ROBERT CROCKETT OR THE CREEK CATTLEMAN
AUGUSTA COUNTY, VIRGINIA

by Robert H. Montgomery

FROM

THE VIRGINIA MAGAZINE OF HISTORY AND BIOGRAPHY
Vol. 63 • April 1955 • No. 2
1935017

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1955

Montgomery, Robert H
Robert Crokett of Great
Calfpasture, Augusta Co., Va

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Mr. Hunt is appointed to supply at Discretion till our next.
[Mr. Brown two Sabbaths in the Fork of James River.]
The Presbytery grant the Congregation of North Mountain their Request, that Mr. Black supply them as much as he can and catechise their Children.
The Presbytery appoint Mr. Craig to preach at Rockfish the second Sabbath of November, and Mr. Brown to meet him the Tuesday following, to make the best Accomodation between Mr. Black and the People, respecting their arrears, and that Mr. Black and the People meet them there for that purpose.
The Presbytery appoint
Mr. Craig to supply one Sabbath at Brown's Meeting House, and one in the Fork of James River;
Mr. Miller one Sabbath at North Mountain, and one in the Calf Pasture;
Mr. Wright one Sabbath at Falling, and 2 in Bedford;
Mr. Todd two in the Northern Neck;
Mr. Henry one at Falling, and one in Halifax;
and Mr. Sankey two at Meherrin, before our next Presbytery which is to meet at the Byrd Meeting House in Goochland the first Wednesday of April. Concluded with Prayer.

[To be continued.]
precisely controlled to determine the most suitable conditions for the desired outcome. The experimental setup includes a series of controlled variables, such as temperature, pressure, and concentration, which are systematically varied to observe the effects on the reaction. By carefully controlling these variables, researchers can gain insights into the underlying mechanisms of the process. This approach is essential in ensuring that the results are reproducible and valid.
During the early years of Augusta County, Virginia, three pioneer settlers named Crockett died. The first to die was Robert, who lived on the Great River of the Calfpasture on land that is now in Rockbridge County. His death was in late 1746 or early 1747. Next in 1749 or 1750 was Samuel, who lived on Reed Creek in what is now Wythe County, nearly a hundred miles from Robert as the crow flies. The last was Joseph, in 1767, who had lived and still owned land near Samuel, but who was at his death on the South Fork of the Roanoke in what is now Montgomery County, sixty miles or more from Robert.

The book which I will cite as the Crockett Family (Janie Preston Collup French and Zella Armstrong, The Crockett Family and Connecting Lines [Bristol, Tenn., 1928], being Volume V of the series known as Notable Southern Families) makes all three of these Crocketts descendants of French Huguenot refugees to Ireland, Antoine and Louise (de Saix) Crockett (originally Crocketagne). According to this account, Robert of the Great Calfpasture was Robert Watkins Crockett, Jr., son of Robert Watkins Crockett, Sr., and his wife (called Rachel on page 5, erroneously called Sarah Stewart on page 382), and grandson of Antoine and Louise. This view makes Robert, Joseph, and Samuel of early Augusta first cousins. No proof of this descent is adduced, and I am convinced that the authors in their ambitious effort to include all the Virginia Crocketts in the French family have gone far beyond the permissible inferences from the meager account in the Maury letter (Crockett Family, p. 535). Certainly there is nothing in the names given by Robert to his children to suggest a link with Robert Watkins or Rachel or Antoine or Louise, and he himself appears never to have used his middle name if he had one.

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Robert Crockett of the Great Calfpasture

Another student of the family, Worth S. Ray, in his book, *The Lost Tribes of North Carolina* (Austin, Texas, 1947, p. 527) declares that Robert of the Great Calfpasture and Samuel of Reed Creek were brothers who descended from the Crockett family of Tangier Island, Virginia, and Somerset County, Maryland. This family was in Virginia as early as 1686, and our Robert is supposed by Mr. Ray to be a grandson of one Richard Crockett (will proved in Somerset County, Maryland, April 26, 1728) and a son of Richard's second son, Robert. This Tangier Island theory is, I believe, untenable so far as Robert of the Great Calfpasture is concerned, because as appears below, Robert was an Irish immigrant of the 1730's and not the scion of a family that had been in the country since 1686.

I believe, therefore, that on the evidence we have, Robert of the Great Calfpasture cannot be assigned either to the Huguenot or to the Tangier Island family, but must be taken as an Irish immigrant of unknown ancestry. Nor do I find any evidence of relationship to the other two Augusta pioneers. There is no evidence that they were ever neighbors in Beverley Manor or the Pastures or elsewhere. In fact I find no trace of either Samuel or Joseph north of the South Fork of the Roanoke and no trace of Robert anywhere near the Roanoke or Reed Creek.

On May 22, 1740, "Robert Crockett came into Court & made oath that he imported himself, Margaret, John, Arsball [Arsble, Archibald], Jane, Samuel, Robert Crockett, Jun., from Ireland to Philadelphia & from thence into this Colony at his own charges and that this is the first time of his proving his and their right in order to obtain Land — ordered to be certified." (Orange County, Virginia, Circuit Court Order Book 2, p. 156.)

It is probable that Robert had settled in Beverley Manor on Cathey's Creek (northwest of the present Staunton) before 1740, but his deed from Beverley conveying 322 acres, which is recorded in Orange County, is dated February 1740/1 (F. B. Kegley, *Virginia Frontier* [Roanoke, 1938], p. 41). This land was conveyed by Robert Crockett and Margaret on November 23, 1743, to William McFeeters, bounded corner John Trimble and William Vance (Lyman Chalkley, *Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia, Extracted from the Original Court Records of Augusta County, 1745-1800* [Rosslyn, Virginia, 1912], II, 31; hereinafter cited as Chalkley, *Chronicles*). The reference to John Trimble and William Vance enables us to locate this land, and by listing the owners for whom surveys were made in 1738 (as reported in Hume's Old Field Book in Chalkley, *Chronicle*, II, 372), the first settlers in Beverley Manor (as shown
by Beverley’s deeds to them in Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, p. 41, and Chalkley, *Chronicles, passim*), and the members of Captain John Willson’s Company of Augusta Militia, 1742 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, II, 509), in which Robert Crockett was a private, we can construct a list of his neighbors when he lived in Beverley Manor. By comparing this list with the importation records in Orange County we find that at about the same time, in some cases on the same day, some of these neighbors proved their importation from Ireland. From other sources we know of the Irish — or Scotch-Irish — origin of others of his neighbors there. The list of those who proved importation in Orange and were also near neighbors includes Alexander Breckenridge, James Bell, John Trimble, Patrick Campbell, John Davidson, David Mitchell, John Wilson, Moses Thompson, George Hutchinson, Morris O’Friel, James Robinson, James Davis, James McClure, William Ledgerwood, Robert Young, and George Hutcheson (Oren F. Morton, *A History of Rockbridge County, Virginia* [Staunton, 1920], pp. 456-457; Kegley, *Virginia Frontier*, p. 45; Joseph A. Waddell, *Annals of Augusta County, Virginia, from 1726 to 1871* [Staunton, 1902], p. 38). Those whose Irish origin is proved by other sources include James Patten, the Campbells, the Catheys, Robert Cunningham, and John Lowry (Waddell, *Annals*, pp. 30, 147, 261; Chalkley, *Chronicles*, II, 69, 302). It is no wonder that this part of Beverley Manor was called the “Irish Tract.”

