Parentage of Major John Fenwick,
Founder of Salem, New Jersey

By Edwin Jaquet Sellars
Of Philadelphia.

Visitations of Northumberland, 1615, 1666, edited by Joseph Foster, 1876:
Page 51 contains the pedigree of Fenwick of Stanton from Flower's Visitation of Yorkshire, 1563-4 (p. 121).
Page 52 gives the pedigree of Fenwick of Stanton from the Visitation of 1615.
The discrepancies in these pedigrees concerning the marriages with the Widdrington, Mitford and Corbet families are corrected in the account of the Fenwicks of Stanton in The History of Northumberland, by Rev. John Hodgson, 1832, Part II, Vol. II, p. 113, and at p. 112 of the same work is given the pedigree of Corbet of Stanton which shows that the manor of Stanton came to the Fenwick family by an heiress of the Corbet family marrying Sir Ralph Fenwick.

Hodgson's work, p. 113:
William Fenwick, of Stanton, Esq., born 22 Sept., 1581, in 22 Eliz., 1638, is described as son of Richard and holding the manor of Stanton in capite of the king by knight's service. The House of Commons, 20 June, 1645, appointed him a commissioner of taxes for Northumberland. He died June 12, 1647. He married Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Cotton Gargrave, of Nostel, Yorkshire. Richard Fenwick and Margaret his wife, by indenture 8 Aug., 3 Jac. I, 1605, covenanted to acknowledge a fine to his son William Fenwick and his heirs of the manor of Longwibiliton and lands there and in Hartburn, Bolam, Harnham, Fernylam and North Middleton to the use of him "the said Wm. Fenwick and Elizabeth his now wife, being one of the daughters of Sir Cotton Gargrave, late of Nostal, in the county of York, knight, deceased, and to their heirs males, &c." (Stanton papers.)
They had

Edward Fenwick, of Stanton, Esq., born 29 Oct., 1606; called son and heir apparent of William Fenwick of Stanton in deeds dated 9 July, 1636, and 20 March, 1637, and to which he and his father were parties. (Stanton papers.) He died Aug. 14, 1689. He married Sarah Neville. She died at her daughter’s house at Little Bavington 17 April, 1691.

Nine of their children are given, the eldest being Roger Fenwick, born 1632, a colonel in cavalry and slain in 1658.

Caecilia (sister of Edward and mentioned in Visitation of 1615.)

Margaret (sister of Edward and mentioned in Vist. of 1615.) William Fenwick’s other children were born after 1615 as they are omitted in that Visitation.

Foster's Visitations of Northumberland, 1615, 1666, p. 54, Visitation of 1666, agrees with Hodgson's History of Northumberland, Part II, Vol. II, p. 17, concerning the following:

Sir William Fenwick, of Wallington, Knt., whose will was dated 1612, married, first, Grace, daughter and coheiress of Sir John Forster, of Edderston, Knt., and, second, Margaret, daughter of William Selby, of Newcastle, Esq. Her will was dated 1631.

By the first marriage they had
Sir John Fenwick, of Wallington, Knight and Baronet, who died circa 1658.

By the second marriage they had
Sir William Fenwick, of Meldon, who was buried 31, May, 1652.

Sir John and Sir William were, therefore, half-brothers but called brothers in deed of 1636 hereafter mentioned.

The Register of Admissions to Gray’s Inn, 1521–1889, by Joseph Foster, 1889:

Page 94. 1597–8, Mar. 22. William Fenwick, gent., son and heir apparent of Richard Fenwick, of Stanton, Co. of Northumberland.


Page 221. 1638–9, Mar. 15. John Fenwick, second son of William Fenwick, of Stanton, Northumberland, Esq. (This refers to Major John Fenwick, of Salem, N. J., as will later appear.)

Parentage of Major John Fenwick.

It will be observed that William Fenwick, of Stanton, and three of his sons, Edward, John and Roger, were students of Gray's Inn.

