

EDWARDS

The Descendants of
Meredith Edwards
of Westmoreland County, Virginia

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September 2020

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Introduction: A Walk Through Various Errors in the Edwards Genealogies of Westmoreland Co., Virginia

Seldom has a single genealogy been so riddled with mistakes and faulty research as the Edwards family of Westmoreland County, Virginia. Compounding the problems of scarce colonial records was an outright fraud in the 19th century that left genealogists and historians copy-pasting bad information for over a century, and some rare, heroic souls trying to fix the mistakes as far back as the 1930s. I'd like to show where genealogists went wrong, and hopefully illuminate the real origins of this Edwards family.

While a number of fake "traditions" swept quite a few Edwards ancestors into this mess, it seems the Edwards family of Westmoreland County, Virginia may be the most impacted. These early gentleman planters spread out into Spotsylvania, King George and Stafford Counties by the 1730s. But by the 19th century, genealogists were already confusing them with unrelated families all over the Tidewater. In each case, the erroneous claim can be identified by its total lack of supporting evidence.

Identification for the origin of the Westmoreland branch seems to follow one of two major theories: one that posits them as descendants of an immigrant to Surry County, Virginia in the early 17th century, another, inspired by the Edwards Fortune scam, claims they descend from a Welsh clergyman and his sons who supposedly immigrated in the mid-18th century.

Despite their prevalence in journals, newsletters and in genealogies all over the internet, both theories are demonstrably false.

The Surry County Theory

The 1910 book *The Beall and Edwards Families and Their Descendants* by Albert S. Edwards seems to be the first source that goes off the rails. The author, who seems to be preoccupied with demonstrating the prominence of his ancestors, posits that every single Edwards in Virginia descends from John Edwards, a clerk of Surry County. After listing early descendants from locations as diverse as Spotsylvania, Jamestown, King William, Brunswick, Surry and Northumberland, he proclaims "they were all grandchildren or great-grandchildren of the immigrant, as their locality proves."

Working from this incredibly low standard of proof, an article in Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 17 No. 49, asserted in 1919 that William Edwards of Westmoreland County was the son of William Edwards and Ann Harrison of Lancaster County. Further research reveals that the author sourced his information from an 1895 book called *Leaves From the Chancellor – Fitzgerald--Cooper--Edwards Tree* by C. W. Chancellor. The earlier book introduced the William Edwards-Ann Harrison hypothesis and posited the

family's origin in Northumberland County, but doesn't provide any supporting evidence (see essay on page 86 for discussion).

In 1925, this theory was repeated in the notorious *Edwards Heirs*, a monthly publication explicitly written to support the claims of the Edwards fortune scammers. It similarly posits William Edwards of Westmoreland, father of Hayden, Robert, Benjamin, Rebecca, Martha, Mary and Jeanette Edwards, as a son of William Edwards and Ann Harrison of Lancaster County, Virginia. This earlier William was supposedly an immigrant to Virginia in 1635 aboard the ship "Ye Merchants" and was awarded large tracts of land in several counties. Once again, no evidence or sources, and the book erroneously claims that Robert Edwards of Westmoreland "died without issue" even though he had at least one documented daughter.

A genealogy called "The King Family," written in 1949 by George M. G. Stafford and based on research by Goode King Feldhauser (1863-1939), a great granddaughter of Gen. John Edwards King (1757-1828) elaborated on this theory considerably. By the author's account, this genealogy is based largely on notes gathered from the letters of older family members in the Edwards/King family, written as early as the 1820s. It may be accurate as far back as the mid-18th century.

But evidently without family sources to work from for the earliest generations, Stafford researched the family's early history himself, claiming the Edwards line "can easily be traced" back to medieval Welsh forbears from Denbighshire. Elaborating on previous mistakes, he gives this account of the Edwards direct line down to John Edwards of Westmoreland County:

1. John Edwards of Denbigh, Wales img. to Northumberland County Va., early 17th century.
2. John Edwards Jr., vestryman of Lancaster, Burgess of Surry Co. married Frances Cole.
3. William Edwards (d.1673), Burgess of Surry in 1653 m. Dorothy Withers.
4. William Edwards Jr. (d.1722) married Ann Harrison of Surry County, Va.
5. John Edwards married Jane Arrington of Westmoreland, Prince William and Spotsylvania County VA.

This "lineage" is essentially a tossed salad of random people named Edwards from Tidewater Virginia. The earliest immigrant is so early he must have been a Conquistador. John the vestryman wrote in his 1667 will that all his children were still in England, so he could not have been father of a Burgess in Surry County. Claims made for their relationships are entirely unsupported, either by "tradition" or other means, and cannot be corroborated through official contemporary records. Even worse, it directly contradicts better research.

Most importantly, Ann Harrison, the supposed mother of John and William Edwards of Westmoreland, cannot be found in any contemporary record; a deed

in James City on April 6, 1709 notes the wife of William Edwards of Surry as “Elizabeth Harrison Edwards.” In 1906, the William & Mary Quarterly, Vol. 15, No. 2 published a research piece that stated that William Edwards, Burgess of Surry County, Virginia (1615-1673), son of an immigrant William Edwards (d.1624), had son William (d.1698), who in turn had William (d.1722) who married an Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Benjamin, who “according to the inscription on her tombstone, died at the age of 17.”

Edwards genealogists apparently didn’t think it was a stretch for a 17-year-old to be mother of both William and John Edwards, nevermind the fact that she would have been far too young to have given birth to men who became fathers around the time of her death. According to the William & Mary Quarterly, William Edwards remarried after Elizabeth’s death and had several children, none of whom are the John or William Edwards of Westmoreland.

Some have figured out that the Edwards lineage is a mess and made a concerted attempt to sort it out with real documents and a skeptical mindset. Among these was the great George Harrison Sanford King, who wrote a well-supported research piece titled “The Edwards Family” in the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 32, No. 101, October 1934.

King notes “it is only because so much has been written incorrectly about the Edwards family, that I shall attempt to set forth some of the facts more recently discovered and which I hope will be of interest to many.” He begins with Haden Edwards (1716-1803), a well-documented son of William Edwards of Westmoreland County. He then starts digging into the “tradition” that William was from Lancaster County, son of John Edwards of “Northumberland House” in Northumberland County, Virginia. He notes: “I can find no documentary evidence which would prove this.” The source, he indicates, was Rev. Horace Hayden’s book *Virginia Genealogies*, which claimed that John Edwards had William Edwards of Westmoreland County, who married Mary Hayden. As usual, no evidence or argument is provided by Hayden, and we are left to conclude it was merely an assumption based on incomplete information.

Given that there is no Ann Harrison, wife of William Edwards, and Elizabeth Harrison Edwards was far too young to be the mother of John and William Edwards, the only reasonable conclusion is that all of these lineages that claim the Westmoreland Edwards family descends from the Surry one are patently false.

The Welsh Clergyman Theory

While the irredeemably sloppy “Surry County” theories can at least be written off as honest mistakes, the Welsh Clergyman theories are downright fraudulent, and seem to be completely interchangeable based on the claims of different descendants to the supposed Edwards fortune. This theory claims that the Westmoreland and related Edwards ancestors descend from Welsh immigrants

in the mid-18th century.

The Edwards legends evidently began influencing published genealogies with *Old King William Homes and Families* by Peyton Neil Clarke, 1897.

Clarke writes that Ambrose Edwards of King William County, Virginia (d.1810) was the son of an unnamed clergyman who immigrated from Wales with his sons Robert, John and Ambrose in 1745, and that Robert went to New York and was founder of the “Edwards Estate” while John went to South Carolina, and Ambrose settled in Virginia. The entry cryptically notes that nothing further is known about this founding “clergyman” including where he settled or where he is buried.

Naturally, genealogists have had a difficult time corroborating this information. The Genealogical Magazine Vol. 5 from 1897, laments that no one has been able to locate any records for Ambrose Edwards or his brothers in England. That’s because they never lived there, of course, and their alleged clergyman father never existed. This is where later Edwards fortune scammers inserted the fictitious “Thomas Nathaniel Edwards,” a man whose name was pulled from a secret “family bible” that no one has seen and whose existence has never been confirmed by any other source.

Another “tradition” mentioned in a 1974 written work titled “The Family: From Virginia to the Pacific” claims that Uriah Edwards of Spotsylvania County, Virginia came from Denbighshire, Wales in 1735 and immigrated to New York with his brothers John and Robert Edwards. These are all said to be the sons of John Edwards, who had brothers Robert, Hayden and Thomas, all of course from Denbighshire. Note how Uriah has magically replaced Ambrose as the third brother, and how this time they all went to New York, not just Robert. The genealogy erroneously gives Hayden’s birth as 1687 (there is only one Haden, born in 1716), but gives the correct names of some of the other Edwards relatives of Westmoreland County, which can be verified with documentation.

This genealogy gives Uriah as one of twelve children, all without a source, documentation or even an argument. They are listed as: Uriah, Robert, John, James, Henry, Richard, Anneke Jane, Elizabeth, Benjamin, Mary, Rebecca and Mildred Edwards. Henry and Richard appear to have been borrowed from the Northumberland Edwards clan, and Anneke is said to be “of a Quaker family,” which this family certainly was not. To his/her credit, the unknown author seems skeptical of their own information and peppers the text with question marks.

Some Edwards descendants modified the legend to suit their own ambitions. While most of the “Edwards fortune” scammers gave Robert Edwards as the alleged shipbuilder (or buccaneer in some sources) of New York who was deeded most of lower Manhattan by George III (or by Queen Anne, in others), a newspaper account from the *Denver Post* dated Aug. 1, 1901 swapped out Robert

for Uriah. It seems none of the Westmoreland clan are immune to the curse of the Edwards fortune. You can see the cringe-inducing article below.

FORTUNE FOR DENVER MAN

Share in Many Millions Belongs to Barnes.

LEGACY FROM THE REVOLUTION

Heirs Will Now Receive Property Bequeathed by Tory Ancestor and Leased to Trinity Parish, New York.

Sixty acres of the Trinity church property in the heart of the business section of New York City is to be turned over to the heirs of a privateersman of Revolutionary times. The nearest heir-at-law is a great grandson, Richard S. Barnes, 93 years old, now living at 3033 Stout street, in this city.

The estate descends from Uriah Edwards, who was a ship-builder in New York before the Revolution. When the British occupied the city, Edwards built privateers for the king's service which played upon the commerce of the colonies and inflicted heavy losses. By way of reward, the British government deeded

to him 300 acres of property on the outskirts of the city. After the revolution Edwards succeeded in saving about sixty acres from confiscation. Then, making a will in which he devised the property to his children, who have moved to Virginia, he took ship for England, and was never heard of again. It is supposed that the ship was lost on the voyage.

When the property came into possession of the heirs they promptly leased it for a term of ninety-nine years, with an additional twenty-five years for closing the estate.

The time has now come for settlement and the potato patches of colonial times have become the most valuable real estate in America. The property has been assessed at \$400,000,000, while its actual worth is said to be nearly \$1,000,000,000.

Of all the heirs and nearly 500 have been found to date, none can show a clearer pedigree than Barnes. Elizabeth Edwards, daughter of the old shipbuilder, married Elisha Hawkins of Virginia. Their daughter, Fannie Hawkins, married William Barnes of Culpepper county, Va., father of the Denver heir.

The family are not ready to say much about the outlook at the present time, except that the Trinity church corporation is willing to settle the estate and shows no inclination to carry the matter into the courts. It is thought that in a very short time there will be a definite understanding as to the terms of the settlement.

The members of Richard Barnes' immediate family and his heirs are: William B. Barnes, his eldest son; Mrs. Mattie E. Camplin, J. M. Barnes and Richard W. Barnes Jr. of Denver; L. S. Barnes and John Barnes of Pitkin county, and Mrs. Mollie Bentley of Hamburg, Ia.

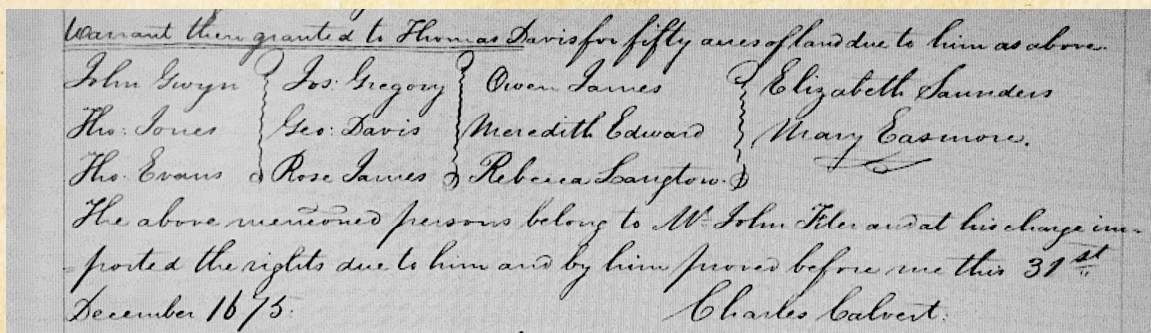
The "Edwards fortune" fraud did immeasurable damage to Edwards genealogy, and the insertion of the fictitious Thomas Nathaniel Edwards, named in *Edwards Heirs*, cemented the various stories about the Edwards legacy, drafting Edwards ancestors from Maryland, Virginia and even North Carolina into the chaos. The aftermath of this train wreck can be seen on multiple family trees across the internet. Thomas Nathaniel Edwards can be found in more than 2,600 trees on Ancestry.com alone, despite the fact that not one clear document supporting his existence has ever been confirmed.

In summation, one thing can be said about the various Edwards genealogies of the last 122 years: they are almost all wrong. Many were clearly inspired by a hoax, but some were just poorly researched. Genealogists from a century ago had an obsession with royal lineage, heraldry, prominence, and demonstrating

relationships to founding fathers and U.S. presidents. Early Edwards genealogists seemed hell-bent on connecting their ancestors with the wealthy and prominent Harrison family of Surry County, ancestors of U.S. presidents William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison. Anywhere they found ambiguity they inserted fame and fortune, leaving a mess of inaccurate information in their wake.

The tragedy here is that the truth of the Edwards family of Westmoreland is fairly simple, and easily supported with deeds, wills, parish records and court orders.

The evidence suggests they descend from Meredith Edwards, who was transported to Maryland by John Filer in late 1675. In October 1694, Meredith bought property in Westmoreland County, Virginia, along with a probable brother, John Edwards. Another potential brother, Robert Edwards, had arrived as early as 1668 and died in 1682 at age 42; John, who had been there since at least 1665, had at least one son ("John Edwards junr." of Westmoreland), and was evidently still living in January 1724.



Warrant then granted to Thomas Davis for fifty acres of land due to him as above.

John Gwyn	Jos. Gregory	Owen James	Elizabeth Saunders
Tho. Jones	Geo. Davis	Meredith Edward	Mary Easmones.
Tho. Evans	Rose James	Rebecca Langston.	

The above mentioned persons belong to M^r. John Filer and at his charge imported the rights due to him and by him proved before me this 31st December 1675.

Charles Calvert.

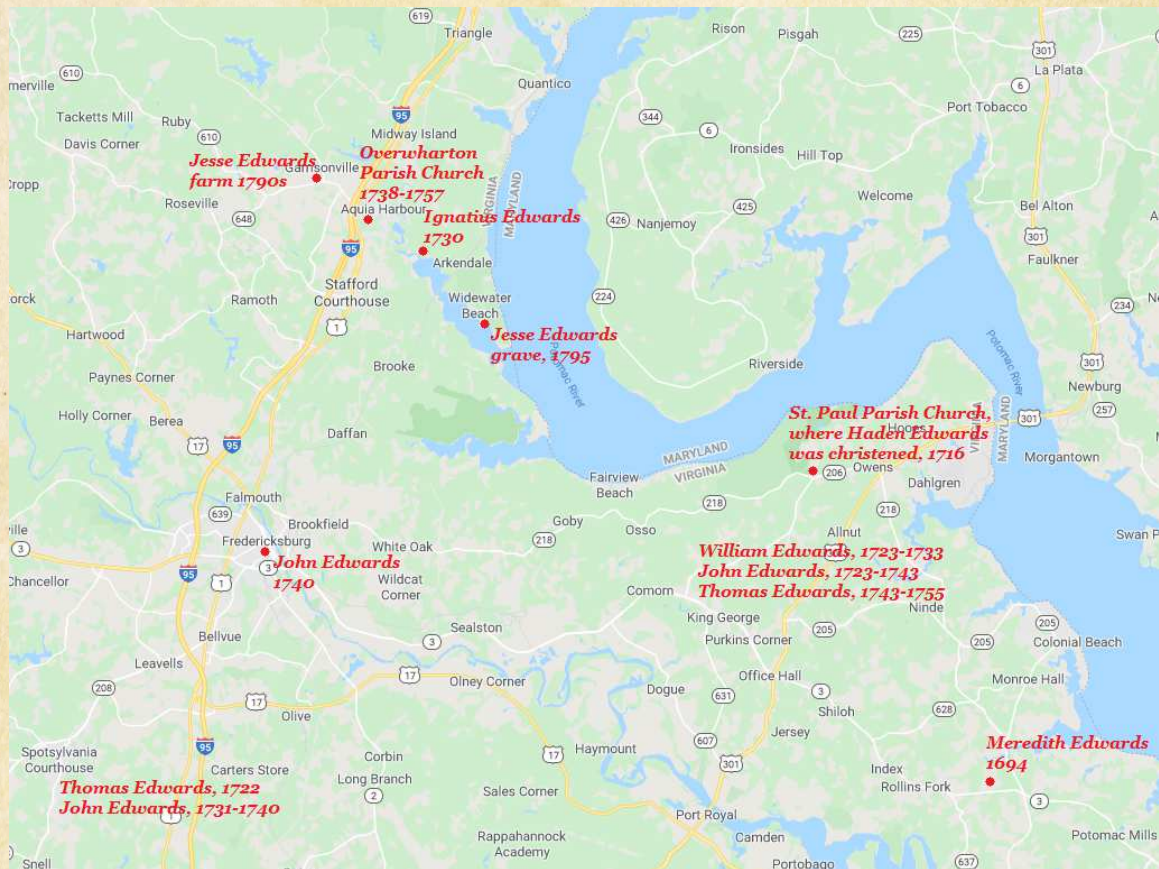
"Meredith Edward" named in headright of John Filer, Dec. 31, 1675.

Unfortunately, there is no definitive evidence that John, Meredith and Robert were related, and despite the overlap of John and Meredith for more than two decades worth of records in Westmoreland County, they don't seem to appear in any documents together. John and Robert are not known to have had male-line descendants that survived into the 18th century, so it seems unlikely that even Y-DNA testing could solve this puzzle.

If Meredith and John Edwards were indeed brothers, they were not from Wales, but appear to have been Englishmen of Welsh descent. A revealing letter penned to John Edwards in March 1673 was recorded in the order book of Westmoreland County. It was written by William Tucker, merchant of London, and in it Tucker refers to John Edwards as his cousin, affectionately signing off "your loving kinsmen." Given that the Tuckers were a London-based family, this suggests that the Edwards clan of Westmoreland descend from the London merchant class as well.

Meredith Edwards wrote his will shortly before his death in 1712 naming his four children as John, William, Thomas and Eleanor. As early as 1716, his sons began

migrating north along the coast, buying up land in King George and Spotsylvania County, Virginia. William's son, Haden Edwards, was baptized in St. Paul Parish Church, Stafford County in 1716; Thomas Edwards was named as a landowner in a deed in Spotsylvania County in 1722, appearing in a number of King George County records through 1755; and John and William began appearing in King George court together in 1723 and John bought land in Spotsylvania County in 1731, later purchasing a lot in Fredericksburg, presumably to use as a town home. This John Edwards is likely the John Edwards of the mythologies.



William's children continued to fan out further north into Stafford and Loudoun Counties; John's children settled in Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, where Ignatius first appears as a landowner in October 1730. A Meredith Edwards died in Overwharton Parish in October 1749, the unusual name cementing the family's connection to their immigrant ancestor in Westmoreland County. This same Meredith Edwards was named "administrator of the goods and chattels of John Edwards, deceased" in a suit in King George County in 1747.

The records are clear that William, Thomas and John Edwards of Spotsylvania/King George were related, and the same men from Westmoreland County. We know William migrated into King George/Stafford County because the baptism of Haden Edwards states the father as "William Edwards of Washington Parish"-- the aforementioned parish is in Westmoreland County.

“William and Mary Edwards of Westmoreland” were also summoned to court to serve as witnesses in King George County in 1733.

When John Edwards was sued in King George County in 1723, William Edwards served as his security; and when John died in 1743, both William and Thomas Edwards filed suits over his estate. Even a brush with celebrity proves the migration: Augustine Washington (father of the first president) sued John Edwards in Westmoreland in 1721, and sued him again in King George in 1724. In the 1740s and '50s, Andrew, Robert, Haden, William and the above-mentioned Meredith Edwards of Stafford County made a number of appearances in King George County court. This firmly roots the Edwards clan of Stafford in Westmoreland. And we have a very old family account from Goode King Feldhauser that Elizabeth Edwards King of Stafford was the daughter of John Edwards and Jane Arrington of Westmoreland. Given that this marriage is corroborated by a detailed genealogy of the Monroe family, it is likely reliable.

We also know that this Elizabeth Edwards King had a son named Weathers King who sold land to Haden Edwards (son of William) in 1784 (Stafford County deeds), showing another connection between the William and John Edwards children. Elizabeth's son, Robert King (d.1814) is also buried alongside Jesse Edwards, proven son of her brother Ignatius, in the tiny family cemetery called King-Roles in Stafford County. And finally, Ignatius's daughter, Jemima was born in March 1737 and baptized at St. Paul Parish, in the same church as her father's (probable) cousin, Haden.

So to quickly summarize what this family should actually look like:

Dr. John Edwards (c.1685 - bef. Dec. 2, 1743) m. unknown wife, c. 1705. Given their son had a Catholic name, she may have been from Maryland. John's estate was probated in King George County, Va. Issue from his first marriage:

1. Susanna Edwards (c.1706 - bef.1767) of St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, Va.
2. Ignatius Edwards (bef.1709 - Oct. 15, 1750) of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Va.

With second wife, Jane Arrington (b. c.1700 to Thomas Arrington and Elizabeth Monroe of Westmoreland County), married in 1718 according to “The Monroe Family” by Payne & King, 1933.

1. Elizabeth Edwards (c.1719 - 1792) of Stafford County, Va.
2. Meredith Edwards (c.1720 - Oct. 16, 1749) of Stafford County, Va.
3. Andrew Edwards (c.1723 - July 1788) of Stafford County, Va.
4. Robert Edwards (c.1725 - aft.1756) of Stafford County, Va.
5. William Edwards (c.1728 - Nov. 9, 1813) of Stafford County, Va.
6. Bridget Edwards (c.1735 - aft.1758) of Stafford County, Va.
7. Thomas Edwards (c.1739 - aft.1809) of Fauquier County, Va.

Thomas Edwards of Buncombe County, NC clearly belongs in the John Edwards family group; Andrew Edwards is named in his marriage bond in Fauquier County, Virginia in April 1760.

William Edwards (c.1687 - aft.Nov. 25, 1746) and wife Mary had only two confirmed children, Haden and Benjamin, both named in a conveyance of Westmoreland County in 1746. According to older traditions, Robert was his son; however, it is important to note that Robert's wife, Sarah, served as executor of Meredith Edwards in 1750, so Robert is more likely a son of John. Other strong candidates include Mary Edwards who married Charles Wells at St. Paul Parish in 1733 and had children named Hayden, Benjamin and Eleanor; and John Edwards who married Elizabeth Cartwright in St. Mary's County, Maryland-- John's son, Jonathan Edwards moved to Loudoun County, Virginia in the 1780s.

1. John Edwards (c.1710 - c.1770) of St. Mary's County, MD
2. Mary Edwards (c.1712 - 1771) of Stafford County, Va.
3. Haden Edwards (Mar. 16, 1716 - July 13, 1803) of Stafford County, Va.
4. Benjamin Edwards (bef.1725 - 1803) of Loudoun County, Va.

Some early sources list his children as Hayden, Robert, Benjamin, John, Rebecca, Martha, Mary and Jeanette Edwards. No credible origin is known.

Thomas Edwards (c.1695 - 1774?) appears in the order books of Westmoreland County as early as 1717, and in King George and Spotsylvania from 1722. He may be the same Thomas Edwards who signed his will in Westmoreland County in 1774, naming his five children as William, Mary Sargent, Franky, Thomas and Alice Edwards.

