

## BLEDSON FAMILY FILE

1. Notes on Bledson.
2. Letter to Kathryn Owen from Ann Mefford dated Oct 6, 1984 concerning Brooks family of Clark County.
3. Information on Bledson family compiled by Dorothy Brown Thompson; undated ; 8 pages.

NOTES ON BLEDSOE

(From Files at Winchester Public Library-a letter to Dr. Doyle, no date)

Dr. Doyle;

My great grandfather was William Adams who married Sallie Bledsoe, daughter of John and Isabelle Bledsoe. He lived on a farm about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Winchester. He died Aug. 27, 1860. The story goes that he got upon the fence to rest at noon and fell, breaking his neck. I have never been able to find his fathers or mothers name. My great grandmother on my mother's side was Margaret Major who married John Stevinson. I would like to find the Major family. My great-great grandmother on my father's side, Mary Rountree was daughter of Randall Rountree. I have the Stevinson, Gordon, Hogg and Bruce lines proven in Washington

Lena M. White  
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Oct 6, 1984

Dear Ms. Owen;

My name is Ann Mefford and I am writing to you about a genealogical matter concerning your Brooks family of Clark County, Ky.

One of my husband's ancestors was Lewis Bledsoe who married Elizabeth Brooks (original bond bearing date of 24 December 1810).

Lewis was the son of John Bledsoe, will dated 1799, probated 1800 Clark Co., Ky. He (~~was~~<sup>is</sup>) left children; Elizabeth Adams, Thomas Bledsoe, Lewis Bledsoe, William Bledsoe, Sally Bledsoe and John Bledsoe but not naming a wife.

I saw your chart in Volume IV of Kentucky Family Archives and wondered if you would know who my Elizabeth Brooks was?

I am sending an SASE and thanks for taking the time to answer this letter.

Yours truly

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## BLEDSON

Three colonists by this name are listed in CAVALIERS AND PIONEERS:

p. 115, lists a patent to Thomas Symons of James City County, June 8, 1639, for 800 acres and one of the persons transported is a William Bletsoe. A note states that this patent was relinquished and the rights made use of in a patent of 800 acres granted 18 Oct. 1643.

p. 152 lists this second patent, here spelling the name William Blettsoe. Since he does not appear again in the records, it has been suggested that he may have returned to England, and be the William Bledsoe who appears in Harleien Mss., Bedfordshire.

p. 128, lists a patent to Richard Jackson of Isle of Wight County, March 13, 1641, for 450 acres, 350 by assignment from Thomas Stamp and John Sweet of their right from transporting seven persons, and 100 acres for transporting two persons at his own cost. The list includes the name of Matthew Bletstowe.

p. 263, lists the George Pletsoe as a headright of Col. Hugh Gwin, 6 Dec 1652. This name does persist, as the George Bledsoe who founded the Northumberland County family.

The William Bledsoe above, who seems to have disappeared, may have remained. He could in point of time, have been the father of George, as you suggest. But in view of the fact that George seems to have come in independently, I think it more probable that he was a kinsman from the Bedfordshire Bledsoes, whose presence here may have encouraged George to come. That would account for Bledsoes whose ancestry does not trace to George. For example, Duvall, in his Northumberland Co. Records, p.3, lists:

19 March 1678/9. William Bledsoe and William Hobson vs. Mr. Henry Burdett.

This is too early to be William Bledsoe, son of George, whose will was proved some 90 years later. This should be explored further.

It is also possible that George Bledsoe of the 1652 headright could have come to Virginia much earlier than the headright was claimed; in which case he could even have been the father of the George Bledsoe who made a will in Northumberland fifty-three years later, Jan. 23, 1704/5, being then "sick and weak in body", but of sound and perfect memory." The will was probated Aug. 15, 1705, so his death occurred sometime in that seven-month interval.

After the 1652 date, the next record of him so far found is Nov. 6, 1672 (20 years later) in the Minutes of Council and General Court (pp. 318, 334), when George Bledsoe is in a lawsuit with James Ransom over land in Northumberland Co.; also March 12, 1672/3.

