

# The Rickmonds: A Railroad Family

## *First Generation*

1. **James Rufus Rickmond** was born 16 February 1849 in Scottsburg, Halifax County, Virginia,<sup>1</sup> and died 20 January 1931 in Dan River, Pittsylvania County.<sup>2</sup> He married **Mary Elizabeth Crowder** on 25 January 1871 in Halifax County.<sup>3</sup> She was born 13 March 1853 in the same county,<sup>4</sup> and died 7 April 1931 in Spencer, Rowan County, North Carolina.<sup>5</sup>

### JAMES RUFUS'S PARENTAGE

James Rufus, or Rufus, as he was known to his family, was born before civil birth registration began in Virginia.<sup>6</sup> Absent a birth record, the following independently-created evidence confirms his parentage:

- On 15 March 1884 his father, H. J. Rickman, made a will naming Rufus as one of his six sons.<sup>7</sup>
- Rufus's marriage record identifies his parents as H. J. and Harriet A. "Ruckman." Rufus likely supplied the information for the record.<sup>8</sup>

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1. For his birth month and year, see 1900 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., population schedule, Dan River district, enumeration district (ED) 77, sheet 17B, dwelling 336, family 337, James R. Rickmond; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1722; citing microfilm 1,241,722, Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City. For birth day and corroboration of the month and year, see Leemont Cemetery (Danville, Va.), Rickmond and Perkinson family graves, James R. Rickmond marker; section 24.25, F.G., read and photographed by the author. For his birthplace see "James Rickmond Dies at 81," *The Bee*, Danville, Va., 21 January 1931, page 3, col. 5; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/47543633> : accessed 28 December 2016).

2. "Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9278> : accessed 29 April 2018) > 1931 > 01951–02322 > image 225, James Rufus "Rickmand," death certificate no. 2154, 20 January 1931. Many Rickmond records contain variant spellings of the surname. Unless quoting original records this project will spell the name as Rickmond, the form adopted by Rufus and his siblings.

3. Halifax Co., Va., Marriage Register 3:71, no. 188, "Ruckman"—Crowder, 25 January 1871; County Clerk, Halifax, Va.; FHL microfilm 31,918.

4. For birth month and year see 1900 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Dan River dist., ED 77, sheet 17B, dwell. 336, fam. 337, Mary E. Rickmond. For birth day and corroboration of the month and year, see Leemont Cemetery, Mary E. Rickmond marker. For birth place see "Mrs. J. R. Rickman Dies in Spencer," *The Bee*, Danville, Va., 7 April 1931, page 3, col. 8; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/47553903> : accessed 28 December 2016).

5. "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909–1975," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1121> : accessed 29 April 2018) > Rowan > 1931 > April > image 43, Mrs. J. R. Rickmond (Mary Elizabeth), death certificate no. 202, 7 April 1931.

6. Civil birth registration in Virginia began on 1 July 1853. See Eric G. Grundset, *NGS Research in the States Series: Virginia*, 3rd edition (National Genealogical Society: Arlington, Va., 2014), 45. For the use of his middle name see Betty Tomlinson (4600 Middleton Park Cir. E., Jacksonville, FL 32224), interview by author, 8 November 2011; transcript privately held by the author, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Texas. Betty is Rufus's great granddaughter.

7. Halifax Co., Va., Will Book 34:103–104, H. J. Rickman, will dated 15 March 1884 and proved 26 January 1885; County Clerk, Halifax, Va. H.J.'s surname was spelled both Rickman and Rickmond during his lifetime.

8. Halifax Co., Va., Marriage Register 3:71, no. 188, "Ruckman"—Crowder, 25 January 1871. The spelling of Rufus's surname as "Ruckman" is the first and only instance this researcher found in any record. His parents' names are correct, so this certainly was an error by the clerk in recording of the name.

- Rufus’s death certificate designates his parents as Henry “J?Ricjmand” and Harriet Tuck. The informant was his son who most likely knew his grandfather and grandmother as they died when he was fourteen and eleven, respectively.<sup>9</sup>

## RUFUS’S LIFE STORY

Rufus spent his formative years in Halifax County on his father’s farm. The county lies in the fertile Piedmont countryside of Virginia—east of the Blue Ridge mountains and west of the Coastal Plain.<sup>10</sup> Rufus’s father, Henry, purchased the land from Cain Tuck, his father-in-law, in 1849 for three hundred twenty dollars.<sup>11</sup> Valued at only five dollars more ten years later, it was one hundred twenty-eight acres, modest in comparison to some of the neighbors, with only about one third improved. The farm produced little—just three bushels of peas and beans and forty bushels of potatoes for the year, with no wheat, corn, or oats.<sup>12</sup> Halifax County was the largest producer of tobacco and oats in the state by 1850, but Henry’s farm reportedly produced none in 1860.<sup>13</sup> With ten mouths to feed it is a wonder that the family survived on this meager amount of produce. They likely had help from Rufus’s maternal grandmother’s farm nearby, as it was about five times larger and produced one hundred bushels of wheat, one hundred sixty-five of Indian corn, twenty-five hundred pounds of tobacco, peas and beans, potatoes, oats, and fifty pounds of butter.<sup>14</sup>

Rufus was twelve when the Civil War broke out in 1861 and too young to serve. By 1864 another change in the conscription law reduced the minimum age to seventeen, but Rufus was still not old enough to be enlisted.<sup>15</sup> There is no evidence he ever served in the conflict.<sup>16</sup> When

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9. “Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014,” James Rufus “Rickmand,” death certificate no. 2154, 20 January 1931. His father was listed as Henry “J?Ricjmand” in the typed certificate. The “J” and “K” keys are next to each other on a typewriter and the clerk mistakenly jumbled his father’s name. Rickmand is a variant spelling of Rickmond. James Rufus is undoubtedly the son of Henry J. Rickman/Rickmond. For death of H. J. see *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004225430> : accessed 15 June 2018), digital film 004225430, image 564, page 4, line 30, H. J. Rickman, 7 January 1885; Library of Virginia, Richmond; Halifax Co., Va., Death Register. For Harriet’s death see *ibid.*, image 514, line 21, Harriet “Rickmon,” July 1882.

10. Charlie Grymes, *Virginia Places* (<http://www.virginiaplaces.org/regions/12piedmont.html> : accessed 28 December 2016), “Piedmont: Geography of Virginia.”

11. Halifax Co., Va., Deed Book 53:239–240, Tuck to Rickman, deed written 24 July 1849 and recorded 27 August 1849; County Court, Halifax, Va.; FHL microfilm 31,905. Cain Tuck was the father of Henry’s wife Harriet and was named in her death record. See *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004225430> : accessed 15 June 2018), digital film 004225430, image 514, line 21, Harriet “Rickmon,” July 1882.

12. 1860 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., ag. sch., Northern Dist., p. 734 (stamped), line 21, Henry J. Rickman; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T1132, roll 6.

13. For production of tobacco in 1850 see “A History of Halifax County (Virginia),” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=30030> : accessed 23 March 2017) > Chapter I. Origin and formation > images 15–16.

14. Elizabeth was enumerated one line down from Henry. See 1860 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., ag. sch., p. 734, line 22, Elizabeth Tuck. Elizabeth was Cain Tuck’s wife. See Halifax Co., Va., Marriage Bonds 1:111, Tuck–Arrington, 23 February 1822; Halifax County Clerk; FHL microfilm 31,918.

15. The 16 April 1862 law adopted by the Confederacy required men between the ages of 18 and 35 to serve. See “Civil War Conscription Laws,” Library of Congress Law Library Blog, *In Custodia Legis*, 15 November 2012 (<https://blogs.loc.gov/law/2012/11/civil-war-conscription-laws/> : accessed 28 December 2016).

16. A search of the “United States Civil War Soldiers Index, 1861–1865” database produced no likely candidates. Search terms were ric\*m\*n\* + Residence=Virginia. See “United States Civil War Soldiers Index, 1861–1865,” *FamilySearch* (<http://FamilySearch.org> : accessed 14 June 2016), citing multiple microfilm publications, Washington D.C.: National Archives and Records Administration, n.d. Also the 1930 census recorded he was not a veteran. See

he was twenty-one in 1870, he worked as a farm laborer along with his brother Wilson, aged eighteen.<sup>17</sup> The family farm reportedly had less improved land than in 1860—just forty acres—but the value of it had increased to five hundred seventy-two dollars. It was now producing wheat, Indian corn, and fourteen hundred pounds of tobacco.<sup>18</sup> The war had left the county, state, and the South in a social, economic, and agricultural upheaval. “Lands which before the Civil War were worth four and five times their present rating, after the war were thrown out of cultivation, because neither capital nor labor was to be had for the proper working of them.”<sup>19</sup> Add to this the droughts of 1864 and 1867–1869 and perhaps this is why in 1870 he decided to leave farming and begin working for the Richmond & Danville Railroad.<sup>20</sup>

## THE RAILROAD LEGACY BEGINS

Running directly through the village of Scottsburg where Rufus was born, the railroad was a source of employment for many neighbors and for a young man the railroad must have presented an opportunity for adventure and a more lucrative occupation than that of a farmer.<sup>21</sup> Perhaps also as one of six sons Rufus’s prospects of inheriting enough land to support a future family may have been slim.

The Richmond & Danville was chartered in 1847 and was essential in bringing grain and tobacco to market.<sup>22</sup> By the Civil War it was also an important mode of transportation for the Confederacy. At the close of the war it was used to retreat from Richmond, as it was one of the few remaining railroads still in use by the Confederates.<sup>23</sup> “Known as the “first railroad war,” the Civil War left the South’s railroads and economy devastated. Most of the railroads, however, were repaired, reorganized and operated again.”<sup>24</sup> Rufus may have come along at just the right time and

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1930 U.S. census Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Dan River Dist., ED 72–17, sheet 14A, dwell. and fam. 280, James R. Rickman; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2455; citing FHL microfilm 2,342,189.

