A HISTORY OF THE TIDWELL FAMILY

By

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Foreword

Part of the fascination involved in writing a family history is common to any research problem or to any detective problem. It is the thrill of testing hunches and deductions against reality and finding that they are right. Many hunches are wrong, but no number of failures can erase the joy of one successful course of investigation. The fact that research into family history involves human beings heightens the fascination. There is a constant urge to find out what kind of people they were, what their problems were, and how they were affected by the great events of history. Added to all of these things is the opportunity that frequently arises in the study of one's own family to discover explanations for things that have happened to us. It gives the scholar an emotional interest in his work that is usually absent even in the most intriguing academic research.

I began to study the Tidwell family with a limited amount of information. I knew my father and grandfather and knew that the latter moved to Texas from Dickson County, Tennessee about 1886. I knew that his father's name was Hansel Tidwell. I also knew that there was a post office in Virginia known as Tidwells. Those were the only facts that I possessed.

In addition, however, I had several family traditions passed on by

my grandparents. According to their stories, the family name had at one time in the distant past been pronounced Tidewell. There were also supposed to have been two branches of the family descended from brothers, one branch known as the red Tidwells and the other as the black Tidwells because of ruddy or sallow complexions inherited by each branch from its respective founder. I was supposed to belong to the red Tidwells and judging from the complexions of my Tidwell relatives I could well believe it. The "black" Tidwells were supposed to live in Georgia and Alabama. My grandfather also said that he had been told that the Tidwells came from Wales. This I found hard to believe, and fairly early in my work I proved that it was not likely true. I was amused to find later, however, that there were Tidwells living in Wales, Tennessee.

I looked up a few references to the Tidwell family in published genealogies and found all of them rather vague as to actual family history, although most of them agreed on Virginia as the point of origin of the family in America. Late in 1945, I drove down from Washington to Westmoreland County, Virginia and visited Tidwells, a small settlement on the Machodoc river just off the Potomac. Nobody there seemed to know anything about the family. I then stopped at the Court House at Montross and made my first real discovery. I found a deed, dated 1663, made out to Richard Tidwell. This put the family in Virginia nearly 40 years earlier than any published reference I had seen and gave me a point of contact on which to work. Above all, however, it showed me the unreliability of the published material and gave me a determination to gather first-hand evidence myself rather than to depend on the questionable work of others

During the next months, I returned several times to Montross and also spent considerably time in the Genealogy and Local History room at the Library of Congress. There I found the US Census of 1790 which listed a number of Tidwells in South Carolina, a few in North Carolina, but none in Virginia.

In 1946 I was mustered out of the Army and went home to Indiana by way of South Carolina and Tennessee. I found that the records of Moore County, North Carolina, where the census had shown a few Tidwells had been burned. At Chester and Winnsboro, South Carolina, I had better luck, finding several wills and a large number of deeds. In Dickson County Tennessee, I also had good luck finding deeds, wills, and marriage records that gave me family references from about 1812 until the period when my Grandfather went to Texas.

I spent a lot of time piecing together all the information I had gathered, but I was still in a quandry because I could find no connection between the Virginia and the South Carolina Tidwells. Finally I discovered a deed in Montross, Virginia, that referred to "Richard Tidwell of Stafford County." At the Stafford County Court House, I found a few references, but most of the Stafford records had been burned during the Civil War, and again I was at a dead end. Finally I began a systematic search of the Court Houses of all the counties of northern Virginia. I found records in Prince William, Orange, and Frederick counties and these made the link for me. They mentioned several names during the period 1740-1756 that turned up in the South Carolina records during 1763-1790. There is still something

of a gap but the records of Prince William County and several others in the vicinity are not complete, and the rest of the story may be lost.

In 1948, my father and I visited Tennessee again and looked up several cousins who put us in touch with a relative in California who owned a family Bible. This gave me dates and relationships for a number of Tidwells all the way back into the South Carolina period.

In 1951 and 1952, I found myself in England on business and found a number of wills among the records of the ecclesiastical court of Canterbury which are on file at Somerset House in London. I also found a number of published Parish records and other published material that was helpful and found references to additional wills filed with the ecclesiastical court of Lichfield. These I commissioned the Genealogical Society in London to have photostated for me. I also visited St. Peter's, the Parish Church at Alton, Staffordshire, and inspected the Parish records which go back to 1681. At Tideswell, Derbyshire, I found a local history which gave a good deal of background material although it had no direct references to the family.

Toward the end of 1952, I made another round of my Virginia sources and turned up several new and interesting records including the original accounting of the merchant's bill for goods bought by one Richard Tidwell in 1738 and 1739. In 1955, I made some similar finds in Columbia, South Carolina. In all I have turned up quite a mass of material. The Virginia State Library at Richmond has been most helpful in making photostats of many of the key records. In a way, however, the quantity of material, covering over seven

hundred years, is discouraging, because there are still unanswered questions in my mind, and I have a lingering feeling that the record to answer one of them may be turned up if I try just once more.

In spite of the large amount of work that I have done myself, I am indebted to Miss Lucy Brown Beale of the Hague, Virginia, for one of the key records in the entire history. She referred me to the entry in the records of Northumberland County, Virginia, which gives the earliest date, 1657, for the Tidwell family in America.

I am also indebted to Mr. Leonardo Andrea of Columbia, South Carolina for some most useful information.

INTRODUCTION

People usually have one of two attitudes about ancestors. The first is found in the members of certain patriotic organizations, in the genealogical societies, and in the bosoms of our maiden aunts. They belong to the cult which says in effect; we can trace our ancestry to somebody who had a title, held a commission, fought in a war, or arrived someplace before anybody else, therefore, we are "better" than other people who cannot (or have not bothered to) trace their ancestry to somebody of equal significance.

This cult is frivolous and absurd. It sometimes leads its devotees into silly traps. One such well meaning lady contributed a biographical sketch of her ancestors to a local history in one of our southern states. A large part of her sketch was devoted to the praise of one particular ancestor whom she felt to be particularly patriotic, and since he was one of the earliest settlers in the county he was doubly noble in her eyes. In another section of the same local history one of the original settlers contributed his recollections of the early days. He spent a large part of his contribution talking about the lady's "patriotic" ancestor in his role as the county bully! Both attributes may have been true, but the latter is certainly a more familiar quality than the lady's somewhat artificial "patriotism."

The cult also has other difficulties. For example, the average person today is descended from 64 people who were alive at the time of the American Revolution. Among those 64 there was, in all probability, quite a range in IQ, social status, education, character, and personality. It is hard to believe that anybody could not find one "distinguished" ancestor out of 64

chances. To carry this same line of reasoning a bit farther we find that, in theory at least, anybody with British ancestors is descended from everybody who lived on the island of Briain between 20 and 21 generations ago. In other words, you might trace your ancestry back to William the Conqueror, but there is also an equal chance for you to be descended from everybody else, Saxon, Norman, Welsh, and Scot, who was alive at the time of the Battle of Hastings. This theoretical chance probably doesn't happen very often because it would mean that our intermediate ancestors would have had to move around a lot to avoid crossing lines of inheritance. The chances are actually strongly in favor of considerable intermarriage among people from the same locality, or from the same cultural groups, but the mathematics at least demonstrates the absurdity of the ancestor cult.

As frivolous as the cult may be, however, it at least recognizes in a distorted way that there is a relationship between what we are today and what our parents, grandparents, etc., were before us. This relationship, if properly understood, might be useful to us in understanding our own mores and standards of value. It might also, like any study of history, help us to apply lessons of the past to the decisions we will have to make in the future. This is the point that the people miss who have the anti-ancestor attitude. This second group, smarting against the snobishness of the ancestor cult, says in effect--"everybody has ancestors, but who cares? We are what we are and we are as good as anybody else." Such an attitude is much more useful for ordinary living than that of the cultists. It avoids wasting time and money in non-productive effort, but it has other faults.

The anti-ancestor attitude is, in a sense, an anti-intellectual attitude. It is a deliberate denial of curiosity about the most fascinating subject in the world, the human race. It refuses to recognize that there may be significance to the questions, "Where did we come from?" and "Why are we like we are?" It denies that the present and the future can be judged better if put into context with the entire flow of human growth and development.

In spite of the mathematical absurdity of ancestor hunting, there is a definite point to the study of family history. It provides a microcosm in which to study the events that swept across the broad stage of history. It provides concrete detail and evidence to support the generalizations that historians must sometimes make to reduce the past to comprehensible form. Above all, however, it demonstrates the strength and stability of certain individual and group characteristics in the face of tremendous population growth, change of locality, and technological progress. It demonstrates the continuity of human development in a way that no other method can.

A family history can accomplish these things in spite of the mathematical odds because the family name, handed down through the male line usually carries with it property, customs and traditions that influence the education, values, and occupation of each succeeding generation.

The family is a useful device through which to study human development because it is the basic unit of society. It is the organization to which a person belongs that usually has the strongest and longest emotional influence upon him. A man may belong to a family, a local club, a church, a military unit, a lodge, a corporation, a county, a state, and a country, but he is born

first into the family, is taught basic attitudes by it, grows up in it, associates with its other members off and on all through life, and judges his own acts and the acts of others in terms of his own experiences and recollections, a large share of which came from within the family. He may deliberately react against the customs and ideals of his family, but usually he is influenced by them in a positive way both consciously and unconsciously.

The family is also probably a far stronger institution than we realize. Most of us usually think of a family in terms of the three or four generations that we know personally. In such a short range view there seems to be little continuity and strength to the institution. We are far more conscious of the changes in detail that marriage, birth, death, and changing times bring with them. Actually we see only one small part of a cultural continuum that influences equally ourselves and many other people who are unknown to us. We do not know all of our living cousins, but we and they, at some point not too far in the past, had ancestors, born of the same parents, who lived together, shared experiences, and learned the family customs which they in turn passed on to their children.

Population has increased so rapidly throughout the world in recent centuries that we are over-awed by the very mass of humanity. We see the United States with over 160 million people, Britain with over 50 million, Canada with over 10 million and Australia with nearly 10 million. We forget that only a few generations ago, about the year 1500, the Island of Britain held only about 3 million people from whom the great majority of Americans, Canadians, and Australians were descended, at least in part. Among 3 million

people, there would probably havebeen not more than 600,000 single family units. Many of these families would have been closely related--parts of a parent family.

If one pushes the same reasoning a bit further back to 1086, the time of the compilation of the Domesday Book, and only twenty years after the last invasion of Britain, one could reduce the number of families to about 300,000. Since we are limited to written records for our information about families it would be hard to gather the evidence to compile a history for each one of the 300,000 families, but again the mathematics serves to demonstrate that a few family histories would illustrate a great deal about what has happened to a large and influential segment of the human race. We are much closer to the past than we realize and its influence is always with us.

In fact, we are so close to the past that is startling. It suggests that mankind has only recently begun to inherit the earth. It suggests that we have not yet finished a definite phase in our history that began about 6,000 years ago.

We know that man has been present on the earth a much longer period of time. We know that he inhabited caves and fought animals and the elements for several hundred thousand years. We do not know what the human population of the world was during that time, but it must have been relatively constant, numbering not more than a few hundred thousand people at any one time, and scattered into many small family and clan units living relatively isolated from each other, each tied to a small area of the earth's surface because

of the limited mobility of a family travelling on its feet. The rate of natural increase must have been very low. A poor diet might cause a low fertility rate, and the ignorance of sanitation and the dangers of the forest would certainly cause a high death rate.

Perhaps we may never know exactly what caused the change, but suddenly the human race exploded. The explosion has gone on about 6,000 years already and it is not over yet. The word "explosion" may seem strange when applied to this time span, but it is appropriate because what has happened has happened suddenly when compared with the long existence of the human race, and the results have been drastic. In that relatively short time the human race has acquired mobility, learned to read and write, learned to manipulate its environment, and above all has learned how to cut down its death rate. The combination of these things has caused the human race to change from a scattered band of two-legged animals, a minority among animals who fought for survival, into the dominant living organism on the face of the earth. We have now approached the point where we can see an end to the establishment of new human settlements throughout the world.

There is still room for many more people, and we can doubtless learn how to make the world support many more, but at least we can see that within a few decades or a few centuries we will have reached the end of the phase of human conquest of the earth that began 6,000 years ago. What will happen when the new phase begins no one can say, but we should recognize that it will be a new era with new problems that we must face.

Tidewell

It is hard to put the course of man's history into perspective. We know very little about the course of human life up until the explosion began. Fortunately, however, Man learned to write within two or three thousand years after the explosion began and we have some written records of his history covering the most recent two-thirds of this rapid development.

As time went by more and more people learned to write, more and more records were kept, and through research we can learn more and more about how Man met his problems, developed ideas, and passed them on to be used by successive generations.

Unfortunately, it is hard for people to realize that there is any personal connection between themselves and the past. History involves dead people, and it is difficult to make them come alive in our minds and put them into the context in which they lived. If we only realized how much we were still influenced by the things that our ancestors did and how like them we are, we would be able to see increased significance in their history. It is possible, however, to put history into a more personal perspective by studying in detail the history of one family.

If we were to assume that the average generation is thirty years we would find that we are only about two hundred-odd generations away from the beginning of the great explosion. If we knew what had happened to two hundred men, one after another, we would have a much clearer idea of the history of the entire race.

To show the closeness of the past, and our personal connections with it, I have chosen to tell the story of my own family. It is an American

mily in the sense that the only people who spell their family name in
at particular way seem to live in the United States. Its history must
gin, however, with the English market town of Tideswell in Derbyshire.

Tideswell is located in the "Peak" district of the Pennine range
northern Derbyshire. It is high, rugged country with grey stone
owing on all sides. The town itself is built of this stone and is
owded into a ravine that winds up among hills and high plateaus. There
e many lead mines in the vicinity and there is evidence that some
these mines were worked in pre-Roman times. Stone-age implements
d burial remains have also been found nearby. We know therefore
ut the place has been the site of human habitation for over two
ousand years, and because the stone-age implements are difficult to
ite, people may have lived there even before the beginning of the
reat human explosion. We do not know whether habitation was continuous
efore the opening of the lead mines, but it is reasonably certain that
t has been since that time.

The Romans began their conquest of Britain in 43 AD, but it was
ot until after the great uprising of The British Queen Boudicea in the
ear 61 that the Legions pushed north to and past Tideswell. To the
outh of the region lived the Celtic tribe known to the Romans as the
ornovii. To the north lived the Brigantes who held out against the
omans for several years.

A pig of lead, mined under Roman rule and bearing the mark of the
mperor Hadrian (117-138 AD) has been found in the region. There is

Roman soldiers and administrators coming to Britain, living in dominance and isolation, and then retiring to Rome when their tour had finished. Instead they came to Britain, intermarried, taught their language and their customs to the people with whom they came in contact and became part of the permanent population to the colony.

