

# Book of Ancestors



## The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America In California

### Monterey Peninsula Committee





# Roger Williams

1603–1683/84 RHODE ISLAND

**ROGER WILLIAMS** was born in London in 1603; he was educated at Cambridge and studied to be a minister of the Church of England. He later converted to a Protestant Puritan religion hoping to cleanse the church of lingering elements of Catholic practice. The Puritans immigrated to form a pure, nonpolitical, uncorrupted and non-compromised church in America. Roger married Mary ; in 1629 and in 1630 sailed on the ship Lyon to Nantasket, MA, just south of Boston. He went to Salem where he was to be a minister but because of conflict was not elected. He continued preaching and serving in Salem espousing several beliefs saying that religion was depriving Indians of their property, and that swearing an oath to God was worthless if the swearer did not believe in God. In 1635 he was warned that his opinions were dangerous and erroneous and in October of 1635, he was exiled from Massachusetts. He left in January 1636 and for 14 weeks wandered in the snowy wilderness. He was taken in by the Indians and came to the headwaters of the Narragansett and purchased land from the Indians. He named the area Providence and in 1637 sent for his family. Other families joined him and in 1640 there were 40 families there. They believed the land was not the King's to give but belonged to the Indians.

In 1638, he helped establish the Baptist Church in Providence but later left it because he believed it was not directly in the apostolic line from Christ. However, he supported the church and was an active campaigner for religious liberty. Anne Hutchison and several of her followers came to Rhode Island upon being exiled from Massachusetts.

In 1643, he sailed to England to secure legal standing for Rhode Island and there published a book entitled "Key to Language of America" describing the life of Indians. He received a Charter from Parliament but this Charter was challenged by Coddington who wanted a separate section for Newport area. This required another trip to England and in 1663 a new Charter was given not dividing the colony and giving full liberty in religious concerns.

Roger believed in a New Testament church and declined to support an official religion since there was no direct apostolic succession from Jesus after the Pope appropriated power. He believed we must wait for the



*Roger Williams declared, "forced worship stinks in God's nostrils."*



Mrs. L. Bruce Meyer, (Margery), 1988, 10th in descent



Ms. Marguerite Meyer, 2001, 11th in descent



Ms. Mary Emily Griffith, 2005, 10th in descent

*Below:*

Mrs. Beatty Haig Ramsay, (Edie), 2007, 10th in descent

Mrs. Thomas Adney Butler, (Janet), 2012, 10th in descent



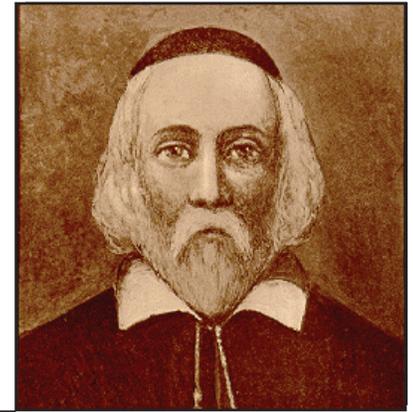
millennium until Christ returns for a New Testament church. He wrote a tract to Parliament entitled "Queries of Highest Consideration" in 1644 stating the following points among others: Religious persecution was an utter violation of the Christian spirit and of fundamental humanity; religious warfare has been the curse of civilization; when persons are forced to conform to a mode of worship that their "hearts embrace not" they are violated to the very depths of their being and any one who says that he seeks more spiritual light but is still willing to persecute scorns every standard of Christianity and humanity

Williams is perhaps best known as a strong advocate of

religious tolerance. Tolerance is not the word he would have used as it implies a concession by a power that had the right to persecute but on occasion graciously chose not to. Williams believed that liberty in religion was a God given right that no king or state could deny belonging to all human beings by virtue of their humanity – as much as their right to breathe or life itself, they had the right in religion to be totally free.

# William Brewster

1560–1644 MASSACHUSETTS



**WILLIAM BREWSTER** was born at Scrooby, Nottinghamshire, England, probably between 1560 and 1566. As a young man, he attended Cambridge University but did not graduate. He then served as an assistant to William Davison, one of Queen Elizabeth I's secretaries of state, accompanying him on a diplomatic mission to Holland. After Davison fell from favor (due to the execution of Mary Queen of Scots), Brewster returned to Scrooby and served as postmaster.

William Brewster was one of the original members of the religious Separatist congregation at Scrooby that became the nucleus of the Pilgrim church. When the community first attempted to emigrate to Holland in 1607, Brewster and several others were jailed for a short time. He was released and successfully emigrated in 1608. After his arrival in Holland, Brewster served as Elder of the Pilgrim Separatist congregation.

To support his family, Brewster worked in Leiden as a printer in Leiden.

When Brewster and other members of the Pilgrim community emigrated to America in 1620 on the Mayflower, their pastor John Robinson remained behind in Leiden. In the absence of an ordained minister, Brewster was the much-loved and respected religious leader of Plymouth Colony.

Brewster's wife Mary was also a Mayflower passenger. She died in 1627. William and Mary Brewster had 6 children : Jonathan, Patience, Fear, Love, an unnamed child who died young, and Wrestling. Love and Wrestling Brewster arrived in Plymouth with their parents on the Mayflower. Jonathan, Fear, and Love Brewster also settled in Plymouth but emigrated slightly later.

William Brewster died in 1644. His inventory of several hundred books in both English and Latin attests to his scholarship, his deep love of learning and his spirituality.

William Brewster died without a will.



Mrs. Talcott Bates, (Peggy), 1990  
10th in descent



Mrs. Jeffrey M. Riehl, (Marilyn),  
2003, 12th in descent



Mrs. L. Bruce Lindsey, (Whiz), 1993,  
13th in descent

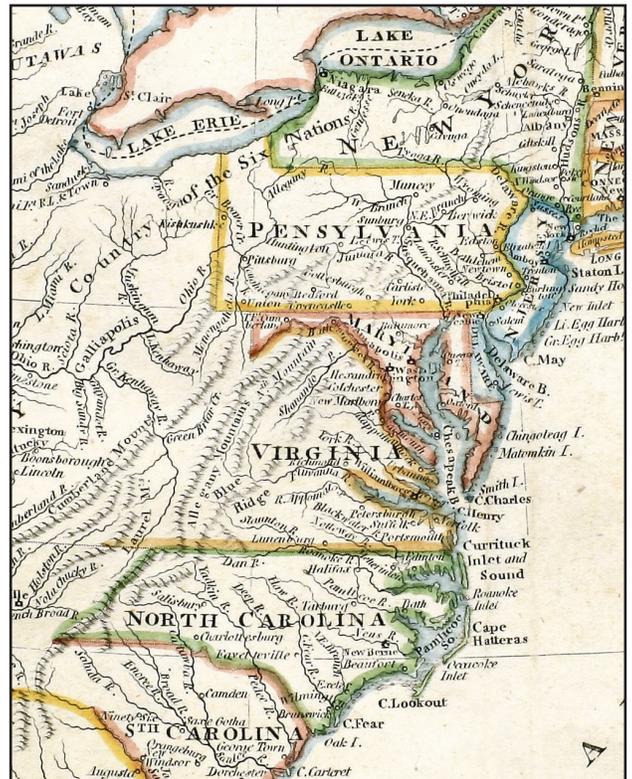


Mrs. John Frederick Haller, (Lelia),  
2006, 11th in descent



# Thomas Savage

1592-1631/33 VIRGINIA



Mrs. Richard Davis Lawrence,  
(Betty Lou), 2001, 11th in descent

**THOMAS SAVAGE** came to Virginia From Chester, England, on the John and Francis, leaving England in 1607, and arriving in Jamestown in January, 1608. He came with Captain Christopher Newport when he was age thirteen. In February, Captain Newport gave him to the Indian chief, Powhatan, as a hostage in exchange for an Indian named Nemontack whom Newport wanted to take to England. Thomas Savage remained with the Indians for several years and learned their language. He was later able to serve as an interpreter to the colonists.

He was given the rank of Ensign. In 1614, when Sir Thomas Dalesent and Ralph Hamor came to visit Powhatan, Thomas Savage accompanied them as interpreter. According to Captain John Smith, Thomas Savage had served the public well. Smith also recounted that Savage was wounded by an arrow shot

into his back, the result of a quarrel with an Indian leader on the Eastern Shore,

In 1624, Thomas Savage traded actively on behalf of Virginia governing officials. He hired John Vaughn, a Virginia Company tenant or servant, from Jabez Whittaker for a year, and took him on a trading voyage.

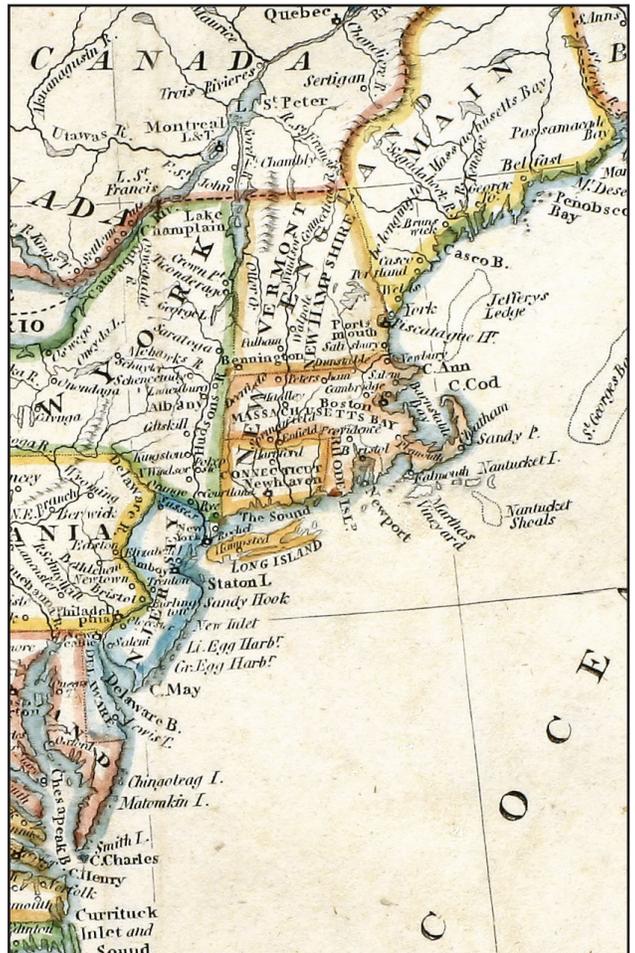
In 1625, he settled on the Eastern Shore of Virginia, where he was given a grant of 9,000 acres that is now known as Savage's Neck.