17. 1870 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., pop. sch., Roanoke Twp., p. 37 (penned), dwell. 293, fam. 294, Henry J. Rickman household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1650; citing FHL microfilm 553,149.

18. 1870 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., ag. sch., Roanoke Twp., unnumbered page, line 4, Henry Rickman; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T1132, roll 12.

19. Alfred J. Morrison, *Halifax County Virginia: A Handbook Prepared Under the Direction of the Board of Supervisors* (Richmond: Everett Waddey Co., 1907), 10; *HathiTrust* (<https://babel.hathitrust.org> : accessed 16 June 2018).

20. For conditions in the county see Robert Lewis Dabney, *A Defence of Virginia: And Through Her, of the South, in Recent and Pending Contests Against the Sectional Party* (New York: E. J. Hale & Son, 1867), 91; *Google Books* (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 28 December 2016). See also “The History of Halifax County, Virginia, 1750–1940,” *Old Halifax.com* (<http://www.oldhalifax.com/county/historicalMonograph.htm> : accessed 28 December 2016). For Rufus’s employment on the railroad see “The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury,” *Southern News Bulletin* 8:2 (February 1921): 1–2; newsletter held by author.

21. For location of the railroad see G.W. & C.B. Colton & Co. and Richmond And Danville Railroad Company, “Map of the Richmond & Danville Railroad System in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, Arkansas, & Texas,” published 1881, New York; *Library of Congress* (<https://www.loc.gov/item/98688788/> : accessed 23 March 2017). For neighbors who worked the railroad see 1870 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., pop. sch., Roanoke Twp., p. 36, lines 18, 23, 27, 30, 32, and 37 and p. 35, lines 1, 5, and 18.

22. *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 28 December 2016), “Richmond and Danville Railroad.”

23. Meredith Bocian, “Richmond and Danville Railroad during the Civil War,” *Encyclopedia Virginia* (<http://www.encyclopediavirginia.org> : accessed 28 December 2016).

24. “Southern Railway History,” *Southern Railway Historical Association* (<http://www.srha.net/public/history/history.htm> : accessed 26 October 2015).

the right place to take advantage of an opportunity for a more prosperous life. He launched what was to become a long railroad career by starting at the bottom—working as a brakeman—between Richmond, Virginia, and Greensboro, North Carolina.<sup>25</sup>

Another probable reason for taking a job with the railroad was to support a family. Rufus married neighbor Mary Elizabeth (Bettie) Crowder, only seventeen, in 1871.<sup>26</sup> But in 1874 tragedy struck. Near Sutherlin, in Pittsylvania County, Rufus fell from the top of a box car and was injured when a chain broke while he was applying the brakes.<sup>27</sup> The job of brakeman was extremely dangerous and consisted of climbing onto the top of a moving train and administering the brakes by hand, leaping from car to car to set each brake wheel individually. This procedure was performed in all types of weather and times of the day.<sup>28</sup> Rufus survived the accident but took on less strenuous duties. Though injured, he was fortunate to be retained by the railroad. By 1880 he and his family moved to adjacent Pittsylvania County where he worked as a railroad bridge watchman.<sup>29</sup> A bridge watchman's role was to "follow every train with a bucket of water, to extinguish any hot cinders that may have fallen from the engine." He also had to keep an eye on his assigned bridge, prevent non-railroad employees from crossing it, and report any damage.<sup>30</sup>

#### THE AMERICAN DREAM: HOME OWNERSHIP

In 1882 at the young age of thirty-three, Rufus became a homeowner. He purchased a half-acre of land with a house lying directly alongside the railroad in Danville, Virginia, for one hundred dollars.<sup>31</sup> The rear of the property dropped steeply down to the railroad tracks below, his great-granddaughter recalls.<sup>32</sup> Only a railroad family could appreciate this location with all its accompanying noise and dust.

Rufus also served as switchman and station policeman.<sup>33</sup> A switchman's job traditionally was to

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25. "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 1–2.

26. Halifax Co., Va., Marriage Register 3:71, no. 188, "Ruckman"—Crowder, 25 January 1871.

27. "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 1.

28. "Railroad Job Descriptions," *The USGenWeb Project* (<http://www.usgenet.org/usa/ne/topic/railroads/job.html> : accessed 28 December 2016); see "Brakeman."

29. For his residence see 1880 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Tunstall Mag. Dist., ED 175, p. 377B, dwell. 811, fam. 818, J. R. "Bickman"; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1385. For his occupation see Halifax Co., Va., Chancery Causes, 1753–1913, Ex. of Beverly R. Fleming v. Admr. of Susan F. Cole, no. 1891–120; *virginiamemory.com* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=083-1891-120](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=083-1891-120) : accessed 7 March 2017) > image 118; Library of Virginia, Richmond. James R. Rickman was summoned to testify in a neighbor's land dispute case in Halifax County. The back of the document notes that he then lived in Danville [Pittsylvania County] and was a "Watchman at the Bridge."

30. Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, *Rules for the Government of the Transportation Department of the Richmond & Danville R. R. Leased and Operated Lines* (Philadelphia: Allen, Lane & Scott, 1887), 78, *Google Books* (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 29 December 2016).

31. "Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652–1983," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9085> : accessed 29 April 2018) > Pittsylvania > Deed Book, Vol 83, 1883–1884; Deed Book, Vol 84, 1884 > image 182, Berryman to Rickmond, deed written 19 August 1882 and recorded 17 December 1883; County Clerk, Chatham, Va.

32. Interview with Betty Rickmond Tomlinson (Jacksonville, Fla.), 10 November 2015, great granddaughter of Rufus and Bettie (Crowder) Rickmond; notes privately held by the author. Betty Tomlinson was named after her great-grandmother Bettie, who died in 1931 when Betty was four. She recalled visiting her great grandparents' home in Danville and was photographed there.

33. For the occupation of switchman see *Danville, Virginia, City Directory 1906–1907* (Yonkers, N.Y.: W. L. Richmond, 1906), 147, James R. Rickman; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 20 January 2013). For

hook train cars together using links and pins—another occupation fraught with danger. These cars frequently were mismatched in size and sometimes moving.<sup>34</sup> The advent of The Safety Appliance Act of 1893 meant the job was somewhat easier and safer with the invention of automatic coupling.<sup>35</sup> Apparently he suffered no major accidents and retained all his fingers and toes.<sup>36</sup> Station police preserved order on the train and around the station where they were assigned. They could arrest vagrants and drunk or disorderly persons and those seeking to avoid paying their fares.<sup>37</sup>

Rufus's father died in 1885 leaving land to only his youngest son, Ulysses; second wife, Susan; and daughter, Martha. Rufus and his four other brothers were to divide property given to their step-mother after she died.<sup>38</sup> It was fortunate Rufus chose to work on the railroad.

In 1896 the Richmond & Danville Railroad was acquired by Southern Railway.<sup>39</sup> By 1921 at the age of seventy-one he had served fifty years and held the rank of captain, his duties being watchman and ticket gateman at the Danville Station.<sup>40</sup> He and Bettie celebrated their fiftieth wedding anniversary that same year with a party at the home of their son, John Henry, superintendent of terminals at Spencer, Rowan County, North Carolina. Both Rufus and Bettie were reported to be in excellent health.<sup>41</sup> While it was not uncommon to see railroad employees over the age of sixty-five, Rufus was still working at age seventy-nine.<sup>42</sup>

Rufus died in 1931 at the age of eighty-one after a short illness.<sup>43</sup> At his death he had served sixty years on the railroads.<sup>44</sup> His continuous employment, at times working dangerous occupations, enabled him to own his own home and provide a secure life for his family. Because railroading was a tight-knit community with “newcomers often coming from the families veterans,” Rufus ultimately created a gateway for a long history of railroad employment and prosperity for the

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station policeman see *Danville, Virginia, City Directory* (Asheville, N.C.: Hackney & Moale Co., 1917), 337, Jas. R. Rickmond.

34. “Railroad Job Descriptions,” *The USGenWeb Project*, “Switchman.”

35. “Railroad Workers Move Trains Safely and Efficiently,” *Railswest.com* (<http://www.railswest.com/workers.html> : accessed 30 October 2015).

36. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 10 November 2015. Betty Tomlinson recalled watching her great grandfather change into his “church” shoes before going to services, remembering he had all his digits.

37. For typical duties of railway police see Massachusetts, General Court, Joint Special Committee on the Revision of the Public Statutes, *Report of the Joint Special Committee of the General Court on the Revision of the Statutes of the Commonwealth* (Boston: Rand, Avery & Company, 1881), 559; *Google Books* (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 28 December 2016).

38. “Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652–1983,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9085> : accessed 5 June 2018) > Halifax > Will Books, Vol 33–34, 1882–1886 > images 412–413, H. J. Rickman, will dated 15 March 1884 and proved 26 January 1885.

39. *Wikipedia*, “Richmond and Danville Railroad.”

40. “The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury,” 1–2.

41. “Celebrate Golden Wedding,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 26 January 1921, page 6, col. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/81257757> : accessed 29 October 2015).

42. For discussion of older workers see Walter Licht, *Working for the Railroad: The Organization of Work in the Nineteenth Century* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 1983), 145. For his employment in 1929 see *Miller's Danville, Virginia, City Directory* (Asheville, N.C.: Commercial Service Co., 1929), 348, J. “Ruth” Rickmond; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 23 June 2018). The directory most likely was compiled from information taken in 1928, so Rufus was likely still working at age 79.

