

- **Created by:** LSP
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James Robertson, Junior was the son of James Robertson, Sr. and Rebecca Royston. His birth is said to be between 1716 and 1724 in Coleraine, County Londonderry (Derry) OR in neighboring County Antrim, both in current N. Ireland. He came to colonial America with his father in 1737, from Coleraine and a few years later, married Elizabeth Crawford in Augusta County, Virginia on 18 Aug 1743.

In the List of Baptisms by Rev. John Craig, Published by L.B. Hatke, P.O. Box 655, Staunton, Va; Augusta Co., Va, 1740 - 1749; on the 35th page it lists the father, child and birth date. It lists children born in between these dates to the following Robertson fathers: James, George and Matthew and possibly others were baptized on early pages. For James: Jean: 22 Feb 1741; Sarah 8 Mar 1741 (so there must be 2 or the year is wrong); Ann: 20 June 1742; Margaret: 23 Jun 1742; George: 24 Apr 1744; Elizabeth: 26 Feb 1746; Alexander 10 Jan 1748; Margaret: 8 Jun 1749 and David 9 July 1749.

Robertson children born in Augusta Co., VA:

Jean, bef 22 Feb 1741

Sarah, bef 8 Mar 1741 - D bef 1755

Ann, 20 May 1742 (Zachariah Johnston)

Margaret, bef 23 Jun 1742

George, bef 24 Apr 1744 (Jane)

Elizabeth, bef 26 Feb 1746 (Mrs. Jno Shanklin)

Alexander, 22 Nov 1748 to 15 Aug 1802 in KY (Margaret Robinson)

Margaret, bef 8 Jun 1749

David, bef 9 Jul 1749

Rebecca, 1751, KY (Wm Dunlap)

Sarah, abt 1755

In 1737, James Robertson, Sr. came with his son James, from Coleraine, N. Ireland and settled in Augusta Co., VA. James, (Jr.) died in 1754 (WB 2, p 72, dated 11 Sep 1754, proven 20 Nov 1754). He left his 274 acres of land to his sons George and Alexander. James, Sr. was deeded land on Lewis Creek from John Lewis on 18 Feb 1743. It was about 1 to 3 miles from Staunton. (Joseph A. Waddell's Annals of Augusta Co., VA; 1886, Wm. Ellis Jones, Bok and Job Printer, Richmond, 1886-88, Supplement, page 420-421.) More on sons Alexander & George who removed to KY. James Sr.'s will is in Albemarle County, VA. He stated his wife was pregnant at the time (believed to be daughter Sarah).

On 24 July 1740, a James "Robinson," purchased 395 acres in the Beverley Manor in then Orange Co., VA (now Augusta Co.). Also Wm Johnston

did likewise in 1741 (daughter Ann's father in law). It specifically mentions the misspellings used, including Robinson for Robertson, etc., which were interchangeable, per the 20 May 1873 issue of the Staunton Spectator. So maybe this James did cross the pond, to Virginia. Plus there was a Wm Robinson with 403 acres in 25 Sep 1741.

Another version is Pages 135-40. 23-24 July 1740. William Beverley, Esqr., of Essex County to James Robertsons of Orange County. Lease and release; for £12 current money. 395 acres... corner to Patrick Campbell... line of the patten of Beverley Mannor... (signed) W. Beverley. Wit: John Willson, James Cathey, Moses Thomson. 24 July 1740. Acknowledged by Wm. Beverley, Gent. (Relinquishment of dower as above, Beverley to Page). John Frederick Dorman's Orange County, VA Deed Books, p. 43.

Deed Book I, p. 65, 18 Feb 1743: acknowledged in Orange Co. 23 Feb 1743. John and Margaret Lewis to James Robertson, 274 acres, Beverley Manor, on Lewis Creek; lines and corners: Daniel Deniston, James Trimble, (Rev.) John Craig. Dower of Margaret Lewis released in Augusta Co. 15 Apr 1746. John Frederick Dorman's Orange County, Virginia, Deed Books 1 and 2, 1735-1738 Judgments 1735, 1961.

Pages 326-30. 22-23 June 1743. James Robinson of Orange Co., farmer, to Anthony Black of same, farmer. Lease and release; for £10 current money, 134 acres, part of a larger tract in the Beverley Manner, corner to John Holms land, crossing the south river of Shanado, line of the said Maner. It was signed by James Robinson. Wit: James Black, Wm. Robinson, James Gill, James Patton. Dated 23 Jul 1743. Acknowledged by James Robinson. John Frederick Dorman's Orange County Virginia Deed Book 7, p. 58.

From "Chalkley's Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish in Virginia" Abstracts of Wills of Augusta Co., VA, Augusta Co. Court, Will Book #3; Page 10, 18th Feb 1761. Page 109. "Zachariah Johnston's wife was Ann Robinson (sic), sister of Alex. and James Robinson(sic); Jane Robinson (sic), Ann's sister, married John Blair. Both James and Alex. went to Kentucky, Jessamine County? from Geo. Armentrout."

