

Twelve Generations
Of
Huestis
From
Robert of Dorset, England
In 1595
To
The year 2006

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1. The thorough and scholarly work of Gordon L. Remington, F. U.G. A, “ Robert Huestis of Westchester County: his Ancestry and Descendants”, published in the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, Vol. 29, Number 1, January 1998, et. Seq.¹
2. “History of the County of Westchester, from Its First Settlement to the Present Time”, by Robert Bolton, Jr.; Printed by Alexander S. Gould, 144 Nassau Street, 1848 (hereinafter: “Bolton”). The “Family Crest” shown at Appendix 8 is from the description thereof in Bolton Vol. II, page 523
3. E-Mail documentation and correspondence between the Author and Patrick Chefalo. The Author is considerably in his debt for all his research and efforts. He reports that his wife was born in Madison County, Illinois, “but is of an allied line”—not further specified.
4. E-Mail information provided by Penny Morgan regarding the descendants of Benjamin Huestis (brother of the Author’s great grandfather, Daniel) born 1799, and Catharine Ward, married December 8th 1821.
5. Extensive E-Mail data provided by Douglas Huestis, born 1925, about the descendants of Thomas Huestis “of New Brunswick”, a son of Joshua Huestis and Abigail Barker, and brother of Benjamin, who was the father of my great grandfather, Daniel.
6. The family Bible records of Daniel Huestis (born Oct. 28th 1809, died “spring 1905 aged 95 yrs 5 mo. 5 days”) published by B. Waugh and T. Mason for the Methodist Episcopal Church, at the Conference Office, 200 Mulberry Street. J. Collord, Printer 1834. It is in the possession of the Author as of this writing.
7. Family documents inherited by the Author. These include two family tree “Charts”; these are presumed to have been prepared by my Aunt Eugenia Huestis Mackiernan sometime in the middle 1930s and are based extensively on “Bolton”. The documents also include various newspaper and other publications and some correspondence and documents that were the property of my father: Dr. Charles B. Huestis. These include a 1937 pamphlet “Who’s Who in the Huestis Family” by Thomas B. Huestis. These documents will be cited with some frequency in the latter part of our story.

¹ Hereinafter referred to simply as “Remington”. This is a five-installment work and page citings are from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record Vol. 129, Number 1, beginning in January 1998 & concluding in January 1999.

INTRODUCTION

This narrative about the descendants of Robert Huestis² of Dorset, England down through the union of Joshua Huestis (died 1781) and Abigail Barker is based almost exclusively on Remington. He does not pursue the lineage beyond Joshua Huestis and Abby Barker. The story told herein about the descendants of Joshua and Abby specifically concerns a line of their son Benjamin Huestis and Hannah Higby. It follows descendants of their son Daniel. That line is traced to the present. I make limited reference to other descendants of Joshua and Abby and of Benjamin and Hannah in an effort to establish some connections among those other lines of descent. My recitation of the line of Joshua/ Abby is based on Bolton and the work of others cited in the Acknowledgements above.

All quotations, and they are extensive, antedating the Joshua/Abigail Barker narrations are from Remington, unless otherwise specifically stated. Remington effectively disputes the Huestis lineage as described in Bolton's 1848 "History of the County of Westchester"; therefore Bolton's work involving that time is only cited where Remington is consistent with him; or where Bolton's commentary is not disputed. Family documents in the Author's possession about the early Robert/James, et al, and Huestis in Westchester County are based on Bolton and reflect the confusion that is dispelled by Remington's work. Those documents are, however, reasonably consistent with other information I have been given about the descendants of Samuel Huestis, if you substitute Samuel for "James" in the Bolton recitation. We will sort all that out at the appropriate time in this story.

I make no pretense of having conducted independent research and freely admit to relying on the hard work of others. My narrative is merely an effort to simplify the genealogical account of Robert Huestis of Dorset as set forth by Remington as it pertains to a particular line of descent from Joshua and Abby through such of the present as is known to me in the year 2006. It is not to be considered a definitive or scholarly work and I apologize to any and all for such errors as may occur in my retelling of the tale. For the sake of simplicity, rather than academic accuracy, I am going to take much of what Remington properly relates as conjecture or inferred as factual and proceed on that basis. When occasionally I drift off into my own speculations, I will try to so label them as such, or at least make it self-evident. The record from Joshua and Abby is based on family records and information provided by others cited above. For material presented about the line down from Daniel Huestis and Mary Dixon (married Feb 24th 1841), I stand behind the narrative because it is based on some census data, family records and oral history related directly to the Author, and some personal knowledge.

² The "Huestis" spelling is used generically and solely for convenience. It includes variants as cited in "Remington", and others. Various spellings are used in the Dorset origins material to show probably related family lines involving "Robert of Dorset". Other spellings in quoted material are as shown therein, or noted, "sic", if appropriate.

“Huestis” Name Origins

The following narration about the origin of the name is from a series of typed manuscripts in the possession of the Author. These manuscripts are unsigned and undated; but are essentially identical to that found in a bound manuscript entitled “Who’s Who in the Huestis Family” prepared by Thomas B. Huestis³ in 1937. (We will discuss another aspect of Thomas’ manuscript and his correspondence at the appropriate place below.) These documents came to me from my father, Dr. Charles Brown Huestis (b. 1895). They point toward the English name “Eustace” and that it is derived from the French “Eustache”. It is speculated that it originally came from St. Eustatius, an early Christian Saint, and its counterpart in several European languages. This Saintly origin, however, provides no clue whatsoever as to origins preceding what *is* known. For all that can be proved, the “Huestis” may have been native Celts and lived in southwest England long before the Norman times; but there is probably some French influence on the name. What is known is that the “Huestis” were living in England in the 16th Century—and that is where we will begin.

We are admonished about telling a story that: “You should start at the beginning and when you come to the end: stop”.

ROBERT OF DORSET, Origins and the Years in England

Let us start at the beginning with what Remington has discovered about Robert Huestis, in Dorset, England. We know that he departed from Weymouth, England on March 20th 1635 aboard an unnamed vessel headed for New England. This ship was heavily populated by followers of Rev. Joseph Hull, sometimes called the Hull Quakers, with origins around Somerset and who settled in Weymouth, Mass. The passenger list of that vessel shows: “Robert Hustis, (sic) Husbandman, 40” He was probably not one of the followers of Hull, and was aboard for reasons of his own. Other reports cite Robert “Husted” as being in the company of Andrew Hallett on that ship. For purposes of this story, I will simply presume that these two reports are about the same man and work back a little ways on that assumption. Precisely where Robert of Dorset came from is a bit problematical. There are wide variations/mutations of the name “Huestis” in Dorset.

These are listed in detail in Remington at pages 194 and 5, July 1998 installment; but are worth *abbreviated* recitation here:

16th Century

- 1525 Turners Puddel, tithing, Joan Eustace
- 1525 Sydlling, St. Niclolas (Modbury), Richard Eustas
- 1529 Oakely, Thos Ustace

³ This Thomas Huestis corresponded with my father, Dr. Huestis, in 1940. He (Thomas) was an Attorney in the firm of Lockwood, Goldsmith and Galt in the Fletcher Trust Building in Indianapolis, Indiana at the time. In that correspondence, he introduces himself to Dr. Huestis as a descendant of “(m)y own Revolutionary Ancestor, Aristides of Westmoreland, N. H... whose father Caleb was probably a brother of your ancestor Joshua.” The research since that time confirms that relationship.

