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Some Virginia Families--Moore, Bernard, Todd, Spotswood, etc.

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Source: *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Vol. 19, No. 3 (Jan., 1911), pp. 177-184

Published by: Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture

Stable URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1915598>

Accessed: 10-10-2016 16:18 UTC

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SOME VIRGINIA FAMILIES—MOORE, BERNARD,  
TODD, SPOTSWOOD, ETC.

The enclosed paper, jotted down in pencil by my father on the middle back fly-leaves of an old book, and the leaves then folded over, was discovered by me last July while smoothing out the leaves of the old book.

The paper contains an interesting statement of facts concerning several families prominent in Colonial Virginia; and as a number of these facts were unknown to me, they may be unknown to several descendants of the above families, who are readers of your QUARTERLY.

I have appended notes concerning some names found in the paper.

WM. WINSTON FONTAINE.

MONTVILLE, KING WILLIAM COUNTY, VA.,

June 7th, 1833.

The following notes on the Moore Family of Chelsea are written at the dictation of my kinsman, Colonel John Spotswood Skyren,<sup>1</sup> a grandson of Colonel Bernard Moore of Chelsea.

WM. SPOTSWOOD FONTAINE.<sup>2</sup>

Colonel Skyren says:

The first of the Moore family, of Chelsea, King William county, Va., was Colonel Augustine Moore, born in England about 1685. On the paternal side he was of the same family of Moore as that of the Mayor of London in the time of King Charles II. His Moore coat-of-arms is still at Chelsea. His mother's maiden name was Grace Cresacre More; and she was a lineal descendant of Sir Thomas More, the author of *Utopia*.

Colonel Augustine came to Virginia when he was about twenty years old, and entered into the tobacco trade. He located a large body of land on the Pamunkey and the Mattapony Rivers, built a large warehouse, owned a great number of negroes, and by raising tobacco, indigo and other crops became immensely rich.

About 1710 he visited England, where he married an English girl of good family named Mary Gage. She died on the birth of her first child; and both she and her infant are buried at Chelsea in the same grave.

Colonel Moore secondly married the widow of Henry Seaton,

Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Todd, of Toddsbury, and his wife, Elizabeth Bernard. Mrs. Todd was the daughter of Colonel William Bernard and his wife, Lucy, widow Burwell, a daughter of a Mr. Hickerson.

Thomas Todd and his wife, Elizabeth Bernard, had a large family; namely, Thomas, who went to Maryland; Richard, Philip and Christopher were the sons; the daughters were Anne, who married a Cooke; Lucy, who married, first, a man named O'Brien; secondly, John Baylor, and became the mother of Colonel John Baylor, of Caroline; Elizabeth, who first married a Scotchman named Seaton, and, secondly, my great-grandfather, Colonel Augustine Moore. Another daughter, whose name I do not remember just now, married a man named North.

My grandfather, Colonel Bernard Moore, and his first cousin, Bernard Todd, were named after their great-grandfather, Colonel William Bernard, who, my grandmother Moore used to tell me, was one of the greatest men in the colony during his time.

Colonel Augustine Moore had by his second wife, Elizabeth Todd, the following children:

1. Elizabeth, who first married a Mr. Lloyd; secondly, Colonel James Macon. She is Cousin Sarah's<sup>3</sup> great-grandmother.
2. Augustine.
3. Lucy, who married Speaker John Robinson.
4. Bernard, my grandfather, who married Anne Catherine Spotswood.
5. Thomas.

I saw much of my grandmother, Mrs. Anne Catherine Spotswood Moore.<sup>4</sup> She did not die until I was in my twenty-third year. She was a very intellectual woman, and well posted on almost every subject. She was a good genealogist, and took much interest in the history of her own family and that of her husband; and had a little leather bound book in which she had written many things concerning the Spotswoods and the Moores. Her grandfather was Dr. Robert Spotswood, who married Catherine, widow Elliott, the daughter of a Mr. Maxwell. She spoke

very affectionately of "dear old Colonel Moore," "Mother Moore" and "Sister Betty Macon." She would let me read this old book concerning my ancestors, and promised to leave it to me, as I also was interested in genealogy; but I never saw it after her death. She must have been very beautiful when young, for she was pretty as an old lady. After her death and that of my mother, in the division of the Chelsea household goods, my great-aunt's (Elizabeth Macon's) portrait fell to me, and I gave it to her grandson, Cousin Philip Aylett.<sup>5</sup> One of my Moore cousins shot an arrow at it once, for which he got a boxing from his father.

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#### NOTES.

By Wm. Winston Fontaine.

