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**Descendants of Francis Leigh of Warwick and  
Norfolk Counties**

*Dick Purser*

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### Francis Leigh of Warwick County

I know less of this line than any other. One question which arises immediately was why the son of John Leigh would move to Warwick County from King and Queen. The answer of course is that his wife's family, the Roscows and their connections to the Bassett family of Eltham represented an even higher social and political prestige level than did the Leighs. His father in law William Roscow represented Warwick in the House of Burgesses from 1723 to about 1740. The persons who then succeeded Roscow in 1741 stayed until 1771. The Bassetts were almost continually on the Council and in the House of Burgesses.

Anyway he spent most of his life in Warwick County. Where he filled various posts<sup>1</sup>. He also was on the Warwick County Commission of Safety from 1774-5.<sup>2</sup> In his later life he moved with his family to Norfolk County and his will was probated there in 1783.

His son Roscow Leigh was a merchant and died at sea returning home from Martinique on the brig Nancy in 1793. His estate was handled by his brother Francis, but not to the satisfaction of his brother John. Francis himself died in 1798 in Edgecombe County, N. C. in 1798. His will names his brother William and a Willoughby niece and nephew.

John Leigh moved to Edgecombe County, N. C. also where he lived in the Town of Tarboro. He was a

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member of the NC legislature and was prominent in promoting the establishment of the Episcopal Church in North Carolina. At some point he must have run afoul of merchant John Gray Blount from Beaufort County, N. C who was the state's richest man because Blount makes unfavorable mention of him in his collected papers.

John Leigh took his medical degree from the University of Edinburgh about 1785 and is in Tarboro, N. C. by 1787. He is married to Mary Baker but dies by 1796.

Francis Leigh's daughter Lucy marries John Willoughby for whose family "Willoughby Spit" is named in Norfolk. They had four daughters and two sons. The Willoughby family also shows up later in Eastern North Carolina.

The Francis Leigh descendant whose descendants bring the family into the 20th Century was William who married onto the Purviance family. Their later descendants became doctors and founded the Sarah Leigh Hospital, in Norfolk Virginia an association of Dr. Southgate Leigh, Dr. James Culpeper and Dr. Harry Harrison. This hospital was taken over in modern times by the Sentara Healthcare Company and now there are multiple Sentara Leigh Hospitals.

1 "Warwick County, Virginia, Colonial Court Records", Richard Dunn Ed., The Jones House Association, Inc. 2 William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. 5, p. 250.

*Generation No. 1*

**1. [5680] Francis<sup>1</sup> Leigh**, born about 1717, died about 1782, in Norfolk County, VA. He married Elizabeth Roscow about 1750. Elizabeth Roscow was born about 1732.

This Francis Leigh moved from York County to Norfolk County late in life and died in 1782. I have taken his children from his will which I have copied. I have given his children birth dates to order them as he has them in his will. The naming pattern he applied to his children I believe identifies his father as discussed in the main text.

One might ask why a son of a notable in King and Queen County would move to Warwick County. The answer lies in his wife. The Roscows (or Roscoes) were even more prominent in the landed aristocracy than were the Leighs. William Roscow was a member of the House of Burgesses for Warwick County much of his adult life and his family was also connected to the Bassett and the Burwell and the Cary families. Francis followed in the family tradition and wealth. He himself was a member of the Committee of Safety during the Revolution.

The naming pattern is as follows:

Lucy	Mother's mother	John	Father's father	Francis	Father	Roscow	Mother's father (or family)
William	Father's grandfather (or Mother's grandfather)	Elizabeth	Mother	Ann	Father's mother		

:this pattern is almost conclusive. He threw in no wildcards !

Children of Francis Leigh and Elizabeth Roscow:

2.
  - i. [5695] **Lucy Leigh**, born about 1752.
  - ii. [5689] **John Leigh**, born about 1755, died 23 Dec 1796, in Tarboro, N. C. He married Living \_\_\_\_\_. John Leigh took his medical degree at the University of Edinburgh about 1785. He appears on record in Tarboro, NC in 1787 when he buys a lot. He represented Edgecombe County in the House of Commons from 1789 until his death in 1796. He was apparently closely linked with attempts to establish the Episcopal Church in NC. ( All of this taken from the Dictionary of N. C. Biography from an article by Claiborne T, Smith, Jr.)

On at least one occasion he ran afoul of John Gray Blount of Beaufort County who had no high opinion of him. [ John Gray Blount Papers, Volume II .]

Apparently he also questioned Francis Leigh's handling of Roscow Leigh's estate. (Data taken from Edgecombe County estates.)

- iii. [5690] **Francis Leigh**, born about 1760, died before 1799. Francis Leigh's will is dated 17 March 1798 and is brought up in the Aug 1798 court in Edgecombe County, NC. (Tarboro, NC) The abstract names his brother William, nephew John Willoughby, niece Elizabeth Willoughby and Randolph Cotten. Francis Leigh had also apparently been appointed administrator for the estate of Roscow Leigh and his administration was challenged by John Leigh, his brother.

