

CHAPTER I

OUR BEGINNING

HISTORY OF THE "ROBINSON" NAME

The name Robinson is old and respected in the British Isles; many famous men have borne this honored name (Source information unknown). The name Robinson was formed by a typical English tradition of putting two words together to form a given surname. The addition of "son" to the name of "Robin" simply indicates "son of Robin" (The Robinson Family, 1975, p. 3). The Robinson family was anciently seated in the following locations: Bart, Berks, Cheshire, Oxford, Durham, Middlesex, Stafford, Tottenham, Lincoln, Northcumberland, Kentwall Hall, Suffolk, York, Leicester, and London. There were also branches of the Robinson family in Scotland and Ireland.

(Author's Comment: The group from which we descend migrated from England to Scotland to Ireland to America).

Among the first family members to leave Europe, migrate to America, and bring the Robinson name were:

Alexander Robinson - from Ireland to Maryland, around 1760.

Isaac Robinson - from England in the "Lion" to Massachusetts, around 1635.

John Robinson - from England and settled at Leyden, Massachusetts. He was pastor of the Pilgrims and was considered the most learned and polished man ever to separate from the Church of England.

William Robinson - from England to Dorchester, Massachusetts, around 1637.

The Robinson name is also found spelled as Robson, Robeson, Roberson, and Robertson. The spelling "Robinson" has been used by descendants for the past 50 to 75 years (Source information unknown). "Robinson" is a common name in almost all of England, particularly in London and in the northern counties. The earliest American census (1790) indicates that Robinson was the 37th. most common name in the United States at that time, with approximately 4,652 Robinsons counted. According to the current records of the United States, Robinson is about the 22nd. most common name, with approximately 435,000 adult Robinsons in America (The Robinson Family, 1975, p. 4).

COAT OF ARMS

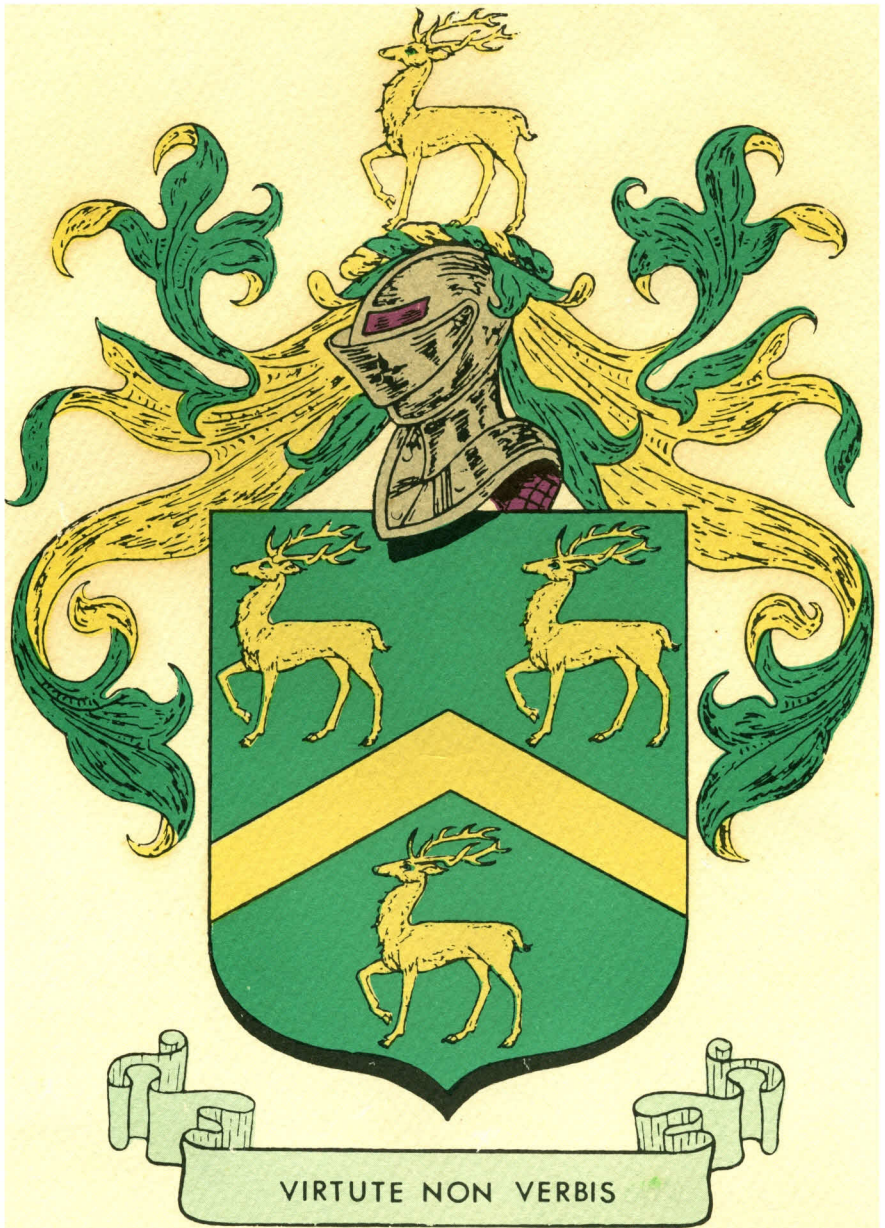
Heraldry is the study of determining, designing, and granting coats of arms. A coat of arms is a heraldic design used to distinguish individual families (World Book Encyclopedia, 1973, p. 186-7). It is of very ancient origin and can be traced back to the Jewish tribes. Subsequently, it was found in a more elaborate form in the leading families of Greece and Rome, Italy, who bore distinguishing symbols, pertaining to deeds of valor and merit performed by their ancestors. In its modern sense, however, the heraldic art dates from the time of the Crusades and was reduced to its present system by the French.

