

THE NICOLL FAMILY  
AND  
ISLIP GRANGE

Address  
before the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America  
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With Additions.

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## PREFATORY NOTE

In publishing this paper on the Nicolls and Islip Grange, the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America is following out its custom of studying various important families of colonial times although their landholdings never received any grants of manorial privileges. Thus we have published monographs on the Bayard, Beekman and Jay families and on individuals like Peter Stuyvesant and Richard Nicolls. The latter, by the way, was no relation of the Nicolls of the present paper.

Governor Dongan's Patents of 1684, and 1686, convey the lands mentioned therein to William Nicoll "in Free and common Soccage according to the tenure of East Greenwich in the County of Kent". Governor Fletcher's Patent of 1697 phrases the grant: "To be holden of us Our heirs and Successors in free and Common Soccage as of Our mannour of East Greenwich in our County of Kent within Our Realme of England".\* In none of these three patents is there any specific wording indicating the grant of the right to hold court leet or court baron. These latter privileges are those to which this Order looks through its Manorial Committee for determining whether a certain grant did or did not constitute a Manor which should be recognized by us as a qualification for membership. For this reason the Order has decided that the Nicoll Grant did not constitute a Manor and does not recognize membership based upon descent from its owners. As pointed out by Miss Bailey in her paper, William Nicoll himself evidently did not consider Islip as a Manor (page 6).

MONTGOMERY SCHUYLER

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\* See my pamphlet, "The Patroons and Lords of Manors of the Hudson," 1932, on this question.



THE NICOLL FAMILY  
and  
ISLIP GRANGE

THE HON. WILLIAM NICOLL recalled the home of his ancestors in Northamptonshire, England, when he gave the name "Islip Grange" to his extensive estate on southern Long Island. He and his father, the Hon. Matthias Nicoll, were very influential in the Province of New York and their immediate descendants were well known. A succession of early deaths in the senior line after the Revolution contributed to the later obscurity of the name, and it was not until a century later that the prestige of the family was revived by De Lancey Nicoll and other descendants in the younger branches.

The Nicoll Patent, as it is more generally called, was larger than any of the manors on Long Island. The usual description is ten miles square; actual survey might prove it nearer ten by eight miles, unless we include the area of the bay with its islands.<sup>1</sup> A mere 51,200 acres by conservative estimate, it overshadowed in size the nearby Sagtikos Manor<sup>2</sup> of 150 acres. It was situated on the south shore of Long Island, in view of Fire Island Inlet, between the present Bay Shore and Patchogue. It comprised most of the Township of Islip in Suffolk County, and extended inland to the center of the island, embracing Lake Ronkonkoma and the present villages of Bayport, Sayville, Oakdale, Great River and East Islip, but not the village now called Islip.

Nicoll was allied by marriage to most of the leading families of the province. He was prominent in its legal and political affairs and inclined to independence of the royal governors. The grant of such a large tract to him would be a good bid for his far-reaching influence. However, a truer reason is to be found in the early history of Long Island. The eastern end was settled by men of republican and levelling ideas. That they preferred a government by and of the people is shown by their alacrity in changing allegiance to Connecticut, when that province claimed most of Long Island

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1. Several witnesses in a suit in 1836 testified that the bay at Islip and further east was very shallow and was meadows and swamps, and it was impossible to cross it on horseback, and that the opening of the Fire Island Inlet had flooded land formerly dry and meadows. See Pelletreau's *History of Long Island*, 1903, v. 2, p. 242.

2. See "The Sagtikos (Van Cortlandt) Manor," by Miss Sarah D. Gardiner, Publication No. 26, of the Order of Colonial Lords of Manors in America, N. Y., 1935.

under its enlarged charter. As pointed out in previous addresses by Mr. Schuyler and Mr. Goebel, it was largely for a safeguard against these settlers that the royal governors of New York erected the manors of Gardiner's, Fisher's and Shelter Islands. It was also important to block the spread of their ideas westward, hence the grant of manors in the central portion of Long Island. Situated on promontories of the north shore, and on the south shore inside the navigable inlet to the Bay,<sup>3</sup> these holdings were so placed to act also as outposts against an external enemy and so avoid a repetition of the surprise capture of New Amsterdam in 1664.

It is strange therefore that "Islip Grange," the largest of these strategic holdings, should not have been erected into a manor. The Fletcher Patent of 1697 granted the tract to Nicoll "in free and Common Soccage as of Our mannour of East Greenwich, in our County of Kent within Our Realme of England". This was the current basic phrase in the grant of manor privileges, and could imply the power of holding Court Leet and Court Baron, terms occasionally omitted in the patent. However, it would seem from the history of the Nicoll grant that manorial privileges were not intended, and that the land was held "in Free and Common Soccage according to the tenure of East Greenwich", the phraseology in the two earlier patents to Nicoll. The will of William Nicoll, 1719, mentions his "ffarms in the Manor of Renselaerwick" and his "Lands Tenements and hereditaments at Islip and on Shelter Island", so we may infer that William Nicoll himself did not consider his Islip estate a manor—even though he departed from the custom on Long Island by bequeathing it to his male heirs in entail. Perhaps Nicoll was like Peter Schuyler, his relative, and refused manorial privileges. This would be in accord with his career.

The ancestry of William Nicoll is known back to his sixth great-grandfather, John Nicoll, who was buried in 1467 under the chancel of the Church of St. Nicholas in Islip, Northamptonshire. This line and the arms were officially recognized for many Americans by the College of Arms in 1930 at the instance of my father's first cousin, Mrs. Percival Griffiths of London and Sandridgebury, Herts., whom some of you may have known as Gertrude Bailey Tredick

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3. The Patent of 1688 to Nicoll infers there was then as now only one inlet. Testimony shows that Fire Island Inlet was broken through during a violent storm in the winter of 1690-91, and was then known as the New Gut, also as Nicoll's Gut or Nine Mile Gut because originally nine miles wide; also that about 1755 there were seven inlets east of Fire Island, which was then only a sand bar called by the Indians Seal Island. See Thompson's *History of Long Island*, 1918 ed., v. 2, pp. 362-3.

of Portsmouth, New Hampshire. The line approved for her went through the Smiths of Smithtown and William Nicoll's sister Margaret, wife of Richard Floyd of the Town of Brookhaven, then by the marriage of an earlier William Nicoll in England, back through the wellknown Woodhull or de Wahull family of Thenford, Northamptonshire, to their ancestor Walter Flandrensis who came over with William the Conqueror. Since the College of Arms does not at present recognize as adequate the proof of parentage of the first Woodhull in America, most of us can claim the Woodhull lineage in England thus indirectly through the Smiths, Floyds and Nicolls. When in England last summer, my cousin and I motored over to Thenford. It has a quaint thatched village, ancient church and a magnificent mansion in a lovely park; the present service wing of the house is the oldest portion and was standing at the time of the sixteenth century Nicoll intermarriage.

John Nicoll of the Town of Buckingham, who was the son of Mary Woodhull, successfully applied for the addition of a crest. The grant to him, signed by Norroy King of Arms, on June 23, 1601, recites his ancestors by name back to 1467 at Islip, and the use by them of the coat of arms, which is described and illustrated, as is the new crest.<sup>4</sup>

John was the father of Matthias Nicols, Rector of St. Andrews Church in Plymouth, England, whose death was the occasion of a funeral sermon there on August 19, 1631 by Alexander Grosse, entitled *Eliahs Fiery Charet or The Holy Mans Tryumph after Death*.<sup>5</sup> The rector was the father of Matthias Nicoll, the first Secretary of the Province of New York, lawyer, judge, and compiler of the famous "Duke's Laws" of the Province of New York.

William Nicoll, the Patentee of "Islip Grange", Long Island, was the only surviving son of Matthias. He is said to have been born in 1657, and would therefore have been a lad of seven when he accompanied his father to America from Portsmouth in May 1664. He was old enough to appear in an unstated capacity in October 1675, before the General Court of Assizes in New York City.<sup>6</sup> In 1677 he returned to England with Sir Edmond Andros, entered the English army and was sent with his regiment to Flanders, but nearly died there of illness and after two years came back to America. He then commenced his career as a lawyer, possibly

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4. The original grant of 1601 is now in the possession of Dr. Matthias Nicoll, Jr., of Rye, N. Y.

5. The sermon was printed as a pamphlet, a copy of which is at the Pennypacker Library, East Hampton, Long Island, N. Y.

6. From the Report of the State Historian, Colonial Series, v. 2, p. 388. All exact dates in this monograph have been checked from original sources.

ELIAHS  
FIERY CHARET

OR  
THE HOLY MANS TRY  
VMPH AFTER DEATH.

A Sermon preached at *Plymouth* the 19.  
of *August* 1631. at the funerall of the late  
*faithfull and worthy Minister of Iesus Christ*  
MATTHIAS NICOLS;

Bachelour in Divinitie, and late  
*Preacher to the Towne* of  
PLYMOUTH.

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By A. G.

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I SAM. 25. 1.

*And SAMVELL dyed, and all the Israelites were gathered to-  
gether, and lamented him, and buried him in his house at  
RAMAH.*



TITLE PAGE OF SERMON ON DEATH OF MATTHIAS NICOLS, 1631

*Courtesy of Morton Pennypacker*

under the able tutorship of his father. His first known case was as assistant in the Town of Hempstead's controversy over the title to Cow Neck. On May 25, 1682, the Town voted four attorneys (including Nicoll) 100 acres each at Cow Neck if successful; on Sept. 24, 1683 the Town appointed Capt. John Seaman of the Town of Hempstead and "Mr. William Nickols of New York" sole attorneys in this suit.

1683 was a pivotal year for the Colony and also for Nicoll. Dongan, the new governor, fostered the interests of both. It is understood that Nicoll claimed the authorship of the ably penned Bill of Rights of this year, but undoubtedly not without the help of Attorney General Rudyard, although he did so in or after 1691.\* In 1683 Nicoll was appointed Register of the Court of Admiralty (replaced on May 27, 1684), beginning a career in the public service that ended only with his death. In 1683 he was also appointed Clerk of Queens County, serving until succeeded by Andrew Gibb on June 20, 1688. He and another were chosen during this period by Gov. Dongan as "honest men" to farm the revenue of Long Island for a year. On April 11, 1687<sup>7</sup> Nicoll received his first important commission from Gov. Dongan as Attorney General of New York. The Council Minute of May 17, 1688 records that Attorney General William Nicoll was to receive pay for his services.

It was at this time that William Nicoll accumulated his real estate holdings in Suffolk County. On Nov. 29, 1683 Winnaquaheagh, Indian Sachem and Proprietor of Conettquut, deeded to "William Nicolls of the City of New Yorke, Gent.", the neck west of the river of that name (now more generally known as Great River), on which he and his descendants made their home for one hundred and ninety eight years. This deed was the basis of Gov. Dongan's patent of Dec. 5, 1684. Dongan issued other letters patent to him Nov. 1, 1686, corroborating the former and confirming his title to lands adjoining on the west as far as Wingatthappagh (also known as Champlin's or Vails Brook), and on June 4, 1688 another patent for the islands and marsh in the bay between the inlet or gut and the lands already his. These holdings were

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\* See article on the Laws of 1683 in the N. Y. Genealogical Record, v. 18, p. 61.

7. Omitted from the *Civil List of the Colony and State of New York*, but see Brodhead's *Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, v. 3, note p. 709, referring to *Licenses and Warrants V*. Lamb's *History of the City of New York*, v. 1, p. 374, calls Nicoll attorney general at the time of his arrest by Leisler, Jan. 20, 1689/90. The said *Civil List* gives Farewell as attorney general in 1687, then Milborn in 1690.

rounded out and doubled seven years later. Nicoll's attorney obtained from Gov. Fletcher on June 17, 1697 a license to purchase from the Indians the tract east of the Conetquot River to the river near Blue Point, extending north to the Country Road, embracing Lake Ronkonkoma and a strip of land in the center of the Island backing on his and Gibbs' patents to the head of Orowock Creek. On Sept. 14, 1697 Masaroken, Indian woman and chief proprietress, with other Indians, agreed to sell the greater part of the said tract east of this river to "William Nicoll, of the city of New York Esquire . . . as soon as he the said Nicoll should return from England". Presumably he landed this same week, as on Sept. 20, 1697, Gov. Fletcher issued to "Our Loveing Subject William Nicoll Esqe one of the members of Our Council for our province of New Yorke in America by his humble petition", a grant of the lands (as described in the license of 1697) to be held "in free and Common Soccage as of Our mannour of East Greenwich in our County of Kent", yielding therefor yearly at our city of New York, on the feast day of the Annunciation of our Blessed virgin Mary, the annual rent of six shillings.

On Oct. 23, 1695, before setting forth for England, "William Nicoll of New Yorke in America Gent:" made an indenture of trust to "Killian Van Renslaer of Renslaerwick in the County of Albany, Gent. and Andrew Gibb of Islip Grange County of Suffolk", entailing to himself and wife Anna for life and then successively to the male descendants of the three children they then had, various properties including "all that Messuage and tract of land and Meadow with the appurtenances called Islip Grange lying between the two Rivers called Conetquot and Winganhappague in the County of Suffolk now in the tenure and occupacon of the said Andrew Gibb". On Jan. 2, 1700/1 Governor Bellomont reported: ". . . I hear but of one (tenant) that Mr. Nichols has on his great grant on Nassau Island, and he a Scotchman condemned in Scotland to be hanged with Jameson . . . for blasphemy and burning the Bible." On Feb. 17, 1701, William Nicoll and "Andrew Gibb of Islip Grange in the County of Suffolk gentleman" drew up an agreement concerning their equal ownership and expense in a grist mill and a fulling mill that they had built on the Winganhappague River (evidently on Gibb's side), each being entitled to buy out the other for £200. On Feb. 18, 1702, William Nicoll of Islip Grange gave permission to certain Indians (previous owners of the property) to dwell on and improve the neck east of the river Conetquot (?) without molestation. On Aug. 22, 1701, the Assembly denied him his seat as a non-resident of Suffolk County, but he was returned for the same successfully on Oct. 20,

1702 and thereafter until death. The records of the Town of Hempstead show that on Feb. 20, May 20, and Sept. 29, 1705 "William Nicoll and Andrew Gibb of pleasant spring (s), Suffolk County", jointly executed deeds for lands there. Nicoll's grandson Watts wrote concerning him: "He . . . got a fine estate on the South side of Long Island, called by him Islip." Nicoll dated his 1718 letter to the Assembly from Islip, and called himself "of Islip" in his will of 1718/19.

These important documents, many unpublished, modify previous accounts of the early history of the property. They are contemporary evidence of the original name *Islip Grange* (undoubtedly so meant but spelled Grange) which seems to have been shortened soon to Islip, although this might have reference to the town.<sup>8</sup> They show that Nicoll strengthened his title to the property by improving it and placing Andrew Gibb thereon. Gibb, however, is not to be considered a mere tenant farmer. He was a gentleman and patentee in 1692 of the property adjoining on the west (site of the present village of Islip), to which he probably removed when Nicoll established himself at Islip Grange. These documents also narrow the date of Nicoll's removal here to the autumn of 1701, and lead to the belief that his residence here was *de facto* as well as *de jure*.

Previous to this, Nicoll's chief residence was evidently in New York City, although he undoubtedly lived also on his father's estate at Cow Neck in Queens County, of which county he was Clerk 1683-88. He was termed a resident of New York City in the Indian deed and the Hempstead Town record, both of 1683, and in his marriage record of 1688. His property was in the West Ward of the city, according to published tax lists of the end of the century, and he was a vestryman of Trinity Church here, 1698-1702.

Nicoll was a large landowner in addition to Islip Grange. The entail of 1695 shows that he had considerably enlarged his inheritance at Cow Neck and vicinity, and also owned Cranlow and Greenbush in the Manor of Rensselaerwyck, presumably by right of a marriage contract. It also mentions his ownership of the Island of Nomans land near "Martins Vinyard" recalling the fact that on Dec. 19, 1685 Gov. Dongan, Lord of the Manor of Martha's Vineyard (including Nomans land) had made Nicoll his Steward there. Another unpublished indenture of 1696 shows that Nicoll, while in England, had purchased property at Setauket in the

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8. Thompson states there was no regular Town meeting of Islip before 1700, Pelletreau that Islip was a Township from 1710; but there are no Town records previous to 1720.

Town of Brookhaven. The records of New York City state that he bought property in 1698 and 1699 and disposed of property in 1708 and 1714. Nicoll also acquired about 4,000 acres on Shelter Island from Giles Sylvester, Lord of the Manor: one fifth of the Island by purchase in 1695 and another fifth by bequest in 1708. His will of 1718/19 names numerous tenants on his Shelter Island farms. It also mentions the lands in Albany County that were his wife's, and infers the ownership of an indefinite amount of other property since he directed that the remainder of his lands in New York and New Jersey be sold.

In the Dutch Reformed Church of Albany on July 5, 1688, "Willem Nickols", young bachelor of New York City, was married to Anna Van Rensselaer, widow of her cousin Kiliaen, the patroon. In the same church two years previously, July 18, 1686, Kiliaen and Anna Van Rensselaer had been married. According to her brother's Bible, Anna had been born Aug. 1, 1665, Old Style, daughter of Jeremias Van Rensselaer and his wife Maria Van Cortlandt. A letter of 1665 by Jeremias to his father-in-law Oloff Stevense Van Cortlandt, reads:

"Dear Father, Salute! This will serve in the first place to inform you that my wife (your daughter) last Tuesday, being the 1st/11th August, at about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, gave birth to a fine young daughter, who was baptized yesterday and named for her grandmother Anna. She is quite a big baby as compared with the size of our Kiliaen. I had the grandmother present her for baptism and have chosen my brother Richardt as godfather. May the Lord God let her grow up in virtue . . ."<sup>9</sup>

The author of this letter was the handsome, industrious and brilliant member of the family who was for sixteen years Director of Rensselaerwyck, and was succeeded in the management thereof by his capable widow. The official patroon was their nephew Kiliaen, who came from Holland in 1685, but he was a weak young man completely under their domination, especially no doubt after his marriage to their daughter Anna. He died without issue at Water-vliet the night of Feb. 22, 1686/7, leaving as his executrix and heir his wife Anna, who soon married Nicoll.

Anna (Van Rensselaer) Nicoll's older brother Kiliaen, succeeded as the 5th Patroon and 1st Lord of the Manor of Rensselaerwyck. Her younger brother Hendrick was of Claverack and married Catharine Van Brugh, sister of the Mayor of Albany. Her

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9. *Correspondence of Jeremias Van Rensselaer* (pub.), p. 380.

sister Maria Van Rensselaer became the second wife of Peter Schuyler, first Mayor of Albany and brilliant Secretary of Indian Affairs. His sister was the wife of Robert Livingston, 1st Lord of his Manor, having previously married Rev. Nicolaus Van Rensselaer, uncle of Anna (Van Rensselaer) Nicoll. Her maternal uncles were Stephanus Van Cortlandt, 1st Lord of his Manor, and Jacobus Van Cortlandt, owner of the so-called lower manor, given him by his father-in-law Frederick Philipse, Lord of the Manor of Philipsborough and second husband of Anna's aunt, Catharine Van Cortlandt. Thus we get an idea of the family circle.

The Protestant Revolution of 1688 in England caused an uproar in New York due to the delay of over two years in receiving definite instructions from the new king. Popery plots and alarms abounded and Captain Jacob Leisler assumed command. Nicoll, as a lawyer, was naturally one of those opposed to this illegal (although probably necessary) government. A letter of his, expressing virulent criticism, was seized and opened; he was arrested at the Ferry house on Long Island and cast into the dungeon of the fort Jan. 20, 1689/90. Matters soon reached an impasse and Gov. Sloughter arrived March 19, 1691, just in time to prevent bloodshed. He immediately ordered the release of Bayard and Nicoll, who had been in prison for fourteen months. They were sworn in as members of the Council, having been appointed thereto by the English Court a year previous, Jan. 31, 1690. William Nicoll, George Farewell and James Emott were assigned as King's counsel to assist Attorney General Thomas Newton in the prosecution of Leisler, Milborne and their associates, and the former were sentenced to death for treason. The justness of the trial and the sentence (according to the laws of that time) were upheld by the king, although the matter was regretted and Parliament eventually reversed the attainder. The pro- and anti-Leislerites formed the political parties and there were bitter feuds in New York for some time.

Instructions of the English Court March 7, 1692 to the next Governor, Benjamin Fletcher, included among his Council: Bayard, Brooke, Nicolls and his relatives Stephen Van Cortlandt and Peter Schuyler. The Governor arrived Aug. 30th, and the Council the next day deputed one of their number, "Mr. Nicholl," and Attorney General Graham to lay the state of the Province before him. On Oct. 4, 1695 Fletcher, with the advice of his Council and Assembly, which the Leislerians maintained he had packed, appointed Brooke and Nicoll as Agents of the Province, with £1000 for expenses, to lay before the English government the serious condition on the border, due to the activity of the French and the

lack of assistance from the neighboring colonies. The first of their many Memorials, presented Aug. 20, 1696, states they were sent over the previous November, but that their ship had been taken by a privateer of St. Malo in January near the Isles of Scilly, that they destroyed the public papers when capture seemed inevitable, and that they were carried into France where they remained prisoners until the beginning of April. Other documents show that Nicoll was still in England Feb. 25, 1697 and had not returned by Sept. 14th, but presumably landed in New York by Sept. 20th after an absence of almost two years.

Instructions of the Court Aug. 31, 1697 to the succeeding Governor, the Earl of Bellomont, included among his Council: Bayard, Brooke, Nicolls and the same relatives of the latter. Bellomont considered Leisler's execution a judicial murder and had a strong antipathy to Fletcher, so the stage was set for the return to power of the Leislerian party.

Abuse of the licensing of privateers had become a scandal involving the English government and Bellomont immediately began an investigation. He termed William Nicoll the pirates' broker and a "Factor for Col. Fletcher in the business of protecting pirates", and reported concerning the Council meeting of May 8, 1698:

"As to Mr. William Nicoll they believed he ought to answer for this offence here where he committed it, they believing that he had not estate at home to support him, and that it would ruine him, to send him from his affairs here, and by marriage being related to several of them, I found (them) somewhat tender of him . . . But (I) was prevailed on to accept £2000 security for the appearance of Mr. William Nicoll when demanded to answer to what shall be objected against (him) on behalf of his Majesty, and suspended him from being one of the Council . . . this account of my removal of Mr. Nicoll from the Council, to which I must add that Mr. Nicoll is a man of good sence and knowledge in the law, but I am informed that he hath been a great instrument and contriver of many corrupt and unjust practises in the late administration . . ." <sup>10</sup>

The Lords Justices commended Bellomont for his zeal Nov. 10, 1698 and ordered the definite removal of Nicoll, Brooke, Pinhorn, Bayard and Philipse. However, the Lords of Trade, upon investigation, were satisfied that Fletcher had not aided known pirates,

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10. The quotations and dates in this section are from *Documents relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, ed. by J. R. Brodhead.

and the above charges against Nicoll were never prosecuted. Bellomont, nonetheless, continued to retail gossip to this effect in his reports:

“Capt. Whitehead is one of the members (of this Assembly) that serves from Queens County on Nassau Island; he keeps a public house at a town called Jamaica, and is a disciple of Nicholls’s. ’Tis at his house that Nichols had always a rendezvous with his pirates in Col. Fletcher’s time, and twice the last summer as I afterwards heard, and which was sworn to by John Williamson . . . Nicholls has so poyson’d the people of Queens County, who are all English, that two thirds of them are said to be downright Jacobits . . . ”

Bellomont also accused Nicoll of agreeing for £400 to use his influence as member of the Council toward the repeal of the Bolt-ing Monopoly, and to have actually received £100 upon the day of passage. Yet this act was passed in 1696 when Nicoll was in England as Agent of the Province!

Bellomont delivered an interesting diatribe against the Colony’s lawyers in his report of Dec. 15, 1698:

“Col. Smith one of the Council is Chief Justice of the Province, but is no sort of lawyer, having been bred a soldier. He is a man of sense and a gentleman but not a lawyer and lives four score mile off . . . As to the men that call themselves lawyers here and practise at the Bar, they are almost all under such a scandalous character, that it would grieve a man to see our noble English laws so miserably mangled and prophaned. I do not find that a man of ’em ever arrived at being an Attorney in England. So far from being Barristers, one of them was a Dancing Master, another a Glover by trade, a third which is Mr. Jamison was condemned to be hanged in Scotland for burning the Bible and for blasphemy, a fourth which is Mr. Nicholl<sup>11</sup> your Lordships have had his character formerly from me, and there are two or three more as bad as the rest, besides their ignorance in the law, they are all, except one or two, violent enemies to the Government.”

