

THE PEACH TREE

*Celebrating 27 years of bringing the
Peach heritage into homes throughout the
world.*

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The Northern Neck

Here lies the northernmost of three peninsulas in Virginia on the western shore of the Chesapeake Bay. Four counties are included: Northumberland, Lancaster, Richmond and Westmoreland. The Northern Neck is a peninsula with the Potomac River on its north, and the Rappahannock River on its south. (see the map at the right).

As early as 1653, Peaches began migrating to this area. In 1659, the Peachneys also chose the Northern Neck to begin their settlements. The main difference between the two was that the Peaches were the poor indentured servants while the Peachneys were part of the aristocracy of planters.

Colonial Virginia

The first Peach/Peachey immigrants to America either landed in Massachusetts or Virginia. John Peach, Sr. was one of the two founders of Marblehead, MA, as early as 1630. While he was settling in the New England area, other Peaches were invading Virginia to the south.

Jamestown, VA, was discovered in 1607, where the first permanent English settlement in America began. The New World started here and thus the first immigrants settled as close to Jamestown as possible.

Although no Peaches were recorded in that original community, the first descendants of Guillaume Peche came to York Co., with its center at Yorktown, 20 miles from Jamestown.



Arthur Peach was the first to come to Virginia in 1635. However, this 20-year old Irishman quickly found his way to Massachusetts, where he was among the first white men HUNG for killing an Indian. A movie was made about him.

York County was formed in 1634. Nine years later in 1643, William Peach came to Virginia as an indentured servant to Roland Burnham. There was a Thomas Peach in York Co. in 1646. How and when he came is unknown, but he had dealings in the record book with both an Edward Jenkins and a Richard Beetle.

The first Peach woman immigrant to Virginia was Dasabell, who came in 1651 as an indentured servant to Edward Diggs. She also was in the Hampton Parish of York County, which was centered in Yorktown. Recently, I was honored to visit Grace Church, which began in 1642. Being the parish church of York-Hampton Parish, this would have been the place these first Peaches worshiped. When I visited the church, I knew I was standing on the footprints of these first Peaches in America.

Within ten years of the Peaches first coming to Virginia, in 1653 they began their migration to the Northern Neck. Thomas Peach and his son, William, were indentured servants to Dennis Coniers/Conyers in Lancaster County. This is where Mary Ball, the mother of George Washington, was born in 1708. I am spending next week in Virginia totally dedicated to Peach/Peachey research. I hope to find the property held by this Dennis Coniers, where the Peaches sweat their blood and tears.

After four years of servitude, the Peaches acquired property of their own in Gloucester County (between York and Lancaster Cos.) It was a moving experience for me to visit Ware Neck, where they lived, and the Ware Episcopal Church (founded 1652), where they worshiped. (If you didn't go to church in those days, you were fined.)

I have worked diligently to try to establish a relationship with these early Virginia Peaches. I believe they risked their lives and their future making this courageous move only because they had family ties to the New World. Here is my theory.

Thomas Peach was the father of Dasabell, William and Richard Peach. He was born before 1603 in Ellastone, Staffordshire and died in Gloucester Co., Virginia in 1669. He and his son, William, were transported to Lancaster Co., VA, in 1653. In 1668, Frances Campfield brought the Richard Peach of this family to Gloucester Co., VA, as an indentured servant to him.

What about Dasabell, believed to be the daughter of Thomas Peach? She was born before 1625 and made her way across the Atlantic Ocean about 1650 as an indentured servant to Edward Diggs. Possibly the father, Thomas, came to the New World three years later in search of his daughter. His son, Richard, came later in search of his father and siblings.

It is my conviction this family was directly related to John and William Peach, co-founders of the South Carolina Branch. Their father, John Peach, was born 13 Feb. 1732 in Ellastone, Staffordshire. Both John and William were born in Burton On Trent in Staffordshire, William being born abt 1750 and John abt 1755.

Samuel Peach was the first recorded Peach to settle on the Northern Neck, being transported to Old Rappahannock Co., VA, in 1665 by Daniel Gaines and Nicholas Willard. This was later changed to Richmond Co., adjacent to Lancaster Co., VA

On the Banks of the Rappahannock

This is the title of the book I am now writing and will be my first attempt to write a historical novel. The primary focus will be on Samuel, the first Peachey immigrant to Virginia, and his descendants. He left Mildenhall, Suffolk in England in 1659 to Old Rappahannock Co. on the Northern Neck.

