

**RACKLEY**  
A SOUTHERN COLONIAL FAMILY

Eloise Fretz Potter and Timothy Wiley Rackley



# THE DESCENDANTS OF EDWARD RACKLEY

## 1st Generation

### EDWARD RACKLEY

Came to Virginia ca. 1639

d. Essex Co., Va., 1663+

## 2nd Generation

### JOHN RACKLEY I

b. Essex Co., Va., ca. 1650

d. Essex Co., Va., 1698

m. Martha North

## 3rd Generation

### JOHN RACKLEY II

b. Essex Co., Va., ca. 1670

d. Henrico Co., Va., 1738

m. Jane \_\_\_\_\_

## 4th Generation

### JOHN RACKLEY III

b. Essex Co., Va., ca. 1695

d. Bute (Franklin) Co., N.C., 1769

m. Mary (Person?)

### ANTHONY RACKLEY

b. Essex Co., Va., ca. 1700

d. 1765+, probably in Duplin  
(Sampson) Co., N.C.

1m.? \_\_\_\_\_ 2m.? Jane \_\_\_\_\_

5th Generation	6th Generation	Page
JOHN RACKLEY IV ———	JOHN RACKLEY V of Franklin, Nash, and Granville counties, N.C.	23
SAUL RACKLEY m. Suanne ———		25
LUCRETIA RACKLEY ———  m. David Anthony	MARY ANTHONY	26
SUSANNAH RACKLEY ———?  m. Thomas Hunt	JOHN HUNT of Kitrell, Granville Co., N.C.	27
MARTHA RACKLEY m. ——— Smith	JOSEPH RACKLEY of Robeson Co., N.C.	34
SELETER RACKLEY m. (Charles?) Wheeler	FREDERICK RACKLEY of Lawrence Co., Tenn.	71
PERSON RACKLEY ———  m. Sarah Parker	JOHN RACKLEY died in Revolutionary War	130
	PERSON RACKLEY JR. of Nash Co., N.C.	131
	FRANCIS RACKLEY of Nash Co., N.C.	147
	MARY RACKLEY of Nash Co., N.C.	
	MATTHEW RACKLEY of Nash Co., N.C.	196
	ELIZABETH RACKLEY m. John Batchelor	199
	SARAH RACKLEY m. Jeremiah Etheridge	222
	SILAS RACKLEY of Lawrence Co., Tenn.	237
	CITYVIAS RACKLEY m. Edwin Bane	298
MILLS RACKLEY ———  m. Rebecca ———	LEVENA RACKLEY of Union Dist., S.C.	299
	WILLIAM RACKLEY of Pickens Co., S.C.	301
MARY RACKLEY ———  m. James Hunt	TWELVE CHILDREN b. Franklin Co., N.C. (most moved to Georgia or Tennessee)	353
CITYVIAS RACKLEY m. Joshua Rackley		389
JOSHUA RACKLEY m. Cityvias Rackley	ELIZABETH RACKLEY m. John Fowler	391
	JEREMIAH RACKLEY of Lowndes Co., Ala.	400
	JOHN MICAHAH RACKLEY of DeKalb Co., Tenn.	402
	LUCY RACKLEY m. James West	432
	SARAH RACKLEY m. Reuben Ezzell	446
	ELIJAH RACKLEY of Sampson Co., N.C.	477
	JESSE J. RACKLEY of Sampson Co., N.C.	479
	SHADRICK RACKLEY of Sampson Co., N.C.	480
	JAMES RACKLEY of Sampson Co., N.C.	539
	LUCRETIA RACKLEY m. John Carroll	571
	FREDERICK RACKLEY of Sampson Co., N.C.	571
JOHN RACKLEY ———	JOHN RACKLEY, apparently the father of Mary, Nathan Anthony, and Wm. Joel Rackley of Burke Co., Ga.	597 599 635
SHADRICK RACKLEY ———  m. Martha ———	JOSHUA RACKLEY of Bedford Co., Tenn.	664
	WILEY RACKLEY of Cannon Co., Tenn.	684
	JESSE V. RACKLEY of Greene Co., Ala.	697
	NOAH RACKLEY of Robeson Co., N.C.	703
	ALLEN HYRAM RACKLEY of Blount Co., Ala.	706

DEDICATED WITH LOVE

TO

OUR CHILDREN

*Be ever mindful of the past; from it come  
our understanding of today and our hope for tomorrow.*

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# RACKLEY: A SOUTHERN COLONIAL FAMILY

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## PREFACE

The 1984 edition of Rackley: A Southern Colonial Family accomplished its goals of facilitating communication between family members and stimulating research on numerous unanswered questions. Interest in Rackley genealogy and family history proved to be so great that the book sold out in just eight years. A six-page supplement was issued in February 1985 and enclosed with each book purchased after that date. A more ambitious supplement was begun but never issued. After 36 pages had been compiled, it was obvious that reprinting the first edition and including a supplement would not be a satisfactory method of handling the numerous corrections and additions. Highlights in the process of preparing the revised edition for publication are mentioned below.

