

THE
RICHMOND FAMILY

1594-1896

AND

PRE-AMERICAN ANCESTORS

1040-1594

BY

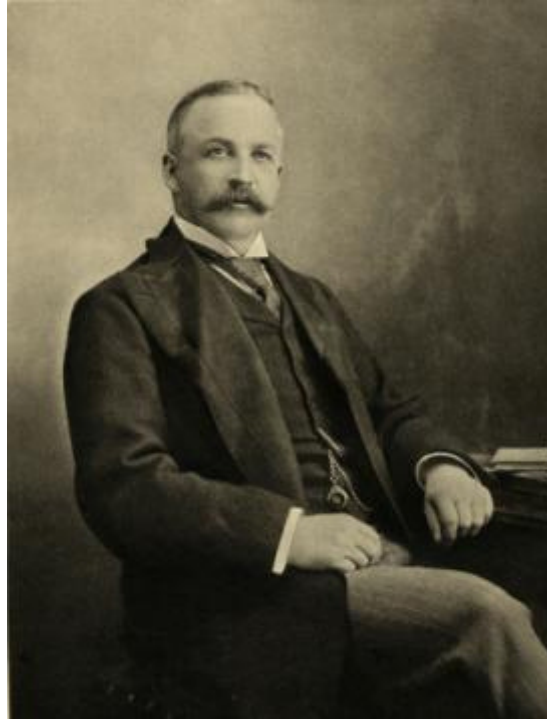
JOSHUA BAILEY RICHMOND

Member of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

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Yours faithfully
Joshua Bailey Richmond



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PREFACE

The compiler of this genealogy became interested in the subject early in 1882, and continued the work until the completion of his direct line, when he commenced collecting data concerning the whole Richmond family.

Similar material had been gathered by the Rev. J.B.R. Walker previous to 1860, which he purposed some day to publish, but his death prevented the consummation of this intention. These records were purchased by the writer to preserve them from loss, but with no expectation at that time of completing the work. They were very incomplete and in great confusion, but contained much valuable information which would be difficult to secure at the present time.

Hon. Josiah H. Drummond; one of the most eminent lawyers in Maine, while engaged in historical and genealogical work, also became interested in the Richmond family, and made quite complete records of the first four generations.

These he very kindly placed at the service of the writer; and the opportunity thus given of comparing these data and those of Mr. Walker with the results of his own labor enabled him to supply some missing links in the chain of the early generations. Thus the records of the first four generations, at least, should be correct, reliable, and satisfactory, since they bear the stamp of approval of the law, the church, and the layman.

Much information has been collected respecting the services of the Richmonds in the Colonial and Revolutionary Wars; but the compiler regrets that he cannot give more complete records of those members of the family who served in the War of the Rebellion; Congress having passed a law denying access to the records of the soldiers who served in the Civil War, the task of writing the full civil and military history of the Richmonds must be left to another, and until a change in the laws permits the public to have access to the roll of honor of their families.

The records of a very large number of families are completed up to 1896; but many close, in 1860, with the information found in the Walker papers, and all further trace of them is lost.

This record comprises the names of eight thousand five hundred and sixty (8560) male and female Richmonds, including children "of the latter; also over eleven hundred grand- and great-grandchildren of females, although it was the original intention of the compiler to give only the children of female Richmonds. Computing the wives and husbands and the names of their parents, which are given in most cases, and some collateral lines, about eighteen thousand persons are mentioned.

No one can realize more fully than the compiler the errors which a book of this nature must necessarily contain; for, although the greatest care may be exercised, no genealogical work can be absolutely perfect or complete.

The orthography of most of the names, unless palpably wrong, has been recorded as received from correspondents. Changes, in the different generations, both in the Christian and surname, are too numerous to mention, and the writer cannot feel himself responsible for errors of his

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correspondents, the inaccuracy of town and family records, or mistakes in the Walker papers, as every effort has been made to verify the facts recorded.

