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## Descendants of Ferdinando Leigh



*Dick Purser*

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## The Ferdinando Leigh Line

### Descendants of Ferdinando Leigh

Ferdinando Leigh emigrated from England about 1740, before the Revolution. He married Martha Cole, widow of Thomas West, owner of West Point, Virginia, among the upper crust of Virginia society. He was, of course, a Tory during the Revolution and this estranged him for awhile from his son William who was an ardent "patriot".

The family has produced some notable figures who are detailed in this Genealogy Report. To follow standard practice the report has been truncated to avoid revealing names and details concerning the living. The portrait above is of his grandson, Benjamin Watkins Leigh.

DNA tests now underway are tending to support the belief that Ferdinando Leigh and Col. William Leigh had a close common ancestor. This would perhaps explain Ferdinando's warm welcome into King William County.

### *Generation No. 1*

**1. Ferdinando<sup>1</sup> Leigh**, b. 1716, in England, d. 30 Oct 1779, in Dinwiddie Co., Virginia. Married Martha Cole about 1746, in West Point, Virginia. She was the daughter of Col. William Cole, Jr. and Mary Roscow. Martha Cole was b. 1711, d. 16 Apr 1770.

Notes for Ferdinando Leigh: I have seen the date of this Ferdinando's immigration from England as 1743, 1745 and 1732-38. He married Thomas West's widow, nee Martha Cole, and settled at West Point, King William County, Virginia. It is highly likely that "West Point" was named by the West family. When a town was laid out there it became "Delaware" (de la Warr ?) briefly but then reverted to West Point. Lots in this town are an important connection for Gilbert Leigh of North Carolina.

I have seen Ferdinando's date of death given as 1769 also; however, his will is dated May 24, 1779 and it is recorded in May 1784. The following death notice appears authentic, however.

"Mr. Ferdinando Leigh, near Petersburg, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. October 30" William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. 12, No. 1.(Jul., 1903), pp. 25-28. PERSONAL NOTICES FROM THE "VIRGINIA GAZETTE." (February 12, 1779 - December 25, 1779.):

I have seen one source, documented by the Historical Society of Virginia, which claims that Ferdinando did not immigrate but that he was the son of John Leigh of King William County and grandson of Col. William Leigh of King William County. This is inconsistent with other records which say that the native Ferdinando Leigh was the son of William Leigh who was the second son of Col. William Leigh of King and Queen County and John Leigh's brother.

From the Benleigh FTM file: Note from Dick Purser. I corrected this name from Fernando Leigh to Ferdinando Leigh. This is based on a death notice for Ferdinando Leigh published in the Virginia Gazette on 30 October 1779. He is noted to have died near Petersburg, Virginia in the 64th year of his age. His estate is in the hands of William Claiborne, Sr. of Petersburg (Virginia Gazette, 19 February, 1780) and his heir at law is said to be William Leigh of Chesterfield County, Virginia. (Virginia Gazette or American Advertiser, 12 July 1783)

Notes for Martha Cole: Name could be Martha or Mary. She is named Mary in one place and Martha in another.

Children of Ferdinando Leigh and Martha Cole:

- 2     i.    **William Leigh**, b. 1747, d. 1787.
- 3     ii.   **Mary Leigh**, b. 1750, d. 11 Apr 1782.

### *Generation No. 2*

**2. William<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*Ferdinando*<sup>1</sup>), b. 1747, d. 1787. Married Elizabeth Cary Watkins. She was the daughter of Benjamin Watkins and Elizabeth Cary.

Notes for William Leigh: William Leigh was a minister ordained in England. Ministry was in Dale Parish, Chesterfield, Virginia.

Notes for Elizabeth Cary Watkins: This name is also given as Elizabeth Selden Watkins in Rootsweb data bases. Both ladies were supposedly born on Dec 10, 1762, a date which is improbable. 1752 would be more likely.

Children of William Leigh and Elizabeth Cary Watkins:

- i.    **Elizabeth Leigh**. Married Nathan Harris. Nathan Harris was b. in Petersburg, VA.
- ii.   **Martha Leigh**, b. about 1778. Married William Finney.
- 4       iii.   **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. 18 Jun 1781, in Chesterfield Co., Va, d. 2 Feb 1849, in Richmond, Va.
- 5       iv.    **William Leigh**, b. 1783, d. after 8 Sep 1870, in Mecklenburg Co., Va.

