

**The Riggs Family
of Accomack County, Virginia,
and Louisiana
ca. 1687 to 1943**

A Compiled Genealogy

**Work in Progress
as of 9 May 2008**

© 2008 by Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, CG, and Leonard Riggs Jr., M.D.

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Preface

This project began at the request of Dr. Leonard Riggs, whose mother had been researching the Riggs ancestry for a number of years before she passed away in March 2006. Her goal was to establish Abraham⁵ Riggs's Revolutionary War service, so that her husband and son might join the Sons of the Revolution. She was also working on documenting the Riggs lineage.

I became involved in the project in the winter of 2006. In sorting through numerous files of handwritten notes and correspondence collected by Fleeta Walker Riggs (Dr. Riggs's mother), I ended up with at least three versions of the Riggs lineage. My research began with determining which lineage was likely to be correct, then documenting it in original sources. I also did exhaustive research on Abraham⁵ Riggs's Revolutionary War service, which is detailed under his listing.

In surfing the Web for information on the Riggses, I came into contact with several Riggs family members who were kind and generous enough to share with me what they had compiled on the Riggs genealogy. In many cases, their work in published sources provided me with clues that aided my search. My goal was to obtain copies of the original documents whenever possible. Sincere appreciation is due to David Harrison Riggs, Gwen Knowles, Linney Lyles, and Rachel Grace (who supplied information on the Reynolds line).

Those familiar with the compilation of David Harrison Riggs, which he has freely and generously shared with Riggs researchers and has posted portions of online in response to Riggs queries, will see that I have made many corrections to his work. As Mr. Riggs lives in London, he did not have access to the original documents that I have been fortunate to obtain and analyze. He had to rely on published sources of abstracted original documents. Record abstracts often do not include some pertinent information or clues that can be gleaned only by viewing and analyzing the original document. It also appears that he added to his compilation any and all information submitted to him without verification in order to provide clues for other Riggs researchers. So my corrections to his compilation augment and enhance what he has done by citing what I found in the original documents.

After two years of research, Dr. Riggs and I have decided to put this Work in Progress online to not only assist other Riggs researchers and share what we have found, but to invite additions and corrections for an ultimate print publication of this work. Our goal has been to document as completely and accurately as possible the Riggs family of Accomack County, Virginia. As new research and information becomes available, this online Compiled Genealogy will be updated and reposted with a revision date, so researchers will know how recently the information was posted. As every genealogist knows, there is no final word when you compile or write a family history. Research tomorrow, next week, or ten years from now may shed light on an aspect of research that left only questions today.

The Project's Scope

Initially, the scope was to document Dr. Riggs's lineage, or as some call it, his "direct line." But as I got deeper into the project to do that, it became clear that I also needed to sort through and try to properly identify all of the Riggses in Accomack County, Virginia, at least through 1800, when Dr. Riggs's ancestor, Abraham⁵, left the area. So while this genealogy includes that research, it

does not bring forward all of the lines, nor is it complete for the siblings of Dr. Riggs's ancestors, as this was not our objective. But we hope that what is here will help springboard other researchers who are searching these other lines.

Almost every fact in this compilation is documented in either original records or the most reliable source available to me. Readers will find the traditional use of footnotes with the supporting documentation or analyses there. When there is no documentation for a fact, this means that the information has not yet been supported by a reliable source, but it is presented here so that others may use those details as clues. Similarly, there may be facts that have come from another researcher's efforts, but I was unable to document where that information came from. Everything should be clearly identified in the notes.

Numbering System and How to Read This Genealogy

I have used the Register Numbering System, but since the goal was to document primarily Dr. Riggs's lineage, only his line is brought forward in the traditional sense of that numbering system, with the names of his ancestors shown in blue. The following caveats apply:

- Dr. Riggs's lineage appears in boldfaced type.
- Superscript italic numbers after a person's first name indicate the generation number, thus, **ABRAHAM² RIGGS**, is the second generation.
- Roman numerals before children's names indicate birth order.
- Whole numbers before a person's name indicate that this person will be brought forward in the genealogy as an adult, as in **2. ii. ABRAHAM² RIGGS**.
- A whole number followed by a paren, such as 1), indicates the child of a person who is not brought forward in the genealogy, and no further information is part of the genealogy.

Because compiled genealogies can be confusing to read, descendant charts are included throughout at the beginning of each generation to help readers visualize the relationships.

Updates/Corrections

We certainly welcome any updates or corrections to this genealogy, as well as additional information on the other family lines, and will gladly incorporate any documentation that researchers are willing to share, giving full credit for the contribution. Please feel free to contact me, Sharon Carmack, at sharon@sharoncarmack.com.

Riggs DNA Study

Genealogy in the twenty-first century often combines the use of traditional historical research with DNA studies. Alvy Ray Smith, Ph.D., author of *Elder Bethuel Riggs of Morris County, New Jersey, and His Family* (Boston: Newbury Street Press, 2006), has set up a Riggs/Rigg DNA Study Group project at <<http://alvyray.com/Riggs/DNA/>>. As Dr. Smith writes in the Preface of his book (p. xxxvii),

By matching DNA from the Y chromosomes of Riggs males, it is possible to determine if they share a common ancestor. This, combined with classic scholarly genealogy, can solve certain relationship problems. In particular, the tests have shown that Bethuel, Silas, and James Riggs were Edwardian, as was Edward of Roxbury. They all shared a common ancestor. Edward of Roxbury was that ancestor, or he shared the common ancestor with them. In either case, they were all from the same “Edwardian” family that shares a common Y chromosome among the males of Riggs surname. Although this is a strong result, and one I am proud to report, it does not tell us the actual paths of descent of Bethuel, Silas, and James. In particular, it does not tell us if they were brothers or half-brothers. They might have been distant cousins, for example. And it does not give us the name of Bethuel’s father.

So while DNA is helpful in proving or disproving that a relationship between people exists, it cannot tell us what that line of descent is or who is the common ancestor. This needs to come from the traditional historical paper trail found while doing scholarly genealogical research as presented here and in Dr. Smith’s work in combination with the DNA study.

The “Edwardian” Riggs are just one of several distinct groups of Riggs that Dr. Smith has identified. The Riggs in this study he has given the moniker “Abrahamians,” because members of this group claim descent from Abraham Riggs (ca. 1674–1726/7) in Accomack County, Virginia, unlike those who claim descent from the “Edwardian” Riggses from Roxbury. So far, five men today have their ancestry tied to this “Abrahamian” Accomack County branch of Riggs through participation in the DNA study, of which Dr. Leonard Riggs is one of them. Those interested in learning more about the Riggs DNA Study or who would like to participate, should visit Dr. Smith’s Web site.

Introduction

Isaac and Abraham Riggs are the earliest known Riggs ancestors of Accomack County,¹ Virginia. Although there is no direct evidence that Isaac and Abraham were brothers, there are several reasons to believe that they were:

1. Both Isaac and Abraham appear to have arrived in America about the same time, ca. 1686. They both appeared in Accomack County court on 11 Jan. 1686/7 to have their ages adjudged.
2. Isaac was adjudged to be about age 15 in March 1686/7 and Abraham was adjudged about age 13 in June 1687.
3. Both were indentured servants in Accomack County, Virginia.
4. Both owned land in Accomack County after their indentures were served.

Conversely, Isaac and Abraham do not appear to have had any connections with one another after their indentures were served. They have not been linked in any known surviving records. But the John Riggs who administered Watson Riggs's (son of Isaac²) estate in 1750 may be the same John Riggs who was the son of Abraham² (Isaac's brother). Abraham's son Joshua named his second son Isaac, but beyond this, naming patterns are not significant until later generations.

ISAAC AND ABRAHAM'S FATHER

I have found errors in some of the Accomack Riggs genealogies posted online regarding the parents of Isaac and Abraham. To date, I have not found any reliable, documented source for whom their parents might be, yet researchers will find claims such as Abraham's father was Thomas Riggs (son of Ogle Riggs), born about 1651, in Sussex, England.² The submitter wrote: "Thomas died before his son Abraham removed to America." Actually, this Thomas, son of Ogle Riggs, died in 1762, about seventy-five years after Abraham was in America, and roughly eighty-eight years after Abraham was born.³

A more reasonable post states, "Revd. Thomas Musgrave of Woolbeding, who in 1725 bequeathed it [a manor] to his niece Elizabeth wife of Ogle Riggs for her life, and then to her son Thomas Riggs. On Elizabeth's death the manor seems to have been divided, as Thomas Riggs in 1762 left to his sister Anne his 'undivided moiety of the manor of Buddington....'"⁴

Therefore, until reliable, documented evidence surfaces on who Isaac and Abraham's parents might be, this genealogy begins with an unknown father, who is listed here as "¹Riggs."

¹ Accomack was formed from the northern part of Northampton County around 1663. "Between 1670 and 1674, the counties of Northampton were reunited.... The records of Accomack and Northampton counties are the oldest continuous group of county records in America." (Carol McGinnis, *Virginia Genealogy: Sources & Resources* [Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993] 159.) Although Accomack and Northampton counties had a close relationship, and some Riggses were recorded in both counties, the Riggs in this study were predominately in Accomack County.

² Charles L. Riggs, Riggs-L Archives, <<http://archiver.rootsweb.com/th/read/RIGGS/1998-12/0912519382>>, posted 1 December 1998.

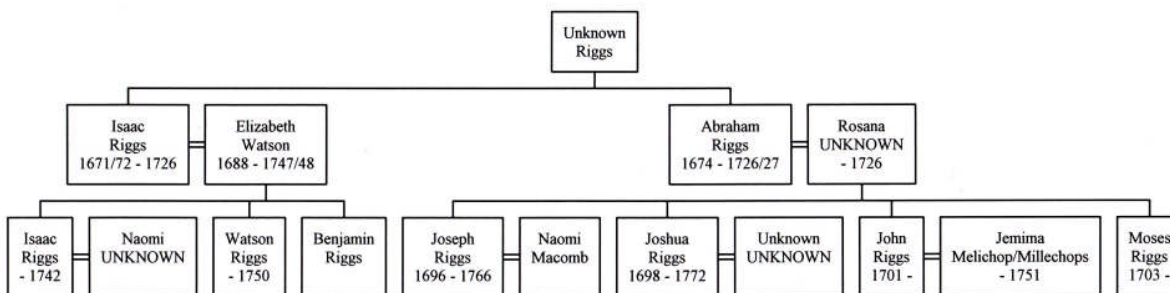
³ See "Ogle Riggs Jr. [10861]," <<http://musgravemanor.homestead.com/2004/10861.html>>.

⁴ See "Buddington Manor," <www.british-history.ac.uk/report.aspx?compid=41695>.

Riggs Compiled Genealogy

GENERATION ONE

Brothers Isaac and Abraham Riggs of Accomack County, Virginia



1. —¹ RIGGS.

Children of —¹ Riggs:

- i ISSAC² RIGGS, b. ca. March 1671/2, probably in the British Isles; d. by ca. 1725, probably in Accomack Co., Va., when his widow remarried.⁵ Isaac Riggs was a servant of Simon Foscue Jr. The Accomack County Court held 11 Jan. 1686/7 adjudged Isaac's age as 15 next March 1686/7.⁶ Presumably, this Isaac is the same man who m. ca. 1710⁷ ELIZABETH WATSON,⁸ b. ca. 1688, d. Feb. 1748, (Elizabeth m. 2. ca. 1725 Major Richard Bayly; m. 3. ca. 1730 John Hutchinson), dau. of Robert and Elizabeth (Savage) Watson Jr.⁹

On 4 March 1706, "Isack Riggs" of Accomack Co., Va., planter, purchased from John Waltham of Somerset [sic] Co., Md., 200 acres of land for 12,000 pounds of tobacco. The

⁵ Mary Frances Carey, Barry W. Miles, and Moody K. Miles, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore* (Lewes, Del.: Colonial Roots, 2005), 2:9, shows Elizabeth marrying Major Richard Bayly by ca. 1725.

⁶ William R.M. Houston, M.D., and Jean M. Mihalyka, *Colonial Residents of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Whose Ages Were Proved Before Court Officials of Accomack and Northampton Counties* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 86; original in Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Orders, etc., 1682-1697, A-7:103, FHL 30000, item 2.

⁷ David Harrison Riggs of London places their marriage year as "ca. 1693," after Isaac would have been 21 and released from his servitude; however, if Elizabeth was born ca. 1688, she'd be only five years old in 1693, therefore, the ca. 1710 date is more probable.

⁸ Elizabeth's maiden name comes from David Harrison Riggs of London, no source provided. In Mary Frances Carey, Barry W. Miles, and Moody K. Miles, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore* (Lewes, Del.: Colonial Roots, 2005), 2:9, they say Elizabeth Watson married a Riggs, first name unknown, ca. 1710. Their source is Evelyn Kinder Donaldson's *Squires and Dames of Old Virginia* (Los Angeles, Calif.: Miller Printing Co., 1950), 268, which merely shows "Elizabeth Watson (Riggs)" as the daughter of Robert Watson Jr. and Elizabeth Savage, no source provided. That Isaac named a son Watson, and that Elizabeth had a brother named Benjamin, which is another son of theirs, provides circumstantial evidence that the Elizabeth who married Isaac is probably Elizabeth Watson.

⁹ Mary Frances Carey, Barry W. Miles, and Moody K. Miles, *Colonial Families of the Eastern Shore* (Lewes, Del.: Colonial Roots, 2005), 2:9.

200 acres was part of a divided 630 acres that was granted by patent to Elizabeth, relict of John Waltham's father, also John Waltham late of Accomack Co. Hannah Waltham, wife of John [Jr.] released her dower right.¹⁰

On 15 February 1720/21, Isaac Riggs of Accomack Co., Va., planter, sold to Thomas Gascoyne of Accomack, for £5,700 land that Isaac originally purchased from John Waltham. Isaac's wife, Elizabeth, released her dower on 15 February 1720/21 and made her mark E. Isaac signed his name.¹¹

Children of Issac² Riggs (birth order uncertain):

- 1) ISAAC³ RIGGS, d. between 11 Sept 1742 (date of will) and 26 Oct 1742 (proved).¹² He m. Naomi — .¹³ He made his mark, but states that he was "very Sick and weak." Eliz.^a Hutchinson [his mother] was one of the witnesses to Isaac's will. Isaac left his plantation to his daughter Margaret "Rigs"; also named in his will "brothers Watson and Benjamin Rigs." Isaac, in what appears to be a codicil to his will,¹⁴ also stipulated that his mother (not named) have her choice of six hogs and the use of his mare for her natural life, and three "Pritty Good Cows." "Kinswoman Elizabeth Smith" to have one ewe and lamb. Daughter Margaret m. (1) William Coward; (2) Solomon Bunting.¹⁵
- 2) WATSON³ RIGGS, d. intestate Northampton Co., Va., before 27 March 1750 (letters of administration granted first to Mary Custis in Accomack Co., then to John Riggs in Northampton Co.).¹⁶ On 11 Oct. 1748, Watson Rigs [sic] was the plaintiff in a case against John Eshon, defendant, in Northampton Co., Va. The case was "discontinued being agreed by the Parties."¹⁷ On 27 Mar. 1750, administration of Watson's estate was assigned to Mary Custis, widow, in Accomack Co.¹⁸ On that same date, Thomas Teakle, Peter Stack, West Kellam and Benjamin Collony "or any three of them being first sworn before a Justice of the Peace for this County do appraise in Current money the Slaves (if any) and Personal Estate of Watson Riggs Deceased and make return thereof to the next court."¹⁹ Then on 12 June

¹⁰ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, Wills, etc. Part 2, 1692–1715, pp. 231–32, FHL 30011.

¹¹ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, Wills, etc., 1715–1729, pp. 131a–132, FHL 30002.

¹² Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1737–1743, p. 402, FHL 30004.

¹³ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1737–1743, p. 402, FHL 30004. Isaac's will was presented in court by "Naomi Riggs his Wid.^o."

¹⁴ A legatee could not be a witness to a will, so assuming Elizabeth Hutchison was Issac's mother, he could not include her in his will that she witnessed. The codicil is recorded immediately after the witnesses' signatures. See John P. Alcock, "18th Century Virginia Law," <http://home.hiwaay.net/~woliver/Virginia_Law.html>.

¹⁵ Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, 2 vols. (Glouster, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 1:616.

¹⁶ James Handley Marshall, *Abstracts of the Wills and Administrations of Northampton County, Virginia, 1632–1802* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1994), 340, citing Orders 22 (1748–1751): 233; Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 80, 83, 87–88.

¹⁷ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 9.

¹⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Order Books, 1744–1764, p. 401, FHL 30114. Also see Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (Onancock, Va., 1931), 104. He implies by his wording that Mary Custis was the widow of Watson Riggs, but she was the widow of Robison Custis.

¹⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Order Books, 1744–1764, p. 401, FHL 30114.

1750, administration of Watson's estate, who died intestate, was granted to John Riggs in Northampton Co.²⁰ On 14 Aug. 1750 in Northampton Co., John, administrator for Watson Riggs, deceased, brought a suit against Mary Custis, "admin &c of Robinson Custis decd, deft."²¹ In Nov. 1750, John Riggs, administrator for Watson Riggs "House and Ship Carpenter sues for debt owned [sic] the said Watson's estate by Mary Custis, admtrx of Robinson Custis."²² On 14 Nov. 1750, the suit between John Riggs, administrator for Watson Riggs, deceased, and Mary Custis was "discontinued being agreed by the Parties."²³ Mary (Parramore) Custis was the widow of Robinson Custis. She was appointed administratrix for Robinson's estate on 13 Mar. 1749.²⁴

3) BENJAMIN³ RIGGS. He was named in his brother Isaac's 1742 will.²⁵ On 9 Oct. 1750, Benjamin Riggs made a motion in Northampton County court as "a witness for Mary Custis, Administratrix &c. of Robinson Curtis decd at the suit of William Kellum, It is ordered that the said Mary pay him twenty five Pounds of Tobacco for attending one day at this Court according to Law."²⁶

2 ii ABRAHAM² RIGGS, b. ca. 1674.

²⁰ James Handley Marshall, *Abstracts of the Wills and Administrations of Northampton County, Virginia, 1632–1802* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1994), 340, citing Orders 22 (1748–1751): 233.

²¹ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 87–88.

²² Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, April 1744 to July 1761, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume III* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2005), 52, citing packet 37, April 1751–March 1751/2.

²³ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 98.

²⁴ "Thorowgood: Sixth Generation" <www.esva.net/ghotes/thorowgd/d0/i0006327.htm>, citing James H. Marshall, *Wills & Administrations, Northampton Co., Virginia*, p. 340. Also see Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [p. 178] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2005), 60. Stratton Nottingham in his *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (Onancock, Va., 1931), 104, incorrectly identifies Mary Custis as the widow of Watson Riggs. Researchers interested in the line of Watson Riggs should view the original records.

²⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1737–1743, p. 402, FHL 30004.

²⁶ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [p. 278] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 95.

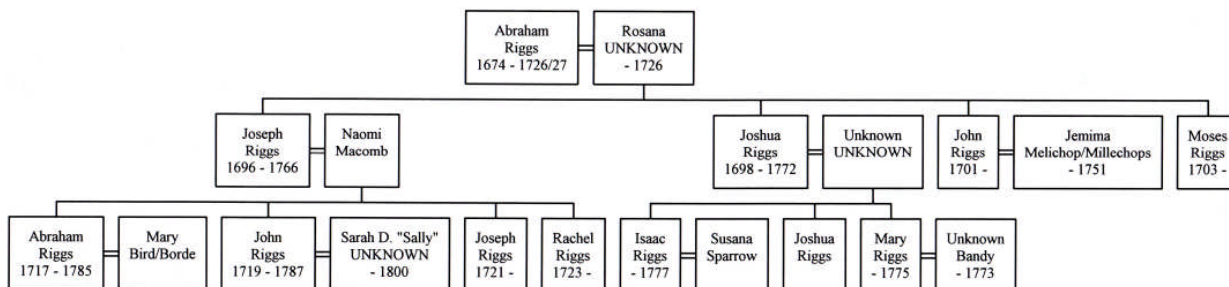
This day Simon Hester Jun brought a servant boy named Isaac Riggs
to this Court to deserv in this Judgmt of his age w^{ch} is 14¹ but adjudged at
fifteen years in March next and is ordered to serve accordingly

This day Edward Kellam brought a servant boy named Abraham
Riggs to this Court to deserv in this Judgmt of his age w^{ch} is 14¹
+ adjudged at fifteen years in June next to be ordered to serve
accordingly.

Adjudged Ages for Isaac and Abraham Riggs
Accomack County, Virginia, Wills, Orders, etc., 1682-1697, A-7:103, FHL 30000, item 2.

GENERATION TWO

Generation Two: Descendants of Abraham Riggs (1674 - 1726/27)



2. **ABRAHAM² RIGGS** (—¹) was born ca. 1674 (based on his adjudged age in 1686/7), probably in the British Isles; died between 25 October 1726 (will) and 7 March 1726/7 (probate of will), Accomack County, Virginia.²⁷ Abraham is allegedly buried in an unmarked grave “behind the house of Mason Annis...Bloxom, Accomack, Va.”²⁸

An Abraham Riggs was transported to America by Edward Kellam,²⁹ who received in 1701 a headright grant of 130 acres in Accomack Co., Va.

Original Land Patent of Edward Kellam³⁰

To all et^c Whereas et^c: Now Know Yee that I the said Francis Nicholson Esq. Govern^r et^c Doe with the advice and Consent of the Council of State accordingly Give and Grant unto Edward Kellam one hundred and thirty acres of Land Scituate in Accomack County at Wachepreage Beginning by a gutt on the line of Marked trees of Wm Bradford thence down the gutt north East forty Eight pole to the marked trees of Jonah Jackson then along those lines of marked trees fifty west North West twenty three one fifth pole then North west one degree thirty minutes North forty three three fifths [sic] pole then North Six Degrees west Ninety five pole then South Eighty three Degrees West Sixteen and half pole then Northwest twenty nine one fifth pole then North fifteen degrees west twenty pole West North West thirty nine pole then South fifty three degrees west Sixteen pole then South twenty degrees West one hundred fifty five pole to the marked tree of William Bradford then running along those marked trees East South East one hundred &

²⁷ Accomack Co., Va. Wills, 25 Oct 1726.

²⁸ David Harrison Riggs of London, no source given.

²⁹ For a genealogy of the Kellam family, see Gail M. Walczyk, “Some Descendants of Richard Kellam Including Sacker Kellam,” 2006, <www.easternshoreheritage.com/descendants/some_descendants_of_richard_kellam.htm>.

³⁰ Patents No. 9, 1697–1706, p. 404, Library of Virginia microfilm. Also see Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Volume Three: 1695–1732* (Richmond: Virginia State Library, 1979), 52.

Seventy five pole to the first bound on the said Land being Due unto the said Edward Kellam by and for the Transportation of three persons to this Colony whose names are to be in the Record mentioned under this Patent to have and holde. To be held et^c yielding and Paying et^c Provided et^c Given under My hand and the Seale of the Colony this 24th day of October anno Dom 1701.

Edward Kellam his patent for 130 acres
of Land in Accomack County
E. Jenings

ff Nicholson

Abraham Riggs
Silvanus Colley
Thomas Markarnt

Although this patent was recorded in October 1701, there is an earlier record of Abraham. The Accomack County Court held 11 Jan. 1686/7 adjudged Abraham to be age 13 in June 1687.³¹ "The adjudications of servants, slaves, and children are possibly the least reliable since the ages were open to question."³² "The House of Burgesses enacted a law in March 1642/43 stating that male or female servants imported having no indentures or covenants shall serve four years if age 20 or above, 5 years if age 12 to 20 and seven years if under 12."³³ Thus, Abraham would have served probably for five years and would have finished his servitude by 1692.

To help colonize Virginia, any person who paid his own passage or that of another person would be assigned fifty acres of land. Some planters transported numerous individuals of all classes (nobility and gentry, yeomen, indentured servants "some of good family and connection in England," and negroes).³⁴ "There was no stigma attached to being an indentured servant in 17th century Virginia."³⁵ Indentured servants worked for four to seven years, but many were treated no better than slaves. "In exchange for their service, the indentured servants received their passage paid from England, as well as food, clothing, and shelter once they arrived in the colonies. Some were even paid a salary. When the contract had expired, the servant was paid freedom dues of corn, tools, and clothing, and was allowed to leave the plantation. During the time of his inden-

³¹ William R.M. Houston, M.D., and Jean M. Mihalyka, *Colonial Residents of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Whose Ages Were Proved Before Court Officials of Accomack and Northampton Counties* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 86; original in Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Orders, etc., 1682-1697, A7:103, FHL 30000, item 2.

³² William R.M. Houston, M.D., and Jean M. Mihalyka, *Colonial Residents of Virginia's Eastern Shore, Whose Ages Were Proved Before Court Officials of Accomack and Northampton Counties* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1985), 86; original in Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Orders, etc., 1682-1697, A-7:103, FHL 30000, item 2.

³³ Carol McGinnis, *Virginia Genealogy: Sources and Resources* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993), 12, citing Donald J. Martin, "In the Beginning, All America was Virginia," *Journal of Genealogy* 4-2 (February 1979):25.

³⁴ Introduction by Robert A. Stewart in Nell Marion Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers: Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, 1623-1666, Volume 1* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), xxiv.

³⁵ Carol McGinnis, *Virginia Genealogy: Sources and Resources* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993), 12.

ture, however, the servant was considered his master's personal property and his contract could be inherited or sold."³⁶ Many indentured servants were Irish and Scots-Irish.³⁷

Although there is no direct evidence that the Abraham who was a servant for Edward Kellam is the same as the Abraham who married Rosana below, there does not appear to be any other Abraham Riggs in Accomack County living contemporaneously.

Abraham married say 1695 **ROSANA** —³⁸, assuming he was released from servitude at the end of five years at age 18 and married when he turned 21.³⁹ Rosanna died after 15 October 1726 (date of her husband's will in which she was named), and is allegedly buried in an unmarked grave "behind the house of Mason Annis...Bloxom, Accomack, Va."⁴⁰

On 5 March 1716/17, John Bird of Accomack County, Virginia, planter, sold to Abraham Riggs of Accomack County, planter, for "divers good Causes and a full Consideration by me already Received..." a parcel of land and plantation containing 200 acres at the head of Gilford Creek.⁴¹

Transcript of Abraham Riggs' Will⁴²

[Will is transcribed with original spelling errors]

In the Name of God Amen. I Abraham Riggs of the County of Accomack in Virg^a being sick and week in body but of perfect strength of memory thanks be to God for itt doe think fitt to make this my Last will & Testament making void all wills and Testaments by me formerly made desiring all my just debts may be paid and satisfied- - - my soule I Recommend to my maker and Redeemer my Body I commit to y^e Earth at y^e discretion of my Executrix hereafter named. Item as for what Estate itt had pleased God to bestow upon I Give and bequeath as followeth viz - - - Item I Give and bequeath unto **my son Joseph Riggs** and to his heirs for ever my Plantation whereon I now Live with all my Land from s^d [?] Penns against Baly Hinmans with a straight [word left out?] to the End of the bur[?]

