

< [Return to Before 1700](#) >  
< [Return to Table of Contents](#) >  
< [Corrections to this Section?](#) >

< [Next—1720-1740](#) >



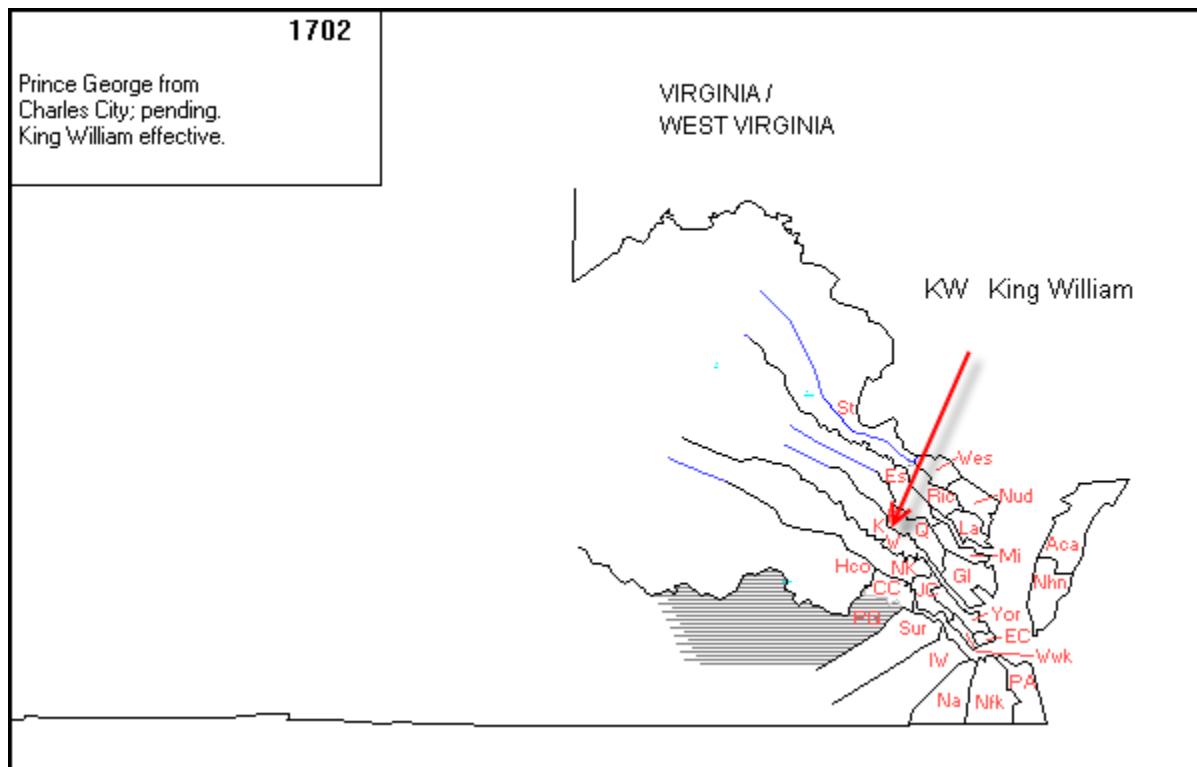
## THE YEARS 1700—1720



- ◇ **12 January 1701/02** - DEED: Robert Carew, Miller, of New Kent County, to John Isbell, of St. John's Parish, King & Queen County, for 1,000 pounds of Tobacco and Cask, 100 acres in St. John's Parish, **King & Queen County**. Beginning at a Great Point and Path along John Waller's line, to a branch, then to the south side of the Road near William Davis' plantation—the said 100 acres being land bought of **Thomas Baker**, which was conveyed to said **Baker** and his wife **Mary** by Elias Downes, their brother, out of love and affection for them... /s/ Robert Carew. Wit: Isabella Smith, William Bowles, Wm: Isbell. (*Sparacio's King William Abstracts, 1:6*)

*This was the 100-acre tract that James Taylor had surveyed simultaneously with the survey of the John Waller portion of the Talbott-Downes patent in 1696 (see above). The Baker-Isbell parcel was diametrically southeast across the Waller survey from the Davis Davenport Plantation of 1696.*

**1701-1702** – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **King William County** was created from King & Queen County by an act of the Virginia General Assembly effective on April 11, 1702.



