

EDWARDIAN RIGGSES OF AMERICA IX:  
ILLUSTRATIONS FOR  
JAMES RIGGS (C1662–C1744)  
OF PRINCE GEORGE’S COUNTY,  
MARYLAND,  
AND HIS DESCENDANTS TO 2022

by  
*Alvy Ray Smith, FASG*

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Each line in the table of illustrations is linked to its picture.

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## JAMES RIGGS, VOL. 9

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Figure 9. Lydia Riggs's family Bible photocopied page courtesy of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs.

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Figure 15. Original from <freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~pamonval/townships/files/allenmap.html>, rotated, cropped, and graphics added by me. Note also the E. I. Worrell and G. W. Hazelbaker land near M. Riggs.

Figure 16. USGS Fayette City (Pa.) quadrangle, from the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs, and marked by him showing the boundaries of the various Riggs properties in Washington Co., Pa. He currently owns part of the William<sup>3</sup> Riggs plot, which is thus still in the family.

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Figure 23. From <Ancestry.com>, attached to Olive Ollie Lucinda Riggs.

Figure 24. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.

Figure 25. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.

Figure 26. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.



## ILLUSTRATIONS



Figure 1. The Anacostia River, formerly known as the Eastern Branch of the Potomac.

The Patuxent River is the wiggling line across the northeast corner of this illustration, from just left of midtop to midright. In 1726 Prince George's Parish was defined to be the Eastern Branch, Rock Creek, and Potomac Hundreds, embracing all the country northwest of a line "beginning with the mouth of the Eastern Branch of the Potomac, and running up therewith to the fork thereof, and thence continuing the course of the East Branch to its head, and by a straight line until it strikes the Patuxent River." I take this to mean northwest of the line defined in this illustration by the Anacostia River, then its NE Branch, then Beaverdam Creek, then a straight line to the Patuxent River. At the same time St. John's Parish was defined to be the Piscataway and New Scotland Hundreds.

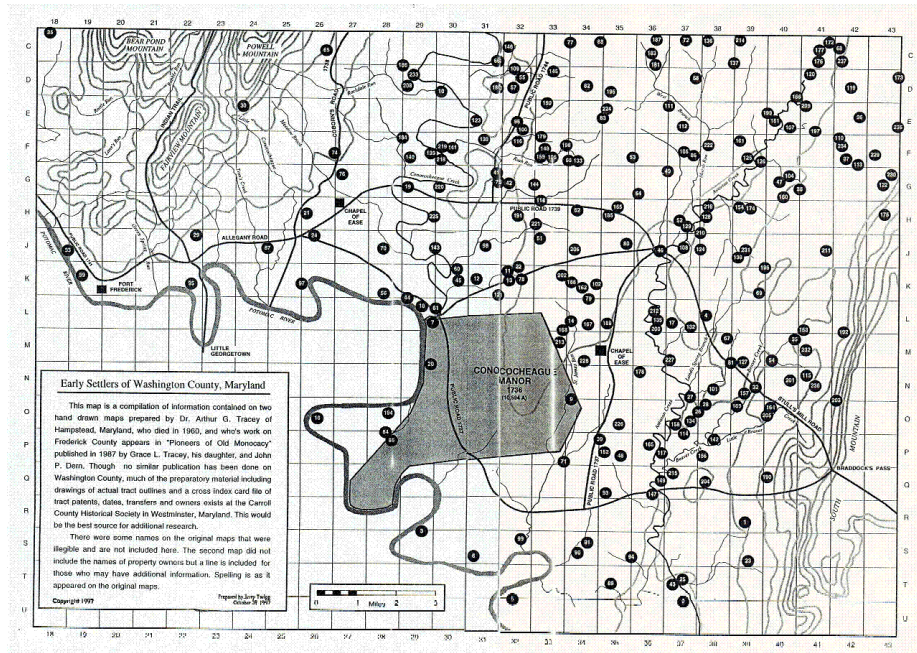


Figure 2. Early Washington Co., Md., plats: Piles Delight, No. 5 (center bottom)

At coordinates T-U-37, on the Potomac River, patented 4 Sept. 1734 to Richard Spriggs, 724 acres, with Antietam Creek about four miles to the right of the numeral 5 (using the map's scale), running east of north, passing about three miles right of the shaded Conococheague Manor, owned by Lord Baltimore (and roughly the location of modern Hagerstown). It would have been in the Sharpsburgh Hundred by the 1765 division, or in the Marsh Hundred before that.

