

CHITTENDEN

"Chittenden Family: William Chittenden of Guilford, Conn., and his Descendants"
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Origin of the name Arthyr, in his "Derivation of Family Names," considers the name as derived from corrupt British and Welsh—from the words chy "house," tane "lower," and din or dun "hill," the lower house on the hill.

The orthography of the name has been subject to great variations, as is the case with most names in the earlier periods. At present, almost uniform usage has settled upon the form CHITTENDEN. The name is quite common at the present day in London and other parts of England.

We have a record of only two families of Chittendens as coming to this country in its early history. One of these was Thomas Chittenden, linen weaver, who came with his son, Isaac, in 1635 from Wapping in Kent, and settled in Scituate, Plymouth Co., Mass. His descendants are still found in that vicinity. The relationship of this family to the Conn. Chittendens, though probable, has not been ascertained.

The ancestor of this latter family which it is the object of this work to sketch, was William Chittenden. He was one of the company of twenty-five, gathered chiefly from the counties of Kent, Surrey, and Sussex, in the south of England, who determined to leave their native land and seek a new home in the wilderness, in order to enjoy the free exercise of their religious principles. Their first recorded act as a separate community was the Covenant, which they signed on ship-board, while on the passage, and which is here transcribed.

COVENANT

We, whose names are hereunder written, intending by God's gracious permission to plant ourselves in New England and if it may be, in the southerly part, about Quinnipiack We do faithfully promise each to each, for ourselves and families, and those that belong to us; that we will the Lord assisting us, sit down and join ourselves together in one entire plantation; and to be helpful each to the other in every common work, according to every man's ability and as need shall require; and we promise not to desert or leave each other or the plantation, but with the consent of the rest, or the greater part of the company who have entered into this engagement.

As for our gathering together in a church way, and the choice of officers and members to be joined together in that way, we do refer ourselves until such time as it shall please God to settle us in our plantation.

In witness whereof we subscribe our hands, the first day of June 1639,

Robert Kitchell	John Hoadly	Thomas Norton
John Bishop	John Stone	Abraham Gruttenden
Francis Bushnell	William Plane	Francis Chatfield
William Chittenden	Richard Gutridge	William Helle
William Leete	John Hughes	Thomas Naish
Thomas Joanes	William Dudley	Henry Kingenorth
John Jurdon	John Parmelin	Henry Doude
William Stone	John Hepham	Thomas Cooke
	Henry Whitfield	

This company sailed from England for America about the 20th of May, 1639, in a ship of 350 tons, and after a passage of about seven weeks arrived in New Haven about the 10th of July. They made arrangements for settling in Guilford in the autumn of the same year, adding to their company some few whom they found in New Haven. The deed of purchase of the lands for the colony from Shampishuh, the sachem squaw of Memunkatuck is dated Sept. 29 (Oct. 9 N.S.), 1639.

Prominent among the original settlers of Guilford was WILLIAM CHITTENDEN. He came from the parish of Cranbrook, in Kent, some 35 miles S.E. of London. Little is known of his antecedents. In the record of baptisms in the parish of Marden, near Cranbrook, occurs this entry: "March, 1594. William, son of Robert Chittenden, (Signed) Salmon Boxer, Vicar of Marden."

There is no reason to doubt that this William is identical with William the emigrant. No other records of the Chittenden family can be found in the adjacent parishes, Cranbrook, Marden, Welford and Goudhurst, for the last half of the 16th century.

Mr. Chittenden was a man of ability and influence, and during his whole life filled many important offices in the plantation. He was one of the 6 persons selected to purchase the lands in Guilford from the native owners, and was also one of four, (Robert Kitchell, William Chittenden, John Bishop, and William Leete) who received, according to the record, "full power and authority to act, order and dispatch all matters respecting the public weale and civile government of the plantation, until a church is gathered amonge us." On the gathering of the church, June 19 (June 29 N.S.) 1643, these 4 magistrates resigned their trust to the church, which, as in New Haven, exercised control in secular and civil matters, as well as in those relating to religion.

Mr. Chittenden was the principal military man of the plantation, bearing the title of Lieutenant. Savage states, I. 381, that "he had been a soldier in the English Army in the Netherlands in the Thirty Years War, and that he reached the rank of Major." He was a magistrate of the plantation and deputy to the General Court until his death.

His lands are thus described in Guilford Proprietor's Records, I. 2:
 Imprimis, One home lot, containing and allowed for three acres and a quarter, fronting to the street on the North, rearing back to the land of Thomas French on the South, bounded with the home lot of Mr. Jacob Sheaffe on the East. Adjoining to which said home lot the said William Chittenden hath sixteen acres of upland, and seven acres and one-half of meadow land, more or less, abutting against the land of Richard Hues on the South, and encompassed with the West River on the West and North.
 Item--One piece of upland in the plain, containing and allowed for six acres and three-quarters, more or less, butting up to the lane by the mill lot, rearing back to the marsh land of John Bishop on the West, bounded with the land of Henry Goldam on the South, and the land of George Chatfield on the North.

