

# The Holmes Family

The Reverend Obadiah Holmes

to

Susannah Holmes, Wife of Joseph Masters and Mother of Margaret Masters  
of Harrison County, Ohio

and to

Margaret Masters, wife of William Alexander Leeper  
of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio

with information on the related  
BORDEN, THROCKMORTON, ASHTON, Van METER, Du BOIS, SHEPHERD,  
AND MCNABB FRAMILIES

A CHAPTER IN:

From James and Jennie Amspoker Leeper  
and Related Families

to

Captain Wesley Roy Leeper, my Father

Compilation of Stephen Allen Leeper  
as of December 2016

*Courtesy of Fort Vance Historical Society*

## THE HOLMES FAMILY

**Susannah Holmes**, the fourth great grand daughter of **The Rev. Obadiah and Katharine Hyde Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. **Margaret Masters**, daughter of **Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio. William and Margaret Masters Leeper were the parents of Ernest, James, and Mary Leeper. Ernest Leeper (1860-1928) married Nettie Gibbs; they raised their family in San Bernardino, California. James Lawther Leeper (1862-1944) married Ermina Wilson and remained on the Leeper family homestead in Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio. After a successful career as a business woman, Mary Leeper (1866-1940) married James Long and settled outside of Carrollton, Ohio.

With our descent from The Rev. Obadiah Holmes, our Leeper Family is descended from the earliest families of America and pioneers of the New York, New Jersey, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Ohio frontiers, inherits the heritage of a man whose courage and convictions laid the foundation for freedom of thought and religion in America, has membership in the Daughters of the American Revolution (via Joseph Holmes, the great grandson of The Rev. Obadiah Holmes), and can claim President Abraham Lincoln, the great-great-great-great-great grandson of Rev. Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, as a cousin.

### Background on the Holmes Name

The earliest appearance of a name similar to Holmes was a knight in the service of William the Conqueror in 1066, Randulphus or Ranulphus Houlme. The name is derived from an English and Scottish word, holm, signifying a meadow surrounded by water or a low flat land at the confluence of two rivers.

### Discovery That Rev. Obadiah Holmes is Our Ancestor

We owe an inestimable debt to our "great" aunt, Mary Leeper (1866-1940), daughter of William Alexander and Margaret Masters Leeper, who became Mary Leeper Long. Without her devoted efforts to collect and preserve Leeper family history, we would certainly know far less about our family. Her knowledge formed the basis for the Leeper Family History compiled by Laverne Leeper in the 1930s. Upon seeing the Laverne Leeper history as a boy in the 1960s, this author, Stephen A. Leeper, was inspired to uncover and compile more about our Leeper family.

Sometime (possibly between 1901 and 1934), I. Rezin Holmes [son of Samuel Holmes, both of Leesville, Ohio], knowing of the interest of his cousin, Mary Leeper (also a Holmes family descendant) in her family history, showed her a comprehensive history of his Holmes family. Understanding the import of this information, Mary Leeper Long laboriously hand copied pages and pages of notes on the Holmes family. Before she died in 1940, Mary Leeper gave her collection of Leeper family papers to Laverne Leeper -- most likely after he had completed his Leeper family history (which included Holmes family history only back to Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, parents of Isaac Holmes and grandparents of Susannah Holmes, who married Joseph Masters -- but which had no information on the six generations back to Rev. Obadiah Holmes). Later, Laverne Leeper passed all of his Leeper family papers to his son, James Leeper.

In 1996, these Leeper family papers were given to this author, Stephen A. Leeper. In 1997, while looking through this collection of papers, Steve Leeper found a faded, folded package of papers – the handwritten notes compiled by Mary Leeper -- perhaps unread for 70 years. Upon transcribing these numerous hand written pages, Steve Leeper discovered a fascinating history of a remarkable man and a remarkable family, our ancestors, who were instrumental in shaping freedom in this new world and in settling the wilderness of New York, New Jersey, Virginia, western Pennsylvania, and Ohio during the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Mary Leeper did not include the source, or author, of the Holmes family information she copied, perhaps because it was not yet the book that it became. However, the source had to have been widely available. Similar historical information, written in the same style and words, was repeatedly found in many documents on the Holmes family. After several years of research, this author has become convinced that Mary Leeper Long saw a manuscript, perhaps in its preparation, of *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes* by Col. J. T. [James Taylor] Holmes, 1915.

Near the end of her handwritten notes, Mary Leeper Long described her reasoning for initially withholding this information from Laverne Leeper. To understand her comments, one must know the identity of the named persons. In brief, Isaac Holmes was the son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes (our known ancestors); Isaac Holmes married Elizabeth McNabb and was the father of Susannah Holmes (wife of Joseph Masters), grandfather of Margaret Masters (wife of William Alexander Leeper), and the great grandfather of Mary Leeper Long. Margaret Masters, daughter of Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters, married William Alexander Leeper (the William Leeper in the quoted text). Mary Leeper, who became Mary Leeper Long, was the daughter of William A. and Margaret Masters Leeper. Ernest Leeper was the son of William A. and Margaret Masters, the brother of Mary Leeper Long, and the father of Laverne Leeper (of the California Leeper family). The “historian” to which Mary Leeper Long refers is likely J. T. Holmes, who wrote *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*. Mary Leeper Long calls the “historian” Joseph, but she appears to be mistaken; apparently, she did not know his name or only knew that his first initial was “J”. The J. T. Holmes who wrote *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes* was James Taylor Holmes, the grandson of Joseph Holmes (1771-1868). This misunderstanding may have been caused by the fact that the “historian” always identified himself by only the name J. T. Holmes. The quoted text was addressed to Laverne Leeper.

“My great grandfather Isaac Holmes was a brother of Joseph Holmes (1771 - 1868) on page 4 of Holmes History. The writer of the history, Joseph T. Holmes, is a descendant of the Joseph of 1771. What is true of his ancestry is true of ours from Obadiah and Mary Clunn back.

“I am quite sure that great grandfather Isaac and great grandmother Elizabeth were neither of them twice married. Their daughter Susannah was married to Joseph Masters before she was eighteen years old. They lived together 67 years. He was 90 when he died and she 88. Neither of them were twice married.

“Their daughter Margaret Masters was married to William Leeper. William and Margaret Leeper were the parents of your father, Ernest Leeper, and neither Margaret nor William were twice married. So if it is anything of which to boast, we have as good a record as the Joseph Holmes line in that respect.

“From information gleaned from different sources, I find a little difference in some dates. Some say Isaac Holmes died in 1851 and some say 1852. I am inclined to believe that 1851 is correct. At the first opportunity I have to visit the Leesville cemetery, I will look on the monument and see the date there.

“The reason I did not give you this „ancient“ history before was that I was never quite sure of our line farther back than Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes. It is known that the historian spent a small fortune and several years of research to establish the truth of the statements set forth on pages 3 and 4.

“Joseph was younger than my great grandfather and it is possible that some family records were handed down to him that great grandfather Isaac did not receive and, at the time, might not have troubled to obtain, knowing that they would be preserved by his brother Joseph.

“It seems that Joseph had been named for his grandfather of 1698 to 1777. Joseph would be only 6 years old when his grandfather died. However, if he were his namesake, he would know about it and, quite possibly, it is all true enough.”

The handwritten document, in which the above statements are made, covers the Holmes Family from Robert and Alyce Holmes, who died in 1604/05 and 1610, respectively, to Isaac Holmes, born 1764, the father of Susannah Holmes. According to a letter written by Mary Leeper Long to Laverne Leeper, dated May 9, 1934, she copied the additional information from the Holmes family history of the “historian” and from a Holmes Family Bible both of which she obtained from a „cousin“, Rezin Holmes (the son of Samuel and Emily E. Pumphrey Holmes).

**Note:** When this author, Stephen A. Leeper, encountered conflicting information, he considered the information found in *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes* by J. T. Holmes to be the authoritative source.

## ROBERT HULME of Reddish

**Robert Hulme** of Reddish in the parish of Manchester was the father of Robert Hulme, who was the father of Obadiah Holmes, the immigrant to America.

He married a woman named Alyce. This Robert Hulme lived to a very old age and was buried at Stockport on January 14, 1604/05. His wife, the grandmother of Obadiah Holmes, the immigrant to America, was buried under the registration of "Alyce wydow of Robte of Reddiche," at the Collegiate Church, now Cathedral of Manchester, on September 7, 1610. At least two other children, named John and Jane, are known, without details.

The children of Robert and Alyce Hulme were: **ROBERT HULME/HOLMES** (in the direct line of ancestry and treated below), John Hulme, Jane Hulme, and daughter Hulme, who married Mr. Hoyd. [From Col. J. T. Holmes, "Holmes of Monmouth County," Historical and Genealogical Miscellany, p. 303; Col. J. T. Holmes, "The English Ancestry of Rev. Obadiah Holmes," English Ancestry of New England Families, Vol. 1, First Series, pp. 76-80.]

## ROBERT HULME

Robert Hulme was baptized on August 18, 1578, and lived in England near Manchester. On October 8, 1605, Robert Hulme married Katherine Johnson at Stockport near Manchester. They were the parents of Obadiah Holmes (1606 - 1682), the immigrant to America. Robert Hulme died in about 1640 and mentioned Obadiah in his will. Robert and Katherine Johnson Hulme/Holmes had at least five children: Obadiah, John, Robert (1621-1697), Joan, and Samuel (born 1613-1617 in Didsbury, Lancashire, England). Samuel graduated from Oxford University. Robert Holmes married Ann Thorpe, named a son Obadiah, and was a member and elder of Gorton Chapel in Reddish, England; he communicated with his brother, Obadiah Holmes, as late as 1676, when Robert asked Obadiah, his brother, to write a summary of his Baptist beliefs [Baptist Piety, Edwin S. Gausted, Arno Press, New York, 1980, p. 154].

## REV. OBADIAH HOLMES (1606-1682) AND KATHERINE HYDE (1608-1684)

### Background

The following information on Obadiah and Katherine (Hyde) Holmes was first obtained from the handwritten notes of Mary Leeper Long (see above). Additional details were obtained from histories by Gausted, Holmes, Wright, and Noel (complete citations below). The notes by Mary Leeper Long contained details not found in these sources, especially on Isaac Holmes and his daughter, Susannah Holmes. The similarity of the information found in Wright, Holmes, Noel, and the handwritten notes of Mary Leeper Long strongly indicates the existence of an original source – most likely the work of Col. J. T. Holmes, *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*, 1915. The following narrative on the life of Obadiah Holmes largely follows the text of J. T. Holmes, an excellent writer, but has been edited to avoid exact duplication, incorporates information from other sources (e.g., excerpts from letters, not included in Holmes), and provides observations by this author, Stephen A. Leeper. Even after reading this account of Obadiah Holmes, further reading of the books by Gausted and J. T. Holmes will be highly rewarding.

The most complete description of the life and beliefs of Obadiah Holmes is provided by Edwin S. Gausted in *Baptist Piety: The Last Will and Testimony of Obadiah Holmes*, Arno Press, New York, 1980; Gausted, a historian of the Baptist Church, described the life and letters of Obadiah Holmes, because the writings of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes provide the most complete example of Baptist beliefs in seventeenth century New England. The letters (edited to modern English) of Obadiah Holmes are provided in their entirety by Gausted.

Of particular interest to this Leeper Family are two books: 1) *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes* by Col. J. T. Holmes, 1915 [available on microfilm through the LDS Family History Center, film # 1017415, and in many genealogy libraries] and 2) *The Holmes Tree: History and Genealogy of a Holmes Family and Allied Families Including Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Parkinson, Pugh, Rainwater, Storm, and Throckmorton*, by Charles A. Noel [Clossom Press, Apollo, PA, 1983, 210 pp., Call No. 929.273 H734n; FHC Film Area# 6125466]. Additional surnames in *The Holmes Tree* include McNabb, Borden, Ashton, Dodderidge, Slonaker, and Wister. These two books describe the line from Rev. Obadiah Holmes to his great great great grandson, Isaac Holmes, the father of Susannah Holmes, who married Joseph Masters (parents of Margaret Masters, who married William Alexander Leeper).

Also of potentially significant interest to Leeper descendants of Obadiah Holmes is *Genealogical and Historical Letters and Memoranda as to the Holmes Family and Some of Their Friends* by J. T. Holmes, compiled 1900 to 1907, Vol. 1-4, 7, and 12; 5,230 pages. Available from FHC, Salt Lake City, Film #1697429, 1697430 Part 1, 1697430 part 2, 1697431, 1697433, 1697434. "Colonel J. T. Holmes, attorney and soldier of the Union Army, was the son of Asa Holmes (1806-1891) and Mary McCoy (1813-1901), daughter of Thomas McCoy. Asa was the son of Joseph Holmes (b. 1771) and Sarah McNabb, daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb. Joseph Holmes, born in Mecklenburg, Virginia (became Shepherdstown, West Virginia), was the son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn of New Jersey. Joseph died in 1868 near Cadiz in Shortcreek Township, Harrison County, Ohio, where he settled in 1797." In addition to

the above names, the surname list contains: Akens, Clunn, Pegg, Pumphrey, Thomas, Dickerson, McCoy, McNabb, and "others". These volumes may contain the records of the family that Mary Leeper Long believes were passed to the grandfather of the author (see above). These documents were not directly consulted in the preparation of this History of the Leeper Family, as the task of sorting through them has seemed too daunting. At some time, family historians should examine and index these 5000 plus pages of information.

Obadiah Holmes is also discussed in *Ancestors and Descendants of William Browning Greene and Mary Hoxie Lewis with Allied Families* by William E. Wright, Gateway Press, Inc., Baltimore, 1993, pages 246 to 249 (Los Angeles Public Library: Call No. R929.2 G799-13). William Wright gives four references: a) Deforest, Brady, pp. 227-236; b) Garman, RI Roots, Dec. 1989, pp. 85-87; c) Wightman, pp. 285-305; and d) Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents*, pp. 29-30. Reference c. is *The Wightman Heritage*, Wade Wightman, Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD, 1990, pp. 288-304.

Other references for Obadiah HOLMES can be found in VRS to 1850 for Rehoboth and Swansea, MA; James ARNOLDS VRS of RI to 1850 (Newport Co., and Bristol Co.); *The Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island*, by John Osborne Austin, first published 1887, republished by Genealogical Publishing Company, Baltimore, MD, 1978 (and 1989, pp. 103-104), covers the first three generations for Obadiah Holmes, Jeremy Clarke, and John Audley); *The American Genealogist*, vol. 19, no. 4, "Additions and Corrections to Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island," by G. Moriarty, Demorest, GA, April 1943, p. 224; also: PELEG BOROUGHS'S JOURNAL (1778-1798), The Tiverton RI Years of the Humbly Bold Baptist Minister- RI Genealogical Society, 1981; and *Plymouth Colony, Its History and People, 1620-1691*, Eugene Aubrey Stratton, Ancestry Publishing, Salt Lake City, UT, 1986, p. 306.

Histories covering other lines of descendants from Obadiah Holmes have been found. "William James Haelsen -- Eliza Lury Green Pedigree Chart" (1971) by Eliza Lury (Green) Haelsen provides the line from Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes to Haelsen and Green [FHC Film Area # 1033984]. "Holmes Family Bible" from Newport Historical Society of Rhode Island provides information on Holmes, Tillinghast, and Dillingham [FHC Film Area # 0945224]. Also see "Holmes - Boutelle - Adams Pedigree Chart, 1606 - 1910", Genealogical Register for Male and Female Descendants of John Jacob Samuel Bachtel and the Relationship Existing Between the Said Two Families," donated by Mary L. Gillich [FHC Film Area # 1033990].

The line from The Rev. Obadiah Holmes to Abraham Lincoln is also well documented (Gary Boyd Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents*, published in cooperation with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass., 1995, pp. 33-36, 149-150). A pamphlet entitled, "Obadiah Holmes, Ancestor and Prototype of Abraham Lincoln" by Rev. Wilbur Nelson, is at the Illinois State Library.

## The Life of Obadiah Holmes

Obadiah Holmes, the immigrant to America, was born near Manchester, England, in 1606/07. He was baptized, the son of Robert Hulme, on March 18, 1609/10 at Didsbury. Katherine Johnson Hulme/Holmes was his mother. For the next one-hundred or so years, variations on the spelling of the family name included: Hulme, Hulms, Hullmes, Holm, Holme, and Holmes. Holmes became generally accepted in the early 1700s.

In his “first” letter written in 1675, Obadiah Holmes said his parents “... were faithful to their generation, and of good report among men, and brought up their children tenderly and honorably ... most of their care was to inform and to instruct them in the fear of the Lord, and to that end gave them much good counsel, bringing them often before the Lord by earnest prayer ...”.

In that same letter, he summed up his youth as follows: “... but I the most rebellious of all did neither hearken to counsel nor any instruction ... I minded nothing but folly, and vanity, I was not only rebellious against my parents but against the Lord...”

Obadiah Holmes, with his brothers, John and Samuel, attended Oxford University. Samuel graduated from Oxford, but Obadiah apparently did not complete his studies. He may have squandered his opportunity, due to his pursuit of pleasure during his youth.

Then when his mother became deathly ill, he once again considered “... what counsel my dear parents and my dear mother had given me, many a call many a time with tears and prayers, my rebellion to my honored parents then looked me in the open face, and my dear mother being sick it struck me my disobedience caused her death, which forced me to confess the same to her, my evil ways ...”. He realized that he had “... never considered sin according to the true nature of it as huge, loathsome to the Lord ...”, but had always only thought of the personal consequence of sin that “... brought judgment upon me ... [so] ... I was fearful to sin ...”.

At the death of his mother, he “fell to prayer and duties and became a pious man.” Yet, as later struggles reveal, he lived many years without peace, without feeling adequate in his faith.

On November 20, 1630, Obadiah Holmes married Katherine Hyde at Collegiate Church in Manchester, England. Katherine Hyde was born 1608 in Manchester, England. Her father may have been Gilbert Hyde (reference cannot be cited). Their first child, John “infant of Obadiah Hulmes of Reddich,” was buried at Stockport on June 27, 1633. [See the reference to “the little grave in Manchester” in the next paragraph.]

In 1638, Obadiah, Katherine, and Jonathan (about 3 years old) Holmes sailed from Preston on the River Ribble in Lancashire (about 28 miles from their home in Manchester, England), for the New World – likely, as had many others, to escape religious persecution. After six weeks of tempestuous sea and storm, they entered Boston Harbor and settled in Salem – the place “destined to become, within the lifetime of the immigrant, associated in history with the prosecutions and executions for witchcraft.” Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes were



admitted to membership in the First Church of Salem on March 24, 1639. This church was organized on August 6, 1629.

On January 11, 1640, the “Glassemen” (Obadiah Holmes, Lawrence Southwick, and Ananias Conklin) were granted land near Salem to establish (what was likely) the first glassworks in America, making window glass (and possibly bottles). From 1879, the location (in what is now called Peabody) was described as: “... off old Boston road, bounded by the line of Aborn Street to the south and south-east, a portion of the strong-water brook and Boston street in the north ...” In December 1641, the town of Salem loaned the glassworks 30 pounds to be repaid “if the worke succeed, when they were able.” For at least 300 hundred years, bits of their glass (“much lighter in colour than the common bottle glass of earlier time”) were occasionally found at this original site. Pieces of glass from this site were (said to have been) at one time included in the collection of the Essex Institute. [Various Holmes family members in England were probably involved in glass making at several locations, including the Haughton Green, (Denton) glass house (located near Reddich, Preston and Manchester where Obadiah Holmes was born).]

Based on letters written later in life, young Obadiah Holmes thought deeply about his beliefs, was sometimes disturbed by religious subjects, may have been disappointed by the religious rigidity he found in the New World, and was not afraid to express (perhaps even enjoyed expressing) dissent about some doctrines and practices of the established Church. Dissent was not long accepted by the authorities. Obadiah apparently began to look for a new place to settle.

Consider the following from an early letter: “... I had no rest in my soul, though I was in a manner as strict as any, and as I was enlarged in sorrow for sin and deep humiliation, enlarged in prayer or filled with tears, my comfort came in and increased but as I failed in them so my sorrow was renewed and when I looked over my best performances found them full of sin. ... I judged it all done in hypocrisy ... in this sad and doubtful state I continued very long, yea many years ... I was deceived by my own heart and the ministers who told me there must be such and such a love to Him {presumed to be the Lord} as to keep Him in duty and to part with all for him, but they left me short of understanding Him as I should .. [ I left] ...my dear honored father, brethren and friends, house and lands and my own native country ... [to] adventure the danger of the seas to come to New England, where I tried all things in several churches and for a time thought I had made a good choice or change but in truth it little differed from former times and my spirit was like a wave tossed up and down ...”

On January 1, 1644, Obadiah Holmes drew lot 37 in a division of land at Rehoboth, Massachusetts, 60 miles east of Salem. By 1645, he forfeited this land because he failed to fence it or move his family onto it.

In 1646, Obadiah Holmes was excommunicated from the Church at Salem, “practically driven from Massachusetts Colony ... by religious persecution,” and settled in Rehoboth, first called Seekonk (also Sekonk) after a small river of that name, upon which he may have settled.

During this year, Obadiah and Katherine Holmes joined the church of Rev. Samuel Newman at Rehoboth. Religious strife occurred again within three years. In 1649, this church split over doctrinal and legal issues with Samuel Newman and Obadiah Holmes on opposite sides. The exact nature of the disagreements has not survived, but, apparently, Samuel Newman made false accusations in court against Obadiah Holmes. On October 29, 1649, Obadiah Holmes sued the Rev. Newman for slander and claimed damages of 100 pounds. Newman eventually admitted his error and Obadiah Holmes won vindication; but peace for Obadiah Holmes was short lived.

On June 12, 1650, Rev. Samuel Newman obtained an order from the Grand Jury at New Plymouth that forbade Obadiah Holmes and his followers from holding religious meetings in their homes. Obadiah and his followers disobeyed this order.

On October 2, 1650, Obadiah Holmes and several citizens of Rehoboth were indicted as follows:

“October 2, 1650. Wee whose names are here underwritten, being the grand inquest, doe present to this Court, John Hazell, Mr. Edward Smith and his wife, Obadiah Holmes, Joseph Tory and his wife, and the wife of James Mann, William Devell and his wife, of the towne of Rehoboth, for continuing of a meeting uppon the Lord’s-day from house to house, contrary to the order of this Court, enacted June 12, 1650. Thomas Robinson” and others to the number of fourteen.

Governor William Bradford, Captain Miles Standish, and John Alden, “gentleman,” were members of this Court.

This indictment seems to have been the final insult to the conscience of Obadiah Holmes and his followers. In the Fall of 1650, “they were all baptized and became out and out Baptists in doctrine and practice, and Obadiah Holmes became their leader and pastor.” To escape prosecution and to, perhaps, finally gain freedom of conscience in religious matters, Obadiah Holmes and several of his dissenting friends left Rehoboth for Newport, Rhode Island. They were probably baptized by John Clarke, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Newport, co-founder of the Colony of Rhode Island, and author of the Royal Charter of 1663. Their departure probably accounts for the absence of further records of this event.

Obadiah Holmes is said to have enjoyed the “... intimate and sympathetic friendship and association with men whose names in church and state, in peace and war, will never be dimmed. Among them were Roger Williams, Dr. John Clarke, Gov. Arnold, Samuel Gorton, and Gov. Coddington.”

In July (or May?) 1651, Obadiah Holmes, John Clarke, and John Crandell (“not only acquaintances, but close church friends”) left Newport to visit, encourage, and minister to their Baptist friends in the vicinity of Lynn, Massachusetts. On Sunday July 20, they were holding a church service for several neighbors in the home of William Witter, a blind and invalid friend. While Dr. Clarke was reading and expounding passages of Scripture, two constables broke in and arrested the three visitors. They were charged with worshipping God according to the dictates of their own consciences and not in places and according to the prescriptions and forms of the civil

law regulating the worship in what was called the established Church and they were declaring doctrines on the subject of Baptism which it regarded as heretical in a high degree. Holmes (and the Baptist church) did not accept restrictions on the worship of God, nor the validity of infant baptism, believing that each person needed to individually decide to be baptized. For these beliefs, Holmes, Clarke, and Crandell were accused of not accepting the validity of the established (Salem) Church.

The arresting officers took them to the church which civil law required them to attend. Clarke and Holmes asked to speak on the questions about which they disagreed with the representatives and adherents of the established religion. When the privilege was denied them, Holmes insisted on speaking but was still not allowed to speak in their defense. At one time during the trial, Rev. John Wilson struck Holmes and then said, "The curse of God of Jesus go with thee." On the next day, the Court pronounced judgement; Obadiah Holmes was not only fined for holding a service and administering the rite of Baptism outside the regulations of the established church, but was also fined an additional 10 British pounds for his insistence to speak.

On (May?) July 22, they were taken to Boston and then tried a week later. The Court ruling (dated May 31, 1651?) was as follows: "The sentence of Obadiah Holmes of Seacuck, the 31 day of 5<sup>th</sup> M 1651. Forasmuch as you Obadiah Holmes, being come into this Jurisdiction, about the 21 of the 5<sup>th</sup> M, did meet at one William Witters house in Lin, and did hear privately (and at other times being an Excommunicate person did take upon you to Preach and to Baptize) upon the Lords day, or other dayes, and being taken then by the Constable, and coming afterward to the Assembly at Lin, did in disrespect of the Ordinance of God and his Worship, keep on your hat, the Pastor being in Prayer, insomuch that you would not give reverence in veiling your hat, till it was forced off your head to the disturbance of the Congregation, and professing against the Institution of the Church, as not being according to the Gospell of Jesus Christ, and that you the said Obadiah Holmes did upon the day following meet again at the said William Witters, in contempt of Authority, you being then in custody of the Law, and did receive the Sacrament, being Excommunicate, and you did Baptize such as were Baptized before, and thereby did necessarily deny the Baptism that was before administered to be Baptism, the Churches no Churches, and also other Ordinances, and Ministers, as if all were a Nullity; And also did deny the lawfullness of Baptizing of Infants, and this tends to the dishonor of God, the despising of the ordinances of God among us, the peace of the Churches, and seducing the Subjects of this Commenwealth from the truth of the Gospell of Jesus Christ, and perverting the strait waies of the Lord, the Court doth fine you 30 pounds to be paid by the first day of the next Court of Assitants, or else to be well whipt, and that you shall remain in Prison till it be paid, or security given in for it. By the Court, Encrease Nowell."

In summary, the judgements of the General Court were: that Obadiah Holmes pay a fine of 30 pounds or be well whipped; that John Clarke pay a fine of 20 pounds or be well whipped; that John Crandell pay a fine of 10 (or 5) pounds or be well whipped. John Crandell fell under condemnation for being in supposed bad company. He does not appear to have done or said anything to which exception was taken.

They were recommitted to the common jail. Friends raised money to pay their fines. Clarke and Crandell were soon released. As the fine on Holmes was heavier, it took longer to raise, but Obadiah's friends were ready to pay it. When Obadiah learned what they were proposing to do, he promptly forbade payment of the fine, making it a matter of conscience. His scruples were respected. Two friends of Obadiah Holmes, John Spur and John Hazell, were sentenced for holding his hands (per account of Dr. John Clarke).

Unavailing efforts were made to induce Obadiah to recant, at least, so far that the corporal punishment might be avoided. He refused. On September 5, 1651, he was taken from the jail, stripped naked to the waist, tied to the post, and publicly whipped in the public square of Boston, Massachusetts -- in front of Boston's First Church at Devonshire and State Streets, next to the Old State House. He received thirty strokes with a three cord whip held in both hands and laid on slowly with all the strength of the officer. Blood was said to have saturated his trousers and to have run into his socks. He was said to have not groaned once during this punishment. Several of his friends, who expressed sympathy with him when he was released, were arrested, imprisoned, and fined for doing so. One of his friends, the elderly John Hazel, died ten days later. In 1651, an open wound, as would be caused by whipping, was subject to infection; in that day, an infection often led to death -- yet Obadiah Holmes took this whipping and survived. He testified to his dying day, that he felt no pain, even though for weeks he could only rest on his knees and elbows.

