

Rodney (Radney) Family of Maryland, Delaware and Georgia

Our family of Rodneys came to Georgia about 1800 or a few years later. The first in Georgia was one John Rodney who had married Peggy Piper and they came to Hancock Co., Ga. John was descended from a family which had lived in the same place up north since 1734 (or earlier) but which because of changes in county and state lines was first listed as being in Somerset Co., Md.; then Worcester Co., Md. and finally, Sussex Co., Delaware. This made it necessary to do research in all of these places.

It has always been believed by our family that our Rodneys were connected with another Delaware family of Rodneys whose progenitor, William Rodney came to America with William Penn and whose grandson, Caesar Rodney was a signer of the Declaration of Independence. I do not believe that we are connected closely to that family because they have complete Bible and other family records which indicate all the descendants and our first ancestor that I have found in America, also a William Rodney, could not have belonged to that immediate family.

However, a complete history of the Rodney family indicates that there were several members of the English family who came to America--some settling first in Antigua, a small Caribbean Island, and perhaps later coming to the colonies. There is a will of one John Rodney in 1696 in Pennsylvania who calls William Rodney (the friend of Penn) a nephew) and who leaves property in America, the West Indies and Old England to his wife Ann and son Caesar. I have not been able to find any further trace of this Caesar--the mother moved to New Jersey where she was lost track of, but our William could have come from some of these relatives. At least 2 uncles of William Rodney the friend of Penn went to the West Indies. William is a favorite name in both branches. Someday I hope to have the time and money to prove this connection.

The first definite proof I have of the beginnings of our family in America is the marriage of William Radney to Mary, the widow of Thomas Endlose (also spelled Inlors or Inloss) in 1734. This is recorded in Somerset Co., Md. Liber 29, Folio 477, not as a marriage, but in a paper dated 6 Nov. 1734, which states that regarding an account of the Administration of the estate of Thomas Endlose, William Radney has intermarried Mary, the administratrix and prays time to pass additional account. Radney gives bond in common form with Mary his wife. Sureties: Richard Jefferson and Ebenezer Jones, in 80 pounds Sterling.

Our William Radney bought various pieces of land in the area and there are several references to his service as bondsman, etc. He bought two parcels of land from the Inlors's heirs as is recorded in the Sussex Co., Del., Bk. HH, P. 307. This deed states that on Feb. 29, 1724, land was granted by Somerset Co., Maryland to Robert Givan and was laid out for him by Southey Whittington. The tract was called "What You Please" and consisted of 200A. on the Sea Bord Side, at Head of Meli Branch of south side of main branch of Indian River. On the 26 March 1762, J. Tabitha Inlors, daughter and heir to Thomas Inloss of Somerset, deceased, sold her interest, 100 A. , in What You Please to William Rodney. Also Thomas Prettyman and his wife, Elizabeth Inloss, dau. of Thomas Inloss of Somerset, dec., sell their portion of What You Please to William Rodney, April 1762. This was recorded in the land office of Province of Maryland 29 March 1776, David Stukart, Clerk, with following note: "This is to certify that William Radney by his last will and testament left the within land to his Son, this present William Radney who has been possessed of the land some time." This property later descended to William Rodney the third who sold it to Robert Prettyman in 1805.

Handwritten notes in left margin:
The name of John Rodney (the father) is the same as the name of the Rodney family in the West Indies. I have not been able to find any further trace of this Caesar--the mother moved to New Jersey where she was lost track of, but our William could have come from some of these relatives. At least 2 uncles of William Rodney the friend of Penn went to the West Indies. William is a favorite name in both branches. Someday I hope to have the time and money to prove this connection.

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William Rodney I also patented the tract "Chance", in Worcester Co., Md. Liber BC&GS #8, Folio 185, covering 100^a on the edge of the Somerset Seaboard side and E. side of Sheep Penn Branche, formerly called Murray's Folly.

755 William Radney I was listed as serving in Capt. Joseph Dirickson's Co. in 1789, Colonial Wars Card Indtex.

The will of William Rodney I, dated 3 Dec. 1767, and probated 19 Oct. 1770, Maryland Ardhves, Liber 38, Folio 67, names wife Mary and

757 Son: William II

759 759 748 756 Daughters: Mary Magdaline Jones (Thomas Jones)

760 Leah Simpler (Thomas Simpler) 799

761 Lydia Rodney

762 Susannah Marville (Thomas Marville) 800

763 Comfort Marville (Philip Marville) 801

Son-in-law: Thomas Prettyman of Worcester Co., Md.

I have not been able to find out the maiden name of the wife of William I. It is possible that she was a Perry--the name Perry is used twice among the descendants (sons of Schofield and John). She might have been a Prettyman. The name Perry is also used in this family: will of John Prettyman 23 Feb. 1754 names son Perry, dau. Sarah; will of William Prettyman, 25 April 1751 names dau. Sarah and Magdalen, names known in our Rodney family. (Perry might have been the name Mary, name of mother like mother to Rodney)

I have spelled the name Rodney in each instance as found in the records. On Delaware, I did not find any material indexed as Radney, but did find that spelling in some of the deeds; In Maryland I found some material filed under Radney--however, the will is Rodney; in Georgia and Texas the name is almost always Radney. I think that in the early days the pronunciation was always Rodney, but the English used such a broad A, that for pronunciation, it was immaterial whether it was spelled with an Q or an A and some of the clerks of court did not know the difference. Just like the word "Dagsborough Hundred" (where our Rodneys lived in Delaware) is today pronounced with a short A. In the early days it must have been pronounced like "Dog" because I have seen it written with an O in many deeds.

William Rodney II or Sr.

757 William Rodney II, generally written in Delaware deeds as William Rodney, Sr., had three sons: William Rodney, Jr., Schofield Rodney, John Rodney. It is not known whom William Rodney II married, but I think she may have been one Sarah Schofield. They had a son Schofield and our John named a son Schofield. I suggest Sarah because one deed in Delaware is witnessed by Sarah Rodney and I know of no other Sarah Rodney. Of these sons:

764 763 764 William Rodney III or Jr. received a deed of gift from his father 2 Nov. 1799, of three tracts of land, "What You Please", "Liberty" and "Rodney's" Lot, Sussex Co., Georgetown, Vol. W-21, page 592. He married first, Mary or Polly Melson and had two children: John Rodney and Polley Rodney. This is shown in will of Joseph Melson, 22 Feb. 1808 naming daughter, Polley Rodney, and grandchildren John and Polley, children of William Rodney. In 1812, William and Polley Rodney made deeds of gift to their children John and Polley of the lands that Polley inherited from her father Melson. In 1822, this William III married a second time, a widow, Anne Smith. Md. Records, Liber AN, p. 138. His first wife must have died between 1812 and 1822. 805

Their son John married Ellenor O'Neal in 1814 and they were big lumber mill operators. There are many deeds and leases of land shown to them in the records. 804

Their daughter, Polley, possibly moved to Georgia. On 14 Dec. 1821, Polly sold her land, "Downses Chance" (land that divided the land of George and Daniel Rodney of the Caesar Rodney family) near Laurel Town and Indian

