Indian Princess, in European dress. This portrait of Pocahontas may have been made while she was visiting her husband's family in London.

An engraving of the marriage of Pocahontas and John Rolfe in Jamestown. The Rev. Al taker performed the ceremony.

—The Leaf-Chronicle, Clarksville, Tenn.

POCAHONTAS (ca1595-1617) AND JOHN ROLFE (1585-1622)
POSSIBLE ANCESTRY

Pocahontas (ca1595-1617)

Pocahontas was the daughter of Powatan, who was chief of an Indian tribe of the Algonquin family. She was born about 1595. This tribe of Indians was living in the tidewater section of Virginia at the time of the first settlement of Jamestown. (1607)

A familiar story tells how Pocahontas, beloved daughter of Powatan, interceded to save the colonist's leader John Smith from death at the hand of his Indian captors. Pocahontas became a friend of the Virginia settlers. She helped maintain peace between the native tribe and the newcomers. In 1614 Pocahontas was married to John Rolfe, a well-born and educated English colonist in Virginia. In preparation for the marriage, the Indian bride adopted Christianity and took the name Rebecca.

This unusual couple spent a few years living in the James River area where John Rolfe is credited with developing the cultivation of tobacco. A son Thomas was born to the Rolfes in 1615.

Rolfe and his new wife visited England and Pocahontas was received with favor, becoming a toast of the royal court. Later the couple was returning to Virginia. Rolfe had been appointed secretary and recorder general for the colony.

Pocahontas did not make the trip to the colony. She died as she was leaving England and was buried at St.George Church in Gravesend on March 21,1617. A monument is there for her. She had died of smallpox, the white man's scourge. John Rolfe would die five years later in America of an Indian massacre.

The Rolfe's infant son Thomas was left with relatives in England to be reared and educated there. He returned as a young man to the Virginia colony. He was married to Jane Poythrees, who died as a very young woman, leaving one daughter Jane Rolfe.

Jane Rolfe was married in 1675 to Robert Bolling. His life spanned the years 1646 to 1700. Of this union there was only one child, John Bolling. He lived from 1676 to 1729. He was married in 1697 to Mary Kennon.

In this fifth generation of descent from Pocahontas and Rolfe there were six offspring. They included a son John Bolling, 1700 to 1757, who was married in 1728 to Elizabeth Blair and they had ten children. Girls of the union of John Bolling and Mary Kennon were Elizabeth Bolling, who married Dr.Wm.Gay, Jane Bolling, becoming Mrs. Richard Randolph, Mary Bolling, whose marriage was to John Fleming. Martha Bolling, who married Thos. Eldrich, and Ann Bolling, with a marriage to James Murray.

From two generations of Bollings there were sixteen offspring who could claim descent from the Pocahontas and John Rolfe union. By the sixth generation there was a proliferation of family claiming this lineage. Best known of these is Edith Bolling Gault Wilson, wife of President Woodrow Wilson. Her ancestral line is documented with eight generations of Bollings connecting her to Jane Rolfe Bolling, granddaughter of Pocahontas and John Rolfe.

Our Randolph connection to the Bolling family and from this to the line of Pocahontas and John Rolfe is hidden somewhere in the maze of ten generations of descendents. A probable descent for us would be through the granddaughter Jane's marriage to Richard Randolph. This lineage has not been found to connect with our Randolphs. A possible claim to kinship with the Rolfe line for us is through the Whittingtons of Wythe County, VA. Our John Randolph married Mary Whittington of this family. No information about her family has been found. Our descent from the Pocahontas and John Rolfe line must await further documentation. Information about the family will be kept for future genealogists to use in research.

A family chart of the Pocahontas line of descent is here assembled for us. It includes data found in this research effort.

THE POCAHONTAS FAMILY LINE

1.Powhatan, Chief of an Algonquin tribe of Indians
1.Pocahontas (ca1595-1617) m.1614 John Rolfe (1585-1622)issue 1
lived in the area of Jamestown, VA
1.Thomas Rolfe (1615-)m. Jane Poythrees issue 1
1.Jane Rolfe (1650-1676)m.1675 Robt.Bolling(1646-1709) issue 1
1.Maj.John Bolling (1676-1729)m.1697 Mary Kennon
1.Col.John Bolling (1700-1757)m.1728 Eliz.Blair
1.Thomas Bolling
2.John Bolling III (1737-1822)m.1760 Mary Jefferson
1.Martha Bolling
2.John Bolling
3.Edward Bolling
4.Archibald Bolling m. Catherine Payne
1.Dr.Archibald Bolling m.1835 Ann Eliz.Wigginton
1.Judge Wm.Holcombe Bolling m.1860 Sarah White
1.Rolfe 2.Ann(Maury) 3.Gertrude (Gault)
4.Bertha 5.John Randolph 6.Julian 7.Dr.Wm.E.
8.Edith Bolling (Gault)m.2.Pres.Woodrow Wilson
2.Harriet Bolling m. Waddell
3.Mary Jane Bolling m. Germe Tressler
2.Edward Bolling
3.Alexander Bolling
5.Mary Jefferson Bolling m. Archer
6.Robert Bolling 7.Thos.Bolling 8.Jane Bolling
9.Ann Bolling
3.Col.Robt.Bolling (1738-1775)
4.Mary Bolling m. Richard Bland
5.Sarah Bolling m. Judge John Tazewell
6.Archibald Bolling
7.Ann Bolling

2.Jane Bolling (1703-1765)m.1720 Richard Randolph
1.Richard Randolph 2.Mary Randolph (Cary) 3.Jane
Randolph (Walke) 4.Brett RAndolph 5.Pyland Randolph
6.Eliz.Randolph(Meade) 7.John Randolph
3.Mary Bolling m. Col.John Fleming
4.Elizabeth Bolling m. Dr.Wm. Gay
5.Martha Bolling m.Thos. Eldrich
6.Anne Bolling m. James Murray