

LIEUTENANT RICHARD POST,
OF SOUTHAMPTON, LONG ISLAND.

We now come to the history of RICHARD POST, of Southampton, and his descendants; the RICHARD POST disinherited by his father, ARTHUR POST, of Maidstone, Kent (see page 7). This ARTHUR, as has already been related, in a deed dated June 4, 1644, "being of grete age," gives to "my cousin, Richard van Mulhen, ten pounds within six months; my second son STEPHEN, and his wife Margaret, all my lands, tenements and hereditaments in Estling, formerly in the possession of my eldest son, RICHARD, being now of New England or some parts beyond the seas, etc., etc."

It has been impossible to trace RICHARD'S whereabouts before his arrival in Southampton. The old town records of Lynn were burned in 1863. There, perhaps, might have been found a clue to his history from the time of his arrival in Massachusetts until we pick up his record with that of the other settlers of Southampton in 1640. It is almost certain that RICHARD was nearly related to STEPHEN POST, who was in Newtown (Cambridge) in 1634.* STEPHEN was among the non-conformists fleeing from persecution in England. That one of the same name should

* See STEPHEN POST, page 53.

come to Massachusetts about the same time, presumes they were of the same blood, and the fact that RICHARD was much younger than STEPHEN, and was disinherited by his father, would lead to the probability that the younger man followed the elder, and being under his religious influence, wished to share his fate in the life "beyond the seas."

When STEPHEN POST and others, migrating to Connecticut with the Rev. Thomas Hooker, founded the town of Hartford, RICHARD POST evidently preferred to join the band going to Southampton, and from that time, 1640 on, we have his complete history.

In 1640, RICHARD POST, called Lieutenant RICHARD POST, came to Southampton, Long Island, from Lynn, Massachusetts.

The names of the settlers who arrived during the first twelve months, were as follows:

Daniel Howe,	Christopher Foster,
William Harker,	Joseph Raynor,
Thomas Goldsmith,	Ellis Cook,
John Oldfields,	Abraham Pierson,
Samuel Dayton,	Edward Needham,
Thomas Burnet,	Samuel James,
John Howell,	John Gosman,
Thomas Sayre,	Benjamin Haynes,
Edward Howell,	John White,
William Odell,	William Payne,

Thomas Topping,	John Bishop,
John Woodruff,	Henry Walton,
Henry Pierson,	Allen Breed,
RICHARD POST,	Edmund ffarington,
Job Sayre,	Isaac Willman,
George Wells,	John Cooper,
John Jessup,	George Woods,
Josiah Howe,	John Jagger,
Obediah Rogers,	Richard Smith,
John Fordham,	Thomas Hildreth,
John Lum,	John Hampton,
Samuel Osman,	Joshua Barnes,
John Rose,	John Jennings.
James Herrick,	

Most of the names mentioned above will be found in the histories of Lynn and other places, in the vicinity of Boston. Many of the persons probably came to Boston with Governor Winthrop, some years before their removal to Long Island. They were generally of a superior class, and of greater intelligence than some who came subsequently to other towns, being both respectable in character and education.

“Edward Howell was the owner of 500 acres at Lynn, and possessed a large estate here at his death, leaving a family whose posterity are very numerous at this day. The same may be said of Sayre, Halsey,

Cooper, POST, Rogers, White, Rose, Wells, Foster and Pierson."

(Thompson's "History of Long Island," vol. I, p. 327-328.)

Among the first records of RICHARD POST is one in May, 1643, when he receives an allotment of land *in addition* to what he had already received.

His name appears often in the records of the early history of the settlement.

The — of October, 1650, RICHARD POST was chosen Sergeant of the (trained) band.

"Upon the sixth day of October, 1651, at the same court, was chosen for constable and marshal, RICHARD POST, who was sworne to his office the 9th of October, 1651."

October 6, 1657, "At the court of election it was voted and concluded by the maior part that RICHARD POST and John Howell should stand officers according as they were chosen by the souldiers." (RICHARD was chosen.)

