

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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The top line of the title page is linked to the table of contents.

Each line in the table of contents is linked to its sketch.

The person atop a sketch is linked to its respective child line.

A child with a + sign is linked to its respective parent sketch.

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

Each footnote superscript is linked to its footnote.

The cursor changes to a pointing finger above a link. Then click.

## JAMES RIGGS, VOL. 9

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS ..... v  
PICTURE CREDITS ..... vii  
ILLUSTRATIONS ..... I



## TABLE OF ILLUSTRATIONS

See inserted signature of figures

Figure 1. The Anacostia River, formerly known as the Eastern Branch of the Potomac.....	I
Figure 2. Early Washington Co., Md., plats: Piles Delight, No. 5 (center bottom) .....	II
Figure 3. Riggs loci in Maryland.....	III
Figure 4. James <sup>1</sup> Riggs lease of part of Concord, 1734, first page.....	IV
Figure 5. James <sup>1</sup> Riggs lease of part of Concord, 1734, second page.....	V
Figure 6. Gravestone of Mary, wife of William <sup>3</sup> Riggs .....	VI
Figure 7. Lydia Riggs's Bible, births .....	VII
Figure 8. Lydia Riggs's Bible, marriages .....	VIII
Figure 9. Lydia Riggs's Bible, deaths .....	IX
Figure 10. Mahlon and Lydia Riggs Family Register, 1852.....	X
Figure 11. 1787 survey in Washington Co., Pa., for Jeremiah Ellis <sup>3</sup> Riggs .....	XI
Figure 12. 1795 warrant for Washington Co., Pa., land to Jeremiah E. <sup>3</sup> Riggs .....	XII
Figure 13. 1795 patent of Washington Co., Pa., land to Jeremiah E. <sup>3</sup> Riggs.....	XIII
Figure 14. Jeremiah Ellis <sup>3</sup> Riggs property, Washington Co., Pa., 1795.....	XIV
Figure 15. Allen Twp., Washington Co., Pa., 1876, with M. and J. L. Riggs shaded. ....	XV
Figure 16. USGS map, Washington Co., Pa., 1954, with Riggs properties outlined.....	XVI
Figure 17. Mahlon <sup>4</sup> and Lydia (Williams) Riggs.....	XVII
Figure 18. Dorothy Jane (Biles) and John Lester <sup>5</sup> Riggs.....	XVII
Figure 19. Owen <sup>5</sup> Riggs, founder of St. Elizabeth, Miller Co., Mo. ....	XVIII
Figure 20. Benjamin F. <sup>6</sup> Riggs, sheriff of Pleasants Co., W.Va.....	XIX
Figure 21. Portia May/Mae <sup>7</sup> (Riggs) Rice and her father, Porter <sup>6</sup> Riggs.....	XX
Figure 22. Edwin Harvey <sup>7</sup> Riggs (right), c1900-1910, Brewster, Nebr.....	XXI

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> .....XXII  
Figure 24. Page 1 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record.....XXIII  
Figure 25. Page 2 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record..... XXIV  
Figure 26. Page 3 of the Albert Riggs<sup>6</sup> Family Record.....XXV

## PICTURE CREDITS

See bibliography for source details

Figure 1. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia.

Figure 2. Map by Jerry B. Twigg, *Washington Co., Md. Land Record Information Map*.

Figure 3. Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park map, from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. Cropped and rotated by me to make north up.

Figure 4 and Figure 5. Prince George's Co., Md., Deeds, T:268–269.

Figure 6. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs, a descendant from Mary.

Figure 7. Lydia Riggs's family Bible photocopied page courtesy of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs, her descendant.

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

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

Figure 10. Mahlon and Lydia Riggs Family Register, 1852, photocopied page courtesy of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs.

Figure 11. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs: "Copy of 'Survey' returned April 9, 1795 (originally entered April 21, 1780) to Jeremiah Ellis Riggs. Archives and Manuscript Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. Survey Book: D 25–63."

Figure 12. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs: "Copy of 'Warrant' to accept survey dated March 26, 1795 to Jeremiah E. Riggs. Archives and Manuscript Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. Warrant # 205".

Figure 13. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs: “Copy of original ‘Land Patent’ to Jeremiah E. Riggs dated April 15, 1795. Archives and Manuscript Bldg., Harrisburg, Pa. Patent Book: P 25-43.”

Figure 14. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs.

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.

Figure 17. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs, a photocopy from an **unnamed** book.

Figure 18. From the collection of James Wallace<sup>8</sup> Riggs.

Figure 19. From Doerhoff, Celebrating 125 years of St. Elizabeth history.

Figure 20. *Men of West Virginia*, 1:187.

Figure 21. From the collection of Michael Don<sup>10</sup> Riggs.

Figure 22. From the collection of Michael Don<sup>10</sup> Riggs, given to him by his grandmother, Adah Riggs.

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

## PICTURE CREDITS

RIGGS FAMILY RECORD

NAMES	BORN	MARRIED	DIED
<b>Grandparents:</b>			
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Martha C. Elliot	January 18, 1819	May 10, 1840	August 18, 1886
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✓ 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>1879</del>	August 21, 1869
Stonewall J. Riggs	September 10, 1870	May 1, 1904	August 22, 1927
✓ Albert S. Riggs	February 24, 1873	February 24, 1898	March 9, 1962
✓ Elizabeth A. Riggs	March 4, 1875	-----	March 6, 1919
✓ Alice Riggs	September 20, 1877	-----	June 16, 1924
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✓ 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. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.