None of the other royal governors expressed complaint of Nicoll, but Bellomont wrote he “knew no merit” in him “nor virtues”. His official reports are so gossipy that we find the reason: “Mr. Nicholls . . . who is of all others the most inveterate enemy

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11. Evidently Bellomont could find nothing to say against Nicoll as a lawyer. One of his previous reports stated that Nicoll was “a man of good sense and knowledge in the law.”

I have here . . . ” In the midst of the complaints are illuminating phrases as to Nicoll’s influence and character:

“In this town also he encouraged a club of the dissatisfied merchants of the number of 28 or 30, where among others one constant health was, to him that durst be honest in the worst of time.”

“What an influence Nicholls has on these people (the merchants) when he can make them spend money to serve his ends and interest . . . ”

“Nicholls carries a great stroke with all that party . . . ”

“Col. Schuyler is brother-in-law of Mr. Nicholls, who is the most sensible man of the party, and the hottest, and if Nichols’s influence on Schuyler will push him to put the Indians out of concert with a Fort, Schuyler will not fail to do it, who is said to be govern’d by Nichols in everything. And after all, if the Indians be unwilling, ’twill be impossible to build a fort anywhere in their country.”

Bellomont had obtained an order from the English government, Nov. 10, 1698, to annul exorbitant, irregular and unconditional grants of land due to his report that:

“Col. Fletcher had so managed the Councill here by gratification of grants of lands, connivance at their unlawful trade etc., that on perusal of the councill books, I do not find that they would contradict him . . . ” (etc. re Nicoll and the Bolting act, and his serving as Fletcher’s factor with the pirates, as above) .

Since Bellomont did not annul Nicoll’s grants of land, he evidently found no excuse under which to seize them, although over two years later he reported:

“Mr. Nichols I am told has as extravagant grants as any, that his land reaches 30 miles in length on Nassau Island, which is the prime part of this Province. I know of no merit Mr. Nichols has, except his being broker between Coll. Fletcher and the pirates, and being disaffected to the government, and the chief incendiary and author of faction here, may pass for vertues; otherwise his grants ought to be looked into as soon as any of the rest.”

Bellomont on Jan. 19, 1699 issued writs for a new Assembly to meet March 2nd, and reported:

“There was the greatest struggle at the Elections that ever was known in the Province . . . Mr. Nichols, late of the Council and Jamison, Clerk of the Council under Col. Fletcher, were the greatest incendiaries, especially Nicholls, who rode day

and night about the country with indefatigable pains and all the flattering insinuations . . . ”

This was all to no avail, as Bellomont admitted controlling the election. Two years later Nicoll succeeded in being elected from Suffolk County, but a motion was carried in Assembly Aug. 22, 1701 that he was not qualified, it being well known that he was not a Resident of that county, and he was dismissed over his protest.

The winter after Bellomont's death, six hundred persons signed an Appeal to the King and an Address of Congratulation to Lord Cornbury, rumored to be the new Governor. The Council interpreted this as disowning the ad-interim government and imprisoned Alderman Hutchins and Bayard, leader of the opposing party. William Nicoll and James Emott were the lawyers for the defence, but a predetermined verdict of guilty was quickly pronounced with the sentence of death for treason, on the basis of supposed treasonable papers never even seen by the government, prosecutor or jury! Luckily the new governor arrived in time with an order for a hearing before the Queen in Council, who reversed the sentence "as if no such trial had been".

A fresh General Assembly was elected upon the order of the new Governor, Lord Cornbury, and returned Oct. 20, 1702, the first meeting being in the Town of Jamaica. William Nicoll Esq., one of the representatives from Suffolk County, was immediately chosen Speaker. From this time until his death he was regularly elected by Suffolk County, and was Speaker until his resignation.

Nicoll was active as Speaker in the Assembly's successful efforts to gain control of finance, to ensure against misapplication of the public funds by the Governor. In 1703 he urged the creation of the office of Treasurer of the Province, a point won two years later when the Queen permitted the Assembly to name its own treasurer for particular funds. In 1708 he was appointed chairman of a Committee of Grievances which drafted and sent to the Queen a strongly worded list of Resolutions, concerning the levying of moneys or fees or erecting a court of equity without consent in General Assembly, and concerning the burden on the colony of customs duties and excessive port charges, and the injustice of compelling a man on trial to pay fees for his prosecution.\* The last had direct reference to the suit of 1706 against two Presbyterian ministers from the south, McKemie and Hampton; they had been imprisoned by the Governor for preaching in Queens County without a license, but Nicoll, as attorney for the defence, had brought in judgment for their acquittal.<sup>12</sup>

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12. Lamb's *History of the City of New York*, v. 1, pp. 468, 473, 476-7.

Hunter, who was Governor from 1710 to 1720, had on his Council members of various parties and beliefs, including Nicoll's two brothers-in-law, Peter Schuyler and Kiliaen Van Rensselaer. He succeeded in cooling the heated political atmosphere of the province although in constant collision with the Assembly, which refused to grant a permanent revenue for the support of the government. Nicoll was among those who favored the growing feeling in the Assembly that there should be a restraint upon the Governor's prerogatives. In 1713, Hunter, by advice of his Council, established a Court of Chancery, and the Lords of Trade gave their unqualified approval of his right to do so, censuring the Assembly which had passed a Resolution that without consent in Assembly this was of dangerous consequences to the liberty and property of the subjects. Nicoll was correct in predicting that the logic of the Assembly would soon be upheld by the best minds in England.<sup>13</sup>

On May 21, 1718 the Assembly read Nicoll's letter from Islip, dated May 18th, tendering his resignation as Speaker because of ill-health, and on May 27th Robert Livingston was chosen his successor.

The Assembly, which adjourned Nov. 1, 1722, met again May 8, 1723, and heard the announcement by Mr. Hutchinson that William Nicoll Esq., one of the members for the County of Suffolk, was deceased, and on June 11, 1723 Capt. Epenetus Platt, duly elected, qualified in place of William Nicoll. He was presumably interred at Cow Neck, where he had reserved a half acre for a burial ground in his will, written at Islip March 17, 1718/19 and probated Aug. 27, 1723.

By his wife Anna Van Rensselaer, who is said to have died in 1715, William Nicoll had nine children including three who died in infancy. All received family names with the exception of Benjamin, who was conceivably named for Nicoll's patron, Gov. Fletcher, in whose administration he was born. Nicoll also had two children born out of wedlock by Mrs. Ruth Dwight, whom he provided for kindly in his will, stating "what tho it be but a small Reward for her Affectionate care Deligent & faithfull Services". This relationship was not clandestine, as in 1763 the Hon. John Watts, Nicoll's grandson, sent £500 credit in care of a merchant in London for John Nicoll, whom he termed "a namesake of mine and a sort of relation too over the left shoulder."<sup>14</sup>

The mantle of Nicoll's legal and political career fell upon his second surviving son William, who unceasingly defended the

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13. Lamb's *History of the City of New York*, v. 1, pp. 487 & 497.

14. *Letter Book of John Watts*, pub. by N. Y. Historical Society, p. 170.

rights and liberties of the colonists in the Assembly, of which he was a member for twenty nine years and its Speaker for nine. William Nicoll Esq. was first elected from Suffolk County to the General Assembly returnable March 27, 1739, qualifying for his seat April 13th. He was regularly reelected, his service terminating only with his sudden death Dec. 3, 1768, near Hempstead Plains, on his way to the city. The seat left vacant was ordered filled Dec. 7th. He had been one of the Commissioners appointed April 12, 1746 and Sept. 12, 1747, to meet and cooperate with the Commissioners of the other American Colonies for carrying on the War against the French, and to second the Indian interest and encourage the Six Nations. Numerous documents show that William Nicoll 2nd made his home on Shelter Island, where he had inherited Sachem's Neck from his father. He is thus happily described by his nephew, the Hon. John Watts:

“He was a man of singular integrity and of singular manners, rather shy and uncommunicative, but candid and sincere, judging always for himself, being bred up much alone and self taught. He always liberally admitted others to the utmost freedom of judgment, without the least emotion prejudice or impatience; was sober, considerate, regular, of a temper scarcely to be moved and abominated ostentation. He was but a youth of 18 when his brother died, and though totally inexperienced in the world and the family affairs beyond measures unsettled and in disorder, involved in perplexed law suits and contests, by his firmness good sense and unwearied application he had the happiness of bringing them all to a clear and just settlement, living the rest of his days in peace and quiet. He was never married or made a will. Of course, his estate devolved on his relations, as the law directs, of which I am one, being his nephew. He died in a few minutes, at or near Hempstead, Long Island, aged sixty six, on a journey, some time before I left America.”<sup>15</sup>

Benjamin Nicoll, second owner of “Islip Grange,” survived his father only about a year and may never have lived here as master, since William the Patentee left his home to Mrs. Dwight for a year after his death, and Benjamin is termed late of Southampton in his probate record, 1724. He was however of Islip in 1720, when he was elected Supervisor of the first Town Meeting there of which we have record, and his sons are believed to have been born there.

Benjamin's widow Charity is thus described in the autobiogra-

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15. John Watts' account in E. H. Nicoll's *Descendants of John Nicoll of Islip, England*, p. 26.

phy of her second husband Samuel Johnson, written by him 1768-70 in the third person:

“ . . . It was necessary for him (Johnson) to look out for one to be the partner of his life, who was a person of experienced and noted good economy, and such an one he happily found in the excellent person of Mrs. Charity Nicoll, a daughter of Col. Richard Floyd, and the relict of Benjamin Nicoll Esq<sup>r</sup>. of Long Island, to whom, being near 29, he was married Sept. 26, 1725, and by whom he had two hopeful sons . . . She had two sons by Mr. Nicoll, William and Benjamin, to whose education he applied himself with much care, and they proved to be very worthy gentlemen and her daughter Gloriana Margaretta a very valuable woman.” . . . . .

(In the summer of 1757 Dr. and Mrs. Johnson made a visit to Stratford and then returned to West Chester.) “His dear wife with whom he had lived happily above thirty two years, was seize with an illness that made her life very uncomfortable, going worse and worse in spite of all the physicians could do all winter, and after their return in March, she lingered along with much patience and submission, till the first of June 1758, when she died to the inexpressible grief of him and all her friends, and was interred under the Chancel of Trinity Church.”<sup>16</sup>

The writer was Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson D.D., first minister of the Episcopal Church of Stratford, Connecticut, and in 1754 the first President of Kings (now Columbia) College, New York City. His letters show that pleasant relations and intimacy continued through life between the Nicoll and Johnson families.

Johnson prepared the Nicoll boys for Yale, so it is pertinent to quote here the evaluation of Johnson written upon his death by Ezra Stiles, President of Yale College. Under date of Jan. 22, 1772 he entered in his diary:

“ . . . I knew him well and was intimately acquainted with him . . . He was an excellent classical Scholar, even a good Critic in Latin, Greek and Hebrew . . . a Man of general, but not of profound and solid or deep Erudition . . . He printed several Things . . . but his *Noetica* or Principles of human Knowledge an 8vo Volume was his most Considerable work. He was a very indifferent Writer, especially of Sermons. But a very considerable Reader all his Days. He was pleased with *polite Writings*, had some Taste for *History*, particularly of

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16. *Life and Letters of Samuel Johnson, President of Kings College*, by H. and C. Schneider, pub. 1929, v. 1, pp. 20 & 37.

the Classics, and for the periodical Productions of the day as they came forth. He loved to see what was going forward in the Learned World but was not himself very learned . . . In Conversation, very social, instructive, agreeable—much of the Gentleman.”

Rev. John Beach preached Johnson’s funeral sermon and stated therein:

“He was more respected and honoured by the Learned in our mother country, than any native of this Colony had ever been before.”

Legal education (both Nicoll boys became lawyers) was thus described in 1756 by William Smith of New York, later Chief Justice of Canada:

“The usual preparations are a college or university education and three years apprenticeship; or, without the former, seven years service under an attorney. In either of these cases the chief justice recommends the candidate to the Governor, who thereupon grants a license to practice under his hand and seal at arms. This being produced to the court, the usual state oaths and subscriptions are taken together with an oath for his upright demeanor, and he is then qualified to practice in every Court of the Province.”<sup>17</sup>

William Nicoll, the older son of Benjamin and Charity, inherited “Islip Grange,” as heir at law, but evidently did not make his home here until the middle of the century. The still existing panelling is a superb example of the 1750 period, so it was probably he who remodelled or rebuilt his grandfather’s home when he re-occupied the place as the third owner.

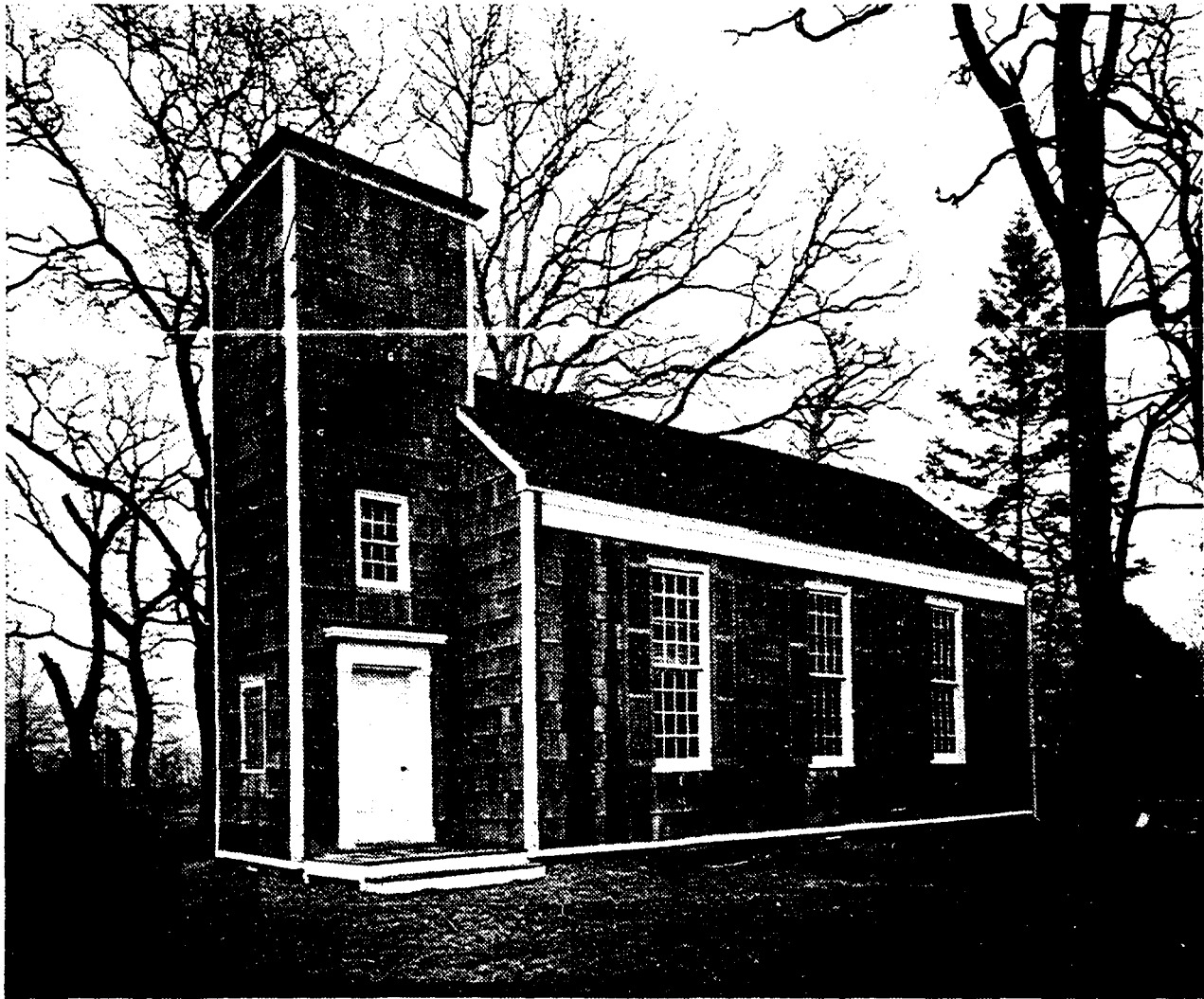
William, although born here, grew up in Stratford, Conn. graduated from Yale College in 1734, and studied law. His stepfather Johnson included him in a list of his Stratford household about 1741.<sup>18</sup> Shortly thereafter William removed to the Town of Brookhaven, Long Island,<sup>19</sup> as an absence of some time is implied in his letter to his stepfather dated there Oct. 14, 1742. We find William Nicoll Junr. (as he was then called to distinguish him from his

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17. The Supreme Court of New York in October 1797 prescribed just such a 7 years’ clerkship under an attorney, from which could be deducted any time actually spent in classical studies.

18. Undated, but after Dec. 25, 1740 since Maverick is also listed.

19. The Town of Brookhaven extended across the Island, including Mastic — home of the Floyds — on the south side, and on the north side Setauket — home of the De Honeurs and Strongs, and site of a minor property of William Nicoll the Patentee.



### ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

At Oakdale, Long Island, Built between 1765 and 1775.  
There is an old slave gallery along the side of the interior.

uncle) on the records of the Town of Brookhaven: laying out a land division there May 2, 1743, appointed April 18, 1748 to run the east line of the patent across the Island, acting as a Trustee of the Town on that date and again on Dec. 18, 1753. He was also on the Brookhaven Town Assessment list of 1749. So we may judge that he did not return to Islip until 1754-55, before the birth of his son on May 20, 1756.

William and Joanna De Honeur were married June 1, 1750, according to their grandson's record. She died in New York City on Dec. 3, 1772 in her 42nd year after a painful year's illness. Her long obituary<sup>20</sup> shows the love and admiration in which she was held and gives an interesting picture of the life of that day. Through her father, Samuel D'Honeur of Huntington and Brookhaven, the Nicolls acquired Huguenot and Dutch blood and were connected with the Beekman family of New York City.<sup>21</sup> Joanna's mother was Rachel Strong, daughter of Selah Strong of Setauket; she survived the rest of the family some years, and bequeathed her estate to her Nicoll granddaughters.

William Nicoll's interest in the Episcopal Church is evinced as early as 1747 by his contribution to the building fund for a church at Huntington, Long Island. There was no church of any denomination in the vicinity of Islip, so divine service was held for many years in the Nicoll home at "Islip Grange." St. John's Episcopal Church was organized here in 1765, and erected near the center of Nicoll's patent<sup>22</sup> "principally if not entirely by the then opulent proprietor of this large estate". It was the only church here until the mid-nineteenth century.

On July 22, 1769 (the year after the death of his uncle William of Shelter Island) William Nicoll entered into a tripartite indenture followed by a suit before the Supreme Court of the Province, for the common recovery. Thereby we find that his holdings at Islip and Shelter Island amounted to at least 50,000 acres, and that he had thereon fifty farms improved with buildings, dove-houses and gardens, as also four mills and four sawmills. Most of this must have been at Islip, since the Shelter Island property was limited to Sachem's Neck.

This William Nicoll, grandson of the first, was known as *Lawyer*

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20. See Appendix III, pp. 75-76.

21. See my article on the De Honeur family in *N. Y. Genealogical Record*, v. 63, p. 169.

22. The date of erection is variously given as 1766, 1769 and ten years before the Revolution. His wife's obituary of 1772 infers there was still no church building, so Nicoll may not have erected it until 1772-75. It was enlarged in 1843 and still stands in the old village of Islip, now called Oakdale.

William or *Clerk* William. He was commissioned Clerk of Suffolk County on Oct. 7, 1749, and held this position until he died, although his last entry on the records was Nov. 8, 1776 (during the next four years the administration of justice was suspended by the war). He and his cousin John Watts were, with Smith and Livingston, the Commissioners of 1774 to settle the boundary between New York and Massachusetts, and their decision was accepted by the Governors of the two Provinces. Nicoll was elected to the Colonial Assembly to fill the vacancy caused by the death of his uncle William, being returned from Suffolk County Feb. 14, 1769. He qualified at the opening day of the next session, April 4, 1769, and was immediately placed on the Committee of Privileges and Elections. He continued to be a most industrious member, serving on numerous committees, until the Colonial Assembly ended forever in 1775.

Its last session Jan. 10 to April 3, 1775, is replete with interest:

Jan. 29, 1775 Mr. Crane and Mr. Kinsey laid before the house the proceedings of the Continental Congress at Philadelphia last September, and the house unanimously approved of the said proceedings. They and three others (including Wm. Livingston) were then appointed to attend the Continental Congress to be held at Philadelphia in May next, "instructing the said delegates to propose and agree to every reasonable and constitutional measure for the accommodation of the unhappy difference at present subsisting between our mother country and the colonies, which the house most ardently wish for", and thanks were given to these five "for their faithful and judicious discharge of the trust reposed in them at the late Continental Congress."

Jan. 31, 1775 A Motion made by Col. P. Livingston "that a day may be appointed to take the state of this colony into consideration, to enter such resolutions as the house may agree to, on their journals, and in consequence of such resolutions, to prepare a humble, firm, dutiful and loyal petition to our most gracious Sovereign" was unanimously passed. And then a motion made by Mr. De Lancey "that a memorial to the Lords, and representation and remonstrance to the Commons of Great Britain may be prepared, together with the petition to his Majesty" was unanimously passed.

Jan. 31, 1775 Ordered that Mr. De Lancey, Col. Schuyler, and nine others including Mr. Nicoll, be a committee to prepare a state of the grievances of this colony and report same.

Feb. 17, 1775 A Motion was made by Col. Woodhull that the

thanks of this house be given to eight men (including Philip Livingston, Jay, Duane and Floyd, not those of Jan. 29th above) "for their faithful and judicious discharge of the trust reposed in them by the good people of this colony, at the continental congress held at Philadelphia in the months of September and October last". The Vote was 15 for the Negative (including Nicoll, Philipse and De Lancey), and 9 for the Affirmative (including Woodhull, Schuyler and P. Livingston).

Feb. 21, 1775 Col. P. Livingston moved "that the thanks of this house be given to the merchants and inhabitants of this city and colony, for their repeated, disinterested, public spirited and patriotic conduct, in declining the importation, or receiving of goods from Great Britain, and for their firm adherence to the association entered into and recommended by the Grand Continental Congress held at Philadelphia, in the months of September and October last". The Vote was 15 for the Negative (including Nicoll, Philipse and De Lancey), and 9 for the Affirmative (including Van Cortlandt, Schuyler, Woodhull and P. Livingston).

Feb. 23, 1775 A Motion by Mr. Thomas "that the sense of this house be taken, on the necessity of appointing delegates for this colony, to meet the delegates for the other colonies on the Continent, in General congress" on May 10th next. The Vote was 17 for the Negative (including Nicoll, Philipse and De Lancey), and 9 for the Affirmative (including Woodhull, Schuyler and P. Livingston).

March 3, 1775 Report, before the house as committee of the whole house, of the Committee appointed to prepare a state of the grievances of this colony: The opinion of the committee "that the act of 6th George 3rd chap. 12, entitled an act for the better securing the dependence of his Majesty's dominions in America upon the Crown and Parliament of Great Britain; declaring the right of Parliament to bind the colonies in all cases whatsoever; is a grievance."

A Motion then made by Col. Schuyler "that the act of 4th George 3rd chap. 15 so far as it imposes duties for the purpose of raising a revenue in America, extends the Admiralty courts beyond their ancient limits, deprives his Majesty's American subjects of trial by jury, authorizes the judges' certificates to indemnify the prosecutor from damages that he might otherwise be liable to, and holds up an injurious discrimination between the subjects in Great Britain and those

in America; is a grievance". The Vote of the house in Committee of the whole was 7 for the Affirmative (including Schuyler, Clinton and Nicoll) and 2 for the Negative (including De Lancey).

However, Mr. De Lancey's Motion was then voted by the house in committee 8 for the Affirmative (including De Lancey and Nicoll) and 2 for the Negative (including Schuyler and Clinton) that "his Majesty, and the Parliament of Great Britain, have a right to regulate the trade of the colonies, and to lay duties on articles that are imported directly into the colonies from any foreign country or plantation which may interfere with the products or manufactures of Great Britain, or any other part of his Majesty's dominions."

