

SETTLING THE DEBATE ON WHO ELIZABETH SOANE (IV) MARRIED:

November 2022 update:

- Updating the suffix numbering system as I have made a chart of all the people involved and numbered each using the suffix field as a means to reduce confusion over which generation we are talking about. To illustrate, I found 6 John Petersons, 5 Elizabeth Soanes, 4 Judith Soanes, 4 John Soanes, 5 Henry Soanes, and 8 Elizabeth Dukes along with many Henry Dukes.
- In looking at the 'Col.' Henry Duke Esq. line, I found Jane Duke, born 1674, as the first child, not Elizabeth. See my notes on this.

BACKGROUND:

We all agree that Elizabeth Soane IV, daughter of Henry Soane II and Judith Fuller was born March 1648 in England. At the time of this note, she appears in the genealogy listings on most sites in the Duke-line, not the Peterson-line due to events that recently occurred. On April 11, 2021 a person with the handle "GoneGirl" deleted Elizabeth (1) from the Peterson line in FamilySearch without review. At the same time "GoneGirl" posted Elizabeth IV as wife of Henry Duke I in Family Search and in a number of other genealogy related sites including more public places like "Find-a-Grave" which has had the effect of becoming the defacto-standard. I discovered this change in my ancestral lineage on August 7 and to preserve our lineage and work we have done on it, I created a second Elizabeth Soane record for the interim, making notes and stating that the change was unauthorized, unjustified, and should have been coordinated. August 16, another individual came along and merged the two instances of Elizabeth Soane (1) without asking or reading the notes and now we have a confused record again. And, to make matters worse, interference and mis-informed postings from the Duke line keep happening.

How do we resolve this dilemma? Was Elizabeth Soane IV really a Peterson or a Duke or both? I was inspired to set the record straight one way or the other, so I undertook this project in August, researching both Peterson and Duke families to see if I could resolve this question and ferret out how this confusion came to pass. Along the way, I discovered Margie Skinner's post, "COMMENTARY DISPUTING ELIZABETH SOANE AS WIFE OF JOHN PETERSON" [1] and recognized that this may be the source of the disagreement. In fairness, Ms. Skinner declared in her post that her research was not final nor complete and she invited further analysis. However, I doubt that many of her readers read that far into her note. Some genealogy researchers have taken Ms. Skinner's conclusion as the final word, but she clearly says it is not.

My research determined just the opposite of Ms. Skinner's "preliminary" conclusions. To me, all the evidence points to the fact that Elizabeth Soane IV married John Peterson III just as originally recorded and declared by Boddie and Clairborne. Let me explain and provide a bibliography to my notes that I hope will be helpful to others studying these families:

Background on Elizabeth Soane (1)

- March 1648, Wilmington, Sussex, England. – Source: "England, Sussex, Parish Registers, 1538-1910. See parish register image. Baptized 20 March 1648. [8]
- Christened: 20 Mar 1649, baptized 4 Jan 1648 at Gillingham Parish, Norfolk England, immigrated 1651 to James City, VA with family (Henry Soane II) [9]
- Married: ~1669. VA. [10] at age of ~21.
- Died: ~1678 - We have no other reference to her death date other than Source [2] which notes that she dies before John Peterson III [2].
- Other Names: "Eliza" on immigration record [11]
- Elizabeth's Parents and Family: Henry Soane II (1622) and Judith Fuller (1614)

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- “The Henry Soane II family emigrates in 1651 to the James City area with wife Judith Fuller Soane plus children: Elizabeth is ~3, being born in 1648, Judith, born in 1651, John, and Henry III born in 1646. Here are several references: “They had six children: Elizabeth Soane Peterson, Judith Soane (2) Randolph/Field, Captain Henry Soane III, Katherine, John, and one other (William).” [29] And, “The earliest land grant to him was on 24 November 1651 of 297 acres on the E. side of the Chickahominy River in James City County for the transportation of six persons: HENRY SOANE (1) SR., Henry Soane (2) Jr., JUDETH SOANE (1) SR., JUDETH SOANE(2) JR., John Soane, and Elizabeth Soane (1)... Another son, William Soane was born in Virginia in 1651 so was not listed as a headright.” [4, pg 63.]

