

CHAPTER V.

THE ELTONHEAD FAMILY IN THE CHESAPEAKE

The first mention of any member of the Eltonhead family in the provincial records of Maryland is of William Eltonhead. He testified on August 23, 1643 in a court session in St. Mary's City that he was witness to an agreement in June of 1642, at Fetter Lane¹⁸ while he was still in London. In his testimony, William Eltonhead verified the fact that Sir Edmond Ployden, a knight of the realm, had promised £50 per annum for five years service to Jane and Eleanor Stevenson for their time at **New Albion** on Delaware Bay¹⁹.

Assuming a three month crossing²⁰, we deduced that if William Eltonhead had left for Maryland late in the summer of 1642, he might have arrived late that year or early in 1643 to testify against Sir Edmond. At first the reason for William Eltonhead's deposition seemed innocuous. He was just a gentlemen helping out two young ladies in distress. But there was probably a good deal more to the story. Sir Edmond's grant overlapped Cecelius Calvert's and William Eltonhead was possibly as much helping bring down Sir Edmond as helping the hapless Stevenson sisters. William Eltonhead's timing at leaving England might also be seen as propitious. The English Civil War erupted onto the battlefield in August of 1642. This at first suggested that he may have been a Catholic fleeing the conflict. But of this we are not certain. William Eltonhead may have been a Protestant whom Cecilius Calvert was trying to convince to settle in

¹⁸ Fetter Lane runs parallel to and on the east side of Chancery Lane (between them lies the Public Records Office) and is located near the intersection of Fleet St, now the newspaper publishing center in the "City of London" (Clunn, 1957, p. 84). It then contained many inns and pubs (many still exist) where ships' captains, potential servants and gentlemen could meet and presumably work out details of passage to the New World.

¹⁹ Charles I had granted Edmund Ployden, knight, **New Albion** comprising land from Cape May to the Elk River in Maryland to Sandy Hook, New Jersey. In 1641, with Sir Edmund's blessing, sixty English settlers established a small colony on the eastern side of the Delaware River on a creek then called "Ferkin's Kill", later corrupted as "Varkin's Kill", and now known as Salem Creek (Cushing and Sheppard 1883 p. 7).

²⁰ Early in the seventeenth century vessels were able to sail from England to the Chesapeake in three to four months if they took the southern route using the trade winds and stopping in the Caribbean Islands for provisions (Middleton 1984 pp. 8-9). However, the trip could take considerably longer depending on the weather. For example in late 1654-early 1655, Luke Barber made a crossing from England to Maryland which took him over half a year when the vessel had to be laid up in Bermuda for two months and Virginia for one month (Hall 1967, p. 263).

Maryland after the capture of Charles I. Cecilius Calvert was soliciting support for his claim to Maryland from the London merchants, who were increasingly influential in Parliament at that time. He now needed all the friends in parliament he could muster, because his nemesis, William Claiborne of Virginia, had returned to London to lobby the Puritans to disavow Lord Baltimore's grant from Charles I, so he could regain control of Kent Island.

Surprisingly, in view of his status, there is not a steady stream of references to William Eltonhead in Maryland in the official records after his first arrival in 1743. In fact there is a five year hiatus before William Eltonhead was mentioned again in the Maryland Records. Where did he go? Did William Eltonhead return to England and possibly play a role in the civil war there? Maybe he just was traveling and stopped in Maryland to check out the possibilities there. After his Maryland sojourn, he might have continued his legal training during this period. Quite possibly he decided that to immigrate to Maryland he needed a little cash for the transport of servants and to obtain a manor in Maryland. Whatever he did in the intervening time, five years later there is no doubt that William Eltonhead had decided to cast his lot in Maryland.

On May 8, 1648 Robert Clarke, deputy surveyor, reported he had (MD Patents; Liber AB&H, folio 16):

laid out for William Eltonhead Gentl. A parcell of land lying near the mouth of Patuxent River bounding on the West with the land of Capt. William Hawley and a Creek called St. James Creek on the North with Patuxent River on the East and South with the Bay of Chesapeake containing and laid out for two thousand acres more or less.

But this was not our **Eltonhead Manor** in Calvert County²¹ (indeed it was not even called by any name in the original survey). This tract was located south of the mouth of the Patuxent River in what is now the U.S. Naval Air Station in St. Mary's County. However Calvert County was not erected until 1654, and when it was it actually included the south side of the Patuxent River. Thus it was inconsequential to William Eltonhead what county his new patent was located in. This was an ideal location, within walking distance of St. Marys City but having access to deep water which the capital city did not. It was also the direction the Calvert's themselves would settle in over the next few years and suggests that he was privy to inside information concerning future land values.

