

Timeline and Narrative for Jeffrey Ferris in America

2 April 2019, R. Riegel

c.1634-35 - Migration to New England. Not on any ship list. [fn.1 below]

c.1634-35 - Son Peter born (Anderson postulates c.1629 in England [fn.1])

1635 May 6 - Made a Freeman in Boston. No record of Jeffrey in Watertown before the 1635 List of Freemen. [fn.2]

1635 - Moved to Wethersfield, Connecticut (established 1634 by John Oldfield, et al). [fn.1 & fn.3]

c.1635-36 - Son Joseph born. (Anderson postulates c.1632 in England [fn.1])

c.1636-37 - Daughter Mary born [fn.1]

1638-1640 - A lengthy Wethersfield religious dispute led to a split in the church. [fn.3]

1640 July 18 - Greenwich was purchased from the Native Americans by Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake. [fn.4.] Jeffrey's name was added to the purchase agreement and he may have moved to Greenwich, perhaps unwilling to wait until spring, 1641 when other Wethersfield settlers would be moving to Stamford.

1640 July - Stamford was purchased from the Native Americans by John Davenport of the New Haven Colony (through Nathaniel Turner) and then sold to disaffected Wethersfield settlers in November 1640 with their agreement to move to Stamford beginning in the spring of 1641. [fn.3]

c.1640 - Son John born [fn.1]

1641, spring - Rev. Denton and 29 men and their families arrived in Stamford from Wethersfield. [fn.1 and fn.3]

1641 - Jeffrey on a list at Stamford for ten "acres of marsh and upland allowed." [fn.1] Jeffrey apparently was unwilling to live under Dutch rule at Greenwich and moved to Stamford. [fn.4]

1641-1650 - Jeffrey probably remained at Stamford.

1642 Jan - Jeffrey assessed for a mill and a Captain's house in Stamford. [fn.14]

1642 April 9 - Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake's wife, Elizabeth Fones (Winthrop), acknowledged the Dutch claim to Greenwich. [fn.4]

c.1642 - Son James born [fn.1]

1643 - Daniel Patrick killed at Stamford by a Dutch soldier after troubles at Greenwich with the Native Americans and the Dutch had been rekindled. [fn.5]

1644 - Rev. Denton and 17 families (but not Jeffrey Ferris) left Stamford for Hempstead, Long Island. [fn.3]

c.1645 – Elizabeth Fones (Winthrop, Feak) built the first house in Greenwich (now known as the Feak-Ferris house) on "Elizabeth Neck" (named for Elizabeth Fones). [fn.12]

1647-48 – Robert Feake abandoned his wife, Elizabeth Fones (Winthrop), and she married William Hallett. William and Elizabeth lived at Hellgate on Long Island (across the East River from New Amsterdam on Manhattan) and near Newtown where Judith Feake, Robert's niece, lived with her husband William Palmer. [fn.8, 9 & 10]

1649 - Jeffrey Ferris and Robert Hustice were parties to a suit in Stamford against James Steward. [fn.13]

1650 Nov 25 - Jeffrey Ferris bought William Hallett's house and land in Greenwich on Elizabeth Neck and probably moved to Greenwich. [fn.1]

1654 July 5 - Son Peter married Elizabeth Reynolds at Stamford. [fn.1 & fn.14]

1654 June 27 – Thomas Pell purchased about 50,000 acres of land in today's Bronx and lower Westchester County. [fn.11]]

c.1655-56 - Jeffrey resided in Westchester/East Town in what is now Westchester Square, the Bronx. [fn.1]

1656, spring - Dutch authorities detained male Westchester/East Town settlers (probably not including Jeffrey who was not on the original list of captive petitioners) on a prison ship near Fort Amsterdam for not acknowledging Dutch authority. [fn.6]

1656 Dec 29 - Jeffrey known to be in Westchester/East Town based on Brian Nuton's (Newton) journal [fn.6]

1657 Jan 1 – Jeffrey signed (with his mark) an acknowledgment of Dutch authority over Westchester/East Town along with 14 other Westchester/East Town settlers, including Jonathan Lockwood. (Jeffrey's daughter Mary married Jonathan Lockwood, the son of Robert Lockwood who was the husband of Susanna Norman. Susanna married Jeffrey Ferris after Robert Lockwood's death in 1658). [fn.6]

