

# A Toast to all our Ladies - The ANNE AYLETTES

(All six of them)

Clifford Dowdey's "The Virginia Dynasties" gives us a description of the elaborate ceremonies held in the colony "in front of the college" when it was learned that upon King William's death on March 19, 1702, the Queen Mary's sister ANNE had been crowned. So it is logical to assume that "Anne" would become a favored name.

I doubt that any descending line can show six Annes who add more than the Anne Ayletts do to this story. Briefly, let's bring them back for a curtain call.

William Aylett of Fairfield marries Ann Tayloe and Ann Tayloer Aylett becomes our First.

They have a daughter, Anne Aylette, who becomes the grandmother in the Hawes family down to Richard and Clary. Number Two.

William Elliott and Anne Tayloe Aylette have a son, also -- William Aylette (of Mattapony) and upon his marriage to Anne Ashton we have Anne Aylette Number Three.

Their daughter Anne Aylette marries in 1743 "Austin" and our Fourth Anne Aylette Washington is on stage, center front. We see glimpses of her in all the stories written from Washington's own Journal, particularly in Ellsworth Thane's "Potomac Squire" when regular visits to her home at Wakefield are portrayed both before and after Austin's death.

Colonel William Aylette (of Mattapony) marries for the second time to Elizabeth Eskridge and records show another Anne Aylette is in our midst and as stated before the fact that this man had two daughters named Anne Aylette would cause genealogical misunderstandings, but evidently Elizabeth Eskridge Aylette wanted an Anne Aylette, too. This Anne Aylette becomes Number Five, and she will move on and become the wife of Richard Henry Lee of Stratford and Lee will survive her.

Anne Aylette Washington (No. 4) had three children -- two daughters and a son. The son, William Augustine Washington will eventually take three wives, but to his first wife Jane Washington (daughter of John Augustine Washington of Bushfield) is born a daughter Anne Aylette; she becomes Our Lady Number Six it is she who marries in 1800. And she is the granddaughter of Number Four.

You, the reader, must admit that the Anne Aylettes of our story richly deserve a toast so here's to our ladies the Anne Aylettes all six of them.