

Ricks Settlers in Colonial America

this speculation is somewhat credible. If Isaac married Katherine in 1668 at the average age, he would have been born about 1640.

To help determine the maiden identity of Katherine, a survey of records of early residents included, among others, William Denson. He is one of several persons believed to have had the earliest known contact with Isaac Ricks in colonial Virginia. William Denson Sr. does not appear in Isaac's earliest patent records, because he died before their creation. Denson's will identified the only known female in the community with the given name Katherine, who obviously was not the wife of Isaac Ricks.⁵⁷⁰ According to Chuckatuck records, Katherine Denson was born in 1659. She would have been only ten years old at the birth of Isaac's first child; however, this does not rule out the possibility that Katherine was the sister of William Denson. Chuckatuck meeting records also contain the dates of birth for the children of William' Denson and his wife Francis:⁵⁷¹

- 2 i. Francis' Denson, born 1 March 1652.
- 3 ii. William Denson, born 25 January 1654.
- 4 iii. James Denson, born 11 October 1657; married Sarah Drayton (?) in the public meeting house in the western branch 15 February 1707.⁵⁷² Witnesses included John Denson; Anne and Jere [Jeremiah] Exum; Isaac Rickes; and members of the Bridle, Brian, Horning, Lawrence, Meredith, Page, and Powell families.
- 5 iv. Katherine Denson, born 4 October 1659; married John Kensey.
- 6 v. Sarah Denson, born 14 January 1664; married Joseph Merrideth.
- 7 vi. John Denson, born 25 May 1666, married Mary Brydle, the daughter of Frances [male] Bridell, of Isle of Wight, 12 November 1692, those attending the wedding included Francis, James and Joseph Denson; John Good; Richard Ratliff, Kathn Reeks, Isaac and William Rickesis, and others.⁵⁷³
- 8 vii. Joseph Denson, born 18 October 1669.

Since William' Denson died 8 March 1676,⁵⁷⁴ further mention of William Denson and Isaac Ricks in the same record actually refers to the son of the man who wrote the following will:⁵⁷⁵

DENSON, William: Legatees: Wife [executrix] Francis; sons William, James; daughters Francis and Katherine.
Dated 15 November 1675. Recorded 9 April 1677. Wit: Nathaniel RAVEN, William SCOTT Jr., William SMELLY.

Perhaps in naming their first two children, Isaac and Katherine Ricks provided clues to her identity. Of course, the first son was Isaac, but the second son was William—perhaps named after William Denson (or William Scott). It seems more than a coincidence, too, that John' Denson and William' Denson witnessed other Ricks probate and deed records. A long association between the two families lasted through the middle of the following century.

The above record also proves that William Scott was in the area—very early. He obtained 100 acres of escheat (repossessed) land in the area of Chuckatuck, Nansemond County, 4 March 1666/67.⁵⁷⁶ William also obtained fifty-four acres of land 23 October 1690, in Isle of Wight County, adjoining John Moses and Thomas Pitt.⁵⁷⁷ These and other records provide evidence that Richard Booth, William Denson, John Moore, Thomas Pitt, Isaac Ricks and William Scott were near neighbors.

Miles White Jr. transcribed the minutes of Chuckatuck, Virginia, Friends Meeting, and from those minutes are the oldest recorded Quaker marriages in the area. First, Isaac Ricks and his wife Katherine attended the 19 October 1682 marriage of John Scott and Elizabeth Belson. John was the son of William Scott, of Chuckatuck in the county of Nansemond, and Elizabeth was the daughter of Elizabeth Belson. The 1655 patent record for Ralph Green containing the name John Belson certainly prompts one to investigate to determine the name of Elizabeth Belson's husband. There is reference to members of the Belson and Scott families being aunts and uncles of Abraham Ricks in the church record of his marriage Mary Belson in 1703, discussed later.

The second marriage witnessed by Isaac Ricks was between Leaven Bufkin to Dorothy Newby, daughter of William Newby, of Nansemond County. The couple declared their intention first at the house of Thomas Jordan, "the second time in Isaac Reeks howse," but they married at their own house "on the seventeenth day of ye second month 1688."⁵⁷⁸ Edmond Belson; Eliz, Gabrell, Izabell, and Jonathan Newby; Rich. Ratliff; Isaac Reecks; John Small Sr. and Jr.; John and Eliz (Belson) Scott; and Robert and Ann Wilson were some of the other Friends at the wedding.

Richard' Ratcliff (sic) died in late 1718. His legatees were wife Elizabeth and children: (a) Richard' Ratcliff; (b) Cornelius Ratcliff; (c) John Ratcliff; Mary Newman and her husband Thomas; Rebecca Jordan and her husband Richard; Elizabeth Ratcliff (deceased with children); and Sarah Ratcliff (deceased with children). Richard Rat[c]liff and other former residents of Isle of Wight County moved to Perquimans County, North Carolina.

This Bufkin-Newby wedding began a recorded series of meetings or weddings at Isaac Ricks' house and probably marks his first involvement as clerk of the Friends meeting. The meetings were held at various houses until the first meeting in "ye publick meeting howse [house] at chuckatuck...on this twelfth day of ye first month—1699."⁵⁷⁹

The 1709 Isle of Wight County will of Francis Denson (widow) contains additional legatees to those mentioned in William Denson's will, and this was the only other will located with Isaac Ricks as a witness. The family naming pattern for the given name "Katherine" is an indication that Katherine Ricks might have had a strong influence on the Denson family—perhaps she

⁵⁷⁰ Katherine or Catherine was a common given name during Isaac's early years.

⁵⁷¹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 38.

⁵⁷² White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 29. If these are the facts, James was a man of fifty when he married!

⁵⁷³ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, pp. 15–16. This is the only record located in which John Good appeared in a Ricks record in Isle of Wight County. Others are found in Charles City County with John Ricks, son of Richard!

⁵⁷⁴ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 49.

⁵⁷⁵ Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647–1800*, p. 14.

⁵⁷⁶ Va. Patents Book 6, p. 31. *Escheat*—property that has reverted to the state when no legal heirs or claimants exist

⁵⁷⁷ Va. Patents Book 6, p. 91.

⁵⁷⁸ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 10.

⁵⁷⁹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 15.

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was the sister of William Denson the Elder. Katherine Kensy, in the following will, was evidentially the same Katherine mentioned in the 1677 will of William⁵⁸⁰ Denson:

DENSON, Francis: Leg. [Francis is the normally the masculine spelling, but not in this record]
Sons: James, John
daughter: Sarah MEREDITH the wife of John MEREDITH⁵⁸¹
grandsons: John and William the sons of my son John
grandson: John KENSY, son of my daughter Katherine KENSY.
Grandchildren: Joseph, William, and Sarah, children of Joseph MEREDITH.
Executors: sons James and John.
Dated 3 February 1708/09. Recorded 2 May 1709.
Wit: Woodham (Needham?) BRYAN, Alice BRYAN, Isack RICKS, Sr., Richard HUTCHINS.

John Denson married Mary Brydell in 1692, and one of the witnesses was John Good. The names of two close neighbors of John Ricks, in Charles City County, were Doctor John Terry and John Good:

Mr. John TERRY, 750 acs., Chas. City Co., bet. Chipokes & Wards Crs., 27 Apr. 1686, p. 512. Adj. Frances REE [this is Francis Ray; the surname later found in Surry County], John REEKES, Mr. GOOD & Henery ARMSTRONGS; on BRAINS' line; the land in possession of Edward GREEN & belonging to an Orphan of Wm: SHORTS; by the Road, to Mr. Richard CLARKS; by John WILKINSON; to Capt. Wyatt & c. Trans of 15 pers. [names included here].⁵⁸²

Mr. Good was in fact John Good. Elias Osborne served as attorney for John² Ricks (Richard¹) and Richard Jones. During the period of their administration of the estate of Henry Preston,⁵⁸³ June through at least December 1679, the following persons filed suits at Westover court, Charles City County, against the executors:

Richard Hill, attorney for William Read [Reed?] and Thomas Meriwether; John Good; John Smith, administrator for James Rigley; Ralph Pool, administrator of Morrice Burcher; Christopher Foster, administrator of John Emerson by his attorney William Harrison; William Harrison, attorney of Eliz Rachell, executrix of Ralph Rachel; James Minge; and Captain Nicholas Wyatt.⁵⁸⁴

Abraham Ricks attended the wedding of William Denson, son of John Denson, and Anney Small 20 February 1724.⁵⁸⁵ Representatives from the Copeland, Denson, Gale, Jordan, Newby, Scott, Small, Tillaway, and Wight families attended.

A discussion at the beginning of this section showed Wm. [William] Denson in a Charles City County patent record with Benjamin Foster 20 November 1683.⁵⁸⁶ Perhaps the information in the patent, combined with the above information about John Good, supports the consideration that Isaac Ricks (earliest Isle of Wight County record is 1682) might have originated in Charles City County. Isaac¹ Ricks had a son named Richard, but he died young.

