

Blacko and Other Families

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COMPILATION OF
MRS. WILLIAM ARMISTEAD PORTER
(NEE NANNIE FRANCISCO)
RESEARCHER, GENEALOGIST, AND HERALDIC ARTIST,
RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

DEDICATED TO HER SON ROBERT FRANCISCO PORTER
AND HER NIECES AND NEPHEWS

The Material in this recordination is compiled from records secured through the State Library of Virginia and Bible records as preserved by the descendants of the various pioneers whose genealogical lines are offered in this booklet. Family bibles are in possession of Mr. Robert Francisco Porter, 767 Oaklawn Avenue, Winston-Salem, North Carolina and Mrs. James B. James, 5th and Holly Streets, Greenville, North Carolina.

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THE AUTHOR

Mrs. W. A. Porter, above, of Richmond, Va., former national president of the Huguenot Society of the Founders of Manakin in the Colony of Virginia.

BLACKS

In an article compiled by Miss Ellen McDonald lately deceased, on the history and genealogy of the Black family she stated this family descended from a branch of the Phoenicians, were highly skilled in the arts and sciences and navigation, and said to have been invincible in war.

At first they fought as did men of that period of time, in chariots, and lived in their own tents, but moved from place to place along the Mediterranean sea until they finally reached Spain where they remained for one or two generations, then crossed over into Ireland. Thomas Moore in his poem "The Isle of Destiny" describes their arrival, and John O'Hart in his "Irish Pedigrees" gives something of their early history. Be that as it may, they seem to have moved to the Isle of Scotland where they were found for many generations, but in Scotch history it is stated they were called Scots as having descended from a Princess known as Scota to distinguish them from other clans and tribes. Finally when the entire country was named Scotland they moved into that section known as Ireland, (though no reason found for their leaving Scotland) and remained there for two or three years before finally coming to the new world - America.

The first we note particularly is JAMES BLACK who was a Wool Merchant of County, Down, Ireland. He is given as having four sons viz; JAMES, JOHN, ANTHONY, SAMUEL. Of these we note first James the eldest lived and died in Ireland but had a son Thomas who came to America and located in what was known as Rockbridge County, Virginia (then Augusta county as Rockbridge was not a county until 1778 when it was cut from Augusta). Thomas married a widow Mrs. Sawyer, but after the death of Thomas the family moved to Ohio. No further tracing of this family needed here.

Samuel son of James of Ireland landed at New Castle, Delaware in 1735 or 1736 age thirty-five and unmarried. He was called to take charge of the Brandywine Presbyterian church in Chester, Pennsylvania, and while a member of Donegal Presbytery was Pastor of two churches.

In 1743 he began to visit in Virginia as a Missionary among the Scotch-Irish and March 29, 1774 "Ye inhabitants of Ivy Creek and ye Mountain Plains congregation joined together with "ye congregation of Rock Fish to call and invite ye Reverend Samuel Black to be our minister and Pastor."

Of these the first two churches were located in Albermarle County, Virginia, while the third one was in Nelson County. In the year of 1751 the Rev. Samuel Black purchased four hundred acres of land located on Meacham's river in Albermarle County where he made his home until his death.

He had been educated in Edinburgh Scotland and received his orders at Glasgow. When he reached Virginia he was noted as a "Dissenting Minister" by the church of England then having the religious privileges in Virginia. He was denied the right of performing marriage ceremonies or of presiding at funerals, but he was a good fighter and very soon carried his grievances to the Virginia Council and won permission to perform the same privileges as any other ordained minister. His wife was Catherine Shaw,

and they had seven children viz; SAMUAL, JR. , JAMES, MARGARET, MARY, SARAH, JOHN, WILLIAM.

The son James married Eleanor Shields and they sold out their landed estate on Stockton Creek of 600 acres in 1760 - soon John and wife Elizabeth sold their interests and both families left Virginia for the West.

Both Samuel Jr. and William became men of prominence and remained living in Albermarle County, Virginia. Of the daughters we found little information but they likely married men who were at that time looking for good home places, some of them moving westward, others remaining at what at the time was known and considered good landed holdings for their children to inherit.

Samuel Sr. or known as the Rev. Samuel Black in 1747 took all oaths required at the time and in 1751 he is recorded as a minister, and at that time also noted as the Executor of his fathers will (James Black) who had died in Scotland.

Samuel was not limited in land holdings, but owned 730 acres of land located on South river. It was there he lived then devised same to his sons. There is concrete evidence, that both John and William sold out their interests later on, the property then located in Montgomery County, formerly West Augusta, September 29th to October 6th in 1935 the two hundredth anniversary of the Brandywine Presbyterian Church was celebrated, and the text used was found in Psalm XLVI-7 and we suggest you read it - the theme largely used was "God of our Fathers be the God of their succeeding race" and one of the verses in a hymn they sang then is quoted as follows:

" The Lord our God is good
His mercy is forever sure,
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure. "

Anthony Black was to have been sent back to Scotland to obtain a better education but this did not materialize and he remained in Virginia where he obtained land and like the other members of the clan became a skilled Agriculturist. He also made his home in Augusta County where the land is fertile and while we do not go further into details of this man he made a good record for himself.

Owing to conditions in Virginia at that time, it was no doubt a more or less difficult matter to always be able to carry through ones desire for travel but they seemed ever ready to talk of the great natural resources of the new world, and to send back to the mother country proven evidence of the beauty and wealth of the flora in the new land and sea Captains were especially active in the dissemination of knowledge when more or less in contact with the merchants of London.

Whether or not these reports influenced the Black brothers in their desire to come to America is unknown, but from the records as left for the descendants, it seems more than probable, and certainly they were lovers of land and of localities where homes could be made with pleasant surroundings.

While the early locations in Pennsylvania were attractive, the early knowledge of the lands in Virginia, and the climate, were more to the liking of the ones interested in seeking home land, and evidently induced them to come to a section that offered more attractions for their descendants.

While the Black brothers were among the pioneer settlers of Virginia, by the time they reached the new world much had been accomplished in the way of Land Patents and Grants and the money they brought with them was a great incentive to those who had acquired land that was saleable.

When we think back and read the history telling of the women of that period we wonder and admire their fortitude, their ambition, their spirit of home making, and of the many helps as given through the mothers and daughters of that day. When the Blacks arrived and later were established in and near Blacksburg, it is worthy of note how they planted Flax and then spun and wove fine linen, some of which has come down to the author and which today is in use. A precious heirloom, items we love to produce, from this linen, and stirs the desire to keep it with precious memories of beloved mothers who wrought to have luxuries for their descendants. It was not only land, but items of value such as this that made the inheritance worthy of appreciation.