1. Colonel John Spotswood Skyren was the second son of the Rev. Henry Skyren and his wife, Lucy, third daughter of General Bernard Moore and his wife, Anne Catherine (Spotswood) Moore, of "Chelsea," King William county, Va.

He was born in King William county (most probably at "Chelsea") during one of the latter years of the Revolution; and in August or September, 1855, died and was buried at his home farm, a mile or two distant from the Acquinton Church, of which his eloquent father had been rector for many years. My father and other members of our household attended his funeral; and I well remember the expressions of grief at his loss coming from his old friends and neighbors, high and low, and the wailings of his bereaved servants for their beloved friend and master.

Colonel Skyren was a fine specimen of the old-timed Virginia gentleman, courtly, chivalrous, honorable, broad-minded, cultured and witty, consequently respected and well beloved by all with whom he came in contact, old and young. He was about five feet ten inches high; erect and soldierly in appearance. He had the eagle nose, grayish blue flashing eyes and kindly smile of so many of his race. He was active even in old age, and had a light, springy tread. He never married. Why, I do not know, for he was a genial and pleasant companion and very popular with the ladies. The last time I met him at a party was in December, 1854; and he danced several cottillions with the pretty girls as partners, and wound up the evening with the belle of the ballroom in "The Old Virginia Reel." By invitation gallant Julian Carter, who was to fall at Malvern Hill, my brother Charles, who died in the flush of youth, and I accompanied the genial Colonel home. Of the four I alone survive; but through

the long years I have remembered that fleet joyous gallop through the crisp silent night and the light from the clear heavens, breaking in diamond flashes on the ice-cased forest limbs.

For many years Colonel Skyren was the commander of the Cavalry Regiment, composed of the volunteer troops from King and Queen, King William, Caroline, Hanover and other adjacent Tidewater counties. The troops my father commanded was in this regiment; and sometimes as I sit alone at even-tide in my chamber, far away from my dear native county, across the field of early boyhood's memory, with crest of flowing horse-tail and, sheen of glittering helmet, there rides a grey-headed knightly figure, very dear to me, the stately Colonel John Spotswood Skyren.

2. Colonel William Spotswood Fontaine, son of Captain William Winston Fontaine and his wife, Martha Dandridge, was born November 7, 1810, in Hanover county, Va., at the residence of his maternal grandfather, Nathaniel West Dandridge, Jr., a grandson of Major-General Alexander Spotswood, Colonial Governor of Virginia.

Captain William Winston Fontaine (1786-1816) was the great-grandson of the Rev. Peter Fontaine (1691-1757), rector of Westover Parish, and his first wife, Elizabeth Fourreau. The two intervening generations were Colonel Peter Fontaine (1721-177—), of "Rock Castle," Hanover county, Va., who married Elizabeth, daughter of William and Sarah (Dabney) Winston; and Colonel John Fontaine (1750-1792), of Henry county, who married Martha, eldest child of Colonel Patrick Henry, Governor of Virginia, and his first wife, Sarah Shelton.

Colonel William Spotswood Fontaine, July 5, 1832, married his second cousin, Sarah Shelton Aylett (1811-1876), daughter of Colonel Philip Aylett, of King William county, and his wife, Elizabeth, daughter of Governor Patrick Henry. Colonel Fontaine represented King William county in the Legislature in 1830 and 1840. About 1852 he was elected lieutenant-colonel of the King William regiment of militia. In 1853 he was ordained a minister of gospel.

Early in July, 1863, Federal troops, under General Getty, encamped on his plantation; burnt his barns, outhouses and fences; destroyed his crops; carried off, slaughtered or mutilated all his horses, mules, cattle, sheep and hogs, not leaving so much as a chicken on the place. The Federal sacked the family residence, destroying pictures and bric-a-brac, robbing and injuring the large library, breaking up the costly furniture, and finally making a large pile of the debris between the double doors connecting the two parlors, pouring kerosene on the heap, and were in the act of setting fire to it when a Federal officer, who was a gentleman, rushed into the building and with drawn pistol stopped this infamous act.

Mrs. Fontaine and her two young daughters were the only white persons at "Fontainebleau" when the Federals came, her sons being in the Confederate Army and her husband being absent on a visit to his sick