All known children were from his wife Alice Serjeant (b. Jan. 4, 1725 in Richmond County; widow of Downing Howell, d.1750; named wife of Thomas Edwards in a suit in King George County court in Nov. 1755):

1. Mary Sargent Edwards (Cowles) (1754 - aft.1782) of Westmoreland County, Va.
2. Franky Edwards (Wickliffe) (1756 - Dec. 13, 1822) of Greenville County, SC
3. Rev. William Edwards (c.1760 - bef.1807) of Westmoreland County, Va.
4. Capt. Thomas Edwards (Jan. 25, 1762 - Aug. 7, 1832) of Greenville County, SC
5. Alice Edwards (Cowles) (1764 - c.1830) of Fauquier Co., Va. and Franklin, TN

Capt. Thomas Edwards of Greenville County had a granddaughter named "Frances Wickliffe Edwards." Franky Wickliffe noted in her will in 1818 that she lived on property adjacent to "Thomas Edwards Jr."

The commonness of the first names as well as the surname Edwards, the confusion over the Edwards scam as well as the scarcity of good records in colonial Virginia, make this a particularly difficult family to untangle. But it is possible if you go back to original records and hold fast to careful, accurate documentation. Meredith Edwards is without a doubt the father of the

Westmoreland clan. Over the next 60 or so pages, I will fully flesh out the evidence for this theory and include all the citations I've found over the last two years.

The following descendant report is by no means comprehensive. It is accurate, and sourced down to Meredith's grandchildren, and includes some notes for information on his great grandchildren that I may have. Because few wills or reliable records exist for these early generations, there is a fair amount of speculation involved. Decisions made to include most individuals are based on probabilities and explained in their respective entries. There are certainly missing individuals, and researchers have speculated that Uriah Edwards (d.1781) of Spotsylvania County, Virginia may be another child of John Edwards or that Mary Edwards, supposed wife of Joseph Combs, is another. There are a number of Edwards women who were married in St. Paul Parish in the 1720s and 1730s who may also be daughters of John, William or Thomas Edwards as well. Until better connections come to light, these will remain speculations. The purpose of this volume was not to fully map out the family, but to clear up confusion about the Edwards family origin in Westmoreland County and use the best available evidence to clearly establish the earliest generations.

While I've used a lot of sources putting this together over the last two years, a few have been more valuable than most. Historians Jerrilyn Eby, Goode King Feldhauser and George Harrison Sanford King have all made vital contributions to our understanding of the Edwards family. Mike Marshall's website "Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck Counties" (<https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/index.php>) is a fantastic quick reference for Virginia families during this time period. And finally, the Daughters of the American Revolution Library in Washington D.C. enabled me to directly source many of the deeds, wills and orders directly from their original transcripts. Having access to those books in person made an undertaking possible in only a couple of years that might have taken a decade if I had been forced to order microfilm.

I hope Edwards genealogists may find this useful. Questions, comments and updates can be addressed to me at farrelljm1122@hotmail.com

Jason Farrell
September 2020

Descendants of Meredith Edwards

First Generation

1. Meredith Edwards was born about 1655 in England and died between June and August 1712 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

MEREDITH EDWARDS (c.1655-1712) was an indentured servant of Welsh or English origin transported to Maryland by John Filer in October 1675. No record of his contract is known to survive, but it would have likely ended around 1680-82. He first appears in Westmoreland County, Virginia orders books on July 30, 1691 when he was sued by John Battle for a debt.

Meredith and a possible brother, John Edwards, patented their first land warrants in Westmoreland County on the same day in October 1694. On October 9 and 11, Meredith bought a total of 257 acres "by a path that goes from Evan Morgan's to Washington Mill." He was a neighbor of the Washingtons; According to *Northern Neck Land Grants Vol. 1*, Meredith Edwards owned land in Washington Parish, Westmoreland County, adjacent to Capt. Lawrence Washington and Andrew Beard. Lawrence Washington left his godson, Lawrence Butler, a tract of land adjoining "Merida Edwards and Daniel White" in his 1698 will.

Meredith was a reasonably wealthy freeholder and was known to have had servants. He served numerous times in court as grand juror, witness and estate appraiser. According to his will, Meredith had children named William, John, Eleanor and Thomas, a godson named John Maders, and a wife named Ann. An unnamed granddaughter was also mentioned. Written June 17, 1712, entered into bond Aug. 27, 1712.

RECORDS

Dec. 31, 1675: "Meredith Edward" among a group of indentured servants belonging to John Filer that were transported to Maryland. Headright proved in court on this day. One of the other indentured, Rebecca Langton, was indentured to Filer in Bristol, England Oct. 18, 1675 and was transported on the ship *Lilly* of London, mastered by John Moore. Meredith was likely also on this transport. Given that Langton was reportedly bound for Virginia, it may be that their stay in Maryland was very short: LL:441 Film No: Transcript: 15:331 MSA SC 4341- :: <http://earlysettlers.msa.maryland.gov/>

July 30, 1691: Meredith Edwards makes first appearance in Westmoreland County court in debt suit with John Battle.

May 30, 1694: Meredith Edwards sworn as grand juror (Westmoreland)

Oct. 11, 1694: Meredith makes first land purchase in Westmoreland County.
Description: 150 acres beginning &c by a path that goeth from Evan Morgan's to Washington Mill. This property is in the northern part of Westmoreland County.
Source: Northern Neck Grants No. 2, 1694-1700, p. 35 (Reel 288).

Sep. 9, 1695: Meredith Edwards paid 3600 lbs. of tobacco to Rice Williams for undisclosed land. (Westmoreland)

Mar. 30, 1698: Meredith Edwards, George Thorne, Anthony Rawlins, William Howell ordered to appraise the estate of John Robinson at the request of John Brown. (Westmoreland)

Aug. 30, 1704: Meredith Edwards and Ann his wife appear in court to acknowledge land sale to Thomas Butler. (Westmoreland)

Mar. 26, 1707: Meredith Edwards and John Edwards accused of participating in a "riot" in the home of Thomas Canfield. He is called both "Merriday" and "Meredith" in this record. All participants pled guilty and were fined 20 shillings each. Meredith and John were among those taken into custody by the sheriff until they paid the fine. (Westmoreland)

May 28, 1707: Catherine Woods, servant of Merriday Edwards of Washington Parish, accused of fornication. (Westmoreland)

Feb. 25, 1707/8: Meredith among a group of men to appraise estate of William Saxton. (Westmoreland)

May 31, 1710: "Merriday Edwards" sworn as grand juror. (Westmoreland)

June 17, 1712: Meredith Edwards signs his will, naming his children as John, William and Thomas, daughter Ellenor, wife Ann, godson John Maders and an unnamed granddaughter.

WILLS OF Westmoreland County, Virginia 1654-1800 BY AUGUSTA B. FOTHERGILL: Pg 47. EDWARDS, MERIDA, 17 June 1712; 27 August 1712. One feather bed, furniture, sword, gun etc to son John and he to be exr; my wife Ann 5 cattle; son William 76 acres of land, 4 cattle and sheep, one feather bed and furniture; my granddaughter one heifer; godson John Maders one heifer; daughter Ellenor gown and petty coat; son Thomas 4 head of cattle and 76 acres of land.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA ORDER BOOK, 1712-1714 Antient Press: pg 16:

Westmoreland County Court 26th day of June 1712. M. EDWARDS's Will proved.

The Last Will and Testament of MERREDA EDWARDS, deced. was presented in Court by ANN EDWARDS his Relict and Executrix, who made Oath thereto and being proved by the Oaths of all the witnesses. Thereto is admitted to Record; And on motion of ANN EDWARDS and JOHN EDWARDS, the other Executor, and their performing what is usual in such case, Certifycate is granted them for obtaining a Probat thereof in due form and they ordered to returne an Inventory of the Testator's Estate to the next Court upon Oath. It is also ordered that ROBERT FRANK, JOSEPH HEMMINGS, JAMES WHITE and DANIEL MILLS or any three of them being first sworn before one of her Majties Justices of the Peace for this County doe some tyme between this and the next Court value and appraise the Estate and make report thereof to the next Court

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA ORDER BOOK, 1712-1714 Antient Press: pg 72. Westmoreland County Court 30th of September 1713: HALL &c. v BREWERTON

CHARLES HALL and ANN HALL, Executor and Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of MERRIDA EDWARDS, brought suite against WILLIAM BREWERTON but for that the Pltfs. failed to prosecute their suite, upon motion of Defendt. a non suite is granted him and it is ordered the Pltfs. doe pay him five shillings for their unjust molestation with costs als execution.

Meredith married **Ann**. Ann was born before 1670 and died between January and March 1751 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

She is named as "Ann Edwards" and later "Ann Hall" in her husband's will and probate papers; she remarried Charles Hall before Sep. 30, 1713 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

She was likely the Ann Hall who wrote her will on Jan. 15, 1750/1, naming heirs as Ann Crummell; Elizabeth Minor, daughter of John Minor; John Muse's two daughters Ann and Elizabeth; and gave John Muse the remainder of her estate. Will proven in Westmoreland County court Mar. 26, 1751.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA ORDER BOOK, 1712-1714 Antient Press: pg 72. Westmoreland County Court 30th of September 1713. CHARLES HALL and ANN HALL, Executor and Executrix of the Last Will and Testament of MERRIDA EDWARDS, brought suite against WILLIAM BREWERTON but for that the Pltfs. failed to prosecute their suite, upon motion of Defendt. a non suite is granted him and it is ordered the Pltfs. doe pay him five shillings for their unjust molestation with costs als execution.

Beginning with the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 17 No. 49 in 1919, several Edwards genealogies state the mother of John and William Edwards of Westmoreland as "Ann Harrison." The source for this is evidently family tradition. Though these traditions erroneously name her as a daughter of

the elite Harrisons of Surry County, if she was indeed a Harrison she was more likely from the Harrison family of Westmoreland, many of whom migrated to Stafford County and are found in the Overwharton Parish register.

A possible brother, George Harrison (c.1650-1713) died in Cople Parish, Westmoreland County in 1713 and only mentions his sons in his will. They are Thomas, George, John, William, James, Peter, Willoughby. His wife was Elizabeth Duncan, b. c.1654 in Perth, Scotland d. Oct. 1713 according to Mike Marshall. Thomas died in Overwharton Parish in 1727, had daughters Frances, Anne, Catherine and Jane. George's father is believed to be Anthony Harrison (d. c.1680) of New Kent County.

She may have also been from the Minor or Muse families of Westmoreland.

Children from this marriage were:

2 M i. **Dr. John Edwards** was born about 1685 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before December 2, 1743 in King George County, Virginia.

3 M ii. **William Edwards** was born about 1687 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after November 25, 1746 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

4 M iii. **Thomas Edwards** was born about 1695 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died between June and November 1774 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

F iv. **Eleanor Edwards** was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after June 1712 of Westmoreland County, Virginia. Nothing further known.

Second Generation (Children)

2. Dr. John Edwards (*Meredith*¹) was born about 1685 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before December 2, 1743 in King George County, Virginia.

DR. JOHN EDWARDS, GENT., (c.1685-1743). Sheriff of King George County 1737-1743. He was a gentleman justice, physician and planter who owned significant property in Spotsylvania and King George County and was a contemporary and acquaintance of Augustine Washington.

The identification of John Edwards and Jane Arrington with the Overwharton Parish Edwards clan comes from the 1929 article "General John Edwards King of Kentucky. A Sketch by His Great Granddaughter, Goode King Feldhauser of St. Paul, Minnesota." Register of Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 27, No. 80 (May, 1929), pp. 548-551. The author, who lived 1863-1939, identifies Elizabeth Edwards King as their daughter. Her source was evidently family tradition.

https://www.jstor.org/stable/23370031?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents.

Since John Edwards was co-executor of his father's will, he had to have been born by 1691. In "The Monroe Family" William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine, Vol. XIII #4 - Oct 1933. p. 231-241, he is called "Capt. John Edwards," and it's claimed he married Jane Arrington in 1718. Given that Jane was unmarried as of her father's 1715 will, this could certainly be true. However, she cannot be the mother of Ignatius Edwards, who was at least age 21 in 1730; given that her maternal grandfather attained his majority and claimed his inheritance in 1682, she could not have been born much earlier than the year 1700.

John Edwards begins appearing in the court papers of King George County in 1723; though he owned properties in Fredericksburg, Williamsburg, Spotsylvania County and King George County he appears to have been based in King George; he was sworn as sheriff and "gentleman justice" there in 1737. Between 1731 and 1742, John Edwards appears in Spotsylvania County and bought a lot in Fredericksburg, Virginia. He died sometime between June and November, 1743. His estate was probated Dec. 2, 1743, with administration changing hands from Richard Tutt to Meredith Edwards by 1747.

RECORDS

Mar. 26, 1707: Meredith Edwards and John Edwards accused of participating in a "riot" in the home of Thomas Canfield. All participants pled guilty and were fined 20 shillings each. Meredith and John were among those taken into custody by the sheriff until they paid the fine. (Westmoreland)

June 17, 1712: Will of Meredith Edwards, Westmoreland Co. sealed, naming John as his son and co-executor.

July 31, 1718: John Edwards sues Simon Zachary and Hugh French.
(Westmoreland)

Jul. 26, 1721: John Edwards went to court to kick a non-paying tenant, Edward Massey, off of his freehold. The following day, July 27, Augustine Washington, gentl., vs. John Edwards, debt for 5,000 lbs. of tobacco. Conditional order against William Edwards who was returned security. (Westmoreland County)

Mar. 7, 1723: John Edwards makes his first appearance in King George County, having been sued by "Rice Hooe Jr." and Thomas Turner for trespass. William Edwards served as his security in both suits. Later that year, John Edwards was sued for debts by Christopher Scandrett and William again served as his security. John Edwards appeared in court for neither of the earlier cases, and pleaded Non Est Factum on the third. In 1728, John Edwards lost his case against Hooe, and the case brought by Turner was dismissed. (King George)

Sep. 5, 1724: A suit brought by Augustine Washington against John Edwards was dismissed (note that this is not the suit filed in Westmoreland County in 1721, which Washington won). (King George)

Jan. 3, 1728: John Edwards awarded "alias capias" (arrest warrant) against John Triplett. Suit was dismissed in March, no explanation given. (King George)

June 2, 1731: John Edwards of Spotsylvania County, Virginia buys from Bartholomew Wood of the same (both of St. George Parish) 150 acres in St. George's Parish for 3000 lbs tobacco. From *Virginia County Records - Spotsylvania County, 1721-1800, Volume I* edited by William Armstrong Crozier (Spotsylvania)

Dec. 5, 1735: "John Edwards of Stafford Co." served as a witness for Benjamin Rush, was paid for traveling 15 miles to appear in King George County court.

Feb. 4, 1736: John Edwards sworn in as "gentleman justice" of King George County. This seems to be the first time he is called "gentleman."

Jul. 1, 1737: John Edwards sworn as sheriff of King George County. In 1738 he is called "gentleman."

Sep. 2, 1740: The Trustees of Fredericksburg sold to John Edwards, gentleman, lot 54 in the city. Witness: Edmund Waller (Spotsylvania Co.). He was a witness to a sale between John Waller Jr., one of the trustees, and James Shackelford in Spotsylvania Co. on Feb. 28, 1741. (Spotsylvania)

Jul. 2, 1742: Chancery suit between James Jones and John Edwards & John

Owens set for trial at next court. Suit continued June 3, 1743. (King George)

Dec. 8, 1742: "John Edwards, Gent." was commissioned to be captain of a company of foot soldiers in the militia of Spotsylvania County. (Virginia Spotsylvania County Records 1721-1800 via Ancestry.com)

Dec. 30, 1742: A John Edwards listed as heir to Thomas Ship. William Reid of Fredksburg, in Spts. Co., to John Gordon of same place, in trust for John Thornton, John Allan, John Parrish, William Picket, John Edwards, Rd. Tutt [who would later administer the John Edwards estate], and Jos. Calvert, above sd. Reid's Securities in a bond payable (for 80 curr.) to John Gr... (Spotsylvania County, VA).

Dec. 2, 1743: Estate of "John Edwards, gentleman" enters court--Richard Tutt administrator. The same day, Thomas Edwards sues Richard Tutt "administrator of John Edwards, decd" complaining of debt owed by the deceased since Mar. 25, 1739. Relict named as Ann Edwards.

The estate of "John Edwards, Doctor and Gentleman" was administered by Richard Tutt, "in as much as Ann Edwards, widow and relict of the deceased, came into court relinquishing her right of administration." Bond given by Richard Tutt Dec. 2, 1743, with inventory recorded Mar. 2, 1743/4, King George County. This John Edwards was appointed sheriff of King George County July 1, 1737. As his administrator, Richard Tutt filed a settlement of the estate of Dr. John Edwards, Gentleman, on April 5, 1745 indicated he was "concerned with business for the estate in Spotsylvania County, King George County and Williamsburg."

Apr. 6, 1744: Action of debt between Thomas Edwards, gent., against Richard Tutt, administrator of John Edwards, decd. Deft. pays bond.

April 5, 1745: The inventory and appraisement of the Estate of DOCR. JOHN EDWARDS deced .. items valued but not totalled .. includes three negroes.. made by appraisers HANCOCK LEE. THOS. HORD, ENOCH INNIS .. At a court held 2nd March 1743 (1744). inventory and appraisement presented into court & admitted to record.

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1743-1752 King George County, Virginia Deed Book 3; [Antient Press]; Page 31
The Estate of Doctor JOHN EDWARDS Deceased - Accompt Currant
Dr.

4 Gal Rum at Sale Whole Amt of Sale
343:3:2
pd EDD WALLER taking care of
Estate
pd DICKENSON'S Wife for Turkeys
& cooking
pd HERNDON for Auctioneer

pd SCHOOLER for Sundry Services
pd FRANK TYLER for assisting at
sale
To EDD. DICKINSON for finishing
crop
To my Expenses to Williamsburg
To Lawyers fee ZACH: LEWIS

To WM. LEWIS for rolling a Hogs
Tobo
pd Mr. WATLINGTON for fixing pr
pistols
pd THOMAS SHARP for mending a
Fiddle
pd Mr. HOARD for Appraisment
pd 5 yds Kersey for Old John a
Servant
To Secretarys other Fees on Blacks
Judgt.
To three Lawyers fees Spotsylvania
County
To four Lawyers fees King George
County
To KIRKPATRICK Judgment
To Mr. HARRY TURNER Admr. Fees
To King George Office Account of
Suits
To Spotsylvania Office Account of
Suits

To 150 days attending to collect Debt
Pr Contra
Cash of Mr. RICHD. TALLIAFERRO
By an Inspectors note on Roystons
By 14 per cent of 163 £ Tobo
By 10 per cent of 351 K. George Tobo
By 2 Suits abated
By Mr. ANTHONY STROTHER for
currency
By Sundry book debts rec'd
By Mr. SPOTSWOOD in Discharge of
Note
By My own Particular Accompt
By JOHN WATLINGTON
By four Physical Books
By Sundry out Standing Debts not
Rec'd
yet Great part of which are not like to
be got

Errors Excepted pr Richard Tutt 5 April 1745

£371: 6: 9 £ 475: 16: 4-1/2

Pursuant to an Order King George County Court We the Subscribers have settled
the Accompt of the Estate of JOHN EDWARDS Gent. Dec'd. with RICHD. TUTT
the Administrator.

Jos: Strother

Saml. Skinker

T. Turner

At a court held 5th April 1745 ... Account of Settlement recorded.

From 1721-1744 King George County, Virginia Inventories from Will Book A-1;
[Antient Press]; Page 299-301. Thanks to Mike Marshall for the transcription.

On Mar. 5, 1747, Meredith Edwards was named in King George court as
“administrator of the goods and chattels of John Edwards, deceased” in a suit by
Meredith against George Fox. Thomas Edwards and William Edwards also sued
Fox over the John Edwards estate that year. This is clearly the same Meredith
Edwards that appears in both Stafford and King George County court in the
1740s and strongly indicates that he is a son. This record is the strongest link
between John Edwards and Meredith Edwards of Westmoreland County, as well
as to the Edwards family of Overwharton Parish.

Note that the estate inventory of John Edwards includes money to repair a fiddle.
This suggests that John Edwards, like his grandson Ignatius, was a musician.

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John Edwards, the Gentleman?

Both John Edwards and his brother Thomas are occasionally described as “gentlemen” in various records, yet it’s difficult to figure out where the wealth for their substantial holdings came from. Evidently, neither man was even a landowner before their father divided his property into 76 acre lots for sons William and Thomas. John only got a bed, a sword and a gun.

John bought 154 acres in Spotsylvania in 1731, and held property in King George, Williamsburg and Fredericksburg. He was first called “gentleman” in 1736. By the time of his death he was called “Doctor Edwards” so he may have studied under a physician and made money that way. His marriage to Jane Arrington might have also increased his social status, although it’s not clear her father was wealthy, her mother’s family certainly was.

The term “gentleman” could only be applied to 2 or 3% of Virginians, with some authors proposing a minimum annual income of 500 pounds sterling to attain that title. Typically, a “gentleman” owned well over a dozen slaves. (See: *Prodigy Houses of Virginia* by Barbara B. Mooney.)

John married **Unknown** about 1705. She died before 1718 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

The name of the first wife of John Edwards was not recorded. Given that her son was named “Ignatius” a name that was ultra-rare in Virginia but abundant just across the Potomac in Charles County and St. Mary’s County, Maryland, she was likely from Maryland. It’s also possible her father had come across the river and settled in Westmoreland or Northumberland County.

The children from this marriage were:

5 F i. **Susanna Edwards** was born about 1706 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before 1767 in Prince William County, Virginia.

6 M ii. **Ignatius Edwards** was born before 1709 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on October 15, 1750 in Stafford County, Virginia.

John next married **Jane Arrington**, daughter of **Thomas Arrington** and **Elizabeth Monroe**, in 1718 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Jane was born about 1700 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before 1743 in Virginia.

Jane Arrington may be too young to be the mother of Susanna and Ignatius Edwards, and may have been the second wife of John Edwards. Her grandfather, Andrew Monroe, claimed his inheritance in 1682, suggesting he was born in 1661. That would mean his daughter Elizabeth must have been born 1677-1680, leaving Jane to be born in 1692-95. Very suspect, given that Ignatius Edwards was at least 21 years old in 1730. "The Munroe Family" by George Harrison Sanford King claims they married in 1718, which is consistent with her father naming her simply as Jane in his 1715 will, the lack of married name suggesting she was still single.

<http://www.lamasterfamily.org/PDF/Other/The%20Monroe%20Family.pdf>

Jane Arrington had an uncle named in her father's will, Wansford Arrington (c.1680-1738), who also moved to Stafford County Virginia and owned property adjacent Richard Fristoe, Thomas Harrison, Catesby Cocke (Sep. 7, 1731). Wansford was first recorded buying land in Stafford County Dec. 20, 1714 on Bull Run of Occoquan River. (*VA Northern Neck Grants, Vol. 1*)

Children from this marriage were:

7 F i. **Elizabeth Edwards** was born about 1719 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died in 1792 in Boone's Lookout, Nelson County, Kentucky.

8 M ii. **Meredith Edwards** was born about 1720 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on October 16, 1749 in Stafford County, Virginia.

9 M iii. **Andrew Edwards** was born about 1723 in King George County, Virginia and died in July 1788 in Stafford County, Virginia.

10 M iv. **Robert Edwards** was born about 1725 in King George County, Virginia and died after February 6, 1756 of Stafford County, Virginia.

11 M v. **William Edwards** was born in 1728 in King George County, Virginia and died on November 9, 1813 in Stafford County, Virginia.

12 F vi. **Bridget Edwards** was born about 1735 in King George County, Virginia and died after 1758.

13 M vii. **Thomas Edwards** was born about 1739 in King George County, Virginia and died after January 6, 1809 in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

John next married **Ann Johnson** before 1743. Ann was born about 1704 in Essex County, Virginia and died after 1748 of King George County, Virginia.

She is named as Ann Edwards in the probate papers of her husband. A clue to her identity lies in the fact that she relinquished her right of administration to Richard Tutt. An estate administrator should, according to the law, be the first in line to inherit it. This strongly suggests Tutt was a close relative.