In making a search of Scotch history we noted the following record: "During the early part of the 17th Century when long years of religious persecution and unrest had filled Scotland, many of her people emigrated to Ireland. Most of them located in Londonderry, where they made their homes and friends. After two centuries of residence in said Londonderry one of the descendants of a noted family of Blacks and two of the brothers, with their families, bade farewell to Ireland and set sail for America. This was JOHN BLACK son of JAMES and a brother of the Rev. Samuel. They landed on the Delaware river just above where Wilmington now stands, then known as New Castle, Delaware, at the time of their arrival in 1737. Their location was on the Forks of the Brandywine Creek later known as Penn's country, now Pennsylvania. They remained there for a few years, when one of the brothers went to New Jersey, one remained in Pennsylvania and the third one came to Virginia.

JOHN BLACK son of James of County Down, Ireland, was born in 1698, and died in 1769 and had five sons and four daughters, whom he brought into Virginia viz; JAMES, JOHN, SAMUEL, WILLIAM and ANTHONY. The names of the daughters were not given in this record, but as stated John settled first in Chester County, Penn., where they remained for five years. There seems to be no record of John's wife, but there is a probability her given name was Mary.

In 1742 John came to Augusta county, Va. and secured land on which he paid "Quit Rents" (taxes) continuously. In November of 1746 he purchased additional land, the tract comprising three hundred and seventy-five acres located in Beverley Manor near what is now known as Stuart's Draft, evidently a portion of the said former early land holdings.

Often have I heard my mother speak of her relatives Mrs. Cynthia Johnson (nee Black) and Mr. Jim Tom Black as descendants of the first John Black and as living at Stuarts Draft, and for whom she had a kindred feeling

of family loyalty.

In a continued search we ascertained two of the daughters of John Black as Rosanna who died unmarried, and Margaret who married William Wright, and the latter moved to Ohio. The others evidently married and moved away but their names or those of their husbands were not ascertained.

In the records of the early pioneers John Black is always noted as the son of a wool merchant of Ireland, with the statement that his ancestors had sojourned first in Scotland then moved to Ireland before coming to America and hence noted as Scotch-Irish. With so much land JOHN BLACK was able to give to his sons land that would secure for them a bountiful start in the world at that time and in 1756 we find he made deeds to two of these sons, John Jr., and James, and in 1760 followed with deeds to his sons Samuel and William. There was also an Anthony in this family, but he remained in Virginia.

Despite limited educational opportunities at that period of American life, the BLACK brothers were enabled through private schools and other facilities as purchased to secure competent educations and to have their children well trained in many branches valuable to their living standards, and particularly were they well versed Agriculturists.

As a child the author of this record delighted in the beautiful stories her two Uncles John and Edward Black told of plants, and birds, and of the beautiful trees that made the lawns so delightfully shady and cool in summer and stood guard over doll houses and many childish delights.

* Of the sons of JOHN BLACK, Samuel the third son was but ten years of age when he came with his father to Virginia in 1737, and he also certified as to the correctness of this just prior to his decease in 1782, when he was a resident of Augusta county, and began his will with the statement that he was then 55 years of age, was born in 1727 and married in Augusta County, Va. in 1749 to Jane Porter who was born in 1731. They had nine children, (Bible Reference) and Samuel outlived his wife.

In the records of Augusta County, his will is placed in book 6 - Page 230 and is dated September 2, 1782. As stated he began his will with the statement of his age, then named his legatees as his son John to whom he left 300 acres of land located on New River where he lived, and to son William 300 acres rest of the tract as given to his son John, then to sons Samuel and William, infants (that is under the age of eighteen) the home place known as "Pine Knot" and to his several daughters, Mary, Martha Anne, Margaret, Nancy, and Jean then to wife also. He named as Executors his wife with his brother William Black and William Porter his wife's brother, and the witnesses were Walter S. Davis, Thomas Stuart, and Matthew Alexander. The date of will as probated was April 19, 1783 and all Executors qualified. May 6, 1783 the estate of Samuel Black was appraised by three men of Augusta County and the Continental Loan Office issued a certificate dated June 1784 for six thousand dollars. At the time James Best was the accountant.

Will Book 2 Page 206 of Augusta County, Virginia, date November 15, 1801, WILLIAM BLACK having been appointed one of the Executors of

Samuel Black was given a receipt by the legatees for their interest in the estate of Samuel Black viz; John Black, Matthew Alexander, and wife Jane, Samuel Price and wife Margaret, William Black and wife Jane, William Black Jr., Martha, Samuel, Nancy and James Black.

Samuel son of John was a 2'd Lt., in the Revolution.

The will of Jane Black, widow of Samuel, is found in will book 12 Page 398 of Augusta County, and states she is of South River and leaves to her son Samuel a nice legacy, and to her daughters Jane Alexander, Martha Black, Margaret Price, Mary Black and Nancy Gillespie, a fair proportion of her estate, and then names three sons John, James and William, they to receive the balance of her estate. Executors sons James and Samuel. Samuel qualified and the will was ordered probated October 24, 1814. The date of her will was March 16, 1814 and she died in October 24, 1814. She was age eighty-three when the call came and she left well beloved by friends and children and gave to her daughters a beautiful example of womanly characteristics.

It was but natural as the Blacks were Scotch and the Alexanders also of Scotch blood, that the families would be friendly quickly and continuously and a marriage between the two families was but a natural resultant event. This connection culminated in the marriage of a descendant of James Alexander and James Black. In the meantime James Alexander of Augusta County, later of West Virginia, had married Isabella Erskine a Maryland woman. Since it is stated she was but eighteen years of age when she married James Alexander year 1759, she was born in 1741. James and his wife moved to Monroe County, West Virginia where they made their home. Their oldest daughter married John Black. After the passing of her husband (James Alexander) Mrs. Alexander spent much of her time in Blacksburg with her daughter Jane and at the age of ninety was known to walk from the Black home to "Smithfield" the home of Mrs. William Preston to help in a quilting party. She died in Union, W. Va. however, in 1831-2. Since her late husband James Alexander had given the land for the town of Union, she was very proud of this, and felt she should be buried in the place so beloved by both her husband and herself.

Reverting to Samuel Black, we note he was not limited in land holdings, but owned seven hundred and thirty acres located on South river where he made his home. This he devised to his several sons, but there is decided evidence that both James and William sold their portions in Montgomery County then known as West Augusta, and moved away.

