

ZACHARIAH FERRIS (-1710 or11)
 SARAH BLOOD (1648-)

Two writings were found which, though gleaned from separate sources, support one another in content and vital statistic material; the DAR records of Zachariah Ferris and Sarah Blood with the listing of their children; and a loose leaf typed genealogical study, "The Genealogy of the Ferris Family, Descendants of Zachariah Ferris" done by Harriet Scofield of Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Paul W. Prindle, of Darien, Conn., did the mimeograph copy contributed to the Genealogical department of the Connecticut State Library. Harriet states in her foreward to the work: "Over a score or more years I have accumulated a large amount of data about the Ferris family. This compilation is an attempt to clarify it by putting it in genealogical order." ¹ She acknowledged her indebtedness to several other genealogists, irrelevant to any mention here for her record seemed sufficiently documented for repeating herein:

"Zachariah Ferris was an early settler of Charlestown, Mass., where he was made freeman 3 May, 1676. He and his wife were admitted to full communion in the First Church there 23 Jan. 1675/6, and about thirty years later, 19 Sept. 1705, was admitted to the church in Stratford, Conn., by letter from Charlestown. He served in King Philip's War in 1676, and in the expedition against Port Royal in 1711, where he was killed . . ." ²

The DAR record gives us the information that he was from Reading, England, and served under Capt. John Cutler in King Philip's War, signing his enlistment June 24, 1676. He married Nov. 7, 1673 in Charlestown, Sarah Blood, born June 1648, the dau. of Richard and Isabelle Blood (7-63). ³

"He married at Charlestown, Mass., 17 Nov. 1673, Sarah "Blouds," identified as Sarah, daughter of Richard and Isabelle Blood, born in Lynn, Mass. the 4th month, 1648. (The name 'Blouds' was, no doubt, the spelling of the name originally in England where Richard lived before coming to New England.) . . .and while her (Sarah's mother, Isabelle) name has not been ascertained, she may have been a daughter of the widow Isabel Wilkerson of Cambridge.

"Zachariah's Will, dated 14 Aug. 1710 and proved 16 April 1711, mentioned his wife, Sarah; sons, Zachariah and Samuel; daughter Sarah; friends Capt. David Sherman and Benjamin Fairweather, executors and overseers. His widow, Sarah Ferris, swore to the inventory 16 April 1711.

"Stratford deeds prove that Zachariah Ferris left four surviving children, the three named in his Will, and also Mary, who in 1722 was the widow of John Sturdevant of Ridgefield, Conn. Apparently the latter was John, son of William Sturdevant, born in Norwalk, Conn., 20 July 1676. The marriage of John Sturdevant to Mary Jackson, 29 April 1709, is found in Stratford records. The explanation probably is that Mary Ferris was the widow of one of the Jacksons, as yet unidentified, when she married John Sturdevant." ⁴

This writing combines the information found in both the DAR record and the Scofield genealogy to make a more complete listing of the children of Zachariah and Sarah (Blood or Blouds) Ferris:

1. Zachariah Ferris b. Sept. 24, 1674 and bapt. Feb. 6, 1675/6, Charlestown, Mass., md. 1699, Sarah, dau. of Reed and Deborah Baldwin.

2. Sarah Ferris, b. 12 Sept. 1676 and bapt. 12 Nov. 1676, Charlestown; md. abt 1693, Joseph Halstead, of Hempstead, L.I. In 1712, Joseph and Sarah Halstead of Hempstead sold to Samuel Ferris of Newtown, Conn., right in property once in the occupancy of David Jenkins, which descended to Sarah Ferris, now Halstead, by her father's Will. Joseph Halstead died in New Rochelle, N.Y., in 1736, having had a second wife, also named Sarah, and nine children. This deed, shows that Sarah (Ferris) Halstead was living in 1712, and that all of Joseph Halsteads, save possibly the youngest, were by Sarah Ferris. They were: Joseph b. 1695; Phebe, 1697; Richard, 1700; Sarah, 1701; Abiah, 1703; Samuel, 1705; Anne, 1707; Ezekial, 1709; and Michael, 1715.
3. Richard Ferris, b. 30 Mar. 1679, Charlestown and bapt. 6 April 1679, Old South Church, Boston, Mass.; died 23 July 1679, age just short of 4 months.
4. Hannah Ferris, b. and d. May 18, 1680
5. Mary Ferris for whom neither birth nor baptism record has been found; md. (1) _____ Jackson. md. (2) April 28, 1709, Stratford, Conn., John Sturdevant (7-61) (3) before Dec. 22, 1722, John Davis of Derby, Conn.
6. Samuel Ferris, bapt. 24 Sept. 1682, Roxbury, Mass., as Samuel "Ferris". Since his death record, 28 Feb. 1768, aged 86, agrees with this record of baptism, and no other Ferris or Ferris is found to whom this record could belong, we unhesitatingly ascribe it to Samuel, son of Zachariah (The DAR record does not totally agree with the above, stating his baptism date the same '24 Sept. 1682, Roxbury, Mass.' but that he 'died 1741 at Newtown, Conn.' He married about 1710, Martha _____.)

