

# Colonial *and* Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania

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## Genealogical and Personal Memoirs

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Philadelphia

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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
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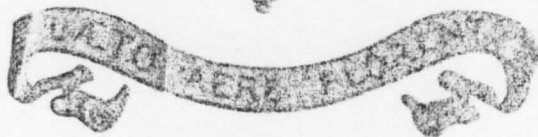
AYRE (AYRES).

*Arms*—Argent on a chevron sable, three quatrefoils, or.

*Crest*—A leg erect in armour per pale, argent and sable couped at the thigh gules knee-cap and spur, or.

*Motto*—Laeti aere florent.

(“Visitation of London,” in “Harleian Society Publications,” Vol. 1, p. 261.  
 Burke: “Encyclopædia of Heraldry.” Arms in possession of the family.)



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 (Ayres)

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## Ayre - Ayres - Eyres

*Ayre-Ayres-Eyres (Lincolnshire-Wiltshire-London) Arms:* Argent on a chevron sable three quatrefoils, or. *Crest:* A leg erect in armour per pale, argent and sable couped at the thigh gules knee-cap and spur, or: *Motto:* *Laeto aero florent.* (Another motto: lighter than air.) ("Encyclopædia of Heraldry," by John Burke, 1851.)

Henrietta Dawson Ayres Sheppard was born in Accomac County, Virginia, near the old town of Pungoteague, on her father's place called "Shepherd's Plains," located on Andua Creek. She is the daughter of Richard Johnson Ayres, Jr., one time vestryman of Old St. George's Protestant Episcopal Church, who was born at "Ayresley," located on the same Creek, on July 10, 1842; died July 5, 1930, in Lexington, Virginia, and is buried beside his wife in Loudon Cemetery, Baltimore, Maryland, having married Elizabeth Hack Dawson, of whom later.

Richard Johnson Ayres, Jr., was seventh in descent from "John Ayres (Eyres), Mariner," who claimed at a court held in the upper part of Northampton County the 16th of October, 1671, that he as "John Eyres" had transported himself eight times with four others and that land should be granted him, which was accordingly done. (Accomac Clerk's Office, Virginia, "Order Book, 1671-73," p. 24; Land Office Record, "Virginia Patent Book," No. 6, p. 431.)

He had evidently been living in Northampton County long before this, having married Mary, the daughter of Captain Richard Hill and his wife Mary Drake, who had come into the same county in 1647, with an infant daughter Mary, one year old, the same who married John Eyres (Ayres). (Ref: "Deeds and Wills Order Book," No. 8, 1678-82, p. 259.)

### HILL.

In the Ayres descent of this memoir, there are none of more distinction than the Richard Hill and Mary Drake, his wife, of upper Northampton County, whose daughters were described as marrying John Ayres and John Drummond. Captain Richard Hill owned one of the finest plantations on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, still known as "The Hill Farm," and the house, now extant, shows by the brick in the chimney that it was built in 1661. He was captain of the militia of Accomac County, his title often used in official records, and he was of the staff of civil officers as Justice and Commissioner of the Courts of Accomac County, 1667-75. (Clerk's Office, Accomac Court House, Accomac County, Virginia, "Orders," 1666-1676, p. 270.) His will was probated 21 November, 1694, as found in "Wills, Etc.," 1692-1715, p. 62. Clerk's Office, Accomac Court House, Accomac County, Virginia. His only wife was

### MARY DRAKE,

the daughter of Robert Drake, who emigrated to America in 1636, as shown in "Calendar of Virginia Land Grants," Patent No. I, p. 376, September 8, 1636. Robert Drake had married in England,

## JOAN GAWTON,

daughter of Thomas Gawton and Patience Best, on June 6, 1622. ("Merstham Surrey Parish Register," 1538.)

