

John Ruddes (Rudds, Rudd), the Mariner

Some people have jumped to the conclusion that a Captain John Ruddes (also spelled Rudds, Rudd, variously in records) was the father of John Rudd, Sr., who married Avis Whitaker. There is no proof of this at all. I have included a discussion of this issue from Genforum.Com with documentation. NOTE also that records show John Rudd, Sr., arrived in Virginia in 1701; he was not born in Virginia. Chesterfield County, VA, chancery files deriving from the death of his widow, Avis, showed that both he and Avis were indentured servants after their arrival in Virginia. In contrast, Captain John Ruddes was a well-to-do and well-connected individual. Furthermore, he never owned property in, or settled in, Virginia.

From message by Janet McKenney, edjanmckenney@comcast.net, "Re: Avis Rudd/Anderson-VA," 02 Aug 2000, <http://genforum.genealogy.com/rudd/messages/500.html>, Rudd Family Genealogy Forum. [CG: I have edited this message to remove material that I thought was extraneous.]

There is no proof that John RUDD, Sr., was the son of Captain John RUDD. Captain RUDD is found in Virginia records starting about 1663 until about 1699. I have found no evidence in the records I have had available to me that Captain RUDD ever settled in Virginia. Capt. RUDD did have a family according to a letter written in **March of 1685**. Capt. RUDD was a relative to William BYRD I, and William wrote to Capt. John, calling him uncle, in **1685**. In the letter William says he considered it a "great misfortune . . . that we are wholly deprived of ever having your company in Virginia Again, where wee have been so often merry together...." This would indicate that Capt. RUDD did not live or settle in the Virginia colony - or, as the letter shows, any other part of the new world. William continues his letter with "I have great hopes (God willing) to see England next year and then doubt not but I shall bee so happy to see you in London." The letter shows that the Captain's wife was still living at this time and that they had children - "Pray give my best respects and service to my aunt RUDDS, and to tell her I beg her acceptance of an otter skin herewith sent; remember mee to ...our good daughter, not forgetting all the small girls" William signs the letter "Dear uncle your obliged cousin and servant Wm. B."

The letter was "to Capt RUDS per his son." The book Rudd, Pollard, Youngblood and Related Families by Margaret Rudd YOUNGBLOOD, 1980, states that he (Capt. John RUDD) may have been a merchant from Scotland. Records do show that he transported goods, such as tobacco, between the Virginia colony and England and that he was at various times captain of the "John and Mary," the "William and Sarah," and later of the "Hopewell." London port records show him as "master of ship" in 1672, 1675, 1676, 1677, and 1696. He is found on occasion in the Charles City County court records and in the minutes of the Council and General Court of Virginia. He is also found a few times in the Henrico Co. court records witnessing wills and deeds. None of these court records indicated a residency in Virginia or, for that matter, any where else. Capt. RUDD did receive land for importing persons - one entry shows 1250 acres; however, there is no evidence to show that he ever resided on that land. According to the book An Irish Rudd Family, by Norman RUDD, Capt. RUDD moved to Newberry Co., SC, and established a large plantation on the Saluda River at Chappells, SC. I have found RUDDs there, but have not been able to confirm that it was Capt. RUDD who settled there. William BYRD's letter would certainly

indicate otherwise. To date, I have not found any evidence, hard or circumstantial, that would lead me to believe that the John RUDD who married Avis WHITTAKER was the son of Capt. John RUDD.

