GENEALOGICAL NOTES

—ON—

A BRANCH OF

—THE—

FAMILY OF MAYES

—AND ON—

THE RELATED FAMILIES

—OF—

CHAPPELL, BANNISTER, JONES, PETERSON, LOCKE, HARDAWAY, THWEATT AND OTHERS

BY EDWARD MAYES
OF JACKSON, MISS.

SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS

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Rust 585

THE RIGG FAMILY IN AMERICA.

For account of Ambrose Rigg, of England, and his connection with the original charters of New Jersey. See **ante**, p. 5.

There was a Henry Rigg who was somewhat prominent in Cecil county, Maryland in 1628.* He was probably an Englishman, as the name of Henry does not appear to have been used by the Scotch Riggs. This man may have been the ancestor of a family of English-descended Riggs, who lived in Westmoreland county, Va., and are said to have intermarried with the Balls, from whom sprung Mary, the mother of Washington.—A John Rigg received a patent to 1,000 acres of land in King and Queen county, in 1703. (Book No. 8.)

There are, also, and long have been, in that region people who go by the name of Riggs (as also in New England.) Several of this name were in the Virginia troops during the Revolutionary War, as shown by the rolls at Washington. There are people of this name now in and about Washington city, including the celebrated bankers.

We come, now, to our immediate family, which is resumed with

V.—JAMES RIGG, born in Edinburgh about 1695, oldest son of **Alexander Rigg**, the merchant, as to whom see **ante**, page 72. Tradition has it that he was married in Edinburg, but soon lost his wife: whereupon he removed to Norfolk, Va., about 1720, being accompanied by his younger and only brother William: that, being unsettled and made reckless by the loss of his wife, he "squandered" his means in ill-contrived adventures; and finally found his way, some time before 1751

*Johnston's History of Cecil County, p. 206.

to Westmoreland county, where he settled in Cople parish, on the banks of the Potomac. It cannot be told when he made this move, for the old records of Northumberland county were destroyed by fire, and the records of Westmoreland begin with the year 1751, when that county was formed.

However that may be, JAMES RIGG is several times mentioned in the earliest existing Westmoreland county records.

On Sept. 24, 1751, there was pending against him a suit by William Fitzhugh; on March 31, 1752, another suit against him by George Clarke—Rigg to pay 1535 lbs. of tobacco; on May 28, 1752, the latter case is again mentioned; on June 30, 1752, there was a case by John Moxley against him for a trespass; in December, 1755, he was exempted from paying the county levy of taxes. Shortly before May 1, 1762, he died; for on that day Sarah Rigg made bond as administratrix of his estate, with John Walker and William Rigg as her sureties; on May 25, 1762, the inventory and apraisement were returned, showing goods valued at £43—0—1, James Bulger, Richard Jenkins and Thomas Washington, appraisers. In July, 1762, Sarah Rigg, Admx., of James Rigg, rendered an account of her administration, in which mention is made of William Rigg and Winifred Rigg (supposed to be wife of William), and showing an amount paid out of 1598 lbs. of tobacco and £9—5—0.*

James Rigg married, 2nd SARAH (V.), daughter of WILLIAM HARRISON (VI.) of St. Mary's county, Maryland. His children were Isabella, Thomas, Benjamin, and Basil (order conjectural).

Isabella Rigg, daughter, received on May 25, 1754, (eight years before her father's death), a deed, for the nominal consideration of ten pounds current money, to 307 acres of land lying on the Potomac river, from William Harrison, in which he describes himself as "of the county of St. Mary's, Province of Maryland, **planter,**" and describes her as "of Cople parish,

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*Westmoreland County Records; Court Order Books, 1750-1752, pp. 76, 115, 146, 153; Do., 1761-1764, pp. 36, 41, 56, 60, 112; Fidway Accounts, Book 4, p. 169, 170.

