

GERVAS STORRS MOSBY | ELIZA GLOVER BURKS

On May 22, 1851, **Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818–1867)**¹ married **Eliza Glover Burks (1830–1862)** in Jefferson County, Kentucky (Louisville). During their relatively short married life (11 years), they lived at Loughborough Plantation in Mississippi.

Our Mosby heritage² is deeply rooted in colonial Virginia. The lives of four of my 18th-century Mosby antecedents are well recorded in early Virginia history. They are: **Edward Mosby (1660–1742)**,³ **Benjamin Mosby (1690–1774)**,⁴ **Colonel Littleberry Mosby Sr. (1729–1809)**,⁵ and **Captain Wade Mosby (1761–1834)**.⁶

Gervas Storrs Mosby's father, **Dr. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848)**, graduated from William and Mary College in 1809 and served in the War of 1812. In 1814 he married **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)**, a descendant of early Virginia families. They moved to Louisville, Kentucky, where Dr. Mosby practiced medicine.

Littleberry H. Mosby and Louisa P. Storrs Mosby had nine children, four of whom (including Gervas Storrs Mosby) moved to Mississippi cotton plantations. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby died in 1848 in Greenville, Mississippi.⁷ The Mosbys are the source of my family's long relationship with Rhodes College, previously Southwestern at Memphis.⁸

Louisa Pleasants Storrs Mosby was the daughter of **Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)**⁹ and **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1793)**, who were first cousins.¹⁰

It is through them that we derive our heritage from the Woodson,¹¹ Isham,¹² Pleasants,¹³ Storrs,¹⁴ Randolph,¹⁵ and Cocke¹⁶ families. The Cocke family is also the source of our kinship to the Presidents Bush.¹⁷ These families, along with the Mosbys and Truehearts, lived near the James River in colonial Virginia.¹⁸

Susannah Randolph Pleasants's mother was **Ann Randolph (1732–1809)**, whose older sister, **Jane Randolph (1720–1776)**,¹⁹ was the mother of Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826). Thomas Jefferson is thus my first cousin six times removed.

The grandfather I share with Thomas Jefferson is **Isham Randolph (1685–1742)**,²⁰ who is my sixth great-grandfather and Thomas Jefferson's grandfather.

The father of Eliza Glover Burks, **Samuel Burks (1803–1847)**, has been called "One of God's Noble Men."²¹ In 1839 he bought a cotton plantation called Loughborough in Mississippi.²² Five generations of his descendants up to today, in 2011, have owned and operated the plantation. The first three were female descendants.



Loughborough Plantation, c. 1935.

During the Civil War in 1862, at age 32, Eliza Glover Burks died at Loughborough, just three days after childbirth. She left a husband with five young children, ages two through nine. Her husband, Gervas Storrs Mosby, then invited his 42-year-old sister, **Paulina Pleasants Mosby (1820–1910)**,²³ to move to Loughborough to attend to his children. Paulina lived to be almost 90 years old and raised two families (her brother's children and his grandchildren) at Loughborough. Gervas Storrs Mosby died in 1867, at age 49, in Greenbriar County, West Virginia.

The Mosby family endured intense struggles during and after the Civil War. Unfortunately, all of the five children died before they married except one, my great-grandmother **Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890)**. Her brother, the oldest Mosby child, was **John Burks Mosby (1853–1876)**. For reasons of health and education (he went to Virginia Military Institute), John Burks Mosby spent the years 1870–73 in Virginia. While a teenager there, between ages 16 and 19, he wrote several letters home to Mississippi.²⁴ Another brother, **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1857–1878)**, at age 19 wrote in his diary a most poignant account of his "dreary world."²⁵ The early death of these two Mosby brothers ended our male Mosby line in Mississippi.

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1. GERVAS STORRS MOSBY: 19TH-CENTURY MISSISSIPPI PLANTER

Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818-1867), my great-great-grandfather, was the third child of nine children born to **Dr. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789-1848)** and **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792-1864)**. At a young age, Gervas Storrs Mosby moved with his family from Virginia to Louisville, Kentucky.

Gervas Storrs Mosby was 33 years old when he married 21-year-old **Eliza Glover Burks (1830-1862)**, the daughter of **Samuel Burks (1803-1847)**, a Kentuckian who had bought Loughborough Plantation in Mississippi in 1839. Shortly after their marriage, Gervas Storrs Mosby and his wife came to Mississippi to live at their 1,730-acre cotton plantation. In April 1857, they purchased the remaining third of the plantation, owned by Eliza Burks's stepmother, Ann T. Burks.

We have original documents that Gervas Storrs Mosby received when he purchased slaves from his uncle in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1857.

One of the documents reads:

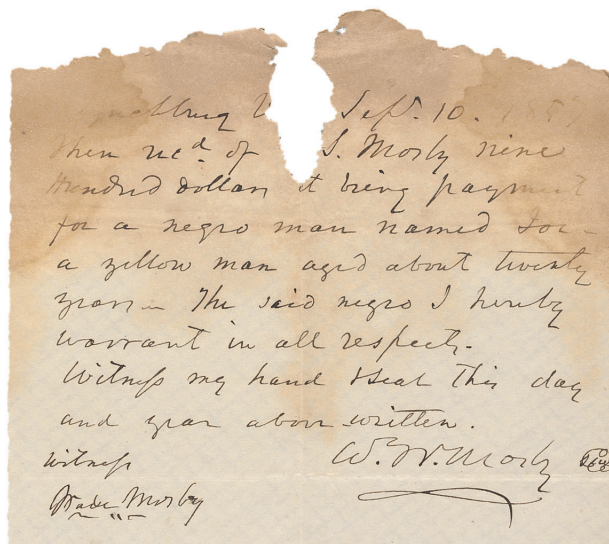
Lynchburg, Virginia, April 10, 1857

Then received of G. S. Mosby \$900, it being payment for a negro man, Jon?, a yellow man aged about 20 years. The said negro I hereby warrant in all respects,

Witness my hand and seal this day and year above written.

*Signed: W. W. Mosby
[William Washington Mosby
(1800-1874), G. S. Mosby's uncle.]*

*Witnessed: Wade Mosby
[Wade Mosby Jr. (1793-1872),
G. S. Mosby's uncle.]*



Gervas Storrs Mosby was a 43-year-old plantation owner at the outbreak of the Civil War. While we have no record of him serving in the Confederate Army during the war, it has been reported that on account of his allegiance to the Confederate cause, he exchanged all of his gold for Confederate money.

Between 1853 and 1860, Gervas Storrs Mosby and Eliza Burks Mosby had five children:

- John Burks Mosby (1853-1876)** He died of malaria at age 23 / unmarried
- Gervas Storrs Mosby Jr. (1855-1863)** He died at age eight
- Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1857-1878)** He died at age 21 / unmarried
- Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858-1890)** My great-grandmother
- Eliza Burks Mosby (1860-1868)** She died at age eight

On September 18, 1862, Eliza Glover Burks Mosby died just three days after the birth of her sixth child, a daughter, who also died. Gervas Storrs Mosby subsequently asked his 42-year-old sister, **Paulina Pleasants Mosby (1820-1910)**, to move to Loughborough to raise his children.

In August 1867, Gervas Storrs Mosby died in Greenbrier County, West Virginia, a state created in 1863 out of the state of Virginia. We presume he died while staying at the Old White Hotel at White Sulphur Springs. That hotel was built in 1858 and was reopened after having been closed during the Civil War (1861-65). Today the hotel is known as The Greenbrier, which was built to replace the Old White Hotel in 1913.



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2. OUR MOSBY HERITAGE

Edward (Edd) Mosby (1600-1663)	m.	Hannah (1604-1663)
Richard Mosby (1626-1706)	m. 1659	Judith Parsons (1629-1655)
Edward Mosby (1660-1742)	m. 1684	Sarah Woodson (1665-1716)
Benjamin Mosby (1690-1774)	m. 1725	Mary Poindexter (c. 1700-1744)
Littleberry Mosby Sr. (1729-1809)	m. 1748	Elizabeth Netherland (1726-1769)
Wade Mosby (1761-1834)	m. 1785	Susannah Truehart (1766-1855)
Littleberry H. Mosby (1789-1848)	m. 1814	Louisa P. Storrs (1792-1864)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818-1867)	m. 1851	Eliza G. Burks (1830-1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858-1890)	m. 1876	John M. Montgomery (1841-1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884-1957)	m. 1905	Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878-1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909-2002)	m. 1935	John H. Bryan Jr. (1908-1989)

Our Mosby heritage begins with **Edward (Edd) Mosby (1600-1663)**, who came (perhaps in 1639) to the colony of Virginia from England (perhaps Yorkshire). It has been reported that he served for a while as an indentured servant to repay debts to his benefactor. Edd Mosby lived in Charles City, Virginia, and became a successful tobacco planter. He was a vestryman at the Westover Church at Westover Plantation on the James River. He is buried in Westover Church Cemetery in an unmarked grave next to the parents of President William Henry Harrison (1773-1874).

Edd Mosby's only son was **Richard Mosby (1626-1706)**, who came over from England with his father. Richard Mosby returned to England, but later came back to Virginia when colonist Richard Ballard paid for his passage to return. In 1659 Richard married **Judith Parsons (1629-_____)**, a Scotswoman, and in 1660 their only known son, **Edward Mosby (1660-1742)**, was born in Henrico County. Edward Mosby was the first of six generations of my Mosby forefathers who were born and lived in Virginia.

Edward Mosby (1660-1742)	See pages 275-76
Benjamin Mosby (1690-1774)	See pages 277-78
Colonel Littleberry Mosby Sr. (1729-1809)	See pages 279-80
Captain Wade Mosby (1761-1834)	See pages 281-82
Dr. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789-1848)	See page 283
Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818-1867)	See pages 272-73

3. EDWARD MOSBY: QUAKER AND COFFIN MAKER

In about 1684, **Edward Mosby (1660-1742)**, my seventh great-grandfather, married **Sarah Woodson (1665-1716)**, the daughter of **Colonel Robert Woodson (1634-1716)** and the granddaughter of **Dr. John Woodson (1586-1644)**, who came to America in 1619 from England. The Mosbys lived in Henrico County in the Curles area along the James River, near land owned by **Robert Woodson Sr. (1660-1729)**, Sarah's brother. From 1685 to 1708, Edward and Sarah Woodson Mosby had eight children, the third being **Benjamin Mosby (1690-1774)**.

Sarah Woodson Mosby was a very devout Quaker and converted her husband to become a member of that religious sect. During their marriage, the Quakers were deeply persecuted by the Virginia Anglicans, who were in the majority. In fact, many laws were passed to discourage and even ban Quakerism. One account, found on the Internet, offers details about this problem.*

Some Quaker couples were even prosecuted for living together unlawfully since the Anglican Church did not recognize Quaker marriage ceremonies. John Pleasants [1644-1698/my ancestor] and his wife who were Edward Mosby's neighbors were fined severely for following their Quaker lifestyle. Their fines included 240 Pounds each for 'elicit cohabitation' and 20 Pounds each for every month they did not attend Parish Church Anglican services. In addition, the Pleasants were fined 2,000 pounds of tobacco for not having their children baptized in the Anglican Church and 500 pounds of tobacco for allowing Quaker meetings to be conducted in their home.