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.

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John married Miss <sup>Martha</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. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.

## PICTURE CREDITS

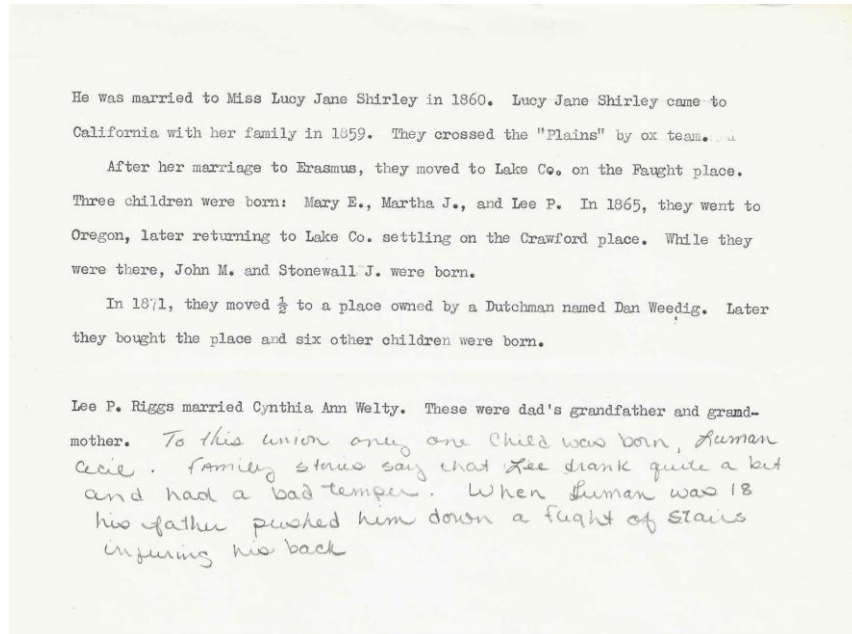


Figure 26. From Terry<sup>9</sup> (Riggs) Closser, email 3 Mar. 2022.



## 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.

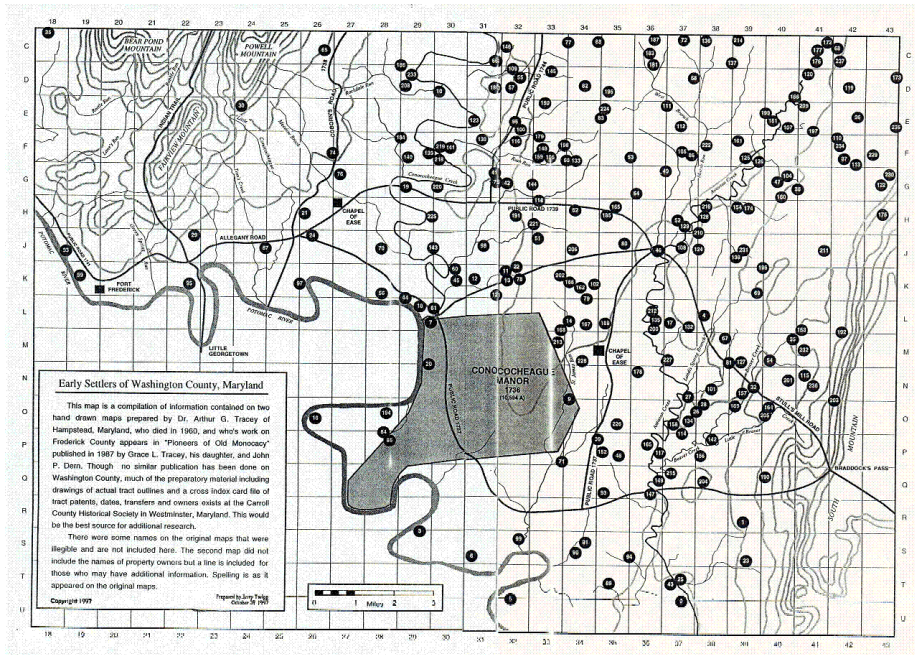


Figure 2. Early Washington Co., Md., plats: Piles Delight, No. 5 (center bottom)

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.

