

"Samuel Terrill of Easthampton and Brookhaven: Colonial Blacksmith," by Audrey Terrill MacLellan, Suffolk County Historical Society Register, Volume 22, No. 3, Winter 1996, pages 83-86.

Jeannette Edwards Rattray, East Hampton History and Genealogies (1952), p. 298. [Hereafter Rattray]

³Mary Esther Mulford Miller, An East Hampton Childhood (1938), p. 2.

⁴Research has not revealed much about this couple, except that he can write his name (as seen on the deed in possession of N. Sherrill Foster, East Hampton).

⁵Suffolk County Deed Liber 280, p. 123. Quit Claim Deed by Nathaniel Huntting Sherrill on 5 Sept 1866 from Phebe Bower.

⁶Federal Census, 1860, New York State, Town of East Hampton; house 615, family 691.

⁷This is the land that became the Sherrill's Dairy in 1910.

⁸There is also in the 1790 East Hampton Census a Samuel "Bowell" with one male over 16 (Samuel) 2 females and 5 slaves. The name Samuel Bower is not in the 1776 spring census of Suffolk County. Samuel is listed with the names of the Gardiners of the "brown" house, whereas David has listed as neighbors several Edwards families, descendants of John (2), and John Dominy.

⁹Nancy Hyden Woodward, East Hampton, a Town and Its People 1648-1992 (1995), p. 128.

¹⁰The dates of death shown on the gravestones differ from those in the Town Records in several cases. Amy Bower's stone states she died 11 November. The East Hampton Town Records (1888), Vol 5, p. 629, give 12 November. Amy Osborn baptism, p. 490.

¹¹Rattray, p. 508 (under Jacob (5) Osborn).

¹²East Hampton Town Records (1888), Vol 5, p. 206.

¹³Federal Census, Suffolk County, NY. 1800 - p. 106A; 1810 - p. 192; 1820 - p. 294; 1830 - p. 259; 1840 - p. 104.

¹⁴East Hampton Town Records (1888), Vol 5, Births: Phebe HD 13 p. 510; Ruth HD 13 p. 515. Deaths: Ann, Ruth p. 637; Phebe p. 640. [The gravestones give 28 January for Phebe's death and 17 January for Ruth's death and 69 years 5 months for Joanna's age at her death.]

¹⁵East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection. Manuscript diary of James Madison Huntting - 1860-1866, passim. Manuscript Journal of Frances S. Huntting - 1860-1870 passim.

¹⁶Jeremiah Huntting (1811-1867), abutting property owner. A second cousin to James M. Huntting and Frances S. Huntting. Rattray p. 400.

¹⁷Long-time Town Historian Carleton Kelsey does not know of any house that was "moved to the Springs" in the late 1860s. His few clues led to blank walls.

¹⁸Rattray, p. 236 (under William Parker Bennett); Rattray, p. 216 (under Nathaniel Youngs Baker).

¹⁹Rattray, p. 457. Also Charles H. Sherrill and Louis E. de Forest, The Sherrill Genealogy (1932), p. 100, #130.

²⁰East Hampton Library, Long Island Collection. Type-script of manuscript diary of Adelia Anna (Parsons) Sherrill 1870. Month of February passim.

²¹Rattray, p. 231, (under William Jackson Bennett).

oOo

SAMUEL TERRILL OF EASTHAMPTON AND BROOKHAVEN: COLONIAL BLACKSMITH

Audrey Terrill MacLellan

The surname of Terrill appears in Suffolk County history from the seventeenth century to the present day and is honored in the place name of the Terrell River. This article will cover only the colonial period of Long Island as it relates to Samuel Terrill and his probable early descendants.

Samuel Terrill was baptised on October 31, 1647 in Milford, Connecticut. He was the son of Roger Terrill and Abigail (Ufford).¹ Samuel is first reported living in Easthampton in 1678 according to their tax rolls. A blacksmith by trade, Samuel was engaged by the town of Brookhaven in 1680 to come and practice his trade there for three years as a condition of receiving land. He was to be given twenty acres of land, seven for a home lot, five acres in the little Neck, and the rest of the land to be located in the new southwest division (Setauket). Blacksmiths were important citizens of colonial America. Whilst we think of them for their farrier work in the shoeing of horses and oxen, they were also important for the nails, primitive tools and other items necessary for an agricultural economy.

