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THE FAMILY OF
RICHARD SMITH
OF SMITHTOWN, LONG ISLAND

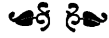


TEN GENERATIONS

by Frederick Kinsman Smith

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FIRST GENERATION



1. RICHARD¹ SMITH was one of the early settlers of Southampton, Long Island, and it is there that we find the earliest established record of our ancestor, who later became the patentee of Smithtown, and whose activities made him a prominent figure among his contemporaries and gave him a well recognized position in the history of Long Island.

It now appears most probable that he was the Richard Smith who sailed from England 2 Oct. 1635, aged 22 years, in the ship John of London, bound for St. Christophers. We may suppose that ships sailing for the West Indies followed a course which took them along the New England coast and that they would put in at Boston on the way. Under such conditions Richard Smith could have ended his voyage there or could have gone on to St. Kitts, later to find his way back if he concluded that New England offered more attraction than some point in the West Indies.

If he did continue the voyage to the West Indies at that time, he would seem to have arrived in New England within a year or two later. From his supposed contact with the activities of the Cambridge press at the time of printing its earliest issues, in 1639 and 1640, we suppose him to have been in Boston or in Cambridge at that time, but it is not until his arrival in Southampton that we have a definite record.

Southampton was settled by a group of men who lived at Lynn, in Massachusetts Bay Colony. Contracts made by them regarding the transportation of their families and goods and for the acquisition of land on Long Island were dated at Lynn, 10 Mch 1639/40 and 17 Apr 1640. The settlement was made at Southampton in June of that year. The advance party of settlers had at first selected a site at Cow Neck, on the Sound, toward the west end of the Island, but finding that the Dutch claimed that territory and would be likely to make it unpleasant for any English people there, they chose a new site, further east, where they would not be disturbed.

Richard Smith did not share in the original compact but must have been one of the earliest accessions to the original proprietors. His name is found in the Southampton records, in various connections, until about 1658. The earliest mention appears in the following entry, dated 26 Oct 1643:

Yt is ordered that Thomas Hyldreth shall satisfy vnto Mr. Smith to the value of three pounds and twelve shillings and foure pence, to be payd vnto him in English Wheate after the rate of foure shillings by the bushell, betwixt this and the first of March, and that this order shall bee a finall ende of all matters of Controversie what so ever betwixt them.

Various other items of interest from the records are here given:

In March, 1647, the General Court appointed five men, including "Mr. Smith," to have "the same authority that the five men had in 1644 to give or let land that is at liberty for a crop this year."

Richard Smith was chosen freeman 7 Oct 1648 and is named as a freeman and head of a family in lists dated 1649.

1 May 1649. Richard Smith and Richard Odell appointed to measure and lay out that part of the "great plaines" which was to be fenced.

It was ordered in May, 1649, that Mr. Richard Smith and Thomas Halsey should make a levy of eighteen pence on every 50 pound lot, "for satisfying towne debts." It would seem that the unit of investment among the proprietors was a fifty pound lot. Out of the fifty odd proprietors about one quarter of them had two "fifties" each, a similar number had three, a few had more than that, and the balance one lot each. Such distribution of holdings formed a basis for later allotments as well as for taxes and for other purposes. Richard Smith appears to have had a 150 pound lot, or three fifties. His home lot was on the west side of the main street, next north of the lane leading to the pond and the beach.

10 Oct 1650. Mr. Richard Smith, Thomas Sayre, and John White were voted by the Ganeral Court "to agitate towne business" and to have the same authority as the five men the year before.

On 7 Oct 1650 Richard Smith was chosen constable by the General Court, to serve for a year's term.

In an unusual and important case, where action was brought by Deborah Raynor against John Kelly, under date of 11 Jan 1650, the arbitrators were Mr. Josiah Stanborough, Richard Mills, schoolmaster

and town secretary, and Mr. Richard Smith. A part of the payment ordered in the settlement of this case was to be placed in the hands of Mr. Richard Smith as trustee.

1 Jne 1652. In an action for trespass brought by Jonas Wood against seven men, including Mr. Smith, the jury found for the plaintiff in the amount of two pounds five shillings, with increase of Court charges.

16 Sep 1653. The jury of twelve men in an action for slander includes Richard Smith and Richard Odell.

On 7 Mch 1644 Richard Smith had been named in the "fourth ward," consisting of eleven men, "for the cutting out of whales" cast on the beach. Two men were to be chosen by lot from each ward to do the cutting, and they were to have an extra share each. The whales found on the beach constituted a source of supplies of considerable value to the settlers. In the endeavor to work out a settled plan for taking care of and dividing the whales, four "squadrons" were organized in March, 1653, each consisting of from twelve to fifteen men, the total lot holdings represented in each squadron being 31 fifties. The squadrons were to take turns in cutting out, each acting for an allotted period. Richard Smith, with three fifties, was in the first squadron, which was referred to as "Mr. Smith's squadron."

In 1658 a "stray hogge" supposed to belong to him, which had probably escaped from captivity at or before the migration from Southampton to Setauket, was sold by the town "by outcry," for 17 shillings, and the proceeds used to reimburse certain Indians for damage done by the hog.

Richard Smith appears to have been one of a group of men, numbering a half dozen or more, among whom were Edward Howell, Richard Woodhull (called "Odell" in the Southampton records), Thomas Halsey, and others, who were depended upon to take the lead in various public services. The names of those men appear on the records more frequently than most of the others. In some of the later records there are references to another Richard Smith, who lived at North Sea, in the town of Southampton, but in most of the entries mentioning the name there is little reason for question as to the identity of the person intended.

The following entry, appearing in the records under the date 17 Sep 1656, signalizes an event which seems to have prompted the severance of our ancestor's previous relations with Southampton:

It is ordered by the general Court that Richard Smith for his vnreverend cariage towards the magistrates contrary to the order was adjudged to bee bannished out of the towne and hee is to have a weekes liberty to prepare himself to depart, and if at any time hee be found after this limited week within the towne or the bounds thereof hee shall forfeit twenty shillings.

It is very probable that he took considerably more time than was allowed by the Court order for settling his affairs at Southampton, and possibly was for that reason assessed a substantial fine, as indicated by the entry immediately following that above given:

It is ordered by the general Court that Richard Smith for his vnreverend cariage to the magistrate was judged to pay the sum of 5 pounds to bee levied imediately vpon the goods and chattels of the said Richard Smith, this present 6th of October 1656,

He was possibly still at Southampton as late as 6 Jan 1656 [o.s.], when action for trespass was entered by Henry Pierson against Richard Smith, and the jury found for the plaintiff in the amount of two shillings, together with the Court charges.

