

**GENEALOGICAL HISTORY SHOWING THE
PATERNAL LINE OF DESCENT FROM
ARTHUR REXFORD,
A NATIVE OF ENGLAND, WHO MARRIED
ELIZABETH STEVENS, OF NEW HAVEN,
CONN., IN 1702**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649748068

Genealogical history showing the paternal line of descent from Arthur Rexford, a native of England, who married Elizabeth Stevens, of New Haven, Conn., in 1702 by John DeWitt Rexford

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
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JOHN DEWITT REXFORD

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FROM

ARTHUR REXFORD,

A NATIVE OF ENGLAND, WHO MARRIED

ELIZABETH STEVENS,

OF NEW HAVEN, CONN.,

IN 1702.

COMPILED BY JOHN DEWITT REXFORD.

JANESVILLE, WIS. :
GAZETTE PRINTING COMPANY, PRINTERS.

1891.

JWR

PREFACE.

I know full well that this work comes far short of being a complete genealogical history. Only those who have undertaken a like labor, can know of its difficulties and disappointments.

The almost entire lack, throughout the country, of any complete system for the preservation of vital statistics, the want of knowledge, on the part of most men, of their family history, or of interest therein, are each important factors in accounting for these difficulties.

At the outset I hoped and believed I would be able to make a fairly complete record of all the Rexfords in the United States and in Canada.

I believe now, I might have succeeded, if I had found a few more interested ones to aid me. Some have given me valuable assistance.

I comfort myself with the thought, that my labor has gathered for preservation, much history of the family that would have been lost with the lapse of a few years.

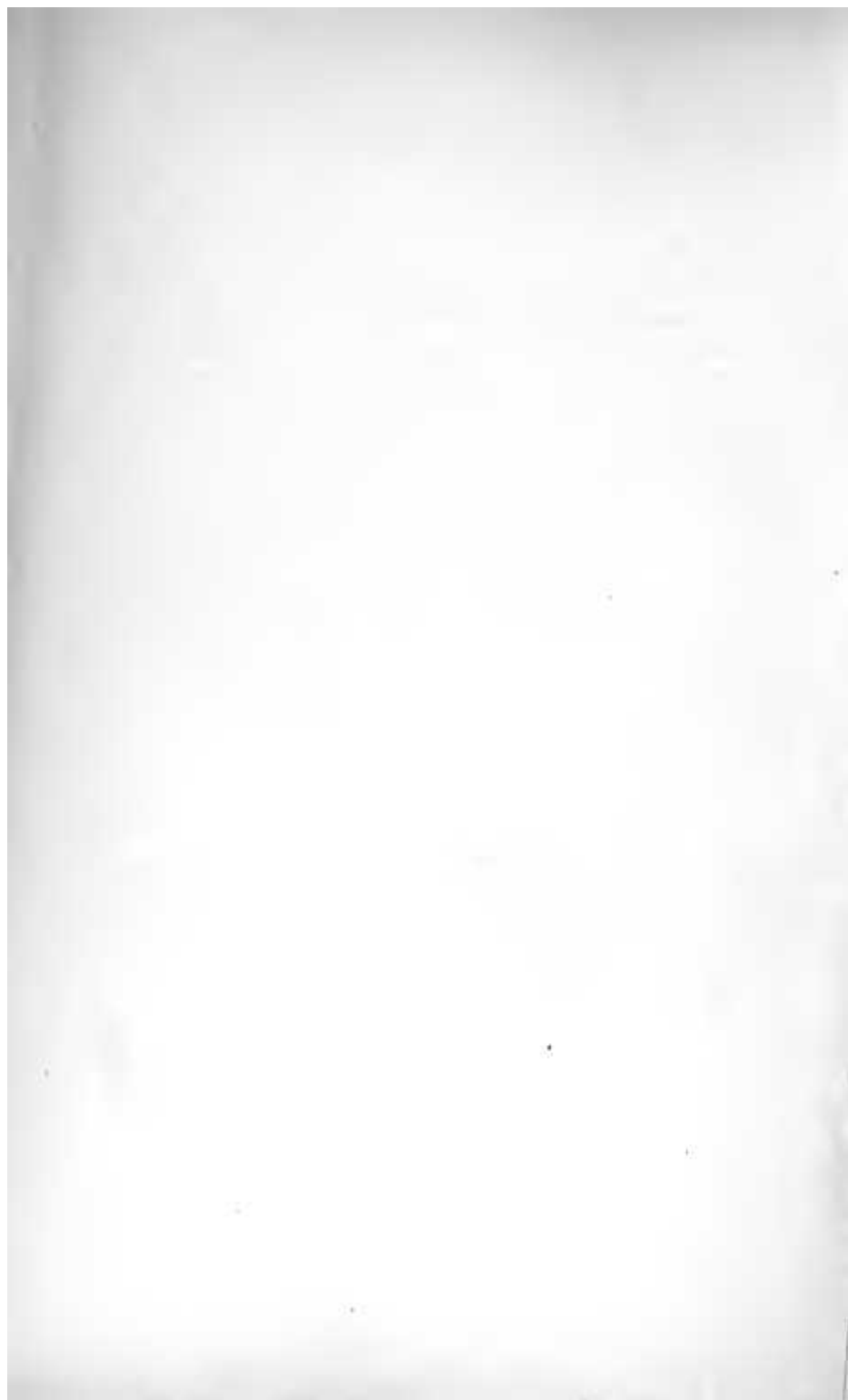
Many errors, or supposed errors, will be found in these pages; especially in dates. The opportunity, not to say necessity, for such errors, is great. I have found family records and town records differing in dates of births, marriages and deaths. I have often found members of a family at variance on dates respecting themselves, and that sometimes the family record does not agree with dates given on tombstones. The baptism of an infant, as entered on the books of the First Congregational Society of New Haven, by the officiating clergyman ante-dates the register of birth on the town books by thirteen days. In such cases I have taken the date that seemed to me, after careful examination, most likely to be the correct one.

