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Mary (Richford) Brasseur (abt. 1625 - abt. 1668)

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Mary Brasseur formerly Richford

Born **about 1625** in **France** [?] [uncertain]

Daughter of [Phillip Richford](#) [uncertain] and [mother unknown]

[sibling(s) unknown]

Wife of [Benois \(Brasseur\) Brashears](#) — married about 1645 in Virginia [?]

Wife of [Thomas Sterling](#) — married 1663 [location unknown]

Mother of [Mary \(Brashears\) Brasseur](#), [Robert Brasseur 3rd](#), [Benjamin Brasseur](#), [John Brasseur](#), [Mary \(Brasseur\) Ellis](#), [Anne Brashear](#), [Susannah \(Brasseur\) Duvall](#), [Martha \(Brasseur\) Kent](#) and [Elizabeth \(Brasseur\) Sellman](#) DESCENDANTS [?]

Died **about 1668** at about age 43 in **Calvert, Maryland** [?]

Profile managers: [Phyllis McCollum](#) [?] [?] [?] [\[send private message\]](#), [Stephanie Ross](#) [?] [\[send private message\]](#), [Jo Ross](#) [?] [\[send private message\]](#), [Fred Remus](#) [?] [?] [\[send private message\]](#), and [Donald Beshear](#) [?] [?] [\[send private message\]](#) PROBLEMS/QUESTIONS

Richford-1 created 10 Oct 2009 | Last modified 16 Dec 2023

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Biography

Birth and Parents

DNA Connections

It may be possible to [confirm](#) family relationships. It is likely that these [autosomal DNA](#) test-takers will share [some percentage](#) of DNA with Mary:

~0.39% [Betty \(Scarborough\) Jagoe](#) [?] [?]:
[23andMe](#), [GEDmatch HJ3537043](#) [\[compare\]](#)
[\[test details\]](#)

Collaboration

Editing: Please see [Pre-1700 Profiles](#).

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Public Question: Post in the [Genealogist-to-Genealogist \("G2G"\) Forum](#) to seek help from the wider community.

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Research

[RootsSearch for Mary \(Richford\) Brasseur](#): conveniently search 20+ genealogy websites. [\[more info\]](#)

Name

The birth name and parents of Mary, wife of Benoit Brasseur, is uncertain. She is called Mary Richford in biography of her husband Mareen Duvall which states that Mary Richford was born about 1620 at the Isle of Thanet, England.^[1]

Alternatively, she is called Mary Rickford in Ancestry's One World Tree, which states she was born about 1621 in Thanet, Kent, England ^[2]

Charles Brashear in "A Brashear(s) Family History, ..." states that the name Richford is not certain.

Her surname at birth appears as Rickford in some family trees. I am not certain which spelling is correct.

Other popular genealogies suggest Mary was born in France. Thanet District (above) has only existed since 1974. A portion of the district, called Isle of Thanet, has been in existence since at least 1450.

First Marriage to Benoit Brasseur

She married Benois Brashears who was born in France. ^[1]

She had three sons and five daughters with Benjamin "Benois" Brassier.

Immigration

It appears that Benjamin (Benois) paid for the transportation of a Mary Richford from England to America. That his wife Mary is Mary Richford is an assumption based on that. Although she came from England, her birthplace is not certain. The other merged profile gave France as her birthplace. It is possible she was a French Huguenot who fled first to England to escape religious persecution before migrating to America, but that is pure conjecture.

1663 Will

The Will of Mary Brasseur, widow, of "The Clifts", was made on 25th May, 1663.^[3]

A prenuptial agreement suggests she remarried after that date. Further research and source citations are needed.

The 1663 will of Mary Brasseur, widow, names eight children:

- To sons: ROBERT, BENJAMIN and JOHN, land; to be of age at 21 years.
- To daus: MARY, ANNE, SUSANNA, MARTHA and ELIZA, personalty; to be of age 16 yrs

Complete Will

^[4]

In the name of God, Amen. I, **Mary Brasseur**, widow of the Clifts, in the Province of Maryland, being of sound and perfect mind and memory, but knowing the uncertainty of this life, do make and ordaine this my last will and testament in manner and forme following:

- Imprimis [in the first place], for the natural love and affection I bear to my children and for their future maintenance and livelyhood, I give and bequeath

to each of them as followeth; that is to say, two hundred acres of woodland to **Robert**, two hundred acres of the like land to **Benjamin**, and also two hundred acres of the like to **John Brassures**, my sons, the said land to come to them and either of them, their heires & assignes for ever, when they shall accomplish the age of one and twenty yeares; and in case any or either them shall depart this life before he or they shall attaine to his or their respective ages of one and twenty years, the land of him or them so dyeing shall remaine and be to the surviving brother or brothers; and my will and desire is that no timber trees shall be fallen for any use whatsoever on the said land until the said children shall come of age; but if they shall all depart this life before they shall attaine to their respective ages, then the said land to remaine and be to such daughter and daughters of me, the said **Mary Brasshear**, as shall then be living, the said six hundred acres of land being part of the land on which I now live, seituat at the Clifts, and bought by mee of **Mr. Richard Bennett**, merchant.

