

TAG 44:1
JAN 1968

THE SCOTT FAMILY OF RIDGEFIELD, CONN.

By DONALD LINES JACOBUS, M.A., F.A.S.G.
of New Haven, Conn.

On 2 June 1702, David Scott, "late resident in ye Town of Fairfield," purchased for £45 from Mary Bouton, of Norwalk, widow, one 28th part of Ridgefield township, "ye Most part purchased by (with ye rest of ye proprietors of said Township) My Son, Jonathan Stevens Deceased" [Ridgefield Deeds 1:47]. The same date, David had a confirmation deed from James Hayes and Mary his wife of Norwalk: and on 8 Apr. 1713 (David being then of Ridgefield) from Thomas Bouton of Norwalk; and on 6 May 1715 from Richard Bouton and Mary Bouton Jr. of Norwalk; and the Town laid out land to David by virtue of these instruments [*ibid.* 1:47-49]. The three Boutons were children of Mrs. Mary Bouton by her third husband, John Bouton, 2d, while Mrs. Mary Hayes was her child by her first husband, Thomas Allen. Jonathan Stevenson, the original owner of the grant, was son of Mrs. Bouton by her second husband, Jonathan Stevenson.

No record has been seen of David Scott at Fairfield, where he was living at the time of his Ridgefield purchase. But Fairfield County Court Records [1:88] contain records of a suit, 21 Apr. 1719, brought by Mary Scott of Ireland, of the town and County of Londonderry, "now resident in Ridgefield." She obtained a judgment against David Scott of Ridgefield. The Sheriff could not find David at his house, and in the hearing of Elisabeth Scott "the pretended wife of sd David" made demand etc., and Mary Scott took 3 acres 72 rods by execution.

This peculiar record leaves us in doubt as to who was mother of David's two children, James and Elizabeth. The latter bore the name of the "pretended wife," while the son James failed to name either of his two daughters Mary or Elizabeth. David continued to live in Ridgefield until his death in 1760 when he must have been close to 85 years of age.

On 17 Mar. 1721, David Scott of Ridgefield for "Love and Fatherly affection" conveyed to his beloved son James Scott "one full half of my whole right of lands in ye Township of Ridgefield"; and the same date, James Scott of Ridgefield for "that Love and Brotherly affection I have & do bare towards my well beloved Sister Elizabeth Scott" of Ridgefield, conveyed 30 acres to her. It is singular that David did not give a deed to each of his children, and the fact suggests that James may have been a son by the legal wife Mary, while Elizabeth may have been by the "pretended wife" Eliza-

necticut was
von. The
William Young,
s deceased
ire gentry
to be the
a large
are given
England
ily of prom-
aughter of
rris who did
ung ancestry
et Young
otes and
aughter of
get Savage,
n Savage,
also called
was a sub-
hony and

Compton un-
cousins,
Butcher,
ringtonworth,
-named had a
History of
probable
den and in
ly for her
ut perhaps
g) Wyllys.
n wife of
639, was
nd Alice
and great-
et Savage.
ueror to
Sir John

ved much
story of
t from time
Both the
respon-
: has been

beth. The propriety of a conveyance from David to the daughter might in that case have been questioned; the subterfuge of having the equivalent of a portion given her by her brother instead of directly by David would make it more difficult to raise such a question.

At the time of this deed from David to his son of half his holdings, David was in some kind of difficulty. On 22 Dec. 1721, he assigned to Alexander Resseguie half of all his lands [Deeds 1:193]. The reason for this appears in a release given by Peter Burr and recorded on the same page; Burr states that Mr. Alexander Resseguie of Norwalk as Attorney for David Scott of Ridgfield "hath paid to me ye fifty pounds said David Scott and his bondsmen Joseph Keeler and Benjamin Stebbins of Ridgfield forfeited, said David making default and not appearing at ye Superior Court in Feb^ry last past, when he was Called to answer for his breach of law." It appears that Scott had pledged all his property to his bondsmen to indemnify them, and Burr now discharges them from further liability. Finally, on 14 May 1725, Resseguie released to Scott, for £200, the half of his lands formerly conveyed to him, and the next day Scott made over to Resseguie one-quarter of all his lands [Deeds 2:26]. The last deed may have been in lieu of the £200 specified for the release.

