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# The Early Strother Family in Virginia

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## **William Strother, the Immigrant**

By Edward L. Strother

William Strother purchased 500 acres of land on the north side of the Rappahannock River from John Prosser for 25 pounds Sterling on 23 October 1669. The land was part of some 5,000 acres originally granted to John Prosser and Thomas Chetwood.<sup>1</sup> This was frontier country that was sparsely settled, Jamestown having only been settled in 1607. Virginia was a colony of England, and William Strother is thought to be of English ancestry. However, evidence of his ancestry has not been located.

William Strother lived in Old Rappahannock County, which was organized in 1656 out of Lancaster County and comprised lands lying on both sides of the Rappahannock River. In April 1692 Old Rappahannock County was divided into two distinct counties, divided by the river. The north side became Richmond County and the south side became Essex County. William Strother's land fell in King George County when that county was formed in 1720 from Richmond County.

William was a planter, and undoubtedly raised tobacco, which was the principal crop of the time. His neighbors included Anthony Savage who bought 1,000 acres from Prosser for 50 pounds Sterling on 9 April 1670. William had cattle and in 1673 registered his earmark for cattle, which consisted of three slits in the left ear and four slits in the right ear.<sup>2</sup> He employed indentured servants on his plantation. On 7 June 1699 Hugh Moyman, servant to William Strother, was presented to the Court to adjudge his age, which was determined to be 13 years.<sup>3</sup>

The last will and testament of William Strother was proven in the Richmond County Court on 4 November 1702 by the oaths of James Phillips and William Smith and an order for probate was granted. Also, the Court ordered Robert Payne, Jonathan Gibson and Sem Cox, or any two of them to meet at the house of the deceased, and make an inventory of the estate.<sup>4</sup>

Dorothy, wife of William Strother, survived her husband and continued living in Richmond County. She was still living 4 April 1716 when she appeared in Richmond County Court to prove the will of her son James Strother.<sup>5</sup>

The children of William and Dorothy Strother were William, James, Jeremiah, Robert, Benjamin and Joseph.

FHL = Family History Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

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<sup>1</sup> Rappahannock County, Virginia Deeds, Wills and Settlements of Estates. 1668-1672: 103 (FHL microfilm no. 0033647).

<sup>2</sup> Rappahannock County, Virginia Deeds, Wills and Settlements of Estates. 1671-1676: 119. (FHL microfilm no. 0033647).

<sup>3</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 2, 1694-1699: 399 (FHL microfilm no. 0033678, item #3).

<sup>4</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 3. 1699-1704: 185, 187 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>5</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Wills & Inventories 1709-1717: 246 (FHL microfilm no. 0033676).

## *Will of William Strother, the Immigrant*

*In the name of God- Amen. I, William Strother, Sr. of the County of Richmond being sick and weak of body, but of sound and perfect mind and memory, praise be to the Almighty God for it, do make and ordain this my last will and testament as followeth. Just and principally, I commend my soul unto the hands of the Almighty God that gave it, and my body I commit to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executor hereafter named, and as for the estate as it hath pleased the Lord to bestow upon me, I give and dispose of as followeth (viz.:*)

*Item: My will is that my debts and funeral charges be paid and discharged.*

*Item: I give and bequeath to my son William Strother 150 acres of land including the plantation I now live upon, with all edifice, buildings, garden orchards whatsoever. After his mother's decease, the said 150 acres if there be so much less or more to go from the riverside to the main road and no further because he shall not molest his brother James, but while my wife Dorothy shall live it is my will that she shall peacefully and quietly possess the one half of the plantation I now live upon, with the housing, orchards, and fencing that is thereon and all other privileges thereto belonging, and at her death the said land and premises shall wholly belong to my said son William Strother and his heirs forever.*

*Item: I give and bequeath to my son James Strother 150 acres being part of ye dividnt I now live upon, and to begin where my son William lives at the main road and so back for his said complement, including the plantation he is now on to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item: I give and bequeath the remaining part of my land to be equally divided between my two sons Robert and Benjamin to them and their heirs forever.*