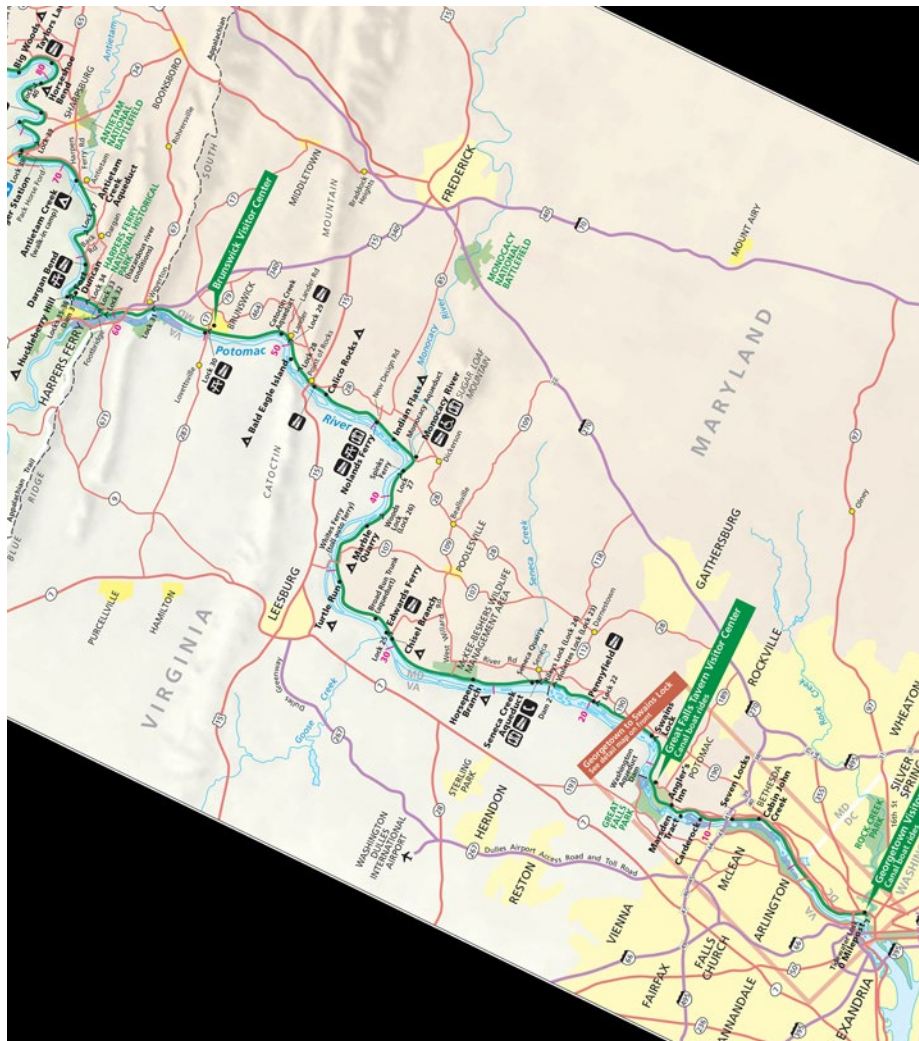


Figure 3. Riggs loci in Maryland

The Anacostia River (Eastern Branch of the Potomac) enters at bottom right across from the “ia” in “Alexandria.” Rock Creek enters at milepost 0 of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal (the green path). Broad Run is at about mile 32 (red numerals), and White’s Ferry at about mile 35. The Monocacy River enters the Potomac at about mile 42. Harper’s Ferry is located at about mile 61, and Antietam Creek enters the Potomac at about mile 69. The canal ends at Pennsylvania.

At the request of James Riggs the following lease was Recorded May the twenty fourth day  
 One thousand seven hundred & thirty four

This Indenture made the third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 seven hundred & thirty four Between Charles Farwell of the City of Annapolis Leg of the one part & James  
 of Prince Georges County planter of the other part Witnesseth that the said Charles Farwell for & in  
 view of the route & covenants hereon after recorded hath devised granted sold & to farm let & by these pre-  
 sents doth demise grant sold & to farm let unto the said James Riggs all that part of tract of land called James  
 of Prince Georges County which is included in the following words & bounds beginning at the end of James  
 first line & running thence south sixteen degrees west one hundred perches south seventy nine degrees west  
 hundred & eighty perches, thence north sixteen degrees east one hundred perches thence with a straight line to the  
 beginning containing one hundred acres of land more or less together with all & singular the premises with the appur-  
 tenances to the said land belonging or in any way appertaining To have and to hold the said premises  
 & premises unto the said James Riggs his heirs & assigns for & during the term of twenty one years  
 date hereof fully to be completed & ended without paying therefore yearly unto the said Charles Farwell his heirs  
 or assigns the quantity of eight hundred pounds of clean merchantable tobacco clean of trash & ground leaves to be  
 of the last year's branch lying in convenient casque to contain the same in the said James Riggs his heirs  
 his heirs & assigns covenant to & with the said Charles Farwell his heirs & assigns that neither he the said James  
 his heirs or assigns shall at any time sell or destroy any timber on the premises nor apply any but to the use

Figure 4. James<sup>1</sup> Riggs lease of part of Concord, 1734, first page



and use of the demised premises & the said James Riggs doth also covenant for himself his heirs & assigns  
 within his heirs or assigns shall suffer more lands to work on the demised premises than himself his  
 children or in case his children are incapable to work there only to take in one able hand & the said James  
 by these presents doth bind himself his heirs & assigns to pay unto the said Charles Farroll his last adw. or  
 during the term of the rent hereof before reserved at the time appointed & the said James Riggs for himself  
 his heirs & assigns doth covenant & agree to & with the said Charles Farroll his last adw. & assigns to plant or  
 premises before expiration of three years from the date hereof one hundred & fifty good apple trees in a row  
 and each tree being distant at least forty foot & the said trees to be kept in good order & enclosed by a good  
 & how then so termed & enclosed during the term of & in case of nonperformance to pay unto the said Charles F  
 his last adw. or assigns the sum of fifty pounds sterling & the said Charles Farroll for himself & his heirs doth co  
 & agree to & with the said James Riggs his last adw. & assigns that he the said James Riggs his last adw. or a  
 paying the rent above reserved & performing the covenants reserved with the part of the said James Riggs shall  
 according to the true intent & meaning of these presents peaceably & quietly have & hold occupy possess &  
 the said parcel of land with all & singular the demised premises with the appurtenances without any  
 able or interruption of the said Charles Farroll his heirs or assigns or any other person or persons whatsoever  
 fully claiming by firm or under any other right title or interest during the term of & lastly the said J  
 Riggs for himself his last adw. & assigns doth covenant & agree to & with the said Charles Farroll his  
 & assigns that he the said James Riggs his last adw. & assigns shall & will during the term of keep  
 & plantation in good order & to maintainable repair & at the expiration of the term of deliver the same  
 in good order & to maintainable repair **and in witness** whereof the said parties to these presents have exchanged  
 their hands & seals the day & year first above written

