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Volume I Number 3

The Rhodes Family in America

PUBLISHED BY
Nelson Osgood Rhoades
1208 Merchants National Bank Bldg.
Los Angeles, California



RHOADES

The Seaforth Press
PUBLISHERS OF FAMILY HISTORY
BALTIMORE, MD. LOS ANGELES, CAL.

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by
NELSON OSGOOD RHOADES

PURPOSE

To secure the cooperation of all the members of the family in
the preparation of a history, biography and genealogy
of all branches of the family in America
and their foreign ancestry.

Published Three Times Each Year
Subscription Fifty Cents Per Year

1735873

The Rhodes Family in America

"The virtue of a people is tested by the degree of honor it bestows upon its dead."

ANNOUNCEMENT

Colonial Families of the United States of America

The publisher of the "Rhodes Family" has recently acquired the business and copyrights of the Seaforth Press, of Baltimore, Maryland, through which his publications will hereafter issue.

The Seaforth Press owns the copyrights for the COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, founded and edited by Mr. George Norbury Mackenzie, now deceased. This work will hereafter be edited and published by Nelson Osgood Rhoades.

The COLONIAL FAMILIES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA was founded in 1907 and has now published six volumes 8vo., averaging 700 pages each. Its seventh volume is on the press and will be distributed at an early date; the eighth, ninth and tenth volumes are in the course of preparation.

This is the most extensive and authentic work published in the United States devoted exclusively to well authenticated pedigrees and family coats-of-arms. The published volumes contain over 700 complete pedigrees of American families whose ancestors settled in America prior to the Battle of Lexington in 1775, the recorded history of more than 1200 immigrant ancestors of these families and more than 150,000 names other than those subject of the pedigrees.

The volumes are handsomely bound and fully indexed. They constitute invaluable works of reference for libraries of public and private character and all institutions and societies interested in the subject of the life history of the Nation.

Full sets of these books are found in over 200 libraries of the world and incomplete sets in above 300 others. Requests for information will be gladly attended. Volume vii, now on the press, will contain one long line descended from Henry Rhodes, of Lynn, and another of descent from Zachariah, of Rhode Island.

PROGRESS NOTES

Detached line Number 1, Bulletin 1, has been definitely identified as descendant from Henry, of Lynn: *Henry, Samuel, Obadiah, Obadiah, Benjamin.*

The detached line Number 2, of Asa Rhoads, referred to in Bulletin No. 1, has been located, also, as a branch of Line No. 2, Henry, of Lynn. Asa went into Vermont in 1814 and contributed a large posterity to the genealogical tangle of the tribe of Rhodes in that state. The discovery of his ancestry has greatly aided in clearing away the Vermont confusion. The genealogy of his line is now in our files, subject to the call of interested parties. Asa's family resided in the vicinity of Sudbury.

Detached line No. 4, Bulletin No. 1, Solomon Rhodes, has been identified as descendant from Henry, of Lynn.

Principal line No. 10, Bulletin No. 1, Alexander Rhodes, of Connecticut, has been worked back another generation to William "Roods," his father, who may be the immigrant ancestor,—not yet conclusively finished.

* * *

Another and much more numerous branch of the Vermont family has been traced to ancestry reaching to Zachariah of Rhode Island. William of Warwick, 1772, went into Vermont before 1800, raised thirteen children who contributed a progeny to Vermont tribe. A few of their descendants remain in the vicinity of Richmond. The genealogy of this branch may now be referred to in our files.

* * *

From this family a valuable contribution has come to our hands, consisting of thirty-six volumes of manuscript diary written by H. Nelson Rhodes of Richmond, from 1850 to 1886. This is one of the most excellent works of the kind in existence. Painstakingly written, it is fairly teeming with the vital statistics of Vermont from 1800 to 1886, and is a most interesting contribution to Vermont Vital History.

* * *

From the same source we have the ledger of William Rhodes, Warwick, 1772, and covering the accounts of the family from 1790 to 1850, kept in the handwriting of its owners. Containing, as it does, personal accounts with the principal citizens of Vermont during that period, it also has the autographic signature of most of them, signed from year to year at the close of their accounts, in approval thereof;—a valuable collection entirely at the disposal of lineal descendants who may care for photographic reproductions.

