



Richard Cheney Sr. (abt. 1621 - 1685)



Richard [Cheney](#) Sr. aka Cheyney, Chaney

Born about 1621 in England or Colony of Virginia 📍 [uncertain]

Son of [father unknown] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Husband of [Charity \(Unknown\) Cheney](#) — married 1650 in Anne Arundel County, Province of Maryland 📍

Husband of [Eleanor \(Unknown\) Pindall](#) — married 1669 in Anne Arundel County, Province of Maryland 📍

Father of [Richard Cheney II](#), [Elizabeth \(Cheney\) liams](#), [Mary Cheney](#), [Anne \(Cheyney\) Jacob](#), [Thomas Cheney](#), [Charles Cheney Sr](#), [Sary Cheney](#), [Katherine \(Cheney\) Brown](#), [Charity Cheney](#), [John Cheney](#) and [Richard Cheney](#) DESCENDANTS 👤

Died 6 Mar 1685 at about age 64 in Anne Arundel County, Province of Maryland 📍

Profile managers: [US Southern Colonies Project WikiTree](#) ✉ [send private message] and [Jack Day](#) ✉ [send private message] PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

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Richard Cheney Sr. resided in the Southern Colonies in North America before 1776.

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SEARCH RECORDS

DNA Connections

It may be possible to confirm family relationships with Richard by comparing test results with other carriers of [his Y-chromosome](#) or his mother's mitochondrial DNA. Y-chromosome DNA test-takers in his direct paternal line on WikiTree:

[Sean Chaney](#) 👤: [Family Tree DNA](#) Y-DNA Test 700 markers, haplogroup R-BY66837, FTDNA kit #937853 + Y-Chromosome Test, haplogroup R-Y3001

It is likely that these autosomal DNA test-takers will share [some percentage](#) of DNA with Richard:

~0.78% [Sara \(Langley\) Woods](#) 👤: [AncestryDNA](#)

~0.39% [Melva \(Cook\) Coffelt](#) 👤: [23andMe](#), [GEDmatch](#) [M500563](#) [compare]

~0.39% [Kathy Boyd](#) 👤: [AncestryDNA](#), [GEDmatch](#) [JV8553184](#) [compare], Ancestry member [kathy_boyd](#)

Have you taken a DNA test? If so, login to add it. If not, [see our friends at Ancestry DNA](#).

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Biography

1621 Birth and Parentage

No parentage has been found for Richard Cheney, Immigrant to Anne Arundel County, Maryland, at this time. Richard Cheney who lived and died in Maryland is NOT [Richard Cheney-1454](#) born in England, son of Richard Cheney and Ann Ellinor, who died before 1625. See the Research Notes section below.

Sharon Doliente estimates Cheney's birth as circa 1630. ^[1]

Richard's name most frequently appears spelled as Cheney, however consistency in spelling was not a hallmark of the era! Later generations tended to spell the name Cheney or Chaney.

1650 First Wife -- Charity

Richard Cheney was already married to [Charity](#) before their arrival in Maryland. Her maiden name or place of birth is unknown.

Since they had no children when they arrived in Maryland, it may be assumed that they had been married only a short time, so estimate their marriage as taking place in 1650.

1652 Arrival in Maryland

Shortly after 20 June 1652, Richard Cheney and his wife Charity arrived in Maryland, where they settled on the south bank of the South River in Anne Arundel County. We know the arrival was after this date because if they had arrived earlier, they would have been eligible for 100 acres of land each rather than the 50 they received. ^[2] We know it was shortly after this date because soon there were children, who, if they had already been born when Richard and Charity arrived, would have entitled the couple to an additional 50 acres each.

In 1725, their daughter Elizabeth testified that she was then 74 years of age, which would calculate to a birth date of 1651. Ages given in testimonies are often off by several years, and this testimony suggests that Elizabeth was born as soon after 20 June 1652 as possible.

Where Richard and Charity came from is unknown. They may have come directly from England. Upon arrival in Maryland, however, they located in the South River area of Anne Arundel County settled largely by Puritan refugees from Virginia, and it is quite possible Richard and Charity were among these refugees.

Guessing that the Maryland Richard spent about 10 years in Virginia, he might have immigrated to Virginia around 1642, and if he were 21 at the time, would have been born

about 1621. This is conjecture, however. When and where he married Charity, her place of origin, and even her maiden name, are also unknown.

1658 Patented Property in Anne Arundel County

Cheney first patented property in Maryland in 1658. Skordas shows him as having Immigrated, which means he brought himself to Maryland, his travel was not paid for by others. The 1658 date is the date of patent, however, not the date of arrival; ^[3] in 1658 Maryland's colonial civil war was over and records were again being kept, but Cheney could have arrived some years earlier.

^{Skordas} shows the patent (Liber Q, folio 74) that was patented to Richard in 1658, but to his wife Charity in 1650. The 1650 date should be considered a typo as it is unlikely that the wife's patent for the same property would be 8 years before her husband's, and two years before the 1652 change in acreage entitlements. Cheney is also shown by some sources as having immigrated on July 2, 1649, however, this is the date of Lord Baltimore's proclamation permitting the Puritans to migrate from Virginia.

On 23 July, 1658 Richard Cheney entered his claim for the land he and his wife were entitled to for entry into Maryland: "to all persons whom present, know ye that Richard Cheney hath transported himself and Charity his wife into this province, Maryland, under our flag July 2, 1649 and remaining upon our province 8-1651. likewise do hereby grant parcel of land called Cheney Hill. ^[1]

When Richard and Charity arrived, Maryland was about to descend into civil war between Puritans and Royalists, and the actual patent to their land would not be granted until January 23, 1659/60 when the civil war had ended.

Other Land Purchases

Richard Cheney began to purchase land soon after his arrival in Anne Arundel County. ^[1]

Richard Cheney resided on the "South River Hundred" and soon became one of the largest land owners in the area. After his death, Maryland rent rolls in 1707 indicate the ownership of 2,820 acres. ^[1]

The family home was on the South side of the river, (just below Annapolis) and on the South side of the creek in said river called Flat Creek. Properties under Richard Cheney's control in Anne Arundel County included: Cheney's Neck, Cheney Hill (100 Acres), Cheney's Rest (300 Acres), and Cheney's Purchase (100 Acres). ^[1]

South River Hundred, Anne Arundel County was an area settled by Puritans who were expelled from Virginia about 1649 because they "were seditious sectuaries who refused to attend Common Prayer." This strongly suggests that Cheney was among those who came from Virginia. Maryland was first settled in 1634, so he could not have been born in Maryland. Jamestown, Virginia, was settled in 1607 so he could possibly have been born in Virginia, but more likely migrated from England to Virginia. Or directly to Maryland.