*See "Edward Mosby," on Ancestry.com, Ancestor of the Month, January 2010.

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Edward Mosby was a very skilled carpenter and was one of the major coffin builders in the colony of Virginia. In 1701 he helped to build the first Quaker meetinghouse in Henrico County.

Sarah Woodson Mosby died in 1716 and left Edward with several underage children. Edward quickly searched for a wife and on August 12, 1716, he married Henry Watkins's (1660–1714) widow, Mary Watkins (1661–_____), at the Quaker meetinghouse. Witnesses to that wedding are recorded in Quaker minutes and include many Mosbys, Pleasants, and Woodsons. Edward and Mary Watkins Mosby had no children.

On July 5, 1724, Edward Mosby was excommunicated from “the society of people called Quakers.” The circumstances leading up to that event are recounted below.*

By c. 1718, the Quaker congregation had grown so large that it was divided into two groups. Mary and Edward were in the newly formed White Oaks Swamp Congregation. Since it was the “younger” of the two groups, the White Oaks Swamp Congregation had no church buildings. Thus for four years it held its meetings at Edward Mosby’s home. In 1722 the White Oaks Swamp group decided to build its own meetinghouse. They contracted with Edward to head the work and agreed to pay him 15 Pounds when work began and an additional 15 Pounds upon completion of the work, if he documented the additional cost. Unfortunately, additional costs ran higher than 15 Pounds. When Edward presented his bill of total costs, the congregation refused to pay. Finally, the disagreement was settled and the congregation paid 15 Pounds, 40 Shillings. According to the minutes of the Quaker meeting, Edward was satisfied with the settlement. In actuality, he was not satisfied at all. In fact, he was so angry about the settlement that he stopped attending Quaker meetings. He spoke out against the church leaders. He refused to reconcile. The result of his behavior was that he was excommunicated.

When Edward died in 1742, no heirs appeared in court to claim his estate.

Thus, the sheriff ordered that his land and possessions be sold, the money going to the county. It was a sad ending.

4. BENJAMIN MOSBY: SHOEMAKER AND JAILER

Benjamin Mosby (1690–1774), my sixth great-grandfather, was the third of eight children of **Edward Mosby (1660–1742)** and **Sarah Woodson Mosby (1665–1716)**.

In my mother’s archives, the following is said about Benjamin Mosby:

It has been said that Benjamin Mosby was a man of good education, but was too poor to buy property so took up the business of making shoes. He became suitor for the hand of Mary, daughter of Benjamin Poindexter, a planter of new Kent County, Virginia and married her against the wishes of her family who were wealthy and looked down on him because of his trade.

In 1741 Benjamin Mosby purchased land in Goochland County, Virginia (later Cumberland and then Powhatan County), and built a house today known as Mosby’s Tavern. The house remained in the Mosby family for the next three generations. Today it is on the National Register of Historic Places and is a residence owned by Mr. and Mrs. Don Saunders of Powhatan County, Virginia.



Mosby’s Tavern, also called Old Cumberland Courthouse and the Littleberry Mosby House.

From 1741 to 1774, the house operated as a home, a tavern, a courthouse, and a prison. It is a place of significant events and a well-known landmark in colonial Virginia. The house was sold in the early 19th century as the great-grandchildren of Benjamin Mosby moved westward.

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Benjamin Mosby was an active participant in the social and political life of Cumberland County, Virginia, during the height of the colonial period. In 1732 Benjamin Mosby was “the surveyor of the roads” in Goochland County. In 1747 Goochland County appointed him captain of the county militia as well as justice of the peace. Two years later, in 1749, he became a leader in the formation of a new county, called Cumberland.

At a meeting in May 1749 held at Benjamin Mosby’s house, Benjamin

... agreed to build a courthouse, prison, pillory and stocks ... at his own expense for the use of this county ... and provide ... convenience for holding courts at this place. Benjamin served as the county jailor beginning in 1751 and Benjamin’s residence serves as a tavern and as the Cumberland County Courthouse was also fitted up to be the prison “to confine debtors and all persons guilty of any breach of peace laws.” Benjamin spent the next several years as an ordinary.... The county compensated him for his services including cleaning and repairs and for guarding the prison through the last years of his life.

Benjamin died in Cumberland County, Virginia, on June 11, 1774, less than a year before the beginning of the American Revolutionary War.

Incidentally, Benjamin Mosby is the grandparent I share with perhaps the most famous Mosby in American history, Colonel John Singleton Mosby (1833–1916), “one of the great heroes of the lost cause.” Called the “Gray Ghost,” he led Mosby’s Rangers in exploitations throughout the Civil War. He is related to us, but not very closely. John Singleton Mosby is the fifth cousin of my great-grandmother **Caroline Pleasants Mosby Montgomery (1858–1890)**. He is, therefore, my fifth cousin three times removed.

5. COLONEL LITTLEBERRY C. MOSBY SR.: FROM COUNTY SHERIFF TO GENERAL

Littleberry C. Mosby Sr. (1729–1809), my fifth great-grandfather, was the third of eight children of **Benjamin Mosby (1690–1774)** and **Mary Poindexter Mosby (c. 1700–1744)**. He was born at Font Hill in Cumberland (later Powhatan) County, Virginia. He lived most of his life at Mosby’s Tavern, also called the Littleberry Mosby House. Today a historic marker at Mosby’s Tavern says, “General Littleberry Mosby was the most notable figure in early Powhatan politics.”

In 1748 Littleberry C. Mosby Sr. married **Elizabeth Netherland (1726–1769)**, the daughter of the county sheriff, **John Netherland (1690–c. 1740)**. They had eight children, including **Littleberry C. Mosby Jr. (1757–c. 1821)**, who was a captain in the American Revolutionary War and became a brigadier general in the War of 1812. Their seventh child was **Wade Mosby (1761–1834)**, a captain in the American Revolutionary War.

In 1772, after Elizabeth Netherland Mosby died in 1769, Littleberry married Judith Michaux (1740–1781), and they had five more children. In 1784 Littleberry was married for the third time to a widow, Martha Thomas, née Scott (1733–1794), a sister of General Charles Scott (1739–1813), who fought alongside General George Washington (1732–1799) in the American Revolutionary War.

Littleberry C. Mosby Sr. followed his father’s activity in the county, principally in politics. In 1759 he was commissioner of peace for Cumberland County. He served as sheriff, under-sheriff, and deputy sheriff of Cumberland County. In 1775 he was a member of the Committee of Safety, which convened at the Cumberland Old Courthouse and drafted a resolution, that was “among the first open and audible calls for independence made by any representative group in the colonies.”

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Littleberry C. Mosby's career in the American Revolutionary War is stated as follows:

His service included Military Supply Officer (1777), Colonel (1777) and County Lieutenant (1780–1781). These positions required Littleberry to be in close contact with Governor Thomas Jefferson [1743–1826] regarding the state of the county militia. Among their correspondence was a highly complimentary letter from Jefferson regarding Littleberry's prudence and the service of his command. This letter was read when the State Legislature appointed Littleberry a General in 1803. Littleberry's last political appointment lasted two terms in the Virginia House of Delegates for Powhatan from 1779 to 1782. He served his terms under speakers Benjamin Harrison (1726–1791), Richard Henry Lee (1732–1794) and John Tyler (1747–1813).

In other records, it is stated that, during the American Revolutionary War, Littleberry C. Mosby was a prisoner in Savannah, Georgia, from July to December 1779. He was released in an exchange of prisoners.

General Littleberry C. Mosby Sr. died at age 79 at Font Hill in Powhatan County, Virginia.

6. CAPTAIN WADE MOSBY: YOUNG REVOLUTIONARY WAR SOLDIER

Wade Mosby (1761–1834) was the seventh of eight children of **Colonel Littleberry C. Mosby Sr. (1729–1809)** and **Elizabeth Netherland (1726–1769)**. Wade Mosby served in the American Revolutionary War, his first tour of duty occurring at age 16. Captain Wade Mosby's Revolutionary War career is revealed in a pension application that he made in 1832, at age 71, shortly after Congress established war pensions. Excerpts from his application are below.

His first tour of duty was in or about the year 1777 or 1778 when he united with a number of his brother students then at Hampton Sydney Academy, soon after it was established as a college in Prince Edward County, Virginia. He became part of a volunteer company formed by one of his professors, John B. Smith, who became their captain. They marched to Williamsburg and joined the troops stationed there. To the best of his recollection, this tour lasted about six weeks when they were discharged and sent home. He was then about sixteen years of age.

His second tour was also about six weeks and about a year after the first when the same company again volunteered and marched under the same officers to Petersburg.

After that tour, he quit college and during the fall of the year 1779, or the spring of 1780 his brother, General Littleberry Mosby, Jr. [then Captain], raised a volunteer company of Cavalry. Wade Mosby was by that time a Second Lieutenant. They marched to Petersburg and joined the army commanded by General Lawson.

Wade Mosby was in the Battle of Guilford on March 15, 1781. A short time afterwards, he performed his fifth and last tour of duty, which grew out of the following circumstances:

During this time, Mr. [Thomas] Jefferson acted as Governor of Virginia, he addressed a letter to Wade Mosby's brother, General Littleberry Mosby, Jr., calling upon him to raise as many Cavalry as he could and come to the assistance of the Marquis de Lafayette. Two companies were raised and Wade Mosby commanded one of them. They marched to Petersburg and remained there until forced to evacuate the place by the appearance of General Phillips. To his recollection, this tour lasted between two and three months and was the last regular service performed by Wade Mosby.

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However, upon his return home his father, Littleberry C. Mosby, Sr., being the militia commandant of the county, kept Wade Mosby at irregular periods frequently engaged in Vidette Service watching the movement of Lord Cornwallis' army during the time of his being about Richmond and above there, which might have been from four to five weeks.*

In April 1785, 23-year-old Captain Wade Mosby married 18-year-old **Susannah Truehart (1766–1855)** of Hanover County, Virginia. Susannah Truehart was the daughter of **Daniel Truehart (c. 1739–_____)** and **Mary Garland (c. 1740–1781)** of Hanover County, Virginia. Daniel Truehart's father was **Aaron Bartholomew Truehart (1700–1767)**, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland, and migrated to Virginia in the early 18th century.

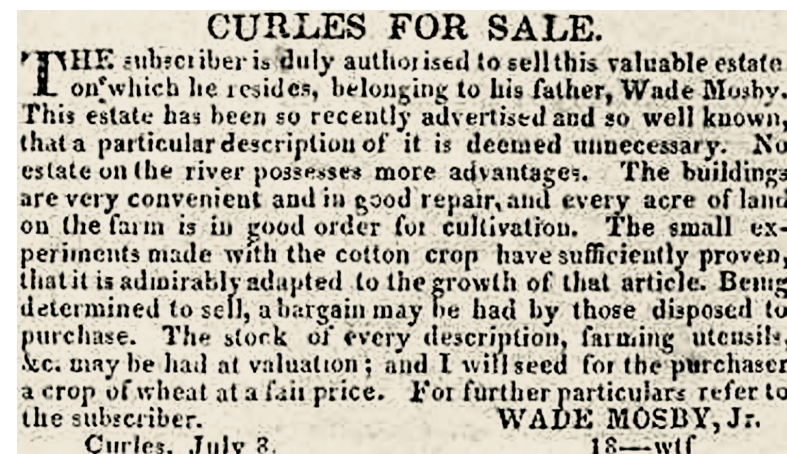
Wade and Susannah Truehart Mosby had 12 children. The third child was my third great-grandfather **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848)**.

