

PETER CORNWELL

(ca. 1695-1776)

Peter Cornwell was born circa 1695 and died in Fauquier County, Virginia in 1776.

One or more Peter Cornwells are reflected in extracts from the following records between 1695 and 1776. One Peter Cornwell married Lucesse -- by 1723. This same Peter or another married Ann -- by 1732, and this same Peter or another married Sarah Ann Bowlin by 1750. Sarah Ann was the daughter of Ann Bowlin. (When the Broad Run Church was constituted in 1762 with ten members, only one Sarah was listed--Sarah Cornwell, along with Peter Cornwell. Years later, church records reflected only four of the original ten remained--including a Sarah Shoemack. SarahAnn had married Daniel Shoemack/Shumate, son of John Shumate and grandson of Jean de la Chaumette, after the death of Peter.)

On Sep 8, 1723, "Between Peter Cornwell and Lucesse his wife and William Camp (or Champ) consideration 1200 pounds tobacco, 30 acres Stafford Co., part of a Patent of land belonging to James Grigg, said Grigg sold to **Dennis Cornwell**, south side of branch called Branch of Thos. Cook and joining upon Major Taylor's back line." Peter signed with his mark, PC. Witnesses were Rich Kockland and Richard Drockoford. (*Stafford County, VA Deed Book 1722-1729*, pages 39-40)

On Mar 1, 1732, "Thomas and Mary Wallis of Parish of Hamilton in Co. of Pr. Wm. for natural love & affection we bear unto our well beloved brother Burr Wallis. . . being part of land we now live and taken up by our father John Wallis, decd. . . Wit: Jonathan Anderson, Peter Cornell, Ann Cornell" Peter signed with his PC, and Ann signed with an X. (*Prince William County, VA, Liber A*, page 13)

On Sep 20, 1732, "Lease from Burr Harrison and wife Jean Harrison of Prince William County to Peter Cornwell." Witnesses were William Champneys and Richd. Higgins. (*Prince William County, VA, Liber A*, page 350) This was a plantation on Powell Run.

Peter and his brother Charles sold land in Prince William County, Virginia in 1735. The transaction was recorded in the Prince William County, Virginia *Deed Book B*, page 438:

"This indenture made the Twentieth Day of May in the Eighth Year of the Reign of our sovereign Lord George the Second by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith, the Anno Domini 1735

"Between Peter and Charles Cornwells of the Parish of Hambleton in the County of Prince William, Planters, of the one part and John Tayloe of the Parish of Lunenburg in the County of Richmond, Esquire, of the other part.

"witnesseth, that the said Peter and Charles Cornwells for and in Consideration of the

sume of five shillings of Lawfull Current Money of Virginia to them the said Peter and Charles in hand paid at or before the Sealing and Delivery of these presents by the said John Tayloe Esquire, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath bargained and sold and by these presents Doth Bargain and Sell unto the said John Tayloe all that piece or parcel of Land that remains to them unsold or otherwise indisposed of containing by estimation One hundred Acres more or less being part of the two-hundred Acres of Land bought by **Dennis Cornwell**, the Father of the said Peter and Charles of James Gregg to whome it was given and granted by his Brother Thomas Gregg by Deed of Guise bearing date the 12th day of June Anno Dom. 1699

“as may thereby more full appear vellation being thereunto had Scituate in the Parish of Hambleton and County of Prince William aforesaid and is bounded by the Line of Corbins 4 m Acre Patens and the line of the land that Abraham and William Harrows Escheated from Ann the Daughter of William Harwood (both now held by the said John Tayloe) and the outward Line of Gregg’s first Proprietors Deed for Eight hundred Acres or thereabouts, on the main Run and Branches of Neabsco Creek,

And all Houses Outhouses Edifices Buildings Yards gardens Orchards Woods Underwoods Ways Waters Water Courses Profits Commodities Hereditaments and Apurtenances whatsoever to the said piece or parcel of Land & Premises hereby bargained and Sold . . .

“belonging or in any wise apurtaining, To have and to hold the said Piece or Parcel of Land and Premisses hereby bargained and sold with their and every of their Apurtenances unto the said John Tayloe his Executors Administrators and Assigns from the day next before the date of the date hereto for and during and unto the full end and Term of one whole year from thence next ensuing and fully to be compleat and ended.

“Yielding and Paying therefore the Rent of one Ear of Indian Corn upon the last day of said Term if the same shall be Lawfully demanded to the intent and Purpose that by Virtue of these Presents and of the statute for transferring uses into Possession The said John Tayloe may be in the Actual Possession of the said Premisses and thereby be the better enabled to accept and take a Grant and Release of the reversion and Inheritance thereof to him and his heirs.

“In Witness whereof the said Parties to these Presents have interchangeable set their hands and Seals the day and Year first above Written.

“Sealed and Delivered in the presence of us James McDonnell, Thomas Stripling, Charles H. Harris, Charles CT Taylor

his	his
Peter PC Cornwell (seal)	Charles)) Cornwell (seal)
mark	mark

“At a Court held for Prince William County the twenty first day of May 1735, Peter

and Charles Cornwell acknowledged this Lease to John Taylor Esquire, which on his motion is admitted to Record. Test: Caterby Cork, Clerk”

In 1741, Peter Cornwell voted in the election of Burgesses of Prince William, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Fauquier (?) Counties, Virginia.

On Feb 28, 1742, Peter Cornwell, Charles Cornwell, and the widow Mary Wallis were bonded in Accomack, Virginia to settle the will of Thomas Wallis. (*Prince William County Deed Book C, 1734-1744*)

According to Francis B. Foster, The Plains, Virginia, Jul 1, 1937, in an article entitled, “Saint’s Hill Cabin” from *Old Homes and Families of Fauquier County Virginia* (The W.P.A. Records), 1978 Virginia Book Company, pp 391-393, “In 1745, Peter J. Cornwell, a pious Baptist preacher, built a log house on land which later was owned by the Carter family. Peter established a baptist church at little Georgetown and it is to this church that Nancy Hanks is said to have belonged. . . Peter Cornwell was so renowned for his piety that the land on which he lived was called ‘Saint’s Hill,’ and the name still survives. The land is located three miles southeast of Broad Run, Virginia, on the east side of Route 600.

“The log part of the house is most interesting. It was built in two sections; the oldest which is now used as the kitchen has the lovely old beamed ceiling and wide boards in (the) floor which Peter Cornwell put there in 1745. The new part of the house is frame, and while adding to the comfort, detracts decidedly from the looks. The center hall, which runs between the two log parts, has doors opening opposite each other, and is indeed a delightful retreat on a hot day.”

The house was built on leased land by Peter Cornwell. About 1823, by grant, it became Carter land. According to the Deed Book 26, page 516, Charles Shirley Carter obtained possession. According to Deed Book 28, page 290, he sold it to Bladen Dulaney in 1837. And according to Deed Book 30, page 347, it was passed to heirs of Bladen Dulaney, who subsequent heirs own it today.

A photograph of the 1745 house may be found at the web site
<<http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/photo.cgi/VHI/P/10/0153>>

On Jul 25-26, 1746, Peter Cornwell witnessed a deed (with his mark, PC) transferring land originally obtained by Charles Cornwell on Jun 4, 1731. Charles Cornwell and his wife Barbara of Parish Dettingen, Prince William County, transferred 131 acres for 28 Pounds Current money to Richard Blackburn. (*Prince William County Deed Book 1745-1746*, page 162)

On Oct 8, 1750, Peter Cornwil/Cornwill and Sarahann, his wife, granddaughter to Robert Wilson Deceased of Prince William County, Virginia, sold 100 acres in Northumberland County, Virginia to Capt. William Haynie of Northumberland County. The land had originally been owned by Robert Wilson, who had left it to his daughters

Ann Bowlin, now deceased, mother of Saraanne Cornwell, and Elnor Wilson Pickerin.

(In 1759, Fauquier County was created from Prince William County.)