*Item: My will is that my son Joseph be put in school and kept there a year and that he be free and at his own disposing at the age of sixteen.*

*Item: I give unto my grandson Will Strother 2000 pounds of tobacco to be shipped and sent to England and the proceeds to be paid to him at the age of 10 years old.*

*Item: All the rest and residue of my personal estate goods and chattels with all the crop of corn and tobacco and servants I give and bequeath to my loving wife Dorothy Strother during the time of her widowhood, but and if my said wife shall otherwise dispose of herself or marry again, my will is that my son James do order an account to be taken of my said personal estate and that it may be equally divided between her and my sons namely, James, Jeremy, Robert, Benjamin, and Joseph.*

*Item: I appoint, constitute, and ordain my loving wife Dorothy and my son James to be full and sole executrix and executor of this my last will and testament, and I do hereby revoke disannul and make void all former will and testament by me heretofore made. In witness whereof I the said William Strother to this my last will and testament have set my hand and thereto fixed my seal this 30th day of December in the year of our Lord 1700.*

*William Strother (Seal)*

*Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of  
James Phillips, Edward Langedell, William Smith (his mark)<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Wills & Inventories 1699-1709: 54-55 (FHL microfilm no. 0033676).

## William Strother II

By Edward L. Strother

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William Strother was the eldest son of William and Dorothy Strother. He was a planter and lived in King George County on the Rappahannock River land inherited from his father.<sup>1</sup> He had Negro slaves and indentured servants to help with the plantation, where he probably raised tobacco. On 3 April 1700 William Cunningham, servant to William Strother Jr., was presented to the Court for inspection into his age, which was adjudged to be 15 years.<sup>2</sup>

William Strother married Margaret Thornton, daughter of neighbors Francis Thornton and Alice Savage and granddaughter of Anthony Savage.<sup>3</sup> William Strother served as Richmond County Constable during the year 1700-1701.<sup>4</sup> He was a church warden in St. Mary's Parish in Richmond County and later in Hanover Parish in King George County.<sup>5</sup>

William Strother died in 1726. His widow and executrix, Margaret Strother, presented his last will and testament at the King George County Court on 1 July 1726.<sup>6</sup>

The children of William Strother and Margaret Thornton were: William, Francis, Margaret, Benjamin, Anthony and George.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Wills & Inventories 1699-1709: 54-55 (FHL microfilm no. 0033676).

<sup>2</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 3, 1699-1704: 20 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>3</sup> King George County, Virginia Will Book A-1, 1721-1752: 48-51.

<sup>4</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 3, 1699-1704: 41, 110 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>5</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 6, 1711-1716: 157 (FHL microfilm no. 0033707); King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 201 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

<sup>6</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 320 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

## *Will of William Strother II*

*In the name of God, amen. I William Strother Senior of Hanover Parish in the County of King George, being sick and weak of body but of perfect sense and memory, blessed be God therefore, do make this my last will and testament in manner and form following. That is to say, first and principally I do bequeath my soul into the hands of Almighty God that gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner, at the discretion of my executor hereafter named, in hopes of a joyful resurrection of the same through the merits of my blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*

*Imprimis, my two sons, William and Francis, and also my daughter Margaret, deceased, having received their part, I do give the remainder of my estate as followeth.*

*Item. I do give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Strother three Negroes named Peter and Tate and Sarah and all her increase forever.*

*Item. I do give and bequeath unto my son Anthony Strother three Negroes named Tom, Bess and Hannah with all her increase forever.*

*Item. I do give and bequeath unto my son George Strother three Negroes named Adam, Nanny and Doll together with their increase forever. The said Negroes which I have bequeathed to my several sons are not to be disposed during the natural life of my executrix, hereafter mentioned, without her consent. And if it please God that my son George Strother decease before he hath heir truly begotten of his own body, that then the Negro girl named Doll to go to my grandson John Strother, the son of Francis Strother, and in case either of the other of the decease before they have any heir begotten of their body, that then his or their Negroes to be equally divided between the survivors.*