**3. Mary<sup>2</sup> Leigh** (*Ferdinando*<sup>1</sup>), b. 1750, d. 11 Apr 1782. Married William Claiborne. He was the son of Nathaniel Claiborne and Jane Cole. William Claiborne was b. 22 Jul 1748, d. 27 Sep 1809.

Children of Mary Leigh and William Claiborne:

- 6     i.   **Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne**, b. 9 Mar 1772, d. 22 Mar 1815.
- ii.   **Mary Leigh Claiborne**, b. about 1773.
- iii.   **William Charles Cole Claiborne**, b. 13 Aug 1773, d. 23 Nov 1817. Married Elizabeth Wilson Lewis. Elizabeth Wilson Lewis was b. 1782.
- iv.   **Thomas Augustine Claiborne**, b. 10 Feb 1777, d. 1817. Married Sarah T. Lewis. Mary Leigh's brother served as godfather for Thomas' christening. (Ben Lacey Rose 1, p. 52)
- v.   **Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne**, b. 1 Feb 1775, d. 15 Aug 1859. Married Elizabeth A. Binford.

*Generation No. 3*

**4. Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*William*<sup>2</sup>, *Ferdinando*<sup>1</sup>), b. 18 Jun 1781, in Chesterfield Co., Va, d. 2 Feb 1849, in Richmond, Va. Married (1) Mary Selden Watkins between 1805 and 1810. She was the daughter of Thomas Watkins and Rebecca Selden. Mary Selden Watkins was b. about 1785, d. between Oct 1812 and Jun 1813. Married (2) Susanna Colston 1813. She was the daughter of Rawleigh Colston and Elizabeth Keith Marshall. Susanna Colston was b. 27 Nov 1792. Married (3) Julia Wickham before 1824. She was the daughter of John Wickham and Elizabeth Selden McClurg. Julia Wickham was b. about 1805.

Notes for Benjamin Watkins Leigh: Lawyer, Senator from Virginia, Author of Leigh's Reports. Extensive information available.

He is credited with three wives. His marriages to Mary Selden Watkins, Susanna Colston, and Julia Wickham were each to admirable women from notable Virginia families. He had sons by all of them and in this data base there are I think 8 Benjamin Watkins Leigh's. I know of two more.

Notes for Mary Selden Watkins: The date of Thomas Leigh's birth and Mary Watkins Leigh's death are obscure. It appears likely that she died during childbirth and that Senator Leigh re-married quickly, partly to have someone to care for his son,.

Children of Benjamin Watkins Leigh and Mary Selden Watkins:

- 7     i.   **Thomas Watkins Leigh**, b. 1813.

Children of Benjamin Watkins Leigh and Susanna Colston:

- 8 i. **William Leigh**, b. 1 Oct 1814, in Falling Waters, Berkeley Co., VA, d. 20 Jan 1888, in Gale Hill, Martinsburg, Berkeley Co., WV.
- 9 ii. **Mary Susan Selden Leigh**, b. 25 Jul 1816.

Children of Benjamin Watkins Leigh and Julia Wickham:

- i. **Alice Leigh**.
- ii. **Virginia Leigh**.
- iii. **J. Wickham Leigh**, b. between 1822 and 1827.
- iv. **Elizabeth W. Leigh**, b. about 1824. Married Charles M. Fry. Charles M. Fry was b. about 1822.
- 10 v. **Chapman Johnson Leigh**, b. about 1827.
- 11 vi. **Julia Wickham Leigh**, b. about 1830.
- 12 vii. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. 18 Jan 1831, d. 3 Jul 1863, in Gettysburg, Pa.
- 13 viii. **Anne Carter Leigh**, b. about 1833.

**5. William<sup>3</sup> Leigh** (*William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1783, d. after 8 Sep 1870, in Mecklenburg Co., Va. Married Rebecca Watkins. She was the daughter of Thomas Watkins and Rebecca Selden. Rebecca Watkins was b. about 1787, d. before 1860.

Notes for William Leigh: This William Leigh was a judge in Halifax County, Va.