At some time, Wade Mosby acquired property at Curles in Henrico County where his great-grandfather had lived in the 17th century. An advertisement for the sale of his Curles property appeared in *The Richmond Enquirer* in 1826.

Captain Wade Mosby died at age 73, on June 1, 1834, in Columbia, Tennessee.

Susannah Truehart Mosby died in Powhatan County, Virginia, on October 21, 1855, at age 89. She received a widow's pension for many years.

Wade Mosby Jr. (1793–1872) is the fifth child/third son of Wade Mosby and Susannah Truehart. He is my fourth great-uncle. He placed this advertisement in The Richmond Enquirer in 1826.



*Term used for mounted sentry in advance of the outposts of an army.

7. DR. LITTLEBERRY HARDEMAN MOSBY: AN OBITUARY

Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848), my third great-grandfather, was the third of 12 children of **Captain Wade Mosby (1761–1834)** and **Susannah Truehart Mosby (1766–1855)**. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby was born in Powhatan County, Virginia. He studied medicine and graduated at age 20 from William and Mary College in Williamsburg, Virginia. He was an army surgeon in the War of 1812. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby married **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)** on May 12, 1814.

Littleberry Hardeman Mosby's obituary appeared in the Greenville, Mississippi, newspaper in 1848.

In Mississippi on the 6th of May, 1848 at the residence of his daughter, Mrs. Susan [Pleasants Mosby] McCutcheon [1815–1895], Dr. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby died in the 58th year of his age.

The deceased was long a citizen of Louisville, Kentucky, and an experienced and highly respectable practitioner of physic. He held for several years the responsible office of postmaster in this city [Louisville], the duties of which he discharged faithfully and to the satisfaction of the public. His upright and consistent walk was long noted here, and will be remembered especially in the Social Circle to which he belonged as illustrating the character of the religion he possessed.

Dr. Mosby was by birth and education a Virginian, and possessed all the warmth of feeling supposed to attach to Southern character, but his ardor was all in the humane and gentler feelings, for he seemed singularly free from what is termed passion. He had schooled his temper in the principles of our blessed religion, and these he exemplified by his daily walk. His mind was an active one, and had been improved by thorough preliminary and professional education. He was one of the most social of men, and loved his friends as men seldom do. It might well be expected that the end of such a man would be peace. He died at peace with the world and in full assurance of a blessed resurrection. His letters, for a long time before his end came, breathed a spirit of one who had become released from the cares and passions of earth, and like Paul was "ready to be offered up." He has left behind him a wife and large family of children, to whom such a name is the most inestimable of legacies. This couple had nine children.

GERVAS STORRS MOSBY | ELIZA GLOVER BURKS**PAGES 74–75****8. OUR MOSBY CONNECTION TO RHODES COLLEGE**

For over 80 years, my family has had a relationship with Rhodes College, a historically Presbyterian liberal arts school in Memphis, Tennessee. From 1945 to 1985, the college was known as Southwestern at Memphis.

During four months in mid-1927, my grandmother **Caroline Mosby Montgomery Wilkerson (1884–1957)** and her five children, including my 18-year-old mother, lived in Robb Hall at the college. They were refugees during the great Mississippi River flood, which had inundated their home at Clifton Plantation.

In 1954 my mother persuaded me to go to college there, and both Neville and I are 1958 graduates of Southwestern at Memphis. My sister Kitty attended there for one year (1960–61). My niece Catherine (1982); my son John III (1983); my son-in-law Lee French (1983); and my daughter Margaret (1984) all graduated from Rhodes College. Neville, John III, and I have at different times served on the Board of Trustees of Rhodes College, and the Campus Life Center at Rhodes College is named for my mother, **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002)**.

I have always known that the origin of this relationship was a connection to Dr. Charles E. Diehl (1875–1964), who was the president of Southwestern at Memphis from 1917 to 1949. To explain that connection, I must go somewhat deeply into our Mosby ancestry, wherein lies the root of our family relationship with Rhodes College.

My third great-grandparents **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848)** and **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)** were Virginians who lived in Louisville, Kentucky. They had nine children, four of whom came to live in Mississippi. The four were:

Susan Pleasants Mosby (1815–1895), who moved to near Greenville, Mississippi, after she married (December 22, 1835) a Mississippi plantation owner named James McCutchen, who was born in Ohio. After his death in the late 1840s, Susan P. Mosby married Dr. L. L. Taylor of Panola Plantation on Deer Creek. They had a daughter, Susan Elizabeth (Betty) Taylor (1849–1894).

Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1816–1876), who also moved to Mississippi when she married, became the second wife of Augustus William McAllister (1800–1871) of Wildwood Plantation.

Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818–1867), my great-great-grandfather, in about 1851 moved to live at Loughborough Plantation, which was inherited by his wife, **Eliza Glover Burks (1830–1862)**.

Paulina Pleasants Mosby (1820–1910), a spinster, moved to Loughborough to care for the children and later the grandchildren of her brother Gervas Storrs Mosby.

In the winter of 1868, on account of floods at Panola Plantation, Susan P. Mosby Taylor, my third great-aunt, and her daughter, Betty Taylor, moved to Loughborough to live with their sister and aunt, Paulina Mosby and **Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890)**, my then 10-year-old great-grandmother. While there, Betty Taylor met Henry Tillinghast Ireys (1837–1923), a native New Englander (he changed his name from Irish to Ireys), who owned Mound Pleasant Plantation adjoining Loughborough. On May 20, 1869, they married at Loughborough Plantation. Betty and Henry T. Ireys had six children; among them was Catherine Bailey “Kate” Ireys (c. 1880–1955), the second cousin of my grandmother Caroline Mosby Montgomery.

In 1905 Charles E. Diehl, a West Virginian, became the minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Greenville, Mississippi. Later that year, he officiated at the wedding of my grandmother, Caroline Mosby Montgomery, to **Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)**. While in Greenville, Charles E. Diehl met Kate Ireys. They were married on March 24, 1909, two years after Charles Diehl moved to Clarksville, Tennessee, to become the minister of the First Presbyterian Church there.

In Clarksville, Charles E. Diehl earned a Doctor of Divinity Degree at Southwestern Presbyterian University in 1910. In 1917 he became president of the school, and in 1925 Dr. Diehl moved the college to Memphis, 200 miles southwest of Clarksville. The school was initially called simply Southwestern College. In 1945 “at Memphis” was added to its name.

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In 1954, five years after Dr. Diehl's retirement, I matriculated at Southwestern at Memphis. Shortly thereafter, I visited with Mrs. Diehl, my second cousin twice removed, and with Dr. Diehl, who had lost his eyesight and was incapacitated at that time.

Today Dr. Charles E. Diehl's legacy, Rhodes College, is a highly regarded small liberal arts college.



Dr. Charles E. Diehl, 1940.



Catherine Ireys Diehl, 1930s.

9. GERVAS STORRS AND THE GABRIEL CONSPIRACY

Gervas Storrs (1771–1848), my fourth great-grandfather, was the only son of **Joshua Storrs (1737–1779)** and **Susannah Pleasants (1739–1779)**, who married at a Friend's Meeting on March 7, 1762. Joshua Storrs was a Quaker immigrant from Yorkshire in England, and Susannah Pleasants belonged to a Quaker family that had come from East Anglia in the 17th century. Joshua and Susannah Pleasants Storrs lived at Hunslet Hall, about five miles north of Richmond.

In 1779 Joshua Storrs left a will that instructed that his son, Gervas, should be sent to England to live with relatives to get a proper education. Gervas did so and decided to return later to America.

In 1791 Gervas Storrs married his first cousin, **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1793)**. They had at least one daughter, my third great-grandmother **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)**, who married **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848)** in 1814. Susannah Randolph Pleasants died on December 12, 1793.

In about 1794, Gervas Storrs married his second wife, **Martha F. Truehart (1775–1860)**, who coincidentally was my fifth great-aunt. She was the younger sister of **Captain Wade Mosby's (1761–1834)** wife, **Susannah Truehart (1766–1855)**.

Gervas Storrs and Martha Truehart had nine children. Their daughter, **Mary Virginia Storrs (1795–_____)**, married **Wade Mobsy Jr. (1793–1872)**, the brother of Littleberry Hardeman Mosby. Gervas and Martha Truehart Storrs had one son, **Algernon Sidney Storrs (1814–1877)**, who inherited Hunslet Hall.

Gervas Storrs died in 1848, and is buried at the Emanuel Episcopal Church Cemetery in Brook Hill, Henrico County.

**Wade Mosby Jr. second married Mary Brown in 1830, and third married Mrs. Elizabeth Yeatman.*

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In 1800 my fourth great-grandfather Gervas Storrs was an examining magistrate in the case called the “Gabriel Conspiracy.” The case is named for a gifted black slave named Gabriel (1776–1800), who attempted to organize one of the most far-reaching slave rebellions in U.S. history.

The conspiracy was an elaborate plan to organize an uprising of black slaves, free blacks, and a few working-class whites. The objective was to seize Capitol Square in Richmond, Virginia; take Governor James Monroe (1758–1831) hostage; and bargain with authorities. The rebellion, planned for late August 1800, was foiled, mostly by leaks from slaves who told their masters about the event. Many slaves, including Gabriel, were arrested and trials without jury were set.

In the Library of Virginia, there is a letter sent by Gervas Storrs to Virginia Governor James Monroe on September 8, 1800. It reads:

To the Governor of Virginia at Richmond

Sir,

This is to certify that I, in conjunction with Joseph Seiden, were examining magistrates in the case of negroes charged with conspiracy & a design to rebel against the white people; & from every incident which appeared at the examination, I do not hesitate to say that Gabriel, the property of Thomas H. Prosser of Henrico County was clearly proven to be the main spring and chief mover in the contemplated rebellion. Given under our hands this 8th day of September 1800.