Some mistakenly think that heraldic symbols indicate an aristocratic or exclusive class, and that the symbols are undemocratic in origin. On the contrary, these badges of distinction were the reward of personal merit and could be secured by the humblest as well as the highest. They are today the testimonials and warrants of bravery, heroism, and deeds of merit of our ancestors (Source information unknown).

THE ROBINSON COAT OF ARMS

The motto for the Robinson coat of arms is "Virtute non verbis" meaning "by valor, not by boasting."

On the coat of arms (See Exhibit 1-1), the shield is green (referred to as "vert"), with a chevron (the gray, pointed shape) located between three stags. According to heraldry, the chevron on a shield represents one who is "likened unto the roof of a house protecting the weak." The stag represents one skilled in music and in harmony, one who is prudent and foresees his time and opportunity, one who is unwilling to assail the enemy rashly, but desirous to stand on his own ground honestly and firmly. Having colors on the coat of arms, according to heraldry, signifies strength or generosity (Source information unknown).



Robinson

MIGRATION TO AMERICA

ENGLAND-SCOTLAND-IRELAND-AMERICA

Several of David Shannon Robinson's grandchildren remember being told that their ancestors were Scotch-Irish. Bertha (Robinson) Belflower recalls her father, David Melton Robinson, telling her this story. Julia (Collier) Robinson and Arlie Snyder Robinson had heard the Robinson elders talk about the family being Scotch-Irish immigrants who descended from the Shannon River area in Ireland. The term Scotch-Irish is a misnomer and does not signify a mixed race of Scotch and Irish ancestry. This term was never used in Ireland. The Scotch-Irish term was given to the descendants of Scotch people who migrated from the Lowlands of Scotland to Ireland, and later to America. The descendants of these Scotch people were referred to in Ireland as "Irish Presbyterians" and "Irish Protestants."

The My research shows that our Robinson name and ancestry originated from England. Later, migration took place to Scotland. Robinsons living in the Lowlands of Scotland migrated to northern Ireland in 1610 (Scotland refers to its people as either living in the Lowlands or the Highlands). The reason for the migration to Ireland was because King James I of England offered a colony of Scottish Protestant Lowlanders free land in Ulster, Ireland. The land that James I gave the Scottish Protestant Lowlanders for free was confiscated from the native Irish Catholics. The land was confiscated because of their bitter hostility towards the British Crown. King James I's purpose was to establish a colony of people with a strong allegiance upon whose loyalty the English government could depend on. For the success of his plan, he needed people whose dislike for the Irish and their religion would operate as a barrier to any intermingling of the two races. The Scottish Lowlanders were

the best suited for this purpose; because of their intense racial pride, they would not intermarry with the Irish. Also, they were the most uncompromising of Protestants and would greatly resist the attacks of Catholicism. Being tenacious of their property rights, which they owed to the generosity of the King, they would maintain and defend his crown at all hazards.

