

THE ENGLISH ANCESTRY  
OF  
GOV. THOMAS WELLES  
OF  
CONNECTICUT

*By*  
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## THE ENGLISH ANCESTRY OF GOV. THOMAS WELLES OF CONNECTICUT

For some years the contributor of this article has been collecting data relating to Gov. Thomas Welles, with a view to publishing a detailed history of his life and of early Connecticut. In 1919 he employed Mr. J. R. Hutchinson, the London genealogist, who searched through Welles wills in seventeen English counties and found the name mentioned many times, but was unable to identify any Thomas Welles in England with the Connecticut Governor of that name. Mr. Hutchinson, however, furnished a memorandum of a five-party deed relating to real property in the parish of Burmington, co. Warwick, which, he stated, was from the original deed preserved among the Sheldon Charters in the British Museum. He called attention to its importance, and searched the transcript of the Burmington parish registers in the Bishop's Registry at Worcester (the original Burmington registers being in very bad condition), as well as the churchwardens' books, indentures, etc., contained in the parish chest, without finding anything bearing on Gov. Thomas Welles.\* Recently, however, Col. Charles E. Banks, to whom the writer sent a memorandum of this deed, found some pleadings and depositions in a Chancery suit brought in England in 1648 relating to the property covered by this deed, which give the names of Gov. Thomas Welles's father, grandfather, wife, and wife's father. In addition to these documents, Colonel Banks found the fine and concord relating to the Burmington property and also, in the Birmingham Public Library, one original of the five-party deed. Abstracts of these documents and of other English records relating to this Welles family are given below,† and are followed by a pedigree which shows the line of descent from the grandfather of Governor Welles to the Governor's grandchildren.

Until the discoveries described above were made, for which credit is due Colonel Banks, nothing whatever was known of Gov. Thomas Welles previously to his appearance as a member of the Court held at Hartford, 28 Mar. 1637. The old black-letter Welles family Bible containing manuscript records, with many ancient papers, was burned when the house of the writer's grandfather was destroyed by fire at Newington, Conn., in 1855. There are many autographs of Gov. Thomas Welles, and he wrote his surname many times when he was secretary of the Colony, always spelling Welles with a sec-

\*Burmington is in the southern part of Warwickshire, on the River Stour, two miles southeast from Shipston-on-Stour. The Bishop's transcript of the parish registers contains no Welles entries between 1612 and 1639, except a marriage in 1638. There is no transcript for the years 1614, 1617, 1618, 1623, 1629, and 1634. A copy of the Burmington registers made in 1895 shows no entries for the years 1602-1615, but contains no statement that the registers were illegible for those years. Entries are complete for the years 1616-1622, but there are no entries for 1623.

†In these abstracts unnecessary legal verbiage has been omitted, and no attempt has been made to reproduce the peculiarities of spelling of the originals, except in a few passages, which have been enclosed in quotation marks, and in names of persons, which have been spelled as the records give them. The punctuation is that of the contributor.



ond *e.* In documents written by others the name is generally spelled *Wells*, and the writer uses this spelling when quoting from these documents.

#### A FIVE-PARTY DEED, 1638\*

"THIS INDENTURE Quintip[ar]tite," made 10 May, 14 Charles I [1638], between "Thomas Wells of Hartford by the river of Connectocott in New England gent," the Honorable James Fiennes, son and heir apparent of the Right Honorable the Lord Viscount Say and Seale, and William Sprigg of Banbury, co. Oxford, gent., of the first part, George Neale of Weston, co. Warwick, yeoman, of the second part, Nicholas Hunt of Burmington, co. Warwick, yeoman, of the third part, Giles Toms of Burmington aforesaid, yeoman, of the fourth part, and Thomas Neale of Oxshill, co. Warwick, yeoman, and Richard Workman of Stourton, co. Warwick, yeoman, of the fifth part, recites that, *whereas* the said Thomas Wells, by his indenture dated 20 August, 11 Charles I [1635], did grant unto the above-named James Fiennes and William Sprigg and their heirs for ever all that one messuage and tenement in Burmington, with the yard, orchard, garden, and one tithe close thereunto belonging and adjoining, late in the occupation of the said Nicholas Hunt, his assign or assigns, and two yardlands and a half in Burmington to the said messuage and tenement belonging, late in the occupation of Nicholas Beale and the said Giles Toms, and one cottage, with the close or backside and orchard thereunto adjoining and belonging, now or late in the tenure or occupation of one Richard Nason, his assign or assigns, and also one close in Burmington, called Broad Close, late in the occupation of one Robert Heminge, his assign or assigns, with all the buildings, yards, orchards, gardens, closes, lands, meadows, pastures, commons, etc., to the said premises belonging, and by the said recited indenture did covenant to make such further assurance of the said premises to James Fiennes and William Sprigg and their heirs as by them or their counsel learned in the laws of this realm should be reasonably devised or advised and required, *and whereas*, in pursuance of the said indenture, afterwards, in Hilary Term, 12 Charles [11-31 January 1636/7], one fine was in due form of law acknowledged, levied, and executed by the said Thomas Wells and Alice, his wife, to James Fiennes and William Sprigg and their heirs, of all the said premises in Burmington, *and whereas* James Fiennes and William Sprigg, in consideration of £685 by the above-named George Neale, Nicholas Hunt, and Giles Toms, viz., £545 by George Neale, £110 by Giles Toms, and £30 by Nicholas Hunt, to James Fiennes and William Sprigg in hand paid, the receipt whereof James Fiennes and William Sprigg do hereby acknowledge, by these presents have granted the said premises, with their appurtenances, to George Neale, Giles Toms, and Nicholas Hunt, severally and respectively, and to their several and respective heirs and assigns, according to such proportions as is herein hereafter expressed, *now this indenture witnesseth* that for the better conveying of the said premises to George Neale, Giles Toms, and Nicholas Hunt, severally and respectively, and to their several and respective heirs, James Fiennes and William Sprigg do for themselves and their heirs covenant with George Neale, Giles Toms, and Nicholas Hunt, their heirs and assigns, that they, James Fiennes and William Sprigg, will suffer the said Richard Warekman, Thomas Neale, and Nicholas Hunt, at any time before the Feast of Easter next [Easter 1639], to bring one or more writ or writs of entry for disseisin before His Majesty's Justices of His Court of Common Pleas at Westminster against James Fiennes and William Sprigg, by such name or names as shall be thought

\*Preserved in the Birmingham Public Library.

meet, to which writ or writs James Fiennes and William Sprigge shall appear gratis in their own persons and vouch over to warranty the said Thomas Wells, who shall also appear gratis in his own person or by his sufficient attorney or attorneys and shall enter into the warranty and vouch over the common vouchee, to the intent that a perfect recovery may be thereupon had and suffered of the said premises, according to the nature and course of common recoveries, against James Fiennes and William Sprigge to Richard Warekman, Thomas Neale, and Nicholas Hunt; and it is covenanted between all the parties to these presents, for them, their heirs, and assigns, that Richard Warekman, Thomas Neale, and Nicholas Hunt, the recoverees therein named, and their heirs shall be seised of all the premises therein contained to the uses and purposes herein hereafter expressed, that is to say, the said messuage and tenement, garden and close adjoining, and close called Broad Close, and so much of the arable land and pasture and meadow ground esteemed to be two yardlands to the use of George Neale and of his heirs and assigns for ever, and so much of the said arable land and pasture ground and meadow ground esteemed to be one-half yardland to the use of Giles Tomes and of his heirs and assigns for ever, and the said cottage, orchard, and backside, with the appurtenances, in the tenure or occupation of Richard Nason, to the use of Nicholas Hunt and of his heirs and assigns for ever.

[The indenture contains various other covenants by Fiennes and Sprigge (who were the only parties who signed the copy in the Birmingham Public Library) the purpose of which was to guarantee to Neale, Tomes, and Hunt the peaceable possession of the premises described. With the deed are lengthy terriers or schedules giving detailed descriptions of the premises granted to Neale and Tomes.]

The importance of this deed consists in its identification of Gov. Thomas Welles of Connecticut as the owner and grantor of the Burmington property, in distinction from his contemporary in New England, Thomas Wells of Ipswich, Mass. It also discloses the Christian name of Governor Welles's wife.]

#### FROM FEET OF FINES\*

Final Concord made in the King's Court at Westminster, on the Octave of St. Hilary, 12 Charles I [20 January 1636/7], between James Fiennes, Esq., and William Sprigge, Gent., querents, and Thomas Wells and Alice, his wife, deforciant, concerning one messuage, one garden, one orchard, fifty acres of arable land, four acres of meadow, thirty acres of pasture, six acres of heath and firzes, and common pasture, with appurtenances, in Birmingham. Plea of covenant. James [sic] and Alice have acknowledged the aforesaid tenements and common pasture, with appurtenances, to be the right of James, as those which James and William have of the gift of Thomas and Alice, and they have remised and quitclaimed them from Thomas and Alice and their heirs to James and William and the heirs of James for ever. And, moreover, Thomas and Alice have granted for themselves and the heirs of Thomas that they will warrant to James and William and the heirs of James the aforesaid tenements and common pasture, with appurtenances, against Thomas and Alice and the heirs of Thomas for ever. And for this James and William have given to Thomas and Alice £100.† (Feet of Fines, Warwickshire, Trinity Term, 12 Charles I.)

[This final concord covered the property at Burmington, co. Warwick, described in the five-party deed.]

Commission [in Latin], dated 5 April, 12 Charles [1636], from the King's Court at Westminster, and directed to John Harvey, Knight, Thomas

\*Preserved in the Public Record Office, London.

†Translated from the Latin and abridged.



Haines, Esq., John Wentthrop, Esq., Thomas Dudley, Esq., and Thomas Makepeace, Gentleman, empowering them or any two of them to take the acknowledgment of Thomas Wells and Alice, his wife, to a final concord between James Fiennes, Esq., and William Sprigge, Gentleman, and Thomas Wells and Alice, his wife, concerning one messuage, one garden, one orchard, fifty acres of arable land, four acres of meadow, thirty acres of pasture, six acres of heath and firzes, and common pasture, with appurtenances, in Birmingham, co. Warwick, and to return it to the Justices of the King's Court.

Acknowledgment [in Latin] of Thomas Welles and Alice Welles to a final concord concerning premises in Birmingham, co. Warwick [as described in the commission given above], taken in Boston in New England, before Jo: Winthrop and Tho: Dudley, 9 June, 12 Charles, A.D. 1636. [Signed] "Tho: Welles Als Welles her marke."

[The signature of Thomas Welles to this acknowledgment is the well-known autograph of the Connecticut Governor, such as he often used later in Connecticut, and is additional proof that he owned and granted the Birmingham property. He also wrote the words "Als Welles her marke." This acknowledgment proves that he and his wife were in Boston, Mass., on 9 June 1636, more than nine months before the record of his first appearance in Connecticut, 28 Mar. 1637. This may indicate that the "Tho. Wells" who is recorded in the Cambridge (Mass.) town records, under date of 8 Feb. 1635 [i.e., 1635/6], as having a house in that town, was the same man as the Connecticut settler of that name.]

#### FROM CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS\*

28 [illegible] 1648. To the Right Honorable the Commissioners for the Custody of the Great Seal of England.

The complaint of JOHN WELLS of Tidmington, co. Worcester, and ROBERT WELLS, eldest son and heir apparent of the said orator John Welles, the said Robert being an infant of the age of eighteen years or thereabouts and not above, by your orator, John Welles, his father and guardian, shows that, whereas Walter Wells, your orator John Welles his great-grandfather, deceased, was in his lifetime, that is to say, about fifty years since, lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of one messuage or tenement, two yardlands and a half yardland, and two closes of arable meadows and pasture ground, with appurtenances, in [B]irmingham, co. Warwick, of the yearly value of £30 or thereabouts, and the said Walter Wells, for the better settling of the said messuage and lands in the name and blood of him, Walter Wells, did by feoffment and other good and sufficient conveyances, about fourscore years now last past, grant the said messuage and lands to the use of himself for life and afterwards to the use of Robert Wells, his eldest son, for the term of his life, and after the several deceases of the said Walter Welles and Robert Welles to the use of the first son or heir male of the body of the said Robert Wells lawfully begotten and of the heirs males of such first son or heir male lawfully begotten, and for the want of such heirs to the second, third, and fourth sons of the body of the said Robert Wells successively and to the heirs males of the body of every such sons successively, and for default of such issue to the right heirs of the said Walter Wells for ever, and the said Walter Wells, being of the said premises seised, about fourscore years since died, after whose decease Robert Wells, your orator's grandfather, entered into the said premises and became thereof seised in his demesne as of freehold for the term of his life, and, the said Robert Wells having issue Robert Wells, his eldest son, late father of your orator John Wells, and one Thomas Wells, a second brother, he, Robert Wells, grandfather of your orator John Wells,

\*Preserved in the Public Record Office, London.



and Robert Wells the son, father of your orator John, did, as hath been lately pretended and affirmed, for the better maintenance and livelihood of the said Thomas Wells, about the sixth year of the reign of King James [1608], make a deed for settling and assuring the messuage and lands in Burmington unto Thomas Wells for the lives of your orator John Wells his grandfather and father or for the life of Thomas Wells or to such or the like effect, the certainty whereof your orator cannot express, by pretence and color whereof Thomas Wells, as is also pretended, entered into the messuage and lands in Burmington and became thereof seised, as is likewise pretended, in his demesne as of freehold for term of his life or for the term of the lives of Robert Wells and his son Robert Wells, grandfather and father of your orator John Wells, or of some such estate or title, the certainty whereof is as yet unknown to your orators, the remainder thereof upon the decease of Thomas Wells or upon the several deceases of Robert Wells, your orator's grandfather, and Robert Wells, father of your orator John Wells, unto the first son of the body of Robert Wells the grandfather and the heirs males of the body of such first son, with remainders as aforesaid, and, Thomas Wells being in possession of the aforesaid premises, Robert Wells, your orator's father, having issue your orator John Wells, his eldest son and heir, Robert Welles, your orator John Wells his grandfather, about twenty-nine years since died, and Robert Wells, father of your orator John Wells, about twenty years since also died, and the said Thomas Wells about twelve years since, having a desire to travel beyond the seas and being charged with the payment of £700 or thereabouts for legacies due to the younger children of Robert Wells, father of your orator John Wells, did resolve so to settle the said premises that the same should be, as he pretended, a security for payment of the said legacies and after the decease of Thomas Wells should remain unto your orator John Wells as eldest son and heir of Robert Welles the father, [who was] eldest son and heir male of Robert Wells the grandfather, and [unto] the heirs males [of your orator], and to that end and purpose the said Thomas Wells did by deed or conveyance or by his last will and testament in writing declare in what manner the said messuage and lands had been settled upon him by his father and eldest brother and did therein settle or convey the same to the uses aforesaid, and shortly after Thomas Wells took his voyage to sea and took with him two sons and one daughter, which are long since dead, and Thomas Wells surviving (all his children being dead) about five years since died also, without any issue of his body living at the time of his decease. After the decease of Thomas Wells the messuage and lands in Burmington descended, as of right the same ought to descend, unto your orator John Wells, as first and eldest son and heir male of Robert Wells his father, [who was] the first and eldest son and heir male of Robert Wells the grandfather, [who was] son of Walter Wells, and your orator John Wells accordingly entered into the said messuage and lands, and became thereof lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee tail to him and the heirs males of his body; and your orator John Wells, being so thereof seised, for the better maintenance and livelihood of your orator Robert Wells his son, about one year since did by his lease in writings grant the messuage and lands in Burmington unto your orator John Wells his son, for the term of four years, at a small yearly rent, hoping that the said Robert Wells might have peaceably and quietly held and enjoyed the same without any claim or interruption whatsoever. But now one George Neale of Water Eaton, co. Wilts, Gyles Tomes, and Richard Samon, the latter of Burmington, combining and confederating themselves together with one James Fynes, Esq., and William Sprigge, Gentleman, to disinherit and defeat your orator of the said messuage and lands, and having by casual or some indirect means gotten into their possession the deed or conveyances made by Walter Wells and the pretended deed or conveyance alleged to be made to



Thomas Wells by his father and elder brother and all other deeds, evidences, etc., concerning the messuage and lands in Burmington, by color of having the same they, George Neale, Gyles Tomes, Richard Samon, James Fynes, [and] William Sprigge, have lately entered into the said messuage or tenement and lands, and have made divers secret leases and conveyances thereof unto and amongst themselves and divers other persons to your orator unknown, some times claiming the same by purchase from Thomas Wells or some other pretending interest therein, and some other times claiming the same under some pretended grant or conveyance from Robert Wells and Robert Wells, grandfather and father of your orator John Wells, whereas in truth Thomas Wells did not nor could not make any lawful conveyance thereof, neither did your orator's grandfather or father make any conveyance whatsoever whereby to debar the estates and interests of your orators in or by the aforesaid deed or conveyance made by Walter Wells as aforesaid. Howbeit George Neale, Gyles Tomes, Richard Samon, James Fynes, and William Sprigge, under the pretences aforesaid or some other undue pretences yet not discovered by your orator, do often times make entries and disturb your orators' peaceable possession of the premises, endeavoring to deprive your orators of the rents and profits of the premises, and have commenced several suits at law against your orator for recovery of the same and of the possession of the messuage and lands from your orators, to the disinherison of your orator John Wells and to the manifest wrong and prejudice of both your orators and contrary to all right, equity, and good conscience. In consideration whereof, forasmuch as your orators have no means of relief by the common law, may it please Your Honors to grant unto your orators His Majesty's writ of subpoena, to be directed unto George Neale, Gyles Tomes, Richard Samon, James Fynes, and William Sprigge, commanding them to appear before Your Honors in His Majesty's High Court of Chancery, etc.

The joint and several answers of GEORGE NEALE, GILES TOMES, and RICHARD SAMON, three of the defendants to the bill of complaint of John Wells and Robert Wells, his son.\* The defendants deny that Walter Wells was great-grandfather to the complainants or either of them, neither do they know or believe that Walter Wells was in his lifetime seised of the messuages and lands mentioned in the complaint nor that he made any such deed of feoffment or other conveyance of the premises or any part thereof to such use as is alleged in the complaint, nor do they believe that Walter Wells was ever seised of the premises or any part thereof, and so consequently had no power to make any such deed as is pretended by the complaint, nor do they believe that Robert Wells, the grandfather to the complainant John, entered and became seised of the premises by virtue of any such pretended deed or entail. The defendants say that, Robert Wells, the grandfather, being heretofore lawfully seised in his demesne as of fee of and in the messuage and lands in the complaint mentioned, of the yearly value of £30 or thereabouts, he, Robert Wells, the grandfather, and Alice, his then wife, and Robert Wells, his eldest son, by one deed indented dated 5 July, 13 James [1615], in consideration of a marriage then shortly after to be solemnized between Thomas Wells, his second son, and Alice Tomes, one of the daughters of one John Tomes, and in consideration of a jointure to be made for the said Alice, and in consideration of the sum of £300, being the marriage portion of the said Alice well and truly paid, did covenant with Thomas Kecke and Joseph Phelps that he, Robert the father, Alice, his wife, Robert the son and Johan, his wife, and the said Thomas Wells would, at the costs

\*Preceding this title are the words, in Latin, "All three sworn the 9th [?] day of June 1648," and below this statement are the words, also in Latin, "All three sworn the 15th day of November 1648." One or more signatures, which are illegible, follow the latter date.



of Thomas Wells, his heirs and assigns, before the Feast of All Saints then next ensuing [1 November 1615], acknowledge and levy one fine concerning the said premises in Burmington to the use of Thomas Wells for the term of his life, and after his decease to the use of Alice, his intended wife, for the term of her life, for her jointure, and after their deceases to the use of the heirs of Thomas Wells on the body of Alice, his then intended wife, lawfully to be begotten, with remainder to the use of Robert Wells, son of Robert the grandfather, his heirs and assigns, for ever. And the defendants say that accordingly, in Michaelmas Term then following [2-25 November 1615], a fine was levied of the said premises; but the defendants know of no such deed made in the sixth year of his late Majesty's reign as in the complaint is pretended; and they believe that Thomas Wells, by virtue of the aforesaid deed and fine thereupon had, entered into the premises and became thereof seised; and they say that Thomas Wells, having divers children by him on the body of the said Alice-begotten, did by one indenture, dated on or about 20 August, in the eleventh year of His now Majesty's reign [20 August 1635], grant unto James Fines, Esq., and William Sprigge, Gentleman, and their heirs, to the use of them and their heirs for ever, all the premises in the said bill mentioned, with their appurtenances, and in Hilary Term, in the twelfth year of His now Majesty's reign [11-31 January 1636/7], a fine was acknowledged and levied by Thomas Wells and Alice, his wife, to James Fines and William Sprig and their heirs, of the said premises; and the defendants say that by one indenture quintipartite, dated about 10 May in the fourteenth year of His now Majesty's reign [10 May 1638], made between Thomas Wells, James Fines, and William Sprig of the first part, this defendant, George Neale, of the second part, one Nicholas Hunt of the third part, this defendant, Tomes, of the fourth part, and Thomas Neale and Richard Warkeman of the fifth part, [and] reciting the aforesaid conveyance made by Thomas Wells to James Fiens and William Sprig and the fine thereupon levied, and also writing that . . . [Here is inserted a recital of the grant from Fiens and Sprig to Neale, Hunt, and Tomes, with the consideration therefor, and the further covenants made by Fiens and Sprig, as set forth in the Indenture Quintipartite, *supra*, p. 281], and in Michaelmas Term, in the fourteenth year of His now Majesty's reign [2-25 November 1638], a recovery was had accordingly, by virtue of which several conveyances the defendants, Neale and Tomes, conceive that they have a good estate of inheritance of and in the said premises, in such several proportions as is in the last recited indenture expressed. And the defendants believe [that] Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father, his son, died on or about the time in the complaint set forth; and they know not whether Thomas Wells did desire to travel beyond sea for the reason in the complaint set forth, but [they] say that Thomas Wells, having made the aforesaid conveyance and settlement upon James Fiens and William Sprig, not long after departed out of this kingdom into New England. And the defendants, Neale and Tomes, do deny that the said assurance to them made was for security of money, as is pretended, but was an absolute sale; and [they] conceive [that] Thomas Wells had no reason to make any settlement of the premises for the payment of such pretended legacies, with remainder to the complainant and his heirs, for Thomas Wells had then and, as the defendants have lately heard, yet hath divers children and grandchildren of his own living; nor do the defendants know of any deed or will that Thomas Wells did make other than what the defendants have hereinbefore set forth. And the defendants say that they have lately heard and do verily believe that Thomas Wells [is] yet living and hath divers children and grandchildren yet living in New England; and they have lately seen an affidavit to such purpose, and Thomas Wells hath lately sent some letters to divers of his friends here in England; and so the complain-



ants or either of them have no color of title at all to the said premises. And the defendants do deny that the complainants did ever make legal entry into the premises, but the complainants have lately, without any color of title, made a forcible entry into the premises, for which the complainant John, with others, standeth indicted. And the defendants deny combination and confederacy with any persons whatsoever, and they deny [that] they have in their custody any [of] the conveyances pretended to be made by Walter Wells. But the defendants Neale and Tomes have in their custody the aforesaid deed of settlement, made by Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the son to Thomas Wells, and a copy of the fine thereupon levied, and the said deed indented quintipartite, and the recovery thereupon had, and no others. And the defendants Neale and Tomes do claim to have an estate of inheritance in the premises in such proportions as is aforesaid, and the defendant Richard Salmon saith [that] he hath no estate at all in any part of the premises other than as he is tenant at will to the other defendant George Neale to some part thereof. And the defendants humbly pray to be hence dismissed with their reasonable costs and charges in this behalf. (Chancery Proceedings, Charles I, C. 3, 467/35.)