Gervas Storrs

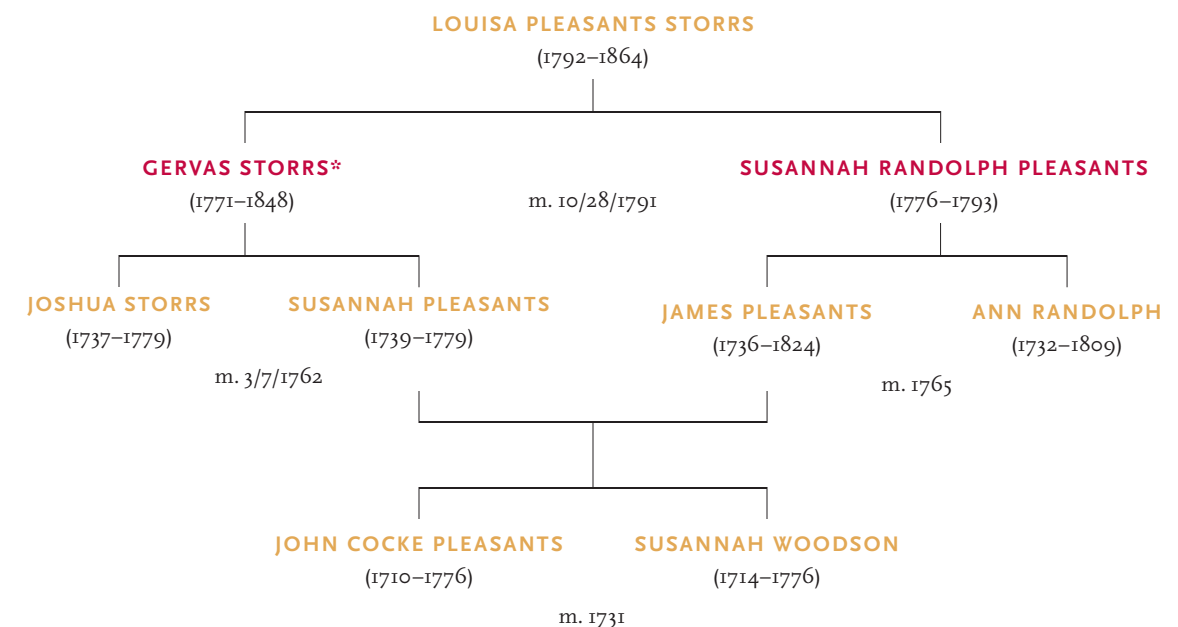
Joseph Seiden

Over the next two months, 25 slaves were hanged, including Gabriel. During that time, Governor James Monroe wrote a letter to Vice President Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826) and asked his advice about the hangings. Jefferson responded that there was “a strong sentiment that there [had] been hanging enough.” Jefferson then advocated exportation as the proper punishment in such circumstances.

In 2002, more than 200 years later, the Commonwealth of Virginia issued an official pardon of Gabriel.

10. A MARRIAGE OF FIRST COUSINS

Gervas Storrs (1771–1848), my fourth great-grandfather, at age 20 married his first cousin **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1793)**, who was 15 years old. Their daughter, **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)**, is my third great-grandmother. The relationship between Gervas Storrs and Susannah Randolph Pleasants is shown in the diagram below.



*Gervas Storrs was married for the second time to Martha Truehart (1774–1860) in about 1794. They had nine children. Incidentally, Martha Truehart’s older sister, Susannah Truehart (1766–1855), was married to Captain Wade Mosby (1761–1834) in 1785. They are my fourth great-grandparents.

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11. OUR WOODSON HERITAGE

Dr. John Woodson (1586–1644)	m. 1619	Sarah Winston (1590–1660)
Colonel Robert Woodson (1634–1716)	m. 1656	Elizabeth Ferris (1638–1689)
John Woodson (1658–1715)	m. 1679	Judith Tarleton (1662–1714)
Tarleton Woodson (1681–1761)	m. 1710	Ursula Fleming (1685–1731)
Susannah Woodson (1714–1776)	m. 1731	John Cocke Pleasants (1710–1776)
James Pleasants (1736–1824)	m. 1765	Ann Randolph (1732–1809)
Susannah R. Pleasants (1776–1793)	m. 1791	Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)
Louisa P. Storrs (1792–1864)	m. 1814	Littleberry H. Mosby (1789–1848)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818–1867)	m. 1851	Eliza G. Burks (1830–1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)	m. 1876	John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)	m. 1905	Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)	m. 1935	John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

Dr. John Woodson (1586–1644) is both my ninth great-grandfather (through our Mosby line) and twice my 10th great-grandfather (through our Storrs/Pleasants line). He is one of my earliest known ancestors to migrate to America.

With his wife, **Sarah Winston (1590–1660)**, Dr. John Woodson, a surgeon in a company of British officers, arrived at Jamestown, on the James River in the colony of Virginia in 1619. They came one year before the Mayflower came to Plymouth in Massachusetts.

Dr. John Woodson was born in 1586 in Dorchester, Devonshire, England. He graduated from St. John's College at Oxford in 1604. John Woodson's wife, Sarah Winston, whom he married in or before 1619, was a Quaker. It has been reported that he went to America so that she did not have to leave the Quaker faith.

Their journey to America began on January 29, 1619. It lasted about 80 days before they landed at Jamestown on April 19, 1619. They sailed on the ship *George*.

John and Sarah Woodson settled at a place now called Flowerdew Hundred, which is on the south side of the James River, some 30 miles above Jamestown, in what is now Prince George County. Their two sons, born at Flowerdew Hundred, were **John Woodson (1632–1684)** and **Robert Woodson (1634–1716)**.

The fate of Dr. John Woodson is a story much written about in early Virginia history. One account is as follows:

*On April 19, 1644, Dr. John Woodson was killed in sight of his house by Indians who had called him out apparently to see the sick. After killing him, they attacked his home which was successfully defended by his wife and a shoemaker, Ligon. Ligon killed 7 of the Indians with an old muzzleloading gun 8 feet long. The gun is now one of the prized possessions of the Virginia Historical Society. Mrs. Sarah Woodson killed 2 Indians who came down the chimney, one with boiling water and one with a roasting spit. The boys, John and Robert, were concealed during the attack under a tub and in a potato pit, respectively.**

The Indians were led by Chief Opechancano, who was the son of Powhatan [father of Pocahontas]. He had killed 300 settlers on April 18th, the day before. Opechancano had led the Massacres of 1622 at Martin's Hundred. Several weeks later [in 1644], Opechancano was captured by the colonists and was executed. The Indians were permanently driven out of that part of Virginia as a result of the uprisings of 1644.

After John Woodson's death, Sarah married two more times, to a Dunwell and then to a Johnson. She died and left a will, which is recorded on January 17, 1660.

*At Woodson family reunions, descendants are referred to as either "Wash Tub Woodsons" or "Potato Hole Woodsons." As descendants of Robert Woodson, we are "Potato Hole Woodsons."

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12. OUR ISHAM HERITAGE

Robert De Isham (1377–1424)

Robert Isham (1402–1475)

William Isham (1427–1510)

Thomas Isham (1456–1547)

Euseby Isham (1486–1546)

Gregory Isham (1520–1558)

Euseby Isham (1552–1628)

William Isham (1588–1630)

Captain Henry Isham (1628–1678)

Mary Isham (1658–1735)

Isham Randolph (1685–1742)

Ann Randolph (1732–1809)

Susannah R. Pleasants (1776–1793)

Louisa P. Storrs (1792–1864)

Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818–1867)

Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)

Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)

Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)

m.

m. 1455

m. 1485

m. 1515

m. 1549

m. 1579

m. 1625

m. 1656

m. c. 1675

m. 1717

m. 1765

m. 1791

m. 1814

m. 1850

m. 1876

m. 1905

m. 1935

Elizabeth Knuston

Elizabeth Bramspeth (1427–1478)

Ellen DeVere (1456–_____)

Anne Polton (1495–1546)

Elizabeth Dale (1529–1559)

Ann Borlase (1559–1627)*

Mary Brett (1604–1682)

Katherine Banks Royall (1627–1686)

William Randolph I (1650–1711)

Jane Lilburne Rogers (1692–1760)

James Pleasants (1736–1824)

Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)

Littleberry H. Mosby (1789–1848)

Eliza G. Burks (1830–1862)

John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)

Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)

John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

Our Isham heritage provides us with a deep line of ancestors. A man named **Robert De Isham (1377–1424)**, who was born in the 14th century in England, is one of our earliest known ancestors. He is my 16th great-grandfather.

Incidentally, we all have 262,144 ancestors called 16th great-grandparents.

My grandchildren, who can trace their lineage back to Robert De Isham, 20 generations ago, have 1,048,576 18th great-grandparents. This is simply the power of doubling one for exactly 20 times.

Our Isham family records originate in the village of Pytchley (population 496) in the County of Northamptonshire in the English Midlands, north of London. There we find records of nine generations of Ishams dating back to 1377.

My eighth great-grandfather **Henry Isham (1628–1678)** was born in Pytchley, in the county of Northamptonshire in England. He migrated to Virginia in 1656 and resided at Bermuda Hundred in Henrico County.

Shortly after Henry Isham arrived in Virginia, he married **Katherine Banks Royall (1627–1686)**, who was born in Canterbury, England. She was the 27-year-old widow of **Joseph Royall (1602–1655)**, a prominent early settler, who had come to Virginia from England at age 20 in 1622, aboard the ship *Charitie*. Katherine Banks was the third wife of Joseph Royall.

Incidentally, Joseph and Katherine Banks Royall had a daughter, **Katherine Royall Perrin (1642–1686)**, who is a paternal ancestor of mine. Thus, Katherine Banks Royall Isham is my double eighth great-grandmother.

After they married, Henry Isham and Katherine Banks Royall Isham had three children. The first was **Henry Isham Jr. (1657–1678)**, who died at sea. Their daughter **Mary Isham (1658–1735)** is my seventh great-grandmother. She married **William Randolph I (1650–1711)** in about 1675, and thus became the matriarch of the Randolph family in America. Another daughter, **Ann Isham (1660–_____)**, married Francis Eppes (1658–1718) in 1678.

Henry Isham became a large landowner in Virginia. He died in 1678, at age 50, at his plantation at Bermuda Hundred. That same year his 21-year-old son Henry Isham Jr. died unmarried. In the will of Henry Isham Jr., which is recorded in Henrico County, he left much of the Isham property to William and Mary Isham Randolph. Katherine Banks Royall Isham died in late 1686. Her will, dated October 10, 1686, is also on record today in Henrico County. It has been said that, when she died, Katherine Banks Royall Isham was the wealthiest woman in America.

*Descended from William the Lion, King of Scotland (d. 1214). Also descended from Henry II, King of England (d. 1189). See Gary Boyd Roberts's *Ancestors of American Presidents*.

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13. OUR PLEASANTS HERITAGE

William Pleasants (d. 1583)	m. 1556	Katherine Patras
Robert Pleasants (1556–1591)	m.	Johan
John Pleasants I (1588–1640)	m.	Margaret
John Pleasants II (1618–1666)	m.	Katherine (1618–_____)
John Pleasants III (1644–1698)	m. 1670	Jane Larcome Tucker (1638–1708)
Joseph Pleasants (1674–1725)	m. 1699	Martha Cocke (1676–1757)
John Cocke Pleasants (1710–1776)	m. 1731	Susannah Woodson (1714–1776)
James Pleasants (1736–1824)	m. 1765	Ann Randolph (1732–1809)
Susannah R. Pleasants (1776–1800)	m. 1791	Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)
Louisa P. Storrs (1792–1864)	m. 1814	Littleberry H. Mosby (1789–1848)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818–1867)	m. 1851	Eliza G. Burks (1830–1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)	m. 1876	John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)	m. 1905	Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)	m. 1935	John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

William Pleasants is the first recorded ancestor of our Pleasants heritage. He was from All Saints and St. Paul’s Parish in Norwich, East Anglia, England. The next four generations of Pleasants were born in Norwich, which is in the east of England.

Two of these ancestors are listed as worsted weavers.

In about 1665, at age 21, **John Pleasants III (1644–1698)** emigrated from Norwich to Virginia. He was a Quaker. In 1670 he married **Jane Larcome (1638–1708)**, who was the widow of a sea captain named Samuel Tucker. John and Jane Larcome Pleasants had three sons; among them was **Joseph Pleasants (1674–1725)**.

