

John Hutchison

His Home and His Family

John Hutchison, the second son of Andrew and Jane (Browning) Hutchison, was born March 8 1712 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He died between June 1799, when his will was written and September, 1800, when it was probated. He was 88 years old when he died. He married Rosamond -?-. Their date of marriage and Rosamond's maiden name are not known. Some researchers believe it was Hampton but this has not been proven.

Sometime between 1740 and 1750 John built his home on his fathers land and on August 9th, 1759, Andrew deeded 700 acres to him and his brother Daniel. The Indenture stated that John was to have "the part on which he now lives." This was 350 acres and was John's share of his father's 1119 acre land grant. He also gave John three slaves, Charles, Set & Rachel. And to Daniel, he gave the salves, Judy, Frank and Tom. He gave Benjamin, the slaves named, Bess and Jean and to Joseph he gave Harry and Jenny.

When the house was built it faced south and access was from the "Mountain Road", so called because it ran in almost a straight line to the mountains in the west. It is now known as Braddock Road. Little River Turnpike, (US Route 50) was built as a result of a 1772 Act of Assembly. In 1785 it became a toll road with toll booths at Chantilly and another at Aldie, where it crossed Little River. Although this was a gravel road, they referred to it as "the paved road". It divided the Hutchison property, and part of the land that remained on the North side of the Highway is now part of Dulles International Airport.

On the South side of Rt. 50 about ¼ miles west of Cub Run, stands the beautiful old brick mansion house, home of John and Rosamond Hutchison and the six generations of their families who have lived there.

At the time John's father, Andrew, received his land grant, the area between Pleasant Valley and Centreville was known as Salisbury Plain, named after Lord Fairfax's home in England. It was a hunting ground for Indians who still lived in the area. Fairfax County archaeologists have found their artifacts in the fields and along Cub Run. They have also stated that this entire area was once the edge of a prehistoric lake which extended eastward to about the area of Pender.

Civil War battles were fought nearby. The sites of the two Battles of Bull Run at Manassas, and the Battle of Ox Hill, near Chantilly, are not too far away. Union soldiers camped in the fields and destroyed all of the rail fences which they used for firewood. Grandfather Champ Hutchison was 12 years old at the outbreak of the war and he said he watched the soldiers tear down the fences and he was then build their fires from the rails.

The soldiers were quite adept at looting so to protect some of their valuables; the family cut a small trap door in the kitchen floor behind the wood stove. They hid whatever they could hoping it would be safe until the war was over, they then piled firewood over it. Family legend states that this hiding was never found by the soldiers.

An associate of the Lee Sammis Company is of the opinion that the Marquis de Lafayette spent the night in the Hutchison house on his return from Leesburg, where he had been sent by General George Washington. This sounds like the old "George Washington slept here" stories. He said this story was why they named it "Lafayette Business Center." This is interesting and maybe possible, but it is a story that has never before been heard by any family member.

It is a fact, however, that General Robert E. Lee visited when he was in the neighborhood and on occasion he probably did spend the night. He was related by marriage to Great Grandmother Frances Moss Hutchison through the Fitzhugh family. One of General Lee's brothers was a regular visitor. He was quite tall and Grandma worried that the bed would not be long enough for him and he would not be comfortable.

Fairfax County historians have determined that this house is one of the very few 18th century houses still standing in the County and it is the only one of brick. It is over 40 years older than Sully, the home of Richard Bland Lee, which was built in 1790 and is situated on land taken by the government for Dulles Airport. Sully was slated for destruction but the local historians and the Fairfax County Park Authority were able to convince the Federal Aviation Administration of its historical significance and it was released to the control of the Park Authority. It has since been restored and is now open to the public.

The original Hutchison house was built in two stages. The cellar is divided into three rooms, each 12 x 20 and the stone foundation walls which separate them are 24 inches thick. The floor joists are hand-hewn and joined with wooden pegs. The original plank flooring is throughout the house. Originally this house had only four rooms, two downstairs, separated by a central hall and two upstairs. In the late 1700's or very early 1800's an addition which became a dining room and a kitchen was added to the east end of the house. There are three chimneys and a fireplace in each room except the dining room.

It is hard to determine just when the house was faced with brick but Grandfather Champ seemed very positive when he told me, several different times, that the bricks came from England to the docks in Alexandria, Virginia, and came "up the Pike" on wagons pulled by teams of oxen. He said this is what his father had told him.