Several of these came directly from Ireland to Virginia via Philadelphia; others probably had tarried for a time in Pennsylvania, but I think that in most cases it was a short time. As will appear, several of these Beverley Manor neighbors sold out in the early 1750’s and moved to North Carolina where we encounter them again when we come to consider Robert Crockett’s children.

Robert Crockett is listed as a private in Captain John Willson’s Company in the Augusta Militia in 1742 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, II, 509). Among others in this company we find two who were next door neighbors, John Trimble and William King (the Hume Survey, *supra*), and also Robert Davis, who became Robert Crockett’s executor. It also appears that Robert was made a lieutenant in the Orange County militia November 24, 1743.

No other Crockett is listed in the 1742 Militia, with the exception of Alexander, who was also in Captain John Willson’s Company. Of this Alexander Crockett little is found in Augusta records. On August 28, 1750, he was added to the list of Augusta tithables (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 41), and prior to this on February 20, 1750, he joined with Matthew Patton,
Robert Crockett of the Great Calfpasture

John Smith, William Stevenson, Samuel Patton, and John Walker in a communication about a lazy (leasey) man named David Evans (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 435-436, see also p. 438). In a suit of William Givens against Alexander Crockett begun in 1764, the defendant is described as a soldier (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 331). In the “delinquent” list of 1779 for Augusta, Alexander Crockett was “gone” (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 423). It is probable that it was the Alexander of 1742 who was gone and not Robert’s son of that name, and that Alexander of 1742 was a brother or other near relative of Robert.

After the sale of his land in Beverley Manor, or perhaps before, Robert acquired lot 4 of the Lewis and Patton Survey of the Great Calfpasture. This lot is near the southern boundary of the survey in what is now Rockbridge County. His neighbors there included several who are mentioned below in connection with his will and the several guardianships of his children.

Robert was also an early purchaser from Benjamin Borden, Sr. (October 8, 1742), but he sold his right to a deed before February 14, 1745/6 (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 293). At the time of his death he owned land on the Cowpasture, which he willed to John and Archibald, a tract on Jackson’s River willed by him to Samuel, and Lot 4, “the tract I live on” willed by him to Robert and James. He also owned a tract on Looney’s Mill Creek, which will be discussed later.

Robert Crockett, who signed with a mark, made his will November 16, 1746, which was proved February 19, 1746/7. He mentioned his wife Margaret. To his sons, John and Arpsbal [Archibald], he left land on the Cowpasture joining James Meassie. His daughter Jean got no land, but Samuel, a son, got a tract on Jackson’s River, sons Robert and James, “the tract of land I live on.” His wife was to have living and management of the homeplace until the boys came of age or married. Son Alexander, “if my wife have a child,” was given no land. The executors were his wife Margaret Crockett and Robert Davis, and the witnesses were Thomas Gillham, James McCockle [McCorkle], and Robert Bratton. Bond was given by Margaret Crockett, Robert Davis, James McCockle [McCorkle], and Robert Bratton (Crockett Family, pp. 523-524; Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 6). The appraisers were William Aylett [Elliott], John and Henry Guy (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 25).

After 1740 when he proved his importation, Robert “of Calf-pasture Meeting House” had presented two children for baptism by the Reverend
John Craig; to wit, James, baptized July 12, 1741, and Alexander, June 1, 1745. After Robert's death Margaret Crockett (widow) presented Andrew, September 16, 1747. (“Record of Baptisms by the Rev. John Craig, D. D., 1740-49,” printed in Florence Wilson Houston, Laura Cowen Blaine, and Ella Dunn Mellette, *Maxwell History and Genealogy* [Indianapolis, 1916], pp. 573-597.)

Comparison of the importation record and the baptisms with the will shows complete agreement, for we have in both the wife Margaret and the children, John, Archibald, Jean, Samuel, and Robert, and in the will but not in the importation record the children baptized in Virginia, James, Alexander, and the posthumous child Andrew.

After Robert Crockett's death there were guardianships for his orphans as follows: Robert Bratton and James McCorkle (James Lockhart and John Henderson, sureties) for Archibald chosen November 28, 1751 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, III, 24). John Gay (sureties, John Ramsey and James Boreland) for Samuel, James, Alexander, and Andrew appointed March 20, 1755. On May 21, 1755, however, John Ramsey’s bond as guardian to Samuel, James, Alexander, and Andrew, with sureties, Thomas Fulton and John Gay was recorded (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, III, 38, 39). On May 17, 1758, when James had attained the age of 17, he chose as his guardian, Thomas Thompson, who filed a bond with Patrick Martin and Edward Thompson as sureties (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, III, 48; I, 80). On the same day (bond dated the next), William McFeaters was appointed guardian to Andrew, with John McFeeters and John Elliot as sureties (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 80; III, 48). John McFeaters was also appointed guardian of Alexander, appointment and bond dated May 18, 1758, with James Philips and Robert Campbell sureties (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 80; III, 49).

