

Hi Cousin Mary Anne: I have run of a Descendant Register-style Report on the family of (Major) Lawrence Smith and Mary Hitchen of Gloucester County, VA and will get it to you. One of his sons appears to have been Augustine Smith of Essex County, VA while another was William Smith. William married Elizabeth Ballard, daughter of (Hon.) Thomas Ballard and Katherine Hubbard. This Thomas Ballard was one of those who laid out the town of Yorktown and his land actually stretched along the York River from the area of Yorktown to what is now Williamsburg. My direct connection to the Ballards goes back to the father of Thomas, (Colonel) Thomas Ballard and Anna Thomas. This particular branch (William Smith-Elizabeth Ballard) is interesting in that Susanna, a granddaughter, married Col. William Preston. He named his plantation Smithfield, apparently after his wife's family. This is now VA Tech. Now her greatx2 grandfather, Col. Thomas Ballard, had a plantation at Middle Plantation (now Williamsburg) and after his death in 1689, a portion of this land became what is now William & Mary. So William and Mary (or what my daughter, Jennifer, who graduated from William and Mary calls "Mary and William") are related though those in Williamsburg may not to admit it. A grandson of Susanna and Col. Preston, William Ballard Preston, was one of three Virginians who traveled to Washington in April 1861 to try and convince President Abraham Lincoln not to call up troops. He was one of those who had supported the tabling of a motion in the VA Legislature to withdraw from the Union. However, while in Washington, news of the firing on Fort Sumter arrived and realizing that their task was doomed, returned to Richmond where William made the motion the Virginia secede which it did on April 19th, if I remember correctly. A lot of my material on the Ballards comes from "Intrepid Ballards" by Miriam Pringle Ballard. Also I have used "The Prestons of Smithfield and Greenfield in Virginia" by John Frederick Dorman whose name should "ring bells" since he published much material on Colonial Virginia. Going back to "Cousin Miriam", I came across her book in the library of the Albemarle County (VA) Historical Society in the mid to late 1990's and immediately wrote her and purchased a copy. This began a wonderful friendship that lasted until her death in early 2010. We corresponded by e-mail on many occasions and it was Miriam who taught me how to research my ancestors using "concrete proof" (wills, deeds, court records, Bible records, letters and other "solid data") and not what comes up on the "web" or other truly undocumented sources. I often praised her for her research and thanked her for what she had done and what she had taken the time to teach a "fledgling" genealogist, and cousin, how to correctly do research. It is through the family of Col. Thomas Ballard and Anna Thomas that many of us can trace back our Ballard ancestry. Anna was, in fact, one of the "women in white aprons" whom Nathaniel Bacon, Jr. paraded on the parapets outside of Jamestown to prevent firing upon his positions in "Bacon's

Rebellion". By the way, from this family of Col. Thomas Ballard, we are cousins of Robert Ballard who discovered the Titanic. Sorry for "rambling" so long. Now just check and see who your VA Ballard ancestors were and let me know. Will see whatever else I can find. If you can obtain a copy of "Intrepid Ballards" I would strongly urge that you do so. Norma and I send our love. Your VA cousin, Kirk (P.S.: If anyone else would like this Descendant Register-style report, just let me know. Happy to share.)

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Subject: Re: Last night as I went through file...

From: maryapippin@aol.com

CC: billcole@absinc.org; wjhiatt@aol.com; gjudkins@bellsouth.net

Date: Tue, 26 Aug 2014 21:11:04 -0400

Cousin Kirk,

Great to hear from you ! I believe the DNA proved we were not kin to Augustine Smith as I have been told.

But I would like to know how Augustine and the Ballards come together, as Byron & I have Ballards in our McKinney family.

My best to Norma & you!

Cousin Mary Anne

Mary Anne Pippin

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