

... 10:29). John had at least two children, one possibly by an unknown first wife and one by his wife Martha:

- I. SAMUEL ASTWOOD, was perhaps the same who was baptized in Little Hadham, Co Herts., Eng. December 19, 1634, the son of a John and Denis (probably Stalworth) Astwood (I.G.I.). Little Hadham is approximately twenty-six miles directly southeast of Abbotsley, Co. Hunt. Samuel is said to have accompanied his father to London in 1653/4 and he was the executor of John's will in 1654. Samuel is believed by some to have remained in England after John's death, but one source (Astwood Gen.) says that he may have returned to America and then removed to New Jersey. This may possibly be a confusion of Samuel with some other member of John Astwood's family. There appears to be no proof that Samuel was ever in America at all.

- II. HANNAH ASTWOOD, was born between 1636 and 1639, probably in Roxbury, Ma. Hannah married first, before 1653 to Stephen Freeman of Milford, Ct., born before 1625, parents unknown. Stephen was on the Milford, Ct. landowners list in 1646 (Milford pg 12); he joined the church there February 25, 1648/9 and Hannah was admitted to membership, as wife of Stephen Freeman, September 17, 1654 (Parke pg 69). They removed to Newark, N.J. about 1666. Stephen was a Townsman in 1674 and 1675 (Parke pg 69); he died in Newark, N.J. in late August or early September of 1675. His will dated June 14, 1675 had administration granted to the widow October 22, 1675; his estate was inventoried at £ 554.19.4 (Parke pg 69). Stephen is mentioned in the Newark, N.J. land records on August 25, 1675 and on September 10, 1675, Hannah is named in the same records as "Widow Freeman", (Nelson pg 20-1), so Stephen had died before that date. Hannah married second, before November 12, 1685, as second wife, to Robert Porter of Farmington, Ct. and later Waterbury, Ct. Porter died in 1689 and Hannah married third, before March 10, 1690, to a Mr. Clark of Farmington, Ct. This Mr. Clark was probably John Clark, born circa 1630's (?), (possibly in Scotland) and died in Farmington, Ct. November 22, 1712; his will dated February 8, 1709/10 mentions "his kinsmen" John Hart Sr. and Deacon Samuel Porter. Deacon Porter was the son of Thomas and Sarah (Hart) Porter and husband of Martha Freeman (see below). Hannah may have died before the date of John Clark's will (February 8, 1709/10) as no wife is mentioned in his will. Hannah and Stephen had seven children, the first five recorded in Milford, Ct:
 - A) JOHN FREEMAN, born October 13, 1654, baptized October 15, 1654; died December 24, 1654.
 - B) HANNAH FREEMAN, born the last day of February, 1655/6. baptized March 2, 1655/6; married to Joseph Brown, baptized in Milford, Ct. May 9, 1652, the son of John and Mary (Burwell) Brown. Joseph died in Newark, N.J. between October 20, 1694, the date of his will and November 21, 1694, the date his will was proved; Hannah survived him. Hannah and Joseph

(to be continued...)

to travel to England to seek protection for the colonists from the Dutch and the Narragansett Indians (Hoadley pg 36-8). John was allowed an interview with the Lord Protector himself, Oliver Cromwell. In a letter to Mr. Samuel Disborow of Leith, Scotland, dated October 10, 1654, William Leete of Guilford, Ct. describes Astwood's encounter with Oliver Cromwell:

"Captain Astwood writes that he had admittance to speak with his highnes who expressed his tender respect of New England & thoughtfulness which way to doe them good, but said withall, that the landes in Ireland were disposed to ye souldyers & Adventurers &c so that nothing there could be done, nor can the dutch be removed (unless by Compositio), since the peace with holland (being p'vented as by speciall providence to be done before,) as in my last letter I touched. But Capt. writes that my Lord asked him wether it would not be better that New England were removed to some place where they might have Cittyes ready builded & land ready tilled & where staple Comodities might be raised, than either remove the dutch or plant in Delawar, the place he hinted it seems was Hispaniola, But Captaine Astwood answered at the present that he thought we would rather chuse the nearer & probably more peaceable though the poorer, Than be removed farther with more hazard to loose peace, & gaine riches. The answer was true for the maine so farr as it went..." (Waters pg 246-7).