NOTES ON CAPT. JOHN RUDDS/RUDDES

18 December 1663 - Wm HITCHMAN, 1000 ac. more or less, **James City Co.**, p. 349 (365). Nly side of the head of Chicahomany Riv., Nly. on Charles Freeman, Ely. on Wm. Wigg, S.W. on Mr. Goug (?), & Wly on Mr. Thomas Marston. Trans. of 20 persons.: Mary Gardner, Mauldin Irish Francis Smith, Eliz. Smith, Mary Curly (or Curby), Elinor Palmer, Jane Fowby, Sibilla Darby, Margtt. POWELL, , Jno Fulcher, Robt. Atkins, Rice Rogers, Tho. Fufflett, **Jno. RUDDS**, Jno Hoyles, Robt. Wittaker, Robt. Porter, Jno. Watley, Saml. Jordan, Stephen Cowgell. (NOTE: The County of Middlesex and the Bedfordshire District of Great Britain are filled with families with surnames that are capitalized in the importation list. (Source: Virginia Patent Book No. 5, page 507; and Cavaliers and Pioneers, Abstracts of Virginia Land Patents and Grants, Abstracted by Nell Marion Nugent.)

1663 - Abstract. John COGAN conferred judgt. to **John RUDD, Mariner**, for 800 lbs tobco. (**Charles City County** Court Orders, p. 442, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, p. 290)

1665 - **John RUDD** commanded the "William and Sarah," see **2 July 1686** date.

24 October 1671 - "Whereas **John RUDDS** on the behalf of Thomas SANDS of Rotterdam and himselfe did this day petition this Court for restitution of the duty of 2 shillings per hhdd (?) paid upon Tobacco shipt and pretended to be lost upon the said RUDDS shipp in the last warr with Holland, and whereas during the said Warr there were many other persons who upon the like pretended losses did petition for the like restitution all which claymes being grounded upon an Act of Parliamment entituled and Act for Tonnage and Poundage and amounting to a summe too great for the country to beare the said 2 shillings per hhdd not amounting to enough for the Supplying of the Government and supplying the other necessary charges of the Country This court were then and are now of Opinion that the said Impost of 2 shilling per hhdd was not comprised nor intended to bee comprised...the said Act of Parliament, and did then and do now Order that no....restitution should or shall be made until it should be otherwise and commanded by his most sacred Majesty and his Councell to confider and believe that the necessities of the country are so great and urgent as not well to admit of a restitution of so great a somme as so many pretended loosers will clayme if once they have a president to justify their petitions." (Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, p. 288)

24 May 1672 – Jo. Knapman in **John Rudd** a Novis (likely Isle of Nevis in the Caribbean) 10.25 lbs tobacco; gave the place of origin as Virginia. [Virginia Colonial Records Project, Survey Report 04202, Public Record Office – Class E.190/58/1. Port Books, Port of London; Surveyor; Imports to London by Denizen (English) Merchants, 29 Dec 1671-28 Dec 1672. Page 4. (Research done by James and Karen Ward).]

20 November 1672 - **John RUDD** witnessed a power of Atty between John SADLEIR and Thomas QUINEY to Thomas BLAYTON. (Charles City County Court orders, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, p. 349)

3 June 1673 - Abstract - **John RUDD** sues Nevet WHEELER for a bal on a/c. WHEELER protests as having offered payment. Clerk ordered to prosecute Nevet WHEELER, Capt. Wm. RAWLINSON, and Thomas MUDGETT for making an affray in the face of the court. A later entry says, "Lengthy impeachment by the Clerk of Nevet WHEELER, Thomas MUDGETT and Capt. Wm. ROLLINSON for fighting in the face of the Court. That they 'did violently make an assault upon the persons of Capt. John RUDD and his Doctor James TUBB. WHEELER and MUDGETT confess the indictment and submit to the clemency of the court. Capt. ROLLINSON having only endeavored to part the affrayers is acquitted. WHEELER is fined 1000 pounds of tobo. MUGETTT to give surety for his good behavior. Seven depositions are entered in the records concerning this affair. They are all summed up in the deposition of Anthony WYATT Jr., which is given below. He seems to have seen it all. The names and ages of the others follow. Roland PLAC age about 35, John TUBERVILLE age about 24, Sarah SCRIVEN age about 29, Margaret BAXTER age about 25, Roger NEWHAM about 32, Anthony WYATT, Jr., see below, and Morris BURCHER age about 17: the deposition of Anthony WYATT Jr., aged about 25 years sayth That he did see Mr. WHEELER and Mr. RUDDS pass together out of the Court and Jousting one the other when they came forth, also the Doctor of RUDDS came forth with them and sayd to WHEELER who was then giving the said Doctor a push you foole why do you push me. and RUDDS said to WHEELER your tobacco was naught and the Dr. will prove it. with that the said WHEELER said the Dr. was a foole and the Dr. replied Wheeler was an asse where upon WHEELER gave him flurt in the face with the back of his hand with that RUDDS with his left hand gave WHEELER a blow on the face and with a cudgett in his right hand struck him on the head, whereuppon WHEELER pushed away the Doctor, collored RUDDS, and struck him and soe they fought. RUDDS was thrown and bloody and soe were parted and RUDDS came into Court and complained and this depon't further sayth not. (Charles County Court records, p. 525, Virginia Colonial Abstract, pp. 350, 351)