*Item. I do give and bequeath my personal estate together with every part and parcel thereof unto my dear and loving wife Margaret Strother, after payment of debts, whom I also do constitute and appoint my whole and sole executrix of this my last will and testament. And I do desire that my estate may not be brought to an appraisement. This I do affix and acknowledge to be my last will and testament, whereunto I have set my hand and affixed my seal this 7<sup>th</sup> day of April in the year of our Lord 1726.*

*William Strother (seal)*

*Signed and sealed in  
presence of:  
John Hardy  
Martha (her mark) Kendall<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> King George County, Va. Will Book A-1. 1721-1752: 40-41.

## James Strother

By Edward L. Strother

James Strother was the son of William and Dorothy Strother. He is first found in the county records on 3 January 1693 when mentioned as a plaintiff in an action against James Nichols in the Richmond County Court.<sup>1</sup> James Strother served as Constable for Richmond County for the year 1697-1698.<sup>2</sup> He and his mother were named as executors of the estate of his father William Strother, when he died in 1702. James received a bequest of 150 acres of land in his father's will. In 1702,<sup>3</sup> 1706<sup>4</sup> and 1709<sup>5</sup> he was appointed surveyor of highways in his area of the county.

James Strother never married and died in 1716. His will was presented in the Richmond County court on 4 April 1716 and upon oath of William Webster and Dorothy Strother was admitted to record.

### *Will of James Strother*

*In the name of God, amen. I, James Strother being sick and weak in body but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given to God for it, do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form of following:*

*I give and bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried at the discretion of my executor.*

*My will is that my debts and funeral charges be first paid, and for what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with, all I give and bequeath to my brother Joseph Strother, both real and personal, to him and his heirs forever. And I do ordain and appoint my brother Joseph Strother my full and sole executor of this my last will and testament. As witness, my hand this 5th day of January in the year of our Lord 1710.*

*James Strother*

*Signed in the presence of:*

*William (his mark) Webster*

*Dorothy (her mark) Strother<sup>6</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 1692-1694: 112 (FHL microfilm no. 0033678, item #2).

<sup>2</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 2, 1694-1699: 304 (FHL microfilm no. 0033678, item #3).

<sup>3</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 3, 1699-1704: 164 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>4</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 4, 1704-1708: 203 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>5</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 5, 1708-1711: 51 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>6</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Wills & Inventories 1709-1717: 246 (FHL microfilm no. 0033676).

## **Jeremiah Strother**

By Edward L. Strother

Jeremiah Strother was the son of William and Dorothy Strother. He was married by 7 February 1703, when he and his wife Eleanor (---) sold 100 acres of land in Westmoreland County. In the transaction Jeremiah Strother of Richmond County assigns to Hugh Wharton an interest in land purchased from William Smith and recorded at the same time. Eleanor acknowledged her dower interest in the transaction on 22 February 1703.<sup>1</sup> It is not known if Jeremiah and Eleanor actually lived in Westmoreland County or if they merely acquired property there.

Jeremiah Strother lived and farmed most of his life in that part of Richmond County that became King George County in 1720. In 1707 Jeremiah Strother was renting property from John Lomax.<sup>2</sup> In deed of John Arnold on 11 April 1732 reference is made to the property lines of Jeremiah Strother and Captain Joseph<sup>2</sup> Strother.<sup>3</sup> Also, the July 1734 deed of Thomas Grimsley to Robert Rankin refers to the property line of Jeremiah Strother.<sup>4</sup> However, no record is found of Jeremiah acquiring property in King George County. Yet after his death, 150 acres in Hanover Parish of King George County was bequeathed to his son Christopher.<sup>5</sup>

Jeremiah's son William in 1733 had settled in that part of Spotsylvania County that became Orange County in 1734.<sup>6</sup> His siblings, who leased land there, later followed him. It was in Orange County that Jeremiah Strother died in 1741. His will was presented in the Orange County Court 26 March 1741 by his executors James Strother and William Strother and proven by the oaths of John Catlett and William Lightfoot, witnesses to the will.<sup>7</sup>

The children of Jeremiah and Eleanor Strother were James, William, Francis, Jeremiah, Lawrence, Catherine, Elizabeth and Christopher. Except for James, the children went on to settle in North Carolina and South Carolina.

