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## Notes and Documents

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### AveriHa [-? -], Colonial Virginia Adventurer: Wife of Majors Thomas Curtis and Robert Bristow

By Glade Isaac Nelson

*Newfound evidence from a deed, analyzed and correlated with existing Curtt-Bnstow family information, corrects long-held assumptions. A misidentified son-in-law was, in fact, Averi/a's second husband.*

Thomas Curtis, age twenty-four, arrived in Virginia on the *Flyinge Harte* in 1621 and lived in Elizabeth City at the muster in 1624/5.<sup>1</sup> He and wife Averilla [-? -] appear in publications since 1896, most recently in John Frederick Dorman's well-documented *Adventurers of Purse and Person*.<sup>2</sup> Most accounts say Thomas and Averilla Curtis had a daughter Averilla who married Robert Bristow, making Robert the couple's son-in-law. An original indenture shows this is incorrect.

By a 7 October 1682 indenture Charles Curtis released to Robert Bristow 730 acres on the north side of Ware River on Mobjack Bay in Gloucester County, Virginia.<sup>3</sup> Curtis received the land in two patents-542 acres on 20 September 1652 and 188 acres on 3 June 1657.<sup>4</sup>

The indenture identifies Charles Curtis "of the parish of Ware in the County of Gloucester in Virginia in the parts beyond the Seas Planter eldest son now surviving of Thomas Curtis late of the said parish of Ware in the County of Gloucester

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1. John Frederick Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person: Virginia, 1607-1624/5*, 4th ed., 3 vols. (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2004--2007), 1:786. Dorman is recognized as an expert in early Virginia genealogy. His extensive Virginia research and publishing are unparalleled.

2. "Willis Family," *William and Mary College Quarterly* 5 (July 1896): 26. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 1:786-803.

3. Charles Curtis to Robert Bristow, deed, 7 October 1682, for 730 acres in Gloucester Co., Va.; MS 11:2 B7764:1, Virginia Historical Society Library, Richmond. The Society purchased this original document in 1976. The author discovered the significance of the indenture when researching Curtis families of colonial Virginia.

4. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 3:209, Thomas Curtis, patent, 20 September 1652; Library of Virginia, Richmond; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia* (<http://image.lva.virginia.gov/LONN/LO.html>). Ibid., Patent Book 4:135, Thomas Curtis, 3 June 1657.

aforesaid and of Averilla his wife alsoe deceased." Charles's signature is clear with the wax seal intact. Robert Bristow, the grantee, was "Citizen and Grocer of London." The indenture states,

whereas the said Thomas Curtis by his last will and Testament beareing date the twentieth day of March One thousand Six hundred fifty and five [1655/ 56] (amongst diverse other things therein contained) did will and desire that his then p'sent wife Mrs. Averilla Curtis should enjoy that Plantacon that hee then lived upon with all the profits priveledges and comodities thereunto belonging till his sonne Thomas Curtis should attaine to the age of one and twenty yeares And if it should happen that his sonne Thd<sub>rt</sub> as should dye either before he came to age or otherwise without issue that then the said land should revert to the onely use of the said wife Mrs. Averilfa Curtis and her heirs forever.<sup>5</sup>

The indenture then reveals the unexpected. Robert Bristow was Averilla [ - ? - ] Curtis's second husband, not her son-in-law:

AND WHEREAS the said Thomas Curtis the sonne dyed before hee attained his said age one and twenty years without any issue of his body lawfully begotten and the said Averilla did him survive And was Afterwards married to the said.Robert Bristow.

The reverse side of the indenture contains further proof. An inscription in a different hand states, "The Grant ... from my Sonne Charles Curtis to Mee of 730 acres of Land in the County of Gloucester in Virginia." The note apparently was written by Robert Bristow, stepfather to Charles Curtis.

