



Reynolds Recollections

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THOMAS RENNOLDS/REYNOLDS OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA

By William L. King

In previous articles I have written for *RFA Recollections* I have implied that the information presented by Stephen F. Tillman in his books on Rennolds/Reynolds families of America for William Reynolds and Thomas Reynolds of Edgefield Co. SC has many errors in the dates. Also, I have suggested that the parents shown by Tillman for William and Thomas Reynolds are in error. I say that the parents were Benjamin and Sarah Rennolds of Essex/Caroline Counties VA and that their great grandparents were James and Susannah Reynolds of Essex Co. VA (RFA Line 35). This article is written to show what I have found in South Carolina records and elsewhere for Thomas Reynolds of Edgefield Co. SC.

From Caroline Co. VA and Edgefield Co. SC records it appears that Thomas and William Rennolds arrived in the Edgefield Co. area about 1780/1. First, the information shown in Tillman's book. First, the information shown in Tillman's book for Thomas Reynolds is totally in error. The information shown is actually for his son Thomas Reynolds Jr. This information is not perfectly correct as presented but is actually reasonably complete for this Thomas Reynolds Jr family.

Thomas Rennolds was active in Edgefield Co. SC and owned property there; he owned both land and slaves. He died in 1786 and he had a will. The interesting thing is that his will and all of his estate papers are on file in Abbeville County, SC. I believe that the reason for this is that about 1785 the old Edgefield District (i.e. the old 96th District) was divided into counties and the two of these counties formed Edgefield

and Abbeville. I was told that Abbeville Co., administratively, started before Edgefield Co. and that for a short period of time individuals in Edgefield Co. used the court system in Abbeville for their legal needs until their county got up to speed.

In his will Thomas Rennolds of Edgefield identified his wife and children. He appointed his **wife, Elizabeth** his Executrix and William Rennolds his Executor of his will. **Sons:** Fielding, John, Thomas, James and Benjamin. **Daughters:** Sarah and Nancy. It was interesting to note that Thomas spelled his and William's name as **Rennolds**. Also that most of his children's given names were the same as his sibling's names and also like his parents' names in Caroline Co. VA. He gave different parcels of land to three children: James, Benjamin and Nancy and each child was given a Negro slave.

The most interesting fact of all is that **Fielding Reynolds** is the son of **Thomas Reynolds** and not the son of **William Rennolds** as claimed by Tillman. (Tillman's family line is through Fielding Reynolds.)

It appeared that Elizabeth, Thomas **Rennolds'** widow, later used the spelling of her name as **Reynolds** as did their children. It also appears that most of Thomas and Elizabeth Rennolds' children and their descendants departed SC for other states, probably Georgia and Alabama as starters.

WILLIAM F. RENNOLDS/REYNOLDS OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY, S. CAROLINA

By William L. King

Stephen F. Tillman in his book on *Rennolds/Reynolds Families of America* has a Thomas Reynolds and Hannah Lewis settling in Caroline Co. VA, with issue: **William b. 1746**; Abigail;

Thomas b. 1745; Mary; Caroline and **Robert b. 1760.** I have seen no evidence that this Thomas Reynolds was ever in Caroline Co. VA. I have always suspected that Robert probably was a son of another Reynolds family in Essex Co. VA; however, I have not researched this. William b. c1732 and Thomas b. c1740, I believe to be the sons of **Benjamin and Sarah Rennolds** (first wife) and the grandsons of **James and Susannah Rennolds** (RFA line 35) of Essex/Caroline Counties VA.

Tillman has William Reynolds d 1805 Edgefield Dist. SC m. Margaret **Harris** with issue: Fielding b. 1 Jun 1763; Francis; Catherine m. **Burton**; Sally m. **Dixon**; James Abraham b 1770; Margaret m. Joseph **Jennings**; Benjamin; William b 1782; John; and Larkin. We now know that Fielding is actually the son of Thomas Rennolds, William Rennolds' brother, and that Benjamin and **Larkin Reynolds** are the sons of William Rennolds' brother, Benjamin Reynolds II. A number of the descendants of William Lewis Reynolds still live in Edgefield County area and they say that he is son of William Rennolds. (Note: William Lewis Reynolds is also in Strom Thurmond's family line.)

Tillman's books say that William Reynolds' wife was a Margaret **Harris**. William Reynolds' wife between 1780's and 1805 was Margaret (Peggy); I could find no evidence that suggested she was a Harris. Three families in Edgefield District that both William and Thomas Reynolds had numerous contacts with were **Harris, Herndon** and **Pickett**. They were neighbors, bought and sold land between each other and were witnesses for each other, etc.