43. “Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014,” James Rufus “Rickmand,” death certificate no. 2154, 20 January 1931.

44. “James Rickmond Dies At 81 Years,” *The Bee*, Danville, Va., 21 January 1931.

Rickmond family.<sup>45</sup> Rufus left his personal property and real estate to his wife and after her death to be equally divided between his son, John Henry, and daughter, Fannie.<sup>46</sup>

#### MARY ELIZABETH'S (BETTIE) PARENTAGE AND LIFE STORY

Bettie was the daughter of John C. and Mary Crowder.<sup>47</sup> Although her death certificate lists her parents as William and Harriett Crowder, it is undoubtedly an error. The names were originally listed as “unknown” and at some point crossed through. Bettie’s son, J. H. (John Henry) Rickmond was the informant and he may not have recalled his grandfather’s first name as he was about fifteen when John Crowder died.<sup>48</sup> Harriet was his other grandmother’s name, so that may explain the inconsistencies. However, Bettie’s marriage register is the more reliable source for her parents’ names as Bettie herself was likely the informant. Although not proof of parentage, she also appears in the household of John and Mary Crowder in 1860 and 1870.<sup>49</sup>

Bettie came from a family of three brothers and three sisters.<sup>50</sup> Hers was a farming family similar to that of Rufus—her father owning about one hundred acres where he grew wheat, Indian corn, oats, tobacco, peas and beans, and sweet potatoes.<sup>51</sup> After marrying at seventeen she had her first child one year later while she and Rufus were still living in Scottsburg.<sup>52</sup> In 1876 a daughter was born followed by a son two years later.<sup>53</sup>

Things were about to change for the Rickmonds. In 1880 the population of sleepy little Scottsburg was eighty-seven.<sup>54</sup> But a move to the industrial city of Danville brought the family to a vastly different locale, leaving behind the home they knew for the uncertainties ahead. Though

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45. Maury Klein, *Unfinished Business: The Railroads in American Life* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1994), 150. Also “The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury,” 1–2.

46. “Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652–1983,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9085> : accessed 16 September 2018) > Danville > Will Book, Vol E–F, 1930–1939 > images 201–202, J. R. Rickman, will dated 25 July 1925 and recorded 10 April 1931.

47. For Bettie’s parents see Halifax Co., Va., Marriage Register 3:71, no. 188, Ruckman–Crowder, 25 January 1871.

48. John C. Crowder died in 1886. For his death date see Halifax Co., Va., Chancery Causes, 1753–1913, Admr. of William Crowder v. Admr. of John C. Crowder, etc., no. 1892-084; *virginiamemory.com* ([http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case\\_detail.asp?CFN=083-1892-084](http://www.lva.virginia.gov/chancery/case_detail.asp?CFN=083-1892-084) : accessed 12 March 2017), image 2; Library of Virginia, Richmond.

49. 1860 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., pop. sch., Northern Dist., p. 118 (penned), dwell. 1002, fam. 974, Mary Crowder, 7, in the household of John “M.” Crowder; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 1349; citing FHL microfilm 805,349. Also 1870 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., pop. sch., Roanoke Twp., p. 37 (penned), dwell. 297, fam. 298, Mary E. Crowder, 17, in the household of John C. Crowder; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1650; citing FHL microfilm 553,149.

50. *Ibid.*

51. The Crowder family was listed four lines down from the Rickmonds in the 1870 agricultural census. See 1870 U.S. census, Halifax Co., Va., ag. sch., Roanoke Twp., unnumbered page, line 8, John C. Crowder; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T1132, roll 12.

52. John Henry Rickmond was born 2 November 1871 in Scottsburg. For his birth date see Rickmond Family Bible Records, 1871–1963, images of family pages, *The Library of Virginia* (<http://image/lva.virginia.gov/Bible/35237/index.html> : accessed 28 December 2016), “Births,” p. 3; citing call no. 35237. For his place of birth see “South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8741> : accessed 2 May 2018), 1925–1949 > 1937 > Greenville > image 562, John H. Rickmond, death certificate no. 10614, 18 July 1937.

53. Halifax Co., Va., Register of Births, no. 321, Fannie B. Rickmond, 2 December 1875 and no. 474, Jas. B. Rickmond, 20 April 1878; FHL microfilm 2,046,940, item 1.

54. *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>: accessed 30 April 2018), “Scottsburg, Virginia.”

still in the Piedmont region Danville's population in 1880 was well over seven thousand.<sup>55</sup> Serviced by Rufus's employer, the Richmond & Danville Railroad, it was an important tobacco processing center and mill town. Grain as well as increasingly important textile products were processed there by water power derived from falls on the Dan River. But it was becoming a rather unpredictable place. The industries attracted many single men and with them came problems with alcohol, gambling, and prostitution. Added to the mix was a population of over fifty percent African Americans whose power was growing.<sup>56</sup> Tensions were high. In 1882 the mayor of Danville shot his own chief of police.<sup>57</sup> In November 1883 a race riot broke out due to a minor incident between a white man and two black men resulting in the death of five people.<sup>58</sup>

Faced with the uncertainties of a new location, Bettie surely took refuge in her family, her recently purchased home, and her religion. A lifelong member of the Baptist church, she became a charter member of the North Danville Baptist Church about 1887.<sup>59</sup> Now known as the Moffett Memorial Baptist Church, it was named after Rev. John R. Moffett, Bettie's pastor, who was slain in the streets of Danville in 1892 by a local attorney.<sup>60</sup> Moffett was a staunch prohibitionist and known for his outspoken views.<sup>61</sup> "The church was numb after the trauma of the first pastor's death."<sup>62</sup> It undoubtedly was a violent and trying time for Bettie and her family.

Sometime before 1900 Bettie and Rufus lost two children—James B. and an unnamed child.<sup>63</sup> She lived long enough to know her great grandchildren. Her great granddaughter Betty Rickmond Tomlinson recalls Bettie's practice in later years of always setting an extra place at the table for her son, John Henry, in case he "dropped in." His railroad job in Spencer and the location of his parents' home next to the railroad tracks allowed him to easily hop a train and visit with his mother over lunch in Danville.<sup>64</sup> Bettie reportedly also had a habit of squirreling away all kinds of silver money in her wardrobe because she didn't believe in paper money or depositing it in banks. When

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55. *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>: accessed 30 April 2018), "Danville, Virginia." In 1880 the population was 7,426.

56. Lawrence M. Clark, "A Brief History of the Education of African Americans in Danville, Virginia: From Dan's Hill to Langston High School," *Virginia Center for Digital History* ([http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/cslk/danville/media/pdfs/brief\\_history.pdf](http://www.vcdh.virginia.edu/cslk/danville/media/pdfs/brief_history.pdf): accessed 6 June 2018), 19.

57. *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>: accessed 30 April 2018), "Danville, Virginia."

58. *Encyclopedia Virginia* ([https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Danville\\_Riot\\_1883](https://www.encyclopediavirginia.org/Danville_Riot_1883): accessed 30 April 2018).

59. For lifelong church membership see "Mrs. Rickmond To Be Buried Here Today at 2:30 p.m.," *The Bee*, Danville, Va., 8 April 1931, page 1, col. 5; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/47554054/>). For Danville church membership see Victor Edsel Mantiplay, *A History of Moffett Memorial Baptist Church, Danville, Virginia, 1887–1987* (Lawrenceville, Va.: Moffett Memorial Baptist Church, 1987), 1–3.

60. *Ibid.*, 10–11. For Clark's profession see Richard F. Hamm, "The Killing of John R. Moffett and the Trial of J. T. Clark: Race, Prohibition, and Politics in Danville, 1887–1893." *The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, vol. 101, no. 3 (July 1993): 386; *JSTOR* (<http://www.jstor.org/stable/4249374>: accessed 28 April 2018).

61. *Ibid.*

62. Mantiplay, *A History of Moffett Church*, 13.

63. The 1900 census stated that Bettie was the mother of four children, two of which were still alive. See 1900 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Dan River Dist., ED 77, sheet 17B, dwell. 336, fam. 337, Mary E. Rickmond. James B. was listed in the 1880 census with his family. See 1880 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., ED 175, J. R. "Bickman" household. The youngest son's name is unclear but is consistent with the name Jamie or James, he is two years old and fits with an 1878 birth. No death record was found for him searching "Virginia Deaths and Burials, 1853–1912" at *FamilySearch* using search terms James B. Ric\*m\*n\* and his birth year. He was not found in the 1900 census using search terms James B. Ric\*m\*n\* and his birth year and born in Virginia. He likely died between 1880 and 1900.

64. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 10 November 2015.

her John Henry discovered it he would take it to the bank and deposit it for her.<sup>65</sup>

After Rufus died, Bettie moved to Spencer to live with her widowed daughter, Fannie.<sup>66</sup> A few months later at the age of seventy-eight, Bettie passed away.<sup>67</sup> Rufus and Bettie are buried in Leemont Cemetery in Danville in the family plot.<sup>68</sup>

Rufus and Bettie Rickmond had four children:

- + 2 i. JOHN HENRY RICKMOND, born 2 November 1871 in Scottsburg; died 18 July 1937 in Greenville, Greenville County, South Carolina.<sup>69</sup> He married Virginia (Jennie) Willie Myers on 1 June 1892 in Pelham, Caswell County, North Carolina.<sup>70</sup>
- ii. FANNIE ELIZABETH RICKMOND, born 28 December 1876 in Halifax County;<sup>71</sup> died 30 June 1971 in Birmingham, Jefferson County, Alabama.<sup>72</sup> She married George Starks Perkinson 24 December 1895 in Neapolis, Pittsylvania County, Virginia.<sup>73</sup>
- iii. JAMES B. RICKMOND, born 20 April 1878 in Halifax County;<sup>74</sup> died perhaps 1880–1900.<sup>75</sup>
- iv. UNNAMED CHILD.<sup>76</sup>

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65. Ibid.

