

AS I REMEMBER THEM

John Hughes Reynolds

and

Mary Turnley Reynolds

Their Family and Their Times

by

A Daughter

Rubyn Reynolds Ogburn

Chicago, Illinois

1949

REYNOLDS - HUGHES - TURNLEY - ISBELL

The Ancestors of
John Hughes Reynolds
and
Mary Turnley Reynolds

by
A Daughter
Rubyn Reynolds Ogburn

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Children of Isham Runnels (1725-)

1. Mary Runnels (1750-)
2. Judiah Runnels (1752-)
3. Isham Runnels (1754-1827) m. Ann Hinton (1759-1842)
4. William Runnels (1759-)
5. Elizabeth Runnels (1761-)
6. Hannah Runnels (1765-)

Children of Isham Runnels (1754-1827) and Ann Hinton (1759-1842)

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m. 1) Hannah Barton
2) Widow White (Sarah Barton)
2. Elizabeth Runnels (1783-1854) m. William Maples
3. Sarah Runnels (1785-1871)
4. Henry Runnels (1788-1834)
5. Isham Runnels (1791-1870) m. Nancy Thompson
6. Polly Runnels (1793-1875)
7. Fannie Runnels (1796-died infant)
8. Alice Runnels (1797-1849) m. David Cantrell (1795-1859)
9. Anne Runnels (1799-1852) m. James Chesnutt (1801-1868)
10. David Runnels (1802-1878) m. Sarah Lowderback (1808-1864)
11. Jane Runnels (1804-1884) m. Raleigh Chesnutt (1802-1877)

Children of William Reynolds (1780-1828) and Hannah Barton

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2. Martha Reynolds (1812-1893) m. William Donaldson (1799-)
3. Henry Reynolds (1814-1838)
4. Ann Reynolds (1817-1863) m. Thomas Chesnutt (1810-1876)
5. William Barton Reynolds (1820-1882) m. Catharine Jane Hughes (1826-1882)

Children of William Barton Reynolds (1820-1882) and
Catharine Jane Hughes (1826-1882)

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2. John Hughes Reynolds (1846-1924) m. Mary Ann Turnley (1845-1930)

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I

THE NAME REYNOLDS

There are many ways of spelling the name Reynolds. Indeed it is said by some there are 49 different spellings, some few of which are Runnells, Runels, Runnels, Rennolls, Reynells, and Reynolds. It has also been said all of these have been known to have been changed to Reynolds, but the reverse change is not on record.

Runnells is supposed to have originated from the Scotch word "runnels" meaning rivulet or brook or from the contracting of two words, "run" and "ells", which could have meant the runner was so swift he ran English ells.

There are families of Runnells in this country today who have kept the original spelling of the name, and in England is the well known Lord Rennels who is prominent in the English Army.

Some branches of this family have David I of Scotland at the top of their family tree; while others place there Rhodri-Mawr, King of all Wales, about 825. One of the coats of arms has for a crest a fox head bearing in his mouth a rose gules. The fox head would suggest its French counterpart, Reynard, a well known French name.

Of our line it seems from the old family bible, which is in the possession of a member of the family now living near Rogersville, Tennessee, that the name was called Runnels about the time of the Revolutionary War and before and was later changed to Reynolds. The change took place during the lifetime of my father's grandfather, William Runnels or Reynolds. Up until then the name must have been Runnels or Runels because the entries in the bible use those spellings. Those of our branch of the family who enlisted in the Revolution used the spelling Runels, as is shown by a list of their company. However, upon such lists we cannot place too much dependence because they were usually made hastily by someone primarily interested in the acquisition of one more soldier rather than the correct spelling of his name. It is from the names as given in the bible that I conclude the first of our family in Virginia was known as Runnels or Runels.

THE EARLY REYNOLDS

According to this evidence there was a William Runnels living in Virginia in the late 1600's. William Runnels had a son, Isham, who was born in 1725 who, in turn, had among other children two sons, Isham II born in 1754, and William II born in 1759. It is from Isham Runnels II our family is descended.

William Runnels I who was living in Virginia in the 1600's was the earliest Runnels or Reynolds of our family record. Naturally I am interested in finding out more about him and his family. I wish to know where William Reynolds lived, when he came to America, whom he married, and when his son, Isham, was born.

In my effort to answer these questions, I have searched the old records of early settlers in Virginia. In Cavaliers and Pioneers by Nell Nugent, I found a William Runnels, who in 1656 was granted 600 acres of land for bringing six people to Virginia. However, since our William Runnels' son, Isham, was not born until 1725, we see it is hardly probable he could have been the son of the William Runnels granted 600 acres in 1656. Our William Runnels was probably born in the late 1600's.