Richard Tutt (c.1702-1767) had no sister named Ann, per the will of his father, Richard Tutt Sr., who specifically names all of his children. However, his wife, Elizabeth Johnson (married Oct. 7, 1731 per Spotsylvania County early marriage bonds), daughter of Richard Johnson (d.1726, Spotsylvania County) did. Ann Johnson was married to James Williams from the 1720s to his death in 1735; his will lists wife Ann and names "my brother in law Richard Tutt." Ann then married Samuel Wharton on October 6, 1737 (per Spotsylvania County early marriage bonds). Wharton died in October or November 1738, so she was evidently married to Edwards less than five years.

It remains possible that Ann is the mother of one or both of Edwards's last two children, Bridget and Thomas. Given that they were likely married no earlier than 1739 or 1740, it still seems more likely that Arrington was their mother.

3. William Edwards (*Meredith*¹) was born about 1687 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after November 25, 1746 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Several older genealogies list his children as Hayden, Robert, Benjamin, John, Rebecca, Martha, Mary and Jeanette. The earliest seems to be *Edwards Heirs* from 1925-26, although John is absent. Only Hayden and Benjamin are proved with documentation. But others such as Mary and John are likely. Mary, who married Charles Wells, had children named Hayden, Benjamin and Eleanor as indicated by the parish register of St. Paul, Stafford County, and corroborated by other documents. John Edwards of St. Mary's County, Maryland was married by 1733 and his son Jonathan (1741-1810) moved to Loudoun County, Virginia in the 1780s, where Benjamin Edwards lived.

RECORDS

Nov. 24, 1708: John Baker, tailor of Westmoreland County, sells to William Edwards, planter, of same, 200 acres, full half of tract that John Baker now lives on; part of 500 acre patent by Sir William Berkeley to Robert Alexander Mar. 20, 1665 then sold to George Downing and then to Baker. Upon main branch of

Machotique that leads into Jordan's Bridge; William Edwards is to have upper part thereof. Hannah Baker relinquishes right of dower.

Jan. 26, 1708/9: William Edwards named an appraiser of the estate of Emmauel Ham (Westmoreland)

June 17, 1712: William Edwards is named in his father's will in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Mar. 16, 1715/6: William and Mary Edwards become parents to Haden, St. Paul Parish, Stafford (now King George) County.

Aug. 30, 1722: William Edwards and Mary, his wife, vs. William Matthewes in trespass, assault & battery case (Westmoreland)

Nov. 1722: William Edwards named grand juror in Westmoreland County court.

Mar. 4, 1723: First appearance of William Edwards in court records of King George County, Virginia. He appears in several suits in the 1720s and served three times as security for John Edwards.

Apr. 25, 1723: William Edwards suit against John Mealey for using "scandalous words." (Westmoreland)

Aug. 29, 1723: Suit by Augustine Washington vs. John Dunne, Westmoreland County court. William Edwards said he owed Dunne nothing. Bryant O'Bannon, who later owned land in Fauquier, summoned. Same court date, William and Mary Edwards v. William Matthews in case of Trespass, Assault & Battery.

Apr. 28, 1725: Mary Edwards sued estate of William Graham, deceased, for one years' wages owed to her. (Westmoreland)

Sep. 1726: William Edwards appointed surveyor of a highway in Washington Parish, Westmoreland County.

Nov. 3, 1727: William Edwards suit against Maxfield Brown in King George County court is dropped. He appears to have moved back to Westmoreland County within the next five years.

May 4, 1733: William Edwards and Mary Edwards "of Westmoreland County" were summoned as evidence by Hugh Canaday against Richard Roberts. Both were paid separately for traveling 5 miles to court. Just one month later he was called "William Edwards" in King George court; evidently his home county was only named because he had to travel.

Oct. 7, 1737: "William Edwards of Stafford" summoned as evidence by John Leewright and John Fox against Nathaniel Holland and Thomas Harper.

Attended court six days and paid for coming and going 8 miles six times. This must be the same William of Westmoreland: the other William was still a child.

May 1, 1741: William named as possessing with Mary Edrington property that was formerly of the estate of William Jett in King George County, Virginia.

Dec. 4, 1742: "William Edwards of Westmoreland County" summoned to King George County court as a witness for John Willis against Henry Ware.

June 3, 1743: "William Edwards of Westmoreland County" summoned to King George County court as a witness for Richard Green.

Nov. 25, 1746: Evidently preparing for his own death, William gives away his goods, chattels and the tenement where he lived to his sons Benjamin and Haden Edwards. He also gives Benjamin 100 acres. (Westmoreland County court)

Feb. 5, 1747/8: William Edwards sues George Fox, who was also sued by Meredith Edwards, administrator of the estate of John Edwards in King George County.

Jul. 1, 1748: William Edwards wins suit against John Strother in King George County court. It isn't clear whether this suit was by William, son of John Edwards, or the elder William Edwards of Westmoreland County.

1735-1743 King George County Deed Book 2 (Antient Press); pp. 337-340
Indenture made 30th April/1st May 1741 between JOHN JETT of county Westmoreland and WILLIAM JETT of county King George .. by deeds of lease & release .. for sum Ten pounds current money of Virginia sold 170 acres binding on the North West side of a Swamp call'd Fork Swamp now known by the name of the Head Swamp of Monroes Dam & now in possession of WILLIAM EDWARDS and MARY EDRINGTON which land was formerly the Estate of WILLIAM JETT and by (his) last will & testament dated 27th May 1695 bequeath'd to PETER JETT Deceas'd and Heirs .. and for want of such Heirs .. to his Surviving Brother whereby it is become the proper Estate of John Jett party to these presents .. Presence Thos: Vivion, John Jett. Cha: Dean, Thos. Ammon
At a court held 1st May 1741 .. Deeds of lease & release and Receipt for consideration money recorded.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA DEEDS & WILLS. No. 10; 1744-1748
Antient Press: pp 270-271.

TO ALL CHRISTIAN PEOPLE to whom these presents shall come. I WILLIAM EDWARDS of County of Westmorland in the Dominion and Colony of Virginia send Greeting in our Lord God everlasting; KNOW YE that I WILLIAM EDWARDS in consideration of the love good will and natural affection which I have and do bear unto my well beloved Son, HADEN EDWARDS, have and by these presents do give and grant unto HADEN EDWARDS his heirs, one Negroe Woman named NELL and her increase for ever: Also I give and grant unto

HADEN EDWARDS one oval table, also two feather beds with their furniture; KNOW YE Further that I WILLIAM EDWARDS in consideration of the love good will and natural affection which I have and do bear unto my well beloved Son, BENJAMIN EDWARDS, have and by these presents do give unto BENJAMIN EDWARDS one Negro (or in lieu of the said Negro forty pounds current money of Virginia) to BENJAMIN EDWARDS his heirs. I also give and grant unto BENJAMIN EDWARDS two feather beds with their furniture, in token whereof I have delivered unto BENJAMIN EDWARDS one Bolster part of the furniture one of the beds; KNOW YE Further that I WILLIAM EDWARDS have and by these presents do freely give and grant unto HADEN EDWARDS and BENJAMIN EDWARDS the remainder of my goods chattles, houshold stuff, goods, wares ready money of debts and all other things to me belonging which I may justly claim as in right my own whether alive or dead being my Real Estate in whose custody or possession soever the same or any part may be found: as well in the tenement where I now dwell as in any place or tenement, to be equally divided between HADEN EDWARDS and BENJAMIN EDWARDS; To have and to hold the goods wares ready money or debts houshold stuff and implements and all other premises each is proper moiety of the same reserving unto me WILLIAM EDWARDS the use of the property during the natural life of me WILLIAM EDWARDS and after my decease I do confirm unto HADEN EDWARDS and BENJAMIN EDWARDS and each of their heirs the moiety unto each assigned as I WILLIAM EDWARDS have absolutely and of my own accord set and put forth these presents in further Testimony thereof. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this Twenty fifth day of November in the Twentieth year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George the Second and in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred and forty six.

Signed Sealed and delivered in presence of
RICHARD LEE, WM. U. DAVIS, WILLIAM his mark EDWARDS
F STURMAN

Westmorland Sct. At a Court held for the said County the 25th day of November 1746. WILLIAM EDWARDS personally acknowledged this Deed of Gift by him passed to his Sons, HADEN and BENJAMIN EDWARDS (for Negroes &c.) to be his proper act and deed, and on Motion of the said HEADEN and BENJAMIN the same is admitted to Record. Test GEORGE LEE, C. C. W,
Recorded the 4th day of December 1746, pr. G. L.. C. C. W.

In book 10, pages 271-272, dated 25 Nov. 1746, there is a deed of gift from William Edwards of Washington Parish, Westmoreland County, Virginia, to his son Benjamin Edwards, for 100 acres of land whereon said William now lives. In book 13, page 292, dated 20 April 1760 it is stated: Benjamin Edwards of Loudoun County, Colony of Virginia, ordinary keeper, conveyed this same above mentioned 100 acres of land to Anne Grigsby.

William married **Mary** before 1715. Mary died after May 4, 1733 of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Her identification as a Hayden is traditional, and almost certainly derived simply from her son Hayden/Haden's first name. *Virginia Genealogies* by Horace Hayden supposes her to be a sister of William Haydon of Lancaster County who signed his will in April 1765 naming several children and grandchildren, but no Mary or Mrs. Edwards.

If she is a Hayden, she is more likely a daughter of Charles Hayden of Westmoreland County, Virginia. He descends from Francis Haydon, born in Hertfordshire, England in 1628, who is mentioned in Westmoreland County records in the 1660s, but settled in St. Mary's County, Maryland where he died in 1697. Charles Hayden of Westmoreland may be an unrecorded son of Francis. See *Maryland and Virginia Colonials: Genealogies of Some Colonial Families*.

Children from this marriage were:

14 M i. **John Edwards** was born about 1710 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after 1770 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

15 F ii. **Mary Edwards** was born about 1712 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before July 1, 1771 in Prince William County, Virginia.

16 M iii. **Haden Edwards** was born on March 16, 1716 in Stafford County, Virginia, died on July 13, 1803 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, and was buried in Edwards Cemetery, Paris, KY.

17 M iv. **Benjamin Edwards** was born before 1725 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died in 1803 in Loudoun County, Virginia.

4. Thomas Edwards (*Meredith*¹) was born about 1695 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died between June and November 1774 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Thomas Edwards appears in Westmoreland County records in 1712, 1717-18 and 1741; in Spotsylvania County in 1722-23, and King George in 1743-44. He may be the same Thomas Edwards who signed his will in Westmoreland County in 1774. This later Thomas Edwards with wife Alice began appearing in King George County records in 1755 and petitioned the government to build a mill in Westmoreland County around 1771; he noted in his will that all of his children were under age 21 as of 1774. If this is the son of Meredith, he appears to have been extraordinarily active very late in life.

The fact that Thomas of Westmoreland owned 28 slaves and a wealth of personal property and real estate as enumerated in his estate inventory suggests that he was certainly a “gentleman” as well. The couple only having five children between 1754 and 1764, despite another ten years of marriage, suggests he may have been an old man when they wed.

A “Thomas Edwards, Gent.” appears in the order books of Richmond County, Virginia from 1732 to 1746 in a series of lawsuits. This could be Thomas of Westmoreland or the other Thomas Edwards, Gent., of Lancaster County (d.1760). No wife is named and there are no clues or references to other relatives or locations. A Robert Edwards with wife Hester, Edward Edwards, and a Samuel Edwards (of Caroline County) also appear in Richmond Co. during this period.

In 1746 a “Thomas Edwards, Gentleman” appears in a list of landowners in Prince William County. The fact that this Thomas Edwards appears in road orders of Prince William County in 1764 and again in 1772, suggests he is probably not the same man in Westmoreland. A Thomas Edwards filed suit in Prince William County court in May 1783; if this is the same man who began appearing in the county in 1746, he is almost certainly not the son of Meredith Edwards.

June 17, 1712: Thomas Edwards named in the will of his father, Meredith Edwards. He’s given 76 acres. (Westmoreland County).

Sep. 26, 1717: Suit against Thomas Edwards by Rice Hopkins, William Edwards acts as security (Westmoreland County).

Jan. 31, 1717/8: Sheriff’s attachment. Thomas Edwards to Rice Hopkins, William Edwards, security (Westmoreland County).

Nov. 6, 1722: Thomas Edwards named as owning land in St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia adjoining lands of Larkin Chew in a deed dated November 6, 1722. (Spotsylvania County, Deed Book A).

Apr. 2, 1723: Spotsylvania County road orders mention a “Mr. Edwards” lived near the bridge from Quarter Rd. to the county line of Queen Anne. Dated April 2, 1723. http://www.viriniadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/85-r17.pdf

Dec. 27, 1726: “Mr. Thomas Edwards in Lancaster County” appointed executor in the will of William Patteshall of King George County, Virginia. It is not known whether this is Thomas of Westmoreland or the known Thomas Edwards of Lancaster County (will dated Feb. 15, 1760). Patteshall definitely knew the Edwards family of King George/Westmoreland, having sold Dr. John Edwards his “main tract” four miles south of Rappahannock Falls (in what’s now the Bellvue section of Fredericksburg) according to a King George County deed of Nov. 12, 1759 (Enoch Innes to James Threlkeld). (King George)

Mar. 22, 1741: William Wiat and Ann Wiat directed to pay Thomas Edwards from the estate of their father, James Wiat, for their education in Westmoreland County during the year 1734. (Westmoreland)

Aug. 6, 1742: Adam Crump of Prince William County, Va. married Ha--- Neale; Thomas Edwards, security (marriage license bonds of Lancaster County, Va.)

Dec. 2, 1743: Thomas Edwards, gent., plaintiff against Richard Tutt, administrator of John Edwards, decd. In debt. Complains John Edwards owed him a debt from Mar. 25, 1739. (King George County)

April 6, 1744: Thomas Edwards debt suit against Richard Tutt, administrator of the estate of John Edwards, decd. (King George County)

1746: "Thomas Edwards, gentleman" appears in Prince William County, Virginia landholder's list. This may be a different man.

<http://eservice.pwcgov.org/library/digitallibrary/PDF/Prince%20William%20County%20People,%201723-1782.pdf>

Nov. 6, 1755: Thomas Edwards and "wife Alice, late Alice Howell," named in suit of King George County.

June 1, 1774: Will of Thomas Edwards of Westmoreland County names wife Alice, children William Edwards, Thomas Edwards, Mary Sergent Edwards, Franky Edwards Alice Edward. Will proved Nov. 29, 1774, Westmoreland County.

Thomas married **Alice Serjeant**, daughter of **John Serjeant** and **Mary**, between 1753 and 1755 in Richmond County, Virginia. Alice was born on January 4, 1725 in Richmond County, Virginia and died after October 22, 1782 of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Alice's birth was recorded in the Parish Register of North Farnham in Richmond County. She married Downing Howell before Sep. 4, 1749 in Richmond County, Virginia and had one son, John Howell on Dec. 9, 1749. Her husband died in the spring of 1750, and between then and 1755 she married Thomas Edwards of Westmoreland. In the King George County order book that year she was called "Alice Edwards, late Alice Howell." Alice was a daughter of John Serjeant, who died intestate in Richmond County.

SOURCES:

Probate of Downing Howell. See transcript at: <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=Io84585&tree=Tree1>

North Farnham Parish Register, Richmond County, Virginia.

Marriage record for an Alice SERJEANT who married Downing HOWELL 1749. Ancestry.com, Virginia, Marriages of the Northern Neck of Virginia, 1649-1800 (Provo, UT, USA, Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2012), Ancestry.com, .

The will of Thomas Edwards, dated June 1, 1774, probated Nov. 29, 1774 in Westmoreland County, names wife Alice and children William, Thomas, Mary Sargent, Franky and Alice Edwards. Probate papers in Westmoreland County court dated 1782 show his daughters as Mary Cowles, Franky Wickliffe and Alice Cowles.

Children from this marriage were:

18 F i. **Mary Sargent Edwards** was born about 1754 in Virginia and died after October 22, 1782 of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

19 F ii. **Franky Edwards** was born in 1756 in Virginia and died on December 13, 1822 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

20 M iii. **Rev. William Edwards** was born about 1760 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before February 5, 1807 of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

21 M iv. **Thomas Edwards** was born on January 25, 1762 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on August 7, 1832 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

22 F v. **Alice Edwards** was born about 1764 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after 1830 in Franklin County, Tennessee.

Third Generation (Grandchildren)

5. Susanna Edwards (*John (Dr.)², Meredith¹*) was born about 1706 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before 1767 in Prince William County, Virginia.

The marriage of Michael Summers and Hannah Edwards was recorded in the parish register of St. Paul, Stafford (now King George) County, Virginia, dated May 12, 1724. The childbirths of this couple through 1748 were also recorded, with five entries calling Michael's wife "Hannah" and three calling her "Susanna." The naming issue is not the result of a remarriage because the name Susanna pops in and out chronologically.

The names of five of the Summers children--John, Jemima, Sarah, Anne and Susanna--correspond with names for the children of Ignatius Edwards, who also seems to have been a communicant of St. Paul's Parish. The Summers family also migrated north with the Ignatius Edwards family to Overwharton Parish, where their daughter Elizabeth married in 1755. This provides enough circumstantial evidence to suggest Susanna Edwards Summers was a sister of Ignatius Edwards.

Susanna married Michael Summers on May 12, 1724 in Stafford County, Virginia. Michael was born about 1704 in Middlesex County, Virginia and died before 1767 of Prince William County, Virginia.

Children from this marriage were:

F i. **Mary Summers** was born on April 16, 1728 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M ii. **John Summers** was born on July 16, 1732 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F iii. **Jemima Summers** was born on July 16, 1732 in Stafford County, Virginia. She was a twin of John Summers, according to parish records.

F iv. **Sarah Summers** was born on July 20, 1735 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F v. **Margaret Summers** was born on June 14, 1738 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F vi. **Elizabeth Summers** was born on December 5, 1740 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F vii. **Anne Summers** was born on June 22, 1744 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M viii. **Samuel Summers** was born on November 1, 1746 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F ix. **Susanna Summers** was born on July 25, 1748 in Stafford County, Virginia.

6. Ignatius Edwards (*John (Dr.)², Meredith¹*) was born before 1709 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on October 15, 1750 in Stafford County, Virginia.

IGNATIUS EDWARDS lived in Stafford County, Virginia from at least 1730 to his death on October 15, 1750. On October 13, 1730, Ignatius and Mary Edwards leased 50 acres adjacent to Brent's Rock to Henry Wigginton on the north side of Aquia Creek roughly where route 635 now ends. This tract was later sold to Thomas Porter by Wigginton. After the lease, he removed to Maryland where he was living at the birth of his son Ignatius in 1732. By March 1737 he was back in Stafford County, where his daughter Jemima was baptized at St. Paul Parish; from at least 1742 to his death, he lived in Overwharton Parish. Edwards authored his will in November 1748, not long after his last child was born, and may have suffered from a protracted illness like tuberculosis. He was however well enough to witness a deed in Prince William County court in June 1750. He died the following October in Overwharton Parish, probably in his early forties.

Robert King (1765-1814), probable son of William King and Elizabeth Edwards, is buried in a tiny family cemetery with Jesse Edwards, son of Ignatius, called King-Roles Cemetery. This suggests that Elizabeth Edwards King (c.1719-1792) was very likely a sister of Ignatius Edwards. (Jerrilyn Eby. *Land of Herrings and Persimmons: People and Places of Upper Stafford County, Virginia*. Heritage Books, 2015, pp. 371-373, 583.)

STAFFORD CO. VA PROPERTY RECORDS (1730-1750)

Ignatius Edwards can be placed in Stafford County via land records as early as Oct. 13, 1730, when he leased land to Henry Wigginton Sr adjacent Brent's Rock near Aquia Creek, Stafford County.

Source: <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=IO41411&tree=Tree1>

PARISH RECORDS

(Incomplete) Edwards entries of St. Paul Parish:

Haden, son of William and Mary Edwards, Washington Parish, b. March 16, 1715/16

Mary Edwards and Thomas Green m. May 1, 1716
Elizabeth Edwards and Patrick Ryan m. May 6, 1723
Hannah Edwards and Michael Summers m. May 12, 1724
Mary Edwards and Charles Wells m. Dec. 10, 1733
Jemima, dau. of Mary Edwards, b. Mar. 4, 1736/7
Mary Edwards and John Phillips m. Feb. 27, 1737/8

All Edwards entries of Overwharton Parish:

Edwards, Elizabeth. Married William King, May 21, 1738
Edwards, Jess. Son of Ignatius and Mary, born February 14, 1742
Edwards, John. Son of Ignatius, died February 24, 1744
Edwards, James. Son of Meredith and Mary, born February 22, 1744
Edwards, Ignatius. Had a daughter Anne, by Mary, July 17, 1745
Edwards, James. Departed this life October 11, 1745
Edwards, Elizabeth. Daughter of Meredith and Mary, born December 22, 1746
Edwards, John. Son of Robert and Sarah, born March 20, 1748
Edwards, Meredith. Son of Meredith and Mary, born September 12, 1749
Edwards, Sarah. Daughter of Ignatius and Mary, born June 28, 1748
Edwards, Meredith. Departed this life October 16, 1749
Edwards, Matthews. Son of Robert and Sarah, born August 21, 1749
Edwards, Ignatius. Departed this life, October 15, 1750
Edwards, Andrew. Married Betty Waugh, May 7, 1751
Edwards, Betty. Daughter of Andrew and Betty, born February 7, 1752
Edwards, Betty. Daughter of Andrew and Betty, died August 2, 1753
Edwards, Billy. Son of Andrew and Betty, born October 1, 1753
Edwards, Jean. Daughter of Robert and Sarah, born September 29, 1754
Edwards, Bridget. Married Jeremiah Spilman, January 16, 1758
Edwards, William. Married Eleanor Wheeler, February 12, 1756
Edwards, Robert. Son of Robert and Sarah, born February 6, 1756
Edwards, Nancy. Daughter of Andrew and Betty born March 6, 1756
Edwards, Isaker (Baker). Married Sarah Stacey, May 16, 1757
Edwards, Andrew. Married Elizabeth Withers, January 19, 1758

https://www.jstor.org/stable/23371774?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents
<https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=I025783&tree=Tree1>

There was a Jemima Edwards, born Mar. 4, 1736/37 (Gregorian date March 15, 1737) in St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, VA register, "daughter of Mary Edwards." Jemima was likely the daughter of Ignatius Edwards (d. 1750) and Mary Edwards, later of Overwharton (1742-50). There is no other Mary Edwards in St. Paul or Overwharton registers giving birth until 1745, and the wife of Ignatius is known to have given birth as early as 1732.

See: *St. Paul's Parish Register 1715-98*. Compiled by John Bailey Calvert Nicklin.

COURT RECORDS

Ignatius signed his will in November 1748; it was probated February 1750/1. Curiously, the children mentioned in Overwharton birth records do not appear in the will, even though the named children are all minors. These appear to have been his older children, born 1725-35:

STAFFORD COUNTY VA WILL BOOK O; 1748-1767; THE ANTIENT PRESS

P. 177 In the Name of God Amen I IGNATIUS EDWARDS of Stafford County being sick but of sound mind do make my last will & Testament in manner following First Soul to God .. body to the Earth ..

Item: I leave to my son IGNATIUS a cow a young Bull, & a yearling & bed and furniture. & Pan a young horse colt and the use of the Mare till the colt is fit to ride and then the Mare to be returned to my Wife a Sow & 3 Shoats a couple of sheep.

Item: I give to my Daughter SUSANNA a young Cow bigg with calf & a couple of Ews

Item: I give to my Daughter ISABEL on the Day of her Marriage a cow & calf & 2 sheep.

Item: I give to my Daughter LEAH on the day of her Marriage a cow & calf and 2 sheep.

Item: I give to my son BAKER at the age of 16 years a gun, a fine hat and at 18 as a cow & calf and 2 sheep.

All the rest of my worldly goods I give to use of my Loving wife during her widowhood and at her death or marriage to be equally divided among those of my children named in this my Will and I appoint my said Wife sole Executrix of this my Last Will and Testament desiring my goods may not be appraised ..10th Novr 1748.

Presence Mary + Quidley, Ignatius Edwards James F Wigginton his mark

At Court held for Stafford County 12th Feby 1750 The within last Will & Testament of Ignatius Edwards deced was presented into Court by MARY EDWARDS Exex therein named who made oath thereto .. certificate is granted her for obtainind probate .