Westmoreland county, Virginia, **spinster**''; witnesses, Foxhall Sturman, Richard Muse, Wm. Saunders. Recorded Oct. 5, 1754, by Geo. Lee, Clk.* There is no further information about Isabella.

Benjamin Rigg is conjectured to have been a son of James above, but he **may** have been the son of William Rigg. He was a private soldier in the Fifth Virginia regiment, in the Revolutionary army.

Basil Rigg, youngest son of James is dealt with by the family traditions in this wise: He and his older brother, Thomas were engaged in merchandising; he became engaged to marry, but before celebrating his nuptials visited Scotland in order to consummate some business arrangements, visit the family, and purchase goods. Returning, his ship was cast away on the Virginia shore, and he was drowned.

IV.—**THOMAS RIGG**, was born in Virginia, probably in Westmoreland county, about 1730. He served in the French and Indian wars of the period about 1755; and his name appears on the roll of Major Andrew Lewis' company, in which he is described as being from Westmoreland county, a planter, 26 years of age, 5 ft. 6½ inches tall.†—He served also as a private in the Fifth Virginia Regiment, during the Revolutionary war.‡

On June 29, 1784, there was a suit by John Weaver, Exr., of Benj. Weaver, against him and Basil Rigg: which suit is again noted in July.§

On the 27th of July, 1784, he made a deed, describing himself as of Washington parish, to Henry Lee, for ninety pounds, conveying 100 acres of land in Westmoreland county adjoining the Stratford lands formerly owned by Philip L. Lee, on the

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*Deed Book 12, p. 155.
†Virginia Mag. of History, etc., vol. —, p. —.
‡Certificate of Col. F. C. Ainsworth, U. S. A., Chief of the Record and Pension Office, dated June 2, 1898.
§Court Order Book, 1776-1786, p. 203, 239.

Potomac river. This Stratford property is and was the historic homestead of the Lees; from which it appears that Thomas Rigg was their immediate neighbor. He probably sold this piece of land in order to settle the suit mentioned above, which was then pending.*

In May, 1789, the Court Order Books show a suit by Thomas Rigg against John Weaver, exr., of Benj. Weaver, Dec'd., which in August was decided in Rigg's favor. (pp. 260, 330).

He died about 1796; for the Order Book for 1797-99 shows on page 148, a judgment in favor of John Heath against Jonathan Rigg, Admr., of Thomas Rigg, deceased.

He married ELIZABETH SMOOT; and left a son Jonathan Rigg, and a daughter whose christian name was Sabinah. This daughter married Mr. Caleb Rice, on March 14, 1804, afterward moved out to Lexington, Ky., and there had several children, to-wit: Eliza, Mary, William, Henry, John, Robert and Carter. Eliza Rice married a Mr. Parker, and was living at Lexington, Ky., in 1875; had a daughter Mary, who married a Montmullin. Robert Rice, married, was a Campbellite minister and committed suicide about 1870. Have no other information about "Aunt Rice's" descendants.

III.—JONATHAN RIGG was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, about the year 1774. When about twelve years of age his father bound him as apprentice to one George Robinson, to learn the "art and mystery of millwright." But Jonathan took to planting instead, when older. On February 22, 1794, he executed a marriage bond in the penalty of fifty pounds, with John Eskridge as his surety, on the occasion of his presently intended marriage with "Catherine Quesenbury, spinster."† And there is still (1905) on file at Montross, the old note giving her father's consent, written with his own hand, as follows:

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*Deed Book 16, p. 230. Witnesses to deed: John Heath, James Kelly, George Garner, Henry S. Redmond; recorded July 28th, 1784, by Richard Bernard, Clerk.

†Westmoreland Marriage Bond Book.

"Sir:

"Please to grant Mr. Jonathan Rigg license to be married to my daughter Catherine Quesenbury.

"Mr. Bland, Clerk." "Nichl. Quesenbury."