By negotiating other warrants, Richard Cheney soon became one of the largest land owners in the South River Hundred. His holdings included:

- 1659 Cheney Hill, West side of Chesapeake bay, South River
- 1661 Cheneys Rest...County AA Md s river flatt creek
- 1662 Cheneys Purchase...South River AA County E side of flat creek 100 acres
- 1662 Cheneys Hazard near where he liveth 100 acres
- 1662 Cheneys Neck 110 acres s river
- 1663 110 acres may 29 witness Charles Calvert esq Lt General.
- 1663 for transporting several persons into this province do grant may 29, 1663

Richard Cheney 400 acres Cheney's Resolution

- 1663 Cheney's Purchase granted 100 acres
- 1667 Richard Cheney demanded one hundred acres in behalf of himself and wife Charity, Hall of Records, Annapolis md.
- 1674 to Richard Cheney the elder, of s river AA County lord baron of Baltimore bearing date at St Marys

1668 Second Marriage: Elinor

After Charity's death, about 1668 Richard married Elinor. Their daughter Katherine's birth is shown in the All Hallows Parish records as "Katherine Cheney, the dght. of Richard Cheney and Ellineer his wife." [\[4\]](#)

Marshall shows that about 1669 in All Hallows Parish Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Eleanor MNU Cheney, b. Bef 1653, d. 9 Mar 1710, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age > 57 years) [\[5\]](#)

1674 Richard Gifts Cheney's Resolution to John

Jacobs

1 Mar 1674; Deed of Gift; from Richard Cheney, the Elder of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter, and wife; to beloved son-in-law John Jacobs, of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter, and my daughter Anne, his wife; 100 acres of Cheney's Resolution on the southside of South River containing 400 acres; /s/ Richd Cleney (mark); re-recorded at request of John Jacobs (AALR H1 .47) [\[5\]](#)

- 1 Mar 1674; Deed of Gift; from Richard Cheney, the Elder of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter, and wife; to beloved son-in-law John Jacobs, of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter, and my daughter Anne, his wife; 100 acres of Cheney's Resolution on the southside of South River containing 400 acres; /s/ Richd Cleney (mark); re-recorded at request of John Jacobs March 19th 1705/6 (AALR H1.47)
- 1 Mar 1674; Deed of Gift; from Richard Cheney, the Elder of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter; to beloved son-in-law William Ijams, of South River, Anne Arundel Co., planter, and my daughter Elizabeth, his wife; 100 acres of Cheney's Resolution on the southside of South River containing 400 acres; /s/ Richd Cleney (mark); recorded at request of William Ijams March 19th 1705/6 (AALR H1.50)

9 Jan 1685; Richard Cheney, Sr., Anne Arundel Co., planter, and Elinor his wife; convey 100 acres of Cleney's Resolution; for 7,000* tobacco; /s/ Rd. Cleney (mark), Elinor Cleney (mark); recorded 9 Mar 1685; re-recorded at request of John Jacobs, Sr. (AALR H1.45) [\[5\]](#)

1679 Juror with Son

- 1679 John Jacob, Richard Cheney SR., Richard Cheney jr. served as jurors in Anne Arundell Co Md. MSA

1681 Public Service

- 1681 Richard Cheney received 30# of tobacco for some public service. tobacco was given as currency as it was very valuable. salt was also given as it was badly needed and scarce.

1685 More Land to John Jacob

- 1685 Richard Cheney of AA county and Elinor his wife sold 7000# of tobacco 100 acres of Cheney's Resolution to John Jacob (son-in-law).

9 Jan 1685; Richard Cheney, Sr., Anne Arundel Co., planter, and Elinor his wife; convey 100 acres of Clenies (Cheney's) Resolution; for 7,000* tobacco; /s/ Rd. Cleney (mark), Elinor Cleney (mark); recorded 9 Mar 1685; re-recorded at request of John Jacobs, Sr. (AALR H1.45)

1686 Will and Death

Richard Cheney died in Anne Arundel County between 6 March 1686 (the date of his will) and 16 August 1688 (the date his estate was appraised). ^[5]

Will

A photographic copy of the original will is at the Find-a-Grave site. ^[6]

Cheney signed the will on 6 Mar, 1686 in Anne Arundel County, MD. It reads: *In the name of God Amen I Richard Cheney of Anne Arundel County and the colony of Maryland, make this my last will and testament in manner and form following.*

- To my eldest son, Richard, two-hundred-and-fifty acres called "Cheney's Rest" on South River.
- To my son Charles and son Thomas, my plantation called "Resolution", at the age of sixteen years, in the meantime to be in charge of my son Richard and son-in-law John Jacobs, and his wife.
- To my three daughters, Mary, Eliza, and Ann personalty of sort.
- To wife her dower rights." ^[1]

Cheiney, Richard, Sr., A. A_ Co., 6th Mch., 1685-6; ^[5]

- To eld, son Richard, ex., and hrs., 250 A., "Cheine's Rest," on South R
- To 2 sons, viz., Thomas and Charles, at 16 yrs. of age, "Resolution; " sd. sons to be in charge of eld. son Richard afsd. and son-in-law John Jacobs and his wife.
- To daus., viz., Mary, Eliza;, and Ann, personalty.
- To wife (unnamed), dower rights.
- Test: Wm. Burgess, Wm. Cocks. 4. 311

Estate

The inventory of Richard Cheney's personal property, recorded 15 Aug 1688 included the following: "Three cows and calves, five young cattle, two coves without calves, two horses and one mare, a parcell of Hoggs, one hand mill, one gunn and pair of pistols and smiter, a woman servant, a parcel of bedding, foure iron potts, three iron kettles, one spit, one brass skillet, one frying pan, a parcel of pewter, one mare- lost in the woods, 1,600 pounds of tobacco owing estate from James Powell." ^[1]

Richard Cheyney, Sr. 10.88 | £43.5.0 Aug 16 1688 ^[5]

- The amount of the inventory also included #1600.
- Appraisers: Walter Phelps, Robert Hopper.
- List of debts: Ja. Powell

Richard Chiney 13A.201 A AA £43.5.0 #7091 Aug 7 1694 ^[5]

- Payments to: Gabriell Parrott, Dr. Moore due to Col. William Surges, Maren

Duvall.

- Administratrix: Elisabeth Chiney by her son James Pindle.

1687 Creditor, William Burgess Estate

When the William Burgess estate was settled in 1687, Richard Cheney is listed as a creditor. The large number of creditors gives a catalog of the prominent citizens of the area at the time.