June 25, 1750, Ignatius Edwards witnessed a deed between Elias and William Hore for property in Prince William County, VA:

Prince William County, Virginia Deeds Antient Press: Liber M; 1749 - 1752; pp 86
KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I ELIAS HORE of Overwhartin Parish in the County of STAFFORD am bound unto WILLIAM HORE of Washington Parish in the County of WESTMORELAND in the sum of Five hundred pounds Current money of Virginia this 25th day of June 1750.

THE CONDITION of the above obligation is that Whereas ELIAS HORE of the Parish of Overwharton in the County of STAFFORD died possessed of a tenement of Land in the Parish of Hamelton in the County of Prince William comonly called & known by the name of POWELS RUN containing Four hundred thirty three acres wch said Land the said ELIAS HORE amongst other things did devise to his two Sons to wit ELIAS & WILLIAM HORE to be equally divided between them as by the said Will remaining of record in the Court of the said County of STAFFORD relation being had & in persuance of the said device the said ELIAS & WILLIAM HORE with each of their mutual consents survey'd & laid off the said parcel of land & divided the same by a line from g to a as by the Survey thereunto annexed may more fully appear & wherewith the said ELIAS HORE acknowledged himself fully satisfied hath agreed that the said WILLIAM BORE shall have the said lands therein mentioned containing (according to the said Division) Two hundred & seventeen acres as by said Devision bounds will appear & all the right wch the said ELIAS BORE the Son & Partie to these presents now hath under the right of the said ELIAS HORE the Father or as heir unto him if therefore the said ELIAS HORE the Son his heirs or assigns do not at any time hereafter cause any demand to said premises but to permit said WILLIAM HORE his heirs and assigns to have to his own proper use forever the said lands that then the above obligation to be void but if default be made contrary to the intent of these presents that then this obligation to stand in presences of JOS. SMITH, ELIAS HORE, IGNATIUS EDWARDS, SUSANNA HARRISON.

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NOTES ON SOME OF HIS CHILDREN

Ignatius Edwards Jr. (1732-1757)

Ignatius had a son named in his will as Ignatius. He was born in Maryland in 1732 and served in the French and Indian War in the Virginia militia. Description entry in size rolls of Capt. George Mercer's company reads:

"Ignatius Edwards, 1 May 1756, Stafford, 24, 5'5", carpenter, Maryland, fair, low well set, large nose, full face, great dancer and fiddler." (*Virginia's Colonial Soldiers, French & Indian War, 1754-1763*)

Ignatius Edwards was court martialed and hanged for repeated desertions by Col. George Washington at Fort Loudoun on July 28, 1757. He had been an artificer charged with assisting in the construction of the fort, and offered to pay for someone to serve in his stead, an offer Col. Washington refused. Washington later named him in a scathing letter to Lt. Gov. Dinwiddie, calling him a "proper object to suffer."

See: <https://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/02-04-02-0218>
<http://frenchandindianwarfoundation.org/event/two-hangings-at-fort-loudoun/>

Leah “Leanna” Edwards Carter (c.1734-c.1790)

In September 1790, William Edwards (who inherited the farm of Jesse Edwards and lived there until 1825) was summoned to settle the estate of John and Leanna Carter, deceased. He was probably a son of Jesse or his brother, Baker Edwards.

A number of sources list her as Leanna Edwards, including *Land of Herring and Persimmons*. The births of her two sons were recorded at Overwharton Parish and the entries call her “Leanna.”

Further evidence that Leanna Carter is Leah, daughter of Ignatius and Mary from the Overwharton Parish Register: “Carter, William. Died at Mary Edward’s, September 3, 1753.” He may have been William Carter, b. Jan. 11, 1731, son of James and Mary, brother of Leanna’s husband John Carter (b. May 7, 1727).

Jemima Edwards Stacy Littlejohn (1737-1816)

The Jemima Edwards who was born March 4, 1736/7 (Gregorian date March 15, 1737) in St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, VA, “daughter of Mary Edwards” is likely the daughter of Ignatius and Mary. Parish records did not use maiden names for married women, so the Mary Edwards recorded is probably Mary, wife of Ignatius, as they are documented having children as early as 1732. There is no other Mary Edwards recorded in Stafford County who was the right age to have had a child in 1737. Mary, wife of Meredith Edwards of Stafford County, didn’t have her first child until 1745.

Jemima evidently married George Stacy c.1759 (per a Frederick County Order that names his wife as Jemima) and upon his death (1767), married their close neighbor (per the 1759 tithables list of Fauquier County) Charles Littlejohn. With Littlejohn she removed to Ninety-Six District, South Carolina (1777) and had sons Henry, Ignatius (after her father) and Nancy Littlejohn. Her death was recorded in the parish register of Goucher Baptist Church of Spartanburg Dist., SC on Aug. 7, 1816. Through her son with George Stacy, she is the mother of the Stacy family of Gaffney, South Carolina.

Baker Edwards (c.1738-aft.1810)

Marriage of Baker Edwards and Sarah Stacy recorded in Overwharton Parish Register May 16, 1757, though he was mis-transcribed by William F. Boogher as “Isaker Edwards” in the book version. There is no other record of any “Isaker Edwards” anywhere in Virginia.

Baker Edwards appears in the ledgers of the J. Glassford store of Dumfries, Prince William Co., VA. Ledger: 1758-59., Pg. 161, 163 and 1767 pg. 135, 1767-68, pg. 241, 1768-69 pg. 208.

[http://eservice.pwcgov.org/library/digitalLibrary/PDF/Dumfries%20Stores%20Ledgers%20Index%20\(1758-1776\).pdf](http://eservice.pwcgov.org/library/digitalLibrary/PDF/Dumfries%20Stores%20Ledgers%20Index%20(1758-1776).pdf)

Baker Edwards appears in only a few records in his native Stafford County, VA. He evidently lived there his whole life and appears in tithable records from 1785-1790, and the 1810 census. He was also listed among the customers of Robert Brent's dry goods store in Stafford County in 1785. (*Land of Herrings and Persimmons*, pg. 225)

Baker's son Ignatius (1783-aft.1860) married Nancy Collins in Frederick County, Virginia on April 5, 1804 and later settled in Richland, Ohio. Genealogist Jannifer Gresham has family traditions that states his other children were William, Jesse, Nathan and Betsy Edwards. He lived in Aquia (now Aquia Harbor) in Stafford County, Virginia according to census records.

Jesse Edwards (1742-1795)

Jesse Edwards was appointed an appraiser of the estate of Joseph Cooper in Stafford County court of Feb. 11, 1793. (Stafford Co. Orders, pg. 380). He appears in Stafford County tithable lists from 1783 to 1790 (the only lists from this period that survive for Stafford County). He is sometimes called "Jesse Edwards Sr." to distinguish him from his son. Per tithable lists, he had another son called Thomson Edwards.

According to historian Jerrilyn Eby's book *Land of Herrings and Persimmons*, Jesse Edwards acquired a 100-acre tract previously belonging to Edward Norman now called the Stone-Gordon farm just months before his death in 1795. "Very shortly before his death, Jesse commenced paying taxes where Home Depot and Giant grocery store now stand on Garrisonville Road." (pg. 372). No deed survives, but the land passed to an Elizabeth Edwards (his probable wife) until c.1799, then to William Edwards, who owned it until 1825 (pg. 583).

Jesse Edwards lies in a marked grave in King-Roles Cemetery, now part of Widewater State Park. The cemetery has several unmarked graves, and it's possible that he was buried here to join earlier relatives in the King or Edwards families. His hand-carved gravestone reads: JESSEY EDWODS, WHO DEPARTED THIS LIFE MAY 15, 179^o5.

Ignatius married **Mary Baker**, daughter of **John Baker** and **Elizabeth Butler**, after November 19, 1727. Mary was born about 1710 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before June 14, 1764 in Stafford County, Virginia.

Mary was married to Ignatius Edwards before Oct. 13, 1730, according to a deed of 1739 that mentions an earlier land sale between Ignatius & Mary Edwards and Henry Wigginton. She probated her husband's estate in February 1750/1.

Nov. 25, 1763: Mary Edwards Plt. agt. John Chapman, Deft. In Trespass, Assault & Battery. This suit is agreed and it is ordered that Deft. pay Plt. her costs in this behalf expended. (Fauquier County Minute Book 1763-64; this could be Mary,

wife of Alexander Edwards, who was unrelated. This other Mary Edwards, from Prince William Co., executor of Alex. Edwards, decd bef. 1757. Apparently, Alexander is from Northumberland County, and his wife was Mary Dawkins. <http://www.pwcvabooks.com/documents/BondBook.pdf>

She may be the "Mary Edwards" who appeared in the ledger of the J. Glassford Store of Dumfries, Va. 1758-64, pg. 167.

June 14, 1764: In compliance to Stafford Court, we the Subscribers first sworn have appraised Estate of Mary Edwards, dec'd, items listed and valued. Total 34:16:1 and 1/2. Will Addie, George Bell, Calvert Porter. At Court held for Stafford County 14th June 1764 Inventory admitted to record. (Stafford County Orders)

NOTE: The above record is certainly Mary, wife of Ignatius. Mary, wife of Meredith Edwards remarried before March 1752 to George Purvis.

PARENTAGE

Given that Mary had a son named Baker Edwards, it's possible her maiden name was Baker. Descendant Jannifer Gresham says letters sent to her grandfather in the 1920s say Baker's full name was "John Baker Edwards." There are only a few Baker families in Westmoreland County during the timeframe. A John Baker and wife Hannah bought land from William Edwards in 1708. Possibly the same John Baker was a minor son in law of Richard Hammock in 1703 in Westmoreland. And a John Baker (perhaps also the same man) was married to a Susannah according to her will of 1721.

Per information from "Will Abstracts of Westmoreland County, Virginia 1653-1800" there is only one good candidate for the wife of Ignatius Edwards: Mary, daughter of John Baker (c.1678-1728) and wife Elizabeth Butler of Westmoreland County, who had children Ann (Davice), Butler, John, Mary (unwed), Sarah (Munroe), Thomas and Rebecca (unwed; later Weedon) as of his November 19, 1727 will. This John Baker's death was recorded in St. Paul Parish, Stafford County on June 26, 1728 (the same parish her daughter Jemima Edwards was baptized in a decade later), and his estate was probated in March 1728/9.

There is one direct connection between these two families:

Haden Edwards, cousin of Ignatius, bought property in Prince William County, Virginia adjacent John Baker Jr., brother of Mary Baker on Nov. 27, 1752.

See: <https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=Io25783&tree=Tree1>

And one slightly-removed connection. In March 1776, Thomas Edwards (c.1739-1809) was among those asked to appraise the estate of John Weedon (brother of

Augustine, brother-in-law of his wife Rebecca Baker, sister of Mary) in Fauquier County:

Court Record 1776 25 Mar.: Fauquier Co, Virginia By court order: Thomas Maddux, Moses Johnson, Jarvis Cornwell and Thomas Edwards are to appraise the estate of John Weedon, dec'd. Fauquier co, Va Court Records 1776-1782. Compiled by John K Gott pg. 4.

Rebecca Weedon's son George died in Fauquier County in 1821, so there was a co-migration with the Edwards family. Also, Mary Baker's brother-in-law, Samuel Davis, patented 305 acres in Dettingen Parish, Prince William County prior to 1764 that he left to his son Joshua; another brother-in-law, Thomas Monroe, signed his will in King George County in 1746 and noted that he owned property in Stafford.

I have five DNA matches with descendants of Rebecca Baker and her husband Augustine Weedon. Evidently four are from one nuclear family because they're all managed by the same person (tag1142, 9 cM). I also have a match with a cousin not related to this nuclear family, K.B. (11 cM), a descendant of Mary Weedon and Thomas Dunbar, Mary being a granddaughter of Augustine and Rebecca Weedon. I have no mutual matches with any of these cousins, so at least there are no confounding DNA lines. Also have a match with a descendant of Fielding Baker (1793-1872) of Fauquier County (Cass Guerasio, 12 cM) and John Baker of Stafford County (asgaha, 11 cM).

Another John Baker and wife Susannah of Westmoreland have been eliminated as possible parents--their daughter Mary was born no later than 1703 (she served as executor of her husband's estate in 1724). John Baker Turner, her son, was witness to the will of Robert Richards in 1734, so he was born prior to 1720, which would push his mother's birthdate back into the 1690s. This makes her far too old to be having her last child in 1748. There is no indication that John Baker Turner was around the Edwards family. In 1760 he was in Culpeper County.

There is another John Baker, who bought land from William Edwards in 1708, and had a wife named Hannah. This may be the same John Baker who was a married minor in September 1703 and named his father in law, Richard Hammock, as his guardian.

John Baker (d.1728) was likely the son of John Baker Sr. (1643-bef.1702), an Englishman who was indentured to Richard West at the port of Bristol, England on July 22, 1662 along with a probable brother, Thomas Baker. Both settled in Westmoreland County. Given his close association with the Samuel Bonum family of Westmoreland seen in several court documents, it is possible John Baker married a Bonum daughter. He had documented children John, Mary and Eliza Baker, all three of whom are named as beneficiaries in the 1687 will of Richard West in Westmoreland County.

Children from this marriage were:

F i. **Susanna Edwards** was born about 1729 and died after November 1748 of Stafford County, Virginia.

F ii. **Isabel Edwards** was born about 1730 in Stafford County, Virginia and died after November 1748 of Stafford County, Virginia.

M iii. **Ignatius Edwards** was born in 1732 in Maryland and died on July 28, 1757 in Fort Loudoun, Winchester, Virginia.

F iv. **Leah Edwards** was born about 1734 and died before September 1790 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F v. **Jemima Edwards** was born on March 4, 1737 in Stafford County, Virginia, died on August 7, 1816 in Spartanburg District, South Carolina, and was buried in Charles Littlejohn Cemetery, Gaffney, SC.

M vi. **Baker Edwards** was born about 1738 in Stafford County, Virginia and died after 1810 of Aquia, Stafford County, Virginia.

M vii. **John Edwards** was born about 1740 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on February 24, 1744 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M viii. **Jesse Edwards** was born on February 14, 1742 in Stafford County, Virginia, died on May 15, 1795 in Stafford County, Virginia, and was buried in King-Roles Cemetery, Stafford County, VA.

F ix. **Anne Edwards** was born on July 17, 1745 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F x. **Sarah Edwards** was born on June 28, 1748 in Stafford County, Virginia.

7. Elizabeth Edwards (*John (Dr.)², Meredith¹*) was born about 1719 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died in 1792 in Boone's Lookout, Nelson County, Kentucky.

The SAR membership application of Myron LaFarque shows William and Elizabeth King were born in 1715 and 1719 respectively. Dates of Feb. 14, 1715 and May 22, 1719 are found around the internet, with no known sources, but a family bible is possible.

An Elizabeth Edwards was ordered whipped by the sheriff for having a bastard child in King George County court on Sep. 6, 1728.

Edwards, Elizabeth. Married William King, May 21, 1738 (Overwharton Parish Register, Stafford Co., VA)

Elizabeth Edwards was the daughter of John Edwards and Jane Arrington according to "The Monroe Family." William and Mary College Quarterly Historical Magazine. Vol. XIII #4 - Oct 1933. p. 231-241

"Elizabeth King" appears in Stafford County rent rolls in 1768, so her husband appears to have been deceased by then.

She was noted to have sold her plantation and accompanied her children to Augusta County, Virginia. She was still living in 1790, when she was named in the will of her son, Valentine King. Source: Register of Kentucky State Historical Society. Vol. 27, No. 80 (May, 1929), pp. 548-551

Descendants claim she moved to Nelson County, Kentucky and died at the home of one of her children at Boone's Lookout in 1792.

Elizabeth married **William King** on May 21, 1738 in Stafford County, Virginia. William was born about 1715 in Virginia and died before 1768 in Stafford County, Virginia.

William King was Clerk of the Court and Justice of Stafford County 1742-1760 according to Goode King Feldhauser's profile of Gen. John Edwards King in the Register of the Kentucky Historical Society, Vol. 27 No. 80.

Children from this marriage were:

M i. **Phillip King** was born about 1739 in Virginia.

M ii. **John King** was born on December 1, 1740 in Virginia.

M iii. **Withers King** was born about 1741 in Virginia and died in 1818 in Nelson County, Kentucky.

M iv. **Edmund King** was born about 1743 in Virginia.

M v. **William King** was born on February 22, 1745 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on July 2, 1833 in Nelson County, Kentucky.

M vi. **Valentine King** was born in 1747 in Stafford County, Virginia and died after April 13, 1790 of Jefferson County, Kentucky.

M vii. **Nimrod King** was born on November 29, 1750 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M viii. **Robert King** was born in Stafford County, Virginia.

M ix. **George King** was born in 1754 in Stafford County, Virginia and died after 1783 of Cumberland County, Kentucky.

F x. **Elizabeth King** was born on September 7, 1755 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M xi. **Gen. John Edwards King** was born on December 21, 1757 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on May 13, 1828 in Bourbon County, Kentucky.

M xii. **Thomas King** was born about 1759 in Stafford County, Virginia.

NOTE: Information on these children came from Register of Kentucky State Historical Society. Vol. 27, No. 80 (May, 1929), pp. 548-551 and the Overwharton Parish Register, Stafford Co., Va.

8. Meredith Edwards (*John (Dr.)², Meredith¹*) was born about 1720 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on October 16, 1749 in Stafford County, Virginia.

RECORDS

April 2, 1742: "Merriday Edwards" sued by Jeremiah Murdock in King George County court.

Feb. 22, 1744/5: Meredith Edwards first appears in Stafford County (birth of son James, Overwharton Parish).

Mar. 5, 1747: William Harrison summoned as evidence by Meredith Edwards, administrator of the goods and chattels of John Edwards, dec'd, against George Fox. Edwards ordered to pay Harrison for his trouble. On Feb. 5 previous, William Edwards also sued George Fox. (King George County court)

June 5, 1747: Case of Meredith Edwards vs. George Fox (KGC)

Mar. 4, 1747/8: Trial of Meredith Edwards vs. George Fox finds for Fox. (KGC)

June 2, 1749: Meredith Edwards wins slander case against William Swillivant. (KGC)

Oct. 1749: In Stafford County court, Deeds of Lease & Release & Receipt from Meredith Edwards to Samuel Seldon proved by the witnesses & Mary the wife of the said Meredith being privately Examined & voluntarily assenting thereto are

admitted to Record (Stafford County Order Book 1749-55. Virginia Memory Project)

Oct. 16, 1749: Just a month after his last child was born, the Overwharton Parish register of Stafford County records the death of Meredith Edwards. Given that he was sued in April 1742, he was born in 1721 or earlier.

March 1749/50: Administration on the Estate of Meridith Edwards is granted to Sarah Edwards she having entered into Bond with Husbandfoot Whitecotton her Security, Lemon Thomason Thomas Dent, Mathew Gregg & Wm [illegible] apprs. [appraisers]. (Stafford Order Book 1749-55, pg. 28)

March 8, 1752: "George Purvis and Mary, his wife" named "admin of all and singular goods, chattels, rights and credits of Meredith Edwards, dec'd" in Stafford County court. This indicates that his widow remarried to George Purvis shortly after his death.

NOTE: "Sarah Edwards" named in the above estate administration was the wife of Robert Edwards of Stafford County. This suggests Robert Edwards was a brother of Meredith Edwards.

Meredith married **Mary** before 1744.

Children from this marriage were:

M i. **James Edwards** was born on February 22, 1744 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on October 11, 1745 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F ii. **Elizabeth Edwards** was born on December 22, 1746 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M iii. **Meredith Edwards** was born on September 12, 1749 in Stafford County, Virginia.

9. Andrew Edwards (*John (Dr.)², Meredith¹*) was born about 1723 in King George County, Virginia and died in July 1788 in Stafford County, Virginia.

RECORDS

March 12, 1744: Stafford County. Virginia Deed book P; page 80 pp16-Know all men ANDREW EDWARDS, JOHN WITHERS, JOHN MURDOCK, CAIN WITHERS, DANIEL CHAMBERS are bound unto JOHN MERCER gent. first Justice in the Commission of the Peace for County of Stafford In and to Sole behalf of the Justices in Sum of 1000 pounds to be made 11th March 1755. The condition of this obligation is such that if ANDREW

EDWARDS truly pay unto MASON FRENCH orphan of HUGH FRENCH deced all such Estate hereafter to be due as soon as he shall attain to lawful age or when thereto required by the Justices as also keep harmless the above name... rest of Justices all damae that may arrive said estate....to be void or rmain... The Court. Andrew Edwards, John Fitzhugh, John Murdock, Cain Withers, Danl Chambers. At Court held for Stafford County 12 March 1744 (all signers) in open court acknowledged this their bond admitted to record.

May 14, 1751: Andrew Edwards served on a jury. He seemed to be in Stafford County court constantly between 1751 and 1755, and appears in virtually every session. (Stafford)

January 10, 1751/2: Andrew Edwards appears in a list of voters for public office in King George County. Andrew voted for Charles Carter Sr., office unknown. The fact that he appears in a voter list indicates he was either a freeholder in King George, or voted "by right of courtesy." (King George)

April 15, 1752: Act of trespass brought by Lawrence Washington & co. against Andrew and Betty Edwards, administrators of estate of James Waugh, gentleman, decd. (Stafford)

July 2, 1752: "Andrew Edwards and Betty Edwards, his wife" were administrators of the estate of James Waugh in King George County.

November 1752: The Suit on Petition between Andrew Edwards & Betty his Wife Adminrs. with the Will annexed of James Waugh decd. Plts. & Richard Pilcher deft. is dismist the deft. paying Costs. (Stafford)

May 4, 1753, Andrew Edwards sued John Kitchen. (King George)

July 1753: Andrew Edwards served as jury foreman in the trespass case of William Gale v. William Fitzhugh & Francis Thornton. (Stafford)

1753: Andrew Edwards named in various suits in Prince William County order book.

March 1754: In the Suit on Petition between Andrew Edwards Plt. & William Bartlett deft. Judgment is granted the Plt for five hundred & twenty eight pounds of Tobacco & Costs. (Stafford)

June 1754: In the Action of Trespass upon the Case between Andrew Edwards plt. & Adam Stephan deft. the Issue to be tried by a Jury is waved, & the deft. confesses Judgment to the Plt. for eighteen pounds, & six pence. It's thereupon considered by the Court that the Plt. recover the Same of the sd. deft. & his Costs by him in this behalf expended. (Stafford)

April 1755: In the Action of Trespass upon the Case between Anthony Strother

Plt. & Andrew Edward deft. the deft. not appearing Judgment is granted the Plt. against him & Withers Conway his Security for what of the Sum sued for in the declaration shall appear to be justly due unless the deft. do appear at the next Court & answer the Plt's action. (Stafford)

July 1759: According to *Fauquier County in the Revolution* by Thomas Triplett and John K. Gott, "the best known tavern in [Fauquier Courthouse] was run by Andrew Edwards, to whom a license was granted 26 July 1759." The tavern appears on the Eugene M. Scheel map of Fauquier County in 1776.

April 30, 1760: Andrew Edwards appears with Thomas Withers as witnesses to the marriage bond of Thomas Edwards. (Fauquier)

July 5, 1763: Andrew Edwards, admnr. of John Regar, decd, with Joseph Herndon (Spotsylvania Co. will book).

Nov. 5, 1776: Andrew Edwards petitions the state of Virginia, protesting the erection of houses for naval stores and using existing buildings for this purpose, citing the loss of land and funds he would suffer (Stafford). See Legislative Petitions of the General Assembly, 1776-1865, Accession Number 36121, Box 238, Folder 4

Nov. 1, 1779: Andrew Edwards petitions the state of Virginia about the discontinuation of Cave's Warehouse (Stafford). See Virginia Memory Project Legislative Petitions Accession No. 36121, Box 238, Folder 16.

1783: Andrew Edwards named in Stafford County tithables, list of John Pollard. <http://www.learnwebskills.com/patriot/va1783taxef.htm>

April 11, 1786: Andrew signs his will. Stafford County, Virginia.

July 4, 1788: Witnesses add a codicil to the will in court on this day, reportedly at the request of Andrew Edwards on his deathbed. Estate is probated ten days later.

