OLD KENT

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Notes Illustrative of the Early Records
OF
KENT COUNTY, MARYLAND
BY
GEORGE A. HANSON, M. A.

3.

Will of Elias Ringgold,
Dated 19th October, 1737,
Admitted to probate 28th Nov. 1737.
Liber 1705, 1746. Folio 63.

Mentions his loving Wife Mary Ringgold and leaves to her "My Lot of Land in Chestertown number ninety seven and all the appurtenances." He mentions also Huntingfield as part of his estate, speaks of his Nephew Thomas son of his deceased Brother Thomas Ringgold, of his Brother James—he provides for his Wife Mary "and the child then unborn," and appoints her his executrix.

4.

Will of Rebecca Ringgold,
Dated 29th November 1746,
Admitted to probate 12th Jan. 1750.
Liber 1746-1756. Folio 122.

Mentions her sons William Ringgold, and Thomas Ringgold, her daughter Rebecca, her daughter Sarah Williamson, wife of Alexander Williamson, and grandsons Alexander Williamson and Thomas Ringgold; appoints her Brother-in-law James Ringgold her executor.

The following note is recorded with the Will:

"Sir,

I have no objection as heir at Law, to the Testatrix, to the probate of the within Will.

Yrs. Tho. Ringgold.

To Mr. James Calder
Dept. Com. to Kt. County.

5.

Will of William Ringgold,
Dated, 10th November 1753,
Admitted to probate 1st April 1754.
Liber 1770-1776. Folio 12.

Mentions his sons James and Thomas Ringgold and John Ringgold, and daughter Rebecca Ringgold, and appoints his son John Ringgold his executor.

6.

Will of James Ringgold,
Dated 5th September 1767
Admitted to probate 19th Dec. 1767.
Liber 1756-1769. Folio 306

Mentions his nephew Thomas Ringgold, son of his Brother Thomas deceased, leaves him his own Dwelling plantation, being part of a Tract of land called Huntingfield,—his nephews William Ringgold, Josias Ringgold, Elias Ringgold, James Ringgold, and his Brother Josias Ringgold, his cousins Thomas Ringgold and James Frisby, his nephew Thomas Smyth, his nieces Sarah Ringgold, Mary Nann Ringgold, Ann Ringgold, Hannah Ringgold, Rebecca Riggold,—his "deceased Nieces Sarah Williamson's children viz Ann Tomson, Rebecca Williamson & Sarah Williamson, his Niece Rebecca Frisby's children, viz Rebecca Frisby and Anna Maria Frisby: appoints his nephew Thomas Ringgold his executor.

7.

Will of Josias Ringgold,
Dated 4th day of May 1769.
Admitted to probate 23rd Feb. 1770.
Liber 1746-1756. Folio 230

Mentions his son Thomas Ringgold and five Daughters, Sarah, Mary, Ann, Hannah & Rebecca, his grandson Josias Ringgold, son of his son Josias, Grand-daughter Sarah Ringgold, daughter of the said Josias: apoints his daughter Sarah his executrix.

8.

Will of Thomas Ringgold,
Dated 8th day of February 1768.
Admitted to probate 15th April 1772.
Liber 1770-1776. Folio 73.

Mentions his loving wife Ann Maria Ringgold, leaves her the plantation in Eastern Neck descended to him from his Father, his Nephews James Williamson and William Frisby, his Nieces Rebecca Williamson, Sarah Williamson and Henrietta Maria Williamson; his cousins Lambert Wickes & Richard Wickes, and his Brother William: appoints his son Thomas Ringgold his executor.

Immediately after the probate, is recorded the following note:

"I do hereby, agreeable to the direction of Thomas Ringgold my decd Father acknowledge myself to have sufficient assets to pay and hereby do engage myself to discharge all my said Fathers Debts and Legacies as mentioned or enumerated in the above will. Witness my hand this day of April Anno Domini 1772.

Thos. Ringgold.

Test E. Nallette.

9.

Will of Charles Ringgold,
Dated 17th day of March 1773.
Admitted to probate 23rd Nov. 1773.
Liber 1770-1776. Folio 122.

Mentions his Wife Rachel & Daughter Sarah and appoints them executrices.

10.

Will of Thomas Ringgold of Chestertown, Dated 15th Feb. 1774.
Admitted to probate 6th Dec. 1776.
Liber 1770-1776. Fols. 229-252.

