

CROSS

THE NAME AND FAMILY

OF

CROSS

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## THE NAME AND FAMILY OF CROSS

The name of CROSS is believed to have been derived from the residence of its first bearers near or at the cross or crossroads. It is probable that the name was taken into England, by one of the followers of William the Conqueror at the time of the Norman Conquest of England in 1066, in the form of de la Croix. The name is found on ancient English records in the various spellings of Croix, Croise, Croice, Croys, Croyz, Cruce, Cruis, Cros, Crosse, and Cross, of which the last is the form most generally accepted in America today, and was frequently used with the prefixes de, de la, del, atte, at, and ad.

Probably the progenitor of the family in England was Richard de la Croyz, who is believed to have been of French descent and was living in Lancashire, England, about 1272. He was the father of Adam de Cruce, father of John, father of Thurstan, William, and Matilda, of whom the first appears to have been the grandfather of Huzo or Hugo del Crosse, who was the father of Richard, father of John Crosse, who had Richard, William, and Margaret. The last-mentioned Richard was the father of Roger, John, Blanche,

Margaret, James, and others, of whom the son James made his home in London and was the father by his wife, Margaret Cotes, of John, Thomas, Christopher, and Elizabeth. Of these children, John had, among others, a son named John, who resided in Lancashire and was the father by his wife, Alice Hall, of a son named Richard, who died in 1619, leaving issue by his wife, Ann Langton, of John, Robert, and William, of whom the first had issue in the early seventeenth century of Richard, John, Thomas, and Robert.

Among other early records of the family in England are those of Jordan ad Crucem or Cruce of Buckinghamshire in 1273, Humfrey de Cruce about the same time, Conan ad Crucem of Lincolnshire at a slightly later date, Roger del Cros of Northumberland in 1292, John atte Cross in 1302, Sampson atte Croice of Somersetshire in 1347, Johannes del Crosse and Andreas de la Croys of Yorkshire in 1379, and John de la Croix of Berkshire about the same time.

William Crosse of Somersetshire in the early sixteenth century was the father of a son named William, who had issue of Sir Robert and Elizabeth.

John Cruis resided in Devonshire in the first half of the sixteenth century and was the father of Humphrey, who was the father of Lewis, John, Humphrey, Robert, George, and numerous others. The son Lewis was the father in the early

seventeenth century of Alexander, Matthew, Henry, and two daughters.

In the latter sixteenth century Stephen Crosse of London, England, was the father of a son named Thomas. This Thomas made his home in County Essex and was the father of Stephen, who had two sons, Stephen and Peter.

Although it is not entirely clear, in every case, from which of the many lines of the family in England the first emigrants of the name to America were descended, it is generally believed that most, if not all, of the Crosses derive from a common European ancestor of a remote period. Members of the family in England appear to have been for the most part of the landed gentry and yeomanry and many bearers of the name were to be found among the early British colonists in the New World.

Probably the first of the name in America was Robert Cross of Ipswich, Mass., in 1634, who is believed to have been the son of one Thomas Cross (son of another Thomas) and his wife, Rachel Dising, of Denham, England. The immigrant Robert had issue by his wife, Ann or Hannah Jordan, of Elizabeth, Robert, Martha, Stephen, Sarah, Ralph, and possibly Nathaniel, George, and John, although the last three are not certain.

A William Cross resided at Wethersfield and

Windsor, Conn., as early as the year 1644. He appears to have been the father of a son named Samuel and possibly of others as well.

Nathaniel Cross living at Windsor and Stamford, Conn., about 1645 may have been accompanied to this country by a brother named John. Nathaniel left issue there of Hannah, Abigail, Deborah, Nathaniel, John, and others. Some family historians are of the opinion that these brothers were sons of the before-mentioned immigrant Robert.

Another John Cross was living at Wells, Me., about the year 1647. He was the father by his wife Frances of two sons, John and Joseph.

Peter Cross, who may possibly have been descended from one of the earlier lines in New England, removed from Ipswich to Windham, Conn., about 1673 or shortly thereafter. By his wife, Mary, he was the father of Mary, Stephen, Elizabeth, Peter, Daniel, Experience, Abigail, Mary, and Wade.

Others of the name who emigrated to America in the seventeenth century but left few records of themselves or their immediate families and descendants were John of Watertown, Mass., in 1634; James of Virginia in 1635; Henry of New England in 1635; John of Ipswich, Mass., in 1635; Joseph of Plymouth in 1638; Nicholas of Lower Norfolk County,

Va., in 1643; and John of Boston, Mass., in 1663.

The offspring of these and later lines of the family in America have removed to various parts of the country and have aided materially in the progress of the nation. On the whole the record of the family in America is that of a conservative and practical race, of high integrity and considerable intellectual ability.

Among those of the name who fought in the War of the Revolution wer Captain William, of Pennsylvania; Sargeants Eleazer, Peleg, Samuel, William, and George, of Massachusetts; Captain John, of Massachusetts; and numerous others from the various other New England states.

Richard, John, James, Robert, Humphrey, Stephen, Thomas, George, Nathaniel, Joseph, Peter, Henry, and William are some of the Christian names most favored by the family for its male progeny.

A few of the many members of the family who have distinguished themselves in America in more recent times are:

Charles Robert Cross (1848-1921), of New York, physicist.

Charles Whitman Cross (b. 1854), of Massachusetts, geologist.

Wilbur Lucius Cross (b. 1862), of Connecticut, educator and Governor of Connecticut.

Anson Kent Cross (b. 1862), of Massachusetts, art educator.

Ira Brown Cross (b. 1880), of Illinois, economist and author.

John Walter Cross (b. 1878), of New Jersey, architect.

Oliver Harlan Cross (b. 1870), of Alabama, lawyer and Congressman from Texas.

Samuel Hazzard Cross (b. 1891), of Rhode Island, educator.

Tom Peete Cross (b. 1879), of Virginia, professor of English and comparative literature.

