

[pages 10 to 16 in book]

CHAPTER II

JAMES¹ FERGUSON

[James¹", James²", and James³", are used to distinguish between the James's of three successive generations.]

Ann (Stubbleson) Ferguson, widow of John Ferguson, Sr., of Essex Co., VA, died in 1735. Her will included the following bequest, ". . . the rest of my estate . . . be equally divided between my four children". They were, John Ferguson, Jr., James Ferguson, Sarah (Ferguson) Redd, and Samuel Ferguson. John Ferguson, Jr., lived and died in Essex Co., though some of his descendants migrated to SC; Sarah Redd never left the area; and, Samuel Ferguson and his family migrated to Culpeper Co., VA, and settled on land that he inherited from their deceased brother, Joseph. Our story concerns son James whose wife was also named Ann. He will henceforth be referred to as James¹ Ferguson.

When John Ferguson, Sr., signed his will on 10 May 1715 his first bequest was ". . . unto my eldest son John Fargeson . . .", and the second was ". . . unto my son James Fargeson . . .". His specification that John was the eldest, followed by the naming of son James seems to indicate that he is making his bequests in the order of his children's births. In Beverly Fleet's VA COLONIAL ABSTRACTS, Vol. II, Baltimore, MD 1988, p. 421 is the following deposition "4 July 1753 John Farguson aged 68 years". This is John Ferguson, Jr., stating his age; hence, he was born ca. 1685. Unless positive proof to the contrary is found, we assume that James¹, his younger brother was born ca. 1687.

There are numerous references to James¹ Ferguson in the Essex Co. records. He witnessed many documents; brought suits in court, and was sued; registered the age of a slave in court records; and finally on 10 December 1739 he signed the following Power of Attorney, recorded on 18 December 1739 in Essex Co., VA DEED BOOK 22, p. 108:

"I, James Farguson of the County of Essex, South Farnham Parish have signed and sealed to two indentures of Bargain and Sale all my land scituate lying in the County of Essex, Southfarnham Parish . . . Indenture made between the said James Farguson of the one part and John Croxton and Thomas Barker of the other part . . . I James Farguson doth make ordain and place my trusty friend George Wright in my place as my true and lawful attorney . . . to do and execute all and every such thing as shall be needed in such effectual manner as I myself might or could do if I were personally present. In witness I herewith set my hand and seal this 10th December one thousand seven hundred and thirty nine.

/s/ James Fargeson (Seal)

Witness: /s/ Henry Baughan, /s/ John Croxton"

James¹ Ferguson with wife Ann, departed Essex Co. soon after the 10th of December, since George Wright exercised his Power of Attorney on 18 December 1739 when he presented the following two deeds for recordation:

Essex Co., VA, DEED BOOK 22, p.110 - James Farguson, Grantor, to John Croxton, Grantee ". . . 100 acres scituate and lying and being in South Farnham Parish being part of that tract of land wherein James Farguson now dwells, beginning at a lower corner between the said land and land of Croxton, thence to another corner in the main swamp, thence down the swamp to the Broom Branch, thence up the Branch to the southside thereof to the head thereof being at the road, so down the road to the place where it began . . . to have and to hold the said land and premises excepting one acre round the burial place . . ." John Croxton paid 7000 lbs. Tobacco and Cask for this tract. The witnesses were George Wright, Henry Baughn, and James Croxton.

Essex County VA, DEED BOOK 22, p. 109 - James Fargeson, Grantor, to Thomas Barker, Grantee - "A parcel of land scituate lying and being in Southfarnham Parish, containing 50 acres beginning at road at head of a small branch called Broom Branch on the north side thereof down the branch flowing into a larger branch called the Western Branch and so down the Western Branch to a corner along a dividing line of said land and land where Thomas Barker now dwells to the dividing line of James Baughn to the beginning." Thomas Barker paid 3000 lbs. Tobacco and Cask for the tract. The witnesses were George Wright, Henry Baughn, and James Croxton. [NOTE: John Croxton was the son-in-law of James Ferguson, and James Croxton was his grandson.]