James wrote his will on 11 Sep 1751, and it was probated in Augusta Co., VA on 20 Nov 1754, thus it is believed he died in 1754.

In A Guide to the Zachariah Johnston Papers (at the Library of VA) includes (A) an 11 Sep 1800 letter from Ann's sister Rebeckah Robertson Dunlap ("Mrs. Wm Dunlap, born 1744, son of Jno Dunlap the Professor of Greek at the University of Glasgow"), from Shelby County, KY, to sister, Mrs. Ann Jonson (sic). (B) a Feb 1802 letter from Elisabeth Shanklin to sister, Ann Johnston, near Lexington. Rebecca Robertson Dunlap (FaG #99754991), 1751 - 1848, is buried in Lexington, KY with her husband Wm Dunlap, 1744 - 1816.

In *The Scotch-Irish in America, Proceedings and Addresses of the Seventh Congress at Lexington, VA., Jun 20-23, 1895*, Published by the order of Scotch-Irish Society of America, Nashville, TN, 1895, p 328 adds: Ann Robertson the wife of Zachariah Johnston is the niece of Wm Robertson, the historian of Scotland and aunt to Geo. W. Robertson, the Chief Justice of KY. William died in 1793 in Edinburgh, Scotland (see FaG #54429758) but the exact connection has not been found. He wrote several books on Scotland, Charles V., America, etc. (See below and how was John Henry related?)

"In 1772 William Dunlap was united in marriage with Rebecca Robertson, who was born in Augusta County, Va., July 23, 1751, the daughter of James and Elizabeth (Crawford) Robertson. Her father came to America from the North of Ireland about 1735, settled about one mile from Staunton, Va., where Rebecca, his sixth child, was born." *Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois & History of Morgan County*, Munsell Publishing Company, Publishers, 1906.

"Robertson of Long Meadow Run, Augusta Co, Va" compiled by professional genealogist and Augusta Co. resident, Katherine G. Bushman is at the Library of VA and probably a very good source. (Note: Robertson's son in law Zachariah Johnston's ancestral home was also on Long Meadow Rd.

I found data about his SON, Alexander Robertson, in *Historical Sketches of Kentucky* by Lewis Collins, 1874, p 514**: Chief Justice George Robert's father, Alexander Robertson, built the first fine frame house at Harlan's spring, the head of Cane Run, in Garrard County, KY, in about 1780. The same book, published in 1850 goes into detail on p 687-689. Alexander was born 22 Nov 1748 in Staunton, about a mile from Staunton, to James Robertson, Jr. James Sr. and Jr. both emigrated to our colonies, from Coleraine, N. Ireland, in about 1737. Alexander married Margaret Robinson (born 13 Apr 1755 in then Fincastle, later Botetourt Co., VA), in Bedford Co., VA on 18 Aug 1773 at the home of Col Jno Howard. He was elected to the VA Federal Convention in June 1788, in Richmond.* About 6 months later he was elected to the VA legislature. The following winter in Dec 1779, he would move his family to Gordon's Station, KY. He began the first sheriff of Mercer Co., KY in 1792 and he died in 1802. His wife Margaret died 13 Jun 1846 at son in law, Gov Robt P Letcher's home in Frankfort, KY. "Alexander Robertson was a near relative of Wm Robertson, the celebrated historian, whose nephew, John Henry, was the father of Patrick Henry." Alexander's son Judge and U.S. Congressman, George Robertson is on FaGrave at 7668811. Robertson County, KY was named after George. * Another source says Alexander Robertson of Mercer County, KY, voted NO in the 1788 ratifying convention (along with Patrick Henry, etc.) in VA and his brother in law Zachariah Johnston, was also there, from Augusta Co, voted YES.

** I also see this same source listed as *An Outline of the Life of George Robertson*,

Written by Himself, With an Introduction by his Son, 1876, Lexington, KY. George describes his grandfather James Robertson as "Tall and spare, but of large frame." He had blue eyes and fair skin. He married the handsome Elizabeth Crawford in Augusta County. All 4 of George's grandparents were in this area in 1742.

Plus another source for son Alexander Robertson is "Forebears of Don Lewis," in which George Robertson writes a personal account of his father, using many of the exact words in the former source (familysearch entry by unknown, 20 Jan 2015). Alexander died, intestate, of pneumonia on 15 Aug 1802 in the fine home he built in KY. His wife settled his estate and in 1805, married Job Johnson of Garrard Co., KY. She was widowed a 2nd time and resided with her daughter Martha, the widow of Col. Saml McKee. While on a visit to her daughter Charlotte's (wife of Ex-Gov. Letcher), she fractured her leg and died 13 Jun 1846. She was thus buried at the Frankfort cemetery.

James Robertson's will dated 11 Sep 1754, was probated on 20 Nov 1754, in Augusta County, Virginia, Will Book 2, p 72.

His sibling Capt. William Robertson was born in County Antrim, 6 Feb 1720, died 17 Oct 1812 in Augusta County, VA.

Bio researched and written by LSP

Family Members

Children

- Ann *Robertson* Johnston*
1742–1818
- Rebecca *Robertson* Dunlap*
1751–1849