* * *

Not much remains to be done in Vermont. From 1760 to 1830 practically every branch of the eastern family of Rhodes sent one or more of its members to the Vermont frontier. They were quickly isolated and lost communication with parental firesides. The second and third generations pushed to more remote western frontiers, all eastern ties were broken, and ancestral knowledge lost. Later gen-

erations, awakened to an interest in family history, pursuing the thread of their descent through the past, were disheartened on reaching Vermont by the confusion of so many different families of the same name and, as a rule, abandoned the search. Gradually the confusion is being cleared away and a clean genealogical trail opened from the western frontiers to the New England firesides.

The writer spent two months of 1919 touring Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New York, searching town, county, Church, cemetery and probate records of the Rhodes family. In the State of Vermont, every known record of the above character was examined and transcripts made of all pertinent matter. Less complete work was done in the remaining states, but a very large amount of material, as yet unclassified, was secured.

* * *

From Mr. Samuel N. Rhoads, one of America's most celebrated botanists and collector of rare books, we have received a number of parchment deeds, originals, covering Rhodes family transactions in England from 1538 to 1650, also some volumes from the library of John Rhodes, of London, from one to two hundred years old. Mr. Rhoads is descended from line No. 3, John, of Wingreaves. He is the owner of the old "Franklin" Bookshop, of Philadelphia.

THE SPELLING OF THE NAME

The following forms have been found in various records, to-wit: Rod, Rode, Rods, Rodes, Road, Roads, Roades, Rhode, Rhod, Rhods, Rhodes, Rhoad, Rhoades, Rood, Roods, Rodez, de Rodez. Many of these forms result from lack of education on the part of record makers, others to corruptions made to meet the fancy of individuals. The original ancestors of all the various branches of the family spelled it Rod, Rods, Rode or Rodes. Many theories have been advanced to account for the origin of the name. No one theory yet advanced can satisfy all the considerations involved, but the Rhodes books, when published, will give the various arguments and such tangible proofs as exist.

COATS OF ARMS AND CRESTS

With the next number we will begin publishing the various coats-of-arms and crests employed by various branches of the family in the past, together with their history and a discussion of authorities for their use.

In the same number publication will be begun of the final genealogy of the various branches of the family.

And it was North Carolina that accounted for the greatest number of the Rhodes family prior to 1850. In that state much work is to be done and the working elements are few. Early records were largely lost and information must be sought from private sources. The Carolina family consists largely of descendants from one source—the original immigrant, and the confusion of family lines is not so great as in other states.

Miss Mary A. Rhoades, of Los Angeles, has contributed some very extensive notes and family statistics of an important branch of the Carolina descendants which opens the way to interesting fields of investigation in that state.

EXTRA NUMBERS OF THE BULLETIN

Numbers of the Bulletin thus far published may be had as follows: Number one, fifteen cents per copy; number two, twenty-five cents per copy; number three, twenty cents per copy. A limited number of full sets are still available at fifty cents for the three copies.

THE PRESENT GENERATION

Progress of the campaign for securing communication with the living members of the family points strongly to the conclusion that not less than fifty thousand living members exist in the country, about ten thousand of adult age. Communication is now had with one thousand adult members, representing about five thousand persons of all ages.

Readers of the Bulletin are urged to an examination of telephone and other directories, and every other available means of securing names for transmittal to this office. You are likewise urged to send biographies of all known persons bearing the name.



Line No. 3, John Rhodes, of Wingreaves

A CENTENARY FIRM OF THE RHODES FAMILY

J. E. Rhoads & Sons—Tanners
Philadelphia, founded in 1702

John Rhoads, of Derbyshire, England, came to America in 1699, with his youngest son Joseph, and purchased land in Marple Township, Delaware County (then Chester County), Pennsylvania. On his death, in 1791, he left this land to his son Joseph, who according to family tradition, established a tanyard thereon in 1702.

(1732) Joseph Rhoads died in 1732 and his widow, Abigail Owen Rhoads, continued the business with the help of her youngest son, James. An ancient ledger in the possession of Miss Caroline N. Rhoads, of Bryn Mawr, is full of transactions in hides, bark and leather, on the part of Joseph Rhoads and his widow. In this we find an entry as early as 1723.

