

## THE SECOND GENERATION

By  
Robert N. Reynolds

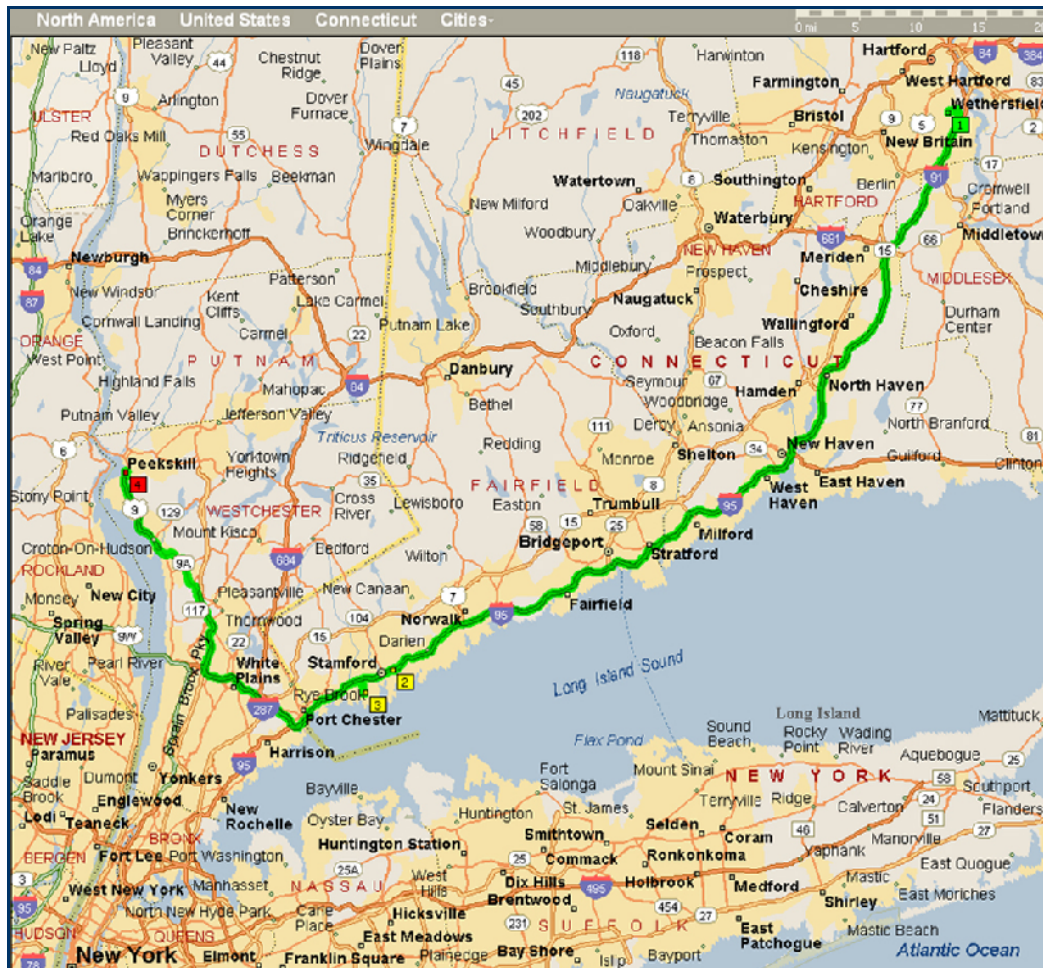
In 1642 our Reynolds progenitors were setting down their roots in the new town of Stamford when it was added to the list of taxable Connecticut towns. The new colonial government was struggling to determine its character and identity. John "The Emigrant" was thirty years old and his son by the same name was just four.

In 1642 the capital laws of Connecticut were nearly complete and put upon the record. The several passages of scripture on which they were founded were particularly noticed in the statute. Illustrations of a couple will serve to make comparison with our day: *"If any man or woman shall have or worship any God, but the true God, he shall be put to death; if any man or woman shall lie with any beast or brute creature, by carnal copulation, they shall surely be put to death, and the beast shall be slain and buried; if any man lieth with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed abomination; they both shall surely be put to death, except it appear that one of the parties was forced, or under fifteen years of age; if any man shall forcibly ravish any maid, or woman, by carnal copulation, against her consent, he shall be put to death, provided prosecution and complaint be made forthwith upon the rape."* As some *"loose persons deserted the English settlements, and lived in a profane, heathenish manner,"* a law was enacted that all persons who should be convicted of this crime should be punished with three years imprisonment, at least."

It is commonly said in the best histories that the mystery of John "The Emigrant" Reynolds' disappearance from the historical records may be attributed to "lose papers" and burned records as the expected documents simply did not survive the seventeenth century. Whether he was or was not alive at the time of Sarah's known death in 1657, the sure thing is that both of these Puritan Emigrant forbears are lost from our view by their mid-forties—***but not so with their children.***

John<sup>2</sup>, my progenitor, was born in Wethersfield on the Connecticut River in 1637-38, but grew up and spent the rest of his life in the communities of Stamford and Greenwich where he enjoyed a rich and prosperous life in service to his family, his church and his community. The civil and church records that document his life and possessions have been treated and summarized in several noted histories. None can match the treatment by Ray and Stewart in their wonderful "loyal to the Land" where they devote a full chapter to John<sup>2</sup> and his brother Jonathan. It is a must read for any line descendant of these good and faithful Puritans. The second chapter of Ray and Stewart's work is reproduced here, almost verbatim except I have also used some images from the work of Marion Reynolds. Please note that these works are copyright protected so they are only for our private use and reference and should not be reproduced for any commercial purpose.