William Burges, Esq. 18.89 | AA Oct 11 1687

- Appraisers: Thomas Knighton, Maren Devall, Henry Ridgley.
- List of debts: Maj. Nicholas Sewell, Col. Vincent Lowe, Elisabeth Larkins, Francis Downea, Madam Calvert, Robert Proctor, Nicholas Nichollson, George Burges, Col. Edward Pye, John Merriton, Gerrard Vansweringain, Job Evans, Maj. Peter Sawyer, Benjamin Lawrence, Philip Lynes, Henry Linch, Capt. Thomas Everard, Capt. Hune, James Neale, George Cornish (merchant) at London, Dr. Benjamin Arnatt, Henry Exon, Joseph Storey, John Longman, Thomas Ivery, John Stone, Capt. Jonathon Francis, George Parker, John Spicer (gentleman) of London, Charles Willmare, Jacob Delahay, Chr. Mettley, William Bison, Thomas Hollandworth, George Yates, Benjamin Caple, Merren Duvall, John Fairbrother, John Harberdine, James Lewis, Leonard Wayman, Walter Phelps, John Howard, Sr., Thomas Button, Robert Wade, John Jacobs, John Simpson, John Lineam, Robert Wade, John Walters, Richard Gott, Mark Richardson, John Willobey, William Yeildhall, Robert Conant, Robert Lockwood, Peter Impey, Thomas Hooker, Chr. Moate, Wolfran Hunt, Anthony Holland, John Brewer, Madam Jane Calvert, Richard Cheney, Sr., Mathias Haws, Alexander Macfarland, Col. Pye, John Gyles, William Jamas, James Powell, Thomas Pratt, John Nichollson, Edward Burges, Walter Carr, Card Hopkins, Mathew Hawkina, Richard Cheney, Jr., lawrence Draper, John Gressam, Thomas Guillock, Thomas Lunn, Richard Beard, Joseph Nailor, Province of Maryland, Henry Bonner, Thomash Pattison, George Ogg, John Gray, John Robinson, Robert Gott, James Maxfeild, Thomas Edwards, John Larkin, Thomas Standbank, Nicholas Aldridge, Dr. Moore, Abraham Childe, Henry Welch, William Elvn (?), John Harris, Henry Hanslap, Margaret Holland, John Heatchoct, Austin Hawkins, Ma-knew El list on, John Hawkins, Col. Darnall, Wharles Whitehead, James Stafford, John Smith, Sr., Robert Cover, chr. Tully, Thomas Hedge, John Purdey, John Talbot, Jacob Hooker, John Martin, Samuel Garland, Richard Royston, John Seiffin, Chr. Foster, Peter Barnett, Samuel Withers, John Morgan, Samuel Gray, James Mills, William Harris, John Griffin, Robert Watts, George Parker, Richard Webb, John Guile, John Spencer, Mathew Jones, John Brookes, John Stone, Francis Sandry, John Fletcher, Chr. Bayley, Robert Hooper.

Children

Children of Richard Cheney and Charity

Richard Cheney and his first wife Charity had four children:

1. [Elizabeth Cheney](#), b. 1652, married William Ijams. Marshall shows Elizabeth Cheney, b. 30 Oct 1652, South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, d. Aft 1726, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age > 75 years) ^[5]
2. [Richard Cheney](#), b. 1654 (?) the elder, and Mary. Marshall shows Richard Cheney, b. 1649, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, d. 6 Dec 1704, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age 55 years) ^[5] However, as noted in the discussion, Richard and Charity had no children prior to the change in acreage entitlements in 1652.
3. Mary Cheney, b. 1656 in Anne Arundel Co. Mentioned in father's will. Marshall shows Mary Cheney, b. Abt 1668, South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland.
4. [Anne Cheney](#), b. 1661, married John Jacob. Marshall shows Anne Cheney, b.

1661, South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, d. 29 Apr 1730, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age 69 years) ^[5]

Children of Richard Cheney and Eleanor

Richard Cheney and his second wife Elinor had seven children. Their births are found in All Hallow's Parish Records.

1. Thomas Cheney, born 1 Mar 1669. Marshall shows Thomas Cheney, b. 1 Mar 1670, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland ^[4], d. 13 Jun 1738, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age 68 years) ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Thomas Cheney son b. 1 Mar 1669; ^[7]
2. [Charles Cheney](#), 6 June 1673. Marshall shows Charles Cheney, b. 6 Jun 1673, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, ^[4], d. 6 May 1745, Anne Arundel County, Maryland - inventory (Age 71 years) ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Charles Cheney son b. 6 Jun 1673; ^[7]
3. Sarah "Sary" Cheney, 15 Oct 1677, ^[4], m. James Chickey, 29 Jan. 1694. James d. 24 Jan. 1698. Marshall shows Sarah Cheney, b. 15 Oct 1677, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Sary Cheney dau b. 15 Oct 1677; ^[7]
4. [Katherine Cheney](#), born 12 Mar 1679 in Anne Arundel County, Maryland ^[4], , and died in Mar 1713 in All Hallows' Parish, Anne Arundel County, MD. Buried on 13 Mar 1713 in All Hallows' Parish, Anne Arundel County MD. Married 1st, 1 Oct 1701, James Parnell. Married 2nd, 18 Jun 1702, All Hallows' Parish, Anne Arundel County, MD, Robert Browne (ca 1684-1769), son of Abell Browne and Elizabeth Phillips. Marshall shows Catherine Cheney, b. 12 Mar 1679, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland died 3 Mar 1713, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age 34 years) [natural] ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Kathern Cheney dau b. 12 Mar 1679; ^[7]
5. [Charity "Charyty" Cheney](#), 16 Mar 1680. Marshall shows Charity Cheney, b. 26 Mar 1681, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland ^[4]^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Charyty Cheney dau b. 16 Mar 1681; ^[7]
6. [John Cheney](#), twin, b. 1 May 1684. ^[4], Marshall shows John Cheney, b. 1 May 1684, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Twins, John Cheney son b.1 May 1684 and Richard Cheney son b. 1 May 1684. ^[7]
7. [Richard Cheney - twin \(the younger\)](#), b. 1 May 1684 in South River, Anne Arundel County, Maryland. , twin to John. ^[4], Married Mary Penn, 9/11/1722. Marshall shows Richard Cheney, b. 1 May 1684, All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, d. 28 May 1759, Anne Arundel County, Maryland - probate (Age 75 years) [natural] ^[5] Richard Cheney and Elliner parents of Twins, John Cheney son b.1 May 1684 and Richard Cheney son b. 1 May 1684. ^[7]

Research Notes

Was Richard Cheney of Maryland the same person as Richard Cheney of Faversham, Kent, England?

Margaret Neal suggests the possibility that Richard was the same person as [[Cheney-3843|Richard Cheney, baptized at Fabersham, Kent in 1625 and son of [John Cheney](#). ^[8]

Neal and Barnes are respected genealogists and this connection is a possibility, but it remains unproved.

Was Richard Cheney of Maryland the same person

as Richard Cheney of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, England?

Numerous genealogies show Richard Cheyney , Immigrant to Anne Arundel County, Maryland to be the same person as [Richard Cheney-1454](#) baptized 14 June 1616 at St. Mary Woolnoth Church in London, England, son of Richard Cheney and Ann Ellinor]]. This cannot be, because the English Richard was deceased by the time his father wrote his will in 1625. (Refer to that profile for documentation of the English Richard and his claimed ancestry).

The conflation of the two Richards is attractive because it gives Richard Cheney of Maryland an illustrious English ancestry. A number of prominent genealogies of an earlier era assume such an ancestry, including:

- [Newman](#) seems to support such speculation when he writes, "The Cheney (Cheyney)family of ancient antiquity was ennobled in England, but through extravagance and being royalists during the civil wars lost most of their property. There is every reason to believe that the Maryland emigrant was a scion of the ennobled family. He was lettered (could read) and the fact that he financed his own passage and that of his wife is further indication of his social level.

