

HUGH TINGLE

By

J. Seeger Kerns

Some eighty-five years ago a lawyer in Jersey City, N.J., having left his native village of Pocomoke City in Worcester County, Maryland to seek a more remunerative life in the north, decided to prepare a “brief sketch to further honor and better keep alive the memory of my maternal grandfather, John Slemmons Stevenson.”

The aforementioned attorney, John Stevenson McMaster, did indeed write a sketch but “brief” it was not. Titled “Sketch of John Slemmons Stevenson of Maryland and Missouri, 1807-1867,” it covered forty-seven pages. In the process he traced the ancestry of his direct forebearers on his mother’s side and thereby exposed for the first time in print some of the background surrounding HUGH TINGLE of Maryland. The book, of which only fifty copies were printed, is beautifully written in the language used around the turn of the century.

About ten years later, 1911 to be exact, a middle-aged gentleman who was employed in some capacity in the United States Senate, Washington, D.C. (but not a senator) became interested in tracing his family background. He was Millard F. Hudson, born 1861 Indiana. His pursuit of the HUDSON line carried him to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, specifically to Worcester County. Inevitably his research ran into the TINGLE name when he discovered that MARGARET HUDSON, wife of RICHARD HUDSON, was a daughter of HUGH TINGLE. The result of this happenstance was a thirty—six page manuscript completed in 1918 and titled “Notes on the Tingle Family of Worcester County, Maryland.”

These two articles, copies of which the author is fortunate to possess, simplified greatly his research into the surname TINGLE. Full credit must be given to Mr. Hudson, who by his own admission, spent untold hours visiting and interviewing various members of the TINGLE and HUDSON families. He documented much of his investigation at the courthouses in Snow Hill and Princess Anne, Md. and in Georgetown, Del., as well as at the State Archives in Annapolis, Md. and Dover, Del. In the following condensed version of HUGH TINGLE’s history I use much of Millard F. Hudson’s writings, but I have personally verified the relevant facts of names, dates and places in the official records stored in the locations mentioned.

The first settler bearing the surname TINGLE, in what is now Worcester County, Maryland, would appear to be HUGH TINGLE. He was probably from England since the surname appears in parish records of Yorkshire, Lincoln, Derby, Nottingham, Gloucester and Sussex Counties. However, the possibility exists that he may have been a Scotsman.

His name (spelled TINGLES) initially appears in the records as one of seven persons “imported” into Maryland on 26 April 1669 by Christopher Rousby who received 350 acres of land thereby. The ship, named “Supply,” was under the command of Thomas Pieghen, Master and may have sailed from Whitby, England situated on the North Sea coast, not too far from the Yorkshires.¹

No further record comes to light until 1683 when “Hugh Tingle and Elizabeth Powell were married

by Mr. Traile, Minister, ye twenty-first day of December, Anno Domini, one thousand six hundred eighty—three.”² Willaim Traile was one of the earliest Presbyterian ministers. He arrived in the Colonies shortly after Rev. Frances Makemie, founder of the Presbyterian Church in America.³

Elizabeth Powell was the daughter of Walter Powell and Margaret Berry. Her father was a Quaker and “one of the highest class of early settlers in Somerset County.” It should be mentioned that this part of the county did not become Worcester until the latter was erected from it in 1742.

HUGH and ELIZABETH TINGLE started a family immediately. The old court record book of Somerset County shows this interesting item - “Samuell Tingle Son of Hugh Tingle borne of Elizabeth his wife ye 17th day of September one thousand six hundred eighty & f our.”⁴ It is rare to find a marriage and birth record in an official colonial court volume.

The couple appear to have lived at first on part of a tract called “Powell’s Inclusion.” The record of its survey reads: Powell’s Inclusion, 256 acres, surveyed May 2, 1686 for Walter Powell, back from the seaboard side. 128 acres possessed by Hugh Tingle in his wife’s right, the residue by Walter Evans. 5 .The latter was Hugh’s brother-in-law, having married Mary Powell, sister of Elizabeth Tingle. Their father, Walter Powell, in his will, gave these two daughters this tract and other land.

HUGH TINGLE, on 28 November 1689, signed the “Address of Loyalty to King William and Queen Mary.”⁶

A few years later, 18 July 1693, HUGH TINGLE purchased from Thomas Fenwick and Mary, his wife, (for whom Fenwick Island was named) 200 acres of a tract called “Dumfreisa” for 4,000 pounds of tobacco. Lying in the northeastern part of what is now Worcester County and near Fenwick Island, this land was part of a larger tract of 600 acres called “Duinfreise.”⁷ HUGH TINGLE adopted the name “Dumfreise” for his plantation which in those days carried a wider connotation than a present-day farm since it had to provide all the necessities of life.

