

JOSEPH DUTTON (1661-)

MARY CUTLER

There seems to be some question as to which of Joseph's two wives was the mother of his children. For this reason, the material on records did not always concur. Reference has been made to this difference of opinion and each source has been employed.

Mr. Davis is quoted as saying:

"Joseph Dutton, the ancestor of that name in Wallingford, Conn., was of Machimoodus, (Indian name) or East Haddam, Conn. He purchased land in Wallingford in 1718 and 1719, which he gave to his sons, whose names are as follows:

1. Benjamin Dutton, B. 1696; md. Mary _____
2. David Dutton, b. abt. 1701; md. Lydia Cook
3. Thomas Dutton; md. Abigail Merriman" 1

Mr. Cutter, 1915, in his "History of New England Families", gives this short review of Joseph and Rebecca:

"Joseph, son of Thomas Dutton, was born in Reading, (or Woburn) Massachusetts, January 25, 1661. He removed to Haddam, Connecticut, and thence to Wallingford, Connecticut, where he bought land in 1718-1719, which he gave to his sons. He married Rebecca _____.

Children born in Reading, (or Woburn) Mass.:

1. Benjamin Dutton, b. 1696
2. David Dutton, md. Lydia Cook
3. Thomas Dutton." 2

In "Families of Ancient New Haven", by Jacobus, we get a completely different story that tells us that Rebecca, the widow of Samuel Fitch, was Joseph's first wife and Mary, the daughter of John and Olive (Thompson) Cutler, was his second wife and the mother of Benjamin, David and Thomas.³ Joseph and his wife Mary moved to East Haddam, Conn., about 1700.

East Haddam was a settlement on the east side of the Connecticut River, about 20 miles inland from the Long Island Sound. Joseph, no doubt traveled from the eastern coastline of Massachusetts to this area by boat around Cape Cod to Old Saybrook (see map #8) and then proceeded up the Connecticut River to East Haddam. Joseph's next move took him west across the river and through twenty-five or more miles of wilderness to Wallingford. Wallingford is situated near the Quinnipiac River. (Maps #5, 6)

At this early time of pioneering new settlements, Wallingford covered a much greater area of land that has since been divided into many separate towns. Cheshire and Meriden have become two of the most populated of these divisions. When a settler's land record was specified as Wallingford, it did not necessarily mean that he was situated in what is now Wallingford proper. Without Joseph's land surveys, we cannot be specific about his place of residence, but the Dutton name does not appear in the Meriden maps or records, so we assume that Joseph's land was to the west of Wallingford

in the Cheshire Parish area.

It is possible that the older son, Benjamin, found a wife shortly after coming to Connecticut, probably at East Haddam. His children were all born in Wallingford. He died in Cheshire Parish, Jan. 27, 1791, age 95 years. His wife Mary _____, died Oct. 27, 1785, age 80 years. They had nine children, five boys and four girls.

Joseph's sons, David and Thomas married after their arrival in Wallingford. David married Lydia, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Ives) Cook, Sept. 14, 1722 (4-7). They had eight children. He died at the age of 73 in 1774, and Lydia died earlier in 1738 at the age of 39 (4-4). We know that the farm of Lydia's parents extended into the Cheshire parish, another reason to assume that the Duttons were living in the Cheshire area. ⁴ Thomas married Abigail Merriman in 1729, and had twelve children.

All of these families were residents of the Cheshire area so it is very possible that Joseph's original property was located on land to the west or southwest of Wallingford.

East of Wallingford was wilderness; west on what is now known as 'the plains', was what the early settlers called 'common field'. This extended well around to the southwest, and at the extreme south was a planting field of large dimension...Back of the Congregational Church was the burying ground, and the path through the cemetery finally became a cart-path and at length a road, and Center street was christened. As late as 1896, when excavations were in progress for the erection of Prior's block at the corner of Williams street, human bones were turned out by the digging, the original burying ground having extended well to the north of that point. The graves of several of the settlers are to be seen at the Center Street Cemetery...

"New Haven originally consisted of about twenty square miles, extending from Long Island Sound north and including Meriden. When Wallingford was set off, it included Meriden and Cheshire. The latter became an independent district in 1780, and Meriden in 1806." ⁵

"Our forefathers in New England adopted the practice of grouping themselves in villages or plantations for mutual protection, and the plans for colonization were always methodical and deliberate..." ⁶

Those inhabitants choosing to settle upon land in the area of Wallingford entered into a "covenant" (appendix #8), agreeing to build a home and improve the land. Joseph obtained land, as stated, in 1718 and 1719. He was not one among the earliest proprietors of 1667 and so, at his coming, the area was partially settled and showing its potential of becoming well established towns.

