

THE VIRDINS OF DELAWARE AND RELATED FAMILIES

By

Donald Odell Virdin

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A BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

This is not intended to be a complete genealogy of the Virdin family of Delaware. Rather, the purpose of this book is to publish information collected by the writer with the hope that it will help others in their search for a connection to this early Delaware family.

Most of our ancestors who came to America in Colonial times were poor people who came from cottages and not manor houses. They were usually not educated and the spelling of family names varied greatly. Thus, the name Virdin has been spelled Virdin, Verdin, Verden, Verdon, Verdun, Varden, Virgin, Vergin, Vardon, Ferdon, Fardon, Perdon, de Verdon, and in other ways.

Although extensive searches have been made, no records have been located to determine either the name or the date of arrival of the first Virdin in Delaware. A family tradition, which seems to be reasonably supported by facts, is that the first Virdin arrived in Lewis, Delaware, shortly after 1700, coming from England. No record of any Virdin was found in the Delaware census of 1688, but a record exists of Hugh Virdin on May 17, 1719, when he was the witness to the will of Thomas Prettyman, Senior, of Sussex County. (Publications of the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Volume 12, page 197)

Some confirmation that the Virdin family of Delaware originally came from England may be found in the Wilmington Morning News, Wilmington, Delaware, for March 9, 1950, when there was published under the headline Virdin Family Historian Seeks Data in Delaware a story concerning George S. Virden, Worcestershire, England, who was quoted in part as saying

"It is known that Virdens took part in the fighting of your Civil War, and there is a strong tradition...that members of the family were among the early 17th century settlers in Delaware and Maryland."

The first record of a Virdin in America that has been located is that of Richard Verdin, an immigrant, age 24, who arrived on the ship George (Captain John Severne) in August 1635, having been "transported to the Virginia Colony." The writer has been unable to locate heirs of this Richard Verdin, or to connect him with the Virdin family of Delaware. The Jacob Verdon of New York (whose heirs filed a petition on March 1, 1663) is apparently no relative. Available information indicates that the New York Verdons came from Holland and are not related to the Virdin family of Delaware. *

Most genealogies that have come to public knowledge show Hugh Virden of Sussex County as the first Virdin to settle in Delaware. This may be true. But it seems unlikely that by 1800, some three generations

after Hugh was known to be in Delaware, he would have been the progenitor of all Delaware Viridins living at that date. Further, John Virdin, who bought land in Kent County in 1732, could hardly have been the son of Hugh Virden of Sussex, since Hugh had a son John who acquired land next to his in 1754. John Virdin of Kent County evidently continued to live on the land he had bought in 1732 until he died in 1769.

Thus, the oral family history may be a fact: That is, that some Virdin brothers from England came to Delaware soon after 1700. Indeed, it may be that John Virdin, who died in 1769, and Hugh Virden, who died in 1773, were brothers. The assertion is being made that John Virdin of Kent County was not the son of Hugh Virden of Sussex County as prior genealogies have claimed.

LIFE IN COLONIAL DELAWARE

The story of the Viridins of Delaware begins in the early Colonial period. The manners and customs of our ancestors in Kent county, prior to the French and Indian war, as recorded by Thomas Rodney, a younger brother of Ceasar Rodney, were very primitive and simple. He wrote:

"The manners of the white people of the times were very plain and sociable. Very few foreign articles were used in this part of the country for either eating or drinking purposes. Almost every family manufactured their own clothes and raised their own food products, which consisted chiefly of beef, pork, poultry, milk, butter, cheese, wheat, and Indian corn. They also made use of the wild fruits and game of the country, both of which were plentiful. Cider, small beer, peach and apple brandy were the favorite drinks, and the best families but seldom used either tea, coffee, or chocolate for drinking purposes. The largest and most extensive farmers of the time did not sow more than thirty acres of wheat, nor tend more than thirty acres of Indian corn. Because of the extreme fertility of the land, and the small scale on which farming was carried on, the necessities and many little luxuries of life were to be had in great abundance with little labor. The natural result of this was the people indulged freely in their favorite past-time, that of social and friendly intercourse and hospitality. They very

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"Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in the
presence of us: David Stevenson,
Samuel Hudson, Aaron Dodd."

