

Christopher Reynolds Family of Isle of Wight County

1. **Christopher Reynolds** (? – c1654) first appears in the 1624 and 1625 musters of “Warascoyack”, a plantation located in what was later Isle of Wight County on or near the Pagan River. The muster of 16 February 1623/4 lists 33 persons living there, among them a “Chr. Reinold.”¹ The Warascoyack muster the following year, taken on 7 February 1624/5, lists 12 of the 19 persons living there as servants of Edward Bennett, one of whom was “Christopher Reynolds”, age not given, listed as arriving in the *John and Francis* in 1622.²

The Warascoyack plantation had been organized by Edward Bennett and his partners in London on a patent issued on 21 November 1621 contingent upon their settling 200 colonists on the land. Bennett, a London merchant and ship owner, initially delivered 120 settlers in February 1622 (none of whom seem to have survived long enough to appear in the 1625 muster) but there are no surviving records of his later importations. Disease, starvation, and Indian attacks nearly destroyed the colony and, after the Good Friday massacre of 22 March 1622 which left 46 of Bennett’s colonists dead, the Governor ordered the Warascoyack plantation abandoned and the remaining settlers transferred to Jamestown. By mid-1623 the survivors had returned, supplemented by an unknown number of settlers from other plantations. The *John and Francis*, on which Christopher Reynolds arrived, was one of Edward Bennett’s ships, but there is no surviving record of its arrival in 1622. (There is, however, record of its arrival in mid-1623.) Whether Christopher Reynolds was imported by Bennett or was one of the draftees from another plantation is unknown. Surviving records give no indication that Bennett imported any settlers to Warascoyack between the initial supply and mid-1623.

On 13 March 1626, Christopher Reynolds testified at the General Court in Jamestown that he had read the indenture contract of Peter Collins, another Bennett servant at Warascoyack, and that it obligated Collins to serve Bennett for four years.³ This is an interesting record, as it tells us Christopher Reynolds was literate, and implies he was an adult at the time.⁴ This record has been interpreted as meaning that he was Bennett’s secretary, but nothing in the court records suggests that was the case (and, in fact, he was testifying against Bennett’s interests.) However, Reynolds was not himself identified as a servant, and if not already freed would have been later that year if the terms of his own contract were similar. Our next record of him is a purchase nearly nine years later, on 21 December 1634, of 100 acres in the same general area on the Pagan River by Christopher Reynolds of “Warwickqueak.”⁵

¹ The Original Lists of Persons of Quality..., John Camden Hotten, ed. (Reprint by G.A. Baker & Co., 1931) pp181-

² Adventurers of Purse and Person Virginia 1607-1625, Annie Lash Jester (Princeton University Press, 1956) is a transcript, thus more complete than the several books which abstract this record.

³ Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, H. R. McIlwaine, ed. (1924), p97.

⁴ Although a male could testify in court as early as the age of 14, it’s a relatively rare occurrence. In this case, he was the only witness, suggesting that he was mature enough that the court felt his testimony sufficient. In addition, the fact that he was literate and had been in the colony at least four years by this time (a colony without schools) makes a reasonably strong argument that he was an adult.

⁵ Isle of Wight Book A, p103 abstracted in Seventeenth Century Isle of Wight County, Virginia, John Bennett Boddie (1938), p531. Also mentioned in a 1684 patent, see Virginia Patent Book 7, p417.

Five months after this purchase, there was a “Chri. Reinholds”, age 24, who departed Gravesend, which was then the port of London, for Virginia on the ship *Speedwell*.⁶ While it is remotely possible that this was the same person, returning from a trip to England, a highly plausible argument can be made against it.⁷ It was not only a mere five months after his purchase of land in Virginia, but it would mean that Reynolds was only about eleven years old when he arrived in Jamestown.

On 15 September 1636 Christopher Reynolds received a patent for 450 acres on Cypress Creek for the transportation of nine persons.⁸ Whether he had actually imported these persons, or purchased the headrights, is unknown, but they are unlikely to have been *Speedwell* passengers.⁹ Nearly three years later, on 1 May 1639, he sold the original 100 acres.¹⁰ We also know that he acquired additional nearby land sometime after 1640, which he sold in early 1644, though the record of its purchase is among the missing records of the county.¹¹

Although the loss of deeds after mid-1649 means there is no record of it, he somehow acquired additional land, which he identified in his will as the land he was living on at the time. From later deeds and patents, it appears this parcel, adjacent to his 1636 patent, was 200 acres he acquired from Ambrose Bennett, a neighboring landowner. His son Richard Reynolds inherited this land, and Richard’s own son Christopher Reynolds eventually sold the parcel in 1711, describing it as land “given” to Christopher Reynolds by Ambrose Bennett.¹²

Christopher Reynolds’ will is dated 1 May 1654, with no probate date noted but clearly soon after.¹³ It devises his 450-acre patent to his sons Christopher and John, and the home plantation

⁶ The Original Lists of Persons of Quality..., John Camden Hotten, ed. (G.A. Baker & Co., 1931) pp84.

⁷ Other than the coincidence of the name, there is no evidence that this was the same person. Some of the *Speedwell* passengers were later used as headrights for patents in both Isle of Wight and Henrico counties, providing some very weak evidence that the second Christopher Reynolds could have arrived in or near Isle of Wight. However, I note that he would have had to travel to England, conduct his business, and then board a ship for the return only five months after buying land in Virginia. Further, he would have been away from that land at the very time he should have been planting his initial crop. In addition, later evidence shows he had a wife and at least one infant child, who he should have been reluctant to abandon in the still-dangerous environment of Virginia. As luck would have it, we have a complete list of ships traveling between Virginia and London in this particular time period, and not one of them left London early enough to reach Virginia and return between the day Reynolds bought his land and the day the *Speedwell* left London for the return trip. The passenger’s age is also a problem. If he were 24 in May 1635, then he had arrived in Virginia on the *John and Francis* at the age of 10 or 11 and had testified for Collins at the age of 14 or 15, an unlikely scenario. Relative to the earlier muster, I note that the vast majority of servants in Virginia were in their 20s and 30s, only 5% being aged 15 or under in the 1625 muster (of those whose ages were given). Those odds favor his having been an adult at that time, thus a different person than the *Speedwell* passenger. The fact that there is no later reference to a second Christopher Reynolds is not persuasive since roughly 80% of all immigrants at the time lived less than five years.

⁸ Virginia Patent Book 1, p382. The location is clear from later patents and the succession of the land. It was on the west side of Cypress Creek.

⁹ Technically, headrights were not usable at this time until three years after their arrival. The *Speedwell* passengers would not have been usable as headrights until two years later. Further, recent research has shown that nearly 80% of headrights were used in patents by persons other than those who actually imported them, so we cannot conclude that Christopher Reynolds was the importer.