David's daughter Elizabeth next put in her claim. On 26 Nov. 1726, Elizabeth Scott alias Parker of "ye City of New Castle" made her loving husband, Joseph Parker of New Castle, brickmaker, attorney to sue for, recover and receive 30 acres in Ridgfield "or James Scott Oblidgeing himself to make it up Forty Acres of Such, in Such Kind, out of some Other Equivalent lands of his; which Tract being Oweing, Due and Payable, belonging to me, by said James Scott of Ridgfield Yeoman." Then, on 29 Dec. 1726, Joseph Parker "of the Government of Philadelphia & Town & County of New Castle," for £65, sold to Benjamin Stebbins of Ridgfield 26 1/2 acres "w^{ch} land Comes to me by my wife Elizabeth, daughter of David Scott"; and on 2 Jan. 1726/7 Joseph Parker of New Castle, "husband of Elizabeth daughter of David Scott of Ridgfield," acquitted James Scott of further demands [Deeds 2:30, 32].

With these legal and family difficulties disposed of, David and James Scott on 15 Sept. 1729 partitioned their lands; David declares that my son James Scott shall have" etc., while James declares that "my father David Scott shall have" etc.; even this was not a final settlement, for on 9 Jan. 1729/30 the father and son exchanged land [Deeds 2:48, 101].

David Scott seems to have been a slaveholder, for Rockwell's History of Ridgfield (1927), p. 54, states

n David to
questioned,
E a portion
tly by David
a question,
his son of
of difficulty
Resseguie
reason for
Burr and re-
Mr. Alexander
i Scott of
ls said David
Benjamin Steb-
aking default
Feb'y last
breach of
all his pro-
and Burr
r. Finally,
t, for £200,
o him, and the
quarter of
l may have
e release.
er claim. On
of "ye City
Joseph Parker
e for, recover
es Scott
es of Such,
lands of
vable, be-
field Ye-
er "of the
of New
as of Ridge-
by my wife
on 2 Jan.
and of Eliza-
" acquitted
, 32].
s disposed
partitioned
ames Scott
t "my father
s not a final
er and son

older, for
o. 54, states

that he sold two slaves 13 Feb. 1740. He survived un-
til 1760, for the inventory of his estate was taken 28
Apr. 1760; Mr. James Scott of Ridgefield was appointed
administrator. It was reported that he left £16.15.0
in real estate and £33.7.7 in movable estate; no widow
or child, and distribution was ordered to the next of
kin, but no distribution or further record has been
found [Danbury Probate Records 1:181, 2:90].

The James who administered was the grandson. The son
James does not appear in the deeds after 1730 but may
have survived a few years after that. His children
started conveying in 1750, and since their grandfather
David was then living, they were presumably conveying
rights from their deceased father. For example, on 15
Dec. 1750 Sarah Scott conveyed "for good causes" to
"my brother David Scott" [Deeds 3:296]. She was
daughter of James, then just over 21 years of age.
James Scott conveyed to David Scott, Jr., 23 Apr. 1754;
and David Scott, Jr., conveyed to "my brother" William
Scott, 30 Mar. 1756 [*ibid.* 4:117, 131]. The son of
James was called David "Jr." until after his grand-
father's death in 1760. After 1760 the children of
James appear in a number of deeds.

The story of David Scott has been told. He was from
Londonderry, Ireland, born around 1675 since his son
was old enough to marry in 1722. We catch only a
glimpse of his marital troubles and do not know whether
he became reconciled with Mary, presumably his legal
wife, and, we suppose, the mother of at least his son
James.

James² Scott, born presumably by 1700, died probably
by 1750, married at Ridgefield, 24 Apr. 1722, Hannah
Hyatt; she married second, certainly by 1759, Samuel
St. John. This will of Thomas Hyatt of Ridgefield,
dated 10 June 1759, proved 11 Jan. 1760 [Danbury Pro-
bate Rec. 1:175] names, with many others, his wife Ex-
perience and daughter Hannah St. John and her sons
Thomas Scott and William Scott. On 26 Dec. 1760, James
Scott [Jr.], "having Obtained of my father in Law
[i.e., stepfather] Sam^{ll} St John & my Mother his wife
ye whole of their interest in ye Estate of Thomas Hyatt
Dec^d (Excepting twenty pounds, & an interest in a Cer-
tain piece of Land Lying in ye Township of Norwalk),"
gave his receipt for 40 acres and discharge to Thomas
Hyatt Executor of ye Last Will of s^d Dec^d; and on 24
Mar. 1761 Samuel St. John and Hannah St. John also
receipted to the executor, Thomas Hyatt [Deeds 4:191,
197].