Isaac¹ Ricks obtained his land from William Denson, as proved by a 1736 conveyance from Isaac² Ricks to Robert Ricks.⁵⁸⁷ The elder William Denson arrived in colonial Isle of Wight County very early, imported by Robert Pitts (Pitt) according to his patent dated 14 February 1637.⁵⁸⁸ William Denson and others obtained their land in the vicinity of Indian Creek, Nansemond, and Isle of Wight Counties by patents beginning about 1657.⁵⁸⁹

Wm. DENSON, Gent., 450 acs. Nansemond Co., 6 Sept. 1657, [Va. Land Grant Book 4], p. 135. Upon Indian Cr[ee]k., a branch of the W. Branch of Nansemond Riv., adj. Land of John GARRETT. Trans. of 9 pers: [names provided by not used here]. Renewed 27 Mar. 1661.

John BRYAN, 200 acs. In Up. Norf. Co., 18 Mar. 1662, p. 217 (123) [patent book 5]. At S. Side of the W. Branch of Nancimond Riv., lying at S. Side of Indian Cr., running by Mr. Wm. DENSONS & c. Renewal of patenr dated 20 Mar. 1659.

John MOORE, 300 acs. On S. Side of the W. Branch of Nancimond Riv., 11 Mar. 1664, p. 267, (210) [patent book 5]. 200 acs. On both sides of Indian Cr., running by Mr. Wm. DENSONS lye &c. 100 acs adj. The aforesaid tract. 200 acs. Granted to John BRYAN 18 mar. 1662, who sold to sd. MOORE, & 100 acs. For trans. Of 2 pers: Jno. MOORES Wife, & Jno. CLARKE.

Mr. Wm. SMELLY, 480 acs., Is. Of W. Co., in the Western branch parish, 10 May 1679, p. 684 [patent book 6]. 400 acs. Being half of patt. To Wm. HUNT, late of Nansemond Co., 14 Dec. 1653, who convighed to Simon IRONS, late of Nansemond Co., 30 Dec. 1653, who assigned to sd. SMELLY 23 Mar. 1667; 80 acs. Being waste, &c; beg. At Mr. Hen. PLOMPTON; to Mr. DENSON; along Tho. MARKES, &c; 80 acs. For trans. of 2 Negroes: Mingo & Mathew.

⁵⁸⁰ Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800*, p. 47.

⁵⁸¹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 15. The marriage of Joseph Merrideth, the son of Samson Merrideth, of Nansemond Co., to Sarah Denson, daughter of Francis Denson, of Isle of Wight Co., occurred on the 11th day of the 4th month (11 June) 1699. James and John Denson were among the witnesses

⁵⁸² Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2*, p. 299 (Patent Bk No. 7, p. 512).

⁵⁸³ See the section on John² Ricks (Richard¹) for discussion of the Preston estate record.

⁵⁸⁴ Ayers, *Charles City County, Virginia, Order Book 1676-1679*, pp. 111, 113,

⁵⁸⁵ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, pp. 31-32.

⁵⁸⁶ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 2*, p. 269 (Patent Book 7 p. 332).

⁵⁸⁷ Isle of Wight Co. Deed Book 5, pp. 29-30

⁵⁸⁸ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 1*, p. 85. The name of Warrosquoyake County changed to Isle of Wight in 1637. Upper Norfolk Co. changed to Nansemond Co. in 1645. There were no substantial county boundary changes to these two counties until 1749, when Southampton Co. formed from part of Isle of Wight.

⁵⁸⁹ Nugent, *Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. 1*, pp. 198, 356, 464, 480

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By 1704, Isaac Ricks owned 700 acres of land in Isle of Wight County.⁵⁹⁰ He purchased land from William Denson⁵⁹¹ and Richard Booth,⁵⁹² but only the deed record from Booth survives.⁵⁹³

[top of p. 169]

Be it known unto all men by these presense that I Elisabeth Booth ye wife of Rich Booth of ye Blackwater doe constitute give power & ordaind my loving friend one Jeremiah Exum to be my true lawfull attorney to witt for me in my name place and ——— in my behalf to acknowledg before ye Court of ye Isle of Wight a deed of sale made to Isack Reakes to be by Reall acct and deed for assignment upon ye ——— of ye pattent to be my Reall acct and deed also I doe give unto my aforsd attorney my good right and full power to perform fullfill and furnish all things before mentioned rattifying and confirming and allowing all and whatsoever shall be done about ye same and to be as good and effort— in law as if I had performed ye same in my own person as witness my hand and seal this 2 of July in ye year 1695. Elizabeth [O her mark]Booth

Witnesses: Will brown, John Rogares [This might be John Rogers]

[middle of p. 169]

Be it known unto all men by these presence that I Rich Booth and Elizabeth his wife for good consideration in hand allready paid has bargained sold and delivered and grant Isaac Reakes all my right beholf and grant of Pattent of land ——— I now live upon that [is] to say two hundred and sixty five acres formerly[.] our done ye full ——— ye sd patte— lying [in?] and being as is expressed in a ——— pattent bearing date 23 Day of April in the year 1687 And [p. 170] And for further consideration ———of we ye sd ye Rich Booth and Elizabeth his wife doo binde our selves our heirs executors administrators and assigns to warrant and ——— defend the sd land and sd deed of land unto ye sd Isaac Reakes his heirs executors administrators and assigns for ——— as ——— form or manner can bee expressed by words ore writing not withstanding any thing above mentioned to ye contrary and further needed doe binde our selves on ye penalty of twenty thousand pounds of tobo. in cask forfeiture to make and acknowledge at our next mo ch is to be held the ninth of ye next mo called July 1695 In witness to and of our hand hearreto sett our hands and seals this 29th of June 1695. [signed] Rich RB [his mark] Booth seal Elezabeth [smear] Booth

[witnesses] Joseph Meredoth [Meredith], Henry Pope

Before Isaac' Ricks died, John Rogers and his wife Bridgett sold land to James Council, and the deed provides not only additional information concerning past ownership of the property, but also the neighbors:⁵⁹⁴

(p.500) 24 Nov. 1722...John Rogers, Jr., Yeoman, and wife, Bridgett Rogers, of North Carolina to James Councill, Yeoman...of the lower parish of Isle of Wight...100 acres in the lower parish adjoining William Daughter, Jr., Hodges Council. Daniell Davis and Abraham Rixs (Ricks) (being land formerly in the possession of Richard Booth who devised it to Mary Rogers the Mother of the said John Rogers, Jr. in a deed dated 8 Nov 1681...mention of "John Rogers, Jr. and his father John Rogers, Sr.")

[signed] John (X) Rogers, Jr. Bridgett Rogers

Wit: Robert Lawrence, Richard (X) Beale and James Holland. Rec: 26 Nov. 1722

An unconfirmed history of the above Rogers family states that Mary Rogers was the mother of John Rogers and the sister of Richard Booth. This Rogers family once lived in Surry County. When Benjamin' Ricks died in Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, in 1721, two witnesses to his will were Bridgett and Mary Rogers. Benjamin Ricks, William Ricks, and John Rogers appear on a list of residents (who lived between Meherrin Creek to the Meherrin River and up the river on both sides) of the upper part of Chowan Precinct in 1720.⁵⁹⁵ Each was a member of Captain Robert Patterson's Company.

The same evidence of property descent, as in the above record, surfaced when John Salloway sold his land:⁵⁹⁶

(p. 96) 15 March 1730...John Salloway of the lower parish to William Edmonds of the same...132 acres in the lower parish on Little Town Road (being one half of a tract of 265 acres bought by Isaac Ricks, Sr., decd., from Richard Booth and is part of a patent granted said Richard Booth on 23 Apr 1687...and the 265 acres was willed by Isaac Ricket, Sr. to his son, James Ricket and his daughter, Jane Ricket, who is now Jane Salloway the wife of the said John Salloway. James Ricket later died and willed his part of the land to the said John Salloway.

[signed] John Salloway, Jane [Ricks] Salloway

Wit: Thomas Gale, Jr. and Robert Clay, Jr. Rec: 22 March 1730

The above mentioned patent, dated 23 April 1681, was for a 465 acre tract of land on the west side of a swamp known by the name of Mr. Lawrence's Beaverdam, being a branch of the main Blackwater.⁵⁹⁷ Evidently, the Booths sold a hundred acres of that land to John Rogers in November 1681, confirming the original year of the patent.

