

CHAPTER I

JOHN GARNER (1633-1702)

John Garner, founder of the family with which this book is chiefly concerned, came to the County of Northumberland in the Colony of Virginia about 1650, at the age of 17; for in that year Lewis Burwell was granted a tract of land in Northumberland for bringing 32 new colonists into the county, among them John Garner, Thomas Broughton, Samuel Moseley, Elizabeth Moseley and their daughter, Jane. (Va. L. Gr. B. 2, p. 250). This was two years after the county was established. Those who have done research on the Garner family feel certain that John Garner was of English origin, though whether he came directly from England, from another American colony, or even from another part of Virginia,¹ is not known. Following the beheading of Charles I in England in 1649 there was a great exodus to Virginia of Stuart sympathizers or Cavaliers, as they were called. John Garner may have come in from England on this wave of immigration.

John Garner was born about 1633 for in 1663 he made a deposition in which he stated that he was thirty years old. (North. R. B. 15, p. 102). According to H. Ragland Eubank,² John Garner settled west of Garner's Creek near the site of the present village of Lewisetta in 1660. This was near the mouth of the Coan River on a neck of land then called Cherry Point but today known as Cowart's Point. Across Garner's Creek on the east Cypress Farm, still extant today, was established in 1662 by Captain John Rogers and his wife, Ellen. John Garner married Susanna Keene, daughter of Thomas and Mary Keene of Northumberland County. Susanna was probably born on Kent Island in the Potomac River during the period (1634-1649) when it was in dispute between Virginia and Maryland. In 1649 it officially became a part of Maryland.

1. Robert Bennett Bean in *The Peopling of Virginia* (Chapman and Grimes, 1938), p. 74, says that a Garner was among the first settlers in Isle of Wight County, Va. in 1619. George Cabell Greer, *Virginia Immigrants, 1623-1666*, 1912, p. 124, lists Garners as being in the counties of Charles City, Henrico and New Norfolk by 1637.
2. H. Ragland Eubank, *Historic Northern Neck of Virginia* (Northern Neck Association, Colonial Beach, Va., 1934), p. 68.

This marriage is thought to have taken place about 1660, for in 1659 Susanna's stepfather and guardian, Thomas Broughton, gave her her share of her father's cattle, designating her by the name of Susanna Keene; (North. R. B. 15, p. 30) while her mother's will in 1662 mentioned her as the wife of John Garner and as having a daughter. (North. R. B. 15, p. 92)

July 15, 1657, Francis Roberts patented 500 acres of land "lying beyond Col. Speakes and the Doegs Island, south to the mouth of a creek above the said Speakes, easterly upon James Magregorys, westerly into the woods . . . to Mr. Jernews," due Roberts for transporting ten persons into the colony. (Va. L. Gr. B. 4, p. 114) February 20, 1658, Francis Roberts assigned to John Garner and Joseph Fielding a patent of 500 acres of land "lying beyond Col. Speke's land and Doege Island in the Potomac River," and promised to defend them against "claim or title of any except the Indians." (North. R. B. 1658-66, p. 10) June 20, 1663, "Joseph Fielding and John Garner, both of Northumberland County in Virginia, transfer and assign all our rights, titles and interest in the 500 acres of land" which had been transferred to them by Francis Roberts, to John Garner, Jr., son of John Garner, and to John Bailes, Jr., son of John Bailes deceased. (North. R. B. 15, p. 100) By March, 1667, Joseph Fielding had married "the relict and administratrix of John Bailes deceased." This land was located in what later became Stafford County. Apparently neither John Garner, Sr., nor John Garner, Jr., ever lived on it.

In October, 1659, William Hill was indebted to Joseph Fielding and John Garner in the sum of 350 pounds of tobacco. (North. O. B. 2, p. 232)

September 26, 1661, the inventory of William Little was returned by John Garner, Nicholas Owen, Abraham Joyce and Francis Simons. (North. O. B. 2, p. 67)

October 21, 1661. "Be it known to all men by these presents that I, William Hopkins do freely give unto John Garner half of my land at the Yocomico and to his heirs, it being 400 acres in all," and instructs John Garner "to seat the same by the First of March next, for seating of the same land I, William Hopkins do freely give unto John Garner the half of my land patent herein conveyed and witness my hand and seal." (North. R. B. 15, p. 66)

May 5, 1663, Henry Bradley was sworn as Constable of Northumberland County, "for ye north side of little

Werecomake, and John Garner for the Cherry Point Neck." (North. O. B. 2, p. 210)

June 6, 1663, John Garner and Francis Roberts were empanelled on a jury in a suit between Martin Cole and Peter Smith. (North. O. B. 2, p. 279)

