

A HISTORY OF THE BORDEN FAMILY
1883
Joel Borden & Campbell Borden
(Hardcopy in Richard Borden file of T. Mason).

The following pages are a history of the Borden family, as gathered from *Petersen's History*, for old records of Bordentown, New Jersey and Staunton, Virginia, and as best we can from a number of relations in various parts of the country.

We hand this down to posterity in order that they may know something of their ancestors, and we trust that they may add to it their names and those of their families, and that the History may be continued.

Campbell Borden

In an endeavor to obtain a history and genealogy of the Borden family, I have gathered the following information from the sources named, and have endeavored to bring down the genealogy to my own day and generation, for all sources of information within reach, and upon which I can rely:

George P. Borden, of Ft. Wayne, Indiana, in a letter to my brother, William, dated March 10th 1871, says, "My father, Jas. W. Borden, sometime since received a letter from you, making (pg. 2) inquiries concerning our family history. He is a poor correspondent he says, and insists that I shall answer you, which I have reluctantly concluded to do.

My father has no register of all the branches of the family, but he requests me to say that all the Bordens in America are descended from Richard Borden, of Portsmouth, Rhode Island.

My uncle, Thos. R. Borden, of Hale County Alabama, before his lamented death visited North Carolina, Virginia, New Jersey and Rhode Island to investigate the subject [Bordens in America]. Previous to the "War of the Revolution", the Hon. Joseph Borden, of Bordentown, New Jersey, visited the Mother country. He was a contractor (some say the first) who carried the mail from Philadelphia

to New York and having some difficulty with (I think Dr. Franklin who at this time had charge of the mail matter of the Colonies) in regards to pay for his services, visited London.

From his manuscript and from materials collected by the Rev. P.G. Seabury - whose wife was a Borden - I will briefly state that the Bordens were of French, or rather I should say, of Norwegian extraction (or both). One of the chieftans of Norway called Bourdon, which means in their Norman language "a Pilgrim's Staff," settled in the (pg.3) ancient province, Neustria, near the Picardy border. A descendant of this person (it is said) came into England with Edward "The Confessor" on his return from Normandy, where he had been educated, and resided some years before he ascended the throne. This Borden located in Kent, about forty one miles southeast of London. In the year 1206 A.D. one of his descendants, Simon de Borden, donated to the parish church a tract of land for a glebe. Afterward Osbert de Borden and Philip de Borden made handsome donations to the church at Borden.

Richard Borden, born in 1600 [1594/1595], emigrated from England to the Colonies, and settled first in Massachusetts Bay, on Boston Neck, near Roxbury, but finally in 1638 located on the north end of the Island of Rhode Island. This Richard Borden was a man of education, having been taken under the protection of his uncle, the Dean of the Cathedral Church of Rochester. After the union of the Colonies of Providence Plantations and Rhode Island, he was frequently elected Treasurer General of the United Colonies. (See Arnold's *History of Rhode Island*, Vol. I pp. 250-252). He died March 25, 1670. (See Peterson's *History of Rhode Island*, p. 48).

(pg.4) My father says that in one respect the Bordens differed from any other people in America, for while everybody he has ever met with in the United States says that all the persons of that name were descended from three brothers who came over from the "old country", all the Bordens he has ever met or has heard from claim to be descended from Richard Borden and Joan, his wife, of the Island of Rhode Island.

Equally without foundation is the tradition retained in some branches of the family that from three of the sons of Richard all the

persons by that name in this country descended. Richard Borden had seven sons, and three daughters. [Error - eight sons and four daughters - TM]

Two of his sons, Thomas and Francis were born at Borden, in Kent, before they left England. Matthew was born at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, in May 1638. John was born at the same place September 5, 1640; Joseph January 3, 1643; Sarah May 1645; Samuel July 1647, Benjamin May 1649; Anna February 1654; and Mary May 1656.

John Borden, the fourth son of Richard Borden and Joan [Fowle], his wife, had nine children, viz., Richard, John, Thomas, Hope, William (who emigrated to North Carolina), Benjamin, Mary, Joseph and Annie. The descendants of (pg.5) these have been carried by the tide of emigration into various part of the Western and Southern States.

In a short narrative, drawn up by my uncle, Thomas R. Borden, now before me, he says that William Borden, fourth son of John, and grandson of Richard, emigrated from Rhode Island in 1732 to North Carolina. John had several sons, but William and Benjamin, he says, were the only persons by the name of Borden of which we have any particular knowledge. Benjamin, the fifth [sixth - TM] son of John Borden and Mary Durfee, his wife, is named in the history of North Carolina and Virginia as a man of note. William had carried on the business of a ship carpenter at Newport, Rhode Island before he and his brother emigrated to North Carolina. Benjamin (Fairfax Ben) went to England and while there visited the relatives at Borden, in Kent. He happened to meet Fairfax, who resided only a few miles from Borden, in Kent. Fairfax induced Benjamin to return to America.

