



Prince William Reliquary

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REL-I-QUAR-Y: (*noun*) A receptacle for keeping or displaying relics.

KATE'S LETTERS FROM VIRGINIA THE CORRESPONDENCE OF CATHARINE (CALDWELL) DAVIS, 1860-1871

Transcribed by Carol Myers Rymes¹
Edited by Donald L. Wilson

[The letters of Kate (Caldwell) Davis are in the possession of her descendant, Carol Rymes, who has agreed to share them with our readers. They describe life in Prince William County from the eve of the Civil War well into the age of Reconstruction.]

Catharine Charlotte Caldwell was born in Chester, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, in Nov. 1842, and died in 1873 in Occoquan, Prince William County, Virginia. She was the youngest child of George Caldwell Sr. (born 1795) and Evelina Donne (1799-1858).²

The family story was that Kate came to Virginia at the age of 17 to visit her much older sister Amelia Caldwell Slack. Amelia (born 1822) had recently moved to Prince William County along with her husband William Slack, who was a house builder. Their son Harry later became a local undertaker in Occoquan. We do not know why they ended up in Virginia, but sons Harry and George were born in Illinois, about 1854-57, so they may have been following chances for work.³

After arriving in Prince William in the late summer of 1860, she was courted by several men of the neighborhood, and by mid-winter had accepted a proposal of marriage from William Davis, a well-to-do widowed farmer living near Occoquan. After surviving the Civil War and giving birth to five children, Kate died of "bilious fever," 2 September 1873 at the age of 32.⁴

I imagine that her sisters and sister-in-law kept her letters to them so that they could pass them on to her four children. Each successive generation cherished them, and passed them on to the next generation. My great-grandmother Clara Susan

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¹ Antrim, N.H. Email: carol@rymes.net.

² 1860 U.S. census, Delaware County, Pennsylvania, Chester Township, p.86/13, dwelling 97, family 95: Geo: Caldwell, 65, farmer, \$12,000 real estate, \$2460 personal property, b. Pa.; Geo. Jr., 32, farmer, Pa.; Catharine, 17, Pa.; Margaret Glenn, 17, servant, Pa.

³ 1860 U.S. census, Prince William County, Virginia, Brentsville post office, p. 157/575, dwelling 1059, family 1064: William Slack, 42, [no occupation given], \$1620 real estate, \$280 personal property, b. Pa.; Amelia A., 40, Pa.; Henry, 6, Illinois; George, 3, Illinois.

⁴ Register of Deaths (BVS), Prince William County, Virginia, 1873, Occoquan Township; Absalom T. Lynn, assessor; line 3; LVA microfilm reel 24, RELIC, Manassas, Va. The decedent is given as Catharine C. Davis, age 32, born Pennsylvania, a hotel keeper, married; the informant is Wm. Davis. Her parents are given as "Wm. & C.C. Davis". [Apparently the age difference between the couple was so great that the registrar mistook her husband for her father. /DLW]

(Davis) Myers (born 1862) was the only one of Kate's children who had descendants, so the letters were passed down until they came into my possession from my father Alfred Vernon Myers Jr.

The letters have now been scanned into a database at RELIC, the local history department of Prince William Public Library, so that their content can be shared with others.

Some people mentioned in the letters, and their relation to Kate:

George **Caldwell** Sr. – Her father, called “Pappy.”

George Caldwell Jr. (b. 1828) – Brother in Pennsylvania.

Gulielma (Malin) Caldwell (b. 1837) – Sister-in-law, wife of George Jr.

William **Davis** (b. 1804, son of Job) – Her husband.

Joanna F. “Annie” (Caldwell) **Johnson** (b. 1827) – Sister in Pennsylvania.

William Johnson – Brother-in-law, husband of Joanna.

Rebecca “Becky” (Caldwell) **Palmer** (b. 1825) – Sister in Pennsylvania.

Samuel Palmer Sr. – Brother-in-law, husband of Rebecca.

Amelia (Caldwell) **Slack** (b. 1822) – Kate's sister in Virginia.

William Slack – Brother-in-law, husband of Amelia.

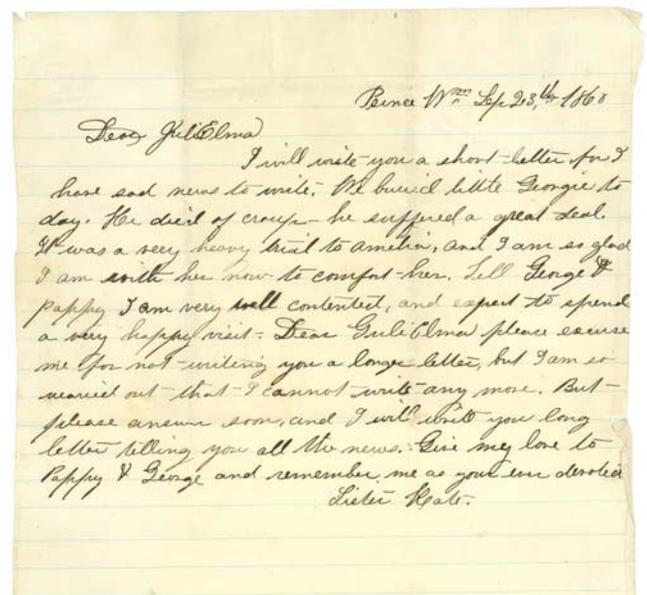
[Kate Caldwell to GuliElma Caldwell]⁵

Prince W^m Sep 23th [sic] 1860

Dear JuliElma [sic]

I will write you a short letter for I have sad news to write. We buried little Georgie to day.⁶ He died of croup – he suffered a great deal. It was a very heavy trial to Amelia, and I am so glad I am with her now to comfort her. Tell George & Pappy I am very well contented, and expect to spend a very happy visit. Dear GuliElma please excuse me for not writing you a longer letter, but I am so wearied out that I cannot write any more. But please answer soon, and I will write you long letter telling you all the news. Give my love to Pappy & George and remember me as your ever devoted
Sister Kate.

Envelope addressed to Mrs. George Caldwell
Care D. R. Esrey⁷
Chester, Del. Co
Pa



⁵ Kate Caldwell Davis letters, property of Carol Rymes of Antrim, New Hampshire; digital copies at RELIC, image 4. Cited hereafter as Letters.

⁶ This would be George Slack, Amelia's younger child, aged 3. No death certificate has been found for him.

⁷ D.R. Esrey, age 34, a storekeeper, is next door to the Caldwell family in 1860, dwelling 98, family 96.

Postmarked: OCC[OQU]AN, VA. SEPT. 23

[Kate Caldwell to Annie Johnson]⁸

Occoquan Oct. 21st 1860.

Dear Annie,

I hope you will excuse me for not writing to you before as I promised to do, but indeed I felt so unsettled after I arrived here, that I could not compose myself sufficient to write. You must know I have been full of sight-seeing ever since I landed in Old Virginia. We had a right pleasant journey. I met cousin Hen in Baltimore, and he went with us to the Washington depot. He asked after you – I told him you had a real life baby and, on hearing the important news inquired if you had named it for him. Of course I answered in the negative. (Hen always was a dunce, was'nt he?) I did not get to see any thing of Washington but the outskirts – if I am to judge of the city by the suburbs, I will come to the conclusion that it is the ugliest place in the United States of America. From what I could see of Alexandria I should judge it was a very pretty place. It's pretty yet I suppose has'ent changed any since I saw it. Occoquan is nothing in this world but a collection of stores, set between very large hills, on a stream they call Occoquan Run. It is a very disagreeable looking place. I have been there once. All that I have seen of V^a is just what Wull [*Will?*] describes it. The poorest country on the face of the Earth. Amelia has about the best farm any wheres about. [p. 2] The dwellings are nothing but log shanties, with chimneys built on the outside. The house where black Maria lives in Shoemakersville, would be considered quite respectable down here. Our house at home would be thought quite a palace. The house we live in is quite comfortable. And the thought that our neighbours are no better than we, completely consoles us. I am now writing in the kitchen, setting room, parlor, and bed room, wonderful, is'nt it? It did make me open my eyes, and feel all over like, for a while after I first arrived, I must confess. But now I'm broke in [.] I like it very much. One can get used to any thing you know. The people are so different from the set around home. They are so kind and obliging, and so sociable. I could live among them forever. We have been out but very little, still I have a great deal of company. I have not one moment to be lonesome. I am going visiting with a new acquaintance, Maggie Dunn,⁹ on Thursday, and on Saturday I expect to go to see Lizzie Chamberlin.¹⁰ Her brothers have promised to learn me to ride on horse back. Ladies go a great deal on horseback. No doubt in a short time I will be riding as well as any of them. The farmers, for the most part have very fine horses, and the stock is generally good. Annie you were mistaken in the thought that I would be willing to return in two weeks. There is no inducement would tempt me to come home at present. I would dearly love to see you all, and [p. 3] particularly your dear little baby. I expect it is growing finely. Do take good care of him, so that when I come home I may see him a fine fat boy. How is Pappy?

⁸ Letters, images 5-8.

⁹ Margaret Dunn, b. ca. 1846, New York, daughter of Alexander F. Dunn. [1860 U.S. census, PWC, p. 570.] She was married in 1867 to Richard Henry Cornwell. [Ronald Turner, *Prince William County Virginia Marriages 1854-1938* (Manassas: R. R. Turner, 2002), 110]

¹⁰ Elizabeth Ann Chamberlain, b. ca. 1841, in Pennsylvania, daughter of Alvin and Mary, was married in 1873 to Charles Bennett. [Turner, *Marriages*, 65]

how are they coming on at home? how are the children? has Pappy scolded any about my being away? what does Will say on the subject? Do write I beseech you and tell me all. Beck says you have Mag, my old girl living with you. Well I pity you from the bottom of my heart. How long does it take her to wash the dishes? Be careful before her, she's an awful tatler. Mag loves to tell news, and your near neighbours love to hear it.

It is very probable Amelia will move to Warrenton between now and Christmas. God willing I shall go with them. Warrenton (from all accounts) is a very pretty place. It is about forty miles from Washington. It is thirty miles from here, but is only fifteen miles further from home. I can reach home a day sooner from there. The cars run straight to the place. Starting for home from here, you have to ride twenty four miles in a waggin to Alexandria. You cannot go that distance in much less than a day, then you have to stay in Ale^a all night, and there's your hotel expences. So you see taking all things into consideration I can get home much easier, and much sooner from Warrenton.

Give my best Love to Will and all inquiring friends. I intend writing to Beck if I can this [p. 4] evening. Amelia sends her love, and wishes you to answer her letter. Now Annie don't neglect it. You would'nt believe how fat I'm growing. Virginia air and corn dodger agree with me finely.

