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JEREMIAH OSBORN
(and some descendants)

OF HAMPSHIRE COUNTY
(The South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River)

(WEST) VIRGINIA

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My grateful appreciation also goes to Helen Jane Baugh, Kenbridge, VA, who gave many suggestions and typed the manuscript. If it were not for her it would not be in book form.

It is my hope that this account of our Osborns will prove helpful. I trust it will inspire others to discover more data to add to this compilation. Any mistakes are mine alone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Reverend Marietta Mansfield was born in Warren County, KY. She is a graduate of two United Methodist Colleges: Lindsey Wilson and Kentucky Wesleyan, 1942. She received a Master of Divinity degree from Vanderbilt University in 1961.

Reverend Mansfield began her career as a Christian missionary to India where she supervised village schools, directed the literacy program, and oversaw health care for nine hundred villages.

Stricken with polio, Reverend Mansfield returned to the United States for further treatment. While here she extended her ministry to include clinical pastoral care. She was ordained in 1956, received into full connection in the former Louisville Annual Conference in 1962, the first woman to be ordained an Elder in Kentucky. Her ministry in Kentucky spanned 23 years. Her appointments included establishing the chaplaincy program at Wesley Manor.

She was the President of the International Association of Women Ministers 1966-70. As President she represented women clergy at the Congress of the National Federation of Business and Professional Women meeting in Washington, 1966.
She is listed in *Who's Who of the Methodist Church, Who's Who in Religion and Who's Who of the World*. In 1991, Vanderbilt Divinity School added her name to their list of “Distinguished Alumni.” The Doctor of Divinity Degree was conferred upon her in 1997, by Kentucky Wesleyan College, Owensboro, Kentucky, her alma mater.

She authored the Pamphlet, "When You Visit the Sick." It was published by the Woman's Division of the Methodist Church, New York.

**PROLOGUE**

We have been intrigued with the Osborn branch of our family since childhood.

Marietta Mansfield’s father and paternal great uncle, Jonathan Newman Osborn, kept her interested in the early history of the family by painting graphic word pictures of the dangers endured by our ancestor pioneer family. Research has confirmed these stories of their courage in time of danger; patience in time of suffering; ingenuity in the face of need; and untiring industry in carving a home from the wilderness.

Helen Jane’s mother, Glenna Beckelheimer, nee Osborn, inspired her to search out the living story of the ancestors of her family.

Marietta, in reading *George Washington's Diary*, in the spring of 1982, discovered that Jeremiah Osborn was living on the South Fork River, 1748, in what became Hardy County, West Virginia. That summer, she traveled to Moorefield, the county seat of Hardy County, to learn the location of Lot #18. Mrs. Marjorie Zirk, Librarian of Moorefield Public Library, gave her the help she needed to accomplish her goal. Subsequently, she made two other trips to the valley to walk over the land and visit again with Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Neff, who owned it and lived there many years. Walking across the old river channel, she saw it strewn with stones worn smooth by bouncing their way down the mountains, there were stones of different colors—some reddish and some white. Mr. Neff remarked that the red stones had come down from Saddle Mountain and the white stones had rolled down from the Elkhorn or South Fork Mountain.

Marietta and Helen Jane met each other for the first time in the Greenbrier County Court House, West Virginia, November 1982. The following February, they were to meet in Fayetteville, West Virginia to share with Glenna, Helen Jane’s mother, what they had seen and heard. But it was not to be. While Helen Jane journeyed to her mother’s home that Sunday morning, her mother collapsed in church and died from a heart attack. So Marietta went to be with Helen Jane to comfort and be of help.

For ten weeks, Marietta stayed with Helen Jane in her mother’s home while she worked toward settling the estate and getting the house ready to put on the market. Together, they shared in the painful task of closing her mother’s home. Also between their many duties, they worked together in researching the history of the Osborns.

Together they made several trips to the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River to walk over Lot #18, the pioneer home of our Osborns. We wanted to travel over the valley, become acquainted with its people and visualize, as nearly as possible, the land where Jeremiah Osborn lived and made a new home for his family on the edge of civilization in a new land.

It was awe inspiring to stand on the old home site by the river and look down to see the stones that may have been a part of the foundation of their cabin. If this were an
awesome moment, it was even more so to walk across the field, up a little rise where the
two lone hewn field stones mark two graves of some of the early people who became
successor residents of Lot #18. These stones are simply carved with initials and give the
years of their life span. An aged cedar tree is the lone sentinel that keeps silent watch
over these gallant dead. No doubt some of our Osborns are there also.

This work stands as a memorial to ALL our Osborns who have walked before us in such
a way as to help make the world a better place in which to live.

THE OSBORN FAMILY
by
Margaret Osborn, Ph.D.
Iowa State University
Iowa City, Iowa
August 1984

(Margaret Osborn was a descendant of John and Elizabeth Claypool Osborn through their
son, David.)

The Osborn name goes back to the Scandinavian countries and was probably spelled
Astion or Asbjorn. “Os,” which is a root word, is implicative of deity according to
Bardsley. Dellquest suggests “Os” is a prefix meaning sacred or holy. The last part,
originally “biorn” or “biojorn,” means “a bear,” so the name would mean “sacred bear”
or “divine bear.”

The name in England and America is spelled many ways, such as Osborn, Osborne,
Osburn, Osbourn, Osborn, Osbourn, Osborn, Ozburn, and Orsbun, all of
which carry much the same sound when spoken.

If we go back in history, we need to remember that in the British Isles, the last Roman
rulers left about 400 A.D. England lay open to invaders, first the Anglos,
Saxons, and Jutes, from across the North
Sea. Later, the fleet of fierce Danish or Norwegian Vikings
pillaged England from the ninth to the eleventh centuries. Finally, England was united
under the Danish King, Canute. All the invaders left their influence on the names of
people and places.

At this time, most individuals had single names. Ewen suggests that 85 percent of
persons had single names. “Of the 15 percent having additional descriptions, 1 percent
had characteristic epithets, the remaining 2 percent being accounted for by double names
not identifiable with certainty.”

Several interesting characters with the name of Osbern lived at this time or about the time
of the Norman invasion. The spelling of all of these seems to be Osbern.

In Normandy, a man by the name of Herfert had a son named Osbern who became a
steward of Duke Robert I. His duty was to be one of the guards of his son William, who
later became William the Conqueror. This Osbern was killed about 1044 in the bedroom
of the boy by William of Montgomery. Osbern had a son, William Fitz Osbern. The
term “fitz” meaning “son of.” William Fitz Osbern fought at Hastings in 1066. He
received large estates in England and was made Earl of Herford in 1067 A.D. William
the King sent William Fitz Osbern to Normandy to help settle some problems that had
arisen. He was killed in 1071 A.D. at the Battle of Cassel. His body was taken to
Normandy for burial in the monastery he had founded at Cornelles. It is recorded that
he gave half a hide to the Abby of Cormeilles. A hide is a measure of land of about 120 acres.

When Duke William of Normandy conquered England in 1066 A.D. and was crowned King, most of the lands of the English nobility were soon granted to his followers. The King wanted to know what he had, and who held it, so he decided to take a survey. Its purpose was that every “man should know his right and not usurp another’s. And because it was the final authoritative register of rightful processor the natives called it the Domesday Book, by analogy from the Day of Judgment” (Morris).

The survey was taken in 1086 A.D. The whole undertaking was completed in less than 12 months. Some of the original volumes are preserved in Public Record Office in England and were written in 11th Century Latin.

The survey included 34 counties. The chief landholdings and those who held them were named and the rest of the population counted. Several translations over the years have been done. Morris in 1975, prepared a series of volumes for the various counties which includes the original Latin and a translation.

In the Domesday Book, several men with the name of Osbern are listed. The land of Bishop Osbern, Bishop of Exeter is listed. Finn and Douglas identify him as the brother of William Fitz Osbern. He also held land in Cornwall. The land of Osbern Son of Richard and Osbern Gifford are listed in Oxfordshire. In Bedfordshire the land of Osbern son of Walter, Osbern son of Richard and Osbern Fisher can be found. In Staffordshire are found the lands of Osbern son of Richard, in Cheshire, Osbern son of Tezzo and Hugh son of Osbern and in Nottinghamshire Osbern son of Richard. The Osbern name is thus found a number of items in the Domesday Book.

At the present time on the Isle of Wight is found the Osborne House. I visited it in the summer of 1973. I asked the guide how the house received its name and he said that he did not know. I purchased a booklet describing the house and again I found no explanation of how it received its name. Osborne House was built for Queen Victoria in 1845-1848, at her own expense, as a country retreat where she could be free from state business and her children could enjoy a quiet life near the sea. I am sure someone in England can explain the name. I have a theory that may may not be correct. When William Fitz Osbern was made Earl of Herford, he controlled the Isle of Wight. He had a bakehouse and a baker on the Isle. Thus I can see why Queen Victoria might have chosen the name. The booklet says Queen Victoria purchased an estate of some 1000 acres from Lady Isabella Blackford. But who owned the land between the years of 1067 and 1845?

The Osborn name is thus spelled in many ways. It seems to have originated in the Scandinavian countries. Many in the United States today have this name. Their ancestors came from England and probably many are descendants of one of the various men who had the single name Osbern as it was spelled around 1067 and 1845.
CHAPTER ONE

PRELUDE TO DEPARTURE

When some of the Morris County, New Jersey, residents began planning to move to the Valley of Virginia, Jeremiah Osborn, Jr. became interested. He had a growing family of at least three boys and two girls and he would need land he could afford to support their needs.

For a number of years beginning before 1720 the Westfalls, and later on joined by the Clarkes and Kuykendalls on the New Jersey side engaged in quarrels, riots and feuds in the Macknaskamack part of the Minisink with the Swoortwaats on the New York side. Negotiation for the New Jersey – New York boundary settlement covered a long period of time. The state line dispute was not finally settled until 1772.1

The name Minisink comes from the clan name Minsi of the nation of Lenape Indians. The designation of Minisink was given to the lands on both sides of the Delaware River north of the Water Gap.2 The Minisink Indians had trails across New Jersey to the coast where they went to obtain shellfish.3 The Minisink is also a name applied to a mining settlement by the Dutch and Swedes on both sides of the Delaware River prior to 1700.4

For many years the Minisink was claimed by the Province of New York. Enough settlers had drifted down from Esopus to warrant the formation of a voting precinct by 1701. Their votes were counted in Ulster Co., New York until 1709, and after that in Orange County, New York. As late as 1739, they were taxed for building the goal at Goshen, the county seat of Orange County.5

The Minisink was known to the Dutch before 1650. They constructed a thoroughfare from Kingston, New York, down the Delaware River to the Water Gap. They called this thoroughfare “Old Mine Road.” It was built in order to explore the mineral deposits described to them by the Indians.6

1 New Jersey Archives, First Series, Volumes VI, VIII, IX.
4 Hoos, Roswell R., Registers of the Dutch Church of Kingston, Ulster County, N.Y., 1660-1809, pp. 516-517.
6 Ibid. pp. 472-472.
It is not surprising that a number of families from that area were captivated by stories of rich land beyond the mountains of Virginia along the South Branch River such as: Kuykendalls, Westfalls, Bogards, Cartrights, Deckers, Vanderpools, Osborns, Zanes, and Hornbacks.

It was common knowledge that Jost Hite and the Van Meters were interested in getting settlers for the Valley of Virginia. Issac Van Meter made more than one trip to The Valley and would be their leader for the forthcoming journey in 1740. Later on he would move his family to the South Branch.7

Many of the pioneer settlers who traveled to the frontier knew each other before they moved. They were friends, neighbors, and kinfolks. Strong bonds of friendship were forged on the journey. When they came to the area that was to be their new home, they settled near each other. When their children grew up and reached the age of marriage, many of them were intermarried.

Some of the settlers were of middle age or older while still others were young. There would be plenty of children and young people to keep each other entertained and herd the livestock along the way.

Three of the families were children of Johnanes Westfall and his wife Maritje (Mary) Cool, who lived in the Minisink area of New Jersey.

1. Sara Westfall, baptized 26 May 1691, married Jacob Kuykendall. They had at least four children: Johannes, baptized 19 January 1714; Benjamin, baptized 1 September 1723; Christine, baptized 12 February 1727; Nathaniel, baptized 6 October 1728.

2. Jacob Westfall, baptized in Kingston, New York on 8 June 1715, in the old Dutch Reformed Church (#2313). He married Judike Hornbeck sometime in the middle 1730s. (The Hornbeck Book, p. 56)

3. Abel Westfall, baptized 9 February 1695, married Antjen (Anna) Bogard, 25 February 1717. They had six known children to go with them to Virginia: Johannes, 1724; Lea, 1726; Elizabeth, 1733; Catherine, 1736; Lydia, 29 May 1739. (The last New Jersey date for Abel appears in The Kingston Baptismal Records on 17 June 1740. Abel with his wife were witnesses at the baptism of Cornelius, son of Jacob and Rachal Hornback.) Abel Westfall died in Hampshire County in 1759. They had a grant of 400 acres, Lot #9 of the South Fork of the South Branch River.

4. Janet Westfall, baptized 1696, was married to Matthew Kuykendall, 27 March 1715. They had three known children: Symen, 24 June 1716; Elizabeth, 16 January 1726, baptized in Rochester. (This child must have died because they named a succeeding baby Elizabeth, baptized 6 October 1728.) Mathias Kirkendall was granted Lot #5 on the South Branch of the Potomac River on 15 June 1749.10

James Simpson settled on Lot #14, 400 acres, the grant awarded 15 July 1749 up the South Fork River, four lots above Jeremiah Osborn. He was likely a member of the

7 Kercheval, Samuel, History of The Valley of Virginia; 3rd Edition, (Woodstock, VA: Grabill, 1902, First Published 1833).

10 Morrison, Charles, List of South Branch Lots.
contingent of settlers leaving for the Valley of Virginia. James was born in Maryland and went north to New York. He lived in Rochester, New York. There, he met and married a Rochester girl, Annatien (Anne) Hoornbeack, April 1736. James and Anne had two sons, both baptized at Kingston: Alexander, baptized 17 December 1738 and Jonathan, baptized 13 April 1740. (The April 1740 date was the last reference found for the Simpsons prior to their arrival on the South Fork.)

The following families were from the Wallpack area of the New Jersey Minisink who went to Virginia. The Minisink included the territory of New Jersey east of the Delaware River, which was next to the New York State boundary including Morris County and Morristown. The Minisink Trail or Path connected the northwest section of the area to Perth Amboy, which was on the ocean. It passed near the farm where our Jeremiah Osborn lived.

Abraham and Rebecca Vanderpool had one child that we know about: Catherine. There may have been others. If there were boys, they were too young to be included in the 1750 Tithable lists of Augusta County, Virginia. The last Morris County, New Jersey date we have for Abraham is 16 May 1740. Abraham was granted 432 acres, Lot #10 on the South Fork of the South Branch on 19 October 1748.

Eva Hornback was the daughter of Warnaer Hornback and his first wife Anna de Hooges. Eva was baptized 18 June 1671 at Kingston. She married Cornelius Bogard. Annetje (Anne), their oldest daughter, married Abel Westfall on 25 February 1717. At that time, they were living in Minisink, New Jersey. Abel and Anne Westfall came to the South Fork River, and were granted 400 acres, Lot #9, on 6 October 1748.

Johannes Bogard, baptized 11 September 1709, likely came to Virginia with his brother Anthony and his sister, Anne, who married Abel Westfall. His two brothers were Warner, baptized 6 February 1704, and Jacob, baptized 22 September 1706. Anne Hornback, their cousin had married James Simpson. (See above.) Johannes' will was probated in Augusta County, Virginia in September 1746. He names his wife as Sarah, big with child and a daughter, Anna. He was only 37 years old when he died.

A third Kuykendall brother, Peter, son of Leur Jacobsen Van Kuykendall and Grietje (Meg or Peggy) were married in Kingston, New York in 1680 and moved down the old Mine Road to the Minisink region. Peter was baptized 1 May 1698 in the Minisink Church and grew up in Mackackemack, now Port Jarvis, New Jersey. When Peter was a teenager lad, the Mackackemack area of the Minisink became sort of a battleground where the Westfall and Kuykendalls feuded with the Swaarwoort family. Peter married Frances Decker on 8 July 1718 in Kingston. Peter was a farmer and stock raiser as were most of the Minisink people of that area.

Peter and Frances (Decker) Kuykendall had eight children: Hendrick, baptized 10 July 1720 in Kingston; Daniel, baptized 28 January 1721 in Kingston; Elizabeth, baptized 3 January 1725 in Kingston; Solomon, baptized 25 June 1729 in Kingston; Peter, born 1732, Martynus (Maria), baptized 18 June 1734 in Minisink; Jacob, 23 August 1737. He died in infancy. Then Peter and Frances had another baby they also named Jacob, baptized 30 October 1739 in Deerpark, New York. (1739 is the last Minisink date we have for Peter and Frances Kuykendall, until March 1742.)