Robert's widow, Margaret, married John Ramsey before November 28, 1751 (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 49, 56, 59, 82). *The Crockett Family* (p. 386) says this marriage was August 19, 1758, but long before this, to wit, on November 28, 1751, the guardians of Archibald complained “that John Ramsey, who married Margaret, relict of Robert Crockett, father of Archibald” was wasting the estate (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 49), and on May 21, 1752, Bratton, guardian of Archibald, was in litigation with Robert Davis and Margaret Ramsey for detaining part of the orphan's estate (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, p. 51). At Augusta Court in 1758, John McFeeters, guardian of Andrew and Alexander Crockett, complained of their mother, Margaret, “who married John Ramsey” (Chalkley, *Chronicles*, I, 324). It is possible
that John Ramsey and his wife Margaret left Augusta for North Carolina in 1758, following the Reverend Alexander Craighead, the pastor in the Pastures, who left to avoid the Indian troubles that followed Braddock's defeat. However, from the fact that her son Alexander, then about thirteen, apparently did not accompany her but stayed in Virginia, it may well be that they did not go until a later date, say 1765, when he would have been about twenty. Moreover, the first bit of positive record evidence we have of them in North Carolina is a deed made October 10, 1774, by John Ramsey and Margaret and Andrew Crockett of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Mr. Ray places John Ramsey as one of the original elders of the New Providence Church, organized in 1765, twelve miles south of Charlotte. The other elders were Andrew Rea, Archibald Crockett, and Aaron Howie; it is Mr. Ray's belief that this Archibald Crockett was the step-son of John Ramsey (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 317). John Ramsey's land in Mecklenburg County (1772) appears to have been on Four Mile Creek; neighbors, James Tate, James Simpson, James Johnston, Henry Downs (ibid.; see also William Henry Foote, Sketches of North Carolina [New York, 1846], pp. 245-246).

I am not able to identify Margaret, wife of Robert Crockett. The Crockett Family after abandoning the thought that the Augusta pioneer was Robert Watkins Crockett, Sr., makes no attempt to identify the pioneer's wife. Mr. Ray thinks she was Margaret Alexander but this, it seems to me, follows from his opinion that Robert was of the Tangier Island family and not from any evidence about the Irish immigrant.

Nor have I been able to identify John Ramsey to my satisfaction. Mr. Ray (Lost Tribes, p. 432) identifies him with the John Ramsey whose land on Christian's Creek in Beverley Manor adjoined land of Moses and Adam Thomson, but I think that this is a mistake. There were several John Ramseys in early Augusta. The one who was on Christian's Creek, which is an affluent of the "South River" of the Shenandoah was Captain John Ramsey, who I think did not go to North Carolina but remained in Augusta until his death in 1783 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 165 et passim). Our John Ramsey must be found, I think, among the Calfpastures families. Obviously he is not the John Ramsey who was killed in 1758 at the South Branch of the Potomac (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 512), nor, I think, the John Ramsey who acquired Lot 11 of the Patton and Lewis Survey in 1757, because there are references to that John in Augusta after John and Margaret had left for North Carolina (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 112, 362, 469).
THE CHILDREN OF ROBERT CROCKETT

I. John Crockett, first of the children named in the importation record and in the will of Robert Crockett, is, I believe, the John Crockett who on March 20, 1753, describing himself as son and heir of Robert Crockett, deceased, conveyed to James Moore 350 acres on Lunie’s [Looney’s] Mill Creek; witnesses, Robert and Mildred Davis and Archibald Crockett (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 310). Robert Davis, one of the witnesses, was executor of the will of Robert Crockett (supra, p. 189). Robert Crockett had been granted 350 acres on Luney’s Mill Creek on September 28, 1745 (Kegley, Virginia Frontier, pp. 66, 418). This land was not mentioned in the will and because there was no residuary clause of real estate it passed, I suppose, to the heir-at-law, the oldest son, by primogeniture. Looney’s Mill Creek is a southern affluent of James River entering it east of Fincastle in the present Botetourt County (Kegley, Virginia Frontier, map, p. 138). It is to be supposed that John was of age when he made the deed, fixing his birth as early as 1732. The fact that no guardian was appointed for him in 1751, when his brother Archibald was placed under guardianship, may indicate that he was of age or nearly so in that year. The Crockett Family (p. 383), says he was born about 1733. Mr. Ray (Lost Tribes, p. 410), identifies him, and I think correctly, with John Crockett whose tombstone in Old Waxhaw Churchyard (now South Carolina) shows the death of a John Crockett December 16, 1800, aged seventy years and five months, indicating a birth year of 1730. It was he, I suppose, who with Robert Davis and James McCorkall witnessed a deed of Israel Christian and Elizabeth to John Ramsey, dated November 28, 1751, for 323 acres in Beverley Manor, corner Robert Finley, formerly George Robinson’s corner, delivered to William Ramsey, October 5, 1772 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 301). John appears to have been in the Pastures, probably the Cowpasture, on November 21, 1754 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 37), but by August 10, 1761, he was certainly in Anson County, North Carolina, when he and Margaret, and Archibald Crockett and Mary conveyed to James Beard 246 acres on Cowpasture, corner James Mease, witness, Samuel Crockett (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 389). This is clearly the land in the Cowpasture “joining James Measie” (Mayse, Maze) willed to John and Archibald by their father. This land, says Oren F. Morton (Annals of Bath County, Virginia [Staunton, 1917], p. 28) was patented to John and Archibald, Robert’s sons (for more precise location, see Morton, Annals of Bath County, p. 25).
Robert Crockett of the Great Calfpasture

As appears above, the last record we have of John Crockett in Augusta was November 21, 1754. This is consistent with his being in North Carolina at the time of each of the following items:


1757, July 23. John Crockett was a witness to an inventory of the estate of Robert McCorkall. Wife Margaret was mentioned. The inventory was taken by James McCorkall, Margaret McCorkall, and James Linn. (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 195, which ascribes this to the records of Anson County, Book 1, p. 123. Anson County at this time included a large part of western North Carolina, and this transaction and the previous ones, I think, related to persons living in what became Mecklenburg County in 1762.)

1758. Robert Miller, a preacher of the earliest period of the Waxhaw Church, sold his farm to one Barrett, reserving lands for the [Waxhaw] Church which were deeded to Robert Davis, Robert Ramsey, John Linn, Samuel Dunlap, and Henry White, which deed was witnessed by Robert McClanahan, John Crockett, and Andrew Pickens. (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 482.)


1770, January 6. Deed by John Crockett and his wife Margaret to William Moore (all of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina) 162 acres on south side of Waxhaw Creek, joining the land of William Nutt. Signed by John Crockett and Margaret Crockett, and witnessed by William, John, and Katherine Nutt. (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 321.)
1771, January 4. John Crockett, witnessed a deed of William McCorkle and wife Esther to Thomas Pusley, 200 acres on North Fork of Waxhaw Creek. (Ray, *Lost Tribes*, pp. 321, 530.)

