

1. FEAMSTER

Dr. George F. Black of the New York City Public Library, Edinburgh born and University of Edinburgh educated, has prepared data from Scotland records for publishing a work on Scottish surnames. He states that the name seems to have originated in the north eastern part of Scotland about the middle of the fifteenth century and that it has been in public records in Scotland for the last five hundred years; that there is, or was, an old place name in the south of Scotland-"The Feemaister's Lands". The origin of the name is very readily seen. "Fee" from old English feoh, meaning cattle. Down through Middle English then meaning live-stock, property, money, and alter in Modern English meaning usually a payment for special or professional service. Also, "Fee" from Old French fie, fief, etc, mean an estate of inheritance, in fee simple, a royal estate held in fief, etc. Master, or as the Scotch prefer to spell it- Maister- meaning one who is placed over or in charge of.

FIRST GENERAL IN AMERICA.

During the migrations of the Scotch (incorrectly called Scotch-Irish) from Ireland to the Valley of Virginia, there came also many directly from Scotland. The troublous times of Bonnie Prince Charley caused greta unrest and a search for peace elsewhere. Thomas Feemster, unmarried, was one of those who came directly from Scotland according to family report. He came through Pennsylvania, remaining there a short time and either in Pennsylvania or in Virginia he met up with Christopher Graham and his family who had quite some time previously come from Scotland. He married Elizabeth Graham, the daughter of Christopher, either in Pennsylvania or in Virginia, as the Grahams came to Virginia about the same time as did Thomas Feemster and settle not far apart. The Grahams made their home just a short distance north of Monterey, Virginia, and Thomas Feemster settled 15 miles (air line) south of Monterey.

There was published not long since in the Indiana Countian, a Pennsylvania newspaper, the following: