

## 1. Summary

The American Odyssey of the Coleman brothers, all from England, began in 1637 with the arrival of Robert Coleman (# 1.1). Robert was named as one of forty headrights of Colonel William Farrar II. Farrar's 1637 land grant of 2,000 acres, called Farrar Island, located near "Henricus Citie". This land was originally in Henrico Shire, Virginia, some 15 miles downstream from Richmond on the James River. It is now in Chesterfield County, Virginia. The Farrar land grant is located at Lat 37.3636, Lon -77.3884.

A majority of the descendants and related family members of Robert Coleman (# 1.1) would stay within a six state area during the almost 400 years covered by this book :

Virginia	56.8%
North Carolina	28.1%
South Carolina	6.7%
Tennessee	2.7%
Kentucky	2.1%
Georgia	1.0%

While some 1,932 descendants and related family members of Robert Coleman (# 1.1) are included in this book, those in the states of Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina are particularly highlighted.

For the purpose of stimulating immigration and the settlement of the Colony, the London Company ordained that any person who paid his own way to Virginia should be assigned 50 acres of land "for his owne personal adventure," and if he transported "at his owne cost" one or more persons he should, for each person whose passage he paid, be awarded fifty acres of land. William Farrar, was therefore granted 2,000 acres for the transportation of forty persons, one of which was Robert Coleman (# 1.1).

Between the 1630s and the American Revolution, one-half to two-thirds of white immigrants to the Thirteen Colonies arrived under

indentures. Approximately 75 percent were under the age of twenty-five. During the indenture period the servants were not paid cash wages, but were provided with food, accommodation, clothing and training. The indenture document specified how many years the servant would be required to work, after which they would be free. Terms of indenture ranged from one to seven years with typical terms of four or five years.

After being released from his obligation to William Farrar in approximately 1644, Robert Coleman (# 1.1) set out to accumulate sufficient funds to acquire land.

Eight years later in 1652 he acquired a 813 acre tract of land in Charles City Shire on the southern shore of the Appomattox River from Lt. Col. Walter Chiles. Some researchers believe that this property was located in the vicinity of the I-295 crossing of the Appomattox River (Lat. 37.3127, Lon. -77.3353) within 5 miles of Farrar's Island. Other researchers believe that the property was adjacent to the Appomattox River falls (Lat. 37.2318, Lon. -77.4204) within 9 miles of Farrar's Island. Both locations are close to Farrar's Island. It is interesting to note that one year later Walter Chiles would be elected the Speaker of the Virginia House of Burgesses. Thus, Robert Coleman acquired land from a well known citizen of Virginia.

The author's conclusion that the 813 acre Coleman property was near the falls of the Appomattox River rather than the I-295 crossing is based on a different but similar land grant in Patent Book I, Part 2, 1 Mar 1639, "To all to whome these presents shall come I Sr John Harvey... Governr.... graunt unto Walter Chiles fower hundred acres of land Scituate lying and bein in the Countie of Charles Cittie upon Apamattuck river Westerly upon the river Easterly into the woods Northerly upon the land of Edward Tunstall and *Southerly towards the falls*. The Said fower hundred acres of Land being due unto him the Said Walter Chiles as followeth.. fiftie acres for his owne psonall adventure fiftie acres for his wife Elizabeth fiftie acres for his son William and fiftie acres for his son Walter and twoe hundred acres by and for the transportacon of fower psons into this Colony whose

names are in the records menconed Under this pattent To have and to hold & dated the first of March 1638."

The 813 acres tract sold to Coleman in 1652 had been originally acquired by Walter Chiles in November of 1649. The tract was described in Patent Book 2 as, WALTER CHILES, Gent., 813 acs., Chas. City Co., 5 Nov. 1649, p. 193. Lyeing upon the Sly. side of Appomattuck Riv., 200 acs. thereof bounded N. W. upon the river, E. N. E. upon the other devidend of 600 acs., a deep bottom parting it W. S. W. unto a run of water that parteth this from land of Nath. Tatum; the other 613 acs. beg. at the upward bounds of Mr. Tonstalls land, & W. N. W. upon the river. 200 acs. granted to William Sanders, 10 Oct. 1640 & by him assigned unto Walter Brooke, & by Brooke to William Thomas alias Fluellin, & purchased by Chiles of sd. Thomas. The other 613 acs. granted to sd. Chiles 20 Oct. 1642.

Since the land description is somewhat vague based on the inconsistency of the 1 March 1639 "Edward Tunstall" as compared to the 5 November 1649 "Mr. Tonstalls", the exact location of this 813 acre tract may never be known. What we do know, however, is that by 1717 the Colemans were acquiring land patents a few miles further to the west in what is now eastern Amelia County as per the description, "July 15, 1717. Land Patent Book 10, Page 339. WILLIAM COLEMAN. SR, (# 1.1.4) granted 100 acres of land on the west side of Nansemond Creek in the county of Prince George". Being in Prince George County the name of the creek was recorded incorrectly. It was not "Nansemond". The correct name was "Namozine Creek". An even more correct name would have been "Numiseen". "Numiseen" is the original Saponi Indian word from which the anglicized "Namozine" originated.

To further complicate an understanding by the modern researcher of similar sounding names, Upper Norfolk County had been officially redesignated the County of Nansimum by the House of Burgesses in March 1646 and by the October session it was also being spelled as Nansimund. The English named it for the indigenous Nansemond people whom they encountered in the area along the Nansemond River. It was known as Nansemond County until 1972. From 1972

to 1974, a period of eighteen months, it was the independent city of Nansemond. It is now part of the independent city of Suffolk, Virginia.

Walter Chiles was originally a passenger in the ship "Blessing" out of Falmouth and was employed by William Harris and Nicholas Jollye (merchants) to be the assistant to the witness, HENRY TUTTON, then chief purser of the said ship, to help sell and dispose of their goods in Virginia. Chiles served on her from 26 September 1636 to 24 June 1637 and the ship stayed 14 weeks in Jamestown, Virginia. Chiles returned to England in 1637, and he and family emigrated to Virginia, reportedly in his own ship (which could possibly have been the "Fame of Virginia") shortly thereafter. Based on this voyage Chiles lists as one of his headrights in his first land grant of 01 March 1638, one HENRY TUTTON, his former boss, the chief purser on the "Blessing". The historical background of the landowner, Walter Chiles, who helped Robert Coleman (#1.1) obtain his first property indicates the growing reputation of the Coleman family in Virginia.

The descendants of Robert Coleman would later acquire land further up the Appomattox River in what would become Amelia County, Virginia. See Volume 1, Chapter 1 for additional information on Robert Coleman (#1.1).

The Farrar's Island Historical Marker is situated at the southeast corner of US 1/301 and Osborne Road, Chester, Virginia. Osborne is the road that leads approximately three miles to the Dutch Gap boat launch and parking area. The head of the nature trail to Farrar's Island is at the far end of the parking area.

Founded on 14 May 1607 with the landing at Jamestown, the colony of Virginia was organized by a charter company, which created tracts, known as "hundreds" for settlement purposes as early as 1610. The House of Burgesses was established in 1619 when King James I revoked the company's charter after colonization proved unsuccessful. The governing body divided Virginia into eight shires with a non-indigenous population of 5,000 colonists.

The original Shires of Virginia were:

- Accawmack Shire (now Northampton & Accomack Counties)
- Charles City Shire (now the counties of Charles City, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Dinwiddie, Nottoway, Prince Edward, Prince George and Amelia)
- Charles River Shire (now York County)
- Elizabeth City Shire (extinct – consolidated with the City of Hampton)
- Henrico Shire (now Henrico County)
- James City Shire (now James City County)
- Warwick River Shire (extinct – consolidated with the City of Newport News)
- Warroaquyoake Shire (now Isle of Wight County)

If keeping track of the Shires and their associated counties was not enough to confuse the researcher, the documentation of early Virginia Coleman families shows us that there were four independent and geographically separated Coleman families in Virginia at the same time, all headed by an individual named Robert Coleman. These four families were:

- Robert Coleman of Nansemond County
- Robert Coleman of Isle of Wight County
- Robert Coleman (# 1.1) of Charles City County
- Robert Coleman of Mobjack Bay, Gloucester County

An understanding of these four families is critical in understanding the history of these separate, but potentially related families.

James P. Coleman, a well-respected genealogist, elected Governor of Mississippi in 1955, says in his book, *The Robert Coleman Family From Virginia To Texas, 1652-1965*, "We can be certain that the Robert Coleman, Sr. (who acquired the land from Lt. Col. Walter Chiles, in 1652) was not the same man as the well-known Robert Coleman of Gloucester County, who is generally known as Robert Coleman of "Mobjack Bay" (sometimes called "Moclgack Bay"). Robert Coleman of Mobjack Bay was the ancestor of the Essex

County, Virginia, Colemans and of the numerous descendants so carefully studied and described by Judge S. Bernard Coleman, of Fredericksburg, Virginia, in his most excellent manuscript at the Virginia State Library.