1539 Shepton (Gorge), Jn. Ustace
1542 Up Sydling, Rica. Hughstys
1545 Loder, Loders, John Eustace, church warden
1545 Uploders, John Eustace
1594 *Askerswell, John Hustes*
1594 *Compton Valence, William Hustis*
(*Emphasis added, see discussion below!*)

17th Century

1628 Whitechurch, Hundred, Pillesdon Parrish, Robert Hewstis [by copy]
(Remington has an interesting footnote [# 126] in which he seems to tie Robert to this property.)
1628 Eggardon Askerswell Parriah, John Hewstes and Angell Symes
1640 Bridport Div, Whitechurch, *Pilston Parrish, Henry Hustis (also spelled Hustice)* in other records
1640 Cerne, Whiteway Hundred Ibberton, John Hustace
1662-64 Heath tax records:
Dorchester, Widow Hustis
Shaston, Charles Eustace
Shelborne, Ibberton, John Hewstes and Richard Hewstes
Blandford, James Eustace
Bridport, *Henry Hustes*

The name "Hustis" and its variants in western Dorset County are considerably more germane to the story. Here Remington is quoted in its *entirety* (pages 195-6). Capitals and spelling are as in original Remington.

Parish of Stoke Abbott

Marrages: Richardous Canterbury & Ellinora Hewstes 22 June 1613

Parish of Loders

Marriages John Tutchin and Joan Hewstes were Married November 9th [1646]
Burials Katharine Heustis was buried ye 28th day of November 1641
Jane Hewsties vid was buried Mar 13 [1643/44]
Margaret hustes was byuried the 23 day of Maye [1660]
Tamse hustes was buyried the 6 day of February [1662-63]

Parish of Powerstock

Burials- Mary Hiustes 3 December 1605

Parish of Symondsburry

Mariages- William Duncat and Margaret Huistice were married 28 of June [1626]

Parish of Abbotsbury

Marriages- William Hewstis and Dorothy Oliver 28 October 1617

Parish of Bridport

*Baptisms- [1617 August] Morgan the sonne of Robert Hustis was peptized the tenth day
[1618/19 March] Anne the daughter of Robert Hustis was baptized the xiii Day*

[1621 September] Deanes the daughter of Robert Hustis was baptized the xxiii day
Marriages- [1616 April] Robert Hewstis and Anne Moon were married on the sixth day.
Burials- [1621/22 February] Anne the wief of Robert Hewghstis was buried the first day.
(Italics added)

What does all this listing mean?

It is related only to show that a fairly large contingent of “Huestis” lived in Dorset County in the late 1500s and well in to the 1600s, and they all lived in fairly close proximity to one another. It seems indisputable that Robert of Dorset was born circa. 1595, though where he was born remains unknown. There is some data around that speculates he was born in Somerset, though while certainly possible, this seems problematical. It is perhaps more useful to think he may have been a son of either John Hustes of Askerswell, or William Hustis of Compton Valence. (See above listing) I find it interesting that William Hustis was taxed at Compton Valence in 1594 (the year before Robert was born), and that a William Hewstis (another son of William?) was married in Abbotsbury in 1617; a year after Robert wed Anne Moon in Bridport. The inference that they (William and Robert) were brothers makes some sense. If this is true, Robert of Dorset was the son of William of Compton Valence. His birth year is fully consistent with his cited age (40) when he left Weymouth in 1635. He married Anne Moon on April 6th 1616 in Bridport when he was about 21 years old. They had the three children cited in the Baptisms listed above before Anne died in late January of 1622. Of their children not more is known, though we will speculate about Anne (baptized March 1619) a bit later. As noted above, Remington postulates (and I proceed as fact) that Robert of Dorset is the “Robert Hewstis” taxed at “Whitechurch Hundred, Pillesdon Parish in 1628”. There is other evidence that Robert resided in and around Pillesdon Parish during that time. It is clear from subsequent documents in New England that Robert married an Elizabeth _____ who was probably born in Pillesdon, Dorset. There is no existing record of this marriage, though it would appear that it was within a year or so of Anne’s death. Remington goes to considerable length to dispel the allegation that this Elizabeth was a “Miller”. Other sources that show his birthplace to be “Somerset” also show he married an Elizabeth Miller. This “Miller” issue continues: if you “Google” Robert Huestis, you will get data referring to Miller, or parenthetically “Angell”—that only confuses the matter further. Remington makes a convincing rebuttal; however, for the sake of simplicity, and conformance with the current conventional, even if inaccurate, wisdom let us take as fact that Robert’s second wife, Elizabeth, was Elizabeth Miller. Robert and Elizabeth had three children:

1. Angell, born ca.1624, d. between April 5th and 19th 1706 in Greenwich Conn.

Angell “Husted” is not the subject of this recitation so his two marriages and his children: Jonathan, David, Joseph, Angell, Elizabeth, John, Samuel and Moses are not further discussed, though the line is extensive. He is generally credited as the founder of the “Husted” line in the United States.

2. Ann, b. ca. 1626, died in Stamford Conn. Dec 13th 1707, as “widow Hardy”. She married Richard Hardy about 1644. Richard died in Stamford on May 2nd 1684. Their children were: Elizabeth, Hannah, Susanna, Sarah, Ruth, Samuel (b.1657), Mary (b. April 30th 1659), and Abigail.

There has been some speculation that this “Ann” is the same person as “Anne” who was baptized on March 13th 1619. While this is chronologically possible, and is pleasant to romanticize about, it does seem unlikely. Still, it could be. After all, the child Anne would have been only about four years old when Angell was born; and perhaps as young as two when Elizabeth and Robert were married.

3. Robert, b. ca. 1628, probably in Pillesdon, England. It is this “Robert” with whom we will contend later in this narrative, and we will refer to him hereafter as “Robert of Westchester”.

It seems evident that Robert and his relations in Dorset were property owners and worked the land for a living. They were probably reasonably successful and so Robert was able to land in New England other than penniless. When Robert of Dorset boarded ship at Weymouth in 1635 he left Elizabeth and the children in Dorset, presumably with relatives—perhaps a brother William Hewstis and his wife Dorothy Oliver who were married 28 October 1617 in Parish of Abbotsbury. In any event, his family joined him in New England some time before January 1640, how much before 1640 is unknown.

(As an aside to this story there is record [source: Thomas B. Huestis’ 1937 manuscript: “Who’s Who in the Huestis Family”] that there were two other “Huestis” who came to New England in the 1600’s. The earliest was “Richard Ewstead [who] came to Salem [Mass.] in 1629 in the fleet with Higginson” [Thomas Huestis credits “Savage, Genealogical Dictionary of New England”.] He goes on to say that nothing further is known of him; but that the “fleet” came from England and he was probably English. He further speculates that he [Richard] may be the father of “William”. This “William” died in 1694; but first shows up in 1659 when the birth of a son is recorded in Chelsea, Mass., and he was a taxpayer in “Romney Marsh”. His descendants never used the “H” and usually spelled the name “Eustis”. One of his descendants was a William [1753-1825] who was surgeon on General Washington’s Staff, and later Governor of Massachusetts. There is reason to believe that Ft. Eustis, Va. is named for him. This “aside” is provided for information only. There is no evidence that these individuals were measurably related to “Robert of Dorset” You will note that this Huestis spelling, without the “H”, is largely missing from the Dorset data given by Remington. Conversely, there is nothing to suggest that Richard or William came from some *other* part of England.)

ROBERT OF DORSET, His Years in New England/Connecticut

From the date of his landing in New England until 1640, there is no information about Robert. It is reasonable to speculate that he was in the Boston area, not far from Weymouth where his shipmates in the Hull party settled. The first written record of Robert of Dorset appears when he was granted land in “Mount Wollaston”, later known as Braintree, Mass.—future hometown of President John Adams and his wife Abigail.

“ALSO ROBERT HEWSTEAD HAD A GREAT LOT GRANTED UNTO HIM ATT THE MOUNT FOR EIGHT HEADS, 32 ACRES, PAYINGE 3S. AN ACRE, TO THE USE OF THE TOWNE UPON THE ENTRANCE OF THE BOUNDERS THEREOF, AFTER THE SURVEYING OF IT.”

