

Out of the Mist – The Search for Richard Bostick's Roots

Chapter 3 – William Leake and Mary Bostick

Mary Leake, wife of William Leake, born about 1662, is believed to have been surnamed Bostock. William Leake is believed to have been born about 1660 in Nottinghamshire, England.¹ Some researchers have been so precise as to suggest that William was born in Normandy, Nottinghamshire, England, however, this researcher has found no evidence of the existence of any geographical locale within Nottinghamshire, England named Normandy, either past or present. It is assumed that those references to Normandy must refer back to the beginning of the Leake family lineage in England following the Norman Conquest in the 11th Century. Based on the distribution of Leakes within Nottinghamshire during the 17th Century, it is likely that William Leake was from the area around Wymeswold, where the greatest concentration of Leakes lived during that time period. The general consensus within genealogical circles is that William's father was named Walter Leake, and that he, too, was from Nottingham.² The notion that William's father was Walter Leake is probably predicated on the fact that William and Mary named their eldest son Walter. However, given the scant existence of the Christian name of Walter among male Leakes in 16th and 17th Century England, it is more likely that William's father was also named William. His mother's name appears to be unknown.

William's ancestry almost without doubt emanated from William Leake, who first settled at Sutton Scarsdale in Derbyshire in the early 15th Century.³ "Francis Leake (the fifth in descent from William above-mentioned, and son of Sir Francis, who married a coheiress of Swift, of Rotheram) was created a Baronet in 1611; in 1624, Lord Deincourt, and in 1645, Earl of Scarsdale."⁴ That noble lineage became extinct in 1736 with the death of Nicholas Leake, the 4th Earl of Scarsdale. William Leake's [the immigrant] family is believed to have arisen in Nottinghamshire from one of the 16th Century branches of this noble line. The following excerpt from A History of Texas and Texans provides some background on some of William Leake's more noteworthy ancestors:⁵

"He was a first cousin of Admiral Sir John Leake of the English navy, who was in command and particularly distinguished himself by his action in the relief and salvation of the British forces at the time of the wresting of Gibraltar from the French and Spanish forces in 1705. Admiral Sir John Leake was the father of Sir Francis Leake, the Earl of Warwick, the title having been transferred to him upon the event of his marriage to Lady Frances Rich, who then held the title. Sir Francis Leake was known as the Earl of Scarsdale, a title which he abandoned to assume that of Earl of Warwick. Another son of Admiral Sir John Leake was Sir John Leake, an eminent physician, who founded the hospital of Westminster for Women, and he gained considerable distinction in the

¹ http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset_search.asp, LDS Family History, Ancestral Record, William Leake (AFN: 3MXK-35).

² http://www.familysearch.org/eng/Search/frameset_search.asp, LDS Family History, Ancestral Record, Walter Leake, accessed December, 2008.

³ 'General history: Nobility', Magna Britannia: volume 5: Derbyshire (1817), pp. XLVIII-LXII: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=50704>, Date accessed: 28 November 2008.

⁴ 'General history: Nobility'..., Date accessed: 28 November 2008.

⁵ A History of Texas and Texans, Frank W Johnson, Francis White Johnson, Eugene Campbell Barker, Ernest William Winkler, pp 1569 and 1570.

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profession as a specialist in the diseases of women, being the author of a well known work on that subject.”

William Leake is believed to have married Mary Bostock sometime around 1683 in Nottinghamshire, England. In the approximately 300-year period covered by English Probate and Parish Records at [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) (birth, marriage and death records) between about 1550 and 1850, Nottinghamshire contained the 2nd greatest number of entries for the surname of Bostock at 196. Refer to Figure XX for an illustration of the distribution of Leake and Bostock family records between the counties of Yorkshire, Cheshire, Shropshire, Lancaster and Nottingham. From the same database and same time period for the surname of Leake, Nottinghamshire and neighboring Leicestershire contained almost an equal number of records, ranking 4th and 5th behind Yorkshire, Shropshire and Lancashire, at 103 and 102, respectively. Interestingly, in Cheshire where there was the highest instance of Bostock records at 275, there were only five instances of Leake records. Similarly, in Yorkshire where there was the highest instance of Leake records at 462, there were only eighteen instances of Bostock records. In fact, of all the counties in England, Shropshire and Nottinghamshire had the greatest combined instances of Leakes and Bosticks at 381 and 299, respectively. The point of this comparison is to illustrate that within the total population of England during that period Nottinghamshire offered a fairly high possibility for a match up between William Leake and Mary Bostick, even though no instances could be found in these records of intermarriage between the two families.