Thomas and his wife, Hannah, had a son named John. Savage died before September, 1633, when Hannah was identified as a widow.



# James Walker

1620/1691 MASSACHUSETTS



**JAMES WALKER** was born 1620 in Radcliff, Lancashire, England. At the age of 15, he and his sister, Sarah, embarked from London to New England on the “Elizabeth” in April 1635 in the care of their uncle John Browne. James was a servant to his uncle until June 6, 1649, when he gained his freedom and was admitted a freeman June 4, 1650. He married Elizabeth Phillips, the daughter of William Phillips and Sarah Richmond. She died August 14, 1678 in Taunton, Massachusetts.

James was an extensive landholder and a partner in the Iron works and Saw Mill at Taunton. He was chosen deputy of Taunton, October 1659 and given the right to marry persons, “as occasion shall require”. He gave land for the ministry in 1663. He was one of the six original proprietors of Assonet Neck and with John Richmond were authorized by the court to purchase land from the Indians in behalf of the town of Taunton, MA. He served as juryman on the Grand Inquest repeatedly and was elected constable in 1652, surveyor in 1672 and one of the select men for eight years. He was also deputy to the Plymouth court for 16 years. He was a member and chairman of the Town ‘Council of War’ from 1667 to 1681. His home was burned to the ground by Indians June 27, 1675 at the outbreak of King Phillip’s War. James Walker died February 18, 1691 in Taunton, MA.

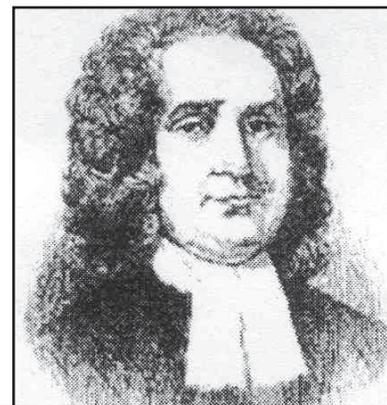


Mrs. William Lon Lindsey,  
(Esther), 1987, 10th in descent



# Obadiah Holmes

1607/1692 RHODE ISLAND



Mrs. Robert Milton Holmes,  
(Jane), 1991, 10th in descent

When I found I had a Homes ancestor, the Reverend **OBADIAH HOLMES**, I was intrigued because my married name is Holmes. I decided to make him my Dames ancestor and research him.

The name Holmes was originally spelled Hulme or Hulse and was of Norman origin. John Hulse was knighted during the reign of Henry II (1150-1189). The family settled near Manchester, England. Obadiah, the first American ancestor, was baptized March 18, 1609-10 in Didbury, Manchester, England. He married Catherine Hyde in Manchester November 20, 1630, came to America in 1638 with his wife and five year old son, Jonathan, and settled in Salem, Massachusetts. He and Lawrence Southworth set up the first glass works in America. He held strong feelings about religion which were not in accord with the Pilgrim fathers and moved his parishioners to Rhode Island where they became Baptists in doctrine. Here he enjoyed freedom from oppression in religious matters among his friends Roger Williams and Dr. John Clark. He, Clark and John Crandall were visiting friends in Boston and conducting services when the Constable arrested them for nonconformity. Friends would pay the fines for all but Holmes refused as a matter of conscience and was flogged at the whipping post which stood at the corner of State and Devonshire Streets in Boston. From that

point on he was known as "The Martyr". He was the first minister of the first Baptist church in America, and is credited with being one of the fathers of religious freedom. His conflict with the established church made him a man of influence and he served as Commissioner of the General Assembly and Court from 1656-58. He was an original patentee of New Jersey and he and Jonathan were organizers of the first Baptist church in Middletown in 1667.

Jonathan, also my ancestor, carried on his father's tradition of dissent by writing a declaration of independence from Charles II in a land and taxation dispute which was finally settled to the satisfaction of the patentees in 1672. He was Deputy to the General Assembly in New Jersey and when his father died in 1682 he returned to Newport and served as Deputy there in 1680-90. As a descendant of Obadiah and Jonathan Holmes, I can tell you we are a questioning and opinionated lot.

My niece researched my husband's family recently and discovered that grandfather Holmes changed his name to Holmes from Jacobson when he came to Minnesota from Sweden in the 1840s. He said he wanted an American name not a Swedish one! You learn exciting and amusing things when you do genealogy research.



# William Pratt

1602/1678 CONNECTICUT

William Pratt was the original proprietor and founder of Hartford, Connecticut. He was Lieutenant Trainband 1661, Judge in Saybrook, CT 1666-1676, and granted 100 acres for Pequot War Service.

My ancestor, **William Pratt**, was born in 1602, baptized by his father Rev. William Pratt in St. Mary's church, Stevenage Parish, Hartford County, England in 1609. He grew up a Puritan, attached to a famous Puritan teacher, Thomas Hooker, friend of his father. When Hooker was driven from the pulpit, they fled to Holland, and on to America, landing in Boston, probably aboard the Griffin, a ship that held 50-150 passengers. William and his brother, John, followed hearts and religious convictions to America a few years after the Pilgrims. They were adventurers willing to leave behind their country, home, and family to start over in a new "Zion". Their stated concern was "to imbue minds of their children with sound religious instruction, to hand down to succeeding generations Christian principles and virtues, to sustain them in all their trials and persecutions, render them cheerful and happy amidst all their hardships and sufferings".

William joined a colony on the Quinnetkut River, surrounded by mostly friendly Indians - Algonquin, Podunks, Poquonocks, Massacres, Moheicans and others. These Indians clung to the white settlers for protection against the war like Mohawks and Pequots to the East. In 1661, William Pratt, now Lieutenant, and others noticed Pequot Indians gathering across the river. Intelligence disclosed the Pequots planned to attack the settlement, burn it to the ground, and massacre them all. A call for help went out to Massachusetts who sent 20 men. These few colonial men surprised the Pequots the night before the planned attack and defeated them soundly. Historians later commented that success in this battle saved many other colonies. How brave they were! Outnumbered, they nonetheless persevered and succeeded.

William was a founder of Hartford, Connecticut, nicknamed the Constitution State. They said, "foundation of authority is laid, firstly, in the free consent of the people". Connecticut became an independent commonwealth. In 1638, William participated in General Court that adopted Fundamental Orders, described as America's first written constitution. William married Elizabeth Clark of Saybrook, CT. Property in Hartford was sold and they moved to Saybrook, where they raised 11 children, William was Saybrook Deputy 1666-1676.

William and Elizabeth's eldest daughter was named



Mrs. John Rogers Blinks,  
(Franci), 2003, 10th in descent

Experience. She married Joseph Edgerton, a freemason 1673, had 8 children (daughters named Experience and Temperance—suggesting the Puritan tradition continued). A son, Elisha, and grandson Elisha Edgerton saw military service. Elisha's son Bela (1788-1874) lived a lifetime of public service dying "of old age" according to his death certificate. Bela married Phoebe Ketchum whose father is my ancestor who served in the American Revolution. Their son, Joseph Ketchum Edgerton's daughter Frances married Captain George Nelson, parents of my grandmother Florence Edgerton Nelson. She married BG William Eugene Gillmore. Their son, Major General William Nelson Gillmore is my father. I was struck by the many generations of military service in my family, continuing with husband and sons, Brigadier General (USA) Michael Joseph Lally and Captain (USN) Robert Arthur Lally.



# Colonel Edward Dorsey

1652/1705 MARYLAND

I am Patricia Early Anderson (Mrs. David Lawrence Anderson, Jr.). I joined Colonial Dames in 1985. I am twelfth in descent from Colonel Edward Dorsey (ca 1645-1705).

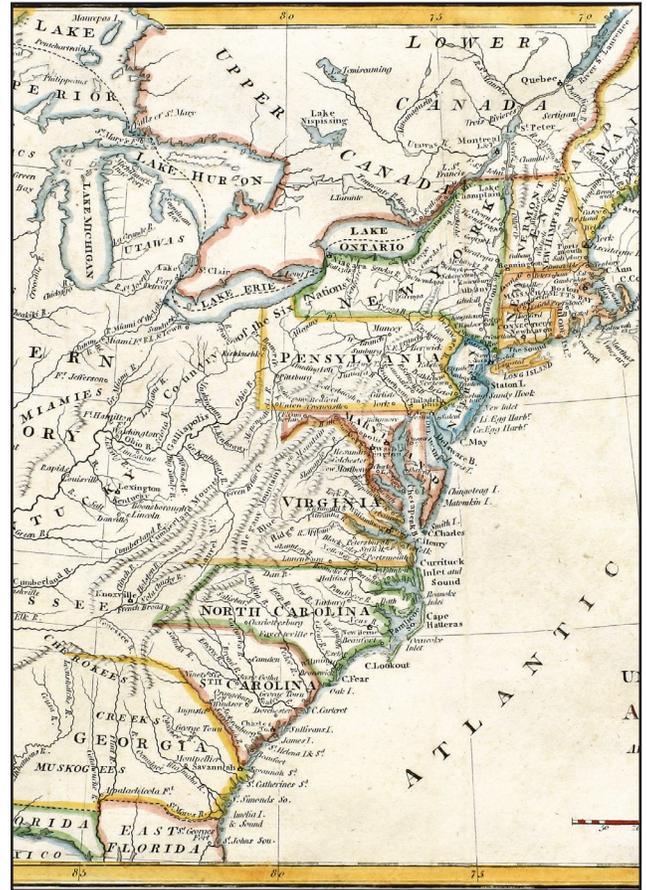
Colonel Dorsey, Major's Choice, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, was very active in the civil and military affairs of Anne Arundel County, Maryland, holding several public offices and serving on various commissions.

After reading through the list of all the public offices he held and the commissions he served on, I enjoyed reading the following story about him, a story showing that he was not above using his connections and influence. This story is quoted from *Anne Arundel Gentry* by Harry Wright Newman published 1933.

“He [Edward Dorsey] was granted the contract for the erection of St. Anne’s Church in 1696. A committee was appointed to ‘inspect into the proposals for building the same’. Edward Dorsey of the committee reported that ‘there was in Banck for building the church at Annapolis, £458 sterling. That they had discoursed workmen, and the carpenter demands for his work £250—the bricklayer, having all stuff upon the place £220—the brick maker £90—that they find no other means to raise the money thereof without assistance of some charitable disposed persons. That the charge of the building the said church will amount to £1,200 sterling’.

