

Richmond  
family**THE RICHMOND FAMILY***Courtesy of Warren K. Richmond.***FIRST GENERATION**

JOHN RICHMOND, the emigrant, was born in 1594; he came to America from Ashton Keynes Wiltshire, England. He probably left England about 1635, and was one of the purchasers of Taunton in 1637. Undoubtedly he was married before he came to this country, but neither the name of his wife, the date of their marriage, nor the date of her death has been found.

He was away from Taunton much of his life, — through the records he is known to have been at Newport and other places, — but he returned to Taunton and died there March 20, 1664, aged seventy.

**Children:**

- John, born about 1627.
- Edward, born about 1632.
- Sarah, born about 1638.
- Mary, born about 1639.

John Richmond was one of the Commissioners, for Newport, of the Court of Commissioners, held at Portsmouth in 1656. He owned six shares in the original purchase of Taunton in 1637.

John Richmond was one of the older men of the settlement of Taunton. His name does not appear in the list of males (able to bear arms) in 1643: he was in Rhode Island in 1655, and it is possible that he was there at that time or in England. He took the oath of fidelity in Taunton before 1640. The family were large landowners in the easterly part of the town, and gave to a village in that section the name of Richmondtown, which it still bears.

**SECOND GENERATION**

JOHN RICHMOND<sup>2</sup>, son of John<sup>1</sup> was born about 1627, before his father came to this country. He married Abigail Rogers, daughter of John Rogers of Duxbury, born in 1641. He died October 7, 1715 aged eighty-eight, and she, August 1, 1727, aged eighty-six. Both are buried in Taunton, Mass.

**Children:**

- Mary, born June 2, 1654, in Bridgewater.
- John, born June 6, 1656, in Bridgewater; killed Sept. 20, 1672, by the upsetting of a cart.
- Thomas, born Feb. 2, 1659, in Newport, R. I.; died unmarried, in Middleboro, Dec. 14, 1705.
- Susanna, born Nov. 4, 1661, in Bridgewater.
- Joseph, born Dec. 8, 1663, in Taunton.
- Edward, born Feb. 8, 1665, in Taunton.
- Samuel, born Sept. 23, 1668 in Taunton.
- Sarah, born Feb. 26, 1671, in Taunton.
- John, born Dec. 5, 1673, in Taunton.
- Ebenezer, born May 12, 1676, in Newport, R. I.
- Abigail, born Feb. 26, 1679, in Newport, R. I.

There is no specific authority for the statement that he had a wife before Abigail Rogers; but the inscription upon her gravestone makes her age eighty-six at her death, August 1, 1727; that would fix her birth at 1641; so she would have been only thirteen years old when Mary was born. Deeds of the land of John Rogers show that Joseph Richmond was the son of Abigail. It is probable that John Richmond<sup>2</sup> had a previous wife, who died in 1662, and that he married Abigail Rogers early in 1663.

That Thomas died unmarried is shown by a deed from James Reed of Middleboro, and Susanna, his wife, dated December 20, 1705, to Edward Richmond of Taunton, of all rights, &c., in the estate of "our brother Thomas," late of Taunton, deceased; the deed was proved April 16, 1706; also by deed from John of Taunton, dated and acknowledged February 7, 1705-6, to sons Edward of Taunton, and Ebenezer of Plymouth, of the land "my son Thomas lived on."

John Richmond<sup>2</sup>, on March 21, 1712-13, and July 16, 1713, conveyed land to his son Edward.

John Richmond<sup>2</sup> and James Walker were appointed to buy land of Indians, 1672. He was of Town Council Feb. 29, 1675-6, also 1690. There is a deed of John Richmond<sup>2</sup> conveying to his son John, for 400 pounds his house-lot and dwelling-house, "where he now dwells," and various lots of land. On Sept. 28, 1671, Wm. Brenton, Jas. Walker, Wm. Harvey, Walter Deane, and John Richmond bought land from Philip and his head men; the tract included Taunton, of which the purchasers were already in possession. Oct. 1, 1672 there was another sale to the same parties.

He was constable, member of the Town Council, Commissioner and Surveyor. His residence at "Neck of Land" was about three-quarters of a mile from the "Green" or Center. He and his wife are buried there.

He was a distributor, in March, 1677, of 10 pounds, being Taunton's apportionment of 363.3 Pounds. "Irish Charity," sent from Dublin, Ireland, in 1676, "to distressed sufferers" by King Philip's War, and apportioned among the people of forty-seven towns. John Richmond<sup>2</sup> was a member of every important committee in Taunton for the purchase, division and settlement of land and other matters of public interest. He was interested in several extensive purchases of land from the Indians in both Mass. and R. I. Concerning one purchase for the town of Taunton is the following record: "On 25th May 1680, Town voted to accept what the committee had done, &c. concerning settlement of our lands" John Richmond<sup>2</sup> took his share "on rights that was his father's and on rights that was Mr. Francis Doubty's (Doughty)."