Richard and Elizabeth Booth went to North Carolina sometime after selling this land to Isaac Ricks. In a deposition dated January 1707 (before Edward Mosley, a member of the North Carolina Council), Richard Booth stated that he was aged sixty three years or thereabouts (born about 1644). He further stated that he "came into Virginia and served Major Merritt six years (who then lived about Twenty miles from the Weyanoake Indian Town the Weyanoks living very near a plantation that now belongs to Col. Harrison betwixt Blackwater & Weyanoke River...)..."⁵⁹⁸ This Colonel Harrison could be none other than Benjamin or Nathaniel Harrison, of Surry County. Richard' Ricks and his descendants lived in that area of Virginia.

There were no solid clues to the lineage of Katherine Ricks in the foregoing records associated with the Denson and Booth families. However, the Quaker marriage record between Abraham Ricks and Mary Belson contains several lineage clues. They married at a Quaker ceremony 16 May 1703.⁵⁹⁹

⁵⁹⁰ Annie Laurie Wright Smith, *The Quit Rents of Virginia, 1704* (Baltimore: G.P.C., 1977), p. 75.

⁵⁹¹ Confirmation is in the following 1736 deed from Isaac Ricks to Robert Ricks.

⁵⁹² According to Isaac Ricks' 1723 will.

⁵⁹³ "Deed from Richard and Elizabeth Booth to Isaac Ricks," Isle of Wight Co., Va., Deed Book 1, pp. 169–170, transcribed by D. M. Ricks.

⁵⁹⁴ Hopkins, *Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Deeds 1720–1736 and Deeds 1741–1749*, p. 10 [Header: *Isle of Wight Deeds, Wills–Great Book Vol. 2, 1715–1726*].

⁵⁹⁵ Worth S. Ray, comp., *Old Albemarle and Its Absentee Landlords* (Baltimore: G.P.C., 1968), p. 596.

⁵⁹⁶ Hopkins, *Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Deeds 1720–1736 and Deeds 1741–1749*, p. 30. The will of James Ricks, Isle of Wight Co. Will Book 1, p 211; dated 7 April 1730; recorded 27 July 1730. Since the above record bears the date of March 1730, the last sentence is probably a comment by the compiler. Thomas Gale Jr. was an appraiser for the estate.

⁵⁹⁷ Virginia Patent Book 7, p. 68.

⁵⁹⁸ Colonial Records of North Carolina, Vol. 1, Part 2, pp. 661–62. *Weyanoke* Parish was in Charles City County. See Gargill genealogy.

⁵⁹⁹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 23.

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Those attending included Francis and John Denson; Tho. Page; Mary Jordan, aunt; Isaac Ricks, father; John Rickesis, brother; Kathren Rickesis, mother; Robert Rickesis, brother; Elizabeth Scott Sr. and William Scott Sr., uncle; Benjamin Small, uncle and Elizabeth Small, aunt; others....

William Scott witnessed the 1675 will of William¹ Denson. This same William Scott died in 1716,⁶⁰⁰ and his legatees were his wife Elizabeth and children William [married (1) Mourning Exum], Robert, John (married Elizabeth Belson), Elizabeth Holloway, Catherine, and Sarah Scott. William mentioned the children of daughter Elizabeth Holloway in his will. If Catherine Scott had been married, it seems reasonable that her father would have mentioned her husband's surname. Evidently, she later married a man named Watkins.⁶⁰¹

This effectively rules out William Scott having a daughter named Catherine who married Isaac Ricks. However, it does not eliminate William¹ Scott as the brother of Katherine Ricks; they died about a year apart. The term "uncle" in the Quaker marriage is not clear in meaning in this setting, but it was probably an exclusive reference to Abraham Ricks' family. Mary Belson was the sister of Elizabeth Small, wife of Benjamin Small, and the latter two would have been referred to as sister and brother-in-law, if the family reference applied to Mary Belson.

Witnesses to William¹ Scott's will were John Denson, John Allen (husband of Elizabeth² Sellaway), Richard Sellaway [Sellaway], and Thomas Sikes. Richard² Sellaway (John¹) was the brother of John² Sellaway who married Abraham's sister Jane Ricks. Robert² Scott (William¹) died in 1743, and William Denson and Henry Saunders (husband of Margaret² Sellaway, daughter of John¹) witnessed his will.⁶⁰²

Abraham Ricks wrote his will 24 June 1746, and he asked William Denson, Exum² Scott (son of William² Scott and Mourning Exum) and his father William² Scott (William¹) to assist in settling his estate. There were indeed strong relationships between the Belson, Denson, Ricks, and Scott families; and it is very likely that Katherine Ricks was either a Scott, Belson, or Denson before her marriage to Isaac Ricks. An outer edge speculation, but a possible one, is that perhaps Abraham Ricks married his second cousin, Mary Belson. The initial patent record showing John Belson and Isaac Rack (sic) in the same 1655 record is a significance source in support of this notion.

The children of Isaac and Katherine were born probably in Virginia. Colonial patent records confirm Isaac Ricks as a resident of Isle of Wight County only about 1682 and afterwards. It is possible that all of their children were not born in the Nansemond-Isle of Wight area of Virginia. The following will documents their children living in 1723:

Will of Isaac Ricks Senior.⁶⁰³

On the 26th day of the 7th month called September, in the year 1723, I Isaac Ricks, of the Isle of Wight County, being weak of body but of perfect mind and memory, calling to mind the mortality of my body, do make and ordain this, my last will and testament, committing my soul to God and my body to have Christian like burial at the discretion of my executors; and for my estate that God has been pleased [to] bestow upon me, I give and bestow the same in the following manner and form:

First, I give to my son Isaac RICKES all my lands on the south side of the swamp called Selway's Swamp, and the plantation he is now seated on, with half of the land belonging to me on that side of the swamp. I give it to him and his heirs forever, and all my wearing clothes.

2ly, I give and bequeath to my son Abraham RICKES half the tract of land which I purchased of Richard BOOTH, with the plantation thereon seated to him and his heirs forever.

3ly, I give and bequeath to my son Robert RICKES all the whole tract of land belonging to me where my son John RICKES did formerly live.

4ly, I give and bequeath to my son James RICKES, all the remaining part of this land with plantation I now live on, to him and the heirs lawfully begotten of his body forever. And in case [he] has no such lawful heirs I give it to my son Robert RICKES and his heirs forever, save only I give my daughter Jean liberty to dwell in the manor house and make use of a part of the plantation and the appurtenances thereto belonging during the time she lives single.

5ly, I give unto my son James RICKES and my daughter Jean RICKES the other half or remaining part of that tract of land which I purchased of Richard BOOTH to be equally divide between them and their heirs forever.

6ly, I give to my two grand children Isaac and Martha, the children of my son Jacob RICKES, deceased, each of them one shilling.

7ly, I give to my son James RICKES the bed he common lyeth on and the bed his mother did formerly lie on, with the furniture of them both, and one large brass kettle and one small copper kettle, one large table and form, one iron pot of four gallons, one small iron pot, and two leather chairs, one large chest below stairs, and one cupboard, and my Great Bible.

8ly, I give my daughter Jean the bed I do lie on and the bed that herself lyeth on, with the furniture thereto belonging, and one large chest above stairs, and two leather chairs, and one large wooden chair, one large brass kettle, one small brass kettle, and one iron pot of ten gallons, and one small iron pot, and one warming pan, and a large looking glass.

9ly, All the remaining part of my estate that is not legaced, both house, all furniture and stock I give to my son James & my daughter Jeane to be equally divided between them both whome I make ordain & appoint my Executor & Exrx _____ & owning this to be my last will and testament revoking & renouncing all other wills or testaments formerly made by me in witness hereof I have set my hand & fixed my seal the day & year above mentioned forever— (signed) Isaac RICKES (SEAL)

Signed Sealed and acknowledged to be the last will and testament in the presence of—John SELLOWAY [Jr., because his father died in 1712], Thomas SIKES [Jr., because his father Thomas died in 1708], John PAGE, Wm. DENSON, William WILKINSON—At a Court held for Isle of Wight County the 27 of April 1724 - The last will and testament of Isaac RICKES was presented in Court by the Executors who made oath thereto and being prvd by the oaths of John SELLOWAY and Thomas SYKES & the solemn affirmation of Wm DENSON witness thereto is Jesse H. LIGHTFOOT, C. CLK.

James was thirty-three years old, and Jean was thirty-six, both single, when they served as executor and executrix of their father's estate. At the time Isaac Ricks wrote his will, his wife Katherine was deceased, implied by the will entry pertaining to James Rickes and "the bed his mother did formerly lie on." A Quaker record confirms the death with the entry: "Catherin Ricks

⁶⁰⁰ Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800*, p. 58.

⁶⁰¹ Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800*, p. 146. This information comes from the estate record of Catherine's brother Robert Scott who died about October 1743, just after Robert Ricks died.

⁶⁰² Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647-1800*, p. 146.

⁶⁰³ "Will of Isaac Ricks, Sr.," Isle of Wight County, Virginia, The "Great Book," 156-57, Genealogical Society, Salt Lake City, Utah, Microfilm #600, Part 2, transcribed from the original by Martha Ricks Bond, Knoxville, Tennessee.