Chalkley's references to the persons associated with John Crockett in the above items are full of links between the Augusta families and the Waxhaw settlement, and almost certainly prove the identity of John Crockett, oldest son of Robert Crockett, with the man buried in Old Waxhaw Churchyard. For example, we know the following acquired land in Beverley Manor from Beverley and sold it in the early 1750's, and are not heard of again in Chalkley's *Chronicles* as landowners or in most cases as anything except former owners: Robert McCorkle is "gone" in 1752. Robert was witness to a deed with Elijah McClenahan that year. James McCorkle who sold out in 1753 to Elijah McClenahan was a witness to Robert Crockett's will, a guardian of Archibald and a neighbor of William Nutt. James Linn [Lynn] sold out in 1750 and 1751; Robert Davis acted as witness in a deed to him, Elijah McClenahan on another. Robert Davis sold out in 1753, and, about to leave the Colony, begged to be released as executor of Robert Crockett; a Robert Davis was an elder in Waxhaw Church in 1758 (Ray, *Lost Tribes*, p. 526). Robert Ramsey acquired land in Beverley Manor in 1747, and in 1762 he and Margaret of Anson County, North Carolina, conveyed it. Andrew Pickens sold out in Beverley Manor in 1750 and 1751. William Nutt acquired land in Beverley Manor by a deed witnessed by Robert Davis and John Lynn and sold in 1750.

All of this and other evidence of the same kind relating to others adds up to a general exodus in the early 1750's from a Beverley Manor neighborhood to the Waxhaw settlement by men who had been Robert Crockett's neighbors in Augusta, and it is reasonable to suppose that Robert's son John accompanied them, going years before John Ramsey and Margaret left Virginia.

On his map entitled "The Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors" Mr. Ray (*Lost Tribes*, p. 380-381) places John Crockett on the North Branch of Waxhaw Creek. He does not seem to be included in the 1790 census of North Carolina, but he is in Lancaster County, South Carolina (in which the Waxhaw settlement then was), with three males over sixteen, one under, two females, and two slaves.

John Crockett's wife's name was Margaret—the *Crockett Family* (p. 383) says, Margaret McCLanahan, — Mr. Ray (*Lost Tribes*, p. 530) says, Margaret McCorkle, "probably daughter of James McCorkle," the guardian of
Robert Crockett of the Great Calfpasture

Archibald Crockett. My guess, and it is a guess only, is that she was a McClanahan. If we accept the conclusion that it is our John Crockett who is buried in the Waxhaw Churchyard, the nearby tombstones (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 410) lead to the conclusion that at least three of the children of John were buried there; Elijah, who died March 3, 1798, at the age of forty-one (birth date therefore 1757 — Mr. Ray says October 6), John, died December 1776, aged twelve (birth date therefore 1764) and Andrew, died November 2, 1853, at the age of 84 (birth date therefore 1769). Elijah is not a common name anywhere and certainly was not common in Augusta, but it appeared to be a favorite name of the McClanahans. There was an Elijah McClanahan in the Cowpasture in 1756 (Fee book, Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 399) who acted as one of the appraisers of James Maze in 1757, and it will be recalled that the land that John and Archibald Crockett inherited from their father in the Cowpasture "joining James Measie [Maze]." I am far from saying that this Elijah McClanahan was the father of Margaret, but I do believe that the introduction of the name Elijah into the Crockett family can best be explained by a McClanahan marriage. The North Carolina notes above prove that there was at least one of the McClanahan family, Robert, in the Waxhaw settlement. Mr. Ray (Lost Tribes, p. 530) has a list of the children and other descendants of Elijah Crockett and his wife Mary (Davie) Crockett. Elijah Crockett appears in the 1790 census in Lancaster County, South Carolina, with one male over sixteen, one under sixteen, three females, and one slave.

II. Robert Crockett, Junior, was the last of the children of Robert Crockett named in the importation record, and the Crockett Family (p. 383) lists him as the sixth of the children with a birth date of about 1743. This cannot be so, because it would make him younger than James who was not named in the importation record at all and was the first of the three children (James, Alexander, and Andrew) to be baptized in America. We know that James was born in 1741, not only because that was the year of his baptism, but because of the entry that he was seventeen when he chose a guardian in 1758. I am convinced, therefore, that Robert must go ahead of James and if we put John's birth year back to 1730 (instead of 1733 as the Crockett Family has it) there is plenty of room for him with the other four children who were also older than James. There is some question about the order of Archibald and Robert. My reasons for putting Robert ahead of Archibald are, first, that no guardian was appointed for John, Robert, and Jane, while one was appointed for Archibald, and, second, that Robert was
a witness to deed of Great Calfpasture land April 4, 1748 (with James Carter and Robert Bratton), implying more maturity than would have been his if he had been born in 1737 or 1739 (Chalkley, Chronicles, 367). No inferences as to relative ages can be drawn from the order of the father’s will or the disposition of his land therein.

On August 6, 1766, James Crockett and Martha of Augusta County, Virginia, and Robert Crockett and Jennet of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, conveyed to William Thompson 370 acres on the Great River of Calfpasture, Corner Thomas Gillam’s land, crossing Mill Creek, corner John Harry’s land; witnesses, Benjamin Lowry, Thomas Stevenson, John Coffey (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 455). This parcel was Lot 4 in the Patton and Lewis Survey and is of course the land that the father of Robert and James “lived on.”

In Mr. Ray’s list of Tombstone Inscriptions in the Old Waxhaw Church Yard (Lost Tribes, p. 410) we find a Robert Crockett, born August 12, 1755, died March 17, 1820, and right below it, Janet Crockett, wife of Robert Crockett, born September 9, 1749, died December 15, 1813. If the first date, 1755, had been 1735, there would have been every reason to believe that these were Robert, Junior, of the Great Calfpasture and his wife, Janet. If it is really 1755 and not 1735, Robert cannot be the son of Robert of the Great Calfpasture. In the 1790 census we find a Robert Crockett, head of a family, one male over sixteen, one under sixteen, and seven females, no slaves, located in Mr. Ray’s “sixth” district of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, which is the district around the Hopewell Church, northwest of Charlotte, several miles away from the Waxhaw settlement, which was south of Charlotte (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 360). Mr. Ray places him near the Hopewell Church on his map of the Mecklenburg Signers and their neighbors (Lost Tribes, pp. 380-381). Among the elders of Hopewell Church in 1793 was a Robert Crockett (Foote, Sketches of North Carolina, p. 211). However, two Robert Crocketts appear in the South Carolina census of 1790—one in York County, with one male over sixteen, four under, three females, and no slaves, and one in Lancaster County (which included the Waxhaw settlement) with three males over sixteen, none under, four females, and five slaves. My guess is that it was the last named who was our Robert, Junior.

