

pasture of seven acres in the parish of Brenzett.¹⁶

The will of John Eps of Ivychurch, dated 21 Oct. 1489 and proved 27 Jan. 1489/90, named his brothers John and Robert Eps.¹⁷ John Eps of Ivy Church was admitted to the freedom of Old Romney on 12 June 1488.¹⁸

A Stephen Epse was decennarius (collector of tithes) and jurat for Old Romney in 1522.¹⁹ Stephen Appes of Goodherst left a will, dated 2 Feb. 1546 [1545/6] and proved 6 April 1546, which directed that he be buried in the churchyard there, named his wife Agnes, sons James (executor with Agnes), Robert and William and daughters Julian, Elizabeth, Catherine, Denny, Alice and Margaret, and mentioned land called Boodes.²⁰ That he also had a son Stephen is established by papers filed in a suit in 1570:

May 11 Eliz. (1570). Bill by Robert Aps of Estergate, Sussex, husbandman, and Answers by James Aps and William Pate. Stephen Aps, the father of James (defendant), Robert (plaintiff), William and Stephen Aps, was a husbandman of Goodhurst, Kent, and died seized of 49 acres in Goodhurst which descended to his sons. Of these William Aps died without issue, having conveyed his share in the property to James Aps. Stephen Aps, the son, conveyed his share to William Pate.²¹

¹⁶ Court of Chancery, Ancient Deeds, Series C, ca. 1100-1627, C146/08139, British Public Record Office.

¹⁷ Probate Registry, Canterbury, Archdeaconry Register, v. 3, fo. 239.

¹⁸ Information provided by Miss Stella Colwell, 4 Aug. 1980.

¹⁹ *A Calendar of the White and Black Books*, p. 186.

²⁰ Probate Registry, Canterbury, Archdeaconry Register 24, fo. 68v.

²¹ Court of Requests, Proceedings, Henry VII to Charles I, Reg. 2/170/44, British Public Record Office.

FIRST GENERATION

ALAN^E EPES (-1471)

ALAN^E EPES of the parish of Brenzett, Kent, left a will, dated 5 June 1471 and proved 9 Sept. 1471, in which his name was spelled Eps and which provided:

To be buried in churchyard of St. Enswithe de Brenzete. To Johanne my daughter. To Robt^e my son. To each of my sons and daughters.

Will. Upon a feoffment made to Thomas atte Reche and Willm Benet of Brenzete his feoffees of all the land and tenements in Brenzett or elsewhere. Benet his wife. Robert his son, when 14. To John his eldest son when 14. Daughters Joan and Agnes. To William his youngest son.¹

His wife Benet (or Benedicte) ___ has not been identified further.

Issue: K1 JOHN^D, married (1) Margaret ___ and (2) Johane ___.

K2 Robert^D, born after 1457.

K3 Johanne^D.

K4 Agnes^D, perhaps married James Huggelyn and had daughter Agnes to whom K1 John^D Epes made a bequest.

K5 William^D, born after 1457.

¹ Probate Registry, Canterbury, Archdeaconry Register 1, fo. 389, reported by R. H. d'Elboux.

SECOND GENERATION

JOHN^D EPES (after 1457-1526)

K1 JOHN^D EPES (Alan^E) of Old Romney, Kent, was born after 1457 since he was under the age of 14 when his father made his will. He was a jurat for Old Romney in Jan. 1520/1, along with his son John, Junior, and is probably the John mentioned as jurat in July 1521 without other designation.¹ His will, made 3 Dec. 1524 as John Eps the elder of the Parish of St. Clement, Old Romney, and proved 8 Feb. 1525/6, provided:

To be buried in the church in the Aysle part before the Rood. To high altar of St. Martens in New Romney and to high altar of St. Laurence of New Romney. To each of my godchildren 12 pence. To John Epse my godson of Yvechurche, ewes. To Alice Roger my daughter. To John Epps my son. Joan Epps my wife. Agnes, Elizabeth, Cicely and John the children of John Roger. John Garrard my daughter Agnes' son. Agnes Huggelyn, the daughter of James Huggelyn. Joan my daughter, Anne my daughter, when they reach the age of discretion. Residue to John Epse my son. To Elizabeth Roger.

Will. Youngest daughters Johane, Amye, Johane when 20. A parcell of land and 16 Acres called Long heche, and the barn with 4 acres lying there, 7 Acres of Land called Brettes, 13 Acres of Land called Daddes, 7 Acres of Land called quarterlandes, 6½ Acres of Land which I late purchased of John Arnell. 20 shillings yearly to John for rent, Alice and John Roger to have tenement and garden where they now dwell at rent of 2 shillings to John for their lives. 22 Acres of Land in Hope All Hallows called Seven hay that is to say to the Lands of Allsouls College of Oxenford towards the West and to the land of Richard Hall to the east. Land in Old Romney, St. Martens and St. Laurence, New Romney, Hope, Brookland and Brenzett.²

An undated inscription in St. Clement's Church names John Ips and his

¹ *A Calendar of the White and Black Books of the Cinque Ports, 1432-1955*, ed. by Felix Hull (Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Joint Publications*, v. 5; London, 1966), pp. 180, 183. The name appears as Espe in 1520/1.

² Probate Registry, Canterbury, Archdeaconry Register, v. 17, fo. 34, reported by R. H. d'Elboux.

wife Margaret.³ The wife named in his will was Johane ____.

Issue:⁴ K11 JOHN^C, married Alice ____.

K12 Alice^C. She married John Roger. Issue [ROGER]:

K121 Agnes^B.

K122 Elizabeth^B.

K123 Cicely^B.

K124 John^B.

K13 Agnes^C. She married John Garrard. Issue [GARRARD]:

K131 John^B, died 1531. He married Joan ____.

K14 Johane^C.

K15 Anne^C.

K16 Amye^C.

K17 Joan^C.

³ Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, III (Canterbury, 1790), p. 520. Anne Roper, *The Church of Saint Clement, Old Romney* (5th ed.; n.p., 1983), p. 18, quotes the inscription as: "Pray for the soules of John Ips and Margaret hys wyfe on whois Almighty ihu have mercy. Amen." The brass plaque, which is now mounted on the wall and is inscribed with effigies of John Ips and his wife Margaret, matches an incised form on a gravestone in the aisle. It was long thought that this referred to his son K11 John^C Epes, because he in his will ordered a stone for his grave to be "inpicitorid wt me, my wyffe and all my children," but this brass does not conform to that description.

⁴ The children cannot be assigned to the two wives with certainty but K11 John^C Epes in his will referred to Johane as his mother-in-law [i.e., step-mother]. She was probably the mother of the younger daughters who were unmarried in 1524.

THIRD GENERATION

K11 JOHN^C EPES (ca.1480-1527)

K11 JOHN^C EPES (John^D, Alan^E) described himself as John Epse of the Parish of St. Clement, Old Romney, Kent, in his will dated 15 Jan. 1526/7 and proved 1 Feb. 1526/7, and provided:

To be buried in the church at the foot of my father. To High Altar of Old Romney and of St. Martins and St. Lawrence.¹ To the celyng of the rode lofte of Old Romney. To buying of a new crosse for Old Romney Church. To Joan my daughter, under the age of 20, 20 marks. Alys my wife and the children, Alys Roger my sister, Agnes Roger. John Roger son of John Roger. Elizabeth Roger. John Garrard, my sister's son. John Epse of Ivy church. Reserve to William Epse, Aleyn Epse, John Epse, Thomas Epse and John Epse my sonnes. To wife of John Garrard the younger. John Roger the elder.

Will. A feoffment made unto Wm Epse, Aleyn Epse, John Epse, William Mersche. John Whatman and Edwarde Clarke. Alys my wife. All sons under 21. Lands late purchased of Henry Husbarne. My two sonnes Thos. Epes and John Epes the younger. Stone to be layed upon my grave to be in pictored with me, my wyffe and all my chyldern. John Epps the elder shall have a mare of the age of 12 years to be delivered to him at 14 years.²

His arms were described in the pedigree given by the Godfrey family of the adjoining parish of Lydd in the Herald's Visitation of 1619-21.³

John^C Epes married Alice ___ who, as of the Parish of St. Clement, Old Romney, Kent, left a will dated 2 Feb. 1526/7 and proved 3 June 1527, which provided:

¹ These churches became chapels of esse after 22 April 1535 (26 Henry VIII) and were abandoned by 1659 (Richard Kilburne, *A Topographie, or Survey of the County of Kent* [London, 1659], p. 232). St. Marten's was 600 feet west of St. Nicholas, New Romney, and St. Lawrence's was 2000 feet east of St. Clement's, Old Romney.