Sealed & Delivered  
 in presence of  
 Geo. Allwood  
 John Threl' 1734 December the 17<sup>th</sup> Then James Charles Farroll before me the Subscrib. our  
 Lordships Justices of the Provincial Court & acknowledged the within lease according to an act of assem  
 such case made & provided

Robert Gordon

Figure 5. James<sup>1</sup> Riggs lease of part of Concord, 1734, second page

HEADSTONE OF MARY RIGGS, WIFE OF WILLIAM  
BURIED ON THE FAMILY FARM.  
GRAVES ARE NOW IN ALLENPORT BORO.  
PHOTO TAKEN BY JAMES WALLACE RIGGS ; JUNE 2009



Figure 6. Gravestone of Mary, wife of William<sup>3</sup> Riggs

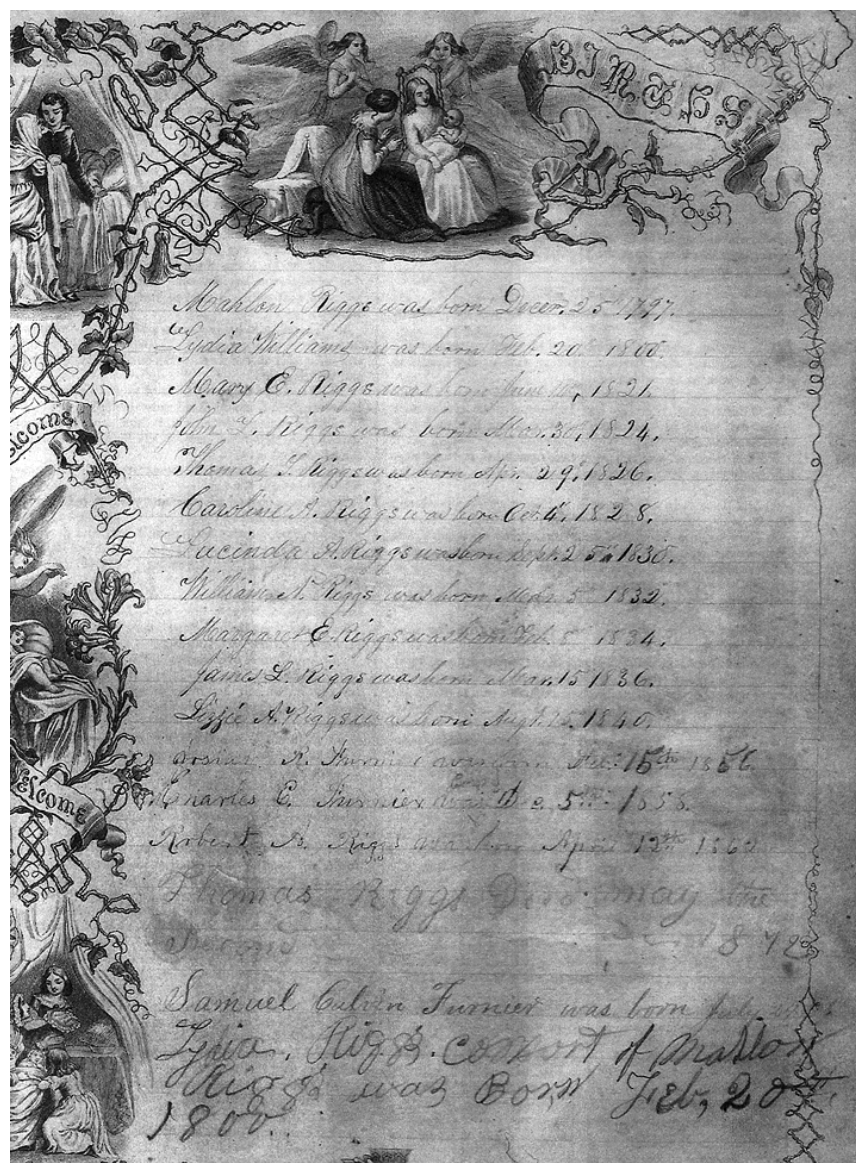


Figure 7. Lydia Riggs's Bible, births