There is no single reference which identifies the children of Hugh Virden, Senior, Broadkilm Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. So a reasonable reconstruction has been made based upon sources cited in this book. He probably was born in England. He died in 1773 in Sussex County, Delaware. He married Tabitha White, daughter of William and Elizabeth White about 1723. They had five children: (1) William Virden, who was named executor of his father's will; (2) Hugh Virden, Junior, who was born prior to 1756 when Hugh Virden was called Senior; (3) John Virden who took up land adjoining Hugh Virden's in 1754; (4) Joseph Virden, who was mentioned as a brother of John Virden in 1754 when he and John took up land adjoining Hugh Virden's; and (5) Marneaux (Marnix) Virden who was born about 1745, married Lydia Stephenson, daughter of Samuel Stephenson and _____, and died April 1, 1796, in Sussex County. (Ancestry of David Marshall Hitch; Sussex County Orphans Court records, Book D, page 44; and Sussex County Wills, Book B, page 496)

✓ WILLIAM VIRDEN (son of Hugh Virden and Tabithe (White) Virdin) probably married Susannah Warrington, daughter of William Warrington and his wife Mary, since the will of William Warrington filed in Sussex County in 1755, and the will of his wife, Mary Warrington, filed in 1762, both name Susannah Virden, who could have been called "Anne". The will of William Virden, who died in 1803, was administered by his wife Anne. Heirs named were: (1) Alenson Virden; (2) Levicy Virden; (3) Zethand Virden; (4) Elzey Virden; (5) Mitchell Virden; (6) Tabitha Virden; and (7) Durany Virden. Then, on July 31, 1811, the will of Anne Virdin was administered by Mitchell Virden, the son. Her heirs were almost identical with those of William Virden. That is, her heirs were: (1) Alenson Virden; (2) Bethanel Virden; (3) Levicy Wilson (who by the later date had probably married); (4) Mitchell Virden; (5) Tabitha L. Virden; (6) Zetidich Tingle (who had also probably married, although the spelling of the first name varies slightly), and Didania Virden, an heir of (7) Elzey Virden (records show that Elzey Virden, son of William Virden, was buried in 1804).

The Bethanel Virden named in the will of Anne Virden, could be the Durany Virden named in the will of William Virden, since handwriting was difficult to read, the names people were given at birth often changed to a more popular name (or a middle name) as they grew to maturity, and spelling certainly could not be considered a refined art during that period in the history of Delaware.

ALANON VIRDEN (was probably the son of William and Anne Virden since they had a son with that name although a slightly different spelling - Alenson) of Sussex County, Delaware, married Elizabeth Wilson and

HUGH VIRDEN of Sussex County is the first Virden whose name has been found in the public records of Delaware. On May 17, 1719, Hugh Virden was a witness to the will of Thomas Preteman (Prettyman), Senior, of Sussex County, Delaware. The will was proved July 17, 1719. (Publications of the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Volume 12, page 197) The name Virden was again mentioned when William White, carpenter, of Sussex County, made a will dated June 13, 1723, naming a daughter Tabitha Virden. His will was proved May 9, 1724. His wife Elizabeth, was named executor. Other heirs named were a son, Benjamin White; a son, John White; a daughter, Elizabeth Prettyjohn; and a daughter, Mary Little. (Publications of the Pennsylvania Genealogical Society, Volume 12, page 275) It had been assumed that Tabitha White was the wife of Hugh Virden in genealogies prepared by Mrs. Hall and Mrs. Thoesen, referred to elsewhere in this book, and also by Joseph Brown Turner, in his Ancestry of Dr. David Marshall Hitch, Philadelphia, 1922. (Files of Historical Society of Delaware, Wilmington)

On December 29, 1731, Hugh Virden of Sussex County had ear marks for his livestock registered. The "mark for cattle, sheep, and hoggs, etc., is as follows: crop underbit, overbit, and slit in the left ear and underbit the right ear." (Sussex County Deeds, Book F, page 277) On June 9, 1743, Hugh Virden obtained 200 acres of land near Gum Branch in Broadkill Hundred, called "Spring Cabin". (Sussex County Survey Book B, page 356) Records dated June 19, 1749, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, indicate that Hugh Vergin had 200 acres of land called "Spring Cabbin" near Green's Branch in Broadkiln hundred surveyed for which he agreed to pay..."from the time of settling his said land the yearly quit-rent of one penny sterling for every acre." On February 1, 1745, Hugh Virden bought 100 acres of land from William Pettyjohn and Richard Pettyjohn. (Sussex County Deeds, Book H, page 105) On November 13, 1754, John Virden and Joseph Virden, brothers, acquired 200 acres of land in Broadkiln Hundred adjoining Hugh Virden's land. (Sussex County Survey Book I, page 252, and Sussex County Deeds, Book B, page 356) On May 4, 1756, Hugh Virden, Senior, bought 500 acres of land originally surveyed April 5, 1682, to Roger Gum. (Sussex County Deeds, Book I, page 125) On February 2, 1764, John Virden and Joseph Virden, brothers, sold land in Broadkiln Hundred, part of a larger tract granted to said John and Joseph Virden. (Sussex County Deeds, Book K, page 44) On July 28, 1748, Hugh Virden sold land "laid out to said Hugh Virden, December 19, 1743, in forest of Broadkill." On February 4, 1761, Hugh Virden, of Sussex County, yeoman, sold 193½ acres of land in Broadkiln Hundred laid out to said Hugh Virden by a proprietors warrant, December 19, 1743, to William Butcher. (Sussex County Deeds, Book J, page 302) On April 15, 1763, Ezekiel Townsend and John Virden transferred land to Burton Waples. (Sussex County Deeds, Book K) On October 20, 1772, the will of Hugh (spelled Huegh) Virden was executed. It was probated December 11, 1773.