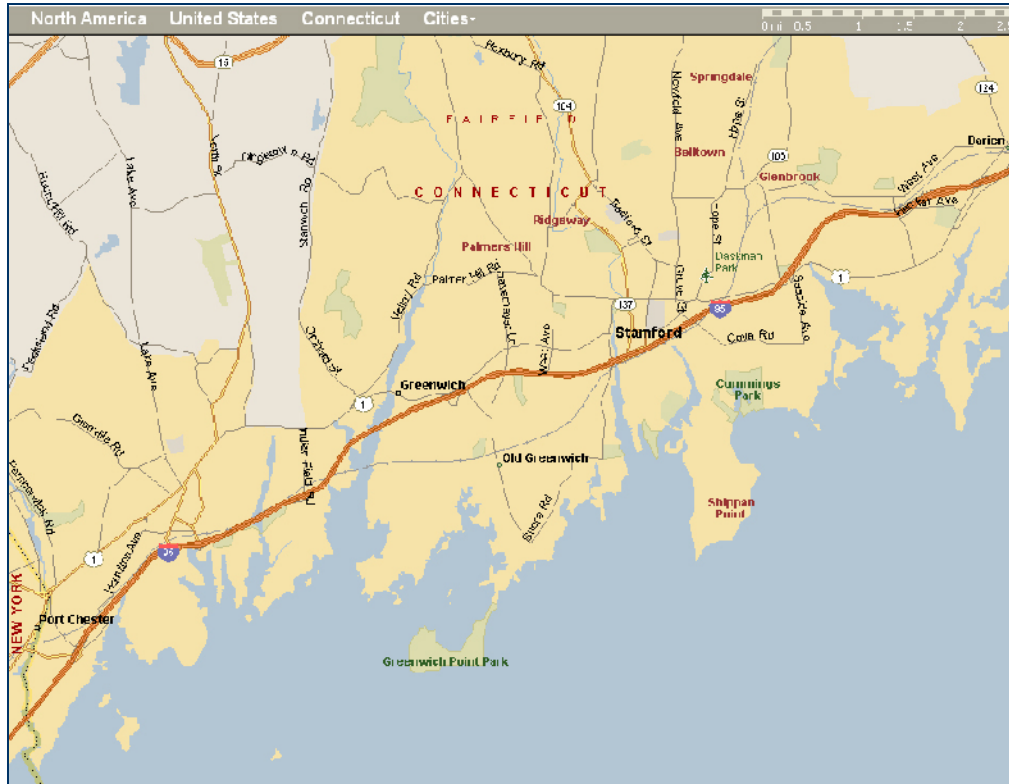
The purpose of this piece is to capture and summarize enough of the details of John's<sup>2</sup> life so to provide the reader with the flavor and essence of who he was and what he passed on to his progeny. My visualization of this man who occupies a seat nine generations above me is such that I cannot let him rest without a fair degree of adulation—for he was everything and then some of what we moderns would hold in high esteem—and it is doubtful that he himself knew even a small portion of his own wealth. As the first full generation representative of my American Reynolds lineage John<sup>2</sup> gets an A-plus.



The above map illustrates: (1) the birthplace of John (1636-1701), the son of John "The Emigrant" at Wethersfield; (2) the initial location of Toquams which became Stamford, John "The Emigrant's first settlement after leaving Wethersfield; (3) the location of old Greenwich where John<sup>2</sup> raised his family and died in 1701; and (4) Peekskill, where our third generation ancestor Captain James Reynolds removed to after distributing his Greenwich lands in the latter part of his life.

As a perspective, keep in mind that our ancestors first located at Toquams (Stamford) after removing from Wethersfield in 1641. John "The Emigrant" is lost from the record after 1651 as is Sarah whose death is recorded in 1657. We will

learn from Ray and Stewart's account that follows, that both sons of "The Emigrant" occur close together in the historical record and that both have removed to Greenwich by the early 1660's and perhaps a few years earlier. Also, the distance between these two colonies is only three or four miles.



Map showing location of Stamford and Greenwich, Connecticut

## GREENWICH HISTORY<sup>1</sup>

The Town of Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut (named after Greenwich, Kent, England) lies on the southwest corner of the state and is bounded on the west and north by Westchester County, New York; on the east by the town of Stamford; and on the south by Long Island Sound. On July 18, 1640, Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake, in the name of New Haven Colony, purchased all lands between the Asamuck and Potommuck brooks, in the area now known as Old Greenwich from the Native American "owners" living in the area for a sum of "*twentie-five coates*." The deed was signed by representatives of the tribe and witnessed by Robert A. Heusted, Andrew Messenger, Rasobititt, Saponas, Honehorn, Akerogue, Whonehorn, Akerogue, Pauonohas, Powiatoh. Greenwich thus became the tenth town established in Connecticut between 1633 and 1640.

<sup>1</sup> From the Greenwich town website; modified for this piece.

The first couple of years were rough for the early settlers because of disputes over who held control of the colony. The Dutch claimed the area and in fear of not being protected by New Haven Colony, the early settlers signed a 1642 allegiance to "the Noble Lord States General, His Highness, the Prince of Orange, and the West India Company." Greenwich then became a "manor" and Captain Daniel Patrick and Robert Feaks, the "patroons of the manor." (Captain Daniel Patrick had married Annetje Van Beyeren, a Dutch woman from New Amsterdam.) From 1642 to 1650, the settlement of Greenwich was officially part of the Dutch colony New Netherland.

In 1650, the colony of New Haven and the Dutch agreed to boundary lines and once again, the small town of Greenwich reverted back to control by the New Haven Colony. For the most part, the citizens continued to live as they had previously, with everyone doing pretty much whatever they wished. In 1656, claims are made in New Haven that the residents of Greenwich "live in a disorderly and riotous manner, sell intoxicating liquors to the Indians, receive and harbor servants who have fled their masters, and join persons unlawfully in marriage." On October 6, 1656, Greenwich, represented by 12 men, submitted to the New Haven jurisdiction and was then told to "fall in with Stamford."

On February 5, 1664, the Seven Proprietors made a formal request to the General Assembly in Hartford to be allowed to separate from Stamford and to support its own minister and lay out its own lands. The Seven Proprietors were John Mead, **Jonathan Renalds**, John Hobby, Joseph Ferris, Joshua Knapp, Angell Husted, and **Jeffrey Ferris**.<sup>2</sup>

On May 11, 1665, the General Assembly in Hartford declared Greenwich a separate township, and authorized funds for the hiring and support of an orthodox minister. In 1672, the so-called "27 Proprietors" bought land from the few remaining Indians to the west of the "Myanos River." This land became known as "Horseneck" because of the neck of land now known as Field Point was the common Horse Pasture. Official title was not obtained from the Indians until 1686, but the land was laid out for home lots, divided and granted to those so-called "27 Proprietors."

The town of Greenwich expanded and prospered steadily, supplying the packet boats with shipments of locally grown produce and other wares. Greenwich played an active role in the Revolutionary War. Its most famous event was the race through Greenwich by General Israel Putnam, who made a daring escape from the British on the morning of February 26, 1779. While the British were able to pillage and loot Greenwich, they were not able to prevent General Putnam from rushing to warn Stamford. General Putnam's tricorne hat, with a bullet hole pierced through its

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<sup>2</sup> Jonathan Renalds (Reynolds) was the oldest son of "The Emigrant;" Jeffrey Ferris married Elizabeth Reynolds, "The Emigrant's" only daughter of record.

side, is displayed at "Putnam's Cottage," the tavern belonging to Israel Knapp. General Putnam stayed in the tavern the night before his famous ride, and the site is now maintained as a museum by the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution), and is located at 243 East Putnam Avenue, Greenwich, CT.

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Sources: 1. Mead, S. P. *Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, County of Fairfield and state of Connecticut*. New York, New York: Knickerbocker Press (1911). Reprint Camden, Maine: Picton Press (1992)

2. Finch, William E. *Greenwich: History of a Border Town*, pp. 25-27.

3. Atwan, Robert, General Editor. *Greenwich, An Illustrated History*. Greenwich, Connecticut: *Greenwich Time* (1990).

4. Leaf, Margaret and Holland, Lydia. *A History , Illustrated with Photographs of Greenwich, Connecticut, from Colonial Days to the Present*. Greenwich: *The Greenwich Press*. (1935)

5. Clarke, Elizabeth W. *Before & After 1776. A Comprehensive Chronology of the Town of Greenwich: 1640-1976*.

### THE TWO REYNOLDS BROTHERS<sup>3</sup>

The settlers who crossed from Stamford into what is now Old Greenwich found an area similar geographically to that which they had left — stony hills, rich soil, and a usable shore area on Long Island Sound.