Robert of Mobjack Bay first appears in the Virginia Patent Records on March 18, 1662, when he was granted 110 acres in "Gloster" County, on a branch of Burt's Creek adjoining "his own land." He had a son named Robert, later known as Captain Robert Coleman, who became Sheriff of Essex, at Tappahannock. This Robert, the son of Robert of Mobjack Bay was born in 1656. Therefore, the future Essex sheriff was only seven years old when the Charles City County Robert Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.1), received a deed of gift from his father, Robert Coleman, Sr.(# 1.1).

The 20 May 1663, Charles City County Court Orders, 1661-1664, page 500, in which Robert, Sr., conveyed to his son Robert, Jr., via a deed of gift, states, "Know all men by these presents that I Robert Coleman Senior of Appomattox in Charles City County do hereby these presents give unto my sonne Robert Coleman now Junior part of my land upon the south side of Appomattox River".

It might further be pointed out that neither of the patents dated March 18, 1662, and March 1, 1672, to Robert Coleman in Gloucester County (who most certainly was Robert Coleman of Mobjack Bay) referred to the grantee by the descriptive Senior or Junior. Based on the age of the younger Robert at the time, these two patents were likely issued to Robert Sr. of Mobjack.

Another interesting point is that Robert Coleman Sr. of Mobjack Bay had a son by the name of John. This is well established by the writings of Judge S. Bernard Coleman, supported by the records cited by him, including entries in the Abbingdon Parish Register. However, this John had wives named Margaret and Ann, while the wife of John Coleman of Prince George County, as we have seen, was named Mary."

Governor Coleman goes on to say, "...in addition to Robert Coleman of Charles City County and Robert Coleman of Mobjack Bay, there was another Robert Coleman, who, on April 20, 1664, was granted 500 acres of land in Nansemond County.

There was yet another Robert Coleman who, on September 29, 1667, was granted 634 acres of land in Isle of Wight County.

These men were listed in their respective counties in the Quit Rent Rolls of 1704.

Robert Coleman of Nansemond is documentarily well established as the father of William Coleman, who died in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, in 1752, and he was also the father of Robert Coleman, who died in the same County in 1761.

Robert Coleman of Nansemond is not the Robert Coleman (# 1.1.1.1.1.1) who patented land in Edgecombe County on November 9, 1756. He was in that part of Edgecombe which later became Halifax County, whereas the descendants of Robert Coleman of Nansemond lived in an entirely different section of the original Edgecombe, which then covered not only its present area but parts of other present-day counties, Wilson, for example."

In conclusion, Governor Coleman writes, "Over a period of approximately thirteen years the writer (J. P. Coleman) has thoroughly studied every record he could find in Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina on all Coleman family lines. He is convinced that all four of the Robert Colemans heretofore mentioned were most likely connected. The documentary proof necessary to prove this beyond a reasonable doubt can no longer be unearthed, if indeed it ever existed".

See Volume 1, Chapter 39 and Volume 2, Appendix 13, for additional information on these four Coleman families which are located on the map below.

The Robert Coleman (# 1.1) named in 1637 as a headright of Colonel William Farrar II is known to genealogists as Robert Coleman of Charles City County. The descendants of Robert Coleman (# 1.1) are the focus of this book.

These descendants and their spouses have been assembled by the author into a 1,932 person GEDCOM 5.5 file and uploaded into the Pedigree Resource File (PRF) maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints on their FamilySearch.org web site. Pedigree Resource File, "Robert Coleman of Charles City Shire - January, 2022" file (2:2:2:MMFH-J33), submitted 30 January 2022 by JAMES COLEMAN.

The following link may be useful. Sign in to your FamilySearch account first, before utilizing this link:

<https://www.familysearch.org/ark:/61903/2:2:QRM2-24P>

In addition, a GEDCOM file of 1,932 persons was uploaded on 17 January 2022 into the Ancestry.com database under the tree name "Robert Coleman of Charles City Shire for Ancestry".

Sign in to your Ancestry account first, before utilizing this link:

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/180608237/recent>

The following link can be accessed as a guest (may require direct input):

<https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/180608237/family/familyview?cfpid=432348847078>

The Coleman descendants in this GEDCOM have also been assigned a unique identification number by the author utilizing the d'Aboville System. The researcher can find an abbreviated set of GEDCOM data in this book along with their d'Aboville System identification number.



The full data set (without d'Aboville numberd} is located in the Pedigree Resource File (PRF) maintained by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Volume 1 of this book is not all inclusive. To totally master the available information, the data and documents of Volume II plus the GEDCOM must be reviewed for relevancy to the researcher's interests.

Before delving into the details of the Colemans of Charles City Shire, lets first put some of the related events into historical perspective. For this purpose information from James P. Coleman's book, *The Robert Coleman Family From Virginia To Texas, 1652-1965*, was utilized as a starting point.

- May 14, 1607. First permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown.
- January 2, 1608. Captain Newport returns to Jamestown from England to find only forty survivors of the one hundred and four men left behind when he returned to England in June, 1607.
- October 4, 1609. Captain John Smith returns to England, never again to see Virginia.
- 1610, Spring. Only sixty-five of five hundred Colonists survived the winter.
- 1616. John Rolfe, Pocahontas, and their son, Thomas, go to England with Sir Thomas Dale, where Pocahontas dies. Thomas Rolfe is left in England with Sir Lewis Stukley, by whom he was reared and educated. His father never saw him again. Thomas Rolfe returned to Virginia as young man, married Jane Poythress, whose home was in what later became City Point, Prince George County. One daughter married Robert Bolling, neighbor and close associate of the Seventeenth Century Colemans.

- July 30, 1619. The first general assembly ever to meet on American soil convened at Jamestown.
- 1624. The London Company provides that every settler for his own transportation and for those whose transportation he paid shall receive fifty acres of land. This system continued until 1705, when the Colonial Government began the granting of lands for cash.
- 1624. Virginia becomes a Royal Colony.
- 1634. Charles City County, of which Prince George was later formed, is established
- 1636. Walter Chiles makes his first recorded trip to Virginia in the service of merchants William Harris and Nicholas Jolly aboard the *Blessing*.
- 1637. Robert Coleman (# 1.1) named as a headright of Colonel William Farrar.
- 1638. By this year, Walter Chiles has fitted out his own ship and returned to Virginia with his wife, Elizabeth, and sons.
- June 1641. Walter Chiles and three other men petition the General Assembly for permission to explore land and waterways west of the Appomattox River. They are granted a license in January 1642.
- April 18, 1644. Good Friday, Indians again massacre from three to five hundred Virginia Colonists.
- 1646. Indian agreement not to come below the falls of the James and the Appomattox, and to give up all land between the James and the York rivers.

- 1642-1649. Civil War in England; the execution of Charles I. Virginia remained loyal to the King and was the last of the Colonies to submit to Cromwell.
- June 13, 1652. A local militia captain detains Walter Chiles's ship the *Fame of Virginia* for violating the Navigation Act, which forbids unauthorized trade with the Netherlands.
- November 5, 1652. Lt. Col. Walter Chiles conveys to Robert Coalman (# 1.1) 813 acres on the South side of the Appomattox River, Charles City County. Notice this spelling of what later became "Coleman".
- July 5, 1653. Against the wishes of Governor Richard Bennett, the House of Burgesses elects as its Speaker Walter Chiles, a representative from James City County.
- May 20, 1663. Robert Colman, Jr. (# 1.1.1) becomes twenty-one years of age and is given lands by his father, Robert Colman, Sr. (# 1.1).
- September 29, 1668, Sir Wm Berkeley, Governor...give and grant unto Robert Coleman Senior (# 1.1) two hundred eighty three and fourteen p acres of land lying.....south side of Appomattox River in Charles City County
- 1676. Bacon's Rebellion against Sir William Berkeley, Governor of Virginia.
- 1688. Death of Robert Coleman, Sr. (# 1.1).
- 1699. Jamestown burned for the second time, and the Capital moved to Williamsburg.
- July 1, 1703. All that part of Charles City County South of the James and the Appomattox becomes Prince George County.
- 1722. Robert Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.1) dies.

