

**GENEALOGY OF THE
MERCER-GARNETT
FAMILY OF ESSEX
COUNTY, VIRGINIA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649026135

Genealogy of the Mercer-Garnett Family of Essex County, Virginia by James Mercer Garnett

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JAMES MERCER GARNETT

**GENEALOGY OF THE
MERCER-GARNETT
FAMILY OF ESSEX
COUNTY, VIRGINIA**



Edgewood,
Essex County, Virginia.

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GENEALOGY
OF THE
MERCER-GARNETT FAMILY
OF ESSEX COUNTY, VIRGINIA.

Supposed to be descended from the GARNETTS of
LANCASHIRE, ENGLAND.

Compiled from Original Records, and from Oral and Written Statements
of Members of the Family.

BY
JAMES MERCER GARNETT.

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WHITNEY & SHEPPARDSON, PRINTERS,
RICHMOND, VA.



1874



ERRATA.

- Page 10, note 6, transpose paragraphs "one" and "two."
Page 18, note 15, line 9, dele "in" and read "he."
Page 22, line 6 from bottom, prefix "II." to "I ELIZABETH."
Page 23, line 2, prefix "III." to "I. Muscoe."
Page 28, line 20, add "d. Oct. 9, 1910."
Page 30, line 3 from bottom, read "1838" for "1863."
Page 32, line 16, dele ")" after "B. L." and place ")" after Va., line 17.
Page 33, line 24, add "d——" after "1872."
Page 35, line 7 from bottom, insert "p. 58" after "Genealogy."
Page 40, line 6 from bottom, insert "(p. 35)" after "Champe."
Page 41, line 6, prefix "no" to "issue," and place period (.) for colon (:) after "issue."
Page 45, line 22, add ")" after "1901."
Page 46, line 12 from bottom, read "Preface" for "Proper."
Page 47, line 4 from bottom, dele ")" and "(", leaving but one parenthesis.
Page 48, line 11, read "Perthshire" for "Pertshire."
Page 48, line 7 from bottom, prefix "(" to "See."
Page 49, line 20, read "1808" for "1868."
Page 56, line 4 from bottom, read "Mary" for "Maria," and line 2 from bottom, add "(p. 40)" after "ente."
Page 58, line 20, add "p. 35" after "Family."
Page 61, line 12 from bottom, read "Bowling" for "Bowlin."

*I forget who then I sent
a copy of this to my
friend - Ernest H. Pennington*

E. M. Pennington

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HON. JAMES MERCER GARNETT.

An Address by Professor James Mercer Garnett,
Delivered at Tappahannock, Essex County,
Virginia, June 20, 1898.

Your Honor, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I esteem it a great pleasure and privilege, sir, to present for preservation in this room, where justice is so worthily dispensed by your Honor, the portrait of my grandfather, who, in days long gone, sat in the old courthouse adjoining as a member of that magistrates' court, which reflected the hard common sense of the Virginia country farmer, and did equity between man and man with such sound judgment that it has been esteemed by those competent to judge the best system of county judiciary that the State ever possessed.

It is now more than a half century since he has lain in the grave, but there are some still living in this county, and perhaps within the sound of my voice, who may remember him—a tall, erect, dignified man—as he went in and out among you during the seventy-three years of his long life, for where he lived, there he died and is buried, at "Elmwood" on the Rappahannock, never residing away from home except when he was serving the county or the State at Richmond or Washington.

Permit me then, sir, to read a brief sketch of the life of him whose portrait I entrust to your Honor's keeping.

The Hon. James Mercer Garnett, of "Elmwood," Essex County, Va., was born June 8, 1770, the second child and oldest son of ten children. His father, Muscoe Garnett, of Essex County, was the son of James Garnett and Elizabeth Muscoe, his second wife, the daughter of Captain Salvator Muscoe, and

he was the only child of that marriage. He was the grandson of John Garnett, of Gloucester, later of Essex, County, supposed to be the first of the family that came from Lancashire, England, to this country, although this is not certain, as the family records do not trace his ancestry further back. Muscoe Garnett, as his father before him, was a large landed proprietor, and built "Elmwood" before the Revolutionary War. During that war he was a member of the Committee of Safety for Essex County, which regulated the military affairs of the county. He, his father, and his son were vestrymen of Vawter's church, built in 1731.¹

He married, on July 19, 1767, Grace Fenton Mercer, daughter of John Mercer, of "Marlborough," Stafford County, and his second wife, Ann Roy. This John Mercer was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1704, descended from an English family of Cheshire, that had settled in Dublin, and was the first of that family who came to this country. His ancestry is traced back through his father, John Mercer, and mother, Grace Fenton, and his grandfather, Robert Mercer, to his great-grandfather, Noel Mercer, of Chester, England. John Mercer, of "Marlborough," was an eminent lawyer and a very large landed proprietor, and was the author of "Mercer's Abridgment of the Laws of Virginia."² A folio volume containing entries of all his landed property, its bounds and limits, when purchased and when sold, entered in his own neat and regular hand, is still preserved, and is in my possession.

James Mercer Garnett was educated at home, receiving the liberal private education customary in Virginia at that time. He married on September 21, 1793, his first cousin, Mary

¹ James Garnett and Salvator Muscoe were Justices of Essex County 1726-1740, and members of the House of Burgesses, the former, 1742-47, the latter, 1734-40. Muscoe Garnett was a member of the committee in Saint Anne's Parish to raise provisions for the poor of Boston, appointed at a meeting held at Tappahannock, July 9, 1774. (See Force's *American Archives*, Vol. I, p. 527, quoted also in a historical address by Henry Wise Garnett, delivered at Occopacia, July 4, 1876).

² First edition, 1737, with additions, 1739; second edition, 1759, a copy of which is owned by myself.