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<sup>1</sup> Westmoreland County, Virginia Deeds & Wills Book 3, 1701-1707: 205-207 (FHL microfilm no. 0034269).

<sup>2</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 4, 1704-1708: 257-258 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>3</sup> King George County, Virginia Deed Book 1A: 222-225 (FHL microfilm no. 0032061).

<sup>4</sup> King George County, Virginia Deed Book 1A: 298-300 (FHL microfilm no. 0032061).

<sup>5</sup> King George County, Virginia Deed Book 3, 1743-1752: 308-309, Virginia State Library, Richmond

<sup>6</sup> Spotsylvania County, Virginia Deed Book B: 504-506 (FHL microfilm no. 0034068)

<sup>7</sup> Orange County, Virginia Will Book I, 1733-1743 Reel 23: 141-142, Virginia State Library, Richmond

## Will of Jeremiah Strother

*In the Name of God Amen.*

*I, Jeremiah Strother, being sick but of sound memory and considering the frailty of this mortal life do make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner and form following. Imprimis, I commit my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter named and my soul to the mercy of god hoping through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ my Savior to receive pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to be admitted into his heavenly kingdom. And as to the worldly estate it hath pleased God to endow me with I give and bequeath as follows:*

*Item: I leave to my wife Eleanor Strother during her natural life or widowhood all my estate real and personal of any kind whatsoever, but that my land be sold at the discretion of executors hereafter mentioned, and that my wife have the use of the money during her life or widowhood.*

*Item: My will is that after the death of my wife or day of marriage that my son Christopher have and enjoy all my estate whatsoever.*

*Item: I give to my sons James Strother, William Strother, Francis Strother, Jeremiah Strother, Lawrence Strother and my daughters Catherine and Elizabeth, and each of them one shilling.*

*Item: I make and ordain my two sons James Strother and William Strother my whole and sole executors by whom all my just debts are to be paid and declare this to be last will and testament as witness my hand and seal this 7th day of June, 1740.*

*Jeremiah (his mark) Strother*

*Signed, sealed & delivered to be his last will and testament in the presence of:*

*John Catlett  
Grant Slaughter  
Wm. Lightfoot.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> Orange County, Virginia Will Book I, 1733-1743 Reel 23, 141-142: Virginia State Library, Richmond.



## Robert Strother

By Edward L. Strother

Robert Strother was son of William and Dorothy Strother. He is first found in the records in 1704 when he was a member of a jury for the Richmond County Court.<sup>1</sup> Robert Strother probably was a tobacco farmer and owned several slaves. He took his Negro slave girl named Sarah into the King George County Court on 3 March 1726, where the court determined her age to be 12 years.<sup>2</sup> He served on juries for the county court numerous times, the last one being 4 May 1733.<sup>3</sup>

Robert Strother married Elizabeth Berry, daughter of William Berry, who died testate in King George County in 1721. The will of William Berry, dated 5 February 1720 and presented in court on 2 June 1721, gives to his daughters a tract of land, where his daughter Margaret then lived.<sup>4</sup>

Robert Strother died in 1735. His last will and testament was presented into the Richmond County Court 7 November 1735 by Elizabeth, his widow and executrix, and was proven by the oaths of Edward Burgess and Grace Latham and admitted to record. Elizabeth Strother and Joseph Berry, her brother, acknowledged a bond for 200 pounds as security for Elizabeth's administration of the estate.<sup>5</sup>

After the death of her husband Robert Strother, Elizabeth married William Wheeler of Westmoreland County, Virginia.<sup>6</sup> William Wheeler died, leaving a will dated 18 November 1761, in which he bequeathed to Elizabeth during her natural life all the land "that I now live on."<sup>7</sup>

The children of Robert Strother and Elizabeth Berry were John, Robert, Enoch and Elizabeth.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia. Order Book 3, 1699-1704: 335, 351 (FHL microfilm no. 0033706).