From Deed Book A Page 17, recorded in Christiansburg, Va. we have the following; This Indenture made this the 18th day of November, in the year of our Lord 1772, between William Ingles of the county of Fincastle, and David Robinson of the county of Botetourt of the first part, and Samuel Black of the second part of Augusta Co. Virginia, Witnesseth that William Ingles and David Robinson for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings current money of Virginia, to them in hand paid by the said Samuel Black at or before the sealing or delivery of these presents, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, hath granted, bargained and sold and by these presents doth bargain and sell unto the said Samuel Black one certain tract or parcel of land containing six hundred acres more or less, being part of a larger tract granted to James Patton by Letters Patent lying in Fincastle County on Tom's

Creek and the waters of Woods river (now New River) and the said six hundred acres is part of 620 acres granted to James Patton by Letters Patent lying in Fincastle County, bearing date of the 20th and 21st of March 1754, the title of which land has by sundry conveyances since become invested in the said William Ingles and David Robinson. The said six hundred acres is bounded by the land of Phillip Barger, and Robert Graham, and the Patton line with all houses and buildings, orchard ways, water and water courses, profits, commodities, and heridaments, and all appurtenances whatsoever to the said premises, hereby granted or any part thereof belonging or in any wise pertaining etc. Reversion and reversions, remainder and remainders, rents, issues and profits thereby. To have and to hold the six hundred acres of land to be the same more or less and all of the premises thereby granted with the appurtenances unto the said Samuel Black, his Executors, Administrators and Assigns from the before the date thereof, for and during the full time and term of one whole year from the next date ensuing, fully to be completed and ending, yielding and paying thereof the rent of one Peppercorn on "Sadyday" (Saturday) next, if the same shall be lawfully demanded and to the intent and purpose that by virtue of these presents and of the statute for transferring uses into possession, the said Samuel Black my be in actual possession of the said premises, and to be thereby enabled to accept and take a grant of release of the reversion and inheritance thereof to him and his heirs. In witness whereof the said William Ingles and David Robinson have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year as first above writtten. Sealed and delivered in the presence of William Preston, John Aylett, Stephen Trigg, William Dunlap, Francis Smith and William Kirby. Also signed by both William Ingles and David Robinson.

Records of Southwest Virginia State Draper's Settlement was one of the very earliest west of the Alleghany Mountains, and consisted largely of land in and around the present town of Blacksburg. At that time it was part of the Patton Tract and for which Governor Gooch gave permission to locate a hundred thousand acres of land located between the waters of the Roanoke and New rivers. The patent was issued in 1753, the patentee being Colonel Patton, and in 1753-4 as much as three thousand acres was let out for farm lands.

Blacksburg, Virginia is in a section of Virginia that appealed to the pioneer settlers and the advantages of the locality seemed to mark it as a place of promise, and which has certainly been fulfilled. At one time Indian raids were most distrubing and in one of these Colonel Patton was killed, as stated, but Colonel William Preston established his home in the locality and in due time "Smithfield" his home was the meeting place for many distinguished persons. The town of Blacksburg was not incorporated until 1798, named at time for the Black brothers who gave the land for the town, over thirty-eight acres, the Academy and Cemetery.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute stands on land formerly owned by these brothers, descended to their posterity and as purchased from Mess. John and Edward Black. It is a pleasing thought that some of this acreage is used for an Institute of learning so valuable to all Virginians as well as other states.

When the land for the town of Blacksburg was given by William Black the streets were laid out and certain requirements established. Some of the

early settlers, particularly the Scotch-Irish had farm homes with a small number living near each other, and in this way forming a pleasant neighborhood. Historians generally as stated, considered Drapers Meadow (1748) as one of the most important settlements but it was attacked and many of the homes destroyed in 1755, when the Indians went on a rampage, various persons were killed and it was forty-three years later that the town was laid out. After the cold blooded murder of Colonel Patton a chain of Forts were erected and sufficiently close for the inhabitants to rush to the nearest when the Indian alarm was given. One of these Forts was built at Smithfield. This was considered as the best protective means for the settlers, and they later found it so when the British made an alliance with the Cherokee Indians, particularly so for those who lived in Tennessee, and this protection had been extended to meet conditions there as well as in Virginia.

In addition to the land owned by William Ingles and already noted, he owned three hundred and fifty acres located on Stroubles Creek in 1772. When JOHN BLACK wished to secure land he bought a portion of this from William Ingles, on which to build a home. At that time it required quite a long time to build a house of any kind, as the work had to be done mostly by hand, and John had no doubt wished to have a nice home for his family, and a great deal of work was put on it ere completed. In the meantime he had married and was the father of a son and when he arrived he was just in time to see the Indians set fire to it. He had endeavored to bring his wife and young son from Augusta to live in the new home, but as it was he placed his wife and young son beside a hollow tree, stood guard over them through a long night, then carried them back to Augusta County where the protection was better and it was four years or possibly five before he was able to rebuild the house.

In the meantime the war of the Revolution took place debarring him from doing anything about providing a new house. But through some kind Providence John Black became a trusted friend of the Indians, and in 1780 with the rank of Lieutenant was one of the Cavalrymen who went with General Campbell (his kinsman) in the expedition against the Cherokee Indians of Long Island, Tennessee and helped to make the treaty which freed the south western part of Virginia from further trepidations, and which of course allowed better conditions for each section.

It is of interest to note that in addition to social contacts Samuel Black and James Alexander had various land dealings in Augusta County, continuing in a most delightful manner and both friendly associations and business dealings were ever of the highest order. The oldest daughter of James Alexander and Isabella Erskine his wife, born in 1760 married John Black August 12, 1777. She died in Blacksburg, Va., September 26, 1804 when only forty-four years of age.

JOHN BLACK was born in Augusta County December 21, 1755 and died in Blacksburg July 14, 1849 at the age of ninety-four years and six months. He married the second time - Mary Breeden daughter of John Breeden of Botetourt County, Va., who was born in January 1776. She died in Blacksburg February 6, 1853. They were married May 6, 1807 and by this wife he had no children, but she aided him in bringing up his children by the first wife and was always designated as "Mother Mary", and greatly beloved by both his children and relatives.

She was one of a large family and with an unselfish disposition made an excellent step-mother, a position difficult to fill. Both she and her husband rest in the plot of ground given by the Black Brothers for a cemetery and which is well marked by marble slabs denoting their resting places, as well as that of the first wife of John Black, Jane Alexander.

The children of John Black and wife Jane Alexander were as follows: Samuel Born October 7, 1778, married Agnes Rowland, April 1, 1817; Catherine born February 13, 1781, married Michael Brown, June 18, 1806; Andrew born March 6, 1783, married Susannah Ross September 4, 1823; James born August 21, 1787 married Jane Ross November 18, 1813; John born August 21, 1787 (twin of James) married Elizabeth Ross, August 25, 1825; A son born (name not given) August 17, 1789 married Catherine Black 1813-14; William born February 5, 1792 married 1st Anne McDonald January 6, 1815 - 2nd Grizzy Ross February 6, 1822; Matthew born June 5, 1794 died December 1, 1814 age 18 from a wound received while he was serving in the War of 1812; Charles born June 10, 1796 married Rhoda McDonald, August 11, 1824; Mary born February 20, 1798 - 1st George Ross - 2nd Walter Crockett. She died September 6, 1872 and her 2nd husband Walter Crockett outlived her but for a short time only. At the time they were living in Mo. and both are buried there. Alexander born February 16, 1800 married Elizabeth McDonald, December 5, 1823 - she was born 1806 and died in 1880. Alexander died 1872. She was the sister of Rhoda McDonald who had married Charles Black, hence the matter of the children being listed as double first cousins.

Susannah Black born February 1, 1803 married Stephen McDonald and she died in Missouri September 25, 1845 and they left children who later visited in Virginia. Alexander as stated moved to Missouri where he was most successful financially and left a small family of children to inherit his property. Charles Black died suddenly from a stroke of Apoplexy in Blacksburg, Virginia, June 7, 1853.