² Probate Registry, Canterbury, Consistory Registry, v. 14, p. 187, reported by R. H. d'Elboux

³ Letter of J. P. Brooke-Little, The College of Arms, 5 Nov. 1963. These were possibly also the arms of his father, K1 John^D Eps. They were confirmed to his great-grandson K11254 Allon Epes by William Segar, Garter King of Arms (1603-33). The blazon in the Godfrey pedigree was shown as "Per Fesse Gules and Or a Pale Counterchanged three Eagles displayed of the last. Crest: On a Chaplet Vert flowered Or a Falcon rising of the last."

To be buried in the Church of St. Clement, Old Romney, before our lady. To Johane my daughter my part of the house hold and kyne and vealves. Wm. Marshe shall have the use of her to the time of her marriage, at 18 she to receive the cattle, at 12 she shall receive the profit of the cattle. To Thomas Tyseherste's wyffe. To my sister of Lydd. To my other sisters. To John Tyseherste my other god son. To my sister of Lydde my best kertyll. To my mother Epse my best gown. To my sister Margarete my kertle next the best. To Joanne Epse my goddaughter my red kertle. To Tyseherste's wife my black kertle. To Lawrence Arnarde's wife two petticoats now on my body. To Joan shever (?) best petticoat. To Alyn my son two calves. To the elder John two calves. To Thomas a calf. To either of my children 4 pence. Rest to William my son and he to be Executor. If Joan my daughter die before 16, John Epse my elder son shall have half of the kine, the rest to be divided among my children. Witnesses: Sir Robert Brache, Juratt, and Edward Clacke.⁴

She undoubtedly wrote her will immediately after her husband's death and died four months later.

Issue: K111 William^B, born before Jan. 1506/7, may be the William Epps who was town warden for Dover in 1538 and chamberlain in 1539 and 1545.⁵ He was a member of the first four Parliaments of Queen Elizabeth I in 1558, 1563, 1571 and 1572.⁶ He was a jurat, was mayor nine times, in 1564-65, 1568-69, 1570-71, 1572-73, 1574-75, 1575-76, when succeeded by his nephew Thomas^A Epes, 1577-78 and 1578-79,⁷ and was Speaker of the

⁴ Probate Registry, Canterbury, Archdeaconry Register 17, fol. 260., reported by R. H. d'Elboux.

⁵ *A Calendar of the White and Black Books of the Cinque Ports*, ed by Felix Hull (Historical Manuscripts Commission, *Joint Publications*, v. 5, London, 1966), pp. 222-23, 234. The churchwardens' account book of St. Mary the Virgin, Dover, 1536-58 (Egerton MSS, British Library) contains an entry: "Rec. of Will'm Epse the vijth Daye of merch in the same year [1547] for a lytell Cuppe Syluer there was in the pyxe Wyg'ij ownces di. at iiiith the ownce" (*Archaeologia Cantiana*, XXVI [London, 1904], p. 169).

⁶ Edward Hasted, *The History and Topographical Survey of the County of Kent*, III (Canterbury, 1790), p. 525. He was referred to as William Eppes, Senr., in 1571, and in 1572, as William Eppes, gent., was chosen to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of William Wilcocks, gent.

⁷ *A Calendar of the White and Black Books*, pp. 266, 268, 274, 277, 281, 289, 299, 307, 309. He was made a jurat for life on the incorporation of the barons and inhabitants of New Romney, 4 Aug. 1563 (*Calendar of the Patent Rolls ... Elizabeth, III, 1560-1563* [London, 1948], p. 499).

FOURTH GENERATION

K112 ALAN^B EPES (before 1509-1551)

K112 ALAN^B EPES (John^{C-D}, Alan^E) was a jurat and was bailiff of Lydd, Kent, in 1544-45. Lydd is two and a half miles south of Old Romney in Denge Marsh and in the Manor of Old Langport, Lydd, and is a member of the Town and Port of New Romney and one of the original detached members of the Cinque Ports. Among the accounts of John Oyne, Sr., and Thomas Harle, wardens of the parish of Lydd in 1544-45, is an entry:

Received from Alen Eps, the Bailiff, for the money called Light Silver, collected by him and others at Christmas for the sustentation of the Church £9 3s. 6d.¹

The will of Alen Epse of Lyd, Kent, jurate, dated 30 July 1551 and proved 22 Sept. 1551, provided:

To be buried in the churchyard at Lyd. To my maidservant Agnes Aton a heiffer. To my servant Nicholas Aton a heiffer. To my servant Simon Wynday heiffer and sheep. To my servant Thomas Smythe 2 sheep. To my servant John Rolffe 2 sheep. To my servants Richard Aukyn and Robert Adams sheep. To my maidservants Alice Hollye and Julian Raynoide sheep. To John Wynday sheers and debts he owes me. To Robert Dyne all debts he owes me. To my daughters Johane Epse, Alyce Epse and Margery Epse £20 a piece at 18 or marriage. To my wife's daughter Elizabeth Harle £10. To my wife Agnes Epse oxen, £15, household stuff in tenement I now dwell in etc. Rest of my moveable goods to my sons William Epse, Thomas Epse & John Epse equally. Said son William Epse to be executor. Thomas Strogle, John Strogle & my brother Thomas Epse to be overseers. Witness Thomas Strogle, jurate, Robert Dyne, John Wynday.

Will (of lands) To my wife Agnes my principal tenement I now dwell in for life remainder to my three sons William, Thomas & John equally in fee. To said three sons rest of my lands in Lyd aforesaid, Old Romney, St. Martins Pounteney & Brenset or elsewhere in Kent in fee. To my wife my term of years in the Brokes called the Grate Brokes & my term of years in the 14 acres called Mr. Feteplace brokes, behind the watercourse on the backside of my house which I hold to farm of Mr. Feteplace. To my son William Epse half of my term of years in my manor called newe Land which I hold

¹ Arthur Finn, ed., *Records of Lydd*, translated and transcribed by Arthur Hussey and M. M. Hardy (n.p., n.d.), p. 392.

of Mr. Feteplace. To my sons Thomas Epse & John Epse the other half thereof. Said son William Epse to have occupying of all my lands above to said Thomas & John his brethren bequeathed till they are 17. Same Witnesses and Thomas Carpenter.²

He married Agnes (____) Harle who by her earlier husband had a daughter Elizabeth Harle. She married (3), 3 Aug. 1552, William Buthow at All Saints Church, Lydd.³

Issue: K1121 Johane^A, possibly "my sister Tookyes" mentioned in the will of K1127 John^A Epes.

K1122 Alyce^A, born 1546, buried 24 Feb. 1560.

K1123 William^A described himself as of Canterbury, yeoman, when he made his will 2 March 1573/4, proved 12 Nov. 1578, in which he provided:

At my funeral, a sermon 40/- to poor. To poor of Old Romney 20/-. To my wife Anne £10 a year out of my lease lands I have of John Fetiplace Esq. at Mydley & Lydd, for unexpired term if she so long live, she not to claim dower of other lands and make a release to my son and deliver same to my said (sic) uncle and brother John, and she to make conveyance of her estate in my other lands and goods to my said son. To my wife, all household stuff in Canterbury. To my brother John Eps horse. To my brother Thomas Eps horse. To my sister Margery 20/- a year for life. To my son William Eps in fee all my lands and to him my leases and things and he to be executor. He to have no dealings with the land during his minority but my uncle William Eps of New Romney jurat and my brother John Eps of the Middle Temple to have his bringing up till 21 and all his lands. If my uncle William Eps die before my son be 21, a like trust to my brother Thomas Eps. If my son die before 21, my lands etc. to my said brothers John and Thomas in fee and lease land that John Stringer, demised to me by John Fetiplace Esq., now occupies by my grant, containing 100 acres, to my said brother John Eps, paying his part for the farm thereof and I do now to said John Fetiplace, about 2/- an acre, and also paying £6.13.4 a year, part of said £10 to my wife. The 50 acres which John Andersonne occupies being the least of the said lease lands, to my brother Thomas, paying my wife 5 marks for life if lease continued and his part to said John

² Probate Registry, Canterbury, Consistory Register 32.24.2, abstracted in *Family History*, I, April 1963, p. 125, and Eva Turner Clark, *Francis Epes, His Ancestors and Descendants* (New York, 1942), pp. 15-16.

³ Register of All Saints (Church of the Marsh), Lydd, Kent, reported by William Robertson Epes, Devon, Pa., June 1971.

