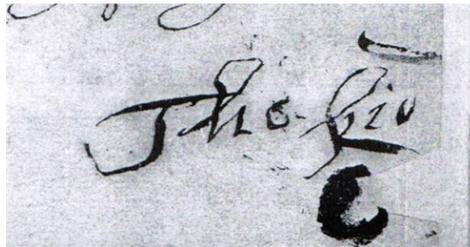


## Our Kidd Family in America

The research presented here was a collaborative project of Kidd genealogist Sandra Kidd and the late Craig M. Kilby, a professional researcher with expertise in colonial Virginia records, especially Lancaster and Middlesex Cos.

This information is freely shared with Kidd family researchers for their personal use. We ask that you credit the KiddRoots.org website when using this information, and that you use it in its original form. Thank you.



*Signature of Tho Kid from his will written 28 May 1680 in Middlesex County, Virginia.  
In an age where few men were literate, Thomas Kidd could sign his name.*

The year 2018 marks the 372<sup>nd</sup> year of our Kidd family in America.

Our Kidd family can document our origins to Middlesex County, Virginia, to the family of **Thomas Kidd** and his wife **Jane**, whom he married by 1669. The first record for Thomas Kidd found in Virginia is in York County, and is dated 7 October 1646. Although we have no record of his passage to Virginia, Thomas Kidd is believed to be our immigrant ancestor. At least thirteen generations of Kidds have lived in Virginia since Thomas settled in Middlesex County on the Dragon Run, near present-day Church View, Virginia.

**Thomas Kidd and his wife Jane** (her maiden name is not confirmed or documented, despite unproven claims that it was Willis) were the parents of **two sons Thomas, Jr., and William, and three daughters Elizabeth, Jane, and Mary**. Thomas Kidd died in 1680 at his farm in Middlesex County. Shortly before his death, he wrote a will leaving his properties to his eldest son Thomas Kidd Jr. and Thomas Jr.'s heirs. He also left his younger son William a property that William was to live on during his lifetime. This practice of leaving the land to the oldest son is called primogeniture or entail, which means the properties are passed on only to the eldest son of each successive generation. A custom of British law, this practice was used in the Virginia colony until abolished in the 1780s.

Through the terms of his will, all the properties of Thomas Kidd became the property of Thomas Kidd, Jr., who names them in his will of 1727, and then the properties of Thomas Kidd III, eldest son of Thomas Jr. In 1753, Thomas Kidd IV, the son of Thomas III, then living in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, successfully petitioned the Virginia court to

“dock the entail” to all of these properties, which meant that he gained permission from the colony to sell the property out of Kidd family possession.

Today, the Kidds are gone from Middlesex County which lies on the Rappahannock River, but it was the home of the Kidds of Virginia for their first century in America.

Thomas Kidd likely came to the colonies as a young man, although we have no document that proves his arrival or place of origin. It is unlikely that Thomas was an indentured servant. According to the first record found for Thomas in Virginia in 1646 in which he was named in an estate record for the deceased Peter Deare, he owned a quantity of tobacco that served as currency at that time. Thomas acquired several tracts of land within the first ten years of his arrival on the Dragon Run (about 450 acres total) and was by all evidence an established member of the middle class in colonial Virginia. Further, in an age where few people could read or write, on three documents requiring his signature, he signs by signature “Tho Kid”. One of these documents is to his will, the original of which is kept in the Middlesex County courthouse in Saluda VA.

In 1657, Thomas Kidd was appointed a county constable for the upper northern end of Middlesex County “from Machpuengo”. However, as often was the case in colonial times, Thomas Kidd sometimes ran afoul of men who were wealthier than he was. One such instance was in November 1663, when the court found that Thomas Kidd “did hunt and carry away hogs” from Henry Corbyn, Esq. For this, he was ordered to pay Corbyn 400 pounds of tobacco. Henry Corbyn was a member of the Church Vestry and a powerful neighbor, so hunting down his hogs was definitely not a wise move.

In June 1679, Thomas Kidd petitioned the court to be released from paying taxes. With his death soon to follow in 1680, it is likely that Thomas was in ill health by this time and thus petitioned to be relieved of taxes, which was granted. We do not know his age at the time of his death, only that he was of adult age by the year 1646 and that his only known children were born between 1669 and 1680.

Thomas Kidd wrote his will 28 May 1680. He likely died soon after the writing of the will, and died no later than October 1680, when his estate was probated. In his will, he granted his plantation of 250 acres to his son Thomas Jr. He granted his son William “my other plantation” of 200 acres, on which William had the right to live during his lifetime. However, on 21 October 1687, when William was only 13 years old, a patent was issued in his name for 420 acres of land on Burnham’s Creek in northern Middlesex County. This patent survey may have been filed for the principal reason to establish a clear title to the lands, which were to revert to eldest son Thomas Kidd Jr. upon William’s death.

**Jane Kidd, widow of Thomas Kidd**, married second Robert Blackley on 29 January 1683/84, and had at least two children: Robert and John. It is not known when or where Jane Kidd Blackley was born or died, nor when any of Thomas’s daughters died. We have only the married name of one daughter; we know that Elizabeth Kidd married a man named Martin Massey.

## **The Second Generation in Middlesex Co., VA: Thomas Kidd Jr. and William Kidd**

**Thomas Kidd, Jr.**, the elder son of Thomas Kidd, likely was born by 1669, before Middlesex Co VA was formed from Lancaster Co VA. No parish books of Lancaster Co have survived, and Thomas's birth is not recorded in the Middlesex Co Christ Church Parish Register, although the births of his brother and three sisters are recorded in Middlesex.

