

FIRST GENERATION

Arthur Smith, The Quaker

ARTHUR (1) SMITH was born about 1610-1615, and died prior to June 17, 1673. He was residing in Southold when he witnessed a deed on Oct. 25, 1640 and was probably married by that time as his son Thomas would have been born soon after.

Because he publicly expressed his beliefs in his religion, he was charged with being a Quaker and on May 23, 1659 was brought to trial at the Court of Magistrates in New Haven, which held jurisdiction over the town of Southold. Several of the townspeople testified against him.

He was interrogated and required to answer to the charges, answers which the court found to be "pphaine, absurd, conceited, and rediculous." He was further admonished not to dally with "ye fundamentall truths of God" and was advised that the court regarded him as a "man of pphaine spirit and disorderly way, that would overthrow the order and government that God hath established in church and commonwealth..."

It was also ordered that he be whipped and that he be bonded in a bond of fifty pounds for his good behavior for the time to come, and commanded to appear at the court of magistrates again the following October if he was still within its jurisdiction. It is said that he avoided the flogging by his promise to move.

In October 1659 he sold his home lot in Southold and removed to Setauket, the original settlement of Brookhaven Town where he was admitted as a townsman in Dec. 1659. He had thus removed himself from the jurisdiction of the strict Puritan Magistrates court of New Haven to the jurisdiction of the General Court at Hartford. In fact, the Setauket settlers had already made application to be taken under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Colony. In 1662 King Charles II issued a charter uniting the New Haven and Hartford colonies as the Colony of Connecticut. In this same year, the Colony of Connecticut sent orders to the Town of Brookhaven and Arthur Smith was the only exception who publicly objected to their adoption.

The town records state that "at a town meting held the first decem 1659 it is agreed by vote that Aurther Smith shall haue a lot in the town provided it may not hinder John Chachums coming hither." Accordingly he built his home against Indian (or Sachem) Rock, on the east bank of the mill stream, just below the site where the Smith homestead still stands.

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In the town records in 1661, land in the "ould feild - the 6-acre lots" were allotted to 22 men, the last being Arthur Smith who received a "Triangell". A footnote states "the hieway runs throw 6 acres lots from first to last." This particular piece of land was located on what is now Quaker Path and at one time its boundary was the beach at West Meadow. It was still in possession of the Smith family in 1948.

Four of Arthur Smith's sons, Thomas, John, Arthur and Benjamin have been positively identified in the Brookhaven Town records. His youngest son, Benjamin was at least five years old at the time of the trial.

Leroy Smith's genealogical record of Arthur Smith includes the names of Samuel, Peter, James and Joseph Smith, who are briefly mentioned in the town records, and whom, he suggests, could have been sons of Arthur Smith. Chronologically, they fit into the same generation as his four sons and since they have not been claimed by the Richard Smith family, nor were they the children of Robert Smith, it is logical to assume that they too, were sons of Arthur Smith. However, only those positively identified are listed here.

Mention should also be made of Robert Smith, who had also removed from Southold to Setauket. It is possible that they may have been brothers. They were the only Smiths living in Southold in 1652 where their property almost adjoined, and when Robert and his wife Alice eventually followed Arthur to Setauket, they did have adjoining lots. The information on the town records suggest that their close association was a family one. One entry reads, "27 Ock 1673 It is agreed vpon and voeted that Samuel Akerly is to chang the hyway that goeth up into the woods to the other siede as arter smith and Robert Smith see most convenient." In fact, Robert Smith's Right in Common passed through inheritance to Benjamin and his heirs.

A special relationship existed also between Robert and Arthur Smith and their neighbors, William and Katherine Fancy, who were also from Southold. Their property which had been adjoining in Southold, did so also in Setauket, and it would appear that their lots in the old field were also together. Katherine may have been their sister. The relationship was close enough for William Fancy to have entrusted his will to "my Neber Widow Martha Smith to keep this will as long as I live." (Will dated June 17, 1763, Sessions Bk. 1, Suffolk County - from Alvin L.R. Smith's genealogy). It was close enough too, for Robert Smith to deed to Hannah Goulsberg, the daughter of William and Katherine Fancy, and Hannah's husband, Robert, his entire estate. Robert and Alice Smith had no children and it is believed that he chose this way of disposing of his property in lieu of a will.

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Alvin L. R. Smith discovered in his research of this family, that the "widow Martha Smith" was Arthur Smith's wife. It is not known when she died.

While he did not hold public office in the town, he did participate in the general activity of the community, assisting in the laying out of lands, boundary fences and divisions. He was present, as was required at almost all town meetings where problems concerning the settlement were determined. Arthur Smith's contribution to the early settlement of Setauket has been well noted in the pages of the Town records.