George Bledsoe is listed as a tithable 1679 (Duvall, p.4). Other records in Duvall: p.6, 10th June 1679, George Bledsoe vs John Harris, John Waddy, and Thomas Ingram; p.10, 16th June 1681, Ann Gaylord, Adm. of Mr. James Gaylord vs. George Bledsoe; p.23, 1687 George Bledsoe appointed, with Mr. John Curtis and Henry Butler, to be surveyors of highways; p. 27, 18th July 1689, petition of Mary, widow and exor. of Capt. Richard Lynsfeild, deed, probate to her of the last will by oaths of Thomas Winter and George Bledsoe.

One reason why records are few, is shown from the note with the will of George Bledsoe Northumberland Co. Record Book 4, p. 16:

GEORGE BLEDSOE (Cont'd - 2)

Again recorded Feb 22, 1710, the record being burnt, on motion of John Burne.

George Bledsoe was married before 1691, when his wife Anne released her dower in a deed to Thomas Dameron (North. Deeds 7, p. 28). The marriage must have been 1682 or earlier, since Abraham their son was executer of his father's will 1704/5; Abraham must then have been of age, so born by 1683. Thomas was apparently the youngest child, still under age at the time of George Bledsoe's will, and George was providing for his education. Since Thomas sold land 15 July 1719, he must have been of age, therefore born before 1698. Anne apparently died about that time.

George Bledsoe married as his second wife, a widow, Elizabeth Lattimore, probably about 1700. Probably her husband had been Clement Lattimore, who died 1698, probate by Richard Lattimore. (Duvall, p. 49) Her own will (she died three years after George Bledsoe) was dated 13 Feb. 1707/8; proved 20 July 1708; nuncupative, drawn, not signed, "being in good health of body and of perfect memory." This will indicates that she had two children by her Lattimore marriage, and that she had no children by her second marriage. She names her son Richard Lattimore; granddaughters Mary Berry and Winifred Nelmes; son-in-law William Nelmes and "my own daughter Elizabeth Nelmes wife of the sd Wm. Nelmes." they to be exers. It was witnessed by Alexr. Mulraine, R. ch'd X Smith, Dan'l Dunaway; re-recorded by William Nelmes 22 March 1710/11. Other records listed by Duvall show that Richard Lattimore's wife was Anne, and that Elizabeth was listed as both Elizabeth Bledsoe and Elizabeth Lattimore in records referring to her will:

p.82. 21 July 1708. Motion of William Nelmes and Elizabeth his wife, a Probate of the last will of Elizabeth Bledsoe to them, proved by Alexr Mulraine, Richard Smith & Daniel Dunaway.

p.93. 20 Sept. 1710. Richd. Lattimore assignee of Wm. Nelmes & Eliza. his wife assignee of Eliza. Lattimore deed. vs. Thomas Berry & Jno. Gouthe exers of last will of Dennis Conway dismt.

p.74. 18 May 1705. Richard Lattimore and Anne his wife ack. deed of indenture to Robt. Carter. Esq.

In Tyler, v. II, p. 108. Mary, dau Wm. Berry m. Thomas Harding. Probably Mary was dau of first marriage of Elizabeth Lattimore who m (?) William Nelmes. (This is that confusing "daughter Elizabeth Berry" who was not George's at all.)

Elizabeth Lattimore had some property when she married George Bledsoe, evidenced not only by her own will, but by his. He leaves to his "loving wife Elizabeth Bledsoe all that estate she finds upon the plantation she brought along with her, and if she thinks it not convenient to leave the same estate and take her proportionable part with the rest of my children likewise allow one cow and the negro Nan, and if it please God to call me before ~~the death of the said Elizabeth~~ the crop is disposed of that she shall have her share with my children in the aforesaid crop."