A copy of the deed hereafter referred to was presented to the New Jersey Historical Society by the late Col. Robert G. Johnson. The following synopsis was made by Mr. Geo. B. Macaltioner, of Haddonfield, New Jersey:

Indenture dated the 8th of July, 1636, between William Fenwick, of Stanton, Esq., of the Co. of Northumberland, and Edward Fenwick, son and heir apparent of the said William Fenwick, of the first part; Francis Neville, of Cheate, Esq., of the second part; and John Heron, of Burkley, in said Co. of Northumberland, Esq., and Edward Burdett, of Carron, Co. Northumberland, Gent., of the third part. The said parties of the first and second parts lease to the parties of the third part, in consideration of £500, the Manor of Stanton and certain other lands and messuages in Stanton in the parish of Horsley, Co. of Northumberland, during the lives of said William Fenwick and Elizabeth his wife and the said Edward Fenwick and Sarah his wife and after their deaths to the use of Roger Fenwick, son and heir apparent of the said Edward Fenwick, then to the use of William Fenwick, second son of the said Edward Fenwick then to the use of Peter Fenwick, the third son of said Edward Fenwick, then to the use of John Fenwick, the fourth son of the said Edward Fenwick, and then to the use, respectively, of the fifth, sixth, seventh, eighth, ninth and tenth sons of the said Edward Fenwick, then to the use of Sir John Fenwick, of Wallington, Co. of Northumberland, Knight and Baronet, and Sir William Fenwick his brother; said lease to be for the term of thirty years when the lease should cease. After the deaths of the children of the said Edward Fenwick the said lease is further conveyed to the use of John Fenwick, second son of the said William Fenwick, and his heirs and in case of default of issue to Roger Fenwick, third son of the said William Fenwick, and his heirs and in default of issue to Ralph Fenwick, fourth son of the said William Fenwick, and his heirs, and in default of issue to the right heirs of the said William Fenwick forever. (In Hodgson’s account of Edward Fenwick, son of William and Elizabeth, previously given, mention is made of a deed of 9 July, 1636, which refers, evidently, to the foregoing deed, either the 8th or the 9th of July being an error.)

Binfield is a parish in the hundred of Cookham, County of Berks, 3½ miles northeast from Working-
Parentage of Major John Fenwick.

This place is situated in the midst of the tract called the Royal Hunt, in Windsor Forest. (Lewis' *Topographical Dict.)*

*Visitations of Berkshire, 1532, 1566, 1623, 1665-6,* published by the Harleian Society, Vol. LVII, p. 43:

List of those summoned to appear.
Cookeham Hundred, Binfield.
John Fenwick (No. app.) Summoned to Redding Assizes 1666/6.
Prisoner in Reading being a Quaker.

The following deed is in possession of Mr. William B. Goodwin, of Hartford, Conn., a descendant of the South Carolina branch of the Fenwick family:

