

Mary Jane, daughter of Caleb Cranmer, Esq., married Captain Oliver Loveland. I cannot name their children.

Chalkley, son of Caleb Cranmer, Sr., married Achsah, daughter of Captain John Leake. Their child, Caleb Cranmer, who married Mary Ann Mott. Among their children were Fountain, Chalkley and Abigail. Achsah, widow of Chalkley Cranmer, Sr., married Captain Josephus Sears, and was the mother of Chalkley, William and Jesse B. Sears.

Martha, daughter of Caleb Cranmer, Sr., married John, son of Micajah Mathis, Sr. They lived at Chestnut Neck, Atlantic county, New Jersey. Their children were Beriah, Jennings, Reuben, Caleb, John, Shreve, Chalkley, Charlotte, Mary, Elizabeth and Sarah.

Mary, daughter of Caleb Cranmer, Sr., married David Cavileer, Sr. I think they had no children.

Eli, son of Caleb Cranmer, Sr., married a daughter of Jonathan Gifford, Sr., of Little Egg Harbor.

#### THE MATHIS FAMILY.

John Mathis was born in England about the year 1690, and when a young man he and his brother Charles emigrated to America. Their first residence in the New World was at Oyster Bay, on Long Island. Charles Mathis's family settled at Shrewsbury, Monmouth county, N. J. I believe all of the Mathis's (or as some write the name Matthews) of East Jersey, are the posterity of Charles Mathis.

At an early date there were Matthews who settled at Cape May, and there is a Thomas Matthews mentioned among the early settlers in upper Burlington county. In the early settlements of Virginia there was a Matthews sent from England to Virginia to be the Governor of that Province. No doubt they were relatives of John and Charles Mathis.

In the year 1713 John Mathis was living on Long Island and in that year he and William Birdsall and Moses Forman purchased Daniel Mathis' island (then Biddle's island) of Daniel Leeds, of Springfield, N. J. In the year 1714, John Mathis was residing in Egg Harbor, and in September of the same year William Birdsall sold his share of the island to Jno. Mathis, and shortly after Moses Forman sold Matthis his portion of the property. The survey contained in all 250 acres. It is probable that Moses Forman finally settled in Ocean county, and was the forefather of the Formans in that section; from a certain record he once owned a farm in Egg Harbor.

Daniel Mathis' island (on Bass river) was John Mathis' first purchase of land in Egg Harbor, and this was the commencement of his career as a land speculator, which steadily increased until he was the greatest landholder of the township. At the time of Mathis' purchase of the

island it was in its primeval state, but he settled on it, and soon had it cleared and formed into a valuable farm.

This island received its original name from William Biddle, one of the great land proprietors. From the time of John Mathis' purchasing the island to the present date (1879) it has been owned in the Mathis name.

Mathis is not the original and therefore not the proper method of spelling the name. The ancient form of spelling and writing the name was "Mathews." It is said that John Mathis considered it a difficult name to pronounce and write, and for this cause he omitted the E and the W and substituted I for E and thus it became modernized into Mathis, and long custom has made Mathis the permanent way of writing and pronouncing the name among most of the descendants of John Mathis. In almost all of the deeds for John Mathis' lands his name is written Mathews. The learned, in such matters say, that the Norman signification of the term Mathews is "as stubborn as a mule." This is indeed an appropriate appellation, for it is a useless waste of time and patience, to attempt to turn a true full-blooded Mathis or Mathews from what he considers the right course. A Mathis can be led by truthful and pleasant words and just and honorable acts, but treat him to the essence of meanness, and he cannot be driven any farther than can the most stubborn mule that ever came under the lash. Doubtless the Norman invaders of England found John Mathis' ancestors as true as steel and as stubborn as mules to the interests of their native England, and hence this designation for their stubbornness.

The Mathis family is remarkable for longevity, for their excellent memories, for their preciseness in business affairs, and their exalted sense of justice, and further for their aptness in learning, for keeping their own counsel and even the secrets of others, for attending to their own instead of other people's business. These are the traits of character of the thorough dispositioned Mathis, yet there are many who possess the name who have but a small portion of the nature and principles belonging to the genuine race.

In John Mathis' time it was customary to affix the title of "Great" to the names of distinguished men, therefore John Mathis was called "Great John Mathis," and people directed letters to "Great John Mathis." In his time he was the wealthiest and most distinguished man of the township of Little Egg Harbor.

In the year 1716 John Mathis married Alice Higbee, widow of John Higbee, and eldest daughter of Edward Andrews, the founder of Tuckerton. Mathis' wife brought him a valuable personal property. She had the reputation of being a "strong-minded woman," who was possessed of unusual business talents, ordering and arranging her affairs with the utmost regularity and good judgment, and it is also

affirmed that she was a greater speculator than her husband, and it was in a measure owing to her influence and speculative passion that he became such an extensive landholder. Taking into consideration the age in which she lived, and also the meagre opportunities for acquiring knowledge, she had a fair education. She wrote a better hand than did her husband. She is described as a large, tall and muscular woman, of a dark complexion, with black eyes and black hair, which she inherited from her father, Edward Andrews.

