

WILLIAM MAINS

John Means came from Formanaugh, Ulster, Ireland. He had two wives, the name of first not recorded in America. His second wife was the widow Kelly whose daughter afterwards married Robert Means. John Means' Will proved 1740, is as follows:

“In The name of God Amen I John Means of the Township of Buckingham and County of Bucks and province of Pensilvenia being but weak of body but sound In Mind and Memory.— prayed bee God therefore doe make this my last will and testament as follows:

Imprimis. I give to my Son William Means all my wareing aparill

Item. I give to my Son Robert that part of the Land I now hold which was poses'd by David Law he paying the demand of David Law

Item. I give to my Son Alixander the two hefors

Item. I give to my daughter Sara 1 Sow pig

Item. I give to my Daughter Ann the benefit of a noat of thirty Shilings due from Alixander Rudy

Item. I give to my daughter Elizabeth one sow pig

I do desire my Neighbours Robert Smith and Richard Norbon to assist my Wife by way of advice in such things as hur business may require In witness hereof I have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal this twenty ninth day of January one thousand Seven hundred and thirty nine-10

Sealed and delivered by the above Sd John Means for his last will and Testement in presence of us

Witness

John Means (Seal)

Richard Norbon

James Sempler

Robert Smith

John was probably born about 1670 and came to Bucks Co. Pa. about 1730. Not much is known about his children, except son William.

William, born in Ireland 1694, died in Pennsylvania, 1778. Changed his name to Mains, married Elizabeth-----, born in Ireland 1701 – died Pennsylvania 1772.

Alexander Means lived in Philadelphia Co. 1774 – 1783. Lieutenant in Revolution.

Robert Means married Nancy Kelly 1744, removed to Cumberland Co. by 1773, died 1779.

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Mary Means married Alex Quintin, his Will proved in 1744.

William Means, born in Ireland in 1694 and his wife Elizabeth born in Ireland in 1701. Settled in Tincum Township about 1725 – 1730. Their homestead was on Tohickon Creek. They died there and were buried in the Deep Run Presbyterian graveyard in Bedminster Twp. The inscriptions on their gravestones are as following:

Williams Means –Died January 1778, aged 84 years.

Elizabeth Mains—wife of William Mains died Dec. 27, 1772, aged 71 years.

William Means had the spelling of his name changed by law to Mains. (Recorded in Bucks Co. Pa.) The name is Scotch and was supposedly pronounced Mains, though spelled Means. The family evidently came to Ireland from Scotland as the Coat of Arms is found among the Scottish.

This William Mains' Will is recorded in Bucks Co., Pa. and names his children as follows: William, John, (and John's son William) Jane, Mary, Elizabeth, Margaret, Isabella and Ann. From the Will and other records we find that –

William	married	Mary Alexander
John	married	Griselda Patterson
Jane	married	James Hart (or William)
Mary	married	William Davis
Elizabeth	married	William McCalla
Margaret	married	Beatty
Isabella	married	(1) Jos. McCreary (2) Hamilton Rogers
Ann	(at time of Will)	unmarried

William acquired his father's farm by this Will and lived thereon until Nov. 17, 1784 when he conveyed it to Col. Wm. Hart and Capt. Wm. McCalla and removed to Loudon Co., Va. William was Ensign of the Associated Co. of Tincum Militia, organized in 1775, with Nicholas Patterson captain. His brother John and his son William were Privates in same Company. See Penn. Archives, Fifth Series, Vol. V, pp 395-6. William was still ensign in Capt. Patterson's Co. when enrolled May 22, 1780 – p. 357.

John moved to Cumberland Co., Pa. with the Patterson family after the War.

Isabella and her husband came first to Kentucky and thence to Ohio. Of the others little is known. William who went to Virginia with his wife Mary had children – John, William, Archibald, Elizabeth,

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Washington, Jane and Ann. William born May 22, 1772 came to Ohio about 1800 and married Polly (Mary) Hixson on Aug. 3, 1810. Polly was born 1785 and died July 27, 1826. She was the daughter of Timothy Hixson who also came from Loudon Co., Va. Their children were William, Washington, Archibald, Mary and Sarah and Jane.

William moved to Illinois. Have no account of his family.

Washington married (1) Hannah Bryan (2) Merab Crothers

Archibald never married

Jane married John DeVoss

Sarah married Junkins

Mary married George Douglass

Washington born Oct. 5, 1815, died Oct. 21, 1895. Married Hannah. Bryan born June 17, 1816, died Feb. 25, 1855. Their children were John, Archibald, Margaret and Emma. John married Nancy Harper and they had three children, Charles, Russell and Hannah. Charles married Jessie Thomas and their three children were Charles, Louise and John. Charles married Maud Harps – two children, Mary Jane and Charles. Charles died in 1927.

Russell married (1) Louie Templeton – two daughters, Inez and Lucille. Inez married Pearl Hamilton. Both Inez and Pearl died in 1933-34 leaving two daughters – Betty and Jane. Russell married (2) Myrtle Templeton.

Hannah married Seymour Irvine – children Robert, Elizabeth, Russell, and a boy who only lived a few days. Robert is married and has four children, Russell married and has one daughter. Elizabeth has charge of Home Economics in our public schools.

Washington Mains' second son, Archibald, married Martha Harper. They had one son and two daughters. All are dead but daughter Lillie who married Addison Dwyer and lives in her grandfather's home. They have one son and four daughters.

Returning to Loudon Co. Va., we find in the graveyard behind the quaint old Presbyterian church a row of Mains' buried. The inscriptions read –

“William Mains who departed this life in 1815 in the 73rd year of his age.

Mary Mains, consort of William Mains, who departed this life Oct. 12, 1827, in the 85th year of her age.

Ann Vandevanter, consort of Isaac Vandevanter, who departed this life April 24, 1815, aged 35 yrs. 10 mos. And 20 das.

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Washington Mains, who departed this life A. D. 1813, in the 31st year of his age.

Jane, consort of John Carr, who departed this life Feb. 4th, 1823, aged 40 yrs. 10 mos. 19 das.

Elizabeth Vandevanter, consort of Joseph Vandevanter, who departed this life Apr. 26, 1834, aged 59 yrs. 5 mos. And 28 das.

Maj. Archibald Mains, who departed this life Dec. 3rd, 1836, aged 62yrs. 10 mos. and 19 das.”

Archibald was a Major in War of 1812. William who was born May 22, 1772 and died June 15, 1854 was also in 1812 War. He is buried at South Salem, Ohio.

Elizabeth and Ann married brothers. Both of their lovely old homes are standing in Virginia. We visited Charles Vandevanter, grandson of Elizabeth, who has since passed away. Not many are left in any of the generations at the present time. William came to Ohio because he did not believe in slavery, but the rest stayed with old “Virginny” through the Civil War. His father had a Mill in Virginia. Just the stone foundation is left to mark the spot. Both house and mill were destroyed by fire. The town of Leesburg, Va., where they are all buried is a quaint old-time place. At the old Court House many have found records of their families. It is not very far from Washington D. C. or Fairfax C. H.

-----Jessie T. Mains.