

**William Bird Richards of King and Queen County -**

**Tobacco Inspector and**

**vestryman of Drysdale Parish in 1735.**

(140) THE RICHARDS FAMILY

The Richards family had acquired lands in the upper end of King and Queen County, for William Bird Richards, as early as 1731, was appointed Tobacco Inspector at Ayletts and Todds. He was a vestryman in Drysdale Parish in 1735, and a justice of the county court.<sup>87</sup>

The abundant life which William Bird Richards enjoyed is shown by an advertisement for John Williams, a west countryman, probably a Welshman, who made off with the wearing apparel of his good master, including silver buckles, a fine Beaver Hat, a blue coat, and a likely light grey Horse etc.<sup>88</sup>

The location of William Bird Richards' home in the upper end of King and Queen is known to have been near the village of Newtown. He married Elizabeth and she bore him eight children, who became useful citizens of the county.<sup>89</sup>

Concerning the children of William Bird Richards, there is much known, but it is important to name those related to the history of King and Queen County, and who remained in the county.

Mildred Richards, the oldest daughter, married Col. Thomas Coleman, who was a justice, a member of the Committee of Safety, and later was elected delegate to the General Assembly.

Elizabeth married Richard Todd, son of Capt. William Todd and Martha Vicaris, and their son, Thomas Todd, became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Kentucky and later an associate Justice of the Supreme Court. Mrs. Elizabeth Todd was the lady who ran the Ordinary at Dunkirk.

Of Sally Richards and her husband, Tunstall Banks, who was a member of the Committee of Safety, there will be more in the relation concerning them in St. David's Parish, King William County.

Humphrey Richards married Frances, daughter of Col. Gregory Baylor, and left issue.<sup>90</sup>

*Baylor Banks 1725 d 1710 Culpeper 1783 in Ann Haughton 1770 & 1785*

*daughter of Susan = sold down*

<sup>87</sup>Executive Journals of Council of State, Vol. 14, pages 230, 286, 349, 355.

<sup>88</sup>Virginia Gazette, June 15, 1739

<sup>89</sup>The Fibon Club Historical Quarterly, Vol. 30, page 160 et seq. This is an account of Elizabeth Clark Wilson Richards, by George H. S. King Esq.

Capt. William Richards was elected to the Continental Congress and was in 1776 Captain of a company of Minute Men in King and Queen County. He died in 1789, while sheriff of the county. He married Martha Lowry and they left issue. She died in Culpeper County, where she left a will of record.<sup>70</sup>

The youngest son, Captain John Richards (1734-1785) married Susanna, daughter of Robert Spilsbee Coleman of Essex County, who after their marriage set them up at Magrath's Ordinary, which became later known as Newtown. The 200 acres of land which went with the ordinary became the nucleus of a large estate which Capt. John Richards had in this area.

Capt. John Richards was a justice of the King and Queen Court until he moved to Falmouth in Stafford County, where he made his home on Richard's Hill, and was buried when he died in the churchyard of the local Episcopal Church in 1785, leaving a number of children.