History of Joseph Arnold

Joseph Arnold was born probably in England, about 1630; and died 22 October 1691 at Haddam, Connecticut. He married, about 1660, Elizabeth Wakeman, who was born in Roxbury, Massachusetts, about 1633 and died in Haddam Connecticut about 1696. Arnold was listed as a freeman on "ye south side of Hartford, October 1669". The inventory of his estate was taken 2 March 1691/2 by Daniel Braynard and Timothy Spencer. A court record of 21 July 1692 gave administration of his estate to his widow and Joseph and Josiah Arnold. The children, with ages of each, were given as follows; John, age 29; Joseph, 26; Samuel, 23; Josiah, 21; Susannah, 16; Jonathan, 12; and Elizabeth, 9. The estate settlement agreed to by the children on 30 March, 1693, made no provision for their mother so the court approved same with the condition "that", although she be maried, "this court confirms the agreement with the condition that if the woman see cause she shall have her thirds of the profits during life, the agreement to the contrary notwithstanding". She married Deacon Daniel Brainerd the same day the agreement was made. Joseph Arnold was a Freeman in Hartford in 1658. He was a member of the First Church in Hartford by virtue of which his son, Joseph was baptized in the New Haddam Church on 3 July 1698. He was among the first settlers at Haddam and was there before 7 December 1667 when a town vote approving the site of the proposed new meeting house described it as "lying againsts the end of the home lot of Joseph Arnold that he now dwells in". Judging by the will of his father he was not living in Hartford when the will was written, 22 August 1664, but may have resided there for a short time in later years. He was a prominent man in early Haddam. He served as Deputy to the General Court in five sessions during the years 1689, 1690 and 1691 and otherwise was prominently identified with town and church affairs.

Court Records Regarding Estate of Joseph Arnold

An agreement by the Children to settle their Father's Estate: John, Joseph & Jonathan to receive 11 pds each. Samuel has his portion by a Deed of Gift of Land from his Father at Machamoodus. Josiah to have 118 pds out of this, to pay 10 pds apiece to his two sisters and to pay all the debts. There being no provision for the wife, although she be married this Court confirmes the Ageement with the caution that if the woman see Cause she shall have her thirds of the profits during life, the agreement to the Contrary notwithstanding.