Andrew Edwards was probably thrice married:... (3) in 1758 to Elizabeth (Cave) Withers, daughter of William Cave who died testate in Stafford County in 1742 and widow of Keene Withers (1728-1756) by whom she had five children. Andrew and Elizabeth (Cave) Edwards on only child, Andrew Neale Monister Edwards who married on October 13, 1803 in King George County, Sally Mason. Elizabeth (Cave) Withers Edwards, widow, married thirdly Thomas Walker. The will of Andrew Edwards was proved July 14, 1788; he mentions his wife Elizabeth and her son Andrew N M Edwards, son Travers Edwards; and daughters Margaret wife of Robert Lowry, Mary wife of Alvin Mountjoy, Sarah and Anna Edwards.
==Virginia Genealogist: p 107

WILL OF ANDREW EDWARDS, APRIL 11, 1786 (PROVED JULY 14, 1788)
Stafford County, Virginia.

I Andrew Edwards of Stafford County being sick & Weak of body but sound in sence & memory considering the uncertainty of life ... to my said **Wife [Elizabeth]** the use of three negroes Vizt. Nan, a house wench, Phillis & Daniel until my young son comes to the age of twenty one years ... my said son **Andrew Neale Monkister** ... this lot, Stafford Old Court house ... not to effect the right of my younger son ... Land I now live upon purchased of Mr. George Dent, one hundred and seventy acres more or less ... I give also for her support fifteen hundred pounds of Well fatted pork & the fat of said Hogs & three hundred weight of fatted beef, with the use of all my milch cows ... two bushells of Allum Salt & one bushell of Country or Liverpool Salt & thirty barrels of Indian Corn that be sound & fit for use, ten bushells of wheat one hundred Gallons of Choice Cyder ten gallons of Good Brandy to be delivered to her in s[t]rong tight Casks, four pounds of the best tea, forty pounds of Loaf sugar, thirty pounds of Coffee, sixty pounds of the best brown Sugar, one thousand pounds of Crop Tobacco on Fallmouth inspection, not more than two months old twenty pounds of well washed wool ... fire wood in plenty & in convenient season her Lott and Garden kept well inclosed with good fenceing & every repair made about the dwelling & out Houses to render them comfortable & convenient ... the Looms, slays, Geers, &c all the feathered fowles, the feathers in my house now out of Beds ... I give unto my daughter **Margaret** the money settled on her by deed, but in Case **Robert Lowery** Gives up the said money, I give **unto my daughter Margaret his wife** the negro Esther ... my daughter **Mountjoy** shall have five pounds current money, then the residue of my estate to be divided between **my two Children Travers & Sarah** Vizt. Traverse to have two thirds ... & Sarah the one third ... I appoint my two friends Col: Thos. Mountjoy & Mr. Daniel Mason together with my wife Elizabeth my Exors. to this my last Will & Testament this eleventh day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty six.

Andw. Edwards

Signed Sealed & acknowledged in the presence of us, William Berry, John Curtis, Thomas Kenna.

The words which we were called upon by the late Andrew Edwards on his death to witness were the following that his daughter Anna he gave a Negro Girl by the name of Milley. Given under our hands this 4th of July 1788.

Signed in the presence of: Suckey X Ryon, Thomas Ludwell Lee, George Lee Waugh, John Payne

[At] a Court held for Stafford County the 14th day of July 1788.

The foregoing Will of Andrew Edwards was then presented by Thos. Mountjoy

Gent. an exor. therein named who [made?] oath and gave bond with Daniel Mason & Mason [?]cher as securities for his due exon. thereof which [is] ordered to be certified. Elizabeth relict of the [tes]tator & said Daniel Mason refusing to act as such and the said Will being proved by one of the Witnesses thereto it was ordered to be certified ... And at a Court held for said County the 11th day of August next following being further proved by William Berry & John Curtis Evidences thereto and Ordered to be recorded.

Atteste: R. Tyler C.S.C., A copy Teste V. Peyton C.S.C.

Also filed ...

... I Andrew Edwards, of the County of Stafford ... my Daughters Mary the wife of Alvin Mountjoy of the County ... aforesaid, and Peggy Edwards ... 12 [?] day of August 1778.

It is hereby agreed that the sum ... intended for my Dauter Peggy shall be paid to, and received by Majr. Tho. Mountjoy in trust ... A. Edwards

Test.: William Garrard, James Garrard, John Pollard sr., John Fristoe.
Stafford to wit August Court 1778

Andrew Edwards produced in Court & acknowledged the above Deed, wch. was ordered to be recorded. --Attest: Thos. G. S. Tyler C.S.C.

Andrew married **Elizabeth Brittingham** on May 7, 1751 in Stafford County, Virginia. Elizabeth was born about 1720 in Accomack County, Virginia and died in 1756 or 1757 in Stafford County, Virginia.

She was the widow of Hugh French (died intestate in 1740) and James Waugh (died intestate, 1750) before she married Andrew Edwards in 1751. She likely died in 1757. Her maiden name comes from letters written by Nathaniel Brittingham to James Waugh over the estate of Hugh French in 1740.

“On 22 August 1740, Betty French married James Waugh. Waugh became the guardian of the French children Mason and Rachel. In 1746 Waugh sought to correct an error made in the inventory of Hugh’s estate. Apparently, Nathaniel Brittingham, shortly after Hugh’s death, wrote a series of letters to Waugh regarding a slave named Pleasant and some furniture. Brittingham claimed that French did not own Pleasant but rather Brittingham did. Waugh, who by now had children by Betty, sought to correct this error. He had the letters Brittingham wrote admitted to record along with his own deposition in an attempt to resolve this matter.”

[http://www.frenchfamilyassoc.com/FFA/CHARTS/Chart036/Chart36Records.h
tm](http://www.frenchfamilyassoc.com/FFA/CHARTS/Chart036/Chart36Records.htm)

Children from this marriage were:

F i. **Betty Edwards** was born on February 7, 1752 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on August 23, 1753 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M ii. **Billy Edwards** was born on October 1, 1753 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F iii. **Nancy Edwards** was born on March 6, 1756 in Stafford County, Virginia.

Andrew next married **Elizabeth Cave**, daughter of **William Cave** and **Anne Travers**, on January 19, 1758 in Stafford County, Virginia. Elizabeth was born about 1727 in Stafford County, Virginia and died in 1790 in Stafford County, Virginia.

Widow of Keene Withers (1727-1756; married Dec. 21, 1747), which is why she is called "Elizabeth Withers" in Overwharton Parish. According to *Withers in America* by Franz V. Recum, records show she died in Stafford in 1790 and her son James Withers received 556 acres from her estate in 1791. She is named as "Elizabeth Cave" in the 1742 will of her father, William Cave of Overwharton Parish.

Children from this marriage were:

M i. **Andrew Neil Monister Edwards** died after 1825 of Columbia County, Georgia.

Andrew married **Sally Mason** on October 13, 1803 in King George County, Virginia.

F ii. **Anna Edwards** died after July 4, 1788 of Stafford County, Virginia.

F iii. **Margaret Edwards** died after August 12, 1778 of Stafford County, Virginia.

Margaret married **Robert Lowery** before April 11, 1786.

M iv. **Travers Edwards** died after 1786. He married **Elizabeth Coleman** on June 6, 1794 in Harrison County, Kentucky.

F v. **Mary Edwards** died after 1786. She married Alvin Mountjoy.

F vi. **Sarah Edwards** died after 1786.

10. Robert Edwards (*John², Meredith¹*) was born about 1725 in King George County, Virginia and died after February 6, 1756 of Stafford County, Virginia.

There are very few records that bear his name, so he may have died young. The fact that his wife was administrator of the estate of Meredith Edwards suggests he was likely a son of Dr. John Edwards.

Aug. 1, 1746: Suit by Robert Edwards against Daniel Ross in King George County court dismissed.

1753: Robert Edwards named in a debt suit in Prince William County, Va.

His wife Sarah may have been a Matthews.

His children, as named in Overwharton Parish records were John b. Mar. 20, 1748; Matthews, b. Aug. 21, 1749; Jean b. Sep. 29, 1754; and Robert Edwards b. Feb. 6, 1756.

No further record after February 1756.

Robert married **Sarah** before 1748. Sarah was born before 1729 and died after 1756. She is named mother in the birth records of their children in Overwharton.

Sarah Edwards administered the estate of Meredith Edwards in Stafford County, Va. in March 1749/50 (Stafford Orders)

Children from this marriage were:

M i. **John Edwards** was born on March 20, 1748 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M ii. **Matthews Edwards** was born on August 21, 1749 in Stafford County, Virginia.

F iii. **Jean Edwards** was born on September 29, 1754 in Stafford County, Virginia.

M iv. **Robert Edwards** was born on February 6, 1756 in Stafford County, Virginia.

11. William Edwards (*John², Meredith¹*) was born about 1728 in King George County, Virginia and died on November 9, 1813 in Stafford County, Virginia.

RECORDS

Jul. 1, 1748: William Edwards wins suit against John Strother in King George County court. It isn't clear whether this suit was by William, son of John Edwards, or the elder William Edwards of Westmoreland County.

August 1751: Ordered that the Kings Attorney prosecute William Waters, & William Edwards, for tending Seconds by Information of Charles Harding Constable. (Stafford County Orders)

A William Edwards appears in records of King George County. Two particular cases could be him: On April 5, 1754, William Bryan and William Edwards are sued by Thomas Marshall; July 1, 1754 suit by a William Edwards against Owen Campbell. Either could be William, though it is difficult to untangle him from his uncle of the same name.

Feb. 12, 1756 marriage recorded in Overwharton Parish register. Children of William Edwards given by George Harrison Sanford King as:

William Edwards, b. May 11, 1757
John Edwards, b. Sep. 27, 1759
Richard Edwards, b. June 25, 1762
George Rumney Edwards, b. Jan. 11, 1768
Teresa Edwards, b. Nov. 25, 1773
Thomas Wheeler Edwards, b. Oct. 27, 1776.

Given that most of these births are too late to have been captured in Overwharton Parish Register, this is likely from a family bible or other tradition. See below:

According to the The Register of Overwharton Parish, Stafford Co, VA, 1723-1758 and Sundry Historical and Genalogical Notes, Compiled and Published by George Harrison Sanford King, Fellow, American Society of Genealogist, Fredericksburg, VA, Southern Historical Press, Easley, SC, 1961, the parish register entry of Eleanor WHEELER and William EDWARDS who married 12 Feb 1756 is that of William EDWARDS' parents. King adds in a footnote: "A descendant of this couple [William and Eleanor WHEELER Edwards] sent me the following data: William EDWARDS was born in VA in 1728; died November 9, 1813. He married February 12, 1756 Eleanor WHEELER who was born in MD, 1730; died June 9, 1811 on the Potomac River. Issue: (1) William, born May 11, 1757, married Elizabeth Combs, and moved to Clarke Co. KY; (2) John (September 27, 1759-August 3, 1838) [See Revolutionary Pension #R-3257 for his Bible record]; (3) Richard (June 25, 1762-1783); (4) George Rumney born January 11, 1763; (5) Theresa, born November 25, 1773; (6) Thomas Wheeler Edwards born October 27, 1776 and moved to KY about 1800."

<http://www.combs-families.org/combs/families/c-cut1.htm>

William married **Eleanor Wheeler** on February 12, 1756 in Stafford County, Virginia. Eleanor was born about 1730 in Maryland and died June 9, 1811 in Stafford County, Virginia.

12. Bridget Edwards (*John², Meredith¹*) was born about 1735 in King George County, Virginia and died after January 1758.

Bridget married **Jeremiah Spilman** on January 16, 1758 in Stafford County, Virginia.

Their marriage record appears in the Overwharton Parish register. Nothing further is known of this couple.

13. Thomas Edwards (*John², Meredith¹*) was born about 1739 in King George County, Virginia and died after January 6, 1809 in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

Andrew Edwards of Fauquier Courthouse and Thomas Withers (brother of the first husband of Andrew's second wife, Elizabeth Cave) are named in the marriage bond of Thomas Edwards and Elizabeth Shadrack on April 30, 1760. This suggests he is a close relative of Andrew, and given his birth in the 1730s, is likely his brother. Given that he does not appear in the Tithables List of Fauquier County in 1759, he was likely not yet age 21.

Know all men by these Presents that we
Thomas Edwards Andrew Edwards and Thomas
Withers are held and firmly bound to our
Sovereign Lord King George the Second in the form
of Fifty Pounds to the payment whereof well and
truly to be made we bind ourselves our heirs
Executors & Adminors jointly and severally firmly
by these Presents Sealed with our seals and
dated this 30th Day of April 1760
The condition of the above obligation is such that
whereas there is a Marriage suddenly intended to
be solemnized between Thomas Edwards and
Elizabeth Shadrack Widow Nor if there be no
lawful cause to obstruct the said intended
Marriage then this obligation to be void
otherwise to remain in force
Sealed & delivered } Thos Edwards
in presence of }
Humphrey Brooke }
Jno Edwards

Marriage bond of Thomas Edwards, Fauquier Co., Virginia, 1760.

Thomas Edwards served in the American Revolution. Listed in book "Fauquier in the Revolution" by Gott & Russell: Thomas Edwards, Ensign, Fauquier Co. Militia, oath Sep 1778; 2nd Lieutenant in Francis Atwell's Co., Jul 1779; 2nd Lieutenant in Daniel Floweree's Co., recom. Sep 1780. DAR list him as a patriot ancestor, give dates as c.1735 to ante Jan. 6, 1809.

Court Summons 1760 24 Jul. Fauquier Co, Virginia On motion of Samuel Earle and Charles Moorehead. It is ordered that Elizabeth, wife of Thomas Edwards, be summoned to appear at the next Court to give them counter security. Minute Bk Abstracts of Fauquier Co, VA pg. 54

Jury Duty 1761 27 Mar. Fauquier Co, Virginia Thomas Edwards is appt as a juror. Fauquier Co, VA Minute Book Abstracts 1759-1762 pg. 90

Court Record 1761 27 Nov. Fauquier County, VA Thomas Edwards, plt. against Ephraim Hubbard, deft. Case dismissed, as the Defendant is no inhabitant of this county. Minute Bk Abstracts of Fauquier Co, VA 1761-1762

Jury Duty 1762 28 May. Fauquier Co, Virginia Thomas Edwards is appt as a juror. Minute Bk Abstracts if Fauquier Co, VA 1761-1763 pg. 50, 53, 55

Property 1762 26 Aug. Fauquier Co, Virginia William Wright and Mary, his wife, to Thomas Edwards, for 65 lbs, 125 acres, adj Simon Morgan & Jonas Williams on Pignut Ridge. Wit: Isaac Judd, James Bashaw. Thomas Coleman. Fauquier Deed Bk 1 pg. 369-375

Jury Duty 1763 27 May. Fauquier County, VA THOMAS EDWARDS served on a jury. Fauquier Co, VA Minute Bk 1763-1764 pg. 75

Court Record 1763 28 May. Fauquier Co, Virginia Messrs Andrew Cockran, Esqr & Co, plts agt. THOMAS EDWARDS, Deft. On a petition- Judgment granted the plts against the Deft for 2 pounds, 19 shillings and 8 pence and costs 7 shillings and 6 pence for a lawyers fee. Fauquier Co Minute Book 1763-64 pg. 99

Court Record 1763 28 May. Fauquier Co, Virginia James Scott Clerk, Plt, agt THOMAS EDWARDS, Deft. In trespass. this day came the parties by their Attorneys and Deft. prays and has leave to impart specially to Plts. Declaration until next Court and then to be plead. Fauquier Co. Min Bk 1763-64 pg. 94

Jury Duty 1763 23 Jun. Fauquier Co, VA THOMAS EDWARDS served on a jury.. Fauquier Co, Minute Bk 1763-1764 pg. 110,112, 115

Jury Duty 1763 24 Jun. Fauquier Co, Virginia Thomas Edwards served on a jury. Fauquier Co. Minute Bk 1763-64 pg. 130, 132

Court Record 1763 24. Fauquier County, VA James Scott, Clerk Plt, agt. THOMAS EDWARDS, Deft. In Trespass. This day came the parties by their Attorneys and

Defendant pleads not guilty and the trial of the issue is referred until next court.
Fauquier Co. Minute Bk 1763-1764 pg. 127

Jury Duty 1763 28 Jul. Fauquier Co, Virginia THOMAS EDWARDS served on a jury. Fauquier Co. Minute BK 1763-64 pg. 144,145,146,147

Court Record 1763 30 Jul. Fauquier Co, Virginia James Scott Clk, Plt against Thomas Edwards, Deft. The defendant is found guilty and ordered to pay damages and court costs. Minute Bk Abstracts of Fauquier Co, Va pg. 83

Jury Duty 1763 30 Jul. Fauquier Co, Virginia THOMAS EDWARDS served on a jury. Fauquier Co Minute Bk 1763-1764 pg. 159

Court Record 1764 25 Jun. Fauquier Co, Virginia Deed: William Elliott to Thomas Chilton. Wit: Charles Chilton. Receipt Wit by: Wm Ransdell, Thomas Edwards. Fauquier Co, Va Deeds 1759-1778. Compiled by John K Gott pg. 43

Jan. 28, 1774: Thomas and Elizabeth Edwards witness bill of sale between Daniel Pendleton and John Waddle (Fauquier Co. Deeds)

Court Record 1776 25 Mar. Fauquier Co, Virginia By court order: Thomas Maddux, Moses Johnson, Jarvis Cornwell and Thomas Edwards are to appraise the estate of John Weedon, dec'd. Fauquier co, Va Court Records 1776-1782. Compiled by John K Gott pg. 4

Court Record 1777 24 Nov. Fauquier Co, Virginia The Court proceeded to the Recommendations of officers of the Militia in this County: Francis Attwell: Capt., William Norris, 1st Lt, Joseph Taylor, 2nd Lt, Thomas Edwards, Ensign. Fauquier Co, VA Court Records 1776-1782. Compiled by John K Gott pg. 27

Military 1778. Virginia, USA 2nd Lieutenant.

Court Record 1779 28 Jun. Fauquier Co, VA Oath prescribed by the Act of Assembly administered to Joseph Taylor -1st Lt, Thomas Edwards and John Martin, 2nd Lts. and John Ball and Augustin Smith, Ensigns in the Militia of this county, Fauquier co, Va Court Records. Compiled by John K Gott pg. 75

Public Claim 1781 Fauquier Co, Virginia Thos Edwards made a claim for 6 1/2 Bushels of Rye, which was granted by Col. Wm Edmonds. Virginia Publick Claims, Compiled by Janice L Abercrombie & Richard Slatten. pg. 31

Court Record 1782 Sep. Fauquier Co, Virginia Thomas Thomson and Judith, his wife, Admix of Patrick Spence, dec'd, Plts against Thomas Edwards and Elizabeth, his wife, Defts. In Debt. Considered by the Court that charges are false. Plts to pay all costs. Fauquier Co, Va court rec 1776-1782 pg 157

Tax List 1787 10 Mar. Fauquier Co, Virginia District C: THOMAS EDWARDS - self, (1 male 15-21: William Edwards), 2 horses and 6 head of cattle
Property 1787 2 Apr. Fauquier Co, Virginia Deed: Thomas Edwards and wife Elizabeth to Joseph Blackwell, Jr for 125 lbs., 125 acres.

Fauquier Co, VA Deed BK 9 pg. 389-391 (Abstract of this deed)
The indenture made 2 April 1787 between Thomas Edwards and Elizabeth his wife of Fauquier County of the one part, and Joseph Blackwell, Jr of the said county of the other part. For and in consideration of the sum of 125 pounds current Virginia money, paid in hand, do sell unto Joseph Blackwell and his heirs or assigns a certain tract of land in Fauquier County, containing 125 acres. It being the land upon which Thomas Edwards now lives, joining the land of Simon Morgan and Jonas Williams and being part of a greater dividend taken up by Waugh Darnall, deceased by patent, dated 7 February 1725. /s/ Thomas Edwards, Elizabeth (X) Edwards Witnesses: Martin Pukett, Thads Novus, Thos Chilton, Joseph Chilton Proven at a court in Fauquier Co, VA on 25 June 1787 by the oaths of Martin Pukett, Joseph Chilton and Thomas Chilton.

Property 1793. Rutherford Co, North Carolina John Wallace to Thomas Edwards-land lying on the S. side of the Green River. Rutherford Co. DBk M-Q pg. 363
Residence 1800. Morgan, Rutherford, North Carolina Thomas Edwards: 1 male over 45, 1 female over 45, 3 males 16-25, 1 slave

Residence 1800. Morgan, Rutherford, North Carolina 1 source citation
Property 1805. Rutherford Co, North Carolina Thomas Edwards, of Buncombe Co, NC to Ambrose Mills of same, for \$200, land on the S. Side of Green River. Rutherford Co, NC DBk 22-23 pg. 525

Death 1809 6 Jan. Buncombe, NC, USA (from DAR record)

Power of Attorney 1832 5 Sep Buncombe Co, North Carolina Andrew S Edwards of Rutherford Co, TN to Thomas Edwards, of Buncombe Co, NC, as heir of Thomas Edwards, Sr, deceased of Rutherford Co, NC. Buncombe Co, NC Deed Bk 7 pg. 19.

His children are listed as: Rev. Martin E., Nancy, William, Elizabeth, Charles, Thomas, S. P., Ellis, and Andrew Stribling Edwards.

All above information on Thomas Edwards is from the research of Pam Wilson, sourced from: <https://www.geni.com/people/Lt-Thomas-Edwards/6000000023360051814>

Thomas married **Elizabeth Martin** on April 30, 1760 in Fauquier County, Virginia. Elizabeth was born about 1739 and died about October 1, 1830 in Buncombe County, North Carolina.

14. John Edwards (*William², Meredith¹*) was born about 1710 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after 1770 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

John Edwards remained in St. Mary's County, Maryland. His son, Jonathan moved to Loudoun County, Virginia in 1789 or earlier evidently to join Benjamin Edwards, who is known to have lived there at the time. This connection suggests John Edwards may have been a son of William and Mary Edwards, although this is very speculative. John's wife Elizabeth was named in her mother's will as "wife of John Edwards" in November 1733, St. Mary's County, MD. See: *Ancestral Study of Four Families: Roberts, Griffith, Cartwright [and] Simpson...* By Emily Griffith Roberts.

Jonathan arrived in Loudoun before April 1789:

A deed on Apr 2, 1789 stated: Jonathan Edwards this came before me and made oath that his removing into the State of Virginia was with no intent of Evading the Law for providing the further Importation of slaves and that he did not bring with him any slaves with an Intention of selling them nor has any of the slaves which he brought with him been imported from Africa or any of the West India Islands since the first day of November 1778 given under my hand this 2nd day of April 1789 Jon Davis [signed]" Recorded February 12, 1799 in Loudoun court.

John married **Elizabeth Cartwright**, daughter of **John Cartwright** and **Sarah Burroughs**, before November 1733 in St. Mary's County, Maryland.

(Incomplete) children from this marriage were:

F i. **Ann Edwards** was born about 1730 in St. Mary's County, Maryland and died about 1793 in St. Mary's County, Maryland. She married Luke Barber. (speculative—given that she and Jonathan both married Barbers in St. Mary's County, this suggests possible kinship).

M ii. **Jonathan Edwards** was born about 1740 in St. Mary's County, Maryland and died in 1810 in Loudoun County, Virginia. He married Sarah Barber.

Note: There is a list of children from the John and Elizabeth Edwards marriage from *Edwards Heirs*, but given the newsletter was known to entirely fabricate genealogies, its accuracy is questionable. John Edwards evidently did not have a will, so no contemporary account of his children exists. *Edwards Heirs* gives the complete list as:

Jonathan b. Mar. 27, 1741

Sarah b. Sep. 11, 1743

Elizabeth b. Oct. 12, 1746

George b. May 6, 1748
Hannah b. June 6, 1751
Catherine b. May 1, 1755
Lorinda b. July 6, 1757

Taken from: "Mr C F Moran 1537 North Topeka Avenue Wichita, Kansas,"
Edwards Heirs Vol. 2, No. 3 (March 1926): 150-2. Material contained in
Collections of the Edwards Families of the United States Presented to Mrs
John Edwards Dance, President of The Edwards Family of Georgia 1925-
1926, Atlanta Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, March 1951;
available on-line at <http://www.lib.byu.edu/fhc/>

15. Mary Edwards (*William², Meredith¹*) was born about 1712 in
Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before July 1, 1771 in Prince William
County, Virginia.

She may have been the unnamed granddaughter in the will of Meredith Edwards,
dated June 17, 1712. Her grandfather gave her one heifer.

Mary Edwards and Charles Wells's marriage was recorded in the St. Paul Parish
register (Dec. 10, 1733). The births of their children were also recorded.