We do not know how many people there were in Tideswell at this time. Various scholars have estimated the entire population of Britain in Roman times at someplace between four and five hundred thousand people. When the famous Domesday Book was compiled for the Normans in 1086 Tideswell had about 150 people while Britain held about a million and a half. This suggests that if a settlement actually occupied the site of Tideswell in Roman times, its population might have been about 50. Such a figure in turn suggests that about ten families made up the population. This is a small number of families to provide miners for the lead mines, but we do not know how actively the mines were worked. It is also possible that the mines were worked in part by slaves brought in especially for that purpose, or that some of the miners lived in the fields where they could be near to the mines and also farm part of the time. It is certain, however, that there was no large settlement to leave archealogical traces.

In 154 AD, the Brigantes rebelled during a period in which troops were withdrawn from their region for a campaign in Scotland. The troops were brought back and the rebellion put down. To protect the area of the lead mines from a recurrence a fort was built about 158 AD about five

miles north of Tideswell at what is now Brough, Derbyshire. The Romans called the fort, Anavio, and it was connected with Buxton by a military road that led within two and one half miles of Tideswell. Traces of this road remain to this day.

In spite of the interest in the area demonstrated by the Romans, Tideswell never became a major commercial center. In fact the Romans do not appear to have followed up their initial interest. Britain was involved in a series of rebellions by ambitious Generals who sought to use it as a base from which to establish themselves as Emperor of the Roman Empire. In addition, about 287, the Saxons* began to raid the coast of Britain. Although some military measures against them were undertaken, the internal troubles of the Empire weakened their effectiveness and in 367 a combined attack by Picts, Scots, and Saxons broke through Hadrian's wall and other organized defenses and flooded the country with raiding bands of barbarians. Only the walled towns s vived this attack. The raiders were eventually driven off, but permanent damage had been done to the most heavily Romanized segment of the Romano-Celtic population. There is no way to judge the effect of this episode on Tideswell, but in all probability it marked the end of any substantial Roman or Romano-Celtic impact on the culture and heritage of the community.

* The term "Saxon" is used as a general term for the related tribes of Angles, Saxons, and Jutes who attacked and settled England at the end of the Roman period.

The Roman period at Tideswell covered a period of ten generations. It would have carried us from number 63 to number 53 on our generation time-scale. It is discouraging to have to tell the story of ten generations in a few paragraphs, particularly when we have no direct knowledge of the names and personalities of the people concerned. We do not know whether the town was destroyed in the raids of 367 or if there were actually people living there then who continued to live there afterwards and whose descendants escaped the misfortunes of war to mingle with the Saxon invaders who later settled in the region. We can only establish definite continuity of settlement from the Saxon period to the present. We do know, however, that Romano-Celtic elements elsewhere in the northern part of Britain did escape these raids, and we can assume from this that the same thing may have happened at Tideswell.

Roman rule continued for some years after 367 in an ever shrinking area to the south and east, but in all probability contact between the Roman Empire and the Romano-Celts in Britain was definitely broken about the year 410. Also about this time came a change in the tactics of the Saxon invaders. Whereas formerly they came to raid and plunder, they now began to come to settle down.

There was a Christian Church in Roman Britain, but the Saxons were heathen, and as they settled the east and south they pushed the Church north and west. Eventually the Saxons occupied all of Britain except Cornwall, Wales, northern Scotland and a few scattered areas where the

original inhabitants predominated. Many of the British remained in the Saxon area, but the Christian element was destroyed. The Saxons finally reached the Western coast of Britain near the mouth of the Severn in 577 and near the mouth of the Mersey in 613. This gradual move inland from the east coast meant that about 150 years elapsed between the time when the Romano-Celts around Tideswell lost contact with the Roman Empire and the time when they were finally conquered by the Saxons.

Although in our generation time-scale the 53d generation back would have seen the great raid of 367 and the 51st would have seen the beginning of the heathen Saxon era in England the 45th generation would have seen the beginning of the re-establishment of Christianity. In the year 597, St. Augustine landed in Kent to begin the conversion of the Saxons. Caught between the Celtic Christians in the north and west and the new Christian wave from Rome, the Saxons did not offer too much opposition to conversion. Furthermore, they had now become farmers instead of seafaring raiders and had passed nearly two hundred years, or over six generations, subjected to the cultural influences of the Romano-Celts whom they had conquered and with whom they had intermarried.

During medieval times and up into the seventeenth century, Tideswell was known as Tydeswall, Tideswall, or some similar spelling retaining the a as the third vowel. According to a local history of Tideswell, a Saxon chieftan named Tidi lived in the vicinity about 700 AD and built a burial mound, surrounded by a wall, on top of one of the neighboring hills. According to this history, the town derived its name

from "Tidi's-wall" around the burial mound.

I have been unable to find the original source for this story. "Tidi" is an acceptable Saxon name, however. Furthermore, the hill on which the burial mound is located is known as Tideslow Top and one meaning of the work low is derived from the Old English hlaw or hlaew meaning "tumulus" or "burial mound." Tideslow then would mean "Tidi's burial mound."

Derbyshire was a part of the Saxon kingdom of Mercia-originally a "march" between the Saxons and Celts-formed by Saxon bands migrating from the east coast into the interior. King Penda of Mercia (626-655) engaged in a struggle with the Christian King Edwin of Northumberland. A series of battles were fought between 633 and 659 with the Mercians finally victorious.

The King of Mercia accepted christianity in 659 and it is probable that his subjects were converted rapidly thereafter.

Tidi, the Saxon Chieftain, may have been killed in the wars with Northumberland, and since he was probably still a pagan, burial in the pagan tradition would have been in order. The countr[illegible] miles around Tideswell is full of Saxon burial mounds dating from the pagan era and similar in form to that on Tideslow Top.

It is probable that the derivation of "Tideswall" is somewhat more complex than the version given in the local history. The Saxon word "wael" meaning "corpse" or "one slain in battle" was a very common word in such poems as Beowulf, used either by itself or in conbination with other words. In the Mercian dialect, ae or æ , pronounced as the a

in "last", began in the 8th or 9th century to change to e as in "bed" although the spelling usually remained unchanged. If the name of the town had originally been "Tidi's wael," meaning Tidi's corpse, or "the place where Tidi was killed in battle," it would have been normal for this pronunciation to shift toward "Tidi's well" even though it might be spelled as "Tidis wall."*

By the seventeenth century, however, the derivation of the word was so well lost and the pronunciation as Tideswell had become as well fixed that the spelling was changed to conform to the sound and the legend arose that the name was derived from a "Tiding" well--that is, a well whose level rose and fell.

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* One additional factor may lend support to this interpretation of the origin of the name of Tideswell. Modern english place names ending in "well" or "wall" tend to be grouped in East Anglia, in Kent and the counties along the Thames, along the line of the Trent and Mersery (which would include Tideswall), and near the mouth of the Severn. These are localities where one would have expected fighting between the Saxon invaders and the inhabitants, or later between the Saxons and the Welsh as the Saxons pushed them Westward. There are few exceptions to this regional grouping of place-names, but at least one of the exceptions, Kings Cerswell, in Devon might well fit the interpretation. It could have been "Kings-Carls-wael" or "The place where the King's Carls* were slain." It lies near the coast of Devon and may represent some forgotten battle between the Saxons and Celts as the former began their push into Devon.

The suffixes "well" and "wall" are quite common among local place names in the region around Tideswell. They may be the result of rivalry over possession of the lead mines or from other clashes between Saxon and Celt or Saxon and Saxon.

* Carl= follower, body guard.

The derivation of the name Tideswell suggests several things about the community. For one thing, it suggests that no matter what Romano-Celtic influence there may have been, the Saxon culture was now predominant. It also suggests that the people of the community were either still heathen or had so recently left that status that they still buried their chieftains in the characteristic burial mounds. It also suggests that this Saxon culture was never completely over-shadowed in the subsequent Danish invasions.

For this early period it is difficult to tell the approximate population of Tideswell. As discussed earlier, the Romano-Celtic population of Tideswell was probably on the order of 50 people or about ten families. By 1086 it had risen to about thirty families. There is no way that we can tell how many of the Romano-Celts survived to intermarry with the Saxons. We can assume from the predominance of the Saxon culture that Saxons moving into the area outnumbered the Romano-Celts. In a community that small, however, a few generations would bring about such intermarriage that it is probable that all the inhabitants of the village had both Romano-Celtic and Saxon blood by the year 700.

By the year 700, or the 42nd generation, the population may have numbered about 100, or about twenty families. Those twenty families probably constituted the basic stock from which all later natives of Tideswell were descended.

Although the Saxons, particularly those in Northumbria, had conducted trade with the Scandinavian and Baltic regions for some time, the Danes in 793 began to repeat the pattern of the Saxon raids against England. At first they were merely raids for booty, and a long period of time elasped between the first series of raids and the later serious invasion. For a short time in the early 800's all of England was united under one of the Saxon Kings of Wessex, but this unity did not hold up when the Danes renewed their attacks. They began to settle the east coast of England, and by the end of the century when Alfred the Great finally made an uneasy peace with them, they owned nearly all of the northern and eastern half of England.

The Danes, as well as the Romans and the Saxons before them were attracted by the lead mines around Tideswell, and although Tideswell lay just at the edge of the Danelaw, the Danes were strongly established at Derby and pushed forward to be sure of access to the mines. They reached the River Trent in 874. As mentioned earlier, however, they apparently did not displace the Saxon culture of Tideswell. This suggests that they did not colonize or intermarry with the inhabitants of Tideswell to any great extent. Possibly they were too near the border of Saxon territory, or their period of predominance was too short.

Although wars between Danes and Saxons continued for some years, the Danes were soon Christianized and England was united. The Danes do not appear to have been sufficiently numerous to displace the Saxon or Old English language in the areas they occupied. They did leave many words

in the language and many place-names, but the main effect seems to have been a dropping of word endings and a simplification of the language; a common result where two similar languages such as Danish and Old English come in close contact.

In 1066, during the 30th generation back, an army of about 12,000 Normans conquered England, a nation of nearly one and a half million people. The proportion of numbers is misleading, however, because the English had never managed to establish a strong central government or an integrated system of administration and defense. They had been united under both Danish and Saxon Kings, but there was little sense of belonging to a single nation. The Normans on the other hand were people of primarily Danish descent who had settled on the Normandy peninsula in France and had absorbed much of France's latin culture, much as the Danes who settled in England had absorbed much of the Christian Saxon culture. Having learned indirectly some of the Roman skill at organization and administration, the Normans were able to take over the country, largely by administrative techniques, once the Saxon army under Harold had been defeated.

It took several years to establish complete Norman control, but there was no serious competition from the native English. William the Conqueror established his Knights in powerful military and administrative centers throughout the country and started the train of events that was to develop both the English Feudal system and the English Common Law. It is indicative of the Norman approach to administration that once he was

firmly in control William ordered the compilation of a record of the lands contained in his new kingdom. This record, known as the Domesday Book, was completed in 1086, the year before his death. It served to indicate the ownership of property and the taxes due from the property. As such it must have served as a basic and indispensable handbook for the new administrators of England.

According to the Domesday Book, the Manor of Hope in Derbyshire, include the villages of Edall, Stoke, Aston, Tideswell, and Offerton. Tideswell contained 36 men, a Priest and a Church, a mill, and thirty acres of meadow. The Manor of Hope was given to William Peverall, an illegitimate son of William the Conqueror. According to the Domesday Book, Peverall was required to pay annual fees of lead, honey, and a specified sum of money. One or more of the 36 men mentioned in the book may have belonged to the 29th generation back in the Tidwell family. They probably helped to mine the lead or collect the honey, or they may have tended the animals in the meadow. In time of war, they were probably required to render service as men-at-arms.

The Manor of Hope offers a striking comparison between Roman and Norman administration and shows something of the relationship between them. Hope, itself, is located near the site of the old Roman fort of Aravio. Edall, Aston, Offerton, and Stoke lie in a semi-circle, in that order, stretching from north-west to south-east of Hope. They, plus Hope, lie in the Hope and Derwent vallies. To the south, the Wye river runs down from Buxton (the Roman Aquae) to the Derwent. The ground

surrounded on three sides by the Hope, Derwent, and Wye forms a high plateau which drops off steeply to form the river vallies. The walls of this plateau are cut by a number of deep ravines which run from the plateau top down to the rivers. These ravines form natural paths from the high ground to the vallies. Tideswell is located in one of these ravines that runs down into the Wye. It also lies near the center about which the other villages of the Manor form a semi-circle. In addition, the head of the ravine strikes the high ground near the Roman road that ran from Aquae to Anavio.

The Roman Roads were the only paved roads built in England before the eighteenth century. Many traces of them remain and some patches of the stone surfaces are in reasonably good repair even today. At the time of the Norman conquest they were the best means of communication in existence. Although Aquae was never a big town, it was one of the larger Roman communities north of the main area of Roman culture. It was a crossing place for main military roads, one leading from Chester to Doncaster and the other from Manchester to the south. Anavio lay ten miles to the north-east of Aquae. It was one of the southern most forts built to police and protect the wild and unsettled northern half of England. It was located in such a way that it could protect both Aquae and the lead mines which were dotted about on the high ground between the Hope, Derwent, and Wye rivers. The road from Aquae to Anavio would also have served as a route by which the lead could have been shipped out of the area. Because of the road, the river

vallies and the course of the ravines, Anavio must have been a logical administrative center for the lead mining area.

In a sense Tideswell is the back door to this area. It is a logical exit from the high ground to the Wye valley. It rounds out the lead-mining area that had looked to Anavio for protection in Roman times in much the same way that it had to look to Hope for protection in Norman times. This organization of man's habitation dictated by the terrain, appears to have been found practical over a long period of time. The Saxons appear to have called Anavio, "Brough", which meant "wall" or "enclosure". The remains of the Roman Fort may, therefore, have served the Saxons for a time in the same capacity. There does not seem to have been the formal organization of the area under the Saxons, however, such as that created by the Normans.

If there were 36 men in Tideswell in 1086, as noted by the Domesday Book, there must have been something over 150 people in the village counting both adults and children. Although no buildings from that era survive, stone was plentiful, and it is probable that many of the houses were built with it. In spite of its small size and its remoteness from the main centers of power in England, Tideswell assumed an importance during the medieval period out of proportion to its proper position.

William Peverell, grandson of the original Norman owner, poisoned Ranulph, Earl of Chester, and sought refuge in Lenton Priory. On his death he bequethed to the Priory two thirds of his tithe in the Manor of Hope. At the same time, King Henry II reclaimed the estates of the

Peverells for the Crown. Later King John gave the tithe rights to the Dean and Chapter of Litchfield. Litchfield was the location of the main ecclesiastical court in the north of England and carried a great deal of weight in Church affairs. A rivalry developed, therefore between Litchfield and the Lenton Priory with each party trying to establish its right to collect the tithes. Since the tithe was probably paid in large part in lead, the tithe of the Manor of Hope was well worth controlling.