We can assume that Zachariah and his wife moved to Stratford, Conn., about 1705 where, in 1709, his daughter Mary (Ferris) Jackson b. about 1681, age 28, then a widow, met and married John Sturdevant. This was a second marriage for both Mary and John (see 7-61).

"In the beginning of the eighteenth century the loyal citizens of New England became disturbed by the prospects of war. This time it was a European war known on this side of the ocean as Queen Anne's War, in which nobody in America had any personal interest, but, since England and her allies had gone to war against France and Spain . . . their loyal subjects in America were expected to aid and support the mother country. Hence New England was especially and immediately exposed to all the horrors of a war with the French in Canada and their Indian allies.

"Deerfield, Massachusetts, (see map # 6) was burned and the surviving inhabitants carried off to Canada as prisoners. Everywhere there was distress; everywhere terror. Connecticut rushed to the assistance of her neighbors nearer the Canadian border. . .

"In 1710 Port Royal in Acadia, as the French occupied territory to the north was then called, was taken by a little army, which included 300 men from Connecticut. Each settlement was called on to furnish its share of armed men." ⁵

Zachariah was a part of this expedition where, with others, he shared in the fighting which took his life. The military expedition of Port Royal was an attempt to help rid the northern areas of New England of the French and Indian threats. The Gen. Courts of both Massachusetts and Connecticut proposed par-

ticipation in armed assistance to the British. It was proposed that Connecticut, New York and New Jersey should raise 1,500 to cross country and take possession of Montreal and to take the place simultaneously with the fleets attack upon Quebec. They were deeply disappointed at the failure of the scheme. It had thrown upon the British heavy burdens that the Americans were expected to defray, yet their situation was too critical to allow them time to brood. The French still retained their old Indian alliances, and were making all the efforts they could to alienate the Indians from the English settlers of New England. If the enemy succeeded in this result they well knew that the whole English frontier would be in their power, and the settlements along the entire line would be exposed to the sickening atrocities of Indian border wars.

That the English settlements might hit upon some plan of operational defense, the Governors of the several colonies of New England met and the result was a petition to her Majesty to send out an armament which, with the provincial troops would be equal to such an enterprise. The reduction of the French in Canada became a great inducement for the settlers to give armed help. The colonies put forth the uttermost exertions to provide for attack.

Port Royal was the French stronghold in Canada situated across the St. Lawrence River from Montreal and Quebec. It is one of the oldest settlements in North America, north of the Gulf of Mexico. It is situated at the mouth of the Annapolis River, on the east side of the Bay of Fundy, named later, in honor of Queen Anne by the British.

Seven battles for Port Royal had been fought by the French and British troops between 1613 and 1710, and this final battle of 1710 was won by the British with the help of New England's 'Port Royal Expedition' of volunteers from Massachusetts and Connecticut, under Brig. Gen. Francis Nicholson.

Port Royal, or Annapolis Royal is now principally a tourist attraction. It was Nova Scotia's capitol until the founding of Halifax in 1749. It is situated in historic, southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada. The original site of the fort of Port Royal - Champlain's 1605 "Habitation" was taken over by the Canadian government, restored and preserved as 'Port Royal National Historic Park' established in 1940.

Zachariah Ferris must have been in his later years at the time he accepted the call of the Port Royal Expedition, for his youngest child was then about 28 years old. Before leaving he made his Will which would take care of the disposition of his house and barn, lands and other worldly goods, stating:

"In the name of God, I Zachariah Ferris Sr. of Stratford in the County of Fairfield in the colony of Connecticut in New England being by divine Providence going forth in the present expedition against the common enemy at Portroyall; and not knowing how Almighty God may please to dispose of me and being also of perfect memory, sound judgement and good understanding . . . As to my worldly goods, my whole estate, both real and personal, I give to my wife . . . during the time and term she shall continue my widow . . . and in case she marry again or dye without marrying again, then I order and desire that my home and barn and all my whole estate, that is all my lands, be sold by my overseers . . . to be divided equally amongst them my children . . ." 6

Zachariah was killed in the Expedition against Port Royal and his Will was probated April 16, 1711. Zachariah's religious commitment and faith is revealed in further statements in his Will, thus: "First, I committ and commend myself into the Arms of Divine Providence to be ordered and disposed of as He, in His wisdom, shall see cause either with respect to life or death, my soul into the Arms of a Merciful Redeemer, resting upon His meritorious Righteousness for Justification and Eternal Salvation." ⁷ That Zachariah was a worthy Christian is without doubt.

1. #93 Forward
2. ibid p. 1
3. #71 pp. 99-100
4. #93 pp. 1,2
5. #118 pp. 46, 47
6. #71 pp. 97-99
7. ibid, p. 97