

## EDWARD DORSEY THE IMMIGRANT

Our original immigrant first came into the Eastern Sea Board County of South Norfolk, Virginia. Most records are lost, and being very old, but still enough to show he did come there first. Then several years later he came to Anne Arundel County, Maryland in 1650.

The persons he came to this Country with were English, which leads us to believe Edward was English also.

Various spellings of his name appears in the deeds and land patents of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, between the years 1642 and 1649.

This article typed as written:

At a County Court held on November 3, 1645, at the house of William Shipp, it was recorded that John Browne of Elizabeth River in the county of Lower Norffe, planter, had on the 11th. of February 1642, sold unto Edward Dorsey of the county aforesaid planter three head of cattle (vizt) one cowe aged about seaven yeares of brinded coulor and marked with a cropp on the right eare and the left eare whole, and a steare of a coulor as aforesaid aged about one yeare and halfe and marked with a cropp on the left eare and the right eare slitt allsoe one heifer calfe brinded as aforesaid aged about three quarters of a yeare and marked with a cropp on both eares and a slitt in one and doe by these presents give grant bargaine and sell unto the said Edward Darsey his heirs execut'rs administrators and assignes for every for a valuable consideration pt in hand paid.

Dated the 11th of February 1642. (Minute book A, f. 293, Lower Norfolk Co., Portmouth, Va.)

On December 15, 1642, Cornelius Lloyd received a grant of land for bringing 60 persons into the colony. Among the list of names was that of Edw: \_orsey, the first letter of the name obliterated. (Ibid., f 160) (New Eng. Hist. Gen. Reg. Vol. 47, f 63) on October 7, 1646 Thomas Brown was given 240 acres in Lower Norfolk County due by assignment of the rights of 5 persons transported by Cornelius Lloyd among them Edward Dorsey. (Patents 2, State of Va., f 113.)

The County court held at the house of William Shipp on December 15, 1645, ordered Thomas Todd to pay Edward Darcy and Thomas Hall forty pounds od Tobacco a piece for their tyme and charge in attendance of the Court for two days, and on December 10, 1649, when Edward Dorsey witnessed a quit-claim deed executed by Thomas Tod, his signature was Edward E'D: Dorsy. (Minute Book A, f. 299: minute Book B, f 133a, Lower Norfolk Co., Portmouth, Va.)

On October 31, 1649, William Julian of Lower Norfolk County, Virginia sold to

**Robert Taylor of Elizabeth River 200 acres of land being a neck of land upon the south turning of the said river, east upon a creek, and south upon a creek and north into the woods. This deed was endorsed on the back as follows:**

**"Mem. I Robert Tayler doe make sale of a neck of Land cont. about 200 acres within mentioned unto Edward Dorsey for him and his heires to Injoy with all Rights and prieviledges As Wittnes my hand this 20th of Octob A.o 1648." (Ibid., f 126a)**

**Various spellings of the name - Dorsey - continue to appear on the records in Maryland, but the original signature of the sons of the immigrant, show the family spelling the name - Dorsey.**

**As freedom of worship in Virginia had been prohibited by year 1648, and life there became less attractive, many settlers turned to the newly erected county of Anne Arundel, Maryland. There the opportunity to obtain land was being offered, and freedom of worship was guaranteed. Among those who went to Maryland were Edward Dorsey, John Norwood, Matthew Howard, Thomas Todd and Nicholas Wyatt.**

**In November 1650, Edward Dorsey of the county of Anna Arundel was granted a warrant for 200 acres of land in Maryland, and in 1651 for 200 acres more, half of a warrent for 400 acres granted John Norwood and the said Dorsey.**

**Sometimes before 1655, Edward Darcy in partnership with Thomas Manning bought from Thomas Marsh of the county of Ann Arundell, merchant, a tract of 600 acres lying on the west side of Chesapeake Bay, bounded on the north by land of John Norwood and on west by the said bay, for which no patent was issued until 1661. (ibid, f 261) (patents 4, f 541) (patents 10, f 19)**

**To the west and north across D, arcy's Creek, which no doubt bears the name of the immigrant, were the tracts taken up by Edward Dorsey and Capt. John Norwood with the land of Nicholas Wyatt lying between.**

**Farther up the Severn River near Marshes Creek, later called Hockley Creek, was the land taken up by Matthew Howard. Adjoining this land on the south was the tract called Wyatt, laid out for Nicholas Wyatt. Nearby these two tracts was Hockley in the Hole, taken up by Edward Dorsey and later patented by his three sons, Edward, Joshua and John Dorsey.**

**The following map shows the location of tracts of land owned by Edward Dorsey and his neighbors.**

**Edward Darcy was drowned before August 2, 1659 off the Isle of Kent. Info. from the Books: Edward Darcy - Dorsey The Immigrant, and the Dorsey Family.**