³⁶ "Indentured Servants and Transported Convicts," <www.stratfordhall.org/ed-servants.html>.

³⁷ Carol McGinnis, *Virginia Genealogy: Sources and Resources* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1993), 12, citing Donald J. Martin, "In the Beginning, All America was Virginia," *Journal of Genealogy* 4-2 (February 1979), 23.

³⁸ David Harrison Riggs speculates that Rosanna may have been the daughter of John Bird who sold land to Abraham in 1716/17, but I could find no evidence of this. John Bird made no mention of any daughters in his will dated 26 Jan. 1727/8, probated 5 Mar. 1727/8, Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, Wills, etc., 1715-1729 (pts. 1-2), p. 88, FHL 30025. John Bird named sons Eborn, Daniell, Major, and Solomon Bird. This, of course, is not concrete evidence that John Bird did not have any daughters, but given that he left household items to his sons, e.g., "I give unto my two sons Major and Solomon Bird: all the Scotch pladd [sic] that is in my house and Sixty yards of Crown Linnen and a piece of Irish Linnen Containing Twenty three yards," it seems reasonable to assume that he might not have had any daughters, or at least none living at the time he made his will. Additionally, no grandchildren by any deceased daughters are mentioned. Again, not concrete evidence, but noteworthy. Also noteworthy is that Eborn Bird witnessed Abraham Riggs's will of 1726.

³⁹ Twenty-one was the legal age in eighteenth-century Virginia, and "it was rare for a groom in that era to be underage." John P. Alcock, "18th Century Virginia Law," <http://home.hiwaay.net/~woliver/Virginia_Law.html>.

⁴⁰ David Harrison Riggs, no source given.

⁴¹ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Orders, etc., 1715-1729, pp. 21a-22, FHL 30002.

⁴² Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Orders, etc., 1715-1729, p. 269, FHL 30002.

Rige to where William Gott or Knoll[?] for a sloop sloop [sic] from thence to the Line of the Gleeb Land Item I Give and bequeath unto **my son Joshua Riggs** and his heirs forever all the rest of my high Lots next to the school house Branch[?] the rest of my Land being swamp I Give Between my s^d two son [sic] for to Gitt Timber Item my will is that my son Joshua shall not sell nor dispose of his part of Land Except itt be to his Brother Joseph provided he will give him the worth of itt. Item I Give unto **my Loving wife Rosanna Riggs** all my personall or Moveable Estate during her widow hood but if in case she should marry or die to be Equally divided amongst my Children. Item I Give my musket to my son Joseph and my own shooting Gun to **my son John** and my other Gun to **my son Moses**; Lastly, I doe ordain and appoint my Loving wife Rosanna Riggs to be my sole Executrix to this my Last will where unto I sett my hand and seal this Twenty fifth day of October 1726

his
Abraham | **R**_x Riggs
mark⁴³

Signed Sealled and Acknowledged
by the Said Abraham Riggs to
be his Land will In the presence of
John Johnson
Eborn (his mark EB) Bird
Thomas Dove

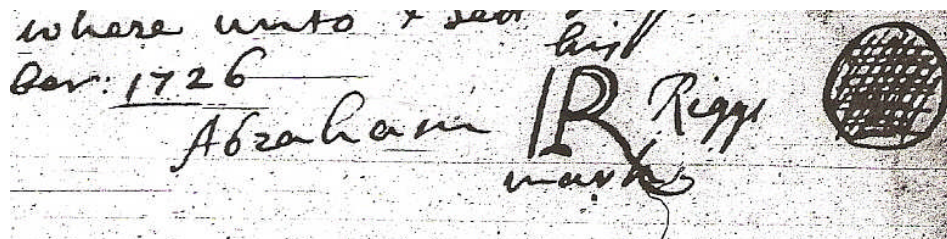
The within Last will & Testament of
Abraham Riggs dec^d was proved in open Court
of Accomack County by the oath of John Johnson
Eborn Bird & Thomas Dove the Three witnesses
to the same March y^e 7th 1726 [sic] w^h the
Court admitted to Record
Thos Snead, Cl Court

Recorded March
[?] 16th 1726 [sic]

[Note: Prior to the calendar change in 1752, the new year began on March 25, so this is how Abraham was able to make his will in October 1726, and it could be admitted to probate and recorded in March 1726.]

⁴³ According to London-based Riggs researcher, David Harrison Riggs, his compiled genealogy of the Riggs ancestry (unpublished, but shared with this author and distributed to many Riggs family researchers) suggests that Abraham “signed his will with ‘X’ 25th October 1726, but we know he could read and write as required by Headrights law, and his educated master, Edward Kellum.” Indentured servants, such as Abraham Riggs, worked from five to seven years, and were essentially treated like slaves. Masters, who received headrights (that is, 50 acres of land for each person they transported), were under no obligation to educate their servants, however. While it’s possible that Abraham did learn to read and write under his servitude, it’s doubtful. That Abraham did not make merely an “X” when he made his will, but an “R” indicates only that he could make this letter.

See “Acquiring Virginia Land by Headright,” <www.viriniaplaces.org/settleland/headright.html> and “Headrights,” <www.lva.lib.va.us/whatwehave/local/va4_headrights.htm>.



1726 Will of Abraham Riggs and His Mark

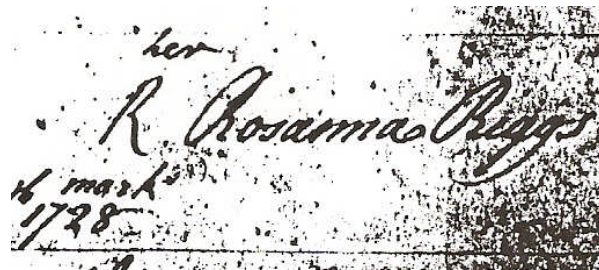
Inventory of the Estate of Abraham Riggs⁴⁴

Accomack County, February 3^d 1728
5 feather beds & 4 bolsters and [sic] & Pillows
3 Ruggs & 7 Blankets and 3 Sheets
3 Chests & 7 Small Tables & 3 old Chairs
3 Transpottes & 1 brass Kettle & 18 pewter Spoons
4 pewter [sic] 6 pewter basons & 12 pewter plates
2 pewter porringers & 2 Cups & mustard D^o & 1 old Tankard
4 Earthen potts & 6 Earthen Cups and 1 Earthen pa??
1 Spices mortar and Pestle & 1 Iron Candlestick
8 Glass bottles 2 Linnen Wheels & 1 Wollen D^o
1 box Iron and healers & Seven and Syder casks & 1 Bunlett
2 Iron Wedges & mall rings and 3 Gunns & 1 hackle
1 Weavers Loom & 2 Sales Gears & Stays
handmill & pecker & 2 pair pothooks & five Tongs
1 Looking Glass: 3 bucketts & 1 Washing Tubb 2 powdering Tubbs
3 Yards bed Ticken & 11 y^d fine Linnen
11 heads of Cattle old & young & 8 Sheep
1 horse 1 mare & 1 yearling mare
20 hoggs 5 Sholes and 8 piggs & 2 hides Leather
1 plow & 2 harrows Cart & Wheels
2 Logwod axes & 1 frying pa??
5 old Books & 1 meal sifter

her
R Rosanna Riggs
mark

Accomack County ? March the 4th 1728
This Inventory was returned to Court & ordered to be recorded
Test John Jackson Ct. Cur.

⁴⁴ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, Orders, 1715–1729, p. 362, FHL 30002.



Rosanna Riggs's Mark from 1728

Children of Abraham² and Rosana (—) Riggs:⁴⁵

- 3 i **JOSEPH³ RIGGS**, b. say 1696 (based on parents' calculated marriage year).
- ii **JOSHUA³ RIGGS**, b. say 1698; d. bet. 19 July 1772 (will) and 29 Sept. 1772 (probate of will); m. an unknown wife. In his will, Joshua Rigs left to his son Isaac Rigs his plantation and all the land belonging to it, being 100 acres, plus fifty acres of marsh land that he bought from John Maskeel [?], plus one feather bed and furniture, a cow and yearling, ???. Also to Isaac his gristmill and all the "porlanance thereto." To son Joshua, his negro woman Malley and negro boy named Sam, along with twenty-five acres of marsh land. To daughter Mary Bandy, twenty-five acres of marsh land and a negro boy called Abel. Mary was also to have use of about two acres of land that is "over the Gully next to John Rigs, as long as she lives single." Remainder of estate to be divided between son Joshua Rigs and daughter Mary Bandy. Son Isaac appointed executor. Dated 19 July 1772. Signed by Joshua Riggs. Witnessed by William Young Senr., George Churn, and Ann Churn. Recorded 29 Sept. 1772.⁴⁶

Children of Joshua³ Riggs:

- 1) **ISAAC⁴ RIGGS**, d. bet. 17 Feb. 1777 (will) and 25 Mar. 1777 (probate of will); m. Susana Sparrow, dau. of David and Mary Sparrow. Child: *Nancy*, m. (1) John B. Edwards; m. (2) George Willet. In his will, Isaac Riggs left all his land and mill to his daughter Nancy Riggs and "her lawfull Heirs begotton of her body and for Want of Such if my Wife Should be with Child to that She goes with and if She Should not be with Child to Descend to my Cousin Sally Bandy and her Heirs for ever and if the above Persons Should Die without lawfull Heirs then to my Brother Joshua Riggs & his Heirs for ever." To brother Joshua, one gun, one large table, one loose coat, and chest; to John Riggs [not identified], one Close Coat and two Linnen Jacketts; to daughter Nancy, one Negro called George; remainder of estate to be equally divided between wife Susanah and daughter Nancy. William Young Jun^r appointed executor. Signed 17 Feb. 1777. Witnessed by Wm Yong Sen^r, John [his X mark] Riggs, Levenor? [his X mark] Melson.

⁴⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, Orders, 1715–1729, p. 269, FHL 30002.

⁴⁶ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1772–1777, pp. 26–27, FHL 30026.

Recorded 25 March 1777.⁴⁷

- 2) JOSHUA⁴ RIGGS. He may be the Joshua who m. LEAH — and removed to Worcester Co., Md., by February 1777 when he sold land known as Jobs Island in Accomack Co. to Richard Taylor. Deed was witnessed by a Susanah Riggs, his sister-in-law perhaps?⁴⁸
- 3) MARY⁴ RIGGS; m. — Bandy. Widow by 1772.⁴⁹ On 18 Nov. 1775, administration of her estate went to Isaac Riggs, with William Young security.⁵⁰
- iii JOHN³ RIGGS, b. say 1701; m. Jemima Melichop/Millechops. She likely died between April 1751 and May 1754, as she did not release dower on property her husband sold in May 1754. [See discussion below.] On 23 Feb. 1741 in Accomack Co., John Riggs “and Jemima his wife[,] late Jemima Melichop[,] late of Accomack County[,] Spinster” were involved in a land division case with William Beavans Jr. “Whereas the said William Beavans and the said John Riggs and Jemima his wife in right of the said Jemima in undivided to hold to them and the Heirs and Assigns of the said William Beavans for ever and to the Heirs of the body of the said Jemima Lawfully begotten.” Each held one moiety [half] of the messuage [dwelling house with adjacent buildings] and 216 acres of land in Pungoteague Neck on Assawoman Creek.⁵¹ According to Ralph Whitelaw’s *Virginia’s Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, John Millechops died intestate in 1740, and “the next year a division was made of his land, William Beavans, Jr., getting the eastern part, and John and Jemimah [sic] Rigs [sic] the western.” In 1742, “Nicholas Millechops II left the Rigs land to his son Nicholas III and he and his wife Susanna promptly sold to Beavans. The deed recited that the land had been sold to his father by the Rigs’ by a General Court deed; also that Beavans had acquired the other half by purchase from Thomas and Ann Cade; no record was found of this latter sale, so it also may have gone through General Court. The assumption is now made that Jemimah Rigs and Ann Cade were the daughters and co-heirs of John Millechops.”⁵²
- iv MOSES³ RIGGS, b. say 1703; named in his father’s will of Oct. 1726. No further record.

⁴⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1772–1777, pp. 498–99, FHL 30026.

⁴⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1777–1783, pp. 8–9, FHL 30007.

⁴⁹ In the will of her father, she is given use of land “as long as she lives single.” Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1772–1777, pp. 26–27, FHL 30026.

⁵⁰ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800*, two volumes in one (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999), 269.

⁵¹ Accomack Co., Va., Land Causes, 1727–1805, pp. 53–57, FHL 30017.

⁵² Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia’s Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, 2 vols. (Gouucester, Mass., 1968), 2:1178. John was the son of Nicholas Millechoppe. In Nicholas’s will dated 20 Dec. 1697 and probated 7 June 1698, he left “650 A. in Pungoteague Neck on Assawoman Creek to 3 sons: eldest Nicholas to have 218 A. at the head of said Neck where my son in law William Lucas now lives; to second son John 216 A. To youngest son Richard 216 A. at the bottom of said Neck where I now dwell.” Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800*, two volumes in one (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999), 30.

TWO JOHN RIGGSES⁵³

As is often the case in genealogical research, sometimes it is nearly impossible to determine whether there are two men of the same name in the same community or just one man of that name creating records. There are contemporaneous records for a John Riggs in both Northampton and Accomack counties, Virginia, during the time frame of the mid-1730s to the mid-1750s.

Clearly, there were two men by the name of John Riggs in Northampton County in the late 1730s, as one was identified with the designation of "Jr." A 1738 court record stated that "the original account was to John Riggs who assigned to John Riggs Jr."⁵⁴ But by 1742 in Northampton County, John Riggs was not given any identifier, indicating that one of them had died or moved. Given the closeness of Accomack and Northampton counties, if there continued to be two John Riggsses making records in the same time period, one would think the identifiers would persist.

Also clear is that John Riggs had close ties in both counties, as evidenced by the 1743 deed in Accomack County, where Littleton Eyre of Northampton County, Virginia, sold 80 acres and a plantation in Accomack County for £70 to John Riggs, planter, of Northampton County.⁵⁵

A John Riggs had a connection with Watson Riggs (son of Isaac) (see Watson's sketch above) in 1750 and a John Riggs was the son of Abraham Riggs. Assuming the John Riggs with the ties to Watson Riggs was the John Riggs Jr. of 1738, then was the John Riggs "Sr." the man who was Abraham's son? Of course, the designations junior and senior do not always indicate a father/son relationship, but given that the 1738 record said that the "account was to John Riggs who assigned to John Riggs Jr." it seems likely there was a father/son relationship here.

The following chronology covering the 1730s to 1750s for the John Riggsses named in both Accomack and Northampton counties is presented here.

CHRONOLOGY OF JOHN RIGGS

Date	Person	Event	Locality	Comments
ca. 1701	John Riggs	born—presumably the one who m. Jemima Melichop		presumably the son of Abraham Riggs
1735 Dec.	John Riggs	pays fine/cost for Jemime Page; will "bear the Parish harmless for her bastard child." ⁵⁶	Accomack Co., Va.	

⁵³ The author wishes to extend appreciation to Marsha Hoffman Rising, CG, FASG, for reviewing this dilemma and offering her theories.

⁵⁴ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 98, citing packet 24, April 1738–March 1738/9.

⁵⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 1737–1746, pp. 371–72, FHL 1902264, item 2; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:818.

⁵⁶ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 55, citing packet 21, April 1735–March 1735/6.

1736 Aug.	John Riggs	complaint against negro man owned by John Riggs. ⁵⁷	Northampton Co., Va.	Negro was ordered to give security to appear at next court.
1738 July	John Riggs Jr.	Southy Rew petitions for Indian corn owed him by John Riggs Jr. ⁵⁸	Northampton Co., Va.	"The original account was to John Riggs who assigned to John Riggs Jr."
1741 Feb 23	John Riggs	John and wife Jemima, late Jemima Melichop, land partition ⁵⁹	Accomack Co., Va.	"John Riggs and Jemima, his wife, late Jemima Melichop, late of Accomack County, spinster." 216 acres in Pungoteague Neck on Assawoman Creek
1742 Sept	John Riggs	John was guardian of Absabath Potter and summoned to render an acct. of his guardianship. ⁶⁰	Northampton Co., Va.	
1742 Oct.	John Riggs	on a list or a proposed road ⁶¹	Northampton Co., Va.	also on the list a Peter Kellum
1743 July	John Riggs	dispute over line dividing the 88A of land sold to John Riggs of Northampton by Richard Johnson of Accomack ⁶²	Northampton Co., Va.	papers include the deeds and surveys now in Old Plat File in Clerk's Office in Eastville, Va.
1743 Nov 29	John Riggs	purchased 80 acres from Littleton Eyre ⁶³	Accomack Co., Va./Northampton Co., Va.	Littleton Eyre of Northampton Co., Va., sold 80 acres and a plantation in Accomack Co. for £70 to John Riggs, planter, of Northampton Co., Va. Land is on the north side of Pungoteague Creek in Accomack.

⁵⁷ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 70, citing packet 22, April 1736–March 1736/7.

⁵⁸ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 98, citing packet 24, April 1738–March 1738/9.

⁵⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Land Causes, 1727–1805, pp. 53–57, FHL 30017.

⁶⁰ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 154, citing packet 28, April 1742–March 1742/3.

⁶¹ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 156, citing packet 28, April 1742–March 1742/43.

⁶² Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, 1732–1744/5, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume II* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2000), 168, citing packet 29, April 1743–March 1743/4.

⁶³ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 1737–1746, pp. 371–72, FHL 1902264, item 2; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:818.

1750 June 12	John Riggs/ Watson Riggs	Certificate granted to John Riggs for letters of admin. on the estate of Watson Riggs, decd. ⁶⁴	Northampton Co., Va.	John Roberts, John Milby, Samuel Coward, William Christian (or any three of them) to appraise estate of Watson Riggs.
1750 July 10	John Riggs/ Watson Riggs	Time allowed until next court for an inventory of Watson's estate ⁶⁵	Northampton Co., Va.	
1750 Aug 14	John Riggs, admin of Watson Riggs	John Riggs, admin. of Watson Riggs decd plt. vs. Mary Custis, admin &c of Robinson Custis decd, deft. ⁶⁶	Northampton Co., Va.	"This Day came the Parties by their Attorneys and the Deft. Sayeth nothing in Bar or Preclusion of the Plt.'s Action whereby the Plt. as against him remaineth altogether undefended. Therefore it is considered by the Court that Judgment shall be for the Plt. against the Deft. for what Damages the Plt. hath sustained by occasion of Intestate's non Performance of the Assumption in the Declaration Specified which Damages are to be enquired off by a Jury unless the said Deft. shall plead to Issue at the next Court."
1750 Nov 14	John Riggs admin for Watson Riggs	suit against Mary Custis ⁶⁷	Northampton Co., Va.	"Discontinued being agreed by the Parties"
1750 Nov	John Riggs	John Riggs vs. Mary Custis ⁶⁸	Northampton Co., Va.	John adm for Watson Riggs "House and Ship Carpenter sues for debt owned [sic] the said Watson's estate by Mary Custis, admtrix of Robinson Custis"
1750 Nov 15	John Riggs admin	inventory/estate of Watson Riggs returned by John Riggs	Northampton Co., Va.	

⁶⁴ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [page 233] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 80.

⁶⁵ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [page 243] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 83.

⁶⁶ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [page 256] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 87–88.

⁶⁷ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [page 289] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 98.

⁶⁸ Jean M. Mihalyka, *Loose Papers and Sundry Court Cases, April 1744 to July 1761, Northampton County, Virginia, Volume III* (Eastville, Va.: Hickory House, 2005), 52, citing packet 37, April 1751–March 1751/2.

	for Watson Riggs	and ordered to be recorded ⁶⁹		
1754 May 28	John Riggs	bought 100 acres from John and Comfort Henderson ⁷⁰	Accomack Co., Va.	John Henderson and his wife Comfort of Northampton Co., Va., sold 100 acres in Accomack Co., for £40 to John Riggs of Accomack Co. Land lying on Ronny's Gut [?]ing into Pungoteague
1754 June 1	John Riggs	sold 100 acres to McKemy Boggs ⁷¹	Accomack Co., Va.	<i>no wife relinquishing dower</i> — John Riggs of Accomack Co. sold 100 acres for [and initial payment of] £50 to McKemy Boggs of Accomack Co. Land lying on Pungoteague Creek, where John lives.
1755 Sept 1	John Riggs	sold 150 acres to Edmund Scarburgh ⁷²	Accomack Co., Va.	<i>no wife relinquishing dower</i> — John Riggs of Accomack Co. sold the 150 acres where he lived for £35 to Edmund Scarburgh of Accomack Co. Land lying on northernly side of Pungoteague Creek Note: John sold by this time a total of 250 acres, but he had purchased only 180 acres. How he acquired the additional 70 acres is unknown.
1755 Oct. 15	John Riggs	lawsuit: John Henderson pltf. against John Riggs deft. ⁷³	Northampton Co., Va.	suit dismissed, "The Sheriff having returned, that the deft. is not to be found within his Bailiwick"
1755 Oct. 15	John Riggs	lawsuit: John Henderson pltf. against John Riggs deft. ⁷⁴	Northampton Co., Va.	few entries later, the suit was entered back into court. "The deft. [John Riggs] came in his proper person, and proved his debt, amounting to thirteen pounds sixteen shillings."

In 1741 a land partition in Accomack County recorded "John Riggs and Jemima his wife[,] late Jemima Melichop[,] late of Accomack County[,] spinster."⁷⁵ Is this couple "late of Accomack County" because they removed to Northampton County or to North Carolina (see

⁶⁹ Gail M. Walczyk, *Northampton County Orders, 1748–1751, Book 22* [page 298] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 102.

⁷⁰ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 1746–57, pp. 509–10, FHL 30152; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:818.

⁷¹ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1746–1757, pp. 520–21, FHL 30152.

⁷² Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 1746–1757, pp. 606–07, FHL 30152; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:818.

⁷³ Frank V. Walczyk, *Northampton County, Virginia, Order Book 24, 1753–1758* [page 259] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 132.

⁷⁴ Frank V. Walczyk, *Northampton County, Virginia, Order Book 24, 1753–1758* [page 264–65] (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2002), 133.

⁷⁵ Stratton Nottingham, *Land Causes, Accomack County, Virginia, 1727–1826* (Onancock, Va.: the author, no date, but done on a typewriter), 3.

below)? Or does it mean that just Jemima was “late of Accomack”? Unfortunately, the land partition offers no answers.

A query online states that a John Riggs and wife Jemima appeared in North Carolina deeds [Onslow County] in 1748, 1749, and 1751. Jemima, wife of John Riggs, relinquished her dower in a deed of 1751.⁷⁶

Abstract of Deed between John Riggs and John Wilkins⁷⁷

22 April 1751

John Riggs of Onslow County, North Carolina, planter

and

John Wilkins of Onslow County, North Carolina, planter

Consideration: sixty pounds sterling money of Great Brittain [sic]

A piece of land containing in the patent one hundred and fifty acres in Onslow Co., lying on the east side of New River as it appears by the patent and the said land was purchased first of Charles North Glover and then conveyed by way of deed from Charles North Glover in South Carolina to Thomas Smith Gen. of Craven County, NC, and then conveyed by way of deed from Thomas Smith Gen. to John Riggs planter of the County of Onslow.

Beginning at a live oak at the mouth of a small crook to up it N.55 E.194 poles to a gum at a branch side then S.25 E.110 poles to a read oak bush at the crook side then down the crook S.15 W.90 poles to the mouth then along the river side to the first station which aforesaid one hundred and fifty acres of land and premises together with all and singular houses, buildings, etc.

...that at the time of the ensealing and delivering of these presents he the said John Riggs is the true and lawful owner of all the aforesaid bargained premises only excepting 75 acres of the same more or less as will appear by the deed conveyed by me John Riggs to James Magginus and stands lawfully seized in his own proper right of good perfect and un-

⁷⁶ “Re: John Riggs and wife Jemima Melichop N. Carolina?” posted by Rickey Riggs, 9 Dec. 2005, <<http://genforum.genealogy.com/riggs/messages/3200.html>>. Rickey Riggs cites “a book written by Zae Hargett Gwynn giving extracts of wills and deeds of N.C.” Zae Hargett Gwynn has compiled at least nine books of North Carolina record abstracts, but the information came from *Abstracts of the Records of Onslow County, North Carolina, 1734–1850* (the author, 1961), 54, 55, 60, 171.

⁷⁷ Onslow Co., NC, Deed Book C:297–300, FHL 19453. Of the three Onslow County, N.C., deeds for John Riggs that were abstracted in Zae Hargett Gwynn’s *Abstracts of the Records of Onslow County, North Carolina, 1734–1850* (the author, 1961), I could find only this one. The others apparently weren’t microfilmed for the collection at the Family History Library. The filmed deeds were from the books in the county courthouse, which are not the original deeds. They are handwritten copies or recreations of the original deeds, evidently made in the early 1900s. From the introduction to the abstracts, Gwynn was apparently using the original deeds held at the North Carolina State Archives, which weren’t filmed for the FHL collection. The deeds in the county courthouse that were filmed don’t appear to correspond to volume numbers referenced in the abstracts, nor do the filmed ones appear to be chronological or complete.

defeasable estate of inheritance in fee simple having in himself good right and lawful authority to sell and dispose of the same in manner as aforesaid...

North Carolina Onslow County know all men by these presents that I Jemima Riggs lawful wife of the within mentioned John Riggs for and in consideration of the sum of two shillins [sic] and six pence sterling money of Great Brittain to me in hand paid by the within mentioned John Wilkins before the ensembling and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof I the said Jemima Riggs do hereby acknowledge and acquit and discharge the said John Wilkins from every part and parcel thereof do by these presents relinquish all my right of dowry and power of third in to the within mentioned land and premises in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal this 22nd day of April 1751.

her
Jemima E Riggs
mark

John Riggs on the same date acknowledged receiving the sum of sixty pounds from John Wilkins. John signed his name.

There is indirect evidence that this John and Jemima Riggs are the same as the Virginia couple. First, there is a gap in Virginia records for John Riggs between 1743 and 1749, and again between 1751 and mid-1754. If the John Riggs who had land dealings in North Carolina in 1748, 1749, and 1751, is the same as the one from Accomack County, then John must have returned to Virginia, as he was selling land there and was "of Accomack County," in 1754 and 1755. No wife relinquished her dower on the deeds in 1754 and 1755, so Jemimia likely died between April 1751 and 1754.

