

THE
GENEALOGICAL MAGAZINE
OF NEW JERSEY

VOLUME XL • NUMBER 1 • WHOLE NUMBER 154

January 1965

Brearley and Biles of Maidenhead

LEWIS D. COOK

In Eli F. Cooley's *First Settlers of Trenton and Ewing* (1883), page 13, is the statement that "John (1) Brearley settled in the town of Lawrenceville, where he purchased in 1695 of Mahlon Stacy, of Ballifield (the name of his place), a tract of land on the Shabakonk. He died, leaving a widow Sarah, who survived him till 1731, date of Will."

The following restatement is possible from the publication of the West Jersey deeds and wills in the *New Jersey Archives*.

The will of John Wood, of Crookhorn, Bucks Co., Penna., dated 20 March 1692 and proved 12 November 1692, recorded in Bucks Co. Will Book A, vol. 1, page 61, devises to his three daughters, Hester wife of Isaac Smalley, Sarah wife of Charles Biles, and Mary wife of Thomas Coleman. This Charles Biles, from Dorchester, County of Dorset, England, arrived at Burlington, N.J., in the ship *Elizabeth and Sarah*, of Waymouth, on 4 June 1679, as recorded in Bucks Co., Penna., in 1684 (*Penna. Mag. Hist. & Biogr.* 9:225-26, and Biles family in *idem.*, 26:60). By deed of 9 March 1697/8, Joseph Wood, abovesaid, of Bucks Co., Penna., yeoman, conveyed a 100-acre tract bought of Daniel Coxe on 10 June 1692, to (his daughter) Sarah, widow of Charles Biles of Maidenhead, Burlington Co., N.J., deceased, and Alexander Biles, second son of said Charles Biles and Sarah Biles, now Sarah Brearly, in which mention is also made of the "two daughters of Charles Biles," not by their names, recorded in West Jersey Deed Book B, p. 658 (Cf. *N.J. Archives* 21:518). The elder son, not named in that deed, was evidently the John Biles of Maidenhead, whose will dated 29 May 1740 and proved 22 July 1740, appoints his wife Elizabeth and his brother Alexander Biles the executors (*Ibid.*, 30:45). Unidentified here is the Stephen Biles, of Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co., carpenter, who married, with a license of 7 March 1737, Keziah Hunt, daughter of Ralph Hunt, late of same place, dec'd. (*GMNJ* 17:72 and *N.J. Archives* 30:256), and who was of Hopewell Twp., said county, in 1749 (*Ibid.*, 30:153).

Hence, Dr. Cooley's statement on Brearley, first above, is now collated with the will of John Brealy (*sic* for Brearley), of Maidenhead, Hunterdon Co., N.J., dated 7 May 1722 and proved 23 Oct. 1722, which names wife Sarah, and children: John, Benjamin, David, Joseph, Mary wife of John Olden, and Ruth; and appoints his wife and son-in-law John Olden executors; witnesses being John Biles and two others (*Ibid.*, 23:59). And with the will of Sarah Brearley, of Maidenhead, West Jersey, widow, dated 16 Sept. 1731 and proved 27 Oct. 1731, which names her children: John

Biles, Alexander Biles, John Brearley, David Brearley, Joseph Brearley, Benjamin Brearley, Sarah Watson, and Ruth Gumly; and appoints John Brearley executor (*Ibid.*, 30:59). Accordingly, it can be stated as of record that John (1) Brearley died testate in Maidenhead, N.J., in October 1722, having married by 1698 Sarah (Wood) Biles, widow of Charles Biles of that place, and daughter of Joseph Wood of Crookhorn, Bucks Co., Pa., and that she died testate in October 1731.