Section 13

JOHN YATES
OF
ENGLAND
AND
VIRGINIA.
HIS FAMILY
AND
DESCENDANTS

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In Memoriam

John Yates, 1779-1851
Vestryman of this church.

His wife
Julia Lovell, 1783-1866

Their daughter, Anne Yates, 1815-1858

Her husband
Reverend William Thomas Leavell, 1813-1899

Their children
Julia Yates McDonald, 1848-1921
Anne Elizabeth Daniel, 1850-1923
Mary Aglionby Johnson, 1851-1900
William Thomas Leavell, 1854-1900
Reverend Francis Keyes Leavell, 1857-1887

"These all having finished their course in faith do now rest from their labours."

The above tablet was unveiled in Zion Church, Charles Town, Jefferson Co., W. Va., on August 23, 1936.
The First Episcopal Church in Charles Town

The first Episcopal Church in what is now Jefferson County, W. Va., was St. George's Chapel, now a vine-clad ruin, about two miles from Charles Town, built about 1771.

After the turn of the century it was decided to build a new church in Charles Town and it was then that St. George's fell into decay.

John Yates contributed generously towards building Zion Church, also using men and teams from his nearby plantation, in the work. He was one of its early vestrymen.

Mr. Yates' family and descendants have always formed a part of the congregation, many of them being vestrymen, Sunday School teachers and so on.

Mr. Yates' son-in-law, Rev. W. T. Leavell preached in Zion Church on many occasions, as have two grandsons, Rev. F. K. Aglionby and Rev. F. K. Leavell, and a great-grandson, Rev. Peerce McDonald.

Mrs. John Yates was buried in Zion Church yard and many of the descendants unto the fifth generation, sleep beneath its sod.
Charles Yates, son of the Reverend Francis Yates and Anne Orfeur, his wife, was born in 1728. He came to America in 1748 and lived in New York for a short time. In 1752 he settled in Fredericksburg, Virginia, where he lived for the remainder of his long and useful life.

John Orfeur Yates, a younger brother of the above Charles, spent many years in India, where he acquired a considerable fortune. Upon his return to England he purchased in 1768 the Skirwith estate in Cumberland County and built a handsome house on it, which he called Skirwith Abbey. The same year he married Mary Aglionby, the charming 18 year old daughter of Henry Aglionby of Nunnery, and Anne Musgrave, his wife.

The children of this couple were Anne, Mary, Francis, John and Henry.

John Yates was born April 3, 1779, at Skirwith Abbey, the fourth child in his family, and being a younger son, had no especially brilliant financial prospects.

Charles Yates prospered greatly as a merchant and importer and became a very prominent figure in Fredericksburg.

After the Revolutionary War Charles Yates was advancing in years and being unmarried felt the need of an heir to live in Virginia and eventually to inherit his estates and property in Virginia. Some years before the Revolution Mr. Yates had lent a large sum of money to his friend Robert Rutherford, to purchase lands across the Blue Ridge Mountains, the property of Lord Fairfax. Mr. Rutherford was never able to repay Mr. Yates, so after the Revolution Mr. Rutherford turned over the plantation to Mr. Yates, but continued to live on the portion of it, known as Flowing Spring. Mr. Yates used the part known as Walnut Grove, as a hunting lodge and spent a few weeks at a time there during every spring, summer and fall.

These plantations were first in Frederick County, but later in Berkeley County, and when Jefferson County was formed they were in Jefferson.
The problem of an heir to inherit his large property, Mr. Yates solved by writing to his brother John Orfeur Yates, in England, requesting him to send one of his sons to Virginia to live with him and inherit his estates in Virginia.

John Orfeur Yates had three sons, Francis, John and Henry. Francis being the eldest was naturally heir to his father's estates, so after weighing the matter it was decided to send John, then a boy of thirteen, to his uncle in Fredericksburg.

John Yates was accompanied on the long voyage by an attendant named William Clarkson, his dog Plato, and a goat to supply him with fresh milk during the long weeks on board the sailing vessel.

John's trunk, bristling with brass headed nails, bore a nameplate engraved “John Yates, Fredericksburg, Virginia”. This trunk is the property now of one of his descendants; another descendant has the lock of his mother's hair, which she cut for him when he left home. This lock of hair is carefully preserved in a gold locket.