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Departed this 1 fe ye 7th Day of ye 8th mon in ye year 1717" (7 October 1717).⁶⁰⁴ Jean probably remained single as an obligation to her father. She married John Sallaway after her father died.

William, John, Jacob, Benjamin, Katherine, and Richard Ricks died before Isaac wrote his will. Katherine Ricks the Younger and Richard Ricks died young. William, John, and Benjamin were evidently without issue. Jacob Ricks died in 1704 leaving a wife and two children. The only grandchildren mentioned were Isaac and Martha Ricks, the children of Jacob Ricks.

There is no solid proof of the family origin of Isaac Ricks, and speculation has no firm hold in any known Ricks family in America before Isaac. The Richard Ricks family, of Charles City, Prince George and Surry Counties, is certainly a possibility. There were other Ricks men in early Virginia records, but only Isaac Ricks and Richard Ricks established deep roots in the state.

The following naming pattern list might add to the speculation, but there were no real clues left for us to associate the list with actual naming of the Ricks children:⁶⁰⁵

1st son after father's father [Isaac].	3rd son after father [John].
1st daughter after mother's mother [Katherine].	3rd daughter after mother [none].
2nd son after mother's father [William].	4th son after father's oldest brother [Abraham].
2nd daughter after father's mother [Jean].	4th daughter after mother's oldest sister [none].

Children of Isaac' Ricks and his wife Katherine [****** deceased at the time of their father's will]:⁶⁰⁶

- + 2 i. Isaac² Ricks born 17 August 1669; probably died in Virginia, after 1736.
- 3 ii. William Ricks, born 5 October 1670; died 22 August 1694: "Aboate halfe and houre before the goeing down of the sun in the year 1694: hee being almost 24 years of age."^{607**}
- + 4 iii. John Ricks, born 30 December 1672; will dated 8 September 1711.**
- + 5 iv. Abraham Ricks, born 3 December 1674, of western branch of Nansemond River, married **Mary Belson** 16 May 1703, daughter of Edmond Belson, of Nansemond County, Virginia, "at our Publick meeting house on the western branch of nansemond."⁶⁰⁸ Mary Belson was born 24 January 1685/86.⁶⁰⁹ Abraham's will was probated 10 July 1746, Isle of Wight County.
- + 6 v. Jacob Ricks, born 17 March 1677; died 5 July 1704.⁶¹⁰ married **Mary Exum** 14 December 1699 at the public meeting house, Chuckatuck, Virginia, daughter of Jeremiah Exum and wife Ann (née Lawrence) of Isle of Wight County.⁶¹¹ Those attending the wedding included Francis, James and John Denson; Nathan Newby, Elizabeth and Richard Ratliff; Abraham, Isaac, and John Ricks, members of the Lawrence and Sanbourn families, and others. Oddly, Katherine Ricks, Jacob's mother, did not appear on the list. Mary Exum Ricks married (2) **William' Murphrey** before 1715, and about 1719 married (3) **Barnaby McKinnie**.^{612**}
- + 7 vi. Robert Ricks, born 14 December 1679; died 23 March 1743, will probated in Isle of Wight County.
- 8 vii. Benjamin Ricks, born 17 November 1682, died 1721; married Sarah —?—. Apparently, he had no children. He wrote his will 31 March 1719, proved 30 November 1721, Chowan County, North Carolina—wife Sarah—brothers James Ricks, Robert Ricks, Abraham Ricks, and Isaac Ricks. Also mentioned was Abraham Ricks' daughter Patience Ricks; Robert Ricks' son Robert Ricks Jr., and "land on the Nottoway River." **
- 9 viii. Katherine Ricks, born 20 October 1683, died 3 September 1684.**
- 10 ix. Richard Ricks, born 30 May 1685; died 29 September 1703, "about the tenth hour in the morning."^{613**} He was 18 years old
- + 11 x. Jean Ricks, born 30 June 1687. Married **John Sallaway** after 1723.
- + 12 xii. James Ricks, born 17 January 1690; died 1730 in Isle of Wight County (see following will).

Generation Two

2. Isaac' Ricks (Isaac'), born 17 June 1669; died about 1736–37; married **Sarah** —?—; lived in Isle of Wight County and probably died there—for there is no available evidence that he removed to North Carolina.

Before his death, which occurred after 27 September 1736, Isaac² Ricks sold his inherited land to a man named Robert Ricks. The deed reveals that Isaac Ricks, at the calculated age of sixty-seven years and three months, personally appeared in an Isle of Wight County courtroom. He brought a handful of turf and a twig to signify the transfer of that land. The identity and clues to the lineage of this Robert Ricks are perhaps in several following deeds found at the section concerning **Robert' Ricks** (Isaac').⁶¹⁴

27 September 1736. **Isaac RICKS** deed to **Robert RICKS** [both of Isle of Wight]—for fourteen pounds lawful money of Virginia—a certain parcel of land being part of a patent of land granted to William DENSON, being in the Isle of Wight County—bounded as followeth—on the South side on the line of William SCOTT, on the West by Rich'd SELWAY, on the North by Robt. COGGAN, on the East by **Robt RICKS**, being part of the land his father lived on which was given between the parties aforesaid, being by Estimation 100 acres. [signed] Isaac R [his mark] RICKS
Signed Sealed & Quist & peaceably [?] possession given by the Delivery of Turf and twig part of the premises in presents of Wm WRIGHT Junr. John DENSON Junr. Matthew ——— [GRIFFIN?]

⁶⁰⁴ Chuckatuck Monthly Meeting minutes, p. 106. Norman J. Flythe, of Raleigh, N.C., provided a copy of the actual records which were reviewed to correct previously published material on Isaac Ricks Sr. and Jr. These records are on film at the Library of Virginia.

⁶⁰⁵ "Old Naming Patterns," *Pennington Pedigrees*, Vol. 21, No. 1, p. 28.

⁶⁰⁶ Hinshaw, Vol. 1, 35, Chuckatuck Monthly Meeting, for children and dates of birth.

⁶⁰⁷ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 50.

⁶⁰⁸ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 23.

⁶⁰⁹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 45.

⁶¹⁰ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 50. The exact date is uncertain. He died about one o'clock in the afternoon.

⁶¹¹ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, pp. 18–19.

⁶¹² Annie Noble Sims, "Three Early Landowners of the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia: Jeremiah Exum, Michael Mackquinney, and William Pope, with notes on some of their descendants," *WMQ*, Ser. 1, Vol. 27, No. 1, pp. 57–62.

⁶¹³ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, 48.

⁶¹⁴ Isle of Wight Co., Va., Deed Book 5, pp. 29–30.

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At a Court held for Isle Wight County Sept 27th 1736 Isaac RICKS came into Court presented and Acknowledged his Deed of bargain and sale unto Robert RICKS and it is thereupon Admitted to Record.

Test James BAKER Clk Court [There is no record of Isaac² Ricks after this record.]

“On the book of records of the Quaker church at Chuckatuck, which are in Baltimore, Maryland, for safe keeping, can be found recorded the birth of three of his children, but on the page on which was their record, part was cut off for some reason, leaving their names off. It is not know for certain who, if any, his other children were [Guy Scoby Rix, 1908].” Three known children of Isaac² Ricks left a trail of records in North Carolina, the earliest beginning about 1717. There is no further information on what happened to Isaac’s son John.⁶¹⁵ This son probably witnessed the following deed:⁶¹⁶

28 July 1735...Samuel WADE and his son, William WADE, of Bartee [Bertie] Precinct in North Carolina to Robert COGAN of Isle of Wight...95 acres on Indian Creek and the Nansemond River adjoining Isaac RICHES, Roben SANDERS and the Main Road. William WADE
Wit: William DENSON, John RICKES and Isaac (X) RICKES. Rec: 24 Nov. 1735

The association and family connection between Barnaby² McKinnie, of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and Isaac² Ricks, William² Ricks and Jacob² Ricks was not fully discussed in a previous family history. This is an appropriate place for such a discussion, because a widely recognized lineage problem effectively begins with these men.

The Revised Edition⁶¹⁷ states that Isaac² Ricks’ wife as Sarah McKinnie. This incorrect assumption was simply an error in the interpretation of the terms “son” and “son-in-law” used in a 1722 deed. With this document, Barnaby² McKinnie gave his step-son Isaac² Ricks (Jacob², Isaac²) the following land:⁶¹⁸

1481, page 272 Barnaby MCKINNE. (Bartholomew?) (residence not given). 28 Mar. 1722 to Isaac RICKS (residence not given) for the love I bear my son (sic) 100 acres in that corner of the Pattend called Napkin's - - -work?, joining BROWN and Coneconary swamp part of a Pattend granted to Nathaniel HOLLEY in Callidonia woods and should he die without heirs, the sd. Isaac RICKS my son-in-law (sic) should bequeath the sd. Land to any Person.
Witness: Barnaby MCKINNE Jr., Richard JACKSON—acknowledged 1 August 1722 before me C. GALE, Chief Justice—registered 22 August 1722.

