

GAY of ISLE of WIGHT, NORTH CAROLINA and GEORGIA

The Gay family is found in the Channel Islands after the Norman Conquest. They located later in Kent and Devon. The Gays were shown in the Visitations of Kent in 1674. (P. 53) Their arms were: "Gules crusily or 3 lions rampant argent." Vivian's "Devon", p. 392, has a large chart of this family with arms: "Or, on a fesse sable between three escallops azure, six Losenges enjoinned argent."

Henryl Gay, first of his family in Virginia, was a headright of James Long who patented 300 acres on the western Branch of the Nansemond River, in Nansemond County, Feb. 8, 1663, for the transportation of six persons among whom was Henry Gay (C.P. 492). There was a vast trade in headrights. Some of the most prominent people in Virginia sold their own headrights. The Nansemond County record? were destroyed so we have to rely upon records of adjacent counties for information.

Henry Gay, on April 22, 1669, received a grant from Sir William Berkeley, Gov., of 400 acres of land in the Upper Parish of Nansemond for the transportation of 8 persons consisting of the headrights of 4 children assigned by Thomas Cullen and Andrew Clawson and four other persons whose names seem to be indistinct to the person who copied them. The grant was adjacent to the lands of James Collins and Phillip Dewell (G.B. 6-242). Henry Gay died about 1688 for in 1689 Robert Lawrence married his widow, Joane Gay. (D.B. 1-16); (Great Bk. 2-59; C.M.-33) On May 1, 1689, Henry Gay II, son of Henry I, made an agreement with Lewis Brian (Bryan) as follows: "Lewis Brian of Nansemond stands indebted to HENRY GAY of Isle of Wight, Feb. 1, 1688-89. Conditions are that Lewis Brian will not molest Robert Lawrence where he now lives on land formerly belonging to HENRY GAY, deed., from the main river up to Burnt House Branch. Henry Gay also stands indebted to Lewis Brian and promises to pay in tobacco. Conditions are that Henry Gay will not molest Lewis Brian in possession of land adjacent to John Brian Sr. " May 1, 1689, Wits.: John Brian, James Daughter (17C-601)

Robert Lawrence, step father of Henry Gay, made his will April 20, 1720, probated Jan. 23, 1720/21 (badly torn). I give and bequeath unto----- son Robert Lawrence shall have it excepting----- wife's death. Son-in-law HENRY GAY shall have a chest and whom I also make my executor----- Son-in-law JOHN GAY. Wits.: Ambrose Sanders, Jane Gay.

Appraisal was made by THOMAS GAY, Jacob Darden and Thos. Stoker on same day, total personal property L 38 6 sh. 15d. (Son-in-law in that day meant "step son")

The known children of Henry Gay I were HENRY II, JOHN GAY and THOMAS GAY. Thomas as son of "Joane Lawrence of Isle of Wight and Rebecca Page, dau. of Thomas Page of Isle of Wight were married on the 11th day of 11th month 1699. (Minutes Lower Va. Meeting 1673-1709; C.M. 103) Thomas Gay was evidently a Quaker and lived in Nansemond.

A Thomas Gay, a Quaker, made his will in Isle of Wight Oct. 26, 1750, probated Dec. 6, 1750, as follows: to son JOHN, manor plantation; to sons THOMAS and JOHN certain legacies when of age. Desires the Monthly Meeting to settle the rest of my children, namely, CHARLES, MARY, WILLIAM, EDMOND and JOHNATHAN amongst FRIENDS for their education and gives them rest of movable estate. Wits. John Williams, Richard Pope, Mary Coggan.

This Thomas had children apparently too young for him to be the Thomas Gay who married Rebecca Page in 1699. He may have been a son of the first Thomas.

William Bryan of Isle of Wight, in 1722, made a deed of gift of land to "my Son in Law, Thomas Gay". That phrase usually meant "step son" in those days but this Thomas Gay cannot definitely be placed.

Jonathan Gay, evidently son of Thomas Gay who died in 1750 in Isle of Wight, made his will in Northampton Oct. 13, 1821. He names wife MARTHA, dau. MARY PALMER, sons WILLIAM and GREEN GAY; daus. SAR Y, NANCY and ALICE GAY; grandson James W. Newsom. Exrs. Wm. and Green Gay. Wits. Henry Boon Sr., Henry Boon Jr.