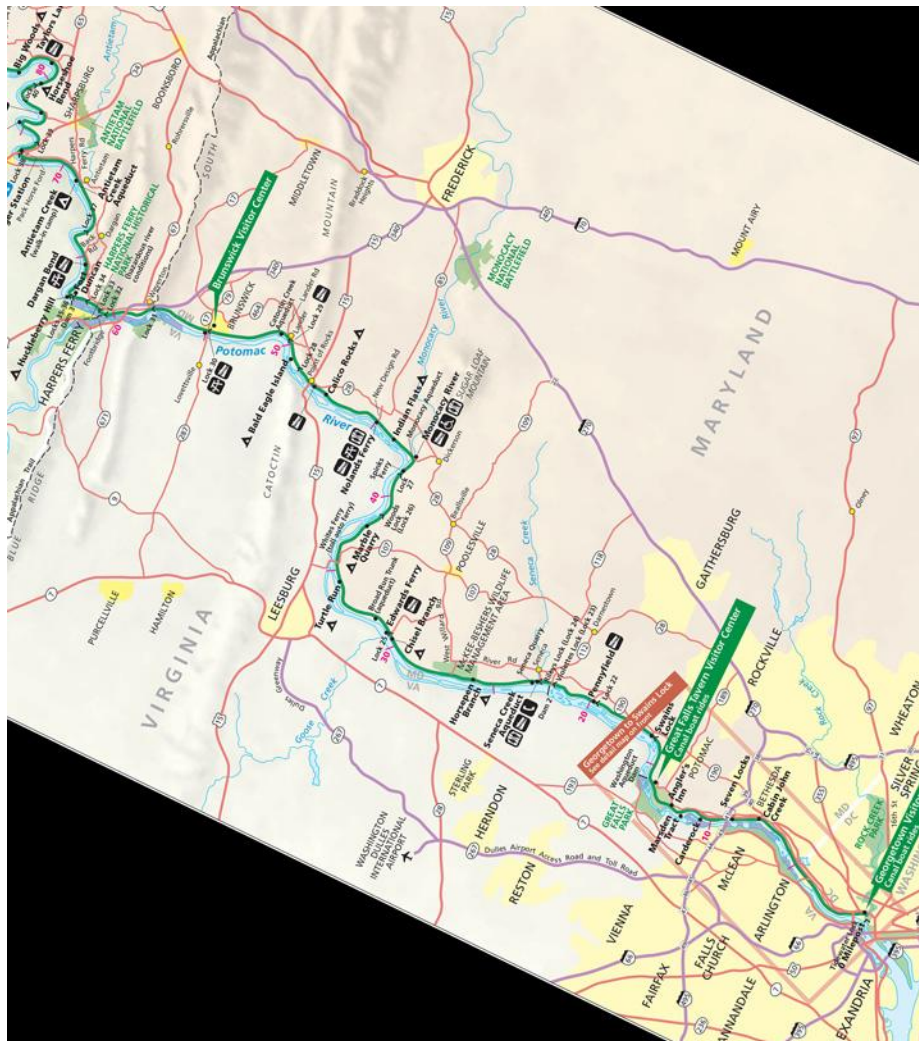


Figure 3. Riggs loci in Maryland

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  
 the seventeenth hundred & thirty four

This Indenture made the third day of December in the year of our Lord one thousand  
 hundred & thirty four Between Charles Farrell 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 Farrell for  
 view of the route & covenants hereon after recorded hath devised granted sold & conveyed by these presents  
 doth demise grant sold & conveyed unto the said James Riggs all that part of tract of land called  
 Prince Georges County which is included in the following moste & bounds bequing at the end of  
 first line & running thence south sixteen degrees west one hundred perches south seventy nine degrees west  
 hundred & eighty perches then north sixteen degrees east one hundred perches then 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 part  
 & 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 Farrell his heirs  
 & assigns the quantity of eight hundred pounds of clean merchantable Tobacco close of bark & ground leaves  
 of the Eastern branch landing in convenient casque to contain the same of the said James Riggs his heirs  
 his heirs & assigns consent to & with the said Charles Farrell his heirs & assigns that neither he the said James  
 his heirs & 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 of 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 and assigns to pay unto the said Charles Farroll his lawful heirs  
 during the term of the rent hereof reserved at the time appointed of the said James Riggs for himself  
 his heirs and assigns doth covenant & agree to & with the said Charles Farroll his lawful heirs and assigns to plant or  
 premises before expiration of three years from the date hereof one hundred fifty good apple trees in every  
 rod and each tree being distant at least forty foot of the said trees to be kept in good order & enclosed by a  
 fence & to be so enclosed & enclosed during the term of the lease in case of nonperformance to pay unto the said Charles  
 his lawful heirs or assigns the sum of five pounds sterling & the said Charles Farroll for himself his heirs and assigns  
 doth covenant & agree to & with the said James Riggs his lawful heirs and assigns that he the said James Riggs his lawful heirs or assigns  
 paying the rent above reserved & performing the covenants reserved on the part of the said James Riggs shall  
 according to the true intent & meaning of these presents peaceably & quietly lawfully occupy possess &  
 the said parcel of land with all & singular the demised premises with the appurtenances without any  
 mole or interruption of the said Charles Farroll his heirs or assigns or any other person or persons whatsoever  
 fully claiming by force or under him their right title or interest during the term of the lease & lastly the said  
 Riggs for himself his lawful heirs and assigns doth covenant & agree to & with the said Charles Farroll his  
 assigns that he the said James Riggs his lawful heirs and assigns shall & will during the term of the lease  
 his plantation in good order & to be repaired at the expiration of the term of the lease & deliver the same  
 in good order & to be repaired in writing & whereof the said parties to these presents interchangeably  
 shall have the day of year first above written

Scaled & Delivered  
 In presence of  
 Geo: Allwood  
 John Hunt 1734 December the 17<sup>th</sup> Then James Charles Farroll before us the Subscribed our  
 Lordships Justices of the Provincial Court & acknowledged the within lease according to an act of assembly  
 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