Analysis:

DID ELIZABETH SOANE IV MARRY JOHN PETERSON III?

Background on John Peterson III:

- Born 1650 in England, Died 19 Feb. 1679 @ Charles City Va.
- Immigrates in 1660-1670. Naturalized 1673. [6, 7]
- Settled on Baylies Creek in Charles City County VA. Prior to 1677
- Children with Elizabeth Soane (1): [2]
 - John Peterson (3) b. 1674 at Charles City VA., | d. 1731 @ Isle of Wight, Va.
 - Elizabeth Peterson b. ?? | d. 1736. |. M. Nathan Urvin of Prince George County VA

Support for John Peterson III as husband:

- Comment: The primary document with evidentiary value is the “Saw Mill Dividend” probate: [4,5]- Here is a summary of the probate, but note how important it is to keep track of the suffixes: The property known as the “Saw Mill Dividend” originally belonged to Henry Randolph II’s father, Henry Randolph I who died in 1662 and passed the property to son Henry Randolph II who died in 1693. Henry Randolph I was married to Judith Soane II who remarried Peter Field. In 1693, the Sawmill is being probated by the court who appointed John Soane IV (Henry Soane II’s son) the executor. [1, 2, 3]. John Soane IV, is Judith Soane Randolph Field II’s brother. John, as executor, distributed and kept ownership of the sawmill property in family. [4] Note who is included: to-Judith Soane II’s estate (she is widow of Henry Randolph I and mother of Henry Randolph II through her new husband Peter Field, to Elizabeth Soane Peterson IV’s Estate, Judith’s sister, through and to son John Peterson IV the remaining male heir because Elizabeth IV and John III are deceased, and to other living children of Henry Randolph II’s.
 - Here is a good explanation from “The English Ancestry of Thomas Jefferson,” Page -76: [4] “JUDITH(2)’s son Henry Randolph (2) died before June 1, 1693. John Soane, surveyor and JUDITH(2)s brother, then was ordered and appointed to set out and divide the Saw-Mill dividend of 416 acres between John Peterson (3), son and heir of John Peterson (2), deceased (husband of Elizabeth Soane (1)), CAPTAIN PETER FIELD, and the orphans of Captain Henry Randolph as follows: the uppermost half to John Peterson; the next fourth part to CAPTAIN FIELD; and the lower fourth part to the orphan(s) of Captain Henry Randolph. The survey was completed 28 July 1693.20” [4]
- “John Peterson III died early in 1679 after Elizabeth IV. On 13 February of that year Abraham Odium and his wife petitioned the Charles City County court, stating that John III was recently deceased and, before his death, had said that said Odium should have the care of his children and their estates [3]. It would appear that Elizabeth Soane Peterson IV had died before her husband. This record proves the existence of other children besides son John IV. Elizabeth

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Peterson I, the wife of Nathaniel Urvin of Prince George County was a daughter of John III and Elizabeth Soane IV. She was later closely associated with John Peterson IV in Isle of Wight County.” [2]

- **Naming of Children:** John III and Elizabeth IV had two children that appear in the records, named John IV and Elizabeth I. [2] Comment: This is totally consistent with the conventions of the times and a valid test of authenticity. [13]

Arguments Against Henry Duke (1) marrying Elizabeth Soane (1)