[This answer of the defendants reveals the name of Gov. Thomas Welles's father, Robert, with the approximate year of his death, 1619, the Christian name of Governor Welles's mother, Alice, and the approximate date, 1615, of Governor Welles's marriage with Alice, daughter of John Tomes, as well as the fact that Governor Welles emigrated to New England "not long after" he had conveyed the Burmington property to Fiennes and Sprigg, that is, soon after 20 Aug. 1635. The complaint and the answer agree in stating that the Governor's father, Robert, died about 1619 and that the Governor's older brother, Robert, died about 1623.]

#### FROM CHANCERY DEPOSITIONS\*

[Wells v. Neale et al., 1648-1651]

Commission, 2 March 1649 [1649/50], from the Keepers of the Liberty of England to William Hicks, Richard Randall, William Barnes, and Richard Croft, Gentlemen, to administer interrogations and take depositions in [the case of] John Wells et al. *contra* George Neale et al.

Interrogatories to be ministered unto witnesses on behalf of George Neale, Giles Tomes, [and] Richard Samon the elder, defendants at the suit of John Wells, Gent., and Robert Wells, son of the said John Wells, complainants, in a cause depending in the High Court of Chancery between the said parties.

1. Do you know the parties, plaintiffs and defendants, or how many and which of them do you know and how long time have you known them?

2. Do you know or have you credibly heard whether or no one Walter Wells named in the complaint and therein alleged to be great-grandfather of the plaintiff John Wells was in truth great-grandfather of the plaintiff, or whether or no Walter Wells was [related] by some other degrees of consanguinity unto the plaintiff, and whether or no Walter Wells had a son, viz., his eldest son, called Robert Wells, whom the plaintiff John Wells allegeth to be his grandfather, [and] was not Walter Wells uncle to the before-named Robert Wells, and was not Robert Wells grandfather of the plaintiff John Wells? Have you seen the last will and testament of Walter Wells and the probate thereof? If yea, then is the writing now shewed unto you the last will and testament of Walter Wells, and did not Walter Wells in his last will and testament make one Robert Wells his executor, and did he not therein call Robert Wells his executor "his kinsman Robert Wells

\*Preserved in the Public Record Office, London, the following depositions being found in Chancery Depositions before 1714, Mitford, bundle 722, no. 31.



sonne of his Brother Thomas Wells," and was this Robert Wells, executor of Walter Wells, grandfather or father of the plaintiff, John Wells, or of what other degree of consanguinity was he unto the plaintiff, John Wells?

3. Do you know or have you credibly heard that Walter Wells was in his lifetime seised of a messuage and two yardlands and a half arable meadow and pasture and two closes, with appurtenances, in Burmington, co. Warwick, in fee simple? Did Walter Wells by feoffment or other assurance convey the same to the use of himself for his life, and after[wards] to the use of Robert Wells, with this express name, viz., "Robert Wells his eldest sonne for his lief," and after their several deceases then to the use of the first son or heir male of Robert Wells lawfully begotten and to the heirs males of such first son or heir male lawfully begotten and, for want of such heirs males, then to the use of the second, third, and fourth sons of Robert Wells, successively, and to the heirs males of every such sons, successively, and, for default of such issue, then to the use of the right heirs of Walter Wells for ever, as the plaintiffs by their complaint allege? Have you at any time seen any such deed of entail of the messuage and lands in Burmington pretended to be made by Walter Wells? If yea, then what date doth such deed bear, and where and in whose hands doth such pretended deed of entail remain, and do you know, remember, or have [you] credibly heard that Walter Wells had any such son named Robert Wells who was grandfather of the plaintiff John Wells?

4. Do you know or remember how long since Thomas Wells, uncle to the plaintiff John Wells, departed out of England unto the parts beyond the seas, and to what part or parts beyond the seas did he travel, whether unto a place called New England or to what other parts beyond the seas, how many children had he at the time of his departure out of England, that is, how many sons and how many daughters, what were their names, how many of his children did he take with him at the time of his departure, what were the names of the children which he took with him, and of what ages were they at the time of departure?

5. What notice or intelligence by messages, letters, or by any other ways or means whatsoever have you at any time or times heretofore since the departure of Thomas Wells out of England into New England received from Thomas Wells or from any other person or persons residing in New England or travelling between New England and England concerning the life, health, or well-being of Thomas Wells and his child and children, grandchild and grandchildren, and of which of them by name, or of how many of them, and when and at what time or times, and how long time is it since you last or lately heard of them or any of them, and of how many of their life or lives and of their name or names?

6. What or how many entries or entry hath the plaintiff John Wells and his son Robert Wells, or either of them and which of them, made into the possession of house and land in Burmington of the defendants, or of any of them and of which of them? Was such entries or entry made in a peaceable manner, lawfully, and by due course of law, or rather riotously, forcibly, and with strong hand, and with a multitude of people and contrary to the laws of England?

7. What other matter or things material or advantageous for the defendants' part do you know, [have you] credibly heard, or do [you] remember?

[Depositions of witnesses on behalf of the defendants.]

Nicholas Hunt of Burmington, co. Warwick, yeoman, aged 85 years or thereabouts, deposeth as followeth:

1. He knoweth all the parties, complainants and defendants, and hath known them for a long time.

2. He did know Walter Wells, and the said Walter was uncle unto Robert



Wells grandfather unto the complainant John Wells, and not father unto him, and he hath heard [that] Walter Wells had a son named William Wells and that the said William died when he was of the age of about 15 or 16 years. He hath seen the last will and testament of Walter Wells, wherein he made the said Robert Wells, son of Thomas Wells his brother, by the name of his kinsman, executor of the will, and the writing now shewed unto him is, as he conceiveth, the last will and testament of Walter Wells.

3. He doth not know nor never heard that Walter Wells did ever make any deed of entail of the lands in Burmington, but doth believe that he had an estate of inheritance in fee simple or fee tail in the same, but how he did dispose of the same this deponent knoweth not.

4. He believeth that it is about 15 years since Thomas Wells, uncle to the complainant John Wells, went out of this kingdom of England unto the parts beyond the seas, unto a place, as he hath heard, called New England, and that he had at the time of his departure 3 sons and 3 daughters, all which he took along with him, and that his 3 sons were called by the names of John, the eldest son, Thomas, the second, and Samuell, the third son, and that the daughters were called by the names of Mary, Anne, and the other he doth not remember her name; and he hath heard that Thomas Wells had one son more, born since he went over thither, and he believeth his eldest child was of the age of about 13 years when they went away.

5. He hath had several letters from Thomas Wells from beyond the seas, and the last he received was dated 4 February 1646 [1646/7]; and one John Robins, who married the complainant John Wells his sister, brought the said letter and told this deponent that, when he came thence, the said T[homas Wells] and all his children were alive and well.

[—]e Salmon of Burmington, co. Warwick, aged 50 years or thereabouts, deposeseth as followeth:

6. The complainant John Wells was in sight and presence when certain men to the number of 4 persons, viz., Willm. Clements, Willm. Court, John Jenkins, and Edward Page, broke into the house and possession where Richard Salmon did dwell in violent manner, and threw out of possession of the house five persons that were there in peaceable and quiet possession, and after[wards] put in one Mrs. Goodricke, who kept the possession until the undersheriff or some officers or deputies for him came and put Richard Salmon in possession again; and, while the said Mrs. Goodricke was in possession, [they carried off] the hay that stood on a rick in the backside and a good part of the corn out of the fields, and pulled down the floors, pales, doors, and doorcheeks of the house, glass out of the windows, and divers other things, all which was carried unto the house of the complainant John Wells, but by whom this deponent knoweth not.

Richard Hunt of Burmington, co. Warwick, yeoman, [aged —]eight years or thereabouts, saith:

2. He hath heard that Walter Wells was not father but uncle to Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells.

4. Thomas Wells went beyond sea to New England, as he believeth, and took with him six children, 3 sons, viz., John, Thomas, and Samuell, and 3 daughters, viz., Mary, Anne, and Sara; and this deponent believeth that the eldest was then of the age of 17 years or thereabouts and the youngest was then of the age of 2 years or thereabouts.

Mary Samon, wife of the defendant Richard Samon, of Burmington, co. Warwick, saith:

6. The complainant John Wells or his son made 3 entries into the house in Burmington: the first was by the plaintiff's son, who broke through the thatch into the house and then opened the door of the house and let in others, at which time there were cheeses taken forth of the house and divers other



things to a good value; the second time certain men, as this deponent supposeth by the directions of the complainant John Wells, did break into the end of the dwelling house in question and violently did thrust out of the house this deponent and her husband; and the third time certain men, being 4 in number, did forcibly again break into the house by the procurement of the complainant John Wells, as the said men told this deponent, at which time this deponent and 4 others were in the house, and the 4 men did violently carry away this deponent and one Elizabeth Warkman "to Warr:" [? Warwick] at the suit, as they said, of the complainant John Wells, and also put the rest of the women forth of doors and threw out of the house divers goods of the said Richard Samon's, some small things whereof were lost, and the residue this deponent and her husband had again.

Richard Samon, Jr., of Burmington, co. Warwick, husbandman, aged 48 years or thereabouts, saith:

6. There were three entries made into the house in question: the first was about September, was 2 years, at which time this deponent saw the complainant John Wells pull off the thatch of the house and did put into the house a son of the said complainant John Wells, which son did open the door of the house and let in the complainant John Wells and Robert Wells his son and one Thomas Woodford, and then [they] barred themselves into the house; the second entry was made about the month of July, A.D. 1648, as this deponent believeth, but this deponent was not present when the second entry was made, neither was he present at the third entry, but after the second and third entry he saw the complainant John Wells and others in the house, who kept possession therein with force, and, this deponent coming to fetch his plow, which was in the backside of the house, the complainant John Wells did threaten this deponent that, if he came upon the ground, he would shoot him, this deponent, or run him through with his trusty [?], which he had about him.

Elizabeth Warkman of Burmington, co. Warwick, spinster, aged 23 years or thereabouts, saith:

6. In the month of September last past, was 2 years, this deponent did see John Wells, the complainant, break into the dwelling house of Richard Samon the elder by pulling down the thatch thereof, and [he] put into the house his son Richard Wells, who opened the doors and did let in his brother Robert and Thomas Woodford; and in July last, she being with four others in the said dwelling house, there came Willm. Clemanee, Willm. Courte, Richard Page, and John Jenkins, sent, as she believeth, by the plaintiff John Wells, and did violently break down the doors, and drew out by force this deponent and the other four persons then being in the house, and kept the possession by strong hand.

[Signed] William Hyckes, Richard Randall, Richard Croft, William Barnes.

Interrogatories to be administered to witnesses on behalf of John Wells and Robert Wells, his son, complainants against George Neale, Giles Toms, and Richard Samon, defendants.

1. Do you know the parties, plaintiffs and defendants? Did you know Robert Wells the late grandfather and Robert Wells the late father of the complainant John Wells, and Walter Wells late uncle of Robert Wells the grandfather, deceased, and how long is it since the several deceases of Walter Wells, Robert Wells the grandfather, and Robert Wells the father?

2. Do you know that Walter Wells was in his lifetime seised in fee or of some estate of inheritance of one messuage and certain lands and tenements in Tidmington, co. Worcester, and of a messuage and two yardlands at Sturton, co. Warwick, and of the messuage and two yardlands and a half at Birmingham, co. Warwick? Did Walter Wells make any grant of the said



messuages and lands or any part thereof to Robert Wells, grandfather of the complainant John Wells, or Richard Wells, another kinsman of the said Walter, and upon what consideration were the said lands so granted, as you know, believe, or have heard?

3. Have you read or seen any ancient deed or conveyance made by Walter Wells for settling his messuage and lands at Birmingham upon Robert Wells, grandfather of the complainant John Wells, for life, and afterwards to Robert Wells, father of the complainant John Wells, and the heirs males of his body in tail, or to Robert Wells the grandfather and to the heirs males of his body in tail, and when, where, and in whose custody did you so read or see the said deed, and where is the same now remaining?

4. Do you know of any deed or conveyance heretofore remaining in the hands of one Nicholas Hunt, whereby the messuage and lands at Birmingham were entailed or otherwise settled upon the complainant John Wells or Robert Wells, his late father and grandfather, and where and in whose hands or possession is the same deed now remaining, and by what means or procurement was the same deed gotten out of the hands of Nicholas Hunt?

5. Did Walter Wells die without any issue lawfully begotten, and did Walter Wells in his lifetime, for the love and affection which he bore to his brother's children, convey his messuage and lands at Stourton to one Richard Wells, his kinsman, and the heirs of his body, and did the said Walter likewise grant his messuage and lands at Birmingham to Robert Wells, late grandfather of the complainant John Wells, and to the heirs males of his body in tail, without any consideration at all but only the love and affection he bare towards his kinsman and to preserve the said lands in his name and blood? Declare what you know or have heard touching this interrogatory.

6. Do you know of any suit formerly depending in this Honorable Court of Chancery between the complainant John Wells and James Fienns, Esq., and other defendants? Did the complainant John Wells oftentimes, or at any time at or before the defendants' purchase of the lands in question, advise the now defendants or any of them not to purchase the lands in question, telling them [that] they could have no good assurance thereof from them that intended to sell the same, or that the same did belong to him, the complainant?

7. Did the complainant John Wells serve the now defendants or either of them with an order of the High Court of Chancery for paying in of the purchase money into the said Court before they had made payment thereof, and is the order now produced the same order wherewith the defendants were so served, and had the defendant Neale a copy of the order delivered or left in his custody at the time of such delivery or service?

8. Have you formerly had some speech with Richard Salmon, Sr., or the other defendants, did you question with him or them or either of them wherefore they would meddle to buy the land or the title which is now or was heretofore in question, [and] what answer did he, they, or either of them make unto you?

9. Have you heard that one Richard Hall and others were formerly about to buy part of the land in question, and do you know the reason wherefore he did desist to buy the same? Declare the truth herein, and what was the reason that Greenaway left renting of the said land.

Depositions of witnesses taken at the dwelling house of Ralph Mills in Shipton upon Stower, co. Worcester, 22 March 1649 [1649/50], by and before William Hicks, Richard Randel, William Barnes, and Richard Crofts, Gent., by virtue of the commission out of the High Court of Chancery unto them directed for the examination of witnesses in the cause in the said Court depending between John Wells and others, complainants, and George Neale and others, defendants, as followeth:



[Depositions of witnesses on behalf of the complainants.]

Richard Wells of Stourton, co. Warwick, yeoman, aged threescore and ten years or thereabouts, saith:

1. This deponent knoweth the complainant John Wells, but doth not know Robert Wells, son of the complainant, but he knoweth all the defendants, and he did know Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father of the complainant John Wells, but did not know Walter Wells; and this deponent hath heard that Walter Wells died about threescore and thirteen years since, but how long since Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father of the complainant John Wells died this deponent doth not know.

2. He hath often heard his father say that Walter Wells was seised in fee of an estate of inheritance of and in the messuage and certain lands in Tidmington and of a messuage and two yardlands in Stourton and of a messuage and two yardlands and a half in Birmingham; and he hath heard his father say that Walter Wells did grant the said lands in Tidmington and Birmingham to Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells; and he hath often heard his father say that Walter Wells did convey a messuage and one yardland, parts of the said two yardlands in Stourton, to Richard Wells, this deponent's father, and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, and another messuage and the other yardland to Thomas Wells, brother to the said Richard Wells, and the heirs males of his body lawfully begotten, they being kinsmen, viz., nephews, to Walter Wells, but for no consideration but only for mere affection that he bore to them, they being his kinsmen, and that the said lands might be preserved and continued in his name and blood.

3. He hath not seen the conveyance of the lands in Birmingham, [and] in whose possession the said conveyance was this deponent knoweth not.

5. This deponent believeth that Walter Wells had no issue, or otherwise he would not have given his lands to his kinsmen; and he hath heard from his father that Walter Wells would have given to Richard Wells, this deponent's father, and to Thomas Wells, brother of the said Richard Wells, his lands in Birmingham if they would have come to have lived with him; and he hath often heard his father say that the lands in Birmingham and Tidmington were conveyed to Robert Wells, the complainant's grandfather, in tail and to the heirs males of his body, in the same manner as the lands in Stourton were conveyed to this deponent's father and uncle.

Nicholas Hunt, formerly examined on the defendants' behalf and now examined on the plaintiffs' behalf, saith:

1. He knoweth the parties, plaintiffs and defendants, and did know Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father of the complainant John Wells, and did know Walter Wells, uncle of Robert Wells the grandfather; and he believeth that it is about 73 years ago since Walter Wells died and that Robert Wells the grandfather died about 17 years ago and that Robert Wells father of the complainant John Wells died about 20 years since.

2. He knoweth that Walter Wells was seised in fee of some estate of inheritance of and in a messuage and two yardlands and a half in Tidmington and of and in two yardlands and a half in Birmingham and two closes in Ditchford, co. Warwick; but what conveyances were made by Walter Wells to Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells, of the said lands this deponent knoweth not.

3. He hath not read or seen any ancient deed or conveyance made by Walter Wells for settling the lands in Birmingham upon Robert Wells, grandfather of the complainant John Wells, nor never had any such deed in his custody, neither doth he know where any such deed is remaining.

4. This deponent had in his custody a deed of entail, dated 5 July 13 James



[1615], whereby the messuage and land in Burmington were settled and entailed by Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father of the complainant John Wells to friends in trust, to the use of Thomas Wells, second son of Robert Wells the grandfather, upon an intended marriage to be solemnized between the said Thomas Wells and one Alice Toms, viz., to the use of Thomas Wells for life, and after his decease to Alice, his intended wife, for a jointure, and after their deceases to the use of the heirs of the bodies of the said Thomas and Alice, and, for want of such issue, to the use of the right heirs of Robert Wells the younger for ever, and two other deeds more of the lands in question, one from Richard Wells and the other from John White, both of Sturton, all which deeds this deponent delivered to the defendants, George Neale and Richard Samon or one of them, and they promised to deliver them again to this deponent within two or three days then after, which they never did; and this deponent believeth that the same deeds are still remaining in the custody of George Neale or Richard Samon or one of them.

5. As to the lands in Burmington to be conveyed to Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells, and to the heirs males of his body, this deponent cannot otherwise depose than as formerly he hath deposed.

6. This deponent hath heard that there was heretofore a difference between the complainant John Wells and James Fynes, Esq., and others, as he believeth, concerning the lands in question.

Ellen Wells of Sturton, co. Warwick, widow, aged 60 years or thereabouts, saith:

1. She knoweth and did know all the parties named in this interrogatory except Walter Wells.

2. She hath heard her father, Thomas Wells, say that Walter Wells was owner of the lands in Tidmington, Burmington, and Sturton, but what conveyance Walter Wells made of them this deponent knoweth not.

Thomas Blackborne of Tidmington, co. Worcester, husbandman, aged 60 years or thereabouts, saith:

1. He knoweth all the parties, plaintiffs and defendants, and did know Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells, and Robert Wells, father of the complainant, but did not know Walter Wells; and Robert Wells the grandfather and Robert Wells the father of the complainant died about twenty years since, but [he] doth not know when or how long since Walter Wells died.

2. This deponent hath heard that Walter Wells was seised in fee or of some estate of inheritance of and in a messuage and two yardlands and a half in Tidmington, co. Worcester, and a messuage and two yardlands and a half in Burmington, co. Warwick, and two closes in Ditchford, co. Warwick; and [he] hath divers times heard that Walter Wells did grant the premises in Tidmington, Burmington, and Ditchford to Robert Wells, deceased, grandfather to the complainant John Wells, as this deponent hath heard, in consideration of natural love and affection, and to continue the lands in his name and blood.

3. This deponent never heard or did see any ancient deed or conveyance made from Walter Wells of any lands to Robert Wells, grandfather to the complainant John Wells, neither doth this deponent know where the said deed or conveyance is remaining, if any such [there] were.

4. There was a deed or conveyance of the messuage and lands in Burmington, whereby the said lands were conveyed to friends in trust, to the use of Thomas Wells, second son to Robert Wells grandfather to the complainant John Wells, for life, and after his decease to his wife for her jointure, if she survived the said Thomas, and after their deceases to their heirs, and, for want of such issue, then to remain to the right heirs of Robert Wells



the younger for ever, to which deed this deponent was a witness, and did see the same sealed and delivered, and hath since heard the same deed read in the house of Nicholas Hunt; and the same deed was then in the custody of the said Nicholas Hunt, but where the same is now remaining this deponent knoweth not.

5. This deponent hath heard that Walter Wells died without issue of his body lawfully begotten.

Richard Hunt of Burmington, formerly on behalf of the defendants and now examined on the plaintiffs' behalf, saith:

4. This deponent hath seen and read a deed or conveyance heretofore remaining in the hands of Nicholas Hunt, this deponent's father, whereby the messuages and lands in Burmington were entailed or otherwise settled to friends in trust, to the use of Thomas Wells, second son to Robert Wells grandfather to the complainant John Wells, for life, and some jointure to his intended wife, if she survived him, and to the heirs of their two bodies, and, for want of such issue, then to the right heirs of Robert Wells, father to the complainant John Wells, and his heirs for ever, as this deponent verily believeth, which said deed hath been remaining for the most part in the custody of this deponent's father, Nicholas Hunt, ever since Thomas Wells travelled beyond the sea until about a year and a half since; but Nicholas Hunt delivered the deed to the defendants, George Neale and Richard Samon, who promised to redeliver the same to him again within a short time; but the deed, as this deponent believeth, is still in their or one of their custody.

9. This deponent believeth that one Richard Hall had contracted with one Mr. Sprigge for half a yardland, part of the lands in Birmingham in question; but what the reason was that he did not proceed this deponent knoweth not. One Greenway, who formerly rented the said lands, left the same because there was like to be strife and contention about the title of the said lands.

Erasmus Adkins of Sibbord, co. Oxford, yeoman, aged 50 years or thereabouts, saith:

6. About 12 or 14 years since this deponent went with the complainant John Wells to the house of Mr. Fines in North Newington, co. Oxford, and was present when the complainant told Mr. Fines that he heard Lord Saye and he would sell the land in Burmington, which would be a wrong to him, and Mr. Fines told the complainant that one Mr. Strigge [*sic*] did speak to him to use his name in some thing, it might be it was in this thing.

Robert Hemmings of Burmington, co. Warwick, yeoman, aged three-score years or thereabouts, saith:

9. Richard Hall hath divers times told this deponent that he had an intent to have bought half a yardland, parcel of the land in question, but that the complainant John Wells persuaded him to the contrary, for, as he affirmed, it belonged to him; and this deponent heard the complainant say that he had done the like to the defendants George Neale and Richard Samon before they purchased.

John Thornebury of Tidmington, co. Worcester, yeoman, aged 40 years or thereabouts, saith:

7. About 12 years since the complainant John Wells met this deponent in Shipston market and desired him to go along with him, for he had an order to serve upon the defendant George Neale. Whereupon this deponent went along with the complainant to the said defendant, and produced an order, and offered to read it to the defendant Neale; but Neale said he cared not for it, but said that, if the owners would sell it, he would buy it. But whether he had bought it before or not this deponent knoweth not,



neither can this deponent tell whether the order were for payment of the money into the Court or not.

