

Theodocia, who was evidently a favorite of the old gentleman, was, I have heard, subsequently married to a Mr. Bagby. . . .

SYLVANUS MORRIS

Sylvanus Morris, the only son of William Morris the elder, was certainly single when he first quarreled with his father. . . . His wife was a Miss Catherine Broadie,---evidently of Scotch extraction. She bore three children to him namely; John, William, my maternal Grandfather, and Richard. I am not aware that my great-grandmother had any connections in Virginia, though I have been told that there was a family of Broadie's near Williamsburg who claimed kindred with her.

Sylvanus Morris must have possessed a considerable estate independent of his father; for I understand that the Green Spring lands, the most valuable part of the family domain, were either patented by or conveyed to him. . . . His quarrel with his father, and his implacable animosity gainst his mother-in-law and half sisters authorize the belief that he was a man of. . . vindictive passions. The circumstances that occasioned his death, as I have heard them related, display in strong relief his. . . . ungovernable temperament. As he was walking in his plantation a fox chase passed by him, and, excited by the spectacle of this animating sport, he attempted to keep pace on foot with the mounted hunters. The result of this imprudence was a hemorrhage from the lungs. He lingered only a few months.

JOHN MORRIS, SON OF SYLVANUS MORRIS

John Morris must have been the eldest son of Sylvanus Morris; for it may be remembered that his grandfather annexes no condition to the devise of his estate, while in the devises to his brothers a condition is imposed, the breach of which would result in the forfeiture of the property, given them by his will. No reason can be assigned why the old gentleman should have made this distinction, except a disposition arising from the prevalence of aristocratic feeling at that day, to give the priority to the eldest grandson. From this fact, therefore, I infer that John Morris was older than his brothers. He did not live, however, to enjoy the advantages prepared for him by his grandfather. He died before he attained the age of twenty one years, and his landed estate devolved by the law of primogeniture on my grandfather William Morris, his eldest surviving brother. The retention of this entire inheritance by my grandfather was a cause of dissention between him and his brother Richard, who insisted that he was entitled to a moiety. The preference given by our colonial code to the eldest male heir in the division of inheritances was even then the subject of bitter complaint and the frequent sources of family quarrels. This controversy between the brothers may have produced a temporary alienation, but certainly never ripened into an open breach---the relations between Richard and my grandfather were during many years, of the most friendly and fraternal description.

RICHARD MORRIS, SON OF SYLVANUS MORRIS

Colonel Richard Morris, my great-uncle, was the youngest son of Sylvanus Morris. From what I have heard he was no ordinary man. . . .

Colonel Morris was married in the early part of his life to Miss Overton, sister of