And now finally, lastly and in conclusion, I ask, wish, desire, entreat, beseech, and fervently pray you to write to me. And do write. For Lord's sake write. And Annie what ever else you omit, don't neglect to write to me, and that right soon.

Yours as ever, truly your
devoted sister Kate

To: Mrs. Annie L. Johnson

[Kate Caldwell to George and Gulielma Caldwell]¹¹

Occoquan Oct. [blank] 1860

Dear George & Gulielma,

I received your truly welcome letter, and now will endeavor to answer it. I was so glad to get your letter and hear from home and to know that you are all well and getting along finely. I know that you must be very busy GuliElma, but do not work too hard, remember there is luck in leisure. Your excuse for not writing is all sufficient. Still I don't want you to be so much occupied with the broom and dish water pan, as to forget your relations in Virginia. We were indeed grieved and shocked to hear of the death of Moses Culbert, and so sudden too, it is truly distressing. No doubt the family are in great affliction. I do scincerely pity them. Verely, "in the midst of life, we are in death." And Marg Mace has lost her little baby too. Poor little thing, no doubt it is taken from the evil to come. You remember Annie's baby had come to town before I left. I do hope she may raise it. William Young has an addition to his family, hey? Well now folks don't be behind the times, do present us with a United States Senator, or something of the kind. Don't be selfish, you'll never know half the comforts of life, untill you have use for a cradle. Only think George, of having to get up from your warm bed in the middle

¹¹ Letters, images 9-12.

of a cold winter's night, and get the little darling a drink. O bliss unspeakable. So Ike is becoming [p. 2] reconciled to the absence of his Misstres? [*sic*] Well I am glad to hear it, and hope by the time his Mistress is ready to return home, he will have grown into a sensible dog. And Dick has learned to crow? Startling revelation! tell it not in Gath.! What are the folks doing in the neighbourhood? All quiet at the Seat of War? I don't doubt but that dispatches are flying from all parts to and from the War Department, with unremitting zeal. Pity but they were employed with as much zest in a better cause. If any male men should happen to come that way, don't neglect to tell them what a beautiful sister you have in Virginia. But I think you had better not after all, for they might come flocking down here to such an extent that the Virginians would suppose it was another insurrection, and drive us all from the state. It's a real shame I am so attractive. Enough of such nonsense, let us think of something more serious. We had a real pleasant journey to Alexandria. Cousin Henrey met us in Baltimore and went with us to the Washington depot. He inquired for you all at home, and seemed quite dissappointed that I had not concluded to visit Frederick. William met us in Washington. I did not get to see any thing of the fine city but the outskirts. If I am to judge of the city by the suburbs, I will come to the conclusion it is the eugliest place I ever saw. Alexandria is a very pretty place. We stayed there all night, started next morning in a two horse waggin for home. When we were with [p. 3] in ten miles of our destination, it began to rain, and continued to pour on us the rest of the journey. So much for my reception in the Old Dominion. The country round here is very pretty. There is a great deal of timber, and any quantity of game. Rabbits, partridges, and squirrels by the hundred. We had a rabbit for dinner today. The farms are generally pretty good. The corn crop looks much better than ours. The ears are large and well filled out. Amelia has a fine crop of potatoes both sweet and mercer. The people here are just what they are represented to be, kind and hospitable. I could live among them forever. We have lots of company, so I have no time to be either home sick or lonely. As for the darkies, I have seen but two scince I came to Virginia. There are very few around us. Churches are convenient, and ways and means to get to them are very plenty. William & Amelia have gone this afternoon to plant flowers around little Georgie's grave. Dear little fellow – his death is a great trial to his poor mother, but she tries to bear up, for she knows her loss is his eternal gain.

In all probability William will move to Warrenton between now and Christmas. Warrenton (from all accounts) is a very pretty place, and is about forty miles from Washington. I can get home from there much sooner and much easier than I can from here. The cars run straight from Warrenton to Alexandria. Taking all things into conscideration, I think it will be a great advantage to all hands. [p. 4] Amelia told me to give her love to both of you, and says she intends writing to you Guilelma, as soon as she can get a suitable opportunity. Remember me to Pappy and tell him Virginia air and corn bread agree with me finely. I am growing real fat. I have found but one inconvenience scince I landed on Old Virginia Shore. And that was the ticks. Bless me, how they can itch[!] The late heavy frosts have destroyed them all now, and I can live in peace. Amelia joins with me in love to Mrs. Bailey. I wrote to Annie & Becky yesterday, no doubt you will get your letters nearly at the same time. I will conclude this rambling letter, hoping you will answer soon. My love to all inquiring friends.

Your devoted Sister
Kate

To George & GuliElma

P.S. Tell Pappy that we could not see the man to get the receipt for the Leases [hearses?] in time to send it in this letter. We will endeavor to procure it.

Yours &c
Sister Kate

[Kate Caldwell to Will Johnson]¹²

Occoquan Nov 30th 1860

Dear Brother Will

I recieved your truely welcome letter, and hope you will excuse me for not answering sooner. You don't know how much good it did me to recieve your letter. I read it again, and again. One of my V^a. beaux brought it from Occoquan, and the service raised him considerably in my estimation. I can assure you. I have a whole host of acquaintances down here. They are sociable and pleasant and love fun as well as you and I. They gave me a birthday party on Wednesday the 28th of Nov. There are several more volunteered to give parties about Christmas. So you see Will we can have busts down here in Old Virginia. Still I could not consent to have any one go to a party with Will Johnson but my own unworthy self. What are you all dowing down in the Hollow any how? What do you think of the recent election? I declare I can't hurrah for Lincoln. And O to think Penn^a. Went republican; shame! Do please send us some political papers. The Upland Union and the Delaware County Republican. Also as many others as you have a mind to. We heare no news down here, so have pity on us and send us information. Is cousin Lottie still with you[?] If so, give her my love, and tell her she is welcome to [p. 2] the beaux Delaware County can afford. But please save one for me as you promised, for I have no idea of taking a Virginia husband. You say it would do you good to see my face, it would do me better to see your face even if you were not shaved. How is that United States senator, George, of yours? Tell Annie if she has got a baby she might write to us poor souls down here. Take good care of the wonderful budget for I am mighty desirous of seeing him. Mind teach him to be a good democrat like his Aunty. Tell Debbie Aunt Kate is coming home some day, and expects to see her grown quite a woman. What are the folks doing about home? When you see them give them my love, and tell Guli Elma to answer my letter. How is Beckie & Sammy? Tell Beck to write to us. How are the ambassadors from the Seat of War getting along? I expect poor old Kate is getting done up brown. Is Martha Culbert & Will Eaves married yet? And how are they all? When you write please give me all the neighbourhood news. If I am in the Old Dominion, I have not forgotten home.

William & Amelia have given up all idea of *mooving* to Warrenton. William has two large houses to build close at home, and two in Brentsville. In truth he has as much as he can do. So they have concluded to stay in Prince William a while longer. I am satisfied with the turn things have taken, for [p. 3] I have many nice acquaintances here, and in Warrenton every one we should meet would be a stranger. I am going to a quilting next Tuesday. We expect to have a pleasant time. So Christmas is coming. Well a merry time to you all. Don't forget me on that happy day. In the midst of all my enjoyments I cannot help feeling sad when I think I will not be with you all on Christmas day. I cannot say when I will be home, perhaps not before spring.

¹² Letters, images 13-16.

And I may be with you shortly after Christmas. I hope the home folks are doing well. Does Pappy ever say any thing about me coming back? when you write tell me all about it. Give my love to Annie and kiss the baby for me. Amelia sends her love to all, also a kiss to little George. Now Will please answer soon. And don't forget the papers. When you see Martha Culbert tell her to write to me. Excuse this miserable scrawl, the next time I write I will try to do better.

Your affectionate friend & Sister
Kate C. Caldwell

To brother
Will Johnson

P.S. We have recieved your letter, Annie but a few moments ago, scince I have finished writing this one to Will. Oh Annie you can't imagine how sorry I am that your dear baby is ailing. Still I will try to hope for the best. It has got along thus far, and I trust with care its precious life may be spared to comfort you many years yet. Amelia says all that she can recommend is for you to take a tablespoon full of brandy once or twice a day. I mean you, yourself. Annie, I cannot tell for certain when I will be home. if not before Spring, I will be home then for certain. Amelia & William send their love. Write as often as you can, and believe me as ever your affectionate

Sister Kate

To Dear Sister Annie.

[Amelia Slack to Annie Johnson]¹³

Occoquan Jan. 1st 1861

My dear Sister Annie

Kate has gone to a party to day, and I feel lonely and desolate, so I will try to write a few lines to you. it seems a long time since we have heard from you. I feel constantly uneasy about your darling babe. when you last wrote, he was not well. how is he by this time, dear little fellow. I trust when you write it will be to tell us that he is intirely well. O Annie, may you never know the heart crushing sorrow that your poor sister has known. Kate and I often talk of your baby and wonder how he is, and how he looks by this time and say we would give anything to see him. Well Annie I expect you are all feeling quite uneasy about Kate. I wrote to Rebecca a short time since, telling her that Kate had a beau who was so devoted in his attentions to her that I feared something serious would come of it. please tell her she need have no fears for Kate on that score, for she has given him his final discharge. I am so glad, and as for Kate she seems just as happy as she was before she ever saw him, indeed Annie I [*sic*] [p. 2] Katie has been a real good girl ever since she has been here. I can find no fault with her, she seems to enjoy herself here. She has mad[*e*] a great m[*a*]ny acquaintances, and is considered very pretty by all. She has mad[*e*] good use of the hallidays [*sic*]. She was invited out to a Christmas dinner, has attended four parties, (all private) and had a little company at home. There was twenty young people here, and she was the life of the company. She has no beau in particular now but is pleasant alike to all. I think she has made up her mind to stay till the first of March, or 4th

¹³ Letters, images 17-18.

rather[.] She says her presence here is necessary to keep the union together, and much as she dislikes Lincoln she must stay to see him take his seat. if she can find it pleasant here, I shall be only too glad to have her stay. I should feel so utterly desolate without her. We as well as all other Northerners, feel quite unsettled, for we can't tell how the political troubles will end. we have had no cold weather here of any account and very little snow, Kate has had one sleigh ride, it is almost dark, and I must stop, Give my love to Brother Will and tell him Kate scolds enough because he dont write. remember me to all at home. please write soon and tell us of the baby.