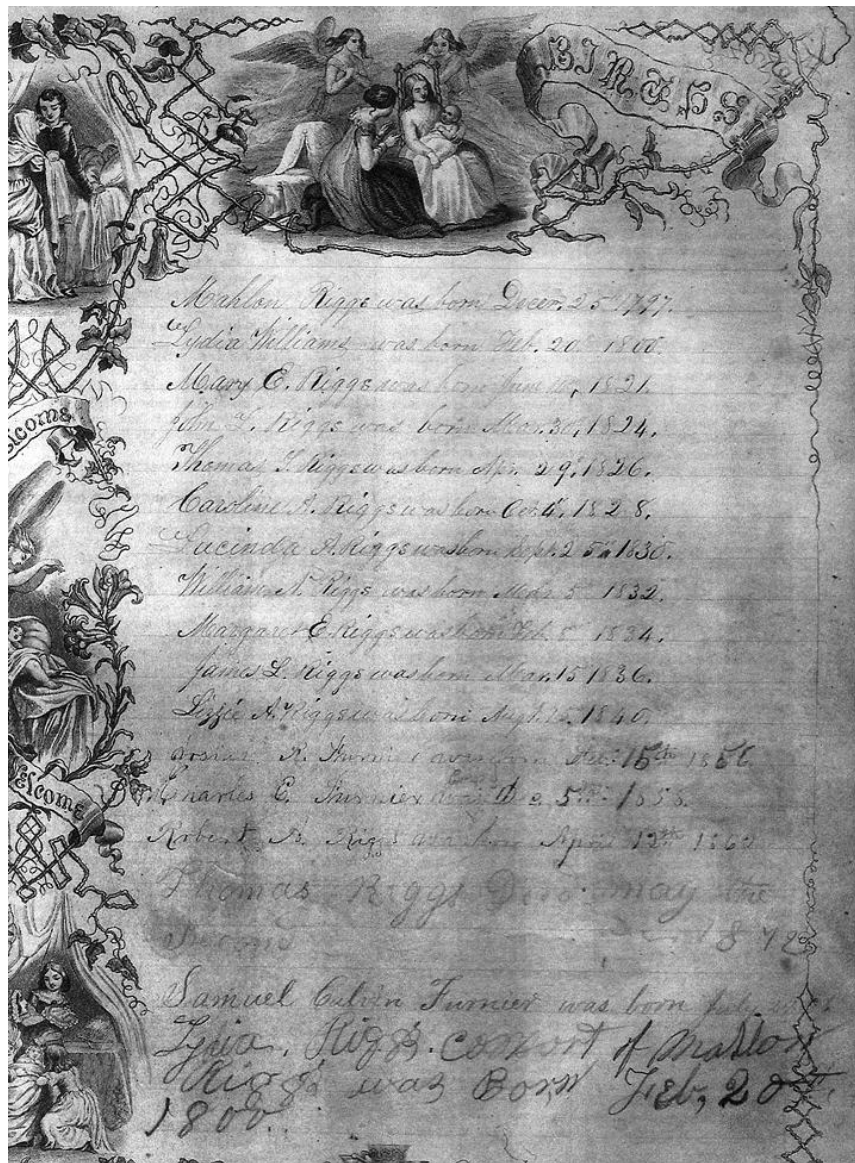


Figure 7. Lydia Riggs's Bible, births



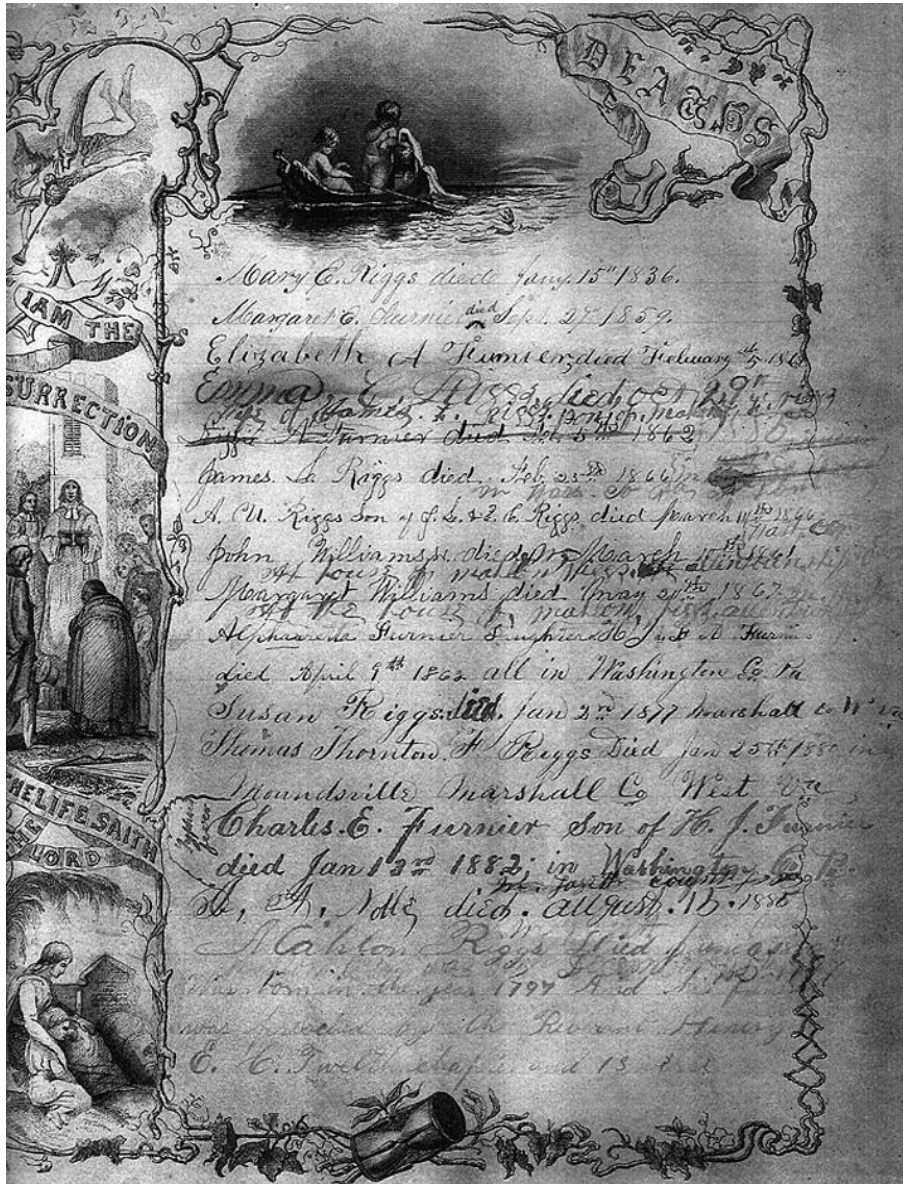


Figure 9. Lydia Riggs's Bible, deaths

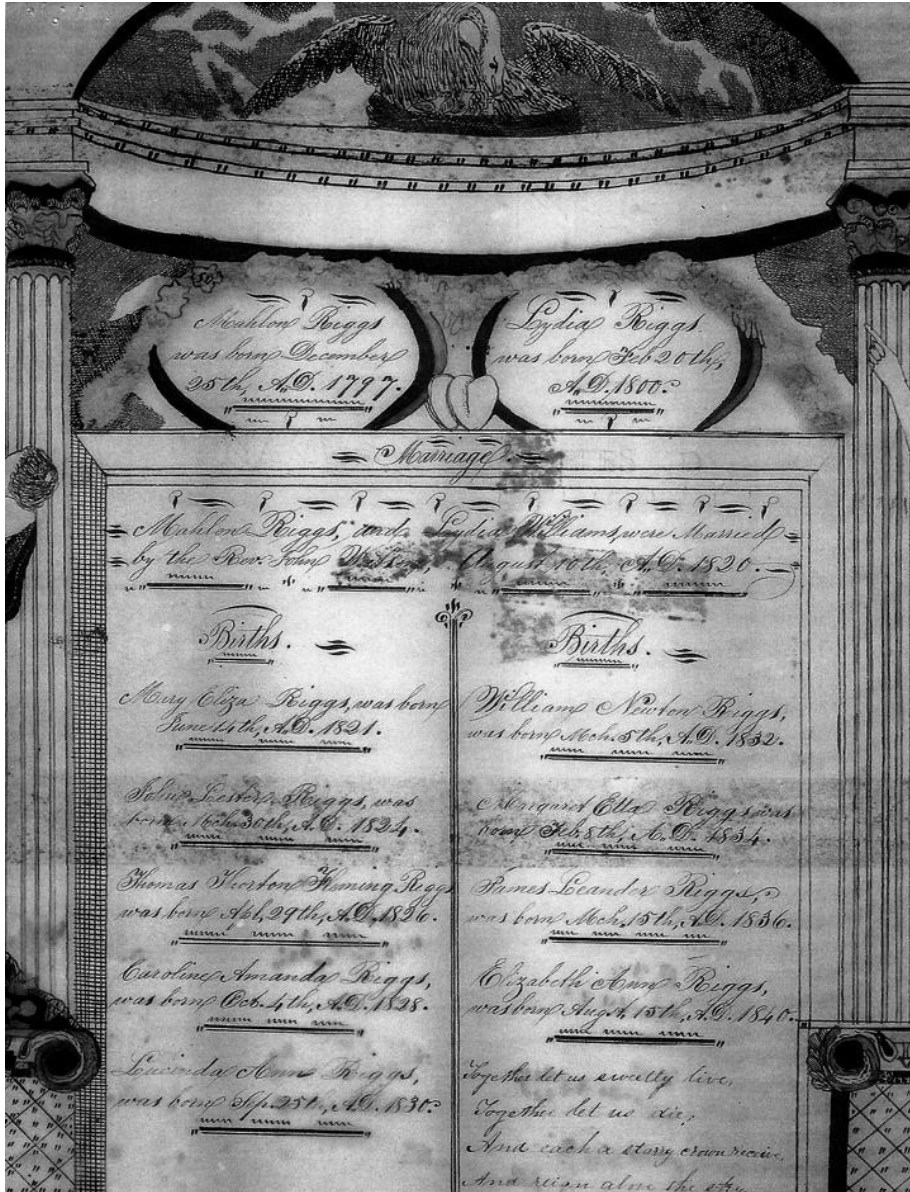