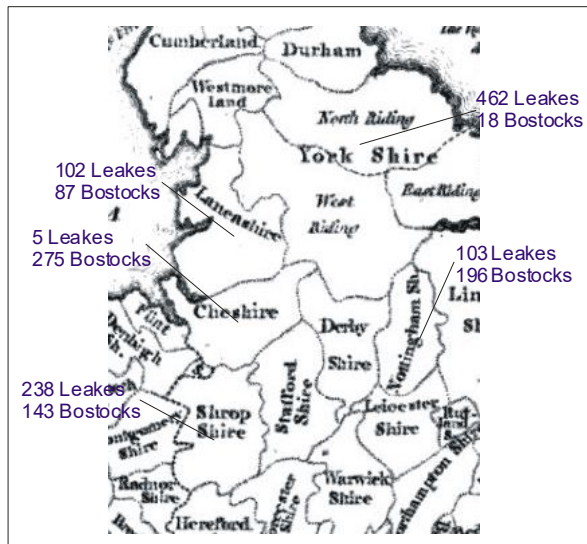


FIGURE XX
Leake and Bostock Births, Deaths and Marriages
1550 to 1850

It has been reported that William and Mary Leake emigrated from England to Virginia in 1685.⁶ Just where they initially settled is a matter of considerable confusion. General William Curry Harlee in his book entitled Kinfolks expressed the belief that William and Mary first settled along the headwaters of Piscataway Creek, a tributary of the Rappahannock River.⁷ His belief was based on a patent record (State Land Office Patent Book No. 7, p. 628) in which 114 acres were granted to William Leake of Rappahannock County, situated on Piscaticon [sic] Creek, recorded October 21, 1687. According to General Harlee, because of the dates of baptisms and births for William and Mary’s children recorded in St. Peter’s Parish Register, the family must have relocated from Rappahannock County to New Kent County before July 1694 when their son, William, was baptized.

⁶ Kinfolks, a Genealogical and Biographical Record of Thomas and Elizabeth (Stuart) Harlee, etal, William Curry Harlee, Searcy & Pfaff, Ltd., 1934, p 239.

⁷ Kinfolks, pp. 244 and 245.

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Herein lay the problem. On July 9, 1703 Mary Lake [Leake] of Essex County, relict of William Lake [Leake] sold 471 acres located on upper Piscataway Creek to John Harper of Essex County.⁸ The 471 acres consisted of: (1) 114 acres acquired by William Leake through patent dated October 21, 1687, (2) 150 acres sold by James Boughan to Thomas Troath and escheated to William Leake, (3) 103-1/2 acres escheated to William Leake on August 18, 1685, and (4) 103-1/2 acres purchased by William Leake from John Jones (date uncertain). In that deed the name Leake is spelled variously as Lake and Leake. Given the match up of the 114 acres on upper Piscataway Creek to the deed, there can be little doubt but that this deed included the same parcel described in the afore cited patent from Kinfolks.