Lead was an extremely important building material in medieval times. It was used in church roofs and in making the lead and glass windows used in the churches and great houses until comparatively recent times.

In 1207, King John gave Tideswell itself which now appears to have been split off from Hope, to a man variously called Thomas Armiger or Thomas Lameley. This is typical of some of the confusion that existed at this time over family names. Although some of the upper classes, such as the Peverells, had firmly established family names at the time of the Domesday Book, the great majority of people, particularly those of Saxon ancestry, followed a much more informal and diverse system of appelation. As long as names were used orally they tended to depend on the personal attributes or life history of the person rather than on his family origin. Only when names were written down in records which were referred to in the conduct of business did the family names finally begin to take on their modern fixed character. Even then there was no

[illegible], as we will see later, this lack of uniformity caused further changes in family names.

Since the records of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries were kept in Latin, there was a tendency for the half educated to mis-read the record and further confuse the name situation. In the case of Thomas Lameley, the clerk who wrote the records at some point, probably wrote his name as "Thomas Lameley, Armiger" or simply "Thomas, Armiger", meaning Thomas, a military man" or gentleman man-at-arms. "Armiger" was frequently used to denote an un-knighted gentleman who carried arms. Lameley may have been Thomas's family name, but his profession seems to have brought a change at this point and he appears to have become Thomas Armiger instead.

King John granted Tideswell to Armiger at the nominal rent of sixty shillings a year. It is interesting to speculate that King John was favoring a man who might support him in his struggles with the barons; struggles which later culminated in the signing of the Magna Carta in 1215. At this time Tideswell must have contained between two and three hundred people, or forty to sixty men capable of bearing arms.

Tideswells of Derbyshire

The first record of a family that derived its name from the town Tiderwall is found in the Pipe Roll No. 53, for the 9th year of the reign of King John (1208). In a long list of fines assessed for some unstated reason against people of Derbyshire appear the following names;

"Richard de Benetley ½M., Peter de Brimington ½M., Oliver fil. Nigel, Waremus de Tideswell* 1, Tom Foljambe 1, ..."

* Should be kept in mind that the name was usually spelled Tiddeswall in the 17th century. Spelling of the name in Medieval records has been [illegible]

Thus it appears that a man named Warren of Tideswell was fined the sum of one Mark in the year 1206.*

This fine, however, does not seem to suggest that Warren of Tideswell was in unusual difficulties, for two years later he and Tom Foljambe were both appointed to a jury who inspected a piece of property involved in a legal dispute. There is also a record that he held two bovates of land in Tideswell and two more from William Ferers, Earl of Derby. A bovate was the amount of land that an ox-gang could plow in a year and varied in size from ten to eighteen acres. Two bovates would therefore be between twenty and thirty-six acres and four bovates between forty and 72 acres. These facts suggest that Warren of Tideswell was a man of some substance in the community. This is confirmed by his association with Foljambe, for the Foljambe family was probably the most prominent family in the community for at least two centuries. It is also confirmed by the fact that he was known by the name of the town. Mr. Yeatman, author of the "Feudal History of the County of Derby" speculates that Warren of Tideswell may have been a member of the Daniel family that held the Manor of Tideswell for some time during the middle ages. In any case he appears to have been a Kinght well placed and well thought of in the community.

The struggle between Crown and Barons continued during the reign

* One mark was equal to 2/3 of a Pound Sterling, or thirteen Shillings and four Pence--a sizeable sum in the Thirteenth Century.

the community. Thomas Armiger's daughter Joan married a man named Paul of Bampton. In 1250, Henry III granted him the right for the village to hold a Market on Wednesdays and a two day's Fair at the Festival of the Decollation of St. John the Baptist. Thus Tideswell became a Market town and something of a regional center in its own right. Also in 1254, the Parish of Tideswell was separated from the Church of Hope and a Vicarage was provided. Perhaps because of the ecclesiastical rivalry for the tithes mentioned earlier, the Tideswell Church rose in importance and in the year 1300 an imposing Church was begun which later became known as "the Peak Cathederal". This building still stands and is one of the main attractions for visitors in the area.

The next record of the family concerns William of Tideswell whose name was mentioned in the Pleas of the Forest in the year 1229. In 1237, he was mentioned as William of Tideswell "who had the Honour to farm by Charter." This meant that he held property by royal Charter and not from an intermediate Lord. This same record indicates that he paid 5 Marks to the Crown and another record for 1242 shows that "Nicol of Cusincton, Wm. Germum, William of Tideswell, Pauline of Banton, Galfr of Mapelton" paid ten marks "for a transgression." There is no indication of the nature of the "transgression." The Pauline of Banton may actually have been the Paul of Bampton who married the daughter of Thomas Armiger.

Since the records of William of Tideswell follow those of Herrer of Tideswell by about a generation we can surmise that he may have been a son. After this point, the record is quite confused because of the existance of a number of different men of the same name that makes it almost impossible to sort out relationships among them. As near as it can be determined, however, on the basis of fragments, William may have had a brother, Hugh or Hugo, who was the ancestor of one branch of the family that moved to Chesterfield. William also appears to have had sons or nephews named Richard and Robert. The descendants of Richard appear to have stayed near Tideswell until late in the fourteenth century, but Robert and his sons appear to have become involved in the struggle between Simon de Montfort and Henry III in a way that caused them to leave the vicinity of Tideswell.

William Ferrers, Earl of Derby until 1254, had been a strong supporter of Henry III. Upon his death his grandson, Robert Ferrers, succeeded to the title, and when he became of age in 1260 he sided with the Barons against the King. He collected a large body of retainers around him at Duffield Castle, a few miles north of Derby and about twenty miles south of Tideswell. Duffield Castle was the largest formed Keep in England outside of the Tower of London. Its possession gave the enemies of the King one of the strongest military positions in the Midlands. When Henry III was defeated at Lewes in 1264, the young Earl of Derby led his retainers on a great raid into the royal Peak Forest where they killed a large number of deer to feed the Earl's troops.

When the King regained his throne the following year, however, he confiscated the lands of the Earl of Derby, destroyed Duffield Castle, and gave the lands to his son Edmund who later became Earl of Lancaster. Duffield castle was so thoroughly destroyed that its ruins were discovered only by accident in 1886.

In the reign of Edward I, (1272-1307) the sons of Robert of Tideswell appeared in the vicinity of Duffield. It may well be that they moved from Tideswell because of some involvement in this role played by the Earl of Derby. In 1279, Robert's son Henry accused one Roger de Wardinton of having taken ½ Mark from him unjustly. Wardinton had been bailif for Edmund, Duke of Cornwall, brother of Henry III. The same record also indicates that Wardinton was accused of taking money from one Richard Pricket of Ashbourne, Derbyshire. Ashbourne is seven or eight miles to the west of Duffield and the Tideswell family was closely connected with the neighborhood of Ashbourne for generations thereafter. It may well be, therefore, that Henry of Tideswell was also a resident of Ashbourne by 1279. The land records of Ashbourne, compiled during the reign of Edward I refer to other members of the family. Sometime during the reign, Robert, another son of Robert of Tideswell witnessed a Grant of land and Thomas, another son, witnessed a deed. The records for Atlow, a hamlet three miles to the east, toward Duffield, show that on the first of November 1300, John Tiddeswall witnessed a deed. Another record, of uncertain date but probably during the reign of Edward II (1307-1327) refers to Robert

of Tideswell "Kniveton Leiger". This means that he owed allegience for the village of Kniveton which lay near Ashbourne and Atlow. Thus we find all three sons of Robert of Tideswell in a fairly small area between Ashbourne and Duffield in the fifty years following the final victory of Henry III over Simon de Montfort.

According to the surmized relationships, the first Robert of Tideswell would have belonged to the twenty-third generation back in the Tidwell family. Henry, Thomas, and the younger Robert would have belonged to the twenty-second. After these men there is a break in the firm family history. There are records of a number of Tideswells in Derbyshire, including another Henry of Tideswell who was prominent at the town of Tideswell during the fourteenth century. Edward II was a weak king and the country was torn with rebellion. Records during his reign must have suffered accordingly. In 1348, the Black Death struck the country, and as many as a quarter of the people may have died from the plague. A great deal of misery and disorder followed in its wake. The established social order was shaken and in the succeeding decades there was a great deal of migration and unrest. Under the circumstances there is little wonder that we have only cryptic references to most of the Tideswells during the Fourteenth century. Only Henry of Tideswell seems to stand out clearly, although he does not seem to be part of the main stream of the family. He held land in the vicinity of Tideswell, and was associated with the Staffords of Eyam who held the Manor of Tideswell during this period. On the 29th

Stafford, James Foljambe, and others for the purpose of founding a chantry at the altar of the Church of Tideswell for prayers for the souls of a number of prominent people including John Foljambe and Henry Tiddeswell.

Most of the 14th century records of the Tideswells occur early in the cnetury, and it may be that most of the family died out in the Plague and in the disorders of the century. There are no records of Tideswells in the town itself after 1392 which suggests that Henry of Tideswell may have died without leaving sons to carry on his branch of the family. There is only one other trace of the family in the latter half of the fourteenth century. In 1379, during the reign of Richard II, a heavy poll tax was instituted to support the campaign in France. The Issue Rolls of the Exchequer contain the name of Richard Tyddeswell. It is possible that he may have been a grandson of the younger Robert of Tideswell or another of Robert's generation. In any case Richard Tyddeswells may represent the element of the family that stayed in the vicirity of Ashbourne.

The Tideswells of Staffordshire

Richard II was finally deposed in 1399 and his successors prosecuted the war with France once more. Henry V reached the peak of English success at Agincourt, but after his death the French were able to reverse the trend under the inspiration of Joan of Arc. After her death in 143[illegible], the English won no more great victories and the Hundred Years War drew to a close in 1453 with the final defeat of the English. Even

before that date, however, the disorders that were to grow into the Wars of the Roses between the houses of Lancaster and York had already begun.

Henry VI proved to be a weak king and there was great rivalry among the great nobles in their maneuvering for influence and a place in the line of succession. In their wake the lesser nobles and gentry indulged in raids, sieges, murder, and litigation for the advancement of their own schemes. Added to this generally lawless atmosphere was the pressure of population. After the Black Death of a century earlier, the shortage of labor had caused many landlords to take up sheep raising in place of agriculture. By the middle of the fifteenth century, however, the population had replaced its losses and the rural worker now found that there was no place for him to go. He had been replaced by the shepherd. In addition to the population pressure, the soldiers were beginning to return from the unsuccessful war in France, singly or in groups or in "free companies". These men were used to warfare and many were well trained to that and to little else.

Under the influence of the Duke of Suffolk, King Henry had been married to a French Princess, Margeret of Anjou. This was an unpopular marriage and involved the surrender of some of the English lands in France. The marriage was opposed by the Duke of Gloucester, one of the strongest and most popular nobles in England. A parliament was assembled at Bury-St Edmunds in Suffolk and the Duke of Gloucester died while attending it in February 1447. There was great suspicion throughout the country

that he had been murdered on orders of the Duke of Suffolk or Queen Margaret.

The Plea Rolls of Henry VI give a good example of the situation in the countryside. On the Wednesday after All Hallows (1 November) in 1448, a group of about a hundred men attacked the Manor of Oker or Okover, about a mile north of Mayfield in Staffordshire and about the same distance to the northwest of Ashbourne, Derby. At least eight of the group were from Staffordshire, including Richard Tiddeswelle, yeoman,* of Mayfield. The remainder were from Ashbourne and its vicinity. They were under the leadership of William Cokeyn, gentleman, of Ashbourne. Dressed in jacks and salettes, and armed with spears, bows and arrows they stormed into the manor house and seizing the benches, trestles, and tables broke down the doors and smashed out the windows. They then piled the furniture into a great bonfire at which they roasted pieces of deer shot in the park adjoining the manor house. Philip Oker, gentleman man-at-arms, and owner of the manor was in London at the time attending Parliament in the service of Edward Grey, Lord Ferrers of Groby. There is no mention of any resistance which suggests that Oker had left the house injudiciously ungarrisoned or that his retainers had not seen fit to get their heads broken on his behalf.

The following spring a group of approximately the same composition

* That is, free, middle class farmer who may have rented or owned the land that he farmed.

returned to the attack, this time led by William Cokeyn and Thurstan Vernon. On the "day of the Conception of Our Lady" in 1449, they entered the park, tore down the fences and killed approximately 120 deer leaving only five alive in the park.

On the second of July 1449, the Sheriffs of Stafford and Derby were ordered by Writ to proclaim that all known members of these bands should appear in court. Their proclamations seem to have been ignored.

On the Thursday before All Hallows (1 November) 1449, a group of about forty men was assembled at Thorp in Derbyshire under the leadership of John Cokeyn, gentleman man-at-arms, of Ashbourne, and William Cokeyn, his brother. The band included Richard Tiddeswelle and a number of other men who had taken part in the raids on Okover. The reason for the assembly is not given, but for some reason they exchanged insults with a man named Adam Baxtondene from the Manor of Blore and a number of his friends. Blore is in Staffordshire just to the north and west of Okover, but because of a bend in the River Dove, Thorp lay to the north of Blore although it was on the Derby side of the river. The nature of the insults is not known, but it can be surmised that the people of Blore were friends of their neighbors at Okover and somewhat unhappy over the raids on the latter place. Whatever the insults, however, they led to blows, and the blows led to a running fight that seems to have gone heavily in favor of the band under the Cokeynes. They appear to have gone home to Ashbourne from Thorp by

way of Blore where they paused long enough to burn forty cartloads of peas, twenty cartloads of hay, and to steal two armalases, two bows, and a thousand arrows. (The crops destroyed were valued at £ 10 and the weapons at £ 20, an interesting comentary on the relative value of agricultural produce and manufactured items). No deaths were reported from the fight but Adam Baxtonedene appears to have been badly injured.

Ralph Basset, the owner of Blore, brought suit against the Cokaynes and the other members of the group. After some difficulty in assembling a jury, the case was finally tried in 1451 or 1452 and Basset was awarded damages of £ 80 and costs of £ 20. Five of the leaders of the group were convicted and the charges against the others, including Richard Tiddesvelle, were dropped.

In the meantime, Philip Oker also brought suit against the group that had attacked Okover. The defendants failed to appear in court and Oker was awarded damages and costs amounting to 400 marks. The Sheriffs of Stafford and Derby were ordered to arrest the defendants, but there is no record that this was done or that either Basset or Oker ever received the money awarded to them by the court. These court actions, however, seem to have curtailed the actions of the raiders since there is no record of any further operations of the band.

