

**A GENEALOGY OF THE  
POTTER  
FAMILY ORIGINATING IN  
RHODE ISLAND**

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A Genealogy of the Potter Family Originating in Rhode Island by Jeremiah Potter

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**JEREMIAH POTTER**

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REV. JEREMIAH POTTER.



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## P R E F A C E .

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In arranging a genealogy of a family for the long run of two hundred and forty or fifty years, one meets with many difficulties and perplexities unthought of by those who have not tried it; for when you search old records of towns or other records they are generally found to consist, perhaps, of only a single deed or will, or it may be of a marriage or birth, and that is all there is to be found. Again, if you go to the families now living, you will find but few family records, and they go back but a few years comparatively, and the memory cannot go back far with any degree of certainty. However, the writer has found a few family records very plain and satisfactory, and a very few reaching back about a hundred and twenty years.

The genealogy herein set forth is undoubtedly imperfect, and in some instances incorrect in dates of births, marriages and deaths, the writer having received the information from individuals, given by memory and to the best of their recollection, but in very many instances I visited the families and examined their family records (though I found some of them incorrect, as to date) and took the account from them when it could be found. In other cases I received it from the head of the family or some one of the family that was well qualified to give the information.

Then, again, the writer has written to many of the families and received the desired information by letter. As we purpose to bring in the marriage relations down as far as we can get them, as well as the Potter family direct, the writer has written to quite a number of families from whom he has received no answers.

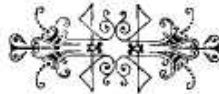
There are, undoubtedly, some mistakes in a work so extensive, and yet the author feels gratified to think that he has collected so much that is reliable. No pains have been spared to make it what it claims to be, a genealogy of the Potter family and their marriage relations, of Rhode Island, though now widely scattered in the various States of the Union.

What is set forth in this work in the main the author thinks is correct, and only regrets that it could not be more extensive in its matter and exact in statement. He would say that he does not pretend to set forth in this genealogy all the Potter family that may have originated in Rhode Island from all sources, but from one person, Robert, who came over from England about 1630 and settled, lived and died in New England. From this date he will put in all he has up to about 1665 or '66, and from that period in a direct line from one person down to the present time. There will be a short

biographical sketch of many of those best known to the author where the name of the person occurs in this work, but the author does not flatter himself that he can find great talent from any one of his ancestors. yet he has the satisfaction of introducing the reader to our fathers and mothers and to one another, and bring together the ties of family and kindred, and bring to view in imagination our ancestors as they moved about in the circle of their homes and spheres, and thereby give our children and the rising generation what was and who lived in the olden time.

We now therefore set forth in the following pages the information that we have been able to gather from the various sources at our command, to our relatives, families and friends, hoping it may be a source of interest and satisfaction to all that are now living, and that the rising generation may know the line of their ancestors and the relations we sustained to them, and so the genealogy of the race be preserved.

JEREMIAH POTTER.





## INTRODUCTION.

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Robert Potter was the first of the family that came over from the mother country. This was in 1630. He settled in Lynn, Mass., was admitted a freeman on the third of September 1631, but soon removed to Rhode Island. He was an inhabitant of Portsmouth for a time but was admitted an inhabitant of Newport, July, 1638, and in 1641 united with Gorton in the settlement of Shawomut, now Warwick. In 1643 he was arrested, taken to Boston, tried for contumacy and convicted, but appealed to the British Council and the sentence was reversed and he was released and returned home in 1644. (When the Massachusetts soldiers came to arrest the settlers soon after the occupancy of the land, his wife, the mother of his children, sought refuge in the woods and soon after died from exposure and fright.—See page 48, Fuller's History of Warwick.) He was a member of the Rhode Island General Council from Warwick, in 1648, '51, '52, '55. It is thought that he was of Coventry, England, where Humphrey Potter was Major in 1690. He kept an inn in Warwick in 1649, (the General Assembly met in the house of Robert Potter in this town, Dec. 20th, 1652.—See Fuller's History, page 47.) He was one of the original twelve purchasers of the town of Warwick from the Indian Miantonomi from which it appears that he had his share set off to him on Warwick Neck and other places. It is supposed he lived the rest of his days in this town. He died there in the latter part of the year 1661 after undergoing privations and hardships, and he is said to be buried in what is now called Old Warwick, in a lot just a little northerly from where the road turns off to go to Warwick Neck. The name of his first wife, the mother of his children, is not known. She died in 1643, during the time of his imprisonment. He married a second time a woman named Sarah, who survived him and married John Sanford, the Boston school-master.