FIFTH GENERATION

K1127 JOHN^A EPES (1550-1627)

K1127 John^A Epes (Alan^B, John^{C-D}, Alan^E), Gent., late of New Inn, third son and one of the heirs of Alan Eppes, late of Lydde, Gent., was admitted to the Middle Temple on 2 Aug. 1572.¹ He was living at New Romney in 1579, was of Detling 1579-92, although also was of Maidstone in 1578 and of Ashford 1592-1627. He was administrator of his brother William in 1578, executor of his uncle William in 1581, and executor of his brother Thomas in 1585.

He married, 15 June 1579 at Detling, Kent,² Thomazine Fisher, daughter of Alexander Fisher (who was buried 7 Sept. 1590) of Horsepool in Detling and his wife Katherine, daughter of Peter Maplesden of Lydd, Kent.³

He was involved in a suit over the estate of his wife's brother-in-law, Caleb Banks, in 1595:

Interrogatories and depositions in the case of Humphrey Wilde and Miles Hubbard v. John Epps etc. The interrogatories state that John Epps and others named in Easter term 40 Eliz. brought an action for recovery of debts against Margaret Banks, executrix of Caleb Banks; depositions are now taken to establish what estate was owned by Caleb Banks.

Depositions taken on 2 May 42 Elizabeth (1595) from:

John Banks of Ashford, Kent, woollen draper. He is advised by his counsel that he need not declare what goods of Caleb Banks he has in his hands. Margaret Banks has taken some of the profits of his lands. Caleb Banks owed the deponent £600 and had many cattle on his farm at Ryton.

Edward Halle of Ashford, gent, attorney in the Court of King's Bench,

¹ H. A. C. Sturgess, *Register of Admissions to the Honourable Society of the Middle Temple* (London, 1949), I, p. 37.

² St. Martin's Church, Detling, Kent, Bishop's Transcripts.

³ W. Bruce Bannerman, ed., *The Visitations of Kent, 1574 and 1592 ...* (Harleian Society, Publications, LXXV, London, 1924), p. 98. Her uncle George Maplesden, one of the Aldermen of the City of Rochester, in his will dated 1 Oct. 32 Elizabeth I and proved 28 Jan. 1590/1 (Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Sainberbe, 2, abstracted in Henry F. Waters, *Genealogical Gleanings in England* [Boston, 1901], II, pp. 1291-92), left a piece of gold to 30 shillings to his sister Katherine Fisher of Detling, widow, a piece of 30 shillings to Thomazine Eppes, her daughter, and named his cousin John Eppes of Detling to be one of the overseers of the will. John Eppes was one of the witnesses.

says that John Epps and Margaret Banks advised him that Caleb Banks had a weak estate. The deponent had presented the case against Margaret Banks with her agreement and the advice of the deponent.

John Epps of Ashford, gent, says that Caleb Banks owed him £100 and in addition the deponent had stood surety for him to Roger Kemp for a debt of £200. Kemp has since brought a case against the deponent for recovery. Margaret Banks is the sister of the deponent's wife and, because of that, he has acted on Margaret's behalf. A little before his death Caleb Banks assigned to the deponent three leases in order to satisfy his debt. When he died Caleb Banks' estate amounted to £1500 or £1600. (Deponent signs.)

James Martin of Ashford, gent, attorney in the King's Bench, says he held a lease from Caleb Banks and now holds it from Margaret Banks.⁴

Several years later he was involved in transactions with Caleb Banks' widow and his brother John:

8 Feb. 1599/1600. Recognizance of £70 from John Eppes of Ashford, Kent, gent., and John Banckes of the same, draper, to James Pennington and Thomas Wood, citizen of London, dated 8 February 1599/1600, in compliance with a decree in Chancery of 9 February 1599/1600 in the case of Pennington and Wood plaintiffs vs. Epps and Banckes and one Margaret Banckes, widow, defendants. Marginal note that the decree was vacated because Pennington and Wood were satisfied on 12 November 42 Eliz. (1600).⁵

On 22 Sept. 1619 John Epps of Ashford, Kent, Gent., deposed at Rye, Sussex, that he, being aged 69, had known Sir Norton Knatchbull for forty years, and knew his father, Richard Knatchbull, and his brother Richard Knatchbull, and deposed about the extents and rights of the Manor of Cheyne Court which he had known for fifty years.⁶

John Epes died in Brook, a village three and a half miles from Ashford and, as John Epes, gent., householder, was buried at Ashford 19 Nov. 1627.⁷ His will, made as John Epes of Ashford, co. Kent, the elder, dated 10 Aug. 1625 and proved 16 Dec. 1627, provided:

⁴ Court of Star Chamber, Elizabeth I, STAC 5/W2/16, W46/5, British Public Record Office.

⁵ Court of Chancery, Close Rolls, 1204-1903, C/1675, British Public Record Office.

⁶ Exchequer Depositions taken by Commission, Elizabeth I to Victoria, E134/17 Jas I/Mch 9, British Public Record Office. Sir Norton Knatchbull was founder of the Grammar School at Ashford, Kent.

⁷ Register of St. Mary the Virgin, Ashford, Kent, reported by William R. Epes, Devon, Pa., July 1971; Bishop's Transcripts, reported by Reginald Glencross, London, June 1940.

To my wife Thomasine goods etc. To my daughter Thomasine Epes bedstead etc. pestle which was my sister Fookyes [sic?, Tookyes?] & £10. To my son John Epes £10 when my house in North Lane is sold. To my son Edward £10. To Peter Epes £10 and so to the rest of my sons. My wife to be executrix. My house in North Lane in Ashford & closes etc. to be sold & rest of money to my executrix but if dead to my sons John Epes, William Epes, Francis Epes, Peter Epes & Edward Epes. My wife Thomasine with consent of my brother in law John Bankes of Maidstone, my cousin Alline Epes & my son Rooper to sell said tenement. They to be overseers & to them 10/- each.

Win[ess] Edmund Hayes.⁸

Issue: K11271 Katherine, baptized 21 Jan. 1581/2, buried 1 June 1582 at Detling.⁹

K11272 William, born ca.1584, buried 17 Jan. 1592/3 at Detling.¹⁰

K11273 John, born ca.1586, died after Aug. 1625. As John Epps the younger he was bequeathed a little roan nag in the will of his mother's brother-in-law Caleb Bankes, 12 March 1597.¹¹

K11274 Katherine, born ca.1588, married (1), 18 Nov. 1606 at Rotherhithe, Surrey,¹² her cousin Peter Maplesden¹³ and (2), (license 27) May 1615 at Ashford,¹⁴ John Sloman. Issue: (by 1) [MAPLESDEN]¹⁵

⁸ Probate Registry, Canterbury, 17-67-340, abstracted in *Family History*, I, June 1963, p. 137.

⁹ St. Martin's Church, Detling, Bishop's Transcripts.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ Prerogative Court of Canterbury, Lewin 24, proved 24 March 1597/8, abstracted in *Family History*, I, April 1963, p. 123. His wife was Margaret Fisher. K1127 John Epes was a witness to the will.

¹² *Family History*, I, April 1963, p. 126.

¹³ His father, George Maplesden, was the maternal uncle of her mother and his mother, Thomasina Fisher, was the daughter of Henry Fisher, her father's first cousin.

¹⁴ Joseph Meadows Cowper, ed., *Canterbury Marriage Licenses*, 1st ser., 1568-1618 (Canterbury, 1892), p. 377.

¹⁵ Robert Hovenden, ed., *The Visitation of Kent, Taken in the Years 1619-1621* (Harleian Society, Publications, XLIII; London, 1898), p. 157. No record of children by her (2) marriage has been found but a suit brought in Virginia by John Sloman, Gent., against John, Francis and Thomas Epes was ordered to be continued 3 Aug. 1658 (Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1655-65, p. 150). By 3 Dec. 1658 he was deceased for Capt. John Woodleife and Mr. George Potter were appointed to examine the difference between Capt. Robert Wynne for the estate of Mr. John Sloman, deceased, and Mr. Francis Epes and Mr. Thomas Epes and report to the next court (*ibid.*, p. 162). John Sloman had witnessed a bond from Thomas Nothway

covenanted that she should receive an annuity of £20 after his decease, such money to come from the rents of his property. He quotes from the will which specified that the £20 annuity was to be taken from "lands given me by my uncie William Epps." The testator died on 3 March 38 Queen Elizabeth (1595/6).

