

# East Hampton History

*Including*

GENEALOGIES OF EARLY FAMILIES

*By*

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EAST HAMPTON, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

# SQUIRES

SQUIRES WAS an East Hampton name for a hundred years; but after that they died out or moved away. "Squiretown," a hamlet near Peconic Bay north of Hampton Bays (Good Ground, not so long ago) was named for Ellis Squires, baptized in 1717 in East Hampton, who became a first settler there. The only Squires family living here today is that of the late Charles Squires, who died 1952; his widow is Eunice, daughter of George and Bessie Miller Mott of Three Mile Harbor, and his children are Clarence, Charles, and Joan.

The name is spelled Squire, Squier, and Squiers as well as Squires, in old records. Thomas Squires (according to William Pelletreau's map) was the original owner, 1650, of the property where The Hunting Inn now stands. In 1670 it was owned by Capt. Josiah Hobart and in 1699 by Rev. Nathaniel Hunting. Howell's History of Southampton calls John Squires of E.H. first of the name on Long Island. Harry Sleight, in addendum to the E.H. Trustees Record, 1772-1807, quotes from the Howell genealogy of that family, also from a genealogy prepared by Dr. Charles L. Squire of Elmira, N.Y.

"A Family Record of the Foster Family, the Penny Family, and the Squires Family" by Alonzo Foster (1895) states that: "Ellis Squires came from Machias, Me. in the summer of 1773. On arriving at Long Island he settled in the town of Southampton, and may be regarded as the founder of the Squires family so numerously represented in this part of the state. Ch.: Ellis, Seth, Daniel, Deborah, Parnell, Mary, Loraney, Margaret, Phebe. Ellis Squires Jr. m. Jerusha Rogers. Ch.: Abigail, Barnebas, Jeremiah, Rogers, Lewis, Jetur, Warren."

If an Ellis Squires came to Southampton from Machias, Maine in 1773, it seems likely that he must have been one of the early East Hampton family who had wandered off and come home again to eastern Long Island; for Mather's "Refugees from L.I. to Conn. 1776," Howell's History of Southampton, and Hedges' History of East Hampton as well as town records show conclusively that Squires was a well represented name in these parts a century before the Revolution, and Ellis is a name which recurs in the old family here.

Harry Booth Squires of Bridgehampton has copied nearly all of the Squires cemetery inscriptions from Patchogue to Amagansett and from Riverhead to Greenport. In the Presbyterian Church cemetery at Sag Harbor, he says, is a memorial to John Squire who died June 2, 1807, aged 68. Carved on it are the words "An Honest Man." Mr. Squires says that seventy or eighty Squires are buried in the Hampton Bays cemetery.

Mrs. Theodore H. Conklin who died in 1946, who kept the old Mon-

tauk Inn for many years and was brought up in Amagansett, was born Emma Squires of Good Ground (Hampton Bays), daughter of Capt. Gilbert N. Squires.

On June 9, 1952 Mrs. George L. Penny, Sr. of Hampton Bays celebrated her 100th birthday. She was born Emma Jane Squires on June 7, 1852, one of the sixteen children of Alvin and Mary Post Jennings Squires. A *Newsday* story described the 85 pound matriarch who read the daily paper without glasses and kept up her working knowledge of French. She was one of the first women on eastern Long Island to go away to college; she stayed at Elmira College until two months before graduation in 1874, then was forced to give up her studies because of ill health. In 1880 she married; she lost a son in World War I, and has four surviving children, 10 grandchildren, and 27 great grandchildren. One of her half-brothers was Capt. William Henry Squires, master of the ill-fated schooner "Louis V. Place" driven ashore in a winter gale off Sayville in 1895; all hands perished, most of them freezing to death in the spray-lashed rigging. Capt. William Henry Squires' son is Henry Booth Squires of Bridgehampton.

The last record of the family in East Hampton for nearly a century, was: "Jon. Squire died July 19, 1759." Then, in 1854, an Ellis Squires taught school here, on "Town Street" (Main Street). He probably came from Good Ground and was a descendant of that Ellis, b. 1717, who settled in "Squiretown." There is so much difference of opinion between the Howell "Southampton" genealogy of the Squires, and that of Dr. Charles L. Squire as quoted by Harry Sleight (1927), that only an exhaustive study over a period of years on that one family would untangle it beyond doubt. The following is largely what the writer knows from early records.