Once he returned to Newport, Obadiah Holmes wrote the following account of the event: "As the man began to lay the strokes upon my back I said to the people, „though my flesh should fail, and my spirit should fail, yet my God would not fail“... When he had loosed me from the post, having joyfulness in my heart and cheerfulness in my countenance, as the spectators observed, I told the magistrates, „you have struck me as with roses“: and said moreover, „although the Lord hath made it easy to me, yet I pray God, it may not be laid to your charge“... I departed, and the next day after while I was on my journey, the constables came to search at the house where I lodged, so I escaped their hands and was by the good hand of my Heavenly Father, brought home again to my relatives, my wife and eight children. The brethren of our town and Providence having taken pains to meet me four miles in the woods where we rejoiced together in the Lord.”

[The “Boston incident of Obadiah Holmes” is described in The History of the Baptists, Vol. 1, Chapter 4, pages 173 to 212, by Rev. Isaac Backus (Bachus?). The Rev. of Middleborough, Connecticut, lived from 1724 to 1806; he completed the first volume on July 9, 1777 and the second in June 1796. Volume 1 of Rev. Backus's history is summarized in the History of the Baptist Denomination, published 1813, pages 364 to 380, by Rev. David Benedict.] This event is also described by John Clarke in the famous Ill News from England.

In 1652, when Dr. John Clarke went to England (1652 to 1664) to oppose the appointment of John Coddington as governor-for-life of Rhode Island, Obadiah Holmes succeeded Clarke as pastor the Baptist Church of Newport, Rhode Island (started by Clarke prior to 1638). Obadiah Holmes was the second pastor of this church. [As of 1999, The United Baptist/John Clarke Memorial Church (30 Spring Street, Newport, RI 02840) had been continuously meeting for 361 consecutive years (making it the longest running Baptist Church in America); the Baptist church

in Providence is now generally acknowledged as the first Baptist church in America.] Obadiah Holmes pastored this church for much of the next thirty years, holding that position when not held by John Clarke. According the history of this church, Obadiah Holmes was the pastor from 1676, when John Clarke died, until his own death in 1682.

The farm of Obadiah Holmes was located in Middletown, Rhode Island, about 5 miles east of Newport (in the vicinity of the current intersection of Vacluse and Green End Aves). His 400 acres, acquired on March 1, 1657, was bounded by the farms of Edward Smith, James Mann, William Devill, Taylor, and Samuel Hutchenson, and “the western shore of an arm of the sea, called the Seconnet River.” He owned this land to the end of his life. He owned an additional 100 acres somewhat to the North, which he sold to his son Jonathan in 1681.

Obadiah Holmes held several civic offices. In 1657 and 1658, he was a court commissioner in Warwick, Rhode Island. In 1657, the pastor of the First Baptist Church of Newport (presumably Obadiah Holmes) traveled to Long Island to preach to the Dutch. During this time, Obadiah may have developed his interest in Long Island and beyond in East Jersey.

On April 7/8, 1665, while Charles II was the king of England, James the Duke of York issued the Monmouth Patent (also called the Nicoll’s Patent, for Richard Nicholls, governor of the territories of the Duke of York in America), in which he granted land purchased from the Indians to twelve patentees. [As the text of the patent is extended and generally available, it is not reproduced, except for the following: “... said patentees ... and all other persons, who shall plant and inhabit in any of the land aforesaid ... shall have liberty of conscience, without any molestation or disturbance whatsoever in their way of worship.”] The Rev. Obadiah Holmes was one of the original twelve patentees for the Monmouth Grant, which embraced land in what became Monmouth County and parts of Middlesex and Ocean Counties in East Jersey (now New Jersey). Obadiah Holmes and his son, Jonathan Holmes, were among the thirty-six associates to the patent who were awarded lots. [Others given lots, who are potentially related to our Holmes line include Job and John Throckmorton, James Ashton, John Bowne, and Benjamin Borden.]

Though Obadiah Holmes never became a resident of Monmouth, his name appears in the records of Monmouth County. He is listed as one of the organizers of the first Baptist church at Middletown, Monmouth County and one of the purchasers of the ground on which the meeting house for this church was built in 1667.

In 1676, during the King Phillip’s War, Obadiah Holmes was (one of sixteen citizens of Rhode Island, including John Clarke) invited to give advice to the General Assembly of Rhode Island. Benedict Arnold (the great grandfather of the Benedict Arnold who betrayed the Revolution) was also among those invited.

In 1675, Obadiah Holmes wrote final letters to his wife, brother, children, friends, church, and to the world. J. T. Holmes had heard rumors about their existence and, after searching for them for ten years, finally found them in 1910 in the possession of C. M. Bull (a descendant of the Reverend). Long excerpts from these letters are provided in J. T. Holmes, The American Family of Reverend Obadiah Holmes, 1915. The letters of Obadiah Holmes are reproduced in their

entirety in Edwin S. Gausted, Baptist Piety: The Last Will and Testimony of Obadiah Holmes, Arno Press, New York, 1980. Excerpts are interspersed throughout this biographical sketch. Obadiah Holmes explained his reasons for composing these documents, as follows:

The twentieth day of the tenth month of the year 1675 I Obediah Hullme now come to the evening of the day being sixty-nine years old there or thereabouts and wishing to give some account of my estate and condition, what it was, and what it is, and what my hopes are, what shall be hereafter, unto my friends and relations whether in old England or new ... I know not but it may occasion to provoke some others to try their evidences themselves, and not to take all on trust as I fear many are too apt to do. ...

The Lord moved my heart to write these lines that they should speak forth my mind if I should lie down in silence, if I should be taken away suddenly by the enemy or die with sickness and my senses or memory should fail me; that then my dear and near relations, and my brethren natural and spiritual and the world may know what I was what I am and what I expect to be and enjoy; and it may be some may make but a scorn of what is writ and others slight the same; but it may be some may ponder and weigh the same and if any receive either information or comfort give the glory unto the Lord forever and ever, Amen.

The full text of the letter to his wife, Katherine (Hyde) Holmes is provided:

A letter to my dear wife, if she remain in the land of the living, after my departure, as a true token of my love unto her.

My most dear wife, my heart hath ever cleaved to thee ever since we came together and is knit to thee in death which is the cause of these lines as a remembrance of God's goodness to us in continuing us together almost forty years not diminishing us in our offspring since the first day till not only our first born who hath made all our conditions comfortable to us whether in fullness or emptiness, lifted up or thrown down, in honor or disgrace, sickness or health, by giving us contentation and love one with and to another but more in a special manner in causing His fear to fall upon us, and His love to be placed in our hearts and to know His will and to conform us to the obedience of the same as to be willing to take up the cross and to follow the Lord and [not] fearing what man can do unto us for the Lord being on our side who can be against us, for with His rod and staff He hath comforted us, yea hath been our present help in a needful time; and we have cause while we live to praise His holy name while we are together and when death doth separate us that the longer liver may praise Him while breath remains.

Wherefore I, having some thought I may go away before thee, having signs or tokens that my day is but short and it may fall out I cannot or may not speak to thee at the last shall give the same considerations for thy meditations in a time of trouble or affliction that they may speak when I cannot if the Lord please to speak in them and by them consider how the Lord carried thee along ever since thou hadst a being in this world as by tender parents and since thou camest from them the Lord hath provided for thee and preserved thee in many dangers both by sea and land and given thee food and raiment with contentation and he hath increased our store sometimes to our admiration also continuing our health in very great measure as also given us great posterity who hath increased to a

great number and hath provided for them in a comfortable manner and that the Lord hath kept them from such evils as might have befallen them to our grief but we have had comfort in them, as also consider the peace we have enjoyed and love we have obtained from our friends and neighbors and strangers, yet my dear wife these things are but common favours that many may have their part in, but consider that choice particular favor that many receive not which God hath given to thee in choosing and calling thee to the knowledge of Himself and His dear Son which is life eternal and to draw thy heart to cleave Him alone esteeming Him as the chief good as a pearl of great price or worth and causing thy heart to part with all for Him which love hath constrained thee to hearken to His voice inquiring what His will was that thou might obey His holy will and commandments so as to serve Him in thy generation. Oh! consider that great love of the Lord to cause thy soul to cleave to Him alone and so He to be thy only portion so that He having given thee His Son hath with Him given thee all things thou dost enjoy and so to be to thee both in life and death, thy advantage, the consideration of which causes me to put thee now in mind when I am removed, to consider Him as thy husband as thy Father as thy Lord and Saviour alone who hath said whom He loveth He loveth to the end and that He will not leave them neither in the six nor seven troubles but carry them to glory wherefore lift up thy heart and be not discouraged and say to thy soul why art thou so disquieted within me hope in God and trust in His name and thou shall not be disappointed and let thy love to me end in this that it is better for me to be out of the body and to be with the Lord, at rest with Him, and to be freed from that body of sin and death which I was in while I was in this present evil world, which caused much sorrow of heart to me in secret, for when I would do good evil was present with me, and consider the fears you had concerning me every day both for pains and weakness, and dangers of the many troubles that might befall me, but now let thy soul say he is out of all dangers, freed from sin and Satan, and all enemies and doubts, and death is past, and is overcome and conquered, and he is at rest in a bed of quietness as to the body and with the Lord in spirit, but at the resurrection that weak, corrupt, mortal body shall be received immortal and glorious, and shall see and know as He is known therefore say, why shall I mourn as one out of hope but rather rejoice in hope of the glorious resurrection of the just. And now my dear wife do thou live by the faith of the Son of God, exercise patience and let patience have its perfect work in thee. It will be but a little while before thy day will end and thy time will come to sleep with me in rest and that He that will come and will not tarry, kept close to the Lord in secret, be much with God in prayer and improve every season for thy souls advantage; in special in holy meditations. Be cheerful and rejoice in God, continually care not for the things of this world, say not what shall I eat or wherewith shall I be clothed, for the Father knoweth what thou had need of and he hath given thee much more of these things than ever thou or I could expect or have deserved, and thou hast enough and to spare if His good pleasure be to let thee enjoy the same, if not He alone in a sufficient portion, yet I question not but He will preserve what thou hast and bless it to thee; wherefore make use of that He is pleased to let thee enjoy. I say make use of it to thy present comfort, and now thou art but weak and aged cease from thy labour and great toil and take a little rest and ease in old age live on what thou hast for what the Lord hath given us I freely have given thee for thy life to make thy life comfortable wherefore see thou doeth it so long as house, land or cattle remain, make

much of thyself and at thy death then what remains may be disposed of according to my will; and now my dear wife whom I love as my own soul I commit thee to the Lord who hath been a gracious merciful God to us all our days, not once doubting but He will be gracious to thee in life or death and will carry thee through this valley of tears with his own supporting hand. Sorrow not at my departure but rejoice in the Lord and again I say rejoice in the God of our salvation, and in nothing be careful but make thy request to Him who, only, is able to supply thy necessities and to help thee in time of need unto whom I commit thee for counsel, wisdom and strength and to keep thee blameless to the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to whom be all glory, honor and praise forever and ever Amen. Fare thee well.

Obadiah Holmes seems to have ended his life at peace. In his "second" letter of 1675, Obadiah Holmes summarized his beliefs, starting with reference to his whipping in Boston for exercising his freedom of conscience with his friends: "For this faith and profession I stand and have sealed the same with my blood at Boston in New England and hope through the strength of my Lord shall be enabled to witness the same to death altho I am a poor unworthy creature and all my righteousness are as filthy rags and have nothing to plead or to say or to fly unto but to grace and have nothing to rest on but only on the free mercy of God in and through Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior to whom be honor and glory and praise forever and ever Amen."

The Rev. Obadiah Holmes died in 1682 and was buried on his farm in the Holmes Burying Ground. Per J. T. Holmes (1915), the stones read "In Memory of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes, Baptist Minister from Great Britain, who died October 15<sup>th</sup>, 1682, in the 76<sup>th</sup> year of his age/J. Stevens" and "In Memory of Catherine, wife of the Rev<sup>d</sup> Obadiah Holmes/J.S". As of 2000, the Holmes Burying Ground was still maintained -- located at the intersection of Vacluse and Green End Aves. in Middletown, Rhode Island (down a private driveway, hidden by low hanging trees, and surrounded by a rock wall -- to the west of Vacluse Ave. and north of Green End Ave.). [A compilation of the stones visible in 1901 is provided in The American Family of Obadiah Holmes by Col. J. T. Holmes, 1915; the following surnames appear in his listing: Holmes, Fones, Weaver, Tillinghast, Dillingham, and Baker.] During the summer of 1999, Stephen Leeper visited the site; the stone of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes could still be read (perhaps a new stone was placed many years after his death), but no stone was visible for Katherine Holmes. At some point in time a commemorative plaque was placed within the brick wall:

Erected to the Memory of  
Rev. Obadiah Holmes  
Ancestor of Abraham Lincoln in the Sixth Generation  
Born 1606 Died October 15, 1682  
Second Pastor of First Baptist Church, Newport, R. I.

-----  
Eminent Citizen – Champion of Soul Liberty  
Persecuted at Whipping Post, Boston, Mass.  
For His Religious Faith  
-----

His Grave is in This Family Burial Ground  
Middletown, R. I.



In the estate of Obadiah Holmes was left a grandfather clock, one of the first of its kind brought to this country. Eventually, the clock was donated to the Long Island Historical Society.

The will of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes follows.

“These are to signifie that I, Obadiah Holmes of Newport, Rhode Island, being at present through the goodness and mercy of my God of sound memory and being by dayly intimation putt in mind of frailty and uncertainty of this present life, do therefore for settling my estate in this world which it has pleased the Lord to bestow upon mee, make and ordain this my last will and testament in manner committing my spirit unto the Lord who gave it to me and my body to ye earth from whence it was taken in hope and expectation that it shall from thence be Raised at the resurrection of the Just.

Item. I will that all my just debts which I owe unto any person be paid by my executors hereafter named in convenience time after my decease.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Mary Brown, five pounds in mony or equivalent to mony.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter, Martha Odlin, tenn pounds in ye like pay.

Item. I give unto my daughter, Liddiah Bowne, tenn pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my two grandchildren, ye children of my daughter Hopestill Taylor, five pounds each and if either of them decease, the survivor to have tenn pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son, John Holmes, tenn pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my son, Obadiah Holmes, tenn pounds.

Item. I give and bequeath unto my grandchildren, the children of my sonn, Samuel Holmes, tenn pounds to be payed unto them in equal portions. All these portions by me bequeathed, my will is shall by payed by my executors in mony or equivalent mony.

Item. I give and bequeath unto all my grandchildren now living tenn pounds and ten shilling in ye like pay, to be payed out by each of them.

Item. I give unto my grandchild, Martha Brown, tenn pounds in the like pay. All which aforementioned legacies are to bee payed by my executors hereafter named in manner expressed – that is to say, the first payment to be payed within one year after ye decease of my wife, Katranne Holmes, twenty pounds ye year till all ye legacies be payed and each to be payed according to the degree of age. My will is and I do hereby appoint my son, Jonathan Holmes, my executor, with bond, unto whom I have sold all my land, housing, and stock for those formed of my said legacy and my will is that my executor shall pay unto his mother, Katranne Holmes, if she survives and lives, the summ of twenty pounds in mony or mony pay for her to dispose of as she shall see cause. Lastly, I do appoint my loving friends, Mr. James Barker, Sr., Mr. Joseph Clarke, and Mr. Phillip Smith, all of Newport, to be my overseers, to see this my will truly is formed in sitting.

Whereof I have hereunto sett my hand and seal this ninth day of April 1681.

Obadiah Hulme (seal)

Signed, sealed, and delivered into the presence of Edward Thurston and Weston Clark.”

At the time of his death, the estate of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes was valued at 133 pounds and 12 shillings.

Katherine Hyde Holmes died in 1684 and was laid to rest beside her husband. In her honor, J. T. Holmes wrote the following in The American Family of Obadiah Holmes (p. 50-51): “ ... justice to her character and memory requires that she shall not be forgotten ... She left behind for all time her earthly kith and kin, and the little grave at Manchester [of her first child], and, cleaving unto the one man, as in duty bound, under those marriage vows, with him and their one son [Jonathan] she set her face toward the great ocean and the vast, strange land beyond it, with its scattered little settlements and sparse population, a mere imperfect, ragged fringe along the coast of a continent, backed by an unknown and seemingly boundless wilderness. ... Everywhere, from Preston in 1638 to the Middletown farm, at Newport, in October 1682, she is found in her place beside that husband. ... It is late, but better late than never, to challenge attention to the „gude wife“ ...”.

The Rev. Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes had 10 children, as listed below (the birth order of these children is not known with certainty):

JOHN HOLMES: John Holmes, the first born child of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in England; most likely between 1631 and 1633. He died as an infant on June 27, 1633 and was buried at Stockport, near Manchester or Lancashire, England.

JONATHAN HOLMES: Jonathan Holmes, second child of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in 1633 or 1634, in Manchester or Lancashire, England. He is in the direct line of ancestry and is treated in greater detail below. To his son Jonathan, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: “My son Jonathan remember how faithful and loving he was to David that servant of the Lord.”

LYDIA HOLMES: Lydia (also spelled Liddiah and Lydiah) Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America; birth date not known. In 1663, she married Captain John Bowne. William and Ann Bowne, the parents of John Bowne, had been neighbors of the Holmes“ in Salem, Massachusetts. John Bowne was an original negotiator for land in the Monmouth country during an exploration of that area in 1664 or 1665. Jonathan Holmes, brother of Lydiah, had also been one of the original explorers of the Monmouth country and had participated in the negotiations with the Indians. John Bowne was one of the original twelve patentees of the Monmouth (or Nicolls) Patent. John and Lydiah Holmes Bowne moved from Newport, Rhode Island, to Gravesend, Long Island, soon after their marriage. In 1667, John and Lydiah Holmes Bowne moved from Gravesend to Middletown, East Jersey (now New Jersey). To his daughter Lydiah, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: “My daughter Lidiah remember how Lidiah“s heart was opened her ear bored her spirit made to be willing to receive and obey the apostle in what the Lord required and was baptized and entertained and refreshed the servants of the Lord.” John and Lydiah Holmes Bowne had at least two children.

Obadiah Holmes Bowne: Obadiah Bowne, son of John and Lidiah Holmes Bowne, was born on July 18, 1666. He lived in Monmouth County for at least a time, as he served on the Monmouth County Grand Jury (convened September 26, 1693) with his cousin Obadiah Holmes (below).

Sarah Bowne: Sarah Bowne, daughter of John and Lydia Holmes Bowne, married Richard Salter, a lawyer, judge, and colonial legislator. Hannah, the daughter of Richard and Sarah Bowne Salter, was born about 1692 (possibly in Freehold, Monmouth Co., New Jersey). Sometime before Sept. 14, 1714 (in Monmouth Co.), Hannah Salter married Mordecai Lincoln (an iron founder) and moved to Chester Co., Pennsylvania. Hannah Salter Lincoln was the mother of "Virginia" John Lincoln. "Virginia" John Lincoln was the father of the Abraham Lincoln who settled in Kentucky and was killed by Indians there in the 1780s. This Abraham Lincoln was the grandfather of Abraham Lincoln, the President of the United States. Therefore, the Rev. Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes were the fifth great grandparents of Abraham Lincoln. In addition, Hannah Bowne Salter's son, Edwin Salter, lived in New Jersey. Edwin Salter wrote the Early Dutch Settlers and wrote an article on Rev. Obadiah Holmes which was printed in the Monmouth Democrat newspaper of September 6, 1888. The American ancestry of Abraham Lincoln, including his line to Obadiah and Katherine (Hyde) Holmes is documented in Ancestors of American Presidents, Gary Boyd Roberts, published in cooperation with the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass., 1995, pp. 33-36, 149-150. This book provides the lineage of each president, including their royal and Mayflower lines and other notable connections and is still in print.

OBADIAH HOLMES: Obadiah Holmes, son of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America and was baptized at Salem on June 9, 1644. He married Elizabeth Cooke, daughter of John and Sarah Cooke of Gravesend, Long Island, and first settled on Staten Island, New York. He later settled at Salem in the colony of West or East Jersey, a little south of Philadelphia across the Delaware River. He was a judge in Salem County for about 12 years. He was active in establishing the Baptist Church at Cohaney (or Cohancy), near his residence. Many of his descendants were still living on Staten Island around 1915. He died and was buried at Cohaney (or Cohancy), West Jersey, in 1722/23 or 1732. To his son Obadiah, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: "My son Obadiah consider that Obadiah was a servant to the Lord and tender in spirit and in a troublesome time hid the prophets by fifty in a cave."

SAMUEL HOLMES: Samuel Holmes, son of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America and was baptized at Salem on March 20, 1642. On October 26, 1665, he married Alice Stillwell, daughter of Nicholas and Ann Stillwell; they settled in Gravesend, Long Island. He died in 1678 or 1679. As of the 1930s, some of his descendants still lived in Gravesend on Staten Island, New York. To his son Samuel, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: "My son Samuel remember that Samuel was a chief prophet of the Lord ready to hear his voice saying speak Lord for thy servant heareth."

JOSEPH HOLMES: Joseph Holmes, son of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America in 1646 (or after 1651) and died before 1682. In his letter to his children, written near the end of his life, Obadiah Holmes wrote the following of Joseph: "And now my son Joseph remember that Joseph of Arimathea was a good man and a disciple of Jesus and was bold and went boldly and asked for the body of Jesus and buried it."

JOHN HOLMES: This child was the second John Holmes, son of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes. Having lost their first child named John, they gave this name to an after-born brother – a practice not all that uncommon in that day. This John Holmes was born in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1639 or 1649, and lived there his entire life. He became a lieutenant in the Rhode Island militia. For 16 years, he was the general treasurer of Rhode Island. He also became a member of the House of Deputies. His first marriage (December 1, 1671) was to Frances Holden, daughter of Randall and Frances (Dungan) Holden. His second marriage (October 12, 1680) was to Mary (Sayles) Green, the daughter of John and Mary (Williams) Sayles and widow of William Green. John Holmes had a daughter named Katherine, who married Joseph Gardiner. John Holmes died in Newport, Rhode Island, on October 2, 1712. Wightman, who wrote on the life of Obadiah Holmes, was a descendant of this John Holmes. [Per Brad Martin (e-mail to Steve Leeper, 1-22-2001), Susannah Holmes (b. ca. 1682 in Newport, Rhode Island; d. 4-17-1726 in Groton, New London Co., Conn.), daughter of John and Mary Holmes, married Valentine Wightman (b. 4-16-1681 in Quidnesset, Washington Co., Rhode Island; d. 6-7-1747 in Groton, Conn.) on 2-10-1702/03; Susannah Wightman (b. 7-24-1712 in Groton, Conn.; d. after 7-9-1770), daughter of Valentine and Susannah Holmes Wightman, married Moses I. Culver (b. 12-30-1712 in Groton, Conn.; d. before 7-9-1770) in 1735 in Groton, Conn.] To his son John, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: “My son John remember what a lovely and beloved disciple he was.”

HOPESTILL HOLMES: Hopestill Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America. Hope married a man by the name of Taylor and died before 1682. Taylor was a prominent name in Middletown, New Jersey, so it may be presumed the Hopestill Holmes Taylor lived in Middletown, NJ, near her brother, Jonathan, and had a large family (but this is speculation). To his daughter Hope, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: “My daughter Hope consider what a grace of God hope is and court after that hope that will never be ashamed but hath hope of eternal life and salvation by Jesus Christ.”

MARTHA HOLMES: Martha Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America on or before her baptism day. She was baptized on May 13, 1640, at Salem, Massachusetts. In 1660, she married John Odlin, son of John and Margaret Odlin of Boston, in Newport. The Odlins were banished from Boston with the followers of Ann Hutchinson. John Odlin, Sr., returned to Boston some years later. John and Martha Holmes Odlin remained in Newport, Rhode Island, but used the name Audley. Their daughter, Ann Audley, married Jeremiah Clarke of Newport. Martha Holmes Audley died in Newport in December 1711, at the age of 71 years and 11 months. In 1998, Steve Leeper communicated with the 8X great granddaughter (Dorothy J. Hornus) of Martha Holmes Audley via the Holmes-list at RootsWeb (<http://www.rootsweb.com>). Dorothy Hornus was also descended from Jonathan Holmes, the brother of Martha Holmes. To his daughter Martha, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: “My daughter Martha remember Martha although she was cumbered with many things yet she loved the Lord and was beloved of him for he loved Mary and Martha.”

MARY HOLMES: Mary Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born in America about 1648. According to an article (printed in the Monmouth Democrat, September 6, 1888) on the Rev. Obadiah Holmes by Edwin Salter (great grandson of Obadiah Holmes via daughter Liddiah), Mary Holmes married Captain John Browne. Near the close of this article, he wrote: "The Rhode Island accounts of the family state that Mary born about 1648, daughter of Rev. Obadiah Holmes, was married to John Browne, born 1634, son of Rev. Chad Browne. This Browne Family is the one distinguished in Rhode Island and from some of its members Browne University took its name." [The quoted statements are not guaranteed to be actual quotes from the article of Edwin Salter, but appear to be quotes in the handwritten notes of Mary Leeper Long on the Holmes Family.] This line is also described in Austin's Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island, Genealogies of Rhode Island Families, and English Origins of New England Families. John and Mary Holmes Brown may have had the following children: John (b. 3-18-1682), Mary, James, Obadiah, Martha, and Deborah Browne. Mary Brown, the daughter of John and Mary Holmes Browne, married Arthur Aylesworth. To his daughter Mary, Obadiah Holmes, in his letter to his children, wrote: "My daughter Mary remember Mary she chose the better part that shall not be taken away and did hearken to the Lords instructions."

## **JONATHAN HOLMES (1633/34 - 1712/13) AND SARAH BORDEN (1644-1705 or 1708)**

**Jonathan Holmes**, second child of Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, was born near Manchester, England, in 1633 or 1634. In 1638, as a child of about age 3, he came with his parents to America and lived with them in Salem and Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and Newport (Middletown), Rhode Island.

In 1665, Jonathan Holmes married **Sarah Borden** (born in 1644). Additional information on Sarah Borden is provided under the Borden Family.

Prior to the issue of the Monmouth Patent on April 8, 1665, Jonathan visited the Monmouth country and, with others, negotiated with the Indian Sachems for lands in that part of East Jersey (now New Jersey). He was joined in this endeavor by a Captain John Bowne, who was by then married to Jonathan's sister, Lydia Holmes.

Sometime during 1665, perhaps after the issue of the Monmouth Patent, Jonathan and Sarah Holmes lived with John and Lydia Holmes Bowne at Gravesend, Lon Island, New York, while the Patent and settlement plans were under consideration. Jonathan Holmes and his father, Rev. Obadiah Holmes, were among those given land under the Monmouth patent. Sometime between 1665 and 1667, Jonathan was elected to the General Assembly of the Colony of East Jersey.

In 1667, Jonathan Holmes helped found Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey). On page 45 of Monmouth County Deed Book B is found a deed from five Indian Sachems to Jonathan Holmes, dated August 12, 1667. This deed extinguished Indian title to the land; when the conditions of the Monmouth Patent were completed, the land carried over clear of claims and encumbrances. On December 30, 1667, Jonathan Holmes acquired lot 9 in Middletown and lot 7 in nearby Poplar Field (a total of 797 acres).

On May 30, 1667, the General Assembly of the Colony of East Jersey voted a 5 pound tax on each town. A condition in the patent for Middletown exempted them from paying taxes for seven years, if the communities were settled within three years of the date on the patent. In the General Assembly, Jonathan Holmes declined to subscribe to the oath of allegiance to the Proprietary government unless the condition of the Middletown patent was honored. He was dismissed from the Assembly and his seat was declared vacant. The citizens of Middletown declared they would not to pay the tax. At a town meeting on February 4, 1668, Jonathan Holmes and others were appointed to answer the governor on the town's behalf. Jonathan Holmes wrote the answer – described by some as the first declaration of independence in the new world (although the document did declare loyalty to King Charles II). Eventually, concessions were made to Middletown and the trouble was settled on May 28, 1672.