Depositions are attached for both plaintiff and defendants. One of the deponents was Johane Eps, wife of the plaintiff, aged 42 at the time of her deposition in October 1597. Other deponents maintain that John Berry had declared he was willing to spend £200 on proceedings to maintain Anne Epps' title to her husband's property, which included land called "The Poweltons." Berry's men had taken horse and arms from Lydd to the house of William Epps Sr. in Old Romney and had entered upon his estate called Great Pope's Close there. It is alleged James Watts, an annuitant of plaintiff, struck defendant and that John Epps threatened to imprison Berry's men.⁸

14 June 39 Eliz. (1597). Rejoinder of John Berry etc. to Replication of John Epps. The plaintiff's Bill is utterly false and malicious. John Epps, against the intent of his brother's will, had failed to pay the annuities provided for. One, John Gibson, had got the will into his hands and refuses to give it to Anne Epps, the sole executor. John Epps had used force to impound testator's cattle, and threatened to carry away his corn.⁹

Replication of John Epps to the Answer of John Berrye etc. The allegations made by Berrye are untrue. Plaintiff has made payments to Anne Epps who continues in possession of a great part of the land in dispute. Berrye has caused the first trouble for many years in these quiet parts.¹⁰

6 May 39 Eliz. (1597). Depositions (signed) by John Berrye of Lydd in above case.¹¹

1597. Depositions in Epps v. Berry etc. Deponents were Thomas Lamdon of Lydd, horse rider, aged 40, and John Briant of Lydd, husbandman, aged 22, both servants of John Berry.¹²

5 Oct. 1605. Recognizance of £200 from John Eppes Sr. of Sellenge, Kent, gent. to William Hamon of the City of Canterbury, gent., dated 5

⁸ Court of Star Chamber, Proceedings, Elizabeth I, STAC 5/E14/15.

⁹ *Ibid.*, STAC 5/E10/4.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, STAC 5/E17/5.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, STAC 5/16/10.

¹² *Ibid.*, STAC 5/E3/33.

October 3 Jas. I (1605) and written in the dwelling house of the same Hamon. Epps to pay Hamon £100 by 1 July next.¹³

3 Jas. I (1606-07). Plaintiffs Sir John Scott of Nettlestead, Kent, and Dame Katherine his wife, late wife of Sir Rowland Heyward, alderman of London, deceased. Sir Rowland Heyward made his will 14 years ago leaving good fortunes to his children, and particularly to his daughter Anne Heyward. John Epps (son of John Epps of Sellinge, Kent, yeoman) "a person of very dissolute and badde conversacion, a common drunkard, quarreler and jabber, a haunter of loud and vitious company and places, a companyon only of riotous and disordered persons, and thereby grown soe infamous and hated of all men that noe man of creditte or reputacion will converse with him, and withall a man of noe estate or lykelyhood," understanding that Anne Heyward had a good portion but knowing himself to be unfit for her nevertheless was "greedily thirsting" for her fortune. In December last he laid a plot with his father, Katherine Epps his sister, Elizabeth Hache and Thomasyn Hall his kinswomen whereby he might secure the hand of Anne Heywarde, then aged 11.

Being experienced in such things John Epps Sr. first contrived to draw up a contract of marriage between his daughter Katherine, "a woman having no portion or livelyhood" and in no way a fit match, and Warham St. Leger, "a young gent of great lyvinge" and then a ward of the King. Since Katherine Epps was then in service with the plaintiffs, her brother John Epps now had an excuse to visit her frequently, much against the wishes of plaintiffs.

On 24 March last, after divine service at the parish church of Sellinge, Anne Heyward, now aged 12, was enticed to walk to Epps' house in company with Lady Smith's serving woman. There, the plaintiff allege, she was violently assaulted and locked in while John Epps jr. took her hand and made the following declaration: "Before God and this company I will take thee to be my wife, forsaking all others, soe long as wee live." Anne was then asked to make a similar declaration and finally did so but only under duress. The plaintiffs claim that the parties could not, in these circumstances, be lawfully contracted.

The defendants claim that Anne Heyward entered voluntarily into the

¹³ *Ibid.*, C54/1836.

contract of marriage and exchanged rings with John Epps.

Depositions were made on 22 June 3 Jas. I. John Epps the elder of Scillinge, gent. (signature) declared that he had threatened his son, because of his disobedience and evil courses of life, to send him away to the Low Countries to provide for himself. But John Epps Jr. had reformed his ways before contracting himself to Anne Heyward who was, as he believed, then aged 14. He often told St. Leger that his daughter Katherine was no fit match for him by birth and by dowry and St. Leger was then persuaded to disclaim his former affection for her. Deponent had not been content for his son to marry Anne Heyward unless it might be lawfully done.

Katherine Epps deposes (signature) that, during a conversation with Anne Heyward she coaxed from her a declaration that she loved John Epps and meant to marry him. As to deponent's relationship to St. Leger, her father had instructed her not to proceed in any match as St. Leger had promised to be ruled by the Lord Treasurer in the matter of his marriage. Subsequently St. Leger had written a letter to deponent telling her that whatever she heard about his forsaking her, she was not to believe it.

Other depositions by Elizabeth Hatch, wife of Steven Hatch of Sellinge, yeoman, and Thomasia Hall, single woman, servant to John Epps Sr.¹⁴

1623. Plaintiff Joane Epps of the City of Canterbury, widow of [blank] Epps and formerly widow of George Smyth the elder of Stanford, Kent. Re property devised by the will of George Smyth dated 1590.¹⁵

2 April 1624. Depositions taken at Canterbury (rotted by mildew). Suzan Buckhurst of Canterbury, aged 19, deposes that she was a servant to Mr. Michael Crupper who died about two years ago, and that he had married plaintiff's daughter. She had heard plaintiff say that her son, George Smith, had not "played the good husband" because he had not paid her £60 of hers he had received from Sir Peter Heyman, executor to his father, Henry Heyman.¹⁶

¹⁴ Court of Star Chamber, Proceedings, James I. STAC 8/268/22, British Public Record Office.

¹⁵ Chancery Proceedings, Series II, Elizabeth I to the Commonwealth, C3/346/23, British Public Record Office.

¹⁶ Court of Chancery, Country Depositions, Series I, Elizabeth I to Charles I, C21/E17/12, British Public Record Office.

20 May 1624. Depositions taken at Canterbury in the case of Joane Epps, widow, versus William Coppin, Sara Smith and George Smith.

Plaintiff is widow of George Smith the younger who owned lands called Parkefield, and the dispute is about moneys and an annuity supposed to have been owed by him to the plaintiff. Defendants say that they had to borrow money to bury George Smith. Plaintiff's only daughter, Elizabeth, aged 35, had married Gabriel Richardes of Canterbury, haberdasher. One deposition is made by John Coppyn of Canterbury, gent., aged 26 (whose father was William Coppin), who declares that his sister, Sara, married George Smith the elder. Depositions also made by Robert Stede of Smeeth, Kent, gent., aged 40; Edward Chittenden of Stanford, Kent, yeoman, aged 30; William Rooke of Stanford, gent., aged 35; and Peter Wynne of Canterbury, gent., aged 29.¹⁷

MISCELLANEOUS

Oct. [1555?]. Plaintiff Robert Whatman of Great [], Kent, who claims that he is seized of 3 messuages and 100 acres in Old Romney and that the deeds came to William Epps who has contrived to make the property over to himself. William Epps answers that Henry Whatman, father of the plaintiff, by his will 8 Nov. 5 Edw. VI [1551], required him to manage his lands until his son came of age, and appointed defendant as his executor.¹⁸

(1574). Plaintiff Thomas Swaynford of New Romney, Kent, yeoman, that he lived in Old Romney and was seized in the right of his wife of a house there. He needed to leave the house in the charge of a maidservant who was to take care of his three small children aged about six to seven years. On 17 March 21 Elizabeth, John Gibbons, yeoman, William Epps, yeoman, William Mayo, yeoman, John Epps, yeoman, Kenelme Digby, clerk, George Hope alias Penn, taylor, and others, all of Old Romney, assembled riotously and in warlike manner and, moved by prejudice, beset his house armed with large pikes and staves, bound the maidservant and offered violence to one of the children before taking away furniture to the house of

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, C21/E10/13.

¹⁸ Chancery Proceedings, Series II, Elizabeth I to the Commonwealth, C3/196/63, British Public Record Office.