66. “Mrs. Rickmond To Be Buried Here Today at 2:30 p.m.,” *The Bee*, Danville, Va., 8 April 1931. For the death of Fannie’s husband see “North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909–1976,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1121> : accessed 29 April 2018) > Rowan > 1923 > October > image 33, Geo. S Perkinson, death certificate no. 146, 3 October 1923.

67. “North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909–1976,” Mrs. J. R. Rickmond, death certificate no. 202, 7 April 1931.

68. Leemont Cemetery, James R. and Mary E. Rickmond markers. Also “Virginia, Danville City Cemetery Records, 1833–2006,” *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1386587> : accessed 2 May 2018), Leemont Cemetery > Deed book, 1900–1921 > image 24, J. H. Rickmond plot.

69. “South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965,” *Ancestry*, John Henry Rickmond, death certificate no. 10614, 18 July 1937.

70. Rickmond Family Bible Records, 1871–1963, “Bonds of Holy Matrimony, image 1.”

71. For her birth date and place see Fannie R. Perkinson, Social Security no. 418-62-9253, 21 May 1963, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Md.

72. “Mrs. Fanny Elizabeth Perkinson,” *The News*, Birmingham, Ala., 1 July 1971, page 55, col. 1; digital scan of microfilm, supplied on 13 July 2015 by Rosalind B. Brooks, Library Assistant, Birmingham Public Library.

73. Danville City, Va., Marriage Register 2:39, no. 48, Perkinson–Rickmond, 24 December 1895; Clerk of the Corporation Court, Danville, Va.; FHL microfilm 888,940. For George’s full name see “U.S., World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=6482> : accessed 16 September 2018) > North Carolina > Rowan County > Draft Card P > image 212, George Starks Perkinson, ser. no. 2135, order no. 414, Rowan County draft board, roll 1765938; citing World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918, NARA microfilm publication M1509.

74. Halifax Co., Va., Register of Births, no. 474, Jas. B. Rickmond, 20 April 1878.

75. As noted above James B. was listed in the 1880 census with his family. He was not found in the 1900 census. He likely died between 1880 and 1900.

76. As noted above the 1900 census recorded that Mary E. had given birth to four children. A search of birth records for Halifax and Pittsylvania counties from 1871–1900 has not yielded a fourth child for her or Rufus. A search of “Virginia Births and Christenings, 1584–1917,” at *FamilySearch* for Ric\*m\*n\* children did not reveal any additional children.



## *Second Generation*

2. **John Henry Rickmond** was born 2 November 1871 in Scottsburg, and died 18 July 1937 in Greenville.<sup>77</sup> He married **Virginia Willie Myers** on 1 June 1892 in Pelham.<sup>78</sup> Jennie or Willie, as she was known by either name, was born 1 January 1873 likely in Pittsylvania County, and died 21 November 1933 in Greenville.<sup>79</sup>

### JOHN HENRY'S PARENTAGE

John Henry's parents were named in the following independently-created records:

- His marriage license states he was born to J. R. and M. E. Rickmond. John Henry undoubtedly provided this information.<sup>80</sup>
- John Henry was identified in his father's will, along with sister Fannie and was appointed the executor.<sup>81</sup>
- John Henry's son C. J. was the informant on his father's death record and named his father's parents as J. R. Rickmond and Bettie Crowder.<sup>82</sup>
- Lastly, although no relationships are given on the gravestones, John Henry and his wife Jennie, are buried next to Rufus and Bettie in the Rickmond/Perkinson family plot in Leemont Cemetery in Danville.<sup>83</sup>

### LIFE STORY

John Henry moved with his family from rural Halifax County to the more industrial area of Danville between 1878 and 1880.<sup>84</sup> Danville was a hub of the Richmond & Danville Railroad

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77. "South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965," *Ancestry*, John Henry Rickmond, death certificate no. 10614, 18 July 1937.

78. Caswell Co., N.C., Register of Deeds, Marriage licenses, File Box G, 1889–1893, no. 279, Rickmond–Myers, 1 June 1892; FHL microfilm 540,254.

79. Because her parents resided in Pittsylvania County from their marriage until at least her younger brother's birth, Jennie likely was born in Pittsylvania County. See her parents' marriage Pittsylvania Co., Va., Marriage Licenses, 1867–1870, Robert Myers–Jane Myers marriage, 22 April 1869; Clerk of Circuit Court, microfilm reel 92, Library of Virginia, Richmond. For birth of Jennie's next born sibling see Pittsylvania Co., Va., Register of Births, 1866–1896, Christopher Myers, 2 May 1875; County Court, Chatham, microfilm reel 68, Library of Virginia, Richmond. The author searched for her birth record in Pittsylvania County's "Birth and death registers, 1853–1896; indexes to births, marriages and deaths, 1853–1896," with no results. For her birth date and death information see "South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1955," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8741> : accessed 22 April 2018) > 1925–1949 > 1933 > Greenville > image 1045, Mrs. Jennie Myers Rickmond, death certificate no. 16123, 21 November 1933.

80. Caswell Co., N.C., Register of Deeds, Marriage licenses, Rickmond–Myers, 1 June 1892. J. R. is undoubtedly James Rufus and M. E. is Mary Elizabeth.

81. "Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652–1983," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9085> : accessed 17 June 2018) > Danville Will Book, Vol E–F, 1930–1939 > images 201–202, J. R. Rickmond, will dated 8 April 1925 and proved 10 April 1931; Clerk of the Corporation Court, Danville, Va.

82. "South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965," *Ancestry*, John Henry Rickmond, death certificate no. 10614, 18 July 1937. For C. J.'s parentage see his death record Florida Department of Health, Clarence J. Rickmond, death certificate no. 83-021676, 29 March 1983; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville.

83. Leemont Cemetery, Rickmond and Perkinson family graves.

84. John Henry's brother James B. was born in Halifax County in 1878. See Halifax Co., Va., Register of Births, no. 474, Jas. B. Rickmond, 20 April 1878. By 1880 the family was living in Pittsylvania County. See 1880 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., ED 175, J. R. Rickman household.

where his father Rufus was employed. It must have been an exciting experience for a young boy to not only have a father who worked on the railroad, but to have the railroad right in his own backyard.<sup>85</sup> In 1889 at age seventeen he, too, joined the railroad, beginning as a yard clerk.<sup>86</sup> “Family connection represented probably the most important asset in securing employment for all grades of railway workers.”<sup>87</sup>

John Henry steadily took on more responsibilities, becoming a brakeman in 1897, followed by freight conductor in 1900, by which time he had moved to Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina.<sup>88</sup> He bought his first property at age twenty-eight in Spencer, which consisted of a quarter-acre lot on the south side of the Southern Railway.<sup>89</sup> In 1906 he was promoted to passenger conductor at age thirty-five. By 1907 he was train master of the Danville division.<sup>90</sup> A master of the train works directly for the superintendent, overseeing all trainmen, ensuring they know the rules and are following safety precautions. In addition, he makes sure there are no train delays and that cargo is promptly loaded and unloaded.<sup>91</sup> His new position brought new challenges. In 1910 he appeared before the North Carolina Corporation Commission to testify regarding a train wreck occurring in Raleigh where two people were killed and several injured.<sup>92</sup> In 1916 he was promoted to superintendent of terminals in Salisbury—Spencer.<sup>93</sup> A few days after taking over his new post the area experienced heavy rains which delayed trains and washed out bridges; as a result, some trains were canceled completely and many others were moved to sidings to relieve congestion. He was up to managing the upheaval, however, and had community support—the newspaper reporting he was “handing the situation in a splendid manner.”<sup>94</sup>

Safety issues and strikes were especially troublesome for the railroad industry. In March 1920 a series of near misses between locomotives and travelers crossing to board trains necessitated John Henry to issue safety orders reminding his rail employees to obey the federal law as well as the Southern Railroad rule to never block the gangways.<sup>95</sup> The situation worsened as four people were hit in April. Again, the local newspaper backed John Henry’s efforts and stated that “... Supt.

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85. “Virginia, Wills and Probate Records, 1652–1983,” *Ancestry*, Berryman to Rickmond, deed written 19 August 1882 and recorded 17 December 1883.

86. “The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury,” 1.

87. Licht, *Working for the Railroad*, 49.

88. For residence see 1900 U.S. census, Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., Salisbury Twp., ED 114, sheet 213A, dwell. 381, fam. 401, John H. “Richmond” household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 27 April 2018); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1216; citing FHL microfilm 1,241,216.

89. *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/007546136> : accessed 8 June 2018), digital film 007546136, image 467, Earnhardt–Rickmond deed, written 15 August 1900 and registered 27 September 1901; Register of Deeds, Rowan Co., N. C.; Deed Book 92:288–289.

90. “The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury,” 1.

91. Richmond and Danville Railroad Company, *Rules for the Government of the Transportation Department*, 34–35.

92. Corporation Commission, State of North Carolina, *Twelfth Annual Report of the Corporation Commission for the Year Ending December 31, 1910* (Raleigh, N.C.: E. M. Uzzell & Co., 1911), 22–24; *Google Books* (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 29 December 2016).

93. “Captain Avery Becomes Supt. Norfolk Division,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 15 July 1916, page 1, col. 4; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80503046/> : accessed 29 October 2015).