²¹Although the records do not always make the distinction, we will refer to William Eltonhead's property on the south side of the Patuxent River as **Lesser Eltonhead Manor**, and Edward Eltonhead's property on the north side of the Patuxent River as **Eltonhead Manor**, despite the fact that the latter is often designated as **Greater Eltonhead Manor** and less frequently as **Elkton Head Manor** as well as other corruptions in the records.

In the next Maryland references to him, William Eltonhead is designated as "Esquire". Thus he seems most likely to have visited in 1643, and come back to put down some roots. By the time of William's return to Maryland in 1648, the world had changed perceptibly and turmoil was rampant. In England, Charles I had been imprisoned on the Isle of Wight by the Puritans. In Maryland, Governor Leonard Calvert had died the previous year after forcing Kent Islanders to submit to proprietary authority for the last time (Bozman 1837). On June 7, 1648 we have confirmation in the record that William Eltonhead is indeed back in Maryland. He witnessed an agreement made by Thomas Gerard Esq. releasing Mrs. Margaret Brent of all debts and demands against the estate of Governor Leonard Calvert which she was administering. This confirms that not only had William Eltonhead returned, but he was immediately mingling with the upper tier of people in the colony. Stein (1976) mentioned that the Eltonheads were descendants of a Chief Justice who was close to the first Lord Baltimore when he was minister to James I. Cecilius Calvert was trying to recruit friends to invest in Maryland and appears to have persuaded one of the youngest in the Eltonhead family, not only to look things over, but to actually immigrate. In a similar gambit, despite the increasing political turmoil, Cecilius Calvert had also persuaded other influential families, most notably the Protestant Brooke family, to immigrate in 1647.

By 1649 William Eltonhead, in the mode of the Chesapeake planters, registered his cattle mark (i.e. picked on both ears), indicating his interest in building his own herd. The meat supply in the new colony was a critical issue for the settlers.²² As pointed out by Carr et al. (1991) since currency was nonexistent and coinage limited, cattle (along with land and tobacco) were one of the available means of storage of wealth. Since cattle roamed in the woods they needed to be marked to avoid poaching. By this time there is no doubt that William Eltonhead had emerged as someone who was actively engaged not only in building his plantation, but in helping to govern the Province. He was also an increasingly important public figure in Maryland. On September 29, 1649, Cecilius Calvert made the following declaration to the Council (Archives of Maryland Vol. III, p. 242):

"to our trusty and well Beloved William Eltonhead Esq. Greeting Know yee that we reposing special trust and Confidence in your Wisdom diligence and Experience do by these presents constitute and appoint you to be One of our Privy Council of State within our said Province of Maryland untill we or our heirs shall signify our or their Pleasure to the Contrary... and we do hereby further will and Grant that you have and enjoy all such Powers Dignities Preheminences Jurisdictions Privileges immunities and advantages whatsoever which are belonging and incident to one of our Councilors...and

²² Although they were not conscious of the fact that their new staple, maize, lacked critical amino acids; they may have had a craving for meat because of dietary deficiencies.

we do hereby further Constitute and appoint you to be one of our Justices and Commissioners for Conservation of the Peace of the said Province.”

Several months after he was appointed to the Council, we see the first mention of another important benchmark indicating William Eltonhead's commitment to staying in Maryland. In November of 1649 he obtained a judgement for 299 lbs of tobacco, in the name of his new wife, Jane. This appears to be William Eltonhead's first marriage (the note in Skordas 1974 that he had brought a wife when he immigrated is incorrect, the original record says that he had actually brought someone else and that man's wife). The suit brought by William in the name of his wife was against Lt. Richard Bancks, who was acting as administrator of Thomas Allen's estate. The ultimate settlement of this debt had dragged on for quite some time. Thomas Allen owed the money to Jane Eltonhead's first husband, Thomas Smith, who was one of William Claiborne's men on Kent Island. At the trial, the defendant presented a receipt from Capt. Phillip Bashaw, an attorney for her second husband, Phillip Taylor. Thus the record establishes that Jane Eltonhead was now on her third husband, and still hadn't been paid in full!

