1644, from which time George was reported no further. Thomas Bostock appeared as a member of the church until 1670. Although Thomas did not serve in offices of the church as had his father, he was elected to serve as a Common Councilman in 1667. In 1670 Thomas appeared as both a Vestryman and Warden. The last entry for Thomas was on December 1671 in which he was reported as nominated for the post of Common Councilman for the Upper Precinct, but was not selected.

One genealogist has reported that a grandson of Charles Bostock, the scrivener, was the same Charles Bostock who immigrated to Virginia in 1671.<sup>14</sup> According to Wanda Karyn Bostic, Charles Bostick's lineage follows from Charles, the scrivener, as follows:

"Charles 11 (b1606) [son of Charles the Scrivener], baptized at St. Bartholomew Exchange London. "The Harleian Manuscripts" Part 1B list's the Bostock's of Bostock originated from Chester (Cheshire), England; an area known as Tarpoley and Davenham; located 170 miles NW of London. Charles (b1606) attended Oxford University in 1627, Cambridge University in 1631; MA at Oxford in 1634, and received his MD in 1640. Charles (1606) married Mary and had three children: Charles (b1642), William, and Mary."

"Charles 's (b1606) son: Charles Bostock 10 (b1642) was baptized at St. John's Baptist, Petersburg, North Hampton, England (area of "Salop" Stropshire). Charles (b1642) married Mary (Horsley?) in England in 1669. They arrived in the United States from, England in 1671. They settled east of Richmond, New Kent County, VA and are listed

<sup>13</sup> Virginia Colonial Records, 1600's-1700's, Genealogical Publishing Company, CDROM, p 391.

<sup>14</sup> Bostick's of Duplin County, NC, Wanda Karyn Bostic, <http://mysite.verizon.net/vzeoithb/Bostock.html>, updated May, 2008.

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in "Blisland Parrish in 1682" records.. (VA Patent Book 6 p. 352). Listed on the ship's ("Upton Magna") manifest as a Charles Bostick "Headwright"; which means "a recipient of a land". . Transported on the ship of G. Poole, R. Fastingale, J. Barningham & J. Forsith 1671. He left England as Bostocke and arrived [in] America as Bostick."

This researcher cannot vouch for most of the details proffered by Wanda Bostic, but from Richard Croshaw's LWT, it is clear that Charles Bostock, the scrivener, did have two sons. We know that one son was named Thomas, as he was a witness to Croshaw's LWT and he followed in his father's tradition as a scrivener, and as a vestryman at St. Bartholomews. It is reasonable to assume that Charles would have named his other son, Charles. Whether that son, Charles, attended Oxford and Cambridge and became a medical doctor, we must defer to Ms. Bostic's research. Similarly, as to whether the Charles Bostock who immigrated to Virginia in 1671 was the grandson of Charles, the scrivener, again we must defer to Ms. Bostic. However, there are several misleading "facts" contained within Ms. Bostic's purported genealogy for Charles, the immigrant, which bring into question the veracity of her findings.

The craft of scrivenering in 17<sup>th</sup> Century England was regulated through the Scrivener Company, which was responsible for maintenance of the integrity of the craft. Someone aspiring to become a scrivener was required to pass an examination administered by the Company Wardens "to ensure satisfactory knowledge of grammar...".<sup>15</sup> Candidates were also required to be fluent in at least one foreign language, suggesting possession of some formal education, whether acquired through an academic program at a university or through private tutelage. The practice of scrivenering typically involved the writing of wills, deeds and other forms of legal documents. In the 17<sup>th</sup> Century public notaries were incorporated into the company of scribes. On January 28, 1617 the Scrivener Company received a Royal Charter of Incorporation from King James I. This Charter along with new ordinances enacted under its authority in 1635 greatly enhanced the status of the company.

