

Source Citation: RootsWeb.com, MyFamily.com Inc., Internet website <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>, World Connect Project, information submitted by James Maloney, maloney@maloneylaw.com

James Crewes – Time Line of Events

1622-1623- In one of these years, James Crewes is born in England. Like his brothers Edward and Francis Crewes, he lives in London.

1651- James Crewes is in Virginia this year, but the date of his arrival is unknown.

December 1, 1652- James Crewes, who describes himself as a twenty-nine-year-old merchant, signs a deposition in London concerning the death of an acquaintance in Virginia the previous year.

December 1, 1652. James Crewes testifies that Francis Gyles lived about one year in Virginia before he died in August or September 1651 at Jordans [Charles City County] in the Colony. [This record demonstrates that James Crewes was in Charles City Co., Virginia, before the approximate year of Hannah's birth--1652.] (Chancery Records-Town Deposition, Virginia Colonial Records Project, Survey Report Number 10005, Virginia State Library)

1655- By this year, James Crewes permanently settles in Virginia. He acquires 541 acres of land on Turnkey Island in Henrico County.

December 17, 1655. The whole difference between Capt David Peibils and James Crewes is referred to the award and final determination of Col Edward Hill, Esq, Capt Henry Perry, Esq, Mr Thomas Drewe, and Mr Anthony Wyatt, or an umpire by them or the major part of them elected, and to be done the 20th day of January next. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book) [James Crewes was a merchant who traded between Native Americans, Virginia colonists, and the markets of London. He frequently resorted to litigation to settle disputes with colonists.]

April 21, 1656. In view of differences, Capt David Peibils is ordered to pay James Crewes 2640 lbs of tobacco and that said Crewes give account to the said Capt Peibils of three hogsheads of tobacco consigned and entrusted into London to be sold for him. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book)

June 3, 1656. At a court at Westover, William Short confesseth judgment to James Crewes, merchant, for 704 pounds of good merchantable tobacco and cask, and thirty-one good large beaver skins in season to be paid him or his assigns the 10th day of November next also execution and costs. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book) [An entry in the margin states: Satisfaction acknowledged by Mr Crewes in court October 3, 1659.]

June 25, 1656. Capt David Peibils is ordered to pay James Crewes 356 lbs of tobacco for 8 bushels of salt now due. Order that all differences be settled between Mr James Crewes and Capt David Peibils by December 10. Capt Henry Perry security for Peibils. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book)

July 12, 1656. Bond of 20,000 lbs of tobacco to abide my settlement of differences between Peibils and Crewes, by Capt Henry Perry and Mr Anthony Wyatt. Signed by David Peibils and James Crewes. Witnessed by John White and Patrick Jackson. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book)

December 1, 1656. Governor Sir William Berkeley ruled against James Crewes in a petition brought by James Crewes against Capt David Peibils, calling the petition "malicious and scandalous." Although the details of the petition by James Crewes is not included in the record, from the governor's ruling it appears that James Crewes had charged Peibils with taking something belonging to James Crewes,

Source Citation: RootsWeb.com, MyFamily.com Inc., Internet website <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>, World Connect Project, information submitted by James Maloney, maloney@maloneylaw.com

tearing a book, disposing of something belonging to James Crews, and "stabs and blows." The governor ruled that the items in question had belonged to Peibils so Peibils could disposed of them as he wished and the "stabs and blows" had been provoked by James Crews. The governor also ruled that James Crews "ought to be made Example for such foul Base and unworthy Defamations against Capt Peibils--by paying Costs of Suit and a fine to Capt Peibils for two Thousand pounds of Tobacco ..." (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records) [A footnote in "The Virginia Historical Magazine" suggests that Berkeley's judgment may have encouraged James Crews to oppose the governor during Bacon's Rebellion.]

October 3, 1658. At a court at Merchant's Hope, James Crews, attorney of Capt Daniel Llewellyn, is ordered to pay Mr Charles Sparrow 420 pounds of tobacco recovered by the former, ordered for non-appearance of Elias Webb, with costs and interest excluded. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book)

September 14, 1661. At a court held at Westover, licenses to keep Indians were revoked. Mr John Drayton and Mr James Crews each is permitted to keep an Indian. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book) [These entries suggest that the government decided to reissue licenses; so, it revoked existing licenses, then renewed the licenses of Drayton and Crews. The sequence begs the questions, "How long had Crews been keeping a Native American before 1661?" and "Was this the woman who gave birth to Hannah about 9 years earlier?"]

October 22, 1663. Thomas Mudgett sells George Archer 125 acres, part of land formerly belonging to Edward Dunston and now in possession of Thomas Webster, being in Henrico County adjacent to land of George Archer upon Appomattox River. Signed Thomas Mudgett. Witnessed by James Crews, Charles Osborne and Daniel Llewellyn. Testator, Howell Price. Recorded 24 Oct. 1663. (Charles City Co., Virginia, Order Book)

1670- By this year, James Crewes is a captain of the Henrico County militia.

