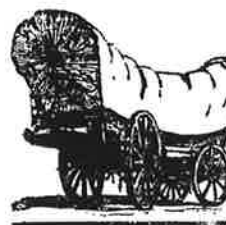


Genealogical Narrative

A History of the Claggett - Irvine Clans

by
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The Clagetts of England

THE Clagetts of Houghton, England, trace their ancestry back to a Norman progenitor who accompanied William-the-Conqueror into Britain. Among the earliest families to be granted arms was this Clagett of Houghton.

From County Cambridge the various branches spread into other parts of England. The principal branch settled in Kent, where the great estates are still preserved. The record of this line starts with Robert Clagett, born about 1490 at Malling, Kent. He left a son, Richard, born in 1525, who was succeeded by his son and heir, George Clagett, three times mayor of Canterbury. George had at least two sons, the oldest Colonel Edward Clagett, born about 1606. He was a loyal subject of his Sovereign Charles I. This staunch Loyalist, like others of his time, suffered imprisonment in the Tower of London at the hands of the Puritans. He married Margaret Adams, daughter of the Lord-Mayor of London, who was an English Baronet and an author of some note. They had five children, three daughters and two sons. The youngest son was the first of the Clagetts in America.

Nicholas Clagett, brother of Colonel Edward Clagett, born in 1609, was a Puritan and vicar of Medburn. Thus was the house of Clagett divided against itself. This Nicholas was the father and the grandfather of two eminent divines. His son, Dr. Nicholas Clagett, became archdeacon of Sudbury in 1693; while his grandson, Nicholas, became Bishop of St. David's in Wales early in the eighteenth century and later became Bishop of Exeter.

Thomas Clagett, son of Colonel Edward, of the army of King Charles I, inherited his father's fighting propensities and became an officer in His Majesty's navy. Although possessed of large landed estates in England we find Captain Thomas turning his face toward the Colonies in the autumn of 1670. We are not sure of the exact date when he sailed up the Chesapeake Bay but we do know that he settled

on St. Leonards Creek, Calvert County, Maryland, and began to accumulate land by patent and by purchase in 1671.

—From the *Baltimore Sun*, Baltimore, Maryland; and *The Life and Times of Thomas John Claggett*, by George B. Utley.

A Century With the Clagetts in Maryland

IN his new home Thomas Clagett, the immigrant, was known as Captain Thomas Clagett, gentleman. He married, in 1676, Mary Nutter Hooper, the widow of Richard Hooper of Calvert County, Maryland. About 1692 he married Sarah whose last name is presumed to be Patterson. Thomas was prominent in Leonardstown, Maryland, in those early colonial days. He was Captain of the Calvert County militia, held offices of commissioner and coroner, and dispensed hospitality to the other well-born people of his community. Thomas Clagett died in 1703 owning several estates in Maryland. His will was made in 1701 and proved in 1706.

When Thomas made his will he revealed many things. He carried out the English tradition in giving to his eldest son Edward, his interest in the estates in London; and to his second son Thomas, who remained in America, the home place which was entailed to him and his heirs forever. To the remaining children were willed other pieces of land in order of their birth. Again we quote the *Baltimore Sun*: "He bridged the ocean with the stroke of his pen, by declaring himself the son of Colonel Edward Clagett and bequeathing to his eldest son Edward, those estates which he had inherited from his father." The will and inventory of Captain Clagett is quoted here as an interesting document;

Will of Captain Thomas Clagett.

Annapolis, Maryland.

Thomas Clagett, Calvert County.

July 25, 1701.

To son, Edward, 200s. to be paid by loving wife Sarah upon demand 12 months

THE CLAGGETTS

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after my death, in full satisfaction for all and every claim in this province and elsewhere, except what is here after mentioned. Not for any misbehavior or undutiful conduct toward me, that I am not more liberal, but in consideration of several younger children, etc. To son Edward all rights and claims that in several Messuages and tenements situated and lying in London, in the Kingdom of England, formerly belonging to me, being part of the estate of my Father Edward Clagett, deceased and now in the hands of my several brothers and sisters.

To sisters, Martha, Elizabeth, and Margaret 20s. to buy rings.

To son Thomas, "Weston." ~~also Clagett~~

To son Richard, 200 acres part of 700 acres of land called "Greenland" in the freshes of the Potomac. ~~Greenland~~

To son John, at 21 years part of the above tract.

To daughter Martha, 200 acres, Clagett Forest, Baltimore County.

To son Charles, 400 acres Clagett Forest, Baltimore County.

To son George, 400 acres Clagett Forest, Baltimore County.

Should Richard die without issue, son John to inherit his share and vice-versa, both dying without issue, their share to pass to son Thomas. In the event of the death of daughter Martha, sons Charles or George, the survivor or survivors to inherit their part.

To daughter Elizabeth, wife of William Wadsworth. . . .

To wife Sarah, extux, balance of land bought of Col. Ninian Beall.

To son Richard, dwelling plantation bought of John Veitch, Clagett's Design, and 30 acres of Greenland and testators portion of land in Saint Leonardstown, alias Canterbury, on Saint Leonards creek and land leased from Charles Carroll.

Land to be sold to pay debts to brother Richard in England.

Witnesses:

John Greeves, John Greeves Jr., Robert Greeves.

Inventory of personal belongings of Captain Thomas Clagett 1703

In the hall

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| A Map of Maryland | 6 leather chairs |
| A Chimley piece | 2 Turkey worked chairs |
| 1 long folding table | 1 grid iron |
| 1 oval table | 1 fire shovel, 7 tongs |
| 1 leaf table | 1 looking glass |

In the closet in the hall

| | |
|----------------|---------------------|
| 1 desk | 1 old book |
| 1 silver frame | 1 box marking irons |

To Thomas went the home estate "Weston." We are indebted to the *Baltimore Sun*, July 20, 1939, for additional historical facts.