Since Hugh Virden was one of the first Virdins in Delaware it seems appropriate to cite his will:

"In the name of God, Amen. The twenty day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand Seven hundred and Seventy two I Huegh Virden of Sussex County being in health and strength of body and in perfect mind and memory thanks be to God, make and order this my last will and testament. That is to say, principally and first of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hand of Almighty God that gave it, and my body I recommend to Earth to be buried in a decent manner at the hand of my Executor. And such worthy estate wherewith it has pleased God to bless me with in this life I give and devise and dispose of in the following manner and form.

"First I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son William Virden the plantation whereon I now live and all that land possessed with of that tract of land called Rogger Gum and also a piece of land that I have taken up joining to the said tract on the north side thereof to him and his heirs and offspring forever.

"Item: It is my will and I do desire that all my just debts and funeral charges be paid and fully satisfied.

"Item: I give and bequeath unto my well beloved son William Virden my rone horse to him and his heirs and offspring forever.

"Item: And all the rest of my estate to be equally divided among all my children. This to be my last will and testament.

"And I hereby constitute and ordain my well beloved son William Virden my whole and sole executor of this which I make and ordain my last will and testament annulling all other testaments, wills, and bequests by me in any wise made and allowing this and no other to be my last will and testament which I desire that my executor aforesaid may perform according to the true intent and meaning of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I the said Huegh Virden have here unto set my hand and seal the day and year I have written.

His

Huegh "H" Virden

Marke

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"Signed, Sealed, and Delivered in the
presence of us: David Stevenson,
Samuel Hudson, Aaron Dodd."

There is no single reference which identifies the children of Hugh Virden, Senior, Broadkiln Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware. So a reasonable reconstruction has been made based upon sources cited in this book. He probably was born in England. He died in 1773 in Sussex County, Delaware. He married Tabitha White, daughter of William and Elizabeth White about 1723. They had five children: (1) William Virden, who was named executor of his father's will; (2) Hugh Virden, Junior, who was born prior to 1756 when Hugh Virden was called Senior; (3) John Virden who took up land adjoining Hugh Virden's in 1754; (4) Joseph Virden, who was mentioned as a brother of John Virden in 1754 when he and John took up land adjoining Hugh Virden's; and (5) Marneaux (Marnix) Virden who was born about 1745, married Lydia Stephenson, daughter of Samuel Stephenson and _____, and died April 1, 1796, in Sussex County. (Ancestry of David Marshall Hitch; Sussex County Orphans Court records, Book D, page 44; and Sussex County Wills, Book B, page 496)

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moved to Marion County, Ohio. They had two children: (1) Henry H. Virden was born May 31, 1822, in Sussex County, Delaware; (2) George W. Virdin was born April 24, 1825, in Sussex County, Delaware. He never married.

HENRY H. VIRDEN (son of Alanon Virden and Elizabeth (Wilson) Virden) married Mary Edgar (daughter of John Edgar and Permelia (Johnson) Edgar) on June 17, 1849. She was born November 14, 1829. Henry Virden was a farmer during his entire life. He was a Trustee of Montgomery Township for several years. He and his wife had four children: (1) John A. Virden was born December 29, 1850; (2) Diantha J. Virden was born June 19, 1853; (3) Martha A. Virden was born August 24, 1857; and (4) Norton S. Virden was born February 24, 1859. (History of Marion County, Ohio, 1883)

HUGH VIRDEN, Jr. (son of Hugh Virden, Sr., and Tabithe (White) Virden) apparently left no estate in Sussex County. However, Hugh Verdon was listed in the tax list of Appoquinimink Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, in 1787.

Then, in the Census of 1790, there were two Hugh Virdens listed in Pennsylvania, somewhat north of New Castle County, Delaware. It seems reasonable to assume that the elder Hugh Virden was Hugh Virden, Jr., son of Hugh Virden, Sr., of Sussex County, and that the other Hugh Virden was the son of Hugh Virden, Jr.

Hugh Verden was listed in the 1790 Census of Pennsylvania, in German Township, Fayette County, with one male 16 years of age or up, including heads of families, and two females.