Believe me as ever your loving
Sister Amelia

Mrs. Annie G. Johnson,

[Kate Caldwell to George and Gulielma Caldwell]¹⁴

Occoquan, Prince W^m. Co. Jan 12th [1861]

Dear George & Gulielma

As William is going out to Elaxandria [*sic*] tomorrow, I will write this letter, and send it to the office by him. You ask when I am coming home. I know of no chance to reach home before March. I cannot go to Alexandria with Wm. tomorrow as he is going with his neighbour Mr. Dunn,¹⁵ who is going to ride on a buck board for the purpose of bringing lumber for his new house. The weather is entirely too cold and the roads too rough to ride twenty four miles in that way. I should freeze to death. The men expect to walk the greater part of the way to keep warm. There is a great deal of talk here about the political troubles. Some say that all communication will be cut off between the North & South before the fourth of March. I am begining to feel worried, for I don't see how I am going to get home if that be the case. What is your oppinion [*opinion*] on rats? I would be very well contented to stay [p. 2] untill next fall, if I only had plenty of clothes. But I only have a few winter clothes and if I can't get home in the Spring I shall be in a pretty fix. Still I am in hopes that all this fuss will end in smoke, and I will be able to be with you by the first or middle of March. I don't think I can come before that time.

I have spent a very pleasant Christmas. The holidays here last for a week. And such holidays – Hush Bill! There is no kind of business going on, every one is in for fun. Talk of Christmas at home, Christmas in Old Virginia is just what you read about. Shurely “Shugar Hollow” must be in commotion. So Tom McCall & Charley Tyson have commited matrimony? And I see by a paper received from Annie the other day that Mary Smith & Anderson Feilding are married also. Truely matrimony must be in vogue. Have the De Finikys secured any more soldiers? I do pity them. I know they must feel bad [p. 3] to have their principle soldier taken prisiner. I suppose the warlike inhabitants of the Seat of War open a broadside on Will Eaves[?] if they have the slightest idea that there is a luke warmness between him and Martha Culbert[.] No doubt the reports from the hill are already distinctly heard in the surrounding country. I think it is useless for them to waste their ammunition, for no doubt a compromise will be brought about between the hostile parties

¹⁴ Letters, images 19-22.

¹⁵ Probably Alexander Dunn, Maggie's father, born ca. 1804, New York.

There is no news here that I could write to interest you. As to political news you know more on that subject than we do as Wm. takes no paper. So if our friends don't send us papers, we must depend on hear say for our information. I know you would laugh at the amount of ignorant argument that is floating around here. Sometimes I get fairly disgusted. The ignorant Virginians look upon all Northerners as worse than canibals. Saying they are more to be feared than the negroes in case of war. I mean the Northern men residing right in their midst. ^they^ Think or pretend to think that if they (the virginians) were called away into action, the Northern men would murder off their wives and children. Inteligent Society is it not? Give my love to papy and tell him we are all well and doing well. Please answer soon. If you only knew how anxiously we looked for letters [p. 4] from home and how we prised them when we receive them I know you would write oftener. Will you please put this letter in the store for Martha Culbert? Will you sometimes send us a county paper? And when you write send all the neighbourhood news.

[*torn*]ever, your devoted
Sister Kate

To
George & Gulielma

P.S. Instead of enclosing a letter to Martha Culbert. I enclose one to Emma Palmer. Will you please hand it to Sammy at the Mill?

yours &c K.C.C.

[Kate Caldwell to George Caldwell Jr.]¹⁶

[Undated. February 1, 1861, implied]

Dear brother George,

I have written a letter to pappy asking his consent to my marriage. please hand it to him, and do all you can to further my cause. And do George set down and write as soon as pappy gives his oppinion on the subject. for we want to get married the last of February. Now I entreat of you George to write immediately for we are only waiting for a letter. Wether pappy's answer is no, or yes write immediately and let me know if it is only two or three lines. For further particulars read Pappy's letter.

Dear brother George, I have written a letter to pappy asking his consent to my marriage. please hand it to him, and do all you can to further my cause. And do George set ~~write~~ down and write as soon as pappy gives his oppinion on the subject. for we want to get married the last of February. Now I entreat of you George to write immediately for we are only waiting for a letter. Wether pappy's answer is no, or yes write immediately and let me know if it is only two or three lines. For further particulars read Pappy's letter.
Your loving Sister
Kate.
My love to Gulielma.

¹⁶ Letters, image 33.

Your loving Sister
 Kate.
 My love to GuliElma.

[Kate Caldwell to George Caldwell Sr.]¹⁷

Occoquan, Feb. 1st 1861

Dear Pappy,

I know you will be surprised at what I am going to tell you, but I hope not displeased. I write home to ask your consent to my marr[i]age. The man I wish to marry is a widower, older than myself but he is rich: He has a good and well stored home to take me to; he is a man of the highest respectability – he is known far and wide, and respected by all who know him. He is a slave holder, but I think you will have no objection to that. Indeed Pappy, he offers me a better home than ever I thought it would be my good fourtune to get. All the objection Amelia and William have, is that he is older than me. But I like him well enough to marry him, and we cannot expect to have all we want is [*in*] this world. I might marry a young man and have to struggle with poverty all my life – now if I marry this man I will provided ^be^ [*sic*] for and be independent. His name is William [p. 2] Davis. He lives but a short distance from Amelia's near Occoquan. He is waiting for your consent; and if we get that, we will get married the last of February, and he would like to take me home to see you all for a week. Please dear Pappy get George to write immediately – as we are anxiously waiting to hear from you. Amelia would have written to you, but she is not well and thought I had better write. Please tell George to write as soon as you get this, for you know Pappy how important it is that we should know what you think on this serious subject. Do answer favorably, and very much please your

affectionate daughter
 Kate C. Caldwell

[Marriage certificate for William Davis and Catharine Caldwell]¹⁸

This may certify that William Davis and Catharine Caldwell were this day united in Marriage by me, at the Parsonage of Wesley Chapel, in this city, by virtue of a License issued by the Clerk of the County Court of Washington, District of Columbia.

Washington, D.C.
 Feby. 14, 1861.

J. S. McCauley
 Pastor of Wesley Chapel

[witnesses] Thomas Garner
 Martha A. Garner
 John H. Kelchner
 A. B. Jamison
 Sophia Garner

¹⁷ Letters, images 23-24.

¹⁸ Letters, images 25-26. License was issued 12 February 1861 for Wm. Davis to marry Catharine Caldwell. [Wesley E. Pippenger, *District of Columbia Marriage Licenses, Register 2, 1858-1870* (Lovettsville, Va.: Willow Bend Books, 1996), 73]

[Reverse:] P. P. W. | M M H | 2 N | 2 – LL | 2 | 2 2 – 2

[Kate Caldwell Davis to Gulielma Caldwell]¹⁹

Pleasant View, Occoquan
March 14th [17th?] – 1861

Dear Gulielma,

Here I am settled down in Virginia for life. I have become quite familiar with my new home, and begin to feel quite matronly. I thought to have written sooner, but I have felt so unsettled, and have had so little time that I could not write sooner. I suppose you have felt anxious about us and wondered how we got home. We had a very pleasant journey to Washington, stayed there at M^r. Garner's on Penn^a. Avenieu all night – took the boat next morning and came down to Alexandria. William's son William was there waiting for us with the two horses and waggon to carry us home. When we arrived at Pleasant View a pleasant view awaited us – quite a number of friends had assembled to welcome us, among the number was Amelia, William and little Harry. The evening passed off very pleasant with the feasting, music and dancing. I have been up to see Amelia twice and she has been down three times. I have a horse that I can drive myself. William hitched him to the buggy and let me drive up to Amelia's by myself.

We have had some very pretty weather, and the apricot trees are all out in full bloom. William [p. 2] is busy plowing all the time. He told me to give his respects to pappy, George and you. He often speaks of his trip to Penn^a, and tells all his friends what a pretty country it is. I often think of you all, and wonder how you are getting along. Indeed if I had not one of the best of husbands I could not be content to live so far from you. Still I think I can be very happy in Virginia. Give my love to pappy. I wr[o]te to Annie & Becky some time ago. Will you please ask them if they got the letter? It was directed to Mrs. R. B. Palmer. If they have not got it, tell them to inquire at the Office in Chester. I have been helping wash to day and I feel quite tired to-night so you will please excuse this miserably written letter[.] the next time I write I will try to do better. Please dear Guly write soon and tell me all the neighborhood news. When you write direct

Mrs. Kate Davis
Care of Mr. William Davis of J.B.²⁰
Occoquan
Prince William Co.
Virginia

[*To be continued.*]



¹⁹ Letters, images 27-28.

²⁰ William Davis "of Job" is his usual designation to distinguish him from other men with the same name in the county. William was the son of Job and Susannah (Coulter) Davis.

Who was the First George Calvert of Stafford County, Virginia?

By the Calvert Genealogy Group¹

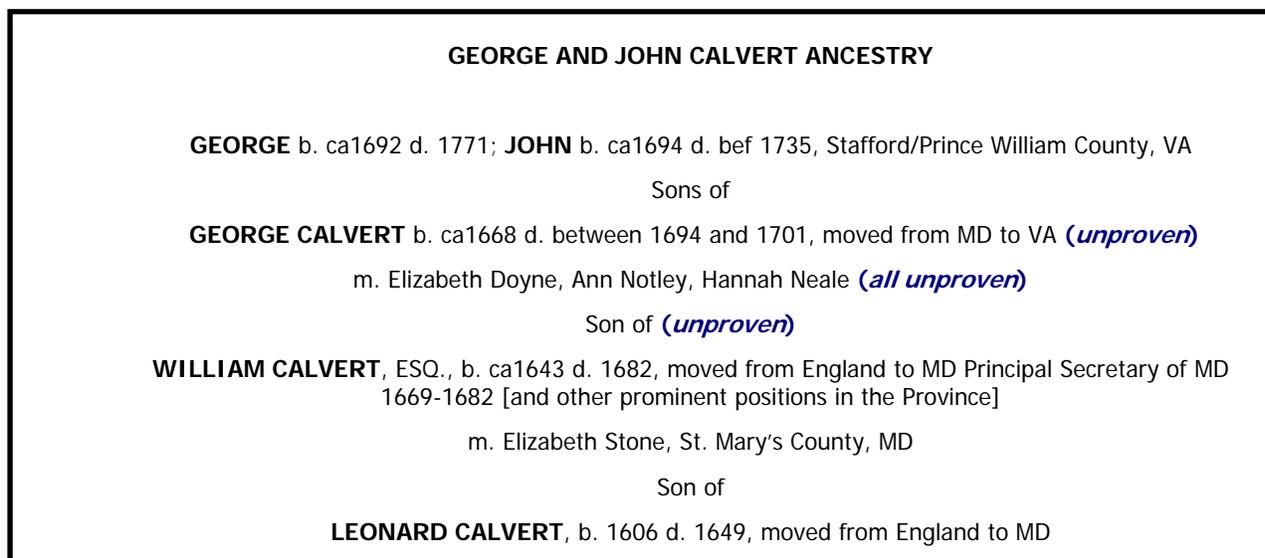
The Calvert family roots run deep in Prince William County with some heritage questions still unanswered. One such brick wall is the true ancestry of George and John Calvert born about 1692 and 1694, in Stafford County. These brothers lived and raised their families near Powell's Creek, an area which became part of Prince William County in 1731.² A recently-found deed discussed later confirms they were the sons of an elder George Calvert who first appeared in Stafford records in the 1690's.³ Genealogy lore says George Calvert, Sr. was the son of William Calvert, Esq., Principal Secretary of Maryland (PSOM) and a direct descendant of the Maryland Calvert / Lord Baltimore line. But does anyone have proof?

