



Descendants of John Swesey (From Long Island Genealogy) Who Came to America Around 1629 to 1632

John Swesey (1) is Bettie Chestnut's 9th Great Grandfather. She descended from his second son, John Swesey (2).

In 1640 John Swesey had four acres of land in Salem, allotted him on "ye mayne road" (Essex St.). This land extended easterly beyond and included English Lane and subsequently land westerly beyond Daniel's Lane. Its Southern boundary being "ye harbor". Governor Endicott, the strictest of Puritans in a Puritan colony, expelled all Baptists, Episcopalians, and Quakers. John Swesey was obliged to leave the area. He moved to Setauket on Long Island, where he stayed a short time before moving to Southold on the end of Long Island. He bought land of Rev. John Young, Pastor of the first church founded there. The deed was recorded in Southampton, Long Island.

John Swesey was later joined by his son John. He left his estate in Salem to his son Joseph. In 1650 he had 12 acres or land in Southold. Then in 1655 he went together with some other men and purchased land from the Indians that would become the site for the town of Brookhaven.

John Swesey's oldest son, Joseph, who was born in England about 1611, died in Salem

in 1709. It appears he did not follow in his father's Quaker faith. He was listed as a fisherman or mariner. He would have been living there during the witch trials in 1692. John's (1) other son John (2) was born in England about 1619, so he was about 10 when he made the voyage to America. He married in Salem around 1648 to Katherine King. She was born in England in 1625. She was the daughter of William and Dorothy King of Salem. William King, an English Puritan, age 40, with his wife Dorothy age 34, and five children: Mary age 12, Katherine age 10, William age 8, Hannah age 6 and Samuel age 2, sailed from Weymouth, Dorsetshire, England in March 1635. They settled in Salem where Mr. King was a member of the First Church at Salem and took an active part in the religious controversies of the time. He died around 1650-1651.

John (2) and his wife Katherine moved from Salem to Southold, Long Island around 1650-1652. He sold his holdings, in Salem to his wife's mother per records dated January 14, 1652. John and Katherine became members of the first church founded in Southold in 1650 by Rev. Younge.

John and Katherine had three sons, John (3) born 1651, Joseph (3) born 1653 and Samuel (3) born about 1656, and four daughters, Abigail, Mehitabel, Sarah and Mary.

In 1667 John (2) traded part of his woodland and meadow with Barnabas Horton for similar land. "Horton to pay as balance six pounds of good sheep's wool at the next shearing time. In 1675 he is taxed for one head of house, 10 acres, 2 oxen, two cows, one two-years old, one yearling. His father, John (1) was taxed for 12 acres, 6 oxen, 6 cows, one three year old bull five two year olds, one yearling, four horses, and 20 swine.

John Swesey (1) died around 1685 which would make him at least 90 years of age. He must have survived so many hardships and struggles. With the cold winters wild animals, religious persecution, Indians and lack of medical services, he must have had to rely on a lot of self determination and inner strength just to survive. The truth in "survival of the fittest" is proven for someone who lived to 90 in this early America. That many lines of families dropped by the wayside and became extinct is only proof of our assertion that those who did survive possessed the powers of resistance to every foe that beset their pathway.