The marriage was celebrated on the 22d Feb'y.*

As shown above, when Thomas Rigg died about 1796, Jonathan administered on his estate.

From his marriage, were born eleven children. These came in the years, 1794, 1796, 1798, 1800, 1803, 1805, 1807, 1809, 1811, 1813 and 1817. Four of them died in infancy. Seven attained maturity. These were, in the order of their births, Mary, Basil, Elizabeth, Alexander, Edward, Jane and Thomas.

In the year 1807, Mr. Rigg, with his family, and with his sister, Mrs. Rice, moved out to Kentucky, and settled in Lexington. He was a farmer, of the style of the celebrated "Blue Grass" country of that period. His place was just across the public road from Ashland, the home of Henry Clay. He was a prosperous man, of unblemished character, of high standing in the community, revered and honored as a man of integrity, and was spoken of by all as "honest Jonathan Rigg." His wife was regarded as a fit helpmeet for such a man. From accounts given me by my mother, and from reminiscences which I have heard her and my Aunt Jane indulge in, the family must have led remarkably united and happy lives. They mixed much in Lexington society. The boys were educated at Transylvania University, located at Lexington and then the great College west of the Alleghanies. The men and women were both of exceptional personal beauty. Not one ordinary looking one in the lot. They had brown eyes, florid complexions, and either black, or brown, or auburn hair.

Jonathan Rigg died on the first of July, 1834, aged sixty years, just twenty-four days preceeding the birth of the oldest

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*Virginia County Records, vol. iv., p. 102.

son. Edward, of his own son Alexander. He had looked forward to this event wtih the fondest anticipations, as he had greatly feared that his name would become extinct. Alexander being the only son married. Our cousin, Mrs. M. M. Curtis, of New Liberty, Ky., has in her possession an elegant oil portrait of him. and another of his wife. They are of the same series with one I had of my uncle Basil. Others were executed at the same time, but are now lost. An artist was employed to come from New Orleans and make them, about the year 1830.

Mary Rigg was born in either 1794 or 1796, there being some doubt as to whether she was the first or the second child; in Virginia. She married John T. Hawkins; died within a few days of her father, leaving only one child, a daughter named Mary Ann. This daughter lived in Lexington. She was a woman of great sprightliness and beauty, and was for many years a leader in Lexington society. Born about 1825, she married, in 1845, William A. Dudley, a son of the celebrated surgeon, Dr. Dudley, himself a successful business man. and for a number of years President of the Shortline Railroad between Louisville and Cincinnati. He died in 1869. She died in 1902. They had four children: Winslow, Mary, Charles and William. The two last died young and childless; Winslow was still a bachelor when I last heard from him, and Mary married a Dr. Charles W. Short. on Feb. 1, 1892, and is living in Lexington, Ky.

Basil Quesenbury Rigg, the fourth child, was born in Westmoreland county in 1800. He graduated at Transylvania University, and was educated for the law. He was considered a lawyer of exceptional ability, and certainly was of great personal beauty as the portrait of him in my possession showed He was fond of society, and had an exquisite taste in dress, to which the gentlemen of that time paid greater attention than now. Between him and my mother the greatest love and friendship existed; and she remembered him, tenderly so long as she lived. About the year 1825, he moved to Alexandria, Louisiana, to engage in the practice of his profession. I have still

a letter which he wrote my mother from thence, and copy the same here in order to preserve it, as it is fast falling to pieces. The old-fashioned and stilted style of letter-writers of that day will be observed in it; and is interesting.

"Alex'a., 22nd. May, 1828.