By mid-century William Eltonhead was emerging as a member of the power elite who was diligently attending to the details of building a manorial estate. He was also pursuing what amounted to a small claim of only a few pounds of tobacco in Provincial Court, suggesting his attention to the tiniest details. His marriage to Jane may also have had advantages. She was born in 1617 (Archives of Maryland Vol. X, p. 560) and was the sister of Cuthbert Fenwick originally from Virginia ²³ (Archives of Maryland Vol. X, pp. 496, 560). Jane Eltonhead's first husband, Thomas Smith, was one of the captains of Claiborne's ships in the battle of Kent Island in 1635. Three years later Thomas Smith was captured by Baltimore's forces, tried at St. Mary's and hung (Archives of Maryland Vol. IV, p. 507). Thomas and Jane Smith had two girls, Gertrude and Jane. Thereafter, Jane married Phillip Taylor, William Claiborne's Chief Lieutenant, and lived at Kent Island (Archives of Maryland, Vol. V, p.220-225). He had originally served as a justice and then sheriff of Northampton County Virginia as late as 1643. Phillip and Jane Taylor had two more children, Thomas and Sarah (Archives of Maryland Vol. IV, p.527).

²³ In Cuthbert Fenwick's will, drawn the 6th March 1654/55, he leaves most of his land to his children with personalty to "*brother [unreadable] Eltonhead*" (see: Baldwin 1968 p. 219; taken from Liber S, folio 219 at MD Historical Society, Baltimore). Skordas (1974) lists Cuthbert Fenwick as being transported from Virginia as a servant by Thomas Cornwalley's Esq. in 1633 (old style), when the Ark and the Dove first entered Maryland waters (MD Patents; Liber 94, 244)! Cuthbert Fenwick eventually patented a large tract northwest of Thomas Cornwalley's **Resurrection Manor** on the south side of the Patuxent called **St. Cuthbert's** or **Fenwick's Manor**, which was later split into two tracts. The most northerly is known today as **Sotterly** (Stein 1976).

After two marriages ending in early deaths, Jane Eltonhead appeared to be prospering with her new husband William Eltonhead. However, when Charles I was beheaded early in 1649, shock waves were sent across the Atlantic. Upon hearing the news, William Stone, Governor of Maryland, declared the Province loyal to the Prince of Wales, Charles II. This was a sure way to incur the wrath of Oliver Cromwell and his Roundheads. The repercussions of this were to be sorely felt by loyal subjects of the old order (i.e. Cavaliers). Ironically, in view of the Protestant allegiance of her first two husbands, William Eltonhead's steadfast loyalty to the Calvert family would prove to be his undoing and reverse the family fortunes in Maryland.

Cecilius Calvert had been quick to adjust to the new political realities in England, as the Puritans won key battles against Charles I's forces at Marston Moor and Naseby in 1647. Just before Leonard Calvert died on June 9, 1647, he had designated Thomas Greene, one of the Catholics on his Privy Council, as his replacement. However, Lord Baltimore soon appointed a Protestant, William Stone as next governor of Maryland to ingratiate himself with the influential London merchants, who were increasingly flexing their political muscle in Parliament. Also, in what might have been his biggest miscalculation, Cecilius Calvert had invited Puritans in Virginia to settle in Maryland under the leadership of Richard Bennett. The Puritans were assigned land in what is now Anne Arundel County centered on a place they called "Providence on Severn". The location may have been calculated to place the Puritans between the heart of the new colony at St. Marys and the aggressive Susquehannock Indians to the north. However, the Puritans proved more aggressive than the natives. In particular, men like Richard Bennett began patenting large tracts along the bayside in a southerly direction. He even established a large plantation below Parkers Creek in Calvert County called **Lower Bennet** (which we will discuss in greater detail below). The Puritans were as much against the Church of England as they were against Papists such as Cecilius Calvert. They were not easily appeased. When a force of 750 men arrived in the Chesapeake to "reduce" the colonies of Virginia and Maryland and recognize Cromwell's government, local Puritans allied with William Claiborne seized the opportunity along with Claiborne to wrest control of Maryland from the Proprietary.

