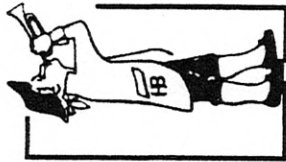


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William Neal Hurley, Jr.
9423 Eagleton Lane
Montgomery Village, MD 20886



Published, 2001 by

HERITAGE BOOKS, INC.
1540E Pointer Ridge Place
Bowie, Maryland 20716

1-800-398-7709
<http://www.heritagebooks.com>

ISBN: 0-7884-1754-1

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OUR MARYLAND HERITAGE

Book Twenty-five

RICKETTS FAMILIES

Primarily of
Montgomery & Frederick Counties
Maryland

But Including Numerous References to
the Family found in Other Counties and States

Early Ricketts Family Records

We first examined the Probate Records of the various counties of Maryland, seeking some basis for establishing the early origins of the Ricketts family in Maryland. We found only a few records of wills, and they appeared to be concentrated principally in Cecil County, which is in the northeast-most corner of the state. That county was created in 1674 from parts of Baltimore and Kent. The latter was an original county formed in 1642, and Baltimore was erected in 1660 from Anne Arundel, another of the original counties formed in 1650.

The families identified in probate records of Cecil County are listed following in chronological order:

John Ricketts died 1698

John left a will in Cecil County dated June 4, 1698, probated October 4, 1698. He named his wife Penelope as Executrix, leaving her one third of the personalty, and 100 acres of *Galloway's Plains* and 99 acres of *Rickett's Addition*, during her lifetime. At the death of his wife, his four sons were to receive the real estate. The five children shared in the residue of the personalty. The children were:

1. Jeremiah Ricketts.
2. Nathaniel Ricketts.
3. Philip Ricketts.
4. John Ricketts.
5. Hester Ricketts.

Evan Ricketts died 1751

Evan was married March 2, 1742 in Cecil County to Rachel Ward, daughter of John Ward. Evan left a will in the county dated October 30, 1751, probated December 2, 1751. He left to his wife

th urniture, and named his brother David Ricketts, and his wife's brother William Ward as Executors. The will of Susannah Ward of Cecil County, widow and relict of John Ward, deceased, was dated August 1, 1748 and probated November 29, 1748. She names her son William Ward as Executor, and left specific bequests to each of her three daughters and two sons, including Rachel Ricketts, who received slaves.

**Thomas Ricketts
died 1773**

Thomas left a will in Cecil County dated March 18, 1773 and probated April 13, 1773. No wife was mentioned, but her name was reported as Mary in the marriage record of her daughter Ann. In his will Thomas named his children, and one granddaughter:

1. John Ricketts, received land and thirty pounds.
2. David Ricketts, received land, a Negro man Jack, and thirty pounds.
3. Benjamin Ricketts, named Executor, and received land, the Negro boy Sam, and Hannah's twin children, David and Bess. Also received the Elk Mill Saw Mill and the rest of the estate.
4. Ann Ricketts, deceased, married to Rutter, and had children; who received the Negro girl Poll and ten pounds. Ann was married in Cecil County January 15, 1752 to Moses Rutter, and the record states that she was the daughter of Thomas and Mary Ricketts.
5. Elizabeth Ricketts, married to Rankey, received the Negro wench Hannah. At least one child:
 - a. Nancy Rankey, received the Negro girl Rachel.

There were only two probate records found in Kent County, including:

**Elizabeth Ricketts
died 1745**

Elizabeth left a will in Kent County dated March 15, 1742/43 and probated August 5, 1745. She was apparently a widow, and

named a son, a married daughter and grandchildren. She named her son and her son-in-law as joint Executors. The children were:

1. Joseph Ricketts.
2. Elizabeth Ricketts, received twenty-five pounds money, and 500 acres of *Bateman's Content*, provided she make over 200 acres to her brother Joseph. She was married to Henry Coursey and had children named in her mother's will:
 - a. Elizabeth Coursey.
 - b. Blanch Coursey.

**Philip Ricketts
died 1764**

Philip left a will in Kent County dated January 17, 1764 and probated March 8, 1764. He left to his brother John Ricketts 50 acres on the easternmost end of a tract formerly called *Mayford*, but now known as *Rickett's Farm*. It is interesting to note that Philip and John were two of the names found as sons in the will of John Ricketts, who died c.1698 in Cecil County. Philip's wife was Executrix, but not named, serving jointly with Ledger Everitt. The children were:

1. Philip Ricketts, Jr., received the balance of the lands then in possession of his father.
2. Ann Ricketts, residuary legatee.
3. Elizabeth Ricketts, residuary legatee.