*This division further focused on the Pamunkey Neck. As explained by Davenport Family researcher John Scott Davenport: "Old King William County, Virginia included present-day King William County, the south-western fourth of Caroline County, and the most southern portion of Spotsylvania County. Old King William when created in 1701 was sixty miles long with an average width of nine miles. After Spotsylvania County (1722) and Caroline County (1728) took portions of Upper Pamunkey Neck into their jurisdictions, King William was reduced to its present dimensions--thirty-two miles long with an average width of eight miles."*

- ◇ **21 January 1702/03** - CONFIRMATION DEED: Job Howes to John West, son of Colonel John West, Decd., for better assuring and confirming title, 300 acres in **St. John's Parish**, being part of a tract patented by George Chapman, who sold the parcel to John York, Gentleman, of New Kent County, on 9 Jan 1683, and said York dying intestate, the land did escheate to the King and was then granted to said Howes, being described in said grant as beginning at a branch in Chapman's Old Field bounding on **Mr. Thomas Baker**, joining on land of Colonel John West, [portion missing], to land of Joseph Norment, to the Spring branch. For the consideration of £20, the said Job Howes did convey the 300 acres to Colonel John West, Sr., of St. John's Parish, New Kent County, by assignment of Deed of Escheat on 1 Jul 1689, which said Howes did afterwards confirm unto said Colonel West, Sr.'s son John West in New Kent County Court on 30 Aug 1697. This deed to assuage any intrepidations about said title that said John West may retain... /s/ Job Howes. Wit: John Quarles, Thomas Mallory, and Benjamin Arnold. (*Sparacio's King William Abstracts*, 1:34)
- ◇ **22 January 1702/03** - ASSIGNMENT: John Isbell to Richard Marr, for [consideration not given], deed given to said Isbell by Robert Carew for 100 acres in St. John's Parish, **King & Queen County** [now **King William County**] in 1701, joining William Davis' plantation... /s/ John "I" Isbell. Wit: Wm: Isbell, Thomas "T" Fullilove. (*Sparacio's King William Abstracts*, 1:28)

*This was the 100 acres that Elias Downes had given his sister Mary and husband Thomas Baker prior to John Waller's survey of 1696 (see above). By this time, the Bakers had moved up Pamunkey Neck to a larger tract (see below) and had sold the 100 acres to Robert Carew, a New Kent miller and land speculator, who had conveyed to Isbell. One of the benchmarks identified in Waller's 1696 survey was Mrs. Marr as an abounding landowner. Here the name was Richard Marr. The King William Quit Rents of 1704 (see below) identified John Marr as holding 200 acres. In later years Gideon Marr, an active attorney and tavernkeeper, was closely and constantly associated with the Davenports in Goochland, Albemarle, Cumberland, and Halifax counties, and appeared independently in Caroline and Spotsylvania records.*

- ◇ **27 October 1703** – LAND PATENT: Joseph Hayle, 200 acres in **King William County** between the Herring Creeks, on the east side of Middle Herring Creek, adjoining a corner of White and **Baker**, near Hill's house. For transportation of 4 people: [Listed. None of interest.] (*Virginia Patents*, 9:557)

*White land had adjoined Baker land in common boundaries with the 939 acres that Major John Waller had bought of Elias Downes in 1696. Whether these were the same*

*Whites and Bakers is conjecture, but this location was at least ten miles west, up Pamunkey Neck from where Thomas Baker was given 100 acres by his brother-in-law Elias Downes, whose patent had bounded Davis Davenport. This location was in the same neighborhood as was Martin Davenport's 100-acre tract, listed in the Quit Rent List of 1704, and near the origin of Davenport's Path.*

**DAVENPORTS AND BAKERS IDENTIFIED AS FREEHOLDERS  
ON 1704 QUIT RENT LIST**

◇ **30 March 1704** – KING'S QUIT RENT ROLLS: Among those listed:

**KING WILLIAM COUNTY**

Those Assessed for Land Within, Adjoining or Near  
The Talbott-Downes Patent of 1667

**Davis Davenport**, 200 acres  
Elias Downes, 300 acres  
Major John Waller, 800 acres  
James Edwards, 350 acres  
John Marr, 200 acres  
William Isbell, 150 acres

