

Riggs

CHAPTER I, SECTION B, PART 4

RIGGS FAMILIES OF NEW ENGLAND

(Most recent Riggs' researchers rely on Riggs' story in Genealogy of the Riggs Family, edited by John H. Wallace of New York, author and columnist, published 1901. When diverting from his discourse, I shall add notes citing sources of information.)

Edward Riggs, born about 1590 in southern England, perhaps Somerset County, landed in Boston early in the summer of 1633 with wife, Elizabeth, two sons and four daughters. They settled on a 40-acre farm in Roxbury, Massachusetts (now a slum of Boston, once the home of the upper class). Within a short time, like many other of the earliest colonists, Edward lost four family members, perhaps due to the rigorous climate and course food.

- 1) Daughter Lydia died August 1633, first recorded death in Roxbury.
- 2) Daughter (unnamed in records) died May 1634.
- 3) Son John died October 1634.
- 4) Wife and mother Elizabeth died in August 1635.

Edward Sr. married a second wife, Elizabeth Rooke, 1636 of whom there was no offspring.

In 1634 Edward was made a freeman, meaning he was a member of a Puritan church and land holder, thereby granted suffrage. It is interesting to note his pastor was the famous John Eliot. "Roxbury was filled with laborious people whom the Lord rewarded with fruitful fields and gardens with fruit and grain." An ancient transcript on a loose sheet dated 1638-40 listed the inhabitants of Roxbury. Edward is recorded with four family members. We presume this included himself, second wife, and two daughters. The daughters became by marriage, Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Twitchell.

From Edward's will of 2 September 1670, he was survived by three lines of descent. All children were deceased except 1) Mrs. Twitchell, principal legatee; daughter, Mrs. Allen, who was survived by a daughter, Elizabeth, and son, Joseph Allen; 2) Edward II, (deceased) had a wife and four children, namely Edward III, Samuel, Joseph, and Mary. As an elderly christian man of 81 to 82 years, our original ancestor, Edward Riggs died near the close of 1672, the progenitor of thousands of Americans.

Documentation:

The Essex Institute, Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the end of the Year 1849, Salem Massachusetts 1928, 26, Vol. I Births, Vol. II Marriage and Deaths

Twing, Walter Eliot, History of the First Church in Roxbury, MA, 1620-1904, Boston, W. A. Butterfield 1908, pg. 50.

Second Generation: Edward Riggs, Jr. or "Sergeant Riggs"

Edward Riggs, Jr., born in England about 1614, arrived in Boston with his parents, brother and sisters in 1633, only thirteen years after the founding of Plymouth colony. April 5 1635, he married Elizabeth Roosa of Boston. She, too, was born in England.

During the Pequot War, Edward earned the sobriquet of "Sergeant." Afterwards he went by this title, bestowed for rescuing comrades ambushed by Indians.

By 1644 Edward was a resident and land owner in Milford, Connecticut. In 1653 in company with others, they purchased from the Indians a tract of land about ten or twelve miles from Milford, known as Paugusset. Here they founded the settlement of Derby where Edward built a home on Rocky Hill surround by a palisade. This property came to his son, Samuel, who constructed a new home, which stood the test for over two hundred years. Samuel is the progenitor of the numerous and famous Riggs of Connecticut. In 1661 during the time Michael Tompkins was moving, Sergeant Edward Riggs gave refuge to two renegades, Whaley and Golf. For the next two years these renegades were secured in Tompkins' home

Pages 51-67 on Riggs (17 pages) (51) ~ 100
(67-100 on other families Allied but not of our kin.)

Net - sent to me by Byron through a DNA cousin

while King Charles II sought them. They were members of the Parliament who condemned and executed King Charles I.

When the Crown gave Governor of Connecticut powers over several settlements, the Dissenters feeling their liberty deprived, sought to relocate. Under leadership of Robert Treat, they secured a grant in 1664 on the Passaic River, an area now known as Newark, New Jersey. I shall digress for a few paragraphs from Wallace's story to tell more of the colonization of Newark. Source taken from:

- 1) History of City of Newark, New Jersey, embracing two and one-half centuries, 1661-1913, Vol. I, II, III. New York, published by Levvi's Historical Publishing Co., 1913.
- 2) Newark, New Jersey, by Historical Society, editor John T. Cunningham, 1766.
- 3) History of Newark, N.J., by Joseph Atkinson.

A committee of eleven men under Robert Trent, including Edward Riggs and wife, Elizabeth, spent the summer of 1655 selecting the best possible location on Passaic River for a village site. Elizabeth Riggs was first white female resident of Newark.

Articles of Faith for the colony provided for purity of religion as professed in the Congregational Church which was to control both spiritual and civil privileges permitted in Newark (24 May 1666). Among the signatures on Covenant 27 January 1667, we find the names of Michael Tompkins, John Brim, Sr., Sergeant Edward Riggs, John Baldwin, Jr. and Sr., Jona Tompkins, and George Day, persons who have been closely associated with the Riggs genealogy. Only five of the group of signers used the "X" signature, denoting people of education. Many were skilled artisans; Edward Riggs was a carpenter and John Baldwin was a weaver.

The design of Newark village was laid out similarly to the village of New Haven, Connecticut, with wide streets, lots of six acres each, a site for Meeting House, and a village commons. Respecting the rights of the Indian tribe, Lenni Lenapi, they paid in barter many useful articles for their land. The contract is in existence showing the names of the Indian who signed 11 July 1667.

Selection of lots was assigned by a drawing. Edward Riggs drew lot #18. It was agreed that each should pay taxes according to the value of the land in order to have funds to support the church. In an open air meeting 16 September 1668, it was decided to build a meeting house. A committee of five, including Sergeant Edward Riggs and Michael Tompkins, was appointed to construct the building, price seventeen pounds. Building proceeded slowly due to a shortage of nails. Rev. Pierson, pastor, watched the construction in view of maintaining simple design according to Puritan principles. His annual salary was 80 pounds. By 1668, substantial homes one and one-half stories high, about thirty feet long, with sloping roofs (to prevent accumulation of ice and snow) were occupied. The style was usually either salt box or Cape Cod. One of these stood until 1913. The original group of settlers numbered over 375 souls of all ages from villages of Milford, New Haven, Guilford, and Branford, Connecticut. Sergeant Edward Riggs played a very active roll in the formation of Newark. Besides aiding in construction of the church, he was a Selectman and Warner, laid out roads, surveyed lots, viewed fences, oversaw the building of the pound, and drained swamps.