In the Priory Church, Reigate, Surrey, England, can be seen the grave of Henry Drake, who lies buried in the chancel before the altar with his inscription on which are mentioned the names of his children, among whom is Robert of Merstham, who married Joan, daughter of Thomas Gawton of Merstham. Proof of the descent has been granted to the deponent by A. T. Butler, Windsor Herald of the College of Arms, England, after due examination by three genealogists of the staff. The arms which were found upon the grave of Henry Drake, Esq., of Reigate, are: Argent, a fire-drake gules. Under these arms, Henrietta D. Ayres Sheppard has been registered in the College of Arms, London, England, and in addition to this, the courtesy of arms has been granted to her for her personal use, differenced with the quarterings of the maternal lines. In the "History of Surrey" by Manning and Bray, published 1804, London, England, Henry Drake is described as "of a family of that name situated at Ash near Axminster in Devonshire." "The Geological, Historical and Topographical Description of the Borough of Reigate," published in 1885, entered at Stationers' Hall, London, England, describes "Henry Drake, a Devonshire Gentleman."

## LEE.

*Lee Arms:* Azure on a fess cotised or three leopards' faces gules. *Crest:* A demi Moor proper vested gules rimmed round the collar with two bars or, tied round the waist with ribbon argent, wreathed about the head of the last and second, holding in the dexter hand a gem ring of the third. ("The Visitation of London," Vol. II, p. 57; "Encyclopædia of Heraldry," by John Burke, 1851.)

Mary Drake Hill, as above, was the daughter of Robert Drake and Joan Gawton, of Merstham, Surrey. He was the son of Henry Drake and Mary Lee (Lea), she being the daughter of Richard Lee (Lea), of Maidstone, Kent, who was seventh in descent from Symon Lee of Worcester, who twice filled the Civic Chair of London, 1432-41, and whose son, John, lived in Surrey near London, in the ancient Lee home, called "Wolksted," formerly belonging, in the time of William the Conqueror, to his half brother Odo, Bishop of Baieux. This estate was acquired by purchase from Tate.

His son, Richard Lee, was Lord Mayor of London in 1461-70 and is buried at St. Stephen's, Walbrook. Mary, the wife of Henry Drake, of Surrey, being sixth from Sir Richard Lee, the Lord Mayor of London, 1461-70, through Richard Lee, her father, who was Mayor of Maidstone, Kent. They are descended from the Crispes, Conyers and Darlingtons, as known lines, and the deponent, in conjunction with this line, is descended from the Bests and Gawtons of Merstham, Surrey, through Robert Drake, the immigrant, and his wife Joan Gawton, who came with him to Northampton County, Virginia, in America, *circa* 1636. This descent can be found in "The Visitation of London," in "Harleian Society Publications," Vol. II, p. 57; Hasted's "History of Kent," Vol. I, p. 425; "London Churches Before the Great Fire," by Wilberforce Jenkinson, p. 169; and "British Family Antiquity," by William Playfair, Esq., Vol. VI, Part II, appendix, pp. 26, 27.

The eldest child of John Ayres was Francis, born *circa* 1664, so he must have been the same "John Ayres," who on 11th March, 1651, o. s., with the inhabitants of Northampton County, took the oath "to be true to the Commonwealth of England without King or House of Lords."

The descent is through his son Francis, as above, of Hunting Creek, who inherited two hundred acres of land at the head of Hunting Creek from his grandfather, Richard Hill, August 18, 1688, and also received three hundred acres of land by the will of William Gower, July 31, 1666, and described as "The son of John Ayres," together with land devised to John Drummond, the son of John Drummond and Patience Hill; and Mary, the daughter of Robert Hewitt. He married Sarah, who was his wife before January 1, 1696.

Their son, Francis Ayres, third generation from John the Mariner, married Tabitha. He received land from Christopher Thompson, who had married his grandfather's widow, Mary Hill Ayres, as seen in the will of Christopher Thompson of Accomac. (Clerk's Office, Accomac County, Virginia, "Wills," 1692-1715, p. 349.) His son was Jacob Ayres, who resided on the plantation "on which my father lived." His will was proved 1784, he having married Ann (Clerk's Office, Accomac Court House, "Will Book," 1780-84) and he leaves to his son Edmund "100 acres of land, proceeds to be applied by my executors in his schooling."

