

Gentry & Haggard Families
by Bryant Gentry – 1971

The Gentry's were of Old Germanic Stock, and sprung from English families. They are descendants of the Huguenots who escaped from France to England during the time of persecution in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The name Gentry originally meant "scribes" or learned people," later it came to mean "people of high rank and good breeding," and in England the name came to mean "Nobility".

Among the soldiers sent from England to Virginia to cope with Bacon's Rebellion were two brothers, Nicholas and Samuel Gentry. They arrived in Jamestown, Virginia in January of 1677. They were discharged from the British Army and payed off in Jamestown in the fall of 1683 and elected to remain in America. They first settled in New Kent County, Virginia.

It was stated in the year 1912 that there were over 21,000 known descendants from these two brothers. We assume that all of the Gentry families in the United States are related and the colored people in this country with the Gentry name are descendants of former slaves that were at one time owned by the various Gentry families and took the Gentry name when they were freed. Some of the Gentry's were slave owners for over 150 years.

The Gentry's have largely been an agricultural people, interested in their lands and in their flocks and herds, and they were large slave owners until the Civil War ended. They seem to have preferred their plantations to commercial pursuits or political office. Not many of them have achieved greatness or national reputations, yet a large number of them have been prominent in their states and counties. We find the Gentry's represented in the legislatures of Indiana, Kentucky, North Carolina, Tennessee, Texas and Missouri at various times.

The tradition of our fathers is that one James Haggard (son of a wealthy aristocratic Lord of England) who had been educated for the Ministry, left England in about 1698 and came to America on a Merchant ship bound for Norfolk, Virginia. When he landed he was yet under 21 years of age, but having a fine education, his first employment was teaching school. There was connected with this school a young woman whose charms so impressed him that they were married. She was Mabel Gentry, daughter of Nicholas Gentry, the emigrant.

We find that in the early part of the 18th century there were four or more families of Haggards in the eastern part of Virginia. They claim, and are understood, to be the sons of the school teacher above mentioned. They were Nathaniel, Edmund, Zachariah and Gray (or Granville). The records show that Nathaniel haggard was born November 21, 1723 and that he married Elizabeth Gentry, "a lady of English descent", (Elizabeth was his first cousin, being the daughter of Nicholas Gentry II). There were 10 children born of this marriage in Albemarle County, Virginia. Of these 10 children Henry, Martin and

James were Baptist preachers, (James Haggard married Elizabeth "Besty" Gentry daughter of Moses Gentry and Lucy Sims. Moses was the brother of Elizabeth "Besty" Gentry who md Nathaniel Haggard), and their sisters, Elizabeth and Mary married Baptist preachers. Bartlet and David were twins, they were farmers as were John and Nathaniel II. Jane the other sister married David Gentry II (her cousin).

It is worthy of note that the "History of Albemarle County Virginia" by Rev. Edgar Wood, shows the names of Nathaniel Haggard I, and his son Martin Haggard were signers of the Virginia Declaration of Independence.

According to the records, there were many marriages between the Gentry's and Haggard's for well over a hundred years.

I wrote to Roger L. Goodman and he was so kind to look up the references on the Haggard family for me in the book "History of Albemarle County Virginia, " – titled, "Albemarle in Virginia" by Rev. Edgar Wood. This is what I wrote and his reply. Audrey J. Lambert.

Roger,

I was told that the names of Nathaniel Haggard I, and his son Martin Haggard were signers of the Virginia Declaration of Independence and are mentioned in the book, "History of Albemarle County of Virginia" by Rev. Edgar Wood.

I was wondering if you could look this up for me and send me the text on these people. I'm connected to the Gentry family. Elizabeth Gentry md Nathaniel Haggard.

Audrey

Yes, Nathaniel and Martin Haggard signed the Virginia Declaration of Independence (according to the book).