The dilemma of uncertainty regarding the mothers of Joseph Dutton's children has been somewhat settled by more recent research that comes to us through patrons submissions found in the Genealogical Library Archives of Salt Lake City. The date given of Joseph's marriage to Rebecca (Merriam)

Fitch, widow of Samuel Fitch, is Aug. 19, 1685, and his marriage to Mary Cutler, Widow of Mathew Smith, is Dec. 7, 1693. If these dates are correct we can now list his children as they were recorded by Lurn R. Rice and Lois S. Wickers, both of Los Angeles, California, as follows:
Children by Rebecca:

1. Rebecca Dutton, b. Aug. 13, 1686, Reading, Middlesex, Mass., md. Daniel Gates
2. Joseph Dutton, b. July 31, 1690, Reading Middlesex, Mass.

Children by Mary:

3. Susannah Dutton, b. Oct. 11, 1684, Reading Middlesex, Mass.; md. June 12, 1716, Jeremiah Selby; died May 3, 1718
4. Benjamin Dutton, b. Oct. 10, 1696, Lyme, New London, Conn.; md. Mary Cone; died Jan. 27, 1791
5. David Dutton, b. 1701, of Wallingford, New Haven, Conn.; md. 14 Sept. 1722, Lydia Cook, daughter of Samuel and Hannah (Ives) Cook; md. (2) Feb. 4, 1738, Sarah Abernathy, dau. of William and Mary (Peck) Abernathy, widow of Thomas Doolittle; md. (3) Oct. 13, 1747 Judith How, dau. of Jeremiah and Judith (Cook) How, widow of Elihu Hale; md. (4) Martha Marns, widow of Isaac Bartholomew; died Feb. 20, 1774
6. Ruth Dutton, b. Aug. 14, 1704, of Wallingford, New Haven, Conn.; md. July 16, 1724, Thomas Millard
7. Samuel Dutton, b. Feb. 13, 1705/6, chr. Mar. 25, 1705/6, of Wallingford, New Haven, Conn.; md. Nov. 17, 1726, Rachel Cone; died, Dec. 30, 1790
8. Thomas Dutton, b. Mar. 1, 1707, of Wallingford, New Haven, Conn.; md. May 6, 1729, Abigail Merriam; died, 1802⁷

Two lines of Dutton descendants from Joseph are particularly significant to this writing. The two lines follow a descent from two of Josephs children, namely, (5) David (4-4) and his half-sister, (1) Rebecca. From Rebecca's line there descended a Latter Day Prophet, Joseph Smith Jr. He was a 3rd great grandson of Joseph Dutton. Leonard Gurley Rice (1-7), who was a descendant of David Dutton, was also a 3rd great grandson of Joseph Dutton. The fact remains that Joseph Smith and Leonard Gurley Rice were 4th cousins. A chart shown in the story of Titus Rice (1-5) illustrates this relationship. Titus Rice was a second cousin to Lydia Gates, Joseph Smith's grandmother. (see p. 68)

This item is mentioned as a matter of interest and a point of reference to genealogical ties in church history. The Dutton ancestry has been traced back to very ancient times. Joseph Dutton, perhaps, did not realize his great heritage or the part that some of the descendants of his son, David, and his daughter, Rebecca, were to play in one of the greatest ecclesiastical dramas of all time: the 'Restoration of Christ's Church' and the resultant 'Exodus of the Saints to the Valleys of the Rocky Mountains'.

We cannot but ponder the fact that divine intervention controls the events that have been in the past, the present and that will be in the future. Surely we can acknowledge the hand of the Lord in the destinies of man. If past, present and future events could pass in review before our eyes we might more fully appreciate our place in the scheme of things and realize our overall purpose for being here. In retrospect we could perceive the great heritage to be claimed from the past and in reality we would know that even today we play an important part in the world's great destiny.

The extended line of Dutton ancestry gives us a distant perspective so that long years take on a shorter duration. We do not feel so far away from our earliest progenitors, Adam and Eve, when we reach into lines of genealogy such as the Duttons. (see appendix #13)

1. #7, p. 741
2. #21, p. 593
3. #3, Vol 3, p. 586
4. #7, p. 742
5. #10, p. 2
6. #33, p. 29
7. #170, p. (4-3)