

# A Journey Through Time

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Anne Frisby was born September 5, 1727 in Cecil County, Maryland and was the daughter of Peregrine Frisby and Elizabeth

District of Patuxent (dec'd), died of violent fevers last week at his seat on the Patuxent River in Calvert County, leaving a widow and one child." Their child was Elizabeth Rousby; born 1750, who married George Plater in 1764 (Plater would later become Governor of Maryland).

One year later, Anne married William Fitzhugh. "Last week William Fitzhugh, Esq. of Virginia was married to Mrs. Rousby, widow of John Rousby, dec'd, a gentlewoman with a handsome fortune." They made their home at Rousby Hall in Calvert County.

During the Revolutionary War, the British were said to have gone to Rousby Hall twice to arrest Col. Fitzhugh, who held a commission in the British Army (attained while serving during the French and Indian War in 1754) but who had now aligned himself with the rebel cause.

The first time, Col. Fitzhugh wasn't home. Ann was advised that a party of British soldiers was approaching. "She instantly collected her slaves; furnished them with such weapons of defence as were at hand; took a quantity of cartridges in her apron, and, herself forming the van, urged her sable subalterns on to meet the foe. Not looking for resistance, the advancing party, on beholding the amazon with her sooty invincibles, hastily turned on their heels and fled."

The second time, the British marched to the house at midnight on a cold and rainy night. They banged on the door. When Col. Fitzhugh, who was now blind, demanded to know who was there, they responded they were "friends to King George." Anne went to admit them, but on the way she awakened her four sons, put pistols in their hands, and told them to flee.

The soldiers demanded that Col. Fitzhugh accompany them, as their prisoner, to New

York. Anne helped her husband get dressed. She boldly informed the soldiers that if her husband was going, she was too. "The officer told her she would be exposed and must suffer, but she persisted in accompanying him, saying that he could not take care of himself, nor, if he could, would she permit a separation."

In her nightclothes, no shoes, and "with the mere protection of a cloak, which the officer took down and threw over her shoulders before leaving the house, she sallied forth with the party."

While on the way to their boat, the soldiers heard gun fire (probably the Fitzhugh sons) and thinking it was rebels, they hastily retreated, leaving Mr. and Mrs. Fitzhugh on the shore.

In recognition of her bravery, the Anne Frisby Fitzhugh Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution was organized in Bay City, Michigan in 1900.



Sewall (daughter of Major Nicholas Sewall and Susanna Burgess of St. Mary's County).

Anne married first, John Rousby who died just a few years after their marriage. "John Rousby, aged about 25, eldest son of the late Hon. John Rousby, Collector of Customs for the