

<b>Husband:</b>	<b>Nicholas Roper</b>
Born:	December 29, 1738
in:	Thrandeston,Suffolk, England
Source:	Tombstone at Roper Cemetery and parish records of St. Margaret's of Antioch Thrundeston, Co. Suffolk, England, Located on Burns Farm, West Side of Shenandoah River on top of Rolling Hill.
Died:	January 13, 1817
in:	Jefferson County, Virginia
Source:	(1) Tombstone at Roper Cemetery (2) Farmers' Repository, Wednesday, January 15, 1817, p.2, c.4. From the marriage obituary citations compiled by Bernard J. Henley from Virginia newspapers on microfilm at the Library of Virginia.
Relationship with Father:	James Roper - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Hannah Osborne - Natural
Reference number:	1056
Baptism:	January 22, 1738/39 Thrandeston,Suffolk, England
Burial:	Roper Cemetery, Jefferson County, WVA
Source:	Helen Rebecca (Roper) Coulter, Family History around the kitchen table, Visited Cemetery.
<b>Marriage Information</b>	
Wife:	Mary Horn
Married:	October 09, 1797
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Frederick county, Virginia
Source:	Frederick County Court House Marriage Records, Marriage Book 1.
Reference number:	3782
Bonds man:	Nicholas roper and James Walker Esq.

**Marriage Notes**

James Wood Esq. Governor of Virginia as noted on marriage bond.

Nicholas and James Walker both signed the bond.

**Notes**

Nicholas Roper (B 29 Dec 1738 Thrandeston, Suffolk, England d 13 Jan 1817 Jefferson Co. WV) came to northwest Virginia c1780. He was the caretaker for the lands of Ferdinando Fairfax, who wrote in his will: "...it is my particular desire that Nicholas Roper should be continued as steward or manager of my farms as long as he may choose; since his honesty & unusual attention to his employers interest would render his Services cheaper at high wages than those of almost any other that I know of at the lowest." Nicholas accumulated about 1100 acres of his own on the west bank of the Shenandoah River near Charles Town WV just north of the Berryville Monastery.

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Virginia Revolutionary Publick Claims Index Vol. 2

By: Janice L. Abercrombie & Richard Slatten

--Nicholas Roper for 1 mans saddle for cont. 4-6 pounds

--Nicholas Roper for 31 days waggon hire for cont. 18 - 12 pounds; for 2260# flour, 10 casks 14 -17 -6 pounds.

--Nicholas Roper 4 pounds for a new man's saddle  
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Chancery Order Book 24 , page 140 Frederick Co., Va. Clerk's Office  
November Court 1792

Nicholas Roper - - - - - Plt.

Against

In Debt

George Rust - - - - - Deft.

This day came the Parties by their attornies and the Deft. Relinquishing his former plea saith that he cannot gainsay the

Plts. Action against him. Therefore it is considered by the Court that the Plt. Recover against the Deft. The sum of Twenty four pounds the debt in the Declaration mentioned and his Costs by him about his suit in his behalf expended and the deft. In Mercy .

But this judgment is to be Discharged by the payment of Twelve pounds with interest thereon to be computed after the rate of five plentum pannum from the 1st day of November 1789. until paid and the costs.

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March Court 1793

Order book 24, page 274

Ordered that Isaac Kent do pay unto Nicholas Roper one dollar and fifty nine cents for attending Court three days as a witness for him at the suit of Wormley

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Shirliff to Roper Bill of sale  
Deed Book 26 page 45 & 46  
Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia Records Room  
July 1, 1799

Know all men by these presents that I Richard Shirliff of the county of Frederick and Commonwealth of Virginia for the consideration of one hundred and thirty pounds the receipt whereof I do hereby acknowledge, have Bargained and sold and by these presents do bargain and sell unto Nicholas Roper a Negro boy slave commonly called and known by the name of Ceasar, a bay mare with a blaze face three walnut tables two feather beds and furniture six chairs one black cow and a sett of black smiths tools; to have and to hold the said slave, mare, three walnut tables, two feather beds & furniture six chairs one cow and sett of black smiths tools to the said Nicholas Roper his heirs and assigns forever, and I do by these presents fo myself my said executjors and administrators covenant and agree to warrant the said slave, Mare, three walnut tables, two feather beds and furniture, six chairs one cow and a sett of Black Smith Tools to the siad Nicholas Roper his heirs and assigns against the claim of every person What ever, In Witness whereof I have peresents set my hand and affixed my seal this first day of April in the year 1799.