On Sep 9, 1760, “Lawson, Jardine & Company vs. Peter Cornwell Senior. On petition. It is considered that the plaintiff ought to recover 228 pounds of tobacco and 10 shillings current money.” (*The Virginia Genealogist*, Vol 21, p 195, abstracted from the *Prince William County Order Book 1759-1761*, p 214) (The “Senior” following Peter Cornwell’s name implies the existence of at least one other Peter Cornwell in the area, not necessarily his son, but one younger than he.)

On Dec 15, 1760, Jan 4, 1762, Jan 17, 1763, Nov 28, 1763, Feb 19, 1764, Nov 25, 1765, Dec 4, 1767, Nov 12, 1768, Oct 30, 1769, Nov 10, 1770, Nov 9, 1771, Nov 7, 1772, Nov 27, 1773, Dec 1774, May 21, 1775 (twice), and Feb 13, 1777, the records of Dettingen Parish of Prince William County, Virginia state, “To Peter Cornwell (Cornwil, Cornwill, Cornwile), a poor man, Dr. 500 (or 400, or 470, or 530, or 580, or 1000) tobo” (tobacco). It should be noted that the last payment in 1777 was subsequent to the Peter Cornwell who wrote his will, and died in 1776. It should also be noted that this poor man Peter Cornwell was in Dettingen Parish of Prince William County, while the Peter Cornwell who absented himself from the Baptist Church was from Hamilton Parish, Fauquier County.

William Fristoe, pastor of the Broad Run Baptist Church near Gainesville, Virginia, from 1787-1826, published a book in 1808 entitled *A Concise History of the Kettocon Baptist Association* (VA State Library & Archives/Rare Book Collection BX6384 V8 K425, pp 98-101).

In it, he writes:

“A narrative of the life and death of Peter Cornwell.

“Although Peter Cornwell was a private character, his history may be entertaining to the reader. The many occurrences accompanying this good man during his life, the statement here will be according to the relation given by himself.

“While young he became dissipated and shamefully wicked; and continued so a great part of the prime of life. But at a certain time, from what cause he was not able to say, conviction smote his breast; his actual transgressions were brought to his remembrance, and dreadful apprehensions of eternal damnation presented to his mind, as the just desert of his sin; when this presented to his mind, a resolution was taken up by him to reform his life, and act so wickedly no more; accordingly a reform took place; his outbreking sins were quitted, wicked company forsaken, with a determination to be good, and if possible take the kingdom of Heaven;

“he engaged in fervent prayer; he reformed and prayed, until a persuasion prevailed with him that he was good, with which his mind was so transported, that when walking on foot he has run and leaped for joy, and concluded that others ought to lay out concern

about their souls; as for himself he was certain of a safe arrival in the kingdom of Heaven when he died; be here he met with a cross--his wife despised him and would ridicule and mock him, and shame him about his knees being dirty by kneeling down to pray; he aimed to disappoint his wife in that by taking down his stockings when he prayed and let his bare knees go to the ground: all this while he had no saving knowledge of Christ, nor salvation by him, but entirely depending on his own performances for justification; neither had he as yet ever heard the gospel in its purity.

“At length, providentially a sermon of Mr. George Whitfield’s came to hand, wherein that author gave a relation of his own exercise, on how long he remained wedded to the law--he prayed several times a day, fasted twice in the week, partook of the Lord’s supper frequently, and performed a great many external duties, and yet a stranger to a work of grace, and knew nothing of Christ.

“Upon reading of this, he discovered himself in the like situation, a stranger to grace--and that all his prayers, reformations and performances of every kind, were only as filthy rags, imperfection and sin accompanied the best of them, and therefore could not justify the soul--at which sight he was stripped of all his law righteousness, and appeared a naked sinner without any thing to shelter him from the devouring wrath of God; and should he die in that state must perish everlastingly. He used to say he never had quiet in his conscience from that time until he enjoyed an application of the blood of Christ to his soul, purging his conscience from dead works, removing the burthen of guilt, and giving him to view that new and living way through the pangs of the new birth, and translated into the kingdom of God’s dear son before he ever heard a gospel sermon.

