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I am seeking all genealogical and biographical details for the family documented below including their ancestors, children, and grandchildren and the spouses thereof, including the full names of those spouses' parents. All additions and corrections within this scope, however speculative, will be greatly appreciated.

George Potter of Portsmouth, Rhode Island

The two initial sources of information for this chapter were John O. Austin's *Genealogical Dictionary of Rhode Island* and the *Potter Family Genealogies, Part 2: George Potter of Portsmouth, R.I., and His Descendants*. From these sources, it was obvious that there were numerous immigrants to colonial Rhode Island named Potter and it seemed likely that there were probably close ties of kinship between some of these individuals. This theory appeared to be confirmed by some correspondence with Vernon and Nola (Steed) Valentine of La Crescenta, California. Their research and analysis, which appears in the Ancestral File of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, appeared to solve the puzzle of the Potter immigrants of Rhode Island, linking them as children of George^A and Martha (___) Potter of London. However, in 1999, another researcher, Paul Gifford, informed me that he had reviewed the parish registers and discovered that most of the birth records thought to pertain to the immigrant siblings had corresponding death records! The English origins of George¹ Potter and his kinship, if any, to the other Potter immigrants of Rhode Island remain unknown.

1. GEORGE¹ POTTER, born say 1614, if age 25 at marriage (estimated); died at Portsmouth, Rhode Island during September of 1640. George was married say 1639 (birth of only child about 1640) to ___ (___); she married second Nicholas Niles and probably died before 4 February 1646.

George was admitted as an inhabitant of the island of Aquidneck in 1638. He had been driven out of Massachusetts along with Ann Hutchinson, Samuel Gorton, and William Coddington, as well as members of the Baulston, Hazard, Tripp, and Warner families. On 30 April 1639, he signed a compact with twenty-eight others: "We whose names are underwritten do acknowledge ourselves the legal subjects of his Majesty King Charles, and in his name do hereby bind ourselves into a civil body politicke, unto his laws according to matters of Justice." The compiler's direct ancestor, Thomas¹ Hazard, was among those appointed to investigate George's death in 1640.

Child:

2. ii. ABEL², b. about 1640; m. RACHEL² WARNER.

2. ABEL² POTTER (*George*¹) was born at Portsmouth, Rhode Island about 1640 and died in 1692 at Warwick, Kent County, Rhode Island. He was married at the home of James Green, on 16 November 1669 to RACHEL² WARNER (*John*¹, *Timothy*^A). Rachel died 8 November 1724; she was the daughter of John¹ and Priscilla (Holliman) Warner.

Abel was raised by William and Elizabeth (___) Baulston. On 4 February 1646 the following was recorded: "Nicholas Nyle father-in-law (stepfather) of Abel Potter hath placed him with Mr. William Baulstone for the term of eighteen years, with the consent of the said Abel; for the better security of Mr. Baulstone, the town consenteth herein and approveth thereof." Abel was not bound or apprenticed; he was placed with his own consent. Indeed, he was conducting land transactions before his scheduled release date of February 1664.

On 23 June 1662, Abel with John and James Sweet, William Burton, and others purchased 4,000 of Patuxet lands. Most of this plot lies within Warwick, where the family remained until 1744. The Sweets were stepsons of Ezekiel¹ Holliman, who was the maternal grandfather of Abel's future wife, Rachel Warner.

On 5 September 1664, Abel and Nathaniel² Potter (*Nathaniel¹*) confirmed a deed of eight acres, that was once in their (respective) fathers' possession, said deed having been made by Samuel Wilbur to John Tripp, shaft carpenter on 7 May 1663. John Tripp was a brother to Isabel (Tripp) Potter, wife of Robert¹ Potter. On 3 May 1667, Abel purchased a right in (then Mashantatuck, now) Warwick, Rhode Island of John Read at Dartmouth, Massachusetts for £36. At Providence, on 10 October 1671, Abel and Rachel "of Mashantatuck" sold sixty acres and commoning near Pawtucket Falls that once belonged to Rachel's grandfather, Ezekiel¹ Holliman, to Joseph Jenckes.