**William Kidd**, the younger son of Thomas Kidd, was born 22 March 1675/1676 in Middlesex Co VA and baptized at Christ Church Parish as the son of Thomas and Jane Kidd. The Kidds worshipped at the Upper Chapel of Christ Church Parish, since they lived in that part of the county.

For the next 47 years after their father's death, Thomas and Jane's sons Thomas Jr. and William would live side by side on adjoining plantations close by the Dragon Run, raising their families and their crops. They likely never traveled more than 10 miles from home during their lifetimes. **Thomas Kidd Jr.** married **Alice Trigg**, and **William Kidd** married a woman named **Margaret**, whose last name is not confirmed or documented (no records document her maiden name as a Chowning of Lancaster or Middlesex Cos, despite undocumented claims). The only records that name Margaret at all are the Christ Church Parish Register birth/baptismal records of her children, and in these she is named simply as Margaret Kidd.

In the spring of 1727, it is likely that some sort of disease or epidemic struck Middlesex County. It was to take the lives of Margaret, William, and Thomas Jr. over a period of two months. Margaret died first in March 1727, then William in April 1727 and Thomas Jr. in May 1727. Alice, the wife of Thomas Jr., had died in 1720. By the summer of 1727, all of Thomas Kidd's grandchildren were left orphaned. At this time, the youngest of Thomas Jr.'s children were eight years old, and the youngest of William's was only six. It is likely that the older siblings, some already married with their own families, took care of the younger children following their parents' deaths.

The deaths of William and Thomas Jr. in 1727 were to have a major impact on their descendants, setting into motion the transfer of all the Kidd family lands into the ownership of Thomas Kidd III, the eldest son of Thomas Kidd Jr. With no land to call their own, a number of William and Margaret Kidd's children left Middlesex County and headed westward across Virginia. Thomas Kidd Jr.'s children stayed in Middlesex County or settled in neighboring Essex County. Some of the Kidds also made their home in nearby King and Queen and Caroline Counties.

## **The Third Generation in Virginia: The Grandchildren of Thomas and Jane Kidd**

### **The children of Thomas Kidd, Jr., and Alice Trigg were:**

**Thomas III**, who married three times, to Margaret (last name not known), to Elizabeth Laurence, and to Phyllis (last name not known)

**John**, who married Rebecca Godbee

**Daniel**

**Winifred** (may have died as a child)

**Frances**, who married William Thurston

**Henry** (likely to have died as a child)

**Mary**

**William**

**Anne and Jane, twins**

Of the sons of Thomas Jr. and Alice, **Thomas Kidd III** and **John Kidd** had families that can be documented in the records of Middlesex and Essex Cos VA. Henry's birth was recorded in the Christ Church Parish register, but he was not named in his father's will, so he likely died prior to 1727. Daniel drops from sight after 1751, and William died by 1740 while still a young man.

### **The children of William and Margaret Kidd were:**

**William**, who married Elizabeth Thurston

**Margaret**, who married John Southern

**Robert** (not known if Robert married or had a family)

**Agatha**, who married possibly Edward Southern

**Moses**, who married Dorothy (last name not known)

**John**, who likely married Ruth Farish/Parish (possibly as his second wife)

**Jane**, who married John Gregory

**Duel**, who married a widow Mary Sorrow

**Aaron**, who married Susannah (last name not known)

**James**, who married Eliza(beth) (who was possibly a Webb, although this is not confirmed or documented)

**Joseph** and **Samuel**, who died as children

**Catherine** (nothing more known)

It is also very likely that **Benjamin Kidd** who married Judith Chowning in 1736 was a younger son of William and Margaret Kidd, although his birth is not recorded in the Middlesex Christ Church Parish Register.

William and Margaret's eldest and youngest sons—William and Benjamin—married into prominent Middlesex County families and remained in the area for their lifetimes. However, the remaining six sons of William Kidd, and at least one daughter, are known to

have left the Middlesex County area within a few years after their parents' deaths in the spring of 1727.

These seven children of William and Margaret Kidd—Robert, Moses, Duel, Aaron, John, and James, and sister Margaret who married John Southern--migrated west of Middlesex, to areas including the present-day counties of King and Queen, Caroline, Goochland, and Albemarle. The area in which they eventually settled in Albemarle Co includes the present-day counties of Albemarle, Amherst, Buckingham, Fluvanna, and Nelson. From there, Kidds moved into the southside of Virginia, to Brunswick, Mecklenburg, Halifax, Pittsylvania, and Franklin Cos. Another group settled in southwest Virginia, in Tazewell Co. These Kidd families were on the move in the mid to late 1700s, which can be a very difficult time to research in Virginia and surrounding states due to there being relatively few vital records (birth, death, and marriage) in this timeframe. Fortunately, land, court, and tax records help to fill the information gap.

From their mother state of Virginia, descendants of Thomas Kidd emigrated across the South and Midwest. By the late 1800s, Kidds of this family were found as far north as Wisconsin and as far west as California. Significant numbers moved to Kentucky, Tennessee, West Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Ohio, Mississippi, Missouri, and Louisiana.

Because of the continual migration of the Kidds before 1800, we have not yet fully documented how each Kidd family descends from Thomas Kidd. However, it appears from all available records, along with Y-DNA evidence, that many of the Kidds who left Middlesex Co VA were descendants of Thomas's younger son William Kidd.

Thomas Kidd was neither famous nor wealthy. He paid his taxes and occasionally quarreled with his neighbors, and raised his young family and his crops, mostly tobacco on low-lying land near the Dragon Run. Today, busy US Highway 17 passes within a mile of the Kidd family land, but just to the west, the million-year-old Dragon Run, a critical part of the Chesapeake watershed, has retained its wild beauty.