¹⁰ Isle of Wight Book A, p103 abstracted by Boddie, p531.

¹¹ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book1, p541, p544, reference the sale by Reynolds.

¹² Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p186.

¹³ Isle of Wight County Book A, p46.

on which he lived to his son Richard. John and Richard, both of whom were under 16, were to take possession when they reached 21, Christopher apparently already being of age. Daughter Abbasha, presumably the eldest daughter, was noted to have already received her inheritance. Bequests of livestock were made to daughters Elizabeth (who had received part of her inheritance earlier) and Jane, to George Rivers, and to “the child my wife now goeth with”. His wife Elizabeth Reynolds was named executrix.

Elizabeth was surely a second wife. The will charged her with “the ordering and bringing up John and Richard, my sons, until they be sixteen years of age, and Elizabeth & Jane until they be fifteen years of age.” That language on its own raises the question, and the later will of John Reynolds implies that she was the widow of a Rivers. John Reynolds left a will 15 years later which made a bequest to “my brother” George Rivers.¹⁴ That suggests that John Reynolds and George Rivers may have had the same mother. The apparent age gap between Christopher Reynolds Jr. and the rest of the children suggests that he, at least, had a different mother. The fact that Elizabeth was pregnant in 1654 argues for this as well – rarely did 17th century women bear children as much as 20 years apart, and the son Christopher was of age and perhaps already married by the time of the will. One plausible scenario is that Elizabeth was the mother of all the children except Christopher (and perhaps Abbasha), which would imply a marriage in the late 1630s. George Rivers, presumably her son, lived until 1707 leaving a will naming an unmarried daughter, which suggests he was younger than at least some of the Reynolds children.¹⁵ It seems highly likely that Christopher Reynolds had an earlier, unknown, wife who bore at least one of the children. The maiden name of his wife Elizabeth is likewise unknown, as is what happened to her. As a widow still young enough to bear children, and with at least five children at home, she surely would have remarried, but to whom is unknown.

The children were:

- 1.1. **Christopher Reynolds II** (by1633 – by1679) He was apparently of age by the date of his father’s will, for his father devised his land outright while specifying that his brothers would receive their lands at age 21. In fact, he may have already married, since his daughter Elizabeth was apparently married to John Neville by January 1664/5¹⁶ and his son Richard was born no later than 1658. Though he was clearly born by 1633, it may have been much earlier. On 25 November 1657 he recorded a patent for 350 acres which he assigned to Richard Jordan, 100 acres of which Jordan immediately sold back to him.¹⁷ He appears in no further records. He was deceased by 10 May 1679 when his son Richard renewed by patent both that 100 acre purchase and the land his father had inherited.¹⁸ This patent identified Christopher Reynolds II as the eldest son of his father Christopher Reynolds Sr., and Richard Reynolds as his only son and heir. Although no record of his death is preserved in the Isle of Wight records, this patent states that he left a “last will & testament.” Whether that will was recorded in neighboring Nansemond County or is among the apparently missing wills of Isle of Wight between 1656 and

¹⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p62.

¹⁵ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p479.

¹⁶ See “Chronology of Reynolds Records” for more details.

¹⁷ Virginia Patent Book 4, p243-4 and Book 6, p684-5.

¹⁸ Virginia Patent Book 6, p684-5.

1661 is unknown.¹⁹ His wife's name does not appear in any records, but she was apparently a sister of Richard Sharpe, whose 1700 will makes bequests to the three sons of "my cozen Richard Reynolds".²⁰ Richard Reynolds, son of Christopher Reynolds II, was also executor of that will.²¹ The usual meaning of "cousin", and the obvious one in this case, was "nephew" (see lengthy note below²²), implying that Christopher Reynolds' wife was a sister of Richard Sharpe. Her first name is unknown and appears in no records. From the patent of 1679, his only son was Richard Reynolds. A later court record indicates a daughter named Elizabeth:

- 1.1.1. **Richard Reynolds** (by 1658 – 1712) As "Richard Reynolds the younger" he renewed the patent for his father's inherited land on 10 May 1679, declaring that he was the only son and heir of his father.²³ He appears frequently in Isle of Wight records, often as "Richard Reynolds Jr." to differentiate him from his uncle of the same name. He married Elizabeth Williams, daughter of George Williams, sometime before mid-1685 when he and his wife, along with her brother George Williams Jr., divided the estate of their deceased brother William Williams.²⁴ George Williams Sr. had died in 1672, naming three minor children in his will: William, George, and Elizabeth.²⁵ Elizabeth Reynolds, wife of Richard Reynolds Jr., is later identified as George Williams' daughter in deeds of 1694 and 1700.²⁶ In 1698, Richard Reynolds purchased the land his uncle Richard Reynolds had inherited.²⁷ He is the same Richard Reynolds named as a "cousin" in Richard Sharpe's 1700 will, which makes bequests to the three sons of Richard Reynolds and names Richard himself as executor.²⁸ Richard Reynolds own will, dated 27 July 1711 and proved 26 May 1712, names his wife Elizabeth and the same three sons.²⁹

¹⁹ Book "A" covers the period 1651-6. Wills & Deeds Book 1 has only 5 wills recorded between 1655 and 1659, then only one more, in 1663. Wills and Deeds 2 begins with a recording in mid-1666. The Administrations & Probates book begins in 1661 but refers to wills that are not recorded in the other books. It seems highly likely that there are lost records in the period of roughly 1659 through 1666.

²⁰ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p422.

²¹ Isle of Wight Administrations and Probates, p81.

²² "Cousin" could have had a variety of meanings, being used to identify relationships outside the immediate family circle, but before the mid-1700s was most commonly used to mean "nephew" or "niece." In this will, it is probably used for both "nephew" and "grandnephew". Its use in the modern sense was rare, and in this case was extremely unlikely. Richard Sharpe's literal first cousin would have been the son of his aunt. There is no evidence that he had an uncle in Virginia since the only Sharpe who appears in early Isle of Wight records is Richard Sharpe himself and perhaps his father also named Richard Sharpe – assuming his father was the Richard Sharpe of the earlier patent. There is also the possibility that Richard Reynolds was the child of Richard Sharpe's wife's sister, who would also have been a "cousin" to him. However, the will mentions no living wife or children of his own, so it is not clear whether Richard Sharpe had ever been married or not.

²³ Virginia Patent Book 6, p684-5.

²⁴ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p243.

²⁵ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p114.

²⁶ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p90 and p306.

²⁷ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p254.

²⁸ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p422 and Administrations and Probates book, p81.

²⁹ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p536.