The order of birth of George Bledsoe's children, all by his first wife Anne \_\_\_\_\_, is uncertain, but Abraham and William were among the older ones, since they were appointed executors of the will, and probably they were close together in age. Thomas was certainly the youngest. John appears to have been the third son.

George

GEORGE BLEDSOE (Cont'd 3)

George was in a different category for some reason; no provision was made for him ever to own land, and he must have had a disability (if physical, it was not sufficient to keep him from farming his brother's land). He may not have been altogether bright mentally; or he may have been "wild". There is no record to indicate whether or not John or George was married. John apparently left no heirs, since Thomas later sold land which had been left to John. It would appear that because John had no children to inherit his land, his farm was the one chosen for George to work - or perhaps it was a matter of personality. Thomas remains untraced, and may be the ancestor of Bledsoes difficult to place. Abraham and William are the ones whose lines are known. No daughters were named in George Bledsoe's will, which does not prove that there were none; provision would have been made for them at marriage. Only one, Sarah who married Thomas Dameron, Jr., has been positively identified.

Children of George Bledsoe, all by his first wife Anne \_\_\_\_\_, all b. Northumberland Co.:

I. George Bledsoe, untraced. He was to "have liberty to work upon the said land" given to his bro John "without any trouble or molestation of the said John, provided he take care to manage the same during his natural life, but not to make waste or havoc of the same nor rent, sell or embazzle it to any one." Apparently George was physically capable of farming, and mentally capable of renting, selling, or embessling the land, if so disposed; and his father was evidently apprehensive that he might "make waste or havoc" or mismanage it in some way. But his father made provision that he should not want for a living, as long as he made no trouble. George looks like the family "black sheep."

II. Abraham Bledsoe, born beofre 1683/4 (exec. father's will 1705); died 1753 in Granville Co. N. Carolina. Married (1) Katherine Ball before 1702/3 (p. 66, Duvall) dau Thomas Ball by 1st wife. Married (2) Sarah \_\_\_\_\_. (W.F. Brockman says probably she was a Brockman, but gives no evidence. Maud McLure Kelly Idesc. of Abraham) suggests that she may have been a Cave. Sept. 28, 1728, Benjamin Cave and "bro-in-law Abraham Bledsoe" patented 1000 acres on the Rapidan. Since William Bledsoe (whose dau Hannah married Benjamin Cave) had no son Abraham that has ever been found, Miss Kelly suggests that Hannah's uncle Abraham Bledsoe could have married a sister of Benjamin's and thus become his bro-in-law). Katherine (Ball) Bledsoe was living as late as 15 June 1715, when she released dower in land sold by her husband Abraham Bledsoe to John Burne (North. O.B. 5, p. 112) Abraham sold John Burne land left by his father Geo. Bledsoe "near to head of Dividing Creek in Wiccomico Parish (Fleet v. 19) and they had engaged in a family lawsuit in 1706. Abraham Bledsoe settled in Spottsylvania Co. Va., where his bro William was the first Sherff under Gov. Spottswood. They seem to have held land together on several occasions, and to have been on the best of terms. In these indentures, Abraham made his mark, and William signed. His second wife Sarah 1732 acknowledged her dower in the sale mentioned earlier, and Abraham is identified with St. Mark's Parish, Sptosylvania. Abraham apparently had one son by his first marriage to Katherine Ball, George Bledsoe who married Jane Bush, and died 1777, Bute Co. N. Car. His other children seem to have been Sarah's. Three of his sons are discussed at

GEORGE BLEDSOE (cont'd 4)

some length in Cisco's HIST. SUMMER CO. TENN. P. 55 et seq; Col Anthony Bledsoe, Col. Isaac Bledsoe, and Abraham Bledsoe. Isaac and Abraham, at least, settled in N. Carolina. The father, Abraham Bledsoe, named in his will: wife Sarah, sons Isaac, Abraham, Thomas, Jacob, Meese, and Aaron, and refers to "the rest of my childred." Exers Sarah and son-in-law Henry Thornton. One of these other children was Sarah Bledsoe who m (1) \_\_\_\_\_ White (2) Benjamin Rush III in 1773. Her will (Bk. A.P. 53 Franklin Co. N. Car.) is said to name the bros and sisters not named in her father's will; but I do not have a copy.

