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JOHN REYNOLDS

ORIGIN: Unknown.

MIGRATION: 1634 (based on admission to freemanship on 6 May 1635 [MBCR 1:370]).

FIRST RESIDENCE: Watertown.

REMOVES: Wethersfield 1636, Stamford 1641.

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: Admission to Watertown church prior to 6 May 1635 implied by freemanship.

FREEMAN: 6 May 1635 (as "John Reynolls," third in a sequence of eight Watertown men) [MBCR 1:370].

On 29 Ma[rch] 1636, "the church of Waterton in the Masachusetts" dismissed six men, including "Rob [er]te [sic] Reynold," to "form anew in a church covenant in the River of Conectecott" [CCCR 1:2]. (ROBERT REYNOLDS {1634, Boston} was a member of the church at Boston, while the subject of the present sketch was a member of Watertown church at least a year before the Connecticut record given just above, so we conclude that the Connecticut record pertains to John Reynolds, and there is no connection of Robert Reynolds with Watertown and Wethersfield.)

OFFICEHOLDING: Watertown lotlayer, 14 November 1635 [WaTR 1:2].

ESTATE: In the 1644 Watertown Book of Possessions, "John Reinolds" held one parcel: "homestall of five acres & half" [WaBOP 97]. (This homelot would have been granted to Reynolds upon his arrival in 1634, and had been sold to Miles Nutt by 1636 [WaBOP 44, 97, 129].)

In the Wethersfield land inventory on 11 February 1640/[1?], "John Raynolds" held seven parcels: "one piece whereon his house now standeth containing by estimation three acres two roods lying in meadow row"; "one piece lying in the Great Meadow containing by estimation ten acres"; "one piece lying in the furthest west field containing by estimation 19 acres"; "also one other piece lying in the furthest west field containing by estimation 13 acres"; "one piece lying on the east side of Conecticut containing in breadth 25 rods & in length 3 miles"; "one piece lying in pennywise containing by estimation four acres one rood"; and "one piece lying in the great swamp containing by estimation ten acres" [WetLR 1:256; CTLR 1:Wethersfield:1]. By 20 May 1644, John Reynolds had sold these seven parcels to John Hollister [WetLR 1:82].

At the time of the settlement of Stamford, "Jo[h]n Renoulds" contributed three bushels and two pecks of corn to the purchase price of the land [Stamford TR 1:5; TAG 10:40] and in 1641 he made further contributions [Stamford TR 1:7]. In 1641 "Jo[h]n Renoulds" was granted eleven acres of marsh and upland at Stamford [Stamford TR 1:6; TAG 10:41]. "Jo[h]n Renoulds" appears in a Stamford rate list for 7 January 1642/[3?] [Stamford TR 1:15; TAG 10:43].

BIRTH: By about 1606 (based on estimated date of marriage).

DEATH: After 7 January 1642/[3?] [Stamford TR 1:15] and probably before 1650 (when the Stamford land inventory was compiled, without an entry for John Reynolds).

MARRIAGE: By about 1631 _____ (perhaps Sarah _____ [see COMMENTS below]).

CHILDREN:

- JONATHAN REYNOLDS, b. say 1631; m. by about 1656 Rebecca _____ (the inventory of the estate of Jonathan Reynolds, taken on 23 January 1673/[4?], included a list of his children with their ages on that date, the oldest of whom was 17 [Fairfield PD Case #5194; Fairfield PR 2:75-76]). (In 1998 Gordon L. Remington presented evidence that Rebecca was not the daughter of Angel Huestis, as has been claimed, but rather became the second wife of Angel

Huestis after the death of Jonathan Reynolds. The parentage of Rebecca remains unknown [TAG 73:201-6].)

- ELIZABETH REYNOLDS, b. say 1634; m. Stamford 15 July 1654 Peter Ferris [Stamford TR 1:55], son of JEFFREY FERRIS {1634, Watertown} [GM 2:2:517-21].
- JOHN REYNOLDS, b. say 1636; m. by about 1668 Judah Palmer, daughter of WILLIAM PALMER {1636, Watertown} [Miner Anc 142-43; NYGBR 86:211-12; GM 2:2:520]. (Marion H. Reynolds claimed that Judah Palmer was a daughter of Henry Palmer, by accepting an earlier creation for him of a non-existent second wife and accompanying set of children, made by Spencer Mead [Greenwich Hist 618-30; Reynolds Descendants 31]. This error was corrected by Josephine C. Frost and the correction was further amplified by Jacobus and by McCracken [Miner Anc 142-43; NYGBR 71:362, 86:211-12]. Reynolds provided partial extracts from two critical documents [the probate papers for John Bowers and John Palmer], without giving proper citations [Fairfield PD Case #923 and Case #4805].)

COMMENTS: Some sources suggest or claim that the wife of John Reynolds was named Sarah [Savage 3:525; Reynolds Descendants 13-14, 21-22]. This claim is based on only two records. First, on 30 April 1634, "Sarah Reynolds," aged 20, took the oath of allegiance at Ipswich for passage to New England on the *Elizabeth* [Hotten 280]. Many of the passengers on this vessel settled at Watertown, so the association with the subject of the present sketch is understandable. However, given the ages we have estimated for the children of John Reynolds (making them a few years older than argued by Marion H. Reynolds [Reynolds Descendants 22]), he would have been married by about 1631, when the passenger Sarah Reynolds would have been just seventeen. Such an age at first marriage is not, of course, impossible, but sufficiently unlikely to prevent the identification of this passenger with the wife of John Reynolds.

Second, two versions of a death record for a Sarah Reynolds were entered into Stamford town records. The first reads "Sarra Reanolds died 31:6:1657 [31 August 1657]" and the second reads "Sarra Reanols died the 31 August 1657" [Stamford TR 1:19, 20; TAG 10:44, 45]. Marion H. Reynolds made the curious claim that the first of these reads "Sarra Reanolds (wife of John) died 31-16-1657" [Reynolds Descendants 21]. Even more curiously, she claims in a footnote on the same page that the death record does not distinguish her as wife or widow. We shall argue below that John Reynolds died many years before 1657.

In sum, neither of these records can be definitely identified as pertaining to the wife of John Reynolds, whoever she may have been, and so we are left with no record that states the given name of that wife. The 1657 death record could be for the widow of John, but we simply do not know. Since there was no other Reynolds family in early Stamford, this Sarah dying in 1657 may well have been a member of the family in some way.

The last certain record for John Reynolds was his appearance on the tax list of 7 January 1642[3?] [Stamford TR 1:15; TAG 10:43]. A land inventory was carried out at Stamford in 1650 and 1651, which does not include an entry for John Reynolds. If this inventory is complete, then Reynolds had probably died by that date. (In March 1651, in a description of the land of John Holly, the homelot was described in part as "bounded by the lot which was John Renoles [on the] south" [Stamford TR 1:51]. Such a reference does not imply that Reynolds was necessarily alive in March 1651.)

BIBLIOGRAPHIC NOTE: In 1924 Marion H. Reynolds compiled *The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds [1630?-1923] of Watertown, Mass., and Wethersfield, Stamford and Greenwich, Conn.* (Brooklyn, 1923), cited above as Reynolds Descendants.

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