The children of John Black and wife scattered far and wide, and as noted were found in Missouri, Virginia, Ohio, Wisconsin, but always as recognizing Virginia as the original home but for this recordation we are limiting the information to a partial list only, of the said children.

The land holdings of John Black were 366 acres in Montgomery County Virginia as inherited through his father and 200 acres located on the Roanoke Mountain. As stated he had worked hard to build the house which was burned by the Indians, but he was not easily discouraged and by renewing his efforts after the Revolutionary War built the second house in 1786-7. It was still standing when the author of this record visited in Blacksburg in 1950 - and owned by the Virginia Polytechnic Institute but had been moved from the original site to make room for the War Memorial Building of World War One.

Several of his descendants were represented in that war and made good records. The old home had long been occupied by one of the professors of the college who loved the old home and found it a pleasant place to occupy.

CHARLES BLACK the ninth child of John and Jane Alexander Black lived and died in the home left him by his father, known as "Fidler's Green."

So long as any of the descendants of the Black family lived in Blacksburg, they aided in the support of both Presbyterian and Methodist churches.

We list the children of Charles Black and wife Rhoda as follows:

Mary the oldest was born September 9, 1836, died August 31, 1870, married August 11, 1870 John Matthew Hoge of Pulaski County, Va. He died October 22, 1877.

Jane born August 21, 1827, died February 21, 1892, married November 22, 1849 Floyd Fectus McDonald (a kinsman) and he died in 1900.

Keziah Black born March 3, 1831, married April 19, 1851 Robert L. Francisco who was born in Mississippi, October 3, 1826 and died in Blacksburg, Va. August 9, 1886. Keziah died May 26, 1803 in Greenville, Tenn. and both are buried there.

Nancy Black born May 5, 1832 died in infancy same month and year.

John Black born April 10, 1833, died unmarried October 27, 1877.

Edward Black born July 27, 1835 died December 1912, married Mary Johnston of West Virginia, November 22, 1859 and she died early leaving a daughter who also died age seven.

Ann Taylor Black born December 30, 1877 died unmarried July 1803. She was always called Nannie, as she objected to the name of Ann.

The children of John Matthew Hoge and wife Mary Black Hoge were as follows: Nannie born 1849 married George Chumbley of Pulaski County, Virginia 1869, and had issue (1) Melvin born 1870 became a well known Presbyterian minister, married 1st Miss Stearnes of Richmond, Virginia, by whom he had three daughters. Married 2nd (wife's name unknown) by whom he had one son. (2) Robert Chumbley (Physician) born July 23, 1873 married 1899 to Virginia Lucile Brown of Pulaski, Virginia and died December 30, 1937 - Issue Helen Hoge Chumbley born February 22, 1905, died May 5, 1838, married February 22, 1928 and died May 5, 1938 - Issue one son (3) Asa Hampden Chumbley born 1878 died February 12, 1945. He was an Agriculturist, married November 8, 1906 Wilma Earley and she died 1943 - Issue Nannie Elva married as his second wife Kyle Morris May 21, 1939 and they had Mary Lee Morris born November 17, 1940, Nancy Jane Morris's born August 13, 1943. Margaret Elise the second daughter of Asa Hampden Chumbley and wife married October 28, 1944 Russell Linkous. Mary Francisco Chumbley (2) daughter of Asa Chumbley married October 28, 1944 William Kirkwood Brown. Edward Earley Chumbley son of Asa Chumbley and wife was born August 24, 1846 and married Geneva Hylton. Issue three.

Lucy Black Hoge daughter of John Matthew Hoge and wife Mary was born 1852 - she married Shephard Chumbley, issue a daughter Mary.

Mary married October 2, 1895 C. M. Bane of Bland County, Virginia, and they had the following children: Robert born September 10, 1896, William born October 26, 1897, Emmett born February 5, 1899 - died October 8, 1932, Ethel born August 22, 1901, Hary born November 16, 1903, Mary Lou born

August 3, 1906, Marel born September 23, 1908 - died September 23, 1909,
Eloise born December 19, 1919.

The descendants of John Matthew Hoge and wife Mary Black Hoge have made good records, have added spiritual examples for others to follow and as men of educational professions and kindly intent have carried down a well planned record to add to the church activities they kept continuously in hand.

Jane the second daughter of Charles and Rhoda Black married Floyd Fectus McDonald and they had issue as follows: Jonas the eldest child died young. Ellen Taylor and Mary two of the daughters died unmarried. Charles their son married Katherine McDonald a cousin of Tennessee, Issue three children two sons and a daughter - lived at Blacksburg, Virginia. Virginia McDonald married a Methodist minister, Rev. Mr. Wilson and they had a daughter - all now deceased.

Keziah Stephens Black married Capt. Robert L. Francisco and had five children viz; Mary Michaux the oldest was a well known teacher practicing that profession in Knoxville, Tennessee for thirty-two years, died unmarried in 1911, in Richmond, Virginia.

Charles Black Francisco died unmarried.

Lucy Ann Francisco married Henry R. Brown of Greeneville, Tenn. issue six - and she died 1930.

Nannie Robert Francisco married William Armistead Porter of Cuipeper, Virginia. Issue a son Robert Francisco Porter.

Carrie Jane Francisco died unmarried, killed by an accident in Knoxville, Tennessee.

The children of Henry Royse Brown and wife Lucy Francisco are of record, viz;

(1) Howard died in infancy.

(2) Charles Francisco Brown born 1878 married Alice Howison of Ashland, Virginia, Issue Jane, Alice Howison, Virginia Royce and a son who died in infancy. All the daughters married.

(3) Joseph Ramsey Brown married Margaret Stanard of St. Louis, Missouri, 1907 - Issue Margaret married Hugh Dearborn Dunlap of Dallas, Texas, Issue Margaret a student at the University of Texas. Devereaux Brown Dunlap age 16, Dallas Texas in 1952.

Elizabeth 2'd daughter of Joseph Brown married Brown Rainwater of Pensacola, Florida. They had issue a daughter Sally Brown born September 24, 1941. A son Joseph Ramsey Rainwater born June 3, 1947.

Ann, daughter of Joseph Brown married William D. Feller 2nd of Dallas, Texas - Issue William D. Feller born December 24, 1934 known as William Feller 3rd. Ann Brown Feller born August 3, 1936 (Student of Bishops School in LaJolle, California.

Robert Francisco Brown 4th child of Henry R. Brown and wife Lucy Francisco Brown was born in Greeneville, Tennessee, married Marguerite Tay of Pennsylvania. Issue - Elizabeth married William Harmon of Greeneville, Tenn. Dorothy Ann Brown married Chester Bilkey.

Lucy Royse Brown 5th child of Henry R. Brown and wife Lucy Francisco Brown married James Burton James, attorney of Greenville, N. C. (date not given) Issue James Burton Jr. married January 1944 Ann Mazor - and had issue - James Burton James 3'd., Cheryl Ann, Joseph Ramsey James.