On March 29, 1652, after forcing crusty old Governor Berkeley to capitulate in Virginia, the Parliamentary Commission turned their attention to Maryland. A new government was appointed by the Puritans to assume the reins of power from William Stone. He managed to resume control but not for long. In July of 1654 Richard Bennett (who was also acting as Governor of Virginia) forced Governor Stone to relinquish his power. The administration of the Province was put in the hands of the following Puritans: Capt. William Fuller, Richard Preston, William Durand, Edward Lloyd, Capt. John Smith, Leonard Strong, John Lawson, John Hatch, Richard Wells and Richard Ewen. Of the above, Fuller, Preston and Durand were authorized as commissioners with executive powers (Bozman 1837, Vol. 2, p. 505). Many of these were William Eltonhead's neighbors, but by this time he had returned to England.

When William Eltonhead's ship Golden Fortune, commanded by Captain Tilghman, arrived in St Mary's in January of 1655, events unfolded quickly. A message from Cecilius Calvert to Governor Stone galvanized the latter into action to regain control of the colony (Brown 1919). Thereafter, twenty of Baltimore's men, under the command of William Eltonhead and Capt. Josiah Fendal retrieved the provincial records at Richard Preston's house on the Patuxent, which was effectively the government seat (Brown 1919, Footner 1939).

With renewed confidence, Governor Stone and his men left the Patuxent and went on to reduce Providence on Severn (near the present town of Annapolis) where the Puritans had their most dense settlement. But Capt. William Fuller²⁴, commander of the adversary force, was obviously an experienced tactician, and despite being outnumbered, managed to sweep the field of Baltimore's men. The battle was fought on Sunday morning March 25, 1655 and was decisive (Brown 1919). William Eltonhead was captured by the Puritans along with his comrade Julius Pedro (Stein 1976). They were summarily executed the day after the battle along with two other loyalists for their role in organizing the expedition against the Puritans. It is probable that Edward Eltonhead thought about his nephew more than echoed the sentiments expressed earlier by Thomas Cornwallis that his "*poore younger brothers fortune*" had been run "*almost out of breathe*" in efforts to build a Maryland estate (see Carr et al. 1991 p.11 &273, quoting a letter from Thomas Cornwallis to Cecilius Calvert, Second Lord Baltimore in 1632).

When William Eltonhead was executed his estate was left in confusion. Although he did not have access to paper, he was able to give some oral instructions on how he wanted his property divided (i.e. a nuncupative will). Most of his property in Maryland passed to his wife Jane Eltonhead. She lived at **Lesser Eltonhead Manor** (Mowbrey 1984, p. 152). She did not remarry and the Provincial Court Record shows that she must have spent a considerable amount of time in litigation over her husband's affairs. In her will, probated February 28, 1659/60, she bequeathed her land at Cedar Point (i.e. **Lesser Eltonhead Manor**) to her son Thomas Taylor, i.e. William Eltonhead's stepson (MD Wills; Liber 1, folio 95):

...I bequeath unto Thomas Taylor my Beloved son all the land of Cedar Point which I purchased and bought by paying the Debts of my deceased husband, also I bequeath all my cattle, only the male cattle to be equally divided between my son Thomas and my Daughter Sarah, and the male bull fall to my son Thomas, afsd and Sarah also I bequeath the youngest mare and the old horse unto my son Thomas and the other Eleen Mare, unto my daughter Sarah

²⁴ This was the same William Fuller who patented the land along the Cliffs near **The Goare** described above.

the first mare colt that shall proceed from the aforesaid Eleen Mare to be for Roger and my grandchild and I also bequeath my [unreadable] oats to be equally divided...after my debts of Mr. Edward Eltonhead being paid.

Testators: Wm. Coursey, Katharine Coursey

Jane Eltonhead's will mentions only one grandson, Roger. This was Roger Anderton, her daughter Gertrudes (Smith's) son by John Anderton (Mowbrey 1984). At Jane Eltonhead's death, Thomas Taylor was still a minor (Archives of Maryland Vol. XLI, p. 345) and Phillip Calvert became his guardian (Archives of Maryland Vol. XLI, p. 345). After coming of age on March 29, 1664, Thomas Taylor assigned part of **Lesser Eltonhead Manor** to his brother-in-law Thomas Courtney, who had married his sister Sarah (Archives of Maryland Vol XLI, p. 550-551). However, Thomas Taylor appears to have retained ownership of **Lesser Eltonhead Manor** until 1669, when he conveyed 2,000 acres south of the Patuxent River between Captain Hawley's property and Chesapeake Bay to Charles Calvert for 30,000 pounds of tobacco (MD Land Office Warrants; Liber 12, folio 206). By this time Charles Calvert had decided to take up residence in the province on the south shore of the mouth of the Patuxent River and this purchase would consolidate his land holdings there. One reason for his preference for the lower Patuxent River may have been the naturally deep harbor (especially compared with St. Mary's River), where deep draft vessels from England could easily be accommodated. Also the center of population of Maryland had moved considerably north and east by this time, making the lower Patuxent more centrally located for ease of government. Thus **Lesser** or **Little Eltonhead Manor**, as it is sometimes called in the later records of the seventeenth century, ended up as one of the properties of Governor Charles Calvert, who was to become Third Lord Baltimore.

