

< [Return to 1700 –1720](#) >
< [Return to Table of Contents](#) >
< [Corrections to this Section?](#) >

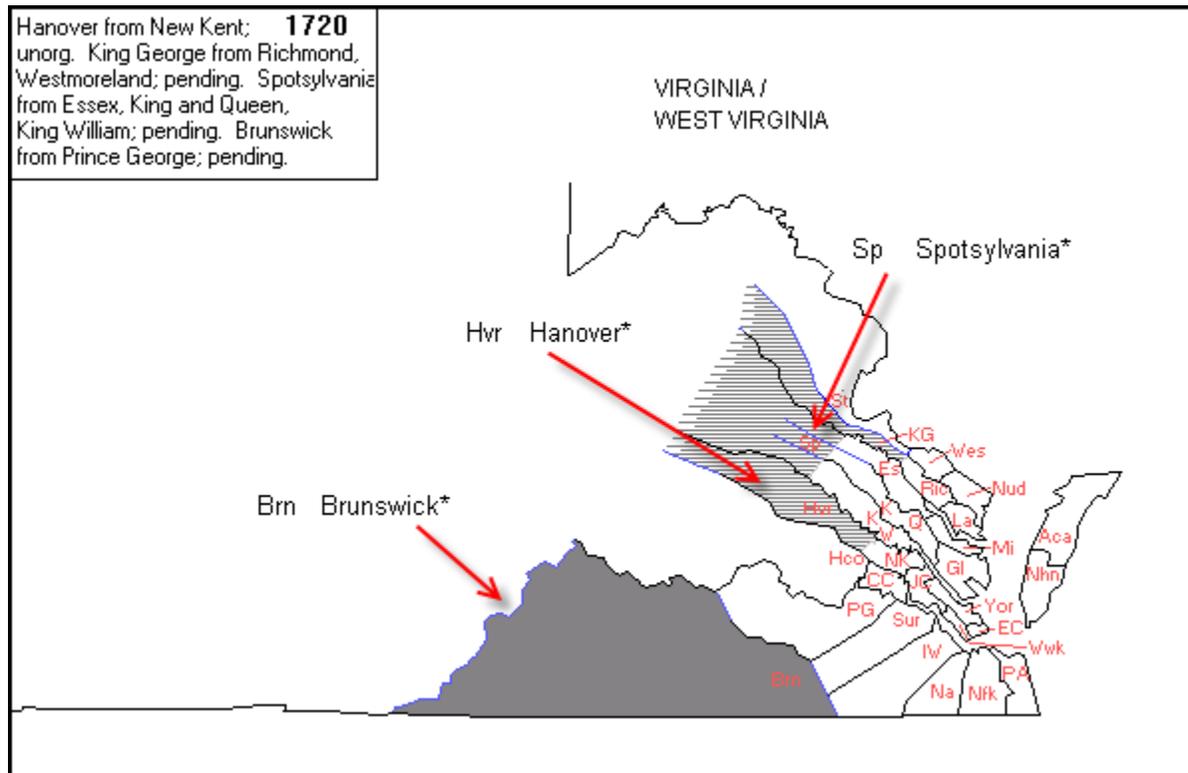
< [Next—1740-1750](#) >



THE YEARS 1720—1740



1720-1721 – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Hanover County** was created on November 26, 1720 from the area of New Kent County called St. Paul's Parish, **Spotsylvania County** was created from Essex, King & Queen and King William Counties, and **Brunswick County** was created from Prince George County, all effective 1721.



6 November 1722 – ROAD ORDER: George Vaughn to have a gang to assist him, with all their male tithables, for a road of which he was surveyor [originally recorded in Vestry Book of St Paul's Parish]. Those named for the gang included [Martin Baker](#). (Ann Brush Miller, *New Kent County and Hanover County Road Orders, 1706-1743*, Virginia Transportation Council, March 2004, p.8)

Note that the name George Vaughn/Vaughan also comes into play in the 1745 patent to John Ragland (see below, 20 September 1745).