Col. Schuyler then made a motion "in addition to the preceding resolution to wit 'excluding every idea of taxation, internal or external, for the purpose of raising a revenue on the subjects in America; without their consent'." This was carried in the negative, 7 votes (including De Lancey and Nicoll), with 3 for the Affirmative (including Schuyler and Clinton).<sup>23</sup>

Many other laws of George 3rd were resolved to be grievances, Nicoll voting in the affirmative each time.

The act of 14th George 3rd entitled "an act to discontinue in such manner and for such time as are therein mentioned, the landing and discharging, lading or shipping of goods, wares or merchandize, at the town and within the harbor of Boston, in the province of Massachusetts Bay in North America" was voted by the house in committee to be a grievance affecting this Colony. The Vote was 6 for the Affirmative (including Nicoll, Schuyler and Clinton), and 4 for the Negative (including De Lancey).

The act of 14th George 3rd chap. 45 entitled "an act for the better regulating the government of the province of Massachusetts Bay in New England" was resolved to be a grievance. The vote of the house in committee was carried in the affirmative, 6 votes (including Schuyler, Clinton and Nicoll), with 4 for the Negative (including De Lancey). Mr. Nicoll, Mr.

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23. This controversial addition was passed in the affirmative (14 to 11, with Nicoll continuing to vote against it) when the resolutions were considered by the house at the end of the day; but was voted down (14 to 13, with Nicoll still against it) by the house on its final consideration of the resolutions March 8th.

Kissam and Mr. Gale “conceive that the aforesaid act, so far as the same may form a precedent for altering or taking away charter rights granted to the subject in America, contrary to the ordinary course of law, is a grievance.”

March 3, 1775 The Speaker then took the chair and the report in the committee was read, and the 15 resolutions therein were again debated and voted on separately. The only change made was the passing of Col. Schuyler’s abovesaid motion. “Resolved therefore, That this house doth agree with the committee in their said report and resolutions.” The Vote was 15 for the Affirmative (including Nicoll), and 10 for the Negative.

March 8, 1775 Bill, presented by Mr. Nicoll, concerning the payment of debts of Suffolk County, was passed by the Assembly.

March 8, 1775 The house resolved itself into a committee of the whole house to consider Mr. Kissam’s report of the committee appointed to prepare a set of resolutions pursuant to Col. P. Livingston’s motion of Jan. 31. Certain amendments were made, and the house then considered the amended resolutions, voting down only Col. Woodhull’s motion (similar to Col. Schuyler’s of March 3rd abovesaid). The 5 resolutions were: “that the people of this colony owe the same faith and allegiance to his most gracious Majesty King George the third that are due to him from his subjects in Great Britain”; that they “owe obedience to all acts of parliament calculated for the general weal of the whole empire, and the due regulation of the trade and commerce thereof, and not inconsistent with the essential rights and liberties of Englishmen, to which they are equally entitled with their fellow subjects in Great Britain”; “that it is essential to freedom, and the undoubted right of Englishmen, that no taxes be imposed on them but with their consent, given personally or by their representatives in general assembly”; “that the acts of parliament raising a revenue in America, especially to provide for the support of a civil government and administration of justice in the colonies, extending the jurisdiction of courts of admiralty beyond their ancient limits authorizing . . . (certain) judges’ certificate . . ., and by that measure depriving the American subject of his trial by a jury, . . . are subversive of the rights and liberties of the colonists”; “that a trial by a jury of the vicinage in all capital cases, is the grand security of freedom, and the birthright of Englishmen; and therefore,

that the seizing of any person . . . residing in this colony . . . and sending out of the same to be tried, is dangerous to the lives and liberties of his Majesty's American subjects".

The Vote of the house on these 5 resolutions was 14 for the Affirmative (including De Lancey, Nicoll and Philipse), and 12 for the Negative (including Livingston, Clinton, Schuyler and Van Cortlandt), and it was thereupon Resolved "that this house doth agree with the committee in their said report, and resolutions."

March 9, 1775 That Mr. Nicoll, Mr. Van Kleeck and Mr. Wilkins "be a committee to prepare and lay before the house . . . the draft of a humble, firm, dutiful and loyal petition, to be presented to our most gracious Sovereign, pursuant to Col. P. Livingston's motion" of Jan. 31, and others to prepare a memorial to the Lords, and remonstrance to the Common, pursuant to Mr. De Lancey's motion of that date.

March 24, 1775 Consideration of the draft of a petition to the King, and memorial to the Lords.

March 25, 1775 Both passed with amendments of the previous day, and also the remonstrance to the Commons. Nicoll was active in voting, either way, on the various amendments.

March 31, 1775 That nine members including Col. Schuyler, Mr. Clinton, Mr. Nicoll, Col. Philipse and Mr. De Lancey "be a committee to consider of, and state the most probable means of relieving this colony from the heavy debt it labors under, without laying a general tax."

April 3, 1775 The Assembly adjourned to May 3rd, but never met again.

Thomas Jones, Judge of the Supreme Court of the Province, in his *History of New York during the Revolutionary War*, from the Loyalist point of view, stated:

"In February 1775, a motion was made in the General Assembly of New York by Philip Schuyler, Esq., one of the members from Albany, to adopt and approve the proceedings of the late Congress (of Sept. 1774 at Philadelphia; the Loyalists attending in hope of redress of grievances being voted. Instead they adopted the Mass. resolves which practically declared war against Great Britain). This motion occasioned violent debates . . . (Among) those who opposed and voted against the Acts of Congress were James De Lancey, one of the members from New York City, William Nicoll for Suffolk County, and Frederick Philipse for Westchester County . . . everyone of whom, Cruger, Nicoll, Walton, Gale

and Van Kleek excepted, were, by an act of the rebel Assembly, passed in October 1779, attainted of high treason, . . . and their estates confiscated to the use of the State of New York."

Jones also includes William Nicoll, Esq. on a list of loyalists plundered, or imprisoned, etc.

Samuel Benjamin Nicoll of Shelter Island and New York City wrote concerning *Clerk* William Nicoll in 1845 to the historian, Thompson:

"As a lawyer he (William Nicoll) was well read and sound, as a legislator active and industrious, laboring to protect and advance the interests of the Colony and his immediate constituents. He occupied an elevated situation in the times in which he lived . . . He was a member of the last Colonial Assembly and attended the sittings. He was a decided friend and advocate of the Rights of the Colony but at the time when the Crisis arrived to act in open and acceded hostility to the Mother Country he was enervated by a paralysis that rendered him unfit and unable to take an active part in the scenes of the Revolution. He was well known to have openly and boldly expressed his opinion that the Colonies must and would be independent and had he been in the enjoyment of health no reasonable doubt can exist but he would have been a firm friend to the course adopted by the Colonies . . . After a few years of feeble old age Mr. Nicoll died at Islip, March 1, 1780, aged 64 years."<sup>24</sup>

This might be wishful patriotic thinking on the part of a grandson, but is detailed enough to ring true. *Clerk* William can probably be considered among the many liberals in New York who conscientiously tried to prevent the break with England, but after it was a *fait accompli* espoused the American cause. It would explain why his lands were not confiscated, as were those of his active Loyalist relatives such as Hon. John Watts. Both William and his son William Junr. signed the articles of Association at Islip, May 13, 1775. To a certain extent, however, he must have "straddled the fence": the opinion of his contemporary, Jones, has already been quoted, and the raids on his property and his death are only recorded in the Loyalist newspapers. *Gaine's N. Y. Gazette or Weekly Mercury* announced:

"Moses Sawyer, who formerly lived at Shelter-island, came over from the Main, a few Days since, and robbed the Farm of William Nicoll Esq; at said Island of 110 Bushels of

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24. Manuscript on file at the Pennypacker Library, East Hampton, N. Y.

Wheat, and carried off Grain belonging to Thomas Dearing  
of Suffolk County

from the issue of March 9, 1778.

“Last Saturday Night a Party of armed Men entered the House of William Nicoll, Esq; of Islip, on Long Island, and robbed the same of a Sum of Money, some Arms, a Quantity of cloathing, etc. They appeared from their Conduct to be very well acquainted in the Family, as they knew where to find every Thing they wanted”

from the issue of Monday, June 22, 1778.

“A Party of Rebels from Connecticut came to the House of Mr. Samuel Henold, of Hempstead Harbour Last Tuesday Night, and robbed his Shop of Goods to the Amount of about 60 £ and then took to their Whale-boats, and rowed across the Sound. The Week before, another Party of the same Kind robbed the House of William Nicoll, Esq., of Islip, of sundry Sorts of goods to the Amount of many Hundreds”

from the issue of May 31, 1779.

“On Sunday Evening the 6th instant, a Party of Rebels and Plunderers entered the House of William Nicholl, junior, of Islip, South Side of Long-Island, and stripped it of all the Furniture and Cloathing, that were valuable; after which they proceeded to the Houses of Obadiah and John Green, and robbed them of about 140 £ Value. These Villains are commissioned by Governor Trumbull, of Connecticut, to take every Thing below High-Water Mark. There being no Vessels at present in the South-Bay, rather than return without Booty, they have robbed old Mr. Nicoll’s Family several Times to a considerable Amount”

from the issue of June 14, 1779.

No gravestone marks Nicoll’s resting place. He and his son and grandson who succeeded him were doubtless interred with their wives at “Islip Grange”, in the “Burying Ground of the Nicoll Family” reserved in the bond of July 1, 1849 for the property sale consummated Oct. 25, 1850. Mrs. Guion Thompson, granddaughter of the William Nicoll who was the seventh and last owner of the property, writes me:

“According to a family legend, one of the early Nicolls, perhaps the first one, wished to be buried on the spot to which, as an old man, he walked each day. He was buried there and others after him until the last interment there which was that of Deborah Seaman Nicoll, mother of William Nicoll 6th

(Major Nicoll) whose grave you found at Oakdale. It seems that this burial spot was swampy and when his mother was buried there, my great grandfather said it was dreadful and no one should ever be buried there again. This is corroborated by the fact that he was the first Nicoll interred at St. John's, Oakdale."

This legend must refer to *Clerk* William, the only owner (until the last one) to live to old age other than the Patentee, who was evidently buried at Cow Neck.

William Nicoll of Islip, in his will dated Aug. 19, 1778 and probated March 15, 1780, bequeathed his lands at Islip ("The estate at Islip I declare to include all lands north, west and south of the River Namke, that runs by Blue Point, as described in the Patents to my honored grandfather William Nicoll dec'd, except as herein given to my three daughters") to son William for life and then in trust and strict entail to his descendants, and bequeathed his lands at West Neck and Sachems Neck on Shelter Island to son Samuel Benjamin for life and then in trust and strict entail to his descendants. All negroes<sup>25</sup> and livestock at Islip were to go to William, and those at Shelter Island to Samuel Benjamin, who was also to receive an annuity of £100 for 12 years and the testator's library. William Nicoll bequeathed to his three daughters (named) £42 each yearly for 10 years, one of his rights to land at West Neck, Shelter Island, and all the neck adjoining Blue Point in Islip,<sup>26</sup> and his deceased wife's lands in Brookhaven according to her design (or £200 from son William's share if he does not give them a deed to same), and one third of 14,000 acres in the Town of Whippleborough bought with their grandmother D'Honneur's money, also all household furniture, plate, etc. on the Neck where I live and 9 negro slaves. There were legacies of £100 each to the three Nicoll nephews.<sup>27</sup> William also provided that my honored mother-in-law Rachel D'Honneur and my daughter Joanna Rachel, while unmarried, shall have the use of half my dwelling house, use of 2 horses and 3 cows well kept the year round.

This will gives the picture of a wealthy landowner, whose wants were tended by many slaves, and whose love and care ex-

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25. The 1776 Census shows 15 negroes owned by William at Islip, and 10 at Shelter Island. The 1790 Census shows 4 slaves owned by William (Junn.) at Islip; 2 free persons (presumably servants) and 6 slaves in the household of Samuel Benjamin at Shelter Island.

26. The present Bayport.

27. Dr. Johnson's letters show that William had attended to the education of his orphaned nephews, children of his brother Benjamin.

tended to all his family; it indicates the background of his career. All was destined to change only too soon.

William Nicoll Junr., the fourth owner of "Islip Grange," married Frances Smith, daughter of Col. Henry Smith of the Manor of St. George on the north side of Long Island. This William was born at Islip on May 20, 1756 according to his nephew's account and died there April 22, 1795 aged only 39 years. He lived during the trying period of the Revolution and post-war inflation, so possibly could not hinder the dissipation of the estate, but one gets the impression that he may have been weak or thriftless. His father lamented in an unpublished letter of Jan. 1, 1773 that the foundation of his child's education had been ruined when he was about 15 years of age by intrigue from a supposedly friendly source; however in 1778 he made him an executor. William Junr. signed the Association at Islip on May 13, 1775, and we know from the above newspaper extract that he had a house of his own there in 1779, possibly built by him. It is surprising that so young a man did not take part in the stirring activities of the time; there is no family tradition that he served in the Revolution.<sup>28</sup> Some years later he was a Captain of the Suffolk County militia, 1792-1795.

William Nicoll drew his will as of Islip on Dec. 17, 1781, the year following his father's death, stating that the legacies in the will of his father William were to be paid, ordering his personalty to be sold and the proceeds invested for the benefit of his son Henry when 21, but to go to the testator's widow should son Henry inherit from his brother William the entailed property from the will of his grandfather. How should this will be interpreted — that the elder son William was ill and expected to die, or that the entail was already in question?

After the Revolution, William Nicoll of Islip petitioned the state legislature for legal relief because, conceiving himself to be possessed of an entailed estate he had been induced to contract debts to a large amount, but that doubts as to whether the estate he held under his father's will was an estate only for life rendered it impracticable to sell any part of the lands to discharge his debts or the executions issued against him. The legislature

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28. There was a William Nicoll, private in Capt. Isaiah Veail's Company of New York militia stationed at Fort Montgomery under the command of Col. Jonathan Hasbrouck, according to an undated payroll showing William Nicoll's service as July 21 to July 28, year not given. There was also a Capt. Nicoll, with Christian name not given, on the Return of a detachment of Col. Woodhull's Regiment New York, for provisions, July 19, 1776: — records of the Office of the Adjutant General, Washington, D. C.

passed an Act for his Relief on May 3, 1786, appointing trustees to receive a release of his interest, and to sell in fee as much of the land as should discharge his debts, not exceeding £4000, and to lease the remainder to pay the annuities in the father's will and then for the maintenance and education of the petitioner's eldest son, and any residue to be paid to the said William during his life. In accordance with this Act, William Nicoll conveyed his inherited lands Nov. 16, 1786 to said Trustees, who made numerous sales, generally in lots of 960 acres each.

Two important suits were decided against the Nicoll estate, one in 1805 by which many of the islands in the Great South Bay were successfully claimed by the Town of Huntington,<sup>29</sup> and the other in 1836 which determined that the Country Road, given in the Nicoll patents as the northern boundary of the holding, was a road south of Lake Ronkonkoma leading to Conklin's Tavern (near the present Commack), and not the Middle Country Road to the north as claimed by the Trustees, although the middle of the Island meant half way between the bay (rather than the ocean) and the sound.<sup>30</sup> By 1849 it was estimated that the Nicoll property had dwindled to 40,000 acres.

The entail lasted until 1820 when William Nicoll 6th came of age. This was in accord with the will of *Clerk* William, 1778, in which he stated it was his intent that it should not be in the power of any of his descendants before his great grandchildren to cut the entail. No doubt he thought he was tying up the property for at least a century. However, son, grandson and great grandson, all named William, died in youth. The great grandson William was a posthumous child, born Oct. 26, 1799. A few days after his twenty first birthday, he gave a release to his guardians, Nov. 2, 1820. He also gave quitclaim deeds to those in possession through purchase from the Trustees of the Nicoll estate, as the legality of the 1786 Act of the Legislature had been questioned. He died at Islip of typhus fever, Nov. 20, 1823, aged only 24 years, greatly beloved for his charity and good will.

The Nicoll estate was partitioned in the mid-nineteenth century between the two children of this William Nicoll, the Conetquot (or Great) River forming the line of division. The old village of Islip now called Oakdale, St. John's Episcopal Church, "Idle Hours" the estate of the late William K. Vander-

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29. See Thompson's *History of Long Island*, 1918 ed., v. 2, p. 350.

30. See Pelletreau's *History of Long Island*, pub. 1903, v. 2, pp. 238-42. Excellent diagrams, opposite pages 238 & 243, show the extent of the Nicoll patents, with sales by the Trustees, and the roads in this region as brought out by the 1836 suit.



WILLIAM NICOLL, (Aged 9)

Seventh and last owner of the Islip Estate.

*Painted in 1829 by William S. Mount. Courtesy of Mrs. Phoebe Nicoll Ashley,  
of Lansdowne, Pa.*

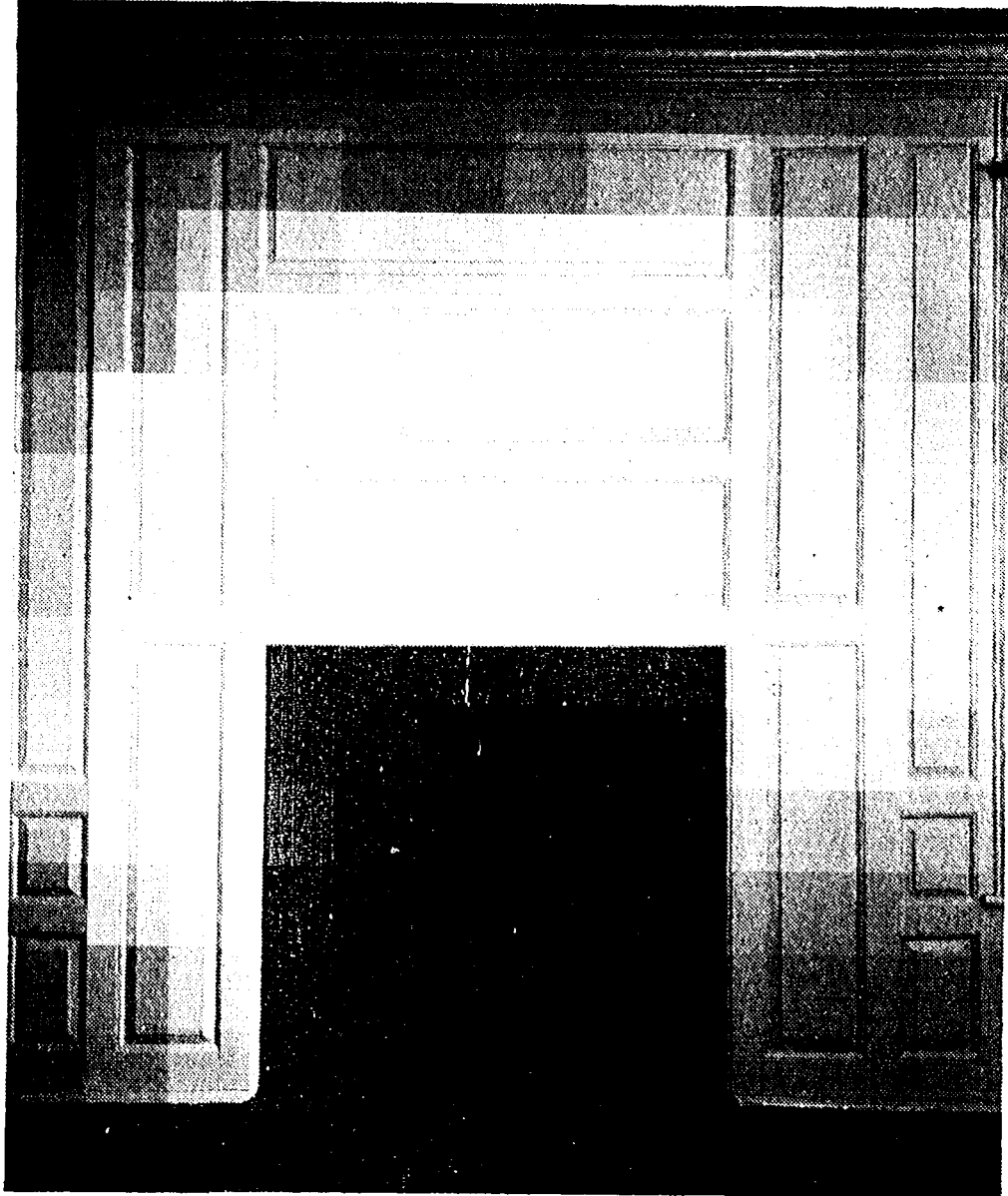
bilt, and the La Salle Military Academy, are on the portion east of the river that was inherited by the daughter Frances Louisa Nicoll, wife of General William H. Ludlow. The Atlas of 1873 shows their residence near the old church and Ludlow's Landing at the point. The portion west of the Conetquot River, including Nicols Neck and the old home, was the share of the son William.

This William Nicoll was the seventh and last owner of the property, and occupied the old home here until the autumn previous to his death at Babylon, on March 11, 1900. A charming portrait of him as a boy of nine years, painted by William S. Mount in 1829, is reproduced in this monograph. His neighbor, Mr. Hollins, writes me: "He was a very kindly, fine old gentleman, but I think, confined his activities particularly to local affairs, such as the school board and his farming. He had a schoolhouse on his property, which burned down in the 1880s and, subsequently, I believe, donated part of the land on which the present East Islip Public School stands." He graduated from Columbia College, A.B. 1840, and was educated for the law but never practised. He was appointed School Commissioner for the 2nd District of Suffolk County in November 1859, served many years. He was vestryman and warden 1868 of St. Mark's Church, Islip, to which he gave land in 1862. He also gave land to Emmanuel Church in the village of Great River, and was warden there for twenty two years. He lies buried in the cemetery close to this church, his death bringing to a close an occupancy of the Nicoll Patent by the Nicoll family for one hundred and ninety eight years.

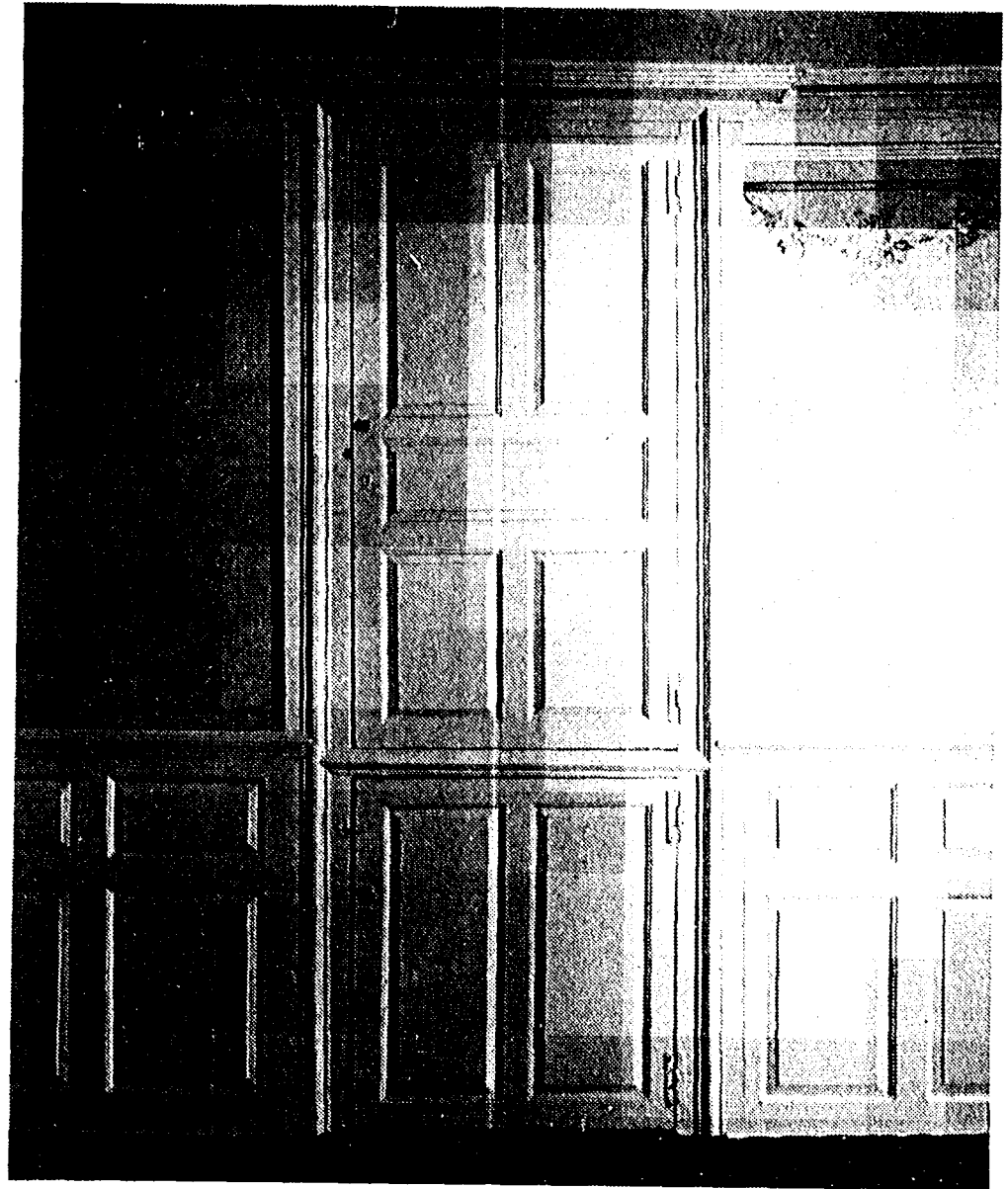
There remains considerable uncertainty concerning the dwelling houses on the Nicoll Patent, despite research on my part and that of Mrs. Guion Thompson. There were at least two main residences — apart from numerous farm buildings.

