

Seventeenth Century
Virginia Ancestors:
A Research Case Study

Donald W. Moore, CG

My Seventeenth Century Virginia Ancestor

- ♦ **Edmund Moore** died after 24 January 1686/7 in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. He married **Elizabeth** [—? —] before 13 November 1667. She died before 24 January 1686/7.
 - ♦ son, **Cason Moore** died between 24 January and 17 March 1686/7 in Lower Norfolk County, Virginia.
 - ♦ son, **James Moore**.
 - ♦ son, **Thomas Moore**.

How Did I Find Him?



Immigration
records



Parish
records



Probate
records

How Did I Find Him?



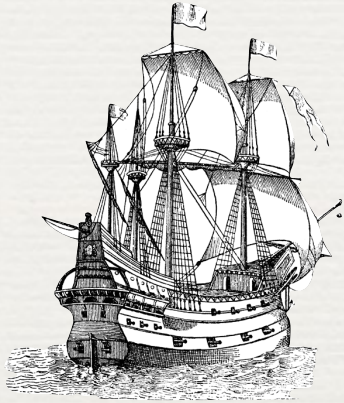
Land
records



Indentured
servants/
head rights

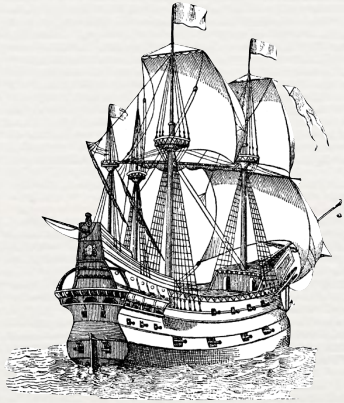


Court
orders



Seventeenth Century Immigration Records

- ♦ Virginia is not New England
- ♦ Based on English port records, indentured servant lists, head rights
- ♦ Unlikely to find ship name, port of departure, or port of entry

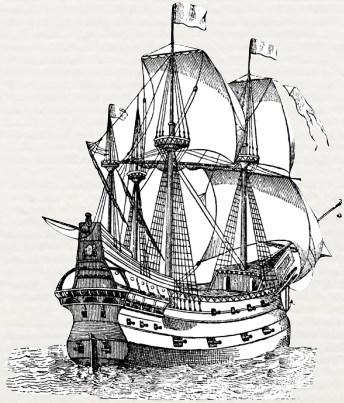


Seventeenth Century Immigration Records

September 1632,, Act XXIII

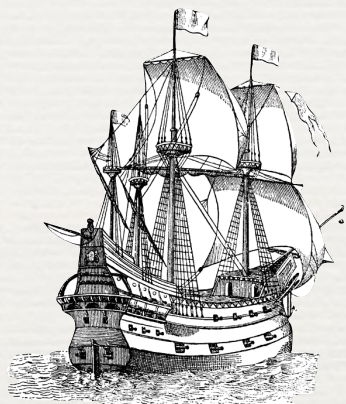
“...it is therefore further ordered, that the present commander of the ffort at Poynt Comfort, uppon the arrivall of any shipp or shippes or other vessell...shall immediatelie make his repayre aboard and there require the commander, captayne, and master of the sayd shipp or shippes...to deliver unto him...**a true list of all such persons as were imbarqued in their shipp** at their cominge out of England together with **their ages, countreyes and townes where they were borne;** and to keepe record of the same...”

Henings, *Statues at Large* (New York: R. & W. & G. Bartow, 1823), 1:191



Seventeenth Century Immigration Records

- ♦ Peter W. Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants: 1607-1660*
- ♦ George Cabell Greer, *Early Virginia Immigrants, 1623–1666*
- ♦ John Camden Hotten, *The Original Lists of Persons of Quality*
- ♦ W. G. Stanard, *Some Emigrants to Virginia*
- ♦ *Cavaliers and Pioneers* series
- ♦ “Registers of 17th Century Indentured Servants” *Virtual Jamestown*, (http://www.virtualjamestown.org/indentures/search_indentures.html)



Seventeenth Century Immigration Records

- ♦ Edmund Moore is not listed in these records



Seventeenth Century Vital Records

- ♦ General Assembly passed laws in 1631/2 requiring parish ministers and church wardens to keep registers of vital records
- ♦ Continued until after Revolution when Anglican Church was disestablished by law