Jonathan Gay served in the Continental Line of Revolutionary Army as a private for 3 years and received a grant of 224 acres of land. (Roster p. 280)

Henry³ Gay II, son of Joane and Henry Gay I, made his will in Isle of Wight Feb. 3, 1735-36; probated April 25, 1737, as follows: "Sick and weak; to sons HENRY and JOHN GAY, 5 sh. apiece; to three sons THOMAS, WILLIAM AND JOSHUA GAY all my land to be equally divided between them, son JOSHUA to have manor plantation that is the house where I live with his equal share of land adjoining the house; to dau. ANN LAWRENCE 2/6. All remainder of estate to be equally divided between four children THOMAS, WILLIAM and JOSHUA GAY and SARA BABB, son THOMAS exr". Wits. James Denson, Joseph Denson (W.B. 4-156). His wife, not mentioned, evidently predeceased him. Their children were:

- I. John³, moved to N.C. (See later)
- II. Henry, moved to N.C. On Aug. 20, 1748, he deeded James Gay 150 acres on west side Chowan River. (D.B. 1-351)
- III. Thomas, m. Patience.----- (See later)
- IV. William, was guardian of the minor children of his brother, Thomas. William's will was probated in Isle of Wight Aug. 7, 1783. He names sons JAMES and WILLIS GAY. Wife not named. Exrs. Wm. Pierce Jr. & Kinchen Crumpler. (C.W. HI-106)
- V. Joshua, married Sarah Babb, dau. of Mrs. Mary Babb of Isle of Wight who made her will 23 Sept. 1754, probated

1754. Her legatees were son WILLIAM BABB, daus. MARY DRIVER, PATIENCE PINNER, and SARAH GAY, grandson JOHN in possession of his father JOSHUA GAY, grandau. MARTHA GAY, son ROBERT GAY. Joshua Gay's will was dated Jan. 8, 1784, probated July 1, 1784. His legatees were dau. MARTHA LAWRENCE, sons JOSHUA, ROBERT, HENRY, dau. ANN ARCHER, dau. KEZIAH, son JOHN GAY, daughter ANN, son HENRY GAY. Security William Baldwin. Wits. William Ball, Fanny Ball, Wm. Baldwin.

VII. Sarah, m. Rdbert Babb

Thomas³ Gay (Henry³, Henryl) made his will March 18, 1754, probated April 4, 1754, as follows: to son JETHRO my plantation; to dau. MARY GAY a negro girl; to these four THOMAS, WILLIAM, FEREBY and JOHN GAY, my children, I give stock of cattle etc. household goods to be equally divided between them. Wits. John Outland, Thomas Outland, Jesse Hutchins (W.B. 4, p. 86) Exr. William Gay. The personal estate was appraised by Henry Saunders, James Hough, John Coggan, June 6, 1754. An account current filed later shows items: paid Sheriff for Quit Rents 50 acres 1 sh. 3d; to Joseph Scott 8 sh; to Anne Denson 12 sh 3d. On Aug. 5, 1756, William Gay was appointed guardian to Thomas, William, Fereby and John Gay, orphans of Thomas Gay, deceased.

Children:

- I. Jethro Gay, evidently eldest son, died before Aug. 5, 1756, when an account of the estate of Jethro Gay, orphan of Thomas Gay, deed., was returned in court. (O.B. 1755-56 p. 57)
- II. Thomas⁴, moved to Northampton County, N.C. He inherited Jethro's property as next brother according to law of primogeniture. On Dec. 14, 1760, in Isle of Wight, Thomas Gay, orphan of Thomas Gay, deed., chose Robert Babb as his guardian. (See later)

An account of the profits and disbursements of the estates of John and Fereby Gay were being returned as late as Aug. 7, 1766, showing that they were still under age. William was not mentioned. He either had died or had reached his majority.

