

Sketch: The Scattering of John Markham's Children

by Pamela Hutchison Garrett

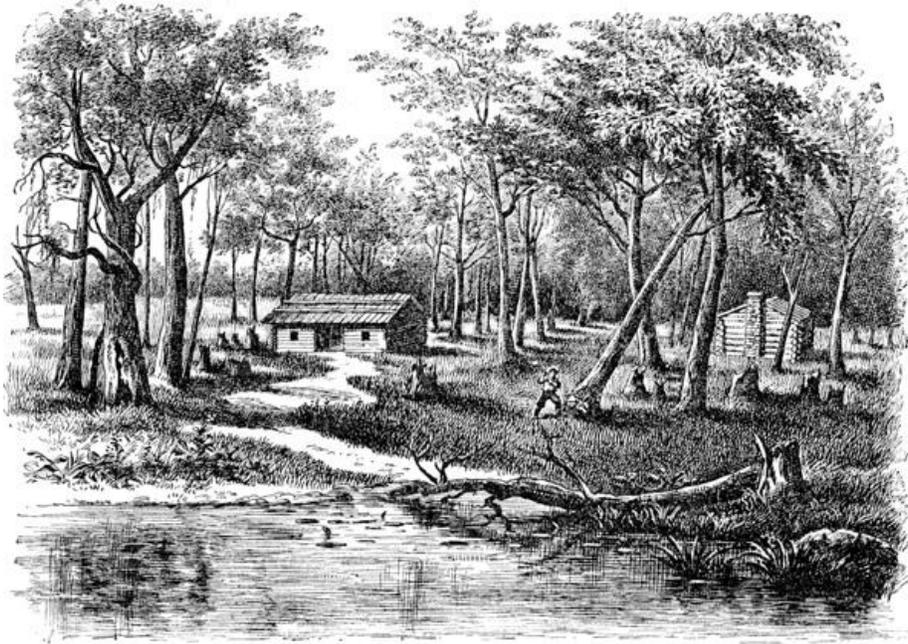
This sketch tells the story, in brief, of the movement of John Markham's children and grandchildren. Most of his children married and remained in Virginia for another generation. But, as the nineteenth century dawned western movement began. The first stops for the Markham grandchildren included, Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama and Missouri. One generation later, descendants were found in no less than ten Southern and Midwestern states, and California.

The first five or six of John Markham's children were probably born on the family homeplace in Orange county New York, and they spent their early childhood there. But, the younger of his children were probably born after the family migrated south to Chesterfield county Virginia. For all of John Markham's children, Virginia must have seemed like home. We don't know for certain which of the Markham sons was the first born, but William Markham or Bernard Markham seem the most likely candidates.

William Markham was the first to move away from the family homeplace in Chesterfield county Virginia. He and his new wife, Mary Wathen removed to Bedford county Virginia, about one hundred miles to the west. They settled on land that had belonged to Mary Wathen's father, and William farmed and built a mill on the Falling River. But, after an eight year stay, something encouraged them to sell out, and it seems likely that they returned to Chesterfield county. William Markham fought and died in the American Revolution, and his wife died shortly after him. Their five likely children were taken in by family members, and probably lived out their childhoods in Chesterfield and surrounding counties.

Two of John Markham's sons – Bernard and George Markham – remained in Chesterfield county Virginia through their lives. They both gave significant service to the county, and to their community around Manchester. Between them they raised up thirteen children to adulthood. Also, two of John Markham's daughters – Catherine and Judith Markham – lived out their lives in Chesterfield county Virginia. Catherine married Francis Smith and left four Smith children; Judith married Archer Traylor, and they became the parents of seven Traylor children.

Vincent Markham, one of John Markham's younger sons, removed a short distance from the family homeplace, into neighboring Powhatan county Virginia. There he lived out his life, leaving one daughter. His brother John Markham moved further afield, following the Revolutionary War. John Jr set up a home on property he bought from the Donaldson family in Pittsylvania county Virginia. He found himself well over one-hundred miles west from most of his siblings.



There was one child of John Markham who left Virginia, his youngest daughter Rebecca Markham. She married Nelson Patteson in 1783, and they remained for a number of years near family and friends in Chesterfield county Virginia. It was sometime after 1800 that she left with her husband and children, to settle near Pulaski in Giles county Tennessee. This move was a major migration, almost seven hundred miles! They likely set off by wagon on the Richmond Road, which met up with the Great Wagon Road near Roanoke, Virginia. There were several ways from there to move on into central Tennessee. In the following generation members of the Burch family, who were also Markham descendants, moved to Pulaski, Tennessee. Though most of the Patteson family eventually moved on to Texas, Pulaski remained the home of other Markham descendants until the dawn of the 20th century.

In the next generation John Markham's grandchildren, numbering more than forty, began to move in earnest. Those who stayed in Virginia occupied the counties of Goochland, Buckingham, Pittsylvania, Prince Edward, and the towns of Petersburg and Abingdon. Vincent Markham, the youngest child of George Markham and his second wife Mary Osborne, may head the only branch of John Markham's family who has remained continuously in Chesterfield county Virginia.

A number of John Markham's grandchildren moved their households to different locations in the state of Alabama, including the town of Mobile. They also tried out homes in Tennessee, Kentucky, and West Virginia. One grandchild who moved considerably to the west was Thomas Bernard Markham, the youngest son of John Markham of Pittsylvania county Virginia. He studied for the ministry and became a missionary and circuit rider in Missouri and Kansas.

Probably the farthest roaming of John Markham's grandchildren was another child of John Markham of Pittsylvania county Virginia. Her name was Catherine Markham and she married James Callaway. About 1820 she moved with her husband and children to Missouri. She was widowed about ten years after she arrived in Missouri. She lived for seventy years as a widow, moving to Nebraska with one of her sons, and eventually dying, at the age of one hundred and two, in Los Angeles California.

The scattering of John Markham's descendants followed common patterns; new opportunities called them to new places. In 2020 we will mark two hundred and fifty years after John Markham's death. Approximately ten generations have now passed. It would be interesting to map the locations of John Markham's descendants today.

Do you want to know more?

[Links to John Markham's Story \(A Table of Contents\)](#)

[Link to John Markham \(database\)](#)

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