

## THE SHELTON FAMILY.

**Sarah Shelton**, the first of this immediate family in Virginia, was the daughter of Charles Shelton, a commander in the British Navy, who was lost on board his ship, the *Coronation*, off Plymouth, in the English Channel, September 3, 1691. He had previously served in the *Lion*, and in the *Burford*, which took part in the action off Beachy Head June 30, 1690, between the French fleet of 78 sail commanded by the Comte de Tourville and the combined British and Dutch fleet commanded by the Earl of Torrington.

The tradition is that Sarah Shelton came to Virginia with one of her brothers, presumably William, Daniel Shelton having settled in Stratford, Connecticut.

Sarah Shelton married Richard C. Gissage, a merchant from London, residing at Acquinton in St. Stephen's Parish, New Kent (now King William). The children of this marriage were: Christian, who married a Poindexter; and Ralph, who, however, took the surname of his mother, and was called and known as Ralph Shelton of St. Mary's Parish, King William county. He was born in King and Queen (afterward King William county), September 25, 1698. His sponsors were Vincent Gage, Ralph Pea and Lydia Searcy.

Ralph Shelton (Gissage) and Mary Pollard, daughter of Robert Pollard, of King William county, were married December 5, 1702. They had issue:

Elizabeth, born August 16, 1724.

Mary, born August 1, 1726.

Richard, born August 14, 1728.

Jaue, born May 22, 1730.

William, born November 3, 1732.

John, born April 25, 1734.

Richard, the eldest son, married Mary Wright, daughter of Francis Wright of King William county, and Mary Hawkins, his wife, of Louisa county, August 20, 1746.