"RICHMOND FAMILY"  
*Continued in next issue*

## RICHMOND FAMILY GENEALOGY

## Part II

## THE RICHMOND FAMILY

In a communication from John Richmond<sup>2</sup>, dated Taunton, April 30, 1698, addressed to Lieut. Co. Elisha Hutchinson, Esq., Capt. Samuel Lowell Esq. and Elisha Cook, Esq., Boston, he mentions the first purchase of Taunton as a matter within his personal knowledge, which should settle that question. After referring to a dispute with Bridgewater men about boundaries, and to what his neighbor Hathaway had said, he proceeds: —

“And, first, I desire it may be considered how inconsistent to justice their sense is, for they say and sense it that although Taunton hath the eldest grant, yet it is theirs notwithstanding, because it was granted before: and although it be Taunton's purchase from the Indians three times over, — for we bought it first of Woosamequin in the year '39 or '40 (this was in my minority), the sum paid I know not; then we bought all again from Philip, and paid him sixteen pounds for it; then we bought that very spot of Josiah, he claiming some land there, as appears by his deed; then we bought that spot again, with other lands, of Maj. Bradford: he had twenty pounds more; — they have owned that they never made any purchase, yet theirs because granted,” etc.

## THIRD GENERATION

(LIEUT.) JOSEPH RICHMOND was born in Taunton, Dec. 1663. He married, June 26, 1685, Mary Andrews, daughter of Henry and Mary Andrews of Taunton. Date of death unknown.

*Children: (born in Middleboro)*

Joseph, married 1st, Hannah Deane, 2nd, Abigail (Phillips) French.

Margaret, unmarried; died in 1737.

Mary, married 1st, William Reed, 2nd, Stephen Andrews.

Abigail, married Mathew Gooding.

John, married Sarah Thrasher.

Christopher, married 1st, Phebe Williams, 2nd, Susanna Barden.

Henry, married Mehitable Caswell.

Josiah, married 1st, Elizabeth Pool, 2nd, Joanna Briggs.

William, married - - - Macomber.

These are probably not arranged in the order of births, and it is not probable that the actual order will ever be known.

Edgar H. Reed has the following memorandum in his “Reed Genealogy”: “the will of Mary Richmond, the mother of William Reed, makes mention of children as follows: son, Joseph Richmond; daughter, Margaret Richmond; daughter, Mary Reed; daughter, Abigail Gooding; son, John Richmond; son, Christopher Richmond; son Henry Richmond; son, Josiah Richmond; and two daughters of son William Richmond. Feb. 14, 1737.

This will is not on record in either Plymouth or Bristol counties; for some reason it was not probated, but was preserved and finally came into the possession of some one who permitted Deacon Reed to copy the foregoing paragraph. He

and his wife acknowledged the receipt of her interest in her father's (Henry Andrews) estate, March 28, 1707. They sold land to Henry Andrews, July 19, 1701.

Joseph and his son Christopher were in the Canada expedition of 1711.

Joseph and Mary his wife sold their homestead on the road from Taunton to Middleboro, containing forty acres, to their two sons Joseph and Henry; he acknowledged the deed, July 13, 1724, and she, March 11, 1726; “Lieut. Joseph Richmond of Taunton, to my son John of Middleboro, that 100 acre lot which formerly belonged to John Rogers, whereon my said son John now dwells, except about 30 acres which I have given to my son Christopher. 28, July, 1724.

## FOURTH GENERATION

JOSEPH RICHMOND, was born in Middleboro. He married first, Hannah Deane, daughter of Benjamin and Sarah (Williams) Deane, born December 26, 1682. She died, and he (then of Taunton) married, secondly, April 20, 1736, Abigail (Phillips) French, widow of Joseph French, Jr. and daughter of James Phillips.

*Children: by First Wife (born in Taunton)*

Sarah, married Israel Deane.

Hannah

Joseph, born July 22, 1723; married Elizabeth Hackett.

Seth, born about 1725; married Esther Walker.

*Children by Second Wife: (born in Berkeley)*

Wealthy, born March 28, 1738; married Jacob French.

Perez, born Jan. 15, 1774; married Phebe Hathaway.

His will, dated December 2, 1759, probated February 5, 1750-1, mentions sons Joseph, Seth and Perez; daughters Sarah Deane, Hannah and Wealthy Richmond.

Abigail Richmond of Berkeley, late widow of Joseph French, Jr., executed a deed, March 1, 1747. As widow of Joseph Richmond<sup>4</sup>, she was appointed a guardian of their children, Wealthy, daughter, and Perez, son.

There is a deed, dated February 2, 1727-8 from heirs of Benjamin Deane, naming (among others) Hannah Richmond, wife of Joseph, Jr.; Elizabeth Richmond, wife of Edward, Jr.; and Mehitable Richmond, wife of Josiah Richmond of Middleboro.

## FIFTH GENERATION

(DEACON) JOSEPH RICHMOND, known as “Deacon Joseph of Middleboro,” was born in Taunton, July 22, 1723. He married, first, October 6, 1743, Elizabeth Hackett, daughter of John and Elizabeth (Elliott) Hackett, born May 19, 1720; she died December 23, 1770. He married secondly, September 24, 1771, Anna Staples, widow of Seth Staples, who was born Aug. 18, 1730. He died June 19, 1792, and she, April 18, 1817.