- **Timing:** Henry Duke (I), “is believed to have emigrated from England to Bermuda, thence to York County, Virginia. [18, 20] What we do know is that the first record about him in Virginia is in 1670-1680 unlike his brother Thomas who came over in ~1637 according to the record in FamilySearch.
 - This also means that the current unsourced FamilySearch record of his birth being in Jamestown is incorrect.
 - Henry Duke I acquired lands adjacent those that had belonged to Mary Hampton Duke Wade, and other patents in addition. The earliest record is what DW Duke calls a ‘questionable’ reference to a 1670 grant adjacent Mary Wade [15]. However, others declare that 1679-1680 is the first time he actually shows up in James City’s records. [18] [20]
 - Comment: The possibility that Henry Duke I at the age of 24 knew the Soanes well enough to actually court and conduct an engagement with Elizabeth (IV) roughly a year before their first child (if there was one) is fair to question. First contact around 1670 in James City is inconsistent with the known dates of Henry Duke I’s first children’s births (~1666-1670) and impossible for both Henry I and John Peterson IV to have been married simultaneously to the same woman, having children born on the exact same years. Both marriages do not work.
- **Did Henry Duke I have other wives?** (Comment: I think ‘yes.’ Here is what I found.)
 - FamilySearch lists the children without sources. So, I’m assuming these are approximate at best as I did not research them. John Duke born 1666-1668 is listed as the first child and the second son is named Henry II, born 1668-1670. The first girl is Jane b. ~1674, not Elizabeth b. 1678. That would imply the wife at the time was named Jane if the convention of the era holds or that a second wife exists in 1678.
 - One source argues that the second child, Henry Duke II was born in 1658, not 1666 or 1668 as other sources say. [19,22] That would make Elizabeth Soane (IV), born in 1648, 10 yrs old if Elizabeth were his mother and Henry 16 yrs old if 1658 is correct?
 - Henry is claimed to have 4 to 12 children, depending on which source is used, born from 1658 to 1680, over 22 years. If Elizabeth Soane IV really died in 1678, she could not be his wife. If Henry I did not settle in James City area before 1670-1680, who are the mother(s)? [18,19, 20, 22]
 - Comment: I did not research the children, so offer no further information here or validation of birth dates other than to note that

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there are many discrepancies and variations on birth dates, including duplication of names.

- Lydia Hansford as wife: "Charles Hansford, in his will proved July 24, 1702, mentions his daughter Lydia, wife of Mr. Henry Duke I." [25, 27] Comment: Lydia Hansford is identified as a wife of Henry Duke I in a number of publications each citing wills and other documents. [30] I read that others in the Duke family have argued against these declarations and documents. Where is their evidence and documentary proof? This source cannot be discounted as it is a legal document recorded in the courts.
- "Duke Family History:" It was assumed by EDBrandenberger in the "Duke Family History" that Henry Duke I's wife's name was Elizabeth, but this is not confirmed by any evidence. Others in the family dispute it saying she and others have confused "Elizabeth Taylor Duke," Henry Duke II's wife or Elizabeth Duke I, Henry I's sister. [17, 18] (Note: I illustrate this confusion below.)
- In the "William Byrd's Private Diary" is a reference to Henry Duke's wife in 1711 as the "old countess" and "having grown very deaf" [14, 26] " From "Byrd's Daily Diary Entries" in December 1711. Comment, is this another wife?
Dec. 25--"About 2 o'clock I got to Col. Duke's and found both him and his old woman in good health, only the last was grown very deaf. We sat and talked until about 4 and then went to dinner and I are some wild duck. In the meantime the Colonel sent a Negro man to see whether the river was open at my brother Duke's and he brought back word that it was, and therefore I took leave of the Colonel and his old countess and rode away to the river and with some difficulty got over as soon as it was dark. I found all well there and we drank a bottle of wine."
- Name Confusion: Here is an example of the confusion that exists over names: Henry Duke I had a sister "Elizabeth Duke I," [23] had a daughter "Elizabeth Duke II" and his son, Henry Duke II married "Elizabeth Taylor." Three Elizabeths in a row, not counting one or two in every generation [31], have caused confusion over which Elizabeth is being discussed.
 - Let me illustrate the subtlety of a simple naming error. DW Duke says in his 2003 research, "Ludwells MSS, (used by Brandenberger) in 1724 refers to Elizabeth, widow of Henry Duke, and James Duke, as the surviving executors of Henry Duke, Esq." [18] By leaving out the complete last name of Elizabeth and which Henry, we are now confused about who is being talked about. A wife? A daughter? A sister? A daughter in law? A resulting example of the error is assuming that the name of Henry Duke I's wife is Elizabeth or that that Elizabeth is still alive in 1724.
 - The solution comes from finding and referring to the actual source reference. [27] "The Ludwell MSS. states that Elizabeth Taylor, widow of Henry Duke II, and James Duke, " gent," were surviving executors of the estate of Henry Duke I, Esq." And, Elizabeth Taylor dies in 1751, so this mystery Elizabeth was still alive in 1724
 - With this example, the real underlying issue is this: DW Duke continues, saying, "Strangely EDBrandenberger misinterpreted this to mean that the widow of Col. Henry Duke was someone named Elizabeth." [18]. Comment: How many people have taken EDBrandenberger's claim as the truth and have added to the confusion.