The novel begins with George Glascock in North Farnham Parish in what was then Richmond Co. (formerly Old Rappahannock Co.) Glascock's home was built in 1699 and stands as the oldest brick building in the Northern Neck that is still inhabited. The majestic manor house is known as *Indian Banks* because it was built on the former lands of the native Indians.

Just upstream on the banks of the Rappahannock River sets *Milden Hall*. This manor home was built about 1700 by Samuel Peachey, the first Peachey immigrant to Virginia in 1659. I have an appointment to tour Milden Hall in my travels next week. Peachey lived in the heart of those called the gentry – the planters and traders of Virginia. These were wealthy aristocrats who owned massive plantations of hundreds, sometimes thousands of acres. This was the land of the Washingtons and the Lees and many others who were the firebrands of the Revolution.

Samuel Peachey was a Sheriff of Richmond County, as well as a Justice. His plantation of Milden Hall was six hundred acres, mainly planted with

tobacco. He had strong ties to Col. Joseph Ball, father of Mary Ball (whose son was President George Washington). Likewise, he was good friends of Col. Richard Lee, the great great grandfather of Gen. Robert E. Lee. Col. Lee also was the grandfather of Richard Henry Lee, an American statesman from Virginia best known for the motion in the Second Continental Congress calling for the colonies' independence from Great Britain. Whether it was the Lees or Washingtons of Westmoreland Co. or the Balls and the Carters of Lancaster Co., Samuel Peachey knew them well.

On the Banks of the Rappahannock hopes to cover the period between 1699 and 1867 covering the French & Indian War, the Revolution, War of 1812, and the War Between the States. The Peacheys served in them all, usually as officers.

Samuel Peachey, grandson of the immigrant, Samuel, inherited Milden Hall. Sons of he and his second wife, Winifred Griffin, included Col. William and Thomas Griffin Peachey. William married Million Glascock, daughter of George at Indian Banks. He served as an officer in Washington's Regt. in the French & Indian War (1754-1763), beginning at captain and ending as a colonel.

Thomas Griffin Peachey was a wealthy aristocrat, owning at one time the *Peyton Randolph House* in Williamsburg, VA. Later, he and his daughter-in-law bought the 1000 acre plantation home on the James River called *Flowerdew*. His son, William Samuel Peachey, was a general in the Revolutionary War, serving with George Washington. The next page shows how the novel begins.

1699 On the banks of the Rappahannock River just before the dawning of a new day, George Glascock perched himself firmly on his favorite flattened boulder. Being a well-disciplined man in his mid-twenties, he had developed an entrenched routine of early rising. His special time each day was begun by searching for the first sighting of the morning rays of the sun. He was anxious to break his sleep each cock-crow before sunrise. If early enough, he could still hear the bellowing sounds of the bull frogs and the melodious shrill singing of the whip-poor-wills.

George's purpose during these autumn daybreaks was to spend a designated period intensely observing the living creatures around him and to get direction from the Creator who designed them. When all the nocturnal critters ceased their rhythmic music, then his daytime friends came to life. He loved to hear the high-pitched gurgling sounds of the turkeys and the mellow cooing of the doves. Whether it was the irritating guttural cawing of the ravens or the soft harmonious warble of the bluebirds, George loved them all.

Next he would wait for the distinctive honking of geese as they flew in their military-like formation overhead. Simultaneously, he listened intently for the continuous chirping of the ospreys, admiring the various pitches of their music. He also learned where the ospreys were, there were the eagles. Instinctively, eagles knew it was easier to swipe a tasty bluegill or a striped bass from one of these fish hawks than it was to swoop down into the Rappahannock to get their own. The ospreys were quicker catching fish, but they were no match for the larger king of the air when it came to keeping it.