Now we go to our ancestor Jeremiah Osborn of Morris County, New Jersey, which was adjacent to the Minisink area of New Jersey. Jeremiah and his wife had at least three boys: George, born circa 1725; Jeremiah, Jr. born 17 April 1729 and John, born circa 1733. There were two girls we know about: Abigail, who married Joseph Claypool and Phoebe, who married Henry Harris sometime before 1748. When James Gann surveyed the South Fork Lots, George Washington noted in his diary that Lot #14 was opposite Henry Harris' house.

Jeremiah was a stock farmer. The records of Morris County, NJ, tell us that the court had assigned Jeremiah an ear mark in 1740/41. This date was marked with an X, indicating it was canceled.

There were at least ten families to leave the area of the Minisink. These families included nearly thirty children of all ages. For them, it was an especially exciting time. The bonds of friendship forged along the way would be long lasting. These families would look out for each other on the frontier, witness each others wills and deeds and work together to build a new community. When they were joined by other settlers, they reached out in friendship. Together, they would face the challenges of life on the frontier with the hard work of carving new homes out of the wilderness. They would share in the joys as well as the dangers and suffering of a people determined to live on the frontier.

* This system of double-dating was from January 1 until March 25, the period of transition to a new numbering system.
CHAPTER THREE

THE ARRIVAL AND LIFE ON THE FRONTIER

The settlement of a new country remote from the cultivated regions is difficult at best. At the outset food, clothing and agricultural implements are obtained with difficulty. To be sure the early settlers hunted for food and made most of their clothing. They soon learned to fashion the implements of husbandry and furniture. The will of George Osborn included some pewter dishes. Iron pots, knives and forks were brought with them from New Jersey.

Jeremiah and his boys looked around for vacant land and chose a building site up the South Fork River, not far from what became Moorefield. There they filled trees and hewed logs for the cabin which they built on the east side of the South Fork River, and they must have constructed a shed for their animals.

Do not think of the area in or around the confluence of the South Fork and South Branch River as being scarcely settled. "In the records of Donegal for December 11, 1740, mention is made of a congregation of our faith..." at the next meeting of Presbytery (May 30, 1741), a supplication was brought in and read from the South Branch of the Potomac... The subsequent history identifies it with the section above the 'trough' now known as Moorefield. "we have reason to believe...that as early as 1734-35, a settlement began on lands of John and Isaac Van Meter...These early settlers were largely of Dutch origin although many of Scotch-Irish descent were mingled with them.

When Washington, on 4 April 1748, in his journal noted a "Blazed Tree," it would seem to indicate that the early settlers staked out their land by blazing trees. The "blaze" is made by removing with an ax a strip of the outer bark of a tree about 12 inches long. The tree always carries the "blazing seal."

Washington also noted that one of the settlers was a woman: the Widow Wolf. When John Woolfallier's estate was administered 30 May 1748, an inventory of his estate was ordered.

By the time the settlers had lived on the South Fork some years, they had accumulated a number of cattle including 2 steers or oxen and horses, branding iron, bells, blacksmith...
tools, tubs, spoons, iron pots and pans, wagon, spinning wheel, clothing, bedding and nine books (great and small).28

And yet inured to hardship, bravery and labor they sustained with fortitude the fatigue of the chase, and the campaign and scouting demands of warfare. “With strong arms they turned the wilderness into fertile fields.” And left to their descendants the rich inheritance of peace and prosperity.29

Every family in the settlement had a garden to supply vegetables for their table. They grew corn to make homily and grind into meal. Pumpkin, squash, beans and potatoes were cooked with their pork, venison and bear meat for dinner and supper.

In the spring they cleared the land and planted their crops. They were kept busy cultivating and harvesting what they had grown.

Hunting was an important part of their livelihood as well as enjoyment. They sold the fur for money to pay for rifles, salt and iron brought in from across the mountains.

Being good citizens the settlers helped to mark out roads and keep them in repair.30 They also answered the call of duty in estate settlements.31

In the early years of the settlements, the wedding was a neighborhood affair. It was a joyous time of eager expectation. The ceremony usually took place before dinner which was a hilarious time. Dinner was followed by dancing.

Community activities, other than weddings, included gathering of grain at harvest time; log rolling, building cabins or planning some scouting event or campaign.

Whatever else may be said of the settler, his life embodied the spirit of adventure. Certainly this spirit of adventure was a characteristic of our Osborn forebears.

31 Ibid., Volume II, pp. 1-30 (Will Book I).
CHAPTER FOUR

THE SOUTH FORK NEIGHBORS

Who were Jeremiah Osborn's neighbors? Helen Jane and I have long felt we must learn all we could of the settlers of the area if we were to become acquainted with our ancestor, Jeremiah Osborn. To that end we made a number of trips to Moorefield of the South Fork Valley of Hardy County and the surrounding areas of the Lost River, Hampshire and Grant Counties. We spent many hours in the Court House at Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County and Moorefield, the county seat of Hardy County, as well as Franklin, the county seat of Pendleton County, Virginia, now West Virginia. In addition, we spend a great deal of time in a number of libraries in Virginia, West Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky, Philadelphia and Salt Lake City.

Marjorie Zirk, the librarian of the Hardy County, West Virginia Library was instrumental in our finding the location of Lot #18 on the South Fork River. She made available the survey drawings of the South Fork Lots reconstructed by Charles Morrison, engineer and author. She introduced us to Wilmer and Ruth Neff, the owners of the land designated as Lot #18.

Who were Jeremiah's neighbors? From whence did they come? Neighbors, relatives and in-laws often emigrated together and when they arrived in their new surrounds, their children intermarried. Our study has validated this claim for the neighborhood constituents.

The neighborhood included the settlers who lived below the South Fork on the South Branch. The confluences of these rivers is just above the present location of Moorefield. Peter Thorn, William Miller, the Van Meters, Deckers, Hornbecks, Caseys, Westfalls, Michael Harness, George See, Kerry Kendalls, Collenes and Scotts, Claypools, of Lost River and others as well.

Peggy Shomo Joyner, in her book: Abstracts of Virginia's Northern Neck Warrents and Surveys, Orange and Augusta Counties, 1730-1754, Volume I, p. 59, petitioners of the South Branch of Potomack River petitioned the court for a road for "encouragement and convenience" for settlers. Jacob Westfall was named among others, to view and lay off ye said road.” The petition was dated 31 December 1742.

A careful study of the Register of the Dutch Church at Kingston, Ulster County, New York, provides the startling data that a number of the settlers were forty or fifty years of age by 1740. Also a study of the Augusta County, Virginia records recorded by Lyman Chalkley in three volumes describes a people who witnessed each other's wills and deeds and who worked side by side to change the wilderness into a community.

It was natural their young people would marry across family lines. Bogards married Westfalls, Deckers married Kuykendalls: Stumps, Sees and Neffs intermarried as did the Scotts and Claypools, Dentons Vines and Claypools: as also the Osborns and Claypools.

The Winchester Evening Star (no date) published an official copy of The First Census taken in 1748. It was found in the Frederick County Records. This census of the residents of the lower Wappacomo was taken the 18th day of August, 1748. It was found by the Historian Frederick Merion who presented it to the Handley Library, Winchester, Virginia. There is a total of 57 names on that list, including, Van Meters, Peter Casey, Stephen Osborn, the Dokkars, Hornbacks, Westfalls, Peter Thorn, Bogards, Yookeems, Harnesses, Jacob Telebaugh, Daniel Richardson, Cunninghams, Schaubs, Sees, and Heirs. A rotation at the end of the census, lists the places from which they come as Holland, Ireland, Dutch, Maryland, Northward, High Dutch, French and Row Dutch.
Life on the South Fork River was demanding for the settler who came to carve a home out of the wilderness. Jeremiah, having chosen the lower end of the South Fork Valley as his land, was busy clearing it for the cultivation of crops. Signs of an old cabin's foundation are yet discernible. Its location is spectacular. The river with its fertile valley stretches away toward Saddle Mountain in the distance. Saddle Mountain is so named because of the contour of its crest.

The winters brought lots of snow. Jeremiah and his family were astonished to see that the wind blew in only one direction. In the words of a South Fork resident, "the winter wind, cold and icy, blows out of the west as far east as the high mountains will allow. Then it turns around and comes back as a chilling east wind."

Winter was a time for Jeremiah and his sons to hunt, trap and make farm tools and implements. It was also their responsibility to tan animal skins and make moccasins for the family. The mothers and daughters were ever busy cooking, sewing, carding and spinning the local raw materials to make their clothing and bedding. This family as well as all the frontiersmen, had to be able to provide all their essentials. Down through the ages, our Osborns, both men and women have been able artisans and craftsmen.

Then when the winter was past, spring came with the bright sun to warm the valley. The bare brown trees became green again with new leaves. Wild flowers bloomed and the great tulip poplars were covered with white blossoms. It was breathtaking in its beauty. It was a time to clear new ground and plant crops for another harvest.

Lifelong residents of Lot #18 remember the last vestiges of the old orchard. They spoke of ancient apple and pear trees, gnarled and wind blown. Orchards were the means to provide additional food for their families.

The children must have been charmed with the birds of the valley. There was the call of the bobwhite, the meowing of the catbird, the song of the mocking-bird and the evening call of the whippoorwill to entertain them. Then as they grew older they discovered many other birds; the eagle, hawk, wild ducks and geese, the dove, several different woodpeckers, sparrows, meadowlarks and thrasher. Early in the spring, the robin, a harbinger that winter was over, would be a welcome sight.

This beautiful valley was once a fierce battleground. The warring Delawares and Catawbas engaged in bloody battles along this rich bottom land. Their struggle was long and bitter. However, by the time the settlers had arrived, these warring Indians had mostly gone from the area.
A few miles below the confluence of The South Fork with The Wappomakaka, in the area of Old Fields, there was still a sizable Indian settlement of the Shawnee. In order to assure the coming of the buffalo, they burned off their fields making the area prairie-like.

The only way Jeremiah Osborn and his family, along with their neighbors of the greater South Branch could have survived in their secluded valley far from the eastern settlements was to have lived peaceably with the Indian. The Indians did not object to the coming of the settlers from Pennsylvania. They, having heard of the benevolent character of William Penn and his settlers, welcomed the white man.

In all probability the settlers had followed the advice of Mr. Thomas Chaulkley to buy their land from the Indians as he had written in a letter to the Society of Friends at The Opequon, dated 21 May 1738. He counseled the settlers to “live peaceable with the Indian, to give no cause of offense, they being cruel and merciless where they think they have been wronged or defrauded.” He also advised the settlers to always purchase their lands from the Indians.

CHAPTER SIX
SURVEYORS COME TO THE SOUTH FORK

"SOUTH FORK LOTS"
by
Charles Morrison

The South Fork lots were surveyed by James Genn in the spring of 1748. Commencing at the Fairfax Line, which had been surveyed in late 1746, twenty lots were laid off along the South Fork northward to the boundary of the South Branch Manor, surveyed in 1747, also by Genn.

James Genn was experienced and capable. He was commissioned by the Surveyor General of Virginia as the County Surveyor for Prince William County. As a member of the party that had surveyed the Fairfax boundary line in late 1746, he had left his name, J Genn 1746, carved on one of the trees at what they perceived to be the source of the Cohongorooton, or The North Branch of the Potomac.

Lord Fairfax, who had retained much of his British sense of doing and being correct, employed the best surveyors that were available. John Genn was probably his best. Fairfax land grant deeds and leases nearly always had the phrase, "Surveyed for me by Mr. James Genn," "by Mr. Joseph Neville," and later "by Mr. George Washington." But in the spring of 1748, Washington had just turned sixteen, and although he had done some practice in the Shenandoah Valley and along the tidewater flatland, he was by no means experienced in laying off lines in the frontier mountains and woods.

He was with Genn, however, along with his friend, George William Fairfax, when the party ascended the Potomac early in 1748 to survey Fairfax lands along Pattersons Creek and the South Branch where quite a number of settlers were already established under what they considered to be their rights under frontier "law," about 400 acres marked by some blazed trees.

George William Fairfax was the son of William Fairfax, who owned and lived at Belvoir along the Potomac. He was the Lord Proprietor's first cousin, who served as Land Agent for the Proprietary, and made a home for his bachelor uncle amongst the tidewater gentry. Nearby was Mount Vernon, the estate of Lawrence Washington, elder brother of George.

The two young George's who accompanied Genn to the South Branch were totally unaccustomed to the ways and manners of the frontier. They soon returned to the more comfortable existence of the tidal Potomac. Washington did, however, maintain an interesting and detailed diary of his existence of his experience which he entitled, "Journal of My Journey Over the Mountains." (See References)

If in places he wrote with considerable disdain about the frontiersmen, it must be remembered that Washington was then only sixteen years old. His writing also revealed what was an all too common fault in his day: an inability to spell and punctuate either correctly or consistently. He did, however, contribute much to assist in the planting and annotating of the surveys along the South Fork, some of which are included.

If his insensitivity to the backwardness of the frontier settlers needs to be forgiven, then his youthful zeal in keeping his diary ought to be applauded. The field notes he kept, apparently for his own satisfaction, included much more than the disciplined deed descriptions required by Genn. For instance, where a line crossed the South Fork, Washington recorded not only the crossing point, but also the distances to the edge of the flood plain, or low ground, where he wrote it. This was immensely valuable in orienting the South Fork plat to true north on the United State Geological Survey Maps herewith.

Most land surveys in colonial days were made "by the needle," that is by compass direction only, not corrected for differences between magnetic north and true north, or for local errors. Natural landmarks such as trees, rocks, cliffs, etc. were used to describe corners, and the lines between them measured, sometimes quite roughly, using only a chain of 100 links whose overall length was 66 feet, or four poles. Direction was determined using an alidade, or pair of sights, mounted on a plate which could be rotated over a scale marked in angular degrees and in such a way that the line of sight could be compared to North, as shown by the compass needle, which was part of the instrument.

A series of lots platted end for end will stray considerably from true direction unless a correction can be made to adjust compass courses to true north and south courses. Since there is no indication in the original deeds that any attempt was made to correct for compass error, and most of the natural landmarks mentioned are gone, the one remaining measure of comparison might have been the course of meanders of the stream, in this case, the South Fork. The crossing points are usually given, such as: "No. 55 Wt. X'd 100 links 240 ft to a rock on a hillside." However, within the flood plain, the channel of the South Fork and the South Branch have shifted over the years, so that the crossing points are not altogether reliable in determining how to position a plat over a modern map. Washington's notes locate the edge of the low ground. Since this has changed but little in two hundred years, this added note has made the overlaying of the South Fork lots the most accurate of those here undertaken.

In addition, the youthful surveyor included some human touches to his notes. He mentioned some houses and the names of the occupants, and in one case, a road. The deeds of grant, issued later, sometimes give another name, suggesting that the earlier settler had no valid or recognizable claim on the land he occupied, or he was unwilling to pay the required fees to obtain a grant. Perhaps it was easier to move elsewhere or he may have leased a small plot from the person to whom the grant had been made.

A few miles above the junction of the South Fork with the South Branch, the flood plains of the two streams merge around the northern end of the Elk horn Mountain. Over the years, floods have cut new channels across the low ground. In some cases, the new
channels have persisted and with the old have formed islands between them. In some cases, the new channels has receded to a trace or disappeared completely after the flood subsided; and in some others, the new channel has replaced the old, which has itself been blocked or become a small or intermittent canal.

This seems to have been the case with the South Fork. From the field notes recorded in Washington’s journal, it is apparent that the narrow channel around the eastern and northern edge of Mill Island was at the time of the survey the main if not the only channel of the South Fork in that part of its course. No other channel is mentioned. The meanders of the main stream recorded by Washington are almost identical with those followed by this now secondary channel.

Before listing and cataloging the South Fork lots, it should be noted that at the time of the survey, they were within the then existing boundaries of Augusta County. This continued until 1754, when Hampshire County was formed out of Frederick County and that part of Augusta County which lay between Hume’s line, surveyed in 1744, and the Fairfax Line, surveyed in 1746. Hume’s line is shown on Sheet No. 4, the Moorefield quadrangle, which is part of this work. Its purpose was to define the southern boundary of Frederick County which had established a year earlier. George Hume (pronounced “home”) was commissioned to run the line from the source of the Hedgeman River (a northern tributary of the Rappahannock) to the source of the Cohongoroot (north branch of the Potomac). Its direction was North 72 degrees West. At the time, it was expected by the colonial government that this line would form the southern boundary of Lord Fairfax’s jurisdiction, the Northern Neck Proprietary.