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DID ELIZABETH SOANE (1) MARRY HENRY DUKE (1)?

Background on Henry Duke (1):

- B. 1642 d. 1714
- Henry Duke (1), “is believed to have emigrated from England to Bermuda, thence to York County, Virginia. [18, 20] “Henry Duke (1) acquired lands adjacent those that had belonged to Mary Hampton Duke Wade, and other patents in addition. The earliest record is reference to a 1670 grant adjacent Mary Wade [15]” DW Duke adds this important qualification: “Col. Henry Duke appears on the scene in James City County Virginia in 1680 where he is listed as a justice. (A land patent in 1682 refers to an assignment of land in 1670 that may refer to Capt. Henry Duke at that time. The record is unclear due to the language of the patent.”) [18] In Dec. 1679 he is also listed as a landholder in the parish register. [20]
- Comment: The accuracy of many of the Duke Family genealogy reports must be called into question which is understandable considering that so many of the James City records were destroyed. Here is an example from Lynn Teague, another Duke family researcher: [16]
 - Brandenberger provides a reconstruction of the history of James Duke that appears badly flawed, perhaps in part because she conflates the son of Col. Henry Duke I with James Duke, the son of the older John Duke of York County VA, or with a son of James and Mary Duke named James. Further, Brandenberger identified James and Mary Duke as parents of William Duke of Brunswick Co VA and Warren Co NC. It will be shown that this is very unlikely. There is actually no evidence supporting her hypothesis, and a great deal of circumstantial evidence placing William elsewhere in the Duke family. (Note: and then, why do we assume her error on Elizabeth is true?)
 - The Ludwell Manuscripts mention in 1724, Elizabeth, widow of Henry Duke II, and James Duke. Gent., surviving executor.”
 - Comment: in some documents we find Elizabeth Soane IV being claimed as alive in 1724, [20] when in fact, this is Elizabeth Taylor Duke, widow of Henry Duke II [27]. “The Old Countess” of William Byrd’s diary from 1711 is not likely Elizabeth Soane IV or Lydia Hansford and she was not likely alive either.
 - Capt. Henry Duke II of Martin’s Brandon, died in about 1718. There is ample documentation that this Henry Duke II married Elizabeth Taylor, daughter of Capt. John Taylor of Flowerdew Hundred, son of Richard Taylor and his wife Sarah Barker, who was in turn daughter of William Barker. [17]
 - And another: D. W. Duke presented the following evidence that Capt. Henry II was the son of Col. Henry Duke I in a Genforum listing: [18]. “Because this issue has been raised, I wanted to briefly post some notes from a rough draft of a project I am working on for the Duke family. Note that it is rough and not all sources are cited. However, I believe it is important enough to share it now since several family members are writing books on this family and we really don't need any more mistakes.”
- Another example of the confusion evident in Duke research is in the Burnley Ancestors report: Here is the profile provided on Col. Henry Duke I, Esq. [21]. Note the many errors.
 - Birthdate: July 08, 1640. (Correction 1642)
 - Birthplace: James City, King William, Virginia, USA (Other records say he was born in County Suffolk, England) [28]
 - Death: January 27, 1713 (72) Prince George County, Virginia

