

ject of this paper never kept a diary and, having lived almost continuously in Halifax, did not leave behind him many such letters as might be used to eke out a biography. Under all the circumstances, I trust that the members of the Society will be a little blind to the shortcomings of this paper.

If we have little information as to the record of Judge Ritchie, we are better off as to his forbears. A deal of valuable information with respect to his father is to be found in the *History of Annapolis County* by the late Mr. Calnek and His Honor Judge Savary, while the small volume, *Recollections of a Georgia Loyalist* by Mrs. Elizabeth Lichtenstein Johnston, is replete with curious and interesting knowledge as to his maternal ancestors.

John William Ritchie, eldest child of Thomas and Elizabeth Ritchie, was born at Annapolis March 26th, 1808. His father, Thomas Ritchie, was at that time a successful barrister and a member of the Provincial Legislature. The father of Thomas Ritchie was John Ritchie, a gentleman of Scottish birth who came to Annapolis from Glasgow by way of Boston, not later than 1774, went into business as a merchant, married Alicia Maria Le Cain, became a captain of volunteers, was elected in 1782 to fill a vacancy in the House of Assembly and died in July, 1790, at the early age of forty-five. Thomas Ritchie was the second son of John Ritchie and was born in Annapolis, 21st September, 1777. He studied law in the office of Thomas Barclay and was admitted to the bar before the close of the century. Shortly afterwards, upon Mr. Barclay's appointment as British Consul-general at New York, he succeeded to that gentleman's large practice. In 1806 he was elected as one of the County representatives in the House of Assembly. He was elected without opposition and continued to be so chosen until his elevation to the Bench in 1824. There is, I believe, no other instance in our provincial history where a member has been elected without a contest at four successive general elections. From this circumstance alone we can gather that Thomas Ritchie was a notable man, both for