1.1.1.1. **Richard Reynolds** (c1680 – by1741) Richard Sharpe’s will of 15 January 1700 devises a lease to Richard Reynolds the “son of my cousin Richard Reynolds”, implying that he was of age.³⁰ In 1706, as “Richard Reynolds Jr.”, he surveyed land south of the Blackwater.³¹ The patent for that land was issued seven years later, on 13 November 1713, in the same name though he was by then no longer a “Junior”.³² A posthumous patent to his father was issued the same day.³³ Having by then inherited much of his father’s lands, he apparently never lived on that patent, which he and his wife Rebecca sold in two transactions in 1715 and 1718.³⁴ The maiden name of his wife Rebecca is unknown. He may have died not long afterward. Following that last sale in early 1718, there is not a single mention of a living Richard Reynolds in Isle of Wight records for another 18 years, by which time this Richard Reynolds was apparently dead. There is no record of his death, but on 7 April 1741 his estate was distributed among the four children below, each of whom was evidently of age by then.³⁵ He may have died much earlier, as the first references after 1718 appear to be for his son, beginning in 1736. Rebecca Reynolds’ own will, dated 4 May 1745 and recorded 6 March 1755, names the same four children, plus a grandson.³⁶

1.1.1.1.1. **Richard Reynolds** (c1710 –1773/4) He is likely the grandson mentioned in the 1711 will of his grandfather Richard Reynolds. His mother’s will of 1745 also mentions his own son Richard, and he was a legatee of his uncle Sharpe Reynolds’ will. He first appears in the records in 1736, when his land was processioned.³⁷ Thereafter he appears frequently in Isle of Wight records. The appraisal of his estate is undated, but recorded on 3 February 1774.³⁸ His wife was perhaps Prudence Pitt, daughter of John Pitt, but there is no proof.³⁹ Richard and Randolph can be proven to be his children, and

³⁰ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p422.

³¹ English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records, Louis des Cognets, Jr. (Genealogical Publishing Co., Reprinted 1990), p90.

³² Virginia Patent Book 10, p98.

³³ Virginia Patent Book 10, p114. The patent was surveyed in 1707 when he was still alive, but not signed by the Governor until after his death.

³⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p332 and Isle of Wight Great Book, p140.

³⁵ Isle of Wight Deed Book 9, p326-7.

³⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p164.

³⁷ Newport Parish Vestry Book, p77.

³⁸ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p298.

³⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 11, p332 indicates that (if this was him rather than his son) his wife was Prudence, and suggests she may have been the daughter Prudence Pitt named in the 1729 will of John Pitt Jr. I would note that Richard Reynolds named a son Pitt.

several records tie the other two sons to them.⁴⁰

1.1.1.1.1.1. **Richard Reynolds** (c1738? –c1760?) As mentioned above, he was mentioned in the will of his grandmother Rebecca Reynolds, dated 4 May 1745. The only certain reference to him is a deed witnessed by both his father and him in 1759, he signing as Richard Reynolds Jr.⁴¹ There are no further references to a “Jr.,” nor any later references that we can identify as him. He evidently did not survive his father, as there are no references to a Richard Reynolds for 23 years following the death of his father.

1.1.1.1.1.2. **Rowland Reynolds** (c1745? – c1799) His name appears as both Roland and Rowland. He first appears as a witness in 1772.⁴² He later leased out land formerly owned by his father that he presumably had inherited.⁴³ A court case establishes that he had seven children by two wives.⁴⁴ His first wife was apparently a daughter of Joseph Chapman whose 1791 will names “granddaughter Liddia Reynolds, daughter of Roland Reynolds” as a legatee.⁴⁵ His second wife was Martha, widow of Jeremiah Godwin, whom he married in 1787 as a second wife.⁴⁶ He was not on the 1799 tax list, and an accounting of his estate was recorded in 1800, paying Randall Reynolds among others.⁴⁷

His widow survived him by several years, but in 1817 she was “lately deceased” when his children brought a chancery case to force division of his land. The case establishes that he had four children by his first wife: **Richard Reynolds**, **Randolph Reynolds**, **Rebecca Reynolds**, and **Margaret Reynolds**. He had three children by his

⁴⁰ Isle of Wight Deed Book 11, p332 for instance, and numerous estate appraisal and witnesses that clearly show they were living in the same small area of the county. Since we can eliminate all the other possible parents, all four children shown must be Richard Reynolds’ sons. Several later records also imply the relationships.

⁴¹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 10, p203.

⁴² Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p267.

⁴³ Isle of Wight County Deed Book 13, p306 and p311.

⁴⁴ Library of Virginia Chancery Case Files, Indexed as Isle of Wight Case No. 1817-019.

⁴⁵ Isle of Wight Will Book 10, p220.

⁴⁶ Chapman includes both the bond and the minister’s return.

⁴⁷ Isle of Wight Will Book 11, p262.

second wife: **Nancy Reynolds, Josiah Reynolds,** and **Margaret Reynolds.** Lydia had since died unmarried; Randolph had died intestate leaving two children of his own named **Randolph Reynolds** (under 21) and **Sabra Reynolds** (who since married Henry Bagnal); and Margaret Reynolds had since married John Carson.

1.1.1.1.1.3. **Randall Reynolds** (? - c1805?) His father made a deed of gift to son Randall Reynolds on 8 February 1772, his first appearance in the records.⁴⁸ Subsequent records are for both “Randall Reynolds” and “Randolph Reynolds”, evidently the same person. He married Martha Dickinson in 1795, surely not his first wife. He is on the 1799 tax list but was not tracked further. He died sometime before 1806 when the administrator of his estate, John Barber, sued George Bains over a lease Reynolds had made to Bains.⁴⁹

1.1.1.1.1.4. **Pitt Reynolds** (c1740? – c1774) He first appears in the records in 1762.⁵⁰ He died intestate about the same time as his father, as an undated appraisal of his estate was recorded on 1 September 1774.⁵¹ An estate accounting recorded sixteen years later on 2 November 1790 suggests **he had two daughters by then married to Benjamin Applewhaite and Charles Groce, who split** the estate.⁵² He may also have had a son Richard Reynolds, for whom Rowland Reynolds was guardian, but that son is not evident in later records.

Guradian accountings for **Martha Wills Reynolds** and **Lydia Reynolds** recorded in 1779 and 1780 by their guardian James Wills show that they were the only living heirs of Pitt Reynolds, as they were splitting the income from the estate.⁵³ Martha Wills Reynolds married George Bains in 1787. In

⁴⁸ Isle of Wight County Deed Book 12, p459.

⁴⁹ Virginia Memory Chancery Court Records, indexed as Isle of Wight Case No. 1806-062

⁵⁰ Isle of Wight Will Book 7, p190, as an estate appraiser.

⁵¹ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p331.

⁵² Isle of Wight Will Book 10, p190.