This Indenture—tripartite—made the ninth day of November . . . one thousand six hundred sixty and eight, between John Fenwick of Binfield in the County of Berks, gentleman, of the first part, and Edward Fenwick and William Fenwick of Stanton in the County of Northumberland, gentlemen, of the second part, and Marke Milbank of the borough and County of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, esquire, of the third part. WHEREAS by a certain decree made in the High Court of Chancery between the said John Fenwick, complainant, and the said William Fenwick and William Boa of Cammo, in the County of Northumberland, gentlemen, and other defendants, bearing date the 29th day of June in the sixteenth year of the reign of our said sovereign lord King Charles II that now reigns, it was Ordered and Decreed that the said Edward Fenwick and William Fenwick should pay unto the said John Fenwick the sum of eight hundred pounds then in arrears and unpaid of a rent charge of fifty pounds per annum issuing out of the manor and Lordship of Stanton aforesaid with Thappiscombe in the said County of Northumberland and out of all the lands, tenements and hereditaments of the said Edward and William Fenwick in Stanton aforesaid and should continue the payment thereof as the same should grow due, and that the said William Boa who was seized of and to whom and his heirs the said rent charge was granted in trust for the said John Fenwick, should convey the said rent charge to the said then complainant, John Fenwick and his heirs, AND WHEREAS the said John Fenwick hath prosecuted the said Decree to a sequestration issuing out of the said Court of Chancery to sequestrate the said Manor and lands and premises to satisfy the same . . . and also the arrears incurred since the said decree with the growing annuity and to continue the same sequestration and growing payments till the same with the arrears and damages for non-payment
and the cost of the said John Fenwick should be fully satisfied unto the said John Fenwick, his executors and assigns, which said moneys and arrears due upon the said decree and sequestration have been adjusted and settled between the said John Fenwick and the said Edward and William Fenwick, AND WHEREAS the said John Fenwick, together with William Fenwick of Nunriding, in the County of Northumberland, gentlemen, John Stangboy of Clemens Inn in the County of Middlesex, gentleman, and William Swinoe of Lincoln's Inn in the said County of Middlesex, gentleman, three of the sequestrators in the said commission of sequestration named, did, by their deed indented, bearing date this third day of April in the nineteenth year of the reign of our said sovereign lord Charles the second, that now is reigning . . . demise . . . unto the said William Fenwick, Thomas Spratt, James Fenwick, William Hull, Thomas Forster, Thomas Robinson, Nicholas Bartram, Henry Henderson and Richard Martyn, their executors, administrators and assigns, all that the said manor or lordship of Stanton with the appurtenances in the said County of Northumberland and all those several messuages, lands, (etc.) . . . situate . . . within the said Manor of Stanton . . . then in the possession of the said William Fenwick, Thomas Spratt, James Fenwick, William Hull, Thomas Forster, Thomas Robinson, Nicholas Bartram, Henry Henderson and Richard Martyn or any of them . . . TO have and to hold the said manor or lordship, lands, tenements and other the premises unto the said William Fenwick, Thomas Spratt, James Fenwick, William Hull, Thomas Forster, Thomas Robinson, Nicholas Bartram, Henry Henderson and Richard Martin from the Feast of Pentecost then next ensuing the date of the said rented indenture unto the full end and terms of one whole year . . . and so from year to year so long as they, the said John Fenwick, William Fenwick, John Stangboy and William Swinoe, the said sequestrators, and the said William Fenwick should please, YIELDING and paying yearly unto the said John Fenwick, William Fenwick, John Stangboy and William Swinoe . . . for the use of the said John Fenwick, party to the said deed, the yearly rent of one hundred pounds of lawful money of England at the feast of St. Martyn the Bishop, in Winter, and the said feast of Pentecost or within thirty days next after by equal portions as in and by the said rented indenture relation being thereunto had, may appear AND WHEREAS there is still due on the said Decree and sequestration the sum of One Thousand and Two Hundred Pounds besides the sum of Seven Hundred Pounds hereinafter mentioned to be paid for the consideration of the growing annuity which said seven hundred pounds is to be paid in such sort as hereinafter is mentioned AND WHEREAS the said William Boa in pursuance of the said Decree hath by
indenture, tripartite, bearing date the first day of April, proximo, Quarterly, made between the said William Boa of the first part and the said Edward Fenwick and William Fenwick of the second part and the said John Fenwick of the third part, granted and assigned the said annuity or rent charge to the said John Fenwick, his heirs and assigns . . . NOW THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH that the said John Fenwick by and with the direction of the said William Fenwick . . . as well for and in consideration of the sum of seven hundred pounds . . . to him, the said John Fenwick, in hand paid by the said William Fenwick and Mark Milbank at and before the sealing and delivery of these puissances . . . HATH by the direction and appointment of the said Edward and William Fenwick, granted . . . unto the said Mark Milbank . . . ALL that the said annuity . . . of fifty pounds . . . issuing . . . out of all that the said Manor of Stanton and out of all and every the messuages lands (etc.) . . . of or belonging to the said William Fenwick and Edward Fenwick . . . together with all such power and authority upon default of payment of the said rent charge to enter into the premises charged thereon (etc.) . . . BUT it is nevertheless hereby declared and agreed by and between all and every the said parties to these powers, that these powers or the rent hereon to be levied by the said John Fenwick and Dame Mary, his wife, formerly called Dame Mary Rogers, nor anything herein conveyed, shall in any sort extend or be . . . made use of or construed to hinder or debar the said John Fenwick . . . or the said sequestrators . . . levying the said one thousand two hundred pounds or any part thereof and for that purpose the said Decree and sequestration is and are to stand and shall or may be prosecuted for payment . . . being all due before the rent charge was agreed to be granted and assigned for the said seven hundred pounds, which said seven hundred pounds was and is only given for the said growing rent charge and hath no relation to the said one thousand two hundred pounds, being former arrears and moneys due on the said decree and sequestration which the said John Fenwick . . . to have and receive over and besides the said seven hundred pounds. IN WITNESS WHEREOF the parties above named to these present Indentures interchangeably have set their hands and seals the day and year above written.