9 June 1673 - Upon the complaint of "**Capt. John RUDD** commander of the shipp 'Hopewell' that Mr. WHEELER did at the Court doore of Charles Citty County the Court then setting assault beate and Wound the Said RUDD which by severall evidences he hath sufficiently proved and was also by WHEELER confessed before Charles Citty Court. It is therefore ordered that the said WHEELER pay unto the said Capt. RUDD 2,000 pounds of tobacco and Caske and Aske him forgiveness and pay all Costs." (At a Meeting of the Governor and Councill. Minutes of the Council & General Court of Colonial Virginia, p. 346) (John RUDD was Captain of the Hopewell a 300 ton sailing ship that carried tobacco to England and returned with staple goods for the settlers. The Hopewell was berthed primarily at the place now known as Hopewell, VA. (Information taken from a letter written by Buddy RUDD to Chstfld Hst. Soc. 30 March 1994)

7 July 1673 - Abstract. Power of Atty. **Mr. Jno RUDDS** commander of the ship Hopewell to John STITH to collect debts, etc. Signed John RUDDS. Wit: Ja. TUBB and William (X) SMITH. (**Charles City Co.**, Virginia, Court Orders, 1664-1665, Fragments, 1650-1696, p. 536)

31 Aug 1675 – In Hopewell; Jn. Rud mr.: for Virginia 7. Thos. Parker; 2 kersies, cum aliis. 2s. 3d. [Virginia Colonial Records Project, Survey Report 03774, Public Record Office – Class E.190/62/1. Port Books, Port of London; Surveyor of the Customs; Exports of woollen cloth, 20 Dec 1674-24 Dec 1675. Page 2. (Research done by James and Karen Ward).]

1 September 1675 – In Hopewell; **Jn. Rudd** mr.; for Virginia. 5.Wm. Paickney; 1 ½ Kersies, 2 peniston freized 5s.o ½ d. [Same reference as above. Page 3.]

9 September 1675 – In Hopewell; **Jn. Rudd** mr.; for Virginia 16 Ed Carter; 4 kersies 4s 5 ½ d. In Hopewell; Jn. Rudd, mr.; for Virginia 21 Thos. Dearsley; 6 kersies 6s. 8d. [Same reference as above, Page 4.]

11 September 1675 – In Hopewell; **Jn. Rudd** mr.; for Virginia 7 Rich. Clark; 12 north doz single 120 lbs overweight, 14 kersies 4 penistons freized £2.8.6. In Hopewell; Jn. Rudd mr.; for Virginia 9. Bath Parr; 4 kersies, 1 North. Doz. Single 6s 1 ½d. [Same reference as above. Page 5.]