Note the contrasting style used when Barnaby gave one of his two natural sons the following deed of gift:⁶¹⁹

Barnaby McKINNIE, - 6 Feb 1724/25. Bertie deed of gift to son John. "... for love I do bare my son John McKINNIE and the Heirs of his body, 100 acres known as Walnut Fork, part of a tract granted to William BROWN which elapsed, on SS Morratoke River (now called Roanoke) dividing land of James JOYNER on Walnut Fork. If John MCKINNIE shall die without heirs, to his next of kin. Wit: Isaac RICKS, Thomas FOXHALL.

Mrs. Mary Ricks, the daughter of Judge Jeremiah and Ann Exum married (2) William Murphrey, but her second husband lived only a short time thereafter. There was probably one child born during their marriage (discussion follows). Mary Murphrey married (3) Barnaby² McKinnie, about 1719.

Barnaby McKinnie owned considerable land in Isle of Wight County, Virginia, but sold out and moved to Albemarle County, North Carolina, after his marriage to Mrs. Mary Murphrey. He first appeared in Chowan Precinct records about 1720 and settled in Caledony Woods, at or near Coneconary Swamp. After 1722, he was a resident of Bertie Precinct. That area in which he lived later became Edgecombe County, and even later a part of Halifax County. He left many descendants.

Barnaby was a North Carolina Justice of the Peace, Judge of General Court in 1727, and a member of the North Carolina assembly in 1735. Some reports say his will was dated 31 August 1737.⁶²⁰ The name of Barnaby McKinnie does not appear on the old Quaker Books of Chuckatuck, Virginia, nor in abstracts of those records by William Wade Hinshaw.

On the early land records of Edenton, the county seat of Chowan, can be found several deeds pertaining to Barnaby McKinnie. Also on those records is Isaac² Ricks (Jacob², Isaac²) who witness to a few McKinnie deeds. Separately, Benjamin² Ricks and his nephews, William², Isaac² and Jacob² Ricks, began to acquire their own property—first in Chowan and Bertie Precincts and later in counties formed from those precincts.

Isaac² Ricks, Jacob² Ricks, William² Ricks (all of Isaac² Ricks) and their uncle Benjamin² Ricks were in the same general area, initially. Benjamin was there before October 1717, because a Chowan Precinct court case (Patterson v. Ricks) proves it.⁶²¹ Barnaby McKinnie and his wife Mary and her son, Isaac Ricks (of Jacob), were in another area.⁶²² Some of Barnaby’s deed records begin about 1723, perhaps earlier. Perhaps Martha Ricks (of Jacob) was there with her mother and brother, but a record of her has not yet been located. Isaac² Ricks, the son of Jacob² Ricks, associated almost exclusively with Barnaby McKinnie and his family.

Benjamin² Ricks (Isaac²) wrote his will in 1719 and died in Chowan Precinct in 1721.⁶²³

⁶¹⁵ John Ricks, the son of Isaac Ricks, was given a legacy by James² Ricks (Isaac²) in his 1730 will (see the transcript that follows at James Ricks). The children of Isaac² Ricks (Jacob², Isaac²) were probably too young to witness the following Wade-Cogan deed. However, this deed involved a Bertie Precinct resident, and Isaac² Ricks was known to be in North Carolina at that time. It is almost certain that the Isaac² Ricks and John² Ricks in the Wade-Cogan deed were father and son, as the people involved are also mentioned in the above 1736 deed from Isaac² Ricks to the unidentified Robert Ricks.

⁶¹⁶ Hopkins, *Isle of Wight County, Virginia, Deeds, 1720-1736 and Deeds 1741-1749*, p. 51 (Deed Book 4, 1729-1736, p. 502).

⁶¹⁷ Rix, *The Ricks Family of America*, published in 1957 by the Ricks Family Association.

⁶¹⁸ Margaret M. Hofmann, comp., *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, 1696-1723, Genealogical Abstracts of Deed Books* (Weldon, N.C.: Roanoke News Co., 1972), p. 183.

⁶¹⁹ Mary Best Bell, *Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina, Deed Books A-H, 1720-1757*, (Easley, S.C.: SHP, 1977), p. 3 (Bertie Co. Deed Book A-59).

⁶²⁰ Annie Noble Sims, "Three Early Landowners of the County of Isle of Wight, Virginia: Jeremiah Exum, Michael Macquinnay, and William Pope, with Notes on Some of Their Descendants," *The William and Mary Quarterly*, Ser. 1, Vol. 27, No. 1 (July 1918), pp. 57-64. The material concerning Jeremiah Exum and Barnaby McKinnie appears, for the most part, to be credible, except that Mary Exum was reported to have married (1) Jacob Ricks and (2) Barnaby McKinnie. However, Mary Exum Ricks married William Murphrey before McKinnie.

⁶²¹ Hofmann, *Chowan Precinct, North Carolina, 1696-1723*, p. 232.

⁶²² Bertie Co. Deed Book B: 8. Barnabe Mackenne and wife Mary deed to Joseph Joyner, dated 5 Aug. 1723, and witnessed by Isaac Ricks and William Murphrey, proves Mary was there by that date.

⁶²³ Hathaway, "Abstract of Wills," *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 1, p. 11.

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Benjamin RICKS 1719; 30 November 1721; Robert RICKS, Jr., son of my brother Robert RICKS, Sr., wife Sarah, brother Isaac RICKS, brother Abraham RICKS, brothers Robert, Sr., and James, sister Jane, Patience, daughter of brother Abraham, William BROWN, and son Beal BROWN.

Barnaby McKinnie had a son-in-law named John Brown, and John's father was William Brown, proven by several early deeds of Bertie Precinct. John Brown left his wife Mary McKinnie to enter a bigamous relationship with another woman before 1727. Accounts of this situation are in the early *Colonial Records of North Carolina*.

On 9 May 1737, John Dew Jr. sold to John Worrill (both evidently of Bertie Precinct) 250 acres on the south side of Meheron [Meherin] River and the south side of Kirby's Creek, at Reedy Branch.⁶²⁴ The witnesses were William Ricks, Jacob Ricks, and Sarah Stone. There were no other records located for Sarah Stone, but she could have been the widow of Benjamin Ricks. This possibility was not pursued. Sarah Ricks was listed on the 1721 Chowan Precinct tax list with 300 acres of land, and she was charged three polls (a tax levied on three persons).⁶²⁵

William¹, Jacob², and Isaac³ Ricks lived at times in the counties of Chowan, Bertie, Edgecombe and Northampton. William¹ Ricks had a son named Benjamin¹ Ricks who, in the Revised Edition, was mistaken for the Benjamin² Ricks that died in Chowan County. As a result, many families were mislinked. Guy Scoby Rix also mentioned a man named Benjamin Ricks, of Lunenburg County, Virginia, in his 1908 book. Actually, that Benjamin Ricks was of the Richard Ricks family, of Charles City County,⁶²⁶ born in Prince George County, before 1790, and died in Surry County 13 November 1753.⁶²⁷

Evidently, to confuse future researchers, Jacob² Ricks named his only known son William¹ Ricks, and this William¹ lived in Northampton County. In keeping with the tendency to use certain given names, William¹ named his first son Jacob¹. Other sons were named William², Dempsey², David², and Edwin².

William¹ Ricks lived initially in Bertie Precinct and Northampton County when the latter was formed, but he acquired other land in Edgecombe County. He had only one known son, and his name was Benjamin¹ Ricks, who left a very large family—including Lewis¹, Benjamin¹, Jacob¹, John¹, Joel¹, William¹, Meredith¹, Thomas¹, Josiah¹, and Abraham¹. Now that you have this clearly in mind, we will return to Isaac Ricks.