Abel Potter was made a freeman on 1 May 1677. He sold to Roger Burlingame half of a meadow for £2 on 6 October 1682 and was taxed 4s on 1 September 1687. Abel's will was made 14 January 1692 and proved 9 March 1692. Rachel was named as executrix; a transcription of the will follows:

To eldest son, George, sixty acres where he has made preparation for building, also a meadow adjoining, a heifer, iron pot already promised, and use of oxen and cart to do his work at such times as they may be conveniently spared, for three years, with liberty in orchard for his family's use, and to have three barrels of cider for seven years, he paying to daughter Mary, at eighteen years of age, £5. To wife Rachel, all the rest of my lands, housing, orchard, etc., she dividing it amongst my children, according to her discretion, provided always that all my children have part thereof, excepting George and Stephen. To youngest son, Stephen, at death of wife, all the homestead, house, orchard, etc. being fifty acres of land, he paying to sister Mary, £5, within two years after possession. Sons Abel and Benjamin to pay their sister, Mary, £5, within two years after they come of age.

Rachel (Warner) Potter "of Providence" made her will on 6 November 1724. It was proved on 23 November of that same year. Her youngest sons, Ichabod and Job, were named executors. The following is a transcription:

To eldest son, John, 5s., and like amount to sons Abel, Benjamin, and Stephen. To daughter Mary Stone, a bed, warming-pan, and iron pot. To sons Ichabod and Job, all right and interest in lands at Mashantatuck. To son Ichabod, a chest and iron trammel. To son Job, iron trammel and fire tongs. Inventory £14 19s.

In Abel's will of 1692, Stephen is named as the youngest son. In Rachel's will of 1724, Ichabod and Job are named as the two youngest sons. Job was born in 1692; your compiler believes that Ichabod and Job were a set of twins born after Abel's death.

Children, first six born at Warwick, Kent County, Rhode Island, order uncertain:

- i. GEORGE³, d. 3 May 1712, m. RACHEL (___).
- ii. JOHN, b. 1680, d. probably in 1770; m. (1) 19 Feb 1702 JOAN DEARBORN; m. (2) PHEBE GREEN.
- iii. ABEL, d. 10 Jan 1727; m. (1) 1 Jan 1713 REBECCA PAINE; m. (2) 20 April 1719 MARTHA (___) PAINE, m. (1) John Paine.
- iv. BENJAMIN, m. SARAH LOCKWOOD, dau. of Benjamin Lockwood.
- v. MARY, m. HUGH STONE.
- vi. STEPHEN
- vii. ICHABOD, probably b. 1692 and Job's twin.
3. viii. JOB, b. 1692; m. (1) SUSANNAH ARNOLD; m. (2) MERIBAH CARTER.

3. JOB³ POTTER (*Abel², George¹*) was born at Warwick, Providence County, Rhode Island, in 1692, presumably after his father's death. He died at Coventry, Kent County, Rhode Island 10 November 1766. He married first about 1715 SUSANNAH³ ARNOLD (*Elisha², Stephen¹*), born at Pawtucket, Providence Co., RI 14 April 1692, died about 1724, daughter of Elisha² and Susannah (Carpenter) Arnold. Job was married second in Providence County on 10 February 1725/6 to MERIBAH CARTER; she died after 21 August 1766. Her name was recorded as "Merebah" in their marriage record but the more typical spelling of her Biblical name is *Meribah* and her maiden surname is also presented as Carder or simply Card. If her maiden surname was actually Carder, perhaps she somehow descended from Richard Carder who came to Warwick, Rhode Island in 1637.

On 1 May 1739, Job signed a petition to divide the Providence Train Band. Job and Meribah moved from Warwick to Coventry in 1744. Job Potter "of Providence" had about 50 acres of land from Josiah Arnold of Coventry on 11 January 1742/3. Job Potter's will was witnessed by John Arnold, Benjamin Sweet, and his grandson, David Goff. An abstract of Job's will from the probate records of Coventry, Rhode Island reads as follows:

I, Job Potter of Coventry in the County of Kent in the Colony of Rhode Island... yeoman being considerably advanced in years and am visited with an Infirmity of body...

Viz. I give unto my son, John Potter, Twenty Shillings old Tenor. I give unto my son, Ezekiel Potter, Eighty three Spanish milled Dollars and a half or as much in old Tenor... within one year after my Decease.

I give unto my son, Nehemiah Potter, the sum of Thirty Eight Spanish Milled Dollars or as much old Tenor as shall be equivalent there to.