“About this time he heard that there were a group of people called new-lights living at the distance of about sixty miles from him--but although distance was far, and a rough tract of country between, his desire was so great to hear the gospel, that he repaired to the place of preaching, and for the first time heard the gospel, and counted himself amply rewarded for his journey.

“It seems the word of the Lord was precious in those days. Upon his second going to the same place he related his experience and was baptized; at which time he met with elder David Thomas, and prevailed on him to come into the neighborhood where he lived; and from that time to the present it has been a place of much preaching.

“When a meeting house was erected it was near his dwelling; his manner of life, and spiritual conversation procured to him the name St. Peter--and as he was a poor man and lived on rented land, which since has become a rich man’s quarter, it is called after this good man, ‘Saint Hill Quarter.’

When he grew old it pleased God to afflict him with entire blindness, by covering his eyes with thick phlegm; but although he had to labor under that heavy affliction of body, he appeared to enjoy much communication with God, and the lively exercise of grace in his soul. His conversation was much about the heavenly inheritance, and the blessed

employment of the redeemed; he used to say in melting language it was so ordered that he could not see, but it was all right and beyond all question intended by infinite wisdom for his good. But a change would by and by take place and mortality put on immortality, and his corruptible body put on incorruption--then will these eyes behold my redeemer for myself and not another; it was a common word with him, and spoken in full assurance, I shall have eyes at the resurrection of the just; then my sight will be clear eternally to behold the glory of God, and the lamb, and my immortal powers be employed in the praise of Jehovah for ever and ever.

“When he came to the close of life, as he had lived, in like manner he died--having a heart given him to love God, and to love the children of God. In his last words he desired his wife to remember his love to his brethren, and enjoined it on her to tell them he loved them--and then passed off the stage as though he was going a pleasant journey.

“Love being the peculiar mark of the children of God, even when in health--how much more so when acting in full vigor, in the cold embraces of death. This beloved disciple departed this life, being old and full of days, leaving an ancient widow behind to make her way through this wilderness.”

According to Morgan Edwards in his book *Materials Toward a History of the Baptists in the Province of Virginia* (pages 25-26), also quoted in Rhys Isaac, “Evangelical Revolt: The Nature of the Baptists’ Challenge to the Traditional Order in Virginia 1765-1775,” *William and Mary Quarterly* 3rd Series Vol 31 No 3 July 1974, p 354:

“The warm supportive relationship that fellowship in faith and experience could engender appears to have played an important part in the spread of the (Baptist) movement. For example, about the year 1760 Peter Cornwell of Fauquier County sought out in the backcountry one Hays of pious repute, and settled him on his own land for the sake of godly companionship. Interviews between these two families were frequent. . . their conversations religious, , , in so much that it began to be talked of abroad as a very strange thing. Many came to see them, to whom they related what God did for their souls. . . to the spreading of seriousness through the whole neighborhood.”

James B. Taylor, writing in 1859 (*Virginia Baptist Ministers*, pages 51-52), further described the circumstances that led to the origin of the Broad Run Church:

“two men in this region, without any public preaching, became much concerned about their souls and eternal things; were convinced of the reality of vital religion, and that they were destitute of it. While laboring under these convictions, they heard of the Baptists, (New Lights, as some called them,) in Berkeley County and set out in search of them; and after traveling about sixty miles over a mountainous way, they arrived among them.

“By the preaching and conversation they were much enlightened and comforted and were so happy as to find what had been hitherto been to them mysterious, how a weary and heavy laden sinner might have rest. The name of one of these men was Peter

Cornwell, who afterwards lived to a good old age, and was so eminent for his piety, as to receive from his neighbors and acquaintances the title of 'St. Peter.'

"It is related by Mr. Edwards, "that this Peter Cornwell induced Edmund Hays, (the same man who removed from Maryland to Virginia in 1743,) to remove and settle near him, and that interviews between the families of these two men were frequent, . . . and their conversation religious and devout; insomuch that it soon began to be talked of abroad as a very strange thing. Many came to see them, to whom they related what God had done for their souls.