The compiler improves this opportunity to express his grateful appreciation of the valuable assistance he has received, and, while not unmindful of the many others who have aided him, wishes especially to thank the Bon. Josiah H. Drummond, of Portland, Maine; Mrs. Mortimer Levering, of La Fayette, Ind.; Mrs. Theodore Richmond, of Chattanooga, Tenn.; Mrs. Jerome Smith, of Wichita, Kan. (now of New York City); Mr. C. P. Richmond and W. H. Richmond, of Appleton, Wis.; Mr. Fremont C. Richmond and Mr. Truman A. Perry, of Churchville, N. Y.; Mrs. Ellen Richmond Parsons, of Providence, R. I.; Mr. Enos Richmond, of Oshkosh, Wis.; Mr. A. D. Noble, of Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Charles King, of Little Falls, N. Y.; Irvin D. Richmond, of St. Johns, Mich.; John F. Richmond, of Riverside, R. I.; and Francis Richmond Allen, of Boston, Mass.

Few outside of those who have engaged in genealogical researches can appreciate the immense labor involved, or how much patience and perseverance is necessary to overcome exasperating delays and to interest apathetic correspondents. The kindness of many who have freely aided and encouraged the compiler in his work, combined with a certain fascination which attended it, has compensated, in a large degree, for the years devoted to this "labor of love," and he will feel that his efforts have been crowned with success if the Genealogy gives pleasure to the present members of the Richmond family. He closes his work with mingled pleasure and regret,-- pleased that he has been able to record so much of the family history, and regret that he could not name every branch, flower, bud and leaf on the Richmond tree.

THE COMPILER.



INTRODUCTION

The Pre-American Richmonds

THE RICHMOND FAMILY had its origin in Brittany, France. The name is derived from the French words *riche* and *monte* or *monde*, and is first given in early English history as *Rychemonde*, later as *Richemount* and *Richmonte*, and finally as *Richmond*. The family name *Richemonte* may still be found in France.*

It is extremely difficult to follow ancestral lines previous to the founding of the Herald's College by Richard III, in 1483, so much is tradition engrafted in history. The credit for tracing our English ancestors is mostly due to the nephew of the compiler, Henry I. Richmond, Jr., who has spent much time, in this country and in England, examining old wills and records, to enable the Richmonds to "read their title clear" to ancestors who served by the side of William the Conqueror on Hastings Field. Mr. Richmond's forte is Geology, which bears close relations to Genealogy, and he will not be satisfied until he discovers the bones of Richmonds in some antediluvian strata. It is possible that he may give the family a more complete and revised history of the English Richmonds at some future time.

The line of English ancestors given is also that of the Ashton-Keynes and other Wiltshire Richmonds: the former for five generations bore the alias of Webb, first assumed by William Richmond about 1430, when he married Alice, daughter and heiress of Thomas Webb of Draycott, Wiltshire, England.

Francis Thackeray, uncle of William Makepeace Thackeray, who descended from the Richmonds of Wiltshire, compiled the records of the ancestors of the Ashton-Keynes Richmonds. These records correspond with our line with one exception: he claims that we descend through Roald, the son of Roaldus "le Ennase," while General Plantagenet-Harrison, in his "History of Yorkshire," states that we descend from Alan, son of Roaldus "le Ennase," claiming that his son Roald had no children.

William Makepeace Thackeray wrote of Colonel John Richmond-Webb (whose name may be found in the *Gazetteer of the English Army*): "He came of a very ancient Wiltshire family, which he respected above all families in the world; he could prove a lineal descent from King Edward I, and his first ancestor, Roaldus de Richmond, rode by William the Conqueror's side on Hastings Field. 'We were gentlemen,' Colonel Webb used to say, 'when the Churchills were horse-boys.'"

Roaldus de Richmond was granted lands by the Crown in Yorkshire, and tradition informs us that this Richmond was a relative of Alan Rufus, but no positive proof of this statement has been found.

Alan Rufus was a kinsman of the Conqueror, and was granted lands in Yorkshire. He built Richmond Castle, and was the first Duke of Richmond.**

The Richmond Family.

Tradition from many sources informs us that John Richmond was born Ashton-Keynes. The Reverend J. C. Richmond claims that he was allowed to take the old church records at Ashton-Keynes, Wiltshire, to his lodgings, as a special favor, and asserts positively that he found the date of the baptism of John Richmond in 1597.