<sup>2</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 355 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

<sup>3</sup> King George County, Virginia. Order Book 1721-1734, 637 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

<sup>4</sup> George Harrison Sanford King, *King George County, Virginia Will Book A-I, 1721-1752 and Miscellaneous Notes* (Fredericksburg, Virginia: Privately published by George Harrison Sanford King, 1978): 1-3.

<sup>5</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 2, 1735-1751: 35 (FHL microfilm no. 0032085).

<sup>6</sup> King George County, Virginia Deed Book 2: 408.

<sup>7</sup> Westmoreland County, Virginia Deeds & Wills Book 14, 1761-1768: 161-162 (FHL microfilm no. 0034274).

*Will of Robert Strother*

*In the name of God, amen. I, Robert Strother of the County of King George, being very sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect memory, thanks be given to Almighty God, therefore and calling to remembrance the uncertainty of this mortal life, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament. That is to say, first and principally I give and commend my soul into the hands of my creator and my body to the earth from where it came to be decently buried at the discretion of my executrix and executor hereafter named in sure and certain hope of a joyful resurrection at the last day through the merits of my Savior Jesus Christ. And as touching such mortal goods wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with, I give and devise as follows.*

*Imprimis, I give to my son John Strother the plantation whereon I now live in the said county and Brunswick Parish, being 100 acres more or less, to him and his heirs forever, and likewise one Negro girl named Joan with all her future increase to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item, I give to my son Robert Strother my plantation near the courthouse in Hanover Parish, being 108 acres of land to him and his heirs forever, and likewise one Negro boy named Tobia to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item, I give to my son Enoch one Negro girl named Phillise with all her future increase to him and his heirs forever.*

*Item, I give to my daughter Elizabeth Strother one feather bed and furniture.*

*Item, I give to my three sons John, Robert and Enoch each of them one feather bed and furniture.*

*Item, I give to dearly beloved wife Elizabeth one Negro man named Tom and one Negro woman named Sary with all her future increase.*

*Item, I give to my son John my sword and belt, pistols and holsters.*

*Item, It is my desire that all the rest of my estate be equally divided between my wife and four children.*

*Item, I do desire that my wife may possess and enjoy the house and plantation with the land thereunto belonging during her life. All my other estate as above said I desire may be paid and distributed to my four children successively as they arrive at the age of 18 years.*

*Finally, I do constitute and appoint my dearly beloved wife Elizabeth Strother and my well beloved friend and brother Joseph Berry to be executrix and executor of this my last will and testament, revoking and annulling all former wills be me made, ratifying and confirming this to be my true and last will, as witness my hand and seal this 14<sup>th</sup> Day of May in the year of our Lord 1735.*

*Robert (his mark) Strother*

*Signed, sealed and delivered by the said Robert Strother as his last will and testament in the presence of:*

*Henry Berry*

*Edward Burgess*

*Grace (her mark) Latham<sup>1</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> OSS727 King George County, Virginia Will Book A-1, 1721-1752: 114-115.