mother in Henry county. Trusting to the traditional courtesy and chivalry usual to American troops in the presence of women, even though hostile, and being under the immediate protection of the faithful men servants armed with axes, Mrs. Fontaine felt perfectly secure until the Federal troops, having set fire to the granaries and other outbuildings, made a rush for the mansion house with wild insulting cries and hootings. She and her two daughters then retired to a room in the third story, where they could lock themselves in if necessary. Soon the ladies heard the crash of furniture and marble slabs, the tinkle of broken mirrors falling to the floor; and as the soldiery warmed to their work of destruction, there ascended to the open doorway a frightful uproar of shouts, curses and discordant laughter, mingled with the beseechings and pleadings of the servants, male and female, to spare their master's property, and for God's sake to leave the house and not burn to death their beloved mistress and her two daughters. It was at this crisis that the aforementioned, gallant Federal officer appeared and drove the miscreants from the house. He, however, placed no guard around the premises, and during the remainder of the day Federal officers and soldiers, singly or in squads, entered the building, ransacked the library and all the rooms except the one which my mother and sisters occupied and quietly departed, bearing away such booty as pleased them. I narrate an incident of the afternoon of that day. "Aunt" Rachel, a favored maid-servant of my mother, both born the same year, and from early girlhood mutually loving one the other, as mistress and maid, saw a Federal officer pick up from the debris between the double parlors, the pile still reeking with kerosene, a small likeness of Governor Henry. She went up to him and requested that he give the likeness to her, as her mistress prized it highly, because it was her mistress's grandfather. The officer refused, saying: "You are telling me a falsehood. This is Patrick Henry." "Well, she is Patrick Henry's granddaughter; for she is the youngest child of his daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Aylett." On further questioning her, the officer became convinced, and gave her the likeness, saying that it was a shame in General Getty not putting a guard around the place and preventing this handsome residence of a granddaughter of Patrick being pillaged.

That night the Federal troops built large fires on the lawn in front of the building; killed my father's cattle and sheep; dug pits and barbecued and slaughtered animals. A large number of the soldiery were under the influence of the wines and liquors taken from the plundered basement, and made night hideous. After midnight two of my father's trusted head men, \*Braxton and Beverley, came to my mother and said

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\*Braxton and Beverley were the sons of "one negro boy named Beverley," given by Mrs. Elizabeth Macon to her grandson, Philip Aylett, in her will dated September 10th, 1779. See WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY, Vol. XIV. (1906), pp. 265-'7.

that they thought it would be best for her and their young mistresses to go to "Pampitike." They stated that they had gathered in the lower part of the flower garden several of the men-servants armed with axes; and, that if their mistress and Miss Marian and Sallie would creep down the back staircase and through the rear door into the garden, and cross over to the back park and go up the ravine, leading to the big woods, they were certain that they could pass around the Yankee pickets, and get to Colonel Carter's before daybreak. The ladies agreed to this plan; and the trip of over two miles through the forest and tangled underwood was finished before daylight, and the wearied ladies were warmly received by the accomplished mistress of "Pampatike." Mrs. Susan (Roy) Carter, wife of Colonel Thomas Hill Carter, one of the most gallant and distinguished officers of the Army of Northern Virginia, and a near kinsman of its commander, General Robert E. Lee. General Lee was the grandson and Colonel Carter was the great-grandson of Anne Butler Moore, daughter of General Bernard and Anne Catherine (Spotswood) Moore, of "Chelsea."

After being a day or two at "Pampatike," my mother received a letter from General George Washington Getty, stating that he was sorry that some of his troops had committed such outrages at "Fontainebleau," and that if he could find out what troops they were that he would punish them. He added that Mrs. Fontaine should have asked for a guard to protect the property. General Getty's tent was pitched on a part of my father's plantation, not a mile from the family residence; and it seems strange that the flames and smoke from the many burning buildings were not seen nor the musketry, which slaughtered the flocks and herds, noticed. Was he both blind and deaf? It would appear so. This much we may affirm, if he heard the musketry and saw the smoke and flames he was blind and deaf to the instincts of the true soldier and gentleman. Moreover, his letter to Mrs. Fontaine shows that in trying to evade responsibility for the conduct of his troops, he lacked even the hardihood—we will not say manhood—of General John Pope. I am glad that blood does not entitle him to his Christian name; and am sorry that the laudable ambition of his father to instill high and chivalric principles in the General's soul, by giving him the name of a hero, was a failure.

General Lee's invasion of Pennsylvania, and massing of his troops at Gettysburg, and General Getty's visit to Fontainebleau were synchronous. Comment on the conduct of Confederate troops under Lee and Federal troops under Getty would be embarrassing to one of the sections of our common country, if the relative civilization and humanity of the North and South were compared.

Only five of the negro men—none of the women and children—of Colonel Fontaine yielded to the persuasive eloquence of the Federals on the beauties of freedom. The other servants—Virginians rarely used the

word "slave"—preferred to accompany their master to Henry county, Va.

Later in the war Colonel Fontaine sold his farm, and, prompted solely by patriotism, like his friend and neighbor, the Hon. Edmund Ruffin, invested in Confederate bonds. Colonel Fontaine died at Reidsville, N. C., June 13, 1882, and lies buried in the cemetery between his mother, who died April 7, 1875, and his wife, who died March 5, 1876.