- ◇ **7 July 1724** – DEED: John Wilkins, Planter, of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, to Dannett Abney, Sr., cooper, of St. Margaret's Parish, King William County, and Dannett Abney, Jr., carpenter, of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania, for 4,600 pounds of Tobacco and 280 acres of land in St. Paul's Parish, **Hanover County**, 400 acres in Spotsylvania County, granted said Wilkins by patent. /s/ John Wilkins. Wit: John Kembrow, John "X" Gambill, John "X" Daly. Mary Wilkins, wife of John, by James Connor with her Power of Attorney relinquished Right of Dower. (*Spotsylvania County Deeds*, A:95)
- ◇ **30 June 1726** - LAND PATENT: Thomas Gambrell (Gambill), of King William County, 200 acres of New Land in **Spotsylvania County** in St. George's parish, on the north side of the North Anna, beginning at a red oak on the north side of the North Anna below the mouth of a small branch, thence North 20° East 230 poles to a white oak on the side of a great branch, thence North 77 West [interlining unreadable] 20° East 230 poles to a white oak on the east side of Gunstock Swamp, thence down the Swamp the several courses to a corner red oak and maple of John Davis' standing at the mouth of said Swamp on a point on the north side of the North Anna, and lastly down the North Anna the several courses to the beginning. [Consideration not stated.] (*Virginia Patents* 12:473)

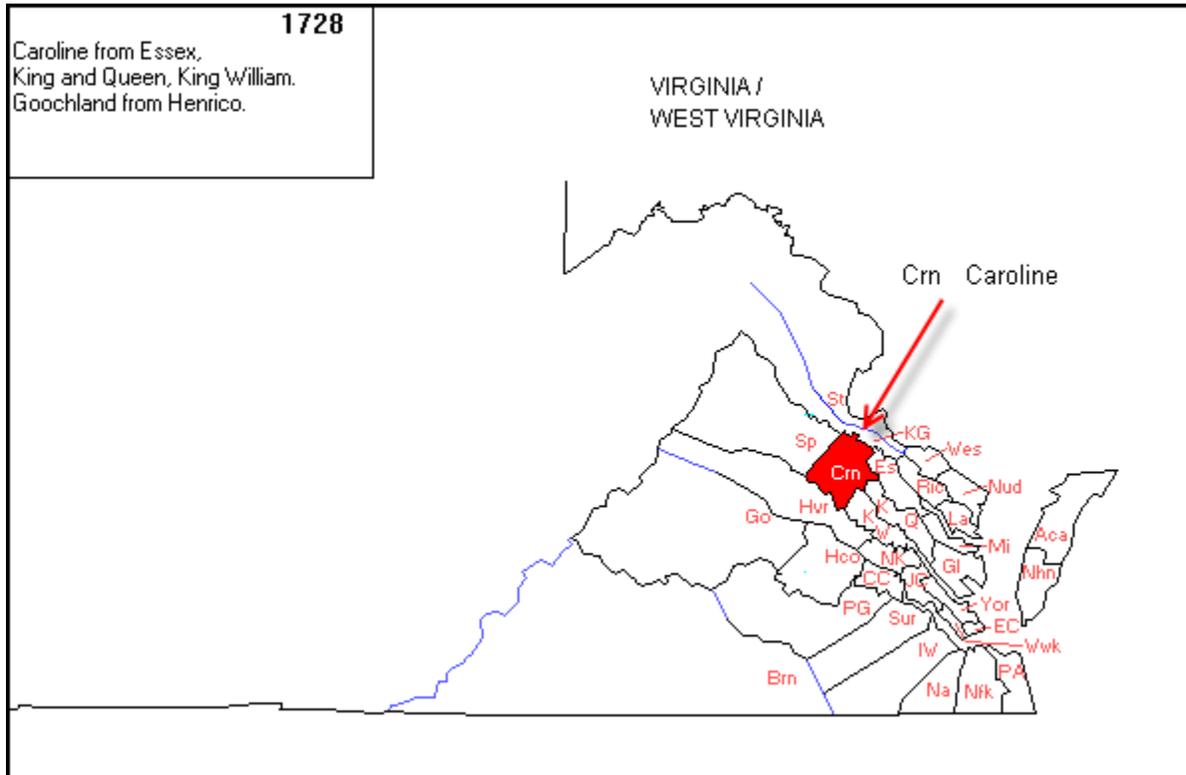
Court records show that Thomas Gambill – whose son Henry married Martin Davenport's daughter Mary – had been settled and regarded as a freeholder in Spotsylvania for at least two years before he obtained this patent. (Note that in earliest Virginia records, the name appears as Gambrell, but in later records in Orange and Culpeper counties in Virginia, and Wilkes County in North Carolina, the name was consistently Gambill. Since the family used the name Gambill when they were most involved with the Bakers, we will use Gambill for purposes of understanding and consistency.) John Davis had been a King William County neighbor to the Davenports and related families.