Other lots are described in a similar manner, and the amount of the whole is about 100 acres. The home lot and land adjoining first described above, passed upon his death into the possession of his oldest son, Thomas. Thomas divided it equally between his two married sons, William and Josiah, each son having $1 \frac{3}{4}$ acres fronting on the street (now name Broad street) and eight acres of upland adjoining, with a portion of the marsh land. Josiah's portion was east of William's, and extended around William's in the form of an L, both portions being bounded on the West by the river.

These portions have since been united, and the old ancestral property has been in the possession of someone of the descendants of the first William in every generation down to the present time. The present owner is Hon. Simeon B. Chittenden, of Brooklyn, N.Y., of the seventh generation, who has done much to improve and beautify the place of his birth, making it his summer residence.

The spot selected by William Chittenden 240 years ago for his new home is a remarkably fine location. It overlooks the Memunkatuck river, which winds its way like a ribbon of silver, through a wide expanse of meadow gained from the sea, and level as a floor, clothed in summer with herbage of the richest green, but converted, when the tide is quite high, into a smooth lake, half a mile in width, which, as if by magic, in six hours vanishes away with the receding tide, leaving only a gently flowing stream.

William Chittenden was married while in England to Joanna Sheaffe, daughter of Dr. Edmund and Joanna Sheaffe, of Cranbrook, Kent. (Dorothy Sheaffe, sister of Joanna, was the wife of Rev. Henry Whitfield, first minister and leading member of the Guilford colony.) It is probable that two or more of Mr. Chittenden's ten children were born in England. The birth of his sixth child, Hannah, is on the Guilford Records at the date of Nov. 15, 1649, previous to which time no provision seems to have been made in the plantation for the public record of births.

Mr. Chittenden died at the age of about 67 years in Feb. 1660/1. In the New Haven Colonial Records, p. 417, we find this entry:

"An inventory of the estate of Willm Chittenden of Guilford, deceased, was presented, amounting to £677 16s. 7d. as presented and proved in court at Guilford, the 21st of February, 1660/1, upon oath of Joane Chittenden, the widow and relict of the sayd Willm Chittenden, deceased, for the quantity, and by the testimony of Abraham Cruttenden, senr, John Fowler, and Willm Stone, appraisers, for the valuation to be just.

Willm. Leete, Governor."

Joanna Chittenden, widow of William, married 2d in 1665, Abraham Cruttenden of Guilford as his second wife. She died in Guilford, Aug. 16, 1668. Her mother, Joanna Sheaffe, widow of Dr. Edmund Sheaffe, emigrated with the family from England and died in Guilford, August 1, 1659.

- 2. Thomas m. Joanna Jordan
- 3. Elizabeth m. Thomas Wright
- 4. Nathaniel m. Sarah
- 5. John m. Hannah Fletcher
- 6. Mary m. John Leete
- 7. Hannah Nov. 15, 1649, d. _____, 1650
- 8. Joseph Apr. 14, 1652, d. June 22, 1652
- 9. Hannah Apr. 14, 1652, d. Sept. 13, 1674
- 10. Deborah Dec. 12, 1653, d. Sept. 16, 1674
- 11. Joanna

It is stated in N.Eng. Gen. and Hist. Reg., SSII, 160, that Mary Merriam (widow of Robert, who died July 22, 1693) mentions in her will dated Feb. 15, 1688, four children of her sister Chittenden, John, Nathaniel, Mary and Joanna. The other six had died previously to that date.

2

Thomas Chittenden, son of William, probably born in England, married Joanna Jordan, dau. of John and Anna Jordan, of Guilford. His residence was on the old homestead. He died October, 1683

- 12. Samuel b. Sept. 20, 1664, d. Jan. 15, 1694
- 13. William Oct. 5, 1666, m. Hannah
- 14. Joanna Dec. 13, 1668, s. d. Jan. 14, 1672
- 15. Abigail Dec. 15, 1670, m. Caleb Bennett
- 16. Thomas Jan. 12, 1674, s. d. 1722
- 17. Mehitabel 1675
- 18. Josiah 1677, m. Hannah Sherman

3

Elizabeth Chittenden, dau. of William, was married June 16, 1657, to Thomas Wright, of Wethersfield, Conn., who was born in 1632, and died, aged 51, August 23, 1683

- Thomas b. Mar. 1, 1660 m. Sarah Benton
- Mary Mar. 4, 1664
- Hannah Mar. 10, 1670
- Lydia Mar. 12, 1672
- Elizabeth Feb. 17, 1675

4

Nathaniel Chittenden, son of William, resided in Guilford. He m. Sarah _____, and died June, 1691. His residence was on Crooked Lane, now State street--a lot now known as the Starr Place.