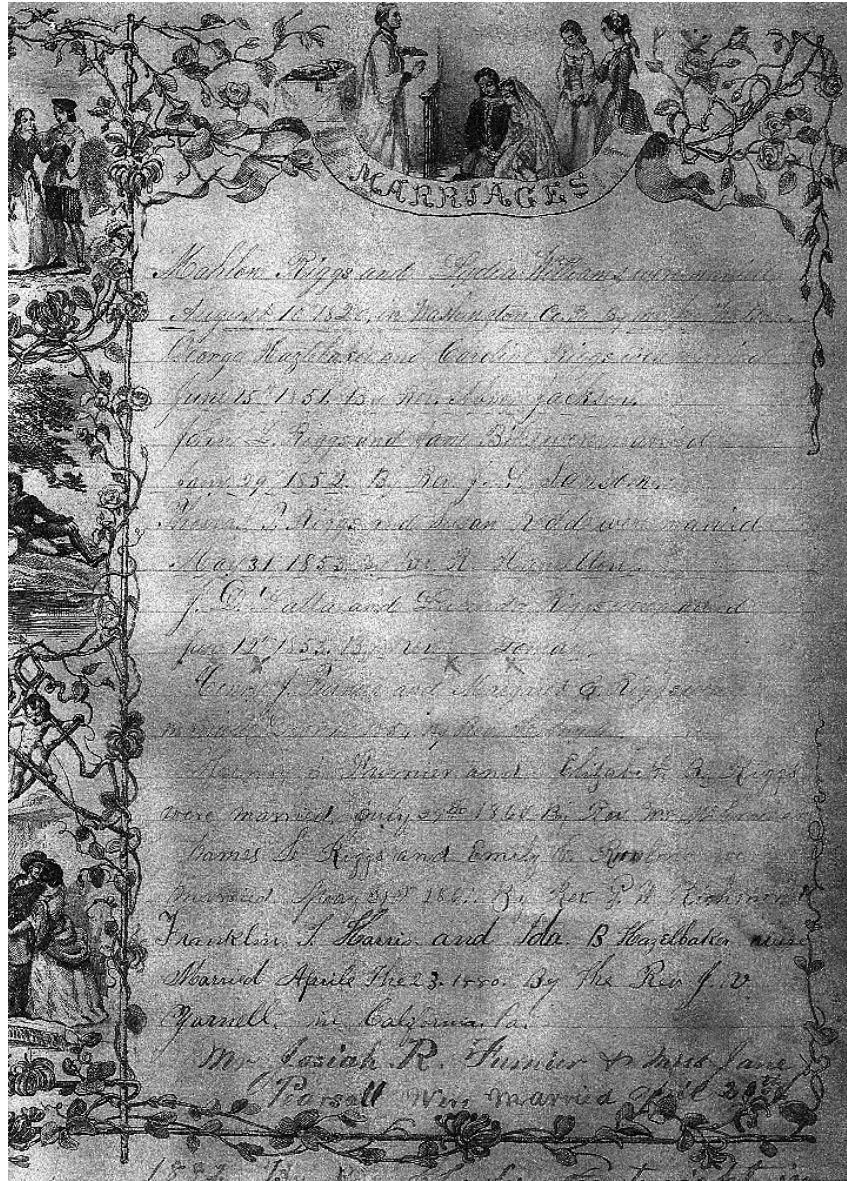


Figure 8. Lydia Riggs's Bible, marriages



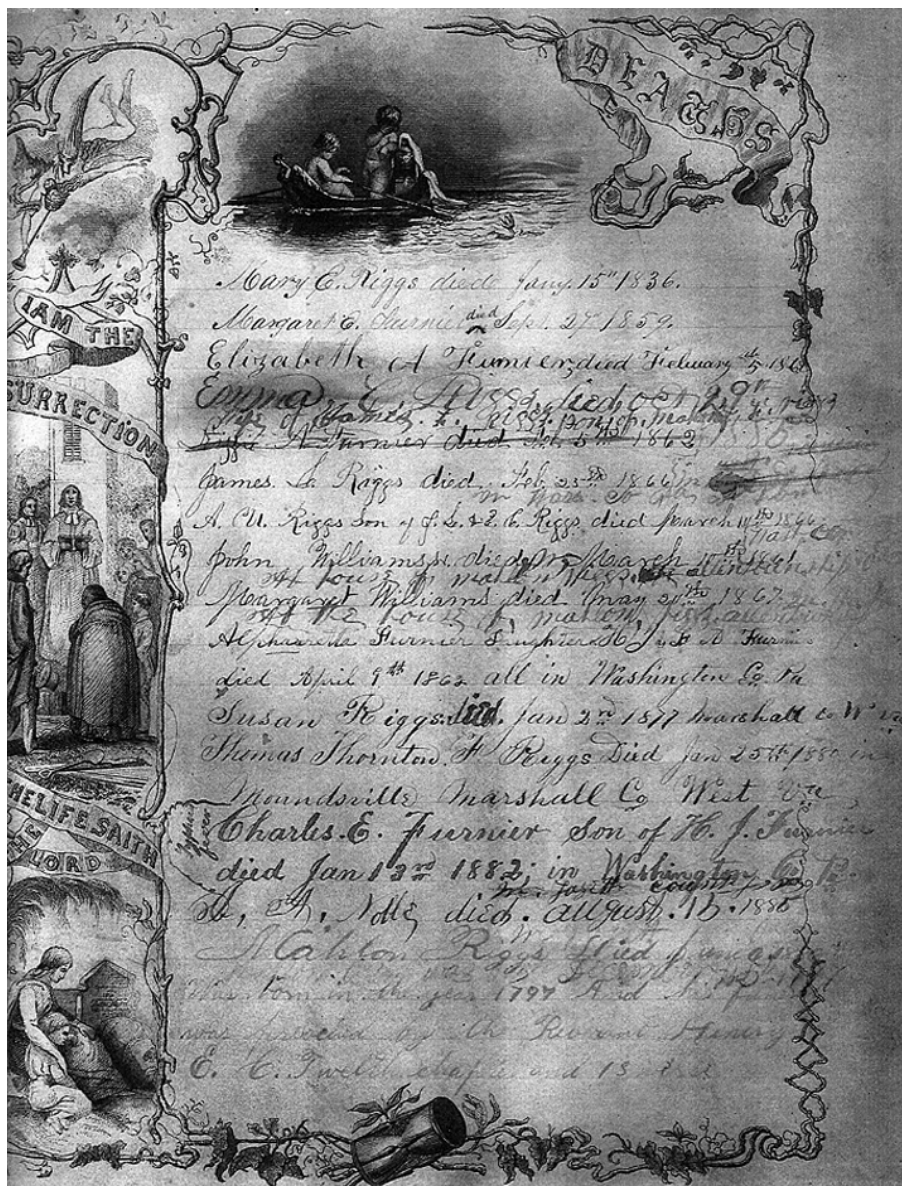


Figure 9. Lydia Riggs's Bible, deaths

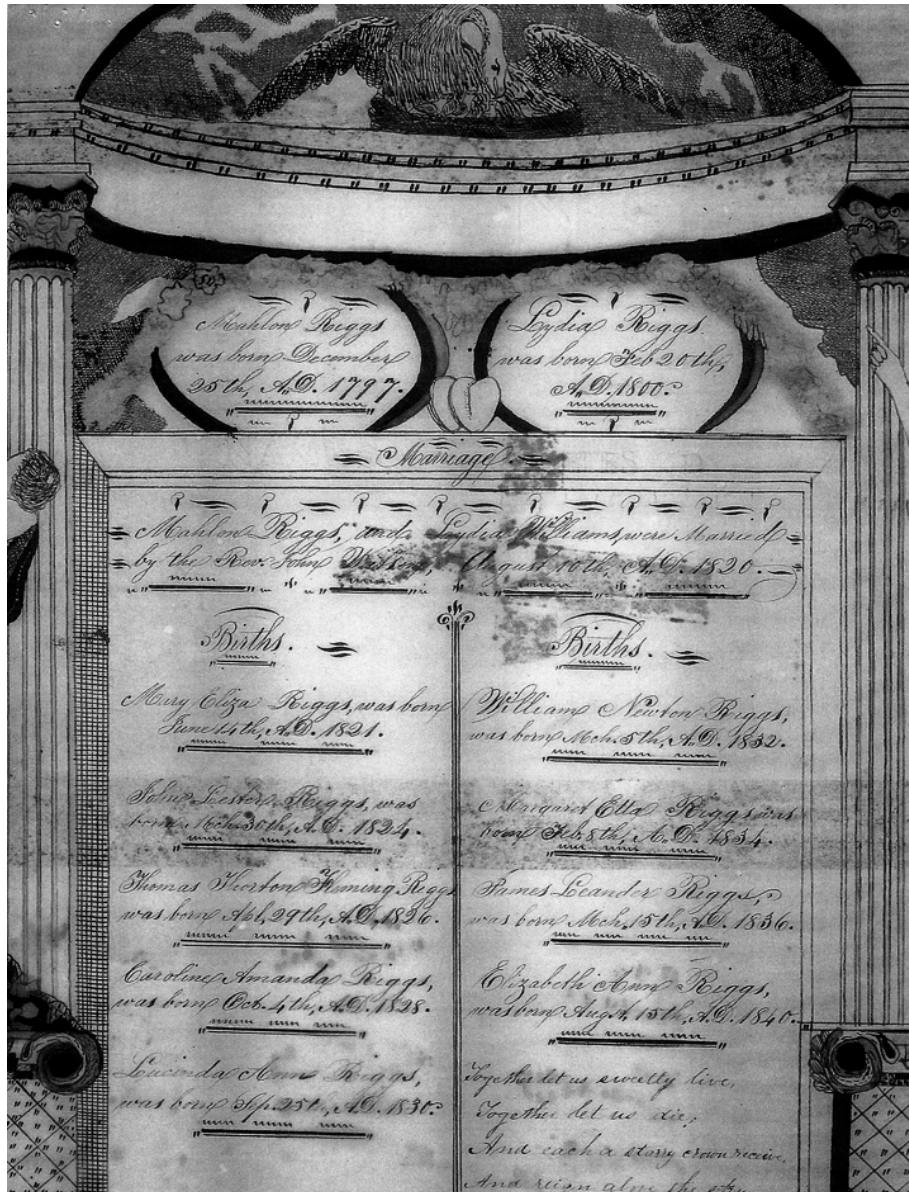


Figure 10. Mahlon and Lydia Riggs Family Register, 1852

FORM No. 1.

63  
P-25-43  
4317

Ent<sup>d</sup> 21 April 1780  
Ret<sup>d</sup> 20 Feb<sup>y</sup> 1788

A Draught of a survey called "Amity", situate on the waters of Monongahela River in Washington County, containing 36 1/2 Ac<sup>t</sup> strict measure, executed June ye 12<sup>th</sup> 1787 for Jeremiah Ellis Riggs ass<sup>ts</sup> of Basil Stoker in consequence of a Certifi<sup>c</sup> for 100 Ac<sup>t</sup> granted to sd. Stoker by the Commiss<sup>rs</sup> appointed by Virg<sup>a</sup> to adjust the claims to unpatented Lands in the Counties Monongahela, York, & Ohio & duly entered with ye County Survf<sup>r</sup> &c.

Presley Nevill, } D.S.  
Matt<sup>r</sup> Ritchie }

Jn<sup>s</sup> Lukens, Esq<sup>r</sup>, Survf<sup>r</sup> Gen<sup>l</sup>.

IN TESTIMONY that the above is a copy of the original remaining on file in the Department of Internal Affairs of Pennsylvania, made conformably to an Act of Assembly approved the 16th day of February 1833, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of said Department to be affixed at Harrisburg, this eighteenth day of July, 1907.

