

## **Formation, Name, Pictures of Princess Anne and Prince William IV and Map of Orange County, 1734 showing original boundaries:**

On February 1, 1735, Virginia's newest county was formed from Spotsylvania County by the Act of Establishment adopted by the Virginia House of Burgesses in August 1734. The land which became Orange County had previously been part of St. Mark's Parish, an Episcopal Church parish which originated from the Church of England.<sup>1</sup> The land in early Virginia had been organized into parishes before counties were ever formed and before the separation of church and state was embedded in the US Constitution (1787). In fact, church parishes were the first type of "government" in the early colony and tracked births, marriages, and deaths. The parishes had the power to elect representatives to the General Assembly and tax through the church's system of tithes.

The Act of Establishment set Orange's boundary lines and created one of the largest counties ever formed. The western boundary was declared to be "westernly, by the utmost limits of Virginia"<sup>2</sup> which was understood to be all the way to the Mississippi River and as far north as the Great Lakes. It included the present-day counties of Orange, Greene, Culpeper, Madison and Rappahannock east of the Blue Ridge; all of the Great Valley from the Potomac to the Cumberland Gap; and the states of West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Michigan.<sup>3</sup> After all in the 1580s, Queen Elizabeth I (the Virgin Queen) and Sir Walter Raleigh had named ALL of British North America to be "Virginia".<sup>4</sup>

Further, Virginia's Act of Establishment declared that the newly formed county "was to be called and known by the name of the County of Orange"<sup>5</sup> after Prince William IV of the House of Orange-Nassau in the Netherlands and his wife Anne, who was the daughter of King George II of England.<sup>6</sup> The two were married in March 1734 and the act of naming Orange County after them was a sign of good will from the colony to the new monarchs.

In 1720 when she was eleven, Princess Anne had contracted smallpox and her face had become pox-marked and scarred.<sup>7</sup> Further, she was obese and short. Likewise, her groom suffered from a spinal deformity which affected his appearance, but Anne is reputed to have said that she would marry him even "if he were a baboon".<sup>8</sup> Anne apparently did not want to be a spinster at the court of her father or brother since she did not get along with them. Nor did

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<sup>1</sup> Frank S. Walker, Jr., *Remembering: A History of Orange County*, (Orange, Virginia: Orange County Historical Society, 2004), 19.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 22.

<sup>3</sup> Thomas, W.B., "Orange County Be It Remembered," *Bicentennial Series*, No. 1 (January 1975), 2-3.

<sup>4</sup> Walker, 23.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 20.

<sup>6</sup> This was not the William and Mary of the Glorious Revolution of 1688 who established the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg.

<sup>7</sup> John Van der Kiste, *George II and Queen Caroline*, Stroud, (Gloucestershire, England: Sutton Publishing, 1997), 78.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 131.

she want to marry just any commoner as she believed the only match suitable for her was with a monarch or an heir to the throne.<sup>9</sup>

Prince William IV (1711-1751) ruled from his birth until his death from a stroke in 1751. His wife Anne (1709-1759), Princess Royal and Princess of Orange, became Regent upon William IV's death in 1751 until her own death in 1759. The couple had three children: Princess Carolina, Princess Anna and William V, Prince of Orange who succeeded his father to the throne after his mother's Regency.

The portraits of royals are sometimes not perfect reproductions of their subjects as artists attempt to showcase them in a very favorable light.

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*



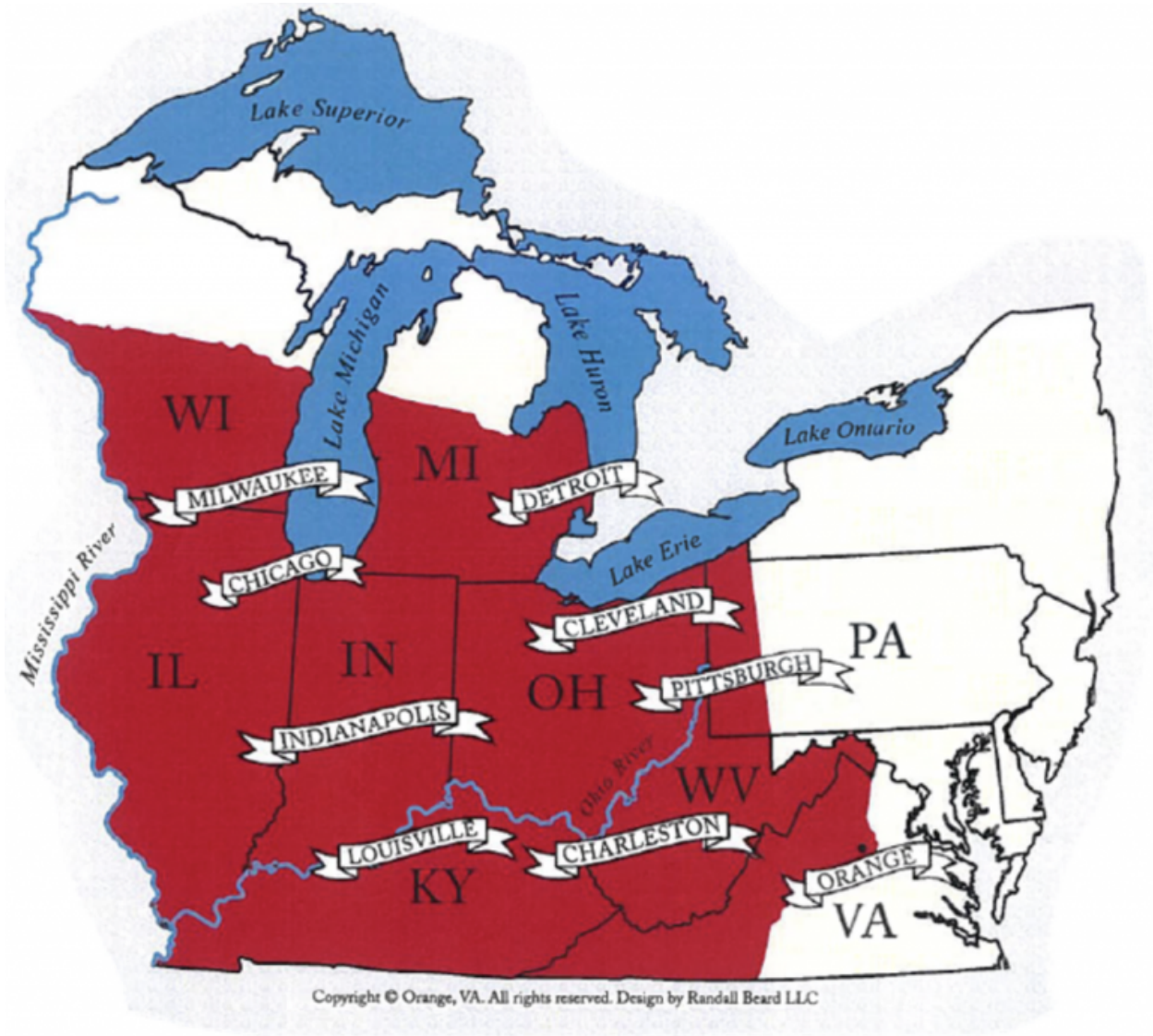
**William IV, Prince of Orange\***

\*Painting by Johann Valentin Tischbein



**Anne, Princess Royal and Princess of Orange**





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