- 1732. Brunswick County formed of Prince George, and situated South of the Roanoke River and North of the North Carolina State line.
- March 25, 1735. Amelia County formed from Prince George.
- 1746. Lunenburg County formed of Brunswick, formerly of Prince George.
- January 1, 1751. Calendar changed. New Year's moved back from March 25th to January 1st. Calendar moved ahead to take care of eleven days which had been lost previously by miscalculations in time. This changed Washington's birthday from February 11 to February 22.
- May 1, 1753. Dinwiddie County formed from Prince George. The Colemans that lived in this area were thereafter in Dinwiddie County.
- November 9, 1756. Robert Coleman (# 1.1.1.1.1) receives patent from Lord Granville for 157 acres of land in Edgecombe County, North Carolina (later Halifax County).

As mentioned in the timeline above, Robert (# 1.1) was an established tobacco planter by November, 1652, able to purchase property, shortly before his brothers began to arrive. This property consisted of 813 acres of land, lying on the south side of the Appomattox River in Charles City County. The property was purchased from Lieutenant Colonel Walter Chiles, soon to be the Speaker of the House of Burgesse. In twenty short years Robert Coleman (# 1.1) had transformed himself from indentured servant to a member of the landed gentry of Virginia. Later in 1668 the Governor of Virginia, Sir William Berkeley, would grant Robert Coleman 283 acres.

Robert's three brothers, Thomas (# 1.2), Nicholas (# 1.3) and William (# 1.4) would follow him to Virginia between 1655 and 1656, when they first set foot in Charles City Shire, Virginia.

Robert (# 1.1) would eventually marry and have several children including sons, Robert Jr. (# 1.1.1), Warner (# 1.1.2), John (# 1.1.3) and William (# 1.1.4).

Robert's son was first named William Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4) to distinguish him from William (# 1.4). William (#1.1.4) was later referred to as Senior in his will of 1743. This was done to distinguish himself from his own son, William Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4.5).

It was previously believed that Robert's brother, William (# 1.4), was the first of the family whose descendants would settle in Amelia County. The discovery of Prince George County Virginia Wills and Deeds of 1710 – 1713, which were stolen during the Civil War, has necessitated that a correction be made. It is now known that it was actually Robert's son, William (# 1.1.4), who settled in Amelia County, Virginia and later in Warren County, North Carolina.

William Coleman, Jr., (# 1.1.4), identified as Senior in his will, acquired some 1,922 acres between 1712 and 1730 in several land grant tracts in what is now northwestern Dinwiddie and eastern Amelia Counties, both in Virginia. He moved during this time period to the west side of Nansemond Creek, on the lower side of the Appomattox River. As mentioned earlier, this should have been recorded as "Namozine" Creek". When William Coleman settled here, this was the frontier of western Charles City County. Today the creek forms the border between Amelia and Dinwiddie Counties.

These 1,922 acres are several miles to the west of Robert Coleman's (# 1.1) 813 acre tract of land in Charles City Shire which were acquired in 1652.

It seems that his brother Robert Coleman's (# 1.1.1) family settled to the south in the area that later became Dinwiddie County.

In 1702, the eastern tip of Charles City became a separate County. The remaining area became Prince George County and included the area where the William Coleman (# 1.1.4) family lived.

Then in 1734, "Amelia County" was established. Although the William Coleman family had remained steadfast in the area south of the Appomattox between Sweathouse Creek and Namozine Creek, county records show them in first in Charles City County, then in Prince George County, and since 1734 in Amelia County.

The original land grants in this area are shown in Volume 1 with the Coleman grants highlighted. All of these grants have access to creeks, streams or the Appomattox River making them especially desirable.

These land patent maps are based on the work of Dr. Robert Brumfield of the Amelia County Historical Society. The "highlighted" land patents shown in the two maps in Volume 1 and other non-mapped Coleman related patents are included in the following more inclusive list:

1. October 20, 1665. Patent Book 5, Page 435. ROBERT COLEMAN, Junior. (# 1.1.1) 450 acres, Charles City County. South of Appomattox River beginning at head line of land of Robert Coleman, Sr. (# 1.1), extending N.E. and N. over the branch of the Baylies Wly run, along same. Due for the transportation of 9 persons.

2a. September 29, 1668. Land Patent Book 6, Page 189. ROBERT COLEMAN, SR (# 1.1), 283 acres of land in Charles City County on the South side of the Appomattox- west end of Coleman's house swamp. This is the same land identified by Captain John Coleman (# 1.1.3) in his deed of 1725. This is not Captain Robert Coleman, who became Sheriff of Essex, at Tappahannock.

2b. September 29, 1668, Land Patent Book 6, Page 189, To all...to know that...Sir Wm Berkeley, Governor...give and grant unto Robert Coleman Senior two hundred eighty three and fourteen p acres of land lying.....south side of Appomattox River in Charles City County two hundred and seven though formerly granted to Mr. Walter Chiles

and by him...for and assigned to the...Robert Coleman and two south of the land ...granted to Henry Ledbeater and by him for and assigned to the said Coleman.

3. July 15, 1717. Land Patent Book 10, Page 338. FRANCIS COLEMAN, SR, (# 1.1.1.1) granted 333 acres of land in Prince George County on south side of Butterwood Swamp or Creek.

4. July 15, 1717. Land Patent Book 10, Page 339. WILLIAM COLEMAN, SR, (# 1.1.4) granted 100 acres of land on the west side of Nansemond Creek in the county of Prince George. As mentioned earlier, this should have been recorded as "Namozine" Creek".

5. November 13, 1720. Land Patent Book 11, Page 79. WILLIAM COLEMAN, JR. (# 1.1.4), granted 185 acres of land in Prince George County.

6. July 9, 1724. Land Patent Book 12, Page 64. JOHN COLEMAN (#1.1.3) granted 313 acres of land on the south side of Appomattox River in Prince George County – a tract of land called the Horsepen Branch.

7. July 9, 1724. Land Patent Book 12, Page 70. FRANCIS COLEMAN, SR, (# 1.1,1,1) of Prince George County, granted 350 acres of land on the north side of Butterwood Swamp in Prince George County.

8. July 9, 1724. Land Patent Book 12, Page 73. WILLIAM COLEMAN, SR., (# 1.1.4) of Prince George County, granted 154 acres of land on the west side of creek in Prince George County.

9. October 13, 1727. Land Patent Book 13, Page 279. WILLIAM COLEMAN, SR, (# 1.1.4) of Prince George County, granted 297 acres of land in Prince George County.

10. September 28, 1730. Land Patent Book 13, Page 522, WILLIAM COLEMAN, SR. (# 1.1.4), of Prince George County, granted 400 acres of land in Prince George Co.

11. September 28, 1730. Land Patent Book 13, Page 530. WILLIAM COLEMAN, (# 1.1.4) of Prince George County, granted 235 acres of land in Prince George County on the low side of Sweathouse Br of Deep Creek, above his cabin.
12. January 2, 1737. Land Patent Book 17, Page 438. WILLIAM COLEMAN (# 1.1.4) granted 202 acres of land in Amelia County on the upper side of the great branch of Winticomaick Creek.
13. September 22, 1739. Land Patent Book 18, Page 391. DANIEL COLEMAN (# 1.1.4.1) granted 800 acres of land in Amelia County on the south side of the long branch of Winticomaick Creek.
14. June 30, 1743. Land Patent Book 21, Page 408. ROBERT COLEMAN (# 1.1.4.3) granted 300 acres of land in Amelia County on the upper side of Winticomaick Creek.
15. August 1, 1745. Land Patent Book 22, Page 383. DANIEL COLEMAN (# 1.1.4.1) granted 225 acres of land in Amelia County on the head branch of the great fork of Flatt Creek.

During this "land grant" time period there were several Colemans in the area named "William", making it difficult to determine the generations and lineages. This book looks in depth on the William Coleman (#1.1.4) who married Faith.. They established their home near Namozine Creek and had seven children : Daniel (# 1.1.4.1), Frances (# 1.1.4.2), Robert (# 1.1.4.3), Joseph (# 1.1.4.4), William (# 1.1.4.5), Godfrey (# 1.1.4.6) and Peter (# 1.1.4.7).

The land grant maps shown in Volume 1 are not entirely accurate. They do not show, for example, that the William Coleman (# 1.1.4) property extended to the south bank of the Wintocomaick Creek as per the 2 June 1743 will of William Coleman, Sr. in his bequest to William Coleman (# 1.1.4.5). See Volume 2, Appendix 4 for details of William Coleman's (# 1.1.4) will.

The thoughts of this attractive property on the south bank of the Wintocomaick Creek helped Emmett S. Clay (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) and



(# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1) survive the Civil War while serving in the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Reserves, Company H, Light Artillery, CSA. He married India Anna Clay (1846-1917), the daughter of Daniel J. Clay and Elizabeth Pallon Clay of Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

Emmett Clay's daughter, Elizabeth Bessie Clay (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1.1 ), told family members of that period that the house shown in Volume 1 (Landmark #17) was built by her father after his return from the Civil War. This a single story (two rooms and a central hall) over an English basement. A rock chimney on the east end of the house provides a fireplace in an upper room and also a fireplace in the basement. The basement rooms served as kitchen and dining room.