Hopefully, someone – maybe you – will discover the missing link proving this family's heritage. The Calvert Genealogy Group is searching for clues and we welcome any source information that will assist us in this effort. Our biggest roadblock is locating information from this time period. Stafford records were lost during the Civil War by theft and vandalism. The few scant records uncovered lead us to believe that George of Stafford is most likely the son of William. Help us find the documentation to prove it or disprove it.

This article presents the known and sought-after information about our subject Calverts: 1) the assumed ancestral lineage of George and John Calvert of Stafford/Prince William, 2) what we know about William Calvert's children and the elder George Calvert of Stafford, William's assumed son, 3) what we don't know about these Calvert's of Stafford and missing pieces of information needed to solve this puzzle, 4) the Calvert Genealogy Group's proposed land-mapping research project to track the Calvert's land grants, purchases, and transfers of ownership, and 5) contact information to learn more about this project, the Calvert family, DNA project, other brick walls and how to participate.

The Family Tree

The chart below shows the common ancestral lineage found in various secondary source documents and Calvert and allied family trees.



¹ Ann Mitchell (ae-mitchell@hotmail.com), David Bell, Mary Shafer, Richard Colbert, Ric Tobin and Laree McDaniel Lee.

² Prince William County, Virginia, from Wikipedia, http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prince_William_County,_Virginia.

³ Stafford County, Virginia, Order Book 1689-93: 103. Court held 8 Oct. 1690, George Calvert v. John Tarkinton.

The family ties of Sir George Calvert First Lord Baltimore, Leonard, and William are well established in historical documents.^{4,5} However, the accounting of William and Elizabeth's children varies, with no primary source documents found naming all of them. Common secondary sources state they had a daughter, Elizabeth, and four sons: Charles the eldest, followed in order by William, George and Richard.⁶ Some include a fifth son, Joshua, who is unproven⁷ and presumably born last. William and George are unconfirmed as well, but are named in more credible historical documents, whereas Joshua is not.

The following references *could* pertain to William or Joshua and are worth further investigation:

<p>MD Calendar of Wills Somerset Co., <i>Robinson, William</i> 29th Nov. 1696; 5th Dec. 1696. To <i>Mary King, Caleb Pypherd, Personalty. Father, William Robinson, of Yorke Eng., residuary Legatee.</i> Ex. Wm. Calvert <i>Test: Robt. Jones, And Sievert, Chas. Kilburne</i> 7.226</p>	<p><i>In 1727, Robert Pearle brought suit against a William Calvert in Prince George's Co., MD. The article says,</i> <i>^William Calvert, a Prince George's County planter, possibly the son of William Calvert."</i> <i>[From Slave to Slave Owner: The Life of Robert Pearle of Maryland by Mary Clement Jeske, PhD. Published in Maryland Historical Magazine, Spring 2008.]</i> Pearle was the mulatto son of Richard Marsham, who was the third husband of William Calvert, Esq.'s sister, Ann. We do not have the actual record.</p>	<p>A Joshua Calvert is found in Account, Bond and Inventory records in Prince George's Co., MD, after his death in 1733. [Joshua Calvert 21.500 PG £15.16.3 Feb 14 1734 Aug 24 1736] <i>Appraisers: William Young* Thomas Lucas. Creditors: Henry Cramphen.</i> <i>Administrator: Mr. John Beal, Sr.</i> More at Maryland Indexes (Probate Records, Colonial, Index C, 1634-1777, SE 4-3). *Noted later with Richard.</p>
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Our third unconfirmed son, George, is the primary target of our investigation as the presumed father of the Calvert boys in Stafford. Well-known books about the colonial era as well countless genealogy family histories, and LDS listings – including sources cited here – all say so. However, insofar as we know, there are no found records of birth, death, marriage, land holdings, payments of rent, taxes, bonds, debts owed or collected, court actions, military service, a will, heirs or children naming George, son of William in either Maryland or Virginia. In addition, there is no mention of George in any family record, including the Calvert Papers and records relating to William's immediate family that have surfaced to date.

What We Know About William Calvert's Children

Three of William's children – Elizabeth, Charles, and Richard – are well documented in a number of primary sources. The following record excerpt identifies two of the siblings: 1) Charles, the eldest and William's heir, and 2) Richard, the fourth son. This is the only actual *record* found to date that confirms other references to William's four sons.

*"This Indenture made the three and Twentieth day of September in the twelveth year of y.^e Dominion of Charles absolute Lord and proprietarie of y.^e Province of Maryland and Avalon Lord Baltemore Annoq Dom 1687 Between **Charles Calvert** of S.^t Maries County in the Province of Maryland Gent **Eldest sonne and Heir of William Calvert** late of the said County Esq who dyed Intestate of y.^e one Part and Henry Darnell of S.^t Maries County Esq of the other Part Witnesseth that the said Charles Calvert for & in Consideration of the good will Love and affection which the said Charles beareth towards **Richard Calvert his Brother fourth sonne of the said William Calvert....**"⁸*

⁴ Leonard Calvert (ca. 1606-1647), MSA SC 3520-198, (Biographical Series), Archives of Maryland Online, <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc3500/sc3520/000100/000198/html/198bio.html>

⁵ Edward C. Papenfuse, et al., *A Biographical Dictionary of the Maryland Legislature, 1635-1789* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1979), vol. 1 (A-H): 190-191; Archives of Maryland, Biographical Series: <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000426/html/am426p--3.html>

⁶ See footnote 4.

⁷ Geni, <http://www.geni.com/people/Leonard-Calvert-1550-1611/6000000010906148983>.

⁸ Provincial Court Land Records, 1676-1700, vol. 717, pp. 460-461, Archives of Maryland Online, <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000717/html/am717--460.html>

This also proves that Richard is under age 21 (born after 1666) and identifies Henry Darnell as his guardian. Darnell is receiving the 400 acres in St. Mary's County in trust for Richard. That Richard is identified as the fourth son of William Calvert means there must be at least two other sons (presumably William and George). That's an important piece of evidence. There must be other evidence related to the second and third sons – we just need to find it. This doesn't discount a fifth son, either. It merely states that Richard was the "fourth" son.

Another record identifies William's daughter, Elizabeth. This is the earliest record found naming any of William's children. It stipulates, first, the inheritance given to James Neale, Jr. (Elizabeth's betrothed) by his father, James, Sr., and second, the dowry given to Elizabeth and James by her father, William.

*"This Indenture made the Four and Twentiyeth day of December One thousand six hundred Eighty One Betweene James Neale the Elder of Charles County in the said Province of Maryland Gent and Anne his Wife and the honoble William Calvert Esq.^r Principall Secretary of the said Province of Maryland & Elizabeth his Wife of the One part and James Neale of Charles County aforesaid the Younger Sonn of the said James Neale the Elder and Elizabeth Calvert the daughter of the said William Calvert Esq.^r of the other part...."*⁹

Included on the backside of the deed is a memorandum dated 2 May 1682, which states, "**Elizabeth the now wife of the said James Neale Jun.^r**" This verifies that Elizabeth and James were married sometime between 24 December 1681 and 2 May 1682.

William gave the Neales 600 acres as part of their dowry. This tract comes into play in a later court dispute between James, Jr. and Charles and Richard Calvert. Relevant testimony given in that case is noted ahead in this article.

On May 26th, just a few weeks later, William Calvert, Esq. drowned in a boat that capsized in the swollen floodwaters of the Wicomico River.¹⁰ He left no will. Per British law at the time, if there was no will, the eldest son inherited the entire landed estate of his father.¹¹ As noted in the previous record, Charles was William's heir. We have found no other probate records citing allotment of any of William's personal property to any other children.

Following the family trail after William's death, Charles moved to Virginia around 1690 according to some writers. He married Mary Howson/Howison of Stafford and had issue, Sarah Howson Calvert born about 1694 and Ann Calvert 1696.¹² Richard is noted living with his mother in Virginia as well. The records below place Charles by record in Stafford, and Richard and his mother by testimony in "Virginia."

First, in 1694 Charles Calvert is a witness to a deed transaction in Westmoreland County:

*26 Nov. 1694. Charles Ashton of Washington Parish, Westmoreland County, Gent. to Joshua Hudson of same. Wit: Charles Calvert, Wm. Horton, Watkin Lewis.
26 June 1695. Acknowledged by Charles Ashton.*¹³

Then in 1697, Charles' sister-in-law Frances sells 100 acres of her portion of her inheritance land. This record also proves Charles married Mary Howson. Charles Calvert is identified "of Chotank Parish, Stafford County" in the corresponding bond record.

⁹Provincial Court Land Records, 1676-1700, vol. 717, p. 220, Archives of Maryland Online, <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000717/html/am717--220.html>. Indenture between James Neale the Elder and William Calvert Esq., 24 Dec. 1681.

¹⁰See footnote 4.

¹¹[Sandra Hargreaves Luebking](#), "Land Records," in *The Source: A Guidebook to American Genealogy* (Provo, Utah: Ancestry, 2006), 461, describing primogeniture; also available online at *Ancestry.com* as "English Law in American Land Research," http://www.ancestry.com/wiki/index.php?title=English_Law_in_American_Land_Research

¹²John Bailly Calvert Nicklin, "Charles Calvert (1663-1733) and Some of His Descendants," *Maryland Genealogies from the Maryland Historical Magazine* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1980) 1: 170-176; see also <http://sparksfamilytree.net/familytree/wga14.html>.

¹³John Frederick Dorman, *Westmoreland County Virginia Deeds and Wills #2, 1691-1699* (Washington: J. F. Dorman, 1965), 17, citing p. 37a-38.