Benjamin Rennolds I's, the father of William and Thomas' sister **Hannah Rennolds**, married a **James PICKETT**. A Pickett genealogist says that Margaret Pickett, daughter of a Thomas Pickett, was married to William Rennolds. He further says that this Thomas Pickett died about 1783. A Thomas Pickett died in the 96th Dist. of SC and his will was probated 24 Feb 1783.

Thomas Rennolds was a witness to this will and William Reynolds was one of the Executors to the will. At that time, this Thomas Pickett's widow was Mille Pickett. Sarah Rennolds, wife of Benjamin Rennolds I, may have had family ties to the Picketts. There is a good possibility that Harris, Herndon, Pickett and Rennolds families all came to Edgefield (old 96th Dist.) area from Caroline Co VA at about the same time.

William Rennolds and Peggy Reynolds were witnesses in 1785. William Rennolds made an Inventory in 1782. William Rennolds acquired a number of parcels of land in Edgefield; generally the land was on Catfish Creek off the Savannah River or on the West side of Stephens Creek, not far from the Catfish Creek lands. He and Margaret (Peggy) sold a number of these parcels; one was as late as 1805, which is the last time that I saw her name in the records which may mean that this was about the time of her death. William Rennolds conveyed land to his son-in-law, Joseph Jennings, in the Catfish Creek area in the 1806/7/8 timeframe. There was no evidence that Peggy Rennolds relinquished her dower rights for these deeds. This is the last time I saw evidence of **William Rennolds**. Other county records indicated that **Frances Elizabeth Reynolds**, b. c.1771, was married to Joseph Jennings. (Note: Tillman had her name as Margaret.)

An interesting deed recording for William Rennolds is as follows:

DB30, p.23, Edgefield Co. SC - William Reynolds of **Fairfield Co SC** to his son-in-law Joseph Jennings, 7 Feb 1807, 96 acres - 2 tracts of land on Catfish Creek of Savannah River - Proven 15 Jan 1806. Question: Why would William Rennolds have been in Fairfield Co? A quick check of Fairfield records did not reveal anything.

The above reference to Frances Elizabeth Reynolds is the only specific document that I saw that identified a child of William and Margaret (Peggy) Rennolds. I saw nothing that

identified Catherine or Sally, nor James Abraham or John. There was a James and a John there, but they always appeared to be sons of Thomas and Elizabeth Rennolds. There definitely was a Francis Reynolds there and I assume that he was a son of William and Margaret Rennolds. After William and Margaret disappeared from the records of Edgefield Co. there was a William Reynolds active in county affairs, so he probably was William Lewis Reynolds, who I assume to be son of William and Margaret Rennolds.

I saw no evidence of William or Margaret Rennolds having an estate settlement in Edgefield County. He certainly should have had an estate settlement somewhere. Did he move to where one of his children was living? Further research is needed on this matter.

Possible children of William and Margaret Rennolds/Reynolds: William Lewis Reynolds. Numerous internet postings indicate lineage through William Lewis Reynolds. I only hope that some one of them as positive proof that William and Margaret are his parents. Assuming so, all of these individuals are encouraged to correct their lineage records to show the correct parents, etc of William Rennolds/Reynolds. The all show Tillman's incorrect data.

Francis Reynolds. A Francis Runnels is shown in the 1800, 1810, 1840 and 1850 (aged 80) census records for Edgefield Co. SC. He had a number of children but I have not seen a complete listing of them. It is a possibility that he is a son of William and Margaret Rennolds/Reynolds. I have seen no postings on the internet claiming decacy from him.

James Abraham Reynolds/Runnels. Tillman claims that James Abraham was a son of William and Margaret Rennolds/Reynolds and that he was in Darlington SC. There was an Abraham Reynolds/Rennels in Darlington Co. SC census. I would like to see evidence, other than Tillman, if there is any, that he is the son of William and Margaret Rennolds. If none, the

internet postings should be corrected to show a correct history for William Rennolds/Reynolds.

Catherine Reynolds, Sally Reynolds, and John Reynolds. I saw nothing in the Edgefield Co. records to identify them. Tillman has Catherine and Sally as being married.

Possible children of Thomas Reynolds and Hannah (Lewis) Reynolds

A number of individuals have Catherine, aka Katherine, aka Caroline Reynolds married to Hezekiah Gentry and as having eight to eleven children. She might be a daughter of Thomas Reynolds and Hannah Lewis, whoever they are.

Abigail Reynolds and Mary Reynolds. I have seen nothing on these two.

Robert Reynolds. I have doubts that he is a son of Thomas and Hannah Lewis Reynolds.

The Reynoldses of Devon and Newfoundland

By Cecil J. Reynolds, Old Town ME

[Found in RFA Archives; no other record of Mr. Reynolds found in files.]