If this was in fact William and Mary Bostick Leake appearing in Rappahannock [Essex] County in the years 1685, 1687, and 1703, there are several interesting issues raised by the July 9, 1703 deed:

1. General Harllee's belief that William and Mary settled first in Rappahannock County would be confirmed by the escheated purchase of the 103-1/2 acres on August 18, 1685. Mary Bostick Leake's bible entry stated that "we have been in Virginia one year today on May 25, 1686".⁹ So it would appear that at least Mary had been in Virginia less than two months when William made this land purchase.
2. James Boughan [Baughan], who was a neighbor to William and Mary Leake on Piscataway Creek, probably was the same James Baughan who signed the Blisland Grievance in 1677 along with Charles Bostick^{C1} and 86 fellow parishioners.
3. If Mary Leake was a resident of Essex County between 1685 and 1703, how is it that her children's baptisms and births were recorded in St. Peter's Parish during this time period? This peculiar circumstance may be explained in the following manner. The boundary of New Kent County extended easterly to the ridgeline between the York/Mattaponi Rivers and the Rappahannock River. Although Chamberlayne was of the opinion that St. Peter's Parish did not extend east of the York/Mattaponi Rivers, it seems quite clear from this deed that St. Peter's Parish must have coincided with the boundaries of New Kent County in its entirety. Being on the headwaters of Piscataway Creek, the Leake family must have been close enough to the ridgeline to be considered within St. Peter's Parish jurisdiction. This fact might also explain the reason that James Baughan signed the Blisland Grievance, as he too must have been considered to be within Blisland Parish, before the formation of St. Peter's Parish in 1678.
4. Mary Leake was described as the relic of William Leake in 1703. Most genealogists have assumed that William Leake died several years later, but before 1715. Now the death of William can be fixed as being between January 11, 1701 when his daughter, Jane, was born and July 9, 1703 when the deed was entered in Essex County, say late 1702.
5. Many genealogists, including General Harllee, have indicated William Leake's place of death and burial to be at Rocky Springs plantation on Lickinghole Creek in Goochland County.¹⁰ Based on the foregoing analysis, it is more likely that William Leake died and was buried near the head of Piscataway Creek in Essex County.

⁸ Virginia Colonial Records, 1600s-1700s, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, p. 92.

⁹ Kinfolks, p 243.

¹⁰ Kinfolks, p. 245.

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6. Upon the sale of the Essex County property in 1703, it would appear that Mary Bostick Leake moved her family to St. Paul's Parish in Hanover County, where William Leake appeared in the 1707/8 processioning order in the same precinct with William Bostick.¹¹ This entry probably was intended for the Widow Leak, as William and Mary's son, William, Jr., would have been too young to be a landowner, and we now know that William, the immigrant, had died several years earlier. Also, in the processioning orders for 1711/12, only Widow Leake appeared, and not William Leake.
7. This was witnessed by Salvator Muscoe, who is known to have been a practicing attorney in Essex County during the latter half of the 17th Century. His appearance as a witness to this deed would not normally be considered an unusual circumstance. However, as will be seen in a later chapter on 3rd generation John Bostick^{C1W1W2J1} and Jane, a descendant of Salvator Muscoe played a central roll in that branch of the Bostick family.

Another court record even earlier than William's purchase of the escheated 103-1/2 acres on August 18, 1685, suggests that William may have been in Virginia before Mary.¹²

“On October 2, 1684, Mr. John Waters and Mr. Samuel Perry bound themselves in the sum of 30,000 pounds of tobacco to William Lake [Leake], to deliver the estate of Thomas Harper to the court or its order.”

By virtue of this transaction involving the same landowner [deceased], Thomas Harper, as was involved in the escheated purchase on August 18, 1685, there can be little doubt that these William Lakes [Leakes] were one and the same person. It may be assumed that, in order to effect this transaction, William Lake [Leake] must have been in the Virginia Colony on or before October 2, 1684. That being the case, it begs the question whether Mary Leake's entry in her bible regarding the date of their arrival in Virginia may have been in error. In all probability, Mary's bible entry was accurate, but the assumption by others that her reference to “we” included her husband, William, must be incorrect. It is more likely that William Leake had arrived in Virginia before October 18, 1684, and that Mary and son, Walter, joined William later on May 25, 1685. It was not uncommon during colonial resettlements, for the husband and older sons, if any, to immigrate in advance of the wife and younger children in order to arrange for a home and the means to survive in the new land, perhaps including some period of indenture.