A William Gay made his will in Isle of Wight in 1798, probated 1804. He gave to sons JOHN, WILLIAM and ELIAS GAY 6 sh. each; to daus. ELIZABETH LOW?, MILLEY BUTLER and SARA HEDGPETH 6 sh. each; to Martha Rayford personalty, "to son MILLS GAY, my plantation whereon I now live, if he die before age 21, Martha Rayford to have the plantation. Exrs. loving friends Phillip and Martha Rayford".

The above son Elias Gay made his will in Franklin Co., N.C. Aug. 13, 1811. Legatees were wife not named; daus. PATSY BATCHELOR and BETSY GAY; son SHERROD GAY. MARTHA GAY, evidently wife of Elias, received all personal property recorded in the inventory.

John³ Gay, son of Henry³ and brother of Thomas³, moved to Northampton, N.C. His son John Gay, Jr., patented 481 acres in that county and on Nov. 22, 1755, he sold to John Davies

of same county 100 acres being part of patent granted said John Gay Nov. 17, 1755 (Bk. 2-235). On May 28, 1756, John Gay Jr. of Northampton Co., planter, deeded John Gay Sr. of same place 200 acres "being part of said Gay's patent Nov. 17, 1755. Teste. Joseph Sikes, James Burn. (Id-279) On March 1, 1769, John Gay, Sr., deeded Jonathan Gay, both of Northampton, 200 acres part of patent dated Nov. 7, 1755. (Bk. 4-209)

John Gay of Northampton made his will May 17, 1783. He names wife PRUDENCE; grandson JOHN REYNOLDS 121 acres whereon I now live; son JESSE GAY 5 sh; dau. MARTHA REYNOLDS 5 sh.; dau. MARY SIKES 5 sh.; daus. PRUDENCE GAY and ELIZABETH GAY 5 sh. Exrs. Jephtha Atherton and George Barclay. Wits. Rhodes Barkley, Eliza Barkley. (W.B. 1-285)

Thomas⁴ Gay (Thomas³, Henry², Henry¹) moved to Northampton Co., N.C. On Sept. 17, 1763, Thomas Gay and Patience his wife made a very interesting deed in which he sets forth the derivation of the property through three generations. It is as follows: "Thomas Gay and Patience, his now wife, of Northampton County, N.C., to Robert Babb of Isle of Wight County, Va., for 20 E- current money alread paid 50 acres lying on the Northside of the main road in the Fork of the Head of the Western Branch of Nansemond in the county of Isle of Wight near the county line xxx part of a Tract of 150 acres of land belonging to HENRY GAY and given unto his son THOMAS GAY by will and from THOMAS GAY to his son JETHRO GAY by will and from JETHRO GAY unto his brother THOMAS GAY and PATIENCE, his wife. Wits. Joseph Sikes, Hezekiah Hough, John Hough. (D.B. 11 (eleven) p. 182)

On Aug. 28, 1753, William Burk of Northampton sold Thomas Gay of same place 200 acres in Northampton on Potocasse Swamp. (Bk. 2-123)

Joseph Sikes for E 32 sold Thomas Gay, both of Northampton, 202 acres Northside Potocasse Swamp Aug. 29, 1763. This was sold by Thomas Gay to Jacob Allen Nov. 16, 1767. (Bk.3-307; Bk. 4-165) Patience Gay released her dower rights.

Thomas Gay moved to Franklin County, N.C. He was too old to serve in the army but furnished a gun for the army. (Bk. A-2) He is said to have furnished supplies to the Continental Army. He receipted for the pay for his three oldest sons, John, Joshua and Allen. (Bk. 30, p. 28)

He made his will as of Franklin County Feb. 21, 1784, as follows: wife PATIENCE to have use of plantation where I now live during her widowhood. At her marriage or death to go to son WILLIAM; to son JOSHUA 100 acres; to dau. TEMPERANCE WALKER negro girl Phoebe; to son ALLEN GAY 100 acres; to son JOHN GAY, negro boy Major; to sons GILBERT, THOMAS and daus. JOANNA and POLLY GAY, negroes. Friend Burwell Perry and son Joshua Gay to be exrs. Wits. Stephen Sorsby, Jeremiah Perry. Burwell Perry, Allen Gay. (W.B. B, p. 94)

The Thomas Gay estate was not settled until after his entire family had moved to Georgia when on the 10th day of December 1802 in Hancock County, Georgia, his 6 sons and the husbands of his 3 daus. certified that each of them had received their por-

tion of the estate of Thomas and Patience Gay. (Book P, pp. 182-183, Hancock Co.)