When John Yates reached his uncle in Fredericksburg, he was warmly welcomed, treated as the son of the house and given the best of everything then attainable in Virginia. For a time he attended local schools and at the age of seventeen was sent to the College of New Jersey, later known as Princeton. There he remained two years. He then took up the study of law in Fredericksburg, and later attended William and Mary College for a year. He became involved in a duel, was wounded, and withdrew from the college.

At this time Charles Yates had as his business partner, Mr. William Lovell, who resided near him in Fredericksburg. Young John Yates was always a welcome guest in the exceptionally happy Lovell household.

Julia Lovell, born August 15, 1783, was the eldest child of Mr. Lovell and several years younger than John Yates. Upon the birth of a young Lovell son, John Yates and Julia Lovell became his sponsors. Julia Lovell is described as a brunette and as a girl of great charm and beauty; small wonder then that young John Yates fell desperately in love with her.
Mr. Charles Yates considered the couple too young for matrimony but consented to a tentative engagement. Mr. Lovell moved his family to Culpeper County about this time; the separation was too much for John who soon followed them to Culpeper and they were married at “Fox Neck”, the Lovell home.

This marriage proved to be a most happy one. The young couple lived for a time with Mr. Lovell, then Mr. Charles Yates placed his nephew at Walnut Grove to manage his large estate.

The children of John and Julia Yates were as follows: Janet, Mary, Charles, Francis, William, John Orfeur, Anne, Elizabeth, Julia and Henry. Of these only Janet, Charles, Francis, Anne and Julia left descendants.

Janet Yates, 2, b. at Fox Neck, Jan. 12, 1804, d. 1875. M. 1826, George Brooke Beall.


Hezekiah Beall 3, m. 2nd 1870, Arthurilla Groves.


John Yates Beall 3, b. July 2, 1882, Texas, m. 1902, Eva Alice Evans.


Emma Webb Beall 3, m. 1898, John Thomas Bounds.


Janet Henderson 4, b., 1874, m. Walter C. Riely. She died 1903.


Francis Keyes Yates 3, (afterwards Aglionby), m., Aug. 9, 1876, Amy Bickersteth, daughter of Edward H. Bickersteth, Lord Bishop of Exeter.


Francis Basil Aglionby 4, m., Sept. 30, 1930, his cousin, Marjorie Wycliffe Russell, daughter of Canon Russell.


Charles Edward Aglionby 4, m., Dec. 23, 1918, Christina Annabella Campbell of Dunstaffnage, Scotland, the head of whose family is the Duke of Argyll.


Colonel Francis Yates 2, b., Walnut Grove, Sept. 24, 1811, d., Flowing Springs, Jan. 1, 1892. M. 1st., June 23, 1840, Anne Elizabeth, daughter of Bacon Burwell. She died June 28, 1862.


Children—Wayt Bell Timberlake, Jr., 5, b., Nov. 23, 1908. Emily Kent Timberlake 5.


Marie Harrison Yates 4, m., S. Richards Johnston.

Emily Johnston 5. Richards Yates Johnston 5.

Octavia Lata.2 Yates, m., Oct. 29, 1868, Wm. Stephenson Mason, son of Dr. Gerard Fowke Mason.

Children—Anne Belle, m. Wm. T. Yancey. No issue. Margaret Duncan, unm. Virginia Stephenson, m., Wm. L. Yancey, no issue.


Elizabeth Anne Embrey, m. 1st, Emmit R. Colbert.

Anne Yates Colbert, b., May 2, 1925.

Elizabeth Anne Embrey Colbert, m., 2nd, Charles McDonald Cowan.

