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THE ROOTE FAMILY

Thomas Roote, the son of John Roote and Ann Russell, of Badby, England, born January 16, 1605, came to the colonies in the year 1637 on the ship Hercules. He first was known to have lived in Salem, Massachusetts. The name of Thomas Roote is mentioned in the list of proprietors of undivided lands in 1639, and may be found on the monument in the old graveyard in Hartford, in the rear of the Center Church, erected by the Ancient Burial Ground Association in memory of the first settlers of the city. He was a considerable landholder there, and one parcel of the land assigned to him was located on what is now North Main street, about a mile west of the State House.

On the first day of May, 1637 the General Court came together at Hartford and the first entry in the record of that meeting is, "It is ordered that there shall be 90 men levied out of the 3 Plantations, Hartford, Weathersfield and Windsor. Out of Hartford 42, Windsor 30, Weathersfield 18, under the command of Captain Jo. Mason, and in case of his death or sickness under command of Robert Sealy Leift and the i'dest s'ieant or military officer surviving, if these miscarry."

Thomas Roote was levied from the Plantation of hartford to fight the Pequotes after John Oldham, a trader from Watertown, Massachussetts, was murdered by the Pequots while lying off Block Island.

In the History Of Northampton it states: "Thomas Roote was at Salem in 1637, at Hartford two years afterwards, and removed to Northampton in 1655. He was among the first settlers to arrive there and was one of the signers of the original petition. A quiet, substantial farmer, though a weaver by trade, he never arrived at the position of leader. He was several times elected a selectman, and was one of the officers of the town when careful men were in demand. His home lot was on the easterly side of Pleasant Street, below what is now known as Pearl Street."

After a residence of about fifteen years in Hartford he removed with his six sons and one daughter, and settled in Northampton, Massachusetts, on the 9th day of May, 1654, as one of the planters of what was then called Nonotuck. In the Massachusetts Colonial Documents we find that in 1659, on petition, he was appointed one of the selectmen. His records of lands assigned him by the town is dated 7th Decembesr 1659.

On the 18th of June, 1661, the parish church was gathered, and the Reverend Eleazar Mather was ordained as pastor and teacher of the flock. Among the eight pillars of the church thus organized was Thomas Roote. It is believed that he became a deacon of the church.

The old Roote homestead in Northampton was on King Street, opposite where the Roman Catholic church now stands, and it has only within a few years been torn down. Thomas Roote died at a very advanced age, on the 17th of July 1694 at the age of 89, naming his children in his will, and mentioning that he lived with his son Jonathan at the old homestead. The name of Thomas Roote' wife was never known.

CHILDREN ALL BORN AT HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT

Joseph, about 1640 married (1) Hannah Haynes (2) Mary Horton Burt

Thomas, about 1644, Married (1) Abigail Alvord (2) Mary Kirtland Cox

John, born January 10, 1646, Married Mehitable Hinsdale.

Jonathan, married Ann Hull (Gull), died December 25, 1741.

Hezekiah, married Mehitable Frary, died September 29, 1690.

Jacob, born 1661, married Mary Frary.

Sarah, married Samuel Kellogg

JACOB ROOTE

Jacob Roote, son of Thomas, grandson of John and Ann Russell Roote of Badby, England, born in Hartford, Connecticut. He was probably the youngest son of Thomas Sr. He is mentioned in the list of Northampton freemen, February 8, 1678. He married February 2, 1680, Mary Frary, daughter of Sampson Frary, and Mary Daniel Frary, (grandaughter of Samuel Morse) of Deerfield, Mass.

Hebron, Connecticut

The settlement of the town began in June, 1704. The first people who made settlements in the town were William Shipman, Timothy Phelps, Samuel Filer, Caleb Jones, Stephen Post, Jacob Roote, Samuel Curtis, Edward Sawyer, Joseph Youngs and Benoni Trumbull. They were from Windsor, Saybrook, Long Island and North Hampton.

They built log houses, the foundation stones of one of the above houses were found in 1845 in digging earth to fill the cellar of the old house a few rods south.