The Southampton records do not afford an explanation of the matter of banishment. The magistrates concerned were probably Thomas Topping and John Ogden, who were the magistrates and representatives at the general court at Hartford for that year, but what order of the magistrates had been disregarded, or what reason there had been for an appearance before the magistrates in the first place, is not recorded. A search farther afield may, however, throw some light on the question.

In August, 1656, there landed on the shore of Massachusetts Bay the forty-one passengers of the ship *Speedwell*, with Robert Lock as master, which had sailed from Gravesend, England, on the thirtieth day of May.*

* The original passenger list of the *Speedwell*, preserved in the J. Pierpont Morgan Library, New York, indicates the date of landing as August 27th, which is also the date given in the *New England Hist. & Gen. Register*. But other reports, published within a few years following the event, give the date as August 7th, and the *New England Commissioners' Proceedings* quoted above indicate the earlier date as probably correct. The letter from Boston there referred to, dated Sept. 2nd, says that Richard Smith had then been let out of prison, and the other reports state that he was detained three weeks.

So it would seem that the "2" now found before the "7" may be an accidental mark having closely the form of "2". Or it is just possible that it may have been purposely inserted when the document was still new, by someone who wished to make it appear that the landing was three weeks later, and therefore the imprisonment three weeks shorter than the actuality; or that Richard Smith had not been arrested or imprisoned at all. The revised date might support a disclaimer by some official responsible for the arrest, in case of criticism

Among them were eight designated as Quakers, and of the others, not so designated, one was Richard Smith, aged 43 years. Quakers not being viewed as desirable additions to the community, the eight who had been entered as such on the passenger list were arrested and held in prison for some weeks and then sent away from the Colony.

Richard Smith was accorded a similar reception, as it appeared that he had come to adopt the religious views of the Quakers. The Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England left the following reference to the matter in the record of their proceedings for September, 1656:†

A letter from the Gou^r and Majestrates of the Massachusetts dated att Boston the cecond September 1656 was p^rsented and read the contents as followeth; * * * heer hath arived amongst us seuerall p^ons professing themselves quakers fitt Instruments to propogate the kingdome of Sathan; for the Securing of ourselues and our Naighbours from such pests wee haue Imprisoned them till they bee despatched away to the place from whence they came one of which Richard Smith wee haue lett out of prison to returne to his family att Southampton whence wee hope and doubt not our Naighbors of Connecticut wilbee carfull soe to order it as hee may not doe the least p^rjedice. As also that some Generall rules may be comended to the seuerall Jurisdictions for the settling of Gou^rment amongst the Indians * * * and that some generall rules may bee alsoe comended to each Generall court to prevent the coming in amongst vs from foraign places such Notorious heretiques as quakers Ranters, ec.

(The following published account gives additional details:‡

Aug. 7, 1656. More Quakers arrived at Boston, in the Speedwell of London, commanded by Robert Locke. Their names are William Brend, Thomas Thurston, Christopher Holder, John Copeland, Richard Smith, Mary Prince, Dorothy Waugh, Sarah Gibbens, and Mary Witherhead. They are apprehended and imprisoned.

Smith was of Long Island. He attended public worship, and after the minister was done, publicly requested that, as the Governor desired him to converse with some of the ministers, so that they might

by someone higher in authority. See N.E. Hist. & Gen. Reg. vol. 1, p. 132, and N.Y. Gen. & Bio. Rec. 65, p. 45 (Jan. 1934).

† Records of the Colony of New Plymouth, vol. x (Acts of the Commissioners of the United Colonies of New England, vol. ii), p. 155.

‡ Felt's Eccles. Hist. of New Eng. vol. ii, p. 143.

convince him of his error, if such were present, they would accordingly address him. When told that the proposed interview was intended to be private, he wanted it otherwise. After three weeks detention, he was sent home by water.

The same story is found in a more picturesque setting in a volume printed only five years after the occurrence, in 1661, written as an answer to the declaration of 18 Oct 1658, made by the General Court of Massachusetts in relation to the Quakers. The curious title is here given, followed by extracts from pages five and eleven:

New Eng. Judged,
Not by Man's, but by the Spirit of the Lord:
And
The SUMME sealed up of NEW-ENGLAND'S
PERSECUTIONS
By GEORGE BISHOPE

* * *

In the beginning of the fifth mo. called July, 1656, Mary Fisher & Ann Austin, arrived at Boston, and after them, in the Moneth followed, viz. the 7. day of the 6 Moneht, 1656, Mary Prince, Sarah Gibbens, Mary Weatherhead, Dorothy Waugh, Christopher Holder, Thomas Thirstone, William Brend and John Copeland. * * * Yea, not only unto *them*, but to *Richard Smith* (as *Inhabitant* of *Long Island*, who came in the Ship with *them*, and whom *Ye* called *their* Proselyte) did not *your* Unreasonableness extend, because *he* was *their* Proselyte as *ye* said? Had *ye* not *him* up before *your* General Court with the *Later?* and Committed *ye* not *him* to prison also? and did *ye* not detain him there about *Three Weeks* from *his* Wife and Children? And when, by Leave from the *Jaylor*, he went to *your* Meeting on a *First Day* of the Week, and after the *Priest* had done, said,—*It was the saying of the Governour, that he should have Discourse with some of the Godly Ministers, to Convict him of his Error, and that he was deluded; and that if there were any such Godly Ministers that could so Convict him, he was ready to hear what they could say*—Did not *your* Governor *hereupon* declare, That *his* intent was *it* should be *private* (a *sorry* Shepherd that cannot lead a *stragling* Sheep into the (pretended so to be) *right* way before the *rest* of the *Flock*) And when the said *Richard* desired *it* might be

otherwise, and that at *that* present it might be, were ye not Enraged at *him*, and sent ye not *him* away to the *Prison* again, and from *thence* by *Water* to *his* own Habitation, not suffering *him* to passe through the *Country* (so great were *your* Fears) lest *he* should infect it (as was *your* slander) with *his* *poysonous Doctrine*! And did not *your* Council for the *present* Distress upon the Arrival of the *Two* Women aforesaid * * *

The writer of the book was of course under a misapprehension as to the reason for sending him home by water, as that was the only way of reaching Southampton.

The correspondence in time of the above noted events, together with the probability, as will be seen, that our ancestor was later known as "Quaker Smith," makes it appear reasonable to accept the view that the same Richard Smith was concerned in each event. Adopting this explanation of the decree of banishment, we may suppose that he had undertaken a journey to England and before reaching home had been "convinced" and suffered martyrdom accordingly.