American records accurately document Averilla's two marriages, but the information has been ignored or misinterpreted. On 25 October 1665 Mr. Robert Bristow patented 288 acres:

being formerly granted unto Mrs. Averilla Curtis by Patent dated the fourth of April one thousand six hundred and sixty One being part of a dividend of four hundred and ten Acres and by the said Averilla Assigned and set over unto the aforesaid Mrs Bristow's Husband one hundred and ten Acres the residue being due by and for the transportation of three Persons &co."<sup>6</sup>

The Virginia General Assembly in May 1779 passed "An Act concerning escheats and forfeitures from British Subjects." It declared as forfeit Virginia real and personal

5. Curtis to Bristow, deed, 7 October 1682. Thomas Curtis's will does not survive.. Gloucester County records were destroyed by fire in 1820 and 1865. See Library of Virginia, "Lost Records Localities: Counties and Cities with Missing Records," research note no. 30, January 2017; PDF, *Library of Virginia* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public\\_guides/rn30\\_lostrecords.pdf](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/public_guides/rn30_lostrecords.pdf)).

6. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 5:523, Robert Bristow, patent, 25 October 1665; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*.

property belonging to British subjects. The property was to be sold with proceeds accruing to the Commonwealth of Virginia.<sup>7</sup> A 1783 petition of Mrs. Mary Bristow of Spring Garden, London, England, to President George Washington, stated she had an infant son, Robert, and "Sheweth That Robert Bristow Esq'r the Great Great Grandfather of the said Robert Bristow the Infant went to Virginia about the year 1660 where he resided for several years and was Seized and possessed of an Estate in Fee Simple." The petition describes land parcels in Lancaster and Gloucester counties and states, "the said Robert Bristow the Great Great Grandfather married the widow of Major Curtis in Virginia by whom he had Issue an only Son Robert Bristow Esq'r who died in the Life Time of his said Father leaving Robert Bristow Esq'r his Eldest Son and several other children."<sup>8</sup> Dispute over disposition of Bristow's Virginia estates continued for years in Virginia courts.<sup>9</sup>

#### MAJOR THOMAS CURTIS.

If Major Thomas Curtis was twenty-four in 1621, he was born about 1597. He was called "Mister" as early as 1642, and "Gent." in 1661. From 1656 he was often called "Major."<sup>10</sup> His younger brother John Curtis accompanied him to Virginia.<sup>11</sup> On 24 November 1625 John received permission at General Court to return to England. Thomas gave his "bond to be answerable for such suits as by Mr. Gookin shalbe commenced against him Dohn Curtis."<sup>12</sup> Thomas and John may have come to Virginia under an indenture agreement with Daniel Gookin.

On 20 July 1633 Thomas purchased two hundred acres on New Poquoson Creek in Charles River (now York) County, Virginia.<sup>13</sup> He added a hundred acres on 14 July 1636, reconfirmed on 11 May 1639, for transport of two persons.<sup>14</sup> In January 1639/40 Thomas was appointed a tobacco viewer for the south side of

7. William Waller Hening, *The Statutes At Large: being a collection of all the laws of Virginia from the first session of the legislature in theyear 1619*, 13 vols. (1822; facsimile reprint, Charlottesville, Va.: University Press of Virginia, 1969), 10:66-71.

8. "Copy of Petition and Memorial of the Guardians of Robert Bristow Esq'r to the State of Virginia," Washington Papers, Petition of Mary Bristow, 27 November 1783, no. 30550 (penned); Manuscripts Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. Copy in possession of author.

9. See *Calendar of Virginia State Papers and Other Manuscripts*, 11 vols. (1888; reprint, New York: Kraus Reprint Corp., 1968), 7:63-66.

10. For "Mister" and "Major" see Polly Cary Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County Virginia*, 2 vols. (Newport News, Va.: G. C. & P. C. Mason, 1946-48), 1:23. For "Gent." see Benjamin B. Weisiger, comp., *York County, Virginia Records*, 3 vols. ([Virginia]: the author, 1987-91), 1:91.

11. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 1:786.

12. "Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 0124 (April 1916): 149-50.

13. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 1:525, John Davis to Thomas Curtis, 20 July 1633; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*.

14. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 1:373, Thomas Curtis, 14 July 1636. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 1:644, Thomas Curtis, 11 May 1639.

New Poquoson River.<sup>15</sup> His ties to that area continued after he moved. Named executor of the 1647 will of Richard Simons of York County, Thomas is called "my welle loved friend."<sup>16</sup>

Thomas "Curtice" was in England when he witnessed the will of Anthony Younge "citizen and Grocer of London," dated 23 February 1635/36:17 Anthony bequeathed Thomas, a "planter;" two hundred pounds of tobacco.

When Gloucester County opened for settlement in 1642, Thomas Curtis became one of the first residents.<sup>18</sup> On 15 August 1642 he acquired four hundred acres on Mobjack Bay for transportation of eight persons and seven hundred acres for transportation of fourteen persons.<sup>19</sup> Additional entries regarding his property on Mobjack Bay and Ware River occurred in 1649, 1652, and 1656.<sup>20</sup> His "homestead was probably on Basses Creek at the southeastern extremity of his original grant."<sup>21</sup> He was a justice of Gloucester County in 1656/57 and 1662.<sup>22</sup>

On 5 May 1657 Thomas sold two hundred acres from his New Poquoson River property to Francis Heyward, having sold the other hundred acres to Christopher Garlington.<sup>23</sup> This is the latest entry found for Thomas.

Thomas wrote his will 20 March 1655/56.<sup>24</sup> He likely died shortly before 3 April

15. "Acts of the General Assembly," *William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine*, 2nd ser., 4 January 1924): 27.

16. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007645908>), digital film 007645908, image 513, York Co., Va., Wills and Deeds, vol. 2:431, Richard Simons will, 13 July 1647.

17. "England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," *Anmtry* (<https://www.ancestry.com/search/collections/canturburyprerogativecourt/>) > PROB 11: Will Registers > 1624-1643 > Piece 172: Pile, Quire Numbers 90-123 (1636) > image 448, will of Anthony Yonge, "Cittizen and grocer of London," 23 February 1635/6, Pile quire 118, p. 220v (stamped).

18. Ludwell Montague, "Landholdings in Ware Neck," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 60 January 1952): 66-67.

19. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 1:795, Thomas Curtis, 15 August 1642; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*. Those transported included John Lether and John Roberts from his previous grant, plus James (or John) Berry, John Dyas, Tho. Peirce, Ellen Powell, Edward Marsam, and John Jarre. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 1:804, Thomas Curtis, 15 August 1642.

20. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 2:182, Mr. Tho. Curtis, 16 July 1649. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 3:107, Mr. Thomas Curtis, 20 September 1652. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 3:209, 15 August 1652; this land was part of the 1682 Curtis to Bristow deed. *Ibid.*, Patent Book 4:84, Major Thomas Curtis, 8 October 1656.

21. Montague, "Landholdings in Ware Neck," 68. Also, Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia*, 1:121.

22. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 1:786. Also, Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia*, 1:121.

23. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007676323>), digital film 007676323, image 155, York Co., Deeds; Orders, and Wills, 3:257-58 (bottom page nos.), Thomas Curtis to Francis Heyward, 5 May 1657. Averilla Curtis signed her release. Witnesses were John Walker and Tho. Morris.

24. Curtis to Bristow, deed, 7 October 1682.

1661 when his wife Averilla asked Captain William Hay to acknowledge the sale that her "husband Maj. Curtis formerly made to Mr. Francis Heyward."<sup>25</sup>

#### AVERILLA

Averilla [ - ? - ] was likely born between 1622 and 1632. Her children were born say 1650 to 1664. She was perhaps born in an American colony or in England.<sup>26</sup> She may have married Thomas Curtis in America or in England during one of Thomas's visits there.

