

ants of Lemuel, or Marshall. There was a *Col. Joseph* who d. about 1798, and was as old as my grandfather Joseph. He moved from Nansemond a great many years ago and died about 1798. There was another *Anthony* and a *John*."

The writer of the above letter, James Gustavus Holladay, d. Portsmouth, Va., Aug. 27, 1886, æ 67. "As a lawyer and christian gentleman he was well known in his state. He is immortalized in his section by his noble career during the Yellow Fever epidemic of 1856. (Obit. S. C.)

The present line of the Va. Holladays begins with Captain John of Spotsylvania Co.

1. CAPTAIN JOHN<sup>1</sup> HOLLADAY, of Spotsylvania county, Va., b. —; d. Spotsylvania county, Nov., 1742; will dat. Nov. 4, pro. Dec. 7, 1742 (Spots. Co. A. 346); m. —, ELIZABETH —.

Capt. Holladay was Capt. of the Virginia Rangers of Spotsylvania Co., where he located 1702. His will names Jos. and Benj. Holladay, his sons, and Thomas Pulliam, his son-in-law, ex'rs. A previous will, written by William Waller, and signed April 9, 1735, by John Holladay, but not probated, gives the names of his wife and child, as here recorded, and identifies "the plantation," on East N. E. Creek in the S. W. part of Spots. Co., on which he lived, died and was buried, as that on which his gr. son, Lewis Holladay, lived, died and was buried, and on which his gt. gr. son, Waller, was born and reared. The site of the dwelling and the graves of John<sup>1</sup> and his wife Elizabeth is several hundred yards from the residence of Lewis H. and of his gr. son, Dr. Lewis L. H., before he removed to Orange Co. The latter was called "Bellefonte," from a fine spring near the dwelling house. The place was bought of Dr. H. by his cos., Benj. L. Holladay, who d. 1866. It is now owned and occupied by Mr. Edwin Smith. The Va. Assembly passed an Act, May, 1780, ordering the Court of Spots. Co. "to hold their sessions at the house of John Holladay until the new court house now building shall be completed." (Hen. X., 228.) Mr. J. M. H. says this John was a gr. son, of John the Ranger, as a properly certified paper shows that Lewis Holladay and Zachary Lewis were appointed "Assessors of Property" in one of the "Districts or Hundreds" into which Spots. Co. was divided, by Joseph Brock, James Tutt and Thos. Towles, Gents., Commissioners for the Co. Ct. They met at the "house of Mr. John Holladay, Jr., on Wednesday, April 7, 1779," and directed "to make a fair return of your proceedings to us at John Holladay's on the last Saturday of July next, if fair, and if not, the next fair day." As John 1st was then dead, and John 2d, who died June, 1780, was then John Holladay, *Senior*, the John H. in question was a son, if not nephew, of John 2d. It is also more than probable that this John is the one at whose house the Co. Ct. was ordered to hold its sessions, as "the house of John Holladay" was frequently used for county business by the court officers before May, 1780. Again, in 1768, in an old account book, charges appear for cooper work; one against "John Holladay, Jun.," and one against "John Holladay, Sen."

The probated will of Jno. Holladay gives sons William, John, Daniel, Joseph, Benjamin; daus. Elizabeth, wife of Pattison Pulliam; Winifred, wife of Thomas Pulliam; Sarah, wife of James Rollings, Jun., and Susanna. Sons Joseph, Benj. and Thomas Pulliam, ex'rs. (Bk. A, 346.)



The following letter from Capt. John Holladay's descendant, Waller Holladay, gives the fullest account of him extant:

SPOTSYLVANIA Co., VA., Apr. 5, 1852.