April 22, 1670. Capt James Crewes, being arrested to the court by the sheriff of Henrico County at the suit of Mr John Pleasants, attorney of Mr James Jauncey and Mr William Beauchamp, executors of Mr John Beauchamp, deceased, ... not appearing and Mr William Fisher being returned security, judgment granted the said Pleasants as attorney aforesaid against the said Fisher for what he shall make appear due unless he cause the appearance of the said Crewes at next court according to act. (H. R. McIlwaine, editor, "Minutes of the Council and General court of Colonial Virginia," (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1979), pp. 214, 215)

September 21, 1671. In the difference between Capt Crewes, plaintiff, and Mr John Pleasants, attorney of Mr James Jauncey, executor of Mr John Beauchamp, deceased, about a former audit and order of Henrico Court, it is ordered by consent of plaintiff and defendant, that Mr Randall, Maj Farrow, Col Thomas Ligon, with addition of Mr James Mynns in the room of Mr George Harris for a final end and determination thereof upon sufficient notice given them audit and state the accounts and all differences between them and their award to be a final end of the said difference. (McIlwaine, p. 265)

March 6, 1674/5. The difference between Joseph Eyre and Margaret, his wife, plaintiffs, and Capt William Bird, Mr James Crewes, Capt Herbert Farrell and Mr Thomas Grindon, defendants, is referred till the third day of the next June general court. (McIlwaine, p. 408)

Source Citation: RootsWeb.com, MyFamily.com Inc., Internet website <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>, World Connect Project, information submitted by James Maloney, maloney@maloneylaw.com

Winter 1675-1676- James Crewes, William Byrd I, and a few other Henrico County residents persuade their near neighbor Nathaniel Bacon to take the lead in organizing local men to defend the colony against anticipated Indian attacks.

May 26, 1676- James Crewes tells Governor Sir William Berkeley that Nathaniel Bacon wishes to appeal to the Crown the governor's condemnation of his actions.

June 5, 1676- The House of Burgesses gathers in Jamestown. Among the participants is Nathaniel Bacon of Henrico County who, with James Crewes, is engaged in a rebellion against Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley in part over Bacon's intentions to attack Virginia Indians.

June 5-25, 1676. Members of the Virginia House of Burgess. Speaker: Thomas Godwin; Clerk: James Minge. Charles City: Edward Hill; Henrico: Nathaniel Bacon, Jr. and James Crewes; James City: Richard Lawrence; Lancaster: John Carter and Thomas Haynes; Nancemond: Thomas Godwin; Lower Norfolk: Arthur Moseley and Richard Church; Northumberland: William Presley and Isaac Allerton; Stafford: Thomas Mathew and George Mason; Surry: Robert Canfield and Francis Mason; Westmoreland: John Washington. (Cynthia Miller Leonard, compiler, "The General Assembly of Virginia: July 30, 1619-January 11, 1978," (Richmond: The Virginia State Library, 1978), p. 41)

June 6, 1676- Nathaniel Bacon and a company of armed men arrive in Jamestown, where Bacon is seized by armed agents and taken before Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley and the General Assembly. Bacon apologizes on bended knee for his rebellion. Berkeley pardons Bacon but then changes his mind.

June 23, 1676- Nathaniel Bacon returns to Jamestown with 500 men and demands Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley commission him as a general to lead the colony against the Indians. After a standoff, the governor yields to Bacon's demands.

July 1676- Virginia governor Sir William Berkeley reverses course and again declares Nathaniel Bacon a rebel and travels to Gloucester County to recruit men to fight him. Bacon and his men march to Middle Plantation, the site of present-day Williamsburg.

July 23, 1676. Will of James Crewes of Turkey Island, planter is written

August 3, 1676- Nathaniel Bacon, in rebellion against the Virginia governor, obtains the endorsement of seventy leading Virginia men to his leadership against the Indians.

January 19, 1677- James Crewes is almost certainly among the fifteen or sixteen men who the captain of the warship Young Prince delivers to Governor Sir William Berkeley at the end of Bacon's Rebellion.

January 24, 1677- In a court-martial over which Governor Sir William Berkeley presides at Green Spring in James City County, James Crewe and six other men are tried and convicted of treason and rebellion against the king. Att a Court Marshall held at Green Spring, the 24th day of January 1676-7.

Present, Sir William Berkeley Knt. Governor and Capt. Genl. of Virginia.