III. William Bledsoe (see later)

IV. John Bledsoe, b. before 1683. John singly, and later with bro Thomas, was fined for not going to church in Wicomico Parish, 1714, 1718. This probably marks the beginning of the Baptist adherence of the family. John evidently died 1718 or 19, when Thomas sells the land left to John; if married, he apparently left no children.

V. Sarah Bledsoe m. Thomas Demeron, Jr. (b. 1650) (Tyler v. 23, p. 122) son of Lawrence Dameron and wife Dorothy, whose land joined George Bledsoe's.

VI. Thomas Bledsoe, born probably 1697 (came of age 1728, fined for non-attendance at church. He was to receive three years schooling, cost to be shared by Abraham, William, and John, and one feather bed. He was to receive land of any brothers who left no children, and received John's. It is not known whether he married; no further trace.

William Bledsoe, son of George Bledsoe and first wife Anne \_\_\_\_\_, was born by 1683 or earlier (of age when exec. of father's will 1704/5). He died in Culpeper Co. Va. will dated Dec. 27, 1769; proved April 18, 1770. He must have been in his middle eighties when he died.

He was also twice married, and like his father, his first wife was Anne; his second Elizabeth. The maiden names of neither is known, but it seems probably that his second wife's maiden name was Mumford. She was the widow of Charles Stephens of Spots. Co. whose will was dated June 24, 1726; probated by her as already the wife of William Bledsoe Aug 1, 1727. She had three children by her Stephens (Stevens) marriage; Mumford Stevens (later to marry his step-sister Winifred Bledsoe); Mattie Stevens; and Elizabeth Stevens. William Bledsoe apparently had ten, though some were certainly married and in their own homes. Even so, it must have been quite a full household, later to be augmented by a son of the second marriage, Joseph, born 1738.

William Bledsoe was the first Sheriff of Spotsylvania County, under Gov. Spotswood. In Grozier's Spts. Co. Recs. p. 512, Sheriffs of Spotsylvania County, Deed Book A, 1722-29:

Wm. Bledsoe, Gent. Com. dated July 9, 1722. Took oath of office at first court held for Spotsylvania County, August 1722 (page 16)

He appears to have served two terms as Sheriff, since Thomas Chew's commission is dated April 30, 1724. In Va. MAG. HIST. v. 12, p. 351, is a quotation from the records of the Order of Va. Council, May 2, 1724:

William Bledsoe, Sheriff of Spotsylvania County, this day according to Order and being asked why he did not collect the Quitt Rents of the said County and attend the Officers of his Majesty's Revenues according to the Governor's Warrant, he answered that he was advised by Col. Spotswood not to meddle with the Collection, and to write a Letter of Excuse to the Auditor which Letter the s'd Col. Spotswood undertook to draw for him, and accordingly delivered him a copy, which he transcribed, and now produced in Council. And it appearing to the Board that the said Bledsoe had not received any part of the Quitt Rents of the said County for which he is to account, he is thereupon dismissed.

He was commissioned a captain in the county militia Sept 2, 1729. From Crozier, p.514.

A list of officers of the Colonial Militia of Spotsylvania County, who producing their commissions before the Court of His Majesty's Honourable Justices for the County aforesaid, took the oaths as directed by law.

Order Book 1724-30

Captain William Bledsoe and his officers, James Williams and George Home, took ye oath, September 2, 1729 (page 342.)

William Bledsoe's name appears often in land transactions. July 14, 1708, he sold land adjoining his pastures (North, Rec. Bk. 4, p. 22) March 19, 1708, he sold land to Samuel Heath, and his wife Anne released her dower (O.B.5.p.263). With his brother Abraham, he patented a large acreage in Spots. Co. May 20, 1726 (deeds signed by William; Abraham made mark.)