In 1699 Joseph Pleasants married **Martha Cocke (1676–1757)**, whose family is deeply rooted in colonial Virginia (see Cocke Heritage, pages 301–03). Joseph Pleasants and Martha Cocke had eight children; among them was **John Cocke Pleasants (1710–1776)**.

Our seventh-generation Pleasants ancestor, John Cocke Pleasants, lived at Picquinoque in Henrico County. In 1731 he married **Susannah Woodson (1714–1776)**, who was the great-great-granddaughter of **Dr. John Woodson (1586–1644)** of Jamestown, Virginia (see Woodson Heritgate, pages 290–91).

Two of the eight children of John Cocke Pleasants and Susannah Woodson Pleasants are direct antecedents of mine. They are **Susannah Pleasants (1739–1779)**, who married **Joshua Storrs (1737–1779)**, and **James Pleasants (1736–1824)**, who married **Ann Randolph (1732–1809)**.

James Pleasants, my fifth great-grandfather, had a home named Contention in Goochland County, northwest of Richmond, Virginia. He and his wife, Ann Randolph Pleasants, had seven children, one being **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1800)**, my fourth great-grandmother. Her older brother, **James I. Pleasants (1769–1836)**, became governor of Virginia (1822–25) after serving as a U.S. Senator (1819–22). He is my fifth great-uncle.

In his will, recorded March 21, 1825, James Pleasants left his plantation and estate to his oldest son, Governor James I. Pleasants. He also provided for monetary gifts to his other children and to his granddaughter, **Louisa Pleasants Storrs Mosby (1792–1864)**. An excerpt from his obituary, published September 28, 1824, states:

Died – At his residence in Goochland, on Thursday, the 23rd inst., in his 86th year. James Pleasants, father of James Pleasants, the present Governor of this State. He was a man whose intellects were uncommonly strong, and few persons possessed a more extended knowledge of men and books. His temper was excellent, his disposition kind and affectionate and he died in a feeling of universal good will to his fellow men.

After nine generations, our Pleasants line of ancestors ended with Susannah Randolph Pleasants, who married her first cousin **Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)** in 1791. The Pleasants name did continue in my family for three more generations and is last noted as the middle name of my great-grandmother **Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890)**.

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14. OUR STORRS HERITAGE

William Storrs (1523–1557)	
Robert Storrs (1549–1588)	m. 1575 Mabel Hammond (1554–1582)
Cordall Storrs (1576–1616)	m. 1604 Isabell Radshaw (1583–1610)
William Storrs (1610–1643)	m. 1630 Mary (1615–_____)
William Storrs (1638–_____)	m. 1670 Sarah Sykes (1638–1703)
Joshua Storrs (1683–_____)	m. 1707 Mary Moss (d. 1711)
William Storrs (1711–_____)	m. 1736 Hannah Elam (1713–1756)
Joshua Storrs (1737–1779)	m. 1762 Susannah Pleasants (1739–1779)
Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)	m. 1791 Susannah R. Pleasants (1776–1793)
Louisa P. Storrs (1792–1864)	m. 1814 Littleberry H. Mosby (1789–1848)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818–1867)	m. 1851 Eliza Glover Burks (1830–1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)	m. 1876 John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)	m. 1905 Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878–1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)	m. 1935 John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

Most of our knowledge about our earliest Storrs ancestry is derived from a book written by Charles Storrs 125 years ago, in 1886: *The Storrs Family: Genealogical and Other Memoranda*.

The Storrs family, from which we descend, originated in Nottinghamshire, a north-central shire of England. This county, with its fabled Sherwood Forest, is the traditional home of Robin Hood, the English folklore hero.

For the earliest of our Storrs antecedents, there are wills recorded and dated in England. Our fifth Storrs ancestor, **William Storrs (1638–_____)**, came under the influence of the preaching of George Fox (1634–1691) and joined the Society of Friends in the adjoining county of Derbyshire. George Fox was the rebellious founder of the Quakers and had a major influence on historical figures such as Oliver Cromwell (1599–1658) and William Penn (1644–1718). For the next few generations, the Storrses apparently were a distinguished Quaker family in the north-central part of England.

William Storrs (1711–_____), the seventh in our Storrs line, lived at Hunslet Hall, his residence in Leeds, England, in West Yorkshire. He was married to **Hannah Elam (1713–1756)**. Their son, **Joshua Storrs (1737–1779)**, reportedly because of being excommunicated by the Quakers, migrated to Virginia, where he established a home about five miles north of Richmond, Virginia. He called his home Hunslet Hall, named for his early home in Leeds. On March 7, 1762, Joshua Storrs married **Susannah Pleasants (1739–1779)** at the White Swamp Oak Friends Meetinghouse in Henrico County, Virginia.

An account in Charles Storrs’s 1886 book states the following:

The children of Joshua and Susannah Pleasants Storrs were Gervas, born in 1770 [more probably 1771], and two daughters, Hannah and Susannah. In Joshua Storrs’ will dated October 18, 1779, after disposing of his Negroes and of his landed estate, he desires that his “son, Gervas, be sent to Gervas and Mary Storrs [his uncle and aunt] in Leeds town, England by the first safe opportunity in order that he may be well educated.” Joshua Storrs is said to have been “a wealthy merchant and the highest of gentlemen.”

Gervas, only son of Joshua and Susannah Storrs, went to England, had many tempting offers from his father’s relatives to remain in England, but preferred to live in America.

On October 28, 1791, **Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)**, after returning to America, married his first cousin **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1793)**, the daughter of **James Pleasants (1736–1824)** and **Ann Randolph (1732–1809)**. Their first daughter was **Louisa Pleasants Storrs (1792–1864)**, who was born on October 15, 1792. She is my third great-grandmother and married **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1789–1848)** in 1814.

Gervas Storrs’s wife, Susannah Randolph Pleasants, died in 1793, after which he married **Martha F. Truehart (1774–1860)** and had several daughters and one son, **Algernon Sidney Storrs (1812–1877)**, who inherited Hunslet Hall.

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15. OUR RANDOLPH HERITAGE

John Randolph (1505-1551)	m. 1541	Johanna Webbe (1508-1577)
Robert Randolph (1550-1602)	m. 1572	Rosa Roberts (1554-1620)
William Randolph (1572-1660)	m. 1619	Dorothy Lane (1589-1656)*
Richard Randolph (1621-1678)	m. 1650	Elizabeth Ryland (1621-1671)
William Randolph I (1650-1711)	m. 1675	Mary Isham (1658-1735)
Isham Randolph (1685-1742)	m. 1717	Jane Lilburne Rogers (1692-1760)
Ann Randolph (1732-1809)	m. 1765	James Pleasants (1736-1824)
Susannah R. Pleasants (1776-1793)	m. 1791	Gervas Storrs (1771-1848)
Louisa P. Storrs (1792-1864)	m. 1814	Littleberry H. Mosby (1789-1848)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818-1867)	m. 1851	Eliza G. Burks (1830-1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858-1890)	m. 1876	John M. Montgomery (1841-1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884-1957)	m. 1905	Jefferson P. Wilkerson (1878-1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909-2002)	m. 1935	John H. Bryan Sr. (1908-1989)

William Randolph I (1650-1711) and **Mary Isham (1658-1735)** are my seventh great-grandparents. They have been called the “Adam and Eve” of Virginia, mostly because of their politically important progeny.

William Randolph I was born in Warwickshire, England, during the rule of Oliver Cromwell (1599-1658), lord protector during the Commonwealth period of English history. William Randolph I was baptized at Morton Morell in Warwickshire on November 7, 1650. At age 20, around 1670, he came to America. William Randolph I probably traveled with his uncle **Henry Randolph (1623-1673)**, who was returning to America after having first come to the Chesapeake Bay area in 1642.

In about 1675, William Randolph I married Mary Isham, a Virginian whose family had come to America in 1656 from Northamptonshire in England. In 1678, at the death of Mary Isham’s brother, Henry Isham Jr. (1657-1678), William and Mary Isham Randolph inherited much of the Isham family’s properties.

William Randolph I was a tobacco planter who eventually owned about 20,000 acres and a considerable number of slaves in the area of Richmond, Virginia, in Henrico County. He was a major political force in his time, serving as speaker of the House of Burgess of colonial Virginia in 1698. In 1693 he was a founder of the college of William and Mary in Williamsburg. William Randolph I built a mansion on Turkey Island Plantation, overlooking the James River. It was known as the Bird Cage. He died there on April 21, 1711.



Col. William Randolph I, my seventh great-grandfather. His portrait hangs in the Virginia Historical Society. Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society (1951.31).



Mary Isham Randolph, my seventh great-grandmother. Her portrait hangs in the Virginia Historical Society. Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society (1927.20).

**Descended from Edward III, King of England (d. 1337). See Gary Boyd Roberts’s Ancestors of American Presidents.*

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William and Mary Isham Randolph had nine children who survived to adulthood.

Elizabeth Randolph (1680–1719) married Colonel Richard Bland (1665–1720). She was the great-great-grandmother of General Robert E. Lee (1807–1870), who is my fourth cousin, four times removed.

William Randolph II (1681–1742), of Turkey Island Plantation, was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses and was the father of William Randolph III (1723–1761), who built Wilton, a historic Virginia house in Richmond.

Thomas Randolph (1683–1729), of Tuckahoe in Goochland County, was the great-grandfather of John Marshall (1755–1835), chief justice of the United States Supreme Court from 1801 to 1835. John Marshall is my third cousin, five times removed.

Isham Randolph (1685–1742), of Dungeness in Goochland County, is my sixth great-grandfather and the grandfather of Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826), who is my first cousin, six times removed.

Henry Randolph (1687–_____) of Chatsworth.

Richard Randolph (1691–1748) of Curles Neck Plantation married Jane Bolling.

Mary Randolph (1692–1781) married John Stith.

Sir John Randolph (1693–1737), of Tazewell in Williamsburg, is the only colonial American knighted by the King of England. He is the father of Peyton Randolph (1721–1775), a colonial American patriot who was president of the First Continental Congress in 1775. Peyton Randolph is my first cousin, seven times removed.

Sir John Randolph is the grandfather of Edmond Randolph (1753–1813), governor of Virginia and the first United States attorney general. Edmond Randolph is my second cousin, six times removed.

Edward Randolph (1695–_____) of Brema was a sea captain.

16. OUR COCKE HERITAGE

Thomas Cocke (1543–1582)	m.	Agnes (1547–_____)
John Cocke (1569–1630)	m. 1600	Elizabeth Wallfurlong (1570–1630)
Richard Cocke Sr. (1602–1665)	m. 1652	Mary Aston (1629–1693)
Richard Cocke the Younger (c. 1657–1720)	m. 1672	Elizabeth Littleberry (1657–1695)
Martha Cocke (1676–1757)	m. 1699	Joseph Pleasants (1674–1725)
John Cocke Pleasants (1710–1776)	m. 1731	Susannah Woodson (1714–1776)
James Pleasants (1736–1824)	m. 1765	Ann Randolph (1732–1809)
Susannah R. Pleasants (1776–1793)	m. 1791	Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)
Louisa P. Storrs (1792–1864)	m. 1814	Littleberry H. Mosby (1789–1848)
Gervas S. Mosby (1818–1867)	m. 1851	Eliza G. Burks (1830–1862)
Caroline P. Mosby (1858–1890)	m. 1876	John M. Montgomery (1841–1910)
Caroline M. Montgomery (1884–1957)	m. 1905	Jefferson P. Wilkerson Sr. (1878–1945)
Catherine C. Wilkerson (1909–2002)	m. 1935	John H. Bryan Sr. (1908–1989)

The name Cocke was pronounced “cock” among the early American settlers.