- ◇ **30 June 1726** – LAND PATENT: James Taylor, Jr., of King & Queen County, 1,000 acres of New Land in St. George Parish, **Spotsylvania County** on the north side of the North Anna, beginning at John Davis, at the upper end of the neck on the north side of Anna, to the north side of Gunstock Swamp, adjoining Thomas Gambrell (Gambill). [Consideration not stated.] (*Virginia Patents*, 12:490)
- 7 July 1727** - PROBATE: Estate of John English, late of **Hanover County**, Decd. The settlement by Mary English, executrix, included, among many other items, payments to the Estate by **Martin Baker** and **William Baker**. (*Hanover County Small Book 1733-35*, page ?)

The relationship, if any, to the Pamunkey Bakers, is yet to be established. The confluence of geographic location and names suggests that there may be a relationship,

and documented descendants of these Bakers are encouraged to join the Baker Surname DNA Project.

1728 – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Caroline County** was created from Essex, King & Queen and King William Counties.



- ◇ **24 May 1729** – DEED FOR LAND TRADE: Thomas Gambill (as Gambrill), wife Ann, of St. Margaret's Parish, King William County, to John Graves, Jr., of St. Stephen's Parish, King & Queen County, for 100 acres of land [not otherwise identified], 200 acres in St. George Parish, **Spotsylvania County**... /s/ Thomas "X" Gambrill, Ann "X" Gambrill. Wit: Thomas "X" Graves, John "X" Gambill, Thomas "X" Kimbrough (as Kimbrow). (Spotsylvania County Deeds. A:?. from Crozier's Abstracts, 108)

This was the father of Henry Gambill, who married Mary Davenport, eldest daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr., of Hanover, selling his land adjoining the North Anna River to the brother of Thomas Graves, who was married to Ann Davenport, daughter of Davis Davenport, patriarch of the Pamunkey Davenports. This land was across the North Anna and upstream from the Rocky Creek settlement in Louisa.

- ◇ **6 July 1730** - DEED RECONSTRUCTED: On this date Captain Thomas Carr of King William (Caroline after 1727) conveyed 400 acres in **Hanover County**, adjoining **Martin Davenport** to Francis Strother.

Five years later, when Francis Strother was involved in the development of the Pamunkey Rolling Road which crossed the North Anna River from his Hanover property to John Smith's on the Spotsylvania side, he found it necessary to repatent the tract because the original survey actually contained 654 acres, not the 400 acres paid for and patented. Most of Hanover records prior to 1865 having been destroyed during Civil War, the only record of this deed is in the citation within the new patent. (See 19 July 1735 below).

In later years Strother moved to Culpeper County along with Martin Davenport's daughter Dorothy Davenport Baker and her husband Thomas Baker, her brother Thomas Davenport and his son-in-law Henry Gambill. The families were all of closely associated for decades thereafter in Virginia and possibly even in South Carolina.

These close associations give rise to a suspicion that Thomas' wife Dorothy, surname yet unidentified, may have been a Strother or Strother in-law. Although Strother genealogists have found no link, there are surely Strother daughters and granddaughters whose first names and marriages have not been located and the facts surely suggest some family relationship beyond merely being neighbors.

- ◇ **5 August 1730** - WITNESS FEE: On motion of **Mary** Gambill (as Gambrell), an evidence summoned by George Woodroof against Abraham Abney, ordered said George to pay said Mary for two days' attendance at Court and for 40 miles coming and going. (**Spotsylvania County Court Orders**, 2:409)

Henry Gambill's wife Mary was the eldest daughter of Martin Davenport, son of Davis. Henry subsequently had a plantation near his father-in-law's in Hanover / Louisa, was a witnesses to Martin's Will in 1735 (see below), and moved to Culpeper County with Thomas, son of Martin, in the late 1740s. Henry died in South Carolina by late 1762, but his widow and most of his sons (and their families), ultimately settled in the North Carolina backcountry in the 1770s.

At this time the Spotsylvania Court House was still at Germanna, twenty-eight miles from Davenport's Ford on the North Anna, a focal point for the Davenport settlement in Spotsylvania and Hanover. The Henry Gambills were still located in Pamunkey Neck at this time, apparently in that portion which became Caroline County in 1728, given the forty miles allowance. In 1735, a month before Martin died, Henry Gambill bought his own place in Hanover (in Louisa after 1742) from Captain Thomas Carr, located within a mile or so from Martin Davenport, Sr., and witnessed his father-in-law's will.