(A copy of this commentary on maps of original Land Surveys along the South Fork of the Potomac River may be found in the Hardy County Library, Moorfield, WV. The maps are also available for inspection there.)

Published Books:


Lot #1 was on the present day Hardy and Pendleton Boundary.

This lot began at the southern manor dividing line. These 680 acres were surveyed for Peter Reed, 30 March 1748 and granted to him 7 September 1749. Peter Reed was on the 1750 list of Augusta County tithables. The residents of the South Fork, in keeping with court order, laid out a wagon road from the South Branch connecting their road to Peter Reed's mill. Further, the valley residents petitioned the court for a road from the Widow Coburn's mill (James Coburn's estate was administered 15 February 1748) on the South Branch near Petersburg to John Patton's mill on the South Fork. Signers of the 1751-52, road petition were Peter Reed, Jr., Leonard, John and Jacob Reed. They must have been sons of Cathern and Peter Reed, Sr.

Peter Reed with Joel Hornbeck, Jonathan Coburn, the widow of Daniel Richardson, Leonard Reed and others were named in the estate settlement of Daniel Richardson on 21 May 1768.

Peter Reed came from Pennsylvania as stated by the Moravian Missionaries who came to this area. These Moravians recorded his name we know as Reed to be Rith. By the time his land was surveyed, he was already an established settler.

Peter Reed and Cathern, his wife, did not keep their 680 acres very long. They sold it on 22 February 1753, to Peter Hause (Haas). The sale was witnessed by Hendrick Cartwright, Peter Thorn and Tobias Decker.

Peter Hause was another German. He was naturalized 17 August 1751. Peter Haas is said to have married Sarah Dyer, a daughter of Roger Dyer. Mary Haas, a daughter of Peter Haas, married Leonard Hyer. The Hyers, Schaubs, and Reagers were Swiss and they
intermarried. The Haas and Reager families were living on the South Fork while the Hyers lived twenty miles away in the Petersburg area.

Lot #2

George Washington does not tell us who was living on this lot. He did tell us about the two wild turkeys they had shot. Inasmuch as Washington noted that some lots were vacant, it would seem fair to say he found people living on undesignated lots. Moreover, he was impressed by the great company of people who followed the surveyors through the woods.

This lot of 400 acres was later secured by Michael Stump, Sr., who devised it to his son, Michael, Jr. His will was probated in Hampshire County on 3 March 1768. Michael Stump, Jr. married Sarah Hughes, a daughter of Thomas Hughes, Sr. who was killed by the Indians in Monongalia County in 1778.

Lot #3

Again Washington did not record the names of the residents of this lot. It would be interesting to learn who they were and from whence they came. People must have been living on this lot because it was not designated vacant. It is understandable that the young Washington, only sixteen years old, may not have been able to understand their Dutch or German names well enough to record who they were.

Michael Stump, Sr. also secured the warrant of 366 acres to Lot #3 and devised it to his son Leonard Stump. Leonard married Elizabeth See, daughter of George See. The Sees lived on the east side of the South Branch beyond the Gap and not far from Petersburg.

Lot #4

As with Lots #2 and 3, Washington did not record the names of people possibly living on this lot. Moreover, we have no additional information regarding subsequent residents.

Lot #5

We have no record of the people living on this lot at the time of Genn's survey, but Anthony Reager secured this lot of 375 acres on 4 October 1748.

Anthony Reager, Jr. born in Switzerland, was baptized 8 July 1713, and came to America with his father's family in 1737. According to the Reager Family records in the NSDAR Library, Washington, D.C., Anthony, Jr. had nine children: Jacob, Anthony, John, Martin, Henry, Mary, Madaline, Barbara, and Judith.

Lot #6

Anthony Reager, Sr. was baptized in 1689, in Benken, Switzerland. He married twice. Both times in Switzerland. He married first, Judith Schaub. They had four children:

- Anthony, baptized 8 July 1713, a shoemaker
- Burckhart, baptized 19 September 1717, a tailor
- Barbara, baptized 5 April 1719
- Elizabeth, baptized 29 December 1716

By 1733, Judith had died and Anthony, Sr. had remarried and had two children by Barbara Wurtz Schaub:

- Maria, baptized 1730
- Hans Jacob, baptized 22 April 1734

Anthony's second wife was Barbara Wurtz Schaub, the widow of Jacob Schaub.

Barbara Wurtz Schaub had four known children by Jacob Schaub, her first husband:

- Jacob, born 1714, married Elizabeth Hyer 3 July 1743 in America
- Elizabeth, born 1716, married Burkhart Hyer in Switzerland
- Anna, born 1718 or 1719, married Hermoneous Schook in America
- Martin, born 1721, married Barbara Hyer in America

(The Schaub family is known in America as Shobe).

Anthony Sr., Anthony, Jr., Burckhart Reager and Jacob Shobe were naturalized in Philadelphia in 1737, and arrived in America at the same time. The Hyers, Reagers, and Shobes arrived in America together.

The Hyers located on the South Branch River near Petersburg. The Shobes settled on Mill Creek, not far from the Hyers and Reagers, about twenty miles distant on the South Fork. These Switzerland born families found a close likeness to the terrain of their old European home. The steep mountain valleys were a constant reminder of landscapes they had known and loved in their native land of Switzerland.

39 Ibid.
40 Ibid.
41 Chalkley, Volum III, p. 527.
42 Rigor, Joseph, Genealogical Records of Regare, Rigor, with Various Spellings, NSDAR Library, Washington, D.C.
George Washington’s Journal tells us that the occupants of this 400 acre lot were Harmon Shoke and Elias Cellars, but it was granted to Herman Shoke on 23 September 1749.

Harmonesque Shoke (Shoop, Shuck), along with other South Fork families was listed in Chalkley’s Chronicles as a 1750 tithable. He is also listed in Roger Dyer’s appraisement, August 1759, of Anthony Reager. Harmon married Anna Shobe, a stepdaughter of Anthony Reager (see Lot #6). They had children: William, John, Peter, Herman, David and daughters not named in his will dated 8 June 1789.

There is a record of sons of Shook and Schaub families who lived in the Monocacy area of Maryland. A Martin Schaub owned a piece of land called “Mankine.” Part of Shookstown is built just west of “Mankine.” The Shook Family Cemetery there contains the grave of Elizabeth Shoop (sic).

Lot #8
Lot #8 was vacant at the time of James Genn’s survey on 26 April 1758. The next day on 2 April 1748, he did not record the name of the resident. And yet, two days later George Washington recorded in his journal that their surveying party was attended by a great throng of people who spoke Dutch. The Reager and Shook families were German. Abel Westfall, with his large family, lived on Lot #9, warranted to him on 6 October 1748. It is reasonable to conclude that the resident of Lot #8 could have been a close relative of the occupant of Lot #9—Abel Westfall. Such a person could have been Johannis Bogard, brother-in-law of Abel Westfall who could have lived there prior to his death in August 1746. His widow remarried not long after Johannis’ death.

Johannis Bogard was a son of Cornelius and Eva (Hornbeck) Bogard. He was baptized 11 September 1709. Deceased at thirty-five, he left a widow, Sarah Bogard (nee Hoogteeling) whom he had married 9 November 1743. He was born in Dutchess County, New York. Sarah was born in Rochester. At the time of their marriage they were living at Minisink, New Jersey.44 Sarah married Henry Thorn, a son of Peter Thorn who lived nearby on the South Branch just above the confluence of the South Fork with the South Branch River. After Sarah Bogard’s marriage to Henry Thorn, Lot #8 would indeed have been vacant.45

Frederick Keister and his wife Hannah sold Lot #8 on the South Fork to James Sears in 1763. The deed described the acreage as having been bought by Roger Dyer, Hannah’s father, who had secured the property in 1755 from Enock Cornwall who took out the original patent.

Sarah and Henry were not married very long before he too died. Henry Thorn’s will in 1750/51 names Sarah with child and father Peter Thorn. Sarah went to court on 29 November 1750 to secure custody of her child, Hannah Bogard. Thus Sarah was widowed twice in four years. After Henry Thorn’s death, Sarah married Adam Harpole.

When Washington helped survey Lot #9 on 2 April 1748,46 he did not tell us who was living there. However, in just five months, Abel Westfall47 had secured the patent for this tract of land. In all probability they were already living there at the time of the survey. Abel Westfall, a child of Johannes and Mariette (Cool) Westfall, was baptized 9 February 1696. Abel married Annette Bogard on 25 February 1717. (She was one year younger than he). Annette was the oldest child of Cornelius and Eva (Hornebeck) Bogard. Annette Westfall’s brother’s, Johannes and Anthony Bogard also emigrated to the South Fork area of the region beyond the mountains. Abel Westfall’s two sisters, Sarah and Janet who married the two Kuykendall brothers, Jacob and Matthew, also left the Minisink area of New Jersey to live on the South Branch. Abel’s cousin, Jacob Westfall, came with them and settled on Lot #13. Jacob Westfall’s wife, the former Judith Hornbeck, was a cousin of the Bogard’s as was the wife of James Simpson who was living on Lot #14 (see later).

Even though a great number of Abel and Annette Westfall’s relatives came with them to Virginia, their two older children elected to stay in New Jersey: Sarah Westfall, who married Cornelius Cool, and Cornelius Westfall. It would seem that Abel’s other six children did make the trip: Johannes (John), Leo, Annette, Elizabeth and Lydia. Their ages ranged from sixteen to a babe in arms.

It would appear that Abel Westfall was the hub for the western emigration of those coming from Morris County’s Minisink. There had been riotous trouble suffered by the Westfalls for some twenty years. They wanted to go to a new part of the country where there was plenty of land. There they would make a new life for themselves and all those who would come after them. They brought with them related families, friends, and neighbors from New Jersey to the South Branch South Fork River communities.

Along with other residents of the South Fork, Abel and his son John were on the Augusta County tithable list on 28 August 1750.48 Before that time, Abel served as an executor, along with Anthony Bogard for his brother-in-law, Johannes Bogard, on 20 October 1746.49 Then on 15 April 1749, he was one of a coroner’s jury of inquisition on the body of Samuel Decker, son of Garret, who had died in an accident.50 Further, on 28 May...

42 Chalkley, Volume I, p. 42.
43 Minisink Valley Reformed Dutch Church Records, 1716-1830, New York, Printed for the Society, 1913, p. 265.
1751, along with Peter Thorn. Jr. he was surety for Edward Williams who was bonded as administrator for Isaac Jones.

Abel Westfall died about 1758. His estate was administered in 1759 in Hampshire County as shown by Ross Johnson's West Virginia Estate Settlements, page 29.

Beyond the wide constellation of interrelated families, others ought to be mentioned: Cartwrights, Deckers, Claypools, Dunbars, Millers and Osborns.

Abel's son Johannes lived on Lot #9 with him to help clear and farm the land. John was married there, however, no record of this marriage has ever been found. They had several children: Isaac, Jacob, Abel, and Cornelius (born 9 March 1756). It is likely that John's wife died about this time or a little later, because according to Warnaar Hornbeck Descendants, page 74 and 75 he married Sarah Vernoy Hornbeck (the widow of Jonathan Hornbeck). Jonathan Hornbeck's will was probated early in 1758. After the marriage of Johannes Westfall and Sarah Vernoy Hornbeck, they had two more children: Abraham and John. The addition of Benjamin (child of Johnathan and Sarah Hornbeck) to Abel Westfall's family meant there was another member added to the family.

Johannes, the son of Abel and Anna Bogard Westfall, had three children to enlist in the Virginia Regiment under Colonel Peter Muhlenburg and Abraham Bowman in or near what is now Moorefield, WV: 1. Captain Abel Westfall; 2. Lieutenant Cornelius Westfall; 3. Private Abraham Westfall. His son, John Westfall, also saw service in Hampshire County.

1. Abel Westfall did not live long enough to apply for a pension. However, the Knox County, Indiana records describe him as a person who was a leader in that frontier portion of the country. He was Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. On 1 April 1800, the day the government of the Indian Territory commenced and before he died, he was commissioned as Second Judge of the Circuit Court of Knox County.

Apparently Abel married twice, once to a widow by the name of Edwards. She had two children, a son, Newton Edwards, a daughter, Sally Edwards. Four other Westfall children are also listed: Juliet married Mr. Giles; Jenny married Daniel Whitmore; Indiana married George Ruble; and John Wesley married Elizabeth Hale. The addition of Benjamin (child of Johnathan and Sarah Hornbeck) to Abel Westfall's family meant there was another member added to the family.

Abel Westfall is buried in Bloomfield, Indiana Township (Grave 2, Lot 537, Section X). When Abel made his will in Knox County, Indiana, (Will Book A, page 59) he referred to his land in Ohio.


3. Abraham Westfall (Pension #W9883). His widow, Massey (nee Hardin), in her pension application declares that Abraham was a brother of Abel and Cornelius of the South Branch. Michael Thorn, who knew the brothers, stated that he heard Abel say that Abraham was eligible for a pension, but that he refused. Michael Thorn also stated that he was present when Abraham married Massey Hardin in her father's house. Michael married Cassandra Hardin, sister of Massey, was in fact brother-in-law of Abraham. Abraham was 66 years old when he wrote his will on 28 December 1824, proved 9 November 1825. (Thus Abraham was born circa 1758). His children were named Abraham, James, Thomas, Isaac and Joshua (named for maternal grandfather); daughter Sarah, called Sally Scott. (Knox County, Indiana Will Book A, page 169).

4. John, yet another brother died in 1808. (Knox County, Indiana Will Book A, pages 13-14). He names sons Abraham and John; daughters Sarah and Katherine. His service was Hampshire County, (West) Virginia. Later he saw government service.

Lot #10

This lot was surveyed for Michael Calb Leveron in April 1748. By 19 October 1748, Michael's family had moved away and Abraham Vanderpool had secured the 432 acre lot. Abraham and Rebecca, his wife, and family moved to the South Fork from Wallpack, Morris County, New Jersey. In the Frederick Co., Virginia Court Order Book #1, 1743-45, we find that Abraham Vanderpool was in court either on “Petition” or for debt from February 1743 through November, 1745. Along with other residents of the South Fork he took his place in the life of the community. In September 1746, he attested to the will of Johannes Bogard along with the Westfalls, and he was involved in the estate settlement of James Colburn. He was also a surety for Alice Cherry as administration of Edward Cherry, 28 March 1751. He served on a jury to determine the cause of Samuel Decker's death in 1749. For some reason he was the defendant in a suit by Rogers and Sutton in May 1753. The case was dropped because the defendant had moved and was living on the Greenbrier two years past. On 25 May 1751, Abraham
and Rebecca Vanderpool sold Lot #10 to George Yoakum.54 The Vanderpool daughter, Catherine had married George Yoakum. If there were boys in the family, they were too young to be enumerated with Abraham on the 1750 tithables list.

Catherine Vanderpool and George Yoakum had the following children: Catherine, Mary, Margaret, Magdalene, Elizabeth, Harness and Rebecca (called Becky) Sweysick.55

Abraham Vanderpool’s wife Rebecca was not his first wife. He had married Jannetje Wibling sometime in the 1730s. They had their daughter, Catherine, baptized in the Church of Second River, Bellville Dutch Reformed Church, NJ. The witnesses were Peter Stotenburgh and Catherine De Hooghis.56

If the Vanderpools went to the Greenbrier Country, they did not stay long before moving on to Rowan County (later Surry County), North Carolina where his will was proved 10 November 1795. He named three sons: Josiah, John,57 and Hezekiah, but referred to “all my children.” He did not name his wife. Presumably, she was deceased. Abraham Vanderpool, along with the Westfall families and the Osborns, came to the South Fork River from Morris County, New Jersey. Perhaps it is coincidental that his second wife, Rebecca, carried an Osborn call name, that two of their sons also had Osborn names: Josiah and John. Josiah was not a commonly used name for Dutch children in New Jersey. It is also more than passing interest that when Abraham left the South Fork, he went to then Rowan County, North Carolina. Later, he was in the section of territory that was cut from Rowan to become Surry County in 1770. Further it is even more interesting that again he made his home near members of the Osborn family.58 Both Abraham Vanderpool and Stephen Osborn had land on or near the Middle Fork of Blew’s Creek.

Lot #11

This lot was surveyed for Leonard Nave (sic) on 2 April 1748 and granted to Leonard Naff (sic) on 5 August 1749.59

The Neff family came from Switzerland by way of Germany and Pennsylvania.60

Wilmer Neff, a resident of the old Lot #18 and descendant of Leonard, the emigrant, told us the family had long been members of the German Baptist Brethren Church.