John W. Waldrop acquired this house in 1924 and demolished the rear portion and built the two-story addition that stands today. The front part of the house seems consistent with an 1860s/1870s house, but the basement beneath it doesn't seem to match. The rock walls, hewn beams, rock chimney and fireplace all seem much earlier.

It is thus believed that when Mr. Emmett S. Clay (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) returned home from the war in 1865, on the hill he hoped to call home, there stood the ruins of his Coleman ancestral home. He most likely built what stands there today over the old 1700s William Coleman (# 1.1.4 or # 1.1.4.5) home's foundation and chimney. The foundation and chimney are therefore the oldest known Coleman architectural elements in Amelia County, Virginia.

In 1742, William Coleman's son Daniel (# 1.1.4.1) built a bridge across Namozine Creek (known since to local folks as "Coleman's Bridge") into what is now Dinwiddie County, Virginia. Daniel Coleman now owed about 1 ,000 acres that included his home place near that bridge.

Although the majority of William Coleman's children remained in the Mannboro area of Amelia County two of his sons, Peter (# 1.1.4.7)

and Robert (# 1.1.4.3) moved their families south; Peter into Warren County, North Carolina, and Robert further into South Carolina.

Meanwhile, back in Amelia County, several generations had now gone by, but Colemans still lived on the original old Daniel Coleman (# 1.1.4.1) property near Namozine Creek. This house is still standing and is the oldest “standing” Coleman house in Amelia County

Richard Albert Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.6) acquired this home place and had married a young lady named Julia Ann Rebecca Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.7). One of their children was Richard "Pryor" Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.6.4) and he would eventually own the place.

The house near Coleman's Bridge is now known as the "old Pryor Coleman Place". It was a unique story and a half design with a central chimney and a fireplace in each of the four corners. This old place was home to the Coleman Family for several generations until about 1940. It's now just about gone. There is an old graveyard on the place, but very few graves are marked.

It is estimated that this "old Pryor Coleman Place" was built during the third or last quarter of the 18<sup>th</sup> century by bridge engineer Daniel Coleman (# 1.1.4.1) and, as such, is the oldest still standing Coleman house in Amelia County.

Dr. Michael Spencer, Department of Historic Preservation, University of Mary Washington, writes the following, "From a cursory glance it looks as though the house were originally a hall and parlor plan with a shed addition added on the back”.

He continues, “Confirmation of a shed addition is actually a big deal here as there are other examples of building with eaves wall chimneys in Virginia, but they are typically of early date. For example the original section of the Mary Washington House here in Fredericksburg we had dendro dated to 1759, this building likely was about the same size and configuration as this example. Because of the chimney placement it also meant that there were diagonal hearths to enable heating of both rooms. In Fredericksburg diagonal hearths are

typically gone by the late-18<sup>th</sup> century". See Volume 1, pages 251 – 258 for further information on the "old Pryor Coleman Place" built by bridge engineer Daniel Coleman (# 1.1.4.1).

It is widely believed that the oldest Coleman house in neighboring Dinwiddie County is the Robert Coleman house at Five Forks known as Burnt Quarter. The Richmond Times Dispatch reported on 29 August 1939 that the land, then in Charles City County, was patented to Robert Coleman the first on 29 September 1668 by Governor Berkeley and that the house was built between 1747 and 1757 by Robert Coleman and his daughter Mary.

A search of the records reveal that the patent dated 29 September 1668 (Julian Calendar) was for the land described as, "To all...to know that...Sir Wm Berkeley, Governor...give and grant unto Robert Coleman Senior two hundred eighty three and fourteen p acres of land lying.....south side of Appomattox River in Charles City County two hundred and seven though formerly granted to Mr. Walter Chiles and by him...for and assigned to the ...Robert Coleman and two south of the land ...granted to Henry Ledbeater and by him for and assigned to the said Coleman.

This description appears to describe land adjacent to the 813 acre tract of land in Charles City Shire on the southern shore of the Appomattox River that Coleman (# 1.1) acquired in 1652 from Lt. Col. Walter Chiles, rather than the Burnt Quarter property which is approximately nine miles from the Appomattox River. Further research is necessary to determine if this patent is actually Burnt Quarter land. See Volume 2, Appendix 3 for the total land patent wording.

Robert Coleman the first (or Senior) died in 1688. James P. Coleman writes, "We are unable to say whether the Robert who built this house (between 1747 and 1757 ) was the son of Captain John Coleman (# 1.1.3) or Francis Coleman, Sr. (# 1.1.1.1), although it seems quite certain from all available records that he was the son of one or the other of them".

The plantation, one of the oldest continuously operated farms in the region, derives its name from British colonel Banastre Tarleton's burning of a grain quarter on one of his marauding expeditions during the Revolutionary War.

In addition, on April 1, 1865, the property became the scene of fierce fighting during the battle of Five Forks. The house was used as a Union headquarters. A series of family portraits, slashed by the soldiers, still hangs unrepaired on the parlor walls.

The Coleman built "Burnt Quarter" plantation subsequently passed through marriage to the Peterson, Goodwyn, and Gilliam families to the current owners.

As mentioned on Volume 1, pages 46 – 47 the oldest Coleman house in Amelia County once stood in the location where Mr. Emmett S. Clay (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1) built what stands there today (Landmark #17) over the old 1700s William Coleman (# 1.1.4 or # 1.1.4.5) home's foundation and chimney. These are therefore the oldest known Coleman architectural elements in Amelia County, Virginia.

A lone oak tree remains near the house, the last reminder of the oak grove that inspired the Clay's to call the place, "Forrest Lawn". The oak tree goes back to the time of the original Colemans. See Volume 1, pages 317 and 318 for further information on this house.

These early Colemans are included in a summary of the 1,932 family members contained within this book can be found in Volume 1, Chapter D with their d'Aboville Numbers. D'Aboville Numbers are used throughout this book to allow ease of descendant tracing. These same family members with their Modified Register System (NGSQ) number can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 1.

The d'Aboville System is a descending numbering method developed by Jacques d'Aboville in 1940 that is very similar to the Henry System, widely used in France. It differs from the Henry System in that periods are used to separate the generations and no changes in

numbering are needed for families with more than nine children. The Modified Register numbering system used in Volume 2, Appendix 1 of this book was developed by the National Genealogical Society Quarterly published by the National Genealogical Society headquartered in Arlington, Virginia.

Through the years, Virginia Colemans married into the Bevill, Clay, Green, Tucker, and other local families. The inter-relationship of the Clay and Coleman families is especially interesting and details can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 74. Later, North Carolina Colemans married into Paschall and Perkinson and King families. The inter-relationship of the Perkinson and Coleman families can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 75. The inter-relationship of the King and Coleman families can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 76.

The books of the day contained many references to Amelia County Colemans. *Chataigne Gazetteer and Classified Business Directory 1888 – 1889* listed Edward H. Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.6) as Clerk of the Court for Amelia County, Richelieu Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.2) as Postmaster at Mannboro (appointed on 28 February 1882), and John Hamilton Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.7.2.2) as Undertaker at Namozine (Amelia County).

Some of the prominent farmers listed were Walter Emerson Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3), Wilbur Olin Coleman (#1.1.4.1.7.3.3.2), John Hamilton Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.7.2.2), Richelieu Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.2) and Naborne Quarles Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.3). Wilbur Olin Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.2) was appointed Postmaster on 21 March 1894.

Walter Emerson Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3) was Sheriff of Amelia County from 1899 to 1907. He had been a Deputy Sheriff for several years prior to that. By the end of the 20th century there were no "Colemans" left in the area, only a few relatives now under other names.

In addition to the "Old Pryor Coleman Place", photographs of the homes of the following past residents are included in this book for

reference:: Wilbur Olin Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.2), Richelieu Coleman (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.2), “Dorothy” Dolley Mary Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.6), James Waverly Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.2.4.2), Martha A. D. Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5), Catherine Augusta Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3), and Lucy Augusta Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.7.2.2.3).

Latitude and longitude coordinates for the above listed landmarks can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 14 and 15 of this book.

The three churches which were attended by the Colemans and their relatives were the Salem Methodist Church (Landmark #11), the Poplar Hill Methodist Church (Landmark #14), and the Liberty Methodist Church (Landmark #16). All three churches are or were located in the Mannboro, Virginia area.

The Salem Methodist Church (Landmark #11) was established in 1879 on John Gill’s farm. This church was torn down in 1950 and no photographs have been found. It was near the intersection of the Richmond Road (Virginia Route 612) and (Virginia Route 606).