Aug. 8, 1727. Abraham X Bledsoe and William Bledsoe of Spots Co. planters, to Augustine Smith of Spots Co. Gen. 333 a of land in St. Geo. Par. Spots. Co. part of ~~tract~~ patent granted the sd Bledsoes May 30, 1726. Witnesses: Thos. Chew, James Taylor, Rec. Augt. 1, 1727.

Oct. 6, 1730. William Bledsoe of St. Geo. Par. Spts Co. Gent. to John Taliaferro of same par. and co. part of tract sd Bledsoe lives on. Z. Lewis, M. Battaley.

It seems probable, though we do not know the order of birth of William Bledsoe's children, that Hannah, who married Benjamin Cave, was the oldest child. Moses may be presumed to have been the oldest son from this item in the Spts. Co. Deed Book J, 1774-82, which calls him William's son and heir - a phrase not lightly used at that time:

Augt. 10, 1779 . . . 274 a. in Spts. Co. whereon Simpson's Ordinary stands, on main road from Fredksburg to Orange and Culpeper Counties and adjoins lands of Col. Alexander Spotswood and Mattapony, and is land formerly patented by Wm. Bledsoe, 58 a ~~conveyed~~ conveyed by the sd Bledsoe to Jno. Taliaferro . . . the remainder the sd Abraham Simpson purchased of Heirs of Wm. Bledsoe, except 100 a. in fork of the runs which was devised to Peachey Bledsoe, son of Moses Bledsoe, who was son and heir of the sd Wm.

Several deeds of gift are extant which seem to involve Moses the eldest son, and Joseph the youngest (who was also son of the second wife). Moses died five years before his father 1764. It may be assumed that the middle children had been taken care of in deeds no longer extant, since William Bledsoe's will gives them slaves or furniture, but not land; and Hannah, Joseph, and the children of Moses, received one shilling each, as having "gotten their share." Hannah and Joseph were also ~~sick~~ omitted from the general division of the estate. Beside Moses, he had a daughter Sarah who

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married Benjamin Powell, who also predeceased her father, her husband witnessing William Bledsoe's will.

The deeds of Gift:

Deed Book D 1742-51. Feby 4, 1750. William Bledsoe, Gent. to his son "Moses Bledsoe during his natural life, to his son William Bledsoe" etc. 100 acres on North Side of mill branch of Hunting Run. Elizabeth, wife of William Bledsoe, ack. her dower, etc.

Deed Book E 1751-61. April 30, 1759. William Bledsoe of St. Geo Par Spts Co. to his son Moses Bledsoe. Negor. Wit. Joseph Brock, Joseph Bledsoe, William A. Lampton, May 1, 1759.

April 30, 1759. William Bledsoe of Spts. Co. to his son, Joseph Bledsoe, Negro. Witn. Joseph Brock, Moses Bledsoe, William X. Lampton, May 1, 1759.

Nov 21, 1759. William Bledsoe and Elizabeth his wife, of the first part; Moses Bledsoe of Spts. Co. of the second part; and Joseph Bledsoe (son of Sd Wm. Bledsoe and Elizabeth, his wife) of the third part. 100 a. in St. Geo Par. Spts Co...

Nine years later, Joseph, then married, sells land:

XXIX Deed Book G 1766-71. Sept 5, 1768. Joseph Bledsoe of Spots. Co. and Elizabeth his wife. . . 156 a. in St. Geo Par. Spts. Co. given sd. Joseph Bledsoe by his father Wm. Bledsoe.

William undoubtedly provided for his daughters at marriage, and may have settled land upon his other sons as they came of age, or at the time of his second marriage; records should be explored further.

Many of this family went to Kentucky. William was in Kentucky by 1782. The Rev. Aaron "moved out of the state" after a turbulent career, and presumably went to Kentucky, although there were Bledsoe cousins in North Carolina and Tennessee. The Rev. Joseph, son of the second marriage, was the most active of the Kentucky Bledsoes in this branch, and his sons and grandsons were important in the history of the state.