The family name Reynolds, now widespread in all English-speaking countries, undoubtedly had a very ancient origin. In a variety of forms it appears throughout Europe, from Scandinavia southward to Italy. Originally it may well have had a Norse form, something like Hrognvaldr, meaning "power of the forest," that is, "very good hunter." Thus it may go back to when Europeans lived mainly by hunting.

Almost certainly it was borne by many of the sea-rovers from Norway and Denmark who first raided then settled in considerable numbers in northern Ireland and northeast England. For some three centuries the latter area was known as the Danelaw. These raids began in the latter half of the eighth century. By the opening of the eleventh century, in spite of heroic efforts by the Saxon King Alfred and his sons and grandsons, the invaders controlled nearly all of England under their King Canute (or Knut), also King of Norway

and Denmark. They were called Vikings because many of them had come from the viks or narrow creeks on the mountainous coast of Norway. This final conquest came in the reign of Ethelred II, who was known as the Redeless, or "lacking in good counsel or wisdom." He was forced to flee across the Channel with his second wife Emma, a daughter of the current Duke of Normandy.

After becoming masters of the seas around Britain the Norseman had also raided and settled at the mouths of rivers of France flowing into the Channel. Charles III, who then ruled a rather small France from Paris on the upper Seine, failed in his attempts to dislodge them from an area at the mouth of the river. However, he eventually got their leader Roll, or Hrolf the Ganger (or Wanderer), to do him homage in the feudal fashion and become baptized as Duke Robert in 912. For nearly a century thereafter fresh settlers arrived from Scandinavia. Meanwhile Duke Robert had expanded his realm westward along the coast into what became Normandy, or land of the Northmen. The newcomers almost all married French wives. By about 1000 A.D. Normandy had become Norman-French in speech and French in customs.

King Canute of England-Norway-Denmark proved to be a very able and wise monarch, but he died in middle age, leaving sons who were quite inadequate and also quarrelsome. Canute's line in England ended in 1042 A.D. The great Saxon earls, led by Godwin of Wessex, then invited Edward, son of the deceased Ethelred and Emma, to become King of England. He came over from Normandy and promptly married Godwin's daughter, but the marriage was childless. Edward had grown up at the Norman court, spoke French, and tried, unsuccessfully, to Normanize the English court. Because of his piety he was known as the Confessor. Earl Godwin dominated Edward, as did Harold, Godwin's son, after the old man's death. When the Confessor died in 1066, the Saxons hailed Harold as king.

However, there was a widely circulated story to the effect that, while the Confessor was still

alive, Harold's ship had been driven on the coast of Normandy in a storm and that at the Norman court the current Duke William had extracted an oath or promise from Harold to help him to the succession when the Confessor died. In any case, whether or not there was such a promise, Harold became king, while William readied an army for an invasion. Meanwhile, Harold and his army had to hurry north to repel a new Viking invasion. He was successful but by the time his tired troops came south again, William and his Normans had crossed the Channel. The battle was joined at Hastings on the south coast. It was hard-fought but the Saxon defense collapsed when Harold fell mortally wounded. William, henceforth known as the Conqueror, became King of England.

William proceeded to reorganize England according to the European feudal system, in which landholders swore fealty to the monarch for the lands they held. The lands of many dead Saxon nobles were distributed to William's Norman followers. William's half-brother Robert, Count (later Earl) of Mortain, acquired a stretch of land on the west side of the estuary of the Exe river across from the port of Topsham, four miles south of Exeter, the chief city of the county of Devon in southwest England across from Normandy. We know this because a year before his death in 1087 William had ordered a complete and very detailed survey of all lands owned in England. This included not just the size, but also past and present owners and its resources in men and materials. No doubt this was done for purposes of better administration and taxation. This priceless record became known as the Domesday Book. In it we learn that Count Robert's land in Devon had as a steward an overseer one Rainald, obviously a Norman, who directed the work of the Saxon peasants or serfs on this property.

Rainald was a very common Norman name, ancestor of the modern French Rainault. Therefore, there are many Rainalds in the Domesday Book, especially in southern England from Kent to Devon. Usually they were stewards

or managers of property for the nobles. the name is certainly of Norse derivation, as shown by the presence of Reynoldsons in northern England and in family names of Swedish emigrants to Minnesota. It is no doubt assuming far too much to assert that all the Reynoldses of Devon are descended from Count Robert's steward, but assuredly some of them are. Since ownership of property by descent was very important in feudal England and later, for centuries the wills of men of property were usually registered with the church authorities as by far the safest depository in troubled times. Great numbers of Reynolds wills are still extant. Many property owners eased their souls by gifts to churches and charities. And Reynoldses who did not own worthwhile property often figured as beneficiaries in the wills of richer folk.