“An act was passed the same day imposing a tax of ‘three pence per hundred on tobacco, to continue and be in force until the 12th day of May, which shall be in the year of our Lord God, 1698, and to be applied to the building of ye church at Annapolis’....

“Edward Dorsey failed to have the church built at the allotted time of November 30, 1697, and by an act of the Assembly the time was extended until November 30, 1698. At the latter date the church was still uncompleted which caused much dissatisfaction among the several



Mrs. David L. Anderson, Jr.  
(Pat), 1985, 12th in descent

members of the Assembly. Subsequently, a bill was proposed and passed by the Assembly fining him for the unfulfillment of his contract.

“On May 4, 1700, the Rev. Thomas Bray appeared before the Board in behalf of Major Dorsey and in his petition stated ‘he does not question the justice of the General Assembly in imposing the fine but forasmuch as Major Dorsey has a great charge of a wife and twelve children most of them being very small’ prayed clemency.”

I seem to know more stories about my more unsavory ancestors and, as much as I would enjoy recounting a tale about one of them here, non is either a direct

or a lateral relative from the line I used to qualify for the Colonial Dames. Therefore, I have selected one of the few "Dame" ancestors I know anything about: Dr. Charles McCreery (1785-1826) of Hartford, Kentucky.

The first story I ever heard about Dr. McCreery was concerning not his eminence as a physician in Kentucky but of the names he gave his children (thank heavens he wasn't my father). He had seven children. I know the names of five and, of those five, he showed originality with the names of at least four. They were his three daughters, Statira, Vibella and Vitula and one of his sons, Phocion. The fifth child, a son, used only his initials, A.J. The name of Vibella was used in my family for the next six generations, my sister being the last. It seems that his brothers had used all the family names, so Dr. McCreery gave all his children Latin names so they would be known later on. It worked. After much laughter about the names, I was told that Dr. McCreery had been an eminent surgeon in Hartford, Kentucky. He was known for designing his own surgical instruments, lecturing a great deal on medicine, and, in 1813, he performed the first successful surgery for the removal of the entire collarbone.

*Pat's personal data:* I moved to Salinas in about 1978 with my husband, Dave Anderson, and our two daughters, Cheri and Lori. When Dave and I were married in 1956, ranching lured us from Piedmont (where we both were raised) to Bakersfield. Dave is still active in agriculture related businesses. Dave and I are proud of our California heritage. We are both fifth generation Californians. In 1850 my ancestor, Dr. James S. Shepherd, came across the plains with a wagon train. He kept a diary which was sent back to Missouri, published and used as a guide by others making the trip. In the 1970s my uncle, who had one of the two remaining copies of the diary, gave it to the Huntington Library.

My mother, Elizabeth Jenks Early, lives in Oakland and is a Colonial Dame in San Francisco. My father, Frederick J. Early, Jr., lived in San Francisco until his death in 1992. I have one sister, Vibella Elizabeth Janopaul, who lives in Atherton, California.

# Landgrave Edmund Bellinger

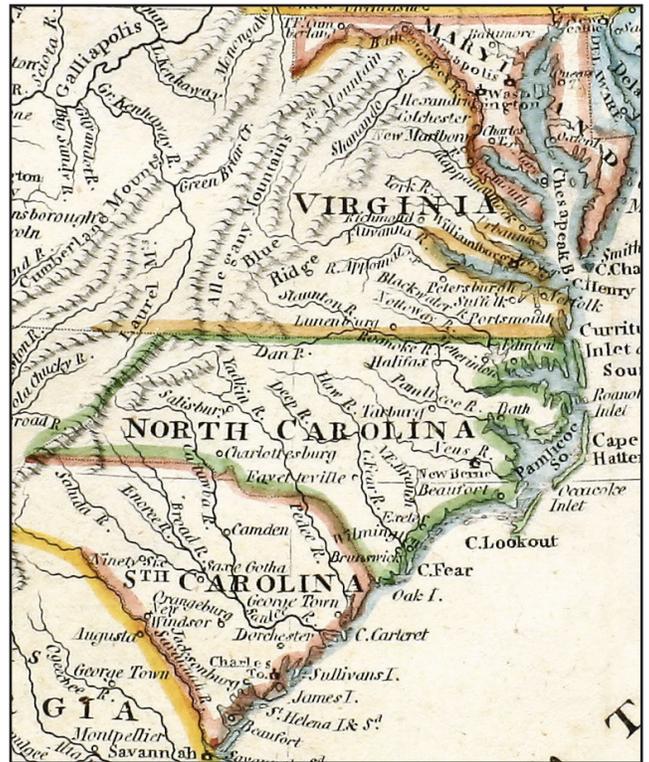
1658/1706 SOUTH CAROLINA

This ancient Bellinger family of South Carolina descended from Alan de Bellingham, who came to England from Normandy with William the Conqueror in 1066. He settled in Northumberland on a large tract of land granted by William. In the Domesday Book, which contains the first great census of England, there is mention of Alan de Belingeham. He was possessor of great lands and owner of a large manor named "Belingeham". In 1475 there is reference to the family when Walter de Belingeham was created Ireland King at Arms. The name eventually became Bellinger, its present form, and can be found in Burke's Peerage and Landed Gentry.

Captain Sir Edmund Bellinger of Westmoreland County, England arrived in the Colony of Carolina and settled on James Island in 1674. He held many positions of honor in the Province. He was in the Royal Navy and commanded the ship "Blake" in 1697. He was appointed Surveyor General for the two Carolinas in April 1698 and because of his devotion to the crown was created Landgrave on May 7, 1698. He was appointed receiver of Land Rents on August 14, 1700. Sir Edmund Bellinger married Sarah Cartwright in 1680 by whom he had 8 children.

The inheritance from the Crown granted to Landgrave Sir Edmund Bellinger passed through Edmund Bellinger II to Edmund Bellinger III and then to the last Landgrave, Edmund Bellinger IV. However, the third Landgrave turned his devotion from the crown to the support of the Revolution and his son, John Bellinger, served in the Revolutionary War as a private in the First Regiment of South Carolina, commanded by Charles Pinckney.

An article appeared in the Charleston, S.C. News and Courier in February 1935, entitled The Bellinger Land Grant, describing one of the Bellinger plantations, Poco Sabo, which had been a part of the 48,000 acres comprising the "Bellinger Barony" on the Ashepoo River. Although the original home was destroyed by fire by General William T. Sherman during the Civil War a new plantation style house was built on the old site in 1920. The plantation retains 1,600 of its 6,000 original acres and is currently owned by Anthony Ittleson of New York. Mr. Ittleson has done a great deal of work to restore the property's numerous rice ponds as bird sanctuaries, in conjunction with the ACE Basin (Ashepoo, Edisto and Combahee Rivers) conservation and wildlife refuge efforts. I have visited the home and the family graveyard adjacent to the house which



Mrs. William Ralph Lewis  
(Duncan), 1999, 9th in descent

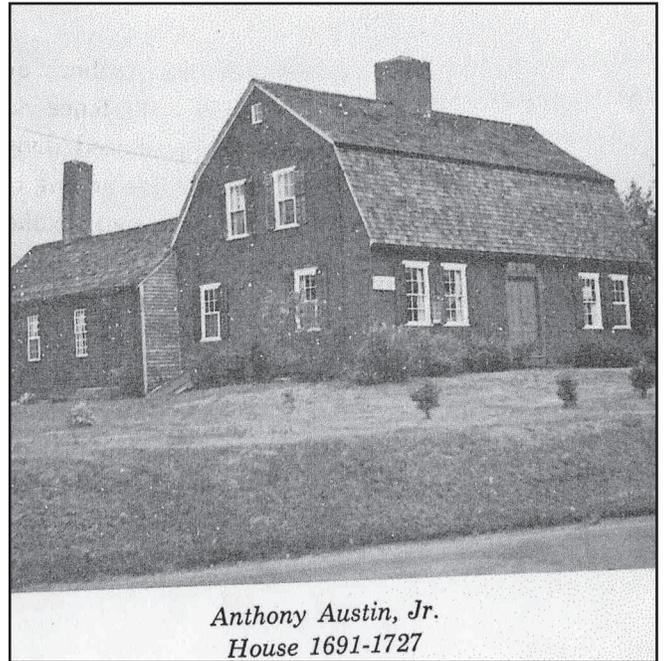
contains the grave sites of many of the Bellingers. "The Barony" contained other beautiful plantations along the Ashepoo and Combahee Rivers including, Bolton Point, Bellevue, and Edmundsbury, sites still recognizable today, as well as Tomotley, Whitehouse, and Dawn of Hope which continue as working farms and residences. The historical and haunting ruins of Sheldon Church, built by the Bull family on land granted to them from the "Bellinger Barony", is a well known tourist attraction. The church was burned in the Revolutionary War, rebuilt and burned again in the Civil War. Services are held at the site on the second Sunday after Easter and the ruins are the scene of many weddings.

The family and fortunes of the Bellingers were intertwined with many of the families of the "Low Country" of South Carolina including such well known family names as: Bull, Pinckney, De Veaux, Bulloch (the family of President Theodore Roosevelt's mother), Ravenel, DuBose, Calhoun and others.



# Anthony Austin

1636/1708 CONNECTICUT



Mrs. Maurice Hyde Gardner,  
(Nancy), 2003, 8th in descent

Richard Austin (1598-1638), a tailor of Bishopstoke, Hampshire, England, with his wife Elizabeth and two sons, Richard and Anthony (1636-1708) sailed for America in the “Bevis” of Hampton, on May 16, 1638 and settled at Charlestown, Mass. He died soon after arriving, leaving Elizabeth to care for Richard and Anthony, who were 6 and 2 years old, respectively.

On October 19, 1664, Anthony married Esther Huggins (1643-1698). They lived for two years in Charlestown, then moved to Rowley, Mass. where they stayed for eight years. Three children were born there: Richard (1666-1733) (progenitor of the more famous Austins who founded Austin Texas) Anthony Jr. (1668-1733) and John (1672-)

In 1674, the family migrated to Suffield, Conn. Suffield was established as a town on the Connecticut River in 1670 as an offspring of Springfield, Mass. Only a few settlers had come to the frontier by 1674 when the

Austins arrived. Anthony was accounted as one of the original proprietors and was granted 50 acres of land on Feather Street in that year. He was a freeman and a voter as became his station.