Approximately 10-13 Miles West of the Talbott-Downes Patent,  
at or near the head of Davenport's Path

**Thomas Baker**, 100 acres  
**Martin Davenport**, 100 acres

Location in County Unclear

**John Baker**, 250 acres

**KING & QUEEN COUNTY**

Across the Mattaponi River

**James Baker**, 322 acres  
**William Baker**, 350 acres

**NEW KENT COUNTY**

Across Pamunkey River South of Pamunkey Neck in Present Lower Hanover County

**Christopher Baker**, 100 acres  
**John Baker**, 130 acres  
**Richard Baker**, 80 acres

Source: des Cognets, Jr., Louis (comp.), *English Duplicates of Lost Virginia Records*  
(Princeton, NJ: Compiler, 1958).

◇ **20 May 1704** – DEED OF GIFT: John Waller to Richard Marr, planter, both of St. John's Parish, **King William County**, for and in consideration of the natural love

that said Waller bears for said Marr, 100 acres within the bounds of a Greater Tract which the said Waller bought of [Elias] Downes on 11 Jun 1696 containing 1,039 acres... /s/ John Waller. Wit: Thomas Terry, Henry Webber, Cyprian "X" Burrill. (*Sparacio's King William Abstracts*, 1:71-72)

*When James Taylor surveyed 939 acres of the Talbott and Downes patent in 1696, he simultaneously surveyed 100 acres adjoining, and part of the Talbott-Down tract, for Thomas Baker, Downes' brother-in-law. In making Waller's deed, Elias Downes erroneously conveyed the entire 1,039 to Waller. Subsequently Baker sold his 100 acres to Robert Carew, who sold to John Isbell, who sold to Richard Marr. To uncloud Marr's title, Waller conveyed the same 100 acres as a gift by this deed, which includes language possibly suggesting a family relationship of some sort between the two. The King William Quit Rents List of 1704 (see above), compiled well before the date of this deed, named only John Marr. Waller's survey of 1696 cites Mrs. Marr as adjoining. There was a 100-acre ambiguity between the survey and deed of the Downes-Waller transaction of 1696.*

**8 January 1711 - BIRTH: Thomas Baker**, who later married **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin**, born. (*Anecdotal information in Baker family*)

*Anecdotal family information gives Thomas Baker's date of birth as January 1711, a date reasonably consistent with his other later activities and the reported dates of birth of his children. Men in the colonies tended to marry in their early to mid-20s, and Thomas Baker must have married by 1734 for his first child, son William, to have been born in 1735.*

*However, the rest of the anecdotal information surrounding Thomas' birth – that he was born in Pennsylvania, the son of a William Baker who was the son of Samuel Baker and Eleanor (or Ellen or Elinor) Winslow Baker of Massachusetts and the Mary Corbee who was the daughter of Samuel Corbee and his wife Mary Crippen Corbee – is far more problematic.*

*We begin with the fact that the entire story of Thomas Baker's ancestry is entirely anecdotal – it is wholly undocumented in every respect and demonstrably wrong in one critical respect.*

*First, DNA evidence establishes that Thomas did not descend, as a grandson or further remove, from the Samuel Baker who married Eleanor Winslow. In 2006, a well-documented descendant of that Samuel Baker joined the Baker Surname DNA Project. As noted above, a comparison of his DNA results to the DNA results of documented descendants of Thomas Baker establishes beyond question that the line of Thomas is not the line of that Samuel.*

*Moreover, despite the generally excellent documentary records of New England in colonial times, no documentary evidence can be found to support the claim to a Massachusetts descent for our Bakers.*

*There is also no documentary evidence of the Baker family in Connecticut or Pennsylvania, and no documentary evidence of Mary Corbee at all after her birth/baptism. The Mary Corbee who was the daughter of Samuel Corbee and Mary Crippen Corbee was born 13 November 1691 in Haddam (or East Haddam), Connecticut. There are marriage records for her parents, birth/baptismal records for Mary and for*

her brother Samuel (born in 1692, just after his father's death) and marriage records for Samuel's eventual marriage in 1724/25. But there are no marriage records for Mary Corbee, and none for any William Baker.

