CHAPTER 1

The First Evatt Names in America

EDITOR'S GUIDE

The surname appears before the traced household. John and Nathaniel belong to the early record, but neither has been established as the ancestor of Thomas Evet. These are separate men, not the first steps in a proven family tree.

1648	John Evett or Euett in a Virginia headright record.
1665	Nathaniel, Ellen and Mary in Maryland records.
1668	Virginia patent naming Nath. Evatts.
1683	Nathaniel's death in Maryland.

Early Evatt Names in America

John in the Virginia Colony

A York County record dated May 25, 1648, allowed James Miller 300 acres for transporting six people, including a man whose name was abstracted as John Evett or Euett. This is an early appearance of the surname in the Virginia colony. [4]

Under the Virginia colony's headright system, a person who paid for someone's passage to the colony could ordinarily claim fifty acres of land. A land patent was the government's formal grant of land ownership. The claim supporting a patent could be made after the journey, and the right to claim land could be transferred to another person. A patent may therefore record a claim made some time after the traveler arrived. [6]

John in the Maryland Colony

In 1671, John Evitt was recorded as having come from the Virginia colony to Somerset County in the Maryland colony. A John Evett also appears in the county's cattle-mark records for 1688–1689. Owners registered distinctive marks, often cuts or notches in an animal's ears, so their livestock could be identified. Somerset lies on the

These entries do not name a wife or children. They leave open whether the colonial Virginia and Somerset references concern the same John, and whether either John was related to Thomas. [4,7]

Delmarva Peninsula, east of Chesapeake Bay. [7,8]

Nathaniel and His Family

From Colonial Virginia to the Maryland Colony

A land patent in the Virginia colony granted to John and George Mott on September 10, 1668, names Nath. Evatts among the people whose transportation supported their claim. The grant also refers to land previously granted in 1663. [4]

The Maryland colony's land-record indexes name Nathaniell Evitts in 1665, with his wife Ellen and daughter Mary. He was identified with Talbot County. He was very likely the Nathaniel named in the colonial Virginia records. [4,9]

On December 7, 1675, Nathaniell Evatts served as foreman of a Kent County grand jury. Maryland's biographical history records Nathaniel's death in 1683 and identifies his widow, Elinor, as the wife of Thomas Smith by 1684. [4,10]

Nathaniel may have been a brother or another close relative of Thomas Evitt of the Virginia colony. Their relationship remains unknown. [4]

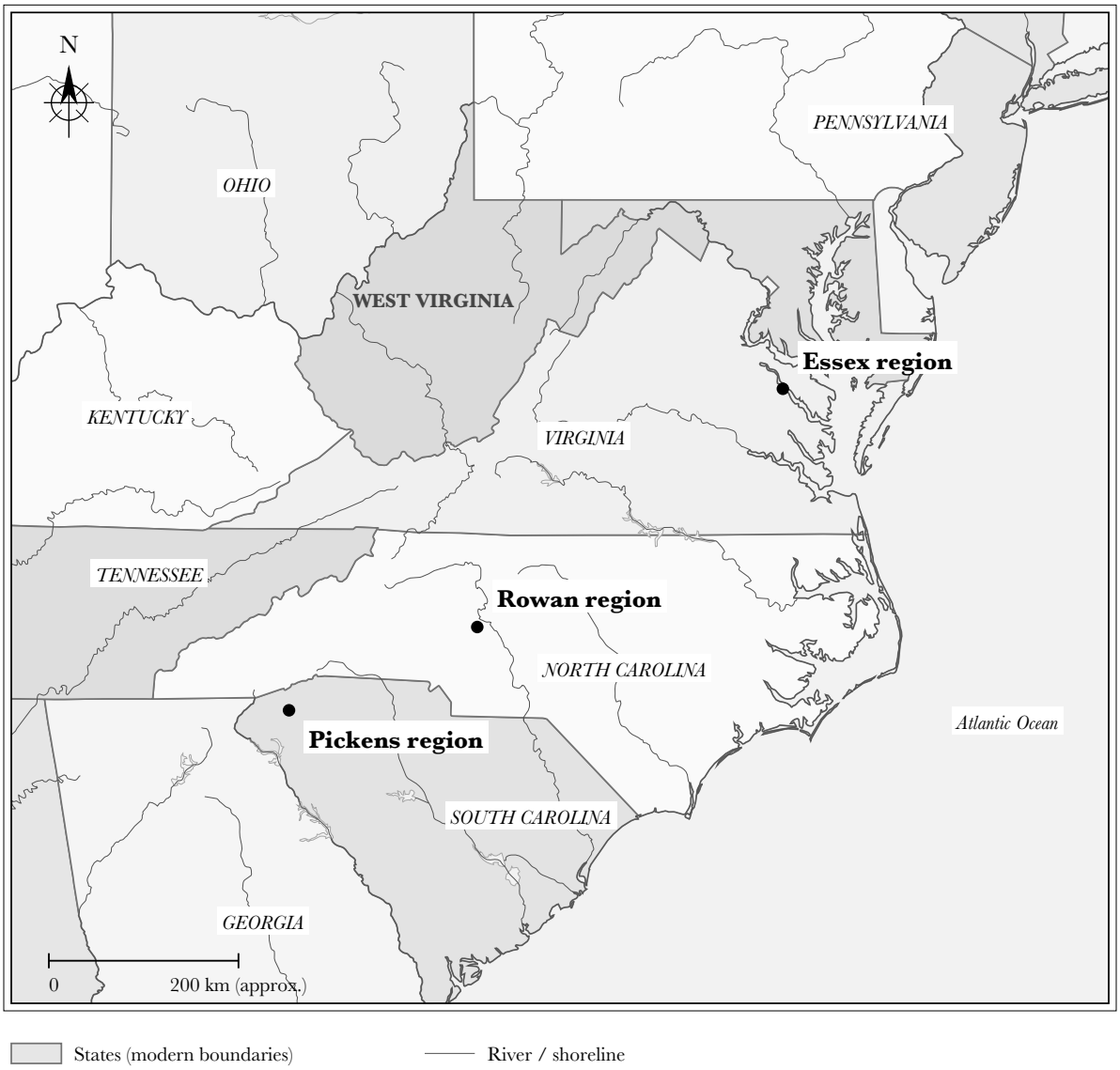
The household below is recorded in the 1665 Maryland colonial entries. Mary's later family has not been traced here. [9]

Mary Evitts

Notes. Nathaniel and Ellen were recorded in the Maryland colony in 1665. Mary was their daughter.

Nathaniel Evitts & wife Ellen Nathaniel died 1683

The Eastern Seaboard



The geographical setting of the family story. Modern state outlines orient the reader; they are not colonial boundaries.

Geographic base: Natural Earth. Locations are regional; boundaries shown are modern.