"Dear Betsy:

"I wrote you some months since in acknowledgement, among other things of equally high import, of your very kind and flattering communication (———s, dashes, &c., with all their force of inuendo) under date, if my memory serves me rightly, of Dec'r, of the last year, at which time I took occasion to speak of a matter* about which you have, properly perhaps, preserved a total silence, and withheld even your approbation of the disposition which has been made of my Journal: that sad memento of the days which I would not live over again, were such a thing in the possibility of human choice. But let that pass, and (not being answered) be forgotten; as I have long ago, in my own determination, so far as I am personally concerned, consigned it to oblivion, or numbered it with the lingering chimeras of an overstrained, I will not say overheated fancy. In fancy, it was beautiful, it was enticing, was it not? Pity that it was only deceptive fancy. But the reality, casually elicited, has shown that the cold chills of death are not more appalling—yea, preferable. Seek not, therefore to trace the cause of this sudden change, for as it concerns not myself alone, you may not with propriety be informed.

"I received in the week past a letter from Edward, which afforded me some pleasure, while it imparted much pain. Edward improves, if I may judge from his epistolary style, which gratifies and pleases me, for I have ever accorded to him, in my estimation of his worth and intellect more than the ordinary merit, of boys. I was concerned, however, at the disposition he manifests to grumble with his fortune, with an affectation of melancholly (for it is merely affected or imagined) which

*An engagement of marriage which had been broken off.—E. M.

the buoyancy of youth should never indulge. I speak somewhat from experience. Tell him to leave melancholy, ennui and other fashionable bores to the idle debauchee, or premature misspent age. I need not say I was and am grieved at his further intelligence of the still delicate health of my father in his evening of life. It has determined me, if possible, contrary to my expectation expressed to Alexander, to visit him some time this ensuing summer; it is impossible now to say what time.

"In the meanwhile, as I am becoming somewhat wearied with a bachelor's life, you may look out for me, if you think proper, a fit companion. Edward, among other inducements, invites me, if I want a wife, 'beautiful, intelligent, and industrious, to come to Kentucky'—these are, doubtless, very desirable, indeed indispensible traits, but by no means complete. I may, however, I expect, trust to you and sister Hawkins (for the sagacity of the ladies in this kind of affair is generally pretty knowing) to complete the portrait, and fill up the catalogue, reserving to myself the privilege of suggesting that I am not so very easily pleased as you may possibly imagine from my long residence among the creoles and Indians of Rapide, as I have for some time had with me a talisman of incomparable virtues,—a memento alike of resplendent worth, of life's vicissitudes and uncertainties; nor am I so wearied of my liberty as to yield it up lightly—repress that smile, madam, if you please, though you may think that I should constitute but a light consideration myself in this sort of contract and therefore no very great advantage could be boasted by either party. Let me tell you (entirely in confidence, however(that all the ladies whom I have condescended to honor with my acquaintance would not agree with you.

"But enough of trifling.

"In all the letters which I have received since my departure from Kentucky, not a word has been said of Aunt Rice or any of her family. What means this silence? Have they removed from the neighborhood? Or is this silence accidental?

Is Ann married? What are the boys engaged in? and what have become of Eliza and Polly? The former, I thought, gave the earnest of no ordinary worth, though her opportunity for improvement was, and I presume still continues, slender. Apropos, what disposition has been made of Jane? Has she yet learned to fly? She had almost acquired that power before I left Kentucky, and I suppose is so much a proficient by this time that she can vie with the swiftness of the dove, or that species of the feathered tribe of more congenial kindred, the parrot. I beg her pardon, but she will not get really angry, only pout a little, which is sometimes becoming and proper, as you may perhaps have had occasion (or believed you had) to think. Remember me to the family and such persons as may deem it worth their while to bestow a thought on

Your good for nothing,

"B. Q. RIGG."

Basil Rigg finally became engaged to a young lady who lived in Louisiana, on the Red River. Their wedding day was near, and he had just left her, on a steamboat, after his last visit before the marriage, when by a fatality singularly like that of his uncle for whom he was named he perished. The following extract taken from the "Woodville Republican" (Miss.), of May 25th, 1833, tells the sad story, in part:

"FATAL DISASTER.