Children of James and Hannah (Hyatt) Scott:

- i. James³, b. 10 Feb. 1721/2 [error in original
for 1722/3]; d. at Ridgefield 3 Mar. 1805,

- m. Martha Benedict. On 19 Dec. 1769 James Scott and wife Martha conveyed to David Olmsted part of the home lot that was "our Hon^d father's" James Benedict dec'd (Deeds 5:86).
- ii. Thomas, b. 3 Feb. 1724/5. In 1760 Thomas Scott of y^e Upper Precinct of Cape May in the Western Division of New Jersey, sold for £6 to James Scott all right in land in Ridgefield [Deeds 4:184].
 - iii. David, b. 21 Feb. 1727, see below.
 - iv. Sarah, b. 12 Aug. 1729. Her deed of 1750 is cited above.
 - v. Hannah, b. 3 Oct. 1731.
 - vi. William, b. (not found): named in grandfather Hyatt's will and in 1756 deed from brother David Jr. cited above. On 30 Mar. 1761, William Scott of Norwalk conveyed to James Scott of Ridgefield [Deeds 4:200]. William Scot of Ridgefield m. at Wilton [then a parish in Norwalk], 2 Jan. 1757, Abigail Belden [Bailey, Early Conn. Marriages 3:72].

A grandson of David³ Scott (born 1727), Jesup Wakeman Scott (1799-1874), left a genealogical memorandum, a copy of which was sent me in 1937 by Mrs. Ronald T. Abercrombie of Baltimore, Maryland. He wrote: "it is said that three brothers, David, William and Thomas, migrated from Scotland in the beginning of the 18th century, and that David settled in Ridgefield, Conn., William settled in Wilton, Conn., and Thomas settled in Cape May, Delaware." It has been shown above that these three brothers were of the third generation, their grandfather (presumably Scotch-Irish) having migrated from Londonderry, Ireland, but the statement regarding the brothers is correct except for the inaccuracy regarding the location of Cape May. We have drawn to some extent upon the family account with regard to the family of David³ below.

David³ Scott, born at Ridgefield 21 Feb. 1727, died there 21 May 1809; married there, 4 Aug. 1751, Hannah Smith, born at Ridgefield 29 Sept. 1734, died there 21 Dec. 1829, aged 95, daughter of Gideon and Sarah (Benedict) Smith.

On 19 Apr. 1790, Gideon Smith of Ridgefield, for the "Parental Love and Goodwill, that I have for, and do bear unto my Daughter, Hannah the wife of David Scott, and unto her husband said David Scott. . ." conveyed to them 18 acres 1 rood 28 rods "near my Dwelling house" and specified that it shall be accounted £52 towards his daughter's portion. The same day, David Scott, in consideration of this deed, leased it for life to his father-in-law Gideon Smith and his mother-

1769 James
to David Oldm
was "our Hon
(Deeds 5:86).
Thomas Scott
y in the West
d for £6 to
n Ridgefield

of 1750 is

grandfather
rom brother
r. 1761,
ed to James
0]. William
[then a par-
bigail Belden
3:72].

Jesup Wake-
l memorandum,
s. Ronald T.
rote: "it is
and Thomas,
f the 18th
ield, Conn.,
was settled
n above that
neration,
h) having
he statement
for the inac-
. We have
unt with re-

. 1727, died
1751, Hannah
died there
and Sarah

ield, for the
for, and do
David Scott,
." conveyed
Dwelling
ounted £52
day, David
sed it for
d his mother-

in-law Sarah Smith the wife of said Gideon [Deeds 7: 110]. Gideon Smith lived to be very old and he conveyed to each of his children (or their heirs if they had died) land on similar terms, thus retaining the use of his property for himself and wife for life and obviating the necessity of probate action at his death.