December 20, 1664, a certificate was granted to John Garner for 250 acres of land for the importation of five persons into the colony. (North. O. B. 2, p. 411)

May 5, 1665, John Garner was mentioned as guardian to Thomas Keene (his wife's brother), "the orphan of Thomas Keene deceased." (North. O. B. 2, p. 414)

October 13, 1665, William Thompson named John Garner one of the executors of his estate. (North. R. B. 15, p. 175)

April 4, 1667, Ralph Stevens of Northumberland County, planter, sold a tract of land to John Garner. (North. R. B. 16, p. 19)

In May, 1667, John Garner appointed Henry Moseley his attorney in Northumberland. (North. R. B. 16, p. 24)

October 1, 1667, the Association of Northumberland, Westmoreland and Stafford ordered that a house for the workmen be built near the place for the Fort on Yeocomico River. The dimensions specified were "40 feet long, 9 feet pitch and 20 feet wide . . . said house to be built by Jno Garner and other assistants whom he shall select."³

October 24, 1667, Elizabeth Moseley appointed "my beloved friend John Garner" her lawful attorney to acknowledge a sale of land to Thomas Watson. (North. R. B. 16, p. 33)

November 20, 1668, John Garner was owed 982 pounds of tobacco by James Robinson. (North. O. B. 3, p. 48)

About 1672 John Garner moved a few miles farther up the Northern Neck to Westmoreland County near the present village of Kinsale.

In October, 1672, Nicholas Jenkins and wife, Ann, deeded 100 acres of land on Yeocomico River, which had been purchased of Samuel Earle in 1669, to John Garner and Robert Middleton. (West. B. 1665-77, p. 156)

February 25, 1673, Robert Jeffries, age 35, deposed that "on the 15th of July last" he was with John Garner and Robert Middleton when they bought land in Westmoreland County. (West. B. 1665-77, p. 177)

April 15, 1674, John Garner was on a coroner's jury

3. *William and Mary College Quarterly*, 1st series, Vol. IX, p. 238.

in Westmoreland County. (West. B. 1665-77)

"William Rogers and wife Amy are indebted to Robert Middleton and John Garner to the extent of 6,000 lbs. of tobacco, which they acknowledged 28 August, 1674, for land sold by Richard Jenkins deceased, as per bill of sale, which sale was not acknowledged by said Jenkins before his death." (West. B. 1665-77, p. 212)

In January, 1692, John Markes was declared indebted unto John Garner in the sum of 5000 pounds of tobacco, "which is to be paid, provided the said Garner gives good security to this court and his wife shall disclaim her right to her third of a seat of land sold by the said Garner to the said Markes." Securities were John Garner, William Shores, Abraham Joyce. (North. O. B. 3, p. 198)

January 15, 1694/95, John Jenkins of Cople Parish sold to John and Vincent Gardner of same parish and county 100 acres of land in Horne Point on Yeocomico River. (West. D. & W. B. 2, p. 24)

July 21, 1697, Joseph Gamble of King and Queen County sold to John Garner his land in Westmoreland County. (West. D. & W. B. 2, p. 126)

As will be noted from his will, John Garner gave to his son, Vincent, his land near Kinsale and that on Horn Point. Northwest of these lands he owned 800 acres which he gave to his sons, John and Henry. Upon some of this land, between the present villages of Hague and Kinsale, one of a later generation of Garners in the 1700's built "China Hall," which is still standing today. It was later acquired by Judge John Campbell who changed its name to "Kirnan."⁴

John Garner died early in 1702, for his will (West. D. & W. B. 3, p. 153 *et seq.*) was dated January 22, 1702, proved May 26, 1702, and recorded January 1, 1703. It reads as follows:

In the name of God, Amen! I, John Garner being sick and weak of body, but of perfect memory and understanding do give and bequeath my Soul unto God that gave it, and my body to be decently interred. As to my worldly Estate, I give and bequeath as followeth; *Item*—I do give and bequeath unto my well beloved son John Garner and to his heirs forever one moiety of eight hundred and odd acres of land, also I give unto my well beloved son Henry Garner and to his heirs forever the other moiety of the aforesaid eight hundred and odd acres of land to be equally divided between my said sons John and Henry Garner the said eight hundred and odd acres of land being the land my said sons John and Henry Garner are now seated upon.