Alpheus Wilson Embrey, Jr., m. Lois Keene Dameron of Westmoreland Co., Va., b., Aug. 4, 1899.
Mary Louise Yates, b., 1876, m. 1st. Louis A. Von Erichsen.
Louisa Von Erichsen, b., Jan. 18, 1900.
Louisa Von Erichsen, m., Matthew Gately.
Virginia Gately, b., Feb. 9, 1921.
Louisa Von E. Gately, m. 2nd, Wm. Haynie.
Susan Mallory Yates, b., 1887, m. Joseph L. Savage.
Col. Francis Yates 2, m., 2nd., Sydney Virginia Rooker, daughter Jabez Berry Rooker, June 25, 1863.
Mary Brooke Yates 3, b., Flowing Springs, Jan. 8, 1866, m., Adrian Garrett Wynkoop, Oct. 14, 1891.
Children—John Porter Lucas, Jr. 5. Mary Brooke Lucas 5.
Julia Yates Wynkoop 4, m., Apr. 26, 1922, Llewellyn Powell Potts.
Children—Eleanor Lee Potts 5. Henry Potts 5.
Julia Brooke Potts 5.
Anne Yates 2, born at Walnut Grove, July 15, 1815, d., April 13, 1857. Married Nov. 18, 1847, at Walnut Grove, Reverend Wm. Thomas Leavell.


Edward Leavell McDonald 4, b., 1870, m., Dec. 20, 1902, Florence M. D. Pinniger, daughter of Wm. and Harriet Davis Pinniger of Louisville, Ky.


Julia Terrill McDonald 4, b., 1873, m., June 20, 1899 at "Media", John W. Davis, d., Aug. 19, 1900.

Julia McDonald Davis 5, b., July 23, 1900, m., 1923, Wm. M. Adams, 2nd 1934, Paul West.

Angus W. McDonald 4, b., 1877, m., June 27, 1912, Elizabeth Woodbridge Brown. No issue.

Rev. Peerce Naylor McDonald 4, b., 1879, m., June 8, 1910, Frances Louise Browse, no issue.

Mary Aglionby McDonald 4, b., 1881, m., Oct. 21, 1911, at "Media", Robert T. Browse.

Elizabeth McDonald Browse 5, b., May 17, 1914.


Louise McDonald 5, b., Mar. 15, 1925.

John Yates McDonald 4, b., 1887, m., Sept. 22, 1922, Dorothy Bosworth.


Wm. Aglionby Daniel 4, b., 1878, m., Apr. 27, 1915, Elsie Lee White, daughter of Ella W. and Mansfield White, of Montgomery Co., Md.


John Moncure Daniel, Jr., 4, m. 2nd, Bethlehem Chapel, Cathedral, Washington, D. C., Marguerite Fitz-Gerald Williams, Dec. 12, 1921, daughter of Margaret Watson and Rev. Richard P. Williams.


Francis Warwick Daniel 4, m., Jan. 25, 1933, Juanita Seaman, daughter of Alice Payne Tolliver and Jas. A. Seaman.

Alice Leavell Daniel 5, b., Dec. 26, 1933.

Mary Aglionby Leavell 3, b., 1851, m., Oct. 28, 1885, Zion Church, Charles Town, Capt. Wm. R. Johnson, C. S. A. Mrs. Johnson died Mar. 10, 1900, buried at Hollywood, Richmond, Va.


Wm. R. Johnson, Jr., 4, b., 1887, served in France with the A. E. F., m., July 22, 1920, Gertrude Annette Thayer, daughter of Garland Todd Thayer, Charleston, W. Va.


Mary Aglionby Johnson 4, m., Sept. 23, 1918, Wm. Borden Jerman, son of Julia Borden and Beverly Sydnor Jerman, Raleigh, N. C.

Francis Leavell Johnson 4, m., April 8, 1932, Margaret Tinsley Moncure, daughter of Judge Wm. A. Moncure.
Children—Margaret Moncure Johnson 5, b., Jan. 4, 1933. Mary Leavell Johnson, b., June 29, 1936.

Wm. Thomas Leavell 3, b., “Sunnyside”, Madison Co., Va., Nov. 12, 1855, d., Sheltering Arms Hospital, Feb. 4, 1900 m., April 14, 1898, Lucy Nelson Pendleton, daughter of Robert Nelson Pendleton.

Wm. Thomas Leavell 4, b., Aug. 21, 1900, m., 1932. Charles Joseph Carew Clarke.


Julia Yates 2, b., Walnut Grove, July 25, 1819, d. M. Oct. 1, 1839, her cousin, Wm. Lovell Terrill.


