

**GENEALOGY: ANCESTORS
AND DESCENDANTS
OF JOHN SANDERS,
FORT COVINGTON, N.Y.**

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Genealogy: Ancestors and Descendants of John Sanders, Fort Covington, N.Y. by George Rich

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GEORGE RICH

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GENEALOGY

Ancestors and Descendants

of

JOHN SANDERS

Fort Covington, N. Y.

Prepared by

GEORGE RICH

Cleveland, O.

1922

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INTRODUCTION

As the years pass and the urgent affairs of the present increase upon us, it is only natural that we should give but slight attention to the things that do not materially affect our immediate interests.

Today very many people seem to give but little thought to the preservation of their family history or genealogy, few having more than a slight knowledge of their ancestry farther back than a generation or two.

In the past, vital records were poorly kept in many states, rendering it very difficult at the present time to obtain desired information from the early records of the various commonwealths, and it would seem that in the future it will be very difficult for many people to establish definite ancestral lines unless present generations take precaution in preserving same.

It is my purpose to so fix and establish the ancestral lines of John Sanders of Ft. Covington, N. Y., that all his descendants may trace their Sanders' ancestry back to those who first came to America. In his ancestral lines will be found the following names: Grafton, Page, Green, Rowell, Marsh, Pendor, Morrill, Colby, Sargent, Ambrose, and Clement. After showing his ancestry the work then contains a complete list of all his descendants for three generations.

GEORGE RICH.

Cleveland, O., 1922.

THE SANDERS ANCESTRY

First Generation of the Sanders Family in America.

JOHN SANDERS

There are many superficial and conflicting records regarding JOHN SANDERS, one of the founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony; in some cases, his record has been confused with that of his son and namesake, who, on coming to the New England colony, settled at Salem, Mass. It has remained for Mrs. Sarah (Sanders) Smith, to publish in the "Founders of the Massachusetts Bay Colony" an authentic history of JOHN SANDERS, from data secured from the state and probate records of Maine, Massachusetts and New Hampshire; from Colonial records and from the parish records of his home in England.

From the church register at Weeke, Downton Parish, County Wilts (Wiltshire), Eng. is the following:

Baptisms.

- 1604. Richard, son of John Sanders.
- 1606. Dorothea, dau. of John Sanders.

Burials.

1609. Ales Sanders, the wife of John Sanders of Weeke. (There would seem to be an error either in the entry of the Christian name of the wife of John Sanders or in transcription, for the name of his second wife was "Ales." However, both wives may have borne the same name.)

Marriages.

1610. John Sanders and Ales Coles were md. the fourth day of Feb.

Baptisms.

- 1613. John Sanders, son of John Sanders of Weeke, 26th March
- 1614. Elizabeth, dau. of John Sanders of Weeke.
- 1615. Sarah, dau. of John Sanders of Weeke.
- 1617. Joseph, son of John Sanders of Weeke.
- 1622. Moses, son of John Sanders of Weeke.

Under date of June, 1622, the colonial records of the Plymouth Colony note: "Came into our harbor two ships of Mr. Weston's, the Charity, 100 tons; the Swan, 30 tons; with letters of April 10, and fifty or sixty men, sent at his own charge, under Capt. John Sanders, overseer, to settle a plantation in the Massachusetts bay, for which he has procured a patent."

The colony settled at Weymouth in the fall of the year. After suffering privation and hardships, their enterprise was abandoned, and in the Colonial Records of London, under date of May 23, 1623, we read: "Captain Sanders and Company arrived at Southampton." Thus ended the disaster of the Weymouth Plantation.

Captain John Sanders seems to have been undaunted by his failure in 1623, to establish the Weymouth Colony. During the following five or six years, he made several voyages to the Mass. Bay Colony, generally in command of his ship.

In 1628, his son John, came to the Colony as a passenger in the merchant ship, "Margaret," and settled at Salem, Mass., and on July 27, 1635, Capt. John¹ Sanders arrived. His stay in the Colony was short, for it is recorded that in the following year, he returned to New England and in conjunction with William and Robert Sanders, and others, having received a grant, founded the colony of Hampton, Mass. (later N. H.)

Whether the wife of John Sanders Sr. accompanied him to New England is not stated; but she died about this time. In 1638, he was sent to England to obtain a patent to found another colony, and while there, he

married Hester Rolfe. From the Colonial Records of the Custom House of Southampton, we read that "John Rolle (Rolfe) aged 50, of Melchit Park, Wiltshire, together with his wife, Ann, and daughter, Hester, wife of John Sanders, took passage for the Colonies." On this return trip, John Sanders brought his daughter, Sarah, who, soon afterward married Maj. Robert Pike. His daughter, Elizabeth, having married Henry Wolcott, did not come to the Colony until a later date.