Coleman family members were members of this church, including:

- Alma Louise Coleman (1891-1987), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.6)
- Walter Emerson Coleman (1850-1924), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3)
- Mary F. Coleman (1835-), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.1.1)
- Annie B. Coleman (a. 1875-), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.1)
- Lewis Ashton Coleman (1888-1958), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.5)
- Chamberlain Coleman (1918-1891), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3)
- Chamberlain Edward Coleman (1886-1967), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.4)
- Alma Irby Coleman (1875-1951), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.2.2)
- Mary B. Coleman (1882-1983), (# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.3)
- Miranda W. Worsham, wife of Wesley Isaac Coleman (1869), (# 1.1.4.7.6.1.1.2.10)
- Cornelia Elizabeth Mann, wife of Richelieu Coleman (1823-1890), (# 1.1.4.1.7.5.2)

Many Coleman marriages took place in this church including that of Alma Louise Coleman to Willie Burke Coleman on 4 October 1916. Willie Burke and Alma Louise were 1<sup>st</sup> cousins.

The Poplar Hill Methodist Church (Landmark #14) was established in 1848 and was located on the east side of Will's Road (Virginia Route 610) just to the south of its intersection with the Namozine Road (Virginia Route 708).

Coleman family members interred in the Poplar Hill Methodist Church cemetery include:

- John Hamilton Coleman (1850-1916), (# 1.1.4.7.6.1.1.2.2)
- Olivia Clay Coleman (1852-1925), wife of John Hamilton Coleman (1850-1916)
- James Waverly "Jim" Coleman (1880-1970), (# 1.1.4.5.7.2.2.2)
- Lona Coleman Townsend (1879-1964), (# 1.1.4.7.6.1.1.2.2.1)
- Walter E. Townsend (1875-1945), husband of Lona A. Coleman (1879-1964)

The Liberty Methodist Church (Landmark #16) was established in 1880 on the William Samuel Loving farm at the intersection of Gregory Mill Lane (Virginia Route 690) and Burton Road (Virginia Route 600). William Loving (1739-1792) was Meda Coleman (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.6.3 )'s husband's (William Samuel Quarles) great-grandfather. This church stills stands.

Coleman family members who are buried at Liberty Methodist Church include:

- Emmett S. Clay (1846-1920), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1)
- India Anna Clay (1846-1917), wife of Emmett S. Clay
- Elizabeth Bessie Clay (1876-1958), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1.1) child of Emmett S. Clay (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5.1) and (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3.1).
- Richard Edwin Clay (1823-after 1893), (# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3)

- Martha A.D. Coleman Clay (1824-), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5), wife of Richard Edwin Clay
- Bettie A. Coleman Craddock (1861-1937), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.6.5)
- William Lloyd Craddock (1852-1928), husband of Bettie A. Coleman
- Ann Catherine Clay Green (1841-1915), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3.1)
- Daniel Lallamon Green (1828-1892), husband of Ann Catherine Clay
- Lucy Augusta Green (1863-1880), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3.1.1), daughter of Ann Catherine Clay
- Mary Ethel Green (1883-1904), (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3.1.6), daughter of Ann Catherine Clay

Beginning in approximately 1919, the children of the Mannboro area of Amelia County, Virginia, were being cared for by their neighborhood doctor, James Loving Hamner, MD. Dr. Hamner was born on 12 October 1893, in Ammon, Amelia County, Virginia, the son of William Dabney Hamner, an Amelia County merchant. He graduated from the Medical College of Virginia in 1916, and after spending 36 months in the Medical Corps of the United States Army set up his medical practice in Mannboro.

He married Rebecca Sydnor of Marlinton, West Virginia in 1930. Rebecca was the great granddaughter of Robert Henry Sydnor (1820-1900) of Amelia County. Robert Henry Sydnor was father of Martha A. D. Coleman's (# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5) daughter's husband, Joseph Allen Sydnor (1860-1934).

Amelia County citizens were lucky to have him as their own local doctor. Dr. James Loving Hamner died on 4 August 1987.

Dr. Hamner, as well as many Coleman children, attended the Ammon School. This school building was located on the west side of Will's Road (Virginia Route 610) just north of the intersection with Burton Road (Virginia Route 600). The building collapsed from age in 2014 and was levelled in 2018.



Other Coleman children in the area attended the Mannboro School. This building still stands on the east side of the Richmond Road (Virginia Route 612) just north of Mannboro.

A store and post office has stood at the intersection of the Richmond Road (Virginia Route 612) and the Namozine Road (Virginia Route 708) since 1831. This store and integral post office was owned and operated by Richelieu Coleman in 1856 and then by his first cousin, once removed, Wilbur Olin Coleman from 1894 to 1896.

Wilbur Coleman sold the store and post office plus 119 acres of land in 1896 to Joseph Allen Sydnor for \$ 1,295. Joseph was the son of Robert Henry Sydnor (1820-1900) of Amelia County.

As mentioned earlier Dr. James Hamner married Rebecca Sydnor of Marlinton, West Virginia in 1930. Rebecca was the great granddaughter of Robert Henry Sydnor (1820-1900) of Amelia County.

The store mentioned above was in much the same configuration in April of 1865 when 30,000 Confederate soldiers pursued by 60,000 Union troops passed through this intersection. The Namozine Presbyterian Church is located just a few miles to the east down the Namozine Road (Virginia Route 708). Gen. Rufus Barringer's Confederate cavalry was posted at the church on 3 April 1865. Sometime after 9:00 a.m., Gen. George A. Custer's cavalrymen charging down the road and struck the battle started. The regiment in the Confederate center tried a counterattack, but soon the whole line was in retreat toward Mannboro and the Amelia Court House.

The original store as destroyed by fire on New Year's eve, 1953, and was subsequently rebuilt. The Sydnor family owned and operated this facility ("Sydnor's Store" and Mannboro Post Office") for over one hundred years. The store has since been sold, but continues to operate as "Sydnor's Store".

## **Union County, South Carolina**

Returning to the Colemans of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the only son of William Coleman's (#1.1.4) who moved out of Virginia was Robert Coleman (#1.1.4.3).

Robert Coleman (#1.1.4.3), who moved to Union County, South Carolina in 1765, was the first soldier in the family. He served as a Patriot under Colonel Thomas Brandon in the 2nd Spartan Regiment, South Carolina Militia at the beginning of the Revolutionary War.

Robert of Union County was also the first official "outlaw" in the family, for he deserted to the British and was named an outlaw in the proclamation of December 16, 1779, by the Governor of South Carolina in the newspaper, *South Carolina and American General Gazette* of Charleston, South Carolina, which contained 40 names including Robert Coleman and his son Christopher Coleman (# 1.1.4.3.3).

See Volume 1, Chapter 7 for additional information on the Colemans of Union County, South Carolina.

## **Warren County, North Carolina**

There were two members of the generation of Coleman's after Robert Coleman (# 1.1.4.3) of Union County, South Carolina, who, thirteen years later in 1778, migrated from Amelia County, Virginia, to Warren County, North Carolina.

The first member of the Coleman family from Amelia County, Virginia, to own property in Warren County, North Carolina was Page Mann Coleman (# 1.1.4.4.5). Page was followed by his cousin, Peter Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4.7.3), into Warren County.

Page and Peter reached Warren County by travelling the Occaneechi Indian Trading Trail, later to be known as the Great Wagon Trail, the main route of travel in those days. The distance from the James River in Virginia to the trail crossing into North Carolina was 130 miles.

This trail starts at Bermuda Hundred on the James River; then runs near Petersburg and Amelia County, Virginia, and then crosses the Roanoke River at the Moniseep Horse Ford, sometimes called “Money Shap” Ford or “Mony Shap” Ford.

This crossing point was in use as a result of Bacon’s Rebellion during which time the Occaneechi Indians on the Roanoke River were attacked. The crossing had been some thirty miles upstream prior to the Rebellion.

Jerry. L. Cross, in his, *The Trading Path: Its Relationship to Durham County and Stagville*, says “Occaneechi hostility erupted into open warfare in 1673 resulting in the deaths of several traders. They still controlled the gateway to the Carolina interior, so a new crossing of the Roanoke River from Fort Henry was sought”.

He goes on to state, “A site called Monysap Ford, about thirty miles east of Occaneechi Island and about three miles northwest of where the Roanoke River crosses the North Carolina-Virginia line, was selected. From there the new path ran southwestward passing through the present towns of Wise and Manson (Warren County, North Carolina), Middleburg (Vance County, North Carolina), and Oxford (Granville County, North Carolina), before joining the old path northeast of Stem, North Carolina”.

Lastly, “Though the power of the Occaneechi tribe was broken by 1676, the Trading Path retained its Monysap Ford crossing. After the Occaneechi migrated south along the old trail, the northern portion of the path leading to the former island stronghold was abandoned”.