Only after the 16th century Reformation of Henry VIII was there an organized effort to keep official records of all births, marriages, and deaths. Private family records were sometimes kept to clarify inheritances, especially among those who held tracts of land in various places. Still, it is next to impossible to trace most family relationships over centuries with reasonable accuracy. In fact it is said that only one family in England can trace its origin, generation after generation, back to the Norman Conquest, but many do go back to the Domesday Book.

Even when the custom of keeping such records was instituted in the new English church, it was often neglected or haphazardly attended to. Many an ancestor hunter has been frustrated by the negligence of local clergy and parish clerks. The present writer is no exception. Of course, more clues may turn up in church, town or other records still obscure or unavailable to the searcher, but the chances of good luck are slim. The writer has had his own share of luck, but would dearly love to examine the records of the Wharfingers of Topsham in the year when his ancestor sailed from that port, but so far one cannot consult them unless one knows the name of the ship or its captain, as the records are indexed under their

names. Sometime in the future someone may get into them.

The Reynoldses of Devon

The tradition of our family as handed on to me almost by accident by my father John Giles Reynolds (1880-1946) IN 1930 runs like this:

Five young Reynolds brothers sailed from Topsham in Devon aboard a vessel bound for Newfoundland. This happened toward the end of the third quarter of the 18th century. They may have been bound for New England and hoped to find passage on a Yankee trader supplying goods to the Newfoundland "planters" or fishermen. Three of the brothers may have carried out the plan, but all trace of them had been lost. Two decided to stop in Newfoundland. They had emigrated because their father had died in middle age and their mother was thinking of marrying again. My father could not swear to all this because this part of the tradition was only dimly remembered in his youth. But there were two certain facts. The older brother had settled with the Lacey family at Mulley's Cove on the "North Shore" of Conception Bay. The younger brother had settled at Caplin Cove, further north along the "Shore", but with whom my father did not know.

Forty and more years after my father's story of the two brothers I retired from teaching. One day I happened on a faded note I had made at the time of our talk in 1930, and began to think of some research on the family and its origins. Father had said our ancestor was the older brother James. The younger one was named John. I remembered that when I was about 12, two teenaged Reynoldses had turned up at Grandfather Reynolds' and stayed a few days before moving on, probably to the mainland. It seems their grandfather was a brother of my grandfather but why he lived down in Caplin Cove I did not know. I thought that Reynolds was an uncommon name.

About two years later, when I was 13 or 14, I sometimes walked the seven miles south to the home of my maternal grandparents, the Joseph

Davises, on Benjy's Hill above the village of Freshwater. We had lived there until I was eight. I had been the only Reynolds in school. However, on one of these walks I did meet some barefoot children playing near a house on the outskirts of Salmon Cove. I asked their name and was very surprised to hear it was Reynolds. We were not so rare after all. When, in the late 1970s, I began to think seriously of research on the family, I remembered this encounter. I thought I had heard the name of a Salmon Cove Reynolds somewhere, so I wrote but got no answer. It turned out later that I had used a given name unknown in the village.

In the meantime my father's reference to Topsham had intrigued me because I had spent three years at college in England before I heard of the tradition. Had I known, I could have gone down on vacation and undoubtedly encountered scores of Reynoldses. But now I checked up on the town in maps and books in college libraries. Topsham had long been the port of the city of Exeter, about four miles up the Exe River. It stood where the river widens into an estuary of the sea. At one time a Countess of Devon had placed a weir in the river below Exeter. Thus for many years Topsham had accommodated all sea traffic to and from Exeter. Once the weir had been removed Topsham declined somewhat in importance but still received much shipping because of its piers. Of course the weir had disappeared long before the Reynolds brothers sailed westward.

There are early records of Reynoldses not only in Topsham but in abundance in Exeter and nearby villages on both sides of the Exe and its many smaller tributaries. Several figured as clergy, schoolmasters and parish clerks, as well as men of property. A John **Reynolds** was vicar of Hemiock in 1574. He made his will that year, as did his widow Cicely in 1608. Another John **Reynolds** was parish clerk of St. Thomas Church in Exeter, kept poorly organized records, and died in 1692. He was the father of the Reverend John **Reynolds** of St. Pancras Church, who died about

1739. Other members of the family were schoolmasters in Exeter. In this general area the name shows no evidence of dying out. When my cousin Christine, granddaughter of my uncle, William Wesley **Reynolds**, visited Exeter and Topsham in 1977, she counted 139 Reynoldses in the area phone book!