The will of David Scott of Ridgefield, dated 11 Feb. 1802, proved 12 June 1809, provided for wife Hannah and gave the remainder to "my Children and to my Grandchild Sally Keeler in the manner following viz to each of my Sons David, James, Gideon, Thomas, Jere, Thaddeus and Gould" two-nineteenths, and "to each of my Daughters Sarah, Phebe, Hannah, Rane, and my grandchild Sarah Keeler" one nineteenth. Advancements to the children shall be computed as part of their portions, and all advancements made to my daughter Amie before her death are to be computed as part of the portion given in this will to my granddaughter Sarah. Despite large advancements to the children during his lifetime, the estate inventoried at \$4,153.13, a very respectable estate at that period. On the back of the inventory is a list of advancements made as shown by book account, and the names of the children in this list are: David Scott dec'd; James Scott; Gideon Scott; Thomas Scott; Jere Scott; Thad Scott; Gold Scott; Sarah Mather; Phebe Roods; Hannah Osborn; Rane Barlow; and Ame Keeler mother of Sally. A distribution is in the file and names all the children except the son David, and the widow [Danbury Probate Files, State Library].

The family was on the patriotic side during the Revolution. David's older brother Thomas served on the town's Committee of Inspection in 1775 and on the committee to provide for families of soldiers in 1777 (Rockwell's History of Ridgefield, 95, 97). David Scott was commissioned Ensign of the 2d Co., 16th Regt., May 1777, and Lieutenant of the same, May 1778 [Conn. State Records 1:275; 2:30]. These were "alarm list" companies of minutemen, and I have not found evidence as to whether this officer was the David born 1727 (then aged 50) or his eldest son (then 26). A pay abstract of Capt. Isaac Hine's Company, which responded to the alarm at Tryon's Invasion and burning of Fairfield and Norwalk, shows that David Scott was Lieutenant, and Gideon Scott a Private, in this company; dated Ridgefield, July 1779 (Conn. Hist. Soc. Coll. 8:200).

Children of David and Hannah (Smith) Scott:
(births recorded at Ridgefield)

- i. David, b. 11 June 1752; d. between 1802 and 1809; by the family account moved to the Black River country, N.Y. He probably left Conn. before 1790, as it seems cer-

- tainly his father David who was listed at Ridgefield in the Census of that year with a household of 2 males over 16 years, 2 males under 16, and 2 females.
- ii. James, b. 2 Jan. 1754; m. Lucretia Olmstead. He is probably the James 2d listed at Ridgefield in 1790 with 3 males under 16 and 2 females.
 - iii. Gideon, b. 12 Dec. 1755; listed at Ridgefield in 1790 with 2 males under 16 and 4 females; by the family account went to Ovid N.Y.
 - iv. Sarah, b. 3 Feb. 1757, m. Joseph Mather of Darien, Conn.
 - v. Phebe, b. 24 Jan. 1760; m. at Ridgebury in 1778 Leister Roods of Kent. Lester Rude was listed in the 1790 Census at Washington, Conn, with 3 males under 16 years and 4 females.
 - vi. Thomas, b. 14 Feb. 1763; d. before June 1832; m. at Ridgefield, 21 Apr. 1788, Ruth Seymour, b. there, 8 April 1770, d. there, 29 Feb. 1848 [Seymour and Jacobus, The Seymour Family (1939), 97].
 - vii. Hannah, b. 25 Apr. 1765; m. an Osborn, and according to the family account went to Ohio and had 14 children.
 - viii. Rane, b. 3 Jan. 1768; m. John Barlow; "lived on the mountain."
 - ix. Jere, b. 10 Feb. 1770; m. at Greens Farms [Westport], Conn., 15 Jan. 1795, Amelia Wakeman, b. there 27 Jan. 1775, d. at Toledo, Ohio, 17 Jan. 1859, dau. of Jesup and Amelia (Banks) Wakeman [Jacobus, Families of Old Fairfield 2:1005]; had 9 children, including Jesup Wakeman Scott, writer of the family account.
 - x. Amy, b. 10 May 1772; m. a Keeler and had a daughter Sarah.
 - xi. Thaddeus, b. 3 Sept. 1775.
 - xii. Gould, b. 28 June 1778.

QUERY

COREY-PERKINS: Mary Corey m., Coventry, R.I., 26 May 1754, John⁶ Perkins (Newman⁵, Ebenezer⁴, Samuel³, John², John¹) who was b. 30 May 1733 in Exeter, R.I. Was Mary Corey from Scituate, R.I.? Who were her parents?

--Mrs. Charles R. Wetter, 56 White's Place, Bloomington, Ill. 61701.

has
363
whi
pen
ing
is
ers
hab

A t
Est
the
the
175
get
Lan
Exe

To
5
and
&
Cha
H
2 B
and
To

L
A n
a
A S
l
To

d
a P
To
To

r
Kne
T
Sla
P
Che
C

To
t
To
To