The Greenwich shoreline is composed of small peninsulas interspersed with bays and inlets. Several of these tongues of land were quite substantial, large enough to be carved into half a dozen or more planting tracts. Marshes and mud flats near the water's edge, home to both hard-shell and soft-shell clams, provided Greenwich settlers with an easily harvested food. Many varieties of fish were found in the clear waters of the Sound, and oysters were available for the taking. Although the low-lying land near the shore was not suitable for planting crops, the grasses that grew in the salt marshes provided healthful hay for cattle and was even used to thatch roofs.<sup>4</sup> Several small islands, the result of glacial deposit thousands of years ago, lie offshore. The two major ones came to be known as the Captain Islands. Across the Sound, Long Island lies like a protecting dragon, a barrier to the storms and hurricanes that sweep up the Atlantic coast. Hurricanes and nor'easters do hit Greenwich from time to time, however. Fortunately, severe

<sup>3</sup> This is the story of the two sons of John "The Emigrant" copied from the marvelous work of Ray and Stewart, as previously noted and credited; but, I have modified it by incorporating some of Marion Reynolds work as published in *History and Descendants....*[reviously cited.

<sup>4</sup> Bell, Michael, *The Face of Connecticut: People, Geology, and the Land*. Bulletin 110, State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut (Hartford, 1985), 86.

hurricanes arrive infrequently; seventeenth-century records show them occurring only in 1635 and 1683.<sup>5</sup>

In spite of the many rocks that still have to be grubbed from the soil each spring, Greenwich land is rich and fertile. The superb quality of the soil in this part of the colony was one reason settlers moved into Greenwich. That early Connecticut farmers were aware of this asset, one historian claims, is evident from the fact that the coastal villages of lower Fairfield County were settled within a decade after the colony's first town, Wethersfield, had been established.<sup>6</sup> Later observers support this conclusion. In the eighteenth century, the Reverend Moses Dickinson wrote that the soil in this general area was "fruitful, yielding plenteously."<sup>7</sup> And in 1822 Timothy Dwight wrote that, although Greenwich was made up of "rough, stony hills" where "more wild and desolate scenery [could] scarcely be imagined," the soil was of superb quality. "There is not a more fertile tract of the same extent in the state," he added. When Dwight visited throughout West Greenwich, Stanwich and Greenwich—"vulgarly called Horseneck," he observed — he dubbed the Mianus a "sprightly millstream," and commented that the entire town was "filled with plantations."<sup>8</sup>

Bays and inlets add picturesque variety to the shoreline: the coves of Old Greenwich or Sound Beach on the Stamford side, where the settlers first lived, then Cos Cob harbor, Indian harbor, the Greenwich harbor and Byram harbor on the New York side. These provided safe anchorage for the early settlers in their small fishing boats and sloops.

Greenwich has two rivers, the Mianus and the Byram, but neither is navigable very far upstream. Although early on upriver farmers were able to transport their modest cargoes of marketable crops to the Sound by way of these rivers, neither stream is deep enough to handle vessels of any substantial size. However, both the Mianus and the Byram Rivers provided water power through the dams that were built at their rather gentle waterfalls. Early records show that a little business center, where a gristmill was constructed, was established within a few decades of settlement in an area called North Mianus. Smaller streams, such as Brothers' Brook, which were easy to dam, became sites of sawmills. And as the current name "Mill Pond" indicates, the lower harbor in Cos Cob also benefited from the use of water power.

Fully one and one-half pages of the Index to the Greenwich Common Place Book for the years 1671 to 1754 are filled with land transactions to which some member

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, 93.

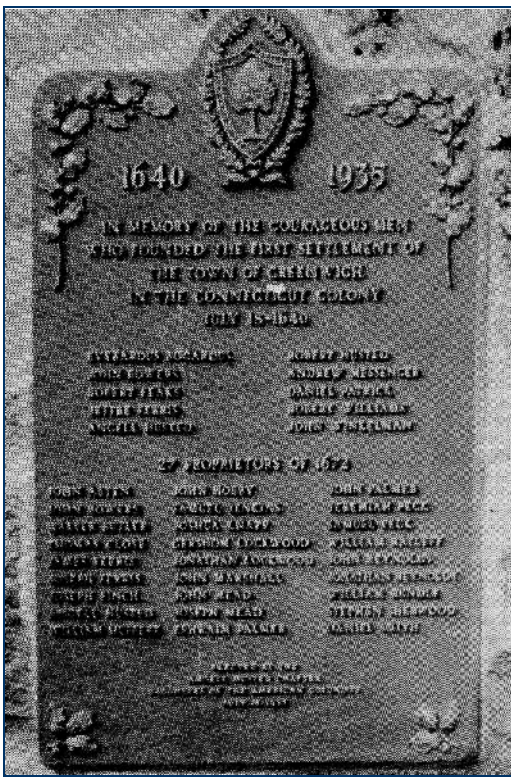
<sup>6</sup> This is Michael Bell's view, op. cit., 76. Geologists credit some of this fertility, especially that of the inland acres, to lime brought from eastern Connecticut by glaciers that deposited it before retreating or melting thousands of years ago.

<sup>7</sup> Extracts of the Prince Letters, Connecticut Historical Collections, III(31 vols., Hartford, 1860-1867), 313-315.

<sup>8</sup> Dwight, Timothy, Travels: in New England and New York (3 vols., New Haven, 1822). III. 346-348.

of the Reynolds family was a party. The scribe meticulously posted land purchases, dividends, exchange of lots, alienations to brothers and gifts from fathers to sons. This astonishing legacy derived from John and Jonathan Reynolds, the first members of the family to settle in Greenwich.

Jonathan, brother of John<sup>2</sup>, was one of the first proprietors of Greenwich and was so designated in the 1664 record of the first town meeting.<sup>9</sup> However, he had been living in Greenwich for at least eight years prior to this date, since it is recorded that Jonathan Rennoals was one of the eleven inhabitants of "Grenwich" who yielded themselves to the Government of New Haven in October, 1656.<sup>10</sup> Indeed, it is possible that his association with Greenwich began as early as 1653 when Stamford ceded several additions of land to that settlement.



Plaque listing the twenty-seven original proprietors of Greenwich, John and Jonathan Reynolds, among them

John Reynolds is known to have purchased sixteen acres of land from Angell Husted in February 1663, the first deed recorded in the Greenwich Land Records.<sup>11</sup> John was identified in this document as being "of Greenwich," proof that he, too, had settled in this area at some earlier time. John acquired eleven additional acres

<sup>9</sup> Seven men had met to determine how best to divide common lands. They decided to use the Rule of Proportion; that is, each man's portion to be based on his "visible" estate.