As for typing out the referenced sections, there's not much to show. On page 68, it' s talking about the path a road took, and mentioned that part of it went by the name Haggard's Road, "from a Nathaniel Haggard, who owned the land on its course from the end of the Ridge to Moore's Creek." Page 365 is a list of the signers of the Albemarle Declaration of Independence, and includes Nathaniel Haggard. Page 366 continues the list, and includes the name of Martin Haggard. Page 388 is a listing of people who emigrated to Kentucky, and Nathaniel Haggard went to Clark Co., KY.

That's all there is on Martin and Nathaniel. Good luck in your research.

Roger

I went to the Detroit, library to the Burton Genealogy Room and looked up the pages mentioning the Haggard's from the book, Albemarle County in Virginia by Rev. Edgar Woods and this is what I found on pages 68, 365 & 368. This book has no index. There is a book called, Index to Edgar Wood's History of Albemarle County in Virginia compiled by Roger L. Goodman to be used as a guide to Rev. Edgar Woods book. Audrey J. Lambert.

Pg. 68: The old Lynchburg Road has been in use from the first settlement of the town. It commenced at the foot of Vinegar Hill, reached the top of the Ridge beyond the Dry Bridge, and continued along its crest to the branch at its south end, then called Haggard's, and afterwards West's Saw Mill Run. It crossed the north fork of Hardware where it does at present, the place long known as Old's Forge, turned around the end of Gay's Mountain past Andrew Hart's Store, and crossing Jumping Branch and the south fork of Hardware as at present, united with the present Lynchburg Road at the end of Persimmon Mountain a short distance north of Covesville. Near town it went by the name of Haggard's Road, from a Nathaniel Haggard, who owned the land on its course from the end of the Ridge to Moore's Creek. In those days the present Lynchburg Road was a mere farm road bearing the name of Wheeler's from a family who lived at the head of Moore's Creek.

Pg. 365 & 368

A Declaration of Independence, signed by citizens of Albemarle, April 21st, 1779, the original of which is preserved in the rooms of the Virginia Historical Society in Richmond.

George Gilmer	James Reid	James Quarles	Benjamin Lacy
William Lewis	William Tandy Sr.	Richard Anderson	John Reid
Peter Marks	William Hopkins	James Bridgett	Clough Shelton
John Fielder	Samuel Woodson	George Norvell	Thomas Overton
Nathaniel Haggard	Thomas Martin Jr.	Henry Mullins	John Wilkinson
Tucker Woodson	Benj. Dod Wheeler	Isaac Davis	Peter Jackson
Samuel Taliaferro	Henry Heard	John Day	John Jouett Jr.
Micajah Chiles	Isaac Davis Jr.	Richard Harper	Philip Mazzei
William Barton	George Saunders	John Greer	Richard Gaines
Thomas Jefferson	William Briscoe	John Harvie	William Carroll
John Coles	Robert Sharp Sr.	James Marks	Robert Sharp Jr.
John Harris	Joseph Lamb	John Jauett	John Bailey
Nicholas Lewis	Roland Horsley	Benjamin Harris	Richard Harvie
Samuel Dedman	Alexander McKinzie	James Hopkins	Robert Thompson Jr.
C. Simms	John Kirby	James Kerr	John Black
William Hays	William Pilson	Edward Butler	Robert Pilson
R. Davenport Jr.	James Epperson	Wm. Irvin, V.D.M.	John Lott
Jason Bowcock	Richard Sharp	Henry Shelton	Robert Burrus
James Minor	Henry Randolph	Anderson Bryan	William McGhee
John Fitzpatrick	Samuel Karr	John Stockton	Samuel McCord

