

MERIWETHER of Virginia and Georgia

Legend. *The Meriwethers that came to America from England had the personal friendship of King George II, who gave them immense grants of land. Nicholas Meriwether, II, b. in Wales, 26th October, 1657, came to America and settled in Virginia near Charlottesville, where he died in December, 1744. He was a son of Nicholas Meriwether of England, who died in 1678, and from his courses the Meriwether blood in nearly every prominent family in Virginia. In 1730, a large grant of land, 17, 952 acres was given by King George II, and this patent was signed by William Gooch, the Governor of the Colony, and is still preserved, besides many other tracts of land amounting to thousands of acres. He was a vestryman of St. Peter's Church from 1685 to 1698; was a Burgess of Virginia from New Kent County from 1702 to 1714. During his term of office, Bruton Parish being the church of the capital of the Colony, His Excellency, the Governor, attended by his council of state and surrounded by the members of the House of Burgesses, gave the church an official distinction and in 1710, the old brick church became inadequate to the needs of the situation, so that it was determined that a new church should be built. The House of Burgesses stated that they would appropriate a sufficient sum of money for building pews for the Governor, Council and Houses of Burgesses, and appointed Mr. Nicholas Meriwether to cooperate with the vestry in the undertaking. He acquired very great wealth, which he distributed among his children. He owned many fine horses, some plate and a great many negroes, and several fine tracts of land. He was the oldest of his brothers that came over from England to make their homes in America; was married to a Miss Elizabeth Crawford, dau. of David Crawford, Esq., of Assasquin, New Kent County, Virginia." Colonial Families of the United States by George Norbury Mackenzie, Vol. V, , pp. 392-3.

Nicholas Meriwether died in Wales on 12/19/1678, married Elizabeth Wodenhouse. Issue.

Francis Meriwether.

David Meriwether, emigrate to America.

William Meriwether, emigrate to America.

Thomas Meriwether.

Nicholas Meriwether, son of Nicholas (above) was born 1647 in Wales, and died near Charlottesville, Virginia in 1744. He came to America with his two brothers (David and William) during the reign of Charles II in 1681 and accepted a large land grant in Virginia in settlement of a substantial loan made by his father to the Crown. He was married to Elizabeth Crawford, the daughter of David Crawford of New Kent County, Virginia. Issue.

- Jane Meriwether, born in Jamestown, Virginia, married Colonel Robert Lewis.

- Thomas Meriwether, died 1702/1703 in Essex County, Virginia. Son: Nicholas Meriwether.
- Nicholas Meriwether, born 7/3/1699, married Mildred Thornton.
- William Meriwether, born 1678 in Jamestown, Virginia. married, had seven children.
- Elizabeth Meriwether, born ca 1657 in Jamestown, Virginia, married Thomas Bray.
- Anne Meriwether married Thomas Johnson.
- Sarah Meriwether married William Littlepage.
- Mary Meriwether married John Aylett.
- David Meriwether, Colonel, 1690–1744, married Miss Ann Holmes, daughter of George Holmes of King and Queen County, Virginia. He inherited a portion of his father's estate in Louisa County and this is where he settled. He was buried on the east bank of the Rivanna River near Charlottesville, Virginia (his father was also buried there). He died 3/1735–1736 in Louisa County, leaving a Last Will and Testament. Issue:

1. Thomas Meriwether, 1714–1756. His Last Will and Testament was probated 1758 in Goochland County, Virginia. He was married to Miss Elizabeth Thornton, daughter of Francis Thornton, a Burgess from Spotsylvania County from 1723 to 1726. Issue:

- i. Nicholas Meriwether, 9/1736–12/1772, Colonel of a Virginia regiment attached to Braddock's Army and was at the defeat of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was married to Margaret Douglass. He died in Albemarle County, Virginia. Issue:

William Douglas Meriwether 11/2/1761–1/21/1845 married Elizabeth Lewis in 1788

Thomas Meriwether, born 8/24/1763, married Anne Minor on 7/27/1791

Nicholas Meriwether, born 1/9/1765, married Rebecca Terrell

Charles Meriwether, M. D., born 8/12/1766, m. 1st Lydia Laurie, 2nd, Nancy Minor, 3rd Mrs. Mary Daniel Walton; Francis Thornton Meriwether, born 11/5/1768.