<sup>10</sup> Stamford Town Records, 110-11.

<sup>11</sup> This deed was not recorded until 1682/83. It was not uncommon to record deeds and other vital statistics many years after the event. The possibility exists that this purchase was made by John, the original John in New England. However, the later records show no transfer of this property to his son, John, nor any sale pertaining thereto. Moreover, only Jonathan Reynolds was among the eleven inhabitants of Greenwich who placed themselves under the authority of New Haven in 1656.

in December 1665 in the form of a gift from his brother Jonathan. On the same date Jonathan purchased this parcel from Richard Vowles, he alienated the land to John. In this transfer, John acquired a perquisite as important as the acreage, for Vowles sold as well "my whole rite and interest Elizabeth neck also my whole interest in land unto Myanos river."<sup>12</sup> To acquire rights and interest in land was a springboard, assuring that the holder would participate in all future divisions of these lands and incrementally augment his original land holdings. The land record books bulge with entries of such acquisitions. A few examples illustrate the virtues of the system: John Rennals, two and one-half acres "in ye first division of land . . . bounded southerly by ye hyeway that goeth by ye Vineyard"<sup>13</sup>; John Renols, thirteen and one-half acres "which is his right."<sup>14</sup>

The most certain way to acquire land was to be a proprietor. When the planters felt the need to push beyond their original settlement in Sound Beach, they investigated the feasibility of acquiring Horseneck on the west side of "Myanos" River. Twenty-seven men became the Proprietors of 1672 . . . two of them were John Renalds and Jonathan Renalds.<sup>15</sup> As proprietors, both men received home lots, meadow and upland, and were entitled to participate in all subsequent divisions.<sup>16</sup>

How much land a proprietor received was contingent upon his taxable estate; the town usually established a proportion of an acre to £10 of ratable estate. In 1672, John Renalds' estate was calculated at £112 and 10 shillings, and that of Jonathan at £099. This gave John a grant of over eleven acres and Jonathan one of under ten acres.

What land a proprietor received was governed by the luck of the "draught." Men who drew low numbers staked out their allotment where they chose, leaving less desirable land for those with high numbers. It was not mandatory to participate, and men did not always exercise their options, especially in those divisions where the cost exceeded desirability. However, a clever man who held marginal land could use this to make an exchange at some later time. In 1696, for example, the town allowed John to exchange one lot for another, to be laid out acre for acre "in that back of land against ye end of ye Grate Swamp," contiguous to land John already owned.<sup>17</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Common Place Book I, 1.

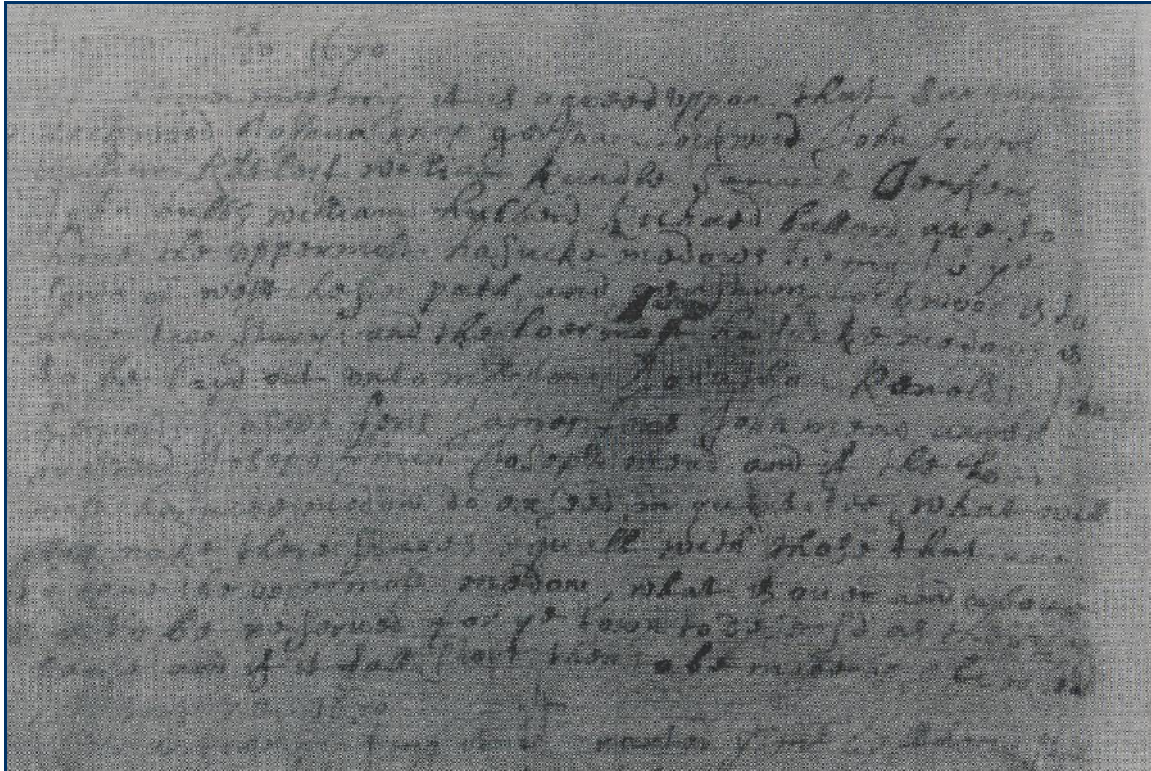
<sup>13</sup> Ibid, 29.

<sup>14</sup> Greenwich Land Records, Vol. I, 209.

<sup>15</sup> The Proprietors of 1672 got official title to this land in 1686, well after the section had been settled.

<sup>16</sup> The right of proprietorship was handed down to a man's sons, thus insuring the security of future generations.