I would be glad to give more of personal history than I have done. It may be noticed that, of my grandfather (3) Daniel and his brothers (3) William and (3) Joel and their descendants, I have oftener related matter of personal concern. I have done so for the simple reason that those incidents were known to me or were of easy attainment.

I invite correction of errors and solicit additional information for use in a subsequent edition if one is published.

For contents see the last page.

J. D. REXFORD.



Arthur Rexford and His Children.

1 ARTHUR REXFORD and ELIZABETH STEVENS were m. at New Haven, Ct., September 3d, 1702, by John Alling, Justice. He is mentioned several times in Colonial Records, the earliest date being 1702. The same records speak of him as Master of Sloop Rose as late as 1712. He died in New Haven, February 1st, 1728. A copy of his will is in the office of the Probate Court at New Haven. It bears date the day of his death. It directs his executors to dispose of his estate in England.

Vital Statistics records of New Haven show birth of his children as follows:

2 ARTHUR, b. July 13, 1703.

2 SARAH, b. Sept. 6, 1705. *(1727 Aug 10 Judicial Court 20722)*

2 PHILLIP, b. June 19, 1708.

2 DANIEL, b. May 27, 1711.

There is no record of the birth of other children. Marriage statistics show that a daughter —

2 MARY, m. Nehemiah Hotchkiss Nov. 8, 1739, and

2 ELIZABETH, m. Amos Sherman, Feb. 11, 1742.

*Children: Naomi, b. March 15, 1740. 41
Nehemiah, b. Jan. 11, 1744. 5
Mary, b. Jan. 20, 1746. 7*

Children:

2 Arthur Rexford and His Descendants.

- 2 ARTHUR s (1) Arthur, b. in New Haven, Ct., July 13, 1703 The Vital Statistics Records of Wallingford, Ct., show the following:
- 3 SAMUEL, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. March 21, 1728.
- 3 ARTHUR, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. May 4, 1730.
- 3 JOSEPH, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. June 11, 1732.
- 3 JOHN, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. June 1, 1734.
- 3 DANIEL, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. Oct. 27, 1736.
- 3 BENJAMIN, s. of Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. June 1, 1739.
- 3 ABIGAIL, dau. Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. Aug. 20, 1741.
- 3 JEMIMA, dau. Arthur and Jemima Rexford, b. Jan. 2, 1747.

Wallingford, from its settlement in 1670, included Meriden as one of its parishes until 1806. The history of Meriden mentions Arthur Rexford being a member of a company organized in 1737 to prosecute a mining enterprise in said parish. The company was called the "Golden Parlour Mining Company." Evidently the projectors of this enterprise knew the value of an attractive name. I believe (2) Arthur and his sons, so long as any of them remained in Wallingford, lived within the bounds of the present Meriden. I have been told there is a farm in Meriden which at a time not very remote was called the Rexford farm. In 1757 he moved from Wallingford to Sharon, Ct. Sedgwick's history of Sharon says: "Arthur Rexford lived in Ellsworth and had four sons, Arthur, Joseph, Daniel and Benjamin." From this it is presumed that only these of his sons went with him to Sharon; or the historian may have known of his sons only from the record of his will. Ellsworth was in the township of Sharon. His will, dated July 29, 1771, gives to his sons, Arthur, Joseph, Daniel and Benjamin, and to his wife, Dinah. He died in Sharon, March

15, 1781. His wife, Jemima, died Nov. 19, 1770, "in the 70th year of her age."

