

A story for Nora, Elise and James

Compiled by Nora and Elise's grandfather Webb, who is James' Uncle Tom

February 2020



Nora Olivia Webb, Elise Ella Webb and John James Webb,

You descend from loving parents, grandparents, great-grandparents and on, and on. You share the characteristics of those who came before you and at some point, when you get older, you likely will have an interest and curiosity in learning more about those ancestors. There are other write-ups on your broader family, but his story is only about your direct Webb line.

Since your last name is Webb it would be typical for you to have a special interest in the Webb family, even though there are so many other sides of your family. You have four grandparents, eight great-grandparents, 16 great-great grandparents and so forth, doubling with every generation. You can think of it this way, that you have one-half of your characteristics that are inherited from you mother and one-half from your father, and one-fourth from each of your grandparents, and so on down through the lines and down through the ages. So when you get way back in time there really is not that much of your makeup coming from say one single 5th great-grandfather, as an example (1/64th or ~1.6%); but still, a distant relative's story from the 1700s may be of interest to you. It is real life history, and that is what this little write-up is about. It is based on what we have learned through oral family tradition, through on-site searches at Virginia and Tennessee courthouses, through communication with other relatives, through online searches, DNA test results, and also from reading books.

There may be mistakes here and there, but it is what we know or think we know at this point in time. As you mature, more information will become readily accessible. You may want to fill in missing information, and expand it to other parts of your family history. It can be a fun hobby and if you like history it can be fascinating. When you travel to places that your family used to live, it can be a meaningful experience to you and can make that trip even more fun than it would have been. As an example, maybe you want to someday travel to Statesville, Wilson County, Tennessee and see Webb Branch, which shows up even today on maps as a creek flowing to Smith's Fork. Statesville is where your Webb relatives settled after coming from Virginia to Tennessee way back in about 1817. Names of roads and creeks and mountains can hark back to the names of people who lived there a long time ago.

A southern tradition is to keep the memory alive of those who have gone before us; to talk about them so that others may know them in a way as if they knew them themselves. It is almost like they could be in the next room, ready to tell their own stories. One of your great-grandfathers, George Cathcart Webb, Sr. (born 1914 in Watertown, Tennessee) did just that for us. Through his stories we came to know his mother's mother, Mattie Rushing Cathcart, in some small way, even though we never met her. It is in recognition of that southern tradition that these stories and photos are recorded here, tracing your Webb line.

From Psalms 102 - - -

¹⁸ " Let this be written for a future generation,
that a people not yet created may praise the LORD:

²⁵ In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth,
and the heavens are the work of your hands.

²⁸ The children of your servants will live in your presence;
their descendants will be established before you."

Introduction

"I saw behind me those who had gone, and before me those who are to come. I looked back and saw my father and his father and all our fathers, and in front to see my son and his son, and the sons upon sons beyond. And their eyes were my eyes. As I felt so they had felt, and were to feel, as then, so now, as tomorrow and forever. . . . for I was in a long line that had no beginning and no end. And the hand of his father grasped my father's hand and his hand was in mine, and my unborn son took my right hand and all, up and down the line that stretched from Time-That-Was to Time-That-Is and Is-Not-Yet, raised their hands to show the link. And we found that we were one...."

From: *How Green Was My Valley*, by Richard Llewellyn

Your last name is called a surname. Surnames generally were derived from one of four sources:

- the name of the person's father
- the person's locality
- the person's occupation, or
- a descriptive nickname for the person.

When last names / surnames were created for the common man back in the 1400s in England and Scotland, they answered one of the following questions: Who is this person's father? Where is this person from? What does this person do for a living? What is his or her most prominent feature? Having a last name became more important when taxation came into being and there came a need to keep track of people and to create written records. Instead of referring to a man back in the 1400s as say "John's son" it became easier to call the man by a first name followed by his new last name of Johnson. It is generally thought then, as another example, that the weavers of cloth in England became the Webbs. Webb was a name given to a weaver of fabric, from the Old English word "webbe," meaning *a woven cloth*.

Webb typically was an English surname. Going way back in time, we do not have information on which Webb for sure from whom we descend. However, we now have strong evidence to show that it was from a Webb Englishman. We do not know for sure his first name, but likely it was Edward. DNA testing evidence shows us going back to an Edward Webb, born in 1622 in Lurgan, Armagh, Northern Ireland. Edward Webb's father may have been Richard Webb of Avening, Gloucestershire (pronounced gloss-tur-sure), England, born about 1592. Many English moved to Northern Ireland in the early to mid-1600s when English officials were encouraging such movement to make that area of Ireland more productive economically, for the Crown. Weavers who had experience working in areas of England famous for that craft were encouraged to move to the Northern Ireland plantation, similar to what was going on in the Jamestown, Virginia plantation at the same time.