Henry H. Houck.  
Secretary of Internal Affairs.

Figure 11. 1787 survey in Washington Co., Pa., for Jeremiah Ellis<sup>3</sup> Riggs

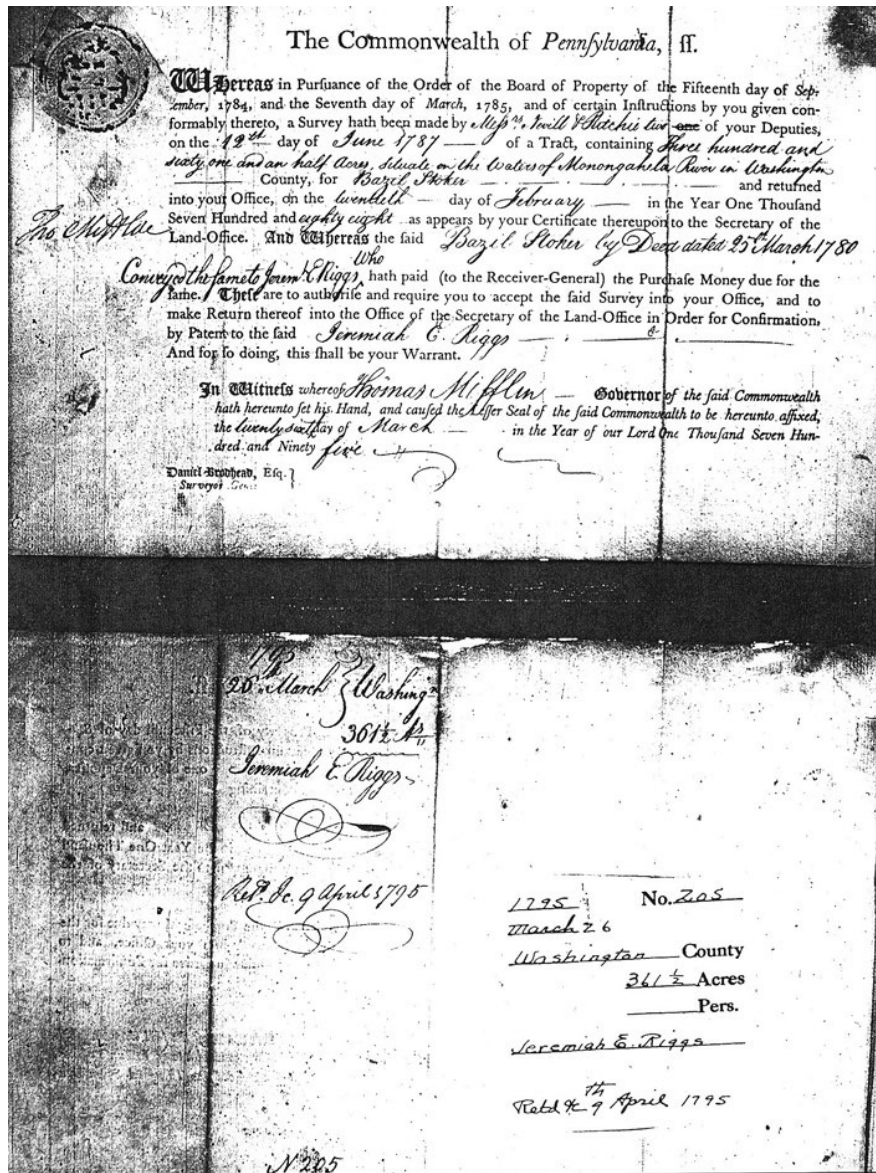


Figure 12. 1795 warrant for Washington Co., Pa., land to Jeremiah E.<sup>3</sup> Riggs







Figure 14. Jeremiah Ellis<sup>3</sup> Riggs property, Washington Co., Pa., 1795



Figure 15. Allen Twp., Washington Co., Pa., 1876, with M. and J. L. Riggs shaded.