This grant was made on “the 27th day of the 11th month, January 1639[40]”. It is on the basis of this “grant” that we presume his family had joined him because it seems unlikely that a single male would have made this investment, or gained this grant. Whether or not he and his family ever actually took up this property is unknown; but there is no record of him selling it. By July 18th he was in Greenwich, Conn. where his name shows up witnessing a deed. This was, in those days, a pretty long trip from Braintree, Mass. to Greenwich, Conn. Why did he go there? There is no record; however it is interesting that on the north coast of Long Island Sound, on the way to Greenwich from Braintree, there are the towns of Bridgeport and Devon. Had some of his relatives, or countrymen, from County Dorset arrived there?

In any event, Robert of Dorset seems now to have pretty much settled down in the southeast corner of Connecticut with his wife and children. In October 1642 Robert obtained seven acres at Stamford. (He had some money from somewhere and despite the lack of record; he must have sold his Braintree property.) He evidently continued to prosper, because on October 5th 1648 “Robert Husted of Stamford” bought thirty-one acres and a home in Greenwich from Andrew Messenger. He probably lived there, at least for a time. On Sept 18th 1649 he was lead signator in a letter to Governor Stuyvesant of New Netherlands dealing with some land disputes. In this letter the residents of Greenwich were supporting the claim of William Hallett, who originated from Bridport, Dorset. Remington speculates that the Robert and the Halletts may have been previously acquainted and the Halletts may have come to Greenwich influenced by Robert. (It seems to me more logical that it was the other way around: Robert was attracted to the area from Braintree by the Halletts, perhaps because of his 1635 shipmate Andrew. I need some reason for Robert’s seemingly precipitous departure from Braintree with his wife and children in tow.) Because of these land disputes it is unclear exactly where Robert actually lived. As noted above, he lived in Greenwich in 1649. However, he moved back to Stamford. An inventory of his land in Stamford on March 6th 1651 shows that he owned two house lots and some thirty acres of fields and meadows there. He continued to hold title to his Greenwich property and willed them to his son Angell Husted.

Robert’s will was written on July 8th 1652 and “legally proved at Stamford 4th Nouem’ 1654”. His wife Elizabeth’s will was written October 16th 1654 and proved on November 20th. Their wills are copied and attached in Appendix 1, “The Wills” to this narrative. They are recited to illustrate how meager the possessions of even reasonably prosperous people were at that time. We thus have a year, but not precise date, of death for Robert of Dorset who was born in 1595 in England, came to New England in 1635 and died in 1654 at Stamford Connecticut, age about 59.

We will now turn our attention to his son Robert Huestis “of Westchester”.

ROBERT OF WESTCHESTER

Before we continue with Robert of Westchester, a little historical context about New Netherlands is appropriate. In September of 1609, when Robert of Dorset was about 14, Henry Hudson anchored the “Half Moon” at an inlet near what is now the Bronx and only a little south of Westchester, NY. By 1614 the Dutch had done considerable exploration and established trading posts up and down that part of the coasts and claimed a huge swath of land between the Delaware and Connecticut Rivers. For our purposes, take note that this explicitly included most of the North shore of Long Island Sound and environs. On April 22nd 1625, three years before “Robert of Westchester” was born in Dorset County England, the town of New Amsterdam was founded on Manhattan Island. From there Dutch settlers pushed north toward Westchester and onto Long Island. By 1643 New Amsterdam was pretty much the “melting pot” that New York City was to later inherit. The City was an amalgam of Dutch reformists, English Axillaries (to help fend off the Indians), Swedes from Delaware, Indian traders, blacks from the Caribbean; and, as we have already seen, English settlers, including the Huestis’, were in the northern reaches of the New Amsterdam area. For instance: by 1642 the “Borough town of Westchester”, now in the Bronx, was settled as “oostdorp” (East Towne) on land claimed by Thomas Pell. We will take special interest in this area and the Pell’s lands later on as we deal with Robert of Westchester’s son Samuel. New Netherlands had a succession of Governors of limited competence, but trade flourished. On May 11th 1647 Peter Stuyvesant took control of New Netherlands.⁴ That is the reason that he was the addressee of the 1649 letter signed by Robert of Dorset that we related above. New Netherlands was in a very difficult position. It was sandwiched in between the English colonists in Virginia and those coming down from New England. During this entire period there were varying degrees of rivalry, and even an Anglo/Dutch war in 1653-4. The New Netherlands was more or less a pawn in this rivalry, but the English settlements continued to grow and by 1641 English settlers were more prevalent on Long Island, and of course in the Stamford/Greenwich area, than the Dutch—even though the area was under the administrative jurisdiction of Stuyvesant’s New Amsterdam. It was ten years after Robert of Westchester inherited lands in Stamford that in the spring of 1664 King Charles II of England granted to his brother James (Duke of Albany and York) a vast swath of land “from the western boundary of Connecticut to the eastern shores of Delaware Bay”. In September, the Duke sent a task force under Richard Nichols to enforce this grant—which of course was pretty much the original claimed boundaries of New Netherlands. The populated area in contention was largely New Amsterdam and its outliers. After resisting, verbally, Stuyvesant (on September 8th 1664) signed a treaty that relinquished his Authority; and New Netherlands became New York, though much of the Dutch Administrative control remained in place until 1668.

What of “Robert of Westchester” during this time and after? Let us see what Remington has unearthed for us—and he has done a yeoman’s job of it! Bolton’s work contains a

⁴ It is an interesting footnote to American History that it was Stuyvesant who conducted the first municipal elections held in what became the United States of America.

good deal of specific information about Robert's civic service to Westchester, and we will duly note that contribution to this story.

Robert was born about 1628 probably in Pilsden, County of Dorset, England, the second son of Robert of Dorset and Elizabeth (Miller?) Huestis. In Stamford, Connecticut on January 9th 1656 Robert of Westchester married Elizabeth Buxton⁵. Robert died on November 24th 1704 in Westchester, New York, age approximately 76. Elizabeth's dates of birth and death are deduced from other life date and are approximately as follows: Born around 1639, died sometime, but presumably not a lot, before April 11th 1711.⁶

By 1662 Robert and Elizabeth, with two children, were living in "oost-dorp" (East Towne) in Westchester. On April 11th of that year Robert and five others were nominated to Peter Stuyvesant for approval as town magistrates. (See also Bolton II at Page 162.)⁷ However the "oost-dorp"/ Westchester jurisdiction was disputed between English Connecticut and Dutch New Netherlands. On October 8th 1663 Robert "Huested" and six others were made "freemen of the Colony of Connecticut" so it seems to have been resolved in England's favor. This entire matter of jurisdiction became moot a year later when New Netherlands became New York. However, the "freeman of the Colony" designation seemed to have some importance. Bolton also discusses this, Vol. II, Page 169. For some thirty years during the period 1663 to about 1692 Robert was active in civic affairs of Westchester. He is specifically cited in several land "patents" and civic documents. Remington summarizes some of this for us in his work, at pages 203 and 204. In that summary it is noted that when Westchester was created a Borough Town in April 1696 "Robert Senr" (indicating that his son Robert "Jr." was there), and (his son) Samuel Huestis were named among the first common councilmen. This is related in some detail in Bolton's recording of the "Royal Charter", granted April 16th 1696. "Caleb Heathcote, mayor of the borough town of Westchester", administered oaths of office on June 16th 1696. (Bolton II page 196.) This is the first we hear of his son Samuel with whom we will become primarily concerned later on. Bolton provides other specific documentation in Vol. II at pages 169 through 196 regarding Robert "Senr's" roles. In Bolton's data it is of some note that the land holdings of Thomas Pell are being defined. This is of importance to us a little later in our story. In Bolton's discussion of this time we also run across some family names that will appear again in the next generation or two: Ferris, Pinkney, Palmer, and Mollenaux; in addition to Pell.

In any event, Robert and Elizabeth prospered and produced a sum of ten children. We will visit them briefly at the end of this section. A table of these children is attached to this narrative as "Appendix 2, Robert of Westchester's Children". As we have seen, he

⁵ This marriage is 298 years, to the day, preceding the wedding of Charles Dixon Huestis and Virginia Rea Holloway in Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska.