- Item. I do also give and bequeath unto each of my sons above-named one feather bed, with the rug, blankets, curtains, and such like appurtenances to the same belonging.
- Item. I give to each of my sons, when they shall attaine to their respective ages, one servant a peece.
- Item. To **Benjamin** one cow, called the Wild Heifer, and another, called Goate; to my son **John** one heifer named Dainty, and one heifer named Starr, the said coves and heifers, with their female encrease, to be delived to them at such time and when they shall attaine their several and respective ages aforementioned; and if any or either of them shall depart this life before they shall come of age, the said cattell, with their female encrease, to be equally divided between the surviving brothers; and my will and desire is that the two hundred acres of land that I have bequeathed to my son **Robert** shall be the two hundred acres which is next adjoining unto and on this side that parcell of land lately sold unto my brother in law **Robt. Brasseur**; and that **Benjamin**, my son, shall have his two hundred on this side of my son **Robert**; and that my son **John** shall have his next unto **Benjamin**'s.
- Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter **Mary** two heifers, called and known by the names of Pascoll and Phillpaill, with their female encrease, to be delivered to the said **Mary** when she shall accomplish the age of sixteene years or day of marriage, which shall first happen. Also, I give and bequeath to my daughter **Ann** two heifers, called and known by the names of loneeasy and Sarah, with their female encrease, to be delivered to her when she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years or day of marriage, which shall first happen; also I give and bequeath to my daughter **Susannah** two heifers, called and known by the names of Fancy and Pye, with their female encrease, to be delivered unto her when she shall accomplish the age of sixteene yeares or day of marriage, which shall first happen; also I give and bequeath to my daughter **Martha** three heifers, called and known by the names of Brouning, Primrose & Roase, with their female encrease, to be delivered unto her at such time and when she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years or day of marriage, which shall first happen; also I give and bequeath to my daughter **Elizabeth** three heifers, called and known by the names of Christmas, Cole and Nutt, with their female encrease, to be delivered unto her at such time and when she shall accomplish the age of sixteen years or day of marriage, which shall first happen; and in case either of my said daughters shall depart this life before they shall accomplish their severall and respective ages, then the cattle, with their encrease, of her or them so dyeing to remaine and be and equally to be divided amongst the surviving daughters.
- Item. I give my five daughters each of them a servant to be delivered them at the age of sixteene yeares or day of marriage, which shall first happen. As for that part of my estate that I shall have at my decease and not herein and hereby already given and bequeathed, I give and bequeath to my daughters, equally to be divided between them, share and share alike, to be delivered them at such time and when as they shall accomplish their several ages or days of marriage, which shall first happen. And my will and desire is that if I depart this life before my children come of age, the overseers of this, my will, take care that my children shall peaceably and quietly enjoy the plantaçon I now live on, with all appurtenances whatsoever, without the lett or molestaçon of any

person or persons whatsoever until they shall accomplish their severall and respective ages or days of marriage, which shall first happen. And I nominate and constitute my loveing friends, **Thomas Sterling**, and **Robert Brasseur**, my brother-in-law, to be overseers of this, my last will and testament, desiring them in all things to see it carefully performed; and I publish and pronounce it to be the absolute last will and testament of mee, **Mary Brasseur**.

- IN WITNESS whereof, I have hereunto sett my hand and seale, May the five and twenty, one thousand six hundred sixty and three. The marke of **Mary [MB] Brasseur** Signed and sealed as the last will and testament of the said **Mary Brasseur** in the presence of: **Theophilus Lewis, James Pugslep**

Preuptial Agreement with Thomas Sterling

Two months after her will, which was apparently made to protect her children with Benois Brasseur, Mary Brasseur, Widow of the Clifts, filed a prenuptial contract with Thomas Sterling, with whom she planned to marry, that relinquished all claims he might have to any part of her estate:

- WHEREAS by God's assistance and permission, ther is a marryage shortly intended to be had & solemnized between Thomas Sterling and Mary Brasseur, wid'w, late wife of Benjamin Brasseur; and whereas the said Mary Brasseur hath made her last will & testament in [?] writing und'r her hand and seale, and therein & thereby disposed of most of the estate the said Benjamin dyed possessed of, amongst her children; now if the said marriage shall take effect, these may certifie [to] all those whom it any wayes concernes that I, the said Thomas Sterling, for naturall love I beare unto the said Mary Brasseur, wid'w, and out of affecçon to her children, doe grant, assigne, and sett over all the residue of the estate that was late the said Benjamin Brasseur's, that I shall dye possessed of, as cattle, hoggs, houses, land, household stuffs, and whatever else the said Mary Brasseur hath not given nor bequeathed in her last will and testament unto Robert Brasseur, her brother-in-law, to and for the sole onely proper use, benefitt, and behoofe of the daughters of the said Mary, equally to be divided betwixt them as they shall attaine to their severall & repective ages or days of maryage, which shall first happen; and that they shall bee and remaine peaceably att the new plantaçon of the said Mary Brasseur till such times as they come of age or are maryed, according to the tenor & effect of the said Maryes will, without the lett, disturbances or molestaçon of mee, the said Thomas Sterling, or any one from, by, or und'r mee.