Thomas Woodford of Hooke Norton, co. Oxford, yeoman, aged threescore and nine years or thereabouts, saith:

8. This deponent, having some business to speak with Richard Samon the elder, on 5 September 1647 repaired to the house of Richard Samon the younger, where Richard Samon the elder then was, and after conference between them he demanded of Richard Samon the elder wherefore he would buy the land in question, the title being uncertain and in controversy. This deponent told him it were better for him to let it alone and keep his money in his purse, and that the complainant John Wells wished this deponent to tell him so much, and more, that he should never enjoy it quietly while he lived, for he had a good title to it. Richard Samon the elder made answer that he had the land in possession, which was eleven points in the law, and that he did not care what the complainant John Wells could do, and that he should suddenly have three warrants upon several writs against the complainant, which he desired this deponent to execute for him, saying he would lay the complainant safe enough; and the defendant Richard Samon told this deponent also that, what money soever was spent in clearing the title of the land, it would cost him, the defendant Samon, nothing, or words to that effect.

Willm. Rose of Willington, co. Warwick, yeoman, aged 35 years or thereabouts, saith:

4. About two years since this deponent was at the house of one Nicholas Hunt of Burmington, co. Warwick, where he saw and read a deed, whereby the lands in Burmington, being the lands in question, were conveyed to friends in trust from Robert Wells the elder and Robert Wells the younger, grandfather and father to the complainant John Wells, to Thomas Wells, second son to Robert Wells the elder, during his life, and to Alice Toms, his intended wife, during her life, if she survived him, and to the issue of their two bodies, and, for want of such issue, then to the right heirs of Robert Wells the younger for ever. The deed aforesaid was delivered by Nicholas Hunt to the defendants George Neale and Richard Samon, upon condition that they should redeliver it to him again within a short time; and this deponent verily believeth that the deed is still remaining in the custody of George Neale or Richard Samon or one of them.

9. This deponent heard Richard Hall say that he refused to buy part of the land now in question because the complainant John Wells made claim to it.

[Signed] Willm. Hyckes, Richard Randall, Richard Croft, Willm. Barnes.

[Endorsed] 4th Nov. 1651.

[Other records show that George Neale and Giles Toms had obtained an injunction against John Wells to quiet their possession of the Burmington property, and that he violated the injunction and was "committed to the prison of the Fleete." (Decrees and Orders in Chancery, 1648, B, no. 192, fols. 166, 191, 259, 281, 568, 675.)

The foregoing depositions, besides confirming some of the allegations of the pleadings, show that the grandfather of Gov. Thomas Welles was Thomas Welles, brother of Walter Welles, that the complainant John Welles was the Governor's nephew, and that the Governor, when he emigrated to New England, took with him all his six children, whose names in the depositions are the same and in the same order as those given in the Governor's will. The depositions give also the ages of the oldest and youngest child; but there is a discrepancy between the statement of Nicholas Hunt, who said that he believed that the oldest child was about 13 years old when they went away, and the statement of his son, Richard Hunt, who said that the oldest child was then 17 years of age or thereabouts. The depositions also identify the wife of John Robbins, the



Wethersfield (Conn.) settler, whose name was Mary, as the sister of the complainant John Welles and therefore a niece of Governor Welles, thus clearing up the mystery of the "Cossen Robins" to whose children the Governor left £10 by his will.]

FROM PROBATE RECORDS

Administration on the goods of THOMAS WELLES, late of Wychford [co. Warwick], deceased, was granted 8 October 1558 to Walter Welles of Tredyngton, co. Worcester, farmer, brother of the deceased, for the use and benefit of Robert and Ann, natural children of the said Thomas Welles, until one of them attain the age of twenty-one years. Surety: Humphrey Whyte of Whichford, farmer. [No inventory filed.] (Worcester Probate Registry, vol. 6, part 1, fo. 53.)

The Will of WALTER WELLS of Tredyngton, in the Diocese of Worcester, yeoman, dated 1 December 1577. To be buried in the church or churchyard of Tydmington [Tredyngton *struck out*], to which church I give 6s. 8d. To every of my godechildren one sheep. To every poor householder in Tydmington, where I now dwell, 12d. To every poor householder in Burmyngton 12d. To the poor people in Shypston upon Stower 6s. 8d. amongst them. To every one of my cousin Robert Wells's children of Stollerton 3s. 4d. To every one of my cousin Walter Wells's children of Stollerton 3s. 4d. To my cousin Willm. Bybbert[?] of Glouc[ester] 40s. To every one of cousin Humfrey ——— [name *struck out*] children of Long Compton one sheep. To John Cotterell of Shypston upon Stower one cow. To Wyllm. Hunt of Solford Magna one cow. "Itm my wyll ys that yf the heyres males by the body of Robert Wells the young<sup>r</sup> (of Tydmington where I now dwell) do not paye Isabell Wells the daughter of the sayd Robert at suche tyme as the sayd Isabell shall accomplish xvij yeares towards the p<sup>r</sup>ferment of her marriage twenty pounds at one hole payment then I wyll that Thomas Brayne & Humfrey Joynor my feofees in trust of my heredyntys in Dyehford in the County Warr shall stand seased of all the same heredyntys to the use of the sayd Isabell untill my sayd feofees shall have levied to the use of the sayd Isabell of the p<sup>r</sup>fitts of the sayd lands twenty pounds. all the rest of my goods I geve to my kinsman Robert Wells my brother Thomas Wells sonne which Robert I make sole Executor." Overseers: John Cotterell of Shypston upon Stower, Wyllm. Hunt of Solford Magna, and Humfrey Joynor of Long Compton. Witnesses: ——— Brent, Humfre Joyner, Thomas Brayne, and Willme Brent. Sums owing: to one Johne Tooley, son of Rychard Tooley, 35s.; to Willm. Wells of Warr [? Warwick], 20s.; to Thomas Wells of Stollerton, son of John Wells, 20s. Sums due: [from] Thomas Breynehopp, 23s.; John Dodd, 35s. Proved at Worcester 3 July 1578.

Inventory of the goods of Walter Wells of Tydm[in]gton, deceased, taken 9 December 1577 by Willm. Atkyns, John Hancocke, Rychard Hodgkyns, and Willm. Hunt, £93. 2s. 8d. (Worcester Probate Registry, 1578, no. 45.)

The Will of ROBERT WELLES of Tydmington [co. Worcester], dated 10 June 1627. I bequeath my body to the churchyard of Tydmington. To my children, Samuel, Hannah, Mary, and Hester, all my goods whatsoever, to be equally divided amongst them when they come to eighteen years of age. Executors: my brother Thomas Welles and Erasmus Atkins, to dispose of my goods to the use of my children and to allow them present maintenance out of them immediately after my decease and to deliver their portions unto them when they come to eighteen years of age. Whereas my land after my decease doth descend upon my son John, the entail not being cut off, my said son hath promised, upon condition that I shall not cut off the entail, that he will allow the house and land, with all the profits and commodities thereunto belonging, to be disposed of by my executors for the use of my other children before-named and for the bettering of their portions



until my son John come to the full age of one and twenty years and two months, my executors allowing him for his maintenance £10 a year out of the land, and he hath further promised to give to my son Samuel, for the bettering of his portion, £150, to be paid to him within six years after my son John cometh to the age of one and twenty, which I, Robert Welles, do accept of from my son John, and in consideration thereof I promise not to cut off the entail. If any of my forenamed children, Samuel, Hannah, Mary, or Hester, shall misdemean themselves in their marriages or not be ruled by my executors, either in their marriages being disposed of [or] in places for their choice of education, it shall be in the power of my executors to abate what they shall think fit out of the portions of any such of them that will not be ruled as aforesaid and to give it to such others of them as they shall think fittest. If any of them die under the age of eighteen years, their portions [are] to be equally divided amongst the survivors. I desire my brother William Tymms to join in the executorship with my foresaid executors. [Signed] Robert Welles. Witnesses: Tho: Wells, John Welles. Proved before William Whateley, vicar of Banbury [co. Oxford], 7 February 1627/8, by Thomas Wells, brother of the said deceased and one of the executors named in the will, power being reserved to Erasmus Atkins and William Tymms. (P. C. C., Barrington, 13.)

FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS OF WHICHFORD, CO. WARWICK,  
1540-1600\*

*Baptisms*

- 1540 Robt. Welles of Sturton 6 November.
- 1557 Robt. Welles of Sturton 15 June.
- 1559 Isabell Welles of Sturton 13 August.
- 1560 Willm. Welles of Sturton 10 October.
- 1561 Nicholas Welles of Sturton 9 November.
- 1561 John Welles of Sturton 8 February [1561/2].
- 1561 Nicholas Welles of Sturton 1 March [1561/2].
- 1562 Nicholas Welles of Sturton 3 September.
- 1563 Ellys Welles of Sturton 29 September.
- 1563 Anne Welles of Sturton 7 November.
- 1563 Anne Welles of Sturton 14 March [1563/4].
- 1564 Margerie Welles of Sturton 30 July.
- 1566 Water Welles of Sturton 2 February [1566/7].
- 1567 Elen Welles of Sturton 20 April.
- 1568 Nicholas Welles of Sturton 14 October.
- 1569 Elizabethe Welles of Sturton 14 October.
- 1569 Thomas Welles of Sturton 23 January [1569/70].
- 1569 Thomas Welles, son of Water Welles of Sturton, 3 February [1569/70].
- 1571 John Welles of Sturton 26 May.
- 1571 Joane Welles, daughter of Ryed. Welles of Sturton, 7 October.
- 1572 Edward Welles of Sturton 22 March [1572/3].
- 1575 Willm. Welles, son of Water Welles of Sturton, 16 October.
- 1578 Rychard Welles, son of Rychard Welle of Sturton, 8 November.
- 1582 Anne Welles, daughter of Thomas Welle of Sturton, 13 April.
- 1583 Hellen Welles, daughter of Thomas Welles of Sturton, 2 December.
- 1587 Lawrance Welles, son of Tho: Welles of Sturton, 10 June.
- 1590 Ales Welles, daughter of Thomas Welles of Sturton, 16 December.
- 1594 Willm. Welles, son of Thomas Welles of Sturton, 31 January [1594/5].
- 1597 Marie Welles, daughter of Waterler [or Waterber] [sic] Welles, Junior, of Sturton, 17 May.

\*The parish of Whichford included the hamlet of Stourton, on the River Stour, three and one-half miles southeast from Shipston-on-Stour. The parish registers begin in 1540, but after 1600 there are no entries in them that refer to Robert Welles, the father of Gov. Thomas Welles.

- 1598 Water Welles, son of Water Welles of Sturton, 3 November.  
1600 Willm. Welles, son of Nicholas Welles of Sturton, 8 October.

*Marriages*

- 1546 Thomas Warkeman and Margerie Welles 14 November.  
1548 Roger Phippes and Joane Weles 24 May.  
1553 Thomas Welles and Elizabeth Bryan 28 October.  
1559 Robt. Warkeman and Jane Welles 1 February [1559/60].  
1584 Willm. Tasker of Hookenorton and Margerie Welles of Sturton 5 November.  
1592 Christopher Bewington of Honington and Ellen Welles of Sturton "married heare" 16 October.  
1594 Water Welles of Sturton and Anne Fisher of Longcūpton, at Longcūpton, 4 February [1594/5].  
1595 Charles Welles of Longcūpton and Elizabeth Walker of Ascott "married heare" 5 [?] January [1595/6].  
1600 James Egleston of Teysoe and Elizabeth Welle of Ascott 4 August.

*Burials*

- 1547 John Welles of Sturton 17 February [1547/8].  
1552 Elizabeth Welles, wife of Thomas Welles of Sturton, 11 January [1552/3].  
1556 Thomas Welles of Sturton 2 December.  
1558 Agnes Welles of Sturton 18 August.  
1558 **"Thomas Welles of Sturton was buried the xxxth daie of Auguste."**  
1558 Elizabeth Welles of Sturton 4 October.  
1559 Isabell Welles of Sturton 21 September.  
1560 Robt. Welles of Sturton 29 July.  
1563 Water Welles of Sturton 13 October.  
1563 Anne Welles of Sturton 18 November.  
1569 Ellen Welles of Sturton 27 November.  
1572 Elizabeth Welles of Sturton 27 October.  
1597 Isabell Welles, wife of Robt. Welles of Sturton, 15 January [1597/8].  
1597 Water Welles, Senior, of Sturton 25 February [1597/8].  
1598 Water Welles, Junior, of Sturton 15 April.

FROM LAY SUBSIDIES FOR CO. WARWICK\*

- 1523 Whichford. Robert Wellys in goods [valuation] 40s. [Amount of tax illegible. He was the only Wells taxed in the parish in that year.] (192/122.)  
1542 Burmington. Nycoles Hunt in goods [valuation] £8. [tax] 2s. 8d. (192/153.)  
Wat' Wells in goods [valuation] £13. [tax] 7s. 8d. (Ib.)  
Whichford. Thomas Wells in goods [valuation] £8. [tax] 2s. 8d. (Ib.)  
William Wells in goods [valuation] £9. [tax] 3s. (Ib.)  
1592 Burmington. [Roll illegible.] (193/237.)

FROM LAY SUBSIDIES FOR CO. WORCESTER\*

- 1558 Tredington. Walter Wells in goods ———. (200/189.)  
1570 Tidmington. Walter Wells in goods [valuation] £9. [tax] 9s. [the largest tax in the parish]. (Ib.)

\*Preserved in the Public Record Office, London.



From the foregoing records it appears that there was a Welles family in the parish of Whichford, co. Warwick, as early as 1523, when Robert Wellys was taxed on goods valued at 40s. In 1542 Thomas Wells, perhaps a son of the Robert of 1523 and almost certainly the grandfather of Gov. Thomas Welles of Connecticut, was taxed in Whichford on goods valued at £8; and a William Wells, who was taxed there in the same year on goods valued at £9, may have been a brother of Thomas. A Walter Wells who was taxed at Burmington, co. Warwick, in 1542 on goods valued at £13 was probably identical with the Walter Wells who was taxed on goods at Tredington, co. Worcester, in 1558 and on goods valued at £9 at Tidmington, co. Worcester, in 1570. This Walter Wells of Tredington and Tidmington is known to have been a brother of Thomas Welles, the grandfather of the Connecticut Governor. The parish registers of Whichford, which begin in 1540, contain records of the baptisms, marriages, and burials of many of the Welles surname; and, although it is possible to assign positively to only a few of these persons their proper places in the family to which Governor Welles belonged, yet these entries down to the end of the sixteenth century have been given among the preceding records, in the hope that further search may bring to light documents that will determine the identity of some of these individuals. From the English records given above and from American records thereafter the following pedigree is believed to be established.

1. ——— WELLES, *perhaps* the Robert Wellys who was taxed at Whichford, co. Warwick, in 1523, was the father of at least two of the following children (order of births unknown):

2. i. THOMAS.

ii. WALTER, of Tredington and Tidmington, co. Worcester, yeoman, the testator of 1577, d. without surviving issue between 1 Dec. 1577, the date of his will, and 9 Dec. 1577, when his inventory was taken. He was taxed at Tredington in 1558 and at Tidmington in 1570, his tax at Tidmington of 9s. on goods valued at £9 being the largest tax of that year in the parish. He is probably the Walter Wells who was taxed at Burmington, co. Warwick, in 1542, on goods valued at £13, and he had property also at Ditchford, co. Warwick. On 8 Oct. 1558, being then of Tredington, he was appointed administrator of the estate of his brother Thomas Welles, deceased. In his own will he left legacies to several of his relatives, and made his kinsman Robert Wells, son of his brother Thomas Wells, his residuary legatee and sole executor. According to the deposition of Nicholas Hunt he had a son *William*, who d. at the age of 15 or 16 years.\*

\*According to depositions in the Chancery suit of Wells v. Neale et al., taken about 1650, Walter Welles, the testator of 1577, had two other nephews, Richard Wells and Thomas Wells, who were brothers, but the name of their father does not appear. The registers of Whichford show that Joane Welles, daughter of Richard Welles of Stourton, was baptized 7 Oct. 1571, and that Richard Welles, son of Richard Wells of Stourton, was baptized 8 Nov. 1578. This last-mentioned Richard is apparently the deponent in the Chancery suit, who was aged about 70 or thereabouts when he deposed and who stated that his father, Richard Wells, and his uncle, Thomas Wells, were nephews of Walter Wells, the testator of 1577. Ellen Wells of Stourton, widow, one of the deponents in the Chancery suit, gave her age as about 60 or thereabouts and stated that Thomas Wells was her father. Perhaps she was the Hellen Welles, daughter of Thomas Welles of Stourton, who was baptized 2 Dec. 1583, and in that case she must have married a Welles. The parish registers of Whichford show that there was another Walter Welles (perhaps a nephew of Walter Welles of Tredington and Tidmington), who was of Stourton in Whichford and had several children.

- iii. WILLIAM (perhaps a brother of Thomas and Walter), who was taxed at Whichford in 1542 on goods valued at £9 and may have been the father of some of the children whose baptisms are recorded on the early pages of the Whichford registers.  
Probably others.

2. THOMAS WELLES, of Stourton in Whichford, co. Warwick, was buried there 30 Aug. 1558. He probably married first ELIZABETH ———, who was buried at Whichford 11 Jan. 1552 [1552/3]; and secondly, at Whichford, 28 Oct. 1553, ELIZABETH BRYAN, who was perhaps the Elizabeth Welles of Stourton who was buried 4 Oct. 1558.

He is presumably the Thomas Wells who was taxed at Whichford in 1542 on goods valued at £8, the tax being 2s. 8d. Administration on his estate was granted, 8 Oct. 1558, to his brother Walter Wells of Tredington, co. Worcester, for the benefit of his children, Robert and Ann, until one of them should attain the age of twenty-one years.

Children by first wife:

- i. ANN, under 21 on 8 Oct. 1558.
3. ii. ROBERT, under 21 on 8 Oct. 1558 and probably the Robert Welles of Stourton who was bapt. 6 Nov. 1540.
3. ROBERT WELLES (*Thomas*), probably the Robert Welles of Stourton in Whichford, co. Warwick, who was baptized 6 Nov. 1540, and under 21 on 8 Oct. 1558, died about 1619. He married ALICE ———, who was living 5 July 1615.

His uncle, Walter Wells, in his will of 1 Dec. 1577, made him his residuary legatee and sole executor.

Children:

- i. ROBERT, of Tidmington, co. Worcester, the testator of 1627, d. between 10 June 1627, when his will was dated, and 7 Feb. 1627/8, when it was proved by his brother Thomas, one of the executors; m. JOAN ——— [? TYMMS], who was living in 1615 but evidently d. before her husband.

Children, named in their father's will:

1. John, under 21 in 1627. He was the complainant in the Chancery suit of 1648. His eldest son, Robert, was about 18 years old in 1648; and he had a younger son, Richard, and perhaps other children.
2. Samuel, under 18 in 1627.
3. Hannah, under 18 in 1627.
4. Mary, under 18 in 1627; d. at Wethersfield, Conn., 30 Aug. 1659; m. John Robbins, the Wethersfield settler.
5. Hester, under 18 in 1627.
4. ii. THOMAS, Governor of Connecticut.

4. GOV. THOMAS WELLES (*Robert, Thomas*), born in England, died at Wethersfield, Conn., 14 Jan. 1659/60. He married first, in England, soon after 5 July 1615, ALICE TOMES, who died in Connecticut probably not later than 1646, daughter of John Tomes; and secondly, in Connecticut, about 1646, ELIZABETH (DEMING) FOOTE, who died between 16 Aug. 1682 and 3 Sept. 1683, sister of John Deming and widow of Nathaniel Foote, both of Wethersfield.



On 5 July 1615, shortly before his first marriage, his father and older brother settled on him a house and lands in Burmington, co. Warwick, and he proved his brother's will, as one of the executors, 7 Feb. 1627/8. He owned, probably before he left England, one share in the Piscataqua patent of lands in what is now Dover, Durham, Stratham, and parts of Newington and Greenland, N. H. Among the other owners were Lord Say and Sele, Lord Brook, Sir Richard Saltonstall, Sir Arthur Haslerigg, Mr. Bosville, Gov. George Wyllys of Fenny Compton, co. Warwick, Rev. Ephraim Huit, who had been pastor at Knowle and later at Wroxall, co. Warwick, and William Whiting (the last three Connecticut settlers), who seem to have acquired this old Hilton patent about 1633. In 1639 Governor Welles writes that he and Mr. Whiting had the "disposing" of the affairs committed to them by the company in England.

He emigrated to New England with his six children after 20 Aug. 1635 and before 5 Apr. 1636. He was with his wife in Boston, Mass., 9 June 1636, and perhaps had a house at Cambridge, Mass., 8 Feb. 1635/6. He settled at Hartford, Conn., his home lot being opposite that of Gov. George Wyllys, on what is now Governor Street. The first mention of Gov. Thomas Welles in the Connecticut Colony records is under date of 28 Mar. 1637, when he was member of a Court held at Hartford. After that his name appears on almost every page of the Connecticut Colony records until his death in 1659/60. He acted as a magistrate at the General Court held 1 May 1637, and was a magistrate every year thereafter until his death. He was elected treasurer of the Colony in 1639 and served until 1641, and was again elected to this office in 1648 and served until 1652. He was secretary from 1640 until 1648, alternate commissioner of the United Colonies in 1648, and commissioner of the United Colonies in 1649 (in Boston). He was again appointed commissioner in 1654, but did not serve, and he was commissioner again in 1659. Although the Connecticut records do not mention it, the Massachusetts archives prove that he, a magistrate, and Lieut. David Wilton, a deputy of the Connecticut General Court, were sent in 1653 as a committee, with two agents from the New Haven Colony, to treat with the Governor, Council, General Court, etc., of the Massachusetts Bay Colony about a war with the Dutch at Manhattan and the correct interpretation of the Articles of Confederation. Gov. John Haynes died before 9 Jan. 1653/4 (not in Mar. 1654, as is generally stated), and the freemen in Feb. 1653/4 chose Thomas Welles moderator of the General Court. In 1654 also he was elected Deputy Governor, and, in the absence in England of Edward Hopkins, the new Governor, he presided at all the meetings of the General Court for a year. He was elected Governor in 1655 and 1658 and Deputy Governor again in 1656, 1657, and 1659. It is an interesting fact that, when he was elected

Governor in 1658, his oldest son, John, was elected a magistrate and his youngest son, Samuel, a deputy to the General Court, so that he presided over a Court in which one son sat as a magistrate and another as a deputy. From the beginning of his services to the Colony he was on the most important committees, such as that in 1639 to complete the Fundamental Orders, another in the same year to treat with Mr. Fenwick of the Saybrook Colony about a treaty of combination (the United Colonies), and committees for making criminal laws (1642), to enlarge the liberties of the Patent (1645), to draw up the agreement with Mr. Fenwick (1648), etc. Deeds indicate that Governor Welles moved his residence from Hartford to the adjoining town of Wethersfield between 16 May and 10 October 1646, about the time of his second marriage. The Connecticut State prison at Wethersfield is on land that belonged to Governor Welles, and the house used as the warden's residence was built by his great-great-grandson, Solomon Welles, Esq. (1721-1802). There is no space here to mention Governor Welles's other services to the Colony or the part he took in Hartford and Wethersfield town affairs. Besides his constant attention to the public service, he seems to have been interested in improving the Indians, for in 1659 the commissioners of the United Colonies, for the encouragement of the Indians at Wethersfield who attended Mr. Pierson and refrained from powwowing and labor on the Lord's Day, ordered that six yards of trading cloth be delivered to Deputy Governor Welles, to be distributed among the principal Indians. That he was a man of some education is shown by the fact that the inventory of his estate contained an item of "Books English and Latine." Six letters of Governor Welles (four originals and two copies) have been preserved, and two of these have not been published.