Second, North Carolina did not require dower releases, but Virginia did. If the buyer were also a Virginia native, and Jemimia was aware of dower laws, which many Virginian women were, then it would stand to reason that the buyer wanted to ensure he had clear title to the land, and Jemima might have been savvy enough to seek the pocket money for the release. Unfortunately, on the land partition made in Accomack County in 1741, there was no need for Jemimia to make her mark, so at present no other records have been found to compare her mark on the North Carolina deed.

Surely, the John Riggs of Accomack who bought 100 acres of land from John and Comfort Henderson in May 1754 was the same John Riggs in Northampton County who, in October 1755, was the defendant of a lawsuit brought by John Henderson. We know John Riggs was residing in Accomack County in September of 1755, as a deed stated that he was "of Accomack County."⁷⁸

There is no doubt that there were two John Riggses in Accomack and Northampton counties prior to the 1740s based on the 1738 petition that said an account of John Riggs was assigned to John Riggs Jr. But we cannot tell from the present information which one of these

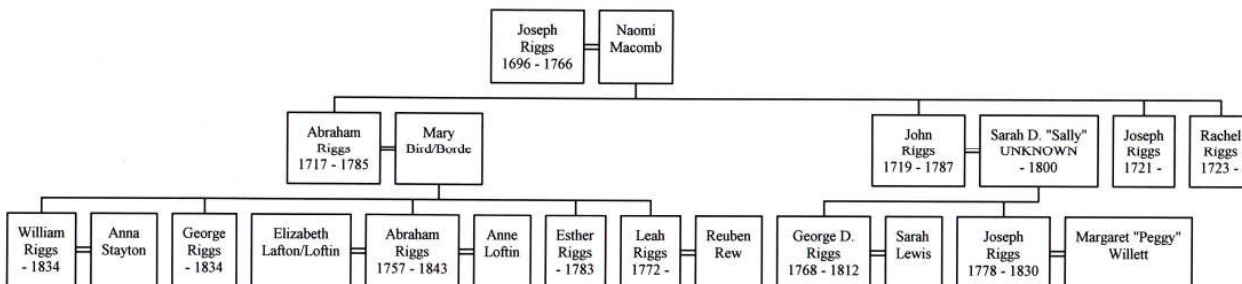
⁷⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 1746–1757, pp. 606–07, FHL 30152; Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties* (Gloucester, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:818.

men was Abraham's son and which one was married to Jemima Melichop. The presumed elder John Riggs could be the son of Abraham, making the younger one, who presumably married Jemima Melichop, actually the grandson of Abraham Riggs.

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GENERATION THREE

Generation Three: Descendants of Joseph Riggs (1696 - 1766)



3. **JOSEPH³ RIGGS** (*Abraham², —¹*) was born say 1696 (based on parents' calculated marriage year) in Accomack County, Virginia; died between 8 June 1766 (will) and 1 October 1766 (probate of will), Accomack County, Virginia.⁷⁹

He married Accomack County, Virginia, **NAOMI MACOMB**,⁸⁰ the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Gray) Macomb.⁸¹

Joseph Riggs may have married (1) **ROSE** —⁸² In July 1728, the Accomack County court recorded the approval of a Joseph and Rose Riggs, who both made their marks, that William Andrews may build a mill joining on their land.⁸³ The mark made by this Joseph does not match the mark made in the will of Joseph Riggs below; however, we do not know Joseph's physical condition when he made his will. He may have been too weak to make the same mark he made in his younger days.

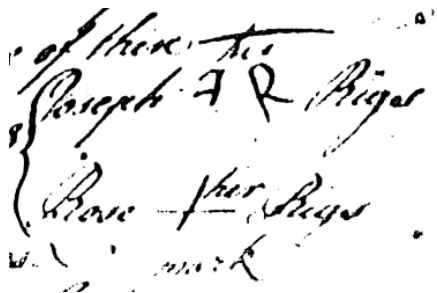
⁷⁹ Accomack County, Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1761–1767, FHL 30005.

⁸⁰ Will of John MacComb, 26 Mar. 1738, proved 27 Mar. 1739, Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1737–1743, p. 139, FHL 30004, photocopy provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. MacComb is spelled variously as Macomb, McComb, Macome, Maccome, Maccomes, etc.

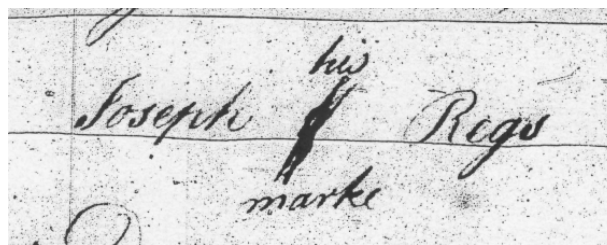
⁸¹ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 10, 47, 55, 67, 68, 91. Elizabeth Gray was the daughter of James Gray, who died between 21 Aug. 1719 (date of will) and 3 Nov. 1719 (probate of will). She m. (2) Richard Hinman and had children: Comfort Mary Hinman, Baly Hinman. Her grandchildren as named in her will of 22 Sept. 1722, proved 5 Feb. 1722, were William Hinman, Naomi Maccome [Riggs], Thomas Hinman, Baly Hinman, Argill Hinman, Richard Hinman, John Maccome, Sarah Hinman.

⁸² Photocopy of an unidentified Accomack County, Virginia, court order sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

⁸³ Photocopy of an unidentified Accomack County, Virginia, court order sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph R Riggs".

July 1728 document

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joseph Riggs" with a large flourish underneath.

Will of Joseph Riggs, 1766

During the period from 1727 to 1766, there appears to be only one Joseph Riggs creating records in Accomack County:

On 29 January 1727, Joseph Riggs was involved in land processioning (survey) in Accomack County, along with Bayly Hinman, Richard Bundick, Jn^o Maccomb, and others.⁸⁴

In July 1728, Joseph and Rose Riggs gave their approval for William Andrews to build a mill, as previously mentioned.⁸⁵

There is a twenty-year gap, then a Joseph Riggs and Joshua Riggs [presumably Joseph's brother] are part of another land processioning in Accomack County on 1 July 1747.⁸⁶

On 9 December 1750, Joshua and Joseph Riggs are the appraisers of the estate of Roger Kirkman, along with Richard Onions and Thomas Webb.⁸⁷

Finally, there is Joseph Riggs's will made 8 June 1766.

Transcript of Joseph Riggs's Will⁸⁸

In the name of God Amen I Joseph Regs [sic] of Accomack County Do appoint this as my Last Will and Testament &c. Item I Give and Bequeath unto my **Son John Regs** my plantation being one Hundred Acres of Land be the Same more or Less to him and his Heirs forever, Item. I Give and Bequeath unto my **son Joseph Regs** one cow and one Bed and Furniture to him & his Heirs forever, Item I Give and Bequeath unto my Son John Regs one Horse to him and his Heirs forever, Item I Give and Bequeath unto my **Daughter Rachel Regs** One New Linnon Wheel to Her and her Heirs forever, Item I Give and Bequeath the Remainder part of my Estate to be Equally Divided among all my children and I Do Ratifie and Confirm this to be my Last Will and Testament, and I do appoint my son John Regs Executor of this my Last will and Testament to see it Duly performed according

⁸⁴ Gail M. Walczyk, *Accomack County Processioners Returns, 1723–1792 for Accomack and St. George's Parish* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 4–5.

⁸⁵ Photocopy of an unidentified Accomack County, Virginia, court order sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

⁸⁶ Gail M. Walczyk, *Accomack County Processioners Returns, 1723–1792 for Accomack and St. George's Parish* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 67–68.

⁸⁷ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 122, FHL 982369, item 5.

⁸⁸ Accomack County, Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1761–1767, FHL 30005.

to the True intent and Meaning of the Same as Witness my hand and seal this 8th Day of June 1766.

Signed Sealed in presence of us
William Young Sen^r
Joshua Reggs
Richard Onions

his
Joseph // Regs
mark

At a Court held and Continued for Accomack County October 1st 1766
The within Last Will and Testament of Joseph Reggs Decd was presented and proved by the Oaths of William Young Sen^r Joshua Reggs and Richard Onions the Witnesses thereto and admitted to Record, **Abraham Reggs Heir at Law** to the Testator being present and having Nothing to Object. And on the Motion of John Reggs the Executor therein Named taking the oath and giving Ralph Justice for his Security who Entered into and acknowledged a Bond for that Purpose a Certificate is Granted him for Obtaining a Probate thereof in Due form.

?? Holden—Clk Cir Acco:

Transcript of John McComb's Will⁸⁹

In the name of God, Amen. I John MackComb being Sick of body but of Sound and perfect Strength of memory thanks be to Almighty God for the Same Do make this my last Will and Testament in manner & Form following. Item I give & bequeath unto **Abraham the Son of Joseph Rigs** my Land & plantation whereon I now live to him and his heirs forever. Item I give and bequeath unto my **Sister Naomi Rigs** my mare to her & her heirs for ever. Item I give and bequeath unto **Mary Hinman**—meaning the widow, my Cow to her & her heirs forever. Item I give and bequeath unto **Sarah Hinman** one young horse one heifer one Bull my flax and Thread linen unmade up and all my Gees[e] and poltry [sic]. Item I give & bequeath unto Mary Hinman all my Dry'd meat both Pork and Beef. Item I give unto Abraham the son of Joseph Rigs my Gun. Item I give and bequeath unto **Bayly Hinman the Son of Baley Hinman** Dec^d my Saddle. Item I give & bequeath unto my **Sister the Wife of Joseph Rigs** after all my Just Debts are paid all the remaining part of my Estate Also I ordain and Appoint, **Joseph Rigs** to be my Executor of this my last Will and Testament. Witness my hand & seal this 26th Day of March 1738.

Test.

James Talman
Jn^o Gilchrist
Southy Rew

John McComb

At a Court held for Accomack County March 6th 1738—the within Last Will and Testament of John McComb Decd was presented in Court by Joseph Rigs the Exter therein named & was proved by the Oaths of John Gilchrist & Southy Rew two of the Witnesses thereto....

⁸⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1737–1743, p. 139, FHL 30004, photocopy also provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

At a Court held for Accomack County March 27th 1739—The within Last Will and Testament was further proved by the Oath of James Talman & Admitted to Record....

In the will of Joseph Riggs, Abraham was not listed in the body of the will as a son. He was listed in the recording section below the will as the “heir at law.” According to *Black’s Law Dictionary*, the heir at law is “He who, after his ancestor dies intestate, has a right to all lands, tenements, and hereditaments which belonged to him or of which he was seised.” *Black’s* also states that “heirs at law shall not be disinherited by conjecture, but only by express words or necessary implication.”

The law of primogeniture was in effect when Joseph made his will in 1766. Primogeniture was “the state of being the first-born among several children of the same parents; seniority by birth in the same family. The superior or exclusive right possessed by the eldest son, and particularly, his right to succeed to the estate of his ancestor, in right of his seniority by birth, to the exclusion of younger sons.”⁹⁰

Although Abraham was not named in the will, we know from the term “heir at law” and from John McComb’s will, where he stated that Abraham was the son of Joseph, that Abraham was not only Joseph’s son, but almost certainly his eldest son.

Usually when a male child was not named in a will it was because he had already received his portion of the estate, and under Virginia inheritance laws at the time, the will did not need to name the wife or eldest son. Their inheritance of real estate was set by law. But in this particular case, I believe that because Abraham inherited land and a plantation through John McComb (his maternal uncle’s will), Abraham’s father considered that his son had already been provided for, so Joseph left his estate to his second son.

John McComb’s will was dated 1738, and given the value of the inheritance to a nephew, Abraham was probably at least eighteen years old by 1738, but more likely at least twenty-one. In eighteenth-century Virginia, twenty-one was the legal age of majority. But, he didn’t have to be of majority to inherit, only to sell land or make his own will.

Other researchers⁹¹ have placed Abraham’s birth as “ca. 1720s,” but I suspect Abraham’s birth may more likely be around 1717. His father Joseph was born probably around 1696 (based on his father’s likely age when he was born), assuming Joseph was at least twenty-one when his son was born. (“In 18th century Virginia there was a legal requirement that a person be of age, that is an adult, he or she must have reached his 21st birthday...[in order to] marry for the first time.... It was rare for a groom in that era to be underage.” [“18th Century Virginia Law,” by John P. Alcock, <http://home.hiwaay.net/~woliver/Virginia_Law.html>.] Furthermore, if you calculate backward from the date of McComb’s 1738 will minus twenty-one years, the 1717 birth year seems even more probable.

⁹⁰ *Black’s Law Dictionary*. See also The Library of Virginia, “Using County and City Court Records,” <www.lva.lib.va.us/WHATWEHAVE/notes/rn6_countycity.pdf>.

⁹¹ For example the compilations of David Harrison Riggs of London, distributed to Riggs descendants and in a variety of postings online.

Other Riggs researchers have assigned John Riggs, Joseph's son to whom he left his land and plantation, as the first son. Under the law of primogeniture at the time, where the first son would inherit his father's estate, this would seem a logical conclusion. But if Abraham was the eldest son and heir at law, he would have been the one to inherit the estate. Again, legally, a will did not have to name the wife or eldest son, as their inheritance of real estate was protected. In this case, however, Joseph left his plantation on 100 acres of land to his son John. No doubt this is why the clerk recorded that Abraham, "Heir at Law to the Testator" had "nothing to object." If Abraham was the eldest son, he was entitled to the property his brother was inheriting. What else could he possibly object to? Not getting the horse or the cow? To avoid a future dispute about the real estate, it would have been important to state that Abraham didn't make any objection to the will.

This birth order fits, too, considering the naming pattern. Joseph's father was named Abraham. Joseph's wife, Naomi McComb's father was named John. In the traditional naming pattern, the first son is named after the paternal grandfather and the second son is named after the maternal grandfather. So unless further research suggests another scenario, I believe the birth order below to be correct.

Children of Joseph³ Riggs [almost certainly by wife Naomi]:⁹²

- 4 i **ABRAHAM⁴ RIGGS**, b. say 1717;⁹³ m. MARY BIRD.
- ii JOHN⁴ RIGGS, b. say 1719; d. bet. 29 Dec. 1787 (will) and 1 May 1788 (probate of will); m. SARAH D. "SALLY" —. She died after 1800, based on her listing in the land tax lists for Accomack Co., Va.

John Riggs appeared in the personal property tax lists for Accomack Co., Va., from 1782 to 1787. In 1782, he was taxed on two males over 21, three horses, and eight cattle; 1783,

⁹² My reason for believing these are children of Joseph by his wife Naomi is based on John McComb's will where John leaves his plantation and property to Joseph's son, Abraham (John's nephew). Naomi was John McComb's sister (as stated in his will), and it seems logical that John would want his land to pass to a blood relative.

In an unpublished compiled genealogy by David Harrison Riggs, he shows children of Joseph and Rose as John, Esther (who m. — Hickman), Susanna (who m. — Onions), Rachel, "unnamed," and Abraham. His documentation is <www.espl.org>, Eastern Shore of Virginia Public Library, but I could not duplicate his search results. If Esther and Susanna were daughters of Joseph, they were not named in their father's will, although both could have died before their father. Mr. Riggs also states that "a marriage to a Rose Unknown if [sic] very doubtful," but there is a document which shows Joseph married to a Rose. Mr. Riggs also shows another marriage for Joseph to a Sarah, who died before 25 Jan. 1774, and that they had a daughter Elizabeth, but without supporting documentation. I could find no evidence of a marriage to a Sarah or a daughter Elizabeth.

Mr. Riggs also shows that Joseph and Rose Riggs's son, Joseph, was the one who married Naomi McComb, but this does not work chronologically. First, John McComb's will of 1738 clearly states that Naomi is his sister and married to Joseph Riggs *who is the father of Abraham*. Second, there's no evidence that Joseph and first wife Rose had a son name Joseph.

⁹³ Under the laws of primogeniture at the time, the eldest son was the heir at law. His birth year is therefore estimated based on the calculated birth year of Joseph, which as yet has no documentation. See Robert Young Clay and J. Christian Kolbe, "Using County and City Court Records," <www.lva.lib.va.us/WHATWEHAVE/notes/rm6_countycity.pdf>.

one male over 21, two horses, five cattle; 1784, one male over 21, one horse, five cattle; 1785, one male over 21, two horses, 1 cattle; 1786, one male over 21, two horses, one cattle; 1787, one male over 21 (himself), two horses. In 1788, John's widow Sally appeared with one male over 16 and two horses.⁹⁴ Sally continued to appear in the Accomack Co., Va., personal property tax lists through 1796, and then disappears in 1797. She was listed variously as Sarah Riggs, Salady Riggs, Sarah D. Riggs, and Sally D. Riggs.⁹⁵

John appeared on the Accomack County land tax rolls in 1782 for 98 acres. There was a gap from 1783 to 1786 where he was not listed, but in 1787, he appeared again for the same land. John was listed annually through 1788. In addition he evidently took over four acres of land from Curtis Rogers in 1788. Starting in 1789, after John died, his widow, Sally D. Riggs paid taxes on the 98 acres and four acres through at least 1800.⁹⁶

In his will, John Riggs said he was "sick and weak in Body but in perfect sense and memory." After his debts were paid, he gave to his loving wife Sarah Riggs "the whole use & benefit of all my land...during her natural life"; to son George Riggs, after Sarah's death, one half of "my land on which my houses and orchards stands"; unto son Joseph Riggs, the other half of land in "like manner as his Brothers [sic] above mentioned[,] the line Betwix my two Sons George and Joseph is to begin at Andrews's Mill Pond at a small Ditch runing [sic] about a North East Course which is to be the line betwixt them [?] it extends about Twenty yards into the woods then turning about East to run about Twenty yards from my Plantation fence [?] it extends about Twenty yards Easterly of the Corner of my fence near a Path way. Then making a square Corner and runing [sic] about North to the old line where Isaac Riggs deceased lived"; to wife Salady [sic] Riggs, black mare, two beds and furniture, and the remaining part of the Estate during her natural life and after her decease to be equally divided between the two sons George and Joseph. Wife Salady Riggs and Henry Fletcher Senior executors. Signed John [his X mark] Riggs, 29 Dec. 1787. Witnessed by William Young, John Fitchett, Parker Paradise. Recorded 1 May 1788.⁹⁷

Children of John⁴ Riggs:

- 1) GEORGE D. RIGGS (George Day Riggs?), b. ca. 1768 (based on first appearance in tax lists and assuming he turned 21 that year); d. bet. 16 Dec. 1812 (will) and 25 Jan. 1813 (probate of will);⁹⁸ m. 30 Oct 1798, Sarah Lewis. She m. (2) 3 March 1817, Accomack Co., Va., Richard Sparrow.⁹⁹

George D. Riggs first appeared on the personal property tax lists in Accomack Co., Va., in 1789, when he owned two horses. In 1790, he paid tax on one male over 21 and two horses. He was taxed in the years 1790–91, gone from the lists from 1792–95, then reappeared in 1797 through 1812:¹⁰⁰

⁹⁴ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, FHL 2024439.

⁹⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a.

⁹⁶ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a.

⁹⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1788–1794, pp. 39–40, FHL 30029.

⁹⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1809–1812, p. 180, FHL 30036; inventory, Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1809–1812, pp. 435–39, FHL 30036.

⁹⁹ Nora Miller Turman, *Marriage Records of Accomack County, Virginia, 1776–1854, Recorded in Bonds, Licenses and Ministers' Returns* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1994), 267.

¹⁰⁰ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, FHL 2024439; Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a.

1797 2 free males, 2 horses
1798 2 free males, 2 horses
1799 1 white male
1800 1 white male, 1 horse
1801–1802 1 white male, 2 horses
1802–1807 1 white male, 3 horses
1809–1812 1 white male, 2 horses

On 8 March 1799, Joseph Riggs [no wife named or signed her release of dower] of Accomack Co. sold “one half of a certain grist and sawmill situated on the head of Guildford” for five shillings to George D. Riggs of Accomack Co.¹⁰¹

Then on 27 Feb. 1808, George D. Rigs [sic] and Sarah his wife of Accomack Co. sold “half a water grist & saw mill with a half an acre of land on each side of said mill which mill is on the head of Guilford creek” in Accomack Co. for £21 6s. 10½ d. to Joseph Rigs [sic] of Accomack Co.¹⁰² Savage Crippen, Executor of George D. Riggs, deceased of Accomack Co. sold on 10 Apr 1813 to the highest bidder (Isaiah Justice Jr.) at public auction 50 acres situated and being near the head waters of Guilford Creek in Accomack Co., bounded on the northwest by Joseph Riggs and on the westward by the lands of Joseph Riggs, and eastward by the lands of William Justice, and on the southward by the lands of Zorobabel [no last name recorded] ..., except for the dower of Sarah Riggs widow of said George D. Riggs and her one third of the premises.¹⁰³

Children named in George D. Riggs’s will: *John B., Augustony, Samuel B.* Wife not named in will; Savage Crippen executor. Witnesses to will: Joseph Riggs, Sally Onions, Leah (her mark) Riggs.¹⁰⁴

- 2) JOSEPH⁵ RIGGS, b. ca. 1778 (based on first appearance in tax lists on 6 Apr. 1799 and assuming he turned 21 that year); d. bet. 5 July 1830 (will) and 26 Oct. 1830 (probate of will);¹⁰⁵ m. (1) ca. 1800 Margaret Willett.

Joseph first appeared on the personal property tax lists of Accomack Co., Va., in 1799, paying one white tithe. He appeared from then to at least 1814:¹⁰⁶

1800–1801 1 white male
1802–1807 1 white male, 1 horse
1809–1810 1 white male
1811 not listed
1812 1 white male
1813–1814 1 white male, 1 horse

On 19 May 1818, Joseph Riggs and Peggy Riggs his wife sold to Crippin Taylor

¹⁰¹ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1800–1804, p. 75, FHL 30051.

¹⁰² Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1807–1810, pp. 106–07, FHL 30053.

¹⁰³ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1812–1815, p. 141, FHL 30054.

¹⁰⁴ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1809–1812, p. 180, FHL 30036; inventory, Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1809–1812, pp. 435–39, FHL 30036.

¹⁰⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, etc., 1828–1845, p. 72, FHL 30045.

¹⁰⁶ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1812–15, p. 141, FHL 30054.

for \$600 four acres of land in Accomack Co. near the head of Guilford Creek bounded on the northwest and northeast by Crippin Taylor, on the southeast and south west by Joseph Riggs.¹⁰⁷ Then on 1 March 1820, Joseph Riggs and Peggy his wife of Accomack Co. sold 25 acres for \$217 [and change, looks like 12½ cents] to Charles Taylor of Accomack Co.¹⁰⁸

On 5 July 1830, Joseph made out his will: "...I Joseph Riggs Senr. of Accomack being weak in body but of a sound mind and memory.... I leave unto my wife Peggy Riggs the House and Lot whereon I now live.... Item I give unto my son Joseph Riggs the houses and lot where I now live...lent to my wife Peggy Riggs.... that after the payment of my just debts and after the death of my wife Peggy Riggs that the balance of my Estate be equally divided amongst my four daughters viz. Rachel, Peggy, Sally, and Nancy...." Appointed his son Joseph his executor. Entered into probate on 26 Oct. 1830.¹⁰⁹

Children: *Joseph*; *Rachel* (m. 21 Dec 1821, Accomack Co., Va., Zadoch Taylor¹¹⁰); *Peggy*; *Sally* (m. 5 Mar 1827, Accomack Co., Va., William White¹¹¹); *Nancy*.

- iii JOSEPH⁴ RIGGS, b. say 1721.
- iv RACHEL⁴ RIGGS, b. say 1723.

Who Was John Riggs Jr.?

A John Riggs first appeared in the personal property tax lists for Accomack County in 1786 and was listed contemporaneously with Joseph⁴ and George D.⁵ Riggs. He was recorded as "John Riggs Jun.," paid a tithe on one male over 21, and tax on one horse. He was not on the lists in 1787, but appeared again in 1788, again paying a tithe on one male over 21 and tax on one horse. In 1789, he owned a slave over age 16, as well. In 1790, he did not report any slaves.

- 1791 1 white tithe, 1 black, 2 horses
- 1792 1 white tithe, 2 horses
- 1793 1 white tithe, 2 horses
- 1794 2 white tithes, 2 horses
- 1795 1 white tithe, 3 horses
- 1796 2 white tithes, 3 horses
- 1797 1 white tithe, 1 black 12–16, 3 horses
- 1798 2 white tithes, 1 black 12–16, 3 horses
- 1799 1 white tithe, 1 black, 2 horses
- 1800 2 white tithes, 1 black, 2 horses
- 1801 1 white tithe, 1 black, 2 horses

¹⁰⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1818–19, p. 129–30, FHL 30056.

¹⁰⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds, 1819–1821, pp. 503–05, FHL 30057.

¹⁰⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, etc., 1828–1845, p. 72, FHL 30045.

¹¹⁰ Nora Miller Turman, *Marriage Records of Accomack County, Virginia, 1776–1854, Recorded in Bonds, Licenses and Ministers' Returns* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1994), 287.

¹¹¹ Nora Miller Turman, *Marriage Records of Accomack County, Virginia, 1776–1854, Recorded in Bonds, Licenses and Ministers' Returns* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1994), 322.

1802 1 white tithe, 1 black, 3 horses

1803 1 white tithe, 3 horses

1804 1 white tithe, 1 black, 3 horses

John disappeared from the personal property rolls after 1804, although in 1811 a John Riggs was taxed on just one white tithe.

Who Was Joshua Riggs?

A Joshua Riggs appeared on the personal property and land tax lists for Accomack County contemporaneously with Abraham⁴ and John⁴ Riggs. In the personal property lists, he was listed from 1782 to 1784, 1786, and from 1791 to 1795. He was taxed on one male tithe over age 21, but with no personal property. In the land tax lists, he appeared in 1786 as taking over two acres of land from Oliver Bell. He was taxed on that land from 1786 to 1796. In some listings he was recorded as "Joshua D. Riggs."¹¹²

A Mary Riggs, daughter of a Joshua Riggs, married 11 July 1806, Accomack County, Virginia, Teackle Gaskins.¹¹³

Other Pre-1800 Riggses in Accomack County, Virginia

At present, there is not enough information about these individuals to properly place them with any of the families studied thus far, although it is clear that some certainly have ties.

Alexander Rigg. At the 13 January 1686/87 Accomack County court, a lawsuit was filed between Mr. James Horny against Alexander Rigg. Rigg was ordered to pay Hornby 16s 10d plus court costs.¹¹⁴

Becky Riggs. On 25 April 1789, she was a witness to the will of Nicholas Shield, along with Robert Nock and Robert Harris.¹¹⁵

Billy Riggs. On 6 September 1790, James Crippin was paid one pound for the care of Billy Riggs.¹¹⁶

¹¹² Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, 1782–1814, FHL 2024439; Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a; Accomack Co., Va., Land Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1.