One of the most ancient and frequently recurrent of the coats of arms of the English family of Cross is that described as follows (Burke, General Armory, 1884):

Arms.--"Quarterly, gules and or, in the first and fourth quarters a cross potent of the last."

Crest.--"A stork holding in his beak a cross formee."

Motto.--"Cruce dum spero fido."

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## WHY YOU HAVE A FAMILY NAME AND WHAT IT MEANS

Primitive personal names doubtless originated soon after the invention of spoken language, in the dark ages long preceding recorded history. For thousands of years thereafter first or given names were the only designations that men and women bore; and at the dawn of historic times, when the world was less crowded than it is today and every man knew his neighbor, one title of address was sufficient. Only gradually, with the passing centuries and the increasing complexity of civilized society, did a need arise for more specific designations. While the roots of our system of family names may be traced back to early civilized times, actually the hereditary surname as we know it today dates from scarcely more than nine hundred years ago.

A surname is a name added to a baptismal or given name for the purposes of making it more specific and of indicating family relationship or descent. Classified according to origin, most surnames fall into four general groups: 1) those formed from the given name of the sire; 2) those arising from bodily or personal characteristics; 3) those derived from locality or place of residence; and 4) those derived from occupation. It is easier to understand the story of the development of our institution of surnames if these classifications are borne in mind.

As early as Biblical times certain distinguishing appellations were occasionally employed in addition to the given name, as, for

instance, Joshua the son of Nun, Azariah the son of Nathan, Judas of Galilee, and Simon the Zealot. In ancient Greece a daughter was named after the father, as Chryseis, daughter of Chryses; and a son's name was often an enlarged form of his father's, as Hieronymus, son of Hiero. The Romans, with the rise of their civilization, met the need for hereditary designations by inventing a complex system whereby every patrician took several names. None of them, however, exactly corresponded to surnames as we know them, for the "clan name", although hereditary, was given also to slaves and other dependents. This system proved to be but a temporary innovation; the overthrow of the Western Empire by barbarian invaders brought about its end and a reversion to the primitive custom of a single name.

The ancient Scandinavians and for the most part the Germans had only individual names, and there were no family names, strictly speaking, among the Celts. But as family and tribal groups grew in size, individual names became inadequate and the need for supplementary designations began to be felt. Among the first employed were such terms as the Hardy, the Sterns, the Dreadful-in-Battle; and the nations of northern Europe soon adopted the practice of adding the father's name to the son's, as Oscar son of Carnuth and Dermid son of Duthno.

True surnames, in the sense of hereditary appellations, date in England from about the year 1000. Largely they were introduced from Normandy, although there are records of Saxon surnames prior to the Norman Conquest. During the reign of Edward the Confessor

(1042-1066) there were Saxon tenants in Suffolk bearing such names as Suert Magno, Stigand Soror, Siuward Rufus, and Leuric Hobbesune (Hobson); and the Domesday record of 1085-1086, which exhibits some curious combinations of Saxon forenames with Norman family names, shows surnames in still more general use. By the end of the twelfth century hereditary names had become common in England. But even by 1465 they were not universal. During the reign of Edward V a law was passed to compel certain Irish outlaws to adopt surnames; "They shall take unto them a Surname, either of some Town, or some Colour, as Blacke or Brown, or some Art of Science, as Smyth or Carpenter, or some office, as Cooke or Butler." As late as the beginning of the nineteenth century a similar decree became effective compelling Jews in Germany and Austria to add a German surname to the single names that they had previously used.

As stated above, family names fall into four general classes according to their origin. One of these classes comprises surnames derived from the given name of the father. Such names were formed by adding a prefix or suffix denoting either "son of" or a diminutive. English names terminating in son (or the contraction s), ing, and kin are of this type, as are also the innumerable names prefixed with the Gaelic Mac, the Norman Fitz, the Irish O, or the Welsh ap. Thus the sons of John became Johnsons; the sons of William, Williamsons or Wilsons; the sons of Richard, Richardsons or Richardses; the sons of Neill, MacNeills; the sons of Herbert, FitzHerberts; the sons of Reilly, O'Reillys; and the sons of Thomas ap Thomases (ap has been drop from many names of

which it was formerly a part). There are also German, Netherlandish, Scandinavian, and other European surnames of similar formation, such as the Scandinavian names ending in sen.

Another class of surnames, those arising from some bodily or personal characteristic of their first bearer, apparently grew out of what were in the first instance nicknames. Thus Peter the strong became Peter Strong, Roger of small stature became Roger Little or Roger Small, and black-haired William or blond Alfred became William Black or Alfred White. A few examples of names of this type are Long, Short, Hardy, Wise, Good, Gladman, Lover and Youngman.

A third class of family names, and perhaps the largest of all, is that comprising local surnames-names derived from and originally designating the place of residence of the bearer. Such names were employed in France at an early date and were introduced into England by the Normans, many of whom were known by the titles of their estates. The surnames adopted by the nobility were chiefly of this type, being used with the particles de, de la, or del (meaning "of" or "of the"). The Saxon equivalent was the word atte ("at the"), found in such names as John atte Brook, Edmund atte Lane, Godwin atte Brigg, and William Atwood, and Atwater; in other cases the Norman de was substituted; and in still others, such as Wood, Briggs and Lane, the particle was dropped. The surnames of some of the Pilgrim Fathers illustrate place designations. Winthrop, for instance, means "of the friendly village"; Endicott, "an end cottage"; and Bradford, "a broad ford". The suffixes

"ford", "ham", "ley", and "ton", denoting locality, are of frequent occurrence in such English names as Ashford, Bingham, Burley and Norton.