Whatever the cause of banishment from Southampton may have been, the event appears to have become a turning point in his career and put him on the course which led to the founding of Smithtown. It may be supposed that expression of disapproved religious convictions, if such was the cause, was not prosecuted with the same severity on Long Island that obtained in Massachusetts, so that the subject of banishment from Southampton did not find it necessary to go to a great distance.

From Southampton Richard Smith migrated to the north side of the Island, probably going directly to Setauket, in Brookhaven, and becoming a resident there within two years of its settlement, which took place in 1655. One of the original proprietors and first settlers at Setauket was Richard Woodhull, who had also been one of the early proprietors at Southampton. In the records of the latter town the name is given as "Odell," the town official being responsible for that spelling, but the owner of the name always wrote it "Wodhull." Richard Woodhull and Richard Smith were closely associated in various ways and were probably intimate friends. They were both among the eleven men constituting the "fourth ward," in 1644, for cutting out whales, and had been associated in various other activities. Both had undoubtedly belonged in the same social rank, as recognized in England, and had a similar standpoint for their outlook on life. The name of one other of the early Brookhaven

proprietors is also found on the early Southampton records, that of Samuel Dayton. With these and doubtless other acquaintances and friends already located there, it would appear as a logical sequence that Richard Smith, in leaving Southampton, should turn his steps toward Setauket. The circumstances which caused him to leave Southampton did not prevent subsequent friendly relations with the people of that town and did not appear to lower him in the estimation of his new neighbors.

The earliest appearance of Richard Smith's name so far found in connection with Setauket is in the record of the New Haven Court for 20 May 1660, where suit was brought against him by Mr. John Youngs, probably of Southold. It appears in the Brookhaven records for 1661, when he participated in the division of Oldfield lots, of six acres each. He also had a four-acre lot in the second division, when the lots were four acres and three acres. The following quotations from the records contain references to him:

1662

June the 2 It was voeted and agreed vpon at a full towne meeting that mr odell and mr Richard smith haue liberty to doe what thay will aboute west Caniticutt or medow that thay bought the saide partis defraeing all the charg that was aboute the same medowes thay exsepted of the same this Canitucutt situate betwixt vnkachak and sequatake west onely John Tooker and gorg wood (Juiner) did Resarue there Interest as townsmen

* * *

1662

September 25 It was agreed vpon at a full towne meetting the 3 men that was chossen shall haue full power to end all dissents betwixt man and man as if thay had been magistrats with as much power. It is alsoe agreed vpon that mr smith shall be aded to the other 3 men for to offissiate the same offese and soe to continue tell (ther out) and the sayed partis to ackt by cuniticut lawes

* * *

Memorandum that the within sayd pties namely Capt Scott and Capt Plott doe agree yt John Lum and John Cathchem shall bee the tow men that shall apprise the within spetified goods and If they cannot agree then mr Richard Smith is to bee the vmpire to end what difference shall bee betwene them The sayd goods being to be apprised of

at the rate as such goods commanley pas at fro man to man at Long Iland and If John Catchem or mr Richard Smith aboue named be wanting; that they cannot accomplish the business, then the aboue sayd John Lum with the other shall Chewse a third man.
witnes theire hands this 23 of may 1664:

There was an agreement with Daniel Lane, dated "this 12 day of 10 m 1664" [December, 1664], signed, with sixteen others, by "Richard Smythe," in accordance with which a mill and dam were to be built, for Lane to do the grinding for the community. The town was to maintain the dam for a year and a day, after which the property was to become Lane's. This agreement was, however, annulled about a month later and the mill problem otherwise settled.

It cannot be now known at what period Richard Smith first conceived the idea of acquiring the Nissequogue lands. In all probability it was in pursuance of the desire, which may have possessed him even when first leaving England, to become a large land-owner. He was a witness to the signing of the deed of gift by which Wyandance, in 1659, made over to Lion Gardiner his title to the land now comprising the town of Smith-town. His attention may have been called to the land at that time, or, what seems equally probable, he may have had something to do with bringing about the transaction, by way of suggestion, thinking that Lion Gardiner's acquaintance and influence with the Indians claiming the title, then living at East Hampton, would be greater than his own. Tradition has it that the restoration of Wyandance's daughter to her father, after her capture by Indians from across the Sound, took place at Smith's residence at Setauket, after Gardiner had used his influence and means to secure her return.

However that may be, it was not until 1663 that Lion Gardiner conveyed to Richard Smith his title to the lands covered by the deed of gift. Whatever written agreement there may have been between them has never been found. Lion Gardiner died in that year. The earliest record connecting Richard Smith with the purchase is that found in the Southampton Records, of an agreement dated 22 Nov 1663, by which he deeds half the land west of the Nissequogue to Captain John Scott, of Setauket, who claimed to have previously purchased the land from Gardiner. Scott was afterward shown to be an impostor, and nothing more is heard of this sale, which evidently became void. The falsity of Scott's claims being discovered in connection with some of his deals, he

was arrested at Setauket and tried before the Hartford Court, which ordered, 12 May 1664, a sequestration of his estate. At Setauket, 9 Jne 1664, Mr. Smith was appointed, with the constable and Will Crumwell, to sell some of Scott's goods for the relief of his victims.

The deed of gift from Wyandance to Lion Gardiner, dated at East Hampton 14 Jly 1659, described the land as between Huntington and Setauket and extending southerly half way through the Island. It was signed by Wyandance, Wyandbone, and the Sachem's wife, and witnessed by Richard Smythe, Thomas Chatfield, and Thomas Talmsdge. The original deed is in possession of the Long Island Historical Society. It has an endorsement by David Gardiner, of Gardiner's Island, dated 15 Oct 1664, to the effect that he had received satisfaction of Richard Smith, of Nissaquaque, for what concerned him in the deed. It was recorded in the office of the Secretary of State, in the Long Island Book of Records for 1659 to 1667.

After acquiring the rights of Lion Gardiner to the Nissequogue lands there were still various claims, of greater or less validity, which had to be taken care of before a satisfactory and legal title could be secured.

At the time of the first arrival of the white settlers on Long Island there were thirteen principal tribes or clans of Indians on the Island, who seem to have been, for the most part, friendly with one another and with more or less blood relationship between members of different tribes. Each tribe lived upon and enjoyed possession of the land within certain fairly definite limits. The Montauk tribe had jurisdiction over the east end of the Island, and their sachem, Wyandance, was also acknowledged as Grand Sachem over all the tribes of the Island. As such he signed deeds for land in various places, and his counter-signature was often placed on deeds given by other sachems.