A suburb of Exeter that holds special interest for the clan is Pinhoe, three miles up the Exe from Exeter. The Saxons, from 806 A.D. onward, fought three battles with the invading Danes here for possession of the walled city of Exeter. The greatest struggle occurred in 1001 A.D. in the reign of Ethelred the Redeless. The Danes were led by Pellig, brother-in-law of King Sven I of Denmark, against the men of Devon and Somerset under a general named Cola and Edry, the sheriff of the county. In the long day's battle the Saxons were defeated after great slaughter on both sides. Exeter, behind its strong walls, managed to hold out, but eventually England was ruled by Sven's son Canute.

Domesday Book (1086) registers a church of St. Michael at Pinhoe. It must have been a fair-sized village then. There is still a church of St. Michael at Pinhoe. At Henry VIII's Reformation a Thomas **Reynolds**, its Catholic vicar, was replaced by Michael **Reynolds**, a Protestant vicar, in 1536, because Thomas refused to change his affiliation. Again they may well have been brothers, as there was much division in families over religion in those days. When the Catholic Queen Mary succeeded her half-brother, the young Protestant Edward VI, Thomas' faithfulness was recognized. He became, successively, Warden of Merton College at Oxford, Dean of Bristol and Dean of Exeter, then was nominated Bishop of Hereford by Mary just before her death in 1558. Her half-sister, the Protestant Queen Elizabeth I, succeeded, since neither Edward nor Mary had had children. She cancelled Thomas' nomination and put him in jail, where he died the next year. Thomas was a son of Richard **Reynolds** of Pinhoe "whose ancestors had long resided in the parish," according to a brief local history.

A younger brother of Thomas and Michael was also a Richard **Reynolds**, a very substantial farmer of Pinhoe. Of his six sons he is said to have sent five to Oxford. Nicholas **Reynolds**, the youngest, stayed home to look after the family property. A fascinating tale, preserved by that widely-known collector of West Country legends, Sabine Baring-Gould, concerns William **Reynolds**, the second son, and John, the third. In the early 1560s, just after Elizabeth's accession, William was up at New College and John at Corpus Christi College. These were the days when the brighter students were constantly arguing the merits of the "old" and the "new" faiths. John was at first an ardent Catholic and William an equally strong Reformer (or Protestant). Family legend reports that these two argued each other around to the other's point of view. A variation of the legend says it was not William but Edmund **Reynolds**, the fourth son, who was up at Corpus with John. Edmund became a Catholic, resigned his fellowship there and went into exile in Catholic France. John, the new Protestant, rose in the new church to become Dean of Lincoln and, later, President of his old college, Corpus. Queen Elizabeth offered him a bishopric, but he declined and became a leader of that branch of the new church called Puritan, which figured prominently a long generation later in the great Civil War.

In 1603 Elizabeth died, after naming as her successor James VI of Scotland, son of her old enemy, Mary, Queen of Scots. On his way down to London James was "waylaid" at Hampton Court by a large body of clerics of varying views who no doubt wanted to know where James stood in matters of religion. Prominent at this conference was Dr. John **Reynolds** of Corpus. As a means of binding the various factions together, Dr. Reynolds suggested that the new King authorize a new translation of the Bible to be used in all churches. There were then several versions in use, sometimes with controversial interpretations included.

King James, who already had standing as an author himself, approved the suggestion and soon

appointed three groups of scholars to do the work, based at Oxford, Cambridge and Westminster. Dr. Reynolds, a noted scholar, was named to the Oxford group but died in 1607 just as the actual translation began. There is a not well-founded legend that the Oxford group used to meet at his deathbed to consult him. The KJV, or King James Version, finally appeared in 1611. It is justly famed as the only literary masterpiece produced by a committee. By an incredible coincidence, John's brother Edmund became involved at Donai in France on the Rheims-Donai English version of the Latin Vulgate Bible as used everywhere in the Catholic Church. Several years later, another William **Reynolds**, son of Nicholas, the Pinhoe farmer, left home and settled at Cassington near Oxford as a gentleman, possibly having inherited the estates of his bachelor uncles.

In 1724 another John **Reynolds** is referred to in a guidebook as the schoolmaster in Exeter who is "a great collector and preserver of such learned remains." This occurs in a longer reference to Mr. Loudham, an Exeter surgeon, possessor of most of a pot of Roman coins dug up in 1722...