Edward's sons, Edward III, and Joseph, moved to Newark later than their parents. As younger men, they were allowed to draw lots. Edward III received lot #37 and Joseph drew #53.

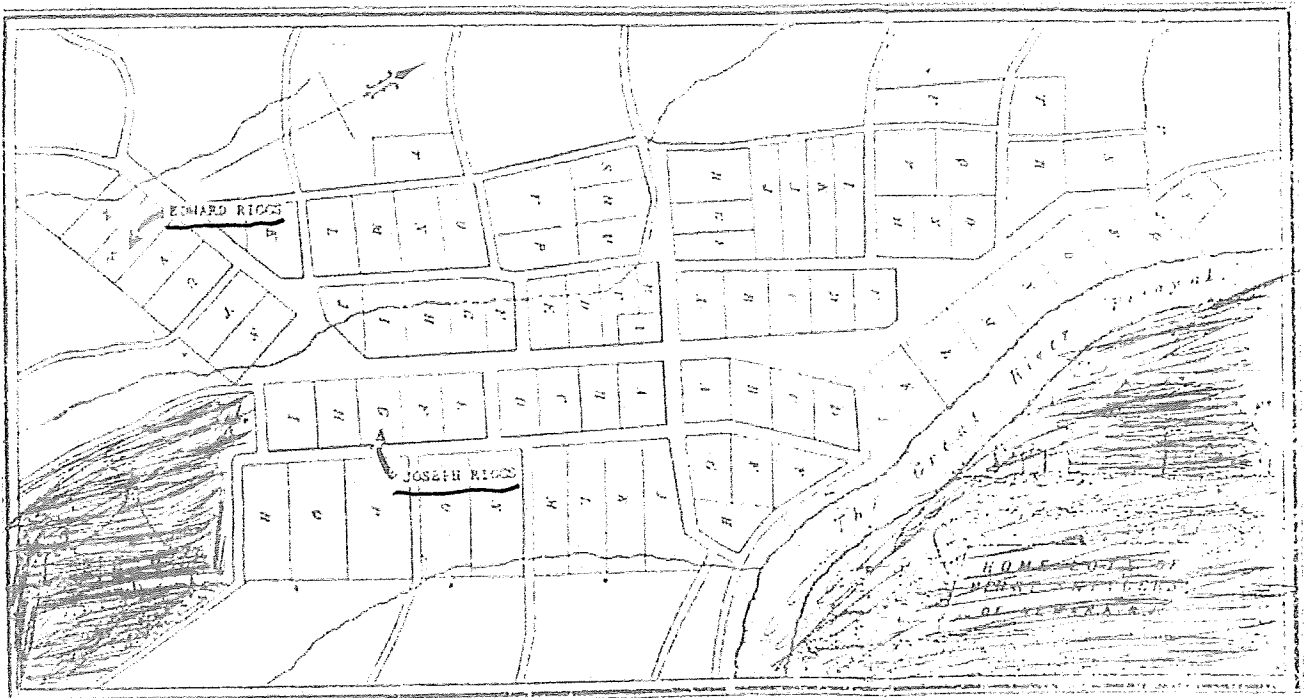
* Sergeant Edward Riggs died in 1688 at age 54 years, survived by his father, Edward, Sr. of Roxbury, Massachusetts, his wife (nee Elizabeth Roosa) and four children, named as follows:

- 1) Edward III, born about 1636, Roxbury, Massachusetts, wife Mary.
- 2) Samuel, born about 1640 in Milford, Connecticut. Married Sarah Baldwin, daughter of Richard Baldwin, remained in Connecticut.

* see my notes from "The Town Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts 1647-1730." MAP

- 3) Joseph, born about 1642, in Milford, Connecticut. Was an active citizen in Newark, New Jersey.
- 4) Mary, was wife of George Day of Newark, New Jersey.

It is said that Sergeant Edward Riggs' widow married Calet Carrwithe. Previous to this marriage, she gave son, Joseph, one-half interest in Edward II's lot #18. In addition to his grant of six acres, she gave him a one acre plot. This was his reward for spending the first summer on the Passaic in 1665.



NEWORKE OR PESAYAK TOWNE. - 1666 - 1680.

*Historical Diagram of Home Lots
on which you may locate lots
of Edward Riggs and sons.*

Plot of Newark showing lots of Edward Riggs and sons. Value of Edward's lot was \$3,200.

Third Generation: Edward Riggs III

Edward Riggs III was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts before his parents, Edward Riggs II and Elizabeth Roosa, moved to Connecticut. He married Mary, maiden name and place of marriage unknown. He did not join his parents in Newark until about 1673, and was allowed to draw a lot, #37. It is said he wasn't as well educated as his brothers, Samuel and Joseph, but had a great ability to acquire land titles. Therefore, he was referred to as Edward, the Planter. On 1 June 1677, he was appointed to a committee regarding the fences. In 1679 he was appointed Watchman (necessary to arouse the colony if attacked by Indians). On 9 January 1688, he signed agreement to pay full tax to support preaching of the Word. Author Wallace said he was not known after 1670, but the above offices have been reported from various sources. Descendants Mr. Samuel Conger and Earle Henry Riggs in their Riggs' histories said Edward III sold his lot in Newark 8 April 1691, to John Brown and moved father into the interior.

Mr. Samuel Conger gave names and ages of Edward III and Mary's children as follows:

- 1) Anna, born about 1662, married J. Gage.
- 2) James, born about 1664, married, left issue.
- 3) Mary, born about 1668, married Joseph Lindsley.
- 4) Edward, born about 1669, married Frances Colburn.
- 5) Joseph, born about 1675, married, left a large family. Died Orange County, New Jersey.
- 6) Martha, born about 1667, married S. Freeman.
- 7) Elizabeth, born about 1678, married John Lyon.
- 8) Samuel, born about 1681, married, left issue. (Our ancestor.)
- 9) Charity, born about 1685, married John Bowers.

Fourth Generation: Samuel Riggs of Morris County, New Jersey

Samuel Riggs, son of Edward Riggs III and Mary Riggs came with parents to area of Whipponomy River (now called Whippany River).