Today some people pronounce it “coke” or “cook.” Also the name has, in some cases, been changed to Cox.

Our earliest Cocke family records begin in the 16th century in Shropshire County in the west of England in the time of Elizabeth I (1532–1603) and William Shakespeare (1564–1616).

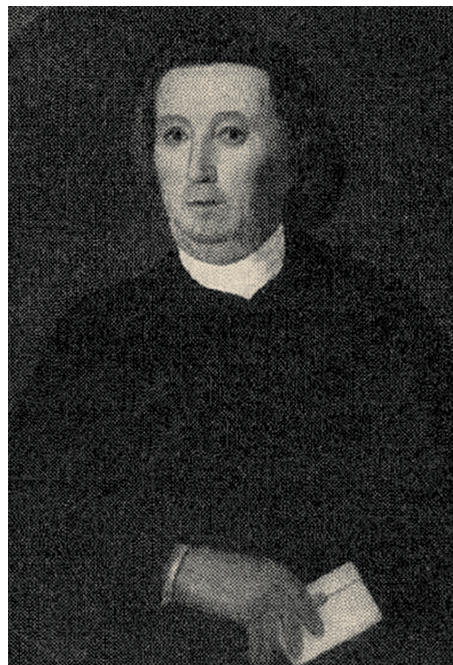
Richard Cocke Sr. (1602–1665) was baptized at Stottesdon, Shropshire County, on September 5, 1602. Sometime before he reached the age of 30, possibly on the ship *Thomas & John* in 1627, he came to America as a special envoy for King Charles I (1600–1649) of England. He was granted a patent of land (3,000 acres) along the James River to bring a group of settlers to the colony. He then became a tobacco planter along the James River in Henrico County.

Richard Cocke Sr. was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses in 1632 and again in 1644/45. He was elected sheriff of Henrico County in 1655. He was the county commander of the colonial militia in Henrico County and thus earned the rank of lieutenant colonel.

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Over the years, Lt. Col. Richard Cocke Sr. continued to build his land holdings. He owned three plantations named Curles, BreMO, and Malvern Hills. These totaled over 7,000 acres, and the plantations remained in the family for several generations.



Lt. Col. Richard Cocke of BreMO, Henrico County, Virginia, my double ninth great-grandfather.

About 1637 Lt. Col. Richard Cocke Sr. first married a widow, Temperance Baley (1617-1652), the only child of Thomas Baley (1595-1620) and **Cecily Reynolds (1601-1660)**, whose family had arrived at Jamestown from London in 1610 on the *Swan*. Richard Cocke Sr. and Temperance Baley Cocke had three children, one being **Richard Cocke the Elder (1639-1706)**.



Erected 1988 by descendants of Richard Cocke:

Richard Cocke the immigrant and founder of his family in Virginia. Born in England, patented land here March 6, 1636. Near this spot he made his home and called it "BreMO." Here he lived and his descendants after him for six generations and here he and some of them lie buried. His son Thomas lived near by at "Malvern Hills." His other children were Richard the Elder who inherited "BreMO," John William, Richard the Younger, Elizabeth and Edward.

After his wife, Temperance, died in 1652, Lt. Col. Richard Cocke Sr. married **Mary Aston (1629-1693)**. She was the daughter of Lt. Colonel **Walter Aston (1607-1656)**. They had four sons, the third of which is also named Richard Cocke and is distinguished from his older half brother by being named **Richard Cocke the Younger (c. 1657-1720)**.

Richard Cocke the Younger first married **Elizabeth Littleberry (1657-1695)**. They had several children, including **Martha Cocke (1676-1757)**, my seventh great-grandmother, and **Ann Cocke (1680-1749)**, who is an ancestor of the Presidents Bush.

Richard Cocke the Younger was married in 1695 for the second time to Ann Bowler (1675-1705). His third marriage was to Rebecca Bowler (1677-____) in 1706.

Martha Cocke married **Joseph Pleasants (1674-1725)**, a wealthy Quaker, in 1699. Joseph was the son of **John Pleasants III (1644-1698)**, who came from Norwich, England, to Virginia in about 1655.

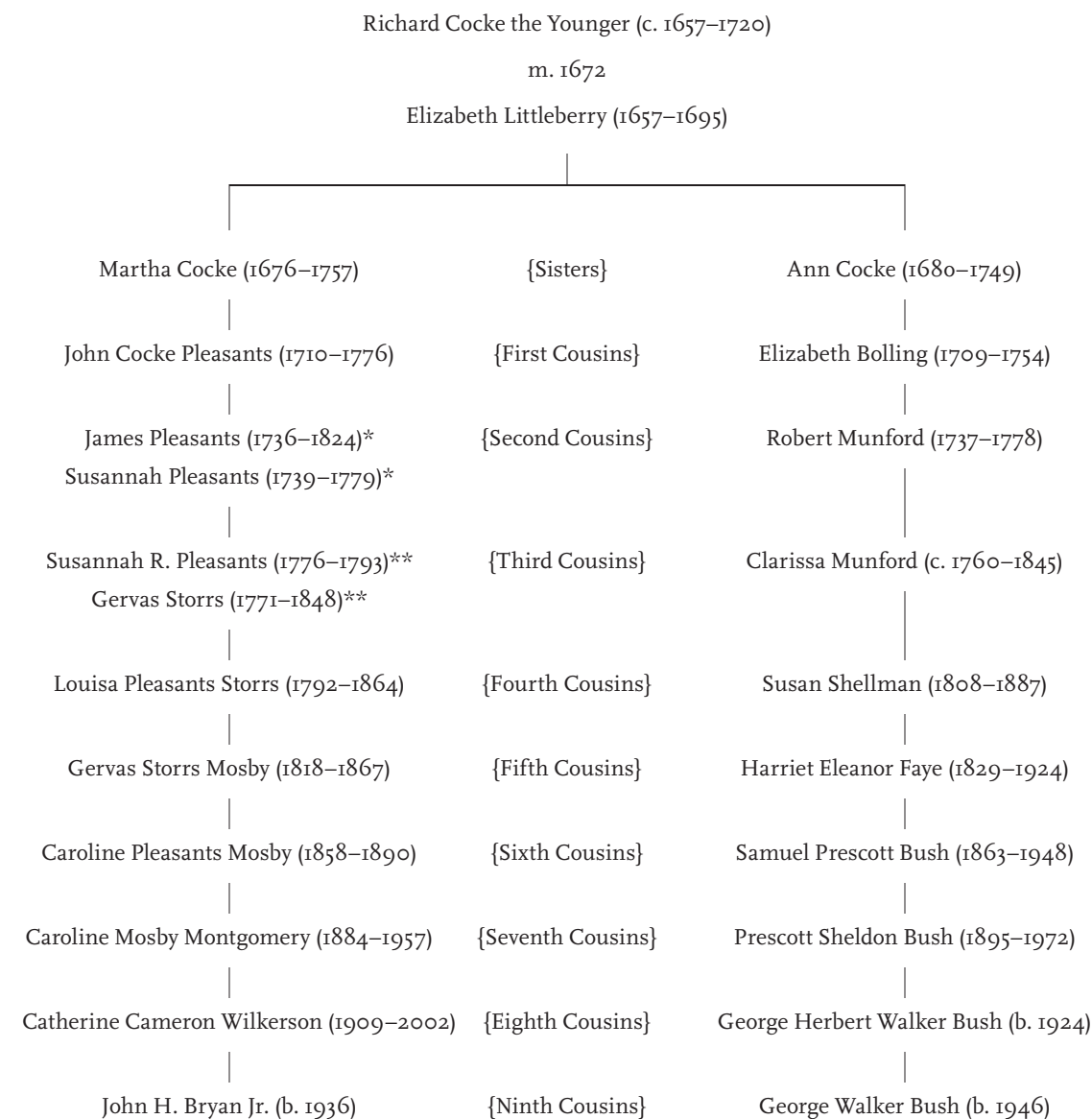
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17. OUR COCKE AND BUSH CONNECTION

Our family’s Bush connection is derived from **Lt. Col. Richard Cocke (1602–1665)**, my double ninth great-grandfather, who came to the colony of Virginia in 1627 from the county of Shropshire in England. In an ancestral line that descends from his son, **Richard Cocke the Younger (c. 1657–1720)**, my mother, **Catherine Cameron Wilkerson Bryan (1909–2002)**, is an eighth cousin of George Herbert Walker Bush (b. 1924). I am thus a ninth cousin of George Walker Bush (b. 1946).

It has been said that George Herbert Walker Bush, our 41st U.S. President, is “the first president who is a likely kinsman of perhaps half of the Americans whose government he heads.” That seems exaggerated to me, but I suppose it is claimed because President Bush is descended from such a large number of colonial American settlers.

The eighth (seventh for my mother) great-grandparents we share with the Bushes are Richard Cocke the Younger and **Elizabeth Littleberry (1657–1695)**, whose descendants are shown on the next page.



*Siblings: children of John Cocke Pleasants.

**First cousins who married one another.

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18. MY 17TH- AND 18TH-CENTURY JAMES RIVER ANCESTORS' HOMES

Depicted below are the locations of the residences of 12 of my earliest ancestors who lived along the James River in Virginia during the 17th and 18th centuries. Other than Farrar's Island Plantation, which was founded by a paternal ancestor of mine, each of these homes was owned by antecedents of one of my maternal great-great grandparents, **Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818-1867)**.



1. FARRAR'S ISLAND PLANTATION

Henrico Co., VA

William Farrar I (1594-1637)

My eighth great-grandfather

2. FLOWERDEW PLANTATION

Prince George Co., VA

John Woodson (1586-1644)

My ninth great-grandfather and my double 10th great-grandfather

3. BERMUDA HUNDRED

Prince George Co., VA

Henry Isham (1626-1678)

My eighth great-grandfather

4. BREMO

Henrico Co., VA

Lt. Col. Richard Cocke (1602-1665)

My double ninth great-grandfather

5. CURLES NECK*

Henrico Co., VA

John Pleasants (1644-1698)

My eighth great-grandfather

6. TURKEY ISLAND

Henrico Co., VA

William Randolph I (1650-1711)

My seventh great-grandfather

7. PICQUINOCQUE

Henrico Co., VA

Joseph Pleasants (1674-1725)

My double seventh great-grandfather

8. DUNGENESS

Goochland Co., VA

Isham Randolph (1685-1742)

My sixth great-grandfather

9. MOSBY TAVERN

Powhatan Co., VA (previously Goochland and Cumberland County)

Benjamin Mosby (1690-1774)

My sixth great-grandfather

10. MEADOW BRIDGE

Hanover Co., VA

Aaron Bartholomew Truehart (1700-1767)

My sixth great-grandfather

11. CONTENTION

Goochland Co., VA

James Pleasants (1736-1824)

My fifth great-grandfather

12. HUNSLET HALL

Hanover Co., VA

Joshua Storrs (1737-1779)

My fifth great-grandfather

*In the Curles Neck area, land was also owned by Edward Mosby (1660-1742), William Randolph (1650-1711), John Woodson (1586-1644), and Richard Cocke (1602-1665). Later, Wade Mosby (1761-1834), my fourth great-grandfather, owned property at Curles.

