

**DAVID REES OF LITTLE
CREEK HUNDRED;
AND THE DESCENDANTS
OF JOHN REES, HIS SON**

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David Rees of Little Creek Hundred; and the descendants of John Rees, his son by Thomas Hale Streets

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THOMAS HALE STREETS

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DAVID REES
OF
LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED;
AND
THE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN REES,
HIS SON.

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P R E F A C E .

It is my purpose in this and subsequent compilations to treat of the Rees and Griffin families, of Kent county, Delaware. Intermarriages between them were so frequent that it is often difficult to determine accurately the degree of relationship without the aid of a genealogist.

These families were, while they lived in Delaware, farmers, and they styled themselves in their wills yeomen and planters. Living on the small tidal streams of that state, many of them built saw and grist mills and operated them in connection with their farming.

The dispersion of the families began shortly after the close of the Revolutionary War. There were several distinct waves of emigration, the first extending to the western part of Pennsylvania. They are now scattered along the middle belt of states to the Pacific ocean. What occasioned the emigration it is difficult at this length of time to determine, but that

it has operated to the preservation of the families, I believe, is evident. This may be made clear by comparing the size of the families of the western emigrants, and their longevity, with those that were born and died in Delaware. The unhealthy conditions surrounding the early settlers in that tide-water state seemed rapidly working to their extinction.

THOMAS HALE STREETS.

NAVAL HOME,

Philadelphia, Pa.

22 February, 1904.

INTRODUCTION.

It is not known satisfactorily who were the parents of David Rees, of Little Creek hundred. A search was made to discover them in the parish registers of Montgomeryshire, and, as a result, we are furnished with what may be a clue, and are justified in the hope that a future search with our present knowledge may lead to better developments. The dates given below might well be the date of birth and of a first marriage of David Rees, of Little Creek. This belief is supported by the documentary evidence found in this country.

Montgomeryshire belongs to the diocese of St. Asaph, in Flintshire. The registers were examined in that cathedral town. They comprised the parishes of Aberhafesp, Berriew, Bettws, Llandyssel, Llanllwchairn, Llanllugan, Llanllyan, Llanmycwig, Llanwydelan, Manavon, Newtown and Tregynon. These are in the southeastern part of the county, and comprise the bishopric, or manor, of Cedewain. They all are within a few miles of Newtown and Montgomery, from where, it is supposed, the letter which David Rees brought to the church on the Welsh Tract was dated. The records were carefully examined from 1680 to 1720 for evidence of his birth or marriage, or for the birth of his children. The reg-

ister of the parish of Montgomery is very defective, the records between the dates named being missing. It was found that the name of Rees was not a common one in that part of Montgomeryshire. In all the period examined there were only two births of a David Rees recorded, and but one of these could by any probability have been David of Little Creek. The one excluded was David, son of David Rees, a pauper, of the parish of Llandyssel, born in 1716, a date too late for the birth of David of Little Creek.

The other David was the son of William and Margaret Rees, of the parish of Manavon (sometimes spelled Manafon). These were their children, as given in the register:

- 1686. Owen, baptized 27 day of June.
- 1689. DAVID, born 8 day of March; baptized 12 day, same month.
- 1691. Rees, born 5 day of October; baptized the same day; buried the 13 October, 1691.
- 1694. Mary, born 8 day of April; baptized 9 day, same month.
- 1695. William, born 7 of 10ber (Dec.); baptized 10 day, same month.

There were, likewise, recorded the marriages of two of this name, both of the parish of Llanllwchairn, as follows:

- 1710. David Rees and Margaret Pugh, of Llanllwchairn, married 9 May.

1716. David Rees and Catharine Thickins, married 1 May. [David, of Little Creek, had a son grown of age in 1734.]

For the purpose of demonstrating how the above dates conform to known facts in the life of David Rees, of Little Creek, it is here assumed that he was born in the parish of Manavon, 8 March, 1689, and married, (1), 9 May, 1710, in Llanllwchairn, Margaret Pugh. He would have been in his 22d year when he married, and in his 44th year at the time of his emigration. The register of Llanllwchairn records the baptism of Richard, son of David Rees and Margaret, his wife, 18 January, 1710 (O.S). No record of the birth of other children, or of a second marriage, has been found. These, however, may yet be discovered in some other parish.

William Rees, son of David, of Little Creek, was certainly 21 years old, or more, in November, 1734, when he received a warrant for a grant of land in Little Creek hundred. He could, therefore, have been born to David and Margaret Rees, of Llanllwchairn. Had he been born in 1712 he would have been in his 22d year at the time he received his grant of land. William Rees, of Little Creek, named two of his children William and Margaret. This is corroborative evidence that he was the grandson of William and Margaret Rees, of Manavon.

David Rees died between 1752 and 1755, as will

be seen later. He, therefore, would have been about 65 years old had he been born in 1689. What evidence is there that he was a man so well advanced in years at the time of his death? Only this, that he acted as an aged man would in preparing for that event some years before it occurred. In 1749 he is found deeding his property "for love and good will" to his younger sons. They were probably children by a second wife whom he wished to secure in the possession of his lands. Neither will nor letters of administration are recorded at Dover. If he disposed of his property before death neither were necessary.