4 August 1677 - the first mention I've found of him in Henrico Co., VA, records when he served as witness to a statement made by Frances GOSSE. (Frances GOSSE of St. Paul's Parish, Shadwell, Middlesex Co., VA. She was the widow of John GOSSE who was a "Marriner." **John RUDD** gave oath as to Frances appointing William MOORE her atty. on 1 Feb 1678.) (Colonial Wills of **Henrico County**, Virginia, Part One 1677-1737, WEISIGER, 1976, p. 3)

1 Feb 1678 - Will of Elizabeth BYRD probated. She was a sister to William BYRD of VA - Elizabeth was of Edmonton in Middlesex Co., VA. Elizabeth mentions "...my goods I have on board the ship 'Hopewell' bound now for Virginia." Although Capt. RUDD is not named as the captain of the ship, the time period and the fact that the will is that of a member of the BYRD family and the sister of William BYRD leaves me to believe that the reference is of John RUDD. (Colonia Wills of **Henrico Co.**, Pt. 1, p. 3)

February 1678 - **John RUDD** witnessed the will of Abell BEAUCHAMP and will of Sam TURK. (**Henrico**)

20 September 1678 - **John RUDD** witnessed several deeds for William BEAUCHAMP. (**Henrico**)

5 October 1678 – Survey Report 02032, p2. Middlesex County Record Office; Class Session Rolls, Various True bills, recognizances etc. in cases of transportation (usually unlawful) to Virginia, and theft of Virginia tobacco; Dates 1618/19 - 1685. 5 October. Chas. II: True Bill: **John Rudd** assaulted John Howlett/Hewlett, transported him to Virginia and sold him there. (9 September. 27 Charles II MCR, IV 65 Sessions Roll 1531.) [Also found by researchers James and Karen Ward.]

1 April 1679 - Deed from William Beauchamp, citizen and v inter of LONDON, brother and heir of John Beauchamp, of James River, Merchant; all the plantation of John Beaucamp in Henrico County: Witnesses: John Munford, William Byrd, **John RUDD**ES, Charles Dyose. (**Henrico Co.**, Virginia, Records, Notes by G.W. Standard (Unpublished) Ibid, page 10, ref. to page 24 -)

18 April 1682 - Will of Richard WARD mentions tobacco shipped to England by **Capt. John RUDD**'s command of the "Hopewell" of London. (Colonial Wills of **Henrico County**, VA, Part One, p. 9)

February Court 1683 - John RUDD witnessed deed for Samuel CHAPMAN. (**Henrico**)

14 September 1685 - Bound to **John RUDD** for 4 years in VA, Mary MADDIN, d/o James MADDIN of St. Giles in the Fields (Middlesex). Witnessed by Elizabeth HOPTON. (A List of Emigrants from England to America, 1682-92, Ghirelli, p. 54) (Additional note: Ghirelli states the in the case of indenture sometimes "... the employer of the servant engaged him personally or through agents in England, but in most cases the servants were shipped out by sea captains or agents who collected their fee from the employer in the colonies; in other words, the servants were sold." (p. vii) "It is believed that in many cases the name is that of the actual master whom the servant was to work for, and not an agent who undertook to transport and sell the servant. However, since this can not be discovered with certainty, they are referred to as agents." (p. x)

22 September 1685 - Bound to **John RUDD** for 4 years in VA, Mary CLARKE, spinster, age 18, Witness Margaret GOLLA, her mother. Bound to **John RUDD** for 4 years in VA, Elizabeth GREEN, spinster, age 16. Witness Peter GREEN of Minorities, London, her father. (A List of Emigrants from England to America, 1682-1692, Ghirelli, p. 17, p. 37)

December 1685 - Charles City Co., Virginia. From a fragment of the order book of Charles City Co., State (Virginia) Library. Judgement granted **Jno RUDD** pltf., vs estate of Robert Wyatt, deceased, for 392 pds of Tobacco & casq. Mr. James Munford, as trustee to the estate of Robert Wyatt.

8 March 1685 - "The Correspondence of the Three William Byrd s of Westover, Virginia, 1684-1776", edited by Marlon Tinling. The following letter was published on page 56. It is from William Byrd, I.