ED. FENWICK W. FENWICK JOHN FENWICK (ENDORSEMENTS)

Signed sealed and delivered by the within named John Fenwick in the presence of us

John Cudworth
Rich. Nelson
Jo. Stenyard
Robert Fenwick
Signed sealed and delivered after the information of these words or the premises to be leased by the said John Fenwick and Dame Mary his wife formerly called Dame Mary Rogers in the prece. of us

George Airey
John Airey
Gerrard Stokeld

Sealed and delivered by the within named Edward Fenwick in the presence of us

James Fenwick
Gerrard Stokeld

The pleadings of the bill of complaint filed by John Fenwick in the Chancery proceedings referred to would show the basis of the suit and his relationship to the Fenwicks mentioned. Probably, there was reference to the lease of 1636 previously mentioned.

The will of Major John Fenwick is recorded at Salem, N. J., in Liber. 2. fol. 103. The original will is in possession of the New Jersey Historical Society. The following are extracts therefrom:

“I John Fenwick late of Binfield in the Countie of Berks in the Kingdom of England Esq. the late absolute Lord or Chiefe propricate by law & survivorship of the province of Nova Caesaria or New Jersey and now of Fenwick's Coloney.”

“& for want of such heires to Roger Fenwick my nephew eldest sonn to my deceased brother Capt. Ralfe Fenwick for life and after his decease to the heires male of his body lawfully begotten & for want of such heires to his brother for life & to his heirs male lawfully begotten and for want of such heires to his brother for life and to his heires male lawfully begotten & for want of such heires to the heires female of my sd grandchilde forever Elizabeth Adams totally excepted & her heirs forever.”

Dated 7 August, 1683.
Proved 16 (6?) April, 1684.
Recorded 5 May, 1684.

Extracts from a letter of Edward Fenwick, of London, July 27, 1726, to his cousin Roger Fenwick, of Little Isle near Skibbereen, in the County of Cork, Ireland. A copy of this letter was obtained by Edward Fenwick of South Carolina, nephew of the writer of the letter, during a visit to the latter (the visit being re-
ferred to in the letter) and has been preserved by his descendants. The letter was printed in the appendix of *The Life of Commodore Josiah Tattnall*, by Charles C. Jones, Jr., Savannah, 1878. The extracts here given are quoted from a copy obtained from Mr. Wm. B. Goodwin of Hartford, Conn., a descendant of the nephew Edward Fenwick referred to in the letter:

"You were pleased to acquaint me that the original of your family's settlement in Ireland was by your grandfather, Ralph Fenwick, who went into that Kingdom as officer in Cromwell's army, and that your father, Charles Fenwick, died soon after the Revolution, leaving you a good estate"... "I perceive you have never been in England yourself"... "I shall only begin from the time of my great-grandfather, William Fenwick, who was born at Stanton the 22d, Sept., 1581, and died at the same place the 12th July, 1647. He left several children but his eldest son (my grandfather) was Edward Fenwick, born at Stanton 29th October, 1606, and died there the 14th August, 1689; and your grandfather Ralph Fenwick was a younger brother of this Edward Fenwick, my grandfather, who had eleven children. His eldest son was Roger Fenwick, born at Stanton the 18th March, 1632, but he was killed at the siege of Dunkirk at an assault in mounting the breaches at Mardike, 1658—he being then Colonel of a regiment of horse. After this Roger Fenwick's death, my grandfather's second son, William Fenwick, became his heir, and married and died soon after, but left a son named Roger Fenwick who inherited the Stanton estate after my grandfather's death. This Roger Fenwick also married, but died soon after, leaving a son John Fenwick, who now inherits the Stanton estate and is the first of the name and family. My father, Robert Fenwick, was the next son of my grandfather to William Fenwick above mentioned... but he married a gentlewoman of the county by whom he had a considerable fortune. My father had eight children and I was his third son... My eldest brother happened to be killed in a duel soon after he came to man's estate. My second brother went into the Army, a cornet in the House Service, in the last wars, and he also happened to be... wounded in the first engagement... and died soon after. I... went into the East Indies where I lived a merchant above eleven years... about eight years ago I married very happily and settled here in London, where I have lived ever since; but I have no children of my own living; neither are there any of my father's children living but myself and my youngest brother John Fenwick, who went into the West Indies about twenty years ago, and has acquired
Parentage of Major John Fenwick.

159

a very good estate in South Carolina, where he now lives in a married state and has four or five children. The two eldest of them, a son and a daughter, are now in England under my care. . . ."

The letter is interesting as agreeing with the Visitations and Hodgson's account of the family, although written many years prior to the publication of those works.

The foregoing references show that Sir John Fenwick, of Wallington, Knight and Baronet, and his half-brother Sir William Fenwick, of Meldon, were of the eldest branch of the family. Sir John has been confused by several writers for John Fenwick, second son of William Fenwick, of Stanton, all of whom are mentioned in the deed of 1636 previously mentioned. John, the said second son, mentioned in the Admissions to Gray's Inn, is identified as John Fenwick, of Binfield mentioned in the Visitation of Berkshire, 1665–6, in the deed of 1668, which shows his interest in the Manor of Stanton, and as the testator "John Fenwick late of Binfield in the Countie of Berks" in the will of John Fenwick of Salem, New Jersey, which latter document establishes his death between 7 Aug., 1683, the date of the will, and its probate 16 (6?) April, 1684. The letter of Edward Fenwick of 1726 refers to Ralph Fenwick (son of William) as "being an officer in Cromwell's army" and, therefore, identifies the "deceased brother Capt. Ralfe Fenwick" mentioned by John Fenwick, of Salem, in his will.

Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society, Vol. IV, p. 53 (1849), contains a "Memoir of John Fenwick, Chief Proprietor of Salem Tenth, New Jersey," by Robert G. Johnson. The page numbers refer to that work:

P. 54. Col. Johnson confuses John Fenwick, of N. J., with the Sir John Fenwick, of Wallington, Knight and Baronet, in referring to the deed of 1636, which error
was followed by the late John Clement, Esq., in his life of John Fenwick. William Fenwick, father of John of N. J., is also confused with Sir William Fenwick, of Meldon, half-brother of Sir John Fenwick of Wallington.