But now to return downriver to Topsham, about four miles below Exeter. The Topsham registers of births, marriages and deaths begin in 1600, but were kept only at intervals and haphazardly. That is, if we may judge by what has survived to be recorded and published by the Devon and Cornwall Record Society. There no record there of the marriage of a William and Alice **Reynolds**, but like many others, they may have been married in Exeter. However, the births of their eight children were registered at Topsham as follows: James, 11 Sep 1649; William 30 Oct 1651; William 13 Jan 1653; John 4 Sep 1656; Margaret 12 Feb 1661; Nicholas 18 Jun 1665; twins, Edmund and Elizabeth 16 May 1667. The first William, Nicholas and Edmund each survived only a month or less. Infant mortality was heavy in those days.

In the next 40 years of the Topsham records there are no more Reynoldses by a few Rendalls,

then down to the 1770s just a scattering of marriages, baptisms and burials.

There seemed to be no connection with the five boys (more likely only two) who set out from Topsham about 1770. However, an entry of 25 Feb 1779, records the baptism of "Dorothea **Jackson**, daughter of James and Sarah **Jackson**, born at Trepassey, N.F., 14 Jan 1778." There is also an entry on the very first page of the register which notes: "March 9, 1697, Bapt. of Matthew, son of Mary and Matthew **Hudson**. The boy was born in Newfoundland on 4 Sep 1686." Little Matthew did not survive his transplanting very long. He died on 24 Sep 1697. However, in 1699 the birth of a second Matthew was recorded. The father is now called Mr. **Hudson**, suggesting that he had made enough money in Newfoundland to come up in the world. The two items about these births far away indicate clearly a connection between natives in this area and Newfoundland.

On 3 Nov 1757, a William **Reynolds** married Elizabeth **Hare**. He died 2 Dec 1770, and on 14 Feb 1778, his widow married Abraham **Pearse**. It might be tempting to assume that in 19 years of marriage Elizabeth had borne children, but there is no record of such births. My father had said that the Reynolds boys had sailed from Topsham, not that they had been born there. I was now convinced that they were born elsewhere.

Meanwhile, in 1977 Christine, older daughter of my cousin, William A.L. **Reynolds**, had also become quite interested in our ancestry. I gave her what little material I had. In December she had an opportunity to meet her brother David **Reynolds** in Paris on his return trip from Peace Corps stint in Africa. Together they visited Exeter and Topsham, were well received, took many snapshots of Topsham, and made inquiries at Exeter, where Topsham's port records of the 18th century are kept in the Exeter library. I had told Christine there just might be a trace of the boys in the shipping records. However, she was frustrated by the rule that she could not consult these records without the name of the ship or captain involved, as the records were indexed by these names. Then

she was referred to two bundles of letters sent to an Exeter librarian in response to genealogical inquiries in Canada and the U.S.A. These were indexed according to names mentioned in them. There were Reynoldses mentioned but the index was imperfect and she could not find the names mentioned in them. Possibly, at a later date, some family members may be able to overcome these handicaps and find a clue or two.

By this time I had realized that I had broken the first law of genealogical research: Begin at home and work backward. In the next few years I did follow this rule and had the most amazing luck. I think I discovered the year of arrival and the ages of the two boys at the time. James was almost certainly 19 and his brother John 17. I concluded that only these two had embarked for Newfoundland. The three younger boys mentioned by my father, I felt, had stayed home, perhaps too young to go voyaging.

I have told the story of my search at home in "The Ancestor Story and How It Grew", copies of which I have distributed to my brothers and male cousins with the Reynolds name. Copies also went to the Newfoundland and Labrador Genealogical Society at the Colonial Building and to the memorial University of Newfoundland, both at St John's, the capital. A sequel, "And It Grew Some More" dealt with what I found about young John **Reynolds'** descendants at Caplin Cove and elsewhere. Since then I have gone back to the Devon and Cornwall Record Society's publications and discovered that a James **Reynolds** had died at Rockbeare in 1757 and another James, possibly his son, had died there in 1767. I concluded that the second James was the father who had died in middle age and whose two oldest boys were the James and John who had come to Newfoundland c. 1769. These facts fit in well with my father's "tradition." But I have not as yet found a record of the births.

Rockbeare is a village about seven miles up the little river Clyst which flows into the Exe estuary at Topsham. It is about the same distance east of Exeter and Pinhoe. I had also begun to suspect

