

Is a Sarah Woodbridge the wife of William Hanks Sr. of Richmond Co. Virginia?

It has long been published that Sarah, the wife of William Hanks Sr., was a daughter of Paul Woodbridge, a neighbor of Wm. Hanks. Barton in his "Lineage of Lincoln" may have been the first to suggest the connection. However, the records of Richmond Co. offer no indication Sarah is the daughter of Paul Woodbridge. She is not named in his will and her estimated birth year of 1756 does not fit with the ages of the other children. There are few records of interaction between the Woodbridge and Hanks families despite their being neighbors. There is no proof then Sarah Campbell Hanks was nee Woodbridge.

William Hanks and Sarah were married by 14 February 1678/9 when they registered the birth of their first child, William Hanks Jr. Sarah had apparently been married prior to her marriage to Hanks for on 1 Oct 1690 "William and Sarah Hanks to Alex Campbell, natural son of sd. Sarah to abide with Sarah and William and Sarah to provide him with sufficient clothing."¹ "Natural" is a term for children related by blood. This indicates Sarah may have had a previous marriage, to a Campbell, since the term "base born" or "bastard" was used for an illegitimate child. The mean age at first marriage in this time period for males was 27, for females 19. (see Albion's Seed) For Sarah to have married and had a child prior to her marriage to Hanks, she was likely older than the mean age, possibly 2-3 years older if this was her only child. Thus, she was about 22, or more, when her first Hanks child was born, 1756 possibly her birth year.

The Woodbridge Family of Richmond Co. Virginia

On 27 April 1772 James Hinds of Halifax Co. (Virginia) who is 80 years old was deposed in this county and stated he had known Major William Woodbridge, the father of the late Captain John Woodbridge of Richmond Co. Va. and also the late George Woodbridge who was the brother of Major Woodbridge and who had two children, a girl who was older and a son. He also stated he had known Elizabeth Woodbridge a sister of William and George who had married first one Mclaulin (sic) and then married Peter Taff by whom she had sons Thomas Taff and John Taff. As part of this suit, a copy of the will of Paul Woodbridge was filed. The will was filed in Old Rappahannock Records but has been lost there. Filed with this suit is the will of Paul Woodbridge of Rappahannock Co. dated 5 September 1682 and probated 2 September 1691 where he gives to his wife "the plantation where I now live during her life". To eldest son William the plantation after his mother's decease and with the land belonging to it to be held jointly between his brother George and himself. The Plantation where Thomas Clutton now lives to go to Elizabeth Woodbridge. Daughter Ann Woodbridge to have the 150-ac. adjoining her sister. An additional 300 ac. jointly between sons William and George. Personal estate to wife and children. Son William sole exec with my brother William Fitzherbert's care.²

Paul and Bridget Woodbridge had children listed in NFP Registers, William 1668 and Elizabeth 1677.³ Born 24 December 1677 Elizabeth, daughter of Paul and Bridget Woodbridge⁴ Elizabeth married first Manus McLaughlin by Jan. 1694 and second Peter Taff about 1711(Richmond Co. Order Book 1, page 157) Elizabeth Woodbridge Taff's will in Richmond Co. Va. WB5, p. 516 dated 6 March 1741/2 and probated 7 Jan 1746/7 names oldest daughter Bridget Lovelace, Ann Dew, Priscilla Williams and

¹ Familysearch.org, Old Rappahannock Co., Virginia Order Book 1688-1692

² Clayton Library, Houston Texas, Genealogies of Virginia Families Tyler's Quarterly Vol. III, P-T, 1981 Genealogy Publishing Co., page 491

³ The Registers of North Farnham Parish 1663-1814 and Lunenburg Parish 1783-1800 Richmond County, Virginia compiled and published by George Harrison Sanford King, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, Fredericksburg, Virginia 1966 Southern Historical Press Inc.