Early North Carolina records provide evidence of possible early movement into the state by men of the Ricks surname:

Perquimans [sic] Precinct, at the house of Mr. Dennis MACLENDON, 6 Jan. 1705-6: Isaac WILSON proves right to 1200 acres by importation (among others) Isaac RICKS & Abraham RICKS.⁶²⁸

Existing records reveal the presence of Abraham and Isaac Rigs in Pasquotank County in 1744.⁶²⁹ There is no substantial evidence that these men were Isaac² and Abraham² Ricks, of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, and the identity of these men as Rickses was not confirmed, either. However, Isaac Wilson was known to Isaac Ricks Sr..⁶³⁰

"from our mens meeting...at Chuckatuck in ye County of Nancemond virginia held the 8 day of the first mo 1703/4

To the monthly meeting of friends belonging to Pequimans in north Carolina...Dear friends this is to lett you know that wee Recd youres and Robt. willsons will [Robert Wilson has died and leaves a will] Itt hath been Read in our mens meeting in weightly Considered wee hoape...that Isaac willson ought to pay the 18 pounds given by Robt. willson ye testator to sarah Bellman or to her heires lawfully begotten Provided that John Bellman husband to sarah bellman doe give in bond & securitie to Isaac willson that if Jno Bellmans daughter or daughters do inivy [probably means "claim"] part of that land with Isaac's daughter or daughters for want of and heir male of Isaac Willson to inherit ye land given by the Testator that ye mony bee paid back by ballman or his heires to Isaac Willson or to his heires. Signed by order of our meeting Pr Isaac Rickesie"

Isaac Wilson was, evidently, the administrator of the will of Robert Wilson deceased. Robert's children were Sarah Bellman and Isaac Wilson.⁶³¹ The deceased Wilson gave eighteen pounds of current money to Sarah or her heirs. Robert bequeathed his land to Isaac Wilson—on condition that if Isaac did not leave a male heir the daughters of both Sarah Bellman and Isaac Wilson could share the land. If Bellman's daughters desired to share the land, a possible condition provided for in the will, Bellman was directed to give a security bond that he must pay back the eighteen pounds to the heirs of Isaac Wilson.

Robert and Ann Wilson were members of Chuckatuck meeting in 1688, as they attended the wedding of Leaven Bufkin and Dorothy Newby.⁶³² That wedding was also witnesses by Isaac Ricks Sr., which proves that Isaac and Robert were acquainted for several decades.

Apparently, Robert and Ann Wilson's moved to North Carolina, because Perquimans County deed records contain reference to Robert Wilson living in the county. John Belman married Sarah Wilson in Perquimans Precinct, in what was then Albemarle County, North Carolina:

Hinshaw's Volumn 1, Perquimans Monthly Meeting (MM), page 1:⁶³³

On 19 Aug. 1687, John BELMAN and Sarah WILSON married at the house of Joha. PHELPS. Witnesses:

⁶²⁴ Bertie Co. Deed Book E: 125.

⁶²⁵ "1721 Chowan Co., N.C., Tax List," *Journal of North Carolina Genealogy*, No. 62, Vol. XVI, No. 2, 1970, pp. 253-2559.

⁶²⁶ See the material on Richard Ricks and his descendants who lived in Charles City, Prince George, and Surry Counties.

⁶²⁷ Surry Co., Va., Deeds, Wills, Etc., 1738-1754 (Original), Reel 6, Va. State Library, pp. 885-886.

⁶²⁸ _____? *The Colonial Records of North Carolina*, Vol 1, Part 2, 1662-1712, pp. 649-50:

⁶²⁹ Haun, *Pasquotank County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes (Court of Pleas & Quarter Sessions) 1737-1746, Book 1*, p. 46.

⁶³⁰ White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, pp. 24-25.

⁶³¹ Hathaway, ed., *The North Carolina Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 3, p. 409. Isaac's wife was Ann Parker, and they were married at Francis Toms' house 31 march 1701. Robert's wife was Ann.

⁶³² White, *Early Quaker Records In Virginia*, p. 10.

⁶³³ This marriage record contains, perhaps, a minor clue to the origin of Jonas Ricks, of Guilford Co., N. C., for here we see a few of the surnames involved with Jonas or his descendants. Caleb and Sarah Bundy, who probably came from Perquimans County, are two individuals who associated closely with Jonas and his family. In the Bundy family Quaker records of Pasquotank County, we see reference to a Rix Bundy. Many of the above named families can be traced to Isle of Wight, Surry, or other eastern Va. counties. Other surnames that associated with Jonas Ricks include the Albertson, Day, Hill, Lamb, Moring, Tatum, Tomlinson, Wheeler, White, Wilson, and Boyd families, and they all have ties to Virginia. Unfortunately, a specific record or reference to Jonas Ricks' origin has not been located.

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William RICKS of Edgecombe Co. to Thomas PARKER of Northampton Co. 19 Aug. 1748 5 pounds current money of Va. 100 acres more or less on south side of Meherrin river, joining Ester KERBEY [Kirby] and Thomas KERSEY, part of a patent to me 9 Apr. 1724. Wit: John COBSON [probably COLSON], Jacob RICKS R his mark, William RICKS W his mark Reg. Northampton Co. Feb. Ct. 1748 J. Edwards C. Ct.

Wm RICKS to Benjamin RICKS of Edgecombe County—20 May 1752—5 pounds for 300 acres on the north side of Tarr River on Maple Creek, joining David MANN and part of a patent to Wm. BRASWELL of 21 March 1742—witness: J. EDWARDS, Benj. BRYAN—May Court 1752. [Deed Book 4: 263.]

William evidently remained in Edgecombe County during the remaining years of his life. Edgecombe County court record abstracts relate several events to show that William and the large family of his son Benjamin lived in the same area.⁶⁸²

- A jury appointed to lay off a road from Osborn JEFFERIES at the Granville line thence to near Macajah THOMAS' & south to Tarr River at or near William CAIN: Benjamin RIX, William RIX, Jacob BRASWELL, Thomas POLLARD, David MANN, others.
- January 1761—William RICKS proved will of William CAIN.
- Micajah THOMAS, Edward MOORE esquire, and Will. RICKS contracted according to law to build bridge over Peach Tree Creek at Macajah THOMAS' plantation.
- Ordered that the following persons be a jury to lay off a road from the road near William HORN's the best and most convenient way into the road leading from LAMON's Ferry at or near Benjamin DENSON's, to wit: Wiliam HORN, James RICKS, John RICKS, James JOLLY, David BUNN, Arthur WHITLEY, Benjamin RICKS, John RICKS, Lewis RICKS, Samuel SKINNER, Henry HORN Jr., Isaac HORN, Thomas WILLIAMS, Benjamin ONEAL, Nicholas SKINNER & John DAVENPORT.⁶⁸³

His will, probated in Edgecombe County, follows:

Will of William RICKS—died between January–February 1771:⁶⁸⁴

In the name of god Amen I William RICKS of Edgecombe County and parish of St. Mary in the province of North Carolina being sicke and weake of body but in perfect mind and Memory Thanks be to God [preamble] I give and bequeath in the manner and form following

Item I give and bequeath to my beloved son Benjamin RICKS all the cooper tools that I am possessed of ... [short blank space, possibly some dim letters].

Item I give and bequeath to my grandson John RICKS a parcel of land bounded as followeth containing five acres—the same more or less laying at a poplar in a small branch ten down the branch to Maple Creek then down said creek to a maple in his own line then north along his own line to the first station to him and his heirs forever. Likewise one feather bed of furniture, also one chest with lock and key, also three sheep to him and his heirs forever.

Item I give and bequeath to my grandson Jacob RICKS a horse, bridle and saddle, six horned cattle, three sheep, pork killed for year's provision, ax, carpenter's tools and all wearing apparell.

Item I give and bequeath to my beloved grandson Lewis RICKS the planatation wherein I now with the land thereto belonging containing 200 acres and bounded as followeth beginning at a hickory Benjamin RICKS and Micajah THOMAS corner then by a ——— line Sappony Creek to a pine in the principle line then east to a pine then south to a poplar John RICKS corner then down the branch to a maple then turning to Benjamin RICKS line then along his line to the first station to him and his heirs forever.

Item I do give and bequeath to granddaughter Mary RICKS a two year old heffer.

Item I do hereby nominate and appoint my beloved grandson Lewis RICKS my whole executor of this my last will and Testament and do hereby revoke and disanull all former will of Testament and so hereby Nominate this and no other to be my last will and Testament—10 January 1771 (signed) William RICKS—witness: (signed) Duncan (X) LAMON, Richard VICK, Merida (X) RICKS.

Wms & Griffin abst. shows inventory of William RICKS taken by Lewis RICKS, no date of inventory, produced in May court 1771.

The only known child of William² Ricks and his wife Esther Kirby:

- 31 i. Benjamin¹ Ricks; married Patience —?—.⁶⁸⁵

14. Isaac¹ Ricks (Isaac², Isaac³), born 27 December 1702 near Chuckatuck, Virginia; died in 1760; married (1) **Eleanor (Johnson) Bunn**, the widow of John Bunn, probably about 1727–28:

Bun, John. Bertie County.⁶⁸⁶ January 27, 1727. Sons: John (300 acres land on South side Orreroy Swamp), David ("plantation lying in Verjenea"), Benjamin ("plantation where I now live"). Daughter: Ann. Wife and Executrix: Elaner Bun. Witnesses: Wm. Rich, Richard Haren, William Bun (two wills, one original and one copy.) No probate.