Outspoken to the end, he appeared in court to answer charges made against him by the infamous Captain John Scott. The charges outlined in Book II, page 141 of the Brookhaven Town Records state:

"Capt. John Scot plantife Arthare Smith defet in a action of trespass outragese an vieties Actions by him Committed to the (vallew) of tow hundred pounds for which the plantife craues the Judgment of the Courte and Jurey with Coste of shewte: the Jurey findes for the plantife and the defendant to pay (fiueftey) pounds with (Increase) of Courte Charges the Judgment of the Courte that the defedt pay the plantife the verdicke of the Jury."

The jury decided in Scott's favor and Arthur Smith was to pay him fifty pounds and court charges. The notorious Capt. John Scott was involved not only in unscrupulous land deals, but had visions of becoming president of all Long Island. He attempted to rename the town Ashford, after his home in Kent. But the name never caught on. Even after the Nicolls patent in 1660 when the name was changed to Brookhaven, to the villagers it was still Setauket.

The Town of Brookhaven Records show that the date of that entry was 5 June 1673. This is inaccurate because in Feb of 1665, the General Court of Assizes of New York ordered Captain Scott to appear and to bring with him the Long Island Patent, which he called a Perpetuity. It was a great yellow wax seal with a picture of King Charles affixed to it and which he used as proof to deceive people into believing that he held a charter to Long Island. In October of that year, Scott abandoned his family and fled to Barbadoes, where he apparently died in 1696.

William Fancy's will dated June 17, 1673 reveals that Arthur Smith had died by that date. While there was another Arthur, presumably alive at that time, the character of the charge makes it inconceivable that it could have referred to anyone but Arthur Smith, the Quaker. It is also a possibility that Arthur was alive on the date of the trial and that Scott was not present.

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Only those sons of Arthur Smith who have been identified, are included here as his children. He may have had daughters, but they are unknown. The will of John Bigs of Brookhaven in 1683 mentions his wife, Elizabeth Bigs and brothers-in-law Thomas Bigs and Benjamin Smith as administrators. Witnessed by Daniel Brewster and Samuel Smith. If this Benjamin and Samuel were brothers, it may have been that Elizabeth was their sister.

Children of Arthur (1) and Martha () Smith:

2. Thomas (2), a blacksmith, is mentioned in the Brookhaven Town records as early as 1667 on a property list. An entry Oct 19, 1670 states, "Thomas Smith the sonn of (arter) smith have bought a brendle ox of Henery Rogers and the sayd Thomas Smith is to pay mr Briant in curant pay niene pounds starling for the sayd ox." The Mr. Briant mentioned was Alexander Bryan of Milford, Conn. of the Court of Magistrates in the Colony of Connecticut.

Although Thomas Smith evidently accompanied his father to Setauket in 1659, the records show that he did return to eastern Long Island where he spent several years in East Hampton as a blacksmith. He returned to Setauket and on May 9, 1670 was granted "the five acre lot that a certain Barker lived on, and a new purchaser's accomdation, besides a piece of ground in the old field if it could be found." (Bkhvn. Town Records A-19).

In the next few years he became active in town government serving as an overseer of the highways in 1675 and 1680, and deputy constable in 1682; town treasurer in 1684 and commissioner in 1685. His name appears on both the 1675 and 1683 rate lists of the town.

He married Joanna Longbotham, daughter of Jacob and Hannah Longbotham, who were early settlers in Setauket.

He died intestate at Setauket before Oct 29., 1685, when the inventory of his estate was presented to the Sessions Court of Suffolk County., which also mentioned his widow, Joanna. (Session Bk. No.1). Their son, Thomas, appears on the Brookhaven Town rate list of 1701. He was Constable of the town in 1702

3. John (2) was a weaver, as the Town of Brookhaven records state that on June 27, 1670, he bought a horse of Richard Woodhull, he agreeing to weave Woodhull's yarn until the price of the horse was paid. (Bk. 1, pg 117). In 1680, he owned land in Setauket (Bk. B., page 21). He is not mentioned in the 1675 list but his name was included in the rate lists of 1683 and 1701.

According to the town records, John held land jointly with Thomas and Benjamin Smith, and it is apparent that they were brothers. His wife, Rebecca, (maiden name unknown), is mentioned in Sessions Book No. 1 in 1686 and again in a deed April 8, 1687 when they sold to Samuel Eburne land at Setauket owned by John and Thomas Smith. (Sess. Bk. No.

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1-page 256). Thomas Smith was then deceased. It is not known when John or his wife died.

Records exist of only two children: (a) Deborah, born 1689, baptized Sep. 7, 1710 by the rector of Grace Church, Jamaica, L.I. when she was 21 years old. (Grace Church records). (b) John, identified in a deed dated 9 Mch 1716, as the son of John (Bkhvn. Town Rec., Bk. B, pg 290). He may have been the John Smith who was trustee of the town in 1723 (B.T. records, Bk. C., pg 91) and later known as John of Coram to distinguish him from his cousin, John Smith of Stony Brook, the son of Benjamin Smith.