Gloucestershire, the administrative, geographic, and historic county of southwest England, lies at the head of the River Severn estuary on the border with Wales. The administrative county comprises six districts: Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud, the boroughs of Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, and the city of Gloucester, the county seat. Gloucester is about 95 miles from London.

Note that the Cotswold area had a prosperous woolen textile industry based on the raising of local sheep from the mid-14th to the late 18th century. Bristol prospered during the same period as a cloth-weaving center. Weaving of coarse woolen cloth was the chief industry in England during the centuries when surnames became hereditary. Evidence leads to a conclusion that our Webbs were weavers in Gloucestershire, England at the time that surnames began to be passed on from generation to generation.

The reasons for saying this started with a visit to the historical library in Basset, Virginia in 2006. There in a book it was stated that the Webb family of Virginia came from “the Shire of Gloucester, England. Some landed in the first ship to Virginia in 1607. They were followed by other Webbs on later supply ships in 1609 and then others. Some served in the House of Burgesses and owned large plantations in the Tidewater area. Descendants moved up the James River to an area just south of Richmond, in Henrico County and Varinia Courthouse. They then moved up the river to Goochland County.” That thought was filed away and then in 2009 the results from a DNA test placed your grandfather in the Giles Webb group.

Giles Webb was born in 1622 in Gloucestershire, England, and died in 1692 in Richmond County, Virginia. Later, the *Webb DNA Project* leadership changed and the new administrator set up a new grouping for people tracing back to your 6th great-grandfather, John Webb (died 1794 in Halifax County, Virginia). There were many in this group but how the relationships existed way back in time was hard to determine with any certainty. There were many John Webbs during the 1700s in Virginia. Then though, tracing backwards in generations from some of those with DNA test results matching your grandfather’s, led to the knowledge that the Lurgan Webbs of Ulster, Ireland likely were our relation. Those Webbs were Quakers in Ulster at the time when the denomination was catching hold in Northern Ireland. Many Webbs show up in the monthly meeting records still available in Lurgan. The Quakers were very good at keeping records, many of which survive today. As an example, the following was transcribed by an individual who travelled to Lurgan to search the late 1600s Quaker records, to transcribe them and then to type them up to make it easier for other researchers.

Page 197 Webb Family Records

Roger Webb, son of Edward Webb, (then of Dunmurry in the County of Antrim) and of Margrit his wife; was borne in Dunmurry aforesaid, about the yeare 1622, and being by trade a wheel-wright (or turner) and on the third day of ye twelveth month Anno Domini 1649 he tooke to wife, Ann, ye daughter of Adam Stowcroft of Hartford Green (now Charle) in Lancashire in England and Margery his wife, and had by her Children borne as followeth.

Edward Webb, ye son of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne the beginning of the fifth month in ye yeare 1651.

James Webb, ye son of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne the beginning of the fifth month in ye yeare 1651.

James Webb, ye son of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne ye 25th day of the first month, Anno domini 1654.

John Webb 3d son of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon in ye parish of Sego and County of Ardmagh the 16th day of the ninth month Anno Domini 1656.

Edward Webb, 4th son of Roger Webb, & of his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd the 14th day of ye first month Anno Domini 1659.

Deborah Webb, 1st daughter of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd the 26th day of ye eight month Anno Domini 1661.

Jonathan Webb, 5th son of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd, the first day of ye second month Anno Domini 1664.

Ruth Webb, 2d daughter of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd, the first day of ye 6th month Anno. Domini 1666.

Mary Webb, 3d daughter of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd the 24th day of ye 11th month, Anno Domini. 1668.

Mary Webb, 4th daughter of Roger Webb, & of Ann his wife was borne at Accomon aforesd, the 29th day of ye 3 month Anno Domini 1671.

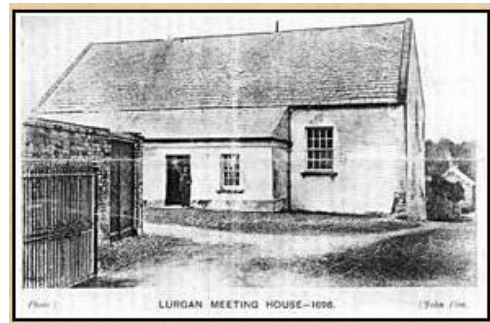
Roger Webb, 6th son of Roger Webb & Ann his wife, was borne at Accomon aforesd the 23d day of ye 7th month Anno Domini 1674

Ulster in Northern Ireland was established as an English plantation, like Jamestown, Virginia was. This town of Lurgan in Ulster, Northern Ireland came from the Irish word meaning *the long ridge*. Lurgan is in the county Armagh. The town is near the southern shore of Lough Neagh and in the northeastern corner of the county. Lurgan is about 18 miles southwest of Belfast.