(1743) On coming of age, in 1743, James Rhoads inherited the tanning business, as shown by court records referring to the division of his father's estate.

(1778) On the death of James Rhoads, in 1778, his son Joseph Rhoads, succeeded to the business. The present Joseph Rhoads, brother of the members of this firm, has in his possession a ledger covering business transactions of Joseph Rhoads, 2nd, in bark, hides and leather, from 1784 to his death.

(1809) Joseph Rhoads, 2nd, died in 1809, leaving the tanning business to his sons, George and Joseph Rhoads—Joseph being the grandfather of the present members of the firm. They carried on the business on the same site until 1861, when it was taken over by Jonathan E. Rhoads, son of Joseph, who carried it on until 1868, when he sold the old homestead and tannery.

(1868) The ancestral tanning business was continued by Jonathan E. Rhoads in a tannery purchased by him in Wilmington, Delaware.

(1877) Jonathan E. Rhoads went into business with Thomas McComb, as the firm of Rhoads and McComb, and engaged in currying and the manufacture of leather belting. Near this time he sold his tannery.

(1887) The firm of Rhoads and McComb was dissolved and Jonathan E. Rhoads took into partnership, in the same business, his son, John B. Rhoads, under the firm name of J. E. Rhoads and Sons.

• (1888) Another son, George A. Rhoads, entered the firm.

(1889) The firm of J. E. Rhoads and Sons opened a store at 229 North Third Street, Philadelphia, John B. Rhoads having charge.

(1890) The store was removed to 229 Market Street.

(1893) The store was removed to 239 Market Street.

(1894) In 1894, a third son, William E. Rhoads, was admitted to the firm, and a year or two later the headquarters of the business was removed to Philadelphia, W. E. Rhoads taking charge of the department of credit and finance, while John B. Rhoads managed the selling department and G. A. Rhoads the factory at Wilmington, Delaware.

(1906) A branch store was opened in New York City.

(1907) Under this arrangement the business grew and prospered, until it was necessary to find larger quarters at 12 North Third Street, the present location.

(1909) A branch store was opened in Chicago.

(1911) On September 20, the firm met with a severe loss in the death of John B. Rhoads.

(1914) Jonathan E. Rhoads, though remaining a partner, had not actively participated in the management of the business because of his advancing years. On September 14, 1914, after a life full of years of useful service, Jonathan E. Rhoads, then in his eighty-fifth year, was gathered to his eternal reward.

(1915) The business is still prospering in the hands of George A. and William E. Rhoads.

Line No. 7, John Rhodes, of Providence, Rhode Island

Regarding the ancestry of this line historical record is clear and no question has ever been raised. The old stone marking the grave of the immigrant is located in the cemetery at Westerly, Rhode Island, and carries the inscription: "Here lyes the Bodye John Rhodes, Esq., who d. March 3, 1746, ae. 75, grandson of Sir Godfrey, of Yorkshire." His descent is shown in full in Volume 1, No. 2. His descendants have a record remarkable for professional and military distinction. Prominent as defenders of the Crown prior to the Revolution, they gave the force of their influence and men to the cause and struggle for independence and have had military representatives in every subsequent war of the country.

Major General Charles Dudley Rhodes, of the General Staff College, at Washington, has achieved a distinction in the late war which should bring a thrill of pride to every bearer of the name in this country. As a result of his services, he was made a Knight Commander of the Bath by Great Britain, at the close of the war. Thus have the responsibilities of Knighthood conferred by Britain on his ancestors been satisfied through the descendant after more than four centuries.

He graduated from the Columbian University, Washington, D. C., in 1885, and from the United States Military Academy, in 1889. He later became an Honor Graduate of the School of the Line at Fort Leavenworth, and of the General Staff College at Washington. He served in various grades of the cavalry and the staff, through the Sioux Indian War of 1890-91, the Spanish War, the Boxer Rebellion in China, the Philippine Insurrection and the World War, in which latter war he reached the grade of Major General, and commanded the 42nd (Rainbow) Division.

