

## THE POSTS IN QUEENS COUNTY.

In the records of the town of Hempstead, before the division (1784) into North and South Hempstead, we find the first record of the brothers JEREMIAH and RICHARD POST, after they came there from Southampton.

For more than two hundred years they and their descendants have dwelt in that part of old Queens that is now Nassau County. Here and there one could find the tradition of visits from their kinsfolk near Southampton; just as remembrance of visits of far-off cousins from Queens County has been told to this generation by one of the Southampton POSTS. Leaving tradition, we find in the town records of the year 1700:

“JEREMIAH POST his (cattle) eare marcke is one half peni on yt C, entered May ye 20, 1700.”

In a deed we read, “as witness owre hands and seles ye 9 of October and year 1703.

“JEREMIAH POST.”

Under date of 19 February 1704,

“Hempstead in Queen’s County on Nawsaw island in the Province of New York.” . . . “The third part of a hundred acar Lot of Land Lying on ye north side of ye hills at ye head of ye beavill w’t sd third part of hundred acars of Land my brother sold to JEREMIAH POST,” is ratified and confirmed.

Beavel or Bevel hill is about two and a half miles west of Westbury Meeting-house; and this piece of land was owned by EDMUND POST, Senior, within the memory of those now living. It may well have been some of the first land bought by his great-great-uncle, JEREMIAH.

Cattle grazed in common on "the plains," as indeed they did, not so long ago. But to the marks of ownership, which were kept by the town, we owe the first mention of RICHARD POST since his name was given in the census list in Suffolk County thirteen years before.

"RICHARD POST his Ear-marke is the antient marke of his brother JEREMIAH POST . . . , Recorded the 16 day of the fourth month June 1711,

"by mee,

"WILLIAM WILLIS CLARKE."

This is the last time that the name JEREMIAH POST appears in the town records, except a mark recorded in 1747.

The Queens County address to the Howes, October 21, 1776, has among the signers JEREMIAH POST and JOHN POST.

In the "Colonial Series of the Report of the New York State Historian, vol. I, p. 497."

“Captain Tredwell’s Train Band Hempstead, September 17, 1715,” in “list of train Souldiers.”

“RICHARD POST.”

RICHARD POST, however, and his son, RICHARD, Junior, are mentioned several times in the Hempstead (town) records. Sometimes it is difficult to tell which is meant.

“RICHARD POST Juner his ear mark is a slitt in the near ear and two half peneys on the fore side of ear.

“Entered November 5, 1723.”

RICHARD POST, JR., was witness to a deed in 1728.

RICHARD POST. Earmark entered 1731. He was chosen one of the “Surveyors or Overseers of High Ways” in 1744, 1745 and 1747. In March, 1744-5, he requested “a highway Laid out.” The names of RICHARD and JOHN POST are signed to a paper concerning this road in 1745.

In 1744, when RICHARD POST, JR., affixed his signature as witness, the record adds that he affirmed. For they were now friends. (Quakers.) We find their names in old leather-bound manuscript volumes, one of the oldest having as its title page:

“A

book of Records of concerns belonging to friends of the Monthly Meeting at Westbury containing a Record of the affairs of friends in four parts began in the year 1730.”

It was not strange that they should be moved by the rising wave of the new form of faith that had established itself in Westbury (1697) just before their coming, and that was later to become the prevailing form for that region. Though the lists of those admitted were not kept at that early date, it is certain that in June, 1727, RICHARD POST was a member of the Society of Friends; and in 1728 we find the names of both RICHARD POST and RICHARD, JR., appended to one of the documents signed at the meeting.

There is an inference that the former chose a Quaker wife, and accepted her faith for that reason: for the rule was inexorable that marriage must not be allowed with one not also a Friend.

In Mrs. Bunker's "Early Long Island Families," there is a note of a sale of land by RICHARD and PHEBE POST in 1729. This land must then have been the dower of RICHARD'S wife; for otherwise it was not customary for her to sign the deed.