Ms. Bostic stated that "Charles Bostocke bought the "BACON House in Oat Lane, St. Mary Staining, London from Sir Arthur Savage in 1628". The fact is that the Hall Bacon House off Oat Lane in Aldergate Ward was purchased by the Scrivener Company on June 10, 1628, and was used as its headquarters until it was destroyed in the "Great Fire" in 1666. While it is possible that Charles Bostock, as an Assistant Scrivener, may have had some involvement in the acquisition of Bacon House for the Company, Ms. Bostic's entry would suggest that Charles Bostock made this acquisition for his own personal property. From the vestry minutes of St. Bartholomews, it seems fairly certain that Charles Bostock maintained his residence on Threadneedle Street, nearby to the church and the London Exchange, as did his son, Thomas.

Ms. Bostic also stated that Charles Bostick, the immigrant, was noted as a "Headwright"; which means "a recipient of a land". In fact, the term "headright" as used in colonial Virginia typically referred to an entitlement to land (usually 50 acres per head) conferred upon the person paying for the transport of either themselves or another person(s). It is clear from the land patent for 600 acres in Gloucester County on April 7, 1671, that Charles Bostock was just

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<sup>15</sup> The Worshipful Company of Scriveners – History of the Company, <http://www.scriveners.org.uk/>, November 27, 2008.

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one of 12 persons being transported at the expense of Messieurs Farthingale, Poole, Barrington and Forsith. Any entitlement to land would be conferred upon these gentlemen, and not upon the persons being transported. So it is patently misleading to suggest that Charles Bostock, being noted as a “Headwright”, would be the recipient of land. It is also very likely that Charles Bostock and his fellow transportees would have been indentured to their transporters for some period of time as reimbursement for the expense incurred in their transportation.

Ms. Bostic also unequivocally indicates that the wife of Charles Bostick Jr. was Pheoby Bassett, daughter of the High Sheriff of New Kent County. When asked for the specific citation on which this connection was based, Ms. Bostic simply reiterated her vague reference to The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, 1894, without the benefit of page reference or any direct quotation. The William Bassett, who was appointed Sheriff of New Kent County, was the son of William Bassett and Bridgett Cary, not T. Bassett, as suggested by Ms. Bostic. William Bassett, the Sheriff, was born about 1670 and died in 1723, and was married to Joanna Burwell, the mother of Burwell Bassett, friend of George Washington. They had several children, none of whom were named Phoebe. If by some chance, the supposed father of Pheobe was William Bassett Sr., there is no evidence that he ever served as Sheriff of New Kent County, nor does it appear that he had any daughter named Pheobe. As for the supposed father of William Bassett as suggested by Ms. Bostic, “Mr T. Bassett”, there does appear to have been a Thomas Bassett who immigrated to York County in 1646, who reportedly had a son named William. However there is no evidence that that William Bassett ever served as Sheriff, and he does not appear to have had a daughter named Phoebe.

This researcher has found evidence which strongly suggests that Phoebe Bostick's surname was not Bassett, but rather was Anderson, daughter of John Anderson and Pheobe Davies. The basis for the Anderson surname connection is presented in the discussion of 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Charles Bostick Jr in a later chapter.

While the dates and Christian names of Charles Bostock, the scrivener's, family fit well with the presumed age and Christian name of our immigrant, the intervening facts needed to establish that connection must be considered lacking. But it must be acknowledged that Ms. Bostic's rendition provides a plausible, but not provable argument. Regardless of the legitimacy of Ms. Bostic's intermediate generation, i.e., Charles Bostock M.D., it is tempting to think that Charles Bostock, the immigrant, was a grandson of Charles Bostock, the scrivener. Regrettably, there were at least ten known candidates for Charles, the immigrant, living in England around the time of his assumed birth, so the reader must be left with formulating their own conclusion.