James Savage, in his *Genealogical Dictionary*, states: "Family tradition brings this John from Ashton- Keynes, a parish of Wiltshire, four and one-half miles west from Crichlade, where he was baptized in 1597." He died March 20, 1664, aged seventy years; therefore his birth occurred in 1594.

The compiler cannot state positively whether Ashton-Keynes, Radborne, or Christian Malford is the place of nativity of John Richmond, but it seems more than probable that he was born in the County of Wiltshire, and there is no doubt that the Wiltshire Richmonds descended from the Yorkshire Richmonds, who came from Brittany with William the Conqueror.***

*The Rev. J. C. Richmond wrote: "If the children of Israel retain the physiognomy of their fathers nearly four thousand years ago, why should you be surprised at what I now relate? In 1830, while in Paris, I went to the Chamber of Deputies, and, seeing a sharply marked man speaking, I exclaimed to a friend, 'There's my father I Did you ever see my father ?' I then inquired who was speaking, and a Frenchman answered, 'General de Richemonte.' Thus, after eight hundred years, the American retained the strong resemblance to the old Norman race; 10 without being aware that there was a Richmond in France, I saw my father's face in a Richemonte."

**This title and estate is now held by the Lennox family. Our ancestors were Lords of the Manor and Constables of Richmond Castle, but no claim can be established to the Arms of the Duke of Richmond. The compiler cannot determine whether the ducal coronet in the Richmond Arms comes from our being a lineal descendant of King Edward I, as claimed by Col. John Richmond-Webb, from kinship with Alan Rufus, the first Duke of Richmond, or from later Inter-marriage with some ducal family.

***The following extract from a letter of William E. Richmond to William R. Richmond, dated in Providence Dec. 31, 1865, may be of interest, and show how traditions have been passed down in the family: "I have thought best to give you this much of the family history while I may, as life is uncertain and my hand is not often in condition to write. It will be eight hundred years in October, 1866, since our predecessor from Brittany landed in Pevensey Bay, England, an officer in King William's Army. On the fourteenth of October was fought the great battle of Hastings, in which the Saxon King Harold and half of his army were killed, and England was subjected to the King. Our ancestor settled on land in Yorkshire given him by the King, etc. At a subsequent period a younger branch of this family settled in Wiltshire, England, where traces of them for many generations are still found in cemeteries and parish records. John Richmond was born at the Manor of Ashton-Keynes, and came to America with his sons John and Edward," etc., etc.



ENGLISH ANCESTORS



1040-1594

1. ROALDUS MUSARD DE RICHMOND, one of the most powerful leaders who accompanied William the Conqueror into England.*

2. HASCULFUS MUSARD DE RICHMOND, held in Demesne Keddington and Chilworth, Oxfordshire, Stainbury, Gloucestershire and other lordships at the time of the general survey. (Dugdale).

3. ROALDUS DE RICHMOND, "LE ENNASE", second Constable of Richmond Castle under Alan III, Earl of Richmond, seized of lands in Skeeby and Croft by the gift of King Henry, who likewise gave him the manor of Pickhall, etc., which he gave in marriage with his daughter to Jolanus de Neville. He was Lord of Burton, Aldborough and most of his uncle Emsart's lands (the first Constable of Richmond) by grant of King Stephen. He founded an Abbey on his Manor of Easby in honor of St. Agatha, 1152, where he was buried.**

GRACIANA buried at St. Agatha's.

4. SIR ALAN, FIL ROALD DE RICHMOND, third Constable of Richmond Castle. In the first year of the reign of Richard I (1189), he owed the king two hundred marks for the custody of Richmond Castle; in the fourth year of the reign of Richard I (1193), he paid ten marks and owed one hundred and ninety; in the third year of the reign of Richard I, he was surety for Walter de Lasceles. In the second year of the reign of John (1201), he gave the king three hundred marks and three palfreys to be Constable of Richmond Castle, to hold the same to himself and his heirs, of the king and his heirs, by good and lawful services. In the ninth year of the reign of John (1208), he gave the king two hundred marks and four palfreys to have the Castle of Richmond, of which he had been disseised, and to have the king's letters patent granting him military jurisdiction which the Castle of Richmond ought to possess.***

*Thackeray's Genealogy. Plantagenet-Harrison gives Fulco de Richmond as the grandfather, and Robert as the father of Roaldus "le Ennase." **Sir Harris Nicholas, Siege of Carlaveroc, p. 374. ***Plantagenet Harrison's Hist. of Yorkshire, p. 35.