Anthony was elected as one of the first Select Men in 1682, and was also chosen “Clarke for ye Towne”. He continued in this position for 27 years, except for 1688 when he was Commissioner and Town Assessor. When he was 58, he became the schoolmaster of Suffield’s first free school at a salary of 30 pounds per annum.

Esther, Anthony’s wife, died in 1697 and Anthony carried on alone until his death in 1708. His sons, Anthony Jr. and Richard had land grants and were accounted as “Proprietors”. Both had large families and lived all their lives in Suffield. His sons John and Nathaniel (who became a doctor) also remained in Suffield.



# Thomas Lynde

1593/1671 MASSACHUSETTS



Thomas Lynde was born in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, England in February 1593 . He and his second wife Margaret, along with sons Thomas and Henry, arrived in America at the port of Boston on the ship Griffin in 1634. Also aboard were 100 passengers and cattle. The next year daughter Mary (6) was brought to Massachusetts by John Winthrop Jr. on the Abigail.

Thomas and Margaret joined the Charlestown Church immediately. He was admitted as a freeman and a member of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1634. Thomas became a Deacon and remained a leader in the church his entire life.

Deacon Lynde was a farmer and dealt extensively in real estate; he was also a maltster. His house and malthouse were on the southeast side of Mill Hill. As the Lynde family increased, several houses were built on this homestead.

At the time of his death in 1671, Thomas was a large landowner with 13 parcels in Mystic Side (later Malden) and Melrose, MA. Some properties were on Breed's Hill, known as Bunker Hill, in Charlestown.

While holding various town offices, Thomas became a Selectman for 14 years, a Representative for 10 years and Deputy to the Massachusetts Bay General Court in Boston for 8 years (first in 1636 and lastly in 1652). He joined the Ancient and Honorable Artillery



Mrs. Barbara Carol Keller  
2009, 11th in descent

Company of MA in 1637. It was formed as a citizen militia for instruction in military discipline and tactics and eventually was chartered by Governor Winthrop in 1638. Thomas was one of the Charter Deputies of the Military Company of Massachusetts (as signed by Jo Winthrop, Govr. and Tho Dudley. Depu.)

The Lynde family remained residents and owners of original homes in Malden for over 200 years. Lynde Street in Boston, which is in the part that used to be Charlestown, was named after the early settler.

Only two of his many children, including my direct ancestor, Thomas II, survived Deacon Lynde. Among his estate he bequeathed to his third wife Rebecca, "my Negro boy Peter and my Negro girl Nan to enjoy and dispose of as she sees good." This is one of the first mentions of slavery in the Colonial records.



# John Hart

1713/1779 NEW JERSEY

Leonora Branca is 8th in descent from John Hart. The lineage is an all-female line from John Hart's daughter, Abigail Hart, who married Moses Stout. The story of John Hart, Signer of the Declaration of Independence, and his escape from the British by hiding in caves and in the Sourland Mountains was passed down from mother to daughter throughout all the generations.

## Background

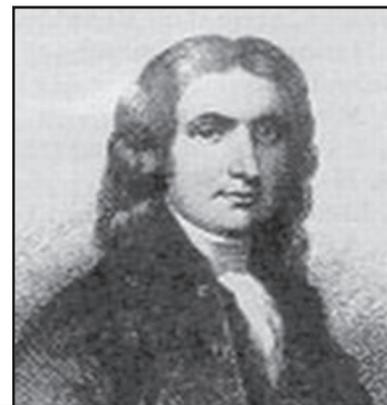
John Hart's grandfather, for whom he was named, was a carpenter, who came from Newtown, Long Island, New York. His son, Edward Hart, was John Hart's father. Edward Hart was a Justice of the Peace, a Public Assessor, and a farmer. He arrived in Hopewell about c.1710, at the age of twenty. He married Martha Furman, on May 17, 1712 and they had five children, all raised in Hopewell, New Jersey. The date of John Hart's birth is unknown. Biographers estimate the year to be 1713, in Hopewell Township, NJ.

## Early Years

John Hart learned to read, write and do figures, but had little formal schooling. He was said to have been a man of medium height and well proportioned, with black hair and light eyes and was characterized as handsome in his youth. He was well regarded for his common sense, was reasonably well read as proved by his understanding of the law and business matters.

## Marriage and Family

Around the age of 25, John rode his horse approximately 30 miles round trip to Scudder Falls to court Deborah Scudder, daughter of Richard Betts Scudder and Hannah Reeder. John Hart and Deborah Scudder were married in 1739. This union produced 13 children. John Hart began acquiring property in 1740, buying the "homestead plantation" of 193 acres in the Town of Hopewell, New Jersey. The original part of his



Mrs. Leonora Alice Branca  
2005, 8th in descent

home was made of stone. The original small barn is still on the property which is now privately owned. The home stands on Hart Avenue in Hopewell, New Jersey.

## Business Enterprises

In 1751, John Hart and his brother, Daniel, bought a mill. In the 1770's he acquired 600 acres making him the largest land owner in Hopewell. In 1773, he bought a substantial mill enterprise in Rocky Hill with his son-in-law John Polhemus, later a captain in the militia and the Continental Army. On his prosperous farm, John Hart had many cattle, sheep, swine, horses and fowl, and he also owned four slaves.

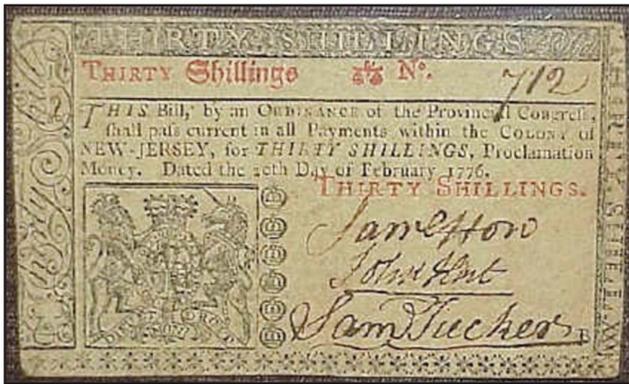
## Public Service

John Hart was elected to the Hunterdon County New Jersey Board of Chosen Freeholders in 1750, and was elected Justice of the Peace in 1755. With this appointment he was considered a gentlemen and was called John Hart, Esquire. From 1761-1771, John Hart served on the Colonial Assembly, representing Hunterdon, Morris and Sussex counties. It was there that he first met Abraham Clark, who would later become a fellow signer of the Declaration of Independence. He was appointed to the Court of Common Pleas in 1768. In 1775 he was elected to the New Jersey Committee of Correspondence, which communicated with the other colonies, and served on the Committee of Safety "to act in the public welfare of the colony in the recess of the Congress." In 1776 he was designated to sign the new Bill of Credit Notes, money issued by the State of New Jersey. Hart signed

each note himself for a total of 25,000. Hart was often called "Honest John."

### Signer of the Declaration of Independence

In June 1776, he was elected as one of five New Jersey delegates to the Second Continental Congress with authorization to vote for independence. His fellow delegates and future signers were Abraham Clark, Francis Hopkinson, Richard Stockton and John Witherspoon. When John Hart arrived in Philadelphia, in June 1776 to attend the Congress, he strongly supported the idea of Independence. John Hart was the thirteenth delegate to put his signature on the historic document pledging his life his fortune, and his sacred honor.



### The American Revolution

In August 1776, New Jersey elected a General Assembly under their new state constitution. John Hart was elected to that body, and was selected to be Speaker. He soon returned home to attend to family matters. Sadly, his wife Deborah died on October 8, 1776 with John at her side.

In December 1776, as Washington's army retreated across New Jersey, the British and Hessians ravaged the Hopewell area. Hart's home and property suffered severe damage. John Hart took refuge wherever he could in the woods, hiding in caves and in the Sourland Mountains. When the British began their withdrawal from the area after the American victories at Trenton and Princeton, Hart returned to his home.

John Hart was re-elected twice as Speaker of the Assembly and served until November 7, 1778.

In June 1778, John Hart invited the American army to camp at his farm. Washington accepted his offer, and 12,000 men camped in John Hart's field during the

growing season, and refreshed themselves with the cool water that flowed on the property. The troops left on the 24th of June, and four days later fought and won the Battle of Monmouth.

### Death and Commemoration

John Hart died of kidney stones after a long and very painful suffering. He was in his home surrounded by family, and died on Tuesday, May 11th 1779, at the age 66. John Hart died owing money, and most of his property was sold to pay his debts. His sons later moved from Hopewell, but his daughters married men from the surrounding area.

Part of John Hart's land called the lower meadow was donated to the Baptists in 1747 to build a church and cemetery, which is located on Broad Street in Hopewell New Jersey. John and Deborah's remains were transferred to this cemetery. The obelisk marking John Hart's Grave has the date of John Hart's death as 1780, but most biographers and the NJ Gazette say that he died on May 11, 1779. John's will was dated April 16, 1779.

On May 19, 1779 The NJ Gazette wrote: *On Tuesday the 11th instant, departed this life at his seat in Hopewell, John Hart, Esq. the Representative in General Assembly for the county of Hunterdon, and late Speaker of that House. He had served in the Assembly for many years under the former government, taken an early and active part in the present revolution and continued to the day he was seized with his last illness to discharge the duties of a faithful and upright patriot in the service of his country in general and the county he represented in particular. The universal approbation of his character and conduct among all ranks of people, is the best testimony of his worth, and as it must make his death regretted and lamented, will ensure lasting respect to his memory.*

Benjamin Rush, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, described John Hart as "a plain, honest, well-meaning Jersey farmer, with but little education, but with good sense and virtue enough to pursue the true interests of his country."

References: *John Hart, The Biography of a Signer of the Declaration of Independence*, Cleon E. Hammond, 1977.

Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence:  
[www.dsdi1776.com/Signers/John%20Hart.html](http://www.dsdi1776.com/Signers/John%20Hart.html)

# William Chesebrough

1594/1667 CONNECTICUT



*Said to be a Chesebrough house, this photo was taken in 1934 in Stonington, CT by Elizabeth's great-grandfather.*



Mrs. Richard Barratt  
(Elizabeth) 2012, 8th in descent

My Colonial ancestor William Chesebrough was born in England in 1594. On December 15, 1620 he married Anne Stevenson at St. Botolph's Church, Boston, Lincolnshire, England. The service was performed by "the blessed John Cotton." Of William and Anne's twelve children, only three, Samuel, Nathaniel, and Elisha, saw adulthood. I am descended from the oldest son, Samuel.

