

shire, Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Hertfordshire, Middlesex, Kent, Surrey, Wiltshire, Devonshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk. In the fall of 1884 or the spring of 1885 I made a very important discovery which led me to limit my field of search, by finding a point on the soil of the mother country to which I could make fast the end of the American line. It appears that upon the death of Lawrence Washington of Virginia, although his will, as I have said, was proved in Virginia, letters of administration on his goods, &c., were granted in England, as follows:—

"Mense Majj 1677 tricesimo die Bon' Com<sup>o</sup> Edmundo Jones principal creditor Laurenti Washington super de Luton in Comitatu Bedford sed apud Virginiã in partibus transmarinis decessit ad adãstrand bona jura et credita dicti defct de bene eto jurat." Admon. Act Book (P. C. C.)

This was a great step, and it behoved me to make a careful search all around Luton and its immediate neighborhood for further traces. This parish is in the extreme southern part of Bedfordshire, on a kind of tongue or neck jutting into the neighboring county of Herts. For more than four years I have borne this discovery in mind, and in all that time have never let a will made by any one in that part of Bedfordshire or of Hertfordshire pass under my notice without the most careful scrutiny; and I made known my discovery to most of my English friends, that they might keep their eyes open in that quarter. I had already, to be sure, found an Adam Washington, gentleman, seated at Brent Pelham, Herts, whose father, Adam Washington, citizen and mercer of London, was evidently of the Washington family of Grayrigg in Kendal, Westmoreland, but I had examined the wills relating to them without getting any light about the emigrants to Virginia.

Good fortune, which has so often befriended me in my genealogical work, once more rewarded my plodding toil with bountiful generosity; and this time she added to the value of her gift by bestowing it through the hand of a friend. It happened in this way. While the official work of indexing certain bonds, once belonging to the Hitchin Registry of the Archdeaconry of Huntingdon, was recently in progress in the Probate Registry, one came to light of which the following is an abstract:

A Bond of John Dagnall, of Grove in the parish of Tring, in co. Herts, Yeoman, and William Roudes of Middle Claydon, in co. Bucks., Gen., in the sum of one thousand pounds, dated 29 January 1649 (50), for the administration of the goods &c. of Andrew Knowling, of Tring in the county of Herts, gen., lately deceased, with the will annexed, during the minority of Lawrence Washington the younger, at that time of the age of fourteen years; also for their faithful conduct as guardians or curators of the said Lawrence Washington &c.

Tring is but twelve miles, or a little more, from Luton,\* and the

\* See map front of title page. Tring is described in the *Gazetteer* as a parish and market town in Hertfordshire, 28 miles west of Hartford. Acres 7800, houses 507, population 3486