

Bio: George Markham **by Pamela Hutchison Garrett**

According to Markham Family Bible Records, George Markham was born the 6th of February 1783, the eighth child of Bernard Markham and Mary Harris of Chesterfield county Virginia. Ten children would be born into the family, but only five would survive to adulthood – leaving George Markham with a brother John, and three sisters, Martha, Mary, and Judith Virginia. The three oldest siblings were married before George was ten, so it seems likely that Virginia was his closest family playmate.

Bernard Markham was a successful and prominent man in his community, and George Markham probably grew up with a degree of comfort and privilege. He must have received some education, perhaps with local schoolmasters or tutors. It is unknown if he had opportunity for university studies.

George Markham's father died in 1801, when George was only nineteen. Bernard Markham's Will is of record in Chesterfield county Virginia, and he leaves to his younger son George Markham, "the remainder of the tract of land I now live on with the revision of any lands given unto his mother . . . ', six slaves, and half of the stock, after his mother has made her choice. All of this is to come to him when he has reached the age of twenty-two. He also receives a one-fifth share of monies from the sale of certain properties. He is named an executor to his father's Will, along with his uncle Thomas Harris, and two brother's in law, Efford Bentley and Linneaus Bolling.

George Markham must have been waiting for his opportunity to marry. In 1805, when he reached the age of twenty-two, he received his inheritance and a new wife – Eliza Evans.

Married On Thursday the 9th inst Mr George Markham to Miss Eliza Evans, daughter of Dr Evans, all of Chesterfield. note - The Richmond Argus gives May 8th as the date of marriage.
[source] Petersburg Intelligencer; 17 May 1805.

Eliza Evans was the daughter of Dr George Evans and Mary Peyton of nearby Oakland Plantation. Her father and brother-in-law, William Ransom Johnson, were horse breeders and racing enthusiasts, and ran a significant operation at Oakland.

During the War of 1812, Capt George Markham commanded a company of Virginia militia from Chesterfield county. Records suggest that he gave service for about twenty-one days in the months of March, June and July of 1813. During this period the British were attempting to blockade the Chesapeake Bay, and were sending raiding parties into some of the coastal towns of Virginia. Militia troops were called out for defense, but there was little action.

Between 1805 and 1817, Eliza Evans Markham gave birth to six children – George Evans Markham, Mary Sterling Markham, Ann Maria Markham, James Bernard Markham, Charles

Nathaniel Markham (died in childhood), and Devereux Jarratt Markham. She died in February of 1817, as a young woman just past thirty years of age.

A widowed George Markham had five young children to care for, and he wasted little time in seeking out a new bride. In January of 1818 he was secondly married to Frances Taylor Garland. She was the twenty-six year old daughter of John Garland and Nancy Crawley. John Garland has been described as a Richmond merchant, who resided at "Mayfield" in Hanover county Virginia and served in the Virginia House of Delegates from 1786-1788. Family records suggest that John Garland died in 1794, when his little daughter, Frances Taylor Garland, was only three years old. His widow, Nancy Crawley Garland was secondly married to the Rev John Finney in 1797 in Amelia county Virginia. John Finney was step-father to Frances Taylor Garland until 1804, when Nancy Crawley Garland Finney was thirdly married to Able Moore. At that time Frances Taylor Garland was about fourteen years old.



Old Powhatan Chimney; Blum, about 1879.

After their 1818 marriage, George Markham and Frances T Garland were settled in Powhatan county Virginia, where they added seven more children to the Markham family – John Garland Markham, Frances Elizabeth Markham, Ann Crawley Markham, Martha Louise Markham, William Harris Markham, Mary Jane Markham, and Robert Armenius Markham. We have no further record of Frances Elizabeth Markham, and it seems likely that she died in infancy or childhood.