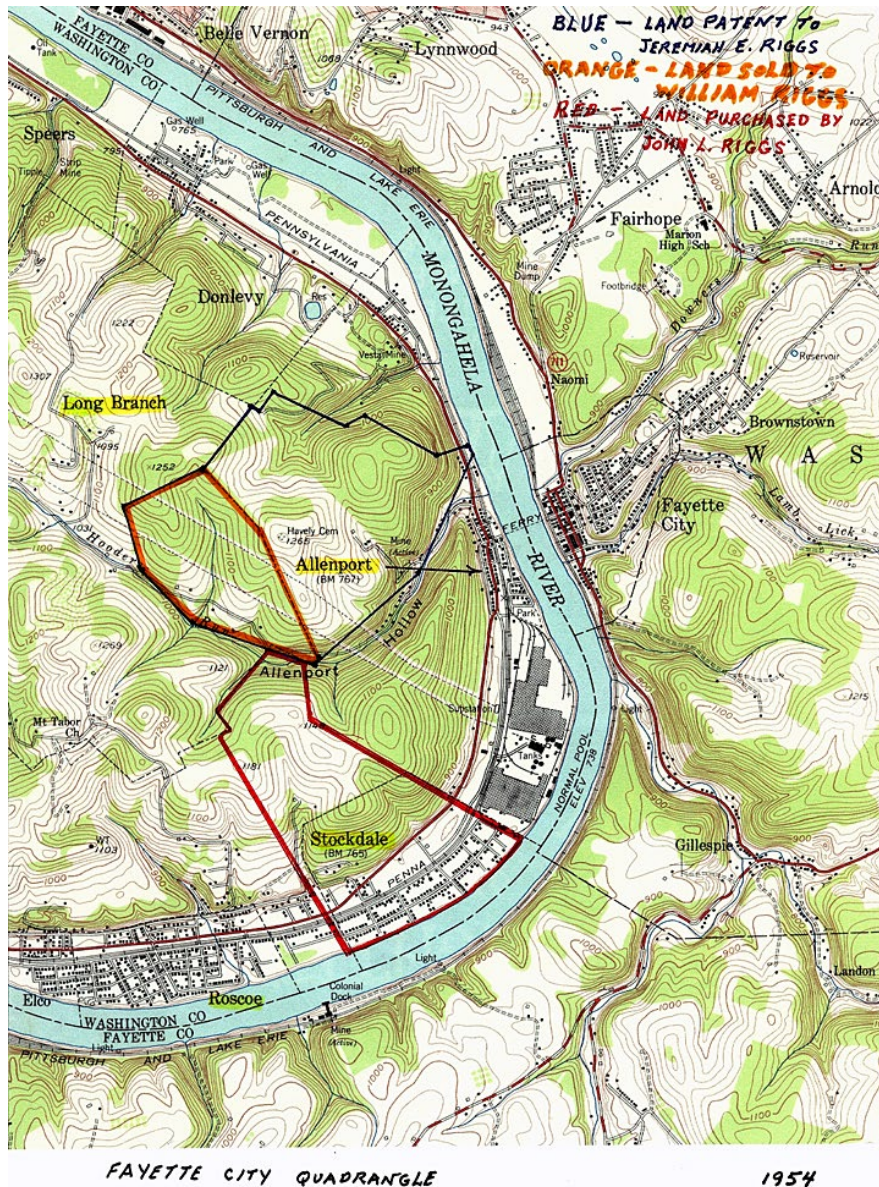


Figure 16. USGS map, Washington Co., Pa., 1954, with Riggs properties outlined.



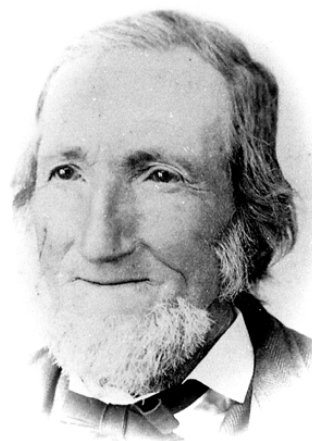


Figure 17. Mahlon<sup>4</sup> and Lydia (Williams) Riggs



**Dorothy Jane Riggs**

**1832 ` 1911**



**John Lester Riggs**

**1824 ` 1902**

Figure 18. Dorothy Jane (Biles) and John Lester<sup>5</sup> Riggs



Figure 19. Owen<sup>5</sup> Riggs, founder of St. Elizabeth, Miller Co., Mo.



**B. F. RIGGS.**

Figure 20. Benjamin F.<sup>6</sup> Riggs, sheriff of Pleasants Co., W.Va.

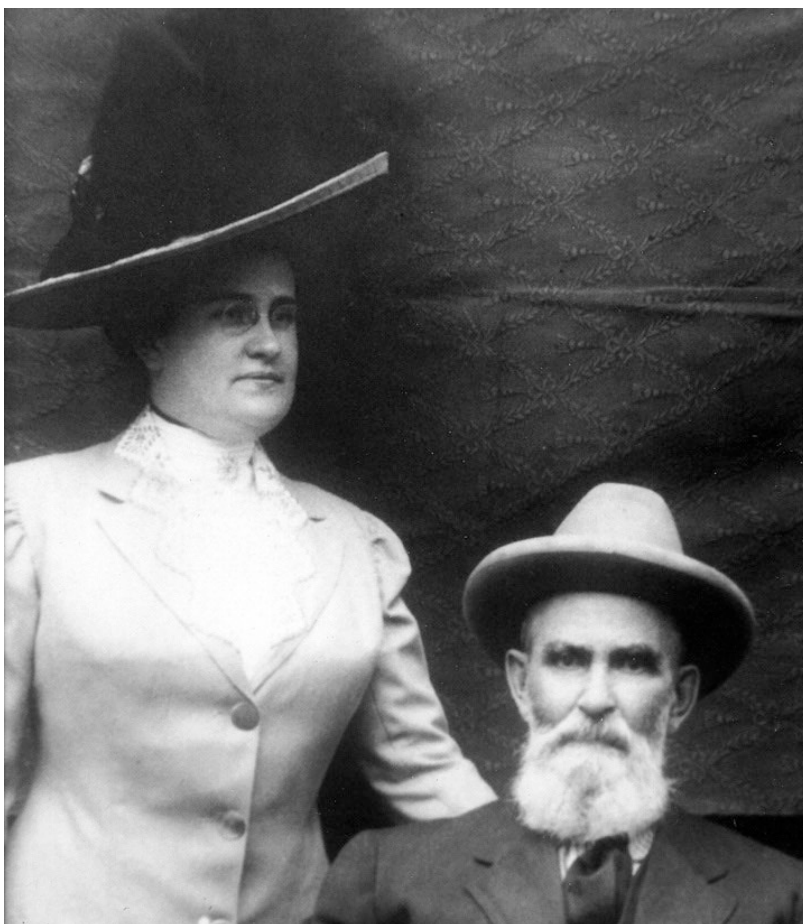


Figure 21. Portia May/Mae<sup>7</sup> (Riggs) Rice and her father, Porter<sup>6</sup> Riggs.