Children of Wm Bledsoe and 1st wife Anne (order uncertain)

- I. Hannah Bledsoe. b.c. 1700-5; d. after 1762 (Benj. Cave's death) m.c. 1719 Benjamin Cave, Burgess from Orange Co., Sheriff, Justice, Vestryman, Capt. of Militia.  
Children:
  1. Elizabeth Cave (1720-1785) m. 1742 Col. Wm. Johnson, Memb. Va. Assembly, 9 ch
  2. John Cave (1732-1810) m Mildred Bell; 6 ch. Scott Co. Ky.
  3. Ann Cave b. 1734, d after 1808, Ky; m (1) Philemon Kavanaugh, 3 ch (only surviving child Elizabeth Kavanaugh who m the Rev. John Taylor). Ann (Cave) Kavanaugh m (2) William Strother of Orange, who had family by 1st m; no ch by 2nd m. Moved to Ky.; Wm. Strother d. 1808 in Woodford Co.
  4. Benjamin Cave, Jr. (1735-1832) m. Elizabeth Belfield; 6 ch. Build "Montebello."
  5. William Cave (d. 1804) m (1) Mary Mallory, to Ky. 1781 with Traveling Church; m (2) 1783 widow (3) 1793 Susanna \_\_\_\_\_; became Baptist preacher late in life.
  6. David Cave, d. 1792, Unmarried, Culp. Co. Va.
  7. Sarah Cave, b. 1745 Orange Co.
  8. Hannah Cave (1748-1817) m. Capt. Uriel Mallory 1768, died at Yorktown; 7 ch
  9. Richard Cave (1750-1816) m Elizabeth Craig, 6 ch. Baptist preacher.

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- II. Moses Bledsoe, died 1764; m dau Col, Wm. Peachey; son Peachey Bledsoe
- III. George Bledsoe, named 1st in father's will (Moses had died five years earlier) so assumed to be second son.
- IV. Millie Bledsoe m George Weatherall, Justice of Culpeper. 4 ch.
- V. Mary Bledsoe, d. 1802. Married (1) Ambrose Powell, 4 ch. (2) Benjamin Rowe.
- VI. William Bledsoe m (prob.) Sally Morton. To Ky. before 1782.
- VII. John Bledsoe, d. 1799, Clark Co. Ky. m Elizabeth White; 6 ch.
- VIII. Aaron Bledsoe m (1) Mildred Hord (2) Margaret Miller. Children mentioned in father's will (names not known). Baptist preacher
- IX. Winifred Bledsoe m Mumford Stevens, her step-brother.

Children of William Bledsoe and second wife Elizabeth (Mumford) Stevens:

- X. Sarah Bledsoe b. c. 1728; d. before 1769 (father's will) m Benjamin Powell, bro of Ambrose Powell who married her sister Mary; 6 ch.
- XI. Joseph Bledsoe, b. 1738; d. ; m Elizabeth Miller (dau Col. Wm. Miller and wife Jane Hord) 9 ch. said to have in (2) a Miss Bates of Creekboro, Ky had son John. She in (2) a Mr Chapman.

(have a Miller line, also Hord.)

\* Capt Uriel Mallory (1738-1824) died ~~testate~~, Orange Co Va. Will of record there.

Seiple. HIST. VA. BAPT. Beale Ed.

p 163. Upper Essex church in the Dover Association, organized as a church 1772, and lay elders ordained. Not having any pastor, Lewis Craig continued to visit them, and was much beloved. When he could not attend as often as they wished, they invited Elder Joseph Bledsoe to take the care of them. He, however, living in Spotsylvania could not, or did not, perform the duties of pastor. This ended rather in confusion.

p. 185. Orange Association was divided, Oct. 13, 1791, into three distinct associations; beginning at Fredericksburg, up Rappa River to Barrett's Ford; thence along Carolina Road to the Three-Notched Road; thence down the same to the Byrd Creek to James River, to compose one Association to be called "Coshen Association."

