

History of Jeremiah Meacham 1664

Jeremiah was the second son of Jeremiah and Margaret Meacham. He helped his father and then carried on the family weaving business at Salem, Massachusetts, after his father's death, having inherited the family fuller mill and the land that went with it.

In March, 1672, he married Mary Trask who was born August 4, 1652, at Salem. She was the daughter of Henry and Mary Southwick Trask who were historic Quaker martyrs of Salem. Mary had shared in the imprisonment with her parents which was brought on by the misunderstanding of Quaker teachings by the religionists of that day.

Mary Trask Meacham and Jeremiah had four children. Mary died in 1685.

Thirteen years after his wife's death, Jeremiah at the age of 49 married Deborah Browne, a daughter of John Browne and Esther Makepease; the marriage took place at Salem, Massachusetts, May 25, 1693.

Jeremiah and his first wife had four children. Jeremiah and his second wife had 12 children.

Jeremiah died in 14 April 1743 in Windham, Connecticut.

History of Jeremiah Meacham

The first official record of the Meacham family in America occurs in 1650 at which time Jeremiah Meacham was living at Southhold, Long Island, and in 1653 settled at East Hampton, Long Island, to do the town weaving.

Jeremiah Meacham returned to Salem in 1666. His first wife's name was Margaret; to this union were born seven children.

Margaret died during the year 1679 at Salem, Massachusetts then Jeremiah married a widow Alice (nee Douch) Dane. Her father was Osman Douch and her first husband was Dr. John Dane. She died in May, 1704, at Salem, Massachusetts.

Jeremiah is believed to have been born in Somersetshire, England in 1613 or 1614. He died November 11, 1696, at Salem, Massachusetts.

Although the first official record of Jeremiah occurs in 1650, the seemingly authentic tradition exists that he left England between 1630 and 1642 with the great fleet of Governor Wentworth and Dudley, under an assumed name, and with two companions of the Hawkins family.

Jeremiah was a weaver by trade through his lifetime and may have been the weaver who is listed among the passengers of the Fleet, particularly as the said weaver had no subsequent record and is not mentioned in any of the published genealogies of the weaver families of Massachusetts or of New York.

The family tradition is clearly traceable as has been told by Rebecca Hawkins Meacham, wife of Jeremiah Meacham (b 1698) who was

the son of John Meacham, who was the son of Jeremiah Meacham (b 1644), who was the son of Jeremiah Meacham.

In 1679 Margaret, beloved wife of Jeremiah, passed away at Salem at the approximate age of 62, which was a moderately long life for pioneer women in those days. Jeremiah, being a man of great stamina, outlived Margaret more than 27 years.

Jeremiah was 81 years old at the time of his death on November 11, 1696, and left a substantial inheritance for his heirs.

Rebecca Meacham Hawkins Meacham told her son Captain William Meacham, who was killed at the battle of Bunkerhill in 1776. Captain Meacham told his wife Sarah, who in turn, after many years repeated it from memory and with some errors, to her son William, who ultimately incorporated it in a letter to one of the sons of John Meacham a younger brother of his father, as follows:

'Port Henry, New York, November 2, 1857

'The Meacham family came from the West of England sometimes about the year 1630. Governor Wentworth, Gov. Dudley, Sir Richard Saltonstall, succeeded each other in the Government of a Colony who settled at a place called by the Indians Naumkeag, now Salem, Massachusetts. Two families of Meacham Came out with one of these Governors, some one of the years between 1630-1642, with many other families and settled at Naumkeag (Salem), Massachusetts.

Whether these young men were married at the time I know not. A family of Hawkins came out from England, County Somerset, at the same time as the Meachams all from near the City of Bristol on the borders of Wales.

My grandmothers's name was Rebecca Hawkins, whether born in England or America, I do not know; but her parents were Welsh. My mother's name was Sarah Cook before her marriage, a descent out of the New Haven colony so called.

'The Meacham family now residing on the borders of Wales are amongst the ancient and honorable families in the West of England.

'In 1815 Robert Meacham Esq. was on the old Homestead. Had two sons in the Royal Guard, one a Captain William Meacham, the other Lieutenant Jeremiah Meacham, and they were at the Battle of Plattenburg. From them I got this information after the peace.

Signed, William Meacham'

Abstract of Will of Jeremiah I

In the name of God Amen this Twelfth day of April 1694, I Jeremiah Meacham of the Towne of Salem.... Clothier being very Ancient being about 81 years of age... do make... this my Last will and Testament... and this only to be taken for my last will and Testament and no other;

1 - I give and commit my Soul to Almighty God... in whom and by the merits of Jesus Christ I trust and believe assuredly to be saved... and for the Settling of my Temporal Estate.. I so... dispose of the Same in manner and form following... I will that all those debts and dues as I owe in Right of Conscience to any manor of person or persons Whatsoever Shall be well and truly paid and contented or ordained to be paid and Contented in Convenient time after my decease by my Excutir hereafter named.

2 - My Wife Margaret being Deceased I do order... my son Jeremiah to take care of my now wife Alice and to provide for her in Sickness and in health... necessaries needful... for her Comfortable being in this world during her natural life according to her quality.

3 - I give unto my son Isaac after my decease the Sume of Twenty Shillings.

4 - My daughter Rhodia being deceased my will and desire is ... her Son Samuel West Shall have... five pounds.

5 - My will and desire is that none of my children or their Children shall diminish or take away without Leve from my Executor... any part or parcell of my Estate before it be settled and divided... which if any do it shall be accounted as double to that person do doing.

6 - I give unto my Son Jeremiah Meacham his Heirs and assigns: my fulling mill with all Lands housing and previledges... Thereunto belonging and my Son Jeremiah Meacham is to pay the Rest of my children in pay equivalent as my Estate Shall be valued at what the Said Mills Lands Housing shall be valued at more that his proportionable part Cometh to -

7 - I give unto all my children or their Children the parents being deceased all the remaining part of my Estate to be equally amongst them.

8 - I Constitute and appoint my Son Jeremiah Meacham to be my whole Executor and he to have a diligent care of his mother-in-Law my now Wife Alice and to provide for her Comfortable being in this

world according to her age and Station and to keep an account of what he shall Legally... lay out upon her but neither he nor any of the Rest of my children are any waies... then for her Use to dispose of any of my Estate till after her decease -

In Witness... I Jeremiah Meacham have hereunto Sett my hand and Seal this Twelfth day of April 1694.

Jeremiah J. Meacham & Seal

his mark

Wit: Daniel Webb

Christopher Phelps

his mark

Francis Neale

Proved 18 November 1695 Essex Co., Probate Records.

His inventory amounted to 254 pds 13 s 8 d.

On the 24 June 1696, Jeremiah Meacham of Salem and his brother Isaac Meacham of Enfield, Connecticut, made an agreement they having made a previous arrangement, with their mother-in-law to pay her ten pounds a year during her widowhood and the estate to be divided. Each brother was bonded for the other, Isaac's surety being Jeremiah Neale and Jeremiah Meacham's being John Trask.

The rest of the children then made an agreement with Jeremiah and Isaac, about the division, the document being signed 26 June 1696.