that young James **Reynolds** knew where he was headed when he left Topsham. At Mulley's Cove he had taken service with the Lacey family of bootmakers. The leather for the boots may well have come from Exeter, since there are records of large quantities of leather shipped from Exeter via Topsham to Newfoundland. In the 17th century John **Guy**'s colonists and later arrivals had complained loudly that English shoes could not stand up in the winter and spring seasons in Newfoundland. This no doubt accounts for the appearance of bootmakers from the West Country in the island as the settled population of fishermen increased in the late 17th and 18th centuries. Some later researcher with more leisure may find evidence of Laceys as shoemakers or dealers in leather in Exeter and its neighborhood. It seems that James **Reynolds** may have gone out as an apprentice directly to Laceys at Mulley's Cove and had taken his younger brother John along. Death records at Blackhead near Mulley's Cove suggest that the Lacey's were not as healthy as the average settler. My grandmother Eliza **Lacey Reynolds** was the last of the Laceys. She may have had some useful memories of her family, but she died long before I took any interest in my ancestry. Whereas James **Reynolds** began in service as an illiterate helper to the literate Laceys, eventually the two families intermarried. Grandmother was the only daughter of John **Lacey** and Esther **Reynolds**, a descendant of James in the third generation. So I end this account with the evidence currently available about the Reynoldses in Devon. -- 30 Sep 1988.

OUR FAMILY TREE
Submitted by Pat Daniels

I think that I shall never see
A thing more intriguing than our family tree,
Whose roots began with Adam and Eve
When the human race did first conceive.
Then trunk and branches did appear,
And twigs and leaves grew by the year.

'Tis all a mass of names and dates
From foreign lands and the United States
Which forms a pattern as you shall see
When you study our family tree.

Author unknown.

REYNOLDS-MILLER-WOOD BIBLES

Amherst-Rockbridge-Botetourt Counties

by Nettle Leitch Major

From *The Virginia Genealogical Society Quarterly*, Vol XVIII, Number 1 [01 Jan 1980].

The following Bibles are in the possession of a direct descendant of the above families, now living near Natural Bridge, Virginia, with permission given this compiler to publish the same. The Charles Reynolds was of Amherst County.

Bible printed and sold by B. J. Collins, New York, 1818.

Births

John Reynolds, eldest son of Charles Reynolds, Sr. was born Aug. 4 1765.

Obadiab Reynolds son of Charles Reynolds Sr. was born Feb. 25, 1770.

Mary Reynolds dau. of Charles Reynolds Sr. was born Feb. 9, 1774.

Rhoda Reynolds dau. of Charles Reynolds Sr. was born

Archelius Reynolds, son of Charles Reynolds and Ann Taylor his wife was born July 27, 1776, and was married 12 Sept. 1797 to Elizabeth Rucker who was born Oct. 14, 1777 and now has issue as follows

Willia Reynolds son to Archelius Reynolds & Elizabeth his wife was born 5 Jan. 1799.

Isaac R. Reynolds son to Archelius Reynolds & Elizabeth was born 14 Dec. 1800.

Charles B. Reynolds son to Archelius Reynolds & Elizabeth was born 14 Sept. 1802.

Obidiah F. Reynolds son to Archelius Reynolds & Elizabeth was born 13 May 1804.

Nancy T. Reynolds dau. to Archelius Reynolds & Elizabeth was born 20 Nov. 1805.

Sarah Reynolds, the consort of Archellius Reynolds was born June 9, 1792.

Susan F. E. J. Reynolds was born 3 Jan. 1817.

George M. Reynolds was born Dec. 2, 1818 and departed this life 28 February 1819.

Crobin [sic Corbin] Miller Reynolds was born 4 Aug. 1820.

Sarah Elinor Reynolds was born 29 Sept. 1823 and departed this life Aug. 7, 1911.

William Alexander Reynolds was born Jan. 15, 1828.

Damarius Reynolds was born 15 Sept. 1834.

Marriages

Archelius Reynolds was married to Elizabeth Rucker 12 Sept. 1797.

Nancy T. Reynolds was married to George A. Pettyjohn May 10, 1825.

Isaac R. Reynolds was married to Miss Anne Cox 6 Aug. 1827.

Isaac R. Reynolds was married to Mrs. Sarah Rucker 30 July 1833. Corbin Reynolds was married to Lucy P. Calloway May 7, 1844.

Sarah Reynolds, second wife of Archelius Reynolds was born June 19, 1792. (note: known to have been Sarah Miller)

Deaths

Elizabeth Reynolds, consort of Archilius Reynolds departed this life 3 Apr 1810.

Charles Reynolds Sr. departed this life Dec. 29, 1821 in Amherst County.

Ann Reynolds, consort of Charles Reynolds Sr. departed this life Jan. 15, 1832.

Archelius Reynolds departed this life Dec. 4, 1863 aged 87/4/7.

William Alexander Reynolds departed this life Oct. 10, 1861.

Sara Renolds, second wife of Archelius Reynolds, departed this life Aug 9, 1872, aged 80 years and 2 months.

Mary J Reynolds, wife of Corbin Reynolds, departed this life Jan 12, 1881, in a hospital at Richmond, VA of cancer.