The best part of the morning always came when George spied the majestic bird with its distinctive white head and brownish-black figure leaving the nest. He observed as this magnificent creature lifted its enormous

wings in flight and zeroed in on the breakfast of the smaller osprey. George was always amazed how the eagles soared over the river with such amazing ease and remarkable speed. This gave him the inspiration for the day, as he loved to think of himself as "mounting up with wings as eagles". His mother quoted that verse from Isaiah to him often when he was a child. Whenever he saw the eagles, he thought of his dear mom and the purpose for his life.

As he reflected on that idea, he realized his immediate goal. He wanted to get married to the love of his life, one Millicent Downman. However, before father would let him marry, George must help him finish building a home for his bride and future family. The mansion they would call "Indian Banks" took years to build because it was constructed to last forever. Pa insisted that the base of the walls should be over two-feet thick, and the entire home encased in vibrant red brick. They worked tirelessly getting the hand-hewn white oak all fastened and nailed into place. Separate buildings for the kitchen, the ice house and the well also had been assembled.

His only other help was his older brother, Tom. If only he had a few more brothers among his siblings. Sure, his six sisters always helped Ma provide delicious meals. But he could do without all their straw-bossing.

"Why did you do it this way?"

"I think you should change this."

"Why don't you make the windows smaller?"

"Why did you paint it that color? It's hideous!"

Then there was the most controversial day of all. This was when his oldest sister, Jean, first discovered the two doors the men built at the top of the stairs. They decided to make them only four feet high.

"Who in the world would live in a house with doors made for little elves?" shouted Jean.

"Did Pa think we were Irish and had leprechauns running around?"

Virginia Roots of KS & PA Branches

The more I research, the more convinced I am that both the Kansas and Pennsylvania Branches can be traced back to the common ancestor of Jacob Peach of Virginia. If that is true, here's the way their genealogy would begin.

Generation No. 1

1. JACOB¹ PEACH was born Bef. 1735 in ENGLAND, and died Aft. 1763 in Virginia, USA.

More About JACOB PEACH:

Immigration: 1756, sailed from Bristol, England, in 1756 and settled in Philadelphia. He originally came from Graves Inn, London, and must have later migrated to Virginia because of his listing in the book, Early Virginia Immigrants by Greer. Probably a lawyer.

Child of JACOB PEACH is:

2. i. JOSEPH² PEACH, b. 1763, Virginia

Generation No. 2

2. JOSEPH² PEACH (*JACOB*¹) was born 1763 in Virginia, USA.

Children of JOSEPH PEACH are:

3. i. JACOB⁺⁺³ PEACH, b. Mar 1785, Virginia; d. 03 Jan 1872, Bath Twp., Summit Co., Ohio.
4. ii. CHARLES PEACH, b. 26 Oct 1787, Virginia; d. 29 Mar 1864, Zane Twp., Logan Co., Ohio.

Generation No. 3

3. JACOB⁺⁺³ PEACH (*JOSEPH*², *JACOB*¹) was born Mar 1785 in Virginia, and died 03 Jan 1872 in Bath Twp., Summit Co., Ohio. He married (1) RACHAEL BRELSFORD 10 Nov 1807 in Frederick Co., VA, daughter of BERNARD BRELSFORD and NAOMI EDWARDS. She was born 1781 in Frederick, VA (now Hampshire, WV), and died Oct 1855 in Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH. He married (2) MAHALA ANN SHOEMAKER 28 Oct 1855 in Summit Co., Ohio. She was born 16 Jan 1829 in Ohio, and died in Summit Co., OH. He married (3) SARAH A.

BRELSFORD (DUNKLE) 11 Apr 1866, daughter of BERNARD BRELSFORD and NAOMI EDWARDS. She was born 1796 in Virginia, and died 1886.