The story is also exceedingly unlikely as to Mary Corbee herself. We know any marriage Mary contracted would likely have been in Connecticut – her family stayed there well into the 1720s. (Mary Crippen Corbee was widowed in 1692, and stayed in Connecticut, receiving a portion of her father's estate at the time of his death in 1710, and there are records for Mary's brother Samuel's marriage in 1724/25). To have been the mother of a child born in early 1711, Mary would have had to marry not later than 1710. She would have been at most 19 years old. While it certainly was possible for a girl that age to marry, it was less likely in colonial New England (the typical marriage age for girls was 22, for boys 25-26.)

Moreover, William was also considerably above the usual age of marriage, if the story of his birth in 1675 can be credited: he would have been nearly twice Mary's age. For a colonial father (or mother, in this case, as Mary's father was dead) to consent to a marriage of a girl under the age of 21, particularly to a man so much older, a suitor would have had to produce a considerable bride price in terms of land, livestock and the like. Yet there is no record of William Baker in Connecticut at all.

Furthermore, the birth of the child Thomas ascribed to Mary is supposed to have taken place in Pennsylvania. In colonial times, families – and often extended families, together with neighbors – all tended to move together to provide a support network for each other. But, as noted above, the Corbee family stayed in Connecticut. And there is no record of other families from that area of Connecticut moving as a group to Pennsylvania in or around 1710. Nor is there any record of a Baker group going to Pennsylvania at that time.

The story thus requires that we believe that Mary's widowed mother gave permission for her only daughter to marry a much older man who would, almost immediately, take her away to new raw territory, and that Mary, as a new and very young bride, would leave her mother and younger brother to go to Pennsylvania essentially alone. That was simply not the way things were done in the early days of the 18<sup>th</sup> century – indeed, it was a recipe for disaster.

#### See APPENDIX C – WHY PENNSYLVANIA?

- ◇ **2 November 1716** - BIRTH: **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport** (and his wife, believed to be **Dorothy** and believed to be a **Glover**), born in **King William County**. (Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982)

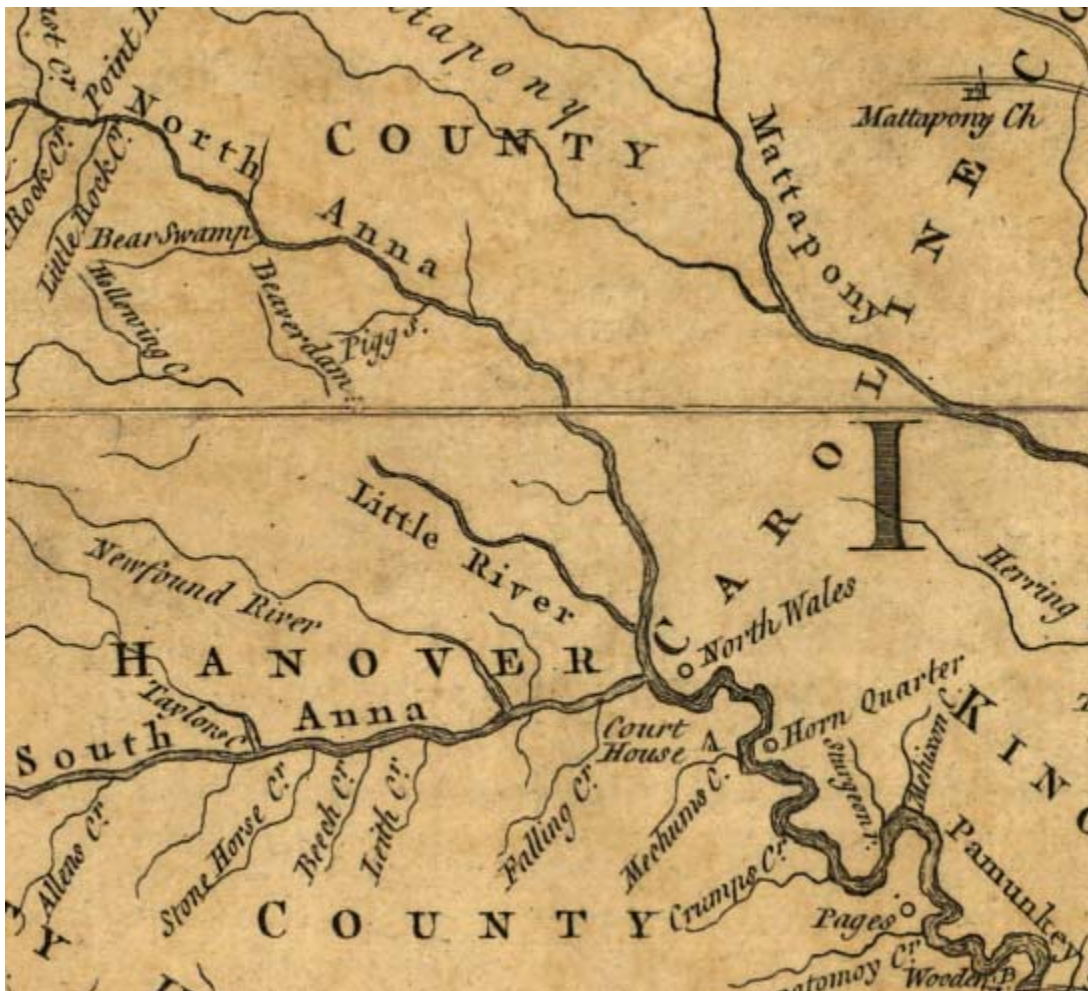
There is no record documentation of the date of Dorothy's birth; the sole documentation comes from the largely anecdotal information provided by such individuals as Pearl Foster O'Donnell (apparently a descendant of Charles Baker, youngest son of Thomas and Dorothy Davenport Baker) and Elma Baker (a descendant of David Baker, son of Thomas and Dorothy Davenport Baker). The reference to a Baker Bible appears in passing in comments from Pearl Foster O'Donnell, but an identification of the Bible, its provenance and – most importantly – its continued existence (or not) is sorely lacking in all such references.