The Chesebrough family were part of a group of an estimated 700 Puritans headed by John Winthrop, first governor of the newly formed Massachusetts Bay Colony. The initial group of passenger vessels, led by the flagship Arbella, sailed in a fleet made up of eleven ships, half of them carrying the new colonists. The other vessels were loaded with equipment and livestock including 240 cows, 60 horses, plus poultry, goats, and other supplies.

The entire nine-week voyage was beset by cold, windy weather. Below decks, women and children were put up in makeshift compartments, while the men slept in hammocks. Without heat, light, or adequate ventilation, sanitary and cooking facilities were nearly nonexistent. By the time the fleet reached its destination, Winthrop's journal noted that on one ship, many of the cattle had died and the passengers appeared to be suffering from malnutrition.

On the high seas, Winthrop delivered his now familiar lay sermon, "A Modell of Christian Charity." In it, one gospel phrase, "Wee shall be as a Citty upon a Hill," was drawn from Matthew 5:14 ("You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid.") The phrase has been often quoted since that time.

On June 14, 1630, the Arbella weighed anchor at Salem, Massachusetts. Soon acquiring a distaste for Salem and its environs, the settlers crossed to the other bank of the Charles River to establish the town of Boston. Before long, they founded the First Church of Boston. The name for the new town had been selected before the voyage, to commemorate Boston, England, the group's departure point. Once the First Church was established, William and Anne Chesebrough became the 44th and 45th enrolled members.

Each settler was to be allotted a house with garden, plus additional grazing and cultivating lands, with largest portions going to the wealthier members. At the center of life stood the church. Inside the settlement, the Colonists would find shelter in case of Indian or foreign attack, and would conduct their government affairs.

For any male settler who wished to vote and hold public office, the law required he own land and be legally declared free from bondage. After court approval, he was designated a Freeman and enrolled in the official register. Freeman status was accorded William Chesebrough on May 18, 1631. He entered public life in 1632, when he and William Colbourne were appointed from Boston to confer with the General Court regarding the assessment of a general levy. In Boston, Chesebrough was appointed constable and assessor. He also served on two committees that allocated land and livestock. For a livelihood, in addition to gunsmithing and farming, he operated a blacksmith foundry.

The Chesebrough family did not stay long in Boston. Over the next few years, they relocated, first to Mt. Wollaston, Massachusetts in 1637-8. There, the citizens created a district town they named Braintree, which was later incorporated into the town of Quincy. Chesebrough was chosen to represent the new town in the General Court and was appointed to serve as commissioner (local judge). On property that would later become the homestead of the famous Adams family, Chesebrough signed a deed of transfer to an ancestor of future U.S. Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams. Chesebrough relocated in 1644, this time to Pequot, now called New London, Connecticut.

The Chesebroughs moved a final time, to Wequetequock Cove, in an area called Pawcatuck, where in 1649 they built a home. William's friend Roger Williams, a clergyman who later would become the founder of Rhode Island, assisted him in this effort.

Nineteen years after setting foot in the Colonies, the Chesebroughs were at last permanently settled. Chesebrough was awarded a house lot at Pequot, plus 300 acres of land at Wequetequock, a grant that was later increased to 2,362 acres.

Soon, three more settlers came to the new plantation. The first was Thomas Stanton, Interpreter General between the Colonies and the Indians, who arrived in 1650. In 1652 Walter Palmer arrived, then in 1654, Lt. Thomas Minor (also spelled Miner) arrived. These four pioneering men, Chesebrough, Stanton, Palmer and Minor, became the founders of the town first known as Southertown, then Mystic, and since 1666 has been called Stonington, Connecticut.

Chesebrough held the office of selectman and also did duty as assessor and commissioner during the three-and-a-half year period when the area was first claimed



*Elizabeth Barratt's great-grandfather, Heverland R. Chesbro, M.D., standing by the harbor in Stonington, CT, the town founded in 1649 by his ancestor, William Chesebrough.*

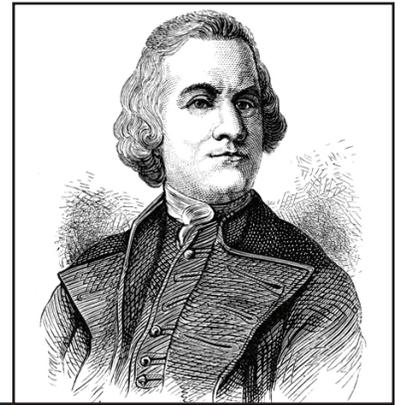
by Massachusetts and named Southertown. In 1662, the territory reverted back to the Colony of Connecticut under the Charter of Connecticut signed by King Charles II.

Besides serving as Pequot's deputy to the General Court of Connecticut in Hartford, William Chesebrough was chosen in 1664 as the General Court's first representative. He also served as Stonington's selectman until his death at age 73 on June 9, 1667. Anne Chesebrough lived another six years, and passed away on August 24, 1673. The couple were laid to rest in unmarked graves at the Wequetequock burying ground, not far from the first Chesebrough home.

To commemorate the 250th anniversary year of their arrival, in 1899 a four-sided stone monument was erected at Stonington to honor each of the town's four founders. The side devoted to William Chesebrough pays him the following tribute: "A Bold Pioneer, A Wise Organizer, A Firm Christian."

# Samuel Adams

1617/1689 MASSACHUSETTS



*Samuel Adams was admitted as a freeman of the Massachusetts Colony in 1643.*

Mrs. Harold C. Ulrich  
(Jane) 1975, 10th in descent

Captain Samuel Adams was born in 1617 in Barton St. David, England, the fourth son of Henry and Edith Squire Adams. A farmer and maltster, Henry brought his wife and eight of his nine children to America in 1638. They settled in Braintree (now called Quincy), Massachusetts, and Henry is considered the progenitor of the Adams Family in America.

Samuel was admitted as a freeman of the Massachusetts Colony in 1643, and in 1646 he married Mary Englefield. They had one child who died, and Mary's death followed in 1650. Samuel then married Rebecca Graves in 1651. Together they had 11 children, including 2 sets of twins! Rebecca died in 1664, and in 1668 he married Esther Sparhawk and fathered 4 more children.

Joining his brother, Thomas, in Chelmsford in 1654, Samuel was granted 450 acres of land on condition that he erect the first sawmill in town, and that he supply the townspeople with boards at three shillings a hundred. He was later granted 100 acres more in consideration for erecting a grist mill for grinding corn. This made his total holdings about 600 acres.

He was granted "Liberty to sett Flood gates for the advantage of his Mill Pond," and this liberty continues to the present owner. Seven generations lived on the Adams' farm and ran the mill. The original mill is no longer standing, but the present owner has built a new, smaller mill on that site and commissioned a plaque commemorating Samuel Adams' contribution to the fledgling town.

As well as an entrepreneur, Samuel Adams served Chelmsford as Commissioner of the General Court to end small causes, and also served as Town Clerk for 20 years. He was "somewhat skilled in medicine and exercised his skill to ye advantage and benefit in this infant settlement while they were destitute of a physician better informed." He was commissioned Captain of Foot in the Chelmsford Militia, and fought in King Philip's War (1675-1678).

After a long and eventful life, Samuel Adams died in 1689 at the age of 72. He is buried in Charlestown, MA. Presidents John Adams and John Quincy Adams are direct descendants of his brother Joseph.



# Josiah S. Payne, Sr.

1705/1785 VIRGINIA

Wife or (s): Anna Fleming

Josiah S. Payne, Sr. served in the Virginia House of Burgesses, 1761-65, 1769. (He served with Thomas Jefferson and George Washington) representing Goochland. His father, George Payne, is also an NSCDA ancestor, as he served as Justice of the Peace and High Sheriff of Goochland. It is probable that the Paynes originally came to Lancaster and Rappahannock in the 1600's. Josias Sr. was a major in the militia and was married to Anna Fleming, daughter of Colonel Charles Fleming of Jamestown. They settled in Pittsylvania in southern Virginia ultimately.

Historical information: Josiah Payne Sr. was the grandfather of Dolly Payne Madison, wife of President James Madison, through his son John Payne (we descend from his other son Josiah Jr.) This son John was married to Mary Coles and they were devout Quakers who along with other family members (notably Edward Coles, governor of Illinois) manumitted their slaves and moved to states where slavery was not permitted. The outlaw Jesse James was also a Payne family member through his mother.

Our line of Paynes continues through Josias Payne Jr. who served in the Goochland Militia in 1779 and as an officer in the Revolutionary War received a 2666 acre land grant in North Carolina (now Tennessee). They were among the earliest settlers in Nash's Lick (later Nashville) settling there in 1784. Members of the family were part of the Robertson/Donelson expedition and suffered scalping, murderous attacks by Indians and a bear mauling that were a far cry from their life in Virginia. The family went on to play an important role in the history of the state of Tennessee. We are related by marriage to Andrew Jackson and other formative historical figures in Tennessee. Our line of the family then moved to Arkansas in search of better cropland.

Religion, if known or applicable: Quaker, often Presbyterian

Other family surnames include: Fleming/ Woodson/ Tarleton/McGregor



Mrs. Virginia Donohugh  
2005, 6th in descent



Ms. Ruth Donohugh  
2008, 7th in descent



# Colonel Abraham Penn

1743/1801 VIRGINIA



Mrs. Charles E. Lord  
(Liz) 1985, 6th in descent

Abram (Abraham) Penn, son of George and Ann Penn, was born December 27, 1743, and spent his childhood in Caroline County, Virginia. He married Ruth, daughter of George, Jr. and Mary Stovall, March 3, 1767, in Amherst County. As militia captain, Abram Penn fought under General Andrew Lewis at Point Pleasant in Lord Dunmore's War, 1774. After moving to Pittsylvania (later Henry) County, he served on the Committee of Safety in both counties and as delegate to the Virginia General Assembly from Henry County.

During the Revolutionary War, Penn advanced to the rank of Colonel and in the winter of 1780-1781, organized the only body of Revolutionary troops from Henry and adjoining counties. He led his regiment to

join General Nathaniel Greene in North Carolina, March 1781. Later he and his troops joined General Greene in defense of the Carolinas, fought in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, and continued in service through the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown.