The Matinecock tribe occupied the lands on the north shore from Newtown to Huntington and possibly claimed jurisdiction as far as the Nissequogue. The Nissequogue tribe held the land between the Nissequogue River and Stony Brook.

From the point of view of the English settlers the legal title to the land was vested in the English Sovereignty, but the grants or patents given to individuals or to communities were conditioned on giving satisfaction to the Indian occupants, and the designation of location and bounds usually conformed to the descriptions given in the Indian deeds. The patent was in effect, as well as being so stated in the instrument it-

self, a confirmation of the proprietorship as previously acquired in some acceptable manner.

In order to acquire a title which should be proof against all adverse interests, Richard Smith started on the trail of the various claimants, a pursuit which occupied his attention for twelve years before being crowned with final success. There seems to have been little difficulty in taking care of the title to the land on the east side of the Nissequogue. He probably entered into actual possession and made settlement at Nissequogue, with his family, early in 1664, but for some years remained in close association with his Setauket neighbors, both socially and in matters of civil jurisdiction.

As early as 29 Sep 1650 Nassetconset, Sachem of Nissequake, had given a deed to Edmond Wood and others, of Huntington, for the land from the Nissequogue River eastward to a river called Memanusack (probably Stony Brook) and also land on the south side of the Island. This deed of 1650 was recorded for Richard Smith 2 Mch 1666, indicating that he had secured a transfer of the title from the original grantees. The deed as quoted was copied from a copy of the original deed certified by Secretary Nicolls in 1663, bearing an endorsement to the effect that "Quaker Smith's deed from Coll. Nicolls bears date, March the 7th, 1665." The endorsement on this copy of the deed must have been made within a few years, at most, after that date and is evidence that he was generally known by that nickname.

In June, 1664, after taking care of all Indian claims appearing up to that time, Richard Smith, desirous of securing an authoritative confirmation of his title, presented the matter to the General Court at Hartford, and an agreement was made whereby he undertook to settle twenty families on the land.

Up to this time the settlers of the eastern part of Long Island had been under the jurisdiction of, and had given allegiance to, New Haven and Hartford. In 1664 Charles II granted to his brother James, Duke of York, the large territory which embraced all of New Netherland and a part of New England, including Long Island. The first English governor of New York, Sir Richard Nicolls, made his entrance into the city 8 Sep 1664, and thereafter it was to the Courts of New York that the inhabitants and settlements of Long Island had to appeal in case of necessity.

Hartford being no longer the seat of authority, Richard Smith took measures to secure from the new governor a confirmation of his title to

the lands which he claimed. He met with such a degree of success that on 3 Mch 1665 Governor Nicolls issued a patent which covered all the land east of the Nissequogue and "on the west side of the said River so farr as is at this present in ye possession of Richard Smith as his proper right and not any wayes claymed or in controversy betweene any other persons."

The failure in getting the desired confirmation of title to the western tract at this time was due to adverse claims of his neighbors of the town of Huntington, who based claims to ownership on a deed given by Matinecock Indians. The Matinecock deed was older than that given by Wyandance to Lion Gardner, but it was claimed that Wyandance had been the true owner, and not the Matinecocks.

The matter was brought before the county court and then to the New York Court of Assizes, but a settlement had not been reached when the Dutch, in 1673, again acquired control of New York. With characteristic persistence Richard Smith carried the case to the Dutch Court, where the proceedings resulted favorably. It had not gone far enough, however, to complete the record and settle the case definitely, when control again passed to the English in 1675.

The English Court of Assizes accepted the finding of the Dutch Court and confirmed to Richard Smith the title to the land extending to the present western boundary of Smithtown. The decision was a compromise, as neither party was given all that had been originally claimed.

In 1677 a patent was issued by Governor Andross, generally known as the "Second Patent," for the land east of the Nissequogue, and also for the western tract, which had, "at the General Court of Assizes held in the year 1675, been recovered by the said Richard Smith from the town of Huntington. * * * The tenure of the said land and premises to bee according to the custom of the manor of East Greenwich, in the County of Kent in England in free and common soccage and by fealty only. * * * The said Richard Smith * * * yielding and paying therefor yearly and every year unto his Royal Highness's use as an acknowledgement or quit rent one good fatt lamb, unto such officer or officers as shall be empowered to receive the same."

The story of the difficulties which confronted our ancestor during the twelve years or more of negotiations and court procedures, through which he realized his ambition to become the owner of an estate which proved to be one of the largest single estates acquired by the early settlers of this country, has its counterpart in few of the pioneer settlements.

In all parts of the Island the Indian claims received early consideration, and in most cases the desired land was readily secured, and the title afterward remained undisturbed. Yet in a few instances, as in that of the Nissequogue land, conflicting deeds were given, based on overlapping Indian claims and conjectured ownership, which had to be later reconciled by court intervention. The Indians must have had little conception of the significance attaching to the idea of land ownership among the new comers. With thoughts centered mainly on supplying of their needs for existence and the indulgence of their appetites, while knowing that they were giving away the use of their lands, they joyfully received the commodities given them for making their marks on a sheet of paper. In eastern Long Island the Indians early came to regard the whites as their friends and as protectors against incursions by their enemies from across the Sound, the Narragansett tribes, who were more numerous and more powerful than themselves. While there were depredations at times, and for a few years the English were apprehensive of trouble and took precautions to protect themselves, there was at no time any serious outbreak. The relations between the whites and the Indians on eastern Long Island were probably more amicable than in the case of almost any other of the earlier settlements.

If the governmental changes of 1664 had not taken place, affecting the control of Long Island, or if they had been postponed a few years, it seems reasonable to suppose that Richard Smith would have acquired his estate with less difficulty, but there would not have been demonstrated to his descendants the quality of metal of which he was made.

Although we have no statements of contemporaries as to the personal appearance or characteristics of Richard Smith, we can, nevertheless, from the legacies of material things and of recorded history which have come down to us, draw certain conclusions which appear dependable regarding his personality and the conditions influencing his development.

The fact that he was usually designated as "Mr." in the earliest records show that he was, in the English social terminology, a "gentleman," and he so designates himself in some of the deeds now existing. That is, he was of an armigerous family. This is confirmed by the fact that with his signature on legal documents he used a seal bearing a fleur-de-lis which, in all probability, was a charge on his coat of arms.