Seventeenth Century Vital Records

Virginia Counties in 1635

County	Surviving 17th century parish records
Accomack	none
Charles City	Bristol Parish Records, 1685–1798
Charles River/York	New Poquoson Parish Register 1648–1798
Elizabeth City	none
Henrico	Bristol Parish Records, 1685–1798
James City	Bruton Parish Register, 1662–1797
Warrosquyoake	none
Warwick River	none



Seventeenth Century Vital Records

- ◆ Original surviving parish registers at Library of Virginia
- ◆ Most have been abstracted, published, and in print
- ◆ Gerald P. Gaidmore, *A Guide to Church Records in the Library of Virginia* (Richmond, VA: Library of Virginia, 2002)
- ◆ Charles Francis Cocke, *Parish Lines, Diocese of Southwestern Virginia* (Richmond, Va: Virginia State Library, 1960)
- ◆ Charles Francis Cocke, *Parish Lines, Diocese of Southern Virginia* (Richmond, Va: Library of Virginia, 1979).



Seventeenth Century Vital Records

- ♦ Edmund Moore is not listed in these records



Seventeenth Century Probate Records

- ♦ Recorded at county level by clerk of court
- ♦ Library of Virginia has microfilmed copies
- ♦ Availability varies by county, for example:
 - ♦ Accomac - from 1643
 - ♦ Lower Norfolk - from 1637
- ♦ Indexed by Clayton Torrence, *Virginia Wills and Administrations, 1632-1800*

... woods to say a my fofas cat be excepting what of the belongs to the
to the plantation in the one of them his the to some cattle to the same as before
about said child wife the same for due to be equally divided among them that
I thus give to my daughter Sarah I have come to be some years old that she shall
have the equal share of it if I should be obliged to her by her for her part each of
them when they shall come to be some years old to have the equal half of the
said fowls stock delivered them by my trust in writing & mine is that some
of the said cows to be some years old to have the equal half of the said remaining
stock the other part or half to be for my son Henry who is to be obliged to him
some years old to have the equal share of the said stock delivered as to one
year of age to that my Exclusion Give my father Edward now deceased
Interim in for his spending his life with sufficient disbursements
and Clothing & I give my wife that my Brother Thomas & my Sister
Mary should have the said cows of my children stock and the other
of cattle delivered them according to my wife & it is my will that my wife
Sarah shall possess & peacefully in the plantation & her share during
her life & one of that she shall have the equal share of the fowls to be
some years old of that she had to do with me I have given her by will the
singular the remainder of my Estate & my wife Sarah for Edward
Edward's honor and my wife Sarah said wife by her will & execution
of her last will & testament in witness whereof I have signed my hand
& seal this 21 day of January 1668

Signed Seal in
presence of
James Lloyd
James At Paris

Proved in Court 17 March
1668

Edw. Mores

James Lloyd

34. above Said children & there heires for Ever to be equally devided amongst them three
35. Thus vizt. when my daughter Sarah Shall come to be tenn yeares old That She Shall
36. have the Equal therd p[ar]t of ye Said catle delivered to her [—?—] my too Sons each of
37. them when they Shall come to be tenn yeares old to have there Equall halfe of the
38. Said female Stock delivered them & my true meaning & will is this when my
39. Son Cason comes to be tenn yeares old hee to have ye Equal Half of the Said remaning
40. Stock The other part of halfe to bee for my Son henry & to B delivered to him when
41. Tenn yeares old So Everie of these three to have there Sheare delivered att tenn
42. yeares of age It. That my Executrix Give my father Edmond More convenient
43. Intertainm[en]t in her house dureing his life vizt. Sufficient diet washinge lodging
44. and Clouthing It. It is my will that my Brother Wm More & my Bro in Law
45. Henry woodhouse Should take care of my children Stock and See there Share
46. of catle delivered them according to my will It. It is my will that my wife
47. Sarah Shall pooses & peaceably inJoy the plantation where I now live dureing
48. her life onely that She Shall lett my Son cason more have the preveledge to Seate
49. upon ye same part of the ye three hundred acres wh I have given him by will when hee
50. Comes to be Eighteen yeares old It. I give & bequeath unto my wife Sarah more all &
51. Singulare the remainor of my Estate p[er]sonall & reale to her heires for Ever and
52. Doe heareby nomonat & appoynt her my Said wife my whole & Sole Executrix
53. of this my last will & testament in wittnes whereof I have heare unto Sett my hand
54. & Seale this 24 day of Janauary 1686/7