In 1986 Edith Jenkins Simpson, of Tupelo, Miss., compiled and published Rackley Reliques, a detailed account of the Allen H. Rackley family. In 1987 Callie Ratley Stanley, of Fayetteville, N.C., expressed interest in tracing the descendants of Joseph Rackley/Ratley of Robeson County, N.C. Her substantial contribution turned a totally inadequate two pages into 37. Beginning in 1987, Johnny R. West, of Greensboro, N.C., shared the results of his intensive research on the descendants of James West of Duplin County, N.C., which led to the revision and expansion of the Lucy Rackley West section of the book.

In 1988 two Georgians, Elizabeth Morris Chance, of Waynesboro, and Rabun A. (Alex) Lee, of Sylvania, provided material for a major revision of the Joel Rackley family group. About that same time, Linda Snyder, of Alma, Okla., sent copies of two very important documents: the Lawrence County, Tenn., petition initiated by David Crockett and Enoch Tucker (signed by several Rackleys) and the Revolutionary War widow's pension application of Margaret Manning Rackley, which initiated research on the Person Rackley family's brief residence in present-day Gaston County, N.C., and led to a reinterpretation of the role the Rackleys played in the Revolutionary War.

In 1990, Catherine Bond Gheesling, of Atlanta, Ga., sent Eloise Potter a copy of her 1987 typescript Notes on William Hunt/Hunt of Southside Virginia & Descendants, which traces the ancestry of James Hunt and lists the children of James and Mary Rackley Hunt. When Angela Harlan (now of Geneva, Ill.) learned about plans for revising the Rackley book, she posted inquiries on a computer bulletin board for genealogists and provided copies of the responses. Several people sent information on the descendants of James and Mary Hunt. Most notable among those contributors is Harold E. Schertner, of Minneapolis, Minn., who traced his ancestors from Tennessee to the tall-grass prairies of Illinois. Another reply came from Frances Ulmer Pickett, of Titusville, Fla., whose husband is a descendant of the Jesse V. Rackley who settled in Greene County, Ala. Fran flashed out that family group.

In 1991, Lyle K. Williams, of Fort Worth, Texas, published The Batchelor Family, which expands his earlier work on the Batchelor-Williams families. Tim Rackley, who had already done considerable research on the Batchelors, Coopers, and Mannings of Nash County, N.C., was able to assist Mr. Williams.



While looking for ancestors in Tennessee, John Gillis, of Hemet, Calif., found the Rackley book in a library at Pulaski. Early in 1994, he sent Eloise a photograph of Phoebe Rackley Tidwell (1801-1883) and a copy of a letter her son, James Knox Polk Tidwell, wrote in 1916. That letter identifies the wife of Silas Rackley as "Diana Monnan," apparently the same person as the Dinah Manning previously assumed to have married Silas' brother Matthew. Nancy, the spouse named in Silas' estate records, was obviously his second wife.

For the past ten years, people too numerous to mention have been sending corrections and additions and asking questions that directed our genealogical research efforts toward unanticipated discoveries. Tim's correspondence with Mildred Kester Spencer, of Des Moines, Iowa, resulted in an 8-page Appendix H that lists many descendants of William Rackley of New England. Newly available census indexes and abstracts of county records revealed details never before readily accessible. Some of those works were compiled by Rackley descendants or by people who had the good judgment to marry into the family. Max Rupert Peterson Jr., now of Cary, N.C., abstracted the early deed books of Sampson-Duplin County, N.C. Stephen E. Bradley Jr., of Virginia Beach, Va., abstracted numerous early North Carolina records, notably court minutes and wills of Nash County. While abstracting records of Dekalb County, Tenn., Doris Garrison Gilbert, of Smithville, found proof that the father of her great-great-grandmother, Mary Jane Rackley Ford, is Micajah Rufus Rackley and not his brother Calvin as previously appeared to be the case.

Exploring our roots often enriches our daily living. Eloise learned that the Oklahoma woman who married her son Brian and bore her only grandchild is a descendant of Frederick Rackley of Lawrence County, Tenn. Tim discovered that Ernest Stokes of Wilson, N.C., was one half of the Depression Era comedy team, Mustard and Gravy. Regulars on local radio, the pair went to Hollywood at the invitation of Smiley Burnette and appeared in several Westerns, one of which starred Gene Autry. One person who called Eloise after discovering his Rackley ancestry is Billy Farmer, the musician who introduced her daughter Crystal to the flute.

Endless possibilities remain for learning more about the Rackley family; but the time has come to stop making revisions. Letters requesting corrections and additions were sent to cooperators in January 1994. The deadline was set for 15 March 1994. As word of the forthcoming edition spread, data too good to omit continued to arrive almost weekly through May of 1995. We are grateful to everyone who participated in preparation of the first edition as well as to those who contributed to the revised edition. We believe we have corresponded with no fewer than three hundred family members. The Rackley book was made possible by people who are willing to share their time and knowledge. Thank you for sending us your family records and for encouraging us with kind and thoughtful personal messages. We hope you enjoy your book.

*Eloise Fretz Potter*

Eloise Fretz Potter

*Timothy Wiley Rackley*

Timothy Wiley Rackley

30 June 1996