Commencing about the time of Edward the Confessor a fourth class of surnames arose -- names derived from occupation. The earliest of these seem to have been official names, such as Bishop, Mayor, Alderman, Reeve, Sheriff, Chamberlain, Chancellor, Chaplain, Deacon, Latimer (interpreter), Marshall, Sumner (summoner), and Parker (parkkeeper). Trade and craft names, although of the same general type, were a slightly later development. Currier was a dresser of skins, Webster a weaver, Wainwright a wagonbuilder, and Baxter a baker. Such names as Smith, Taylor, Barber, Shepherd, Carter, Mason, and Miller are self-explanatory.

Some surnames of today which seem to defy classification or explanation are corruptions of ancient forms that have become disguised almost beyond recognition. For instance, Troublefield was originally Tuberville, Wrinch was Renshaw, Diggles was Douglas, Sinnocks and Snooks were Sevenoaks, Barrowcliff and Berrycloth were Barraclough, and Strawbridge was Stourbridge. Such corruptions of family names, resulting from ignorance of spelling, variations in pronunciation, or merely from the preference of the bearer, tend to baffle both the genealogist and the etymologist. Shakespeare's name is found in some twenty-seven different forms, and the majority of English and Anglo-American surnames have, in their history, appeared in four to a dozen or more variant spellings.

In the United States a greater variety of family names exists

than anywhere else in the world. Surnames in every race and nation are represented. While a substantial number are of English, Scotch, Irish, Welsh, and Western European origin, brought to this country by scions of families that had borne these names for generations prior to immigration, many others have come from Central and Southern Europe and the Slavic countries, where the use of surnames is generally a more recently established practice. Some families had no fixed surname until after their arrival in America; and in other cases emigrants from Continental Europe or their descendants have translated or otherwise modified their names. These factors contribute to the difficulties encountered by students of etymology and family history.

Those Americans who possess old and honored names -- who trace their surnames back to sturdy immigrant ancestors, or beyond, across the seas and into the mists of antiquity--may be rightfully proud of their heritage. While the name, in its origin, may seem ingenious, humble, surprising, or matter-of-fact, its significance today lies not in a literal interpretation of its initial meaning but in the many things that have happened to it since it first came into use. In the beginning it was only a label to distinguish one John from his neighbor John who lived across the field. But soon it established itself as part of the bearer's individuality; and as it passed to his children, his children's children, and their children, it became the symbol not of one man but of a family and all that the family stood for. Handed down from generation to generation, the surname grew inseparably associated with the

achievement, the tradition, and the prestige of the family. Like the coat of arms--that vivid symbolization of the name which warrior ancestors bore in battle--the name itself has become a badge of family honor. It has become the "good name" to be proud of and to protect as one's most treasured possession.

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CROSS

○ EXCERPT FROM INDEX OF BOOK "THE GOODWIN FAMILY OF CENTRAL N.C." BY THOMAS JERRY GOODWIN, SR - 2009 RPU 24NOV2012. - NOTE: INDIVIDUALS LISTED AS MEMBERS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY - [WAKE/CHATHAM COUNTIES]

Cross

Frances Louisa 127, 128

Parish 57

Richard E 448



# WILLS OF THE CROSS FAMILY IN NC

In His 6 JAN 1990  
 Viki Marie Barefoot  
 to RPU

041 - Gates Co.  
 104 - Wilkes Co.  
 032 - Davidson Co.  
 083 - Robeson Co.

<u>Cross</u>	<u>county</u>	<u>year</u>	
Abraham	041 ✓	1830	085 - Rowan Co.
Asel	104 ✓	1820	009 - Beaufort Co.
Charity	041 ✓	1884	071 - Northampton Co.
Christian	041 ✓	1828	016 - Cabarrus Co.
Cyprian	041 ✓	1810	022 - Chatham Co.
David	032 ✓	1878	099 - Wake
David	041 ✓	1823	} same?
David	041 ✓	1823	
Elizabeth	083 ✓	1803	
Emily	041 ✓	1863	
Etheldred	041 ✓	1854	
George	032 ✓	1860	
Hardy	041 ✓	1816	
Hardy	041 ✓	1884	
Isabel	032 ✓	1864	
Jacob	085 ✓	1803	
James	009 ✓	1832	
Jesse R.	071 ✓	1823	
John	032 ✓	1873	→ <span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 5px;">William 099 ✓ 1814</span>
Lemuel L.	071 ✓	1845	
Leonard	032 ✓	1865	Willis 041 ✓ 1859
m. m.	016 ✓	1887	
Mary	032 ✓	1885	
Mary	041 ✓	1793	
Matilda R.	NY	1893	
<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Nancy</span>	022 ✓	1884	
<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Parish</span>	022 ✓	1837	
Peter, Sr.	032 ✓	1848	
Riddick	041 ✓	1866	
Sarah	041 ✓	1853	
<span style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 2px;">Square</span>	022 ✓	1879	

## CROSS FAMILY

The Cross Ancestors of RPH are the subject of a Booklet entitled "CROSS TIES" by Jerry Lee Cross whose profile see for a copy of the Booklet -  
Entry 12 AUG 2009.

## CROSS FAMILY

EXTRACTS ON FIVE BOOKS ABOUT THE CROSS  
FAMILY ARE ATTACHED - MADE BY RPA  
ON 11 MAR 1980 ON A VISIT TO DAR NDQS  
IN WASHINGTON, DC

BOOK "Some Genealogical Data Concerning  
Cross, Bradford, Clemmons, Hanley,  
Mehley, Heksey, Dillman and Pitzer  
Families

by Ira Brown Cross

1952 Berkeley CA

Memographed by Edwards Bros, Inc  
Ann Arbor, Michigan. - 25 pages

Inspected by RPK 11 MAR 1980 DAR Library - Wash DC

Much uncertainty as to first American Cross

1. Robert Cross, born England 26 JUN 1633 - arrived  
in America on "Mary & John" 1634 &  
settled Ipswich, MA.

2. William Cross - probably b Ghent, Belgium  
went to London England then came  
to America in 1624. Settled in Conn.

3. Robert Cross (1) had a son Peter Cross b  
1653 although some say Peter Cross  
was son of William Cross (2).

Much uncertainty as to which group of  
Crosses in America came from 1, 2, 3-

Tradition says Cross family in America  
was French Huguenot & originally was  
De La Croix. William Cross spelled his  
name "Crosse" and sometimes "LaCrosse"