¹¹³ Sherri H. Lyons, *Accomack County, Virginia, Early Marriage Records, Volume 1, 1735–1799 and Volume 2, 1800–1850* (Nacogdoches, Tex.: Partin Publications, 1996), 2:13.

¹¹⁴ JoAnn Riley McKey, *Accomack County, Virginia, Court Abstracts, 1682–1690, Volume 7* (Bowie, Md.: Heritage Books, 1998), 186.

¹¹⁵ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 295, FHL 599212, item 1.

¹¹⁶ Gail M. Walczyk, *Meetings of the Overseers of the Poor for Accomack & St. Georges Parish, September 1787–1819* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 10.

Charles Riggs. He first appeared in the Accomack County Personal Property Tax Lists in 1794, paying for just one white male over 21. He was also listed in 1795, taxed on one white male over 21, but then disappeared from the rolls.¹¹⁷

Eliza Riggs. In 1790, James Cropper was paid £0.16.00 for keeping Eliza Riggs for eight months.¹¹⁸

James Riggs. On 30 September 1795, James and Mary Riggs were named in the will of Joseph Kelly with no relationship given. They were to receive 20 shillings cash.¹¹⁹

Nancy Riggs. On 28 December 1793 in Accomack County, Nancy Riggs married George Willett.¹²⁰

Sarah Riggs. On 19 May 1771, Sarah Riggs left a will naming her daughter Betty Riggs as her sole legatee. Betty Riggs and Joshua Riggs Sr. were the executors. Witnesses were William Young Sr., Robert Moore, and Thomas Young. Will proved 25 January 1774.¹²¹

Savage Crippin Rigs/Riggs, also known as Samuel C. Taylor. On 12 October 1793, Savage Crippen Rigs was named as a devisee in the will of Daniel Taylor. Savage was Daniel's illegitimate son,¹²² so his mother may have been a Riggs, but the surname Savage is also a common one in Accomack County. Then on 7 October 1813, Samuel C. Taylor alias Riggs was a defendant in a lawsuit brought by Purnell B. Taylor in the Eastern District Court, which stated that Samuel/Savage was the illegitimate son of Daniel Taylor.¹²³

Zorobabel "Babel" Riggs. Between 1790 and 1804 a Zorobabel or Babel Riggs appeared in the Accomack County meeting minutes for overseers of the poor. The following people were listed as giving Zorobabel aid: Peter Hack, Hy Heath, Elisha Mears, Jno Teakle, Geo Ker, David Bowman, and John Teakle Jr. In 1804, Zorobabel was listed in the poor house.¹²⁴

¹¹⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, 1782–1814, FHL 2024439; Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a.

¹¹⁸ Gail M. Walczyk, *Meetings of the Overseers of the Poor for Accomack & St. Georges Parish, September 1787–1819* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 6.

¹¹⁹ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 334, FHL 599212, item 1.

¹²⁰ Sherri H. Lyons, *Accomack County, Virginia, Early Marriage Records, Volume 1, 1735–1799 and Volume 2, 1800–1850* (Nacogdoches, Tex.: Partin Publications, 1996), 1:16.

¹²¹ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1999), 279.

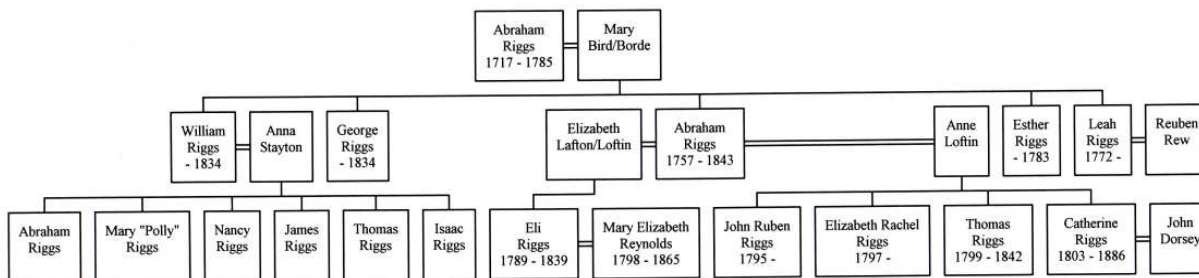
¹²² Gail M. Walczyk, *Eastern Shore District Court, 1797–1805* (Coram, NY: Peter's Row, 2003), 148; Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 309, FHL 599212, item 1.

¹²³ Gail M. Walczyk, *Eastern Shore District Court, 1805–1816* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 148.

¹²⁴ Gail M. Walczyk, *Meetings of the Overseers of the Poor for Accomack & St. Georges Parish, September 1787–1819* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 8, 20, 46, 58, 64, 74, 85, 94, 105.

GENERATION FOUR

Generation Four: Descendants of Abraham Riggs (1717 - 1785)



4. **ABRAHAM⁴ RIGGS** (*Joseph³, Abraham², —¹*) was born say 1717;¹²⁵ died probably before 1 January 1785, when his widow, Mary, appeared on the tax list for that year.¹²⁶

Abraham married **MARY¹²⁷ BORDE/BIRD¹²⁸**, perhaps in Accomack County, between say 1751 and 1757. (Based on children's likely births. If Abraham were born say 1717, he'd be between the ages of 34 and 40 when he married.) Mary may be the daughter of Daniel and Margaret Bird. Daniel Bird left a nuncupative will in March 1751 (probated 29 March 1758), in which he names a daughter Mary, but who apparently is not yet married.¹²⁹ Mary died probably before 1 January 1795, when she disappeared from the land tax lists.¹³⁰

On 11 June 1759 Abraham Riggs, administrator for the estate of Billings Britt, took an inventory of Britt's estate as witnessed by Nath¹ Bird, Rich^d Onions, and Solomon Bird, where it was admitted into the Accomack County court on 30 July 1759.¹³¹

Some researchers think that Mary (Bird) Riggs may have been married previously to Billings Britt, who died ca. 1757–58. Linney Lyles writes, "I've been unable to prove this relationship, and as our Louisiana Abraham Riggs was born ca. 1757, it makes the timeline somewhat

¹²⁵ Given that Abraham Riggs was the heir at law to Joseph Riggs's will and the laws of primogeniture at the time, this places him as the first born son. His birth year is estimated based on the calculated birth year of Joseph, which as yet has no documentation.

¹²⁶ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, FHL 2024439.

¹²⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1784–1787, pp. 165–66, FHL 30028. Photocopy also provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

¹²⁸ Her maiden name is recorded on the baptismal records of her grandchildren: "Hilary" [*sic*—Eli] Rigues, John Ruben Rigues, Elizabeth Rachel Rigues, Thomas Rigues, and Catherine Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcripts provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹²⁹ Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations of Accomack County, Virginia*, 2 vols. (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1931), 2: 82, 194. For the original, see Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1758–1767, pp. 39–41, FHL 30005, and for Daniel Bird's inventory, Accomack Co., Va., Wills, 1752–1757, pp. 5–7, FHL 30005.

¹³⁰ Accomack Co., Va., Land Tax Records, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1.

¹³¹ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1752–1767, p. 146, FHL 30005.

questionable....”¹³² Whitelaw in *Virginia's Eastern Shore* says, “It seems possible that the childless widow of John Maccome had married first Britt and then Riggs.” As well as the chronological problem pointed out by Lyles, John Maccome doesn't appear to have left a widow. He doesn't name a wife in his will, but leaves his plantation to his nephew Abraham Riggs and other items to other relatives. By law, his widow would have been entitled to at least 1/3 of the estate, even if she was not named in the will, but no evidence has surfaced indicating there was a widow.¹³³

Abraham appeared on the personal property tax lists for Accomack County in 1782, 1783, and 1784. In 1782, he was taxed on one male above age 21, one slave, two horses, and nine cattle. The following year, he paid taxes on two males above 21, one slave, one slave over 16, two horses, and ten cattle. In 1784, Abraham paid taxes on two males above 21, two horses, and eleven cattle. He no longer owned slaves.¹³⁴

By 1785, Abraham was no longer on the personal property tax lists, but his widow Mary appeared. She was taxed on one horse and seven cattle. In 1786, she had one male over 21 in her household, two slaves, two horses, and five cattle. She did not appear on the tax rolls for 1787, but in 1788, she was taxed on just one horse. In 1789, she had a male over 21 in the household again, and two horses. In 1790, Mary still had a male over 21 in her household and one horse.¹³⁵ From 1791 through 1792, Mary had no male over 21 in her household, but was taxed on two horses. She disappeared from the tax lists in 1793.¹³⁶

Abraham also appeared on the land tax lists for Accomack beginning in 1782, with 114 acres. Although there was a gap between 1783 and 1785 when he did not appear on the lists, he was listed again after he died in 1786 with the notation, “Abraham Riggs to Mary Riggs” and in 1787, “Mary Riggs for Abraham Riggs.” Mary continued to be listed for the 114 acres through 1794. Then in 1795, “Rubean” Rew, her son-in-law, was listed as paying taxes on the property.¹³⁷

Transcript of Will of Abraham Riggs¹³⁸

In the name of God amen that I Abraham Riggs of Accomack County being sick and weak in body but of a sound memory thanks be to the Almighty God for the same this I do ordain to be my last Will and Testament in manner and form as followeth.

First, Item. I lend unto **my wife Mary Riggs** my land and plantation and all my estate to her till she marries and when she marries to go to my Children as I shall leave it.

Item I give and bequeath unto **my son George Riggs** one shilling sterling and no more of my estate.

Item I give and bequeath unto **my four children named William Riggs, Abraham Riggs, Esther Riggs, and Leah Riggs** all my land and plantations houses orchards

¹³² E-mail from Linney Lyles, 5 Feb. 2007, <llyles1@sbcglobal.net>.

¹³³ Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia's Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, 2 vols. (Glouster, Mass.: Peter Smith, 1968), 2:1189.

¹³⁴ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, FHL 2024439.

¹³⁵ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, FHL 2024439.

¹³⁶ Accomack Co., Va., Personal Property Tax Lists, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1a.

¹³⁷ Accomack Co., Va., Land Tax Records, Library of Virginia Microfilm Reel 1.

¹³⁸ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1784–1787, pp. 165–66, FHL 30028, photocopy provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

and all the rest of my estate after after [sic] my wife Mary Riggs Dowry to them to be equally Divided to them and their lawful heirs forever and my Will and desire is that if either of my four children should die before they have a lawful heir of their body then my Will and desire is that their parts of the lands houses orchards and movables Estate to be equally divided amongst them that I have given to before.

And my Will and desire is that my four children should not Rent Mortgage nor sell any part or parcel of my and houses orchards to any body except one to the other then my Will is that they should forfeit their rights of the same and go to the others. And my Will and desire is that my wife Mary Riggs should be my whole and sole Executrix of my estate whereof I the said Abraham Riggs have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty fourth day of September in the year 1783.

Signed Sealed & Acknowledged
in presence of us
Solomon Johnson, Benjamin Royall
John Fitchett

Abraham his X mark Riggs

At a Court held in Accomack County August 30th 1785

This Will was proved by the oath of Solomon Johnson and Litchfield witnesses thereto and ordered to be recorded (A Citation having issued against William Riggs heir at law to the Testator who failed to appear to Contest the validity of the said Will) and on the motion of Mary Riggs taking oath and giving Joseph Kelly for her security who entered into said Acknowledged a bond for that purpose Certificate is granted her for Obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Exam^d

Litte Savage

On 8 January 1795 in a survey done of the lands of Wm Justise in Accomack County, Virginia, state that Justise's land was bounded "on the N.W. by the lands of the heirs of Abrim Rigs...."¹³⁹

At a court held in Accomack County on 6 September 1790, Mary Riggs was paid £2.10.00 for the care of William Riggs and £1.10.00 for the care of Peggy Riggs.¹⁴⁰ Then a year later, on 5 September 1791 Mary Riggs was paid one pound for keeping Will Boggs.¹⁴¹ In the will of Ralph Justice, dated 31 December 1792, the property where he lived was listed as adjacent to Scarborough Hastings, Mary Riggs, and his own land.¹⁴²

¹³⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Surveyor's Records 2:[8], FHL 30133.

¹⁴⁰ Gail M. Walczyk, *Meetings of the Overseers of the Poor for Accomack & St. Georges Parish, September 1787–1819* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 9, 12.

¹⁴¹ Gail M. Walczyk, *Meetings of the Overseers of the Poor for Accomack & St. Georges Parish, September 1787–1819* (Coram, N.Y.: Peter's Row, 2003), 20.

¹⁴² Stratton Nottingham, *Wills and Administrations, Accomack County, Virginia, 1663–1800* (the author), 322, FHL 599212, item 1.

Children of Abraham⁴ and Mary (Borde/Bird) Riggs (birth order not certain, but William is the eldest son based on Abraham's will above):¹⁴³

- i WILLIAM⁵ RIGGS, m. Nelson Co., Ky., 17 March 1788, ANNA STAYTON.¹⁴⁴ [Presumably he is the same William Riggs who served in the Revolutionary War, serving in Oct. 1777 on the Accomac Galley in the Virginia State Navy. If so, d. intestate by Feb. 1834.¹⁴⁵ Leah Rew and Elizabeth Riggs named as the only heirs at law.¹⁴⁶] Children: *Abraham, Mary "Polly," Nancy, James, Thomas, Isaac.*¹⁴⁷

In Watie Delfa Wright Ellis, *Ancestry of William Henry Wright and Wife Polly Ann Royal and Their Descendants* (San Jose, Calif.: Alpie Systems, 1991), 108, she refers to Leah Rew and Elizabeth Riggs "now Case" as William's sisters. While Leah most certainly was William's sister, there is no evidence thus far to indicate Elizabeth was a sister. No Elizabeth was named in Abraham's will, and Elizabeth cannot be the same as the Esther Riggs below (see argument for her death under her listing). If this Elizabeth/Betsy Riggs, who was an heir at law of William (and George), is the one who married a Major Case on 12 January 1799,¹⁴⁸ then she would not be listed by her maiden name in the 1834–36 documents; she'd be referred to as Elizabeth/Betsy Case.

On 18 December 1795, William Riggs and Reubin Rew requested a survey of the following land: "One Hundred and Twenty three acres of land situate lying and being in the parish and county of Accomack adjoining the Glebe lands and bounded as follows, to wit, On the S.E. by the lands of W^m Justis, on the N.E. & N. by a small branch dividing from the lands of Geo. Hinman, the heirs of Arthur Silverthorn and Jn^o Young and on the S.W. by the afor^d Glebe lands and the lands formerly Hastings's..." No. 1 Ruebin Riggs 40 acres; 2 W^m Rigs 43 acres; R. Rew in the right of his wife Leah 40 acres, Total 123 acres.¹⁴⁹

On 30 January 1796, William Rigs and his wife, Anna, of Washington Co., Ky., sold to Reubin Rew of Accomack Co., Va., for £70, "forty-three acres of land more or less situate lying and being in the parish and county of Accomack and State of Virginia and bounded as follows, to wit on the S.W. by the Glebe lands of Accomack Parish o the South East by the lands of Reuben Rew on the N.E. by the lands of Geo Hinman and at the N.W. by the lands

¹⁴³ Accomack Co., Va., Wills, Deeds, etc., 1784–1787, pp. 165–66, FHL 30028, photocopy provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

¹⁴⁴ Watie Delfa Wright Ellis, *Ancestry of William Henry Wright and Wife Polly Ann Royal and Their Descendants* (San Jose, Calif.: Alpie Systems, 1991), 104.

¹⁴⁵ Stratton Nottingham, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Accomack County, Virginia*, compiled by (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1927), 53.

¹⁴⁶ Stratton Nottingham, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Accomack County, Virginia*, compiled by (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1927), 61. Also see Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, *Revolutionary War Records, Volume I, Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967), 4, 71, 193, 217, 372.

¹⁴⁷ Watie Delfa Wright Ellis, *Ancestry of William Henry Wright and Wife Polly Ann Royal and Their Descendants* (San Jose, Calif.: Alpie Systems, 1991), 107.

¹⁴⁸ Sherri H. Lyons, *Accomack County, Virginia, Early Marriage Records, Volume 1, 1735–1799 and Volume 2, 1800–1850* (Nacogdoches, Tex.: Partin Publications, 1996), 1:4.

¹⁴⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Surveyor's Records, 2:23, FHL 30133.

- of the [unreadable]....” Signed by William Riggs. Witnessed by John Teackle Sen, Richard R. Savage, William Justice, and William James. Recorded 29 February 1796.¹⁵⁰
- ii GEORGE⁵ RIGGS. Presumably he is the same as George B. Riggs who served in the Revolutionary War. If so, d. intestate by Feb. 1834.¹⁵¹ Leah Rew and Betsey Riggs were the only heirs at law.¹⁵²
- 5 iii ABRAHAM⁵ RIGGS, b. 1757, Accomack Co., Va.
- iv ESTHER⁵ RIGGS, d. likely between 1783 when she was named in her father’s will and late 1795 when her brothers, William and Abraham, sell their shares of their father’s property to Leah’s husband, Reuben Rew. The land was equally divided into thirds, indicating that Leah, William, and Abraham were the only surviving heirs (George had been disinherited in Abraham’s will). Thus, Esther must have died by this time and left no heirs. According to Ralph T. Whitelaw, *Virginia’s Eastern Shore: A History of Northampton and Accomack Counties*, 2 vols. (Gloucester, Ma.: Peter Smith Publisher, 1968), 2:1189, after 1795 when Abraham’s will was made, “Esther disappeared and Leah married Reuben Rew.”
- v LEAH⁵ RIGGS, b. say between 1772 and 1782 (if she m. bet. ages 20 and 30); m. 6 Jan. 1792, Accomack Co., Va., Reuben Rew.¹⁵³ On 30 September 1813, a survey was taken of the “twelve acres of land, parcel of the tract whereon Reubin Rew now lives, situate near Guilford in the County afs^d & bounded as follows, to wit, on the S.W by the road leading from Gargaphice to Guilford on the S.E. by certain lands lately sold by the s^d Reuben Rew, to James West on the N.E. by a [treeneck?] dividing from the lands of the heirs of George Hinman decd & on the residue of the lands of the said Reubin Rew....”¹⁵⁴

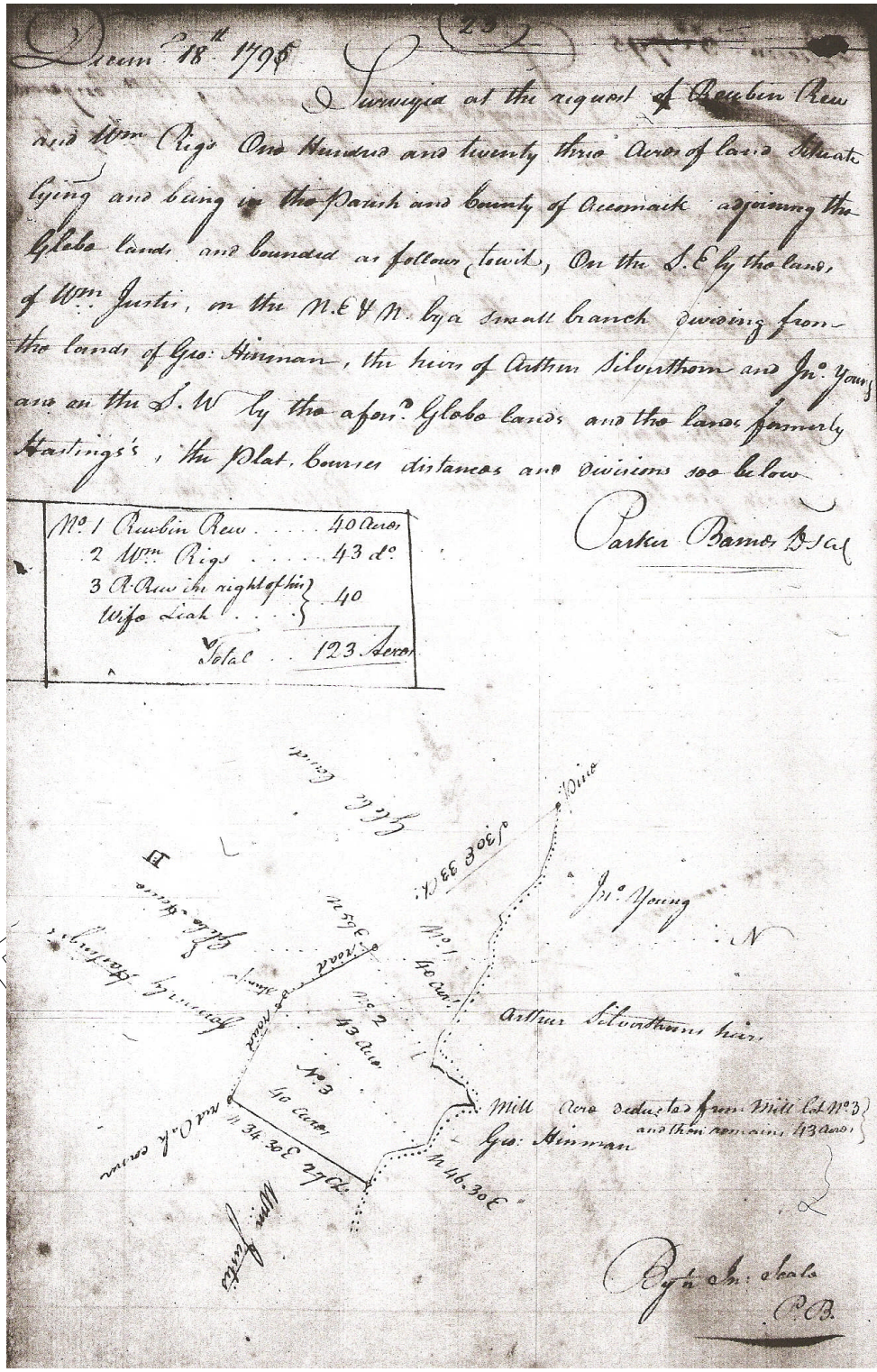
¹⁵⁰ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 8 (1793–1797):359–60, FHL 30049.

¹⁵¹ Stratton Nottingham, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Accomack County, Virginia*, compiled by (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1927), 54. Also see Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, *Revolutionary War Records, Volume I, Virginia* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967), 5, 71, 372.

¹⁵² Stratton Nottingham, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Accomack County, Virginia*, compiled by (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1927), 67.

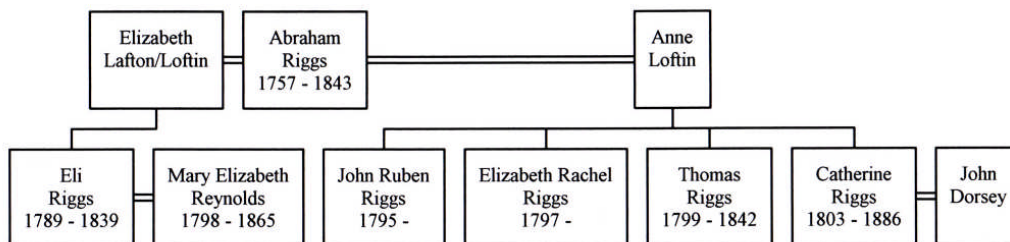
¹⁵³ Sherri H. Lyons, *Accomack County, Virginia, Early Marriage Records, Volume 1, 1735–1799 and Volume 2, 1800–1850* (Nacogdoches, Tex.: Partin Publications, 1996), 1:27.

¹⁵⁴ Accomack Co., Va., Surveyor’s Records 4:120, FHL 30134.



GENERATION FIVE

Generation Five: Children of Abraham Riggs (1757 - 1843)



5. **ABRAHAM⁵ RIGGS** (*Abraham⁴, Joseph³, Abraham², —¹*) was born 1757,¹⁵⁵ Accomack¹⁵⁶ County, Virginia; died 9 August 1843, Iberville Parish, Louisiana; buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana.¹⁵⁷ He moved to Iberia Parish, Louisiana in 1800.¹⁵⁸

Abraham married (1) about 1788 **ELIZABETH LAFTON/LOFTIN/LOUGHTON**, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Blocker) Loftin, and born in South Carolina;¹⁵⁹ married (2) about 1794 **ANNE LOFTIN**, daughter of Thomas and Rachel (—) Loftin of North Carolina, and born in Edgefield County, South Carolina; died in Louisiana.¹⁶⁰

¹⁵⁵ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birthplace, birth and death years: “Virginia 1757—La. 1843.”

¹⁵⁶ Revolutionary War Pension Application of Abraham Riggs, R8814, NARA M804, roll 2047; FHL 972047. Other sources say he was born in Westmoreland County, which seems unlikely: “Genealogy of the Riggs Family,” typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Also, John Beverly Riggs, *The Riggs Family of Maryland* (Baltimore, Md.: Lord Baltimore Press, 1939), 525. Also photocopy of notes written by Rev. Samuel L. Riggs, no date, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

¹⁵⁷ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18. The stone reads, “In Memory of/Abraham Riggs/Virginia 1757—La. 1843/A Veteran of the American Revolution.” Although there is no way to tell from the published abstract the type of marker or when it was likely placed, it must have been placed after the fact, given the words, “In Memory of...” Another marker was placed by the New Iberia Chapter, NSDAR, which reads, “1775 Revolutionary Soldier 1781/Abraham Riggs/Wounded at Brandywine.” See also John Beverly Riggs, *The Riggs Family of Maryland* (Baltimore, Md.: Lord Baltimore Press, 1939), 525, shows Abraham born in Westmoreland Co. 1757, died in Louisiana 1843.