Samuel left behind in Easthampton his younger brother Thomas who was also a blacksmith. In 1694 Thomas Terrill sold eight

acres of land to Robert Hudson who was probably his apprentice. Robert Hudson was a nephew of Samuel and Thomas Terrill; he was the natural child of Hannah Terrill and Robert Hudson of Rye, New York. Thomas Terrill moved to Rahway, New Jersey, and later to Elizabeth, Essex County, where he and his sons continued the blacksmith trade.²

By April 1681 the town meeting of Brookhaven voted and agreed to the land arrangements that were paramount to Samuel residing in Brookhaven. Samuel continued to acquire more land; in 1682 Thomas Biggs arranged to take five pounds worth of trade in blacksmithing for partial payment of land. In 1684 Robert Goulsberg sold to Samuel a half "commeg"--a common lot. If this common lot was marsh land, Samuel would find it very useful for the purpose of thatching roofs.

In January 1684 Samuel and Abigail had a son Samuel, and his birth was duly reported in the Brookhaven town record. Infant life was uncertain in those days. On April 29, 1685 Abigail agreed to take into lodging the seven month old daughter of Benjamin Gould. (The mother had probably died.) Baby girl Gould died less than a month later and was buried on the 19th of May.

Family tradition has claimed Indian heritage in the Samuel Terrill line; i.e., "the original Terrill married an Indian, possibly of the Nissequoge tribe."³ This legend may have originated in the Indian deed by Wophege given on December 13, 1688 to Samuel Terrill for land in an area on Yamphank Neck. Wophege granted the land "...for and in consideration of ye good will and Affection which I have & Doe Bare unto Samuel Terrill..." The deed later mentions "sundry gifts and benefits" received from Samuel.

Samuel's relationships with the Indians were not always friendly. On July 7, 1686 Samuel, along with Samuel Dayton, Jonathan Rose and Walter Jones, had to appear before the Governor General's Council regarding a petition from the Indian, Tachanick. Tachanick had objected that the inhabitants of Brookhaven had built houses and broken up land without any satisfaction to him.

Misfortune struck the Samuel Terrill family on December 1, 1698. "By a fire kindled in the thatch of his house" all his goods, clothes and provisions were destroyed. His fellow townsmen petitioned the Earl of Bellmont, the colonial Governor: "that he, Samuel, having a wife and six small children...be granted authority for the collecting and receiving the charity of well disposed persons." Signators included Richard Smith, Adam Smith, John Tuthill, Matthew Helm (fourteen in total).⁴

Immediately afterwards there was a flurry of land sales as Samuel Terrill sold off property in order to raise money. In 1701 it was

reported that Samuel had moved from Brookhaven. In 1704 Samuel sold to his brother Daniel land that he had inherited from his father Roger. It appears from witnessing agreements that they signed that Samuel and his wife Abigail were living in East Moriches. In 1706 Samuel bought land from Henry Smith. The last known land transaction that Samuel made was in 1714 when land in Warranta (Waracto Neck) was sold to Sarah Conklin. At that time, Samuel would have been 67 years old.

What happened to the six small children? How did they grow up, and where did they go? First of all, Samuel, Jr., is the only one that can be positively identified as belonging to this family. Samuel Terrill, Jr., was married to Abigail Baldwin in Milford, CT, on August 17, 1710. They had a son Lemuel born Sept. 10, 1711.⁵ The Brookhaven town record reports that the town received a petition in 1731 because of "half rights" of a common lot not being used by Samuel Terrill. Samuel, Jr., must have returned to Long Island later, for in 1738 he was granted a permit to be proprietor and owner of Yamphank Neck. This was the parcel of land that Samuel, Sr., had been deeded by the Indian Wophege. The son of Samuel, Jr., was also a Samuel and a weaver by trade. From his will made in 1765 he can be identified as a member of this family for he makes arrangements to care for his brother Lemuel.⁶

Adam Terrill, Yeoman, of Wading River was a probable son of the first Samuel. Adam first appears in the Brookhaven town records in 1717 regarding a land purchase in Wading River. In 1727 he received property from the town clerk, Daniel Brewster; this property could have been land owned by Samuel, Senior. Adam was listed in the 1741 tax rolls. The last notice we have of Adam Terrill in Suffolk County is an unsigned deed for a half "commage" of land in Wading River in 1749. Many of these land transactions involved either the Daytons or Robert Hudson of Easthampton.⁷ In 1753 in South Jersey Adam Terrill's name appears on the purchase of sale of parsonage land for a Presbyterian Church. The other signatures on this document include many surnames familiar to Long Island. They include Jonas Dayton, Samuel Leek, Nehemiah Veal and Abraham Rose.⁸ Was it possible that an entire boatload of Long Island settlers sailed to South Jersey to start a new life for themselves there?