⁵³ Isle of Wight Gaurdian Records Vol. 1 1766-1782, p292, p318-319.

a chancery case brought in 1789, **Lydia Reynolds**, by her guardian Mills Wills, brought suit against **Martha Reynolds**, wife of George Bains and a daughter of Pitt Reynolds, to split two parcels of land owned by Pitt Reynolds at his death.

1.1.1.1.2. **George Reynolds** (bef1721 – 1763) He married Elizabeth Norsworthy, daughter of Joseph Norsworthy, whose 1757 will identifies Elizabeth Reynolds as a daughter.⁵⁴ His son Isham Reynolds also identified Rachel Norsworthy, widow of Joseph Norsworthy, as his grandmother.⁵⁵ George Reynolds died intestate before 5 July 1763, when his estate was appraised.⁵⁶ Elizabeth evidently survived George, for she was briefly the guardian of two of the children.⁵⁷ Later records identify four minor children.⁵⁸

1.1.1.1.2.1. **Isham Reynolds** (c1749 - 1777) Thomas Pitt filed guardian accountings for Isham Reynolds, orphan of George Reynolds in 1767, 1768, and 1769.⁵⁹ Rachel Norsworthy filed accountings for his brothers starting in 1770, Isham apparently having reached majority in 1770. He evidently died unmarried, leaving a will dated 12 August 1776 and proved on 1 January 1778 bequeathing his entire estate to his grandmother Rachel Norsworthy.⁶⁰

1.1.1.1.2.2. **John Reynolds** (c1760? - ?) Thomas Pitt filed guardian accountings for John Reynolds, orphan of George Reynolds in 1767, 1768, and 1769.⁶¹ Rachel Reynolds filed an accounting for him in 1773.⁶² He was apparently the surety for the marriage of his cousin Rowland Reynolds in 1787. He is on the 1790 tax list of Isle of Wight, and married first to Elizabeth Whitley in 1792 then to Polly Jordan in 1798, but was not tracked further.

⁵⁴ Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p316. Isle of Wight Order Book 1759-1763, p330, p504 identifies her husband as George Reynolds.

⁵⁵ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p477.

⁵⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book 7, p192.

⁵⁷ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts 1740-1767, p328.

⁵⁸ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts 1740-1767, p328, 264, 376, 399.

⁵⁹ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, p25, p53, p74.

⁶⁰ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p477.

⁶¹ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, p25, p53, p74.

⁶² Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, p138.

1.1.1.1.2.3. **Robert Reynolds** (c1760? - ?) Thomas Pitt filed guardian accountings for Robert Reynolds, orphan of George Reynolds in 1767, 1768, and 1769.⁶³ Rachel Norsworthy filed guardian accountings for him in 1771 and 1773.⁶⁴ Robert Reynolds may have been the youngest child, as he was bound out as late as 1773 and 1775.⁶⁵ He appears in no further Isle of Wight records.

1.1.1.1.2.4. **Martha Reynolds** (c1749? - ?) Unlike her brothers, Charles Fulgham, and later his widow Ann Fulgham, was her guardian. She was apparently “my darling Martha Reynolds” mentioned as a legatee in the 8 November 1764 will of Charles Fulgham, which also calls her “cousin”.⁶⁶ Charles Fulgham’s widow Ann was appointed her guardian in 1765 and filed guardian accountings in 1767, 1768, and 1769 showing that she was living a privileged life with ownership of several slaves.⁶⁷ She may have reached majority by 1770 as no further accountings were recorded.

A court record in 1779 contains testimony that Charles Fulgham left land to “his niece Martha Reynolds” when she reached 21 or married.⁶⁸ Martha was alive in 1779 and still unmarried, but we have no further record of her.

1.1.1.1.3. **Tabitha Reynolds** (bef1721 -) She was unmarried when she received her share of her father’s estate in 1741, and evidently still unmarried when her mother’s will was written four years later. A 1752 estate accounting mentions a debt to Tabitha Reynolds, suggesting she was still unmarried.⁶⁹

1.1.1.1.4. **Christopher Reynolds** (bef1721 - 1763) By 1747 he had married Elizabeth Saunders, sister of John Saunders, according

⁶³ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, p25, p53, p74.

⁶⁴ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, p138.

⁶⁵ Court Minute Books transcribed in *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 26, pp 121, 205, 209.

⁶⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book

⁶⁷ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts, Vol. 1 1766-1782, 14, p41, p57.

⁶⁸ Isle of Wight Chancery Case, Virginia Memory Index No. 1779-019. Richard Baker sued Ann Fulgham and Martha Reynolds over his sale of town lots in Springfield to Charles Fulgham that was interrupted by Fulgham’s death and never consummated. Ann Fulgham died in 1772 and her administrator Brewer Godwin joined the suit as defendant.

⁶⁹ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts 1740-1767, p77.

to a court record.⁷⁰ Indeed, he and his wife Elizabeth sold land on 29 January 1750.⁷¹ Immediately thereafter he bought land from his cousin Christopher Reynolds.⁷² His wife apparently predeceased him, for she is not mentioned in his will dated 22 March 1763 and recorded six weeks later on 5 May 1763, which names children Sharpe, Saunders, and Sweeting and implies other children.⁷³ Two of these other children were Mourning and Mary from later guardian accounts. On 7 September 1775, Sweeting Joyner filed a guardian account on behalf of her deceased husband (the will's executor) for Mourning, Mary, Saunders, and Sweeting Reynolds, orphans of Christopher Reynolds.⁷⁴ The will had left to son Sharpe Reynolds "the plantation I bought of my cousin Christopher Reynolds" thus identifying which of the several Christopher Reynolds he was. When his son Sharpe Reynolds sold that land in 1773, his deed clearly identified his father as the son of Richard Reynolds.⁷⁵

In 1783 his son Sharpe Reynolds brought a chancery suit against John Joyner, the son and surviving executor of John Joyner who had been executor of Christopher Reynolds and guardian of his children. That suit identifies the children alive at that time as Sharpe, Mourning, and Tabitha, and adds two deceased children named Mary Saunders Bridger and Ann Howard.⁷⁶

1.1.1.1.4.1. **Sharpe Reynolds** (c1750 - 1784) was apparently the eldest son. His will, dated 13 February 1784 and recorded 6 May 1784, names his wife Sophia and children Henry, Betsey and Patsy.⁷⁷ His wife was the daughter of Samuel Godwin, whose 1791 will mentions his daughter Sophia Reynolds.⁷⁸ Sophia apparently did not remarry, as she appears as a single woman in Isle of Wight as late as 1810.

1.1.1.1.4.2. **Saunders Reynolds** was still a minor when the 1775 record above was filed. He was evidently

⁷⁰ Isle of Wight Order Book 1746-52, p29.