- ◇ **2 March 1730/31** – LEASE & RELEASE: John Downer, of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County, to Thomas Graves, of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, for 5 Shillings & £20 Virginia currency, 400 acres in **Spotsylvania County** "now in said Graves' possession," beginning at Captain Christopher Smith's upper corner red oak and a great passel of stones on the north side of the North Anna River, thence along the said Smith's and James Taylor's line 400 poles to a small hickory in Taylor's line in a valley, thence 77° West 122 poles to Thomas Gambill's (as Gambrell) corner black oak on a branchy, thence on Gambill's line South 20° West 376 poles to the said Gambill's two corner red oaks on the north side of the North Anna, and lastly down the North Anna the several courses to the beginning--as by patent to said Downer on

16 June 1727... /s/ John Downer, Anna "X" Downer. Wit: Jas. Barbour, James Williams, Thos. Downer. Ann Downer, wife of John, relinquished dower same day in Court. (*Spotsylvania County Deeds*, B:141)

Thomas Graves was married to Ann Davenport, believed daughter of Davis Davenport. The Graves were closely associated with Davenports on both side of the North Anna for at least eighty years. Henry, son of adjoining landowner Thomas Gambill, by this time was married to Mary, eldest daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr., of Hanover, (see above) and later bought land from Thomas Carr on the south side of the North Anna on Little Rocky Creek, a short distance from Thomas Graves, who later bought the land in Hanover of Louisa "over against" (opposite) this Spotsylvania tract.

- ◇ **5 June 1733** – LEASE & RELEASE: Thomas Carr, of St. Margaret's Parish, Caroline County, Gentleman, to John Waller, of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, planter, for 5 Shillings & £50 Virginia, currency, 473 acres in St. George Parish, **Spotsylvania County**, part of a patent to said Carr on 7 June 1725. "beginning at two corner birches of Colonel Augustine Moore's at the mouth of Pigeon Swamp, over against (opposite) Francis Strother's plantation in Hanover County, thence running up ye North Anna the several courses, making in a straight line 420 poles to a corner beech and dogwood at the mouth of a branch, thence up the branch the several courses, making in a straight line 154 poles to a white oak and a hickory in the west side of said branch, thence South 64° East 35 poles to a corner white oak, then East 300 poles to two red oak saplings on a ridge, thence South 218 poles to two black walnuts in the west side of Pigeon Swamp, a corner of Colonel Augustine Moore's, thence down the said Swamp to the beginning... /s/ Thomas Carr. Wit: Chas. Goodall, Thomas Carr, Jr., John Minor. (*Spotsylvania County Court Orders*, B:401)

John Waller, Jr., was another of Thomas Carr's sons-in-law. This land adjoined the tract conveyed to John Minor, was opposite Francis Strother on the Hanover side of the North Anna River.

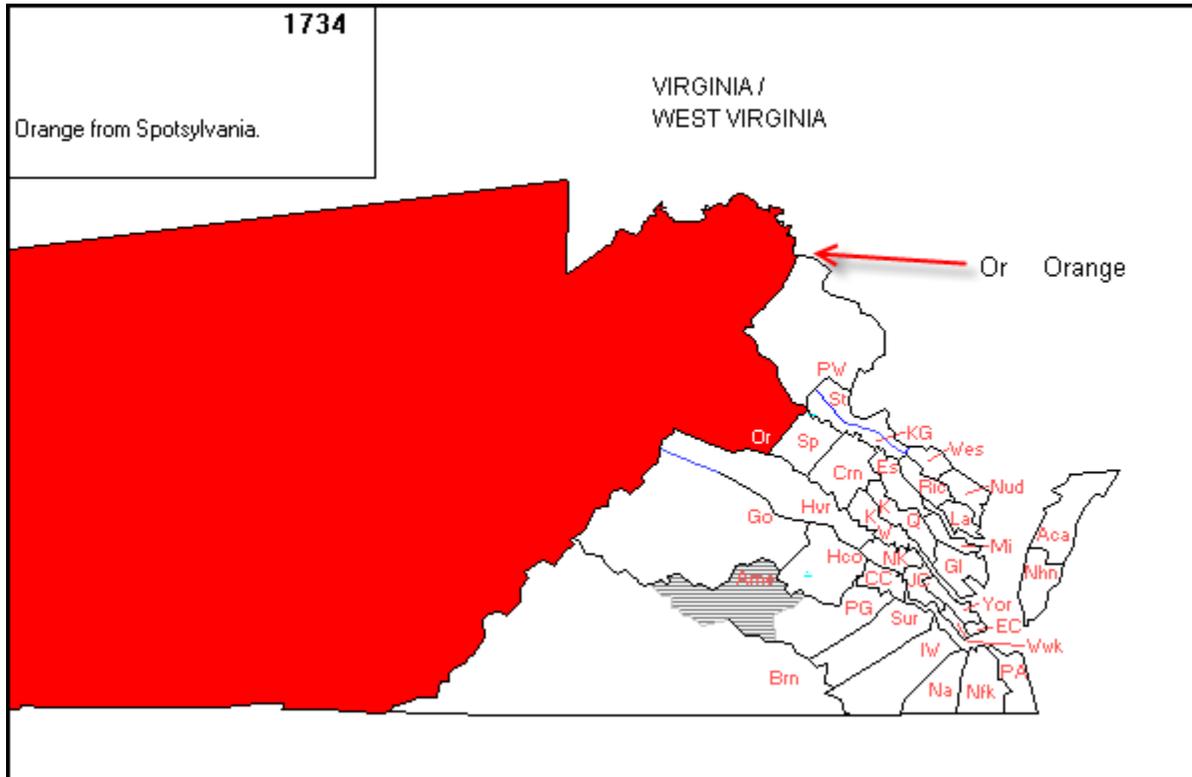
- ◇ **27 July 1733** - LEASE & RELEASE: Dannit Abney, Jr., wife Mary, of St. Martin's Parish, Hanover County, to Richard Phillips, of St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, for £30 Virginia, 400 acres in **Spotsylvania County** on the north side of the North Anna, adjoining Gambill [as Gambrill] and the North Anna... /s/ Dannit Abney, Jr., [No wife signs.] Wit: Thomas Ballard Smith, **Elias "O" Davenport**, Thomas Adams. (*Spotsylvania County Deeds* B:448-451)