5. SIR ROALD, FIL ALAN DE RICHMOND, Knight, fourth Constable of Richmond Castle, to whom King John, in 1208, gave the lands of William de Rollos, including the manors of Caldewell, Croft, Kipling, etc., with one mill and lands in Skeby which belonged to Harsculph fil Harsculph, who died with the king's enemies in Brittany, 1204. In the twenty-first year of the reign of Henry III (1237), he was summoned to answer the king by what right he held those manors, when he produced the letters patent of King John, by which the same was granted to him and his heirs forever. He entailed the manors of Burton, Aldeburgh and Croft upon his son Roald, in the latter part of the twenty-fourth year of the reign of Henry III (1240).*

6. ALAN, FIL ROALD RICHMOND DE CROFT, to whom his brother gave the manor of Burton, the third part of which, Sarra, who was the wife of Goscelyn Deyville, claimed as dower, in the thirty-third year of the reign of Henry III (1249); claimed lands in Roppele, Clareworth, Wurthington and Newland, County of Lincoln, in right of his wife, in the forty-third year of the reign of Henry III (1259); was plaintiff in a plea of trespass, in the first year of the reign of Edward I (1272).**

MATILDA, daughter and co-heir of Peter de Goldington and consanguinea and co-heir of Simon de Roppele, Lord of Roppele, Co. Lincoln, living in the 28th year of Edward I (1300).

7. SIR ROALD, FIL ALAN RICHMOND DE CROFT to whom his uncle Roald fil Roald gave the manors of Caldewell and Croft. He was defendant in a plea of dower, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Henry 1.11 (1250); against whom Roald fil Roald de Richmond claimed the manor of Caldewell, in the thirty-fifth year of the reign of Henry III (1251); died in the forty-sixth year of the reign of Henry III (1262).***
In Gale's "Honores de Richmond," this Sir Roald is said to have been the son of Sir Roaldus de Richmond, fifth Constable, brother to Alan fil Roald de Croft.

ISABELLA, daughter and peir of Robert fil Osanna de Langthwayt by Isabella his wife. Second husband, Alan de Lasceles, claimed his wife's dower, 50 Henry III (1266), died 10 Ed. I (1282). Third husband, Walter de Rubyr, living 17 Ed. 1 (1289).

8. EUDO DE RICHMOND had possessions in Staynwriggis, County of York, as appears by "Reg. Honores de Richmond."

9. ELYAS DE RICHMOND was living during the time of Edward III, 1327-1377. §

10. ELYAS DE RICHMOND was living during the time of Edward III and Richard II, 1327-1399. §§

RICHARD DE RICHMOND (brother of Elyas de Richmond). Upon Richard and Elizabeth, his wife, William de Burgh entailed the manor Burgh, near Catterick, County York, in the twenty-third year of the reign of Edward III (1350). Richard and Elizabeth de Richmond have free warren in Burgh, in the thirty-fourth year of the reign of Edward III, 1360. §§

* Ibid. ** Ibid. ** Harleian manuscripts, 6831, p. 130. Book H. 22, Herald's College. ***Harrison's Hist. of Yorkshire, p. 35. Reg. Honores de Richmond, pg. 62. § Thackeray's Genealogy. §§ Harleian manuscripts, 6831, pg. 130. Glover's Collections, folio 175, Herald's College.

11. THOMAS DE RICHMOND was living in the time of Richard II, Henry IV and Henry V. (See Inquisition post mortem, etc.).

ELIZABETH daughter of Wm. de Burgh, Lord of Burgh.

12. WILLIAM DE RICHMOND of assumed the name of Webb upon his marriage, about 1430, and quartered the Webb arms. He was mentioned as of Yorkshire in Herald's "Visitation of Gloucester," 1682-1683, p. 195. He lived at Draycott, Wilts.

ALICE, daughter and heiress of Thomas Webb of Draycott Wilts., by Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Nicholas, by Jane, daughter of Nicholas, of Lydiard Tregoze, Wiltshire.