*Children by First Marriage: (born in Middleboro)*

Rufus, born Dec. 18, 1744.

Prudence, born Nov. 11, 1746; died young.

Elizabeth, born Nov. 7, 1748, died in early childhood.

Hannah, born Feb. 17, 1750; married Seth Richmond.

Abigail, born June 4, 1752, died young.

Elizabeth, born July 16, 1754; married Dec. 3, 1778, Joseph Leonard, 3rd.

Joseph, born Sept. 7, 1756; married, 1st, Prudence Waldron; 2nd, Mrs. Phoebe Kelt.

Rhoda, born Sept. 16, 1760; married Samuel Miller.

His will, dated July 23, 1789, proved July, 1782 mentions wife Anna, sons Joseph and Rufus, and daughters Hannah, wife of Seth Richmond; Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Leonard; and Rhoda Miller, wife of Samuel Miller, who was executor. He gave his wife Anna a debt due from Abiel Williams of Raynham; he died in Raynham. He was known as Joseph, Jr., at the time of his first marriage.

#### SIXTH GENERATION

JOSEPH RICHMOND, was born in Middleboro, Sept. 7, 1756. He married, first, April 1779 (banns published March 13, 1779), Prudence Waldron of Dighton. She died June 27, 1789. He married secondly, Aug. 2, 1798, Mrs. Phebe Kelt (or Keith), who died Feb. 7, 1839. He died Jan. 23, 1821.

He was Captain in 1801; was appointed Deacon in 1812. He bought Ilijah Hackett's homestead, and sold it to his brother Rufus for 300 pounds. He and Ebenezer built a mill together on Great Brook, near King's Furnace. He was in Cap't Amos Wade's company, Co. Theo. Cotton's Regiment, in which he served eight months. He was a pensioner.

*Children by First Marriage (born in Middleboro):*

Joseph, born June 10, 1781; married Hannah Dean of Raynham.

Benjamin, born Dec. 13, 1783; married Abigail Dean.

Elizabeth, born Jan. 5, 1786; married Silas Hathaway.

#### SEVENTH GENERATION

BENJAMIN RICHMOND, was born in Middleboro, Mass., December 13, 1783, and died January 29, 1830. He married, September 1807, Abigail, daughter of Philip Dean of Taunton, Mass.; she was born in 1790. He was a Deacon of the Congregational Church for many years. She married, secondly, Joseph Clarke of Middleboro.

*Children (born in Middleboro)*

Isiah, born Aug. 5, 1809; married Eliza Fenner.

Prudence W., born June 26, 1811; died about 1831.

Elizabeth, born Aug. 22, 1813; married Leonard Washburn.

Mary, born Nov. 22, 1819; married David Field.

Benjamin, born Oct. 30, 1823; married Elizabeth Southworth.

#### EIGHTH GENERATION

ISAIAH RICHMOND was born in Middleboro, Mass. Aug. 5, 1809. He married October 28, 1833, Eliza A. Fenner of Scituate, Rhode Island, who was born March 18, 1812. They resided in Geneseo, Illinois.

*Children:*

Jeremiah, born Nov. 19, 1834, in Middleboro.

Mary E., born March 16, 1837, in Scituate, R. I.

Joseph W. born Feb. 20, 1840, in Scituate, R. I.

Edwin A. born Oct. 4, 1842, in Scituate, R. I.

Abby Dean born Oct. 3, 1844, in Groveland, Illinois.

Frances E., Maria L. born Aug. 17, 1847, in Groveland, Illinois.

Prudence A. born March 27, 1850, in Groveland, Illinois.

Helen A. born April 13, 1855, in Geneseo, Illinois.

## ROCK VILLAGE STATION

by CLINT CLARK

The railroad station, or depot, as it was called, once was as much a part of life in small towns and villages as the general store and post office. Rail sidings off the main line also were vital to the operation of suburban industries which in some cases were the principal employers of local inhabitants.

Such was the station in Rock Village. It served as ticket office for commuters to jobs and colleges in Boston as well as for villagers who worked in shoe shops in Middleboro. It was point of departure and return when passenger service was fast, dependable and frequent, and when the railroads were the lifeline of a community's daily supply of mail, newspapers and goods.

The station was a place where passengers waited for the first distant warning of an incoming train; listened for the faraway whistle of the locomotive at a grade crossing down the line, and watched, when night fell, for the piercing ray of the powerful headlight.

Like all railroad stations, it was a stage on which was enacted many a poignant drama of severance of home and family ties, and of joyous returns. More than many of its kind, Rock station at one time was the destination of crowds which outnumbered the native population, the time being the era during which a nationwide revival movement in the early 1900's attracted thousands of people to camp meetings in the village.

Otherwise, as a typical "way station," the average day was one of scheduled eruptions of activity and interim periods during which the village lapsed into its customary quiet — other than the hum of industry in the nearby box mill.

In the years prior to the outbreak of war in the 1940's, there were signs indicating the eventual downfall of railroad service.



ROCK VILLAGE STATION