Major Lewis, who formerly resided here (Ft. Wayne) often conversed with my father about Benjamin Borden and his descendants in the valley of Virginia. It seems that Benjamin Borden was employed as a land surveyor in what is now known as Botetourt and Rockbridge Counties, Virginia. He and two of (pg.6) the Lewises, the grandfather and granduncle of Major Lewis, were out in western Virginia on the banks of the Ohio between the Kanawha and Big Sandy River. Here they caught a buffalo calf, which with great

difficulty they took home with them. Borden bought the interest of the Lewises in it, and succeeded in taking it to Williamsburgh - then the Capitol of the Colony - and presented it to the Governor. Through the influence of the Governor he obtained a large grant of land in the counties of Botetourt and Rockbridge, and is the Shenandoah valley. This circumstance is fully related in *Withers' History of Western Virginia*, pp. 43-44.

The tradition in the family is that Benjamin Borden was the ancestor of all the Bordens in Virginia and Maryland. One of his daughters married a Patton, and another a Preston. The Pattons of Virginia and the Prestons of South Carolina are among his descendants.

My father requests me to say that he much regrets that he can not give you any precise information in regard to your branch of the family, but says that he has been informed the Bordens of Arkansas are of the Virginia family.

My uncle, Benjamin Borden of Hale County, Alabama, (Greensboro) has a more detailed account of (pg.7) the history of the family, unless his son, Joseph Borden, took it with him to California. If you should be in that neighborhood, no doubt uncle would give you a copy of it, if he has it now in his possession.

N.B.

In looking over your letter again, it has occurred to us that you may possibly be descended from the Jersey, and not the Virginia family.

Frances Borden, son of Richard born in England, settled at Shrewsbury, New Jersey. He was a particular friend of William Penn, and went to England with Penn in 1701. He never returned to America but kept up a correspondence with his relations in Rhode Island and New Jersey. [That he never returned is incorrect. His five children were all born in New Jersey and he died in Shrewsbury. - TM] He visited his relatives at his native place, Borden, in Kent.

One of the Bordens named, Samuel settled at Cooper's Creek in New Jersey. Whether he (Samuel) was the son of Richard, (the emigrant) and Joan his wife or a son of that Samuel is not certain. Fairfax Ben [not Samuel - TM] was the father of the Hon. Joseph Borden, of Bordentown, New Jersey. The lands on the Delaware (River), where Bordentown now stands, were purchased by this Samuel Borden and willed to his son, Joseph who commenced the settlement.

Mr. Seabury, in a letter father dated November 19, 1864, says that a Samuel Borden was a (pg.8) member of the Legislature of the Colony of New Jersey, called by Governor Jennings in 1631. He says that Francis, Samuel and Benjamin - sons of Richard the Emigrant - all settled in New Jersey. Matthew, the first white child born on the Island of Rhode Island, May 1638, died at Portsmouth, Rhode Island in 1708. (See "*Peterson's History of Rhode Island*," p. 43.)

The late Col. Samuel Borden of Cincinnati, who took much interest in the family genealogy, was descended from the Cooper's Creek Bordens. He was a man of talent, and acquired much distinction at Cincinnati.

Genealogy

Benjamin Borden ("Fairfax Ben") surveyor with the Lewises, settled upon the King's grant in the valley of Virginia. He had three sons, viz., Joseph, John and Benjamin; also three daughters. One daughter married a Peck, one a Preston [?], and one a Patton. The Pecks of Virginia and Missouri, and the Prestons of South Carolina are their descendants, as also the Pattons of Tennessee.

Joseph, son of Benjamin ("Fairfax Ben"), emigrated to North Carolina, and from him all the persons of that name in North Carolina descended. John emigrated first to Kentucky, near Covington, then to Knoxville, Tennessee, where he died about the year 1785. He had four sons - Joseph, William, Benjamin and John and he also had four daughters - (pg. 9) Rebecca, Margaret, Nancy and Sarah. Joseph, son of John, married an Echols [Eckhols - TM] in West Virginia, removed to Covington, Kentucky, and thence to Knoxville, Tennessee where he died in 1798.

He had four sons - Eli, Hawkins, John and Joel; he also had one daughter. William, son of John, settled in White County, Tennessee, thence to Cane Hill (Ridge) in Washington, County, Arkansas, where he died. His sons were John, Joseph, William and Nathanael. He also had one daughter and Esquire and Elijah.

John, the son of John, settled in Hardeman County, Tennessee, and was killed there. He had several sons and daughters, one son named Hawkins.

Benjamin, son of John, settled in north Alabama and had several daughters, but no sons.

Rebecca, daughter of John, married an Overstreet, and settled in Overton County, Tennessee.

Nancy, daughter of John, married McWilliams, and settled in Bledsoe County, Tennessee.

Margaret married a Keith, afterward Judge Keith, of Knoxville, Tennessee.