"They exhorted, prayed, read the Bible, and other good books, to the spreading of seriousness through the whole neighborhood. Cornwell, and his companion, (whose name is not mentioned,) in a short time made a second visit to Berkeley, and were baptized; and divine Providence had so ordered matters, that in this visit they met with Mr. Thomas, who they invited to go down and preach among them.

"He accepted the invitation, and settled with them as before related, and soon became the instrument of diffusing gospel light in Fauquier and the adjoining counties, where ignorance and superstition had long prevailed."

The "Berkeley" cited above was likely Berkeley County, in now West Virginia. According to the *Genealogical Index to Virginia Baptists in the Eighteenth Century*, Peter and Sarah Cornwell were listed in the Mill Creek Church Minutes 1757-1799, page 4, along with Edmond and Elizabeth Hays (later of Broad Run).

On May 27, 1762, Peter Cornwell and Wife were two of 22 people cited "for not frequenting their Parish Church." (*Minute Book Abstracts of Fauquier County Virginia 1759-1762*, p 244)

On Aug 26, 1762, Peter Cornwell again appeared in the records of Fauquier County court: "On hearing the Presentment of the Grand Jury against Thomas Dodson for not frequenting his Parish Church. It is ordered that he make his Fine by the paiment of five shillings to the Churchwardens of Hamilton Parish for the use of the said Parish. The same order against Joseph Dodson, Timothy Stamps, Peter Cornwell and Edward Dickenson respectively." (*Minute Book Abstracts of Fauquier County Virginia 1759-1762*, p 320)

On Dec 3, 1762, Peter and Sarah Cornwell helped organize the Broad Run Baptist Church in Fauquier County (*Broad Run Baptist Church Minutes*, Dec 1762, page 1). *Fauquier County, Virginia 1759-1959*, published by the Fauquier County Bicentennial Committee in Warrenton, VA, records: "Broad Run Baptist Church. The first non-conformist congregation came through the valley between the Broken Hills and the Pignut to organized the Broad Run Baptist Church. The first minutes of the congregation state that the church was constituted Dec 3, 1762, consisting of ten members: Edmund Hayes, Peter Cornwell, Joshua Dodson, Thomas Dodson, William Stamps, Elizabeth Hayes, Sara Cornwell, Ruth Dodson, Elizabeth Dodson, Betty Bennett." (page 87)

On May 26, 1763, Peter Cornwell was one of 41 people "for absenting themselves from the Parish Church within the six months past." (*Fauquier County Minute Book 1763-1764*, pages 43-44) This entry shows that Peter had been a member of the established church previous to his establishment of the Broad Run Baptist Church. "We present David Thomas, Thomas Dodson, Abraham Dodson, Elisha Dodson, Joseph Dodson, George Dodson, Edmund Hayes, Peter Cornwell, Obed Cornwell, Alexander Higgins, & (William Davis on the Biskett Mountain), John Davis, William Carger, Timothy Stamps, John Stamps, William Stamps, Mary Stamps, John Bennet, Fortunatus Dodson, Joshua Owen, Joshua Dodson, John Creel, Rawleigh Dodson, Samuel Bailey, William Shirley, William Young, Joseph Owens, Joshua Scurlock, Edward Hughes, John Cundiff, Anthony Seale, James Shackelford, Henry Hampton, John Shirley, Joseph Morrison, Benjamin Edwards, Anthony Morgan & George Bell of Hamilton Parish for absenting themselves from their Parish Church within this six months last past."

On Sep 22, 1766, Peter Cornwell obtained a land grant for 300 acres on Mine Branch in Halifax County. (Patent 36, page 1008)

On Feb 25, 1768, Jeffrey Johnson, Jr. and his wife Rachael of Cameron Parish, Loudoun County, Virginia leased 130 acres for five shillings to Peter Cornwell in Parish Hamilton, Fauquier County, Virginia. The land lay between Pignut Ridge and the Rappahannock Mountains. The lease was recorded on Jun 19, 1768. (*Fauquier County, VA Deed Book 3*, page 188) An additional entry dated two and three days later, respectively, stated the lease fee was 100 Pounds. (page 190) Moses Johnson's land was adjacent.