It is unfortunate that we know so little of the situation of James¹, and his wife Ann, after their move from Essex Co. to Goochland Co., VA. As it turned out, he had little time to establish himself in the new location, since he found it expedient to write a will which he signed on 12 December 1740. By July of the next year, he was dead. Following is a transcript of his will, recorded on 21 July 1741 in Goochland Co., VA, DEED BOOK #3, p. 429:

"In the Name of God amen the Twelveth day of November in the year of our Lord God One Thousand Seven Hundred and forty, I James ffargesson of Goochland County of VA being sick and weak of body but of sound and perfect memory and [knowing] the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death I have thought fit to make ordain constitute & declare this my last Will and Testament in manner and form following. ITEM, I give & bequeath to [my] eldest Son James ffargesson my pistols & holsters & four head of Sheep. ITEM, I give and bequeath to my eldest daughter Elizabeth Scanland Craine one cow and calf. I give and bequeath to my daughter Ann Croxen one shilling but if my dear beloved ann ffargesson thinks fit to give her the bed whereon they now lay she may use her pleasure. I give & bequeath to my son John my riding horse and saddle, and all the rest of my whole estate both real and personal I lend to my dear beloved wife Ann ffargesson during the time of her widowhood and after her death to be equally divided amongst the children that now lives with her and of this my last will & testament I do make Exrs. my dear beloved wife Ann ffargesson and my son James ffargesson. In witness whereof I have sett my hand and seal.

/s/ James ffargesson (Seal)

Witnesses: /s/ William Crenshaw
/s/Jos. Crenshaw"

This will contains an intriguing clause to be borne in mind because of its implication regarding the size of their family. In disposing of his estate, James¹, states that after Ann's death the remainder be "... equally divided amongst the children that now lives with her ...". The four children named in the will were adults, and had established domiciles of their own. It appears that there were minor children still living at home. John Boddie, in his HISTORICAL SOUTHERN FAMILIES, Vol. III, p. 228, included an account of the Foster Family of Caswell Co., NC, in which he lists the family of John Perkins and his wife, Rachel Fergusson, four of whose children's baptisms are recorded in the DOUGLAS REGISTER. Boddie states "... Rachel may have been the daughter of James Fergusson whose will was probated in Goochland in 1741 ...". The DOUGLAS REGISTER CONTAINS THE EARLIEST KNOWN RECORD OF MARRIAGES, BAPTISMS, AND BURIALS FOR Goochland Co. It was begun in 1757 by the then Rector of St. James Northam Parish. In it, he recorded the baptisms of children of the following couples, thereby establishing their marriages by inference: Sarah Ferguson and Richard Ogilby, ca. March 1756; Mary Ferguson and David Knowling, ca. 1757; and Samuel Ferguson and Elizabeth Dunmore, 25 January 1759. The three Ferguson women, and Samuel may be those children "... that now lives with her ..."

Soon after the death of James¹, George Payne, Philip Webber, and Thomas Wadlow were directed to take an inventory of his estate. The following report was recorded in ORDER BOOK #5, p. 5, where they state it was "... taken by us the Subscribers August ye 1st 1741".

13 Cattle £11._14 Sheep £3.3._one old black horse 20s. one ditto bay 40s.

£17._._.