14 Feb. 1697/98. Frances Howson one of the daughters of Robert Howson, late of Stafford County, Gent. deceased, to Joshua Hudson of Westmoreland County. For 10,000 pounds of tobacco. 100 acres at the head of Upper Machodack, commonly called Rushes old Plantation...a little above the landing and extending downe the creek...conveyed unto Robert Hudson by Mr. Rush 23 May 1670. Robert Howson was siezed in fee of 450 acres of land -- and died leaving issue 3 daughters: Anne, who married Rice Hooe; **Mary who married Charles Calvert** and Frances, who died unmarried.¹⁴

14 Feb. 1697/98. Bond of Frances Howson and **Charles Calvert of Chotanck Parish, Stafford County**, to Joshua Hudson of Westmoreland County. For 20,000 pounds of tobacco. To perform covenants in deed.

Frances Howson

Charles Calvert

Wit: **John Boewton** [sic?]. Sarah Hewett.

29 April 1698. Recorded.¹⁵

In 1709, Charles and Richard Calvert were involved in a court dispute with James Neale, Jr. their brother-in-law. This dispute concerned the 600 acres of land William gave to his daughter Elizabeth and future husband James Neale, Jr. in December 1681 noted earlier. This land was part of 3,000 originally granted to William and later given to Richard from Charles who inherited it. Mr. **Robert Bowlin** stated the following in his deposition during the trial:

1 Nov. and 2 Dec. 1710. Istly: Are you acquainted with M.^r Charles Calvert?
Response: he was very acquainted with Charles Calvert and that this Depon.^t having knowne him for about Sixteen or Seaventeen years. 6^{thly}: When were you first acquainted with M.^r Rich.^d Calvert? Reponse: Answered that about twelve years agoe was the full time of this Depon.^{ts} being acquainted with M.^r Rich.^d Calvert he being then in Virginia along with his Mother. And further Saith not
Signum Robert R Bowlin.¹⁶

Interestingly, the witness in the previous record in Westmoreland is named "John Boewton," similar to "Bowlin" in this record. Possibly they were related. Sarah Hewett, the other witness in that record was Charles' mother-in-law. She remarried after Robert Howson died. That record is 12 years before Bowlin's testimony, placing it approximately at the time Robert Bowlin claims he was acquainted with Richard living with his mother in Virginia. He says he knew Charles four to five years earlier, around 1693-94. This would correspond with the approximate time of Charles' marriage to Mary and birth of his daughter, Sarah, and presumably his move to Virginia, as reported by some authors. Unfortunately, the record does not state whether Bowlin was from Maryland or Virginia. A Robt. Bolings, perhaps the same man, was a resident of Stafford County in 1700.¹⁷

Also interesting is the connection between William Young and Joshua Calvert (an unproven son) and Richard Calvert. Richard died in Young's house in 1718; Young was an appraiser of Joshua's estate in 1736; and, in 1723, we find that Charles sold Young a parcel of the 600-acre tract given to Elizabeth and James Neale, Jr. by her father. This is the same piece of property disputed in the above case. As noted below, the meaning of this document is not clear, however, it ties also Charles Calvert to William Young.

Indenture, 19 Dec 1723; enrolled 19 Dec 1723

Between: Daniel Dulany, Gentleman of Annapolis in Anne Arundel County

And: William Young, planter of Prince George's County

Return to Maryland

A 1703 Provincial Court Judgment Record places Madam Calvert and son Richard in St. Mary's County, Maryland in 1699. [TL 3, f. 254-55]

Madam Calvert's death date is unknown.

Richard apparently did not marry and died in 1718 at the home of **William Young**. * His brother Charles was his heir at law [Maryland Chancery Book #3, pp. 172, 868, 874].

Charles m. second Barbara Kirke/Keirk. He also died in Maryland per his will probated Dec. 31, 1733, in St. Mary's County.

*Noted earlier in Joshua's estate record.

¹⁴ Northern Neck Land Book No. 3: 91; Richmond: Library of Virginia; online at

¹⁵ Dorman, *Westmoreland Deeds & Wills* #2, 68-69, citing p. 150a-152.

¹⁶ Chancery Court, Chancery Record, 1671-1712, vol. 748, p. 705, Archives of Maryland Online, <http://aomol.net/000001/000748/html/am748--705.html>.

¹⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed and Will Abstracts of Stafford County, Virginia 1699-1709* (McLean, Va.: Sparacio, 1987), 6, citing Stafford Record Book F (or "Z") 1699-1709, p. 20; Robt. Bolings an appraiser of the estate of Hugh Benson.

Daniel Dulany lately exhibited his bill in Chancery against William Young and Charles Calvert concerning a tract of land containing 600 acres, part of a 3,000 acre parcel called Elizabeth in Piscataway Manor in Prince George's County; originally granted to William Calvert, Esqr, father of Charles; William gave the 600 acres tract in consideration of a marriage between James Neale and Elisabeth Calvert, daughter of William; sold to Daniel Delany; William Young paid £12 to Charles Calvert for his claim to the land and £30 to Daniel Dulany (meaning of this document is not clear)

*/s/ William Young (seal) Wit: William Rogers, James Stoddert
Acknowledged by Mary Young, wife of William.¹⁸*

With this close connection to two proven Calvert brothers and a possible third, could William Young somehow be related to this family? As Don Wilson, Virginiana Librarian at RELIC notes, “his association with Joshua Calvert (as his appraiser in 1734) suggests they knew each other, that Young was a neighbor of Joshua. Charles Calvert's conveyance of land to William Young in 1723 could also represent a family transaction. Also, I find William and Samuel Young, sons of Vincent Young deceased, receiving lands in Stafford County in October 1691 that had belonged to their father.”¹⁹ John Porter is a witness to Vincent Young's will. Charles Calvert's son-in-law is Thomas Porter,²⁰ possible son of John. We are unsure of the relationship between John Porter and Vincent Young, but this could be a clue to the relationship between the Calverts and William Young.

We also don't know of the distribution of Richard's estate. Don Wilson also points out, “Under primogeniture (the law of the land) all of Richard's lands would go to his heir-at-law, in this case meaning his eldest brother (Charles). That Charles was heir-at-law means that Richard did not have any surviving children. Where Richard's death could be helpful to us is in the distribution of his personal property (slaves, livestock, household goods). If he did not leave a will (assumed from the chancery statement), then there could be goods that would need to be distributed among all his siblings, *per stirpes*. That means Charles would get a share, but also his sister Elizabeth would get a share, any other sisters would each get a share, and any other brothers would [likewise] each get a share. If any of those siblings were already dead then their shares would be divided among all their respective children. That would in effect identify all George I's children [as well as prove that George I was a brother of Richard].” Sister Elizabeth Neale died before 1687²¹ as James Neale marries Elizabeth Lord in November of that year; and we assume George Calvert was also dead by 1718.

In sifting through all the records we've identified to date for William's family, we find substantial evidence for Elizabeth, Charles and Richard and some slim leads to possible sons William and Joshua, but what about our George? Not a clue of him has turned up in Maryland or in any found records of William's family. Across the river in Virginia, however, a George Calvert shows up in Stafford.

What We Know About George Calvert of Stafford

Some authors say that William's son George moved to Virginia about the time his mother and brothers Charles and Richard did without identifying sources for their claim. The above accounts place William Calvert's widow and at least two sons living in Stafford County or Virginia at the same time one or more George Calverts appear in Stafford records. If George was born in 1668 as said, he would have come of age about 1689-1690. The first known record of George Calvert of Stafford coincidentally is dated 1690. There is no reason to doubt that the records below all pertain to the same person (George Calvert) living in Stafford County 1690-93.

1690 – George Calvert of Stafford issued a complaint against John Tarkinton “in plea of a debt.” The court ordered in favor of George Calvert and he was granted a “Judgment for eight hundred pounds of Tobacco against Estate of John Tarkinton.”²²

1692 – George Calvert sued by [Robert] Brent for non-delivery of milk pails and trays. This George defends himself in court successfully, as non-delivery was due to non-payment.²³

¹⁸ Prince George's County, Maryland, Land Records 1717-1726, Liber I, folio 512.

¹⁹ Stafford County Record Book D: 270a-271a.

²⁰ Stafford County Deed Book P: 116-117.

²¹ *Maryland Historical Magazine*, 7: 205-206.

²² Stafford County Order Book 1689-93: 93. Court held 10 September 1690.

[George had contracted to produce or provide milk trays and pails as payment for goods he was purchasing from Brent (blue linen, powder and shot, and salt, goods that may have been imported). Brent appears to have been a local merchant. It is possible that George Calvert had a lumber milling operation. – DLW]

1693 - *George Calvert of Stafford retained his 1,344-acre plantation near Powell's Run in a court suit with Edward Ford and Matthew Dicke*²⁴. (More on this below.)

Of note here, George Calvert is in a court suit with Edward Ford in 1693, above; Edward Ford is a witness to the 1701 Indenture between Charles Calvert and Gerard Slye, below. Coincidence or Connection?

1701 -- Indenture "*Between Charles Calvert of Charles County in the province of Maryland Gent of the one parte and Gerard Slye of S.¹ Maryes County.... said Charles Calvert Gent and the Certificate of the said Land should be returned in the [name] of W.^m Calvert Esq.^r Father to the said Charles Calvert Gent....witnessed by Edward Ford and William Hook.*"²⁵ [See Appendix for reference on William Hook.] This suggests that Edward Ford knew both Charles and George Calvert. Possibly an important link.

Digging a little deeper into Matthew Dike and Edward Ford in Charles County, Maryland, we found quite a scenario. In 1672, "*Mathew Stone prsents a Servt named Mathew Dike who is judged to be 20 years old.*"²⁶ Of note, Matthew Stone was the brother of Madam Calvert.²⁷ "*Dike, Mathew, m. by 20 April 1684, Mary, relict of Thomas Alcock of Ch Co.*"²⁸ Alcock owned property "Allanson's Folly" which Matthew Dike later possessed upon his marriage to Mary.²⁹ In 1670, Thomas Allanson, previous owner of this property,³⁰ bought land adjacent to William Calvert, Esq. from Thomas Stone,³¹ another of Elizabeth's brothers.³² It is not stated in this record if this was "Allanson's Folly." Eleven years earlier in 1661, Thomas Allanson sued William Brookes for assault. The incident occurred at William Calvert's home and a witness testified that, "*M^r Allanson goeing that way home to the Quarter as soone as he had past M^r Calvert, M^r Calvert followed him and as soone as he had past the said Brookes the said Brookes followed him and knockt him downe and strucke him twice Crosse the Shoulders.*"³³ The record did not state why he was attacked. And, finally, the tie-in of Edward Ford – he married Thomas Allanson's daughter, Eliza,³⁴ and came into possession of Thomas' property "Christian Temple Manor."³⁵ We are unsure if this is the property adjacent to Calvert's.

