

RIXEYVILLE



HIS little village is situated in Culpeper County, Va., about nine miles north of the town of Culpeper, and about one mile south of the Hazel River. It is on the road leading from Culpeper to Jeffersonton and Warrenton, and another road leads out from Rixeyville in a westerly direction toward Homeland.

The village of Rixeyville obtained its name from four families of Rixeys locating there, being four of the sons of Richard Rixey, Jr.

William Rixey, the youngest son, lived with his father and mother on a farm bordering the Hazel River, which was called "Mount Pleasant."

Presley Rixey bought land lying mostly southwest of the two roads referred to above. No one seems to know whether he gave a name to his farm. A part of the land extended north of the Homeland road, and included the farm known as "Rose Dale," the home of his son, James Richard Rixey, whose only daughter married Richard Lewis. James Richard Rixey's granddaughters are the present owners of "Rose Dale." The family burying ground, with a stone wall around it, is located in a corner southwest of the two roads, and this field is still called the "old house field." There is no trace of the Presley Rixey dwelling, which stood on another knoll about fifty yards east of the burying ground and nearer to Rixeyville. This "old house field" was at one time owned by John W. Smith, who had a store at Rixeyville; later by Dr. German and his brother; and is now owned by Mr. T. F. Curtis, who built a house near the Culpeper road where he now lives.

Charles Rixey, another brother, bought land adjoining Presley to the west, and built a substantial brick house, which still stands. He named his farm "Pleasant Hill," by which name it is still known.

John Rixey, the eldest son of Richard Rixey, Jr., owned land still further west, but adjoining his brother Charles, and

that farm is now owned by Harry Payne, who lives across the Homeland road from the former house-location. The original house was of stone and has been torn down. It was on a hilltop south of the road to Homeland, and nearby is an old burying ground, with a stone wall around it which is greatly in need of repair.

I shall refer to the burying grounds of these various farms later. Each farm had its family burying ground.

It is remarkable that Richard Rixey, Jr., and three of his sons owned large farms so close together, but, under these circumstances, it is not remarkable that the place was called "Rixeyville." Some of this land came by purchase from the Pendleton family, with which Presley Rixey intermarried.

Not since 1912 has any person living near Rixeyville borne the name of Rixey. However, the present owners of "Rose Dale" farm, north of the Homeland road, and "Pleasant Hill," south of this road, are the descendants of two of these brothers, namely Charles Rixey and Presley Rixey, as will be more fully explained later in this volume.

PRESLEY RIXEY

Born June 24, 1780

Died 1821



HERE is some uncertainty as to the date of the birth of Presley Rixey, son of Richard Rixey, Jr., and Elizabeth (Morehead) Rixey, his wife. My father, Samuel Rixey, Jr., thought he was a twin to either his father, Samuel, or Charles. If this is true he was born June 24, 1780 (the date of Samuel's birth) or November 28, 1782 (the date of Charles' birth). The stone at his grave near Rixeyville, Va., gives his birth as August 24, 1780, which can not be correct as it is exactly two months after the date of Samuel's birth, which is definitely established by the record in Samuel Rixey's Bible in his own handwriting. It is believed that he and Samuel were twins, and that he was born June 24, 1780. The error in the date as given on his tombstone may have resulted from the fact that the stone was not erected until many years after his death.

Presley Rixey married Catherine Margaret Tutt, called "Peggy," daughter of Archibald Tutt and Catherine Bowie (Pendleton) Tutt. She was closely related to the Pendleton family from whom Richard Rixey, Jr., and his sons bought property when they moved from Fauquier to Culpeper County, Va. These farms adjoined, and later a small village in this vicinity was called Rixeyville.

Presley Rixey and his wife had four children, two sons and two daughters, as follows:

(1.) Thomas Cornet Rixey, born March 15, 1814, married Mary E. Downing. A line engraving and sketch later will give his family.

(2.) Catherine Mildred Rixey, the eldest daughter, was the second wife of Colonel Lawson Eastham. They had a son, Presley C. Eastham, and a younger child who died at birth. See sketch of Catherine Mildred Rixey later.

(3.) James Richard Rixey married his cousin, Martha Frances Rixey, daughter of Charles Rixey of "Pleasant Hill." They had one daughter, Lucinda Margaret Rixey, who married Richard Lewis. See line engraving and sketch for the family of James Richard Rixey.

