



John Markham: The Origins of Virginia's Pirate

By Kathleen Shelby Boyett

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“It is a fascinating read, and I am now convinced that John Markham was the ancestor of Chief Justice John Marshall. Many cheers to Kathleen Shelby Boyett for her great job of research!” David W. Morgan John Markham operated a mercantile business in Alexandria, Virginia from the 1680s through the early part of the eighteenth century. To fill his coffers, he traded back and forth with his native England for goods that the Colonies needed and vice-versa. He was said to be a daring, greedy rascal who did not mind hurting others to get what he wanted. Handsome and dashing, he was also popular with the ladies of the period. Then one day in March of 1683, he turned a corner in his privateering career, a turn that led him into outright piracy. Yet, there are those who say John Markham never existed. Who is telling the truth? Here for the first time, the traditional family stories are told and analyzed so as to get as close to the truth as is possible. Was Lewis Markham, respectable sheriff and associate of the Washington family, the father of Elizabeth Markham? Or was her father John Markham, the devilish pirate? Set sail on the high seas and discover the answer with noted International Author and Personal Historian Kathleen Shelby Boyett. “Bought and read your book. I LOVE IT!!!!!! Never be afraid to toot your own horn!” Rhonda Rogers Corbett “My copy came yesterday. LOVING IT. I am impressed with the research and thought that went into this book. It is I who thank you and am grateful you are devoted to telling our ancestors’ stories, putting a voice and flesh to our people.” Robin Coffman

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