⁶ Elizabeth Buxton is assumed to be the daughter of Clement Buxton. Clement and Robert of Dorset were neighbors at one time, so in a sense, Robert "married the girl next door".

⁷ It is interesting that in those Bolton Pages, and after, the name of "Richard Mills" appears. It seems that he was functioning as a sort of "County Clerk" and transcribed various records. He is later described as a "leading magistrate of Westchester". It is fair to assume that this is the same Richard Mills who witnessed the Will of Elizabeth (Miller?) Huestis in 1654. We will encounter the name "Richard Mills" again about 1875, in a very different context.

was one of the early settlers in Westchester and participated in divisions of land there in 1666 as a ‘freeholder’. By 1675 he was taxed for nineteen acres of upland and seventeen acres of meadow in Westchester. Thus, ranking 6th of 41 assessed inhabitants. In addition he held on to at least some of his land inheritances from Robert of Dorset. On Feb 9th 1677 as “Robert Hustis of Westchester in the North Riding in the jurisdiction of York” he sold his home lot in Stamford to Daniel Westcot and Joseph Webb. He and Elizabeth were involved in numerous land transactions, and some litigation, in these years. Remington gives us some details of these trades and taxations. In 1686 Robert was one of the “freeholders” given allotments of “undivided common land”. He was one of eight freeholders allotted £100 shares; and as we shall shortly see, he split some of them among his sons. Only three of the freeholders received greater allotments. In May 1687 these freeholders decided that a sheep pasture, the “Long Reach”, should be divided with four acres for each £25 share. Robert was given lot number 19. He made several land exchanges with other “freeholders”.

Some time before Sept 28th 1673, and perhaps as early as 1672, Robert embraced Quakerism. On that September date he and seven other Quakers in Westchester pledged not to take up arms against the Dutch. This sounds like an empty gesture in the face of Stuyvesant’s September 1664 turn over of New Netherlands to the Duke of York. However, hostilities had resumed in Europe and on August 8th 1673 a Dutch fleet showed up in New York, and the province reoccupied. This was a short-lived interlude and the Treaty of Westminster, signed on February 9th 1674, returned New York to English rule. In Flushing area quarterly Quaker Meetings in 1684 and ‘85 “Robt Hustis” contributed two shillings toward the quarterly collection. Remington speculates that Robert was influenced by Quakerism by missionary’s visits to the Rye by 1682, and there is no reason to dispute that. But: was he susceptible to these missionaries by stories of his father’s sailing with the Hull Quakers in 1635, and his time in the Braintree/Weymouth area of Mass.?? Remington has an interesting footnote (#168 on page 202) in which he notes that the “younger children” followed Robert into Quakerism, while the “older children” did not. The terms “younger” and “older” are not defined, however Daughter Abigail, born ca. 1670 is the first of his children shown as a birth in the “Flushing Monthly Meeting” of the Quakers there. It is a reasonable speculation, by the Author, that this Quaker influence continued on for a century or so as the Huestis’ did not seem to involve themselves much in the American Revolution.

By 1694 when he was about 66, an advanced age for those times, he began dividing his land holdings among his sons, for “love and affection”. These distributions are worth listing (from Remington) at this point.

September 8th 1694 to Robert Huestis, Junior, 5½ acres of upland and one acre of salt meadow in Westchester;

On July 31st 1701 to *Samuel* Huestis three acres of land in Westchester;

On August 7th 1702 to his son Jonathan Huestis his £25 privilege in the commonage, with 17 acres “belonging to the same”—that is four acres in the sheephires and ten acres in the Long Reach and three additional acres;

On May 22nd 1704 to John Huestis five acres of land and a £25 privilege in the commonage;

On June 17th 1704 to David Huestis, the house and homestead in Westchester with the orchard, barn, and out-housing and an adjoining seven acres, twelve acres of upland in the old planting field on Froggs Neck, three acres of Salt Meadow on the south side of Stony Brook, and a £25 privilege of commonage.

In order to have a more complete picture of Robert and Elizabeth “of Westchester”, it is necessary to record here what Remington gives us at Page 205 as a listing of their children. The following is transcribed from Remington, with bracket [] comments by the Author:

- i. Robert, b. say 1658, in either Stamford of Westchester d. unm[arried] in Westchester between 28 Nov. and 17 Deca. 1718
- ii. Moses, b. say 1660, d. unm. Between 16 and 30 Nov. in Salem Co., N.J. [The portion of Remington that reports Moses’ will is transcribed in Appendix 1, “The Wills”.]
- iii. Sarah, b. say 1663, m. Richard Betts, Jr. of Newtown, Queens Co., [Remington has a curious footnote #197 about the marriage of Sarah into the Betts line, and notes the series of given names listed below. These given names recur often in subsequent generations] son of Richard [Betts] and Joanna (Chamberlain) Betts. Children: Richard, b about 1685-86 (died 1742), Robert, Thomas, Sarah, Elizabeth, Joanna, Abigail, Mary.
- iv. Mary, b. say 1665, d. after 28 Nov 1718. She m. by 1686 Edward Collier, Town Clerk of Westchester, who was b. about 1648 and d. between 5 may 1707 and 17 Feb. 1709/10. Children: Elizabeth, Mary.
- v. *Samuel, b. say 1667, m. by 1701 Elizabeth Pell* [It is this Samuel who is of particular interest in this story.]
- vi. Abigail, b. say 1670, died 4th day of 6th month (4 Aug.) 1743 [Reported by footnote 208, page 206 in Remington as at the “Flushing {Quaker} Monthly Meeting.] m. (lica.) 24 Dec 1695 Josiah Hunt, Jr. Children: Jacob b. 19 mo. 6 da (6 Nov) 1696; Rebekah, b. 1 mo. 25 day (25 Mar.) 1698; Caleb, b. 10 mo, 10 day (10 Deca.) 1699; Ester, b 5 mo. 1 day (1 Aug) 1701; Rachel, b. 1 mo. 6 day (6 Mar) 1703/04; Solomon, b. 2mo. 6 day (6Apr) 1705; Tabitha, b. 7 mo. 25 day (25 Sept.) 1707 Lidiah, b. 8 mo. 22 dat (22 Oct.) 1710.
- vii. John, b. say 1672 d. unm. before 3 July 1737. [This is some significance later in our story.]
- viii. Elizabeth, b. say 1674, m. 30 day 9 mo. (30 Nov.) 1692 Horseman Mollenex/Mullinex of Mamaroneck. Children: Moses, b 7 mo. 8 day (8 Sept.) 1693, John, b. 5 mo. 7 day (7 July) 1695.
- ix. Jonathan, b. say 1679. m. Mary Blandreth [April 9th 1709]. They went from Westchester to Eversham, New Jersey.
- x. David, b. ca. 1683-84, m. Mary Haight [April 13th 1711; died 1758].

Robert Huestis of Westchester made his will on November 19th 1704. It is transcribed in Appendix 1, “The Wills”. He died some four days later in Westchester about age 76. There is no record of a will for his wife Elizabeth Buxton Huestis who is surmised to have died after Robert, but some time before 1711 because she is *not* shown as present at the wedding of her son David that year.

We can now turn our attention to the Third generation of Huestis' in New England. We are concerned here primarily with the life of Robert of Westchester's third son Samuel.

Samuel of "Pelham Manor & Long Reach"⁸

First it is necessary to try to untangle what Bolton reported in 1848 at Vol. II, page 522, and was the conventional wisdom until Remington's more recent research. We will then try to show the discrepancies and correct the lineage based on Remington's efforts. Only once this correction has been made can we pursue "Samuel of Pelham Manor & Long Reach".