"On Sunday morning 19th inst., the steamboat LIONESS, Capt. Cockrell, on her way from New Orleans to Natchitoches, stopped one mile below the mouth of the Bongee, one of the three prongs of Red River, 40 miles above Alexandria, for the purpose of putting out some freight. Being early in the morning, and dark in the hold, a candle was used by the crew for the purpose of discharging the goods to be landed, and not long after, it is supposed, fire was communicated by it to some combustibles, or else a spark fell from it upon some loose powder, which again communicating with many kegs, pro-

duced the most horrible explosion ever known on the waters of the Mississippi or its tributaries.

"The following is the melancholy list of the passengers and others thus untimely hurried into eternity, viz:

"Hon. Josiah S. Johnston, for many years senator of Louisiana, B. Q. RIGG, ESQ., Michael Boyce, Esq., Messrs. Michael Clifford, H. Herty, cabin passengers, and ——— Irwin, and another deck passenger, name unknown.

"CREW—John Coley, of Louisville, mate; John Clark, of England, stewart; James Fulsome, Samuel Landis, ——— James, Wm. N. L. Cant, sailors; Mary, cabin woman; a yellow girl; Alexander, 2nd. cook, a yellow boy.

"Fifteen wounded, who were picked up near the shore or elsewhere; amongst them are Hon. E D. White, candidate for governor, seriously, and a son of Judge Johnston, also seriously wounded.

"One sailor's body, almost a perfect crisp, was picked up below, which is the only one found. The captain, clerk, one of the pilots and eight of the crew escaped without serious injury."

Alexander Moxley Rigg, the sixth child of this family, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, May 9, 1805. He also graduated at Transylvania University. Became a business man and farmer, living at Marion, Ky., and afterwards at New Liberty. On the 18th of October, 1832, he married Miss Lucy Ann Catherine Cochran, who died in 1871. He died at Marion, Ky., in 1887, being 82 years of age. He belonged to the type of "Old Virginia gentlemen," now fast passing away: was very elegant in manner, handsome in person, genial in disposition, interesting in conversation. I met him once; when he came to Oxford, visiting my mother, in the year 1875. He left a large family. I have not known all of them, but these, at all events are among his descendants: (1) Edward G., born July 25, 1834, who married Annette Todd, first cousin of Mrs. Lincoln, and had five children, but died childless; (2) Dr. W. Cochran Rigg, who was a surgeon in the Confederate army,

married a Miss Bush of Macon, Miss., and died in Atchison, Kansas, in 1873, leaving two children, Henry B., and Dora A.; (3) Catherine Rigg, who married a Mr. Low about 1861, and had three children and in 1875 was living in Owenton, Ky.; (4) Alexander M., who in 1875, was living, unmarried, on the old home farm near Marion; (5) Mildred M., born March 20, 1842, married Dr. Blanton, was left a widow in 1870 with one daughter, and married a Mr. Curtis, and in 1898 was living in New Liberty; (6) Henry B. Rigg, married, and in 1875 was also living on the old farm at New Liberty; (7) Thomas J. Rigg, who went to Atchison, Kansas; (8) Sarah Virginia, who married Joseph B. Cochran, lives in Cincinnati, has a daughter Catherine, and a son, Dr. J. B. Cochran, who married and in 1898 had three children; (9) Overton C. Rigg, who lived in Moxley, Ky.

Edward G. Rigg, eighth child of Jonathan Rigg was born in Lexington, Ky., in the year 1809. He attended the Transylvania University, but seems not to have graduated. He moved to Alexandria, La., about 1840, and there entered upon the practice of the law. He was regarded by his relatives as the most brilliant and promising of the family; but he died in early manhood unmarried.

THOMAS J. RIGG, ninth child of Jonathan, was born at Lexington, Ky., in 1811. He lived in Kentucky until 1847, when he moved to Mississippi, and there boarded with his sister's husband, Judge Mayes, for about three years. In 1849 he moved to New Orleans; there in 1865 he married Emilie ————, a French creole lady, and died in 1870, childless. Buried in Gerard St. cemetary.