Note: In scanning this book I note that  
the families reported, especially the Cross  
groups, lived in New England. Their  
migration in later generations appeared  
to be to the mid-west and far-west.  
I see no indication that any  
moved south to VA or NC so the  
chances that any of these are my  
Cross ancestors is unlikely - RPK

BOOK "Descendants of John Cross 1761-1847  
and Elizabeth Hardwick 1769-1842 of  
Virginia

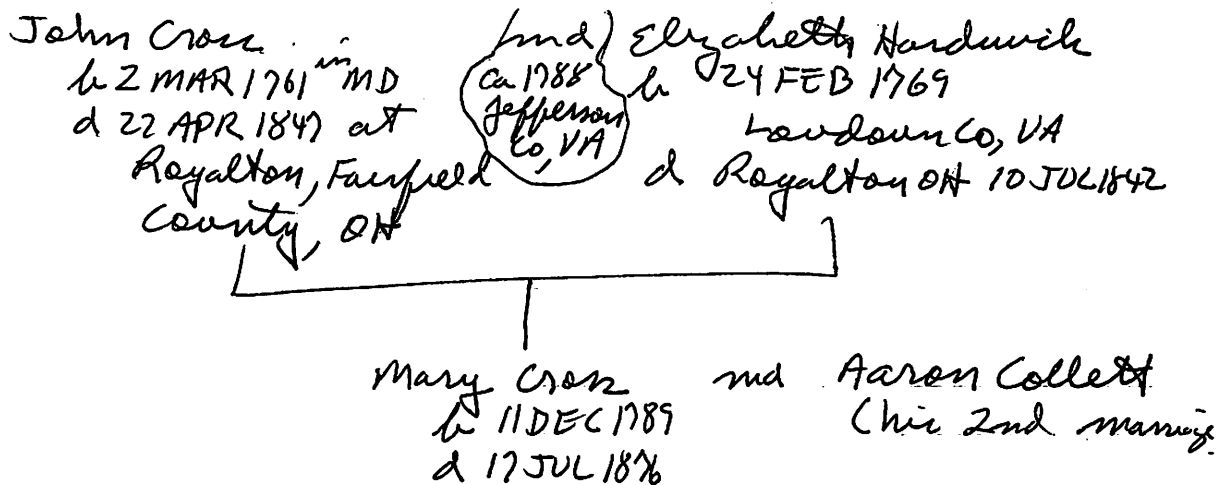
Representing five generations of Daughters  
of the American Revolution

Prepared by -- Miss Helen E. Tucker  
Samuel Gorton Chapter, D.C. 1954

[Inspected by RPH in DAR Library - Washington DC 11 MAR 1980]  
Note: This 27 page document (including inserts)  
includes a Cross family which started  
in VA. Some substantial portion of  
descendants appeared in the mid-west.  
There is no indication of a NC  
contingent hence no hint that  
this group could be a part of  
my Cross ancestry - RPH

One interesting bit on Collett's

Page 14.



BOOK: "The Cross Family of Exeter, NH and  
Waldo Co, Maine.

1850 Census, Belmont, Maine.

Compiled by Theoda Mears Morse  
of Altadena, CA. 1963 210 pages

[Renewed by RPU in DAR Library - Wash DC 11 MAR 1985]

A quick scan of this book reveals  
that the families reported lived  
predominantly in New England,  
especially Maine. No reference  
was found to any of the  
family moving west to VA  
or NC hence the chance of  
this Cross being a part of my  
Cross ancestor is remote.

R.P.U.

BOOK: "William Cross of Botetourt Co, VA  
and his Descendants 1733-1932"

by John Newton Cross & Mary Cross Cole  
E.W. Stephens Publishing Co  
Columbia, MO 1932 258 pages

[Inspected by RPH in DAR February work DC 11 MAR 1980]

Written by 80 year old John Newton Cross - he b in MO 1850  
He says - I knew my grandfather John Cross and he  
was partly reared by his Grandfather William,  
the emigrant.

There is one NC note on pg 12 - John Newton Cross  
says "somewhere along in the 40's (1840's), Grandmother  
Cross inherited two negro women from the estate  
of her Uncle, Thomas Blythe, in North Carolina."

Author reports - Ancestor = William Cross b England  
1733, a soldier in General Braddock's army sent  
over from England in 1755 to take part in  
the French & Indian War. He was wounded &  
lived in Botetourt, Co VA and died there 1795.  
He had 3 dau + 2 son → John + William

↳ 2 son + many dau  
↳ Lewis a halitator  
②

From a professional genealogist in England "Cross  
is a fairly common name in Lancashire and  
Cheshire. It would be easier for me to trace them  
through the Parish Registers, Will, Chancery  
Proceedings, etc, if you wish the enquiry extended.  
-----"

Author says he relied on records - in VA, KY, IN,  
IL, MO.

Book has index - Mo li, Vesters, Two RPH's

This scan shows no reason to believe that  
Cross group includes my Cross ancestor - RPH

BOOK: "My Children's Ancestors"  
by Rev R. T. Cross.

"Data concerning about 400 New England Ancestors  
of the children of Roselle Theodore Cross.  
Published Tinsburg, OH 1913 212 Pages

Inspected by RPH - DAR February - Wash DC 11 MAR 80

Has Index - No W's Rays - Vesters, Sledge,

It appears that this group traces back  
to New England - No reference  
to NC - hence unlikely that these  
embrace my Cross Ancestors - RPH



CROSS FAMILY - WILLS (NC)

See Will File for a listing of 31  
Cross Wills in NC. Give name  
of person making the will, the  
year of probate and the county.