To both Miss Terrill and Mr. Aglionby the present and future generations owe a debt of gratitude.

**Quotation From "Memorials Of A Family"**

"As a citizen in his adopted country, John Yates was active and liberal, using his means and influence in the encouragement of public improvements; more especially the making of better roads, the starting of manufactories, and establishing the system of free schools. In regard to the latter, there appeared an article in a Charles Town newspaper recently, written by the late Hon. C. J. Faulknor of Berkeley Co., W. Va.—Quote, "Jefferson Co. having an area of about twenty-five miles square, is particularly well adapted to an experiment with free schools; and the system by the aid of the remarkable John Yates, a wealthy land holder and the largest tax-payer in the county, was put into active operation, and resisted several attempts to repeal the act." The county of Jefferson, in token of appreciation had a tablet to the memory of Mr. Yates inserted in the wall of a free-school house, near Shepherd's Town."

Rev. Wm. Thomas Leavell was the son of Burwell Leavell and his second wife, Anne Goulder Spindle. He was born at "Cloverdale", Spotsylvania Co., Va., Sept. 11, 1813. He was educated in local schools, later attending Bristol College near Philadelphia, and the Theological Seminary, Alexandria, Va., where he was graduated in 1839.

Mr. Leavell's first charge was Westover, in Charles City Co., Va., where he remained for some years.
According to Mr. Leavell’s diary, in 1840, he and a former classmate, Mr. Buck, went to Jefferson Co., Va., to visit at the home of Mrs. Washington, of Blakeley.

Quotation from the diary:—“Here at Blakely we met with most delightful entertainment by one of the best and most hospitable of Virginia matrons. Mrs. Washington had for her guest at that time, a young lady from the neighborhood of Charles Town, Jefferson Co., whose appearance and piety made a deep impression on my heart. She was the daughter of Mr. John Yates, and now is my excellent and devoted wife.”

The following year Mr. Leavell returned to Jefferson Co. and renewed his acquaintance with Anne Yates. An engagement soon followed, and several years later they were married at Walnut Grove.

Referring to the death of his father-in-law, John Yates, Mr. Leavell writes, “I have rarely seen his equal. I loved him as a parent and friend”.

Mr. Leavell’s second parish was Bromfield in Madison and Rappahannock counties. While there his wife, Anne Yates Leavell died, leaving five small children. These children were taken to Walnut Grove, the home of their grandmother, Mrs. Julia Lovell Yates. Later Mr. Leavell became rector of Wickliffe Church, Clarke Co., Va., when the children went to live with him. He also had charge of churches at Bunker Hill, Leetown, and Middleway for a time.

While living at Wickliffe, Mr. Leavell wrote:—“Our favorite servant, Hannah Burke, who had been our nurse, is now our housekeeper. I must not fail to record Hannah’s great fidelity to us. She had quite a family, so was always obliged to be at home, whilst I was much away. All during the war she had charge of and kept safely all my valuables, silver and papers, securely hidden away in a box in her own house, which was never disturbed by soldiers.”

In writing of his mother-in-law, Mr. Leavell says:—“I have known many excellent women, but write it down as my candid conviction, that Mrs. Yates excelled them all in goodness”, adding that he did not
except even his own mother or his wife, who he thought, had very few defects.

In 1869, the Leavells moved from Wickliffe to their own home, "Media", in Jefferson Co. Some years later Mr. Leavell took charge of the churches at Hedgesville, Berkeley Co., and Berkeley Springs in Morgan Co. He resided at Hedgesville until the time of his death. A tablet to his memory was placed in the church at Hedgesville by the vestry of the Church.

From those who knew him we learn that Mr. Leavell was unfailingly kind and just in all his dealings. He was a student throughout his long life, being especially adept in Latin. When more than eighty years of age he could recite pages of Virgil and Horace which he had memorized in college.

The Leavells were Huguenots, who fled from France upon the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, going first to England, later coming to Virginia, where they settled on the Rappahannock River.

Burwell Leavell’s father, John Leavell, served in the Revolutionary War under Col. Burwell, whom he admired greatly and named his son, born April 11, 1775, for Col. Burwell.