⁷¹ Isle Of Wight Deed Book 8, p292.

⁷² Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p359.

⁷³ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p279.

⁷⁴ *Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol. 26, No. 4, p255.

⁷⁵ Isle of Wight Deed Book 13, p93.

⁷⁶ Isle of Wight Chancery Case, Virginia Memory Index No. 1790-009

⁷⁷ Isle of Wight Will Book 9, p230.

⁷⁸ Isle of Wight Will Book 10, p205.

dead when the chancery case was brought in 1783.

1.1.1.1.4.3. **Sweeting Reynolds** She was apparently dead by 1783.

1.1.1.1.4.4. **Mourning Reynolds** She was apparently a witness to a deed by her cousin in early 1775.⁷⁹ According to the chancery case, she was married to John Corbin by 1783.

1.1.1.1.4.5. **Mary Saunders Reynolds** The chancery case refers to her as Mary Saunders Bridger, deceased.

1.1.1.1.4.6. **Tabitha Reynolds** She was the wife of Randall Whitley when the chancery case was filed in 1783.

1.1.1.2. **Christopher Reynolds** (c1690? - 1733) His father's will left him land which eventually passed to his own eldest son Christopher. He married Ann Coleman, as they were legatees of her brother Robert Coleman's will in 1716⁸⁰ and of her father Robert Coleman's will in 1721.⁸¹ Christopher Reynolds was himself dead, at a reasonably young age, by 27 March 1733 when an appraisal of his estate was ordered.⁸² He apparently left small children, for the personal estate was not divided amongst the widow and orphans until nine years later, in early 1742.⁸³ Indeed, his eldest son was still a minor in 1743. His widow Ann, remarried to a Hunt and was again widowed, for as Ann Hunt she released her widow's dower in two land sales by her son Christopher in 1753 and in one land sale by her son Robert in 1754.⁸⁴ She was apparently dead by early 1762 when her son Christopher sold the remainder of that land without her release.⁸⁵

1.1.1.2.1. **Christopher Reynolds** (c1725 – c1782?) He was evidently the eldest son, for he inherited his father's land. He was still a minor, or had just reached majority, on 26 September 1743 when his guardian and uncle, Sharpe Reynolds, submitted a guardian account.⁸⁶ On 1 February 1750 he and his wife Mary sold part his father's land to his cousin Christopher Reynolds, identifying himself as the son of Christopher Reynolds,

⁷⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 13, p311.

⁸⁰ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p607.

⁸¹ Bath County, North Carolina Will Book 4, p106 abstracted in Early Records of North Carolina, Stephen A. Bradley and in Abstracts of North Carolina Wills, J. Bryan Grimes, p75.

⁸² Isle of Wight Will Book 3, p372.

⁸³ Isle of Wight Will Book 4, p396.

⁸⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 9, p154, 156, 289.

⁸⁵ Isle of Wight County Deed Book 11, p4.

⁸⁶ Isle of Wight Guardian Accounts 1740-1767, p8.

deceased.⁸⁷ A few days later, he made a gift of 200 acres of his inherited land to his brother Robert Reynolds.⁸⁸ He and Mary then sold part of the land his father inherited from Robert Coleman on 5 July 1753.⁸⁹ On 1 January 1762, he again sold land identifying it as land willed to his father by Robert Coleman and descended to him as heir, this time without Mary's release.⁹⁰ His wife Mary was apparently Mary Lightfoot.

Mary Reynolds and Patience Reynolds, evidently the wives of brothers Christopher and Robert Reynolds, were legatees of Henry Lightfoot Sr. in 1754.⁹¹ Mary Reynolds did not release dower in his land sales of 1758 or 1762, apparently having died by 1756.⁹² Christopher Reynolds then remarried before 1763, and probably in 1761, to Penelope Nolleboy, the widow of Needham Nolleboy.⁹³ (There is some mystery about this, however.⁹⁴) Since he was a resident of Isle of Wight as late as 1763, it could be that he was not the same Christopher Reynolds who appears in Johnston County, North Carolina by the late 1750s.⁹⁵ On 7 February 1763, as Christopher Reynolds of Isle of Wight, he bought land in Craven County, North Carolina in or near the part that became Jones County.⁹⁶ He subsequently accumulated land in Dobbs (later Greene and Lenoir), Craven, and Jones counties and appears in the records of each county. Two deeds of gift to his children, dated 1756 and 1762 and acknowledged by him in 1775, name his children.⁹⁷ Later records suggest that the first five children below were by Mary Lightfoot and the last four by Penelope

⁸⁷ Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p. 359.

⁸⁸ Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p361.

⁸⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 9, p156.

⁹⁰ Isle of Wight County Deed Book 11, p4.

⁹¹ Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p122.

⁹² The deed of gift in 1756 (qv) may have been a means of effecting a prenuptial agreement by gifting slaves to his minor children in order to remove them from his own estate, thus removing them from a future wife's dower interest.

⁹³ Isle of Wight Order Book 1759-1763, p464 according to Marriages of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1628-1800, Blanche Adams Chapman, p39.

⁹⁴ The only Needham Nolleboy (sometimes "Nolley") mentioned in Isle of Wight records died by 7 May 1761 when his appraisal was ordered. Though his widow Penelope remarried to Christopher Reynolds by 1763, an estate accounting was filed as late as 1771 in Isle of Wight, long after they left the area. And his minor son was bound out in 1763 in Isle of Wight a few months after Penelope moved to North Carolina. Either there was a second Needham Nolleboy not mentioned in the records, or Josiah was not the natural son of Penelope and was abandoned by his stepmother to the care of blood relatives.

⁹⁵ See Chronology.

⁹⁶ Craven County, NC Miscellaneous Records 1749-1777, p47.

⁹⁷ Jones County Deed Book C, pp33-34.