Children:

- I. Joshua. Certificate of Service in the American Revolution by E. Clark, Colonel, Dec. 10, 1784. (Land Lottery grants, p. 353) He also served with his brother Allen in Raiford's Co. N.C. Continental Army, enlisted June 9, 1781, discharged May 17, 1782.
- II. Temperance, m. Jeremiah Walker
- III. Allen, m. (1) Cecelia Roe Elbert, (2) Abigail Castleberry, (3) Mrs. Anne Benton. Allen Gay served as a soldier in the Continental Army in N.C. in Raiford's Company, enlisted June 2, 1781, and served until May 3, 1782. He fought at Eutaw Springs under General Green. (N.C. Roster, pp. 9, 127, 181, 143). He died in Coweta Co., Ga., and was buried at Macedonia Church four miles from Newnan. His grave has been marked by the Georgia D.A.R.
- IV. John, m. Amelia Castleberry (See later)
- V. William, m. Mary Hunt. (See later)
- VI. Joanna, m. Robert Sims
- VII. Gilbert, b. Feb. 2, 1771; m. Lavise Reynolds 7, b. Dec. 12, 1769. Children:
 1. Thomas Bolling Gay, b. May 15, 1797; m. Martha Bridges, b. 1801, d. 1860. Children: a. Nancy, b. July 25, 1819; b. Gilbert, b. Nov. 22, 1820; c. Levicy, b. Oct. 22, 1822; d. Wiley Jones, b. June 1, 1824; e. John, b. Jan. 26, 1826; f. Sarah Jane, b. July 18, 1827; g. Mary Ann, b. July 16, 1829; h. Thomas M., b. Aug. 1, 1831; i. Naoma J., b. Sept. 18, 1837; j. Leonard C., b. June 13, 1839; k. and l. twins, Isaac Pond and William H.M., b. Feb. 20, 1841; and Alonzo Ageda Gay, b. June 20, 1844. They lived in Fayette County and are buried in the church yard of the Antioch Baptist Church.
 2. Nancy Gay, b. Sept. 15, 1794; m. in Jasper Co., Ga., Dec. 28, Wm. Jackson
 3. Elizabeth Gay, b. Jan. 22, 1800, m. in Jasper Co., Ga., March 7, 1816, Bryant Ruskin.
 4. Levis Gay, b. Aug. 12, 1802, m. (1) Patrick S. Devaughn (Devane); Dec. 28, 1818; m. (2) Harrison Fos-
 5. Isaac P. Gay, born Dec. 14, 1804
 6. Gilbert Gay, b. Nov. 26, 1809
 7. Henry M. Gay, b. March 9, 1812
 8. Sophia Gay, b. July 31, 1814, m. Dec. 15, 1831, Fayette Co., Ga., Harrington Phillips; their daughter Levisa Gay Phillips, m. Dr. Wilson Lumpkin Heflin, whose son was Senator Tom (Thomas) Heflin of Alabama.
 9. Dicey Gay, b. Mar. 22, 1807; m. Feb. 12, 1824, Fayette Co., Ga., Winston Wood.
- VIII. Polly, m. Joseph Tompson
- IX. Thomas, m. Amelia Barfield?

John Gay was born in Northampton Co., N.C., in 1760; and died before Dec. 12, 1817, in Jones Co., Ga.; married 1785/7

in Georgia, Amelia Castleberry, born about 1765 in Georgia and died there after 1824 in Jones Co., he is said to have served in the N.C. Militia during the Revolution. He moved to Halifax Co., Ga., in 1783. Children:

- I. Thomas Gay, m.----- Stokes.
- II. Mary Ann Gay, m. Ezekiel Harris, who is said to have served as a soldier in the Revolution.
- III. Reason Gay, b. 1794; m. (1) Nancy Gay, 1810; (2) Elizabeth Pickett, 1819. (See later)
- IV. John Gay, m. Jane Ventress, 1824
- V. William Gay, b. 1808; m. Mary Stevens, 1828/9
- VI. Charlotte Gay, m. Richard Haws, 1814
- VII. Amelia Gay, Jr., b. 1805; m. John B. Pound, 1824

Reason Gay was born about 1794 in Georgia; died 1831/32 in a shipwreck in the Gulf of Mexico; married before 1810 in Georgia, Nancy Gay, born about 1794, Baldwin Co., Ga.; died before 1818 in Georgia. Reason Gay was a farmer and Justice of the Peace. He lived in Georgia and Texas. He married (2) Elizabeth Pickett in 1819.

Children:

- I. William
- II. John Asa Gay, b. Nov. 12, 1812; m. Alvira Colley (See

John Asa Gay was born Nov. 12, 1813, Newton, Newton Co., Ga.; died March 12, 1866, Mobile, Mobile Co., Ala.; married Dec. 22, 1837, Ackerville, Dallas Co., Texas, Alvira Colley, born Oct. 26, 1822, Ackerville, Dallas Co., Texas; died April 7, 1900, Richmond, Dallas Co., Texas, daughter of John B. and Elizabeth (Blakley) Colley.

Children:

- I. Mary Ann Gay, b. Feb. 3, 1840; m. Robert Dennis
- II. Luran Alvira Gay, b. May 19, 1850, d. in childhood.
- III. Alice Caroline Gay, b. Sept. 11, 1852; d. at 5 years.
- IV. John Stark Hunter Gay, b. Nov. 10, 1855; m. Anna Moore
- V. Harriet Alvira Gay, b. Feb. 26, 1860; died young
- VI. James Enoch Gay, b. May 17, 1862, died young
- VII. William Asa, b. Jan. 11, 1857; m. Nettie Powell
- VIII. Samuel Gilbert Gay, b. Dec. 11, 1864; m. Corinne M. Turner (See later)
- IX. Louise Rachel Gay - died in infancy
- X. Frances Gay, died in infancy
- XI. Elizabeth Gay, died in infancy

Samuel Gilbert Gay was born Dec. 11, 1864, Richmond, Dallas Co., Texas; died Jan. 15, 1926, Selma, Dallas Co., Texas; married June 17, 1890, Mobile, Mobile Co., Ala., Corinne Marietta Turner, born May 12, 1869, Mobile, Ala.; died Feb. 7, 1941, Selma, Dallas Co., Texas, daughter of David Milbourn and Hariete Power (McGill) Turner.

Dr. Gay graduated from the University of Alabama Medical School in 1884, and began the practice of medicine in Selma in 1887. He studied from time to time in some of the leading clinics of America and Europe, including John Hopkins, Harvard and Berlin. In 1918 he volunteered for service in the Army, was

commissioned a Captain and was stationed at Camp Stafford, a medical officers camp attached to Camp Beauregard. He also served as a member of the State Board of Health and as President of the Dallas County Medical Association.

Children:

I. Selwyn Gilbert Gay, b. May 11, 1892, died 1895

n. Corinne Furniss Gay, b. Nov. 20, 1896, Selma, Dallas

County, Ala., m. (2) June 17, 1842, Marion, Perry Co., Ala., Junius Lewis Jordan, born Eufaula, Ala., son of Henry Ernest and Eliza Leonora Jordan. Mrs. Jordan was educated at Sophie Newcomb College. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan reside at 721 Dallas Ave., Selma, Alabama.

William Gay was born 1766 in North Carolina; died May 22, 1852, Fayette Co., Ga.; married Mary (Polly) Hunt, born Jan. 28, 1770; died May 28, 1851, Fayette Co., Ga. The name of her mother is unknown; the only record says "Widow" Hunt married Elias Gay of North Carolina. He was a farmer and resided in Northampton Co., N.C., and in Hancock and Clayton Co.'s, Ga.