He had, undoubtedly, the liberal schooling of English boys of the more privileged families, and in addition to his ordinary schooling must

have been subjected to the influence of an atmosphere of legal or official procedures and records, under which his penmanship took on certain characteristics derived from the "court hand" or "law hand," which would not likely be acquired in any other way. The court hand was the style of writing found in official records and documents of that period and earlier, showing a surviving influence of the older Gothic script. Such characteristics, shown in Richard Smith's writing, have been found in scarcely a single instance out of hundreds of examples of the writing and signatures of the leaders among his contemporaries coming from England to America. The schooling and training which he must have had indicate that in all probability he was brought up in London.

In studying the specimens of his writing, the freedom of stroke and uniformity in the character and shape of the letters give evidence of much practice, and one would hardly realize that the writer must have been some seventy-odd years of age when executing them, and that for fifty years there could have been but little occasion for keeping in practice in the polite art of writing. The deeds which he made to his children, his grand-children, and others, his will, and other papers, which were doubtless largely his own composition, show a considerable familiarity with the involved expressions of legal phraseology of the time.

Richard Smith became one of the flood of Englishmen who, in the middle period of the reign of Charles I, sought escape from the conditions of religious persecution and political tyranny to which they had been subject and opportunity to shape their own development in the promising possibilities of the new world. The people were under the heavy taxation and severe oppression engineered by Archbishop Laud and were far from being in accord with the King. The feeling of discontent was widespread and deeply seated, though the outward appearance of tranquility put at rest any sense of danger in Court circles. Thousands were leaving England for America.

The spirit of Puritanism of that period was largely the development of a demand for the opportunity for self expression, of which we see the growth from the early period of the Reformation. With that spirit the great mass of the English people were more or less imbued, and with it Richard Smith must have been in sympathy. Yet the motive of freedom in religion might not appear to have had the same dominance with him as with many others, and there is no reason to believe that he came because of strong personal convictions on religious matters which caused

him to take part in the movement or that he accompanied older members of his family so influenced. Neither is there reason to suppose that he had been involved in political machinations, the untoward outcome of which might have led him to seek asylum away from home. He was in young manhood, of an age at which few men would have the maturity of opinion or the experience of life to lead them to independent action in sacrificing home ties for the sake of religious belief. He might easily have been one of a congregation coming in the train of ministerial leadership, as was the case with many of our Puritan ancestors, but we have no record of his arrival in any one of such companies. In each one of the communities where he made his home after the beginning of his known history, the attitude of the community would appear not to have been so orthodox as in the Massachusetts Bay settlements.

In Southampton, while the Rev. Abraham Pierson accompanied the original settlers as their pastor, he resigned his charge four years later, not being in accord with the more liberal ideas which prevailed, when the union with Connecticut was followed by the extension of the voting privilege to those who were not church members. In Setauket in the early days services were conducted by Samuel Eburne, and on 12 May 1662 Mr. William Fletcher was voted forty pounds a year for his services, but there was no regularly installed minister until the arrival of the Rev. Nathaniel Brewster in 1665. There was no resident minister at Smithtown until the Rev. Daniel Taylor became pastor, probably in 1712, the people there depending on Setauket, up to that time, for their ministerial services. In contrast with these communities we know that various other bands of settlers who branched out from the earliest foundations on Massachusetts Bay to find still newer homes in the wilderness went each as a congregation, with the minister often as a temporal as well as a spiritual leader.

So it would appear likely that Richard Smith, held by no ties of landed estate or of established business, was attracted by the expectation of new experience and interesting adventure in this land of unlimited possibility and alluring promise. This must have been the impelling force with many, even of those who came in the congregations of liberty-seeking Puritans, and especially with those Englishmen who had, for a number of years been leaving England for the more southerly lands of South America, the islands of the Caribbean Sea, and the shores of Virginia. And we have no evidence that Richard Smith set out for New

England, when leaving home, rather than for some other point in the western world, excepting that New England was where he eventually landed.

So far as Quakerism is concerned, whether or not he was in any way affiliated with that sect in later years, it could not then have had any bearing on the matter, as he left England some ten years before George Fox began preaching his revolutionary and unwelcome doctrines—unwelcome to those who had sought religious liberty for themselves in the new world, as well as to the standpatters of old.

The various records show that Richard Smith was frequently a principal in some controversy, in business or other matters. On such occasions he would apparently not allow himself to be drawn into physical encounters, but would place his reliance on legal action, as becomes a subject of legal training. It is to be noted that the records indicate a favorable outcome on his side in a fair portion of those cases, with a few notable exceptions. One of those exceptions was when he was banished from Southampton.

We conceive him, as a young man, to have been impressionable and open minded to new ideas, endowed with a constructive imagination and a strong feeling of self confidence and self reliance, and with something of a spirit of unrest and a disposition to seek adventure. An impetuous temperament, manifested in occasional outbreaks even after reaching a well rounded maturity, would seem to have been usually kept in good restraint by a fairly well wrought out conception of the objects of his ambition in life and the responsibilities entailed in their attainment. His feeling of sympathy with his fellow-man and a certain sense of responsibility in his relations with his neighbors appear to show in him a spirit of altruism, which was perhaps even more rare then than in our own day.

A few weeks before his return to Southampton, after his visit to England, he had landed from a ten weeks voyage on which he, with thirty-odd other passengers, had been in close association with four men and four young women, all of whom were doubtless full of enthusiasm for the promulgation of the new doctrines of Quakerism, and in fact were on their way to America for that purpose, probably after selection by reason of outstanding qualifications for their role. At a time when intellectual activity was largely absorbed in discussion of theological theories, and extreme intensity of feeling was exhibited by the advocates of the various doctrines, the new teachings of Fox and his followers fell

greater number in 1658, settling especially in Flushing, Long Island, and in Rhode Island.

In the early days of Smithtown the people there looked to the church at Setauket for their pastoral care. After the first patent was granted by Governor Nicolls an agreement was entered into, before the Governor, between the "Officers of the Towne of Seatacote, and Richard Smith of Nesaquake, * * * that hee pay towards ye maintenance of the Minister at Seatacote, during the Terme in ye said Patent mentioned, or until he shall bee otherwise provided." He seems possibly to have been somewhat dilatory in payment of this obligation, as the following letter is on record:

New York 3rd April, 1666.

Mr. Smith:—

— — — — —

I am moreover to put you in minde of your former engagement before his Honor, to contribute to ye allowance of the Minister of Seatacote, untill you shall be otherwise provided, which will be expected from you; These particulars were given mee in charge to deliver to you from the Governor.