Jas. Crewes. James Crewes being brought before the court for treason and rebellion against his most sacred majestie, and pleading nothing in his defence, and the court being very sencible that the said Crewes was a most notorious actor, aydor and assistor in the rebellion; therefore the court are unanimously of opinion, and doe adjudge him guilty of the accusation:

Source Citation: RootsWeb.com, MyFamily.com Inc., Internet website <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>, World Connect Project, information submitted by James Maloney, maloney@maloneylaw.com

Sentence of death therefore past upon him to returne to the prison from whence he came, and from thence (on Friday next) to be carried to the gallowes, there to be hanged by the neck untill he be dead.

January 26, 1677- Records indicate that James Crewe likely hangs this day, having been convicted of treason and rebellion against the king during Bacon's Rebellion.

December 10, 1677. Thomas Forehand and Darby Enroughty depose that the will exhibited in court by Giles Carter is the same of Capt James Crews, deceased, that they were witness to. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Wills and Administrations, part 1, p. 1) [Giles Carter's possession and exhibition of the will--traditional responsibilities of the next-of-kin and/or executor--indicates a unique relationship between James Crews and the Carters. This record strengthens the case that Hannah was James Crews' daughter.]

December 21, 1680. Petition to Court that Capt James Crews, late of this Co., deceased, left no widow or lawful child. Whereas Mr William Sherwood, attorney of Rowland Place, Esq, attorney of Matthew Crews, Gent, nephew of said James, and son of Francis Crews, one of the brothers of said James, and LtCol Thomas Grendon, as attorney of Sarah Whittingham (alias Crews, and niece of said James Crews and sole daughter of Edward Crews, older brother of James Crews) did at Court at Varina, on December 1, 1680, make suit that a commission of administration might be jointly granted to them. The court appoints said Sherwood and Grendon administration of the estate, and they are to produce an inventory. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records) [The attorney's inclusion of the word "lawful" implies that James Crews left an "unlawful" child--one who was born outside of wedlock.]

February 2, 1680/1. We, Thomas Grendon, attorney of Sarah Whittingham, niece of James Crews, deceased, and William Sherwood, attorney of Matthew Crews, nephew of said Crews, administrators of the estate, appoint William Randolph of Henrico to be their attorney to handle the estate. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records, p. 169)

March 24, 1680/81. Inventory of Capt James Crews, deceased. Value: 19,500 lbs of tobacco [sic--surely his estate was worth more than that, since he left Hannah's two daughters 10,000 lbs of tobacco each]. By John Woodson, Ben Hatcher, Samuel Knibb. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records)

August 1684- William Randolph purchases a portion of the late James Crews's Turkey Island property, which becomes the seat of the subsequently influential Randolph family in Virginia.

August 24, 1684. William Randolph, of Varina Parish, Henrico Co., Gent, from Giles Carter and Hannah x, his wife, of Parish and county aforesaid, 20 pound sterling for 60 acres, which was by the last will and testament of Capt James Crews given unto said Giles and Hannah Carter, being part of ye dividend of land or plantation at Turkey Island of which said Crews died seized, which tract of land or plantation is since purchased by said William Randolph of ye heir and executor of said Crews, deceased, as by conveyance. Recorded April 1, 1685. (Valentine Papers, vol. iii, Randolph Family, p. 1392) [This deed states that James Crews gave the land to Giles and Hannah. This additional information, that James Crews gave the land to Hannah as well as to Giles, considered in the context of an era of limited female property rights, highlights Hannah as the daughter of James Crews.]

August 25, 1684. William Whittingham, of London, Gent, and Sarah, his wife, niece of James Crews, hereafter mentioned, and Matthew Crews, citizen and haberdasher of London, heirs and executors of James Crews, late of Henrico County in Virginia, aforesaid, Gent., for 3 acorns and 15 pound of lawful money of England, convey 500 acres known and commonly called by the name of Turkey Island or Turkey Island plantation in Henrico Co., Virginia, and all other messages, lands, tenements, whatsoever of them of the said Whittingham and wife and Matthew Crews, in said county of Henrico, whereof

Source Citation: RootsWeb.com, MyFamily.com Inc., Internet website <<http://www.rootsweb.com/>>, World Connect Project, information submitted by James Maloney, maloney@maloneylaw.com

said James Crews died possessed. Recorded in Henrico Co., Virginia, April 1, 1685. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records)

June 1, 1692. Capt William Randolph did exhibit in court a conveyance for 500 acres of land lying at Turkey Island in this county of Henrico to himself, his heirs and assigns from William Whittingham, Sarah Whittingham, and Matthew Crews, dated ye 25th of August 1684 and entered in ye records of this county April 1, 1685, which said conveyance was witnessed (amongst others) per Capt John Wynn, and the said John Wynn being now present in court and viewing ye same did on his oath declare the said conveyance to be signed, sealed, and held as their act and deed by ye subscribed William Whittingham, Sarah Whittingham, and Matthew Crews, parties to ye same. (Henrico Co., Virginia, Records)