Josiah Wood	Joseph Holt	Whittle Flannagan	William L. Bing
Peter Ferguson	Benjamin Jordan	Nathaniel McAllister	John Henderson Jr.
John Henderson Sr.	William Barksdale	John Lewis Sr.	Thomas Thorp
W. Langford	James Wm. Crossthwait	Peter Burrus	R. Dixon
John Tandy	T. Marshall	Richard Goodall	Daniel Coleman
Spencer Norvell	William Wingfield	Orlando Jones	Stat. Morris
Christopher Wingfield	William Leake	William Michie	Martin Haggard
Thomas Craig	Peter Ballou	John McCulloch	Thomas West
Charles L. Lewis	William Anderson	William Johnson	Joseph Neilson
Zachariah Mills	William Colvard	John Thomas	William Fossett
Castleton Harper Sr.	Edward Moore	John Newcomb	Charles Lewis Jr.
Samuel Bing	David G. Mosby	Richard Carter	Isham Lewis
John Wingfield	Henry Ford	Henry Hooper	William Sandridge
Nicholas Hamner	William Chenault	Joseph Terrell	Thomas Musick
Daniel Goolsby	Samuel Huckstep	Richard Davenport	Jacob Oglesby
William Hitchcock	Thomas Collins	Henry Copeland	Arthur Grahma
Richard Goolsby	Thomas Morgan	Hiram Gaines	Charles Hudson
John Prince	William Jeffers	Daniel Coleman	Bernis Brown
William Wingfield	William Statham	William Leake	Stephen Hughes Jr.
Martin Haggard	Horsley Goodman		

Martin Haggard is listed twice and a William Anderson who might be related to me, Audrey June Lambert.

Below is information from websites I found:

The Declaration of Independence

Drafted by Thomas Jefferson between June 11 and June 28, 1776, the Declaration of Independence is at once the nation's most cherished symbol of liberty and Jefferson's most enduring monument. Here, in exalted and unforgettable phrases, Jefferson expressed the convictions in the minds and hearts of the American people. The political philosophy of the Declaration was not new; its ideals of individual liberty had already been expressed by John Locke and the Continental philosophers. What Jefferson did was to summarize this philosophy in "self-evident truths" and set forth a list of grievances against the King in order to justify before the world the breaking of ties between the colonies and the mother country.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights

On May 15, 1776, the Virginia Convention "resolved unanimously that the delegates appointed to represent this colony in General Congress be instructed to propose to that respectable body to declare the United Colonies free and independent states . . . [and] that a committee be appointed to prepare a DECLARATION OF RIGHTS and . . . plan of government." R. H. Lee's resolution of June 7, 1776, implemented the first of these

resolutions and precipitated the appointment of the committee to draw up the Declaration of Independence; the second proposal was carried out by the framing of Virginia's first state constitution, of which this declaration was an integral part. It is notable for containing an authoritative definition of the term militia in Section 13.

As passed, the Virginia Declaration was largely the work of George Mason; the committee and the Convention made some verbal changes and added Sections 10 and 14. This declaration served as a model for bills of rights in several other state constitutions and was a source of the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, though its degree of influence upon the latter document is a highly controversial question. The reference to "property" in Section I may be compared with the use of the word by John Locke, its omission by Thomas Jefferson from the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence, and its use in the Constitution, Amendments V and XIV.



George Mason (1725-92), one of Virginia's wealthiest planters, a neighbor and friend of Washington, is best remembered for his part in drafting the Virginia constitution of 1776. In 1787 he was a leader in the Federal Convention. Refusing to sign the completed document, Mason, along with Patrick Henry and others, opposed its ratification in the Virginia Convention of 1788.]

Note: Virginia's Declaration of Rights was drawn upon by Thomas Jefferson for the opening paragraphs of the Declaration of Independence. It was widely copied by the other colonies and became the basis of the Bill of Rights. Written by George Mason, it was adopted by the Virginia Constitutional Convention on June 12, 1776.

The Virginia Declaration of Rights

A DECLARATION OF RIGHTS made by the representatives of the good people of Virginia, assembled in full and free convention which rights do pertain to them and their posterity, as the basis and foundation of government .

Section 1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent and have certain inherent rights, of which, when they enter into a state of society, they cannot, by any compact, deprive or divest their posterity; namely, the enjoyment of life and liberty, with the means of acquiring and possessing property, and pursuing and obtaining happiness and safety.

Section 2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people; that magistrates are their trustees and servants and at all times amenable to them.

Section 3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety and is most effectually secured against the danger of

maladministration. And that, when any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community has an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.

Section 4. That no man, or set of men, is entitled to exclusive or separate emoluments or privileges from the community, but in consideration of public services; which, nor being descendible, neither ought the offices of magistrate, legislator, or judge to be hereditary.

