

Bio for Edmund Anderson
by Pamela Hutchison Garrett, June 2013

Edmund Anderson was born 30 April 1785 in Virginia. Exploration of his parentage and ancestry raises questions. He is likely to be the son of Richard Anderson and his second wife Mildred “Milly” Thomson. Speculative grandparents are David Anderson, his wife Elizabeth Mills and William Thomson, his wife Margaret Charles.

There has been extensive work done on the Anderson families in Virginia. One of the more recent and helpful resources is the website of Patrick J Anderson, titled Colonial Virginia Anderson Families, [<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~anderson/virginia.html>]. Our Anderson family must be from among his “York River Watershed” group. In the 1990’s my mother, Aubin Clarkson Hutchison, gathered numerous documents on the Andersons of this area, and prepared a written account of several possible Anderson ancestors. At some point I will put this information into an article for this database website.



Edmund Anderson was first married to Frances Moore, 3 November 1807, in Albemarle county Virginia (another source gives the date 2 December 1807 for this marriage). Frances Moore may be the daughter of Reuben Moore of Culpeper county Virginia. As with many of the details surrounding the Anderson family, there is some debate about the children of Edmund Anderson and Frances Moore. At present I have settled on three children of this couple, but more work is needed here: Pamela Mildred Anderson, John Mortimer Anderson, and Sarah Frances Anderson.

There are several dates related to Edmund Anderson around 1813-1814 that cause some conflict:

5 January 1813; Edmund Anderson purchased from the estate of John Jouett sixty acres in Charlottesville Virginia, including Jouett’s Tavern and laid it out in lots called Anderson’s Addition.

5 May 1813; Edmund Anderson and wife Frances sell lot 70 in Charlottesville Virginia

13 June 1813; Edmund Anderson married Nancy Ann Cole.

6 February 1814; Frances Moore Anderson died in Charlottesville Virginia.

The date of the Anderson – Cole wedding would seem to be in question. Perhaps the date should be 13 June 1814.

Edmund Anderson's second wife, Nancy "Ann" Cole, was the daughter of William Cole and Susanna Watson of "North Garden" in Albemarle county Virginia. She must have taken on the raising of the three Anderson children, Pamela, John and Sarah, who were between the ages of three and five. About the time of the Anderson – Cole marriage, Edmund Anderson moved his family from the Charlottesville Virginia area to Richmond Virginia. Over the next fifteen years, four more children would be added to the family: Susan Eliza Anderson, Amanda Marshall Anderson, Charles Everett Anderson, and William Edmund Anderson.

In Richmond Virginia, Edmund Anderson established the firm, Anderson and Woodson (later to become Anderson, Woodson and Biggers). The nature of this business is not clear, but it may have been connected to real estate. At the end of his life, Edmund Anderson was described as a "prominent and successful Richmond merchant", so this business may have been a wholesale or retail concern.

During Aubin Hutchison's searches on the Anderson family she came across a number of records that led her to question Edmund Anderson's "successful" business ventures. Here is her account:

Edmund Anderson, seems to have encountered financial problems in almost every venture he undertook including the land development in Albemarle county Virginia. Edmund and his second wife, Nancy Cole, moved to Richmond City. In 1815 he sold his wife's 1/8 inheritance in the North Garden of Albemarle county. This is property she had inherited from her father, via her brother Joseph Cole, who died in 1814. That same month, on 15 Oct 1815, he bought the Swan Tavern, which he soon sold in 1817.

He entered a business venture in Richmond City under the firm name of Anderson and Woodson, later Anderson, Woodson & Biggers, but this business too failed and he transferred some of his Albermarle county property to John R. Jones, trustee, who in 1829 sold it for payment of his debts. In 1831 Edmund sold to Winn & Garrett the present site of Maplewood Cemetery in Charlottesville. Records indicate other possible secretive sales of some of his wife's inherited property and slaves.

Edmund Anderson was continually in court dealing with his wife's considerable inheritance from her father William Cole, both in Albermarle county properties and Charles City county properties. Her inheritance also included slaves. Edmund sold most of these properties (including slaves, as I recall) more or less with her consent. But in later years mention is made that she did not consent, and a brother John Cole of Charles City county comes in as a trustee for her in some of these transactions.

By 1838, Edmund Anderson seems to be in considerable trouble. He has been arrested and confined to jail. On 16 May 1838, Edmund Anderson gives H. A. Claiborne (of bank?) a cow, calf, horse, plow, etc. Signing as security: John M Anderson, his son, and David Mitchie, son-in-law. Later that year, Edmund Anderson sells his wife Nancy's Charles City county property, and she has not been reimbursed by Edmund, as was the formal agreement (a court record) if he sold any of her property. Her brother John Cole is her trustee for this sale.

Two records appear, related to the daughters of Edmund Anderson and his first wife Frances Moore. A somewhat illegible indenture in Richmond court records (38/488-91) mentions Parmelia's share of the proceeds of certain personal property bequeathed to her by the will of her grandmother, Mildred Jackson, in June 1828. It is of record in the Hustings Court on 26 Sept 1828. It mentions an identical bequest made to Sarah F. Anderson. Parmelia's husband is Philip Slaughter Fry and Sarah's husband is David Michie. It would be helpful to identify Mildred Jackson.