(2) Lucy Francisco James married Francis Fries Willingham of Winston-Salem, N. C. - Issue - Francis Fries Willingham, Jr., James Burton and John Woodson Willingham.

(3) Nini James, daughter of James Burton James and wife Lucy married three times, first to Fred Austin, second Charles Guy, issue - Sonny Guy - and the third husband John Angus in 1930, issue John Angus 3'd. Michael James & Judith Cherry. All living in the North West.

(4) Eleanor daughter of James Burton James and wife Lucy married in 1952 Chas. F. Vance - Attorney of Winston-Salem, N. C. - Issue Lucy B. Vance.

(6) Rena Josephine daughter of Henry R. Brown and wife Lucy Francisco married 1st Henry Baker of Greenville, Tenn. - Issue Henry Brown Baker, Capt. of Aviation, killed last day of War Two - by the Japs. Glenna Baker married Wm. Corum of Madisonville, Ky. - Issue a son and daughter. Rena married 2nd John Montgomery Barnes of Lexington, Ky. - No issue.

Reverting to Alexander Black the 11th child of John Black and wife Jane, we note he was born at Blacksburg, Virginia, February 16, 1798 died July 9, 1872, married Elizabeth McDonald December 24, 1823. Elizabeth was born June 28, 1808 died April 27, 1880. They moved to Wisconsin where he died. Issue -

- (1) Jane who married Henry Ree Bowen of Tazewell County, Virginia.
- (2) Harvey (M. D.) born in Blacksburg August 27, 1827, died in Richmond, Virginia, October, 1887, married Mary Irby Kent born in Rockford, Illinois April 27, 1836 died in Virginia, May 18, 1911, married 1852. Dr. Black was a well known physician and his record is written with the start of VPI, also his work as Supt. of the Williamsburg Hospital for the Insane, then at Marion, Virginia. His record as surgeon of the Confederate Army most excellent - and a tablet has been placed in Burrus Hall of VPI to carry the record of his public spirited services.
- (3) Ellen Black married James Spickard of Virginia.
- (4) Margaretta never married, but often visited her relatives in Virginia.
- (5) Elizabeth married George Krouskup of Wisconsin.
- (6) Amanda married William Krouskup of the same place - No issue.
- (7) James or Jim - married 1st. Sue Carpenter (2'd) Mary Ann Woodward
- (8) Oscar married Ida Berndu of Wisconsin
- (9) John Quincey called Quincey married Mary Reynolds
- (10) Winfield Scott married Ally Downs,
- (11) Charles died at the age of eighteen
- (12) Susan died in infancy.

Of the foregoing we note James who married as his 2'd wife Mary

Hill Woodward, and these are given to complete the descendants of John Black and to carry down the line of descent as far as could be obtained in a search for the descendants of John Black and wife Jane Alexander Black.

The children of Dr. Harvey Black and wife Mary Kent Black are noted 1st. A son Kent who became a physician of Blacksburg, married Mary Lou Belle of Pulaski, Virginia, died June 9, 1933 - no issue. 2'd Elizabeth Arabella born in Blacksburg, Virginia died in Staunton July 29, 1942, married as his second wife Dr. John Apperson of Marion, Virginia, and had issue: Harvey Black Apperson married Louise Logan - issue two sons viz; Harvey Black Apperson and Charles Logan Apperson. Kent Apperson married Margaret Rucker of Bedford County, Virginia. Issue Elizabeth Ann - Nita Black - Mary Kent - Fannie Palmer - Elizabeth. Mary Apperson - unmarried, of Blacksburg, Virginia. Family Historian.

Of the above we note Harvey Black Apperson was Judge of the Corporation Commission, was a member of the Virginia Legislature several terms, and noted as Attorney General when he deceased.

Alexander son of Dr. Harvey Black married Lizzie Otey, daughter of Dr. Otey of near Blacksburg, died March 21, 1945, no children.

Charles son of Dr. Harvey Black died in Richmond, Virginia, October 1926, married Lannie Kipps of Virginia but no issue.

Of the descendants of Wisconsin who had children we note Ellen and James Spickard had a son William who married Lillie - maiden name not ascertained - but their children were Julie, Gladys and Leland

Elizabeth who married George Krouskup had Jacob, Edward, Eliza, Amanda. The latter married Robt. Cumber and had Elizabeth Carolyn and John, Oscar 8th child - and wife Ida Berndu had Virginia, married Artie Lery Reynolds married Atta Maley - Issue three.

Winfield son of Alexander Black was 10th child - married Allie Downs and had one son Buford.

James the 7th child of Alexander Black married 1st Sue Carpenter 2'd Mary Ann Woodward and had four children viz; George Harvey Black who married Helena Martha Pennebaker; William Edward Black married Julia Saveland; Charles Black died infancy; James Alexander married Nellie McIntyre.

Of the above George seems to have been the most prolific and was the father of four children viz; Susan who married William Gray issue a daughter Susan married Wm. Gray; James Alexander married Margaret Russell, Issue Mary, Batty, Margaret Ann. Mary Ann married 1st Harry Mackenson (2) Issue Mary and Ann (daughters) Lizzie Bell who married Ernest D. McTaggart and had issue Wm. James. The latter married Lola Wells.

John Quincy 9th child of Alexander Black and wife Elizabeth had

Ellen married Dr. Melvin Kile - and Reynolds married Atta Maley - Issue none. Winfield Scot 10th child of Alexander Black and Allie Downs had a son Buford.

Above data furnished by Miss Mary Apperson, daughter of Dr. Harvey Black, and as suggestive help in placing the Blacks of Wisconsin. (See Addenda)

For long years Blacksbury my childhood home, was but a plain little village, beautifully located amid surrounding mountains, but with a population consisting of families of varying social types. A Banker and his family, two nice doctors, a druggist whose store was a place for friends to exchange greetings, and the men to talk politics. Always the ministers and their families and the College faculty linked in with the general populace. Some were land owners, they considered the most prosperous type, some small farmers, others of comfortable wealth, two or three professional men, and many poor whites. Most every family had servants, and a "black mammy" gave a touch of luxury to those who had children to be cared for.

Presbyterians and Methodists predominated with a small group of Episcopalians and when the Baptists expanded through a general revival, my Uncle's Fish Pond was used as a Baptistry, and many a shout of religious fervor went skyward as those newly immersed came out of the water.

The latest in dress and millinery was furnished through the fashion center Christiansburg nine miles distant, and the county seat. A daily mail was delivered by hack service, and while awaiting the arrival of the same, and delivery through window delivery to those who called for it, many an hour was given over to the then popular game of marbles, while those waiting kept an eye open for the great growling mastiffs the Post Master used as a guard over barred windows and fastened doors. A robbery would have shocked the entire village, but in any sorrow or disaster to one of the citizens, there was a sweet communion of fellowship and sympathy so binding it seemed to make them one people in the common band of mutual helpfulness and neighborliness.

