

JOHN RICHARDSON

The first record I have in the Richardson family, from which I descend, is the Will of John Richardson of Cumberland Co., Va. This Will is quite interesting. It begins –

“In the name of God amen. I John Richardson, of the County of Cumberland being through the abundant mercy of God, weak in body, yet of sound and perfect understanding of memory do constitute this as my last will and testament, and advise it may be received by all as such. Imprimis. I most humbly bequeath my soul to God my Maker, beseeching his most gracious acceptance of it through the all sufficient merits of meditation of my most compassionate redeemer, Jesus Christ, who gave himself to be an atonement for my sins, and is able to save to the utmost all that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them, and whom I trust will not reject me, a returning penitent sinner, when I come to him for mercy. In this hope and confidence I render up my soul with comfort, only beseeching the most blessed glorious trinity, one God most holy, and most merciful and gracious, to prepare me for the time of my dissolution and then take me to himself into that peace and rest and incomparable felicity which he has prepared for all that love and fear his holy name. Amen. Blessed be God. Imprimis. I give my body to the earth from whence it was taken, in full assurance of its resurrection from thence at the last day. As for my burial, I desire that it may be decent, without pomp or state, at the discretion of my executors, hereafter named, who I doubt not will manage it with all requisite prudence as to worldly estate, I will and positively order that all my lawful debts be paid.”

He then proceeds to distribute his land, of which he seems to have had plenty, to these children: Isham, John, Elizabeth, Mary, Martha, Ann, Sarah, Susannah, Agnes, and Francis. Ten in all. Then he proceeds to will them each “a feather bed and furniture” and to the two sons, a negro slave girl each. His last item is –

“Item. I lend to my beloved wife, Mary Richardson, all the remainder of my estate during her life and after her decease to be equally divided among my children, and it is my desire that my beloved friends, John Gannaway, Obadiah Woodson and Charles Anderson be my executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand and seal this 22nd day of June, 1753. John Richardson. (His Mark)

Roger Williams.

William (X) R. Brown.

Witnesses.

Probated Sept. 24, 1753

Will Book 1. Cumberland County, Va.

His wife, Mary, was, prior to her marriage, Mary Curd, Daughter of Edward Curd of Henrico Co. She died Oct. 3, 1791 in Charlotte Co.

(John Richardson, 2 of 3)

John Richardson, the second son of the above, married Sarah----- and died 1766. Inventory of Estate recorded Feb. 1767. He had a son, John Richardson (Black Head) born in 1756-7, died June 30, 1822. There were probably more children, for in O. B. 2, Page 196, Charlotte, mention is made of Orphans of John Richardson.

“John Richardson, Black Head, (always noted thusly in the county records to distinguish him from his first cousin, John Richardson, White Head) was born circa 1756, the eldest son of John Richardson and his wife, Sarah. He was about ten years old when his father died and about sixteen when his mother remarried to Richard Edwards in 1772. Inheriting his share of his father’s estate which consisted mainly of 800 acres of land on Cub Creek, he apparently quickly developed into a man of sound judgment and business ability as evidenced by the amount of property that he accumulated during his life time. At the age of 19 years he married Rebeckah, a daughter of William Davis and to this union there were born twelve children.”

On April 10, 1812, this John makes a Will and names his children William D., John D., James, Polly, Nancy, Patsy, Rebecca, Stephen C., Temple, Betsey, Sally, Hilary. In this Will, he says, “William, John, James, Polly and Patsy have had their part of the stock”, and that Polly received “two negroes, stock and household furniture and everything else in full.” So we know Polly was married. On May 26, 1822, he makes a division of his property by deed, and the last item is, “To my grandchildren by my daughter Polly Price deceased, one dollar each to them and their heirs and executors, administrators, to have and to hold.” So Polly was now dead. Polly Richardson Price was the wife of Wiliam Price and they were my great-great-great-grandparents, for their daughter Elizabeth married William Thomas. Going back to the Richardsons – John and Rebecca Davis Richardson has a family Bible and his mother willed it to Temple D. Richardson, and this is the record as shown therein.

“John Richardson (B. H.) was married to Rebecca Davis April 30, 1775. John’s death occurred June 30, 1822. Rebecca’s death occurred Feb. 19, 1829.

William D. Richardson, born Nov. 19, 1776. John D. Richardson, born Jan. 31, 1779 d. June 5, 1855.

Polly Richardson, born June 20, 1781 d. 1812-22, married Wm. Price, Nov. 1797.

Sally Richardson, born Aug. 5, 1785, married Peter Fore

Nancy Richardson, born Mar. 17, 1788, married Abram Cooke, 12/9/1807.

Patsy Richardson, born May 21, 1790, married Ralph Merriman, 12/19/1810

Stephen C. Richardson, born Dec. 28, 1791, married 1822, d. 1843

Rebecca Richardson, born Jan. 22, 1793, married Jesse Jennings, Dec. 1812

Temple D. Richardson, born Dec. 9, 1795, married, Dec. 9, 1824

(John Richardson, 3 of 3)

Betsy Richardson, born July 1798, D – M – No date

Hilary Goode Richardson, born Dec. 16, 1803 d. 8/5/1861 m. 1835

Ancestor's Service

John Richardson, private, Colonel John Gibson's Company, 9th Virginia Regiment, commanded by Colonel John Gibson. His name appears on the company muster roll for the months of October, November and December, 1779, dated Fort Pitt February 13, 1780, which shows that he enlisted November 1, year not stated, for 18 months. No further record found.

Order Book 6, Page 161.

John Richardson came into court and produced a commission from his excellency the Governor to be ensign of 8th Company of the Charlotte Militia, which being read the said Richardson took oath of office, November 7, 1785. (Patrick Henry, Governor)

Deed Book 16, Page 57. Charlotte. Aug. 6, 1821.

John Richardson gives bond as sheriff of county. Commission by Governor, Thos. Randolph, dated June 19, 1821, for term of one year was again recommended by court order of June 4, 1822. Another order of July 1, 1822, recites that he had died and makes another recommendation,

(Signed) – Jessie Price Thomas Mains

Nat. No. 172392