Edward Webb was a Quaker. The Quakers also went by the name of The Society of Friends. Research by a distant cousin who travelled to Ireland to do family history research, coupled with personal DNA test results on 37 markers, allowed us to draw some conclusions that our own Webb family line is connected to Edward Webb's (born 1622). So far it has not been possible to identify who exactly was the direct link to our John Webb, but after 40 plus years of looking for a connection I am satisfied that we have found the origin of the original Webb family. I believe that they were in Gloucestershire, England and moved to Lurgan, Ulster, Northern Ireland, then to Talbot County, Maryland, then to Virginia and then to Tennessee in about 1817.

Now a bit about the Society of Friends, before delving into your confirmed direct Webb line, which traces back to John Webb (~1723 – 1794) as your 6th great grandfather. The parts in quotes were written by others.

"William Edmundson, born in 1627, was the father of Quakerism in Ireland. He served as a soldier under Cromwell through the campaigns in England and Scotland. On a trip to England in 1653 to purchase supplies he encountered preaching by James Naylor and became interested in the Society of Friends. In 1654 William Edmundson moved from Antrim to Lurgan. There he gathered with his wife and some friends and this was later viewed as the first meeting of the Society of Friends in Ireland. Converts followed, generally those from English origin. Within a short time a small number of homes in the Craigavon area became meeting areas for Quaker worship, and included the home of the Webb family in Aghacommon. The first Lurgan meeting house was built in 1696 as a result of monies donated by 120 families and members of the Quaker congregation, including Roger Webb. The chief subscriber was Robert Hooke, a prominent local linen merchant who donated about 25% of the funds needed to build the meeting house."



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Roger Webb was the son of an earlier settler and was born in Dunmurry in 1622. He moved to Lurgan in the middle of the 1600s and acquired a lease of town land in Annaloiste and also in part of Aghacommon. Here is an old Quaker record showing tenants of the Manor of Brownlows-Derry, and this Roger Webb was perhaps the son or grandson of the Roger Webb who was born in Dunmurry in about 1622:

Webb, Joseph (Roger's heir)	1727	Linen Draper	Lurgan
Webb, Richard	1727	Farmer	Aghacommon
Webb, Roger	1710	—	—
Webb, Roger	1713	Farmer	Aghacommon

Many of the Lurgan Society of Friends were involved in the production of linen, like Joseph Webb who is shown in the tenant register above and listed as a linen draper, meaning a wholesale seller of linen.

"The early Quakers looked to Lurgan as their center, as most were tenants of the Brownlow estate. The majority were immigrants from the North of England and they brought with them skills that were valued by the ambitious and enterprising landlord, Arthur Chamberlain Brownlow. He readily accepted as tenants weavers and tanners who were likely to develop the economic potential of his lands. Many lived in the area

between Portadown and Lurgan in the parish of Seagoe. Early meeting places included the homes of Francis Robson in Tamnificarbet and of Roger Webb in Aughaccommon, only a few miles from the Portadown crossing-place. The old Friends burial-ground at Lynastown was also in this densely settled area."

"By 1693 at least fourteen Quaker families were dwelling in Lurgan town. This urban concentration was probably related to the growth of the town's linen industry. The mutual well-being of all Quakers could best be advanced by having some in the country and others in town. Marketing and some degree of bleaching and finishing were done in town, whilst flax-growing, spinning and weaving were all country based. By this stage the Quaker community was no longer subject to persecution and in fact was favoured by the Brownlows because of their contribution to the prosperity of the town through their industry and enterprise. Their particular ways were tolerated and they no longer posed a threat to the ecclesiastical establishment. By the end of the century most of the original pioneers of the movement had died and the fire which characterised their radical message had waned."

"In the year 1654 Lurgan was the site for the establishment of the first Quaker meeting in Ireland initiated by the well know Quaker William Edmondson, the acknowledged pioneer of Irish Quakerism. He gathered a few like-minded individuals to worship in his house. Five miles to the west regular meetings were first held later in the same year in the home of Margery Atkinson near the ancient church of Kilmore. Soon after a permanent meeting was formed in the townland of Ballyhagan. To travel between the two places one would have to negotiate the river Bann at the crossing place of Port an Dunain (landing-place of the ferry). "

"Quakerism, which had its origins in England, became strong during the English civil war period of the 1640s when such "radical" thought was fostered by the army. By the 1650s Lurgan presented an ideal location for the Quakers. It was unwallled, non-corporate, and guild free. Linen weaving in North Armagh, in similar fashion to peasant cloth techniques in England, required transformation of technique by an injection of help and skill from outside the area. This the Quakers and others supplied."

"History has shown us however that even in Lurgan the Quakers were not free from persecution. Christopher Hillary had been a member of the Militia in Lurgan under a Captain Draper. When he was convinced of "the truth" and accepted Friends ways he could no longer for conscience sake bear weapons and refused to carry out his duties. As punishment he was put on a thing they call the wooden horse with three muskets at each leg and ordered to sit until four inches of match was burned, and afterwards committed to jail. At the following session he was cleared by proclamation, but kept in prison for fees."