Evidence of the identity of Isaac's wife originates in the 30 January 1745/46 will of James Johnson, of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, who refers to his daughter as Eleanor Ricks.⁶⁸⁷ Additional evidence is in the 17 May 1760 will of John² Bunn (John¹), of Edgecombe County.⁶⁸⁸ He names his children, son (a) David² Bunn, who received 200 acres of land and plantation where his father lived; (b) John Bunn; and (c) Ann Bunn. He also made the following appointments: "and I constitute make and ordain my loveing [sic] Brothers in Law James Ricks and John Ricks Executors of this my last Will and Testament...." Witnesses were Ewd. Moore, John Barnes, and William Johnson. James and John Ricks qualified as executors at the June court, and the subscribing witnesses proved the will. Men of these surnames appeared in subsequent land records with members of the Isaac Ricks family.

John¹ Bunn sold Isaac Ricks, both of Edgecombe County, 200 acres of land for eighteen pounds 10 August 1743.⁶⁸⁹ This land was on the south side of Tar River, joining Rattle Snake Branch, and Joseph Goodson, which was at the time of sale in the

⁶⁸² Wynette Parks Haun, *Edgecombe County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes 1744–1762*, (Durham, NC: W.P.H., 1985), pp. 135, 157

⁶⁸³ Wynette Parks Haun, *Edgecombe County, North Carolina, County Court Minutes 1763–1774*, Book II, (n.p.: W.P.H., 1989), p. 309

⁶⁸⁴ This will was proved in open court 27 February 1771 by Duncan Lamon and Meredith Rix.

⁶⁸⁵ Edgecombe Co., N. C., Wills 1758–1830, Vol. VIII, 45, for his wife and children in order of their appearance in Benjamin's will (which might have been the order of birth). See 31. Benjamin¹ Ricks. The maiden name of Patience is not proved.

⁶⁸⁶ J. Bryan Grimes, *Abstracts of North Carolina Wills*, (Raleigh: E.M. Uzzell & Co, State Printers and Binders, 1910), pp. 54–55

⁶⁸⁷ Chapman, *Wills and Administrations of Isle of Wight County, Virginia, 1647–1800*, pp. 154–55. The will was probated 11 June 1747

⁶⁸⁸ Edgecombe Co. Will Book A, p. 3, June Court 1760.

⁶⁸⁹ Margaret H. Hoffman, Comp., *Abstracts of Deeds of Edgecombe Precinct* (Weldon, NC: The Roanoke News, 1969), pp. 183–84

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possession of Isaac. Witnesses were Edward Richard, David² Bunn, and Benjamin² Bunn. Two of the witnesses, and the grantor, were most likely the sons of John¹ Bunn and half-brothers of James and John Ricks, thus their brothers-by-law. There are several Edgecombe County deeds between these Ricks and Bunn families. Eleanor Ricks was the mother of four children by John Bunn, and she and Isaac had three children.

Isaac Ricks moved to Chowan Precinct, Albemarle County, North Carolina, with his brother William before 1720. Land that he acquired later fell in Edgecombe County. "He owned the grist mill at the Great Falls on Tar River, where the largest cotton mill in the State, if not in the South, now stands. He also owned the land where the present town of Rocky Mount now stands, and some of these lands are still in the hands of his descendants [this was in 1908, as reported by Guy Scoby Rix]."

Chowan County deed book A records his first land acquisition from William and Esther Ricks. William patented that land 6 April 1722. First, Isaac lived near his older brother William, and later he moved to the Tar River area of Edgecombe County:⁶⁹⁰

William RICKS and wife Ester to Isaac RICKS—10 November 1724—30 pounds for 240 acres on south side Kirby's Creek and Reedy Branch, patent dated 6 April 1722—witness: James BRYANT,⁶⁹¹ William WILSON, Mathew SELLERS, November Court 1724. [Deed Book A: 326.]

Isaac RICKS to Jacob RICKS, 7 October 1738. 30 pounds for ——— [probably the same 240 acres identified above—most likely a sale to his younger brother] on south side Kirby's Creek at Reedy Branch. Part of patent granted 6 April 1722. Wit: J. DEW, William RICKS, John WORRELL, August Court 1739. [Deed Book E: 495.]

Osborne JEFFREYS of Northampton County to Isaac RICKS of Edgecombe County—17 November 1741—10 pounds current money of VA for 250 acres on south side of Tar River against the Great Falls, a grant to the sd. JEFFREYS 18 June 1741—witness: Robert HILLIARD, John WARBERTON, November Court 1741. [Deed Book 5: 16].

Isaac RICKS—25 July 1743—grant 2913, Patent Book 5, page 101—400 acres in Edgecombe Co on both sides of Tarr river about five miles above the trading Path where Thomas ROBINSON lives. [Hofman, *Colony of North Carolina, 1735–1764*].

Before his death Isaac Ricks sold 324 acres Edgecombe County of land to George Harrel, of Bertie County, lying on both sides of Compass Creek adjoining Thomas Exum,⁶⁹² which Isaac previously purchased from Patrick McCain 5 February 1753. Witnesses were Elisha Battle, Thos. Skinner, and Nicholas Skinner. The Skinner surname appears in later records as circumstantial evidence that this Isaac was the father of James and John Ricks.

For fifteen pounds, Samuel Skinner, planter, sold Daniel Ross 175 acres on the south side of Tar River on Buck Swamp 22 March 1762.⁶⁹³ Witnesses were James Ricks, Thomas Williams, and John Ricks. Daniel Ross sold Philip Thomas seventy-four acres on the south side of Tar River 22 March 1762.⁶⁹⁴ Witnesses were James Ricks and John Ricks. In 1764, James sold his brother John Ricks a 280 acre tract of a 650 tract of land obtained from the Earl of Granville 3 November 1761.⁶⁹⁵

Isaac Ricks remained on his Edgecombe County land until late 1760, the year he died. There was only one other Isaac Ricks who appeared on records of Chowan, Bertie, and Edgecombe Counties, and he was the son of Jacob and Mary Exum Ricks—step-son of Barnaby McKinnie.

The land of Isaac² Ricks (Isaac², Isaac¹) and that of Isaac³ Ricks (Jacob², Isaac¹) was not difficult to track, because family connections helped determine which deeds pertained to either Isaac. Sons James⁴ and John⁴ Ricks (Isaac³, Isaac², Isaac¹) began signing as witness to their father's land transactions about 1751, and they often signed together. Both were probably married about 1750–55. Isaac³ Ricks (Jacob², Isaac², Isaac¹) usually signed records with members of the McKinnie or Murphrey families.

It is not likely that Isaac's father Isaac² Ricks ever departed Virginia and moved to North Carolina, even for a short period, as reported in the original family history book. There is no evidence to support a finding that more than two Ricks men named Isaac lived in the state during those early days. Existing records identify these two men as separate, distinct, and apart from one another. One associated with the McKinnie family and the other associated with William and Jacob Ricks.

Will of Isaac RICKS, 15 April 1760. December Court, 1760.⁶⁹⁶

Son & Executor: James—250 acres whereon I live, 200 acres purchased of George GOODSON, with ½ grist mill, he allowing Joseph HENDERSON his part; use of Negro for 1 year, reversion of Negro to children: James, John and Sarah ROSS.

Daughter: Sarah ROSS

Son & Executor: John—128 acre plantation whereon he lives and 73 acre adjoining and ½ grist mill.

Grandson: Isaac RICKS, a son of John, 4 pounds for schooling.

Son & Executor: James residue of estate—Witnesses: Edward MOORE, James ROSS, William HORN.

On 26 January 1762, Richard Henderson, of Granville County, sold James Ricks, of Edgecombe County, "one half of the mill formerly in company [with] Isaac Ricks and Jesse Henderson, deceased, lying [in Edgecombe] on the south side of Tar River adjoining the place commonly called the Great Falls."⁶⁹⁷ Duncan Lamon and John Lesslie witnessed.

⁶⁹⁰ Bell, *Colonial Bertie County, North Carolina, Deed Books A–H, 1720–1757*; Margaret M. Hofmann, *Abstracts of Deeds, Edgecombe Precinct, North Carolina* (Weldon, N.C.: Roanoke Publishing Co., 1969); and Margaret M. Hofmann, *Colony of North Carolina, 1735–1764* (Weldon, NC: Roanoke News, 1982).

⁶⁹¹ The Bryan/Bryant surname is found in early records of Isle of Wight County; they lived close to Isaac Ricks Sr.

⁶⁹² Joseph W. Watson, *Abstracts of Early Deeds of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1759–1772* (New Bern, N.C.: Owen G. Dunn Co., 1966), p. 14. Date of deed 6 Feb. 1759.

⁶⁹³ Edgecombe Co. Deed Book 1, p. 111.

⁶⁹⁴ Edgecombe Co. Deed Book 1, p. 219.

⁶⁹⁵ Edgecombe Co. Deed Book C, p. 144.