Jonathan Holmes was one of the original eighteen organizers of the First Baptist Church of Middletown, New Jersey. The Rev. Obadiah Holmes, also on that distinguished list of eighteen, was present at the organization in the year 1667. As of 1999, the "Old First Church" of Middletown, New Jersey, was still in existence. Stephen A. Leeper, the 8X great grandson of Jonathan Holmes, wrote the following:

“On our recent trip, I visited Middletown, New Jersey, and visited Old First Church on Sunday, June 7, 1999. We arrived just as church was ending and I talked with the church historian. ... She showed me copies of original church records, bearing the signature of Jonathan Holmes, our ancestor who helped found this church. The original records of this church are in the Alexander Library collection at Rutgers University. I also saw the church's copy of "Bi-Centennial on Two Hundred Years: A Baptist Church," written by Wheelock H. Parmily, D.D., published October 30, 1888. Our own Obadiah and Jonathan Holmes (father and son) are listed as among the original eighteen founders of this church. A copy of this book is in the Alexander Library Collection.

“I was given a copy of „Old First Church Founders' Day Festival, October 2-3, 1993,“ in which is written the following: „The seeds for Old First Church were planted in the late 17th century when groups of Baptists immigrated from Rhode Island and Long Island. Eighteen Baptists were among a company of thirty-six settlers who purchased Middletown from the Indians in 1664. In 1667 and 1668, some of these early seekers of religious liberty began meeting in individual homes for worship. Members would travel to these homes, usually of those considered church elders or preachers, in both the Holmdel area and Middletown village. In 1688, with the help of an English Baptist minister named Thomas Killingsworth, the Baptists scattered in the region of Holmdel and Middletown were formally organized into one church. Though meeting alternately in two locations and served by one pastor who would travel to both, they were indisputably one church. 1688, then, is considered the date of organization for the first Baptist church in the state of New Jersey, then called the First Baptist Church of Middletown, even though gathering for worship was underway since the mid to late 1600's.“ ”

Jonathan Holmes held many posts of honor and responsibility while living in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey. He was re-elected to the General Assembly of East Jersey in 1668. On September 12, 1673, during trouble between the English and the Dutch, he was chosen Captain with John Smith, Lieutenant, and, by order of the Council of War, was mustered into military service the next day. Thereafter, he was known as Captain Jonathan Holmes. He was elected to the General Assembly in 1680; he held the post of deputy on May 27, 1680.

In late 1683/early 1684, Jonathan and his family, except his son Obadiah (see Obadiah Holmes 1666-1745), moved back to Newport, Rhode Island, but Jonathan retained his interests in Middletown and Perth Amboy. In the will of his father, Rev. Obadiah Holmes, dated April 9, 1682, Jonathan Holmes was named as the sole executor of the estate. He may have been drawn back to Newport in order to settle the estate of his father and care for his mother, Katherine.

Jonathan Holmes remained in Rhode Island and, on May 6, 1684, became a freeman. He was active in public affairs. At a special session of the Assembly at Portsmouth on September 16, 1690, Jonathan was named to the Committee that evaluated methods for collecting taxes for “fighting the Majesty’s enemies.” He attended Assembly sessions on May 5, 1691, July 2, 1695, May 5, 1696, and May 3, 1699. He was elected to a Committee to help establish a border with Massachusetts. He was elected justice on May 4, 1698 and May 7, 1701, speaker on May 5, 1702, and deputy on May 1, 1706. Jonathan Holmes retired from public life in Newport, Rhode Island, on May 6, 1707, in his 74th year.

Jonathan Holmes died in Newport, Rhode Island, in 1713. Sarah Borden Holmes died between 1705 and 1708 (?) in Newport. They are buried in the Holmes Burying Ground on the farm of Obadiah Holmes in Middletown, Rhode Island (for location, see information under Obadiah Holmes). As of 2000, the stones of Jonathan (“In Memory of Mr. Jonathan Holmes, Son of the Rev’d O. Holmes”) and Sarah (“In Memory of Sarah, Wife of Jonathan Holmes”) were still decipherable.

An abstract of the will of Jonathan Holmes (dated 1705) follows:

“Will made; proved Nov. 2, 1713; son Joseph executor. Overseers, his brother John Holmes and William Weeden. Leaves to wife, Sarah, best feather bed, all the plates and ten pounds yearly for life; to Son Obadiah, east half of farm in Middletown in Plain Dealing, East Jersey, with all housing, etc.; Half salt and half fresh meadow and all stock; to son Samuel, a house and lot in Newport, Rhode Island, and five pounds; to his son Jonathan, the other half of the farm in Middletown, New Jersey, half of salt and fresh meadow, young mare, and five pounds; to his sons Obadiah and Jonathan, certain other lands in New Jersey equally; to his daughter Sarah Slade, fifteen pounds; to his daughter Mary Easton, fifteen pounds; to two children of daughter Catherine Whitman, deceased, 15 pounds equally at the age of eighteen; to daughter Martha Tillinghast, fifteen pounds; to daughter Lydia, twenty pounds; to son Joseph Holmes, house and lot at Newport, Rhode Island.”

Based on his will (dated 1705), Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes had nine children:

**OBADIAH HOLMES:** Obadiah Holmes, first child of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born on the 17<sup>th</sup> of July 1666. He married **Alice Ashton**. He is in the direct line of ancestry and is treated in more detail below.

**JONATHAN HOLMES:** Jonathan Holmes, son of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born between 1667 and 1681 (various dates have been found). References disagree regarding the order of his two marriages. Based on his probable age and the one known marriage date, he most likely first married Deliverance Ashton and then married Rebecca Throckmorton (in 1715/16). Deliverance Ashton was the daughter of Rev. James, Jr. and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton. Rebecca Throckmorton was the daughter of Job and Sarah Leonard Throckmorton. Deliverance and Job Throckmorton were brother and sister, the children of John and Rebecca Throckmorton. Therefore, Jonathan Holmes married two women who were his first cousins. Jonathan Holmes died in 1766. Jonathan and Deliverance Ashton Holmes had at least six children, two of whom are known: Jonathan and Deliverance.

**SAMUEL HOLMES:** Samuel Holmes, son of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born at Newport, Rhode Island in 1676 (Mormon Church Ancestral Records) and died after 1769.

**SARAH HOLMES:** Sarah Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born about 1669; she married William Slade of Rehoboth and Swansea, Massachusetts. Their daughter, Elizabeth Slade (1695-1772), married Barnard Haile (1687-1754) of Swansea,



Massachusetts, and Warren, Rhode Island. Through the Holmes discussion list at RootsWeb (<http://www.rootsweb.com>), in 1998, Steve Leeper communicated with the 7X great granddaughter (Dorothy J. Hornus) of Sarah Holmes Slade. Dorothy Hornus is also descended from Martha Holmes Audley, the sister of Jonathan Holmes.

MARY HOLMES(?): Mary Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, married into the Easton family.

CATHERINE HOLMES: Catherine Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Borden, married into the Waitman or Whiteman family. She died before 1705.

MARTHA HOLMES(?): Martha Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born in 1675 and married Phillip Tillinghast in 1692. She died in 1728. Per J. T. Holmes (1915), the following stones bearing the name Tillinghast were visible in the Holmes Burying Ground in 1901 (still visible in 1999): "In Memory of Doctor William Tillinghast He departed this Life Jan. 22d, 1786 in the 33d Year of his age" and "In Memory of Sarah Dillingham daughter of John and Mary Holmes who married first Doct. Wm. Tillinghast and afterward Capt. Edward Dillingham she died May 24, 1836 in her 80<sup>th</sup> year".

JOSEPH HOLMES: Joseph Holmes, son of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born in 1676. He became a freeman in Rhode Island in 1700. Joseph Holmes inherited the family homestead in Middletown, Rhode Island. He died in 1746. A stone in the Holmes Burying Ground (decipherable in 1999) reads: "In Memory of Joseph Holmes who died Octo. 26 AD 1746 in ye 70 Year of his age." Next to that stone is one that reads (mostly visible in 1999): "In Memory of Margaret ye Wife of Mr. Joseph Holmes and daughter of Elder John Fones & Lydiah, his wife, late of North Kingston she died December 2, 1765 in the 73d Year of her Age" (per J. T. Holmes, 1915). Additional stones indicate that they had the following children, who died relatively young: Lydia; Sarah (died at age 18 on October 2, 1745); Jonathan (died at age 17 on November 27, 1746), and Joseph (died at age 21 on April 21, 1753) – all per J. T. Holmes, 1915. These stones were barely readable in 1999.

LYDIA HOMES: Lydia Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, did not marry. She lived with her parents in Newport, Rhode Island.

## OBADIAH HOLMES (1666 - 1745) AND ALICE ASHTON (1671-1716)

**Obadiah Holmes**, eldest son of Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes, was born on July 17, 1666, at Gravesend, Long Island, Colony of New York. At his birth, his father was building a house in Middletown, East Jersey, and the family moved into this house in 1667. Obadiah Holmes was raised on his father's farm near Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey).

When his father, Captain Jonathan Holmes, moved the family back to Rhode Island in early 1684, Obadiah Holmes, not quite eighteen years old, was left in charge of his father's business, property, and interests in Middletown, New Jersey. Since Obadiah was still underage, Jonathan Holmes left his power of attorney with his friend, Richard Hartshorne (Deed Book B, page 37; dated October 27, 1684).

At the age of 26 (on Sept. 26, 1693), Obadiah Holmes became a member of the Grand Jury at the term of court-of-sessions for Monmouth County, held at Middletown. Obadiah Holmes Bowne (cousin of Obadiah Holmes and just one day his junior) was a member of the same Grand Jury.

In 1696, **Obadiah Holmes** married **Alice Ashton**. She was born in 1671, in Middletown, New Jersey. Her parents, Rev. James, Jr. and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, were among the first settlers of Monmouth County. See the section on the Ashton Family below.

In 1698, Obadiah Holmes was elected sheriff of Monmouth County. He held this office for several years and became known as Sheriff Obadiah Holmes or Obadiah Holmes the Sheriff.

Obadiah Holmes was an active participant in the effort to remove Governor Hamilton and the East Jersey Proprietors from power for their unjust and corrupt actions against the early settlers of Monmouth.

On March 26, 1701, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes participated in a "rebellion" against the leadership of East Jersey, during the trial of Moses (William?) Butterworth who was being tried for piracy. Two factors apparently played a role in spurring this "rebellion." First, the people of East Jersey had sympathy for Butterworth (as pirates helped defend Middletown and were generous to the inhabitants). Second, Governor Hamilton of East Jersey, present at the trial, was intensely disliked for his participation in the arbitrary and tyrannical rule of the Proprietors of East Jersey. One hundred "good citizens," including Obadiah Holmes and his cousins, Richard and Benjiman Borden (who were wounded in the uprising) broke in on the trial, released Butterworth, tore up the Court papers, and imprisoned the Governor and several of his justices for four days. The leaders of this rebellion justified their actions by arguing that the Governor was unqualified for and illegally held his post. The two major arguments against him were that (1) he was Scottish (East Jersey was an English colony) and (2) his commission as Governor was defective [since only ten of the Proprietors had signed it (when sixteen signatures were required) and the Seal of the Colony was not attached to it]. The rebellious citizens seem to have escaped punishment; in fact, in the end, they prevailed when the Governor was removed in 1702.

On July 1, 1701, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes signed a petition, submitted to the King of England, asking for the removal of the Proprietors of the Colony of East Jersey and for the appointment of a new Governor. On April 17, 1702, the Proprietors surrendered control of both East Jersey and West Jersey to Queen Anne. Among those appointed to the Council of New Jersey on August 4, 1702, by the Earl of Nottingham were Obadiah Holmes, John Holmes, Capt. Andrew Bowne, and Capt. John Bowne.

Col. J. T. Holmes (*American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*) summarized the efforts of Sheriff Obadiah Holmes as follows: "He had witnessed stormy periods in government from his childhood and in his prime had been an active participant in resistance of tyrants until he saw them surrender their power and with that power the opportunity to abuse it to the detriment of the rights of the people. ... The surrender by the Proprietors ended the clashes, contentions, and lawlessness, which accompanied and followed the divided responsibility in the proprietary government."

In 1713, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes inherited half of the property of his father, Jonathan Holmes, in Middletown, Monmouth County, and Perth Amboy, Middlesex County, East Jersey. His brother, Jonathan, inherited the other half of these properties.

In 1716, Alice Ashton Holmes died in Middletown, New Jersey, at the age of 45. She left eight children, ages 6 to 19 years old. As far as can be told, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes did not re-marry. Except for an appearance as a member of the grand jury at Freehold on February 28, 1720, Obadiah Holmes disappeared from public life and, presumably, concentrated on farming and raising his motherless children.

On March 18, 1723, a public highway was completed between the farms of Jonathan and Obadiah Holmes.

On April 3, 1745, at the age of 79, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes died in Middletown, East (New) Jersey. He spent his entire life in the Colony of East Jersey, as a citizen and resident of Middletown and member of Middletown Baptist Church.

Per the New Jersey Secretary of State, Book D, p. 265, Sheriff Obadiah Holmes prepared his will on December 24, 1744. He left ten pounds to his daughter, Deliverance Smith; five pounds to his son, Jonathan; ten shillings to his son, Obadiah; five shillings to son, James; and ten pounds to his daughter, Sara Mott. The will noted that his son, Joseph, had been given a deed of gift, dated February 10, 1721, for land he purchased from David Stout and also conveyed by deed of sale to Joseph part of the tract of land purchased from his father, Jonathan Holmes, deceased; this latter land was in Crosswicks (per deed of sale dated September 23, 1704). Joseph was also given the land between the above two tracts, together with all land at Crosswicks in Upper Freehold Township in Monmouth County, New Jersey. Son John was given the remainder of his personal estate and "The plantation wherein I Do Dwell," which was bounded by the lands of Obadiah's brother, Jonathan, his son Samuel, and the land of his son, John, which was sold to John on October 15, 1735. His sons, John and Samuel Holmes, were the executors. The witnesses were Jonathan Holmes, John Bowne, Jr., Elias Covenhoven, and George Reid, Jr.

Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes had eight children:

JONATHAN HOLMES: Jonathan Holmes, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1697 at Middletown, New Jersey. Jonathan Holmes married Teuntji (Twenthe, Teuntze) Hendrickson (Henrickson, Hendrickson); she was born in 1699. Jonathan Holmes died in 1768. Their fifth child, John Holmes, married Catherine Brown on April 8, 1764; John and Catherine Brown Holmes had two children: William and Polly (married David Bennett) Holmes. In 1765, John Holmes built (or owned) a mill in Forked River, which was raided and burned during the Revolutionary War.

JOSEPH HOLMES: **Joseph Holmes**, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in Middletown, New Jersey, in 1698. He married **Elizabeth Ashton**. He is in the direct line of ancestry and is treated in greater detail below.

DELIVERANCE HOLMES: Deliverance Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1700. She married Joseph Smith.

JAMES HOLMES: James Holmes, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1702. He died on August 8, 1762.

SAMUEL HOLMES: Samuel Holmes, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born on April 17, 1704, in Middletown, Monmouth County, New Jersey. On December 7, 1731, he married Huldah Mott (b. 1709), daughter of Gresham and Sarah Clayton Mott. Samuel was a merchant by trade. His farm, near Hop Brook in Monmouth County, was called Scotts Chester. Samuel Holmes died on February 23, 1760 and was buried in the Holmdel Baptist Church graveyard in Middletown. Huldah Mott Holmes died in 1784 and was buried with her husband.

One of their children, Asher Holmes, was born on February 16, 1740. Colonel Asher Holmes commanded the New Jersey Regiment during the Revolutionary War at the Battles of Germantown, Princeton, and Monmouth. He was the first sheriff of Monmouth County after the Revolution. Colonel Asher Holmes married Sarah Watson (b. 2/21/1740; d. 9/11/1830). Asher Holmes died on June 20, 1801.

MARY HOLMES: Mary Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1706. She married James Mott (1707 - 1787). Mary Holmes died in October 1749.

JOHN HOLMES: John Holmes, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1708. He married Mary Ketham. John Holmes died in 1758 and is buried in the Holmdel Baptist Church graveyard.

OBADIAH HOLMES: Obadiah Holmes, son of Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes, was born in 1710. This Obadiah Holmes (not in the direct line of ancestry) married Sarah Osborne in 1747. He died in 1775 or 1776.

## JOSEPH HOLMES (1698 - 1777) AND ELIZABETH ASHTON (1700-1750)

**Joseph Holmes**, son and second child of **Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes**, was born in 1698 at Middletown, Monmouth County, Colony of East Jersey. He grew up in Gravesend, Long Island, New York, and Middletown, Monmouth Co., East Jersey.

In early 1722, Joseph Holmes married **Elizabeth Ashton**, daughter of **John and Elizabeth Cole Ashton**; Elizabeth Ashton was born in 1700 in Upper Freehold, New Jersey.

Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes settled in the Crosswicks area of Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. Their home, built by Joseph Holmes in 1720 to 1722, was called "Red House". Tax records from April 1, 1731, show Joseph owning 150 acres; by the 1758 tax assessment, he owned 945 acres. In 1733, Joseph Holmes was listed as a member of Middletown Baptist Church (some 20 miles from his home).

Elizabeth Ashton Holmes died in November 1750 in Upper Freehold, NJ. There is no evidence (known to the current author) that he remarried.

Joseph Holmes was one of the founders of Crosswicks Baptist Church, which later became known as the Yellow Meeting House. He transferred his membership from Middletown Baptist Church to Crosswicks Baptist Church on May 10, 1766.

J. T. Holmes (*American Family of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes*) wrote the following of Joseph Holmes: "Joseph Holmes measured his years practically by those of the country in which he lived and when the storm broke in 1775, he was 76 years old. A man of large means for his colony and his times, though the days of sere and yellow leaf had come to him, he heard the call to public duty and obeyed it."

On July 19, 1774 (under the Monmouth Resolution), Joseph Holmes was chosen as a delegate to the Provincial Congress to be held in New Brunswick on Thursday July 21 – just two days later. The Congress sat three days. He was also a delegate at Trenton in October 1775, at New Brunswick in November 1775, at Burlington on January 31, 1776 and on June 10 (18?), 1776, and at New Brunswick in August 1776. Within these duties, he also served as a member of the Committee of Safety, a most important and responsible position.

On December 9, 1776, the home of Joseph Holmes was plundered by the Pine Robbers, an outlaw gang, led by John Bacon. The Pine Robbers, who hid in a nearby area known as the Pine Barrens (now a nature preserve in southern New Jersey), took advantage of the turmoil during the Revolutionary War to harass and steal from American patriots.

From March 26 to April 3, 1777, Joseph Holmes was one of two New Jersey Commissioners at a meeting held in York, Pennsylvania. Commissioners from New Jersey, New York, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, and Pennsylvania met "for the purpose of considering and forming a system adapted to these states to regulate the price of labor, of manufacturies, and of internal produce

within these states and of goods imported from foreign parts, except military stores, to be laid before the respective legislatures of each state for their appropriation.”

Immediately after the conclusion of these sessions, Joseph Holmes returned to his home to prepare his will. On April 7, 1777, he deeded his home to his son, Jonathan Holmes.

Per page 168 of *The National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*, Volume 1 (DAR ID Number 93546), submitted by Mrs. Olive Holmes Kettleson (wife of Andrew Kettleson), Joseph Holmes was accepted as a Revolutionary War veteran based on his service as a member of the Provincial Congress and Committee of Safety of New Jersey (1775-1776).

One of his sons composed the following simple entry in the family Bible, regarding the time of the death of the Honorable Joseph Holmes: “My father died 25 July 1777 about 8 o’clock in ye morning.” He had reached his 79<sup>th</sup> year. Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes are buried in the Ashton Burying Ground in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey.

The will of Joseph Holmes was recorded by the New Jersey Secretary of State, Liber 19, page number unreadable. Joseph Holmes left his plantation to his son, Jonathan; to his son, John, he left all remaining lands in Upper Freehold “except a small lott in the Barrons whereon is a stone hill”; to his grand daughter, Elizabeth Imlay, he left “a lot of land at Middletown Point on the east side of the main street before John Burrow’s Door” and 230 pounds; to his daughter, Alice, wife of John Polhemus, he left 300 pounds; to the Baptist Church of Upper Freehold, he left 70 pounds (but the principal was not to be used); to “my old Negro man, Jack,” he left six pounds a year for as long as he lived and the use of “the upland, south of Lahway Creek where Benjamin Beers now lives”; he left this land (left to Jack) to his son, John, if “John chooses to live on it”; the excepted land on “stone hill” was to be divided equally among his sons, Joseph, Jonathan, and John; to “my Negro man George,” he left “all the money I have in hand.” The executors were his sons, Joseph, Jonathan, and John Holmes. The Witnesses were Jacob Hendrickson and James Mott, Jr. [From Noel, *The Holmes Tree*.]

The inventory of the estate of Joseph Holmes exceeded 1,140 pounds at the time of his death.

Conspicuously absent from the will is Obadiah Holmes, eldest son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, who had moved to Virginia in 1767 and on to the panhandle of Virginia (now West Virginia) in 1775. At the writing of his will, Joseph Holmes may have been unaware of the fate of his son, Obadiah. Or, since Obadiah Holmes became a Methodist in about 1767, Joseph Holmes may have upset due to the family’s long association with the Baptist Church (purely speculation by Stephen A. Leeper). In another speculation, perhaps Joseph Holmes gave Obadiah his share of the estate when Obadiah stated his intentions to move west.

Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes are buried at the Ashton Burying Ground in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey

Per the old family Bible, the children of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes were:

JOHN HOLMES: John Holmes, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on January 29, 1724 and died young.

ALICE HOLMES: Alice Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on June 30, 1726. She married John Polhemus. They had no children. Alice Holmes Polhemus died on April 1, 1788. John Polhemus died in 1793. They are buried together at Crosswicks Baptist Church Cemetery.

OBADIAH HOLMES: **Obadiah Holmes**, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on October 13, 1728. He married **Mary Clunn** and became known as Obadiah Holmes the Western Pioneer. As he is in the direct line of ancestry, he is treated in greater detail below.

JAMES HOLMES: James Holmes, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on March 6, 1732 and died young.

MARY HOLMES: Mary Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on September 17, 1733. In 1762, she married Peter Imlay in Allentown, New Jersey. She apparently died before April 1777 (the date that her father prepared his will); based on the fact that Joseph Holmes left an inheritance (of land at Middletown Point) to Elizabeth Imlay, the daughter of Mary Holmes Imlay.

JOSEPH HOLMES: Joseph Holmes, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on December 31, 1736. He married Phoebe Wardell; no children are known. Joseph Holmes was active in Revolutionary Councils and was a member of the New Jersey Assembly under the constitution adopted on July 3, 1776. Phoebe Wardell Holmes died on February 25, 1786. Joseph Holmes died on August 31, 1809.

JONATHAN HOLMES: Jonathan Holmes, son of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes, was born on December 24, 1738. In 1767, he married Lydia Throckmorton. Jonathan Holmes was a Captain in the New Jersey militia during the Revolutionary War. In December 1776, after he had left home to fight, a neighbor, well known to him, threw in with the Pine Robbers, robbed his home, and left his wife and family destitute. Capt. Jonathan Holmes died "about half-past twelve in the morning" on August 4, 1777 due to "hardships and exposure." Lydia Throckmorton Holmes died on February 14, 1783. They were buried at the Yellow Meeting House/Crosswicks Baptist Church Cemetery.

Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes had at least five children:

Elizabeth Holmes: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes, was born in 1768 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. She married Samuel Wychoff. Elizabeth Holmes Wychoff died in 1834.

Joseph Holmes: Joseph Holmes, son of Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes, was born in 1772 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. In 1793, he married Mary Bruere (b. 3-3-1774; d. 6-28-1833). Joseph Holmes died on July 16, 1815; he and his wife

are buried at the Yellow Meeting House. The son of Joseph and Mary Bruere Holmes was Joseph Holmes (1810-1893), who married Martha Ann Meirs (1825-1920) in 1842. The son of Joseph and Martha Meirs Holmes was Joseph Holmes (1849-1941), who married Helen Giberson (1853-1926).

John Holmes: John Holmes, son of Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes, was born in 1773 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey, and died young.

Sarah Holmes: Sarah Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes, was born in 1775 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. She married Clayton Erle and died in 1800.

Alice Holmes: Alice Holmes, daughter of Jonathan and Lydia Throckmorton Holmes, was born on December 14, 1775 in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. She died on March 16, 1790.

JOHN HOLMES: John Holmes, the second child of Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes given this name (the first John died young), was born in 1744. The practice of using the name of a child who had died young as the name of a later child was not uncommon in these times; his great grandparents, Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes, also named two sons John. John was a lieutenant in the New Jersey troops during the Revolutionary War. In 1774, he married Deborah Leonard. He was living in the house of his parents as of 1780. According to a news article, "In 1780, about the last of April, refugees attacked the house of John Holmes in Upper Freehold and robbed him of a large amount of Continental money, a silver watch, gold ring, silver buckle, clothing, etc." John Holmes "deceased the 13 of August 10 o'clock at night 1783..." Deborah Leonard Holmes died on May 6, 1811. They are buried together in the cemetery of the Yellow Meeting House (Crosswicks Baptist Church).

From the Holmes family Bible, John and Deborah Leonard Holmes had at least five children:

Elizabeth Holmes: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of John and Deborah Leonard Holmes, was born about 5 o'clock in the afternoon on Jan. 2, 1775, in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey. She married Rowland Ellis, a merchant from Philadelphia. She died on May 9, 1795.

Mary Holmes: Mary Holmes, daughter of John and Deborah Leonard Holmes, was born on October 29, 1776, at about 8 o'clock in the afternoon, in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, New Jersey and died about 5 o'clock in the morning of July 30, 1777.

Joseph Holmes: Joseph Holmes, son of John and Deborah Leonard Holmes, was born on Aug. 21, 1778, in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth Co., NJ, at about 1 o'clock in the morning. He married Ann Lowrie.



Alice Holmes: Alice (Allis) Holmes, daughter of John and Deborah Leonard Holmes, was born about 4 o'clock in the afternoon of June 18, 1780, in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth Co., NJ. She died in 1802.

John L. Holmes: John Holmes, son of John and Deborah Leonard Holmes, was born Wednesday July 10, 1782, at about 8 o'clock at night in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth Co., NJ. He married Rachel Coombs (daughter of Solomon Coombs).

Of Jonathan and John Holmes, officers in the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War, who died at relatively young ages for the men of the Holmes line, J. T. Holmes (*American Family of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes*, 1915) eloquently writes the following:

Living in times of peace and prosperity, a hundred and thirty years after these officers closed their careers, it may not be an easy task for those of us who have never seen war, with its dangers, anxieties, and merciless exhaustion, wounds and death, or confronted with its starvation and rags, with or without loathsome prison, to appreciate what they went through, or what discounted their lives.

The foot-loose, care-free young soldier – dare-devil, may be – whose house is shingled when his hat is on, in camp or field or battle, is one proposition – there are no cares or responsibilities behind him. On the other hand, the soldier with doubled years and wife and little ones and home behind, carries a wearing spirit-burden each day, even though the “dear ones” may be safe. Now add to that as merely illustrating hundreds of cases not in New Jersey alone, the perils, some of them worse than death, from dissolute British or Hessian soldiers, malignant Tories, heartless Pine Robbers, murderers, within easy reach of their homes and little families, as they were in Upper Freehold, while these two brothers marched and starved and fought and endured, no wonder that each died before his prime.

## OBADIAH HOLMES (1728 - 1794) AND MARY CLUNN (1732/37 - 1812)

**Obadiah Holmes**, third son of **Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes**, was born in Upper Freehold, Monmouth County, New Jersey, on October 13, 1728. Little is known of his youth.

During the Christmas holidays of 1755, at the age of 27, he married **Mary Clunn** in Lambertton, New Jersey (which has since been absorbed into south Trenton). Mary Clunn, daughter of John Clunn (a New York merchant), was born in 1732 or in 1737 and was, therefore, 18 or 22 at the time of her marriage. She had three brothers (names not known); two were merchants in New York and one in Philadelphia. Her uncle, Joseph Clunn, was a captain of a New Jersey regiment during the Revolutionary War. He owned an inn in Trenton, which displayed a sign showing a painting of Alexander the Great; after the Revolution, the painting of Alexander the Great was replaced by a painting of George Washington on horseback.

Before October 1756, Obadiah Holmes settled on Staten Island, New Jersey, and took up the boat building trade. His home on Staten Island was only about 20 miles from Upper Freehold, his birthplace. Four sons were born to the Obadiah Holmes family at Staten Island.

Obadiah Holmes, apparently of a restless nature, moved about a great deal and tried a number of different occupations during his lifetime. He made his first move in 1762/63, when he returned his family to Lambertton/Trenton, New Jersey, where he was engaged as a merchant. During this stay in Trenton, two more children were born.