In our likely line Edward Webb (born 1622) and wife Ann's children included Richard, Ann, John and Edward. Son John Webb and some of the others came to the Colonies in the mid-1600s. There are old Quaker meeting records from "Third Haven Monthly Meetings" in Maryland that we have seen, showing these Webbs. The Webbs were active Quakers in Talbot County, Maryland in the late 1600s. As mentioned previously, we now believe that those were our Webbs, based on DNA results from descendants matching us and family trees by others. Here is a sample of a Talbot County, Maryland 1670 to 1677 record:

1670 Mary Webb, the daughter of Richard Webb, and Elizabeth his wife was born the 10th day of the ninth month 1670.

1673 Richard Webb, the son of Richard Webb, & Elizabeth his wife was born the 18th day of the first month 4th Month 1673

1676 John the son of Richard Webb, & Elizabeth his wife was born the 4th day of the second month 1676

1677 Elizabeth the daughter of Richard Webb, & Elizabeth his wife was born the 13th day of the ninth month 1677

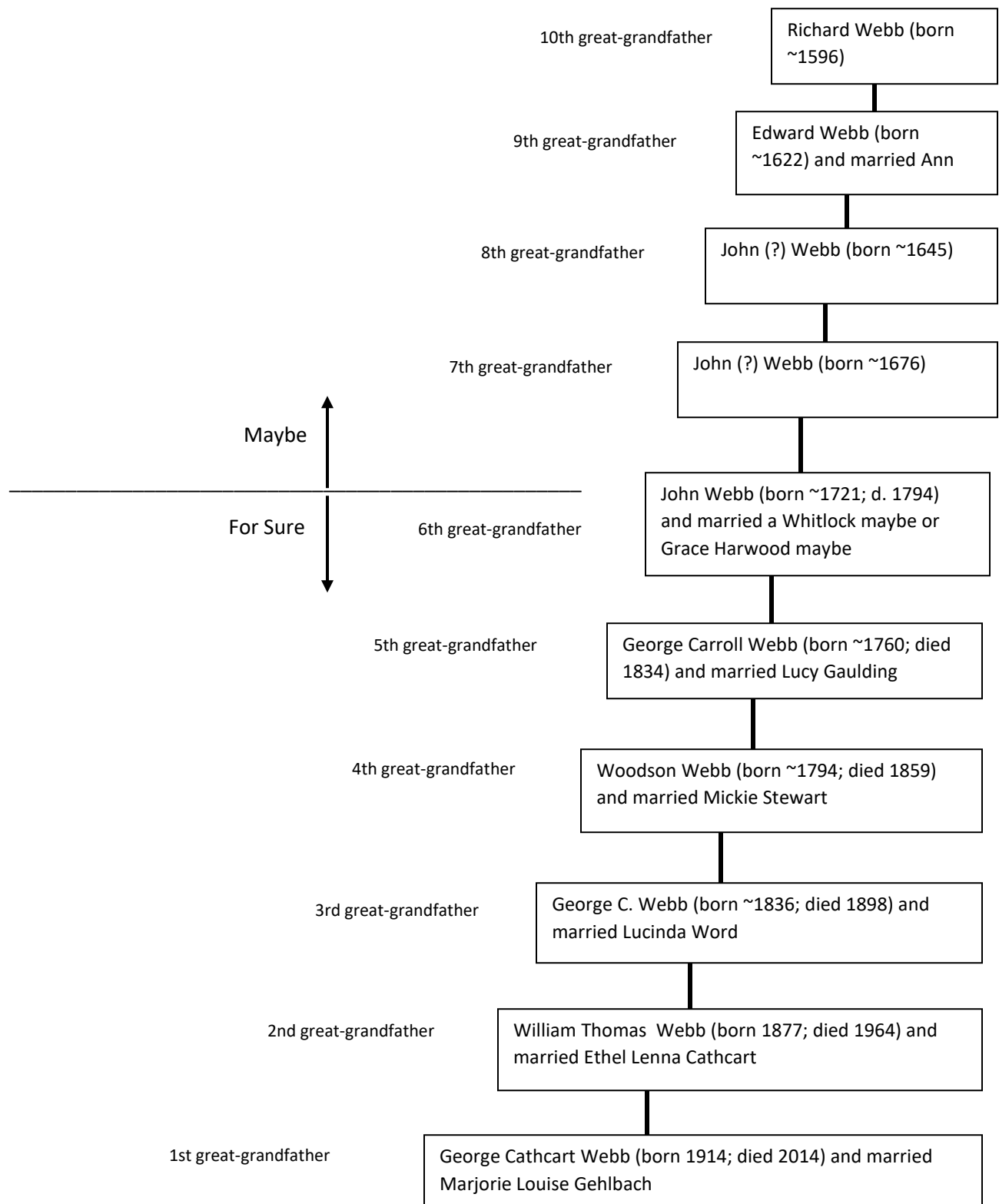
In the example that follows a John Webb is appearing at a Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends to announce his intention to marry Grace Harwood on December 28, 1739. It made me wonder if maybe this was your 6th great-grandfather. Your great-great grandfather's written recollection (William Thomas Webb's) mentioned a marriage to a Polly Hazelwood, but it was unclear who that reference was to. It likely was on the Stewart side of the family, but could it have really been your 6th great-grandfather John Webb marrying this lady, Grace Harwood? The name Polly was a nickname, generally for Mary, but maybe it was used as a nickname for Grace too, or maybe here middle name was Mary. We don't know if this John Webb is in our direct John Webb line, but it is a Quaker marriage of a John Webb in Talbot County, Maryland, where DNA test results of descendants places us. If our John Webb really was born in 1723, then a 1739 intention to marry date would be a little early. However, the birth date for John always has been an estimate based on the birthdates of his children and a recognition of his 1794 passing. If your 6th great-grandfather was born in say 1721, then a 1739 early announcement of an intention to marry would not have been uncommon for a 18 year old man. The way The Society of Friends handled marriages was for monthly meeting attendees to announce their intention, see if anyone objects and do this for many meetings, eventually being recognized as a marriage if no one objected.