1657 Jan 1 - Jeffrey's first wife was likely alive and cooking breakfast for a visiting Dutch delegation in Westchester/East Town. [fn.6]

1657 Aug 20 - Grandson Joseph born in Stamford to son Peter and Elizabeth Reynolds. [fn.14]

1657 Nov 20 - Son Joseph married Ruth Knapp of Stamford. [fn.1]

1658 Aug - Grandson [John Ferris](#) born in Old Greenwich, near Stamford, to son Joseph and Ruth Knapp.

1658 Jul 31 - Jeffrey's first wife died. Death recorded in Stamford Town Records. [fn. 1 & 14]

1658 Sept 11 - Robert Lockwood, husband of Susanna Norman, died in Fairfield, Connecticut. Susanna appeared for probate proceedings in Fairfield on 20 Oct 1658. [fn.7]

1658-59 - Jeffrey was of Westchester/East Town when he prosecuted a lengthy lawsuit in late 1658 and early 1659. [fn.1]

1659 - Married Susanna Norman (Lockwood). Jeffrey may have stayed briefly at Susanna Norman's home in Fairfield. Anderson says he returned to Greenwich "by about 1659." [fn.1]

1660 Dec 23 - Susanna Norman (Lockwood) died at Greenwich. [fn.1]

1661 Nov 25 - Judith Feake's husband, William Palmer died at Newtown, Long Island (now in the area of Elmhurst, Middle Village, Queens) [fn.8]

c.1662 – Jeffrey married Judith Feake (Palmer), niece of Robert Feake. [fn.1]

1665 Jan 6 - Jeffrey executed his will. [fn.1; 1665 is the Gregorian year.]

1666 May 31 – Jeffrey died in Greenwich, Connecticut. [fn.1]

Narrative



Capt. Turner purchases Stamford from Ponus and Wascussue in 1640

Many of the events and dates shown above are known and fixed by contemporary deeds, wills and journals. Everyone appears to agree that Jeffrey was in Wethersfield soon after being made a freeman in Watertown on 6 May 1635. Jeffrey then appears as a separate purchaser at the end of the original purchase agreement for Greenwich in July 1640 by Daniel Patrick and Robert Feake. This purchase happened in the midst of the religious dispute in Wethersfield which led John Davenport to purchase Stamford (Rippowam) also in July of 1640. (Pursuant to their agreement with Davenport, twenty-nine Wethersfield families moved to Stamford by the spring of 1641.) It seems likely that Jeffrey moved instead to Greenwich sometime after his July 1640 purchase. Jeffrey may not have been willing to wait until the spring of 1641 to leave Wethersfield. (Note that Stamford and Old Greenwich, including Elizabeth Neck, are within only several miles of each other.)

1635 May 6 – made a freeman in Watertown

1635 - moves to Wethersfield

1640 after July - moves to Greenwich

But then sometime in 1641, Jeffrey is shown on a list of landowners with 10 acres in Stamford (Rippowam). Daniel Patrick, Elizabeth Fones (Winthrop, Feake, Hallett) and Jeffrey had been under pressure to acknowledge the Dutch claim to Greenwich which Daniel and Elizabeth (her husband Robert Feake being absent) finally acknowledged in April, 1642. Jeffrey apparently did not want to live under Dutch authority, may well have seen the writing on the wall (Robert Feake and Daniel Patrick appear to have been unstable characters) and decided to follow the other Wethersfield settlers to Stamford.

1641, spring or summer - moves to Stamford



Feake-Ferris House n Greewich built c.1645

I have found no evidence that Jeffrey moved from Stamford until, at the earliest, 25 Nov 1650 when he bought William Hallet's house and land on Elizabeth Neck in Greenwich. Jeffrey's co-owners of Greenwich were having their own tragedies and problems. Robert Feake had a checkered history and eventually abandoned his wife Elizabeth when he returned to England c.1647. Elizabeth (who had first married Henry Winthrop, the son of Governor John Winthrop (1587-1649)) then married William Hallett. And, Daniel Patrick was killed in 1643 at Stamford by a Dutch soldier after troubles at Greenwich with the Native Americans and the Dutch had been rekindled. Unless Jeffrey was flipping houses, he likely moved from Stamford to Greenwich by early 1651. Moving in

the December, 1650 weather may have been too challenging.

