

JOHN SPEED AND MARY TAYLOR.

John Speed, the second son of James Speed and Mary Pulley, was born February 5, 1714. He lived in Mecklenburg county, Va. He married a widow named Mary Taylor. Her maiden name was Mary Minetry. They were married October 6, 1737, by Rev. Henry Ealbeck, in Surrey county, Va., which was the county in which James Speed lived. Their married life continued for forty-five years, when she died July 1, 1782. He died March 8, 1785.

He was a man of large wealth, and one of the most influential and substantial citizens in the part of Virginia where he lived.

Some special information has been obtained from an old lady living in the town of Kittrel, N. C., Mrs. Eliza P. Raney. Mrs. Raney was a great grand-daughter of John Speed. Her mother was a daughter of Sarah Speed Hansard, who was a daughter of John Speed. Mrs. Raney had often heard her mother talk of John Speed and his children. She had visited the old homestead in Mecklenburg. John Speed and his wife were buried there in the family burying ground, and large trees have grown over their graves. She says John Speed was a great man in the Episcopal church. She had his prayer-book in her possession, he having given it to her grandmother, Sarah Speed Hansard. She says that about a mile from the old homestead there was a church known as "Speed's church," built by John Speed, but it was torn down many years ago, and another was built and called St. Andrews. This statement is confirmed in Bishop Meade's "Old Families of Virginia." He says: "There was an old house of worship in the time of Bishop Ravenscroft's ministry called Speed's church." Bishop Meade also says John Speed was vestryman in his parish church. She says her mother, Mrs. Phillips, had the old