Nothing definite is known concerning the home of William Nicoll, the Patentee, who resided here from 1701 until his death 1722-23. Pelletreau states that his mansion was on the Great South Bay; Bayles, that he fixed his residence in 1701 at Great Neck, Islip, on what was in 1874 known as the Deer Range Farm. These statements suggest the same site, if not the same house, as that owned by the grandson *Clerk* William during the Revolution. Certainly according to present topography, the desirability of that site is obvious as it is the only rise in the land (even though very slight) near the shore line, and is in full view of the bay and beach. Nearby are springs and a pond for ice.

It is very probable that the Patentee's house fell into ruin, as the place was vacant (unless occupied by a tenant) for thirty years after his death. Did *Clerk* William, who returned to Islip



PANELING FROM NICOLL HOUSE  
SOUTHWEST ROOM GROUND FLOOR.



PANELING FROM NICOLL HOUSE, GROUND FLOOR  
(Cupboards from East Room, Wainscoting from Hall)

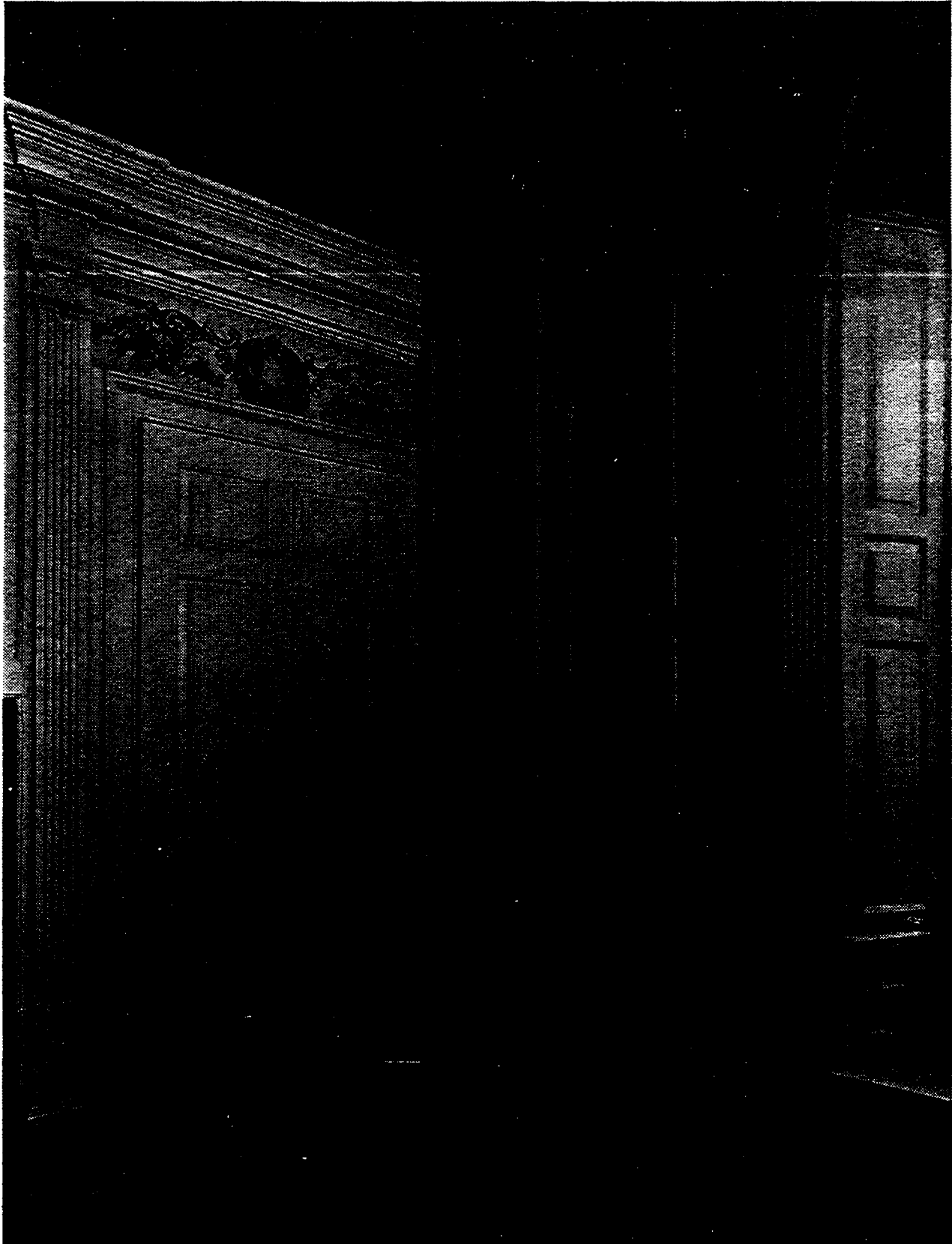
1754-55, redecorate his grandfather's house or build a new one? Did William Junr. receive one of the minor houses on the property as a young man about 1779, or did he build his own? Did William Nicoll 6th build the recent house 1820-23 or inherit it?

Both *Clerk* William and his son William Junr. had homes at Islip according to the 1779 newspaper notice. These accounts of plundering by Connecticut men infer that both houses were accessible from the shore.

Accumulation of various items locates the home of *Clerk* William (during the Revolution and presumably since 1754-55) :— the accessibility from the water, the legend of the nearby family burying ground within an old man's walking distance from his home, the distance between house and burying ground mentioned in an old family diary, the location of the road used by him to travel to New York, and the unearthing of silver candle snuffers, etc. when the cellar of the Plumb house was dug about 1874, this silver evidently being marked since it was turned over to the William Nicoll then living.

The present Hecksher State Park is on the large neck (called variously Nicoll's Neck or Point and Great Neck) and includes much of the bay frontage in Nicoll's first patent, 1684. Less than half a mile from the beach by the parkway drive are the few remaining clues to *Clerk* William Nicoll's residence. Here a remnant of the Nicoll Road (still so called) starts northward, passing in one tenth of a mile a path by the old unmarked grave mounds. Planting and lay of the land show that the Nicoll Road formerly crossed the parkway drive on its own way to the water, and that southwest of the intersection was a tree-lined driveway to a residence. This was the house built about 1874 by James Neal Plumb evidently on the very site of the old Nicoll house. Lack of definite knowledge concerning the latter suggests it had disappeared many years previous, by fire according to various descendants; the late Matthias Nicoll of Shelter Island, born 1840, inferred that it had burned before his time.

The recent Nicoll dwelling stood on the extreme western end of the 1684 Patent, just east of the head of Nicoll Creek (formerly called the Cantasquantah River), in the East Islip section. This was the dwelling of William Nicoll 7th until 1899, sold by his executors together with 1100 acres in 1906. Two of the old farm buildings, with handhewn beams, still stand on the back portion of the estate of Mrs. Harry B. Hollins Jr., the present owner, but she tore down the Nicoll dwelling about 1910. Some of its excellent panelling was incorporated in a nearby house built by Miss Frances Livingston on Bay View Avenue, East Islip,



PANELING FROM NICOLL HOUSE  
SOUTHEAST ROOM GROUND FLOOR.

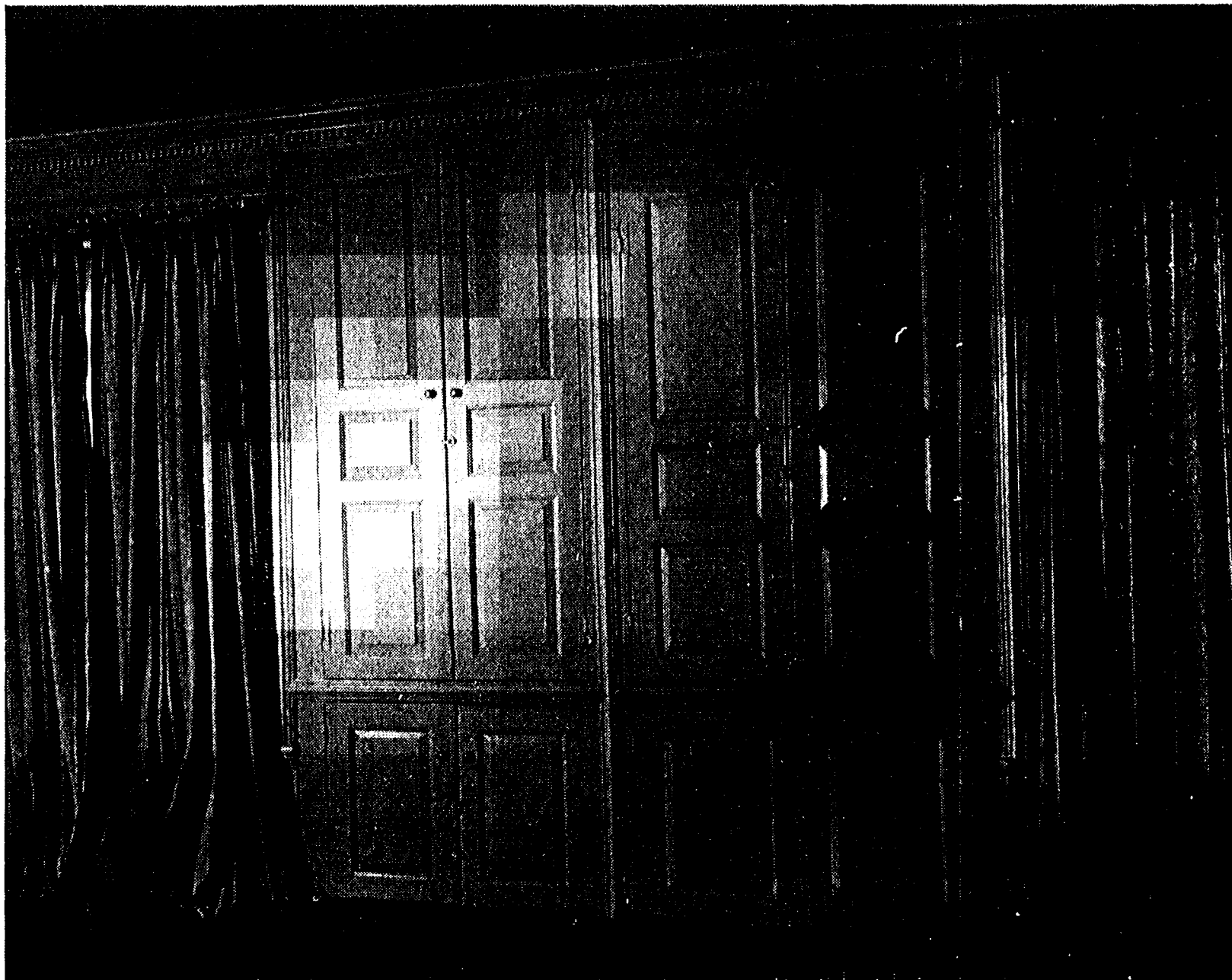
now (1940) owned by Joseph Magliocco.

The creek on which stood the dwelling is long and winding, and not practical for boats except at high tide. Any other approach to the house from the shore would have been across miles of salt marsh. The site was undoubtedly chosen for the protection thus afforded.

A water color sketch of the recent Nicoll dwelling as it appeared about 1850 shows a square cupola and third floor gables, typical of Victorian improvements, but also the squat "lie on your stomach" windows in the attic of the west wing and the long, narrow sidelights flanking the front door, both typical of the half century following the Revolution. The floor plan shows an unusually wide hall and corner fireplaces in all but the wing and original kitchen. These had large stone fireplaces with narrow stairs curving up behind.

Mrs. Guion Thompson, granddaughter of the last William Nicoll, writes of the house as she remembered it:

"My theory is that the main part, as sketched, together with the extension marked Grandfather's office, was all built at one time, later the west wing (which was more Victorian in style) was added, the large veranda and the two big dormers on the third floor. All this is guess work but Grandfather's office I believe was the original kitchen. It had a big stone fireplace, and the large closet off it, was pantry, the room unmarked was never used at all in my day and I believe that there was a doorway into it from the small hall or passage and that it was originally the dining room. I am quite certain the big room (i.e. the west wing) marked Great-Grandmother's room was built on about 1843 when Grandfather married. The two vile small-windowed rooms above were always used for the children and were typical of that era. There were two bedrooms on the third floor, one in each large dormer and between them a tiny winding stairway led to the cupola. As far as I can remember there was no plaster used in the walls of the first floor and the three bed rooms of the second floor. All was paneling. There were deep recessed windows with window seats beneath in dining room and parlor, built-in cupboards and book cases with wooden paneled doors . . . I believe the main part of the house was built between 1810 and 1820. My guess is that it was built for or by William Nicoll 6th at or around the time of his marriage to Sarah Greenly. He died at the age of 24 and when his son William married in 1843, the wing was added, as when I was a child the large room in this wing was used by my great Grand-



PANELING FROM NICOLL HOUSE  
SOUTHWEST ROOM GROUND FLOOR.

mother and I believe she turned over the main part of the house to the son and his wife. Another reason I think the house I knew was not older than the date I have given is that all the furniture was of the Empire period . . . I think you will agree with me that its architecture dates it, and that it does not belong to a period earlier than 1800."

The panelling from the recent Nicoll dwelling is a superb example of the period about 1750, according to Miss Frances Livingston's architect and other architects. I think we would be misled to infer therefrom that the recent Nicoll house was built by *Clerk* William when he settled at Islip 1754-55. That house is not so old, and it is probable that he always lived near the shore and the road that bears his name. Possibly the panelling was transferred from his home after his death, 1780.

Testimony in the suit of 1836, elsewhere referred to, is interesting in the information it throws on the roads of the period:—Richard Udall, one of the witnesses, stated he was born 80 years ago in Islip, where he now lived on the present South Country Road 6 miles west of the Winganhappagh brook. When he first remembered it, this road was only passable as far east as the brook where there was a swamp. Before the people of Islip made this road passable, there was a road called Nicoll's old road, leading from Nicoll's house North to the Conklin road, which *Lawyer* Nicoll used to travel to New York. His father told him the Conklin road was called the Old Country Road and the King's highway. The testimony of various witnesses concurred that the Old Country Road ran about 3 miles back of Patchogue across the Conetquot River to Conklin's tavern.

The early maps of New York State are illuminating. De Witt's Map of 1804 marks the neck (east of the Conetquot River) as *Nicols*. Calvin Smith's 1844 Map of Long Island called it *Nichols Point*, shows *Islip* east of the Conetquot River, and also *Islip P.O.* (the present town of that name) far to the west on *Smith's Neck* between Champlin and Orowoc Creeks. Beers' 1873 Atlas shows *W. Nicoll's Residence* above *Nicolls Creek*, and the village of *Oakdale* (where Islip had appeared on the maps of 1829 and 1844). David Burr's 1829 Atlas of New York State shows a road running north on the east part of *Nichols Neck*, from the shore to the middle of the island. Calvin Smith's 1844 Map shows the roads in greater detail; this one is seen to continue as far as the Branch at Smithtown.

The sale in 1906 ended an ownership of two hundred and twenty three years by the Nicolls, during which the property had

been the family home for one hundred and ninety eight years. Only one grandson of the last owner bears the name of Nicoll. He lives in the South and has no children, so the line may be said to have died out with the property.

This senior line of the Nicoll family was remarkable in its continued characteristics. In England, the family was "county" and supported the Episcopal Church; some were ministers or lawyers. During their first century in America, the Nicolls attained great prominence in social, political and legal fields, and made brilliant marriages. Almost without exception they were lawyers and always staunch Episcopalians, builders or supporters of churches. Such a history over the centuries is remarkable and should be of interest to believers in heredity, and to all those who feel that every leading family in any neighborhood can be and usually is a constructive and important rallying point for the other people for miles around.

**THE NICOLL FAMILY**

**APPENDICES**



## APPENDIX I.

### ISLIP GRANGE LAND TITLES

INDIAN DEED OF 1683.

THIS INDENTURE — made the nine and twentyeth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand six hundred eighty and three in the five and thirtyeth year of the reign of our Soveriegn Lord Charles the second of England Scotland and King Defender of the faith etc. Between Winnaquaheagh Indian Sachem Proprietor of Conottquutt x x x x on the one part and William Nicolls of the City of New Yorke, Gent., of the other part WITTNESSETH that for and in consideration of a certain sum of money in hand paid by the said William Nicolls to the said Winnaquaheagh the receipt whereof (?) he doth hereby acknowledge therefrom ————— said William Nicolls his Executors (?) Administrators hath granted, bargained and sold and by these presents doth hereby grant, bargain and convey to the said William Nicolls, his heys and assigns for ever, all that Neck, tract, piece or parcel of Land situate, lying and being on the South side of Long Island bounded on the East by a certaine River called Conattquut, on the South by the Sound, on the West by a certaine River called Cantasquuttab, and on the North by a right line from the head of the said River called Conattquut to the head of the beforementioned River called Cantasquuttab.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said Neck, tract, piece or parcel of Land butted and bounded as aforesaid and with all and singular the appurtenances unto the said William Nicolls his heys and Assigns unto the only proper use and behoof of him the said William Nicolls his heys and Assigns for ever. And the Winnaquaheagh for himself and his heys doth covenant and grant to and with the said William Nicolls his heys and Assigns thatt hee the said Winnaquaheagh and his heys the said Neck of Land will warrant and to the said William Nicolls his heys and Assigns for ever defend firmly by these presents. And the said William Nicolls doth covenant and grant to and with the said Winnaquaheagh thatt hee the said Winnaquaheagh and his heirs shall and may plant, hunt, reside, fowl and fish on any part of the said Land not farmed and improved by the said William Nicolls his heys or Assigns att all times hereafter freely and without any Molestation.

IN WITNESSE whereof the partys in these presents have inforchangeably sett to their hands and Seals the day and Year above written.



confirmed and by these presents doe hereby give grant ratifie and Confirme unto the said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes for ever all the before recited neck, tract piece or parcell of Land, together with all and singular woods underwoods Watters Runns Streams ponds meadows Marshes, fishing hawking hunting and fowling, and all other libertyes, priviledges hereditaments and appurtenances To the said neck of land and premisses belonging or in any wise Appurtaining, TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said neck tract piece or parcell of Land and premisses withall and singular the appurtenances before mentioned and intended to be granted ratified and confirmed unto the said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes unto the proper use and behoofe of the said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes for ever to be holden of his said Roy<sup>ll</sup>. High<sup>ss</sup>. his heires and successors in Free and common Soccage According to the tenure of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in his Ma<sup>ties</sup>. kingdome of England, YIELDING and paying there fore yearly and every yeare in liew and stead of all services and demands whatsoever as a quitt rent for his Roy<sup>ll</sup>. High<sup>ss</sup>. use Five bushells of good winter wheate or five and twenty Shillings good and Lawfull mony of this Province att the Citty of New Yorke on or before the five and twentyth day of March yearly unto such Officer or officers as from time to time shall be appointed to receive the same; GIVEN under my hand and Sealed with the seal of the Province att Fortt James in New Yorke the 5<sup>th</sup> Day of December one thousand six hundred eighty foure And in the thirty sixth yeare of the Reigne of our soveraigne Lord Charles the second by the Grace of God of England Scotland ffance and Ireland King Defender of the Faith et.”

(signed) “THO. DONGAN” (seal attached).

“Recorded in Libro No. j. folio 24:25:26 oll  
the 19<sup>th</sup> day of December 1684  
(signed) J: Spragge Secr:”\*

#### GOV. DONGAN'S PATENT OF 1686:—

THOMAS DONGAN Captaine Generall Gouvernour in Cheife and Vice Admirall in and Over the province of New York and Territories Depending thereon in America under his Majestye James The Second By the Grace of God King of England Scotland ffance and Ireland Defender of the faith et. To all to whom these

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\* Transcribed verbatim from the original, now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society, to which, and to the courteous and efficient staff the author is indebted.

presents shall come Sendeth greeting whereas by One Certaine  
 Grant Signed with my hand Greiteing (?) \* the Seale of this  
 province thereto affixed and Entered in the Books of Records in  
 the Secretaryes Office bearing Date the fifth day of December in  
 the six and thirtith yeare of the Reigne of our late Sovereign  
 Lord Charles the Second of blessed memory and in the yeare of  
 our Lord One thousand Six hundred Eighty and four for the  
 Considerations therein mentioned and Exprest I Did give grant  
 Ratifye and Confirme unto William Nicolls of New Yorke Gentle-  
 man his heires and Assignes forever All that Neck Tract peice  
 or parcell of Land Scituate lyeing and being On the South side  
 of Long Island bounded on the East by a Certaine River called  
 Connetquut On the . . . \* On the West by a Certaine River called  
 Cantasquunthah and on the North by a right Line from the head  
 of the Said River called Connetquut to the head of the Said  
 River called Cantasquunthah together with all and Singular  
 woods underwoods Waters runns Streames ponnds meadows  
 marshes ffishing hawking hunting and fowling and all other  
 Libertyes Priviledges hereditaments and appurtenances to the  
 said . . . \* Land and premisses belonging in any wise appertain-  
 ing **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the Said Neck Tract peice or  
 parcell of Land and premisses with all and Singular the appur-  
 tenances unto the said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes  
 to the propper use and behoofe of the said William Nicolls his  
 heires and Assignes forever under Such rents and Services as in  
 the said Grant (remaining on Record in the Said Secretaryes  
 Office) Re . . . \* more fully and at large appeare **KNOW YEE**  
 That by Virtue of my Comiton and authority under his most  
 Sacred Majesty<sup>e</sup> and power in me being and residing for Diverse  
 good and lawfull\* . . . oveing I have Released Ratified and  
 Confirmed and by these P<sup>e</sup>sents Doe seale ratifye and Confirme  
 unto the Said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes forever  
 All the abovesaid Neck of . . . \* all and Singular the heredita-  
 ments and appurtenances hereunto belonging or appertaining  
**TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** the Said Tract or parcell of Land  
 and premisses with their and Every of their appurtenances to the  
 said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes forever To the  
 only propper use and behoofe of him the said William Nicolls  
 his heires and Assignes forever **YIELDING RENDRING AND**  
**PAYING** therefore yearly and Every yeare Such rents dutyes and  
 Services as in and by the before recited grant (relacon (?) \* there-  
 unto being had) is limited reserved mentioned and Sett forth  
 only **AND WHEREAS** next adjoining to the Said Land on the  
 . . . \* South side of Long Island aforesaid there is a Certaine peice

or parcell of Land and meadow ground unimproved and not as yett granted to any p̄erson or persons whatsoever being bounded on the East by the Land of . . .\* William Nicolls on the South by the Sound or Bay On the West by a Certaine Creeke or river Called or Knowne by the name of Wingatthappagh and on the north by a Right line from the head of the said Creek or river . . .\* Wingatthappagh to the head of the herein before mentioned River called Conetquut for ageant (?) \* Whereof the Said William Nicolls hath made his humble request unto me NOW KNOW YEE That by Virtue of my Comiton and authority under his most Sacred Majestye and power in me being and resideing in Consideration of the Quitt Rents herein after reserved and diverse other good and Lawfull Consideraton me thereunto Especially moveing I have given granted Re . . .\* and by these presents Do give grant release and Confirme unto the Said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes forever ALL That the last before recited peice or parcell of Land or meadow ground and premisses with their and Every of their appurtenances Together with all and Singular woods underwoods waters runns Streames ponds meadows marshes ffishing hawkeing hunteing and fowleing and all other Libertyes priviledges hereditaments and appurtenances to the Said peice or parcell of Land and meadow ground belonging or in any wise Appertaining TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said peice or parcell of Land and Meadow ground and premises with all and Singular the appurtenances unto the Said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes forever To the Only proper use benefitt and behoofe of him the Said William Nicolls his heires and Assignes forever To be holden of his most Sacred Majestye his heires and Successours in ffree and Comon Soccage according to the Tenure of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in his Majestyes Kingdome of England YIELDING RENDRING AND PAYING therefore yearly and Every yeare unto his most Sacred Majesty his heires and Successours forever or to Such Officer or Officers as from time to time Shall be Empowered to receive the same One xxxxxx Bushell of good winter wheat at the City of New Yorke in Lieu and Stead of all Services dutyes and demands whatsoever IN TESTIMONY of the premisses I have Caused these p<sup>E</sup>sents to be Entred and recorded in the Secretaryes Office and the Seale of this his Majestyes Province to be hereunto affixed the ffirst xxxxx day of November xx In the second yeare of his Majestyes Reigne And in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred Eighty and Six.”