94. “Parking Cars on Sidings,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 20 July 1916, page 2, col. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80503071/> : accessed 29 October 2015).

95. “Narrow Escape at Spencer Depot,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 29 March 1920, page 7, col. 3; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/82463403/> : accessed 3 April 2016).

Rickmond was doing all in his power to enforce the rule of the company and the federal law... ”<sup>96</sup>  
In August John Henry implemented a new plan which rerouted the arriving tracks to alleviate the dangerous passenger crossing.<sup>97</sup>

Train strikes in 1920 and again during the Great Railroad Strike of 1922, were vexing. The latter, one of the largest strikes ever to hit America was due to shopmen’s wages being cut.<sup>98</sup> Although the engineers, firemen, conductors, and brakemen did not strike, there were major work stoppages around the country.<sup>99</sup> In Salisbury the situation became so tense that the governor of North Carolina ordered in the National Guard to keep order. However, the workers would not go back to work in the presence of the troops. Later that same day John Henry’s office announced that the passenger trains, manned by railroad officials and others, had cleared the terminal after the troops were ordered to be removed.<sup>100</sup>

John Henry’s career path followed a typical pattern at first.<sup>101</sup> He was a brakeman by age 25, freight conductor at 28, and passenger conductor by 35. But he broke the mold when he rose to the position of trainmaster still at 35 and superintendent of terminals at 44.<sup>102</sup> Employment on the railroad was not without its benefits—decent wages, fringe benefits, and opportunities for advancement encouraged workers to remain with their company.<sup>103</sup>

#### JOHN HENRY’S CIVIC LEADERSHIP AND FRATERNAL AFFILIATIONS

In addition to his demanding work schedule, John Henry was active in his local community. He suggested to the newspaper that the city “clean up streets and improve sidewalks.”<sup>104</sup> He used the local paper to express support for a bond issue to improve area schools “regardless of cost.”<sup>105</sup> He spoke at the Kiwanis Club during a special session on the topic of health matters.<sup>106</sup> Holding a Third Degree in the Beulah Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows John Henry was also a member of the Greensboro Masonic Lodge.<sup>107</sup> In Salisbury he and another Southern official

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96. “The Dangers at Spencer Station,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 5 April 1920, page 1, col. 6; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/82463516/> : accessed 3 April 2016).

97. “Changing Tracks,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 9 August 1920, page 2, col. 3; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80536766/> : accessed 3 April 2016).

98. A shopman belonged to a large category of railroad workers that included machinists, carpenters, etc. that built and repaired the railroad cars and engines. See *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 2 May 2018), “Railroad shopmen.”

99. *Wikipedia* (<https://en.wikipedia.org> : accessed 2 April 2016), “The Great Railroad Strike of 1922,” rev. 15:58.

100. “Southern Breaks Rail Jam,” *The Charlotte News*, Charlotte, N.C., 22 August 1922, page 1, col. 1–4, 6–7; *Newspapers.com* (<http://www.newspapers.com/image/61780046/> : accessed 27 June 2015).

101. For a general pattern of railroad career progression see Licht, *Working for the Railroad*, 150.

102. “The Rickmond Tribe,” 1–2.

103. Licht, *Working for the Railroad*, 125. For fringe benefits see J. H. Rickmond and wife Southern Railway Company pass, 1937; Tomlinson Family Papers, privately held by Leslie W. Tomlinson, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Tx. It entitled the bearer to ride Southern Railway at no cost. This printed card was passed from Rickmond’s son Maurice (1893–1986) to his daughter Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, from whom the author inherited it.

104. “Get a Man Boss — Capable Women,” *Yadkin Valley Herald*, Salisbury, N.C., 7 January 1919, page 3, col. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<http://www.newspapers.com/image/80994922/> : accessed 1 April 2016).

105. “Bills Paving Way to Equip Schools Nearly Complete,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 7 February 1921, page 2, col. 3–4; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/81257998/> : accessed 3 April 2016).

106. “Kiwanians Hold Health Meeting,” *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 13 January 1922, page 1, col. 3; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80537629/> : accessed 2 May 2018).

107. *Proceedings of the ... Annual Session of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, Independent Order of Odd Fellows ...*

formed a local chapter of the Masonic Southgate club, composed of fifty-two Master Masons, all railroad men.<sup>108</sup>

By the time of his daughter Blanche's marriage in 1936, John Henry was bedridden.<sup>109</sup> He died the following year.<sup>110</sup> He named Blanche executrix of his estate, leaving her his household and kitchen furniture. The remainder of his property was to be divided equally among all his children.<sup>111</sup> John Henry, his father, and brother-in-law bought cemetery plots in Danville City Cemetery in 1899.<sup>112</sup> It is there that he and his wife are buried along with an unnamed infant son.<sup>113</sup>

## JENNIE MYER'S PARENTAGE AND LIFE STORY

Jennie was born 1 January 1873, one of seven children of illiterate farmer Robert Myers and Jane T. Myers who married 22 April 1869.<sup>114</sup> Her father served as a private in the 38th regiment of the Virginia infantry known as the Pittsylvania Regiment.<sup>115</sup> He was one of the ninety-four men in his unit who were captured at Dinwiddie Court House in April 1865 and released two months later near the end of the war.<sup>116</sup> Her father died when Jennie was just twelve.<sup>117</sup> To help support

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(Raleigh, North Carolina: Edwards & Broughton, 1907), 267; *Google Books* (<http://www.google.com/books> : accessed 1 April 2016). Also *Proceedings of the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free, and Accepted Masons of North Carolina* (Oxford, N.C.: Oxford Orphanage Press, 1914), 207; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/details/proceedingsofgra1914free> : accessed 1 April 2016).

108. "Southgate Club Formed at Spencer," *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 17 December 1921, page 6, col. 3; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80537469/> : accessed 3 April 2016).

109. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 26 July 2011.

110. "South Carolina Death Records, 1821–1965," *Ancestry*, John Henry Rickmond, death certificate no. 10614, 18 July 1937.

111. J. H. Rickmond will, Greenville Co., S.C., citing document dated 2 March 1934; Tomlinson family papers, privately held by the author, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Tx. This typed will bears the signature of J. H. Rickmond [John Henry Rickmond] and three witnesses. The document was passed from his son Maurice Rickmond (1893–1986) to his daughter Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, from whom the author inherited it.

112. "Virginia, Danville City Cemetery Records, 1833–2006," *FamilySearch*, J. H. Rickmond plot.

113. "Virginia, Danville City Cemetery Records, 1833–2006," *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/collection/1386587> : accessed 23 April 2018), Leemont Cemetery > Cemetery records, 1921–2006 > image 35, infant of J. H. Rickmond, 6 December 1933.

114. For Jennie's birth see Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Births," image 3. For first five Myers children and Robert's illiteracy see 1880 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Tunstall Mag. Dist., ED 178, p. 26B, dwell. 234, fam. 246, Robert Myers household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2018); NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 1385. For last two children see 1900 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Danville City, ED 106, sheet 9A, dwell. 116, fam. 132, Jane T. Myers household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2018); NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 1722; citing FHL microfilm 1,241,734. Pittsylvania Co., Va., Marriage Licenses, 1867–1870, Robert Myers–Jane Myers marriage, 22 April 1869; Clerk of Circuit Court, reel 92, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

115. National Park Service, "Soldiers and Sailors Database," *nps.gov* (<https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm?battleUnitCode=CVA0038RI> : accessed 30 December 2016), "38th Regiment, Virginia Infantry (Pittsylvania Regiment)."

116. "Civil War Service Records, Confederate Records," *Fold3* (<http://www.fold3.com> : accessed 30 December 2016), Thirty-eighth Infantry (Pittsylvania Regiment), p. 9, headed "Prisoners of War," entry for Robert Myers; citing NARA microfilm publication *Compiled Service Records of Confederate Soldiers Who Served in Organizations From the State of Virginia*, M324, roll 0846; RG 109.

117. Pittsylvania Co., Va., Register of Deaths, 1853–1896, 1885, Ro. Myers, 20 July 1885, microfilm reel 68, Library of Virginia, Richmond.

their family, she and her sisters worked in the Danville textile mills, where Jennie was a mill hand.<sup>118</sup> “The Southern textile industry relied in large part on the labor of children. Between 1880 and 1910, roughly a quarter of all textile workers were under the age of 16.”<sup>119</sup> Small hands were more adept at some of the close work required in the preparation and dressing of looms. Jennie’s sister Maggie was a drawing-in hand. This work consisted of drawing the warp (lengthwise threads) through the eyes in the loom’s harness in preparation for inserting the weft (crosswise threads) to make cloth.<sup>120</sup> Ida, her other sister, was a spooler, using a machine to combine thread from multiple bobbins, then winding it to be used in the weaving process.<sup>121</sup>

Jennie’s first children—twin boys, Maurice and Nathaniel—were born in Danville on 5 October 1893.<sup>122</sup> Nathaniel died the following day.<sup>123</sup> Two more children were born to Jennie and John Henry.<sup>124</sup> After John Henry was promoted to freight conductor the family moved to North Carolina, where three additional children were born.<sup>125</sup> While her husband was advancing his career at Southern Railway and performing civic and fraternal duties, Jennie’s focus was on her family and settling in each new community where they moved.<sup>126</sup> Her children participated in numerous

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118. *Danville and North Danville, Virginia, City Directory 1892–93* (Yonkers, N.Y.: Edward F. Turner, 1892), 206, Miss Willie Myers; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 31 December 2016). For her sisters’ occupations see 1900 U.S. census, Pittsylvania Co., Va., pop. sch., Danville City, ED 106, sheet 9A, dwell. 116, fam. 132, Maggie and Ida Myers.