RECORDS FROM THE BOOK OF TOWN ACCOUNTS:

"May ye 2, 1657. Att a towne meeting, there being divers apprehension what way or means was best to be taken for preservation of ye towne, it is concluded by the major voat of the towne yt 7 men namely, Capt. Topping, Mr. Gosmer, Mr. Fordham, Mr. Rainer, John Cooper sen, Thos. Sayre & Sergeant POST should have the managing of the present affaire of the towne concerning ye safety thereof, and yt all men did lay downe themselves in respect of their persons & estates, to bee disposed of by the said 7 men in a way of righteousness, to attend any means that may in their judgment effect the said ends."

At a towne meeting, November 25, 1659:

"It is ordered by ye major voat that RICHARD POST and 11 others are to regulate the towne papers and writings, to keepe what in their best judgment are to be kept and to cashiere those that are in their judgment unnecessary, and to order whatever in yt respect both for matter and manner may bee in their discretion thought most convenient for the towne use. Alsoe to sett downe which of the lawes in the law book, from Hartford shal bee, and at all times, and in all cases to bee esteemed to beel our lawes, and this is to bee done by the sd 12 men or the major voat of them. And in case time and place bee appointed and some (through any impediment cannot come

that then the rest, (provided there be 7 at least) are to proceed and the major pt of those that doe attend the said business shall act & effect as if all that are nominated & appointed did consent. And allsoe it is ordered that if any of the said persons appeare not according to warneing, and have not such allegation as may bee to satisfaction of our magistrates they shall pay 2s. 6d. a peece per day to ye towne's use, more over if any other besides the fore mentioned persons please to come to see ye carriage of ye said business they have liberty soe to do and to give their advice. It is transcribed out of a paper wharein severall things or orders were written & to be recorded, which paper is Intitled and dated as followeth. At a towne meeting November 25, 1659."

"It is uncertain whether any patent was granted to this town (Southampton) previous to 1676, the same having been purchased and settled under a conveyance from the agent of the Earl of Sterling; for which reason the inhabitants did not consider themselves bound by the act of 1665, requiring the towns within the jurisdiction to procure patents for their lands. They found themselves mistaken, however, in the opinion of the Governor and Council, who (October 8, 1670) declared the title to their lands forfeited, unless they should apply for a patent within a limited period. The matter was deferred under various pretexts, till the recapture of New

York by the Dutch in 1673, when they despatched deputies to Connecticut requesting again to be taken under their jurisdiction, and to be furnished with assistance should the Dutch attempt their subjugation. October 9, 1673, the court referred their application to a committee to do what might be considered for the mutual advantage of both parties. They were received, accordingly, together with the towns of Easthampton and Southhold, which were thereupon erected into a shire or county, in which a county court was established, judges, and other civil, as well as military officers appointed, and a force sent over for their protection. The Dutch used both persuasion and threats to bring them under subjection, in which they were unsuccessful. After the surrender of the province again to the English, in 1674, these towns were anxious to preserve their alliance with Connecticut, and even appointed a committee to petition the King for that purpose. But Sir Edmund Andros having arrived, required said towns to submit to the government of His Royal Highness the Duke of York, which, as they declined to do, his Excellency on the 18th of November, 1674, peremptorily demanded of them that the former overseers and constables should be restored to their offices, "Under the penalty of being declared rebels"; and he ordered the deputies who had signed a memorial to him on behalf of said towns, namely: John Mulford, John

Youngs, and John Howells, to appear and answer before the council,—“on the like penalty.”*

A patent of confirmation for their purchases was subsequently accepted by them, bearing date November 1, 1676, as follows:

PATENT OF GOVERNOR EDMUND ANDROS, 1676.