What we *do* know is there are definite links between Matthew Dike, Edward Ford, and the William Calvert family in Maryland. And, for some reason, Thomas Allanson, father-in-law of Edward Ford, was assaulted and run off William Calvert's property. Then, some 32 years later in Stafford County, Virginia, we find George Calvert running off Matthew Dike and Edward Ford at gunpoint blocking their entry to the property they purchased from Dixey Ward. And George claims and retains this property in court. Could there have been a longstanding feud between these families? Is there hidden information out there that will provide some answers about our George?

²³ Stafford County Order Book 1689-93: 315. Court held 11 November 1692.

²⁴ Stafford County Order Book 1692-93: 367. Court held 13 July 1693.

²⁵ Provincial Court Land Records, 1699-1707, vol. 718, p. 551, Archives of Maryland Online <http://aomol.net/000001/000718/html/am718--551.html>.

²⁶ Proceedings of the County Courts of Charles County 1666-1674, vol. 60, p. 364; Archives of Maryland Online <http://www.msa.md.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000060/html/am60--364.html>.

²⁷ Will of Capt. William Stone, Charles County (3 Dec. 1659, proved 21 Dec. 1660), *Maryland Calendar of Wills* <http://www.usgenet.org/usa/md/state/wills/01/001.html>.

²⁸ Prerogative Court of Maryland, Inventories and Accounts, 8: 291.

²⁹ Charles County, Maryland, Rent Rolls 1642-1753, Chicamuxen Hundred, page/sequence: 356-34.

³⁰ Charles County Rent Rolls, Chicamuxen Hundred, 353-10.

³¹ Proceedings of the County Courts of Charles County 1666-1674, vol. 60, p. 292, Archives of MD Online, <http://aomol.net/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000060/html/am60--292.html>.

³² Will of Capt. William Stone (see footnote 28).

³³ Proceedings of the Provincial Court, 1658-1662, vol. 41, p. 461, 474, Archives of MD Online, <http://aomol.net/000001/000041/html/am41--461.html>.

³⁴ Maryland Indexes, Marriage References, MSA S 1527, CHLR Q#1:23; Liber 7:393; Chancery 4:197; CHLR Q#1:23; INAC 10:416, <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/stagser/s1500/s1527/html/ssi1527w.html>.

³⁵ Charles County Circuit Court, Liber R: 481, 14 Feb 1689/90; Charles County Circuit Court Liber Z: 76.

What We Don't Know About George Calvert of Stafford

The 1693 record citing of George Calvert retaining a substantial amount of land in a suit with Matthew Dike and Edward Ford are of significant interest, as is this man. He held this land by force and his prosecutors backed off. The often-cited quote of John Bailey Calvert Nicklin indicates that this George was formerly of Charles County, Maryland. The court record itself does not have this citation, indicating that this was Nicklin's verbiage. The records of this suit provoke a long list of questions.

Court 13 July 1693. *“George Calvert of the County aforesaid was attached to answer Edward Ford and Mathew Di... both of Charles County in the Province of Maryland of a plea why he by force and arms and Contrary to the peace &c into and upon a Certain messuage plantation and Tract of Land of the freehold of them the said Edward and Matthew Scituate in the County of Stafford aforesaid have unlawfully entered to the great damage &c, whereupon the said Edward and Mathew in their Proper Persons complain that whereas Dixey Ward, Sen, late of the County of Stafford aforesaid, deceased, did in the year 1671 by Mr. Samuel Nye then Surveyor of the said County Survey and enter Rights for a Certain dividend or Tract of Land containing 1344 acres Scituate lying and being at or near Powells Run in the said County of Stafford-and the office for granting patents in this Northern Neck being then and many years Since Shut up the said Dixey deceased before any Patent for the same could be Procured by whose death the Right of a Patent thereto came and descended to Dixey Ward then an infant Son and heir of the said Dixey deceased, by reason whereof the right and Priority of a Patent for that Land aforesaid became and was vested in the said Dixey the younger, as aforesaid who being since attained to his full age did by deed dated the 3d day of November, 1691, grant bargain etc...unto the said Edward and Matthew their heirs and assigns etc... the Right Title etc...became legally vested in them the said Edward and Matthew their heirs etc... the said Edward and Matthew having recourse to the office of the Proprietors.*

“Nevertheless the said George Calvert by force and arms into and upon the said dividend and hath unlawfully possessed himself and with like force as... doth detain and keep, whereby they are damnified and damage...to the value of 20,000 Pounds of Tobacco whereupon they bring suits etc.... And George Calvert the defendant came into Court and Prayed Licence of Impar lance till the next Court, which was granted, etc....”³⁶

Next Court, 13 Sept. 1693. *“Edward Ford and Matthew Dike vs. George Calvert – upon Impar lance from the 13th July, 1693. And now until when the said Petitioners not appearing to prosecute – Therefore ordered that the said Edward Ford and Matthew Dicke shall be Nonsuited and shall make present payment of 50 pounds Tobacco to said George Calvert with Cost, etc.”³⁷*

Edward Ford died in January 1693/4 [Maryland Calendar of Wills 2.53; Wills, 2.246]. Could circumstances preceding his death be a factor in why they did not pursue the case?

We don't know the history of the ownership of this property, the claim George had to it or how/why/when he disposed of it. This information could be the key to the identity of this George Calvert and possible links to the Calverts of Maryland and/or the Calvert brothers of Stafford/Prince William. The records of the elder George dry up in the late 1690's and he is presumed dead before 1700-01. We have found no will or bond record pertaining to George or evidence of any of his three reported wives: Elizabeth Doyne, Anne Notley, or Hannah Neale. These surnames are certainly in the circles of the Maryland Lord Calverts, however, these women are not named in any records we've found.

Many of the Prince William County Calvert families trace their ancestry to the Calvert brothers George and John of Stafford. Many other family lines in this area interconnect with these Calverts. It's time we call attention to the fact that we do not know *for sure* that George and John's lines connect to the Lords Baltimore of Maryland. We need the evidence to find the truth about the elder George Calvert of Stafford, the plantation owner, and any ties to Maryland.

³⁶ Stafford County Order Book 1689-93: 367.

³⁷ Stafford County Order Book 1689-93: 372.

The most pertinent unanswered questions include:

- Is there any evidence proving that William Calvert (PSOM) had a son named George and that he had ties to Stafford County?
- Where did George Calvert who appears in Stafford County in the late 1600's come from?
- How did he acquire his land and from whom? Was this land tied to the Maryland Calverts?

David Bell, Administrator of the Calvert DNA Study and Genealogy Groups, has conducted extensive research including hiring professional Genealogists in both Maryland and Virginia to locate primary source documents that can answer these questions. In addition, a number of family researchers in the Calvert Genealogy Group have been on the search as well. This is not only a dilemma for the family members searching their ancestry; it is a piece of our history that possibly needs correction or at least documented confirmation.

Digging for Clues – Land-mapping Project

In an attempt to find evidentiary links between William Calvert's family, George of Stafford, and the Calvert brothers, the Calvert Genealogy Group is proposing to initiate a land-mapping project. The focus would be on the known properties owned by the elder George Calvert and sons George and John of Stafford. The end product should tie in with and add to the mapping already conducted by Ms. Charlotte Cain for this area on Powell's Creek, the location of the elder George's plantation property. The base year will be 1693, the year we have documentation that he was in possession of this property, going forward in time to a logical conclusion of 1740 and backwards to 1680, or perhaps earlier, in Stafford. The mapping will also show connecting and nearby properties and owners.

The purpose of the project is threefold:

1. Discover as much as we can about the land owned by the elder George Calvert, especially in regard to the plantation retained by him at court. Determine this property's adjacency to the land owned by George, brother of John, as well as extending this research to adjacent properties, if possible. This would give us a clear picture, as much as possible, as to who lived where when surrounding the two locations of greatest import.
2. From this, discern if these were allied families and, if possible, use this as a basis for additional research. We might come up with things we don't know and can document from the work already completed on those families.
3. Find the source of ownership of the land of the elder George Calvert. (Possibly this land was granted to one of the earlier Calverts of Maryland and it was passed down to him.) That would be a coup in discovering whom this George was, how he obtained the land in question, and who received the original grant. The group has not found any documents showing the deed ownership transfers. What we have found are a few records that identify properties owned by one or more George Calvert(s), during the time period 1695 – 1731 in Stafford/Prince William County.

Known Land Holdings in the name of George Calvert of Stafford [the elder George]

Property #1 – Land Adjacent to William Champ's

- 1695 - Grant of land to William Champ, adj. George Calvert (placing Calvert's residence between Powell's Creek and Quantico Creek).³⁸ This grant is near the 1,344-acre grant (Property #2) and Burr Harrison's land. [Perhaps the same land as Property #2 – DLW]

Property #2 – 1,344 Acres Retained in Court by George Calvert

- 1671 - Land surveyed for **Dixey Ward Sr.** by Samuel Wye – 1,344 Acres.³⁹ (In another record, it states the surveyor was Samuel *Ward*.)

³⁸ Northern Neck Grants Book 2: 154-155.

- 1678 – Land grant issued to Major Andrew Gilson, adj. to Henry Walker, David Jones, and **Dixy Ward**, on SSW side of Powell's run.⁴⁰
- 1691 – Interest in 1,344 acres sold by son Dixey Ward Jr. to Edward Ford and Mathew Dyke of Charles County, Maryland, for 5000 lb. of tobacco. Robert Brent was Ward's attorney to acknowledge the deed in court.⁴¹ (What connections, if any, do these men have to George Calvert? Note Robert Brent's lawsuit with George Calvert, 1692.)
- 1692 – 1,344 acres (re)granted to Edward Ford and Matthew Dike of Charles County, Maryland, by Lord Fairfax.⁴²
- 1693 – Suit brought against George Calvert who occupied the Dixy Ward survey.⁴³ Calvert retained the land (described in the 1692 grant to Ford and Dike). The plaintiffs, Edward Ford and Matthew Dicke, were assessed court costs and fined 50 lb. of tobacco money. [It is not clear from the court minutes whether George claimed the whole 1344 acres or that Ford and Dike's claim was "invalidated." They appear to have just stopped pursuing it. As noted earlier, Edward Ford died in January 1693/4, which could be a factor. John Berryman's successful lawsuit in the General Court, ca. 1768, seems to be based on their claim. – DLW]
- 1717 – This entire tract was re-granted to Jane Champ (wife of William Champ), David Browne, Sr., and Elias Hore, shown as 1300 acres at that time.⁴⁴ [John Hore's 1781 deed⁴⁵ does indicate it was part of Ward's survey, but how the rights were transferred from Ford and Dike to Champ et al is not yet determined. – DLW]
- 1724 – David Browne, Sr., sold 433 acres, his portion of the Champ, Browne and Hore grant to Thomas Harper. "*Beginning as by the plott and survey from under the hand of Mr. John Savage Surveyor of the said County dated July 7th 1724, ... line which divides this land from land of Elias Hoar thence crossing Powell's run .. land of Jacob Gibson.*"⁴⁶
- 1730 – Elias Hore wills his "Powells run" tract to his sons, Elias and William.⁴⁷ The will does not specifically state this tract was part of the Champ, Browne and Hore grant, but it is likely, and worthy of noting here.
- 1737 – John Kincheloe took a deed from George Calvert on 19 and 20 January 1737 for 300 acres of land on Powell's Run within the Dixie Ward survey. In 1791, Cornelius Kincheloe sold William McDaniel 115 acres of that tract.⁴⁸
- 1768 – Cornelius Kincheloe gave a release concerning liability, if any, arising out of a conveyance from George Calvert to his father, John Kincheloe, of this 300 acres "about the year 1736 or 7." The said parcel had been since recovered by ejectment in the General Court by Berryman.⁴⁹ [George Jr.'s deed of 1737 is evidence he is

³⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed & Will Abstracts of Stafford County, Virginia 1689-1693* (McLean, Va.: Sparacio, 1989), 83, citing Stafford County Record Book D: 221-221a.