The Gray family, to whose party Philip Oker seems to have belonged, where supporters of the Lancastrian party in the early years of the Wars of the Roses. That is, they probably supported the Queen, Suffolk, and others who used the Lancastrian King Henry VI as a figurehead. On the other hand, a Sir John Cokayne of Ashbourne was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury, in 1403, fighting against the Lancastrian Henry IV grandfather of the present king. The Cokaynes and their followers might well have favored the Duke of York who was in quasi-exile in Ireland at this point, but he returned to England in August of 145[illegible] and began a series of maneuvers that eventually resulted in open warfare between Lancastrians and Yorkists. It may be that the Cokaynes and others were never fully prosecuted because of the preoccupation of the country with York's threats and maneuvers.

Richard Tiddeswe[illegible]e was probably a young man at the time of the raids. He might have been born sometime about 1415 to 1430. In such a case he might well have been a grandson of the Richard Tyddeswelle mentioned in the Issue Rolls of 1379 and a member of the 16th generation back in the Tidwell family. It is seldom that one finds such interesting background data on a yeoman of thefifteenth century.

There is no way of knowing how the Tideswell family dropped in status from Knight to Yeoman. The Cokeyn family was prominent in Ashbourne for many years before and after the event. Sir John Cokyne of Ashbourne was killed at the battle of Shrewsbury in 1403 while in

therefore, that he left from London. A departure in June 1656, is consistent with the first record of him in Virginia in 1657.

The rolls of the Hearth Tax for 1666 show a Robert Tideswall living in Denstone, Staffordshire. The records seem quite complete and this is the only Tideswell listed in the vicinity of Alton. This man could be the son of Ralph Tiddeswell still living at the age of about sixty. On the other hand, he might actually be a grandson of Ralph Tiddeswall and elder brother of Richard Tidwell. As such he would probably have been about 30 or slightly over in 1666. It is more likely, however, that this was the son of Ralph Tiddeswall and that the William Tidwell buried at Checkley in 1671 was the grandson.

From the Alton Parish records, which begin in 1681, it seems likely that Ralph Tiddeswall had three great grandchildren of the Tiddeswall name living in the Parish. They were Joseph, John, and Margaret Tidswall, all born about 1655-1670. They were the ancestors of members of the same family still living in the Parish.

Some readers may be puzzled by the change in spelling of the family name from Tideswall, or some similar variant, to Tidwell in America. Actually there is nothing surprising about it. The Tidwell spelling appears as early as 1575 when William Tydwall married in Middlesex County. Although spelled Tidwell it would have been pronounced as "Tide-wall," identical to the pronunciation of "Tydwall" and the only difference from Tiddeswall being a dropping

of the s sound. The English members of the family generally changed the spelling of the name in the 18th century to conform to the change in spelling of the name of the town of T deswell which had changed from Tideswall in the 17th Century. The English members of the family now generally spell their name as Tidswell or Tideswell. There are actually records of about twenty various spellings of the name in the fifteenth through the seventeenth centuries, and Richard Tidwell probably used the particular variant that happened to have been used on his indenture papers.

In a manner of speaking, the story of the Tidwell family on the North American Continent really begins in 1635 when a young man of twenty, named Richard Nelmes, left London for the colony of Virginia. By the decade of the 1650's Richard Nelmes had become a prosperous land-holder in Northumberland County, Virginia. He acquired part of his land by importing immigrants from England. According to the law in effect at that time, any person who paid the passage of an immigrant to Virginia would be granted fifty acres of land. The major crop of the colony was tobacco, and its intensive cultivation quickly exhausted the land, making it necessary for a planter to acquire new land constantly. The larger plantations were kept up in many cases through the acquisition of land by the importation of immigrants, and it was in accordance with this system that Nelmes appears to have operated his land.

During the 1650's, England was governed by the man some historians have called England's dictator, Oliver Cromwell, whose rule according to the historian, James Truslow Adams, reached its most oppressive stage during the years 1656-58. During the period of the Commonwealth, Virginia was strongly pro-Monarchy in its sympathies and became the refuge for many people of royalist leanings. The only way in which many persons could obtain the money to pay their passage to the colonies was to contract with the agents of Virginia planters to serve as laborers for a certain

number of years in return for money, food, and clothing for the trip. During the 1650's the number of years that the immigrant was to serve depended upon his age. If he were over twenty-one, he was required to serve four years. If he were between twelve and twenty-one, he served five years, and if he were under twelve he had to serve seven years. There were few negroes in the colony during the seventeenth century, and the plantations had to rely upon the immigrants for the labor with which to cultivate the tobacco and other crops. The immigrants in their turn usually moved on to new country and established plantations of their own, as soon as their period of service was over. Therefore, the majority of the farms actually under cultivation were small or medium sized and were cultivated by the owner himself. According to one account--"The seventeenth century was one of rapid immigration to Virginia, some 100,000 colonists arriving between 1607 and the end of the century. Many were indentured laborers, who were free at the end of their five years of service* to take up land and marry, a circumstance that tended to keep Virginia at this stage fundamentally democratic. Ninety percent of the population were independent small farmers. In 1704, the average number of workers, freeholders, and slaves on a farm was only 1.5. Negro slaves were not numerous until the eighteenth century."

* The law on this point varied from time to time.

"The representative seventeenth-century houses were of local materials, chiefly frame cottages of one story besides the loft, with a chimney at each end. There was no pretense at beauty or design; even the homes of the most prominent planters were simple and plain. The plantation mansion belonged to a later period."

"In the eighteenth century the tidewater country underwent a significant change in settlement form and landholding. The moderate-sized farms and small one-family farmsteads of the yeoman farmers gradually gave way to the extensive baronial estates of wealthy gentlemen-planters who lived in comparative luxury surrounded by scores of negro slaves. Tidewater became aristocratic. This form of society, with its attendant settlement features, was supported on its economic side by an abundance of cheap black labor and on its social side by the ideals and blood of English country gentlemen. Virginia owes much of the genteel flavor of its society to the cavaliers; for they exercised an influence in the colony far out of proportion to their numbers. As the influx of negroes increased, the flow of white immigrants from England gradually dwindled and eventually ceased. Slave labor reacted disastrously on the small landowners, who were eventually ruined and forced to emigrate."

"Early in the eighteenth century, land in tidewater Virginia had been largely laid out in private plantations and the frontier

had reached the Fall Line. Aristocratic Church of England gentlemen engrossed in tobacco culture gave the Coastal Plain its social and economic stamp. But before this group could move on westward to dominate the Piedmont and then the Ridge and Valley Country beyond the Blue Ridge, a southward thrust of Scotch-Irish and Germans from Pennsylvania, along with the unfortunate from tidewater country, had taken possession. The Virginia Council made plans for settling the frontier with compact communities whose area should be 200 acres, shaped like a parallelogram with a fort at the center of the village, but the plan was unsuccessful. The colonists migrated singly and in groups; and although former neighbors commonly settled in the same general locality, their farmsteads were for the most part isolated. Farms were smaller than in tidewater Virginia, riverine settlement pattern was largely absent, subsistence grain-and-livestock farming took the place of commercial tobacco culture, and negro slaves were lacking. There were thus two Virginias, unlike in antecedents, habits of thought, religion and economic interests; and although the integrated farm and isolated farmstead were characteristic of both, the farmstead unity were markedly in contrast."

One of the immigrants for whom Richard Holmes paid passage was Richard Tidwell. This is the earliest definite record that I have found of the Tidwell family in America. (There is a record

of a Henry Todwell who was brought from England to Gloucester County, Virginia by Captain Francis Morgan and Ralph Green in 1652. In view of the irregularity of spelling in that time, it is possible that he was a relative of Richard Tidwell. I have also found the name spelled Tedwell and Tydwell, but in this book, I have changed the spelling to Tidwell where other evidence made it obvious that the person concerned was a member of the Tidwell family. In the case of Henry Todwell, I have found no other record concerning him and no Tidwells living during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries who were not descendants of Richard Tidwell.)

On November 21, 1657, Richard Holmes was granted 200 acres of land for the transportation of four persons into the colony. These were Richard Longdell, John Philpott, Richard Tidwell, and Alice Meredith. These grants were frequently made long after the date of the immigration of the persons transported. It would be perfectly normal for Holmes to have received his grant in late 1657 in return for immigrants who arrived in the summer of 1656.

Holmes brought in four more persons in early 1661. If his usual working force included four persons under indenture, those imported in 1661 would have probably replaced those imported in 1656. This in turn suggests that the first four were expected to serve a term of 5 years and were therefore between the ages of 12 and 21

when they were brought in. This would have placed Richard Tidwells birth date between 1635 and 1644. This date is consistent with marriage date of Robert Tiddeswall of Denstone, Staffordshire and supports the surmise that Richard may have been a younger son.

Richard Tidwell appears to have been well regarded by Helmes. In early 1662, Helmes had received a grant of 400 acres on the Yeocomico river which had been made to him originally in 1652. On March 18,1663, Helmes gave 350 acres of this land to Richard Tidwell and Robert Jeffrice. This gift was probably in return for additional service rendered to Helmes, but in any case it indicated a high regard since it was quite a choice location on the Yeocomico river just a few miles from its mouth on the Potomac. The river formed both a good harbor and a good avenue for transportation to other settlements in the colony. (The town of Kinsale, Va. now stands on the property).

The two men appeared to have farmed the land jointly until 1667. In that year, there was a terrible storm (probably a tropical hurricane) in the county that did great damage to crops and trees. Perhaps as a result of differences growing out of the damage caused by the storm the two men divided the property by survey in October of that year. At some time before 1670, however, Jeffrice sold his share of the property to Tidwell and returned to England.

At about this time, Richard Tidwell appears to have become quite friendly with the family of Samuel Leverton. In October 1671, he acted as agent for Leverton to receive payment for Leverton's crop. On 26 February 1673, Richard gave a cow and calf to Samuel's daughter Mary. He recorded this gift at the County Court in the following language;

"....I Richard Tidwell...give unto Mary Leverton, daughter of Samuel Leverton, one cow and yearling heifer....out of the love and affection I have unto the aforesaid Mary. In case the aforesaid Mary do depart this life before she arrives at sixteen years of age or do die unmarried then the said cow and heifer will revert to Samuel Leverton, son of Samuel Leverton...."

Richard would have been between the ages of 29 and 38 at this time and therefore a great deal older than Mary Leverton. He had already become a successful farmer, however. He had bought out Jeffrice and in 1670 he had bought an additional 500 acres from Martin Cole giving him a total of 850 acres. His gift to Mary suggests that he also had ample livestock by this time.

The exact nature of Richard's love for Mary Leverton cannot be known, however, because within a few years he married a girl named Ann. Mary may have died or married somebody else but by 1678 Richard had married a girl who must also have been much younger than he because within the next twenty-five years, she appears to have married three times more.

Richard is mentioned in other county records. In 1677, he was awarded a judgment against Thomas Durant and in 1689 he proved the will of William Clements.

Richard and Ann Tidwell's first child, also named Richard, was born in 1679. Another son, John, and a daughter, Martha, probably came next. Another son, Peter, was born in 1688 and another son, Robert, was probably born after that date.

Richard Tidwell died sometime between January 1689, when he proved Clement's will and July 1692, when John Minor brought suit against Ann Tidwell as administratix of Richard's estate. If he died in 1690, he would have probably been between 46 and 55 years of age. He left a substantial amount of strategically located property and five children in the hands of a young and giddy widow. The suit brought by John Minor was only the first of many difficulties. In 1696, young Richard Tidwell, then 17, asked the Court of Westmoreland County (Westmoreland was split off from Northumberland Co. in 1663) to appoint a guardian to protect his estate from Lockley Conellin who had married his mother. In 1698, Peter Tidwell, then 10 years old, was bound out as an apprentice to John Clement, perhaps a relative of William Clement. In 1699, someone brought suit on behalf of young Robert Tidwell against Andrew Delabree who was now married to the former Ann Tidwell. It appears from the record that she had been married to

James Lane previously. She appears, therefore, to have had four husbands in quick succession.

In 1703, Robert Tidwell petitioned the court to appoint his brother Richard as his guardian. At some point about this time, John, Peter, and Martha Tidwell all seem to have disappeared. In 1715, Richard brought suit on behalf of the estate of John Tidwell and in 1716 4000 lbs. of tobacco was awarded to him from the guardians on the grounds that "the said John Tidwell hath not been heard of for many years". In 1718, Richard and Robert Tidwell were awarded 4000 lbs., of tobacco together on behalf of Peter Tidwell with the statement, "neither is it here known whether he be living or dead." This tobacco was valued at 18 shillings per hundred lbs, making this part of the estate equal to 36 pounds sterling. If this were calculated as one fifth of the total estate aside from the land which Richard Tidwell appears to have received intact, the total estate of the elder Richard Tidwell would have included 850 acres of land plus other property valued at 180 pounds sterling--a substantial estate for those days.

It appears from the foregoing that the young Tidwell family had hard going for many years in spite of the good start made by their father. Richard seems to have retained the land owned by his father. There is no record of Robert Tidwell's share other than the judgment in 1718 but he may have received tobacco or other property

as his portion. He appears to have become a steady and successful planter in Westmoreland County, but Richard had a more varied career. He would have been about eleven or twelve when his father died. There is no record showing where he lived after this father's death, but life must have been unpleasant in many respects if he were forced to seek court protection against the man his mother had married and to act for his brother in constant maneuvering against her.

In 1705, when Richard was 26, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a law establishing a number of market towns in Virginia including, "on the Potomac River, Yohocomico, upon the land of Richard Tidwell in Westmoreland." The law also stated, "That at Yohocomico to be called Kingsale (now Kinsale) and to have Tuesday and Saturday on each week for market days and the nineteenth day of October and four following days, exclusive of Sunday, annually their fair..."

The County Court was directed to purchase 50 acres of land to form the site for the town. This was apparently done since Kinsale Virginia stands to this day on the property on the Yeocomico river once owned by Richard Tidwell. It is assumed that the establishment of such a town on one's property would have been desirable. In fact, if colonial politics were anything like modern

politics, it is probable that it was a choice plum. It would have increased traffic in the vicinity, brought in neighbors, increased the value of nearby land, and provided a handy market for the disposal of farm products and the purchasing of imported goods from England. Since Westmoreland County was situated in the Northern Neck of Virginia, (the land between the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers) it would have come originally under the proprietors of the Northern Neck and it is therefore probable that Robert Carter, as agent for the proprietors, would have had a great deal of influence in naming the location to be selected for the new market town. Certainly under normal circumstances the wishes of the great land-owners such as the Carters and the Lees would have been considered to a large degree in the selection of the site.