Let us begin to try untangling the history by going over what Bolton reported in 1848 at Page 522 of Vol. II of his work. Let's do this in tabular form, quoting as accurately as necessary:

HUESTIS OR EUSTIS. (My notations in brackets [])

"Robert Huestis removed from Fairfield to Westchester about 1664. [We have seen above that he and Elizabeth [Buxton] were in Westchester as early as 1662; and that they probably came from Stamford.]

By his wife Elizabeth, he had [sons]: Robert, John, Samuel and David. [In addition there were female children listed just above, plus Moses and Jonathan.]

James, *whether connected with Robert or not, is uncertain*, [emphasis added] came from Fairfield to Eastchester in 1665. [And hereby comes the problem!]

The children of James were: Jonathan, b. Nov 12, 1667; James, b. Feb 15, 1669; Judah b. March 16, 1671. [These three were, as we shall see, actually "Everts".]

James, the second son, mar. Tamar Pell⁹, da. of John [Pell] and left 1st d. cir. 1779-80 aet 80 [he] mar. Tamar Ferris, and had: 1. James mar. Griffen; 2. Caleb; 3. Samuel [!!] a man of great literary attainments, lost his manuscripts by fire, which brought on mental derangement, mar. [Marie] Appleby; 4. Joshua, d. Dec 1781, mar. Abbe Barker, she d. cir. 1821 aet 90; 5 Martha;..."

[Bolton goes on to list other children and their descendants, about whom there seems to be little dispute, and are not particularly germane to our story. He then concludes]: "James, second son of first James, left thirdly, Samuel [!!], of Long Reach, Eastchester." [Thereby further complicating matters!]

⁸ The derivation of the term "the Long Reach" is discussed in Bolton at Vol. I p. 17. It was a vacant area of some 3300 acres between Westchester and Eastchester that was in dispute between those towns in 1698. Now located in the Northwest corner of Eastchester. It was bounded by Rattlesnake Creek on the west and had a peculiar shape that simply obtained the name of the "Long Reach". Evidence indicates that Samuel Huestis resided there when he died sometime around 1742, about age 75.

⁹ Bolton bolsters this (erroneous) statement with a notation in the "Pedigree of Pell of Pelham" (Vol. I pages 541/2) that a daughter, Tamar, of John Pell and Rachel Pinkney married a James Eustis

My family “Charts”, referred to in the Acknowledgements, reflect this Bolton recitation; and they indicate that the drafter was having some trouble reconciling the names and dates regarding “James”. Certainly, Bolton was a bit insecure in this recital. (See his words *italicized* above.)

Now let us see how Remington’s 1998 research efforts have clarified this for us in the Second installment of his articles for the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, and he devotes almost the entire article to unscrambling this for us. I will try to make his detailed analysis as simple as possible; but (heeding the admonition of Albert Einstein:) “not simpler”.

Remington’s reconstruction rests on three straightforward premises:

1. *“The ‘James Huestis or Eustis’ whom Bolton says came to Eastchester in 1665 was the result of a misreading of the name James Everts.”*

Bolton makes reference to the Patent of 1666 of the town of Eastchester at page 125 in Vol. I, and lists James Euestis (sic) as a “patentee”. Remington points out that this is simply an incorrect reading of available documents. He cites, in footnote # 52 on page 98 of his article that original Eastchester Patent of March 9th 1666/67 and related documents are available and “In all of these sources (cited) the name is clearly spelled *Everts*”. My “Charts” also make reference to this Patent material and are evidently based on Bolton. It seems significant to me that there is NO “James”, son of Robert of Westchester—at least no one of that name shown in the list of Robert an Elizabeth’s children, see pages 10 & 11, above.

2. *“The list of children of James ‘Eustis’ in the printed Eastchester town record is in reality that of the above-mentioned James Everts”.*

The misrepresentation made by Bolton in 1848 has been repeated in several recitals cited in Remington’s footnote # 55 on page 99. All of these subsequent studies were based on Bolton. The correct account of the Everts family is given in by Donald Lines Jacobus in “Families of Old Fairfield” in which it is recorded that James Everts was an Eastchester Patentee; but returned to Connecticut. The births of Everts’ children: Jonathan, James and Judah are recorded in the town records of Eastchester. The Everts son, James, was born in 1669, married in 1694 and died in Connecticut in 1739. The Bolton discussion of this “James Huestis” is that of a fictional character and can only correspond to the Samuel Huestis, who is our connection to Robert.

This is of considerable importance to the family records in my possession. The “Charts” noted in the Acknowledgements seem to try to show that “James” came to Eastchester in 1664 with a note virtually quoting Bolton. Hence we must conclude that the diagram is based on Bolton’s erroneous insertion of “James Eustis” into the Huestis line. The “chart” shows that this “James” married “Tamar Pell”. Remington effectively shows this to be in error.

3. *“The ‘James Huestis or Eustis’ whom Bolton says married ‘Tamar’ Pell was in reality Samuel Huestis who married Elizabeth, daughter of John Pell.”*

Remington gives Bolton the benefit of doubt, noting that by his writing around 1848 the Huestis family had been living in and about Eastchester for well over a hundred years (approaching 200) and oral histories could have given the representation made. Thus, it is simple: Bolton’s “James” who married Tamar Pell was in reality the third son of Robert of Westchester Samuel Huestis who married Elizabeth Pell.¹⁰ We will show that this Samuel wed into the Pell family, via *Elizabeth*, anon. In his Articles, Remington goes to some effort to show why the other sons of Robert of Westchester (brothers of Samuel) can be discounted as furthering the line of Robert thru Samuel to the Author. In an attempt to clarify this matter further, I have made and a table at *Appendix 2*, “The Children and Grand Children of Robert Huestis ‘of Westchester’ and Elizabeth (Buxton) Huestis”. This table is composed of data extracted from Remington. Again, note the absence of a “James” Huestis until we get to Samuel’s son.

Remington makes the categorical statement in his first article (at page 7 thereof):

“Since three of the sons of Robert (of Westchester, i.e.: Robert, Moses and John) left no descendants and two of those (Jonathan and David)¹¹ who did moved away from Westchester County, only one son, Samuel Huestis, remains as the likely ancestor of those of the name found in lower Westchester County in the mid to late eighteenth century (and even into the 19th). Unfortunately, there is no will for Samuel Huestis, which might have provided the names of children. Though less direct evidence to be presented hereafter purports to show that he had a number of children, there is documentary evidence for only one—a son James.”

We will deal with that James Huestis, “weaver of Pelham”, born ca. 1700, after we have disposed of Samuel.

Let us take a moment and give credit to Thomas B. Huestis (see footnote #3 above) and his research that corrects “Bolton’s” version, and is substantially the same as Remington’s

Here I can do no better than to quote, verbatim Thomas’ January 16, 1940 letter to my father, Dr. Charles B. Huestis:

Dear Dr. Huestis:

(Then beginning at the 3d Paragraph of his letter. (My comments are in brackets [.])

“In regard to the Eastchester land grant, according to other historians than Bolton, Pell had already purchased the land from

¹⁰ John Pell & Elizabeth (Pinkney) Pell did have a daughter named “T(h)amar”; however Remington’s research indicates that she married a William Pinkney, her first cousin.

¹¹ Jonathan moved to Eversham, Burlington County, New Jersey about 1734. He had three known sons: John, Jonathan and Joseph all of whom lived in New Jersey. David moved to Putnam County, New York, also about 1734 and died “at the beginning of the Revolution”[actually ca. 1758] leaving five adult sons.

the Indians by one of those “treaties” made with whatever band of Indians he happened to find wandering in the woods. His title, such as it was, was purchased by the group from Fairfield, Connecticut and was later confirmed by the grant mentioned by Bolton.

Unfortunately, Bolton was not an accurate historian so far as events beyond the memory of his own contemporaries is concerned and he was even worse as a genealogist. In regard to the land grant and the Huestis genealogy that he deduced from it, I am convinced that he made a blunder which will always plague anyone investigating our family.