In referring to John Fenwick's first marriage, Col. Johnson says:

"It was previous to the year 1642, most probably 1641. She was Elizabeth, daughter of Sir Walter Covert, Knight, of Slaugham, in the County of Sussex." (Footnote:) "He had two sons and two daughters. The sons were Thomas and John —the daughters were Anna and Elizabeth. Thomas Covert being the eldest son, and heir apparently, gave to his two sisters a lease dated 30th January, 1639, for sixty years (at a rent of one pepper corn) of land called Sniderly, Hoggelsland, and Denscombe, containing 700 acres. Also land called Rowle, Friende Betchlies, Sowlers, and Courtlands, containing 177 acres, situate in the parishes of Slaugham, Bolney, and Finsham, in the County of Sussex. Thomas Covert having died, John Covert, his brother and heir, confirmed the lease to his sisters. Anna Covert having died, her sister Elizabeth became the sole owner of the whole lease; and she having married one John Fenwick, they, husband and wife, conveyed the lease to a trustee for his benefit. This conveyance was dated 27 Nov., 1642. After that, to wit: on the 6th Dec., 1649, it was conveyed to other trustees, namely, Henry Brandreth, merchant, and Samuel Taylor, haberdasher, both of London, for the benefit of the said Elizabeth as long as she lived; and, in case of her death, for her husband John Fenwick if he should survive her. These trustees joined John Fenwick in a mortgage, with Elizabeth his wife, dated in 1651, for the sum of £950, loaned to them by John Goodwin, gentleman, of London.

"Neither have I ascertained at what time he married his second wife, Mary, who was connected with the Burdett family."

We have seen that the second wife was formerly "Dame Mary Rogers," consequently, she appears to have been a widow when she married John Fenwick.

"I should have told thee first that I received thine sent by Sir Edmund Andross, and I came to London in January purposely to wait on him about giving thee liberty, as thou didst desire me; and the Earl of Carlisle, who is since going to be Governor of Jamaica, spoke to him in thy behalf, by my cousin Edward Burdet's means; and thy cousin Edward Burdet went to him himself," etc.

As Edward Burdet is mentioned as a cousin of both Fenwick and Mary his wife, Fenwick and his wife may have been cousins through a Burdet relationship, unless only one was a cousin of Burdet and the other called him cousin on that account. It will be recalled that in the deed of 1636 an Edward Burdett, of Carron, County of Northumberland, was one of the parties of the third part, consequently, as the date of that deed was prior to John Fenwick's marriage to "Dame Mary Rogers," John Fenwick may have been the cousin of Edward Burdet.

Johnson's "Memoir of John Fenwick," p. 54, et seq., refers to the Commission of Oliver Cromwell, dated 27th October, 1648, appointing John Fenwick a "Major under Colonel Thomas Barwis, in the regiment of cavalry, which was raised in the county of Westmoreland to assist the garrison of Carlisle." "The second commission was similar, requiring him as a Major of Cavalry to attend the decapitation of Charles 1st, which took place on 30th January, 1648." "So also John Bradshawe, the President of the judges of that court who passed sentence of death upon the King, and who was subsequently chosen President of that Parliament, specially appointed Fenwick Captain of a troop of horse, by him to be raised from volunteers, who were to act as a guard to that Parliament. . . . This commission was dated . . . 4th September, 1651." (This commission is in possession of N. J. His. Soc.)

Johnson, p. 60, gives the reference to the arrival of John Fenwick with his children at Salem 23rd June, 1675, in the Griffin, Capt. Robert Griffith.

Vol. XLIX.—11
Parentage of Major John Fenwick.

P. 83. "He died December, 1683, aged about 65 years."
P. 85. "The names by which the farms (of John Fenwick in England) were distinguished, were those of Brockham and Worminghurst. His principal estate at Stanton he had leased to Colonel Nicholas Fenwick, his cousin, for the sum of £445 per annum. In his book ('Commonplace Book', in possession of Salem His. Soc.,) he charges money laid out for the house at Worminghurst—where I am inclined to think his family usually resided."

History and Genealogy of Fenwick’s Colony, by Thomas Shoursds, of Salem County, 1876, p. 9, states inaccurately that ‘‘His second wife was Mary Burdett, the daughter of Sir Walter Burdett.’’ He assumed that the second wife was a Burdett and confused the name of her father with Sir Walter Covert, father of John Fenwick’s first wife.