As appears from the deed above (and perhaps from the tombstone record) the name of the wife of Robert, Junior, was Janet. The Crockett Family (p. 383), however, gives him as a wife, Polly [Mary] Dunlap Hodge, a
null
widow and daughter of John and Ann Dunlap. Here it is quite certain that the authors are dealing with a later generation. Polly was Polly Hodge in John Dunlap’s will of February 25, 1804, and Polly Crockett in Ann Dunlap’s will of May 19, 1808, indicating a Crockett marriage for her between those dates (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 108, 191-192). There is a record of a marriage in Rockbridge between Robert Crockett and Mary Hodge September 18, 1804, the Reverend Daniel Blair officiating (Crockett Family, p. 502). It is unlikely that Robert Crockett, Junior, who would have been about seventy in 1804 and had been in North Carolina, or at least not in Virginia, for about fifty years was the bridegroom of this Rockbridge marriage. The Robert who married Polly Hodge was probably either a son of James or of Alexander. Robert and Mary (Hodge) Crockett were, I think, in Montgomery County, Kentucky, in 1807 (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 115; see also p. 43).

Robert, Junior, is also said to have been the Robert Crockett who was killed on a hunting party in Tennessee in 1769, but I agree with the authors of the Crockett Family that it was not he, but that probably the man killed was a son of Joseph Crockett of Montgomery County (Morton, Annals of Bath County, p. 192; Crockett Family, pp. 206, 561; J. G. M. Ramsey, The Annals of Tennessee [Charleston, S. C., 1853], p. 96).

III. Jane Crockett was third of the children of Robert Crockett in the importation list. The Crockett Family (p. 383) says she was born in 1737. No guardian was appointed for her. Neither the Crockett Family nor Mr. Ray has made any suggestion about her history, and I have no further information.

IV. Archibald Crockett, son of Robert Crockett, appears in the delinquent list of 1748 as “under age” (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 413); he was old enough on November 28, 1751, to choose a guardian and on March 20, 1753, to act as a witness to his brother’s deed of the Looney’s Mill Creek property. He and Mary, describing themselves as of Anson County, North Carolina, joined in the conveyance of the Cowpasture parcel left to James and Archibald by their father’s will. The Crockett Family (p. 383) gives his date of birth as 1735.

The following North Carolina items are, I believe, properly ascribed to Archibald Crockett:

1772, November 2. Deed from Andrew Crockett, his wife Mary Crockett, to Archibald Crockett (Ray, Lost Tribes, p. 321). One of the witnesses was William McCullough who is named in William King’s will.


In the census of 1790 Archibald Crockett is found in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, with four males over sixteen, one under, five females, and two slaves. Others listed near him, at least on paper, are Hugh Barrett, Samuel and Thomas Dawns [Downs], Roger Cunningham, and Robert Donaldson. Mr. Ray includes him in his “District No. 18” which includes the Providence Church and Four Mile Creek.

On the map of the “Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors” (Ray, Lost Tribes, pp. 380-381) Archibald Crockett is placed on Six Mile Creek, only a few miles from John Crockett and Andrew Crockett, and very much nearer Providence Church than Waxhaw. It is said that he was one of the first elders of Providence Church and that he was buried in the churchyard there.

The Crockett Family (p. 503) lists some North Carolina marriages of the 1790’s which may belong to this family; also (pp. 590 et seq.) some North Carolina Revolutionary records.

Archibald Crockett’s wife was Mary Ann King, daughter of William King, the latter being one we have seen before as a neighbor of Robert Crockett in Beverley Manor and for whom a survey was made in May 1738. In 1742 William King was in Captain John Willson’s Company of Augusta Militia with his neighbor, John Trimble, and with Robert Crockett, Alexander Crockett, and Robert Davis. In 1746 when a road was built
from top of North Mountain to William King’s land and thence to the courthouse, Robert Davis was overseer and among his workers were Andrew Pickens and William McFeeters (Chalkley, Chronicles, II, 435). On September 24, 1751, William King, blacksmith, and Mary Ann conveyed to John Nichol, 400 acres on Moffet’s branch of Cathey’s River, patented to William, February 10, 1748 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 299; see also p. 277). On February 27, 1749, Beverley conveyed to William King, “farmer,” 251 acres in Beverley Manor, corner John Trimble, etc. This land was deeded by William King, farmer, and Mary Ann to John Trimble on February 11, 1750 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 278, 292). After that no more of King in Augusta County records except as a former owner and twice as a witness to deeds which may have been executed elsewhere or by another William King.

It would seem, therefore, that William King was another of the Beverley Manor neighbors who left in the early 1750’s for North Carolina and that in all probability Archibald Crockett, who had lived next door to him for several years in his childhood and married his daughter, went with him. Mr. Ray thinks that William King was perhaps the great-grandson of Robert King of Maryland, but this does not seem probable; more likely he was a recent emigrant from Ireland.

William King in his will names among his “four children,” Archibald Crockett and William McCulloch, the sons-in-law were named instead of the daughters because a married woman could not hold property in her own name. Title was always vested in her husband.

Colonel Thomas King named in Archibald Crockett’s will as having in his hands the land in Hawkins County, Tennessee, willed to son John, was probably a relative of William King, but it seems strange that if he were William King’s son, as Mr. Ray believes, he was not named in William’s will. He was certainly living in 1788, or he would not have been named in 1804 by Archibald Crockett.

It is also Mr. Ray’s belief that Archibald’s son John was the father of the famous Davy Crockett, and this belief is stated not only in his Lost Tribes of North Carolina, but in his more recent Tennessee Cousins: A History of Tennessee People (Austin, 1950). On the other hand, the Crockett Family (pp. 203, 324-329) is sure that Davy’s descent is (1) Antoine, (2) Joseph Louis, Sr., (3) William (born in New Rochelle, New York, in 1709), (4) David, (5) John.