Another Hugh Verden was listed in the 1790 Census of Pennsylvania, in Luzerne Township, Fayette County, with one male 16 years of age or up, including heads of families, and one female.

Notwithstanding the above, it appears that Hugh Virden, Jr. did not leave Sussex County until after 1775, for the will of Josias Martin, dated September 9, 1775, shows that Hugh Virden and Marnix Virden (his brother) witnessed the will. (Sussex County Wills, Book C, page 6)

Some twenty years after the 1790 Census of Pennsylvania, in 1810, another record is found of Hugh Virdin. In the Census of 1810, in Nicholas County, Kentucky, will be found Hugh Virdin, with one male age 45 and up, one female under 10 years, one female 16 - 26 years, and one 26 - 45 years of age. It may be that this was a descendant of the original Hugh Virden of Delaware, for it is known that Matthew L. Virdin and a group of young men from Delaware went to Kentucky about 1790 - 1800. Matthew came back to Delaware but others remained, some of the Kentucky family moving to Ohio.

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MARNIX VIRDEN (son of Hugh Virden and Tabitha (White) Virden) was born about 1745 in Sussex County, Delaware, and died April 1, 1796. His will was signed November 26, 1795, while he was "sick and weak", in Lewis and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, Delaware, and was proved April 15, 1796. (Sussex County Wills, Book E, page 83) Marnix Virden was a corporal in Captain David Hall's Company, Delaware Regiment, Continental Troops, under Colonel John Hazlet, in April 1776. (Delaware Archives, Volume I, page 42) On March 12, 1750, William Russell sold Marnix Virden 105 acres in Lewis and Rehobeth Hundred, which had been part of a grant of 500 acres to Roger Gum. (Sussex County Deeds, Book H, page 294) On November 5, 1784, James Martin, administrator of the estate of Thomas Gray, deceased, sold Marnix Virden, 180 acres of "Tower Hill". (Sussex County Deeds, Book N, page 86) On June 1, 1785, Marnix Virden (referred to as Senior) sold James Martin, administrator of the Estate of Thomas Gray, "Tower Hill", the property of said Thomas Gray. (Sussex County Deeds, Book N, page 158) On February 7, 1783, Marnix Virden filed a petition asking for a division of 120 acres of the land of Samuel Stephenson, yeoman, who had died intestate and was the father of Lydia Stephenson, who was married to Marnix Virden. Samuel Stephenson left five children: (1) Lydia Virden, wife of the petitioner; (2) Naomi Stephenson; (3) James Stephenson, the eldest son; (4) David Stephenson; and (5) John Stephenson; and seven grandchildren: (1) Hester, who married John Hopkins and Mary, who married William Martin, were both deceased. (Sussex County Orphans Court Records, Book D, page 44) On April 4, 1796, Marnix Virden, a Ruling Elder, Cool Spring Presbyterian Church, was buried. (Lewis, Delaware, Presbyterian Church Records)

Lydia was the widow of John Mustard

The will of Marnix Virden named his wife Lydia Virden and his brother William Virden executors. It named the following heirs: (1) Mary Martin, daughter, widow of James Martin, and Elizabeth Martin and Mary Martin, granddaughters, daughters of said Mary Martin; (2) Bathsheba Hall, daughter, and five grandchildren, all children of Bathsheba, Burton Hall, Cornelia Hall, Emmcy Hall, Woolsey Hall, and David Hall; (3) Lydia, a daughter; (4) Alsey, a daughter. Both Lydia and Alsey (Alice) were minors at the time the will was made. Witnesses to the will were William Hopkins, Josiah Hopkins, and John Mustard. His wife, Lydia Stephenson Virden died November 13, 1825, and was buried November 16, 1825, being then described as "an aged woman". (Lewis, Delaware, Presbyterian Church Records)

Mary "Polly" Virden, a daughter of Marnix Virden, married James Martin February 9, 1781. Alice Virden, a daughter, born March 8, 1783, married Josiah Martin, Jr., January 24, 1805. Lydia Virden, a daughter, married David Hazard, November 20, 1798. Bathsheba Virden married _____ Hall, and had five children, but the dates are unknown. Mary, Alice, and Lydia were married in Sussex County. (Lewis, Delaware, Presbyterian Church Records)