While in London, John died. The Milford, Ct. church records state that he died in July of 1654 (T.A.G. 16:28). Following is a copy of his will filed in England:

"John Astwood, of Milford in the Colony of Newhaven in New England, 27 June, 1654, proved 31 August, 1654, by his son Samuel Astwood.

"To my loving wife Sarah Astwood all my estate in New England whatsoever it be in household stuff or cattle or debts, to be disposed by her as she shall see meet for her own proper use. Of my estate here in England, in Abutley, I do give my brother William Astwood ten pounds sterling within one year after my decease. To my loving mother five pounds sterling and the use of two rooms of my house so long as she please. To my brother Robert Astwood do I give five pounds sterling within two years after my decease. To John Rute do I give ten shillings after my decease. The rest of my property to my executor. My son Samuel to be sole executor."

The witnesses were Nicholas Hudley and Robert Swan (Waters I:81).

Several genealogists have been unsuccessful in locating the "Abutley" mentioned in Astwood's will (T.A.G. 33:255-6) but there is an Abbotsley located in Co. Huntington (possibly now included in Co. Cambridge?). Somerset House in London also has a copy of this following will:

"744 Mathewe Chapman (of Abbotsley, co. Hunts.*). (Nunc. will dat. 1 Dec. 1619.) Jas. Wright, Gawin and Wm. Wright (both und. 21), sons of Gawin Wright, of Duelowe, co, Beds.; Mary Good (und. 21), dwelling wt. Mr. Pedley in Abbtstlye: Mrs. Martha Pedley: bros. John and Wm. Chapman: sist. Anne Payne; John Lantafe; poor of Abbotsley and of Letworth; Extx: dau. Mrs. Mary Pedley; Wits: Anthonie Hare, Elizabeth Frauncis, Jane Astwood, Elizabeth Wallis. (Pr. 1 June 16-20.) (Lea pg 247).

Sarah (Bryant) Baldwin-Astwood died and was buried in Milford, Ct. November 13, 1669, according to Milford, Ct. church records

dayes wth the Massachusetts Generall Court, before they could sitt as Comissionrs, and after wth what they did when the comissionrs satt, all wch wrightings were read to the court. What ye comissionrs of this collony did the court approved, but considering what the Massachusetts Generall Court and Counsell haue done, this court all agreed and cannot but declare they haue broke their covenant wth vs, in acting directly contrary to the articles of confederation: vpon wch consideration this court sees themselues called to seeke for help elsewhere, and can conclude of no better way then to make their addresses to the State of England, and for the more full proceeding therein, agreed to acquaint Connecticote Collony therewth, and desired the gouernor there, as also to desire a treaty wth them, (by a comittee chosen by their generall court, to joyne wth a comittee of this court,) here at Newhaven aboute this, and also aboute and concerning the Indians, whose spirits are stirred, wanting the help from the English wch they expected; and for the better furtherance and more full prosecution of this buisnes in England, the court vnderstanding that Capt. Astwood is speedily to take a voyage theither aboute his owne necessary occasions, did desire and appointe him for this service, and agreed that a letter should be written from this court to Mr. Hopkins to intreate him to be helpfull and assistant to Capt. Astwood in this matter; and that wrightings be sent from hence wch may fully declare the case as it is in the compass of it so farr as it is necessary, wch wrightings are to bee signed as both the comittes shall agree, in the name of both the generall courts, and to desire help of shipping from England and what other force they thinke fitt, that if they see good meanes may be vsed (-----).

And to this purpose it was conceived and voted, that the declaration to the Lord Generall, fully informing the present state of the westward colonies, may close and bee concluded, That vnless the Duch bee either remoued or (so farr at least) subjected that these colonies may bee freed from injurious affronts and securied against the dangers and mischeivous effects wch dayly grow vpon them by their plotting wth the Indians and furnishing them wth armes agst the English, and that the league and confederation betwixt the foure vnited English colonies be confirmed and settled according to the true sence and, till this yeare, the continewed interpretation of the articles, the peace and comforts of these smaller westerne colonies will be much hazarded, and are like to be more and more impared, but as they conceive it their duty thus fully to present their afflicted condition to yor Exelency, so they humbly leaue themselues, wth the remedies, to yor consideration & wisdom.