Sarah or Sallie married a McCoy, and settled near Knoxville, Tennessee.

These are the children of John, son of "Fairfax Ben". Eli, son of Joseph, grandson of John, and great-grandson of Fairfax Ben, married in Bledsoe County, Tennessee, removed from there to Calhoun County, Alabama, (pg.10) where he died in 1845. He had two sons and four daughters. Daniel, his oldest son, married in Kentucky, removed to Alabama, and died about 1840. He left two sons, Robert and Frank, who in 1876 were in Kentucky.

John, Eli's second son, at the same time was living near Borden Springs, Cleburne County, Alabama.

The daughters of Eli, Mercie, Sallie, and Catherine, are dead. Martha married a Bryant, and was living in 1879. Hawkins, son of Joseph, grandson of John, and great-grandson of "Fairfax Ben",

settled in Walker County, Alabama, and died there in 1842. He had three sons, John, Benjamin Franklin, and Hawkins. John's residence is unknown. Frank was last heard from in Denton County, Texas. Hawkins, up to 1877, was still in Walker County, Alabama.

John, son of Joseph, grandson of John and great-grandson of "Fairfax Ben", married Catherine Matlock in Overton County, Tennessee. (She was the grand-daughter of the pioneer Governor John Sevier of Tennessee.) He removed first to Walker, Alabama, and in 1829 to what afterwards was Calhoun County, Alabama (then a part of the Cherokee Nation), but now Cleburne County, Alabama, at a place known as Borden Springs, where he died May 7, 1875, at the age of 80 years, 4 months and 3 days.

John had four sons, George, William, (pg. 11) Campbell, and Joel. He had five daughters, Rebecca, Anna, Elizabeth, Euphemia and Mary.

George removed to Texas in 1855 and died in 1865.

William no (1883) resides at Jacksonville, Alabama, where he is filling the position of President of Calhoun College.

Campbell now (1883) lives in Erath County, Texas.

Joel (this writer) went from Alabama in 1858 to Washington, Arkansas. Here January 9, 1862 he married Mary H. Caruth, daughter of Col. Elias and Martha M. Caruth. He resided in that county until September 1879, when he removed to Center Point, in Howard County. He had four sons, John Elias, Willie Bryce, Patrick Donnally, and Joel Worth. There were four daughters, Fannie Hudson, Nannie Joella, Nobia Caruth and Katie Jett.

Rebecca, my sister, married A.T. Alexander, died in 1850 leaving two sons and four daughters.

Anna married M. Alexander and now (1883) lives near Borden Springs, having one son and seven daughters.

Elizabeth died in 1850.

Euphemia married J.B. Davis, removed to Arkansas in 1855, and died in 1867, leaving sons and daughters.

Mary married Washington Bacon, and now (pg.12) (1883) lives near Borden Springs, almost in sight of the place where she was born.

Joel, the son of Joseph (my uncle), grandson of John, and great-grandson of "Fairfax Ben", died in Calhoun County, Alabama in 1861. He had six sons, Eli, Joseph, Mitchell, George, William, and James. He had three daughters, Nancy, Polly, and Margaret. These are scattered.

Anna, daughter of Joseph, grand-daughter of John, and great-granddaughter of "Fairfax Ben", married Moses Johnson, by whom she had one son, Allen, and died.

Note:

Benjamin Borden, of the valley of Virginia, to whom the King made a grant of ninety thousand acres of land, is known as "Fairfax Ben", because he and Lord Fairfax were such constant friends, and to distinguish him from his son, Ben.

This history of the latter is known to us only from the records of the Chancery Court of Staunton, Virginia. From them we learn that at his father's death (John being in Tennessee, and Joseph in North Carolina) he became the executor of the will, became very intemperate, and died after having squandered a large portion of the estate.

Joseph of North Carolina, learning of the facts, went and secured his portion of that which (pg.13) was left. John, having died in the meantime, his descendants through suing for their interests, up to this time (1883) have realized nothing.

Campbell, son of John, son of Joseph, son of John, son of "Fairfax Ben". Campbell Borden was married to Miss Fannie Knighten, January 1, 1856. By her he had six children - four

daughters and two sons. Three of the daughters died when small. The remaining daughter and two sons are still living (1883).

The oldest son, Henry Allen, married Miss Mattie Buckingham, and is living in Vernon, Wilbarger County, Texas.

The oldest daughter, called Mollie, lives in Grayson County, Texas, and is married to Mr. T.E. Chisholm.

Fannie, first wife of Campbell Borden, died March 22, 1869. Married a second time to Miss Fannie Buford, daughter of Ezekiel Pickens Buford and wife, Mary on December 1, 1869 in Paulding County, Georgia. They now live at Italy, Ellis County, Texas.

(pg.14) By his second wife, Campbell has two daughter, Dora Lou and Ephie Tate, and one son, John Pickens Borden, all living at home.