¹⁵⁸ Photocopy of notes written by Rev. Samuel L. Riggs, no date, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

¹⁵⁹ Baptismal record of “Hilary” [*sic*—Eli] Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁶⁰ Baptismal records of John Ruben Rigues, Elizabeth Rachel Rigues, Thomas Rigues, and Catherine Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

Abraham Riges/Rigues had all of his children baptized at St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. The first four children were baptized on 6 November 1802; the last on 14 December 1808. The baptism of his first son, Eli (recorded as "Hilary"), listed his mother as Elizabeth Lofton of South Carolina, daughter of John Lofton and Elizabeth Bloquer. The other children's mother was Anne Loftin of South Carolina, daughter of Thomas and Rachel (—) Lofton of North Carolina. All five baptisms give the paternal grandparents as Abraham and Maria (Borde [Bird]) Rigues of Virginia.¹⁶¹

In Edgefield County, South Carolina, in the 1780s, Abraham Riggs was recoded in deeds there. Abraham witnessed two deeds between James Murehead and Daniel Bird. One was dated 16 February 1787, and the other 17 February 1787. On both deeds, Abraham made his mark.¹⁶² Then on 5 and 6 December 1788, Abraham witnessed another deed, this time between Benjamin Drummon and his wife Ann, and John Oliphant. Abraham made his mark.¹⁶³ On 6 and 7 December 1788, Abraham made his mark as witness to deeds between Benjamin and Ann Drummon and Robert Loftin. The lands bordered on John Oliphant's land.¹⁶⁴

Although Daniel Bird and Robert Lofton were counted on the 1787 Tax Lists for the Ninety-Six District in South Carolina, in the area that was Edgefield County, there was no listing for Abraham Riggs.¹⁶⁵

A deed between William Pitman of Edgefield County and Samuel Stalhaker Sr. of Edgefield County, dated 12 August 1800, mentions seventy-five acres that Pitman is selling to Stalhaker as "all that plantation or tract of land laid out for and granted to Abram Riggs ... bounding by lands held by Samuel Carllidge, John Price and Richard McCary and on the other side by unknown land and whereon the said Samuel Stalhaker now lives...."¹⁶⁶ Then on 5 November 1808, this land is mentioned again in a deed between William Price Jr. to William Price Sr., conveying seventy-five acres of land "laid for and granted to Abram Riggs...a small part taken off the south side by an old survey situated in Edgefield District bounded by lands held by Samuel Catledge, John Price, Richard McCary."¹⁶⁷

There was no Abraham in the 1790 or 1800 online census index for South Carolina. In 1790, there was an Abraham Riggs enumerated in Camden County, North Carolina, however. In his household there was 1 male over age 16, 5 males under 16, 2 females [ages not given], and 2 slaves. If this Abraham is the same man who ended up in Louisiana, then there were at least two more sons born to him. The other three under 16 would be Eli, John, and Thomas. The two females would no doubt be his first wife, Elizabeth, and daughter, Elizabeth.¹⁶⁸ Although there are five Riggs households in the 1800 online census index for Camden County, North Carolina, there

¹⁶¹ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁶² Edgefield Co., S.C., Deeds 3:241-45, FHL 23872.

¹⁶³ Edgefield Co., S.C., Deeds 5:58-68, FHL 23872.

¹⁶⁴ Edgefield Co., S.C., Deeds 19:150-58, FHL 23878.

¹⁶⁵ Brent Holcomb, *Two 1787 Tax Lists, Ninety-Six District, South Carolina* (Clinton, S.C.: the author, 1974), pp. 4 (Bird), 7 (Lofton).

¹⁶⁶ Edgefield Co., S.C., Deeds 19:283-86, FHL 23878.

¹⁶⁷ Edgefield Co., S.C. Deeds 29:266, FHL 23881.

¹⁶⁸ 1790 census, North Carolina, Camden Co.

are no Abrahams as the head of household, nor are there any Abrahams listed in the rest of the state.

On 7 March 1795, Abraham Riggs of Edgefield County, South Carolina, sold to Rueben Rew of Accomack County, Virginia, for £50, “thirty-eight acres of land more or less situate lying and being in the county of Accomack and State of Virginia which land is adjoining the Glebe lands of the parish of Accomack and bounded as follows, to wit On the North and North East by a branch which divides the premises from the Ge^o. Young and George Hinman on the S.E. by the lands of W^m Justice and on the S.W. by the afores^d. Glebe lands....” Abraham Riggs made his X mark. Recorded 30 August 1813.¹⁶⁹ [Note: This is the land he inherited from his father and confirms his identity in Accomack Co., Virginia, and Edgefield County, S.C.]

Abraham has yet to be located in the 1810 or 1820 censuses. A page-by-page search of Attakapas County for both years revealed his neighbor, Frederick Pellerin, and other land holders who held property around Abraham based on the township listing in *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. I, The Attakapas Domesday Book: Land Grants, Claims and Confirmations in the Attakapas District, 1764–1826*, by Glenn R. Conrad, but Abraham was not listed.

On 11 August 1811, Abraham Riggs claimed 640 acres in Attakapas County, Louisiana, along the Teche River, which he acquired from John Bell.¹⁷⁰ He then sold this tract of land for \$200 on 2 September 1811 to John Reeves. This land was “at the upper end of the prairie of Pierre DuBois, containing 640 acres...situated on the eastern bank of the Bayou Tech adjoining the upper line of Frederick Pellerin.” Abraham made his mark.¹⁷¹ Then, John Reeves sold the 640 acres on 2 September 1814, “being a tract certified by the land commissioners to Abraham Riggs, located on the east bank of Bayou Teche,” for \$1500 to Alexander Porter Jr. and Isaac Baldwin.¹⁷²

There was no head of household in the indexes (online and printed) for the 1830 census under the name Abraham Riggs or its spelling variations, but could he be the male age 60–70 in the household of Eli Riggs in 1830? This would place his birth between the years 1760 and 1770. In 1830, Eli Riggs lived in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. His household consisted of the following: 1 male under five (David), 2 males 5–10 (William, John), 1 male 40–50 (Eli), 1 male 60–70 (Eli’s father Abraham?); 2 females 5–10 (Frances, Elizabeth), 1 female 10–15 (Mary), and 1 female 30–40 (Mary Elizabeth).¹⁷³

Abraham was also not located as a head of household in the 1840 census indexes (online and printed), nor was he listed in the column for Revolutionary War pensioners in St. Martin, St. Mary, or Iberville parishes during a page-by-page search.

¹⁶⁹ Accomack Co., Va., Deeds 14 (1812–1815): 218–19, FHL 30054.

¹⁷⁰ *American State Papers, Public Land Series*, 1809–1815, (Washington, D.C.: Gales and Seaton, 1834; reprinted Greenville, S.C.: Southern Historical Press, 1994), 2:837.

¹⁷¹ Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Conveyance Records of Attakapas County, 1804–1818, Volume II, Part I* (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1992), 339, citing St. Mary Parish Conveyances, Apr. 1811–Dec. 1818, #37. Photocopy of original deed sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

¹⁷² Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. II, Part I, Conveyance Records of Attakapas County, 1804–1818* (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1992), 174, citing St. Mary Parish Conveyances, Apr. 1811–Dec. 1818, #132 [sic].

¹⁷³ 1830 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, p. 116.

Abraham's Revolutionary War Service

According to "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," a typed, undocumented manuscript by an unknown author, Abraham's "place of residence during Revolution was Virginia. He served in the American Revolution from 1775–1781. Wounded in the Battle of Brandywine in 1777. Refused a pension. Removed from Virginia to Edenton District, Camden County, North Carolina in 1781.... Remained in North Carolina until 1800. Married in 1781...to Elizabeth Byrd of Virginia (Born 1765. Died North Carolina in 1795) Abraham Riggs came to Iberville Parish in 1800. Died in Iberville Parish on 9 August 1843. Buried in Rose Hill Cemetery in New Iberia, Louisiana.... Abraham Riggs served as private on three tours: 1st under Captain Gilcrean, 2nd under Captain Levin, 3rd under Captain Thomas Parker. In each tour he was marched out and joined the main army under General Washington. This company in every instance in that division commanded by General Lafayette. He was also in the skirmish of Wellington...."¹⁷⁴

The grave marker at Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana, has the following inscription:

RIGGS
In Memory of
Abraham Riggs
Virginia 1757 Louisiana 1843
A Veteran of the American Revolution
Eli Riggs
North Carolina 1788 Louisiana 1839
Mary Reynolds Riggs
Pennsylvania 1798 Louisiana 1865¹⁷⁵

This marker had to have been placed long after Abraham, Eli, and Mary died. It's a granite marker, and granite was not in use for grave markers until the 1880s.¹⁷⁶

Also placed on the grave is a marker placed by the New Iberia Chapter, DAR, in 1926, stating that Abraham Riggs was a Revolutionary War soldier, who was wounded at Brandywine.

"A monument to his [Abraham's] memory was erected by his descendant, Mary Eleanor Riggs of New Orleans. It was unveiled by the Daughters of the American Revolution in New Iberia on November 1, 1926."¹⁷⁷

From a letter dated 30 November 1995 from Harry LaSalle to "Cousin David": "The best I can give you on Abraham is this: on 19 April 1835 he applied for a Revolutionary War Veteran

¹⁷⁴ "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

¹⁷⁵ Photographs in the files of Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

¹⁷⁶ Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, *Your Guide to Cemetery Research* (Cincinnati: Betterway Books, 2002), 101–102.

¹⁷⁷ Glenn R. Conrad, *New Iberia: Essays on the Town and Its People* (Lafayette, La.: Center for Louisiana Studies, University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1986), 514, photocopy provided by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

bonus—which incidentally was denied because he could not prove his service—in which he stated that he was born in Accomack County. He also stated that he had served three nine month tours under three different officers. (1) Gilcrease; (2) Levin Leagle; (3) Thomas Parker. Of the three only the name of Thomas Parker appears in ‘Virginia Soldiers of the American Revolution.’ However, on pg. 79 appears George Gilchrist and on pg. 80 Severn Teagle, all three captains and all three from Accomack Co. I’m sure Abraham served under these three officers and the error in their names was the result of faded memory because of passing years. (I have a photocopy of his bonus application)....”¹⁷⁸



Rosehill Cemetery
New Iberia, Louisiana

¹⁷⁸ Harry LaSalle, 6692 Bonnie View Dr., San Diego, CA 92119, to David Dale Martin, 604 Meadow Brook Ave., Blomington, IN 47401. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.



Rosehill Cemetery
New Iberia, Louisiana

Transcription of Abraham Riggs's Revolutionary War Pension Application¹⁷⁹

United States of America
Parish of St. Marys [?]

State of Louisiana

Be it known that before me John Moore Parish Judge and Judge of the Parish Court of the sd Parish of St Mary's personally appeared Abraham Riggs a resident of the parish & State aforesd at the house of Mr. John D. Wilkins, in sd Parish & State (he the sd Riggs being unable from age & bodily infirmity to attend Court) who being duly sworn according to law, doth on his oath make the following declaration, in order to obtain the benefit of the act of Congress passed June 7th 1832.

That he entered the service of the United Sates and served under the following named officers, as herein after stated—

1st He was born in the County of Accomack Virginia

2nd He is now about eighty five six years of age. He does not recollect his birth day. His age is set down in his fathers Bible which is he expects yet in Virginia. He recalls it principally from recollection.

3d He was three times drafted from sd County of Accomack in to the Continental line of the Virginia troops on tours of nine months each. The first tour he was commanded by Capt. Gilcrease of sd County. The second by Capt. Levin Teagle, the third, by Capt. Thomas Parker. After being drafted his unit [?] rendezvoused at Accomack Court House Va and was immediately thereafter in each of his several tours marched out & joined the main army under the command of Gen. Washington. The companies to which

¹⁷⁹ Revolutionary War Pension Application of Abraham Riggs, R8814, NARA M804, roll 2047; FHL 972047.

he belonged in every instance in that division of the army commanded by Gen. LaFayette. He does not remember whether there was any Colonel that exercised an immediate command over him. He was engaged in the battle of Brandywine in which he was wounded and which and [??] William Rickman and two cousins Richard [Ingous?] and William [Ingous?] were killed. He was also engaged in a skirmish at Wilmington. He is utterly unstable from loss of memory to fix the times when his several tours commenced or ended. Capt Justice commanded a company from the adjoining county of Northampton. He can not recollect the names of any other of the officers engaged in the army with him— He received discharges from his Capts on the expiration of his several tours— They have been lost, not believing they would be of value to him he took but little care of them.

He states that Mr. John D. Wilkens, John Marsh, Doct Leonard J. Smith &c &c are persons to whom he is known in his present neighborhood and who can state his reputation for veracity—

His residence is in Attakapas County, Louisiana where he has lived for 34 years past. He hereby relinquishes all claims to a pension [?] the present and declares that his name is not on the pension roll of the agency of any state. He furthermore declares that he never received any commutation for his services as aforesd.

He would further state that by reason of old age and the consequent loss of memory he is unable to state the particulars of his service, the names of his officers & the commencement & termination of his tours, but that to the best of his recollection he served three tours of nine months each and for such service he claims a pension.

He is not known to any ministers of the Gospel whose certificate he can procure.
Sworn & Subscribed to before me this ninth day of April A.D. 1835

John Moore
Parish Judge
Parish of St. Mary

Abraham his X mark Riggs

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Mary

I John Moore Parish Judge and Judge of the Parish Court in and for the said Parish of St. Mary Do hereby declare that in my opinion the above named applicant Abraham Riggs was a Revolutionary Soldier and Served as he stated. I do further certify that I have been acquainted with the said Abraham Riggs for the last thirty years, that he has the reputation of a man of veracity and that his declarations under oath are and ought to be received with our [?]. In testimony whereof I have granted these presents under my Signature and Seal of Office this Ninth day of April Anno Domini 1835 and 59th year after Independence of these United States of America.

John Moore
Parish Judge

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Mary

I Seth Lewis Jr. clerk of the District and Parish Courts in & for the Parish of St. Mary do hereby certify that John Moore whose signature appears at the foot of the foregoing certificate is truly the Parish Judge and Judge of the Parish Court in and for the Parish of St. Mary and that due faith and credence in and ought to be given to all his official acts as such and that the foregoing application has been duly entered on the minutes of the Parish Court.

Given under my hand and seal of said Courts this 9th day of April eighteen hundred and thirty-five.

Seth Lewis Jr.
Clerk

On 27 April 1835, John Moore wrote a letter to the pension office on behalf of Abraham:

I am requested to transmit to you the enclosed application of Abraham Riggs to be placed on the pension list as a Revolutionary Soldier. Your immediate attention is most respectfully solicited to the Subject as you will perceive from the testimony that the applicant is very old & poor and unless relief is granted soon he will not live to receive the bounty intended by Congress to be extended to such persons. Should there be any [??] in the application be pleased to state wherein that it may be rectified.

Be pleased to address to this place to your obedient servant.

John Moore

On 23 May 1835, the War Department Pension Office responded:

Sir

The declaration of Abraham Riggs has been extended and filed with suspended cases in this office. Our records afford no evidence of his alleged service in the Virginia line nor has the applicant statement given with such precision as to the period of service or the regiments to which he belonged or the service performed by him as to enable the Dept. to arrive at a correct decision in his case. If he was present at the battle of Brandywine it is probable that he served under one engagement in a regiment belonging to the continental establishment. It is doubtful whether all his service was as a regular soldier. The militia were not drafted to serve as long as nine months as alleged. Unless a more particular statement of the applicant's services be exhibited and a satisfactory reason be given why he did not long since apply for a pension under the Act of March 18, 1818, a favorable decision cannot be expected, such proof of service should also be exhibited as is required in note J the enclosed printed sheet.

[To] John Moore, Esq.
Franklin
St. Mary
Louisiana

Included in the pension file are letters asking for verification of Abraham Riggs' Revolutionary War service from Katharine de V. Craig, State Chairman for the Louisiana Daughters of the American Revolution, dated 12 January 1926; C. Robert Churchill, President Louisiana Soci-

ety Sons of the American Revolution, dated 24 November 1926; and Mrs. C.W. Outhwaite, Regent, New Iberia Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, dated 8 December 1926. Winfield Scott, Commissioner, Rev. and 1818 Wars Section, responded on 21 December 1926 to Mrs. C.W. Outhwaite, New Iberia, La.:¹⁸⁰

I have to advise you from the papers in the Revolutionary War pension claim R.8814, it appears that Abraham Riggs applied for a pension, 9 April 1835, while residing in St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana, aged eighty-six years, and alleged that he served three tours of nine months each under Captains Gilorease, Levin Teagle, and Thomas Parker, in the Virginia Troops, and was wounded in the battle of Brandywine. No dates of service given.

He was called upon to furnish further proof of his services, which he failed to do.

It also appears in said claim that Abraham Riggs was born in Acomac [sic] County, Virginia, date not stated, and that he served from that county.

There is no family data on file.

In trying to substantiate Abraham's war service claim, I checked the following sources:

- Abraham was listed in *Rejected or Suspended Applications for Revolutionary War Pensions* (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1969; originally published Washington, D.C.: 1852) under the state of Louisiana (page 336): Riggs, Abraham, resided in Franklin, St. Mary's Parish, Louisiana, application suspended for "further proof and specification."
- *Abstracts of Revolutionary War Pension Files*, by Virgil D. White (compiled from the originals on microfilm). Abraham was listed as being rejected.
- *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*, by Virgil D. White. No listing.
- *Revolutionary War Records, Volume 1, Virginia*, by Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967). No listing.
- In *Virginia Soldiers of 1776*, 3 vols., by Louis A. Burgess (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973; volumes I and II originally published Richmond, Va.: 1927; volume III, 1929), I found entries for Capt. George Gilchrist (I:79, 126-27); George B. Riggs, Seaman (I:362-63); William Riggs, Seaman (II:868); and Thomas Parker (III:1028).

I requested and received copies of the DAR application papers for Miss Eleanor E. Riggs, Spirit of '76 Chapter, National #223355 (see below), as well as the application for Mary Charleville Robertson of Crowley, Louisiana, Acadia Chapter, National #666575, the last woman to be approved using Abraham Riggs on 26 August 1982, and who had provided documentation, although it gave no new information.¹⁸¹

Eleanor Riggs was the one who erected the monument to Abraham Riggs in the cemetery. She joined in 1926 and cited the following as Abraham's proof of service:

¹⁸⁰ Revolutionary War Pension Application of Abraham Riggs, R8814, NARA M804, roll 2047; FHL 972047.

¹⁸¹ According to the Office of the Registrar General, as of 13 March 2007, "Future applicants must prove correct service" of Abraham Riggs.

Abraham Riggs served in the American Revolution from 1775 to 1781
Wounded in the battle of Brandywine 1777

Refused a pension

Removed from Virginia to North Carolina 1781

Remained in the Carolinas from 1781 to 1800

My father resided in the home of the said Abraham Riggs home [sic] for twenty-three years and was personally informed as to his grandfather's (Abraham Riggs') record in the War of the American Revolution

The dates given in this [application] paper are based on records in the family Bible, now in the possession of Rev. Samuel Leonard Riggs, Mooringsport, Louisiana, and on records in the Virginia and North Carolina annals.

Eleanor then goes on to give this lineage from the Bible, which is incorrect:

Eli, son of Abraham and Elizabeth (Byrd/Bird) Riggs [incorrect; her name was Elizabeth Loftin]

Abraham, son of Robert Riggs [incorrect; Abraham was the son of Abraham and Mary Bird]

Robert, son of John Riggs II [incorrect]

John Riggs II, son of John Riggs I [incorrect]

Where Eleanor Riggs came up with this lineage is a mystery, but it's clear that the Bible she was referring to is the one that is now in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs.

A critical clue offered in Abraham's pension application that could help verify his service was the mention of the three soldiers killed in a battle that Abraham was also in: "He [Abraham] was engaged in the battle of Brandywine in which he was wounded and which and where William Rickman and two cousins Richard [Ingous?] and William [Ingous?] were killed."

The Battle of Brandywine was fought on 11 September 1777. If these men's service records could be located, then it might serve as indirect proof that Abraham was where he said he was during the Revolution. *Known Military Dead During the American Revolutionary War, 1775–1783*, by Clarence Scott Peterson (Baltimore, Md.: the author, 1959), does not list any of these three men. I also checked for these three men in Virgil D. White's *Index to Revolutionary War Service Records*. There were no men named "Ingous," and in checking variant spellings, such as Ingals, Ingles, Ingols, Inglish, Ingram, etc., I could find no Richard and William with the same surname. There were two William Rickmans listed: one was the director of a hospital in Virginia, so it is doubtful he would have been at the Battle of Brandywine; the other was a Director of Miscellaneous Services.

In *Historical Register of Virginians in the Revolution, Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, 1775–1783*, by John H. Gwathmey (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973; originally published in Richmond, 1938), Gwathmey compiled this information from the files of the War and Navy Departments, the Virginia State Archives and Land Office, county court order books of the period, and "a few early and accredited histories and miscellaneous documents." There was no Abraham Rigg/Riggs listed. I found the William Rickman who was the director of a hospital in Virginia, and he retired from the military 1 October 1780, so was clearly not the man killed at Brandywine.

No other William Rickman was listed, and there were no Richard and William Ingous (or variant spellings) listed.

In *Virginia Soldiers of the American Revolution*, 2 vols., compiled by Hamilton J. Eckenrode (Richmond: Virginia State Library and Archives, 1989), there also was no Abraham Rigg/Riggs listed. There were two William Rickmans: one was the surgeon already identified above, the other was listed as "Rickman, William, War 4, 60," which means "a collection of MS. volumes bearing on the military establishment of the State during and after the Revolution." These volumes covering the Virginia state militia would be housed at the State Library of Virginia, and I did not pursue this further.

I also searched for the names of the captains Abraham mentions in his pension application: Capt. Gilcrease, Capt. Levin Teagle, and Capt. Thomas Parker. Although not indexed, *Revolutionary Soldiers and Sailors from Accomack County, Virginia*, compiled by Stratton Nottingham (Onancock, Va.: the author, 1927), I scanned each page for mention of Abraham or the men he mentions in his pension application. I found a few references to a Capt. Teagle/Teackle, and several references to a Capt. Thomas Parker and a Capt. George Gilchrist. Several men in Accomack County claimed service under Capt. Thomas Parker, which gave me the regiment he commanded (11th Virginia Regiment) and who his commanding officer was, Colonel Arthur (or Archibald) Campbell.

In *A List of Non-Commissioned Officers and Soldiers of the Virginia Line of the Continental Establishment* (Richmond, Va.: Samuel Shepherd, Printer to the Commonwealth, 1835), I found a Jacob Riggs, soldier, serving in the infantry; and a James Riggs, soldier, infantry. In the second half of this volume which listed seamen and marines, I found only Joseph Riggs, soldier, infantry. The lists were names found "on the army register, and who have not received bounty land for their services in the war of the revolution. It is believed that this list, and that which was lately reported, of the non-commissioned officers and soldiers of the state line, &c. are as nearly correct as the imperfect state of the public records would admit to their being made."

Looking through *Virginia Lineages of Revolutionary War Regiments*, by John W. Lynn (Grand Junction, Colo.: Lynn Research, 1986), I found details of the 11th Virginia Regiment, but according to this source, this regiment never fought at the Battle of Brandywine. In fact, in looking at all of the Virginia regiments' engagements, none of them fought at the Battle of Brandywine, nor did any of them engage in a battle at Wilmington, as Abraham reported in his pension application.

I searched the index for the Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775–1783 on microfilm (FHL 830280; National Archives publication M246). This index covered muster rolls of only commanding officers for each regiment.

The Special Index to Numbered Records in the War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, 1775–1785 (FHL 1292792; National Archives publication M847, roll 29), is an index that contains the names of all individuals listed in three sets of records: miscellaneous letters, pay receipts, enlistment papers, supply returns, orders, and many other documents not abstracted when the service records were compiled; a collection of Virginia state records photocopied by the federal government; and numbered record books. I did not find Abraham Riggs listed.

Checking the Compiled Service Records of Soldiers Who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War for Virginia, 11th Regiment, I also did not find any listing for Abraham Riggs (FHL 1486351 and 1486353; National Archives publication M881, rolls 1071 and 1073).

Although Abraham Riggs may have served in the American Revolution, I have not been able to find any concrete evidence to substantiate his claim.

Child of Abraham⁵ and Elizabeth (Lofton) Riggs:¹⁸²

- 6 i **ELI⁶ RIGGS**, b. 29 September 1789¹⁸³, North Carolina¹⁸⁴ (South Carolina?); bpt. 6 Nov. 1802, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, La.¹⁸⁵

Children of Abraham⁵ and Anne (Lofton) Riggs:¹⁸⁶

- ii JOHN⁶ RUBEN RIGGS, b. May 1795;¹⁸⁷ bpt. 6 Nov. 1802, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, La.¹⁸⁸
- iii ELIZABETH RACHEL⁶ RIGGS, b. 7 September 1797;¹⁸⁹ bpt. 6 Nov. 1802, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, La.¹⁹⁰
- iv THOMAS⁶ RIGGS, b. March 1799;¹⁹¹ bpt. 6 Nov. 1802, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, La.;¹⁹² d. intestate, unm. and without issue by 1 Nov. 1842, St. Martin Parish, La., when his estate was entered into probate.¹⁹³ John Mitcheltree, husband of Thomas's niece, Elizabeth Riggs, petitioned the court to enter Thomas's estate into probate and that he be made administrator. "That Thomas Riggs, late of the parish of St. Martin, departed this life, leaving a father, a sister, nephews and nieces...." In the inventory, along with

¹⁸² Baptismal record of "Hilary" ~~Tsic~~ Eli Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸³ Baptismal records of all five children, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸⁴ Photocopy of notes written by Rev. Samuel L. Riggs, no date, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

¹⁸⁵ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸⁶ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸⁷ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸⁸ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁸⁹ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁹⁰ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁹¹ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁹² Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁹³ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

personal property, his land holding was “a tract of land situated in this parish containing eighty superficial acres, bounded south by David Norris and north, east and west by public lands together with the dwelling house, fences and other improvements...,” valued at \$550. The total appraised value of his estate was \$1,381. The minor heirs having an interest in the estate were David Riggs, Samuel Riggs, Catherine Riggs, Robert Riggs, and Joseph Riggs; Mary Riggs signed on their behalf. On 21 Nov. 1842, a meeting was held after the inventory had been submitted to the court [see St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1F:152–54 for the inventory]. At that time, the meeting consisted of Thomas’s “friends (there being no relations present in this parish).”¹⁹⁴

- v CATHERINE⁶ RIGGS, b. 31 May 1803, St. Martinville Parish, La.;¹⁹⁵ bpt. 14 Dec. 1808, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, La.¹⁹⁶; d. Feb. 1886, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La.; m. abt. 1824, John Dorsey, son of Mathurin and Gamime (Kambel) Dorsey.¹⁹⁷ On 2 November 1824, John Dorsey and Eli Riggs, both of St. Martin Parish, signed a bond of \$1,000, “the condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bounded John Dorsey has this day obtained from the Judge aforesaid a license to have the Bounds of matrimony celebrated between him the said John Dorsey and Catherine Riggs.”¹⁹⁸ Children: 1. *Henry Jules Dorsey*, b. 9 Sept. 1825, d. 1864, St. Martin Parish, La.; 2. *Ann Dorsey*, b. 1826, d. 1929; 3. *Mary Dorsey*, b. 1827, New Iberia, La., d. before 1886, New Iberia, La.; 4. *Ameline Dorsey*, b. before 1833; 5. *John Dorsey*, b. before 1833.¹⁹⁹

¹⁹⁴ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252. The inventory is recorded in St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1F:152–54, FHL 1314402.