Nolleboy.⁹⁸

- 1.1.1.2.1.1. **Christopher Reynolds** (? - ?)
- 1.1.1.2.1.2. **Robert Reynolds** (? - ?)
- 1.1.1.2.1.3. **Sharpe Reynolds** (? - ?)
- 1.1.1.2.1.4. **Elizabeth Reynolds** (the wife of James Wood)
- 1.1.1.2.1.5. **Mary Reynolds** (the wife of Simon Speight)
- 1.1.1.2.1.6. **Richard Reynolds** (c1761 - ?)
- 1.1.1.2.1.7. **Sarah Reynolds**
- 1.1.1.2.1.8. **James Reynolds** (c1761 – 1785) He was unmarried, leaving a will in Jones County dated 7 February 1785 leaving his mother Penelope Reynolds and his sister Nancy Reynolds.
- 1.1.1.2.1.9. **Nancy Reynolds** (the wife of Nathan Bryan)

1.1.1.2.2. **Robert Reynolds** (c1725? – aft1780) He first appears on 6 February 1750 when his brother Christopher Reynolds deeded him the 200 acres on which he lived. On 7 June 1754 he and his wife Patience sold that land with his mother Ann Hunt releasing dower.⁹⁹ His wife was Patience Lightfoot, sister of his brother's wife and daughter of Henry Lightfoot, whose 1754 accounting mentions her as a legatee.¹⁰⁰ After selling his land in 1754 he moved to Johnston County, North Carolina where a Robert Reynolds appears twice in the indices of its lost deeds recorded in 1757-8.¹⁰¹ He was probably the Robert Reynolds who witnessed the 1758 will of Benjamin Brock of Johnston County, which was recorded in Isle of Wight.¹⁰² By 1762 he was in neighboring Craven County when he bought land there.¹⁰³ He then lived in both Craven and Jones County, but was Robert Reynolds Sr. of South Carolina in 1780 when he sold his land in Jones County to his brother Christopher Reynolds.¹⁰⁴ He was not further traced.

1.1.1.3. **Sharpe Reynolds** (c1690s - 1754) He is first mentioned in the 1700 will of Richard Sharpe, but appears infrequently in the records, first as an

⁹⁸ Eg, Jones County, North Carolina, Deed Book D, pp127. The deeds of gift suggest that the last four children were born after 1756, that James and Richard were born before 1762, and the daughters after 1762, so it's not entirely clear whether all four were Penelope's. James Reynolds' will calls Penelope his mother, but that doesn't necessarily mean she was his natural mother. Penelope's will, however, suggests Nancy, Sara, and Richard were her own children.

⁹⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 9, p289.

¹⁰⁰ Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p122.

¹⁰¹ Johnston County Grantee/Grantor Index, recorded Book 5, p299 and p336. The deeds themselves are lost.

¹⁰² Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p440.

¹⁰³ Craven County, North Carolina Wills, Deeds, Etc. 1749-1777, p17 and p272, both dated in 1762.

¹⁰⁴ Jones County Deed Book C, p27.

appraiser of an estate in 1733.¹⁰⁵ He had inherited land from his father, which was processed in his name as early as 1736.¹⁰⁶ He was guardian of his nephew Christopher Reynolds in 1743 (see above). He left a will dated 8 July 1754 and proved on 5 September 1754.¹⁰⁷ He was evidently unmarried and childless, for he left his estate to his “cousin” (nephew) Christopher Reynolds, son of his brother Christopher Reynolds, his cousins Richard and George Reynolds, the sons of Richard Reynolds, and to Sarah Wooten.

1.1.2. **Elizabeth Reynolds** (c1645? - ?) A 1690 deed regarding a dispute over land indicates that Elizabeth, the wife of John Neville, was the sister of Richard Reynolds above.¹⁰⁸ The dispute was likely over a deed three months earlier, when John Neville and his wife Elizabeth gifted 100 acres of the Richard Sharpe patent to Benjamin Beale Jr. and his wife Martha, evidently their daughter.¹⁰⁹ John Neville had evidently married Elizabeth prior to 1665 when when, as residents of Nansemond, both signed three deeds for land in Isle of Wight.¹¹⁰ Because the Nevilles lived in Nansemond County, whose records are destroyed, we have few records of them. John Neville was apparently dead by 1704 as the quit rents show no land owned by him. They appear to have three children named John Neville Jr., Martha (the wife of Benjamin Beale), and Benjamin Neville

1.2. **Richard Reynolds** (1638-48 - 1707) Like his brother John, he was under 16 when his father made his will, in which Richard was left the home plantation. His brother John Reynolds left him his own inherited land in his 1669 will. He subsequently appears frequently in the Isle of Wight records beginning with a jury service in 1672.¹¹¹ With the first appearance of his nephew in 1679, he was sometimes styled as Richard Reynolds “Senior” to differentiate him from that nephew. He appears to be the Richard Reynolds who was undersheriff in 1694, and he probably accounts for the majority of 17th century references to Richard Reynolds in Isle of Wight records. On 23 April 1681, as “Richard Reynolds Sr.” he renewed the patent for the land he had inherited from his brother John Reynolds, plus adjoining additional land.¹¹² The succession of this patent proves that he was the same Richard Reynolds who died in 1707. A year later, on 20 April 1682, he patented an additional 450 acres.¹¹³ We can identify him as the patentee because his son Christopher sold part of that land in 1708, identifying Richard Reynolds, the original patentee, as his deceased father.¹¹⁴ Despite having inherited so much of the

¹⁰⁵ Isle of Wight Will Book 3, p388.

¹⁰⁶ Newport Parish Vestry Book, p77 etc.

¹⁰⁷ Isle of Wight Will Book 6, p115.

¹⁰⁸ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p25. Chapman’s *Marriages of Isle of Wight* identifies her as the sister of Richard Reynolds.

¹⁰⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p22.

¹¹⁰ Boddie, p541, p586.

¹¹¹ *The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol. 20, p174-5.

¹¹² Virginia Patent Book 7, p71

¹¹³ Virginia Patent Book 7, p174.

¹¹⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p102.

original plantation, Richard Reynolds apparently leased it to others and was living on this 1682 patent at his death. In 1694 he patented 720 acres in Nansemond County¹¹⁵ but evidently sold it off, for the 1704 quit rents show no land in Nansemond.¹¹⁶ In 1698, he sold his patent of 1681 to his nephew Richard Reynolds, who immediately sold 100 acres of it back to him.¹¹⁷ Richard Reynolds died intestate before 24 June 1707 when his appraisal was taken.¹¹⁸ His wife Joyce, who survived him, was first mentioned in a deed in late 1693.¹¹⁹ Whether she was the mother of his children or not is uncertain, for two later joint deeds refer to “his” children. She (or an earlier wife, if there was one) was evidently the daughter of Richard Staples, for their son Christopher later identified himself as the grandson of Richard Staples.¹²⁰ Richard Staples, is something of a mystery, as he apparently lived just over the line in Nansemond County, whose records are lost. He does not appear in the Isle of Wight records, though his lands are mentioned several times. Richard Staples apparently left a will devising land to his grandson, for on 9 August 1704 Richard Reynolds and his son Christopher jointly sold land formerly belonging to Staples.¹²¹ Richard Reynolds seems to have had only three children. He made deeds of gift of parts of his 450-acre patent to two daughters, and his son Christopher Reynolds inherited the rest of his lands. This clearly implies that Christopher was the only son, and there is no record of any other potential sons.