Hans Leonard Neff, a son of Michael and Anna Dorothea Neff, was born in Germany on 8 March 1725, “married 1747, Tuesday after Dom. 7 Trin. Leonard Neef, single son of the church deacon Michael Neef and Elizabeth Magdalena Feg, single daughter of the late Leonard Feg.” Leonard’s sister, Anna Catherine Neff, baptized 1733, married Michael Stump on 10 September 1739. The family lived in the Tulpehoken area of Pennsylvania after coming to America.61

It is reasonable to believe that the young Leonard Neff accompanied his brother-in-law and sister to the South Fork. It is a matter of record they settled on adjoining farms. It would be advantageous to build a cabin and make an improvement on the land before bringing the family to the frontier.

Leonard Neff made his will on 16 March 1778. It was proved on 12 May 1778. He mentions his wife but does not name her. He names five sons: Henry, Michael, George, Jacob, and Leonard (deceased). Further he mentions two daughters but does not name them. However, we have the name of one daughter, Magdalena who married John Yoakum.

In 1779, Leonard’s son, Michael, bought 368 acres of land (Lot #18) from Solomon Reed who inherited it from his father, Jacob Reed. Jacob Reed had bought this land designated as Lot #18 and lying east of the South Fork River from George Osborn. Since that time, it has been in the Neff family.

Lot #12

Michael Stump married Anna Catherine Neff, a sister of Leonard Neff, in Tulpehocken, Pennsylvania on 10 September 1739.62

At this time, it is unknown when Michael Stump arrived in Virginia to settle on the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac. However, he had been a resident long enough to be known to the court of Augusta County when on 18 June 1746; he was ordered by that court, along with Daniel Richeson and Benjamin Hardin to view the road petition of Richard Crunk.

Michael took an active part in the life of the community, whether it was to appraise estates, hold estate sales or to oversee road work. On 15 April 1752, along with James Simpson, he was ordered to see that a wagon road was laid out from the South Branch up the South Fork River as far as Peter Reed’s Mill. Not only were they to lay out the road, they were to see to it that it was kept in repair. Other South Fork people were to work with him: Jeremiah and George Osborn, Mones Alkier, Heomkis Carlock, John, Jacob and William Westfall, Henry Harris, Henry Sheplar and Phillip Moore.63

60 Ibid.
61 Ibid.
63 Chalkley, Volume 1, p. 55.
On 29 March 1748, James Genn's survey party went up the South Fork to Michael Stump's, there they made camp to serve as their base of operation. They could go out to survey by day and return to camp by evening. They broke camp on Wednesday, April 6 and traveled down the Branch to Henry Van Meter's.

Michael Stump's family was also host for the Moravian Missionaries who stopped over night on their way up the South Fork to Peter Reed's home and beyond. The next day, "Mr. Stump gave us a horse to cross many a creek."64

The wills of Michael and Katherine Stump include the names of their children: Michael, Jr., was to have Lot #2; George, the second son was to have Lot #13 which had belonged to Jacob Westfall and Leonard was to have Lot #3. Michael mentions three daughters, but does not name them. However, Katherine, their mother, does name them: Catherine, married to Jacob Brake; Elizabeth, the wife of Felix Welton; Mary Magdalene, the widow of Solomon Welton and the wife of Jacob Yoakum. Michael Stump's will was proved 8 March 1768 and Katherine's will was made 4 December 1783. Both wills were quoted by Thurman Stump in his History of Michael Stump, Sr.65

Lot #13

When George Washington and the survey party left Michael Stump's place to survey Lot #13, they were followed by "a great company of people, men, women, women and children...they never speak English, but Dutch."66 When Lot #13 was surveyed, it was designated as vacant, a term used by surveyors to indicate that the tract of land was not claimed or officially occupied. However, on 20 October 1748, this 400 acre tract of land was warranted to Jacob Westfall.67 The question arises as to where Jacob and Judith had married to James Simpson, on 15 August 1749 bought 400 acres from Lord Fairfax. Then in 1757, he sold 100 acres to Thomas Waggoner to provide him with a residence that he might hold office in Hampshire County.

Jacob Westfall, son of Jurian and Stynie Van Kuykendall Westfall was baptized in Kingston, New York on 8 June 1715 in the Old Dutch Reformed Church (#2313). He married Judith Hornbeck sometime in the middle 1730s. Probably in the Minisink area of New Jersey. Their children were:

1. Wilhelms, was baptized on 26 March 1735 in the Minisink Dutch Reformed Church, recorded in the Kingston Register as well.
2. George
3. Abel
4. Joel

Lot #14

James Simpson, born in Maryland, was living in Rochester, New York, at that time he was married to Annantjen Hornbeck. Two of their children were baptized in the Old Dutch Reformed Church, Kingston: Alexander, baptized 17 December 1738, witnessed by Jurian Tappen and Maria Cortwright. Their second child, Jonathan was baptized 13 April 1740, witnessed by Jonathan Westbrock and Catherine Westbrock. James Simpson's' wife was daughter of Johannes and Orseltjen Westbrock Hornbeck. Therefore she was a first cousin of Anna Magdalene Westfall, Johannes and Anthony Bogard. All of these families lived on the South Branch.68

When Johannes Bogard died in the later spring of 1746, James Simpson was an appraiser of his estate. And on 15 April 1749, he was on the coroner's jury to ascertain the death cause of death of Samuel Decker, son of Garret Decker.

Alexander and Jonathan Simpson grew up and lived in Hardy County. Alexander had a wife, Elizabeth Churchill and four sons: James, John, Jonathan, and Isaac. At one time, Alexander and Jonathan owned land together. Moses Welton who lived near Petersburg (now Grant County, WV), was a neighbor.

5. Jacob, born 10 October 1755 in Randolph Co., Virginia, died 5 March 1835, Putnam County, Indiana. He married Mary King in 1777. Jacob, Jr. was living in Monongalia County, Virginia at the time of his enlistment, 20 June 1781. His son Cornelius, was born 7 March 1778. (Revolutionary War Pension #W9159). He served in General George Rogers Clark's expedition against the Indians.
6. Judy
7. James
8. Christiana

(Interestingly, Christiana married Simeon Harris, a son of Henry and Phoebe Osborn Harris).

James Simpson disposed of their land on Luney's Creke in 1764. (Sage and Jones, page 60) to move to the Tygart River Valley. They built their fort near Beverley in what became Randolph County.

Not only was Jacob Westfall's wife, Judith, a cousin to Annantjen, the wife of James Simpson, living on Lot #14, but Jacob himself was a cousin of Abel Westfall living on Lot #9. Once again we see relatives settling near one another on the frontier.

Lot #14

James Simpson, on 15 August 1749 bought 400 acres from Lord Fairfax. Then in 1757, he sold 100 acres to Thomas Waggoner to provide him with a residence that he might hold office in Hampshire County.

James Simpson, born in Maryland, was living in Rochester, New York, at that time he was married to Annantjen Hornbeck. Two of their children were baptized in the Old Dutch Reformed Church, Kingston: Alexander, baptized 17 December 1738, witnessed by Jurian Tappen and Maria Cortwright. Their second child, Jonathan was baptized 13 April 1740, witnessed by Jonathan Westbrock and Catherine Westbrock. James Simpson's' wife was daughter of Johannes and Orseltjen Westbrock Hornbeck. Therefore she was a first cousin of Anna Magdalene Westfall, Johannes and Anthony Bogard. All of these families lived on the South Branch.68

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64 Moravian Diaries printed in Virginia Magazine of Biography & History, Volume 1, pp. 120-121.
65 Refer to note #39.
66 See, Journal Over the Mountains.
67 Refer to the "List of South Fork Lots" at the end of Chapter VI.
Philip Moore bought his lot of 238 acres from Lord Fairfax on 7 August 1749. The South Fork River channel has shifted since the young Washington served on James Genn’s survey team. Lot #15 at that time was directly across the river from Lot #18.

Phillip William Moor, with a wife and two children, were members of a “Fifth Party” of immigrants who sailed for America 15 July 1709. The group also included several Mooles, Johann Cornelius, Michael, and Margareta, brother and sister. This is according to The Simmendinger Register in Hackensack, New Jersey (page 291). It is not likely that Phillip William Moor was the South Fork settler. He would have been too old. However, it is possible that Phillip Moore of Lot #15 was the son of Phillip William Moor. One of those named on the South Fork was referred to as Phillip Moore, Jr. when he went to Christian Dasher or Toshor’s sale held at Michael Stump’s on 3 December 1757.49 Philip’s will was made 18 February 1774 and probated 10 March 1778. He was names wife, Mary, and six children: Anthony, Phillip, Jacob, Margaret, Elizabeth, and Susannah. He specified Charles Lynch and Captain Jacob Reed as executors. When Conrad Moore’s will was probated in Hardy County, 9 April 1800, he names the children of brothers Philip, John, and Michael and children of sisters Margaret, Susanna, and Mary Cott.

The town of Moorefield, West Virginia, the seat of government for Hardy County, was built on Moore land.

On 18 Mary 1748, less than one month after the Widow Wolf’s land was surveyed, Peter Thorn qualified as administrator for John Woolfallier. William Walling was Peter’s surety. He was John Woolfallier, who died in 1747-1748. The spelling of the name WOOLFFALLIER would seem to indicate he was Dutch. Because the name was hardly to pronounce, the young Washington referred to the head of the household as the “Widow Wolf.” She lived between Henry Shepler and Phillip Moore and not far from Jeremiah Osborn and his family. With the administration of her husband’s estate, the Widow Wolf disappears from the records.37

The story of the settlers of the South Fork River is best told in the record of its people. The inventory of John Wolf’s estate is amazing. It included eighteen cattle, milk cows, a bull, yearlings, calves, steers, and heifers. There were eight sheep, four hogs, and fourteen pigs and two horses. They were well on the way to equipping the farm. They had a wagon and carpenter’s tools. The kitchen was equipped with tubs, plates, bowls, spoons, iron pots and pans, a keg and brine barrel. Beyond the kitchen, their household had an iron box and two heaters, chest, chairs, beddin, and stilyards. There was also a jacket, shirt, and stockings. Amazingly, the inventory included nine books. This family demonstrated again the self-sufficiency of these early settlers along the valley.31

Peter Wolf of Frederick County, Virginia named his grandson, John Wolf, son of his deceased son John in his will. Peter Wolf (born around 1700) moved from New Jersey to the Shenandoah River area sometime in 1733.

It is reasonable to think the Widow Wolf returned to her deceased husband’s family across the mountains. This family had come from New Jersey.

By 15 November 1752, Harmonous Alkier was living on Lot #16. At that time, along with other South Fork residents, Harmonous, helped to clear a road up the river to Peter Reed’s mill. He lived there until 3 October 1765, when he sold the lot to Michael Thorn. Michael Thorn was a son of Peter Thorn, often associated with the South Fork River residents in several capacities: estate administrative bonds, surety for estate bonds, estate appraiser, etc.

The Thorn family had come from New Jersey to the South Branch area early on. The Thorn family is English. Michael Thorn’s father, Peter Thorn, settled on the South Branch River just above the confluence of the South Fork River with a larger stream.

Henry Shepler was already living on the 294 acre tract of land when it was surveyed 5 April 1748. Who was Henry Shepler and what was his origin? As of this writing, we have not been able to learn much about him. George Washington of the survey team knew he was a blacksmith by trade. One spelling of his name would indicate that he was German. The name is sometimes spelled Schoeber. The Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys of Frederick County, Volume II, page 140 describes John Shepler as being from East Jersey. Could it be that Jeremiah Osborn of Morris County, New Jersey knew the Shepler family? Certainly Henry Shepler’s tract of 294 acres was adjacent to Lot #18, the 396 acre tract whereon Jeremiah Osborn’s family lived.

Henry Shepler was security for John Hornbeck’s will 4 August 1766 in Hampshire County. He also witnessed Michael Thorn’s sale of land to Leonard Neff 1 August 1774 in Hampshire County.

Henry Shepler made his will on 17 March 1777. It was probated 1778 in Hampshire County. He names his wife, Elizabeth, and three children, John, Henry, Jr., and Margaret. John and Henry were also devisees of Henry Shepler, Sr., who had a 140 acre tract of land surveyed on the South Fork of the South Branch bounded by his own Lot #17, Michael Thorn and the Manor line.

49 Chalkley, Volume III, p. 108
50 Chalkley, Volume III, pp. 8, 15
51 Augusta County, VA Will Book. The Augusta County, Virginia Will Book details for us the self-sufficiency of the early settlers. Will Book I enumerates the items of the estate inventory, but it is in the court document. The court document gives a complete inventory of the estate.
Lot #18

Jeremiah Osborn's family was already living on Lot #18 when James Genn's survey team came on 5 April 1748, to mark off his 396 acre tract of land. He had come with his family from Morris County, New Jersey. Chalkley's Chronicles has listed the Osborn family in the taxable males from Augusta County. The South Fork River Valley was then a part of Augusta County. There was one Osborn family taxed: Jeremiah, George, Jeremiah, Jr., and John. George was the oldest son, under English law, he inherited the real estate property. In the absence of data, we turn to the preponderance of evidence in order to put Jeremiah Osborn’s family together. His son, George, was born circa 1725 and was old enough to be married by 1748. Jeremiah, the father, was born circa 1690-1700. Given that date, he must have married around 1720. His daughter, Phoebe, as the oldest child married Henry Harris. On 5 April 1748, the day James Genn surveyed four lots, the young Washington noted that Henry Harris had a house nearby. Since girls usually married younger than boys, it is almost certain that Henry and Phoebe Osborn Harris were already married at that time. George, the oldest son, born circa 1725, must have married in the summer or fall of 1748. His son, Josiah, was born 5 March 1750. There were two or more sons: Jeremiah, Jr. (born 17 April 1729) and John, and at least one other girl, Abigail.

George Osborn was granted Lot #18 of 396 acres of the South Fork on the east side of the South Fork River on 16 August 1749. This transaction would seem to convey the idea that Jeremiah Osborn, the father, was deceased. However, this was not the case. He was still living in August 1750, when he was added to the tithable list. It is likely that he was infirm and unable to work. Upon his death, Jeremiah, Jr., would become simply Jeremiah. Jeremiah, the father, was born sometime between 1690 and 1700. In 1752, some of the South Fork residents were named to “view, mark, and keep in repair a road up the South Fork to Peter Reed’s Mill.” It is not likely that the oldest residents would be included in this work. For example, Abel Westfall, born 1694, was not included in the work crew. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe that the Jeremiah named was the son and not the father. That Jeremiah was named without the designation of Junior would indicate that the father was dead. He would have been 58-62 years of age were he living and that is not likely. The rigors of life on the frontier took their toll.

A careful study of the court records of Augusta County recorded in Chalkley’s Chronicles in three volumes would indicate that the Osborn family was not only self-reliant, but talented as well. Not once did the Osborns buy any sale items at any estate sale. What they could not bring from New Jersey, they fashioned on the frontier until they had what they needed to clear the land, till the soil and provide their cabin home with the necessities of daily living.

During the troubled decade of the 1750s, the Osborn family, along with the other residents of the South Branch Valley, fled across the mountains to escape the Indians. George Osborn subsequently sold Lot #18 to Jacob Reed on 6 November 1765. Interestingly, Jacob Reed’s wife was Rebecca Claypool.

Lots #19 and #20

When George Washington helped survey Lots #19 and #20, he did not include the names of residents already living on the land. Maybe the young Washington did not understand the Dutch or German names. Had the lots been vacant, he would probably have so stated as he did for Lots #8 and #13.
Chapter Eight

More About Jeremiah the Settler

Jeremiah Osborn had come into the valley to look around in awe and wonder at the richness of the land. He saw that the land was good. Narrow ribbon-like fields stretched out along the river between the towering mountains of the mighty Alleghenies. He also saw that The South Branch Valley already had cabins up and down the South Branch River—Isaac Van Meter, the Howards, Coburns, Walkers, Rutledges, Caseys, Foreman, Pancakes and others.

John Blue, who had married Isaac Van Meter’s sister, Catteron, was living on The South Branch in Historic Hampshire, in 1725 (Bromley, p. 428). Having seen that The South Branch River land was already taken up, Jeremiah went on up the river to follow its South Fork to just above what is now the town of Moorefield. Here was the beginning of a narrow ribbon-like valley of rich soil flanked by the towering Shenandoah Mountains on the east and the tall Elkhorn Mountains that kept watch over the valley to the west. The valley was a continuous forest shading the fertile land. The mountains were green and full of game; bear, elk, buffalo and deer. There was also wolf and panther. Turkey abounded. Thus did this valley, with its river; creek and small streams, its forests of pine; evergreen, poplar, spruce, ash, oak, maple, locust, dogwood, sour gum and many other varieties common to the Appalachian mountains, and its sheer beauty give promise of its future greatness.