This ford was located on the downstream bank of Hawtree Creek’s confluence with the Roanoke River at Peete’s Point, as related to the author by Tom Magnuson of the Trading Path Association, Hillsborough, North Carolina.

This is also documented in *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Volume 2, 1886, page 811, “ At 69 chains to Haw Tree Creek which

empties itself into the river at Mony Shap a little above the point of an island in the river, here we entered the low grounds of the river, it being north ¼ mile to it.”

In addition documentation it is shown that, on 29 September 1764, David and Ann Jones Young sold the 192 acres to John Jones as shown in Granville County, North Carolina, Deed Book A, page 88. The land was described as being on the east side of Hawtree Creek adjoining the "Old Trading Path." This conclusively establishes the location of the horse ford.

Some historians place this crossing point at the St. Tammany Road which crossed the Roanoke River near the present Interstate 85 bridge. However, there is a fourth document which places the location of the ford further east at Hawtree Creek rather than at the present I-85 bridge, the 1737 *New And Correct Map Of The Province Of North Carolina.*

As the water flow from Hawtree Creek lost energy after entering the Roanoke River, it deposited sand and gravel into the Roanoke on the downstream side of the creek's water flow. This sand and gravel build up enabled horses to cross the Roanoke River at this point. Later a canoe or boat would operate from Hawtree Creek's upstream bank to carry goods that were not able to be carried on horseback and thus, required wagons. The location of this crossing point is 36.561409 degrees Latitude, -78.129748 degrees Longitude where the resulting wagon wheel depressions in the dirt can still be seen.

The Great Wagon Trail then crossed the Coleman property, ran to Wise, Norlina, Manson, Middleburg and Oxford, before joining the old path northeast of Stem and then to the Eno River at Hillsborough, North Carolina and the Catawba River below Charlotte, North Carolina, at the populous Catawba and Waxhaw Indian villages.

The weight of horses, wagons and oxen-drawn tobacco barrels on this trail wore a depression into the land. This depression can also still be seen just north of Jerusalem Methodist Church Cemetery's northern

gravel drive way and then again on the west side of Paschall Station Road.

The continuous flow of people and goods up and down the trail must have been a source of wonder to the Colemans of that era. They received the latest news of the day from their discussions with those early day travelers.

Page Mann Coleman (# 1.1.4.4.5) acquired 325 acres on 18 November 1778 from Alexander Burnham of Bute County, North Carolina. The northern part of Bute County became Warren County, North Carolina, in 1779. Page, however, did not permanently settle in Warren County, North Carolina. Page died in 1815 and his final estate was probated in Pike County, Indiana in 1823.

This land purchase by Page Mann Coleman was soon followed by a purchase by Page's first cousin, Peter Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4.7.3), also of Amelia County, Virginia. Peter Coleman purchased 146 acres from Robert Collier, Jr., two months later on 16 January 1779. This land was located on Great Reedy Branch. Reedy Branch is mentioned in many subsequent land records involving the Coleman family.

At least two of Peter Coleman's children, Peter Coleman, III (1.1.4.7.3.2), and Carter Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1), raised children in Warren County. The union between Peter's son Carter and Martha Ann Tally in 1791 produced three children and the union between Peter Coleman, III, and Mary Ann Rainey in 1809 produced two children. The descendants of both Peter Coleman, Jr., and his son Carter, made Warren County their home for the next 200 or so years.

These families generally made their home a few hundred feet south of the Virginia state line in an area then known as "Merry Mount". Some lived in Wise, just a few miles further to the south.

Merry Mount was the name of a house and plantation south of the Roanoke River in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, just to the north of the state line. This house was owned by Captain William Davis, brother of John and Baxter Davis. According to Dr. John K. Bergland

in his book, *The Journeys of Robert Williams*, the plantation was “noted for its exceptional horses”. The area just across the state line in North Carolina took its name from this Virginia plantation.

On 2 November 1847 a post office was established in Merry Mount. The name of this post office was changed to Paschall, in honor of Wallace T. Paschall on 1 November 1929 and remained operational until 30 November 1948. Wallace was the son of R.H.M. Paschall, who had been a former postmaster beginning on 12 July 1878. The post office had been located in the house of R.H.M. Paschall until the new building shown in Volume 1 was constructed a short distance to the south.

While the photograph of the Merry Mount Post Office, taken in approximately 1928, indicates that some residents of the community drove Model A and Model T automobiles as shown in the photograph in Volume 1, many less affluent residents travelled in the traditional cow, oxen, or horse drawn wagon.

Flora Hendricks and her family were well respected residents of Merry Mount during this same period of time. She lived on the west side of the rail tracks across from the old Captain Levi Coleman (#1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1) house.

Flora Hendricks children were Norvel and William Hendrick. Both sons are buried at the Bethlehem Baptist Church on Cole Farm Road in Paschall. During the time of the photograph the church was located on the west side of the railroad tracks across from the Wallace Paschall house.

Logs were collected from a sawmill in the area. The nearest sawmill was operated by Levi Phillip “Buck” Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7) in Merry Mount (now called Paschall). “Different families, both black and white, helped in the construction of the original Bethlehem Baptist Church” as stated in church histories.

Beautiful pine trees were the setting of the first Bethlehem Baptist Church building, located across the railroad tracks bordering North Carolina and Virginia.

Merry Mount was heavily populated with black families that lived on the large farm owned by Wallace Paschall. The black families raised crops of tobacco and cotton and paid half of their earnings to Mr. Paschall.

The Coleman family from Merry Mount produced a series of farmers, skilled craftsmen, and later, a number of engineers and business leaders, all of whom left their legacies in the South. The personal and professional triumphs of many successful family members were the norm for the family.

For those in the family that could afford to attend, The Warrenton Male Academy, formed in 1788 under the leadership of Professor Marcus George was the school of choice. Later, the Wise School played an important part in the education of the Coleman children during the early 1900s.

The school was constructed in 1908 under the supervision of Mr. Andrew Bascomb Spencer, a native of Virginia. This school became the first modern high school in the County. The knowledge that was gained here led to many successful careers.

Beginning in approximately 1904, the children of Wise were being cared for by their neighborhood doctor, Thomas Jefferson Holt, Sr., MD. Dr. Holt was born in 1880, the son of a Johnston County, North Carolina, farmer. He then graduated from the University of North Carolina Medical School in 1902. Merry Mount and Wise citizens were lucky to have him as their own local doctor.

When his patients were too sick to travel to his small office located three doors south of his house on the Wise Road, Dr. Holt would travel to them in his Ford Model T automobile. Many of the children would run and hide at the approach of this Model T, knowing that a “shot” of medicine would soon follow.

The author's grandfather, James Michael Paschall Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3) was born in 1890 and thus, did not attend to his studies at the Old Wise School. He was, however, a patient of Dr. Holt, as were many other Coleman children. There were seven Coleman related families that lived within a stone's throw of Dr. Holt's house on the Wise Road in 1910.

It is documented that Dr. Holt attended to Dell Sophronia Coleman Neville (1893 -1935), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.6) and her daughter Viola B. Neville (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.6.1) at the time of their simultaneous death, after Dr. Holt moved to Warrenton.

Going forth with both a good local education and in good health, James Michael Paschall Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3) helped to change the skyline of North Carolina's capital city, Raleigh while employed at J. E. Beaman Construction Company. By doing so in Raleigh, he would thereby set the precedent for his son, James Michael Paschall Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3.1), working at Wise Contracting Company under the leadership of his uncle Lee Paschall, to participate in changing the skyline of Virginia's capital city, Richmond, some twenty years later.

Interestingly, Beaman Construction Company erected the Electrical Engineering classroom building on the campus of North Carolina State University in which many Coleman engineers (ncluding the author) were to be trained.

In addition, another Warren County boy, Thomas Wilson Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.4), while working as Superintendent of D. J. Rose and Son in Rocky Mount, North Carolina, would help to improve the infrastructure of Eastern North Carolina. Thomas was later to become the President of Nash Brick Company in Rocky Mount. It would not be surprising to find that these Rocky Mount bricks were used in the buildings built by James Michael Paschall Coleman at J. E. Beaman Construction Company in Raleigh, i.e. "Coleman made bricks used in Coleman built buildings".



Other Coleman children became managers and engineers. There were, for example, four university educated engineers amongst the immediate descendants of Rodney Lee Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.5, 1893 - 1967) and Mary Pauline Coble (1896-1991). In addition, Thomas Levi Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.4) born in Scotland Neck 24 August 1924, worked for NASA as an aeronautical research scientist.

As mentioned on Volume 1, page 47, the first known family engineer was Daniel Coleman (#1.1.4.1), the oldest son of William Coleman, Sr. (#1.1.4). Daniel was born in approximately 1696 in Prince George County, Virginia.