On Aug 18, 1769, Peter Cornwell and Sarah Cornwell were listed as members of the Broad Run Baptist Church in Fauquier County, VA under the heading, "The following members are all that now belong to the Church at Broad Run . . . (in all 33)." The list was later annotated to show Peter as "deceased." (Microfilm 21226 Misc. roll 472, VA State Library and Archives, *Minute Books 1762-1873*, page 12)

On Feb 28, 1770, Peter Cornwell and his wife Sarah Ann Cornwell of Fauquier County sold 300 acres located on both sides of Mine Branch to John Creel. Peter had originally acquired the land from Sellers Patent dated Sep 22, 1766. (*Pittsylvania County, Virginia Deed Book I*, page 391)

On Dec 3, 1773, Peter Cornwell and Sarah, his wife, conveyed 100 acres to Reuben Calvert originally granted to Burdett Harrison by the Proprietors of the Northern Neck on Mar 2, 1730. (*Deed Book Y*, page 418, 2 Sep 1794)

Peter Cornwell wrote his will on Jun 2, 1776. It was recorded Aug 17, 1776 and probated Aug 26, 1776 in Fauquier County, Virginia, and lists his wife Sarah Anne, daughters Mary and Cloe Strange, and sons Daniel, Jacob, **Simon**, and Jarvice. The will was witnessed by J. Moffett, John Dugarde, and Ann Cockrell. Executors were Sarah Anne Cornwell and Simon Cornwell.. (*Will Book I*, pages 293-295). What follows is a

transcript from the original will, which shows original signatures, and is not a transcript from an inaccurate copy that is prevalent among researchers today:

“In the Name of God Amen, I Peter Cornwell of Fauquier County being sick and weak of Body, but of perfect mind and Memory, this Second day of June, 1776, do make and Ordain this my Last Will and Testament.

“Imprimus I give my Soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it & my body to the Earth to be buried at the discretion of my Executors, hereafter named and as to seeking what earthly Estate it has pleased God to help me with, I do dispose of in the following manner.

“Item I give to my beloved wife Sarah Ann the use of all my Estate both real and personall for and during her widowhood except the legacies herein after mentioned.

“Item I give and bequeath to my Daughter Mary one good featherbed and furniture & one cow and calf to be given up to her at the day of Marriage or when she arrives to the age of Twenty one Years.

“Item I give to my son Daniel one dark bay mare commonly called his.

“Item I give to my son Jacob one horse of the value of Twelve or fourteen pounds.

“Item I give and bequeath to my son **Simon** the land whereon he lives agreeable to the Boundaries made between him & myself, supposed to be about Twenty five acres not withstanding be it more or less, to him and his heirs forever.

“Item I give and bequeath to my son Jarvis the land between the ledge of rocks & his own line, also the land on the South side of his path to the main road. This land I agreed for & bought of Hector Ross Gent. to him and his heirs forever.

“Item I give and bequeath all my land at the Pignut Ridge except what is already bequeathed to my sons Daniel and Jacob to be held in Joint tenancy to them and their heirs forever, and if either of them dies without issue then the survivor to have the whole --if both dies without issue--then my Will and Desire is that the land be sold and the Price arising from the sale be equally divided between my then surviving children,

“ my Will and Desire is at the death or Marriage of my said wife, **all my slaves** and personal Estate be Equally divided amongst my children then living except my two sons Daniel and Jacob, my Will and Desire is that such part of my Estate as shall become payable to my daughter Cloe Strange shall be in Trust in the hands of my executors hereafter named and for her use.

“My Will and Desire is that my wife During her widowhood or her natural life, enjoy all my Estate except the land bequeathed to my sons **Simon** & Jarvis & the legacy Bequeathed to my Daughter Mary and the Mare & Horse bequeathed to my sons Daniel

and Jacob.

“Item I do nominate and appoint my Loving wife Sarah Anne executrix & my son **Simon** & Mr. William Hunton Executors of this my Last will and testament, revoking all others by me at any time before made ratifying and confirming this only. In witness where of I have hereunto set my hand and seal this second Day of June 1776.