13. WILLIAM RICHMOND ALIAS WEBB of Draycott Foliott, Wilts.*

THE WILL OF WILLIAM RICHMOND

"In the name of Gode amen. The year of our lorde Gode 1502 and the 28 day of March. I, William Richmond otherwise called William Webbe, being whole and stedfast in minde make this my testament and last will. First I bequeath my soul unto almighty Jesus, to our lady his blessed mother and to all the blessed company in heaven, and my body to be buried in the parish church of Swyndon." . . . Bequests to the poor of the same church: to the cathedral church of Sarum (Salisbury): "to the priests of the parish church of Swyndon to pray for me and for all my descendants souls."

Bequests "to each of my godchildren: To Johanna my wife: to Thomas, Richard. William Sr., Richard (my youngest son), Henry, Christopher, William Jr., my sons and Alice and Ann my daughters."

The residue of all my goods and chattels not bequeathed, my debts and bequests being content and paid, I give to Johanne my wife, and to my children not married to be equally divided by them and if it fortunes any of them to decease, then their share to be divided among them that liveth; and I will that Thomas Richard and Richard my sons be myn executors of this my last will for my soul's health and repose and I make Wm. Wroughton, gentleman overseer of this testament.

WILLIAM RICHMOND als WEBB."

Will was probated 24 April, 1502.**

JOAN, daughter of John Ewen of Draycott, who survived her husband. Arms, sable, a fesse between two fleurs de lis, or, a crescent for difference.

14. WILLIAM RICHMOND ALIAS WEBB of Stewkley Grange, Bucks County, and Over-Wroughton, Wilts, had £22 per annum, in land in the County of Wilts, 1565. In Aubrey's Wills, p. 368, it is stated that "There was a grant of Church land (in Wroughton) by the Crown to William Richmond alias Webb, in the thirty-second year of the reign of Henry VIII (1541). The Webb family had lands in Rudlow, Sherston and Magna; and in the twenty-second year of the reign of Elizabeth a grant of land in Bishoptown or Bushton was made to William Webb. Aubrey's Wills, page 153, says: "The Baskett family disappeared about 1576, when they sold their estate at Lydiard-Milicent to William Richmond alias Webb. After one hundred and thirty-

*Harleian manuscripts, 1443. pp. 57 and 58. **Bramyr 8, Probate Court of Canterbury.

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eight years, the Webbs sold it in 1714 to Sir John Askew. "Regarding Stewkley Grange, Jones's "Index" contains the following note: "De manibus Reginae amovendis de Mane rio de Stewkeley Grange, et aliis, in Comitatus Bucks et Wilts ac William Webb Arm Liberandis. Michaelis Recorda, 8 Eliz. Rotulo 110 (1566)."* He bought lands in Chiseldon and Over-Wroughton, Wilts, in the thirty-sixth year of the reign of Henry VIII (1545), of Sir Edward Baynton.

DOROTHY, daughter of John Lymings of Notts County. First wife.

Second wife was MARJORY, daughter of John Choke, Esq., of Shalborne, Wilts.

15. EDMOND RICHMOND. ALIAS WEBB, Esq. of Denvord (Durnford), Wilts, was living in 1575. (Book G. 3, 107 Herald's College.) He had four sons and three daughters, all unmarried in 1575. His death is not recorded at Durnford.** He was probably ancestor of the Richmond-Webbs of Lydiard-Milcent, Wilts.

MARY, daughter of Robert Weare alias Brown of Marlborough.***

16. HENRY RICHMOND ALIAS WEBB. His second son was living; unmarried) in 1575 (G. 3, 107 Herald's Office). He lived at Christian-Malford) Wilts; was married four times and had twenty-five children) according to a letter § written by Oliffe Richmond of Ashton-Keynes (1679-1757) to Rev. Silvester Richmond of Walton.

17. JOHN RICHMOND, eldest son; was an officer of distinction during the civil wars. §§

*Edward Jones's Index to Records, called Memoranda. ** Edward, Marion and Robert Webb, children of Edward Webb," recorded at Ashton-Keynes, 1604-1608 may be children of Edmond by a second marriage).