We are told John Ford set up a forge on Whippany to use power for a foundry. In 1708 Ford and others (iron foundrymen) bought a tract from Indians on which they formed a settlement called West Hanover. In 1740 the name was changed to Morristown in honor of Governor Morris.

The story of the first church known as Hanover at Whippany has been recorded by Rev. James Green. He related that in about 1710 families of Newark and Elizabeth Town, New Jersey, settled on the west side of a tributary of Passaic River below the Old Iron Works. The first pastor was Rev. Hubble sent from New York Presbytery. From thence, our Riggs branch changed their membership from Congregational to Presbyterian Church, being similar in tenets of doctrine.

By 1746 Rev. Jacob Green constructed a new church and began a permanent church register.

Membership list included Timothy Riggs, joined 12 August 1750. We find the names of Baldwin, Tompkins, Brown, and Day families on the membership record.

Marriages performed by Rev. Jacob Green, Page 10 of Marriage Book:

- 5 January 1749, Samuel Riggs married Elizabeth Tompkins (our ancestor).
- 16 August 1750, Reuben Riggs (brother of our Samuel) married Mary Carter.

CHURCH MEMBERS,
MARRIAGES & BAPTISMS,
—AT—
Hanover, Morris Co., N. J.
DURING THE PASTORATE OF
REV. JACOB GREEN,
AND TO THE SETTLEMENT OF
REV. AARON CONDIT.
1746--1796.

Front of Marriages and Baptisms Leaflet

In wills of Morris County: Estate of Nicholas Hush was inventoried and administered 18 October 1756, by Thomas Hush, a bloomer. Bondsmen were Abraham Baldwin and Samuel Riggs, carpenter and fellow workman.

Hanover Township, Morris County, New Jersey, Calendar of Strays 1750-1759, people cited.

12 November 1750, Edward Riggs III of Rockaway
15 November 1750, Samuel Riggs II
12 December 1753, Samuel Riggs II
24 November 1757, Samuel Riggs II
5 December 1758, Samuel Riggs II
6 December 1759, Reuben Riggs

These were all brothers. The strays lists records occurred only a few years before the departure of Samuel Riggs' sons for North Carolina.

Many Riggs remained in New England and New Jersey for generations, rendering valuable service in Civic and religious life. Our particular ancestors, sons of Samuel Riggs I of Morristown, moved to North Carolina and their descendants migrated south and westward.

Our Fifth Generation: Riggs of North Carolina

About 1761-1765 the Riggs brothers Edward, Timothy, Samuel II, and Reuben, sons of Samuel I of Morris County, New Jersey, wended their way southward accompanied by their wives and children. No doubt they traveled the Great Road leading from the Potomac River to Salisbury, North Carolina. This migration we can date from Rowan County, North Carolina, tithable lists and deposition for Revolutionary War pensions made under oath of Samuel Riggs, Jr., Hawkins County, Tennessee, 1834. Samuel, Jr., testified he was born in Morris County, New Jersey, 11 April 1760, and came with his father to Yadkin River about age five.

Rowan County court files: Edward Riggs, doctor and overseer of Roads, April 1761.

Marriage bond Rowan County, 2 March 1769, Reuben Riggs married to Mary Crawford, bondsmen Edward Riggs. Witnesses Gideon Wright and David Crawford. This no doubt was Reuben Riggs, Jr., as certified by deposition for Revolutionary pension made from Giles County, Tennessee.

Land north of Yadkin River, embracing all northwest North Carolina was taken from Rowan County and formed into Surry Co, 1771. The county seat at Rockford was situated on Gideon Wright's plantation. David Riggs, son of Timothy Riggs, married Gideon Wright's daughter, Miriam. One of first duties designated by the Crown to the Riggs: February 1772, Samuel Riggs I, Reuben Riggs, David Riggs, and nine others were appointed to lay off road from Thomas Jones' estate on Roaring River to David Lee's, signed by Jesse Benton C.C.

First Tithable list of Surry Co. 1772

Samuel Riggs--one poll
William Riggs (son of Timothy)--three polls
Edward Riggs--one poll
David Riggs (son of Timothy)--one poll

Samuel Riggs staked out 400 acres on the Mitchell River, Grant #1119. David Riggs filed claim for 300 acres, Grant #1120, adjacent to Richard Murphy grant on the north. The price was 15 shillings for each 100 acres. Although the grants were on tax lists of Surry Court 1774, the claims were not certified by the New State Legislature until 29 December 1778, after North Carolina enacted a State Constitution.

1118
 Richard Murphy Enters Three hundred
 acres of land in Surry County Virginia
 at Daniel Riggs's Clear in Mitchell's
 Run survey on both sides of said
 Run for including one hundred for
 Daniel Riggs's Deed of 1778

1119
 Daniel Riggs Enters four hundred acres
 of land in Surry County in both sides of Mitchell's Run
 Virginia on the County line that divides Wilkes &
 Surry Counties then running down the said Run
 including part of John Castle's Run & also of
 Joseph's Land of Riggs's survey and including
 for Daniel Riggs's Deed of 1778

1120
 Daniel Riggs Enters three hundred
 acres of land in Surry County on both
 sides Mitchell's Run adjoining of Richard
 Murphy including one hundred for
 Daniel Riggs's Deed of 1778

Riggs' Land Grant and Richard Murphy grant lay adjacent to land where the children were reared and played together.

In court files Surry County five suits were filed in name of Reuben Riggs from 1772-1775.

Tithable List Surry County 1774.

List of Dr. Brown: Samuel Riggs, sons, Silas, and Zadock--three polls.

List of William Anthony: Edward Riggs, son Jesse--two polls.

District of Capt. Hudspeth: David Riggs--one poll. (Timothy's son.)

So we see from tithable lists that the Riggs brothers' sons were coming of age.

At a Field Return and General Muster of Militia #34, 20 June 1774, Edward Riggs was appointed captain under Martin Armstrong and Major Gideon Wright. After 1814 we can find no more record of Edward Riggs. The Revolutionary soldier, Jesse, killed, cannot be proven son of Edward, as there was also a Jesse who was a son of Lott Riggs of Surry. We would like to know what became of brother, Dr. Edward Riggs.