1651, early in year - moves to Elizabeth Neck, Greenwich

We then know that Jeffrey was in Westchester/East Town in December 1656 and January 1657, although we do not know why he moved there. The journal of a Dutch delegate to the Wethersfield/East Town settlers, Brian Nuton (Newton), described meetings there on December 29th and January 1st. On January 1st, 1657 Jeffrey signed (with his mark) an acknowledgment of Dutch authority over Westchester/East Town along with 14 other Westchester/East Town settlers, including Jonathan Lockwood. (Jeffrey's daughter, Mary, married a Jonathan Lockwood, likely the son of Robert Lockwood. Jonathan's father, Robert Lockwood, was married to Susanna Norman who later married Jeffrey Ferris *circa* 1659.)

Because the Dutch delegate Brian Nuton (Newton) described being invited to Jeffrey's for breakfast after a meeting at Westchester/East Town on January 1st, 1657, it seems likely that Jeffrey's first wife was still alive at the beginning of 1657. Recognizing the customs of the time, it seems unlikely that Jeffrey participated in a meeting and then ran home to cook breakfast to show hospitality to the Dutch delegation.

While we know Jeffrey was in Westchester/East Town by the end of 1656, we also know he could not have arrived there earlier than 1654 when Thomas Pell made the original purchase from the Native Americans. Robert Anderson places Jeffrey in Westchester/East Town in 1655. Anderson also placed Jeffrey in East Town in late 1658 and early 1659 when he was involved in a lengthy lawsuit. We also know from the Stamford Town Records that Jeffrey's first wife died on 31 July 1658 which raises the question whether Jeffrey was traveling between Stamford and Westchester/East Town in 1658 and 1659. Jeffrey's sons Peter and Joseph and their wives lived in Stamford and nearby Old Greenwich in 1658, giving Jeffrey and his wife reason to visit those settlements. And, their grandsons Joseph and John were born in Stamford and Old Greenwich in 1657 and 1658.

c.1655-56 - moves to Westchester/East Town
1658 July 31 - Jeffrey's first wife dies

We then know that Jeffrey married Susanna Norman (Lockwood), probably in 1659. Susanna's first husband, Robert Lockwood, had died on 11 September 1658 in Fairfield, Connecticut, leaving her with 10 living children. She appeared in court in Fairfield on 20 October 1658 to take an oath concerning Robert's estate which was valued at about £574. Therefore, sometime between early 1659 and December 1660, Jeffrey married Susanna Norman (Lockwood) and moved from Westchester/East Town to Greenwich. Greenwich was probably a safer environment than Wethersfield/East Town for Susanna's ten children, especially the youngest seven of them ranging in age from 4 to 17. Suggestions that Jeffrey spent time in Fairfield may have arisen from Susanna's residence there, their marriage and then the move of Susanna's children and household to Greenwich. Unfortunately, Susanna died on 23 Dec 1660 in Greenwich.

1659 - moves back to Greenwich

There is no evidence that Jeffrey left Greenwich after returning there in 1659 or 1660. Jeffrey did marry Judith Feake (Palmer) about 1662 which added at least five step-children to his already large family. Judith Feake's husband, William Palmer, had died on 25 Nov. 1661 at Newtown, Long Island (now in the area of Elmhurst, Middle Village, Queens), across the East River from the Dutch settlement on Manhattan. [fn.9] Judith Feake's Newtown home was also close to Elizabeth Fones' (Winthrop, Feake, Hallett) home in Hellgate, Queens. Of course, Elizabeth Fones had been married to Judith's uncle, Robert Feake.

1666 May 31 - Jeffrey died in Greenwich

Footnotes

fn.1 "The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634-1635," Robert C. Anderson, (NEHGS, 2011), Vol II, p. 517-520.

fn.2 "[Records Relating to the Early History of Boston, Miscellaneous Papers](#)," Boston (Mass.) Registry Dept (1900), p. 140

fn.3 [Stamford's Colonial Period 1641-1783](#), Stamford Historical Society.

In his "[The History of Ancient Wethersfield, Connecticut](#)," Vol. 1, (1901) Sherman Adams lists at pages 24-28 the ten original 1634 settlers of Wethersfield after describing the permission to settle Wethersfield granted to them by the General Court of Massachusetts. Jeffrey Ferris was not on that list.

