

RODEN.018 INFORMATION ON THE RODEN FAMILY OF VIRGINIA AND  
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA.

Entered in December of 1988 by Robert R. Hill Sr.

ROWDEN (RAWDEN, WRAUGHTON, ROUGHTON, WROUGHTON, RODEN,  
WROTEN) FAMILY.

At (3-204) of this records we are told that ELLAS ROWDEN and SARAH DURANT were married by Alexander Lillington on the 10th of August 1690; an at (1-203) in giving the birth dates of the children of GEORGE & ANN DURANT, we are told that GEORGE and his wife ANN (MARWOOD) had children: GEORGE (b. 1659), ELIZABETH (b. 1660), JOHN (b. 1662), MARY (b. 1665), THOMAS (b. 1668), SARAH (b. 1670), MARTHA (b. 1673) & PARTHENIA (b. 1675), and that GEORGE DURANT & ANN MARWOOD, the parents, were married on 4 January 1658, in Northumberland County, Virginia, by Rev. David Lindsay; and further, that these statements were taken from "The Records of Perquimans County, N.C." In the "record" of their marriage, the husband of their daughter SARAH is called "ELLAS" ROWDEN (3-204), but in the will of ANN DURANT, he is referred to as "ISAAC" ROWDEN (1-41). ON page 11, of GRIMES' ABSTRACTS, the will of Arnold Lawrence is witnessed by ISAAC ROWDEN in 1691, thus it appears that the Christian name of SARAH DURANT'S husband was ISAAC instead of "ELLAS." As to the surname, GRIMES states (or prints) it consistently, all the through as "ROWDEN" -and "thereby hangs a tale." At (1-70) of this record is a PETER RAWDEN is mentioned, and at (3-110) we are told that RICHARD ROUGHTON married Martha Mann in Tyrrell County, N.C. in 1778, and even our particular ISAAC has his name spelled "RAWDEN" when he obtained a land grant in Pasquotank County, N.C. in 1704 (1-303), so thus it is seems that even these records, voluminous as they are, leave us wholly in the dark as to whether SARAH DURANT married an ISAAC (?) RAWDEON or ROUGHTON. GRIMES on page 305, gives us a JOHN ROUTON.

This mis-selling- sometimes mis-reading and transcribing- of names, in this as well as in hundred of other instances, has all but relegated to total obscurity, the ancestry of many early American families, making it impossible for descendents to identify their progenitors. To add to this confusion many such names, thus mis-spelled, have been perpetuated by erroneous records based on the original errors, as this writer thinks is true in the case of Ann "Marwood," wife of GEORGE DURANT, the "first grantee" of Durant's Neck.

ISAAC ROWDEN, who became the son-in-law of GEORGE DURANT and his wife ANN was a lineal descendent of "EZEKIAH" ROUGHTON, a passenger to Virginia on the ship "Bona Nova" in 1619, and MARGARET ROUGHTON, his wife, who came over on the ship "WARWICK." Both were living after the Indian Massacre in the colony (1622). Apparently a son, WILLIAM WRAUGHTON, "beloved

brother" of DR, THOMAS ROOTES, of Lancaster County, Virginia, who, with Richard Flint patented 400 acres of land on the West side of COROTOMAN RIVER in that county in 1652. "EZEKIAH" of course, was probably a contraction of the name "HEZEKIAH" which remained in this family through the centuries, after it had established itself in the "deep south." However, even in those far-flung days of 1652, there appears to have been no uniformity of the spelling of this unusual surname, for on the old Lancaster Records for 1652-1655 by BEVERLY FLEET (VOL. 22 OF HIS COLONIAL ABSTRACTS, 1945), the name is variously spelled WRAUGHTON, WRATON, WROUGHTON, WRATTAN, RAUGHTON and ROUGHTON. Among other familiar names appearing on these Lancaster Records with WILLIAM WRAUGHTON is that of HUGH LINDSAY, believed to have been a son or a brother of the old Rector, Rev. DAVID LINDSAY, who performed the marriage ceremony for GEORGE & ANN DURANT in 1658. This suggest strongly that the romance between ISAAC "ROWDEN" & SARAH DURANT had its beginning along the COROTOMAN or RAPPAHANNOCK RIVERS in Lancaster or Northumberland Counties in Virginia, where in their childhood days their parents were friends and neighbors.

To carry this interesting story of the name still further, the descendents of this "ROWDEN" FAMILY are even yet "divide" in their method of spelling the name, some writing it ROWDEN, some RHOTEN, some RODEN, some RATTAN, some WROUGHTON, some WROUGHTON, some ROUGHTON, some WROTEN and still others WROTEN. The life companion of this writer, as a girl, was MISS WROTEN, and in the old family "plot" HEZEKIAH, moss-covered gravestones, standing side by side, have the name chiseled and spelled in two different ways; while at the little old courthouse on the faded deed records, we found the name written "RODEN" in one or two instances, and in each case, most certainly intended to apply to this same ancient clan. Also the name PARTHENIA (harking back to one of SARAH (DURANT) ROWDEN'S sisters) continued to persist in the South Carolina family, and followed it through the West into Mississippi, Louisiana, Arkansas & Texas.

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