

Robert Ezra Cate



No Picture Available

Born: 21 Aug 1667 Colyton, ENG

Married: Mary Ann Randall

Died: 1728 Surry, VA

Parents: William Abraham Cate & Margaret Ingles



The Church of St Andrew's, Colyton, ENG, a Pre-Reformation edifice, dates from the Norman era. Except for some refurbishing of its interior and the installation of a clock in its lantern-tower, both of which occurred in the 18th century, the structure is substantially the same as it was in the 17th century when the family CATES worshipped there. The lantern-tower of St. Andrew's is one of only three in England and was used to guide ships up the River Axe estuary.

Robert Ezra Cates, b. 21 Aug. 1667, and Richard Nehemiah Cates (birth date unknown) were raised in England and both migrated to Surry County, Va. in the late 1600s.

Robert was christened at St. Andrew Church in Colyton and was involved with Calvinism which later evolved into the Presbyterian Church. He became a Quaker after his arrival in America.

Robert is shown as a passenger on the manifest of the merchant ship "Bengal," in 1689, and was indentured that same year to Peter Wyke, a tobacco planter, for a four-year term.

Robert Ezra, however, completed his indenture and, on 1 April 1695, announced in court that he was departing Henrico County. He moved south across the James River into Prince George County and, about 1698, married his wife, known only as "Ann," with whom he had six sons: Robert Cates, b. 1700 in Va., d. aft 5 Nov. 1765, Orange Co., N.C.; William Cates, b. abt 1702 in Va.; Thomas Cates, b. abt 1704 in Va., d. 1770; Benjamin Cates, b. abt 1706 in Va.; John Cates, b. abt 1708 in Va.; and Richard Cates, b. abt 1710 in Va., d. aft 1789 in Prince George Co., Va. By 1704, Robert owned 100 acres of land in Prince George County.

In 1719, the Burleigh Meetinghouse (Quaker) was formed and Robert attended church there. His signature is shown on several marriage certificates and records of ceremonies performed there in 1723 and 1724.


On 18 Feb. 1829, the county court of Prince George County ordered an appraisal of Robert's estate, so it is presumed that he died before that date. The inventory was made in March and included normal farming tools and household items, but the most important items listed were two pieces of tanned leather and two pieces of shoemaker's tools. These, of course, are positive indications that Robert was a shoemaker by trade. The inventory was signed by Ann (A) Kate. (Ken gives credit for the above research to Banks Cates of Charlotte, N.C.)

G0498A:  Robert Ezra CATES, "The Shoemaker" ^[008]

Birth: 1667, St. Andrew's Parish, Colyton, Devonshire, England

Christening: 21 August 1667, Colyton, Devonshire, England

Death: AFT 9 April 1728 and BEF 18 February 1728/29, Surry County, Virginia, British North America

Father:  William Abraham CATES (BEF 1646, England - AFT 1669, Colyton, Devonshire, England)

Mother: Margaret Agnes <INGLES>

Marriage: ABT 1693, Henrico County, Virginia, British North America


Spouse: Mary Ann ("Anna") RANDALL (ABT 1672, England - AFT 1710, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America)

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Child 2: William CATES (ABT 1702, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America - AFT 1762, Orange County, North Carolina, British North America) [M]: m. Unknown UNKNOWN, ABT 1724

Child 3: Thomas CATES, Sr. (ABT 1704, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America - ABT 1770, Orange County, North Carolina) [M]: m. Rebecca SYKES

Child 4: Benjamin CATES (ABT 1706, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America - AFT 13 August 1765, Orange County, North Carolina, British North America) [M]

Child 5:  John CATES (Sr.) (ABT 1708, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America - AFT February 1794, <Orange County>, North Carolina) [M]: m. Margerie LAWRENCE (ABT 1707, <Caswell County>, North Carolina, British North America - AFT 1737, <Orange County>, North Carolina, British North America), ABT 1727, Caswell County, North Carolina, British North America

Child 6: Richard CATES (ABT 1710, Henrico County, Virginia, British North America - ABT 1759, Prince George County, Virginia, British North America) [M]

Note 1: About Robert Ezra CATES, from David Edgar Berry:

Robert CATES, Sr. was a Quaker shoemaker from Henrico County, Virginia in the James River area. Robert CATES entered into bond to serve Peter Wyke of Henrico County in September 1689 for a term of 4 years. Recorded October 1689.

1 August 1695: Henrico County, Virginia deed mentions plantation lately in the tenure of Robert KATE.

1701: Robert CATES's name appeared first time on a certificate of marriage held at Curles Meeting House, Henrico County, Virginia (Henrico Monthly Meeting, p. 162.)

1704 Robert CATES moved south across the James river to Prince George County, Virginia where in the quit-rent rolls of 1704 he owned 100 acres as Robert CATTE.

1723: Account of the estate of Timothy Bridges in Minutes of the Prince George County Court mentioned both Robert CATE(S) and his neighbor Robert Hunnicutt.