[In the 6 JAN 1990 Vichi Marie  
Bauford to RPT]

# CROSS FAMILY

See Str 27 FEB 1996 Jerry L. Cross D RPU

ANCESTORS OF SILAS CROSS FROM WHOM RPU & JLCA ARE DESCENDED

I. William Cross - Probable ancestor of those listed below. He is probably the original immigrant William Cross who arrived in Charles City Co, VA in 1656 as a Headright under Howell Pryse (Price)

A. John Cross b 1660-670 (p Charles City Co, VA) & 1731 (Charles City Co, VA)

md (1) Jane Featherstone

1. Hannah Cross

2. William Cross b p Charles City Co, VA & 1780 (Sussex Co, VA)

md (1) - - -

a. Richard Cross

b. John Cross

c. Edward Cross

d. William Cross b 1754 (VA, p SUSSEX CO, VA)

md (1st) 1780 (1) Rebecca Wallcut - m MOT of mother

md (2nd) (1) Rachel - -

i. Sarah Cross

ii. Martha Cross

iii. Francis Cross

iv. William Cross

v. Mary Cross

vi. Nancy Cross

vii. Priscilla Cross

viii. Thomas Cross

ix. Elizabeth Cross

x. Richard Cross b 1790 (VA, p Sussex Co) & 1850-180

md 1814 (Wake Co, NC) Rebecca Brown & before 1839

A former

(I) Charles Cross

(II) Mouring Cross

(III) Silas Cross b 1828 (Wake Co, NC) & { NOV 1878 - FEB 1878

(IV) Thomas Cross b 1830

(V) Andriana Cross b 1832

- Mary Cross
- Featherstone Cross
- Richard Cross
- Charles Cross
- Elias Cross
- John Cross
- Samuel Cross
- Judith Cross
- Jane Cross

MOVED VA → NC BETWEEN 1791 & 1800

CROSS FAMILY

REC'D IN LTR 27AUG 1999 RICHARD FENTON WICKER, JR TO RPA. CONSISTS OF PG 104-114 OF A FUTURE BOOK "THE CROSS FAMILY" - RPA WILL PROCESS FROM THIS COPY PLACED IN BIOFILE SYSTEM

THE CROSS FAMILY

Chapter Two

THE CROSS FAMILY

Parrish Cross is our first proven ancestor of the Cross family. According to family records, he was born in Suffolk, VA, and moved to North Carolina in the 1770s. He had one known brother, John Henry Cross, who married in Gates County, NC, listing himself as from Nansemond Co, VA. Several Cross families were found in Nansemond County, VA, but none have have been proven as relatives. The book, The Cleggs of Old Chatham, lists the father of Parrish Cross as Richard Cross. No verification of this has been found, and the reference is too obscure to be accepted at present.

The Cross family apparently arose in Charles City County, Virginia. The will of John Cross, probated the first Wednesday of March, 1730/1, Westover Parish, in Charles City County, mentions his wife, Jane, and children, William, John, Richard, Charles, Elias, Parrish, Featherstone, Judith, Hannah, and Jane. This Parrish was a seagoing mariner and was at sea when the will was probated. It was reported to the court that Parrish Cross had been seen lately in Newport, RI. He is too old to be our Parrish and appears to have had no children. Thus, there is a one generation gap in the family history. Presumably one of Parrish Cross' nephews named a child for his seafaring Uncle. The family moved from Charles City County toward open land south into what is now Nansemond County and the city of Suffolk.

In 1743, a survey was made in Amelia County, VA, for an access road for William Cross. In 1759 John Cross married Elizabeth Cock in Amelia County. In 1779, Hardy Cross of Nansemond County, VA, gives a deed. Hardy Cross had land in both Nansemond County, VA, and in Gates County, NC. The brother of our Parrish Cross, John Henry, lived in Gates County, NC, and named one of his children Hardy. Both John Henry and Parrish used the name Henry as a middle name with their children. John Henry Cross listed his residence on his Gates Co, NC, marriage license as Nansemond Co, VA

Thus, it appears that we have the trail for the family but no concrete evidence as to who was the father of John Henry and Parrish Cross. The best supposition is that a son of John and Jane Cross named a child Parrish after their brother, the sailor. This would have been in Nansemond County, VA, where David, Hardy, Jonathan, Samuel, and William Cross lived. But, which one is the

PE  
104-  
108  
COPIED  
FOR  
BIOFILE  
OF  
PARRISH  
CROSS

parent of Parrish and John Henry Cross?

Parrish is evidently the older brother as his children are older. I have no estimate of the age of John Henry Cross. His wife, Sarah (Lee) Cross, was born in 1782 in Virginia. Her will was probated in the February term of court, 1853, in Gates County, NC. So, we begin with Parrish:

Parrish Cross, born ca 1760, Suffolk, VA, moved to Chatham County, NC, as a very young man. He married ca 1792 Elizabeth Williams, b. 1776, daughter of Burwell and Mary (Pickney) Williams of Chatham County, NC. Parrish Cross was a successful farmer and his will shows his holdings as extensive. He lived in the southeast corner of Chatham County in the area of Buckhorn community. He constructed and owned mills on Buckhorn Creek. His holdings give improbability to the myth that Parrish fled an unsatisfactory apprenticeship in Virginia. He would have inherited from his very wealthy father-in-law, Burwell Williams, only about 146 acres of land. Obviously he came with resources which he spent for his own additional property. Parrish Cross could evidently read and write as his estate included books and a bookcase.