## **Benjamin Strother**

By Edward L. Strother

Benjamin Strother was the son of William and Dorothy Strother. He was very active in the community in which he lived. On 3 April 1717 Benjamin Strother was appointed Under Sheriff of Richmond County.<sup>1</sup> On 8 May 1725 Benjamin Strother was appointed under sheriff of King George County, when William<sup>3</sup> Strother (William, William<sup>2</sup>) became sheriff.<sup>2</sup> Benjamin was a Justice in the King George County Court during the period 1722 until about 1742. He was first sworn in as a justice on 7 December 1722.<sup>3</sup> He was still on the court on 6 June 1742.<sup>4</sup> He served as sheriff for a short while, being appointed to the office in September 1733,<sup>5</sup> but he then returned to the court.

Benjamin Strother married prior to 25 April 1703 Mary Woffendall, daughter of Adam Woffendall. In the will of Adam Woffendall dated 25 April 1703 and admitted to the Richmond County Court in 1704, he refers to a daughter named Mary and a son named Strother.<sup>6</sup> Subsequent records make it clear that he was referring to his son-in-law Benjamin Strother.

Benjamin died in 1752 and Mary Strother and John Strother presented his will in the King George County Court on 5 March 1752.<sup>7</sup>

The children of Benjamin Strother and Mary Woffendall were Richard, George, Benjamin, John Samuel and Francis.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia. Order Book 7, 1716-1717: 103 (FHL microfilm no. 0033707).

<sup>2</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 251 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054)

<sup>3</sup> King George County, Virginia. Order Book 1721-1734: 70 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054)

<sup>4</sup> King George County, Virginia. Order Book 1735-1751: 285 (FHL microfilm no. 0032085)

<sup>5</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 650 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054)

<sup>6</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Wills and Inventories 1699-1709: 70 (FHL microfilm no. 0033676, item # 1).

<sup>7</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1751-1756: 46 (FHL microfilm no. 0032055)

## *Will of Benjamin Strother*

*In the name of God, Amen. I Benjamin Strother senior of King George County, being very sick and weak but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be to God, do hereby make my last will and testament. That is to say chiefly and principally I recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty god and my body to the earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my executors. And as touching such worldly goods wherein it hath pleased God to bless me with in this life, I give devise and dispose of in the following manner and form.*

*Imprimis, I give to my loving wife valuable consideration for her maintenance during her natural life.*

*Item. The rest of my estate in lands to be sold at the discretion of my executor and my wife and the money to be equally divided among my five sons, Richard, Benjamin, John, George and Samuel. My son Benjamin, having has thirty pounds or the value of it in 150 acres of land by estimation being and lying in the said county, it is my will and desire that that after my other four sons have has each of them thirty pounds out of my estate, that then my son Benjamin shall come in for an equal part of the rest.*

*Item. All the rest of my estate, real and personal, to be equally divided amongst my aforementioned sons.*

*Item. I also give to my son Francis thirty pounds.*

*And I appoint my loving wife and my sons Richard and John executors of this my last will and testament, revoking all other will or wills by me heretofore made and do declare this and no other to be my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 10<sup>th</sup> day of February in the year of our Lord 1752.*

*Benjamin Strother*

*Signed, sealed, published and pronounced  
By the said Benjamin Strother to be his last will  
and testament in presence of us:*

*John Stevens  
Spence Moore  
Sarah (her mark) Allen*

*It is my desire that my executors should build a vault ten-foot square and seven foot deep and lay me therein.<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> King George County, Virginia Will Book 1: 11-12 (FHL microfilm no. 0032058, item #2)

## Joseph Strother

By Edward L. Strother

Joseph Strother was the youngest son of William and Dorothy Strother; not being age 16 when his father's will was drawn on 30 December 1700. On 3 September 1718 he took the oath of office to serve as a justice in the Richmond County Court.<sup>1</sup> Then in 1720 when King George County was split off Richmond County, Joseph was one of the first justices in the newly formed county.<sup>2</sup> He was still serving as a justice on the court in June 1744.<sup>3</sup>