Another Richmond City record of importance identifies three of the children of Edmund Anderson and his second wife, Nancy Cole. It is a deed dated 14 Oct 1853 (67A/128-29) saying that property with "tenement erected thereon", is being sold by Charles E. and Wm E. Anderson to Bernard Weisman for \$595, and was formerly conveyed to Susan E. Anderson by Jesse Williams and wife by deed dated 17 Apr 1843, recorded in Richmond Hustings court. It might be helpful to identify the Williams. Conveyed to her brothers Charles and William by Susan's will written 5 Nov 1849 and filed 15 July 1851, she also gave her father Edmund Anderson life estate in two rooms of the tenement which he was now willing to relinquish. The lot fronting 22 feet on the north line of Broad Street, ran 132 feet back to a 17 foot wide common alley. This sale was made almost exactly six months after Nancy Anne Cole Anderson died.

So it seems that Edmund Anderson went through both his inheritance and Nancy Anne's and ended up a pauper.

It seems likely that this picture of Edmund Anderson's "decline" is accurate, but he surely had some redeeming qualities. He must have taken in his widowed mother in her later years, for she died in his home in 1828.

In Richmond on August 22, at her son's Edmund Anderson, Mrs Mildred Jackson, in her 74th year. [source] Richmond Commercial Compiler (Richmond, Virginia); 23 August 1828; from Marriage and Obituary Citations compiled by Bernard Henley, Library of Virginia.

The 1874 obituary of Edmund Anderson's daughter, Sarah Frances Anderson Michie states: "Mrs Michie was formerly from Richmond, and her father was for many years postmaster in that city."

There are also some very interesting documents available representing the story of Edmund Anderson's efforts to assist Lucy Slaughter, "a free woman of color", in securing her grandchildren's rightful inheritance from her. He served as Lucy Slaughter's executor in 1836-37, and went to court for her grandchildren in the early 1840's.

The 1850 Census of Richmond Virginia shows Edmund Anderson and his wife Nancy, with their daughter, Susan Eliza Anderson still in the home.

1850 Census of Henrico county Virginia, City of Richmond
Edmund Anderson; 65, Virginia
Nancy Anderson; 65, Virginia
Susan E Anderson; 26, Virginia
Philip Slaughter; 25, Virginia

Susan E Anderson died the following year, in 1851, and is buried with her family in Shockoe Cemetery in Richmond Virginia. The cemetery records give cause of death as “affliction of the spine”, so it is thought that she may have suffered from a spinal deformity. Nancy Anderson died shortly after, in 1853, and is also buried with the family in Shockoe Cemetery.



[Friends of Shockoe Hill Cemetery](#)

Died – On Apr 13, Mrs Nancy Anderson, wife of Edmund Anderson, of Richmond.
[source] Richmond Whig and Public Advertiser (Richmond, Virginia); 15 April 1853; from Marriage and Obituary Citations compiled by Bernard Henley, Library of Virginia.

By 1860 Edmund Anderson, widower, is found in the household of his son-in-law and daughter, David and Sarah Michie.

1860 Census of Henrico county Virginia; Richmond
David Michie; 50 (1810) Virginia; farmer
Sarah Michie; 48 (1812) Virginia
Fannie M Michie; 23 (1837) Virginia
Susan Michie; 21 (1839) Virginia
William Michie; 19 (1841) Virginia
Edwin (Edmund?) Anderson; 75 (1785) Virginia

Edmund Anderson died in the following year, 1861, of “old age. He is buried, along with his second wife, and daughter in Shockoe Cemetery.

As mentioned above, Edmund Anderson’s identified children include three by his first wife, Frances Moore, and four more by his second wife, Nancy Cole. Family and cemetery records suggest that there were several other children that died in infancy or childhood. Two of his

daughters died in young adulthood. His remaining five children appear to have married well, pursued worthy avenues in life, and met with reasonable success.

Records of interest:

Shockoe Cemetery, Richmond, Virginia Burial Records

Edmund Anderson; age 77, buried 30 Nov 1861; old age; retired merchant

Nancy Anderson; age 69; buried 15 April 1853; pneumonia; wife of Edmund Anderson

Miss Susan Anderson; age 34; buried 15 June 1851; affection of spine

Shockoe Cemetery; City of Richmond Virginia

Cemetery Location: The four squares are bounded by Fourth Street on the east, Second Street on the west, Hospital Street on the north and Bates Street on the south, and are opposite the City Home, Richmond, Virginia.

Sacred to the memory of

Nancy Anderson

consort of Edmund Anderson

who died April 13th, 1853

Aged 69 years

Sacred to the memory of

Amanda M.

consort of Benj. F. Peters

and daughter of Edmund and Nancy Anderson

who died Feb. 13th, 1844

Aged 23 years

Sacred to the memory of

Susan E.

Daughter of Edmund and Nancy Anderson

who died June 18th, 1851

Aged 36 years

[source] Library of Virginia Digital Collection; LVA Titled Files: Survey Report, Shockoe Cemetery: 1936 April; Research made by Madge Goodrich.