***Book G. 3, 107 Herald's College.

Dear Cousin:

§ AHTON KEYNE5, 29 March, 1736.

...It is agreed by all that our ancestors first settled at Rodborne, Wilts; that two branches lived at Chedderton in Lyddiard Treygoze Parish, Wilts, and Brinkworth, Wilts. The farthest of our family I can trace is our grandfather who lived at Christian-Malford, Wilts, about three miles from Chippenham in the County. The house is now standing. Henry, our grandfather, had four wives and as I have been informed, twenty-five children, twelve of whom grew up to be men and women. Children by first wife: John and Henry (The Amisbury Branch*¹) now descending from John who killed his brother after (during?) the civil wars and cost our grandfather so much money to save his life that his estate was sold or irrecoverably mortgaged. Children by second wife: Peter, father to George and William. Children by third wife: Silvester*², Oliffe my father, James died at Campden in Gloucester County and left children Francis died unmarried. Children by fourth wife: Jane, Edward, Mary died unmarried, Elizabeth married, but died without offspring, Thomasine married in Ashton Keynes and left children.

John and Henry our grandfather's sons were officers of distinction in the civil wars, one in the king's army and the other in Cromwell's, and our grandfather's home was often plundered by both armies, the king's party saying he had a son in Cromwell's party, and Cromwell's party that he had a son in the king's.

Your affectionate though unknown kinsman,

OLIFFE RICHMOND

*¹John Richmond of Amesbury, Wiltshire, who married a Mary Beckington in 1668, and had three sons and three daughters, whose births, etc., are recorded in Amesbury, must have been, according to the letter of Oliffe Richmond quoted above a son or grand-son of John Richmond of Taunton. It is barely possible that it is so, as John Richmond was about forty-one years old when he left England, which leaves ample time for a previous marriage in England, and would permit the Amesbury branch to claim the same ancestor.

*²Dr. Sylvester Richmond, the brother of John Richmond, obtained great celebrity as a physician throughout the counties of Lancaster and Chester, and gained a large property. He was elected mayor of Liverpool, and was actively engaged in supporting the royal cause during the agitations of that period. He married Sarah Tarleton, and had five sons and two daughters. Rev. Legh Richmond, author of "The Dairyman's Daughter," was one of his descendants. He died in 1692.

§§ "On the night preceding one of the engagements, Henry, his brother, went into the camp of the other army, eluded the vigilance of the sentinels, and reached John's tent in the hope of enjoying an affectionate interview previous to the uncertain events of the morrow. On entering the tent, John, alarmed at the sudden appearance of a stranger, as he conceived Henry to be, rose upon his bed and shot him dead upon the spot. When he discovered his mistake, it is said he became deranged." (Manuscript Book of Rev. Legh Richmond.)

THE MANOR HOUSE

The Richmond Manor House was owned and occupied by Oliffe Richmond in the early part of the last century. The Manor comprised originally about four hundred acres, and the entire village of Ashton-Keynes belonged to this branch of the Richmond family.

By the marriage of Bridget, granddaughter of Oliffe Richmond, with Edward Nichols, the Richmond Manor House passed in 1768 into the Nichols family. They sold it in 1856 to the Duke of Cleveland. The Manor House was in a good state of preservation in 1896, when the accompanying views were taken.

TRADITIONS OF JOHN RICHMOND

The traditions recorded in the manuscript of the Rev. Legh Richmond, if true, would explain the mystery which shrouded the life of John Richmond. Soon after the death of his brother Henry) mentioned in this manuscript, it seems probable that he joined a colony of cadets of noble English families on the western coast of Ireland, who had chosen this remote spot where they could engage in commercial and other pursuits without shocking their aristocratic relatives. Here George Richmond, possibly a cousin of John Richmond was established and largely interested in navigation. It is well known that he carried on an extensive and flourishing trade with Saco, Me., in 1635. It is the opinion of the writer that John Richmond came to America on one of these trading vessels about 1635, and engaged in business in Saco. Records of Courts held at Saco in the Province of Maine under Capt. William Gorges mention sundry suits by and against John Richmond -- among others, a suit by John Richmond "to collect from Thomas Lewis six pounds and ten shillings for two barrells of beife" showing that a John Richmond was engaged in trade in that place March 7, 1636.*

It is positively known that John Richmond was one of the purchasers of Taunton in 1637. The birth of his daughter Sarah, in 1638, and of Mary, in 1639, probably occurred in Taunton, Mass., but his name does not appear in the list of men able to bear arms in 1643. Nothing seems to be known of him from 1643 to 1655, and tradition leads us to believe that he returned to England and engaged in the civil wars between the dates mentioned.