“Edmund Andross Esq Seigneur of Sousmarey Lieut. and Governor Genll under his Royall Highness James Duke of York and Albany &c., of all his Territory in America, to all to whom these presents shall come Sendeth Greeting Whereas there is a certaine towne in the East riding of Yorkshire upon Long Island commonly called and known by the name of Southampton, situate, lying and being on the south side of the said Island, towards ye main sea, having a certain tract of land thereunto belonging, The Eastward Bounds whereof extend to a certaine place or plaine called Wainscott where the bounds are settled betwixt their neighbors of the Town of Eastampton and them: their Southern bounds being the sea and soe runs Westward to a place called Seatuck, where a stake was sett as their farthest extent that way: Then crossing over the Island to the northward to Peaconic great river (not contradicting the Agreement made between there towne and the Town of Southold, after their tryall at the

* Thompson's History of Long Island, Vol. I, p. 334.

court of Assizes) and soe to run Eastward along the north bounds to the Eastermost poynt of Hogg neck over against Shelter Island, Including all the necks of land and Islands within the aforesaid described lands and limits: Now for a confirmation unto the present freeholders Inhabitants of the said towne and precincts, Know yee that by virtue of his Majesties letters pattent and the Commission and authority unto mee given by his Royall Highness, I have ratified, confirmed and granted, And by these presents doe hereby ratify confirme and grant unto John Topping, Justice of the peace, Capt. John Howell, Thomas Halsey Senior, Joseph Rainer Constable, Edward Howell, John Jagger, John ffoster and ffancis Sayre Overseers, Levt Joseph ffordham, Henry Pierson, John Cooper, Ellis Cook, Samuel Clarke, RICHARD POST, and John Jennings as patentees for and on ye behalfe of themselves and their associates, the ffreeholders and Inhabitants of the said Towne their heires successors and assigns all the aforementioned tract of land with the necks and Islands within the said bounds set forth and described as aforesaid, with all rivers lakes waters hawking hunting and fowling and all Hereditaments thereunto belonging, To have and to hold all and singular their said lands hereditaments & premises with their and every of their Apurtenances and of every part and parcel thereof to the said patentees and their Associates, their heirs, successors and assigns forever."

"The Tenure of the said land to be according to the custome of the Mannor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in England, in free and common socage and by fealty only, provided always notwithstanding that the extent of the bounds before recited no way prejudice or infringe the particular propriety of any person or persons who have right by patent or other lawfull clayme to any part or parcell of the lands or tenements within the limitts aforesaid, only that all the lands and plantations within the said limitts or bounds shall have relation to the towne in Generall for the well government thereof, and if it shall so happen that any part or parcell of lands or tenements withine the limitts afore described bee not already purchased of the Indians it may be purchased as occasions (require) according to law. I do likewise confirme and Grant unto the said patentees, their heirs successors and assigns all the privileges and immunities belonging to a town within this government, and that the place of their present habitation and abode shall continue and retaine the name of Southampton by which name and stile it shall be distinguished and knowne in all bargains and sales, deeds, records and writings, they the said patentees and their associates their heirs successors and assigns making Improvement on the said lands and conforming themselves according to law and yielding and paying therefor yearly and every yeare as an acknowledgement or quitt rent one ffatt lamb

unto such officer or officers there in authority as shall be empowered to receive the same."

"Given under my hand and seale with the seale of the province in New Yorke, the first day of November in the eight and twentieth year of his Majesties Reigne Annoque Domini one thousand six hundred seventy-six.

E. ANDROS.

"Examined by me and recorded,

"MATHIAS NICOLLS Secr."

RICHARD POST must have had some trouble with his hand in advancing years, either through accident or paralysis, for whereas the early deeds bear his full signature, the later ones are signed RICHARD ^{His} ~~X~~ _{Mark} POST.

The later deeds are conveyances of property before his death to his sons, JOHN and JOSEPH POST, his daughter, MARTHA, wife of Benjamin Foster, and his grandson, Benjamin Foster, Jr.

Deed dated April 17, 1688.

The original homestead of RICHARD POST was on the East side of Main Street, and owned in recent years by Capt. Charles Howells. His house was remodeled and the circle has returned to its beginning, for it is now owned by HENRY POST, and the present buildings are known as the "Post Block."

RICHARD POST died about 1689.

