

Family Group Record for Henry Smith

Husband		Henry Smith	
Born	1599-1600	Norwich, Norfolk, England	
Baptized			
Died	9 Aug 1648	Glastonbury, Hartford, Connecticut, New England	
Buried			
Father	Ambrose Smith (1561-)	Mother	Margaret Cecil (1562-)
Married	Abt 1634	England	
Other Spouse	Unknown (-) Abt 1620 - England		
SealS (LDS)			
Wife		Dorothy Cotton	
AKA	Dorothy Cotten		
Born	Abt 1607	Norwich, Norfolk, England	
Baptized			
Died	8 May 1680	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Father	Mr Cotton (Abt 1585-)	Mother	Mrs Cotton (Abt 1586-)
Other Spouse	John Russell (1597-1680)	1649 - Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
SealS (LDS)			
Children			
1	F	Dorothy Smith	
Born	1636	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	17 Apr 1706	Farmington, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Spouse	John Blakeman (-)		
Spouse	Francis Hall (-)	31 Oct 1665 - Connecticut	
Spouse	Mark Saint John (-)	Jan 1690 - Connecticut	
2	M	Samuel Smith	
Born	27 Jan 1639	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	10 Sep 1703	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts	
Buried			
Spouse	Mary Ensign (Abt 1642-1723)	1662 - Northampton, Hampshire, Massachusetts	
3	F	Joanna Smith	
Born	25 Dec 1641	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	28 Dec 1664	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts	
Buried	29 Dec 1664	Hadley, Hampshire, Massachusetts	
Spouse	Philip Russell (1629-1693)	4 Feb 1663 - Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut	
4	M	Noah Smith	
Born	25 Feb 1644	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Baptized			
Died	Young	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut	
Buried			
Spouse	Never Married		

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Children (cont.)		
5	F	Elizabeth Smith
Born	25 Aug 1648	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut
Baptized		
Died	Young	Wethersfield, Hartford, Connecticut
Buried		
Spouse	Never Married	

General Notes (Husband)

According to the research of Stephen M. Lawson Henry's mother was the daughter of William CECIL, Lord Burleigh, prime minister of England under Queen Elizabeth. He "was educated for the ministry at Cambridge University (BA 1621/2; MA 1625), and ordained Jun. 8, 1623.

From "A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England, James Savage, Vol. IV, p 115: SMITH: HENRY, Charlestown, join. the ch. with w. Dorothy, 10 July 1637, prok. rem. soon. He may have been passeng. in the Elizabeth, 1635, without wishing his name to appear at the custom ho. as no min. could be suf. to emb. at least we kn. that ship brot. Dorothy, aged 40; d. Mary 10, and John, 19; most likely he was the Wethersfield min. Very critical caution, however, is requisite, about the concomitants of the rev. gent. whose will, of 8 May 1648, refers, without nam. them, to two ds. m. Of course they were b. in Eng. It also names s. Peregrine, wh. may not have been b. on this side of the water, certain. was older than Samuel, but whether s. of the w. Dorothy, or not, is uncert. Of that Dorothy, the w. we may be very sure, that she was his sec. w. not mo. of Mary, or John, fellow passeng. with her. For the elder ds. we are not sure of the h.'s, unless of Rebecca. we judge her w. of Samuel Smith of New London. See Caulkin's Hist. of N. L. 151. She was divorc. for his desertion, and m. 1669, Nathaniel Bowman. At least the age of this w. at Charlestown, if she be the passeng. in the Elizabeth, is very much overrat. perhaps fifteen yrs. if not more; for bef. his rem. to W. he had Dorothy, b. 1636, or 7; and at W. had Samuel, 27 Jan. 1639; Joanna, 25 Dec. 1641; Noah, 25 Feb. 1644, d. young; and Elizabeth perhaps posthum. 25 Aug. 1648. The min. of W. had a long controv. with a part of his people, whereby the peace of that whole commonwealth was disturb. See Trumbull, Col. Rec. I. 97 and 98. It seems only to have terminat. by his d. 1648. In his will, Ib. 502, he speaks of his large fam. ment. only s. Samuel, Perigrine, wh. was d. Noah and two ds. m. with every one of their childr. as a part. His wid. m. John Russell in 1649, and ten yrs. aft. rem. to Hadley; there made her will, 1682, but it was not pro. bef. 22 Dec. 1694, so that we may presume her life was long protract. It disposes a decent est. to her s. Samuel, and d. Dorothy Hall, wh. had first been w. of John Blakeman, next of Francis Hall; and late in life was so happy as to have ano. h. Mark Sension, and fourth partner Isaac Moore. Joanna m. Philip Russell, 4 Feb. 1664, but with inf. Joanna d. 29 Dec. foll. Both of the m. ds. of Rev. Henry were, no doubt, d. long bef. the will of his sec. w. It is very easy to fall into confus. betw. contempo. persons of the same Christian [p. 116] and surnames. Aft. many hours, and days, study, I had the satisfact. of learn. that my conclus. as to the first Wethersfield min. concur. with those of the scrupulous Mr. Goodwin of Hartford bef. his d. in June 1855, so far as his had been writ. out. They were aft. publ. 1856, and have excel. illustrat. pp. 100 and 1.