Saddened by the death of his daughter Mary and the recent deaths of his son John, the magistrate, and his niece, Mary Robbins, Governor Welles died 14 Jan. 1659/60, "very suddenly," as Governor Winthrop wrote, "being very well at supper and dead before midnight." His will, dated 7 Nov. 1659, was presented to the Particular Court 11 Apr. 1660. He made Mr. John Talcott and Mr. John Cotton, teacher at Wethersfield, the overseers of his will; but, as Mr. Talcott had died on 23 Mar. 1659/60, the General Court, on 11 Apr. 1660, appointed William Wadsworth and John Deming, Sr., to assist Mr. Cotton in the administration of the estate. Governor Welles's inventory, taken 30 Jan. 1659/60 by John Cotton and John Deming, amounted to £1069. 8s. 2d.

Children by first wife, born in England:\*

5. i. JOHN.
6. ii. THOMAS.
7. iii. SAMUEL.

\*Nicholas Hunt deposed that he had heard that there was another son, born in New England, and Nathaniel Goodwin gives the names of two other sons, Robert and Joseph, but no record of any of these has been found.



- iv. MARY, d. in Connecticut, probably before 7 Nov. 1659, for her father, in his will of that date, bequeathed to "My Daughter Maryes Children;" m. ———.
- v. ANN, d. before 19 Oct. 1680; m. (1) 14 Apr. 1646 THOMAS THOMSON, who d. 20 Apr. 1655; m. (2) ANTHONY HAWKINS, who was later one of the patentees of the Connecticut Charter. Upon her first marriage her father conveyed to her and her husband one-half of a house and farm in Farmington, Conn., where they settled and were among the first members of the church. Thomas Thomson was a deputy to the General Court in 1650 and a constable in 1653.

Children by first husband (surname *Thomson*):

1. Beatrice, bapt. 17 Jan. 1647; m. ——— Parker.
2. John, m. 24 Oct. 1670 Mary Steele.
3. Thomas, m. Elizabeth Smith.
4. Mary, bapt. 7 June 1653; m. 20 May 1673 Samuel Hawley.
5. Esther, b. 17 June 1655; m. ——— Gridley.

Children by second husband (surname *Hawkins*):

6. Sarah, bapt. in June 1657; d. before 5 Dec. 1678.
7. Elizabeth, b. in 1659; m. 30 Oct. 1678 Paul Brinsmead of Stratford, Conn.
8. Hannah, b. in 1661.

- vi. SARAH, b. about 1631; d. 12 Dec. 1698, aged 67 (gravestone); m. in Feb. 1653/4 CAPT. JOHN CHESTER of Wethersfield.

Children (surname *Chester*):

1. Mary, b. 23 Dec. 1654; d. 10 July 1689; m. 14 Feb. 1677 John Wolcott of East Windsor, Conn.
2. Maj. John, b. 10 June 1656; d. 14 Dec. 1711; m. 25 Nov. 1686 Hannah Talcott, daughter of Samuel Talcott of Wethersfield.
3. Sarah, b. in Nov. 1657; d. 3 Aug. 1723; m. 5 Dec. 1689 Simon Wolcott of Windsor, Conn.
4. Stephen, b. 26 May 1660; d. 9 Feb. 1697/8; m. 17 Dec. 1691 Jermina Treat, daughter of Lieut. James Treat of Wethersfield.
5. Thomas, b. 23 Mar. 1662; d. 4 Dec. 1712; m. 10 Dec. 1684 Mary Treat, daughter of Richard Treat of Wethersfield.
6. Samuel, b. 23 May 1664; d. 12 May 1689.
7. Prudence, b. 10 Dec. 1666; d. 25 May 1727; m. 17 Dec. 1691 James Treat of Wethersfield.
8. Eunice, b. 7 May 1668; d. 16 June 1698; m. 17 May 1694 Rev. Timothy Stevens.

5. JOHN WELLES (*Gov. Thomas, Robert, Thomas*), born in England, died at Stratford, Conn., between 7 Aug. and 18 Aug. 1659. He married ELIZABETH BOURNE, who came to New England with Henry Tomlinson and Ellen, later wife of Arthur Bostwick. She survived him and married secondly, 19 Mar. "1662; or 63," John Wilcockson.

John Welles was made a freeman at the Connecticut General Court, 10 Apr. 1645. His father gave him one-half of a house and lands in Farmington, Conn., but he had removed to Stratford before 2 Apr. 1652, when he sold lands there to John Thompson. He was a deputy in the General Courts of May and October 1656 and May and October 1657, and in the latter year was among those nominated "for choice to be magistrates" at the next General Court election. In May 1658, when his father was elected Governor, he was elected magistrate, and was elected again in May 1659. He was the officer in Stratford who proved wills, took inventories, dis-

tributed estates of intestate persons, and appointed administrators. We get a glimpse of his conduct as magistrate in Stratford from the "New Haven Colony Records," vol. 2, p. 490. John Davenport, Jr., wrote to Gov. John Winthrop, 18/19 Aug. 1659: "S<sup>r</sup> we have lately heard y<sup>t</sup> M<sup>r</sup> Wells, y<sup>e</sup> Majestreate at Stratford, is dead, of this disease, he complayned of a great burning in his stomach &c." (Winthrop MSS., vol. 12, p. 97, in the possession of the Massachusetts Historical Society.)

The will of John Welles was dated 7 Aug. 1659 and was proved 19 Oct. 1659. In it he bequeathed £40 to his wife, "to carry with her if shee please to goe to England." The will also contained these provisions:

"I freely giue to my dear and louing father my sonn Robert to be educated and brought up as he sees good. . . . I desire my father may haue either this will or a True Copy of it sent him in Conuenient time after my decease And yf he in his wisdome please to alter any thinge in it I leue it wholly with him Concerning any thinge that he may seem good to alter."

The estate was inventoried at £461. 3s. 6d. Mr. Gold of Stratford wrote on 11 Aug. 1729 to Rev. Thomas Prince: "In this town have deceased gentlemen of note, Mr. Welles and Mr. Samuel Sherman, Councillors."\*

Children:

- i. JOHN, b. about 1648; d. 24 Mar. 1713; m. MARY ——— [? HOLISTER].
- ii. DEA. THOMAS, b. about 1651; d. 7 Jan. 1720; m. ELIZABETH ———.
- iii. CAPT. ROBERT, b. about 1651; d. 22 June 1714, in his 66th year (according to his gravestone); m. (1) at Wethersfield, 9 June 1675, ELIZABETH GOODRICH, daughter of Ensign William Goodrich; m. (2) in Boston, Mass., 13 Oct. 1698, MARY STODDARD. He removed to Wethersfield before his first marriage. He was the first of an unbroken succession of six generations, father and son named Robert Welles, of Wethersfield and Newington, Conn. From him descended Gen. Roger Welles (1753-1795) of Wethersfield and Newington, Roger Welles, Esq. (1829-1904), the author of the "Annals of Newington," and the present Vice Admiral Roger Welles, United States Navy.
- iv. TEMPERANCE, b. about 1654; d. after 1728; m. at Stratford, 29 Nov. 1681, JONATHAN PITMAN.
- v. SERGT. SAMUEL, of Stratfield, Conn., b. about 1656; d. in 1729; m. (1) ———; m. (2) ABIGAIL ———.
- vi. SARAH, b. about 1658; d. 23 Mar. 1730; m. AMBROSE THOMPSON of Stratford, b. 1 Jan. 1652; d. 7 Sept. 1742.

6. THOMAS WELLES (Gov. Thomas, Robert, Thomas), born in England, died at Hartford, Conn., in 1668. He married, 23 June 1654, HANNAH (——) PANTRY, widow of John Pantry of Hartford. She died 6 Aug. 1683.

\*Considerable confusion has existed because there was at Stratford, contemporaneously with John Welles, the magistrate, another John Wells, the son of Hugh of Wethersfield, and because each of these had a daughter Sarah. John, the son of Hugh, married Sarah Curtis, daughter of William Curtis of Stratford, and appears to have left there about two years after the magistrate died. Judd, in his "History of Hadley," says that John Wells of Hatfield probably came from Stratford. Sarah, daughter of the latter, born 28 Sept. 1659, married 1 Feb. 1677/8 Benjamin Beach of Stratford, while Sarah, daughter of John Welles, the magistrate, married Ambrose Thompson.



He was townsman at Hartford, 1655, quartermaster of the troop, 1658, and lister, 1660. He was named as one of the patentees in the charter of Charles II to Connecticut, 23 Apr. 1662, and was deputy to the General Court, 1662. The commissioners on the Dutch boundary, from New Netherlands, visited Hartford 22 Oct. 1663, and recorded that they "dined with one Mr. Wels, whose father had been Governor at Hartford." He was nominated for assistant in 1665 and 1667, and was elected assistant 14 May 1668. He was killed "w<sup>th</sup> a fall from a cherrie tree," as we learn from Bradstreet's Journal (REGISTER, vol. 9, p. 44). An entry in the Hartford sexton's record reads: "The grave of Thomas Welles 7 feet." The inventory of his estate amounted to £1297. 11s.

Children:

- i. REBECCA, b. in May 1655; d. 25 Feb. 1717; m. 18 Aug. 1680 CAPT. JAMES JUDSON of Stratford.
- ii. THOMAS, b. in Oct. 1657; d. before 8 Nov. 1695; m. ———. He left children.
- iii. SARAH, b. in Apr. 1659; m. at Hartford, 7 Nov. 1678, JOHN BIDWELL, Jr.
- iv. ISHABOD, b. in Nov. 1660; m. at Hartford, 4 Sept. 1684, SARAH WAY. He was appointed commissary of the Expedition of 1693 and sheriff of the Colony in 1701.
- v. SAMUEL, b. in Oct. 1662; m. ———. He left children.
- vi. JONATHAN, b. in Sept. 1664; d. unm. before 31 Oct. 1687. There was litigation over his estate, which amounted to £440. 18s. 9d., between his oldest brother and his other brothers and sisters.
- vii. JOSEPH, b. in Apr. 1667; d. before 13 June 1698, when the inventory of his estate was taken; m. ELIZABETH ———.

7. CAPT. SAMUEL WELLES (*Gov. Thomas, Robert, Thomas*), born in England, died in Connecticut 15 July 1675 (Hartford Probate Records). He married first, before 1660, ELIZABETH HOLLISTER, daughter of John Hollister of Wethersfield, Conn.; and secondly HANNAH LAMBERTON, who survived him and married secondly Lieut. Col. John Allyn, secretary of the Colony.

He settled in that part of Wethersfield which became Glastonbury. He was made a freeman 21 May 1657, and was deputy in the General Court, 1657-1661 and 1675, ensign of the Wethersfield trainband, 1658, lieutenant, 1665, captain, 1670, and commissioner for Wethersfield, 1665-1675. At the outbreak of King Philip's War he was appointed, 9 July 1675, a member of the Council. The inventory of his estate amounted to £1100.\*

Children by first wife:

- i. CAPT. SAMUEL, b. 13 Apr. 1660; d. 28 Aug. 1731; m. 20 June 1683 RUTH RICE, daughter of Edmund Rice of Marlborough, Mass. From him descended Hon. Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy in the administrations of Presidents Lincoln and Johnson, 1861-1869.

\*Manwaring is in error in giving the date of the inventory. The statement on p. 388 of vol. 2 of the "Connecticut Colony Records" that the Council gave instructions to him, 1 Dec. 1675, for his march to New London is an error. The original record shows that it was Captain Watts to whom the instructions were given.

- ii. CAPT. THOMAS, b. 29 July 1662; d. 7 Dec. 1711; m. (1) at Wethersfield, 7 Jan. 1696/7, THANKFUL ROOT, daughter of John Root of Northampton, Mass.; m. (2) at Wethersfield, 17 May 1705, JERUSAHA TREAT, daughter of Lieut. James Treat.
- iii. SARAH, b. 29 Sept. 1664; d. 29 June 1694; m. (1) 4 Dec. 1683 EPHRAIM HAWLEY of Stratford; m. (2) AUGUR TOMLINSON of Stratford.
- iv. MARY, b. 23 Nov. 1666; d. 18 Feb. 1715; m., as his second wife, SAMUEL HALE.
- v. ANN, b. in 1668; d. at Wethersfield in 1739; m. (1) 19 July 1687 CAPT. JAMES STEELE of Wethersfield; m. (2) 20 Nov. 1718, as his second wife, JAMES JUDSON of Stratford.
- vi. ELIZABETH, b. in 1670; d. before 6 May 1746; m. 4 Apr. 1692 DANIEL SHELTON of Stratford.

# ADDENDUM

[Reprinted from

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ANCESTRY OF GOV. THOMAS WELLES: ADDITIONS. — Since the publication in the REGISTER of July 1926 of the article entitled "The English Ancestry of Gov. Thomas Welles of Connecticut" (vol. 80, pp. 279-305) additional information relating to the Welles family and to the Tomes family (to which Governor Welles's wife belonged) has been sent to me by Colonel Banks and is herewith submitted, together with an abstract of a final concord of 1615 which was overlooked by me in arranging the records for the article in the July issue.

## FROM THE TRANSCRIPTS OF THE PARISH REGISTERS OF TIDMINGTON, CO. WORCESTER\*

- 1611 John child of Robert Welles christened 6 August.
- 1612 Giles Welles and Frances Chadwell married 6 October.
- 1613 Hanna child of Robert Welles christened 10 October.
- 1616 Mary child of Robert Welles christened 25 April.
- 1623 Hester daughter of Robt. Welles baptized 6 April.
- 1627 Joane Welles wife of Robt. Welles buried 23 May.
- 1627 Robert Welles "afforesaid" buried 21 June.
- 1637 Samuel Wells son of John and Elizabeth Wells baptized 6 August.

## FROM FEET OF FINES†

Final Concord made in Michaelmas Term, 13 James I [2-25 November 1615] between Thomas Kecke and Joseph Phelps, querents, and Robert Wells, Sr., and Alice, his wife, Robert Wells, Jr., and Joan, his wife, and Thomas Wells, deforciant, concerning one messuage, one cottage, two gardens, two orchards, seventy acres of land, six acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture, and six acres of furze, heath, and common pasture, in Burmington, co. Warwick, with warranty against Robert, Robert, and Thomas, their heirs and assigns. (Feet of Fines, Warwickshire, Michaelmas Term, 13 James I, 366.)

## FROM PROBATE RECORDS

The Will of JOHN TOMES of Marston-Sicca, co. Gloucester, dated 21 May 1602. To my daughter Anne Tomes my lease in the manor of Marston. To the child my wife Anne now goeth with all the residue of my lands in Marston. To my wife Ann the use of the above lands, while she remains "sole and unmarried." To my daughters Anne Tomes, Joan Tomes, and Alice Tomes £20 apiece. To John George, my kinsman, £10. To Marie Kecke, daughter of my son William Kecke, £20. To the unmarried children of my sister Alice Kecke 10s. To the children of my brother William Holtam. To the children of my brother Thomas Altam. To my sister Joan Harrington. To my wife Agnes [sic] the residue of

\*Preserved in the Diocesan Registry, Worcester. The transcripts for the years 1621 and 1628-1630 are missing. The extant original registers of the parish of Tidmington begin in 1691.

†Preserved in the Public Record Office, London.



my estate, and she is to be executrix. Proved 3 November 1602. (P.C.C., Montague, 73.)

The entries from the transcripts of the Tadmington registers, given above, add to our knowledge of the family of Robert Welles (No. 3, i, of the pedigree printed in the REGISTER, vol. 80, p. 300), brother of Gov. Thomas Welles, by supplying the dates of burial of Robert Welles and his wife and the dates of baptism of his children John, Hannah, Mary, and Hester, his daughter Mary appearing later in Connecticut as the wife of John Robbins of Wethersfield. The final concord of 13 James I is the fine or agreement relating to the Burmington property which was mentioned in the answers of George Neale, Giles Tomes, and Richard Samon to the bill of complaint brought in Chancery by John Wells in 1648 (vol. 80, p. 285). John Tomes, the testator of 1602, whose will is given above, was the father of Governor Welles's wife, and mentions in his will this daughter, Alice, then a mere child.

The Tomes family of Marston-Sicca, or Long Marston, in Gloucestershire (there is another Long Marston in Yorkshire), some five miles northwest from Shipston-on-Stour in Worcestershire, was related to the armigerous gentry and was made famous by the story of how John Tomes, after the Battle of Worcester, in 1651, concealed for one night, in his house at Marston-Sicca, the royal fugitive, Charles II, who was disguised as a cook's boy under the name of Will Jackson. The tale is told as follows in W. H. Hutton's "Highways and Byways in Shakespeare's Country," pp. 236-237:

"At the 'Kings Lodge,' the ancestors of Mr. Tomes, its present possessor, received Charles II. and gave the fugitive a night's rest, when he was Jane Lane's servant, on his escape from Worcester. It is at the end of the village, southwest of the church. Happily it has been hardly altered at all; outside it is of little interest, but there are some almost untouched rooms within. Charles' own account of his escape, dictated to Pepys, shows that he 'lay at Long-Marston,' he and Mrs. Lane, after they had been frightened near Stratford-on-Avon by a troop of horse, and had parted from Mrs. Lane's sister's husband. He speaks of it as 'in the vale of Esham.' 'Boscobel,' the 'Compleat History of his Sacred Majesty's Most Miraculous Preservation' (1680), tells that in Mr. Tomes's house, 'Will Jackson, being in the kitchen, in pursuance of his disguise, and the cook maid busy in providing supper for her master's friends, she desired him to wind up the Jack. Will Jackson was obedient, and attempted it, but hit not the right way, which made the maid in passion ask, 'What county man are you, that you know not how to wind up a Jack?' Will Jackson answered very satisfactorily: 'I am a poor tenant's son of Colonel Lane in Staffordshire. We seldom have roast meat, but when we have we don't make use of a Jack,' which in some measure assuaged the maid's indignation. Charles stayed there but one night and then 'without any considerable accident rode by Campden and arrived at an inn in Cirencester.'"

The John Tomes who rendered such timely aid to Charles II was the half brother of Alice (Tomes) Welles, the wife of Governor Welles; and I hope to be able to communicate to the REGISTER, in the near future, an article on Alice Tomes and her ancestry, which will be based on material collected by Colonel Banks.

Bronxville, N. Y.

LEMUEL AIKEN WELLES.

James F. Wells  
New York 1876.

Welles  
Family

# HISTORY

APR 30 1956

OF THE

## WELLES FAMILY

IN ENGLAND AND NORMANDY,

WITH THE DERIVATION FROM THEIR PROGENITORS OF SOME OF THE  
DESCENDANTS

IN THE UNITED STATES.

ILLUSTRATED WITH STEEL PLATE PORTRAITS, AND PLATES OF COATS  
ARMORIAL, AND SEALS OF THE BISHOPS HUGO AND  
JOCELYN DE WELLES.

BY ALBERT WELLES,

*President of the American College of Heraldry, and Genealogical Registry  
of New York.*

"Those who do not treasure up the memory of their ancestors, do not deserve to be  
remembered by posterity."—SIR EDMUND BURKE.

NEW YORK:  
ALBERT WELLES, 67 UNIVERSITY PLACE.

1876. GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

54058



died before that time, John Martin, the other son-in-law, is not mentioned. The dates of the deaths of Thomas Welles and his wife, as given in the town records, correspond with the inscriptions copied below."

"Interred here the body of the Rev. Mr. Thomas Welles, first Pastor of the first church of CHRISIR in Amesbury, who departed this life July ye 10th, 1734, in ye 87th year of his age and the 62d of his ministry, having served his generation by the will of God, he fell asleep, and (we trust) enjoys a Prophet's reward—for tho' Israel should not be Gathered, yet would the faithful minister of the Gospell be glorious in the Eyes of the LORD."

*Perkins*

He married at Newbury March 3, 1671, Mary ~~Parker~~.

#### CHILDREN:

|                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| John, born Feb. 2, 1672. | Abigail, born about 1682.  |
| Luke, " March 19, 1674.  | Mary, " " 1684.            |
| Titus, " March 14, 1675. | Eliezer, " June 10, 1686.  |
| Son, " about 1677.       | Elizabeth, " Dec. 7, 1688. |
| Son, " " 1680.           | John, " Oct. 9, 1692.      |

"Interred here the body of Mrs. Mary Welles, dec'd January the 26th, 1727, aged 75 years, late wife of Mr. Thomas Welles.

Death is not dumb; it bids us all  
Prepare before by it we fall.  
We know not how nor where nor when.  
Fit now or never—we cannot then."

#### PROGENITOR No. VII.

HON. WILLIAM WELLES, of Southold, Suffolk Co., L. I., was born at or near Norwich, Norfolkshire, Eng., in year 1608, and emigrated to America about 1635. He was stated to have been a passenger in the ship Free Love, of London, Robert Dennis, master, 10th June, 1635, and was 27 years of age at that time. He was an educated lawyer in England, and High Sheriff of New Yorkshire on Long Island. His supposed brother, Richard, came in the

ship Globe in that year, and William probably came about the same time. He landed at Salem or Boston, and in 1638 he removed with others and began the settlement of Lynn, Mass., where another supposed brother, George, had settled, and whence in 1640 to New Haven, Conn., and thence with other emigrants crossed Long Island Sound, and founded the town of Southold, L. I., in 1641, where he lived the residue of his lifetime, and died Nov. 3, 1671, aged 63 years. George settled at Southampton, L. I., at same time.

William Welles, of Southold, L. I. (originally Fennycok), was probably the son of William Welles, Prebendary of Norwich Cathedral and Rector of St. Peter's, Mancroft, Norwich, from 1598 to his death in 1620. "The tombstone of Prebendary Welles is in the church, and near the altar, of St. Peter Mancroft at Norwich, England, and bears the Coat Armour of the Barons Welles of Lincolnshire, with a bordure for difference. He was for thirty years a priest of great holiness of life and unwearied diligence in pastoral work in Norwich. He died May 26, 1620, aged 54."

"William Welles, of Southold, gent., Justice of the Peace, and 1st Sheriff of New Yorkshire of Long Island, who departed this life Nov. 13, 1671, Ae. 63." Burying-Ground, Southold. Inscription:

Yes, here he lies who speaketh yet, though dead;  
On wings of faith his soul to Heaven has fled.  
His pious deeds and charity was such  
That of his praise no pen can write too much.  
As was his life, so was (his) blest decease;  
Hee lived in love and sweetly dyed in peace."

"1649.—William Welles, a resident of Southold, L. I., at New Haven questioned about land bought of Indians, with Mr Odell, for which he drew a deed, etc."

"1653.—Was a deputy to New Haven General Court. Complained of J. Youngs."

"1653.—He petitioned to be free from public service. Not granted."

" 1656.—Ordered that his expenses be paid, for going to New Haven in 1654."

" 1657.—He was elected Deputy to New Haven Court. Did not attend."

" Dec. 1661.—Received a release from John Tuthill for share of Henry and John Tuthill's property, which came to his hands from his first wife Bridget, or otherwise."