I am,

Your Loving friend

M. Nicolls.

To Mr. Richard Smith of Nesaquake
on Long Island.

The Rev. Nathaniel Brewster was the first regularly established minister in Setauket, going there in 1665 and serving faithfully for many years. The arrangement referred to in the letter quoted must have continued until the early years of the eighteenth century, when the Rev. Daniel Taylor, a graduate of Yale in 1707, became the first resident minister in Smithtown.

Richard Smith had probably been brought up amid surroundings such that he had absorbed the idea of the association of large land holdings with the ideals of social life and believing, as already suggested, that America might offer opportunities possibly denied him on his native soil, may have been guided by an ambition for the attainment of such ideals in the active career which brought realization of his early dream.

He appears to have had, even at an early period, the means of acquiring a liberal holding of proprietary rights and of indulging, to a measure

above the average, in the possession of the various accompaniments of good living, according to the tastes and standards and opportunities of the time. Various articles of personal and household use have survived the ravages of time and have come into possession of present day descendants. One is a silver snuff-box, elaborately engraved, of which supposably he made abundant use. Also a set of silver buttons, engraved with his initials. Of the descendants who have owned the buttons, some one, in more or less modern times, has had them made into a set of cuff links, but they must surely have originally appeared on the owner's coat, and been changed from the old to new when soil and wear called, for the tailor's visit to the home.

A fireplace chair, of oak, made with arms but without back, appears as sturdy and as capable of fulfilling its purpose as when occupied by the figure of the first Richard himself. The wills of his children and grandchildren mention silver headed canes, silver forks, silver spoons, tankards, punch-bowls, and the like, some of which had probably belonged to their ancestor, indicating that they had been brought up amid surroundings of a considerable degree of luxury.

It does not seem probable that Richard Smith was married before leaving England. It is more likely that he found his wife in New England. Sarah, and the tradition has been accepted by many that she was Sarah Folger, but this has not been confirmed by any record now known and appears negatived by accepted facts. John Folger, first of the name in New England, is supposed to have had only one daughter, Mary, who married Peter Paine, of Southold. The Folgers were among the early settlers of Martha's Vineyard.

Notwithstanding the agreement to settle families in Smithtown as prerequisite to a patent, but few transfers of land could have been made for the first twenty years after settlement. As the sons grew up and became of age they were given land for farms, and houses were built, in locations not far from the home of their parents. Each son appears to have been given a hundred acres of land soon after reaching his majority. The following entries of deeds for such gifts to three sons are found in the Brookhaven Records: *

* The spelling and use of capitals in these records must be attributed to the clerk who did the writing, and not to Richard Smith, who had a good command of English and made a very satisfactory use of capitals and conformed his spelling to the usage of his time.

feb: 6th 1676

These may sattisfy that I Richard Smith of nessequake senyer doe (giue) to obedyah smith the track of land at the mouth of nessequak River one the west siede from the swamp of the creeke called shock-hegonn to the north sea to haue and to hould for ever and nott to be sould (from his children being about a hundred akers with all the medow in the same neck and) for canfermation of the same I have subscribed my name
(Ienury 24: 1676)

Richard Smith

* * *

4 (Iul)y 1677

mr Richard Smith senyer of nessequake haue given to Samuell Smith and Adam Smith ech of them one hundred akers of land in stony brooke necke where thay see cause to take it vp the same to haue and to hould to them and thaire haires forever as alsoe the medow on the long beach and liekwiese creek thach in the harbor as witness my hand

Richard Smith with a seale

In the year 1683, in response to the call of the provincial government, ratings were sent in from the Long Island towns, as given in the Documentary History of New York. In the "Smith's Towne Estimations Sept y^e 28 1683" the only returns were those of Richard Smith and his six sons. The total valuation amounted to £1340.

In 1688, doubtless feeling somewhat the weight of years, and seeing then a number of grandchildren whose futures were to be considered, Richard Smith gave to his children and grandchildren a considerable number of deeds for land in Smithtown, dated in the last few days of August, and acknowledged before Wait Winthrop, one of the "Councill of his Majestys territory and Dominion of New England," who was probably then on a visit at the home of Richard Smith. The deeds bear the signature of Richard Smith, with his bold execution in the style of the "court hand." His wife signed with a mark. The signatures are accompanied with a wax seal bearing the impression of a fleur-de-lis surrounded by a circle of dots. From the handwriting, it would seem probable that the deeds were written by Richard Smith, Jr., probably following the dictation of his father. Aside from the signatures on such existing deeds, the document shown in facsimile in the frontispiece is one of the few pieces of Richard Smith's handwriting which have come

down to modern times. The exact literal reading of this deed is as follows:

Know all men by these prsts that I Richard Smyth
 senior of Smythtown doe promis to deliver into the
 possession of Danni^{ll} Whitehead a lott of land adion-
 ing to the lott of my sonn Iobe, and as large as his
 lott with liberty of Commonidge & this to bee done
 uppon demand for to have and hold to the said Danniell
 his heirs or assignnes for ever, & for the weall per-
 formance hearof I binde me my heires exequitors adminis-
 trators & assignne[s] my sonn Iobes lott contains at
 least 14 or 16 Ackres witnes my hand & seal haveing re-
 ceaved Satisfaction to my content
 March 3 1684/5
 witnes
 William Creed
 Samuell Ruscoe

Richard Smythe
[seal]

The words “witnes my hand” and following to the signature were evidently interlined after the signature and date had been written.

It is not known when the designation “Bull Rider” of “Bull Smith” was first used. We may reasonably suppose that the subject of that nickname was so called during his lifetime, though we have no contemporary record for proof. That the generic title, the “Bull Smith Family,” should be applied to his descendants is a natural sequence, in a district where the Smiths have been so numerous and so prolific that the simple patronymic leaves much chance for mistaken identity. So we find on Long Island the several distinct families of Rock Smiths, Nan Smiths, Blue Smiths, Tangier Smiths, and others, as well as popular designations for individual Smiths, such as “Horseblock Isaac,” “Petticoat Isaac,” “Catchpenny Dick,” “Eleven-Dollar Bill,” and the like.

The legendary tale comes down to us from a hoary antiquity that Richard Smith, by bargain with the Indians, incorporated in his purchase from them all the territory he could encompass in one day by riding on the back of a bull. To confirm our possibly wavering faith in this story we have the assurance of a descendant, the family historian, Samuel A. Smith, that “The tradition of the bull riding of Richard Smith, known as “bull rider,” in his treaty with the Indians, will be shown to be a fact as positive as the existence of Smith and the Indians.”