It is not surprising that Jeremiah built his cabin on the banks of The South Fork River. Descendants of the early settlers of The South Fork River point to an old warrior’s trace, now a jeep trail, that ran not three hundred yards from where Jeremiah built his first home. Like all bona fide settlers, he chose a site near a good supply of water. Water was of prime importance both for his family and his stock. Also, the river bottom land was the most fertile soil. Now that he had found a good location for his new home, he took his tomahawk and walked through the woods to blaze certain trees with his initials to mark the boundaries of a virgin area, the land he claimed as his own. In this way, he setting land marks has been the marvel of surveyors down the centuries. The original boundaries of Lot #18, Jeremiah’s land, are still visible.

When Jeremiah Osborn marked out his land he included a third to one-half of his farm in mountain land. He wanted to assure a continuous supply of wood to construct more buildings and to provide fuel to cook their food and to warm their cabin during the cold days and nights of winter. Too, the mountain area of the farm would be good hunting ground for game and meat to put on the table to feed his family. The river was not only a source of water, but of fish to cook for the family.

The pioneer home was of the simplest construction. It was put together with unhewn logs. To begin with, like most of the frontier homes, it was probably 16 x 24 feet in size, with a large fireplace at one end. This fireplace stood at the center of family activity. Here their food was cooked in iron pots and the dutch oven. Here also, they talked of their life together—the life they had left behind and their plans for the future. The table was set with a few pewter dishes, plates and spoons, but mostly of hand-hewn wooden bowls, trenchers and noggin's. If these were scarce, then gourds and hard-shelled squash were used. Their iron pots, knives and forks were brought from across the mountains along with salt and iron on pack horses. Hog and hominy provided a portion of their diet. Johnny cake and corn pone during the early days of the settlements were the only forms of bread they had for breakfast and dinner. At supper, milk and mush was the standard dish. Often the mush was seasoned with bear fat or gravy made from fried meat. Too, every family had a vegetable garden. They grew corn, pumpkin, squash, beans and potatoes. (The 35th State, pp. 115-116). These vegetables were indigenous to the new world. The Indian had taught the pioneer how to grow and make use of them. The present owners of Lot #18 members a few old gnarled apple and pear trees that were once an orchard.

Now that Jeremiah had built his cabin, he turned his attentions to clearing a field where he could plant a corn crop and grow vegetables for their food.

By reading The Journal of Thomas Lewis, the first surveyor of Augusta County, we get a graphic description of the hardships incurred by traveling over the mountains to The South Fork Valley. The mountains in all their primeval ruggedness stood tall and awesome with a majestic beauty to challenge Jeremiah and his family. The Allegheny Mountains sometimes were a formidable barrier to be overcome by the pioneer. Through the experience of Thomas Lewis, we can understand to some degree the difficulty the early settlers had to reach their future home.

1746: “Monday 6th. Went Back to the top of the mountain & Began at the End of 1380 pole Run the Day Before 682 poles to the South Branch of Wap-pamento allies the So. Fork of the South Branch Here we were Obliged to Encamp to Recruit our horses who had nothing to live on Since we left Dobins & get a Supply of provisions hearing the Comissrs were about 5 or six miles Blow us on ye aforesaid Branch nr Brook Road Down to them & after pitching our tent Colo. Jefferson & I Went Down the River to Discover Some In hab-
To continue with Thomas Lewis' description of how they reached the valley, he recorded in his Journal the day before on Sunday 5th October:

"... Being almost Dark our Bagage we had gon Down the mountain Before we knew not where they had pinched our tents nor knew we how to get Down the mountain Being Extremly high & very Rocky and now even Quite Dark & had our horses to take down Setting off at all Adventures we fell into a valley Between two Spurs of the mount we had almost precipices on eithe hand the valley very narrow full of Loges & Brush & Exceding Rockey & a very great Decent WE had like Been kild with Repeated falls in this Case you may Be Sure or horses were in a miserable Condition the lose Rocks were often So very Complessant as to Convey us a Considerable way Down & had like very offten proved fatal to us—we at length got to the Bottom nor was our Case then much Better there Being a large Water Course the Banks Extremly Steep wc the neighbourhood of the mountn obliged us to Cross very often at places or Banks almost perpendicular. After a great whiles Dispair we at length get about 10 oClock to our camp, hardly any of us Escaping

without Boken Shins of Some other miss -fortune” (Thomas Lewis’ Diary, pp. 22-23).
In September 1746, the official surveyors of the area traveled to Hardy County, arriving on 2 October 1746. They reached Stump's Run on the 6th and stopped to rest their horses. The next day, they had a difficult climb over the South Fork Mountain. But once they were at its crest, they could see "the settlements down the South Branch as far as old town."\textsuperscript{72}

The preponderance of the foregoing evidence would point to the settlers' arrival in the Valley by late summer or early fall of 1740.\textsuperscript{73} That year, Isaac Van Meter made a trip to the Valley of Virginia and bought out James Coburn, returning to New Jersey. It is reasonable to think that some of the settlers came with him. Inasmuch as this was not the first trip by Isaac Van Meter to the South Branch Valley, he would know the way and make an excellent guide through the wilderness. He moved his family to the South Branch in 1744.

\textsuperscript{73} Kercheval, p. 51.

CHAPTER NINE

TROUBLE COMES TO THE VALLEY

The Fairfax survey for many settlers was tragic. Fairfax owned their land and required them to pay a purchase price of ten shillings per 100 acres, which gave them the right to live on the land. In addition, there was an annual "quit rent" which was owed perpetually to Fairfax...in the amount of two shillings per acre...Many settlers had no records of occupation, and their land was sold to strangers. Others unable or unwilling to obligate themselves left their improvement.\textsuperscript{74}

The decade of the 1750s was disastrous for many people of the South Fork and South Branch Valleys. Estate settlement dates of court records in Augusta and Hampshire Counties alone bear witness to the loss of life. Chalkley's Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia alone records estate settlements for more than ten families.

For many years, a band of Shawnee Indians had their village at Indian Old Fields of Moorefield area. Their notable chief Killbuck had seemed to be a friend of the settlers. He was often in their homes as a friendly visitor, had become well acquainted with the people, their ways and habits. They lived at peace with one another in the beautiful valley nestled between the mountains. Signs of mounds as Indian burying grounds are still in evidence. In Romney, the county seat of Hampshire County, a historical marker tells of the location of such a place.

The year 1754 brought changes to the valley. Their area was organized into the new county of Hampshire. Kercheval, in his A History of the Valley of Virginia, tells the story of the naming of Hampshire County. Lord Fairfax saw a drove of fine hogs at Winchester and learned they were from the South Branch of the Potomac. He then remarked that the first new county west of Frederick County that included the South Branch should be called Hampshire for the English county famed for its fine hogs. That year also saw the friendly Indians suddenly leave the valley.

From about 1754, terror from the Indians stalked the valley. The leader of the terrorizing Indians was Killbuck, the once friendly Shawnee chief. Dividing into small groups, the Indians began to systematically raid the frontier settlements. They killed isolated people and burned their homes.\textsuperscript{75}

\textsuperscript{74} Bittinger, Emmert F., Allegheny Passage, Churches and Families West Marva District Church of the Brethren, 1752-1990. (Penobscot Press, Camden, Maine 1990) p. 149.
The dangers endured by the settlers was epitomized by an Indian raid up the South Fork River Valley in the spring of 1756. A war party raided a home, killed and scalped Mrs. John Brake and took Mrs. Neff prisoner. Mrs. Neff later escaped to the safety of a fort.76

The terror of the Indians on the warpath struck fear into every heart. There were two forts in the South Fork District near Lot #18: Fort Buttermilk, a stockade that was about 3 miles south of Moorefield in the South Fork District and Fort Pleasant, called Town Fort, just north of the city. Nevertheless, as early as 1755, crowds of people began to flee across the mountains to the east. It was an unsettling time.

With the coming of the French and Indian War (1755-1765), followed by Pontiac’s War, which lasted until 1765, the people of the South Branch, along with other parts of the frontier, built forts as places of refuge from the Indians.

The fort consisted of cabins, blockhouses, and stockades. The cabins were usually built along one side of the enclosure and separated from each other by partitions of logs. The outer walls were 10 to 12 feet high. The roof of the cabins sloped down inside the stockade. Some of the cabins had puncheon floors, but most of them only had earthen floors. A blockhouse stood at each corner of the stockade. Portholes were conveniently placed and the outside walls were bulletproof. As the sound of alarm, spread by a special messenger, the “fort family” gathered behind its walls for safety.77

Jonathan Newman Osborn, a great grandson of Jeremiah Osborn, Jr. and Mary Newman recounted the terror endured by the family. One day, marauding Indians came to surround their log house. They were decked out in the feathered headdress of war. Their bodies were painted with red, black, and yellow. They whooped and yelled as they tried to break down the door. But the house was well defended and withstood the attack. At last, they gave up and started to walk down the road away from the house. As the family watched, they began to breathe easier, but only for a moment. To their horror, a young brave in all his war paint, turned around and with a great blood curdling whoop, brandishing his tomahawk, ran back to the house, climbed upon the roof and began to let himself down the chimney. He wanted to demonstrate his bravery and prove his worth to the other braves that he too could kill at least one white person. Quickly, the Osborn family grabbed some of their bedding and threw it in the fireplace. The fire blazed up to burn the young brave to death.

76 Ibid. pp. 71-75.
CHAPTER TEN

JEREMIAH OSBORN OF THE SOUTH FORK

Who was Jeremiah Osborn of the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac River, Hampshire County, Virginia (now West Virginia)? From whence had he come to that beautiful valley? These have been difficult questions for our researching Osborns to answer.

To begin with, he was born in New Jersey about 1690-1700 (See Later). Along with some of his pioneer neighbors, he would have been forty-five to fifty years of age by 1740 when he reached the Valley of Virginia to begin a new life on the edge of the frontier. At this time, we do not know the name or the parentage of Jeremiah Osborn's wife, the mother of the Osborn children. In all probability, some of his children were nearly grown when they arrived in the Valley of Virginia: George, Phoebe, Abigail, Jeremiah, Jr., and John. There may have been others, however, only the boys 16 years of age were named by Chalkley.78

Phoebe married Henry Harris, probably some time before Lot #18 was surveyed on 5 April 1748. George Washington recorded in his journal that when he surveyed Lot #14 for James Simpson down to the Manor Line, he noted that Henry Harris' house was opposite that of Phillip Moor.79

We do not know the names of Jeremiah's siblings. However, we believe he had at least one brother, Stephen Osborn. The inventory of John Blanchard's estate in New Jersey names Jeremiah Osborn, Jeremiah Osborn, Jr., and Stephen Osborn as owing bonds in 1730.80 Furthermore, a Stephen Osborn was living on the South Branch River in 1748.81

Naturally, the question arises as to why a middle aged man would leave the known for the unknown and untried way of life on the Virginia frontier. Sometimes the death of a spouse was a motivating factor in such a move. Two or three years later Mary Newman, the wife of Jeremiah Osborn, Jr., died, he moved from his well established home on the French Broad River, Buncombe County in North Carolina82 to accompany three of his children to Warren County, Kentucky.

The acquisition of land was also a motivator in such a move. Certainly, Jeremiah Osborn of the South Fork would want land for his children.

Phoebe had married Henry Harris and George had probably married sometime in the fall of 1748 or early in 1749. His oldest child, Josiah, was born 5 March 1750.83 Abigail married Joseph Claypool; Jeremiah Jr. married Mary Newman and John married Elizabeth Claypool, a sister of Joseph. (See later chapters.) In order to understand the pioneering spirit of Jeremiah of the South Fork, it is essential to follow the movements of his linear forebears back to England. They were four generations of pioneers. One of the earliest memories of our Osborn family is the story of our emigrant ancestor who had once lived in England.

A. THOMAS OSBORN OF COUNTY KENT, ENGLAND

Thomas Osborn had a family of five boys and rather than see his sons grow up to go off to war, he would face the dangers of an unknown world. Therefore, he left England with his family to sail to America, just in time to escape the First Bishop's War, 1637-38.84

That story checks out as historically true. Queen Elizabeth I (1558-1603) was the reigning monarch when Thomas' parents, Jeremy Osborn and Jhoane Wyborn were married, 17 January 1592.85 Thomas, their son, born circa 1594, married Mary Goatley on 18 January 1621.86 By that time, Queen Elizabeth I was dead and James was the reigning monarch of England and Scotland. It was during his reign their two oldest children were born, Thomas, Jr. and Jeremy. The next four children, also boys, were born after Charles I (1625-1649) came to the throne.87

As time went on, the clouds of war began to gather. It was an era of trouble, of intrigue and of treachery in the history of England.


King Edward VI (1537-1553) was dead. He was succeeded by Mary Tudor, 1553, who reigned for five years. During her reign, the persecution of the Protestants was severe to the extent that many people chose death rather than renounce their faith. One of the martyrs was a Thomas Osmond, a fuller. He was burned at the stake on 15 June 1555 at Maningtree, Essex County, which adjoins County Kent on the north. Not only did the persecuted and martyred suffer untold...
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81 The Fairfax Census of the South Branch, 1748, as found by the eminent historian, Frederick Morton. He found the original census in the Frederick County Clerk's Office in Winchester, Virginia. He placed it in the Handley Library in Winchester, VA. (This is from a newspaper clipping found in the library in Moorefield, WV.) Several attempts by various persons were made to locate this census but it could not be found.
85 The American Genealogist, Volume 12, p. 249.
86 Ibid.
87 Ibid.
88 Foxe, John, Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Section V2, p. 1.
danger and pain, they showed incredible courage and fortitude during their time of trial. Their heroism in the face of danger and death has inspired people all through the ages. It has been said, "the blood of the martyr is the seed of the church."

John Foxe's *Book of Martyrs* made such an impression on the Kentucky branch of the Osborn family they secured a copy reprinted in Philadelphia, 1835 (published in two volumes under one cover). That copy has been handed down through several generations of the family. It is now owned by Bartley P. Osborne, a great-great-grandson of Reuben Osborn.

Dr. Frank Gulley, a professor of church history, Vanderbilt University Divinity School has said, "a hundred years ago, the Protestant family read a chapter of the Bible and one of Foxe's Martyrs in their daily devotions."

Thomas Osborn and Mary Goatley Osborn, parents of five living sons (Thomas, Jeremiah, John, Stephen and Joseph) must have agonized over leaving England to cross the ocean. Thomas was then 43 years old. There in America, at least their sons would not be required to fight in battles of religious wars. Thomas understood such a war was most cruel. He told of its horrors in such gripping language that his descendants ten generations down through the years shivered when they heard and passed the story along.

When Jeremy Osborn, the father of Thomas died, he left to him seven silver spoons, his tanning vessels and five years use of the tan house paying his brother Joseph 20 shillings per year. In addition, Thomas was to have copyhold lands in Ashford. It is not unreasonable to believe that Thomas Osborn brought the silver spoons and tanning vessel with the family when they came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony when John Winthrop was governor.

Three years before the Osborns came from County Kent, which was a parish of The Canterbury Diocese, Archbishop Laud replaced Archbishop Abbott who was a sympathetic administrator. Laud complained in his reports of 1634 and 1635 that the people of Kent, who lived around Ashford are "especially infected with distemper against the church." In the margin of his report, he wrote, "I shall command the judges to make them abjure." Such a movement so relentless would account for the emigration of the Kentish men. The Osborns along with the other non-conformists (or separatists) chose to leave England rather than recant.

Atwater refers to a second company of emigrants led by Peter Prudden from Herefordshire in the West of England bordering on Wales. However, this

89 *The American Genealogist*, Volume 12, p. 251. (Note: In English law, tenure of property proved by a written transcript or record in the rolls of a Manorial Court).
91 Ibid.
account differs from that by Calder who states that they came from Hertford which lies directly north and adjacent to London. This company of non-conformists would surely know those of the Coleman Street Church, London, pastored by John Davenport, a moving spirit of the 1636-37 emigration.92 County Kent, the home of Thomas Osborn’s family, was a stronghold of Puritanism in Ashford and Egerton, which was less than two miles away. John Lathrop had been the Vicar of Egerton. Later, he went to London, where he taught the non-conformist doctrine to be imprisoned for this work. Apparently, there was a network of non-conformists in Kent, Hereford and London. These areas are within the scope of our concern because they were neighbors of Thomas Osborn’s family in New Haven, Connecticut.