His will was written 20 Jun 1837 and was proven in the month of October, 1837 in Chatham County. The text is as follows:

In the name of God, Amen. I Parrish Cross of the county of Chatham and the state of North Carolina being in a feeble state of body and health but in a perfect and disposing state of mind thanks be to God for the same, do make, ordain, and publish this my last will and testament in the following manner, to wit, I give my body to the earth from whence it came to be buried in decent Christian burial nothing doubting but that I shall receive "the same" again in the hands of Almighty God who gave it and as to my earthly goods and chattel I give and dispose of them in manner and form as hereinafter mentioned-

Item 1st. I lend to my beloved wife Elizabeth Cross one lott of land containing ninety acres which I purchased from William Utley, also one other lott which I purchased from William Buttrell, whereon the dwelling house I now live in stands, also one other lott of land which I purchased from William Boylan containing fifty three acres all of which I lend her during her natural life. I also lend my beloved wife Elizabeth one third of my mills on Buckhorn Creek during her natural life. I also lend my beloved wife Elizabeth Cross five negroe slaves, to wit, Hardin, Beby, Fanny, Milly, and Gray. I also lend her my carriage and two mules, and one sorrel mare, three cows and calves, ten head of sheep, ten head of hoggs, one yoke

of oxen and cart, and also all such household and kitchen furniture as she may think proper to keep, except such as shall be hereinafter disposed of, also I leave my wife all such of the plantation tools as maybe thought necessary to use on the farm, also one years provisions and one hundred dollars which I give her.

△  
△  
△+△ Item 2nd. I give and bequeath to my beloved son Henry Cross that part of a tract of land I purchased from George Schult not divided to Deberry Chapman. Also twenty eight acres I purchased from Gabriel Utley it being a part of the Temperance Hinton lott. I also give my son Henry Cross all the land that is herein devised to my wife at her death also one negroe slave named Sandy, one cow and calf, one sow and pigs, one bed and furniture, and a rifle gun.

Item 3rd. I give and bequeath to my beloved daughter Elizabeth Cross two negroe slaves named Mariah and Penny and their increase. I also give her one feather bed and furniture also one trunk and a dripping table. I also give my daughter Elizabeth one yellow filly and a saddle and bridle.

□+△  
△+△+△ Item 4th. I give and bequeath to my beloved sons William and Richard Cross each one third of my mills on Buckhorn Creek during the lifetime of my wife and at her death I give them the mills jointly to them both. I also give to my two sons William Cross and Richard Cross one acre of land on Beaver Dam Creek it being an acre I got from Seth Cotten. I also give my two sons William and Richard all that tract belonging to the mill tract also the tract I purchased from Jesse S-- except what I have conveyed to Williams Cross by deed.

Item 5th. It is my will that the balance of my land be sold and the proceeds to be equally divided between my daughters and it is my will that all my estate not bequeathed by this will shall be sold by my executors and the proceeds thereof be equally divided between my eight children.

Item 6th. It is also my will that at the death of my wife all the estate that shall remain with her to her death shall be sold and equally divided share and share alike between my eight children and it is my will that my children shall not be accountable to each other for any property that I have heretofore given or conveyed to them sense they have left me.

Item 7th. It is also my will that if my negroes that are left to be sold should be purchased by the legatees that my executors in that case not charge commission on the amount of sales of the negroes.



Given under our hands this 14th day of Dec 1837

/s/ Wm Avent      Δ  
/s/ F. Rollins    Δ  
/s/ G. H. Shultz   Δ

Williams and Richard Cross, executors of the Last Will and Testament of their father Parrish Cross, made an inventory of the property loaned to their mother, Elizabeth. The rules of inheritance were such that the wife inherited nothing but was loaned or given a lifetime estate in the property. On her death, one of the children inherited. The inventory named:

5 negroes, namely Farthing, Edy, Fanny, Milly, & Gray, 2 mules, 1 mare, 3 cows & calves, 10 head of hogs, 10 head of sheep, 1 yoke of steers, 1 cart, 1 pleasure carriage, framing tools, 5 beds & furniture, 2 tables, 1 sideboard, 1 clock, 2 chest, 15 chairs, 3 pots, 2 ovens, 1 bakery, 1 loom, 2 pr fire dogs, 2 looking glasses, 2 smoothing irons, 1 grindstone, knives & forks, 1 dozen silver spoons, 1 set of chiney, 1 desk, 1 bookcase, 1 cutting machine, 1 Dutch fan, 1 pr scales & weights & some books.

Given under our hands this 14th day of Dec 1837.

/s/ Williams Cross  
/s/ Richard Cross

Feby Term 1838

Sworn to in open court.

Signature, Chair

To the best of knowledge, only one of Parrish Cross' children did not marry. Two are mentioned specifically in the will. This is because Elizabeth married after the death of her father. Henry did not marry and the death of Henry is noted. The family is:

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First Generation:

- Δ 1. CROSS, Parrish
- Δ Parrish Cross, b. ca 1760, Suffolk, VA, d. Jul-Oct 1837 Chatham County, NC, m. Elizabeth Williams, daughter of Burwell and Mary (Pickney) Williams, b. 1776 Chatham County, NC. She died after 1837.

Issue:

- Δ (3) i. Mary (Polly), b. 1780-90, m. 12 Aug 1813 Deberry Chapman of Chatham County, NC.
- Δ (4) ii. Lucy, b. 4 Feb 1795, d. 10 Feb 1857, m. 2 Oct 1813 Gabriel Utley of Chatham County, NC
- Δ + Δ (5) iii. Charity, b. 1800, d. 1881, AR, m. John Stiles Ragland
- Δ + Δ (6) iv. Williams, b. 1797, d. 1891, m. Nancy Ragland
- Δ (7) v. Jane, b. 1 Jan 1802, d. 22 Jan 1857 Chatham Co, m. Thomas Ragland
- Δ (8) vi. Richard Deberry, b. 7 Apr 1809, d. 23 Mar 1874 in Hardeman Co, TN, m. 23 Feb 1832

- △ Sarah A. Springfield.
- △ vii. Henry C., b. 1810-20, d. 1844, unmarried
- △+△ (9) viii. Elizabeth M., b. 1815, m. Groves M. Brazier

△ 2. CROSS, John Henry

John Henry Cross, brother to Parrish Cross, was born in Nansemond Co, VA. He is listed as such on his marriage license issued in Gates Co, NC. He m. 4 Mar 1800, Gates Co, NC, Sarah Lee, b. 1782, and whose will was probated in February 1853. Their issue is provided by the Sudderth Family Papers, Southern Historical Collection, various Will and Marriage License books of Gates County, D. N. Gurly, GGGrandson of Parrish Cross, and Susan Williams Cowper, dau Henry Goodman Williams and Parmelia Lee Cross. It is in these papers that his relationship to Parrish is stated.