I give unto my loving wife, Meribah Potter, one cow and the Keeping of her both, winter and summer as long as she remains my widow, further I also give her the time I have in my apprentice girl named Vilet... in lieu of her right of Dower... also... use of all my household goods during the Time she remains my widow. after her marriage or decease the household goods to be divided into three parts and given to Daughter, Mary Goff, Daughter Abigail and to Two Granddaughters, Meribah Gardner, and Mary Gardner. Daughters of Daniel Gardner by Freeloove, his wife.

I give unto my son Josiah Potter... my mansion House and Homestead Farm upon what I now dwell in Coventry, afs. upon condition that he pay all moneys I have herewith ordered to be paid unto my other sons, Viz, John, Ezekiel, Elisha, Nehemiah Potter and to keep a cow winter and summer for his mother, as long as she remains my

widow for her use, upon my farm. In case my son Josiah Potter, dies without Issue by him lawfully begotten, my four sons Viz, John, Ezekiel, Elisha, and Nehemiah Potter.

I give unto my son, Josiah Potter, all the rest and residue of my personal Estate not here disposed of.

Child, by Susannah Arnold:

- i. JOHN⁴, b. Mashantatuck, Providence Co., RI about 1716; d. Coventry, Kent Co., RI 3 June 1732; m. (1) Providence, RI ca. 1738 his second cousin PHEBE⁴ ARNOLD (*Israel*^{β-2}, *Stephen*¹), b. Warwick, Kent Co., RI 25 Dec 1717, d. Pownal, Bennington Co., VT 1789, dau. of Israel³ and Elizabeth (Smith) Arnold; m. (2) 17 Oct 1757 MARY COLVIN. (Linda Boud, correspondence [October 2000])
Children, b. Coventry, Kent Co., RI, surname *Arnold*: 1. *John*, b. 24 May 1739; d. young. 2. *Amos*, b. 1742; m. 9 Jan 1765 Mary Plattis. 3. *William*, b. 1744; d. 4 March 1800; m. before June 1776 Alice Wait; Private in the American Revolution. 4. *John*, b. 2 April 1752; d. 21 June 1806; m. Jemima Carpenter. 5. *David*, b. 26 June 1760; d. Vevay, Switzerland Co, IN 13 May 1838; m. Coventry, RI 4 Dec 1785 Elizabeth Vaughn, b. East Greenwich, Kent Co., RI 9 Oct 1762, d. Salisbury, Herkimer Co., NY 5 Feb 1831, dau. of Benjamin and Catherine (Godfrey) Vaughn; Private in the American Revolution.

Children, by Meribah Carter, births all—except the last—recorded at Coventry, Kent County, Rhode Island on 9 March 1743/4:

- * ii. MARY, b. 22 Aug 1726; d. probably Burlington, Otsego, NY after husband's death (23 March 1810) and reportedly as late as 1821; m. Coventry, Kent Co., RI 6 Jan 1746 NATHAN³ GOFF (*Anthony*²⁻¹), b. Swansea, Bristol Co., MA 24 May 1723, d. Burlington, Otsego Co., NY 23 March 1810, son of Anthony² and Elizabeth (Watts) Goff; my direct ancestors; see *Anthony Goffe of Barrington, Rhode Island* for more information.
- iii. FREELove, b. 22 Aug 1728, d. before 21 Aug 1766; m. DANIEL GARDNER.
Children, surname *Gardner*: 1. *Meribah* 2. *Mary*
- iv. JOB, b. 28 April 1731 m. __ WAITSTILL. Apparently Job died without issue before 21 Aug 1766 as there is no mention of him or surviving children in Job³'s will.
- v. EZEKIEL, b. 25 May 1733; m. PHEBE __.
- vi. ELISHA, b. 8 May 1736.
- vii. NEHEMIAH, b. 17 April 1739; d. in Sep 1812; m. (1) EUNICE CASEY; m. (2) in 1790 RHODA CASTIL.
- viii. ABIGAIL, b. 22 July 1741; m. [() ROBERTS?].
- ix. JOSIAH, b. after 9 March 1743/4 (named in father's will but birth not recorded at Coventry with siblings) say 1745 (if age 25 at marriage); m. 9 Feb 1769 MERCY MANCHESTER.

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