The Eastchester patentees all came from Fairfield, Connecticut. The records of Fairfield are very complete and well preserved as are those of most Connecticut towns. But I was unable to find any trace of a James Huestis or Eustis ever having been there. Bolton read the name as Eustis in the land grant. Other historians, including those responsible for the official records of New York State read it as Evarts [sic]. It would be hard to tell the difference in seventeenth century script. To run it down I went back to the Fairfield records, looking up the Evarts family instead of Eustis. I found James Evarts listed as one of the Eastchester patentees who went from Fairfield. He stayed in Eastchester only five years and then moved to Guilford, Connecticut where I found the records of himself and his sons and their descendents for several generations. According to this record, three of his sons were born in Eastchester on the same dates that Bolton gives for the mythical Eustis boys but they lived and died in Guilford, Connecticut. I traced the Evarts family back into Massachusetts before they came to Fairfield. For several generations all the boys in the family were given names beginning with J, both in Massachusetts, in Fairfield, in Eastchester and back in Connecticut again, so the family is easy to trace. The record is so complete and circumstantial that it leads me to believe that Bolton’s “James Eustis” never existed and that the Eastchester land grant has no connection with the Huestis family.

The Huestis who gave Bolton the information about the family probably knew who his grandfather was (Bolton’s James III) [the one we will call “James, weaver of Pelham”] but evidently had no more information beyond that than people usually have now days. Bolton called his attention to his “James Eustis” and between them they guessed the rest and guessed wrong. I do not believe Bolton even mentions Robert Huestis [except that he does] who came to Westchester about the same time that James Evarts came to Eastchester and whose life is very plain in the Westchester records.

Bolton includes in the family of James one "Samuel of Long Reach". Samuel, son of Robert, received property at Long Reach by the will of his brother [also named] Robert. Either Bolton has Samuel of Long Reach in the wrong place or else the whole tribe he mentions were descendents of Robert. [However, as we will see later on, Samuel was in Long Reach only after he had left Pelham Manor.] The exact line of descent will probably never be known as all the current church records in Westchester County were destroyed in the Revolution and there was a period of seven years when no churches were open."

Thomas then goes on to discuss his heritage a little. He is descended from the line of Caleb and down through Caleb's son Aristides. Caleb evidently was a brother of Joshua Huestis with whom we will be concerned shortly. However, Caleb's rather extensive line is not germane to our story.

Then on June 26, 1941, this same Thomas B. Huestis wrote to my Aunt Eugenia Huestis Mackiernan at the Colonial Inn in Kinsman, Ohio. After thanking her for her hospitality, he notes that "(he is) returning your tracing under separate cover...(Y)ou evidently went through the New York library with a fine tooth comb and found all the data there was on the family.¹² The guesses you made in your footnotes are the same that I made after covering the same ground. It was not until I went into the Connecticut records in great detail that I found any reason to change them." He then reiterates his 'expose' of the "imaginary James" of Bolton's work, saying:

"While I believe the first two James in Bolton's list are imaginary, I think the third one was a real person since he lived within the memory of Bolton's generation. He would have been the right age to have been a grandson of the second Robert ["of Westchester"] who lived in Westchester County for the last forty years of his life. I cannot be certain which of Robert's six sons was his [James] father but the most likely culprit is *Samuel*. [*emphasis added*] I have found the wills of [Samuel's brothers] Jonathan, Robert, and Moses (Bolton missed Moses) and there is no James mentioned in any of them. David moved out of the county and I have a fairly trustworthy list of his children. John died without making a will and Samuel administered his estate as next of kin. If James had been John's son, he would have been made administrator. So that leaves only Samuel of the six to be our ancestor. He owned land within a few miles of the Huestis and Angevin [see also Bolton II at page 410 and after] farms I mentioned to you."

¹² This remark tends to corroborate my assumption that the family "tree" "Charts" that I have were made by my Aunt Eugenia sometime in the 1930s, probably the late '30s

At the end of his letter to my Aunt Eugenia he comments: “This genealogy business is endless but great fun if not taken too seriously”. That is certainly true for this writer!

Thus we find that the research of Thomas B. Huestis in the late 1930’s came to the same conclusion regarding “Samuel of Pelham Manor and Long Reach” as Remington’s exhaustive research in 1998-1999.

We can now “dispose of Samuel of Pelham Manor and Long Reach”

“Samuel of Pelham Manor and Long Reach”, as is listed above in the children of Robert of Westchester, was born in 1667 and married well—into the Pell family. (It is outside our story to explore the Pells. Suffice it to say that a huge amount of land in the Westchester / Eastchester, et al. area was originally in the hands of the Pells. Their holdings were measured in miles and square miles. (I rather like Thomas Huestis’ description, above, as to how the Pells came into these lands.) Samuel, again as we have seen, married Elizabeth Pell probably in late 1699 or early 1700. Their children were: James, born 1700; John, born 1705; Samuel, born 1708 and Robert, born 1712. As noted just above, Samuel left no will, and there is documentary evidence of only the son James; the existence of the other sons, is deduced from other records. Elizabeth probably died around 1721 or 22; and Samuel moved to the “Long Reach” in the winter of 1723-24. He departed this lively earth around 1742.

Samuel is first heard of in May 1689, about age 22, when he was appointed a “Pounder” for the town of Westchester. A “Pounder” is a person responsible for *impounding* stray animals—perhaps what we might today call the “dog catcher”. However, he seems to have been somewhat prosperous and in 1692 he was granted three acres and a 5 £ privilege of public lands on the east side of the Bronx River and also applied for a house building permit. He must have been pretty good at using the land because in October 1694 he purchased sixteen acres (site unknown) and promptly traded it for land on the “east side of Hutchinson’s Brook”. Sam’l Hustis (sic) evidently continued to be involved in civic affairs and in the 1696 “Royal Charter” of Westchester he, along with his father Robert Hustis (sic), were appointed “first assistants and common council of the” town. (The quote is from Bolton, Vol. II page 189; the swearing in of these appointees is further related at page 196.) He remained active in civic affairs and during the period 1696 until May 1699 he was variously a town Trustee, a “fence viewer”, and a Pounder. Then in March 1699 he ran afoul of the law and had to pay a fine for trespassing and cutting wood on Town land and promise “to doe so no more”. This did not end his career as a public servant, and he held some minor appointments until May 1702.

By 1700 he was about 33 years old, and it was time to settle down. He was a man of some means and at least some repute in the Town and he wed Elizabeth Pell. We don’t know exactly when; but it was probably, at the latest, early in 1700. Elizabeth joined him in selling some land in Westchester on May 1st 1700. As we noted above, his father, Robert of Westchester began distributing his real estate holdings starting in 1694, and on July 31st 1701 he gave “for love and affection” three acres of land in Westchester to his son Samuel. If you review this listing of Robert’s distributions, Samuel’s was the

smallest one made to the sons. Perhaps Robert was not happy with Samuel's trespassing and wood cutting caper in 1699; or perhaps it was just that Samuel had just married into the rich Pell family and was seen as having lesser need. In any event on the *same day* (*July 31, 1701*) Samuel traded this three acres to Richard Ward for four acres of sheep pasturage. He did considerable land trading in his career in Westchester.

By June of 1702 he and Elizabeth, and baby James, born before June 1702, had moved into Pelham Manor on the lands of his father-in-law John Pell. John Pell had deeded sixty acres to Samuel and Elizabeth. In that deeding, however, John was careful to make it what we might today call "in joint tenancy", thereby giving Elizabeth considerable say in its use. This was quite unusual for those days, and John did not make such stipulations in granting of lands to his other children. While this indicates that he may not have been too sure about Samuel, he did recognize that there was an heir: James. There is a bit of a gap here; but he and Elizabeth evidently continued to live at Pelham manor and raised their other children there. He was shown as the "Tax Assessor" from 1716 to (and?) 1721 for Pelham Manor, probably a not very popular job; but one that the Pells had to leave in the hands of a trusted, or at lease controllable, relative.