Capt. John Ruddes Virginia, **March 8th, 1685[/86]**

Dear Uncle

I cannot but recon itt a great misfortune amongst many others that wee are wholly deprived of ever haveing your company in Virginia Again, where wee have been so often merry together, & I must assure you its seldome the upland Gange meets but wee remember your good health, though wee so often forget our owne. I have great hopes (God willing) to see England next year, & then doubt not but I shall bee so happy to see you in London. In the interim I heartily wish you all prosperity. All our friends here in health; B.B. is as you left her, and soe is Bumble B. Dumble B. Only Bradley and Hall quarrell who spins most cotton. Pray give my best respects & service to my aunt Ruds, and to tell her I beg her acceptance of an otter skin herewith sent; remember mee to Mrs. Bradley, Cousin Nanny, and your good daughter, not forgetting all the small girls.

Dear uncle your obliged cousin & servant Wm B.

To **Capt Ruds** per his son.

2 July 1686 - "His Excellency was pleased to cause to be read this day in Councel his Majesties

Letter, bearing date of 15 December 1685, signed by his Majesty Command, by the Right Honorable Earle of Rochester, Lord High Treasurer of England, signifying, that his Majesties Royal Will and Pleasure was, that Thomas SANDS of London merchant should have liberty to ship out of Virginia, 800 hhds of Tobacco, for England, for and in consideration of 580 hhds of Tobacco exported from Virginia, in the "William and Sarah, **John RUDDS Commander**, in the year 1665, for which by his petition, he the said SAND said, he had paid the Virginia Duties, and that the same was taken by the Dutch, and utterly lost...." (Executive Journals, Council of Colonial Virginia, Vol. 1, p. 80)

A deposition of his recorded in **Henrico Co., VA**, Deeds, 1688-1897, Book 5, states that he had "just come into this country."

27 January 1689 - John RUDD letter from Abell BEAUCHAMP

4 August 1690 - These may certify there is due **Capt Jno. RUDD** 1250a of land for importation of these persons: **Jno. RUDDS** 8 times; Ja. TUBB 8 times; Matthew LEVER 3 times; Robert GROVE 3 times; Jno LEVER 2 parts; Thomas LEVER once, which said **RUDD** assigns to Capt. Wm. SOANE. (Charles City County, Virginia Court Orders 1687-1695, WEISIGER, p. 84)

3 January 1692 - John RUDD to serve as arbitrator between Capt. John HAMLIN and Capt. Samuel DODSON who were indebted to each other 20 pounds. (**Charles City Co.**, COB 1687-95, p. 400)

3 June 1692 - William Bade aged about 40 years or thereabout. Deposith. That at ye request of Fra. Cater that Depon't did give him house room for two hands of tobacco which he ye said Cater had paid the honorable William Ayers Esquire such so took this desp't did some time after deliver to **Capt Rudd, Seaman** who rolled it away for this depon'ds plantation in ye like quality he rec'd it from Cater to ye best of this desp't knowledge. And further saith not. /S/ William Bade. Sworn in Court June 1, 1692. (**Henrico Co.**, Virginia Court Records, Book 5, Page 317, Microfilm # 0031770.)

4 December 1693 - Capt. John RUDD and Capt. Christopher Morgan arbitrate in suit between Capt. John HAMLIN for debt against Capt. Samuel DODSON (Charles City Co. COB 1687-95, p. 164)

31 October 1699 - John RUDD 4 times and 8 rights more due by order of the General Court held on this date to Robert BALLING and by him assigned as appears by said order.

1 September 1709 - Will of Edward BRAINE of **Charles City Co., VA**, recorded in **Henrico Co., VA**. Edward willed money to buy gold rings for several ship's captains - one of them being **Capt. John RUDD**. (Colonial Wills of Henrico Co., VA, Part 1, p. 78) (NOTE: Edward Braine also left 12 pounds for a "Gould ring" for Capt. William Byrd. There are numerous instances of interactions between William Bryd and Capt. John Rudd.) LAST MENTION OF CAPT. JOHN RUDD THAT I'VE FOUND IN LOCAL RECORDS.