⁴ The Registers of North Farnham Parish 1663-1814 and Lunenburg Parish 1783-1800 Richmond County, Virginia compiled and published by George Harrison Sanford King, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, Fredericksburg, Virginia 1966 Southern Historical Press Inc.

youngest daughter Elizabeth Gibson, son John Taff rest of estate. William and Sarah Woodbridge had children John 1706 and Sarah 1714.⁵

Married Well and Often, Marriages of Northern Neck of Virginia 1649-1800 shows George Woodbridge married Mary Pincet bef. 1706 (he was the son of Paul Woodbridge 1631-1691). Paul Woodbridge married Bridget Fitzherbert c. 1665 (Rappahannock Co. Loose wills Box 101). William Woodbridge married Sarah Keene c. 1705 and second Sarah Hull Brereton 1 July 1713, widow of Henry Brereton, daughter of Richard Hull.

Cpt. William Woodbridge on 2 May 1716 inventoried the estate of William Fitzherbert (Headley, Wills of Richmond Co. Va.) On 5 Feb 1718/19 further inv. of my Uncle Wm. Fitzherbert by William Woodbridge adm. (Headley, Wills of Richmond Co. Va.)

(Major) William Woodbridge, son of Paul and Bridget Fitzherbert Woodbridge, was born 14 July 1668 (NFP Registers) and died 14 November 1727 (NFP Registers). William Woodbridge's will is dated 16 November 1726 and probated 1 February 1726/7 or possibly 1727/8 and he names cousin George Woodbridge, daughter Elizabeth, William Robertson the bastard son of Anne Robertson and son John Woodbridge. Maj. William Woodbridge married first Sarah Keene and second Sarah Hull Brereton.

William and Sarah Woodbridge children: NFP Registers Richmond Co. Va.
John Woodbridge born 24 Nov 1706 (Sarah Keene)
Elizabeth Woodbridge born 6 July 1709 (Sarah Keene)
Sarah Woodbridge born 18 November 1714 (Sarah Hull Brereton)
William Robertson, son of Ann Robertson born 14 November 1724

1692-1694 Richmond Co VA Orders; Antient Press: (Page 17) Richmond County Court 1st of June 1692 - This day Geo: Woodbridge in open Court made Choyce of his Uncle, Mr. Wm Fitzherbert for his Guardian.

On 3 January 1693 Richmond Co. Va. OB1, 1692-1694 familysearch.org, page 157 Petition of Manus MacGlothlin showing that the sd. Manus having married Elizabeth the daughter of Paul Woodbridge pray that the estate of the sd. Paul may be equally divided amongst the several children....

Wills of Old Rappahannock County, Virginia [William Montgomery Sweeny]

WOODBIDGE, PAUL, 5 September 1682 ; 2 7ber 1691.

In the name of God Amen I Paull Woodbridge of the County of Rappahannock and in Farnham Parish in Virginia being weake of body but perfect of mind and memory knowing nothing more unsartaine than the time and where I die for whilst I am in perfect memory shall make my Last Will & Testymnt as followeth. In the Name of God I bequeath my Soule to the Lord Jesus Christ and hope to be saved through the meretts of his only Son our Lord and my body to the ground Next I doe give to my wife [Bridget] the plantatyon where I doe now live during her life. Next to my two sonnes : I give to Will: Woodbridge the Eldest the plantatyon after his mother's decease with what land belongeth to it to be jointly betweene his brother George and himself and to them and to their heirs for Ever to have and to hould. My plantatyon where Tho : Clonton now lives my Will is Elizabeth Woodbridge with one hundred and fifty akers of land to have and to hould. Also to my daughter Anne I give one hundred and fifty adjoining her sister to have and to hould. And for the remaining three hundred akers to be jointly betweene my two Bones Will: and George Woodbridge and their heirs. The rest of my personall estate

⁵ The Registers of North Farnham Parish 1663-1814 and Lunenburg Parish 1783-1800 Richmond County, Virginia compiled and published by George Harrison Sanford King, Fellow, American Society of Genealogists, Fredericksburg, Virginia 1966 Southern Historical Press Inc.

when my debts are paid to be equally divided between my wife and Children ; and my loving and kind wife and my son Will: to be my sole and sole executors with my brother Mr. Will: Fitzherberts care; and god alone and you mentioned I leave this trust. Look to god and to your trust farewell.