Another source of my research was the U. S. Census for 1790, which contains the names of the heads of all families in the states. Through the Census I found the counties where there were Runnels families living in 1780, which was the time of the census of Virginia. Knowing that Isham Runnels II and his brother, William Runnels II, married into families named Hinton and Kesterson, it seemed probable that the three families lived in the same county or adjoining counties; therefore I searched the early census of Virginia for counties where Runnels, Hinton, and Kesterons lived. There was only one county where all three families were found, and that was Northumberland County. Northumberland County, Virginia is on the Chesapeake Bay where boats from England landed. These coastal counties of Virginia were settled as early as 1650? In these very early settlements of Tidewater Virginia families often lived several generations before moving west or south, and some members remained longer still. So the Runnels could have lived in Northumberland County until 1780 which was about the time the brothers, Isham II and William II, married into the Hinton and Kesterson families.

At an even later date the same three families were found in counties of western Virginia until eventually they were as far west as the Shenandoah Valley. It was in the southern part of the Shenandoah Valley that Isham II and William II were, perhaps temporarily, living in about 1776 as will be shown later.

Isham Runnels II and William Runnels II, sons of Isham Runnels I, had four brothers and sisters. According to the family bible the children are listed with dates of birth as follows: Mary born January 27, 1750; Judiah born October 23, 1752; Isham born September 9, 1754; William born June 29,

1759; Elizabeth born November 11, 1761; Hannah born February 22, 1765. It is interesting to note that all the children were born within two to four years of one another with the exception of Isham and William, between whom there was a space of five years. This suggests the possibility of another child who probably died.

Returning to the enlistment of Isham II and William II in the Army of the Revolution, when I was visiting Northumberland County in the hopes of finding records of William Runnels I, I came across a William and Mary College Quarterly which contained a list of Revolutionary soldiers--a list that had never before been published--and I sat down to glance over it for familiar family names. Looking among the R's I found in Capt. Bobbet's Company of Montgomery County the three names, Isham Runnels, William Reynolds, and Nathaniel Runnels. It was indeed a pleasant surprise, for I had not known until then that my great-great-grandfather, Isham Runnels II, had served in the Revolutionary War. I think the Nathaniel mentioned was probably younger than Isham II and a year or two older than William II, because there is a gap of five years between those two brothers and only one or two years between their other brothers and sisters. Though, of course, he could have been a cousin. If he was a brother of Isham and William, it is likely he was killed in the War, for his name does not appear in the family bible.

Montgomery County, Virginia, where the three boys enlisted, was about as far west from Northumberland County as they could have been at that time. It certainly was the furthest west of Virginia counties. Young men were continually pushed westward by the depletion of the soil and by the system of primogeniture and entail which decreed that the undivided property be given to the eldest son. The younger sons of each generation were forced to go west or south to secure new lands and establish themselves anew. "Go West, young men", was the slogan of 1775 in Virginia as truly as it was in 1875 in the days of Horace Greeley who coined the phrase.

The fact that Isham and William Runnels were living in Montgomery County, which is the whole long distance across the state of Virginia from Northumberland County on the Atlantic Ocean, doesn't indicate a close tie with the Runnels of Northumberland County on the Chesapeake Bay. But I was able to trace from the early Censuses of Virginia the names of Hintons, Kestersons, and Runnels across the middle of the state and up the Shenandoah valley. The westward route of migration from the Atlantic Coast north of the James River led directly to where the Runnels boys were living during the time of the Revolution.

I am strongly of the opinion that my branch of the Reynolds family ties in with the Runnels who came to America around 1650 and settled in Northumberland County, where a William Runnels is recorded at about that time. I found an Isham Reynolds living in the Isle of Wight County, Virginia just south of the James River in 1700 but could establish no direct connection between this Isham Reynolds and our family. It might be that this Isham Reynolds of Isle of Wight County was a relative of the Runnels of Northumberland County.

To return to the Runnels boys who fought in the Revolutionary War from Montgomery County, Virginia: after their war service they went further south to what was then southern Virginia but is now Tennessee. They made their home in what is now Hawkins County, Tennessee, but was then Abingdon County,

Virginia. They thus followed the traditional route of the Virginians living north of the James River who migrated south via the inland route. They traversed the central Virginia counties to the Shenandoah Valley, then turned south. Those living south of the James followed the coastal route through the southern Virginia counties and through the eastern and middle sections of North and South Carolina.