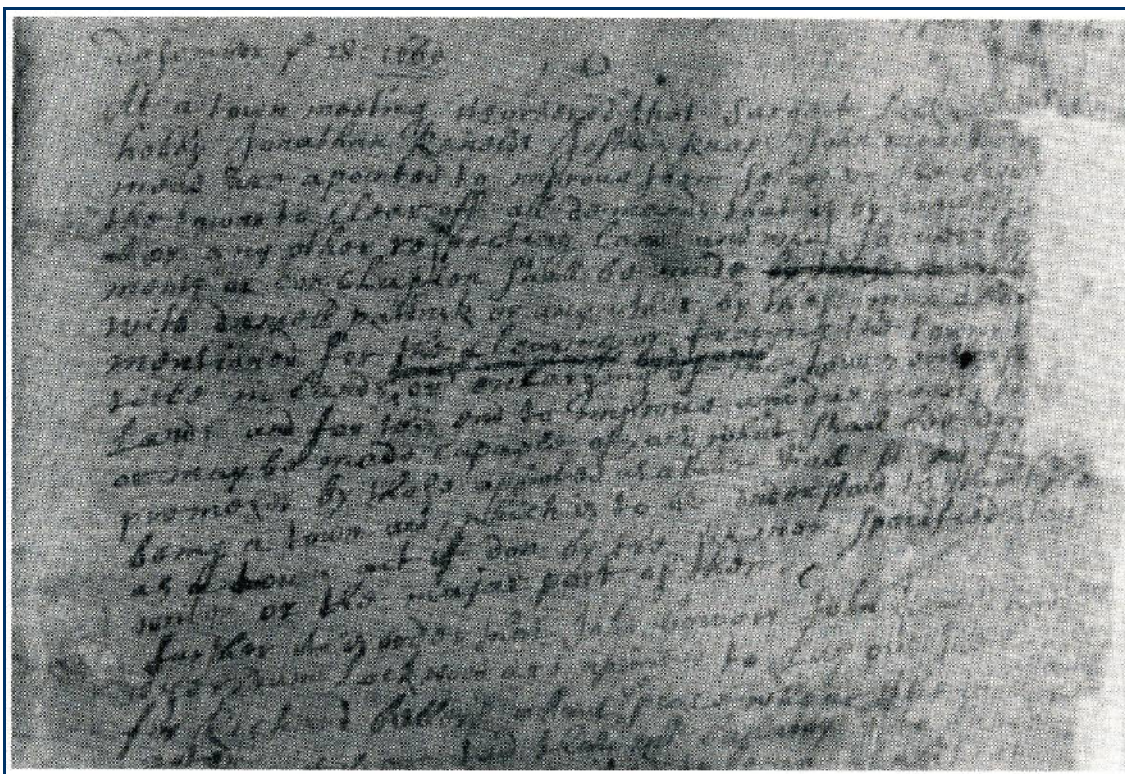
<sup>17</sup> Greenwich Town Records, 184. The town had previously granted John that "persale of swamp hee hath taken unto his close Last granted to him."



In 1670 John and Jonathan Reynolds were among those granted land in Hasucke Meadow

Meadow in the Little Field, land called the Dam, a lot in Horseneck old field, a plot in Pippin Point, meadow in Coscob field, rights in Elizabeth Neck, in commons above the path and in Hassucke Meadow, property in Dick's Purchase — thirteen acres here, ten and one-half there, three and one-half in yet another section — made John the wealthiest man in the settlement. If we accept one hundred acres as the measure of true comfort, John and his family were exceedingly prosperous.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>18</sup>Jackson Turner Main, in *Society and Economy in Colonial Connecticut*, 30, suggests that a young married couple needed at least thirty acres of land to survive; eighty acres was adequate for a yeoman and his family; and at least one hundred acres was needed for true comfort.



In 1669 Jonathan Reynolds was one of six men appointed to a committee to "clear off all demands" by Daniel Patrick Jr.

Proprietorship begat responsibility, and year after year Jonathan and John persevered in those many official duties that insured the continuity of life in the settlement.<sup>19</sup> "Hyeways" were the means by which the settlers gained access to their scattered fields. Year after year, from 1668 on, Jonathan served as a "serveyor," laying out the roads in each division. When a study was made to determine whether Horseneck was suitable for settlement, Jonathan was one of five men chosen to render that decision.<sup>20</sup> He served on the committee to lay out "Moyanos" Neck field and "what soever hy wayes is requitet there." When concern developed about the clear title to land acquired from Daniel Patrick,<sup>21</sup> the town voted in 1669 to "clear off all demands" with young Patrick. Jonathan was one of six men chosen to deal with him.<sup>22</sup> One hundred acres were set aside in Coscob to be distributed to such "men of piety fearing godd" as wished to become admitted inhabitants. Once again, the town called upon Jonathan, this time to determine who

<sup>19</sup> Both men were literate, which made their services invaluable. Jonathan's inventory shows that he owned two Bibles and some other books, probably one on surveying. John's inventory included three Bibles and other books, probably on colonial law.

<sup>20</sup> Early Records, 12.

<sup>21</sup> Daniel Patrick, Sr. was one of the early purchasers of land from the Indian Owenoke. While he was living in Greenwich he was killed during a quarrel with a Dutch soldier.

<sup>22</sup> Greenwich Town Records, 28.

would be admitted and to assign them their portion of land.<sup>23</sup> The ultimate mark of respect for Jonathan's ability to govern came with his selection as Townsman, a position he held until his death in 1673.<sup>24</sup>

John's involvement with governance was as extensive as his brother's. For many years he laid out "parsells" of land in such parts of the town as Strickland's Brook, Hasucke meadows, a planting field lying along Moyanos river, and, as part of a committee of six men, he laid out "all ye lands lying between Moyanos river and byrum river, lying below Westchester path."<sup>25</sup> For many years he, too, was a Townsman, while also continuing from time to time to survey "hyeways," lay out home lots, act as sheep master, adjudicate disputes between the town and the minister, approve bills the town should pay, and determine the "devident lines" between Stamford and Greenwich. Levelheaded in situations that required "ye preventing of feuter Trouble amongst ye Persons concerned," John by common consent was placed on a committee to study "antient writtings of each mans propertie" in Horseneck and Coscob fields to ascertain the true boundary lines. When the town selected the man they wanted for the high post of "Justice of peace or majestrate," their choice was John Reynolds.<sup>26</sup>



Mianas River Park near Stamford-Greenwich, Connecticut

<sup>23</sup> Early Records, 11-12.

<sup>24</sup> The Greenwich Town Record for December, 1673, 57, contains a succinct but poignant entry that reads, "Joshua Knap is chosen to be a townsman in the room of [place of] Jonathan Renoles."

<sup>25</sup> Greenwich Town Records, 40, 43, 55, 62, 72, 79.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid., 125. His name had to be confirmed by the General Assembly of the Colony.

In addition to the hours Jonathan and John Reynolds spent laying out planting fields and surveying boundary lines, they were called upon to perform additional duties. They had to participate in church matters which, good Puritans that they were, both men undertook throughout their lifetimes.

Although, during the early years under New Netherland, Greenwich people had a reputation for being irreligious, even racy, once the settlement came under the Colony of Connecticut<sup>27</sup> religion was forced upon them by the colonial government. When Greenwich was allowed to be a Township "intire of itself" in 1665,<sup>28</sup> the Hartford authorities required the townspeople to obtain and "maintaine" an orthodox—that is, a Congregational — minister. Until such a man could be obtained, they were required to attend Stamford church services and contribute to the support of Stamford's minister. Perhaps the best-known characteristic of Congregationalism, the established religion of Connecticut, was the independence of individual churches. Although all Congregational churches were expected to adhere to the Puritan theology,<sup>29</sup> each society was allowed to hire and to discharge its own minister. In addition, as long as it complied with town boundary lines and the General Assembly's guidelines, each congregation could do as it pleased about the location of its meetinghouse. This relative autonomy of Congregational churches led to factions, quarrels and divisions in almost every society in the colony, as well as to endless meetings and time-consuming chores, such as trying to collect the minister's rate from less-than-enthusiastic contributors.