Because of the following activities of Samuel, we have to conclude that Elizabeth died somewhere around 1721. The specific date is unknown and must be inferred. We also need to note that John Pell, Samuel's father-in-law had died in 1719 leaving his estate in the hands of his sons Thomas and John. It is also necessary to note that Samuel's brother John remained in Westchester. Samuel is last known to be a resident of Pelham Manor in November of 1723 when he sold a lot of salt meadow to his brother John. Earlier in 1723 there had been a flurry of real estate transactions¹³:

- Sometime in April of 1723 he transferred thirty of the sixty acres that in 1702 had been given to him by his father-in-law John Pell, to his son James. At the same time he sold the remaining thirty acres to Thomas Pell, Jr. for 205£. This land was adjacent to the land of his son James. (Elizabeth Pell Huestis was Thomas' Aunt.)
- On June 4th son James sold the thirty acres that he had just been given to his Uncle John for 70£. This abutted the land just sold to Thomas Pell.

Eight years later on April 26th 1731, Samuel's son James repurchased this same 30 acres back from Uncle John, for 70£; and immediately sold it to Philip Pell for 170£, his wife Sarah (Ferris) Hewstis (sic) releasing dower. Note: there is every reason to think that Remington is correct when he speculates in a footnote (on Page 8 of his January 1998 Article) that this was probably a set up deal. Uncle John, a bachelor, had more land than he knew what to do with and James, a weaver for Pelham Manor, probably was short of cash. This transaction left James free to borrow the money to buy the land back, sell it to Phillip, repay Uncle John, and pocket 100£.

¹³ Remington goes to considerable research effort to explain all of these Westchester land exchanges in order to bolster his argument that Bolton was wrong about the "James Eustis/Tamara Pell" union and the confusion with the "Everts" that we discussed above.

- The next day, June 5th 1723, for 36£, Samuel sold thirty acres of salt meadow that he had received through the will of his father, Robert of Westchester, to his brother David. (This brother David produced a significant Huestis line; but that is another story for someone else to write.)

Samuel was clearly divesting himself of his Westchester property. As we noted, he went to “Long Reach” in 1724 when he was about 57 years old to take up land within the “Long Reach Patent” that had been left to him by his other brother, *Robert*. (Thus we infer that *this Robert* Huestis, a son of Robert (of Westchester) and Elizabeth Buxton Huestis, died some time prior to 1724, around age 66).¹⁴

This land in Long Reach lay along the Bronx River just south of the towns of Eastchester and Scarsdale. About 1737, while dealing with the estate of his brother John, Samuel moved over to Yonkers in the Manor of Phillipsburgh. Samuel’s last recorded act is an entry in the account book of Benjamin Cornell of Scarsdale on January 23rd 1741 when he paid 10 Shillings into an account. His son James was also living in Scarsdale and had an account with Cornell at that time. There is a deed abstract of August 6th 1742 which seems to indicate that Samuel may still have been alive in that year; but as Remington notes: “...given his age, he may not have lived much longer”, he was about 75 years old.

We saw above that Samuel Huestis and Elizabeth Pell Huestis left four sons. Before we see what else we can discover about son “James Huestis, weaver of Pelham”, let’s see what Remington reports about the other children:

John was born about 1705 at Pelham Manor, and married an Elizabeth _____ sometime around 1737. They lived in Eastchester and were involved in a lawsuit involving the Long Reach Patent. They left children: John, b. 1736; d. (unmarried) on Aug. 21, 1811; David, b. April 1739, m. Abigail Morgan sometime after January 30 1765; Stephen, b. say 1743. John died in the early winter/spring of 1760.

Samuel was born about 1708, also at Pelham Manor; and married a Marie _____. In his concluding Article, Remington records that his date of death is unknown; but that there was a child who was baptized at the French Church in New Rochelle. (Is this the “Marie” we find immediately below?)

Robert was born about 1712 at Pelham Manor. There is not much to go on, but he seems to have been at the baptism of a “Marie” (From the generational note in Remington (p. 279) it appears that Marie is a daughter of Samuel and Marie _____.) A Robert Huestis, occupation “weaver” and resident of Westchester witnessed some wills in 1749 and 1753. On May 23rd 1763 Edmund and Phoebe Ward sold to “Robert Huestis or Huestice of (Westchester) seventy four acres in Eastchester, which he, with his wife Sarah, sold to Stephen Ward on 25 Feb. 1769.” (The preceding quoted words are from Remington Page 278 of Oct. 1999 Article.) We will meet the Ward family name again later on in 1821.

These dates do not fit very well unless you just assume that the 1763-69-land purchase and sale was largely a money matter. Robert would have to be about age 61 when he bought all that land in Eastchester and probably

¹⁴ There is some discrepancy here. The chronology of the children of “Robert of Westchester” shows this Robert’s death date as 1718. The later date of about 1723 or 24 seems more likely.

lived there until he was about 67 when he and his wife sold it. One has to wonder if this “Robert” who bought the land was a son of the brother Robert (born 1702), or one of the others: Samuel 1708 or John 1705. There is no supporting evidence, so this is idle speculation.

Remington notes that there were no known children of Robert and his wife “Sarah _____”. His death date is unknown; but is probably not long after 1769.

Thus we are left to follow the first son of “Samuel of Pelham & Long Reach” and his wife Elizabeth Pell Huestis: James Huestis, “weaver of Pelham”.

James Huestis “weaver of Pelham”

The available record does not say much about James that we have not already discussed. The basics are: He was born ca. 1700 in Westchester, and died in Eastchester about 1780. Sometime before 1731¹⁵ he married Sarah Ferris. In reading Bolton, one finds numerous references to the Ferris family, and Bolton shows her to be “Tamar” Ferris. She is elsewhere, and evidently properly, named Sarah--for example: see the James’ real estate transaction of April 26th 1731 cited above. James and his wife Sarah certainly resided at Pelham Manor for a substantial time. With that April 1731 property sale he evidently moved to the Manor of Phillipsburgh where it appears that his father Samuel was living at the time. We have seen also that he held an account with Richard¹⁶ Cornell of Scarsdale from 1739 to 1744. What he was up to between that date and his death some 36 years later, we do not know. Presumably he “hung out” in Eastchester and practiced his trade. We have no date of death for Sarah.

For the listing of children of Sarah and James Huestis “weaver of Pelham”, Remington cites Bolton (II page 522) and we can report from that source, with additions from Remington’s separate research, and the efforts of Thomas B. Huestis:

1. James married [Ann] Griffin. Not more about this James is in my records, nor in Bolton or Remington. However, Douglas Huestis (Acknowledgement # 5) reports that a James Huestis was an officer in “Emmricks Chasseurs”, a Loyalist military unit, and that he filed for “memorial compensation” from the British on December 16th 1779; it reports that he went to Canada after “the Peace” (1783) and “arrived from Quebec last July in order to Petition Government on Account of his Services”. His “Petition” was denied. It seems entirely plausible that James was a Loyalist: a.) No family record of him; b.) His brother Caleb was clearly a Loyalist; and c.) James was a landholder, as was Caleb, and land holders tended toward the King. However, there is

¹⁵ One needs to surmise that it was considerably before 1731. They had a son Samuel whose recorded birth year is 1725. James’ parents, Samuel and Elizabeth, had moved in with the Pells around 1701, and there is every reason to think that he lived at Pelham Manor when he married Sarah, and that he had become “weaver” for the estate.