(4.) Margaret Ann Rixey, the youngest child, born December 24, 1820, was married on September 11, 1839, to Silas B. Hunton of Fauquier County, Va., the officiating minister being the Reverend Cumberland George. Their home was on a fine farm, called "Mount Hope," between New Baltimore and Broad Run in Fauquier County, and later they moved to Marshall, Va. There were no children born of this union. Margaret Ann Rixey Hunton died April 3, 1890, and was buried at "Mount Hope," in the family burying ground.

Mr. Hunton later married a Mrs. Isaacs who outlived him. There were no children by his second marriage. He died in 1900.

Presley Rixey and his wife, Catherine Margaret (Tutt) Rixey died the same year, in 1821, according to the markers at their graves. As will be seen from the line engraving, they left a family of four small children, the eldest being only seven years of age. These children were raised in the home of their uncle, Samuel Rixey, Sr., of "Hilly Farm," who was their guardian. Their names, with dates of birth, appear in the Bible of Samuel Rixey, Sr., along with those of his own children, a notation having been made that that they were the "children of Presley Rixey, Sr."

The stone at the grave of Presley Rixey was erected many years after his death by his grandson, Presley C. Eastham, assisted by Mrs. Martha Frances Rixey (widow of James Richard Rixey, the son of Presley Rixey), and her daughter, Mrs. Richard Lewis, of "Rose Dale."

The Presley Rixey burying ground is situated on a hilltop in sight of Rixeyville and also "Rose Dale," and is surrounded by a neat stone wall. The Misses Lewis of "Rose Dale" have always taken great interest in its upkeep as their grandparents are buried there, and it is the best preserved farm burying ground I have ever seen. There are five graves, all marked and well kept: Presley Rixey and his wife, Catherine Margaret (Tutt) Rixey; their daughter, Catherine Mildred, the second wife of Colonel Lawson Eastham; their son, James Richard Rixey, and his wife, Martha Frances Rixey, who was the daughter of Charles Rixey. This burying ground is about nine miles north of the town of Culpeper, Va., and if you have relatives buried there it is well worth a visit.

On another hilltop about fifty yards east of this lot is the site of the old Presley Rixey home, but nothing now remains to mark the spot.

The following information relative to the Pendleton family, from whom Presley Rixey's wife was descended, was given me by the Misses Lewis of "Rose Dale," who copied it from a manuscript of John S. Pendleton, dated 1868:

"About the year 1674, Nathaniel Pendleton, a minister of the Church of England, and Philip Pendleton, a schoolmaster, sons of Henry Pendleton of the City of Norwich, County of Norfolk in England, came thence to Virginia, in America.

"Nathaniel died leaving no issue. Philip went to England in 1680, returned to Virginia, was married to Elizabeth Hurt, and died leaving issue three sons and four daughters, in 1721.

"Henry Pendleton, eldest son of Philip.

"James Pendleton I, eldest son of Henry.

"James Pendleton II, son of James I.

"Colonel James Pendleton II, son of James Pendleton I, was married when quite young to Catherine Bowie, daughter of Governor Bowie of Maryland. He was for many years a representative of old Culpeper County in the House of Burgesses during the time of the Colony, and afterwards in the State Legislature under the Commonwealth. He was one of the Judges of the County during all the time he lived in it. He was a Colonel of the Army of the Revolution and High Sheriff of the County. He died in 1798, leaving nine grown children. Catherine Bowie Pendleton,

his daughter, married Archibald Tutt, and died in 1818, leaving five sons and four daughters. One daughter, Catherine Margaret Tutt, called 'Peggy,' married Presley Rixey."

In the "History of St. Marks Parish, Culpeper County, Va.," by the Reverend Philip Slaughter, D. D., mention is also made of the marriage of James Pendleton, II, to Catherine Bowie. It is there stated that James Pendleton married Catherine Bowie, daughter of Governor Bowie of Maryland, and that Catherine Pendleton, the fourth daughter of James Pendleton, married Archibald Tutt, and also in mentioning the social events, Dr. Slaughter said, "the next marriage, November 10, 1789, Archy Tutt and Caty Pendleton of Culpeper."

The Tutt name was originally "LaTout" and the family was of French origin.