The compiler, in his childhood, always heard John Richmond referred to as "Col. John," and that he was engaged in the English civil wars, which, if true, would account for the absence

of his name from all records in this country between 1643 and 1655, and the sad tragedy mentioned in the letter of Oliffe Richmond might have occurred during this time.

In his Will is the following bequest: "I give and bequeath unto my eldest son John all my writings** in my chest which is in my son-in-law Edward Rew's house." This treasure, now lost to us, would undoubtedly remove the mystery, which surrounds his life, and furnish us with facts where we have only traditions.

Although somewhat vague and unsatisfactory, the compiler believes that the results of his researches relating to our English ancestors will prove of sufficient interest to the family to warrant their being included in this volume; but it is with undisguised satisfaction he turns from the region of "Quien sabe?" with its mysteries, romance and uncertain traditions, to the well established dates and facts concerning JOHN RICHMOND of *Taunton*.

*Savage states that John Richmond of Taunton may be the same John who is placed in Maine by Fulsom, p. 138.

**It will give the compiler great pleasure if anyone can give him information of this chest of "writings" of John Richmond; also of the silver-mounted sword and silver tankard of Sylvester Richmond (page 17) – and "Father Richmond's desk," - the latter was left, by the will of Thomas Burgess, to his son Edward (page 16).

John and Edward, his sons, are known to have had excellent educations. That their father signed his will by his mark was undoubtedly the result of feebleness, as he refers to his *writings* in that document, which was made but a short time before his death.





THE RICHMOND FAMILY IN AMERICA

It has been extremely interesting to trace the movements and study the characteristics and condition of the different generations of our family. John Richmond of Taunton, our ancestor, was a large landholder, and quite wealthy for that time. His sons, John² and Edward², were educated and refined gentlemen. They were interested in purchases of extensive tracts of land from the Indians, both in Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

John² settled on the land of his father in Taunton, and was prominent in every important transaction connected with the town, his name appearing constantly in the records. Edward² lived in Newport, where he was Crown Solicitor and Attorney-General, and one of the leading men in the town. Later in life he settled and died in Little Compton, R. I., where he was a large landholder.

John and Edward divided their land among their children, and they in turn continued the division, and this generation was largely interested in real estate and agriculture. The subdivision of the land reduced the size of the farms, and the next generation was forced to seek new fields. Many followed trades and professions, while others occupied land in other sections of the country. The descendants of John first scattered over Massachusetts and Connecticut, then through the Middle Western States, and a few in the Northern and Northeastern States; while the offspring of Edward spread over Rhode Island, a large number settled in New York and the Western Lake States, and quite a large colony in the southwestern section of the country. Several of the descendants of both John and Edward removed to Canada on account of attachment for the mother country and religious scruples, being Quakers and non-combatants.

These early pioneers were a hardy race, of powerful frame and large stature. They were noted for great strength, and were proud of their skill with the axe. On "town-meeting day" they followed the old English custom of engaging in wrestling and other games to show their prowess, and a man was great according to his deftness in these manly sports. Family traditions state that the Richmonds carried away their full share of the trophies in these rustic tournaments.

"The cup that cheers" was not a stranger to the lips of some of these early Settlers, and there was many a type of "Old King Cole;" such was the custom of that time, but in later years came the other extreme, and the family was strongly arrayed on the side of temperance, some members devoting their entire time to a crusade against intemperance and other evils of the day. A large proportion of the Richmonds were church-members and "lived according to the letter of the law" They were foremost in introducing religious and educational advantages in the new settlements.

The Richmond Family.

The sons were manly, worthy and progressive citizens, and the daughters were their fit companions, ever ready to share in the hardships of pioneer life. They were vigorous in mind and body, and, if family records are correct, many of the daughters were beautiful in both character and person.