Witness  
John Burchell  
Matthew Wright

Richard Shirliff {seal}

At a Court held for Frederick County the 1st day of July 1799 this bill of sale was acknowledged by Richard Shirliff party thereto and ordered to be recorded. By the Court  
JA Keith CFC

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Nicholas Roper Will  
Will Book 17  
Charles Town, Jefferson County, WVA Records room  
Written April 27, 1812  
Probated January 27, 1817

In the name of God Amen. I Nicholas Roper of Jefferson County in the commonwealth of Virginia being in perfect health and of sound mind considering the certainty of death and the uncertainty of when it may happen I have determed to make this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say I do disire to be decently buried funeral charges and all my just debt's that I may be owing at the time of my decease should be paid, the remainder part of my estate and effects I give bequeath and dispose of in manner and form following.

First I give and bequeath to my illegitimate son James Roper's son James (written above Nicholas) Osborn Roper all my landed estate in Jefferson County also one lot in Charlestown No. Twenty Seven also two lots in Duke street Alexandria, to him the said Nicholas Osborn Roper and his heirs forever, but he the said Nicholas Osborn Roper shall pay my Illegitimate son James Roper his father two hundred pounds per year Virginia currency during his life but if my illegitimate son James Roper should have anymore children I desire that all my landed estate should be equally divided

between them all. I also give and bequeath to my illegitimate son James roper all my stock of every description also all my farming utensils also all my negros that I may have at the time of my death, one negro man excepta by the name of George and on horse which I give to my wife also all my household furniture and three hundred dollars pr. year to be paid out of the rent of my real estate on the third part of the rents of all my real estate which ever she choose to take.

The Negro George after my wife's decease shall be returned to the above named James Roper and his heirs all my Bills Bonds and open accounts I give to my illegitimate son James Roper. If I have any monies by me at that time of my decease I desire that it should be equally divided between my wife and my son James Roper, I do here by appoint John McPherson and my Illegitimate son James Roper My Executors of this my last will and testament and I so revoke all other wills by the heretofore made. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand seal this 27th day of April One thousand eight hundred and twelve signed sealed published and declared by the witness hand testor Nicholas Roper to be his last Will and testament in the presence of us who subscribed our names in the presents of the said testor.

Witness Present  
 Samuel Howel  
 James Stephenson Jr.

Nicholas Roper {Seal}

At a court held for Jefferson County the 27th day of January 1817. This last will and Testament of Nicholas Roper Dec'd was proven by the oathes of Samuel Howel and George (?) the witness (?) and ordered to be recorded: And on the (?) of James Roper and John McPherson the executors therein named who made oath (?) according to law Certificate is granted them for obtaining probat thereof in due form giving security: Wherefore they together with John Haines William Mc(?) and William McPherson their securities intered into and acknowledged a Bond in the penalty of twelve thousand dollars conditined(?) for this die and faithfull administrated of the said (?) estate.

By the court  
 teste  
 R. Hite CC

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<b>Wife:</b>	<b>Mary Horn</b>
Born:	Unknown
Died:	Unknown
Reference number:	1059

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**Notes**

URL [http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=496&last=&g\\_p=P42&collection=LO](http://lvaimage.lib.va.us/cgi-bin/GetLONN.pl?first=496&last=&g_p=P42&collection=LO) Patent

Title Horn, Mary.

Publication 1 December 1773.

Other Format Available on microfilm. Virginia State Land Office. Patents 1-42, reels 1-41.

Note Location: Botetourt County.

Grantee(s): Richardson, David.....

Description: 28.400 acres.

Source: Land Office Patents No. 42, 1773-1774, p. 496 (Reel 41).

