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Rodgerses and Perrys— Heritage of Valor

CALBRAITH PERRY RODGERS, through two main stems of his family tree, could trace his descent from some of the most distinguished figures in U.S. military history. The adventures and derring-do of his ancestors were the primers of his youth. At the Rodgers family home in Havre de Grace, Maryland, the stern, uncompromising features of his bemedaled forebears stared down at him from rows of portraits in the gallery hall. Throughout his life he bore the ghosts of heroes past.

Though no Rodgers or Perry had crossed with the *Mayflower*, they did not lag far behind in reaching the New World. The Rodgers line was established in America by John Rodgers, a native of Scotland who arrived in the 1750s to settle along the banks of the Susquehanna River in eastern Maryland.* A zealous advocate of the cause of liberty, he fought with gallantry and bravery as a colonel of militia in the Revolutionary War. Of

*Proprietor of the village tavern in Havre de Grace, he could trace his lineage back to the Middle Ages and could recite details of the Rodgerses' first entry into Great Britain with William the Conqueror. One ancestral namesake commanded the vessel that rescued Alexander Selkirk (Robinson Crusoe) from the island of Juan Fernandez.