Children of William Leigh and Rebecca Watkins:

- i. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. about 1812.
- ii. **Rebecca Leigh**, b. 1817.
- iii. **Martha Leigh**, b. 1820.
- iv. **Eliza Leigh**, b. 1823.
- 14 v. **John Randolph Leigh, Dr.**, b. 1825.

**6. Ferdinand Leigh<sup>3</sup> Claiborne** (*Mary Leigh<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 9 Mar 1772, d. 22 Mar 1815. Married Mary Magdalene Hutchins. Mary Magdalene Hutchins was b. 1777.

Children of Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne and Mary Magdalene Hutchins:

- 15 i. **John Francis Hamtramck Claiborne**, b. 24 Apr 1807.
- 16 ii. **Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne**, b. 20 Feb 1809, d. 11 Dec 1893.

*Generation No. 4*

**7. Thomas Watkins<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1813. Married Rebecca A. Wimbish.

Notes for Thomas Watkins Leigh: There is more than a little question in my mind as to whether this Thomas W. Leigh is Benjamin Watkins Leigh's son or his nephew. It is a bit difficult to fit him into BWL's marriages. This Thomas went on to become a circuit judge in Halifax County just like his uncle (or father). On the other hand, BWL's son William did name a son Thomas.

Added note: In Benjamin Watkins will dated October, 1817 and executed in September, 1825 in Chesterfield County, Va. he refers to his Nephew Thomas W. Leigh, "son of my late sister" (Mary Selden Watkins) and also to his sister Mrs. William Leigh (Rebecca). His brothers in law Bej. W. Leigh and William Leigh are executors along with his brothers Thomas and Miles. This seems to be definitive that Thomas W. is Mary Selden Watkins' son.

Children of Thomas Watkins Leigh and Rebecca A. Wimbish:

- i. **Rebecca Leigh**, b. about 1841.

**8. William<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1 Oct 1814, in Falling Waters, Berkeley Co., VA, d. 20 Jan 1888, in Gale Hill, Martinsburg, Berkeley Co., WV, bur. in Martinsburg, W. Va. (USN and CSA). Married (1) Ella Wickham 19 Jan 1850. She was the daughter of John Wickham and Elizabeth Selden McClurg. Ella Wickham was b. about 1815. Married (2) Mary White Colston 4 Oct 1854. She was the daughter of Edward Colston and Sarah Jane Brockenbrough. Mary White Colston was b. 19 Feb 1832, d. 13 Jan 1918, in Portsmouth, Va.

Notes for William Leigh: William Leigh was a Lt. in the US Navy 1828-1852 by appointment from Virginia. When Virginia seceded he resigned and took a commission as a Major in the CSA.

The Colston family beginning with Rawleigh owned lands in Berkeley County, Virginia. William Leigh's data indicates he was born at Falling Waters, Berkeley County, Va. This is an area close to the headwaters of the Potomac. Rawleigh Colston's land was in Berkeley County on the Potomac and it is likely that William was born on land Benjamin Watkins Leigh received from Rawleigh Colston after he married Susanna Colston. Apparently after Susanna's death, Benjamin Watkins Leigh gave the land to William.

Children of William Leigh and Ella Wickham:

- i. **Ella Leigh**, b. between 1850 and 1854.

Children of William Leigh and Mary White Colston:

- 17    i.    **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. 26 Aug 1855, in Berkeley Co., Va., d. 21 Apr 1916, in Monroe, La.
- ii.   **Edward Colston Leigh**, b. 26 Mar 1858, in Berkeley Co., WV, d. 23 Aug 1943, in Baylor University Hospital, Dallas TX, bur. 28 Aug 1943, in Oak Grove Cem., Dallas, TX.
- iii. **Raleigh T. C. Leigh**, b. 31 Oct 1863, d. 4 Dec 1893.
- 18    iv.   **William Robinson Leigh**, b. 23 Sep 1866, in Falling Waters, Berkeley Co., W. Va., d. 11 Mar 1955, in New York City.
- v.    **Thomas Watkins Leigh**, b. 25 Jul 1869, d. 30 May 1933, in Portsmouth, Va. Married Sallie B. after 1892. Sallie B. was b. about 1870. Thomas was listed in Norfolk, Va. in the 1920 census with his occupation given as "Reporter for the "Ledger Dispatch"". In 1920 his wife was listed as Sallie B. and a stepson, Hampton O. Farmer aged 28 lived with them. He was listed as a roomer in Portsmouth, Va. in 1930 with his occupation give as "reporter, Daily Newspaper". If this is Thomas W. Leigh, son of William Leigh it does not look good for descendants.
- vi.   **Elizabeth Keith Marshall Leigh**, b. 17 Feb 1873, in Gale Hill, Martinsburg, West Va., d. 15 Jun 1922, in Portsmouth, Va., bur. in Portsmouth, Va.
- vii. **Wickham Leigh**, b. 3 Feb 1861, in Maidstone Plantation, Berkeley Co., Va., d. 27 Feb 1861, in Maidstone Plantation, Berkeley Co., Va.