Part of the index to the recorded copies of patents for land issued by the Secretary of the Colony serving as the colonial Land Office. The collection is housed in the Archives at the Library of Virginia.

Subject - Personal Horn, Mary. grantee.

Richardson, David

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<b>Child:</b>	<b>James Roper</b>
Source:	Nicholas Roper's Will, Will Book 17 Jefferson County, Va (now WV) April 27, 1812 Probate: 27th day of January 1817.
Born:	May 12, 1783
in:	Berkeley County, Virginia
Source:	Tombstone at Roper Cemetery.
Died:	December 08, 1867

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in:	Jefferson County, West Virginia
Source:	(1) Tombstone at Roper Cemetery. (2) Obituary, Spirit of Jefferson, Tuesday, December 10, 1867, Vol.20, No.15, Pg.3, Col.1.
Relationship with Father:	Nicholas Roper - Natural
Relationship with Mother:	Mary Horn - Step
Reference number:	598

Burial:	Roper Cemetery, Jefferson County, WVA
Mancipated:	December 03, 1793 Record located in Winchester, Frederick County, Va; Deed Book 24A, page 244

<b>Marriage Information</b>	
Wife:	Elizabeth Laley
Married:	April 30, 1838
Beginning status:	Married
in:	Washington, County, Maryland
Source:	Hagerstown, Washington County, Maryland, Marriage Index, 1799-1860 Marriage Index, Original Record page 185 destroyed by fire, Marriage Index still remains in the Clerks Office.
Reference number:	3746

**Marriage Notes**

**Notes**

In 1793 James was freed from slavery by his father Nicholas Roper:  
Emancipation of James Roper Dec. 3, 1793

Roper to James } Emn.  
Deed Book 24A, pg 244  
Frederick County, VA  
Clerk's office  
3rd of Dec. 1793

To all persons to whom these presents shall come I Nicholas Roper of the County of Frederick and Commonwealth of Virginia Send greeting, Known ye that for good causes and considerations me thereunto Moving I have emancipate and set free James a mulatto Boy aged about eleven years, In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this third day of Dec. One thousand seven Hundred and ninety three.

Sealed and Delivered  
In presence of } Nicks. Roper {seal}

Adam Douglass  
Samuel Cowan

At a court held for Frederick County the 3rd day of December 1793 this Deed of Emanumission [sic] from Nicholas Roper to Mullatto [sic] James was acknowledged by the said Nicholas Roper and ordered to be recorded.

By the court  
Ja Keith CC

December Court 1793

Order Book 24, page 558  
Frederick County, VA  
Order to be recorded  
Clerk's Office

A deed of Manumission [sic] from Nicholas Roper to Mullatto [sic] James was acknowledged by said Roper and ordered to be recorded

1850 Census shows James Roper as a farmer with \$81,000 in real estate.

1860 Census shows James Raper as a farmer with \$166, 290 in real estate

-----Obituary-----

Spirit of Jefferson, Tuesday, December 10, 1867, Vol.20, No.15, Pg.3, Col.1

Mr. James Roper, an aged resident of this county, died at his home place about one and a half miles south of this town, on Saturday evening last. He was the largest landed proprietor, and doubtless the wealthiest man in the county, his broad acres extending over a great portion of the Southern section of the county. With him, for many years, the accumulation of landed property has amounted almost to a mania, and his long life has been spent in gathering together acre after acre until at the time of his death, his possessions covered a greater area than those of any one in the county. His success is an exemplification of what energy and economy will accomplish, but whether his great possessions were enjoyed by him here, or will avail him in that country "from whose bourn no traveller returns" are questions not for our consideration. His age was nearly 86.

The Virginia Free Press, Charlestown, Thursday, December 12, 1867, Vol.3, No.17, Pg.3 Col.2

On the 8th instant near Charlestown, James Roper, aged 84 years, 6 months and 27 days.

"So live, that when thy summons comes to join Th' innumerable  
caravan that moves to that mysterious realm,  
Where each must take his chamber in the silent halls of death.  
Thou go, not like the quarry slave at night, scourged to his dungeon,  
But sustained and soothed by an unfa'ring trust approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch about him  
And lies down to pleasant dreams."

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