¹⁹⁵ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

¹⁹⁶ Baptismal records, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

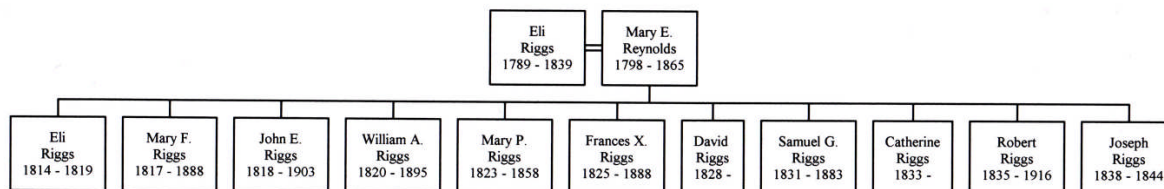
¹⁹⁷ “Descendants of Abraham Riggs,” compiled by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex. No sources cited.

¹⁹⁸ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1:312–13, FHL 1314400.

¹⁹⁹ “Descendants of Abraham Riggs,” compiled by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex. No sources cited.

Generation Six

Generation Six: Children of Eli Riggs (1789 - 1839)



6. **ELI⁶ RIGGS** (*Abraham⁵, Abraham⁴, Joseph³, Abraham², —¹*) was born 29 September 1789,²⁰⁰ North Carolina (possibly South Carolina?); baptized 6 November 1808, St. Martin de Tours Church, St. Martinville, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana;²⁰¹ died intestate, 8 September 1839²⁰² (9 August 1839²⁰³), St. Martin Parish, Louisiana,²⁰⁴ possibly in a yellow fever epidemic in the area,²⁰⁵ buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana.²⁰⁶

²⁰⁰ Baptismal record of "Hilary" [*sic*—Eli] Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex. The following family sources give his birth date at 9 Aug. 1788: "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown [possibly Yvonne Partee?]. Also "Genealogical Chart of the Riggs Family," eight typescript pages, prepared by Yvonne Partee with the following note, "From the records contained in the Family Bible, now in possession of Reverend Samuel L. Riggs, Shreveport, Louisiana, and data received from members of the Riggs Family, I am grateful to have had a part in compiling and typing the genealogical data, and to present it to Uncle Sam on his Eighty Birthday, May 3, 1952." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁰¹ Baptismal record of "Hilary" [*sic*—Eli] Rigues, St. Martin de Tours Church, P.O. Drawer 10, St. Martinville, La., 70582-0010, photocopy of Certificate of Baptism transcript provided by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex.

²⁰² *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Feliciana Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birthplace, birth and death years: "North Carolina 1788–1839."

²⁰³ "Descendants of Abraham Riggs," compiled by Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex. No sources cited. "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. This appears to be another typo.

²⁰⁴ Place of death from St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #899, FHL 13121150.

²⁰⁵ "In September 1839 New Iberians experienced their first bout with yellow fever. The epidemic spread up and down the Teche. Almost every family counted at least one victim of the scourge with others greatly debilitated by it. During the epidemic, a black woman named Félicité, a native of Santo Domingo, apparently immune to the virus, worked day and night nursing the sick, comforting the dying, and arranging for burial of the dead. Today, a marker stands before City Hall attesting to the heroism of this angel of mercy in a time of pestilence." Iberia Parish History and Information, <www.mylouisianagenealogy.com/la_county/iba.htm>.

²⁰⁶ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Feliciana Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birthplace, birth and death years: "North Carolina 1788–1839."

He married in St. Martin's Parish, Louisiana, 11 February 1812 **MARY ELIZABETH REYNOLDS**,²⁰⁷ daughter of Samuel and Margaret (Teeple) Reynolds.²⁰⁸ Mary was born 14 March 1798,²⁰⁹ Northumberland County, Pennsylvania;²¹⁰ died intestate, 11 February 1865, (New Iberia?²¹¹) St. Martin Parish, Louisiana;²¹² buried Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana.²¹³ (Mary's mother, Margaret Reynolds, married (2) Oliver Ormsby, and they separated by 1 May 1820.²¹⁴)

A family Bible, currently in the possession of Leonard Riggs Jr., M.D., of Dallas Texas, records Eli's family data, but not his lineage. Dr. Riggs writes, "The two pages (with four sides) are definitely from that bible. The pages are loose but the holes in the spine match the rest of the bible perfectly. I suppose that it's possible that there are missing pages, but we'll never know. I looked through almost every page and, at the beginning of the New Testament, Eli Riggs signed his name on a blank page. I suppose that it is his bible. There is no date, but on reading the first page by the publisher, it seems that it was printed at least *after* 1790 and the text makes it sound like it was printed that year. Of course that is only two years after Eli was born, but someone could still have given it to him. Another curious thing is that the handwriting looks very much the same all the way into deaths in the 1860's.... It looks as if someone may have filled it in later. That could explain why the dates of birth of Eli are unknown at first and filled in later."²¹⁵

²⁰⁷ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

²⁰⁸ "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

²⁰⁹ Rev. Donald J. Hebert, *Southwest Louisiana Records: Church and Civil Records of Settlers 1756–1810* (Eunice, La.: the author, 1974), 475; *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birthplace, birth and death years: "Pennsylvania 1798/Louisiana 1865." Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²¹⁰ "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

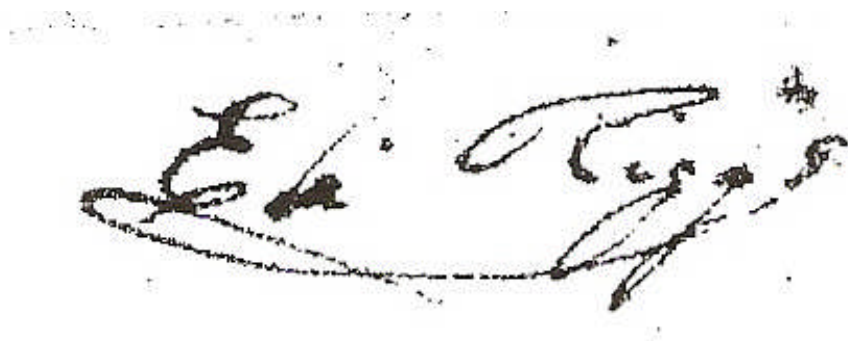
²¹¹ "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

²¹² *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birthplace, birth and death years: "Pennsylvania 1798/Louisiana 1865." Month and year of death plus place of death from St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859. "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

²¹³ "Descendants of John Reynolds," by Rachel Grace, <hgrace5366@aol.com>, received 9 Feb. 2007.

²¹⁴ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B½:47, FHL 1314401.

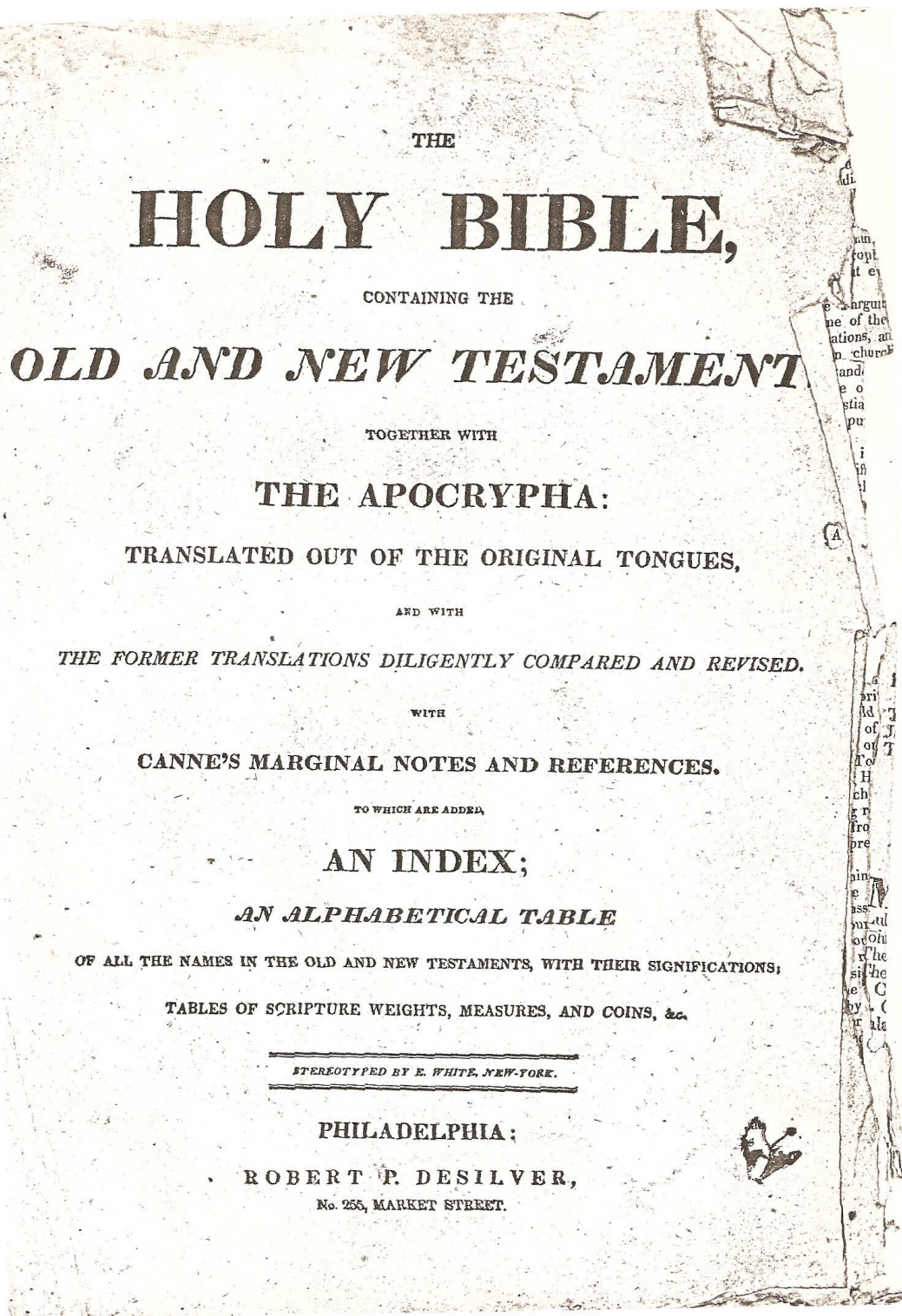
²¹⁵ E-mail to Sharon DeBartolo Carmack, 10 June 2007.



Signature in Riggs Family Bible
Eli consistently made his mark on deeds, so is this Eli's signature in the Bible?

For Personal

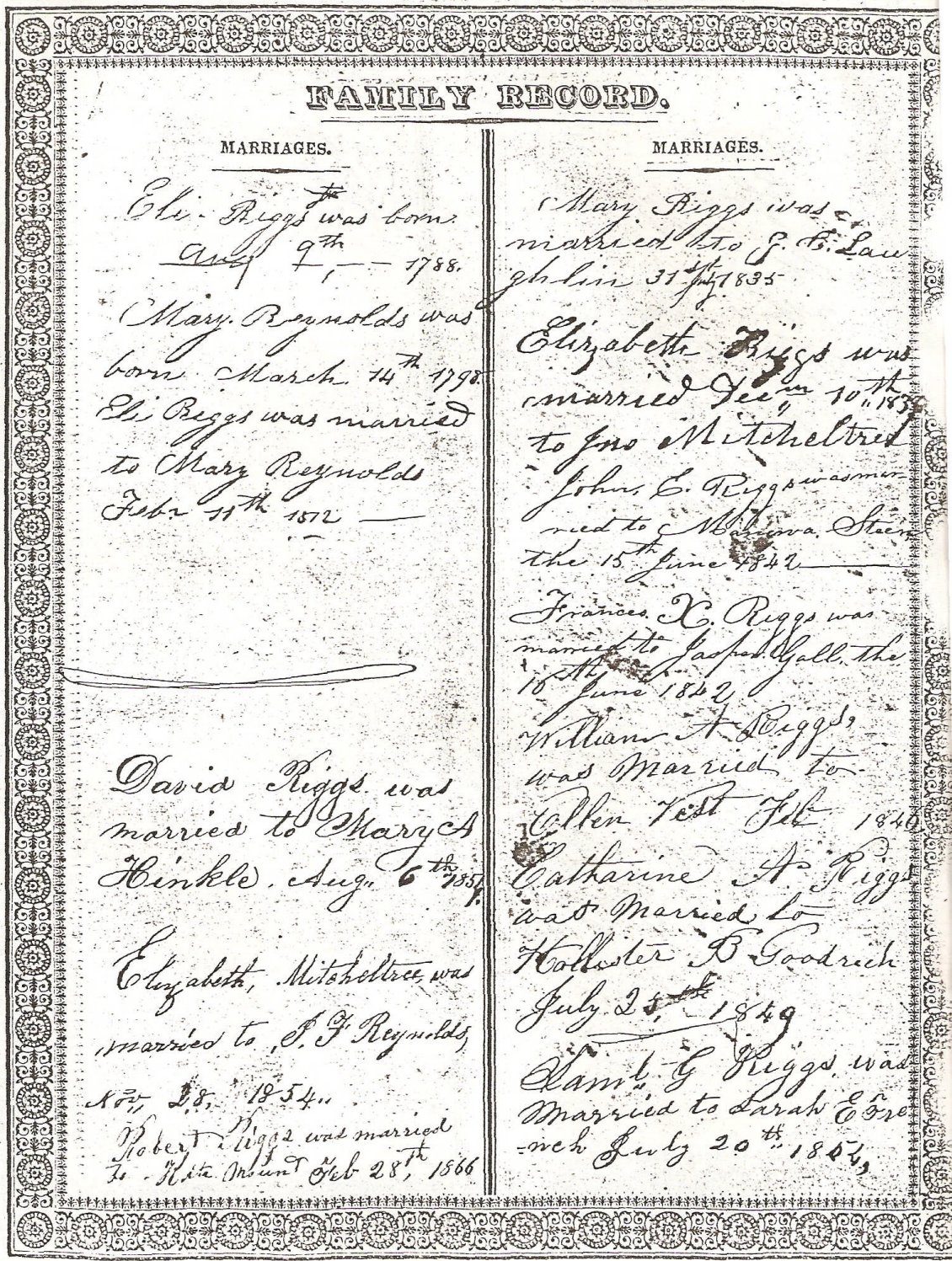
only



Title Page of Riggs Family Bible
in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Texas

FAMILY RECORD.	
BIRTHS.	BIRTHS.
<p>9. Eli Riggs Jr. was born July 31st 1814.</p>	<p>1842 1831 11</p>
<p>Mary Riggs was born April 13th 1817 (1817.)</p>	
<p>Jno. Riggs was born Decem 29th 1818.</p>	
<p>Wm. A. Riggs was born Decem 26th 1820.</p>	
<p>Elizabeth Riggs was born Feb 3rd 1823.</p>	
<p>Frances Riggs was born Apr. 29th 1825.</p>	
<p>David Riggs was born Febry 3rd 1828.</p>	
<p>Samuel Riggs was born July 1st 1831.</p>	
<p>Katharine Riggs was born Septm 14th 1833.</p>	
<p>Robbert Riggs was born Oct 17th 1835.</p>	
<p>Joseph Riggs was born Nov 25th 1838.</p>	

Births from Riggs Family Bible



Marriages from Riggs Family Bible

FAMILY RECORD.	
DEATHS.	DEATHS.
<i>Eli Riggs Jr died</i> <i>August 1819.</i>	<i>Mary E. Riggs died.</i> <i>Feb 14th 1865</i>
<i>Eli Riggs died.</i> <i>August 9th 1837.</i>	
<i>Joseph, Riggs, Died</i> <i>October 25th 1844,</i>	
<i>Elizabeth Reynolds.</i> <i>Died, July, 3, 1858.</i>	

Deaths from Riggs Family Bible

“...Eli Riggs who in 1804 came to Louisiana from West Virginia, seeking the Evangeline Country and settled on the Teche near the present site of New Iberia the very heart of the Evangeline country. He raised eight children.”²¹⁶

On 6 February 1810 in St. Martin Parish, Eli Riggs purchased a negro man named Sam for \$600 from Matthew Nimmo. The transaction further states, “The above negro is the property of the said Eli from this date, but as he is to remain in my employment for one year. I do hereby engage to run all risks of his dying, and in such case, to give him another of equal value.”²¹⁷

Eli Riggs served as a private in the War of 1812 from 2 January 1815 to 13 March 1815. He was part of Baker’s Regiment, in Capt. Joseph DeBlanc’s Company, 14 Regiment, Louisiana Militia. During his service, he received \$8 per month for a total of \$13.41.²¹⁸ Under the Act of 1855, Eli’s widow, Mary, applied for bounty land under Eli’s service:²¹⁹

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Martin

On this the 13th day of November A.D. one thousand eight hundred and fifty five. Before me Abner D. Miner a Justice of the peace for the said Parish of St. Martin duly [?] and Sworn Personally appeared Mistress Mary Riggs widow of Eli Riggs deceased who being duly sworn according to law declares that she is now about Fifty seven years of age and resides in the said Parish of St. Martin and that she is the widow of Eli Riggs deceased who was a private in the company of Capt. DeBlanc commanded by Lieut. John Moore and served part of the time in the Company commanded by Capt. F. Pellersin[?] in the 14th Regiment Louisiana Militia commanded by Col. Joshua Bucker in the war declared by the United States on the 18th day of June 1812. That her said husband entered the Service when the militia en mass was called out in the latter part of December 1814 or first of January 1815 and continued in actual [“service” written above in a different hand] about two & an half months and was honorably discharged about the 16th of March 1815 but received no written certificate of Discharge as she had reason to believe [?] will assess by the muster Rolls of said companies that she makes this application for the purpose of obtaining the bounty land to which she may be entitled under the act of Congress approved March 3rd 1855. She further declares that she has not before made any application for bounty land for the services of her said husband as aforesaid. That she was married to her said husband in the year 1812 and that he died in the year 1839 in the said Parish of St. Martin. That she has not sold or assigned her right to said bounty land

²¹⁶ Three typescript pages [possibly more?], with a handwritten note that it was typed by Fleeta Riggs in 1981, whereabouts of original unknown. However, a cover letter from David Dale Martin, 604 Meadowbrook Ave., Bloomington, IN 47401, with another copy of the same typescript, says, “Dear Fleeta, Enclosed is a Xerox copy of the Autobiography of Samuel L. Riggs...” Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²¹⁷ Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. II, Part I, Conveyance Records of Attakapas County, 1804–1818* (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1992), 174, citing St. Martin Parish Conveyance Records, Book 1:2. St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1:2, FHL 1314400.

²¹⁸ Record Group 94: Records of the Adjutant General’s Office, War of 1812 Compiled Military Service Record, Eli Riggs, Baker’s Regiment, Louisiana Militia, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

²¹⁹ Record Group 15: Records of the Veterans Administration, War of 1812 Unindexed Bounty Land Application, Eli Riggs, Capt. D.E Blane, Louisiana Militia, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

in any manner whatever and requests that the certificate or warrant that may be issued under this application be forwarded to the Hon. John Moore New Iberia, Louisiana word "Service" [? ?].

We Josiah French and Mary French[,] J.D. Swain—residents of the parish of St. Martin and State of Louisiana declare that the foregoing declaration was signed and acknowledged by the said Mary Riggs widow of Eli Riggs deceased in our presence and we truly believe from the statements of the applicant that she is the identical person she represents herself to be and we know that the said Eli Riggs is deceased and believe that he died as stated.

Josiah French
Mary her X mark Riggs
J.D. Swain

The foregoing declaration and affidavit were sworn to and subscribed before me on the day and year first above written and I certify that I know the witnesses to be credible persons and that the claimant is the person she represents herself to be and that I have no interest in the claim.

Abner D. Miner
Justice of the Peace

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Martin

I, Valsaint A. Fournet clerk of the District Court in and for said Parish of St. Martin certify that Abner D. Minor [sic] whose signature appears at the foot of the foregoing certificate was at the time a Justice of the peace in and for said Parish of St. Martin duly [?] and sworn and as such authorized to administer oaths. Given under my hand and the Seal of said court being a court of Record this 15th day of Dec. 1855

V.A. Fournet
[?]

State of Louisiana
Parish of St. Martin

I Pine Gary Dep. Clerk of the District Court in and for said Parish of St. Martin State of Louisiana Certify that according to the Records [?] in said Court in my Care it appears that Eli Riggs late of said Parish deceased died a short time [?] to the 24th day of January 1840 and his succession was opened in the Court of Probate of said Parish on that day and that according to said Records that Mary Riggs whose name before marriage was Mary Reynolds was duly appointed tutrix (guardian) to the minor children and heirs of said Eli Riggs and therefore appears to be truly the widow of said Eli Riggs.

Given under my hand and the Seal
of said Court on the 17th day of
December A.D. 1855.

P. Gary
Dy. Clk.

The file with Bounty Warrant #52224, for 160 acres, is missing from the file box.²²⁰ Evidently, Eli did not apply for or receive a pension for his 1812 service before he died.²²¹

On 28 June 1817 in St. Martin Parish, Ely Riggs purchased for \$981 two parcels of land from John M. Smith: "The one containing five acres front on the East side of the Bayou Teche with the depth crossing the bend and running back as far as its intercession with the said Bayou Teche, except two acres front on the same East side and above by ten in depth, which belong to Mrs. Armsby [Ormsby?] and Henry Penn, the whole five acres of land bounded above by Henry Pintard and below by Francois Maingonat or widow Alexandre; [and] the other tract containign [sic] one and a half acres of land front on the West side of the said Bayou Teche, containing th [sic] dept [sic] to wit; The one acre situated above contains thirty acres deep and the one half acre below thirty two acres. The front of the one acre above beginning at the end of the depth of Mr. Armsby's land and the front of the one half acre below beginning at the end of the depth of Nicholas Edgar's lot of land."²²² That same day, Ely sold to John M. Smith for \$500 a negro boy named Jacob, aged nine years.²²³ Eli made his mark on both documents.

On 1 June 1818 in St. Martin Parish, Ely Riggs purchased from "Robert Perry curator AdBona of Amelia Whitehead," for \$155 "a parcel of land located on the south side of Bayou Teche, measuring one-half arpent wide by one arpent deep, bounded on the upper side by lands formerly owned by William Smith and below the lands of Henry Penne."²²⁴ Eli made his mark.

On 2 November 1819, Eli Riggs of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, conveyed for \$150 to his sister, Catherine Riggs, also of St. Martin Parish, "a certain lot of land lying on the south side of the Bayou Teche, at a place called Nouvelle Iberia" in St. Martin Parish "one half aced [sic] front and one acre back, bounded on the upper side by land formerly owned by William Smith, and below by land formerly owned by Henry Penne..." Both Eli and Catherine made their marks.²²⁵

On 28 February 1820, "Ely" Riggs of St. Martin Parish purchased for \$600 from Thomas, Phillips, and Edward Stone of Bourbon County, Kentucky, "a negro woman named Candy aged about twenty eight or twenty nine years."²²⁶ Also on this date, in St. Mary Parish, Eli Riggs of St. Martin Parish, for \$3,400, purchased a tract of land in St. Mary Parish from John Hayes.²²⁷

²²⁰ Record Group 49: Records of the Bureau of Land Management. Surrendered Warrant. Bounty Land Warrant #52224. The warrants in the box skip from #52222 to #52225.

²²¹ He was not listed in Virgil D. White, *Index to War of 1812 Pension Files* (Waynesboro, Tenn.: National Historical Publishing Co., 1992).

²²² St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:168-69, FHL 1314401.

²²³ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:169, FHL 1314401.

²²⁴ Glenn R. Conrad, *Land Records of the Attakapas District, Vol. II, Part I, Conveyance Records of Attakapas County, 1804-1818* (Lafayette: Center for Louisiana Studies, 1992), 174, citing St. Martin Parish Conveyance Records, Book 1B, #3554. St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:365, FHL 1314401.

²²⁵ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:627, FHL 1314401.

²²⁶ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B½: 6, FHL 1314401.

²²⁷ St. Mary Parish, La., Conveyance Book B4:13. This book is missing from the FHL microfilm series. Photocopy sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

On 31 January 1820, "Eloi" Riggs of St. Martin Parish purchased for \$40 land situated in New Iberia on the west side of Bayou Teche, containing ½ arpent of land in front and thirty-two arpents in depth, fronting on the lands of William Vernorht and bounded above on the lands of Eloi Riggs and below by Henry Cornay.²²⁸ On that same day, Eli Riggs sold to Louis Leleu for \$2,064 a parcel of land in New Iberia "containing five arpents in front with the exception of one arpent in front and ten arpents back belonging now to Henry Cornais and one arpent in front and eleven back now belong[ing] to Manna Arial, the said five arpents front on the East side of the said Bayou Teche running and estening [sic] across the bend and adjoining the said bayou [sic] Teche at both ends, and bounded above by lands of Henry Pintard and below by lands Edward Leleu." But on 3 July 1821, the transaction was cancelled, and Eli returned the \$2,064 to Louis Leleux [sic].²²⁹ Eli made his mark.

Also on 31 January 1820, "Eloi" Riggs of St. Martin Parish sold for \$1,236 to James Hays and Charles Harrington Jr. also of St. Martin Parish "an arpent of land in front with depth of thirty arpents and one half arpent and on the west side of the Bayou Teche the said one & half arpents of land fronting on the lands of William Vernought and Manna Arial and running back as aforesaid, and bounded above by lands of Henry Cornais...." Payments were to be made as follows: \$700 on 25 December 1820; \$536 on 25 December 1821. But on 3 July 1821, the transaction was cancelled, presumably because no payments had been made, as no money was returned.²³⁰ Eli made his mark.

On 10 July 1821, "Ely" Riggs sold property in St. Mary Parish for \$3,400 to John Hayes.²³¹

On 2 November 1824, John Dorsey and Eli Riggs, both of St. Martin Parish, signed a bond of \$1,000, "the condition of the above obligation is such that whereas the above bounded John Dorsey has this day obtained from the Judge aforesaid a license to have the Bounds of matrimony celebrated between him the said John Dorsey and Catherine Riggs." John signed his name and Eli made his mark. Witnessed by Josiah French and Wm. Coubrough.²³²

On 6 June 1825 in St. Martin Parish, Eli Riggs purchased from Samuel H. Firth for \$500 a mulatto man named Isaac, aged about thirty-three, a slave for life.²³³ Then on 17 April 1826, Eli purchased for \$1,450 from George Singleton Jr. a negro girl named Marguerite, aged about fourteen or fifteen years, a slave for life.²³⁴

On 16 July 1827, Eli Riggs sold (or gave?) at least a half arpent of land in New Iberia to St. Martin Parish School Board.²³⁵ Eli made his mark.

On 28 July 1829, Eli Riggs purchased for \$303? from I.D. Dixon a negro girl named Sarah aged thirty-two, a slave for life.²³⁶

²²⁸ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:687, FHL 1314401.