On the other hand, the establishment of market towns such as Kinsale was part of a policy to encourage the creation of a merchant class and a diversified economy which would help free Virginia from its dependence on the sale of tobacco in England. This policy was opposed by strong interests, both in England and in Virginia, and the tobacco economy retained its hold on the Tidewater country until the time of the Revolution. In such a situation it is difficult to evaluate the position Richard Tidwell and determine the effect that the establishment of Kinsale must have had on his fortunes.

It is possible, however, that the effect of the town was harmful in some way, as he does not seem to have prospered greatly. He sold additional portions of land originally inherited from his father, until in 1719, at the age of 40, he sold the remainder of the original farm on the Yeocomico and moved to Stafford County, farther up the Potomac. In 1721, he sold the 150 acres that remained from the 500 acre tract bought by his father in 1670 and from this time on appears to have had no contact with Westmoreland County.

There is no record of the date of Richard Tidwell's marriage. Sometime before he sold his Westmoreland property, he had married a woman named Sabrina. Judging from the age of their children, they were probably married sometime shortly before 1710. In other words, Richard may have delayed marriage until about the age of 30, perhaps as a result of the unsettled circumstances surrounding his fathers estate. It is interesting to note also that he sold his property and left the County in the year following the settlement of Peter Tidwells portion of the estate, the final action that culminated at least 26 years of litigation following the death of the elder Richard Tidwell.

In the meantime, while Richard Tidwell's fate was drawing him away from Westmoreland County, Robert Tidwell's affairs were

developing in an entirely different direction.

Robert would have reached his majority about the time that Richard Tidwell was married about 1710. Since Robert had chosen Richard as his guardian in 1703, they probably lived together. In 1718, they acted together in the matter of Peter Tidwell's inheritance. It is possible, therefore, that Robert lived with Richard as long as Richard remained in the county. There is no record that Robert Tidwell owned land until 1734 when at about the age of 44, he bought 173 acres on Machodoc Creek in Westmoreland County from Isaac Allerton. Yet in 1721, he had the Westmoreland County court estimate the age of a servant boy. (This was frequently necessary because age determined length of servitude and the age of many of the children brought over under indenture was uncertain)

It is also fairly certain that Robert Tidwell was married sometime before 1720. His eldest son, William Carr Tidwell, witnessed a deed for him in 1738. This suggests that the son must have been born at least as early as 1720. Robert married Hannah Carr, the daughter of William Carr, a prosperous planter of Westmoreland County. Carr had registered a cattle brand in her name on April 18th 1701, suggesting that she may have been born several years before that date. William Carr's widow died in 1726,

and her will mentioned other children, but did not mention Hannah, suggesting that Hannah had already received her share of the estate.

From these scattered bits of information one might surmise the following course of events. Richard Tidwell held the land left by the elder Richard and provided a home for his younger brother. Robert continued to live with Richard and Sabrina Tidwell, helped with the farm and the legal actions until about 1718 or 1719 he was ready to marry Hannah Carr, at which point Richard sold the remaining property, divided the proceeds with Robert and left the County. Robert in turn married Hannah and took over the management of parts, at least, of the Carr property.

Westmoreland County, Virginia, Deeds and Wills, Book 14: page 49.

In the Name of God Amen, I Robert Tidwell of Cople parish in Westmoreland County in the Colony of Virginia, being weak of body but of sound and perfect sence and memory (blessed be God for it) do make ordain and declare this to be my last Will & testament in manner and form following hereby revoking and making void all former Wills and testaments by me made, dated at my house in the parish and County aforesaid this twenty seventh day of September in the year of Our Lord Christ One thousand seven hundred and fifty seven, and in the thirty first year of the reigh of Our sovereign Lord George the second of great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the

faith & Imprimis, I bequeath my soul unto God that gave it me hoping by his infinite mercy and my dear Saviour Jesus Christs intercepion and the merits of his passion, it shall at the last day be reunited to my body and glorified. And I will that my body have Christian and decent burial in my garden. Item I will that all my just debts be truly paid, and as for my worldly goods with which it hath plessed god to bless me beyond any desert of mine I give and bequeath them together with my lands as followeth Viz [1] Item I give and bequeath to my dear & loving wife Hannah Tidwell all the land whereon I now live together with the lands I purchased of Peter Dunkin during her natural life, and after her death I give & bequeath the said lands to my son John and his heirs forever, Item I give and bequeath to my son William Carr Tidwell all my lands in Machotique neck, and in case my sun William should die without heir lawfully begotten of his body, then and in such case I give my said lands in Machotique neck to my daughter Elizabeth and her heirs forever, Item I give to my said son John & his heirs forever the following negroes Judith George and Lucy and I give the first child (with its increase) that shall be born of either of the said negro women Judith or Lucy to my grand daughter Hannah Tidwell and her heirs forever, Item I give and bequeath to my son William and his heirs forever the following negroes Jack, Jean and the wench called Plumbers Judy. Item I give and bequeath to my good daughter Elizabeth the following negroes,

Daniel, Sett, James Cannon, Matt, Kepiah, Frank, and a child called Tom Brown, in case my said son William should die without heir or heirs then and in such case I give the said three negroes already given him to my son John and Elizabeth to be equally divided between them, and if my daughter Elizabeth should die without heir or heirs, then and in such case I give the seven negroes already given her to my sons John & William & their heirs forever to be equally divided between them, Item I give and bequeath to my loving wife her choice of all my negores for to choose out two which she is to have the use of during her natural life and after her decease to return to the child to whom they shall happen to belong by my bequests. I desire that my executors hereafter named may purchase a negro fellow with what money I have in the house which is about forty six pounds, and if that sum should not be sufficient to purchase a good young negro fellow, my will and desire is that their shall be money raised out of my crops to make up the sum that shall be wanting in making that purchase which said negroe fellow I give and bequeath to my son William & his heirs forever, and in case that my said son William shall die without lawfull heir or heirs then and in such case I give the said negroe to my son John. I order that my son William shall pay to my executors hereafter named the money that they shall advance out of my crops for to pay for the fellow I desired to be purchased for him. Item I give to John Justis my fustian coat,

ticken waistcoat, bears skin coat, camblet waiscoat, two pair of cloth breeches, hats shoes and stockings and one fine shirt and I desire that he may have allowed out of my estate working cloaths for next year suitable for one of his employment, Item I give & bequeath to Katharine Jenkins one cow & calf & a bed and furniture. If my daughter should choose to give Catharine Jenkins the negroe girl called Frank I give her to the said Katharine Also, and to her heirs forever toegther with the increase of the said negroe, but if it should so happen that my daughter Elizabeth as before mentioned should give the said Katharine the said negro girl then and in such case my will and desire is that the said Katharine shall not have the cow and calf & bed & furniture already given her - Item I give to my loving wife Hannah Tidwell the use of all my stocks of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and the use of all my household goods & furniture together with everything else upon my plantation, during her natural life, and after her death my will and desire is that all my stocks of horses, cattle, hogs, sheep and houshold furniture & be equally divided between my three children, John, William and Elizabeth. Item I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth my riding hourse called Jockey after the death of my wife. I order my estate not to be appraised.

Lastly I ordain, constitute and appoint my sons John & William executors of this my last will and testament to act as such & as the law directs.

In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal agreeing & declaring the within three sides to be & contain my last will & testament) the day & year first above written

his

Robert R~~X~~T Tidwell (Seal)

mark

Signed sealed & delivered
by the said Robert Tid-
well as and for his last
will & testament men-
tioned in the within three
sides in the presence of
us who were present at
the signing and sealing
thereof.

Jos Lane

Stephen Baley X his mark

John Justis

Westmorland Ct. At a court held for the said County the 28th day of July 1761. This will of Robert Tidwell deceased was presented into Court and sworn to by William Carr Tidwell one of the executors therein named the same being proved by all the witnesses thereto was admitted to record, and upon motion of the said exor and his performing what the law in such case required certificate is granted him for obtaining a probate thereof in due form.

Test: George Lee Ct C W

Recorded the 24th

August 1761

26th Jan 1766

In obedience to an order of Westmoreland Court being date the Twenty nineth Day of May 1764 we whose names that is under written were appointed by the Courts to appraise and allott the Estate of Robert Tidwell in current money.

2 cows & Calves 3/10/0 1 Yok Oxen 5[&] 1 steer 2/5	& 10/15/0
1 horses cow 1/10/0 1 small bull 15 Cowhide 4/	2/9/0
Parcel of old Casks 12/ a Bed, bedstead, & bed cord 10/	1/2/0
Some lumber 1/3 1 small square table 6[d]	-1/1/9
9 sheep at 5/2/5/0 1 Yoke Oxen 6 1 steer & 3	11/5/0
2 cows & 3 1 Heffer & yearling 1/15 2 small heffers 1/10	6/5/-
1 young cow 1/10 - 1 Do 1/10-1 cow and Calf 1/15 2 bulls 1/5	6/5/-

1 yearling 7/6 Pair Cort Wheels 1 & 4 Tubes 1 & 1 Do 3/	2/10/6
1 small cask 1/3 a parcel of casks 1/10 9 hoes 1/16	3/7/3
2 iron pestles 8-1 iron from (?) 1/6 4 narrow axes 10/	-/19/6
1 Pair Rouling Screws 1/6 1 Broad Axe 5/3 3 Iron Wedges	-/11/6
1 griddle 1/3 2 hard saws 2/ 1 Gun barrell 2/3 Old gun 1&	1/4/6
1 tea kettle & stand 12/6 9¼ old iron at. 3^{d} - 1/3/6	1/16/0
Fleshing knife and old drawing knife 2/ Tin coffee pot 2/6	-/4/6
36th of old Penter at 9^{d}--1/7 43 d at 1/-2/3 17 do at 1/3-1/1/3	& 11/3
Tin more 4/ Pair cotton cords 5/ Pr wool do 3/6	-/12/3
Bell nettle skillet 10/ 1 Do 7/6 1 grubby hoe & old needing 4/	1/1/6

Robert Tidwell appears to have made a success as a planter. He bought 173 acreas on Machodor Creek in 1734 and bought additional land on the Nomini river in 1738. When he died in 1761, he left, in addition to his land, property valued at nearly 120 pounds sterling, three negro slaves valued at 80 pounds apiece not allocated in his will and 18 other slaves bequeathed by name to his heirs. (This was about double the average number of slaves held in the county at this time) His will also mentions that, in 1757 at the time it was written, he had 46 pounds in money in his house. He seems to have become part of the slave owning gentry of the tidewater while his elder brother had continued in the pattern of the independent farmer.

Robert Tidwell had three children, William Carr Tidwell, born about 1720, a younger son, John Tidwell, probably born after 1721 and a daughter Elizabeth Tidwell. John must have been born after the last contact between Richard and Robert Tidwell because Richard also seems to have had a son named John, and they would probably have avoided this confusion in names if one or both of the boys had been born while the fathers were still in contact.

John Tidwell married a young widow about 1755. Anna Barbara Muse, daughter of William Must had married Joseph Sanford about 1744. The Sanfords had two children, Joseph and Rebecca, but the elder Joseph Sanford died in 1751. John and Anna Barbara Muse Sanford Tidwell had three daughters, Hannah, Elizabeth, and Barbara. Elizabeth later married a cousin, Thomas Muse and Hannah was adopted by Caleb Lindsey of Essex County, Virginia and later married his nephew Reuben Lindsey. (Caleb Lindsey was Hannah Tidwell's uncle by marriage and he may therefore have married Elizabeth Tidwell, daughter of Robert Tidwell and sister of John and William Carr Tidwell.) Barbara Tidwell remained unmarried and died about 1788 or 89. Rebecca Sanford married Richard Dozier.

Westmoreland County Inventory Book covering 1786

Tidwells Administration Account } Dr. The Estate of Mrs. Anne Barbara Tidwell decd. In Account with Vincent Marmadukes action Cr.

1786			
Decmbr 4	To paid William Samford proved Account No 1	1-4-4	
	To paid Daniel Marmaduke Do 2	0-10-0	
	To paid Vincent Redman Do 3	1-2-11	
	To paid John Rowand Do 4	6-19-10	1/4
/ paid	To/Sarah Marmaduke pr Account 5	0-10-0	
	To paid Joseph Pierce pr proved Account 6	2-6-2	
	To paid John Griggs pr Do 7	1-11-0	
	To paid for crying the Estate	1-0-0	
	To 1 shoat not found as charged to Thomas Muse in his purchase	0-8-6	
	To paid the Clerk of Westmoreland for Recording Inventory 250W Tob.	1-0-3	
	To paid Thomas Muse for his wife's Legacy due from the Estate Jno. Tidwell dcd.	15-9-11	
	To paid John Wilson do do do	15-9-11	
	To paid Reuben Lindsay	9-0-0	
	To Thomas Chilton Bond with Interest	8-1-1	3/4
	To Commission and Trouble	7-0-0	
	To paid Wm Robinson Dozier account 300w Crop Tob at 20/	3-0-0	
	Balance due the Estate Anne B. Tidwell Decd.	35-19-10	
		£ 111-4-10	
1786 Decr 5	By Amount Sale of the Estate	£ 111-4-10	

John Tidwell apparently died sometime between 1758 when he leased some land to Thomas Palmer and 1760 when his mother's will was written. He was probably about 35 years old when he died. His widow lived until 1786 and appears to have been well taken care of from the economic standpoint. Tax records show that Anna Barbara

Tidwell owned seven slaves, four horses, and 11 cattle in 1784. Although that was not great wealth it was a comfortable situation for a widow. The same record shows that one free male over twenty-one was living with her. That may have been her son Joseph Samford.

Anne Barbara Tidwell may be connected with one of the mysteries of this period, namely, who was the wife of William Carr Tidwell? Although the oldest son, he was not married when his father's will was written in 1757. After reaching maturity, William Carr Tidwell had apparently settled as a bachelor on the Nachodoc Creek property bought by his father in 1734. In 1756, he bought this property from his father.

Westmoreland County Record Book 4 p. 214

Know all Men by these presents that I John Williams of Cople Parish and County of Westmoreland Hath this day Barhained and sold and do hereby Bargain and Sell unto William Carr Tidwell of the Parish and County aforesaid one Cow and Yearling, One Mare, Two sows and twelve shoats, Two feather Beds and Furniture, one Iron pot, one Kettle, one Skillite, one griddle, one Frying pan, one plough, two axes, four hoes, three Pewter dishes, three plates, one large Earthen Jar, All my crop of Corn, that is now on the ground and all the rest of my effects Wholely and Solely that he the said John Williams is now possessed with of what nature and kins soever. For the Consideration of sxiteen pounds current money of Virginia, paid before the Ensealing and Delivering of these presents. And I do hereby warrent and defend all the above mentioned things to the said William Carr Tidwell his Heirs etc. from the claim of any person whatsoever. In Witness whereof I have set my hand an affixed my seal this twenty third day of June One thousand seven hundred and sixty nine.