The land here was on the north side of the North Anna, upstream and on the opposite bank from Martin Davenport's patent of 1727 in Hanover.

The given name "Elias" appeared only once among Colonial Virginia Davenports. Davis Davenport lived adjacent to Elias Downes in Lower Pamunkey Neck for some years before (and very likely after) 1696, suggesting that possibility that Davis's Elias was a namesake of Downes. DNA evidence gathered from a claimed male descendant of Elias Davenport in 2003 conclusively proved that that descendant had virtually the same DNA as

did proved male descendants of Martin and Thomas, sons of Davis Davenport, meaning that they had a common paternal ancestry.

1734 – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Orange County** was created from Spotsylvania County.



1734 - MARRIAGE: **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin**, and **Thomas Baker**, probably in **Hanover County**.

There is no record documentation of the date of this marriage – between Dorothy, daughter of Martin Davenport, and Thomas Baker – other than anecdotal family records such as the family groupsheets collected in The Rugged Trail, a largely inaccurate family history by Elma Baker of Texas. The fact of the marriage, however, is well-documented by land and similar records (see below).

Dorothy Davenport's identity as a daughter of Martin Davenport, son of Davis Davenport, is established by circumstantial rather than direct evidence. She, like many of Martin's children, was not named in Martin's will. Nonetheless, the record associations of Dorothy and her husband with members of the Davenport family compel the conclusion that she was one of Martin's children. The Bakers and known, documented descendants of Martin Davenport (including those whose connection is further established by DNA evidence) acted together, moved together, witnessed critical documents for each other for literally decades, in both Virginia and, later, in North Carolina.

See also the discussion of Martin Davenport's 1735 will, below.

- 5 **July 1734** - DEED: James Harris to **Martin Baker**, both of Hanover County, for £24 Virginia, 150 acres of woodland in **Hanover County** in the second fork of Pamunkey River and on the north side of Little River, adjoining William Hendrick and Ashburn... /s/ James Harris. Wit: Robert Harris, Robert Harris, Jr., William Harris. Elizabeth Harris, wife of James, relinquished Dower in Court the same day. (*Hanover County Small Book, ?*)

By the time of the Revolution there were two Martin Bakers in Hanover and one in Louisa. The acreage obtained by the Martin Baker here was less than five miles from Martin Davenport, Sr.'s plantations and in the fork of North Anna and Little River, the first and second forks respectively of the Pamunkey River in Hanover County.

- ◇ **6 May 1735** - ROLLING ROAD: On petition of Francis Strother of Hanover County for to have liberty to clear a rolling path from Pamunkey (North Anna) River against his own plantation to ye Ridge Road on John Smith's Upper Path, the same is granted and ordered that he have liberty to clear same. (*Spotsylvania County Court Orders, 3:384*)

Francis Strother's plantation adjoined Martin Davenport down river on the south bank of the North Anna River. This was apparently a section of the later Pamunkey Rolling Road, a commercial thoroughfare that enabled casks of Tobacco to be rolled from Spotsylvania and Hanover plantations down to Crutchfield's Warehouse at the head of Pamunkey navigation (just below Hanover Court House). In those days, seagoing ships could sail up the Pamunkey to just below where the Pamunkey forked, the south fork being called the South Anna, the north fork being called the North Anna or Pamunkey. The ordinary (tavern) established by George Woodroof and operated after 1752 by John Davenport, son of Martin, was located at the northeast corner of the intersection of the Pamunkey Rolling Road and the Main Road crossing Spotsylvania from southeast to northwest. The community which grew up around the ordinary, including a store, was known as New Market before the Revolution, is now known as Partlow and is in the backcountry and purely residential.