Secondly, beginning at Barret's Ford; thence up the Rapidan to the head of same, leaving Blue Run church to her choice which of the two upper Associations she chooses to join. All the churches of the south side of said boundaries to compose a 2d assoc, to be called the "Albemarle Association."

Thirdly. All churches on north side of sd boundaries to compose a 3rd

Assoc, to be called "Culpeper Assoc."

Goshen contains all the churches in the counties of Spotsylvania and Louisa, together with a part of those in Caroline, Hanover, Goochland and Orange....

Oct. 17, 1794 visited by John Waller. . .Next assoc, was appointed to meet at Bledsoe's meeting-house, Orange county, beginning on the 3rd Saturday in October.

Saturday, Oct. 17, 1795. They met according to appointment. This meeting was held at the North Pamunkey meeting-house, called Bledsoe's after A. Bledsoe, who preached there stately at the time.

p. 202. Wilderness. This is a numerous church, in the upper end of Spotsylvania. They had for their first pastor Joseph Bledsoe. They were not happy under his care. When he moved to Kentucky\*, his brother Aaron Bledsoe, became their stated minister. In 1788 they enjoyed smiles of Heaven in a precious revival conducted chiefly under the ministry of Aaron Bledsoe. The church increased to 130. Mr. Bledsoe's labors were much blessed among them, until some unhappiness arising from his eccentric flights he resigned his care. Since that time Mr. Edward Elly has been an occasional pastor for them. Mr. Elly is a worthy man, and a sound preacher. The church has enjoyed peace and harmony under his ministry.

\* Joseph Bledsoe became pastor at Gilbert's Creek Church, in Kentucky, in 1783. He left a son, William, who became a Baptist minister; also a son, Jesse, who became a prominent lawyer and politician, and was for several years judge of the Circuit Court, and also in the United States Senate.

Wilderness meeting-house was situated in the northwestern corner of Spotsylvania county, and the original site is still occupied by the church as a place of worship. The country adjacent was more than once occupied by contending armies during the civil war, and the records of the church were destroyed.

p.219. North Fork of Pamunkey. This is a large church, but has been much larger, having of late (1802) passed through not only cold but very afflicting times. Some of the old Baptist preachers labored in these parts at an early period of the rise of the Baptists. Mr. Aaron Bledsoe was among their first proselytes, having been previously a dissipated character. So soon as he believed himself to be a convert he began to persuade others. His zeal was unabating. He missed no opportunity to exhort, advise and admonish any and every man he met with. He was really in season and out of season. Having a singular degree of boldness he would not be abashed. Great man, little man, rich man of poor man were all equal with him, as it respected his confidence. He was never to be swerved from his point or put to the blush. By his unwearied zeal, though far from being a man of knowledge or gifts, he made serious impressions upon many. A church was constituted and he chosen their pastor. The discipline of the church was by no means regular. No decision could be had without unanimity, which often clogged, often discouraged them. But the zeal & forwardness of their pastor surmounted many of these obstructions. The church increased. In 1788 they experienced an extensive revival; several hundred were baptized, so that in 1792, when they became a part of the Goshen Association, they had about 350 members. (a note at this point says:"The meeting house of this church was situated about 8 miles southeast of Orange Courthouse, on the road leading to Orange Springs, and substantially on the same site occupied by the brick edifice in

which the church worships' at present." (1894)).

In the year 1806 Mr Bledsoe was accused of fraudulent dealings, which he denied, though too plainly proven. The church excluded him, although there was a large minority in his favor who thought him innocent. No man probably ever felt more chargin at being excluded than Mr Bledsoe. He soon moved away out of the State, and is since dead. Many good men doubted whether Mr Bledsoe ever designed anything improper. (A note says: "Aaron Bledsoe was brother to Joseph, a Baptist preacher previously mentioned in this volume as having removed to Kentucky.").