Tithable List 1775 only 3/4 complete as North Carolina had declared her independence in 1776, so no tithe was taken during the Constitutional Convention. Surry County Tax List 1777. No longer were taxes called tithable to support the English Church, so from henceforth called tax list to support the Colonial Government only.

Reuben Riggs--one poll.

David Riggs--one poll.

Samuel Riggs--one poll, which showed Samuel's sons, Silas and Zadock had left father's home to form their own residences.

A commission was appointed by General Assembly to establish the boundary line between Surry County, Rowan County, and Wilkes County 1778 (filed in the three county courts). Three of twelve commissioners appointed were Samuel Riggs, David Riggs, and John Scott (son-in-law of Samuel Riggs).

Due to repetition of christian names: Reuben, Samuel, Timothy, Edward, Silas, Zadock, David, Joel, Jesse, etc. in each family and succeeding generations, it is hard to follow the lineage of the Riggs family. As far as I can determine, brother Timothy Riggs did not purchase land in Surry County, but resided in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He was Justice of the Peace and there are records of marriages solemnized by him. Here he apparently died intestate about 1795, but there is an inventory on file. He gave testimony in House of Delegates after Revolution for losses suffered by raiders.

In Samuel Riggs, Jr.'s deposition for pension, Hawkins County, Tennessee, 1834, he asserted that his father, Reuben, moved to Clinch Valley about 1779. Settlers there were harassed and massacred by Indians. His father joined Captain Evan Shelby in their pursuit. The Reuben Riggs family returned to the Yadkin River, residing there about five years before moving to Green Co., North Carolina, now a part of Tennessee. From there they moved to Giles County, Tennessee, where his father remained until death. Samuel Riggs, Jr.'s deposition is filed in the National Archives. It is pertinent to family history showing part played involving the Indian harassment. So of the four Riggs brothers, only Samuel lived and died in Surry County. His nephew, David Riggs, moved to Tennessee about 1814.

Our ancestor, Samuel, built appurtenances on his grant, constructed a mill site, planted an orchard and perhaps built a forge. Here he seemed to have lived happily and prosperously in the quiet amphitheater-like valley of Mitchell River, bounded on the west by towering Brushy Mountains. Legend suggests that he attended a Presbyterian church a few miles north at Mountain View.

The tranquility of this pastoral scene was broken by Tory raiders hiding in the mountains pillaging and stealing supplies for the King's army. Neighbors allegiance was divided between the patriot and loyalist causes. Adjacent neighbor, Richard Murphy, had joined the king's cause. He was the step-father-in-law of Samuel Riggs' son, Zadock, and daughter Chloe Scott. Nephew David Riggs' father-in-law, Gideon Wright, was colonel in Loyalist army. What a hornet's nest Samuel Riggs' family was in! Regardless of such conditions, Samuel contributed supplies and clothing to the Patriot Army as shown by vouchers for reimbursement after the war. Vouchers #4732, #903, #994, are found in

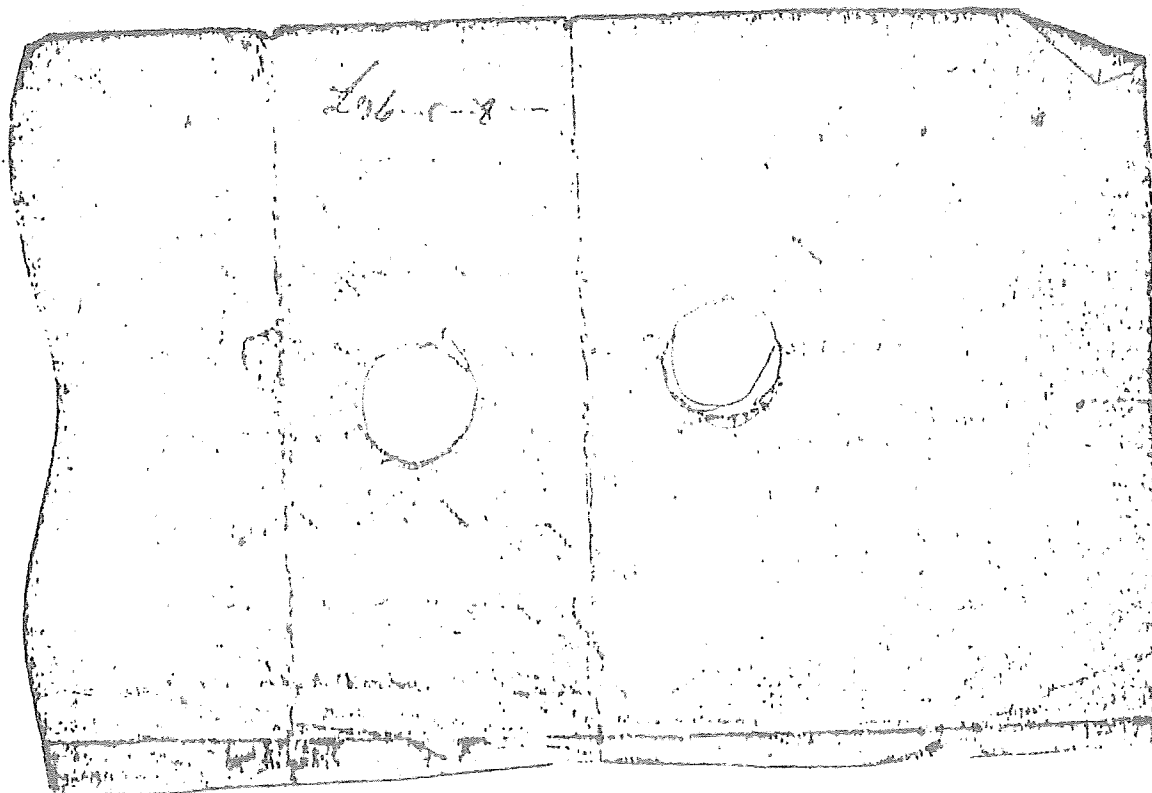
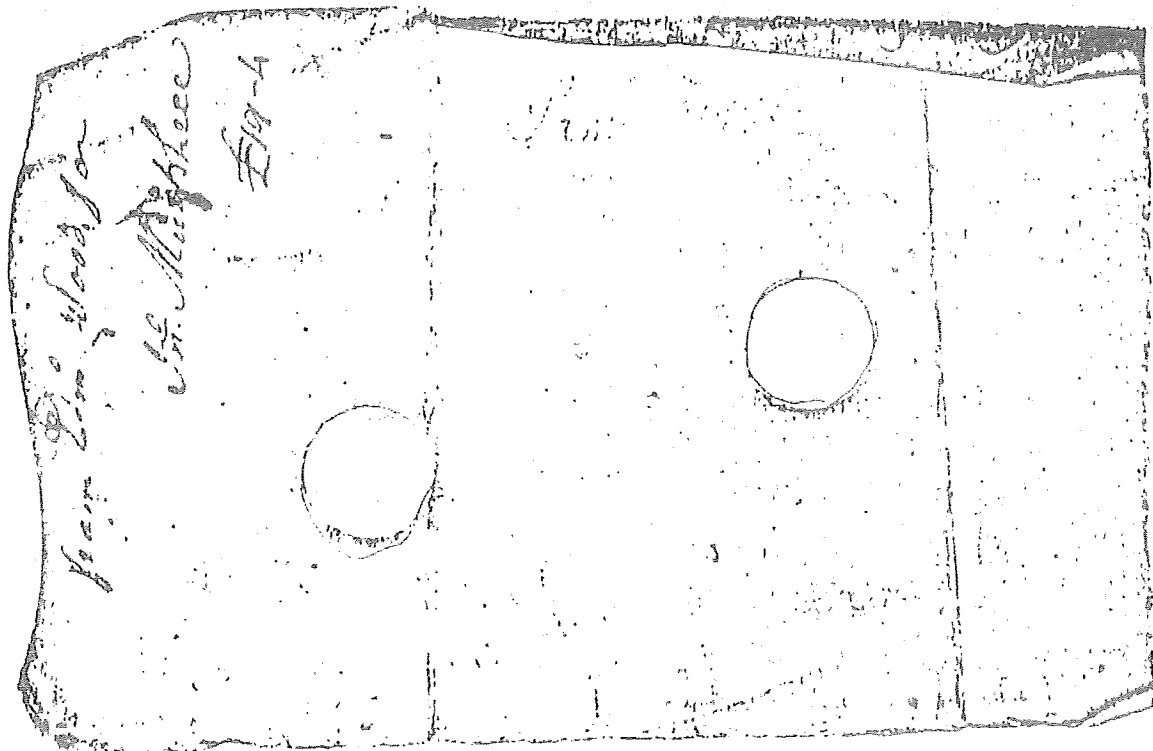
this makes Samuel Riggs a Patriot of Rev. War

