

## Cosby Family

William Nelson Robertson's wife was Amelia Overton. Amelia's mother was Frances Cosby. Frances' family descends from Charles Cosby, Frances great great great grandfather. It is believed that most if not all Cosbys in the United States descend from Charles. Our direct line is as follows:

**Charles Cosby.** Charles, born in 1585, was the son of Alexander Cosby and Dorcas Sydney. Charles is the founder of the Cosby family in Virginia. He married Mary Loftus, a descendent of Edward Loftus. Edward Loftus was from Swineshead, County York, England, settled in Ireland in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and obtained extensive grants of forfeited land from Queen Elizabeth and King James. Edward had two sons. The eldest was Robert who was the ancestor of the Viscounts of Loftus of Ely. The second son was Adam who was Doctor of Divinity of Trinity College, Cambridge, and Chaplain to Queen Elizabeth. Adam was made Archbishop of Armagh, Primate of Ireland, in 1563, and Lord Chancellor of Ireland in 1578. He was instrumental in establishing the University of Dublin and was its first Provost. He married Jane Purdon by who he had twenty children and died in 1605. His daughter married Sir Henry Colley and was an ancestor to the Duke of Wellington. The male line of Adam became extinct in 1783 but is represented in the female line by the Marquis of Ely. His fourth son, Sir Thomas Loftus married Ellen, daughter of Robert Harpole of Shrute, Queen's County, and widow of Francis Cosby, son of Alexander. Charles Cosby's wife was a sister of this Sir Thomas. She died November 23, 1623. Charles Cosby is said to have settled in York or Warwick, Virginia in 1628.

**John Cosby.** John, the son of Charles, was a planter in York County, Virginia. He was born in England about 1623 and died in York County in the early part of 1696. He owed extensive tracts of land in York, King, Queen and New Kent Counties. On November 30, 1657, his young daughter, Mary, accidentally set fire to her cloths and was burned to death. He was probably the daughter of his first wife. John's widow, Sarah survived him by forty-five years and thus was probably not the mother of all, and possibly not any, of his children. John had a least six daughters and three sons, on of whom was:

**Charles Cosby.** Charles, the son of John, was probably born about 1670-1680. He lived upon lands in Kings, Queen and New Kent Counties in Virginia, which were granted to his father in 1656. He is said to have married Jane Meriwether, daughter of David Meriwether. All records of New Kent were destroyed in the Civil War. There is, however, a tradition that a Charles Cosby, probably this one, lived to a very old age and rode to hounds at ninety years of age. He is known to have had two sons, one of whom was:

**David Cosby.**