

Chapter Six

From New England to New York

Dorothy Allen, who married William Wilcox, whose son, Amos, moved his family to Orange County around the time of the Revolutionary War, has her own interesting pedigree. Orange County, by the way, is across the Hudson River from Dutchess County, so here we have another family joining so many of our ancestors as they congregated along the Hudson for this auspicious time in American history.

Dorothy's line also goes back to Plymouth Colony. The most direct line of ancestry back to Plymouth is: Dorothy's parents were Benjamin Allen and Deborah Russell. Deborah's parents were Jonathan Russell and Hasadiah Smith. Hasadiah was born in Plymouth Colony in 1650, but she died in Dartmouth where she and Jonathan, a well-known Quaker, went in search of freedom of religion – something the Pilgrims of Plymouth didn't allow. Hasadiah was the daughter of Lt. John Smith and Deborah Howland.

John Smith was known in the Plymouth records as "Jr." He was a mariner and a carpenter and an active Quaker. He was known to be in Marshfield in 1664/1665, and he moved to Dartmouth MA in 1665 where Daniel Willcox was already living as a result of his having become a Baptist and being expelled from the colony.

John Smith was a lieutenant in King Phillip's war. He commanded the Dartmouth Trainband during the "Indian trouble of 1665" and was listed as lieutenant in 1673/1674. Seeing as Daniel Willcox was so well acquainted with the Indian language that he served as interpreter, it seems probable that these two men knew each other well.

Lt. John Smith and Deborah Howland were married on March 4, 1648/49 in Plymouth Colony, MA. Deborah

Howland was the daughter of Arthur Howland, who has an interesting story to tell:

Arthur Howland was born about 1590 in Fenstanton, Huntingdonshire, England.

According to William Howland in *The Howlands in America*, all the Howlands in America can trace their ancestral lineage to the three sons of Henry and Margaret (Aires) Howland of Fen Stanton, Huntingdonshire, England: John Howland, who came to this country in the Mayflower in 1620, and his two brothers, Arthur and Henry Howland, who arrived in Plymouth about 1623. Our ancestor is Arthur Howland who is listed as a planter, yeoman, freeman, and Quaker. He married Margaret Reed, a widow. Arthur was buried in Marshfield, MA on October 30, 1675, and Margaret was buried in Marshfield on June 22, 1683.

He was known to be in Marshfield by 1643, having been granted fifty acres of land and some meadow there at North River in 1640. He bought an additional three hundred acres of land for 21 pounds sterling, 13 pounds in money and the balance in corn and cattle. He spent the rest of his life in Marshfield.

Arthur accepted the doctrines of the Society of Friends and was fined many times for "Pmiting of a Quaker's meeting in his house".

In 1657, laws were passed forbidding any to transport Quakers into the colony, give them entertainment, or attend a Quaker meeting. Punishments included fines, whipping, imprisonment or banishment.

These laws are probably the reason⁴¹ that John Phillips, the constable, was at Arthur Howland's house in Marshfield for the purpose of leaving a summons. While there, he saw a non-resident Quaker preacher, Robert Tuchin, and arrested him. Howland interfered and ejected the constable from his house declaring, as the latter certified, that he

⁴¹ that (According to Goodwin, author of "*The Pilgrim Republic*")

would "have a sword or gun in the belly of him".

Two sons of John Rogers (of the Mayflower) refused to aid the constable. By the time the official returned with a posse, Tuchin had escaped. Howland was forthwith taken to Alden's house and tried before Collier, Alden and Josiah Winslow, who ordered him to "give bonds to the General Court; he refusing to furnish bail, they put him in the charge of the Colony's Marshal, Lieutenant Nash, who lived near".

While in jail he composed "a writing", which he presented to the General Court which met March 2, 1658. The magistrates claimed the document "on the pusing therof, appeared to be full of factiouse, seditious, slanderouse passages, to be of dangerouse consequence," so that he was sentenced by the Court to pay £5 for resisting the constable and to post a surety bond for his future good behavior. He refused to post this bond, so he stayed in jail until June 1, 1658.

The court finally decided "that as his estate would not bear further fines, and he was too old and infirm to be whipped, he be released in acknowledgment of error" which was done.

A romantic case is recorded concerning the son of this same Arthur Howland of Marshfield. It was in 1660 when Thomas Prence was Governor of the Colony, and it concerned his daughter. "The tolerant course of the elder Arthur Howland toward Quakers had earned the ill will of Gov. Prence, and when in 1660 he found Arthur Howland, Jr., had wooed his daughter Elizabeth, he had the swain before the General court, where he was fined $\text{œ}5^{42}$ because he had disorderly and unrighteously endeavored to obtain the affections of Mistress Elizabeth Prence, and was put under a bond of $\text{œ}50$ to refrain and desist. But Prence ... was unable to control the forces of nature. This action was in July, but before the next spring the imperious Governor seems to

⁴² I have no idea what an œ is, nor any other puritan currency.

have been forced to capitulate, because Arthur, Jr., and Elizabeth were united, and in the course of events there was a Thomas Howland and a Prence Howland. "

Governor Prence's friend and neighbor, Constant Southworth, (yes, the cousin of our immigrant ancestor, Thomas Southard) had a somewhat similar experience with his daughter Elizabeth. In his will, 1679, he gave her "My next best bed and furniture, with my wife's best bed, provided she do not marry Wm. Fobes, but if she do, then to have 5s. ... The bed and adjuncts were then worth thirty times 5s, for a fine bed was thought a goodly bequest; but it was the grand old story; Elizabeth chose to have 5s with William, to two beds without him, and she provided her own beds."