For about twenty years following his father's 1801 death, George Markham took care of his mother, Mary Harris Markham, and handled matters related to his father's estate. He also was called upon to smooth out conflicts related to his "wayward" older brother, John Markham, whose large family resided in neighboring Goochland county Virginia. About 1816 George Markham gave over his father's Revolutionary War Bounty Land in Kentucky to his brother-in-law Norbourne Cooke (married to Judith Virginia Markham). Within a few years his mother went to live with the Cooke family in Henry county Kentucky, and she died there in 1825.

There is a document in the Circuit Court records of Powhatan county Virginia, dated 1818, that identifies the partnership of Markham and Finney. This would relate to George Markham and

his stepbrother-in-law, Crawley (Cralle) Finney. The nature of the business is not known, but they were establishing credit with the firm of LE Steinback in Petersburg Virginia. George Markham mortgaged his 504 acre property on Fighting Creek in Powhatan county Virginia. George Markham and his family appear in the 1820 census of Powhatan county Virginia and the 1830 census of Chesterfield county Virginia.

About the year 1838, when George Markham is around the age of fifty-five, he moved with his wife and younger children to the Lynchburg area in Bedford county Virginia. The family is recorded in the 1840 census of Bedford county Virginia and the 1850 census of Amherst county Virginia, bordering to the northeast of the town of Lynchburg. George Markham also appears in the tax records, and in several deeds of the area. His mother-in-law, Nancy Crawley Garland Finney Moore, and his stepbrother-in-law, Dr Crawley (Cralle) Finney, join him in several business transactions.

Sometime after the 1850 census, when George Markham was past the age of seventy, he determined to move his family to Mobile Alabama. This may have been on the suggestion of his son-in-law James Berryman Green, who married his daughter Ann Crawley Markham. At that point in time only two of his children by Eliza Evans are still living. George Evans Markham is living in Marengo county Alabama and James Bernard Markham is living in Dallas county Alabama. Both counties are about one hundred fifty miles to the west of Mobile. Six of his children by Frances Garland were living in 1850, all in young adulthood and several married with families of their own.

The Markham genealogy prepared by Liddie Rivers, in speaking of George Markham, states, "He died near Roanoke, Virginia, Dec 20, 1852, en route to Alabama with his family." I have never located any further information related to his death, burial, or probate.



Child's Yellow Fever Coffin, on exhibit at the History Museum of Mobile, 2013.

George Markham's widow, Frances Taylor Garland Markham, moved on with her daughter's family to Mobile Alabama. Sadly, the entire family (Frances T Garland Markham, Ann Crawley Markham Green, James Berryman Green, and four Green children) died in the Yellow Fever epidemic in August and September of 1853. They are all buried in Magnolia Cemetery in Mobile, Alabama.

Fifteen grandchildren were born to George Markham during his lifetime, and thirteen more after his death. Fourteen of those grandchildren lived to adulthood, and produced at least twenty-nine great-grandchildren for George Markham. It is hard to imagine, but only eight of those great-grandchildren bore the

name of Markham, and from that generation only one son bearing the name Markham survived to adulthood.

As best I have been able to determine, Garard E Markham was the only gg-grandson to carry on the Markham name in this line. He was born in 1904 in St Louis Missouri, the son of Joseph Markham and Laura Garard, and the grandson of George Spence Markham and Caroline Williams. It appears that he lived out his life in St Louis and died there in 1987. Census records suggest that Garard Markham did not have children. Among George Markham's daughters and granddaughters who produced descendants, we find the surnames Miller, Avirett, Smith, Carr, Akin, McCardell, and others.

Do you want to know more?

[Sketch: The Evans Family of Virginia - Stories of Doctors and Horses](#)

[Link to George Markham](#)

Photo Credits:

Old Powhatan Chimney; Robert Frederick Blum, about 1879; residing at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts. (Nothing further known on the location of the setting of the drawing.)

Child's Yellow Fever Coffin; from an exhibit titled Mobile History in Forty Objects (2013-2014), on display at the History Museum of Mobile; 111 South Royal Street, Mobile Alabama; website - www.historymuseumofmobile.com.

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