My father was a Missipian by birth and came to Virginia when a lad of fourteen with his mother and one brother, the two living children remaining from the ten born to James Anderson Francisco and his wife Judith Michaux in Mississippi and Alabama. The reason for their coming was that their father had befriended a neighbor in a process of security that caused him to lose most of his property when he died suddenly and left his widow to rear the children.

Since Jesse Michaux of Prince Edward County, Va. was in debt to his sister Judith for her part of her father's estate (Capt. Joseph Michaux) she brought her sons to her "brother Jesse" to be educated. He seriously objected to having the burden thrust upon him as he had twelve daughters to dress, educate and bring out, but another sister Henrietta Rochet Vaughan appeared in Court one day and with a bewitching smile and pleasant voice influenced the Judicial Body to issue an order to her brother Jesse Michaux to provide for the education of John Michaux Francisco and his brother Robert LaFayette Francisco, her sisters sons. Reluctantly the order was carried out but that education stood by father in good stead as his writings on "Political Economy" were of intense usefulness to the Presidents

of VAMC now VPI for several regimes.

The Francisco plantation was located between a small town in Alabama known as Courtland and Aberdeen, Mississippi. James Anderson Francisco's wife Judith Michaux had relatives who had previously settled in that locality. My father also remembered with delight some of his boyhood experiences among the Choctaw Indians and at one time when living in Blacksburg he was visited by a chief with whom he had played when a lad in Mississippi, and who had succeeded his father as chief of the Indian tribe.

The old John Black home built in 1786-7 has been moved from the original site to a near by hill side, and not so pretentious as formerly as part of the house was lost in the move and never rebuilt. The War Memorial Building stands where the old home had welcomed strangers and friends in days gone by but the move for lack of sentiment was termed as Virginia's progress. The Black descendants are proud however that love of the best in culture and education was given to that section by their forebears and the name of the town perpetuates the name of the Black family and their descendants.

When through with school and it was decided that Robert Francisco should go to the mountains to secure better health, he went by horse back to Montgomery County, Virginia and in due time at Blacksburg met and married Keziah Black. The blending of sweet voices in music each evening as the Black family gathered on a long porch of the home, was wafted to the town nearby and so enticed him he requested an introduction and it was not long ere his rich bass was added to their songs. It was not surprising when he asked Charles Black for the hand of his daughter in marriage and the consent was graciously given.

The home to which memory carries me back was a good substantial building of ten rooms set in the midst of a lovely grove of trees, interspersed with lilacs and boxwood. There was a distinct home like appeal about it, with its plaza in front facing the college, and an additional long porch on the side opening on to a flower garden back of which was a vegetable garden used to supply the family needs, a combination of small fruits, an apple orchard of no small dimensions, and the usual dependencies of out houses for a well kept homestead.

There was an old fashioned parlor with its furnishings of rosewood and hair cloth, some inlaid pieces, a large dining room with its hugh side-board and corner cabinet, and a china closet where the family silver was kept (some of which is still retained as precious heirlooms) while all through the house were cases of books supplying good reading matter. Pictures adorned the walls, likenesses of forebears gone to their just reward, rooms commodious and well fitted out with lamps, tables and such furnishings as made them ready for pleasant occupancy at any and all times. All bedrooms were on the second floor save that of the Master of the home which was conveniently arranged for his entry and for the mother of the home - this was on the first floor.

Adjoining a lovely meadow owned by the Black brother and adjoining the old John Black home, lived two of my mothers brothers, John and Edward Black, and her sister Nannie Taylor Black, and for whom the

compiler of this record was named. While it was demonstrated that she loved me, yet her pet name for her niece was "Little Devil" no doubt deserved as many were the pranks perpetrated on her. Each evening just after supper the two brothers came to visit their sister Kizzie and her husband and as the three men were Confederate soldiers, my father a Captain in Stonewall Jackson's Brigade, Lt. Edward Black under Gen. Joseph Johnson, and John Black commander of the Home Guards, many were the war stories told by these veterans until the whole family were convulsed with laughter or sat in sorrowing silence as some tragic experience was related.

In the home, prayers were but a part of daily living, petitions that made one feel God was listening, the bible was ever near, no dusting of the book when the minister arrived, catechism was added to the ritual of good breeding and music composed a large part of the household joys.

For years father was an Elder in the Presbyterian church at Blacksburg as well as Superintendent of the Sunday School. There was never a thought of staying away from church services, but as the sabbaths came around we were told to be ready to accompany father to both Sabath School and church and family discipline was such we knew to obey. As a bible student he could easily direct a large class of students and his teachings were both interesting and instructive. Often after a sabbath's afternoon teachings, students would walk home with him when they would be offered some light refreshments by the mother who always seemed to back up anything desired by her husband in his duties as a churchman, then a big basket of apples would be brought in and the young men be told to fill their pockets. Useless to say that oft times songs were sung and the boys would steal in a little holding of hands when father turned away to select some special book or to get advice from the Queen of the home. No doubt this would seem rather tame these days but at that time it was a nice way to spend a sabbath afternoon.

We were blessed in this home life and our parents, father was a charming talker and recomteuce, witty and inexhaustable in speech. No one could tell more delightful stories than he. Both the father and mother had Huguenot ancestry which no doubt tempered any austerity that might have prevailed from the intermingling of English and Scotch while on the fathers side his Spanish and French blood may have given him the spirit of bravery as well as the fun loving, a beautiful voice and good music lover. Mother had a cordial and unaffected manner, was a good mimic, and her Scotch blood made her a conservative and excellent house wife. We would say they were both lovers of justice, fortitude, temperence and benevolence and fully agreed in their beliefs.

If father had possessed a multitude of sins his love and charity would have covered them for he never failed to respond to a call for help and his beneficiaries were numerous. Rich and poor, black and white vied in doing him honor when he was carried from Virginia to Tennessee where he rests. The ranks were closed over the missing one and we were told to march on beside the mother through the years, years that grew swifter until in age they revealed the crystal and silver in the end that obscures but cannot hide the spirit.

In the home life flowed simply and on natural lines, cordial deviations and social complinations were ignored and the manners of the household were

of unreserved frankness. The sad part was when the break came and the family were dispersed for educational and business purposes. This was when my father died and we moved to another state. Heretofore we had been guided, now we were more nearly to direct ourselves. Under the guidance of a dutiful son and a devoted son-in-law, mother straightened her back, the brother broadened his shoulders, the oldest sister who was grown when the compiler of this record entered the family circle, was an expert teacher and with her family loyalty ever uppermost, was a second mother to all of us. The married sister assumed her part of the responsibility by aiding in the musical education of her younger sisters for she was a brilliant musician.

Unknowingly we seem to have been trained to meet emergencies so with each one doing their part, the change was met with swift execution. Always saddened hours follow the changes that succeed death, when the dark hour of departure from this world breaks up the "little grains of sand that form the shores of mortal life". The reality of death with its keen cuttings came to us as we stood beside the grave of our father and heard a clergyman pronounce the words of "dust to dust."