⁴⁰ Nell M. Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers*, 2: (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1977) 193.

⁴¹ Sparacio, *Deed & Will Abstracts 1689-1693*, 83, citing Stafford County Record Book D: 221-221a.

⁴² Northern Neck Grants Book 1: 201-202. Grant dated 16 Dec. 1692.

⁴³ Stafford County Order Book 1689-93: 367, 372. Case decided 13 Sept. 1693. Note: This record states property as 1,844 acres, whereas other sources record the original survey as 1,344 acres.

⁴⁴ Northern Neck Grants Book 5: 163.

⁴⁵ Prince William County Deed Book W: 122-125.

⁴⁶ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Stafford County, Virginia 1722-1728, 1755-1765* (McLean, Va.: Sparacio, 1987), 12, citing Stafford County Deed Book J: 106-111.

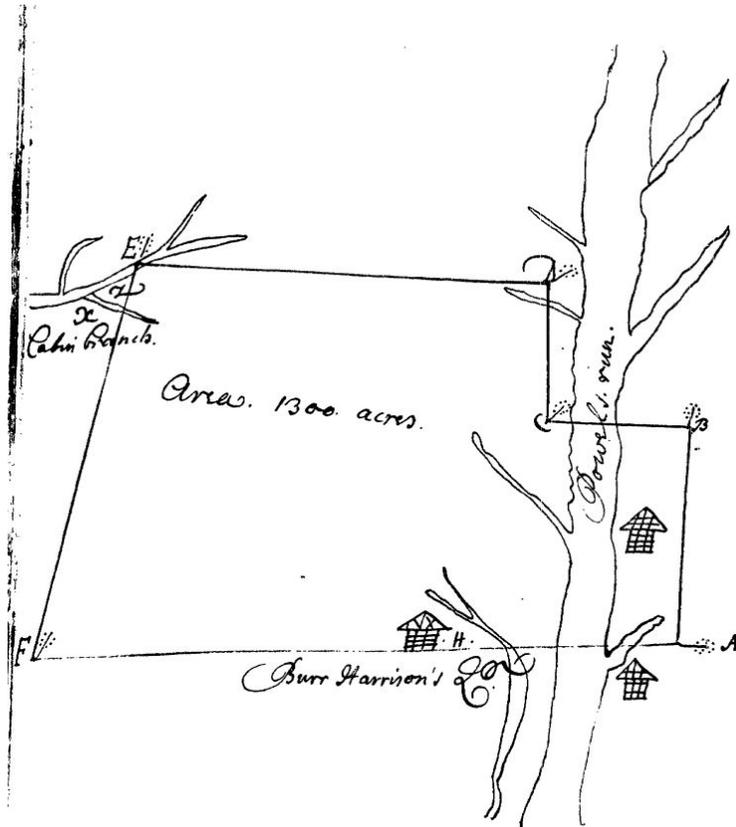
⁴⁷ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Will Abstracts of Stafford County, Virginia 1729-1748* (McLean, Va.: Sparacio, 1987), 6-7, citing Stafford County Will Book M: 20-22.

⁴⁸ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Prince William County, Virginia Deed Abstracts 1787-1791* (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1991), 145, citing Prince William County Deed Book X: 472-474. The 1737 document would have been in Deed Book C, now lost.

⁴⁹ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Prince William County, Virginia Deed Abstracts 1767-1771* (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1990), 33, citing Prince William County Deed Book Q: 623. The reading of the date is corrected by reading the original deed's image. The General Court records are lost.

the heir of George Sr., and inherited it by probate law. See the section ahead for a detailed explanation provided by Don Wilson, RELIC.]

- 1783 – John Berryman conveyed his right to the land out of Ward’s patent to Cornelius Kincheloe, 105 acres “Mr. Kincheloe’s claim within Mr. Berryman’s line.” A marginal note shows the deed was delivered in 1807 to Mr. James Wigginton, Administrator of William McDaniel, who purchased it of Cornelius Kincheloe.⁵⁰



Survey returned for grant to Jane Champ and others in 1717.⁵¹

Known Land Holdings of Brothers George and John Calvert

Property #3 – 417-Acre Tract Owned by George Calvert

- 1723 – George Calvert was listed on the Stafford County Rent Roll with 417 acres.⁵² We do not know the location(s) of all of this land. It appears that at least a portion of it was located on Neabsco Creek in what is now Prince William County, Virginia. Much of the land that he gave his sons and that he owned at his death was the same land on Neabsco Creek that had been granted to William Champ on 26 May 1712. William Champ’s grant of land was for 435 acres.⁵³ This land was about two miles northwest of Property #2. How did George acquire this land?

⁵⁰ Ruth and Sam Sparacio, *Deed Abstracts of Prince William County, Virginia, 1779-1784* (McLean, Va.: Antient Press, 1990), 89, citing Prince William County Deed Book U: 390-391.

⁵¹ Northern Neck Grants Book 5: 163.

⁵² “A Quit Rent Roll for 1723,” in George H. S. King, *The Register of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia* (Fredericksburg, Va.: King, 1961), 147; online at <http://www.kvkinfolk.com/stafford/rentroll1723.htm>.

⁵³ Northern Neck Grants Book 4: 81.

- 16 Jul 1724 – George Calvert increased his land holdings by obtaining a grant of land for 92 acres on both sides of Powell's Creek⁵⁴ about 2 miles southwest of the 417 acres noted above and about 2 miles up Powell's Creek from Property #2.

- 1731 – George gave 100 acres to his brother John. (See Property #6, below). These latter two transactions left George with approximately 400 acres.⁵⁵ Except for 62 acres he owned at his death, George gave these 400 acres to his sons.

- By 1751 – It appears that George had transferred 100 acres to son Obed.⁵⁶ Obed appears to have kept this land until his death in 1805. In his will he directed his executors to sell it for the benefit of his younger children.⁵⁷ A record of this sale is needed. This 100-acre transfer to son Obed left George with 300 acres.

- 1754 – George gave his son John 100 acres, his son William 50 acres, his son George 50 acres, and his son Humphrey 50 acres. He retained 67 acres for himself.⁵⁸

The Prince William County deed book for that year is missing. The acreage does not add up to 300, but totals 317 acres, coincidentally the same number of acres listed in the 1723 Rent Roll, when the earlier transfer of 100 acres to son Obed is added. Further research may clear up this discrepancy. The 67 acres was reduced to 62 acres by 1762. The five acres appears to have gone to son William.⁵⁹ When he died in 1771 George still owned this 62 acres which his son Obed inherited. Obed later bequeathed this land to his son George who received it in 1805 when his father died.

Property #4 - 100 Acre Tract – John Calvert

- 1723 - John Calvert is paying taxes on 100 acres.⁶⁰ John's son, George, Jr., inherits this land from his father. How did John acquire this land? Where was it located? How did George, Jr. dispose of it?

Property #5 - 306 Acres Jacob Gibson and John Calvert Tract

- 1724 – 306 acres granted to John Calvert and Jacob Gibson. The land was situated between the Branches of Powell's Creek and the North Run of Quantico Creek in Stafford County.⁶¹ George Calvert, Jr., [son of John] took over the taxes and inherited John Calvert's interest in this property.

- 1739 - George Calvert, Jr., sells half his interest in the 306 acres above to John Gregg. "*George Calvert, Jr. of Hamilton Parish, County of Prince William, bargains and sells to John Gregg a tract of land on or near Powell's Creek, being One half part of a 306 acre tract of land granted to Jacob Gibson and John Calvert, dec. father of the aforesd. George Calvert Jr.*"⁶²

The original 1724 grant document is for 306 acres. What about Gibson's interest in this property? Although the search for information on this property will continue, it will not be a priority focus of the project. The property will be included in the land mapping to show its proximity to the other properties owned by the elder George Calvert, John, and his brother George.

⁵⁴ Northern Neck Grants Book A: 43-44.

⁵⁵ Donald L. Wilson, "An Early Rent Roll for Prince William County," in *Newsletter of the Prince William County Genealogical Society*, v. 5, no. 8 (Feb. 1987): 6. George Colvert, 400 acres. Undated but datable to 1735/36 from internal evidence.

⁵⁶ Prince William County Rent Roll, 1751-1752, *Prince William County, Virginia, Manuscripts in the Huntington Library*; 1 microfilm reel, RELIC. George Colvert, 300 acres; Obed Colvert, 100 acres.

⁵⁷ Prince William County Will Book I: 53.

⁵⁸ Prince William County Court Orders 1753-55: 183. Prince William County Rent Roll, 1760; *Huntington Library Manuscripts*.

⁵⁹ Prince William County Rent Roll, 1762; *Huntington Library Manuscripts*. William's land is now 55 acres.

⁶⁰ "A Quit Rent Roll for 1723," 147.

⁶¹ Northern Neck Grants Book A: 4; 18 July 1724.

⁶² Prince William County Deed Book D: 141-146, 26 and 27 May 1739.

Of note here, George Calvert, Jr., is paying taxes on 406 acres he inherited from his father sometime before 1736.⁶³ He is also listed as paying taxes on 406 acres in the Hamilton Parish Rent Roll from Michaelmas (29 September) 1738 to Michaelmas 1739.⁶⁴ He is not listed at all in the next rent roll that we are aware of "A Rental for Prince William County from Michaelmas, 1751 to Michaelmas, 1752."⁶⁵ We know he sold his interest in Property #5 in 1739, see above. Is the 406 acres the combination of this Property #5 and #4 or #6?