From David Crockett’s own account of himself (Narrative of the Life of David Crockett of the State of Tennessee, Written by Himself [Philadelphia
we gather the following genealogical information: His father's name was John Crockett of Irish descent, "born in Ireland or on a passage from that country to America across the Atlantic." John spent the early part of his life in Pennsylvania. David's mother's name was Rebecca Hawkins, born in Maryland, between New York and Baltimore. David's father fought at King's Mountain and elsewhere in the Revolution, lived for a time in Lincoln County, North Carolina, and then removed to what is now Tennessee. David Crockett was born August 17, 1786, when his father lived at the mouth of Lime Stone on the Nolichucky River (now Greene County, Tennessee). Afterwards the father moved to another place in the same county, about ten miles above Greenville, then to Core Creek where he and one Thomas Galbreath undertook to build a mill. Thence he went to Jefferson County, Tennessee, and opened a tavern on the road from Abingdon to Knoxville. "Here I remained until I was 12." David tells in the course of his narrative that his father had the following brothers: Joseph, "a brother to my father," wounded by the Indians; James, "still a younger brother than Joseph . . . deaf and dumb," who was taken prisoner by the Indians and discovered nearly eighteen years later by "my father and his eldest brother, William Crockett." So we know that John Crockett, father of Davy, had at least three brothers — William, Joseph, and James. We also know that Joseph Hawkins was a brother of David's mother. David's father and mother had six sons and three daughters. David was the fifth son. I do not find in the narrative the names of any of David's brothers or sisters nor does Davy give us the first names of "my grandfather and grandmother Crockett," who were murdered by the Creeks in their own house where Rodgersville, Hawkins County, Tennessee, now stands.

To identify Davy's grandfather Crockett we must therefore find an Irish emigrant who had a son John, born in Ireland or on the Atlantic, and at least three other sons, William, Joseph, and James. Archibald Crockett does not fit these requirements in any respect. He himself was born in Ireland, but he was brought to America in his infancy and his son John was by no means Irish-born or seaborn. Nor is there any evidence that Archibald had a son William or Joseph or James. The children named in Archibald Crockett's will are Elias, Ann Taylor, John, and Mary Ann (unless she is Ann Taylor mentioned twice). Worth S. Ray in his Lost Tribes (p. 529) has a longer list, believing that some had died before the will was made, and names David, Robert, John, Joseph, James, Eli (Elijah), Elias, and perhaps Mary. In his Tennessee Cousins (p. 577) he adds an Archibald to his list.
of Archibald’s children, placing Archibald and Robert, brother of John, sons of Archibald and uncles of Davy, in early Giles County, Tennessee, about 1808-1810. These Giles County individuals were not mentioned in Archibald Crockett’s will although obviously alive when it was made, but even with these additions to the list of Archibald’s children, Davy’s uncle William is still unnamed.

Nor is Mr. Ray’s case helped if we accept his Tangier Island pedigree for Archibald which would make him American-born of a family that had been in this country since 1686.

Moreover, Archibald’s own dates seem to be against this theory. He was still under age in 1751, when a guardian was appointed for him and there does not seem to be enough time for him to produce John and have John produce at least five children by 1786, the date of the birth of John’s fifth son, Davy.

The authors of the Crockett Family after assembling a respectable case proving that the name of Davy’s grandfather was David, go astray, it seems to me, in trying to bring this family into the Huguenot family of the Maury letter. By doing so they make the last Irish-born ancestor of Davy not his father, as he believed, but his great-great-grandfather. The authors explain Davy’s own statement by supposing that he must have remembered that some ancestor of his was born in Ireland or at sea and recorded it in his autobiography as his father. The authors give no proof at all that William of New Rochelle had a son named David or that if he did, the last named had a son named John who fathered Davy.

So it would seem that we cannot assign David to the Antoine family or to the Tangier Island family or to Robert of the Great Calfpasture, but must accept him as the grandson of an Irish immigrant who came to Pennsylvania with an infant son, John Crockett, who grew up and married Rebecca Hawkins and had six sons and three daughters, of whom Davy was the fifth son. The name of the Irish immigrant was very likely David although I have found no certain proof of this. The following action of the Washington County Court may apply to Davy’s grandfather:

1778, August 19. Administration was granted on the estate of David Crockett to William and Robert Crockett. John Coulter and John Lowry were sureties, and John Cox, William Ingram, Abraham McClelan, and James Hughes, appraisers (Lewis Preston Summers, Annals of Southwest Virginia [Abingdon, 1929], p. 1000).
The consensus seems to be that the murder of David Crockett's grandfather occurred in 1777, and it is possible that although his home was in what is now Tennessee, Washington County, Virginia, then claimed that locality and administered his estate.

The following items from Washington County, Virginia, may also apply to Davy's family:

On August 17, 1779, "Jean Crockett came into Court and chose James Glen her guardian" (Summers, *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, p. 1041). This James Glen was a grantee of land in Washington County, Virginia, on Timber Ridge and Middle Fork of the Holston in 1783, and on the North Fork of Cedar Creek in 1781. His will was probated there in 1791 (Summers, *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, pp. 1218, 1348).

A David Crockett was defendant on August 21, 1782, in a suit brought by John Rhea (Summers, *Annals of Southwest Virginia*, p. 1113). This is a puzzling item. There must have been two David Crocketts in Washington County, the decedent of 1777-1778 and this defendant.

There was another David Crockett in North Carolina, whom Mr. Ray placed near the Four Mile Creek in Mecklenburg, not far from Providence Church. I think this was the man who with Elizabeth, his wife, sold 50 acres on Sugar Creek to Joseph Galbraith in 1782 (Ray, *Lost Tribes*, p. 321). David and Elizabeth were in Georgia in 1792 (Ray, *Lost Tribes*, p. 529). This David was neither Davy nor his grandfather because at this time Davy was only six years old and his grandfather had been dead fifteen years. I have made no attempt to check the accounts of later generations of Davy's family.

The following from Washington County, North Carolina, may apply also:

1778, August 28. Ordered that a commission issue to John Colter and Isaac Shelby, Esq. to take the deposition of Ruth Morris, Lydia Cross, Mary Tye, and John Crockett in behalf of John Rodgers, defendant, the State, plaintiff (Ray, *Tennessee Cousins*, p. 196). (Mr. Ray thinks that this John Crockett was the father of Davy.)

I am confident that the two signers of the petition of the settlers of Watauga and adjacent vicinities (Tennessee), August 22, 1776, William and David Crockett, were of this family (Ramsey, *Annals of Tennessee*, p. 138).