" 1660.—He was acting as attorney at New Haven, Conn., also, Arbitrator of Southold, L. I. Received release from W. Johnson, who had married Elizabeth, dr. of Henry Tuthill."

1660.—He was Recorder of Southold.

" 1661.—He was appointed Assistant Magistrate."

" 1663.—He opposed uniting with Connecticut colony, Hartford, under new Charter, and reported the course taken to the New Haven Colony."

" 1664-5.—He was appointed at New York by Gov. Nicoll of the State of New York, as Sheriff of East part of Long Island."

" 1665.—He was Deputy from Southold to the New York Colonial Assembly at Hempstead, L. I.

" 1671, Nov. 13.—Deed to his wife Mary of all his houses and lands, goods and chattels in Southold, for maintenance of herself and children, and with power to allot portions for the children."

He married, about 1646, Bridget, widow of Henry Tuthill, by whom he had no children. She died at Southold about 1652. He married 2d, in 1656, wife named Mary, born in 1619. Children:

Abigail, born about 1657.  
Patience, " Oct. 17, 1658.  
William, " May 5, 1660.  
Mary, " about 1661.

Bethia, born in 1663.  
Joshua, " in 1664.  
Mehitable, " in 1666.  
Anna, " ab't 1668.

" Mary, wife of William Welles, rated on 26 acres, 24 cattle, 8 horses, 27 sheep, etc., £217 10s." She died April, 1709, aged 90.

" Family name not traced. She was an extraordinary woman.

" Mary, widow of William Welles, married Thomas Mapes."

" William Welles was among the most important settlers of Southold, L. I., after the purchase of that town by New Haven. In consequence of the fundamental principle of the New Haven Colony, that no person could hold office or be a freeman but those who were members of the Rev. John Young's church, Southold afterwards united with the Connecticut Colony."

WILLIAM WELLES, son of William Welles, of Norwich, Eng., and Southold, was born at Southold, L. I., May 5, 1660, and died there Oct., 1696. Married at Southold June 1, 1681, Elizabeth, daughter of John Tuthill, of Southold, L. I. Children:

|                               |                           |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| William, born March 30, 1681. | Henry, born Feb. 7, 1690. |
| John, " Jan. 31, 1689.        | Mary, " in year 1691.     |

" 1683.—William Welles rated on £85."

" 1684.—Deed by him and his mother Mary, to John Goldsmith."

" 1685.—Deed by him and his mother Mary, to John Tuthill and wife."

" 1686.—3 males and 2 females in his family."

" 1688 and '9.—Deed with his mother to John Osman."

" 1693.—Deed with his mother of 18 acres, to Jonathan and Bethia Horton."

" 1696, Sept. 25.—Will. Names wife, etc. Proved Jan. 19, 1697."

JOSHUA WELLES, Justice of Peace, sixth child of William Welles, of Southold, L. I., was born in Southold, L. I., in 1664, where he died in 1744. He married at Southold, Jan.



now occupied by Merriam & Corwin, where they continued their business until 1849, when they opened a general hardware house, and did a large mercantile business until the retirement of both members of the firm from the active duties of life in 1869.

Mr. Smith's career, both in business and private life, was one of distinguished integrity and above reproach. He was of a retiring disposition, unostentatious in his ways, and always sought the happiness of others, while he enjoyed the common benefits of life accruing to himself. He was never solicitous of any official position, and preferred the quiet routine of a business life to the bickerings of political strife or the emoluments of office.

Mr. Smith was the senior warden of St. James' Church at Goshen, and filled that position and the office of vestryman for many years. Born with the beginning of the century, he attained the ripe age of eighty years, his death occurring June 4, 1880, and his long life was devoted to kindness to his fellow-men and devotion to his Maker. He left behind him the useful lesson of a good example.

His wife was Ellen, daughter of Moses and Eleanor (Holly) Sawyer, and granddaughter of James and Elizabeth (Bradner) Sawyer, of Goshen, born Feb. 23, 1817, whom he married Dec. 5, 1838. She died March 23, 1864, leaving three children, viz.: Mary Ellen, born Sept. 20, 1839, died Nov. 1, 1858; Julia, born Sept. 11, 1843, became the wife of William D. Van Vliet, a merchant at Goshen, and died July 28, 1880, leaving two children,—John Jewell and Julia Marion; and John Ogden Smith, for several years a clerk in his father's store, and for the past few years a clerk in the Goshen National Bank.

#### ALFRED WELLS.

For about one hundred and fifty years the Wells family has been identified with the history of Goshen, Orange Co., N. Y., and the homestead upon which John Wells settled in Goshen about 1735, then a wilderness tract of land, containing 240 acres, has been successively owned by the members of four generations, and upon it the subject of this sketch has spent his life.

The progenitor of the Wells family from which Alfred Wells is descended, was Hon. William Wells, who was born at or near Norwich, Norfolk-shire, England, in 1608, and emigrated to America about the year 1635. He was stated to have been a passenger on the ship "Free-Love," of London, Robert Dennis master, June 10, 1635, and was twenty-seven years of age at that time. He was an educated lawyer in England, and high sheriff of New Yorkshire, on Long Island.

His son, Justice Joshua Wells, was born at Southold, L. I., in 1664, and died there in 1744. John, son of Justice Joshua, born at the same place, Jan. 31, 1689, also died there. John, son of John, born at

the same place about 1715, died in Orange County, July 4, 1776, is supposed to be the first settler of the family in Goshen, and the one mentioned at the beginning of this sketch. His son Joshua, born at Goshen in 1744, succeeded to the homestead, upon which he resided during his life, and died in 1819. He was a soldier in the colonial army during the Revolutionary war.

His wife, Rhoda Booth, was a granddaughter of William Bull and Sarah Wells, who bore him the following children: Mary (wife of George Phillips), John, George, Joshua, Jr., Christina (wife of John Decker), Dolly (wife of Edward Ely), Sarah (wife of James Tuthill). He was one of the early members of the Presbyterian Church at Goshen.

Of these children, Joshua Wells, Jr., was father of our subject, and was born on the homestead, Sept. 6, 1779, and died there in 1867. He carried on the homestead farm during his active business life, was a man of good judgment, correct habits, and strong force of character. He sought to fulfill the full duties of the good citizen, and was known by his fellow-men as a man of sterling integrity, not solicitous of public place, frank and manly in his ways, and a Christian man.

His wife was Jemima, daughter of Jonathan Sayer, of the town of Goshen, born in 1779, and who died in 1811, leaving the following children: Adeline (wife of James C. Reeve), Alfred, Mary Jane (died unmarried), Jerome was a physician of Goshen, and died here, and Frances (wife of Adrian Holbert, of Goshen).

His second wife was Katy Ford, who bore him children, viz.: Julia (wife of John M. Ford) and Elizabeth (unmarried). His second wife died in October, 1834.

Alfred, son of Joshua Wells, Jr., was born on the homestead, Nov. 17, 1805. His early education was received in the common school, and at Farmers' Hall Academy at Goshen. For one term he was a teacher, but succeeded to the homestead property, upon which he has spent most of his business life. The present residence on the farm was built by his father during his lifetime, and during the last three years Mr. Wells has caused to be erected one of the finest and most substantial barns in Orange County. Mr. Wells succeeded to the old homestead by inheritance, to which he has made an addition of a small parcel of land, and is the possessor of other valuable property besides.

He is a man of determined effort, judicious in the management of his affairs, and, although far past the active duties of life, finds pleasure in the care and superintendence of the place of his birth, where he and his wife spent so many happy years together.

Mr. Wells always gave encouragement to all objects of a local nature tending in any way to the prosperity of the people and the development of interests in his own town, and although, like his forefathers,

# History of Orange County

N.Y.

1683-1881

by E. M. Rittenber  
& L. A. Clark.

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*Alfred Wells*

- 1 - Hugh Welles - Born England 1590 - Died 1645 Bedford, Connecticut  
Married  
Frances Belcher Born England \_\_\_\_\_ - Died 1678 - Hadley, Massachusetts
  - 2 - Thomas Welles - Born England 1625 Died 1676 - Hadley Massachusetts  
Married  
Mary Beardsley - Born \_\_\_\_\_ Died \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3( Noah Welles Born July 26, 1666 Died 1712 Stamford, Connecticut  
Married *Colchester, Conn*  
Mary White Born \_\_\_\_\_ Died Hadley, Massachusetts
  - 4 Lt. Noah Welles Born August 1686 Died Aug 10, 1753 - Connecticut  
Married April 15, 1714  
Sarah Wyatt Born \_\_\_\_\_ 1693 Died May 3, 1769 *in Connecticut*
  - 5 Rev. Noah Welles (Born Sept. 25, 1718) Died Dec. 31, 1776-Stamford, Conn.  
Married Sept 17, 1751 Colchester, Conn - ~~XXXX~~ Married - Oyster Bay, New York  
Abigail Woolsey Born Oct 31, 1730 Oyster Bay, N.Y. Died Oct 28, 1811 Stamford Conn.
  - 6 Dr. Benjamin Welles Born Nov. 21, 1756 Stamford Conn. Died Apr 19 1813-Wayne, Steuben Co NY  
Married June 13, 1782 Phillipstown, New York (Hamilton, Ill or  
Sarah (Sally) Nelson-Born Aug 11, 1762 Mamaroneck, N.Y. Died Feb 23, 1853-Steuben Co.N.Y
  - 7 Theodosia Welles Born Oct. 29, 1796 Died Oct. 14, 1873 Galatia, Illinois or Kinderhook N Y  
Married 1817  
Joseph Irvin Born July 7, 1791 New Jersey Died Oct 2, 1857 ~~Died Oct 2, 1857~~ Galatia Ill
  - 8 Benjamin Franklin Irvin- Born Sept 17, 1822 Steuben Co. NY Died Jan 21, 1889 Galatia Ill  
Married 1866-Saline Co. Ill (3rd marriage)  
Elizabeth Hall Baldwin Born, ~~South~~ *North* Carolina Died Paragould Ark- 1906 or 1907  
Buried Paragould Ark.
  - 9 Edith Lyle Irvin Born Mar 29 1878 Galatia, Ill- Died Jan 5, 1960 Hot Springs, Ark.  
Married May 13, 1897 - Brookland, Arkansas  
Madison Stovall Cobb- Born Pontotoc or Union County, Miss. March 20, 1864  
Died- Hot Springs, Arkansas Feb 9, 1937
- Dennie Cobb } Girl  
Nellie Cobb } Twins Born Jan. 24 1899 - Denison, Texas
- Lucy Mae Cobb Born May 29, 1900-Buckville, Garland Co. Ark.
- Frankye Cobb Born August 6, 1902 - Hot Springs, Arkansas



Wells  
Family

OCCGS REFERENCE ONLY

WELLS FAMILIES OF RHODE ISLAND  
PETER WELLS OF KINGS TOWN AND  
THOMAS WELLS OF WESTERLY

By Joan S. Guilford, Ph.D.

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

OCCGS

## WELLS FAMILIES of Rhode Island

by Joan S. Guilford, Ph.D.  
Orange, Calif. 2003

As anyone with Wells/Welles ancestry knows, this name is very common and the task of sorting out members of one family from those of other families with this surname who are living in proximity is a rather daunting task. In an effort to identify one of the author's ancestor's origin in Rhode Island it was found that little had been published concerning either Peter<sup>1</sup> or Thomas<sup>1</sup> Wells of that state. And, in fact, even Savage seemed unaware of Peter<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, the writer assembled, to the best of her ability, the early descendants of both of these immigrants although complete confidence in these accounts cannot be assured.

The one account we found of Thomas<sup>1</sup> was reported by Cutter (1913, 4:2085ff.) and we judged it to be a dubious rendering, but nevertheless present it here. Thomas<sup>1</sup> is said to have been the son of Nathaniel<sup>1</sup> who was born about 1600 and came from Colchester, England, where he owned many valuable shipyards as well as a large hotel. Despite his social status, he made some public remarks favoring the Puritan perspective and on this account was forced to flee the country. He came to Boston in 1629 and took the freeman's oath there on 2 November 1637. In 1639 or 1640 he removed to Rhode Island and settled near the present town of Westerly and founded a town called Wellstown on land he purchased from the Narragansett Indians. He died there in 1681. Crandall (1949, p. 11) supports the account.

Nathaniel<sup>1</sup> is said to be the son of a Thomas<sup>a</sup> who was born in 1566 at Essex, Lancashire, England. He is also said to be the brother of the following immigrants: Hugh of Hartford, Conn.; Joseph of Boston; Deac. Thomas of Ipswich; George and William of Lynn, and Deac. Richard of Salisbury, all in Massachusetts. Since we see no compelling evidence of these assertions, we label Thomas of Westerly as THOMAS<sup>1</sup> and, in fact, Savage does not acknowledge the existence of this Nathaniel in any case. Nor do we vouch for the assertion that THOMAS<sup>1</sup> was born at Colchester in 1626. We do acknowledge the facts that THOMAS<sup>1</sup> was a shipbuilder and that he named a son Nathaniel, coincidences which might lend support to the contention that he was a son of Nathaniel and, as noted, he did move to Westerly after sojourns in New London, Conn. and, presumably, Ipswich, Mass.

When it comes to PETER<sup>1</sup>, no relationship to either THOMAS<sup>1</sup> or any other immigrant bearing this surname has even been suggested. Further details appear in the accounts of these two Rhode Islanders which follow.



## PETER WELLS FAMILY

### PETER WELLS of Kings Town, Rhode Island

As previously noted, Savage does not even acknowledge that PETER<sup>1</sup> WELLS was an early immigrant, but Austin (1969) gives us an outline of the family for the first two generations and Rhode Island vital records help to extend our knowledge as, to some small extent, does Wright and Tuthill's 1918 genealogy of one line of PETER<sup>1</sup>'s descendants. We make no guarantees that the following is correct, but it is the best we could derive from the vital records.

PETER<sup>1</sup> was born about 1630 since he was 85 in 1715 when he gave testimony. His wife appears to be unknown although some have designated her as Susannah Peckham, daughter of John<sup>1</sup> and Eleanor (Craft) Peckham, this assumption perhaps based on references to John<sup>1</sup> Peckham (NEHGR 57:31-39; GRIF 2:60) which indicate that he had a daughter Susannah who married Peter Barker and then Peter Wells. However, it was Peter<sup>2</sup> who married Peter Barker's widow and she was born a Saunders as will be seen below. He is said by Austin (*op.cit.*) (with evidence) to have been first at Jamestown and on 29 December 1684 he was given, by the Town Council of Kings Town (now Kingston), all the estate of William Salter who had died on 24 December that year, this gift made on condition that he maintain Salter's aged mother, "Jone." According to Austin, this William was the son of Sampson and Joanna Salter who came from Caversham, Oxford, England, to Newport, Rhode Island, on the *James* and Coldham (1987, p. 134) confirms this report, listing only Sampson, fisherman. PETER<sup>1</sup> was made Executor of the estate. Perhaps there is some clue to his wife in the Salter family.

According to Wright and Tuthill (*op. cit.*), PETER<sup>1</sup> lived at Jamestown in 1667 and was a member of the town council there in 1683 when he granted letters of administration to Hannah Clarke, widow of William Clarke. Jamestown was incorporated 4 November 1678 and PETER<sup>1</sup> was made a freeman by the General Assembly of the Colony at Newport on 6 May 1679. According to the authors he was apparently not related to Nathaniel Wells of Jamestown on the mainland.

It is contended by one or more descendants that PETER<sup>1</sup> was born at Colchester, England, to Thomas<sup>a</sup> and Abigail (Warner) Wells, this Thomas<sup>a</sup> being born 11 December 1605 at Colchester and his marriage to Abigail taking place 23 July 1639 at St. Botolph's, Colchester. Thomas is said to have died 26 October 1666 at Salisbury, Essex, England. Abigail is said to be the daughter of

## PETER WELLS FAMILY

William<sup>1</sup> and Abigail (Baker) Warner, her father coming to America and dying about 1648 at Ipswich, Mass. Savage (4:424) says he had sons Daniel and John "beside a d. wh. m. Thomas Wells." Torrey says that William<sup>1</sup> Warner was of Ipswich and Salisbury, born in 1586 and died in 1647. We make no claims for the accuracy of this construction.

On the 4th of July 1693, Henry Hall of Westerly deeded to "Peter Wells of Kingstown, Planter," 100 acres of land bordered by property of John Sheldon and Job Babcock. On 11 September 1702 PETER<sup>1</sup> deeded the farm he lived on, this farm consisting of 100 acres, housing, orchard and etc., to his son Peter "for love, he having behaved himself dutifully to his said father in this my aged and feeble condition." This is the same land he purchased from Henry Hall.

On 23 August 1715 PETER<sup>1</sup> testified as to knowledge of land in Jamestown 42 years before and many years after that time. The precise date of his death seems to be unknown. In 1720 his son Peter was still called "Jr." It is known that his son John refused administration on his estate which was then accepted by his son Peter, Jr., on 8 June 1724 (RIGR 5:3:195) although Wright and Tuthill claim that he died in 1715.

Unfortunately, in the recording of his children several of his daughters are unnamed and their mother is never named. Nor do we know what became of the daughters although one might guess that some had died young. The vital records of Jamestown give no names and only partial dates. In some cases there is added information regarding these dates which is enclosed in parentheses below. Note that the "possibilities" below are pure speculation.

Children of PETER<sup>1</sup> WELLS by an unrecorded wife:

- i. "Daughter"<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. May 1667. Poss. the LYDIA WELLS who m. 28 March 1687 at Providence, BENJAMIN HEARNDON/HARRINGTON?
- (2) ii. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. (September 1669 at East Greenwich, RI).
- iii. "Daughter"<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. November 1671.
- iv. "Daughter"<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. (20) July 1673.
- (3) v. JOHN<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. (May) 1676 at North Kingstown, RI.
- vi. "Daughter"<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. (21) January 1678. Poss. the ELIZABETH WELLS who m. ROBERT POTTER of No. Kingstown, he b. 1676 and d. 1745?
- vii. "Daughter"<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. June 1680. Poss. the REBECCA WELLS b. 2 January 1679/80 at Providence?
- (4) viii. PETER<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 1681 at South Kingstown.



## PETER WELLS FAMILY

- ix. SUSANNA<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 2 November 1684; d. 25 July 1782; m. 9 December 1708 at East Greenwich, ABNER SPENCER, son of Dr. John and Susanna Spencer. Spencer ch.: Peter (b. 18 Nov. 1709); Susanna (b. 30 Aug. 1712); Ruth (b. 8 May 1714); Alice (b. 8 Oct. 1719); James (b. 10 Apr. 1722); Abner (b. 11 Feb. 1725); Thomas.
  - x. Unnamed twin WELLS, b. 2 November 1684; d.i.
2. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> (PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, b. September 1669 at East Greenwich, RI; d. 16 October 1727; prob. m. before 1696, SARAH ROGERS, dau. of Thomas<sup>2</sup> (James<sup>1</sup>) and Sarah Rogers of Newport, RI. On 28 Nov. 1716 Sarah had a legacy from her fa. Thomas. On 26 April 1729, admin. of Thomas<sup>2</sup>'s estate was given to eldest son Peter, inv. amounting to £163.7.6. If Peter is his "eldest son," it seems strange that no other children are of record, but this is evidently the case. Austin gives him only son Peter, but we believe that Jonathan is also his. He could also be the father of EBENEZER who m. on 24 October 1726 at South Kingstown, Christopher Allen, Justice, ELIZABETH NASH. Ebenezer was not a registered voter between 1747 and 1755 nor was he a resident of Rhode Island in 1774. (Ed. note: SARAH ROGERS has been assigned by some as the wife of THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, son of THOMAS<sup>1</sup> WELLS, but although his wife was a Sarah, SARAH ROGERS seems to us to belong to this Thomas and a number of descendants agree.)
- Children of THOMAS<sup>2</sup> and SARAH (ROGERS) WELLS, all born at East Greenwich, RI:
- (5) i. PETER<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1696.
  - (6) ii. JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1698.
3. JOHN<sup>2</sup> (PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, b. May 1676 at Jamestown, RI; d. before 11 July 1732 (pro.); m. ca. 1698 at North Kingstown, ELIZABETH CONGDON, dau. of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Albro) Congdon, b. 1682 and d. 1732. John lived his whole life at North Kingstown and left a will which was pro. 11 July 1732, sons John and Benjamin, Execs. He left to wife Elizabeth a third of personal property and privilege of house while wid. To eldest son John, half of homestead, etc. and the other half to younger son Benjamin. To two sons, wearing apparel and farming tackling. To daus. Mercy Whitford, Elizabeth Sweet, a daughter Wells (not named, but no doubt Martha) and Susanna Wells, the rest of the personal estate. Inv. valued pers. prop.

# PETER WELLS FAMILY

of mare, colt, and cattle at £31. (Ed. Note: see also Wright & Tuthill, *op. cit.*, p. 9.)

## Children of JOHN<sup>2</sup> and ELIZABETH (CONGDON) WELLS:

- (7) i. JOHN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1699.
  - (8) ii. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1701.
  - iii. MERCY<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 1704; m. 5 April 1722 at North Kingstown, DAVID WHITFORD of East Greenwich. The descendants of Pasco Whitford are given in RIGR 11:3:156 showing that David was b. ca. 1704 and d. before 5 March 1744 when his will was proved. Whitford ch., 1st four b. at Exeter, others at E. Greenwich: Elizabeth Ann (b. 11 June 1723); William (b. 6 Sept. 1725); Alice (b. 6 March 1727; m. Nathan Dawley); David (b. 29 March 1729; m. Elizabeth [----]); Joshua (b. 23 June 1731; m. Prudence Burdick); Joseph (b. 7 June 1733); Jesse (b. 1735); John (b. 3 December 1737; m. Mary and/or Margaret Butler of Branford, CT); Mary (b. February 1740).
  - iv. ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1707; m. 1732, JOHN SWEET.
  - v. MARTHA<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1709 at North Kingstown; m. 9 January 1728/9 at North Kingstown, JOSEPH CONGDON who was born 15 February 1705 at North Kingstown. Congdon ch. all b. at No. Kingstown, RI: Freelove (b. 28 March 1730; m. Stephen Northrup); Benjamin (b. 28 August 1732; m. Hannah Briggs); Joseph (b. 29 April 1734; m. Susanna Tanner; John (b. ca. 1736); James (b. 26 April 1738); George (b. ca. 1740; m. Ann [----]; m. 2nd, Deborah Himes; m. 3rd, Elizabeth [----]); Stukeley (b. ca. 1742); Martha (b. ca. 1743; m. George Himes); Elizabeth (b. ca. 1745).
  - vi. SUSANNA<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1711; alive in 1732.
4. PETER<sup>2</sup> (PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, b. 1681 at South Kingstown; d. before 11 December 1732 (pro. of will) on the homestead left to him by his fa.; m. ca. 1704, ANN WATSON, dau. of John and Dorcas (Gardiner) Watson and she d. before 1728; m. 2nd, 7 January 1726/7 at Westerly, SUSANNA (SAUNDERS) BARKER, wid. of Peter Barker and dau. of Tobias and Mary (Clarke) Saunders and by her he had no ch. and she d. in 1733. In 1719 he was at Kings Town, a freeman, called "Jr." On 24 Nov. 1720 he and Job Babcock, both of Kingstown were involved in a boundary dispute which went to arbi-



# PETER WELLS FAMILY

tration (RIGR 3:3:224). His will of 13 November 1732 was pro. 11 Dec. 1732. Son James was named Exec. He left to son James a quarter of a farm in South Kingstown and to sons Peter and John the rest of the farm, equally, except 8 acres he gave to son Samuel and firewood off the rest. To dau. Ann Wells his best bed and privilege to live in the house with son James while single, £38 and etc. To dau. Rebecca Clarke, £8. To dau. Mary Wells, land and £8 at 20 yrs. of age. To dau. Dorcas a bed and £8 at age 20. Son Samuel to live with James until of age and James to keep a horse for his bro. Peter until Peter was of age. To son James, the rest of the movables. Inv. showed value of £379.10.6 and included a riding horse, 9 cows, heifer, 5 yearlings, mare, 37 sheep, 10 books, 3 beds, a gun, fowl, loom, and etc. On 1 Feb. 1733 his wid. gave a receipt to her stepson James. This receipt was for £8 due from PETER<sup>2</sup> to her dau. Sarah Barker (Austin, *op.cit.*, p. 438).