FIRST GENERATION

FRANCIS¹ EPES (1597-by 1674)

1 FRANCIS¹ EPES, son of John and Thomazine (Fisher) Epes, was baptized 14 May 1597.¹ The date of his arrival in Virginia and the name of the ship on which he came are not known² but he must have been a resident of Virginia for some time before April 1625 when he was elected from Shirley Hundred to sit in the Assembly at James City on 10 May ensuing.³ Ensign Francis¹ Epes testified, 9 Jan. 1625/6, in the controversy between Mr. Thomas Pawlett and the Rev. Greville Pooley.⁴ He was appointed commissioner for the Upper Parts of the colony, 8 Aug. 1626, and commander of forces with Capt. Thomas Pawlett to attack the Weyanoke and Appomattox Indians, 4 July 1627.⁵ He was also a member of the Assembly of March 1627/8, by which time he was a Captain.⁶

There is no record of Francis Epes in Virginia between 7 March 1628/9⁷ and 21 Feb. 1631/2. He probably returned to England with his wife and two sons, for on 8 Sept. 1630 "Thomas, son of Francis Eps and Marie was born"

¹ Parish Register, St. Mary the Virgin, Ashford, Kent.

² He is not in the List of the Living and Dead of Feb. 1623/4 or in the Muster of Feb. 1624/5, but both lists are known to be incomplete. Eva Turner Clark, *Francis Epes, His Ancestors and Descendants* (New York, 1942), p. 211, repeats a tradition that Francis came on the ship *Hopewell* and later gave that name to his plantation on the south side of James River. A *Hopewell*, of 60 tons, brought passengers to Virginia in May 1622 and Nov. 1623, and another ship, *Great Hopewell*, of 120 tons, arrived in May or June 1624 (Avery E. Kolb, "Early Passengers to Virginia; When Did They Really Arrive?", *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXXVIII, p. 409), but no passenger lists are preserved. If Francis Epes came in 1622, he and his brother Peter may have come together. It would seem that Francis and Peter followed their elder brother William to the New World, perhaps influenced by William's reports of his new home.

³ *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia, 1619-1658/9* (Richmond, 1915), pp. ix, 44; Cynthia Miller Leonard, comp., *The General Assembly of Virginia, July 30, 1619-January 11, 1978, A Bicentennial Register of Members* (Richmond, 1978), p. 6.

⁴ *Minutes of the Council and General Court of Virginia* (2nd ed.; Richmond, 1979), p. 88.

⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 151.

⁶ Leonard, *op. cit.*, p. 7.

⁷ *Minutes of the Council and General Court*, p. 143.

in London.⁸ By Feb. 1631/2 Francis¹ Epes was again in Virginia, serving as a member of the House of Burgesses for Shirley Hundred, Mr. Farrar's and Chaplaine's.⁹ On 26 Aug. 1635 as Capt. Francis Epes he was granted 1700 acres in Charles City County on Appomattox River¹⁰ for the transportation of himself, his sons John, Francis and Thomas, and thirty other persons, two of whom, John Barker or Baker and Thomas Warden, are listed in the Muster among the servants of Capt. William Epes on the Eastern Shore.¹¹ A portion of this tract, owned by the Epes family of "Appomattox Manor," remained in the family until 1978, and was acquired by the National Park Service in 1979. Until that time it was reputed to be the oldest plantation still in the hands of descendants of the original owner.

A list of the "Names of the cheifest ... planters that hath both ventured their Lives & estates for the plantation of Virginia" which is preserved in the Bodleian Library at Oxford University names Capt. John West, Capt. Samuel Mathewes, Capt. William Claborne, Capt. William Peirce, Capt. Francis Eppes, Mr. William Ferrar, Capt. John Uty, Capt. John Pott and Capt. [Thomas] Osborne and as merchants and planters George Menefie, Richard Bennett, Edward Cage, George Downes, Obedience Robinns and Nathaniell Oldest.¹² Francis Epes' standing in the Colony is clearly indicated by this petition.

He again served in the House of Burgesses for Charles City, 1639/40 and 1645/6.¹³ As early as June 1637 he was recommended for appointment as a member of the Council of Virginia,¹⁴ although it was some time before he

⁸ W. Bruce Bannerman, ed., *The Registers of St. Olave, Hart Street, London, 1563-1700* (Harleian Society, Registers, XLVI; London, 1916), p. 40.

⁹ *Journals of the House of Burgesses ... 1619-1658/9*, pp. xii, 56; Leonard, *op. cit.*, p. 10.

¹⁰ Patent Bk. 1, p. 280. This is the present site of the city of Hopewell, formerly called City Point.

¹¹ Muster, in John Frederick Dorman, ed., *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5* (3rd ed.; Richmond, 1987), p. 68.

¹² Papers relating to the Virginia Company, Governor Harvey, Lord Baltimore, Maryland, New Albion, and petitions of the Virginia planters, Bankes Mss.8, Bodleian Library, Oxford University, Virginia Colonial Records Project microfilm 636. Although undated, this list apparently was drawn up during the controversy surrounding Governor Harvey's administration, circa 1635.

¹³ *Journals of the House of Burgesses ... 1619-1658/9*, pp. xv, xviii; Leonard, *op. cit.*, pp. 18, 24.

¹⁴ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, IX, p. 181.

was actually appointed to that position.

The maiden name of his wife is unknown and her given name Marie [Mary] is known only from the baptismal record of their son. Mrs. Epes was still alive in Jan. 1643/4 when Capt. Thomas Pawlett of Charles City, a brother of Sir John Pawlett, wrote his will, naming Francis Epes as one of the overseers of the will and leaving him his drum, giving to Mrs. Epes his Bible and 20 shillings to buy a mourning ring in his memory, and to his godchildren, Francis Epes (second son of Capt. Epes) and William Farrar (eldest son of William Farrar), "a silver spoon and my silver bowl and wine cup to be divided between them".¹⁵

Capt. Francis Epes did not claim his wife as a headright in any existing land patent. Since not all patents have been preserved, however, perhaps she was used as a headright in the now lost patent to his Eppes Island property, referred to in the 1644 patents of Walter Aston and John George.¹⁶

In April 1652 Capt. Francis Epes was named to the Council of State¹⁷ and soon advanced to Colonel, as in Jan. 1653/4 a patent was issued to Col. Francis Epes, Esquire, one of the Council of State, for 280 acres in Charles City County on the south side of James and Appomattox rivers, joining on the east his 1700 acre tract, due for the transportation of six persons.¹⁸ Since the initial patent was issued during the Commonwealth, following the accession of King Charles II he renewed it on 17 Feb. 1663/4¹⁹ and the whole 1980 acres was consolidated in one patent, 4 Oct. 1668.²⁰

This is the last reference to Francis¹ Epes as being alive. There are no Charles City County records preserved until Feb. 1672/3 when a 48 page fragment of an Order Book begins. Col. Francis Epes is not mentioned therein, although his sons John and Thomas are. He was certainly dead by 30 Sept. 1674 when his son and heir, Lt. Col. John² Epes patented a tract of

¹⁵ *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 1st ser., IV, p. 152. Capt. Pawlett was evidently close to the Epes family as shown by the associations in 1626 and 1627 mentioned above. Godson Francis Epes was then aged about 15 and William Farrar was about 17; it would be interesting to know how the seemingly complicated division was accomplished.

¹⁶ Patent Bk. 1, p. 787; Patent Bk. 2, p. 12.

¹⁷ *Journals of the House of Burgesses ... 1619-1658/9*, p. 82; *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, LXXXIII, p. 28.

¹⁸ Patent Bk. 3, p. 217.

¹⁹ Patent Bk. 5, p. 341 (349).

²⁰ Patent Bk. 6, p. 203.

2550 acres, which included his father's patents of 1635 and 1653/4 and some 570 acres of contiguous land due for the transportation of eleven persons.²¹

Issue: 11 JOHN², married Mary Kent.

12 FRANCIS², married (1) _____, (2) Elizabeth (____) Worsham.

13 THOMAS², married Elizabeth _____.

²¹*Ibid.*, p 62.

SECOND GENERATION

11 JOHN² EPES (1626-1679)

11 JOHN² EPES (Francis¹), born about 1626, was the eldest son of his father.¹ He married, about 1645, Mary Kent, daughter of Humphrey Kent and his wife Joane.² On 3 Aug. 1653 they sold 60 acres at Weyanoke where Humphrey Kent had resided.³ By 1657 John² Epes was living on Shirley Hundred Island, now known as Eppes Island.⁴

In 1661 he was captain of the company from Swinhouse Creek to Capt. Stegge's Creek, all of Shirley Hundred Island and from Bykor's Creek to Powell's Creek on the south side of the river,⁵ by 1671 was major and in 1673 was lieutenant colonel.⁶ The General Assembly which met 23 March 1661/2 ordered Capt. Robert Wynne and Capt. John Eps to summon some of the neighbors with them to settle the boundary between Westover and Martin's Brandon Parish.⁷

On 30 Sept. 1674 he repatented his land on the south side of James River between Gravelly Creek, the city landing and Causin's Creek, adding 572 acres of new land to his father's former patents of 1700 and 280 acres.⁸

¹ Patent Bk. 6, p. 62. Since his younger brothers are known to have been born about 1628 and in 1630, and since his eldest son was born in 1646, his birth about 1626 is a reasonable assumption.

² Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1687-95, p. 209. She was not yet born by Jan. 1624/5 when her parents were named in the muster, her father having come to Virginia in the *George*, 1619, and her mother in the *Tyger*, 1621 (Muster, in John Frederick Dorman, ed., *Adventurers of Purse and Person, Virginia, 1607-1624/5* [3rd ed.; Richmond, 1987], p. 22). Humphrey Kent, aged 5, son of John Kent, merchant tailor, was on 18 March 1607 admitted to Christ's Hospital [School], London, from the Parish of St. Sepulchre and on 17 Oct. 1617 was dismissed to go to his mother in Virginia (Peter Wilson Coldham, *Child Apprentices in America from Christ's Hospital, London, 1617-1778* [Baltimore, 1990], p. 11). The identity of his mother, who presumably had remarried and was in Virginia with a second husband, has not been established.

³ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 176.

⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 174.

⁵ *Ibid.*, pp. 284-88.

⁶ Patent Bk. 6, p. 350; Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1672-74, p. 527.

⁷ *Journals of the House of Burgesses of Virginia 1659/60-1693* (Richmond, 1914), p. 19.

⁸ Patent Bk. 6, p. 62.

Col. John² Epes was sheriff of Charles City County, Feb. 1675/6⁹ and on 26 May 1677 was appointed one of the four officials in Charles City County to examine witnesses concerning grievances in the aftermath of Bacon's Rebellion.¹⁰ He was a justice as early as 1655¹¹ and was appointed one of the justices of the quorum by Lieutenant Governor Herbert Jeffreys on 5 Nov. 1677.¹² He was alive 4 Aug. 1679¹³ but died by 16 Oct. 1679 when John³ Epes was mentioned as administrator of his father's estate.¹⁴

Issue:¹⁵ 111 Francis³, aged 27 when he made a deposition, 3 June 1673,¹⁶ but presumably died before his father as he is not mentioned again in extant records and his younger brother was their father's administrator, 1679.

112 JOHN³, married Mary _____.

113 WILLIAM³, married Sarah (Walpole) Jones.

114 EDWARD³, married Mary Green.

115 DANIEL³, married Mary _____.

⁹ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 210.

¹⁰ C.O. 1640, p. 191, Public Record Office, London, in John Davenport Neville, *Bacon's Rebellion. Abstracts of Materials in the Colonial Records Project* (n.p., 1976), pp. 74-75, Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 176.

¹¹ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1655-65, p. 1.

¹² Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 228.

¹³ *Ibid.*, p. 395.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 410. John² was, however, referred to as executor of his father's will, 25 May 1680 (Surry Co. Wills, Deeds &c 1671-84, p. 261). That John² Epes left a will is confirmed by the certificate granted to John³ on 3 April 1689 stating that John³ was the reputed son of Coll. John Epes and Mary Epes, his wife, whose maiden name was Mary Kent, and that John³ proved his father's will in Charles City County Court as executor and son and heir (Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1687-95, p. 209). The will probably divided the 1674 patent for 2550 acres granted to John² among his sons since the acreage held by John³, William³, Edward³ and Daniel³ in 1704 equals the 1980 acres originally patented by Francis² Epes in 1635 and 1653; the additional 570 [572] acres added in 1674 has not been accounted for.

¹⁵ Since 112 John² Epes was not given liberty by the court to lay out his father's land according to his father's will until Dec. 1685 (Charles City Co. court orders, 1685, fragment, Virginia State Archives Ac.14093), it is possible that 11 John² Epes was married twice and only his sons Francis³ and John³ were by Mary Kent. The other three children appear to be considerably younger.

¹⁶ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1672-74, p. 527.

12 FRANCIS² EPES (ca.1628-1678)

12 FRANCIS² EPES (Francis¹) deposed, 8 July 1677, he was aged 49 or thereabouts and, 20 Aug. 1678, that he was aged 50 or thereabouts,¹⁷ and was presumably born in Virginia. By 20 April 1658 he was a justice of Charles City County and he was called captain, 4 June 1660,¹⁸ but seems to have removed to Henrico County shortly afterward. A bond given by Samuel Claphamson to Francis Epes and his wife Elizabeth on 17 Oct. 1677 described them as residents of "Burmooda Hundred in the upper parts of James River in Virg".¹⁹

At a meeting of the militia at Westover, 12 June 1661, it was ordered that a trained band, with addition of horse, report to Fort Henry upon occasion of alarm and there be commanded by Capt. Francis Epes, one of the captains of "the Guards of the Counties."²⁰ He was a justice of Henrico County on 4 Feb. 1664/5²¹ and served as Burgess, 1670-76.²² On 27 Oct. 1673 Maj. Francis Epes was granted 927 acres, 2 roods and 16 poles of land in Henrico County on the north side of Appomattock River on Swift Creek.²³

In March 1675/6, in an Act for defense against the Indians, Lt.Col. Francis Epes of Henrico is mentioned.²⁴ Col. Francis Epes was present at an Orphans' Court at Varina in Henrico County, 20 Aug. 1678, when he gave an account of cattle belonging to Charles and Mary Worsham, orphans of Mr. William Worsham.²⁵

Col. Francis Epes was one of the factors of John Brown and Thomas

¹⁷ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 200; Henrico Co. Order Bk. 1678-93, p. 56.

¹⁸ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1655-65, pp. 137, 233.

¹⁹ Henrico Co. Deeds & Wills 1677-92, pp. 260-61. On 1 April 1679 Richard Kennon acknowledged the receipt of this bond from Fra. Epes, administrator of Col. Fra. Epes. He was to receive the money in England and pay it to the administrator.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, p. 287.

²¹ Ambler Mss., no. 14, Library of Congress.

²² Cynthia Miller Leonard, comp., *The General Assembly of Virginia July 30, 1619-January 11, 1978, A Bicentennial Register of Members* (Richmond, 1978), p. 38.

²³ Patent Bk. 6, p. 480.

²⁴ William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia*, II (New York, 1823), p. 330.

²⁵ Henrico Co. Orphans Court Bk. 1677-1739, p. 2. They were his step-children.

Sandys of London in the tobacco trade.²⁶

A letter of Col. Herbert Jeffreys, the Governor of Virginia, to Sir Henry Coventry reported that

On the 22nd and 23rd of August [1678] some Indians came downe upon James River to the number of 150 or 200 in Henrico County ... on the 24th some of the Militia officers of Henrico County gott upp a party of forty six horse and march'd immediately upp to [] upper plantation of Coll; [Rowland] Place's; The cheife officer Coll. [Francis] Epps and Major [William] Harris were kill'd and two more wounded ...²⁷

He was dead by 28 Aug. 1678 when Elizabeth Epes of Burmodii Hundred, widow, wrote the first of her two wills. On 2 Dec. 1678 Mr. Richard Cocke, Sr., aged 38, deposed that Col. Francis Epes the day before he died gave his estate to his wife and four children.²⁸ The same day William Randolph, aged 28, deposed that he was at Col. Francis Epes' house one or two days before his death, he being dangerously wounded and had no time to make a will, but that he wanted his estate to go to his wife and four children, and he hoped his brother would seat one of them at Cawsons and that Lanclands would serve one of the boys.²⁹

In Oct. 1688 Micajah Perry, merchant of London, was appointed by the Prerogative Court of Canterbury to administer the estate of Francis Epes, the Elder, of Virginia during the absence of his son Francis Epes.³⁰

Col. Francis² Epes married (1), about 1658, _____³¹ and (2), about 1661,

²⁶ Court of Chancery, Country Depositions, Series II, 1649-1714, C22/229/16, British Public Record Office. A deposition of Colonel Francis Epps of Henrico County, James River, aged 49, is stated to have been taken at James City, 2 July 1679. The year must be 1677 since Francis² Epes was 49 in that year and was dead in 1679.

²⁷ Coventry Papers, LXVIII, fol. 293-94, Virginia State Archives Miscellaneous film 431.

²⁸ Henrico Co. Order Bk. 1678-93, p. 64.