**Francis Thornton Meriwether 11/5/1768–6/19/1814, married 2d, on 6/2/1793, Miss Catherine Davies, daughter of Henry Landon Davies. Removed to Georgia. See below*

Elizabeth Meriwether 2/24/1771–3/27/1851, married Thomas Walker Lewis in 1788.

- ii. Francis Meriwether, born 1737, married Martha Jamieson.
- iii. David Meriwether, born 1739, married Mary Harvie.
- iv. Mary Meriwether, born 1742, married Peachy Ridgeway Gilmer.
- v. Elizabeth Meriwether, born 1744, married Thomas Johnson.

- vi. Sarah Meriwether, born 1746, married Michael Anderson.
 - vii. Anne Meriwether, born 1750, married Richard Anderson.
 - viii. Lucy Meriwether 1752–1837 married 1st Colonel William Lewis, 2nd, Colonel John Marks. She was the mother of Meriwether Lewis, explorer.
 - ix. Mildred Meriwether, born 1753, married John Gilmer.
 - x. Thomas Meriwether, born and died 1755.
 - xi. Jane Meriwether, born 1757, married Samuel Dabney.
2. Francis Meriwether, born 1717, married Miss Lewis.
 3. Nicholas Meriwether married Miss Mary Morton.
 4. Anne Meriwether married Thomas Ballerd Smith.
 5. Sarah Meriwether 2/12/1724–9/5/1725.
 6. David Meriwether, Captain, married Mary Weaver.
 7. James Meriwether married 1st Judith M. Burnley; 2nd, Elizabeth Pollard.
 8. William Meriwether married Martha C. Wood.

Georgia Meriwethers

*Francis Thornton Meriwether 11/5/1768–6/19/1814, married 2d, on 6/2/1793, Miss Catherine Davies, daughter of Henry Landon Davies. Removed to Georgia. Issue:

- Elizabeth Meriwether, b. 10/14/1798, married Walker G. Meriwether on 11/27/1817.
- George Douglas Meriwether, born 5/26/1797, married Alice T. Lewis on 2/5/1824
- Harriet Anne Meriwether, born 2/22/1801, married Arthur Davies on 1/24/1821
- Mary Catherine Whiting Meriwether, 6/1/1803–9/13/1804
- Francis Meriwether, m. D., born 8/26/1805, married Margaret D. Meriwether on 6/8/1826
- James Addison Meriwether, born 5/11/1812, married Elizabeth Whiting Davies in 1832
- William Nicholas Meriwether 11/12/1810–11/8/1887
- Henry Landon Meriwether 3/19/1794–5/26/1796
- Margaret D. Meriwether 12/8/1795–1/30/1796
- Samuel Boyle Meriwether 2/21/1809–5/13/1809.

David Meriwether 4/10/1755–11/16/1822 served as a US Congressman from Georgia, serving as a speaker from 1797 to 1800. He was born at "Cloverfields" (home of Meriwether family), near Charlottesville. During the Revolutionary War, he served as a lieutenant in New Jersey, and afterwards served with the Virginia Troops; he fought at the last siege of Savannah, Georgia. After the war he settled Wilkes County, Georgia, in On September 21, 1797, he was commissioned brigadier general of the Georgia Militia.

In 1804 he was appointed commissioner of the Creek Indians, but retired in 1806 to his plantation near Athens, Georgia where he died and was buried.

Issue:

James Meriwether, son of David, was born 1789 in Washington, Georgia, and died 1854, buried on his plantation in Clarke County. He was graduated from the University of Georgia in 1807 and was a tutor at the University for a year. After studying law in Elberton, Georgia and gaining admittance to the state bar, he practiced law for a short time and then focused on farming. From 1811 to 1813, he was judge of the inferior court of Clarke County, Georgia. In 1813, Meriwether fought in the Creek War under the command of General John Floyd. From 1821 to 1823, Meriwether served in the Georgia House of Representatives as a representative of Clarke County.

Ref. Last Will and Testament of David Meriwether probated 1/23/1745, Louisa County, Virginia; Last Will and Testament of Thomas Meriwether probated 1758, Goochland County, Virginia; Episcopal Churches of Virginia by Bishop Meade; Colonial Families of the United States by George Norbury Mackenzie, Vol. V, , pp. 392–36; Last Will and Testament of Nicholas Meriwether dated 1733 in Albemarle County, Virginia; Roster of Revolutionary War Soldiers in Georgia by McCall; Georgia State Archives Card Catalog.