Figure 10. Mahlon and Lydia Riggs Family Register, 1852

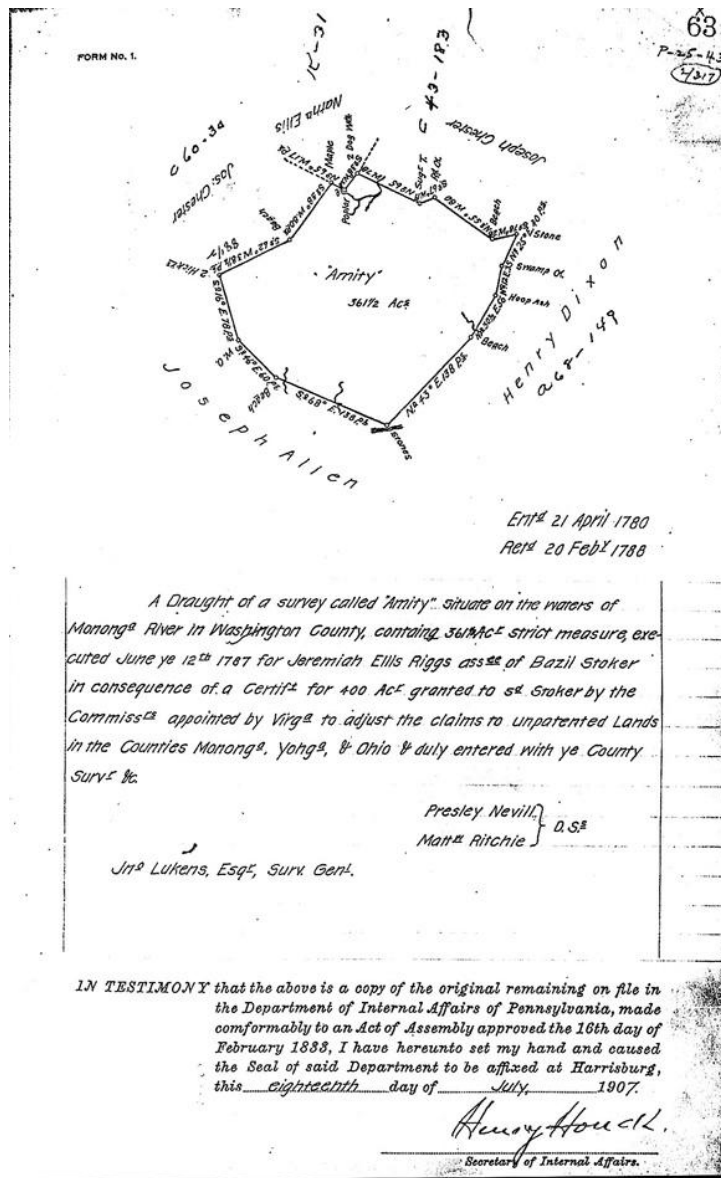


Figure 11. 1787 survey in Washington Co., Pa., for Jeremiah Ellis<sup>3</sup> Riggs