²²⁹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:687-88, FHL 1314401.

²³⁰ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1B:688-89, FHL 1314401.

²³¹ St. Mary Parish, La., Conveyance Book B4:56. This book is missing from the FHL microfilm series. Photocopy sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex, and is nearly impossible to read.

²³² St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1:312-13, FHL 1314400.

²³³ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1:505-06, FHL 1314400; typed copy in Book 1D:119-120, FHL 1314402.

²³⁴ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 2:211, FHL 1314471.

²³⁵ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 3:169-70, FHL 1314471. The deed is recorded in French.

On 11 January 1830, Eli Riggs sold to Alfred Stansbury, both of St. Martin Parish, three slaves: Isaac, a mulatto aged about thirty, Margaret, a negro aged about nineteen, and Henry, the infant of Margaret, aged about three years.²³⁷ Eli made his mark.

In 1830, Eli Riggs lived in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. His household consisted of the following: 1 male under five (David), 2 males 5–10 (William, John), 1 male 40–50 (Eli), 1 male 60–70 (Eli's father Abraham?); 2 females 5–10 (Frances, Elizabeth), 1 female 10–15 (Mary), and 1 female 30–40 (Mary Elizabeth).²³⁸

On 26 July 1831, Eli Riggs of St. Martin Parish bought from Alexander Issac? Broussard a tract of land in St. Mary Parish, at the place called "Isle des Cannes."²³⁹

On 31 January 1833, "Ely" Riggs of St. Martin Parish purchased land from Alfred Stansbury of St. Mary Parish.²⁴⁰

On 2 October 1833, Eli Riggs sold to Marin Joseph Labauve, both of St. Martin Parish, two lots in New Iberia. The land borders that of David Weeks and Clarkson Edgar.²⁴¹ Eli made his mark.

On 31 August 1836, Eli Riggs of St. Martin Parish purchased from Edmund Vaughan and James Stein land in St. Mary Parish containing 161 and 70/100 acres being the east half and the west half of the southwest quarter of section thirty-five, township 12 south of the thirty-first degree of north latitude of range 6 east in the South Western District of the state of Louisiana, for \$250.²⁴² Eli made his mark.

On 24 January 1840, "the petition of Mary Reynolds, widow of Eli Riggs deceased, late of the parish of St. Martin, of John Riggs, of Mary Riggs herein authorized and assisted by her husband Granville Laughlin and of Elizabeth Riggs, herein authorized and assisted by her husband John Mitcheltree..." was entered into probate. Other surviving heirs were the minors William Riggs, Frances Riggs, David Riggs, Samuel Riggs, Catherine Riggs, Robert Riggs, and Joseph Riggs. Also named in the probate were Thomas Riggs, John E.K. Freeman, John B. Reynolds, Oliver T. Frisby, and David Hayes, "domiciled in this parish, the four first ones relations & the last one friend, to the minors" named above. As part of the inventory, Eli owned a plantation of 346 acres in St. Martin Parish near the town of Iberia where he resided, plus another tract of land in St. Martin Parish, two tracts in St. Mary Parish, and the following slaves: two men, one woman with three children, another woman, and a girl and her infant. His estate was appraised at \$15,612.²⁴³

When Eli died, he was in possession of a large sugar cane plantation in Iberville Parish. After his death, Granville Laughlin and John Mitcheltree acquired and operated the plantation.²⁴⁴

²³⁶ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 5:208–09, FHL 1314471. The bill of sale is recorded in French.

²³⁷ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 6:35–36, FHL 1314472. The bill of sale is recorded in French.

²³⁸ 1830 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, p. 116.

²³⁹ St. Mary Parish, La., Conveyance Book C:334. Photocopy sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex.

²⁴⁰ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 8:62–63, FHL 1314472. The deed is in French.

²⁴¹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 8:215–16, FHL 1314472. The deed is in French.

²⁴² St. Mary Parish, La., Conveyance Book D:448. Photocopy sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. This deed was also recorded in St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 10:24–25, FHL 1314473.

²⁴³ St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #899, FHL 13121150.

²⁴⁴ E-mail from Linney Lyles, 6 Feb. 2007, <llyles1@sbcglobal.net>.

On 30 May 1840, Mary Riggs widow of “Ely” Riggs purchased slaves from John F. Miller: a negro woman named Mary Brown, aged about twenty years, and her children? [Not only is the bill of sale in French, the handwriting is also difficult to read].²⁴⁵

In 1840, “Widow E. Riggs” was living in St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. Her household consisted of the following: 2 males under age five (Robert, Joseph) , 2 males age five to 10 (Samuel, ??), 1 male age 10–15 (David), 1 male 15–20 (William), 1 male 20–30 (John); 1 female under age five (Katharine?), 1 female 10–15 (Frances), and one female 50–60 (Mary Elizabeth). She also owned ten slaves: 4 males under 10, 1 male 36–55; 2 females under 10, 1 female 10–24, and 2 females 24–36.²⁴⁶

On 26 September 1841, Mary Riggs, widow of Eli Riggs, of St. Martin Parish, sold to Andrew Dyer and William D. Gardiner for \$60 land in St. Martin Parish, the front adjoining the rear lands now owned by Eloi Segura, measuring one arpent front by the depth of three acres and bounded on the north by lands of _____ [blank] and south of _____ [blank]. Mary made her mark.²⁴⁷

On 21 June 1843, “Mrs. Mary Reynolds widow of Mr. Ely Riggs,” of Assumption Parish sold for \$800 to Jasper Gall of St. Martin Parish a negro woman named Nancy, aged about twenty-three years and her child name Edward aged about two years, both slaves for life.²⁴⁸

On 6 April 1844, “Madame Mary Reynolds (widow of the late Eli Riggs)” of St. Martin Parish sold for \$200 to Antoine Segura of St. Martin Parish land on the west bank of the Bayou Teche and in the town of Iberia bounded on the lands of Thomas Bradshaw and Thomas Johnston. The following named heirs of Mary and Eli Riggs, John E. Riggs, William Riggs, Granville C. Laughlin, and Jasper Gall release their claims on the land.²⁴⁹

On 5 September 1845, Mrs. Mary Reynolds, widow of Eli Riggs, deceased appeared before the Iberville Parish, Louisiana, court, where she declared

that she is a resident of the Parish of Iberville and that to secure the Sum of four thousand two hundred and twenty eight Dollars & forty seven cents as well as the payment thereof whenever she shall be legally required the same to do for which sum of money and all interest thereon accruing she is accountable or tutrix of her children David Riggs, Samuel Riggs, Catherine Riggs, & Robert Riggs, issue of the marriage which formerly existed between her and Eli Riggs deceased, and she doth by these presents specially mortgage and hypothecate a certain tract or parcel of land lying and situated in the parish of Iberville or parish of Accession containing ninety-two acres and Seven hundredths of an acre, being designated as lot No. 3 of Section No. 25 Township Eleven Range 11E together with all the buildings and improvements thereon being. — Thus done and professed at the home of Mr. Hacker in said Parish of Iberville, the said Mrs. Riggs being unable to travel to my office, the fourth day of September eighteen hundred and forty five, in presence of William T. Micheltree and George Micheltree competent witnesses who have signed with the

²⁴⁵ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 12:200–02, FHL 1314473.

²⁴⁶ 1840 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, p. 315 (stamped).

²⁴⁷ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1D:206, FHL 1314402.

²⁴⁸ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 14:210–11, FHL 1314474.

²⁴⁹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 15:45–46, FHL 1314474.

said Mrs. Riggs & me Judge aforesaid, the said Mrs. Riggs signed by making a mark declaring that she does not know how to write. — (Signed) Mary Riggs + her mark — Wm. T. Mitcheltree — George Mitcheltree — John Dutton P. Judge — Recorded the 5th day of September 1845.²⁵⁰

On 24 May 1846, Mary Riggs tutrix of the minor children of the late “Hilaire Riggs” of St. Martin Parish, sold for \$10 to Marin Joseph Labauve of New Iberia, St. Martin Parish, a lot in New Iberia measuring to the north eighteen feet front by three hundred and twenty six feet in depth to the south by twenty two feet, head the (the whole more or less) bounded to the north by land belonging to Wm. Eloi Segura, to the west by S.W. Walsh to the south to land belonging to the vendresse, to the east to lot belonging to the buyer and to the west of the Bayou Teche.²⁵¹

On 7 May 1847, John E. Riggs of Iberville Parish, Louisiana, sold to Mrs. Mary Riggs of the same parish, a lot of section thirty-six in township eleven, range eleven east, containing fifteen acres for \$50. Witnesses were John Mitcheltree, Peter Blanssen, and Jasper Gall.²⁵²

On 22 October 1847, “Madam Mary Reynolds Riggs (widow of Eli Riggs)” of St. Martin Parish sold for \$105 to Thomas Bradshaw of St. Martin Parish, land lying on the west bank of the Cayon Creeke [sic] and in the east of the town of Iberia bounded on one side by the lands of the estate of the late David Weeks, on another side by the lands of John B. Hacker and Antoine Segura, on another by those of Simon W. Walsh and the Estate of Eli Riggs, and on the fourth side by the lands of the said estate of Riggs, containing five and a quarter arpents. John Riggs, William Riggs, John Mitcheltree, Granville C. Laughlin, and Jasper Gall, all heirs of Eli Riggs, release their claim on the land.²⁵³

On 14 March 1850, Mary Riggs widow of the late Eli Riggs of Iberville Parish, “by her special attorney David Riggs,” granted a lease to John D. Swaim of St. Martin Parish, a house situated on Main Street in the town of New Iberia together with the lot on which it stands. Swaim was to pay Mary \$64 on the first day of February in every year for five years, with the first payment on 1 February 1851. Swaim shall have the right at any time during the term of five years to purchase the property for the sum of \$800.²⁵⁴

In 1850, “Madam Riggs,” age 60, born in Kentucky, resided in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, with David Riggs, a 20-year-old laborer, born in Kentucky. Neither had the value of real estate recorded. Living in the same neighborhood are Jasper and “Madam” Gall (daughter Mary Frances and her husband).²⁵⁵

On 12 February 1853, “Mary E. Reynolds...widow of Eli Riggs deceased” of St. Martin Parish sold to John D. Swaim the house in New Iberia for \$800 with \$300 paid now and \$500 payable in two years from this date.²⁵⁶

²⁵⁰ Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book W:593, item 449, FHL 336728.

²⁵¹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 1D:234, FHL 1314402.

²⁵² Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book 1:59, item 31, FHL 336729.

²⁵³ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 17:27–28, FHL 1314475.

²⁵⁴ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 19:158–59, FHL 1314476.

²⁵⁵ 1850 federal census, Louisiana, Iberville Parish, p. 344 (stamped), dwelling 532, family 571.

²⁵⁶ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 20½:329, FHL 1314476.

On 16 August 1853, Mary Riggs, "late the wife of Eli Riggs deceased" of St. Martin Parish purchased from Andre Viator for \$70 land in St. Martin Parish being the SW1/4 of SE Fr.1/4 of section 22 L12S R6E, containing 40 and 20/100s acres.²⁵⁷ Also on this date, Mary sold for \$70 to Marie Vincent, widow of Dernurville Miguez, a lot near the back line of the Corporation of New Iberia, having one arpent front on the road leading from New Iberia to Petite Anse, by the depth of half an arpent, bounded on the southwest by land of Mrs. Mary Bradshaw and on the North-east by a lot of M.J. Labave. A post script noted that prior to signing the deed it was discovered that the price of the land contains or has a depth of one hundred and twelve feet from the said road leading from New Iberia to Petite Anse instead of a depth of half an arpent as mentioned, and the vendor agrees to sell the lot as it is for the price stated.²⁵⁸ Finally on this same date, John E. Riggs of St. Martin Parish sold for \$60 to "his mother, Mrs. Mary Riggs (widow of Eli Riggs deceased)" a piece of land in St. Martin Parish in L12S R6E containing ten acres.²⁵⁹

On 8 July 1854, Mrs. Mary Riggs, widow of Ely Riggs deceased, sold for \$1,550 to David Riggs a negro woman named Liza, aged about thirty years, along with her three children, Buwel?, aged about ten years, Isabela, about five years, and Carolina, about one year, all slaves for life.²⁶⁰

On 20 April 1855, Mrs. Mary Riggs, "wife of Ely Reggs deceased" of St. Martin Parish sold for \$1,200 to Jasper Gall of St. Mary Parish, a negro named Oliver, aged about nineteen years, a slave for life. Six hundred dollars was payable now with the other \$600 payable one day after date [sic] with 8 percent interest per annum.²⁶¹

On 25 April 1856, Mrs. Mary Riggs widow of Ely Riggs deceased sold for \$1,000 to Thomas Winston of Vermillion Parish, a negro named Lucy, aged about seventeen years, and a slave for life. Five hundred dollars was payable at the time with the balance due the 1st of January 1857 with 8 percent interest per annum.²⁶²

On 26 August 1857, "Mistress Mary Riggs Widow of Elie Riggs, deceased," of St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, and "born Mary Reynolds," sold to Granville C. Laughlin and Charles Nettleton, both of Iberville Parish, Louisiana, 92 and 7/100th acres, Lot 3, section twenty-five, township eleven (west of the Mississippi River) of range eleven east, which she received "according to Certificate No. 2598 dated Washington City August 27th A.D. 1845. Plus another lot adjoining this one on the east side of Grand River, bounded above this tract and below, containing about 15 acres. She sold it for \$1,800 payable the one half on the first of March 1858 and the other half on the first of March 1859 with 8 percent interest per annum until paid."²⁶³

In 1860, "Widow Elis Riggs," age 62, born Louisiana, was living in Attakapas, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. She was a planter with \$6,500 in real estate and \$500 in personal property. Living on either side of her were R. Riggs, age 24, born in Louisiana, student at medicine, with

²⁵⁷ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 20½:577, FHL 1314477.

²⁵⁸ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 20½:578, FHL 1314477.

²⁵⁹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 20½:578, FHL 1314477.

²⁶⁰ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 21:516-17, FHL 1314477.

²⁶¹ St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 22:543-44, FHL 1314477.

²⁶² St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 24:163-64, FHL 1314478.

²⁶³ Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book 5:250, item 210, FHL 336731. This deed was also recorded in St. Martin Parish, La., Conveyance Book 25:496-97, FHL 1314478.

\$300 in personal property, and Samuel Riggs, 24 [sic], born in Louisiana, carpenter, with \$800 in real estate and \$800 worth of personal property. One household away, was the family of William A. Riggs.²⁶⁴

Mary Reynolds Riggs died intestate and her estate was entered into succession by her son, Robert Riggs, on 4 December 1865. Named in the succession are her surviving children: Mary Riggs, wife of Clifford Laughlin; John Riggs; Elizabeth Riggs, deceased, represented by William Mitcheltree and Johnaline Mitcheltree, a minor, children born of her first marriage to John Mitcheltree deceased, and Joseph Reynolds, a minor, issue of the second marriage to John Reynolds, deceased; Frances Riggs, wife of Jasper Gall; David Riggs; Samuel Riggs; Catherine Riggs, wife of Eli Longnecker; and Robert Riggs. As of 4 January 1866, all were residing in St. Martin Parish, with the exception of John Riggs, who lived in New Orleans. Mary's property was appraised at \$1,850.85.²⁶⁵

Children of Eli⁶ and Mary Elizabeth (Reynolds) Riggs:²⁶⁶

- i ELI⁷ RIGGS, b. 31 July 1814²⁶⁷; d. 9 Aug. 1819.²⁶⁸
- ii MARY FRANCES XAVIER⁷ RIGGS, b. 13 Apr. 1817;²⁶⁹ d. 20 March 1888,²⁷⁰ New Iberia, La.;²⁷¹ bur. St. Peter's Catholic Cemetery, New Iberia, La.;²⁷² m. 31 July 1835, St. Martinville, St.

²⁶⁴ 1860 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, Attakapas, p. 78, dwellings 602–04, families 602–04.

²⁶⁵ St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859.

²⁶⁶ St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #899, FHL 13121150; all the children are named in Eli's probate as his and Mary Reynolds' children. St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859; all the children are named in Mary Reynolds Riggs probate. "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown [possibly Yvonne Partee?]. Also "Genealogical Chart of the Riggs Family," eight typescript pages, prepared by Yvonne Partee with the following note, "From the records contained in the Family Bible, now in possession of Reverend Samuel L. Riggs, Shreveport, Louisiana, and data received from members of the Riggs Family, I am grateful to have had a part in compiling and typing the genealogical data, and to present it to Uncle Sam on his Eighty Birthday, May 3, 1952." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁶⁷ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁶⁸ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Glenn R. Conrad and Carl A. Brasseaux, comps., *Gone But Not Forgotten: Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries, Volume 1, St. Peter's Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana* (Lafayette, La.: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1983), 74, gives her birth date as 8 Apr. 1817.

²⁶⁹ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Glenn R. Conrad and Carl A. Brasseaux, comps., *Gone But Not Forgotten: Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries, Volume 1, St. Peter's Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana* (Lafayette, La.: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1983), 74.

Martin Parish, La.; Granville Clifford Laughlin.²⁷³ He was b. 20 Feb. 1810, Caldwell Co., Ky.;²⁷⁴ d. 13 Feb. 1859, Iberville Parish, La.²⁷⁵ Twelve children (Laughlin):²⁷⁶ *Eli, Elizabeth Camilla, John, William, Ellen, Eliza, Edward, David, Clifford, Mary Frances*, [???—photocopy cut off], *Francis*.

- iii JOHN E.⁷ RIGGS, b. 29 Dec. 1818²⁷⁷, La.; d. 16 Mar. 1903;²⁷⁸ m. 15 June 1842 Minerva (Catharine?) Steen.²⁷⁹ On 8 May 1847, John E. Riggs and Jasper Gall sold to John Mitchell 23 and 45/100 acres on Lot 3, Section 17, T12S, R11E in Iberville Parish, La., for \$75.²⁸⁰ In 1850, John Riggs, age 31, born in Louisiana, resided in the household of Elias Steen in Grande Pointe, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. Elias Steen was a 70-year-old planter with \$9,000 in real estate and born in Pennsylvania. In the household were the following, all born in Louisiana: Catharine Steen, 53, John Steen, 23, Sidney Steen 18, Wesley Steen, 18, John

²⁷⁰ Glenn R. Conrad and Carl A. Brasseaux, comps., *Gone But Not Forgotten: Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries, Volume 1, St. Peter's Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana* (Lafayette, La.: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1983), 74. Typed manuscript of Laughlin Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex, gives her death date as 11 Feb. 1885.

²⁷¹ Death notice transcribed online at <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/o/r/Celeste-Morrow-LA/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0050.html>>.

²⁷² Glenn R. Conrad and Carl A. Brasseaux, comps., *Gone But Not Forgotten: Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries, Volume 1, St. Peter's Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana* (Lafayette, La.: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1983), 74.

²⁷³ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Glenn R. Conrad and Carl A. Brasseaux, comps., *Gone But Not Forgotten: Records from South Louisiana Cemeteries, Volume 1, St. Peter's Cemetery, New Iberia, Louisiana* (Lafayette, La.: University of Southwestern Louisiana, 1983), 74, records the husband's name as G.G. Laughlin. Celeste M. Morrow's Homepage: Information About Abraham Riggs online at <<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/m/o/r/Celeste-Morrow-LA/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0050.html>> gives place of marriage and groom's full name. Note: There is much unverified information about earlier generations on this site.

²⁷⁴ Typed manuscript of Laughlin Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁷⁵ Typed manuscript of Laughlin Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited. In St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859, the estate of Mary Reynolds Riggs, a petition of 16 January 1866 states that "Mary Riggs widow Clifford Laughlin deceased."

²⁷⁶ Typed manuscript of Laughlin Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁷⁷ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁷⁸ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁷⁹ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁸⁰ Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book 1:59–60, item 32, FHL 336729.

Riggs, 31, Catharine Riggs, 24, Jane Riggs, 4, Flavius Riggs, 2, Thomas Singleton, 50, John Singleton, 21, and Peter Walderk, 47.²⁸¹ On 12 Feb. 1858, John E. Riggs of St. Martin Parish, La., sold to Granville E. Laughlin of Iberville Parish, La., 96 acres in Section 28, T11, R12W, in Iberville Parish fronting the Grand River and bounded above by land of Mary Riggs and below by land of Granville E. Laughlin for \$300.²⁸² In 1870, John was living three households away from his younger brother, Samuel. John was age 50, a farmer with \$4,000 in real estate and \$800 in personal property, born in Louisiana. Living with him, and all born in Louisiana, were Minerva, age 45, keeping house, Flavius (male), age 21, farmer, Wrelius? (male), 17, Thelamien? (male), 14, Laura, 11, Louie? (female), 8, Ada, 3, Ida, 3, and Jane, 16. Also in the household was William Singleton, age 45, farmer, with \$700 in personal property, and born in Louisiana.²⁸³ Children:²⁸⁴ Gustavus, Emma Jane, Flavius, C.R., Urilius, Louella, Ida, Ada, Laura, Telemitus.²⁸⁵

- iv WILLIAM ADDISON⁷ RIGGS, b. 26 Dec 1820,²⁸⁶ La.; d. 4 Aug. 1895,²⁸⁷ m. 17 Feb. 1846, Iberville,²⁸⁸ La., Mary Evelyn Vest.²⁸⁹ In 1850, William Riggs, age 30, born Louisiana, was residing in St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, no value of real estate recorded. Living with him were Hellen Riggs, age 20, born Louisiana, and Mary Moore, age 40, born Louisiana.²⁹⁰ In 1860, Wm. A Riggs, age 39 [sic], born Louisiana, a carpenter with \$1,000 in real estate and \$500 in personal property, resided in Attakapas, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. Living with him and all born in Louisiana were M.E. Riggs, age 32, Wm. A. Riggs, 9, Lysander Riggs, 6, H. Clay Riggs, 4, M.F. Riggs, 2, and Katherine Riggs 9/12.²⁹¹ By 16 Jan. 1866, William had moved to New Orleans, according to his mother's probate file.²⁹² Children:²⁹³ Charles, William A., Lysander Joseph, Henry Clay, Mary Frances, Katherine Louisa, Ethan Allen, Whitaker, [???—photocopy cut off], Ellen.

²⁸¹ 1850 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, Grande Pointe, p. 32, dwelling 338, family 353.

²⁸² Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book 5:248–49, , item 208, FHL 336731.

²⁸³ 1870 federal census, Louisiana, Iberia Parish, New Iberia, p. 22, dwelling 157, family 176.

²⁸⁴ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁸⁵ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁸⁶ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁸⁷ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

²⁸⁸ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

²⁸⁹ Obituary of Eleanor E. Riggs, unidentified newspaper clipping, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

²⁹⁰ 1850 federal census, Louisiana, St. Mary Parish, p. 12, dwelling 109, family 103.

²⁹¹ 1860 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, Attakapas, p. 78, dwelling 606, family 606.

²⁹² St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859.

²⁹³ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

- v MARY PHILOMENA ELIZABETH⁷ RIGGS, b. 3 Feb. 1823²⁹⁴; d. intestate, 3 July 1858,²⁹⁵ St. Martin Parish, La.;²⁹⁶ m. (1) 10 Dec. 1839 John Mitcheltree²⁹⁷; m. (2) 27 Nov. 1854, St. Martin Parish, La., John F. Reynolds.²⁹⁸ On 9 July 1858, John F. Reynolds petitioned the court to enter the estate of Elizabeth Riggs, his wife, into probate. She died leaving the following minor children: "William & Johnaline, the issue of a former marriage with John Mitcheltree, decd, & Joseph David, issue of her marriage with" John F. Reynolds. The petition asks that her children by her first marriage be under the tutorship [guardianship] of their "maternal grandmother widow Mary Riggs" of St. Martin Parish or "widow Mitcheltree of the state of Texas." The court granted the Widow Mary Riggs tutrix of William and Johnaline with David Riggs as undertutor.²⁹⁹ Children (Mitcheltree):³⁰⁰ *George, William, Winfield Scott, Zachary Taylor, Johnalyn*. Child (Reynolds):³⁰¹ *Joseph*.
- vi FRANCES XAVIER⁷ RIGGS, b. 29 Apr. 1825,³⁰² La.; d. 9 Sept. 1888, New Iberia, La.; m. 16 June 1842 Jasper Gall.³⁰³ In 1850, Jasper Gall, a 30-year-old laborer, born in Germany, was

²⁹⁴ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁹⁵ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁹⁶ Place of death from St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #1611, FHL 1312817.

²⁹⁷ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁹⁸ St. Martin Parish, La., Marriages B:68, from the index, FHL 1310800. The actual book on microfilm ends with record 61. See also Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com; see also Nicholas Russell Murray, *St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, 1760–1900, Computer Indexed Marriage Records* (Hammond, La.: the author, no date), 60. Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

²⁹⁹ St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1611, FHL 1312817.

³⁰⁰ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

³⁰¹ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

³⁰² Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁰³ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. See also

- residing in Iberville Parish, Louisiana, no value of real estate recorded, with the following, all born in Louisiana: "Madam" Gall, age 25, Joseph, age 11, Harriet, age 9, Susan, age 7, and Emiline, age 4.³⁰⁴ On 29 Sept. 1866, Jasper Gall filed a suit against Mary Riggs, Tutrix in the Parish of St. Martin, District Court, #5972.³⁰⁵
- vii DAVID⁷ RIGGS, b. 3 Feb. 1828³⁰⁶; m. 6 Aug. 1854 (17 Aug. 1854³⁰⁷), St. Landry Parish, La.,³⁰⁸ Mary A. Hinkle³⁰⁹ (Huckle³¹⁰). Mentioned as a minor in his uncle Thomas Riggs's estate file of 1 Nov. 1842.³¹¹
- 7 viii **SAMUEL G.⁷ RIGGS**, b. 12 July 1831.³¹² Mentioned as a minor in his uncle Thomas Riggs's estate file of 1 Nov. 1842.³¹³
- ix CATHERINE⁷ RIGGS, b. 14 Sept. 1833³¹⁴; m. (1) 2 July 1849³¹⁵ Hollister B. Goodrich (if birth and marriage years are correct, she would have been 15 when she married); m. (2) by 1866 Eli Longnecker.³¹⁶ Mentioned as a minor in his uncle Thomas Riggs's estate file of 1 Nov. 1842.³¹⁷ Child (Goodrich):³¹⁸ Hollister. Child (Longnecker):³¹⁹ Lilly.

³⁰⁴ 1850 federal census, Louisiana, Iberville Parish, p. 344 (stamped), dwelling 529, family 568.

³⁰⁵ Judy Riffel, comp., *Iberville Parish Records*, vol. 3 (Baton Rouge, La.: Le Comité des Archives de la Louisiane, 2000), 48, Reel IV.2.1 at the Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge, La.