1 bay mare £4.3._.	Iron pots 30s.9.	2 pro pot racks	1 iron hook 15s.	6.5.9.
1 old small brass kettle 5s.	Sundry sorts of iron kitchen tools 15s.			1._._.
1 old weavers loom, 2 slays, 1 ps. harness 10s,	2 old wheat sieves 2s.			_12._
2 old horse collars, 1 ps. hames & old bridle 3s.,	2 augurs 1 bro: ax 6s.			_9._.
A parcel old iron tools 13/6,	3 iron wedges 4/			_17.6.
2 pcs. spoon moulds, 1 old brass pestle and mortar 20/-	3 stone jugs 2/6			
2 old spinning wheels 6/6,	1 old gun, 1 broken sword 15/ 1 wo. saddle 40s.			3.1.6.
A parcel of old wooden lumber				_14._.
1 old chest. 2 old trunks, 1 old table, and a Chest of drawers				1._._.
A parcel of earthenware 7s.2/	small books & some small trifles 6s			_13.2.
2 deerskins, 1 small leather trunk with some other things				_19._.
11 plates, S dishes, 2 basons, 2 dozln spoons, 47s.,	2 old tinpans, 1 iron candlestick 3/6			2.10.6.
1 feather bed with full furniture and bedstead				7._._.
1 d'o 35s, 1 d'o 45s., 1 d'o £4.5., 1 d'o with compleat furniture	£5.5.			13.10._.
1 p'r cart wheels 20s., 2 old negro men £20				21._._.
3038 lbs. tobacco at 13/6 cent				5._._.
	Total			£101.18.1.

The inventory of a person's estate is always interesting as it tells us a little about a family and its lifestyle. The fact that books are included in this inventory tells us that some members of the family were literate. They possessed six beds, five plus the one left with Ann Croxton in Essex. All appear to include "full furniture" which would consist of the bedding and curtains; the bed valued at £7 probably was the handsomest and would probably have been reserved for the parents.

Some may ask how we can be sure James¹ and Ann Ferguson who lived in Goochland are the same couple who sold their plantation in Essex. Two items of proof concerning the daughters named in James¹'s will identify this as the same couple in each instance. James¹ names his ". . . eldest daughter Elizabeth Scanland Craine . . .", and ". . . my daughter Ann Croxen (Croxton) ". . . if my dear . . . Ann ffargesson thinks fit to give her the bed whereon they now lay . . .". Ann (Ferguson) Croxton was the wife of John Croxton to whom James¹ Ferguson, sold his manor house and plantation by deed dated 10 Dec 1739, and recorded in Essex Co. on 18 December 1739.

In DEED BOOK "C", Spotsylvania Co., pp. 395/6/7/8, is a deed executed by Henry Goodloe and Elizabeth his wife, and Robert Goodloe on 30 June 1740 by which they sold a tract of 554 acres in St. George Parish, Spotsylvania Co., to John Scandland Crane of the Parish of St. Stephen in King & Queen Co., VA. John Crane became a prominent resident of Spotsylvania. He was styled "Gentleman": commissioned a Colonel in the County Militia; and appointed Sheriff in 1772.

In his will, recorded in WILL BOOK "E", pp. 86/7/8, Spotsylvania Co., he named his wife Elizabeth; sons John, James, and William; and daughters Ann, wife of William Wood; Mary, wife of William Bartlett; Elizabeth, wife of Mordicai Redd; Sarah, wife of Harry Bartlett; Phoebe Crane; Rachell Crane; and Frances Crane. Son James was an officer in the Continental Army, which qualifies a male descendant of his for membership in the Society of Cincinnati in VA. Elizabeth Scandland Crane, the daughter of James¹ Ferguson was Elizabeth, the wife of Colonel John Crane, Gentleman of Spotsylvania Co., VA.

The events surrounding the removal of James¹ Ferguson and his wife Ann, to Goochland Co. indicate that they were following their son James². He had settled in Goochland Co. and married, prior to 1738, Agnes Adams, daughter of Robert Adams, Sr., and his wife Mourning (Lewis?). Although Robert Adams, Sr., signed his will on 22 February 1738, it was not recorded in Goochland County DEED BOOK #3, pp. 305/6 until 17 June 1740. In it, he named his wife Mourning; sons James and Robert [Jr.]; daughters Judith Clark, Mary Moorman, Elizabeth Moorman, Agnes Fargesson (who inherited ". . . 400 acres lying in the fork of Lickinghole Creek lying on the North East side of Thomas Saunders land . . .") Susan, Lucy, Anne the younger, and Sally.

Thomas Saunders was a brother-in-law to Agnes, having married her older sister Anne prior to 21 September 1736. That was the date when their father made a deed of gift by which he gave 400 acres to his son-in-law Thomas Saunders.