V. Samuel Crockett, who inherited the parcel on Jackson's River, was fourth of the children in the importation list. *The Crockett Family* (p. 383) says that he was born in 1739, but one suspects that this is based on an
estimate of the spacing between the children. His guardians are listed above (p. 7). He was, I think, the sergeant at Captain John Dickinson's on Cow Pasture River under Captain Walter Cunningham, 1763-1764 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 342; I, 487, 490). In May 1762 he conveyed 283 acres on Jackson's River above the mouth of Falling Springs, presumably his inheritance, to Alex. Hamilton (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 384; see Morton, Annals of Bath County, pp. 25, 28). On June 14, 1762, he was witness to a deed of Gay to Gay, land on Little Calfpasture; other witnesses, Alex. Hamilton, Jno. Stinson [Stevenson] (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 388). Witness, August 10, 1761, to deed of Cowpasture land by his brothers, John and Archibald. Both of these were of Anson County, North Carolina, at that time, and Samuel may have been with them there, but I think that the deed was executed in Augusta County. He was witness to a deed with James Lockridge and Edward Thompson, March 28, 1764, land in Cowpasture (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 393), and again on March 28, 1764, witness to a deed of land in Cowpasture with the other witnesses, Ben Estill, Samuel Clark, Jas. Hamilton (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 414). April 1, 1766, he took an oath about his pay as a soldier before John Dickinson (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 487, see also p. 490). No further information has come to light.

VI. James Crockett, first of Robert's children for whom we have a baptismal record, was baptized by the Reverend John Craig, July 12, 1741. We know from the records that he was 17 when he chose a guardian on May 17, 1758 (for this and other guardianships, see supra p. 190). On August 6, 1766, he and Martha of Augusta County, Virginia, and Robert Crockett and Jennet of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, conveyed to William Thompson 370 acres, Lot 4 of the Lewis and Patton survey, undoubtedly "the place I now live on" willed by Robert to his sons James and Robert (see supra p. 189). The next year, August 19, 1767, Thompson conveyed 295 acres of this parcel back to James, describing it as a part of 370 acres first surveyed for Robert Crockett, deceased (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 458). On October 10, 1774, he acquired a tract in the Calfpasture from his mother and his brother Andrew (see post, p. 206). The above and the following items appear to prove that James stayed in Augusta (Rockbridge) County and did not move with the rest of his family to North Carolina.

1768. Witness to deed of Great Calfpasture land, James Shaw to John Ramsey (Lot 12) (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 469); Hemp certificates (Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 145). "Robert Fletcher, Constable, vice James Crockett
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(Chalkley, Chronicles, I, 148). (Robert Fletcher was an owner of Calf-pasture land in 1763, Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 393.)

1769. Witness to deed of Cowpasture land (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 489).

1775, August 18. Witness with Robert Dunlap and Samuel Ramsey to will of John Gay of the Calfpasture, which he and Dunlap proved March 18, 1777 (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 147).

1777, March 18. Appraiser of James Gay's will with Alexander Hamilton and John Dunlap (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 146).


1782. Rockbridge taxpayer with one slave (Sol), 13 horses and 50 cattle (Morton, History of Rockbridge, p. 371).


The Crockett Family (pp. 384-386) has it that James and Martha moved to Kentucky about the time the McPheeters moved and that a daughter Polly (Mary) Crockett, born in 1778, married James McPheeters. Her children and other descendants are listed. It is also suggested that James's wife, Martha, was probably a Gay and certainly there is much Gay association in his history. He or another James Crockett was a grantee of 2,000 acres in Fayette County, Kentucky, in 1783.

VII. Alexander Crockett, baptized by the Reverend John Craig June 1, 1745, presented by his father Robert Crockett, described as "of Calf-pasture Meeting House," received no land by his father's will. (For his guardians, see supra p. 190). He apparently lived his life in Virginia, dying a resident of Rockbridge County, leaving a will made May 16, 1781, at Guilford Court House, North Carolina (the battle was March 15, 1781) in which he mentions a loving wife and six children. Sons Robert and John to have equal division of the land. Robert to have the mill. Daughters, Margaret, Elizabeth, Mary and Martha. Wife, Mary D., and my brother, James Crockett, executors (Rockbridge County Will Book 1, p. 204; Crockett Family, p. 558; Morton, History of Rockbridge, p. 480). The will was proved September 2, 1784; James refused to act as executor and suggested John Cartwell and Alex Rhea.

Alexander Crockett was a Rockbridge County tithable of 1778 but not a taxpayer in 1782, suggesting that he died soon after his will was made. In the latter year Mary Crockett appears with three slaves (Martha, Sambo, Sol), nine horses and 17 cattle (Morton, History of Rockbridge, pp. 365,
Robert Crockett of the Great Calfpasture

Jas. Crockett and Alex. Crockett appear as signers of a petition for a new county in which the petitioners are described as inhabitants of Cow and Calf pastures, Bull pasture, Jackson River and Back Creek. The petition is dated April 13, 1778 (Morton, *Annals of Bath County*, p. 105 et seq.).

Was it Robert of this family who married Polly Hodge, mentioned above, or did he marry Ann and have a daughter Hannah who married (1) Irwin, (2) James Logan? (Morton, *History of Rockbridge*, p. 480).

An inquiry in the *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, VIII (October 1900), 219 asked for information concerning “Col.” Alexander Crockett, by tradition of Augusta County, who died of wounds received at Guilford. The inquirer stated that his wife was Margaret Carr [Kerr?] and that George Carlyle married Margaret, daughter of the above Colonel Crockett and removed to Woodford County, Kentucky.

VIII. Andrew Crockett, posthumous son of Robert Crockett, was presented for baptism by his mother (“widow”) and was baptized by the Reverend John Craig on September 16, 1747, and must have been born in that year. (For his guardianships, see supra, p. 190.) I think that he was the only one of the sons of Robert who went with Margaret to North Carolina, my belief being that the three oldest boys, John, Robert, and Archibald, went several years before she did and that Samuel, James, and Alexander did not go at all. In the Feebook for 1769 in Augusta we find an Andrew Crockett “Pastures” and an Andrew Crockett “North River,” which may indicate that he was in Augusta as late as that year, but by 1772 he is in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina.

1772, November 2. Andrew Crockett and his wife, Mary Crockett, to Archibald Crockett 140 acres Six Mile Creek in New Providence joining and between James Potts, William Donaldson, James Tate, and Brice Miller, granted to said Andrew by patent dated April 25, 1767. Witnesses: Francis Barnett, John Wilson, William McCullough (Ray, *Lost Tribes*, p. 321).