"Arthur Howland and wife of Marshfield, who at divers times seem to have caused the officers of the Colony some uneasiness, were fined for not attending public worship. He was also arrested for neglecting his minister's tax. In respect to his age, however, he was excused till further notice. "

Arthur and his wife, Margaret, were both buried in Marshfield, he in 1675 and she in 1683.

"The will of Arthur Howland, yeoman, of Marshfield was made July 3, 1674 and proved March 7, 1675/1676. He directed that the 30s which he owed Edward Wanton was to be paid by Timothy Williamson. To his son Arthur Howland, 50 acres of upland and meadow sufficient to keep six head of cattle. To grandchild Assadiah Smith £5, and to Assadiah's 3 brothers £5 to be equally divided between them. To daughters Mary Williamson, Martha Damon and Elizabeth Low, £10 each. To grandchild Mary Walker, £10. To grandchild Timothy Williamson, a meadow of five acres in Marshfield, he paying to Edward Wanton 10s a year for three years after he comes to enjoy the said meadow. All the remainder, both real and personal to "my dear and noble souled wife Margaret Howland." Executrix: wife Margaret.

All the legacies except the one to his son Arthur were to take effect upon the death of his wife. There is a memorandum that before signing the will the testator revoked the legacy of five acres of meadow to his grandchild Timothy Williamson. The inventory was taken 11 December 1675 by Anthony Snow and Josiah Crane and brought to court 7 March 1675/1676. There had been no appraisal of the house and lands. His books were worth 12s and there were no articles of luxury.

Someone who would most likely have been known to all of the above was one Richard Betts, who was born on April 11, 1614 in Hemel Hempstead, Hartfordshire, England. In fact, if there is one American relative who stands to have known the most of those families who were to become my ancestors, it would have been Richard Betts. I have not found the date of his immigration, but he was already in Massachusetts on January 27, 1647, where, in Salem, he married Joanna Chamberlain, who came to the new world with her mother after the death of her father.

Joanna's cousin, the famous William Stoughton, was the Lt. Governor of Massachusetts and Chief Justice of Massachusetts. He signed the death warrants at the Salem witch trials of 1696. He has a hall named after him at Harvard University, where he was one of the first graduates.

Richard was what we would today call a real estate developer. The year after their marriage in Salem, they are recorded as living in Ipswich, Massachusetts. Twelve years later, they was found living in Newtown, Long Island, New York.

For the sake of this story only, and with no supportive evidence whatsoever, I am going to surmise that Richard and Joanna came from Ipswich to New York following the same route we would use today: from Boston, along the Post Road to Springfield, Massachusetts, crossing the Connecticut river there and then proceeding on, following the general path of the roadway now known as I-84 through Hartford,

before turning south to New York. I will also surmise that he was developing land along the way - not an unthinkable proposition for a land developer.

When he arrived in the greater Hartford area, he probably became acquainted with the well known Case family that was to become part of our common family. He was in the same area as one Brewster Higley would be born and earn his momentary claim to fame. Brewster Higley was the father of Esther Higley, who married Capt. Josiah Case, who hailed from Simsbury, near Hartford.

As a side note, the Cases had a daughter, Anna who married ancestor grandfather Amos Willcox and moved to Orange County, NY during revolutionary times. Another interesting fact is that it was the ancestors of Abram Ameigh's wife, Betsey, who were original settlers of this area in Connecticut, owning lands from there to Dutchess County, where Ameighable ancestors of every genealogical line were congregating.

Anyhow, back to ancestor grandfather Brewster Higley. Brewster was the deacon of his church when, in 1773, "it was voted at Simsbury to sing on the Lord's days, in the afternoon, according to the rules taught in the singing schools, in this and the neighboring societies.

"Soon after this, a teacher of music was employed. After practising for some time, the minister having announced the psalm, the choir, under the instructor's lead, started off with a tune much more lively, than the congregation had been accustomed to hear; upon which, Deacon Brewster Higley took his hat and left the house, slapping his hat against his leg, exclaiming as he passed down the aisle, 'Popery! Popery! Popery!!'."

How I would have loved to have witnessed that scene. But, for Richard Betts, it would only have been a dream of an event in Simsbury's future about 150 years in the town's future and about 200 years before his own descendents and Brewster Higley's descendents would unite under the

canopy of an ever-growing and farther-reaching family tree.

