

Alexander De Hinojosa

"Alexander de Hinojosa and His Maryland Descendants"

Some years back, St. Mary's County historian Hope Grace mentioned her "Portuguese" ancestor to me, a man named de Hinojosa, who moved to St. Mary's from the Dutch colony of New Netherland. Not long after that I was at a national genealogical conference. I hung out at the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society's booth during my free time. I'm a member of the "G&B" and have gotten to know a few of the people in the society. One is the noted New York genealogist Henry Hoff. I mentioned to him that a lady I knew in St. Mary's County had this early connection to Dutch New Netherland. From this casual conversation came a recent article found in the October 2004 issue of "The American Genealogist," also known as "TAG."

Alexander de Hinojosa, the subject of Henry B. Hoff's article "Alexander de Hinojosa and His Maryland Descendants," was born about 1629 in the Netherlands to a family of Spanish origin. Alexander's distant ancestor Juan de Hinojosa came to Zeeland, a province in the Netherlands, from Spain about 1510. Alexander was an officer with the Dutch colony in Brazil, at the time the Dutch surrendered this colony to Portugal in 1654. The following year, he was in New Amsterdam, now New York City. By 1657, he was in the former colony of New Sweden on the Delaware or South River, which the Dutch had recently taken over as a result of a war with Sweden. He was director of the Dutch colony on the Delaware from 1660 until the British took over all of Dutch New Netherland from modern Delaware to modern New York in 1664. Alexander returned to the Netherlands in 1669 only to be executed by the Dutch authorities for mutiny in 1672.

Before returning to the Netherlands, however, Alexander had purchased land on the Eastern Shore of Maryland. This land led his children to Maryland and eventually to St. Mary's County. Hoff states in his article: "The name de Hinojosa became extinct in Maryland with the death of Johannes de Hinojosa [a son of Alexander] before 18 April 1724. However, his [Johannes's] sisters Johanna, wife of Robert Carvile and Christina Barbara, wife of William Guyther, left descendants."

Hoff traces the various children of Alexander de Hinojosa in his article. Alexander's son Alexander was baptized in the Dutch church in New Amsterdam in 1656. This Alexander lived for a time in Kent County, in St. Mary's County during the 1680s, in Anne Arundel County in the 1690s, and finally in the Pasquotank Precinct in North Carolina, where in died about 1711. It appears that he had no children.

Alexander's daughter Johanna was born about 1659 and married Robert Carvile in Maryland about 1676. Carvile immigrated to St. Mary's County, probably from England, in 1669. He served in the Lower House of the Maryland Assembly and was appointed Attorney General of Maryland in 1688 but was forced to resign this position after the Protestant Revolution of 1689, which overthrew Lord Baltimore's government. Johanna and her husband had one daughter, Margaret, who married Cecilius Butler of St. Mary's County. Hoff carries this line to the children of Margaret and Cecilius Butler.

Alexander's daughter Christina Barbara was born about 1663 and probably came to Maryland

with her brother Alexander in 1673. It appears that Alexander's children were living in the Netherlands at the time of his execution in 1672. Shortly thereafter, they left the Netherlands and returned to North America, settling in Maryland, where their father owned land. Christina Barbara's first husband was William Guyther of St. Mary's County, who died after 1708. Her second husband was a Mr. Cooper, who she married about 1713. Christina Barbara died in 1717, a resident of St. Mary's County.

Hoff mentions 4 Guyther children of Christina Barbara and her first husband: 3 daughters and 1 son. He follows the daughters who marry men named Beckwith, Miller, Beard, and Leigh. Some of these people lived in Prince George's, Frederick, and Anne Arundel counties. Dorothy Guyther, the youngest of the daughters, married John Leigh of St. Mary's County. This family line was connected to the Roman Catholic parish at St. Ignatius Church, St. Inigoes.

Early Maryland is more of an ethnic mix than we might think. In this article we find residents of 17th and 18th century St. Mary's County with distant Spanish and not so distant Dutch ancestry. According to a footnote in Hoff's article, the Spanish de Hinojosa line might have even more distant Italian ancestry, perhaps from Genoa.

Among the sources, citations, and acknowledgments in Hoff's notes are Hope H. Grace, the St. Mary's County Historical Society, Regina Combes Hammett's [History of St. Mary's County, Maryland], Edwin Warfield Beitzell's [The Jesuit Missions of St. Mary's County, Maryland], Elise Greenup Jourdan's [Early Families of Southern Maryland] and her [Settlers of Colonial St. Mary's County], among the many sources familiar to researchers in St. Mary's County genealogy and history.

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