In presence of
Jos. Land
Geo. Turberville
Jno. Turberville

John Williams seal

The house occupied by William Carr Tidwell and probably built by him survived until 1947 when it burned. It was a four room, two story house with a chimney at either end and a gently sloping roof. One fireplace was about eight feet long. According to local tradition, this house was known as the "Manor House." It was the central part of a complex of plantation buildings such as kitchen, smoke house, laundry, etc., whose foundations are still buried nearby although the buildings themselves disappeared long ago. This house was not a mansion like Stratford or Mount Vernon but it was a neat and prosperous establishment.

William Carr Tidwell was a gentlemen planter, neighbor to the Washingtons, Lees, Turbervilles, and Carters. His property on Machodoc Creek eventually encompassed 373 acres and became the site for a small village that is still known as Tidwells', Virginia. The survival of the name of the locality suggests that the place must have had some local prominence.

William Carr Tidwell would have been about 40 when his father died. His son Reuben Tidwell was born in 1766 or 1767. In other words, he was probably married sometime between 1760 and 1765 and had only one child. He died in 1774 and although he left considerable property there is no record of a Mrs. Tidwell who can be identified as his widow except for a brief entry in the accounting rendered by the executors of his estate. The only Tidwell widow living during the period

that appears in the records was Anne Barbara Tidwell, widow of John Tidwell. Could it be that William Carr Tidwell married his brother's widow and became her third husband? If that were the case, she would have been about forty when Reuben was born, accounting perhaps for the failure of William Carr Tidwell to have more than one child.

William Carr Tidwell's will was probated on March 29, 1774. On February 25, 1774, Philip Fithian, tutor to the Carter children at Nomini Hall a few miles away, mentioned in his diary that there had been a serious outbreak of fever at "Mr. Atwells on the Potomac." He reported that the fever was "jail" fever (known today as Typhus) caught from a ship and that many of the slaves were sick. In early March, he mentioned that the fever was continuing at "Mr. Atwells." The Atwells lived across Machodoc Creek and upstream from the Tidwells. There may well have been fever at both places or Titlian may have confused the names. It would have been normal for ships to go to Tidwells, since it remained a river port of call until 1907, but it would have been more difficult for a ship to reach Atwells. The coincidence in dates is interesting in any case, and William Carr Tidwell may well have died at about 54 years of age of the "jail" fever.

Reuben Tidwell inherited the majority of his father's property and the executors of the estate kept a detailed account of transactions on his behalf. He was tutored for several years and provided with silver shoe buckles and other luxuries. In 1786, his personal property

included 5 horses, 30 cattle, 9 grown slaves and 11 slave children. This was well above the average number of slaves owned in the County.

On December 2, 1788, Reuben married Winifred Coles of Northumberland Co., then a girl of 15. They had ample means and good connections in the community. Westmoreland County suffered bad times after the Revolution, however, and began to fall into stagnation and decay. Many of the people left the County and those who remained were in greatly reduced circumstances. (Robert E. Lee was born at Stratford nearby, but his family suffered a similar misfortune.) Reuben Tidwell managed to get by but he sold off some of his slaves and finally on February 12, 1812 he sold the entire property on Machodoc Creek for $3,917.75 or $10 per acre. This is the last record of the Tidwell family in Virginia.

According to the census of 1810, Reuben Tidwell had two sons and three daughters but their names were not given. Tennessee was being settled at this time and there is a record of a land grant to Reuben Tidwell in Warren Co., Tennessee in 1824. There is also a record of service performed by Mark Tidwell in the Tennessee Militia during the War of 1812 and Mark appears to have been Reuben Tidwell's eldest son.

Philip Fithian's Journal p. 208 and 209 16 July 1774

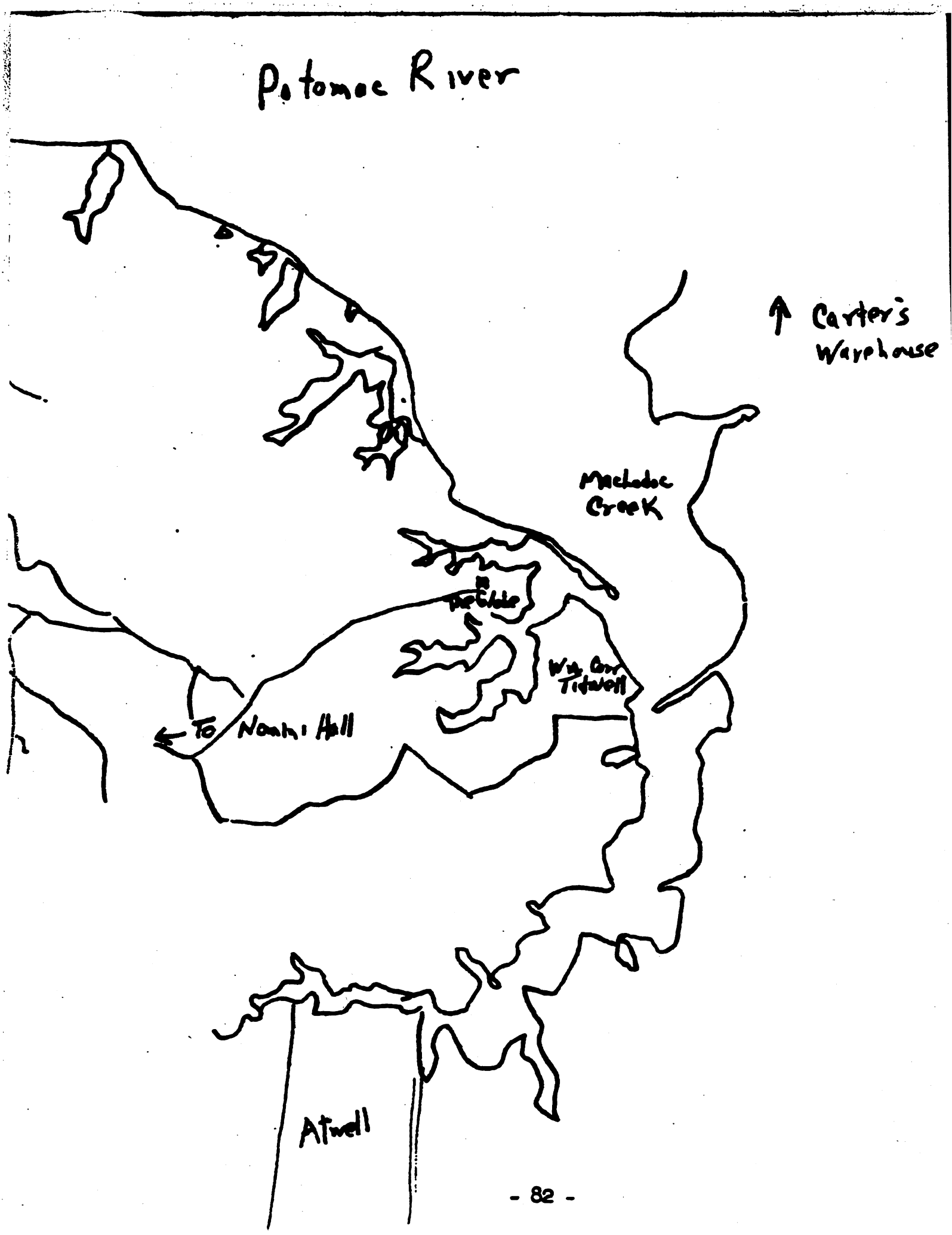
Saturday 16

The Colonel, Ben and myself rode on Horse-back about Six to Mr. Atwells' four lusty, hearty Men had gone on foot before who were Oarsmen. Here we were to enter a Boat never Rowed before and proceed down the River Machodock to Mr. Carters Store-Houses which are new buildings near the mouth of that River--But I am going to venture upon a description of a Scene which I am sure I will not do Justice to--A Scetch of three Rivers--Their Beautiful Banks--Several Gentlemen's Seats-- Their commodious harbours-- In particular that near which Mr. Carter is erecting Store-Houses-- The whole is to be on account of our peregrination this 16th burning day of July 1774--With several remarks.

- - - - - - - - - - -

I have said, that we rode on Horseback to Mr. Atwells where we were to go on board and have our Horses sent back--This House is called six Miles from the mouth of Machodock--It stands on the Bank of the River; The Boat that carried us is built for the purpose of carrying the young ladies and others of the Family to Nomini Church--It is a light neat Battoe elegently painted and is rowed with four Oars--We went on board; The Sun beamed down upon us but we had each an Umbrella--The River is here about Gunshot over; the banks are pretty low, but hard to the very Water--I was delighted

to see Corn and Tobacco growing, or Cattle and Sheep feeding along the Brink of the River on both sides, or else Groves of Pines, Sorins, and Oaks growing to the sides of the Bank--We passed by an elegant small Seat of Mr. Beal; it was small, but it was neat--We arrived at Mr. Carters Store-Houses in 50 minutes, they are 5 miles from Mr. Atwells, and one from Potomock--These Houses are buildings for the receptions of Iron, Bread, Flour and there are two Houses each 46 Feet long by 20--they stand at the Bottom of a Bay which is a safe and Spacious harbour--Here we breakfasted at ten--At twelve we pushed of from there and rowed by parson Smith's Glebe and in sight of his house into the broad beautiful Potoumock--I think it is here ten Miles or twelve over has a fine high hard Bank; no Marshes-- but Cornfield, Trees, or Grass!


Potomac River
Carter's Warehouse
Machodoc Creek
To Nomini Hall
Atwell

While Robert Tidwell, the younger son of Richard Tidwell, remained in civilized, settled, and fashionable Westmoreland County, Richard Tidwell II, his elder brother, was following the route of migration which led to the settlement of the piedmont and Shenandoah Valley of northern Virginia. Robert Tidwell became a well-to-do member of the Tidewater Gentry but Richard Tidwell and his sons, while originally well off, slid down the levelling scale of frontier hardships and misfortune to become yeoman farmers once more. Just as the Tideswall ancestors from which they had come, these Tidwells lived on the land, sometimes richer and sometimes poorer than the average of the frontier society in which they and their descendants found themselves for the next century and a half.

As indicated earlier Richard Tidwell moved into Stafford County sometime about 1719. The decade between 1710 and 1720 was a period in which a large number of the planters left the tidewater and moved into Stafford County in search of new land. At that time Stafford County included the entire frontier area of Northern Virginia and the supply of new land in the older countries was nearing exhaustion as a result of the intensive cultivation of Tobacco.

Richard Tidwell therefore settled in Stafford County in the midst of many former neighbors from Westmoreland. This group may well have included relatives by marriage as well. (The Carr and Muse families were both represented, for example). In 1723, Richard received a

grant from Thomas, Lord Fairfax, the Proprieter of the Northern Neck for 273 Acres in Stafford County. This was probably the land on which he settled when he moved into the County since it was customary to settle on the land and then apply for the Grant.

In 1725, he was Granted an additional 579 3/4 acres and in 1730 another 553 acres. In 1726, he sold 370 acres to Richard Todd and in 1731 he sold 370 acres to John Homes. In 1733, he sold 570 3/4 acres to Thomas Osborne. It is difficult to reconcile these transactions since the quantities sold do not agree with the purchases recorded. Prince William County had been split off from Stafford Co., in 1731 and in 1734 Orange County was split off in turn. There are traces of the family of Richard Tidwell in the records of all these counties, but unfortunately there are serious gaps in the records as a result of damage received during the Civil War.

In any case, Richard Tidwell owned large tracts of land, much of it in the southern part of what is now Prince William County with the county seat at Manassas, Virginia. One perplexing aspect of these records is that the rent roles (tax records) of Stafford County have survived, but they do not show Richard Tidwells name. If he had been a normal settler owning over 1,000 acres of land he could hardly have escaped paying taxes. Although new country it was sufficiently well settled for tax laws to be enforced. Perhaps, as indicated in connection with the establishment of the town of Kinsale, Richard Tidwell had some connection with the Proprieters of the Northern Neck which would have exempted him from paying taxes.

The first record of Richard Tidwell's children occurs in connection with the sale of land to John Homes in 1731 when "Richard Tidwell Jr." (III) witnessed one of the signatures. This signature was also witnessed by Joseph Helms, and the Tidwells appear to have been closely associated with the Helmes family for many years thereafter, even after moving to South Carolina.

This signature by a third generation Richard Tidwell (III) would probably indicate about 1710-12 as the year of his birth. The next record of the younger Richard Tidwell (III), occurs in the accounts of the Orange County merchant, Adam Reid. According to these records Richard Tidwell Junior opened an account with Reid on October 19, 1738. He bought nails, cloth and pins. On November 30, 1738 he bought salt, two axes, powder and shot, bed ticking, linen, and additional cloth. On the same date, he delivered a bushel of wheat to credit against his account. These purchases suggest that he was setting up house-keeping and the cloth and pins suggest that he was recently married.

On February 8, 1739, Richard Tidwell, Junior, returned to Reid's store accompanied by his father Richard Tidwell (II) his younger brother, John Tidwell, and Joseph Helms. He applied 211 lbs. of pork against his account, Joseph Helms paid 4 shillings and 7 pence on his behalf, and his father paid the balance of the account, 1 pound 1 shilling and 7½ pence.

At the same time the group made some interesting purchases. Richard Tidwell Junior bought a quart of rum, 400 nails and drew 16 shillings in cash. John Tidwell bought sheeting and thread. It looks very much as if some celebration, such as a wedding were in the offing. Perhaps this was a wedding between Richard Tidwell Junior and a daughter of Joseph Helms and the earlier purchases had been made for the purpose of preparing a house in advance. It is possible, however, that John Tidwell was the one involved since he was now making purchases similar to those made by his brother four months earlier.

This is the last record of Richard Tidwell (II). He would have been approximately 60 years old and the younger Richard would have been about 28. It is impossible to determine from the records where the Tidwells lived at this point. Orange County included a great deal of territory which later was split off into new counties. The majority of surviving records during the remainder of the time the Tidwells stayed in Virginia occur in Frederick County in the northern end of the Shenandoah valley. Richard (II) probably died shortly after this time. Richard Tidwell Junior (III) bought ½ bushel of salt in June 1739 and appears never to have returned to the store. He left behind him a debt of 4 pounds, 8 shillings, 9½ pence. In July 1740, the Orange County Court issued a summons to Richard Tidwell Junior to answer for this debt, but the original summons is still in the Court Files and

there is no record that it was ever delivered. Perhaps he lived too far away for easy delivery and it was forgotten in the press of more important business or perhaps he had now moved over into the Shenandoah valley. If Richard Tidwell, the father, had remained in the vicinity he might well have paid the bill, as he had paid part of the earlier one.