**9. Mary Susan Selden<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 25 Jul 1816. Married Conway Robinson 14 Jul 1836. Conway Robinson was b. 15 Sep 1805, d. 30 Jan 1884.

Children of Mary Susan Selden Leigh and Conway Robinson:

- i.    **Leigh Robinson**, b. 1840. Married Alice Morson.
- ii.   **Elizabeth Marshall Robinson**, b. 1842.
- iii.  **Cary Robinson**, b. 1844.
- iv.   **William Colston Robinson**, b. 1845.
- v.    **Conway Robinson**, b. 1853. Married Kate Blanchard. Kate Blanchard was b. 1845.
- vi.   **Susan Robinson**, b. 1855.
- vii. **Agnes Robinson**, b. 1857.

**10. Chapman Johnson<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1827. Married Anne C. Carter. She was the daughter of Hill Carter and Mary B. Randolph.

Children of Chapman Johnson Leigh and Anne C. Carter:

- i.    **Julia Leigh**.
  - ii.   **Lizzie Leigh**.
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iii. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh.**

**11. Julia Wickham<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1830. Married Thomas Randolph Harrison. Thomas Randolph Harrison was b. about 1823, d. 1905.

Children of Julia Wickham Leigh and Thomas Randolph Harrison:

- i. **Chapman Leigh Harrison**, b. 17 Jun 1856. Married Mary Ida Nance. Mary Ida Nance was b. 1862, in 1915.
- ii. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh Harrison.**
- iii. **Edward Cunningham Harrison.**
- iv. **Julia Wickham Harrison**, b. about 1862. Married Robert Emmett Richardson.
- v. **Archibald Cunningham Harrison**, b. about 1864.

**12. Benjamin Watkins<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 18 Jan 1831, d. 3 Jul 1863, in Gettysburg, Pa. Married Helen Leckie Jones. She was the daughter of James Y. Jones and Helen. Helen Leckie Jones was b. 1834.

Children of Benjamin Watkins Leigh and Helen Leckie Jones:

- 19 i. **William Leigh**, b. Jan 1855.
- ii. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. 1859, d. 9 Aug 1916, in Norfolk, Va., bur. in St. Leon, Halifax Co., Va. This is Southgate Leigh's "Cousin Wattie". He dies on 9 August 1916 and is buried at St. Leon.

**13. Anne Carter<sup>4</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. about 1833. Married Charles Old. Charles Old was b. about 1823.

Children of Anne Carter Leigh and Charles Old:

- i. **Watkins Leigh Old**, b. about 1852.
- ii. **Patty H. Old**, b. about 1853.
- iii. **Julia W. Old**, b. about 1857.
- iv. **William Old**, b. about 1860.
- v. **Alice L. Old**, b. about 1868.
- vi. **Fanny Anna Old**, b. about 1871.

**14. John Randolph<sup>4</sup> Leigh, Dr.** (*William<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 1825. Married Mary C. Carrington before 1853. She was the daughter of Tucker Carrington and Mary. Mary C. Carrington was b. 1831.

Notes for John Randolph Leigh, Dr.: I have chosen to make Mary Tucker John Leigh's wife because they named a child Tucker. In the 1850 census the Tucker family was #995 and the Leigh family #1011

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in the Southern district of Halifax County, Va. The children are taken from the 1860 census. Though John Leigh was a physician I believe he commanded infantry for the South.

Children of John Randolph Leigh, Dr. and Mary C. Carrington:

- i. **William Leigh**, b. 1853.
- ii. **Mary Leigh**, b. 1855.
- iii. **Tucker Leigh**, b. 1857.
- iv. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. Sep 1859.