The family was very prominent in the Colonial Wars, and was also well represented in the War of the Revolution. The Richmonds have a grand record in the Civil War, nearly every family sending one or more members, and in some cases all the sons engaging in the service of their country. When the compiler was refused access to the war-records, the Chief of the Pension Bureau informed him that it would be a great task to give a full history of the Richmonds in the war, as the name appeared very frequently.

The family is now scattered over the country from the extreme north to the Gulf of Mexico, and are engaged in every occupation and profession. There are, both in the East and the West, many eminent clergymen, lawyers, professors, civil engineers, and a legion of schoolteachers, both male and female.

There are also a large number of very successful merchants and manufacturers; many who have contributed largely to educational and charitable work, and founded and endowed hospitals, academies, colleges and churches.

In many States they have built towns, which bear the family name. In the localities where they settled they erected the first grist- and saw-mills, foundries, cotton- and woollen-mills, rope-walks and paper-manufactories, and later built railroads and established sail- and steamboat-lines, and are possessed of untiring energy and perseverance. Being noted for their integrity, justice and liberality, and having broad minds, they stand high in their communities and hold many public offices and positions of trust. They are generous, genial and very hospitable.

A very bright and intelligent correspondent, well informed concerning the western branch of the Richmond family, expresses so tersely the compiler's views, that the report is given *verbatim*: -

“The men have been either farmers or professional men, rarely a poor or rich one among them. Both the men and women have been fond of reading, promoters of educational facilities in the earliest pioneer days, progressive but conscientious and tolerant Christians. Abolitionists in the slavery agitations, each family sending one or more representatives to the wars. Genial manners and purity of morals. Honorable in dealings, not very close in bargaining, and showing great affection in their families. Intellectual and having investigating, minds, rather than great commercial ability; seeming to possess the Anglo-Saxon pioneer spirit to ‘go west,’ selecting fair and sightly spots on the government lands, and from the earliest settlement of their locality planning school advantages, churches and literary meetings. They are decidedly more philosophical than ambitious in striving for this world's goods. Physically they have large frames, large heads, vigorous health and great endurance, and have an average length of life. They were generally well married, and the daughters were as intellectual as the sons, although not caring to take part in any public life.”

Nearly every State, and in some States many counties, contains towns or villages founded by, or named after some prominent Richmond. These are our monuments. The family is justly proud of the name of Richmond. Our ancestors have passed our escutcheon down to us

The Richmond Family in America.

untarnished. They contributed largely toward making our country greater and better, and seem to have had our motto ever in mind: "RESOLVE WELL AND PERSEVERE."

"Some are and must be greater than the rest-
More rich, more wise; but who infers from hence
That such are happier, shocks all common sense.
Condition, circumstance is not the thing:
Bliss is the same in subject or in king."



EXPLANATION

JOHN RICHMOND represents the First Generation, and his descendants are numbered as nearly as practicable in the order of their birth.

The minus sign (-) before a name denotes that the record of that person is carried no further. The plus sign (+) indicates that the name has been carried forward, and further information may be found in the following generation, preceded by the family number in heavy figures. Under this heading the children will be found again numbered in smaller figures, which may be followed down from generation to generation so long as they are preceded by the plus sign.

The small figures placed after the names indicate the generation number. In the list of children of male Richmonds, only the Christian name appears, but the full family name of female Richmonds is in nearly all cases given. The immediate context will explain any exceptions to the rule.

The names of the children of female Richmonds have been recorded, as far as obtainable, and in many cases the grand- and great-grandchildren. These may be found under the female ancestor's name, as only her own children and the names of persons to whom they were married appear in the Index.

If you desire to follow any line back to our first ancestor, take the parent's "family number" above the children you start from and seek for it in the preceding generation, proceeding in the same manner with previous generations until you arrive at the point desired.

The simplest form of index has been chosen, the generation number of all descendants being given, immediately followed by the family number in parentheses. On account of the frequent repetition of some Christian names it may in some instances require turning to several pages before finding the one desired; but if a note is made of the family number, subsequent references will become easy.

The names of children who died under eighteen years of age are omitted from the Index.