Children of PETER<sup>2</sup> and ANN (WATSON) WELLS, all born at South Kingstown:

- (9) i. JAMES<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 30 September 1706.
  - ii. ANN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 20 October 1708; m. 26 November 1735 at South Kingstown, THOMAS FRAZER.
  - iii. REBECCA<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 30 December 1710; m. 4 September 1731 at So. Kingstown, WILLIAM CLARKE.
  - (10) iv. PETER<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 4 May 1713.
  - (11) v. Col. JOHN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 14 April 1716.
  - vi. MARY<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 1718; m. 7 September 1738 at So. Kingstown, WILLIAM CRAWFORD of Warwick.
  - vii. DORCAS<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 17 September 1720; m. 4 May 1742 at Charlestown, JOSHUA RATHBONE.
  - viii. SAMUEL<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 2 February 1725/6; alive in 1732 (fa.'s will); n.f.r.
5. PETER<sup>3</sup> (THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, b. ca. 1696; d. early 1782; m. 11 December 1733 at East Greenwich, ELIZABETH SWEET, born 25 Feb. 1703/4 at E. Greenwich to Henry<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2-1</sup>) and Margaret Sweet acc. to the Sweet geneals. (Sanborn, 1929; Sweet, 1952). He m. 2nd, SUSANNAH CURTIS, no doubt a widow. He was at East Greenwich in 1755. He left a will dated 11 Dec. 1781, pro. 27 Apr 1782. In it he ment. wf. Susannah who was to get what she brought to the m. and sons Benjamin, Peter and Silas as well as dau. Elizabeth Crandall. He also ment. grson. George Wilson and grsons. George and Benjamin Wells. Finally, he ment.

## PETER WELLS FAMILY

Ann Wells, wid. of Thomas of East Greenwich, dec'd (RIGR 1:220). There is much confusion with regard to the marriage of daughter "Dinah" who changed her name to Elizabeth and m. a Crandall.

Children of PETER<sup>3</sup> and ELIZABETH (SWEET) WELLS, all registered at West Greenwich:

- i. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 5 April 1734 at W. Greenwich; d. before 1781 but not before 1777 when he res. at E. Greenwich; m. 9 Jun 1758 at Exeter, ANN BISSELL of Exeter, by Benjamin Reynolds, Justice. His wid. Ann was ment. in his fa.'s will. Did she m. 3 Nov. 1785 at West Greenwich, John Case?
- ii. DORCAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 30 October 1737 at No. Kingstown; m. 23 Sep 1758 JOSEPH REBEARNE and prob. m. 2nd, a WILSON. She had an illegit. son "alias" William Gilchrist on 25 January 1756 at West Greenwich. Wilson ch.: George (in her fa.'s will).
- iii. DINAH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, changed to ELIZABETH, b. 10 December 1739 at No. Kingstown; alive in 1781 (fa.'s will); may have m. 30 Apr 1760 at Westerly, JONATHAN CRANDALL, son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Crandall) Crandall (Crandall, 1949, p. 25.) if it was not Elizabeth<sup>4</sup> (Edward<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2-1</sup>) who m. him in which case she may have m. PETER CRANDALL, son of Peter and Susanna (Tefft) Crandall (Crandall, p. 38).
- iv. CALEB<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 18 July 1743 at No. Kingstown; prob. d. before 1781 as not in fa.'s will; res. at West Greenwich in 1774 with 2 males under 16, wife, and another female over 16, but there is no m. for him in the vital records.
- (12) v. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 24 December 1745 at W. Greenwich.
- vi. PETER<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 21 October 1748; m. 19 Nov 1769 at Exeter, MARGARET CLEVELAND, dau. of Palmer<sup>3</sup> (Edward<sup>2</sup>, Moses<sup>1</sup>) and Deborah (Gardner?) Cleveland, dec'd, by John Chapman, Justice. She was ment. in her fa.'s 1758 will, still unm. (Cleveland & Cleveland, 1899, 1:47). In 1774 he res. at East Greenwich and was still there in 1777. We found no ch. for him.
- viii. SILAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 22 January 1751; alive in 1781 (fa.'s will); n.f.r.



## PETER WELLS FAMILY

6. JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> (THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born about 1697 and he married on 10 July 1718 at East Greenwich, SARAH SWEET, daughter of James Sweet of Warwick.

Children of JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> and SARAH (SWEET) WELLS, all born at East Greenwich:

- i. SARAH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 1 September 1719.
  - ii. JAMES<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 25 October 1721.
  - iii. PETER<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1723; d. 16 September 1757 at East Greenwich; m. 2 July 1746 at East Greenwich, ELIZABETH SWEET, daughter of Richard Sweet of West Greenwich and she d. there 13 Sept. 1757. Ch.: unk. dau.; PETER (b. 21 Oct. 1748; prob. d.i.); SARAH ("second daughter," d. 18 Sept. 1757).
7. JOHN<sup>3</sup> (JOHN<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born about 1699, probably at North Kingstown, and died before his will of 2 February 1752 was proved at Glocester, RI, on 2 July 1770. His wife was MARY, said to be MARY WELLS, and he had sons Joseph and John who were under age at the time he wrote his will, a daughter Hannah Smith and a daughter Sarah Wells (RIGR 4:1:63). He was of Glocester, RI, in the 1754 census of registered voters (MacGunnigle, 1977) and d. there.

Children of JOHN<sup>3</sup> and MARY (WELLS?) WELLS as per. will of their father:

- i. HANNAH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1728; m. ---- SMITH.
  - ii. SARAH, b. ca. 1730; m. 4 May 1754 at Glocester, THOMAS WOOD.
  - iii. JOSEPH, b. 8 June 1731 at Providence.
  - iv. JOHN, b. ca. 1734; m. ca. 1755, MARY (----) and had at Glocester: ANNE, b. 8 May 1756; SARAH, b. 14 August 1758; HANNAH, b. 9 May 1763. He was registered for military service in 1777 at Providence with res. designated at Glocester.
8. BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> (JOHN<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, was born about 1701 at North Kingstown and died in 1798 at Foster, RI at the home of his son James. He was 97 yrs. old. He married 21 January 1730 at North Kingstown, MARY JORDAN ("Jurdan" in the record) who was born about 1710 at North Kingstown. Benjamin was made a free-man by the general Assembly at Newport on 1 May 1722 (Wright & Tuthill, *op. cit.*, p. 11) and in 1756 he moved from North Kingstown to Scituate where he was listed as over 60 in the 1777 military census. We

## PETER WELLS FAMILY

think he may be the fa. of MARY WELLS who m. 2 June 1757 at Scituate, PHILIP PARKER, but have no proof.

Children of BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup> and MARY (JORDAN) WELLS:

- i. ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 1733; d. unm. 7 March 1823 at Foster.
- (13) ii. JAMES<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 27 March 1734 at Kingstown.

9. JAMES<sup>3</sup> (PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, b. 30 September 1706; m. 22 April, 1731 at South Kingstown, MARY BARBER or MARY BARKER, m. perf. by Robert Hannah, Justice. There is great debate regarding wife MARY who is said to be a "Barker," dau. of Peter<sup>2</sup> (James<sup>1</sup>) and Freelove (Bliss) Barker (Barker, 1927), but in the account of the descendants of Moses<sup>1</sup> Barber of Kingstown it is stated that she was the daughter of William<sup>2</sup> and Mercy (Smith) Barber whereas Schroeder (1984) in her account of the descendants of Moses<sup>1</sup> Barber says that she was the dau. of William<sup>2</sup> by 2nd wf. Sarah (Mumford) Barber. We cannot resolve the question. James died at South Kingstown in Nov. of 1778 during the Revolution when he was a Capt. living in Hopkinton (RIGR 3:1:9). They had lived at Westerly where he was taxed in 1747 and 1748. On 12 Feb. 1753 he and wife Mary deeded land in Richmond to Benjamin Chase (RIGR 2:4:209). In 1775 he sold his Westerly homestead to John White-horn of Newport. He and Mary deeded over land in Hopkinton "for love" in 1762 to son Peter (40 acres), Barber (30 acres), and James (192 acres), he then of Hopkinton (RIGR 5:3:224). He left a will dated 16 March 1778 ("13th yr. of King George") which was proved at Hopkinton on 7 Dec. 1778. He named wife Mary, sons Barber, James, Peter, and Joshua, and daughter Barbara, now married to Joseph Noyes. (Note that the VR are in error with respect to last two ch.'s b. dates.)

Children of JAMES<sup>3</sup> and MARY (BARBER/BARKER?) WELLS all born at South Kingstown, Rhode Island:

- (14) i. JAMES<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 1 November 1732.
- ii. BARBARA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 1 August 1734; m. 31 July 1754 at Westerly, JOSEPH NOYES.
- iii. PETER<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 29 August 1737; m. 1 March 1759 at South Kingstown, he of Westerly, ELIZABETH CARPENTER of So. Kingstown, m. perf. by Joseph Crandall, Justice. Ch.: BARBARA (b. 17 Jan. 1760 at Hopkinton; m. 20 Jan. 1779 at Westerly, Nicholas Clarke).



PETER WELLS FAMILY

- (15) iv. BARBER<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 16 May 1740 (1750 in the VR).  
v. poss. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, d.y.  
v. JOSHUA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 4 August 1743 (1753 in the VR); m. SYLVIA CLARKE, b. 1750/1 to Christopher<sup>4</sup> (Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Joseph<sup>2-1</sup>) and Elizabeth (Bliss) Clarke and if so he d. 28 May 1834 in his 92nd yr. and hence b. ca. 1741/2. There is no rec. of ch. in RI, but in the 1777 military census he was at Hopkinton as was "Joshua, Jr." who was Joshua<sup>4</sup> (Thomas<sup>3-2-1</sup>), being the younger of the two in this place.

10. PETER<sup>3</sup> (PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, was born 4 May 1713 and was still alive in 1776. He married on 1 February 1736/7 at Warwick, ELIZABETH ARNOLD, dau. of Stephen<sup>4</sup> (Israel<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) and Sarah (Greene) Arnold, b. 16 Mar. 1710/11 and she died 29 Sept. 1739. He married second, 23 November 1740 at Warwick, RUTH SLOCUM, daughter of Ebenezer<sup>3</sup> (Giles<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>) and Naomi (Barton) Slocum (Slocum, 1882, p. 49). By 1753 he was at Cranston where he appeared in the 1774 census. He and wife Ruth made a deed for Exeter land to Benjamin Barton on 22 April 1776 (RIGR 20:380) and it may have been at this time that the family rem. to Cheshire, MA.

Children of PETER<sup>3</sup> and ELIZABETH (ARNOLD) WELLS:

- i. ANNA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 23 September 1736; d. 1819 at Cheshire, MA; m. 25 March 1753 at Cranston, STUKELY WESTCOTT, son of Stukely and Bethia (Westcott) Westcott (Arnold, 1935, p. 116).  
ii. ARNOLD<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 11 February 1737/8; m. 24 January 1762 at Warwick, BARBARA UTTER, dau. of William<sup>3</sup> (Zebulon<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>) and Barbara (Burlingame) Utter, he of Cranston in the rec. She was b. 1741 at Warwick (Waterman, Utter & Utter, 1941). He was not in the 1777 military census of RI.  
iii. ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 18 September 1739.

Children of PETER<sup>3</sup> and RUTH (SLOCUM) WELLS, all born at Warwick, Kent county, Rhode Island:

- (16) i. JOHN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 30 Nov 1744.  
ii. NAOMI<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 30 Mar 1747.  
iii. MARY<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 29 Feb 1748.  
iv. BARBARA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 28 Jan 1749; m. 7 September 1775 at Warwick, JOHN LOW. (see GRIF 1:544 for ch.)

## PETER WELLS FAMILY

- v. SAMUEL<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 5 Oct 1750. May be the Samuel who m. ELIZABETH COGGESHALL and had son WILLIAM b. ca. 1775 at Kingstown.

11. JOHN<sup>3</sup> (PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 14 April 1716 at South Kingston, RI. He married on 5 October 1740 at Warwick, BARBARA (HOLDEN) WICKES, widow of Richard Wickes and daughter of Charles, Jr. and Penelope (Bennett) Holden, born 13 Sept. 1717 (Greene, 1903, p. 80). He was at Warwick in the 1747 census of voters and in the census of 1774. In 1777 he was listed as over 60 and still at Warwick.

Children of JOHN<sup>3</sup> and BARBARA (HOLDEN)(Wickes) WELLS:

- i. PENELOPE<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 18 June 1741 at So. Kingstown; m. 20 March 1760 at Warwick, OLIVER GREENE, son of Barlow and Lydia (Hardin/Harding) Greene, b. 10 Sept. 1740 (Greene, 1903, p. 99).
  - ii. MARY<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 12 June 1743.
  - iii. CHARLES<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 2 March 1744/5; not in the 1777 military census.
  - iv. BARBARA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 28 July 1749; m. 13 May 1767 at Warwick, NATHANIEL FROTHINGHAM.
  - v. ANSTRESS HOLDEN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 19 April 1752; unkm. in 1782, but by 1798 m. to ---- BRATON (GRIF, 1989, 1:543).
  - vi. JOHN HOLDEN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 12 September 1755.
12. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> (PETER<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 24 December 1745 at West Greenwich, RI and was alive in 1781 (fa.'s will); m. ca. 1764, SARAH REYNOLDS; res. at West Greenwich in 1774. He was not in the 1777 military census.

Children of BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> and SARAH (REYNOLDS) WELLS:

- i. ELIZABETH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 31 March 1765; m. PETER CRANDALL of West Greenwich.
- ii. SUSANNA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 23 April 1767.
- iii. SARAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 10 December 1768.
- iv. JOANNA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 21 October 1770.
- v. MARTHA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 2 June 1772.
- vi. LYDIA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 15 January 1774; may have m. NOAH BAKER.
- vii. ANNA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 23 April 1775.
- viii. ISABEL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. November 1776.
- ix. BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 6 March 1778.
- x. GEORGE<sup>5</sup> R. WELLS, b. 10 December 1779.

10 ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY



## PETER WELLS FAMILY

- xi. DAVID<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 15 January 1781.
- xii. PETER<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 20 August 1787.

13. JAMES<sup>4</sup> (BENJAMIN<sup>3</sup>, JOHN<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 27 March 1734 at North Kingstown, RI, and he died 4 September 1823 at Foster, RI. He married in 1756, MARTHA SLOCUM, poss. dau. of Peleg<sup>5</sup> (Giles<sup>4</sup>, Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Giles<sup>2</sup>, Anthony<sup>1</sup>) and Avis (Stanton) Slocum, b. 9 June 1731 at Newport (Slocum, *op.cit.*, p. 88); m. 2nd, 15 November 1761 at Coventry, FREELOVE AYLESWORTH, dau. of Philip, who remembered her in his 14 Nov. 1789 will (RIGR 3:3:274). She d. in April of 1815. On 23 Oct. 1769 he bought from Thomas Fenner a small farm on Howard Hill at Scituate, RI, this farm later in Foster, and res. there the rest of his life. He served in the militia 1775-1785 and was made a Lt. (This family from Wright & Tuthill.)

### Children of JAMES<sup>4</sup> and MARTHA (SLOCUM) WELLS:

- i. WAITY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 1757; d. 11 April 1841 at Enfield, CT, to which she rem. after the d. of her husb.; m. SAMUEL FOSTER, b. 1746 and d. 1816, son of Stephen and Lydia (Blanchard) Foster (Crandall, 1942, p. 10). She d. in a Shaker community.
- ii. JOHN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 14 February 1759; d. 9 March 1842 at Hartwick, NY.

### Children of JAMES<sup>4</sup> and FREELOVE (AYLESWORTH) WELLS:

- iii. PHILIP<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 1763; m. ELIZABETH GREENE.
- iv. BENJAMIN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, d. 1835; m. 30 Mar. 1788 at Foster, RI, PHEBE MANCHESTER.
- v. JOSHUA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 1767; d. 1835 in Otsego co., NY; m. ANNE MANCHESTER. Is he poss. the Joshua, age 80, who in 1850 was in Madison co., NY, with son GEORGE and dau.-in-law Olive (RIGR 4:2:102)?
- vi. CALEB<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 18 February 1790 at Foster, ROSANNE PETERSON.
- vii. ESTHER<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. ca. 1801, THOMAS FOSTER.
- viii. MARY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 17 January 1802, NATHAN KING.
- ix. PHEBE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 12 January 1806, NATHANIEL GREENE.
- x. JAMES<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 3 November 1797 at Foster, LYDIA MANCHESTER.
- xi. SUSANNAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 7 August 1780; m. PARDON ANGEL.
- xii. FREELOVE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 22 October 1815, PELEG DAMON.

PETER WELLS FAMILY

14. JAMES<sup>4</sup> (JAMES<sup>3</sup>, PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 1 November 1732 at South Kingstown, RI, and died in 1809. He married ca. 1756/7, RUTH, prob. HANNAH. He and wife Ruth deeded Richmond land to Desire Hannah of South Kingston, spinster, on 12 Dec. 1757 (RIGR 3:1:65). This same Desire Hannah left a will 26 April 1778 at Hopkinton mentioning the wife of James who was prob. her sis. James<sup>4</sup> left a will dated 16 Feb. 1810, pro. at Hopkinton 19 Apr. 1810 (Bk. 4, p. 192). He ment ch. George, Polly, Nancy, Hannah, and James, Jr. He was listed as living at Westerly in 1755, Hopkinton in 1774, and 1777 at which latter time he was over 60.

Children of JAMES<sup>4</sup> and RUTH (HANNAH?) WELLS, all born at Hopkinton, Rhode Island:

- i. ELIZABETH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 14 June 1758; not in fa.'s will.
  - ii. JAMES<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 7 January 1760. He is prob. the James who was a pvt. in the Revolution and d. 29 April 1835 at Hopkinton leaving wid. ANN who appt. Benjamin Thurston her atty. to claim his pension on 7 Dec. 1835 (Gunning, 1999. p. 261).
  - iii. ROBERT<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 26 November 1761; not in fa.'s will.
  - iv. GEORGE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 9 November 1763; m. 15 Oct 1789 by Elder Joshua Clarke of Westerly, LYDIA DODGE, dau. of Oliver and Dorothy Dodge, ment. in her fa.'s 10 Apr. 1811 will (RIGR 4:336).
  - v. POLLY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 4 April 1767; may be the Mary who m. at South Kingstown, SHERMAN BAKER.
  - vi. HANNAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 16 April 1769.
  - viii. RUTH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 6 September 1770; not in fa.'s will.
  - ix. ANNA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 5 March 1774; not in fa.'s will.
  - x. NANCY<sup>5</sup> WELLS (from will; no. b. rec.).
15. BARBER<sup>4</sup> (JAMES<sup>3</sup>, PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 16 May 1740 at South Kingstown, RI, and died in 1786. He married REBECCA CLARKE. He left a will dated 10 May 1786, pro. 3 July 1786 at Hopkinton (RIGR 4:2:140) naming wf. Rebecca, son Clarke under 21, Barber under 21, and John as well as dau. Susannah under 18. He is listed in the 1774 census at Hopkinton, but is not in the 1777 military census.

## PETER WELLS FAMILY

Children of BARBER<sup>4</sup> and REBECCA (CLARKE) WELLS:

- i. JOHN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1764 (of age at fa.'s will).
- ii. CLARKE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1766 (under age at fa.'s will).
- iii. BARBER<sup>5</sup> WELLS; b. ca. 1768 (under age at fa.'s will); m. 26 September 1799 at Hopkinton, FRANCES STILLMAN, she "Fannie" in the rec. Had at Hopkinton: PHEBE (b. 19 Aug. 1800); JOHN ALDRICH (b. 17 Nov. 1801).
- iv. SUSANNAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1770 (under 18 at fa.'s will); m. 27 February 1791 at South Kingstown, ROBERT BROWN, Jr. Had a son George W. Brown who m. Sarah Slocum (Slocum, *op.cit.*, p. 173) and prob. others.

16. JOHN<sup>4</sup> (PETER<sup>3</sup>, PETER<sup>2</sup>, PETER<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 30 November 1744 at Warwick, RI, and married 23 Dec 1770 at Warwick, SARAH HOLDEN, marr. perf. by Elder Charles Holden. She was the dau. of Col. Randall and Rose (Wicks) Holden whose fa. left her £1000 and furniture in his will in 1785 (Putnam, 1923). John appeared in the 1774 census at Warwick and was over 60 in the 1777 military census of Warwick.

Children of JOHN<sup>4</sup> and SARAH (HOLDEN) WELLS:

- i. CHARLES<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 6 January 1772; d. before 1800 when his wid. m. William Greene; m. 22 Mar 1795 at Warwick, ROSANNA LOW and had dau. HARRIET who m. Simon Ray (Greene & Clark, 1903, p. 391).
- ii. ROSE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 10 Aug 1773.
- iii. RANDALL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 3 Apr 1776; m., if she was not the wf. of Randall, son of Edward<sup>3</sup>, Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>) for whom see the Thomas Wells family, PATIENCE COON/MACCOON.

THOMAS WELLS of Westerly, Rhode Island

Savage (4:478f.) tells us that THOMAS<sup>1</sup> WELLS was in New London, Connecticut, in 1648 and after 1661 removed to Ipswich where he was a ship builder and had a grant of land in 1649. In 1677 he bargained with Amos Richardson to build a vessel for him at Stonington, Conn., which resulted in a lawsuit in 1680 about which more further. At that time he had two sons, Joseph, age 22 and Thomas 17 who were witnesses. He later removed to Westerly, Rhode Island, where he died on 12 February 1700. His will of 27 December 1699 named Joseph, Thomas, Mary, Ruth,



## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

Sarah, John and Nathaniel. His wife was NAOMI MARSHALL, daughter of Edmund<sup>1</sup> and Millicent (Blieman) Marshall, baptized at Salem on 24 January 1637. Their marriage took place 22 February 1654/5 at Salem, Mass.

Austin (p. 218) notes that his oldest son, Joseph, was born at Boston on 7 June 1656 and that in July of 1677 THOMAS<sup>1</sup> bought 180 acres of Amos Richardson of Stonington, Conn., agreeing to pay him for it by building one or more vessels of fifty tons in all. His contract with Richardson called him "of Ipswich, shipwright." The land purchased was on the east side of the Pawcatuck River and thus was in territory long in dispute between Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 1679 THOMAS<sup>1</sup> came to Westerly although he had been there a year earlier and was warned off by the Rhode Island authorities as an intruder for which reason he refused to fulfill his contract with Richardson until Richardson made good his title to the land. On 17 September 1679 he took the oath of allegiance to Rhode Island. In March of 1680 he was arrested and imprisoned on the suit of Richardson who laid damages at £300. Coincidentally, the constable was Stephen Richardson, son of Amos, and the authorities of Rhode Island retaliated on behalf of THOMAS<sup>1</sup> by arresting the Connecticut constable (Richardson) and imprisoning him from July to October since the constable had no authority in Rhode Island.