Joseph Strother also served several terms as sheriff of King George County. He first took the oath of office for sheriff on 6 July 1727.<sup>4</sup> On 6 October 1727 Joseph was appointed for another year to the office of sheriff by proclamation of the William Gooch, lieutenant governor of Virginia.<sup>5</sup> On 7 September 1739 Joseph Strother was again appointed sheriff, which office he served for two more years.<sup>6</sup> Joseph Strother was appointed to his final term as sheriff on 1 June 1744.<sup>7</sup>

Joseph Strother married Margaret Berry, daughter of Grace Berry. The will of Grace Berry was proved 2 June 1757 in King George County Court. In her will Grace gives a bequest of one Negro man to her grandson John Thornly, and "all the rest of my Negroes with all and singular my whole personal estate I give and bequeath to my loving son in law Joseph Strother and loving daughter Margaret Strother his wife."<sup>8</sup>

The children of Joseph Strother and Margaret Berry were Mary, Margaret, Dorothy, Thomas, Nicholas and Joseph.

Joseph Strother died in 1766 and his son Thomas Strother presented his will on 7 August 1766 in King George County Court.

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<sup>1</sup> Richmond County, Virginia Order Book 8, 1718-1721: 37-38 (FHL microfilm no. 0033707).

<sup>2</sup> H. R. McIlwaine, *Executive Journals of the Council of Colonial Virginia, May 1, 1705-October 23, 1721*, Volume III: 525 (Richmond: The Virginia State Library, 1928).

<sup>3</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1735-1751: 403 (FHL microfilm no. 0032085).

<sup>4</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 370 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

<sup>5</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1721-1734: 381 (FHL microfilm no. 0032054).

<sup>6</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1735-1751: 212, 265 (FHL microfilm no. 0032085).

<sup>7</sup> King George County, Virginia Order Book 1735-1751: 403 (FHL microfilm no. 0032085).

<sup>8</sup> King George County, Virginia Will Book 1: 63-64.

### *Will of Joseph Strother*

*In the name of God, amen. I, Joseph Strother of King George county in Hanover Parish, being in a weak state of health but of sound and perfect mind and memory, thanks be given for the same, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament in manner and form following. First, I give and bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereafter mentioned. And for what worldly goods God has been pleased to bestow on me, I give and bequeath as followeth.*

*Imprimis, I give to my son Thomas Strother that tract of land whereon he now lives with household goods and stocks of cattle, hogs and sheep now on the plantation with three Negroes, viz.: Robin, Sarah and her son Davy, to him and his heirs forever with this reservation. That he every year bring down to his mother during her life a good steer or cow and six hundred weight of pork out of the stock.*

*Item. I give to my son Nicholas Strother the plantation whereon he now lives with all the household goods, stock of cattle, hogs and sheep now on the plantation, he to deliver to his mother yearly one good steer or cow and six hundred weight of pork. I also give my said son Nicholas one Negro woman named Grace to him and his heirs forever. And it is my will that there be raised out of the profits of my estate as soon as possible 100 pounds current money to be paid to him as he is not to have any part of my Negroes nor estate after his mother's death.*

*It is my will that all my estate indisposed be kept together and remain on my plantation during my wife's life, who is to have the use of the whole as long as she lives and at her decease to be equally divided. That is to say, all my Negroes not disposed of, with all my household goods, and stocks of cattle and sheep and horses, everything to be equally divided between my son Joseph Strother and my three daughters, to wit, Mary Wren, Margaret Cannihan and Dorothy Walker. I give to my son Nicholas after his mothers decease the use of my dwelling plantation during his life, and after his decease, I give my said plantation to my son Joseph Strother and his heirs forever.*

*And I do appoint my living wife Margaret Strother and my two sons Joseph and Thomas Strother executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15<sup>th</sup> of October 1761.*

*Joseph Strother*

*Signed, sealed and acknowledged*

*In presence:*

*Robert Strother*

*Enoch Strother*

*Martha (her mark) Brown<sup>1</sup>*

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<sup>1</sup> King George County, Virginia Will Book 1: 228-229 (FHL microfilm no. 0032058, item no. 2).

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