After vacating **Lesser Eltonhead Manor**, Thomas Taylor and his wife Frances moved to Anne Arundel County where he rose from Sheriff to militia offices of Major, Lt. Colonel, and finally Colonel (Slagle 1973). His fast track of promotions were no doubt due to the patronage from the Calverts. Eventually Thomas Taylor and his wife Frances moved to the Eastern Shore.²⁵ He eventually patented numerous tracts in Dorchester County and became a large landholder (Mowbrey 1984). As is often the case, Calvert County provided yet another influential family to Dorchester County, which had just been erected.

So much for **Lesser Eltonhead Manor**. But what of **Eltonhead Manor**? The reason we have come to believe that William Eltonhead was behind the establishment

²⁵ The Taylors were not the same Quakers who lived at the same time in Talbot County as earlier indicated by Roberts (1938). Our man was a Protestant and moved to Dorchester County.

of the latter as well as the former is the following from the Provincial Court Record in 1654 (Archives of Maryland Vol. X, p. 410):

Ishmael Wright aged 40 years or thereabouts Sworne and Examined Saith. That m^r Eltonhead being at y^r Deponents house one Night fell into discourse about Phillip Hyde and Henry Bullin, Concerning their Land that they were Seated on, m^r Eltonhead Said that he had five thousand acres of Land to take up there, and Said he could take away that Land that they were Seated on, and we answered and Said, that they were honest men, it were a pitty to take it from them and he Said Soe, two Good Labouring honest men, I do not intend to Molest them, for I have intended already where I will begin to Survey upon the Clifts and I shall fall Short of them And further Saith not

the mark of Ishmael R. Wright

Therefore, we are certain William Eltonhead was behind the 5,000-acre **Eltonhead Manor** tract which originally comprised the present Cove Point LNG property. What is equally remarkable about Ishmael Wright's deposition is that it is one of the few places in the historical record where we have evidence that someone could actually go and pick the spot they wanted surveyed! Usually it is thought that the patentees in colonial Maryland were subject to the surveyor's choice of sites based on guidance from the Land Office. The fact that William Eltonhead was on the Council in part may explain the deference shown him, but it appears that lessor lights could influence surveyors to survey land contiguous to previous patents to build up larger plantations.²⁶

We also know from the above deposition that Henry Bullin, Phillip Hyde and Ishmael Wright were all in the immediate vicinity of **Eltonhead Manor** prior to its first survey in 1652. We were very interested to know more about these people, to gain a perspective on the earliest English settlement in the vicinity of Cove Point. The patent records indicate that Henry Bullin had immigrated to Maryland before 1650 (MD Patents; Liber AB&H, folio 200). On the other hand, Phillip Hyde and Ishmael Wright claimed head rights a year later and appear to have immigrated together (MD Patents; Liber AB&H, folio 141 & 142). The latter transported his son, Ishmael Hyde Jr., with him. We do not know whether it was Ishmael Wright Sr. or Jr. who actually made the above deposition.

Soon after Cecelius Calvert wrested control of Maryland back from the Puritans, **Eltonhead Manor** was finally patented in the name of Edward Eltonhead Esq. in 1658

²⁶ Francis Armstrong, who lived at **Gunnisby** and **Cold Kirby** further north on the Cliffs was able to assemble three adjacent patents over a period of two years on James Island (5 miles northeast of Cove Point across the Bay). This allowed Francis Armstrong to have a plantation comprising almost a thousand acres. He was hardly a favorite of the Calverts and was hauled into court because he set his dogs on Robert Staplefort, Sheriff of Calvert County (Archives of Maryland Vol. XLIX, pp. 351, 402).