Averilla was not Major Thomas Curtis's first wife. These considerations support the theory.

- The estimated birth dates of Thomas's eldest child (1630) and of Averilla's last known child (1665), span too great a period for likely childbearing.
- More than ten years separate Major Thomas Curtis's oldest known child grouping and Thomas<sup>2</sup>, born say 1650.
- In 1655/56, when Thomas<sup>2</sup> was named eldest son (of Thomas and Averilla), Thomas<sup>1</sup> had at least three living sons older than Thomas<sup>2</sup>.
- In Thomas's 1655/56 will Averilla was his "then p'sent wife," a phrase sometimes indicating previous marriages. Thomas and Averilla were likely married not long before 1649.

Averilla, up to twelve years older than her second husband, was undoubtedly a great catch. Upon marriage Robert Bristow became the legal representative of her extensive landholdings. The marriage must have immediately followed the 1661 execution of the power of attorney. Her namesake daughter, Averilla, was born in 1663.<sup>27</sup> Averilla moved to England with husband Robert in 1677. She died by November 1680 when Robert entered into a prenuptial agreement with his second wife.<sup>28</sup>

Averilla had an above-average education for a seventeenth-century Virginia woman, evidenced when she signed her full name relinquishing dower rights to her

25. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007676323, image 155, York Co., Deeds, Orders, and Wills, 3:258 (bottom page no.), letter of attorney, Averilla Curtis to William Hay, 8 April 1661.

26. Her unusual given name, with variations, occurs with highest frequency in Yorkshire and Durham in northern England. See "International Genealogical Index," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/igi>), for Averilla, b. 1620-29. The author found too many records to determine a connection with the Virginia matriarch.

27. Joseph Lemuel Chester, abstractor, "Allegations for Marriage Licenses Issued From the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London, 1543 to 1869," *Publications of The Harleian Society* 24 (London: [the society], 1886), 147. The 20 June 1679 license was for "William Wagstaffe, of S' Bennet Grace Church, London, Bachelor, 40, & Averilla Bristow, Sp', 16, dau. of Robert Bristow, of S' Gabriel Fenchurch, London, who consents; at S' George's, Botolph Lane, or All Hallows in the Wall, London."

28. This agreement is mentioned in Robert Bristow's will. See "England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," *Ancestry* > PROB 11, Will Registers > 1705-1712 > Piece 498: Poley, Quire Numbers 270-312 (1707) > image 48, registered will of Robert Bristow, 20 September 1706, codicil, 3 April 1707, Poley quire 275, 45r-48r (stamped).

husband's 1657 deed to Francis Heyward. Her husband signed "TC."<sup>29</sup>

Averilla confirmed her ownership of 410 acres in Gloucester County on 3 April 1661, including 350 acres granted to Mr. John Curtis (her stepson) and assigned by John to Averilla.<sup>30</sup> John had patented this property 8 October 1656.<sup>31</sup> Averilla executed a power of attorney to Capt. William Hay.

Mr. Hay: my love remembered unto you. Sir, these are to request you to doe mee the favour to acknowledge the bill of sale which my husband Maj. Curtis formerly made to Mr. Francis Heyward for the land hee lived on, in my behalfe at your next court holden for York and I have sent the two patents by the bearer to the widow Heyward according to his desire. etc. etc. 8 April 1661."<sup>32</sup>

The document suggests Major Thomas Curtis was deceased by April 1661. If alive, he would have controlled the property and issued the power of attorney.