²⁹ *Ibid.*, p. 65.

³⁰ Peter Wilson Coldham, *American Wills & Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury, 1610-1857* (Baltimore, 1989), p. 102.

³¹ It has been erroneously assumed that she was a Miss Wells because an account of the estate of Thomas Wells, deceased, returned 2 March 1701/2 (Henrico Co. Deeds &c 1697-1704, p. 274) shows that Capt. Francis³ Epes was paid 20,649 pounds of tobacco, which included two-fifths part of 19 hogsheads of tobacco and ten barrels of Indian corn. This does not, however, indicate that Francis³ Epes was an heir of Thomas Wells, who died in Sept. 1696 (Henrico Co. Deeds & Wills 1688-97, p. 664) leaving a widow Mary, a son Thomas and a daughter Mary, both under 15. The payment resulted from a judgment obtained 2 Aug. 1697 by Capt. Francis³ Epes against Thomas Parker and Mary his wife, executrix of the estate of

Mrs. Elizabeth Worsham, widow of William Worsham of Henrico County.³² As Elizabeth Epes of "Burmodii" hundred, widow and relict of Col. Francis Epes of the County of Henrico, she made two wills, one dated 28 Aug. 1678, in which she provided for her Worsham children, John Worsham, Elizabeth, wife of Richard Kennon, Mary Worsham and Charles Worsham, and the other, dated 23 Sept. 1678, in which she provided for her Epes children, William, Littlebury and Mary Epes. She appointed her son-in-law Richard Kennon and her son-in-law [stepson] Francis³ Epes her executors. Both wills were proved 1 Oct. 1678.³³

Issue: (by 1) 121 FRANCIS³, married Anne Isham.

(by 2) 122 WILLIAM³, married Elizabeth _____.

123 LITTLEBURY³, married (1) _____ Llewellyn, (2) _____.

124 MARY³, married (1) John Hardyman, (2) Charles Goodrich.

13 THOMAS² EPES (1630-by 1679)

13 THOMAS² EPES (Francis¹) was baptized 8 Sept. 1630 at St. Olave, Hart Street, London.³⁴ Mr. Thomas Epes was referred to, 27 Aug. 1656,³⁵ and on 3 Aug. 1658 a suit between John Sloman, Gent., and Capt. John² Epes, Mr. Francis² Epes and Mr. Thomas² Epes is mentioned.³⁶ Mr. Thomas Epes was listed as a justice, 4 Aug. 1673, along with his brother Lt.Col. John Epes.³⁷ He witnessed an instrument of Mrs. Jane Osborne 1 Nov. 1676³⁸ but died before 4 June 1679 when the petition of Elizabeth

Thomas Wells, deceased, for a debt of 24,000 pounds of tobacco (Henrico Co. Order Bk. 1694-1701, p. 149).

³² It has often been suggested that her maiden name was Littlebury but no evidence of this has been found.

³³ Henrico Co. Order Bk. 1678-93, pp. 59-60.

³⁴ W. Bruce Bannerman, ed., *The Registers of St. Olave, Hart Street, London, 1563-1700* (Harleian Society, *Registers*, XLVI; London, 1916), p. 40. He deposed, 4 Feb. 1665/6, that he was 35 years old (Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1655-65, p. 633).

³⁵ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1655-65, p. 71.

³⁶ *Ibid.*, p. 150.

³⁷ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1672-74, p. 533.

³⁸ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1676-79, p. 184.

He married Mary _____ who may be the Mary Epes whose estate inventory was made pursuant to order of 8 Oct. 1723 and was returned 10 Dec. 1723 by John Peterson, Jr., her administrator.⁶

Issue:⁹ 1121 Mary⁴, married 132 John³ Epes.

1122 (possibly) William⁴, appointed sheriff of Charles City County on 28 April 1708.¹⁰

113 WILLIAM³ EPES (-1727)

113 WILLIAM³ EPES (John², Francis¹), "son of John Epes," was on 3 Feb. 1687/8 appointed to appraise the estate of Christopher Hinton.¹¹ He married, about 1691 or earlier, Sarah (Walpole) Jones, widow of William Jones whom she had married in 1688 and who died between 18 Dec. 1688 and 4 Feb. 1688/9,¹² and daughter of Caesar Walpole (died 1678) and his wife Elizabeth Nance (died by 3 Feb. 1691/2) who had married (2) James Wallis.¹³

In 1704 William Epes, Senr., had 750 acres in Prince George County.¹⁴

is not the same Mary Epes.

⁶ Prince George Co. Wills & Deeds 1713-28, p. 670. The inventory was made 16 Oct. 1723 and showed a total valuation of £32.6.1. This identification is tentative since the Act of Nov. 1711 then in effect (William Waller Hening, *The Statutes at Large ... of Virginia*, IV [Richmond, 1820], p. 14) directed that administrations be granted in the county where the decedent's mansion house was located. Mary Epes may have moved from Charles City County to Prince George County following her husband's death.

⁹ See p. 128, note 4, for the reasons 112 John³ Epes must have been the father of Mrs. Mary Epes who in 1722 sold portions of the original City Point patent in her own right.

¹⁰ *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia*, III, p. 180. He followed 112 John³ in that office. Since 113 William³ Epes and 122 William³ Epes both lived in Prince George County and 1213 William⁴ was only 21 in 1708 and presumably then lived in Henrico County, the existence of 1122 William⁴ is assumed but entirely unproved. He must have died unmarried and without issue.

¹¹ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1687-95, p. 104. Since two pages of the Order Book prior to this entry are missing the date may actually be March 1687/8.

¹² *Ibid.*, pp. 127, 187, 193.

¹³ *Ibid.*, pp. 385, 389.

¹⁴ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XXVIII, p. 330. He signed this quit rent roll as sheriff.

William and Sarah Epes were of Westover Parish, Prince George County, when, 7 Nov. 1715, they sold 100 acres formerly belonging to Caesar Walpole.¹⁵ They presumably lived at "Hopewell" on James River between Poythress Creek and Gravelly Run, below "City Point." On 11 June 1722 he purchased for £100 sterling a tract of 150 acres on Baley's Creek from Mary Epes, widow,¹⁶ and on 18 Feb. 1722/3 William Epes, Sr., patented 137 acres in Prince George County on both sides of Gravelly Run.¹⁷

The undated will of William³ Epes was proved 11 April 1727.¹⁸ He named his wife Sarah, son Francis (the plantation where I now live), son William (plantation at Gravelly Run), daughters Mary Bevil and Sarah Epes. The will of his widow Sarah Epes, dated 14 Feb. 1727/8 and proved 11 Nov. 1729,¹⁹ of "Hopewell," Martin's Brandon Parish, Prince George County, named daughter Mary Bevil, son Francis Epes, daughter Sarah Epes and son William Epes.

Issue: 1131 MARY⁴, married John Bevill.

1132 FRANCIS⁴, married Susanna Moore.

1133 Sarah⁴, unmarried, 14 Feb. 1727/8, when mentioned in her mother's will.

1134 William⁴, devised land on Gravelly Run, Prince George County, by his father.²⁰

114 EDWARD³ EPES (-by 1730)

114 EDWARD³ EPES (John², Francis¹) had 500 acres in Prince George County, 1704.²¹ In 1714, 1715 and 1716 he was named as a juror or an

¹⁵ Prince George Co. Wills & Deeds 1713-28, p. 94.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 537-38.

¹⁷ Patent Bk. 11, p. 181.

¹⁸ Prince George Co. Wills & Deeds 1713-28, pp. 980-81

¹⁹ Virginia State Archives, Acc.23423a.

²⁰ See Appendix A for discussion of records relating to the several Williams who were contemporaries.

²¹ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XXVIII, p. 330. He is assumed to have been a son of John² Epes since his land seems to have been a part of the original City Point patent, confirmed to John² Epes as eldest son of his father. A deed from Henry Batte to John Peterson, 11 Oct. 1703, abstracted from the Prince George County records prior to

appraiser in several Prince George County court orders.²² On 11 June 1722 Mary Epps, widow, of Charles City County, sold to Edward Eps of Prince George County for £100 sterling a tract of 150 acres on the path to Hopewell and adjoining Francis Epes' line.²³

Before 3 Aug. 1692 he married Mary Green, daughter of Lewis Green.²⁴ He presumably died before 28 April 1730 when Lewis Green wrote his will in Prince George County, leaving to his daughter Mary Eppes the plantation (apparently in Surry County) on which she was living, with reversion to her son John⁴ Eppes, and in case he died without issue to her second son Francis⁴ Eppes.²⁵ Mary was alive 21 Nov. 1749 when she deeded this land to her son Francis⁴ Eppes, his older brother John⁴ having died.²⁶

Issue: 1141 John⁴, died before 1749.