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19. THE RANDOLPH SISTERS: JANE AND ANN

Isham Randolph (1685–1742) and **Jane Lilburne Rogers Randolph (1692–1760)** had nine children, six boys and three girls. Their first child, born in Shadwell Parish, London, and baptized at St. Paul’s Cathedral, was **Jane Randolph (1720–1776)**, who became the mother of Thomas Jefferson.

Jane Randolph, my sixth great-aunt, married Peter Jefferson (1708–1757) in 1739 in Virginia. They had 10 children, the third being Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826). Jane Randolph died of a stroke at age 56 on March 31, 1776, a few months before the signing of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

In all of Thomas Jefferson’s writings, he mentioned his mother only once.

That brief mention was in a letter to his Uncle William, Jane Randolph’s brother, in June 1776:

The death of my mother, you have probably not heard of. This happened on the last day of March after an illness of not more than one hour. We suppose it to have been apoplectic. [Apoplexy is a venerable term for a stroke.]

While it is likely that Thomas Jefferson was not very close to his mother, she is buried at the family graveyard at Monticello with her son.

The eighth child of Isham Randolph and Jane Rogers Randolph was **Ann Randolph (1732–1809)**, my fifth great-grandmother. She was born at Dungeness Plantation on the James River in Goochland County.

Ann Randolph married three times. First, in 1751, she married Daniel Scott (1715–1754), who died. They had no issue. Second, in 1759, she married Jonathan Pleasants (1725–1765), with whom she had three children. Ann Randolph’s third marriage, in 1765, was to her second husband’s cousin **James Pleasants (1736–1824)**, with whom she had seven children between 1769 and 1779. Their oldest child was **James I. Pleasants Jr. (1769–1836)**, who became a U.S. Senator and governor of Virginia. Their fifth child was **Susannah Randolph Pleasants (1776–1800)**, my fourth great-grandmother. As a teenager, on October 21, 1791, Susannah Randolph Pleasants married her 20-year-old first cousin **Gervas Storrs (1771–1848)**.

20. ISHAM RANDOLPH: SEA CAPTAIN

Isham Randolph (1685–1742), my sixth great-grandfather, was the third son of **William Randolph I (1650–1711)** and **Mary Isham Randolph (1658–1735)**.

Isham Randolph was born on Turkey Island Plantation in Henrico County, Virginia. In about 1710, Isham Randolph left his family plantation and “went to sea.” He was commanding a ship called the *Henrietta*. He took a house in London, and in 1717 he married a Londoner, **Jane Susan Lilburne Rogers (1692–1760)** at St. Paul’s Church in Shadwell Parish, East London.

In 1725 Isham and Jane Rogers Randolph returned to Virginia and in about 1730 built a plantation home called Dungeness in Goochland County.

By 1725 they had three children, including **Jane Randolph (1720–1776)**, who would marry Peter Jefferson (1708–1757) and live in a home called Shadwell, which is in Albermarle County, Virginia. They were the parents of Thomas Jefferson (1743–1826).



Isham and Jane Rogers Randolph had a total of nine children. The eighth child was **Ann Randolph (1732–1809)**, who is my fifth great-grandmother.

This portrait of Isham Randolph, my sixth great-grandfather, hangs in the Virginia Historical Society. Courtesy of the Virginia Historical Society (1970.26).

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21. SAMUEL BURKS: ONE OF GOD'S NOBLEMEN

Samuel Burks (1803–1847), my third great-grandfather, was born in Jefferson County (Louisville, Kentucky). We believe the Burks were early settlers who came to Kentucky before that state (the 15th) was created out of Virginia in 1792.

On June 20, 1824, Samuel Burks married Amanda Fine (1805–1828). They had two sons, **Samuel Burks (1825–1847)** and **John Burks (1826–1849)**. Amanda Fine Burks died in 1828.

Samuel Burks married his second wife, **Eliza Glover (1807–1830)**, on March 31, 1829. She died the next year after the birth of their daughter, **Eliza Glover Burks (1830–1862)**, my great-great-grandmother.

Samuel Burks's third wife was Anne M. Tompkin, who came to Mississippi with Sam Burks and his three children in 1839, when he purchased Loughborough Plantation.

In 1847 Samuel Burks died. His son Samuel died the same year. He was survived by his son John; his 17-year-old daughter, Eliza; and his wife, Anne.

In the Washington County Historical Society, there is a brief mention of Loughborough Plantation and Samuel Burks. It says:

Samuel Burks was a man of Herculean strength and one of God's noblemen. He died on the plantation, leaving a son, John, and a daughter, Eliza. In a newspaper clipping found in a family Bible, it says:

Samuel Burks died at his plantation in Washington County, Mississippi on the 18th instant. He was a native of Kentucky and for a number of years a citizen of this county. The disease which occasioned his death was phleg- - -erysapes [we don't know what this was]. Mr. Burks was a man of untiring enterprise and impeccable integrity and was greatly esteemed for his generous sympathy for all with whom he was associated by the ties of consanguinity and friendship.

22. LOUGHBOROUGH PLANTATION: IN OUR FAMILY FOR OVER 170 YEARS

For more than 170 years, Loughborough Plantation has been owned and operated by descendants of my third great-grandfather **Samuel Burks (1803–1847)**. It is today one of the oldest plantations continuously owned by the same family in Washington County.

Loughborough Plantation on Williams Bayou in Washington County was purchased on May 7, 1839, by Samuel Burks of Jefferson County, Kentucky. It was previously owned jointly by William Blanton and John Hill Carter, a descendant of Virginian Robert Carter (1663–1732) or King Carter as he was called because of his immense land holdings. At the time of the sale, John Hill Carter stipulated that the plantation should retain the name of his wife, a Miss Loughborough of Virginia.

Samuel Burks died in 1847 and left one third of his plantation to each of his survivors: Anne M. Tompkin Burks, his wife; **John Burks (1826–1849)**, his son; and **Eliza Glover Burks (1830–1862)**, his daughter. John Burks died in 1849 and presumably left his share to his sister, Eliza Glover Burks, who married **Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818–1867)** in 1851.

Anne M. Burks, the third wife of Samuel Burks, deeded her interest in the property to Samuel Burks's daughter, Eliza Glover Burks Mosby, on April 13, 1857.

The original deed, which is in my mother's archives, states:

In consideration of the sums of money to be paid as herein of the mentioned accounting in the whole of Thirty-eight thousand two hundred five dollars and fifty-five cents (\$38,205.55)... \$5,000.00 to be paid in hand and eight equal annual payments of Four Thousand One Hundred Fifty and 69 and three-eighths cents (\$4,250.69375) and with interest at the rate of 6% per annum.

Loughborough Plantation at that time contained 1,760 acres, 131 black slaves, and a large stock of horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, and every other kind of property.

Eliza Glover Burks Mosby died in 1862 and is buried at Loughborough Plantation. Gervas Storrs Mosby died in 1867. Within a few years, Loughborough passed on to their only surviving child, **Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890)**, who married **John Malcolm Montgomery (1841–1910)**.

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Loughborough Plantation was willed to John Malcolm Montgomery and Caroline Mosby Montgomery's oldest daughter, **Frances Montgomery Payne (1878-1950)**, in 1910, when John Malcolm Montgomery died. The original house was described in an article entitled "Eyes on Washington County," probably written in the 1940s.

The original home at Loughborough was a log house built of great Cypress and Hume and fitted with grooves at the corners, cracks thin filled with mortar. The original three-room structure has been enlarged and weather-boarded. Loughborough has the structure and grace of an early plantation. The back of the house is the Mosby Cemetery.

In 1927 the levee break that flooded Washington County occurred eight miles northwest of Loughborough, but the land of this plantation is so high that it did not suffer as much as plantations farther south.

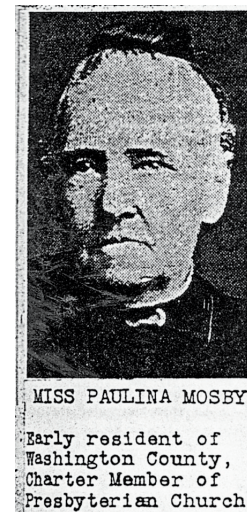


A partial view of the house at Loughborough, c. 1935.

In 1962 Loughborough was inherited by the six surviving sons of Beckwith Benjamin Payne (1875-1962) and Frances Montgomery Payne. Until 1970 their son Monty (1906-1970) managed the plantation. Between 1970 and 1977, their son Thomas Beckwith (Beck) Payne (1915-1989) lived there. The home at Loughborough burned down on November 11, 1971, and was rebuilt.

Since 1978 William Mosby (Bill) Payne Jr. (b. 1949), my second cousin and the son of William Mosby Payne (1913-2009), has managed and lived at Loughborough. The plantation is owned today by William Mosby Payne Jr. and his sister, Kathy Payne Eubank (b. 1948), and several of their first cousins.

23. AUNT PINA: A NOBLE RELIC



Paulina Pleasants Mosby (Aunt Pina) (1820-1910)

was **Gervas Storrs Mosby's (1818-1867)** younger sister and thus my third great-aunt. She presided at Loughborough Plantation for about 50 years and holds a prominent place in the history of our family. A paper read at the Washington County Historical Association in 1911 is entitled "A Remembrance of Miss Paulina Pleasants Mosby." Excerpts are below:

Probably the most remarkable personality among these noble relics of a statelier civilization [statelier it was, we must admit, even for those of us who believe that it was a house built upon sand] was Miss Paulina Mosby who died recently at an age that fell a few months short of 90 years.

Miss Paulina, the youngest of many children, was born in Virginia in the year 1820. Her father, who was an army surgeon in the war of 1812, moved to Kentucky while she was still a very young child. I have not been able to find out a date or the circumstances of her coming to Mississippi.

She was a tall, fine looking girl, with soft brown hair and a beautiful complexion. Her hands and arms were noticeably pretty and there may have been a little vanity in her fondness for the guitar.

In summer, Miss Paulina and her friends went to some watering place in Kentucky. In winter, they sometimes made trips to New Orleans to shop and to enjoy the French opera, but Miss Paulina soon had heavy cares laid upon her. Her brother's wife died leaving her in charge of several small children and a large household. Then, later on, her brother's death left the management of the plantation to her as well. She still, amid her cares, found time for reading, not Mrs. Southworth or Mrs. Evans, however, among her favorites were Shakespeare, Scott, and Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Ms. Paulina had reached middle age when the Civil War broke out. She was opposed to secession, but after the manner of women, her heart and soul was with her friends. Her accounts of the war are unique in that they lack bitterness. They are tinged with her unflinching sense of humor. "All the women," she said "under took to provide one certain soldier with clothing throughout the war. An Irishman fell to my lot, and he deserted after the first battle though I hadn't any further care."