John Mathis' wife had two children by her first husband, these were Abigail and Edward Higbee. Abigail Higbee was born the 22d day of the 5th month in the year 1713. She married Robert Leeds, son of Japhet Leeds the 1st. Their children were Solomon, Rebecca and Mary.

Edward Higbee was born the 4th day of the 6th month in the year 1714. He married and lived in Atlantic county, N. J. He was the forefather of all the Higbees of that section.

John Mathis had six sons and one daughter, viz: Micajah Mathis, born the 9th day of the 9th month, 1717; Job Mathis, born the 13th day of the 5th month, 1719; Sarah Mathis, born the 19th day of the 7th month, 1721; Daniel Mathis, born the 7th day of the 9th month, 1723; Jeremiah Mathis, born the 14th day of the 3d month, 1726; Nehemiah Mathis, born the 13th day of the 6th month, 1728; Eli Mathis, born the 4th day of the 6th month, 1730.

After John Mathis had got his Island farm into successful operation, he purchased 813 acres of John Budd, and on this tract cleared a farm now known as the Francis, or more properly the Thomas E. French farm, on the east side of Bass River. His next location and also formation of a farm was what is usually denominated the Enoch Mathis or Smith Mathis farm, which is situated on the west side of Bass River, opposite his farm on the east side of the river, and his next establishment of a farm was the land which now constitutes the Arthur Cranmer farm, and also the Daniel Sooy farm; in John Mathis' time these two farms were comprised in one farm. John Mathis was a slave holder, and employed most of his negroes in clearing land and farming.

It will be seen that at this time John Mathis had four farms, two on each side of Bass river, and the tradition among some of his descendants is that all four of these farms were carried on under his superintendence, he going from farm to farm and directing the working thereof. This state of things continued until some of his sons married, when he deeded each one of them a farm, and set them to work for themselves. John Mathis was not only a farmer and land speculator, but he was a money lender, as I can testify, for I have some of the original documents in my hands, showing that persons in Philadelphia loaned money of him, and gave him mortgages on houses and lots in that

city, and likewise people of Egg Harbor, Springfield, Northampton, Southampton, Monmouth county, and various other places hired money of him and gave him bonds or mortgages for the same. During the Revolutionary War he loaned the Government a considerable sum of money; but when pay day came the Government had nothing to pay with except Continental paper, which was next to no pay. The lender was compelled to take large packages of the worthless scrip, which was preserved in the Mathis family for some generations, but at this time it is nearly all destroyed. The war proved a ruinous thing to John Mathis' money affairs, but did not interfere with his extensive real estate.

John Mathis appears to have been intimately associated with a great number of the noted men of New Jersey, and his kindred of Egg Harbor were the most eminent characters of the place. Edward Andrews was his father-in-law, Peter and Jacob Andrews, the noted ministers, were his brothers-in-law. Thomas Ridgway was his brother-in-law also. Robert, Allen and Samuel Andrews, and his children, all married into the first families of the time and places where they lived.

John Mathis was nearly connected with several of the Quaker preachers of his time. Among these were Edward Andrews, his father-in-law. Peter and Jacob Andrews, his brothers-in-law. John Leeds, his son-in-law. Vincent Leeds (son of John Leeds) his grandson, and some of his nephews and nieces were Quaker ministers.

Many of the Mathis family have been members of the Quaker church. Many of the old stock of the Mathis family married without the consent of the Friends' Meeting, and thereby lost their membership, and this seems to have been the principal cause of the decrease of Quakerism in the Mathis family. The Mathis have a dislike of marrying among their near kindred, and therefore many of them married among strangers in distant localities, not being able (especially in old times) to marry in Egg Harbor without espousing their near relations. The name of Mathis is fast dying out, yet there are hundreds of people of the Mathis blood in Egg Harbor. The greater part of John Mathis' lands are now in possession of his descendants, but in a great measure among those of other names, the Mathis name being lost in other names.

*First Branch of John Mathis' Family.*—Micajah, eldest son of John Mathis, was an enterprising man, and beside his father's liberal bequests, he accumulated a handsome property, but the depreciation of the Continental paper was a heavy blow to his financial affairs, yet, notwithstanding all of his losses at his death, his personal property amounted to several thousand dollars, and he also owned the Francis French farm and a farm at Chestnut Neck, now called the Shreve Mathis farm; and he likewise owned many hundred acres of heavily timbered upland and cedar swamp.