

JOHN DOWNING, OF FAIRFIELDS, NORTHUMBER-
LAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA, AND HIS
DESCENDANTS

By MRS. O. A. KEACH, Wichita, Kansas

(Continued from page 51)

11. Samuel⁵ Downing (*William*,⁴ *Samuel*,³ *John*,² *William*¹), born July 2, 1728, died *circa* 1751. He was known until his death as Samuel Downing, Junior, to distinguish him from his uncle, Samuel⁴ Downing. On December 9, 1746, Samuel⁵ Downing, Jr., and his brother William⁵ Downing were allotted their part of their deceased father's, William⁴ Downing's estate. The estate of William⁴ Downing was left in the hands of Mr. William Fallin. June 2, 1749, Mr. Samuel Nelms, guardian to Samuel⁵ Downing, Jr., and William⁵ Downing, divided the slaves of their father, Mr. William⁴ Downing, deceased, between them stating that those belonging to William⁵, who was still a minor, were in the hands of Mrs. Nelms (probably his aunt).

Samuel⁵ Downing, Jr., was of age in 1749. He married Winifred *Dameron*, daughter of Mr. Thomas *Dameron* and his second wife, Winifred Conway.

Samuel⁵ Downing died intestate and the court ordered an appraisal of his estate March 11, 1751. Winifred (*Dameron*) Downing, administratrix of the estate of Samuel⁵ Downing, Jr., returned an inventory of this estate, April 8, 1751.

* William⁵ Downing (No. 14 of this pedigree) their uncle, was appointed guardian of William⁶ and Ann,⁶ children of Samuel⁵ Downing, deceased, by the court.

Winifred, widow of Samuel⁵ Downing, Jr., married *second*, Captain *John Williams*, and *John Williams* was, on December 10, 1753, appointed guardian to his step-children, William⁶ and Anne⁶ Downing. Captain *John* and Winifred (*Dameron-Downing*) *Williams* had a daughter, *Patty*, mentioned in a later record.

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Samuel⁵ and Winifred (**Dameron**) Downing, had issue:

i. William⁶ Downing. He was still under age August 11, 1776, when his uncle, Captain William⁵ Downing, was his guardian. His step-father, Captain **John Williams**, had died many years before this time, and probably also his mother, Mrs Winifred (**Dameron-Downing**) **Williams**.

Some time before October 13, 1784, William,⁶ nephew of Captain William,⁵ went to Accomac County, for on that date, describing himself as William Downing of Accomac County, Va., he and his wife, Ann, made a deed to Sarah and Hannah Downing, daughters and co-heirs of Captain William Downing, late of Northumberland County, deceased, for 209 acres of land in St. Stephen's parish, which was devised by the last will of Samuel Downing, deceased, to his eldest son, William, and after the death of the said William, descended to his eldest son, Samuel Downing, and after the death of the said Samuel, to his eldest son and heir-at-law, William Downing, first party to these presents. This deed clearly traces the line of descent as follows: William,⁶ of Accomac County; Samuel,⁵ Jr.; William,⁴ Samuel,³ **John**,² William.¹ There is no further record of this William⁶ Downing in Northumberland County.

ii. Anne⁶ Downing, daughter of Samuel⁵ and Winifred (**Dameron**) Downing) married Thomas Shearman, of the well known family of that name.

1766, November 10. The Court ordered the division of the estate of Samuel Downing, and Thomas Shearman to be possessed with his part in right of his wife. December 10, 1770. Thomas Shearman was appointed guardian to Patty **Williams**, orphan of Capt. **John** and Winifred **Williams**. Martin Shearman, Jr., was his security.

May 8, 1786. Mary and Raleigh Tapscott, executors of Henry Tapscott, deceased, brought suit against Anne Shearman, the executor of Thomas Shearman.

The children of Thomas and Anne⁶ (Downing) Shearman, were:

i. Thomas⁷ Shearman, married July 2, 1792, Hannah Rogers

ii. Samuel⁷ Shearman

iii. Winifred⁷ Shearman, married October 17, 1795, Kemp Hurst.

iv. Alice Chinn⁷ Shearman, married September 14, 1795, Robert

J. **Dameron**, her cousin.

12. William⁵ Downing, Senior (*William*,⁴ *Samuel*,³ *John*,²

*William*¹), the second son of William⁴ and Winifred (Nelms) Downing, mentioned in his father's will 1741, was probably born