- ◇ **24 May 1735** - LAST WILL & TESTAMENT: **Martin Davenport** of St. Martin's Parish, **Hanover County**, made this date; probated 2 October 1735. Named sons **David** and **James**, to have 150 acres to be divided equally--**David** to have home plantation "where I now live" and 75 acres; **James** to have remaining part. If son **David** died without issue, then to son **Martin Davenport**. If son **James** died without issue, then to son **John Davenport**. Son **William Davenport** to have 20 acres of the 100 acres of land in King William County "left me by my father **Davis Davenport**". Executors: wife **Dorothy Davenport**, son **William Davenport**... /s/ **Martin** ("**Davenport**". Wit: Garrett Connor, John "I" Searcy, **Henry Gambill**. (*Hanover County Court Records, Wills, Deeds, Etc, 1733-1735, 339*)

Considerable circumstantial evidence has been amassed over the years that the five sons named in Martin's Will were not his only children, but perhaps only his youngest or some of the children of his wife Dorothy, who may have been a second wife.

The best available evidence at this point suggests that Martin had as many as 11 children, probably by two wives: Mary (married Henry Gambill), Thomas (married Dorothy Strother?), William (married Ann Arnold), Dorothy (married Thomas Baker),

John (married Mary Smith), Glover (married Ann Jouett?), James (married Frances Jouett), Martin, David (married (1) Jane Yarbrough, (2) Mary "Molly" Slaughter), Lucy (married Joseph Venable), and Crotia (married Charles Kennedy).

- ◆ **19 June 1735** – LAND PATENT: Thomas, James and Elizabeth Kennerly, 1750 acres in **Orange County**, St. Marks Parish, between the mountains and the fork of Rushy River, for the importation of six persons: Samuel, Ellin, Thomas, Elizabeth, James and Catherine Kennerly. [Virginia Land Office Patents No. 15, 1732-1735 (v.1 & 2 p.1-522), p. 531]

The Kennerlys would later have significant record interactions with the Bakers and other related families. Thomas Baker would serve as executor of Ellin Kennerly's estate.

- ◆ **19 July 1735** - LAND PATENT: Francis Strother, 654 acres in **Hanover County** on the South side of North Anna River, beginning at a corner stone of Thomas Prestwood's by a glade, running thence North 13° West dividing this land from John Wilson two hundred and fifty two poles to several saplings, thence North 5° West eighty-seven poles to a shrubby oak, thence North 13° West thirty poles to **Martin Davenport's** corner two shrubby oaks, thence along his line North 5° East eighty-three poles to his corner white oak on the bank of the [North Anna] River, thence down the same by the water courses making a straight line of four hundred and eighty-seven poles to Thomas Prestwood's corner on the River, thence along his line South 60° West four hundred and forty poles to the beginning—being the whole of a tract of land to Thomas Carr of King William County, Gentleman, for 400 acres by patent dated 24 March 1725 and by him sold and conveyed to Francis Strother by deed acknowledged in Hanover Court on 6 Feb 1729/30, and the residue of land being surplus land found within the original patent on resurvey. For £2. (*Virginia Patents* 16:56)

Carr had patented the land originally as 400 acres. When Strother, likely in his promotion of the Pamunkey Rolling Road, found on resurvey that he had 654 acres in the tract, he had to repatent the land and buy the additional acreage from the Crown—which is what he did here.

- ◆ **20 July 1735** – BIRTH: **William Baker**, eldest son and first child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Hanover County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

There is no record evidence of the date or place of William Baker's birth. He married c1758 a daughter of Henry Gambill and Mary Davenport and, thus, a first cousin, in Culpeper County. In land documents (see below), his wife's first name is given as Ann; other family records suggest it was Elizabeth.

Additionally, as of yet, there is no indication of the provender of the Baker Bible data provided by the late Pearl Foster O'Donnell to John Scott Davenport in 1982. In some particulars, the data provided is substantiated by other evidence. For example, the birth date of David Baker, son of Thomas Baker, is also documented by a family Bible owned by one of David's sons, Josiah Baker. No-one has ever published a copy or photograph of the Bible referenced. We have hopes that it will surface at some point for the benefit of future Baker researchers.