Theophilas Eaton became the associate of John Davenport in the move from England to America. The family members of Theophilas Eaton included Thomas and David Yale, his wife’s sons and a daughter by a former marriage. Theophilas Eaton had married as his second wife, the widowed mother of the Yale children. Anne Yale Eaton was a daughter of George Lloyd, Bishop of Chester. The Yale daughter had married Edward Hopkins. Members of John Davenport’s church were joined by companies from the rural counties including Kent of the Canterbury Diocese.

The company projected more than mere emigration. They determined to stay together and lay the foundation for a new community.93 Before they sailed, so many people wanted to emigrate with the party, it became necessary to hire another vessel to accompany their ship, The Hector. It is likely that The Hector and her consort ship sailed from London sometime after 12 April 1637. As such, their cargo would not only include clothing, bedding, food, tools, arms and ammunition, but a variety of seed as well. Neat cattle and goats were usually taken on board and sometimes horses. Ships of that day usually carried one hundred passengers and their cargo.94

The story of that voyage handed down through the Kentucky branch of the family is that the Osborns brought sheep with them from England. Further, the voyage had been one of suffering.

Having sailed in early April 1637, John Winthrop recorded the arrival of the group from London to Boston in New England on 26 June 1637.95 They had been one of suffering.

Thomas and Mary Osborn with their five sons were in that emigrating company. Their youngest child, Joseph, born 1636, was a babe in arms.96

As their voyage neared its end, someone described The Hector and her consort as they neared land, “this evening we saw the new moon more than half an hour after sunset, being much smaller than it is at any time in England.” The next morning was somewhat calm, calm enough to fish. With a few hooks, they caught sixty-seven big codfish. “We had ... fair sunshine weather, and there came a smell off the shore like the smell of a garden.” Four days afterwards, both ships, The Hector and her consort, lay at anchor and the weary voyagers went ashore to be greeted by friends who feasted them with good venison, pastry and beer. Some of the company went to gather fine strawberries.97

It has been said that Thomas Osborn fought in the Pequot War.98 If so, then he fought near the end of the conflict, 1637. Hatfield’s account that Thomas came to Massachusetts in 1635, is at variance with the Ashford Parish record. On 4 December 1636, Joseph, their son, was baptized in that parish.99

Boston, in its infancy welcomed all Puritans. But those who landed on 26 June 1637 received an unusually warm welcome because Eaton and most of his associates were men of wealth, education and influence. Every effort was made to persuade them to settle in the Bay Colony. However, they did not choose to become part of any established company.100

The colonists remained in Hingham, Massachusetts over the winter of 1637-38, going to Connecticut in the month of April. Sailing from Boston in a heavily laden sloop, they rounded the eastern point of Connecticut and crept up a little waterway. It landed its passengers at a point where College Street now meets George at New Haven Harbor.101

After their arrival in Quinnipiac, later called New Haven, they met together to form a provisional government.102 The compact they signed was patterned after the Mayflower agreements.

Their first task was to choose a site and layout the streets of their future town. It was important to get this done as soon as possible in order that the settlers might begin to build their homes and plant their gardens. They chose to locate the principal part of their town on the north side of West Creek. Accordingly, George Street was laid out half a mile in length and upon it a square reminiscent of tic-tac-toe. The square was divided by two parallel streets running east and west, and two streets running north and south. This totaled nine equal squares of which the center square was designated as the marketplace. The remaining eight squares were divided into house lots, and assigned to the planters, who grouped themselves according to personal acquaintance and friendship in the old country. These eight squares did not provide enough space to accommodate the planters,

93 Atwater., pp. 45-57.
94 Ibid. pp. 45-47.
95 Calder, pp. 30-31.
96 The American Genealogist, Volume 12, p. 255.
97 Atwater, pp. 56-57.
98 Hatfield, Rev. Edwin F., History of Elizabeth, New Jersey, (New York: 1868) p. 87. See also W.W. Preston, History of New Haven Colony.
99 The American Genealogist, Volume 12, p. 255.
100 Preston, W. W., History of New Haven County, Volume I.
102 Atwater, pp. 74-75.
so they added two suburbs. For example, the residents of the southwest square, for the most part were from Hereford and Kent, including Thomas Osborn.

The city of New Haven is a port of entry beautifully situated on an extensive plane extending four miles from Long Island Sound. The colony was first called Quinnipiac for the river marking the eastern boundary, while the boundary on the west was appropriately called West River.

After their settlement had been laid out, the town lots were assigned on the basis of wealth and size of family. First they built a house, then a barn. After these buildings were constructed, they erected fences to enclose their property.

Each family was allotted four acres of planting ground per family member and one acre beyond the East River.

By 1643, Thomas' family included five boys. His entire estate was rated at three hundred dollars, including thirty acres of land in the first division, six acres on the neck, eighteen acres of meadows and seventy-two acres of land in the second division. He paid 1 pound, 1 shilling annually for the land.

Thomas did not live on his original lot very long. The records show that he owned and occupied a house and tanyard on the south side of George Street, between Broad and Factory Streets. The facilities of his new location would be better suited for his work as a colony tanner.

After Thomas and Mary Osborn arrived in New Haven, three more children were born. Rebecca, baptized in New Haven on 23 October 1642 (she died in Easthampton 10 April 1704); Increase, baptized in New Haven on 5 February 1643 (probably died young); and Benjamin, baptized in New Haven on 3 January 1647 (died in Easthampton on 27 February 1722).

Even though Thomas was not a very good tanner, he was known by the title of "Goodman Osborn," and Mary, his wife, was called "Goody Osborn." They participated in the life of the community which seemed to revolve around the church. They had assigned seats in the church, Goodman Osborn in the men's section and Goody Osborn in the women's section. Furthermore, Thomas was also a member of the

103 Ibid. p. 76.
104 Hoadley, Charles J., New Haven Colony Records, pp. 92-93 (cited as Hoadley) and Atwater, p. 137.
106 Calder, pp. 148-149
107 Ibid.
108 Hoadley, pp. 92-93.
109 Atwater, p. 137.
110 Ibid. p. 87.
111 Hoadley, p. 302.
Thomas' holdings included cows and hogs. It is likely that he also owned sheep.

Even though Thomas was a colony tanner, he is described in the New Haven records as a planter who took the oath of fidelity in 1644.

Hatfield refers to the Richard Osborn of New Haven as a brother of Thomas. This does not seem likely because it appears to be at variance with the Ashford Parish Records. However, it is possible. At any rate, they arrived together; Richard on the Hector and Thomas on the consort ship.

Word passed through the colony that on 29 April 1648, Theophilus Eaton, Governor of the New Haven Colony and Edward Hopkins, Governor of Connecticut had bought East Hampton, Long Island from the natives. Soon thereafter, Thomas and Mary Osborn began to talk about moving to the "new land." Accordingly, Thomas secured a grant of land for a new homestead in East Hampton. He was an associate of East Hampton, 1649. By 1650, the family was in residence on Long Island. Thomas was now fifty-six years old.

When they moved from New Haven to East Hampton, their belongings included a beautifully carved chest, which, in all probability, they had brought from England. It was finally given to the John Howard Payne Memorial House, "Home Sweet Home" by the late Burnett Muford Osborn, a descendant of Thomas and Mary.

The town of East Hampton lies on Long Island and the Atlantic Ocean. The sand on the shore is blown into hills bare of vegetation, save "beach grass" and a shrub bearing the "beach plum." This vegetation prevents the sand from blowing over adjacent pasture and mowing fields.

Thomas Osborn became an early associate of East Hampton. He was one of the first nine pioneers of 1649. It seems that while still a resident of New Haven, he secured a land grant for his Easthampton homestead. The Town Records show that on 7 March 1650, a cart road was ordered by the court to be made in the hollow between Goodman Osborn's and Goodman Hand's.

Easterly, the town ends at Montauk's Point, around which the tide runs very rapidly. The shore on the north side is rocky and indented with bays, coves and creeks which lead into the Atlantic Ocean.

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112 Ibid. p. 302.
113 Ibid. pp. 308 and 496.
114 Family Tradition.
120 Ross, History of Long Island, 1902, pp. 1048.
THE WINDMILLS

For most of the last century, Americans have regarded windmills as a picturesque remnant of our agrarian beginnings, a pleasant, even sentimental aspect of the landscape in certain areas of the eastern seaboard. But in their earlier community, applying man's ingenuity to his environment could provide for the job at hand. Their sponsors could afford, the best tools their ingenuity could develop. The Hook Mill still stand. They represent all the best aspects essential to survival: they ground grain, pound wood and pumped water, and assumed all of which the wind could be applied to do the work of their designers.

Today in East Hampton, Hook Mill and Pantigo Mill still stand. They represent all the best heirloom sponsors could afford, the best tools their ingenuity could develop. The Hook Mill still stand. They represent all the best aspects essential to survival: they ground grain, pound wood and pumped water, and assumed all of which the wind could be applied to do the work of their designers.

HISTORY OF THE WINDMILLS

The Hook Windmill, a post mill at the north end of town, was commissioned Nathaniel Dominy V to build a new post mill with two pairs of millstones. The mill was built in 1806 and incorporated the main post of the 1736 Hook Mill. Nathaniel Dominy VII's "Register of Wind, Weather & Doings" documented the mill as being surprisingly active for the last half of the 18th century. The village of East Hampton bought the mill and the lot in 1922 and restored the mill to working order in 1939. It operated seasonally into the 1960s. The village made additional repairs in 1984-1985.

Open: June through September.

THE PANTIGO MILL

Samuel Schellinger began building the Pantigo Windmill on Mill Hill for Hunting Miller in March, 1804. The Mill Hill had been built up from a natural rise in 1729 on the common at the south end of East Hampton. Ownership changed over a period of years and the mill was moved to the corner of Pantigo Road and Egypt Lane where it stood for 72 years until 1917 when Gustav Buek purchased the mill and moved it to his 17th Century house, known as Home Sweet Home. The village undertook extensive repairs to the mill in 1950-1951.

John Howard Payne was born in East Hampton June 9, 1791. He was the son of William Payne, of an old Massachusetts family, and Sarah Isaac of East Hampton. John Howard was the sixth of nine children.

Payne's father was a successful teacher of elocution. He came to East Hampton to teach a Clinton Academy, the third oldest school in New York State. He trained John Howard in rhetoric and delivery and then was alarmed when the boy expressed a desire to go on the stage.

The stage held its lure for Payne and he made his debut as an actor in 1809. Praises of his beauty and genius filled the newspapers.

Payne went to England, the first American actor to invade the British stage. He later devoted himself entirely to writing. "Home Sweet Home" was written in 1822 and first sung in Covent Garden, England in 1823 as part of the opera "Clari, the Maid of Milan." Payne served as American Consul to Tunis, Africa in the last years of his life and died there in 1852.

HOME SWEET HOME

Open: Daily June through September. 11-5 p.m., Sunday 2-5. By appointment: September through May.
B. STEPHEN OSBORN

Stephen Osborn, a son of Thomas and Mary (Goatley) Osborn was baptized 24 February 1633, Christ Church, England. \(^{128}\) When Stephen was not yet four years old his parents emigrated to Massachusetts, arriving the last of June 1637. The next year, April 1638, they moved again, this time to New Haven, Connecticut, where Thomas, his father was one of the associates. It was in New Haven that Stephen Osborn became a young adult. When he was seventeen years of age the family moved again. This time they moved across Long Island Sound to East Hampton. It is unlikely that Stephen would remember anything of his native England.

As a member of the family, Stephen would have participated in their life together as a part of the community and church. The children and young people herded the animals that roamed through the unfenced fields. To supplement their food supply they hunted and fished. In the summer and fall they gathered berries and nuts to add to their diet.

When Stephen was about twenty-five years of age he went to the nearby community of Sagg, the shortened form of Sagaponack, in Southampton, \(^{129}\) to marry Sarah Stanborough. Sarah was a daughter of Josiah and Frances (Gransden) Stansborough. We do not know precisely the date of their marriage, but there are clues that point to a 1657 date.

Stephen Osborn was elevated to the rank of freeman in 1657. Also that year he was granted the status of “Freeman.” \(^{130}\) The fact that he was granted the status of “Freeman” and was the recipient of land grants from the town is powerful evidence that Stephen was a married man at that time. It also gives credence to the possibility that Mary, the oldest daughter was in fact the oldest child. Stephen’s oldest son Jeremiah born 1661 \(^{131}\) was named for Stephen’s brother and paternal grandfather. \(^{132}\) Stephen and Sarah had five other children: Sarah, Martha, Rebecca, Abigail and Josiah who was not yet nineteen years of age when his father wrote his will in 1694.

Soon after 1660 Long Island was beginning to be overly populated. \(^{133}\) Therefore, as his father before him had done, Stephen began to look elsewhere for a new frontier where there was lots of land. Accordingly he and Sarah, his wife, began to plan to work toward the time when they could join a company of emigrants to go to “Achter Kol” to become one of the founders of the settlement of Elizabethtown on the Jersey coast. Stephen and Sarah Osborn sold their East Hampton home to an adjoining farm for 28 pounds sterling to Robert Stratton. \(^{134}\)

The Achter Kol* settlers came in boatloads from a wide area including Long Island. They brought everything needed to begin life in a new country. Livestock, tools and household necessities. In all probability the “East Enders” came together with Captain Thomas Young whose ship was capable of transporting a goodly number of people. \(^{135}\)

The little settlement on the Elizabeth River soon became known as Elizabethtown. Most of the settlers were young, strong and vigorous. In a short time they had a roof over their heads. In 1683, Governor Lawrie noted that all the houses were small. They were made of planks set on end with the butts anchored in the ground, the tops fastened to risers. They were a story or a story and a half high with eaves barely six feet above the ground. The doors opened nearly on a level with the street. A massive stone chimney dominated one end of the house. At first they made thatched roofs as was done in England. The main room served as kitchen, dining room and living quarters. A trap door led down to a small cellar used to store some fruits and vegetables for the winter months. After the house was built, one of the most pressing needs was fencing to protect their garden and orchard. After their fences were built around their town lots they cleared their outfields for grain. \(^{136}\)

The men and the older boys worked to build the town, cultivate the land, hunt and fish. The women and older girls were busy at the spinning wheel, the loom, candle molds, kettles and tubs. The children carried wood for the fireplace, swept the chimney, herded the cattle, and gathered nuts, berries and plants. \(^{137}\)

Stephen was one of eighty associates. His brothers Jeremiah and Joseph and possibly John, a son of Joseph, were also settlers in this new land.

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128 Ibid.
129 East Hampton Town Records, pp. 30-31, 145.
130 Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery, Schedule X quoted by Hatfield, p. 87, 113-114.
132 The American Genealogist, Volume 12, p. 249.
133 Ibid.
135 East Hampton Town Records, Book G, p. 43 ½.
136 Thayer, p. 14-15. (*Note: Achter Kol is the waters between Staten Island and New Jersey).
137 Ibid., pp. 20-21.
138 Ibid., p. 22.
On 19 February 1665, Stephen and his brothers took the oath of allegiance. Later on 18 August, Stephen's young son, Jeremiah witnessed the payment of money to the Indians for the purchase of the town. His brother Jeremiah was also a witness to the event but he must have left soon thereafter because he was a tanner in New Haven, Connecticut the next year in 1666.

The land which was purchased from the Indians contained five hundred thousand acres including Piscataway, Amboy, Woodbridge, Rahway, Elizabethtown, Union, Springfield, Westfield, and it went past the Short Hills.

In 1693, the year before Stephen wrote his will, The Assembly defined the boundary lines of Elizabethtown to include all the land from the mouth of Rahway River west to Woodbridge stake and from thence westerly along the line of the county to the partition line of The Province; and from the mouth of said Rahway River, up the sound to the mouth of Bound Creek and from thence to the Bound Hill, from northwest to the partition line of The Province.

As an associate, Stephen had land rights. As an associate and landowner he served on a jury to hear the case of Captain William Hackett vs. Governor Carteret. Captain Hackett was accused of illegal trading in the Province. He was warranted for illegal trading in the Province.

When some of the settlers had boundary troubles, Stephen and his brother Joseph were two of the seventeen signers of a petition to the Governor and his council requesting that their concerns be addressed. This was probably in early December 1667. When the Dutch took over the territory, Stephen, along with seventy-six associates, took the oath of allegiance.

Stephen's land grants covered a modest area of land. He was one of twenty-six persons who had second land rights. Second land rights had double acreage of these with first land rights. Stephen was warranted for 160 acres in 1671. Five years later in 1676, he was the recipient of a 180 acre survey. An Indian deed of 1684 states that Stephen's land lay along the Minisink Path and Wickakicke Creek. In addition, he had two town lots up on Mill Creek. He sold these two lots in 1689 to Joseph Wilson.