(signed) “THOMAS DONGAN” (seal attached)

“ . . . Please Yo<sup>r</sup> Excellency  
The Attorney Gen<sup>l</sup> Hath perused  
this Patent And Find Nothing  
Contained therein prejudicial to  
his Maj<sup>ty</sup>s Interest

Exam<sup>d</sup> 8<sup>to</sup>ber 27<sup>th</sup>

1686 (signed) Ja: Graham.”

“At a Council held at Fort James in New yorke  
the first day of November 1686

Present His Excellency the Governour

Major Anthony Brockholls

Mr Fred: Phillips

Mr Steph: V: Cortlandt

Mr John Spragge

Major Garvis Baxter

This Patent was approved off

(signed) J. Spragge Secr.”

“Recorded in the Secretaryes office for the Province  
of New Yorke in Lib. N<sup>o</sup>. 1: booke of Pattents begun

1684 Pages 604: 605: 606: 607: 608: 609:

(signed) J. Spragge Secr.”\*

#### GOV. DONGAN'S PATENT OF 1688:—

Dated June 4, 1688\* and issued to William Nicoll for the  
following described property:

“All those islands and small isles of sandy land, and marsh, or  
meadow grounds, situate, lying and being on the south side of  
Long Island, between the inlet or gut, and the lands of the said  
William Nicoll, at a certain river called Conetquut, in the bay  
or sound, that is between the firm land of Long Island, and the  
beach, together with . . .”†

#### GOV. FLETCHER'S LICENSE OF 1697:—

“License to Purchase Lands

“Recorded for William Nicoll. By his Excellency the Governor  
in Council the 17 June 1697.

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\* Transcribed verbatim from the original, now in the possession of the Long  
Island Historical Society. Question marks have been inserted where words were  
not clearly decipherable. The gaps are caused by the wearing away of the  
wording along a fold. The three endorsements are on the reverse.

† This is taken from Thompson's *History of Long Island*, v. 2, p. 350. No  
original or complete copy of this patent has been located. Its issuance is  
recorded in the Minutes of the Council, under date of July 28, 1688.

“Whereas William Nicoll Esquire, by his attorney, hath prayed liberty and license to purchase from the native Indians, a certain tract of vacant land in Suffolk County, bounded north by the Country road, east by a line to be drawn from the head of a river called Peatuck, south by the land of said William Nicoll and Andrew Gibb, and west by a line to be drawn from the head of a river called Orowake, to run northly to the Country road, aforesaid; together with the Pond called Raconckony for his improvement. I have by and with the advice of the Council, granted and I do hereby grant unto the said William Nicoll free liberty and license to purchase the said land and lake or Pond in order to his obtaining a patent for the same under the Seal of the Province. Given under my hand and seal at New York in Council the day and year above said.”

(signed) “Ben Fletcher.”\*

“By order of Council  
David Jameson ..... (?)  
Entered Page 73.”

#### INDIAN AGREEMENT TO SELL LANDS, 1697:—

“Memorandum. That on this day, the 14th of September, Anno Domini sixteen hundred and ninety seven, appeared before me Nicholas Bayard, one of his majesties Council for the Province of New Yorke, Masaroken, an Indian woman, with Taschanes her husband, Taanheesocks, Passaque and Miskassen, all Indian natives of Nassau Island, or Long Island, who declared that the above named Massarooken was the chief proprietresse and the said Taankeesocks, Passaque and Miskassen with some others not present, were the right and lawful owners and proprietors of the lands therein after mencioned, situate, lying and being on said Island of Nassau in Suffolk County, beounded easterly by a brook or river called by the Indian name of Manacotasquet, lying to the westward of a Point called Blue Point, containing four necks of land, being bounded eastwardly by the said river, westwardly by the Conetquot river, southwardly by the sound, and extending from the sound to the middle of the said Island, called the Island of Nassau; and did promise and engage that they the above named Indians, who declared that they were also interested for the rest of the Proprietors, and for several reasons would sell and dispose

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\* This is taken from Pelletreau's *History of Long Island*, v. 2, p. 235. The original is now in the possession of Mrs. Guion Thompson of Litchfield, Conn., who writes that near the governor's signature is the partially readable entry:

of the three eastermost necks and land to William Nicoll, of the city of New York Esquire, and to no other person or persons whatsoever, as soon as he the said Nicoll should return from England, and if Mr. Nicoll should die before his return, that then they would sell it only to his widow and children, and that the last neck of land they would keep for their own planting, but whenever sold that Mr. Nicoll should have the preference. Dated in New York the day and year above said. acknowledged and promised before me by the interpretation of Mrs. Blandina Bayard."

(signed) "N. Bayard."\*

GOV. FLETCHER'S PATENT OF 1697:—

"WILLIAM THE THIRD By the Grace of God King of England Scotland France and Ireland defender of the Faith, et. TO ALL to whom these presents shall come Sendeth Greeting WHEREAS Our Loveing Subject William Nicoll Esqe one of the members of Our Councill for Our province of New Yorke in America by his humble petition presented unto His Excellency Collonell Benjamin Fletcher Our Captaine Generall and Governour in Cheife of Our province of New Yorke aforesaid prayed Our Grant and confirmation of a certaine parcell of vacant unimproved land in the County of Suffolke in the Island of Nassaw part adjoining to the land of Our Said Loveing Subject and of Andrew Gibb Bounded Easterly by a Brook or river to the westward of a point called the blew point known by the Indian name of Manowtassquott and a north and be East line from the head of Said river to the Country Road thence along the Said Road westerly untill it Bears north and be East to the head of Orawake river and thence by a South and by west line to the head of the Said river and so running Easterly along by the lands of said William Nicoll and Andrew Gibb to the head of Connettquott and down said river to the Sound and from thence along the Sound Easterly to the mouth of the Manowtassquott aforesaid Together with a certaine ffresh pond called Raconckomy pond which reasonable request wee being willing to Grant KNOW YEE that of Our Speciall Grace certaine

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\* This is taken from Pelletreau's *History of Long Island*, v. 2, pp. 235-36. Pelletreau states that in accordance with the said agreement the same Indians gave a deed to William Nicoll for the same lands on Feb. 17, 1702, but does not quote it. The original has not been located, but see the Indian agreement of Feb. 18, 1702, given below. The fourth neck reserved by the Indians for their planting seems however to have passed to Nicoll as far as title was concerned, as this entire region is included in the 1697 Patent to Nicoll.

Knowledge and meer motion wee have given granted ratified and  
 Confirmed and by these presents do for us Our heirs and Suc-  
 cessors Give Grant ratifye and confirme unto the Said William  
 Nicoll all that certaine Tract of land and Raconckomy pond  
 aforesaid Limited and bounded as aforesaid Together with all  
 and Singular the Messuages Tenements buildings Barns houses  
 outhouses Stables Edifices Orchards Gardens inclosures fences  
 pastures fields feedings woods underwoods trees timber Swamps  
 meadows marshes pools ponds lakes fountains waters watercourses  
 rivers rivoletts Runns Streams brooks Creeks harboures coves  
 inletts outletts Islands of land and meadow Necks of land and  
 meadow peninsulars of land and meadow fishing fowling hunting  
 and hawking and the beach as farr as the Said Land Extends upon  
 the Sea Quarrys mines Mineralls (Silver and Gold mines only  
 Excepted) And all other the Rights members libertyes priviledges  
 jurisdictions prehemincyes Emoluments Royalltys profitts benefitts  
 advantages hereditaments and Appurtenances whatsoever to the  
 aforerecited certaine Tract of land and pond within the limits  
 and bounds aforesaid Belonging or in any wayes appertaining or  
 accepted reputed taken knowne or occupied as part parcell or  
 member thereof **TO HAVE AND TO HOLD** all the Said  
 Certaine Tract of land and Raconckomy pond aforesaid limited  
 and bounded as aforesaid together with all and Singular the  
 Messuages Tenements buildings barns houses Outhouses Stables  
 Edifices Orchards Gardens inclosures fences pastures feilds feed-  
 ings woods underwoods trees timber swamps Meadows marshes  
 pooles ponds lakes fountaines waters watercourses Rivers rivuletts  
 runns Streams Brooks Creeks harbours coves inletts Outletts  
 Islands of land and Meadow necks of land and meadow peninsu-  
 lars of land and meadow fishing fowling hunting and hawking  
 and the beach as farr as the Said land Extends upon the Sea  
 Quarryes mines mineralls (Silver & Gold mines Excepted) and  
 all other the Rights members libertys priviledges juridicons, pre-  
 heminencyes Emoluments royalltys profites benefitts advantages  
 hereditaments and appurtenances whatsoever unto the afore-  
 recited certaine Tract of land and pond within the limitts and  
 bounds afore Said, belonging or in any wayes appertaining or  
 accepted reputed taken knowne or occupied as part parcell or  
 member thereof unto the Said William Nicoll his heirs and  
 assignes to the Sole and only propper use benefitt and behoofe of  
 him the Said William Nicoll his heirs and assignes forever  
**TO BE HOLDEN** of us Our heirs and Successors in free and  
 Common Soccage as of Our mannour of East Greenwich in our  
 County of Kent within Our Realme of England **YIELDING**

rendring and paying therefore yearly and Every year forever At our City of New Yorke on the feast day of the Annunciation of Our Blessed virgin Mary unto us our heirs and Successors the Annuall rent of Six Shillings, N. York money in Liew and Stead of all other rents Services dues dutyes and demands whatsoever IN TESTIMONY whereof wee have Caused the Great Seal of Our Said province to be hereunto affixed WITNESSE Our Said Trusty and wellbeloved Coll<sup>o</sup>. Benjamin Fletcher Our Cap-taine Generall and Gouvernour in Cheife of Our province of New York and the Territoryes depending thereon in America and vice Admirall of the Same our Lewt and Commander in Chiefe of the Militia and of all the forces by Sea and land within Our Collony of Connecticutt and of all the forts and places of Strength within the Same in Councill at New Yorke the twenty-eth day of September in the Ninth year of Our Reigne Annoq Domini 1697.”

(signed) “BEN FFLETCHER” (seal attached)

“By His Excellencyes Command  
(signed) David Jamison  
DSecry”

“Secryes Office Province of New Yorke  
Entered upon record in the Booke of Patents  
begunn Anno 1695 pag 172.173.& 174.  
by his Excellencyes Warrant  
(signed) David Jamison  
DSecry.”\*

#### INDENTURES OF 1701:—

Two Indentures of Feb. 17, 1701 according to the English computacon, between “William Nicoll of the City of New York Gentleman of the one part and Andrew Gibb now of Islip Grange in the County of Suffolk gentleman of the other part, Whereas at the mutuall & equall Cost, charge & expense of the said William Nicoll & Andrew Gibb a certain grist mill & ffulling Mill hath been & is built erected & made on a certain River or Stream called Winghamappague running by the grounds of the said Andrew Gibb in the County aforesd”, whereas it is mutually intended that the said mills with the profits etc. arising therefrom

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\* Transcribed verbatim from the original, now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The second endorsement is on the reverse.

shall be vested in both said Nicoll and Gibb forever as Tenants in Common, each upon payment to the other of the sum of five Shillings, drew this indenture granting, conveying and confirming to the other the one full moietie or equal half of the two mills together with the profits etc. to the said moietie; and agreed that if either wished to dispose of his interest, the other must be given timely notice and could obtain title to the other moietie upon payment of £200 or a sum agreed upon by four indifferent persons.

One indenture signed by Andrew Gibb, and seal attached.

One indenture signed by WNicoll, and seal attached.\*

#### PERMISSION TO THE INDIANS TO PLANT AND DWELL, 1702:—

“To all to whom this present writing shall come William Nicoll, of Islip Grange in the County of Suffolk, Gent. sendeth greeting. Know ye that he, the said William Nicoll for Divers good Causes and Considerations hath Granted, Covenanted and agreed to and with Massarokan squaw and Onepape, her Daughter, Pashagh and Pewakin his son Miscansin, and Nanuntemah, Indians, Natives and Dwellers in the said County of Suffolk and by these presents doth grant Covenant and agree to and with the said Massarokan, Onepape, Pashagh, Pewakin, Miscansin and Nanuntemah and the Heirs of their Body Begotten or to be Begotten respectively Shall and Lawfully may for ever hereafter freely plant, dwell, improve, inclose use and enjoy all that Tract or Neck of Land lying between the two rivers called Nockopanse and Coneuqunt without any obstruction, hindrance or molestation of him, the said William Nicoll his Heirs or Assigns or any other person or persons Claiming or having and Title from by or under him or any of them. In Testimony whereof he hath hereunto sett his hand and seal this 18th Day of February, 1702

“Sealed and Delivered in the Presence of  
Benjamin Nicoll, Mary Nicoll, Mary Taylor.”

“mark of Stephen, Indian, mark of Cagna, Indian.”†

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\* These similar indentures were abstracted from the originals, now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The seal used by Nicoll is not that of the Nicoll family; it consists of two rows of rounded lines resembling Persian hieroglyphics.

† This is the copy retained by William Nicoll of his grant to the Indians, and is now in the possession of a descendant, Mrs. Guion Thompson of Litchfield, Conn., who kindly sent me the above transcription.

COURT DECISION OF 1769, FOR THE COMMON RECOVERY:—

“GEORGE the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc. TO ALL to whom these Present Letters shall come GREETING. KNOW YE that among the Pleas of Land inrolled at New York before Daniel Horsmanden Esq<sup>r</sup> and his Associates Justices of our Supream Court, for our Province of New York, by Virtue of their Power to hold Cognizance of all Pleas as fully as the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in Great Britain, in the Term of July in the Ninth Year of our Reign:—Roll N<sup>o</sup> I it is thus contained, PLEAS of Land enrolled at New York before Daniel Horsmanden Esq<sup>r</sup> and his Associates Justices of the Supreme Court for the Province of New York (by Virtue of their Power to hold Cognizance of all Pleas as fully as the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in Great Britain) on the last Tuesday in July in the Ninth Year of the Reign of King George the third; Clarke:— Our Lord the King commanded the Sherif of Suffolk County in these Words to wit:— Suffolk County ss: George the third by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith etc. To our Sherif of Suffolk County GREETING command William Thompson that justly and without Delay he render to Gilbert Burger Fifty Messuages, Fifty Cellars, Four Mills, Four Sawmills, Fifty Dove Houses, Fifty Gardens, Fifty thousand Acres of Land, Fifty thousand Acres of Meadow, Fifty thousand Acres of Pasture, Fifty thousand Acres of Wood, Fifty thousand Acres of Furse and Heath, Fifty thousand Acres of Marsh, and Fifty thousand Acres of Land covered with Water; and Common of Pasture for all Cattle, at Sachem Neck, Shelter Island and Islip in Suffolk County, which he claims to be his Right and Inheritance; and into which the said William Thompson hath no Entry, but after a Disseizin, which Hugh Hunt thereof unjustly and without Judgment did make to the aforesaid Gilbert Burger within Thirty Years now last past as he saith, and of which he complains, that the said William Thompson him unjustly doth deforce, and keep out, and unless he doth this, and the said Gilbert Burger shall make you secure, to prosecute his Complaint then summon by good Summoners the aforesaid William Thompson that he be before our Justices, of our Supream Court at New York on the last Tuesday of July Instant to shew why he hath not done it; and have you there those Summoners, and this Writ: Witness ourself at New York, the first Day of July in the Ninth Year of our Reign. Clarke. Smith Jun<sup>r</sup> for the Demandant; indorsed John Tabor Kempe Attorney General; upon the Back of which the said Sherif made Return in these

Words, Pledges John Doe, Richard Roe, Summoners John Den, Richard Fenn; George Muirson Sherif. AND now at this Day to wit the last Tuesday of July in this same Term the said Gilbert Burger in his proper Person demands against the said William Thompson Fifty Messuages, Fifty Cellars, Four Mills, Four Sawmills, Fifty Dove Houses, Fifty Gardens, Fifty thousand Acres of Land, Fifty thousand Acres of Meadow, Fifty thousand Acres of Pasture, Fifty thousand Acres of Wood, Fifty thousand Acres of Furse and Heath, Fifty thousand Acres of Marsh, and Fifty thousand Acres of Land covered with Water, and Common of Pasture for all Cattle, at Sachem Neck, Shelter Island and Islip in Suffolk County as his Right and Inheritance; and in which the said William Thompson hath no Entry, but after a Disseizin, which Hugh Hunt thereof unjustly and without Judgment did make to the aforesaid Gilbert Burger within Thirty Years etc. and whereupon the said Gilbert Burger says, that he himself was seized of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the appurtenances in his Demesne as of Fee and Right in the Time of Peace, in the Time of our Lord the King that now is, taking thereof the Explees to the Value of etc. and in which etc. and therefore he brings Suit etc. and the aforesaid William Thompson in his proper Person comes and defends his Right when etc. and calls thereof to warrant William Nicoll, who is present here in Court, in his proper Person and gratis he warrants to him the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances etc. and upon this the aforesaid Gilbert Burger demands against the said William Nicoll Tenant by his Warranty the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid, with the Appurtenances in Form aforesaid etc. and whereupon the said Gilbert Burger says that he himself was seized of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid With the Appurtenances in his Demesne as of Fee and Right in Time of Peace in the Time of our Lord the King that is now taking thereof the Expleas to the Value of etc. in which etc. and therefore he brings Suit etc. and the aforesaid William Nicoll Tenant by his Warranty defends his Right when etc. and further thereupon calls to warrant Richard Wenman, who likewise is present here in Court in his proper Person, and gratis the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances to him doth warrant etc. and thereupon the said Gilbert Burger demands against him the said Richard Wenman Tenant by his Warranty, the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid, with the Appurtenances in Form aforesaid etc. and whereupon he sayd that he himself was seized of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances in his Demesne as of Fee and Right in Time of Peace in the Time

of our Lord the King that now is; taking thereof the Explees to the Value of etc. and in which etc. and thereof he brings Suit etc. and the aforesaid Richard Wenman Tenant by his Warranty defends his Right when etc. and says the aforesaid Hugh Hunt did not disseize the aforesaid Gilbert Burger of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances, as the same Gilbert Burger by his Writ and Count aforesaid, above doth suppose; and of this he puts himself on the Country etc. and the aforesaid Gilbert Burger prays License thereupon to imparle and he hath it etc. and afterwards the said Gilbert Burger comes back, here into Court this same Term, in his proper Person; and the aforesaid Richard Wenman tho solemnly called came not back but in Contempt of the Court departed, and made Default; Therefore it is considered that the aforesaid Gilbert Burger recover his Seizin against the aforesaid William Thompson of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances; and that the same William Thompson have of the Land of the aforesaid William Nicoll to the Value etc. and that the same William Nicoll further have of the Land of the said Richard Wenman to the Value etc. and the same Richard Wenman in Mercy etc. AND upon this the said Gilbert Burger prays the Writ of our Lord the King to the Sherif of Suffolk County aforesaid, to be directed to cause him to have plenary Seizin of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances; and it is granted unto him, returnable here without Delay etc. Afterwards to wit the twenty ninth Day of July in this Term came here into Court the said Gilbert Burger in his proper Person; and the Sherif to wit George Muirson now returns, that by Virtue of the Writ aforesaid to him directed, on the twenty seventh Day of July Instant, he caused the said Gilbert Burger to have plenary Seizin of the Messuages and Tenements aforesaid with the Appurtenances as by that Writ it was commanded him, Our Lord the King commanded the Sherif of Suffolk County by his Writ in these Words to wit: Suffolk County ss: George the third by the Grace of God, of Great Britain France and Ireland, King Defender of the Faith etc. To our Sherif of Suffolk County GREETING. KNOW YOU that Gilbert Burger in our Supreme Court for the Province of New York before our Justices thereof (by Virtue of their Power to hold Cognizance of all Pleas, as fully as the Court of Common Pleas at Westminster in Great Britain) hath recovered his Seizin against William Thompson of Fifty Messuages, Fifty Cellars, Four Mills, Four Sawmills, Fifty Dove Houses, Fifty Gardens, Fifty thousand Acres of Land, Fifty thousand Acres of Meadow, Fifty thousand Acres of Pasture, Fifty thousand Acres of Wood, Fifty thousand

Acres of Furse and Heath, Fifty thousand Acres of Marsh, and Fifty thousand Acres of Land covered with Water, and Common of Pasture for all Cattle, at Sachem Neck, Shelter Island and Islip in Suffolk County by our Writ of Entry Sur Disseizin in le post; WHEREFORE we command you that the said Gilbert Burger plenary Seizin of the Tenements aforesaid, with the Appurtenances, without Delay you cause to have; and in what manner this our Precept you shall have executed, make known to our Justices aforesaid at New York without Delay; and have you there this Writ: WITNESS Daniel Horsmanden Esq. Chief Justice at New York the last Tuesday in July in the Ninth Year of our Reign.—Clarke.—Smith Jun<sup>r</sup>. for Demandant:— UPON which the said Sheriff made Return in these Words to Wit: By Virtue of this Writ to me directed on the twenty seventh Day of July in the Year within written, I caused the within named Gilbert Burger to have plenary Seizin of the Tenements within specified, with the Appurtenances as within it is commanded;— GEORGE Muirson Sheriff.— The Word out, being interlined between the forty third and forty fourth Lines:— The Word Jun<sup>r</sup>. interlined between the twenty eighth and twenty ninth; and the hundred twenty fourth and hundred twenty fifth Lines,— and the Word Tenant interlined between the seventy fourth and seventy fifth Lines.— Judgment, signed, the twenty ninth Day of July, in the Year of our Lord one thousand Seven Hundred and sixty Nine.— (signed) W<sup>m</sup> Smith. xxxxxxxxxxxx ALL and singular which at the Request of the said William Thompson by the Tenor of these Presents we have caused to be put: WITNESS: Daniel Horsmanden Esq<sup>r</sup> Chief Justice of the Province of New York; at New York the twenty ninth Day of July in the Ninth Year of our Reign. The Word our in the second Line;— the Words July & Ninth in the third Line;— The Letters of in the Twentieth Line;— and the Word Seventh in the last Line, all of the first skin being written on Razures:— and the Word Jun<sup>r</sup>. between the twelfth and thirteenth; & the forty fourth and forty fifth Lines of the same Skin, being first interlined.

Clarke.”\*

WILL OF 1778-1780:—

William Nicoll, third owner of Islip, bequeathed the greater part of his Islip estate in entail to the descendants of his elder

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\* Transcribed verbatim from the original, now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The only signature herein is that of W<sup>m</sup> Smith. The original of the Indenture of 1769 for the Common Recovery is in the Long Island Historical Society's collection.

son William:—see the abstract of his will in the main section of this monograph, and also the 1786 Act below.

