

## The Edwards Family Claims to Property in Manhattan

Robert J Pipes  
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The story starts in the late 1800s when it was determined that land in Manhattan given to the Pirate and seafarin' man, Robert Edwards by Queen Anne of England for his efforts in disrupting Spanish sea lane traffic could possibly have been mis-handled and therefore the true property of his heirs. The story was hijacked by scammers and investigated to the hilt by well-meaning and honest people, all to no avail. The story still lives on. Our Edwards ancestors in Kentucky were involved at some point in the early 1920s and we may have this story to thank for our knowledge of the Pipes and Edwards families in Kentucky. Warren Berry Edwards (1859-1945) may have been the first to take interest in this story and in his efforts to make a wind fall from it; he encouraged all of the descendants of the local Edwards family to gather family information so he could put together a family tree showing a connection back to, I assume, Thomas Edwards. To this day, I still do not know how we could connect to this Robert Edwards mentioned above.

As a result family bibles were "updated", family lineage sheets were filled out and names, dates and places were documented. One of the people who became intrigued by this story was Obediah Pipes and Josephine Edwards' youngest daughter, Frederica (Freda) Pipes. I have a letter and some family group sheets that were gathered by her. Encouraged by Warren B. and Freda, all family members were urged to submit their family info. In 1933 all of Obediah's children signed Power of Attorney Forms regarding one of the suits against Trinity Church in Manhattan and several old estates of other people involved. I have one of those forms completed by William Obediah Pipes and an affidavit signed by James Franklin Pipes for another.

The result of this is that in the 1960s at a family reunion in Kentucky, Charles B. Pipes talked with his Aunt Freda and he became infected with the "genealogy bug". I have never found that he participated in the Edwards fortune story but he became enthralled, as I have, in digging up every last bit of information on the history of the Pipes family. His work on that led him to find Mrs. Ellsberry in Missouri (She is a Pipes as well.) and that led to the Pipes family history books that she published in the mid-1960s. Mrs. Ellsberry had connections with Lloyd Harmon, Ella Dumas and others who were like minded and she had the 'where-with-all' to get the books into print. Charles kept large files of all his correspondence and his son William B Pipes has been gracious to share all of that with me over the years. It was a huge advantage for me to find all of their work when I started my journey in the early 1980s. So I owe a big 'Thank You' to Robert Edwards for taking on all those Spanish Ships and making the Queen happy.

So, to get back to the story; here is a picture (on the next page) of an Edwards descendant gathering in about 1926 in Louisville, Ky. that was called to discuss legal strategies. I am sure Warren B. is in there somewhere, maybe Freda too.

For more on the story, follow these links which have other links in them. I have some stories about it here on my web page as well.

[https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Edwards\\_Millions](https://familysearch.org/learn/wiki/en/Edwards_Millions)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert\\_Edwards\\_\(pirate\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Robert_Edwards_(pirate))

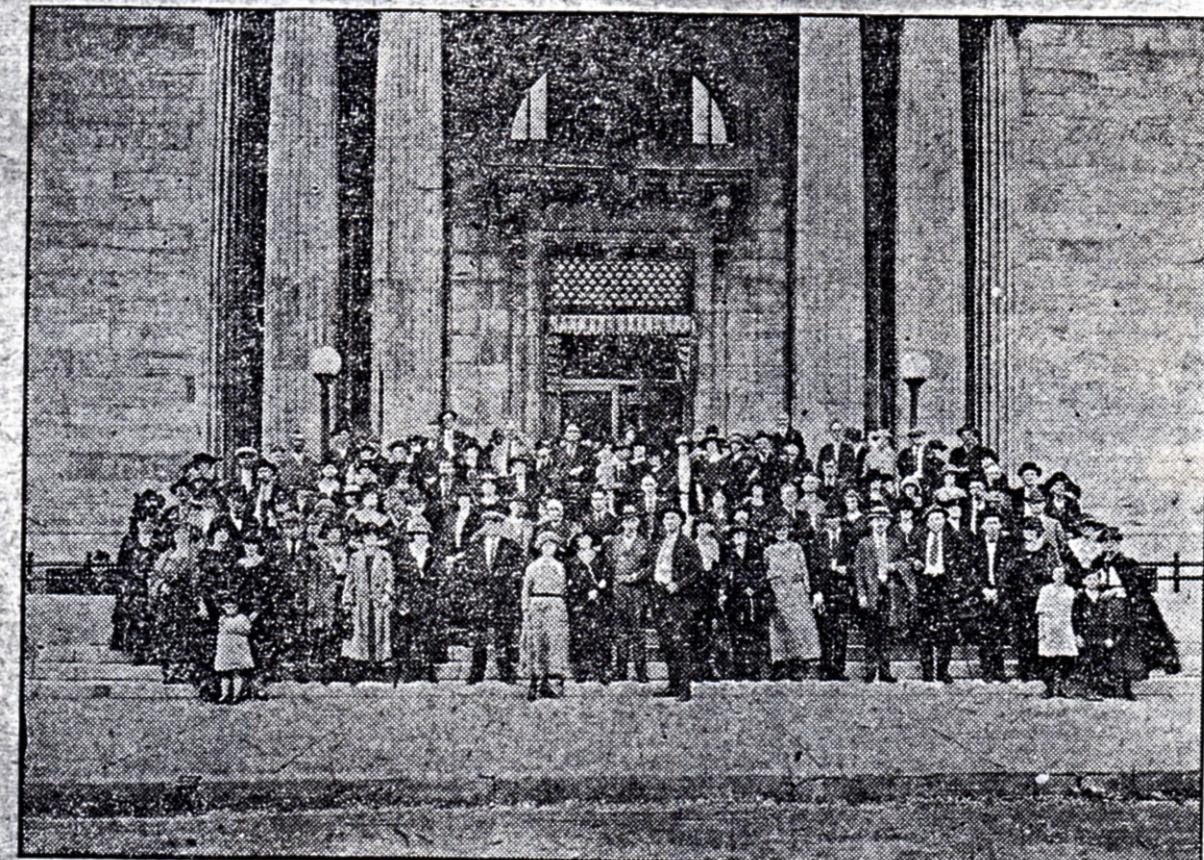
# *Claimants to Four Billion*

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## *Edwards Heirs Seek Most of Wall Street*



Photograph of the claimants to the estate of Robert Edwards, which includes 77 acres in Wall street, New York. This was made at the Louisville Public Library Thursday afternoon, when they assembled there for a conference.

Photo by Caulfield & Shook.

I could not find the exact date of this article and photo but other clues indicate it was mid 1920s.

The other result of all this finagling and hoping to get something for nothin' is that the Edwards genealogy is so corrupted that nothing about it is believable anymore. Records have been altered, doctored and so twisted that it is near impossible to draw any conclusions past about 2 generations back from James Franklin Edwards.

Maybe DNA will be able to sort it all out in the future.