

Albemarle County in Virginia  
by Rev. Edgar Woods – 1901

**GENTRY**

The different Gentry families in Albemarle seem to have sprung from the same head. Nicholas Gentry died in 1779, leaving eleven children, Moses, David, Nicholas, Mary Hinson, Robert, Benajah, Nathan, Martin, Elizabeth Haggard, Jane Timberlake, and Ann Jenkins. Moses bought land in 1778 from Samuel Gay on the old Lynchburg Road north of Garland's Store. He was a ruling elder in the Cove Church. He died in 1810. His children were Claiborne and Nichols, who married sister, Jane and Mary, daughters of Bezaleel Maxwell, Frances, the wife of Thomas Fitzpatrick, and Joanna, the wife of Joseph Walters. Addison, a son of Nichols, married Lucy, a sister of Shelton F. Leaks.

Prior to 1778, David and Martin were owners of land on Doyle's River, which they afterwards sold to Benajah Brown. A son of one of these brothers probably was Richard Gentry; who in 1784 married Jane, daughter of James Harris, and removed to Kentucky, and whose descendants held a reunion at Crab Orchard in August 1898. And from one of them in all likelihood came George Gentry, who died in 1818, whose home was not far from Free Union, whose wife's name was Elizabeth, and whose children were James, George, William, Frances, the wife of Nathaniel Tate, Austin, Aaron, Christopher, Martha, the wife of John Walton, Elizabeth, the wife of Edward Ballard, and Nancy, the wife of Edward Walton. The children of Christopher and his wife Sarah, were Martha, the wife of Joel Maupin, Mary, the wife of Henry Via, Frances, the wife of Thomas Gibson, Elizabeth, the wife of James Dunn, Paschal, Henry, and Dicey, the wife of Garrett White.

Benajah lived on Biscuit Run, where he commenced to purchase land in 1764. In 1817 he transferred his property to his son Robert, although his death did not occur till 1830. Martha, the wife of Elijah Dawson, son of Rev. Martin, who removed to Callaway County, Missouri, and Elizabeth, the wife of William Goodman, were daughters of Benajah. Robert married May, daughter of Francis Wingfield, and was the father of Albert.

Robert Gentry, believed to be the son of Nichols, bought in 1766 from Martha, widow of Samuel Arnold, a place on the head waters of Ivy Creek, which he and his wife Judith sold in 1776 to John Woodson. Philip Joyner, whose daughter was the wife of Robert Gentry, and who once owned the land the University stands on, devised the land to his two grandsons, Charles and Jesse Gentry. They sold, the one in 1775, and the other in 1783, and appear to have emigrated to North Carolina. Whether the Robert just mentioned was the same with the son of Nicholas, is unknown.

**Gentry, Robert I**

b. ca. 1730, Pamunkey Neck, St. Paul's Parish, Hanover, VA or b. ca. 1726  
d. 29 June 1814, Jefferson, TN – d. after 9 May 1811, Jefferson Co., TN  
s/o Nicholas & Mary (Brooks) Gentry II- \* See *Will of Robert Gentry*  
*md 1<sup>st</sup>* ca. 1754, Albemarle Co., VA ,or *md* ca. 1748, **Judith Joyner** –

b. ca. 1734 – d. ca. 1803, Franklin, TN

d/o Philip Joyner of Albemarle, VA – d. Will dated, 19 February 1761

*Philip willed 200 acres to each grandson, Charles & Jesse Gentry which*

*The land is now the site of University of VA in Charlottesville, VA.*

**md 2<sup>nd</sup>** 13 November 1804, Jefferson Co., TN, **Rachel West** –

*Robert born in Hanover Co., VA about 1730; married Judith Joyner, daughter of Philip Joyner of Albemarle C., VA. In 1776 Robert Gentry conveyed 234 acres of land on which he lived in Albemarle, VA to John Woodson, in which his wife Judith joined. He is described as a planter of the parish. The Will of Philip Joyner dated February 19, 1761, names, among other legatees, his grandsons Charles and Jesse Gentry, giving each of them 200 acres of land, and names his granddaughters, Elizabeth, Sarah and Mary.*

*The land on which the Virginia University stands is a part of this legacy. He moved to Tennessee and settled on the north side of the French Broad River, 4 miles east of Dandridge, Jefferson Co., Tennessee, in 1783. He married second wife Rachel West, in Tennessee, November 13, 1804. She had no children.*

*“Ramsey’s History of Tennessee,” page 277, mentions Robert Gentry among the first settlers in Jefferson Co., Tennessee in 1783. Robert Gentry, four miles above Dandridge, Tennessee.*

*Robert Gentry is listed in the book “First Families of Tennessee” by the East Tennessee Society on page,*

*155: Robert Gentry, born c. 1730, Hanover Co., VA; died c. 1812, Jefferson Co., TN; married Judith Joyner; county settled: Washington, 1778; proof: tax list. Washington County is located in East Tennessee, one of the state's three "grand divisions." Washington County, TN, was formed in 1796 from portions of Washington County, NC.*

*\*See Land Deeds of Jefferson Co., TN & History of Jefferson Co., TN. \*See Chapter 7 & Gentry Family.*

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