Between 1610 and 1620, because of King James I's plan, 40,000 Scotch Presbyterians were settled in Ulster, Ireland. These people were among the most industrious, thrifty, and intelligent people in the world. In Ulster, these Scotch people drained the swamps, felled the forest, sowed wheat and flax, raised cattle and sheep, and began the manufacturing of linen and woolen cloth which they were soon exporting to England.

The Scottish did so well for themselves that a century later, the success of their industrial enterprise was the envy of their competitors in England. By the close of the 1600's, the English manufacturers complained so bitterly of the Scottish competition in Ireland, that the British Parliament passed laws greatly restricting the Irish factory outputs and placed them at the mercy of their English rivals. About the same time, the High Church Party in England secured the passage of laws, making it illegal for Presbyterians in Ireland to hold office, to practice law, to teach school, and to exercise many of their other civil and religious rights (there was no reference if this also applied to the Protestant faith). All over Ulster, there was an outburst of Episcopalian tyranny.

These new laws, one being economic and the other being religious, gave birth to the Scotch-Irish immigration to America, which started taking place in 1718. However, before that date, there were some occasional settlers of Scotch-Irish descent that migrated into North Carolina as early as 1676. They were simply isolated individuals of an adventurous spirit who broke away from their home ties to seek fortunes in a new land and cannot be considered as part of the great Scotch-Irish immigration in the 1700's.

In 1740, a famine in Ulster, Ireland, caused a great increase of emigration to America. During the next several years, approximately 12,000 people a year came to America from Ulster. The migration of people from Ulster, Belfast, Londonderry, and other areas continued due to the unfair treatment they were being given; in Ireland they were held unfit to receive the rights of citizens. The migration to America ended when the spell of tyranny was broken in 1782.

The state of North Carolina attracted large numbers of Scotch-Irish people. The first settlers who came to North Carolina as an organized group were brought into the province by land companies. In 1735, a grant was made for 60,000 acres of land on Black River in the New Hanover precinct. In the following years, immigrants arrived and were settled in what is now Sampson and Duplin counties.

From 1734 to 1765, the chief executives of North Carolina exerted themselves personally and officially to induce Scotch-Irish immigrants to settle there. The executives were Gabriel Johnston, a native of Scotland, and Matthew Rowan and Arthur Dobbs, who were both Scotch-Irishmen from Ulster, Ireland. Between 1735 and 1775, a few Scotch-Irish landed at Charleston and moved up the banks of the Pee Dee and Catawba Rivers into the hill country of South Carolina and North Carolina.

The great majority of Scotch-Irish landed at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and moved into Western Virginia and North Carolina. On their journey south, they merely passed through Pennsylvania without ever residing there due to the high price of land. Also, many passed through Virginia without settling because of the severity of the Virginia laws on religion. The route these settlers followed from Pennsylvania into North Carolina was known as the "Great Road from the Yadkin River through Virginia to Philadelphia." The name depicts the road as being travelled from the south to the north, but the Scotch-Irish travelled from the north to the south. The road ran from Philadelphia through Lancaster and York in Pennsylvania, to Winchester in Virginia,

down the Shenandoah Valley, and southward across the Dan River to the Moravian settlements on the Yadkin in North Carolina. The distance was 435 miles. The great tide of Scotch-Irish immigrants rolled in upon that section of North Carolina that was drained by the headwaters of the Neuse and the Cape Fear, and by the Yadkin, the Catawba, and their tributaries.

The pioneer Scotch-Irish communities were held together on the frontier by common religious sympathies. The Scotch-Irishman was known to be domestic in his habits and loved his home and family; but we know also that he was unemotional, seldom gave expression to his affections, and presented to the world the appearance of great reserve, coldness, and austerity. He was loyal to his own kith and kin, but stern and unrelenting with his enemies. He was deeply and earnestly religious but the very depth and earnestness of his convictions made him narrow-minded and bigoted. He was law abiding as long as the laws were to his likings, but when they ceased to be, he disregarded them, peacefully if possible, forcefully if necessary. Independent and self-reliant, he was opinionated and inclined to lord it over any who would submit to his aggressions. He was brave and he loved the stir of battle. His whole history shows that he would fight, that he might be crushed, but never subdued. In short, in both his admirable and his censurable traits, he possessed just the qualities that were needed on the Carolina frontier in the middle 1700's (History of North Carolina, V. 1, p. 162-170).

Two of these brave people were our ancestors, from which we all (the Robinson clan) descend.