#### ACT TO ABOLISH ENTAILS, 1786:—

The “Act to abolish Entails, to confirm Conveyances by Tenants in Tail, to regulate Descent, and to direct the Mode of Conveyances to Joint-Tenants” was passed by the New York State Legislature Feb. 23, 1786, being Chapter 12 of the Acts of 1786.

It deals with five types of inheritance, but does not seem to have affected the title to the Islip estate since the following act was deemed necessary.

#### ACT FOR THE RELIEF OF WILLIAM NICOLL, 1786:—

Laws of New York—9th Session—Chapter 60, entitled: An Act for the relief of William Nicoll, passed May 3, 1786:

“Whereas William Nicoll late of Islip in the county of Suffolk Esquire deceased, did among other things, give and bequeath in the words and manner following unto his son William Nicoll ‘All my lands and hereditaments at Islip in the county of Suffolk not herein after disposed of to my daughters, for and during his natural life without impeachment of waste, subject to the authority herein after given to my executors, with remainder to the Honorable George Duncan Ludlow Esquire and the Honorable Whitehead Hicks Esquire both of Queens County in New York aforesaid and their heirs during the life of my said son William to preserve the contingent remainders herein after limited to wit with remainder to the first son of my said son William for life with remainder to the said trustees and their heirs during the life of the said first son of my said son William to preserve the contingent remainders herein after limited, to wit, with remainder to the first and every other son and sons of the eldest son of my said son William successively according to their seniority the eldest to be preferred before the younger to hold the same in tail male and in case of the death of the first son of my said son William without issue then I give the said lands tenements and hereditaments to the second son and the issue male of such second son in the same manner as if I had repeated the above devise to his first or eldest son with like devises to the said trustees for preserving contingent remainders intending to give an estate for life only to such second son with a tail to his issue male successively, and so to every other son of my said son William and the issue of such son successively upon the like contingencies’ and in default of such issue male then to the eldest daughter of his said son William

for life without impeachment for waste with remainder over to the first and every son of such daughter successively to hold in tail mail and in default of such issue then to the second and every other daughter of his said son William successively for life with like remainders over to their respective sons successively in tail mail and in default of such issue then to his son Samuel Benjamin for life without impeachment for waste with like remainders over to preserve the contingent remainder to this said son Samuel Benjamin and his heirs male (without regard to his female issue) in the same manner as he had before limited the same estate to his son William for life, and then to his issue male, and in default of such issue male of his said son Samuel Benjamin then to his three daughters and their issue male to be equally divided between them and in default of their issue male then to their issue female to be in like manner equally divided, and did in the said last will and testament declare that it was his general intent to continue the estate at Islip first in the male descendants of his son William, then in the male issue of his daughters, then in the male issue of his son Samuel Benjamin, then in the male issue of his own three daughters in severalty, and upon failure of such male issue then to their issue female in severalty, and that it should not be in the power of any of his descendants before his great grand children to cut of the entail.

*“And whereas* the said William Nicoll, the son, the devisee in the before in part recited will mentioned hath presented his petition to the legislature, setting forth that doubts have arisen whether the estate which he holds under the said will be an estate tail or only for life. That many of the farms in Islip were at the time of his father’s decease leased at very low rents and that he is charged by the said will with the payment of annuities to the amount of one hundred and twenty six pounds for ten years to his three sisters and an annuity of one hundred pounds for twelve years to his brother. That conceiving himself to be possessed of an estate in tail he had been induced to contract debts to a large amount but that the doubts respecting the nature of his estate are such as render it impracticable to sell any part of the lands so as to discharge his debts; that a number of executions have been issued against him, that should they be levied on his estate, while the doubts respecting it remain, it would prove insufficient to pay his debts, he must be turned out of the possession, and deprived not only of the means for suitably educating his children, but of subsisting his family, and the greater part of his creditors thereby ruined. That if trustees were to be appointed by the Legislature with authority to sell so much of the lands as would produce the

sum of four thousand pounds these evils might be prevented and he enabled by honest industry and application in a short time to discharge the remainder of his debts, and praying for such relief as the legislature shall deem meet.

*“And whereas* the said Samuel Benjamin Nicoll to whom a contingent remainder in the lands and hereditaments in Islip, by the aforesaid will is limited, hath by his petition signified his desire that the legislature would afford relief to his brother the said William Nicoll. *And whereas* there is reason to believe that great destruction will inevitably take place upon the lands and hereditaments aforesaid if the possession of them during the life of the said William should be sold to the highest bidder, whereby the estate of the remainder man will be greatly impaired besides the injury which he must sustain by being deprived of the advantages of a suitable education who being an infant and unable to act for himself, and there being no law in this State affording relief in cases particularly circumstanced, it is become necessary for the legislature to interpose and by law as far as is possible to preserve the estate of the infant in remainder and provide for his maintenance and education, therefore

*“Be it enacted by the People of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same,* That as soon as the said William Nicoll shall by good and sufficient deeds have conveyed to Ezra L. Hommedieu William Floyd and Selah Strong Esquires, all his right, title, interest and estate in and to the lands tenements and hereditaments at Islip devised to him by the before mentioned last will and testament of his father the said William Nicoll deceased, the same shall therefrom and thereafter be vested in the said Ezra L Hommedieu William Floyd and Selah Strong their heirs and assigns for ever in trust for the following purposes, that is to say, to sell so much thereof as shall be sufficient to raise the sum of four thousand pounds to be applied to the payment of the debts owing by the said William; but if such debts shall not amount to this sum of four thousand pounds, then to sell so much only as will be necessary to discharge the same: And that the deeds to be given by the said Ezra L Hommedieu, William Floyd and Selah Strong to the purchaser or purchasers of the land to be by them sold by virtue of this act, shall operate to vest a fee simple title in such purchaser or purchasers. That the said Ezra L Hommedieu, William Floyd and Selah Strong shall then lease out the residue and remainder of the said lands and tenements for any term not exceeding the life of the said William Nicoll or seven years, reserving the highest rents that can be

obtained for the same, and to apply the monies arising from such rents in the first instance to the payment of the annuities charged thereon by the will aforesaid; and then to the maintenance and education of such issue of the said William Nicoll as shall be next in remainder, according to the disposition in the said will made and the residue of such rents to be paid to the said William Nicoll or his assigns during his life; and from and after the death of the said William Nicoll the said residue of the said lands tenements and hereditaments shall revert to the uses and trusts of the aforesaid will as if this act had never been made.

*“And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the said trustees shall before they enter upon the execution of the trust hereby reposed in them give bonds to the people of this State in such sum and with such security as the Chancellor of this State shall direct conditioned for the faithful performance and discharge of the duties and trusts committed to them by this act.”*

#### CONVEYANCE TO THE TRUSTEES, 1786:—

“This Indenture made this Sixteenth Day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Eighty Six and in the Eleventh Year of the Independence of the State of New York Between William Nicoll of the precinct of Islip in the County of Suffolk and State of New York, yeoman, of the one part, and Ezra L’Hommedieu, William Floyd and Selah Strong of the Said County of Suffolk Esquires of the other part Witnesseth that the said William Nicoll for and in Consideration of a Certain Act of the Legislature of the State of New York entitled “An Act for the Relief of William Nicoll” (passed the 3<sup>d</sup> of May 1786) authorizing the Said William Nicoll, by good and Sufficient Deeds to convey to the Said Ezra L’Hommedieu William Floyd and Selah Strong all his Right Title Interest and Estate in & to the Lands Tenements & hereditaments at Islip aforesaid devised to him by the last will and Testament of his father William Nicoll Deceased for the purposes mentioned in the said Act and for and in Consideration of the Sum of ten Shillings lawfull money of the State of New York to him the said William Nicoll in Hand well and truly paid at or before the Sealing and delivery of these presents by the Said Ezra L’Hommedieu William Floyd and Selah Strong the receipt whereof the Said William Nicoll doth hereby acknowledge & thereof & therefrom doth acquit release and discharge them their Heirs Executors & administrators & every of them by these presents hath granted, bargained, aliened released & confirmed and by these presents doth grant Bargain sell alien release and confirm unto the said Ezra

L'Hommedieu William Floyd & Selah Strong (in their actual possession now being by Virtue of a Bargain and Sale to them thereof made for one whole Year by Indenture bearing date the day next before the Day of the date of these presents & by force of the Statute for transferring Uses into possession and to their Heirs & Assigns all the Right Title Interest and Estate of the Said William Nicoll in & to the Lands Tenements and Hereditaments at Islip aforesaid devised to him by the aforementioned last Will & testament of his Father William Nicoll deceased dated the nineteenth day of August in the year of Our Lord one Thousand Seven hundred and Seventy eight, To Have and to Hold all & Singular the said right Title Interest & Estate of the Said William Nicoll in & to the Lands tenements & Hereditaments above in and by these presents released . . . and Every part and parcel thereof with the appurtenan . . . Said Ezra L'Hommedieu William Floyd & Selah Strong thei . . . to the only Use & behoof of the Said Ezra L'Hommedieu Wi . . . Selah Strong their heirs and Assigns forever in Trust for . . . purposes mention in . . . Said Act, that is to say to Sell . . . Lands Tenements . . . Hereditaments as shall be Sufficient . . . four thousand pounds . . . . . \* Said William Nicoll and then to lease out the Residue & remainder of the Said Lands & Tenements for any term not exceeding the Life of the Said William Nicoll or seven Years reserving the Highest Rents that can be obtained for the Same and to apply the monies arising from such Rents in the first Instance to the payment of the annuities charged thereon by the will aforesaid and then to the maintenance and Education of such Issue of the Said William Nicoll as shall be next in remainder according to the disposition in the Said Will made and the Residue of Such Rents to be paid to the Said William Nicoll or his Assigns during his life As is among other Things directed in and by the said Act of the Legislature according to the true Intent & meaning thereof Reference thereunto being had more fully appear. In testimony whereof the parties to these presents have hereunto Interchangeably Set their Hands & Seals and Frances the wife of the Said William Nicoll acknowledges hereof to be a party to these presents (So far as to release her right of Dower to the Said Lands to be sold to raise the Said Sum of four thousand pounds) by setting her hand and Seal the day and Year above written”

“Sealed and Delivered  
in presence of  
Caleb Smith  
Paul Smith”

(signed) “W<sup>m</sup> Nicoll (L S)  
(signed) Frances Nicoll” (L S)

“N B the words (so far as to release her right of Dower to the said Lands to be sold to raise the said sum of four thousand pounds) between the two last lines. the word (presents) between the nineteenth and twentieth Lines. and the word (Title) between the Sixth and Seventh lines. all interlined in the original before the Sealing and Delivery.”

“William Nicoll and Frances Nicoll his wife personally appeared before Caleb Smith Esquire, one of the Judges of the Court of Common Pleas, and acknowledged the above Instrument to be their free and voluntary act—Nov. 16, 1786.”

“Recorded 22<sup>d</sup> Day of November 1786, Ezra L’Hommedieu Clk.”\*

RELEASE TO THE GUARDIANS, 1820:—

“Recd this 2d day of November 1820 from the executor of Selah Strong Samuel B. Nickoll & Richard Udall the sum of Seven thousand three hundred and forty eight dollars in notes and Cash being the full amount due from them as my Guardians and I hereby remise release and forever quickclaim unt<sup>o</sup> the said Executors of Selah Strong Samuel B. Nicoll & Richard Udall their heirs and assigns as may guardians all and manner of action and actions suits reckonings accounts debts dues and demands which now have and which I or my heirs and assigns may have against them for touching or concerning the management and disposition of any of any lands tenements or hereditaments situated in the town of Islip county of Suffolk and State of New York or for or by reason of any nunies (sic) rent or other profits by them received out of the same or any payments made herefor during my minority or by reason of any cause matter or thing whatsoever from the beginning of the world to this time. In witness whereof have hereunto set my hand and seal this second day of November 1820—”

“Sealed & delivered in the presence of:

Chas. Thos. Dering.”

“WM. NICOLL” (L.S.)

“William Nickoll acknowledged signing the above release before Selah B. Strong, a comissioner, January 13, 1821.”

“Recorded January 22d, 1821, Charles A. Floyd, Clk.”†

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\* Transcribed from Suffolk Co. Deeds, Liber C, page 153. Missing portions in the middle of the deed are due to a torn page.

† Transcribed from Suffolk Co. Deeds, Liber E, page 143.

SALES OF PROPERTY ON WHICH STOOD THE EARLY DWELLING  
HOUSE:—

The second deed by William and Sarah Nicoll to Edwin A. Johnson, 689 acres, dated in 1850 and recorded in August, 1851—4 pages.

Later conveyance from Johnson to Benjamin and William Conklin.

Later conveyance from Conklin to Sarah Ives Plumb, wife of James Neal Plumb.

Later conveyance to George C. Taylor.

Now known as the Hecksher State Park.

SALES OF PROPERTY ON WHICH STOOD THE RECENT DWELLING  
HOUSE:—\*

Conveyance of about 1100 acres by Wm. G. Nicoll, the Executor of the late Wm. and Sarah Nicoll, to Edith Bates, recorded 1906, Liber 602, p. 32—7 pages.

Conveyance of same property 2 years later to Nicoll Park, Inc.

Later conveyance of 41 acres to Lillias Hollins, present owner.

APPENDIX II.

THE ESTATE OF WILLIAM NICOLL, THE PATENTEE

ENTAIL OF 1695:—

“THIS INDENTURE made the three and twentyeth day of October in the yeare of our Lord One thousand six hundred ninety and five Between William Nicoll of New Yorke in America Gent: of the one part and Killian Van Renslaer of Renslaerwick in the County of Albany Gent. and Andrew Gibb of Islip Grange County of Suffolk of the other part WITNESSETH that it is Covenanted Concluded Condescended and Agreed by and between the partyes to these presents in manner and forme following (that is to say) Whereas the said William Nicoll the day of the date of these presents hath two sons and one Daughter that is to say Benjamin Nicoll his Son and heyre apparent, Jeremy Nicoll his Second Son and Mary Nicoll his daughter; and being fully resolved and determined in what manner his Lands Tenements and hereditaments shall by the grace and favour of

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\* Kindly sent me upon request, 1938, by Frank Markvart, Suffolk Co. Clerk.

Almighty God Remaine continue and be as well in the life time of the said William Nicoll and Anna his wife as after their decease and being withall desireous to continue and stay all and singular his lands and tenements and hereditaments in his Sirname blood and family and for that purpose to setle the same as followes he the said William Nicoll as well for and in Consideration of the naturall and fatherly love which he beareth unto his said three children as the affection he beares to Anna his said wife and for a better and more Sufficient maintenance and Support for her incase she should happen to Survive him the said William Nicoll doth Covenant and Grant for him and his heyres to and with the said Killian Van Renslaer and Andrew Gibb their heyres and assignes by these presents that he the said William Nicoll and his heyres and all every other person or persons and their heyres that now stand and be seized of and all that Messuage and tract of land and Meadow with the appurtenances called Islip Grange lying between the two Rivers called Conetquut and Wingan-happague in the County of Suffolk now in the tenure and occupacon of the said Andrew Gibb, and also that certain Messuage and tract of lands with the Appurtenances in Queens County called the little Neck joyning to Cow Neck, that piece of land with the Appurtenances thereunto adjoyning on the eastward side thereof containing five hundred and ten acres of land be the same more or less and further that certain Island with the Appurtenances called nomans land lying neare Martins Vinyard And likewise all that Messuage Barn lands Island Meadow & Appurtenances on the west side of Hudsons river in the Collony or manor of Renslaerwyck in the County of Albany comonly called Cranlow or Greenbush now in the tenure and occupacon of one Evert Ridder And also that lott of land on Cow neck in Queens County with the appurtenances late by the said William Nicoll purchased of Coll. Thomas Willett Mr. Thomas Hicke & others being Numbered number six containes one hundred Acres or thereabouts or that hereafter shall be seized of the sd lands tenem<sup>ts</sup> & premisses or of any part thereof shall stand & be seized thereof & of every part thereof to such uses intents & purposes & upon such condicions & limitacons of uses as in these presents shall be expressed & declared & to no other intent & purpose that is to say to the only use of the sd William Nicoll for and during the terme of his naturall life without impeachm<sup>t</sup> of wast & from & after the determinacon of the sd Estate to the use of the sd Anna Nicoll now wife of the sd William Nicoll & during her naturall life & after her decease to the use of the said Benjamin Nicoll and the heyres males of his body begotten & for want of

such issue to the use of the said Jeremy Nicoll & the heyres males of his body begotten or to be begotten & for want of such issue to the use of the said Mary Nicoll & the heires males of her body begotten or to be begotten & for want of such issue to the use of the right heyres of the sd William Nicoll for ever. Provided always & nevertheless it is concluded & agreed by & between the sd partyes to these presents that it shall and may be lawfull for the sd William Nicoll at any time during his life to make or cause to be made any lease or leases for terme of three lives or twentyone yeares & not above of the said premises or any part thereof to any person or persons whatsoever Provided always & it is fully concluded meant intended and Agreed by & between the sd partyes to these presents & their heyres that if the sd William Nicoll at any time hereafter during his life shall be mindeth upon whatsoever cause or occacon seeming meet or Convenient to him to annull make voyd alter or change the use or uses Estate or Estates or any of them limited or raised & implied intended or made by these presents touching all the sd lands tenem<sup>ts</sup>. & hereditam<sup>ts</sup>. with the appurtenances contained in these p<sup>E</sup>sents or else touching some part or any part thereof only and thereupon by any writing Subscribed with his name & Sealed with his Seale & published in the presence of two or more witnesses shall & do signify express & declare the same that then & from thenceforth the same Uses & every or any of them as to all & every or any of the sd premises with the appurtenances according to such expression or declaracon of the intent & meaning of the said William Nicoll & in such mannor as he shall so express & declare shall be annulled made Voyd altered or changed accordingly anything in these presents before contained to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding IN WITNESS whereo the partys to these presents have set their hands & Seales the day & yeare first above written.”

(signed “WNicoll”) (Nicoll seal)

“Sealed & Delivered  
in the presence of  
G Sylvester  
Boky Stk  
Rickard Peniflod”\*

(attached )

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\* Transcribed verbatim from the original indenture, now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The names of the last two witnesses are not clear. This agreement was drawn by Nicoll prior to sailing for England as Agent of the Province.

INDENTURE OF 1696:—

This Indenture made the one and thirtieth day of December 1696 in the eighth year of the reign of William the Third Between John Ash of the Middle Temple, London, Gent. of the one part and William Nicolls, Gent. and Andrew Gibbs, gent., both of the Province of New York, of the other part: In consideration of a certain sum of money paid by said William Nicolls, which John Ash hereby acknowledges and doth acquit & release said William Nicolls his heirs and assigns and hath granted sold and released all that Messuage or Tenement and lot in Brook Haven at Setauket in the County of Suffolk in the province of New York in America, now or late in the possession of and occupacion of said Andrew Gibb Arthur ssutly (?) \*, all which premises were formerly purchased by John Palmer late of New York, Esq; from John Thompson late of Brook Haven, blacksmith, deceased, and by said John Palmer sold to said John Ash . . . To have and to hold the said messuage and appurtenances to the said William Nicolls and Andrew Gibbs and their heirs and assigns to the only use and behoof of the said William Nicolls and Andrew Gibbs. It is lastly hereby declared that the name of Andrew Gibbs is made use of herein only in trust for the said William Nicolls, his heirs and assigns.

(signed) John Ashe (seal attached).\*

WILL OF 1718/19—1723:—

“In the name of God I William Nicoll of Islip in the County of Suffolk in the Colony of New York in America being in unreasonable health of Body and Having my usuall discerning & understanding God be praised do make and ordain this my Last Will & Testament in manner & fform following First I do give bequeath and devise to my Son Benjamin Nicoll all my Lands Tenements and hereditaments at Islip and on Shelter Island (Except such as I shall herein and hereby otherwise devise and Dispose of) in the same County of Suffolk, To have and To Hold to him and the heirs of his Body (heirs males I mean) lawfully begotten or to be begotten and for want of Such to my Son William Nicoll and to the heirs male of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten and for want of Such to my son

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\* Abstracted from the original indenture now in the possession of the Long Island Historical Society. The last name of Arthur —, in the body of the deed, is not clear. This purchase was made by Nicoll while he was still in England as Agent of the Province.

Renselaer Nicoll and the heirs males of his body begotten or to be begotten and for want of such to the right heirs of me the said William Nicoll the Testator forever. I do give and Bequeath & Devise to my Son William Nicoll all that one Full Quarter part of Shelter Island Contained in & Adjoining to Sachems Neck with its hereditaments & Appurtenances To have and To Hold to him and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten or to be begotten and for want of such to my Son Benjamin and the heirs Males of his Body begotten or to be begotten and for want of such to my Son Renselaer Nicoll and the heirs Males of his body begotten or to be gotten and for want of such to the right heirs of me said William Nicoll forever. I do give bequeath and devise to my Son Rensalerr Nicoll all those Lands & Farms on Shelter Island with their hereditaments and appurtenances Now in the Tenour & Occupation of John Shaw To have and To hold to him & the heirs Males of his body begotten or to be begotten and for Want of Such to my Son Benjamin and the heirs Males of his body begotten or to be begotten and for want of such to my Son William and the heirs Males of his body begotten or to be begotten and for Want of Such to the right heirs of me the Testator forever Provided always on this Condition & it is my true Intent and Meaning that if and as soon as my Son Benjamin shall Settle convey and Assure to his brother Renselaer and the heirs Males of his body begotten or to be begotten all those Lands with their hereditaments and Appurtenances in the County of Albany which were his Mother's and I Now possess in her right then this Devise to my Son Renselaer to Cease Determine to be void & the same Lands & Farms on Shelter Island to Devolve & Accreu to my Son Benjamin & his heirs Males in Manner before Exprest. I Will & Bequeath to my daughter Mary Watts the Sum of three hundred and fifty pounds money of New York at the rate that Money Now usually passes at the time of my Making this Will. I Will & Bequeath to my daughter Catherine Nicoll the Sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds of such money. I Will & Bequeath to my daughter Francis Nicoll the Sum of seven hundred and fifty pounds of such money. I will devise order & direct that all my Lands and hereditaments on Cow Neck except half an Acre of Land there with the burial place with free Passage Egress and Regresse in & to the same & from it, with all other my Lands in this Colony of New York and in New Jersey be Sold for the Payment of debts & Legacies by me owing and hereby given & Bequeathed & it being my Meaning & Intent if God give me Life Health & Opportunity to dispose & Sell some or all of those Lands in my Life Time if it pleases God that it

happens otherwise my Will order & desire is that my Executor for the time being hereinafter Appointed do make Sale of the same & give Apureances & Conveyances for the same or any part thereof which I will order and Determine to be as Value as if made by myself. I give & Bequeath to my Son William all my Stock of horses, Neat Cattle Sheep & Swine on Shelter Island I give & Bequeath to my Son Renselaer all my Stock of horses, Neat Cattle & whatever Moveables of mine are on or belong to the ffarm or ffarms in the Mannor of Rensealerwick in the County of Albany. I give & Bequeath to my daughter Charity Nicoll twenty pounds to buy her Mourning & a Ring. I give & Bequeath to my Son Edward Nicoll the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid him when he comes of age & I order that he remain with his Mother till he arrives to the age of Ten Years & that She paid Ten pounds per Annum while he stays with her & that afterward my Executor for the time being do take care for his Maintenance Support & Education till he come of Age Fitting & Suitable for a Son of mine. I also give devise & Bequeath to my Son Edward Nicoll when he attains to the age of one & Twenty years all that Farm on Shelter Island late in the possession of Edward Downing Deceased & now or late in the possession of Mr. William Richardson with the Lands & Appurtenances thereunto belonging and as they do or have possesst the same, To have and To hold to him and the heirs Males of his body forever. I do give Devise & Bequeath the same Farm on Shelter Island in manner aforesaid unto Mrs. Ruth Dwight untill our said Son Edward Nicoll shall attain to the age of one & Twenty years & if he dye before (which God prevent) then untill he should have come to that age & that without Impeachment for Wast I do also devise order & direct that she have & Enjoy the house I now live in with the use of the Servants & Stock and the Lands used with the same for the Term & Space of one whole year next after my death And I do further give & Bequeath unto her the Sum of two hundred pounds such money as before mentioned what tho it be but a small Reward for her Affectionate care Deligent & faithfull Services Yet I pray her to accept the same & I desire & order it to be paid as soon a Conveniently can be out of my personal Estate or my Lands to be sold I do Will devise order & Direct that in Case my Personal Estate and the Lands I have herein before devised to be sold for the payment of my Debts and of the Legacys hereby Bequeathed shall not Amount to a Sum Sufficient to pay & Satisfye the same then I do by this my Last Will & Testament Impower direct & Authorise my Executor for the time being to Sell & Dispose of so much of my other reall Estate as will pay Discharge and Satisfye

the same my land at Islip only Excepted all which I am Desirous (if God so pleases) may Continue & remain in my Family & Name I desire to be buried & Interred as privately with as Little Expence & Charge as possible maybe & without any vain Unnecessary Solemnity I do make Institute and Appoint my Son Benjamin Executor of this my Last Will & Testament & in Case of his Renunciation or Death I do make Substitute & Appoint my Son William my Executor & in Case of his Renunciation or Death I Substitute make and Appoint my Son Renselaer my Executor of this my Last Will desiring the same may Effectually be performed according to the true Intent & meaning thereof I do give & Bequeath to my Son John Nicoll the sum of two hundred pounds to be paid him when he comes of Age with the same Support & direction for his Education as I have given & allowed to his Brother Edward And in regard I have otherwise Disposed of the Lands and Estate on Shelter Island in the Possession of Capt. John Shaw Hereinbefore devised to my Son Renselaer I do hereby order Direct Will & Devise that the Lands & Estate on Shelter Island in the possession of Jonathan Hudson shall be and remain to my said Son Renselaer Nicoll in such manner and under such Condition as the Lands & Estate in the possession of John Shaw are hereinbefore Willed & Devised In Testimony whereof to this my Will Writ on a Sheet of paper most with my own hand I have put my hand & Seal this Seventeenth Day of March 1718 In the presence of the Witnesses whose names are underwritten."