Just what proof Samuel A. Smith would have offered we do not know, but, in view of the known details of the deeds given by the early Indian claimants, with definition of bounds specified in the deeds, we are not given much encouragement to accept the popular explanation of the title. That a foundation in fact existed must be allowed, and it is altogether probable that Richard Smith, at an early date, used a bull for the purpose of transportation, where most of his descendants found the horse more acceptable, and the present generation is satisfied with nothing less speedy than a motor car.

The will of Richard Smith, in which his wife joined, was recorded in "The Lester Will Book," of which Pelletreau's "Early Long Island Wills" is an unabridged copy, and was also reprinted in "Records of Smithtown." The will and the Court entry of probate are as follows:

March y^e 5 1691

In y^e name of God Amen. I Richard Smith Sen^r of Smithtown in y^e C County of Suffolk on Long Island in y^e Province of New York being sick and weak in body but of sound and perfect memory thanks be to God calling to mind y^e uncertain state of this life and that we must submit to God's will when it shall please him to call us out of this life do make constitute and ordain this our last Will & testament hereby revoking and annulling any former or other will or testament made by us either by word or writing—

Imprimis— We give our souls to God who gave them and our bodies being dead to be decently buried in such place & manner as to our Executors hereafter named shall seem convenient and as for y^e lands goods and chattels wherewith it has pleased God to endue us with all our just debts & legacies being first paid we order & dispose in manner & form following—

Item— To Jonathan Smith our eldest son we give and bequeath our house barn & orchard joinin to his home lot and y^e home stall as far as y^e old fence Northward and halfe way from y^e said house to Samuel's house and thence to y^e West ende of y^e barn & y^e wood close on y^e East side of y^e little brook over against y^e house and forty acres of land more than his equal share in division with y^e rest of our children and that lot of meadow over against y^e mill on y^e west side of y^e river—

Item—To our son Richard we give & bequeath our Negro Harry and an equal share of land in division with y^e rest of our children—

Item— To our son Job we give & bequeath our Negro Robin for y^e term of twelve years and an equal share of land in division with

ye rest of our children and at ye end of ye sd twelve years the said Robin shall be free—

Item— To our son Adam we give an equal share of land in division with ye rest of our children—

Item— To our son Samuel Smith we give & bequeath ye orchard Southward of the house & half ye pasture bounded by ye little Creek ye eastward parte thereof & ye lower or Northward most Fresh Island on ye east side of ye river with an equall share of land in division with ye rest of our children and the swamp called ye North swamp with ye land on ye east side which is fenced—

Item— To our son Daniel we give & bequeath ye other half of ye pasture Southward of his house ye westward part of it and an equall share of land in division with ye rest of our children & our will is that James Necke shall be and remaine for ye use and improvement of my six sons aboves^d & their heires forever—

Item— To our daughter Elizabeth Townley we give & confirme that land & meadow at a place called Sunck Meadow as it is mentioned in a deed made by us & also ye one halfe of my cloathing—

Item— To our daughter Lawrence we give & bequeath an equall parte & share in division with ye rest of our children where it shall be most suitable & convenient also ye other halfe of my clothing—

Lastly— we doe hereby nominate and appoint our beloved sons Jonathan and Rich^d Smith Executors of this our last Will & testament. to pay our just debts and to make an equall partition amongst all our children of all ye goods & chattels and what moveable estate shall be left—

In Witness whereof we have hereunto set our hands & seales the day & yeare above named—

Richard Smith	(Seal)
Sarah Smith	(Seal)

Sealed & delivered in presence of—

John Roe
Jonathan Lewis
Thomas Helme

By ye tenor of these presents Know ye that on ye 2d day of May Anno Dom. 1693 at Brookhaven in ye County of Suffolk before Coll. William Smith Judge of ye Prerogative Court was proved and approved ye last Will & Testamt. of Rich^d Smith Sen^r deceased at Smithtown on ye 7th day of March Anno Dom. 1691/2 who by his said Will did nominate & appoint his sons Jonathan & Rich^d to be his Executors for ye well and faithful administration of all & singular

y^e goods chattels & credits of ye deceased and y^e said Jonathan renouncing y^e burthen of Executorship the administration of y^e said goods & chattels was committed to y^e s^d Rich^d Smith to render a true account thereof according to y^e tenor of said Will & y^e laws of this Province—

Sarah Smith was by no means a silent partner of her husband. Her capability and success in fulfilling her duties as a mother and a housewife require no proof beyond a look at her family of nine children brought up to maturity. Her function as a balance wheel for the impetuosity of an aggressive and what might then seem a visionary husband can only be inferred. Of her active participation in the business matters of the partnership, when the controversy regarding the title to the Smithtown lands was at its height, we have the following evidence* concerning her appearance before Governor Francis Lovelace and his Council:

At a Counsell held in y^e Fort at New Yorke Decembr^r y^e 1st 1670:

Upon a Petition p^rsented by M^{rs} Smith, of Nesaquake, on y^e behalfe of her selfe & husband, desiring an Explanation of the Verdict of y^e Jurye & order of y^e Court of Assizes, as to y^e bounds of y^e Land wch Inhabitants of Huntington had gotten their suite for, Declaring and offering to prove that y^e Nesaquake lands lay on both sydes of y^e Ryver, & that parte lyeing on y^e west syde, comonly called Nesaquake Accomsett, did extend as farre as y^e fresh pond westward, and so to y^e Hollow Southward, the wch, together wth that on y^e East syde, was y^e proportion on wch they were to settle y^e ten families, and y^e oth^r Ten families, in consideration of y^e land westward of y^e fresh pond, if they had made good their title thereunto.

Upon consideration had hereupon it was ordered that y^e Towne of Huntington should have notice hereof to y^e wch they are to returne an Answer to y^e Governor and wth all its recomendes that a faire comp * * * be endeavoured between both p^{ty}s, that there be no furth^r such trouble or molestaton concerning this matt^r By Ord^r of y^e Governe^r & Councell.

Matthias Nicolls, Sec^r.

Sarah Smith survived her husband by about sixteen years, and numerous deeds and other papers of that period bear her name.

She made a will, dated 20 Jan 1707/8, a copy of which is here given:

* Huntington Town Records, vol. i, p. 169. The heading of the record in the volume quoted gives it as an "Order by Gov. Nichols and Council," but Governor Nicolls was succeeded by Governor Lovelace in 1668.