Back to a desolate home - no - but to a saddened one. Mother with tearful eyes led us out under an August sun of dazzling brightness and we were told of the break that would come in the Virginia home we loved so well, and which effected each of us. It is one of the blessings of life that adversity cannot cloud the days of childhood, and we soon found in new scenes the essentials of happy living.

The past is our special possession in life, the one treasure of which we cannot be deprived. Innumerable filaments of memory cling as we go through life, and rush us back to experiences that fasten about parents and grand-parents who in relating incidents of the past light a taper in the imagination that is never extinguished but on the contrary flickers away persistently as by a miracle these recollections increase in brilliance, and the evening of life brings them shining thru a vista of years like beacons of joyous brightness.

"They never quite leave us, the friends who have passed
Through the shadows of death to the sunlight above,
A thousand sweet memories are holding them fast
To the place they blessed with their presence and love."

Progress has carried away many of the physical ties that held us to the old home place in Blacksburg, and great stone structures stand in magnificence as a token of the Institute of learning VPI. They have come to remain but they cannot and do not despoil the memories of the descendants of the Black ancestry that helped to make the little village and the college so well known to many an Alumni, some of whom may be carried back to the days of smaller things that were true to the pleasure of students, faculty and citizens.

The home of the author of this record "Locust Grove" built in 1852 still stands, was occupied by one of the professors of VPI and it brought a nostalgia when recently it was our pleasure to visit Blacksburg, look again on an aging place, and revive the memory of a happy childhood with many hours spent in an apple orchard beautiful in both bloom and fruitage.

William Black

In the family memorials there is a record stating it was a most distressing and disturbing event when William Black after so generously gave the land for the town of Blacksburg and had joined with his brother in a contribution of this land, for an Academy of learning, and for the cemetery, decided to move to Ohio. His brother John was deeply grieved at this and the parting was a sorrowful event. William Black seems to have bought land from the Government, then located in Clark county, Ohio. This land he converted into a highly productive farm. He died in his home at that place in 1844 when his age is given as eighty-four and his wife Jane died there in 1846 at the age of eighty-three. They were recognized as a splendid couple, and noted as having made a splendid contribution to the welfare of the community.

When William Black married Jane McBeth, his brother John Black is reported as a securitor. They are listed as industrious Scotch-Irish American farming people. This was given in a press report and continued in more detail, viz; that he was born in Augusta County, Virginia, and his wife in Tennessee. They were married in Botetourt county, Virginia, but after the dissecting of the counties William was living in Montgomery county, where the first three of his children were born. He is noted as being a self made man, was a circuit Judge for fourteen years and was serving in that capacity when he left Virginia for Ohio. He served in the war of the Revolution and in making out his record it is noted William was over four years younger than his brother Lt. John Black. He possessed a most remarkable memory, and in his generosity and after consulting with his brother John Black gave the land for Blacksburg, Virginia, over thirty-eight acres, owned a number of slaves which he emancipated before going to Ohio to live. William moved there in 1841 and in addition to the land he purchased from the Government received some as compensation for his services in the Revolution. His farming success was of note and at the time supplied various vegetables not only for his own family, but gave joy to many of his neighbors. He loved the Ohio people, and among his descendants were men who served in the Union army, but which did not please his relatives in the south. This is in part quoted from that press report.

We offer an account of an incident passed down by Miss Nannie Black and which was of times repeated. She prided herself on being an unreconstructed rebel. After the war an old servant George Mills by name, who was most too decrepid to do much but stand around, was placed near to open a large gate allowing entrance to the John Black home. It was arranged that those who entered might drive to the porch and descend right in front of the house. One day a carriage drawn by a beautiful pair of horses arrived and as usual Uncle George opened wide the gate and invited the strangers to drive in. Before alighting the visitors inquired if that was the original home of John Black and when the hostess stated it was, they descended from the carriage and introduced themselves as descendants of William Black, and when the mistress of the old home was so informed and as from the North, Uncle George was told to show them out as they were Yankees. My mother who fortunately was visiting her sister at the time, was not so distraught but the political differences of the families had so embittered my Aunt she seemed loth to forgive a lack of interest when her brother Lt. Edward Black was confined in a northern prison for eight months after the surrender, and still felt revengeful towards her own relatives. No requests from my mother

could persuade her to open the doors to them but mother did take the authority of showing them through the grounds, invited them to return at some future time and assured them of a comfortable resting place at the little hotel in the town.

They parted with a cordial adieu and when they had returned to Ohio wrote back to my mother expressing their appreciation of her curtesy to her relatives. It is with rejoicing that the present generations have long since forgotten the fact of their ancestors differing in their political views and that their ancestors served on both the north and south in the "War between the States" and a love has developed showing that after all "blood is thicker than water."

William and John Black were sons of Samuel Black and wife Jane Porter, William born Circa 1760 - married March 27, 1793 Jane McBeth also of Scotch ancestry. William moved to Ohio after 1800 and died there, leaving six children. We offer the following cursory history of the man as furnished by one of his descendants and as we wished for the completion of the record of the two brothers, it was freely offered as a contribution to this recordation. The following history is limited but gives something of the record of so worthy a person.

When Samuel Black secured land on Woods river (now New River) he gave it to two of his sons John and William Black, and each of these were to receive three hundred acres which they owned for sometime, at that time known as located in West Augusta. Jane McBeth had also received through inheritance land located in Botetourt County and which they sold before moving to Ohio. However William being a landed proprietor naturally wished to dispose of some of his holdings hence made petition to the General Assembly of Virginia for acceptance of a gift of land that he and his wife Jane were offering for the establishment of a town. The petition reads as follows:

"To the honorable Speaker and members of the General Assembly of Virginia: Your petitioner having a piece of ground in a healthy climate and fertile neighborhood with excellent springs thereon, and agreeable and well situated for a small town, did at the request of a number of his friends and neighbors and with the consent of his brother John Black, lay off thirty-eight acres and twenty-five poles of the same into lots and streets, and has disposed of a number of lots to purchasers who have built and are building houses thereon, and your petitioner has been advised to solicit your Honorable Body to establish by law a town at the said place. Your petitioner therefore prays that your Honorable House will pass an act verifying the said 38 acres and 25 poles of land lying in Montgomery County to be so used.

Further your petitioner prays that your Honorable Body will pass an act that the said 38 $\frac{3}{4}$ acres and 25 poles of land lying in Montgomery County, be placed in Trustees to establish a town thereon as the same has already been laid out into lots and streets, and grant to the holders of the same such privileges as are given to the citizens of other towns in the Commonwealth, not incorporated.

And your petitioner is in duty bound and will pay etc. Signed by William Black under date of November 1797.

When William was given permission by the General Assembly to lay out the town, he also requested his brother JOHN BLACK to be one of the Trustees for life.

The children of William Black and wife Jane McBeth are noted as follows: Agnes, William Porter, Andrew Clinton, Sarah, Samuel. Of these we note two of the sons and something of their families as supplied by one of the descendants.