It is certain that there were Squires here almost as soon as East Hampton was settled. A John Squires who died at Saybrook, Conn. in June, 1701 was presumably from E.H. A John Squires, perhaps son of the above, married Ann, dau. of William Edwards 1, about 1659. A John b. 1659, may have been 3d gen.; he m. Harriet Baker, and d. before 1708; he had a s. John 4 of E.H. b. abt. 1694, a grandson John 5 b. 1715, d. 1758, father of John 6, who moved away.

JOHN SQUIRE: In E.H. Town Records, Vol. V: John Squire (4, b. 1694 d. 1738) and wife Phebe owned the Covenant, July 10, 1714/5. Children of John Squires were baptized: July 10, 1715, John; March 10, 1717, Ellis (founder of Squiretown); Oct. 30, 1720, Phebe (who d. Oct. 29, 1722), Oct. 9, 1722, Henry (who d. Dec. 4, 1725/6), Aug. 16, 1723/4 Phebe again; Feb. 19, 1726/7, Henry again; May, 1732/3, Jeremiah; April 20, 1735, Stephen; Feb. 26, 1737/8, Jonathan. On Sept. 19, 1738, news came of the death from smallpox in the West Indies of John Squires. In 1747 the "Widow Phebe Esquier" joined the church in E.H. On Jan. 7, 1749/50, she died, aged 65. Howell's genealogy also gives: Nathan, bapt. 1719, Mary, bapt. 1729, Zerviah bapt. 1731, and John again, bapt. 1739 (this John may have been s. of Recompence). Mary Squires, dau. of John

(probably 4th gen.) bapt. 1729, m. Jeremiah Hand, Sept. 20, 1750. Town Records show a John Squire of E.H. who d. Aug. 25, 1740 ae 48; this could not be the John 4 who died in the West Indies 1738, although near his age.

ELLIS (s. of John) bapt. 1717 rem. to Squiretown in the western part of Southampton Township and had ch. Seth, Ellis, and Daniel. From these descended the families by that name in Good Ground (Hampton Bays), and vicinity.

JONATHAN (s. of John) bapt. 1738 lived in Wainscott, in the house which was James H. Topping's in Judge Henry P. Hedges' time. Quoting Hedges' History of E.H., 1897: "where his (Jonathan's) father and probably grandfather resided. Many grave stones in Wainscott prove this. Jonathan was said to be a man of great strength. Tradition reports that he had green oak rails on his shoulder and slipping on the ice, broke his leg; that he crawled into the house, got on the bed, and set his broken leg, refusing the services of the doctor who afterwards came. He had ch. Stafford, Ellis, John b. abt. 1783, Stephen, Sylvanus, Henry, Mehetable, Mary, Phebe. Stephen resided in Sag Harbor, Sylvanus near Hay Ground, and both had w. and ch."

Who was the Thomas Squires who owned the land on which The Hunting now stands, in 1650? There was a Sgt. Thomas Squires, b. 1643, d. 1712, but it is very unclear whether he came to E.H. or not. There was a later Thomas, who m. Rachel (Puah, Judge Hedges said) Ludlam on May 26, 1726. He must have been the son of:

GEORGE SQUIRE who m. 1700/1 Jane Edwards; and had ch. Recompence and Thomas. George Squire must have died before or shortly after their birth; on Dec. 9, 1705 Reompence and Thomas, children of "Mrs. Hobart's, formerly Squire, by her husband Squire" were baptized. Capt. Josiah Hobart, for some 20 years High Sheriff of Suffolk Co., long a Justice in E.H. where he settled 1670, was a leading citizen here. In an early 18th century list of occupations of E.H. men, his is listed as "Gentleman."

RECOMPENCE\* (s. of George) m. Elizabeth Parsons Dec. 30, 1724/5; ch. Anne and Elizabeth bapt. April 30, 1730; Abraham bapt. May, 1732/3; Hannah, bapt. May 9, 1736, John bapt. March 25, 1738/9.

\*E.H. Town Records, Vol. III, p. 429: Reompence Squier is chosen the common whipper.

THOMAS bapt. 1705 d. 1778 (s. of George) m. May 26, 1726 Rachel Ludlam (Howell's genealogy says they rem. to Elizabethtown, N.J.).

JOHN (s. of John or Reompence) b. 1738/9 must have been that John Squire, called 5th gen., in Mather's "Refugees from L.I. to Conn. 1776" (p. 578) who was a refugee Sept. 1776 from E.H. to Stonington, Conn. He was taken over with five passengers and sheep by Capt. David Sayre. The same month, with goods and one passenger, he was taken over by Capt. William Warner. After the war he rem. to Elizabethtown, N.J. He probably served in Conn.