In 1744, at the marriage of "PHEBE POST, daughter of RICHARD POST, of Westbury, of Township of Hempstead," the first woman to sign the marriage certificate as witness was PHEBE POST. That place was usually given to the mother of the bride.

The name of the place had been changed to Westbury from the unborrowed, descriptive name of

Wood-edge. It was too good to keep. One reads, "Also it is adjudged that a meeting shall be kept at the Woodedge." The present year (1903) is the two-hundredth since the quarterly meeting was first held at Woodedge. It is thought that RICHARD POST, the first who came to Queens County, had other sons besides RICHARD, namely: JOSEPH and JOHN. It is certain that he had a daughter, for we have the record of her marriage in "9th mo. 1744," PHEBE POST, daughter of RICHARD POST, SR., of Westbury, to Joshua Powell, son of Thomas Powell, of Bethpage. (See Appendix F).

JOSEPH'S name is earlier mentioned, 1732. Also the next year in record of earmarks.

Both JOSEPH and JOHN were married before 1737; for the meeting then appointed a committee "to speak to JOSEPH and JOHN POST about their going and marrying from amongst Friends." Two or three years later their condemnation was accepted, JOSEPH, also for "bearing arms." There is mention of JOHN in the town records in 1745, when a road was laid out and carefully described. JOHN was disowned by Friends in 1760 for bearing arms. He had two daughters, PHEBE, who married John Powell, of Flushing, and ABIGAIL, who married Henry Pearsall, son of Rowland Pearsall, of Oyster Bay, in 1780. Of those who witnessed this marriage certificate were two JOHN POSTS and JACOB POST.

Lastly, in 1776, JOHN and JEREMIAH POST were found on the address to the Howes.\*

RICHARD POST, Junior, married first, Mary Willis, daughter of Henry Willis, in 1732. It was not till three years later that the Friends wrote, "ye 29th day of ye 8th mo. 1735, RICHARD POST and MARY POST gave in each of them a paper condemning their running out from the Order of Friends, and without the consent and knowledge of their parents and being married by a Justice and Friends received them and ordered them to be recorded."

In another volume is the record of their children, with the half-finished date that one wishes the clerk had filled in.

"The Age of RICHARD POST Junr. and his Children, ye sd RICHARD POST was born ye Day of  
mo 17

"HENRY POST (ye son of ye sd RICHARD POST) was born the first Day of ye 8mo 1733.

"RICHARD POST (ye Son of ye sd RICHARD POST) was born ye 17th Day of ye 5 mo 1735.

"MARY POST (Daughter of Said RICHARD POST) was Born the 6th day of 12 mo in the year 1737-8.

"JOTHAM POST (son of the aforesaid RICHARD POST) was Born the 14th Day of the 4 mo 1740."

"MARY POST wife of RICHARD POST and daughter

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\* Lord and Sir William Howe.

of Henry Willis died 13th day of 5 mo 1744 in unity with Friends."

RICHARD POST, Junior, married second, Elizabeth Willis, daughter of William Willis. Their children were STEPHEN, SARAH, and perhaps others. STEPHEN removed to Nine Partners,\* where we lose the trace when "he Rather chose" to leave the Friends.

But RICHARD POST, not remaining among the Friends, there is an interval till the time of the eldest son, only filled by the order of his going.

"29th day of 11 mo 1745-6." "At the aforesaid meeting . . . were appointed to speak with RICHARD POST concerning his laying of wagers and horse-racing and to endeavor to bring him to a sense of his Misstep."

"26th of 1st mo 1746." "They had treated with RICHARD POST about his lay'g of wagers on Horse Races, and that he seemingly condemned it by word of mouth, but he having been spoke to on that account several times before and he hath not condemned it underhand therefore it is the sense of this meeting not to receive it as a satisfactory Account until he doth refrain and condemn ye same more fully."

"Ye 30th d 2nd mo 1746." "that they had again

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\* "Nine Partners" was a grant to nine partners in Dutchess County, N. Y., and Milbrook is now the best known place in that vicinity.

spoke with him and that he desired to consider of it till the next monthly meeting." When the chronicle reads, "he was disowned."

