

OTHER INTERESTING ETHERIDGES OF THE 17TH CENTURY

GEORGE ETHERIDGE, gentleman, helped colonize Virginia. Around 1600 he became a merchant in London and in 1607 he invested in the London Company for Virginia which established the first colony in Virginia at Jamestown. He subscribed 37 pounds and paid 62 pounds 10 shillings. His name is included in the charter that was issued by King James I on May 23, 1609 to "The Treasurer and Company for Virginia" and also in the charter issued by him on June 29, 1615 "To the Governor and Company for the City of London for the Plantation of Somers Island" (now Bermuda). He attended 11 meetings of the "Court Held for Virginia in London" in 1622 and 1623" ..

The London Co. for Virginia was organized as a profit-making venture but it was a big loser. After the Indian Massacre of 1623 the King revoked the charter in 1624 and made Virginia a Crown Colony and the investors lost their money.

George Etheridge was born ca. 1575 in Maidenhead, Berkshire. He lived beyond Jan. 10, 1656 since on that date he signed papers that required, upon his death, the passage of property he owned in Kent to his son, George Etheridge II. His daughter, Margaret, married William Manning, Jr. of Elsenham, Essex - oldest son of William Manning, Sr.

Before 1628, his son, GEORGE (II), emigrated to Bermuda where he married Mary Powney who brought with her a 500-pound dowry. He purchased 100 acres of land in Paget Parish that extended from Salt Kettle to the South Shore.

GEORGE (II) and Mary had six children. The eldest was named GEORGE (i.e. GEORGE III) and would later become a well-known dramatist. (See SIR GEORGE ETHEREDGE below)

George Etheridge (II) died in Bermuda before 1658. Shortly thereafter his widow and six children returned to England.

SIR GEORGE ETHEREDGE (i.e. GEORGE ETHEREDGE III) was b. ca 1635 in Bermuda - the son of GEORGE ETHEREDGE (II) and grandson of GEORGE ETHEREDGE I above. (note change in spelling) He became a well-known playwright as the creator of the Restoration comedy of manners. His most successful plays were "The Comical Revenge; or, Love in a Tub" (1664), "She Wou'd if She Cou'd" (1688), and "The Man of Mode, or Sir Fopling Flutter".

He became well-known in British society- was secretary to the British ambassador to Turkey from 1688 to 1671; was appointed envoy to the diet in Ratisbon in 1685; and followed King James II to Paris after he was deposed in 1688. He died in 1692 in Paris.

Henry Wilkinson in the book titled "ADVENTURERS OF BERMUDA" (1933) states: ETHEREDGE never mentioned Bermuda in his writings nor did his associates connect him in any way with Bermuda. He probably saw no reason to be proud of his early home, and we today, while interested, are not particularly proud of him".

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SIR JAMES ETHEREDGE was born Feb. 9, 1657 in London; attended Trinity College, Cambridge, 1673-1675; served 4 years as a law clerk in London; was admitted to the bar in 1679. He served in various political positions from 1680 to 1718 including election to Parliament from Bucks Co. on 1684 and was re-elected 8 times.

He was knighted by King Charles II in Feb. 1681. On Oct. 7, 1714 he delivered an address to King George to congratulate his coming to the throne and kissed his majesty's hand.

He married twice - first on Nov. 6, 1683 to Katherine Moore, only daughter of Robert Moore of Great Marlowe, Bucks Co. They had one son, Charles, b. Sept. 3, 1684. Katherine died Jan. 16, 1686. His second marriage on Nov. 24, 1689 was to Lady Frediswed Coulston, widow of Sir William Coulston, daughter of Robert Morris of Abington, Berks. On Jul. 22, 1692 they had a son born, James Etheredge - who died in 1727 at age of 30 years.

Sir James Etheredge died in June 1730 and was buried at Marlowe church on June 23.