55. Signed Sealed in

Cason More & Seale



Seventeenth Century Probate Records

- ♦ Cason Moore will, written 24 January 1686/7
 - ♦ Identifies his father Edmund Moore
 - ♦ Still alive when will was written



Seventeenth Century Land Records

- ◆ Land grants and patents survive from 1623
- ◆ Recorded at state level
- ◆ Originals in the Library of Virginia
- ◆ Digital copies searchable and viewable online at LVA web site
- ◆ Abstracted in *Cavaliers and Pioneers* series



Seventeenth Century Land Records

- ◆ Deeds recorded at county level by clerk of court
- ◆ Original copies recorded in deed books with separate index
- ◆ No published state-wide deed index

and assigns from all them or some in name of
 say any Patent title or Interest to the Land or any part thereof as
 provided always that the D. Markfashon his heires and assigns
 or assigns do yearly pay unto the D. priscott his heires and assigns
 much quit Rent as shall bee impoised upon the D 150 acres of Land
 yearly for ever or discharge the D priscott his heires and assigns
 Administrator or assigns from the same in writteth whereof
 will the D John priscott and them for our selves our heires
 Executors and Administrators Land hereunto set out away by
 Seal the 15th day of November 1669
 Signed sealed and delivred

John priscott of Salem
 A. priscott of Salem

In presence of us
 William Foster
 Michael Wayland

He knowledg in Court
 15th Novemb 1669
 Wm William Foster

know by these presents that I Edmond More of the County of
 Norfolk do hereby make and constitute Elizabeth More my
 wife Elizabeth More to be my lawfull attorney to act in my behalf
 in any case what so ever and do by these presents ratify and confirm
 and allow of what my D. Attorney shall see fit to do now and at
 any other time and for the Confirmation thereof I have subscribed

the 13th Novemb 1669
 John B. Bateman
 Noah Parker

Edmond More
 his mark

Edmund Moore To wit the Honorable Sir Thomas Fowling, that the said Samuel Mithaus Esq. do give a certain
200 Acres grant unto Edmund Moore Two hundred Acres of Land Situate lying and
being in the County of Lower Norfolk in Lynhaven parish being one
Earm? Neck of Land Bounded so on the East with William Patricks
Land and a Main branch on the South with the
Main Woods, on the West with a ready branch, containing
One hundred and Fifty Acres also Fifty Acres West by North
Upon the Opposite bank that Issues from William
Capps Dams, the said Land being situate upon the shore
of Gypsy plains. The said Land being due unto him the
Said Edmund Moore by and for the Transportation
of

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Of Four Pounds into this Colony & To Have & yielding
& paying &c. Which payment is Dated this 24th
of November 1657.

quietly and peacefully hold make up of people an luthly yet 100 acres of land
my loss should molestation or hindrance from me for Edmund more in
my other side or front whatsoever. Caring Raymond to be same receipt. And
my wholly land to be free from all further grants bargains and sales. And
of down or any other incumbrance whatsoever. and hereby acknowledging to have
full satisfaction from Henry Capps for your land of 150 acres of land your Capps
and your more in exchange for your land of 100 acres. In witness whereof I have
hereunto putt my hand & seal this 5th of Aprill 1635
Edmond I more

In witness whereof I have putt my hand & seal this 5th of Aprill 1635
Edmond I more
Acknowledged in Court of the County of Essex the 5th of Aprill 1635
Edmond I more
15th of Aprill 1635

To all to whom these presents shall come I do know you that I Edmund more findeth good
considerations need your own minding but more especially for your naturall love & affection
and my land James moore and your more I give unto you and your byes for ever two
tracts of land (viz) to my land James 150 acres of land joyning upon Henry Capps lying on the
side of the Cypress Swamp westerly from the land of land on, as also the my land Thomas 150 acres
joyning upon the land and part of the land divided as all for your affection I have made my good will
I give unto her and her byes a fine tract or thred of land lying westerly from the land of land on
to the side of the land being part of the land of land on. In Confirmation whereof I have
made putt my hand & seal this 5th of Aprill 1635 desiring you may be advised in the content of land
and your byes for ever
Edmond more
Acknowledged in Court of the County of Essex the 5th of Aprill 1635
Edmond more
15th of Aprill 1635
Edmond more
15th of Aprill 1635

