

Obedience Robins

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No Picture Available

Born: 16 Apr 1600 in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, , England

Married: Grace O Neil

Died: 30 Dec 1662 in Northampton, Virginia, United States

Parents: Richard Robins & Dorothy Goodman

OBEDIENCE ROBBINS was the son of Richard Robins and Dorothy Goodman of Longbuckie, Northamptonshire, England. He was born April 12, 1600 in Longbuckie, Northamptonshire, England, was baptized on 26 Apr 1601 in Long Buckby, Northamptonshire, England and died Before December 30, 1662 in Northampton County, VA. He married (1) MARGARET. He married (2) GRACE O'Neill about 1634 in England; Grace is the daughter of ARTHUR O'Neill and GRACE O'Hara.

Obedience left England to settle in America in 1621. He was a member of the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1629-1658 for Accomack Co., VA, and in 1632 Commander of Accomack Co., VA first Court and a member of the Governors council from 1655-59.

Col. Robins settled on a 950 a. tract "Salt Grove" or "Cherrystone" on Cherrystone Creek, n.w. of modern-day Cheriton in Northampton Co. which passed to his son, Major John Robins, and continued in the family until 1866 Obedience was a brother of Richard Robins III of Northamptonshire, England, and Edward Robins, a merchant of Accomack Co, VA. His name and alliances indicate he was of Puritan stock, but records indicate he was a strong supporter of the Church of England.

Many of his writing are in the early records of the Eastern Shore of VA. His writings indicate that he was a well-educated man of considerable intelligence. The writings also indicate that he was a man of high moral character. He signed a will undated in Northampton Co., Virginia. The will was probated on 30 Dec 1662 (Marshall p 133).

Thomas Savage, who was reared by the Eastern Shore Indians, contacted Obedience who had settled on the Western Shore and convinced him to move to the Eastern Shore of VA because the problems that were facing the settlers on the western shore were less prevalent on the Eastern Shore.

In his twenties he showed very strong leadership skills as evidenced by his organizing the inhabitants of the Eastern Shore to defend themselves against an attack by an unfriendly tribe of Native Americans. (Thomas Savage had been warned by his adopted father, the chief of the Shore Indians, that a rival tribe was planning an attack on the settlers of the Western and Eastern Shore). It is believed that the Eastern Shore inhabitants were not attacked because of their preparation. The Western Shore settlers were attacked in 1623, and many of them killed. (Savage and Robins had also warned the inhabitants of the Western Shore)

Obedience Robins was very active in the political life of the Shore. He was a member of the Governors Council (Chairman for years) and a Burgess representing Accomack Co, VA. In his role as Chairman of the Governors Council, he wrote many rulings, which affected the lives and the early laws of the area. *(Note: It appears that the Governors Council was the equalivent of our Judge, Jury, and Law Enforcement system)

(from the book "adventurers of Purse And Person" page 462)

Obedience owned land in accawmack before 10 March 1637/38 when John Wilkins patented 500 acres "toward the land of Obedience Robins, Gent" which was identified in two Northampton patents, March 1643, as a total of 950 acres. The first of the patents for 500 acres divided in two parcels, was "due by order of the court dated 22 March 1638/39 as also for the transportation of ten persons," among them Robins himself, Mrs. Grace Robins (this would be Grace O'Neil Robins) and her daughter Margaret Waters.

From these claims for headrights and from the fact that Obedience's name is missing from the Virginia records, 1634-1637, it would appear that he made a trip to England and while there had married Grace O'Neil Waters, whose first husband was buried there 22 Aug 1630. (Another public records states they were married in Virginia.)



Information from online research at: Ancestry.com