Children:

I. Sherod Haywood Gay, b. March 3, 1808; m. Annis Allen (See later)

II. William Gay, moved to Selma, Ala.

III. Daughter, name unknown

Sherod Heywood Gay was born March 2, 1808, Hancock Co., Ga.; died June 6, 1894, Clayton Co., Ga., married May 29, 1838, Fayette Co. (now Clayton), Ga., Annis Allen, born July 3, 1814, near Social Circle, Walton Co., Ga.; died April 4, 1894, Clayton Co., Ga., daughter of Woodson and Annis (Palmer) Allen. He was a farmer and member of the Baptist Church. He resided in Hancock, Fayette, and Clayton Co.'s, Ga.

Children:

I. Asa Gay, b. Sept. 7, 1839, d. in Infancy

II. John W. Gay, b. Nov. 29, 1841, d. in infancy

HI. Mary Ann (Polly) Gay, b. Nov. 26, 1843; m. Mell Allen

IV. Martha Matilda Gay, b. Dec. 20, 1845; m. Maxmilian Travis (See later)

V. Polk Gay, bJ Dec. 13, 1845, unmarried

VI. Marietta Gay, b. Nov. 26, 1849, m. Perry Archer

VII. John Calhoun Gay, b. Feb. 8, 1852; m. (1) Mary Milner, (2) "Jackie" Milner

VIII. William W. Gay, b. Sept. 21, 1854; m. Ella Terrell

IX. Joanna Gay, b. April 14, 1858; m. Jim McConnell

Martha Matilda Gay was born Dec. 20, 1845, Fayette (now Clayton) Co., Ga.. died March 3, 1929, East Point, Fulton Co., Ga.; married Dec. 26, 1866 Maximilian (Max) Travis, born Jan. 16, 1842, Fayette Co., Ga.; died April 30, 1914, Riverdale, Clayton, Co., Ga. He was a farmer and a member of the Methodist Church.

Children:

I. Lula Annie Travis, b. Nov. 29, 1867; m. James Franklin Milner

H. William Gay Travis, b. May 26, 1869; m. Fanny Dodson

IH. Mattie Cora Travis, b. April 29, 1871; m. Asa C. Hemp-

- IV. Minnie Morris Travis, b. Oct. 7, 1872; m. (1) Orean Qudellos Mann (2) James W. Haynes (See later)
- V. Otis Sessions Travis, b. Aug. 9, 1874; unmarried
- VI. Mack Olin Travis, b. Oct. 1, 1876; m. Edna B. Byars
- VII. Lillie Lochie Travis, b. Aug. 29, 1878; m. Davis Hampton McWilliam
- VIII. Myrtle C. Travis, b. July 21, 1880; d. in infancy
- IX. Lowell Terah Travis, b. Jan. 9, 1882; m. (1) Blanche Beooks; (2) Nellie Melton
- X. Mary Jewell Travis, b. April 4, 1884; m. (1) Marcus Daniel, (2) Frederick Hanson
- XI. Allen Candler Travis, b. July 24, 1886; m. Georgia Wadley Purifoy

Minnie Morris Travis was born Oct. 7, 1872, Riverdale, Clayton Co., Ga.; died Feb. 16, 1956, Atlanta, Ga., married Nov. 15, 1903, Riverdale, Ga., Oreon Qudellos Mann, born Aug. 3, 1865, Riverdale, Ga.; died Aug. 30, 1935, Atlanta, Ga. He was a lawyer and a member of the Methodist Church.

Children:

- I. Otis Earl Mann, m. Bertha O'Neal
- II. Ena Elizabeth Mann, b. Feb. 9, 1906, Riverdale, Clayton Co., Ga.; m. Dec. 24, 1931, Centre, Cherokee Co., Ala., Karl Thomas Wilson, born June 12, 1903, Cedar Bluff, Cherokee Co., Ala., son of Thomas Newton and Meea Laura (McCary) Wilson. They reside at 804 Brookdale Dr., S.W., Atlanta, Ga.
- III. Annis Gay Mann, b. Sept. 14, 1908, Atlanta, Ga., m. Sept. 17, 1931, Atlanta, Ga., Herman Markey Richardson, b. Aug. 21, 1905, Bluffton, Clay Co., Ga. They reside at Blakely Heights, Blakely, Ga.
- IV. John Arnold Mann, unmarried