JOHN VIRDIN, Senior, of Muderkill Hundred, Kent County, Delaware, was probably born in England. He reportedly left Sussex County, Delaware, about 1730 and moved to Kent County, Delaware. He died in Kent County in 1769. He acquired land in Kent County in 1732 and married Ellinor (Elinor) Sipple, daughter of John Sipple of Murderkill Hundred, probably soon after 1732, for a second son, William Virdin, was born in 1737. On August 12, 1748, John Sipple and William Sipple, his son, of the "Forest of Murderkill", transferred to John Virdin, yeoman, for natural love, 103 acres of land in Murderkill Hundred, called "Much Ado". (Kent County Deeds, Book N, page 233) In a will signed February 12, 1778, John Sipple named as a legatee a "grandson, John Virdin". (Kent County Wills, Book N, page 135) The public records of "Pennsylvania and the Counties on the Delaware, by the Proprietaries" dated June 13, 1758, show that John Virdin of Kent County requested a survey of 150 acres of land, more or less, adjoining the lands of John Sipple and the late John Johnson, and land called Trippington, to include his dwelling and improvements, on the head of a stream on Huston's Branch in Murderkill Hundred. John Virdin obtained 150 acres on Huston's Branch, Murderkill Hundred, on June 30, 1758. (Kent County Land Records, Volume V1, page 22) Also, John Virdin acquired 158½ acres of land on Huston's Branch, Murderkill Hundred, by survey dated July 6, 1758. (Kent County Land Records, Volume V2, page 6) This survey shows that the 158½ acres adjoined lands of John Sipple, John Virdin, Robert Annet, John Johnson, Samuel Griffin, and land called "Trippington". The northern part of the survey began on Huston's Branch, and was located south of said Branch. The survey was made "in conformance with a warrant" bearing date "of June 29, 1750, and provided for an allowance of certain lands for "roads and highways."

John Virdin was the first Virdin known to live in Kent County, and since he was one of the first Virdins in Delaware, it seems appropriate to cite his will, which was signed February 25, 1769: (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 56)

"In the name of God, Amen: I, John Virden, Senior, of Kent County, in Delaware, being in a very sick and low condition, though of sound mind and memory, Blessed be God for the same, and knowing that is is appointed for all men once to die, I do make and order, in this my last will and testament, in manner and form following: First, and principally, I recommend my soul into the hands of God who gave it and my body to the earth to be buried in a decent and Christian like manner at the discretion of..., hereafter to be appointed. Nothing doubting, but the same soul and body shall be reunited at the General Resurrection by the mighty power of God. And as to what worldly estate it hath pleased God to bless me with, I do dispose of in the following manner: First, my will

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"is that all my lawful debts be paid out of my estate. Secondly, my will is that my well-beloved wife, Ellinor Virden, have the full use and benefit of the plantation whereon I now dwell, with all the appurtenances thereunto belonging, during her natural life. And my will is that after my wife's death, the plantation with the land therewith belonging, being about two-hundred acres across, be equally divided between my sons John, William, Absolom, and Isaac Virden, to them and their heirs and assigns forever.

"And I do give and bequeath unto my son Daniel Virden the plantation whereon he now dwells, being part of the ... tract, and seventy acres of land, buildings, and appurtenances, to his heirs and assigns forever.

"...I give the use of my negro boy Anthoney to my well-beloved wife during her natural life; and if he should live longer than my wife, at her death my will is that the aforesaid negro boy shall go and belong to my daughter Ealce Virden, to her heirs and assigns forever. And I do also give to my daughter Ealce one feather bed and furniture.

"I do also give and bequeath to my son Isaac Virden one feather bed and furniture to be delivered to him by my executors to him, his heirs, and assigns forever.

"My will and pleasure is that a judgment obtained by John Vining, Esquire, to me and my son John Virdin, of fifty odd pounds, wherein I was bound for, may be paid out of my estate in full, of part of my personal estate with what he has had before.

"...My will and pleasure is that my well-beloved wife shall have thirty pounds.

"My will and pleasure is that my wife have the full use of all the remainder of my estate after my debts are paid, not before disposed of, during her natural life. And at her death to be equally divided amongst my sons and daughters, to them, their heirs, and assigns, forever.

"He being obliged to have school and education, my grandson, James Reed, until he arrives at

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"lawful age of twenty-one, the foregoing legacys left to them after my wife's death - my wife to keep and raise said child during her lifetime. Lastly, I do order and constitute and appoint my well-beloved wife Ellinor Virden and my son William Virden whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament, revoking and disavowing all former wills by me made. I do pronounce, publish, and declare this to be my last will and testament in the presence of subscribing witnesses, as witness my hand and seal this twenty-fifth day of February, one thousand seven hundred sixty nine (1769), published, pronounced, and declared in the presence of us --

His

John Caton
William Hughey

John J Virden (Seal)

Marke

His will was probated March 27, 1769 (Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 90)

John Virdin, Senior, and Ellinor (Sipple) Virdin had six children, and quite likely had seven, since a grandson, James Reed (Read) is mentioned in John Virdin's will and his wife Ellinor was given the responsibility of raising him after John's death. These children were:

- (1) John Virdin, Jr., who was probably the oldest child, and as a guess was born about 1733. In 1752 he married Sarah Barry. (Delaware Marriage Records and probate record of William Barry);
- (2) William Virdin was born in June 1737 in Kent County, and died November 5, 1791, in Kent County. He married Eunity Lowber on November 26, 1756, in Kent County, as his first wife, and Prudence Purden, widow of Andrew Purden, as his second wife;
- (3) Absalom Virdin, whose date of birth is unknown, married Sarah , and died in 1778;
- (4) Isaac Virdin;
- (5) Elace (Alice) Virdin married John Kilpatrick. (Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 88);
- (6) Daniel Virdin married Elizabeth . (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 66) He probably died in 1776. Letters of administration were granted to Elizabeth Virdin, widow of Daniel Virdin,

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May 15, 1776. (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 180. Delaware Archives Volume A-52, page 83) These records mention heirs: Neomah Virdin, Sarah Virdin, Alexander Virdin, and Eleanor Virdin. Elizabeth Virdin, his widow, later married Joseph Jackson;

- (7) _____ Virdin married _____ Read. This is an assumption made upon facts disclosed in the will of John Virdin, Senior, and by the will of James Read which named the other six children of John Virdin as heirs. (Kent County Wills, Book M, page 96)

John Virdin named his wife, Ellinor Virdin, and his son, William Virdin, as executors of his estate. Ellinor Virdin died in 1786 and her son, William Virdin, was named executor of her estate; heirs mentioned were John Virdin, Daniel Virdin, Absalom Virdin, Isaac Virdin, Alce Kilpatrick (wife of John Kilpatrick), Enoch Jenkins, and William Gaskins. (Kent County Wills, Book M, page 101, and Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 88)

DANIEL VIRDIN (son of John Virdin, Sr., and Ellinor (Sipple) Virdin) of Kent County, Delaware, married Elizabeth Smith and they had four children: (1) Neomah Virdin; (2) Sarah Virdin; (3) Alexander Virdin; and (4) Eleanor Virdin.

After his death his wife, Elizabeth Virden, married Joseph Jackson. (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 180; Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 83, shows that Elizabeth Virdin, widow, was granted letters to administer the estate of Daniel Virdin on May 15, 1776. Kent County Wills, Book M, page 132, and Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 79 show that letters of administration were granted Joseph Jackson to administer the estate of Alexander Virdin, a minor son of Daniel Virdin, on February 27, 1787, and on the same date to administer the estate of Eleanor Virdin, a minor daughter of Daniel Virdin)

ABSALOM VIRDIN (son of John Virdin, Sr., and his wife Ellinor) married Sarah Smith and lived at Brown's Branch, about five miles north of Milford, Delaware, in Mispillion Hundred. He was a farmer and was "dubbed by the country folk a scholar, being either a surveyor, school teacher, or writer for the public as the occasion required." (The Life of John Lofland, William W. Smithers, 1894) Absalom died probably early in November 1778, since his will was made October 30, 1778, and probated November 13, 1778. (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 206 and Delaware Archives, Volume A52, page 78) He died before his wife and she married as her second husband, James Gaskins. There were two children to her second marriage - John Gaskins and James Gaskins, Jr.

A VIRDIN CHRONOLOGY

Here are some dates and other references concerning the Virdin family or their relatives which may be of assistance in tracing a particular line of ancestry.

January 10, 1749

- Leah Virdin, daughter of John Virdin, was born. (Records of St. Georges Chapel, Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware)

November 13, 1750

- Sarah Berry, widow of William Berry, was named administrator of his estate. She later married John Virdin. (Kent County Wills, Book K, page 9. Delaware Archives Volume A-4, page 14)

1752

- John Virdin, Jr., married Sarah Berry about 1752. (Delaware Marriage Records)

July 28, 1759

- Susanna Virdin was named as a daughter in the will of Mary Warrington, signed this date. (Sussex County Wills, Book B-2, page 252)

April 15, 1763

- Ezekiel Townsend and John Virdin sold land to Burton Waples. (Sussex County Deeds, Book K-10, page 3)

1769

- Elizabeth Virdin, wife of Daniel Virdin, married Sam Hutson. (Letter dated August 20, 1939, from Mrs. Frances M. Blair, Chicago)

February 7, 1770

- Daniel Virdin was named one of the executors of the will of William Smith signed this date. Absalom Virdin and Sarah Virdin were witnesses to the will. (Kent County Wills)

December 11, 1773

- Daniel Virdin, Absalom Virdin, Levi Gibson, next of kin, were named administrators of the will of Elizabeth Brown. (Kent County Wills, Book L, page 147. Delaware Archives Volume A-6, page 42, shows that Joseph Jackson and his wife Elizabeth (formerly Elizabeth Virdin) later administered this estate)