JANE RIGG, tenth child of Jonathan, was born at Lexington, Ky., in 1813. She came to Mississippi in 1838 with her sister, Mrs. Mayes, and at Jackson married, in the year 1849, Lieut. Parry W. Humphreys, formerly of the U. S. Navy, son of Hon. Chas. W. Humphreys, her sister's first husband. She was Lieut. Humphrey's second wife. After her marriage they moved to Texas, where they lived at Austin, Montelle and other

places. Her husband died in the winter of 1891-2. She died after July, 1892, but exact date not known. Had only one child, a son, Parry W. Humphreys, Jr., who married Agnes McFarlane in 1880, and had a son and daughter when last heard from.

II.—ELIZABETH RIGG, fifth child of Jonathan, was born in Westmoreland county, Virginia, on the 2d of May, 1803. She was well educated; and was very handsome, sprightly, and much admired. In 1826 she married a widower, much older than herself, with several children, Hon. Charles William Humphreys. He was a wealthy lawyer, of great personal attractiveness, and of much local distinction. He had been a Judge of the Circuit Court, and was then a law professor in Transylvania University. He is mentioned in Perrin's **History of Fayette County, Kentucky,** thus: "Charles Humphreys was a self-taught scholar; was long a law professor in Transylvania University, and was author of a compendium of the common law. He was an industrious lawyer, and paid the closest attention to his business. He died in 1830, at the age of fifty-five years." (Page 343). By this marriage there was one child, Charles W. Humphreys, Jr.

On May 30th, 1833, Elizabeth Rigg (widow Humphreys) married HON. DANIEL MAYES, the Rev. B. O. Peers officiating. Judge Mayes, also, was a widower, with a family of children. He, too, was a lawyer of considerable local distinction; and singularly enough he had previously succeeded Judge Humphreys both on the bench and then in the professorship.

In the winter of 1838-9, Judge Mayes with his entire family removed to Jackson, Miss. He died on the 6th of July, 1861; and in December, 1865, Mrs. Mayes moved to Carrollton, Miss., where her son Basil was practicing law. There she resided until the year 1876 when she went to Oxford, Miss., to live with her youngest son; and she died in Oxford on the 3rd day of January, 1885, in her 82nd year.

She was a woman of extraordinary vigor of body and mind; loved vigorous exercise of both. Read much of solid

literature; was sagacious and far-seeing. When the Civil War of 1861-5 broke out, she immediately converted all of her bank moneys into gold, and had $5,000 of it in her personal possession during the entire struggle. She bought her store-room full of supplies: candles, coffee, loaf sugar, etc., and had a comfortable store when others had none. She sold her domestic slaves, and her superfluous costly china, investing the Confederate money obtained in cotton, which she concealed in her cellar under stove wood, and sold after the surrender at $350 per bale in greenbacks. Withal she was generous with her money; was an earnest and thoughtful Christian—during the last thirty years of her life, a member of the Campbellite, or Christian church.

By her marriage with Judge Mayes she had three sons, Basil R., Daniel and Edward, account of whom and of their descendants, is given in the section of this book devoted to the MAYES family. Charles W. Humphreys, Jr., her son by the first marriage, was born in 1828; became a physician; married, on Dec. 16th, 1858, Miss Kate A. Scott, of Jefferson county, Mississippi. He then undertook the active management of her plantation in that county. They had three daughters: (1) Elizabeth, born in 1859, who married her cousin, a Mr. Scott, of Jefferson county, Miss; (2) Maude, born in 1860, who died in infancy; (3) Matilda, born in 1862, and who married a Mr. Hoggatt. Dr. Humphreys entered the Confederate army as a lieutenant in Wilburn's Battalion of Mississippi Cavalry, and was killed in 1863, before Port Hudson, La., by a sharpshooter.