Getting —and keeping —a minister was a constant problem for Greenwich during the first decades of its existence. Church members wondered if lack of decent housing for the clergyman was the problem. Would they have better luck if they provided a more convenient house for the minister and his family? One single structure often served as church, town meeting hall, schoolhouse and the minister's own dwelling. In 1675, when Greenwich was searching for a man to fill the pulpit of the First Society of Old Towne (Old Greenwich), John Reynolds was appointed to a committee to hasten the completion of "ye town house to be a comfortable habitation for a minister, to gett a paire of chimneys built with stone and a new house built to Joine ye end of ye house to the street."<sup>30</sup> The year ended with the

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<sup>27</sup> The Dutch who had settled New Netherland, with forts as far as Hartford and Albany, claimed jurisdiction over lower Connecticut. After their defeat by the British in 1664, New Netherland was renamed New York and Greenwich came under the authority of Hartford.

<sup>28</sup> Public Records of Connecticut (PRC)(Vols.I-XV, Hartford, 1850-1890), Vol. II (1665-1670), 17.

<sup>29</sup> The Puritan religion was based on the religious theories of John Calvin, who declared that only the "elect" of God would be saved. Since one could not know whether or not he was one of the elect, it behooved everyone to follow the teachings of the Bible at all times. Adherents of Puritanism were supposed to live by strict moral and ethical principles.

<sup>30</sup> CPB BF, 77. That the house had two chimneys indicates that they were doing their best to lure a minister to Greenwich. The average house in a small village like Greenwich would have had but one fireplace.

town still waiting for a minister, but at the January 1676 town meeting inhabitants were informed that there was "an intimation of a hopeful means for the settling of a gospel ministry amongst us."<sup>31</sup> That may have been wishful thinking, for it was not until September 1678 that the town decided to hire Mr. Jeremiah Peck. Over the next two months townspeople voted to add several men, one of whom was John Reynolds, to the committee appointed to coax Peck to take the Greenwich pulpit. The committee must have been persuasive, for Peck did consent to come to Greenwich, but the negotiations seem to have been a tug-of-war between the clergyman and the town. From the outset Peck made clear his interest in land—not only for himself but for his son, Samuel. John Reynolds, together with Lt. Jonathan Lockwood, represented the town in searching out land for Samuel, and he was allotted a share in all dividends above the Westchester Path.<sup>32</sup> Jeremiah Peck also managed to work out an arrangement with Reynolds and Lockwood whereby the town agreed to reimburse him for any buildings or other improvements he made, such as replacing fences with "better or more" fences. Peck also asked for and received "Inlargement" on the front of his lot.

One of the more interesting clergymen with whom the town had to deal was Abraham Pierson, Jr., hired in 1693. Mr. John Reynolds—the title "Mr." indicates his respected standing—and John Mead were appointed to make arrangements with Mr. Pierson. They offered him fifty pounds per year and firewood. After some debate, the clergyman settled for fifty-five pounds and his firewood—a nice ten percent increase over the original offer.<sup>33</sup> But Pierson stayed only a year. The fall of 1694 found him on his way to the Collegiate School to become its first rector and Mr. John Reynolds again looking for a minister!

The Reynolds and their Greenwich neighbors, like all residents of the Colony of Connecticut, were ruled by two governmental institutions: the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut and the Ludlow Code. The Orders had been put into operation in 1639 and served as a constitution for the Colony, setting forth citizenship requirements and creating a structure of government.

Under the Orders, admitted inhabitants of each town voted for their representatives, called deputies, to the Colony's General Assembly, or legislature.<sup>34</sup> Only a freeman could serve as a deputy and only a deputy could vote for the governor and his Council of Magistrates. In 1696 John Reynolds was elected to represent Greenwich in the Assembly. In this capacity he journeyed in the fall to Hartford and in the spring to New Haven to carry out his legislative duties.

Becoming a freeman in Connecticut was not as difficult as it was in Massachusetts, where church membership was required, but few men were

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<sup>31</sup> Ibid., 81.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid., 99.

<sup>33</sup> CPB BF, 176, 182.

<sup>34</sup> After 1664 voting for deputies was limited to freemen.

accepted who did not acknowledge belief in God. A freeman, besides being at least twenty-one years of age, had to own property, which included land and sometimes cattle, wheat, personal property and even ships. The General Assembly had to grant its approval before a man could become a freeman, and it can be assumed that when Jonathan and John Reynolds were sworn in as freemen in 1669, along with Joseph Pherris, Joshua Knap and Wm Ratchliffe, the Assembly had given them its blessing.<sup>35</sup>

In 1650 a code of laws for the Colony was completed. Commonly known as the Ludlow Code and basing its authority upon the right of the civil authority to see that the "peace, ordinances and rules of Christe" were carried out, it spelled out activities that were forbidden and punishments that were to be meted out. The latter ranged from fines or a whipping post to hanging. Fourteen crimes were punishable by death; these ranged from cursing one's father or committing adultery, to repeatedly burglarizing on the Sabbath. Under these two governmental frameworks Greenwich inhabitants were to live for many decades.

The Reynolds were farmers first, and the time-consuming tasks of government had to be wedged between the daily farm routines that revolved about the seasons. Farmers had wheat to plant, orchards to nurture, Indian corn to sow, tools to craft and livestock to tend. When the dry herd or cattle were to be driven to Coscob brook for pasturing in late spring, the owners had to do the job. Before crops could be planted, cattle and swine that had grazed on the stubble of the previous year's crop had to be driven out.<sup>36</sup> Failure to do so resulted in impounding, with the owner liable for stiff fines for any damage the errant beasts had caused.<sup>37</sup> And always there were fences to build and to mend, for this was an orderly society wherein each man's property was secure from incursion by his neighbor's livestock or, for that matter, by a greedy neighbor himself! The town's records are bursting with entries that order people to build their portions of fences, command them to repair existing fences, and threaten to levy heavy fines upon those who had neglected to mend their defective fences. Timber was an absolute necessity to this operation and, as the settlement expanded, the supply had to be conserved. As early as 1684, townspeople were so concerned about "ye skersity of rift [split] timber" that they forbade anyone from transporting it "overseas" unless it had been made into "ware" before being sold beyond the boundaries of Greenwich.<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> PRC, Vol. II (1665-1677), 118. This appears in the records of the October session of the Assembly. There is no explanation as to why it took so long for these men to become freemen.

<sup>36</sup> CPB (1671-1754).

<sup>37</sup> Early Records, 7.

<sup>38</sup> CPB BF, 5.

