

## CHAPTER IV.

### SAMUEL WRIGHT OF DORCHESTER COUNTY, MD.

Samuel Wright was born and reared in a section that can best be located by calling it Middle Dorchester County, and near what is now the town of Hurlock. A greater portion of his descendants were born and grew to man- or womanhood in the same portion of the county.

Samuel was the son of Samuel Wright, Sr., who also resided in the same county and was of English birth or descent. It is, at present, not definitely known by the writer whether it was the elder or the younger Samuel who served in the American Revolution, but inclines to the opinion that it was the father.

It is of record that Samuel Wright enlisted in the Dorchester County Militia as a private in the 2d Regiment, May 20, 1778, and was discharged December 24, 1779.

✓ Samuel was known to have at least two brothers who went West when young men, while he remained in Dorchester until his death, which was about 1836.

He married Miss Nichols, of Caroline County, a member of that well-known family of that name that has resided in practically the same section of Caroline for at least fifty years before the County was organized. A license was issued for the marriage of Samuel Wright and Dorcus Nichols December 24, 1807. To

## THE WRIGHT ANCESTRY

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this union were born nine children: Eleanor, Nichols, Margaret Ann, Isaac, Harriet, Emily (called Millie), Samuel, Mary Catherine, and Sarah Jane.

Eleanor, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married James Nichols. To them four children were born: Thomas Henry, dead; Margaret Ann, married Levin P. Williams; James, married Rowena Wright; Salisbury, dead.

Nichols, son of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married Mary E. Shannahan. To them seven children were born: Eliza Ann, married John Dean; James, married Ellen Cray; Margaret Ellen, married Thomas Rowins; Mary Frances, single; Thomas I., married Lizzie Johnson; Ida Virginia, married George Trice; and Emma, married Wesley Stevens.

Margaret Ann, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married Daniel Robinson. To them two children were born: Samuel, drowned; Ada, married F. J. Willoughby.

Isaac, son of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married twice; first, Sarah Ann Hubbard. To them two children were born: Martin, married; Charles, married. Isaac's second marriage was to Annie Perry, and to them was born one child: Hortense, single.

Harriet, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married twice; first to Garrison Dukes. To them two children were born: Levin, no record; Sarah Catherine, married Jasper Nichols. Harriet's second marriage was to James Johnson. To them three children were born: Benjamin, married Laura Hurlock; Lizzie,

## THE WRIGHT ANCESTRY

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married Thomas I. Wright; Phillips, now dead, married a Miss Palmer.

Emily, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married James Sullivane. To them five children were born: Fannie, single; George, married a Miss Kinnamon; Milton, married a Miss Richardson; Charles, married a Miss Lloyd; Ella, married Samuel Larimore.

Samuel, son of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married Susan Mills. To them nine children were born: W. Columbus, married Emma V. Webster; Ollie, married J. Albert Williams; James O. married Rebecca Baker; Mollie, married John A. Harper; Katie, married Charles Brohawn; Lillie, married Walter Cooper; Raymond, single; Harry C., married Katie Frances; Samuel, married Fannie Robinson.

Mary Catherine, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married Jabez Wright. To them were born seven children: Rhoena V., married James M. Nichols; J. Marcus, married Amanda Nichols; Rodolph, married Minnie Lewis; Kenley J., married Mary Williams; Alvin W., single; Everet C., married Hattie Williams; Zed, married Kittie Von Volkenberg.

Sarah Jane, daughter of Samuel and Dorcus Wright, married Woolford Merrick. To them three children were born: Samuel, married W. Twilley; Norah, married Irvin Higgins; Will, married.

Nichols, the first son born to Samuel Wright, lived to be older than any of the sisters and brothers that

## THE WRIGHT ANCESTRY

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preceded him in death, and was more prominent than any of Samuel's children. Grew to manhood on the farm, and by his industry and business ability not only acquired a large landed estate, but was interested in more than one sailing vessel, such craft being at that time the principal means of transportation by water. Back Landing, on the Caroline County side of Hunting Creek, a tributary of the Great Choptank River, was the shipping point for the section round about for many miles, to or from Baltimore and other ports. Frequently two of these sailing packets would, at the same time, be discharging or loading their cargoes from the warehouse or from scows that carried freight from or to the Dorchester side farther up the creek and nearer Mr. Wright's estate. He filled many offices tendered him by his District or County, with the same fidelity and honor that attended his other transactions through life, for it can be truthfully written that he was well known for his honesty and fair dealings with his fellow-man.

He was also a consistent and active member of the Methodist Protestant Church, contributed liberally to and punctually attended one of that denomination called Zion, near his home.

Nichols Wright was born August 12, 1812, married in 1837, and resided on his home estate lying about equi-distant between the towns of Hurlock and Preston, until about 1896, when he took up his residence in the former town, where he died, Oct. 1, 1900, in his 89th year.