- 19. Nathaniel, b. Aug. 10, 1669, m. Elizabeth Stevens
- 20. Sarah Mar. 2, 1672, m. James Patterson
- 21. Mary Feb. 6, 1675, m. Thomas Boreman
- 22. Joseph, Sept. 6, 1677, m. Mehitabel Pierce
- 23. Hannah Mar. 15, 1680
- 24. Deborah Oct. 15, 1682, d. 1684
- 25. Cornelius 1685, m. Abigail Ratty

5

Sergt. John Chittenden, son of William, m. Dec. 12, 1665, Hannah Fletcher, dau. of John Fletcher of Milford. He died in Guilford, April 1717, aged 73

- 26. John Oct. 19, 1666, m. Sarah Clay
- 27. Elizabeth Jan. 26, 1670, m. Thos. Cruttenden
- 28. Joseph, III Mar. 26, 1672, m. Mary Kimberly
- 29. Gideon Sept. 23, 1678, d. 1679
- 30. Abel May 14, 1681, m. Deborah Scranton
- 31. Lydia Mar. 30, 1684, m. William Hall

6

Mary Chittenden, dau. of William, m. Oct. 4, 1670, John Leete, oldest son of Gov. William Leete and Arma Payne, born in 1639, said to be the first whitechild born in Guilford. He died in Guilford, aged 53, Nov. 25, 1692. Mary died, aged 65, March 9, 1712.

Ann	b. Aug. 5, 1671	m. John Collins
John	Jan. 4, 1674,	m. Sarah Allen
Josiah	July 7, 1676,	m. Mary Hunger
Sarah	Dec. 16, 1677,	m. Eliakim Marshall
Pelatiah	Mar. 26, 1681,	m. Abigail Fowler
Mehitabel	Dec. 10, 1683,	m. Dr. Anth. Laborie
Benjamin	Dec. 26, 1686,	m. Rachel Champion
Daniel	Sept. 23, 1689,	d.y.

Our Abigail Chittenden married Sarnel Buell on May 3, 1711. Samuel was b. 3-8-1690, so Abigail was probably born about the same time. Her name does not appear in this book. The children of William Chittenden, son of Thomas 2 date from 1699 to 1710 (too late). The Children of Josiah, son of Thomas 2, range from 1710 to 1723 (Much too late). The children of Nathaniel seem to fit the picture best but Abigail is not included. The others are as follows:

19

Nathaniel Chittenden, son of Nathaniel who was son of William, m. Elizabeth Stevens, dau. of Thomas Stevens and Mary Fletcher, of Killingworth, born July 14, 1668. Nathaniel Chittenden removed to Killingworth in 1689. His wife died Nov. 15, 1838, aged 70 years.

44. Phebe,	b. Jan. 23, 1691,	m. Wm. Kelsey
45. Timothy	Aug. 19, 1694,	m. Dorothea Stevens
46. Elizabeth	Mar. 7, 1699,	m. Robert Hurd, of Woddbury
47. Nathaniel	June 6, 1701,	m. Lucy Nettleton.

Joseph Chittenden, son of Nathaniel was not married until 1708. Cornelius was married in 1734 and left no children.

Of the sons of John Chittenden, son of William: John was married 1701; Joseph was married in 1692 and resided in Guilford. His children were:

56. Deborah	b. Jan. 28, 1693,	m. John Spinning
57. Patience	Jan. 19, 1696,	m. John Hubbard
58. Gideon	Feb. 3, 1698,	m. Abigail Bishop
59. Daniel	Mar. 15, 1700,	m. Abigail Downs
60. Joseph	Jan. 25, 1702,	m. Patience Stone
61. Thankful	Jan. 27, 1704,	m. Timo. Bartlett

These dates are not so bad, but the names do not fit into the picture of Buells and Stevens, like those of Nathaniel and Elizabeth.

Abel Chittenden, son of John was m. July 5, 1721. All others are much too late.

Ref: Hudson + Mohawk Valley
Gen. + Memoirs
by Cuyler Reynolds
Chittenden

Wm. Chittenden - Magistrate of Guilford, Ct. 1639-1643
Deputy to Gen. assembly of Ct. - 1646-51-53-60
Lt. town militia 1648
d. Feb. 1660/1
m. Joana Sheaff
d. Aug 16, 1668

Nathaniel²
d. June 1691
m. Sarah _____

Nathaniel³
b. Aug 10, 1669
m. Elizabeth Stevens
b. July 14, 1668
d. Nov. 15, 1738

Nathaniel⁴
b. June 6, 1701
d. Aug - 1762
m. Jan. 6, 1735 Lucy Nettleton

Daniel⁵
b. Aug. 27, 1739
m. Grace Watrous at Killingworth, Ct.

Wise⁶
b. Apr 17, 1775
d. Dec. 1857
m. Oct 15, 1798 - Huldah Buell
b. Aug 29, 1777
d. Feb. 18, 1868

Harlow Hatross[?]

b. Mar. 22, 1817

d. July 24, 1872

m. Dec. 18, 1837 - Nancy Jane Williams

b. Oct. 25, 1820

Helen Maria[?] Chittenden

m. Dec. 13, 1865 - Dr. John Seymour Clarke
of Syracuse, N. Y.