³⁰⁶ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁰⁷ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

³⁰⁸ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

³⁰⁹ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³¹⁰ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

³¹¹ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

³¹² Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³¹³ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

³¹⁴ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³¹⁵ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³¹⁶ St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #1896, FHL 1313859.

³¹⁷ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

³¹⁸ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

³¹⁹ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

- x ROBERT⁷ RIGGS, b. 17 Oct. 1835,³²⁰ Iberia Parish, La.;³²¹ d. 1916, Donaldsonville, La.;³²² m. 28 Feb. 1866, St. Martin Parish, La., Katherine “Kate” Mount³²³ (Samuel Riggs was one of the witness to their marriage). Mentioned as a minor in his uncle Thomas Riggs’s estate file of 1 Nov. 1842.³²⁴ Is he the Robert Riggs who died 9 Nov. 1914 in E. Feliciana, La. age 78?³²⁵ In 1870, Robert lived two households away from his older brother, John, in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. Robert was 35, a farmer born in Louisiana, with property valued at \$2,000 and personal property valued at \$300. Living with him, and all born in Louisiana, were Kate, age 21, keeping house, Everett, 4, and Lila, 2. Also in the household was Catherine Dorcey, age 68, born in Louisiana and who could not read or write.³²⁶ On 8 March 1881 at a Iberville Parish, La., Sheriff’s Sale, the land of Robert Riggs was sold for back taxes of \$69.72 for the years 1872, 1873, 1874, 1875, 1876, and 1877 to Jacob McWilliams who was the highest bidder at \$120. The land was on the right bank of the lower Grand River being fractional Section 27, and the south half of SE¹/₄ of Section 28 in T10 R11.³²⁷ Children:³²⁸ *Lela, Eva May, Frances, Mary, Evert, Robert, Ernest.*
- xi JOSEPH⁷ RIGGS, b. 25 Nov. 1838³²⁹; d. 25 Oct. 1844.³³⁰ Mentioned as a minor in his uncle Thomas Riggs’s estate file of 1 Nov. 1842.³³¹

³²⁰ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³²¹ Telephone conversation 26 Jan. 2007 with Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex., e-mail: gwenwk@jas.net.

³²² Telephone conversation 26 Jan. 2007 with Gwen Knowles, Nederland, Tex., e-mail: gwenwk@jas.net.

³²³ St. Martin Parish, La., Marriages, #1712, FHL 1310801. See also Nicholas Russell Murray, *St. Martin Parish, Louisiana, 1760–1900, Computer Indexed Marriage Records* (Hammond, La.: the author, no date), 60; photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³²⁴ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

³²⁵ Louisiana Statewide Death Index, 1900–1949, Ancestry.com.

³²⁶ 1870 federal census, Louisiana, Iberia Parish, New Iberia, p. 23, dwelling 161, family 179.

³²⁷ Iberville Parish, La., Conveyances, Book 14:535, item 476, FHL 336736.

³²⁸ Typed manuscript of Riggs Family genealogy by Albert L. Grace Jr. sent by Linney Lyles, Deer Park, Tex. No sources cited.

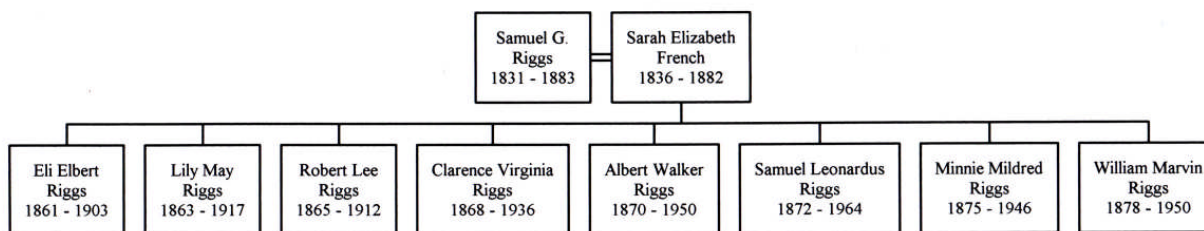
³²⁹ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³⁰ Year of death stated in his father’s probate file, St. Martin Parish Estate Files, #899, FHL 13121150. Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³¹ St. Martin Parish, La., Estate Files, #966, FHL 1312252.

GENERATION SEVEN

Generation Seven: Children of Samuel G. Riggs (1831 - 1883)



7. **SAMUEL G.⁷ RIGGS** (*Eli⁶, Abraham⁵, Abraham⁴, Joseph³, Abraham²*)^{—1}) was born 12 July 1831³³², New Iberia, Louisiana; died March 1883,³³³ New Iberia, Louisiana.

He married 20 July 1854³³⁴ in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana,³³⁵ **SARAH ELIZABETH FRENCH**,³³⁶ who was born 24 March 1836,³³⁷ near Grand Coteau,³³⁸ Louisiana; died November 1882,³³⁹ New Iberia, Louisiana. She was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Steen) French. Fourteen-year-old Sarah E. French was residing in 1850 with Sidney Singleton and Lucinda Steine in Lafayette Parish, Louisiana, p. 23.

In 1860, Samuel Riggs, 24 [*sic*], born in Louisiana, carpenter, with \$800 in real estate and \$800 worth of personal property, resided in Attakapas, St. Martin Parish, Louisiana. [If this is

³³² "Genealogy of the Riggs Family," typescript on legal-sized paper, author unknown [possibly Yvonne Partee?]; also "Autobiography of Samuel Leonardus Riggs," typescript. Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³³ "Autobiography of Samuel Leonardus Riggs," typescript, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³⁴ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com, shows the marriage date as 20 July 1845. Clearly the 1845 is a typo, otherwise Samuel would have been 14 and Sarah would have been 8 when they married.

³³⁵ Louisiana Marriages, 1718–1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

³³⁶ Photocopy of Eli Riggs Family Bible, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs. Only pages copied were births, marriages, and deaths; no title page copied. All the entries for births and deaths appear to be written at the same time, by the same hand. The same with most of the marriage entries, although there appears to be a different hand for a few of the entries. Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³⁷ Hand-drawn genealogical chart, prepared perhaps by David D. Martin, 604 Meadowbrook Ave., Bloomington IN 47401, 27 May 1995, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³⁸ "Autobiography of Samuel Leonardus Riggs," typescript, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³³⁹ "Autobiography of Samuel Leonardus Riggs," typescript, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

Samuel G. Riggs, where is his wife, whom he married in 1854?] Living next door to him were R. Riggs, age 24, born in Louisiana, student at medicine, with \$300 in personal property, and "Widow Elais Riggs," age 62, born Louisiana, a planter with \$6,500 in real estate and \$500 in personal property. One household away, was the family of William A. Riggs.³⁴⁰

In 1870, Samuel lived in New Iberia, Iberia Parish, Louisiana. He was 39, born in Louisiana, and a farmer who owned \$2,500 in real estate and \$330 worth of personal property. Living with him, and all born in Louisiana, were Sarah, age 33, keeping house, Ely, 9, Lily, 7, Robert, 4, Clarence, 2, and Lionus [Albert Walker?] age 2/12 (two months).³⁴¹

In 1880 Samuel lived in Iberia Parish, Louisiana. He was 49, a farmer who was unable to work the past two months because of bronchitis. He was born in Louisiana, as were both of his parents. Residing with him were his wife, Sarah, age 44, born in Louisiana, as were both of her parents; and the following children, all born in Louisiana: Eli, age 19, Lilly May, age 17, Robert Lee, age 14, Clarence, age 12, Alfred, age 10, Samuel, age 8, Minnie, age 5, and Willie, age 2.³⁴²

Children of Samuel⁷ and Sarah Elizabeth (French) Riggs (12 born, four died in infancy):³⁴³

- i ELI ELBERT⁸ RIGGS, b. 24 Mar. 1861, New Iberia, La.; d. 25 Sept. 1903, New Orleans, La.; m. (1) Oct. 1882, Centerville, Miss., Lula Petty, d. 1892, no issue; (2) 6 Dec. 1893,³⁴⁴ Bunkie, Ouachita Parish La., Comfort Buie. Children: *Sarah, Eleanor, Elbert Eugene*.
- ii LILLY MAY⁸ RIGGS, b. 15 June 1863, New Iberia, La.; d. 15 June 1917; m. 11 Jan. 1882, Iberia Parish, La., Henry Stephens Snider.³⁴⁵ Children (Snider): *Nettie Beatrice, Irvin S., Robert Milton, Lawrence Marvin, Junious William, Edith May, Samuel Earl, Winnie*.
- iii ROBERT LEE⁸ RIGGS, b. 11 Oct 1865,³⁴⁶ New Iberia, La.; d. 28 Mar 1912,³⁴⁷ New Orleans, La., bur. Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La.; m. 15 Jan 1896, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La., Leona Amelia Lemaire,³⁴⁸ b. 20 Feb. 1876, d. 24 Apr. 1949, bur. Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La.³⁴⁹ Children: *Robert Lee, Clarence LeMaire*.

³⁴⁰ 1860 federal census, Louisiana, St. Martin Parish, Attakapas, p. 78, dwellings 602-04, families 602-04.

³⁴¹ 1870 federal census, Louisiana, Iberia Parish, New Iberia, p. 22, dwelling 154, family 172.

³⁴² 1880 federal census, Louisiana, Iberia Parish, ED 72, p. 10, dwelling 76, family 92.

³⁴³ "Genealogical Chart of the Riggs Family," eight typescript pages, prepared by Yvonne Partee with the following note, "From the records contained in the Family Bible, now in possession of Reverend Samuel L. Riggs, Shreveport, Louisiana, and data received from members of the Riggs Family, I am grateful to have had a part in compiling and typing the genealogical data, and to present it to Uncle Sam on his Eighty Birthday, May 3, 1952." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex. Also see 1880 federal census, Louisiana, Iberia Parish, ED 72, p. 10, dwelling 76, family 92.

³⁴⁴ Louisiana Marriages, 1718-1925, a database on Ancestry.com.

³⁴⁵ Iberia Parish, La., Marriages, Book A-1:323, FHL 871417.

³⁴⁶ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957-60), 18, gives birth and death dates.

³⁴⁷ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957-60), 18, gives birth and death dates.

³⁴⁸ Iberia Parish, La., Marriages, Book A-2:501, FHL 871417.

³⁴⁹ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Felicinia Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957-60), 18, gives birth and death dates. She has a DAR marker.

- iv CLARENCE VIRGINIA⁸ RIGGS, b. 2 Feb. 1868,³⁵⁰ New Iberia, La.; d. 28 Sept. 1936, New Iberia, La., bur. Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La.;³⁵¹ m. 2 Mar. 1892, Iberia Parish, La., Effie Curtis,³⁵² b. 1 July 1870; d. 31 Jan. 1947, bur. Rose Hill Cemetery, New Iberia, Iberia Parish, La.³⁵³ Children: *Ralph Lee, Clegg, Maude "Sally," Roy, George, Curtis Howell, Clarence E., Russell Harold, Sarah Elizabeth, Ruth Merle.*
- v ALBERT WALKER⁸ RIGGS, b. 27 May 1870, New Iberia, La.; d. 12 June 1950; m. 11 March 1891, Centerville, Miss., Martha Winans Petty. Children: *Fredie Louise, Annie Ruth, Martha Fly, Albert Walker, Naomi, Mildred Harriet, Frederick Harold, Winifred.* "Mr. Riggs had only recently celebrated his 80th birthday which was on May 27. He was born in New Iberia and as a youth moved to Wilkinson county, Miss. He was married March 11, 1891 to Miss Martha Winans Petty who survives him."³⁵⁴
- 8 vi **SAMUEL LEONARDUS⁸ RIGGS**, b. 3 May 1872, New Iberia, La. In his autobiography, Samuel says he is the 7th son, so two more sons were born and died before Samuel.³⁵⁵
- vii MINNIE MILDRED⁸ RIGGS, b. 8 Feb. 1875, New Iberia, La.; d. 17 Aug. 1946, San Diego, Calif.; m. 27 June 1897, Paterson, La., James Scudday Perkins. Children (Perkins): *James Scudday, Lee Stuart, Mildred Dorothy.*
- viii WILLIAM MARVIN⁸ RIGGS, b. 13 July 1878, New Iberia, La.; d. 7 Feb. 1950, Los Angeles, Calif.; m. July 1901, Patterson, La., Meta Mugger. Children: *Marvin, Elizabeth, Samuel, Meta.*

³⁵⁰ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Feliciana Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birth and death dates: "Feb. 2, 1868/Sept. 28. 1936."

³⁵¹ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Feliciana Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birth and death dates: "Feb. 2, 1868/Sept. 28. 1936"; Louisiana Statewide Death Index, 1900–1949, Ancestry.com.

³⁵² Iberia Parish, La., Marriages, Book A–2:292, FHL 871417.

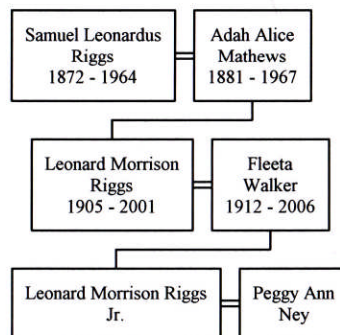
³⁵³ *Louisiana Tombstone Inscriptions, Vol. 11, Iberia, Red River, Natchitoches, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, East Feliciana Parish* (Jonesboro, La.: The Louisiana Society NSDAR, 1957–60), 18, gives birth and death dates.

³⁵⁴ Obituary of A.W. Riggs Sr., news clipping with no date or name of paper identified, Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁵⁵ Three typescript pages [possibly more?], with a handwritten note that it was typed by Fleeta Riggs in 1981, whereabouts of original unknown. However, a cover letter from David Dale Martin, 604 Meadowbrook Ave., Bloomington, IN 47401, with another copy of the same typescript, says, "Dear Fleeta, Enclosed is a Xerox copy of the Autobiography of Samuel L. Riggs...." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

GENERATION EIGHT

Generation Eight: Descendants of Samuel Leonardus Riggs (1872 - 1964)



8. **REVEREND SAMUEL LEONARDUS⁸ RIGGS** (*Samuel⁷, Eli⁶, Abraham⁵, Abraham⁴, Joseph³, Abraham², —¹*) was born 3 May 1872, New Iberia, Louisiana; died 18 April 1964, Shreveport, Caddo Parish, Louisiana.

He married 1 February 1905 in Gretna, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, **ADAH ALICE MATHEWS**.³⁵⁶ The couple was married by H.C. Morrison, Bishop of the M.E. Church South. (Their son Leonard's middle name in honor of Bishop Morrison.)³⁵⁷ Adah was born 1 June 1881, Gretna, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana; died 9 January 1967, Shreveport, Louisiana. She was the daughter of Fredrick Louis and Mary Virginia (Sutton) Mathews.

In 1910, the Riggses lived in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana. Samuel was 36, married once for six years, a minister in the [Methodist] church, born Louisiana of parents born in Louisiana. His wife, Ada A. was 34, married once for six years, the mother of one child, with one living, born in Louisiana, father born Louisiana, mother born Germany. Son, Leonard M., was four, born in Louisiana.³⁵⁸

The family moved to Shreveport, Louisiana, about 1924, where Samuel took the position of a manager of the Centenary College book store.³⁵⁹

In 1930, Samuel and his family lived in Shreveport, Louisiana. Samuel was 56, married the first time at age 31, a manager of supplies at a college. He rented his home, paying \$60/month. His wife Ada M. was 43, and age 20 when she first married. Son Leonard M. was 23, single, and working as a landscape artist. Also living in the household were two lodgers: Mary

³⁵⁶ Jefferson Parish, La., Marriages, Book E:353, FHL 402554; see also Bartley A. Bowers, *Marriages, Jefferson Parish, Louisiana, 1833–1912*, (Gretna, La.: the author, 1991), 313.

³⁵⁷ Family tradition.

³⁵⁸ 1910 federal census, Louisiana, West Feliciana Parish, St. Francisville Ward 1, e.d. 143, sheet 1B, dwelling 21, family 22.

³⁵⁹ Personal knowledge of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

Railey, 28, single, born Louisiana, parents born in Louisiana, a high school teacher; and Marguritte Middleton, age 24, born Louisiana, parents born in Louisiana, a public school teacher.³⁶⁰

Autobiography of Samuel Leonardus Riggs³⁶¹

who was borned at New Iberia, La. May 3rd, 1872, was the 7th son of Samuel G. Riggs and Sarah E. French. Samuel G. Riggs was the son of Eli Riggs who in 1804 came to Louisiana from West Virginia, seeking the Evangeline Country and settled on the Teche near the present site of New Iberia the very heart of this Evangeline county where he raise[d] eight children. Samuel G. Riggs was the 5th son born July 12th, 1831 — his father dieng [sic] early it fell more to his lot to manager [sic] the property. Settling on part of the estate just out of town he was married to Sarah E. French July 20th, 1854. To this happy union there was born 12 children 8 of whom they raised to mourn their departure from this life. Sarah E. French was born near Grand Cotweau, La., her mother dieng [sic] when she was very young. She was raised by her uncle & aunt, Sidney Singleton and [blank] who lived near Arnaudville, La. Sarah Riggs died Nov. (blank) 1882 and Samuel G. Riggs in March 1883 leaving a family of 8 children, none of age. Our Aunt Catherine Longnegger [Longnecker] came to live with us until Eli E. Riggs the eldest son was of age & the estate could be settled which took place in Oct. 1883. Eli Riggs becoming the guardian to family was married to LuLu Petty of Centreville, Miss., in Nov. 1883 & we all moved to Galveston Texas. But disappointed in the oppitinity [sic] afforded him for lively-hood we move[d] back to New Iberia. But in year 1886 he moved to Centreville, Miss., taken [sic] the three youngest boys with him, A.W., S.L., & W.M. Riggs. It was here we were all brightly converted & joined Methodist Episcopal Church South. Samuel Leonardus Riggs joined the Methodist Church under Bishop Duncan May 1888 when he came to dedicate the new church at Centreville, Miss. We boys work[ed] hard to launch truck business on this new R.R., Y&MV. But for lack of equipment we found it was not profitable, yet was Gods great blessing to family in a spiritual way. Not satisfied with my experiance, I sought God earnestly for over a year for the definable assurance of my conversion, which occurred in June 1890 under the ministry of Rev. Geo. Anders. There was never any more doubt about my acceptance with God from that time. I have never failed to attend all the priviledges [sic] of church as far as possible. It was said of my father Samuel G Riggs that he was the most religious & faithfull [sic] Christian Iberia Parish had ever produced up to his death. I have tryed [sic] in a small measure to bear his name with some degree of honor to my family. The educational advantages were limited when we were growing up. My first schooling was rec'd in the old sugar house on the farm between New Iberia & Avery's Island. My father imployed [sic] young Tom Upton, whose father was then pastor of the Methodist Church. He was youngest son to conduct a summer school for us. I was 7 year[s] of age at this time. I got two of these short terms & while at Centerville Miss. we had two terms of public school 4 months ea. taught by that able family Jim Fly & his wife. In the fall of 1891, I moved to Monroe La. with my brother Eli & here I took charge of little dairy for Col. Frank P. Stubb, who was prominent in state

³⁶⁰ 1930 federal census, Louisiana, Caddo Parish, Shreveport, district 53, e.d. 9-53, sheet 4B, 914 Fairview Blvd., dwelling 95, family 109.

³⁶¹ Eighteen-page handwritten autobiography on letterhead of Rev. S. L. Riggs, Pastor, M.E. Church South, Opelousas, La., dated 7-18-1923, original in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

of little dairy for Col. Frank P. Stubb, who was prominent in state affairs & leader in Presbyterian Church. I work[ed] hard in delivering milk before day & after dark at night & attend[ed] the public school of that city. Took my work in church as sectary of S.S. [Sunday School] & Pres. of Epworth League during the pastorate of Bro. B.F. White. My brother Eli having lost his wife I had to give up school & take charge of a truck business as well as dairy which he was trying to operate 1903 Bro. A.W. Riggs who was married to Mattie Petty of Centreville Miss. came over to Monroe & we went into partnership & ran dairy and truck business together for 5 year[s]. It was in the fall of 1895 while runing [sic] cottage prayer meetings for Sam Jones & Geo. Stuart that I felt my call to preach & was recommended by the Quarterly Conference of Monroe Methodist Church while E.N. Evans was pastor and Bro. B.F. White Presiding Elder. That fall 1896 I started to Centenary College at Jackson La. to try to better fit myself for the ministry, having had to stop in 8th grade of pubic school, I found it hard work after nearly 3 years out of school to take up college work I had to take part of my work in preparitory [sic] department, while English & mathomatics [sic] in freshmant [sic] class. Here I spent nearly 4 year[s] of happy & hard work not having any funds to run on I had to keep gardens, milk cows etc. to help pay board & save up earning[s] thro the summer I managed to get by, for two years I was manager of the mess hall this gave me my board. It being some-what a private arrange[ment] between Dr. Cooper the president of College & myself on acct Yellow Fever & other things it was not self-sustaining & the debts contracted I had to assume half of them with Dr. Cooper & was too heavy for me to carry, so I left College in Dec. 1899 to go to work to pay off obligations. Dr. Carter who was at time Presiding Elder of Crowley District, who was President of Centenary College during my first years at College knew my condition & desires to preach persuaded me to take Gueydan Circuit as a supply having been licensed under Bro. B.F. White in the District Conference held at Talluhla La. July 1897. I had taken every oppirtunity [sic] to try [to] preach. In summer of 1899 I took charge of Church at Crowley La. while Bro. Percy Kinckerbocker went on European trip. I covered that rice county during year 1900, built Church at Gueydan & preached at Wright, Merrit School House, Morse, Estherwood & Mermenteau, La. Stood examination that summer at Dist Conf which met at Opelousas La. July 1900 for local deacon's orders & was Ordain[ed] by Bishop Galloway Dec. 16th 1900 at Baton Rouge La. After Conf. I attended Moody Bible Institute at Chicago, coming back the next spring I held revivals thro rest of year & took supply work under J.M. Henry Presiding Elder on Delphi Dist Supplying Delhi & Tallulah in 1901 hoping to get back to school, not seeing my way clear, I joined Conference at Alexandria 1902 [took] me to mission work in New Orleans. This I served with such zeal & the bringing up of my Conference course with living in those boarding houses nearly broke my health down. Having met my wife at Gretna La. who was converted under my ministry in the Gretna Church. Knowing that Ada A. Matthews & myself were to be married 1st Feb. 1905 I asked Presiding Elder Dr. W. H. La-Prode, let me change. With this session of Conference at Lake Charge La. I was assigned to DeRidder Charge which was just being made a station. God blessed our Labors here. We were able to build beautifull [sic] Church & bring up conference course & fought a Yellow Fever epidemic for 5 month[s]. Here on Nov. 27th 1905 a son was born to our home & at the session of conference in New Orleans during Jan. 1906 Bishop Morrison who had officiated at our wedding Feb. 1st 1905 now baptised [sic] our boy, Leonard Morrison Riggs. I finished my conference course & was ordained an Elder at Shreveport La.

Dec. 20th 1906 by Bishop Seth Ward. That year we were sent to Kentwood La. so might get medical treatment for wife whose health was very bad, from which operations she has never intirely [sic] recovered, but with loyalty to Christ & her husband she was always puncual [sic] at the organ & pianos. She has freely given her life to the work. In the year 1908 other conferences sent us to to [sic] St. Francisville La. here we spent 4 years of hard and pleasant work. At the sessions of conference at Monroe Dec. 1912 we were sent to Oakdale to establish New Church, the work was very strenious [sic] & my health gave way. So that year I had to take super[?] noted relation which I held until Dec. 1915 during these two years we moved back to St. Francesville [sic] & ran little truck business & tried to regain my health. During 1916 we took light work at Selma La. It was here our boy joined church. In 1917 we were sent to Boni Ann & Carson Work at the conf. at Ruston La. Dec. 1917 we were sent to Lake Arthur Charge which was pleasant but strenuous work during the great world war. At the conference at DeRidder Nov. 8th 1920 we were assigned to Opelousas Charge. It was here my health became very poor in 1921, by a successfull [sic] Operation I was relearned, we have tried [sic] to serve the old Mather Church of Louisiana Conference with fidelity to present date July 1923. [added in another ink:] In Nov. 1924 we were sent to Moaringsport La. that Leonard might have advantage of Centenary College Shreveport in Nov. 1926 we we [sic] were put in charge of Cedar Grove Church Shreveport La. In Sept. 1928 my health failed completely & I had to [?] [?] which relation I still hold while my health has slowly improved I am not able to take work at present but am running post office & book store at Centenary College & preaching some times in suppling [sic] for brethren of conference. This March 1st 1930.

Child of Samuel⁸ and Adah Alice (Mathews) Riggs:³⁶²

9 i [LEONARD MORRISON⁹ RIGGS](#), b. 27 Nov. 1905, DeRidder, La.

³⁶² "Genealogical Chart of the Riggs Family," eight typescript pages, prepared by Yvonne Partee with the following note, "From the records contained in the Family Bible, now in possession of Reverend Samuel L. Riggs, Shreveport, Louisiana, and data received from members of the Riggs Family, I am grateful to have had a part in compiling and typing the genealogical data, and to present it to Uncle Sam on his Eighty Birthday, May 3, 1952." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

GENERATION NINE

9. **LEONARD MORRISON⁹ RIGGS** (*Samuel G.⁸, Samuel⁷, Eli⁶, Abraham⁵, Abraham⁴, Joseph³, Abraham², —¹*) was born 27 November 1905, DeRidder, Beauregard Parish, Louisiana;³⁶³ died 21 February 2001, Longview, Gregg County, Texas.³⁶⁴

He married 3 April 1934, Shreveport, Louisiana, **FLEETA WALKER**,³⁶⁵ who was born 19 July 1912, Newton, Mississippi;³⁶⁶ died 7 March 2006, Dallas, Texas.³⁶⁷ She was the daughter of Boyd and Pamela "Pixie" (Denman) Walker.³⁶⁸

Child of Leonard⁹ and Fleeta (Walker) Riggs:³⁶⁹

10 i **LEONARD MORRISON¹⁰ RIGGS JR.**

³⁶³ Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁶⁴ Social Security Death Index.

³⁶⁵ Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁶⁶ Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁶⁷ Social Security Death Index.

³⁶⁸ Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.

³⁶⁹ "Genealogical Chart of the Riggs Family," eight typescript pages, prepared by Yvonne Partee with the following note, "From the records contained in the Family Bible, now in possession of Reverend Samuel L. Riggs, Shreveport, Louisiana, and data received from members of the Riggs Family, I am grateful to have had a part in compiling and typing the genealogical data, and to present it to Uncle Sam on his Eighty Birthday, May 3, 1952." Fleeta Walker Riggs Papers, in the possession of Dr. Leonard Riggs, Dallas, Tex.