September 16, 1774

- Michel Virdin, son of William and Ann Virdin, was born. (Records of St. Georges Chapel, Indian River, Sussex County, Delaware)

December 21, 1775

- William Virdin and Ruth Fleming were married. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

March 23, 1776

- Marineux Virdin, son of William Virdin, was baptized. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

November 23, 1776

- Else, son of William and Anne Virdin was born. (St. George Church Records, Indian River, Sussex County)

February 4, 1777

- Elizabeth Virdin, wife of Marneuse Virdin, was buried in Sussex County. (Delaware Historical Society files)

March 11, 1777

- Tabitha Virdin "an agreeable young woman" of

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- Sussex County was buried. She died from "complications with fever." (Delaware Historical Society files)
- November 1, 1778 - Marineux Virdin and Sophia Mustard, widow of John Mustard, were married. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- January 25, 1781 - Levi Virdin and Shaba (probably Bathsheba) Hall were married. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- January 25, 1781 - Marnix Virdin and Hannah Reynolds were married. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- February 9, 1781 - Polly (probably Mary) Virdin married James Martin. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- April 7, 1784 - James Virden of Worcester County, Maryland, sold to John Payne 1½ acres called "Townsend's Mistake". (Worcester County, Maryland, Deeds, Book K, page 621)
- November 3, 1784 - Manlove Virden, yeoman, bought from Rhoads Shankland 280 acres of land. (Sussex County Deeds, Book N-14, page 86)
- 1785 - Daniel Verdon acquired 1,000 acres of land in Northumberland County, Pennsylvania. (Source lost)
- January 20, 1785 - Joseph Caldwell was named administrator of estate of John Virdin. (Kent County Wills, Book M, page 39)
- June 2, 1785 - Marnix Virden, Senior, sold land to James Martin.
- August 19, 1785 - Phebe Virdin, Jesse Lewis, et al, sold to William Polk land on Cedar Creek granted to Elizabeth Poor, who was the mother of Nehemiah Poor, and Nehemiah Poor was the father of Phebe Virdin, etc. Nehemiah Poor and Elizabeth, his mother, both died intestate. (Sussex County Deeds, Book N-13, page 203)
- September 1785 - John Virdin was selected for the first petit jury of Newberry County, South Carolina. (The History of Newberry County, South Carolina, Volume One, Thomas H. Pope, 1974)
- 1785 - William Virdin, John Virdin, Isaac Virdin, and John Virdin, Jr., were assessed in North and South Murderkill, West Dover, Kent County.
- 1785 - John Virdin was assessed in Mispillion Hundred, Kent County.
- 1785 - Marriner Virdin was assessed in Lewes and Rehoboth Hundred, Sussex County.
- 1785 - The list of taxables for Broadkilm Hundred, Sussex County, included: William Virdin, John Virdin, Levi Virdin, Marnex Virdin, and Manlove Virdin.
- 1790 - James Verden, wife Sarah Verden, of South Carolina, filed a Revolutionary War Pension Application, Number W-22485.

1790.

Carolina County

Charles County

Worcester County

- The 1790 Census of Maryland listed these Virdin families:
William Verden. One male 16 years and up; one male under 16; and three females.
- John Vardin. Two males 16 years of age and up; three females under sixteen years of age; and four other females.
- James Vardin. Two males 16 years of age and up; one female under 16 years of age; and two other females.

1790

Mispillion Hundred (Kent County)

Murderkill Hundred (Kent County)

Broadkill Hundred (Sussex County)

Lewes and Rehobeth Hundred (Sussex County)

February 18, 1790

- The Reconstructed 1790 Census of Delaware listed:
Absolum Virdin, a minor.
- John Virdin
- John Virdin
- Peter Virdin
- William Virdin
- Levy Virden
- Manlove Virden
- Marnix Virden
- William Virden
- Marnix Virden

January 23, 1791

July 18, 1793

January 5, 1796

April 4, 1796

October 10, 1796

March 9, 1798

July 20, 1798

November 20, 1798

August 21, 1799

- John Virdin of Murderkill Hundred, and Katherine Wright, of Kent County, were married. (New Castle County, Delaware, marriage license bonds)
- The will of Casa Hall shows heir Lacey Virden (son of Levy Virden). (Sussex County Wills, Book D, page 323)
- Phebe Virden died. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- Letters of administration were granted to Sarah Virdin on estate of John Virdin. (Kent County Wills Book N, page 160. Sarah Virdin later married Thomas Green. Delaware Archives Volume A-52, page 94)
- Marneux Virdin, Ruling Elder, Coolspring Church was buried. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- Cynthea Verdin was a witness to the will of Nancy Wilcuts. (Kent County Wills, Book N, page 162)
- William Virden sold to Anderson Hudson two tracts of land in Broadkill, granted to Roger Gum, and a larger tract surveyed to Hugh Virden. (Sussex County Deeds, Book W-21, page 328)
- Rachel Hargadine married Lemuel Cohee in Caroline County, Maryland. (Caroline County Marriage Licenses)
- Lydia Virdin married David Hazard of Coolspring. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)
- Manlove Virden sold Daniel Jester land on which he