*Despite the record gap, a birth year of not later than 1716 is most likely given the known information as to the births of her children.*

*Similarly, there is no record documentation of the place of birth except that Martin owned property in King William County and did not move from King William to the south bank of the North Anna in Hanover County until 1724.*

**20 November 1706** – DEED: Henry Nelson of King & Queen County and Elizabeth his wife to **Thomas Baker** of **King William County**, for 3000 lbs tobacco, 200 acres part of parcel granted to Henry Nelson by patent 23 October 1703. (*King William County Records Book 1:330*)

*The referenced 1703 patent was for 2340 acres between North Wales Path and the branches of Perrys Swamp and Dorrells Swamp, and for the transportation of 47 persons (none relevant here). The location appears to be near the eventual border of King William, Caroline and Hanover County borders:*



*The referenced tract is in the area where Thomas Baker, husband of Dorothy, and a Josias Baker, likely the brother of Thomas Baker, can be found in land records in later*

years. *This Thomas is likely, but not proven, to be related to our Bakers. If a known descendant of this Thomas could be located for DNA testing, the issue could be resolved.*

- ◇ **20 February 1718/19** – LAND PATENT: **Thomas Baker**, 132 acres of Escheated Land in **New Kent County**, on **Baker's branch**, cornering on James Duke on Ware Creek, to mouth of Haynes Spring branch, being land escheated from John Haynes (Haines), Decd., by inquisition of Edmund Jennings, Esqr., for 100 acres. Upon survey returned by John Syme, Surveyor, found to contain 132 acres. For 2 pounds of Tobacco for every acre. (*Virginia Patents*, 11:13)

*This land description was obtuse. But a later patent (John Ragland, 20 September 1745) indicates that Baker and Haynes land was located ultimately in Louisa County (when that county was created), having been part of Hanover County 1720-1742. Note however that the Ragland patent mentioning Thomas Baker indicates that the land patented was on Mechums Creek, shown on the 1751 map above as roughly across the Pamunkey from the area described above. While the 1751 map is hardly accurate by 21<sup>st</sup> century standards, it does suggest a circle of influence and mobility within which this Thomas Baker would have moved.*

*As noted, Martin Davenport did not move from King William to the south bank of the North Anna in Hanover County until 1724. The Bakers reflected in these land documents, if our Bakers at all, were well settled to the south and west but within courting distance. When Thomas Baker, married to Dorothy Davenport for at least twenty years, bought his own land in Louisa County in 1748, he described himself as being from Spotsylvania County, which was just across the North Anna River from Martin Davenport's plantation.*

[< Return to Before 1700 >](#)

[< Next—1720-1740 >](#)

[< Return to Table of Contents >](#)

[< Corrections to this Section? >](#)