¹⁶ In our earlier citation of “Cornell’s” account books for James’ father Samuel, the name “Benjamin” appears in 1741. In his reportage on James Huestis’ accounts Remington clearly uses the name “Richard”. Perhaps Benjamin had passed on and left the business to Richard by 1744.

nothing specific making these two James Huestis' the same person; but it is probable.¹⁷

2. Caleb married Amy Bishop—so say both Bolton and Remington. However Thomas B. Huestis' 1937 manuscript "Who's Who in the Huestis Family" (cited previously) narrates that that Caleb married Martha Totten, a daughter of Peter Totten whose will is transcribed in Appendix 1. He goes on to relate that Caleb was "an ardent loyalist" and was once a prisoner of the Americans during the Revolution. He is variously called "Huisted", but also "Huestis" when he witnessed wills as "Caleb Huestis, schoolmaster". It goes on to note that Bolton says (and Remington does not dispute) that: "Caleb had brothers James, Samuel and *Joshua* and that their father was James Huestis." It appears that both Bolton and Remington are right (except that Bolton's "James" is Everts) and Remington's is the proper James Huestis. The manuscript goes on to say that these three brothers "held neighboring farms in that part of Philips Manor now in the Town of Mount Pleasant. "*Joshua* probably lived in Pelham Manor." Caleb, as noted was a "schoolmaster", and certainly may have named a son "Aristides". This "Aristides" (b. ca. 1747, d. 1832) married Prudence Baxter and they had fifteen children; thus he is the father of a substantial line of Huestis. Thomas Huestis cites Aristides ("of Westmoreland N.H.") in his 1940 letter to my father as "my great-great grandfather, Aristides Huestis". A narration of this extensive line of descent is for someone else to write. However, it is worth noting that this is the beginning of the American Revolutionary War the split among the descendants of "James, weaver of Pelham".

3. Samuel, "a man of great literary attainments, lost his manuscripts by fire, which brought on mental derangement, married _____ Appleby" [Bolton]. Remington notes that this Samuel married "Margaret Requa". Remington has a substantial footnote about this at page 55 of his concluding Article. It shows that Samuel died shortly before December 9th 1773.

4. Martha married James Boyd

5. Sarah married Samuel Nelson

6. *Joshua*, married Abbe Barker (Bolton) *Abigail* Barker (Remington) Bolton shows date of death for Joshua as December 1781. On the last page of Volume 1 in Bolton's work we find a "Joshua Huestis" listed in the "town records" of Eastchester on April 7th 1801 as: an Assessor; overseer of highways, and a "fence viewer". This Joshua is perhaps the son of Joshua and Abby Huestis who married Leah Rodman, and we will visit him later on.

Here we must leave our mentor Gordon L. Remington and his work: "*Robert Huestis of Westchester County, His Ancestry and Descendants*". He did what he set out to do:

¹⁷ Douglas Huestis research also finds that a *Jabez Husted* also Petitioned the British for compensation for services for two years commencing on Feb. 1st 1777 and that he resided in "Bedford County of Westchester". "Jabez" Husted is perhaps descended from the line of Angell "Husted" a son of Robert "of Dorset". (See Page 7, above) Note the spelling of the name, and that there are *no* "*Jabez*" in this story.

reconstruct and rectify the ancestry of those discussed thus far in our story, and we are in his debt for having done so. From this point on in our narrative we will be relying on some data from Bolton and the research of others concerning descendants of Joshua and Abby. For the more recent data you will have to take my word for the material that I base on family records and personal knowledge. I will try to so identify it.

Let us proceed with our story that concerns *some of* the descendants of Joshua and Abigail Huestis.

Joshua and Abigail

We are entering turbulent times and the records become sparse.

In the early years of the Revolutionary War, the War of Independence, the British pretty well controlled the geographic area inhabited by the Huestis. That is, the area around Pelham, NY. Washington was out-generalled by the British on Long Island and barely escaped with his army in “the battle of Brooklyn Heights”. The British then made an “amphibious maneuver” via Pelham and outflanked Washington thereby creating the encounter at White Plains, where Washington’s forces were again defeated. Bolton has a number of entertaining and informative vignettes about some of this. The details of the military maneuvers surrounding these events can be found in: “The War of the Revolution”, by Christopher Ward, Ed. J. A. Alden, McMillan Co. NY, NY, 1952

In any event, it is apparent that the Huestis line with which this narrative is concerned pretty much “kept their heads down”. There is no evidence that they actively supported the Revolution. The exceptions were Joshua’s brothers James and Caleb, cited above; and a son Thomas, discussed below, who were Loyalists.

Candidly, I know virtually nothing about Joshua, or Abigail, for that matter. All that has come down to me is from “Bolton”, and some research done by Patrick Chefalo (see Acknowledgement # 3). Joshua was born about 1730, probably in or around Pelham or Westchester. He died in Mamaroneck, Westchester, New York in December 1781. When he married Abigail Baker is not known; but the Huestis seem to marry fairly late in those days, so we may estimate that Joshua and Abigail married about 1758 or 59 when Abby was about 28 and Joshua somewhat older. Their first-born son was Thomas and he was born in 1759—according to records of his descendants. However, “Charts”, and also “Bolton”, show a date of birth for Thomas as Dec. 22, 1760. Abby died in White Plains, New York in 1821 at age 90. There is some evidence that she may have been interred in a Methodist Cemetery in Mamaroneck.

Their children were:

Thomas “of New Brunswick”. We just discussed his date of birth, perhaps in White Plains. His date of death is recorded as 1851 in Wallace, Cumberland, Nova Scotia. Thomas went to Canada during the Revolutionary War, and founded a long line of Huestis. The record is pretty clear that Thomas went to Nova Scotia—the appellation “of New Brunswick” is simply a nod to the “chart” data prepared by my Aunt Eugenia. It is

not the purpose of this story to follow Thomas' lineage; but I am much in the debt of Douglas Huestis (residing in Tucson, Arizona, as of 2006)¹⁸ for giving me the line of Thomas down to the present. Thomas was the brother of the Benjamin who is central to *this* story. However, just for the record and in appreciation, I am extracting some data from the material sent to me by Douglas, and appending it to this tale as "Appendix 3, Descendents of Thomas Huestis "of New Brunswick". To the material provided by Douglas Huestis, in Appendix # 3, I have added some remarks based on records I have. They are so noted thereon. In addition, it must be added that Douglas Huestis has written an extensive "family book" about Thomas Huestis and his descendants. That volume is: "Huestis: a Canadian Family", Literary Ventures, Tucson, Arizona. This is a private printing endeavor.

Mary, born about 1763 and married Benjamin Palmer. My "chart" shows that she died in 1836 about age 73 with no further data.

Joshua was born on 15 Jul 1768 in Westchester County, NY. Joshua married Sarah Leah Rodman. My "Charts" show her only as "Leah" Rodman. She was born about 1772 in Westchester County. There is some census data that he and his wife lived in Pelham, Westchester in 1830. My "Charts", and Bolton, show that they had at least one child, Anna Marie and that Anna married Moses Odell.¹⁹ The chart entry seems to indicate that Anna Marie died in 1834; but this date entry seems more likely to apply to Sarah Leah Rodman Huestis. We saw, above, that a "Joshua Huestis" was in Eastchester in 1801. Joshua died in Westchester County Poorhouse in 1850 at age 82.

Elizabeth was born on 23 Oct 1769 in NY. She married Augustus Lawrence. I have no other data on Elizabeth.

Daniel was born about 1770 in New York, and married Susanna Rich. I have no more data on Daniel. (Some speculation about him shows up later; but it is pure speculation.)

Elijah was born about 1772 in Westchester County, New York and married Elizabeth Green who was born about 1787 in New Jersey. There is some 1850 New York census information that they may have lived in Tompkins Enfield. However, this speculation is suspect: My chart entry shows that they "settled in Ithaca, NY"—no date specified.

¹⁸ Douglas W. Huestis and his wife Rosemary visited Charles and Virginia Huestis at their home in Las Cruces, New Mexico on August 23rd 2006

¹⁹ Virginia Holloway Huestis, wife of the Author, is related to an Odell line (in the 1930s in Marshall, Mo.); however that part of her lineage is traced back to Odells in Virginia. The first of those of which there is official record is Samuel, an appraiser of an estate in Fredrick County, Va. in 1749. Samuel died in 1780 and left one son: James Odell who was born in Fredrick County in 1738. There seems to be no direct connection with "Moses".