In a related entry, Randolph Cotten refuses to qualify as Executor and execution is granted to Whitmell Bell. (maybe, we need the original.)

(Edgecombe County Estate)

- iv. [5691] **Roscow Leigh**, born about 1763, died 3 Oct 1793. There is a notice of the death of Roscow Leigh, merchant, on a voyage from "Martinico" on the brig Nancy "on the 3rd ultimo" on the 8 November, 1793 edition of The Virginia Gazette and Weekly advertiser.
- 3 v. [5692] **William Leigh**, born about 1765, died 13 Dec 1809, in Portsmouth, Va.
- vi. [5693] **Elizabeth Leigh**, born about 1767. She married Living \_\_\_\_.
- vii. [5694] **Ann Leigh**, born about 1769.

*Generation No. 2*

**2. [5695] Lucy<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born about 1752. She married John Willoughby about 1768. John Willoughby was born about 1730, died 15 Mar 1791.

The connections from this John Willoughby to the earlier Willoughbys are speculative but logical as to time and place. The connection of this John Willoughby to the John Willoughby who married Margaret Foreman has not been able to be made. The John Willoughby married to Lucy Leigh was probably the Burgess from Norfolk Co. in 1754, replacing Samuel Boush who took a County Clerkship.

Children of Lucy Leigh and John Willoughby:

- i. **Living** \_\_\_\_.
- ii. **Living** \_\_\_\_.
- iii. **Living** \_\_\_\_.
- iv. **Living** \_\_\_\_.
- v. **Living** \_\_\_\_.
- vi. **Living** \_\_\_\_.

**3. [5692] William<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born about 1765, died 13 Dec 1809, in Portsmouth, Va. He married Sarah Hunter Purviance. Sarah Hunter Purviance was born 1781, died 26 Jul 1803, in Portsmouth, Va.

The descendants of William Leigh were provided by Southgate Leigh III of Norfolk, Virginia.

Children of William Leigh and Sarah Hunter Purviance:

- 4 i. [6783] **John Purviance Leigh**, born 4 Mar 1800, in Portsmouth, Va., died 22 Feb 1865, in Norfolk, Va.

*Generation No. 3*

**4. [6783] John Purviance<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 4 Mar 1800, in Portsmouth, Va., died 22 Feb 1865, in Norfolk, Va. He married Frances Haynes Land 31 Mar 1823. Frances Haynes Land was born 28 Mar 1803, in Princess Anne County, Va., died 27 Jan 1836, in Norfolk, Va.

John Purviance Leigh was Postmaster, Norfolk, Va.

Children of John Purviance Leigh and Frances Haynes Land:

- 5    i. [6795] **James Young Leigh**, born 27 Mar 1824, in Portsmouth, Va., died 9 Jun 1904, in Norfolk, Va.
- ii. [6796] **Sarah Frances Leigh**, born 17 Apr 1826, died 4 Aug 1905, in Norfolk, Va. She married Robert Baker Pegram Jan 1873. Robert Baker Pegram was born 10 Dec 1811, died 24 Oct 1894, in Norfolk, Va.
- iii. [6798] **William Roscoe Leigh**, born 11 Jan 1828, died 16 Feb 1867. Private, Co. I, 15th Va. Cavalry. ("Record for Norfolk County", Porter, p. 324.
- iv. [6799] **Virginia Purviance Leigh**, born 21 Jan 1830, in Portsmouth, Va., died 2 Oct 1868, in Norfolk, Va.
- v. [6800] **Eliza Ann Leigh**, born 27 Apr 1832, in Portsmouth, Va., died 8 Mar 1871, in Norfolk, Va.
- 6    vi. [6801] **John Purviance Leigh**, born 4 Feb 1834, died 2 Oct 1868, in Norfolk, Va.
- 7    vii. [6802] **Frances Land Leigh**, born 27 Jan 1836, in Portsmouth, Va., died 13 Jun 1891, in Baltimore, Md.

*Generation No. 4*

**5. [6795] James Young<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 27 Mar 1824, in Portsmouth, Va., died 9 Jun 1904, in Norfolk, Va. He married Frances Johnson. Frances Johnson was born Mar 1839, died 1924, in Norfolk, Va.

Both Frances and her daughter are called "Fannie" in the 1900 census.

Children of James Young Leigh and Frances Johnson:

- i. **Frances J. Leigh**, born Oct 1869.
- ii. **Mary L. Leigh**, born Aug 1878.
- 8 iii. **Eliza B. Leigh**, born Nov 1862.

**6. [6801] John Purviance<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 4 Feb 1834, died 2 Oct 1868, in Norfolk, Va. He married (1) Fannie P. Cowery before 1863. Fannie P. Cowery was born 29 Jul 1841, died 7 Jul 1866. He married (2) Living \_\_\_\_\_.

Left on May 10, 1862 for Confederate Army.

Children of John Purviance Leigh and Fannie P. Cowery:

- 9 i. [6807] **Dr. Southgate Leigh**, born 21 May 1864, in Lynchburg, Va., died 6 Mar 1936, in Norfolk, Va.
- ii. [6808] **Francis Pressman Leigh**, born before 7 Jul 1866, died 1867.