The comittee chosen by this court to treat with a comittee from Connecticote is the gouernor, Mr. Leete, Benjamin Fenn, and Mr. Crane, not excluding the other magistrats of Newhaven and leauing Capt. Astwood to come as he thinkes good and his occasions will give way: and after both comittes haue mett, this court desires that the colony of Plymouth may be acquainted wth what they shall conclude vpon, that so if it may bee, they may haue their concurrance in the buisnes also; and if both the comittes shall agree vpon any expedition against the Narragansets, then it is ordered that this court will meete againe to consider of it."

John was Comissioner for the forming of the United Colonies in May of 1653 and was chosen by the United Colonies to be their agent

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CAPTAIN JOHN ASTWOOD OF MILFORD, CT.*Astwood
family*

by Christopher C. Broderick

Captain John Astwood was born circa 1609, parents unknown. He was probably born in Co. Huntington or Hertford, England. On April 3, 1635, John Astwood, husbandman, age twenty-six, is the first on the passenger list for the ship "Hopewell," William Bunnick (or Bundocke?), captain, bound for New England (Drake pg 17). No wife or children are listed with John. The Hopewell reached Boston, Ma. in June of 1635 and John settled in Roxbury, Ma. and was made freeman March 3, 1636 (Savage pg 71-2). John and wife Martha were listed by Rev. John Eliot in 1638 as members of the Roxbury church (Parke pg 71). This wife Martha may have been the Martha Carter, age twenty-seven, who came on the Hopewell and whose name was listed two lines below John's. Martha Astwood died in Roxbury, Ma. circa 1638/9 and John removed to Milford, Ct. in 1639 where he was one of the original founders. He joined the church there August 22, 1639 and no wife is mentioned (T.A.G. Vol. 16 pg 28). John married second (or possibly third?), before 1640, to Sarah (Bryant) Baldwin of New Haven, Ct., the wealthy widow of Sylvester Baldwin. Sarah joined the Milford, Ct. church as wife of John Astwood, August 2, 1640 (T.A.G. 16:29).

John was one of the principal residents and land-owners of Milford, Ct. in 1646 when a list of landowners shows that he owned seven acres and two rods of land. Only four others had as much land as John and they were: Zachariah Whitman, Mr. Edmund Tapp, Mr. Peter Prudden and Mr. William Fowler, four of the leading men of early Milford, Ct. (Historical Sketches of the Town of Milford pg 12-1914). John was the first person named on this list.

John was called "Captain" as early as July of 1646 (Hooker pg 2) but no record remains of why or when he attained this title. He was Deputy from Milford, Ct. to the New Haven, Ct. Legislature in October of 1643 and April of 1644; he was also an Assistant of the New Haven Colony in October of 1646. The following information is found in Charles J. Hoadley's "Records of the Colony or Jurisdiction of New Haven (1858) page 15:

"Captaine Astwood acquainted the court that he hired a horse at Springfield (Mass.) when he went to the Comission in anno 1649, wch horse received some hurt in his jurny as the owner saith, and desires some further satisfaction then he hath had. The court declared themselues willing to satisfy any man in his just demands, yet conceive he had his hire for his worke, wch was a just recompence, but being it was for publique service, in wch they desire no man may suffer, they order that he shall haue twenty shillings more pd him by the treasurer of this jurisdiction."

John was an Assistant of the New Haven Colony again in May of 1653 and in May of 1654. At a General Court held at New Haven for the Jurisdiction, October 12, 1653, John was one of five of the magistrates, along with Gov. Theophilus Eaton, Mr. Stephen Goodyear, Deputy Gov., Francis Newman and Mr. William Leete. At this meeting " The Gouvernor and Capt. Astwood acquainted the court wth the proceedings of the comissionrs at Boston at their last meeting in September, and first wth the debate they had for tenn

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