There is a difference in the date of the death of Robert Potter in

Staples's Simplisities Defence, page 88 He says the town of Warwick met in Council on November 5th, 1661, to agitate about his estate, he having died intestate, they proceeded in it and settled the estate.

Robert Potter died in the latter part of the year 1661, and his wife died in the latter part of the year 1643.

CHILDREN OF ROBERT POTTER:

1. Anthony Potter.
2. Ichabod Potter, of Portsmouth; married Martha Hazard, daughter of Thomas.
3. Elizabeth Potter; married Richard Harcutt.
4. Deliverance Potter; married James Green, son of John.
5. John Potter, born 1639.

John Potter, son of Robert, was married to Ruth Fisher, daughter of Edward Fisher, by Mr. Baulston of Portsmouth, R. I., June 2d, 1664. He was married the second time to Sarah Collins, widow, January 7th, 1684 or '85, by Major John Green.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND RUTH POTTER:

1. Robert Potter, born March 5th, 1665 or '66.
2. Fisher Potter, born June 12th, 1667.
3. John Potter, born November 27th, 1668.
4. William Potter, born May 23d, 1671, in Warwick.
5. Samuel Potter, born January 10th, 1672 or '73, in Warwick.
6. Isabella Potter, born October 17th, 1674, in Warwick.
7. Ruth Potter, born November 29th, 1676, in Portsmouth, R. I., in John Briggs' house, in time of the Indian war.
8. Edward Potter, born in Warwick, November 25th, 1678.
9. Content Potter, born in Warwick, October 2d, 1680.

This John Potter was many years clerk of the Rhode Island General Court. He died in 1694 intestate, and his estate falling to John, Jr., he shared it with his brother William, as per deed of April 10th, 1694. This is from Warwick records and shows that John Potter took his family to the island of Rhode Island and stayed there during the Indian war, and soon after it returned to Warwick, where he died as above stated. See also Fuller's History of Warwick, page 48.

John Potter, son of John and Ruth Potter, married Sarah Wilson, daughter of Samuel Wilson. They were married probably about the last of the year 1691 or first of 1692.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND SARAH POTTER:

1. Martha Potter, born December 20th, 1692; married Robinson.

2. John Potter, born 1695; married Mary Robinson.
3. Samuel Potter, born September 10th, 1699.
4. Sarah Potter, born April 25th, 1702.
5. Susanna Potter, born September 17th, 1704; married George Babcock.
6. Mary Potter, born March 2d, 1706; married Stephen Tallman.
7. Samuel Potter, born 1715; died 1739.

Deliverance Potter, daughter of the first Robert Potter, married James Green, son of John Greene, 1st. I think he lived in Poto-womut. This is all I have of the history of Deliverance Potter.

Isabel Potter, daughter of John and Ruth Potter, and grand-daughter of the first Robert Potter, was born October 17th, 1674. She became the wife William Burton and long survived him.

John Potter, son of John and Sarah Potter, married Mercy Robinson, daughter of Rowland and Mary (Allen) Robinson, in 1714, and died in 1739. His wife died in 1762.

CHILDREN OF JOHN AND MERCY POTTER:

1. John Potter, born 1716; married Mary Perry, 1736.
2. Christopher Potter, born 1717.
3. Christopher Potter, born 1719.
4. Mary Potter, born 1721.
5. William Potter, born 1723; married Penelope Hazard.
6. Samuel Potter, born 1725.
7. Mercy Potter, born 1727.
8. Sarah Potter, born August 11th, 1730; married Col. John Waterman, of Warwick, June 13th, 1754. He was born August 25th, 1730, and died June 11th, 1812. She died September 25th, 1801.—Col. R. I. His. Society, Vol. 3, page 294.

I here insert, as per statement of John W. Green, of Warwick, that, in 1774, when the census of the Colony of Rhode Island was taken, there were Potters in twenty-one towns, representing one hundred and five heads of families, eight of them being named Robert.

William Potter, son of John Potter and wife Ruth, married Anne Stone in 1705, daughter of Hugh and Abigail Stone. This is all that is known to the writer.

John Potter, son of John, and grandson of Robert, was married to Phebe Green, December 12th, 1717, daughter of Thomas and Ann Green, of Warwick, by Richard Waterman, Justice of the Peace.