"W.Nicoll" (Ls)

"John Moubray 1718/9 James Morris Charles White  
William Gibb."

Presented for probate under Governor William Burnet Esq., 27 August 1723 before Selah Strong, Esq., the last Will of William Nicoll, Esq., late of Islip in the County of Suffolk, now approved and allowed by me; the administration of the goods of the deceased and his last will was granted unto Benjamin Nicoll who being since deceased, the Executorship according to the Testator's Will devolves to William Nicoll, who is ordered to make an inventory, etc., and exhibit same unto the Registry of the Prerogative Court in the Secretary's office of the said Province of New York at or before 13 December next. In Testimony whereof

I have caused the Prerogative Seal of the Province of New York to be hereunto affixed at New York 13 June 1724.

I. S. Bohn. D. Secry.\*

LETTER OF 1727:—

“For Col. Rich<sup>d</sup> Floyd Esqr. at Brookhaven.

“Hon’d Sir

Stratford Aug. 16, 1727

“The Devil has set all the Lawyers together to pull Mr. Nicoll’s Estate to pieces, and it is not much to be expected but they will accomplish it . . . (etc., re Nicoll’s title to Setauket lands) . . . Our title depends upon . . . If you want any of these papers we will send them over.

“Sr. Your dutiful son and humble Servant

(signed) S Johnson.”†

ACCOUNT OF 1780-88:—

William Nicoll’s grandson, Hon. John Watts, wrote between 1780 and 1788 an account of his mother’s family, stating therein “the family affairs (were) beyond measures unsettled and in disorder, involved in perplexed law suits and contests, (but) by (the) firmness good sense and unwearied application (of my uncle William Nicoll 2nd) he had the happiness of bringing them all to a clear and just settlement . . .”‡

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\* The will is transcribed verbatim from Liber 9, pages 492-94 of the Surrogates Records on file in the Hall of Records, New York City; I have merely abstracted the presentation for probate therein. It will be noted that the last portion of the will was written at a slightly later date following the birth of his son John, and that two successive executorships were granted by the Court.

† This is taken from a copy, at the Pennypacker Library, East Hampton, of a letter owned in 1903 by Selah B. Strong, Jr. Dr. Johnson was writing to his father-in-law Richard Floyd, and undoubtedly referred to the estate of William Nicoll, father of his wife’s first husband.

The Nicoll estate appears on the Town of Brookhaven Tax list of 1741.

‡ Internal evidence shows the account to have been written between 1780 and 1788. It is quoted more fully in the body of this monograph.

## APPENDIX III

### OBITUARIES AND GRAVESTONE INSCRIPTIONS

WILLIAM NICOLL 2ND (second son of the Patentee) :—

“Last Saturday Morning, William Nicoll, Esq; a Member of the House of Representatives for the County of Suffolk, in this Province, set out from his Lodgings on the North Side of Hempstead Plains for this City, but complained in the Morning of a Pain in the Breast. He was soon after taken ill on the Road, and by the Time he reached Capt. Timothy Smith’s on the Plains, he was taken so bad that he died before any Doctor could be found, notwithstanding an Express was immediately dispatched for one. He was many Years Speaker of the General Assembly of the Province, and was ever esteemed a worthy honest man.

‘Thus he is changed, not dead, no good Man dies,  
‘But like the Day-Star only sets to rise.’ ”

From Gaines’ N. Y. Gazette & Weekly Mercury,  
issue of Monday, Dec. 5, 1768.\*

ROBERT WATTS (husband of the Patentee’s eldest daughter) :—

“On Friday morning last, after a lingering indisposition, departed this Life in the 73rd Year of his Age, and on Saturday Evening was very honourably and decently inter’d in Trinity Church, Mr. Robert Watts, of this City; where he had lived and been a considerable Merchant for many Years, and always justly sustained the Character of an honest Man, and a punctual fair Trader: He was a Gentleman of exceeding good Sense, solid Judgment, and of a steady Temper of Mind; exemplary in his Life and Conversation, and remarkable for his unaffected Piety, and great Charity; and may truly be said to have been one of the main Props to Religion and good Manners, in this part of the World: He was a sincere constant Friend, an agreeable chearful Companion, and condescending to all, which gained him the Love and Esteem of all good Men; Thus,

‘Mark the perfect Man, and behold the Upright;  
‘for the end of that Man is Peace.’ ”

from Parker’s N. Y. Gazette & Weekly Post Boy,  
issue of Monday, Sept. 24, 1750.

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\* All newspaper extracts have been copied directly from newspapers in the possession of the New York Public Library or the New York Historical Society, to which and to whose courteous and efficient staffs the author is indebted.

EDWARD HOLLAND (husband of the Patentee's youngest daughter) :—

“On Wednesday morning last, the Hon. Edward Holland, Esq; one of his Majestys Council, and Mayor of this City, departed this Life: His remains were decently interred the next Evening, in Trinity-Church, in this City.”

from the N. Y. Mercury, issue of Monday, Nov. 15, 1756.

CHARITY (FLOYD) (NICOLL) JOHNSON (whose first husband was the 2nd owner of Islip) :—

“Sacred to the Memory of Mrs. Charity Johnson, excellent wife of Rev. Johnson D.D. Professor of Kings College, whose remains are interred within the chancel hear adjoining, who departed this life with great Faith and patience June ye 1st 1758 AEtat 67. and in the same place are those of their\* worthy daughter Mrs. Margaret Maverick who died June 28. 1759 AEtat 39 years.”

Memorial stone, Front of Trinity Church north, New York City.

BENJAMIN NICOLL (younger son of the 2nd owner of Islip) :—

“Last Tuesday, departed this Life, after a short Illness, Benjamin Nicol, Esq; most universally lamented by all who had an opportunity of knowing him: He was a Gentleman of strong Sense, and solid Judgment, of great Prudence and Integrity; and one of the most eminent Lawyers on the Continent; a Gentleman of unaffected Sincerity, extensive Benevolence, a warm Lover of Liberty and the Constitution, and of a Character unblemished, even by that licentious Malice of the World which takes a peculiar Pleasure indiscriminately to Vilefy the whole Profession. In one of so good a Heart, with such distinguished Abilities, the Public has lost a most useful Member, his Acquaintance a most valuable Friend, and his own Family a most excellent Husband, Father and Master.”

from the N. Y. Mercury, issue of Monday, April 21, 1760.

JOANNA (D'HONEUR) NICOLL (wife of the 3rd owner of Islip) :—

“On Thursday last, in this city, departed this Life in the 42<sup>d</sup> Year of her Age, Mrs. Joanna Nicol, Wife of William Nicol, Esq;

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\* Gloriana Margareta was the daughter of Charity and Benjamin Nicoll, and the beloved stepdaughter of Rev. Dr. Samuel Johnson. The latter is buried at Stratford, Conn.

of Islip, and one of the Representatives of Suffolk County. She was the Mistress of a large Family, the affairs and Concerns of which were very great and extensive: This important and difficult Trust she discharged with a Prudence, Frugality, Diligence and Order, surprising to all her Acquaintance.—She possessed an excellent Understanding, which she had taken care to improve by Reading and Conversation. Her Wit was sprightly and innocent; her Elocution ready and fluent; and her Disposition was social, affable, chearful and benevolent. These amicable Properties rendered her Company extremely agreeable and entertaining, and accordingly she was the Delight and Joy of her Friends, and diffused Chearfulness and Pleasure wherever she conversed. She was to her Husband, whose Heart safely trusted in her, and with whom she liv'd in a State of the most perfect Conjugal Felicity. She was to her Husband the best of Wives, the most faithful of Friends, the most agreeable of Companions, and in every respect a Help meet for him. To her children she was the best of Mothers, setting them a bright example of Diligence and Virtue, and labouring incessantly for their Temporal and Spiritual Welfare. To her aged Parent she exercised a tender, dutiful filial Regard, and to her Relations she was extremely Kind and Affectionate. Friends and Strangers were treated in her House with utmost Benignity and Hospitality, and she went about among her Neighbours doing good, Visiting and Conversing with them under their humble Roofs, relieving their Wants, and Comforting them under their Distresses. By her Death, the Poor have lost an eminent Benefactress, her Servants a provident and indulgent Mistress, and her Tenants a steady and important Friend. As there was no Building for Public Worship in the Neighborhood where she liv'd, her House was a Sanctuary consecrated to the Divine Service, where the Supreme Majesty was acknowledged and ador'd, his Word read, his Blessing implor'd and his Praises sung. In these delightful Services her Soul was well pleased. She lov'd Virtue and encouraged its Friends, she esteem'd and associated with Persons of true Merit, but the Vicious and Profane felt the Strokes of her Reproof, and the Vain and Foolish smarted by her Rallery. She possess'd a manly Courage, free from female Timidity. She was sensible without Ostentation, chearful without Levity, devout without Enthusiasm, pious without Affectation, opulent without Pride and Vain Glory, and religious without Hypocrisy. She moved in an important Sphere in which she had many duties to perform, all which she discharged with remarkable Punctuality and Readiness, altho' happy in the Conjugal Relation, happy in her Domestick Circumstances, and surrounded

with every temporal Blessing she did not forget the Author of all her Mercies; but retain'd a grateful Sense of his Favours, and liv'd to his Glory. Being a sincere Christian, she rely'd upon the Mediator's Grace and Merits, endeavoured to adorn the Doctrine of God her saviour in all Things, and walk worthy the Vocation wherewith she was called. For the Space of a Year before her Discease, she was visited with a Complication of Disorders which baffled the Skill of the most eminent Physicians, and gradually reduced a strong and vigorous Constitution, to an emaciated Skeleton replete with Disease and Infirmity. She bore her long, painful and tedious Sickness with manly Fortitude and Christian Resignation, and patiently conflicted with her Distempers, till it pleased the Sovereign Disposer of Events to release the immortal Soul from its decay'd and battered Mansion, from whence she has soared to the Realms of endless Felicity, where she now happily rests from her Labours and Sufferings, and her works do follow her."

from Gaines' N. Y. Gazette & Weekly Mercury,  
issue of Monday, Dec. 7, 1772.

WILLIAM NICOLL 3RD (the 3rd owner of Islip) :—

"On Wednesday the first instant died at his Seat, at Islip, on Long-Island, in the 65th Year of his Age, William Nicoll, Esq; formerly Member of the General Assembly for the County of Suffolk."

from Gaines' N. Y. Gazette & Weekly Mercury,  
issue of Monday, March 27, 1780,  
and from Rivington's Royal Gazette,  
issue of Saturday, March 25, 1780.

WILLIAM NICOLL 6TH (the 6th owner of Islip, and last under the entail) :—

Died "At Islip, Long Island, of typhus fever, Mr. William Nicoll, aged 26 years. He has left a wife and several children, who become heirs to a very large estate."

from the Long Island Star (Brooklyn),  
issue of Nov. 27, 1823.

"Glory to God Above. Sacred to the Memory of William Nicoll. Hospitality, Charity and Good Will toward his Fellow Man were the marked Characteristics of his life and a perfectly resigned submission to the will of his Creator, distinguished the

sincere Christian at the hour of his death which took place Nov. 20th 1823 aged 24 years.

‘Mark the perfect man and behold the upright  
for the end of that man is peace’.

Psalm XXXVII 37.”

Tombstone, east of the chancel,  
St. John’s Churchyard, Oakdale, L. I.

SARAH (GREENLY) NICOLL (wife of the 6th owner of Islip) :—

“In Memory of Sarah Greenly wife of William Nicoll, born in this world Sep. 2<sup>d</sup> 1798 Entered into Life eternal Dec. 30, 1887. She hath done what she could.”

Tombstone, St. John’s Churchyard, Oakdale, L. I.

FRANCES LOUISA (NICOLL) LUDLOW (co-owner of Islip) :—

“To the Sacred Memory of Frances Louisa Nicoll wife of William Handy Ludlow, born January 29, 1822 died June 8, 1887. A faultless woman whose life was passed in unselfish love and duty to others. She died as she lived, a brave true spirit, an example of the highest womanhood.”

Tombstone, St. John’s Churchyard, Oakdale, L. I.

WILLIAM H. LUDLOW (husband of the above) :—

“William Handy Ludlow born April 3, 1821 died Sep. 26, 1890. A man of note and prominent in affairs of State who bore the responsibilities of his citizenship with Honor and distinction. He served in the Army during the war of the Rebellion discharging important duties and attaining the rank of Brevet Major General.

As they lived so now together they rest.  
Their souls are reconjoined.”

Tombstone, St. John’s Churchyard, Oakdale, L. I.

WILLIAM NICOLL 7TH (the 7th and last owner of Islip) :—

William Nicoll, born May 13, 1820, died March 11, 1900.

Tombstone near the church,  
Emmanuel Churchyard, Great River, L. I.

SARAH AUGUSTA (NICOLL) NICOLL (wife of the last owner of Islip) :—

Sarah Augusta, wife of William Nicoll, born March 6, 1823, died March 21, 1910.

Tombstone, Emmanuel Churchyard, Great River, L. I.

#### APPENDIX IV

### GENEALOGY OF THE SENIOR BRANCH OF THE NICOLL FAMILY OF ISLIP GRANGE \*

**I.** WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> NICOLL, the Patentee of *Islip Grange*, is said to have been born in 1657 in England. He was the only surviving son of MATTHIAS<sup>1</sup> NICOLL,† who emigrated to America in May 1664 to be the first Secretary of the Province of New York.

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\* This genealogical account has been compiled anew from contemporary and authoritative sources: — family Bibles, church and probate records, deeds, newspaper marriage and obituary notices, gravestone inscriptions, letters, etc. A few dates only remain unsupported by contemporary evidence, and are here distinguished by the phrase “said to be.” They are taken mainly from the following: — *The Descendants of John Nicoll of Islip, England, who died A. D. 1467*, by E. H. Nicoll, 1894; *Descendants of Elder John Strong of Northampton, Mass.*, by Dwight, 1871 (for which data on the later Nicolls was supplied by Frances Louisa Ludlow, née Nicoll, born 1822, and data on the early Nicolls was supplied by Wm. Floyd Platt in 1842-43); and Thompson’s *History of Long Island*, 3rd edition, 1918 (all data therein as of 1849; the Nicoll account undoubtedly based on the sketch of 1845 supplied by Samuel Benjamin Nicoll, born 1794).

† Matthias Nicoll is said to have married Abigail Johnes and to have died on Dec. 22, 1687. Matthias and his wife Abigail and son Richard were left legacies by Capt. Thos. Exton of New York, in his will dated Sept. 23, 1668. Matthias and his wife Abigail sold property in New York City on Sept. 9, 1686. Matthias Nicolls, judge of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, made a deposition Aug. 1, 1687 concerning an act of his in 1671 while Secretary of the Province. He is stated to have last sat as judge of this court on Sept. 12, 1687 in Queens County. An order of March 12, 1686/7 to Judge Palmer, Capt. Nicolls and 3 others to prepare a bill for settling fees of all courts and offices, resulted in the petition the following year, March 13, 1688, of John Palmer and Matthias Nicolls, judges of the Court of Oyer and Terminer, concerning their salary. These are his last appearances on the records. Letters of administration upon the estate of Matthias Nicoll, late of New York City, were granted by Gov. Fletcher on July 22, 1693 to his widow Abigail Nicoll, upon her petition. There is no record of her death. She can undoubtedly be identified with the “Abigael Jongson” who acted as sponsor to one of William Nicoll’s children on April 5, 1691, since women were entered by their maiden names on the records of the Dutch Church of New York City.

William was old enough to appear at the General Court of Assizes in October 1675. Like his father he became a wellknown lawyer. He was Register of the Court of Admiralty in New York 1683-84, Clerk of Queens County 1683-88, Attorney General of the Province of New York 1687-88 (or to 1690?), member of the Governor's Council 1691-98, member of the General Assembly of the Province from Suffolk County, from 1702 until his death and its Speaker 1702-18. He was a vestryman 1698-1702 of Trinity Church, New York City. His chief residence was in the city until the autumn of 1701 when he established his home at Islip on property patented to him in 1684. His grandson Watts wrote: "I well remember to have seen him expire . . . He followed (his wife) in 1723." His death occurred between the meetings of the Assembly, Nov. 1, 1722 and May 8, 1723. His will was probated Aug. 27, 1723.

He married ANNA VAN RENSSELAER in the Dutch Church at Albany on July 5, 1688. She was born Aug. 1, 1665 O.S. (or Aug. 11th, New Style Calendar), daughter of Jeremias Van Rensselaer, who died Oct. 12, 1674 at Crailo, and of Maria Van Cortlandt, who was born July 20, 1645 and died Jan. 24, 1688/9, all according to the Bible record of Anna's brother Kiliaen.\* Anna had previously married in the Dutch Church at Albany, July 18, 1686, her first cousin Kiliaen Van Rensselaer the Patroon. He is said to have died on the very night he drew his will, Feb. 22, 1686/7 at Watervliet; his pall was paid for March 17, 1687, according to the deacon's book of the Albany Church. William Nicoll's wife Anna is said to have died in 1715. She was living Dec. 12, 1708 when she was godmother, by proxy, at the baptism of her brother Kiliaen's son John; and she is mentioned as deceased in the will of her brother Kiliaen, dated June 11, 1718.

Children of William and Anna (Van Rensselaer) Nicoll:—

2. i. Mary<sup>3</sup> Nicoll was baptized as Maria in the Dutch Church of New York City on Oct. 6, 1689, and was married by license of Dec. 28, 1705 to ROBERT WATTS. He was born at "Rose Hill", Edinburgh, and emigrated about 1710 to New York City where he became a prominent and prosperous merchant, dying here Sept. 21, 1750 in his 73rd year. His will, dated Sept. 9 and probated Oct. 4, 1750, does not mention his

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\* Records of his Bible pub. by the Nat. Soc. of Colonial Dames in the State of N. Y.

wife, so she may have predeceased him, although she is said to have died in 1768.

They had issue three daughters and a son, the Hon. John Watts. He was born in New York April 5, 1715 O.S., and married in July 1742 Ann, sister of James De Lancey, the Lieut. Governor of New York. John Watts was a distinguished lawyer and member of the Governor's Council from 1758 until the Revolution. He was a Loyalist and his property here was confiscated; he sailed for England May 4, 1775 and died in London Aug. 15, 1789.

3. ii. HENRY<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was baptized in the Dutch Church of New York City on April 5, 1691. Among his sponsors was Gov. Henry Sloughter, who had just released the father from political imprisonment. He died before the entail of 1695.
4. iii. JOHN<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was baptized in the Dutch Church of New York City on May 8, 1692, but died before the entail of 1695.
5. iv. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> NICOLL is said to have been born in 1694. He was called son and heir apparent in his father's indenture of entail, dated Oct. 23, 1695.
6. v. JEREMY<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was called second son in the entail of 1695. He was baptized as Jeremias in the Dutch Church of New York City on July 7, 1695, and evidently died in youth. He is not in his father's will.
7. vi. WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was listed second among the sons in his father's will of 1718/19. He lived at Shelter Island and died at Hempstead Plains, Long Island, on Dec. 3, 1768, at the age of about 66 years, unmarried and intestate, according to his nephew Watts' account, and so was born about 1702. For his career in the General Assembly, etc., see the main portion of this monograph.
8. vii. RENSSELAER<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was called the youngest son of sister Anne in the 1718 will of his uncle Kiliaen Van Rensselaer, who bequeathed him farms at Bethlehem in Albany County, N. Y. He died after Watts left America, aged rather more than his brother Wil-

liam, according to his nephew Watts' account. His will was not proved until April 12, 1790 at Albany, but he is said to have been born about 1706 and to have drowned on his property Aug. 5, 1776. For a photograph of the brick house that he built at Bethlehem, eight miles south of Albany, see the *N. Y. Genealogical Record*, v. 56, p. 65. He was for many years a Judge of the court of Common Pleas for the city and County of Albany, commissioned as such in 1749, 1758, 1762 and 1770. Rensselaer married

ELIZABETH, daughter of Francis SALISBURY of Catskill, Albany Co. (see his will dated 1749 and probated 1756), and had nine children baptized in the Dutch Church of Albany from 1731 to 1754. The only son who had issue was Francis Nicoll, who married Margaret Van Rensselaer by license of Sept. 3, 1752.

9. viii. CATHERINE<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was probably born Oct. 12, 1709.\* She died May 4, 1779 in her 70th year, according to her gravestone at Shelter Island. On Jan. 27, 1728 she married Jonathan Havens of Shelter Island, who was born Jan. 29, 1709, and died Nov. 1, 1774 in his 66th year. They had issue seven daughters and a son Nicoll Havens.

10. ix. FRANCES<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was born between 1703 and 1711, probably in the latter year.† Her nephew Watts wrote of her as a widow, living at the age of 77 years, who was "a composition of merit and good sense."

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\* See Mallmann's *Historical Papers on Shelter Island and its Presbyterian Church*, pp. 239-40, for the dates of Catherine, her husband, and their eight children, evidently taken from a family record. Catherine's birthdate is therein given as Oct. 12, 1700, probably a misprint for 1709, the year of her husband's birth and also of her own, if two transcribers of her gravestone correctly copied her age thereon. This would imply that her parents had no children for five years after her father's return from England, unless they had more that died in infancy; the later children would have been baptized in Trinity Church, chartered in 1697, but the early records thereof have been burned. Catherine was listed second of the daughters in her Father's will and in her nephew Watts' account. Frances, the youngest daughter listed, was living aged 77 years when her nephew Watts wrote between 1780-88, and so was born 1703-11. With Catherine born 1709, Frances would have been born 1711, and hence the more probable age of 28, rather than older, at her marriage.

† See previous note.

She was living at Bethlehem, Albany Co., N. Y. in September 1786 when, as executor, she sold some property on the Mohawk belonging to her brother-in-law Henry Holland. Her will was probated at Albany on Oct. 24, 1788.

She was married at New York by Rev. Mr. Charlton on Dec. 10, 1739 to EDWARD HOLLAND, widower of Magdalene Bayeux, and son of Capt. Henry and Jane Holland; they had an only child Henry Holland, born Dec. 15, 1742 and died Oct. 7, 1774 (unmarried), all according to the Bible of Edward.\* He had been baptized at Albany on Sept. 6, 1702, was for many years Mayor of Albany and of New York City, and was a member of the Governor's Council from 1746 until his death. He died in New York City on Nov. 10, 1756, and his will was probated on Feb. 12, 1759.