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- Immediate Family: Son of Thomas Duke and Mary Duke { Comment: Reference [28] says son of Sir Edward Duke and Ellen Panton Duke, FamilySearch says William Duke and Mary Barham.)
- **Husband of Lydia Duke (Hansford) and Elizabeth Duke** [30] (Comment: This Elizabeth was likely his sister at best or due to EDBrandenberger's claim.)
- Father of James Duke; William Duke; Capt. Henry Duke, II; Thomas Duke; Elizabeth Taylor and 7 others (Notes: a. 13 children??? b. Elizabeth Taylor was 'Capt. Henry Duke (2)'s second wife – not a daughter of HDuke (1))
- Half brother of William Duke; John Duke; Thomas Thomas Duke, Jr; Dorothy Commander and Edmond Duke (Note: they left out Elizabeth Duke (1), his sister [23])

Support for Henry Duke I marrying Elizabeth Soane IV

- Names of Children. According to the record in FamilySearch, the first two female children, were named Jane (1674) and Elizabeth (1678). Comment: This does not match the naming pattern of the times and does not support Elizabeth Soane IV as wife in 1678. Or, it could be that we also need to recognize that the female name "Elizabeth" appears to be a very common female name in the Duke family history in the 1600's and there are many Elizabeth Dukes as ancestors and peers. [26]
- Comment on Published Accounts: If you will note in the following, there is no documentary evidence for Henry I actually marrying Elizabeth Soane IV or having children with him. To explain this point, I have to turn to the singular report that seems to have swayed the Duke community to adopt Elizabeth Soane (1), "COMMENTARY DISPUTING ELIZABETH SOANE AS WIFE OF JOHN PETERSON" by Margie Skinner. Here are her key points: [1]
 - First, her conclusion: "Although the above discussion does not prove Elizabeth Soane IV to be the wife of Col. Henry Duke I, Esq, it does make the relationship plausible and may eventually lead to a positive identification of the wife of Henry."
 - Here is her main contention: The "Saw-mill Dividend" is in error plus Boddie and Clairborne are in error. To paraphrase her, "Henry Soane never owned this property and could not deed it to his children. Therefore, Elizabeth Soane (1) did not marry John Peterson (2). " [1]
 - The error of declaring Henry Soane (1) owned the sawmill instead of Henry Randolph(2) by Boddie and Clairborne may have misdirected a lot of people, but not Skinner. Ms. Skinner, to her credit, recognized the error and then claims the "Soane connection to Henry Randolph (1), does not lead to Elizabeth IV and John Peterson III." She claims: "It seems certain that it was not through Elizabeth Soane that John Peterson IV inherited any part of the land." [1]
 - Comment: I disagree for the same reasons I explained earlier. Judith Soane II, Elizabeth Soane IV's sister, married Henry Randolph I, the owner of the Saw mill property in 1691. [2,4 24] The property transferred to Henry Randolph II Judith Soane II's son. When he died in 1693, probate appointed John Soane IV, brother of the remaining heir who was also Henry Randolph II's mother, as executor. He kept the property entirely in the family, as normal for the times, awarding it to Judith Soane II and her sister, Elizabeth IV, as represented by their husbands or sons plus to Henry II's other children. Yes, this means that John Peterson IV, heir, was Elizabeth Soane IV and John Peterson III's son, not some outsider. I think that this is the only 'plausible' conclusion as all the pieces fit together. They were family. In the end, Boddie and Clairborne were actually

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correct, Elizabeth IV married John III and had a son John IV and daughter Elizabeth.

- The Second piece of evidence Ms. Skinner offers is in my opinion, pure conjecture. Here is the quote: “Judith and Elizabeth Soane had no sisters. They had three brothers. They were Henry Soane, Jr., John Soane, and William Soane. John Soane who never married, in his will dated 16 December 1695 and recorded 1 August 1699, devised to several kinspeople. He gave “to brothers and sisters and their children, to each a ring.” He did not say sister but used the plural which indicates both were alive at the time the will was written.” [1]
 - Comment: Who really knows what John Soane (1) meant by the inclusive family term “brothers and sisters.” Did he include his in-law sisters? Did he do as Ms. Skinner proposed “devised to several kinspeople.” Did he simply use a common religious term for the day, “brothers and sisters” to be all inclusive? We will never know, but to conclude that Elizabeth Soane IV was alive in 1699 and wife of Henry Duke I from this statement is over-reaching, especially in light of all the other evidence we have.