1142 FRANCIS⁴, married Phoebe _____.

1143 LEWIS⁴, married (1) Blanch Archer, (2) Lucy _____.

1144 SUSANNAH⁴, married William Gates.

115 DANIEL³ EPES (1671-1753)

115 DANIEL³ EPES (John², Francis¹), born 1671,²⁷ had 200 acres in Prince George County, 1704,²⁸ but moved to Surry County by 8-9 Nov. 1707 when James Taylor and Mary his wife of Surry County sold to Daniel Epes of the same county 166 acres on Oven Branch in Surry County.²⁹

their destruction (Batte genealogical notes, Notebook, p. 3, Virginia Historical Society Mss6:1 B3216:1), refers to a line of Edward Eppes running to Cattail Creek.

²² Prince George Co. Order Bk. 1714-20, pp. 10, 95-96; Wills & Deeds 1713-28, p. 538.

²³ Prince George Co. Wills & Deeds 1713-18, pp. 538-39.

²⁴ Charles City Co. Order Bk. 1687-95, p. 409.

²⁵ Surry Co. Deed Bk. 5, 1746-49, pp. 44-46, 72-74, 450-52; Deed Bk. 6, 1749-53, pp. 38-39. This will is lost but its provisions are recited in this series of deeds.

²⁶ Surry Co. Deed Bk. 6, 1749-53, pp. 38-39.

²⁷ The year of birth is established by the parish register entry of his death. He is believed to be the son of John² Epes, although no record so stating can be located.

²⁸ *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, XXVIII, p. 330.

²⁹ Surry Co. Deeds, Wills &c 1694-1709, pp. 380-82. He gave this land to his only surviving son, Edward² Epes on 12 March 1742/3 (Surry Co. Deed Bk. 4, 1741-46, p. 93).

He died 6 Jan. 1753, aged 81.³⁰ The will of Daniel Eppes of the Parish of Albemarle and County of Surry was dated 16 Sept. 1749 and proved 16 Jan. 1753.³¹ It named his wife Mary, son Edward, daughters Elizabeth Knight and Mary Tatum, and a minor grandson Daniel Eppes. The Rev. William Willie of Albemarle Parish and his son Edward⁴ Eppes were named as executors.

His widow Mary _____ died in Sussex County 13 June 1755, aged 79 years.³²

Issue: 1151 DANIEL⁴, married Mary _____.

1152 EDWARD⁴, married Mary Anderson.

1153 ELIZABETH⁴, married John Knight.

1154 MARY⁴, married John Tatum.

³⁰ Albemarle Parish Register.

³¹ Surry Co. Deeds, Wills &c 1738-54, pp. 844-45.

³² Albemarle Parish Register.

Anderson⁶, and daughters Sarah⁶ and Mary Anderson⁶. His executors were Henry Moss, David Bradley and Martha Epes. The widow Martha (Sledge) Eppes married (2), 17 Nov. 1791 in Sussex County,⁴¹ Charles Harrison. She had died by Sept. 1798 when her son Edward⁶ Eppes brought suit for the sale of his father's land and a division of the estate.⁴²

11526 Winny⁵, born 16 Sept. 1751,⁴³ was not mentioned in her father's will and was presumably dead without issue in 1779.⁴⁴

11527 Susanna⁵, born 12 Sept. 1753,⁴⁵ married, (bond 7) Aug. 1775 in Sussex County,⁴⁶ Lemuel Harrison of Prince George County who died before 11 Dec. 1787 when Susanna relinquished administration on his estate.⁴⁷

11528 Elizabeth⁵, born 3 June 1756 and died 14 Oct. 1768.⁴⁸

11529 Frances⁵, born 6 Jan. 1759,⁴⁹ and presumably died before 1779 as she is not mentioned in her father's will.

1153 ELIZABETH⁴ (EPES) KNIGHT (ca.1712-)

1153 ELIZABETH⁴ EPES (Daniel³, John², Francis¹) was born about 1712,⁵⁰ and married, about 1729,⁵¹ John Knight of Sussex County whose

⁴¹ Knorr, *op. cit.*, p. 32.

⁴² Sussex Co. Court papers, Virginia State Archives microfilm reel 125, frames 906-919. Pleasant Hunnicutt was appointed special guardian of the minor children, James, Thomas A. Sary and Mary, and had refused to make the division. Subsequently, Herbert (Herbart) Sledge was also appointed guardian to Polly⁵ Eppes, orphan of James⁵ Epes on 7 March 1800 and to Edward⁶, Sally⁶, James⁵ and Thomas⁵ Eppes, orphans of James⁵ Epes, deceased, on 5 Sept. 1800 (*ibid.*, frames 916-919).

⁴³ Albemarle Parish Register.

⁴⁴ It has been suggested she may have married Thomas Whitfield and, as Winifred Whitfield, joined him in a deed, 16 Feb. 1775, to Edward Eppes and Banks Meachum (Sussex Co. Deed Bk. E, 1772-79, p. 298).

⁴⁵ Albemarle Parish Register.

⁴⁶ Knorr, *op. cit.*, p. 33.

⁴⁷ Prince George Co. Deed Bk. 1787-92, p. 111.

⁴⁸ Albemarle Parish Register.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰ Estimated from the estimated birth dates of her brothers.

⁵¹ Estimated from birth date and from probable ages of her older children.

will, dated 7 Feb. 1760 and proved 18 Feb. 1762,⁵² named no wife but children William⁵, John⁵, Jordan⁵, Edward⁵, Joel⁵, Peter⁵, Richard⁵, Sarah⁵, Anne⁵ and Mary⁵, and grandson John⁵ Knight.

Issue: [KNIGHT]⁵³ 11531 William⁵, born about 1730,⁵⁴ was mentioned in his father's will in 1760. On 22 June 1765 William Andrews of Sussex County gave a Negro girl to William Knight and his wife Jane, said Jane "being my daughter," and after their deaths to their daughter Rebecca⁶ Knight.⁵⁵ William⁵ Knight and wife Jane, of Meherrin Parish, Brunswick County, on 15 Aug. 1765 sold to Peter Knight the land given him by his father.⁵⁶

11532 John⁵, born about 1730, married (1), about 1756,⁵⁷ Elizabeth Stokes, born 20 Aug. 1740,⁵⁸ daughter of Sylvanus and Cecelia Stokes, who was mentioned in her father's will, dated 25 Sept. 1758 and proved 19 June 1766,⁵⁹ and in her mother's will, dated 29 Sept. 1775 and proved 19 Oct. 1786.⁶⁰ He married (2) Sarah _____. The will of John⁵ Knight of Albemarle Parish, dated 23 July 1785 and proved 3 Feb. 1791,⁶¹ named his wife Sarah and children Crecy⁶ [Lucretia] Pippin, wife of Joseph Pippin of North Carolina, Walker⁶, Silvanus⁶ (under age), Elizabeth⁶, Charles⁶, and John⁶ (under age).

11533 Jordan⁵, born about 1734, married Elizabeth _____.⁶²

11534 Edward⁵, born about 1736, was named in his father's will in 1760.

11535 Joel⁵, born about 1738, married Hannah _____.⁶³

⁵² Sussex Co. Will Bk. A, 1754-62, p. 229.

⁵³ The birth dates of these children are estimated from the three known dates recorded in the Albemarle Parish Register.

⁵⁴ On 11 March 1752 his father conveyed to him 150 acres on the south side of Lees Branch, part of a grant to John Knight on 25 July 1741 (Surry Co. Deed Bk. 6, 1749-53, p. 500).

⁵⁵ Sussex Co. Deed Bk. C, 1763-68, p. 174.

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*, pp. 176-77.

⁵⁷ Estimated from birth of daughter Lydia, 27 April 1757 (Albemarle Parish Register).

⁵⁸ Albemarle Parish Register.

⁵⁹ Sussex Co. Will Bk. B, 1764-71, p. 74.

⁶⁰ Sussex Co. Will Bk. D, 1782-86, p. 426. Elizabeth was still living on 18 Jan. 1776 when she and her husband conveyed 160 acres to Charles Webb (Sussex Co. Deed Bk. F, p. 358).

⁶¹ Sussex Co. Will Bk. E, 1790-96, p. 78.

⁶² Albemarle Parish Register, births of children, 1765-71.

⁶³ Albemarle Parish Register, births of children 1765-69.