ROBINSON FAMILIES IN AMERICA

PRIOR TO 1800

The following list is a record of all known recorded immigrants in America with the last name of Robinson for the time period prior to 1800. It is a possibility that our family's direct ancestor appears on this list, and if so, he would be a direct immigrant from Ireland. There are two possibilities why our ancestor may not be on the following list:

- He may not have been recorded in the census report.
- He may have immigrated to America after the 1800 census report.

More research needs to be done to determine which Robinson we all descend from, but the oldest confirmed ancestor is John Robinson. He was born in South Carolina (exact location unknown) in approximately 1790 to 1800 and was living with his family in Barnwell County, South Carolina in 1835 (See Chapter II for more information about John Robinson).

Many of the immigrants on this list were transported from England to America as indentured servants. In England, there were at least 150 capital crimes to cause a man to be transported. Of course the crimes included murder, arson, and treason, but there were also lesser crimes, such as maiming, stealing a cow, cutting down trees along an avenue, sending threatening letters, and standing mute when addressed by a legal official. Some convicts were even people of high quality. For instance, one gentleman of high birth was transported for stealing books out of a library. As a child, George Washington was taught to read and write by a transported convict who had been a schoolmaster. Especially in the countryside, the crimes which resulted in transportation were often very petty. One man was transported for stealing a silver shoe buckle. Another was

sent to America and indentured for seven years for the theft of a chicken (The Robnison Family, 1975, p. 28-35).

--- Robinson; emigrated from Waldingfield, England, to Ipswich, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1650.

Abraham Robinson; immigrated to Gloucester, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1646; married to Mary ---; had a son Abraham.

Alexander Robinson; born 1750, died 1845; emigrated from County Armagh, Ireland, to Maryland in the late 1700's; merchant; came to Maryland to obtain the release of his brother, who had been captured by colonial troops during the American Revolution; married (1st) to Priscilla Lyles and (2nd) to Angelica Peale; had a son Lyles Robert.

Andrew Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1638.

Andrew Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1635.

Anthony Robinson; immigrated to New England prior to 1636; apprentice.

Christopher Robinson; born 1645, died 1693; emigrated from Yorkshire, England, to Virginia around 1666; called his estate "Hewick"; one of the original trustees of William and Mary College; Secretary of State, 1692; married (1st) to Agatha Obert and (2nd) to Catherine Beverly; had a son Benjamin.

Edward Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1643.

Edward Robinson; immigrated to Virginia between 1654 and 1663.

Edward Robinson; probably immigrated to Rhode Island in or prior to 1665; admitted freeman in 1655.

Edward Robinson; transported from Newport, England, to Maryland on board the ship Worcester Frigate in February 1718/19; indentured servant.

Francis Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1652.

Gabriel Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1650.

George Robinson; immigrated to Rehoboth, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1646; served in King Philip's War.

George Robinson; probably immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1657; fireman; married to Mary Bushnell; children were George, John, and Martha.

George Robinson; emigrated from Scotland to New England in or prior to 1646; married to Joanna Ingraham; had a son George.

George Robinson; emigrated from Yorkshire, England, to New England around 1705, aged 13; indentured servant.

George Robinson; emigrated to Maryland from Lincolnshire, England, on 10 February 1735, aged 25; turner and glazier; indentured servant.

George Robinson; transported from York Castle to Virginia on board the ship Forward Frigate in October 1723; indentured servant.

Henry Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1654.

Henry Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1636.

Isaac Robinson; immigrated to New England on board the ship Hopewell in 1635.

Isaac Robinson; emigrated from Nottinghamshire, England, to Barnstable, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1650.

Isaac Robinson; born 1610, died 1704; emigrated from England to Duxbury, Massachusetts, on board the ship Lion in 1631; moved to Scituate, Massachusetts, in 1636; member of the Grant Inquest for the colony in 1639; married to Margaret Hanford.

Jacob Robinson; possibly immigrated New Haven, Connecticut, in or prior to 1690; married to Sarah Hitchcock; children were John, Thomas, Sarah, Hannah, Mary, and Eliakim.

James Robinson; probably immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, prior to 1654; mariner; married to Martha Buck; children were Sarah, John, James, and Elizabeth.

James Robinson; emigrated from Scotland to New England in or prior to 1646; was forced to leave Scotland because of articles he had written that were displeasing to the king; married to Mary McKinnie; had a son William.

James Robinson; emigrated from Southward, England, to Maryland on 10 February 1724, aged 21; cordwainer; indentured servant.

James Robinson; died 18 April 1694; immigrated to Dorchester, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1664; admitted freeman in 1690; married to Mary Alcock; children were James, Thomas, Samuel, Mary (died young), John, Henry (died young), and Ebenezer.

James Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1637.

James Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1652.

Jo. Robinson; immigrated to Georgia on 14 May 1735; indentured servant; ran away to the Carolinas in September, 1740.

John Robinson; emigrated from Mapershall, England, to Haverhill, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1650.

John Robinson; immigrated to Virginia on board the ship Margett and John in 1622, aged 21; indentured servant.

John Robinson; immigrated to Salem, Massachusetts, around 1639; admitted freeman in 1641.

John Robinson; immigrated to Ipswich, Massachusetts, prior to 1658; wheelwright.

John Robinson; immigrated to Barnstable, Massachusetts, prior to 1667; served as a representative for Falmouth in 1689, 1690, and 1691; married to Elizabeth Weeks; children were John, Isaac, Timothy, Abigail, and Fear.

John Robinson; immigrated to Haverhill, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1657; moved to Exeter, Massachusetts, in 1657; was killed by Indians in 1675.

John Robinson; died 14 November 1745; possibly immigrated to Duxbury prior to 1702; minister; married to Hannah Wiswall; children were Mary, Hannah, Alithea, Elizabeth, John, Ichabod, and Faith.

John Robinson; died 1688; emigrated from England to York County, Virginia, around 1655; married to Elizabeth Potter; had a son Anthony.

John Robinson; immigrated to Georgia on 14 October 1735; seaman.

John Robinson; emigrated from Scotland to Maryland on 15 February 1724, aged 16; indentured servant.

John Robinson; emigrated from Kent, Scotland to Maryland on 5 January 1729, aged 19; indentured servant.

John Robinson; emigrated from Devon, England to Maryland on 18 December 1729, aged 20; gardner; indentured servant.

John Robinson; emigrated from Yorkshire, England, on 17 March 1735, aged 21; indentured servant.

John Robinson; emigrated from Warwick, England, to Maryland on 11 January 1737, aged 20; tailor; indentured servant.

John Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Maryland on board the ship Alexander on 4 July 1723; indentured servant.

John Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Maryland on board the ship Loyal Margrett on 10 June 1726; indentured servant.

John Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Forward Galley on 1 November 1728; indentured servant.

John Robinson; transported from London to Rappahanock, Virginia, on board the ship Harpooner on 1 January 1740; indentured servant.

John Robinson; transported from Middlesex, England, to Virginia on board the ship Indian Queen on 17 May 1743; indentured servant.

John Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1636.

John Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1652.

John Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1653.

Jonathan Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1643.

Joseph Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Caesar on 26 October 1732; indentured servant.

Joseph Robinson; possibly immigrated to Andover in or prior to 1671; admitted freeman in 1691; married to Phebe Dane.

Joseph Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Forward Galley on 28 October 1730; indentured servant.

Mathew Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1638.

Nathaniel Robinson; immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1655; admitted freeman in 1673; married to Damaris ---; children were Nathaniel, Elizabeth, Daniel, Mary, Robert, and Damaris.

Nicholas Robinson; emigrated from London to New England on board the ship Blessing in 1635, aged 30; married probably to Elizabeth ---; children probably were Catherine, Mary, John, and Sarah.

Nicholas Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1639.

Nicholas Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1643.

Patrick Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1637.

Phillip Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1643.

Richard Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Caesar on 13 December 1734; indentured servant.

Richard Robinson; transported from Surrey, England, to Maryland on board the ship Margarett on 11 May 1719; indentured servant.

Richard Robinson; immigrated to Virginia prior to 1641; admitted freeman in 1641; married to Rebecca ---; had a son John.

Richard Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1656.

Robert Robinson; transported from Surrey, England, to Maryland on board the ship Robert on 19 July 1724; indentured servant.

Robert Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1654.

Rowland Robinson; born 1654, died 1716; emigrated from Cumberland, England, to Rhode Island around 1675; deputy, 1705; married to Mary Allen; had a son William.

Samuel Robinson; died 1718; immigrated to New England prior to 1667; served as a selectman for the colony in 1688; admitted freeman in 1690; served as a representative for the colony in 1701 and 1702.

Samuel Robinson; immigrated to Virginia on 12 March 1684, aged 21; indentured servant.

Samuel Robinson; emigrated from Lincolnshire, England to Maryland on 3 December 1723, aged 40; coachman and gardner; indentured servant.

Simon Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1654.

Stephen Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1648.

Symon Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1645.

Thomas Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1636.

Thomas Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1640.