The original associates purchased their lands of the Indians and obtained a patent from Colonel Richard Nicols, Governor under The Duke of York. This was before the province was sold to the proprietors, Berkeley and Carteret. Berkeley and Cartaret tried to invalidate the title of the associates granted by Governor Nicolls and compel the settlers to take out new patents and pay quit rents. This action prompted a protest from the settlers with seventeen of them signing a petition of protest. Stephen was one of those signers.

Stephen also had 12 acres of Upland on the South Branch of Elizabeth Towne Creek; also three acres of Meadow on the Elizabethtown Creek and 12 acres in the great meadow at the upper end of Turkey Creek.

Stephen Osborn was a recognized leader of Elizabethtown, a person of integrity; trusted by the settlers and Indians alike. Therefore, he was sent by the town to call the Indian Sagamores together to mark out the western bounds of the town. Instructed by the old chief, they went on or about the 16th of July, to a plain behind Piscataway foreword towards Green River, near where it comes out of the mountain till they came to the Minisink Path, and on to Elizabethtown.

Given the early history of the Osborns in England, New Haven and East Hampton, we would expect Stephen Osborn to participate in building and helping to maintain the church. Elizabethtown’s first meeting house was on the site of the present day First Presbyterian Church. Inasmuch as the town records were lost, the relationship of the settlers to it are unknown.

The townspeople were called to church by the beat of a drum. As the drummer made his way through the streets, who amongst the colonists could resist the compelling cadence of the drum beat?

It is said that the first Presbyterian Church was the oldest church in New Jersey.

The Elizabethtown pioneers were concerned that they be given enough education to read the Bible, write a letter and handle simple arithmetic.

When Stephen Osborn was sixty-one years of age he wrote his will on 12 July 1694. It was proved 20 July 1698.

There are two copies of his will in different handwriting. The script is so difficult to read it takes both copies in order to decipher its text.

139 Elizabethtown Bill In Chancery, Schedule X.
140 Ibid.
141 Murray, Nicholas, Notes, Historical and Biographical, (Elizabethtown, New Jersey, 1844) pp. 8-9.
142 Ibid., pp. 16-17.
143 Hatfield, p. 136.
144 Ibid., pp. 158-159.
145 Thayer, p. 19.
146 Hatfield, p. 58.
147 Ibid., pp. 87-88.
148 Hatfield, p. 228.
149 Thayer, As We Were, p. 27.
150 Ibid., p. 27ff
151 Ibid., p. 28-29.
152 Hatfield, p. 201ff
153 New Jersey Archives, Volume 23, p. 117.
In the name of God, Amen: The last will and testament of me, Stephen Osborn of Elizabeth town in ye county of Essex in America. Being of perfect mind and understanding. First I give and bequeath my soul to Almighty God who gave it to me and my body to ye dust from whence it was taken and my Estate which God hath given me as followeth:

Item Viz: I give unto my noble and beloved wife Sarah all that portion acres of land laid out to me in ye bounds of Elizabeth town nearby Bound Creek by ye Lane more or less as it is now. I say that I fully give it unto her and every part there of forever to be at her disposal. Also I give unto her two thirds part of all my moveables. Whatsoever both with houses and without. Also I give unto her one third part of all my land and meadow in ye bounds of Elizabeth town together with one half of all my land and meadow lying upon ye branches of Raway River, a place known by the name of Springfield to possess and enjoy during the time of her natural life with one half of it only Exception which my youngest son Josiah shall be possessed of if he should live to the age of nineteen years. Also I give unto her all my housing.

Item: I give unto my oldest son Jeremiah two thirds of all my land and meadow and privileges whatsoever lying and being in the bounds of Elizabeth town, my Eastward piece of meadow and hamack of upland adjoining to it below ye Bank that now is only exception.

Item: I give unto my five daughters, namely Mary, wife of Joseph Frazee, Sarah, wife of John Cramer, Martha, Rebecca and Abigail ye one half of all my meadow lying at a place known by ye name of Springfield. To them and to their heirs forever that shall be lawfully begotten of their bodies to be equally divided amongst them.

Item: I give unto my daughter Mary, wife of Joseph Frazee to her and to her heirs forever only lower piece of meadow and hamack of upland adjoining to it below ye same that now is.

Item: I give unto my five daughters about a third part of all my moveables both within and without to be equally divided amongst them.

Item: I give unto my youngest son Josiah, one-third part of my land and meadow at home which was laid out by the general surveyor, ye upland all together at ye north end of ye upland next to my house now with ye orchard and his third part of meadow shall belong together only East End of my meadow which is now and my will is that his brother Jeremiah shall let him have a convenient highway through that land down by the meadow. Also I give unto my son Josiah one third part of all my other lands and meadows and privileges whatsoever in ye bounds of Elizabeth town what I have already given to my daughter Mary only exception. Also I give unto him one-half of all my land and meadow lying at a place known by ye name of Springfield. I say that I do give unto

my son Josiah all ye above land privileges. Every part and parcel of to him and to his heirs forever. Although one half of it to be possessed of when he shall come to ye age of nineteen y ears.

Item: Ye other half of his mothers house, and my will is ye and if my son—Josiah shall die without heirs then his part of lands shall fall to his brother Jeremiah.

Item: I appoint my son Jeremiah to be sole Executor of this my last will. Also I appoint my brother Joseph Osborn [Joseph Osborn still living 1707—See Hatfield, p. 88] and Josiah Stanborough to oversee and assist and confirm the execution of my last will and testament. Under my hand and seal this 12th day of July and sixth year of their reign and Majesty William and Mary who by the grace of God, King and Queen

Stephen S [his mark, signed in the presence of Elizabeth Stanborough, Josiah Stanborough, Sr., Josiah Stanborough, Jr.]

According to Hatfield (page 88) Joseph Osborn was still living in 1707.

*Stephen Osborn's will is from Essex County, New Jersey, Book F, p. 630.
C. JEREMIAH, THE EXECUTOR

We have designated Jeremiah Osborn, the eldest son of Stephen, "The Executor" in order to identify "which Jeremiah." His father had a brother Jeremiah who moved from New Jersey and East Hampton to the family homestead, New Haven, Connecticut. The Executor was also the father of a Jeremiah, we refer to as "Jeremiah of the South Fork." Furthermore, he had a grandson named Jeremiah — the son of Jeremiah of the South Fork. This grandson was born 17 April 1729. He lived on a farm up the South Fork River, near the Pendleton County line, in Hampshire County, Virginia, now Hardy County, West Virginia. From Virginia he moved to Western North Carolina to emigrate with three of his children to Warren County, Kentucky where he died about 1806.

Jeremiah the Executor was the eldest son of Stephen and Sarah (Stanborough) Osborn. He was born in East Hampton, Long Island, 1661. He declared that his father brought him to Elizabethtown, New Jersey, when he was three years of age. When Stephen, his father, died in 1698, he was 37 years old. He moved from Elizabethtown, 1701, to the area of the coastal plains of Essex County to the highlands of what became Morris County.

In his long deposition in the celebrated case of Daniel Cooper vs. John Crain and others (this deposition is printed in the Elizabethtown Bill in Chancery, Schedule X) Jeremiah relates important data concerning the family.

Jeremiah and some Newark men, 1701, bought some lands of the Indians beyond the Minisink Path. Jeremiah had lived on Bound Creek, the dividing line between Newark and Elizabethtown. Therefore, it is reasonable to believe they knew one another before moving to the Whippany River, Morris County.

Of all the many trails that criss-crossed New Jersey, the Minisink Path was the most important. Jeremiah’s home was on this trail at a place called Whippanong, now Whippany, an Indian word for the place of arrow wood.

These early settlers found the Indians kindly disposed to them. They continued to travel the Minisink Trail to the Atlantic Coast where they went to catch fish and shellfish. They dried the catch before carrying it home.\(^{154}\)

Minisink is a colorful Indian word meaning "the water is gone." To the Indians it meant the land would be flooded if the Delaware Water Gap was ever dammed up. The Indians said it was their tradition that in the earliest time the mountain had no break in it and the waters formed a great lake, then the gap was broken and the waters drained off. "That they said, "is why we call it Minisink, the water is gone."\(^{155}\)

\(^{154}\) Morris County, Historical Society Records Survey. 1937 Board of Chosen Freeholders, County of Morris County, New Jersey, p. 7-8.

New York in 1700

ALBANY

ULSTER

CONNETICUT

RHODE ISLAND

NEW HAMPSHIRE

WYOMING

NEW YORK

NEW JERSEY

EAST HAMPTON

409
pools abounding with shell and scale fish. These inlets provide harbors for small vessels. Westerly, this is bounded by the town of Southampton.121

In 1653, the town of East Hampton built and thatched a church. The church was located on the east side of the present burying ground. Thomas Osborn's family lived in a small thatched roof house on the west side of the street about a quarter of a mile from the church.122

Thomas Osborn was involved in the establishment and building of the East Hampton Church. In fact, along with two other men, he was ordered to bring thatch for the roof.

A study of the East Hampton Town Records gives an interesting picture of Thomas. On 4 October 1653, when he was about 59 years of age, he was elected town constable.

Thomas owned, in addition to his home lot of 20 acres, various plots of land described in the Town Records of East Hampton. By 1675, his taxable estate included his home lot of 20 acres, 7 oxen, 6 cows, 4 three year olds, 3 two year olds, 5 yearlings, 2 horses, 6 swine and 6 sheep; valued 166 pounds, 10 shillings, 00 sterling.

Thomas Osborn had done well at East Hampton, both as a tanner and land owner. So it is not surprising that on 17 May 1660, he deeded his New Haven property to Jeremiah Osborn, tanner, my beloved son.123

Thomas continued to prosper in the East Hampton community. He served on the jury and was an important person in the town. After he was past eighty years of age on the second day of November 1677, he deeded all of his East Hampton property to my "Dearlie and beloved son Benjamin Osborn.124 In six years, his cattle had increased in number and value; 8 oxen, 33 cattle, 2 horses, 9 swine and 48 sheep. Together with the 20 acre home lot, his estate value had increased to 280 pounds and 10 shillings.125

Thomas died sometime in his nineties, about or before 1688, as indicated in a land record of John Chatfield on 8 August.126

The first six of their children were baptized at Christ Church, Ashford Parish, County Kent, England, the last three in New Haven, Connecticut.

1) Thomas – baptized 24 November 1622, died 23 September 1712, married Mary Bond.

2) Jeremiah – baptized 20 March 1624, died 26 April 1676 in New Haven, married Mary Davis.

121 Ross, History of Long Island, 1902, p. 1048.
122 East Hampton Town Records.
125 Ibid., p. 251.
The first settlers of what became Morris County were principally from Newark, Elizabethtown, East Hampton, Long Island, New England and England. It seems likely they were drawn to this new area by the abundance of iron ore. About 20 miles west of Whippanong, later designated Hanover, the iron ore was brought on the backs of horses across Orange Mountain to Newark.

The surface of the land on the west is mountainous; elsewhere it is hilly or undulating. The area is well watered by several rivers and smaller streams. Being hilly and well watered, it was good cattle country. The inhabitants could mark their cattle and turn them loose to forage on the hills and in the valleys. The Morris township records of earmarks as recorded by Harriet Stryker-Rodda in her book on Morris County includes the ear mark of Jeremiah Osborn, Jr., dated 15 Mach 1740. A cross opposite the name of Jeremiah would in his case, denote removal from the area.

Jeremiah, as his father before him, was a civic-minded person. In 1696, he signed a petition to the East Jersey Proprietors desiring protection of their land holdings. Then in 1700 he signed the Remonstrance by the Inhabitants of East Jersey to the King against the Acts of Proprietors. On 15 April, 1702, New Jersey passed from the governorship of the company of Land Speculators to the Crown. In May 1703, the Proprietary Government of East Jersey was brought to a perpetual end.

W. W. Munsell, in his history of Morris County, New Jersey, p. 332, quotes a journal of Mr. Reading, 1715: a surveying party stopped at Jeremiah Osborn’s home located between the Raritan and Whippanong Rivers. In order to provide for a party of at least five extra persons for days at a time, Jeremiah must have had a rather large house. According to Myrose and Kitchell, Along The Whippanong, A History of Hanover Township, New Jersey, Jeremiah was forced to purchase 300 acres of his own land from the Indians and did not go through The Board of Proprietors, the ownership of his land was considered null and void. Myrose and Kitchell also referred to Jeremiah as a “squatter.” This is incorrect. He had purchased his land from the Indians.

A surviving deed dated 3 December 1718, discloses that Jeremiah sold 200 acres of his land including a dwelling for 170 pounds to Abraham Kitchell. The Journal of John Reading 1715-1719 is of special interest because it discloses that not only had Jeremiah lived on the Raritan River, but at least three Dutch families also lived in the same area: John Decker, Johannes Westphalin and Jacob Kuykendall. This...
notation by Monnette clearly depicts that the relationship of the Osborns and Dutch people had its beginning in New Jersey. It is, therefore, not surprising when they emigrated to the Valley of Virginia, they would settle in the same neighborhood.\(^\text{161}\)

When the estate inventory of John Blanchard was made 29 April 1730, it included bond due from Jeremiah Osborn, Jeremiah Osborn, Jr. and Stephen Osborn.\(^\text{162}\) Both Jeremiah Osborn, Jr. and Stephen Osborn were already living on the South Branch River before 1748.\(^\text{163}\) Interestingly, Alexander Scott another South Branch settler was also named on the Blanchard inventory.

To date, the names of the Executor’s wife and her family are not known but there are clues. In 1706 Jeremiah was a witness to the will of Samuel Williams. Apparently, Samuel had two sets of children. The older sons were to pay the under age sons, David and Josiah, when they came of age. He named his brother Nathaniel Wheeler, an executor of his estate, Thomas Bond and Jeremiah Osborn were two of the witnesses. It is a matter of record that Thomas Osborn, Jr. had married Mary, a daughter of Robert and Jane Bond. Jeremiah Osborn’s maternal grandfather, Josiah Stanborough, had married Alice, the widow of Thomas Wheeler.

It is a recognized fact that relatives and close neighbors were witnesses to wills and other legal transactions. It would not be surprising if we were to learn that Jeremiah’s wife were a Williams or a Wheeler. The first clue we have is from the will of Samuel Williams, 1706.

The second clue comes from the marriage of Sarah Osborn, Jeremiah’s sister, who married John Cramer.\(^\text{164}\) It was not unusual for a brother and sister of one family to marry a sister and brother of another family. Furthermore, Jeremiah was a witness to John Cramer’s will, probated 22 June 1716. The Cramers were Quaker. From 1687 through 1704, Jeremiah was a member of the Presbyterian Church and a supporter of Mr. Harriman, the minister.\(^\text{165}\) Later he joined the Quakers.

Jeremiah, the Executor had an unusually sharp memory. When he was 78 years old in 1740, he gave a lengthy detailed affidavit about the purchase of land from the Indians. In his testimony, he referred to Stephen, his father, and the early land purchase from the Indians. Herewith is a copy of the court records. These records are important to our Osborn History.

To date we know of only one Quaker Osborn family in New Jersey: Jeremiah, The Executor. There is the record that Jeremiah Osborn died 2 October 1766. Moreover, this

\(^{162}\) New Jersey Archives, Volume 30, p. 48.
\(^{163}\) Washington, George, Diary. (See Note No. 2 and The Fairfax Census of the South Branch 1748. See Note No. 4).
\(^{164}\) See Stephen Osborn’s will, pp. 68 and 69.
\(^{165}\) Hatfield, p. 284 and The Church Manual For The Members of the First Presbyterian Church, Elizabethtown, (Elizabethtown, New Jersey, 1824), p. 48.
Jeremiah lived to an extreme old age. The question arises as to who were his children? At this time we have no definitive information but the evidence now shown would point to Jeremiah, Jr. whom we call Jeremiah of the South Fork and Stephen. The records of Morris County, New Jersey, includes a Jonathan Osborn who had recorded an ear mark for his animals. If Jonathan were the oldest son of Jeremiah Osborn, the Executor, he would heir the property of his father.

Jeremiah Osborn of The South Fork embodied the pioneering spirit of his father, Jeremiah Osborn, The Executor; Stephen Osborn, his grandfather; and Thomas Osborn, his great-grandfather, who emigrated from County Kent, England.

166 Hatfield, p. 87.
167 The Fairfax Census of the South Branch, 1748.
Then that Raway River was their Bounds to the End of the North Mountain or opposite to the End Thereof, and that the Branch Running Southwardly as far as the Westward of said North Mountain Said to be Deemed Raway River. And on Diversa Occasions afterwards this Affirmant had Perfect knowledge of those Lines and saw several mark't Trees in said Lines agreeing with the Information he Received as aforesaid.