3 SAMUEL, s. (2) Arthur, b. March 21, 1728, in Wallingford, Ct. All that I have learned regarding him is, that in 1749 he received land by deed in Wallingford, and that in 1757 he conveyed land in the same township. On Sept. 9, 1750, Samuel Rexford and wife united with the Congregational church of Meriden Parish, township of Wallingford. There was at this date no other Samuel Rexford of marriageable age.

3 ARTHUR, s. (2) Arthur, b. in Wallingford, Ct., May 4, 1730. He received land by deed in Farmington, Ct., Feb. 19, 1757, and conveyed April 28, 1762 and April 23, 1766. He is described as "of Farmington." April 7, 1766, Arthur of Sharon deeds to his son, Arthur of Farmington, the consideration being "love and affection." He died in Sharon, Feb. 25, 1797. His will, dated Aug. 28, 1792, and probated in Sharon, March 24, 1797, mentions wife Anna, daughters Prudence F. Page and Ann, and grandson Elihu Finney. He had a daughter Dinah. His tombstone stands in Ellsworth, district of Sharon. This public record concerning him is found:

"SHARON, 19 JUNE, 1782.

"These may certify whom it may concern, that Arthur Rexford had
"a cancer cut out of his left ear the day and date above written.

PR. SIMEON SMITH."

Such records were made in those days, when ears were slit by law in punishment of certain offenses, for protection of reputation against suspicion of crime committed.

3 JOSEPH, s. (2) Arthur, b. in Wallingford June 11, 1732.

I have learned but little of him, nor have I any direct line of his descendants. He went with or followed his father to Sharon. Land records in Sharon show purchases by Joseph in 1760 and 1761, and several deeds of conveyance to and sale by Joseph are recorded in the years 1790 to 1810. A Joseph of Sharon, doubtless a son or nephew of (3) Joseph, moved to Austerlitz, Columbia County, N. Y., in 1786. His descendants say he had brothers—Samuel, Edward, Lyman and William. A Joseph Rexford, described as "Yeoman of Manor of Rensselaerwyck," took a lease of land from Stephen Van Rensselaer Sept. 8, 1790. I think it

probable that he was the same Joseph. The Austerlitz Joseph finally settled in the town of Otsego, Otsego Co., N. Y., and conveyed land there as early as in 1808. His will, dated Dec. 25, 1806, describes him as "of town and county of Otsego," and was probated in said county Sept. 13, 1815. It gives to Abigail, his wife; to his daughters, Elizabeth Welch and Lydia Converse, and to his sons, Ensign, Joseph, John and Jesse. There was a son Jared. Ensign and Jared died in Otsego Co., and some of their descendants are still there.

JOHN S. REXFORD, Physician, took land by deed in the town and county of Otsego July 1st, 1800, and on Aug. 15, 1800, he conveyed. He is called John S in deed but signed John Rexford. It is presumed he was John, son of Joseph, who (John) is said to have settled in Chenango Forks, now Binghamton, N. Y.

JESSE lived at one time in Otsego Co. Later he lived in Columbus, Chenango Co., N. Y., where he died. His will, dated Nov. 19, 1816, was probated in Chenango Co. Nov. 23, 1818. It gives to his children, named in order as follows: dau. Betsey Gould; sons Jabin and Leonard S.; daus Anna, Polly, Lydia, Sarah, and the residue to his wife Lydia. Otsego Co records show that the Goolds (so spelled in will, but Gould in said records) lived in Otsego Co.

JABIN, b. July 6, 1794, m. Sally Ransom, of Middlefield, Otsego Co., July 25, 1814; d. in Mohawk, Herkimer Co., N. Y., June 13, 1876, and some of his descendants now live in that vicinity. His son,

LEONARD SUTHERLAND, b. in Otsego Co. Nov. 2, 1816; m. Nancy Hawn, of Mindenville, N. Y., Aug. 12, 1847; d. in Pekin, Ill., Feb. 7, 1879. His widow and his dau. Ida lived in Chicago in Jan., 1890.

LEONARD SUTHERLAND, s. Jesse; b. in Chatham, Columbia Co., N. Y., Jan. 18, 1799; m. Lois Rumrill, of———; d. at Kinderhook, N. Y., Aug. 11, 1871. From about the age of 21 to 40 he was a minister of the Christian Church. Afterwards was in watch and jewelry trade. Children living in 1883.

HENRIETTA EMILY, who m. D. J. Dean, and was living in Adams, Mass., in 1883.