Daniel was a community leader and from all appearances, a self-taught bridge engineer and builder, based on county records, which document seven bridges that were built or repaired and two government sponsored surveying projects. Thus, he is the first known American engineer in the Coleman family. See Volume 1, Chapter 5 for additional information.

Even though personal and professional triumphs were the norm, there were, however, a number of tragedies within the family. Eleven family members died in tragic circumstances. Three died while serving in the military; three were killed by local trains; one died in a hunting accident; two died in automobile accidents; one died in his twenties from appendicitis, and one died by his own hand.

Many fought in the Civil War in Companies and Regiments of friends and neighbors. One would die but many would sit around campfires and sing “Dixie” and “Ole Dan Tucker”, both written by Daniel Decatur Emmett. “Ole Dan Tucker”, was based on lyrics sung by Rev. Dan Tucker’s Methodist slave congregation. Daniel Tucker (# 1.1.4.2.7) was the son of Frances Coleman (# 1.1.4.2), the only known daughter of William Coleman, Jr. (# 1.1.4) of Amelia County, Virginia. See Volume 1, Chapter 6 for additional information.

As previously mentioned the family would lose three children in wars. Captain Levi Phillip Coleman (1824-1864) - (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1)

CSA, "G" Company, 43rd North Carolina Infantry, survived the Battle of Gettysburg, but died from wounds suffered on 16 May 1864 at Drewry's Bluff, Virginia.

Albert Lee Coleman (1891 – 1918) - (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.7) was born 22 June 1891 in Merry Mount, and died in battle on 29 September 1918. He was assigned to Company H, 120<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 30<sup>th</sup> Division. He was killed in action at the Battle of Bellicourt and Nauroy, France. Letters from and concerning Albert Lee Coleman can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 49 and 50.

William Richard Coleman (1886 - 1918), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.1) Company B, 23<sup>rd</sup> Engineers, passed away on 27 February 1918 of pneumonia shortly after reaching Brest, France. This was just before the influenza pandemic that killed more people than the Great War itself. The "Spanish Flu" influenza of 1918-1919 was a global disaster, killing an estimated 100 million of the Earth's population per John M. Barry, author of, *The Great Influenza*.

It is fortunate that inhabitants of Merry Mount and Wise, North Carolina, appear to have escaped the deadly influenza epidemic of 1918.

Trains would take the lives of three members of the Coleman family. Robert Hill Coleman (1888 - 1902), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.2) was tragically killed on 12 August 1902 at the age of 14 by a mail train of the Seaboard Air Line Railroad, which ran through Wise and Merry Mount, North Carolina.

Dell Sophronia Coleman Neville (1893 -1935), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.6) and her daughter Viola B. Neville (1916 – 1935), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.6.1) were in a car which was struck by Seaboard Air Line Train No. 4 on 20 May 1935 at 3:20 PM. Both were killed. The accident occurred at a private crossing opposite the driveway leading to Captain Levi P. Coleman's house from Paschall Station Road.

Kate Shaw Coleman (1912 -1937), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.1.1) was killed at the age of 24 in an automobile accident in Warrenton at the

intersection of North Carolina Highway 158 and North Main Street. Mildred Ann “Millie” Peeler (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.2.2) died in an automobile accident outside of Wilson, North Carolina, at the age of thirty-eight,

Kate Shaw’s brother, Robert Dandridge Coleman (1916 -1930), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.1.2) had been killed seven years earlier at the age of 14 in a hunting accident on Hawtree Creek Rd, when his shotgun was accidentally discharged in the back of his car by his Irish Setter hunting dog.

In addition, a Coleman would die before the birth of his first baby. Richard Alester Coleman (1920-1942), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.4.1) died on December 16, 1942, due to an infection following an appendectomy. Richard was working as an engineer for the Newport News Shipbuilding and Drydock, Newport News, Virginia, during World War II.

Following Richard’s death, Charles F. Bailey, Engineering Director of the shipyard, said, “He came to be one of the outstanding younger men in the Engineering Department. The Institute has lost one of her brilliant and fine young graduates”. See Volume 2, Appendix 54 for additional details.

Richard Alester Coleman, Jr., was born in Massachusetts on July 8, 1943, six months after his father’s death. He would shortly thereafter be adopted by his mother’s second husband, Clayton H. Allen and thereafter took the name Richard Coleman Allen (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.4.1).

Young Richard Coleman Allen would often visit his biological grandparents in Newport News during the summers. Turning tragedy into triumph, Richard would go on to achieve recognition in the field of computer science related to seismic marine exploration in the oil and gas industry.

Lastly, a Coleman would take his own life when the harsh demands of farming became too much to bear. Henry Evans Coleman (1864 –

1927), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.3) died on 24 July 1927 from a self-inflicted gunshot wound after his field hands walked off the job while working his Warren County crops.

It was reported to the author that it was known in Warren County that many men of the Coleman family were not averse to the use of alcohol. "They had a hard time becoming intoxicated, however, since there was insufficient liquor present in the county to get them to that point."

While more than a few Coleman men were inclined to moderately indulge, chronic over indulgence would plague some family members.

The small populations of eastern Amelia County and northern Warren County in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century necessitated close cooperation of families living on adjacent farms. As might be expected, it led to marriages between Coleman cousins. For example, Martha H. Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.3.3), the daughter of Hezekiah Coleman (1792-1837), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.3), married her second cousin, Elbert King (# 1.1.4.7.3.2.2.6), the son of Jonathan King (# 1.1.4.7.3.2.2) and- Mary "Polly" White.

The marriage of known "Coleman cousins" are shown in the table below (year of birth shown). Keep in mind that any children from these marriages have two d'Aboville System identification numbers (one based on the mother and one based on the father).

Egbert Alexander Hawkes	1849	Emma Cornelia Clay	1847
# 1.1.4.1.3.9.2.4		# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3.3	
Richard Albert Coleman	1824	Julia Ann Rebecca Coleman	1835
# 1.1.4.5.5.2.6		# 1.1.4.1.7.5.7	
William Archer Coleman	1815	Sarah Smith Coleman	1826
# 1.1.4.1.3.9.4		# 1.1.4.1.7.3.5	

Elbert King	1825	Martha H. Coleman	1833
# 1.1.4.7.3.2.2.6		# 1.1.4.7.3.1.3.3	
William Coleman	1765	Susan Ann Neal	1805
# 1.1.4.5.7		# 1.1.4.7.6.1.1	
Willie Burke Coleman	1886	Alma Louise Coleman	1891
# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.2.5		# 1.1.4.1.7.3.3.3.6	
Otis Hicks Powell	1909	Nell Morton Perkinson	1907
# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.7.3		# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.2.3.4	
Raby Leigh Traylor III	1952	Linda Diane Coleman	1952
# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.6.2.1.1.1		# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.4.1	
Richard Edwin Clay	1823	Martha A.D. Coleman	1824
# 1.1.4.5.5.6.3		# 1.1.4.5.5.2.5	
John Hamilton Coleman	1850	Olivia Augusta Clay	1852
#1.1.4.7.6.1.1.2.2		# 1.1.4.5.5.2.3.4	

Additional information on family relationships can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 2.

Many of the early Colemans in Warren County were active in their nearby Methodist and Baptist churches. Robert Williams, an Irish street preacher and member of John Wesley's conferences in England, came to the American Colonies in 1769. Oral tradition tells of Robert Williams crossing the Roanoke on a flat boat in 1772.

He asked the boat man," Does anyone in these parts read the Bible and pray?" The boat man answered," Captain Coleman does". After crossing the river Williams rode his horse a short distance down the Great Wagon Trail and came to Ebenezer Coleman's farm. His first sermon there was preached under an old willow oak that survived centuries. The remnants of this tree can still be seen next to the old

Great Wagon Trail, slightly behind the Jerusalem Methodist Church on the old Coleman farm property. A carved portion of that tree is on display inside the church.

The previously mentioned willow oak tree became the center for camp meetings. Bringing their families, servants and livestock, persons would stay day after day. Some of these camp meetings lasted almost a month. In 1773, from these camp meetings, Jerusalem Methodist Church was born. Many Coleman family members are buried in its cemetery.

Jerusalem Methodist Church history suggests that Ebenezer Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1) was the farm owner during the visits of Robert Williams. While Robert Williams did indeed preach in the area next to a willow oak tree behind the church on Coleman property, the author suggests that Ebenezer Coleman was not the property's owner in 1772, since he was not born until twenty years later.