For gallantry in action in the Philippine Insurrection, he was awarded by his Government the Distinguished Service Cross; for distinguished conduct in the World War, the Distinguished Service Medal by his own Government, the Order of Knight Commander of the Bath by Great Britain, and the Order of Commander of the Legion of Honor by France,—the two last being on account of services as High Commissioner of the United States to the Permanent International Armistice Commission, at Spa, Belgium.

Major General Rhodes' line of descent is:

I. FRANCIS RHODES.

Justice Court of Common Pleas, reign of Queen Elizabeth, 1585-1591.

m. (1) Elizabeth Sanford. From this union came the "Bellair" line with its entailed estates. Also the Barony of "Barlboro" and its estates and the Sturton line which gave us our Maryland and Virginia families, to be given in a later number.

m. (2) Mary Charlton, and had amongst others:

- II. Sir Godfrey Rhodes (his sister Elizabeth m. the Earl of Stafford).
- III. Sir Edward Rhodes, who had
- IV. John Rhodes, of Rhode Island, who had
- V. Captain Simon Rhodes, who had
- VI. Simon Rhodes, who had
- VII. Dudley Woodbridge Rhodes, who had
- VIII. Dudley Woodbridge Rhodes, who had
- IX. Charles Dudley Rhodes.

ARMS:

RHODES OF GREAT HOUGHTON

Arms—Argent, a lion passant guardant gules inclosed by two acorns between two bendlets azure, cotised ermines.

Crest—A cubit arm holding a branch of acorns or, or fructed azure.



NEW ZEALAND BRANCH

William, brother of John (IV), above, sent one grandson, William, to New Zealand where he established a long line. William's brother, Benjamin, came to America. The New Zealand family has

ARMS:

RHODES OF NEW ZEALAND—KIPPAX

Arms—Azure, on a bend wavy argent plain callsted or, a lion's gamb proper between two acorns of the field.

Crest—A dexter arm erect, vested azure cuffed argent, charged with an acorn or, and grasping a fern sapling of New Zealand eradicated proper.



EUGENE MANLOVE RHODES

A most interesting historical line has been developed in recent months in New Jersey. The original ancestor of it has not been found but it was closely related to the Quaker line of the late 1600, and is believed to have come from Pennsylvania, John of Wingreaves. It furnished a lineage of good men, active and patriotic, who left many marks of their existence in the State of New Jersey.

A living descendant of this line of Eugene Manlove Rhodes, the author, who was born in Nebraska, in 1869, son of Hinman and Julia (Manlove) Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes has been extraordinarily successful in the writing of stories of the West. Certainly no living writer has equaled his portrayal of Western character and customs, and the charming romance and fiction which he uses as a means of communicating these ideals to his readers is of the most charming and literary character. Those who have not already read his "Good Men and True," his "Brandsford in Arcadia" and his many stories of the West, have a real pleasure before them.

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WILLIAM HENRY RHODES

To those not already acquainted with his writings, it is a pleasure to introduce the subject of this paragraph, who was born in North Carolina in 1822, a son of Col. E. A. Rhodes, a Consul to the Republic of Texas during a most interesting period of history. His works are now rare and very much appreciated. Our readers will enjoy his "Indian Callows" and other poems and many of his other writings published through the Caxton's Book, San Francisco, 1876. He was killed by robbers in California in 1852.

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SAMUEL RHOADES—STATESMAN

A product of the line of John, of Wingreaves, the subject of this paragraph is one of the most prominent men of the name participating in the affairs of the Revolutionary period. He was a member of the Continental Congress. He was born in Philadelphia, and was a grandson of John Rhodes the immigrant. In early life he was a carpenter by trade and became a wealthy builder in the city of Philadelphia where he was member of the city council, and was later mayor of that city. The historical articles of which he is made the subject are most interesting and may be found in the historical archives of Pennsylvania and most of the standard libraries.