Sam. Chapman Transcribing
 John Webb of Grace Harwood appeared in this meeting and
 declared their intentions of marriage this being the first time of their
 to appearing James Willson & John Cooper is appointed to inspect into
 the ceremony of John Webb & report to our next monthly meeting
 At a conference of John Webb & report to our next monthly meeting
 At a conference of John Webb & report to our next monthly meeting

So, it is hard to sort out which of Edward Webb's (born 1622) sons may be in our direct line, but maybe it was one of Edward's son, John Webb, who would have been born around 1645. That John had a son John Webb, shown in Maryland Quaker records as being born May 4, 1676 in Maryland, passing on in 1749 in Talbot County, Maryland. There was Richard Webb (1646 – 1677) and his wife Elizabeth Webb (1657 – 1711) in Talbot County. Then there were Webbs who migrated from Maryland to Virginia, which was a common practice as settlers looked for fertile lands at fair prices, more remote from the big settlements where the ports were.

All of those names and dates probably makes it hard to follow. So below it is shown in graphical form the male Webb family line, hopefully making things more clear. Let's start with Richard Webb, with the

likelihood that he was the father of Edward Webb, your 9th great-grandfather, and work towards the present day. The chart delineates what information is confirmed by a paper trail, and what is open for interpretation (marked as maybe). Stories follow after that.



A recent find shows that your 5th great-grandfather, George Webb, was a Quaker. His 1789 marriage to Lucy Gaulding is shown under the heading of *Marriage Bonds of Campbell County, Virginia* in Volume VI of *The Encyclopedia of American Quaker Genealogy*, by William Wade Hinshaw, page 683 (1950). It reads "1789. 11, 2 – George Webb and Lucy Gaulding." The Quakers did not believe in calling months of the year by their typical names, as that was seen as supporting names of non-Christian origin. Rather, they simply went by the number of the month of the year, as in 11 for November for dates after 1752, under the Gregorian calendar.

As mentioned earlier, a book found in the Basset, VA historical library stated that the Webb family of Virginia came from the Shire of Gloucester, England. Some landed in the first ship to Virginia in 1607, followed by others. Descendants moved up the James River to Goochland County.

In 1634 all of the occupied territory in Virginia was divided into eight shires, and these were to be governed like English shires. Goochland County was formed after the establishment of the eight shires. Goochland County was formed in 1728 from Henrico County. When founded, Goochland County included all the land from Tuckahoe Creek on the west side of Richmond, on both sides of the James River, all the way west to the Blue Ridge Mountains. At that point it had the present day Virginia counties of Goochland, Chesterfield, Powhatan, Buckingham, Fluvanna, Cumberland, Appomattox, Albemarle, Amherst and Nelson, representing some 4,100 square miles of settled and not-so-settled territory.

As recorded in the Basset, VA historical library some of the Webbs crossed the James River and moved in a southwesterly direction through Buckingham, Albemarle, Amherst, Bedford and to Franklin County, where some of the descendants settled. The oldest written record that we have been able to find of our Virginia ancestors is from John Webb's 1780 purchase of 100 acres on Difficult Creek in Halifax County, Virginia, near the border with North Carolina. This John Webb was your 6th great-grandfather, born around 1723, but exactly what year we do not know. We now believe that it is likely that he was born in Talbot County, Maryland. Early records are scarce and many records have been lost over the years due to courthouse fires, the Revolutionary War and the Civil War. So far we do not have a baptism record for John Webb, which depending on the family's alliance at the time and with what church, would likely have been the first written record available for your 6th great-grandfather John Webb. We do know that at the end of his days John Webb was in Halifax County, Virginia in 1794, as we have a copy of his last will and testament.