Many of the young Virginians who went west and south thought they were making their homes in southern Virginia. They had no intention of leaving their state. That was the case of Isham and William Runnels, who thought their homes would be in Abingdon County, in southern Virginia.

Just after the War there was considerable confusion concerning both state and county boundaries. Some counties were made larger while other large ones were divided into two or three. The section where Isham and William chose their home was first in Virginia, then in North Carolina, and last in Tennessee.

When Isham II and William II enlisted in Montgomery County they were twenty-two and seventeen years of age respectively. While if Nathaniel was their brother, he was probably around twenty. At the close of the War, Isham was about twenty-six. Tradition in the family says they were married in North Carolina, which indeed may have been possible; but since they enlisted from Montgomery County, Virginia, and after the War settled in Abingdon County, Virginia, I am inclined to believe they were born and married in Virginia. Because of their youth, it is hardly probable they were married before enlistment, but rather that they were married in Virginia at the close of the War. However, it is possible they married in their new home when it was a part of the state of North Carolina before the changed boundary left it in Tennessee.

While there is little known about the marriages of Isham and William, we do know they each bought property near what is now Rogersville, Tennessee. A few years later William sold his property and went to live in central Tennessee.

Isham Runnels II, from whom we are descended, married Ann Hinton, who was born September 1759, and she died August 23, 1842. They had eleven children of whom the eldest, William, was my great-grandfather. The other sons were Henry, Isham III, and David; while the daughters were named Elizabeth, Sarah, Polly, Fannie, Alice, Anne, and Jane. Since then, as now, a son was usually named for his mother's father, we may risk a guess that Ann Hinton's father's name was either William, Henry, or David; Isham being a distinctive Runnels name and a very unusual one. These names can serve as a guide in future research on the Hinton family in Virginia.

From the deed records in the Rogersville court house, which I searched carefully when there in 1938, I found that in 1789 Isham Runnels made a purchase of 400 acres of land on Honeycut Creek. The record says he "gave 100 pounds Virginia currency for 400 acres laying on Honeycut Creek. The boundary being at three oaks on a flat ridge, thence south 240 poles to an elm and ash, thence west 267 poles to a stake, thence north 240 poles, then east 267 poles to the beginning--together with all houses, fences, water, etc."

This property was known as Carmichael Bottoms, and it was there Isham and Ann Hinton Runnels made their home, reared their large family, and died. This property was probably an addition to the land granted the soldiers for their War services.

As time went on Isham acquired more land until at last he owned many acres. This together with the earlier purchase was known as the Runnels Place, and it was located about where their son, David, later built his home and not far from where David's great-granddaughter, Mrs. W. W. Grigsby, now lives. I have visited the place. It is fine bottom land and has an old grist mill on it.

When I was about eight years of age my father took me there to see the old family bible that had been left to David Runnels. We found the two-volume bible in very bad condition; so my father sent it to New York and had it rebound in one volume and then returned it. I remember at the time playing with a little girl about my own age who in later years I found was David Runnels' great-granddaughter, Martha. And it is this little girl, Martha, now Mrs. Grigsby, who owns the family bible today. She lives near Rogersville, but her post office is Persia, Tennessee. Recently when I went to see her to look at the bible again, she said to me, "Oh! You were the pretty little girl with the beautiful blue parasol!" I had forgotten the parasol as well as most details of my visit.

Isham and Ann Hinton Runnels lived to an old age. She lived 15 years after her husband's death in 1827 and died at the age of 83 years.

In my search for deeds and other records in Rogersville, I found a deed dated 1826 naming Isham Runnels as a witness and stating he was 91 years old at that time, which is at variance with our family records which state Isham II was born in 1754 and died in 1827, which would have made him 73 years of age at that time. This introduces the possibility that his father, Isham Runnels I, lived with them as a very old man and was the witness mentioned.

If Isham Runnels I was living in 1826, my grandfather, William Barton Reynolds, grandson of Isham II, could have known him, for he was born in 1820. He certainly knew his grandparents, Isham and Ann Hinton Runnels, for he was seven years old when Isham died and was 17 when his grandmother, Ann Hinton Runnels, died in 1842. It is distressing to think of the information regarding them that he could have given my father had either of them realized its value to future generations. They could, between them, have told an interesting story for us.