Thomas Robinson; immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, prior to 1690; cordwainer; married to Sarah ---; children were Thomas, Sarah, and James.

Thomas Robinson; immigrated to Scituate, Massachusetts, around 1642; married (1st) to ---, (2nd) to Mary Coggan, and (3rd) to Mrs. Elizabeth Sherman; children were James, Thomas, Joseph, Mary, and Mercy.

Thomas Robinson; emigrated from Oxfordshire, England, to New England around 1699, aged 25; indentured servant.

Timothy Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Forward Galley on 27 October 1729; indentured servant.

William Robinson; immigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in or prior to 1649; at the age of 25 he was hung by the Pilgrims because of his "heretic" Quaker beliefs.

William Robinson; immigrated to Salem in or prior to 1637; tailor; admitted freeman in 1642; married to Isabella ---; children were Ann, Samuel, Mary, Timothy, and Esther.

William Robinson; died 1668; emigrated from England, to Dorchester, Massachusetts; member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, 1643; married to Prudence ---; had a son Samuel.

William Robinson; emigrated from Northumberland, England to New England in October 1700, aged 16; indentured servant.

William Robinson; immigrated to Virginia on board the ship Nevis Merchant between 1663-79.

William Robinson; emigrated from Warwickshire, England, to Maryland on 8 December 1729, aged 16; labourer; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Hertford, England, to Maryland on board the ship Margarett on 11 May 1719; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Honour on 19 May 1720; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Maryland on board the ship Forward Frigate on 18 October 1722; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Sussex, England, to Maryland on board the ship Patapscoe on 4 April 1732; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Newgate Prison to Virginia on board the ship Dorsetshire on 23 January 1738; indentured servant.

William Robinson; transported from Middlesex, England to the Colonies on board the ship Justitia on 18 May 1744.

William Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1649.

William Robinson, Jr.; immigrated to Virginia around 1652.

William Robinson, Sr.; immigrated to Virginia around 1652.

William Robinson; immigrated to Virginia around 1653.

The following lists contain the names of all the heads of families bearing the name Robinson that lived in North Carolina and South Carolina in 1790. Following the name is the county or district of domicile of the particular individual. These lists were compiled during the first census of the United States in 1790 (The Robinson Family, 1975, p. 53-56).

NORTH CAROLINA

<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>County</u>
Allen	Newbern	John	Newbern
Athanarius	Hillsborough	John	Salisbury
Batrum	Wilmington	John	Wilmington
Benjamin	Newbern	John	Wilmington
Benjamin	Wilmington	John	Wilmington
Calop	Wilmington	Jonathan	Wilmington
Charles	Fayette	Josiah	Edenton
Charles, Jr.	Fayette	Peter	Wilmington
Charles, Jr.	Fayette	Luke	Newbern
Christopher	Edenton	Thomas	Edenton
Christopher, Jr.	Edenton	Thomas	Fayette
David	Morgan	Thomas	Halifax
David	Newbern	Thomas	Newbern
Edward	Hillsborough	Thomas	Newbern
Elizabeth	Edenton	Vol.	Morgan
Elizabeth	Edenton	William	Edenton
Hannah	Morgan	William	Fayette
James	Fayette	William	Fayette
James	Morgan	William	Hillsborough
Jeremiah	Fayette	William	Newbern
John	Edenton	William	Salisbury
John	Edenton	William	Salisbury
John	Edenton	William	Wilmington
Jn.	Morgan	William, Jr.	Fayette
Jn.	Morgan		

SOUTH CAROLINA

<u>Name</u>	<u>County/Dist.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>County/Dist.</u>
Alexander	Camden	John	Ninety-six
Elizabeth	Charleston	Joseph	Charleston
Fran	Charleston	Margaret	Charleston
James	Camden	Mary	Camden
Jane	Charleston	Septimus	Charleston
John	Camden	Suffia	Orangeburgh
John	Charleston	Thomas	Camden
John	Georgetown	William	Camden
John	Ninety-six	William	Camden
John	Ninety-six	William	Charleston

(Author's Comment: The oldest known ancestor, John Robinson, was born in South Carolina, but the exact location is unknown (Reference 1880 Census-statement given by David Shannon Robinson). He was living in Barnwell County [formerly the Orangeburgh District] by 1835 or earlier and lived there at least until 1840, as indicated by the census, and left before 1850. The only person recorded in the 1790 census in the Orangeburgh District is Suffia Robinson. At this time, I have not made any connections between John and Suffia or any of the other Robinsons listed).