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One day, a detachment of Union soldiers came to search for a Confederate, one of our own townsmen, who the Federal officer said was hiding at Loughborough. The Confederate had been there, had been fed and mothered, and had ridden on some hours before so Ms. Paulina felt no uneasiness when the Yankees made a thorough search.

“Everywhere they looked said Miss Paulina, even under the bed, they kept getting madder and madder every minute. At last, the officer turned to me stamping his foot and said ‘I tell you, you have got a man hiding here.’ Then I got angry and I said, ‘if I were going to hide something, it would be something better than a man.’ That she said, made him laugh and he went off in a good humor, but he took all my turkeys. I begged him to leave them, telling him that I had 12 children in the house to feed and he looked up at me just as impudently and said ‘you say you have 12 children?’ I could have slapped him.”

Paulina’s life was none too long for the work she had to do. She nursed and cared for two generations of children and when they no longer needed her ministering, she gave to other children the love that welled up from her heart and unfailing strength. Patient, cheerful, sweet and strong, in her old age she drew young people around her, not for her sake they came, but for their own and went away strengthened.

In about 1912, a Captain W. W. Stone wrote a paper entitled “Some Post-War Recollections.” In it, Captain Stone told about his relationship with Aunt Paulina Pleasants Mosby.

Along Williams Bayou, one of the oldest and best plantations was Loughborough, the home of the Mosbys. Gervas Mosby, his family of children and his sister, Miss Paulina Mosby, were among the first of the households of Washington County at whose board I broke bread. This incident so long ago, I shall never forget. For there began an acquaintance, ripening into intimacy, with Miss Paulina which lasted nearly half a century. She was as near the salt of the earth as mortals can be. As a link connecting the ancient regime with the present, the link always strong and to be relied upon, she became distinguished. She was a factor in the social uplift of the next generation, most of whom that were near to her in kinship, she outlived and to whom she was a mother.

We must leave to our imagination the definition of Captain Stone’s intimacy with Aunt Paulina.

24. LETTERS OF A TEENAGE MOSBY

John Burks Mosby (1853–1876), a 16-year-old, wrote to his sister, 12-year-old **Caroline Pleasants Mosby (1858–1890)**, my great-grandmother, and his brother, **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1857–1878)** (age 13), a letter telling about his new interest in ornithology, his French studies, and his homesickness. He was in Richmond, Virginia. The letter to his sister Caroline is dated September 28, 1870.

I go to the state capitol and read in the library every day from 9 am to 3 pm and I am learning to draw birds from Wilson’s Ornithology. I never took a drawing lesson in my life and nobody teaches me, but I get along very well in that line. I have not been drawing more than six or eight days. I will send in this letter some of my drawings, but you may judge. You must take good care of my bird eggs and stuffed birds for this winter. For next spring I intend to make a collection....

I am studying French by myself, but for the want of a teacher, I leave out the most important part, pronunciation. I would have given anything to have gone to school this session for I felt very much like studying, for though I am a tolerable student, not bragging on myself at all, studying is like writing, and when I am in the humor, I can do a good deal of either....

I have spent too much money this summer that I feel ashamed of myself. While I am up here enjoying myself, you are working. I say enjoying myself in one sense of the word, but I would willingly swap places with either of you to be at home. I tell you that Loughborough and Mississippi are the places you do not know how much you miss until you are away from them.... You must write about everything even that old sluggish bayou flowing by our house and all those dismal swamps and crane breaks.

You affectionate brother, John

John Burks Mosby, a few months later, wrote a letter to his aunt **Paulina P. Mosby (1820–1910)** and his brother, Littleberry. It is dated November 20, 1870.

Your letters reached me two days ago. The next day I went to a sale with Uncle William [Mosby (1800–1874)], where a splendid rosewood parlor set sold for \$400. I offered a bid of \$160 and was surprised at my own temerity, but if I had known I thought you sanctioned the purchase, I would have gone up as high as \$300 for a new set cost \$800 and this one was almost as good as new....

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Uncle William was speaking to me of the debt we owe to Uncle Charles and Aunt Susan for those Negroes we bought before the war. What are we going to do about it? Aunt Susan never said anything to me about the debt and I did not know we owed the money....

There is a family living near from New York. They gave a small dinner the other day and C and myself were invited to attend. We met the brother of General Lee [presumably Robert E. Lee (1807–1870)] and one or two other gentlemen and we had a very nice time. Mr. Lee is as full of jokes as some sidebar of cockleburrs and he told some of the best I have ever heard. All together, he is one of the most sociable men I have ever met. When he left, he kissed all the ladies. I was somewhat surprised at it but he says it is his usual custom.

Write soon as your affectionate nephew, John

On Christmas Eve 1870, John Burks Mosby, age 17, wrote a letter from Powhatan County, Virginia, to his brother, Littleberry, in Mississippi.

Dear Berry,

Christmas Eve of 1870

No doubt you know what time that is, if you do not, you can consult the almanac and I expect you're thinking of hanging up your sock. I do not think I will hang mine for it may get scorched to no purpose. I have just returned from Richmond and have sent the Christmas present by express.

I had quite a nice time in the city of R., but such a time coming back. When I say canal boat you may think of a Mississippi steamboat, but there is no similarity between the two. A canal boat is not half as large as one of our flat boats, and they make the remarkable time of four miles an hour.

Well coming back from Richmond, I told the porter to wake me up at the right time. About four in the morning, I turned over and asked what place we were at and how far from the ferry from where I was to get off. Sir, he said, it is 10 miles behind us. If a knife had been stuck in me, it would not have aroused me sooner and you may imagine how I felt 15 miles away from home, in the part of the country I knew nothing about, in the night, a river full of ice to cross and the weather 11 degrees above zero. But here my good star was in the ascendancy for I met a party of four or five gentlemen who were friends of Uncle W's. They very kindly extended their aid and we soon had a rousing fire on the canal bank, but it was so cold that we baked on one side and thawed on the other. I am all right now and recollect all my suffering only as a good joke and nothing more.

I remain your loving brother, John

John Burks Mosby in 1873 was a 19-year-old student at Virginia Military Institute.

He wrote several letters to his Aunt Paulina during that time. Excerpts are as follows:

My object in this letter is to enter more fully into the rest of my proposed schooling at VMI. Since I have been here, I do not think I have learned enough for the time and money spent. In fact, I am extremely dissatisfied with my progress. But, if I learn chemistry as thoroughly as I can in 6 months with the finest living chemist in America for a teacher and with the best laboratory at my command then I think I will be repaid....

I will wind up asking for \$2.50 for a pair of skates I bought and I will have to pay for them by Christmas. I ask for it now. Love to all and please write as soon as you get this

In a subsequent letter on March 3, 1873, John Burks Mosby sent to his Aunt Paulina:

I went skating a week ago today and fell in the river, but by breaking the ice I reached the shore at last. I never felt in a bluer way before in my life. Although I have been away from home three times before without any money, every time I came through alright, but things look dark enough now and if I ever get home again, I will never leave my native swamps. My health has been very good this session, but at one time I thought I would have pneumonia.

Best love to all, I remain your affectionate nephew, John.

John Burks Mosby, son of Gervas and Eliza Burks Mosby, died of malaria on December 11, 1876. He was 23 years, one month, and six days old. He is buried in the family cemetery at Loughborough Plantation.

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25. “THIS DREARY WORLD”: A MOSBY DIARY ACCOUNT

Around 1875 **Littleberry Hardeman Mosby (1857–1878)**, **Caroline Pleasants**

Mosby’s (1858–1890) older brother, wrote in his diary an account of his life.

He was 18 years old. Littleberry Hardeman Mosby lived at Loughborough Plantation through the Civil War and the postwar Reconstruction era. He experienced the hardships of the time, as well as the death of his mother, father, brother, and sister.

His older brother, John, died just after Littleberry wrote this account, and Littleberry himself died just about two years later, in 1878, at age 21. After that, my great-grandmother Caroline became the sole heir of Loughborough. Below are excerpts from Littleberry’s diary:

I made my appearance in this dreary world on March 12, 1857. From that time, my life has been miserable, but compared with the last four or five years, it was bliss. We lived in perfect peace until the war broke out [1861] and then the terrible tyrant, death, came and carried the one best love of the family [his mother, Eliza Glover Burks Mosby (1830–1862)] into everlasting eternity. My father [Gervas Storrs Mosby (1818–1867)] missed her more than anyone else. The children numbering five were most too small to know how much the absence of a mother could be missed. Her place was filled by my father’s sister (Paulina Pleasants Mosby [1820–1910]) who is with us still and has filled the vacancy as well as anyone could.

In 1862 during the first year of the war, my father employed a young man to teach the three eldest children, myself being the youngest of the three. He did not last long as the teacher became inspired by the love of his country and shouldered his musket and joined the Confederate Army.

In 1862, Mrs. Finley with six children moved into our family. Well do I remember the fights we had among ourselves. Sometimes we had pitched battles with cobs or bricks. In 1864, Mrs. F and family left and we employed a young lady teacher. She taught until the close of the war when we were in too straightened circumstances to employ a teacher.

In September 1867, my father went to Virginia where he was called into another world [Gervas Storrs Mosby died in Greenbrier County, West Virginia]. We were left under the control of our aunt and we became a set of unruly children.

It seemed that we were to become almost hopeless. Our place, Loughborough Plantation, was divided and sold to pay our creditors. Mules, wagons and other farm implements, corn and other provisions were sold. We were left with between 600–700 acres of land and no money, no credit and in an hour of need, our one true friend, Mr. H. who advised planned and helped with our good for 6 years until my brother became of age. He never would receive a cent for his trouble; always saying that our father had done many little favors when he started in life in this wicked world. There is nothing in my power I would not do for him. For I shall never forget his kindness to us in our hour of need.

I forgot to mention that in 1863, my brother [Gervas Storrs Mosby Jr. (1855–1863)], a little older than myself was taken from us and in 1868, my youngest sister [Eliza Burks Mosby (1860–1868)] was snatched from us. She was the pet of the family and we missed her very much. It seemed that the mighty hand of fate was crushing us to ruin, but the will and determination of my aunt and our friend brought us safely through the gap of destruction as the almighty one did the Israelites when pursued by the King of Egypt and his hosts. Fate like the above tyrant was buried beneath the waves of oblivion and brighter prospects began to dawn upon our future.

We employed a school marm although she was very disagreeable. My remaining sister [my great-grandmother, Caroline Pleasants Mosby] and I learned more under her than we did all of the rest put together. In fact, [it was] the only time I went to school and studied. About this time, my brother’s health became very much impaired. We thought during the days and weeks, he would depart from this world. It took all the spare money to pay his doctor bills and send him to Virginia where he stayed 10 months and returned stout and healthy. [His brother, John Burks Mosby, died in 1876.] In the meantime we had to discharge all of our servants and in order to keep in school as long as possible, I told my aunt I could learn to milk. Shortly after the teacher left, I started to milk.

Littleberry Hardeman Mosby, Caroline Pleasants Mosby’s brother, died at age 21 years, four months, on July 11, 1878. He is buried in the family cemetery at Loughborough Plantation.