A John Terrill first appeared in the 1707 Brookhaven town records when his wife "Philadelphia" inherited some land in Lyme, CT. Could he have been a son of Samuel? He does seem to have had some of the same propensity for bad luck as Samuel, Sr. On January 22, 1721 Brookhaven town paid ten shillings for the relief of John Terrill's wife and children. Did John go to sea and not return for the winter? By November 24, 1722 he had returned and witnessed a quit claim deed made by Issac Dayton, Jr., after the death of his father Issac, Sr. The deed is recorded in Brookhaven; the deed may have been signed

either there or in New Haven, CT. The years must have been kinder to the John Terrill family. Twenty-two years later they were living in Lyme, CT, and John and Philadelphia gave property to their son John.⁹

James Terrill of Brookhaven and Hunterdon County, Jersey, was another possible son of Samuel. In 1719 James and his wife Joyce Bryant received property from her father. James died at a rather young age on December 12, 1728 in Hopewell Township, Hunterdon, West Jersey. He left three small children.¹⁰

Life was not easy for our colonial ancestors. They moved frequently across both Long Island Sound and down into the Jerseys, probably for a combination of family and economic reasons. This concludes the background on the early Terrills in Brookhaven. There were also Terrills living in the Southold area during the same time, but no relationship between the two family groups has been established.

Notes:

If not otherwise specified, sources are from the Brookhaven town records or the Suffolk County land records.

1. Jacobus, Donald Lines. "The Terrill Family of Connecticut." The American Genealogist, January 1949.
2. *ibid.*
3. Melchione, Pat. History of Kings' Park, 1974. An unpublished manuscript, courtesy of Three Village Historical Society.
4. Petition by Samuel Terrill. New York Colonial manuscripts, 42:119. Original is in New York State Library, Albany.
5. Jacobus, *ibid.*
6. New Jersey Archives. Wills, 1765.
7. Woodhull papers. Unpublished archival material, Wading River Historical Society.
8. Deerfield Presbyterian Church, Deerfield, New Jersey. Agreement to purchase land, August 4, 1753. Available through the courtesy of the Church Archives.
9. New London, Connecticut. Land Records, 1664-1800.
10. New Jersey Archives. Wills, 1729.

The author acknowledges the following individuals' help: Lola Terrell Mulford, Nancy Tyrrel Theodore, and Mallory Leoniak.

NEWS FROM THE SOCIETY

STAFF CHANGES AROUND

Library

We have experienced a number of important staff changes over the last few months; in fact it's hard to know where to begin. Our Librarian, Warne Randall, moved on to follow other pursuits in March. Warne did an excellent job during his tenure, and he will be missed. He has stayed in touch and continues to give volunteer time in the Library, when he is able. During our search for a new Librarian we learned that David Kerkhof, our former Librarian, was considering a return to New York. Several long telephone consultations followed, and before we knew it, Dave had accepted his former position. He began work on August 8th, and it now seems as if he never left. If you have an opportunity to stop in to see Dave and welcome him back, or to just stop in to see what's new, we hope you will do so.

We want to thank all of our members for their support and their patience during the period when we did not have a Librarian. Dave is working through the backlog of research questions that accumulated. We also want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who worked hard to maintain Library services during that period. Richard Baldwin, Richard Brooks, Lois DeWall and Ned Smith all took turns at the helm, and with their help we were able to keep the Library open. Staff members Wally Broege, Diane Perry and Susan Sanfilippo also took time away from busy schedules and helped when necessary.

Receptionist & Weathervane Gift Shop

In July Janet Ancona, our Shop Manager since 1994, retired. Julie Governale, who had been our Receptionist for one year, accepted the position as Weathervane Shop Manager. She is a life-long resident of Long Island who enjoys meeting people and telling them about the Society and gift shop. She brings a great deal of enthusiasm and energy to the job, and we all wish her well.

Eileen Stanzoni joined the staff in June 1997. Her work at the Society is supported by the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), as was Julie's when she was the Receptionist. Eileen is a retired secretary who has both typing and organization-