In the name of God Amen. I Sarah Smith relict of Richard Smith Sen. deceased of Smithtown in y^e County of Suffolk & in y^e Province of New Yorke, Doe make my last will and Testament in manner following. First I commit my soul into y^e hands of God which gave it, and my body to a decent burial at y^e discretion of my Executor hereafter named, in comfortable hopes of a happy and glorious resurrection thro, the power and merits of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And as for my outward estate, after debts and my funrall charges are paid, I give and bequeath as followeth. Imp. I give and

bequeath to my son Richard Smith his eldest son Richard, all the houses, orchards, and all my lands that my husband left me in y^e possession of, & that I am at this present in possession of, he yielding and paying me ten pounds a year and yearly as long as I shall live, & at my death to have y^e above mentioned premises, & his heirs for ever, with all the privileges and accomodations thereunto belonging. I also give to my daughter Elizabeth one trunk with all my linen & wearing clothes. I give to my son Richard's two daughters my silk whod, and scarfe. I give a Necke called James Neck to be equally divided amongst my six sons Jonathan, Richard, Job, Adam, Samuel and Daniel. I give my son Richard's eldest sonne my blunderbuss. I give my son Richard's wife my cloake. I give all y^e household stuff not here bequeathed to be equally divided among my six sons above mentioned. I give Mr. George Philips a Cow, and all ye rest of my stock to be equally divided amongst my six sons above mentioned, it must be understood that what I have given my son Richard is to oblige him to quit and null all debts y^t he pretends is owing to him by my husband or my self, so it may prevent future difference among my children, and also all y^e rest of my children to null and void all debts from husband or myself, and to accept of what I have given them in full satisfaction. I desire also what I gave Mary Petreche she may have it & to be maintained equally amongst my children. I hereby null and revoke, all former wills & instruments whatsoever, & Constitute & appoint my well beloved son Richard Smith to be my executor & to take care and see that this will be to the true intent of it performed. In testimony hereof that this is my last will & testament I have hereunto affixed my hand and seale this twentieth day of January 1707/8.

The real estate mentioned in the will was probably that deeded to Richard Smith, Jr., by Richard and Sarah Smith, on 31 Aug 1688, and on the same day deeded by Richard Smith, Jr., to his mother.

With passing generations knowledge of the burial place of Richard Smith and his wife has been lost to their descendants. It was supposed, however, to have been in the ground where the son Obadiah had been buried. Apparently no stone had marked the graves of the parents until, in 1919, some of their descendants placed there a granite table-stone, which was unveiled and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies on September 13th of that year.

Children of Richard and Sarah Smith (7 sons, 2 daughters):

- + 2. Jonathan, born about 1641, married Sarah Brewster.
- + 3. Elizabeth, born about 1643, died in 1712, married (1) Captain William Lawrence; married (2) Governor Philip Carteret; married (3) Colonel Richard Townley.
- + 4. Richard, born probably in 1645, died about 1720, married (1) ——— (?); married (2) Hannah Tooker.
- + 5. Job, born probably in 1647, died about 1719, married Elizabeth Thompson.
- + 6. Adam, born 1649, died 2 Jly 1726, married Elizabeth Browne.
- 7. Obadiah, born Mch 1651, d. 20 Aug 1680 unmarried. Obadiah Smith's body was found in the narrows of the Nissequogue River 20 Aug 1680. It was never known whether his death was from accidental drowning or was caused by an Indian who accompanied him on a hunting trip. Letters of Administration were granted to his father 24 Apr 1682, and the inventory of his estate, listing cattle, swine, and horses, 100 acres of land west of the Nissequogue, and personal property, amount to £143 10s. He is supposed to have been the first white person buried in Smithtown. A tombstone resting

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- 8. Mr. Charles Floyd, M. Margaret Thomas, d. 27 S. 1774, age 37. Grandson of Tabitha Smith (41) and father of Gen. John Floyd. (p.111)
 - 9. Margaret, wife of John Wright, d. 2 Dec. 1791 (4), age 55 and 4 months. Widow of Chas. Floyd, whose brother, Geo. W^m Floyd signed the Declaration of Independance.
 - 10. Hannah Smith, dau. of Daniel⁴ and Tabitha Floyd Smith, d. 26 Apr. 1781, age 3-5-18.
 - 11. Tabitha, dau. of Nicol and Tabitha Floyd, relict of Daniel Reeve formerly wife of Daniel Smith⁴, d. 27 May 1812, age 78. (p.111)
 - 12. Miss Elizabeth Smith only child of Mr. Daniel⁴ Smith and Mrs. Tabitha (Floyd) Smith, d. 14 March 1789, age 19.
 - 13. Phebe Spalding relict of Isaac P. Cole, b. 20 June 1781, d. 20 S. 1856.
 - 14. Prob. the top of No. 9, Wright, broken stone.
 - 15. Jeminia Taylor, wife of Daniel Taylor, d. 20 Apr. 1715-16, age 24 and 4 months. Rev. Taylor was the first minister in Smithtown. Their signatures to Deed Rich. Smith 2nd to his brother Job are p.452, Pelletreau. Eliz. Smith, dau. of Job and Eliz. Thompson Smith, was his 2nd wife. (p.48)

horizontally on low foundation walls of brick, seen in the ancient burying ground on Nissequogue Hill some fifty years ago, had the inscription, only partially decipherable, — "Obadiah, son of Richard and Sarah Smith, born March" In the passing years the inscription has become entirely undecipherable. While it is supposed that Obadiah Smith was 29 years old at the time of his death, as reported by Mrs. Hawks, from her reading of the inscription on the stone, the statement has been made that he was the youngest son. Judge Lawrence Smith's contribution to Munsell's History of Suffolk County puts his age at 20 years. This, however, may have been a misprint for 29 years, or may have been a misreading of the age possibly given on the tombstone, but even then partially obliterated. The Brookhaven Records, as quoted on page 21 of this work, show that Obadiah Smith was deeded one hundred acres of land in 1676, indicating that he was of age at that time. Also, the inventory of his estate, dated 1682, when compared with the returns made from Smithtown in 1683, shows a value approximating that made by Adam Smith, and is materially exceeded only by the valuation for the oldest two brothers. As Adam Smith was born about 1649, and Samuel Smith in 1654, it would seem probable that the year of birth here accepted for Obadiah is correct.

- + 8. Samuel, born 1654, d. 2 Apr 1717, married Hannah Perring.
- + 9. Daniel, born about 1656, married (1) Ruth Tooker; married (2) Mary Holton.
- + 10. Deborah, born about 1658, d. 28 Mch 1743, married William Lawrence, Jr.

AUTHORITIES:

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