The [Richard Cheney](#) who was born in England is NOT the Richard Cheney who lived in Anne Arundel County, Maryland.

Richard Cheyney, Immigrant to Anne Arundel County, Maryland, is often shown as [Richard Cheney](#) the son of Richard Cheyney (Jr) and Anne Ellinor of London, who were married at St. Mary Woolnoth Church in London on June 3, 1612. However, the 1625 will of Richard Cheyney (Sr) shows Richard (Jr) deceased at that time, and names only one son of Richard (Jr), namely Bartholomew. That is sufficient to resist making this cross-Atlantic connection.

Because the ancestral line through St. Mary Woolnoth is both attractive and frequently shown, it is displayed below to avoid confusion!

Generation:

1. [Humphrey Cheney](#), b. Kent 1457, son of Robert Cheney and Ann Lovelace. Two known sons, John and William.
2. [John Cheney](#), b. 1490, son of Humphrey. This John is confirmed by the Visitation of Kent. ^[9] But the visitation shows John having a wife Elizabeth Gyles and son William, but not a second marriage to Mary Giles or any children, including Richard (I) from such a marriage.
3. [Richard Cheney \(I\)](#) b.1524 in Kent. There are real issues related to the very existence of this person. (1) There is no evidence that his supposed father John married a Mary Giles and had a son named Richard. (2) There are no records of any events involving this Richard during his lifetime. (3) There is no record of his death. (4) The suggestion that he died in Cornwall, at the other end of the island, is given with no explanation. (5) His 1591 death in Cornwall is taking place at about the same time that his supposed son is getting married in London!
4. [Richard Cheney \(II\)](#), b. London Jan 23, 1566 and d. London, 1625. This Richard is the same as [Richard Cheney](#) Goldsmith. He married [Elizabeth Offley / Elizabeth Offley](#) at St. Mary Woolnoth Church, London, Feb 6, 1590/1591. ^[10] All of this is substantially documented. What is not at all documented is who Richard's parents were. Elizabeth was baptized at this church; they had 6 children who were baptized there, including a son Richard.
5. [Richard Cheney \(III\)](#), b. London 1594, son of Richard (II). Baptized at St. Mary Woolnoth. Referred to as "Gentleman." Married [Anne Ellinor](#) June 3, 1612, and died in London 1633. She is also associated with St. Mary Woolnoth Church, and

died 1633. His father's will names him, his wife Anne, and their son Bartholomew. However, there is no mention of a son Richard.

- Richard (IV), born in London 1616. No documentation has been found for the birthdate 1616, which, however, is seen often. There is, however, a parish record for Richard Cheney, baptism dated June 14, 1616 at St. John Parish, Hackney, London, England and death on April 23, 1690 in the same parish. His father was Willyam Cheney, not Richard.^[11] This Richard, if he weren't already dead, would have been 9 years old when Richard III's will was being written in 1625, but he is not mentioned in the will. So there is no reason to believe that this Richard is the same as Richard Cheney, Immigrant to Maryland. The London Richards were probably literate; there is no evidence that Richard Cheney, Immigrant, was literate. He did sign some documents with an "X".

Additional evidence disputes accounts of Richard Cheyney's English connections:

- Sharon Doliant states: Richard Cheyney, Sr, born: (ca) 1630, died after 3-6-1685 (date of his will) and before 8-16-1688 (date his estate was appraised) married Charity, who died in the mid to late 1600's: he then married Elinor(eleanor) who survived him. ^[12]
- Newman writes, "It is evident that he was single when he arrived in the Province, because between the years of 1634 and 1682 no female by the name of Cheney was listed among the immigrants. He, however, married twice, but the name of his first wife is unknown." ^[13]
- A record (which will be given in full, infra), in the Hall of Records, Annapolis, shows that Richard Cheyney and Charity, his wife, arrived in Maryland by 1658, and without children.
- They were allowed 50 acres each, for their own transportation in to the province. It is evident, therefore, that they came after 1651, since for a period up until June 20, 1652 ^[14], persons were allowed 100 acres each for settling in Maryland. Anne Arundel Gentry, Volume 1, 2nd Edition, states: "The Cheyney family of ancient antiquity was enobled in England, but through extravagance and being Royalists during the English Civil Wars lost most of their property. There is every reason to believe that the Maryland emigrant was the scion of the ennobled family. He was lettered and the fact that he financed his own passage and that of his wife is futher indication of his social level." The earliest entries into the All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel Co., MD are those of the Cheyney family. The date of the entry precedes the date of the establishment of the Parish. It is evident that the family kept their own records and documentation. Later spellings of the name became Cheney and Chaney.

Was Charity actually Charity Wood?

Marshall shows Richard's wife as Charity Wood, b. 20 Nov 1628, England, married before 1649 in England, and died 1668, Anne Arundel County, Maryland (Age 39 years). ^[5]

Just as there is a variety of undocumented information circulating about Richard, so is there about his wife Charity.

- Nearly all sources agree her name was Charity. Some show her given name as Mary Charity; the first and middle name construction was unusual in her time period. Her maiden name is variously given as Wood, Woodward, Woodwards, Woodman, Ryan or Unknown. There is no evidence that Charity's full name was Mary Charity, or that her family name was Wood, or any of the others given. Where she came from is also unknown.
- In one account, Charity is Mary Charity Woodward b. 20 Nov 1628, as recorded at St. Petroch, Exeter, Devon, England and the daughter of Ezekiel Woodward.

The confusion "Mary Charity Cheney" arises from conflating records for the Richard Chaney who married Charity, and the Richard Cheney who married Mary, Both couples appear as separate articles on this site. I suspect that not distinguishing between them has led to a number of conflations, including birth, land, and will records. The birth records are easily disentangled since in most cases the father and mother are both mentioned. Unless the land and will records mentions the name of the wife, it becomes difficult to associate the record with the right Richard Cheney. WMW 2022 Apr 4

Did Richard and Charity come from Virginia rather than England?

Also, Richard seems to have been on especially friendly terms with William Burgess and William Cock(s), who drew up and witnessed his will. William Burgess was definitely from Virginia, and it seems very likely that William Cock was also. ^[1]

In addition, one Richard Cocke, of Henrico Co., in Virginia transported into that colony before Mar 6, 1636 (among others) one Robert Cheyny [Nugest, op. cit., p. 54]. And, there were other Cheney's in Virginia, as well as a few later ones in Maryland." ^[1]

Could there have been two Richards married to Charity and Elinor rather than just one?

The existence of two children named Richard -- one the child of Richard and Charity, the other the child of Richard and Elinor -- raises the question of whether there might be two different men named Richard Cheney, one married to Charity and the other to Elinor.

"Name Recycling" occurs most often when a child dies in infancy or early childhood, and then the name is given to a subsequent child, but in the Cheney case, both children lived simultaneously.

Suspicion is increased by apparent differences in behavior: Births in the second family are recorded in All Hallows Parish records while births in the first were not -- but All Hallows Parish's record keeping had not commenced when the first children were born.

The theory that there were two Richard Cheney's would be confirmed if documentation could be found for the different Richards doing different things, perhaps in different places, at the same time. No such documentation however, has been found.