WITNESS my hand and seale the twenty fift of Julye, one thousand six hundred sixty three. Thomas Sterling

Signed, sealed and delivered in the presence of: Robert Heighe, James Hume

And I furthermore promise that the said Mary Brasseur shall dispose as she will her selfe of the 10,000 lbs of tobacco due from Robert Brasseur upon bill, as witness my hand. (MdHR, Testamentary Proceedings, Book 1, pp.126-27. Copy in Back and Brashear, The Brashear Story, p.15-16.)

1663 Named as Widow in Land Transaction

In Apr 1663 Mary Brasseur was mentioned as widow on deed for Land.

1687 Death

She died in 1687 in Calvert County, Province of Maryland.

More research is also needed on the death date, which is uncertain. Her will was probated in 1668.

Children

1. Susannah Brasseurs was born about 1640, probably in Calvert County, Maryland.^[1]
1. Robert. One of three sons named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states sons are to be of age at 21 years. ^[3]
2. Benjamin. One of three sons named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states sons are to be of age at 21 years. ^[3]
3. John. One of three sons named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states sons are to be of age at 21 years. ^[3]
4. Mary. One of five daughters named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states daughters are to be of age at 16 years. ^[3]
5. Anne. One of five daughters named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states daughters are to be of age at 16 years. ^[3]
6. Susanna. One of five daughters named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states daughters are to be of age at 16 years. ^[3]
7. Martha. One of five daughters named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states daughters are to be of age at 16 years. ^[3]
8. Eliza. One of five daughters named in 1663 will of mother Mary Brasseur, which states daughters are to be of age at 16 years. ^[3]

Sources

1. ↑ 1.0 1.1 1.2 Nuckolls, Charles R. *The Roses: The Nuckolls Family, the Lyman Family, and One Hundred Fifty Immigrants Who Helped Shape America*. Bloomington, Indiana: iUniverse, Inc, 2010. Call Number: 929.107207 NUC Mareen Duvall Pages 401-402.
2. ↑ OneWorldTree (Ancestry.com)"
3. ↑ 3.0 3.1 3.2 3.3 3.4 3.5 3.6 3.7 3.8 Will of Mary Brasseur widow, of "The Clifts," 25th May, 1663. Baldwin, Maryland Calendar of Wills, pages 35-37.
4. ↑ Complete will for Mary (MdHR Wills, Bk 1, pp.187-89) is shown on pages 35-37 of "A Brashear(s) Family History, ..." by Charles Brashear and Shirley Brasher McCoy

See also:

- <http://www.next1000.com/family/GRUBB/brashearBB.html>
- Source: S2788201613 [Public Member Trees](#). User submitted. Online publication - Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2006.
- Source Citation for Web: Netherlands, GenealogieOnline Trees Index, 1000-2015

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Becky (Lawson) Gouge

There is no evidence or sources too prove her maiden is Rickford, Rockford Rochford or anything else.

posted Nov 28, 2022 by [Becky \(Lawson\) Gouge](#)

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[Susan \(Knight\) Gore](#)

[Richford-19](#) and Richford-1 appear to represent the same person because: Duplicate

posted Oct 27, 2018 by [Susan \(Knight\) Gore](#)

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[Fred Remus III](#)

Conflicting fathers must be resolved. The source for John Edwin Richford (International Genealogical Index) is somewhat better than the source for Phillip Richford (Ancestry trees), but neither source is definitive. Profiles for son Robert, with two conflicting spellings of the surname, also need to be merged.

posted Mar 11, 2018 by [Fred Remus III](#)

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[Fred Remus III](#)

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posted Mar 11, 2018 by [Fred Remus III](#)

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[Living Doughty]

[Richford-19](#) and Richford-1 appear to represent the same person because: same name; same B/D data; same spouse = same person. Wikitree policy is one profile per individual, please merge.

posted Mar 11, 2018 by [\[Living Doughty\]](#)

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Individuals should have one WikiTree profile that is [shared by all family members](#). If you [find matches for Mary Brasseur](#)  (Richford-1) merge them. [\[more info\]](#) [\[more merging tools\]](#) [\[for Mary Brasseur\]](#)

Pending Merges 

Unmerged Matches 

Rejected Matches 

None.

None.

None.

[\[initiate a merge\]](#)

[\[add a match\]](#)

[\[reject a match\]](#)

This week's featured connections are [Baseball Legends](#): Mary is [31 degrees from Willie Mays](#), [18 degrees from Ernest Banks](#), [13 degrees from Ty Cobb](#), [18 degrees from Bob Feller](#), [17 degrees from Lou Gehrig](#), [26 degrees from Josh Gibson](#), [8 degrees from John Marshall](#), [8 degrees from](#)