Issue:

- △ (9) i. Richard Henry, b. 7 Jun 1801, m. 22 Dec 1858 Margaret C. Williams, b. 7 Oct 1836.
- △ (10) ii. Hardy, b. 8 Aug 1802, will probated 2 Jun 1884, m. ca 1830 Rachel
- △ (11) iii. Parmelia Lee, b. 1 Oct 1803, m. Henry Goodman Williams
- △ (12) iv. William, b. 8 Jul 1805, m.(1) 29 Jan 1840 Margaret Williams and (2) 3 Oct 1853 Julia Williams
- v. Mary, b. 11 Nov 180?
- vi. John Pipkiss(Pipkin?), b. 20 Jan 1809
- vii. Margaret, b. 29 Oct 1811

Sources: Will, Sarah Cross, Gates Co, NC, proven Feb 1853

Second Generation:

- △ 3. CROSS, Mary (Polly)
- △ Mary (Polly) Cross, b. 1794, Chatham Co, NC, daughter
- △+△ of Parrish and Elizabeth (Williams) Cross, m. 12 Aug 1813
- △+△ in Chatham Co, NC, DeBerry L. Chapman, son of David and
- △+△ Tabitha Chapman, b. 1791 in Chatham Co, NC. They were
- △ Methodists and farmers. The family moved to Madison
- △ County, TN, in company with Richard DeBerry Cross and the
- △+△ Springfield family between 1830 and 1840. They settled in
- △ the area of Denmark, TN. DeBerry purchased the 800 acre
- △ plantation of his uncle, Thomas Williams, brother of his
- △ mother in law, Elizabeth, on 10 Nov 1850 and lived the
- rest of his life in Hardeman Co, TN. The family was in the
- 1830 census of Chatham County and is found in the 1840 and
- 1850 censuses of Madison Co, TN.

Issue:

- (13) i. George Jefferson, b. 19 Jul 1814, m. (1) Lucy Ann Jeffreys, and (2) B. J. Norwood
- ii. W., b. 1815, m. Sarah Cross ca 1848, lived Haywood Co, TN





— Co, NC, d. 1862 in Drew Co, AR. The family lived from 1823  
— to 1860 in Meriwether Co, GA, then removed to Drew Co, AR.

— Issue:

- i. Robert Samuel, b. 1825 Troup Co, GA, d. 1855 enroute to TX, m. 1850 in Meriwether Co, GA, Frances D. May
- ii. Jane, b. 1828, d. before 1862, unm.
- (19) iii. William Preston, b. 1830, Meriwether Co, GA, d. 1886 Drew Co, AR, m. (1) Amanda West and (2) Mary J. Boozer
- iv. Mary Ann, b. 1835, Meriwether Co, GA, m. 1865, Homer, LA, William R. Lafoon
- (20) v. Stiles Augustus, b. 1834, Meriwether Co, GA, d. 1903, Drew Co, AR, m. 1866, Drew Co, AR, Madora A. Shorter
- vi. Demarius, b. 1837, Meriwether Co, GA, d. prior 1862, m. 1850s, Miss Evans
- vii. Thomas John, b. 1840, Meriwether Co, GA, d. after 1880, Drew Co, AR, Unm
- viii. Helen, b. 1841, Meriwether Co, GA, m. 1868, Drew Co, AR, Oliver P. Bonds
- ix. Christianna C., b. 1843, Meriwether Co, GA, d. 1871, Drew Co, AR, m. 1870 Drew Co, AR, William Heminway
- x. Corinthia, b. 1846, Meriwether Co, GA, d. after 1880, Drew Co, AR, m. late 1860s, Drew Co, AR, George W. Burks

Sources: The Raglands: The History of A British-American Family, Vol. II, by Charles James Ragland, Jr., 1987, hereinafter called "Ragland".

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△ 6. CROSS, Williams Henry

△+△+△ Williams Henry Cross, son of Parrish and Elizabeth  
— (Williams) Cross, born 1797, Chatham Co, NC, d. 1891  
△+△ Chatham Co, NC, m. Nancy Ragland, daughter of Frederick  
△ and Mary (Barham) Ragland, born 1803 Chatham Co, NC, d.  
— May 1877 Chatham Co, NC.

— Issue:

- △ (21) i. Thomas H., b. 22 Jan 1819, d. 2 Mar 1894, m.  
△+△ (1) Elizabeth Partridge, (2) Nancy  
△ Partridge, and (3) Ann E. Burke
- △+△ (22) ii. Mary Ann, b. 18 Dec 1820 m. James Henderson  
— Mims
- △ iii. James, Unmarried
- △+△ iv. Sarah H., b. 15 Jan 1828, m. W. Chapman,  
— moved to Hardman Co, TN with the Chapman  
△ family, one dau in 1850, Nancy, b. 1849
- △ (23) v. Alvin P., b. 15 Jun 1832, d. Jul 1886, m.  
△ Samantha Helen Edwards
- △+△ (24) vi. Laurenah (Laura), b. 1838, m. Burwell W. Brown
- △ (25) vii. Louisa Frances, b. 22 Sep 1840, d. 22 Mar  
△ 1915 Wake Co, NC, m. (1) Ben R. Avent, and  
△ (2) John T. Judd

△ (26) viii. William Henry R. "Buck", b. 23 Apr 1843, d.  
1 Oct 1928, m. Mary Harrington

△ Sources: Census, Chatham Co, NC, 1850; Yesterday, by  
Martha Harrington, Cross Family Papers; Ragland

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△ 7. CROSS, Jane

△+△+△ Jane Cross, daughter of Parrish and Elizabeth  
(Williams) Cross, born 1 Jan 1802, Chatham Co, NC, d. 22  
△ Jan 1857 Chatham Co, NC, m. ca 1822 Thomas Ragland, son of  
△ Frederick and Mary (Barham) Ragland, b. 17 Nov 1800  
— Chatham Co, NC, d. 20 Jun 1862 Chatham Co, NC. Their  
— graves are in the front yard of one of our researchers,  
△+△ Joan Palmer Frazier. Mrs. Frazier now lives on what was  
— the old Ragland farm.