From J. T. Holmes: "The close of the French and Indian war was the signal for the commencement of a migratory movement, which has never had a parallel on this continent. The soldiers of the western campaigns, hunters, traders, adventurers, explorers, surveyors and others carried back to the people along the coast such accounts of the fertility of the soil, the beauty of the country, its forests and streams, its hills and mountains and valleys, that the western fever was like a disease ..."

About 1767, Obadiah Holmes contracted "western fever," was likely given his inheritance and the blessing of his father, and he moved west. In Holmes Family history, this Obadiah became known as Obadiah the Western Pioneer. This time he carved a home from the wilderness of Rockingham County, Virginia (now Jefferson Co., West Virginia), and presumably took up farming. Another son (Jacob) was born at this place. [During this time, Obadiah Holmes lived near his cousin, "Virginia" John Lincoln, son of Mordecai Lincoln and Hannah Salter. The common ancestors were the Rev. Obadiah and Katherine Hyde Holmes. "Virginia" John Lincoln was the grandfather of President Abraham Lincoln.] The family of Obadiah Holmes, the Western pioneer, became Methodists while living in Rockingham County, Virginia.

About 1768, Obadiah Holmes moved his family into Pennsylvania near a town known as Little Washington.

About 1770, the Holmes family moved to Mecklenburg, Rockingham Co., Virginia. This town, located on the Potomac River about 12 miles north of Harper's Ferry, West Virginia, was later renamed Shepherdstown (in Jefferson Co., West Virginia). Twin children were born into the family at this place. Their mother, Mary Clunn Holmes, used her eyes too much after the coming of the twins, lost her eyesight, and was totally blind the remaining 40 years of her life.

In the summer of 1773 or 1775, the family moved up the Potomac River and crossed the mountains from Fort Cumberland, Maryland, settling near the present location of Strabane Township, Washington, Washington Co., Penn. The location was described as "2 ½ miles from Indian Camp [Catfish Camp], on the south side of Chartiers Creek." At that time, this area was considered a part of Virginia. The last child of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes was born here.

In 1785, Obadiah Holmes moved, for the final time, to a farm in Ohio Co., Virginia (now in Brooke Co., in the panhandle of West Virginia). The farm was located on the Ohio River, about 2 ½ miles southeast of Charleston (now known as Wellsburg). This location was "in sight of the Ohio River from Beech Bottom looking up Buffalo Creek about one mile in a direct line."

The following transaction was found in Book 1, page 140, of the Ohio County deed records:

"This indenture made this fifth day of November in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred & eighty seven between Wilma Harrison of Ohio County and the State of Virginia of the one part and Obadiah Holms of the County & State aforesaid of the other part witnesseth that for and in consideration of one hundred pounds to him in hand paid do give and grant bargain and sell to the said Obadiah Holms one parcel of land in Ohio County on the waters of Buffalo containing one hundred acres and bounded as folloeth viz.) Beginning at a white oak corner to Larrance Vanbuskirk thence north twenty six degrees west seventy eight poles to a white oak then north eighty west one hundred & sixty two poles to a sugartree thence south 113 poles to a white oak thence north eighty seven degrees east two hundred poles to the Beginning to gather with all its appurtenances to have and to hold said parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Obadiah Holms and his heirs to the sole use and behoof of the said Obadiah Holms and his that and the said William Harrison do covenant with the said Obadiah Holms & his heirs the said parcel of land with its appurtenances to the said Obadiah Holms and his heirs against all persons whatsoever claiming or to claim the said parcel of land will for ever warrant and defend in witness whereof the said William Harrison have hereunto subscribed his name and affixed his seal the day and year above written.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of

John Connell

William Holms

William Harrison, seal

A true copy of the original. The above indenture was acknowledged in open court and ordered to be recorded.

Moses Chapline"

Obadiah Holmes, the Western Pioneer, died on this farm in April 1794, at the age of 66. He was buried somewhere on his land.

The will of Obadiah Holmes was obtained from Noel, *The Holmes Tree*:

“In the name of God, Amen. I, Obadiah Holmes of Ohio County, Virginia, farmer, being through the abundant mercy and goodness of God, though weak in body, yet of sound mind and perfect understanding and memory, do constitute this my last will and testament and desire it may be received by all as such.

First: I most humbly bequeath my soul to God who gave it and my body to the earth from whence it came, with full assurance of its resurrection from thence at the last day. As for my burial, I desire that it may be decent at the discretion of my dear wife and my executors hereafter named, who, I doubt not, will manage it with all required prudence.

As to my worldly estate, I will and positively order that all my debts be paid. First that my dear and beloved wife, Mary Holmes, shall have one third part of all my worldly estate real and personal; Secondly, my beloved son, William Holmes, to whom I give also one shilling; thirdly, to my beloved son, Obadiah Holmes, to whom I give also one shilling; fourthly, to my beloved son, Abraham, I give one shilling; fifthly, to my beloved son, Isaac, I give one shilling. Sixthly, I give and bequeath the remainder to my beloved children, namely Jacob Holmes, Joseph Holmes, and Samuel Holmes, to whom I give all my estate both real and personal to be equally divided between the last three named. And as for the execution part of my estate, I do hereby constitute and appoint my two beloved sons, Jacob Holmes and Joseph Holmes in whom I fully repose that trust.

In witness whereof I hereunto set my hand this eighteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety four.

Obadiah Holmes, seal

Present: Nathan Griffith, William Hamar

N.B. I, Obadiah Holmes, awarding my above wife in presence of the annexed witnesses, namely Nathan Griffith and William Hamar, do give to my beloved daughter, Elizabeth Pumphrey, the sum of one shilling; also, I give to my beloved daughter, Margaret Hays, the sum of five pounds.

A copy Teste Moses Chapman, C.O.C.”

Mary Clunn Holmes sold the Wellsburg farm in 1797 and moved to Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio, to live with her son, Jacob. She died in September 1812, at the age of 75, in Indian Shortcreek, Ohio. The following was written of her: “Gentle, patient, loving and beloved, in life, saintly in character, down to the end, this pioneer woman, though residing among them for so long, never saw the sunlight on the magnificent forests and fields and rivers of this western country.”

Three sons of the Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes -- Isaac, Joseph, and Samuel – married daughters of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb. Quoting from the notes of Mary Leeper Long: “It was sort of a joke among the Holmes family a good while ago that the Holmes-McNabb connections were highly esteemed but my mother’s uncle John Holmes who had visited some of the others pronounced „the Holmes-McNabb combination was OK but Holmes without McNabb was no good.“ It was only a joke, of course.” [This John Holmes was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes; see below.]

Ten children were born to Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes:

JOHN HOLMES: John Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on October 9, 1756, at Staten Island, New Jersey. He fought in the Dunmore War of 1774. In 1776, he enlisted in a western Pennsylvania regiment of the American Army and fought in the Revolutionary War. Per tradition, he was captured at the battle of Brandywine and died a prisoner of war. He may have died of a fever on a British prison ship as it arrived in England. The battle of Brandywine occurred on Sept. 11, 1777, about 10 miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and a few miles inside Pennsylvania. The battle was named for Brandywine Creek, which runs into the Delaware River a few miles east of Wilmington, Delaware.

WILLIAM HOLMES: William Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on September 8, 1758, at Staten Island, New Jersey. He married Mary Johnson. His farm adjoined that of his father in the Virginia panhandle. Conflicting information exists regarding when William Holmes died: in 1802, or in 1808, or in 1824 (buried at Dickerson Church, Cadiz, Ohio; per Noel). Also from Noel, after his death, the widow Mary Johnson Holmes moved her family to Adena, Jefferson County, Ohio, to be near her family and the family of her husband who had settled in that area. Obadiah Holmes, the son of William and Mary Johnson Holmes, married Rebecca Thomas, became a justice of the peace in Jefferson Co., Ohio, in 1809, had two children, and died on August 2, 1873. One daughter of William and Mary Johnson went to live with her uncle, Obadiah Holmes, Jr., and lived with that family for many years. Mary Johnson Holmes and Obadiah Holmes are buried in Beaverdam, Ohio.

OBADIAH HOLMES, JR.: Obadiah Holmes, Jr., son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on September 18, 1760, at Staten Island, New Jersey. He was a lieutenant in the Ohio Indian Wars of the 1780s.

According to Joseph Holmes (younger brother of this Obadiah Holmes, Jr.), Obadiah Holmes, Jr. was a member of Colonel Williamson's party at the Gnadenhutzen (sometimes called the Moravian) Massacre [interview of Joseph Holmes by Lyman Draper on October 6, 1863 (*Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Reel 50, Series S, Volume 19: 183-198)]. This episode is well documented in various histories of early Ohio [e.g., *Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars Of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania* ..., Joseph Dodderidge, 1912 edition, reprinted by McClain Printing, Parson, WV, 1960, p. 201; *Where the Frolics and War Dances Are Held: The Indian Wars and the Early Exploration and Settlement of Muskingum County and the Central Muskingum Valley*, Jeff Carskadden and James Morton, Gateway Press, Baltimore, MD, 1997, pp. 264-267]. This event was not one of America's proudest moments, but we must be careful when applying today's views to the 1780s.

In summary, in February 1782, a militia of about 90 men, led by Colonel David Williamson, was pursuing a band of warring Indians who had murdered and looted farms in Washington Co., Pennsylvania. Among the victims, were the wife and daughter of Robert Wallace – a member of the militia. With highly unfortunate timing, about 90 captive, peaceful, Moravian Christian Indians had been allowed to return (from Sandusky) to their village, Gnadenhutzen, to gather unharvested corn and other personal items – at the same time that this militia was heading toward Gnadenhutzen. The band of warring Indians stopped at Gnadenhutzen and traded items with the

Moravian Christian Indians. When Williamson's party arrived at Gnadenhutzen, they found items stolen from Washington Co., including the blood-stained dress of Mrs. Wallace. Several men in Williamson's party (apparently those who had lost loved ones to Indians) wanted to exact revenge on the Indians at Gnadenhutzen. Colonel Williamson opposed such action, but could not control the actions of a minority of the men in his party. According to the record provided by Dodderidge (a letter from J. T. Holmes), Obadiah Holmes, Jr. was among the men who opposed holding the Gnadenhutzen Indians responsible for the actions of the war party. Colonel Williamson, Obadiah Holmes, Jr., and several other men, refused to participate and left the scene. On that fateful day (March 7, 1782), ninety innocent Indians, including women and children, were murdered. A memorial to this event exists at Gnadenhutzen, Ohio.

The Gnadenhutzen incident is briefly addressed by Col. J. T. Holmes in *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes* (1915, p. 169). According J. T. Holmes, Obadiah Holmes Jr. took great risk to rescue a seven year old Indian boy from the massacre. This boy was a member of his family to the age of 17.

Obadiah Holmes, Jr. served in the army during the Indian War of 1785. Per page 170 of the J. T. Holmes book, Obadiah Holmes Jr. served under the command of Crawford. During one battle, Obadiah Holmes Jr. helped a wounded comrade escape the enemy during a desperate retreat.

At the end of the Revolutionary War, Obadiah Holmes was a lieutenant.

Obadiah Holmes, Jr. married Jane Richardson and settled at Woodsville, South Fayette Township, Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes had ten daughters (several of whom are said to have married into Pittsburgh society) and two sons (Shepley, the elder son, and Washington). Both sons became physicians and practiced medicine in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Jane Richardson Holmes died in the 1820s. Obadiah Holmes, Jr. died at the home of his son, Dr. Shepley Ross Holmes in Pittsburgh, in June 1834. Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes are buried in St. Luke's Burial Ground in Woodville, Penn. [James and Mary Richardson, the parents of Jane Richardson Holmes, are also buried in St. Luke's.]

Among the twelve children of Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes were the following.

Shepley Ross Holmes: Per page 204 of *Colonial and Revolutionary Families of Pennsylvania, Vol. II*, John W. Jordan, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, MD, 1904, Shepley Holmes, son of Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes, was born on July 11, 1791. His first wife was Sarah Peters (1795 to 9/20/1833) and his second wife was named Stretton. He became a prominent doctor in Pittsburgh. Dr. Shepley and Sarah Peters Holmes had the following children: Lewis Peters, Benjamin Rush, James Rush, Shepley Stoddard, Obadiah, Eliza Jane, Ana Mary, Caroline Anita, and Sallie Peters Holmes. By his second wife, Dr. Shepley Holmes had two children: Americus V. and Louisa Holmes. This book follows the family of Eliza Jane Holmes. Per the Pittsburgh Gazette, April 15, 1817, on the Thursday before this date, Dr. Shepley Holmes married Miss Sarah Peters (daughter of Lewis Peters); they had at least one child, a son named Shepley Stoddard Holmes. [Source: Kay Haworth, October 2000.]

Mary (Polly) Holmes: Mary Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes, was born on August 8, 1795 (?) in Noblestn, Penn. On August 26, 1819, she married John Stoddard (born Sept. 13, 1793, in Carlisle, Cumberland Co., Penn.). They had the following children: Shepley Holmes (b. Sept. 24, 1821; d. Oct. 7, 1840); Robert (b. April 21, 1824; m. Sarah Ann Stubs, June 29, 1847; d. Aug. 31, 1870, Elmira, Chemung, NY); Mary Gray (b. Feb. 26, 1826; m. Alexander Campbell, Dec. 29, 1846; d. April 28, 1912, Braddock, Allegheny, Penn.); Louisiana "Ann" (b. July 31, 1828, in Allegheny City, Allegheny, Penn.; m. John O'Neil, May 10, 1855); Obadiah Holmes (b. Oct. 15, 1830; m. first, Ellen Davis, ca. 1854, who was the daughter of John Davis and she died on Sept. 13, 1885 at Elmira; m. second Kate Wirtz, April 10, 1890, in Myron Township, Faulk, SD; d. Jan. 28, 1913, Myron Township, Faulk, SD); Harriet Mary (b. Feb. 15, 1833 in Allegheny City; m. William J. Blackstock; d. Dec. 7, 1920, in Elmsworth, Allegheny, Penn.); and Sarah Montgomery (b. Feb. 15, 1837; d. Aug. 13, 1838) Stoddard. [Source: Kay Haworth, October 2000, descendant of John and Mary Stoddard.]

Per Kay Haworth [November 2001], Obadiah and Jane Richardson Holmes also had children by the names of George W. (physician), Mary (Stoddart), Ellen Jones (Peters), Margaret, Rachel, and Statira (Schwartz).

ABRAHAM HOLMES: Abraham Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born August 10, 1762, at Staten Island, New Jersey. Prior to 1783, Abraham first married Elizabeth Johnson Rollins (a widow, whose husband was killed by Indians on their western Pennsylvania farm); they lived in Indian Shortcreek, Jefferson/Harrison County, Ohio. In 1817, at the home of Joseph Holmes (younger brother to Abraham), Elizabeth Holmes died suddenly; she is buried at Dickerson Church in Cadiz, Ohio. In that same year, two sons of Abraham and Elizabeth Holmes [John (born 1783; married with four or five children) and Samuel (born 1793; unmarried)] disappeared one afternoon (presumed to be the victims of murderers). On January 20, 1820, Abraham Holmes re-married to Mary Marshall and moved north of Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio. Abraham and Mary Holmes both died in Mansfield, Richland County, Ohio, in the 1830s. Abraham had numerous descendants by both wives.

ISAAC HOLMES: **Isaac Holmes**, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on April 29, 1764, at Trenton, NJ. He married **Elizabeth McNabb**, the daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, on October 28, 1794. Isaac Holmes is in the direct line of ancestry and is described in detail below.

ELIZABETH HOLMES: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on February 22, 1766, in Lamberton/Trenton, New Jersey. She was the first daughter and was named after her grandmother, Elizabeth Ashton Holmes. Elizabeth married William Pumphrey (b. 1764; d. 12/1/1842) and had many children (names unknown). They lived in Smithfield and Warren Townships, Jefferson County, Ohio. She died September 26, 1838, and is buried, with her husband, at Hopewell Church in Jefferson County, Ohio.

JACOB HOLMES: Jacob Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on December 8, 1768, in Rockingham County, Virginia. On Sept. 30, 1790, he married Elizabeth Dodderidge Huff (1772-1857), on a boat on the Ohio River at a location near Charleston, Virginia (now Wellsburg, West Virginia). The wedding was termed "quite an affair."

Seventeen days later, Jacob Holmes enlisted in the Army and served for 40 months. He was an Indian scout (sometimes referred to as a spy), working mostly on the north side of the Ohio River (from Pittsburgh to Marietta) to warn settlers of possible Indian attacks. He participated in the six month Gallipolis Expedition of 1790/91. He completed his service after the 1794 Battle of Fallen Timbers [fought on August 20, 1794 – the final battle of the Northwest Indian War.] He is mentioned in an interview of his brother, Joseph Holmes, by Lyman Draper on October 6, 1863 (*Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin, Reel 50, Series S, Volume 19: 183-198). For his service as a scout/spy, the U.S. government awarded him 640 acres about one mile below the forks of Indian Short Creek (now Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio). Jacob Holmes lived on this land until 1829.

Jacob Holmes was ordained as a Methodist Episcopal minister and worked with Isaac Meek and Richard Flemming. In 1803, he donated land for establishment of First Methodist Church; the church building was called the Holmes Meeting House. This building was abandoned in 1810 to allow construction of a new church building near the original site, but on higher ground.

In 1829, when the church suffered a split, Jacob Holmes moved to Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio. In 1833, he moved to Highland Co., Ohio and, in 1841, to Hardin Co., Ohio.

In the words of J. T. Holmes (who compiled numerous stories about this exceptional man), a family reunion was held in honor of Jacob Holmes: "... one day in July 1841, was spread a banquet to which all his living descendants and their immediate connections had been invited, and most of them had loyally come ... Children, children-in-law, grandchildren, great grandchildren, among them, ministers, lawyers, physicians, crowded that lawn ... he rose in his place and addressing them publicly for the last time, in simple language, preached a sermon, which welled to his lips, from his own life, which applied its teachings for whatever was good in it to the conduct and guidance of the lives of his beloved and closed by bidding them farewell, wishing each a safe journey home, a prosperous, useful and happy life and earnestly hoping that he might, in God's good time, meet them all in heaven. ... Find the true measure of his life in the scant outline of his last sermon. It ... shows his rest on the eternal principles of good and truth and righteousness."

Jacob Holmes died October 14, 1841, and is buried in Kenton Grove Cemetery in Hardin County, Ohio. His last words were said to be: "All is well; all is well."

Elizabeth Huff Holmes died on January 27, 1857 and is buried beside her husband. Of her J. T. Holmes wrote: "She was, in every way, an ideal pioneer woman and her life deserves an independent sketch, if this age had any leisure for it. Her fearlessness and prudence in danger equaled those of her brothers along the Indian border and she capably filled every station assigned in her life."



Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes had the following children:

Enos Holstead Holmes: Enos Holmes, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born on December 6, 1791; extensive additional details on Enos Holmes are provided in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*, as the author is a descendant of this Enos Holmes.

Susannah Holmes: Susannah Holmes, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born on November 22, 1793. She married Nathaniel Moore and had seventeen children, most of whom survived to have families. Additional details are provided in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*. She died on February 10, 1876 at Little York in Smithfield Township, Jefferson Co., Ohio.

Michael Holmes: Michael Holmes, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, married Matilda Dickerson and died in Hardin Co., Ohio.

Mary Holmes: Mary Holmes, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born March 21, 1796, at Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio. On March 31, 1814, she married William Wilkin (born July 15, 1791). She died on July 15, 1874 and is buried in Grove Cemetery in Kenton, Ohio. Information on her eleven children is provided in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*.

Samuel Holmes: Samuel Holmes, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born on January 18, 1800 at Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio. He married Sarah Ritter (born September 7, 1804) on August 7, 1821; they lived in Carroll Co., Ohio, until 1827. Prior to 1840, they moved to Goshen Township, Hardin Co., Ohio, where Samuel Holmes died on November 12, 1855. Samuel and Sarah Ritter Holmes had twelve children.

John Meek Holmes: John Meek Holmes, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born in Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio and married Sarah Pittinger.

Hannah Holmes: Hannah Holmes, daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, married Augustine Bickerstaff. She died in Steubenville, Ohio. Augustine and Hannah Holmes Bickerstaff had at least one child, Gus Jr.

Richard Flemming Holmes: Richard Flemming Holmes, son of Jacob and Elizabeth Huff Holmes, was born on June 17, 1807, at Adena, Jefferson Co., Ohio. He was a farmer. On May 28, 1828, he married Catherine Cahill (born October 1, 1803). They lived in Tuscarawas/Carroll Co., Ohio until 1834, when they moved to Highland Co., Ohio; they moved to Pleasant Township, Hardin Co., Ohio, in 1839. Richard Flemming Holmes died on July 28, 1853. Richard and Catherine Cahill Holmes had eight children. Their daughter Elizabeth Holmes, who married Fayette Schoonover (born Feb. 2, 1829), published a description of her life in a 1910 issue of the Kenton Ohio News Republican (reproduced in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*).

JOSEPH HOLMES: Joseph Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes and twin of Margaret Holmes, was born on January 27, 1771, at Mecklenburg, Virginia (now Shepherdstown, West Virginia). He was thirteen when his father died and continued to live near

Charleston, Virginia (now Wellsburg, West Virginia) until 1798. He grew to a height of five foot, ten inches, and was said to be highly athletic – a trait common to the Holmes boys.

Joseph Holmes was interviewed by Lyman Draper on October 6, 1863 [*Lyman C. Draper Manuscript Collection*, State Historical Society of Wisconsin. Reel 50, Series S, Volume 19: 183-198]. He recounts various events, of which he had knowledge and in which he participated, that occurred in the 1780s and 1790s. This man was among those who forged Ohio out of the wilderness. The interested reader may consult the Lyman Draper collection (available in the Wisconsin Historical Library in Madison, Wisconsin, and possibly many other libraries). Anyone interested in more information about Joseph Holmes should consult *The American Family of the Rev. Obadiah Holmes* by J. T. Holmes (a descendant of this Joseph Holmes).

On February 26, 1799, near St. Clairsville, in Jefferson (now Belmont) County, Ohio, Joseph Holmes married Sarah McNabb (sister of Elizabeth and Mary McNabb); Sarah was born on August 26, 1783 in Shepherdstown, Virginia (West Virginia). In 1800, Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes moved to Emerson/Mt. Pleasant, Ohio. At some later time, they re-moved to Indian Shortcreek, Jefferson County, Ohio, where they remained for the rest of their lives. The title to their farm in Indian Shortcreek was signed by Thomas Jefferson.

Joseph Holmes was called back to military duty, as a captain, in the army during the War of 1812. He helped to build Fort Meigs. Again, substantial details are provided by J. T. Holmes. Joseph Holmes was commissioned a colonel at the conclusion of the war.

Joseph Holmes died April 20, 1868, at Indian Shortcreek, Shortcreek Township, Harrison County, Ohio. Sarah McNabb Holmes died on March 5, 1862. They are buried at Dickerson Methodist Episcopal Church, which they had helped found in 1802.

According to information provided by Mary Leeper Long, a descendant of this Joseph Holmes may have had possession of the Holmes Family Bible that provides information back to the Rev. Obadiah Holmes. Later research revealed that Col. James Taylor Holmes (grandson of this Joseph Holmes) collected a preponderance of information on the Holmes family, most likely came into the possession of the family papers, wrote *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*, and many of his papers were microfilmed and added to the collection of the Family History Center in Salt Lake City. See the references at the beginning of the section on the Rev. Obadiah Holmes.

Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes had the following children:

George Holmes: George Holmes, son of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on October 24, 1799. He first married Hannah Lynn in Harrison County, Ohio (on either Jan. 3, or March 8, 1822). He second married Tacy Thompson (August 23, 1824) and third Hannah Mansfield (January 7, 1834). George Holmes died on June 29, 1886 and is buried at Dickerson Church in Cadiz, Ohio. George and Tacy Thompson Holmes had the following children: Joseph (1825-1889, married Mary McConnell), Rezin (1827-?, married Emeline Mansfield) Holmes. George and Hannah Mansfield Holmes had Emma Holmes (born 1838/39; married Kersey Wood

Kinsey in 1864). A biographical sketch of Joseph Homes (1825-1889) is provided on page 392 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio, 1891*.

Mary Holmes: Mary Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on April 25, 1801. She married John Glasener on April 22, 1829. She died in eastern Illinois in November 1882.

Elizabeth Holmes: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on December 26, 1803. She first married William Dickerson (January 7, 1818) and second married Isaac Thomas (December 20, 1822). Elizabeth Holmes died in 1851 (Nov. 26 or June 22), in Indian Shortcreek, Ohio. Isaac Thomas was born on June 2, 1795 and died on May 21, 1876. Asa Thomas (1828-1879), the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Holmes Thomas, married Elizabeth Rebecca Neal (1832-1919). Their son, Isaac Neal Thomas (1851-?) married Zilla Jane Durman (1861-1913) and had a daughter, Lillian Blanch Thomas (1882-1961), who married Edward James Bowker (1884-1961). Their daughter, Vaunita Glen Bowker (10-7-1902 to 10-6-95) ("Grandma Shook") married Daniel Jerome Larson (1898/99-1989), and had a daughter named Bonnie Mae Larson (1925-), who married Vernon Eugene Young (1917-). Cyndie Young Gerken, who married Gary Guy Weber, was the daughter of Vernon and Bonnie Larson Young.

Cynthia Holmes: Cynthia Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on February 6, 1805, in Indian Shortcreek, Ohio. She married John Stiers (January 13, 1821). She died on Nov. 26, 1844, and is buried at Stiers Meeting House, Harrison Co., Ohio.

Asa Shinn Holmes: Asa Shinn Holmes, son of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born December 4, 1806 at Indian Shortcreek, Ohio. [J. T. Holmes, the son of Asa Shinn Holmes, also wrote extensively about his father.] Asa Shinn Holmes may have been named after Asa Shinn, an early Ohio Methodist Circuit Rider, connected with the Wells, Holmes and Brown families of Licking and Fairfield counties [from Brooke County, Virginia (now West Virginia)]. On February 2, 1837, Asa Holmes married Mary McCoy (born May 3, 1814, in Brownsville, Pennsylvania; daughter of Thomas and Hannah McCoy). He was a farmer. Asa Holmes died on January 3, 1891 at Indian Shortcreek, Ohio. Mary McCoy Holmes died on March 18, 1901. Asa and Mary McCoy Holmes had ten children: James Taylor (see below); Susanna (married Albert Harrison; settled in Cadiz, Ohio); Abram (served in the Civil War and settled in New Philadelphia, Ohio); Emiline; Sarah Elizabeth (married Henry Stringer); William Wilson; Mary Ellen (married Samuel Dickerson); Henrietta (married C. A. McCleary); Oliver Wendell (a Methodist minister at Kent, Ohio); and Clifton A. Holmes. An extensive biographical sketch of Asa Shinn Holmes has been compiled on pages 146 to 148 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio, 1891*.

James Taylor Holmes: James Taylor (J. T.) Holmes, son of Asa Shinn and Mary McCoy Holmes, was born in Short Creek Township, Harrison Co., Ohio, on November 25, 1837. In 1859, he graduated from Franklin College, New Athens, Ohio. On August 11, 1862, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Ohio Volunteers. By the end of the Civil War, he had reached the rank of Lt. Colonel. Additional details are provided in Smyth (p. 239). In 1867, he

was admitted to the Ohio State Bar Association and he practiced law in Columbus, Ohio, for the remainder of his life. On December 28, 1871, he married Lucy Kelley Bates (b. 12-9-1850; daughter of Judge James L. Bates).

James Taylor Holmes compiled over 40,000 pages in 50 volumes on the history of his Holmes and related families. This Col. J. T. Holmes is the author of *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*, 1915. He is the compiler of "Genealogical and Historical Letters and Memoranda as to the Holmes Family and Some of Their Friends," by J. T. Holmes, compiled 1900 to 1907, Vol. 1-4, 7, and 12; 5,230 pages. Available from FHC, Salt Lake City, Film #1697429, 1697430 part 1, 1697430 part 2, 1697431, 1697433, 1697434. A letter by J. T. Holmes, describing what he had learned about the Gnadenhutten Massacre from family tradition and from historical sources, appears on pages 201 to 203 of *Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars Of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania ...*, Joseph Dodderidge, 1912 edition, reprinted by McClain Printing, Parson, WV, 1960.