“(The third line interlined with the figures 1776 before signed) pronounced signed & sealed in Presence of John Moffett and John Dugard,” who signed their names. Peter Cornwell and Anne Cockrell signed with their marks, and . It should be noted that the script capital P on the original document is a different signature from the PC signed on earlier documents.

He died on his land in Pignut Ridge in Fauquier County. A great-grandson, Jesse Cornwell, age 97, stated in 1934 that he was told that Peter was buried on the Manasses Road.

In August Court, 1776, the following was entered into the *Fauquier County Order Book 5*, page 266: “At a Court held for Fauquier County the 26th day of August 1776 This last Will and Testament of Peter Cornwell deceased was proved by the oaths of John Moffett and John Dugard Witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded. And on the motion of Sarah Ann Cornwell, and Simon Cornwell the Exors therein named who made oath and executed and acknowledged bond as the Law directs. Certificate is granted them for obtaining a probat thereof in due form Teste H Brookes CC

“Ordered that Moses Johnson, Thomas Maddux, George Keneard and Thomas Watts or any three of them being first sworn, do appraise the Estate of Peter Cornwell decd. and return the appraisment to the Court.

“Ordered that the Executors of Peter Cornwell deceased be summoned to appear at the next Court to answer the Complaint of Christopher Neale (formerly Servant of the said Peter Cornwell) for nonpayment of his Freedom dues.”

On Nov 5, 1776, "Relinquishment. Sarah Ann Cornwell relinquishes her right to any part of deceased husband's estate - Peter Cornwell. Signed: Sarah Ann (X) Cornwell. Wits:W. Grant, Dugard. Rec: 27 Jan. 1777, prov. by o. of John Dugard." (*Fauquier County Deed Book 6*, pages 343-344)

On May 26, 1778, the following was entered into the *Fauquier County Order Book 5 (1773-1780)*, p. 321: “Ordered that John Moffett, John Obannon, Henry Peyton & Burr Harrison or any three of them do allot to Sarah Ann Shumate late widow of Peter Cornwell deceased her dower in the Lands & Slaves whereof the said Peter decd. Possessed, and also a Childs part of the personal Estate --To which Order John Cornwell & **Simon Cornwell** Sons of the said Peter Cornwell, objected by Andrew Buchanan their Attorney as being irregular. But the Court overruled the objection because the said Attorney had first opposed the Widow having Dower, as she had proved the Will of the

Deceased as Executrix, and secondly that her relinquishment of any benefit that she might Claim under the Will had not been proved in Court by two Witnesses within Nine months after the Testators death.

On Jun 22, 1778, the inventory of Peter's estate was filed in *Fauquier County Will Book 1*, p 339. It read:

“Pursuant to an Order of Court annexed to this we whose names are here mentioned being first sworn before John Moffett Gent. Justice for the said County have appraised the Estate of Peter Cornwell deceased to be of the Value in Virginia Currency as follows--
-A true Inventory from Thomas Maddux, Thomas Watts, and George Kennard --
Appraisers --

	L	S	D		L	S	D
To 1 negroe man named Joe	75			To 1 Copper Teakettle	10		
To 1 Do. nam'd Tom	50			To 1 teapott & 4 Saucers		7	
To 1 Dol. nam'd Adam			15	To 1 box Iron & 2 heaters,&			
To 1 black horse	17			1 flat Iron & 1 Candlestick	6		
To 1 Strawberry roan Mare	15			To 1 Frying Pan	6		
To 1 bay mare Colt	12			To 1 Bottle	1	6	
To 1 Cow & Calf	3	10		To a parcel of water vessels	10		
To 1 Do. L3	3			To 1 old Gun	12		
To 2 Yearlings	2	5		To 2 Iron Potts	12		
To 2 heifer Yearlings	2	10		To a parcel of Utencils for			
To 2 heifers	5			the use of the plantation	1	15	
To 2 Red Cows	7			To 7 Chairs		14	
To 2 Do.	7			To 1 Side Saddle	1	5	
To 25 Hoggs	8			To 1 Bell		2	6
To 1 Sow & piggs & 1 Boar		18		To 4 old Casks		12	
To Pied Cow	3	10		To 6 old Do.		8	
To 1 bed, bedstead & furniture	8			To 1 Ax			
4							
To 1 Do.	6	10		To a parcel of knives & forks	3		
To 1 bedstead		7	6	To 1 pair of Stilliards	7	6	
To 1 Desk	3	10		To 2 hackles		8	
To 2 Flax Wheels	1				L287	0	7
To 1 Woolen Wheel		8					
To a parcel of Pewter	1	5					