Section 5. That the legislative and executive powers of the state should be separate and distinct from the judiciary; and that the members of the two first may be restrained from oppression, by feeling and participating the burdens of the people, they should, at fixed periods, be reduced to a private station, return into that body from which they were originally taken, and the vacancies be supplied by frequent, certain, and regular elections, in which all, or any part, of the former members, to be again eligible, or ineligible, as the laws shall direct.

Section 6. That elections of members to serve as representatives of the people, in assembly ought to be free; and that all men, having sufficient evidence of permanent common interest with, and attachment to, the community, have the right of suffrage and cannot be taxed or deprived of their property for public uses without their own consent or that of their representatives so elected, nor bound by any law to which they have not, in like manner, assembled for the public good.

Section 7. That all power of suspending laws, or the execution of laws, by any authority, without consent of the representatives of the people, is injurious to their rights and ought not to be exercised.

Section 8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man has a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses, to call for evidence in his favor, and to a speedy trial by an impartial jury of twelve men of his vicinage, without whose unanimous consent he cannot be found guilty; nor can he be compelled to give evidence against himself; that no man be deprived of his liberty except by the law of the land or the judgment of his peers.

Section 9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Section 10. That general warrants, whereby an officer or messenger may be commanded to search suspected places without evidence of a fact committed, or to seize any person or persons not named, or whose offense is not particularly described and supported by evidence, are grievous and oppressive and ought not to be granted.

Section 11. That in controversies respecting property, and in suits between man and man, the ancient trial by jury is preferable to any other and ought to be held sacred.

Section 12. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty, and can never be restrained but by despotic governments.

Section 13. That a well-regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the proper, natural, and safe defense of a free state; that standing armies, in time of peace, should be avoided as dangerous to liberty; and that in all cases the military should be under strict subordination to, and governed by, the civil power.

Section 14. That the people have a right to uniform government; and, therefore, that no government separate from or independent of the government of Virginia ought to be erected or established within the limits thereof.

Section 15. That no free government, or the blessings of liberty, can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality, and virtue and by frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.

Section 16. That religion, or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore all men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience; and that it is the mutual duty of all to practise Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other.

More Resources

High-Resolution versions of the Charters of Freedom documents area available on the High-Resolution Images page.

The article "A More Perfect Union" provides an in-depth look at the Constitutional Convention, the ratification process, and the adoption of the Bill of Rights.

The Gentry Family in America

Gentry- Haggard

pg. 238 & 239

Nathaniel Haggard and Elizabeth Gentry, his wife, moved from Virginia to Clarke Country, KY, with their whole family about 1788; in the meantime most of his children were married.

Their son, Rev. James Haggard, married Betsie Gentry, his cousin, a daughter of Moses Gentry, a brother of his mother, and also settled in Kentucky.

Jane Haggard, their daughter, born 1761, married David Gentry, a son of David Gentry, a brother of her mother, and settled in Madison Co., KY. They reared eleven children, among them were Elizabeth, born January 6, 1788, who married David Haggard and had seven sons and five daughters; and Mary Gentry, born – March 5, 1790, who married William Haggard, a brother of David, her sister Elizabeth's husband, and had five sons

and seven daughters. These two Haggards, David and William, were sons of William Haggard, and grandsons of Edmund Haggard, a brother of Nathaniel Haggard who married Elizabeth Gentry in Albemarle Co., VA about 1745-50.

Among the descendants of David Haggard, born in 1763, a son of Elizabeth Gentry Haggard, is ex-governor Routt of Colorado, now deceased.

Among the descendants of Jane Haggard, born in 1761, and David Gentry, is the Rev. Alfred Haggard, dean of Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa.

Joshua Henry Gentry, of Pettis Co., MO, married November 13, 1855, Amanda Haggard, and his brother John Campbell Gentry of same county, married Dottie Haggard, August 23, 1866. These two Gentry's were sons of Joshua Gentry of Palmyra, MO

See Chapters 6 & 7 for Gentry/Haggard families. *See Gentry Family.

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