This incident is all too typical of the case in which many settlers found themselves. Manufactured goods were expensive, and farm products were excessively cheap. Richard, Junior, received only 2 shillings and 6 pence credit for 211 pounds of pork. Seven pounds of pork for a penny!

As a result of this situation, plus the constant threat of difficulties with the French and Indians, all too many settlers fell into debt with the merchants. In 1744, a judgment of 3 pounds was rendered against Richard Tidwell (III) in the Frederick County Court. In 1755 in Frederick County, John Tidwell also was sued for debt, but he appears to have settled the suit out of court. In 1745, also in Frederick County, another brother, Francis Tidwell was sued for a debt of 2 pounds, 12 shillings, and a penny. He failed to appear in Court and a judgement was rendered against him. Perhaps many of these debts could have been paid but in view of the prices paid and changed, the settlers may have felt cheated and therefore little inclined to pay in full.

The fourth brother, William Tidwell, was probably next in age to Richard (III). Both Richard Tidwell (II) and Robert Tidwell had sons named William and John, but Richard's son was probably born before he left Westmoreland County since Robert's son was always known by his full name William Carr Tidwell, apparently in an attempt to distinguish him from the other William. The two John Tidwells were probably younger sons born after contact was lost in 1721.

A map in the Frederick County Court House shows a "Plot of the Carter Grant of 50212 acres made in the year 1740." This map shows property belonging to William Tidwell located on the west side of the Shenandoah river just south of Ashby's Gap through the Blue Ridge mountains. The road from Washington to Winchester, Va., now passes through this gap and crosses the Shenandoah just north of the site of William Tidwell's property. The map also shows the names of neighbors as Helms, John Rout, and Samuel Earle. A house belonging to Lord Fairfax was located just across the river.

This property may well have been the last property owned by Richard Tidwell (II) and inherited by William Tidwell after his father's death in 1739 or 40. The proximity to Lord Fairfax's property also supports the idea of some connection between Richard Tidwell (II) and the proprieters of the Northern Neck.

In early 1743, William Tidwell was appointed overseer of a stretch of raod that passed nearby. In 1744, he bought 100 acres from Jacob Funk, who ran a mill nearby. He also appears to have been married by 1744 since later in that year his wife Mary appeared as witness in Court. In 1753 he sold the 100 acres and in the following year he purchased 220 acres from Joseph Frey. Mary Tidwell must have died in 1754, however. She had signed the papers for the sale of property in 1753 but suddenly in January 1755 William sold off the 220 acres bought the year before. He sold 100 acres back to Joseph Frey and the remainder to Martin Black. Mary Tidwell did not sign these papers. This is the last record of William Tidwell in Virginia. It might well be that upon the death of his wife he decided to sell out and start fresh in some other part of the country.

In 1754, however, war had broken out between the British and the French and Indians. In 1755 General Braddocks's army was defeated and the frontier settlements were exposed to heavy Indian attack. In 1756 two large raiding parties entered Frederick County. Winchester was attacked but managed to beat off the Indians. There was considerable damage and loss of life in the County and many of the settlers moved back to the more settled country east of the Blue Ridge. The Tidwells may have left the County in this general exodus, although there is some evidence to suggest that some were east of the mountains before that date.

In 1753, Francis Tidwell witnessed a deed for John Frogg, Gentlemen, of Prince William County. Frogg lived in the part of Prince William that was later split off to become Fauquier County. Although John Tidwell received a grant of land in Frederick County in 1754, in February 1756, he was awarded a judgment against Benjamin Taylor and John Frogg in the Prince William County Court. The family may well have retained property in Prince William County, therefore, to which they returned when misfortune hit them in the Shenandoah valley. The loss of many Records from the Prince William County Court probably accounts for the lack of definite information on this part.

It might well be that Richard Tidwell (III) retained the family property in Prince William Co., and William took over that in Frederick Co. This might well account for the absence of any other record of Richard in Virginia after 1744. There is no indication that he settled any place else until much later when he and his brothers appeared in South Carolina.

In 1763, the war against the French and Indians ended successfully, and people once more flocked to the frontier. The first area to be opened to heavy settlement was the upland country of South Carolina. In a matter of a few years large numbers of people moved from the Shenandoah Valley and the Piedmont of Virginia into the new land of South Carolina. They were largely people who had fallen into debt with the merchants or people who had suffered from the Indian attacks and wanted to get farther away from the northern frontier. Also the piedmont country was beginning to fall into the hands of the larger landowners, who with slave labor, were offering a competition that the smaller land owners could not match. Now the new country in South Carolina was offering them opportunity to start once more on equal terms with Fortune.

The first record of the Tidwell family in South Carolina is a grant of 100 acres of land to Richard Tidwell (III) which was surveyed on April 7, 1763. The normal procedure was for the settler to locate on the property desired, then have a survey made, and then apply for the Grant. Therefore, Richard must have been in South Carolina some weeks or months, at least, before this date. He would have been about 53 years old at this time.

The land was located on Wateree Creek in Fairfield County,

South Carolina. The survey shows that the land lay next to property owned by Joseph Helms. The association of Richard Tidwell and Joseph Helms had already lasted over thirty years and had survived the move from Virginia to South Carolina.

Richard Tidwell (III) was the first of a whole cluster of Tidwells. All of his brothers and their sons deserted Virginia within a short space of time. William and Francis Tidwell also took up land grants in South Carolina and the young men of the next generation, now reaching maturity, also took up land. John Tidwell does not seem to have reached South Carolina and the Census of 1790 shows a Tidwell widow and a young man named Samuel Tidwell living in Moore County, North Carolina. This may mark the location where John Tidwell settled, but the records of the County were burned during the 19th century and since Samuel Tidwell seems to have had only daughters there is no other trace of this small group of Tidwells.

Among the South Carolina Tidwells the young men appeared in such numbers and raised such large families of their own that it is difficult to establish their exact relationships. The frontier county had no marriage records, few family bibles carry family records that far back, and we are primarily dependent on land records, the census records of 1790, 1800, etc., and a few wills and administrations for the data with which to reconstruct the family connections. In a few cases the records are explicit. In most cases, however, the main

evidence is approximate age, geographic proximity, and association in the records (a son witnessing a signature for his father, for example). In some cases this indirect evidence is consistent and impressive. In other cases it is ambiguous and doubtful. In a few cases there is almost no evidence at all.

In general the family seems to have broken into two major groups. The sons of Richard and Francis Tidwell formed a fairly close association that lasted in some cases well into the 19th century. William Tidwell and his sons seem to have had relatively little contact with the other. The revolutionary records of Geogria may give some clue in this matter. An entry* dated August 1, 1783, says:

"William Tidwell, setting forth the extreme hardships endured by himself (and his family) having his land and other property sold under the Act of Sequestration with his old age and infirmities, and a large family of small children and Praying that the said property be ordered to be restored him and he be allowed to reside thereon. The Committee are of the opinion that the Prayer thereof ought to be granted which was agreed to."

This record indicates that William had been a loyalist during the Revolution and that his property had been confiscated. It will be recalled that he had been a neighbor of Lord Fairfax in Virginia

* Vol. III, p. 411.

NOTE: I have made an extensive search personally in the published records of the Revolution and I have had an official search made in the National Archives by the General Services Administration and have found no record of any Tidwell who served as an officer in the Revolution. The only two discovered, who served at all were Edmund and Peter Tidwell whose record is discussed later. Francis Marion's band was quite small, only about 30 at one time. Under the circumstances I can only conclude that the officer Tidwells were figments of somebody's imagination.

that he had held an appointment as overseer of a road, and that there may have been some connection between his father and the Proprieters of the Northern Neck. This association with the established authority of the Crown may well have given him a conservative bias against the idea of revolution. His loyalist sentiment may have accounted for some of the lack of contact with the families of Richard and Francis, but there must have been other reasons as well.

The Tidwells can not be said to have been enthusiastic supporters of the revolution. Various branches of the family have retained stories of ancestral patriotism and some have claimed descent from officers who served under Francis Marion and Col. Winn, the founder of Winnsboro, South Carolina, but these stories and claims may be based on a desire to correct ancestral mistakes rather than on facts.* There was bitter fighting in and near South Carolina during the Revolution and there were several Tidwells of an age to take part in it, but the only firm record that I have seen is for two who spent a short time in the Militia in 1782, after Yorktown and after the serious fighting was over.

The upland area of South Carolina was an area of particularly

* See opposite page.

strong loyalist sentiment. As late in the war as 1780, the British and Tories were in almost complete control of the area. They were finally defeated locally only by bringing in revolutionary troops from Virginia, North Carolina and Maryland to help the remnant of anti-crown forces in South Carolina. By the end of 1782, however, the British had withdrawn from Charleston and Savannah and the war in the south was over for all practical purposes. The loyalist sentiments of William Tidwell were therefore not likely the only cause of the scant contact between the two parts of the family. Geography may have been the main factor.

In the preceding chapter it was mentioned that William Tidwell's first wife may have died about 1754. The record quoted above suggests that he had married a second time, and the approximate age of the men who seem to have been his sons tends to confirm the idea of two marriages and two sets of children. In the first group would fall Peter and Robert Tidwell, both born sometime around 1750 and in the second group would fall Job, Absolum, William and John, all probably born between 1765 and 1775. These last, therefore, would have been children during the revolution. It is necessary to point out again, however, that these relationships are inferred rather than firmly established. The main supporting evidence is a fairly constant association among these men that survived a large scale migration from South Carolina to Georgia.

William Tidwell may well have returned to South Carolina when his property was confiscated in Georgia since his sons appear to have

grown up in South Carolina and most did not return to Georgia until after 1790.

Richard (III) and Francis Tidwell and their sons Richard (IV) Presslot, Robert, Edmond, and John settled in a fairly small area near Wateree Creek in the Fairfield District of South Carolina. The records of this group are largely at Winnsboro, the County Seat of Fairfield County. The only proven relationships are those between Richard (III) and Richard IV and between Francis and his son John. There is some reason to believe, however, that the others were sons of Richard (III). It can be seen from their names that confusion was beginning to creep into the family at this point since William also seems to have had sons named Robert and John. The Census of 1790 lists both Roberts and calls one of them Robert Tidwell Jr, but this did not necessarily mean that they were father and son. There are ample occasions in the old records when the term merely distinguished a younger man from an elder of the same name. In any case the Census indicates that they were about the same age and could not have been father and son.

The only definite birth date for any of these men is from a family bible that gives Edmund Tidwells' birth year as 1758. The others appear to have been born sometime after 1740 but before 1755.

The status of the Tidwell family in South Carolina was quite different from that of Richard Tidwell (II). Where he had bought and sold land in Virginia in 200 and 500 acre lots, there sons and

grandsons dealt in parcels of 50, 100 and 150 acres. Few, if any, of them could sign their own names. They were no longer plagued by debts to the merchants and the occasional mortgage was paid off in due course, but they were now typical yeomen, farmers in frontier country--conservative, uneducated and prolific.

In 1782 Peter Tidwell of the William Tidwell group and Edmund Tidwell of the Richard and Francis Tidwell group served short terms in the South Carolina Militia. Peter served for one month and Edmund for four. Edmund was 24 years old and already a father. I do not know Peter's age but he was probably somewhat older and also the father of a family. It was not an ideal time from the family standpoint for them to be on active service. Their motive for waiting until this late date to serve will probably never be known, but it is difficult to avoid the suspicion that they had read the trend of the times and were recording their adherence to the winning side.

Edmund Tidwell served in a unit commanded by Lt. John Hollis. This is the first indication of a connection with the Hollis family that proved later to be a strong and lasting one. Moses Hollis was a typical successful farmer in the Fairfield district. When he died in 1794 Edmund Tidwell helped in the settlement of his estate. The signature of Edmund and Moses Hollis Jr. were also associated in various other legal documents. Two of Edmunds grandsons were named Moses and one great grandson was named Moses Hollis Tidwell. There is no indication concerning the nature of the connection between the Tidwells and the Hollis family, but it may well be that Edmund had

married a daughter of Moses Hollis.

Jean Hollis, a daughter of Moses Hollis, married another Tidwell, possibly a son of Presslot Tidwell, and became the mother of Sterling and Garland Tidwell. This is the only certain family connection between the Hollises and the Tidwells, but the relationship of the families was so close that there were probably other ties as well.

Richard III, Francis and William Tidwell all seem to have died before 1790, the first two probably shortly after 1775. When the first census was taken in 1790 however, there were 51 male Tidwells alive in South Carolina. Only 17 of these were over 16, but the Census may have missed one or two additional adults. Peter Tidwell, for example, does not appear although he had been in South Carolina as late as 1783 and was in Georgia shortly after 1790.

After 1790 there were two major wares of migration of the Tidwells from South Carolina. First was the move to Georgia which involved Peter, Job, Absolum, David, John, and two William Tidwells. These were probably all sons or grandsons of William Tidwell. At some point before 1800, Robert Tidwell of this same group either died or migrated. If it was the latter I have not discovered where he went.

The second move of migration began shortly after 1800 when members of the Francis and Richard Tidwell group began to move into Tenessee. The main focal point for this group was Dickson County,

about 40 miles west of Nashville.

Richard Tidwell IV had died about 1789, Presslot Tidwell died in 1790 and Robert Tidwell died in 1806. These deaths seem to have left Edmund Tidwell as the senior descendant of Richard Tidwell III. John Tidwell, son of Francis Tidwell may also have been dead by 1800, but it is difficult to determine because of the existence of several John Tidwells by this time. In any case Edmund seems to have been the man who acted as executor of estates, signer of bonds, and witness for signatures for the remainder of the family.

By 1808, Eli Tidwell, son of John Tidwell and grandson of Francis Tidwell had moved to Dickson County. Sometime between 1810 and 1812 Edmund followed with his six sons, with six of Robert Tidwells' seven sons, at least one of Robert's son-in-laws and a brother of Eli Tidwell. Edmunds youngest son, Aquilla, and Robert's two youngest sons, Robert and Mott (or Motley) served in the Tenessee Militia in 1814. Mott must have returned to South Carolina almost immediately after his service since he died there in 1815. The pacification of the Indians seems to have opened new opportunities in the south and sometime before 1820 the brothers Eli and Isaac and the young Robert Tidwell moved to Giles County in southern Tennessee, although Eli retained property in Dickson County until 1841. Two other sons of the elder Robert Tidwell, Richard and John, left Dickson County and moved into Maury County Tennessee about the same time.

These two migrations, to Georgia and to Tennessee left few Tidwells in South Carolina. Levi, the remaining son of Robert Tidwell, stayed there until some time after 1822. The brothers, Sterling and Garland Tidwell and two John Tidwells also stayed behind. These men may have been descendants of Presslot Tidwell.