Children of JACOB⁺⁺ PEACH and RACHAEL BRELSFORD are:

5. i. ELIZABETH (ELIZA)⁴ PEACH, b. 09 Aug 1808, Frederick Co., Virginia; d. 13 Feb 1890, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH.
6. ii. DAVID PEACH, b. 1811, Pennsylvania; d. 01 Aug 1878, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH.
- iii. MARGARET PEACH, m. JAMES L. PORTER, 11 Apr 1833, Medina Co., Ohio.
- iv. POLLY MARYANN PEACH, m. JESS CUTSHAW, 13 Mar 1834, Medina Co., Ohio.
7. v. ANNA PEACH, b. 1819, Jackson twp, Stark Co, OH; d. 12 Oct 1864, Millcreek twp, Williams Co, OH.
8. vi. ISAAC* PEACH, b. 1822, Ohio.
9. vii. HIRAM PEACH, b. 28 Jun 1824, Stark Co., OH; d. 1895.
10. viii. JOHN* PEACH, b. 30 May 1830, Summit Co., Ohio; d. 27 Oct 1898, Alvordton, OH.
- ix. SAMUEL* PEACH, b. 1832, Ohio; m. SARAH.
- x. MARY ANN PEACH, b. 13 Mar 1834, Medina Co., OH; m. JOHN KEMERY, 20 Apr 1865.
- xi. ELIZA PEACH, b. Pennsylvania.

More About ELIZA PEACH:

Burial: East Bath Cemetery, Bath, Summit Co., OH

Residence: 1870, Richfield, Summit Co., OH (US Census)

Children of JACOB⁺⁺ PEACH and MAHALA SHOEMAKER are:

- xii. IDA LORENA⁴ PEACH, b. 1858, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH; d. 14 Jul 1913, Williams Co., OH; m. JAMES FREDRICK LIBBEY, 26 Mar 1876, Williams Co., Ohio.
- xiii. LODELIA L. PEACH, b. 16 May 1859, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH; d. 07 Jun 1871, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH.
- xiv. JACOB L. PEACH, b. 1861, Bath Twp., Summit Co., OH; m. (1) MARGARET S. DEGROFF, 01 Nov 1881, Williams Co., Ohio; m. (2) MARY ELLEN THOMAS, 06 Aug 1888.

Thanksgiving Time

I get encouraging notes from so many of you through the years. I apologize for not always responding to you. I used to publish some of these, but have not done so for awhile. As I read some of these, it helps me get in the spirit of Thanksgiving. Thanks to all of you, only represented by a few of the following. I want to take this opportunity to wish you all a Blessed Christmas and New Year.

Cherri Ethridge wrote: "I love *The Peach/Peachey Bridges*. It is absolutely riveting to read of our ancestors living in the presence of kings. Thank you for generously sharing your years of research as well as your heart with me."

Ted Peach said: "You are amazing!!! It's difficult to comprehend what you have achieved and the thousands of Peach folk you have reached! Keep up the good work."

Ronald Peach shared: "Thanks so much for your labor of love for our extended family. We are fortunate to have a scholar and pastor in the family tree."

Janie Brumbelow wrote: "I always enjoy the Peach Tree. Thanks for all the time you have spent researching the Peaches good and bad."

Sandra Peterson said: "Thank you very much for doing all the work for the family tree. I'm sure all of us in the family appreciate it."

Rebecca Metz shared: "I absolutely enjoy the books and am so grateful to have them. It was wonderful meeting you."

For your Bookshelf

1. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 1 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Latest book on the Southern Maryland Branch.
2. The Peach Genealogies, Volume 2 - \$49.95 + \$7 shipping. Latest book on the South Carolina Branch.
3. The Peach/Peachey Migrations, 1066-1990 - \$39.95 + \$7 shipping. Tracing all the Peach/Peacheys back to William de Peche I in 1066 A.D.
4. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. II, Southern Maryland Branch - \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. First book on this branch.
5. The Peach Tree Handbook, Vol. III, Marblehead - \$62.95 + \$7 shipping. Only a few copies left. When they are gone, this will not be reprinted.
6. The Peach Heroes - \$59.95 + \$7 shipping. This is 740 pages hard bound, fully indexed, and includes all the Peaches in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars and the War of 1812. All known descendants of the Kansas, Kentucky, Minnesota, Pennsylvania and Texas Branches are included. Also, detailed updates of the Marblehead, South Carolina and the So. Maryland branches are included.
7. The Peach/Peachey Bridges, Vol. I - \$29.95 + \$7 shipping. The newest book.

Website and Peach Trees

You can access our website at <http://www.thepeaches.com/genealogy/> I plan on putting each of the upcoming *Peach Trees* online so that they will be accessible to all who enter the website. If you want a hard copy delivered to you for 18 months, please send \$15.