Clan RD – Richard Hulse (b.1730) - Notes

Our research on the first few generations of the new Clan RD is far from complete.

I have decided to put it online, since it is more accurate than what we previous had with Richard and Thomas Hulse being Clan D Holsaert family.

We are now convinced what we had was incorrect, although it is sure to remain on most websites for quite a while.

My main source for Clan RD is our Clan D tree.

The Shepherd info is taken from “Genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-Van Metre Family” by Samuel Gordon Smyth 1909 - pg 222-223.

As I worked on verifying the information, I ran into many mysteries, puzzles and brick walls.

For example, Smyth’s work starts off with the mistake of Sarah Williams being of the Shepherd family – mentioned below.

Just as there is an amazing lack of records in Monmouth County, New Jersey for the Hulse families, there is a dearth of record of them once they moved to Virginia.

Smyth’s work has good description of the establishment of Shepherdstown. It was originally named Merklenburg, even though it is far north of both Merklenburg County Virginia, and Merklenburg County North Carolina. It was later changed to Shepherd’s Town, and then Shepherdstown.

It was originally in Virginia, not becoming West Virginia until the state separated in the next century at the start of the Civil War.

For consistency, we use the Hulse and Shepherd spelling. There is a lot of variation in the Shepherd spelling, due to mistaking PH of PP is some old script documents – and the difficulty of telling “e” from “a” – resulting in Sheppard .

We have the initial evidence of Richard Hulse and Mary William’s wedding in Freehold, Monmouth, NJ on 27 May 1751, and the statement that Mary’s mother, Sarah Williams, had to give her permission, implying Mary was underage. We don’t have anything proving Richard’s birth date or place, nor Mary’s – and no record of Mary’s family other than her mother.

Initially Sarah’s will deposition in 1770 was misread to think that the David and William Shepherd,, who took the deposition, were her brothers , but it actually says they are brothers to each other, not her. Realizing this mistake, it has now been assumed that Sarah’s husband, Mary’ father was Joseph Williams, due to record of marriage on Dec 9 1698, in Boston. There is no other known evidence that shows this is the right Sarah Williams or that Mary was among the children of the Boston couple.

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