He was successful in his mission, for he, together with eleven others (including Simon Bradstreet, Daniel Dennison, Christopher Bailey, Samuel Winsley and Samuel Dudley) were granted a plantation on the southerly side of Hampton, to be called "Merrimack" (afterwards changed to Salisbury). It was a royal grant and a royal subdivision for each of the proprietors, covering 75 miles, extending from the Atlantic Ocean to the Merrimack and Hampton Rivers. In 1640, John¹ Sanders was appointed surveyor of the grant. Salisbury and Hampton were joined to the jurisdiction of Ipswich—each of them to send a grand juryman once a year to Ipswich.

The sterling qualities and natural leadership of Capt. John Sanders were well-known and recognized by the early settlers. His business enterprises extended through that part of Massachusetts and New Hampshire, where his vast properties were located. We find him administering to many wills and estates, settling town disputes in Hampton, Salisbury and Haverhill, and attending to his duties at the General Court. He later returned to England, where he owned an estate in Downton Parish, leaving his brother-in-law, Richard Dole of Newbury, his attorney.

The vital records of Salisbury give the following births of the children of John and Hester (Rolfe) Sanders:

Hester b. Sept. 5, 1639.
John b. July 1, 1641; d. young.
Ruth b. Dec. 16, 1642.
John b. Dec. 10, 1644.

The records of Newbury give the following: (Newbury was across the river northward from Salisbury) :

Sarah b. Aug. 20, 1646.
Mary b. June 12, 1649
Abigail b. Apr. 12, 1651.
Joseph b. Aug. 28, 1653.
Elizabeth b. Jan. 26, 1654.

SECOND GENERATION

John Sanders (John)

John Sanders, born at Weeke, Eng., March 26, 1613) came to Salem, New England, June 28, 1628-9, in the "Margaret," from Plymouth, Eng., in company with John Endicott and his party. He came under the protection of Robert Coles (his uncle), who became one of the wealthiest investors in the Colony, at that time.

In 1629, he united with the first church in Salem. In 1636 he was made freeman, and received a grant of 40 acres of freemen's land, adjoining that of his uncle. The grant is the present location of the south side of Washington Square, adjacent to the Common. Upon the knoll side of the lot facing the Common, he built his house.

About this time (1636) he married Priscilla Grafton, daughter of Capt. Joseph and Mary Grafton. (See Grafton, page —.)

He died at Salem during the latter part of 1643. From deeds and his will, we find that he described himself as coming from "Weeke in ye parish of Downton, in ye county of Wiltz, Eng." The will, dated Oct.

12, 1643 (probated at Salem, Nov. 10, 1643) was sealed with the crest of the Sanders Coat of Arms. His widow married Feb. 20, 1644, John Gardner of Salem.

The children of John and Priscilla (Grafton) Sanders were: John b. Dec. 1640; d. 1694. Md. Nov. 5, 1651, Hannah Pickman. James b. 1643-4 (posthumous).

THIRD GENERATION

James Sanders (John, John).

James Sanders was born in Salem, Mass. in 1643, after his father's death. As a young man, he moved to Haverhill, Mass., where, on Jan. 14, 1669, he married Sarah Page, daughter of John and Mary (Marsh) Page, also of Haverhill. (See Page, page —.)

In 1692, he was appointed Highway Surveyor. In 1701, a garrison was ordered kept at his house, as a protection against the Indians. He represented Haverhill at the General Court in 1706, 1707 and 1709.

After the death of his wife Sarah (March 23, 1685), he married, 2nd, Oct. 20, 1687, Hannah Tuxbury, of Newbury. There were seven children of the first marriage and five of the second marriage.

His will, dated Nov. 1, 1718, was probated Jan. 10, 1722; his death having occurred at Haverhill, Dec. 9, 1721.

The children of James and Sarah (Page) Sanders were:

- James b. May 30, 1671; d. young.
- John b. June 6, 1672; md. Mary Sargeant. *
- Sarah b. Aug. 7, 1674, md. Jonathan Eaton.
- Eliz. b. Nov. 28, 1676; d. in infancy.
- James b. Apr. 24, 1679; md. Elizabeth Whittier.
- Avery b. May 22, 1682; d. in infancy.
- *Avery b. Aug. 3, 1683; md. Abigail Green.

(References: History of Haverhill, Mass.; Haverhill Vital Records.)

see Chan. Walton Sanders. ¹¹ Genealogy of the Cortland County N.Y. branch of the Sanders family, p. 19 for children of John & Mary Sargeant Sanders.