119. Georgia State University Library, *Southern Labor Archives* (<http://research.library.gsu.edu/WorknProgress> : accessed 15 March 2017), “Part III: The Southern Textile Industry.”

120. American Historical Association, *Historians.org* (<https://www.historians.org/teaching-and-learning/teaching-resources-for-historians/teaching-and-learning-in-the-digital-age/the-history-of-the-americas/like-a-family-the-making-of-a-southern-cotton-mill-world/mill-village-and-factory-introduction/> : accessed 15 March 2017), “Mill Village and Factory: Introduction.”

121. Hareven, Tamara K., *Family Time & Industrial Time: The Relationship between the Family and Work in a New England Industrial Community* (Lanham, Md.: University Press of America, 1993), 409; *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com> : accessed 8 May 2018).

122. The family Bible records the birth of Maurice Herman Rickmond and an unnamed twin on 5 October 1893. See Rickmond Family Bible Records, “Births,” image 3. For that birth date Nathaniel “Richmond” appears in the county birth register, but no Maurice. See Pittsylvania Co., Va., Birth Register, 1893, Nathaniel Richmond, 5 October 1893, pg. 1088 (stamped), line 136; Library of Virginia, Richmond; FHL microfilm 2,046,957, item 1. Although his surname is spelled Richmond, this is undoubtedly the record for the twin to Maurice, as his father is J. H., his mother is Jennie, and the birth date is the same as listed in the family Bible for Maurice. The register appears to be written all at one time, in one hand, and arranged in alphabetical order. Although there is a column to note multiple births, every listing on the page is for a single birth, and all occupations for the fathers, but one, are recorded as “farmer.” These details may indicate the list was copied from another source and may not have all the details of the original. This boy is undoubtedly the unnamed twin from the Rickmond’s Bible.

123. See Rickmond Family Bible Records, “Deaths,” image 4.

124. *Ibid*, “Births.” Nellie Ruth was born in 1895 and Lester Lee in 1897.

125. 1910 U.S. census, Guilford Co., N.C., pop. sch., Morehead Twp., ED 108, sheet 2A, dwell. 19, fam. 21, John H. Rickmond household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 12 June 2018); NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 1114; citing FHL microfilm 1,375,127. See children “Morris,” Nellie, Lester, Clarence, Blanche, and William Rickmond.

126. For family residences from 1900–1930 see 1900 U.S. census, Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., Salisbury Twp., ED 0114, sheet 23A, dwell. 381, fam. 401, John H. Rickmond household. For 1907 see *Greensboro, North Carolina, City Directory 1907–8* (Greensboro, N.C.: Hill Directory Co., 1907), 322, John H. Rickmond; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 January 2017). Also 1910 U.S. census, Guilford Co., N.C., pop. sch., Morehead Twp., ED 108, sheet 2A, dwell. 19, fam. 21, John H. Rickmond household. Also 1920 U.S. census Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., Salisbury, ED 129, sheet 12A, dwell. 193, fam. 218, John H. “Rickman” household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com>

activities from Sunday school and youth groups to Eastern Star and Boy Scouts.<sup>127</sup> Scholarship was undoubtedly important as Blanche and William appeared on the honor roll.<sup>128</sup> Blanche, the only child of the family to attend and graduate from college, became a school principal.<sup>129</sup> Maurice and Clarence served in the navy during WWI, while her youngest son, William, served in the army in WWII.<sup>130</sup> Maurice, Lester, Clarence, and Nellie all worked in some capacity for Southern Railway. Together with their father and grandfather this family served one hundred one years with Southern.<sup>131</sup>

While certainly proud of the achievements of her family, Jennie had her share of losses. When she was eight her brother Christopher died, followed by her father four years later; son Nathaniel passed away a day after he was born.<sup>132</sup> Her mother and sister Gertie died when Jennie was in her forties and in her fifties another sister Maggie May died.<sup>133</sup> After the birth of her fourth son, Clarence, Jennie became deaf.<sup>134</sup> Tragically Jennie's oldest daughter Nellie, married only three

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: accessed 10 March 2017); citing NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1321. By 1923 the Rickmonds lived in Columbia, S.C. See *Columbia, South Carolina, City Directory 1923* (Columbia, S.C.: Miller Press, 1923), 352, Jno. H. Rickmond; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 2 January 2017). The family later moved to Greenville. See 1930 U.S. census Greenville Co., S.C., pop. sch., Greenville Twp., ED 23-40, sheet 8A, dwell. 148, fam. 160, John H. Rickmond household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2017); NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 2198; citing FHL microfilm 2,341,932.

127. For Blanche and William see "Local Happenings," *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 17 June 1921, page 3, col. 5; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80518543/> : accessed 5 April 2016). For Nellie see "Eastern Star Notice," *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 26 December 1922, page 7, col. 2; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80539732/> : accessed 5 April 2016). For Maurice see "Boy Scouts Hold the First Annual Banquet," *Greensboro Daily News*, Greensboro, N.C., 20 January 1912, page 6, col. 4; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/72354602/> : accessed 5 April 2016).

128. "Honor Roll," *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 9 April 1918, page 5, col. 4; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80506183/> : accessed 2 January 2017).

129. *Greenville, South Carolina, City Directory, 1935* (Richmond, Va.: Hill Directory Co., 1935), 649, Blanche A. Rickmond; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 5 April 2016). "Blanche Rickmond Watson," *News-Press*, Fort Myers, Fla., 15 November 1997, page 5B, col 1. Photocopy supplied by Fort Myers Regional Library from microfilm, Bryan L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, 5 January 2016.

130. For Maurice and Clarence see "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 2. Also "Local Happenings," *Salisbury Evening Post*, Salisbury, N.C., 8 September 1920, page 6, col. 4; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/80536930/> : accessed 5 April 2016). For William's service see "W. H. Rickmond," *The Greenville News* (Greenville, S.C.) 30 December 1967, page 8, col. 6; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/189086479/> : accessed 2 January 2017).

131. "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 1–2.

132. For Christopher's death see *FamilySearch* (<https://www.familysearch.org/search/film/004225404> : accessed 8 June 2018), digital film 004225404, image 501, line 58, "Chas." A. Myers, 1 July 1881; Pittsylvania Co., Virginia, Register of Deaths. His first name is mistakenly recorded as Chas. His parents are Robert and Jane Myers, the same two individuals named in his birth record. He is six years old so this is Jennie's brother. For his birth record see Pittsylvania Co., Va., Register of Births, 1866–1896, Christopher Myers, 2 May 1875; County Court, Chatham, reel 68, Library of Virginia, Richmond. For Robert Myers's death see Pittsylvania Co., Va., Register of Deaths, 1853–1896, Ro. Myers, 20 July 1885. For Nathaniel's death see Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Deaths," image 4.

133. For Jane's death see "Virginia, Death Records, 1912–2014," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=9278> : accessed 18 June 2018) 1920 > 15651–16172 > image 547, Jane Myers, death certificate 16150, 16 June 1920. For Gertie's death see "ibid., 1913 > 09241–09764 > image 348, "Ginter" G. Myers, death certificate no. 9583, 2 April 1913. For Maggie's death see "ibid., 1930 > 19341–19884 > image 509, Maggie May Stone, death certificate no. 19809, 15 August 1930.

134. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 13 November 2011.

years, succumbed suddenly to appendicitis in 1928.<sup>135</sup> Jennie died at age sixty in 1933 after a long illness and is buried in Danville in the family plot.<sup>136</sup>

John Henry and Jennie Rickmond had seven children:

- + 3 i. MAURICE HERMAN RICKMOND, twin, born 5 October 1893 in Danville;<sup>137</sup> died 5 September 1986 in Mount Airy, Surry County, North Carolina.<sup>138</sup> He married Effie Golden Baxley, 16 March 1921 in Rowan County.<sup>139</sup>
- ii. NATHANIEL RICKMOND, twin, born 5 October 1893 in Danville;<sup>140</sup> died 6 October 1893.<sup>141</sup> He was most likely the unnamed infant whose remains were moved to the family burial plot in 1933.<sup>142</sup>
- iii. NELLIE RUTH RICKMOND, born 8 October 1895 most likely in Danville;<sup>143</sup> died 3 May 1928 in Ft. Myers, Lee County, Florida.<sup>144</sup> She married William Walter Watson, 1 January 1925.<sup>145</sup>
- iv. LESTER LEE RICKMOND, born 4 November 1897<sup>146</sup> in Danville; died 4 January 1959 in Monroe, Union County, North Carolina.<sup>147</sup> He married Wilma E. Horton, 4 May 1925.<sup>148</sup>

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135. For Nellie's marriage to William Watson on 1 January 1925 see Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Marriages," image 2. "Mrs. W. W. Watson Is Victim of Appendicitis," *Florida Tropical News*, Fort Myers, Fla., 4 May 1928, page 4.

136. Her death certificate records her name as Mrs. Jennie Myers Rickmond, but mistakenly names her mother as Jane Rickmond, probably an error by the person recording the information or possibly by the informant, her husband. See "South Carolina, Death Records, 1821–1965," *Ancestry*, (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=8741> : accessed 23 October 2015) 1925–1949 > 1933 > Greenville > image 1045, Mrs. Jennie Myers Rickmond, death certificate no. 16123, 21 November 1933. Also Leemont Cemetery, Jennie Myers Rickmond marker.

137. The fact that two boys were born on 5 October 1893 was noted in the family bible. Only Maurice survived. See Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Births," image 3. For corroboration of Maurice's birth date see also Maurice Herman Rickmond, SS no. 704-16-2536, 20 January 1937, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.