January 23: 73  
 The inventory of an estate of Jonathan Reynolds  
 lately deceased, together with the number of y<sup>e</sup> children  
 with there severall ages, it is as followeth  
 Jonathan Reynolds about 13 years of age  
 John Reynolds about a 11 years of age  
 Joseph Reynolds about four years old and a quarter  
 Rebecca Reynolds about 15 years of age  
 Sarah Reynolds about eight years of age  
 Elizabeth Reynolds about six years of age  
 The appraisment of y<sup>e</sup> goods is by Angell husband and  
 Joshua Kapp  
 by a fether bed and bedding  
 belonging thereto — 56-00-00  
 by two beds and bedding  
 belonging thereto — 03-15-00  
 by a mans wearing  
 cloth — 05-02-00  
 by a old cubbord — 00-12-00  
 by three yards of linnen  
 cloth — 00-12-00  
 by a sword — 00-12-00  
 by a fowllon pott — 02-00-00  
 by a iron pott — 01-00-00  
 by a iron pott & p<sup>te</sup> — 00-10-00  
 by two tramels — 00-12-00  
 by a hook — 00-05-00  
 by a iron pan — 00-06-00  
 by a scythe — 00-05-00  
 by a scythe — 01-13-00  
 by a scythe — 00-12-00  
 by a whale bone — 00-09-00  
 by an old broad axe  
 & broad hoe & brand  
 iron — 00-12-00  
 by two narrow axes — 00-08-00  
 by two pear hooks — 00-07-00  
 by two pitchforks — 00-07-00  
 by two stone hammers — 00-04-00  
 by two bibles & some  
 other bookes — 01-00-00  
 by yourn woullon  
 and linnen — 01-02-00  
 by two wheelen  
 one linnen the  
 other woullon — 00-10-00  
 by a fower Chairy  
 a fower & a brush — 00-07-00  
 by a salt with y<sup>e</sup>  
 of salts that  
 would it & pott — 00-03-00  
 by a linnen

Page of Jonathan Reynolds' inventory dated 1673, the year of his death

By the measure of the times the brothers were successful farmers. Jonathan owned two yoke of oxen, a cart with extra wheels, a plow and two plowshares — all extremely valuable and expensive equipment for a settler. Only the most hardworking man could have an inventory of tools that included sickles, a hook, broad hoes, pear hooks, pitchforks, scythes and draft chains, all of which had to be fashioned by hand from iron that was not readily available. Eight sheep, six swine

and ten cows and calves guaranteed wool for the weaving of heavy outerwear, bacon curing on the hook, barrels of pork and beef put by for the winter and an ample supply of milk, cream, and cheese. The most important measure of Jonathan's status was that he owned two horses, a mare and a colt; horses were not used as draft animals but for transportation, and the average farmer had to rely on foot power rather than horsepower.

*The Inventory of the Estate of Mr John Reynolds late of Greenwich deceased taking by us under writing*

In primis to house and home stead	130-00-00
to land called the Dam	100-00-00
to medo in the littell field	015-00-00
to the home lot at long medo brook	015-00-00
to a lot in mianing neck next <del>the</del> <sup>the</sup>	015-00-00
to a right of land in Elizabeth neck	004-00-00
to a lot in hors neck old field	035-00-00
to medo in coscob point	018-00-00
to a right of land below the park	004-00-00
to a lot between the brooks	010-00-00
to the ten acre lot or first draft	020-00-00
to the right in commons above the park	009-00-00
to land called the Crook	010-00-00
to a right in hassiah medo	005-00-00
to land called Sicks purchas	001-04-00
	000-15-00
<b>Reall worth is</b>	<b>394-15-00</b>
to an old negro woman	000-00-00
to two oxen and a Cart horse	000-00-00
to one ox and 2 small oxen	14-00-00
to a steer and more 3 yearling	16-00-00
to 5 cows and more 3 yearling	11-00-00
to 4 Cattle 10 mare 10 2 two yearling	23-00-00
to 28 Sheep 14 to 18 swin 13	02-00-00
to horses in the woods	24-00-00
to hay in the barn	04-00-00
to twenty bushells of Indian Corn	06-00-00
to wheat barley oats and peas in the barn	03-00-00
to flax in the barn	14-00-00
to wearing Apparel	02-00-00
to 3 birds and other small	02-00-00

*The last particulars were*

John Reynolds' will and inventory--His land was valued at 394 Pounds, 15 shillings

John's inventory shows a lifestyle even more grand; he owned many pounds of pewter, brass kettles, a silver dram and cup, and — the ultimate luxury—a negro woman servant.

There were wives to please and children to nurture, as well. At age twenty, Jonathan married Rebecca Husted. Their family grew apace: Rebecca, born in 1657; Jonathan in 1660; John in 1662; Sarah in 1665; Elizabeth in 1667; and Joseph in 1669. Jonathan, who had lived his life fully and zestfully from a young age, as though sensing his allotted span would be short, died in 1673 at the age of thirty-seven. Ebenezer, the youngest child of Jonathan and Rebecca, was born after his father's death.

John delayed marriage until age thirty, when he married Judah Palmer. In this family, too, there were seven children: John, born in 1670; Judith, in 1672; James, in 1674; Mary, in 1679; Jonathan, in 1682; Joshua, in 1685; and the baby of the family, David, who was born in 1687.

These God-fearing men accepted the portion doled out to them. As the seventeenth century drew to a close, John, "being under ye afflicting hand of God by sickness and long continued weakness,"<sup>39</sup> drew up his will and prepared for the inevitable, noting: "I commit my Spirit unto God that gave it hoping for redemption and salvation in and throu ye merrits of ye Lord Jesus Christ." John was to linger three years longer; as he stated in a codicil to his original will, "... it hath pleased God still to Lengthen out my life." God called him in 1701.

The Penny (Pence) is the base unit  
of measure for English currency.

Four Pence equal a Groat.

Twelve Pence equal a Shilling.

Two Shillings & Six Pence equal a Half Crown.

Five Shillings equal a Crown.

Twenty Shillings equal a Pound.

The following symbols for English currency units can  
be found on many pieces of American Colonial currency:

d = Pence

s = Shilling

£ = Pound

## ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL ARTIFACTS

<sup>39</sup> State of Connecticut, Fairfield Probate District, Probate Court Records, Vol. V. Hartford, Connecticut State Library, 1931.

From the work of Marion Reynolds is the following:

John<sup>2s</sup> - First recorded deed.