As late as 1752 what was then called Halifax County, Virginia had Franklin, Patrick, Henry, Pittsylvania and today's Halifax County within its bounds. Someone fortunate enough to have lived from the 1720s to 1794, passing on in Halifax County, Virginia, could have lived their whole life in Prince George County (formed in 1703), Brunswick County, (1732), Lunenburg County (1746) and Halifax County (1752) without having moved an inch. That likely was not the case with your 6th great-grandfather John Webb though, as settlement in what is now Halifax County, VA was almost non-existent in the 1720s. The lands were those of the American Indians. Evidence suggests he was born in Talbot County, Maryland I believe.

Early on during the family history research there were some early promising leads to an earlier ancestor on the Webb side, but those later were disproved. Henry Webb (b: 1620; d: 1686) of Charles Parish, York County, VA, with sons John Webb, William Webb and Thomas Webb were ruled out through DNA evidence. John Webb (b: ~1670; d: 1736) married Jane Martin, whose ancestors founded the town of Martinsville, VA, now in Henry County. Also, to the northwest in 1731 Goochland County there were Merry Webb, Henry Webb, John Webb and Giles Webb, all of them old enough to have been heads of households at that point, and once thought possibly to include the father of our John Webb, but those have been ruled out as well.

So there were many men with the name John Webb, and it is easy to go down a false path as you try to trace an ancestor from the few scant records that do survive.

The further back you go in Colonial America the harder it is to make the connections. Written records were few, and what official records that there were sometimes were lost in court house fires or in the Revolutionary War or in the American Civil War. And then the fact that there were 60 heads of families named Webb in the 1790 federal census, 12 of which were John Webbs, makes it even harder. Having said that though, we are grateful for the amount of information that we have been able to gather and are happy to be able to show it here on the Webb side.

Since you three can learn your father and grandfathers' stories by talking directly with them, this write-up starts with your great-grandfather on the Webb side, George Cathcart Webb, and then works backwards in time to those early 1600 Webbs in Northern Ireland.

This write-up is dedicated to the memory of George Cathcart Webb.





Woodson Webb (~1794 – 1859)

John Webb (6th great-grandfather to Nora, Elise and James Webb)

John Webb is the first Webb that we have been able to trace with a hard paper trail. John Webb's date of birth has not been firmly established. We have seen references to "before 1715" to 1723, with circa 1721 appearing most often. We know the names of his children who lived to adulthood (Edmund, Elizabeth ("Betsy"), Susannah and George Webb), but we do not know the name of his wife. Her last name might have been Whitlock, but we do not know that for sure. Maybe it was Grace Harwood, as mentioned before from the Talbot County, Maryland record of a May 8, 1740 Third Haven monthly meeting.

Quakers did not fight in wars, so the reference to a John Webb in the 1776 list of Tories in the Rutherford County, NC area likely is not your 6th great-grandfather, nor the John Webb who is on the Revolutionary War rolls, 3rd Regiment from Maryland, listed in 1778.

We do know that our John Webb died in late December 1794 in Halifax County, VA. Some reports list John Webb as a Baptist minister, helping to found Ebenezer Baptist Church near Naruna, VA and also Childrey Baptist Church near Nathalie, VA. Both locations are near land he owned in Halifax County, VA starting in 1780. Correspondence in 2009 with the pastors at those churches did not result in confirmation though. Then you have to wonder about a change from Quaker to Baptist. This did happen, as some were expelled for taking up other beliefs, or wanting more freedom to exercise their own judgment. The record copied below is an example of one nearby Virginia man leaving the Quakers for the Baptists. There were active Quaker meeting houses in the Campbell County and Halifax County, Virginia area, like the South River Monthly Meeting in Lunenburg County, Virginia. The following excerpt speaks of this Quaker, John Kearby.

The first record to be found for John Kearby is a land grant dated 1 Dec. 1740 for 400 acres in Goochland County among the branches of the Byrd Creek, bounded by William Martin, William Banks and Charles Massie. He lived there about eight years and on 20 Sept. 1748 John and Joanna his wife, of Parish of St. James Northam, sold all of the 400 acres for 65 current money to Thomas Massie of the same parish and county. The bounding landowners and description were the same, there were no witnesses and the deed was recorded 20 Sept. 1748.

He then moved to Lunenburg County where his mention in Quaker records has been mentioned before. On 16 May 1767 John and his wife Hannah were dismissed from the South River Monthly Meeting because they joined the Baptist Church.

We have a copy of John Webb's last will and testament, and his household inventory from December 22, 1794 and April 27, 1795, respectively.¹ The inventory lists items that would have been common to small farms in that day. Items of value included a bay mare, a black horse, barrels of corn, saws, tools, kitchen utensils, sheep shears, a looking glass, an Old Testament, furniture, pewter, a flax wheel, a spinning wheel, a hymn book, a saddle, saddle bags, a gun, a box of iron, hogs, pigs, hides, and other items and livestock like that. The court record shows that John Webb died shortly after December 22, 1794.