Children of Mary EDWARDS and Charles WELLS are:

- i. Samuel WELLS was born 16 SEP 1734 in Stafford County, Virginia,
- ii. Charles WELLS was born 10 JUL 1740 in Stafford County, Virginia.
- iii. John WELLS was born 13 JUL 1742 in Stafford County, Virginia.
- iv. Hayden WELLS was born 9 SEP 1744 in Stafford County, Virginia.
- v. Eleanor WELLS was born 19 APR 1747 in Stafford County, Virginia.
- vi. Benjamin WELLS was born 22 AUG 1751 in Stafford County, Virginia.

After the death of Mary Edwards Wells, her son, Hayden sold her property to her
brother, Hayden Edwards:

THIS INDENTURE made the (in Lease twentyeth) (in Release twentyeth first)
day of April in vear of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and Seventy one
Between HADEN WELLS Millwright of STAFFORD COUNTY of one part and
HADEN EDWARDS Planter. of County of Prince William of other part
Witnesseth that HADEN WELLS for One hundred pound currant money of
Virginia hath sold unto HADEN EDWARDS in his actual possession now being
by virtue of Sale for one year and by force of Statute for transferring uses in to
possession and to his heirs forever All that tract of land containing One hundred
& sixty acres and sixteen acres adjoining the MILL on North side of the same
being in County of Prince William being part of a tract of ABRAHAM FARROWS
and conveyed to CHARLES WELLS deceased and from him to his Son HADEN
WELLS . and from him conveyed to HADEN EDWARDS, party to these presents,

and bounded Beginning at A a Poplar corner to a tract of land of Capt. WM. BENNET deceased & the said WELLS thence N. W. to a white Oak .. Corner to sd BENNETT and WELLS at B standing on South side of QUANTICO RUN on a Poplar on North side of the same & thence nrning down the sd Run with Emma.nder and Emmanders thereof below the MILL to two white Oaks . corner between BENJA WELLS and sd HADEN WELLS, thence S. W. to the afsd beginning Poplar Corner containing One hundred & sixty acres and the sixteen acres on North side of said MILL agreeable to Colo EWELLS Survey make the whole One hundred and Seventy six acres together with all houses, waters and appurtenances belonging To have and to hold unto HADEN EDWARDS his heirs & assigns In Witness whereof I HADEN WELLS have set my hand and Seal in presents of SIMON LUTTRELL SENR . HADEN WELLS
SIMON LUTTRELL. ROBERT LUTTRELL.
BENJAMIN EDWARDS, NANCY EDWARDS

At a Court held for Prince William County the 1st day of July 1771.

This Release with the Receipt indorsed were proved by the oaths of SIMON LUTTRELL, ROBERT LUTTRELL and BENJAMIN EDWARDS and admitted to record

<https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=Io18468&tree=Tree1>

<https://www.colonial-settlers-md-va.us/getperson.php?personID=Io36529&tree=Tree1>

Mary married **Charles Wells**, son of **Samuel Wells** and **Eleanor Carty**, on December 10, 1733 in Stafford County, Virginia. Charles was born about 1710 in Stafford County, Virginia and died before September 1, 1766 in Stafford County, Virginia (when his widow exhibited an account against his estate in court).

16. Haden Edwards (*William², Meredith¹*) was born on March 16, 1716 in Stafford County, Virginia, died on July 13, 1803 in Bourbon County, Kentucky, and was buried in Edwards Cemetery, Paris, KY.

The birth of Haden Edwards, "son of William and Mary, Washington Parish" on March 16, 1715/6 was recorded in St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, now a part of King George County. His christening date was given as April 15, 1716.

According to historian Jerrilyn Eby, Haden Edwards was an attorney and Virginia legislator. He also holds the distinction of being the father of John Edwards (1748-1833), one of the first two United States senators from Kentucky, as well as grandfather of Haden and Benjamin Edwards, architects of the Fredonian Rebellion of 1826, the first attempt to secede land now in Texas from Mexico.

June 4, 1743: Haden Edwards suit against Margaret French commenced, King George County court. (Settled July 1, 1743).

Haden Edwards named in a road order of Dec. 21, 1752, Fairfax County, Virginia: "The Petition about Hadon Edwards turning a road is rejected."
http://www.viriniadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/03-r19.pdf

Haden Edwards appears in records of Prince William County in 1751-52 (rent rolls), 1753, 1754 (rent rolls), 1760, 1761, 1765, 1773, 1777, 1779. See
<http://doczz.net/doc/3703630/prince-william-county-people--1701-1800-pdf>

According to tax records, sometime between 1768 and 1773 he acquired the Carty Wells farm known as "Springfield" in Stafford County, Virginia. Today it lies just south of the intersection of Joplin Rd. and MCB-1, on Choppawamsick Run in Stafford County. In some printed accounts from the 19th and 20th centuries, Haden Edwards is also described as "of Fauquier County." (See *Land of Herring and Persimmons...* by Jerrilyn Eby). This is clearly the purchase he made from Hayden Wells on July 1, 1771.

From George Harrison Sanford King the following: "...about the year 1785 Haden Edwards and family moved to Bourbon County, Kentucky, and settled about four miles from Paris, where he took up a large amount of land. The records of Cooper's Run Baptist church (reference: register, vol. 22, pages 258-259) show Haden Edwards to have been a member of that church as well as his wife Penelope Edwards, who was admitted by letter in 1796 from Chopowamsie, Virginia. This is a section of Virginia lying in Stafford and Prince William Counties; Chopawasmie Creek dividing the two counties on the south. Haden Edwards died in Bourbon County, Kentucky, at the age of 87 years, July 13, 1803 and was buried on his farm near Paris, Kentucky."

His will of Nov. 10, 1801 names his wife Penelope and his children John, Benjamin, Sanford, and George Edwards, Penelope Pope, Nancy Williams and Betsey Chancellor. Proved Aug. 15, 1803. Henry Strother, writing in the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 17, claims Haden had brothers Robert b. 1713, John, and Benjamin b. 1725. It also claims Haden, son of William, with William son of William Edwards and Ann Harrison of Lancaster County.

Hayden Edwards was a merchant and lawyer, and he served several times in the Virginia legislature and filled many official positions with ability.

After Hayden's death Penelope moved to Logan County, Kentucky.

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RECORDS

EDWARDS, HADEN-Will Book B, page 201-Wife, Penelope; sons, Benjamin, Sandford, George, John; daughters, Penelope Pope, Nancy Williams, Betsy

Chanulor; granddaughter, Penelope Edwards, lands in Henderson County. Roger Williams, an extr. Nov. 10, 1802. August, 1803. Reuben Field, Wm. Stamps, and Zely Reno, witnesses.

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Prince William County, Virginia Deeds Antient Press: Liber M; 1749 - 1752; pp 135-139

THIS INDENTURE made the twenty sixth and twenty seventh day of November in the twenty fourth year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord GEORGE the second and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty Between PHILEMON WATERS the Younger of the County of Prince William Planter and SARAH his Wife of one part and HADEN EDWARDS of the County of FAIRFAX Planter of other part Witnesseth that said PHILEMON WATERS for the sum of Forty pounds current money of Virginia they the said PHILEMON WATERS and SARAH his Wife have granted unto the said HADEN EDWARDS (in his actual possession now being by virtue of a bargain & sale for one year and by force of the statute for transferring uses into possession) and to his heirs & assigns forever all that parcel of land containing (as by a Survey thereof made by Mr. GEORGE BYRN Surveyor of the said County of Prince William on the eighth day of September preceeding the date of these presents) One hundred and Sixty acres of land being in the County of Prince William being part of a Larger Tract of land granted to PHILEMON WATERS by PATENT from the PROPRIETORS OFFICE dated the Eighth day of February one thousand seven hundred and twenty five for Five hundred and Eighty six acres of land and bounded by the said Survey as followeth Vizt. beginning at two white Oaks on a branch side corner of said land and corner to COLONEL FAIRFAX and extending from thence across the said Branch South West to several marked Saplings corner to RENO then with that line West to a white Oak corner to said RENO and GABRIEL MUFFITT then South East to the line of JOHN BAKERS thence North East to the corner of said BAKER thence with his line South East to a Spanish Oak corner to COLONEL FAIRFAX thence North West to the first beginning To Have and To Hold the said parcel of land and all the premises unto the said HADEN EDWARDS his heirs and assigns forever. In Witness whereof the partys have sett their hands & Seals in presents of JNO. HAMILTON, PHILLM. WATERS

HENRY PENDLETON, WILLIAM WRIGHT SARAH WATERS

At a Court continued and held for the County of Prince William the 27 day of November 1750 PHILEMON WATERS JUNR, and SARAH his Wife (she being first privately examined & thereto consenting) acknowledged this Release & Receipt which are admitted to record

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Prince William County, Virginia Deeds Antient Press: Liber M; 1749 - 1752; pp 222-224:

THIS INDENTURE made the twenty fifth and twenty sixth day of Aprill in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and fifty two Between HADEN EDWARDS of Prince William County of one part and JAMES BYRN of STAFFORD COUNTY, of other part Witnesseth that said HADEN EDWARDS for

the sum of Forty pounds lawful! mony of Virginia doe fully discharge the said JAMES BYRN his heirs & every of them by these presents & the sum of Five shillings of Lawful mony of England doth grant unto said JAMES BYRN in his actual possession now being by virtue of a Bargain and Sale for one year & by the force of the statute for transferring uses into possession and unto his heirs & assigns a parcel of land in Prince William County being two hundred acres of land & is bounded begining at a Hicory by a Branch dividing this land from JOHN SMITHs thence South West to a red Oak by a Branch thence South West to a white Oak & Hickory by a ROAD, thence South East to the begining including Two hundred acres of land the aforesd land being now in the occupation of the said HADEN EDWARDS and all and singular the houses and all appurtenances belonging To Have and To Hold unto the said JAMES BYRN & his heirs forever, In Witness whereof the parties have set their hands and seals. In presents of JOSUH CARTER, HADEN EDWARDS, CORNELIUS LATHAM, JOHN JOHNSON PENELLAPA EDWARDS.

At a Court held for the County of Prince William the 27 day of April 1752. HADEN EDWARDS acknowledged this Release & Receipt to be his acts and deeds which are admitted to record and PENELOPE the Wife of the said HADEN being first privately examined relinquished her right of dower to the land & premises conveyed.

Haden married **Penelope Sanford** about 1747. Penelope was born about 1723 in England, died before May 15, 1809 in Logan County, Kentucky, and was buried in Edwards Cemetery, Paris, KY.

Children from this marriage (as named in the will of Haden Edwards) were:

M i. **Sen. John Edwards** was born in 1748 in Stafford County, Virginia, died before August 14, 1834 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and was buried in Edwards Cemetery, Paris, KY.

M ii. **Benjamin Edwards** .

F iii. **Penelope Edwards** .

M iv. **Sanford Edwards** .

F v. **Nancy Edwards** .

M vi. **George Edwards** .

F vii. **Betsey Edwards** .

17. Benjamin Edwards (*William², Meredith¹*) was born before 1725 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died in 1803 in Loudoun County, Virginia.

November 25, 1746: His father conveyed him 100 acres and he conveyed this same land to Aaron Grigsby in April 1760 while living in Loudoun County. To legally receive land, he must have been at least age 21, born no later than 1725.

Per Loudoun County road orders, he may have had sons named John and Arthur. There was also an Elisha Edwards. According to materials posted by the Thomas Balch Library on Facebook, his wife was named Elizabeth and he had another son named Phillip.

Jan. 6, 1748/9: Benjamin Edwards was security for Francis Baltrop in the administration of the estate of David Williams. King George County, Va.

In 1755, Benjamin Edwards of Prince William County was among a group of men who petitioned for payment for 66 days service in the French and Indian War. ("Virginia's Colonial Soldiers.")

June 11, 1760, Benjamin Edwards was appointed overseer of the road from Leesburg to Goose Creek in Loudoun County. He served until 1762. In November 1763 he was ordered to find a way to clear a road to John Hough's mill on Goose Creek. In 1769-70 he was ordered to oversee another, undescribed road.

In June 1772 a John Edwards makes his first appearance in Loudoun Road Orders, as a hand to work for Michael Brown, surveyor, and in 1773 Arthur and Elisha Edwards appears. In March 1776 it was noted that an "Edwards" lived on the road to Little Rocky Run. In Jan. 1777 it was noted that Arthur Edwards had a shop.

April 1781 it was noted that Benjamin Edwards lived near Daniel Moxley's plantation on the road to Leesburg.

Benjamin Edwards appears in a number of Loudoun County road orders from 1760 through 1797.

http://www.viriniadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/13-r10.pdf
http://www.viriniadot.org/vtrc/main/online_reports/pdf/15-r18.pdf

1753-1773 King George Co., Va - Deed Book; pp. 516-519
Indenture made 31st August 1762/1st September 1763 between BOLES BALTHROP of county Westmoreland and parish Washington and AARON GRIGSBY of county King George and parish Brunswick .. by deeds of lease and release.. for One hundred and sixty two pounds Ten shillings .. sold land now in occupation of Aaron Grigsby part in parish Brunswick King George County & part in Westmoreland County & part in Stafford County containing 137 acres .. it being one half of tract of land granted to THOMAS HARVEY late of county Richmond

Deceased for 220 acres .. by deed dated 20th July 1697 and since divided equally betwixt WILLIAM WHEELER late of county Westmoreland deceased and FRANCIS BALTHROP late of county King George deced .. corner HORATIO DADE .. corner land formerly belonging BENJA. EDWARDS .. corner WILLIAM FITZHUGH ..

Presence Harris Hooe, Bolestier Balthrop

Winny x Balthrop, Enoch Strother

At a court held 1st September 1763 Deeds of lease and release admitted to reco.

There was an account settlement for the estate of Benjamin Edwards on 14 Aug 1804 with activities starting 18 Sep 1789 in Loudoun County. The papers were returned to the court on 11 Feb 1806.

<http://www.robertstoy.com/database-PhilipStoy/StoyFamily-o/go/p15.htm#i4026>

Benjamin Edwards ran Edwards Ferry in Loudoun County:

In October 1791, the legislature of Virginia passed “an act to establish new ferries, and discontinue a former one.” One of the new ferries operated “from the land of Benjamin Edwards (unknown-1803), at the mouth of Goose Creek, in the County of Loudoun...” Benjamin Edwards bought and sold a number of parcels in and around Leesburg, and had owned the Edwards tract at the (west) bank of Goose Creek and the Potomac since Loudoun’s formation in 1757. He operated a private ferry service from as early as the late 1750s until his death in 1803. Elizabeth, his wife, and Philip, his son, took over management of the ferry until Daniel G. Smith, successful local landowner, acquired the ferry around 1850; Smith kept the name “Edwards Ferry.”

From Facebook page of Thomas Balch Library.

18. Mary Sargent Edwards (*Thomas², Meredith¹*) was born about 1754 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. She died after October 22, 1782.

Mary married Thomas Cowles between 1774 and 1782. Thomas was born about 1755 in James City County, Virginia and died in 1804 in James City County, Virginia. Their marriage is noted in her father’s estate inventory. He was a brother of her sister’s husband, James Cowles. See *Genealogy of the Cowles Family in America*.

19. Frances “Franky” Edwards (*Thomas², Meredith¹*) was born in 1756 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on December 13, 1822 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

Marriage:https://archive.org/stream/edwardsheirsoounse/edwardsheirsoounse_djvu.txt

Death date comes from Thomas Edwards family bible: "Sister Frances Wickliff departed this life the 13th day of December 1822 in the 66th year of her age."

In the 1820 US census of Greenville, South Carolina, she appears to be living in the home of William E. Wickliffe (one female over age 45 noted.)

Franky Wickliffe wrote her will on Mar. 31, 1818 in Greenville District, South Carolina, naming a son as "William Edwards Wickliffe" and noting she had lands adjoining Charles Allen and "Thomas Edwards Jr." Names other child as daughter Lucy Stokes. Probated Jan. 6, 1823. Will Book B, page 33.

Genealogists citing a book called *The Wickliffe's in America* give her husband's dates as Dec. 8, 1752 - July 21, 1797 (impossible if he wrote his will in October) and hers as May 6, 1757 - Dec. 13, 1822.

Franky married **Isaac Wickliffe** about 1776. Isaac was born about 1752 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died between October and December 1797 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

A genealogical and historical account of the Throckmorton family in England and the United States notes that Isaac was a son of David Wickliffe of Westmoreland County, Virginia, and claims he married Frankie Edwards of Greenville South Carolina in 1776 and died July 21, 1797.

Will of Isaac Wickliffe: Index and Will, Vol 1-2, Books A-C, 1787-1853, written October 1797, probated Dec. 10, 1797 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

20. Rev. William Edwards (*Thomas*², *Meredith*¹) was born about 1760 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died before February 5, 1807 in Westmoreland County, Virginia.

He may be the William Edwards who enlisted in the 5th Virginia Regiment as a private on March 3, 1776 and served until Feb. 26, 1778. The 5th mustered men in Westmoreland, among several other counties. See: Revolutionary War Rolls, 1775-1783; (National Archives Microfilm Publication M246, 138 rolls); War Department Collection of Revolutionary War Records, Record Group 93; National Archives, Washington. D.C.

He may be the Rev. William Edwards who married Franky Pope in Westmoreland County in 1790. Evidently, he and Franky had at least two daughters, Frances, who married Elliott Porter, and Susan, who married John

Hunter. They may have also had a son named William around 1800, who appears in the 1830 US census of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

USGenWeb Archives, Westmoreland County, VA Early Marriages "December 3, 1790, Rev. William Edwards and Franky Pope, Lars Pope, her father, gives his consent"... "February 5, 1807, Elliott Porter and Frances Edwards, Franky Edwards, her mother, gives her consent" "August 7, 1813, John Hunter and Susan Edwards, Frances Edwards, her mother, gives her consent..."

21. Thomas Edwards (*Thomas², Meredith¹*) was born on January 25, 1762 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on August 7, 1832 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

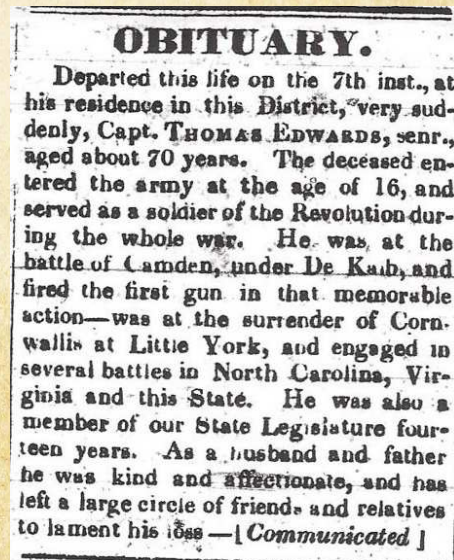
The 1830 U.S. census gives his age as 60 to 70 years. This is consistent with his obituary, which places his birth as 1762. His family bible gives a date of Jan. 25, 1762. He is named in the will of Thomas Edwards of Westmoreland County, Virginia in June 1774.

Prince William County Court: May 5, 1783. On the motion of Philip Daw Assignee of Thomas Edwards, It is ordered to be certified to the Register of the Land Office that the said Thomas Edwards was a Soldier in the Virginia State Artillery for [illegible]year [or years] – served his time of enlistment duly & was entitled to the Lands for the service by the resolve of Congress & acts of Assembly of this State. Copy Rob't Graham Clk.
<https://revwarapps.org/VAS1250.pdf>

May 9, 1789: Thomas Edwards witness to jointure of land belonging to Paul Williams, dec'd, per pre-nup he had with wife Sarah Williams in Fauquier County. (Culpeper County Will Book B/C)

Culpepper County, Virginia records show a deed of gift for slaves, dated February 23, 1791, from Thomas Edwards to William Edwards and Charles Wickliff. 1791 Culpeper Co., VA, DB Q, Pg 270; Thomas, Jr disposes of property to his son, William, and Charles WICKCLIFFE for benefit of Thomas' Sister, Frances (Franky) who married Isaac WICKCLIFFE/Wycliffe. This record shows that Frances is a sister to Thomas EDWARDS, Jr and therefore a daughter of Thomas EDWARDS, Sr.

As an adolescent (age 16 according to his obituary), Thomas Edwards served in the American Revolution and was present at the Battle of Yorktown (October 1781). He was living in South Carolina by the mid-1790s. Writing his will 8 July



1825, he mentioned four tracts of land in Greenville District and fifteen slaves. According to an inventory of his estate, he possessed twelve slaves at death. Public service for Edwards began with his appointment as a county court judge for Greenville (1796). Elected to the House, he represented Greenville in the Thirteenth (1798-1799), Fourteenth (1800-1801), Fifteenth (1802-1804), Seventeenth (1806-1808), Eighteenth (1808-1809), and Twentieth (1812-1813) General Assemblies.

While in the House, he was a member of the following committees:

Privileges and elections (1798-1799, 1802-1804), religion (1800-1804, 1808-1809, 1812-1813), judiciary (1802-1804, 1808-1809), pensions (1802-1804), ways and means (1806-1809), reform (1806-1809), claims (1806-1808), public buildings (1806-1808), grievances (1806-1808), and schools (1812).

On December 12, 1799, he was elected ordinary for Greenville, and he evidently held this post (despite his legislative service) through 1808. His House service was not without controversy. In 1802 he was cited by the state Senate for breach of privilege; in response to a disparaging poem about himself, Edwards had posted a derogatory paper about Elias Earle in the Senate chamber. A few years later, his election to the Seventeenth General Assembly was challenged, but the committee on privileges and elections decided on 29 Nov 1806 that his election was valid.

Other offices he held included captain and/or major in the state militia. Thomas Edwards' home served as the first Post Office in a town now called Traveler's Rest, South Carolina, located just north of Greenville. His first home still stands and is occupied. His second home is also still in use. The Edwards family and McClanahan family were friends and neighbors for several generations. When Edwards removed to South Carolina, John McClanahan also moved there.

<https://www.genealogy.com/ftm/d/i/g/Rhonda-Digiammatteo-TX/WEBSITE-0001/UHP-0360.html>

His granddaughter, Frances Wyckliffe Edwards (1819-1883) was First Lady of Texas, being the wife of Gov. Oran Milo Roberts.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/5180703/frances-wyckliffe-roberts>

Thomas married **Mary Ann McClanahan** on August 27, 1782 in Westmoreland County, Virginia. Mary was born on August 16, 1763 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died on November 14, 1841 in Greenville County, South Carolina.

All dates come from Thomas Edwards family bible, which also gives the date of his death for his sister, Franky Wickliffe. It gives the births of his children as:

1. William Edwards born Apr. 24, 1784
2. Thomas Edwards Jr. b. May 10, 1786
3. Peter Edwards b. Oct. 4, 1788
4. Jesse Edwards b. Jan. 14, 1791
5. Lamech Edwards b. Apr. 11, 1794
6. John Serjeant Edwards b. Sep. 5, 1796
7. James McClanahan Edwards b. Sep. 30, 1798
8. Francis Edwards b. Jan. 31, 1802
9. Edward Edwards b. July 2, 1805.

See: <https://edwardsvirginiagenealogy.blogspot.com/2020/10/thomas-edwards-of-greenville-county.html>

22. Alice Edwards (*Thomas², Meredith¹*) was born about 1764 in Westmoreland County, Virginia and died after 1830 in Franklin County, Tennessee.

The book *Cowles Family in America* notes that "James and Alice (Edwards) Cowles" lived in Fauquier County, Virginia through at least 1825, owning land bought in 1785 on the border of Prince William and Fauquier. James Cowles was also recorded owning two slaves in Westmoreland County in 1782. They may have married in Westmoreland or Fauquier.

1810 US census shows James Cowles of Fauquier Co., Virginia, wife age 26-45.
1820 US census gives her as "Alice Cowles" in Fauquier, age also given as 26-45.
Her (unsourced) birthdate is sometimes given as April 22, 1764.

After her husband James died, she went to live with her son John Cowles near Franklin, Tenn. She was there in 1830, where she died and was buried in the family burying ground on her sons farm afterward owned by her grandson Samuel Macon Cowles. See: <https://www.runner-genealogy.com/index.php?id=612>

See *Cowles Families in America*:
https://archive.org/details/genealogyofcowle00cowl_o/page/1435

One of her granddaughters had the middle name "Edwards."
<https://www.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/ratcliff/390/>

Alice married **James Cowles**. He was born before 1765 in James City County, Virginia and died before 1820 in Fauquier County, Virginia.