3. "Cousin Sarah" is Mrs. Sarah Shelton (Aylett) Fontaine, wife of Colonel William Spotswood Fontaine, and daughter of Colonel Philip Aylett and his wife, Elizabeth Henry.

4. Mrs. Anne Catherine (Spotswood) Moore, according to a statement of her granddaughter, Mrs. Mildred (Moore) Campbell, was born about the close of the year 1725, and died in 1802, after passing her seventy-seventh birthday.

In Colonel Augustine Moore's will, dated 20th of January, she is thus mentioned: "But my will & desire is, that if my Daughter-in-law, Anne Moore, should be left a widow, she should have the Land whereon her Husband now lives & five hundred acres of that Land given him in Spotylvania, during her life." We gather from the said will that Bernard and his young wife were then living at "Chelsea" with his parents. Thus Mrs. Anne Catherine (Spotswood) Moore, being an inmate of "Chelsea House" and in intimate daily intercourse with her husband's parents for several years, well knew their family history. It is unfortunate that the "little leather bound book in which she had written many things concerning the Spotswoods and Moores" has not come down to us; but the few facts that have come through her grandson, Colonel Skyren, are trustworthy and valuable.

5. "Cousin Philip Aylett" was the son of Mary Macon and her husband, Colonel William Aylett, of the Revolution. The latter was a son of another Philip Aylett and his wife, Martha Dandridge, oldest child of Colonel William Dandridge and his wife, Unity West. She through her father, Nathaniel West, Sr., and his father, Colonel John West, Jr., was the great-granddaughter of Colonel John West, Governor of Virginia 1635-'37. Governor John West was the son of Thomas West, second Lord Delaware, and his wife Anne, daughter of Sir Francis Knollys, K. G.

The portrait of Mrs. Macon spoken of by Colonel Skyren was sabred, and received three thrusts. When "Fontainebleau" was sacked by General George Washington Getty's troops, the above mentioned "Aunt Rachel" was one of the servants present in the parlor who were trying to stop the vandalism. She reported that the leader in this work, and the one who mutilated the portrait, was a lieutenant-colonel. Some of the Federal soldiers told "Aunt Rachel" his name, but she had forgotten it.

I possess another valuable relic taken from the pile of broken furniture, which these *patriotic lovers* of the Union had destined to be burned. It is a solid English walnut table with a thick and beautifully variegated



marble top. It was sent from "Braxted Magna," County of Essex, England, to Captain John Aylett (or Ayloff), founder of the Aylett family in Virginia, who arrived in that colony in the year 1656." While at "Fairfield" many a noted guest has been seated by it, among whom were the brothers, Richard Henry and Thomas Ludwell Lee, both having married pretty Aylett girls; General Washington and his wife, a kinswoman of the "Fairfield" family; George Mason, Patrick Henry and the young Frenchman, Lafayette. My grandmother Aylett told me that while under her roof General Washington had cut watermelons on it, and after its removal to "Fontainebleau," I learn from my father, that your honored sire, Mr. Editor, before he was President of the United States, and Governor Gilmer, his Secretary of the Navy, once cut the luscious fruit on this old table. Among other carvers of the melon at "Fontainebleau" were the dear old Colonel Skyren and the Hon. Edmund Ruffin, who fired the first gun at Fort Sumter, and after the table's removal to Greensboro, N. C., the genial and lovable James Barron Hope, the poet, in line followed Washington. Two legs and the marble top of the old table were broken; but under the hands of a skilful cabinetmaker of Louisville, Ky., it has regained the beauty with which two hundred and fifty-four years ago it started from its old home in the County of Essex, England, to find across the broad Atlantic its young master located in Westmoreland county, Colony of Virginia.

The portrait of Mrs. Macon has recently been beautifully copied by Mr. John Elliott Jenkins, of Austin, Tex., a pupil for several years of the eminent French masters, Lefebvre, Courtois and Meissonier.

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## CARTER GENEALOGY.

BY DR. JOSEPH L. MILLER.

(Continued from page 137.)

50. Raleigh<sup>4</sup> Carter (Thomas,<sup>3</sup> Edward<sup>2</sup>) married in Lancaster on September 5, 1765, Sarah Sharpe, with the consent of her guardian, Mr. James Ball.

Soon after this they removed to Amelia county, where he purchased large tracts of land, and in 1782 owned twenty-one servants. (See page 102, Vol. XVIII., WILLIAM AND MARY QUARTERLY.) He was a justice of the Amelia court in 1782 *et seq.* In 1788 his home fell in the bounds of the new county of Nottoway, and in 1792 he became high sheriff of this county.