⁶⁹⁶ Ruth Smith Williams and Margaret Glenn Griffin, comps., *Abstracts of The Wills of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1733–1856*, Will of Isaac Ricks, 15 April 1760, Dec. Court 1760, (Rocky Mount, N. C.: Joseph W. Watson, 1980), p. 275. There was no mention of a son named Jonas as earlier reported for this family.

⁶⁹⁷ Edgecombe Co. Deed Book 1, p. 131.

Ricks Settlers in Colonial America

Millancy Bunting (wife of James Bunting); (e) Dickeson Ricks; (f) Elizabeth Ricks, died unmarried about February 1836;⁷⁵⁴ (g) Mourning Joiner (wife of Jonathan Joiner); and (h) Sally Manning, wife of Alexander Manning. The executor, John Ricks, had instructions to manage any property Sally received. Apparently, Alexander was not a favored son-in-law, because the will states he was not to benefit from Sally's part of the distribution of property after her mother's death. Sally Manning lived in Lawrence County, Georgia, according to the 1847 estate records of Sally's brother, John Ricks. Henry Edwards witnessed the will of John Ricks.

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| 56 | viii. | Josiah Ricks, born 12 August 1755, died unmarried in 1781. |
| 57 | ix. | Meredith Ricks, born 1757, died unmarried in 1780. |
| 58 | x. | John Ricks, born 1758; died about September 1787; ⁷⁵⁵ married Sarah Whitfield , daughter of Israel Whitfield; ⁷⁵⁶ had one son, Acquilla Ricks, who died young in early 1797. ⁷⁵⁷ Buyers at his estate sale were Jacob Ricks and Abraham Ricks. |
| + 59 | xi. | Abraham Ricks, born 1760, died 1835; married Rachel Bunn . Continued at Chapter 9. |
| 60 | xii. | Sarah Ricks, born 1762; married Nathan Joiner . |
| 61 | xiii. | Patience Ricks, born 1764; married William Joiner . |

Note concerning Charity Ricks, daughter of Lewis Ricks:⁷⁵⁸ [Tom Russell, of Alabama, and Madelon Wright Smith, deceased, of Wilson County, Tennessee, both noted researchers, concur that available evidence supports the statement] ... that Charity Ricks was indeed the daughter of Lewis Ricks. Another interesting fact—our Charity's first son was named Lewis!

My mother—Billie Wright⁶ Young (Brownie Allen Wright⁵, William Allen⁴, James Bomar³, Lewis², Lemuel¹)—and I went to several of the old family cemeteries October 31, 1997. We took photographs of the tombstones for our genealogy scrapbooks, including one of Charity's and Lemuel's tombstones. They are both buried at the Lemuel Wright Cemetery, located on the east side of Mt. Juliet Road—north of Stewarts Ferry Pike and south of Central Pike. Several of their children and their spouses are buried there as well, including a fairly new marker for the grave of James Bomar Wright, Charity's grandson, who was killed at the Battle of Stones River during the Civil War.

Charity's tombstone was broken, but I propped it up to make a photograph. It clearly states that she was born October 13, 1770, and died February 22, 1863. Lemuel Wright's tombstone stands beside Charity's and gives his birth date as December 21, 1771, and death date November 3, 1839.

A Mrs. Robert Gwynne of Smyrna, Tennessee, compiled a chronology of information about Lemuel Wright—land purchases, land grants, witnesses to deeds, etc.—right through the writing of his will and his death. It starts in October 1762, in Edgecombe County, and follows him through Nash County to Wilson County, Tennessee. One event was a land transfer involving Lemuel Wright and Joseph Wright (portions illegible), but it is witnessed by Mourning Ricks. So, we have Wrights and Rickses documented together in North Carolina and Tennessee.

32. James' Ricks (Isaac², Isaac², Isaac¹), born about 1728–30; died in 1792; married before 1760 (1) **Judith Ross**, daughter of Kallum Ross and Elizabeth Skinner.

William (Kallum?) Ross wrote his will 8 December 1760, and the probate process began at the December court, 1760.⁷⁵⁹ His legatees were his wife Elisabeth (sic), son Daniel Ross, and daughters Jude Ricks and Ann Ricks. Daniel Ross married Sarah Ricks, the sister of James and John Ricks. Daniel's 1781 will identifies his wife as Sarah and provides for twelve months support for his mother and father-in-law [—?— Barnes].⁷⁶⁰ This is consistent with the will of Elizabeth Barnes, written in 1789; probated May 1794.⁷⁶¹ In her will Elizabeth mentions Theophilus Skinner, son of her brother Samuel Skinner; granddaughter Ann Watkins, daughter of John Ricks; and granddaughter Mary Horn, wife of Abishai Horn. Both records serve as strong evidence that James Ricks married Judith Ross and John Ricks married Ann Ross.

James Ricks married (2) **Mary Crudrope** 23 July 1762.⁷⁶² There was no other man of this name found in Edgecombe County records during the period of both marriages. James married (3) **Phebe Horn** in Edgecombe County 29 September 1770.⁷⁶³ However, records created by the children of James Ricks suggest that Phebe was the mother of several children said to have been born before the above marriage record.⁷⁶⁴

A record of Phebe's will, dated 22 October 1806, comes from the minutes of May court of 1812.⁷⁶⁵ The will mentions her sons Eli and Henry, son-in-law Nathan Gilbert, and heirs of Robert Ricks, deceased. Josiah Ricks predeceased his mother in 1806,⁷⁶⁶ and his estate record identified her as Phebe.

James Ricks, planter [farmer], sold John Bunn a seventy-two acres plantation on the south bank of Tyannococa Swamp 16 September 1774.⁷⁶⁷ Witnesses were Abisha Horn and Redmun Bunn. On 1 July 1779, James obtained two North Carolina land grants totaling 576 acres; one a ten acre tract "in the Islands of the Falls of Tar River...on the river side in the county line..." and another "on the south side of Tar River on Horn's Creek and Ricks' Branch adjoining John Flowers, John Ricks, and his own

⁷⁵³ Williams and Griffin, *Abstracts of Will Book I, Nash County, North Carolina, 1778–1868*, p. 90. John's large family included sons David A. T. (born 1821 per 1850 census of Nash Co. and married Francis A. Harrison in 1845), Jerome, George (married Sarah Ann Elizabeth Vick in 1844), William, Buckanan, Nero, and John A. Ricks; and daughters Frances (married William W. Boddie in 1848), Sidney B. (married William J. B. Harper in 1835), and Indiana Ricks.

⁷⁵⁴ *Ibid.*, p. 237, John Ricks, administrator. Clothes to sister Mourning. Buyers were Jonathan Joiner, John Ricks, Dickerson Ricks, and Richard Ricks.

⁷⁵⁵ *Ibid.*, p. 237. See p. 236 for record of Acquilla's death, Sarah Ricks administratrix.

⁷⁵⁶ Watson, *Estate Records in Deed Books of Nash County, North Carolina, 1781–1897*, p. 69. See p. 61 for division of estate to Sarah (widow) and Acquilla.

⁷⁵⁷ Watson, *Abstracts of Early Records of Nash County, North Carolina, 1777–1859*, p. 236.

⁷⁵⁸ Carolyn (Young) Whittenburg (cyw@vol.com) to author 3 December 1997, in possession of author. See the Ricks family folder, Madelon Wright Smith Memorial Archives, Public Library, Mt. Juliet, Wilson Co., Tenn., for letters and notes regarding Lemuel and Charity Wright (Box 8, N–Sma). The work by Gwynne was not reviewed.

⁷⁵⁹ Edgecombe Co. Will Book A: 7.

⁷⁶⁰ Edgecombe Co. Will Book B: 76.

⁷⁶¹ Edgecombe Co. Will Book C: 295.

⁷⁶² "Edgecombe Co. Marriage Records", Roll NC 8, TSLA, Nashville. James Oliver, bondsman.

⁷⁶³ "Edgecombe Co. Marriage Records", Roll NC 8, James Ricks & William McClellan, bondsmen, J. Hall, witness.

⁷⁶⁴ The dates of birth for James' children were given by Guy Scoby Rix in his book *The Ricks Family of America*, but these birth dates are not proved. There is no indication in his will and other family records that James had another wife.

⁷⁶⁵ Ruth Smith Williams, comp., *Abstracts of The Wills of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1733–1856* (Rocky Mount, N. C.: Joseph W. Watson, pub, 1980), 277. Edgecombe Co. Will Book E: 36, Henry Ricks administrator.

⁷⁶⁶ Joseph W. Watson, comp., *Estate Records of Edgecombe County, North Carolina, 1730–1820*, (Durham, N.C.: Seeman Printery, Inc., 1970), pp. 225–226.

⁷⁶⁷ Edgecombe Co. Deed Book 2: 163.