- 1.2.1. **Christopher Reynolds** (c1675 – aft1749) He first appears in the records as a witness to a power of attorney to his father on 8 February 1701¹²², then again as a witness on 12 December 1701.¹²³ He was the eldest son (and apparently the only son), for all the land of his intestate father descended to him. Within four years of his father’s death he had sold all of his father’s lands in northern Isle of Wight, including the land on which his father had lived, and moved into the southern part of the county. He sold the 100 acres his father had purchased in 1698 on 28 July 1707 in a deed in which both his wife Elizabeth and mother Joyce released dower.¹²⁴ This deed not only clearly identified his father, but also his wife (for his cousin of the same name was married to Ann Coleman). On 28 April 1708, he sold land to his “father-in-law” Robert Brock, identifying it as part of his father’s 450-acre patent, portions of which his father had previously gifted to his daughters Elizabeth Reynolds and Jane Casey.¹²⁵ Christopher Reynolds’ wife Elizabeth was later named as the daughter of Susannah Brock in her will of 1724, which also named John Reynolds as a grandson.¹²⁶ (There is some uncertainty

¹¹⁵ Virginia Patent Book 8, p347.

¹¹⁶ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p309 is a sale by Richard and Joyce Reynolds of 220 acres of this patent. The remaining sales are likely among the lost deeds of Nansemond County.

¹¹⁷ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p254.

¹¹⁸ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p494.

¹¹⁹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p80.

¹²⁰ Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p242.

¹²¹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p1.

¹²² Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p323.

¹²³ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p357.

¹²⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p74.

¹²⁵ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p102.

¹²⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book 3, p22.

over whether Elizabeth was her child by Robert Brock; see footnote.¹²⁷) Christopher Reynolds also sold 200 acres in 1711 which appear to have been the original plantation of Christopher Reynolds the immigrant.¹²⁸ With this 1711 deed, he sold the last remaining land his father had held in the 1704 quit rents, and apparently moved to or below the Blackwater. By 1712 we find him witnessing the first of several deeds for land south of the Blackwater.¹²⁹ Having geographically separated himself from his cousins, he appeared quite frequently as a witness to wills and deeds, and as an appraiser, for persons living in the southern part of the county for the next several decades. He was perhaps the “Mr. Reynolds” schoolmaster referred to in a 1724 letter by the minister of Newport parish¹³⁰, for in 1738 Christopher Reynolds leased out 100 acres adjacent “the schoolhouse.”¹³¹ The school was perhaps the one located on land donated for that purpose by Hugh Campbell on the north bank of the Blackwater, for we also know that Campbell had left adjacent land to Christopher Reynolds’ father. In 1731 he patented two parcels nearly on the North Carolina line, in the fork of the Blackwater and Nottoway Rivers, in what was then Nansemond County (and was later added into Southampton County).¹³² What became of these parcels is lost with the records of Nansemond. On 8 January 1748, as a resident of Nottoway Parish he sold the 100 acres on the north bank of the Blackwater described as given by Hugh Campbell to Richard Reynolds [son of the immigrant].¹³³ A little over a year later, on 10 May 1749, identifying himself as the grandson of Richard Staples, he sold part of a Richard Staples patent of 1661.¹³⁴ After 1749, the only certain reference to him is a 1758 patent adjoining his of 1731 which may have used an old survey.¹³⁵ If he was living on that land in Nottoway parish, it was in Nansemond County, whose records are lost. Though it eventually became Southampton County, I did not find any further record of him or his children in Southampton, nor in Isle of Wight. If either he or his son John produced male descendants, they are to be found elsewhere. Only one child is certain.

1.2.1.1. **John Reynolds** (c1710 - ?) He was named as a grandson in the in the 1724 will Susannah Brock, which left land to his mother with reversion to

¹²⁷ Susannah Brock, the widow of Robert Brock, also named her “son Thomas Calcote” as legatee and executor. He was apparently a son by a prior marriage, not a son-in-law, for in 1734 his wife Ann Calcote was identified as the daughter of John Bromfield. [Deed Book 4, p397] Although this raises some uncertainty over Elizabeth Reynolds’ maiden name, the earlier reference to Benjamin Brock seems to suggest her name was Brock rather than Calcote. On the other hand, Robert Brock could have been Christopher Reynolds’ father-in-law in a legal sense even if not the natural father of Elizabeth.

¹²⁸ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p186.

¹²⁹ Isle of Wight Will & Deed Book 2, p231.

¹³⁰ *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, Vol. 6, p77 and Vol.7, p210. See the chronology for more details.

¹³¹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 5, p331. The deed is by Christopher Reynolds and his son John, with no release of dower by a wife.

¹³² Virginia Patent Book 14, p297 and p351.

¹³³ Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p52.

¹³⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p242.

¹³⁵ Virginia Patent Book 33, p469

him.¹³⁶ He must have reached majority shortly before 21 March 1733 when he confirmed the earlier sale of that land by his parents.¹³⁷ He appears again in 1738, jointly executing a lease with his father.¹³⁸ He is apparently the John Reynolds whose land was processioned in 1743.¹³⁹ He does not appear in any Isle of Wight records thereafter, nor could I find a later sale of the land leased out in 1738. Whether his disappearance was caused by death or by migration elsewhere, is unknown.

Note: A **Michael Reynolds** married the daughter of a neighbor living south of the Blackwater, and may be another son.¹⁴⁰ There may also have been a son **William Reynolds**, who is mentioned once in Isle of Wight, as a witness to a will in 1729 for which the principal and other witnesses were neighbors of Christopher Reynolds.¹⁴¹ It is also possible that there was a son **Robert Reynolds**, who witnessed a deed for land adjoining the Staples patent in 1750 and who may have been a different person than the Robert Reynolds who was the son of Christopher Reynolds and Ann Coleman mentioned above.¹⁴²

- 1.2.2. **Elizabeth Reynolds** (c1680s - ?) She was unmarried but evidently an adult in 1706 when her father gifted her with part of his 450-acre patent.¹⁴³ Who she married, and what became of her, is unknown. I was unable to follow the succession of this land.
 - 1.2.3. **Jane Reynolds** (? – aft1746) She was married to Richard Casey, son of neighbor Nicholas Casey, by 1706 when her father made her a deed of gift of part of his 450-acre patent.¹⁴⁴ The Caseys remained in northern Isle of Wight, apparently living on that gifted land. Jane was named as the widow in Richard Casey's will of 8 March 1745/6, which also identified five children.¹⁴⁵ These children were **Richard Casey Jr., Ann Applewhaite, Sarah Smelley, Patience [Casey?], and Martha Wills**. The last, Martha Wills, was the wife of John Wills and mother of John Scarsbrook Wills who appear in several subsequent records with members of the Reynolds family.¹⁴⁶ Sarah Smelley was apparently the wife of John Smelley.¹⁴⁷
- 1.3. **John Reynolds** (1638-48 - 1669) John Reynolds was under 16 at the time of his father's will, but his precise birth year is undeterminable. Other than his father's will and his

¹³⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book 3, p22.