On October 10, John Ramsey and Margaret and Andrew Crockett of Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, conveyed to James Crockett of Augusta County a tract on Calfpasture patented to Margaret and Andrew, September 5, 1749, (Chalkley, Chronicles, III, 592). This deed was apparently not recorded until 1790. This parcel was 44 acres on the west side of Calf Pasture River adjoining the land of James Poag [Poage, Poague] (Patent Book 27, pp. 371-372, Virginia State Library). James Poage in 1749 was the owner of Lot 5 of the Patton and Lewis survey, which lot adjoined Lot 4, acquired by Robert Crockett.

Mr. Ray (Lost Tribes, pp. 380-381) on his map of the Mecklenburg Signers and Their Neighbors put Archibald at the head of Six Mile Creek and Andrew on Four-Mile Creek, both about equidistant from the Providence Church. John Crockett in Waxhaw was only a few miles from his brothers.

The deed of October 10, 1774, has been read by Mr. Ray as “Andrew Crockett and (wife) Margaret with John Ramsey.” As a result of this misreading he finds another and older Andrew in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, with a wife, Margaret. What happened, I believe, is that the widow Margaret after Robert’s death had two patents both dated September 5, 1749, issued to her and her infant son, Andrew, one for 48 acres and one for 44 acres, the grants running to Margaret Crockett and Andrew Crockett (which would not be the natural order if they were to a husband and wife) (Patent Book 27, pp. 369-371). The deed of October 1774 conveyed one of these tracts and John Ramsey had to join in it because he had a husband’s title to Margaret’s land. It was unnecessary for Andrew’s wife to join because Andrew’s title was a joint tenancy under which his wife would have no right of dower.

On September 16, 1797, Robert Thompson of Bath County, Virginia, attorney in fact for Andrew Crockett of Sullivan County, Tennessee, conveyed to Robert Crockett of Montgomery County, Kentucky, a parcel of 48 acres in Rockbridge County, Virginia, on Mill Creek and known by the name of Painter Gap Mill place. Witnesses: John Rhea, John McDonald, Robert Stuart, who proved the deed October 3, 1797, in Rockbridge Court (Rockbridge County Deed Book C, p. 499). I suppose that this Painter Gap is what is now known as Panther Gap near Goshen and that the Mill Creek mentioned is the one that flows into Calf Pasture River. This parcel was the 48-acre parcel “in the Calf Pasture known by the name of David [Davis?] Mill Place on Mill Creek,” patented to Margaret Crockett and Andrew Crockett, as above.
The last-mentioned deed certainly places Andrew in Sullivan County, Tennessee, in 1797, but whether he is the testator whose will dated July 26, 1830, is printed in the *Crockett Family* (p. 525) is by no means certain because the given names of his children, except James, are strange to the Crocketts, being Pleasant Andrew Jackson Crockett, a son, and two daughters, Elzira and Minerva. I think that it may well be that there was another Andrew Crockett in Sullivan County, a man who brought his family from Ireland to Tennessee in 1769 and was the father of Margaret Crockett, born November 21, 1770, “supposed to be the first white child born in Sullivan County,” which is inconsistent with the residence of Andrew in Mecklenburg County as late as 1774 (see Oliver Taylor, *Historic Sullivan: A History of Sullivan County, Tennessee* [Bristol, 1909], p. 23, quoted in the *Crockett Family*, p. 386).

Mr. Ray is authority for the statement that a Mrs. Andrew Crockett was the daughter of George Dunlap and Nancy (Craighead) Dunlap, the latter the daughter of the Reverend Alexander Craighead (*Lost Tribes*, p. 526). *The Crockett Family* (p. 386) gives Andrew two wives, 1st, Mary McKin, born in 1753 in Tennessee, which is rather early for Tennessee, and 2d, Christiana, a widow, the latter mentioned by name in the will of Andrew Crockett of Sullivan County, whose will is dated July 26, 1830 (*Crockett Family*, pp. 386, 525). The children and other descendants of this Andrew of Sullivan County are listed in the *Crockett Family* (p. 387 et seq).
NOTES

THE “COLLEGE LAND” — Certain lands in Surry County, opposite Jamestown, have long been known as “the College Land.” This name has been puzzling, inasmuch as these lands were not known ever to have belonged to William and Mary or to any other college.

In my temporary possession is an ancient document which has bearing on this problem. It is an indenture of December 2, 1704, wherein Samuel Potts, of London, conveys to Philip Ludwell the younger, of James City County, a 1,400-acre plantation on “Lower Chipp Oaks” in Surry County known as “the Colledge Land.”

The conveyance proceeds to trace the title to this property from the original land patents of William Ewens, merchant: one, for 400 acres, dated September 15, 1619, and another, for 1,000 acres, dated in January 1621. These original grants are not recorded in the Patent Books, but a patent of July 8, 1648, consolidating them is so recorded (Nell Marion Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, p. 176, citing Patent Book 2, p. 143). By an inquisition dated November 27, 1686, these lands were found to escheat to the Crown. Subsequently they were granted to Alice Stanford by patent dated April 25, 1689, and at her death descended to Samuel Potts, her only brother and heir. Philip Ludwell the younger acquired them by the payment of £200 lawful money of England.

These lands “upon Lower Chipp Oaks” were not the original Chippokes Plantation, which Philip Ludwell I had acquired by his marriage with Lady Berkeley. Philip Ludwell II apparently purchased them as an addition to that plantation. The name, “College Land,” survives today only with reference to the western extremity of the tract, on College Run.

It is evident that when the “Colledge Land” was so called in this indenture of 1704 the entire tract had actually been in private ownership since 1621, except for a brief period in escheat, 1686-1689. It would therefore appear that that name must antedate 1621. Is it not likely that the “Colledge Land,” so near to Jamestown, was originally reserved for the London Company’s projected college in Virginia, and that it became available to William Ewens when it was decided, in 1618, that the college should be located at Henrico? — Ludwell Montague.

AUTHORSHIP — I write to disown any claim to the authorship of the article on “The Proposed Memorial to General Robert Edward Lee in the Washington Cathedral” (Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, LVII (July 1949), 301-306). Betty (Mrs. H. Armour) Munson is the author. She sent a copy of the brochure she prepared on the proposed memorial to me for my approval, which as chairman of the Committee I was glad to give. It was issued unsigned, but on the