Brown Cemetery

Benton, Kennebec Co., Maine

Blaisdell Lane, just off Albion Rd., Benton ME

Reynolds, Charles, b. 1882, d. 1922

Reynolds, Erving S., b. 24 Aug 1879, d. 3 Apr 1954, Maine Cook CO F 29 REGT INF, s/w Harriet S. Reynolds

Reynolds, Harriet S., b. 2 Aug 1887, d. 10 May 1957, s/w Erving S. Reynolds

Reynolds, LaFayette, b. 1852, d. 1927, s/w Lizzie Reynolds

Reynolds, Lizzie, b. 1859, d. 1926, s/w LaFayette Reynolds

Runnells, Fannie Bell, d. 22 Aug 1872, age: 2y 1m 25d, Dau. of I.F.+M.J. Runnells

Runnells, Martha A., d. 24 Jun 1896, age: 54y 8m 16d, Wife of Israel Runnells

Runnells, Flotie Etta, b. 1884, d. 1953, s/w Henry M. Runnells

Runnells, Henry M., b. 1881, d. 1940, s/w Flotie Etta Runnells

Book of Wilders. Moses H Wilder Pub: Edward O. Jenkins. New York 1878; Pg 346

The children of Jonathan Reynolds & Persis Wilder :

- i. Lydia C. Reynolds, b. Aug. 17, 1795.
- ii. Bela R. Reynolds, b. Sept. 15, 1797; m. Deborah **Wilder**.
- iii. Persis Reynolds, b. Aug. 16, 1799; d. June 12, 1821.
- iv. Jonathan Reynolds, b. Sept. 15, 1801.
- v. Nathanael Reynolds, b. May 16, 1803.
- vi. Benjamin Reynolds, b. June 18, 1805; m. Eunice **Clark**.
- vii. Maria Reynolds, b. Sept. 12, 1806.
- viii. Mary K. Reynolds, b. June 12, 1808.
- ix. William A. Reynolds, b. July 5, 1810.
- x. Parker Reynolds, b. June 4, 1812.

Reynolds Recollections

Documented Early American Reynolds' Ancestor Lines [American Progenitors]

Code Year Name

- 11 1650 John & Ann Holbrook of Weymouth & Stonington CT
 12 1630 Robert & Mary ?? of Boston, MA
 13 1634 William & Alice Kitson of Duxbury MA & Cape Porpoise ME
 14 1643 James & Deborah ?? of N Kingstown RI
 15 1650 John & Sarah Backus of Saybrook, Lyme & Norwich, CT
 16 1725 ?Reynolds & ?Crook of Washington Co., MD
 17 1622 Christopher & Elizabeth of Isle of Wight VA
 18 1676 Henry & Prudence Clayton of Lancaster Co. PA
 19 1678 Electious & Mary Pease of Salem & Middleboro MA
 20 1634 John & Sarah ? Watertown MA, Wethersfield & Stamford CT
 21 1682 John & () of DE
 22 1708 Richard & Mary Capers, Benjamin & Mary (), William () of St Helen's Parish SC
 23 1700 John & Elizabeth () Kent Co De
 24 1635 Katherine Reynolds & Edward Starbuck Dover NH & Nantucket Island
 25 **Line Not Determined [Stonewalls]**
 26 1637 Thomas & Mary Isle of Wight VA
 27 1640 William & Ann Harrison York Co., VA
 28 1660 John & Naomi Latimer Wethersfield CT
 29 1652 Thomas & Susan Snead York Co., VA
 30 1784 James & Mary Bannon, Margaret & Andrew Forgey, Ellen & ?McDaniel of Co Louth IRE & Knox Co., KY
 31 1850 William & Rebecca Tawn Moulton, ENG & Grinnell IA
 34 1886 Thomas & Bingham Stuart Scotland & Scranton PA
 35 1703 James & Susanna () Reynolds Essex Co., VA
 36 1829 John & Mary Thornton Ashton Yorkshire, ENG, Windsor, QUE & Nashua NH

Line Coordinator

- Sarah Reynolds Young, 2832 Crest Dr., Bakersfield CA 93306
 Dorothy Y. B. Johnson, 62 Danube River Dr., Cocoa Beach FL 32931
 Susan E Clement, 19 Hemlock Dr., Swansea MA 02777
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 Sybil 'Lee' Taylor, 4004 Javins Dr, Alexandria VA 22310
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 Susan E Clement, 19 Hemlock Dr., Swansea MA 02777
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VACANT
VACANT
 Gerald T Reynolds, 5 Snow Ave., Binghamton NY 13905
 William L King, 109 Starboard Ct, Montross VA 22520
 Susan Reynolds Phaneuf, 5402 King George Ct Perry Hall, MD 21128

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July - August 2004

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