#### ROBERT BRISTOW

Robert Bristow was born, say 1634, at Binstead, Hampshire, England, son of John and Jane [ - ? - ] Bristow.<sup>33</sup> He was apprenticed at his father's death in 1646.<sup>34</sup> He reportedly came to Virginia about 1660.<sup>35</sup>

On 29 September 1663 Robert acquired a thousand acres on Fleets Bay, Lancaster County, although he appears to have been a joint owner before then.<sup>36</sup> He likely moved to Ware Neck, Gloucester County, about 1661 upon marrying Averilla. He patented Curtis' land in his own name 25 October 1665, and on 7 May 1666 added

29. *FamilySearch*, digital film 007676323, image 155, York Co., Deeds, Orders, and Wills, vol. 3:257-58 (bottom page nos.), Thomas Curtis to Francis Heyward, 5 May 1657. Witnesses to Averilla's release were John Walker and Tho. Morris.

30. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 4:464, Mrs. Avarilla Curtis, 3 April 1661; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*. Also, Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia*, 24.

31. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 4:97, John Curtis, 8 October 1656; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*. Also, Mason, *Records of Colonial Gloucester County, Virginia*, 24.

32. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008310852>), digital film 008310852, image 155, York Co., Deeds, Orders, and Wills, 3:258 (bottom page no.), letter of attorney, Averilla Curtis to William Hay, 8 April 1661.

33. Lionel Cust, "Bristow of Binsted and Micheldever, Hants.," *Miscellanea Genealogica et Heraldica and The British Archivist*, 5th ser., 7 (October 1932): 3-57. An incorrect ancestry for Robert is published in John Burke and John Bernard Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland* (London: Henry Colburn, 1868), 1:140-41.

34. Cust, "Bristow of Binsted," 4.

35. "Copy of Petition and Memorial of the Guardians of Robert Bristow."

36. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 5:351-52, Mr. Robt Bristow, 29 September 1663; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*.

184 acres on Mobjack Bay for transportation of four persons.<sup>37</sup> On 23 October 1673 he acquired 930 acres in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County, on the northeast side of Mobjack Bay near the mouth of North River, seven hundred acres of which he purchased from Captain Thomas Todd, plus 230 acres for transportation of five persons.<sup>38</sup> On 8 April 1674 Mr. Richard Whitehead was granted two thousand acres in Rappahannock and New Kent counties, Virginia, for transportation of many persons, including "Major Robt. Bristow twice."<sup>39</sup> Robert apparently made several transatlantic voyages in the 1660s and 1670s.

Bristow supported Governor Berkeley during Bacon's 1676 Rebellion. One account reveals part of his character, when recklessly but chivalrously, he offered to duel a Bacon supporter. Instead, Bacon captured and imprisoned him.<sup>40</sup> *Adventurers of Purse and Person* states,

He (Robert Bristow) returned to England in the summer of 1677 and was reported in the 'List of Persons whose Sufferings have been most signal,' 15 Oct. 1677, as 'an Inhabitant in Tower Street, London, ag[ains]t Berking Church,' and as 'a man of good understanding in the Virginia affaires, and one of Integrity and Moderaction.' He shortly afterward moved to the Parish of St. Gabriel Fenchurch, London, where he was a wealthy merchant engaged in Virginia trade.<sup>41</sup>

In 1687 a partnership of Nicholas Hayward, Richard Foote, George Brent, and Robert Bristow speculated on thirty thousand acres in Stafford County (now Prince William County), Virginia, called Brent Town.<sup>42</sup>

A royal commission appointed Bristow an alderman of London's Walbrook Ward on 11 October 1687. He was of the Grocers Company and served until 3 October 1688.<sup>43</sup>

In 1698 Bristow appointed Thomas Booth manager for his Virginia landholdings.<sup>44</sup> Robert was a director of the Bank of England and member of Parliament for Winchelsea in 1698 and 1700.<sup>45</sup>

37. Virginia Land Office, Patent Book 5:523, Mr. Robt. Bristow, 25 October 1665; digital image, "Virginia Land Office Patents and Grants/Northern Neck Grants and Surveys," *Library of Virginia*. Ibid., Patent Book 5:607, Mr. Robt. Bristow, 7 May 1666.