* Volume VII, page 91, Folio 2; #381, Volume V, page 14, Folio 4; #1092 preserved in Archives, Raleigh, North Carolina. These vouchers are punched with holes so they could not be reused. They were accepted for payment in cash, used for tax payment for land purchases. For these patriotic contributions, I have placed his name on the D.A.R. Honor Roll.

State of North Carolina
 Salisbury District £36.50 No 1732
 This may certify that Samuel Riggs
 was allowed ~~by~~ five pounds five shillings & eight pence
 Special for public Service by the
 Board of Auditors the 9th Day of April
 1784 J. C. Charles Bruce
 By order Will. Darr, Clk James Hunter } Audt

State of North Carolina
 Salisbury District £19.11.0 No 1731
 This may certify that Samuel Riggs
 was allowed Nineteen pounds for
 Special for public Service by the
 Board of Auditors the 9th Day of April
 1784 Charles Bruce
 By order Will. Darr, Clk James Hunter } Audt

Vouchers of Samuel Riggs



Reverse Side of Vouchers Showing Endorsements

New York was the seat of the Federal government. Vouchers were sent there for accounting of NC's debt during the war. Vouchers were arranged alphabetically by surname for whole state. Riggs is listed for the Salisbury District.

Samuel added two more grants to his original tract of 400 acres. On 20 December 1791, he acquired 100 acres, £10 per 100 acres on north side of original tract. (Book 1, page 16 in 16th year of Independence.) Grant #1327, 50 acres for £10 per 100 acres on south side of Mitchell River called Red Bank Springs, located east side of original plantation. Son Zadock received a grant, #1479, of 100 acres on 5 December 1791. Also, he acquired 35 acres variant lands lying between his father's, Samuel Riggs, land and plantation of Richard Murphy. (Deed Book 1, page 24.) Samuel Riggs' nephew, Bethuel Riggs, from Morris County, New Jersey, acquired grants #1137 and #1197 in Wilkes County, North Carolina. Reuben Riggs made entry to survey 100 acres on south side of Yadkin River commonly known as "David Riggs' Old Place" in name of William Terrel.

Tax List Surry County 1784 under Captain Wells

Samuel Riggs, 500 acres--one poll.
Silas Riggs, one poll (son of Samuel Riggs).
Hiram Riggs, one poll (son of Samuel Riggs).
David Riggs, 300 acres--one poll.

The 1789 Surry County Tax List under Capt. Edwards

Samuel Riggs, 350 acres--one poll.
Zadock Riggs, 126 acres--one poll.
Iram Riggs, one poll.
David Riggs, 400 acres--two polls.

There are numerous records of land transactions, jury lists, court orders, and various data in Surry, Wilkes, and other counties of North Carolina, but I have given enough to show life style of the Riggs family--farmers, civic participants, and soldiers.

By 1794, Samuel Riggs was growing old, so began to reduce the size of his land holding. He sold to son-in-law, John Scott, 10 October 1794, 58 acres on Mitchell River, part of 400 acre grant, in Southwest Corner of County for £10. (Deed Book F, page 132.) On 2 August 1785, Samuel sold to son, Zadock, 100 acres on creek at head of mill site at corner of Richard Murphy. (Deed Book C, page 240.) Samuel sold three tracts to neighbor, Ephram Wilcher, 10 November 1794, 22 acres for £400. (Book T, page 136) In 1795 he sold 60 acres for £60. (Deed Book H, page 114.)

Samuel Riggs' will was brought to Surry County Court in August 1800 with son-in-law, Ezekial Wilmouth, executor. Only one son with heirs, Lott, remained in Surry County, so Lott was given home site with mill for care for his mother, Elizabeth.

By the inventory of Samuel's estate, we see he had been frugal enough to acquire assets to bestow cash to each of his daughters and to make loans to several others.

(Copy of Will of Samuel Riggs)

In the name of Father, Son and Holy Ghost; Amen.