Instead, we have several instances where the same Richard Cheney is involved simultaneously with members of the two families, and this would confirm that there was just one Richard Cheney -- leaving unsolved the mystery of why two children living at the same time were named after their father

- On 9 Jan 1685 Richard Cheney Sr conveys 100 acres to John Jacobs, who married his daughter Anne from the first marriage; his wife Elinor of the second marriage waived dower for the transaction. (AALR H1.45) ^[5]
- In his will of 6 March 1686, Richard Cheney names children of his first marriage -- Richard, Mary, Eliza and Ann, as well as children of his second marriage, Charles and Thomas (who were underage at the time. ^[5] (Richard Cheney had other children who are acknowledged as his children in other documents; presumably he felt no need to name them in his will either because he considered them already appropriately provided for.)
- Most importantly, in 1710, Mary Cheney, widow of [Richard the Elder](#), released her dower right in a portion of the *Cheney's Resolution* tract which had come to her via Richard the Elder's father, whom she calls Old Richard, in order to convey the land to the younger of the two Richard sons, whom she calls [Richard the Twin](#) and identifies Richard the Twin also as a son of "Old Richard."
 - I Mary Cheney, Late Wife Of Richard Cheney of Anne Arundel Dec'd For A Valuable Consideration Me Hereunto Moving,
 - Have Released To Richard Cheney S/O Old Richard Cheney Commonly Called The Twin,
 - All Manner Of Dower Right And Title Which I Might Have
 - To All That Plantation Whereon The Said Old Richard Cheney Did Formerly Dwell, And That Land Which Belongs To The Same And Is Now In The Tenure Or Occupation Of His Said Son, Richard Cheney, The Twin,
 - Being Part Of A Tract Of Land Called *Cheney's Resolution*.

- Bounded By A Pearr Tree Where Originally Stood By Original Survey A Marked Oak Standing In The Se Line Of Sd. Old Richard Cheney's 300 Acres Lst Taken Up , Thence To The Land Give By Sd Old Richard Cheney To Wm James, Thence With The Sd Land Of Wm James To The Line Of John Jacobs Sr.
- Signed 17 Oct 1710. Mary Cheney; Witness Richard Duckett, Richard Cheney Mark. [\[15\]](#)

Here's a list of birth records for Richard Cheney and Elinor

From FamilySearch Maryland Births and Christenings, 1650-1995

Thomas Cheney 1-Mar 1669 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 Charles Cheney 6-Jun 1673 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 Sary Cheney 15-Oct 1677 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 Kathern Cheney 12-Mar 1679 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 Charijty Cheney 16-Mar 1681 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 John Cheney 1-May 1684 Richard Cheney, Elinor
 Richard Cheney 1-May 1684 Richard Cheney, Elinor

The source lists birth's and Christenings. As it happens all of the above are births. Note that Richard Cheney, and his twin brother John, are the youngest of the children of Richard and Elinor.

The will quoted above includes the statement To my eldest son, Richard, two-hundred-and-fifty acres called "Cheney's Rest" on South River.

Note that the will does not specifically identify his wife.

Clearly the child list above is not for the same person who wrote his will in 1686 naming his eldest son as Richard. (*Why? His eldest son was Richard the Elder, son of his first wife Charity; Richard, twin of John, was his youngest son, son of his second wife Elinor. While it is unusual, this is not the only case of a man having a namesake son by each of two wives. These children are already listed above under "Children": with citations to the original All Hallows Parish registers.* [Day-1904 10:53, 5 April 2022 \(UTC\)](#))

Note also that there is in fact another Richard Cheney in the area, this one married to a Mary. (*This Richard is Richard the Elder, son of "Old Richard" and Charity who married Mary. These children are listed on the profile of Richard the Elder.* [Day-1904 10:53, 5 April 2022 \(UTC\)](#)) The same source cited above gives their children as

Mary Cheney 3-Aug 1681 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 Richard Cheney 8-Mar 1682 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 John Cheney 8-May 1684 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 Joseph Cheney 25-May 1686 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 Benjamin Cheney 10-Oct 1687 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 Elizabeth Cheney 25-Mar 1688 Birth Richard Cheney, Mary
 Samuel Cheney 4 Sep 1698 Christening Westminster Parish Richard Cheney, Mary
 Ann Cheney 4 Sep 1698 Christening Westminster Parish Richard Cheney, Mary
 Hanna Cheney 4 Sep 1698 Christening Westminster Parish Richard Cheney, Mary
 Susanna Cheney 1701 Christening Westminster Parish Richard Cheney, Mary

In this instance Richard Cheney son of Richard and Mary, is in fact the eldest son (assuming this is a complete list of their children).

I believe that there are indeed two Richard Cheney's in the area, probably overlapping in time, whose data have been intermingled to some extent in this article. Indeed there's an article for Richard and Mary on the site. WMW

Note: the two lists are easier to read in edit mode. Is there a convenient way to creat lists like this that do not run the data together?

Direct Presidential Ancestor

Richard Cheney was an ancestor of Barack Obama, 44th President of the United States. [\[16\]](#)

Caution: Duplicate Profiles

The following profiles appear to be duplicates, and once any discrepancies in data between them are resolved, merges should take place:

- Richard Cheney, father of Anne
 - [Richard Cheney-1454](#) was born in England, son of Richard Cheney and Ann Ellinor, and is often confused with, but is NOT Richard Cheney who lived and died in Maryland.
 - [Richard Cheney-1610](#), said to be born 1654 in Kent, England, son of [Richard Cheney-698](#) and [Anne Ellinor-20](#) and died in Maryland March 6, 1684. One child shown, [Anne Cheney-1609](#) There is no documentation on this page.
- Anne herself"
 - [Anne Cheyney or Cheney](#)
 - [Anne Cheney](#), b. 1654, daughter of Richard Cheney and Charity Woodward
- John Jacob, husband of Anne
 - [John Jacob](#)
 - [John Jacob](#) b. Sept 18, 1643 in Dover, Kent, England
- Daughter Susannah
 - [Susannah Jacob](#), b. about 1688
 - [Susannah Jacob](#)

Appendix I: Archaeology of Cheney Hill

Cheney's "Cheney Hill" homestead was found by archaeologists in the South River Hundred area. [\[17\]](#) The dig "turned up shards of imported German pottery, beads for Indian trading, pipes, utensils, a finger-length iron key, glass, a brick, and other common items....the find has left more questions than answers. Why did Richard Cheney come to the New World? What did he do for money? Why are there two buildings with fireplaces? And why as his home lot on a steep hill?

"It doesn't look like much -- angular depressions knifed a foot deep into the hard clay in woods about 5 miles from Annapolis.

But archaeologists believe the location marks an important site -- the home of a well-known Anne Arundel and southern Maryland family, dating to about 1658.

An excavation begun last year has revealed the first known Chaney -- or Cheney, as the spelling varies -- homestead, called Cheney Hill.

The site, believed to have once held two wood-post buildings, each with a fireplace and chimney, was discovered during an archaeological check of acreage for a proposed residential development.