38. Ibid., Patent Book 6:479, Major Robt Bristow, 23 October 1673. In this record he is referred to as "Major."

39. Ibid., Patent Book 6:508, Mr. Richard Whitehead, 8 April 1674.

40. Fairfax Harrison, "Brent Town, Ravensworth and the Huguenots in Stafford," *Tylers Quarterly Magazine* 5 (January 1924):177-78.

41. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, I: 788-89.

42. Harrison, "Brent Town, Ravensworth and the Huguenots in Stafford," 5:164-185, esp. 165.

43. Alfred B. Beaven, *The Aldermen of the City of London*, 2 vols. (London: Corporation of the City of London, 1908-13), 1:223.

44. Montague, "Landholdings in Ware Neck," 74.

45. Cust, "Bristow of Binsted," 4.



Robert's will indicates he had executed a prenuptial agreement on 24 November 1680 with Susanna Madgwick, widow.<sup>46</sup> Robert Woolley, citizen and vintner of London, in his will dated 30 December 1695, left consecutive legacies of £100 each to "loving Brother in Law Robert Bristow, senr., of London, merchant," and "loving sonne in Law Robert Bristow, junr."<sup>47</sup> Susanna's identity has not been established.

Robert wrote his will 20 September 1706 and added a codicil on 3 April 1707. It was proved 21 March 1743/4.<sup>48</sup> He was buried in St. Gabriel Fenchurch's Tabernacle yard on 19 November 1707.<sup>49</sup> Robert left all his Virginia properties to his grandson Robert Bristow III.

## SUMMARY

Newfound evidence from a 1682 indenture combined with further investigation and analysis of Virginia families leads to reinterpretations of long-held Curtis-Bristow family relationships. The following lists revise those in the fourth edition of *Adventurers of Purse and Person*. New and clarifying data is documented below. Dorman's authoritative work should be consulted for additional information and sources.<sup>50</sup> Places are in Virginia unless otherwise stated.

### Children of Thomas Curtis and an unidentified first wife:

- i JOHN<sup>2</sup> CURTIS, born say 1630; married by 6 February 1655/56 to Ann [-?-], widow of Abraham Moone of Lancaster County. John was dead by 21 December 1672 when his widow had married (3) Richard Robinson. On 4 January 1657/8 he leased one hundred acres on Moratico Creek in Lancaster County for twelve years, to Thomas Tuggell.<sup>3</sup> On 7 May 1664 he assigned all his right and title of

46. "England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," *Ancestry* > PROB 11, Will Registers > 1705-1712 > Piece 498: Poley, Quire Numbers 270-312 (1707) > images 48-51, Robert Bristow will, 20 September 1706, codicil, 3 April 1707, Poley quire 275, 45r-48r (stamped). The witnesses were Edw. Northey, William Lany, and Ja: Gibbon. Robert's will mentions "articles of agreement made on our marryage (for performance whereof I entered into a recognizance ... in the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster ... [24 November 1680])."

47. *Ibid.* > PROB 11: Will Registers > 1688-1696 > Piece 431: Bond, Quire Numbers 43-86 (1696) > images 125-28, Robert Woolley will, 19 February 1695, Bond quire 57, p.113v-117r (stamped). Executors were "my loving wife Katherine Woolley my said Brother in Law Robert Bristow the elder and my said sonne in Law Robert Bristow the younger." Witnesses were Frac. Pigott, Nicholas Beebey, James Beeby, Willm. Braxton Sr., and Jno. Mariott his servant.

48. Robert Bristow will, 20 September 1706, codicil, 3 April 1707. The will was proved 1 March 1743 by Robert's grandson Robert Bristow. Also, Lothrop Withington and H. F. Waters, "Virginia Gleanings in England," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography* 13 (July 1905): 59-62. "Virginia Gleanings" includes an incorrect year for the will.

49. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007905503>), digital film 007905503, image 157, London, England, St. Gabriel Fenchurch, Parish registers, burials, 1571-1851, unpaginated, date order, Robert Bristow, Esq., 19 November 1707.

50. Dorman, *Adventurers of Purse and Person*, 1:786-803.

51. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007646126>), digital film 007646126, image 103, Lancaster Co. Va., Deed and Will Book 2:147, John Curtis to Thomas Tuggell, lease, 4 January 1657/8.

- six English servants and six negro women to Thomas Bowler & Company for one hundred and fifty-four pounds sterling.<sup>52</sup>
- ii. BARTHOLOMEW CURTIS, born say 1632; married by say 1656 to Jane [-? -]. He died before 25 November 1660 when his widow had married (2) Nicholas Cocke. He witnessed a deed on 24 June 1657 where Roger Radford sold one-half interest in three hundred acres in Lancaster County to Nicholas Cocke.
  - iii. GEORGE CURTIS, born say 1637. On 20 December 1667, he patented 1,100 acres in Gloucester which included seven hundred acres granted to Thomas<sup>1</sup> Curtis in 1642. On 26 November 1674, he and his wife, Elizabeth [-? -], sold property to Augustine Horth.

#### Children of Thomas and Averilla [-? -] Curtis:

- iv. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> CURTIS, born say 1650. He was under twenty-one when called eldest son (meaning eldest son of Thomas and Averilla) in his father's 1655/56 will. The 1682 Curtis-to-Bristow deed states he died before reaching age twenty-one, therefore before say 1670.<sup>53</sup>
- v. CHARLES CURTIS, born say 1653, of Ware Parish, Gloucester County. In 1682 he was the eldest surviving son of Thomas and Averilla when he released property to his stepfather Robert Bristow. He married (1) an unidentified female; married (2) Rose North. He purchased five hundred acres in Middlesex County on 31 March 1683 from his brother-in-law Richard Perrott Jr. and Richard's father. In 1687 he was "of sufficient abilitie to finde a Man & Horse & Armes" for the local militia. On 30 December 1689, he purchased property in Kingston Parish, Gloucester County.
- vi. SARAH CURTIS, born on 16 August 1657 in Ware Parish; died on 26 December 1693. Married (1) William Halfhide. As a fifteen-year-old widow, she married (2) on 11 February 1672/3 at Christ Church Parish to Richard Perrott Jr. He was born on 24 February 1657/8 "being the first Man child that was gott and borne in Rappahannock river, of English parents." Both Richard Jr. and Sr. were prominent men in Lancaster County. Sarah's second husband was a Justice in Middlesex County in 1673.
- vii. JAMES CURTIS, born say 1661; died 18 November 1720, leaving a will dated 15 November 1720, proved on 3 January 1720/1. He married before 31 March 1683 to Elizabeth Obert, born say 1662, died 20 January 1715/6, daughter of Bertrand and Anne [-? -] Obert of Middlesex County. Like his brother he was "of sufficient abilitie to finde a Man & Horse & Armes" for the local militia in 1687. In October 1689 he patented 260 acres in Middlesex County on Nimcock Creek.

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52. *Fami!Search*, digital film 007646126, images 173-74, Lancaster Co., Deed and Will Book 2:285-86, John Curtys to Thomas Bowler, deed of sale, 7 May 1664, recorded 20 September 1664.

53. Curtis to Bristow, deed, 7 October 1682.

54. *Fami!Search* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007570855>), digital film 007570855, image 293, Middlesex Co., Eng., St. Dunstan Stepney Parish Church, Parish Registers, Burials, 1666-1694, unpaginated, date order, Averilla Bayley, 22 February 1686/7. "Averilla wife of Mr. Arthur Bayley of Mileend [Mile End] Gent."