Commissioned by the Governor, he administered State and Federal oaths to the officers of Patrick County at its first court, June 1791. In the early years of the county, Abram Penn and seven of his sons served as "Gentlemen Justices." In June 1801, Abram Penn was buried in the family cemetery at his home, "Poplar Grove." The November 1965 issue of the DAR Magazine contained an article, "Colonel Abram Penn, Virginia Patriot," by chapter member, Miss Sydney Penn.



# John Clows

1609/1687 PENNSYLVANIA



Miss Leslie Ann Geyer  
2014, 10th in descent

John Clows (Clowes) of Gawsworth, Cheshire, England and Margery, his wife, came to Pennsylvania July 29, 1683 in the same ship with Richard Hough, the “Endeavor” of London, with their children Margery, Rebecca and William. They had been preceded by three of their children: John Jr., Joseph and Sarah who came in the “Friends’ Adventure” July 28, 1682.

John Clows, the father, was evidently a man of some substance, as he brought with him three servants; Samuel Hough (possibly a relative of Richard’s, taking this as the only means of getting to America, as many young men did at this time), Joseph Charley and John Richardson.

The family settled in Makefield, Pennsylvania where John Clows became a large landowner in Bucks County. He had land on the Delaware River Front between William Yardley and John Brock and also a tract

inland on the Neshaminy. On the year of his arrival, he represented Bucks County in the Assembly in 1683 and again in 1684.

Of their children, John Jr. died May 5, 1683, Joseph married Elizabeth Pownall, William married Sarah Hanfield, Sarah married John Bainbridge of the New Jersey family of that name, Margery married Richard Hough, and Rebecca married John Lambert of Nottingham, West Jersey.

John Clows died September 4, 1687 in Makefield, Bucks County, Pennsylvania and Margery died February 2, 1698.

*Sources: A Genealogical and Personal History of Bucks County, Pennsylvania by William W. H. Davis and The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography Vol. XVIII. a publication of the The Historical Society of Pennsylvania 1894.*



# Alexander Mebane

1716/1793 NORTH CAROLINA



Mrs. William H. Tyler III  
(Susanne) 2011, 7th in descent

My colonial ancestor, Alexander Mebane, was born in County Down, Ulster, North Ireland. His ancestors had come from the lowlands of Scotland to Ireland, and were known as Scots-Irish.

Alexander's father, William, left Ireland with his family to settle in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, where many Scots-Irish and Germans had moved.

When land was being offered in Orange County, North Carolina, around Hawsfield, Alexander obtained six land grants consisting of 1,563 acres and settled there with his wife, Mary. They had twelve children, six sons and six daughters. Most of his sons served in the war for independence.

Alexander became a prosperous farmer who operated a gristmill, supplying provisions to the colonial troops. He was also commissioned a colonel in the North Carolina Militia, served as justice of the peace in Orange County for many years, and was the first sheriff of Orange County. An unknown historian has said about

Alexander, "a man of good sense, upright, industrious and prudent in the management of his business affairs..."

Most of Alexander's sons fought in the war for independence, and his namesake, Alexander, Jr. became a Brigadier General, and finally served as a congressman in the newly formed government. Mebane, North Carolina, formerly Mebanesville, is named for him.

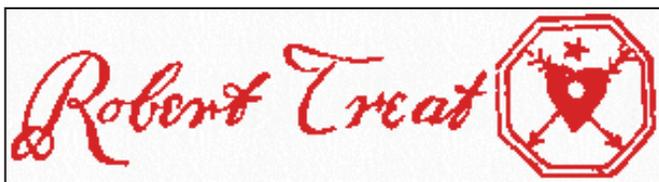
I descend through Alexander's son David, whose son Elbridge died two months before his daughter Elizabeth was born. Elizabeth went on to marry John Fearington, (Fearington Village) outside of Durham, North Carolina. Their granddaughter was my paternal grandmother.

History is a winding path of twists and turns. To think about the route my ancestor's family took from Scotland, to Ireland to Pennsylvania to North Carolina is truly amazing. Having North Carolina colonial heritage makes me proud.



# Robert Treat

1624/1710 CONNECTICUT



Mrs. Eduardo Ochoa  
(Holly) 2016, 11th in descent

Robert Treat (February 23, 1624 – July 12, 1710) was an American colonial leader, militia officer and governor of the Connecticut Colony between 1683 and 1698, as well as the founder of Newark, New Jersey.

## Biography

Treat was born in Pitminster, Somerset, England and emigrated to Massachusetts with his family when he was fifteen. His father was Richard Treat, one of the original patentees of the Charter of the Colony of Connecticut, and his mother was Alice Gaylord. His family were early settlers at Wethersfield, Connecticut. Treat settled in Milford, Connecticut in 1639 and became one of the leaders of the New Haven Colony, serving in the General Court, as its assembly was known

On Christmas Day, 1647, he married Jane Tapp in Milford, with whom he had eight children. Jane died on October 31, 1703.

## Career

When the Connecticut Charter of 1662 forced the New Haven Colony to merge with Connecticut in 1665, Treat led a group of dissidents who left the colony. They moved to New Jersey in 1666 where they were joined by other dissidents from Branford, Connecticut, another part of the former New Haven Colony. The dissidents from Branford were led by Abraham Pierson, Sr.

Robert Treat wanted the new community to be named Milford, New Jersey. Pierson, a devout Puritan, preferred the name New Ark, and this place is now known as Newark. Robert himself returned to Milford, Connecticut, in 1672 and lived there for the rest of his life.

Treat headed the colony's militia for several years, principally against the Narragansett Indians. This included participating in King Philip's War in 1676. He served on the Governor's Council continuously from 1676 to 1708.

First elected Governor in 1683, Treat was supplanted by

Sir Edmund Andros in 1687, who brought Connecticut into the Dominion of New England. Treat is credited with having a role in concealing the state's charter in the Charter Oak tree, and he resumed his job as governor when the dominion scheme fell apart in 1689. He was re-elected annually until being defeated by Fitz-John Winthrop in 1698.

## Death

Treat died in Milford, New Haven County, Connecticut, on July 12, 1710. He is interred at Milford Cemetery in Connecticut.

## Colonial Dames Notes

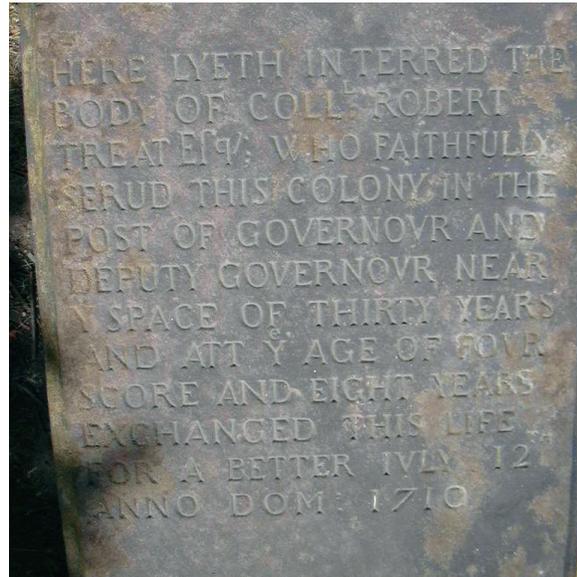
Richard and Robert Treat, father and son, are recognized by Connecticut Colonial Dames.

Robert is recognized by New Jersey Dames as well, because of his role in founding Newark.

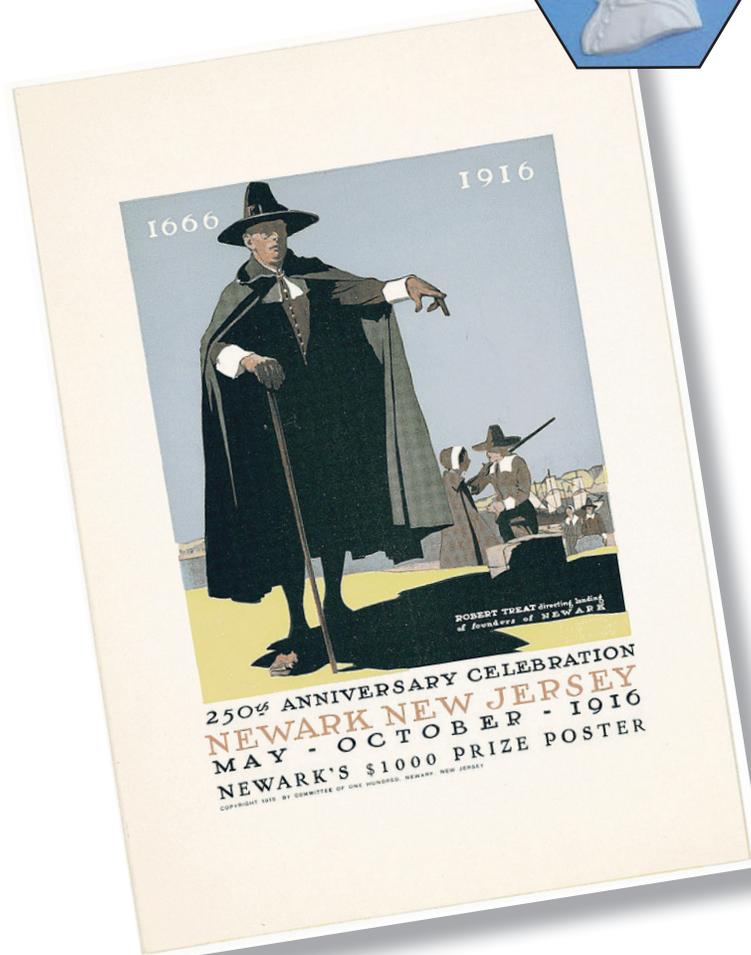
Robert's son, Samuel, Holly's direct ancestor, is recognized by Massachusetts Colonial Dames.

Reverend Samuel Treat was an early Harvard divinity graduate and Puritan who ministered to the Algonquin Indians.

Robert's great grandson, Robert Treat Paine, signed the Declaration of Independence for Massachusetts.