And that afterwards he heard Capt. John Baker and Divers others of Elizabeth Town say that they did not expect to have any more land than what was mark't out to them as aforesaid and that they had to the full of what they expected by their Bargain with the Indians and that he did not hear or of any due in Elizabeth Town about that time or for several years thereafter Discover any dissatisfaction about the Bounds of Elizabeth Town mark't out as aforesaid, and this Affirmant further says that the marking out the Bounds of Elizabeth Town as aforesaid was some time before the aforesaid Purchase of Gov. Lawrie but how long can't tell and that the aforesaid Purchase of Gov. Lawrie to the City of Elizabeth Town, in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred and thirty one Year, was never called with the Indians and he does not remember that any One of Elizabeth Town found any fault with the said Purchase of Gov. Lawrie or laid Claim to any Part of the Lands then Purchased by said Gov. Lawrie, and that George Jewel One of the Witnesses to said Deed to Gov. Lawrie was at the time of Execution of the said Deed a Dweller in said Elizabeth Town but knows not to what light he had in said Town or that he had any and that this Affirmant always understood that the said Benjamin Ogden who lived in Elizabeth Town had at the Time of Execution of the same Deed to be Standing by a said Elizabeth Town Purchase and believes he lived at that time in said Town and that after said Bounds of Elizabeth Town were mark't out as aforesaid Stephen Osborne Father of this Affirmant who was one of the Associates of Elizabeth Town did to this Affirmants knowledge acquaint Gov. Lawrie that the Bounds of Elizabeth Town were mark't out in Manner as above said and that before Gov. Lawrie made the aforesaid Purchase of the Indians, and this said Purchase says he made thereon to Gov. Lawrie of the said Indian Deed to Gov. Lawrie Holans Mehegans but knows not by what name now called and that the same Brook is about Twenty Chains to the South toward Dwelling House, and that he remember a very plain Stick set in One Mile to the Westward of the now Dwelling Place of John Blanchard Esq., and that he believes the Pepperidge Tree mentioned in the same Deed to Gov. Lawrie to be standing by the same Brook from Southward from said Brook house and that Bryant's Plantation whereon he now Lives at that time belonged to Stephen Osborne & the Affirmant and was never divided between them and that one of the Line of said Gov. Lawrie Purchase ran through a Corner of said Land then belonging to said Stephen Osborne and the Affirmant, and that Munising Path went near as the Road now goes from Elizabeth Town to Morris County by Samuel Carter's Dwelling House, and that he remembers a very plain Stick set in that time about by a Point by Water whereon he then resided.

It believes that William Brodwell one other Witness to the same Deed at the time of the Execution thereof had a Right in Elizabeth Town Purchase.

Day's Bridge to the Northward thereof for a Corner of said Gov. Lawrie Purchase and also remembers a mark't Tree that stand on a Point by Water at southward of that place or said Purchase and that said Creek is in the place now called Tully, and that he believes the Brook mention'd in said Deed to said Gov. Lawrie to be in a Deep and Rocky Gulch in the northward of said Creek, and one of the same Creek of Green Brook and that he believes the Break in the Mountain mentioned in said Indian Deed to Gov. Lawrie is the same Break herein before mentioned, and that the Line of Mark't Trees mention'd in the same Deed running to a Wild Cherry Tree he believes to be the Line of mark't Trees mark't out by the Indians and that the same as aforesaid, which he believes Because this Affirmant knows of no agreement between Gov. Lawrie & the Indians was. That said Lawrie by his said Purchase should by bound East on said Elizabeth Town Purchase, is to the second tract in the said Deed this Affirmant says he knows little or nothing of the Bounds therein, but he deems the Plain mentioned in the said Deed to be called as he knows it was mark'd out in the South Plain whereon John Neale now lives, and that he heard about the Time of said Purchase that the Bounds of said Tract extended to Bound Brook and that he believes the Great Swamp mentioned in the said Lines called the Place now called Barron Landing, and that he knows none other of that name about that time, and this Affirmant further saith that he always understood by the information of his father and others of the last settlers of Elizabeth Town that the Indians who made the first set to Eliz. Town lived at the time of making the aforesaid Grant in Staten Island and he remembers that he was told that the four first Purchasers of Elizabeth Town when they made their first Purchase went to an Indian Named Maitino who then lived on Staten Island and the present where they went in the Indian Language and that the present was made in his Wigwam, and they Described the Bounds from Ararat River to the first River setting West out of Araratcullay Bay by several Chains and the said Purchase was to be made within the said Country by laying two Sticks down Twice its length, but the Indians and that he always understood by Information that the Interpreter made use of a Stick thereof and Declared all full in the Indian Language and he knows that the Grantors in the Elizabeth Town Purchase and that said Purchase was purchased on the Main Land, and that he Perfectly remembers that he inhabits when met as aforesaid with the People of Elizabeth Town to mark out the Bounds of Elizabeth Town aforesaid in the presence of Capt. John Baker and said Principal Men of said Town that the first River setting West out of Araratcullay Bay mentioned in their Purchase was he in his called Sound Creek, and he says that he never had any Idea that this Deed to the said above persons was mark'd out by the Indians and that he believes that the said William Brodwell was the only Witness to the aforesaid Purchase whom he ever knew.

Affirmed in the Presence of Attorneys (but the Defendants Attorney did not Cross Examines the Affirmant) this 20th Day of Nov 1748.
of Nov. 1740 before me Robt. H. Morris.

Be it remembered that the above Examination was put off from the Tenth to the Twentieth of this Inst. November 1740.

by Consent of the Attorneys at Law of both Parties.

Robt. H. Morris.

(East Jersey Proprietors, Minutes, A107-110, per G. J. Miller's copy)

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ATT A COUNCIL OF PROPRIETORS held at the City of Perth Amboy the Eighth Day of October 1740.

Mr. Alexander Laid before this Board a Letter of the Sixth which he received of Mr. Murray enclosing Copy Notice of Examining Jeremiah Osborn in the Cause of Purchasing land from the Indians. The Letters are as follows: Mr. Ogden presented a Letter from Mr. Ogden to Mr. Ogden and Mr. Ogden that the letter of Mr. Ogden was read and was then referred to the Council for examination.

Mr. Ogden further states that Mr. Ogden retains his opinion and consideration very well but is very weak in body and therefore thinks it expedient if possible to get a Rule of Court for his examination out of Court.

In Answer to which Letter Mr. Ogden advised Mr. Ogden to get Mr. Harrison sworn by a Justice of the Peace before a number of freeholders and men signing the Affidavit in Order that in Case he Dies before a Rule of Court could be had these Persons might have Evidence of what he knew and that a Rule should be moved for next Term.

Upon Consideration whereof it is the opinion of this Board, that Mr. Ogden and Mr. Ogden or such of our Council as shall be at next Supreme Court do get a rule for Examining said Mr. Ogden and Jeremiah Osborn in Vails and DuBois Causes and for said Harrison in Pens Cause and that he never before was at any time appointed for Examining Osborn And that in the mean time as soon as possible the Council should get a Justice with a Number of indifferent Men to hear what Mr. Ogden and Mr. Ogden was said to have happened and a purchase from ye Indians of a tract of land adjoining Westward to said Bounds and a Witness to the Deed for the same and also were George Johnson and several others who were published and performed the same and did not hear for many years thereafter any fault found with said Purchase of Gov. Lawry by the people of Eliz. Town. X X X X X X

the aforesaid hands 17th of August Anno Domini 1740. Jno. Lawrence.

E. G. B. I. 1793.
CHAPTER ELEVEN

GEORGE OSBORN, SON OF JEREMIAH

George Osborn, born circa 1725, was the oldest son of Jeremiah Osborn (remember the English law of inheritance by primogeniture). Until his birth in our branch of the family that came from County Kent, England, the name George does not appear in available records. We believe Jeremiah Osborn of the South Fork may have had a German or Dutch wife as he lived among Dutch and German settlers on the South Fork River. Jurien in the Dutch language translates into George. The prevailing naming patterns would indicate George was named for his maternal grandfather.

George Osborn, along with the older boys of those planning to move, were allowed to listen to discussions of the proposed move and anticipate in subsequent preparation. The older boys and girls were expected to help drive the cattle and livestock over the Great Wagon Road leading from Philadelphia to the Valley of Virginia because all that was needed had to be taken with them.

Along with the other members of the Osborn family, George was added to the Augusta County Tithable list of August 1750, for all male residents of the area who were sixteen years of age or older.

The previous April 1749, George was on a coroner’s jury to determine the cause of death of Samuel Decker; son of Garret Decker, on the South Branch of the Potomac. The list of jurymen was made up of heads of families for the most part if not completely. Certainly, they were all valley settlers of the South Fork and South Branch Rivers.

On 15 November 1752, the court ordered George Osborn along with other South Fork residents, to view, mark, and keep in repair, a road from their wagon road up the South Fork to Peter Reed’s mill.

The next year, 25 March 1753, George Osborn and Mones Decker were chain carriers for David Vance, who surveyed a tract of land of 200 acres for Nicholas Smith of Frederick County on a little branch between the South Fork and South Branch Rivers. That same day, George Osborn had a 93 acre tract of land surveyed on Mill Creek which was

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170 Ibid. p. 433.
171 Ibid. p. 55.
172 Joyner, Peggy Shomo, Abstracts of Virginia’s Northern Neck Warrants and Surveys, Volume IV (Published by Peggy S. Joyner, 5008 Dogwood Trail, Portsmouth, Virginia 23703, 1987) p. 34.
adjacent to John and Daniel Richardson. Jacob Westfall and Joel Hornback were chain carriers for the survey.173

George had married sometime in 1747 or 1748. His son, Josiah was born 5 March 1750.174 Josiah became a famous Baptist minister.

George Osborn’s family was Presbyterian.175 To the best of his ability, he must have instructed his children, teaching them to read, even though it was probably no more than a third grade level. Likewise, he must have reared his family to be good Presbyterian God-fearing persons.

George’s second son was George, Jr. He and Josiah were young together. There must not have been much time between the births of these two boys. When George, Jr. was going off to fight in the Revolutionary War, he named his brother Josiah as his heir.176

There is a record that a George Osborn on 14 September 1752, married Margaretha Clark, Paxtang, Pennsylvania.177 Bitinger has pointed out that the Clarke family of Hampshire County was Irish and lived on Lunice (Luney) Creek.178 On the frontier, ministers’ visits were few and far between. On occasion when a couple decided to marry, they had to travel long distances for such a service.

Isaac, a third son was born sometime before 1760 because he himself was married and shown with a household of four in 1782.179

When George sold both his 93 acre tract of land on Mill Creek and Lot #18 on the South Fork in 1765, his wife’s signature shows she was Hannah H. Osborn. A son, Solomon, was born on 16 March 1766180 so he almost surely was a son of wife Hannah. In all probability, Hannah was a Hornback before she married George Osborn because the Hornbacks and Osborns were involved with one another in the same community181 and Joel Hornback was a chain carrier for David Vance when he surveyed the 93 acre tract on Mill Creek for George Osborn. (See above).

George Osborn bought a 380 acre farm on Lost River in then Hampshire County, now Hardy County, from John and Hannah Miller in 1768.182

173 Ibid. p. 50. 
175 Ibid. 
176 Bitinger, John Casper, Early Lutheran Baptisms and Marriages, p. 63. 
177 Allegheny Passage, p. 165. 
178 Sage and Jones, Early Records of Hampshire Co., p. 95. 
179 This date was taken from records of Solomon Osborn descendants. Since it is a specific date, it must have come from a family bible. 
180 Chalkley, Chronicles, Volume I, p. 433. 
181 Hampshire Co., West Virginia, Deed Book II, p. 74f.
in respect of the said Premises only so capitally and for ever and lastly that the said George Olowaru and Hannah his Wife this Nisi prius all and every the Premises hereby granted and released without Appurtenance unto the said Jacob his Wife and Children by the said Jacob his Wife be and remain bounded and free from all interfetion or interposed by or from the Wife or Children of the said Jacob and further to have and enjoy the same unto the said Jacob and his Wife in the names of Form and Style and that the said Premises now and forever before hereafter shall remain in free and clear estate of all and from all premised another five years Olowaru shall have Power Right and Title of Power of the premises by customary Law and as aforesaid who is also George Olowaru and Hannah his Wife or any other Person or Persons whatsoever that shall hereafter intervene in any part of the issue of the said his Wife and therefor for ever for no respect of the said Premises only so capitally and for ever and lastly that there is
When George died, his will named his sons: Josiah, (George, Jr. was already dead, a casualty of the Revolution), Isaac, Solomon, and Francis. Francis, from the wording of the will was a stripling of a lad as "he is to have the colt he claims as his own." He goes on to mention his younger children, both girls and boys, but does not name them. (This would indicate they had a different mother from the older children.) He names his wife Hannah and his little grandson George. Son Josiah was named as executor to receive the 220 acre plantation on which he lived. The Raccoon Creek plantation was devised to Isaac and Solomon. His younger children are to be left to the discretion of the executor to be bound out or not.\textsuperscript{185}

In the Hardy County, West Virginia Minute Book 1786-1791, we find this item: Order that John Osborn serve his master John Westfall one year over and above his hired servitude by indenture by his consent. Also in this same Minute Book on page 232, dated 12 October 1790, James Claypool and John McNees (Neese) are appointed trustees to manage the estate of Hannah Osburn (sic).

A study of George Osborn's Inventory, dated 10 April 1784 describes the possessions he had on his Lost River farm. There was a harness horse, a wagon and steers, three briddles, two men's saddles together with saddle bags and a saddle apron. In addition to the harness horse, there were three mares and a colt. They had six cows and six calves plus two bulls and four sheep. Apparently, fences were few because a branding iron was also listed.

Their farm equipment included a plow, six hoes, yokes for the oxen, hackle, grindstone, cutting box and pitchfork. Nothing was wasted when a cow was butchered or died the hide was tanned for later use. George's inventory included five cowhides, which would be used to make shoes or other farm equipment.

The household goods included two spinning wheels, three tubs, an iron, bags, buckets and two pails, four barrels and one half-bushel measure.

Hannah had the use of an oven, one pot, two basins, eight trenchers, and/or plates and dishes, some old clothes, blanket, chest, trunk and two books.

A study of this inventory reveals the harshness of pioneer life in a secluded valley beyond the mountains of Virginia.

We cannot leave George Osborn without following the three oldest sons named in his will to their destination in life. Josiah (wife Margaret?) became a famous Baptist minister, living to be nearly one hundred years old when he died in Ohio.\textsuperscript{184} Isaac (had a wife Delphia Arbaugh went to Greenbrier County and lived on Muddy Creek Mountain. Many of his descendants still live in West Virginia. Helen Jane Baugh, a tireless researcher of her Osborn ancestry, plus other descendants of his have tried long and hard to search out Isaac's life story. Solomon (wife Margaret Denton) went to Tennessee with

\textsuperscript{185} Hampshire County Will, 11 November 1783, Will Book II, p. 70.

\textsuperscript{184} Logan County, Ohio, 1845.
his wife’s people (the Dentons lived on Lost River) and died in Indiana.\textsuperscript{185} No other record to identify his son Francis Osborn has been found.

A. JOSIAH OSBORN – PIONEER MINISTER
(1750-1845)

Any early history of the family of Jeremiah Osborn who settled on the South Fork of the South Branch of the Potomac should include the record of his grandson, Josiah Osborn.

Josiah’s ministry in the western and northwestern areas of Virginia was remarkably successful. His influence for good was wide-spread, touching the lives of the settlers on the frontier.

Josiah Osborn, born 5 March 1750, was the oldest son of George Osborn. This family was Presbyterian. From them he received religious instruction.

When he was about 28 years of age he united with a church in Hardy County, Virginia (now West Virginia). Soon thereafter, he began to exhort with great success as a proclaimer of the gospel. Scarcely able to read, each time he spoke, he very nearly promised himself it would be his last attempt, but he continued to study until he became not only a good reader but he became capable of expressing his thoughts on paper with remarkable clarity and force.\textsuperscript{186}

After his father died in 1783,\textsuperscript{187} he moved from Lost River, 1794, to Greenbrier County, Virginia. There in the Great Levels Settlement he raised up a new congregation of the Baptist Church. In 1894, Robert Semple in his History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Virginia, has described his ministry as a blessing to the county where he resides. Further, he avers that Josiah Osborn stands equal to any minister, if not superior to any in the country. His book David and Goliath has been characterized as the best treatise on baptism that has ever been published.\textsuperscript{188}

Josiah left Virginia with his family to settle in Monroe Township of Logan County, Ohio. His will was probated in Logan County 3 June 1845.

His long life of ninety-five years was one of usefulness and wide influence.

\textsuperscript{185} Family Records.
\textsuperscript{187} Refer to Hampshire Co., Virginia Will Book II, p. 70.