Unfortunately, few in the Duke community seem to have actually studied what Skinner says in conclusion to her report, “Although the above discussion does not prove Elizabeth Soane IV to be the wife of Col. Henry Duke I, Esq, it does make the relationship plausible ...” And, in response, they have claimed Elizabeth Soane IV as their own without looking further into the matter.

And, as Ms. Skinner invited, I am sorry to say that I did not turn up further factual evidence of who Henry Duke I did marry. I think it “plausible” and very likely that there were multiple wives, not one, considering all the facts on the table.

For now, I propose that we eliminate from the genealogy records across the board the “marriage” of Henry Duke I to Elizabeth Soane IV and revert it back to Elizabeth and John Peterson III. If and when future research can prove otherwise, then and only then, carefully reconsider this decision and come to agreement. At this time, the above analysis and evidence we have stands as the best information available.

Michael Peterson
11/4/21 and 11/7/22

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4. The English ancestry of Thomas Jefferson by McLean, Dabney N. (Dabney Neff), 1931, pg 76
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and
<https://archive.org/details/englishancestryo00mcle/page/n3/mode/2up?q=%22John+Peterson%22>
5. Cavaliers and Pioneers Vol.11, page 156, Patent Book 6, page 534, or on 1 June 1693, according to the Valentine Papers, Vol. 3, p. 1396
6. William and Mary Quarterly, 2nd series, Vol. 2 says he immigrated 1671
7. "Huguenot Emigration to Virginia and to the Settlement at Manakin Town" Published by the Virginia Historical Society in 1886
8. "England, Sussex, Parish Registers, 1538-1910.

Elizabeth Soane		Tools
England, Sussex, Parish Registers, 1538-1910		
Name:	Elizabeth Soane	
Sex:	Female	
Christening Date:	20 Mar 1648	
Christening Place:	Wilmington, Sussex, England	
Father's Name:	Henry Soane	

9. VIRGINIA IMMIGRANTS 1623-1666
10. Southside Virginian, Clairborn Smith, 1985: "John married Elizabeth Soane, daughter of Henry Soane"
11. As Recorded in immigration source: "Virginia Immigrants 1623-1666"
12. Henry Randolph I, 1623-1773 [sic] of Henrico County, Virginia, and his descendants : preceded by short review of the Randolph family in early England and elsewhere by Randolph, Wassell, b. 1883
13. "Every researcher of the Thweatt and allied lines has been, and still is, confused on"who married whom." I am sure that one reason for this dilemma is the mania of the early families of the colonies, inherited and brought over from England, to perpetuate their names by naming their children after themselves or kindred.
Source: Thweatt Family History: pg 36-37
14. Extracts from the Private Diary of Colonel William Byrd II of "Westover" from Henry Duke Councilor, His Descendants & Connections, by Walter Garland Duke
<http://freepages.rootsweb.com/~stainbackduke/genealogy/ByrdDiary.htm>
15. Virginia Patent Book 7, p. 174 | "Henry Duke acquired lands adjacent those that had belonged to Mary Hampton Duke Wade, and other patents in addition. The earliest record is the reference to a 1670 grant adjacent Mary Wade (VPB 7, p. 174)." From "The Duke Family" by E Brandenberger, 1985.
16. <https://genealogy.ztlcox.com/~ztlcox/duke/LynnTeague/Virginia/S%20James.htm>

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20. "The Original Lists of Persons of Quality... 1600-1700" we find Henry Duke listed in a parish record as a landholder in Dec. 1679. (pg 476)
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22. "THE DUKE FAMILY BOOK II, Evelyn Brandenberger
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26. "Henry Duke, councilor,..." by Duke, Walter Garland, published Richmond, Dietz Press, 1949, pg 35
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<http://www.jamestowne.org/blog/henry-soane-ii-burgess-and-speaker-of-the-house-from-james-city-county>
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 Henry Duke's wife was Lydia Hansford, a daughter of Chas. Hansford, one of the chief supporters of Nathaniel Bacon (see William and Mary Quarterly, Vol. II., p. 275)
31. "A genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-Van Metre family, from civil, military, church and family records and documents" by Smyth, Samuel Gordon, b. 1859