Speaks of his Mother (Mrs. Anna Maria Ringgold) with great tenderness, filial affection and veneration, of his daughter Anna Maria, his sons Thomas Ringgold, Samuel Ringgold, and Benjamin Ringgold, of his Friend Tench Tilghman: appoints Thomas Ringgold Tilghman, Tench Tilghman, James Williamson, John Galloway and William Hemsley, Jr., to divide and distribute his estate, which was very great.

(This estate, and that of Thomas Perkins, who died 21st Feb. 1768, was the largest that had ever been divided in Kent County, Md. In the last mentioned case Ebenezer Reyner, Jonathan Turner, Jonathan Worth and John Maxwell, four of the wealthiest gentlemen in Kent county, were selected as Guardian for Mary Perkins, infant Daughter of the said Thomas Perkins).

11.

Will of John Cadwalader,
Dated 29th April 1785
Admitted to probate 11th March 1786.
Liber 1781-1798. Fol.

Mentions his dearly beloved wife Williamina Cadwalader, his sons Thomas Cadwalader and John Cadwalader, his Daughters Anne, Elizabeth, Maria, & Fanny; his Nephew & Niece Samuel & Mary Dickinson, children of Philemon Dickinson, his Mother Hannah Cadwalader, his sister Mary Dickinson, wife of Philemon Dickinson his Brother Lambert Cadwalder; appoints his Brother Lambert Cadwalader & Brother in law Philemon Dickinson executors. The testator also speaks of his Brother-in-Law Col. Edward Lloyd.

State of Maryland, Kent County, Sct:

I, WILLIAM STEVENS, Register of Wills, in and for said county, do hereby certify, that the notes included in this section, (No. 36 F.) are true extracts from the Records in my office.

In testimony whereof, I (SEAL) hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of my office this twenty second day of April, in the year of our Lord one thousand, eight hundred and seventy-five.

WM. STEVENS,
Register of Wills.

SEC. 36. G. I am indebted to the kindness of my friend Mr. James Alfred Pearce, of Chestertown, for the following copies of Inscriptions upon the Tomb stones. The graves are in the private grounds attached to the residence built by Thomas Ringgold, merchant, and now owned and occupied by Mr. Pearce and his Family.

TO THE MEMORY OF THOMAS
RINGGOLD OF CHESTERTOWN
MERCHANT
WHO DIED ON THE 1ST OF APRIL
1772 IN THE 51ST YEAR OF HIS
AGE.
THIS MARBLE IS ERECTED BY HIS
AFFLICTED WIDOW.
BY A STEADY COURSE OF JUDICIOUS INDUSTRY
HE ACQUIRED AN AMPLE FORTUNE,
WITH UNBLEMISHED REPUTATION.
AND HIS DEATH WAS A MISFORTUNE
NOT ONLY TO HIS FAMILY
BUT
TO HIS FRIENDS
HIS NEIGHBORS
AND
HIS COUNTRY.

Sacred
To the Memory of
Thomas Ringgold Junr. Esq.
of Chestertown.
Mary Ringgold his affectionate Widow
Has caused
This Marble to be Erected
In this Public life, Independent and unbiased,
He always served his Country Faithfully
His Private Virtues where equal to
His Public Character
The affectionate husband, The kinder parent
And the indulgent Master
A sincere friend,—And the good neighbor to all.
Hence his death became a Public as well as a Private loss.
Obt. 26th October 1776
Aet. 32.

Sacred to the Memory
of a good Woman
Anna Maria Ringgold
The Widow of
Thomas Ringgold Esq.
She died July 1794 in the 70th year of her age
Her unaffected piety was an example to all
And her Virtues and the Constancy of her manners
Not only endeared her to her family and friends
But secured to her the love and affection of all who knew her.

SEC. 36. H. GENL. JOHN CADWALADER, brother to Col. Lambert Cadwalader of the Continental service, was a distinguished officer in the Revolutionary army. He was chiefly noted for his gallantry at Princeton, Germantown and Monmouth, and for his devotion to Washington, with whom he was a great favorite.

Washington, in his letter to the President of Congress, dated Newtown, 27 December 1776, says "This difficulty also hindered General Cadwalader from crossing with the Pennsylvania militia from Bristol. He got part of his force over; but, finding it impossible to embark his artillery, he was obliged to desist. I am fully confident, that, could the troops under Generals Ewing and Cadwalader have passed the river, I should have been able with their assistance to drive the enemy from all their posts below Trenton."