John<sup>2</sup> Reynolds is a grantee in the first deed recorded in Greenwich, in what is "accounted the first Legur (Ledger) and the letter A for the sign thereof," (i. e., Book A, page 1):

"Februaire 1, Anno Dom. 1663: Be it knowne unto all men by this present that I, Angell Heusted of Greenwich, have sould and Sot over unto John Ronalds, of Greenwich sixteen acres of land more or less lying on this side of Myanos neck bounded by ye long meddows Krick one west side, Jefory Ferris land lying one ye northeast, the Nut plane lying up the southeast, and Wiliam Grimes one ye southside. \* \* \* \*

"Joshua Knap)

Joseph Feris)

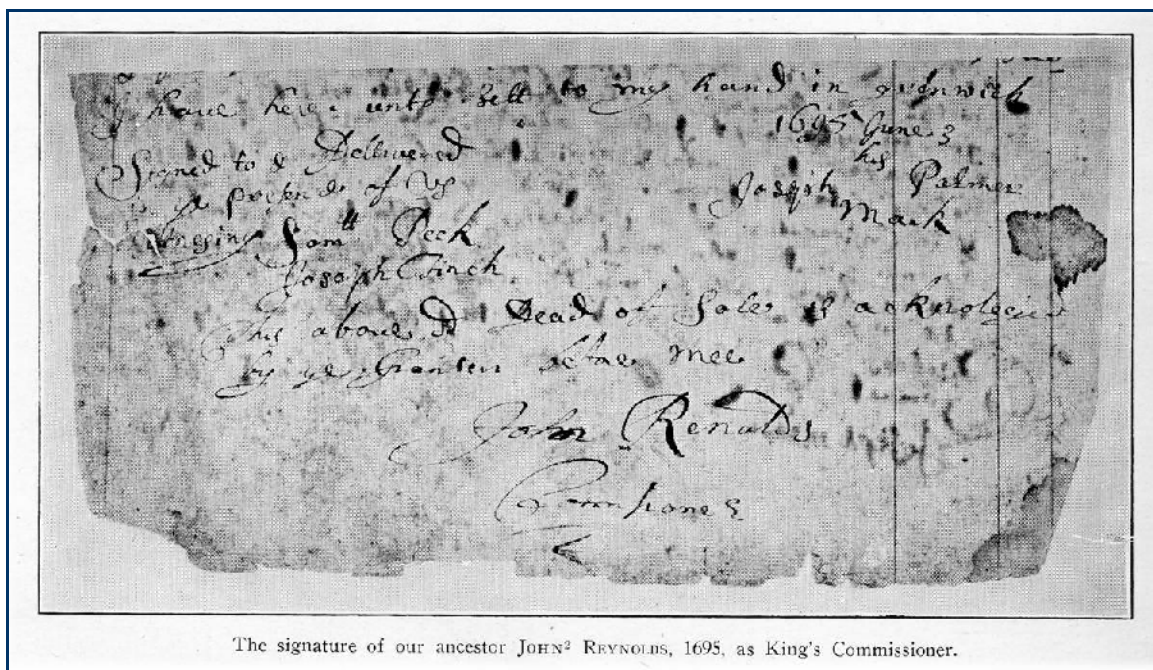
Witnesses.

Angell Heusted  
his mark."

"The above writen bill of sale was Recorded in ye Yeare of our Lord, 1682-83, Februaire ye 22."

First deed recorded in Greenwich, 1663, ANGELL HUSTED to JOHN REYNOLDS.  
ANGELL was JONATHAN<sup>2</sup> REYNOLDS' father-in-law

Deed (1665), RICHARD BOWLES to JONATHAN<sup>r</sup> REYNOLDS, which JONATHAN transferred to JOHN<sup>r</sup> REYNOLDS. See page 27.



The signature of our ancestor JOHN<sup>2</sup> REYNOLDS, 1695, as King's Commissioner.

In Marion Reynolds' work<sup>40</sup> most of the forgoing documents in their entire section are transcribed and presented verbatim, with interesting comments regarding their background and relative value to our study of these two Puritan brothers. We are fortunate as Reynolds descendants to have such clarity in the lives of our direct line forbears.

To complete this section on the second generation of our Reynolds family in America I have copied Marion Reynolds' one page treatment of the life of Elizabeth Reynolds, the only known daughter of "The Emigrant" and his wife Sarah. That treatment follows.<sup>41</sup>

### ELIZABETH REYNOLDS

ELIZABETH REYNOLDS: only known daughter of the emigrants John and Sarah, was born about 1635 in Watertown or Wethersfield. As her mother is supposed to be the "Sarah Reynolds aged twenty, who came alone in the ship Elisabeth the last of April, 1634, and as her father was supposed to be already in Watertown at that

<sup>40</sup> Reynolds, Marion H. A. B., The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds (1630-1923) of Watertown, Mass. and Wethersfield, Stamford and Greenwich, Conn., The Reynolds Family Association, 1924.

<sup>41</sup> From the works of Cuyler Reynolds and Marion Reynolds much valuable data on the spouses and families of our second generation Reynolds family has been gleaned and will eventually fill many slots in my Personal Ancestral File, which is provided in total elsewhere in my Family History Library.

time, it is scarcely likely that Elizabeth was born before 1635. Alvan Reynolds of Altona, Ill., suggests this daughter was christened to commemorate the above name of the ship in which her mother came over. Of her death we know only that she died after Jan. 2, 1664, and before July 25, 1705.

She m. *Peter Ferris* of Stamford. "Peter Ferris and Elizabeth Rinealls joyned ye 15 July 1654." This Peter Ferris, b. Sept. 28, 1636, lived at Stamford and was one of the grand jurors who in September, 1692, tried and condemned to death Marcy Disbrough for witchcraft, a very famous case in which 200 witnesses were called. Peter was the son of Jeffrey Ferris, one of the seven original proprietors of Greenwich, who had, like John Reynolds, removed from Watertown to Wethersfield, and to Stamford in 1641. But Jeffrey settled within the bounds of Greenwich, where he died May 31, 1666. Jeffrey's third wife, Mrs. Judith Palmer, widow of Henry Palmer, was the mother of Judith Palmer, wife of John<sup>2</sup> Reynolds, brother of our Elizabeth.

Peter had been made Freeman of Stamford, 1662; Representative to the General Court (Colonial Legislature), 1667. After the death of Elizabeth Reynolds, Peter married, July 25, 1705, Mrs. Ruth Weed—fifty-one years had elapsed between his first and second weddings! Peter died Sept. 28, 1706. All his children, given below, were by Elizabeth Reynolds. Of the following, Mead in *History of Greenwich*, states that Peter was the third child and was born June 20, 1660; and that Elizabeth was the second, b. Nov. 28, 1658, and d. May 2, 1660. For a further record of the descendants of Peter and Elizabeth (Reynolds) Ferris read *The Ferris Genealogy* in Mead's *History of Greenwich*, pp. 536-45; also *Stamford Records*, pp. 55, 74, 76, 98.

*Ferris Children:*

JOSEPH b Aug. 20, 1657, Stamford m. Mary Smith. Had one child. Joseph, Jr b March 21, 1688, who m.: 1, Mercy Buxton, June 18, 1718; 2, Deborah Crissey, Feb. 18, 1720.

PETER, JR., (? b. June 20, 1660 (or 1659?). Name is illegible on *Stamford Records*, p. 74, but as Peter Ferris is mentioned as "Senr," in the entry of his death. 1706, It is probable that the illegible name was Peter, Jr.

ELIZABETH, b. Jan. 28, 1659, Stamford; d. there April 5, 1660.

MARY, b. May 2, 1662, at Stamford, Conn.

ELIZABETH, b. January 2, 1664, Stamford.

NEXT, WE MOVE ON TO THE THIRD GENERATION.