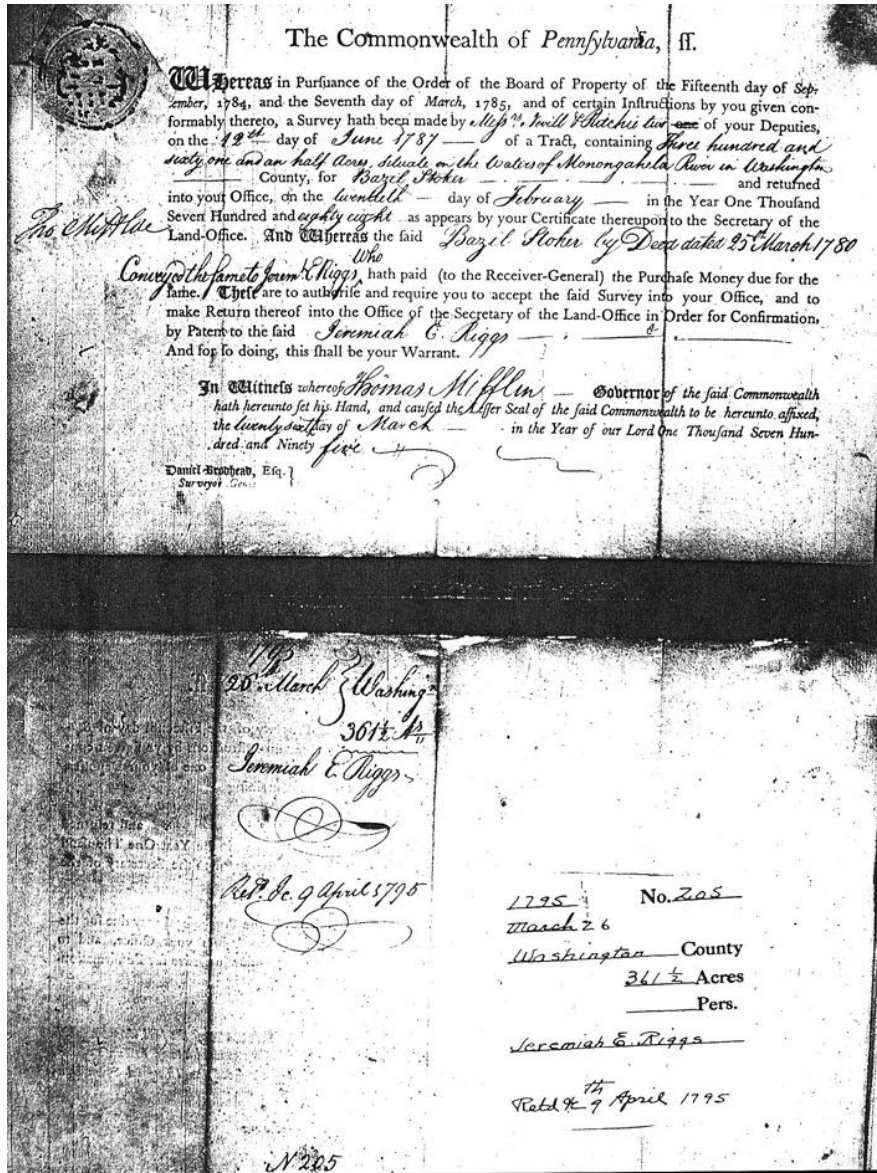


Figure 12. 1795 warrant for Washington Co., Pa., land to Jeremiah E. Riggs



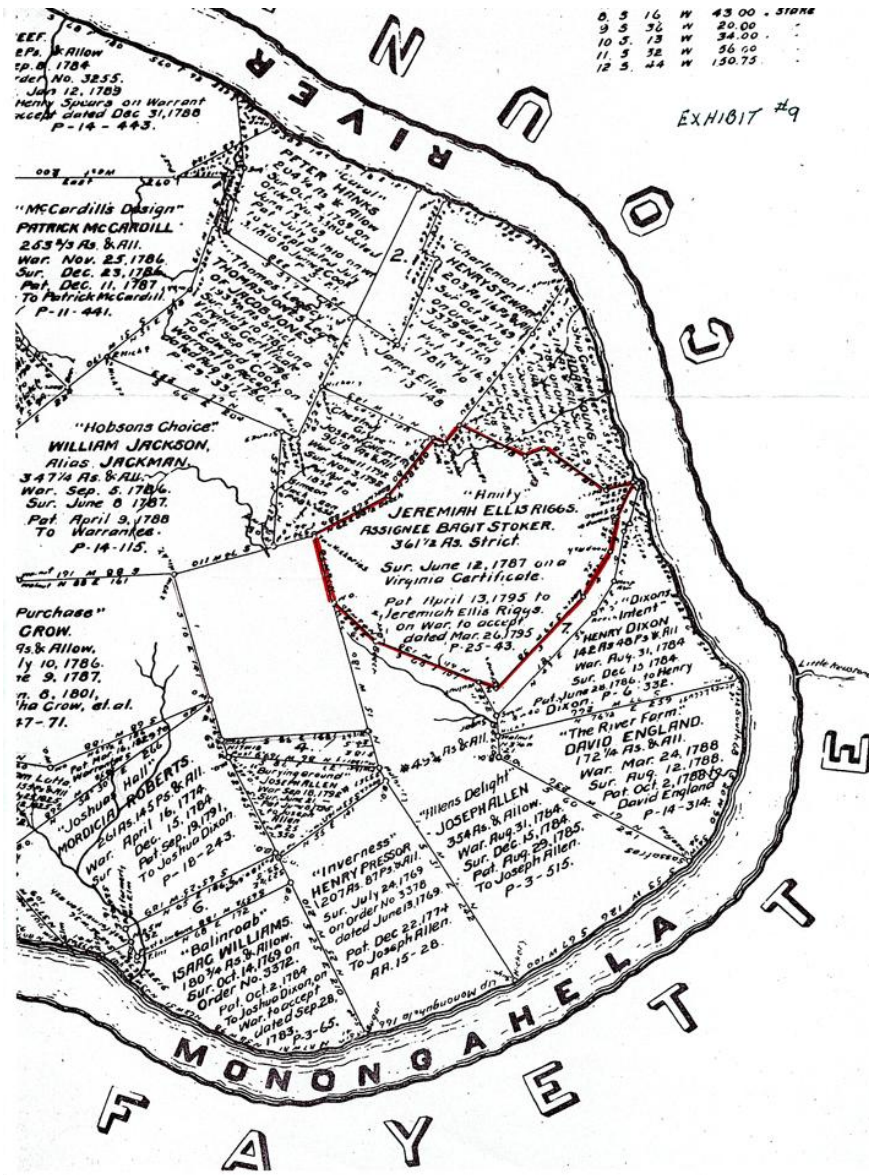


Figure 14. Jeremiah Ellis<sup>3</sup> Riggs property, Washington Co., Pa., 1795



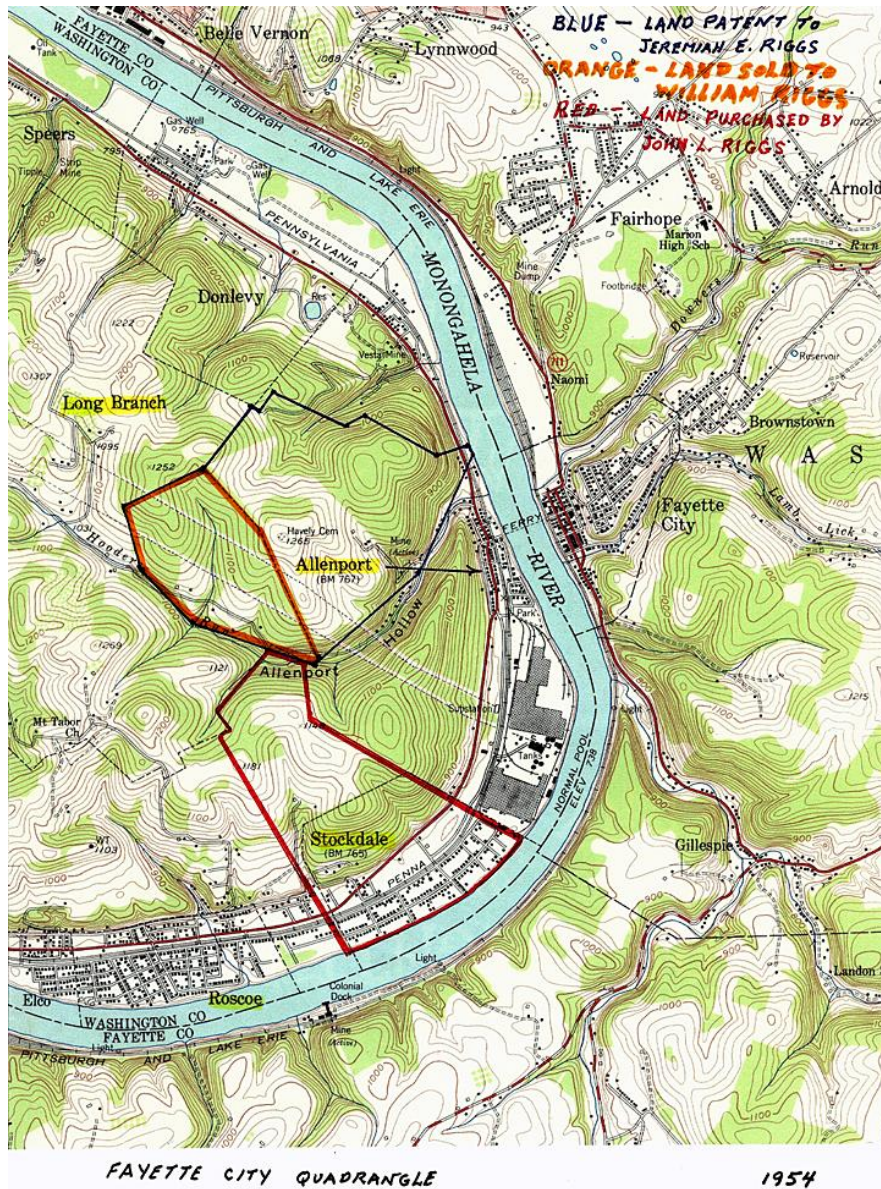


Figure 16. USGS map, Washington Co., Pa., 1954, with Riggs properties outlined.

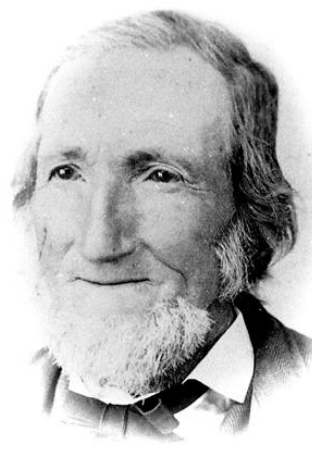