138. Surry Co., N.C., Maurice Herman Rickmond, death certificate no. 71-421, 5 September 1986; Register of Deeds, Salisbury.

139. "North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741–2011," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60548> : accessed 25 June 2015) Rowan > Marriage Register (1895–1972) > image 318, Rickmond–Baxley, 16 March 1921.

140. Pittsylvania Co., Va., Birth Register, Nathaniel "Richmond," 5 October 1893, p. 1088, line 136; Library of Virginia, Richmond; FHL microfilm 2,046,957, item 1.

141. Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Deaths," image 4.

142. "Virginia, Danville City Cemetery Records, 1833–2006," *FamilySearch*, infant of J. H. Rickmond, 6 December 1933.

143. Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Births," image 3. Her siblings born immediately before and after her were both born in Danville. No birth record has been found for her in the county or state registers. For corroboration of birth month and year see 1900 U.S. census, Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., Salisbury Twp., ED 0114, sheet 23A, dwell. 381, fam. 401, Nellie "Richmond."

144. Florida State Department of Health, Nellie R. Watson, death certificate no. 7804, 3 May 1928; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville. Her birthdate is given as 1897 which is later than that stated in the family bible to which the author gives more credence.

145. Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Marriages," image 2.

146. "U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947," *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 3 January 2017), Lester Lee Rickmond, serial no. T-584, order no. 10,328, Local Draft Board 1, Monroe, Union Co., N.C.; citing Records of the Selective Service System, 1926–1975, RG 147, Box 311, The National Archives, Atlanta, Ga.

147. "North Carolina Death Certificates, 1909–1976," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1121> : accessed 18 June 2018) > Union > 1959 > January > image 2, Lester Lee Rickmond, death certificate no. 2569, 4 January 1959.

148. Rickmond Family Bible Records, "Marriages," image 2.

- v. CLARENCE JEFFERSON RICKMOND, born 11 July 1903 in East Spencer, Rowan County, North Carolina;<sup>149</sup> died 29 March 1983 in Rockledge, Brevard County, Florida.<sup>150</sup> He married Theda Brown Klutz, 30 October 1922 in Rowan County.<sup>151</sup>
- vi. BLANCHE AUDREY RICKMOND, born 1 February 1906 in Spencer; died 13 November 1997 in Clemson, Pickens County, South Carolina.<sup>152</sup> She married her sister's widower William Walter Watson 20 December 1936 in Greenville.<sup>153</sup>
- vii. WILLIAM HARRISON RICKMOND, born 25 June 1908 in Greensboro, Guilford County, North Carolina;<sup>154</sup> died 29 December 1967 in Greenville County.<sup>155</sup> He married Joe Lee Street 9 November 1932 in Columbia, Richland County, South Carolina.<sup>156</sup>

### *Third Generation*

3. **Maurice Herman Rickmond** was born 5 October 1893 in Danville;<sup>157</sup> died 5 September 1986 in Mount Airy.<sup>158</sup> He married **Effie Golden Baxley** on 16 March 1921 in Rowan County.<sup>159</sup> She was born 10 January 1899 in Red Springs, Robeson County, North Carolina;<sup>160</sup> died 1 June 1989 in Jacksonville, Duval County, Florida.<sup>161</sup>

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149. Civil registration of vital statistics officially began in 1913 in North Carolina. See Helen Leary, editor, *North Carolina Research* (Raleigh: North Carolina Genealogical Society, 1996), 166. For evidence of his birthdate and place see “WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940–1947,” *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 18 March 2016), Clarence Jefferson Rickmond, serial no. T-1406, order no. 11471, Rowan Co. Draft Board, Salisbury, N.C.; citing Records of the Selective Service System, 1926–1975, RG 147, Box 311, The National Archives, Atlanta, Ga.

150. Florida Department of Health, Clarence J. Rickmond, death certificate no. 83-021676, 29 March 1983; Bureau of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville.

151. “North Carolina, Marriage Records, 1741–2011,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=60548> : accessed 18 March 2016), Rowan > Marriage Register (1895 - 1972) > image 319, Rickmond–Klutz, 30 October 1922; citing North Carolina County Registers of Deeds, RG 048, North Carolina State Archives, Raleigh.

152. “Blanche Rickmond Watson,” *News-Press*, Fort Myers, Fla., 15 November 1997, page 5B, col. 1; digital copy provided by Brian L. Mulcahy, Reference Librarian, Fort Myers Regional Library, 5 January 2016.

153. Greenville Co., S.C., marriage license and certificate no. 1977, Watson–Rickmond, 20 December 1936; Probate Court Clerk, Greenville.

154. Greenville Co., S.C., delayed birth certificate no. 256 (issued 1943), William Harrison Rickmond; Probate Court, Greenville. Actual birth was 25 June 1908.

155. “W. H. Rickmond,” *The Greenville News*, Greenville, S.C., 30 December 1967, page 8, col. 2; digital scan of microfilm, supplied on 24 July 2015 by South Carolina Room, Greenville County Library.

156. “Street–Rickmond Marriage Interesting In Greenville,” *The Greenville News*, Greenville, S.C., 27 November 1932, page 2B, col. 1–2; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/188272995/> : accessed 2 January 2017).

157. Maurice Herman Rickmond, SS no. 704-16-2536, 1937, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration.

158. Surry Co., N.C., Maurice Herman Rickmond, death certificate no. 71-421, 5 September 1986.

159. Rowan Co., N.C., marriage certificate, Rickmond–Baxley, 16 March 1921, no. 19, microfilm reel 6, page 701, Register of Deeds, Salisbury.

160. Baptists Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., application for Baxley children, 31 October 1903; photocopy of record, privately held by the author [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE.] Helotes, Texas, 2005.

161. Duval Co., Fla., Effie B. Rickmond, death certificate no. 574041, 1 June 1989; Office of Vital Statistics, Jacksonville.



## MAURICE RICKMOND'S PARENTAGE

Maurice was born to John Henry Rickmond and Jennie/Willie Myers. Proof of his parentage is evidenced in the following independently-created records:

- Maurice's marriage certificate identifies his parents as J. H. and Willie Rickmond.<sup>162</sup>
- His application for a social security number names his parents as John Henry Rickmond and Willie Myers.<sup>163</sup>
- Maurice was listed as one of five living children in his father John Henry's will.<sup>164</sup>
- His death record designates his parents as John Henry and Jennie Myers. His wife Effie was the informant and knew both of her husband's parents, as she was introduced to her husband by his father.<sup>165</sup>

## LIFE STORY

Born in Virginia, Maurice and his family moved to Salisbury by 1900.<sup>166</sup> Like his father, most of the men in his neighborhood were employed by the railroad.<sup>167</sup> At seventeen he still attended school, no doubt due to his father's income being sufficient to support the family.<sup>168</sup> By nineteen Maurice followed in the footsteps of his father and grandfather before him and joined the railroad.<sup>169</sup> He began as a freight agent, working his way up to brakeman in the Danville Division by age twenty-three.<sup>170</sup> When WWI broke out he served in the navy and was rated Radioman Third Class and served on a transport ship, likely due to his experience as a railroad telegraph operator.<sup>171</sup> He was discharged on 30 September 1921 and that same year re-employed by Southern Railway, indeed fortunate to have a job, with all the returning servicemen.<sup>172</sup>

Maurice's father introduced him to his future wife, Effie Baxley.<sup>173</sup> They married in a small wedding in 1921 and by 1930 had two daughters, Frances and Betty, and owned their own home in Asheville, Buncombe County, North Carolina.<sup>174</sup> However, the Depression took its toll when

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162. Rowan Co., N.C., marriage certificate, Rickmond–Baxley.

163. Maurice Herman Rickmond, SS no. 704-16-2536, 1937, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration.

164. J. H. Rickmond will, Greenville Co., S.C., citing document dated 2 March 1934; Tomlinson family papers, privately held by the author, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Texas. This typed will bears the signature of J. H. Rickmond [John Henry Rickmond] and three witnesses. The document was passed from his son Maurice Rickmond (1893–1986) to his daughter Betty Tomlinson, from whom the author inherited it.

165. Surry Co., N.C., Maurice Herman Rickmond, death certificate no. 71-421, 5 September 1986. See also Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, November 2014. The author holds a four-generation photo of the Rickmond family complete with Effie and Maurice, Jennie and John Henry, Rufus and Bettie, and Frances and Betty Rickmond.

166. 1900 U.S. census, Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., ED 0114, sheet 23A, John H. "Richmond" household.

167. Ibid. See lines 7, 10, 16, 18, 19, 22, 38, 41, and 46 for occupations of neighbors.

168. 1910 U.S. census, Guilford Co., N.C., pop. sch., ED 108, John H. Rickmond household.

169. "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 1.

170. Maurice Herman Rickmond pension file, SS no. 706-16-2536, 1939; NIA: 5743080, Textural Records; Inactive Claims Folders; RG 184: Records of the Railroad Retirement Board; National Archives—Atlanta, Morrow, Ga.

171. "The Rickmond Tribe of Salisbury," 1. See also U.S. Naval Reserve Force, Military Discharge, Maurice "Hurman" Rickmond, service no. 183-47-33, Radioman Third Class, discharged 30 September 1912; Off. Rec. 420, page 705, Navy Dept., BU. Navigation, Hampton Roads, Virginia.

172. Ibid.

173. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, November 2014.