What was it that induced the recently widowed Mary Bostick Leake to sell her lands in Essex County and move her young family of five children to St. Paul's Parish, Hanover County? This researcher believes that she made this move in order to live near her sister-in-law and nieces and nephews, namely, the wife [widow] and children of Charles Bostick^{C1}. From 1708 to 1720 the Widow Leake was shown living in the same precinct in St. Paul's Parish as Charles Bostick's widow, Mary, and their son, William Bostick.¹³ Another son, John, was living in an adjacent precinct during this same period. Precincts, on average, held four to six land owners. Land holdings averaged about 100 to 150 acres. The tracts were typically strung linearly along main waterways. So the distance between adjacent plantation homes such as those of the Leake and Bostick families likely would have been less than a quarter of a mile apart. Of all the places

¹¹ St. Paul's Parish Vestry Book, p. 218.

¹² Virginia Colonial Records 1600s-1700s, Virginia Gleanings in England, p. 38

¹³ St. Paul's Parish Vestry Book, pp. 218, 227, 251 and 260.

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within colonial Virginia that Mary Bostick Leake might have chosen to live, there can be little doubt about the reasoning behind her decision to move to St. Paul's Parish (*Time and Place Convergence*).

In the preceding chapter on Charles Bostick^{C1} there was considerable discussion about the possible kinship between Charles^{C1}, the scrivener, and Charles^{C1}, the immigrant. During the course of researching William and Mary Leake, a very curious fact was uncovered which might lend strength to such a connection. Amazingly, Mary Bostick Leake's family bible survived the ocean voyage from England to the Virginia Colony and remained in her family down through eight successive generations of Leakes to the Rocky Springs plantation home of Miss Susan Howard Leake. In 1932 Susan Leake gave this ancient bible to her uncle, Dr. Louis Knight Leake of Dallas, Texas, who was helping compile a history on the Leake family.¹⁴

General Harllee sent photocopies of the title pages and flyleaf of this bible to the Library of Congress in an effort to have the age of the bible authenticated. The title pages clearly showed the printing date of 1495 as illustrated in Figure XX. Mary Bostick Leake had represented the bible as first belonging to her grandfather. If that story were true, then the print date of 1495 would seem unlikely. In the analysis provided to General Harllee by the Library of Congress it was confirmed that there had been a series of bibles printed in 1594 that had shown an erroneous print date of 1495. If printed in 1594, then it is entirely possible that the bible could first have been owned by Mary Leake's grandfather.