Property #6 - 100 Acre Tract – George Calvert to John Calvert

- 1731 – “George Colverd and his wife Constant deed 100 acres to their loving friend and brother John Colverd of the aforesaid county. 16 June 1731.”⁶⁶ Is this the same as Property #4?

Note: At this point the two 100-acre parcels (Properties #4 and #6 which may be the same tract of land) appear to be near both the Gibson and Calvert 1724 grant (Property #5), and the 1344-acre grant (Property #2). The 1724 Jacob Gibson and John Calvert tract was not part of the 1,344-acre grant.

Evidence Concluding George the Elder as Father of the Calvert Brothers

The deed transfer by George Calvert on 19 and 20 January 1737, listed in Property #2 above, offers evidence that the Calvert brothers are indeed the sons of the elder George Calvert of Stafford, and that George is the heir of his father. Don Wilson provides the basis for this conclusion:⁶⁷

“Deed Book C covered the period 1735-38, and it has been lost since the Civil War, so we can't see the wording of the original. This deed provides an approximate date, the parties, and a fair description of the land (enough to allow us to track it through later sales). The only one of the George CALVERTs who we can be sure was an adult in 1736/7 who was still alive in Prince William in 1768 is the man who died in 1771, i.e. the man born in the 1690s (George "II" [putative son of George the elder]). The description of the land (Powells Run, Dixey WARD's survey) is a convincing match with the land that the older George CALVERT ("I") owned in 1693 (lawsuit over Dixey WARD's survey on Powell's Run). It is logical to conclude that the man living in 1768 must have inherited the land from the older George.

Yes, it is conceivable that George II obtained / bought the land from someone else, but it is much more likely that he inherited it from George I. The fact that George II's sale to KINCHELOE was contested in the Virginia General Court means that his ownership was in question, just as George I's ownership was in question in 1693. Inheritance is the logical reason for the question.

If we conclude that George II inherited it from George I, how did that take place? It might have been by will (for which we have no evidence). If George I died intestate (without a will), all his lands would descend to his heir-at-law under the law of primogeniture. If George II is that heir, it means he is George I's eldest son (or heir of the eldest son). George II's estimated birth date (ca. 1690-94) makes that relationship a good fit (George I was born prior to 1669).

There has been some question as to whether George II's brother John is the elder son. John died in the 1730s (apparently between 1731 and 1734). John received a deed of gift from his brother George in 1731 -- a likely case if George is the elder brother and heir to their father's lands. John's son George "Jr" sells some of his father's land in 1739. He is shown as owner of it on the 1735/36 rent roll, indicating that John is deceased. John's death is not mentioned in the surviving Will Book C, which begins in Sept. 1734 -- earlier wills (1731-34) are lost. Ergo John's death probably occurred during the period 1731-34. George "Jr" is adult and married by 1739, thus born bef. 1718. If he were born bef. 1715/16 he would have been old enough to sell the land to John KINCHELOE in 1736/7. Could he be the George referred to in the 1768 deed? I don't have reliable information about George "Jr" -- One online site says he died in Culpeper County, Virginia, 19 May 1782. If he were gone from Prince William by 1768, then he couldn't be the George CALVERT named in the 1768 deed.

⁶³ Wilson, “An Early Rent Roll for Prince William County,” 6 [1735/36]. Geo. Colvert Jr. shown with 406 acres.

⁶⁴ Prince William County Rent Roll, 1738/39, *Huntington Library Manuscripts*.

⁶⁵ Prince William County Rent Roll, 1751/52, *Huntington Library Manuscripts*.

⁶⁶ Prince William County Deed Book A: 25.

⁶⁷ Donald L. Wilson to Ann Mitchell, e-mail, 11 September 2011.

I am fairly confident that the man in the 1768 deed is George "II" because we know he lived in Prince William at that time, and because no "Jr" was attached to his name. If the younger man had signed the deed in 1736/7 he definitely would have been identified as "Jr" (as he was in 1739), and that identity should have also been stated in the 1768 deed.

So I conclude that George II in 1736/7 and 1768 is conveying land he inherited from George I (1693). If by primogeniture, he is George I's eldest son.

If you believe that John is the elder brother, then you need to show that the George in 1736/7 and 1768 is really George "Jr." (son of John). Then George "Jr." would be the eldest son of the eldest son of George I, again inheriting by primogeniture. Either way, since we have evidence that George II and John are brothers (the 1731 deed), it would make no difference as to their ancestry. Which George signed the deed in 1768 only determines which of the brothers is the elder. "

More Unanswered Questions about the Calverts of Stafford/Prince William, Virginia

At this point, we are confident to say that the Calvert brothers of Stafford are the sons of George Calvert the Elder. Uncertainty still lies in the mystery of the forefathers of this Calvert family. Their descendants' bloodlines are questionable as well, as is the case with the three Calvert alias Harrison brothers, George, Burr, and Thomas.⁶⁸ This leaves questions to the possibility of adoption and alternate bloodline issues in this family – more missing pieces to the puzzle. Hopefully this land-mapping project will shed some light on these family ties as well.

Calvert Genealogy Group Contact Information

In addition to the land-mapping project, the Group is also seeking any primary source documents, Bible records, letters, etc. pertaining to brothers John and George Calvert, George(s) of Stafford, or William Calvert's son George that may help verify this family's heritage. For more information about this project and how you can participate visit The Calvert Genealogy Website and Blog at:

<http://calvertgenealogy.net/index.html>
<http://calvertfamilygenealogy.blogspot.com/>

The website is a compilation of the heritage of the Calvert, Colbert, Colvert, Calbert, and similar surname families. It contains many individual and collective research efforts, including DNA testing, paper documentation, articles, and information on how to join the Group. It's a "must see" for all Calvert family members and others interested in this family heritage!

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Acknowledgments:

Without all the valuable and accessible resources online, we would not have been able to gather the records compiled here leading us ever closer to the truth about George of Stafford, our ancestor. The following is a list of source sites we would like to thank for making this information available and recommend as research tools to those searching their ancestry.

Ruth E. Lloyd Information Center for Genealogy and Local History (RELIC),

www.pwcgov.org/library/relic

Calvert Genealogy Website, <http://calvertgenealogy.net/>

Calvert Genealogy Group, http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Calvert_Genealogy/

Archives of Maryland Online, <http://aomol.net/html/index.html>

⁶⁸ David Edwin Bell, *The Calvert Alias Harrison Saga*, Research Paper, Revision 7.2 - 15 November 2009; online at http://calvertgenealogy.net/brickwalls/calvertaliasarrisonsaga7.2_091115.pdf.

Library of Virginia, http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public/using_collections.asp
 1658-1758 Charles County MD Families "The first 100 years" compiled by Mike Marshall,
<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=SHOW&db=mrmarsha&recno=0>
 RootsWeb Message Boards, <http://boards.rootsweb.com/>

Appendix

As an aside, we found a record of a George Calvert in Accomack County, Virginia, son of Christopher Calvert, and a record naming John Colvirt (Calvert) in the will of Christopher's neighbor, George Parker. We don't know if this George could be our elder George Calvert in Stafford/Prince William. We are investigating this possibility as well to see if there are any later records of George in Accomack.

20 Oct 1680 – An indenture made and concluded between George Calvert, with consent of father Christopher Calvert, binds himself to Thomas Hook, Boatright⁶⁹.... [George is estimated to be 14 years old, which would place his birth ca. 1666.] Ella Foy O'Gorman, author of *Descendants of Virginia Calverts*, notes this George, apprenticed as a boatbuilder in 1680, as possibly being the same as George in Stafford and father of John and George Calvert.

Thomas Hook, the boatright who apprenticed George Calvert of Accomack County, had a brother and a father both named William. They were also boatrights and merchants, and they lived in Somerset County, Maryland. In the 1722 will of Thomas Rose of Accomack County, Rose gave George, Thomas and **William Hook** his sloop, "the Rosanna," and gold rings to George and Ann Parker.⁷⁰ The Parkers lived next door to Christopher Calvert and his family in Accomack County, and John Calvert (John Colvirt) is mentioned in the will of George Parker, Sr., dated 1708.⁷¹ George Parker gave him a cow and calf that were in Rummy Marsh (Somerset County, Maryland). Here we find a George and John Calvert in Accomack County, Virginia.

Are the above George and John Calvert brothers and are they both sons of Christopher Calvert? Could this George be the same as the elder George Calvert who lived in Stafford and the father of the brothers John and George of Prince William? Are the Thomas and William Hook mentioned in the above will sons of Thomas Hook? Is William Hook who witnessed Charles Calvert's Indenture in 1701 in St. Mary County along with Edward Ford the uncle or father of Thomas Hook? All of these angles need to be further investigated, including additional information regarding the Calvert/Ward/Hook/Ford/Dike connection in Maryland.

Prince William Reliquary

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Genealogical Queries: We will publish queries regarding individuals who lived in Prince William County. Please include your name, address, and/or email address. Queries may be edited for length.

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⁶⁹ Northampton County Record Book 1676-1680: 227.

⁷⁰ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations of Accomack County, Virginia, 1663-1800* (1931; reprinted, Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1990), 71; citing Accomack County Wills and Deeds, 1715-1729: 441.

⁷¹ Nottingham, *Wills and Adms. of Accomack County*, 49; citing Accomack County Will Book 1692-1715: 602.

WOODBIDGE SCHOOL, Circa 1927

HELP US NAME THOSE FACES



Judy Kilby of Conover, North Carolina, shared the above photo with RELIC in 2006. Her aunt “Tillie” (Estelle Bourne Timms) was able to identify some of the people in the photo whom she thought she recognized. An identifying number is marked on the chest of each student, beginning with the front row.

5. Harvey Allen (?)
8. Billy Sanford
9. Roger Sanford
10. Leslie Bourne
13. Harvey Arnold
14. Mary Macconnaughey

17. Elizabeth Burdette
18. Evelyn Herring (?)
19. Lorraine Allen
22. Wilda Bourne
23. Russell Bolton
27. Pearl Taylor

28. [--?--] Riley
31. Rowena Arnold
33. [--?--] Burdette (sister of #17)
39. Barkley (Fatz) Davis (?)
42. Alton Taylor
43. Bertha Arnold

The teacher standing on the ground might be [--?--] Lynn. The school (grades 1-8) was located near the intersection of Gordon Boulevard and Route 1.¹ Lucy Phinney reported that Woodbridge School closed in 1927 and its students were transferred to the new Occoquan District High School (grades 1-12).²

¹ Lucy Walsh Phinney, *Yesterday's Schools: Public Elementary Education in Prince William County, Virginia, 1869-1969* ([Woodbridge, Va.]: L.W. Phinney, 1993), 70.

² Phinney, *Yesterday's Schools*, 189.