The same Edmund, born February 26, 1774, died intestate January 19, 1834; married, March 8, 1800, to Kessey (Cassie) Johnson, daughter of Obedience and Rachel Johnson of Occahannock Neck. (Family Bible formerly belonging to Edmund Ayres, which records the descent from Jacob.)

Their son, Richard Johnson Ayres, Sr., born in Upper Accomac County, Virginia, near Hunting Creek, February 4, 1801, was a vestryman of Old St. George's Parish; constable; member of the Grand Jury and harbour and ballast master of Andua Creek in 1836; owned extensive lands in Accomac County, including "Ayresley," and "Shepherd's Plaines"; died intestate in March, 1872. Tombstone inscriptions in St. George's Protestant Episcopal Churchyard; married his cousin, Leah Wainhouse Johnson, born in May, 1799, near Wardtown, Northampton County, Virginia, died at "Shepherd's Plaines" near Pungoteague, Accomac County, Virginia, in February, 1882. She was the daughter of John Johnson, uncle to her husband, of Occahannock Neck, Northampton County, Virginia, and Margaret Kellam, his wife, married December 22, 1827. Their son, Richard Johnson Ayres, Jr., was the father of the deponent, who is ninth in descent from Colonel Thomas Johnson, through her father's paternal and maternal ancestors.

#### JOHNSON.

Colonel Thomas Johnson, Gent., of "Matasippi," Northampton County, Virginia, represented Northampton County in the House of Burgesses in 1646 and his will was probated there in 1658. His second wife was Jane Larrimore, who married first John Major and secondly Colonel Thomas Johnson. His first wife, Ann, was the mother of Captain Obedience Johnson, next in descent, who was of the militia in Northampton County in 1680, born 1643-44, will probated 1708-09, Northampton County, Virginia, had wife,

## TEMPERANCE DOLBY,

daughter of John Dolby, who died 1671, will probated June 29, 1671. ("Accomac Wills" Vol. IV, p. 178), and leaves legacies among others, "to Thomas and Temperance Johnson, children of Obedience Johnson."

*Dolby Arms:* Barry wavy of six, argent and gules. (Burke: "General Armory.")

He had, with other children, Peter. His son was Captain Obedience Johnson, born 1665-66, died 1739, Northampton County, Virginia. His wife was

## DOROTHY WASHBURNE,

daughter of John and Susanna Washburne, who was the daughter of Thomas Savage, his will, 1721 ("Accomac Will Book," No. 22, p. 141), and wife, Bridget. ("Northampton County Papers," Package 29, Land Causes, 1743; "Accomac Will Book," No. 16, p. 143; "Accomac Will Book," No. 10, p. 78, 1692.)

*Washbourne-Washburne Arms:* Argent, on a fess between six martlets gules three cinquefoils of the field. *Crest:* A coil of flax argent, surmounted with a wreath argent and gules, thereon flames of fire proper. (Burke: "General Armory.")

Their son, John Johnson, owned "Matasippi," given by his father's will, born circa 1713 and will proven 1754; married Tabitha, called his last wife. Their eldest son, Obedience Johnson, lived near Wardtown, Occahannock Neck, Northampton County, Virginia; will proved April 14, 1795; married Rachel, probably daughter of Abel Brown Upshur; had, among other children, John Johnson, who married Margaret Kellam, daughter of Argol. ("Will Book," Accomac County Court House, Wills, 1817-18, folio 205.) Her will was proven August 9, 1830.