General Cadwalader, in a letter dated Bristol, 26th December 1776, explains the difficulty, thus, "The river was so full of ice, that it was impossible to pass above Bristol where I intended; and therefore I concluded to make an attempt at Dunk's Ferry. As soon as it was dark I sent down all the boats I could muster, and marched down about eight o'clock. I embarked a few men to line the river and prevent any person from escaping to give intelligence to the enemy; and these were followed by a part of the first battalion of militia, then two field-pieces, with which I went over to see if it was practicable to land them; and upon examination I found it was impossible, the ice being very thick. Upon proposing this to the field-officers, they were all of opinion, that it would not be proper to proceed without cannon. During this time the third battalion was landed. We concluded to withdraw the troops that had passed, but could not effect it till near four o'clock in the morning."

In August 1777 General Washington commanded Genl. John Cadwalader to take command of all the Maryland Eastern Shore militia; and General Smallwood took command of the Western Shore troops.

After the resignation of the notorious Genl. Conway was accepted by Congress, he repaired to Philadelphia when that city was evacuated by the British. Here his freedom of speech, unpatriotic criticisms on the conduct of affairs and his offensive manners involved him in many difficulties with American officers; among whom was Genl. Cadwalader. They fought a duel on the 4th of July 1778. The ball passed through Conway's mouth and the upper part of his neck, and for some time the wound was supposed to be mortal. It, however, had the good effect to open the eyes and enlighten the conscience of the demagogue; and upon his supposed death bed he wrote the following letter to GEO. WASHINGTON:

Philadelphia 23 July 1778

"Sir,

I find myself just able to hold the pen during a few minutes, and take this opportunity of expressing my sincere grief for having done, written, or said anything disagreeable to your Excellency. My career will soon be over; therefore justice and truth prompt me to declare my last sentiments. You are in my eyes the great and good man. May you long enjoy the love, veneration, and esteem of these States, whose liberties you have asserted by your virtues. I am with respect, &c.,

Thomas Conway."

Thomas Conway lived to see his faction the "Conway-Cabal" as it was called, sink into contempt, and to witness the triumph of GEORGE WASHINGTON over all his enemies foreign and domestic.

Descendants of Genl. John Cadwalader are now lving in Philadelphia.

Mr. William Janvier, of this county, with his characteristic kindness, made for me, at my request, the following copies of inscriptions upon the tombstones in Shrewsbury Grave-yard in Kent county, Md.

In Memory of
Genl. John Cadwalader
Who departed this life the 11th Feb'y 1786 aged 44 years 1 month and 1 day.
The following character was given him by Thomas Paine, who during his lifetime, had been his violent political enemy:

His early and inflexible patriotism
will endear his memory to all the true
friends of the American Revolution.
It may with strictest justice be said
of him, that he possessed a heart
incapable of deceiving.
His manners were founded in the
nicest sense of honor,
And the whole tenor of his life was
governed by this principle.
The companions of his youth were the
companions of his manhood.
He never lost a friend by insincerity,
nor made one by deception.
His domestic virtues were truly exemplary.
While they serve to endear the remembrance, they embitter the loss
of him
to all his numerous friends and
companions.
This stone is placed by his affectionate
children,
to mark the spot where his remains
are deposited.

Near by this grave is a monument which bears this touching tribute of friendship:

In Memory of Mr. Wm. Gough
who departed this life
on the 1st day of October 1793
aged 58 years,
Great part of this good man's life
was spent in the service of his friend
and patron
Genl. John Cadwalader,
by whom, as by all others he was
justly esteemed
for his strict virtue & unblemished
character.

SEC. 36. I. Thomas Ringgold, the senior, was very active and prominent in public affairs, and on the 17th day of September 1765 was one of a Committee, under the following instructions from the Honorable the Lower House of the Assembly of the Province of Maryland:

"To William Murdock, Edward Tilghman, and Thomas Ringgold, Esqs., a Committee appointed to join the several committees from the several colonies in America, at New York:

"Gentlemen,

You are to repair immediately to the City of New York, in the province of New York, and there join with the committees from the houses of representatives of the other colonies, in a general and united, loyal and humble representation to his Majesty and the British Parliament, of the circumstances and condition of the British Colonies and plantations, and to pray relief from the burthens and restrains latey laid on their trade and commerce, and especially from the taxes imposed by an act of the last session of Parliament granting and applying certain stamp duties and other duties in the British Colonies and plantations in America, whereby they are deprived in some instances, of that invaluable privilege of Englishmen and British subjects, trials by juries, that you take care that such representation shall humbly and decently, but respectfully, contain an assertion of the rights of the colonies to be exempt from all and every taxation and impositions upon their persons and properties to which they do not consent in a legislative way, either by themselves or by their representatives, by them free chosen and appointed.