The tax list for 1724 of Baltimore Hundred in Somerset County contains the names of HUGH TINGLE, JNO. TINGLE and HUGH TINGLE, JR. The latter two were sons of HUGH TINGLE and therefore at least 16, the taxable age. SAMUEL, the oldest son had died in 1721. DANIEL, the youngest son, was obviously not yet 16.

HUGH TINGLE, through purchase and by his wife’s right, acquired the following parcels of land which were charged to him on the Land Office Proprietary Debt Books for Quitt Rents of Somerset County⁸ at the time of his death in 1733:

Powell’s Inclusion	128 acres
Hilliard’s Discovery	75
Dumfries	200
Parker’s Denial (a.k.a. Rumley Marsh)	100
Scottish Plot (a.k.a. Layfield’s Lot)	<u>400</u>
	903 acres

It would appear that HUGH TINGLE was a well-respected and substantial citizen as shown by his will and by certain affidavits submitted by his neighbors after his death, relative to the lengthy boundary dispute between William Penn’s heirs and the various Lords Baltimore, concerning the

Delaware— Maryland Line. One deposition refers to “Hugh Tingle as an ‘antient’ man of good credit who lived within a mile or two of Fenwick Island.”⁹

Most, if not all, of HUGH TINGLE’s lands were originally in Somerset County, Maryland. This portion eventually became part of Worcester County in 1742. However, when the boundary dispute between the colonial proprietors was finally settled by the Chancery Court in England, based on the now famous Mason and Dixon Line, and the decree was signed by King George III in 1769, nearly all of HUGH TINGLE’s land became situated in Sussex County, Delaware. This event, coupled with the rising problems between the colonies and the mother country that precipitated the American Revolution, makes research in these geographic areas both challenging and frustrating.

HUGH TINGLE made his will 28 April 1723 and it was probated 22 August 1733, showing that he had died in the summer of the last named year.¹⁰ His wife, Elizabeth, survived him about thirteen years. Her will, dated 18 May 1740, was proven 19 July 1746.¹¹ Photocopies of these wills are in the possession of this author who will be glad to make them available at no charge to interested TINGLE descendants.

Eight children were born to HUGH and ELIZABETH TINGLE as far as is known, all of whom are named in his will:

SAMUEL TINGLE, b. 17 Sept. 1684, m. SARAH COBB

HUGH TINGLE, JR.

JOHN TINGLE m. MARY _____

MARGARET TINGLE m. RICHARD HUDSON

SARAH A. TINGLE m. CHARLES COLLINS

ELIZABETH TINGLE m. JOHN SAULS

DANIEL TINGLE m. MARY _____

MARY TINGLE m. WILLIAM COBB

Among the descendants of HUGH TINGLE who have proved their lineage through his children are the following:

Mrs. Vera M. Bennett Niemiec, 402 Meadow Lark Lane, Durant, OK 74701, descended from MARGARET TINGLE HUDSON

David P. Shaw, 2005 Golf Course Drive, Reston, VA 22091 descended from SAMUEL TINGLE

J. Seeger Kerns, 120 Melrose East, Apt. 1-B, Baltimore, MD 21212, descended from DANIEL TINGLE

Obviously, there must be dozens of descendants scattered across the nation who can or would like to trace their ancestry to this particular HUGH TINGLE through his children. I am sure that the three of us named above, plus Mrs. Dixie Tingle Willis, Route 65, Box 23, Arapahoe, N.C. 28510 who may be descended from HUGH TINGLE, JR., will be glad to help to the best of our ability. After all, that is one of the purposes of this family newsletter.

J. Seegar Kerns

(for the curious, the “J” in my name stands for John; Seeger is a family name. I was named for my uncle, Paul A. Seeger. Most people call me “Seeger”, but a few have special nicknames which I don’t think I will disclose in print)

Sources:

1. State Archives, Annapolis, lib. 12, f. 334.
2. *ibid.* Somerset Co., lib. IKL, f. 258.
3. Rev. I.M. Page, “OLD BUCKINGHAM BY—THE-SEA”, Ch. III, p. 15.
4. State Archives, Annapolis, Somerset Co., lib. IKL, f.258.
5. *ibid.* lib. I, f. 142.
6. Clayton Torrence, “Old Somerset On The Eastern Shore”, p.349.
7. State Archives, Annapolis, Som. Co. Deeds. lib. L 1, f. 103-106.
8. *ibid.* Debt Books, Vol. 42, P. 95.
9. Pennsylvania State Archives, second series, p. 669.
10. State Archives, Annapolis, Som. Co. Wills, lib. 20, f. 786-788.
11. *ibid.* lib. JW 2, f. 36—37.