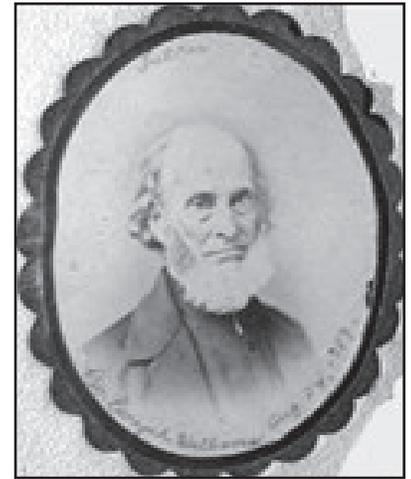


*Robert Treat's grave*



# Benajah Williams

1700/1808 CONNECTICUT



Mrs. Rolf E. Johnsen  
(Margaret, "Peggy") 2003,  
7th in descent

According to the WILLIAMS FAMILY ANCESTRY, Captain Benajah Williams' family was in Goshen, Litchfield Co. Connecticut before 1740. The town was established in 1738, and they were probably some of the first settlers. He was elected Captain of the local militia company of forty men as early as 1740. His removal to Salisbury is indicated as to time by the date of his land purchase there of 316 acres on 7 Feb. 1742-3 on the northwesterly side of "y" pond called Wonnucupaucock for which he paid 600 pounds in bills. On the property was a dwelling house and the frame of an (uncompleted?) barn.

In May, 1743, he was one of a committee of five to lease the school land, which was dedicated for school use, and could not be sold. However, they apparently leased the property for 999 years, and everyone took some of it. Benajah paid #17-10-9 for ten acres. There are also several references of his civic capacities on the jury, witness, member of a freeholder's court to settle a boundry dispute, etc., but all in 1743-44.

He seems to have dropped out of sight in 1745. The FANNING GENEALOGY states that Benajah and Deborah were residents at Crum's Elbow, Dutchess Co. N.Y. in 1751. That was in the district known as "Ye Nine Partners and the Oblong" where his son Joseph's first two children were born in June 1749 and August 1750. Perhaps it was Benajah rather than Joseph who was responsible for the land venture, since it was a ceaseless search for good land.

In the Connecticut Historical Records, Vol. IX, p. 197, it is recorded, "Marched to the relief of Fort William-Henry in y alarm of August last", 1756, and the list of names include two Benajahs, Joseph and Jeb (probably Jeb for Jabez) Williams. Everyone was late – Montcalm struck quickly, and found the garrison unprepared. Their service was for 15 days, so they must have gotten to the fort.

His wife was the widow of John Fanning, b. 5 Aug, 1696. Benajah lived in Salisbury and was 108 years old when he died in 1808. There is no record of his death, perhaps at Pownal when visiting Joseph, for he is not buried at Salisbury. His wife died at Salisbury 11 Dec., 1759, age 59, and perhaps is buried in Crum's Elbow, Dutchess Co. N.Y..

Benajah is accepted by NSCDA on the basis of Service Captain of the Trainband, Goshen as listed in the Public Records of Connecticut.

He is listed as a member in the "List of the Government Guard" at the Salisbury Furnace during the months of May and June, 1777.

There are some interesting facts about his son, Major Joseph Williams, as follows from an application to Sons of the American Revolution:

Joseph moved to Pownal, Vermont in about 1763 to perfect his New Hampshire land grant Title 1762. On May 8, 1763, at the first election of town officers, Joseph

Williams was elected one of the first Justices and remained in this position for 33 years (See Historical Gazetteer Vol. 1 p. 218). He was also a member of the General Convention that met at Westminster on January 15, 1777, which gave name to the state of New Connecticut, which was later changed to Vermont. As Major Joseph Williams of Pownal in the Vermont Militia he called out his men and marched them to Bennington, arriving in time to assist in burying the dead and removing the wounded. The Council of Safety of Bennington had ordered him to march with his troops to that place on August 13, 1777, to engage in battle. The General Convention also petitioned the Continental Congress that the said territory be ranked among the free and American States, and that delegates to admitted to seats in the Grand Continental Congress. This Congress met in Windsor, Vermont to “establish a Constitution and frame government”. This Constitution made Vermont “the first of the States to prohibit slavery by constitutional provision”. In 1794 Joseph moved his family from Pownal and settled in Madison Co. , N.Y. In about 1802-3 he and his wife and his father Isaiah moved to Cazenovia where he died at about age 85 and she about 90.

# William Kelsey

1600/1675 CONNECTICUT



*Founders Monument in the “ancient burying ground”, First Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut*

## William Kelsey

WHO SETTLED AT CAMBRIDGE, MASS., IN 1632;  
AT HARTFORD, CONN., IN 1636; AND AT  
KILLINGWORTH, CONN., IN 1663



Cydney Crampton  
2022, 11th in descent

The Ancestor - WILLIAM KELSEY, the first of the Kelsey name in America, was born in 1600, Chelmsford, Essex County, England. He was the son of George Kelsey Jr. and Elizabeth Hammond and had 2 brothers, John and Henry. (Williams' wife or wives have not been verified).

William Kelsey was one of the original “Braintree Company” followers of the Reverend Thomas Hooker, who came to America and they were the first settlers of “New Towne” (now Cambridge) Massachusetts in 1632. Reverend Hooker joined them the following year.

In June of 1636, Mr. Hooker and Mr. Stone, with more than 50 families of the “first church” (Mr. Hooker’s) removed to Connecticut. There, in the valley of the same name, they established “New Towne” which was changed to “Hartford” on February 21, 1637. Among these followers was William Kelsey.

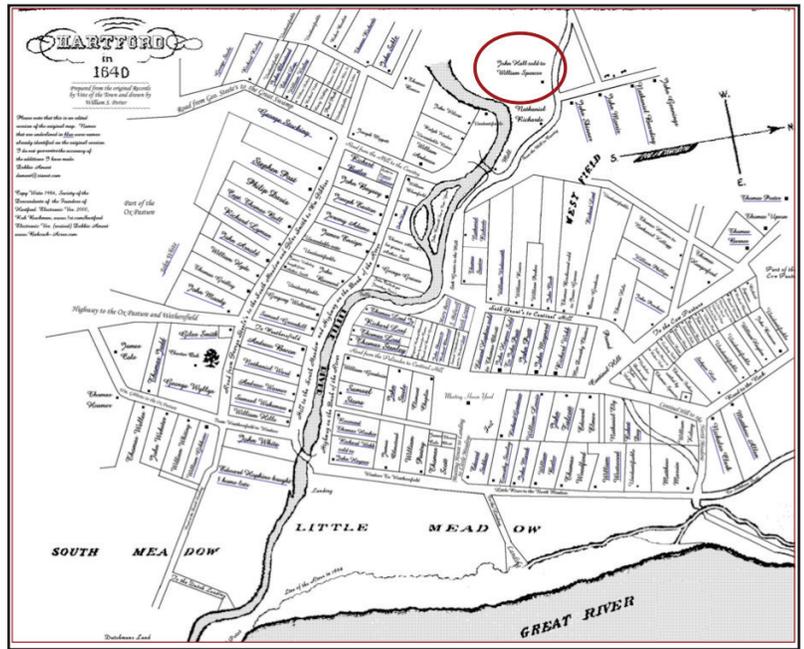
Coming to “Hartford” with the Hooker Company, William Kelsey was one of the “original proprietors” and, as such, his name appears on the “Founders Monument” in the “ancient burying ground” of the First Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut, presently known as “Center Church”. His name is also found on the “Adventurers Boulder” located at City Hall, Hartford, Connecticut.

In March 1663, William Kelsey and 26 others migrated to the “Hammonasset Plantation” and founded the Town of “Kenilworth”, later changed to “Killingworth”. In 1838, the town was separated into North and South parts. The South part called “Clinton” and the North, “Killingworth”.



# William Spencer

1601/1640 CONNECTICUT



Plan of early Hartford, 1640.  
 William Spencer's plot is indicated within the oval, above.



Names of William Spencer, and William Kelsey, Cyd Crampton's ancestor from previous page, are both inscribed on this Founders Monument in the "ancient burying ground", First Congregational Church of Hartford, Connecticut.



Cathy A. Lee  
 2019, 12th in descent

William Spencer was married to Agnes Harris 1604-1680. He immigrated from Stotfold, Bedfordshire, England in 1632 to Cambridge, Massachusetts.

Occupation in Massachusetts:  
 He took the Freeman's Oath. He was Deputy to the General Court seven times 1634-1638, Selectman in 1635, LT. of the Train Band in 1632, and charter member of the Ancient and Honourable Artillery Company in 1638/9.  
 Spencer served as Cambridge's Town Clerk, and a member of several committees that helped establish early Cambridge.

The Spencer family moved to Hartford, Connecticut in 1639.

Occupation in Connecticut:  
 Selectman, elected to the first assembly of Connecticut.

William Spencer died in the spring of 1640. It is not unreasonable to believe that, when he died at the untimely age of 38 or 39, he was on the verge of what could have been a brilliant political career in early New England.

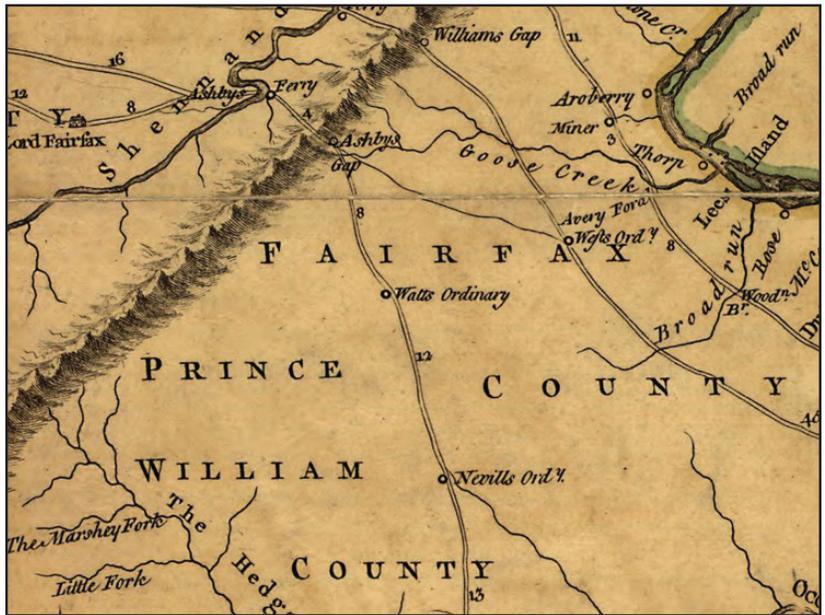
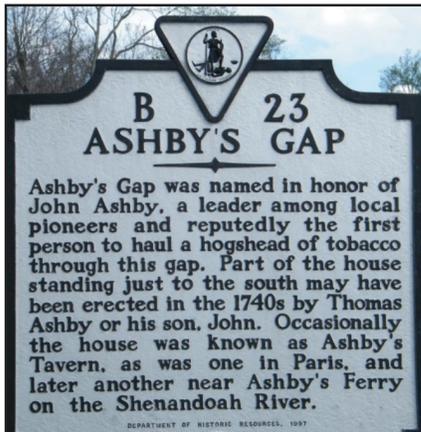
William Spencer's name is inscribed on the south face of the obelisk monument to Hartford's founders that stands in the city's Ancient Burying Grounds. He is noted as one of the founders of Connecticut Colony.