HENRY POST, the eldest son of RICHARD POST, lived a long life from 1733 to 1816, in the vicinity of Westbury. The memories of his personality that have been handed down relate to his later days; so that these gleanings from his younger energy are valuable. The enthusiasm of the Colonial Wars had sway when he was a young man. In 1759, the meeting expressed disapproval of Henry Post for being Captain of Militia for one year.

Further we read, "21 of 5 mo 1759. To the mo. mtg. at Westbury. Dear friends, these lines may inform you that I was educated partly under the care and Direction in my very young years until the Decease of my mother and then I was left much to my own Liberty and after I came to the Estate and Condition of a man I was led away into Company and Inlisted in the malitia Service and there Exercised myself in that practice for about the space of one year . . . and had great uneasiness of mind until I could not any Longer Comply to use the Discipline of War . . . I desire to come under care of friends,

"HENRY POST.

"ye 21st of ye 5 mo. 1759."

This was satisfactory. One may note, too, that the war was about over. His first home was where an old



cellar long marked the site, just southeast of "Westbury pond" and near the present home of CATHERINE POST WILLIS. This land was recently found to have been his father's. (Tradition fancied his father lived near Wheatly.) This old deed is extremely interesting from its marking a fact not known before,—that he was not the first of the name to follow the alternate occupation of a weaver. I have been told that Westbury was famed for some sorts of fine weaving, and that people came from a distance to have it done. At any rate, some of the napery is at New Utrecht to this day.\*

"To all christian people to whom these Presents shall come, Greeting, know ye that I RICHARD POST of Hempstead in Queen's County on Nassau Island weaver for and in the Consideration of the full and just Sum of Eighteen Pounds of Good Current and Lawfull money of the Province of New York to me in hand well and Truly paid by HENRY POST of Westbury in the Town and Island aforesaid Weaver the receipt whereof.....on a certain messuage and small Plot of ground Lying situate and being in Westbuary Lying in the fork or Devision of the Highway Leading from Wheatly Leading Down by John Willis his house and is bounded on south by Thomas Carmons Land on the East North

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\* Dr. Weir Mitchell, in his story, "Hugh Wynne Quacker," tells us all Quakers were obliged to learn a trade. The records show that RICHARD and his sons were weavers, which seems to have been the principal occupation of the community at Hempstead.

and West by sd. Highways aforesaid be it in Quantity more or Less.

“Together with the dwelling-house and Improvements thereon standing . . . In witness hereunto I have Set to my hand and fixed My Seal this 15 day of May in the year 1758.

“RICHARD POST (S)”

“Memorandum that on the day and date within written I RICHARD POST received the full payment and satisfaction for the consideration money within mentioned.”

HENRY lived there two or three years, then bought a farm farther west, and much better, he thought. Here the remainder of his life was spent, and after him it was the lifelong home of his youngest son, JAMES.

In 4th month, 1761, HENRY POST and Mary Titus (daughter of Edmund Titus, deceased,) declared their intentions of marriage.” On 6 mo. 3, 1761, “HENRY POST, son of RICHARD POST, of Hempstead, in Queen’s County, on Nassau Island,” married Mary Titus. Among the witnesses were MARY, ELIZABETH, RICHARD and JOTHAM POST. And afterward William Loines and Thomas Seaman made report (to the meeting) “that it was accomplished orderly and well.”

From the granddaughters we have pleasant descriptions of this old house, part of which is still standing.

Here his six sons grew to manhood. The eldest son, at the outbreak of the Revolution, is described as "a noble-looking lad, tall and athletic, and of a high spirit,"—doubtless partook of the more positive hereditary temperament. There is a story of him when an old man, bending his keen, dark eyes to the cradles of his blue-eyed grandchildren and saying, "no black eyes yet!"

The British occupation of New York colored the Revolutionary experiences of the Long Island town.