According to Jacobus, Rev. Henry Smith may have been the same Henry Smith who matriculated from Kings College, Cambridge, A.B., 1619/1620. He also believes it unlikely that he was the Henry Smith who joined the church at Charlestown in 1637, but he may have settled at Watertown, MA prior to his removal to Connecticut. His will is not dated, was signed at Wethersfield and is reproduced in "Hale, House & Related Families," pp. 731-732.

According to "Colonial Clergy," Rev. Henry Smith was b. 1588 at Norwich, England; ordained by the Bishop of Peterborough 8 Jun 1623; settled Watertown, Mass. 1636/37; settled Wethersfield 1641-1648 as the first pastor of the Church of Christ and died there, 1648. An excellent article regarding what is known of Rev. Henry Smith is found in The American Genealogist (TAG), Vol. 10, pg. 5-16: Homer W. Brainard, "The Reverend Henry Smith of Wethersfield." In this article, Rev. Smith's possible birth in Norfolk or Leicestershire is discussed, but no conclusions drawn.

The following is printed in TAG 10:7-8: A letter written by son Samuel to his son Ichobod includes reference to his (Samuel's) father:

Hadley, Massachusetts Colony, Jan. ye Firste, 1698/99

My Dear & Dutiful Son: I was of so tender an Age at the Death of my beloved Father, that I am possessed of but little of the Information for which you seek. My Revered Father was an ordained Minister of ye Gospelle, educate at Cambridge in England, & came to yis Land by reason of Ye Great Persecution by which ye infamous Archbishop Laud and ye Black Tom Tyrante (as Mr. Russell was always wont to call ye Earl of Strafforde) did cause ye reign of his Majestie, Charles ye First, to loose favor in ye sight of ye people of England. My Father & Mother came over in 1636/37, firste to Watertown which is neare Boston, & after a yeare or two to Weathersfield on ye great River, where he became ye firste settled Pastor. Concerning of ye earlie days I can

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General Notes (Husband)(cont.)

remember but little save Hardship. My Parents had broughte both Men Servants & Maid Servants from England, but ye Maids tarried not but till they got married, ye wch was shortly, for there was great scarcity of Women in ye Colonies. Ye men did abide better. Onne of em had married onne of my Mother's Maids & they did come with us to Weathersfield, to our grate Comforte for some years, untill they had many littel onnes of their Owne.

I do well remember ye Face & Figure of my Honoured Father. He was 5 foote, 10 inches talle & spare of builde, tho not leane. He was as Active as ye Red Skin Men & sinewy. His delighte was in sportes of strengthe, & withe his owne Hands he did helpe to reare bothe our owne House & ye Firste Meetinge House of Weathersfield, wherein he preacht yeares too fewe. Hewas well Featured & Fresh favoured with faire Skin & longe curling Hair (as neare all of us have had) with a merrie eye & swete smilinge Mouthe, tho he coulde frowne sternlie eno' when need was.

Rev. Smith's will dated 8 May 1648, mentions his wife Dorothy and gives her "full power to dispose of all my estate in howses, Lands, Cattell and Goods whatsoever". At her remmariage, she was directed to give son Samuel "that part of my howse lott which was intended for my sonne Peregrine, lyinge next to the burying place, and the land I have beyond the great Rivereastward". To Samuel and Noah he left "5 acres apeece of meadow, with upland proportionable thereunto;" the rest of his children are not named in his will, but received 20 pounds each, and the children of his two married daughters were given 5 poundseach.

Source: Lieutenant Samuel Smith by James William Hook; Ancient Wethersfield

Will dated May 8, 1648.