- ◇ **3-4 September 1735** - LEASE & RELEASE: Thomas Carr of Caroline County, Gentleman, to Henry Gambill (as Gambrill) of **Hanover County**, planter, for £21/2/5 current money, 176 acres in Hanover County on Little Rocky Creek, adjoining said Creek, said Carr—part of 3,770-acre patent to said Carr on 22 February 1726... /s/ Thomas Carr. Wit: None. Acknowledged by said Carr in Hanover Court the same day, Mary Carr, wife of Thomas Carr, relinquishing Dower. (*Hanover County Deeds, Small Book, 322-325*)

This was apparently Henry Gambill's first owned land. When Gambill moved to Culpeper County in 1751, he sold the land to Charles Kennedy, who was married to Crotia Davenport, another daughter of Martin. That transaction was another family affair for William, John, and David Davenport, all brothers of Mary Gambill and Crotia Kennedy, witnessed the deed.

- ◇ **25 November 1736** - COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT: Thomas Partridge & Co., merchants, of **Hanover County**, Virginia. Account of Mr. Thos. Merfie (Thomas Murphy), showed a payment to **Thomas Baker** this date.

Source: Slatten and Bagby (abs), "Accounts from the Store of Thomas Partridge & Co., Hanover, VA, 1734-1756," *Magazine of Virginia Genealogy*, V24, 3:27. Hereafter **Thomas Partridge & Co. Accounts** with *Magazine of Virginia* (MVG) reference citation.

There is no documentary proof as to where Thomas Baker and his wife Dorothy Davenport Baker spent the early years of their marriage. Most likely, they lived near to her father Martin Davenport Sr. in the Hanover County area but certainly within the area from which this store drew its patronage.

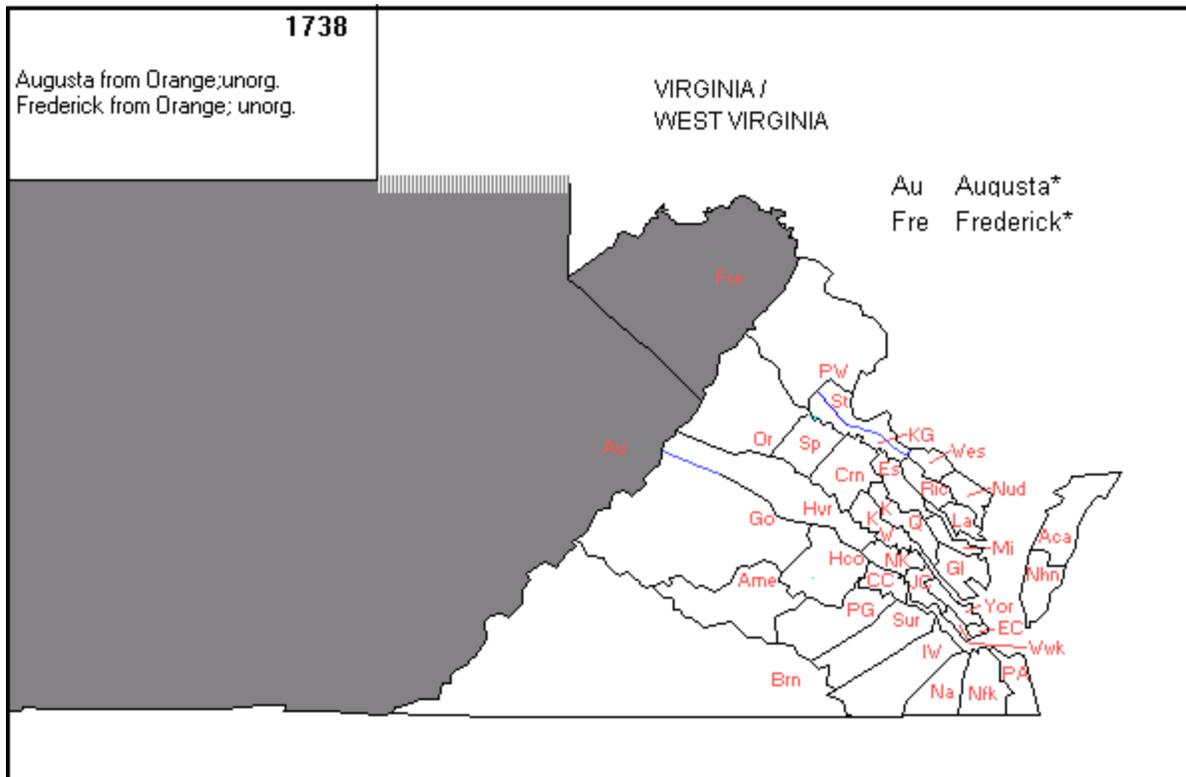
The Partridge Store was patronized by planters and farmers from the entire Pamunkey Neck area and beyond as it appears that it was well-located. As explained by the abstractors of the records: "Because of extensive record losses in Hanover Co., the location of Partridge Store cannot be precisely determined. Certainly its situation at the time the surviving ledgers begin was the mid-part of the county since nearly all of its customers were residents of St. Paul's Parish. Likely it was convenience to a landing on the Pamunkey River and probably lay on the main road that led from the Court House to the tobacco warehouses at Newcastle (Meriwether's) and at Hanover Town (Page's and Crutchfield's). ... By 1756 there are references to purchases made "at the lower store," implying two locations by that date. It is probable, in fact, that the original Partridge Store in St. Paul's Parish ultimately evolved into the retail venture operated by the Poindexter family at Frederick Hall, Louisa Co., since the old 18th century ledgers were including among the effects belonging to that business."