III

WILLIAM REYNOLDS

William Reynolds, the eldest son of Isham and Ann Hinton Runnels, was born February 25, 1780, and he was the father of my grandfather, William Barton Reynolds. Unlike his parents, he died comparatively young--at the age of 48 years. He lived only a year after the death of his father, Isham. His life was spent in the place where his father chose to settle. The records of deeds of Hawkins County, Tennessee, show that he bought property from his father and others in 1807, 1808, and 1820 and that his home adjoined that of his parents.

In 1808 or 1809 he married Hannah Barton. Though the date of his marriage is not recorded in the family bible, we can assume this to be approximately correct from the fact that their oldest child was born in 1810. With this marriage another family enters the Reynolds family line, and a very interesting one too.

The Bartons of that time were a large family of Maryland and Virginia, some of whom went to Tennessee. Many of this family stayed in Virginia, while others went to Missouri and various western states. Descendants of this family became distinguished preachers, lawyers, and educators.

My father was never successful in finding out who was the father of his grandmother, Hannah Barton, though he carried on a correspondence for several years on this subject when he was preparing the pamphlet he wrote on the Reynolds family. The reasons for his failure were many. One was that the families who migrated got separated from the main family stem and did not keep records well, at a time when little writing was done. Another difficulty was that the various Bartons had an unusually large number of children, many of them having the same names. Another element of confusion was the fact that when Hannah Barton Reynolds died in 1820, her husband, William Reynolds, married another Barton, Sarah, daughter of the Reverend Isaac Barton. This Sarah was confused with Hannah in some of the correspondence. Thus the Reverend Isaac Barton himself in a letter to one of his grandchildren, spoke of the marriage of his daughter, Sarah, to William Reynolds, but did not mention a prior marriage to Hannah Barton and in the same letter when he mentioned the children of William Reynolds, the reader naturally inferred that they were the children of Sarah when they were really the children of Hannah. Sarah lived only a short time and had only one child. But to my mind the most pertinent reason for the lack of records concerning Hannah Barton was the fact that she died when her son, William Barton, was an infant, and his father's death, a few years later, left him an orphan at eight years of age. An orphan boy of eight years of age would hardly be expected to acquire information concerning his ancestry.

Naturally I have been curious to find Hannah Barton's direct connection with this family of Virginia Bartons, and therefore I have given much thought and study to it. Without going into a history of the Bartons until later in

this story, I shall say here that I think Hannah Barton's father was an Abner Barton, who can be readily connected with the Virginia Bartons. My reasons for this deduction are as follows, Abner Barton's home in Tennessee adjoined the old Runnels' Place where Isham and Ann Runnels and their son, William, lived. Living next door naturally presented the opportunity for the two families to become friends. Furthermore, Abner was old enough to have had a daughter the age Hannah was when she married William Reynolds. These points supporting my supposition that Hannah Barton who married William Reynolds, was the daughter of Abner Barton, younger son of Joshua Barton of Virginia, will be explained more fully in the following record of the Barton family.

William and Hannah Barton Reynolds had five children: Isaac Wilson, Martha, Henry, Ann, and William Barton who was my father's father. Family names have very pertinent meanings when one is interested in family records; therefore let us for a moment look at the names William and Hannah gave their children. We know well that Isaac was a Barton name, for each generation of Bartons had one. Martha was also a name of that family. One of Isham and Ann Hinton Runnels' sons was named Henry which probably came from the Hinton family, for up to that time no Runnels had that name. In many families one son is named for the mother's father. The next child was named Ann, obviously for her grandmother, Ann Hinton Runnels, who was William's mother. The youngest child was William Barton, a combination of the names of both parents.

Hannah Barton Reynolds, born about 1790, died soon after the birth of her youngest son. She died in 1820 at about the age of thirty years.

Isaac Wilson Reynolds, eldest child of William and Hannah Barton Reynolds, was born in 1810 and married Emily Copeland.

Martha Reynolds, their second child, was born in 1812 and married William Donaldson. They moved to Cleveland, Tennessee, in McMinn County, where their descendants are living today. Martha Reynolds was the devoted sister and benefactor of her young brother, William Barton, who was eight years of age when left an orphan, and their children were devoted cousins.

Henry Reynolds, third child of William and Hannah Barton Reynolds, was born in 1814 and died, unmarried, in 1838.

Ann Reynolds, fourth child, was born in 1817. She married Thomas Chesnutt, and she died in 1863.

William Barton Reynolds, youngest child of William and Hannah Barton Reynolds, was born June 20, 1820. He married Catharine Hughes February 29, 1844 and died October 7, 1882.

The life story of William Barton Reynolds follows this account of early Reynolds and Barton families.