His verbal will of 27 December 1699 was proved on 12 February 1700 at Westerly, wife NAOMI named as Executor. He called son Joseph "eldest son" and stated that he had already had his portion. Son Thomas had also received his portion in a horse and neat cattle valued at £7. His eldest daughter Mary, daughters Ruth and Sarah Wells, and sons John and Nathaniel had all had their portions. Wife NAOMI was to have the rest of the estate for life and sons Thomas, John and Nathaniel were to "take the best care you can of her" and after her death these three sons were to receive the remainder of the estate. Inventory showed value of £8.16 consisting of a cow, mare, swine, bedding, wearing clothes and a spinning wheel.

As we noted in the introduction to these families, it has been said that THOMAS<sup>1</sup> was born in 1626 in Colchester, England, son of Nathaniel who was born in 1600 and died in 1681 in Rhode Island. This Nathaniel was said to be the son of a Thomas born 1566 at Essex, Lancashire, England. This ancestry was evidently provided by an Albert Wells of New York, descendant of Nathaniel<sup>2</sup> (Thomas<sup>1</sup>) and has been passed along by others. We have no assurance that this construction is correct.

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

In the list of free Inhabitants of the "towne of westerle" on 3 March 1679/80 are listed Thomas Wells sen. lot 40 and Thomas, Jun. lot 47 (NEHGR, 12:1), but since Thomas<sup>2</sup> was not born until 1661, he would have been only 19. We cannot account for this listing. The town of Westerly was established in 1685 and in 1757, the town of Hopkinton was set off from the northern part of it (Griswold, 1877).

### Children of THOMAS<sup>1</sup> and NAOMI (MARSHALL) WELLS:

- i. JOSEPH<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 7 June 1656 at Boston, MA; d. 26 October 1711 at Groton, CT; m. 28 December 1681, HANNAH REYNOLDS of New London, CT, dau. of John Reynolds. Joseph, like his father, was a ship builder and, indeed, he is ment. by Denison (1878, p. 57) as "the first shipwright in this vicinity [Westerly]" and it is said that he built a ship in 1681, this vessel called "Alexander and Martha" and to be sailed from New London. Joseph moved early to Groton, becoming the first ship builder on the Mystic River. He left a will dated 21 Oct. 1711, pro. 12 Feb. 1712, naming son Joseph Exec. and giving to wife Hannah the house and land along with the orchard, etc., for life for her maintenance. To son Joseph he left all lands and etc. after the d. of his wife, he to take care of her for life. He also gave sons John and Thomas some land and dau. Anne all his cattle at m. except for one cow for his wife's use and also the household stuff after his wife d. In 1712, John and Joseph res. at Groton and were listed as freemen there (Hurd, 1882, p. 423). Ch.: Joseph; John; Thomas; Anne. (Ed. Note: Despite a search of the VR of CT, we have been unable to identify mates or ch. for any of the descendants of Joseph<sup>2</sup>.)
- (2) ii. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 4 December 1661 at Boston, MA.
- iii. MARY<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 15 April 1665 at Boston, MA; d.s.p. 12 January 1693 at Stonington, CT; m. 15 December 1690, EZEKIEL MAIN, Jr. Ch.: Ezekiel, Jr., b. 15 Dec 1689; d. 24 Dec 1691. Ezekiel m. 2nd, 22 Oct 1695, Hannah Rose and d. 20 Oct 1715 at Stonington, CT, leaving a large fam. by his 2nd wf.
- iv. RUTH<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1666/7, prob. at Ipswich, MA; m. ca. 1690, JAMES<sup>2</sup> (James<sup>1</sup>) KENYON, b. 4 July 1657 in Lancashire, ENG (Kenyon, 1935, p.

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- 55). Kenyon ch.: Sarah (m. Samuel Crandall); James; Thomas (m. Mary Ladd); Ebenezer (m. Amie [----] & Elizabeth [----]); John (m. Abigail Ladd); Ruth; Peter (m. Naomi Wells, dau. of Nathaniel<sup>2</sup>).
- v. SARAH<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. 27 August 1668 at Ipswich; alive in 1699 (fa.'s will).
- vi. JOHN<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1670 at Ipswich, MA. He is said to have m. a MARY (GRIF, 1989, 2:682). He was presented at court for killing sundry swine of George Denison's on 12 June 1688, but the jury found him not guilty. (Ed. note: some desc. say that he m. 31 Oct. 1698 at Boston, ELIZA BICKFORD, but we question this assertion. He could have been the John who m. 15 Dec. 1698 at Stratford, CT, MARY JUDSON, but that is speculation and we have n.f.i.)
- (3) vii. NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1672 at Ipswich, MA.
2. THOMAS<sup>2</sup> (THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 4 December 1661 at Boston. He died 29 June 1716 at Westerly, Rhode Island. He married about 1693, probably at Westerly, SARAH, maiden name unknown although many believe her to be Sarah Rogers whom we believe to be the wf. of Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>. He left a will dated 11 April 1716, proved 9 July 1716, making Sarah Executrix. Overseers were to be brother Nathaniel and Joseph Maxson. He gave Sarah, while widow, use of best room, a cow, young mare, and best bed and she was to have a third of homestead this being the part that belonged to son Edward. To sons Thomas and Edward, land where he lived to be divided. The sons received other property and daughter Sarah got a parcel of sheep, cow, and household stuff. Inventory showed value of £165.19 consisting of 6 oxen, 6 cows, 4 calves, 3 horses, 14 sheep, 2 lambs, 3 hogs, 9 pigs, clothes, 3 beds, silver money, cards and etc.
- Children of THOMAS<sup>2</sup> and SARAH (----) WELLS:
- (4) i. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 12 February 1692.
- (5) ii. EDWARD<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 1694.
- iii. SARAH<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 1696; alive in 1716 (fa.'s will).
3. NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> (THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS, was born about 1672 at Ipswich, Mass. and died before 1 May 1769 (probate) at Hopkinton, Rhode Island. He married about 1706, MARY CRANDALL who was born about 1686 at Newport,



# THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

Rhode Island to the Rev. Joseph and Deborah (Burdick) Crandall, and she died in 1763. He left a will dated 5 July 1763, proved 1 May 1769, Executor son Jonathan. He left to daughter Naomi Kenyon, daughter Tacy Burdick, and son Jonathan. Inventory valued goods at £16.1.3. (Ref.: Crandall, 1949, p. 11.)

Children of NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup> and MARY (CRANDALL) WELLS, first five in Westerly, RI, rec.:

- i. NAOMI<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 11 May 1707; m. 15 September 1726 at Westerly, PETER KENYON, son of James and Ruth (Wells) Kenyon. He was b. 1704 and d. 23 Sept. 1746. Kenyon ch.: Peter (m. Annie Arnold); Nathaniel (m. Eleanor Utter); Mary; James. (Ref.: Kenyon, *op. cit.*, p. 66).
- ii. ELIZABETH<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 9 January 1709/10; not in fa.'s will.
- (6) iii. JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 22 June 1712.
- iv. TACY<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 4 Jan. 1714/5; m. ca. 1734, HUBBARD BURDICK. Burdick ch.: Thankful; Hubbard; Nathaniel; Elijah; Parker; Rufus; Tacy; Abel; Joseph.
- v. RUTH<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 6 Sept. 1717; presum d. before her fa. as not in his will.
- vi. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 1719; d.y.
- vii. DEBORAH<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1720/1; said to have d.y. and prob. before 1763 (fa.'s will), but acc. to Crandall (*op.cit.*, p. 12), she was the Deborah who m. 13 March 1740 at Stonington, CT, THOMAS PARTELOW.

- 4. THOMAS<sup>3</sup> (THOMAS<sup>2-1</sup>) WELLS was born 12 February 1692 at Westerly, Rhode Island and he died in 1770 at Hopkinton by which time he had conveyed all his land to his sons. He married on 22 September 1717 at Stonington, Conn. by Daniel Palmer, Justice, PHEBE GREENE, daughter of Benjamin<sup>2</sup> (John<sup>1</sup>) and Humility (Coggeshall) Greene, born about 1698 at Portsmouth, RI (Coggeshall & Coggeshall, 1934, p. 16), her fa. leaving to her in his will of 7 January 1718 (pro. 24 April 1719) as the wife of Thomas Wells (RIGR 1:2:86). On 12 Sept. 1757 Thomas sold 8 acres of land in Hopkinton to son Caleb of Westerly for love (RIGR 4:4:314). On 15 August 1758 he of Hopkinton received £10 for 10 acres of land bounded by Thomas Wells, Jr. and John Robinson from the Colony Trustees and on 2 July 1759 there was an Indenture of Lease to him for his "natural life" from Caleb Wells, Joshua Wells, Nathaniel Wells, Jr. all of

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

Hopkinton and Thomas Wells of Jamestown (RIGR 5:1:3). On 7 January 1759 he of Hopkinton sold "for love" to his son Nathaniel of Hopkinton 25 acres bounded by Joshua Wells, Capt. John Maxson and Thomas Wells, Jr. (RIGR 5:1:4). Edward Wells, Jr. was a witness. On 7 January 1759 he sold "for love" to his son Joshua of Hopkinton 25 acres bounded by Caleb Wells, Thomas Wells, Jr. and Capt. John Maxson (RIGR 5:1:6). (See also Greene, 1894, p. 12f.)

Children of THOMAS<sup>3</sup> and PHEBE (GREENE) WELLS:

- i. PHEBE<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 7 October 1718 at Westerly; m. 24 October 1735 at Westerly, CHRISTOPHER EDWARDS, b. 30 Mar 1715 at Stonington, CT.
- ii. LOIS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 30 November 1720 at Westerly; m. 7 March 1739 at Westerly, THOMAS ROSS, b. 11 Sept. 1719 at Westerly, RI to William<sup>2</sup> (William<sup>1</sup>) and Anne (Lewis) Ross. He rem. to Great Barrington, MA, and remar. (RIGR 3:1:47). (She is mistakenly listed as "Lewis" in the b. rec.)
- (7) iii. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 5 April 1723 at Westerly.
- iv. BENJAMIN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 23 November 1727 at Westerly. He is prob. the Benjamin who in the 1774 census was at West Greenwich as was bro. Caleb.
- v. CALEB<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 15 May 1731 at Westerly; m. 18 January 1748/9, LOIS COON/MACCOON by Benjamin Randall, Justice. He was a freeman at Hopkinton when it was formed in 1757. By 7 Jan. 1759 he and bro. Nathaniel, both of Hopkinton, had built tan works in partnership on Caleb's land and half the profits were to go to Nathaniel and his heirs as long as it operated. He was in West Greenwich in 1774 with one male under 16 and one extra female over 16. He was not in the 1777 military census of RI nor was son William. Known ch. LOIS; WILLIAM (m. Ruth Burdick).
- vi. JOSHUA<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 29 October 1733 at Hopkinton; m. 15 February 1759 at Stonington, CT, ELIZABETH "Dartts" (DART?) of Stonington by Elder Waite Palmer. In 1774 and 1777 he res. at Hopkinton where he was listed as "Joshua, Jr" since he was younger than Joshua<sup>4</sup> (James<sup>3</sup>, Peter<sup>2-1</sup>) who was also there. Ch.: GARDNER (b. 20 Mar. 1770; m. 23 Dec. 1792 at Voluntown, CT, Wealthy Gallup); JOSHUA, Jr. (b. 17 July 1771) and prob. more. (Greene, 1894, p. 10, says

THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- Joshua<sup>4</sup> m. Elizabeth Partelow and was a clergyman).
- vii. SARAH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 21 August 1735; m. 4 May 1754 at Glocester, THOMAS WOOD.
  - (8) viii. NATHANIEL<sup>4</sup> WELLS, "Nathan" in the b. rec., b. 12 February 1737.
  - ix. NAOMI<sup>3</sup> WELLS, b. 12 February 1737, twin to Nathaniel; n.f.r. and prob. d.i.
5. EDWARD<sup>3</sup> (THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born in 1694 at Westerly, Rhode Island and he died before 17 December 1765 at Hopkinton, leaving a will dated 22 August 1764 and proved 17 December 1765. He married on 12 January 1725/6 at Stonington, CT, also recorded at Westerly, Rhode Island, ELIZABETH RANDALL of Stonington, John Richmond, Justice, offic. Witnesses were Thomas and Joshua Wells and John Maxson, Jr. (RIGR 4:2:137). In 1748 he and son Edward lived at Westerly in the part later set off as Hopkinton. He was appt. Sealer of Weights and Measures and Viewer of Lumber. On 8 April 1761 he deeded 10 acres at Hopkinton "for love to son Thomas Taylor" (RIGR, 5:3:217). His will left to wife Elizabeth, to sons Hazard, Edward, David, Matthew, Thomas and Randall and to daughter Sarah (unmarried) and two daughters not named. He also left to grandson Stephen. (Ed. Note: If he had a dau. who m. a Thomas Taylor we have found no record of her.)

Children of EDWARD<sup>3</sup> and ELIZABETH (CRANDALL) WELLS:

- i. HAZARD<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1724; alive in 1764 (named in fa.'s will).
- (9) ii. EDWARD<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 23 February 1726/7 at Westerly, RI.
- (10) iii. JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 16 April 1729 at Westerly.
- iv. DAVID<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 20 July 1731 at Westerly; m. 12 May 1756 at Stonington, CT, ANNA LANGWORTHY, dau. of Thomas<sup>3</sup> (Robert<sup>2-1</sup>) and Content (Sanford) Langworthy and she d. 18 Sept. 1756 (Langworthy, 1940, p. 97) ; m. 2nd, HANNAH STILLMAN. On 11 Oct. 1756 he and wife Anna (Hannah) sold 21 acres of land in Hopkinton to Samuel Maxson of Westerly (RIGR 5:1:2).
- v. ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 13 October 1733 at Westerly; may be the Elizabeth who m. 5 January 1758 at Hopkinton, JONATHAN CRANDALL if it was not Elizabeth (formerly Dinah), dau. of Peter<sup>3</sup> (Thomas<sup>2</sup>, Peter<sup>1</sup>) q.v. If so, she was b. six years before he was (16 Feb. 1739/40) and he



# THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- m. at age 18. Crandall (1949, p. 57) says that Elizabeth, wife of Jonathan (b. to Joseph and Elizabeth [Crandall] Crandall) was b. 10 Dec. 1739 which would favor the other Elizabeth. Crandall also says they m. 30 April 1760 which would make sense because their first ch., Tryphena, was b. 29 Apr. 1761. However, the other Elizabeth lived in West Greenwich.
- (11) vi. MATTHEW<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 17 February 1735/6 at Westerly.
  - (12) vii. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 13 September 1738 at Westerly.
  - viii. MARY<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 17 October 1740; m. 16 December 1761 at Hopkinton, OLIVER CLARKE.
  - ix. JOHN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 4 June 1742; prob. d. before fa. as not in his will.
  - x. THANKFUL<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 6 December 1745; m. 26 December 1762 at Hopkinton, SIMEON HISCOCK; m. 2nd, 6 January 1765 at Richmond, EDWARD LILLIBRIDGE (she surnamed "Wells" in the rec.). Lillibridge ch.: Dorcas; Mary; Patience; Lydia; Edward; Amos (m. Phoebe Hoxsie) (GRIF 1:64).
  - (13) xi. RANDALL<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 30 September 1747.
  - xii. SARAH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 26 July 1751.
6. JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> (NATHANIEL<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup> WELLS was born 22 June 1712 at Westerly, RI, and d. before 4 April 1785 at Hopkinton when his will of 5 Mar 1772 was proved. He m. 29 November 1734 at Westerly, Elder John Maxson offic., ELIZABETH MAXSON, dau. of Joseph<sup>3</sup> (John<sup>2</sup>, Richard<sup>1</sup>) and Tacy (Burdick) Maxson by whom he had a son Jonathan who d.i.; m. 2nd, REBECCA, maiden name unk. He was still m. to Elizabeth on 24 April 1747 when her fa. named her in his will. He res. at Westerly in 1753. He and sons Elnathan and Jonathan, Jr. were witnesses to the 29 April 1765 will of Joseph Lawton of Hopkinton (RIGR 4:2:137). He and sons were in the 1777 military census at Hopkinton, he over 60 yrs. of age. His ch. are said to be by his 2nd wf.

## Children of JONATHAN<sup>3</sup> and REBECCA (-----) WELLS:

- i. ELNATHAN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, *d.s.p.* before 20 August 1804 when will of 2 July 1804 was pro. in which he ment. his fa. Jonathan and sis. Elizabeth Babcock, wife of Peleg, and her ch. (RIGR 5:3:279). In 1777 he res. at Hopkinton.
- ii. JONATHAN<sup>4</sup> WELLS, m. 6 Jun 1767 by John Maxson, Justice, at Hopkinton, AMY ROGERS. He was in

# THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

the military census at Hopkinton in 1777 with his bro. Elnathan. Ch. b. at Hopkinton: ELIZABETH (b. 11 Feb. 1769); MARY (b. 29 Oct. 1773).  
 iii. ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> WELLS, b. 11 February 1769; m. 18 Jun 1789 at Hopkinton, PELEG BABCOCK.

7. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> (THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was b. 5 April 1723 at Westerly, RI and he d. before 7 November 1796; m. 3 April 1745, SARAH THOMPSON. On 24 Mar. 1761 he bought from William Guile of Hopkinton, 67 acres which on 4 Sept. that yr. he and wife Sarah sold to his bro. Nathaniel (RIGR 5:3:223). It was he who did the military census for Hopkinton in 1777, submitting it on 19 Apr. He served as town clerk for Hopkinton from 1767 to 1770, in 1776, from 1778 to 1782, and in 1790 (Griswold, *op.cit.*). He was also a Deputy from Hopkinton to the General Assembly at Newport from 1769 to 1772 and in 1774 and 1775. He left a will at Hopkinton dated 5 Oct. 1778, pro. 7 Nov. 1796. In it he left to wf. Sarah, sons Thompson, Henry, Thomas and Amos and daus. Lois Lewis, Sarah Lewis, Eunice Rathbun and Phebe Wells (RIGR 5:2:275).

Children of THOMAS<sup>4</sup> and SARAH (THOMPSON) WELLS:

- (14) i. THOMPSON<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1746.  
 ii. HENRY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1748; m. MERCY LITTLEFIELD.
  - (15) iii. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1750.  
 iv. AMOS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1752; m. BETSEY GRIFFEN. He was in the 1777 military census at Hopkinton.  
 v. LOIS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1754; m. 16 January 1772 at Hopkinton, BERIAH LEWIS.  
 vi. SARAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1756; m. 28 April 1777 at Hopkinton, ISRAEL LEWIS.  
 vii. EUNICE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1758; m. 28 June 1784 at Hopkinton, JOHN RATHBUN.  
 viii. PHEBE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1760; m. JOSEPH POTTER, b. 16 Feb. 1759 to George and Content (Maxson) Potter (Brown, 1956).
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8. NATHAN(IEL)<sup>4</sup> (THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born 12 February 1737 at Hopkinton and d. at Scituate before 12 March 1764 (date of pro. of will of 21 May 1759); m. 9 March 1758 at Hopkinton, MARY THURSTON, b. 27 Aug. 1737 at Little Compton to George and Keziah Thurston. He was called "Jr." in RI rec. because he was younger than uncle Nathaniel who did not die until 1769. On 2 Jan. 1761 he and Mary sold 16 acres

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

at Hopkinton, bound by James Wells, Francis West, and George Thurston, to Thomas West (RIGR 5:3:219). On 2 July 1761 he and Mary sold other land to Francis West (RIGR 5:3:22). In his will he left to wife Mary, sons John, Nathaniel and Shadrack, and dau. Lovel Felt (RIGR 4:1:82). According to Greene (1894, p. 13) he had ch. George, Keziah, Nathaniel and others. If one adds John, Shadrack and Lovel, this makes for six children, all born between 1758 and 1764, a period of six years which seems strange and, in fact, this will is dated in 1759 by which time he had had three children in one year! Is there another Nathaniel??

### Possible Children of NATHANIEL<sup>4</sup> and MARY (THURSTON) WELLS:

- i. JOHN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1758; m. RUTH BURDICK.
- ii. NATHANIEL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1760.
- iii. SHADRACK<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1762.
- iv. LOVEL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1763/4; m. ---- FELT.
- v. GEORGE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. unk.; not in fa.'s will if this is his fa.
- vi. KEZIAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. unk.; not in fa.'s will if this is his fa.

9. EDWARD<sup>4</sup> (EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was b. 23 February 1726/7 at Westerly, RI, and he m. 25 December 1749 at Hopkinton by Benjamin Randall, Justice, ELIZABETH SHEFFIELD, b. 1 Oct. 1728 at Westerly. He d. in 1798. Cutter (*op. cit.*, p. 2087) says he was b. at Hopkinton, but his b. is in the VR of Westerly. He was a Lt. in the Fourth Co. of Westerly and in 1757-8 was Capt. of the Second Co. of Hopkinton. He was also a deputy to the General Assembly from Hopkinton from 1758 to 1761 and in 1767-68. From 1786 to 1789 he was a justice of the inferior Ct. of common pleas and general sessions of the peace for Washington co. He appeared in the 1777 military census at Hopkinton age 50-60.

### Children of EDWARD<sup>4</sup> and ELIZABETH (SHEFFIELD) WELLS, most being recorded at Hopkinton:

- i. SARAH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 19 & d. 21 November 1750.
- ii. CATHERINE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 23 October 1752.
- iii. STEPHEN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 4 April 1754.
- iv. SHEFFIELD<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 21 December 1755; d. 11 November 1759.



THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- v. LUCY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 18 September 1757; prob. the TACY WELLS who m. 19 December 1782 at Hopkinton, PERRY BURDICK.
- vi. CYNTHIA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 22 September 1759 at Westerly; prob. m. STEPHEN RANDALL.
- vii. FANNIE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 19 January 1761; m. cousin ELIAS WELLS.
- (16) viii. EDWARD SHEFFIELD<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 9 June 1765 at Westerly.

10. JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> (EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup> THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 16 April 1729 at Westerly, RI and he d. before his fa. who d. in 1765. He m. ca. 1755, MERCY LILLIBRIDGE of Westerly.

Children of JOSEPH<sup>4</sup> and MERCY (LILLIBRIDGE) WELLS born at Hopkinton, RI:

- i. MARY/MERCY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 11 October 1756; m. BENJAMIN HOXSIE.
- (17) ii. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 6 February 1758.
- iii. THANKFUL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 23 March 1761; m. 15 October 1780, ZEBULON PENDLETON.
- iv. JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 18 May 1763.

11. MATTHEW<sup>4</sup> (EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 17 February 1735/6 at Westerly, RI, and he m. 5 January 1758 at Hopkinton, BRIDGET BURDICK, Joshua Clarke, Justice offic.; m. 2nd, 18 December 1788 at Hopkinton by Elder John Burdick, ELIZABETH COON, dau. of David Coon. His 1st four ch. were b. at Hopkinton.