4. Eubank, *op. cit.*, p. 62.

Item—I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Henry Garner my chest together with my wearing apparel. *Item*—I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son Vincent Garner and his heirs forever the whole plantation and land I now live on together with the lands adjoining. Also I give unto my said son Vincent and to his heirs a parcel of land lying in horn point. *Item*—I give and bequeath unto my said son Vincent Garner my long gun and my hanger and a yoke of oxen. Also my will is that my said son Vincent Garner hath the one half of what is got of the money of the sloop which is called the Outery. *Item*—I do will and appoint and order my said son Vincent Garner, his heirs, Exors and Amrs to pay unto my son Thomas Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask. I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Parish Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask. *Item*—I do will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son Benjamin Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousands pounds of good tobacco in cask, to be paid unto my said son Benjamin Garner when he shall be one and twenty years old. *Item*—I will and appoint my said son Vincent Garner his heirs or assigns to pay unto my son James Garner his heirs or assigns the sum of two thousand pounds of good tobacco in cask to be paid unto my son James Garner when he shall come to the age of one and twenty. *Item*—I give and bequeath unto my well beloved daughters Mary Susan and Martha each of them a thomb ring and also my will is that my well beloved wife to see them paid. *Item*—I give and bequeath unto my well beloved wife Susan all the rest of my Estate as Goods and Chattels moveables and unmoveables and do make my said loving wife Susan the sole Executor of this my last will and testament, willing all my due debts to be paid, revoking all other wills and testimonies, this my last will and testament, also my will is that my well beloved wife Susan her heirs or Executors pay the one half of the tobacco which is given to my said sons being four thousand, the 22nd day of Jan: 1702.

JOHN GARNER (Seal)

Signed, sealed in the presence of us: William Gardner
Jno. Williams
Wm. Moore

Westmoreland Co. At a Court held for the said county the 26th day of May. The last will and testament of John Garner, dec'd, the within subscriber was proved by the oath of Wm. Gardner, and a probate thereof granted to Susan Gardner, Executrix, therein named.

Test. I. A. Westcomb C. C. Com. Rd.

Recordity. Prime Die Jany. 1703

Susanna Garner survived her husband by about 14 years. She left no will but the records show her estate was inventoried March 28, 1716 by James Carr, James Thomas and William Garner. (West. D. & W. B. 4, p. 560) On May 30, 1716 her son, Benjamin, stated that his mother's clothes had not been appraised but had been divided among

her daughters at the time of her funeral. (West. D. & W. B. 5, p. 57)

John and Susanna (Keene) Garner had *issue*: (1) John² Garner; (2) Henry² Garner; (3) Vincent² Garner; (4) Thomas² Garner; (5) Parish² Garner; (6) Benjamin² Garner; (7) James² Garner; (8) Mary² Garner; (9) Susan² Garner; (10) Martha² Garner.

CHAPTER II

JOHN GARNER (—— - 1713)

John² Garner, son of John¹ Garner and his wife, Susanna, is first mentioned in the records of Northumberland County on June 20, 1663 as follows: "John Garner, the sonne of John Garner of Cherry Point neck in the County of Northumberland the mark of cattle and hogs is cropt & slitt on the left ears a talon out of the upper side of the said ears and right ears overkeeled." (North. R. B. 15, p. 101) On the same day Joseph Fielding and John Garner assigned their rights in 500 acres of land to John Garner Jr., son of John Garner, and to John Bailes, Jr., son of John Bailes deceased. (North. R. B. 15, p. 100) February 14, 1667, Thomas Watson assigned 200 acres of land to John Garner Jr.¹ (North. R. B. 16, p. 33)

Nothing further is found recorded about John² Garner until 1687/8 when on February 29th we find the following: "John Garner Jr., Whereas Thomas Saunders, an orphan was remitted to the care of Joshua Bayles, who is since deceased, the said Gardner jr. is appointed by the court to have the care and tutelage of the said orphan, promising to teach him the trade of house carpenter, joiner as much as in him lies, or the orphan be capable, John Garner the younger." (West. B. 1675/6-1688/9)

January 23, 1697 one acre of land was laid out for John Garner Jr. for a mill on a dam supposed to be in the possession of John Garner, Sr., or Alice Achew. (West. D. & W. B. 2, p. 131)

In 1698 there was an indenture between John Trammell of Lower Machotick in Westmoreland County and John Garner the younger for an exchange of land, Garner to exchange 300 acres on the Potomac Creek in Stafford County for a plantation on lower Machotick Creek in Westmoreland County. (West. D. & W. B. 2, p. 177)

1. Since this John Garner would have been a small child in 1663-67, the three records in this paragraph have led some people to the belief that he was the third rather than the second John Garner in Northumberland and that these records concern the one discussed in Chapter I. However, this would appear to be disproved by the fact that John Garner who died in 1713 willed to two of his children tracts of land answering the description of those listed here, whereas they are not mentioned at all in the will of John Garner who died in 1702. The explanation may be that the lands and livestock mentioned in these records were gifts to the firstborn son of the first John Garner.