The reference to orphan John A. Crane, the son of William Crane, is interesting in that another historical record in another Virginia county shows a John Webb listed next to a John Craine. There is a State Enumeration for Virginia that was compiled in 1782 that shows a John Webb in Northumberland County, and next to him in the list is John Craine. That could mean something to us, or it could just be a coincidence. So that is an example of how it is easy to go down a path based on a couple of likely leads, but not really have confirmation that it is the same individual whom you are interested in. You don't really know. Our John Webb bought the Halifax County land in 1780 but the sketchiness of him being listed in tax rolls or not, year to year from 1780 to 1794, makes you wonder if maybe he was somewhere else besides Halifax County for part of that time.

In their 2006 book *Nonie Webb and Winnie Webb Whitaker* referenced the last will and testament of John Webb, and added the comment "children to Wilson County, Tennessee."² The children receiving inheritance in John Webb's last will and testament were his grown children Edmond Webb (b: 1749; d: ~1821), Elizabeth "Betsy" Webb Gary (stated as Elizabeth Webb (b: 1751), Suaner Whitlock (Susannah Webb b: 1767; m: Thomas Whitlock in 1788, with James Hurt solemnizing the marriage³), and George Webb, your 5th great-grandfather.

Nora, Elise and James Webb's 7th great-grandfather, and earlier

We do not have a paper trail, so to speak, for the father of our John Webb, who died in Halifax County, Virginia in 1794. DNA results, and research by others, suggests that we are in the line leading back to Edward Webb, born in 1622 in Lurgan, Ireland. This already has been covered for you in the introduction to this write-up. Most likely you trace back to your 10th great-grandfather, Richard Webb of Gloucestershire, England.

Some photos of your ancestors follow, along with some photos of places that likely will be of interest to you as you grow older.

¹ Halifax County Wills, 1792 – 1797, page 142.

² *Keepsake Memories of the Merry Webb Families* by Nonie Webb and Winnie Webb Whitaker (2006).

³ *Marriages of Campbell County, VA, 1782 – 1810*, compiled by L. Baber and H. Williamson, Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1980.



Ethel Lenna Cathcart Webb holding
George Cathcart Webb on the porch of
their home on Commerce Pike north of



George Webb in ~1917 on
back porch of the Cathcart
home with Leathy Glimpse - -
Note the WWI uniform



George Cathcart Webb at the
Cathcart farm on McMinnville
Pike, circa 1930



William Thomas Webb and George
Cathcart Webb, circa 1918



Thomas Edward Webb and Tyler Wybest
Webb, 1985



Campground Cemetery on top of a hill on the dead-end road, Harden Hollow Road, Statesville, Wilson County, Tennessee. It is likely that the Webbs who came from Virginia to Statesville, TN are buried there. We know that Elizabeth "Betsy" Webb Davis, daughter of George Webb (b. ~1760) has a gravestone there. Photo taken November 2019.



George Cathcart Webb in Italy during WWII



Oakley Branch, that tees into Webb Branch, off Rock Springs Road in Statesville, TN



TOP: The Cumberland Presbyterian Church (Picture courtesy of Raymond Tarpley.) The church was located near the east end of Statesville, a beautiful building.

Mildred Jennings Frye remembers her great Aunt Etna Rucker saying the church was there before the Civil War. Mrs. Frye remembers when she was a child there were 250 to 300 members and during revivals there were such crowds the people sat all around the two steps that surrounded the pulpit. Mr. Georgie Patton led the singing. He taught Willie Mae Ford and Montie Rae Word to play the organ for church. Mrs. Frye said, "as kids we would get upset because he didn't want to sing new songs." Uncle Tony Patterson, Mr. Georgie Patton, Mr. Hershel Thompson and Andy Robinson were some of the Elders. (This was early 1920's.) The church became inactive in 1947. Some of the early pastors were: 1900 - P.A. Lyon, 1917 - 18 C.K. Carlock, 1923 - 25 Hardy Copeland, 1926 S.L. Hall, 1927 - 29 Hardy Copeland, 1930 - 34 J.E. Powers, 1935 - 37 McAdoo, 1938 J.M. Forsythe, 1939, S.O. McAdoo, 1942 - 45, W.W. Suddarth.

The church where William Thomas Webb's sister, Zella, played the organ. This was reported in an 1889 newspaper article in *The Liberty Herald*. It is assumed that the Webb family were members there. The church no longer stands.



A Woodbury, TN photo taken ~1918. Back row, left to right, it is William Thomas Webb, Lucious Cathcart, Matthew Cathcart, Kent Cain Cathcart, William Alexander Cathcart, Allen N. Cathcart, and Dr. Doak. Middle row, left to right it is Ethel Lenna Cathcart Webb, Myrtle Cathcart. Front row, left to right it is George Cathcart Webb, Martha Lucinda Rushing Cathcart, Thomas Doak, and Earline Cathcart Doak.