I Samuel Riggs of Surry County and State of North Carolina being advanced in years and weakly in body but of perfect mind and memory thanks be to God calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my Last Will and Testament (viz:) First and principally I give and recommend my soul into the hands of Almighty God who gave it then my body to be interred at the discretion of my friends and as touching such worldly Estate as is has been pleased God to bless me with in this life I give, devise, and dispose of the same in the following manner and form.

First, I give and bequeath to Elizabeth Riggs (my beloved wife) the use of the plantation that I now live on and also of the mill her life time and one cow her choice of my stock and one horse her choice of my horses with all my house hold furniture.

Item, to Lott Riggs (my son) I give and devise my apple orchard lying on the north side of the spring branch and the Land lying below the road that disects to the mill to a black oak corner of the hundred acre Lott in the line of the four hundred acre Lott from thence down the river including the mill and all my land lying on the south side of the River also the aforsaid hundred acre lot.

Item, I give and devise to Silas Riggs (my son) the land lying on the north side of the above mentioned line of hundred acre lot. Likewise the fifty acre Lot that lies joining the hundred acre lot above Lott Riggs with all the rest of my Lands and premises on Mitchel's River.

Item, To Zadock Riggs (my son) I give and devise one pound to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item, I give and devise to Chloe Scott ten pounds to be paid out of my moveable estate.

Item, I give and devise to Eunice Lasswell five pounds to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item, I give and devise to Iram Riggs (my son) ten pounds to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item, I give and devise to Elizabeth Snow thirty pounds to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

To Abigail Snow I give and devise the sum of thirty pounds to be paid out of my moveable Estate.

Item, then what remains of my moveable Estate if any there be for to be equally divided between Chloe Scott, Eunice Laswell, Iram Riggs, Mary Wilmouth, Elizabeth Snow, and Abigail Snow.

And I constitute, make and ordain Silas Riggs, John Williams and Ezekiel Wilmouth Executors of this my Last Will and Testement, and I do hereby utterly disallow, revoke and disannul all and every other Will and Testement and Executor heretofore ratifying and confirming this to be my Last Will and Testement and no other. In Witness hereof have here to set my hand and seal this 12th day of September Anno Domini 1798.

Samuel Riggs (seal)

Test:

John Personett
Stephen Potter
Ephraim Witcher

State of North Carolina, Surry County August Session AD 1800 Stephen Potter and Ephraim Witcher two of the subscribing witnesses to the foregoing Last Will and Testament of Samuel Riggs made Oath that they saw the said Riggs sign, publish and declare the same to be his Last Will and Testament that he was off sound disposing mind and memory and that at the same time they saw John Personett sign, the same as a witness there to which was ordered to be recorded.

Recorded according by Jo Williams.

It is said he and his wife, Elizabeth, were buried in a family cemetery, but no trace of cemetery has been found. Elizabeth was still alive in 1810, we know by correspondence of son, Silas Riggs, with a nephew, James Scott, of Washington County, Kentucky, in which

Silas reported mother did not feel able to cross mountains and streams to visit her children living in Kentucky.

The will of Lott Riggs, Samuel's son (naming wife, Peggy, and children) was brought to Surry County Court and ordered to be recorded May, 1813. His heirs sold the land with mill site to Mr. Nixon who in turn sold to Mr. Kapps.

I went to Surry County, North Carolina, in July 1986 to research our paternal lineage of Riggs and Scott. When I asked about the Riggs' mill, no one knew of whom I inquired. When I gave description, I was told it is known as Kapps' mill. To reach the area, we took Haystack Road from Dobson county seat to Mitchell River to area lying almost on Wilkes County line. It was a pleasure to gaze at the rushing water over the mill race, perhaps as voluminous as it did in the 1770s, to smell the refreshing vapor of the water, to behold the verdant grass of the amphitheater-like valley, to see the mill in authentic design of Revolutionary period, reconstructed in 1843, to see two large residences standing perhaps on the original Riggs' home site. I placed my hand on the ledge of Brushy Mountains on spot I knew that Samuel sold to our ancestor, John Scott.

Our guide, Mrs. Hester Jackson, said, "Look to the north. Just over the crest of the mountain flows the Elkin River of Allegheny County." Elkin River valley was the home of my Atwood and Royall families of 1850. She continued, "Look toward the southwest and just over the mountains is Roaring Gap." This was home site of other members of the Royall family."

We traveled northeast toward Fisher River, the area where Lott Riggs' family (Gillespie and Laffen) resided. Here was the old historic pioneer Fisher River Baptist Church. It has collapsed with the hand blown glass shattered about, much sought after as souvenirs. Beside the church was the cemetery among the saw briars, but still a burying ground. In the stillness of this forest area, I seemed to hear the songs of Zion, lined out by the sonorous voice of a by-gone minister--the likes of which Grandmother Royall related. These churches were pastored by rural preachers who walked miles to preach to audiences of women in calico and men in linsey-woolsey trousers who likewise had walked miles to attend.

Can it be that the thirst of God's word has died within us as we sit in automatically heated and air-conditioned churches, driving to church in modern cars? We wipe away our tears in gratitude to these our ancestors who fought for our independence and left us with a heritage of honest values and industrious livelihood and reverence of Almighty God.

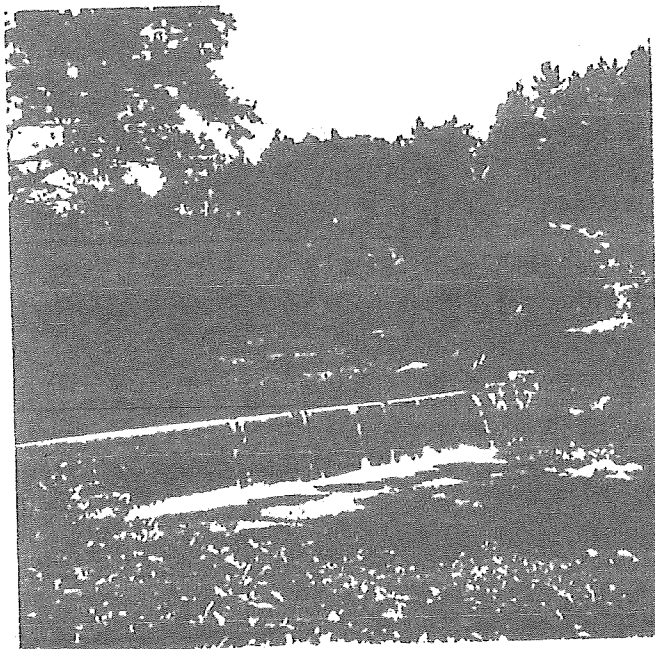
Note: "Lining out a song" means the song leader (often the minister) repeated a score and then the phrase was sung by the audience. This he continued through the length of the song. Singing schools were held where shaped notes were taught for sight reading. Very few instruments were used. Only a few song books were owned by members, but part singing was melodious (key given by a pitch pipe).

