

JOHN TINGLE OF MARYLAND AND HIS SON, WILLIAM, OF MARYLAND AND DELAWARE

In the 1987 Winter issue (Vol. 1 - No. 2) of our newsletter we carried a history of HUGH TINGLE, progenitor of the Worcester County, Maryland strain of Tingles. Then, in the next issue, there appeared the story of HUGH TINGLE, JR. who removed from Maryland to North Carolina in the 1750's. Now we come to JOHN TINGLE, another son of HUGH, SR. and a brother to HUGH, JR.

Very little is known of JOHN. Of the eight (8) children identified as having been born to HUGH TINGLE, SR. and his wife, ELIAZBETH Powell, a calculated guess is that John was born about 1690 - 1700. His name first appears in the records in 1723 when he was listed as a taxable, living in Baltimore Hundred of Somerset County, Md. with HUGH TINGLE (his father).¹ Worcester County was not erected from Somerset until 1742. The lands owned by the Tingles were in the extreme northeastern portion of the county on 'the seaboard side'. When the boundary dispute between Maryland and Delaware was finally settled in 1769 with the drawing of the Mason and Dixon line, this portion of Somerset (now Worcester) ended up in Sussex County, Delaware.

In 1723 HUGH TINGLE, SR. made his Will and among other bequests he "gives unto my son, John Tingle, the plantation whereon I now live - called by the name of DUMFRIES".² The next sentence provided that if "John Tingle deceases without issue", then the plantation would go to LITTLETON TINGLE, grandson of HUGH and son of SAMUEL who died in 1721. This wording makes it sound as though JOHN TINGLE may not have been married in 1723; however, he could have been married but had no children at that point in time.

In the will of HUGH TINGLE, SR. he (the father) "appointed my well beloved son, JOHN TINGLE, to be whole and sole executor of this my last Will and Testament". HUGH lived for another ten (ten) years, the Will being probated 22 August 1733.

JOHN TINGLE, as executor, filed an accounting of the estate on 22 January 1734. He continues to be listed as a taxable, with his faithful Negro, HARRY, up to 1737. In that year, on the 12th of December, JOHN TINGLE made his Will listing these bequests⁴:

"to so, WILLIAM, plantation whereon I live called DUMFRIES",
"to daughter RODEAR (RHODA), a slave", "to daughter HANNAH, a slave", "to daughter MARY, a slave", "to wife, MARY, one-third of entire estate. She to be sole executrix",
"to my four (4) children, WILLIAM, RODEAH, MARY and HANNAH, residue of estate.
Should unborn child attain years of maturity, to have an equal portion with other children."

Who was the unborn child? A reasonable assumption might be that the child was a girl, named Esther. On November 9, 1756, WILLIAM TINGLE and Ananias Hudson, Executors of the Estate of William Richards, filed an accounting and one item of disbursement reads "money due from deceased as guardian of ESTHER TINGLE for the durable part of her father's estate and paid to her by these accountants, 45 pounds, 15 shillings, 0 pence."⁵

Was this WILLIAM TINGLE the son of JOHN and MARY? I am strongly inclined to believe that he was. If so, he was a first cousin of Ananias Hudson, as the latter's mother was MARGARET TINGLE who had married Richard Hudson. MARGARET TINGLE HUDSON and JOHN TINGLE were sister and brother. Ananias Hudson, son of Margaret and Richard, was a bachelor and a man of considerable means. He was older than his cousin, WILLIAM TINGLE.

William Richards, mentioned above, married Margaret Hudson, daughter of Richard Hudson and his wife, MARGARET TINGLE. Therefore, it is easy, though somewhat confusing, to see the relationship between the Tingles, Hudsons and Richardses.

Getting back to JOHN TINGLE, I have been unable to determine the surname of his widow, MARY. Did she remarry after his death? I don't know. On May 14, 1739, MARY TINGLE, as Executrix, filed an accounting of his Estate showing that it was valued at 457 pounds sterling. One of the disbursements was for ten (10) pounds, paid in full to SAMUEL TINGLE, of a legacy left to him by his grandfather, HUGH TINGLE, SR. This young SAMUEL was the son of SAMUEL who died in 1721 and, therefore, a nephew of JOHN, subject of this sketch.⁶

Now we come to WILLIAM TINGLE, son of JOHN and brother to three (3) — probably four (4) sisters, mentioned previously. Of the many Christian (and biblical) names bestowed on TINGLE children, the most difficult to research is WILLIAM. It appears many times in generation after generation.

We know from the aforementioned Wills of HUGH and JOHN TINGLE that WILLIAM inherited the family plantation, DUMFRIES, originally purchased in 1693.⁷ How old was WILLIAM at the time of his father's death in 1737? JOHN TINGLE died very shortly after making his Will. It was probated January 18, 1738.⁸ It would seem that all of his children were minors at the time. WILLIAM was probably the oldest. On June 22, 1745, John Tull and William Hatfield were chosen to value the "plantation and appurtenances belonging to Wm. Tingle, in guardianship of Mr. William Richards".⁹ Probably this is when WILLIAM TINGLE became eighteen years old which would place his year of birth about 1727.

It is unfortunate that the lists of "taxables" (males age 16 and over) for 1741 and 1742 in Somerset County have not survived. Prior to 1741, no WILLIAM TINGLE is listed, even though he had inherited the family plantation in 1738. This would seem to prove that he was not yet sixteen. In 1742, Baltimore Hundred and Boquetenorton Hundred were partitioned from Somerset to form Worcester County. No tax records exist for the latter. What happened to them is lost in the maze of two hundred and fifty years of record keeping or the destruction thereof.