1722, 1723, and 1724: Robert CATE(S) attended the Burleigh Meeting House, Prince George County, Virginia and signed marriage certificates for ceremonies held there.

1725: Martins Brandon Parish, Prince George County: Edward WYATT Sr.'s Will named daughters Elizabeth and Sarah WYATT, son Francis and son Edward to whom "he left the plantation where Robert CATE lives." 1720: Edward's father Nicholas's Will was witnessed by Robert CATE, Jr. & Richard CATE.

9 April 1728: Accounts of the estate of Capt Edward WYATT mentions: Jane Bilbro, Capt. Frances Epess, Col. Harrison, Edward Prince, James Bell, Frances, Edward and Elizabeth WYATT, Robert CATE, Jacob Benheart. Dated 8 April 1728, presented in court by Robert Hall and James Bell, executors. Recorded 9 April 1728. [Prince George County, Virginia Wills & Deeds: 1713 - 1728, p. 145 (p. 1084), by Benjamin Weisiger III (1973)]

18 February 1729: Inventory and appraisement of the estate of Robert KATE, deceased, valued at 30-10-6, included cattle, hogs, saddle, etc. and two parcels of shoemaker tools and last and two parcels of tanned leather. Signed Ann KATE [Surry County Court. Will Book 8, p. 7. Recorded 15 April 1730, Surry County Court, Virginia]

Although Robert CATE did appear at a Henrico County Quaker wedding in 1701, he had announced on April 1, 1695, "I Robert CATE intend to depart this county this present mounth and anyone with past claims to debts, let them come to my house." This was recorded by the Henrico County court. That he lived near the Curles Meetinghouse is apparent in the deed of Edward Mathews of the county and parish

of Henrico to John Price of seventy acres on the north side of the James River between Balys Run and Four Mile Creek, near the main road to the courthouse, next to John Pleasants, being the plantation lately in tenure of Robert KATE, witnessed by William Soane and Thomas Osborne [All Clerke on August 1, 1695]. In his Will of 1690, John Pleasants mentions his land next to Edward Mathews on Four Mile Creek, so called because of its distance from Henrico courthouse, and land in Chickahominy Swamp that he purchased of Thomas Cock, who had witnessed the indenture between Robert CATE and Peter Wyke. Robert CATE moved south across the James River to Prince George County, where the quit-rent rolls of 1704 listed Robert CATTE as owning 100 acres. He continued in his trade of shoemaker apprenticeship in 1691. [Edgar D. Byler III]

Note 2: About Robert Ezra CATES, from Donna Evans:

PROFESSIONS: Robert CATE was a Quaker shoemaker

DEATH: Robert CATE died prior to February 18, 1729, when the Surry County court ordered an appraisal of his estate. the inventory was made and signed Ann KATE. At a Court held the 15th day of April, 1730, inventory was valued at £30-10-6 and included cattle, hogs, a horse, saddle and bridle, bedding and blankets, farming and household tools, plates, spoons, and a silver tankard. It also included "2 pcls of tand leather" and "2 pcls shoemakers tools and last." [Surry County, Virginia Wills, no. 8, vol. I, part I, pp.6 - 7. Transcribed at the Office of the Circuit Clerk of Surry County, Virginia, by Rosemary Corley Neal]

SOURCES: INDENTURE: Made this 30th day of 7 Mo. called September, 1689 between Robert CATE and Peter Wyke, binding CATE as apprentice to Peter Wyke for four years from 24 Oct. next in the trade of shoemaker, as well as in other business of plantation and trade, except it to be in the planting and tending of tobacco, w'ch ye s'd apprentice is not to do. In return CATE is to receive apparrell, meat, drink, washing and lodging, and at the expiration of his term, one good suit of apparrell and three barrels of Indian Corn. Signed by Robert (X) CATE and Peter Wyke, witnessed by Wm. Glover and Thomas Cocke, and recorded in Henrico Court in October 1689.

SOURCES: Robert CATE, Jr. and his Father, Robert CATE witnessed the will of Nicholas WYATT, of Prince George County, Virginia in 1720.

PROPERTY: Robert CATES had tenure of a plantation, belonging to Edward Mathews, near the Curles Meetinghouse on Four Mile Creek in Henrico, Virginia. He moved south across the James River to Prince George County, where the Quit Rent Rolls of 1704 listed Robert CATE as owning 100 acres. Robert CATE attended the Burleigh Meeting House about 1719 and signed marriage certificates for ceremonies held there in 1723 and 1724. In 1723, the accounts of the estate of Timothy Bridges, recorded in the minutes of the Prince George County Court, mentioned Robert CATE. He lived on a plantation owned by Edward WYATT in 1725, who died and left it to his son, Francis WYATT, called Quarter Plantation, in Martins Brandon Parish, Prince George County, Virginia.

Information from:

<http://gennotes.150m.com/cates.html>