

GENEALOGIES

OF THE

POTTER FAMILIES

AND

THEIR DESCENDANTS IN AMERICA

TO THE

PRESENT GENERATION,

WITH

HISTORICAL AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES.

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## PART 5.

### JOHN AND WILLIAM POTTER, OF NEW HAVEN, CONN., AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.

The brothers JOHN POTTER<sup>1</sup> and WILLIAM POTTER<sup>2</sup> signed the Plantation Covenant, New Haven, Conn., June 4, 1639. It is probable that they came to America at the same date. There is a record of the arrival of William Potter: "Came in the 'Abigail' from London, 1635, aged 27; wife Frances, aged 26, and child Joseph, aged 20 weeks, and his mother, Hannah Beecher, she had married again after the death of her first husband." William Potter, in a will dated 1662, names children Nathaniel, Joseph, Hope, and Rebecca. Hannah Beecher, in her will, mentions son William Potter; her son John had died before her death. Stephen Dodd's East Haven Register has this account respecting John Potter (East Haven constituted a part of the town of New Haven for one hundred and forty-six years, 1785):—

"In 1651 John Potter obtained 20 acres of the Fresh Meadow lands. In 1662, John Potter obtained a piece of land upon which to set his blacksmith shop.

"On the 19th of August, 1680, Thomas Clark sold to Sergt. John Potter 'all that farm lying and being within the township of New Haven, and near and adjoining to a brook called by the name of Stoney Brook, which Thomas Clarke bought of Nathaniel Micklethwaite of the city of London, merchant, containeth by estimation 300 acres of upland, be it more or less, and 3 score acres of meadow, be it more or less, adjoining thereto; excepting always all the uplands that hath been formerly sold from the said farme or iron workes, reserving only all the Iron worke plates of Iron, and the moveables to himself, that are upon the premises.'

"John Potter was to pay £40 per annum for 21 years, in wheat, pork, and peas. Sergt. John Potter did not resume the Iron business, as was contemplated when he bought the farm.

"But in the year 1692, he and Thomas Pinion petitioned New Haven for liberty to set up a Bloomary on the *first spring*, or brook towards Foxson. In April, 'some of the townsmen having viewed the brooke that runs into Stoney River at the place or thereabouts, which was moved for by John Potter, formerly to set up a Bloomary; and for his encouragement allow him the use of said brooke, and 20 acres of land, not exceeding 30, near the first spring, the west side of Stoney River; and grant him the liberty of what Iron mines there are within the town bounds, and the use of what wood he needs in the commons for the work, if it proves effectual. And the aforesaid land is to be laid out and bounded to him, by the surveyor, and one or two of the townsmen. Always preserving the necessary highways, if there be any.' This Bloomary was established, but there is no record of how long it existed."

The estate of John Potter was rated at £25, and his family consisted then of four persons, — himself, wife, and two children, viz., John, Jr., and Samuel. His house lot soon became the property of Alling Ball, and it is probable that he died as early as 1643. His name does not appear in the record of the first "seating of the meeting-house" in 1645-6. His widow, Elizabeth Potter, married, June, 1646, Edward Parker, who died in 1662, and she married a third time, Robert Rose, of Branford, Conn. The will of Elizabeth Rose was made July 20, 1677; she died before signing and sealing it, but the children agreed to its provisions, and, at a subsequent court, it was admitted. She names her sons, John and Samuel Potter, "my son John Parker, to have my house he lives in, and daughter Brooks, daughter Hall, and daughter Cook — all my grandchildren — to have £12 apiece. The rest to be divided to my three daughters, Mary, Hope, and Lydia." Sons, John Potter and John Parker, joint executors. Estate appraised by John Cooper and John Winston.

JOHN POTTER, Jr.,<sup>3</sup> born about 1635, baptized at New Haven, Conn., Oct. 17, 1641, died Dec. 24, 1706, was the eldest son of John Potter, the first settler. In 1662, he bought of John Tuttle, Jr., a homestead in East Haven, which the latter had received by deed of gift from his father, William Tuttle, of New Haven, 1661. In this deed John Potter is called blacksmith. "His will was proved in New Haven in 1706-7, in which he calls himself 70 years of age; wife Mary, and sons, John and Samuel, executors; desires to be buried in New Haven; leaves £5 to the church, in care of Rev. John Pierpont; Deacon Penderson and Deacon Bradley, trustees. Wife Mary to dispose of her own estate, as by agreement, before marriage, and she gave it away to her children. She was a laborious, loving, and tender-hearted wife to me, notwithstanding. Eldest son, John, to have shop and smith's tools, right in Branford. Son Samuel to have 6 acres for his house lot over against David Austin's house; 8 acres above Matthew Moulthrop's house; 4 acres of salt meadow that was Mr. Tuttle's, and 8 acres 'blumery'; also, the homestead that was his grandmother's, and a room in my house as long as he behaves himself well towards his mother-in-law, and, if she is removed by marriage or death, Samuel must come to terms with his brother John, and if Samuel marries, he shall not bring his wife into the house of his mother-in-law. Abigail, my dau., shall have the still that was my mother's. . . . Will proved 1st Monday in Jan. 1706/7. Inventory, £416 4s. 0d."

SAMUEL POTTER,<sup>5</sup> baptized in New Haven, Oct. 17, 1641, removed to Wallingford, and at the settlement, in 1669, had