## KELLAM.

Margaret Kellam, the wife of John Johnson, as above, was the great-grandmother of the deponent, and she was fifth in descent from Richard Kellam, Sr., who came to Virginia in the "Primose," of which Captain Douglass was commander, sailing from Gravesend, England, July 27, 1635. He was entered as sixteen years of age, and with the other passengers "took the oaths of allegiance and supremacie." (Hotton's "Emigrants," pp. 114-15.) He became one of Northampton's most important settlers and acquired much land and wealth, but did not seek political offices. He was of the militia, and lived like an English gentleman on his estate on Occahannock Creek, granted to him by Sir William Berkeley, for bringing in six people, among whom was Sarah Ansly (Anesley), who became his wife and for whom many grandchildren were named. He had additional lands adjoining this property, which he bought from the Indian King, Tappatiaven, and thousands of other acres on Occahannock and Machepungo Creeks, which lands descended to his sons and daughters. The home place was inherited by his son, Richard Kellam, Jr., on which the first Richard Kellam lived and died. (Land Office, Richmond, "Patent Book," No. 2, p. 328.) Publication—by Act of Assembly—March 20, 1655, it was voted to establish a Public Mart, Keep the Clerk's and Sheriff's Offices and a house for a prison and to build a Church, in the act, determined to buy land of Richard Kellam. This no doubt was the first assembly

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house and church on the Eastern Shore. His will was probated October 6, 1703, as found in Clerk's Office, Accomac County, "Records—Wills," 1692-1703.

The next in line was Richard Kellam, Jr., who lived upon his father's homestead, and who was given five hundred acres on Occahannock Creek by his father, January 9, 1686. He married Frances West, daughter of Lieutenant-Colonel John West and Matilda Scarborough, as shown by the will of her father in "Will Book," 1692-1715, pp. 317-18, Clerk's Office, Court House, Accomac County, Virginia. These lines are of interest to the deponent through both her paternal and maternal lines, as will be shown later in the descent of Elizabeth Dawson Ayres.

Jonathan Kellam, the third from Richard the immigrant, and son of Richard, Jr., and Frances West, was given two hundred acres by his father in 1730. He married twice, Esther, who was living in 1776, and Frances Belote, widow, who was granted administration on her husband Jonathan Kellam's estate, May 26, 1778. There were no Kellam children by the last wife. Argol Kellam, the son of Jonathan and Esther, was called "the younger" in a deed for one hundred and fifty acres of land on Occahannock Creek, June 25, 1771, whose wife's name is unknown, having preceded her husband in death. His will was proved September 29, 1817, and recorded in Clerk's Office, Accomac County, Virginia, "Will Book," 1817-18, folio 205, in which he speaks of his daughter, Margaret Johnson, who was the great-grandmother of the deponent.

#### DAWSON DESCENT.

*Dawson Arms:* Azure, a chevron ermine between three arrows or, feathered and barbed argent, on a chief of the last three daws sable, a canton gules charged with a mullet or. *Crest:* On a torse argent and sable, a cat's head affrontée erased argent, muscheteé sable, holding in her mouth a mouse of the last. (Joseph Foster editor: "Visitation of Yorkshire, 1584-85," by Robert Glover, p. 184.)

Elizabeth Hack Dawson, the wife of Richard Johnson Ayres, Jr., was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, near Leesburg, April 26, 1839, at her home called "Spring Dale." They were married by the Rev. E. T. Perkins, March 31, 1868. She died in Baltimore, Maryland, March 16, 1893. Elizabeth Hack (Dawson) Ayres was an accomplished and beautiful woman and described, when a girl, as being "the most beautiful girl of her day who had ever visited Cumberland, Maryland," and when she was married and went to live on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, all remarked upon her gracious manner and loveliness. She was the daughter of Captain Samuel Dawson, who fought in the defense of Baltimore in the Battle of North Point, September 12, 1814, and who was born November 9, 1787, and died December 11, 1845, at his home in Loudoun County, Virginia, near Leesburg, and Sarah Ann Bayne, his wife, the daughter of Rev. Colmore S. Bayne and Elizabeth Smith Hack of Accomac County, Virginia.

She was fifth in descent from Nicholas Dorson, an Englishman, who came into Maryland in the late seventeenth century. He had granted to him on January 25, 1713 (Land Office, Annapolis, Maryland, "Warrants," AA p. 196), a warrant of two tracts of land, one 1,000 acres (afterwards taken up on Port Tobacco Creek) and another warrant of 2,000 acres, which is where the town of Dawsonville in