George Cathcart Webb, William Thomas Webb, Nashville, TN, 1929



Talbot County, Easton, Maryland



George Cathcart Webb, Sr. and his grandchildren; L to R - Henry Hinnefeld, Marjorie Webb, Ty Webb, George Cathcart Webb, Sr., Alex Webb, Matthew Webb, Dan Webb, Will Hinnefeld, Harbert, MI, 2008



Suzanne Webb and George Cathcart Webb at Gardner-Webb University at Boiling Springs, NC,



William Alexander Webb and George Cathcart Webb, Harbert, MI, 2008



George Cathcart Webb, II and George Cathcart Webb, Sr., Chicago, IL, 2007



George and Lavenia Word Webb's 1870 home on Webb Branch, Rock Springs Road, Statesville, TN. Photo was taken in 1988.



A charcoal drawing of George C. Webb from ~1895, drawn by his daughter, Zella Gwendoline Webb Hightower



Ethel Lenna Cathcart Webb holding George Cathcart Webb on the porch of their home on Commerce Pike north of Watertown, TN, 1914.

DESCRIPTION OF APPLICANT.

Age: <u>36</u> years.	Mouth: <u>Small</u>
Stature: <u>5</u> feet, <u>4</u> inches, Eng.	Chin: <u>Round</u>
Forehead: <u>Medium</u>	Hair: <u>Dark Brown</u>
Eyes: <u>Blue</u>	Complexion: <u>Fair</u>
Nose: <u>Small</u>	Face: <u>Round</u>
Distinguishing marks <u>NONE</u>	

IDENTIFICATION.

April 2d, 1921

I, Frank M. Eviston, solemnly swear that I am a native citizen of the United States; that I reside at Kansas City, Missouri; that I have known the above-named Z. Gwendoline Hightower personally for 10 years and know him to be a native citizen of the United States; and that the facts stated in his affidavit are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Frank M. Eviston
Assistant Sales Agent
(Occupation)
4228 Wabash Ave., Kansas City, Mo.
(Address of witness.)

Sworn to before me this 2d day
of April, 19 21

[Seal] EDWIN R. DURHAM
Clerk of the U.S. Dist. Court at Kansas City, Missouri
By *A. Vinick* Deputy

Applicant desires passport to be sent to the following address:
Mrs. Z. Gwendoline Hightower
Recharbeau Hotel
Kansas City, Missouri

Settle



Zella Gwendoline Webb Hightower's 1921 passport photo. She was the only living sister of your 2nd great-grandfather, William Thomas Webb.

Zella Gwendoline Webb Hightower's 1921 passport application, describing her as 5'-4" tall, blue eyes and with dark brown hair. She was one of your great aunts, and shaved some years off her age in this application I think. Your grandfathers never met her.

EARLY RELATIONS OF BAPTISTS AND QUAKERS

R. E. E. HARKNESS

Chester, Pennsylvania

On a little hillside that rises abruptly from the Baltimore Pike, an old highway from Philadelphia to Baltimore, some fifty miles south of Philadelphia, stands a little old meeting-house around which gather many interesting historical incidents. It is the home of the Brandywine Baptist Church, on the edge of the famous Brandywine battle field where Washington, joined for the first time by Lafayette, met defeat by the British under Howe and Cornwallis and was forced to abandon Philadelphia, September 11, 1777. Giant oak trees tower high on the hillside to-day and members of the church will point out the one against which, according to tradition, the young French general leaned, severely wounded.

But the church, housed by that stone structure, was old when the Declaration of Independence was signed in the city to the north. Nor does its chief historical value rest in the fact that the site of its building lies in the midst of one of the great battle grounds of that war. Its larger interest is to be found in the fact that the history of this particular church, especially in its origin, reveals in a rather exceptional way the nature of religion as a movement in the life of a people, a rationalization in support of their choices, decisions and conduct, in their effort to establish themselves, find security and highest well-being.

For this church had its beginning in 1692, only ten years after the coming of William Penn to America, and was the result of a radical revolutionary modification of the thinking and practice of certain Quakers. By this date some of the members of that religious body had moved this distance from the main centre at Philadelphia, following the water-courses. Here in the wilderness, with all its dangers, the simple Quaker faith and manner of life was not sufficient to give them assurance of complete security. Hence many of them turned Baptist. But it may be well to let them tell their own story.

Recently a little sheet of paper came to light, discovered in the ancient record book of this church. From all evidences it was written at the time by those involved in the transaction. The state-

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There are more photographs and more information on the Webb side of the family in a book that your father has, entitled *Ancestors of George Cathcart Webb & Marjorie Louise Gehlbach, the Webbs, Words, Cathcarts, Rushings, Gehlbachs, Schneiders, Shucks and Sherrills, A Family History* (May 2010).

From Psalms 53:2 - - - "God looks down from heaven upon us all, to see if there is anyone who is wise, who seeks after God."