Figure 22. Edwin Harvey<sup>7</sup> Riggs (right), c1900–1910, Brewster, Nebr.



Figure 23. Daughters of Oliver Sansom<sup>6</sup> Riggs, from left: Myrtle<sup>7</sup>, Dorothy<sup>7</sup>, Bernice<sup>7</sup>, Velma<sup>7</sup>, Olive<sup>7</sup>, and Iona<sup>7</sup>

*could be dual*

RIGGS FAMILY RECORD

NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	DIED
<b>Grandparents:</b>			
John W. Riggs	May 31, 1798 <i>Fayette, Ky</i>	January 26, 1826	January 22, 1867
Eleanor C. Fisher	May 27, 1803 <i>Waverly Pa</i>	January 26, 1826	July 9, 1844
John Shirley	February 14, 1802 <i>VA</i>	May 10, 1840 <i>Brown Ky</i>	September 9, 1853
Martha C. Elliot	January 18, 1819 <i>may be Eichert</i>	May 10, 1840 <i>Fayette Mo</i>	August 18, 1886
<b>Parents:</b>			
✓ Erasmus C. Riggs	February 17, 1827 <i>Waverly Pa</i>	July 12, 1860	July 19, 1915
✓ Lucy J. Shirley	June 23, 1843 <i>Fayette Mo</i>	July 12, 1860	April 9, 1909
<b>Children:</b>			
Mary E. Riggs	December 9, 1861	-----	Died about 5 yrs. old
Martha J. Riggs	February 6, 1863 <i>Fayette Mo</i>	September 28, 1881	December 24, 1905
✓ Lee P. Riggs	May 17, 1864	May 17, 1888	May 8, 1924
Kate C. Riggs	August 30, 1866	November 14, 1889	April 4, 1930
✓ John M. Riggs	September 16, 1868	----- <del>1889</del>	August 21, 1869
Stonewall J. Riggs	September 10, 1870	May 1, 1904	August 22, 1927
✓ Albert S. Riggs	February 24, 1873 <i>Minnie Welty</i>	February 24, 1898	March 9, 1962
✓ Elizabeth A. Riggs	March 4, 1875	-----	March 6, 1919
✓ Alice Riggs	September 20, 1877	-----	June 16, 1924
✓ Wade Riggs	May 5, 1879	-----	December 22, 1917
✓ Cora Riggs	December 28, 1881	-----	August 6, 1961
Myrtle E. Riggs	December 15, 1884	March 6, 1915	August 9, 1968
✓ Lucy O. Riggs	November 1, 1888	-----	After 1966 1971

Figure 24. Page 1 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record.

# FAMILY HISTORY

Born on February 17, 1827 to Mr. and Mrs. John W. Riggs (Susan Fisher) in Kentucky was Erasmus Columbus Riggs. There were three other children: John Williams, who died in infancy, a daughter <sup>Eleanor</sup> Eleanor, and another son whom they named John Williams, also (as they wished for a son to carry the name of the father). They moved to Missouri from Kentucky while the children were still young, some-time about 1837.

Eleanor Riggs Married John Ball. Their son Johnie R. Ball Jr. never married. John Ball died a short time after their son was born. Later, she married a man by the name of Powell. To this union a daughter was born, Barbara Ellen. She married a man named Ridgeway. Eleanor Riggs Powell lived to be an elderly person.

John Williams Riggs Jr. married Miss Susan Blanchard. To this union five children were born: Maggie died in girlhood, Nellie, Willie, Walter, and Susie.

Born on June 23, 1843 to John and Martha Elliott Shirley of Fayette Co. Missouri, a daughter Lucy Jane. There were five other children born to this union: Elizabeth, Lucy Jane, John, Jimmie and George. This family came to California in 1859, and <sup>they crossed</sup> settled in Colusa Co. <sup>"Placed by Ox Team"</sup>

John married Miss <sup>Annie</sup> Lamb and to this union was born seven children: Bettie, Bertha, Susie, Ethern, Edgar, Millie, Maude, and Paul who died in October 1915 at the age of 70 yrs. George Died a small boy, and Elizabeth died as a young girl. Jimmie died. The father died September 9, 1853, after a hard struggle making a living. Martha married a man named George Tucker, who was a widower with several children. To this union a son, Joseph.

Joseph Tucker married Miss Annie Harris. No children born, so she adopted a baby girl, Thurza.

Erasmus C. Riggs came to California with relatives by ox team in 1849, mining around Dutch Flat and Marysville in Placer Co. In 1852, he returned to Missouri, making the trip. In 1853, he went back to California, mining and cooking in a mining camp.

Figure 25. Page 2 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record.



He was married to Miss Lucy Jane Shirley in 1860. Lucy Jane Shirley came to California with her family in 1859. They crossed the "Plains" by ox team.

After her marriage to Erasmus, they moved to Lake Co. on the Faught place. Three children were born: Mary E., Martha J., and Lee P. In 1865, they went to Oregon, later returning to Lake Co. settling on the Crawford place. While they were there, John M. and Stonewall J. were born.

In 1871, they moved  $\frac{1}{2}$  to a place owned by a Dutchman named Dan Weedig. Later they bought the place and six other children were born.

Lee P. Riggs married Cynthia Ann Welty. These were dad's grandfather and grandmother. To this union only one child was born, Human. Family stories say that Lee drank quite a bit and had a bad temper. When Human was 18 his father pushed him down a flight of stairs injuring his back.

Figure 26. Page 3 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record.