James Taylor Holmes was presumably still living in 1915, when his book was published.

The children of James Taylor and Lucy Bates Holmes were: Mabel (born October 13, 1874; married John Dudley Dunham on April 27, 1897); Constance (born Sept. 20, 1877; married Alonzo Hathaway Dunham on April 2, 1901) Lawrence Asa (born Oct. 23, 1881; married Dolena MacIvor on July 19, 1909), Helen (born April 10, 1887; died May 8, 1887), Eleanor (born March 14, 1892) Holmes. Some additional details on this line are provided by Smyth (p. 240).

William Wilson Holmes: William Wilson Holmes, son of Asa and Mary McCoy Holmes, was born on April 24, 1848, at Indian Shortcreek, Ohio, and died in February 1923 in Barrington, Illinois. He married Mary Moores Viers, who was born on January 31, 1852, in Steubenville, Jefferson Co., Ohio, and died on October 14, 1899, in Chicago, Illinois. Per Jan Schwerman (jsch501@dataflo.net), they had the following children: Hazel Rebecca (born July 18, 1884; married William F. Reese); Olive (married 1. James Stuart Gwynne and 2. Andrew Kettelsen); Ethel (born Nov. 22, 1879; married Arthur James Walker); Estella; and Irene (born Mary 17, 1895; married Hugh Calkins; died 1986) Holmes.

Mary Ellen Holmes: Mary Ellen Holmes, daughter of Asa and Mary McCoy Holmes, was born on February 2, 1849. On March 8, 1870, she married Samuel McCleary Dickerson (born April 13, 1844). Children from this marriage are described in Smyth (p. 240).

Abraham Holmes: Abraham Holmes, son of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on December 1, 1808. On March 10, 1836, he married Rachel Mansfield (born January 14, 1814; died February 12, 1854). He married second to Phoebe Ann Ekey (May 15, 1856). Abraham Holmes died on May 3, 1880. Abraham and Rachel Mansfield Holmes had three children: Rachel A. (born 1838/39); Joseph M. (1841-1871; married Chloe A. McCleary); and William A. (born 1844/45) Holmes. Abraham and Phoebe Ekey Holmes had two children, one of whom died in infancy and the other was Wesley A. Holmes (born Aug. 19, 1859 and married Minerva Conwell in 1884). Phoebe Holmes was still living in 1908.

[A biographical sketch of Wesley A Holmes, son of Abraham and Phoebe Ekey Holmes, exists on pages 599 to 600 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio*, 1891.]

Martha Holmes: Martha Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on January 8, 1811. On November 13, 1830, she married John Webb (born February 5, 1806; died January 15, 1893) and settled in New Athens, Ohio. She died on September 9, 1893.

Joseph Holmes: Joseph Holmes, Jr., son of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on May 12, 1815. On February 10, 1842, he first married Mary Jane Heberling (b. 9/15/1821; d. 3/15/1856). In about 1860, he married second to Sarah I. Moore (d. 1/2/1914). Joseph and Mary Heberling Holmes had four children: John (born 1843), Georg (born 1845), William H(enry?) (born 1847), and Sarah A. (born 1850) Holmes. Joseph Holmes died on March 7, 1891, in Hopedale, Ohio, and is buried in the Hopedale Graveyard.

Sarah Holmes: Sarah Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born in 1815 (per J. T. Holmes) or August 27, 1817 (per Noel). On November 3, 1841, she married James Haverfield. Sarah Holmes Haverfield died in Missouri in the 1870s.

Susan/Susannah Holmes: Susan Holmes, daughter of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on February 19, 1820. On January 16, 1838, she married Joseph Webb. On his way to California to mine gold, he contracted fever while crossing the Isthmus and died in May 1850; he was buried at sea about 30 miles off the coast of Acapulco, leaving three children and a widow. In about 1854, she married second to Joseph Dunlap. Susan Holmes Webb Dunlap died on August 4, 1878 and is buried at Dickerson Church in Cadiz, Ohio.

John Holmes: John Holmes, son of Joseph and Sarah McNabb Holmes, was born on December 6, 1821 and died on July 20, 1829. He is buried at Dickerson Church.

MARGARET HOLMES: Margaret Holmes, daughter of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes and twin of Joseph Holmes, was born on January 27, 1771, at Mecklenburg, Virginia (now Shepherdstown, West Virginia). She first married Jeremiah Hayes (killed by a falling tree in 1816) and married second to Elias Pegg (Revolutionary War veteran). Jeremiah and Margaret Holmes Hayes had five children; the eldest children remained in Jefferson Co., Ohio, and the four other children moved to the vicinity of Peoria, Illinois. Margaret and Elia Pegg died in 1835; they are buried in Franklinton Cemetery in Columbus, Ohio.

SAMUEL HOLMES: Samuel Holmes, son of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on March 26, 1776, near Washington, Pennsylvania. In 1795, he married Mary McNabb (sister of Elizabeth and Sarah McNabb and daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb). Mary McNabb was born in Shepherdstown, Virginia (now West Virginia) on February 28, 1779. They had one son and thirteen daughters; their daughters were known as "... the most beautiful girls of all the country sides in which they lived." Samuel Holmes died January 1, 1856. Mary McNabb Holmes died on February 26, 1858. The children of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes were:

Nackey Holmes: Nackey Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on March 20, 1796 in Wellsburg (now West Virginia). She married Daniel Huffman and had two children (names unknown). She died May 21, 1839.

Elizabeth Holmes: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on Dec. 22, 1797 in Wellsburg (now West Virginia). She married Joseph Lanning and had a family (no details).

Obadiah Holmes: Obadiah Holmes, son of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on November 24, 1799 in Jefferson Co., Ohio. He was a building contractor and never married. During the Mexican-American War, he was a Captain in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Ohio infantry and died in Richland Co., Ohio, on April 2, 1849, from exposure suffered during the War.

Martha Holmes: Martha Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on February 26, 1802, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. Per Noel, she married Mr. Crabbs and had three children: Mary (born 1827), Susan (born 1834), and Priscella (born 1840) Crabbs. Per Smyth (p. 236), she married Samuel Osborn.

Mary Holmes: Mary Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on March 3, 1804, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. She married John Dille and had a family. She died on February 24, 1843.

Huldah Holmes: Huldah Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on December 2, 1806, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. She married Cephas Dille and had a family. She died August 22, 1837.

Margaret Holmes: Margaret Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on January 26, 1809, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. She married Isaac E. Osborn/Osburn and had a family.

Phebe/Phoebe Holmes: Phebe Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on March 11, 1811, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. She married James Taylor and had a family.

Sarah Holmes: Sarah Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on February 12, 1813, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. Per J. T. Holmes, she died in about 1820. Per Smyth, she died in 1815.

Susannah Holmes: Susannah Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on April 22, 1815. She married George Tipton and had a family.

Nancy Holmes: Nancy Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on October 14, 1816. She married George Roberts and had a family.

Charlotte Holmes: Charlotte Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on January 4, 1819. She married Frances Ward, still living as of 1905. Some of their children were still living as of the 1903.

Sally/Sarah Holmes: Sally (named Sarah, called Sally) Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on March 20, 1819/21; she married William Ashton, who was still living in 1905. Some of their children were still living as of 1903.

Rebecca Holmes: Rebecca Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Mary McNabb Holmes, was born on December 13, 1823, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. She married Hiram King (born Oct. 14, 1821; died Oct. 27, 1903). She died on October 5, 1910. The children of Hiram and Rebecca Holmes King were: Elmira (born Jan. 10, 1846); Mary (born March 14, 1848); Leander (born Feb. 16, 1850); Samuel (born April 6, 1852); William E. (born Nov. 20, 1854); Ellen (born Dec. 2, 1856); Elizabeth; Huldah (born Dec. 15, 1861); Hattie (born April 19, 1864); and Andrew Jackson (born July 4, 1868) King.

## ISAAC HOLMES (1764 - 1851) AND ELIZABETH MCNABB (1772-1857)

[A biographical sketch of Isaac Holmes exists on pages 406 to 407 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio, 1891*.]

**Isaac Holmes**, the fifth child of Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes, was born on April 29, 1764, at Lambertontrenton, New Jersey. He was raised in the Methodist Church and he raised his family in the Methodist Church.

As a young man, Isaac Holmes was an Indian scout in the U.S. Army and "... filled the dangerous and responsible position of a spy..." [Source: *Beers*, 1891, and oral tradition]. In the context of the 1780s and 1790s, the term "spy" probably refers to a scout or a (frontier) ranger, who travelled into the wilderness of western Pennsylvania and across the Ohio River into Ohio territory, looking for Indian raiding parties – to provide warning to frontier settlers. [Note: U.S. government communications in *Papers of the War Department, 1784 – 1800* are probably related to a different Isaac Holmes of Charleston, South Carolina (1758-1812).]

In (early?) 1794, Isaac Holmes was at Fort Pitt (now Pittsburgh), Pennsylvania (oral tradition).

In 1794, Isaac Holmes, with a man named John Mitchell, developed a business plan to float a load of flour down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans -- an endeavor that could make a man a small fortune because, in New Orleans, flour was worth many times its value in Pennsylvania, but also, in those days, an endeavor of tremendous risk. The Mississippi flowed through wilderness and Indian country. Many such adventurers were never heard from again.

Two to three days into this trip, John Mitchell revealed to Isaac Holmes that he (Mitchell) was carrying a letter that put him in great danger should it be found in his possession, but that he was to be paid \$1500 if he could successfully deliver it upon arrival in New Orleans.

Isaac Holmes and John Mitchell safely reached New Orleans and sold their flour.

Mitchell successfully delivered the letter and was paid the \$1500. No further mention of this John Mitchell is found in any Holmes family history examined by this author. The identity and fate of this John Mitchell, and the recipients of the letter, are not known. Per the times (e.g., The Whiskey Rebellion), the letter may have been a communication regarding a treasonous plan about possibly starting a new, independent country out of the newly-emerging western frontier. [Further notes on research to identify this John Mitchell are provided at the end of this chapter.]

After some time in New Orleans, Isaac Holmes booked passage to New York (a 21-day voyage), where he visited friends and relatives in New York and New Jersey – on his first visit to his old home. In April 1794, while Isaac was journeying home through the mountains, his father, Obadiah Holmes (The Western Pioneer), died. Isaac Holmes may not have learned of his father's death until his return to the family home on the Ohio River outside Charleston, Ohio Co., Virginia (now Wellsburg, Brooke Co., in the panhandle of West Virginia).



On October 28, 1794, at thirty years of age, Isaac Holmes married **Elizabeth McNabb** of Wellsburg, Virginia (now West Virginia). Elizabeth McNabb was the daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb. [See McNabb and Shepherd Families.] Elizabeth McNabb was born on July 24, 1772 in Maryland; she was, therefore, 22 years of age when married. Their wedding was officiated by Rev. Joseph Dodderidge, famous minister and historian (author of *Notes on the Settlement and Indian Wars Of the Western Parts of Virginia and Pennsylvania ...*, reprinted by McClain Printing, Parson, WV, 1960). For the first two years of their marriage, Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes lived in Charleston, Ohio Co., Virginia (now Wellsburg, Brooke Co., West Virginia).

In 1796, Isaac and Elizabeth Holmes settled in eastern Ohio (near present location of Harrisville). According to a story told to Mary Leeper Long by Susannah Holmes Masters, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth Holmes, Isaac and his brother Joseph squatted on some land near Mt. Pleasant, Ohio, before it had been surveyed; they partly cleared and made some improvements on the land. When the land was surveyed and officially opened for settlement, a party of Quakers disputed the rights of the Holmes brothers. The two parties agreed to settle the dispute peaceably by lot. Unfortunately for Isaac and Joseph, the lot fell to the Quakers and the Holmes brothers had to give up the land. The date of this incident was not told by Susannah Holmes Masters, but in a Holmes Family book, the same incident was related of Joseph Holmes. Mary Leeper Long speculated that the book had been written by a descendent of Joseph Holmes who did not know of Isaac's part in the story. The book gave 1798 as the date when Joseph Holmes took steps to secure title to the land and states that before the end of that year he had cleared a spot in the forest and built a cabin.

In 1805, Isaac Holmes moved his family to a farm in Green Harrison Co., Ohio.

Per oral tradition, Isaac Holmes fought in the War of 1812.

In 1814, he settled on a farm near Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio, which became known as the Holmes Family farm. Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes spent the remainder of their lives near Leesville, where Isaac supplemented his farming income as a successful merchant who frequently traveled to the east to buy goods. He visited his New York and New Jersey relatives far more frequently than any of the rest of his family.

Isaac Holmes died on June 9, 1851, at the age of 87. Elizabeth McNabb Holmes died on November 15, 1857, aged 85. Isaac and Elizabeth Holmes are buried in Leesville Cemetery, Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio.

The children of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb were known to and remembered by Mary Leeper Long. In the 1930s, she relayed memories and impressions of members of that generation to Laverne Leeper. The ten children of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes were:

MARTHA HOLMES: Martha Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on August 5, 1795, in Charleston, Virginia (now Wellsburg, West Virginia). In 1815, she married Joseph Wilson and reared a family. Joseph and Martha Holmes Wilson had at least three sons: Amos, Harvey, and Holmes Wilson. They may have had a daughter named Mary (see below), who married William T. Demming. Prior to or during 1851, Martha became a widow.

On January 4, 1852, Martha married William Leeper (his second marriage, after the death of his first wife, Eleanor Lawther). [William Leeper was the son of James Leeper (1746-1826 and Mary Jane "Jennie" Amspoker Leeper (1746-1826) of Ohio Co., Virginia (later Brooke Co., West Virginia) and Washington Co., Pennsylvania. By his first wife, Eleanor, this William Leeper was the father of James Lawther Leeper, William Alexander Leeper, and Martha Jane Leeper Adair – all of Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio.] The marriage of Martha Holmes Wilson and William Leeper is mentioned in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*, p.23, and in Smythe (p.235). The union of William Leeper and Martha Holmes Wilson produced no children. She lived with William Leeper at his farm in Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio (once part of Harrison County, Ohio).

After William's death in 1858, Martha Holmes Wilson Leeper moved to Kenton, Hardin County, Ohio (northwest Ohio). Per the 1870 Ohio census, Martha Leeper (age 74) is found living in the household of William and Mary Demming of Kenton; presumably Mary Demming (age 38 in 1870) was Martha's daughter.

With the assistance of Thomas and Elizabeth Richey of Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio, Martha Holmes Leeper of Kenton, Hardin Co., Ohio applied for a widow's pension based on the service of William Leeper in the War of 1812 [claim no. 383657, dated March 9, 1878; and claim dated Nov. 8, 1879]. Martha Leeper, age 84 at the time of the applications, was "owing to age and infirmity ... unable to travel" and therefore could not (it appears) make the application in person in Carroll County (as she lived in Hardin County). She was granted a pension of \$8 per month. Per the applications, the Richeys stated that they had known Martha Leeper for 30 years and had known William Leeper. The application contains an interesting error, the assertion that "claimant alleges that she nor her husband had never been married."

[The relationship of Thomas Richey (64 years old in 1878/79) and Elizabeth Richey (52 years old in 1878/79) of Cadiz, Harrison County, Ohio, to William Leeper and Martha Holmes Wilson Leeper is not known. Per records of New Graveyard at Cadiz, Thomas Richey was born May 27, 1814 and died April 11, 1883 and Elizabeth Richey, wife of Thomas Richey, was born August 5, 1826 and died July 29, 1889; these two persons are the right ages to be the Thomas and Elizabeth Richey of the above pension applications. Perhaps Thomas or Elizabeth Richey were related to Holmes relatives of Martha who had settled in Cadiz in Harrison County, Ohio.]

Martha Holmes Leeper died in 1883 and is buried at Kenton, Hardin County, Ohio (northwest Ohio, some distance from Carroll and Harrison counties, located in central eastern Ohio). In addition, several Holmes family members settled in the Kenton area of Hardin County.

CLUNN HOLMES: Clunn Holmes, son of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born January 24, 1797, in Harrisonville, Ohio. In March 1820, at the age of 23, he "took cold at a maple syrup camp" and died from a relapse after having mumps. He is buried in Leesville Cemetery, Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio.

SARAH HOLMES: Sarah Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on June 21, 1799. In 1822, she married Jacob Millisack. Jacob and Sarah Holmes Millisack had eleven children, including a daughter named Mary [born Nov. 27, 1832 in Leesville, Carroll Co., Ohio; married William Fleming McCarroll and had four children; died June 17, 1899 in Ottumwa, Ohio], who is mentioned in a letter from Sarah Masters to John Masters (first cousins to Mary Millisack; this letter is reproduced in the chapter on Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters). Sarah Holmes Millisack died on January 21, 1884, in Ottumwa, Iowa, at the age of 85. Mary Leeper Long, born in 1866, remembered her well. In 1891, Jacob Millisack (age 91) was still living in Ottumwa, Iowa.

MARY HOLMES: Mary Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on Sept. 4, 1801. In 1822, she married James Price and lived in Leesville, Ohio. She died in Leesville on Oct. 2, 1865, age 64. James Price was still living in 1891, age 91. [NOTE: James C. Price (1855-1913; relationship to this James and Mary Holmes Price not known; possible grandchild) is buried, with his wife Sarah, in Baxter Ridge Cemetery, Harrison Township per page 71 of *Tombstone Inscriptions and Family Records of Carroll County, Ohio*, published by Ester Weygandt Powell, Akron, Ohio, 1973.]

NANCY HOLMES: Nancy Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on September 2, 1805. She died in 1805. Per Smythe (pp. 236), she was born in 1803.

SUSANNAH HOLMES: Susannah Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on November 6, 1805. She wholeheartedly embraced her father's faith in the Methodist Church. **Susannah Holmes** is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper Family. She married **Joseph Masters** on April 24, 1823, at the age of 18. More information on the life and children of Susannah Holmes is provided under **Joseph Masters**. The marriage of Susannah Holmes to Joseph Masters is mentioned in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*, p.23 and in Smythe (p. 236). **Margaret Masters**, daughter of Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters, married **William Alexander Leeper** (and both are in our direct line of ancestry).

GEORGE WASHINGTON HOLMES: George W. Holmes, son of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on December 30, 1807. On January 19, 1837, he married Mary Cripliver in Harrison Co., Ohio. In 1837, with his younger brother, John McNabb Holmes, he started the first store in Mastersville (later Conotton), North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio. In 1843, he was living on a farm in North Township of Harrison Co., Ohio. Mary Leeper Long remembered him well. He was crippled and had lost the sight in one eye. He was almost 80 when he died, on June 26, 1887. He is buried in the Connotton Cemetery in Harrison County, Ohio. George and Mary Cripliver Holmes had the following children: Jacob M. (died before 1891); Isaac C. (lived in Columbus); Samuel W. (lived in Kansas); John D.; Luther L.; Edward S.; Martha E.; Phoebe A. (died before 1891); Mary Alice; Ora A. (who married J. M. Harrison

and moved to Washington State), and Emma (who married Charles Crawford and lived in New Philadelphia, Ohio) Holmes. Charles and Emma Holmes Crawford may have had a son named George.

SAMUEL HOLMES: Samuel Holmes, son of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born on May 30, 1811, in Harrison County, Ohio. He was three years old when the Holmes family moved to the farm near Leesville, Ohio. He inherited the Holmes farm, where he spent the remainder of his life. On December 8, 1841, Samuel Holmes married Emily E. Pumphrey (daughter of Rezin and Anne Boone Pumphrey of Virginia and Maryland), in Harrison County, Ohio. Samuel and Emily Holmes were Methodists. In February 1901, this Samuel Holmes shared a tremendous quantity of information about our Holmes family with a Holmes family historian [presumably Col. J. T. Holmes, author of *The American Family of Rev. Obadiah Holmes*], as Samuel personally knew almost all of his uncles and aunts and their families. [This time frame, just before the death of Samuel Holmes, could have been when our Aunt Mary Leeper created her notes on our Holmes family.] Samuel Holmes died on May 17, 1901, just a few days shy of becoming 90 years old. Emily Pumphrey Holmes, who was born on May 29, 1816, died on September 13, 1900. They are buried together in the Leesville Cemetery in Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

A biographical sketch of Samuel and Emily Pumphrey Holmes Holmes is found on pages 920 to 921 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio, 1891*.

Samuel and Emily Pumphrey had five children:

Elizabeth A. Holmes: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Emily Pumphrey Holmes, was born in 1844. In 1871, she married Robert Ray Harvey (born June 29, 1833) in Carroll County, Ohio – no known children. Robert Harvey died in 1899. Elizabeth Holmes Harvey died in 1918 and is buried in Grandview Cemetery in Carrollton, Carroll County, Ohio.

Isaac Rezin Holmes: I. Rezin Holmes, son of Samuel and Emily Pumphrey Holmes, was born on March 11, 1849 in Orange Township, Carroll Co., Ohio. He married Alice A. Leggett, born September 24, 1855, in Orange Township, Carroll Co., Ohio. I. Rezin and Alice Leggett Holmes were Presbyterians. Her parents were Thomas J. Leggett and Hannah A. Brown. Rezin and Alice Holmes had three children: Florence, Thomas, and Edna Holmes. Alice Holmes died in 1905 and is buried in the Leesville Cemetery. Rezin Holmes died in 1943 and is buried in Leesville Cemetery.

Rezin Holmes and his father, Samuel Holmes, were vital sources of information on our Holmes Family.

A biographical sketch of Isaac Rezin Holmes is found on pages 859 to 860 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio, 1891*.

A biographical sketch of Thomas Legget, father of Alice A. Legget, is found on pages 894 to 898 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio*, 1891.

Eliza A. Holmes: The birth date and fate of Eliza Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Pumphrey Holmes, are not known.

Susan A. Holmes: The birth date and fate of Susan Holmes, daughter of Samuel and Elizabeth Pumphrey Holmes, are not known.

Wilbur Fleming Holmes: Wilbur F. Holmes, son of Samuel and Elizabeth Pumphrey Holmes, was born in 1858, and he lived on the Holmes family farm all his life. He married Elizabeth Carr, born 1862, and they had one son. Wilbur Holmes died in 1928 and is buried in the Leesville Cemetery in Leesville, Ohio. As of the 1930s, Elizabeth Carr Holmes and her son still owned the old Holmes family farm near Leesville. Wilbur's son never cared for farm life and lived for many years in Cleveland, Ohio; he had no children. As of the 1930s, Elizabeth Holmes was in such poor health that she could no longer carry on the farm alone. She rented the farm and moved into Leesville. The farm, as of the 1930s, was said to be running down. At that time, there was said to be a live apple tree in the yard of the old Holmes farm that was over 120 years old. The Holmes family Bible came into the possession of Elizabeth and Wilbur Holmes; information about the Obadiah and Isaac Holmes generations were obtained from that Bible. Elizabeth Carr Holmes died in 1945 and is buried in the Leesville Cemetery.

ELIZABETH HOLMES: Elizabeth Holmes, daughter of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born in March 1815. In 1837, she married Samuel/Sampson Jenkins in Carroll Co., Ohio. She died April 4, 1891 (1901?), at the age of 76 (or 86). Per the sketch about her father in (pages 406 to 407 of J. H. Beers & Co., *Commemorative Biographical Record of the Counties of Harrison and Carroll, Ohio*, 1891, she was said to be in good health and living near Salem, Jefferson County, Ohio in 1891.

JOHN McNABB HOLMES: John M. Holmes, son of Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes, was born in 1817.

In 1837, with his older brother, George Washington Holmes, John M. Holmes started the first store in Mastersville (later Conotton), North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio. John M. Holmes played a role in the naming of Mastersville, as relayed in *Brief History of Conotton Methodist Church*, W. E. Masters and Ross Masters, 1953:

It was natural to speak of the little settlement by the mill dam as Masters' Mills, and so it was at first called. A tale tells how that was changed. When the Holmes Brothers opened the first store there, about 1837, the junior member, John M., was sent to Baltimore, Maryland, on horse-back to buy a bill of goods to start on. When he had bought the goods and settled the bill, the wholesaler asked where they should send the goods. This was a poser for young John, but he came up with an answer: "Send it to Holmes Brothers, Mastersville, Harrison County, Ohio", he said. The he sold his horse to

help pay for the goods and get back home. It was a tough trip, but he got back, and finally the goods showed up. So Mastersville it was. Later, the officious Federal government stepped in and called the Post Office Conotton, after the name of the Creek, said to be the name of a noted Indian chief.

The renaming of Mastersville to Conotton occurred after 1875.

John McNabb Holmes first married Amanda Jenkins (1839). As of the 1840 census, John M. Holmes is in Orange Township, Carroll Co., Ohio, in a family with one male between 20 and 29, one female between 20 and 29, and one male under five.

In the 1850 census, John Holmes (age 33; born Tuscarawas Co., Ohio) is found in the household of Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters (his brother-in-law and sister) in North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio. Apparently, Amanda had died before 1850 and (most likely, due to information on children in the 1860 census; see below) after 1845.

On August 7, 1851, in Columbiana Co., Ohio, John McNabb married Emily Stratton (1851).

As of the 1860 census, John M. Holmes (age 43; born 1837) is found in North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio, with Emily S. Holmes (age 34), Sampson Holmes (age 19), Sarah E. Holmes (age 17), Susan E. Holmes (age 15), Laura E. Holmes (age 8), Louisa Holmes (age 6), and Wendell P. Holmes (age 3), plus Whellon Stratton (age 15). From this information, John and Amanda Jenkins Holmes apparently had three children (prior to the death of Amanda, with the birth of their third child, Susan E. Holmes, in 1845. At this time, John and Emily Stratton Holmes appear to have had three children.

In the 1870 census, John Holmes (age 53) is found in North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio, and consisted of Emely S. Holmes (age 44), Laura Holmes (age 17), Wendell P. Holmes (age 13), Carrie Holmes (age 8), and J. Horace Holmes (age 2).

In the 1880 census, John M. Holmes is found in Mastersville, North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio, with Emily S. Holmes (age 55), Wendell P. Holmes (age 22), Carrie P. Holmes (age 18), and J. Horace Holmes (age 13). From this information, John and Emily Stratton Holmes had five children and Louisa Holmes may have died prior to 1870.

John McNabb Holmes died on November 20, 1883, in Conotton (Mastersville), North Township, Harrison Co., Ohio. After his death, Emily Stratton Holmes is said to have moved to Des Moines, Iowa; she died after 1900.

In the 1900 census, Emily Holmes (age 74) is found as head of the household of Carrie Mccuy/McCoy (age 37) and Horace Mccuy/McCoy (age 11; born in Minnesota). Presumably, Emily Stratton Holmes is living with her widowed daughter, Carrie Holmes Mccuy/McCoy and grandson, Horace Mccuy/McCoy and Carrie Holmes Mccuy/McCoy appears to have lived in Minnesota, for some period, between 1880 and 1900.

## THE BORDEN FAMILY

**Sarah Borden**, grand daughter of John Borden, was the wife of **Jonathan Holmes**, the son of The Rev. **Obadiah Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, the third great grand daughter of **Jonathan and Sarah Borden Holmes** and the fourth great grand daughter of The Rev. **Obadiah and Katharine Hyde Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. Their daughter, **Margaret Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

Information on the Borden family was obtained from references on the Rev. Obadiah Holmes. Additional information on additional Borden family lines was obtained from *The Holmes Tree: History and Genealogy of a Holmes Family and Allied Families Including Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Parkinson, Pugh, Rainwater, Storm, and Throckmorton*, by Charles A. Noel [Clossom Press, Apollo, PA, 1983, 210 pp., Call No. 929.273 H734n; FHC Film Area# 6125466].

## JOHN BORDEN

The first known member of the Borden Family in the line to our Leeper Family is **John Borden** of Borden, Kent, England. The names of only two of his children are known:

**RICHARD BORDEN**: **Richard Borden**, son of **John Borden** of Borden, Kent, England, was born in Borden, Kent, England in 1595/96 or in 1601. As he is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper Family, he is treated in greater detail below.

**JOHN BORDEN**: John Borden, son of John Borden of Borden, Kent, England, was born in 1606/07 in Borden, Kent, England. He married a woman named Joan in Wales. On June 20, 1635, he and Joan came to America on the *Elizabeth and Ann* (Roger Cooper, master), arriving at Boston in the fall of that year. The known children of John and Joan Borden were: Matthew (born 1629/30 in England) and Elizabeth (born 1631/32 in England) Borden. This information on this John Borden was obtained from Noel, *Holmes Family Tree*.