Working through 350 years of land records revealed that Richard and Charity Cheney bought 100 acres that included that site in 1658, and Cheney rapidly extended his holdings to 1,200 acres.

Through generations, the family settled largely in the Bristol-Lothian area of southern Anne Arundel County, but also moved into Calvert County. Chaney's, under various

spellings, account for more than half a page in the Annapolis phone book.

What makes the find particularly significant is the information it might hold about life in an early period and the mystery of its location, said Al Luckenbach, Anne Arundel County archaeologist, whose office is supervising the dig. The dig has turned up shards of imported German pottery, beads for Indian trading, pipes, utensils, a finger-length iron key, glass, a brick and other common items.

The soil points to frequent repair of rotted or termite-eaten posts sunk 2 1/2 feet in the ground.

"We never really knew where they landed, other than it was in Anne Arundel County," said descendant E. Steuart Chaney, whose interest in 19th century history is so intense that he is putting together a small village with buildings from that era at Herrington Harbour. "And now to have the house discovered. It is significant not only to the heritage of our family, but to the heritage of the county."

The structures would have been built about 24 years after the founding of Maryland colony, and their abandonment would have been just at the time London Town, to the south, was developing into a population and business center.

Fewer than a dozen sites from 1658 to the mid-1680s, when the Cheney buildings are believed to have been abandoned, have been found in Anne Arundel County, where Luckenbach is researching "lost towns" of that era.

But this site is perched on a steep knoll off Riva Road and the South River.

"One of the obvious questions is, Where are you growing your tobacco? He is sitting on top of this hill," Luckenbach said.

Tobacco was so lucrative that it inspired a gold rush-like stampede to grow the cash crop. It was similar to the fur-trapping and trading boom that was on its way out by the time Cheney bought the property.

"The way the story goes is that they lived on low areas and grew tobacco. He is not fitting the paradigm. There may be others [who] don't fit the paradigm, but this is the first one that we found," Luckenbach said.

With the house built so high up, someone would have had to carry water up from the river or creek for daily use.

Luckenbach speculated that the site may have been defensive -- protection from Indian raids, or perhaps from other settlers during a time of intense strife in England that also resulted in clashes in Maryland.

The Cheney family is believed to have left England soon after King Charles I was beheaded in 1649, said descendant Bill Chaney, a Revolutionary and Civil wars buff who visited the site earlier this month.

Luckenbach speculated that Cheney might have feared Royalists. But Bill Chaney said yesterday that a 1955 genealogical paper referred to his ancestor as a Royalist. So maybe he worried about local Puritans or was security-minded in general.

Early work on the dig was paid for by CJF Joint Venture and Koch Associates, which still hopes to build a single-family development there. Since spring, when the developers' archaeological obligation ended, Luckenbach has taken it over. He wants to map at least the footprint of the main house.

The find has left more questions than answers. Why did Richard Cheney come to the New World? what did he do for money? Why are there two buildings with fireplaces? And why was his home lot on a steep hill?

What Bill Cheney knew from the 1955 genealogical paper on his family was that the family came from the Isle of Sheppey and that Richard Cheney financed his passage to America. Richard and Charity had four children. After Charity's death, Richard remarried and had seven more children. But he had no idea where they lived.

"If I didn't know where it was, I'd never have found it," Cheney said.

Appendix II: Complete Transcription of Will

The following transcript was made from a photograph of Richard Cheiney's will. ^[18]

I Richard Cheiney Senior of the Couty of Ann Arundel in the province of of Maryland being now in good health and perfect memory doe make this my last Will & tetament revocking all other Wills by me made formerly as Witness my hand and Seale hereunder subscribed this sixth day of March Annoq. Domn 1685/6.

Imprimis I give and bequeath unto my eldest sonn Richard Cheiney to him & his heires forever all my tract or parcell of Land called by the name of Cheiney's Rest lying and being near South River in the County of Ann Arundell aofresaid Containing by estimacion two hundred and fivety acres (and my will is that hee possess this same immediately after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my two Sonns Thomas & Charles Cheiney all my Plantation whereon I now live called by the name of Resolucion to be equally divided betwixt them only Tenn acres of the said Land I give unto my Wife during her life or widdowhood. Butt if she marry or dye that then I give the said Tenn acres of Land bee divided also between my two Sonnes Thomas and Charles.

Item I give & bequeath unto my three daughters Eliza - Mary and Anne each of them five shillings lawful English money to bee paid them immediately after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath all the rest of my reall Estate and personall Estate to bee equally divided amongst my wife and my two sonns Thomas & Charles and my Will is that my said Sonnes Thomas & Charles Cheiney shall be all age (and shall enjoy the Estate I have here left them when they shall become sixteene years olds, also my Will is that immediately after my decease the two third parts of the chattell hoggs & horses bee marked for my said two sonnes that when they come at age may possess the increase thereof as well as principall, also I commit into the custody of my said wife during her life or widdowhood my said two sonns together with their Estate till they shall become sixteen yeares old only excepting what is above excepted that is that the cattell hoggs and horses be marked as above but iff my wife dye or marrye again my will is that imediately after her death or marriage my said two Sonnes alsoe their Estate herein mentioned be delivered into the Custody & to the management of my Sonn Richard Cheiney and my son in law John Jacobs and his wife till they shall becomes Sixteen year old and when they shall become sixteen yeares old my will is that what estate I have herein given & bequethed to the bee delivered to them togeather with their increase of the cattell hogges and horses if there be any.

This is my last will and testament. Wittness my hand and seale the day and yeare above written.

Witness his his William Burgess Richard X Cheiney Sealed Willm Cocks mark

I ordaine constitute and appoint my Eldest son Richard Cheiney to be my Executor of this may last will and testament vide. Probates to this Will entered Libr G. P. no 5 fol. 290 for the year 1726 [illegible]

