

RICHARD MATHEWS.

IN 1699, Richard Mathews was a "factor," and resided in Stokenewington, in the county of Middlesex, England.¹ He had previously resided in the city of London, but had probably been driven from that place on account of the persecution of Friends. He was largely interested in the proprietaries, and, through his agents in West New Jersey, made several surveys in Gloucester county. In 1683, a survey of five hundred acres was returned in his name as made in Newton township; upon which now stands the larger part of the village of Haddonfield.² In 1691, he, through Elias Farr, his attorney, conveyed one hundred acres of the same to William Lovejoy, it being that part of the survey which lay east of the main street of the town, at that time nothing more than a bridle path or Indian trail.^{3,4} The remainder of the tract was by him sold to John Haddon, in whose family it was held for many years.⁵ The blacksmith shop, which is marked on a map of the same made in 1700, and is the only building thereon represented, was, in all probability, placed there by William Lovejoy, who attended to the wants of the small community around him in his particular line. It is supposable that his business included the duties of a tinker, a gunsmith and a clock maker also, and that he looked after all the hardware of the housekeepers near his place; kept all the fowling-pieces and muskets in good order; and regulated

¹ Lib. G3, 458.

² Revel's Book, 38.

³ Basse's Book, 237. ⁴ Lib. G3, 93.

⁵ Lib. G1, 07.

the clocks thereabout when the sun shone and his dial was properly adjusted.⁶

In 1684, Edward Byllynge appointed Thomas Mathews as his attorney, with the consent of George Hutchinson, to sell thirty shares of propriety of West New Jersey. This shows that he had the confidence of the patroon.⁷ It would appear that William Lovejoy was an apprentice to Thomas Mathews, for, in 1696, Thomas Gardiner, as administrator, conveyed to Lovejoy fifty acres of land for services rendered.⁸ These services were those of a blacksmith; but this calling he abandoned after a few years.

In 1686, a survey was made to Richard Mathews on a branch of Woodbury creek, called Mathew's run, containing four hundred and fifty acres, whereon his son Thomas and Thomas Gardiner, who married his daughter Hannah, settled. Another survey was made near Red Bank of three hundred and fifteen acres, which, together, with all his other real estate, passed out of the name many years since. There is nothing to show that Richard Mathews himself ever came to America; while but part of his family came, consisting of one son, Thomas, and a daughter, Hannah, who married Thomas Gardiner, Jr., in 1684, at Friends meeting in Burlington.⁹ The probability is, however, that these were his only children, and that, like Elizabeth Estaugh, they came hither to look after the estate of the parent.

Thomas Mathews, the son, settled on the tract of land near Woodbury creek, and, if he was not a bachelor, he died without children, and intestate, as his entire landed property passed to his sister Hannah Gardiner, through whose blood at this time there remains no connection with this particular family in New Jersey.¹⁰ Richard Mathews died about 1696, and the son Thomas about 1702.

In the year 1683, Thomas Mathews made a proposition to the Legislature to exchange one thousand acres of land for a site to build a saw mill in the forks of Rancocas creek. The matter was referred to commissioners, and, perhaps, was con-

⁶ Lib. B, 129.

⁷ Lib. G₁, 139.

⁸ Lib. G₂, 176.

⁹ Lib. S, 465.

¹⁰ Basse's Book, 52, 123.

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summated ; but where the saw mill stood, and whether it has been maintained to the present time, do not appear.

In 1685, he was returned as one of the members of the Legislature from the fourth tenth ; at which time he resided at Woodbury creek. In the same year, he represented Benjamin Bartlett, Robert Squib and Robert Squib, Jr., as their proxy in the disposal of proprieties, and in voting for members of the council of proprietors ; this privilege, from some irregularity, the Legislature revoked, and passed a resolution to meet the trouble. The Legislature was jealous of the power and action of the council, and much diplomacy had to be used by the more conservative members of each body to prevent difficulty between them. The interest of many members of the Legislature in the soil, and their desire to encourage emigration and settlement, prevented the clashing of the two bodies, which, otherwise, would have led to disastrous results.