— Issue:

△+△ (27) i. James H., b. 1824, d. in Arkansas, m. Sarah  
— Partridge

△ (28) ii. Elbert Franklin, b. 20 Feb 1827, d. 30 Mar  
△ 1915 Chatham Co, NC, m. Attelais Dismukes

△ (29) iii. William A., b. 15 Jan 1830, d. 3 May 1913, m.  
△ Elizabeth Lawrence

△ (30) iv. Elizabeth, b. 27 Mar 1832, d. 21 Apr 1910 Lee  
△ Co, NC, m. Baldy Henderson Jones

△ (31) v. Mary Cross, b. 24 Oct 1834, d. 20 Nov 1898  
△ Chatham Co, NC, m. Thomas Carter Rosser

△+△ (32) vi. Adelaide, b. 1838, m. 1868 George Frank Drake

△ (33) vii. Emily, b. 16 Dec 1846, d. 7 Dec 1935 Durham,  
△ NC, m. 20 Jan 1874 John Lewis Thomas

— Sources: Ragland; Yesterday; Cemetery Listings, Ragland  
— Cemetery, The Cleggs of Old Chatham; Death Certificate,  
— Emily Ragland Thomas; Papers of Bonner Gibbs Thomas

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△ 8. CROSS, Richard DeBerry

△+△+△ Richard DeBerry Cross, son of Parrish and Elizabeth  
(Williams) Cross, born 7 Apr 1809 Chatham Co, NC, d. 29  
— Mar 1874 in Whiteville, Madison Co, TN, m. 23 Feb 1832 in  
△+△ Chatham Co, NC, Sarah Ann Springfield, daughter of Thomas  
△ and Martha (Walker) Springfield, born 21 May 1811 Chatham  
— Co, NC, d. 8 Nov 1888, Whiteville, Hardeman Co, TN. Both  
— are buried in Crowder Cemetery, Whiteville. A direct  
— descendant, Mrs. Rebecca Vaughan contributes substantially  
— to this family history.

— Issue:

i. William T. P., b. 3 Feb 1833, Chatham Co, NC,  
d. 17 Nov 1911, Hardeman Co, TN, m. 17 Sep  
1855 Hardeman Co, Sarah A. Crowder

ii. Emily Ann Elizabeth, b. 12 Apr 1836, Chatham  
Co, NC, d. 2 Jun 1898, Hardeman Co, TN, m.  
T. A. Green in Hardeman Co

iii. Burrell Monroe, b. 7 Apr 1838 Chatham Co, NC,  
d. 6 Mar 1864 Hardeman Co, TN, m. 6 Oct  
1864(?) Isabelle L. Crowder, dau of William



v. Hardy Julius M., b. 1846/7  
Sources: Census, Gates Co, NC, 1850,60; Cross Family  
Papers, Suddert Collection

11. CROSS, Permelia Lee

Permelia Lee Cross, daughter of John Henry and Sarah  
(Lee) Cross, born 1 Oct 1803, Gates Co, NC, m. Henry  
Goodman Williams, b. 1802 in Gates Co, NC. Issue born  
Gates Co.

Issue:

- i. Elizabeth, will probated 24 Jan 1900, Gates  
Co, unmarried
- ii. Mary Ann, m. 5 May 1847, Gates Co, Willis B.  
Smith
- iii. Mexa Elisha, b. 1830, m. 5 May 1857 Gates Co,  
Mary P. Taylor
- iv. Richard H., b. 1832, will probated 14 Aug  
1886, m. Lutie L.
- v. Permelia Sue, b. 1834, unmarried
- vi. Margaret C., b. 1836, m. 22 Dec 18-8, Gates  
Co, Richard H. Cross, Jr.
- vii. Daniel, b. 1838
- viii. Jonathan Erasmus

Sources: Will, Henry G. Williams; Census, Gates Co, NC,  
1850, Will, Permelia Sue Williams

12. CROSS, William

William Cross, son of John Henry and Sarah (Lee)  
Cross, born 8 Jul 1805 Gates Co, NC, m.(1) 29 Jan 1840  
Margaret Williams, b. 1808, d. prior Oct 1853, and (2)  
Julia Williams on 3 Oct 1853. All issue by Margaret  
Williams, born in Gates Co, NC. Family not found in 1860  
census.

Issue:

- i. Jonathan F., b. 1841
  - ii. Joseph M., b. 1846
  - iii. William J., b. 1848
  - iv. George R., b. 1850(2/12 mos of age in census)
- Sources: Census, Gates Co, NC, 1850; Family History,  
Suddert Papers

Third Generation:

13. CHAPMAN, George Jefferson

George Jefferson Chapman, son of DeBerry and Mary  
"Polly" (Cross) Chapman, was born 19 Jul 1814 in Chatham  
Co, NC. He m. (1) 31 Mar 1842 Lucy Jeffreys, b. 9 Aug  
1827, d. 11 Feb 1852 in Madison Co, TN. George then  
married (2) 7 Apr 1854, Madison Co, TN, Bythena Jeannette  
Norwood, dau of James Howard and Sara Ann (Baldwin)  
Norwood, b. 29 Dec 1811, NC. The family resided at Bond's  
Crossing, Madison Co, TN.