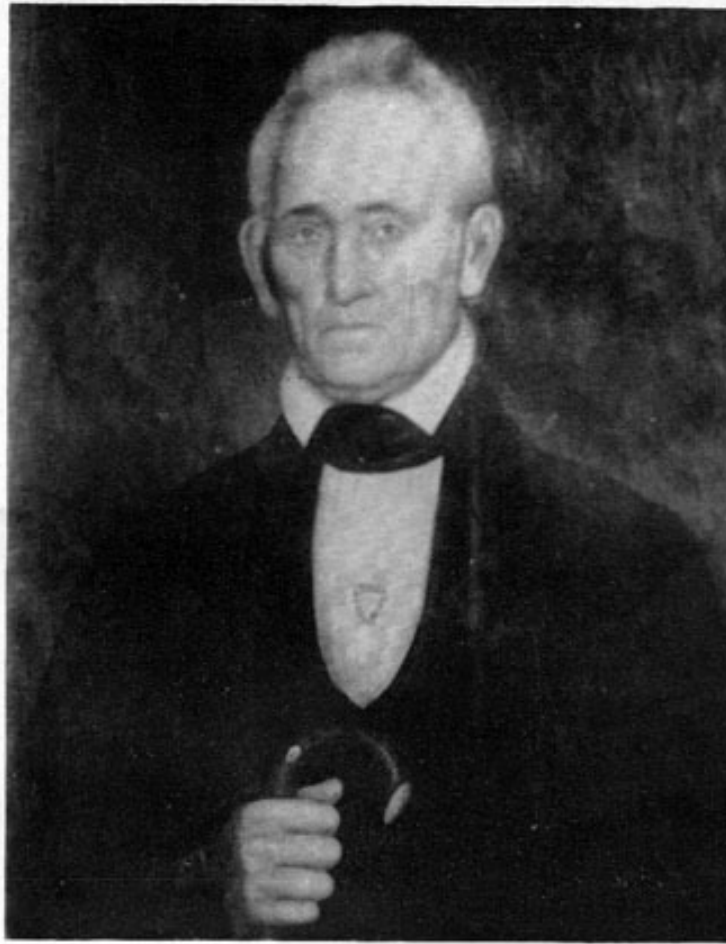
Born and raised in James City Co. VA; removed to Fauquier Co. VA perhaps about 1785, as he bought 150 acres of land there in that year. See: https://archive.org/details/genealogyofcowle00cowl_o/page/1435

He married Alice Edwards and they were both living there in 1825.

The family were Methodists, and James Cowles, says tradition, was a soldier in the Revolutionary War.

<https://www.runner-genealogy.com/index.php?id=612>

Major Figures of the Edwards Family



John Edwards, first United States Senator from Kentucky

Sen. John Edwards (*Haden*³, *William*², *Meredith*¹) was born in 1748 in Stafford County, Virginia, died before August 14, 1834 in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, and was buried in Edwards Cemetery, Paris, KY.

EDWARDS, John, a Senator from Kentucky; born in Stafford County, Va., in 1748; attended the common schools; moved to Fayette County, Ky. (then a part of Virginia), in 1780; member, Virginia house of delegates 1781-1783, 1785, 1786; delegate to the convention called to define the limits of the proposed State of Kentucky 1785-1788; member of the convention of 1792 that framed the State constitution of Kentucky; upon the admission of Kentucky as a State into the Union was elected to the United States Senate and served from June 18, 1792, to March 3, 1795; member, State house of representatives 1795; member, State senate 1796-1800; died on his plantation near Paris, Bourbon County, Ky., in 1837 (according to gravestone); interment in the family cemetery near Paris, Ky.

John Edwards was born in Stafford County, Virginia. After service in the Revolutionary War, he moved to Lincoln County, Kentucky, in 1780, and accumulated about 23,000 acres.

In 1833, Edwards attempted to receive a pension of this service and swore before a court that in 1775 he volunteered in Virginia and served as an ensign in Capt. John Fristo's company. In 1776, he became a captain in a militia company assigned to guard the exposed western frontier of Virginia until in 1779-80 he went to Kentucky. In Kentucky he served under Gen. George Rogers Clark, as a commissary general. In this position Edwards supplied western troops and helped defend the frontier against Native American incursions. Although his petition for a pension was recorded in Cape Girardeau, Missouri court in 1833, the pension board did not approve his claim before his death.

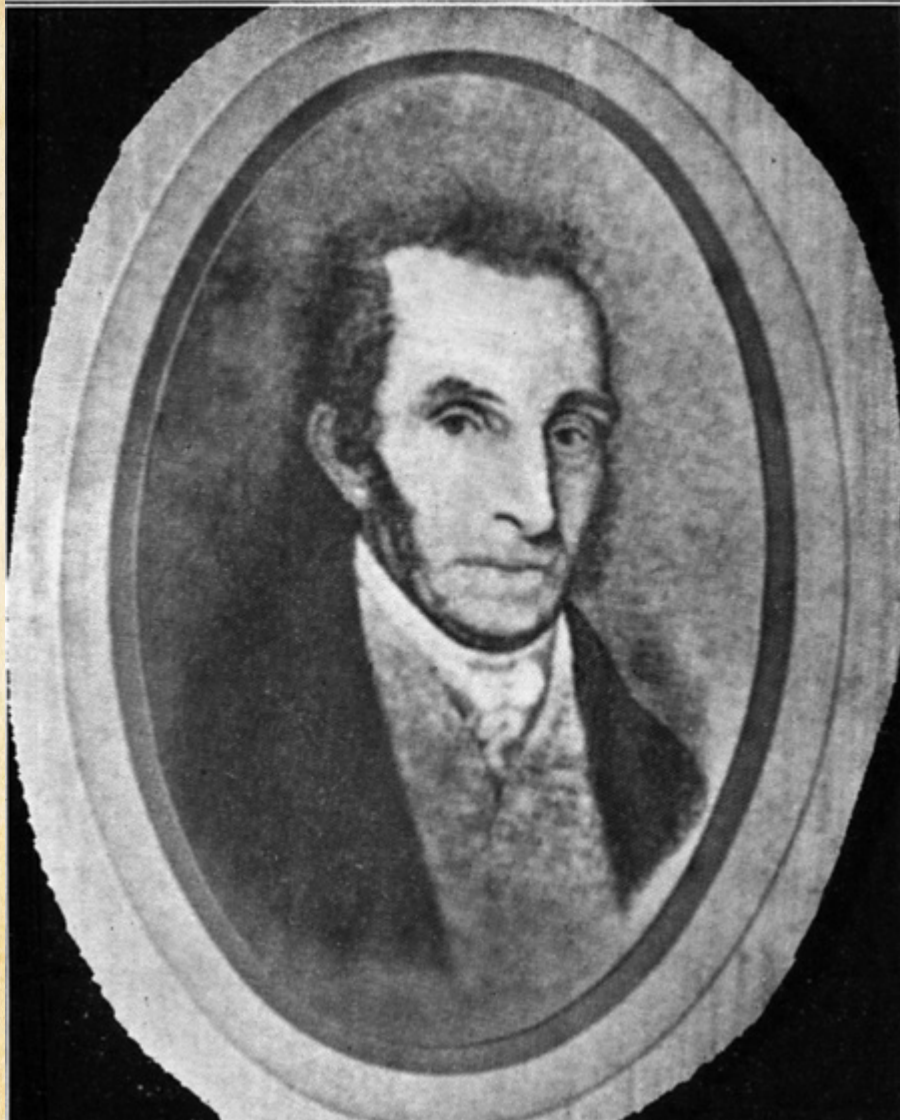
In 1792, Edwards participated in the drafting of Kentucky's first state constitution. That year he was also elected with John Brown, as Kentucky's first two senators. Edwards served as senator until 1795, when he returned to Kentucky and served in the state legislature.

In 1799, Edwards separated from his family and moved to Duncan Tavern in Paris. At about this time he sold a slave woman, Priscilla Johnson, to a friend in Mason County who promptly emancipated her. In 1800, he deeded "West Wood," his home, and 400 acres, to his wife and children, and proceeded to sell as much of his property as he could to satisfy his creditors. Around 1803 Edwards left Kentucky for Missouri Territory. He had accumulated significant debt, and in his request for his military pension, he refers to bankruptcy proceedings in 1804. Although the marker states Edwards died in 1837, it appears he lived in Missouri until his death in 1833 or 1834. (Heirs of John Edwards Sr. deed; Bourbon Co., KY Deed Book 33, Pg. 72, dated Aug. 14, 1834 notes he is already deceased).

In his final will Edwards left one-fourth of his land to one of his daughters, Jane Beall; one-fourth to his son John Jr.; and the other half to "Preciller Johnson and her children." He continued, "After all debts are paid all the rest is to be divided equally between 'Preciller' and her children which I have adopted as mine." The will goes on to state that at his death, all slaves he might own would be free from bondage: "I do hereby immancipate them fully and freely and forever and their children after them. . . ."

In the Missouri deeds, Priscilla is described as a free woman of color. In a Missouri deed in 1817, she authorized Edwards as guardian for her children and to act in her defense. That same year he was appointed as her attorney in fact to transact all her business, and as guardian of her children.

<https://explorekyhistory.ky.gov/items/show/439?tour=29&index=13>



Gen. John Edwards King (*Elizabeth, John, Meredith*) was born on December 21, 1757 in Stafford County, Virginia and died on May 13, 1828 in Burksville, Kentucky.

According to his great granddaughter, Goode King Feldhauser (1863-1939), John Edwards King was a revered military leader from Kentucky. He was the son of William King, clerk of the court of Stafford County 1742-1760 and Elizabeth Edwards, daughter of John Edwards and Jane Arrington of Westmoreland County.

Feldhauser wrote that John Edwards King served in the Virginia 3rd Regiment with his brothers and were all discharged at Valley Forge in February 1776, and later fought at King's Mountain (1780) under Col. Isaac Shelby, displaying "so much daring and initiative in action as to call forth the praise of his generals." He later served in the War of 1812 in the 5th Regiment of Kentucky, and was called a

“military genius and excellent tactician” in a letter by one Samuel Duncan. King owned a significant estate in Burksville, Kentucky called “Melmont” where he had a tradition of throwing an annual feast that lasted for days at a time.

When Burksville was established as the county seat of Cumberland County in 1798, King received the appointments of clerk of both county and circuit courts. He was also appointed elector for his district in the ninth presidential election, and cast his vote for his distant cousin, James Monroe.

General King married Sarah Clifton in 1791. She died in 1815 and he later married Ellen Jefferson. The Filson Club Papers called the general “a man of imposing presence and courtly manners and exercised great influence in the section where he lived.”

He is buried at Melmont; his gravestone gives his dates of birth and death as December 21, 1757 and May 13, 1828.

Summarized from: “General John Edwards King of Kentucky.” Register of Kentucky State Historical Society Vol. 27, No. 80 (May, 1929), pp. 548-551 (5 pages).



A daguerreotype said to be of Haden Edwards

Haden Edwards (1771-1849) and his brother **Benjamin Edwards** (1780-1837) were architects of the Fredonia Rebellion of 1826, the first attempt by Anglo-American settlers to secede land in Texas from Mexico, and set in motion a chain of events that eventually led to the Battle of the Alamo (1836) and ultimately secession from Mexico a decade later.

An uprising near Nacogdoches in 1826 foreshadowed the Texas Revolution years before Sam Houston's army defeated Mexico's forces. In September 1825, empresario Haden Edwards acquired a grant from Mexico to settle 800 families in an area of East Texas that included Nacogdoches. Edwards' contract allowed the settlement to be "bounded by a line that began at the intersection of the coast and border reservations and ran north to 15 leagues from Nacogdoches, thence west to the Navasota River, south in an irregular line along the Navasota and east to the point of beginning."

Edwards posted notices in Nacogdoches demanding that all landowners show evidence of their claims or forfeit the land. His threatening behavior raised the hackles of these settlers, some of whom held earlier grants from Spain and Mexico. Even though these grants dated back more than 100 years, not all the settlers possessed legal documents to prove ownership.

A questionable election for alcalde, or mayor, of Nacogdoches in December propelled Edward's son-in-law, Chichester Chaplin, into office. Tensions escalated dramatically.

The tempest raged until authorities in Mexico annulled the 1826 Edwards land grant and ordered Edwards to leave Texas. Lt. Col. Mateo Ahumada, Mexican military commander in Coahuila y Tejas, set out from San Antonio with 20 dragoons and 110 infantrymen to enforce this resolution. Edwards vowed to recruit an army and win independence from Mexico.

Edwards christened his disputed land grant the Republic of Fredonia, based on a concept first articulated in New York by Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchill in 1800.

He had simply added a Latin ending to the word "freedom" to create "Fredonia." Edwards appropriated the name and designed a flag with two red-and-white parallel bars and inscribed with the words "Independence, Liberty, Justice." The red-and-white bars represented the Native American and white inhabitants of the region, and Edwards hurriedly sought to finalize a treaty with the nearby Cherokee to strengthen his claim.

Amid the turmoil, Edwards petitioned Stephen F. Austin for aid. Not only did Austin refuse, but also he sent 100 soldiers to support Ahumada. At the same time, Peter Ellis Bean, a Mexican Indian agent, convinced the Cherokee to side with Austin, who wanted no further part of it. "It is my candid opinion," Austin wrote to Edwards, "that a continuance of the im-prudent course you have commenced will totally ruin you."

Edwards appointed his brother, Benjamin, to lead the colony, and then he left for the United States to raise support. Benjamin gathered 30 men loyal to the Fredonian cause and rode through a December blizzard to Nacogdoches. There they seized control of the Old Stone Fort and ripped down the flag of Mexico, replacing it with their own. The residents of Nacogdoches, most loyal to Mexico, moved out when they learned that the Mexican military was en route.

The newly minted republic survived only a few weeks. When Mexican military forces and Austin's militia arrived on January 31, 1827, the revolutionaries retreated across the Sabine River. Not a single Cherokee warrior had shown up to join the revolt. Mexican authorities eventually offered amnesty to all who had participated in the revolt except the Edwards brothers.

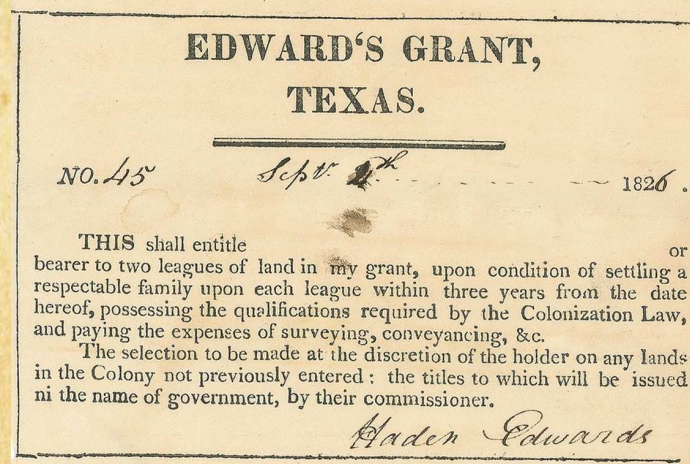
The Fredonian Rebellion accomplished little, but some historians consider it the true beginning of the Texas Revolution. Citizens of Nacogdoches, inspired by the taste of freedom, welcomed Sam Houston to their city and elected him to the first colonists' convention in 1833, setting a course for liberty that would be realized in less than a decade.

<https://www.texascooppower.com/74exas-stories/history/the-short-history-of-fredonia>

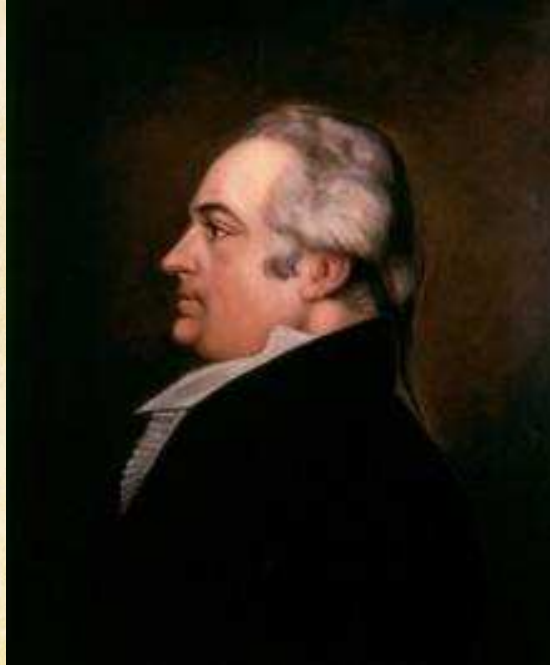
Haden Edwards was born on August 12, 1771 in Stafford County, Virginia, the son of Sen. John Edwards and Susannah Wroe and named for his grandfather, Haden Edwards (1716-1803). The family moved to Kentucky when he was still a child. Haden married Susanna Beall (April 10, 1774 – April 6, 1849) about 1820. Dates taken from their gravestones via transcript.



Official flag of the Fredonia Rebellion of 1826-1827.



Land grant for the Edwards colony at Nacogdoches, Texas.



Ninian Edwards (1775-1833), son of Benjamin Edwards (1753-1826), son of Haden Edwards (1716-1803), was a U.S. statesman.

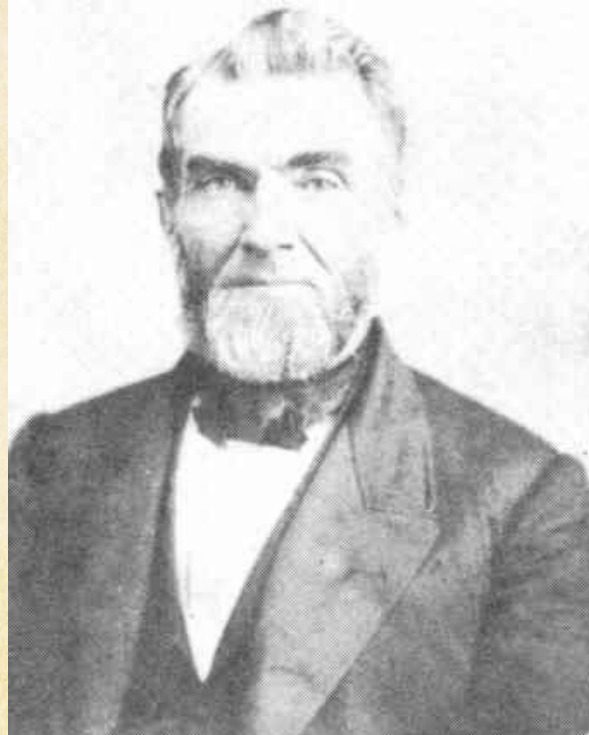
Ninian Edwards was born in Montgomery County, Maryland on March 17, 1775 to Benjamin and Margaret Edwards, a well-connected political family. He attended Dickinson with the class of 1792 but left before the completion of his degree and took up the study of law.

In 1795 he was in Kentucky, managing family property there and entering state politics with immediate success. He was elected to the legislature before he was eligible to vote. In 1803, he was appointed to the bench and four years later became the chief justice of the Kentucky Court of Appeals.

In 1809, James Madison appointed Edwards as the first governor of the newly-formed Illinois Territory. He served in the formative years of government for the territory, forming the political structure which would accompany statehood in 1818. He became the new state's senator in 1819. He resigned in 1824 upon his appointment by President Monroe as minister to Mexico; however, he was never able to assume the post due to a scandal stemming from a public argument with the current secretary of the Treasury. Edwards returned to Illinois where he was elected governor in 1826. His popularity waned and he did not seek re-election in 1830. His career ended with defeat in a run for Congress in 1832.

Edwards married Elvira Lane in 1803. They had one son, also Ninian, who became the first superintendent of public schooling in Illinois. Ninian Edwards died of cholera on July 20, 1833 in Belleville, Illinois. He was fifty-eight years old.

Source: <http://archives.dickinson.edu/people/ninian-edwards-1775-1833>



Ninian Wirt Edwards (1809-1889), son of the above Ninian Edwards, was a U.S. statesman and brother-in-law of Mary Todd Lincoln, wife of Abraham Lincoln.

While studying law at Transylvania University in Kentucky, Ninian met & married Elizabeth P. Todd, sister of Mary Todd Lincoln. He is credited with having done much to encourage Abraham Lincoln to enter politics & served with Lincoln in the state legislature as one of the “Long Nine” instrumental in having the state capital removed to Springfield. Abraham Lincoln & Mary Todd were married in Ninian W. Edwards’s home, and Mr. and Mrs. Edwards rescued Mrs. Lincoln from an insane asylum in 1875, allowing her to spend her final years in the safety of their home.

In 1834–1835, Edwards served as Illinois Attorney General. Then during 1837–1841 and 1849–1853 he served in the Illinois House of Representatives. Edwards also served in the Illinois State Senate 1845–1849. He then served in the Illinois Constitutional Convention of 1847 and was Illinois Superintendent of Public Instruction in 1854–1857.

Source: <http://www.mrlincolnwhitehouse.org/residents-visitors/relatives-and-residents/relatives-residents-elizabeth-todd-edwards/>

Other Edwards Men of Westmoreland County, Virginia

The following is some research and documentation on a few other individuals in colonial Westmoreland County who may be related to Meredith Edwards. John Edwards (bef.1645-aft.1724) and Robert Edwards (1640-1682) are older contemporaries, possibly brothers or uncles. John is known to have had a son called John Edwards Jr., and there is a younger Robert Edwards, an indentured servant in the 1690s who may be his son as well. Either he or John Jr. had a wife named Frances Edwards, who appears in Rent Rolls of Cople Parish, Westmoreland County as late as 1740. The earlier Robert Edwards is known to have had a daughter named Philadelphia, but no other confirmed children. John and Robert Edwards were both gentlemen, a title Meredith never received.

JOHN EDWARDS, GENTLEMAN (bef.1645 - aft. Jan.1724) of Westmoreland County.

Jul. 20, 1665: First appearance of John Edwards in Westmoreland County--witness in court.

Mar. 2, 1673: John Edwards took receipt of a shipment sent via the ship *Hope* from his cousin William Tucker in London who signed a correspondence "I am your loving kinsmen." He mentions having a brother, John Tucker. The letter discussed the specifics of a tobacco shipment. (Westmoreland)

William evidently had not heard that John Tucker of Westmoreland (1626-1671) was recently deceased; this John Tucker's brother William had previously lived in Warwick County; they were evidently sons of William Tucker (1589-1644) from London, son of John Tucker and Alice Pelham, and Mary Thompson (1599-bef.1643) from Hertfordshire. Owyn Edwards, servant to John Tucker, was buried in the same parish (St. Nicholas Acons), in 1602. This suggests that John Edwards was not Welsh, but English, and may have belonged to a family of prosperous London merchants. Mary Thompson is believed to be the daughter of Ralph Thompson and Elizabeth Harsnett, who were also the parents of several wealthy London merchants.

Richard Edwards, merchant of London, had a son, Richard Edwards who was nominated to the rectory of St. Nicholas Acons, London in 1646. In the St. Nicholas Parish church was buried Sarah, daughter of Richard and Ann Edwards in March 1664/5. A Jane Edwards, wife of Davie, was buried there in 1649.

Jul. 21, 1674: John Edwards bond for a merchant in London and his ship *Unicorne* with Lt. Col. John Washington and others. (Westmoreland)

Oct. 9, 1694: John Edwards' first land warrant. 197 acres in Washington Parish, Westmoreland County, Wrnt. to Mr. Alexander Spence. On Appomattox Creek adjacent Randolph Davenport, Robert Frank, along the Indian Path. Source: Northern Neck Grants No. 2, 1694-1700, p. 27-28 (Reel 288). Meredith Edwards

bought his own first tract this same day. (Westmoreland)

Mar, 7, 1695: John Edwards receives 115 acres from Randall Davenport, (Va Northern Neck Land Grants Vol. 1) on Sep. 29, 1703 John Edwards was named among appraisers of Davenport's estate. (Westmoreland)

May 26, 1698: John Edwards attachment to answer Joshua Davies. He did not appear in court. (Westmoreland)

May 28, 1701: John Edwards, gentleman, named "grand inquisitor" (among others) for His Majesty, the King. Richard Tutt also named. (Westmoreland)

Jan. 30, 1701/2: Judgement for Alexander Spence against John Edwards, 900 lbs tobacco. (Westmoreland)

June 25, 1702: Ejectione firme brought by John Edwards against Michael Vascell, regarding neck of land 150 acres John Chilton devised to John Edwards for a term not yet expired, on branches of Currywoman Creek (today this is near route 622 off Currioman Bay). (Westmoreland)

Feb. 25, 1702/3: This same John Edwards was said to be "of Copeley Parish." (Westmoreland)

Sep. 29, 1703: John Edwards to appraise estate of Randall Davenport.