Figure 17. Mahlon<sup>4</sup> and Lydia (Williams) Riggs



**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.

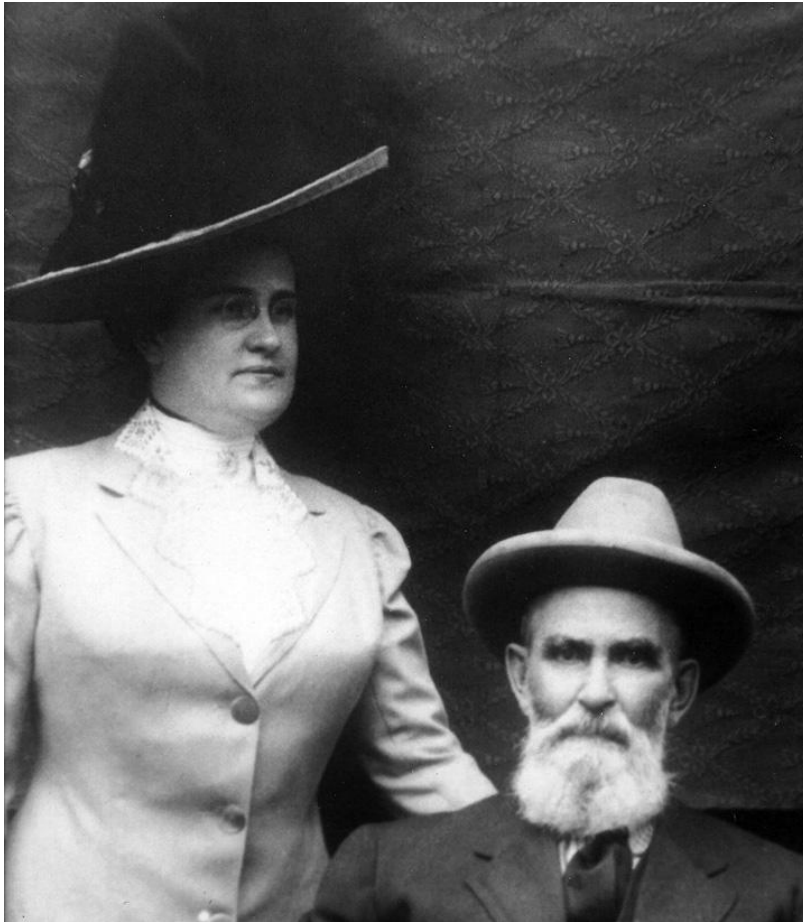


Figure 21. Portia May/Mae<sup>7</sup> (Riggs) Rice and her father, Porter<sup>6</sup> Riggs.



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>,  
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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. <sup>Eleanor</sup> There were three other children: John Williams, who died in infancy, a daughter 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.

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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, Luman Cecil. Family stories say that ~~she~~ she drank quite a bit and had a bad temper. When Luman 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.