He married Dorothy Johnson* and left issue:

1. MARTHA POST, married to Benjamin Foster.
2. THOMAS POST. No record of marriage or issue:
3. JOSEPH POST. A power of attorney given by him in 1675 shows that he had been engaged in business in Talbot County, Maryland. He returned from there, lived and died in Southampton, Novem-

* There is no positive evidence of her name being Johnson.

ber 10, 1721. Aged about 72. (For description of his grave, the first in the second burying ground, see Appendix B.)

His name appears in the tax list of 1696. He married Sarah —, but left no issue. His will, dated August 7, 1717, was probated August 12, 1723.

4. JOHN POST, who left, as by his will (for abstract of will see Appendix C) eight children, five daughters and three sons. These sons were (Capt.) JOHN POST, JEREMIAH POST and RICHARD POST II.

Capt. JOHN POST* was the progenitor of all the POSTS at the East end of Long Island; (for these descendants see Charts A and B, Appendix D) those of Montrose and Honesdale, Pa.; Palmyra and Newburgh, N. Y., and California.

The homestead of JOHN POST, bequeathed to his son (Capt.) JOHN POST, was on the East side of Main Street, Southampton. The railroad station now stands on part of it.

JEREMIAH POST, second son of JOHN POST, settled in Hempstead. He had left Southampton before the census of 1698, as his name is not therein mentioned; neither is it mentioned in that of Hemp-

*Capt. JOHN POST's commission as ensign is in the possession of his descendant, ABRAM S. POST, of Quogue, L. I.

stead of 1698, where some POSTS of Dutch descent are recorded. (These were WILLIAM, BARBARA, ANIETJE,* etc. These POSTS moved away and settled in New Jersey. WILLIAM'S will was administered in Perth Amboy in 1724.)

JEREMIAH'S name begins to appear in the Hempstead records in 1700.

The homestead of JEREMIAH POST, in Southampton, was probably sold by him (on leaving Southampton) to his brother, Capt. JOHN POST, who left it to his son JOSEPH POST, and from him to his son JEREMIAH II, who left it to his son SAMUEL POST, who had an only daughter, ELIZABETH, who married Albert Reeves. They had a son, Samuel Post Reeves (lost at sea), and a daughter, ELIZABETH, who married Lemuel Wicks. They had no children, and she left all her property to her cousin on her father's side, Harriet, wife of Capt. Peter R. Rogers, and sister of Hon. James H. Pierson.

*See page 46, about the Dutch Posts.

RICHARD POST II, youngest son of JOHN POST, born about 1684, was a minor child at the time of his father's will, drawn in 1685. The census of Southampton of 1698, gives the name of RICHARD as being there at that time, when he was about fourteen or fifteen years of age. In the same household were his mother, MARY, his sisters, MARY, JR., DEBORAH, SARAH, DOROTHY, MARTHA, and his brother, (Capt.) JOHN POST. After that there is no record of RICHARD in Southampton, and in 1711 his name begins to appear in those of Hempstead as having inherited his brother JEREMIAH'S cattle "ear mark." He became a Quaker and was the grandfather of JOTHAM POST.

The personal peculiarities of the family may be expressed by the Southampton saying: "There never was a POST that wasn't honest."

It will be noticed that JEREMIAH and RICHARD POST'S arrival in Hempstead brought the English branch to settle where the Dutch POSTS had already been for some time, and thus probably began the confusion about their origins, continued later when Richard's grandson, JOTHAM, settled in New York.

RICHARD had become a Quaker, and in the Quaker records we find records of him, of his sons, RICHARD POST, JR. (III), JOSEPH POST, JOHN POST, and his daughter, PHEBE.

Also of his grandsons, the sons of RICHARD POST (III), HENRY, RICHARD (IV), JOTHAM, and others.

This book aims at giving principally the history of the descendants of JOTHAM POST, but a history of the "POSTS of Queens County," that is, of RICHARD POST (II), and his sons, will be interesting.

(LIEUTENANT) RICHARD POST.

In 1640 came to Southampton, Long Island, from Lynn, Mass. Died in 1689.
Married Dorothy Johnson (?)