Signed by order of the House,
ROBERT LLOYD, Speaker.

SEC. 36. J. Genl. SAMUEL RINGGOLD, son of Thomas Ringgold, Jr., and Mary Ringgold, married ANNE CADWALADER, a daughter of Gen. JOHN CADWALADER, the distinguished officer of the Revolutionary army. Soon after or about the time of his marriage, he removed from Kent county and settled upon his estate, Fountain Rock, in Washington county, Maryland. This was an immense tract containing several thousand acres of the most productive land in the State of Maryland, or in America. Here he built a magnificent mansion, which resembled in many particulars the President's house in Washington; it was adorned with beautiful stucco work, and elaborate wood carving. Many of the doors, perhaps the greater number, were of solid mahogany. All the appointments, stables and other offices were in style, befitting the most elegant private residence in Maryland. After many years the estate passed into other hands. New buildings were subsequently added to the mansion and it became the seat of the College of St. James; during which period the writer spent six very happy years there, as a student. Genl. Samuel Ringgold and Anne Cadwalader, his wife, had eight childrn who survived them:

1st. Maj. Samuel Ringgold, U. S. A., slain upon the battle-field of Palo Alto.

2d. Admiral Cadwalader Ringgold, U. S. N.

3d. Chester Ringgold, died young.

4th. Frederick Ringgold, now living in Washington.

5th. Miss Maria Ringgold.

6th. Miss Elizabeth Ringgold.

7th. Ann C. Ringgold, who intermarried with Wm. Schley, Esq., formerly of Frederick, Md., but late of Baltimore, now deceased.

8th. Miss Cornelia Ringgold, who intermarried with George M. Potts, Esq., of Frederick, Md.

Genl. Samuel Ringgold, married a second time, Miss Hay of Washington, and had children, viz:

1st. Maj. George Ringgold, U. S. A., died in California.

2d. Fayette Ringgold, U. S. Consul in Peru, South American. He married there a beautiful Spanish lady, who used to discourse the prettiest broken English I ever heard.

3d. Miss Virginia Ringgold, who inter-married with John Ross Key. She is now at Paris, France, with her son, J. R. Key, an artist of celebrity.

4th. Miss Rebecca Ringgold, who intermarried with Dr. Hay of Chicago, since deceased.

George M. Potts, of Frederick, and Cornelia Ringgold Potts, his wife, had the following children, viz:

1st. Dr. Richard Potts, U. S. A. and C. S. A., who married, first Miss Rebecca McPherson; married a second time to Miss Eugene Dunlap, a daughter of the Hon. G. W. Dunlap, of Kentucky. He left one child, George Dunlap Potts.

2d. Arthur Potts married Miss Helen Mobberly, daughter of Dr. Mobberly, of New Market, Frederick county, Md.; they have four children, viz:

Eleanor Potts, Louisa Potts, Richard Potts, Cornelia Potts.

3d. George M. Potts, unmarried..

4th. Miss Cornelia Ringgold Potts, intermarried with Mr. Charles W. Ross (a son of William J. Ross, Esq., of Frederick, one of the most deservedly distinguished members of the Maryland Bar,—equally and alike esteemed for his ability and high toned honor, and his careful and conscientious discharge of every duty, in every relation of life, public, private and social), they have had the following children. Wm. J. Ross, Jr., a sweet little infant, deceased. Cornelia Ringgold Ross, Charles W. Ross, George Murdock Potts Ross, deceased.

5th. Miss Eleanor Potts intermarried with Arthur S. Johns, son of Right Rev. John Johns, Bishop of Virginia. She died in the bloom of her youth and beauty, leaving one child, Eleanor Johns, since deceased.



PERCY SHELLEY

"The trumpet of a prophecy! Oh, Wind, if Winter comes can Spring be far behind?" To aid another in his need, to bring one's abilities to the caretaking of another's perplexing problems is a worthy aim.

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Chestertown, Maryland
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