Children of John Purviance Leigh and Living \_\_\_\_\_:

- i. [6810] **Janet Leigh**, born after 1867.

**7. [6802] Frances Land<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 27 Jan 1836, in Portsmouth, Va., died 13 Jun 1891, in Baltimore, Md. She married Stephen Bonsal. Stephen Bonsal was born 1831, died 1893.

Children of Frances Land Leigh and Stephen Bonsal:

- i. **Living** \_\_\_\_\_.
- ii. [6813] **Kate Harrison Bonsal**, born 11 Sep 1858, died 14 Oct 1863, in Norfolk, Va.
- iii. [6814] **Williamson Bonsal**, born 14 Dec 1866, died 28 Jun 1867, in Norfolk, Va.
- 10 iv. [6815] **William Roscoe Bonsal**, born 1869, died 1933.

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- v. [6816] **Eliza Anita Bonsal**, born 22 Jan 1873, died 10 Jul 1873, in Norfolk, Va.

*Generation No. 5*

**8. Eliza B.<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*James Young<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born Nov 1862. She married Geoffrey Morgan. Geoffrey Morgan was born Jul 1862, in India.

Father born in Wales, Mother born in England.

Children of Eliza B. Leigh and Geoffrey Morgan:

- i. **Living** \_\_\_\_.

**9. [6807] Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 21 May 1864, in Lynchburg, Va., died 6 Mar 1936, in Norfolk, Va. He married Alice Creekmore 20 Sep 1905, in Norfolk, Virginia. Alice Creekmore was born 29 Sep 1877, in Princess Anne County, Va., died 15 Jul 1945, in Norfolk, Virginia.

Children of Dr.Southgate Leigh and Alice Creekmore:

- 11
  - i. [6818] **Dr.Southgate Leigh**, born 19 Sep 1906, died 27 Sep 1974, in Norfolk, Virginia.
  - ii. [6819] **Alice Leigh**, born 2 Mar 1908, died 14 Jan 1995, in Colorado. She married Living \_\_\_\_.
  - iii. **Living** \_\_\_\_\_. She married Lester Merrell Minkel. Lester Merrell Minkel was born 25 Oct 1901, died 11 Oct 2001.
  - iv. [6821] **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, born 1 Feb 1916, in Norfolk, Va., died 8 Nov 1998, in Florida. He married Edith Eloise Hyden 26 Jun 1936. Edith Eloise Hyden was born 8 Jun 1915, died 23 Oct 1996, in Salt Lake City, UT.

**10. [6815] William Roscoe<sup>5</sup> Bonsal** (*Frances Land Leigh<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 1869, died 1933. He married Mary Minturn P. Potter. Mary Minturn P. Potter was born 1874, died 1940.

Children of William Roscoe Bonsal and Mary Minturn P. Potter:

- i. [6824] **William Roscoe Bonsal**, born 1901, died 1979. He married Agnes Coleman. Agnes Coleman was born 1906, died 1965.

*Generation No. 6*

**11. [6818] Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup> Leigh** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*), born 19 Sep 1906, died 27 Sep 1974, in Norfolk, Virginia. He married Maud Payne Winborne 3 Nov 1936. Maud Payne Winborne was born 10 Apr 1913, in Norfolk, Va., died 8 Feb 1992.

Children of Dr.Southgate Leigh and Maud Payne Winborne:

- 12    i.    **Living** \_\_\_\_\_
- 13    ii.    **Living** \_\_\_\_\_
- iii.    **Emily Southgate Leigh**, born 26 Nov 1941, died 4 Jun 1942.
- 14    iv.    **Living** \_\_\_\_\_
- 15    v.    **Living** \_\_\_\_\_
- 16    vi.    **Living** \_\_\_\_\_

*Generation No. 7*

**12. Living<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*).  
She married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_**. He married Living \_\_\_\_.
- ii. **Living \_\_\_\_**. He married Living \_\_\_\_.
- iii. **Living \_\_\_\_**.

**13. Living<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*).  
She married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_**.
- ii. **Living \_\_\_\_**. She married Living \_\_\_\_.

**14. Living<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*).  
He married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- 17 i. **Living \_\_\_\_**
- 18 ii. **Living \_\_\_\_**
- iii. **Living \_\_\_\_**.

**15. Living<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*).  
He married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_**.

**16. Living<sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*).  
He married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_**.
-

ii. **Living** \_\_\_\_.

*Generation No. 8*

**17. Living<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Living<sup>7</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*). She married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_.**
- ii. **Living \_\_\_\_.**

**18. Living<sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_** (*Living<sup>7</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>6</sup>, Dr.Southgate<sup>5</sup>, John Purviance<sup>4</sup>, John Purviance<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Francis<sup>1</sup>*). She married Living \_\_\_\_.

Children of Living \_\_\_\_ and Living \_\_\_\_:

- i. **Living \_\_\_\_.**
- ii. **Living \_\_\_\_.**

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