¹³⁷ Isle of Wight Deed Book 4, p228.

¹³⁸ Isle of Wight Deed Book 5, p331.

¹³⁹ Newport Parish Vestry Book, p109.

¹⁴⁰ Michael Reynolds appears in Deed Book 5, p157 and Deed Book 8, p268 as the husband of Alice Darden, daughter of a neighbor living considerably south of the Blackwater.

¹⁴¹ Isle of Wight Will Book 4, p3.

¹⁴² Isle of Wight Deed Book 8, p363.

¹⁴³ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p52.

¹⁴⁴ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p46.

¹⁴⁵ Isle of Wight Will Book 5, p112.

¹⁴⁶ Isle of Wight Will Book 8, p142.

¹⁴⁷ Isle of Wight Will Book 7, p369.

own, he appears in no significant records other than a sale of land in late 1668¹⁴⁸ and a patent mentioning him as an adjoining landowner in 1658.¹⁴⁹ He died, unmarried and without children, sometime in early 1669. His will, dated 11 March 1669 and proved two months later on 3 May, devised his inherited land to his executor and brother Richard Reynolds and made bequests to “sister” Elizabeth Rivers and her daughter Mary, sister Jane Reynolds, “brother” George Rivers, and sister Elizabeth Jordan and her own son Richard.¹⁵⁰

- 1.4. **Abbasha Reynolds** (c1634-9 - ?) She was apparently the eldest daughter, as her father’s will leaves her nothing, noting that “I have given unto her a portion already, being two cows and two calves.” The will further implies that she was over 15, perhaps even of age, but not yet married. Since the majority of free women at this time were married by the end of their teens, we can speculate that she was born sometime between 1634 and 1639, perhaps even a year or two earlier if she were in the minority of women who married after age 20. She and Christopher are the only siblings not mentioned in John Reynolds will, suggesting the possibility that she may have been dead by 1669. There is no woman of this name, regardless of surname, listed in any Isle of Wight records.

- 1.5. **Elizabeth Reynolds** (c1640-44 – aft1700) She was unmarried and under 15 when her father’s will was written in 1654. The fact that she had already received livestock from him implies she was older than an infant, perhaps not many years younger than 15. Her brother’s will of March 1669 calls her “sister Eliza Jordan”, with a son named Richard Jordan. Though many researchers have assumed she married the Richard Jordan mentioned in her father’s will, the evidence shows she actually married his son Richard Jordan Jr. Richard Jordan Sr. does not appear in any records with a wife named Elizabeth, the first appearance of a wife being one named Alice in 1679.¹⁵¹ However, his son Richard Reynolds Jr. appears in the records as a witness in January 1662¹⁵² and again in 1667¹⁵³, and as a head of household in the Surry County tithables of 1673, making him much too old to have been the child of Elizabeth Reynolds. Richard Jordan Jr.’s own son, Richard Jordan III, is a tithable of his father beginning in 1685, implying a birth date of 1668/9, and making him the obvious candidate to be the son mentioned in John Reynolds’ will. Richard Jordan Jr. did, in fact, have a wife named Elizabeth, though her first appearance in the records is fifteen years after the will, a release of dower on 4 November 1684.¹⁵⁴ However, his will calls her the mother of a minor son born c1677, indicating they were married at least by then. That will, dated 10 September 1695 and

¹⁴⁸ Boddie, p554

¹⁴⁹ Virginia Patent Book 4, p252. Patent to Giles Driver of 12 March 1657/8 mentions “[Cypress] Swamp which parteth the land of Christopher Reynolds and John Reynolds” referring to the dividing line between the inherited land of these two sons of Christopher Reynolds Sr.

¹⁵⁰ Isle of Wight Deed Book 2, p62.

¹⁵¹ Isle of Wight Deed Book 1, p398.

¹⁵² Boddie, p541.

¹⁵³ Boddie, p548.

¹⁵⁴ Surry County Deed Book 3, p12.

proved 7 November 1699, makes Elizabeth his executor and names nine children: Richard, Charles, Robert, Elizabeth Fort, Margaret House, Rachael, Mary, Hannah, and Sarah (the latter three under 16).¹⁵⁵ Elizabeth Jordan was alive as late as 7 May 1700 when she presented her husband's appraisal¹⁵⁶ but does not appear in any records thereafter. See Jordan document for more detail on this family.

- 1.6. **Jane Reynolds** (c1650? - ?) Her father's will implies that she was the youngest daughter, not yet 15 in 1654. We can infer from her brother John's will that she was not yet married in 1669, so perhaps was quite young when her father died and therefore likely a child of his second wife. Who she married is unknown. An intriguing possibility – but only a possibility - is that she was the Jane Jordan who in 1687 was the widow of John Jordan, the other son of Richard Jordan Sr., who lived on his father's land adjoining the original Reynolds plantation.

- 1.7. **Unborn Child**: The 1654 will of Christopher Reynolds refers to “the child my wife now goeth with”, language found in several other wills of the time which refers to an unborn child. (Had this referred to an infant, the will would presumably have identified its gender if not its name.) The identity of this child cannot be determined. If Elizabeth Reynolds was noticeably pregnant on 1 May 1654 when the will was written, the child would have been born sometime later that same year. Given the child mortality rates of the mid-17th century, there's a roughly 50% chance that the child would not have lived to reach maturity.¹⁵⁷ Certainly there are no male candidates in the Isle of Wight records, with only two unknown Reynolds appearing in the next fifty years of records, neither of whom was nearly the right age. It is perhaps significant that John Reynolds' will makes no mention of this child, who would have been 14 or so at the time and an obvious candidate for a bequest in his brother's will. Given the high odds of unsuccessful pregnancies and births, and the fact that barely half of all pregnancies resulted in children who lived to reach majority, there's a strong possibility that this child did not live to 1669 when John Reynolds wrote his will. Some researchers claim a Thomas Reynolds of nearby Lower Norfolk County as this child, but that claim is easily disproved since that Thomas Reynolds was himself an adult at the time Christopher Reynolds wrote his will.¹⁵⁸

¹⁵⁵ Surry County Deed Book 5, p183.

¹⁵⁶ Surry County Orders 1691-1713, p209.

¹⁵⁷ *Tobacco & Slaves: The Development of Southern Cultures in the Chesapeake*, Allan Kulikoff (UNC Press, 1986), pp61. About 20% of all infants died before the age of 5, and another 20% died before reaching 21.

Combined with unsuccessful pregnancies, the chances of a child being born and reaching maturity were under 50%.

¹⁵⁸ Virginia Patent Book 3, p241 contains a grant to this Thomas Reynolds in Lower Norfolk in 1653.