There were English officers and soldiers who were quartered in the house. Major Crief died there. His body-servant, Jack, who remained in the vicinity, became a picturesque reminder of 'old war times.' "

"The Hessians cut down the saplings, then, by pressing teams and wagons, carted them away to forts and barracks. It is a serious loss: in a few years our farms will be without wood for use."

They suffered much loss and annoyance; but after a while it was over. Only "the blood-stains in the old East-room remained."

A great-grandson, now living, says: "Once, Grandfather HENRY POST was coming home from

New York, when, down where Bedford woods used to be, the soldiers took his horse and wagon away. He regained it next day over by the Sound."

On the other hand, they could not voluntarily give support to the American army. The Friends recorded their "sufferings."

"On the 5 mo. 1774 Then came Nehemiah Sammis to my house and Demanded of me five Shillings for not Appearing at a General Training and Upon my refusing to pay it he Took a Table cloth worth 18 shillings.

"Dated 1776.

HENRY POST."

"18th of 2nd. mo. 1778. Took from me 17s and 4 pence for not appearing to stand guard. In 10 mo. 1778, 1-9s-4d."

"On ye 16th of 1 mo. Daniel Toffe and Obediah Valentine Sergeants Under Captain Cornell and Demanded 5 l 5s in Order to pay Some charges in building the Fort at Brooklyn and Pay the Guard as they say and I Being from home they found Money and took 4-5-0.

"HENRY POST."

There are other similar entries, the last in 1780. It was in this year that, his granddaughter relates, he went with some other Friends to Nine Partners. On reaching the Continental lines they were stopped; but on asking to see General Washington they were

released, after he had granted them an interview, when he made close inquiry relating to the British force on the island. "They very candidly told him all they knew, and acquainted him with some facts before unknown to him." On their return they were again received, their account listened to, and passed through the lines." The charming character of HENRY POST is drawn as "Henry Pattison," in a little volume called "The Recollections of the American Revolution," written by his granddaughter, LYDIA POST (daughter of his son HENRY) under the name of "Grace Barclay." This book, praised by LYDIA POST'S friend, Washington Irving, was printed for private circulation.

HENRY POST was called the "peacemaker" from his success in settling disputes for his neighbors. The wife of HENRY POST was of an early Long Island family. She was a descendant of Edmund and Martha Titus, whose "memorials" are kept in manuscript by so many of their descendants. They both lived to great age, and Edmund Titus was one of the first settlers in Westbury. Born in England, in 1630, in the "register of all the passengers which passed from ye Port of London for one whole yeare ending at Christmas 1635." And as embarkers in the ship Hopewell are "Robert Titus of St. Katherines age 35, uxor Hanna Titus 31. Jo. Titus 8, Edmund 5." Doubtless it was "a chaste, zealous and godly life that was revived by their granddaugh-

ter." MARY POST, widow of HENRY POST, died "13th of 10th mo. 1823 aged 82 years."

The second RICHARD POST, JR. (RICHARD IV), was the second son of RICHARD POST, JR., and Mary Willis. Less is known of him.

The marriage bond of RICHARD POST and Hannah Beddle bears date August 31, 1757. "At a meeting at Westbury ye 25 of ye 2nd month 1761, RICHARD POST Jr. of Nine Partners requested some account from us concerning his conduct from his Youth, and so upwards to the Time he removed away from the Island to Nine Partners, which relation was drawn up and read," "and sent. It was perhaps not quite what he hoped for, and rather unusual." It was the sense and judgment of this meeting yt. we could not properly give him any Certificate, because he was not taken under the care of Friends by request before he removed from us," but the clerk was to "write to the Monthly Meeting at the Nine Partners and give them a brief relation of the reasons, and of his wild Conduct, when young, and of his return to be more sober, some Time before he left us." But in 12 mo. 1774 RICHARD POST was admitted a Friend at Nine Partners. A Removal Certificate was sent from Nine Partners to New York, in 1793, for RICHARD POST "removed to New York." Another was sent, in 1797, to Saratoga, for RICHARD POST. Whether he had gone back to Nine Partners we do not know. Other POSTS removed to Saratoga about this time. One, HENRY POST, a minister, in 1794.