Sources

1. ↑ [1.0 1.1 1.2 1.3 1.4 1.5 1.6 1.7 1.8](#) Doliante, page 105
2. ↑ Liber Q, f. 74, Hall of Records, Annapolis, cited by Skordas, p. 88 and Doliante, page 105.
3. ↑ Skordas, page 88
4. ↑ [4.0 4.1 4.2 4.3 4.4 4.5 4.6 4.7](#) All Hallows Parish Records in Wright, *Anne Arundel County Church Records*, page 5
5. ↑ [5.00 5.01 5.02 5.03 5.04 5.05 5.06 5.07 5.08 5.09 5.10 5.11 5.12 5.13 5.14 5.15 5.16 5.17 5.18 5.19](#) Mike Marshall. *Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck Counties*. [Profile for Richard Cheney](#). Accessed 22 November 2021 [jhd](#)
6. ↑ Find A Grave: [Memorial #104482863](#) Note -- the Find-a-Grave site repeats the errors of Richard Cheney's legendary English ancestry, but contains a photographic copy of Richard Cheney's recorded will. Accessed 23 November 2021 [jhd](#), [Image of Will](#)
7. ↑ [7.0 7.1 7.2 7.3 7.4 7.5 7.6](#) All Hallows Parish Record, cited by Marshall.
8. ↑ Research notes made by Margaret Neal at the Society of Genealogists in London. Neal, Margaret *The Cheney Family: A Tentative Reconstruction*. Presented in Robert Barnes. *British Roots of Maryland Families* Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co, 1999, p. 110-111
9. ↑ [The Visitation of Kent 1619](#) in The Publications of the Harleian Society, Vol. XLII, 1848, p. 43. Vance Mead, Genforum Medieval Genealogy Forum #2360, April 13, 2009.
10. ↑ Brooke & Hallen
11. ↑ "England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975," database, FamilySearch (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:QTB-T46> : 30 December 2014, Richard Cheney, 23 Apr 1619); citing SAINT JOHN,HACKNEY,LONDON,ENGLAND, index based upon data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City; FHL microfilm 569,924. (Added by [Mack-1127] Nov. 11, 2017)
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13. ↑ Newman, Anne Arundel Gentry.
14. ↑ Maryland Archives, vol 1, p. 331-332. <http://msa.maryland.gov/megafile/msa/speccol/sc2900/sc2908/000001/000001/html/am1--331.html> "Richard Cheyne demands one hundred acres of land in behalf of himself and Charity his wife. Warrant to lay out for Richard Cheyne one hundred acres of land" (Ret. 22 feb next /1658. Per Betty H. Reed, bettyhreed at comcast.net, on Janet Lockard (clanlockard at comcast.net). "My Paternal Ancestors: File on Ancestry.com, Accessed Apr 19, 2009" . Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin, Vol 20, No. 1, Winter 1979
15. ↑ Mike Marshall. *Early Colonial Settlers of Southern Maryland and Virginia's Northern Neck Counties*. [Profile for Richard Cheney the Elder](#) Accessed 4 April 2022 [jhd](#)
16. ↑ Gary Boyd Roberts. *Ancestors of American Presidents*, 2009 Edition. Boston: New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2009. Page 666.
17. ↑ Andrea F. Siegel, "[Homebuilding Site Develops Into an Archaeological Find](#)", Baltimore Sun, Sept 14, 1999
18. ↑ [Photograph of the Will of Richard Cheiney](#) which may be accessed through Richard Cheney's Find-a-Grave site: Find A Grave: [Memorial #104482863](#) Transcript made 5 April 2022 by Jack Day [jhd](#) The original can be viewed at [Ancestry.com](#) minor revisions WMW 6 Apr 2022]

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See also:


- Source [S4Pitard.net](#). Spells surname "Cheyney." This site shows no maiden name/parents, dates for his wife Charity. Books listed below (S30-S35) are cited or mentioned on this page.
 - Source S31 *Duckett Genealogy: A Maryland Colonial Family*. Edythe R. Whitley. Nashville, Tennessee; privately distributed, 1947. NOTE: This is the book referred to on Pitard.net (S4, above) when he writes, "According to Whitley..."
 - Source S33 *Early Families of Southern Maryland*. Elise Greenup Jourdan. Westminster, Maryland : Family Line Publications, [Willow Bend Books, Heritage Books], 1993-<2001 >. v. <1-10 >. v. 4, p. 240.
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We found records about Richard Cheney




218 Marriage & Divorce




327 Birth Records



247 Death, Burial, Cemetery & Obituaries



401 Census & Voter Lists



6,378 Newspaper

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[Sally Chaney](#) .

Name Richard Chaynie

Sex Male Christening Date 27 Oct 1622 Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh with Exmouth All Saints, Devon, England Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, England Father's Name Richard Chaynie Father's Sex Male Event Type Christening

Name Richard Cheyny Sex Male Christening Date 4 Nov 1632 Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh with Exmouth All Saints, Devon, England Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, England Father's Name Richard Cheyny Father's Sex Male Event Type Christening

Name Mary Wood Sex Female Christening Date 5 May 1628 Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh with Exmouth All Saints, Devon, England Christening Place Withycombe Raleigh, Devon, England Father's Name John Wood Father's Sex Male Event Type Christening

The three entries above are from FamilySearch.

There are many Charity Woods in Withycombe Raleigh, just outside Exeter, in Devon in the 1600s, per FamilySearch. Charity is obviously a family name.

Puritanism dominated the local Exeter government in the early seventeenth century. See Ed Legon, "A Short History of Dissent in Exeter (and further afield), 1531-1854," 3 August 2014, http://edgt.org.uk/uploads/3/4/6/9/34695614/a_short_history_of_dissent_in_exeter_v2_4-8-14.pdf.

John, William, and Samuel Wood appear in the records of Northampton County, Virginia, beginning in the 1640s.

posted Feb 21, 2023 by [Sally Chaney](#)

edited Feb 23, 2023 by [Sally Chaney](#)



[Jack Day](#)

Hi, Bill. Thank you for bringing up the matter of the Richard Cheney who married Mary. Interestingly, of the two Richards who are shown as sons of Richard who is the subject of this profile, both married a Mary! I went and did some additional research on the older of the two Richard sons, who is often called "Richard the Elder."

On Mike Marshall's site, which transcribes a number of documents, I found a fascinating document that ties everything together. In 1710, Mary, the widow of "Richard the Elder", conveys her dower rights in a tract of land. The tract is "Cheney's Resolution", which had been the property of her father in law, Richard the Elder's father, the subject of this profile, whom she calls "Old Richard." Whom does she convey the property to? The younger of the two Richards, the twin brother of John, whom she refers to as "Richard Cheney the Twin", and identifies him also as a son of "Old Richard." This I think is as close as one can get to proof that "Old Richard" had two sons whom he named Richard, the first being "Richard the Elder" and the second being "Richard the Twin." I would not have found this without your prodding, and I do believe it settles the matter.

The lists of children you provided for Richard and Eleanor are already included in the biography under "children", while the list of children for Richard (the Elder) and his wife Mary belong in that profile and I have included them there. Once I make sure everything you provided is covered elsewhere, I'll delete them.

BTW, in answer to your question about lists, preceding an item with an asterisk (*) produces a bulleted list, and preceding it with a number sign (#) produces a numbered list. Welcome to the intricacies of WikiTree!

posted Apr 04, 2022 by [Jack Day](#)

[Bill Willis](#)

There's a odd problem in the identity of Richard Cheney's died 1785/86) children. His will lists five children

Elizabeth Richard Mary Ann Thomas Charles . Birth/Baptismal records Identify his children by Eleanor as

Thomas Charles Sarah Katherine Charity Richard

all born between 1669 and 1784 There's also John said to have been the twin of Richard b 1684 (which I haven't verified)

While Thomas and Charles are accounted for in Richards will, none of the other children whose baptismal records are extant, are included in Richards will.

Yet we know that they were the children of Richard and Eleanor from the Baptismal records.

Perhaps A) they were oversights on the part of Richard B) They were excluded from inheriting for reasons unknown C) There were actually two Richards (one married to Charity) the Other to Eleanor.

Also, there's the problem of the two Richards, one born to Charity, and one born to Eleanor. Name recycling is relatively uncommon, but does occur--usually when the eldest child dies young, and the name is reused for a later child In this case, it looks like richard born c 1850 lived to 1704. If so he was still living when the second Richard was born.