The two migrations, and their coincidence with an apparent division in the family may well account for the family legend, mentioned in the foreword, concerning the "Red" and the "Black" Tidwells. Obviously the legendary"Red" and "Black" brothers are a little too neat to fit the facts, since the "Red" half would have to include both Richard (III) and Francis Tidwell, but the broad outline appears to be correct.

The Tidwell family in Tennessee settled in three main centers. These were Dickson County, the first locus of settlement, Giles County, where Eli, Isaac, and Robert Tidwell moved from Dickson County, and Warren County, farther to the east, where Reuben Tidwell and his sons settled when they left tidewater Virginia in 1812. Although nearly one hundred years had passed since the families of Richard Tidwell (II) and his brother Robert had been closely associated, descendants of both were now living once more in the same state and experiencing the same economic and social influences.

Within a few years members of each family group began to move into surrounding counties, just as Richard and John Tidwell moved into Maury County, to the south of Dickson County. Later members of these groups joined longer migrations, to Alabama, to Mississippi, to Illinois, and to Texas, but elements of the three groups still remain as part of the original population of Tennessee.

The great majority of the Tidwells remained as farmers during the 19th century. Usually the successful ones achieved the status of a successful yeoman farmer. Rarely if ever did they break through into the new class of southern aristocracy that came into being in the first half of the century. At the other end of the scale they frequently drifted along as poor farmers or laborers, living on hardly more than a subsistance basis. When the did manage

to break away from the farms it was frequently as a country preacher or small town store keeper. Occasionally, however, a doctor, lawyer, or teacher appeared.

As Tennessee became more settled the frontier left the Tidwells behind. As new lands to the south and west opened up a few usually moved at each fresh opportunity, but these moves were usually well after the frontier had been cleared of Indians and opened to peaceful settlement. The Mexican War did not affect the great majority of the Tidwells although one or two had already reached Texas. In general, the Tidwells remained rural, uneducated, and untouched by great events.

There was a reserve of useful talent and ability in the family, however, that came to light briefly in the Civil War. Members of nearly every group of Tidwell families served in the Confederate Army. Most were privates, but a good number became commissioned and non-commissioned officers. This demonstration of responsibility and leadership was cut short by the defeat of the Confederacy. Many who had been moderately prosperous lost slaves, crops, and horses. Opportunities were fewer and there was no great stimulating influence, only hard work to support growing families on land that could not produce enough.

The effects of defeat rested heavily on the rural south. Not until the 20th century did the Tidwell family begin to break away from subsistence farming in large numbers.

After Eli Tidwell and his sons, and various sons of Robert Tidwell had moved out of Dickson County, the remaining family group was composed largely of Edmund Tidwell and his sons. The only others were James Tidwell and Robert Tidwell's sons-in-law. Isaiah Tidwell, Edmunds oldest son was born in 1781, and the younger boys were already nearly grown when the family moved to Tennessee. Aquilla Tidwell, for example, served in the Tennessee militia in 1814 at the age of 19. Edmund's sons were already adding to the Tidwell family therefore at the time of migration and the numbers increased rapidly thereafter.

Isaiah had nine daughters but no sons. His girls, however, kept the marriage records full for years.

Benjamin Tidwell, the next son, had at least one son, Moses Harvey Tidwell. Edmund Tidwell Jr., had seven sons and four daughters, Malachi, Marcel, Moses, Michael, Clark, Mouncy, Mahala, Jincy, Tursey (Theresa?), Mansel, and John B. Tidwell. There is no apparent explanation for the curious liking for names beginning with the letter M nor for the lapses from the habit of choosing such names.

Silas and Aquilla Tidwell, the next sons of the elder Edmund seem to have had no children, at least none that survived to maturity. John B. Tidwell, the youngest son, however, had four sons and two daughters, Jack, Annie, Peggy, Andrew, Aquilla, and Edmund. In all therefore, there were at least 27 grandchildren to

the elder Edmund Tidwell and 12 of these were boys to carry on the family name.

The younger Edmund, born in 1787, outlived his brothers and many of his children and finally died in 1869 at the age of 82. He seems to have inherited his father's role as family leader and elder statesman. Until the Civil War, he was a successful farmer, owning considerable property, slaves, horses, and cattle. He was well liked and a leader in the community with a joke and a nick-name for everybody. Even after the War he managed to retain enough property to continue to help his less fortunate neighbors. One of his grand-children recalled seeing him, aged nearly eighty, riding off with a side of bacon tied to his saddle to visit a neighbor who was in difficulties. Even facing death he remembered family responsibility because he willed that a plot of ground be set aside as a family burial ground. This little cemetary still exists near Burns, Tennessee and is known locally as the Hogan burying ground, one of the younger Tidwells having married a Hogan.

In his old age, Edmund Tidwell had especially heavy family responsibilities added to the havoc of war. His oldest son Malachi, and one of his youngest sons, Mansel, both died in 1865. The latter left a family of seven sons and four daughters. The oldest, Eliza Jane, was only 20 and the oldest boy, William Edmund, was only 17. Six of the children were under 10. Mansel

had a clay-hill farm with a two story log house, where his family continued to live, but Edmund at 78 was the protector and head of the family. His death in 1869, left this family in even worse straits. The property that he had retained was spread among so many heirs that few received much benefit from it.

Mansel's farm had been modest but adequate to provide for his family. In 1864, however, a foraging party from the Union Army of the Tennessee passed through Dickson County. In the course of their foraging they stopped at Mansel's farm where they made Mansel's wife and daughters cook a meal for them and while this was being prepared they hitched Mansel's horses to the wagon, filled the wagon with corn, killed the chicken and geese and threw them on top of the corn. They ate their meal and drove off with a large part of the property that Mansel had accumulated with his life's work. The only farm animal of value that was saved was a stallion that the family had managed to hide in the woods. This loss was a dreadful set-back to the family, compounded by Mansel's death the following year.

Mansel's brother Moses was a vigorous and responsible man who could act as family counsellor but he too had a large family to care for. In 1872, he died at the age of sixty. In the short space of seven years, Marsel's children lost father, grandfather, and Uncle. These misfortunes, plus the depressed condition of the economy and the marginal value of the land in Dickson County, caused the young Tidwells to grow up in the most meager

circumstances. None of the boys had more than a year or two of schooling and all of them went to work in the fields as soon as they were big enough to hold a hoe.

Without schooling and without opportunity or outside stimulus, the boys tried to make a living and to live in the only way they knew how, by wringing their food from the poor ground. They grew up and married and tried to go on as always.

Finally in 1886, two of Mansel's younger sons, Montgomery and James Madison Tidwell left for Texas. James Madison, or Matt as he was called, had a wife and two children when he arrived in Texas, but as he said afterwards he had nothing else except "strength and awkwardness." He went to work cutting cedar posts from the banks of the Brazos river for fifty cents a day in order to feed his family.

The Texas Tidwells

Many Tidwells from various branches of the family settled in Texas during the nineteenth century. In some cases brothers, cousins and nephews made the migration along with neighbors from the home country. Most of the Tidwells, however, were from widely scattered branches of the family that had long since lost touch with each other and when they met or heard of one another they no longer knew that they sprang from a common American ancestor.

David J. Tidwell, a son of Isaac Tidwell, left Giles Co., Tenn. about 1832 and settled in Mississippi after spending a short time in Alabama. He became a Methodist minister and in 1848 left for Texas where he lived first in Cherokee County and later in Limestone County. In 1875, his son John Wesley Tidwell moved to Bosque County in central Texas.

About this time Jack Tidwell, son of John Tidwell and grandson of the elder Edmund Tidwell moved to Bosque County Texas from Dickson County, Tenn. He later moved to Hood County Texas and there is no indication that he was ever in contact with John Wesley Tidwell.

Another branch of the Giles County Tidwells came to Texas in the form of Josiah Blake Tidwell, a Baptist minister who was a great-grandson of the younger Robert Tidwell. His grandfather had moved from Giles County, Tenn. to Alabama in the early 19th Century and they too had lost touch with the other Tidwells who moved to Texas. Josiah Blake Tidwell became famous among

Baptists in the South and finally became Professor of Bible at Baylor University in Texas.

The stories of the broad plains of Texas were listened to eagerly in the worn out hills of Tennessee. Finally within a few years a large group of neighbors and relatives moved to Bosque County. The group included Bob and Jimroe Johnson, Joady Yates, the Marsh and Holt families, and Montgomery and James Madison Tidwell. Many of these families were related by marriage. Not all of the emigrants stayed. Montgomery Tidwell returned to Tennessee, but other relatives came to Texas from time to time. James Madison Tidwell's nephew, Emery Tidwell, lived there for a while and then moved on to California.

These settlers from Tennessee were unlettered people who had been raised close to nature. Stories, sayings, and songs were based on themes from the wilderness.

"Possum up a Gum stump,
Coony in a holler,
Squirrel up a grape vine
Fat as he could waller."

This was one of the songs James Madison Tidwell brought from Tennessee along with "Froggie went a courtin' " and "Great Big Taters in the Sandy Land."

James Madison or Matt Tidwell, as he was more commonly known, was a big man with a ruddy complexion and light reddish brown hair, blue eyes and an open face that smiled easily. He liked jokes and had a nick-name for everybody. He was thrifty and hard working, but he liked fun and friends. If a friend disappointed him, however, he dropped him "like a hot cake."

He had a common sense that made him judge people on the basis of their actions rather than their talk, and truth and sincerity were far more important to him than more pretentious qualities. He had brothers who were very religious but he himself ridiculed the country preachers that governed the religious life of the new country. He said that "the plow handles had made a lot of preachers." A man who worked hard, payed his own way and kept his word was his ideal. He applied these same standards to his children who regarded him as hard but fair. The years from 1886 to 1888 were terribly dry years and day labor was the only way to make a living. Later James Madison Tidwell rented some land and began farming. He used a double shovel plow for the first time in Texas.

He moved several times from farm to farm sometimes in Bosque County and sometimes across the Brozos river in Hill County. The town of Whitney in Hill County was the focal point of these moves. When he first went to Texas it was a wild village near the Chisholm Trail. The county turned more and more to cotton farming however, and the great herds were no longer driver up the Trail. Whitney had a cotton Gin and became a typical country town where the sun glared on unshaded streets and buildings and the earth was usually red dust but sometimes turned into foot deep mud that shut the town off from all outside communication.

James Madison Tidwell was finally able to buy a farm and to raise ten children. Although they were raised on meager circumstances and hard work they had more schooling than their father, were healthy, and the horizons of opportunity were broader in Texas than in Tennessee. As the rapid economic and social changes of the twentieth century began they were in a position to move off in many different ways of life. They were no longer limited to the plow and the hoe as their ancestors had been for generations before.

The eldest son, Wade Hampton Tidwell, stayed on in Hill County as a farmer, but the younger sons scattered. Hugh served in the Infantry during World War I, was captured by the Germans, and later worked for the Houston Texas post office. Fred served in the Marines during the War and like James Madison Jr., and Bailey Tidwell held various jobs in the small business world of Texas. William Albert, or Jumbo Tidwell, the second oldest son, worked on the farm until he was 21 and then in 1909 got a job as assistant county clerk in the court house at Hillsboro, the County seat. Like his father in appearance and character he make a good impression on the successful town's people and became a teller in the leading Bank. In 1914 he married Louise Caperton, the niece and ward of Herman Eastland who owned a Title and Abstract Company in Hillsboro. Woods Caperton, his wife's elder brother, became sales manager of the Eli Lilly Company of Indianapolis and

began another family migrations, typical of the many migrations of family groups that had taken place throughout the history of the Tidwell family in America. Within a few years, Woods Caperton's brothers Joe and Eastland Caperton moved to Indianapolis. In 1918, William Albert and Louise Tidwell joined them and a few years later William Davis Eastland, an Uncle of the Capertons, came as well. The main motive for these moves was the great difference in economic opportunity between Indiana and Texas. The north was busy, wealthy, and wide awake. Texas was still limping along in the aftermath of the Civil War, short on capital, and settled in the ruts of obsolescent custom and method.

In Indiana William Albert Tidwell became cashier of a small bank and later went into the Life Insurance business. His love of the of the country and his familiarity with farm life made him particularly successful at dealing with country people and he built up a wide circle of friends on the farms and in the small towns in central and northern Indiana. After his death in 1954 a business associate wrote:

"You just didn't have to wonder about his position on any matter. He stated it frankly and directly to the party concerned....He dealt that openly and frankly and was accepted as the right kind of individual by all who knew him. His regard for an individual was his integrity and not the position he held. The youngest clerk in an office was as good as the president of the company as far as he was concerned."

He liked people and enjoyed life. He liked to joke, to work in the garden, to cook pies for which he became famous. He tried his hand at painting landscapes and when, on rare occasions, he tried to express his ideas in writing, he wrote with a vigorous and straightforward style. In the space of his lifetime he bridged the gap between the poverty and struggle of a Texas cotton farm in the 19th century and the growth and action of the successful business world of the 20th century.

The Illinois Tidwells

Although many people moved from South Carolina into Kentucky, Indiana, and Illinois in the early 19th Century (for example the Lincoln family) the main migration of Tidwells into Illinois did not take place until much later. There is a record of a Hiram Tidwell in the Illinois Militia in 1812 and Absolum Tidwell lived in Randolph County, Indiana, near the Ohio border from 1804 to 1808 but these men did not settle permanently in the region.

It will be recalled that Eli Tidwell left South Carolina and settled first in Dickson County and later in Giles County Tennessee. Eli married a woman named Mary Dore who was several years older than he. According to family tradition she married first an older brother of Eli. He was killed while away from home during the revolution. During this absence she had made him a suit of clothes, and this suit was saved by her descendants. A button from this suit is still in the possession of Mrs. Ethel Tidwell Holland. After her first husband's death she married Eli Tidwell. Among their children was Elias Tidwell, born in 1792 who became a Methodist circuit rider. He had at least two children, Mary C. Tidwell, born in 1814 who married a man named Hadden and eventually settled in Kaufman County, Texas, and Eldridge Solon Tidwell born in 1821 who became a Doctor and settled in McNairy County, Tennessee. His son John Fletcher Tidwell born in 1841 also became a Doctor, but he

remained loyal to the Union during the Civil War and moved to Illinois because of this sentiment. He married in Illinois and had ten children. Four sons reached maturity; Simon Lindorf, Woody Rudolph, William Flint, and Eldridge Samuel Tidwell. William Flint Tidwell also became a Doctor. The next generation also included a number of Doctors and Moody Rudolph Tidwell Jr., became a Brigadier General in the US Army.

Just as Eli Tidwell was the first to leave South Carolina his branch of the family was the first to break out of the traditional framework of the rural south and provide its members with an opportunity to exercise their capabilities to the full.