May 30, 1705: "John Edwards of Upper Machotique, being aged and infirm is acquitted from paying tithes."

Jan. 30, 1717/8: Thomas Lee, Esq. and William Pierce, executors of Thomas Thompson v. John Edwards, debt for 500 lbs. tobacco (note: this may be John Jr., or John, son of Meredith, since the old man was apparently no longer productive and thus not paying tithes).

Deed John Edwards to William Baxter, Westmoreland Co., January 25, 1724: wife named as Frances.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA DEEDS & WILLS. No. 8. Part 1
1723-1738 Antient Press: pp 30-31

THIS INDENTURE made this 25th day of Janry, in the year of our Lord God one thousand seven hundred & twenty 4/5, Between JOHN EDWARDS of the County of Westmoreland in the Colony of Virginia, Planter. of one part and WILLIAM BAXTER, of the same County & Colony of the other part; Witnesseth that JOHN EDWARDS in consideracon of the sum of five shillings Sterl. money of England to him in hand paid, the receipt whereof he doth acknowledge, by these presents doth bargain and sell unto WILLIAM BAXTER his heirs all that parcell of land scituate in the County of Westmoreland in the Forrest upon the Branches of

APPAMATTOX containing one hundred ninety & seven acres be the same more or less and bounded Beginning at a marked red Oak standing on the North side of the Dam that issueth into APPAMATTOX CREEK extending thence West 76 poles to a Spanish Oak on the North side of the sd. Dam, thence South 3 degrees West 140 pos; to a white Oak corner tree to this Land & the land of RANDOLPH DAVENPORT & thence East 67 poles to a Spanish Oak, thence North 24 degrees East 46 poles to a red Oak on South West side of the Dam, thence North 18 degrees East 61 poles to a Spanish Oak in the ROBERT FRANKS line, thence North 3 degrees East 84 poles to a white Oak on the East side of the sd. Dam near the INDIAN PATH, thence North 65 degrees West 64 poles to the place it began (it being a Patent of Land granted to JOHN EDWARDS dated the ninth day of October 1694. with all houses orchards rents issues and profitts thereof To have and to hold the land & premisses unto WILLIAM BAXTER his heirs dureing the full term of six months next..ensueing to the encrthat by venue thereof and of the Statute for transferring uses into possession. WM: BAXTER might be in actual possession of the premisses and might be enabled to take a release of the inheritance thereof: In Witness whereof the parties to these present Indentures have inter changeably set their hands & seals the day & year first above written Signed sealed & dd, in presence of

FRANCIS LACON, JOHN EDWARDS

JANE LACON

Janry , the 28th 1724. Then received of WILLIAM BAXTER the full contents of the sum specified to be paid in the within Deed p me.

JOHN EDWARDS

Westmoreland ss. At a Court. held for the sd. County the 27th of Janry. 1724: And thence continued till the 28th day of the said month

JOHN EDWARDS personally acknowledged this Lease of Land by him passed to WILLIAM BAXTER to be his proper act & deed together with the receipt thereon endorsed to be & enure to the use & uses therein contained what at the instance of the sd. BAXTER is admitted to Record Test THO: SORRELL. Cl

Recordat 8th die Febry 1724

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WESTMORELAND COUNTY, VIRGINIA DEEDS & WILLS. No. 8. Part 1

1723-1738 Antient Press: pp 35

KNOW ALL MEN by these presents that I FRANCES EDWARDS of the County of Westmoreland do constitute & appoint my trusty & well-beloved Friend, WM: STURMAN to be my lawful Attorney to acknowledge for me all my right & title of Dower in a certain parcell of land with the Plantacon which my Husband, JOHN EDWARDS. sold to WILLIAM BAXTER. and the same be held done as if I myself had been there in person to have done it myself. as Witness my hand this 19th day of March 1724/5,

Teste FRANCIS LACON FRANCES EDWARDS

JOSHUA HUDSON

At a Court held for the sd. County the 31st day of March 1725

WM, STURMAN by venue of this Letter of Atty: from FRANCES EDWARDS to him (being duely proved by the Oaths of the wittnesses thereto) in due form of

Law, relinquished the sd. FRANCES Right of Dower & Thirds at the Common Law in the land within menconed according to the purport of the sd. Letter of Atty.. which at the instance of WILLIAM STURMAN is admitted to Record Test THO SORRELL, Cl
Recordat 8th die April 1725
=====

JOHN EDWARDS JR., LABORER, the criminal of Westmoreland County.

July 30, 1707: "John Edwards Junr" a laborer of Washington Parish, is convicted of tobacco theft from Daniel Dunkan; sheriff is ordered to give him 30 lashes. The next day, Edwards fled and the sheriff was ordered to track him down.
(Westmoreland County)

Feb. 18, 1714: "Jno. Edwards" was named in Washington Parish, Westmoreland Co. VA Northern Neck grant to Owen Brenon (Northern Neck Grants, Vol. 1). "Owen Brinnon" sued "John Edwards junr" over a debt in Westmoreland County Aug. 30, 1722, so this, and many later records of a John Edwards in Westmoreland County may refer to John Edwards Jr.

Mar. 1, 1721: Benjamin Ward agt. John Edwards, case of trespass, assault & battery. (Westmoreland County)

Jun. 29, 1721: George Eskridge, gent., assumed in court to pay the fine of John Edwards if he is fined for retailing liquors without a license. NOTE: This is George Eskridge (1665-1735), adopted father of Mary Ball Washington, for whom George Washington was named. (Westmoreland County)

Aug. 30, 1721: John Edwards in court "upon suspicion of his feloniously stealing out of the tobacco house of Henry Ashton, gentleman." (Westmoreland County)
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ROBERT EDWARDS, PLANTER & ATTORNEY (1640-1682)

Robert Edwards (1640-1682) was in Westmoreland County from at least 1668, when he gave a deposition in court. Robert was married to a Mary (b.1638), then after her death to Deborah Whetstone, who in 1679 was jailed and accused of fornicating with him, to be released when she could prove she was married to him. By June 1682 she was called "Deborah Edwards" and was named executor of his will. They had a daughter named Philadelphia who married John Medford by 1702.

Mar. 14, 1665/6: Certificate accordinge to Acte is granted unto Mr. JO: EDWARDS for the transportacon of GEO: (?) EDWARDS, ROBT. EDWARDS, SARAH HOWARD (?), & FRAN: GIBSON into this Country. This John Edwards died in 1667, with his wife and children all back in London, according to his will. (LANCASTER COUNTY DEEDS & WILLS 1661-1666; Antient Press; Page 365.)

Aug. 27, 1668: Deposition of Robert Edwards, "aged 28 years or thereabouts" in Westmoreland Court, where he and his wife Mary "aged about 30 years" accused a neighboring wife of fornicating while her husband was away. (Westmoreland)

Oct. 26, 1668: Ellis Humphreys appoints Robert Edwards his attorney to receive parcel from Margaret Bonam. (Westmoreland)

Dec. 8, 1668: Robert and Mary Edwards buy 1,000 acres from Col. Nicholas Spencer. He is called "Robert Edwards of Machiotick, Planter." (Westmoreland)

Apr. 6, 1669: 300 acres of their big purchase was sold to Henry Hawley and Samuel Munns, opposite Old Field Swamp, near Daniel Hutt's plantation. (Westmoreland)

April 1670: Robert and Mary Edwards to Richard Bennett, land which he already lives on at White Marsh Swamp, also called Pig Quarter Swamp. (Westmoreland)

May 25, 1670: "Robert Edwards, planter" sold another 180 acres to Richard Bennett. (Westmoreland)

July 27, 1670: Robert Edwards and Samuel Bonum, among others, witnessed depositions concerning the estate of John Hewett and Robert Porter. (Westmoreland)

Aug. 14, 1677: Robert Edwards paid for two months service as a trooper to battle Bacon's Rebellion. (Westmoreland)

Aug. 20, 1677: Robert Edwards on a jury that convicted Stephen Manwaring of rebellion (Bacon's). (Westmoreland)

Sep. 29, 1677: Robert Edwards sued Stephen Manwaring for possessing his horse bridle, saddle and pistols. Judgement for 2,500 lbs. tobacco. (Westmoreland)

Feb. 27, 1678/9: The Court doth order that Deborah Whetstone the now pretended wife of Robt: Edwards be committed into the Sherriff's custody and that she there remaine untill she give good and sufficient security for her good abareing and that she produce testimoniall to the next Court that she is lawfully married to Robt: Edwards and that she doe not accompany with Edward as his wife till the lawfull prooffe made. (Westmoreland)

Jul. 25, 1682: "Robert Edwards, deceased"--wife Deborah (Whetstone) adm. his estate. "The Court doe order, that Deborah Edwards executrix of the last will and testament of Robt Edwards have the probate of will, beinge proved by Tho: Smith and Wm, Burnham, and that Ed Franklin, Micl Willington, Tho Tanner, Jo: Tanner, Normansell are appoynted to make appraisment of Edward estate on Monday sennitty and that the appraysers take, the oath before Majr, Thomas Youle, (Westmoreland)

Feb. 23, 1697/8: Philadelphia Edwards, aged 14 years, chooses Robert Tanner as her guardian. (Westmoreland)

June 30, 1698: (Possible daughter) Henry Dunkan was attached to answer John Wallis of a plea on the case. The plaintiff as marrying Margaret Edwards, declared against him for detaining a heifer. Deft. pleaded that for variance the writ was to answer John Wallis only, and the declaration of John Wallis as marrying Margaret Edwards ought to be abated. (Westmoreland)

Jan. 28, 1701/2: John Medford and wife Philadelphia, daughter of Robert Edwards, decd., acknowledge sale of land from them to James Westcomb. (Westmoreland)

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ROBERT EDWARDS, INDENTURED SERVANT

July 28, 1697: Robert Edwards, servt. to William Bridges ran away several times totaling 137 days absence during the planting season, ordered to serve an extra 2 years, 1 month of indenture. (Westmoreland)

May 31, 1699: Robert Edwards ran away from his master yet again, this time with a horse. (Westmoreland)

William Edwards of Westmoreland Was Not from Surry County, Virginia

Having a recent discussion with a professional genealogist, I felt it necessary to make absolutely clear, with careful documentation, that the John, Thomas and William Edwards who appear in Westmoreland, King George and Spotsylvania Counties between 1708 and 1755 are brothers, and the sons of Meredith Edwards (c.1655-1712) of Westmoreland County, Virginia.

Given that William Edwards of Westmoreland is the ancestor of several prominent American politicians, including John Edwards (1748-1833), the first elected senator from Kentucky, Haden Edwards (1771-1849), an early Texas revolutionary, and his son, Haden Harrison Edwards (1812-1865), a Texas legislator, there is some historical significance in getting this genealogy right.

A theory that posits that William Edwards of Westmoreland County was the son of William Edwards (c.1680-1722) and Ann Harrison of Surry County has been widely accepted for several decades. This theory evidently originated from the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 17 No. 49 in 1919. Citing only a mysterious “manuscript” written by a “prominent family member” as the source, author Henry Strother claimed William Edwards, father of Haden Edwards, was the “fourth child of William Edwards and Ann (Harrison) Edwards,” and that he had married “Miss Haden, a sister of William Haden, father of Mrs. Ambrose Jones.” This theory was reiterated by Edwards descendants about a decade later in the book *The Hayden Family* (1929).

Strother’s manuscript erroneously claims that Haden Edwards was born in 1723 in Northumberland County, though the register of St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, Virginia gives his birthdate as March 16, 1716, and identifies his parents as William and Mary Edwards of Washington Parish, Westmoreland County. George Harrison Sanford King noted this error in the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 32, No. 101, October 1934, and concluded there was no evidence to support the theory.

Upon further inquiry, it is clear that Strother’s mysterious “manuscript” was the 1895 book *Leaves From the Chancellor—Fitzgerald—Cooper—Edwards Tree* by C. W. Chancellor. Strother quoted Chancellor’s claims about the Edwards family origin verbatim, despite the fact that Chancellor had no evident expertise or sources and seemed to be drawing on some mix of heraldry obsession and *Edwards Heirs* myths.

Most later genealogies, apparently aware of the contradiction, abandoned the Northumberland connection and identified the William Edwards who married Ann Harrison as the William Edwards of Surry County, who married into the wealthy and prominent ancestors of presidents William Henry Harrison and Benjamin Harrison.

This theory has been repeated in numerous subsequent books, including:

Ancestral Studies of Four Families: Roberts, Griffith, Cartwright and Simpson (1948)

Colonial Families of the Southern States of America (1958)

Genealogies of Kentucky Families: From the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society (1981)

The Cantrell-Newman Genealogy (198?)

A McAdams Family History (1990).

This "Surry County" theory is contradicted by evidence from the records of James City County, just across the river from Surry. A deed on April 6, 1709 recorded the wife of this William Edwards as "Elizabeth Harrison Edwards" who appeared in court that day to renounce a dower. This identification was corroborated in 1906 by the William & Mary Quarterly, Vol. 15, No. 2 which stated that William Edwards (d.1722) of Surry County married Elizabeth Harrison, daughter of Benjamin, who "according to the inscription on her tombstone, died at the age of 17." If Elizabeth Harrison Edwards died at age 17 around the year 1709, she would have been far too young to have given birth to William Edwards of Westmoreland County, who became a father no later than 1716.

As I have found no challenge to this hypothesis, I will posit an alternative below with evidence I found in the deed and order books of Westmoreland County, along with the neighboring counties of King George and Spotsylvania.

The will of Meredith Edwards names his sons as John, William and Thomas. It states in summary:

EDWARDS, MERIDA. Written June 17, 1712; probated August 27, 1712. One feather bed, furniture, sword, gun etc **to son John** and he to be exr; my wife Ann 5 cattle; **son William** 76 acres of land, 4 cattle and sheep, one feather bed and furniture; my granddaughter one heifer; godson John Maders one heifer; daughter Ellenor gown and petty coat; **son Thomas** 4 head of cattle and 76 acres of land. (Wills of Westmoreland County, Virginia 1654-1800 BY AUGUSTA B. FOTHERGILL: Pg 47)

There is a solid web of evidence in the records of Westmoreland, King George and Spotsylvania Counties that the sons of Meredith Edwards remained in contact in each of these places, and that William, the grandfather of Senator John Edwards, was in fact the son of Meredith Edwards.

1. William, John and Thomas Edwards appear in several court records together.

William repeatedly served as security for both Thomas and John Edwards in Westmoreland and King George County Court:

In a suit against Thomas Edwards by Rice Hopkins, William Edwards acts as security. (Westmoreland County Court Orders, 1705 - 1721 c, [xxvi] index, 405 fo., Sep. 26, 1717).

On Mar. 4, 1723, William Edwards made his first appearance in court records of King George County. He appears in several suits in the 1720s and served three times as security for John Edwards. One example:

"In the account of debt brought by Christopher Scandrett agt John Edwards for 640 lbs of tobacco, William Edwards came into court & entered himself special bail in the said suit & judgment is granted the plt agst the def for the said sum of tobacco which is ord'd to be paid with costs." (King Geo. County orders, Order Bk, 1, pg. 235, Feb. 4, 1724)

2. The William Edwards of King George County is the same William Edwards from Westmoreland County.

On May 4, 1733, William Edwards and Mary Edwards "of Westmoreland County" appeared in King George County court for Hugh Canaday:

"William Edwards of Westmoreland County being summoned an evidence by Hugh Canaday agt Robert Richards & having attended one day it is ord'd that he pay him for the same & for coming & going 5 miles with costs according to law." (King Geo. County Orders. p. 638, May 4, 1733)

"Mary Edwards of Westmoreland County being summoned an evidence by Hugh Canaday agt Robert Richards & having attended one day it is ord'd that he pay her for the same & for coming & going 5 miles with costs according to law." (King Geo. County Orders. p.638, May 4, 1733)

William and Mary Edwards of Washington Parish (Westmoreland) are named as the parents of Haden Edwards (1716-1803), born in St. Paul Parish, Stafford County, March 16, 1716. This establishes a firm connection between the families of Westmoreland, King George and the Haden Edwards who fathered the Kentucky Senator.

3. When John Edwards died in 1743, Thomas Edwards filed suit over his estate.

"Administration of the estate of John Edwards, gent. is granted unto Richard Tutt, Ann Edwards, the widow & relict of the sd John Edwards decd having relinquished her right of administration of the sd estate unto the sd Richard Tutt, he having entered into bond with John Fox & Abraham Kenyon his securities in the sum of 800 pounds for his faithful administering the sd estate." (King George County Orders, Bk. 2, pg. 385, Dec. 2, 1743)

"Thomas Edwards gent. plt agt Richd Tutt adminr &c of Jno Edwards decd def, In Debt. This day came the plt by his atty & the def comes & defends the force &

injury when &c & says that he cannot gainsay the sd action of the plt nor but that the sd John Edwards in his lifetime was indebted in manner & form as the plt agt him hath complained & as to the damages of the plt by him in that behalf sustained the def say & confess that the plt sustained damages by occasion of the premises above his costs by him in this behalf expended to 27 pounds with legall interest thereon & no more & because the plt here do not gainsay but grants the sd alligation to be true he prays judgment & the sd damages above confessed together with the costs to him to be adjudged &c, therefore it is considered that the sd plt recover agt the def his damages afsd amounting to 27 pounds with legall interest thereon from the 25th day of March 1739 to the time of payment in form afsd confessed together with his costs in this behalf expended & the def being in mercy &c.” (King George County Orders, Bk. 2, pg. 445, Dec. 2, 1743)

4. The John Edwards of King George and Spotsylvania is definitely the son of Meredith Edwards.

A settlement filed on April 5, 1745 by Tutt in King George County indicated John Edwards, gent., was “concerned with business for the estate in Spotsylvania County, King George County and Williamsburg.” Thomas and John Edwards both appear in the deed books of Spotsylvania; on November 6, 1722, Thomas Edwards was named as owning land in St. George Parish, Spotsylvania County, Virginia adjoining lands of Larkin Chew (*Virginia County Records: Spotsylvania County 1721-1800 Being Transcriptions From the Original Files...* Edited by William Armstrong Crozier. pg. 89).

This John Edwards is firmly connected to Meredith Edwards by his own son, also named Meredith Edwards (c.1720-1749), who took over the administration of his estate. On March 5, 1747, Meredith Edwards was named in King George court as “administrator of the goods and chattels of John Edwards, deceased” in a suit by Meredith against George Fox. William Edwards also sued Fox over the John Edwards estate on February 5, 1747/8 in King George County.

In order to argue that William Edwards of Westmoreland was the son of William Edwards of Surry, not only would one have to ignore the fact that the claim has zero supporting evidence, one would have to assert that the web of connections between William, John and Thomas Edwards across three neighboring counties in Virginia, anchored to their father by a namesake grandson, is merely a series of wild coincidences. Hopefully this “Surry County” theory can be put to rest.

The Origin of the Edwards-Harrison Theory

Perhaps the primary reason genealogists have gotten the Edwards family of Virginia so mixed up over the last century is a 24-page book published in Havre, France by an obscure genealogist named C. W. Chancellor, M.D.

This book is called *Leaves from the Chancellor--Fitzgerald--Cooper--Edwards Tree* and in 1895 it introduced to the world the hypothesis that William Edwards of Westmoreland (c.1687-c.1746) was the son of William Edwards (d.1722) and Ann Harrison of Surry County, an idea I've already spent considerable space debunking. But the fascinating thing about this obscure little book is that it seems to be the source for almost all of the early flawed research about the Edwards families of Virginia, in particular, the Westmoreland County clan.

This book was quoted almost verbatim in the Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 17 No. 49 in 1919 by Henry Strother (who cited it as his "manuscript" by a "prominent member of the family"), in an early and influential journal article on William Edwards. Notably, it is also evidently the source for Rev. Horace Hayden's claim in his massive *Virginia Genealogies* that William Edwards married "a miss Hayden" from Lancaster County.

But wait, there's more.

It also appears to be the source for several claims in the Edwards Heirs newsletters in the 1920s, for example, that William Edwards came to America aboard the ship *Ye Merchants*, as well as the claim that the Edwards family of Westmoreland is related to the one from Surry County as presented in the 1910 book *The Beall and Edwards Families and Their Descendants*.

Clearly, the impact this tiny book had on Edwards research was immense.

So what of this book? Where are its theories from?

They appear to be a mixture of family lore, mistakes from sloppy research in Virginia county records, and fabrications from the Edwards Heirs scams of the late 19th century.

Chancellor posits that the Edwards family of Virginia descends from four brothers--John, Thomas, Robert and William--who immigrated between 1623 and 1635. John settled in Northumberland and died in 1663; Thomas in Surry, where he lived until 1702; Robert to Westmoreland where he died after 1670 without issue; and William "the founder of the family in America" to James City County. Chancellor offers no evidence that these men are actually related, and the assumption appears to be a variant of the common "immigrant brothers myth" that plagues genealogy, usually used to explain why certain surnames appear in diverse locations.

Chancellor evidently derived his immigration stories from colonial ship manifests. *Ye Merchants Hope* was a real ship, and there was a William Edwards, age 30, on board in a voyage of 1635. Chancellor erroneously gives his age as 19, which was an age that belonged to Allin King, same row, in the column to the left on the ship manifest. It seems Chancellor fell victim to one of the classic genealogy blunders: *if I find someone with the name I'm looking for in the same general area, it must be the right person*. A look through *Cavaliers and Pioneers Vol. I* however, shows at least four different immigrants to Virginia named William Edwards between 1636 and 1650.

Chancellor states that "in 1678, William Edwards Jr. married Ann Harrison, daughter of Col. Benjamin Harrison" noting he was ancestor to two presidents, but offers no source or support. He then introduces a garbled mess of assumptions--for example, that Haden Edwards was born in Northumberland County in 1723, a falsehood repeated by Henry Strother in 1919, which George Harrison Sanford King debunked with parish records but was unable to find Strother's source for in his work on this family in 1934. He also falsely claims, in an obvious reference to the Edwards Heirs myths, that Robert Edwards of Northumberland, son of William Edwards and Ann Harrison, "died at sea 1785-90" and was "without issue."

Throughout his article on the Edwards family, Chancellor cites a few sources, namely the records of Northumberland County, Virginia, Surry County bonds, the rolls of the Prince William County rangers, Westmoreland County, deeds and some others. This does show that was he actually a genealogist who had done his own research. He fails however to do the more difficult work of providing evidence of relations between the Edwards families of Northumberland, Surry and Westmoreland Counties, and his inclusion of Edwards Heirs myths about Robert Edwards shows he was simply working with whatever was available to him.

This lack of a deep dive, combined with the extreme difficulty of sorting through colonists with a common surname like Edwards and ultra-common given names like John, William and Thomas, led Chancellor to a long list of unsupported assumptions that have been copied-and-pasted by almost every Edwards genealogist since. Chancellor's book laid the groundwork for 100 years' worth of Edwards genealogy errors, cited by a wide swath of genealogical books and journals over many decades. His book likely got so much press simply because it was the first published work about this family, and compilers like Rev. Horace Hayden needed to draw on existing research in order to meet their publishing deadlines.

But who exactly was C. W. Chancellor, M.D.? Extrapolating from the genealogy in his book, he was certainly a descendant of Haden Edwards, via his daughter Elizabeth who married John Chancellor. He was beyond the shadow of a doubt the Dr. Charles William Chancellor (1831-1915) who was born in Chancellorsville, Virginia and died in Washington D.C. He was the son of Sanford Chancellor, who

was in turn son of John Chancellor and Elizabeth Edwards, as named in his own book. Dr. Chancellor served as secretary of the Maryland State Board of Health, president of the Maryland State Insane Asylum, and United States Consul to Havre, France in 1893-97, the time and place where his book was published.

Dr. Chancellor probably should have stuck to medicine.

About the Author

Jason M. Farrell has been an amateur genealogist for more than two decades, and is currently venturing down the rabbit hole of southern colonial records. Wish him luck. He currently lives in Frederick, Maryland.

Other books by the author:

The Descendants of James O'Farrell of Sligo, Ireland and West Shefford, Quebec, Canada (2019).

The Genealogy of Enoch Billings (2020).