(MD Patents; Liber Q, folio 26). In the patent, Edward Eltonhead is referred to as one of the "*Masters of the Chancery in our said land of Maryland an adventure in partnership with our Trusty and well beloved [space] Esq.*". The latter reference suggests to us that the clerk was supposed to fill in William Eltonhead's name, but it was never done. Had Cecelius Calvert actually forgotten who died for him at the "Battle of the Severn" three years before? Also curious is the title 'Master of the Chancery' which might actually mean that Edward Eltonhead was one of the London adventurers or investors in Maryland whom Cecelius Calvert was now very dependent on to help him maintain political control of the province. But there is no tangible evidence that Edward Eltonhead actually set foot in Maryland. He seems to have carried out all his business here via attorneys, as did Richard Eltonhead Esq. who later claimed **Lesser Eltonhead Manor** from William Eltonhead's estate. When Edward Eltonhead did not transport 50 people of "British descent" to Maryland he forfeited the patent for **Eltonhead Manor** and it reverted back to the Proprietary.

We now feel more confident about the Eltonheads from our the reading of the original record. It was consistent in most of the essentials with the profile of William Eltonhead independently produced by Papenfuse et al. (1978). We unfortunately discovered this too late to save us much time, but it did verify our research. Also, as their profiles do not contain references, we still would have had to backtrack through a variety of records to check the original sources. However, there are several new revelations in the profile such as the fact that William Eltonhead was a "Cambridge Man", who was later educated in law at the "Middle Temple"²⁷.

Since the relationships between the Eltonheads was critical to understanding the roots of **Eltonhead Manor**, we began looking for a genealogy of the family. We thought a trip to England might be necessary to ferret out the details. Much to our amazement, a copy of a paper which traced the Eltonheads back to the 12th century (Rankin 1955), was located in Baltimore at the Maryland Historical Society! Although there is a handwritten note indicating that a copy of the original typewritten copy had been sent by the author to the society in November 9, 1957, it is obvious that Charles Stein never saw it while doing his research there for the History of Calvert County (1976). Rankin (1955) reveals that the present **Eltonhead Hall** (located 300 yards from the Rain Hill Mental Hospital) in Lancashire, post-dates the original Eltonhead family occupation (lasting until 1680's). But a stone barn was still present in 1955, which was clearly much older. In fact the Eltonhead arms (illustrated in Rankin 1955, p.44) were carved in one of the stones in the barn along with a date of 1663.

²⁷ Middle Temple along with Inner Temple, Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn comprise the four legal societies or "Inns of Court" located off Fleet Street in the old City of London. The collection of old buildings and secluded courts still exist and are situated between Fleet Street (near Fetter Lane already mentioned) and Victoria Embankment near the Courts of Justice, where attorneys had lived, studied and taught law students dating back to the 1200's (see Clunn 1957 p.88).

The family roots can now be traced to 1194, when “William, son of Ivo, at the request of Siegrith his wife granted four oxgangs at Eltonhead to Hugh le Norreis, also called Hugh de Haigh” (Rankin 1955, p. 35). The name “le Norreis” suggests that he was most likely a Norseman. In other words he was one of those dreaded Norse invaders who had usurped the Anglo-Saxon lands, setting up their own fiefs. Subsequently the family took on the name of Eltonhead (where they were granted land) as its last name. Twelve generations later Richard Eltonhead (1582-1664) was still living at **Eltonhead Manor**. He was the oldest son of William and Ann Bower (of Brielyn, County York) who had ten children:

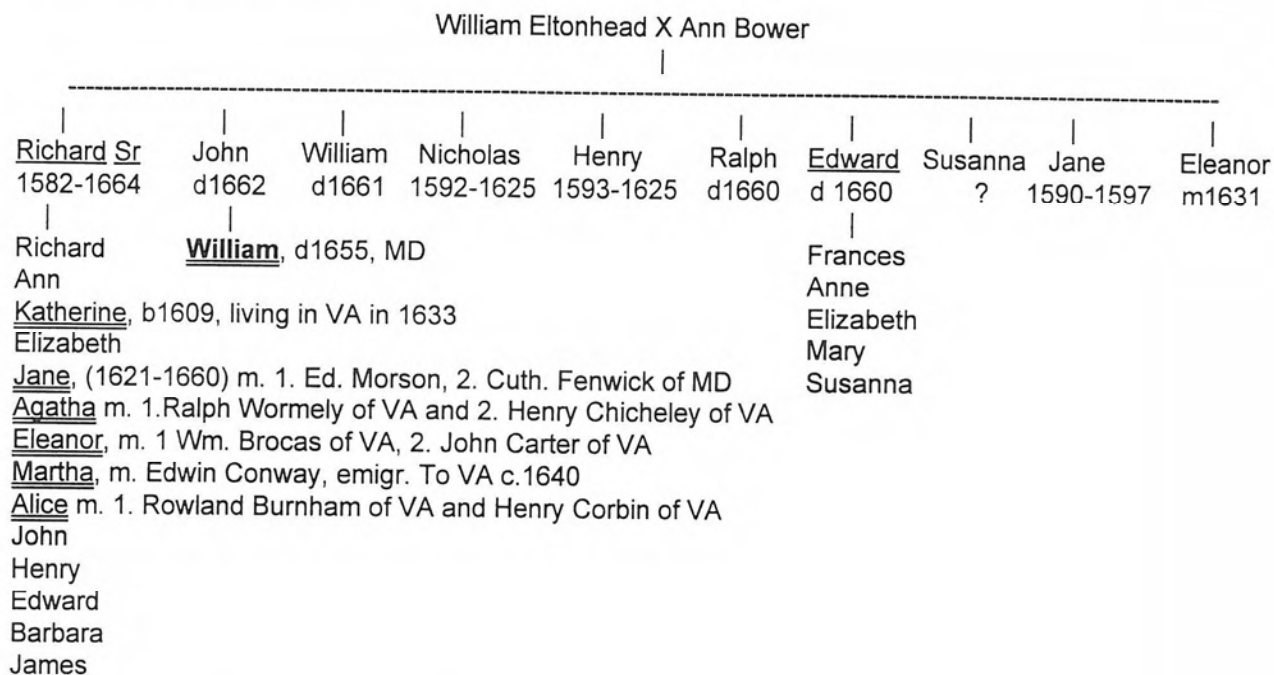


Figure 9. The Eltonhead Genealogy in the 16th and 17th Centuries.

In the family tree above, the names of the Eltonheads who immigrated to the Chesapeake in Maryland are underlined twice, while those underlined once appear to have invested in Maryland, without actually making the trip. Rankin (1955) reveals the fact that Richard Sr., the eldest son of William and Anne, who inherited **Eltonhead Hall**, was brought up on charges that he had supported the King against Cromwell’s forces during the Civil War. Richard Eltonhead Sr. became financially strapped during his lifetime, dying in 1664 with only a small estate of £63. His son Richard Jr. who had married Ann Massey of Rixton, died the year after. Richard Sr.’s grandson, Richard III, in greatly reduced circumstances, began the sale of the family seat at Eltonhead to Thomas Roughly, yeoman, in 1676. Apparently Richard Eltonhead III lived thereafter at their lands in Sutton, but died impoverished with an estate valued at a mere £5. To our surprise, it was actually Richard Eltonhead Sr.’s children whose genes were

incorporated into the gentry of Virginia (and eventually Maryland). It is now obvious that Jane, who was married to Cuthbert Fenwick, was actually Richard Sr.'s daughter, which would make her William Eltonhead's cousin, not his sister as indicated by Stein (1976). Now a picture emerges of a loyalist family in financial decline which may account for the need of younger members to immigrate.

Despite Richard Eltonhead's financial problems, his daughters made out surprisingly well in their marriages. Agatha Eltonhead married Ralph Wormley, among the wealthiest men in mid-seventeenth century Virginia. In 1649 he had patented more than 3,000 acres of land in what was then Lancaster County and soon after began to build a plantation house on a windy point jutting into the Rappahanock at the mouth of Rosegil Creek. Before her husband's early death she had two sons, William and Ralph Wormely. Not remaining a widow long, Agatha then married Sir Henry Chicheley who moved to **Rosegil** with his seventeen servants (Rutman and Rutman 1984, p. 46-51).

Agatha Eltonhead's younger sister, Eleanor, made equally propitious marriages. Eleanor Eltonhead first married Capt. William Brocas who was a member of the Governors Council of Virginia and had patented his first tract of land in 1638 (Nugent 1992, p.83). She was the second wife of John Carter of **Corotoman**, a tract that he patented in 1642 on the Rappahanock River in Virginia (Nugent 1992, p. 132). John Carter was the father of the celebrated Robert "King" Carter. The latter would leave the foremost legacy of Virginia in his will when he died in 1730 (VA Magazine of History and Biography 5:408-428; 6:1-21 (1898). However, Eleanor and John Carter had no children together. After she died, John Carter went on to have three more wives before dying in 1669. Robert "King" Carter was the son of John Carter and his fourth wife, Sarah Ludlowe, who died in 1668 (Dowdey 1969, p. 96-101).