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lived, formerly called "Shanklands rights".
(Sussex County Deeds, Book W-21, page 730)
- The 1800 Census of Delaware listed these Virdin families:

- John Virgin
- William Verdin
- Prudence Verden
- William Verden
- Elrey Verden
- Marnix Virden
- Lyda Verden

- The 1800 Census of Maryland listed these Virdin families:

John Virdin. Males: one under 10, one 10-16, one 26-45, one over 45; one female 26-45; and four other persons.
William Verdin. Three males: one 10-16, one 10-16, one 16-26, and one 45 or over; five females: two under 10, one 1-16, one 16-26, and one 45 or over.

- Marrineux Virden and Franny Bostwick were married. (Kent County, Delaware, marriage licenses)

- Marnix Virden of Cool Spring died. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Marnix Virdin, Ruling Elder, Coolspring Church, was buried. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- William Virdin, Ruling Elder, Coolspring Church, was buried. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Elzey Virdin, son of William Virdin, was buried. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Elzey Virdin married Sophia Murray, a widow of Coolspring. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Dennis Morris and wife, Mary, formerly Mary Virdin, sold to Samuel Paynter a lot in Milton, in Broadkilm Hundred, formerly owned by Marnix Virdin, and administration was granted to his widow Mary Virden now Mary Morris. (Sussex County Deeds, Book A. B. 27, page 193)

- Bethnel Virdin married Elizabeth Connoly. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Mrs. Ann Virdin was buried. (Presbyterian Church records, Lewis, Delaware)

- Elizabeth W. Virden, wife of Captain Henry Virden, was born. She died January 13, 1893. (Lewes, Delaware, St. Peters Episcopal Churchyard)

- Matilda Virden was born. She died in 1841. She married Charles Cracknell. (Source lost)

- The list of taxables in Lewes and Rehobeth Hundred, Sussex County, included Thomas Verdin, Lydia Verdin, and Mitchell Verdin.

1800

Kent County

Sussex County

1800

Dorchester County

Caroline County

January 28, 1801

January 7, 1802

January 7, 1802

May 6, 1803

1804

January 15, 1805

October 22, 1807

January 13, 1809

July 23, 1810

January 24, 1812

1812

1813

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VIRDIN NOTES FROM ENGLAND

The notes and information included here are for background purposes only since it has not been determined that there is any direct relation to the Virdins mentioned here and those listed in this book. However, since the information has been gathered it may be helpful to some person in the future in conducting research.

The List of Emigrants to America from Liverpool 1697 - 1707, reprinted from the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vols. 64, 65, by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, 1969, does not list anyone named Virdin coming to America from Liverpool during that period. Nor does the book American Colonists In English Records, First Series, by George Sherwood, London, 1932, list any Virdin.

The book, Irish Names and Surnames, by Rev. Patrick Woulfe, Dublin, 1923, M.H. Gill and Sons, Ltd., page 159, refers to the names Varden, Verdin, Verdon. On page 245 it refers to de Verdoun, de Fardun, Verdon, Varden, and de Verdun, i.e., of Verdun, the historic town in the east of France. According to this book

"The de Verduns came to England with William the Conqueror and settled in Leicestershire. Bertram de Verdun, the founder of the Irish branch of the family, came hither at the period of the Anglo-Norman invasion, was made Seneschal of Ireland by Henry II and granted the manors of Dundalk and Clonmore, and other estates in County Louth. His great-grandson, John de Verdon, by marriage with an heiress of the deLacys, added to his already extensive patrimony a moiety of Meath, and was succeeded to the office of Constable of Ireland, which had been originally granted to Hugh deLacy. He also possessed the castle and manors of Croom and Castle Robert in County Limerick. In 1314, Theobald de Verdon became justiciary, but dying in 1317 without heirs male, his estates were divided between four daughters who all married English noblemen. The name however continued to be represented in Louth down to the end of the 17th century, as we find among those attainted in 1642 a John Verdon, and in 1691 another John Verdon, a descendent of the former. Of the Limerick Verdons, William was Mayor of the city in 1553; and John Verdon, in 1579, was sovereign of Kilmallock, and in 1585 represented the town in parliament. Several of the Verdons of Kilmallock were transplanted to Connacht in 1653."