Children of William<sup>2</sup> Nicoll and Mrs. Ruth Dwight:—

11. i. EDWARD<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was born Feb. 20, 1717, according to his Bible.† William Nicoll in his will called Edward a son of his by Mrs. Ruth Dwight, left him a legacy and farm on Shelter Island when of age, and gave directions for his "Maintenance Support and Education . . . Fitting & Suitable for a Son of mine." Watts wrote from New York in 1763: "Mr: Edward Nicoll a Man of very good fortune here . . ." Edward married first by license of Dec. 10, 1737 Agnes De Meyer, who was born March 5, 1720, and had five sons and five daughters. He married secondly Sarah Ross by license of June 30, 1763. He termed himself a merchant of New York City in his will, dated Aug. 12, 1782 and probated Jan. 15, 1798.

12. ii. JOHN<sup>3</sup> NICOLL was born prior to the date of his father's will, March 17, 1718/19, and is termed therein son and brother of Edward. John Watts wrote concerning him from New York, Aug. 13, 1763, to Moses Franks:—

"Mr: Edward Nicoll a Man of very good fortune here has a Brother in England, a Namesake of mine and a

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\* See the 1804 copy of his Bible records at the Pennypacker Library.

† See *N. Y. Genealogical Record*, v. 12, p. 50, for the records in this Bible.

sort of relation too over the left shoulder, who is soliciting some post, having marryd a Daughter of Capt: Warren Lisle, Surveyor of Weymouth, etc.

“This Mr: John Nicoll he desires me to give a credit on you, for £500 Sterling, which I very willingly do, tho’ he probably will not want it, and I shall take it as a particular favour if you would set him right with your Advice if he should want it, in such a bewilderd or rather bewildring City as London. The Man is sober, modest and without any Vice that I know of, but not I believe very conversant in the world, tho’ he has had the honour of serving his Majesty some years in the Navy.”

**5. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> NICOLL** inherited the Islip estate under the will of his father William, but survived him only about two years, according to John Watts. The probate records of the father’s will show that Benjamin died between Aug. 27, 1723 and June 13, 1724 when he was succeeded as executor by his brother. Benjamin was chosen Supervisor of the first Town Meeting of Islip of which there is record, April 1, 1720, but was termed a resident of Southampton, Suffolk County, when administration was granted Aug. 6, 1724 to his widow Charity.

He married his first cousin CHARITY FLOYD, born April 6, 1692, daughter of Richard Floyd Sr., born May 12, 1665 and his wife Margaret, born May 30, 1662, according to the Floyd Bible.\* The mother Margaret was the only sister of William Nicoll, the Patentee of Islip, and is said to have married Sept. 10, 1686. According to their gravestones in the churchyard at Setauket, Long Island, Margaret died Feb. 1, 1718, and “Richard Floyd Esq, late Colonel of this County and a Judge of Court of Common pleas” died Feb. 28, 1737/8 in his 73rd year. He drew his will the day previous, as of the Town of Brookhaven, bequeathing his Mastick lands to his son Nicoll Floyd, and naming among others his daughter Charity and his grandchildren Benjamin Nicoll and Gloriana Margaret Nicoll.

Samuel Johnson and Charity Floyd, alias Nicoll, were married by Rev. Dr. Standard on Sept. 26, 1725; Charity died June 1, 1758 and is deposited under the Chancel just under the north end of the Communion Table in Trinity Church, New York aet. 67, all according to Johnson’s Bible, in which he gives his own birth

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\* Records therein published by the Nat. Soc. of Colonial Dames in the State of New York.

as on Oct. 14, 1696 and Charity's on April 6, 1692. This was REV. DR. SAMUEL JOHNSON, D.D., first Episcopal minister of Stratford, Conn., and first President of King's (now Columbia) College, New York City. According to his son's Bible, he died Jan. 6, 1772 and was buried in Stratford Church.

Children of Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Nicoll and Charity Floyd his wife:—

- +13. i. WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> NICOLL, born Oct. 7, 1715 at Islip.
- 14. ii. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> NICOLL is said to have been born at Islip on March 17, 1717/18 and to have died in New York City of smallpox. He graduated from Yale, 1734, and became a distinguished lawyer in New York City. He was active in the organization of King's College and of the New York Society Library, and was a vestryman of Trinity Church from 1751 until his death on April 15, 1760. His first cousin, Watts, wrote of him: "My beloved friend whom I lost in the virgin of life, at 42, is a loss I shall ever deplore". Benjamin was married in Trinity Church, New York City, on Sept. 11, 1747 to MAGDALENE MARY HOLLAND, who was born June 18, 1727, daughter of his uncle Edward Holland by his first wife. They had issue four sons, of whom Harry is the ancestor of the Mastic branch and Matthias of the Stratford branch.
- 15. iii. GLORIANA MARGARETTA<sup>4</sup> NICOLL is said to have been born June 1, 1721. She died June 28, 1759 aged 39 years and was buried beside her mother in Trinity Church, New York City. She was married Dec. 25, 1740 in Christ Episcopal Church, Stratford, to PAUL MAVERICK, who died Jan. 20, 1745/6 in his 52nd year according to his gravestone in Stratford. They had issue a son who died in infancy, and another named William Benjamin Nicoll Maverick, born Sept. 20, 1743 at Stratford, who graduated from Kings College in 1762 (He seems to have been missed by the Nicoll historians in spite of his name!)

Dr. Johnson's autobiography, written in the third person, states:— "His beloved daughter-in-law Gloriana, Mr. Maverick's widow, who had lived several years with him, was now the stay of his family, after his wife's decease, but seemed consumptive and died

June 28, 1759 . . . He had to leave home shortly after and left Mrs. Maverick's son in care of his housekeeper and retired to his son's at Stratford." In Johnson's list of his household, about 1741, are Paul Maverick and Ana Nicoll.

Children of Dr. Samuel Johnson and Charity (Floyd) Nicoll, his wife:—

- i. William Samuel Johnson, born Oct. 7, 1727, died Nov. 14, 1819 at Stratford, Conn., leaving issue. He was a distinguished lawyer, a delegate to the Stamp Act Congress and member of the Governor's Council, from which he retired as he could not conscientiously join in a war against England. Later he was Connecticut Senator to the U. S. Congress, etc.
- ii. Rev. William Johnson, born March 9, 1730/1, died of smallpox in London on June 20, 1756, according to his brother's Bible.

**13.** WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> NICOLL, "commonly called *Lawyer* or *Clerk* Nicoll, eldest son and heir at law of Benjamin Nicoll, eldest son of William the Patentee, was born at Islip on Oct. 7, 1715 . . . and died at Islip on March 1, 1780 aged 64 years; . . . he married June 1, 1750 Joanna De Honneur, born April 1731 . . . (who) died at Islip Dec. 3, 1772 aged 42 years". This is from the family sketch written by their grandson Samuel Benjamin Nicoll,\* and seems to be correct except for the deathplace of Joanna, her obituary stating that she died in New York City. William graduated from Yale College, class of 1734. He lived with his stepfather Johnson at Stratford, Conn. until about 1741, then until after 1753 in the Town of Brookhaven, Long Island, probably on the Setauket lands of his grandfather William Nicoll. By 1756 he had settled on the Islip estate, of which he was the third proprietor. He built St. John's Church there, represented Suffolk County in the General Assembly 1769-1775, and was Clerk of Suffolk County from 1749 until his death. His cousin Watts wrote he "was of my age and died since I left America." His will was probated March 15, 1780.

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\* Written in 1845 for the historian Thompson. It is in the MS files of the Pennypacker Library, East Hampton, N. Y. The author wishes to express appreciation to Mr. Pennypacker for placing his manuscripts and other material at her disposal.

JOANNA DE HONEUR, his wife, was baptized on May 2, 1731 in the First Church of Huntington. Her father Samuel D'Honneur (as he spelled the name) was baptized in the Dutch Church of New York City on Jan. 10, 1704, lived successively in the towns of Huntington and Brookhaven, Long Island, and drowned in crossing Long Island Sound, the Keteltas Bible recording that he died Sept. 15, 1749, aged 45 years and 8 months.\* His will was probated Jan. 18, 1749, evidently 1749/50 New Style. His wife was Rachel Strong, born May 7, 1704. She survived him many years, evidently living with the Nicolls at Islip. The will of Rachael D'Honneur, late of Suffolk County, now of New York, dated August 1782 and probated April 25, 1789, directed the sale and division of her estate between her three Nicoll granddaughters, and gave negro Moll her freedom.

Children of *Clerk* William<sup>4</sup> Nicoll and Joanna De Honeur, his wife:—

16. i. A daughter who died in infancy. S. B. Nicoll wrote of six children but named only five. Dr. Johnson wrote from New York on May 6, 1754 to his son: "Your brother Billy has lost his eldest daughter of the throat distemper . . ."
17. ii. CHARITY<sup>5</sup> NICOLL, daughter of William Nicoll Esq. of Islip, was born March 27, 1753, died Oct. 20, 1820 aged 65 years and 6 months; she was married by the Rev. John Greaton on Nov. 5, 1771 to GERRET KETELTAS, who was born in New York on Jan. 1, 1748/9 and died June 9, 1810 aged 61 years and 5 months, according to their Bible,† that also gives the births and baptisms of their six sons and three daughters. One of them, Peter, was born at Islip—on Dec. 19, 1778; most or all of the others in New York. S. B. Nicoll wrote that his uncle Garret was a merchant in New York and died at Shelter Island. The couple were married at Islip by license of Oct. 30, 1771, the N. Y. Gazette stating she was "a young lady endowed with all the accomplishments required to render the marriage state happy."
18. iii. WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> NICOLL, born at Islip on May 20, 1756.

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\* Unpublished photostats of the records in this Bible are at the N. Y. Genealogical and Biographical Society.

† See *N. Y. Genealogical Record*, v. 28, p. 173, for the records in this Bible.

19. iv. GLORIANNA MARGARETTA<sup>5</sup> NICOLL was born Sept. 13, 1759, according to her nephew S. B. Nicoll. She died Feb. 10, 1825 in Bristol, England and was buried in the Cathedral there. She was married by license of March 14, 1778, the N. Y. Gazette of March 30th stating that a few days since, Mr. John McAdam Junr. of this City, merchant, was married to "Miss Gloriana Margarett Nicoll, Daughter of William Nicoll Esq. of Suffolk County on Long Island, a young Lady of great Beauty and Merit, with a large Fortune". JOHN LOUDON McADAM, her husband, was born Sept. 21, 1756 at Ayr in Scotland, son of James. He followed his uncles to America as a boy, but was an active Loyalist in the Revolution and his property here was confiscated. He returned to Ayr in 1783, and in 1802 went to Bristol where he became celebrated for his improved method of roadmaking, now bearing his name, and eventually received a pension for the same from the English government. He died Nov. 26, 1836 in his 81st year, according to his gravestone at Moffat in Scotland. He had no issue by his second wife Ann De Lancey. Gloriana was the mother of his seven children, including Sir James.\*
20. v. JOANNA RACHEL<sup>5</sup> NICOLL was born in 1761 and died at Islip on Jan. 8, 1795; she married *Clerk* KILBY McADAM and had two children, Gilbert and James, now deceased, according to her nephew S. B. Nicoll in 1845. Joanna was still unmarried at the time of her grandmother's will, August 1782. Her family is probably to be identified with that of Clerk H. McAdam, living (according to the 1790 Census) in the South Ward of New York City, with a family of three boys and three females. Her husband was evidently the son of Capt. Gilbert McAdam who married at Trinity Church, New York City on Sept. 25, 1757 Sarah (Kilby) Cunningham, widow. He lived in New York City and Vermont and later returned to Ayrshire; John Loudon McAdam called said Gilbert his uncle.†

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\* See *The Colossus of Roads, A Life of John Loudon McAdam*, by Roy Devereux, 1936.

† See *The Colossus of Roads*, pp. 27 & 32. Also St. Andrews Society pub., v. 1, p. 67.

21. vi. SAMUEL BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> NICOLL, youngest child and second son, was born Sept. 4, 1764. He removed to his estate on Shelter Island in 1787 and lived there until he died Sept. 19, 1828. He married Dec. 6, 1784 (his cousin) ANNA FLOYD, born Aug. 17, 1767, died June 8, 1813 aged 46 years, daughter of Col. Richard Floyd of Mastic:—all according to the record of their son S. B. Nicoll. The will of Samuel Benjamin Nicoll of Shelter Island was probated Sept. 27, 1828. He died there, according to the Long Island Star of Sept. 25th. His father, *Clerk* William Nicoll, had bequeathed to his younger son and descendants in entail his lands at West Neck and Sachems Neck, Shelter Island. There were ten children, of whom Samuel Benjamin Nicoll, born 1794 and died 1865, bought Sachems Neck from his older brother. He is the ancestor of the Shelter Island branch of the family.

**18.** WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> NICOLL, the fourth proprietor of Islip, was born there May 20, 1756, according to his nephew S. B. Nicoll, and died there April 22, 1795 aged 39 years. The will of William Nicoll, Esq. of Islip, dated Dec. 17, 1781, named wife, two sons and brother Benjamin; it was probated June 24, 1796, the executors named therein (including the wife) not serving, William Terry was appointed administrator. In 1792 William was appointed a Captain of Lt. Col. Benejah Strong's Regiment of Suffolk Co. militia; in 1798 his place as captain in Conklin's regiment was filled. The historian Thompson refers to the William as Capt. Nicoll, no doubt because of this appointment.

He was married, at a date unknown, to FRANCES SMITH, daughter of Col. Henry Smith of the Manor of St. George by his third wife Margaret Biggs. Frances is named as unmarried in his will of Sept. 17, 1764; she was born Oct. 19, 1743 at Brookhaven and baptized Jan. 6, 1743/4 by Rev. Mr. Youngs, according to the family record.\* Frances was living Nov. 16, 1786 when she joined her husband in signing the release of the Islip estate to the Trustees. Her date of death is unknown, but she had probably died before June 24, 1796 as she did not qualify as an executrix of her husband.

Children of William<sup>5</sup> Nicoll and Frances Smith his wife:—

- +22. i. WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> Nicoll, the elder son.

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\* For records in the "Tangier Smith" book, see *N. Y. Genealogical Record*, v. 1, p. 22.

23. ii. HENRY<sup>6</sup> NICOLL is said to have been born at Islip on June 13, 1778 and to have died in April 1827; married 1795 SARAH SQUIRES, born at Huntington June 6, 1777, daughter of John Squires. They had six sons and three daughters.

**22.** WILLIAM<sup>6</sup> NICOLL was the elder son, judging by the will of his father and the ownership of the Islip estate, but there seems to be confusion as to his dates.\* In 1798 he was appointed ensign in the Suffolk Co. regiment of Col. T Conklin; in 1800 his place as ensign was filled, since he was deceased. Administration was granted June 25, 1799 on the estate of William Nicoll, farmer, of Islip, to his friend Selah Strong of Brookhaven, the widow Deborah resigning.

S. B. Nicoll merely states he "married a daughter of Col. Simmons". The *Seaman Family* (1928), p. 84, identifies the wife as DEBORAH SEAMAN, born in Hempstead, died about 1802, daughter of Obadiah Seaman and his second wife Sarah Carman. The Strong Genealogy calls her Deborah Seaman of Islip.

Children of William<sup>6</sup> Nicoll and Deborah Seaman his wife:—

24. i. FRANCES<sup>7</sup> NICOLL is said to have been born May 3, 1798 and to have married Feb. 7, 1816 to WICKHAM CONKLIN, a farmer of Oak Neck, Islip, by whom she had 5 sons and a daughter; she was living in 1870 in Babylon as a widow.

- +25. ii. WILLIAM<sup>7</sup> NICOLL, born Oct. 26, 1799.

**25.** WILLIAM<sup>7</sup> NICOLL, posthumous child and sixth owner of the Islip estate, was born Oct. 26, 1799 and died Nov. 20, 1823

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\* Thompson says this William was born in 1773, the Strong and Nicoll Genealogies give 1776, the Strong Genealogy adding that he died April 21, 1799. His first cousin S. B. Nicoll of Shelter Island (born 1794) left the dates blank in the appropriate place in his sketch, adding under the son William: born Feb. 6, 1778, died at Islip June 15, 1799 aged 21 years. If this date of birth is correct, that for the younger brother Henry in the Strong and Nicoll Genealogies must be wrong. The families in the Census of 1776 are also puzzling: — William Nicol in the Precinct of Islip: 1 male over 50 and 1 over 16 and 1 under 16, also 2 females over 16 and 1 under 16. William Nicoll on Shelter Island is therein given 1 male over 16 and 1 under 16, also 1 female over 16. So far as we know William Nicoll (husband of Frances Smith) always lived at Islip, where he was in 1775 and 1779, otherwise this 1776 Shelter Island record could fit him, if married with an infant son. However, the family of the elder William Nicoll at Islip is only complete if we identify the son over 16 as William Jr., inferring that the latter was still unmarried in 1776 and that the Shelter Island family was a tenant's.

aged 24 years. He is buried in St. John's Churchyard, in the old village of Islip now called Oakdale. Administration was granted on his estate to his widow Sarah Nicoll of Islip, one of the bondsmen being Thomas Greenly of Hamilton, Madison County. This William Nicoll was educated at Princeton and studied law at Hamilton. In 1821 he was appointed Lieutenant of the 137th Regiment of Suffolk Co. infantry.

He is said to have married on June 9, 1819. His wife was SARAH GREENLY, daughter of Dr. Thomas Greenly of Hamilton, N. Y. She was born Sept. 2, 1798 and died Dec. 30, 1887. She was buried by her husband, whom she had outlived so many years.

Children of William<sup>7</sup> Nicoll and Sarah Greenly his wife:—

- +26. i. WILLIAM<sup>8</sup> NICOLL, born May 13, 1820.
- 27. ii. FRANCES LOUISA<sup>8</sup> NICOLL, born Jan. 29, 1822, died June 8, 1887. Her marriage at Islip is on the records of St. George's Church, Hempstead. She married Dec. 9, 1841 WILLIAM H. LUDLOW, Brevet Major General in the Civil War, who was born at Yonkers April 3, 1821, and died Sept. 26, 1890. Both are buried in St. John's Churchyard, Oakdale. They had six children.
- 28. iii. SARAH GREENLY<sup>8</sup> NICOLL, born Jan. 2, 1824, died June 28, 1830 aged 6 years, buried in St. John's Church, Oakdale.

**26.** WILLIAM<sup>8</sup> NICOLL, the seventh and last owner of the Islip estate, was born May 13, 1820. He continued to live in the old Nicoll home until the autumn of 1899, and died at his son's home in Babylon on March 11, 1900. He lies buried in the cemetery of Emmanuel Church, Great River, of which church he was warden for twenty-two years. He graduated from Columbia College, A.B. 1840, and studied law but did not practice. He was married in the Church of the Ascension by the rector of St. John's, Islip, on April 10, 1843 to SARAH AUGUSTA NICOLL, daughter of Edward A. Nicoll of New York City. She is believed to be a distant relation, and was born March 26, 1823 and died March 21, 1910. They had seven children.

## APPENDIX V.

### THE NICOLL FAMILY IN ENGLAND

from the records of

### THE COLLEGE OF ARMS

CONFIRMATION OF 1467 COAT OF ARMS, 1601:—

“ TO ALL AND SINGULAR AS WELL NOBLES as Gentles To whom these pnts. shall come, Willm Segar, Esquire, Als Norroy King of Armes, sendeth his due commendacons & greeting. Know yee, that whereas aunciently from the begynning it hath byn a custome in all Countryses and Common wealthes well governed, that the bearing of certeyn markes in Shields, comonly called Armes, haue byn, and are used, by persons euer of the best degree and calling, as the onlye demonstracons of their prowesse, and valor in tymes of warre, as for their good life, and conuesacon in tymes of peace Amongst the which number, for that I fynde John Nicoll, of Buckingham, the sonne of Willm Nicoll of Willen in the County of Buckingham, which Willm was the sonne of John Nicoll, of Islippe in the county of Northampton, the sonne of Henry, the sonne of John, who lyued an<sup>o</sup>. dm 1467, Whoe bore for their auncient Coate of Armes, Azur three eglets in bend, between two Cottises engraed, & six Crosletts fichee Or, as they are to be seen both on grave stones, and windows, in the Parish Church of Islippe, aforesaid. And not knowing certeynly of any Crest to belong unto their saide Coate of Armes as many auncient Coats are found to want hath requested mee the saide Norroy to appoynt hym suche a one, as hee may lawfully beare, without wronge (ing or) \* prejudize to others., the which according unto his earnest request I have accomplished & done. viz, on (the) \* wreath of his coullors an Eagle rousant Or, supporting a Crosse, croisette fichee, Azur, as more playnly is depicted in the margent. All which Armes and Crest I the saide Norroy doe by theis presents ratefy, & confirme unto the saide John Nicoll, & his posterity forever; And hee, and they to use, beare, and shewe forth the same in Signett, sheild, Coat Armor or otherwise, at his, and their free liberty, and pleasure. It Witnes whereof I the said Norroy unto theise pnts haue sett my hand & seale of Office the xxiiith daye of June, in the xliiith yeare of the raigne of

souveraigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Queen of England, France & Ireland, Defender of the faith. etc. An<sup>o</sup>. Dni. 1601."

(signed) "Willm Segar Norroy King of Arms."\*  
(large seal below attached by ribbon).

PEDIGREE CHART, 1930:—

Generations:

- (1) John Nicholls (Nicolls) of Islip, Co. Northampton,  
Buried at the Parish Church there 1467.
- (2) Henry Nicholls of Islip aforesaid
- (3) John Nicholls of Islip aforesaid
- (4) William Nicholls of Islip aforesaid and of Willen, Co. Buckingham,

Will dated 28 January 1571/2, Proved Arch Court Buckingham 28 June 1572.

Married first Mary, Daur. of Henry Langdaway, and had issue by her: Roger, named in his father's will, and Elizabeth.

Married secondly Mary or Maryon, daughter of Lawrence Woodhull (or Odell) of Warkworth, Co. Oxford, Thenford, Co. Northampton, Mollington, Fringford and Dunetry all Co. Oxford; his will dated 20 March 1548/9, proved in September 1551 at Northampton.

Mary was mentioned in her husband's will and that of her father 1548. Issue by her, named in their father's will: John, Richard, Alice and Ellen.

- (5) John Nicholls of Willen aforesaid, mentioned in his father's will 1571.

Will dated 29 May 1630, Proved 15 February 1630/1 in P.C.C.

Married Joan, daur and heir of John Grafton.

Issue, named in their father's will: John, Matthias, Jane and Katherine.

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\* Transcribed from the original, owned by Dr. Matthias Nicoll Jr. of Rye. There is one small hole along a former crease, obliterating the two portions starred; these words in brackets are taken from a previous transcription. To the left of the above confirmatory grant is depicted in color the Nicoll coat of arms and crest, together with the motto: "Fide, sed cui vide."

- (6) Matthias Nicolls of Plymouth, Co. Devon, Clerk in Holy Orders, Bachelor of Divinity, Sometime Rector of Plymouth.

Undated will proved 10 Oct. 1631 in P.C.C.

Married Martha daur of . . . Oakes of Leicester. She was Exix of her husband's will 1631.

Issue, named in their father's will: John, Samuel, Mathias, Johan and Hanna.

- (7) Mathias Nicholl, a Student of Lincoln's Inn 1649.

Mentioned in his father's will 1631. Went to America as a Commissioned Officer and Secretary of the future Province of New York 1664. Mayor of New York 1671. Purchased property at Plandome and Cowneck, Manhasset, Queens County, Long Island, Patents dated 1670 and 1677.

- (8) Margaret (Nicholl) mentioned in an Indenture dated 4 August 1689.

Died 1 February 1718, Buried in the Presbyterian Church of Setauket afsd M.I. there.

Married Richard Floyd of Brook Haven in Suffolk County in the Province of New York, Colonel of the County of Suffolk, Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, Died 28 February 1737/8 aged 72, Buried at the Presbyterian Church of Setauket, Long Island, aforesaid, M.I. there. Will dated 27 Feb. 1737/8.\*

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\* Taken from the Pedigree of the "Descent of Gertrude Bailey Tredick Griffiths from the Barons of Wahull (Woodhull) of Thenford Manor in the County of Northampton and of Bedfordshire," as certified to from the records of the College of Arms, London, 31 day of July 1930 by E. R. Bellew, Somerset Herald, and signed by him.

The above extract connects the Nicolls in America with the English line. It was very kindly furnished to me for publication by Mrs. Percival Griffiths, of London.