

CLIMBING THE FAMILY TREE

The Daily Press NEW DOMINION
Newport News, VA

Sunday, December 2, 1973

HUDGINS OF TIDEWATER VIRGINIA:

We have much response to our previous article on this family for there are many descendants all over the United States. Mr. Edward A. Hudgins of 8148 Tidal Road, Norfolk, Va. 23518, telephone No. 587-9023, has been accumulating all available data on the name and wishes to hear from others who do have data on the Hudgins family and allied, family connections. The following information covers material Mr. Edward A. Hudgins has brought to me for publication and with his permission and covers the Hudgins family of Mathews County, Virginia by Houlder Hudgins IV of Boston, Mass.

Introduction:

(A)-Origin of the name of Hudgins. In a collection of manorial documents possessed by the estate of a certain Robert Blondell of Nottage Court in Llandaff, Wales, there is one dated 1505 which shows the original Welsh spelling of our family name, as follows: RHWTTCHEN (which means, 'Lord of the Far Seas'.)

At some time, not now precisely known by anyone, a man by the name of Rhwttchen moved from Wales to Liverpool in Lancastershire County, England. The English authorities found it difficult to pronounce the name as it was spelled but simple to spell it phonetically as it sounded to them. There were many common English names of similar sound such as Hutchins, Huggins and Higgins. This new name, as pronounced had some new sound; it started with a guttural Celtic rolling "Rh" followed by a sound like "udd"-in the middle and ending with a soft sound like "jinz". It was simplified by phonetics into Hudgins, pronounced Hud-Jinz. and thus it has been ever since.

Occasionally one sees the name spelled in other forms, such as Hudgen and Hudgin, but the plural form of Hudgins dominates.

(B). Origin of the name: HOULDER (HOLDER).

The Holder family of England is one of the oldest in the realm and its prominence dates from the Norman Conquest. As reward for his services in the Battle of Hastings (1066), William I, The Conqueror, knighted Sir Christopher Holder and granted him an enormous domain situated in Lancastershire. Upon this, Sir Christopher built a castle known as "Holderness" which is still standing and has remained in the Holder family throughout history. It is today in the estate of Lord Thomas Holder of Holderness, a former Governor of Australia. (Coat-of-Arms of the Holder family:-Azure of desse dancette between three griffins; two bars gules, the upper charged with two, the lower with one bezant.) (Crest:-On a Ducal coronet gules, a lion sejant d'or.)

The Holders have for centuries been associated with the colonial expansion of the British Empire. They were ship-builders and still are. They operated fleets of commercial ships, and still do. They received royal grants of lands in all parts of the Empire, including a grant in the middle 17th century of 12,000 acres in what became Gloucester County, Virginia. In Greer's "Early Virginia Immigrants" we find that a John Holder and his wife Elizabeth patented lands in Elizabeth City and Gloucester Counties in 1650 and that his grandson's name appears frequently in parish records as "Thomas Holder of Gloucester." Another Holder, John (son of Henry and Maud Selwyn, she the daughter of Lord Jasper Selwyn of Cambridshire, Eng.) settled first in Gloucester then moved to the Barbados where he died in 1670. And so goes the record of many Holders in many places.

The commercial interests of the Holder family were far flung and diverse, though always connected in way with ships and shipping. Today the Holder family, doing' business as Holder Brothers, Ltd., are amongst the largest shipping merchants in the world. They founded the original Peninsula and Oriental Lines, were participants in the

CLIMBING THE FAMILY TREE

The Daily Press NEW DOMINION
Newport News, VA

Sunday, December 2, 1973

founding of the Cunard Line and are today agents for that great company in most South American Counties and in Australia and New Zealand.

Ancestors of Houlder Hudgins I.

(A) On the Hudgins side:

Thomas Hudgins was the first Hudgins of the New, or English, spelling in our line born outside of Wales. He was born hi Liverpool in 1620 whence his father and family had moved from the town of Llandaff in Glamorganshire, Wales. He was a ship-builder by trade, of a family of shipbuilders, traders and fishermen. There is no known record of the name of Thomas' wife.

Thomas Hudgins had a son, Robert Hudgins, born in Lancaster in the year 1660. Robert Hudgins prospered greatly, maintained a large shipyard and ship-building enterprise and had homes both in Lancastershire and in the family hometown of Llandaff, Wales. In 1686 he was appointed Sheriff of Llanthony, a position which he held to the day of his death.

Robert Hudgins married Charlotte Lewis, daughter of Henry Lewis of Trelech, Wales, in 1701. They lived thereafter in Liverpool but maintained his family home in Llandaff. (Note how often in succeeding generations the names Charlotte and Lewis recur. As you will see later, Robert and Charlotte educated and raised their grandson, Houlder I and he had great affection for them).

Robert and Charlotte Hudgins had four children, all sons, of whom William Hudgins was, for our purposes, the most important:

William Hudgins 1702-1771
John Hudgins 1705-1784
Lewis Hudgins 1706-17*
Robert Hudgins 1710-1791

William Hudgins" was the father of Houlder I but for the moment we will pass over that to explore the ancestors:

(B) On the Holder side.

Previously we have mentioned that there had been a certain John Holder who died in the Barbados and who had married a Maud Selwyn of Cambridge, Eng. He had a brother by the name of Thomas Holder who married Sarah Selwyn, Maud's sister. The Selwyn sisters were the daughters of Lord Jasper Selwyn, son of Sir William, son of Sir Roger, son of Sir John Selwyn all of Cambridgeshire'(see Burge's Peerage). Thomas and Sarah Holder had a son, Humphrey Holder, who married Mary Shakespeare of Stratford-on Avon.

Humphrey and Mary Holder had a daughter, Mary Anne Holder who was born in 1717 in Stratford-on-Avon, in 1737 she married William Hudgins.