Following the appraisal of WILLIAM TINGLE's plantation in 1745, his name does not appear in any records until 1756 when he made a distribution of funds to ESTHER TINGLE, as previously mentioned in this story. Then it vanishes 'til 1774 when, on April 22nd, WILLIAM TINGLE sells to Elijah Fassitt for "six hundred pounds current money of Maryland, all that tract of land containing 200 acres, known by the name of DUMFRIES. WILLIAM says that he has a good, sure and indefeasible estate of inheritance to this land. ELIZABETH, his wife, is examined and agrees to the sale."¹⁰ After being in the family for

eighty years spanning three (3) generations, the land passes to other ownership.

Now at last, we know that WILLIAM TINGLE is married and has a wife named ELIZABETH. Elizabeth who? I think and I emphasize “think”, that she was ELIZABETH MILLER, daughter of Captain Joseph Miller who commanded a militia company of fifty—four men in Somerset/Worcester County in 1748-49. While the name, WILLIAM TINGLE, does not appear in this historic old document (I have had the privilege of inspecting the original paper), the names of HUGH TINGLE, JUN^r, HUGH TINGLE, corporal, and SOLOMON TINGLE are listed.¹¹ Joseph Miller’s Will was made October 2, 1777 and probated November 4, 1780 in Sussex County, Delaware. It contains a bequest of “Negroes to ELIZABETH TINGLE’s children” .¹²

WILLIAM TINGLE appears on the list of members supporting the Rev. John Rankin, minister to Blackwater Presbyterian Church near Frankford, Del. and Old Buckingham By-The-Sea Presbyterian Church near the future site of present-day Berlin, Md. The form of support was six (6) bushels of corn annually by WILLIAM TINGLE and varying amounts by other members. The years were 1778-79-80, a trying period due to the Revolutionary War.¹³

Who were the children of WILLIAM TINGLE and his wife, ELIZABETH MILLER? Until further information surfaces that might prove otherwise, we have to rely on his Will made September 20, 1806, Codicil added January 19, 1807 and probated February 17, 1807 in Sussex County, Del.¹⁴ It names the following:

“my son, JOHN TINGLE”

“my son, NATHANIEL TINGLE”

“my daughter, CATTY LONG”

“my grand daughter, POLLY FASITT”

“my grand son, WILLIAM COTINGHAM”

“my grand daughter, HETTEY LOCKWODD”

“my three grand daughters, CATTEY, MORIAH and HETTEY TUNNEL”

“my three daughters, COMFORT, EASTER and CATTEY”

“my daughter, HESEY COTINGHAM”

WILLIAM TINGLE seems to have experienced a long and useful life of about eighty years. His wife predeceased him as her name is not mentioned in his Will. One son, WILLIAM, also predeceased his father, dying in 1800, but leaving no children.¹⁵ A daughter, MORIAR (MARIA) TUNNELL, died before her father.¹⁶

The son JOHN mentioned in WILLIAM’s Will appears to have died in November 1807, not long after his father’s death. He left two (2) children, MARY (POLLY) and JOHN. The mother of these two (2) children seems to have predeceased her husband.¹⁷ Information about some of WILLIAM TINGLE’s children is on file and will be published in a future issue of our family newsletter.

In closing this rather complicated life and history of JOHN TINGLE and his son, WILLIAM, I do not claim it to be without error. There are other WILLIAM TINGLES on the Delmarva Peninsula to be written about. For instance...

WILLIAM TINGLE, father of ANANIAS ROBINSON TINGLE;

WILLIAM TINGLE, father of MANAIN (MANAAN) TINGLE:
WILLIAM TINGLE, son of CALEB TINGLE & ELIZABETH FASSITT
WILLIAM TINGLE, age 15, who landed in Philadelphia, Pa. in 1775. Who knows
him?

Are you thoroughly confused by now? If so, join the rest of us.

J. Seeger Kerns

Sources:

1. State Archives, Annapolis, Md. "Taxables, Somerset County 1723 and Subsequent Years".
2. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Wills, liber JW 2, folios 36 — 37.
3. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Accounts, Vol. 12, folios 209—210.
4. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Wills, liber 21, folio 833.
5. *ibid.* Worcester Co. Accounts, Vol. 40, folio 320.
6. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Accounts, 1739, Vol. 17, folios 165—166.
7. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Deeds, liber 21, folios 103 to 106.
8. *ibid.* Somerset Co. Wills, liber 21, folio 833.
9. *ibid.* Worcester Co. Deeds, Vol. A, 1742, folio 327.
10. *ibid.* Worcester Co. Deeds, Vol. I, folio 437.
11. *ibid.* Colonial Militia in Maryland, 1740—49, Box 1, Folder 18.
12. State Archives, Dover, Del., Vol. 88, pp. 194—195; lib. C, f.32307.
13. *ibid.* "Subscribers of Blackwater Presbyterian Church, near Frankford, Del."
14. *ibid.* Sussex County Wills, Vol. A—102, p. 32.
15. *ibid.* Sussex County Probate Records, Accounts, Vol. A—102, p. 30.
16. *ibid.* "Genealogy of the Tunnell Family of Delaware", and Family Bible, Vol. 87—A, #166.1.
17. *ibid.* Sussex County Probate Records, Wills, Vol. A—102. o. 22.