## Children of Averilla [- ? -] and Robert Bristow:

- i. AVERILLA<sup>2</sup> BRISTOW, born in 1663 in Virginia; buried 22 February 1686/7 at Stepney, Middlesex, England;<sup>54</sup> married (1) (by license) on 20 June 1679 (age 16) in London, England, to William Wagstaff of St. Benet, Gracechurch St., London.<sup>55</sup> She married (2) on 6 August 1685 at Mortlake, Surrey, England, to Arthur Bailey Jr.<sup>56</sup> His father had many Virginia connections.<sup>57</sup> Averilla's father and her second husband were part owners in 1700 of the *America*, which traded between London and the Rappahannock.<sup>58</sup>
- ii. ROBERT BRISTOW JR., born say 1665 in Virginia. Died before his father and was buried 27 August 1706 in St. Dunstan-in-the-East, London.<sup>59</sup> He married Katherine Woolley on 1 January 1684/5 at St. Dunstan in the East.<sup>60</sup> She was born on 25 December 1667, and baptized on 7 January 1667/8 at St. Andrew Undershaft, London, daughter of Robert and Katherine (Norbury) Woolley.<sup>61</sup> "He continued the family fortunes and increased them greatly by tmarriage."<sup>62</sup> *His* will, dated 10 August 1706, was proved 29 August 1706 by his father, widow, and eldest son.<sup>63</sup> Two of his daughters married into the British peerage. Elizabeth married in 1726/7 (as *his* second wife) John Hobart, Earl of Buckinghamshire.<sup>64</sup> Anne married in 1728 Francis Howard, Earl of Effingham.<sup>65</sup> A younger son John was an East India merchant, leaving descendants with distinguished East India military service.<sup>66</sup>

The blood of the Virginia matriarch Averilla flowed down through British aristocracy and its military heroes. In her time she was as great as any of them.

55. Chester, "Allegations for Marriage Licenses Issued From the Faculty Office of the Archbishop of Canterbury at London, 1543 to 1869," 147.

56. *FamzjySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007569016>), digital film 007569016, image 103, Surrey Co., Eng., Mortlake Parish Church, Parish Registers, 1677-1758, unpaginated, date order, Bailey-Wagstaff marriage, 6 August 1685. Groom was of the parish of Stepney, Middlesex, and the bride was Mrs. Averilla Wagstaff of St. Gabriel Fenchurch, London; married with license.

57. Alan Simpson, "Robert Carter's Schooldays," *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, 94 (April 1986): 172-88.

58. *Ibid.*, 173.

59. *FamiljSearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/008047951>), digital film 008047951, image 273, London, St. Dunstan-in-the-East Church, Parish Registers, vol. 3, Burials 1676-1766, unpaginated, date order, Robert Bristow Esqr., 17 August 1706.

60. *Ibid.*, image 318, Marriages, 1676-1754, Bristow-Wooley, 1 January 1684/5. Groom was called merchant, single man; bride was a single woman of St. Dunstan East.

61. *FamiljSearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004030430>), digital film 004030430, image 307, London, St. Andrew Undershaft Church, Parish Registers, vol. 2, 1634-1692, unpaginated, date order, Katherin Woolly christening, 7 January 1667/8. Also Cust, "Bristow of Binstead," 5.

62. Cust, "Bristow of Binsted," 5.

63. "England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384-1858," *Anceshy* > PROB 11, Will Registers > 1705-1712 > Piece 489: Eedes, Quire Numbers 133-181 (1706) > images 277-78, Robert Bristow Jr. will, 10 August 1706, Eedes quire 166, 269v-271r (penned).

64. George E. Cokayne, *The Complete Peerage*, 14 vols. in 15 (London: St. Catherine Press, 1910-1998), 2:401. She died at Richmond, Surrey, on 12 September 1762.

65. *Ibid.*, 5:12. She died 15 November 1774 likely at Hampton Court, Middlesex, Co., Eng.

66. Burke and Burke, *A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain & Ireland*, 1:140-41. Also Cust, "Bristow of Binsted," 8-9.