Sept. 5, 1682, Paul Woodbridge

Witnesses : Roger Harem, Ann X Phillips, Ann X Morgan, Will: Fitzherbert.

William Fitzherbert aged 60 years or thereabouts, Anne Phillips aged 32 or thereabouts Sworne say that they these deponents did see the within Testator Signe Seale publish & declare the within written as his last Will & Testament & that he the said Testator at the time was in perfect sence & memory & further sayth not. Sworne in Rappa County Court by Wm. Fitzherbert & Anne Phillips the 2nd day of 7ber 1691 and recorded the 16th day of the month. Contributed by: James Hughes

<http://wc.rootsweb.ancestry.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?op=GET&db=mrmarsha&id=I41027>

The will of Paul Woodbridge dated 5 September 1682 and probated 2 September 1691 names wife, sons William and George, daughters Elizabeth and Anne, no daughter Sarah mentioned. Peter Taff on page 491 of Genealogy of Virginia Families from Tyler's Quarterly, Vol. I, 1981, 975.5 D2gvf, "filed with this suit is the will of Paul Woodbridge of Rappahannock Co. dated 5 September 1682 and probated 2 September 1791 naming wife and two sons...."

Hanks Property in Richmond Co., Virginia

An indenture dated 7 Feb 1689/90 (Rappa. Co., Va. DB8) from **Paul Woodbridge** to William Hanks of Farnham, carpenter, for 4000 pounds tobacco 100 ac. N side of a branch called Indian Town adj. Edward Jeffreys, Moratico Creek, Robert Palmer, and acknowledged by William Woodbridge, son of Paul dec'd. 2 Sept 1691.

Indenture dated 4 May 1695 (Richmond Co. Va. DB2, p. 123) **William Woodbridge** sold to William and Sarah Hanks 100 ac. adjoining Thomas Wilson, Robert Palmer, Edward Jeffrey, and the land of William Hanks and recorded 2 Aug 1695.

Indenture 2 Dec 1699 (Richmond Co., Va. DB3, p. 46) John and Michael Powell for 5500 pounds of tobacco sold to William Hanks 150 ac. part of 480 ac. patented by Powell in NFP and adjoining Edward Jones, Joseph Tayloe, John Woolard, John Batridge and witnessed by **William Woodbridge**.

An indenture dated 19 Feb 1703/4 (Richmond Co. Va. DB3, p. 125) from Edward Geffrey of NFP and Elizabeth, his wife, to William Hanks Sr. of same 70 ac. adjoining William Hanks, John Newman, **Paul Woodbridge dec'd.**, and Robert Palmer and witnessed by Luke Hanks and Michael Connole.

Indenture 22 Jan 1726/7 (Richmond Co. DB8, p. 376) William Hanks (Jr.) of NFP, planter, to Thomas White of same 75 ac. adj. **Paul Woodbridge** and Henry Wilson and Alex Newman, William Hanks father of sd. William, Thomas Griffin, and witnessed by John Woodbridge and Caron Branon.

On 4 May 1733/34 (Richmond Co. OB10) Hester and William Hanks, exec. of LW&T of William Hanks dec'd., ack. deed to **John Woodbridge**. An indenture dated 2 Mar 1733/34 (DB8, p. 687) Hestor and William Hanks, execs. of LW&T of William Hanks dec'd. late of NFP to **John Woodbridge** of same...Hanks discharged Woodbridge who fulfilled clause of LW&T of William Hanks wherein he desired exec. Woodbridge to sell land whereon John Hazzard did dwell which was purchased by Edward Geoffrey cont. 70 ac.