Whatever the reason for the Betts' presence in the area, they weren't there long - just long enough to develop Simsbury as a suburb of Hartford. Then on it was to New York to develop land there in order to meet the needs of the burgeoning population.

As long as we are surmising unverifiable activities from this well known and well traveled land developer, let us surmise his travels up to New Paltz, (again, not unthinkable for a land developer) where he would be well placed to meet more of the family that would join his in another five generations, just in time for the Revolutionary War. The families he would be meeting would be children and grandchildren of Antoine Crispell, a Huguenot, which is the French equivalent of the German Palatines of Emigh fame.

From a brochure published by the Crispell Family Association and found in New Paltz, NY September 2001, we learn that:

"In 1660, 25-year-old Antoine and 20-year old Maria (Blanchan), his wife of 3 months, sailed into New York on the ship, Gilded Otter. They had married in Mannheim, Germany and came with other Huguenots who had fled France. They first settled in Kingston. In 1663, they moved to Hurley, where they started their farm and family.

"In New Paltz...Antoine was active with the other 11 patentees in New Paltz, New York, and was one of the twelve men who governed their new land. Historians have referred to "The Twelve Men" as "The Duzine." It's reported to be the first example of democratic government in America.

"The French Church, built on Huguenot Street, New Paltz, in 1972, is a replica of the original built in 1717. It was built by the Crispell Family Association ... as a tribute to Antoine and his descendants, to memorialize his presence on Huguenot Street.

"In the Village of Hurley...On Hurley Street you'll find several old stone houses, some dating back to the 1600s. One is a house reportedly built by Johannes Crispell in 1724... now the rectory for the adjoining Dutch Church....

"At the end of a right of way, next to the Polly Crispell cottage, you'll find the burial grounds. Many of the grave-stones bear the Crispell name....

"In Kingston...Antoine died in 1707 and was buried where the Old Dutch Church now stands, on Wall Street."

Antoine may well have been French, but the names of his descendents include: Rachel Zuyland, Benjamin Van Steenberg, Rebekka Jansze Roosa, Jacobus Jacobszen Van Etten, Elsjen Schoemaker, Solomon VanBunschoten, Gertruy Maasen VanBloemendal, and Arent Ostrander. It is through the Ostrander and Van Etten lines that we find our way to whom other than Benjamin Southard, father of Rachel Southard.

Unbeknownst to this obviously Dutch community, founded, in part, by our French ancestor grandfather Antoine Crispell, their neighbors would also one day, via other genealogical paths, become ancestors of Benjamin Southard, adding them as well to our family tree. These names included other Dutch names, such as Macheltje Roelofsze de Duytscher, and Jan Hendrickszen Ostrom and others.

The descendents of these original settlers who were alive at the time when Richard Betts was traveling through the area looking for lands to develop, would have found Ancestor Grandfather Betts a rather amazing man. Tradition holds it that at one hundred years of age, he dug his own grave.

He died in Newtown, NY and left the following Will:

In the name of God, Amen. I, Richard Betts, of Newtown, in Queens County, on Nassau Island, yeoman, being in good health. I leave to my wife Johanah, all my homestead and buildings and lot of land belonging to the same, lying between the

lands of John Scudder and Richard Betts, son of Thomas Betts, deceased; Also my tract of land between the way that leads to the narrow passage and the land of Samuel Albertus, and the meadow adjoining to the same; Also all my movable estate, and liberty to get what hay she may have occasion for during her life. After the decease of my wife I leave to my son, Richard Betts, my Camlet cloak, for his birthright, and all my right and interest in lands in Plunder neck; Also my house and home lot and buildings; Also 1/2 of the lands and meadows that lyeth below the road, that leads from the English Kill to the Dutch Kills, bounded by Samuel Albertus and John Allen, with all the appurtenances; Also 1/2 the meadow land above the homestead, situate between the lands of John Scudder and Richard Betts, sons of Thomas Betts, deceased. I leave to my grand son, Richard Betts, son of Thomas Betts, my tract of land lying between the way that leads to the narrow passage and the land of Samuel Albertus, up to Newtown spring; Also 1/2 the meadow and upland, that lyeth between the road that leads from the English Kills to the Dutch Kills, bounded by Samuel Albertus and John Allen. All movable estate after my wife's death to my daughters, Johanah Sander, Mary Swazy, and Martha Ketcham, and the children of my daughter, Elizabeth Sackett, deceased, and the children of my daughter, Sarah Hunt, deceased. I appoint my sons in law, Joseph Sackett and Phillip Ketcham, executors.

. Proved, November 26, 1713.

Among their other children, Richard and Joanna Betts had a daughter, Mary, (b:1654) who married Joseph Swayze, Jr. (1653 - 1717). Their daughter, Mary Swayze (b:1680) married William Coleman (1680-1742), whose descendents have such an interesting story to tell that it too deserves its own chapter, and we will look at that family next.