## RICHARD AND JOANA FOWLER BORDEN

**Richard Borden**, son of John Borden of Borden, Kent, England, was born in Borden, Kent, England in 1595/96 or in 1601. On September 28, 1625, he married Joana/Jean/Joan Fowler. **Joana Fowler** was born on February 15, 1604. Richard and Joana Borden came to America in 1635/36 and settled in Boston, Massachusetts. In 1638, they moved to Portsmouth, Rhode Island, some 10 miles north of Newport. Richard Borden was an original proprietor of the Rhode Island Colony, being admitted as a freeman on June 20, 1638. They were among Rhode Island's earliest settlers and were some of the most prominent citizens of that colony.

Richard Borden was a senator to the Rhode Island Assembly in 1653 and 1654. He was a Commissioner of Portsmouth from 1654 to 1657 and was the General Treasurer beginning on September 12, 1654.

Richard Borden died on May 25, 1675. Joana Fowler Borden died on July 16, 1688.

Richard and Joana Fowler Borden had ten children:

MARY BORDEN: Mary Borden, daughter of Richard and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in 1631 (some references list her birth as 1656, but this may have been the birth year of her daughter, Mary). She married John Cook (born 1631) and their children were: Mary; Elizabeth (born 1653); John (born 1656); Sarah; Hannah; Joseph; Martha; Debora; Thomas; Amey; and Samuel Cook.

THOMAS BORDEN: Thomas Borden, son of Richard and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in England and came to America with his parents and family. He married Mary Harris in 1663 and died in 1676. Their children (born 1663 to 1676; limited additional details in Noel) were Richard, Mary, Dinah, William, Joseph, Mercy, Experience, and Meribah Borden.

FRANCIS BORDEN: Francis Borden, son of Richard and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in England and came to America with his parents and family. He married Jane Vicars in 1672 or 1677 and died circa 1703 to 1705. Their children (born 1678 to 1684; limited additional details in Noel) were Richard, Francis, Joyce, and Thomas Borden.

MATTHEW (NATHAN) BORDEN: Matthew (or Nathan) Borden, son of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born on May 16, 1638 in Boston or Portsmouth. He married Sarah Clayton in 1674 and died on July 5, 1708, at Boston. Their children (born 1674 to 1696; limited additional details in Noel) were Mary, Matthew, Joseph, Sarah, Ann, Thomas, Richard, Abraham, John, and Benjamin Borden.

JOHN BORDEN: John Borden, son of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in September of 1640. He married Mary Earle (Earll) in 1670 and died in 1707 or 1716. Several of his sons settled around Fall River, Massachusetts. The children of John and Mary Earle Borden (born between 1671 and 1692; limited additional details in Noel) were Richard, John, Amey, Joseph, Thomas, Mary, Hope, William, and Benjamin Borden.



JOSEPH BORDEN: Joseph Borden, son of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born on July 3, 1642/43. His wife's name was Hope. They lived in Barbados, West Indies. The children of Joseph and Hope Border were: Sarah (b. 4/17/1664); William (b. 12/31/1667), and Hope (b. 12/26/1673; d. 3/25/1676) Borden.

SARAH BORDEN: Sarah Borden, daughter of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in May 1644 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. She married Jonathan Holmes in 1665 and is in the direct line to our Leeper Family. She died between 1705 and 1708. Additional information on Sarah Borden Holmes is provided under Jonathan Holmes.

SAMUEL BORDEN: Samuel Borden, son of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in July 1645 in Portsmouth, Rhode Island. He married Elizabeth Crosse in 1679. He died in Monmouth Co., New Jersey, in 1716. The children of Samuel and Elizabeth Crosse Borden were: Dina (b. 11/9/1681); Francis (b. 1685); James (b. 1687); John (b. 1690); Joseph (b. 1693); and Benjiman (b. 1698) Borden.

BENJAMIN/BENJIMAN BORDEN: Benjamin Borden, son of John and Joana Fowler Borden, was born in May 1649. He married Abigail Grover in 1670 and lived at Gravesend, Long Island, until 1672, when they removed to Middletown, New Jersey. He died in 1718 in Burlington Co., New Jersey. The children of Benjiman and Abigail Grover Borden were all born in Middletown, New Jersey, between 1672 and 1696 (limited additional details in Noel) were Richard (b. 1/9/1672), Benjiman (b. 5/6/1675), James, Rebecca, Safety, Amey, Joseph/John, Jonathan, David, and Samuel Borden.

An interesting story is told in Noel (with additional details) about Richard and Benjiman Borden, sons of Benjiman and Abigail Grover Borden. In March 1701 in Middletown, New Jersey, a trial of confessed pirate William (Moses?) Butterworth (who admitted to sailing with Capt. Kidd) was stormed in an attempt to free him. At this time, pirates were held in high regard in Middletown for their generosity to and help defending the citizens of Middletown. Richard and Benjiman Borden were among those who tried to rescue Butterworth. In the fray, they were wounded and captured, but were released about a week later. Sheriff Obadiah Holmes ("cousin" of the Bordens and ancestor of our Leeper Family), Sheriff of Middletown, participated in the attempt to free Butterworth. See the chapter on Obadiah Holmes (1666-1745) for additional details.

AMEY BORDEN: Amey Borden, daughter of John and Joana Fowler Borden was born in February of 1654. She married William Richardson, and died on February 5, 1684. The children of William and Amey Borden Richardson were: William (born Jan. 15, 1677); Thomas (born Sept. 10, 1680), and John (born Feb. 1, 1683) Richardson.

## THE THROCKMORTON FAMILY

**Deliverance Throckmorton**, the daughter of **John and Rebecca Throckmorton**, married **James Ashton**. Their daughter, **Alice Ashton**, married **Sheriff Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745) and their granddaughter, **Elizabeth Ashton**, married **Joseph Holmes** (1698-1777), the son of **Sheriff Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, grand daughter of **Joseph and Alice Ashton Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. Their daughter, **Margaret Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

Essentially all of the following information on the Throckmorton Family was obtained from *The Holmes Tree: History and Genealogy of a Holmes Family and Allied Families Including Bradford, Calhoun, Clay, Parkinson, Pugh, Rainwater, Storm, and Throckmorton*, by Charles A. Noel [Clossom Press, Apollo, PA, 1983, 210 pp., Call No. 929.273 H734n; FHC Film Area# 6125466]. Variations on this family name include Throckmorton and Throgmorton.

### THROCKMORTON FROM 1200 TO 1600

The accuracy of the following information, extracted from Noel, has not been verified.

Robert Throckmorton lived in Fladbury, County Worcester, England during the reign of King Henry VIII (1216-1272). Then came Symon Throckmorton, Robert Throckmorton, John Throckmorton, and Thomas Throckmorton (married a daughter of Sir Richard Abberbury/Adderbury of County Oxford). Then John Throckmorton, who lived in Throckmorton, County Worcester in 1339, married Elenor Spynney (daughter of Guy Spynney) in Coughton, County Warwick.

Sir Thomas Throckmorton lived in Throckmorton, County Worcester. He married Margaret Olney, daughter of Robert Olney of Weston Bozen in County Northampton (located near later town of Weston, once known as Weston Bassett). The sons of Sir Thomas and Margaret Olney Throckmorton were: Robert (of Coughton, County Warwick); John (see below); son (buried in the Rowles); and Richard Throckmorton.

Sir John Throckmorton, son of Sir Thomas and Margaret Olney Throckmorton, lived at All Saints-South Elmham in County Suffolk. He was under-treasurer for King Henry IV, who reigned from 1399 to 1413. John Throckmorton married Jayne Baynard, daughter of Henry Baynard of Spexhall, County Suffolk. The children of Sir John and Jayne Baynard Throckmorton were: Francis (see below); Margaret (married Thomas Shardelow of Shimpling, County Norfolk); and Elizabeth (married William Claxton of Chester in County Suffolk).

Francis Throckmorton, son of Sir John and Jayne Baynard Throckmorton, lived in All Saints-South Elmham in County Suffolk. He married the daughter of Sir Newborough of County Somerset and they had a son named John Throckmorton.

John Throckmorton, son of Francis Throckmorton, lived at Claxton in County Suffolk. He married Margaret Playtes, daughter of William Playtes of Sutterly, County Suffolk and they had the following children: John, Symond (see below), Roger, Thomas, Francis, Anne, and another daughter (name unknown).

Symond Throckmorton, son of John and Margaret Playtes Throckmorton, lived in South Elmham, County Suffolk. He married Anne Lowth, daughter of Edmund Louth of Sawtry in County Huntington.

Lyonelle Throckmorton, son of Symond and Anne Lowth Throckmorton, lived in South Elmham and in Bungay, County Suffolk. He married first to Elizabeth Kemp, daughter of Bartholomew Kemp of Gissing, County Norfolk; she died without having children. He married second to Elizabeth Bleverhasset, daughter of John Bleverhasset of Barsham, County Suffolk, and had the following children: John (died without children), Bassingbourne (see below), Robert (no information), and Mary (died young) Throckmorton.

Bassingbourne Throckmorton/Throgmorton, son of Lyonelle and Elizabeth Bleverhasset Throckmorton, lived in Norwich. He married Mary, daughter of William Hyll/Hill of Bury St. Edmonds in County Suffolk and died in 1637. Bassingbourne and Mary Hyll Throckmorton had the following children: Lyonelle (died young?), Thomas, John (see below), Myles, Robert, George (died without children), Symon, Lyonell, Elizabeth (died young?), Mary (married William Rawley of Clay in Suffolk County), Elizabeth (married John Layer of Norwich), Mary, and Ursula Throckmorton.

## JOHN AND REBECCA THROCKMORTON

John Throckmorton, son of Bassingbourne and Mary Hyll Throckmorton, was born in the City of Norwich, England, and was baptized there on May 9, 1601.

In 1623, he apprenticed as a scrivener (one who draws legal documents). At some time, he was also an armiger (an armor-bearer for a knight) and an alderman.

Sometime during or before 1630, John Throckmorton married a woman named Rebecca, who became a midwife.

On December 1, 1630, John and Rebecca Throckmorton sailed from Bristol, England, for the New World on the *Lyon*, William Pierce, Master. The ship was carrying 200 tons of goods. Among their 20 fellow passengers was Roger Williams, founder of the Colony of Rhode Island. John Throckmorton and Roger Williams became good friends. After a “stormy” voyage, the *Lyon* arrived at Nantasket Beach, Massachusetts, on February 5, 1631.

John and Rebecca Throckmorton settled in Salem, Massachusetts. John Throckmorton took the oath of a Freeman on May 18, 1631, and purchased land in Forest River (later known as Marblehead Farms). Throckmorton Cove at Salem Harbor is named for this John Throckmorton.

In 1636, Roger Williams fled from Salem due to contention for his religious beliefs and founded The Colony of Rhode Island to allow for religious freedom in the New World. He wrote to his “loving friend John Throckmorton” and “others distressed for conscience.” In the summer of 1636, John Throckmorton became convinced to leave Salem and re-settle in Rhode Island, acquiring land in 1637. On November 10, 1637, John Throckmorton witnessed the deed by which Roger Williams and Governor Winthrop of Rhode Island purchased an island from the Indians. This island in Narragansett Bay was called Prudence Island. On October 8, 1638, Williams deeded land (purchased from the Indians) to John Throckmorton, making him one of the original twelve patentees of Pautuxet. The other patentees were Stukley Westcott, William Arnold, Thomas James, Robert Cole, John Greene, William Harris, William Carpenter, Thomas Olney, Francis Weston, Richard Waterman, and Ezechial Holliman. This land, where the Wanasquatuckett and Mooshausick Rivers flowed, became known as New Providence.

John Throckmorton was one of the first 54 persons granted a home lot in Providence; his site was near the present location of Howland Street in Providence, Rhode Island.

When Roger Williams founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence in 1638, John and Rebecca Throckmorton were among the original twelve members. Upon their baptisms by total immersion in water, John and Rebecca Throckmorton were excommunicated from the Salem Church.

On April 22, 1639, John Throckmorton bought the land of Roger Williams on Prudence Island and built a trading post. In 1642, he brought a civil suit of against John Gilbert for trespass on his land in Salem.

In 1642, John Throckmorton bought land on Long Island from the Dutch West Indies Company to establish a settlement, called Throg's Neck, of thirty-five English families "within three leagues" of New Amsterdam. The complete text of the deed is provided in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*. The Throg's Neck settlement was attacked by Indians in September 1643; only a few of the inhabitants escaped. Apparently, no members of the Throckmorton family were present during the attack. He sold his interest in the settlement in October 1653. A point of land extending into the Sound remains known as Throg's Neck and is named after John Throckmorton; a toll bridge north of New York City bears this name.

In late 1643, John and Rebecca Throckmorton became original settlers of Warwick, Rhode Island. John Throckmorton purchased a home in Providence from Edward Copes on February 27, 1647. He sold a home in Providence on January 27, 1651. On June 26, 1654, he sold half of his interest on Prudence Island to Richard Parker of Boston for 50 pounds.

John Throckmorton became prominent in the public affairs between 1647 and 1675. He held the following offices: Committeeman for the General Court at Portsmouth in 1647; Arbitrator at Court of Tryalls on October 4, 1648; Moderator from 1652 to 1655; Juryman of Towne in 1655; Deputy of Rhode Island Court from 1664 to 1668, 1670 to 1673, and 1675; Town Council in 1667; Town Treasurer in 1674; on July 2, 1667, appointed member of committee (with Roger Williams) on the payment of the Colony's debt to England.

In March 1665, Roger Williams made a charge against Rebecca Throckmorton, the wife of John Throckmorton, for not regularly attending church and opposing all authority. She and four others were apparently acquitted of the charges.

On April 8, 1665, John Throckmorton purchased land in Middletown, Monmouth Co., East Jersey (became New Jersey), which he deeded to his son, John Throckmorton. The text of this deed is included in Noel, *The Holmes Tree*.

In the spring of 1672, John and Rebecca Throckmorton became Quakers.

On March 17, 1683, John Throckmorton bought land on the west side of Providence (near 7 mile line).

John Throckmorton died -- between March 17, 1683 and April 25, 1683 -- during a visit to his children in Middletown, East Jersey (now New Jersey). He is buried in the Throckmorton/Lippet/Taylor Burying Ground (which became known as the Taylor Burying Ground) in Middletown. Reportedly, evidence of this cemetery has all but disappeared.

The date and place of the death Rebecca Throckmorton are not known.

John and Rebecca Throckmorton had the following children:

FREEGIFT THROCKMORTON: Freegift Throckmorton, son of John and Rebecca Throckmorton, was born in the 1630s. He did not marry and died in 1669.

DAUGHTER (NAME NOT KNOWN): This daughter was born in the 1630s and married a Taylor. She died before October 30, 1666.

PATIENCE THROCKMORTON: Patience Throckmorton, daughter of John and Rebecca Throckmorton, was born in 1640 in Providence, Rhode Island. In 1655, she married Major John Coggeshall, Jr. (born in England about 1620, son of John and Mary Holmes Coggeshall; came to America in 1632; previously married; additional details in Noel). Patience T. Coggeshall died in Newport, Rhode Island, on December 7, 1676 and is buried with her husband at Coggeshall Burying Ground. John Coggeshall married a third time after the death of Patience. The children of John and Patience Throckmorton Coggeshall were: Freegift (married Elizabeth Matthews); James (married Mary Bull); Mary; Joseph; Rebecca (married John Reynolds); Patience (married Samuel Rathbone); Benjamin (became lieutenant; married Sarah Easton); Content; and Content Coggeshall. Apparently, the first child named Content died in infancy and the name was used a second time.

DELIVERANCE THROCKMORTON: **Deliverance Throckmorton**, daughter of **John and Rebecca Throckmorton**, was born in 1642 in Providence, Rhode Island and is in the direct line of ancestry (via the Holmes Family) to our Leeper Family. She married **James Ashton, Jr.** in Middletown, New Jersey, in 1667. As Deliverance Throckmorton is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper family, additional information is provided under **James Ashton, Jr.**

JOHN THROCKMORTON: John Throckmorton, son of John and Rebecca Throckmorton, was born in 1645 in Providence, RI. On December 12, 1670, he married Alice Stout in Middletown, New Jersey. John and Alice Stout Throckmorton had the following children: Rebecca (born 1671/1672; married John Stillwell ca. 1682); Sarah (born 1674/75; married Moses Lippit); Patience (born 1679/80; married Capt. Hugh Howard); Alice (born ca. 1682; married Thomas Stillwell); Joseph; and Deliverance Throckmorton.

JOB THROCKMORTON: Job Throckmorton, son of John and Rebecca Throckmorton, was born on September 30, 1650. He married Sarah Leonard. He died on August 20, 1709. The children of Job and Sarah Leonard Throckmorton were: Sarah (born 1684/85; married Dr. William Nichols), John (born Aug. 10, 1688; married Mary Stillwell), Rebekah (born Feb. 10, 1690/91; married Jonathan Holmes in 1715/16 as his second wife); Joseph (born Aug. 14, 1693; married Alice Cox; died Aug. 6, 1759); Mary (born 1695; married Daniel Grandin; died Oct. 26, 1739), Job (born in 1690s), Samuel (born July 4, 1706); and Patience (born 1700s; married Amia Grandin; died before March 1755) Throckmorton. [Note: Jonathan Holmes, who married the above Rebekah Throckmorton, is not in the line of ancestors to our Leeper family; the first wife of this Jonathan Holmes was Deliverance Ashton, the first cousin of this Rebekah Throckmorton.]

## THE ASHTON FAMILY

**Alice Ashton**, daughter of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, married **Sheriff Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745). **Elizabeth Ashton**, granddaughter of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, married **Joseph Holmes** (1698-1777), son of **Sheriff Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, the great granddaughter of **Joseph and Elizabeth Ashton Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. Their daughter, **Margaret Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

A major, but not exclusive, source of information on the Ashton Family as provided herein was *The Holmes Tree* by Noel.

### JAMES ASHTON, SR. AND HIS WIFE, ALICE

**James Ashton, Sr.** is the first known Ashton ancestor in the line to our Leeper Family. His birth date and place are not known. He was christened on March 4, 1603 at St. Albans Abbey. His wife was Alice. Of their children, the name of only one, **James Ashton, Jr.**, is known. Alice Ashton died in 1643. James Ashton, Sr. died ca. 1650/51.

### JAMES ASHTON, Jr.

**James Ashton, Jr.** was the son of **James and Alice Ashton**; the date and place of his birth are not known. In 1667, he married **Deliverance Throckmorton** in Middletown, East Jersey. **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton** are ancestors of our Leeper line twice, as are **James, Sr. and Alice Ashton** (above). Their daughter, **Alice Ashton**, married **Sheriff Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745) and their grand daughter, **Elizabeth Ashton**, married **Joseph Holmes** (1698-1777), the son of **Sheriff Obadiah and Alice Ashton Holmes**. Joseph Holmes and Elizabeth Ashton were first cousins.

James Ashton, Jr. was an original settler of Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey), with the Rev. Obadiah Holmes and Jonathan Holmes. He drew lot #23 in 1665. In 1667, he acquired lot #8 in Poplar Fields. He was a founder of the first Baptist Church in East Jersey (at Middletown) in 1667. James Ashton officially became the first ordained pastor of this church in 1668. He was named Deputy to the General Assembly of East Jersey at Portland Port on May 25, 1669 and was a foreman of a grand jury in 1669. He received a patent for 347 acres in Upper Freehold Township, Monmouth County, East Jersey, in 1670. In 1677, he was an Overseer and was a Constable in 1679. In 1698, he executed the transfer of 400 acres in Upper Freehold Township to his son James Ashton. James Ashton apparently died in 1705 and was survived by his widow (Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton), as his estate was administered to her on May 19, 1705. The date of death of Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton is not known. The burial place of John Ashton and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton are not known.

The children of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, two of whom are in the direct line of ancestry to our Holmes and Leeper families, were:

JAMES ASHTON: James Ashton, eldest child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, reached the age of 18 on or before 1693; he never married. He settled in Upper Freehold Township of Monmouth County, East Jersey, on land given to him by his father. He a member of the Grand Jury in 1720 and was minister of Crosswicks Baptist Church (The Yellow Meeting House, founded in 1722) in Upper Freehold Township of Monmouth County, East Jersey. He died intestate in 1731.

JOHN ASHTON: **John Ashton**, second son of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, is in the direct line of ancestry of our Leeper Family; his daughter **Elizabeth Ashton** married **Joseph Holmes**. More information on this John Ashton is provided, below, on John Ashton. Elizabeth Ashton and Joseph Holmes were first cousins.

MARY ASHTON: Mary Ashton, third child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, was born in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey), date not known. She did not marry and died in about 1739. Jeremiah Stillwell, the husband of her niece, was appointed administrator of her estate.

ALICE ASHTON: **Alice Ashton**, fourth child of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, was born in 1671 in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey). She is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper Family, as she married Sheriff **Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745) in 1696. She died in Middletown in 1716. Additional details on her life and children are provided under **Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745).

REBECCA ASHTON: Rebecca Ashton, fifth child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, was born in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey), date not known. In 1688, she married David Stout in Middletown. David and Rebecca Ashton Stout had the following children: Rebecca (born 1691; married John Manners); Freegift (born 1694; married Mary Higgins); James (born 1694; married Catherine Simpson; died 1731); David (born 1695; married Ann Merrill); Joseph (born 1698; married first to Mary Ashland and second to Martha Breeder); Sarah; Deliverance (married Francis Labaw); and Benjamin (born 1706/07; married first to Widow Kethum and second to Mary Higgins) Stout.

DELIVERANCE ASHTON: Deliverance Ashton, sixth child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, was born in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey), date not known. She married Jonathan Holmes, the brother of Sheriff Obadiah Holmes (1666-1745). This Jonathan Holmes is not in the direct line to our Leeper Family. Deliverance Throckmorton Holmes, if the first wife of this Jonathan Holmes, is presumed to have died prior to 1715, as Jonathan Holmes also married Rebekah Throckmorton (her cousin) in 1715/16.

JOSEPH ASHTON: Joseph Ashton, seventh child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton, married a woman named Sarah. The children of Joseph and Sarah Ashton were (no additional information) John, Elizabeth, James, Sarah, Joseph, and Mary Ashton. He died before 1741.



## JOHN ASHTON AND HIS WIFE, ELIZABETH COLE (WIDOW WHITE) ASHTON

**John Ashton**, the son of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper Family, as his daughter **Elizabeth Ashton** married **Joseph Holmes**. He is the second of two children of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton who are ancestors of our Leeper line. The other child of James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton from whom our Leeper Family is descended is **Alice Ashton**, who married **Sheriff Obadiah Holmes** (1666-1745).

John Ashton was born in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey), date unknown. He married three times. The name of his first wife is not known. He married second to Elizabeth Cole White (widow of Thomas White); she died after 1730. He married a third time to Catherine Morford Taylor (daughter of Thomas Morford of Middletown and widow of Edward Taylor); there were not children by this third marriage.

John Ashton died in 1774.

John Ashton had five children [birth order not known; therefore mother not known, except that Elizabeth was the daughter of Elizabeth Cole (Widow White) Ashton]:

RACHEL ASHTON: Rachel Ashton, daughter of John Ashton by his first or second marriage, married Richard Stevens.

REBECCA ASHTON: Rebecca Ashton, daughter of John Ashton by his first or second marriage, married Jeremiah Stillwell.

ELIZABETH ASHTON: **Elizabeth Ashton**, daughter of **John and Elizabeth Cole (White) Ashton** and the grand daughter of **James and Deliverance Throckmorton Ashton**, was born about 1700. In early 1722, she married **Joseph Holmes** in Middletown, Monmouth County, East Jersey. She died in late 1750 and is buried in the Ashton Burying Ground (location not known, no longer existent) in Upper Freehold Township of Monmouth County, East Jersey (now New Jersey). Additional information on Elizabeth Ashton Holmes and her children is provided under Joseph Holmes.

HANNAH ASHTON: Hannah Ashton, daughter of John Ashton and his first or second wife, married Job Throckmorton.

JOHN ASHTON: John Ashton was the son of John Ashton; no other information is known.

## THE SHEPHERD FAMILY

**Martha Shepherd**, daughter of **Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd**, married **George McNabb**. Their daughter, **Elizabeth McNabb**, married **Isaac Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, daughter of **Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**; their daughter, **Margaret Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

The complete genealogy of the Shepherd and Van Meter families is provided by Samuel Gordon Smyth, *A Genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-VanMeter Family*, 1909, available from the New England Historical Genealogical Society and various libraries. Smyth describes (in detail) the dress, customs, and cabins of the frontier settlers (pp. 160-162). Biographical sketches of Thomas Shepherd, Abraham Shepherd (son), and Rezin Shepherd (grandson) are provided in *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown, 1762-1962* by A. D. Kenamond, 1963.

Smyth asserts that our Shepherd family most likely originated in Devonshire, England, based on the similarity of the crest of the Shepherds of Devonshire and the Shepherds of Shepherdstown.

### **CAPTAIN THOMAS SHEPHERD (1705-1776)** **ELIZABETH VAN METER SHEPHERD (ca. 1715-1793)**

In his book, Smyth provides details on many early American settlers named Shepherd, but could not determine an exact relationship to Thomas Shepherd. Therefore, our known Shepherd (Shepard) family begins with Captain Thomas Shepherd, who lived in pre-Revolutionary times.

**Thomas Shepherd** was born in Prince George County, Maryland, in 1705. He may have been the son of William and Sarah Shepherd and the grandson of Thomas Shepherd of Prince George County, Maryland (Smyth, p. 144).

In about 1733, **Thomas Shepherd** married **Elizabeth van Meter** (born ca. 1715), daughter of John and Margaret (maiden name not known) van Meter (van Metre). The parents of John van Meter were Jooste Jans van Meter (1656-1682) and Sarah du Bois (christened 1664). The parents of Jooste Jan van Meter were Jan Joosten van Meteren, who died in New Jersey in 1706, and Macyken Henricksen. The parents of Sarah du Bois were Louis du Bois (1626-1696) and Catherine Blanchan (Blancon). Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd were members of the Episcopalian Church.

On October 3, 1734, Thomas Shepherd secured a grant to 222 acres on the west side of the Potomac River known as Pack Horse, Pack Horse Ford, and Wagon Road Ford. The text of the original land grant was recorded on page 306 of *Book of Land Grants, No. 15*, Register of Lands Office, Richmond, Virginia (Smyth, p. 148). This land was first owned by John van Meter, the father in law of Thomas Shepherd.

George, the Second. To all men knowe ye that for the Consideration mentioned in an Order of our trusty and well beloved William Gooch Esq<sup>r</sup>e or Lieut Gen<sup>l</sup> and Commander-in-chief of our Colony and Dominion of Virginia in our Council of the said Colony the Twelfth day of June, One thousand Seven hundred and thirty four. We Have given granted and confirmed and by these Presents for us our Heirs and Successors – Do give grant and confirm unto Thomas Shepherd one certain Tract or Parcel of land containing Two hundred and twenty-two acres lyeing and being on the West side of Sherrando River and designed to be included in a County to be called the County of Orange being part of Forty thousand acres purchased by Jost Hite from Isaac and John Vanmatre who had obtained orders of our said Lieut. Gov<sup>r</sup>, in Council to take up the land upon certain conditions therein expressed which were made the Seventeenth day of June one thousand seven hundred and thirty and bounded as followeth (to wit) Beginning at a White Oak marked T.S. on a hill on the south side of Cohongaluta and on the east side of a branch called the Falling Spring below a fall in said run and running thence South eight degrees westerly six Poles south twenty degrees west Forty-four Poles thence southwest seventy-two Poles to a hickory saplin thence south thirty degrees west Forty Poles to a White Oak by a meadow thence north seventy degrees west crossing the said meadow one hundred and eighty poles to a double red oak on a hillside thence seventy-three degrees east two hundred and twelve Poles to the first station – Witnesseth to Have and to Hold and to beholden yielding and paying, Provided &c., &c.

In Witness – witness our trusty and well-beloved William Gooch, Esq<sup>r</sup>e out Lieut. Gov<sup>r</sup> and Commander in chief of our said Colony and Dominion of Virginia at Williamsburg under the seal of our said Colony the third day of October one thousand seven hundred and thirty-four in the eighth year of our reign.