### Odds and Ends

During this research into Charles Bostick there were a few items discovered, which may be of interest to the reader:

1. *Mr. Leake* – Richard Croshaw's LWT made a bequest “to my friend Mr. Leake in Fleet Street” of 10 pounds. This Mr. Leake was very likely William Leake Jr., a well known book seller and publisher, who established his place of business at the sign of the



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Crown on Fleet Street around 1630.<sup>16</sup> Despite the similarities of name, there is not likely any close kinship between this William Leake and the William Leake, who married Mary Bostock. There is probably a distant kinship, as most Leakes in England originate from the same family lineage in Leicester and Nottingham in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> Centuries.

2. *Stephen Tarleton* – Charles Bostock's co-conspirator, if you will, Stephen Tarleton's descendants shared linkages with the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Bosticks in Cumberland County, which are worth noting. Stephen Tarleton's daughter, Judith, married John Woodson, son of Colonel Robert Woodson and Elizabeth Ferris. John Woodson was the father of the John Woodson, who purchased 300 acres on Great Guinea Creek in Cumberland County in 1742 from Valentine Bostick. Valentine Bostick was the son of Charles Bostick Jr. and grandson of Charles Bostick, the immigrant. John Woodson and several other members of the Woodson family had a variety of dealings with the 2<sup>nd</sup> generation Bosticks in Hanover and Cumberland Counties during the 1730's and 1740's. This information is presented primarily to convey just how small the universe was in colonial Virginia, particularly along the James River.
3. *Joseph Audley* – Some researchers have suggested that the name of the wife of William Bostock, son of Charles Bostock I, was Elizabeth Audley. While this researcher has found no evidence of anyone named Audley having immigrated to Virginia, there was a fellow parishioner of Thomas Bostock, the scrivener's son, appearing in St. Bartholomews Parish between 1655 and 1673 named Joseph Audley. Audley is a rather unique surname in England. Is it possible that Elizabeth [Audley] shared any kinship with Joseph Audley?
4. *Thomas Bostock* – An immigrant named Thomas Bostock is credited with being the originator of the Bostock family lineage that sprang up in Maryland during the mid-17<sup>th</sup> century. There are many records which establish his existence in Maryland. Most of those records place Thomas Bostock in the Bohemia River area about 50 miles southeast of Baltimore as early as 1663. Descendants of this Thomas Bostock migrated through Virginia and into the Carolinas and Georgia in later years. Is it possible that this Thomas Bostock held any kinship with Charles Bostock I? Some researchers have proffered the notion that the earliest Bostick settlers in the colonies were brothers. Other researchers have relegated this idea to the trash bin. The Christian names of Charles and Thomas certainly seem to fit with Charles, the scrivener.
5. *Crowshaw* – While there is no evidence of any direct connection between the Bostock family and the Croshaw family, save that of Richard Croshaw and Charles Bostock in St. Bartholomews Parish, there are indirect connections worth mentioning. Rawleigh Croshaw immigrated to Virginia in about 1608 and settled along the James River.<sup>17</sup> He was a member of the House of Burgesses in 1623 and is credited with fathering two sons: Richard and Joseph, who lived in York County in the vicinity of Hampton Parish in the first half of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century.

Rawleigh Croshaw married Kathryn Graves, the daughter of Thomas Graves, the progenitor of one of the Graves families in Virginia. Their granddaughter, Rachael, [daughter of Joseph Croshaw] married her cousin, Ralph Graves. There was also a

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<sup>16</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William\\_Leake](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Leake)

<sup>17</sup> *Virginia Colonial Records, 1600's-1700's*, Genealogical Publishing Company, CDROM, p 611.

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James Graves, who was a signer of the Blisland Grievance. Since there is no immigration record for a James Graves, and since the Christian name of James occurs in later generations of Thomas Graves, the immigrant, it is possible that James Graves was a heretofore unidentified son of Thomas Graves Jr.

Joseph Croshaw was a practicing attorney in Hampton Parish, York County for almost 30 years, during which time he was a vestryman and civic leader within his community. He acquired a fairly large landed estate in both York and New Kent Counties. On December 23, 1654 Joseph Croshaw gift deeded to Ralph Graves and Rachael [Croshaw] Graves 1000 acres in the County of New Kent situated on the south side of the Mattaponi River.<sup>18</sup> This land would have been within the Pamunkey Neck area, which later became King William County.