John Phillip
Phillip

As you are the owner of the land in Lower Norfolk Phillip Howard humbly sheweth, whereby
you and your land and difference between your land and the other part of
the same land with your land, not please to be of attorney, of not some other
causing a writ to be writ out, your part being first and not for capacity to land to
you and every humbly make request that your difference may be settled as a right.
And you may be content, when your part is one for his williness sake of appearing
and your part shall ever pray, being all at the end of your words, most humbly
doth
16th day of June
Phillip Howard

Know all men by these presents that I Edward moore of Lower Norfolk in
the hands of the court and grant unto John Phillip all the plantation
of my new plantation and profits of all proceeds of the same belonging and due to a
substant grant that was made during sale of the 30 day of April 1621 your plantation
embracing four hundred acres of land, to have and to hold your plantation unto you
and your heirs forever, as afore said to his heirs and assigns for ever after by deed
of sale your Edward moore, in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand
and seal this 16th day of June 1622

Edward Moore
and seal

Tested signed & delivered
in presence of
John Phillip
James Brown

John Phillip
of 16th day of June 1622
John Phillip

I Underwritten Francis Lyster and Henry and John and your brother
Church my lawfull attorney in actions in suits and controversies in this
part of Lower Norfolk being Ratifying and confirming what ever my said
attorney shall do in your premises, as if I my self were personally present as witness
16th day of June 1622



Seventeenth Century Land Records

- ♦ Edmund Moore patent for 150 acres, 24 November 1657
- ♦ Edmund Moore power of attorney to wife Elizabeth, 13 November 1669
- ♦ Edmund Moore deed to sons James, Thomas, and William, 5 April 1675
- ♦ Edmund Moore deed to son Cason Moore, 16 August 1677



Seventeenth Century Indentured Servants/ Head Rights

- ♦ Head right - 50 acres granted to anyone who paid immigrant transportation costs on a per capita basis
- ♦ Indentured servant - immigrant who agreed to an indenture/contract to work a certain number of years as additional payment for transportation

Handwritten text in cursive script, partially obscured by a yellow highlight. The text is difficult to decipher due to the cursive style and some fading.

Handwritten text in cursive script, continuing from the previous section. The text is dense and difficult to read.

Upon the petition of Elizabeth Stratton Widoe a Certificate is granted unto her for three hundred acres nowe due by her oath or transportacon of the six psons here underwritten in the Collony
Elizabeth Watkins Wm. Dawson Edmond Moore
Eleanor Edwards Samuel Powell Jno. Powers

...of four hundred, three hundred, two hundred
...it is therefore ordered, that the said petition be made
...shall be made in full of all acc^{ts} due

On the petition of Edmund Moore, a certificate is granted
for two hundred acres of land now due on oath for the
transportation of four persons into the Colony.
Alan Armstrong, Alexander Daniell,
Brian Kenworth, John Bray

On the petition of Mr. the Comdant, the attachment is granted
for the sum of £1000 of the Province as the
satisfactory for the four hundred acres of land

On the petition of Edmund Moore a certificate is granted...for two hundred
acres of land now due on oath for the transportacon of fower prsons ... into
the Collony

Alan Armstrong Alexander Daniell
Brian Kenworth John Bray



Seventeenth Century Indentured Servants/ Head Rights

- ♦ Edmund Moore granted land for 4 head rights, 16 November 1656
- ♦ Edmund Moore a head right of Elizabeth Stratton, 16 August 1658



Seventeenth Century Court Orders

- ♦ Minute Book – a book kept by the clerk...of a court for entering memoranda of its proceedings
- ♦ Order Book – a book kept by the clerk of a court for entering court orders [actions]



Seventeenth Century Court Orders

- ♦ What can you find?
 - ♦ Apprenticeships/guardians
 - ♦ Criminal and civil cases, jury selection
 - ♦ Land grant certificates
 - ♦ Militia appointments
 - ♦ Intestate probates

Finding Your Seventeenth Century Virginia Ancestor

- ♦ Know your history
- ♦ Know what records are available
- ♦ Know where records are located
- ♦ Go around brick walls
- ♦ And don't give up

Thank You.