Signed William Gooch

On the northeast corner of his original 222 acres, traversing the Falling Spring branch of the Potomac, Thomas Shepherd laid out and founded Mecklenburg (Mecklinburg): one of the earliest settlements in Virginia. The location of Mecklenburg/Shepherdstown is described by Smyth (p 157):

On a beautiful wooded bluff overlooking the sinuous windings of the Potomac, and beyond it, the low slopes of the Maryland shore; and on both sides of a small, but swift, run that tumbled down over rocky ledges of a defile leading to the river, Thomas Shepherd founded the settlement, which, in years to come, was destined to honor his name.

This site provided power for future mills, one of which, a grist mill, was built and owned by Thomas Shepherd. As of 2000, the Thomas Shepherd mill was being used as a home (off lower High Street in present day Shepherdstown). He also owned a saw mill (south of Rocky Street, between Princess and Mill Streets and another mill (type unknown) somewhat out of town. Over time, Thomas Shepherd acquired over 1000 acres.

Shortly after the founding of the new settlement, Thomas Shepherd built a fort for protection from Indian raids, which were frequent in the early years. His title of Captain apparently came from these times and his leadership of the community and the resistance to the Indians. The fort was built of stone in the center of the community. In 1812, it was removed for the construction of a new building. The site of the fort is commemorated by a historic marker in the middle of Shepherdstown.

On October 26, 1738, Thomas Shepherd bought a wolf's head from Thomas Shepherd (relation not known). In June 1739, he was a witness for Daniel Chancey vs. William Williams in an Orange County (Virginia) court.

On October 12, 1744, Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd received a gift of deed from John van Meter, the father of Elizabeth. Upon the death of her father in 1745, Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd inherited a 162-acre plantation called "Pell Mell" adjacent to Antietam Creek in Maryland, opposite Shepherdstown. This land eventually became owned by David Shepherd, the eldest son of Thomas and Elizabeth Shepherd.

On September 7, 1745, Thomas Shepherd was appointed overseer of a road in Frederick County. On June 3, 1746, Thomas Shepherd, Richard Morgan, Van Swearingen, and William Chapline were to appraise the estate of Edward Chambers. On June 12, 1751, he obtained a grant for 450 acres from Lord Thomas Fairfax (Land Grants, Bk G, p. 457, Richmond). On March 1, 1757, Thomas Shepherd was appointed (by the Frederick County court) as overseer of the road from Swearingen's Ferry to the farm of Jacob Hite. During the French and Indian War (1754), Thomas Shepherd offered 20 lots free of rent to those who would join him in fighting in the French and Indian War. Before or during this time, he built a stone house or fort at the northeast corner of German and King Streets. On August 5, 1762, Thomas Shepherd purchased 50 acres from Capt. Richard Morgan.

Mecklenburg was incorporated on November 12, 1762, the same day as Charlottesville, and was likely named (along with Charlottesville) in honor of the queen of England, Charlotte of Mecklenburg, who married King George III of England in 1761.

In October 1765, Thomas Shepherd was granted the right to run a ferry across the Potomac Hening's Statutes, Vol. 8, p. 146). Per the challenge of Thomas Swearingen, the Shepherd grant was repealed in November 1766. On January 15, 1768, Lord Thomas Fairfax conveyed an additional 222 acres to Thomas Shepherd.

Obadiah Holmes ("The Western Pioneer") lived in Mecklenburg from 1770 to 1773 (or 1775).

Thomas Shepherd died in 1776 and is buried in Shepherdstown. His will, dated March 23, 1776, is located in Will Book #1, pages 61 to 65 and was proved on August 20, 1776 (reprinted on pages 151 to 153 of Smyth). At his death, he owned 7 horses, 15 cattle, 18 sheep, a great deal of grain, and substantial farm equipment. He left lot 40 in Mecklenburg to the Parish of Norborne, the current site of the Episcopal Church graveyard. Lot 115 (on New Street, west of King Street)

was set aside by Thomas or his son, Abraham) for the Shepherd Burial Ground. According to his descendants, Thomas Shepherd is buried in the middle of this lot.

Portions of his lengthy will are reproduced below. Each son was given responsibility for one of the daughters; only that direction which applies to Martha is reproduced.

“In the name of God, Amen. – I, Thomas Shepherd, Sen<sup>r</sup> of the town of Mecklinburg, County of Berkeley, and Colony of Virginia, being sick and weak of body but of sound and perfect sense and memory, thanks be given to God, and considering the uncertainty of life, do make publish and declare this my last will and testament ...It is my will and devise that my son Abraham or his heirs allow my beloved spouse the free use of two acres of my meadow in any part she pleases of the same and the dwelling house and garden and ten pounds a year during her natural life. ... It is also my desire that my son William or his heirs pay or cause to be paid unto my daughter Martha or to her heirs or assigns fifty pounds in the following manner: twelve pounds ten shilling twelve months after the time of my decease and twelve pounds ten shillings yearly for three years thence next ensuing making up the whole fifty pounds. ... I give and bequeath to my wife Elizabeth one good feather bed and furniture and her choice of the milch cows and her choice of riding horse and saddle. It is my express Will and devise that my sons William, Thomas, and John or their heirs do each of them pay or cause to be paid until my beloved spouse ten pounds yearly during her natural life making up thirty pounds yearly. ... I will and bequeath to my daughter Martha or to her heirs or assigns forever a lot of ground in the town of Meklinburg known by No. 3. ... It is my desire that the lot in the town of Mecklinburg on which the English Church stands known by No. 40 be the sole use of the Parish of Norbonne free from Ground rent and my heirs to give the vestry a deed for it if required ...I constitute and appoint my sons Abraham Shepherd, John Shepherd, and my wife Elizabeth, Executors of this my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this twenty-third day of March in the year 1776. Signed Thos. Shepherd.”

In 1776, Abraham Shepherd, son of Thomas Shepherd, started calling the town Shepherd’s Town in honor of his father, with the change becoming official in 1798. Shepherds Town became Shepherdstown in 1820. Shepherdstown, West Virginia, is on the Potomac River, about twelve miles north of Harper’s Ferry, WV.

Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd died in 1793. The will of Elizabeth Shepherd (proved June 12, 1793; Abraham Shepherd, executor) is as follows:

“In the name of God Amen. I, Elizabeth Shepherd, of Berkely County and Commonwealth of Virginia being poorly in health but of perfect mind and memory, thanks be given unto God Calling unto mind the mortality of my body knowing that it is appointed for us all once to die, do make and ordain this my last Will and Testament that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my soul unto the hand of Almighty God who gave it and my body I recommend to the earth to be buried in a decent manner by the one hereafter appointed nothing doubt – but at the General resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give devise and dispose of the same in the following manner and Form. Firstly I give and bequeath to my

son David Shepherd, my Bible in full for his part of my estate, Also I give and bequeath to my daughter Susannah Eoff all my estate viz: as to legacies, back rents &c. all [and] every part of my estate to the said Susannah Eoff and her heirs forever, whom I request my body to be decently buried by – out of my said estate. I do hereby utterly revoke and disannul all and every other former Testament Wills and Legacies bequests and executors by me in any wise before named willed and bequeathed ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness Whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this tenth day of July one thousand seven hundred and eighty-six. Signed sealed and delivered and acknowledged in the presence of Thos. White, Thomas Thornburg and Nicholes Shill. Signed (by her mark) Elizabeth Shepherd.”

Regarding the children of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, five sons served as soldiers in the Revolutionary War. [Smyth provides additional details on each of these children and their lines.] Over twenty-eight years, Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd had the following children:

DAVID SHEPHERD: David Shepherd, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, was born in January 1734. He married Rachel Teague in 1755. In 1770, he moved his family to Ohio County, Virginia, and settled near Wheeling; he built a blockhouse near the forks of Big and Little Wheeling Creeks. In 1772, he sold a half acre lot in Mecklenburg to Samuel Washington, the brother of George Washington. He acquired substantial land holdings in the vicinity of Wheeling. On March 4, 1777, the Council of Virginia appointed David Shepherd to be a Colonel of Ohio County in the Revolutionary War; he was instrumental in the defense of Wheeling and vicinity from Indians loyal to the English. Many of his letters are provided in Smyth. William Shepherd and Francis Duke, son and son-in-law of Thomas Shepherd, were killed during the siege of Fort Henry (Wheeling) in September 1777. After the Revolutionary War, David Shepherd continued his military service in the defense of frontier settlements from Indians. David Shepherd died on February 2, 1795 and is buried in the graveyard of the Old Stone Church, at Elm Grove on Wheeling Creek, in Ohio County, Virginia (currently near Wheeling, West Virginia).

SARAH SHEPHERD: Sarah Shepherd, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, was born about 1736 and married Thomas Thornburg in 1751/52. She died on October 18, 1780. Thomas Thornburg died in 1789. They are buried in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. In 2000, Steve Leeper communicated with Vivian McCarty and Vivian Park Snyder, descendants of Thomas and Sarah Shepherd Thornburg.

ELIZABETH SHEPHERD: Elizabeth Shepherd, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, was born October 3, 1738. She married William Brown (born 1734) on March 31, 1762. Elizabeth died in 1788 and is buried in Shepherdstown. William Brown died in 1801.

WILLIAM SHEPHERD: William Shepherd, son of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, was born between 1737 and 1741. He married Mary Clark. In his father’s will, he is spoken of as “being abroad” and was, at the time, likely in the militia serving to defend the frontier. Along with his brother, David, and his van Meter cousins, he settled in “Indian

Country” in the vicinity of Wheeling, Virginia. He was a private during the Revolutionary War. William Shepherd died in 1824 and is buried near Wheeling, West Virginia.

THOMAS SHEPHERD: Thomas Shepherd, son of Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd, was born in 1743 (or 1745). In 1773, he married Susannah Hulse. He died in 1793 in Shepherdstown and is buried in the Shepherd Burial Ground.

JOHN SHEPHERD: John Shepherd, son of Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd, was born in 1749. He married Martha Nelson in 1773. He was a miller/mill wright and a Presbyterian. He was a private during the Revolutionary War. In 1787, he removed to Ohio County, Virginia, and settled near Buffalo Creek. For a short time, he lived in Maysville, Kentucky and then moved to Red Oak, Ohio, where he died on July 31, 1812.

MARTHA SHEPHERD: **Martha Shepherd** (also called Matilda), daughter of **Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd**, was born in Mecklenburg, Virginia, in 1752 and is in the direct line of our Leeper family. She was the twin sister of Mary Shepherd. In October 1771, she married **George McNabb**; more details are provided under the McNabb Family.

MARY SHEPHERD: Mary Shepherd, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth Van Meter Shepherd, was born in 1752, the twin sister of Martha Shepherd. Mary Shepherd married twice: first to John Feay and then to Samuel Buchanan. She is buried in Brooke Co., West Virginia.

ABRAHAM SHEPHERD: Abraham Shepherd, youngest son of Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd, was born in Mecklenburg on October 10, 1754. At the age of 21, he became a lieutenant in the company of Hugh Stephenson. On July 17, 1775, this company left Morgan’s Spring (outside of Mecklenburg/Shepherdstown) on the famous “Bee Line March” to Boston.

In 1776, Abraham Shepherd changed the name of the town of Mecklenburg to Shepherd’s Town in honor of his father. The name change may also have been related to the desire to remove the association with the Queen of England from the name of the town during the Revolutionary War. Abraham Shepherd took this action while acting as executor of his father’s will.

In November of 1776, at the Battle of Kingsbridge, Abraham Shepherd took over command of his regiment, after all of his superior officers were wounded. He received a Captain’s commission, shortly thereafter. In 1777 at Burgoyne, he was taken prisoner. Paroled in May 1778, he once again saw service in the middle of 1779, returning to Shepherd’s Town in August 1779. He received 5,000 acres in Virginia in return for his service during the Revolutionary War.

On December 27, 1780, Abraham Shepherd married Eleanor Strode, the daughter of Captain James Strode. He and Eleanor were lifelong members of the Episcopal Church in Shepherdstown. A plaque to the memory of Eleanor Strode Shepherd was placed in Trinity Episcopal Church shortly after her death in 1853.

Abraham Shepherd operated a grist mill in Shepherdstown. **George McNabb** (see the McNabb Family) was a millwright in this mill.

Over his life, Abraham Shepherd accumulated over 9,000 acres in the original Ohio County, Virginia (covering the present areas of southwestern Pennsylvania and the panhandle of West Virginia). Various family members and their spouses settled in this area, including **George and Martha Shepherd McNabb**.

Abraham Shepherd died on September 7, 1822 and is buried in the old Shepherd Burial Ground in Shepherdstown, West Virginia. Eleanor Strode Shepherd is buried with him.

Abraham and Eleanor Strode Shepherd had the following children: James Strode (1782-1789), Rezin Davis (1784-1865), Abraham, Jr. (1787-1853), James Hervey (1790-1837), Henry (1793-1870), Ann (1796-1853; married Dr. Thomas Hammond), Eliza (1799-1833; married Edmund J. Lee, a lawyer), and Charles Moses (1800-1851) Shepherd. Additional details on the life of Rezin Davis Shepherd are provided on pages 102 to 105 of *Prominent Men of Shepherdstown, 1762-1962* by A. D. Kenamond, 1963. The courthouse built by Rezin Shepherd was the first building in the campus of Shepherd College in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

SUSANNAH SHEPHERD: Susannah Shepherd, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd, was born on Sept. 1, 1758. She married John Eoff in Shepherdstown on April 15, 1777. In about 1789, they removed to the vicinity of Wheeling, Ohio County, Virginia (now West Virginia). She died in Wheeling on April 13, 1835. She had several children, including John Eoff, a physician and famous resident of Wheeling.



## THE VAN METER (VAN METRE) FAMILY

**Elizabeth van Meter**, great granddaughter of **Jans Joosten and Macyken Hedrickson van Meteren**, married **Capt. Thomas Shepherd**. Their daughter, **Martha Shepherd**, married **George McNabb**. **Elizabeth McNabb**, daughter of **George and Martha Shepherd McNabb**, married **Isaac Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, daughter of **Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. **Margaret Masters**, daughter of **Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

The van Meter Family is described in *A Genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-VanMeter Family* by Samuel Gordon Smyth, 1909, available from the New England Historical Genealogical Society and various libraries. Most information on this line was obtained from this book.

The van Meter (van Meteren) Family was likely from the Dutch province of Guelderland, as “van meteren” means “of Meteren” a town in that province. The various spellings of the name in America include van Meteren, van Metre, van Meter, and van Maitre.

According to an e-mail (dated March 19, 2001; author identified only as Mark), *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977) may provide the following information on ancestors of Jans Joosten van Meteren (died 1706). This book has not yet been reviewed by this author. According to this e-mail, the grandfather of Jan Joosten van Meteren may have been Emanuel van Meteren (born in Antwerp in 1535; died 1612 in London). The father of Emanuel van Meteren was Jacob van Meteren, who employed Miles Cloverdale to prepare the first English translation of the Bible (The Cloverdale Bible) in 1535. The father of Jacob van Meteren was Cornelius van Meteren of Bretch (near Breda), Bavaria.

**JANS JOOSTEN VAN METEREN (died 1706)**  
**MACYKEN HENDRICKSON**

**Jans Joosten van Meteren** was born about 1620 (presumably in Guelderland, Holland) [per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977)].

Before 1662, **Jans Joosten van Meteren** married **Macyken Hendricksen**, born about 1625 [per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977)].

In 1662, the family of **Jans Joosten and Macyken Hedrickson van Meteren** sailed from Tiederwelt, Holland, for the New World on the *Fox* and arrived at New Amsterdam [New York] on September 12, 1662.

They settled in Wyltwick (Kingston), Ulster County, New Amsterdam.

In 1663, our future existence was almost snuffed out in an event known as the Second Esopus War – with the potentially imminent death of two ancestors (who later married): Joost Janse van Meteren (age 7) and Sarah du Bois (infant). On June 7, 1663, the villages of Hurley and Wyltwick (Kingston) were raided by the Minnisink Indians. Hurley was burned to the ground. Many inhabitants of these two villages were killed or captured. Among the captives were Macyken van Meteren and two (or three) of her children (names not known, but likely included Joost Janse van Meteren) and Catherine du Bois and her children, including infant Sarah du Bois. Capt. Martin Kreiger, an old Dutch soldier and famous settler along the Delaware River, organized the expedition, with Louis du Bois (husband of Catherine du Bois and father of Sarah du Bois) as a co-leader, to rescue the captives and punish the Indians. We can only speculate that Jans Joosten van Meteren was among the members of that rescue party. In the following several weeks, the fighting was ineffective and the guilty Indians continually escaped pursuit. On September 3, 1663, the Indians were found due to the courage of Catharine du Bois (wife of Louis du Bois and mother of Sarah du Bois). Per Professor Obenchain of Ogden College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, historian of this period, the story as relayed to and by Smyth is as follows:

About 10 weeks after the capture, the Indians decided to celebrate their escape from pursuit by burning one of their captives. For their victim, they selected Catharine du Bois and her baby, Sara, who afterward married Joost Janse van Meteren. A cubical pile of logs was arranged and the mother and child were placed upon it; when the Indians were about to apply the torch, Catharine began to sing a Huguenot hymn she had learned in earlier days in France. The Indians withheld the fire and listened. When she finished, they demanded another song and then another. Before the last hymn was finished, Dutch soldiers arrived, the captives were all rescued and the Indians terribly punished.

Macyken van Meteren and Catharine du Bois and all their children were saved, including our ancestor, Sara du Bois, future wife of Joost Janse van Meteren. Thus the van Meteren family survived and flourished in The New World, leading to our Leeper family.

In October 1664, Jan Joosten van Meteren signed an oath of allegiance in Ulster County, New York. He held several civil and religious offices of prominence in Kingston (Wyltwick) between 1665 and 1689. The van Meterens belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church.

On September 1, 1689, after the overthrow of Dutch rule in New York, Jan Joosten van Meteren swore an oath of allegiance to England.

Between 1683 and 1695, Jans Joosten van Meteren became interested in lands in East Jersey (New Jersey). In 1695, he jointly purchased (with Jan Hamel, his son-in-law, and others) about 500 acres, called Lassa (“Lazy”) Point, on the east side of the Delaware River in Burlington County, East Jersey (the current site of Burlington, New Jersey, across the river from Philadelphia). According to the record of this purchase, John/Jan Joosten was a yeoman [a farmer who owns his land] from Sopus [Esopus], New York. In 1699, his share of the land was transferred to Jan Hamel (husband of daughter, Geertje). In September 1700, he purchased 1835 acres of unappropriated and unsurveyed lands near the South Branch of the Raritan River (near the present location of Somerville, New Jersey).

Upon the death of Jan Joosten van Meteren (ca. 1706 in the vicinity of the Raritan River in East Jersey), his estate was valued at 245 pounds (inventory filed in Burlington, New Jersey, June 13, 1706). Presumably, his land went to his grandchildren, primarily to Jan/John van Meter. The most valuable “items” in his estate, worth 145 pounds, were six slaves: a man and a woman and their four children. As much as we might wish to not uncover such information, we should use great care when applying our views to the lives of our ancestors who lived nearly 300 years ago.

Macyken Hendricksen died after 1706 in New York [per David Thomas and His Descendants by Roland Shields Thomas (1977)].

The children of Jans Joosten and Macyken Hendrickson van Meteren were:

LYSBETH van METEREN: age 15 in 1662; deceased with children in 1681 (per testamentary disposition written December 16, 1681).

CATHARINE van METEREN: age 12 in 1662; apparently died without children (as not mentioned in testamentary disposition written December 16, 1681).

GEERTJE van METEREN: age 9 in 1662; married Crom (per testamentary disposition written December 16, 1681). She may have been married to Jan Hamel.

**JOOST JANSE van METEREN**: **Joost Janse van Meteren**, son of **Jans Joosten and Macyken Hendrickson van Meteren**, was age 6 in 1662, when his parents emigrated to the New World; he was likely born in about 1656 in Holland, France, or German Palatinate. He is in the direct line of ancestry as in discussed in greater detail below.

GYSBERT JANSE van METEREN: born ca. 1660, age 2 1/2 in 1662.

**JOOST JANSE van METEREN (1662-ca. 1695)**  
**SARA du BOIS (ca. 1664 - post 1726)**

**Joost Janse van Meteren**, son of **Jans Joost and Macyken Hendrickson van Meteren**, was born in Holland, France, or German Palatinate about 1656. He was brought to the New World by his parents on the *Fox* in 1662. They first settled in Wyltwick (Kingston), Ulster County, New Amsterdam (New York). Per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977), Joost Jansen van Meteren was born in Gelderland, Holland, in 1656.

Joost Janse van Meteren was likely taken captive by the Minnisink Indians on June 7, 1663, during the event known as the Second Esopus War. On this date, the villages of Hurley and Wyltwick (Kingston) were raided by the Minnisink Indians. Hurley was burned to the ground. Many inhabitants of these two villages were killed or captured. An infant Sara du Bois, future wife of Joost Janse van Meteren, was known for certain to be among the captives. See above for more information (and see the section on the du Bois family).

On December 12, 1682, **Joost Janse van Meteren** married **Sara du Bois** (per records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Kingston, Ulster County, New York); he is listed as a resident of Morum (Marbletown) and she is listed as from Kingston and residing in Nieuwe Pals (New Paltz). Sara du Bois, daughter of Louis du Bois, was baptized on September 14, 1664. Additional details on the family of Sara du Bois are provided under the Du Bois Family.

Per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977), Joost Janse van Meteren was an early explorer of the Virginia wilderness, may have been the first white man in the Potomac and Shenandoah Valleys, and urged his sons to acquire lands in this area. Per Smyth, John van Meter, the son of Joost Janse van Meteren, was the first white man to explore these areas and was the man who urged his sons to settle across the Potomac. John and Isaac van Meter were the first white men to acquire these lands. See below.

Per Smyth, all reference to Joost Janse van Meteren ceases after the birth of his son, Hendrix (Henry), in 1695 and he presumably died or disappeared in a hunting or Indian adventure. Per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977), Joost Jansen van Meteren died in about 1732.

Confusing and contradictory information exists on the life/death of Sara du Bois van Meteren. Her father thought her deceased when he wrote his will in 1694. However, records indicate that she lived for several years past the death of her father. She and her son, Jan (John) van Meteren were sponsors at the baptism of Sara Elting, her grandchild, in 1715, at the Dutch Reformed Church at Kingston, New York. She was also involved in land transactions in New Jersey as late as 1726 (Liber D, p. 203, Salem Deeds, dated May 27, 1726, in which she conveyed 302 acres of land to her "loving and dutiful son, Isaac van Meter"). The widow Sara du Bois van Meteren was frequently referred to as Sara du Bois.

Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren had the following children:

JAN (JOHN) van METEREN: John van Meter, son of Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren, was born on October 14, 1683. He is in the direct line of ancestry and is treated in greater detail below.

REBEKKA van METEREN: Rebekka van Meteren, daughter of Joost Janse and Sara du Bois, was born April 26, 1686, in Mormeltown (Marbletown); she married Cornelius Elten/Elting in September 1704 (per Kingston Marriage Register) and lived in Kingston. Their daughter, Sara (baptized on February 6, 1715, at the Dutch Reformed Church of Kingston, New York) married Colonel John Hite, the son of Jost Heydt of Virginia.

LYSBETH van METEREN: Lysbeth van Meteren, daughter of Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren, was born March 3, 1689, but disappears from mention by 1694.

ISAAC van METEREN: Isaac van Meteren, son of Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren, was born ca. 1692. Isaac van Metre also settled in the Raritan River region of New Jersey. He may have married first to widow Catalina Hendrickse; she died in Somerset Co., New Jersey, in 1719. Between 1714 and 1730, Isaac van Metre, along with his brother John, their mother (Sara du Bois) and uncle (Jacob du Bois), purchased more than 6,000 acres in Salem Co., New Jersey. The description of the land is as follows: from the overshot mill in Upper Alloway's Creek, near Daretown, southeasterly to Fork Bridge. In about 1725, he married second to Annetje [Hannah/Ann] Wyncoop (born 1698), daughter of Gerritt Wyncoop of Moreland Manor near Philadelphia. Isaac and Annetje van Metre moved to Salem Co., New Jersey. Around 1745, they and some of their children moved to "Valley of the South Branch of the Potomac."

HENDRIX (HENRY) van METEREN: Henry van Meteren, son of Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren, was born September 1, 1695, in Marbletown, New York. He emigrated to Salem County, New Jersey. He may have also married a Bodine daughter. He appears to have settled (or at least lived for a time) in Salem County, New Jersey.

## JAN (JOHN) van METER

**John van Meter**, son of **Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren**, was born on October 14, 1683. He grew up in and spent his early adult years in Ulster County, New York. In many records, he was referred to as John van Meter of New York.

John van Meter first married Sarah Bodine (daughter of Peter or Isaac Bodine) in about 1705. [Per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977), Sarah Bodine was born in 1687.] In about 1706, John van Meter inherited the land holdings of his grandfather, Jans Joosten van Meteren, in the Raritan River region of New Jersey. He and Sarah van Meter appear to have re-settled to this area, but likely retained ties to Ulster County, New York. Sarah Bodine van Meter died in about 1709, during or after the birth of her third child.

John van Meter married second to Margaret (maiden name not known) in about 1710. [Per *David Thomas and His Descendants* by Roland Shields Thomas (1977), her maiden name was Miller or Mollenauer.]

Between 1714 and 1730, John van Metre, along with his brother Isaac, their mother (Sara du Bois van Meter), and uncle (Jacob du Bois), purchased more than 6,000 acres in Salem County, New Jersey-- described as follows: from the overshot mill in Upper Alloway's Creek, near Daretown, southeasterly to Fork Bridge. A brief listing of land transactions in Salem County, New Jersey, involving John van Meter follows (per Salem Deed Books). On June 19, 1714, about 3000 acres were purchased by John van Meter, Isaac van Meter, Sara du Bois, and Jacob du Bois [Liber D. D. p. 316]; John van Meter received about 400 acres of this purchase. On May 22, 1716, he purchased 600 acres on Alloway Creek [Liber D.D., p. 41]. On March 25, 1730, John van Meter of Prince George's County, Maryland, yeoman, sold 200 acres in Salem County, New Jersey, to Cornelius Newkirk. On March 23, 1734, he conveyed Salem County land to his brother, Isaac.

Between 1716 and 1730, John van Meter acquired substantial land in Prince George's County, Maryland. His name first appears in Maryland records in Frederick County (dated November 8, 1726), when he was granted 300 acres (called *Metre's Run*) near the Monocacy. He later acquired land on Antietam Creek in Maryland (currently in Washington County).

In the opinion of Smyth, Jan van Meter, John van Metre, John van Meter of New York, and John van Meter the Indian Trader are the same person. The case for this assertion is put forth on pages 20 to 21 of Smyth's book. The following citations are taken from Smyth.

Mr. John van Meter of New York gives an account of his accompanying the New York Delaware Indians in 1732 [? 1725 per Cartmell, see below] on their raid against the Catawbas. They passed the South Branch of the Potomac and he afterward settled his boys there. [Cited from *Virginia Historical Magazine, Vol. III*, footnote on p. 191; the Delaware Indians were ancient enemies of the Catawbas.]

Tradition relates that a man by the name of John van Meter, from New York, some years previous to the first settlement of the valley, discovered the fine country of the Wappatomaka [South Branch of the Potomac]. This man was a kind of Indian trader, being well acquainted with the Delawares, and once accompanied a war party who marched to the South for the purpose of invading the Catawbas. The Catabaws however anticipated them – met them very near the spot where Pendleton Court House now stands, encountered, and defeated them with great slaughter. Van Meter was engaged on the side of the Delawares in this battle. When van Meter returned to New York, he advised his sons, that if ever they migrated to Virginia, by all means to secure a part of the South Branch bottom, and described the land immediately above „The Trough“ as the finest body of land which he had ever discovered in all his travels. One of his sons, Isaac van Meter, in conformity with his father’s advice, came to Virginia about the year 1736-37, and made what is called a tomahawk improvement. Mr. van Meter returned to New Jersey and came out again in 1740 ... and in the year 1744 removed with his family and settled on the land. [Cited from Kercheval’s *History of the Valley*, p. 51.]