St. Paul's Parish was created in 1704, by a division of St. Peter's Parish. The upper part, which became Hanover County in 1720, was in the new St. Paul's Parish. The St. Paul's Parish register contains repeated references to a Thomas Baker and a Martin Baker. Further research is necessary to establish if this is our Thomas Baker and, if so, if there is any relation to the Martin Baker of the register.

- ◇ **6 April 1737** – BIRTH: **Thomas Baker, Jr.**, second son and second child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Hanover County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

The date and place of Thomas Jr.'s birth is not established by record evidence, and there is as yet no data in Baker Family files concerning the time and place of his death. According to family reports, Thomas Baker, Jr., never married.

1738 – COUNTY LINES CHANGE: **Orange County** was divided and the western portion of Virginia, including what would later become West Virginia, was split into Augusta and Frederick Counties.



2 May 1738 – GUILTY PLEA: On indictment by Zachary Lewis, King's Attorney, John Bruce pleaded guilty to forging a false agreement on the back of a bill payable to one **William Baker** of Hanover County. Fine of £5, plus costs. [**Spotsylvania County** Order Book, 3:6]

It is unclear whether this William Baker was in any way related to Thomas Baker, who married Dorothy Davenport a few years before this event. However, Thomas' son Charles provided some family data to his nephew Col. John Baker of Tennessee in the early 1800s, and at that time stated that his grandfather had two brothers, Josias and William.

Zachary Lewis, married to a daughter of Colonel John Waller, Sr., was an attorney who for many years was the King's Attorney for Caroline County, although he was a lifelong resident of Spotsylvania. Lewis' son John, also an attorney, represented Pamunkey Davenports during the 1760s-70s, had his manor plantation in Spotsylvania County and was a neighbor to the Davenports there.

- ◇ **5 April 1739** – BIRTH: **Mary Baker**, first daughter and third child of **Thomas Baker** and his wife **Dorothy Davenport**, daughter of **Martin Davenport, Sr.**, born in **Hanover County**. (*Baker Bible Data provided by Pearl Foster O'Donnell, Fort Wayne, Indiana, 1982*)

There is no record evidence of the date or place of Mary Baker's birth. Mary married William Mallory in Culpeper County, date unknown but before 1779.

- ◇ **5 May 1739** - COMMERCIAL ACCOUNT: Thomas Partridge & Co., merchants, of **Hanover County**, Virginia. Account of **Mr. Thomas Baker**: Partridge & Company made a cash advance to said **Baker** on this date on his oath before Captain Garland. (*Thomas Partridge & Co. Accounts, Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, V24, 2:44*)

This is likely the Thomas Baker who had married Dorothy, daughter of Martin Davenport, Sr. There are no land records to establish the location of the Baker family at this time, but it is certain that it was well within the area where this store drew patronage.

- 11 September 1739** – PRECINCT FOR PROCESSIONING: **St. Paul's Parish** divided into various precincts for processioning. Among them was Precinct 9, including “the lands of George Vaughn, Widow Frazer, John Joyner, Benja. Alsop, **Martin Baker**, William Thacker, John Ragland, Anthony Winston's orphans, Anthony Waddy, Charles Lewis, Richd. Harris, Barbara Winston, John Bacon, Richd. Harris's orphans.” (*The Valentine Papers, Vol. xx, p.1740*)

< [Return to 1700 –1720](#) >

< [Next—1740-1750](#) >

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

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