Ex-Governor Peters in his "Historical Notes" relates the following anecdote:

"While the men were making preparations for their families in the summer of 1706 they brought their provisions with them and remained for weeks at their new home. Their wives being anxious for the welfare of their husbands and unwilling to be left too long alone, they started out one shining morning for the promised land, twenty long miles through the wilderness, regulating their course by marked trees and crossing the streams on logs felled for that purpose. Night overtook them in the lower part of Gilead, they wandered from the line and brought up on the hill south of Nathan Smith's

house. Fearing the wolves would regale themselves upon their delicious bodies, they concluded to roost upon the top of the high rock on the summit of said hill. Here they proclaimed their lamentations to the winds. This novel serenade attracted the attention of their husbands, who wandered towards the sound until they fortunately, but unexpectedly found their wives on the rock, which they had chosen for their night's repose. The gratification of the interview can be better imagined than expressed."

The location of this rock has been handed down to the present time and it is now known as "Prophet's Rock." I like to think that my g--grandmother, Mary Frary Roote was among the serenaders.

In May, 1708, the following petition was presented to the General Assembly by the inhabitants of the township "To the Honourd Generall Assembly now sitting in Hartford, May 13, 1708.

"Whereas the Generall Assembly in May last granted liberty for a township at a place then called Hebron and whereas there are nine families already settled there and divers more desiring to come as soon as they can, we being far from any meeting house and being desirous to set up ye worship of God amongst us do pray this Honed. Generaal Assembly now sitting to grant to us the inhabitants of Hebron all ye privilidges of a town that thereby we may be inabled to take such methods as most suitable and agreeable to our present circumstances to raise money for the support of the gospel and defraying other necessary charges amongst us as well as for chuseing town officers amongst us and dividing our lands and all other things proper for us as a town without which we find that we shall not be able to continue here and we shall submit to such regulations as this Honed. Assembly shall think fitt.

Jacob Roote in the name of the Rest".

(State Library, Towns and Lands, III, 14.)

The record of the action of the General Assembly, upon the petition of Jacob Roote and the rest of the inhabitants of the town of Hebron, do grant to them the privilidges of a town that they may choose town officers and be enabled to raise money for civil and religious uses."

(Printed Colonial Records, V. 64).

April 5, 1717 it was voted that the male members of the church, in full communion, should determine the date of Mr. Bliss' ordination. The names of these male members were given in the vote and are Jacob Roote, Nathaniel Dunham, Samuel Caulkins, John Porter, John Gott and Benjamin Skinner. The ordination of Rev. Mr. Bliss finally took place November 19, 1717, but the meeting house was not completed for several years, as we find votes from time to time appropriating money for completing it. The seating of the meeting house was ordered April 15, 1720 and the seaters were directed, after the Rev. Mr. Bliss had the first choice for his wife and family, to consider the age, rateable estate and what each person paid toward the ministry and building the minister's house and the meeting house. This was called "dignifying" the meeting house. All the members between 16 and 21 years old were also to have seats assigned them according to their age and the dignity of parents and masters.

Jacob Roote was chosen to run the bounds between Colchester and Hebron in 1710, as the latter was not incorporated when he moved there. He had a farm which remained in the possession of the family for 125 years. Jacob Roote died August 9, 1731 at age 70 and his wife Mary died February 8, 1744.

Children:

- Joanna, b. Nov. 5, 1681, m. Dec. 7, 1703, Samuel Pomeroy of Northampton; had three children and d. 1725.
- Daniel, b. Oct. 2, 1684, settled in Hebron.
- Jacob, b. June 15, 1687, m. Sarah Goodale, Nov. 4, 1709, d. 1766 age 79.
- Mary, b. Nov. 24, 1689, m. Nathaniel Mann or Munn, Feb. 1, 1713, d. October 15, 1735, age 45.
- Margaret, b. Oct. 1691; m. (1) John Warner, June 25, 1727, (2)-----Trumbull; d. June, 1793 age 101 at Marlborough, Ct.
- * William, b. Jan 17, 1695, m. April 30, 1728, Hannah Pinnock who was from Yorkshire, England, d. Nov. 26, 1768, age 73.
- Hezekiah, b. Oct 13, 1697, d. before 1728.
- Ruth, b. Feb. 7, 1699, remained unmarried upon the old farm; died March 1787 age 88.
- Nathaniel, b. Nov. 16, 1702, m. December 28, 1725, Mary Tarbox, settled in Hebron.
- Jonathan, b. April 3, 1705; m. May 8, 1729, Sarah Tarbox, settled in Hebron, d. a. 1783, age 78.