174. "Miss Effie Baxley Bride of Maurice Herman Rickmond," *Greenville Daily News*, 20 March 1921, page 23, col. 1; *GenealogyBank* (<http://www.genealogybank.com> : accessed 31 August 2011). For residence and home

Maurice was put on furlough from the railroad in 1931. Even though the Rickmonds had the income from three teachers who boarded with them, they were still not able to keep their home.<sup>175</sup> Instead, they moved around the corner to a smaller house. The family made ends meet by opening a modest food establishment called the Bluebird Ice Cream Store, offering inexpensive food such as hotdogs, hamburgers, pies for a nickel a slice, and, of course, ice cream. Some of the patrons urged Effie to make chili dogs like the tasty ones at Saucy Sandwich, a nearby establishment, but in a less desirable part of town. Effie offered one of the local boys who frequented her store a nickel to bring her a Saucy Sandwich chili dog so she could taste it and determine why they were so good. She then added her version of chili dogs to the menu. They must have been successful because later they were able to open another restaurant, but in a better location.<sup>176</sup>

Like his father and grandfather, Maurice was no stranger to dangerous railroad jobs. Around 1928 Maurice had a serious fall from a freight train outside Asheville. Thankfully a passerby found him, put him in his car, and drove him to the hospital where he remained for a month, being kept flat on his back on wooden boards.<sup>177</sup> Another time, nearly at his retirement, he was hit in the head when two young men sitting on an overpass threw rocks at the train in which he was riding. His cheek bone broken and requiring surgery, Maurice did not press charges. He did not want the boys to have the incident on their records. Later they came to see him in the hospital and apologized.<sup>178</sup>

Maurice retired on 21 October 1959 after forty-seven years with the railroad.<sup>179</sup> His last occupation was conductor in Asheville. His pension amounted to one hundred fifty dollars per month which allowed him and Effie to move to a mobile home village in Fort Myers, Lee County, Florida, to live a long-awaited retirement. Maurice died 5 September 1986 at the age of ninety-two in Mt. Airy.<sup>180</sup>

## EFFIE BAXLEY'S PARENTAGE AND LIFE STORY

Effie Golden Baxley was the daughter of Nelson Baxley and Virginia Ellen MacDonald. She was born in Red Springs.<sup>181</sup> Nelson died in 1902 and Virginia died the following year leaving Effie and three siblings orphaned. Likely unable to care for his step-brother and -sisters, Nelson's son Colin by an earlier marriage took them to Thomasville's Baptist Orphanage in April 1904.<sup>182</sup> The oldest child, Dicey Melinda, died from typhoid fever; the youngest, Katie Belle, was taken in by a farmer and his wife, leaving Effie and her brother Roland to grow up in the orphanage.<sup>183</sup>

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ownership see 1930 U.S. census Buncombe Co., N.C., pop. sch., Asheville Twp., ED 11-21, sheet 3B, dwell. 60, fam. 69, "Maurie" H. Rickmond household; *Ancestry* (<http://www.ancestry.com> : accessed 10 March 2017); NARA microfilm publication T626, roll 1675; citing FHL microfilm 2,341,409.

175. *Ibid.* See the occupations of the boarders, lines 77–79. Also Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 13 November 2011.

176. *Ibid.*

177. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, 31 October 2015.

178. *Ibid.*

179. Maurice Herman Rickmond pension file, Records of the Railroad Retirement Board, 1939.

180. Surry Co., N.C., Maurice Herman Rickmond, death certificate, 1986.

181. Baptists Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., admission application for Baxley children, 31 October 1903.

182. *Ibid.* For proof of Colin's parentage see "North Carolina, Death Certificates, 1909–1976," *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=1121> : accessed 18 June 2018) > Guilford > 1961 > March > image 35, Colin Campbell Baxley, death certificate no. 7505, 5 March 1961.

183. Baptists Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., Thomasville, N.C., individual files for Dicey, no. 813;

Roland ran away in 1916.<sup>184</sup> However, Effie remained at the institution and thrived. She believed she had a varied and rich education, with piano and voice lessons, anatomy, biology, and domestic arts education.<sup>185</sup> During her residence the orphanage grew to be the second largest in the United States.<sup>186</sup> Yet it was not too big to take individual notice of its residents. The orphanage followed Effie through the years as evidenced in newspaper clippings found in her school files.<sup>187</sup> One praised Effie and remarked “I believe she is the most all-round woman I have ever known—she can do anything.”<sup>188</sup>

In June 1918 she left the orphanage to live with Mrs. F. V. Barrier in Salisbury for her eleventh year of schooling.<sup>189</sup> She cooked and cleaned for her landlady in payment for room and board. Later she was hired to teach elementary school.<sup>190</sup> After marriage Effie raised two active girls, whom she taught to cook, sew, and manage thrifty households. She passed many of her recipes down to her daughters and their families, the most famous being “See Red Relish.”<sup>191</sup> Scholarship was important in this family as well. Both girls were on the honor roll and attended college, Frances graduating from Biltmore College in 1942.<sup>192</sup>

After her girls were grown Effie had more time for church and service activities. She belonged to a local Baptist church group and hosted evenings at her home.<sup>193</sup> She held office in the Ladies Auxiliary of the Order of Railway Conductors, a service organization for wives of railroad conductors that assisted widows and children of conductors.<sup>194</sup> Effie died at ninety-one on 1 June

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Roland, no. 814; Effie, no. 815; and Katie, no. 816.

184. Ibid., individual file for Roland, no. 814.

185. Betty Rickmond Tomlinson, interview, November 2014.

186. Weston C. Reed, *Love in Action: The Story of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina* (Thomasville, N.C.: Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., 1973), 8; *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/> : accessed 18 June 2018).

187. Miscellaneous Baxley children newspaper clippings, 14 Sep. 1939–1949, unidentified newspaper; Tomlinson family papers, privately held by the author, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Tx. Photocopies were obtained in 2005 from microfilmed records of the Baptists Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc.

188. Ibid.

189. Sallie L McCracken, Research Secretary, Baptists Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc., Thomasville, NC, unstated recipient, letter, 23 Oct 1959, verification of orphanage records for Effie Baxley; personal correspondence, 1959, Tomlinson research files, privately held by the author, [ADDRESS FOR PRIVATE USE,] Helotes, Tx., 2015.

190. 1920 U.S. census Rowan Co., N.C., pop. sch., Salisbury Twp., ED 127, sheet 7A, dwell. 147, fam. 179, Effie “Barley”; NARA microfilm publication T625, roll 1321.

191. The author enjoyed many delicious jars of this relish.

192. “Honor Roll at Biltmore College is Made Public,” *Asheville Citizen–Times*, Asheville, N.C., 28 March 1942, page 7, col. 7; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/197755575/> : accessed 8 January 2017). For Frances's graduation see “Ramsey is Speaker at Biltmore College Finals,” *Asheville Citizen–Times*, Asheville, N.C., 4 June 1942, page 12, col. 4–5; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/195947097/> : accessed 6 March 2017).

193. For example see “T.E.L. Class to Meet with Mrs. Rickmond,” *Asheville Citizen–Times*, Asheville, N.C., 26 September 1943, page 20, col. 1; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/196232348/> : accessed 23 June 2018).

194. “New Heads Installed By Group,” *Asheville Citizen–Times*, Asheville, N.C., 13 December 1957, page 29, cols. 1–3; *Newspapers.com* (<https://www.newspapers.com/image/200367231/> : accessed 23 June 2018). For the purpose of the Ladies Auxiliary see Susan B. Anthony and Ida H. Harper, *History of Women's Suffrage Trilogy—Part 2: The Trailblazing Documentation on Women's Enfranchisement in United States, Great Britain & Other Parts of the World*, *Google Books* (<https://books.google.com/books> : accessed 23 June 2018) e-book, unpaginated, search for “ladies auxiliary to the order of railway conductors.”

1989 at the home of her daughter Betty in Jacksonville.<sup>195</sup>

Maurice and Effie had two children:

- i. FRANCES LUCILLE RICKMOND, born 24 February 1922 in Asheville.<sup>196</sup> She married Henry Lawrence Eason on 31 May 1950 in Seneca, Oconee County, South Carolina.<sup>197</sup>
- ii. BETTY BAXLEY RICKMOND, born 1 August 1924 in Asheville.<sup>198</sup> She married James Addison Tomlinson on 5 August 1944 in Washington, D.C.<sup>199</sup>

## CONCLUSION

Three generations of men chose a profession that was risky, yet yielded rewards—one that led to the American dream of home ownership and prosperity. Through accidents, furloughs, world wars, and the Depression, the Rickmond men remained disciplined, loyal, and competent railroad employees. Their wives steadfastly maintained stable family relationships even with the long hours and dangerous work of their men, raising the next generation of railroaders wherever the railroad sent them.

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195. Duval Co., Fla., Effie B. Rickmond, death certificate no. 574041, 1 June 1989.

196. “Designation or Change of Beneficiary,” (Form AA-11), filed 29 November 1938, Maurice Herman Rickmond pension file, SS no. 706-16-2536, Records of the Railroad Retirement Board; Frances Rickmond, born 24 February 1922.

197. See Rickmond Family Bible Records, “Marriages,” image 2. Also “South Carolina, County Marriage Records, 1907–2000,” *Ancestry* (<https://search.ancestry.com/search/db.aspx?dbid=61450> : accessed 1 June 2018) Anderson > 1911–1955 > Marriage Register, image 10672, Eason–Rickmond, no. 343, 31 May 1950.

198. Buncombe Co., N.C., birth certificate no. 633, Betty Baxley Rickmond, 1 August 1924; Register of Deeds, Asheville, North Carolina.

199. District of Columbia, marriage certificate no. 270877, Tomlinson–Rickmond, 5 August 1944; District Court Clerk, Washington, D.C.