The plaque on the statue in the sanctuary of the Jerusalem United Methodist Church is inscribed, *“Robert Williams, Founder Of Jerusalem United Methodist Church In 1773, Was The First Methodist Circuit Rider To Preach In North Carolina. The Gospel Oak From Which This Statue Is Carved, Was His Meeting Place (1772) On The Coleman Farm.”*

It is concluded that the Coleman referred to in the oral tradition of the church was actually Peter or Page Mann Coleman. This places Peter or Page Coleman in Warren County prior to their recorded property purchases in 1778. Since the property was eventually owned by Ebenezer, it is concluded that his grandfather, Peter Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3), was the 1772 owner, rather than Page Mann Coleman (# 1.1.4.4.5). Peter was not mentioned in the tax rolls of Amelia County, Virginia, after 1769, and was thus, most likely, in Warren County, North Carolina, by 1772.

Since Peter Coleman was not a Captain in the militia, it is concluded that the boat man was using the term as a sign of respect rather than in recognition of military rank.

The Colemans of the early and middle 1900s were to gain a loyal and family-loving benefactor with the marriage of Anna “Annie” Hester Paschall (1864 – 1935) to Charles E. Coleman (1860 –1922), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1). Many Coleman children would have their lives influenced by the largesse of Annie Paschall’s brothers, especially Lee Paschall.

At the age of sixteen Eleanor Morton Coleman (1898 – 1945), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.7) was a patient in a Richmond, Virginia hospital for rheumatic fever. It is reported that “Uncle Lee” Paschall helped with the hospital bills. Lee Paschall generously helped many Coleman relatives during his lifetime.

Four future descendants of Annie Coleman would be employed by Lee Paschall’s Wise Contracting Company. DeArcie Paul Coleman (1891 - 1976), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.4), in 1917, James Michael Paschall Coleman (1890 - 1951), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3) in 1917, James Michael Paschall Coleman, Jr. (1916 - 1976), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3.1) in 1946-1961, and James Michael Paschall Coleman, III (1946 - ), (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.3.1.3.1.2) during the summer of 1963.

It is interesting to note that Lee Paschall’s only child was named “Anna”, presumably in honor of his sister Anna “Annie” Paschall Coleman.

While the assistance of many Coleman family members by Lee Paschall is best known, he was not the first Paschall to help. Upon the death of Peter Coleman, III (1774 - 1854), (# 1.1.4.7.3.2) Robert D. Paschall was appointed Guardian of the two minor Coleman children, Peter (1.1.4.7.3.2.1) and Elizabeth 1.1.4.7.3.2.2). This is the first known evidence of family friendship between the Paschalls and the Colemans. Lee and Robert Daniel Paschall were 1<sup>st</sup> cousins, twice removed.

The early Paschalls lived on 3,297 acres just to the west of Oine, North Carolina. See Volume 1, page 593 for additional information.

In addition to those early Warren County Colemans buried at the Jerusalem United Methodist Church, many are buried in marked graves found in the private family cemetery which is located to the side of the Hugh Lee Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5) house on Paschall Station Road, 0.5 mile south of the Jerusalem United Methodist Church Cemetery. Others are buried in the cemetery on Wise-Five Forks Rd.

Many Coleman families were members of various Methodist Churches over the four hundred or so years contained within this book. Depending on the date of reference, these churches may be named as the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Methodist Church, or the United Methodist Church.

Coleman reunions are infrequently held. The first reunion during modern times was held on Sunday, July 31, 1955, at the house of Claude Glen Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.2). Early arrivals were on hand by 9:30 AM. By noon four generations of various Coleman families were on hand.

The crowd gathered around picnic tables that were laden with choice home-cooked food and Brunswick Stew. The blessing was said by Wilbur Weeks of Scotland Neck, North Carolina. "A pleasant afternoon was given over to conversation and reminiscing of past occasions".

Among those present were:

- Roger Peeler and wife Mildred Coleman Peeler (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.2) and daughter Mildred Ann Peeler of Fremont, North Carolina;
- Marvin Britt and wife Shirley Coleman Britt (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.5) and daughters Ruth Marie and Delores Ann Britt of Raleigh;
- Van Earl Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.4) and his wife, Hazel Floyd Coleman and their children Linda Diane and Michael Earl, all of Norlina;



- Emma Rose Langford of Norlina, daughter of Rebecca Twisdale and niece of Melissa A. Twisdale Paschall.
- Edith Westlake Rose Duffell of Henderson (granddaughter of Rebecca Twisdale)
- Hattie Driscoll Rose Hodges of Washington, D.C., granddaughter of Rebecca Twisdale.
- Rebecca Rose Frazier (granddaughter of Rebecca Twisdale) and children Leon G. Frazier Jr and Betty Rose Frazier all of Henderson.
- John Early Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.3.1) and daughter, Francis Ellen Coleman of South Hill;
- Mrs. Vashtie Coleman Perkinson (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.5.4); Hiram Perkinson Jr. and wife, Pearl Bobbit Perkinson and sons Phil, Hiram III, Donald and Ronald Perkinson;
- Irving Alexander Coleman Sr. (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3) and wife Susie Cook Coleman and daughter Jean Coleman of Scotland Neck;
- Mrs. Bertha Mae Coleman Edwards (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.7), (daughter of Irving Alexander Coleman) and son Sam Edwards of Scotland Neck;
- Irving Coleman Jr. (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.1.3) and wife Adele Glover Coleman and children Barbara, Brenda and Irving Coleman III of Scotland Neck;
- Wilbur Weeks and wife Lucy Rose Coleman Weeks (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.2) and daughter Sue Weeks of Scotland Neck;
- George Lee Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.3) and wife Lillian Nyberg Coleman and children George Lee Coleman Jr., and Constance Lynn Coleman of Scotland Neck;
- Sallie Zelma Rose Mabry (granddaughter of Rebecca Twisdale) of Henderson.
- Willard Waverly Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.3) and wife Sudie Clark Coleman and daughters Barbara and Virginia Ann Coleman of Epson, North Carolina;
- Van Allen Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9) and Lucy Ruth “Nancy” King Coleman of Norlina;
- Thomas Levi Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.4) and daughters Beth and Susan Coleman of Warwick, Virginia;

- Mrs. Virginia Ann Coleman Preney (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.10) of Warwick, Virginia;
- Mrs. Lillian Pearl Coleman Hines (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.8) of Baltimore;
- William Glenn Coleman and wife Kathleen Benson Coleman and children Geraldine, Glenn Jr. and Johnny Mack Coleman;
- Richard Arrington Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.2.3) and wife Patsy Ann Davis Coleman and children Lisa and Lou Ann Coleman.

A more recent reunion was held on Sunday, 12 August 1979. Approximately 125 Coleman descendants and relatives attended at the Old Wise School. A welcome was extended by Shirley Coleman Britt (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.5) of Luray, Virginia, and the invocation was given by Everett Levi Hines of Baltimore, Maryland. Everett Levi was the son of Lillian Pearl Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.8).

Doris Hines Leitzel (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.8.4) organized the reunion with the assistance of her sister Florence Louise Hines (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.8.2) of Levittown; Pennsylvania; their cousin Shirley Coleman Britt of Luray, Virginia, and Shirley's sister-in-law Hazel Floyd Coleman of Norlina. Floyd was the wife of Van Earl Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.9.4). Van Earl and Shirley were siblings.

A bountiful meal, prepared by those attending, and warm friendship provided an enjoyable occasion.

Those in attendance were from Norlina, Warrenton, Inez, Wilson, Rocky Mount, Red Oak, Scotland Neck, Roanoke Rapids, Raleigh, Battleboro, Nashville, Creedmore, Chapel Hill, and various other places in the state; Levittown, Pennsylvania.; South Hill, Luray, Newport News and Virginia Beach, Virginia, and Kentucky.

Special recognition was given to the person who came the farthest, the youngest and to Mrs. Ruena Alston Coleman for being the oldest. Ruena was the wife of Claude Glen Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.2) and at that time was just shy of eighty-one years old.

Shirley Coleman Britt and Doris Hines Leitzel were recognized for organizing the reunion.

Doris Hines Leitzel gave a history of the Coleman family using information that she had obtained for later publication. Nancy Coleman Dickens (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.3.6) of Scotland Neck and Marvin Holt Coleman (# 1.1.4.7.3.1.1.1.7.12.2) of Norlina agreed to serve as president and treasurer, respectively.

As you can see some members of the Coleman family still live in Warren County, but many have scattered to the four winds. Some are in Richmond, Raleigh, and Rocky Mount and Scotland Neck. Others are scattered across the country. Many, however, return to Warren County's three cemeteries, located around the old homesteads, to be laid to eternal rest with their ancestors. As a reference, a synopsis of local cemetery records can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 68, 69 and 70.

For those interested, the descendants of Robert Coleman (# 1.1) after having proven their lineage, are eligible for membership in The National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. The term "Pilgrim" denotes any immigrant who settled before 1700 within the territory which began the forty-eight contiguous states of the United States of America without regard to religion or place of origin. Additional information can be found in Volume 2, Appendix 71.

