

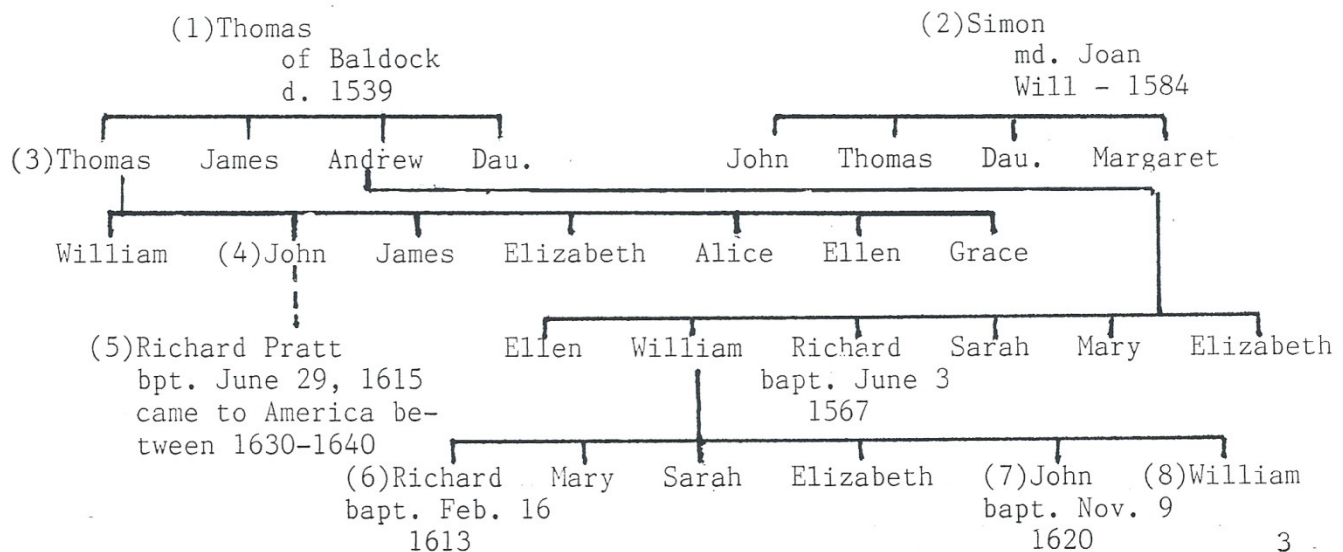
JOHN PRATT (-1619)

The name of Pratt is a surname, derived, like many of the Norman and Saxon names, from a locality; Latin, 'meadow', Spanish, Portuguese and French, 'prairie.' The home of the English Pratts were anciently, as they are to this day, chiefly seated in the eastern and southern parts of England. The earliest notice of them in England shows that they probably came from Normandy. The fact that the name of Pratt occurs frequently in the Norman rolls, proves the Norman origin of the family. ¹

John Pratt Nesbit, in 1938, published a Pratt genealogy of the 'Ancestors and Descendants of Simon N. Pratt' and with reference to them makes this statement, "Lieut. William Pratt was the son of William Pratt of Baldock, Hertfordshire, England, and was the brother of John Pratt. (Not the John, father of our Richard.) The brothers, William and John, are thought to have come from England with Rev. Thomas Hooker in 1632 and settled in Cambridge, Mass. In 1636 the brothers migrated to Hartford, Conn. with their pastor. In 1645 William sold his land in Hartford and moved to Saybrook, Conn.

"John (above mentioned) was bapt. Nov. 9, 1620 at Stevenage, Hertfordshire, England, and came with his brother, William and the Rev. Thomas Hooker about 1632 as he owned a house on St. Auburn St., Newtown (Cambridge), Mass., in 1633. On May 31, 1636 he left Cambridge with Rev. Thomas Hooker's party and settled in Hartford, Conn. in June, 1636 . . . He died there July 15, 1655." ²

From the writings of Rev. F. W. Chapman it was possible to make a pedigree chart which connected the above John and William Pratt back three generations to Thomas Pratt of Baldock, Hertfordshire, England. The writer includes this chart because of the possibility that the Richard (#6) of the chart, bapt. Feb. 16, 1613 and a brother of the above John (#7) and William (#8), may have been our ancestor and, if not, the possibility, of our Richard being a part of the same ancestry through another line as suggested on the chart, remembering, however, that this is only a conjecture - noted by the dotted line.



The claim that Richard Pratt (7-53), bapt. June 29, 1615 or 1618 (#5), who married Mary, came to America between the years 1630-1640, does not eliminate him from having come from England with the Rev. Thomas Hooker. The coincidence of time and nearness of age (allowing for errors in dates) would make for easy assumptions that the two accounts refer to one and the same Richard. Whether or not it is true that our ancestor, Richard, coming from Essex, Eng. is a brother to John and William of Hartford, Conn., does not rule out the theory that he (Richard) could very well fall into the same ancestry as the Pratts from Hertfordshire, shown on the chart.

The DAR records state that the parents of Mary Pratt who married Thomas (7-50) was Richard and Mary Pratt (7-53), and that Richard was bapt. June 29, 1615, Malden, Essex, England, and was the son of John Pratt.⁴

Essex and Hertfordshire are adjoining counties in England (map 1 #s 27, 28). An interesting fact is found in the Will of Simon Pratt (#2 chart), the brother of Thomas Sr. of Bardock, England, which reads that "He gave his land in Hertfordshire and Essex to his son John . . ." ⁵ From this we know that the descendants from this particular Pratt lineage were living along, and near, the boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex and the possibility remains that our Richard falls into an extended line of the same pedigree as the one shown here in the foregoing chart. Any such link has not been proven, through any source available to the writer. Until such a connection can be established we must be satisfied with the DAR findings which state that Richard Pratt of Malden, Mass., came from Malden, Essex, England and that his father was John Pratt.

In the Connecticut Society of Genealogy - Ancestor chart (206-10) Jonathan Lane of Sandwich, Mass., contributed the following information on John, father of Richard and grandfather of Mary Pratt who married Thomas Skinner: "John Pratt? (the ? indicates the indefiniteness of the name and whether the research refers to the right John) died July 30, 1619 at Malden, Essex, England and that he resided in Malden, Eng." ⁶

Nothing further seems available on John Pratt, the father of Richard (7-53). He may have been a descendant of Thomas (#3) or Thomas' brothers James or Andrew. Richard (#6) was a grandson of Andrew. These suppositions are mere premises that might lead to further research in the future.

1. #60 pp. 13,22
2. #94 p. 5
3. #60 pp. 22-47
4. #71 p. 5
5. #60 p. 43
6. #2 Vol II (chart 206-10)