“Errors Excepted pr. Thomas Maddux, Thomas Watts, and George Kennard

“At a Court held for Fauquier County the 22d. day of June 1778

“This Inventory & Appraisment was Returned and ordered to be Recorded

“Teste H Brooke CC”

In May Court, 1779, the following was entered in the *Fauquier County Order Book 5 (1773-1780)*, p 380:

“John Cornwell, Daniel Shumate and **Simon Cornwell** came into Court and acknowledged themselves severally indebted to His Excellency Patrick Henry Esq. Governor of Virginia and his Successors in the sums following that is to say the said John Cornwell in the sum of Five hundred pounds and the said Daniel Shumate and Simon Cornwell in the sum of Two hundred and fifty pounds each, to be levied of their Goods and Chattels, Lands and Tenements, to the use of this Commonwealth, to be void on the Condition the said John Cornwell be of good behavior towards all the Citizens of the said Common Wealth for Twelve Months.

“Jonathan Green, Plt, ag John Cornwell, Deft. Discontinued being agreed by the parties

“The Grand Jury returned into Court and made their presentment in the following words to wit

“Fauquier County to wit, We the Jurors of the Commonwealth for the body of this County aforesaid do upon oath do present --

“John Cornwell presented for allowing unlawful gaming in his house, being an Ordinary, on the Sabath day, to wit, at Cards by the information of Richard Green, Leeds Parish, within three months last past --

“William Strange presented for Gaming unlawfully at Cards on the Sabath within three Months last past in the Ordinary of John Cornwell, by information of Richard Green, Leeds Parish.”

The below list of Peter Cornwell’s children is compiled from his will and the research of Theodor Friedrich von Stauffenberg, who wrote in *The Shumate Family; A Genealogy*, Washington D.C. (1964), pages 157-158:

“From 1785 until 1787 Mark (Shumate) figures in the tax lists, with one slave. He disappears until 1796 on these records, but in 1790, he signed the marriage bond for his half-sister Peggy Shumate in Fauquier County in May, and in September he signs the bond for the marriage of Jacob Cornwell to Molly Hayes.

“In February 1791, he appears in Prince William County as bondsman for Isaac DeMarques (Jr.) who married Keziah Cornwell-- a sister of Jacob. Molly Johnston, dau. of Diana (Shumate) Johnston had earlier married another brother, **Simon Cornwell**.

“Isaac (DeMarques) Jr. does not seem to have had issue by his wife Mary Cornwell,

for a wide search of records does not show any DeMarques family in the U.S. from about 1780 on.”

Further research into the Shumate records might be revealing.

The following is a proposed list of the children of the Peter Cornwell who wrote his will and died in 1776, until more evidence is found to amend the information:

- * i **Simon**, b. ca. 1746, m. 1st, --; 2nd, Mary (Molly) Johnston before Feb, 1791; 3rd, Phebe -- before 1804, d. after 1821
- ii John
- iii Mary (Keziah), b. ca. Apr 24, 1763 (date she was received into the care of the church), m. Isaac DeMarques, Jr. in Feb, 1791, d. 1838
- iv Jacob, b. May 11, 1764, m. Mary (Molly) Hayes on Sep 16, 1790, d. Nov 15, 1827 (Jacob's son Benjamin was the grandfather of Governor John Jacob Cornwell of West Virginia from 1917-1921)
- v Daniel, b. 1756, m. Mary Ann --, d. ca. 1823
- vi Jarvis, b. ca. 1742 m. Duanna (Advanah) Holtzclaw ca. 1764
- vii Cloe, b. 1757, m. William Strange

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