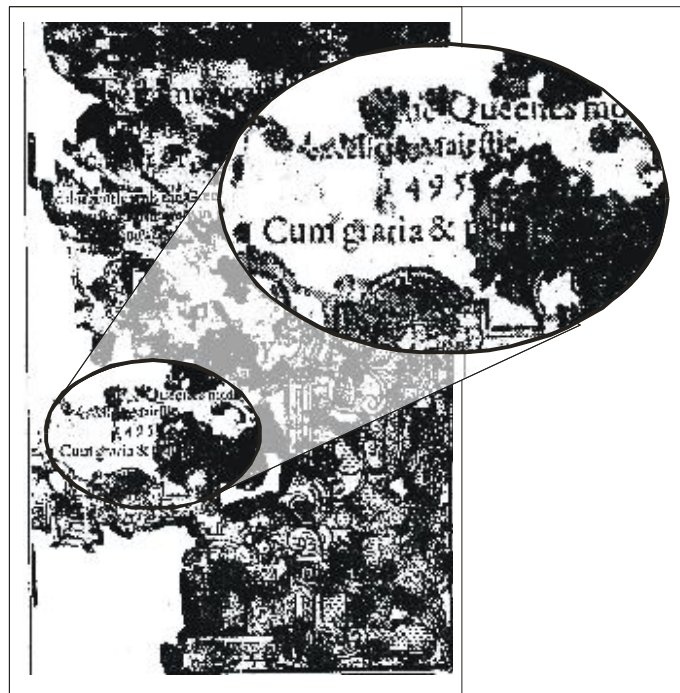


FIGURE XX
Mary Bostick Leake's Bible – Title Page

Now, from the earlier discussions of Charles^{C1}, the scrivener, it was shown that he first commenced his attendance and membership in the congregation at St. Bartholomew's on January 5, 1594. As a new parishioner and presumably recently arrived in London from Cheshire, it is reasonable to believe that Charles^{C1} would be in need of a new bible. Is it too much stretch of the imagination to think that the grandfather who passed on his bible to Mary Bostick Leake could have been Charles^{C1}, the scrivener? You be the judge. This researcher believes that it is not only possible, but probable that Charles, the scrivener, a 30-year vestryman and trusted officer of St. Bartholomews would want his bible to be passed on to his granddaughter. Further, this researcher believes that Mary Bostick Leake and Charles Bostick^{C1} were siblings. What other explanation could there be for Widow Leake relocating to the same precinct in St. Paul's Parish as Widow Bostick and her children, following the death of her

¹⁴ Kinfolks, p. 239.

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husband, William Leake? It seems quite natural that two recently widowed sisters-in-law, being left with young families to rear, would want to unite with their only known relations in a strange and foreign land.

Mary Bostick Leake appeared in St. Paul's Parish for four consecutive processioning cycles starting in 1708 when she was listed under her deceased husband's name, and again in 1711, 1715 and 1720 when she was listed as Widd. Leake. At the vestry meeting on October 1, 1722, Widow Leake was granted 500 pounds of tobacco for one year of maintenance of John Anderson's daughter. That was the last time Mary Bostick Leake was listed in the St. Paul's Parish vestry minutes. There were no records of processionings between 1720 and 1732, so those records are presumed to be missing. There was an entry for a vestry meeting on September 28, 1728 for William Leake (presumably Mary's son) who was granted 150 pounds of tobacco for the maintenance of Elizabeth Anderson. It must be assumed that Mary Leake died sometime between October 1722 and September 1728.

As in the case of William Leake, many genealogists, including General Harllee, have reported Mary Leake being buried at Rocky Springs, Lickinghole, Goochland. Since her sons, Walter, William and Richard appear to have continued living in St. Paul's Parish at least until March 28, 1732 when all three reported for processioning, it is likely that Mary Bostick Leake died and was buried in St. Paul's Parish in the area northeast of Richmond sometime around 1725/7. The Rocky Springs Plantation on Lickinghole Creek in Goochland County wasn't purchased by Walter Leake until between 1735 and 1740.

The following is a descendents list commencing with the presumed parents of Charles, the immigrant through three successive generations:

- 1- Charles BOSTICK^{C0} (abt 1610-)
- sp-Unknown UNKNOWN (~1630-)
- .. 2- Charles BOSTICK^{C1} (abt 1640-4 Jan 1701)
- .. sp-Mary UNKNOWN (abt 1645-7 Dec 1709)
- 3- Charles BOSTICK^{C1C2} (abt 1674-abt 1750)
- 3- William BOSTICK^{C1W1} (1676-30 Dec 1739)
- 3- John BOSTICK^{C1J1} (abt 1680-abt 1749)
- 3- Venica BOSTICK^{C1V1} (abt 1685-Unknown)
- .. 2- Mary BOSTICK^{M1} (1652-abt 1725)
- .. sp-William LEAKE (abt 1650-abt 1702)
- 3-William LEAKE Jr. (15 Jul 1694-abt 1765)
- 3-Walter LEAKE (1696-abt 1765)
- 3-Peter LEAKE (19 Sep 1697-abt 1765)
- 3-Mary LEAKE (16 Apr 1699-abt 1765)
- 3-Jane LEAKE (11 Jan 1700-abt 1765)
- 3-Richard LEAKE (13 Dec 1702-abt 1765)