4. Arthur. His earmark was recorded in 1672. The reference on the town record may have been to his father, but at such a late date, it seems unlikely. All other entries in the Brookhaven Town Records are equally confusing and could have applied to either the father or the son. A deed witnessed by Arthur Smith, March 20 1685/6 made by Peter "Whitere" and Rachel, his wife, confirms that he was Arthur's son, since by that time, Arthur Sr. was deceased. His name does not appear on the rate lists, nor is there any information as to whether he had a wife and children.

+5. Benjamin, born about 1655/6, as he was not of age in 1674 when he received an allotment of land "by order of his mother." Before 1680 he married Abigail ().

Authorities: New Haven Colonial Records, Descendants of Arthur Smith of Southold and Setauket, L.I. compiled by Leroy Smith; Descendants of Arthur Smith the Quaker, The Islip Branch, compiled by Alvin R. L. Smith, Notes from Miss Julia Smith's family records; Genealogies of Long Island Families by Werner, Files of the Brookhaven Town Historian.

Arthur Smith

A R T H U R S M I T H

The Quaker of Southold & Setauket N.Y.

Arthur Smith was born about 1610 to 1615 and died prior to June 17, 1673. His wife's name was Martha and they were married some time before 1659, the year in court where the record states that he pointed to one of his children. (New Haven Colonial Rec. 1653-1665) In the Suffolk County L.I. Book of Sessions 1669-1687, Manuscript volume. she is mentioned as, "Widow Martha Smith"

He lived at Southold N.Y. then under the jurisdiction of the New Haven Colony. His name first appears in the Southold Town records on Oct. 25, 1640. when he witnessed a deed. On May 23rd. 1659 he was brought to trial in New Haven, charged with being a Quaker, found guilty, ordered whipped and put under bond of £50 for his good behavior in a comely or inoffensive manner, if not he was to appear at the next session of the court in October, if he had not removed in the meantime. He sold his home lot in Southold in October and moved to Setauket, the original settlement of Brookhaven Town where he was admitted as a townsman in December 1659. Setauket at this time was under the charter of Hartford and was a separate colony until 1662 when King Charles II united it with New Haven. Arthur Smith's home lot was on the east bank of the mill stream. About 1700 the Smith family built a new two story house which is still standing and was occupied by the late Julia S. Smith a direct descendant of Arthur Smith. Up the hill and to the East is located the old family grave yard, with the ancient graves marked with small field stones, some with crude initials carved on them. To the south-west and a short distance across the road from the house there is a large rock which in earlier days had been referred to as Sachem Rock. The fact that Arthur Smith the Quaker had built his no doubt crude house, in the shelter of this rock gave rise to him being called Rock Smith to distinguish him from Bull Smith who lived in the Settlement at the time. This distinction caused confusion as there was a family called Rock Smith already in the western part of the Island.

Like most people of this time, Arthur Smith and his wife Martha no doubt had a large family. If there were any daughters their names have not been found. The names of four sons have been preserved in the town records which proves their parentage. Two more are believed to be sons, Peter who was of age in 1672 and Samuel who witnessed a deed in 1683, although they may have been the sons of Robert Smith who is also believed to be a close relative of Arthur. The four sons of Arthur which are known are -

1. Thomas - a blacksmith who died prior to Oct. 20. 1685 when the inventory of his estate was taken. On June 20, 1671 he bought a lot "laying at the end of his father's Arthur Smith's" That same year he was a blacksmith in Easthampton, but the Southampton records state in 1672, that he had then left. He returned to Setauket and his name is on the Brookhaven list of 1675 and 1683. He married Joanna Longbotham.

2. John - a weaver, first mentioned in the Brookhaven Town records in 1670. His name is not on the list of 1675 but is on those of 1683 and 1701. In Suffolk County N.Y. Book of Sessions his wife was mentioned in 1686 as Rebecca . The names of but two of his children have been identified (a) Deborah born 1689 baptised at Jamaica Dec.7,1710 aged 21 years. (b) John (Jr.) who settled in Coram N.Y. A deed given by him to Moses Burnett and acknowledged Dec.17,1720 mentions him as son of John Smith. (Brookhaven Town Rec. Book B. pp. 390-1)

3. Arthur. (Jr.) is first mentioned in the Brookhaven Town records in 1672. He witnessed a deed March 20,1685/6, this being at least 13 years after the death of his father. As his name does not appear on the lists of 1675,1683 or 1701, it is possible that he did not own property, did not live in the town or that he had died. This Arthur was probably the father of Arthur, Samuel and Daniel.

* 4. Benjamin - Was born about 1655. As he is first mentioned in the Brookhaven Town records in 1674 when he received an allotment of land by order of his mother, indicating that he was a minor. This is substantiated by his name not being on the list of 1675 but being on that of 1683.