

Bio: George Markham

George Markham, son of John Markham and Catherine Mathews, was probably born between 1745 – 1750. I have never been successful in determining birth order, or birth dates for the Markham – Mathews children, but several things suggest that George Markham was a younger son, probably born after his brothers – William, Bernard, John, and Vincent Markham. He was probably born a few years before his family moved from Orange county New York to Chesterfield county Virginia. Little is known of his childhood. His father, John Markham, was a successful and respected planter, and it seems likely that George grew up comfortably within his large family, and probably has some opportunities for education.

When John Markham died in 1770, George Markham was of an age to be appointed as an executor to his father's estate, along with his brothers Bernard and Vincent Markham. Over the next years, George Markham was involved in several transactions related to the settling of John Markham's estate. The Will designated that most of John Markham's property was to be sold, and profits divided among his children. In particular – “. . . I give and bequeath unto my four sons, John Vincent, George and Archabald my negroes, York, Toby, Wiggom, Tom, Silvie and Aaron to be equally divided between them, to them and their heirs forever.”

George Markham was first married in 1774, Chesterfield county Virginia, to Sarah Hill. Sarah was the daughter of John Hill of Chesterfield county Virginia. Her mother has not been identified. The story of the Hill family has been confusing. John Hill lived near Winterpock, Creek and had five children by his first wife – John Hill who married Anne Wilkenson, William Hill who married Sarah Cousins, Nancy Hill who married Jonas Robertson, Miss Hill who married Peter Talbot, and Sarah Hill who married George Markham. John Hill later had five children with Ann Puckett, but it is questionable as to whether John Hill and Ann Puckett were ever married.

George Markham and Sarah Hill had six children who have been identified. Some questions remain in connection to George Markham's children. In this database the children are given as John Markham, Sarah Markham who married Thomas Colley, Catherine Markham who married Henry Branch, Judith Markham, Rebecca Markham who married Thomas Powell, and Bernard Markham who married Elizabeth Osborne. It is not known exactly where George Markham and his wife Sarah first settled, but it may have been in the area of Winterpock Creek.

George Markham was very visible in the affairs of Chesterfield county Virginia. He is party to several land transactions, and he appears as witness or security to numerous marriages, deeds, and Wills. He is named as executor to the estates of John Hill, Francis Osborne, Mary Rowlett, and at least a dozen other residents of the county. During the American Revolution he raised a company of militia and served as their Captain through the duration of the war. Following the war George Markham served as Justice of the Peace, and from 1786 to 1790 he represented Chesterfield county in the Virginia House of Delegates.

Sarah Hill Markham probably died about 1788. George Markham was secondly married to Mary Hardaway Osborne on the 11th of July 1789. She was the daughter of Francis Osborne of Chesterfield county Virginia. Her mother has not been identified. George Markham and Mary Osborne were the parents of four children – Martha Markham who married Henry W Robertson, Francis Osborne Markham who married Emily Woodson and Susan Somerville, George Markham who married Ann Finney, and Vincent Markham who married Obedience Beasley.

George Markham died in October of 1800. His three remaining brothers all died in the following two years. George Markham's Will is of record in the Will Book 5, page 344, Chesterfield County Virginia.

Will of George Markham; dated 24 Oct 1800, probated 8 Dec 1800.

In the name of God Amen I George Markham make this my last will and Testament.

I give to my son in law Henry Branch what he has already received and one negro woman named Peg and two small black steers.

I give to my son in law Thos Coley what he has already received and I desire my executors may pay him the sum of two hundred pounds, which I agreed to him for Nelson Patteson out of my present crop of wheat.

I give to my daughter Judith four hundred pounds; on negro woman named Dulcey and her youngest child.

I give to my Daughter Rebecca four hundred pounds and two negroe girls named Dinah and Nancy.

I give to my son Bernard five hundred pounds three negro boys Hannibal, George and Elleck and one young black mare.

The monee given to my three children Judith, Rebecca and Bernard are to be paid to them in two years after they are of age respectively and in the mean time they are to be supported out of my estate.

I empower my executors to sell Francis Osborne one hundred acres of land adjoining him, part of the land I purchased of Craig for the piece which I give for it and interest on the money I paid.

I empower my executors to make John Spears a deed for the land ? him when he pays for it according to agreement.

I give my son John Markham, if he should return to this country, my shares in the Appomattox company.

The remainder of my estate real and personal after paying my debts and the legacies aforesaid, I give to my four youngest children, Martha, Francis, George and the youngest who I shall call Vincent.

If my wife should choose to take her part, seperate to herself she is to have six hundred acres of land adjoining Tatum and a third part of the slaves, stock and furniture, not given to my first six children which the ? to ? during life. In case of the death of any of my children before they arrive of age or marry, brothers and sisters of the whole blood only are to have the part of such as die.

I appoint my wife executor and brother Bernard and Francis Osborne executors of this my will which I sign and seal 24th day of October 1800 (?).

George Markham

witness: Jacob Scudder George Bradley

It is not known when Mary Osborne Markham died. She may be the elderly female that appears in the household of her son Vincent Markham in the 1820 Census of Chesterfield county Virginia.

Correction:

About 1900, Mrs Flournoy (Liddie) Rivers of Pulaski Tennessee submitted a Markham genealogy to the Virginia Magazine of History (Vol 4, page 287). Her genealogy is an excellent asset to the Markham family story, but it does contain a few errors. Liddie Rivers names the children of George Markham and his first wife Sarah Hill as George, Francis, Vincent and Martha Markham. These are actually the children of George Markham and his second wife Mary Osborne. Then she named the children of George Markham and Mary Osborne as John Finney Markham, George Crawley Markham, Mary Osborne Markham, Ann Frances Markham, and Martha Markham. These are actually grandchildren to George Markham and Mary Osborne, through their son George Markham who married Ann Finney.

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Bio: George Markham; Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2014.