After listing the original settlers, Adams lists additional settlers prior to 1641. (Ibid p. 29) The list including Jeffrey Ferris is prefaced by the statement that:

"The following are the names of additional settlers, nearly all from places other than Watertown; some directly from England; most of them came between 1636 and 1640."

fn.4 Greenwich Purchase. The original purchase of Greenwich, Connecticut is often described as having been made by Robert Feake and Daniel Patrick in July 1640. While they are named as the primary grantees, Jeffrey Ferris's name is included as a grantee after the main grant as follows: "Keofferam hath sould all his right in ye above sd to Jeffere Ferris." "[A History of the Town of Greenwich](#)," Daniel Mead (1857), p. 21 et seq.

On April 9, 1642, Daniel Patrick and Elizabeth Fones (Robert Feake's wife acting in his absence), decided to acknowledge the Dutch claim to Greenwich to obtain Dutch protection from the local Native Americans. (Ibid. p. 28.) Apparently, Jeffrey Ferris was not prepared to pledge loyalty to the Dutch. (Ibid. p. 60. Also see the Geni profile of [Robert Feake](#) to read about his troubled life.)

While describing the inhabitants of Greenwich between 1645 and 1655, Daniel Mead said: "Jeffere Ferris returned from Fairfield, where he had gone upon the ceding of Greenwich to the Dutch." This statement is likely based on an October 26, 1660 deed quoted immediately thereafter that describes some property on Elizabeth Neck, Greenwich as being "bounded by Jeffere Ferris land on ye southeast." (Ibid. p. 60.) Mead did not explain why he believed Jeffrey had been in Fairfield before returning to Greenwich. Mead may

have mistakenly believed that because Jeffrey had married Susanna Norman of Fairfield, Jeffrey himself must also have been living in Fairfield.

fn.5 See Geni Profile for [Daniel Patrick](#) and sources cited therein.

fn.6 "[Dutch Records Regarding Thomas Pell's Settlement at Oostdorp, Known by the English as the Village of West Chester](#)," Historic Pelham, Blake A. Bell (2015). A Dutch report dated 15 March 1656 states that they took 23 men prisoner from Westchester but left "a few" behind with the women and children to "take care of their goods." Thereafter, 15 of the men taken prisoner signed a petition submitting to Dutch authority, but that list did not include Jeffrey Ferris or Jonathan Lockwood who were included on a later list of Westchester men created by Dutch delegates at Westchester on the 1st of January 1657. [Documentary History of the State of New York, Vol. 3](#), C. Morgan (1850), p. 559.

fn.7 See Geni Profile for [Robert Lockwood](#) and sources cited therein.

fn.8 See Geni Profile for [William Palmer](#) and sources cited therein.

fn.9 See Geni Profile for [Judith Feake \(Palmer, Ferris, Bowers\)](#) and sources cited therein.

fn.10 Judith Feake (Palmer) and Tobias Feake were the niece and nephew of Robert Feake and children of Robert's brother, James Feake of London. "[The Feake Family of Norfolk, London, and Colonial America](#)," G. E. McCracken. "The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record," 86 (1955):132,

fn.11 [Thomas Pell, Wikipedia](#). Also see "[How Extensive Did Thomas Pell Believe His Land Acquisition from Local Wiechquaeskecks To Be?](#)" Historic Pelham, Blake A. Bell (2018) and "[Documents Relative to the Colonial History of the State of New York](#)," Brodhead, John (1893).

fn.12 "[The Feake-Ferris House](#)," Greenwich Point Conservancy. Also see [Greenwich Celebrates Founder's Day at Historic Feake-Ferris House](#), Greenwich Sentinel, July 19, 2018.

fn.13 [History of Stamford, Connecticut: from its Settlement in 1641, to the Present Time](#), Rev. E.B. Huntington, (1868), p. 62.

fn.14 "Stamford Town Records, Vol. 1, 1641-1723," Paul R. Finch, NEHGS (Boston, 2011), pp. 4, 17, 24. January 1642 is the Gregorian date. *And see* [Registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths of Stamford Families, Rev. E.B. Huntington](#) (1874), p. 33.