There is an ongoing dispute concerning the origin of these bricks, some say they were made on the property. However the clay from which they were made was analyzed by a county archeologist, who stated he could not identify it as being from the Fairfax County area. He could not say exactly where it did come from, only that the bricks, which are glazed on one surface, were not made of clay found on the property or from anywhere in the area. This gives credence to the family legend that they were shipped here from England.

At the edge of the backyard and detached from the house, was a small building that had been a summer kitchen. It was a log structure and, at some later date, planks had been added to the outer surface. When the family acquired one of the first gasoline powered Maytag washing machines this building was converted into a wash house. They still had to carry water but it was a welcome change from the old wash tub and scrub board. As time went by this washer was replaced with a more modern but still gasoline powered Maytag. It had a hand crank wringer!

To the west, out the lane to Pleasant Valley Road, were several structures all built of hand hewn timbers. There were one or two which are believed to have been slave quarters. There was a wagon shed and a school house. This is where the Hutchison children and the neighboring children attended school. The last teacher in this little one-room schoolhouse was Zenella Moss Miller. She was the wife of George Miller and a grand-daughter of Melville Hutchison. Melville was a grandson of John's brother, Jeremiah. When the property was sold the new owners destroyed all of these buildings.

Recently, when the archaeologists were exploring the site they discovered foundations of similar structures along the road to Route 50. They speculated that these foundations were probably the original slave quarters and the dependencies that existed when the house was first built. When the roads were changed, these buildings had to be moved, so they were rebuilt along the lane to the west.

After the new road was put in, what had been the back of the house suddenly became the front. It would have been quite a task to move the barn, so it was left in place in front of and the left of the house, and not too far from the front yard. There was also a stone dairy house, chicken houses, turkey roosts, sheep sheds, pig sites, equipment sheds and other dependencies including a two-seater necessary complete with a Sears and Roebuck catalog.

There is a family cemetery near the rear of the house and it contains many graves. It is impossible now to tell who is buried there as only two can be identified. The stones which were on the other graves were all removed after the property was sold and attempts to locate them have been to no avail. There are field stones marking some of the graves but they have no names on them. Grandfather Hutchison used to say "all my relatives are

buried there, all the back". From the way he said it, one can almost be certain he meant all the way back to his great-great grandparents, John and Rosamond.

The two graves with a stone still standing are those of the Reverend Richard Major, who was born in 1772 and died in 1801. Their daughter, Sarah Major was the wife of Andrew, the oldest son of John and Rosamond.

There were burials in this cemetery until September, 1905 when Marguerita Bodmer, the infant daughter of Lillie Champ (Hutchison) Bodmer and her husband, Lewis H. Bodmer, died. This was the last burial in this cemetery.

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## The Hutchison Family Time Line

- ANDREW** - Born before 1744 and died before 1821. Married Sarah, daughter of Rev. Richard Major and his wife Sarah. They had eight children.
- THOMAS** - The only information available is the 1760 list of tithables which show him as being 16 years old. He would have been born 1744.
- WILLIAM** - The 1769 list of tithables shows that he was born about 1747. He married Mary Buchanan of Prince William County Virginia. They had seven children and the moved to Newberry, South Carolina.

- JEREMIAH** - Tithables lists of 1765 and 1722 indicates he was born in 1749 . His will was probated in 1833 in Pittsylvania County Virginia. He married Patsy Thatcher and second married Margaret Coleman. He was the father of eight children.
- JOSEPH** - Born October 15 1751, died March 12 1815. He married first Frances Curtis and had six children. Then married Elizabeth Major and had four children.
- JOHN T. JR** - Born 1757 and died 1825. He married Keron Ambler and they had eight children. They lived in the Pleasant Valley area of Fairfax County Virginia.
- SAMUEL** - Born April 8 1758 and died December 11 1814. He married Martha Moss and they had nine children.
- JANE** - Married --- Herbert. She was named in her fathers will.
- MARY** - Married John Bragg. She was named in her fathers will.
- SARAH** - Married ---Morris. She was named in her fathers will.
- JEMIMAH** - Married Samuel Riddle. She was named in her fathers will.

**John's daughters are probably not in the proper order of birth.  
There are no dates or further information for them.**