

EARLY HISTORY

OF THE

ROCHESTER FAMILY.

THE family of "ROCHESTER" were resident in the County of Essex, England, in the year 1558, as is proved by the Herald's Visitations' of that County, when the Coat of Arms, "or a fesse between three crescents sa," was confirmed or allowed to the family.²

I do not affirm of this para, refer

Nicholas Rochester, the first member of the family who came to this country was born in the County of Kent,³ England, about the year 1640, and was married there. He came to the Colony of Virginia in 1689, and on Dec. 26th of that year purchased 100 acres of land, in Westmoreland County, from one John Jenkins, a planter, who, by patent from Governor Richard Bennet⁴ in 1653, had obtained 1,000 acres of land "in consideration of importing 20 persons into this colony."⁵

The land conveyed by Jno. Jenkins to Nicholas Rochester was located in Nominy (or Nomini) Forest in the southeastern part of the county, where is now "Lyell's store," close to the line of Richmond County, and about three miles from Warsaw, in Richmond County. The deed of the land is not recorded,⁶ but is mentioned by date, and description of land, in a settlement of disputed boundary with one John Dunkin, Nov. 2d, 1726. William Rochester (first), son of Nicholas Rochester, and John Rochester (first), son of William Rochester (first), afterwards purchased other lands on Machodoc (or Machotock) River, adjoining the 100 acres bought from John Jenkins in 1689, until the

"Machodoc" is on the other side of the county, - a creek of that name emptying into the Potomac, is the origin (apparently) of the name of an undefined district. The land on the Machodoc therefore did not adjoin the other estate, John Rochester located temporarily upon the Machodoc, and after his father's death, moved back to the National estate. He did add to that estate until it grew to 400 acres, and he sold off the Machodoc farm.

(note by Roswell Hart Rochester.)