

THE TIDWELL FAMILY

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A study of the records in the National Archives and in the genealogical collections of the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Library of Congress provides convincing evidence that most - if not all - Tidwells in the United States descend from one Richard Tidwell who was in the Northern Neck of Virginia as early as 1657.¹

At the time of the 1790 census there were Tidwell families listed only in Moore Co., N.C., and in Chester Co., Fairfield Co., and Cheraw District, S.C. A book by Mrs. Ettie Tidwell McCall of Atlanta, Ga., *McCall, Tidwell and Allied Families*,² contains the statement that three Tidwell brothers, Richard, Robert and John, came to Westmoreland Co., Va., about 1683 and that some of their descendants moved to South Carolina in the 1760s and 1770s.

Mrs. McCall is right that the brothers Richard, Robert and John Tidwell were in Westmoreland County in 1683. Along with them were a brother, Peter Tidwell, and a sister, Ann Tidwell, and possibly a sister Martha Tidwell. Mrs. McCall failed to realize that these Tidwells were born in Westmoreland County and that their father, Richard Tidwell I, was the immigrant.

Census records have been searched at the National Archives from 1790 to 1860, and in many instances down to 1880, for all of the eleven states which later formed the Old Confederacy. Military records of the Tidwells in the Revolution, War of 1812, the various Indian wars, the Mexican War, and the War Between the States were also searched, as was the Soundex index which showed Tidwells all over the United States with children under ten years old in 1880. With almost perfect unanimity the records show these Tidwells were from Virginia.

¹ At the Virginia State Library, where the Tidwell records in Virginia were examined, John Frederick Dorman, George Harrison Sanford King, Prentiss Price and Mrs. Grace Fuller Knowles have given assistance. Others whose assistance must be acknowledged include Gen. William A. Tidwell, Jr., of Chevy Chase, Md., Jonnie Belle Lyle of Little Rock, Ark., and Dr. Donaven Duncan Tidwell, currently living in Waco where he edits *The Texas Freemason*. This article is dedicated to Meredith B. Colket, Jr., my friend and associate in the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, who first suggested its publication. (Atlanta, Ga., 1931), p. 35.

NORTH CAROLINA

1790 census
Fayette District, Moore
County
Samuel Tidwell born
before 1774

1860 census
Cherokee County
William Tidwell born
1857, Fairfield
Co., S.C.
Thomas Tidwell born
1845, Haywood Co.,
N.C.

SOUTH CAROLINA

1790 census
Camden District, Chester
County

Job Tidwell born
before 1774
John Tidwell born
before 1774
William Tidwell born
before 1774
Cheraw District
George Tidwell born
before 1774
Fairfield County
Elli Tidwell born
before 1774
John Tidwell born
before 1774
Edmond Tidwell born
before 1774
Perry Tidwell born
1774-90
Robert Tidwell Jr.
born before 1774
William Tidwell born
before 1774
William Tidwell born
before 1774

1800 census
Fairfield County
Edmond Tidwell born
1755-74

Garland Tidwell born
1774-84

James Tidwell born
1774-84
John Tidwell, Senior,
born before 1755

John Tidwell born
1755-74

Levy Tidwell born
1774-84

Perry Tidwell born
1790-1800

Robert Tidwell born
before 1755

Minor Tidwell born
1774-84

Samuel Tidwell born
1774-84

Sterling Tidwell born
1774-84

Union County
Edmond Tidwell born
1755-84

1810 census

Fairfield County
Edward Tidwell born
before 1765
Francis Tidwell born
1765-84
John Tidwell, Senior
born before 1765
John Tidwell, Junior
born 1784-94
John Tidwell born
1765-84
Minor Tidwell born
1765-84

1820 census

Fairfield County
Hardy Tidwell born
1775-94
John Tidwell born
before 1775
Sterling Tidwell
born 1775-94

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1830 census
Chester County
H. Tidwell born 1770-80

Fairfield County
John Tidwell born
1760-70

Sterling Tidwell born
1760-70

Lancaster County

1840 census

Fairfield County
S. Tidwell born 1790-
1800

Sterling Tidwell born
1760-70

Strother Tidwell born
1790-1800

1850 census

Anderson District
Chester County

Fairfield County
Eli Tidwell born 1793,
Fairfield Co., S.C.

Strother Tidwell born
1796, Fairfield
Co., S.C.

Lancaster District
Sumter County

1860 census

Chester County
Fairfield District
Strother Tidwell born
1794, S.C.

Lancaster District

TENNESSEE

1820 census
Dickson County

Edmond Tidwell, Sr.
born before 1775

Edmond Tidwell, Jr.,
born 1775-94

Isaiah Tidwell born
1775-94

Levi Tidwell born
1775-94

Giles County

Eli Tidwell born
before 1775

Isaac Tidwell born
before 1775

Millington Tidwell born
1775-94

Rhoad [?] Tidwell born
1775-94

Vincent Tidwell born
1775-94

Maury County

John Tidwell born
1775-94

Richard Tidwell born
before 1775

Thomas Tidwell born
1794-1804

Wayne County

Richard Tidwell born
1775-94

1830 census

Dickson County
Edmund Tidwell born
1750-60

Edmund Tidwell, Jr.
born 1780-90

Isaiah Tidwell born
1780-90

Levi Tidwell born
1790-1800

Aquilla Tidwell born
1790-1800

James Tidwell born
1770-80

Giles County

Eli Tidwell born 1770-80

M. Tidwell born
1790-1800

Rod [?] Tidwell born
1770-80

Vince Tidwell born
1790-1800

Madison County

John Tidwell born
1780-90

Maury County

Richard Tidwell born
1770-80