Upper Marlboro, Maryland:

"The historic estate of the Claggett family, thru nine generations covering 256 years, located about two miles from this community, and on a site commanding a view of the rolling country, is the original estate of the first Thomas Claggett. Here is the home of Hal Claggett, the ninth generation to own this home, with the exception of 19 years, when it was in the hands of Charles J. Bonapart. The house as it stands is part of the edifice erected by Thomas, the second, in the early 1700's. Weston follows the English style of architecture. It is laid out as a formal park, surrounded by hedges." The building is of English brick (in the possession of the family is the original order for this brick in 1720) and part of the original walls of this brick still stands.

The third son, Richard, who inherited "Croom" was born in 1681, Calvert county. He married Deborah Dorsey Ridgley of Baltimore County and died in 1752 and was buried at "Croom." They became the parents of three sons and three daughters. The second son, Samuel, who married Elizabeth Gantt settled on an estate near Nottingham. He studied for the ministry and in 1847 went to England and was ordained a deacon in the Church of England. Returning to Maryland he served as rector successively of Christ Church Parish, Calvert County, and of William and Mary Parish, Charles County. To his son, Thomas John, he left the estate "Croom" containing 500 acres.

Thomas John Claggett was 13 years of age when his father died. He was placed under the instruction of the Rev. John Eversfield, whose wife was his aunt. He was educated at the academy at Lower Marlboro. He entered the College of New Jersey (now Princeton) where he graduated in 1764. After graduation he returned to the home of his uncle, the Rev. John Eversfield, and pursued his theological studies. It is said that his decision to make the ministry his life work came when Rev. George Whitefield preached to the students at the college of New Jersey in 1763. Thomas later received a master's degree from his Alma Mater. In the spring of 1767 he sailed for England to complete his studies for Holy Orders.

Thomas John remained in England a few months after his ordination to study in the English libraries and to visit his relatives. He took this opportunity to inform himself about his ancestors. From records read and from interviews with various families he became convinced that the name should be spelled with two *g*'s. When he returned to America he adopted this spelling and all of his descendants have spelled the name *Claggett*.

When young Thomas returned from England he was licensed to officiate in Saint Anne's Church, Annapolis. In 1769, he was appointed curate and later rector of All Saints Parish, Calvert County. Many warm friends and relatives lived in this territory. In 1775 he had the pleasure of seeing a new church take the place of the old wooden edifice. This same year he married Mary Gantt, his cousin. During the Revolution the cause of religion suffered and the Reverend Mr. Claggett resigned and retired to "Croom."

After the close of the war the Maryland clergy saw the opportunity to form an organization to govern itself. The Reverend Thomas John Claggett was undoubtedly a strong force in organizing the Episcopal Church in Maryland. From the first convention in 1780 held at Chestertown, to the convention held in Annapolis in 1792, Dr. Claggett was a quiet influence guiding the procedures toward an American Episcopate. At the convention held May 31, 1792, Dr. Claggett was unanimously chosen Bishop of Maryland. He was consecrated in Christ Church, New York, September 17, 1792, having the honor of being the first Episcopal Bishop in Maryland and the first Bishop consecrated in America.

Bishop Thomas John Claggett died August 2, 1816, and was laid to rest in a small private burial ground at upper Marlboro. In 1898, the general Convention of Bishops of the Episcopal Church, meeting in Washington, D. C., ordered that the dust of Bishop Claggett and his wife be brought from Maryland and re-interred beneath the chancel

Condensed from the *Life and Times of Thomas John Claggett*
by George B. Utley.

of the chapel of Washington Episcopal Cathedral on Mount Saint Alban.

The epitaph inscribed on this cathedral tombstone, relates his accomplishment year by year. It is written in Latin and was composed by his very dear friend and fellow-churchman, Francis Scott Key.

John Claggett, the fourth son of Captain Claggett was born in Calvert county, Maryland, about 1682. John inherited part of "Greenland" and bought more land adjoining. He married Volinda Sollers, daughter of John and Ann Sollers in 1712. His eldest son Thomas was born in 1715 and another son, Sabritt, and a daughter, Volinda, were also of this issue. Volinda Sollers had a brother named Sabritt and the name is not found elsewhere in the Claggett family.

Sometime before 1726, John married Sarah Maulden of Calvert County. She was the daughter of Francis and Elizabeth Maulden. Her birth is recorded, July 3, 1698, in the Christ Church record. In 1728 James Maulden gave 100 acres of Lower Bennet, Calvert County, to the eldest son of his sister, Sarah Claggett. The settlement of the estate of Elizabeth Maulden shows that her daughter, Sarah, was the wife of John Claggett.

Thomas Claggett, the eldest son of John, received from his father part of the land "Greenland" and the acquired land called "Dann." Sabritt, Ann, Sarah and Martha were remembered in the will with all the real and personal property. These three daughters lived in mutual concord and joint interest and did not make any division but shared the produce as one common stock for some years. Ann died intestate and her eldest brother, Thomas, claimed her one-third of "Greenland" as heir-at-law to his sister. Sarah then willed to her sister, Martha, her undivided one-third and her personal property and in case of Martha's death the property was to go to her married sister, Mary Magruder. Volinda, the oldest daughter, was deceased and her daughter, Ann Beckwith, received a slave.

Thomas, the eldest son, now had most of "Greenland." This he willed to his eldest son, John, on January 5, 1778. The rest of the estate went to his wife, Ann Magruder Claggett, during her life time.