References: *MyHeritage Family Trees, FamilySearch, Geni, Find A Grave, Ancestry, and the NSCDA Ancestor Bibliography Register*



# Thomas Ashby

—/1752 VIRGINIA



*Ashby's Tavern, aka "Yew Hill", known before 1760 as "Watts" or "Watts Ordinary", is a historic inn and tavern located near Delaplane, Fauquier County, Virginia.*

*A detail from the Fry-Jefferson Map, showing Nevill's, Watt's, West's, and Minor's Ordinaries.*



*Yew Hill, National Register of Historic Places listings in Fauquier County, Virginia.*



Mrs. Glenn L. Harrington (Marcia) 2015, 9th in descent

Captain Thomas Ashby's will was probated 4 August 1752, Frederick County, Virginia. Thomas Ashby's service was Captain of Foot, Militia, 23 March 1742/3, Orange County, Virginia, wife Rose.

Thomas Ashby is of the Virginia branch of the Ashby family, who located about 1700 in what is now Fauquier County, and removed later into the Shenandoah Valley. His large landed estate was divided amongst his children; John Ashby, Robert Ashby, Stephen Ashby (Marcia's ancestor tracing back to his father Thomas), Henry Ashby, and Benjamin Ashby.

Captain Stephen Ashby's will was probated \_\_\_ - July 1797, Hampshire County, Virginia, wife Elizabeth. He served as Ensign, in Stephen Ashby's Company of Rangers, Dunsmore's War, 1774.

The "Ashby's Bent," later named "Ashby's Gap" was named for Thomas Ashby. Earliest known use of the gap was as part of a trail of the Native Americans. Upon European colonization, the gap was first referred to as

the "Upper Thoroughfare of the Blue Ridge." It was later named "Ashby's Bent" when Thomas Ashby received lands along Goose Creek, and settled in Paris, Virginia, at the eastern entrance to the gap. Later it came to be called Ashby's Gap.

Ashby's Tavern, aka "Yew Hill", known before 1760 as "Watts" or "Watts Ordinary", is a historic inn and tavern located near Delaplane, Fauquier County, Virginia.

### **Historic context of Yew Hill:**

"In 1742, Lord Fairfax granted Robert Ashby's father, Thomas Ashby, 320 acres of vacant land "lying across the Road to Shannandoah," in what was then Prince William County. The acreage was bordered on the north by James Ball, Goose Creek and Landon Carter, on the south by Colonel Turner and on the east by Charles Burges's north Cobbler tract. Having served as the pilot and chief woodsman with surveyors John Savage and Benjamin Winslow on Lord Fairfax's Potomac boundary delineation in 1736, Thomas Ashby led John Warner's

measurement of his new land acquisition. Thomas Ashby had earlier established his manor plantation overlooking the Shenandoah River in Frederick County and appears to have first leased this land south of Goose Creek at the mouth of Crooked Run. His son Robert was the first of the family to make Yew Hill his home in 1760. While engaged in surveying his own tract of land lying near Ashby's Gap, George Washington made his headquarters at Yew Hill from March 9 to March 18, 1769. Title was held by the Ashby Family until 1807."

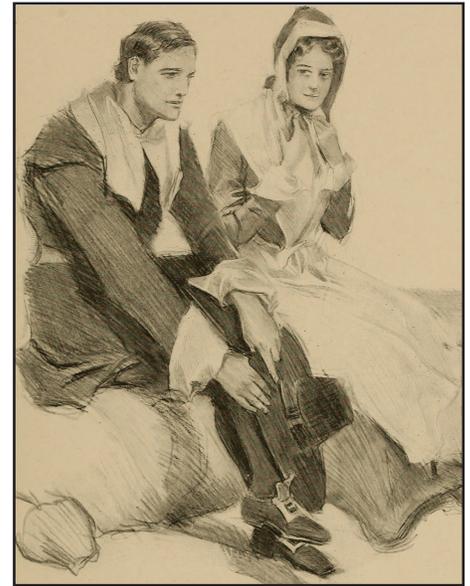
Cheryl Shepherd, Architectural Historian, Millennium Preservation Services LLC, see National Registry of Historic Places, p. 13 of 57, endnotes, Footnote 4, reference to "Thomas Ashby's 320 acre parcel."

The name of Ashby is found in the early records of the colony of Virginia, but the direct pedigree of the family in this country has been traced only from the beginning of the eighteenth century. The family is distinctly English in origin, the name being a derivation of the Saxon word "ash," and the Danish "bye", meaning town. The ancient castle of Ashby in Leicestershire is first mentioned in the time of Edward the Confessor. At the time of the Norman Conquest, it was held by Hugh, under the Countess Judith, to whom it had been presented by her uncle, William the Conquerer. The ruined castle was rebuilt in 1480, by Sir William Hastings, and crowns a height to the south of the town of Ashby-de-la-Zouch. It was immortalized by Sir Walter Scott in his "Ivanhoe," and it was in this castle that Mary, Queen of Scots, passed several months in captivity.

Source: *The Buckners of Virginia*, W.A. Crozier, pp. 241-243

# Priscilla Mullins

c.1600/05 - aft.1650 MASSACHUSETTS



Mrs. Shannon Burnham Kirby  
2020, 11th in descent

Priscilla Mullins was born in Dorking, Surrey, England, perhaps around 1602, the daughter of William and step-daughter of Alice Mullins.

She came on the Mayflower to Plymouth in 1620 with her father, brother Joseph, and step-mother Alice. Her entire family, herself excepted, soon died. William died on 21 February while the ship was docked for four months. Alice and Joseph died during the first, and very harsh, winter.

This meant Priscilla had landed in America as an orphan at the tender age of 18. Being just 17 years old at the time of the Mayflower voyage, Mullins was not one of the 18 women recorded to have crossed the Atlantic in 1620.

Sweet of temper and blessed with great patience, she rose above her grief and spun wool and flax for the colony, taught the children and helped with the cooking.

John Alden was born in Harwich in 1598, the Essex hometown of the Mayflower's master, Christopher Jones.

He was a member of the ship's crew, working as a cooper to maintain the ships barrels, and was hired to go onboard in July 1620 when the Mayflower stopped in Southampton, to ensure all the provisions were

barrelled for the journey.

Alden was given the choice by his employers to stay in America or return to England after the voyage, and he chose to settle across the Atlantic - a decision which ultimately led to him meeting the love of his life, Priscilla Mullins.

They married in 1622 or 1623 and were likely the third couple to be married in Plymouth Colony. And Mullins would become a leading figure in the colony.

John and Priscilla lived in Plymouth until the late 1630s, when they moved north to found the neighboring town of Duxbury, Massachusetts, just beyond the colony.

Priscilla and John would go on to have ten or eleven children, most of whom lived to adulthood and married. They have an enormous number of descendants living today.

The couple's love was immortalised in an 1858 bestselling poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, a direct descendant of John and Priscilla, titled 'The Courtship of Miles Standish'.

It is believed that Priscilla passed away only a few years before her husband (around 1680), and she was buried at the Miles Standish Burial Ground in Duxbury. Her grave's exact location is unknown, but there is a marker there in her honor.

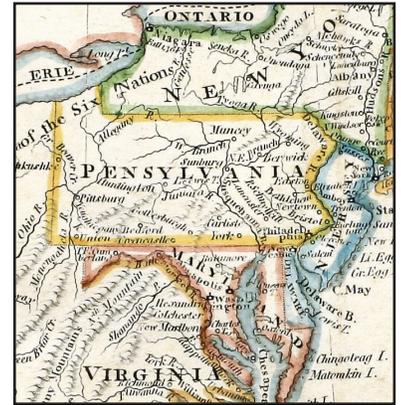


# Captain George Matthew Dill

1698-1750 PENNSYLVANIA



The original Dill family tavern was opened in the 1750s in Dillsburg, PA by James Dill, Captain Dill's son. It still stands today; see Mary here on a visit in 2016.



Mrs. Fred. H. Potter (Mary)  
2021, 8th in descent

Born in Monaghan, Ireland in 1698, son of John Dill and Sarah Linscott. (George) Matthew Dill was a Scots-Irish Presbyterian, an elder of the original Monaghan Church. He married Mary Hamilton in 1718 at Monaghan Church, Ulster, Monaghan, Ireland. Three of their seven children were born in Ireland (James, Thomas and Matthew); the remainder, Mary, John, Ann and Sarah, were born in Monaghan Settlement, also known as Dillston, Pennsylvania Colony. This location officially became known as Dillsburg, named after Matthew in 1740 when he settled here.

The area of Pennsylvania west of the Susquehanna River was prone to attacks by native peoples, and Matthew Dill served as a Captain in the volunteer militia in Colonel Benjamin Chambers regiment, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania from 1743 to 1747. During the “troubles” immediately before the French and Indian War, he was one of the five Commissioners, one of whom was Benjamin Franklin, appointed to make a

treaty with the Indians at the Croghan Fort, which was located near the Susquehanna River in the lower end of Cumberland County. When York County was formed in 1749, Matthew was commissioned a Justice of the Peace and Justice of the Court of Common Pleas. Matthew Dill was a friend of George Croghan, the famous Indian negotiator, and members of the Dill family fought in the French and Indian War, the Revolutionary War and the War of 1812. Beginning in the 1750s, the Dill family maintained a tavern in Dillsburg, Pennsylvania. The tavern was one of several business ventures carried on at this site including a large farm, a mill and a distillery. Regular shipments of whiskey produced in the distillery were sent to Baltimore.

Matthew Dill died 13 Oct. 1750, aged 51-52, and was buried in Dillsburg Cemetery, York County, Pennsylvania. His wife, Mary, died in 1756 and was interred, like many Dill descendants, in the same cemetery.