**15. John Francis Hamtramck<sup>4</sup> Claiborne** (*Ferdinand Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Mary Leigh<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 24 Apr 1807. Married Martha Dunbar.

Children of John Francis Hamtramck Claiborne and Martha Dunbar:

- i. **Nathaniel Herbert Claiborne**, b. 5 Jun 1833.
- ii. **Willis Claiborne**, b. Oct 1834, d. 1864.

**16. Ferdinand Leigh<sup>4</sup> Claiborne** (*Ferdinand Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Mary Leigh<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 20 Feb 1809, d. 11 Dec 1893. Married Courtney Ann Terrell.

Children of Ferdinand Leigh Claiborne and Courtney Ann Terrell:

- 20      i. **Louis Bingaman Claiborne**, b. 6 Aug 1842, d. 29 Nov 1934.

### *Generation No. 5*

**17. Benjamin Watkins<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*William<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 26 Aug 1855, in Berkeley Co., Va., d. 21 Apr 1916, in Monroe, La., bur. in Riverview Burial Park, Monroe, La. Married Olive Virginia Buckingham 23 Aug 1893, in Bastrop, La. Olive Virginia Buckingham was b. 1867, in Bastrop, La., d. 21 Jan 1952, in Monroe, La., bur. in Riverview Burial Park, Monroe, La.

Children of Benjamin Watkins Leigh and Olive Virginia Buckingham:

- i. **Benjamin Watkins Leigh**, b. Sep 1895, d. Nov 1895.
- ii. **William Edmund Leigh**, b. 3 Oct 1896, in Monroe, LA, d. Jul 1985, in Monroe, LA. Married Cynthia Powell Fuller 30 May 1930. She was the daughter of Miree Fuller and Corrie Finklea. Cynthia Powell Fuller was b. 1 Dec 1903, in Marion Junction-Perry, AL, d. 8 Oct 1993, in Monroe, La., bur. in Monroe, LA.
- iii. **Marjorie Chapman Leigh**, b. 18 Jul 1901, d. 14 Jan 1998, in Ruston, La., bur. in

River Burial Park, Monroe, La.

- iv. **Thomas Watkins Leigh**, b. Apr 1904, in Monroe, La., d. 9 Aug 1983, in Monroe, LA. Married Louise Grisham Kellogg.
- v. **Colston Leigh**, b. 1907, d. 1907.
- vi. **Edward Colston Leigh**, b. Aug 1894, d. Nov 1894.

**18. William Robinson<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*William<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 23 Sep 1866, in Falling Waters, Berkeley Co., W. Va., d. 11 Mar 1955, in New York City. Married (1) Anna Seng 5 Nov 1899. Anna Seng d. 1924. Married (2) Ethelinda Horton Traphagen 1921. Ethelinda Horton Traphagen was b. 1882, in New York City, d. 1963, in New York City.

Notes for William Robinson Leigh: Noted artist and illustrator. Known especially for his western paintings. Sometimes called the "Sagebrush Rembrandt". Extensive documentation available.

Notes for Anna Seng: Apparently Anna was of a German Family.

Notes for Ethelinda Horton Traphagen: Founded Traphagen School of Fashion. Credited with introducing shorts and slacks into American Women's Fashions.

Children of William Robinson Leigh and Anna Seng:

- i. **William Colston Leigh**, b. 7 Aug 1901. Married Ardie Neff 20 Aug 1946.

**19. William<sup>5</sup> Leigh** (*Benjamin Watkins<sup>4</sup>, Benjamin Watkins<sup>3</sup>, William<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. Jan 1855, bur. in St. Leon, Halifax Co. Va. Married Louise. Louise was b. Nov 1857.

Children of William Leigh and Louise:

- i. **Henry C. Leigh**, b. Nov 1886.
- ii. **Mary C. Leigh**, b. Oct 1889.
- iii. **Emma N. Leigh**, b. Mar 1892.
- iv. **John R. Leigh**, b. Jan 1894.

**20. Louis Bingaman<sup>5</sup> Claiborne** (*Ferdinand Leigh<sup>4</sup>, Ferdinand Leigh<sup>3</sup>, Mary Leigh<sup>2</sup>, Ferdinando<sup>1</sup>*), b. 6 Aug 1842, d. 29 Nov 1934. Married Marie Rosalie Porciau.

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