CORNELIA HARSEN RHODES

No better display of character has been found in the descendants from Rhodes ancestors than through the life of this authoress. Daughter of John Harsen and Annie G. Rhodes, misfortune took her eyesight in infancy. She received thorough classical education at her home, through the "Point" system, learned to operate a typewriter and engaged in authorship. Her stories, mostly written for young people, are amongst the most popular of those published by American writers. She has been a prolific writer and not a story of all she has written but will engage the entranced attention of the reader, regardless of their age. Our readers are advised to become acquainted with her "Only Dollie," "The Children on the Top Floor," "The Little Girl Next Door," "Silver Linings," Polly's Predicament," "How Barbara Kept Her Promise," "Victorine's Book," "Little Queen Esther" and many others. She wrote under the name of "Nina Rhodes." She was born in New York City in 1863 and is descended from Henry Rhodes, of Lynn.

* * * *

WILLIAM CALDWELL PLUNKETT RHOADES

None of the branches of the Rhodes family have been without their chaplain, prominent clergymen having been common to most of the lines and having preached many faiths, but all with an inspiration which seems to have left its mark upon the generation regardless of religious differences of opinion. The subject of this sketch was born in New York in 1845, a descendant of Henry, of Lynn. Educational honors came to him as a student and afterwards as a worker in many of the standard colleges of the country. He filled many pulpits, preaching from Ohio to Brooklyn, New York, where his pastorage was long and of a very notable character. Many of his sermons are to be found in theological and other libraries of the country.

* * * *

BRADFORD RHODES

Few branches of the family are without their bankers, notable of that calling is Bradford Rhodes, born in Pennsylvania in 1849, who for many years edited the Rhodes Journal of Banking; active in financial affairs first of Pennsylvania and later of New York, he became one of the authorities on national finance. His writings on this subject are to be found in most of the libraries.

* * * *

JOHN HARSEN RHODES

Of equal note in the banking and investment world was John Harsen Rhodes, born in New York City in 1869, who married Annie Gardner Wheelwright. Conservative in banking, a close adherent to the New England idea of honor and exactitude, his principles were impressed upon the financial circles of the east in which he was a moving spirit for so many years. His mantle fell upon his son, of the same name, who is following closely in the footsteps of his father.

* * * *

JAMES FORD RHODES

To the Zachariah line we are indebted for the greatest living historian in the United States. He was born in Ohio and after a preliminary education in that state was a student at the University of Chicago, University of the City of New York, traveled extensively abroad, studying in Paris and Berlin, afterward engaging in the iron industry. He has been a prolific writer of American history and has been honored by most of the historical and literary societies of the United States and foreign countries as a result of his literary productions. His "History of the United States from the Compromise of 1850," in four volumes, was awarded the Loubat Prize of 3000 marks by the Berlin Academy of Science.

One of his most interesting historical works was a volume issued during the present war covering the period of our Civil War history. Read them all.

* * * *

And so we might go on indefinitely with introduction of men and women of the name who have had their part in the varied affairs that have gone to make up the great commonwealth of the United States, but such is not the purpose of these Bulletins and the above short sketches are only given to stimulate the attention of those members of the family who have not heretofore come in contact with the works of its representative members. They are given with the assurance that, with every new acquaintance they make from amongst the active working members of the family, new interest in the subject of their history will be developed, and historical contributions will come to our hands for use in compiling the complete history.

COMPLETED WORK

The compilation of the Rhodes Family History has progressed to the following point, to-wit:

First—About forty volumes of 200 pages each, letter-size and typewritten, "Rhodes Notes," have been completed, bound and indexed.

Second—One volume of organized genealogy of the descendants of Henry Rhodes, of Lynn, about 1000 pages, has been completed and the work is not finished.

Third—One volume of about 500 pages of organized genealogy of the descendants of Zachariah Rhodes, of Rhode Island, has been completed; work not finished.

Fourth—Six volumes of from 100 to 200 pages each of organized genealogy of the families of John of Wingreaves, Rhodes (Rodes) of Virginia, Rhodes of North Carolina, John Rhodes of Providence, Alexander Rhodes of Connecticut and John Rhodes of Scarsdale, New York.

URGENTLY NEEDED

Rhodes addresses, dates, places and biography—of every living Rhodes, regardless of age or line. Consult your local directories and those of other places accessible to you, both telephone and commercial, and let me have the lists.

Also old records, deeds, photographs, transcripts of bibles, coats-of-arms, traditions and personal contributions of historical matter. Stories of old family houses are interesting and useful.

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