Will of Rev. Henry Smith - March 8, 1648

I Henry Smith, of Wethersfield, being at present in health of body and soundness of minde, considering my mortality, and knoweing it to be my duty to provide for my family and settle my estate, that I may leave no occasion of trouble to my children when I am gone, and that I may be free my self from distractions of this kind, if it shall please God to visit mee with sickness before I dye; I doe therefore leave this testimony uppon Record as my last Will and Testament. Then, for my outward estate, wch, because it is little and I have well proved the difficultyes of this Country, how hard a thinge it will be for a woman to manage the affaires of so great a family as the Father of Mercyes hathe blessed me withall, and have had allso experience of the prudence and faithfullness of my deare wife, who shall, in parting with me, parte with a great parte of her livelihood, I give to my wife full power to dispose of all my estate in howses, Lands, Cattell and Goods whatsoever, within dores and without, only providing if she marry again, or otherwise be able comfortably to spare it from her owne necessary maintenance, that she give to my sonne Sammuell that part of my howselott which was intended for my sonne Peregrine, lyinge next to the burying place, and the land I have beyond the great River eastward, and also to him and my 2nd sonne Noah, 5 acres apeece of meadow, with upland proportionable thereunto; and to the rest of my children unmarried, £20 apeece at the age of 21 yeares, or at the time of her death wch shall come the soonest; and for my two daughters that bee married, my desire is that they have £20 apeece, and every one of their children £5 apeece, either in books or such other thing my wife shall best please to parte withall. And I desire the Church, whose serviant I now am, to take an oversight of my family, that they may be brought up in the true feare of God, and to see that this my will bee faithfully prformed.

Henry Smith

Rev. Harry SMITH born: 1588 Leicester County England; married: (1) bef 1622 Unknown (2) bef 1639 Dorothy COTTON (m. 1649 (2) John RUSSELL, Sr; d. 1694; will dated 16 Feb 1681/2 in Hadley MA) in England; died: 1648, Wethersfield CT; Son of Erastus SMITH and Margaret CECIL

Children by 1st wife:

1. Philippa - b. @ 1622 (England) m. 1640 Deacon John BIRDSEY d. by 1687 - 2. Mary b. @ 1624 (England) m. 1643 Samuel HALLE

Family Group Record for Henry Smith

General Notes (Husband)(cont.)

- 3. Peregrine b. @ 1628 (England) d. before 1648 (probably at Wethersfield, CT) - 4. Rebecca b. @ 1631 (England) m.(1) Samuel SMITH (b. about 1625, England; son of Lt. Samuel and Elizabeth CHILIAB of Wethersfield and Hadley. Divorced while Samuel was in VA) (2) 1669 Nathaniel BOWMAN

by Dorothy COTTON:

5. Dorothy b. @ 1636 (England) m. (1) John BLAKEMAN (2) 21 Oct 1665 Francis HALL (3) Mark STJOHN d. 1706, Farmington, CT (4) Dea. Isaac MOORE of Farmington - 6. Samuel b. 27 Jan 1639 in Wethersfield CT m. @1662 Mary ENSIGN in CT d. 10 Sep 1703 in Hadley MA - 7. Joanna b. 25 Dec 1641 (Wethersfield CT) m. 4 Feb 1664 Philip RUSSELL (her step brother) in Hadley MA d. 28 Dec 1664 (Hadley MA) buried 29 Dec 1664 (Hadley, MA with her infant daughter) - 8. Noah b. 25 Feb 1643/4 (Wethersfield CT) d. young aft 1648 - 9. Elizabeth b. 25 Aug 1648 (Wethersfield CT)d. young.

According to the research of Stephen M. Lawson Henry's mother was the daughter of William CECIL, Lord Burleigh, prime minister of England under Queen Elizabeth. He "was educated for the ministry at Cambridge University (BA 1621/2; MA 1625), and ordained Jun. 8, 1623 ... Rev. Henry SMITH probably arrived at Charlestown, MA about 1637 with his second wife and 4 small children. Admitted to the communion of the Watertown, MA church Dec. 5, 1637, and removed to Wethersfield, CT about 1639 as its first settled pastor. His first wife's name, by whom he had 4 children is not known. Married second about 1635, England."

Henry and seven others were named by the General Court in Massachusetts as a committee authorized to govern the early settlements in Connecticut. (See Partial transcription General Court of the Colony of Massachusetts Bay begun March 3, 1635-6: Whereas, upon some reason & grounds, there are to remove from this or comonwealth & body of the Mattachusetts in America dyvrs of or loveing ffriends, neighbors, ffreemen & members of Newe Towne, Dorchestr, Waterton & other places, whoe are resolved to transplant themselues & their estates vnto the Ryver of Conecticott, there to reside & inhabite, & to that end dyvrs are there already, & dyvrs others shortly to goe, wee, in this present Court assembled, on the behalfe of or said membrs, & John Winthrop, Junr, Esq, Counr, appoyncd by certaine noble personages & men of quallitie interested in the sayd ryvr, wch are yet in England, on their behalfe, .. wee therefor thinke meete, & soe order, that Roger Ludlowe, Esp, Willm Pincon, Esq, John Steele Willm Swaine, Henry Smyth, Willm Phelpes, Willm Westwood, & Andrewe Ward, or the greater pte of them, shall have full power & auctoritie to hold court, to pass orders for the settlement and protection of the new townes and to call the inhabitants together in a legislative body, provided, alwayes, that this comission shall not extende any longer time then one whole yeare from the date thereof.