DEAR SIR:—My neighbour, Mr. H. P. Poindexter, has informed me that he met with you on board a steamboat during his trip to the South. He said you "were the grandson of Capt. John Holladay, who fell in Gates' defeat," and whose family moved from Spotsylvania County, I believe, soon after the close of the Revolutionary War; that you "wished to know something of the history of the Holladay family." \* \* \* I am the oldest of the name in the county; all of the Holladays here are descended from my great-grandfather, John Holladay, who came to this county from lower Virginia about one hundred and fifty years ago. This part of the State was then the frontier of the Colony, and the Government employed a body of men called Rangers for the purpose of guarding the colonists against the incursions of the Indians. My great-grandfather was one of these Rangers, and if I mistake not had some command among them. After the close of his military services he remained within the present limits of Spotsylvania upon the plantation where I was born (Bellefonte). He became a Magistrate or Justice of the Peace, as I have heard my father say, and lived and died an estimable man. Neither he nor any of his sons, according to my information, were wealthy, but in comfortable circumstances; always honest, and always respectable. These traits, so strongly impressed upon his own children, have descended to his posterity in this part of the country, with fewer exceptions than I have ever known in a family so numerous. I pray you, sir, to attribute this declaration to no other motive than a sincere desire to impart to a distant kinsman, who wishes to know something of the family, *the truth and nothing but the truth*.

Your grandfather, the own cousin of my father, I never knew personally. At the time of Gates' defeat (1780) I was but a child; much too young to notice, or to remember the passing events of the day. Consequently I can communicate nothing but what I have since heard in relation to him. He commanded a company of militia. My father went as lieutenant and John Chew as ensign from the same county. Whether after the organization of the army and at the time of the battle the two last were in your grandfather's company I cannot positively say. But the fact is immaterial to the present narrative. In the retreat, which was made in the greatest confusion, every man taking care of himself, Captain John Holladay was seen leaning against a tree, at some distance from the enemy; how far I know not, but probably not then within reach of their musketry. He told the soldiers who passed him that he "was completely exhausted and could retreat no further." As he never was seen or heard of afterwards, the fair conclusion is that he was killed by the enemy when overtaken by them. John Chew, the ensign, lost his left arm. My father, amidst a storm of bullets, escaped uninjured. Capt. John Holladay has been described to me as "a remarkably well looking man, of good features and portly person, rather inclined to corpulency." It was probably owing to this last circumstance that he was lost in the retreat, his weight incapacitating him for rapid and long continued motion on foot. Many of the Holladay family moved from Virginia more than 50 years ago, and are now widely scattered over our extended country. Some of them continue to spell their names as our common ancestors did. Others have dropped the *a* in the second syllable, and use instead of it the letter *i*. To all the branches of the family who reside in distant states I am as completely a stranger as though there was no consanguinity between us. I have endeavoured to comply with your request as delivered to me by Mr. Poindexter, and am, with best wishes for your happiness and prosperity,

Very respectfully, your kinsman and obedient servant,

To Mr. S. A. Holladay, Aberdeen, Miss.

WALLER HOLLADAY.

Children (from wills):

2. i. WILLIAM,<sup>2</sup> b. —, d. —.
3. ii. JOHN, JR., b. —; d. 1780-1; will dat. June 17, 1780, pro. Aug. 16, 1781, leaves estate to his wife and child unnamed.
4. iii. DANIEL, b. —; d. —.
- + 5. iv. JOSEPH, b. —; d. July 24, 1795; m. —, Betty Lewis.
6. v. BENJAMIN, b. —; d. 1785; will dat. Mar. 18, 1785; pro. Spots. Co., June 7, 1785; names gr. son Benjamin, daughters Susannah, Agnes, Sarah, Martha, Mary, and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Pulliam, Nancy, wife of John Rawlings. Ex'r, son-in-law Jos. Pulliam. Evidently had no son. Names as legatee "John Holladay."
7. vi. ELIZABETH, b. —; d. —; m. Pattison Pulliam.
8. vii. WINIFRED, b. —; d. —; m. Thomas Pulliam.
9. viii. SARAH, b. —; d. —; m. James Rawlings, Jr.; had 6 sons and 6 daughters.
10. ix. SUSANNAH, b. —; d. —.

From Virginia Genealogies  
Harrison Hayden

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