Samuel Riggs and Elizabeth Tompkins married 5 January 1749. With several children, they migrated to area of Mitchell River, North Carolina, where children were reared and all but Silas married. He operated a water mill and blacksmith shop. Samuel wrote his will 10 October 1798 which was inventoried 13 May 1800. Elizabeth survived him to at least 1812. The children according to his will:

1. Lott, born about 1750, in Morris County, New Jersey. He died in Surry County in 1813 with will naming wife, Peggy, and children. He was buried in Devotion, North Carolina. Peggy died about 1835. John, Joel, Jesse, Daniel, Elizabeth (married Larkin Canady), Mahalia (married Elkanah Lewis), Mary (married Tyre P. Gillespie), Sarah (married Mathew Laffron), Abigail (married Isaac), Norma, and Silas.
2. Silas, born Morris County, New Jersey, and perhaps died a bachelor in Surry County, North Carolina, making brother Lott's family his heirs.
3. Zadock, born 4 January 1754, in Morris County, New Jersey. He married Sarah Scott about 1775 in Surry County, North Carolina. He died in Boone County, Missouri, 23 October 1846. His children were: Scott, born 1779 (married Hannah Berry), died in Scott County, Illinois; Hannah, (married Benjamin Givens of Lincoln County,

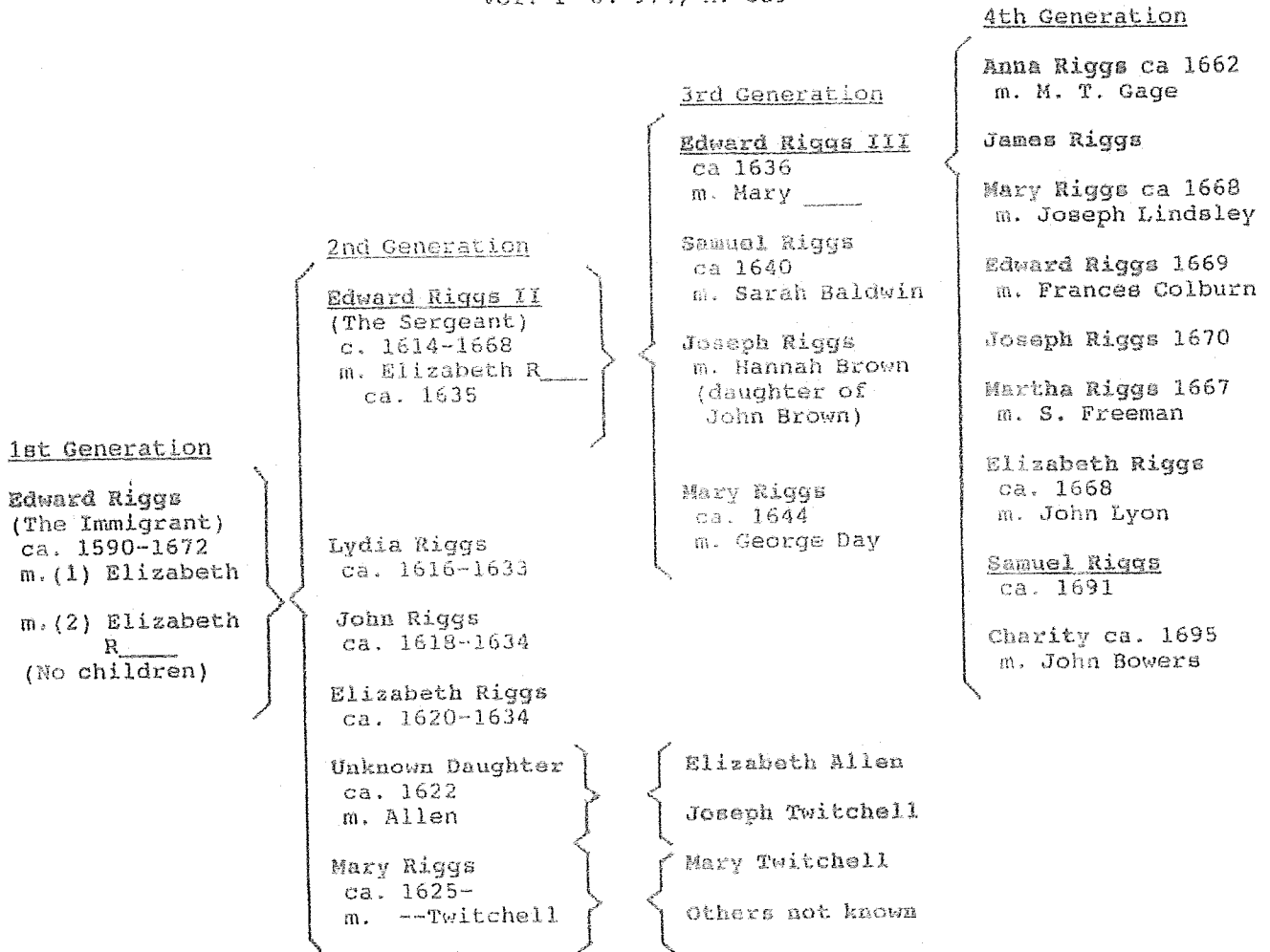
Kentucky); Mary, born 20 November 1781 (married N. McWarren of Lincoln County, Kentucky), died 17 April 1850, Boone County; Samuel, born 28 March 1788 (married Deborah Compress, Lincoln County, Kentucky), died 17 April 1850, Boone County; Zadock, Jr., born 25 October 1790 (married Mary Moore, Lincoln County, Kentucky), died 23 July 1875, Boone County, Missouri; Silas, born 6 July 1797, married Sarah Hicks, Boone County, Missouri, died 8 October 1814, Tennessee; Daughter--nothing known.