Martha Eltonhead married Edwin Conaway (also spelled Connaway and Connoway) who had patented 1,000 acres in 1652, and then 1,250 acres in 1654 on the Corotoman River, in Lancaster County (Nugent 1992, p.271-291). In later acquisitions on the Corotoman River he added 1,000 acres (in partnership with Gervase Dodson) and 2,500 acres (Nugent 1992 p. 343, 365). Not surprisingly, in view of his extensive land holdings, he is described as a "Gentleman" in the later patent record. Martha and Edwin Conaway had a daughter (Rutman and Rutman 1984, p. 49).

As Richard Sr.'s circumstances seemed to decline, his younger brother John Eltonhead (William's father), seemed to fare much better. He was admitted to Middle Temple in 1607 by way of New Inn and was called to the bar eight years later (Rankin 1955). About the time William Eltonhead was patenting **Lesser Eltonhead Manor**, his father, John Eltonhead, was made a sergeant of the court and became a circuit county court judge, hearing cases in Brecon, Glamorgan and Radnor. John Eltonhead may have been more flexible than his older brother Richard in regard to his acceptance of the Roundheads. Indeed, John Eltonhead had won an important case for himself in

which the manor of **Little Mitton** (which he had attached because of an unpaid bond), was forfeited by the Cromwell government because of the royalist activities of its owner Thomas Shireton. The case eventually went before the parliament then controlled by Cromwell's men. John Eltonhead won the case suggesting strongly that he was not a loyalist. He probably took a more middle of the road position in the Civil war, as did Cecelius Calvert. John Eltonhead died in 1662 and was buried in Middle Temple Church (Rankin 1955).

John Eltonhead's younger brother, Edward, seems to have followed his brother's lead in taking up law at Middle Temple. By 1634 he had married Anne, the daughter of his colleague John Reynolds, and was living at Henham in Essex (Rankin 1955, p. 55). Edward Eltonhead had five daughters; but unlike their cousins, none appears to have immigrated to the Chesapeake. This is consistent with Edward's stance as investing in **Eltonhead Manor** without immigrating. It is of course possible that he was about to transport a large number of people and settle in Maryland. The population pressures in England by the mid-17th century made it relatively easy to convince young men and women to leave England for the promises of opportunities in Maryland (Horn 1994, p. 76):

“Poverty and search for work were compelling and confining determinants of everyday life. After a period of traveling the roads and byways or living on the streets in the slums of London and Bristol, some of the poor and out-of-work chose to labor in the colonies for the same reason they might have signed up for the army or navy: the future was mortgaged in return for immediate benefit of food, lodging and regular work. Not every servant left England with the preconceived idea of becoming a tobacco planter or staying in the Chesapeake for good. The poorest immigrants indentured themselves to escape from their *immediate* situation -- destitution, homelessness, unemployment -- rather than because they had a clear concept of what life would be like in America. For many servants, short term, not long term, imperatives were the driving force behind immigration to the new world.”

However, death cut short Edward Eltonhead's plans in 1660. He was buried under the pulpit in Middle Temple Church in London (Rankin 1955, p.54). One curious fact that emerged from the will of Edmund Plowden, Knight (mentioned earlier in the deposition of William Eltonhead in 1643) was that Edward Eltonhead, described as “Master in Chancery”²⁸ was to provide 50 settlers for New Albion (Rankin 1955, p.54). Edward Eltonhead's death ended these plans and triggered the reversion of **Eltonhead**

²⁸ This reference to Edward Eltonhead as “Master in Chancery” obviously refers to his status as a master (i.e. a presiding officer) of Chancery (i.e. the Lord Chancellor's Court), now a division of the High Court in England. The use of this title in the 1658 patent of **Eltonhead Manor** as master of the Chancery of Maryland, seems to be attributable to an error by the clerk of the land records. He should have written “of England”. This reinforces the probability that Edward Eltonhead was not actually present in Maryland when the patent was awarded, otherwise he would have clarified the matter.

Manor back to the proprietary two years short of the time he had been granted in the 1658 patent to bring fifty people to Maryland.