Children of MATTHEW<sup>4</sup> and BRIDGET (BURDICK) WELLS:

- i. ELISHA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 19 September 1758; m. 28 June 1787 at Westerly by Elder Isaiah Wilcox, EUNICE WILCOX, dau. of David Wilcox of Westerly, dec'd. Elisha and his bro. Elias were at Hopkinton in 1777 for the military census, both between 16 and 50. Ch. b. at Westerly: EUNICE (b. 31 Mar. 1788); ELISHA (b. 20 Aug. 1789); AMEY (28 Jan. 1791).
- ii. BATHSHEBA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 6 July 1760; m. ---- SEAMAN.
- iii. JOHN<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 3 December 1763; m. 16 June 1788 at Hopkinton, SARAH RIDER and had dau. BATHSHEBA b. 19 Apr. 1789 there.
- iv. ELIAS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 3 Jan 1762/3; m. cousin FANNIE WELLS, dau. of Edward<sup>4</sup>.
- v. ALEANJA ORCANUS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1766.

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- vi. CATLEY WELCOME<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1768.
- vii. PARDON<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1769; m. HANNAH HAKES.
- viii. NELLIE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1770.
- ix. MATTHEW<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 18 December 1788; m. 15 October 1813 at Hopkinton, WELATHA BURDICK.

12. THOMAS<sup>4</sup> (EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 13 September 1738 at Westerly and he m. 17 September 1761 at Richmond, RI, SARAH CLARKE who was b. 15 June 1745 at Richmond, RI. All their ch. were b. at Richmond.

### Children of THOMAS<sup>4</sup> and SARAH (CLARKE) WELLS:

- i. CLARKE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 8 July 1762.
- ii. JOSEPH<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 2 September 1764; m. SYLVIA WELLS, dau of Randall, and rem. to OH.
- iii. DAVID<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 2 April 1766.
- iv. MARY<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 2 December 1768; m. 1 January 1788 at Hopkinton, JOB. B. CLARKE.
- v. ANNE<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 1 Jan 1770.

13. RANDALL<sup>4</sup> (EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 30 September 1747 at Westerly, RI and he d. in 1821. He m. ca. 1770, LOIS MAXSON. He served as town treasurer from 1806 to 1811. He left a will dated 2 July 1821, pro. 5 Nov. 1821. He named ch. Sylvia, Randall, Harris, Thomas V., and Barton. His ch. are rec. at Hopkinton which was formed from Westerly and he appeared at Hopkinton in the 1777 military census age 16-50.

### Children of RANDALL<sup>4</sup> and LOIS (MAXSON) WELLS:

- i. RUSSELL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1771; m. 5 Aug 1802 by Joseph Potter, Justice, LYDIA CRANDALL, dau. of Phineas Crandall.
- ii. SYLVIA<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1773; m. cousin JOSEPH WELLS. This couple is ment. in Denison (*op. cit.*, p. 148) as being among those who rem. to Muskingum co., OH, and Sylvia is reported as having twice made the journey back to Westerly by horseback.
- iii. RANDALL<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1775; may have m. PATIENCE COON/MACCOON if it was not Randall, son of John<sup>4</sup> (Peter<sup>3-2-1</sup>) who m. her.
- iv. BARTON<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1781. He m. and had a son Randall ment. in his fa.'s will.
- v. HARRIS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, b. 22 Jan 1783.
- vi. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> WELLS, m. 1820, SUSAN WELLS.

# THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

14. THOMPSON<sup>5</sup> (THOMAS<sup>4</sup>, THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was b. ca. 1746. He m. 24 Dec 1767, ELIZABETH PALMER & 2nd, 27 September 1782 at Westerly, Elder Isaiah Wilcox offic., PHEBE ELLIS of Charlestown. He res. at Westerly and Hopkinton where had ch. He was in the 1774 census at Hopkinton, but not in the 1777 military census of RI.

Children of THOMPSON<sup>5</sup> and ELIZABETH (PALMER) WELLS:

- i. RHODA<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 14 May 1768; m. ca. 1792, ELNATHAN CLARKE.
- (18) ii. PALMER<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 31 March 1771.
- iii. ELIZABETH<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 28 August 1773.
- iv. THOMPSON<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 16 June 1776; d. before 4 March 1811 at Hopkinton; m. PHEBE POTTER.
- v. MARY<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 23 November 1778.

Children of THOMPSON and PHEBE (ELLIS) WELLS, all but last ch. b. at Westerly, RI:

- vi. ABBY<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 12 November 1785; m. 18 December 1812, ALPHEUS M. GREENE.
- vii. PHEBE<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 21 May 1787.
- viii. EUNICE<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 21 June 1788; m. 17 November 1810 at Westerly, ZEBULON STILLMAN.
- ix. LUCY<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 16 August 1793.
- x. ABIGAIL<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 12 November 1795.
- xi. JOSEPH<sup>6</sup> TAYLOR WELLS, b. 14 December 1797.
- xii. ELNATHAN<sup>6</sup> CLARKE WELLS, b. 6 May 1800 at Hopkinton.

15. THOMAS<sup>5</sup> (THOMAS<sup>4-3-2-1</sup>) WELLS was born about 1750 at Westerly, RI; prob. m. about 1784 at Kingston, MARY ROBINSON and d. about 1828 at Hopkinton leaving a will dated 14 Mar. 1827 and codicil 28 Mar. 1828, pro. 1 June 1829. In it he named sons Thomas Robinson, John, Amos Russell, Henry Manning and daug. Mary (single), Betsey Perry, Sally Palmer, Harriet (single), Charlotte Stillman and Juliana (single) (RIGR 7:2:157). His wf. d. in 1828, prob. just before the codicil was prepared.

Children of THOMAS<sup>5</sup> and MARY (ROBINSON) WELLS, all probably born at Hopkinton, Rhode Island:

- i. THOMAS<sup>6</sup> ROBINSON WELLS, b. ca. 1785; d. before 10 October 1853 at So. Kingston; m. 1st, EMMA P. (----) and 2nd, ELIZABETH (----).
- ii. MARY<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1787; single in 1828 (fa.'s will).
- iii. ELIZABETH<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1789; m. ---- PERRY.



# THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

- iv. JOHN<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1792; alive in 1828.
- v. CHARLOTTE<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1794; m. ---- STILL-MAN.
- vi. SARAH<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1796; m. ---- PALMER.
- vii. AMOS<sup>6</sup> RUSSELL, b. ca. 1798; alive in 1828.
- viii. JULIANA<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1800; single in 1828.
- ix. HARRIET<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. ca. 1802; single in 1828.
- x. HENRY<sup>6</sup> MANNING WELLS, b. ca. 1804; alive in 1828.

16. EDWARD SHEFFIELD<sup>5</sup> (EDWARD<sup>4</sup>, EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 9 June 1765 at Westerly, R.I. and he m. 6 January 1791, Elder Joshua Clarke offic., LUCY or TACY HUBBARD. He was town treasurer for Hopkinton in 1804 and 1805.

Children of EDWARD SHEFFIELD<sup>5</sup> and TACY (HUBBARD) WELLS:

- i. DANIEL L.<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 26 Mar. 1796 at Westerly.
- ii. ELIZABETH<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 30 April 1797 at Westerly; m. 3 April 1813 at Hopkinton, JOHN GREENE, Jr.).
- iii. EDWARD SHEFFIELD<sup>6</sup> WELLS; m. 30 Apr. 1817 at Hopkinton, DEBORAH H. LEWIS.
- iv. JAMES<sup>6</sup> WELLS, m. 20 April 1817 at Hopkinton, LUCY GAVITT.

17. SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> (JOSEPH<sup>4</sup>, EDWARD<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 6 February 1758 at Hopkinton. He m. 29 Nov 1781, SUSANNA POTTER, dau. of George and Content (Maxson) Potter.

Children of SAMUEL<sup>5</sup> and SUSANAH (POTTER) WELLS, all born at Hopkinton, RI:

- i. JOSEPH<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 7 May 1783; d. 1837 in NY; m. LYDIA MAXSON (Brown, 1956).
- ii. SUSANNA<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 14 November 1788.
- iii. SAMUEL<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 27 April 1791.
- iv. GEORGE POTTER<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 14 December 1793.
- v. WILLIAM DAVIS<sup>6</sup> WELLS, b. 8 April 1797.
- vi. THANKFUL<sup>6</sup> POTTER WELLS, b. 7 August 1803.

18. PALMER<sup>6</sup> (THOMPSON<sup>5</sup>, THOMAS<sup>4</sup>, THOMAS<sup>3</sup>, THOMAS<sup>2</sup>, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) WELLS was born 31 March 1771 at Westerly, RI. He married on 21 April 1795 at Newport, RI, CHARLOTTE COGGESHALL, b. at Newport, RI, and d. there 12 Nov. 1801 (Coggeshall & Coggeshall, 1982, p. 41); m. 2nd at Westerly, SUSANNAH PERRY, dau. of

## THOMAS WELLS FAMILY

Jonathan Perry of South Kingston, m. perf. by Rev. Thomas Kendall on 20 September 1802.

Children of PALMER<sup>6</sup> and CHARLOTTE (COGGESHALL) WELLS:

- i. THOMPSON<sup>7</sup> WELLS, b. 1 Aug. 1796 at Westerly.
- ii. ELISHA<sup>7</sup> WELLS, b. 14 Feb. 1798 at Stonington, CT).

Children of PALMER<sup>6</sup> and SUSANNAH (PERRY) WELLS:

- iii. PALMER<sup>7</sup> WELLS, b. 10 Sept. 1803.
- iv. SUSAN<sup>7</sup> POTTER WELLS, b. 5 July 1805.

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# INDEX OF NAMES

|            |                      |              |                        |             |                          |
|------------|----------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| ANGEL      |                      | CLARKE       | Oliver 21              | FOSTER      | Lydia (Blanchard) 12     |
| ARNOLD     | Pardon 12            |              | Rebecca 13             |             | Samuel 12                |
|            | Annie 18             |              | Samuel 10              |             | Stephen 12               |
|            | Elizabeth 10         |              | Sarah 25               |             | Thomas 12                |
|            | Israel 10            |              | Sylvia 10              | FRAZER      | Thomas 6                 |
|            | Sarah (Greene) 10    |              | William 6              | PROTHINGHAM | Nathaniel 11             |
| AYLESWORTH | Stephen 10           | CLEVELAND    | Deborah (Gardner?) 7   | GALLUP      | Wealthy 19               |
|            | Freelove 12          |              | Edward 7               | GAVITT      | Lucy 27                  |
| BABCOCK    | Philip 12            |              | Margaret 7             | GILCHRIST   | William 7                |
|            | Peleg 22             |              | Moses 7                | GREENE      | Benjamin 18              |
| BAKER      |                      | COGGESHALL   | Palmer 7               |             | Elizabeth 12             |
|            | Noah 11              |              | Charlotte 27           |             | Humility (Coggeshall) 18 |
|            | Sherman 13           |              | Elizabeth 11           |             | John 18, 27              |
| BARBER     |                      | CONGDON      |                        |             | Nathaniel 12             |
|            | Mary 9               |              | Benjamin 4, 5          |             | Oliver 11                |
|            | Mercy (Smith) 9      |              | Elizabeth 4, 5         |             | Phebe 18                 |
|            | Moses 9              |              | Elizabeth (Albro) 4    |             | William 14               |
|            | Sarah (Mumford) 9    |              | Freelove 5             | GRIFFEN     | Betsey 22                |
|            | William 9            |              | George 5               | HAKES       | Hannah 25                |
| BARKER     |                      |              | James 5                | HANNAH      | Ruth 13                  |
|            | Freelove (Bliss) 9   |              | John 5                 | HARRINGTON  | Benjamin 3               |
|            | James 9              |              | Joseph 5               | HIMES       | Deborah 5                |
|            | Peter 2, 5, 9        |              | Martha 5               |             | George 5                 |
|            | Susanna (Saunders) 5 |              | Stukeley 5             | HISCOCK     | Simeon 21                |
| BISSELL    |                      | COON         |                        | HOLDEN      | Charles 11               |
|            | Ann 7                |              | David 24               |             | Penelope (Bennett) 11    |
| BRATON     | ----- 11             |              | Elizabeth 24           |             | Randall 14               |
| BRIGGS     |                      | COON/MACCOON |                        |             | Sarah 14                 |
|            | Hannah 5             |              | Lois 19                | HOXSIE      | Benjamin 24              |
| BROWN      |                      |              | Patience 14, 25        |             | Phoebe 21                |
|            | George W. 14         | CRANDALL     |                        | HUBBARD     | Tacy 27                  |
|            | Robert, Jr. 14       |              | Deborah (Burdick) 18   | JORDAN      | Mary 8                   |
| BURDICK    |                      |              | Elizabeth (Crandall) 7 | KENYON      | Ebenezer 17              |
|            | Abel 18              |              | Jonathan 7             |             | James 16-18              |
|            | Bridget 24           |              | Joseph 7, 18           |             | John 17                  |
|            | Elijah 18            |              | Lydia 25               |             | Mary 18                  |
|            | Hubbard 18           |              | Mary 17                |             | Nathaniel 18             |
|            | Joseph 18            |              | Peter 11               |             | Peter 17, 18             |
|            | Nathaniel 18         |              | Samuel 17              |             | Ruth 17                  |
|            | Parker 18            | CRAWFORD     |                        |             | Ruth (Wells) 18          |
|            | Perry 24             |              | William 6              |             | Sarah 17                 |
|            | Prudence 5           | CURTIS       |                        |             | Thomas 17                |
|            | Rufus 18             |              | Susannah (----) 6      |             | Nathan 12                |
|            | Ruth 19, 23          | DAMON        |                        |             |                          |
|            | Tacy 18              |              | Peleg 12               |             |                          |
|            | Thankful 18          | DARTTS       |                        |             |                          |
|            | Welatha 25           |              | Elizabeth 19           |             |                          |
| BUTLER     |                      | DAWLEY       |                        |             |                          |
|            | Margaret 5           |              | Nathan 5               |             |                          |
|            | Mary 5               | DODGE        |                        |             |                          |
| CARPENTER  |                      |              | Dorothy (----) 13      |             |                          |
|            | Elizabeth 9          |              | Lydia 13               |             |                          |
| CASE       |                      |              | Oliver 13              |             |                          |
|            | John 7               | EDWARDS      |                        |             |                          |
| CLARKE     |                      |              | Christopher 19         |             |                          |
|            | Christopher 10       | ELLIS        |                        |             |                          |
|            | Elizabeth (Bliss) 10 |              | Phebe 26               |             |                          |
|            | Elnathan 26          | FELT         |                        |             |                          |
|            | Joseph 10            |              | ----- 23               |             |                          |
|            | Nicholas 9           |              |                        |             |                          |

# INDEX OF NAMES

|             |                      |           |                         |          |                          |
|-------------|----------------------|-----------|-------------------------|----------|--------------------------|
| LADD        | Abigail 17           | PETERSON  | Rosanne 12              | SPENCER  | Alice 4                  |
|             | Mary 17              | POTTER    | Content (Maxson) 22, 27 |          | James 4                  |
| LANGWORTHY  | Anna 20              |           | George 22, 27           |          | Peter 4                  |
|             | Content (Sanford) 20 |           | Joseph 22               |          | Ruth 4                   |
|             | Robert 20            |           | Robert 3                |          | Susanna (----) 4         |
|             | Thomas 20            |           | Susanna 27              |          | Thomas 4                 |
| LEWIS       | Beriah 22            | RANDALL   | Elizabeth 20            | STILLMAN | ---- 27                  |
|             | Deborah H. 27        |           | Randall 14              |          | Frances 14               |
|             | Israel 22            |           | Stephen 24              |          | Hannah 20                |
| LILLIBRIDGE | Amos 21              | RATHBONE  | Joshua 6                | SWEET    | Elizabeth 6, 8           |
|             | Dorcas 21            | RATHBUN   | John 22                 |          | Henry 6                  |
|             | Edward 21            | REBEARNE  | Joseph 7                |          | James 8                  |
|             | Lydia 21             | REYNOLDS  | Hannah 16               |          | John 5                   |
|             | Mary 21              |           | John 16                 |          | Richard 8                |
|             | Mercy 24             |           | Sarah 11                |          | Sarah 8                  |
|             | Patience 21          | RIDER     | Sarah 24                | TANNER   | Susanna 5                |
| LITTLEFIELD | Mercy 22             | ROBINSON  | Mary 26                 | THOMPSON | Sarah 22                 |
| LOW         | Rosanna 14           | ROGERS    | Amy 21                  | THURSTON | George 22                |
| MAIN        | Ezekiel 16           |           | James 4                 |          | Keziah (----) 22         |
| MANCHESTER  | Anne 12              |           | Sarah 4, 17             | UTTER    | Mary 22                  |
|             | Lydia 12             |           | Sarah (----) 4          |          | Barbara 10               |
|             | Phebe 12             |           | Thomas 4                |          | Eleanor 18               |
| MARSHALL    | Naomi 15             | ROSE      | Hannah 16               | WARNER   | William 10               |
| MAXSON      | Elizabeth 21         | ROSS      | Anne (Lewis) 19         |          | Zebulon 10               |
|             | John 21              |           | Thomas 19               |          | Abigail (Baker) 3        |
|             | Joseph 21            |           | William 19              |          | Daniel 3                 |
|             | Lois 25              | SALTER    | Sampson 2               |          | John 3                   |
|             | Lydia 27             |           | William 2               |          | William 3                |
|             | Richard 21           | SAUNDERS  | Mary (Clarke) 5         | WATSON   | Ann 5                    |
|             | Tacy (Burdick) 21    |           | Susannah 2              |          | Dorcas (Gardiner) 5      |
| NASH        | Elizabeth 4          |           | Tobias 5                |          | John 5                   |
| NORTHROP    | Stephen 5            | SEAMAN    | ---- 24                 | WELLS    | Abigail (Warner) 2       |
| NOYES       | Joseph 9             | SHEFFIELD | Elizabeth 23            |          | Aleanja Orcanus 24       |
| PALMER      | ---- 27              | SLOCUM    | Anthony 10, 12          |          | Amey 24                  |
|             | Elizabeth 26         |           | Avis (Stanton) 12       |          | Amos 22, 27              |
| PARKER      | Philip 9             |           | Ebenezer 10             |          | Amos Russell 26          |
| PARTELOW    | Elizabeth 20         |           | Giles 10, 12            |          | Ann 6                    |
|             | Thomas 18            |           | Martha 12               |          | Ann (Watson) 6           |
| PECKHAM     | Eleanor (Craft) 2    |           | Naomi (Barton) 10       |          | Anna 10, 11, 13          |
|             | John 2               |           | Peleg 12                |          | Anne 8                   |
|             | Susannah 2           |           | Ruth 10                 |          | Anstress Holden 11       |
| PENDLETON   | Zebulon 24           |           | Samuel 12               |          | Arnold 10                |
| PERRY       | ---- 26              | SMITH     | ---- 8                  |          | Barbara 9, 10            |
|             | Jonathan 28          | SPENCER   | Abner 4                 |          | Barbara (Holden) 11      |
|             | Susannah 27          |           |                         |          | Barber 9, 10, 13, 14     |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Barton 25                |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Bathsheba 24             |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Benjamin 5-9, 11, 12, 19 |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Bridget (Burdick) 24     |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Caleb 7, 12, 18, 19      |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Catherine 23             |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Catley Welcome 25        |
|             |                      |           |                         |          | Charles 11, 14           |



# INDEX OF NAMES

## WELLS

Charlotte 26, 27  
Charlotte (Coggeshall) 28  
Clarke 14, 25  
Cynthia 24  
Daniel L. 27  
David 12, 20, 25  
Deborah 18  
Dinah 7  
Dorcas 6, 7  
Ebenezer 4  
Edward 17, 20, 23, 24, 25, 27  
Edward Sheffield 24, 27  
Elias 24  
Elisha 24, 28  
Elizabeth 3, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 26, 27  
Elizabeth (Arnold) 10  
Elizabeth (Congdon) 5  
Elizabeth (Crandall) 20  
Elizabeth (Palmer) 26  
Elizabeth (Sheffield) 23  
Elizabeth (Sweet) 7  
Elnathan 21  
Esther 12  
Eunice 22, 24  
Fannie 24  
Freelove 12  
Freelove (Aylesworth) 12  
Gardner 19  
George 1, 6, 13, 23  
George Potter 27  
George R. 11  
Hannah 8, 13  
Harriet 26, 27  
Harris 25  
Hazard 20  
Henry 22  
Henry Manning 26, 27  
Hugh 1  
Isabel 11  
James 6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 27  
Joanna 11  
John 3-6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 15, 17, 23-27  
John Holden 11  
Jonathan 4, 7, 18  
Joseph 1, 8, 14, 15, 16, 20, 24, 25, 27  
Joshua 9, 10, 12, 18, 19  
Juliana 26, 27  
Keziah 23  
Lois 19, 22

## WELLS

Lois (Maxson) 25  
Lovel 23  
Lucy 23  
Lydia 3, 11  
Martha 5, 11  
Martha (Slocum) 12  
Mary 6, 9, 10, 12, 14-16, 21, 24, 26  
Mary (Barber?) 9  
Mary (Barker?) 9  
Mary (Crandall) 18  
Mary (Jordan) 9  
Mary (Robinson) 26  
Mary (Thurston) 23  
Mary (Wells?) 8  
Matthew 20, 21, 24  
Mercy 5  
Mercy (Lillibridge) 24  
Nancy 13  
Naomi 10, 17, 18, 20  
Naomi (Marshall) 16  
Nary 8  
Nathaniel 1, 2, 15, 17, 18, 20, 23  
Nellie 25  
Palmer 26-28  
Pardon 25  
Penelope 11  
Peter 1-13, 17, 25  
Phebe 12, 19, 22  
Phebe (Ellis) 26  
Phebe (Greene) 19  
Philip 12  
Polly 13  
Randall 14, 20, 21, 25  
Rebecca 6  
Rebecca (Clarke) 14  
Rhoda 26  
Richard 1  
Robert 13  
Rose 14  
Russell 25  
Ruth 13-16, 18  
Ruth (Hannah) 13  
Ruth (Slocum) 10  
Samuel 6, 11, 24, 27  
Sarah 8, 11, 15, 17, 20, 21, 23, 26, 27  
Sarah (---) 17  
Sarah (Holden) 14  
Sarah (Reynolds) 11  
Sarah (Rogers) 4  
Shadrack 23  
Sheffield 23  
Silas 6, 7  
Stephen 20, 23  
Susan 25  
Susan Potter 28  
Susanna 4, 5, 11, 27

## WELLS

Susannah 12, 14  
Susannah (Perry) 28  
Susannah (Potter) 27  
Sylvia 25  
Tacy 18, 24  
Tacy (Hubbard) 27  
Thankful 21, 24  
Thankful Potter 27  
Thomas 1-4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 14, 15-20, 22, 23, 24-27  
Thomas Robinson 26  
Thompson 22, 26, 28  
Waity 12  
William 1, 11, 19

## WESTCOTT

Bethia (Westcott) 10  
Stukely 10

## WHITFORD

Alice 5  
David 5  
Elizabeth Ann 5  
John 5  
Joseph 5  
Joshua 5  
Mary 5  
William 5

## WICKES

Barbara (Holden) 11  
Richard 11

## WILCOX

David 24  
Eunice 24

## WILSON

George 6, 7

## WOOD

Thomas 8, 20