William Porter Black son of William, was born at Blacksburg, Virginia in 1800 and at an early age indicated a taste for agriculture which he followed for his life's work. He was educated at the neighboring schools and became a leader in imparting successful farming information, and supplied it to those about him until they could furnish their own supplies, and with them could have the best in vegetation for his own table as well. He had just reached his majority when he married Susannah Verdier, a native of Kentucky and a daughter of Adam Verdier and wife Elizabeth Mercer Verdier and a descendant of Catherine Louise DuBois and her husband Nicholas Verdier of Frederick County, Virginia. They were of the Huguenot group who came to America to secure religious and political freedom, and whose descendants secured land in Kentucky, when farm lands were offered as rich in productive elements. The Verriers were a prominent and wealthy family but Susan's father being a younger son inherited less than the others owing to the law of Primo-geniture. However Susanna was well versed in home crafts and directed her Menage in a most skillful and satisfactory manner.

After their marriage William Porter Black and wife settled on a farm in Clark County, Ohio where they spent the remainder of their days. He died in August 1854. His wife lived to be eighty-three years of age. She was born in 1803 and died in 1886. They were married November 16, 1820 and were the parents of sixteen children, fifteen of them living to maturity. They left to their children a valuable estate and the heritage of christian and intellectual characteristics. We offer the following list of their children.

- (1) Cynthia Ann Black born Sept. 9, 1821 died March 21, 1862, married 1842.
- (2) James Quinton Black born Feb. 23, 1823 married his cousin Mary Jane Black and had one daughter who married a Mr. Harducker.
- (3) Andrew Clinton Black born Feb. 1824 married in 1846 Mary Merritt and died Sept. 1907. His home was at Kaufman, Wisconsin.
- (4) Thomas H. Black born 1826 died 1827.
- (5) Jane McBeth Black born 1827 died 1857 at Vineland, Wisconsin, unmarried.
- (6) Frank Q. Black born 1829 died 1907 made his home in Kansas.
- (7) Elizabeth Mercer born 1831 also lived in Kansas.
- (8) Josiah Black born 1833 - no date of his death but he was a soldier in the War between the states.
- (9) Wm. R. Black also a soldier in the same war born 1835 and when he enlisted was living in Shawnee, Kansas.
- (10) Ezra M. Black born 1837 no further record of this man however.
- (11) Cyrus Black born 1838 served in the War between the states and was killed at the battle of Stone river, was a member of Kentucky troops First volunteers and was a color Bearer when he was killed.
- (12) Adam Verdier born 1839 died 1864 killed in the war of 1861-65.
- (13) Samuel Black born 1842 died 1870.

Swathmore, Penn., we note John David Weiland, born July 19, 1925, who enlisted in the Navy May 1943, and was honorably discharged in March 1946. Patricia Jane was born November 19, 1929.

We wish to express to Mrs. Weiland a beloved kinswoman appreciation of her aid in the record of her ancestor William Black, brother of John Black, and both sons of Samuel Black and wife Jane Porter Black.

It is a pleasing event when one can record that the Blacks and families into which they married interested themselves in the cultural life of the places in which they lived, were college and university graduates, men of strong personalities, made forceful leaders in law, Physics and gospel, the women teachers of Art, Home economics, dramatics and music. In time of war they gave their sons to aid in the service of their country, and each succeeding generation has kept up the work of carrying on these good offices. From Scotland to Newcastle, Delaware, to Southwest Virginia and Northwest from Wisconsin to Pennsylvania, descendants of these pioneers are making good in patriotic societies, Colonial Dames to Daughters of the Confederacy, and about the only things they endeavored to avoid was a discussion of politics.

After William Black had given the land for the town of Blacksburg, and it had been accepted, he suggested the appointment of certain Trustees and in making the matter of disposing of certain lots in the section, he and wife Jane signed a document with the Trustees for the consideration of one dollar paid in by the Trustees, allowing them to grant deeds to lots as purchased by different persons, the land described as located on Stroubles Creek, beginning on a line dividing the land of William and John Black, his brother, and near a branch which rises near William Black's house, and same was recorded in the Montgomery County records under date of January 13, 1798.

The trustees as named were JOHN PRESTON, JOHN BLACK, EDWARD RUTLEDGE, HENRY RIBBLE, ADAM WALL, ROBERT T. PRESTON, EDWIN AMIS AND WILLIAM THOMAS. In addition to the Trustees for the town, others were appointed for a Female Academy to be built on the land as given by JOHN BLACK and certification was made before John Pepper, Justice of the Peace. However the latter were added after William Black had moved with his family to Wisconsin. Also added later were John Peterman, James Patton Preston and George Rutledge.

There are a number of deeds noted but we offer a limited number that those who read may know something of the type of transfer of their ancestors and others who made changes in their land holdings.

First, John and Jane Black gave to their son Charles land bought of George Surface and adjoining William Thomas and Christopher Ribble. Surveyed by William Preston. Date of report February 13, 1827.

Also John and wife Jane Black sold to Charles Black five and 3/4 acres of land adjoining Lewis Amis and the deed was certified before Robert T. Preston and William Thomas, Justices - date February 6 and year not stated.

or allow ourselves to be mastered by them.

When William Black laid out the town of Blacksburg his brother John Black gave the land for the cemetery and in 1842 feeling the need for greater educational facilities for his children and grand-children gave additional land on which a female academy was erected. Later on an institution for the training of young men in the Arts and sciences of agriculture and mechanics was considered as necessary and its establishment was an important event.

A start was made as a Methodist school when the church presented the name of Olin for the first President. However the citizens gave evidence of their love for Colonel Ballard Preston when the name was changed to Preston and Olin.

During the war between the states the institution had to be closed but in 1872 it was revived and became the Virginia Agricultural and Mechanical College, in accordance with arrangements made by Doctors Black and Whisner. The church offered the patronage in honor of Dr. Whisner and the county of Montgomery contributed \$20,000.00 as a start for the college to be located at the town of Blacksburg. The Trustees bought "Solitude" the home of Colonel Robert Preston, adjoining the Black property, and eighty acres from Mess. John and Edward Black, grandsons of the first JOHN BLACK, trustees of the town and nephews of the Founder of the town, William Black.

Buildings were soon erected and later on these brothers with their sister Mrs. K. B. Francisco gave the additional land for the opening of a lane or road extending from the town to the farm lands.

The matter of need for state help was brought before the legislature and thus began the present Institute known as the Virginia Polytechnic Institute. The history of the college is well known but the statement is made in this record that the part played by the Black family can be established for them. This was ever a work of love for those who participated in any educational progress.

True to form the descendants of the early Black brothers have attended VPI and have expressed a sincere admiration for this Institution and felt it an honor to be educated from an institution of learning that carried out the desires of their fore-fathers and which has at the same time aided in perpetuating the name of the Black family and their part played in the foundation of the college.

The former home of the author of this record was known as "Locust Grove" built in 1852, and still stands occupied by one of the Professors of VPI. It brought a nostalgia when recently it was our pleasure to visit Blacksburg and look again on an aging place and in memory revive thoughts of a happy childhood with many hours spent in an Apple Orchard beautiful in bloom and fruitage.