On January 18, 1656 Robert Wild sold half of a 480 acre tract in York County to Philip Chesley and his wife, Margaret, [sister of Robert Wild].<sup>19</sup> This tract had been purchased from Joseph Croshaw, who acquired the property through a patent dated June 21, 1646. The Philip Chesley named in this gift deed was possibly the greatgranduncle of Elizabeth [Chesley] [Terry], who married John Bostick, grandson of Charles Bostock I. There is a detailed discussion of the assumed connection between Elizabeth [Chesley] [Terry] and Philip Chesley in the chapter on 3<sup>rd</sup> generation, John Bostick, son of William Bostick and grandson of Charles Bostick I.

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<sup>18</sup> Virginia Colonial Records, 1600's-1700's, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, p 128.

<sup>19</sup> Virginia Colonial Records, 1600's-1700's, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, p 127.

## APPENDIX

### Virginia County Organization Schedule

- 1632 – Eight original shires including Henrico, Charles City, Charles River and James City.
- 1637 – New Norfolk divided into Isle of Wight, Upper Norfolk and Lower Norfolk.
- 1643 – Charles River changed to York River.
- 1645 – Northumberland formed from Indian District and Upper Norfolk renamed Nansemond.
- 1651 – Gloucester created from York and Lancaster from Northumberland.
- 1652 – Surry created from James City.
- 1653 – Westmoreland created from Northumberland.
- 1654 – New Kent created from York.
- 1656 – Rappahanock created from Lancaster.
- 1664 – Stafford created from Westmoreland.
- 1669 – Middlesex from Lancaster.
- 1691 – King and Queen from New Kent.
- 1692 – Rappahanock divided into Essex and Richmond.
- 1701 – King William created from King and Queen (pending).
- 1702 – Prince George created from Charles City (pending) and King William effective.
- 1703 – Prince George effective.
- 1720 – Hanover created from New Kent, King George from Richmond and Westmoreland (pending), and Spotsylvania from Essex, King and Queen and King William (pending). Brunswick created from Prince George (pending).
- 1721 – Hanover, King George and Spotsylvania effective.
- 1728 – Caroline created from Essex, King and Queen and King William, and Goochland created from Henrico.
- 1730 – Prince William created from King George and Stafford (pending).
- 1731 – Prince William effective.
- 1732 – Brunswick effective.
- 1734 – Amelia created from Brunswick and Prince George (pending). Orange created from Spotsylvania.
- 1735 – Amelia effective.
- 1738 – Augusta created from Orange (unorganized) and Frederick from Orange (unorganized).
- 1742 – Fairfax from Prince William and Louisa from Hanover.
- 1743 – Frederick organized.
- 1744 – Albemarle created from Goochland.
- 1745 – Augusta organized.
- 1746 – Lunenburg created from Brunswick.
- 1749 – Culpepper created from Orange, Chesterfield from Henrico, Cumberland from Goochland and Southampton from Isle of Wight.
- 1752 – Dinwiddie created from Prince George and Halifax from Lunenburg.
- 1753 – Bedford created from Albemarle and Lunenburg (pending), Prince Edward from Amelia (pending), Hampshire from Frederick (pending), and Sussex from Surry (pending).
- 1754 – Bedford, Prince Edward, Hampshire and Sussex effective.

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1757 – Loudon created from Fairfax.

1759 – Fauquier created from Prince William.

1761 – Amherst created from Albemarle, Buckingham created from Albemarle, and Albemarle gained area from Louisa.

1764 – Charlotte created from Lunenburg (pending) and Mecklenburg created from Lunenburg (pending).

1765 – Mecklenburg and Charlotte effective.

1766 – Pittsylvania created from Halifax.

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