One of the possible explanations for this is that we are dealing with two separate families that have been merged.

[posted](#) Mar 25, 2022 by [Bill Willis](#)

[edited](#) Mar 25, 2022 by [Bill Willis](#)



[Jack Day](#)

Thanks, Bill. Where there are two wives there is always the possibility that there are also two different husbands. I'll start a disussion under "Research Notes" to address the issue. I think the facts support there being just one Richard Cheney, married to first Charity and then Elinor, but it's always good to review the facts and see what they suggest!

[posted](#) Mar 25, 2022 by [Jack Day](#)

[Bill Willis](#)

Perhaps the very youngest children are not mentioned in Richards will because they are still (legally speaking) "enfants".

Not particularly happy about that interpretation, but it may be so.

The real problem lies with the two sons both named Richard.

In support of the one family, two wives interpret I can say that I've looked closely at my atDNA matches with persons tracing their ancestry to Richard =1) Charity =2 Eleanor. I have well above 26 atDNA matches, some on the Charity side, and some on the Eleanor side. Some of those matches should probably be ignored as they include matches with other surname families in the Anne Arundel area (e.g., Howard, Hammonds, Warfield's, etc. But most of the matches look to be clean as far as I can tell.

So I think that there really is only a single family comprised of Richard and two successive wives and their children. But atDNA can only point us in the right direction. It would be good to have good original source documentation to show where the truth lies. So far, I've seen nothing like that.

Bill

[posted](#) Mar 26, 2022 by [Bill Willis](#)

[edited](#) Mar 26, 2022 by [Bill Willis](#)



[Melinda \(Medlock\) Lyon](#)

I believe that the Immigrant Richard Cheney of Maryland, was the son of John Cheney, born in England in 1604 and John was son of the Richard Cheney born 1565 in England. This Richard born 1565 had sons, Richard , William, Thomas and John. John had a son Richard , born 1625/30. John died in 1630. This information can be found in a book

called British Roots of Maryland Families . It is the most likely timeline.

posted Feb 07, 2022 by [Melinda \(Medlock\) Lyon](#)
edited Feb 07, 2022 by [Melinda \(Medlock\) Lyon](#)



[Jack Day](#)

Thanks, Melinda, for calling my attention to Barnes' "British Roots" book, which I recently acquired. Barnes is a careful researcher who cites his sources and whose work is to be trusted. He offers John as a "possibility" and suggests further research, but this does advance our effort for finding Richard Cheney's ancestors.

posted Feb 07, 2022 by [Jack Day](#)

[John Wallace](#)

Hi Jack, as a Chaney descendant I appreciate your work. I am descended from Jacob Chaney of Pittsylvania, Va. by his son Ezekiel Chaney. I have located Ezekiel Jr's consort Mary Polly Hill's headstone in Williamson County, Tn. I know that Charles died intestate. So, my question for you is, is there any documented proof that Jacob is the son of Charles?

posted Feb 08, 2022 by [John Wallace](#)



[Jack Day](#)

John, I can't answer your question because I haven't worked on those lines, but they are connected on Wikitree and there are references to the relationship in secondary sources quoted. The next step is to work back from those references to see what kind of primary documentation can be found. Everything genealogical is always a work in progress, so I'd encourage you to roll up your sleeves and join in on the task of helping improve those profiles!

posted Feb 08, 2022 by [Jack Day](#)



[Scott McClain](#)

Hello profile managers -- there are a lot of PMs on this profile. Please reply to this comment if you are interested in remaining an active PM, responding to merge requests, etc. Inactive managers will be removed as PMs, but all current managers will remain on the trusted list.

posted Dec 08, 2021 by [Scott McClain](#)

[Bill Willis](#)

On the subject of whether Richard and Elinor immigrated from Virginia to Anne Arundel County:

In 1658 Richard and Charity received two headrights in Anne Arundel County. We know that they had no children when they arrived in Maryland; if they had, they would have received an additional headright for each child. Their eldest child (Elizabeth) gave testimony in a legal matter that that indicates that she was born about 1652. From this we know that her parents were in Maryland by 1652 prior to the birth of Elizabeth. Had they arrived after Elizabeth's birth they would have been entitled to three headrights.

The reason for the delay in claiming their headrights is the Puritan conflict over the governance of Maryland. That conflict started about the time the Cheney's arrived in Maryland, and court proceedings, including the granting of headrights, ground to a halt.

The Cheney's settled in the Flat Run watershed, a tributary of the South River, and south of Annapolis. This area was largely settled by Puritans beginning in 1649. Several hundred Puritans had previously attempted to settle in Virginia, mostly below the James River (Beginning 1611 according to some sources.). Virginia Governor Sir William Berkley began to enforce strict religious uniformity to the Established Church of England (Episcopal). This eventually led to most of the Puritans fleeing Virginia, and settling in Catholic Maryland beginning about 1650. This is more or less coincident with the arrival of the Cheney's in Maryland.

To me it seems highly likely that the Cheney's were among the Puritan's who fled Virginia around 1650. Given that their eldest child Elizabeth was born in 1652 we can perhaps guess the Richard and Charity had married in Virginia immediately before their

emigration. Perhaps their parents had been in Virginia for some time. It's even possible that both Richard and Elinor were born in Virginia.

That remains at the moment in the realm of speculation. A reasonable line of research would be to search for them in the areas where the Puritans settled in Virginia---specifically along both sides of the James, and particularly in Nansemond County.

[posted](#) Dec 03, 2021 by [Bill Willis](#)

[edited](#) Dec 03, 2021 by [Bill Willis](#)



[Jack Day](#)

You threw me with the first sentence about Richard and Elinor coming from Virginia, since it was Richard and Charity at that time they came to Maryland! But your analysis of why arrival from Virginia is likely makes a lot of sense.

[posted](#) Dec 03, 2021 by [Jack Day](#)



[Jack Day](#)

The attached images repeat the errors about Richard Cheney's English origins which are discussed a length under Research Notes. I propose to disconnect them.

[posted](#) Nov 23, 2021 by [Jack Day](#)



[Jack Day](#)

I've re-reviewed the images. They contain copyright material of other authors without attribution and add nothing to the profile, so I have disconnected the images from the profile.

[posted](#) Mar 26, 2022 by [Jack Day](#)

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Rejected matches › [Richard A Chaney](#)

Richard is [17 degrees from Burt Bacharach](#), [17 degrees from Leonard Bernstein](#), [12 degrees from Johnny Cash](#), [13 degrees from Patsy Cline](#), [20 degrees from Judith Durham](#), [16 degrees from Jimi Hendrix](#), [16 degrees from Mick Jagger](#), [24 degrees from Lulu Kennedy-Cairns](#), [16 degrees from Andy Kim](#), [18 degrees from John Lennon](#), [16 degrees from Diana Ross](#) and [23 degrees from John Rowles](#) on our single family tree. [Login to find your connection.](#)

[C](#) > [Cheney](#) > Richard Cheney Sr.

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