At the mouth of the Antietam [then in Prince George’s Co., Md.], between 1730-1736, occurred the famous battle between the Catabaws and the Delawares, by which the Catabaws secured the victory. This occurred at what is now the coke-yard of the Antietam Iron Works, three miles from Sharpsburg, where numerous skeletons and war implements have been found from time to time. [Cited from Scharf’s *History of Western Virginia, Vol. II*, p. 1204.]

The beautiful “Valley of Virginia” lies beyond the western slopes of the Blue Ridge. The Shenandoah enfolds it on the south and the Potomac and its branches on the north and west. Lord Fairfax called it “The Northern Neck,” and its settlement may fairly be said to have begun with the actual granting of an immense area of land in what was then Spottsylvania County, Virginia, by Governor Gooch and his Council, at Williamsburg, Virginia, to John and Isaac van Meter, 17<sup>th</sup> June, 1730.

The complete text of this land grant, for 80,000 acres (40,000 acres to John and 40,000 acres to Isaac van Meter, brothers), is provided on pages 26 to 27 of Smyth and on pages 12 to 13 of T. K. Cartmell, *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County, Virginia*, Chesapeake Book Company, Berryville, Virginia, copyright 1963 (published 1908). The original reference is MSS *Journal of the Governor and Council of Virginia*, 1721-1734, page 363. The grant to Isaac van Meter appears on page 364 of the previous reference, along with being provided on page 13 of Cartmell. A small excerpt from the grant to John van Meter follows:

John van Metre ... is desirous to take up a Tract of land in this Colony on the West side of the Great Mountains for the settlement of himself & Eleven children & also that divers of his Relations & friends living in the Government of New York ... including the places called by the names of Cedar Litch & Stony Lick ... lying in the Fork between the sd. River Sherrando and the River Cohongaroola [Potomac] ....

John and Isaac van Meter were given two years in which to settle this land. The land was eventually transferred to relatives of the van Meter family via Joist Hite and Robert McKoy/McKay. Details of complicated land transactions are provided in Smyth on pages 26 to 30 and 132 to 137.

Two interesting questions surround John van Meter: 1) Who owned the land in the “Northern Neck” of Virginia? 2) Who was the first person to set foot on and settle the land between the Potomac and Shenandoah Rivers? To both questions, the answer is, or appears to be, John van Meter. The arguments in favor of these conclusions are too long to reproduce, but are provided in *Shenandoah Valley Pioneers and Their Descendants: A History of Frederick County, Virginia*, by T. K. Cartmell, Chesapeake Book Company, Berryville, Virginia, copyright 1963 (published 1908), pages 1 to 16. This book provides fascinating reading and is of incalculable value to anyone interested in the history of Virginia from pre-colonial times through the Civil War.

Regarding John van Meter’s ownership of lands in the Northern Neck of Virginia, details are too long to reproduce herein and are only summarized. The interested reader is referred to Cartmell for details. In summary, the legal battles (from 1749 to 1800) between the Lord Fairfax estate and the families of original settlers (including van Meter and Hite) over ownership of land in the Northern Neck of Virginia were among the most famous law suits in the early history of the Colony of Virginia. To begin, on March 12, 1664, King Charles II (of England) granted the entirety of the Colony of Virginia to Lord Thomas Culpepper (Colepepper). These rights transferred to Lord Fairfax of England, the son of Catherine Culpepper Fairfax, sole heir of Thomas Culpepper. The grant, however, contained a clause that allowed recognition of other grants in Virginia if recorded at Jamestown or Williamsburg and if actually settled. These criteria were met by the grants to John and Isaac van Meter (dated 1730, described above), along with grants to Joist Hite and others. In addition, the descendants of John van Meter had an additional fact in their favor. Recognizing the possibility of prior claims on the land, John van Meter, in a shrewd move in 1734, transferred title to his land to Joist Hite [apparently related in some manner to van Meter via the du Bois family], who then transferred portions of it back to the van Meters. Recognition of this transaction by the Colony of Virginia demonstrated the validity of his claim of ownership and such recognition contributed to the final, favorable resolution of the legal battles in 1800. Not all families caught in the Fairfax challenges to their land rights were so fortunate.

Regarding the question of the first white man to cross the Potomac River and the first settler in the Shenandoah Valley, Cartmell (pages 6, 10-16, 252-253) gives both honors to John van Meter. Many early histories of this region credit Joist Hite with having been the first settler, but the grants of John and Isaac van Meter pre-date those of Joist Hite and the evidence (per Cartmell) shows that the van Meters entered and settled the area prior to the arrival of Hite. The grants to John and Isaac van Meter, dated June 17, 1730, pre-date the grants given to Joist Hite (1731). In addition, the text of the van Meter grants states that they had viewed the lands they were being given. In 1726, John van Meter is believed to have crossed the Blue Ridge Mountains to view the lands that lay beyond and is therefore deemed to have been the first white man to have crossed the Potomac River and to have set foot in the Shenandoah Valley. In 1729, John van



Meter first told Joist Hite about attractive lands lying west of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia. Cartmell (p. 265) places the date of John van Meter's expedition into the Shenandoah Valley with the Delaware Indians as having occurred prior to 1725.

The land west of the Blue Ridge Mountains was called the "forbidden territory," because the Catawbas, Shawnee, and other "savage" Indians were known to exterminate any Indians not of their tribe who ventured into this area. No Indians dared to hunt in (nor white person dared to explore) west of the Blue Ridge. Cartmell (p. 265) relates the following as well established:

John van Meter is the only white person of whom there is any well founded evidence of entering the forbidden country prior to 1725. Van Meter accompanied Delawares through the Lower Valley in quest of big game; they met Catawbas coming from the South. Both tribes disputed the right of entry; a terrific battle occurred, the Delaware suffered a crushing loss. Van Meter barely escaped; the whole tribe would have been annihilated, had it not been for the return of the Shawnees from their big annual hunt on the South Branch of the Potomac. They encountered the Catawbas on Cedar Creek and overwhelmed them with such slaughter, as to gratify the remnant of the Delaware band; and John van Meter's traditionary history of the battles and his venture, has been carefully preserved and handed down through succeeding generations. Van Meter saw no white people.

On September 17, 1744, John van Meter wrote a "Deed of Gift" in which he dispersed property to his children and their families, including to Thomas Shepherd, his son in law.

John van Meter died in about 1745. The Will of John van Meter is reproduced on pages 31 to 36 of Smyth, *A Genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-VanMeter Family*, 1909; only portions of the will are reproduced herein:

In the name of God Amen, the Thirteenth day of August one thousand seven hundred and forty five, I, John van Metre in Frederick County in the Colony of Virginia being sick in body but of sound mind and Memory praise be given to God, for the same and calling to mind the uncertainty of this Transitory Life, am willing through Divine Assistance to settle and Dispose of those Temporal blessings which it hath Pleas'd God beyond my Deserts to bestow upon me and therefore making this my Last Will and Testament Disannulling all other wills and Testaments heretofore made by me, &c. Imprimis, I commend my soul into the hands of God that gave it, hoping thro the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ it will be accepted and my body to be Interred with Deacency at the Discretion of my executors hereafter named. I also will that all my Just Debts and Demands whatsoever in Right of Conscience is Due to any to be Discharged and paid ...First my will is that my well beloved wife Margaret van Metre Have the third part of my moveable estate, also one room which she likes best, to Dwell in, in my dwelling House, and one third part of the Orchard next the Run with the keeping of one Riding Horse and two Milch cows, Linnin and Wooling Yarn to wove her Bed and Bedding the said Room and Liberties to be by her possessed during Her Dureing Life, without control or molestation by any person whatever.

...  
*Eleventh*, Item, I give Devise and Bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth Wife to Thomas Shepherd and to the heirs of her body Lawfully Begotten One Certain Tract or piece of Land being part of the Tract whereon I now dwell ... containing by computation three hundred acres of Land. Also one other Tract of Land ... in Prince George's County in the Province of Maryland known by the name of Pelmel. Beginning at a bounded Ash standing at the upper end of a Tract of land called Antetum Bottom on the Bank of the Potomack River containing one hundred and sixty acres of Land ...

The executors of the will were Thomas Shepherd, Abraham van Meter, and Jacob van Meter. The will was probated on September 3, 1745, at Winchester, Virginia.

Per the records of the Dutch Reformed Church of Somerville, East Jersey, Jan (John) and Sarah Bodine van Meteren had the following children: Sarah (baptized October 30, 1706); Johannes (baptized April 28, 1708); and Maria/Mary (baptized April 26, 1709) van Meteren. Smyth provides details on these families.

The children of Jan (John) and Margaret van Meter were: Rebecca (born ca. 1711), Isaac (born ca. 1713), **Elizabeth**, Henry (born ca. 1717), Rachel (born ca. 1719), Abraham (born ca. 1721), Jacob (born 1723), and Maudlina (born ca. 1725) van Meter. Substantial additional details on each of these children are provided in Smyth. Among the many interesting facts provided about the children of John and Elizabeth van Meter is the following: for two days in April 1747 or 1748, Henry van Meter, son of John van Meter, had as his guest, Col. George Washington. Several children of Abraham van Meter settled, along with other relatives, on Short Creek near Fort Van Meter and West Liberty near the present day location of Wheeling, West Virginia.

**Elizabeth van Meter**, daughter of John and Margaret van Meter, was born about 1715. She married **Capt. Thomas Shepherd** and is in the direct line of ancestry. More information on her life can be found in under The Shepherd Family. **Martha Shepherd**, daughter of **Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd**, married **George McNabb**; they settled in Wellsburg, Brooke Co., West Virginia (then Charleston, Ohio County, Virginia), north of Wheeling.

## THE du BOIS FAMILY

**Sara du Bois**, daughter of Louis and Catharine Blanchan du Bois, married **Joost Janse van Meteren**. **Elizabeth van Meter**, their grand daughter, married **Capt. Thomas Shepherd**. **Martha Shepherd**, daughter of **Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd**, married **George McNabb**. **Elizabeth McNabb**, daughter of **George and Martha Shepherd McNabb**, married **Isaac Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, daughter of **Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. **Margaret Masters**, daughter of **Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

The following information on the du Bois family was obtained from *A Genealogy of the Duke-Shepherd-VanMeter Family* by Samuel Gordon Smyth, 1909, available from the New England Historical Genealogical Society and various libraries.

According to information provided on pages 22 to 23 of Smyth, the line of du Bois and related families can be traced back to AD 476. He did not make this assertion, but reported the assertion of another genealogist. Those who are interested in details may consult Smyth. The list of persons from whom Louis du Bois is descended includes Guelph, Prince of Scyrii (AD 476), Charlmagne, Emperor of the West, William the Conqueror, Henry I and Henry II, Kings of England, Alfred the Great, Hugh Capet, King of France, and Henry I, Emperor of Germany. Perhaps everyone of European ancestry is descended from several of these and other famous people because they were the only persons with families well enough off to have children who lived long enough to raise families.

The family name was at one time du Bois de Fiennes.

**LOUIS du BOIS (1626-1696)**  
**CATHARINE BLANCHAN du BOIS**

**Louis du Bois**, (presumed) son of Chretien Maxmillian, Marque de Fiennes, was born on October 28, 1626, in La Bassee, near Lillie, in the Province of Artois, France. He was a Huguenot, fled France, and re-settled in Mannheim, Germany. On October 10, 1655, he married **Catharine Blanchan** (daughter of Mathese Blanchan) at Mannheim in the Lower Palatinate of Germany. The Blanchans, of Wicres, Artois [Marseilles], France were also Huguenots who had fled to Germany. **Louis and Catharine Blanchan du Bois** came to The New World in about 1660 and settled at New Village [now Hurley], near Kingston, Ulster County, New York.

On June 7, 1663, in an event known as the Second Esopus War, the villages of Hurley and Wyltwick (Kingston) were raided by the Minnisink Indians. Hurley was burned to the ground. Many inhabitants of these two villages were killed or captured. Among the captives were Catharine du Bois and all her children and Macyken van Meteren and two (or three) of her children (names not known, but likely included Joost Janse van Meteren). Capt. Martin Kreiger, an old Dutch soldier and famous settler along the Delaware River, organized an expedition, with Louis du Bois as a co-leader, to rescue the captives and punish these Indians. In the following several weeks, the fighting was ineffective and the guilty Indians continually escaped pursuit. On September 3, 1663, the Indians were found due to the courage of Catharine du Bois. Professor William A. Obenchain of Ogden College, Bowling Green, Kentucky, a fellow descendant (page 77 of Smyth), relayed the traditional story to Smyth as follows:

About 10 weeks after the capture, the Indians decided to celebrate their escape from pursuit by burning one of their captives. For their victim, they selected Catharine du Bois and her baby, Sara, who afterward married Joost Janse van Meteren. A cubical pile of logs was arranged and the mother and child were placed upon it; when the Indians were about to apply the torch, Catharine began to sing a Huguenot hymn she had learned in earlier days in France. The Indians withheld the fire and listened. When she finished, they demanded another song and then another. Before the last hymn was finished, Dutch soldiers arrived, the captives were all rescued and the Indians terribly punished.

Catharine du Bois and Macyken van Meteren and their children, including our ancestor, Sara du Bois, future wife of Joost Janse van Meteren, were saved. Thus our van Meter family, descended from Joost Janse and Sara du Bois van Meteren, survived, leading to our Leeper family.

In 1670, Louis du Bois served in colonial forces that defended various villages from Indian attacks. He was the founder and first elder of the French Reformed Church at New Paltz.

Before his death in 1696, he mistakenly believed that his daughter Sara had died. He left a share of his estate to her heirs, stating that she was deceased.

Widow Catharine du Bois married Jean Cotton. The date of her death is not known.

Louis and Catharine Blanchan du Bois had ten children. Their names are not given in Smyth.

## THE McNABB (McNAB) FAMILY

**Elizabeth McNabb**, daughter of **George and Martha Shepherd McNabb**, married **Isaac Holmes**. **Susannah Holmes**, daughter of **Isaac and Elizabeth McNabb Holmes**, married **Joseph Masters**. **Margaret Masters**, daughter of **Joseph and Susannah Holmes Masters**, married **William Alexander Leeper** of Leesville, Carroll County, Ohio.

The history of our McNabb family was obtained from Leeper family oral tradition and Holmes (1915) and Smyth (1909).

### GEORGE MCNABB AND MARTHA SHEPHERD

**George McNabb** was born in about 1746 and was from Chester County, Pennsylvania. Nothing is known of his parents or siblings. He was a millwright by trade and worked in the mill of Abraham Shepherd in Shepherdstown, West Virginia (formerly Mecklenburg, Virginia). He met and married Abraham's sister, **Martha Shepherd** (born 1752). Martha's parents were Captain Thomas and Elizabeth van Meter Shepherd.

In 1771, George and Martha Shepherd McNabb built their first home in Mecklenburg, Virginia (later renamed Shepherdstown, after Captain Thomas Shepherd, father of Martha Shepherd – and now in West Virginia); as of 2000, this home was still lived in.

In 1774, George and Martha Shepherd McNabb left Mecklenburg on the Potomac to build a new home in the wilderness of western Pennsylvania -- near the present day location of Wellsburg, Brooke Co., West Virginia (then Charleston, Ohio County, Virginia). The 22-year old mother, Martha Shepherd McNabb, left her two-year old daughter, Elizabeth, in the care of Martha's grandmother, Elizabeth van Meter. For two years, George and Martha labored, amid many perils from Indians and wild animals. In 1776, after successfully clearing a piece of ground, building a cabin, and making other improvements, Martha returned to Shepherdstown for Elizabeth (then four years old). Making the entire 500-mile round trip alone, Martha Shepherd McNabb rode over the mountains on horseback, carrying Elizabeth -- and a highly valuable sack of salt -- home [per oral tradition, as told to Mary Leeper Long (1866-1940)].

According the hand written notes of J. T. Holmes (not published in *The American Family of Reverend Obadiah Holmes*, but seen by Robert McNabb, a descendant of George McNabb), George and Martha Shepherd McNabb did not leave Shepherdstown until several years later. According to this source, the first four children of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb were born in Shepherdstown; the families of George McNabb and Obadiah Holmes became good friends while living in Shepherdstown and moved (possibly, with van Meter families) "as one" to somewhere in Pennsylvania for a year, prior to moving to the Charleston/Wellsburg home in about 1785. Martha Shepherd McNabb was said to have made an annual trip, with one of her children, back to Shepherdstown to pick up a bag of salt.

In 1785, Obadiah Holmes (“The Western Pioneer”) settled near the present site of Wellsburg, WV. The Holmes and McNabb families became close. Three Holmes sons married three McNabb daughters.

Sometime after 1787, George and Martha McNabb moved to Belmont Co., Ohio.

George McNabb reportedly lived past the age of 80. A story exists that at the age of 80; he was thrown from his horse and followed the horse all the way to his home. [This story may apply to George McNabb, the son of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb.]

Per Smyth (p. 235), George McNabb died on his farm three miles southwest of Clairsville, Belmont Co., Ohio, on May 1 or 4, 1818 (making him about 72 at the time of his death). Martha Shepherd McNabb died in about 1825.

George and Martha Shepherd McNabb had several children:

**ELIZABETH McNABB:** Elizabeth McNabb, daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born on July 24, 1772, in Mecklenburg/Shepherdstown, Virginia (now in West Virginia). She married Isaac Holmes and is in the direct line of ancestry to our Leeper Family; see the section on Isaac Holmes. She was one of three daughters of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb to marry one of the sons of Obadiah (the western pioneer) and Mary Clunn Holmes. Elizabeth McNabb Holmes died on November 15, 1857, in Jefferson Co., Ohio.

**MARY McNABB:** Mary McNabb, daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born on February 28, 1779. She may have also been known as Polly. In 1795, she married Samuel Holmes, the brother of Isaac Holmes (who married Elizabeth McNabb). She was one of three daughters of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb to marry one of the sons of Obadiah (the western pioneer) and Mary Clunn Holmes. Mary McNabb Holmes died on February 26, 1858, in Jefferson Co., Ohio. More information is provided on Mary McNabb under Samuel Holmes (see Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes).

**JOHN McNABB:** John McNabb, son of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born in Shepherdstown on July 4, 1780. On Nov. 10, 1803, he married Sarah Parrish (born June 7, 1785; died after 1831) in Belmont Co., Ohio. He died in Dec. 1851 in Coshocton Co., Ohio.

The children of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb (per Vivian Park Snyder, descendant of Thomas and Sarah Shepherd Thornburg) were:

**Joseph McNabb:** Joseph McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on December 4, 1804. He married Jemima Horton on July 26, 1827.

**Isaac McNabb:** Isaac McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on July 16, 1806. He married Mahala Bush in September 1831.

Elizabeth McNabb: Elizabeth McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on January 14, 1808. On January 5, 1828, she married George Cox.

Addison McNabb: Addison McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born January 22, 1810. He married Winney Thomas on May 9, 1835.

George McNabb: George McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on September 28, 1811. He died on September 28, 1828.

Martha McNabb: Martha McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on May 21, 1813. She married John Sharples on September 7, 1837.

Sarah Ann McNabb: Sarah Ann McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parris McNabb, was born September 12, 1815. She married John Bradley on March 9, 1837.

Maria McNabb: Maria McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on October 12, 1817. She married William Thomas.

Mary McNabb: Mary McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on April 19, 1820. She married James Copeland on April 12, 1869.

Susannah McNabb: Susannah McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born October 1, 1821. She married Edward Wright on May 24, 1846.

John McNabb: John McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on March 5, 1824. In 1849, he married Susannah Adams (born 1830; died August 12, 1896). He died on April 17, 1904.

Obadiah Holmes McNabb: Obadiah Holmes McNabb, son of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on Mary 17, 1826 and he died about 1892.

Margaret Jane McNabb: Margaret Jane McNabb, daughter of John and Sarah Parrish McNabb, was born on February 8, 1831. She first married Dr. Sheldon and second married William A. Oliver (living in 1900).

SARAH McNABB: Sarah McNabb, daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born on August 26, 1783. She may have also been known as Sally. She married Joseph Holmes, the brother of Isaac Holmes (who married Elizabeth McNabb) on February 26, 1799, in Buffalo Creek, Ohio Co., Virginia (now Brooke Co., West Virginia). She was one of three daughters of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb to marry one of the sons of Obadiah (the western pioneer) and Mary Clunn Holmes. She died on March 5, 1862, in Harrison Co., Ohio. For more information, see Joseph Holmes (under Obadiah and Mary Clunn Holmes).

SUSANNAH McNABB: Susannah McNabb, daughter of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born on December 12, 1789, at Buffalo Creek, Ohio Co., Virginia. On December 14, 1809, she married Joseph Milnor/Milner (born June 30, 1786; died December 25, 1861). She died on July 6, 1867. Joseph and Susannah McNabb Milnor had the following children: George (born Dec. 14, 1810); Edward (born Aug. 22, 1812; married Jane; died December 30, 1831); Sarah (born July 17, 1817; married Aquila Cowgill on September 3, 1857); John (born June 3, 1816; married Hoge); Rezin (born January 16, 1818); Isaac (born February 25, 1820; married Isabella McCullough); Martha (born Nov. 2, 1821; married John Lynn); Jesse (born August 8, 1823; married Mary Barry on October 16, 1866; died April 1, 1895); Joseph W. (born October 14, 1825; died unmarried February 2, 1863); Jane (born February 15, 1828; married Joseph Morton); and Asa (Born October 23, 1831; married Jane Hair) Milnor.

GEORGE McNABB, Jr.: George McNabb, Jr., son of George and Martha Shepherd McNabb, was born April 4, 1795 at Buffalo Creek, Ohio Co., Virginia (now Brooke Co., West Virginia). On December 6, 1821, he married Polly Hoge in Belmont Co., Ohio. George McNabb died on January 21, 1868 in Coshocton Co., Ohio. Polly Hoge McNabb died in 1868.

George and Polly Hoge McNabb had the following children:

Martha McNabb: Martha McNabb, daughter of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on September 20, 1822. On December 21, 1859, she married John E. Davis (born April 8, 1825; died October 19, 1895). She was still living as of 1908.

Elizabeth McNabb: Elizabeth McNabb, daughter of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on September 20, 1826. On April 24, 1849, she married Washington Norris (born August 1824; died December 19, 1900). She died on January 31, 1908.

Isaac McNabb: Isaac McNabb, son of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on January 8, 1829. He first married in 1854 to Deborah Devinney (died January 1887) and married second to Cassandra Murray.

Hannah McNabb: Hannah McNabb, daughter of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born July 11, 1831. In April 1876, she married Samuel Haskins (born in England). She died on November 20, 1906.

Susannah McNabb: Susannah McNabb, daughter of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on April 18, 1838. In April 1860, she married Edward Burchfield (died October 1905). She died in February 1873.

Solomon Hoge McNabb: Solomon Hoge McNabb, son of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on October 14, 1839. He died unmarried on September 7, 1901.

William McNabb: William McNabb, son of George and Polly Hoge McNabb, was born on August 15, 1840. He married Josephine Parish on July 14, 1870.



**WHO WAS JOHN MITCHELL:  
Paid \$1500 for Carrying a Letter to New Orleans  
During the Raft Trip with Our Ancestor, Isaac Holmes?**

Who was this man, John Mitchell, who, in 1794, floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans with Isaac Holmes with a mysterious letter? Why did this man journey into a wilderness from which many men did not return? How could the delivery of a letter be worth \$1500 (in 1794 dollars)? What were the contents of this letter? Who was it delivered to?

This author has found two (apparently) different John Mitchells of this place and time period.

A John Mitchell, whose name is associated with the *Blount Conspiracy*, appears to have been the fellow traveler with Isaac Holmes who carried the letter down the Mississippi River to New Orleans. At present, this John Mitchell is assumed to be a different man than the John Mitchell convicted of treason for his actions during the Whiskey Rebellion.

The name John Mitchell appears often in an event known as the Blount Conspiracy, named after William Blount.

William Blount could have been remembered as a great American. He participated in the American Revolution, was elected to the North Carolina legislature in 1781, led the North Carolina delegation in efforts to ratify the US Constitution in 1789, was essential in gaining statehood for Tennessee, and became the first senator from Tennessee in 1795. But greed, or too much debt, may have caused him to use power for his own gain. During the 1780s, while a member of the US Congress, he pushed for legislation that opened western lands to settlement. Blount speculatively purchased massive tracts of land west of the Appalachians – placing himself and his associates in tremendous debt. During the 1790s, as land prices began to fall, Blount designed to raise the value of his lands and secretly worked with Great Britain to have the British seize the lands that comprised Louisiana from the Spanish. In 1797, when the contents of a secret letter that implicated Blount was discovered and turned over to other members of the US Senate, Blount's plans were uncovered and he was exposed. Blount was expelled from the Senate and, under the direct orders of President Thomas Jefferson, was tried for treason. In the end, he was acquitted. Substantial details of this affair are documented in the Annals of Congress, Fifth Congress, and in various American State papers.

In the 1790s, a John Mitchell met with associates of William Blount, spent time in the Ohio territories, was in Philadelphia meeting with persons intimately involved in this conspiracy, and is said to have travelled from Ohio, down the Mississippi River, to New Orleans under the guise of being a trader. During the Blount trial, John Mitchell gave a deposition (in French), documented in *Annals of Congress, Fifth, pagers II.2336, 2398-2399*. Mitchell revealed details of a plan to have Indians, citizens of Tennessee, and Canadian and English troops attack various cities and forts throughout the western frontier from St. Louis to “lower Louisiana.”

A John Mitchell, assumed to be a different man from the John Mitchell of the Blount conspiracy, was convicted of treason for his acts during the Whiskey Rebellion (1791 to 1794), a period in US and western Pennsylvania and Virginia history that arose from a tax imposed in March 1791 by the new, eastern US government on the production and sale of domestic distilled spirits, i.e., whiskey. This tax fell disproportionately on small farmers on the western frontiers of Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, and Kentucky. The resentment of these citizens led to near insurrection, which was eventually quelled when, in 1794, President George Washington sent 12,000 soldiers to western Pennsylvania. Twenty rebels were arrested and taken to Philadelphia for trial.

In July 1794, a man named John Mitchell, of western Pennsylvania, robbed the US mail on the route from Washington, Pennsylvania, to Pittsburgh. He committed this crime on orders from leaders of the Whiskey Rebellion, who wanted letters to identify persons in Washington, Pennsylvania acting in support of the US government and in opposition to the Rebellion. In early 1795 (after the Whiskey Rebellion had been suppressed), this John Mitchell turned himself in to General Daniel Morgan in Washington Co., Pennsylvania. In 1795, this John Mitchell was convicted of robbing the US mail and was sentenced to be hanged for this crime. Citizens of Washington Co., Pennsylvania, and even citizens of Philadelphia, petitioned for his pardon, stating that John Mitchell was not considered mentally competent to have fully understood what he had done. On July 10, 1795, John Mitchell was pardoned by President George Washington.

Per oral history, Isaac Holmes was returning home from his journey to New Orleans and New York/New Jersey in April 1794 and was married in October 1794. If the John Mitchell who floated down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers with Isaac Holmes is the same John Mitchell convicted of a robbing the US mail in July 1794, then the raft trip down the Ohio and Mississippi River must have occurred during the winter of 1794 (perhaps even starting in the fall of 1793).

The transcript of the trial of John Mitchell, if available, could provide leads for finding persons with whom Mitchell interacted. Study of histories of these persons could lead to discovery of the contents of the mysterious letter that was revealed to Isaac Holmes during his trip down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers to New Orleans, if the contents of the letter have even survived.

An excellent, readable account of the Whiskey Rebellion was written by William Hogeland, *The Whiskey Rebellion: George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, and the Frontier Rebels Who Challenged America's Newfound Sovereignty*, 2006. Per this account, Alexander Hamilton appears to be a highly ambitious and corrupt politician. Substantial research notes and sources are provided. Per Hogeland, Thomas P. Slaughter, *The Whiskey Rebellion: Frontier Epilogue to the American Revolution*, 1986/1988, may be especially helpful in understanding independence movements in the western frontier (and John Mitchell is mentioned). An early, highly interesting documentary source on the Whiskey Rebellion is provided in the related appendix of Alfred Crieg, *History of Western Pennsylvania ...*, 1870 (available online and in many libraries).