4. Chloe--see Scott lineage Section B, Part 3. Our ancestor.
 5. Eunice, married John Laswell who resided near Mitchell River--not traced.
 6. Iram, born in New Jersey, probably moved to Rockcastle County, Kentucky.
 7. Mary, born 1764, married Ezekial Wilmouth, residing near Mitchell River. Descendant still in area. Offspring: Sarah, born 1784; Nancy, born 1786; Elizabeth, born 1789; Stephen, born 1793; Chloe, born 1795; Lott, born 1797; William, born 1799; and Tempy, born 1802.
 8. Elizabeth, married Mr. Snow residing near Mitchell River--not traced.
 9. Abigail, married a Mr. Snow residing near Mitchell River--not traced.
- These above Snow families may have migrated.

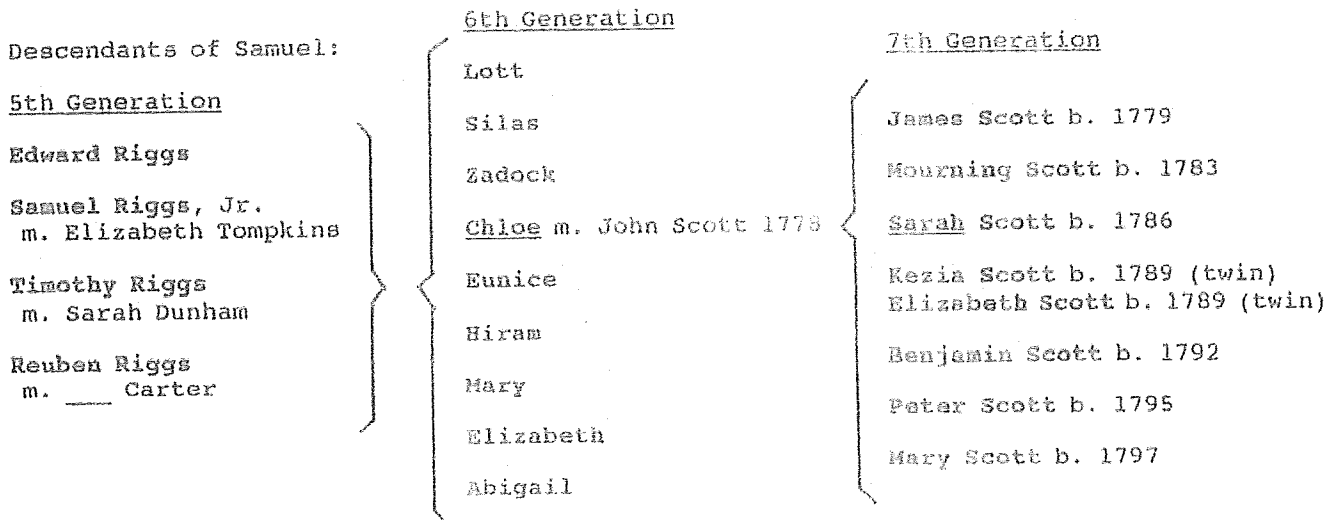


Riggs Mill Race, Surry Co., NC

Riggs Generation Chart (Not My Research)
 Made by State Library of New Jersey for 200th Anniversary 17 May 1886
 Vol. I J. 974, A. 669



 5th, 6th, 7th Generations Constructed by Author



Sources of chart on previous page:

1. Wallace, History of Riggs Family, Edward I and II
2. State Library NJ J 974-9, 669, VI for Edward I and II
for 200th anniversary 17 May 1866
Printed for NJ Historical Society

Also, see Vol. I, pp. 352-366
in History of Essex and Hudson Co. NJ
by William Shaw 1874
found Library A-974.931
S 537

3. Morris County New Jersey
Whippony Church Records and County Records
4. Will of Samuel Riggs, Surry Co., NC, and Surry Co. Records

Our Riggs Generations

- I. Edward Riggs to Roxbury 1633 (1590-1672).
- II. Edward or Sergeant Edward Riggs (1614-1668) to Roxbury, Massachusetts, to Milford, Connecticut, to Derby, Connecticut, to Newark, New Jersey.
- III. Edward III, Milford, Connecticut, to Derby to Newark, New Jersey, to Morris County, New Jersey.
- IV. Samuel Riggs, born 1691, Newark, New Jersey to Morris County, New Jersey.
- V. Samuel Riggs, Jr. to Surry Co., North Carolina, died 1800.
- VI. Chloe Riggs, born Morris Co., New Jersey, 1752. Died in Illinois in 1852, husband was John Scott.
- VII. Sally (Scott) Wright, born Surry Co., North Carolina, in 1786. Died before 1850 in Marion Co., Kentucky.
- VIII. Lewis Wright (1818-1894).
- IX. John Casey Wright (1833-1910).
- X. William Henry Wright (1856-1945).

CHAPTER I, SECTION B, PART 5

TOMPKINS FAMILY

As related previously in the Riggs-Tompkins history of New England and New Jersey, we know the Riggs and Tompkins families were intimate friends with some intermarriage since the days at Milford, Connecticut. At Derby, Connecticut, Edward Riggs and Micajah Tompkins were instrumental in hiding refugees from King Charles II. We reported that Edward Riggs II and Micajah Tompkins were founders of Newark, New Jersey.

When Edward III and son, Samuel Riggs, moved to Morris County, New Jersey, we find both Riggs and Tompkins were members of the Presbyterian Church at Whippany. There Samuel Riggs, Jr. and Elizabeth Tompkins were married in 1749 by Rev. James Green. Reuben Riggs married there in 1750.

It was not many years after Samuel and Elizabeth Riggs moved to Surry County, North Carolina, that several Tompkins families took up land on rivers of the adjacent county, Wilkes County.

I have not had access to enough records to trace our Riggs-Tompkins lineage accurately, but hope as more records are available, some descendant will establish this honorable line. Tompkins and Riggs families were closely allied and intermarried in Derby, CT, Newark, and Morris County, NJ.

So with the death of Samuel Riggs' wife, Elizabeth, nee Tompkins, our Tompkins line ceased or rather, let us say, merged with the Riggs family into the Scott family, and to the Wright line.

END