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## RESEARCH REPORT

[NELSON/Bird #9544]

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There were several avenues of research that were requested by you for this research period. One was to review the work that has been done concerning Joseph Bird and what was the name of his wife; and two to extend the lineage of Jeremiah Bird if possible. A later addition was to check the Grant line and see if anything was possible there as well.

The real question was the proverbial Hester Freeman, alleged daughter of John Freeman. The Freeman family was quite prominent in Woodbridge, New Jersey, and the Freeman name very prominent in Massachusetts. If these two families were connected, then there was every chance that a Hester could be located.

It was decided to try and check some of the sources that were listed on the family group sheets that you provided. The first of these was *History of the First Presbyterian Church* in Woodbridge [Document #1]. This states that Henry Freeman came to Woodbridge prior to 1695, as he married Elizabeth Bowne 16 MAY 1695 there. It stated that he was born in 1670, and that his brother was Edward Freeman. There was also information on the FitzRandolphs and Cutters.

We then went to the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC) to see if more could be found on the Freeman family. The surname search was used to locate a family history of the Freemans of New Jersey. This was entitled *Early History of the Freeman Family: of Surrey, England, and New Jersey* by Daniel Freeman. This gave evidence that Henry Freeman above was born 7 AUG 1672 in London, and his brother was born 12 JUL 1670 in London. This of course means that they were not related to the Massachusetts Freemans.

Henry had the following children listed: John, Samuel, Joseph, Benjamin, Isaac, Henry, and James. Their families were also listed, including spouses, and there were no

Hesters or Esthers mentioned. Not only that, Edward's family was given as well, with the same results. His children were Moses (b. 24 AUG 1700), Rachel (b. MAR 1702, d. 1704), Hannah (d 19 OCT 1704), Rachel (29 MAR 1706), Benoni (b. 19 MAR 1709), William (18 MAR 1713), Edward (2 MAR 1714), and Catherine (?). Again, the only chance that for a Hester Freeman of the right age was in these families.

A second family history that was checked was the *Freeman-Palmer Genealogy*. This stated that Samuel Freeman arrived on the 2nd trip of the Mayflower to Watertown, Massachusetts. His son Henry had the following children: James, Samuel, John, and Henry Jr. This did not seem to help very much. A third genealogy was the *Freeman family genealogy* which related to the above Henry, but nothing new was found in it.

We next turned to the *New Jersey Archives* Volume 22, which contained marriage licenses from 1665-1800. There were no Birds in Woodbridge nor Hester Freemans. No Hester shows up in the Bird family, so was there one in the other proposed wives of Joseph Bird? These other wives were Susannah Jacques and Ursula FitzRandolph.

Susannah Jacques was the daughter of Samuel Jacques, the son of John Jacques, the son of Henry Jacques, JR. and Hannah Freeman.

Now, on one of your family group sheets there is a note that states this is an error, that Hannah Freeman was actually Hannah Trueman. In the above records there was no Hannah Freeman marrying a Jacques. Ursula FitzRandolph was a second wife that had no children, and no Freemans in the FitzRandolphs either.

We moved on to another source entitled *1st Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge*. In the first double volume on pages 31 and 61 are listed the following:

<u>From</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Area</u>	<u>Date</u>
Hugh March	Richard Dole	Woodbridge	240a	28 JAN 1670
Henry Jacques	John Dille	Papiackon Crk	5a	28 Apr 1676

This establish family names in the area quite early, but did not yet help us.

Farther on in this volume was an article concerning oaths of allegiance that were taken in Woodbridge 27 FEB 1667/68. In this list were John Trueman, Hugh March, and Henry Jacques, Jr. There was a note that the previous listing of John Freeman was an error, and that it was Trueman. This being the case, this means the John Freeman that was

thought to be living in the area with a daughter Hester was actually John Trueman. We still do not know at this point if he had a daughter Hester. Back to the same source, later in the book, there is a list of First Settlers and when they arrived in the area.

This list contained the following individuals:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Arrived</u>	<u>To Where</u>
Samuel Freeman	1710	Piscataway
Jeffry Jones	1665	Piscataway
Edward Freeman	1696	Woodbridge
Henry Freeman	1695	Woodbridge
Henry Jacques, Sr.	1670	Woodbridge
Henry Jacques, Jr.	1667	Woodbridge
John Jacques	1674	Woodbridge
Samuel Jacques	1710	Woodbridge
John Trueman	1667	Woodbridge

The Freemans are all accounted for in the above searches, so no place for a Hester/Esther.

Next we checked *Woodbridge & Vicinity* by Dally, which contained the Woodbridge town records. These records contained births and marriages for Woodbridge. The births of the children of Edward Freeman and Hannah Philipps were given as listed above. Henry Freeman's children were also listed as below:

Ann Elizabeth, b. 16 FEB 1695  
John, b. 5 NOV 1698  
Jonathan, b. 13 JUL 1700  
Mary, b. 5 JUN 1702  
Sarah, b. 1 FEB 1703  
Rachel, b. 18 JAN 1705  
Samuel, b. 31 MAR 1708  
Joseph, b. 21 DEC 1709  
Hannah, b. 21 OCT 1711  
Benjamin, b. 3 JUN 1713  
Isaac, b. 25 MAY 1715  
Henry, b. 23 MAR 1717  
James, b. 1 NOV 1719

As you can see, no Esther/Hester Freeman here either.

The Jacques/Jacquish families were also mentioned. The entries started with Henry Jacques and wife Hannah with the following children: John, Henry, Sarah, and Jonathon. John married Susanna Merrick (widow) 11 DEC 1700 {p. 334} and secondly Deliverance Allen 17 NOV 1716. He had three children: John, Susannah, and Mary. This John had Samuel Jacques who married Sarah Cutter 12 FEB 1730. Their children were: Susannah, Richard, Mary, Samuel, Sarah, and William. This Susannah married Joseph Bird. There were no Truemans in this Book A of the town records.

The article containing the Freeholders of Woodbridge in 1670 started on page 28. Henry Jacques and Henry Jacques Jr. are listed as original associates with 368 acres total. Page 29 lists John "Trewman" NOT Freeman with 97 acres. There was a drawing by lot for land in 1717 (p.159), and the following are listed: Henry Jacques #51; Henry Jaques, Jr. #12, and John Trueman #60. The next section in this source concerned itself with Presbyterian church members admitted to communion in Woodbridge (pp 167-168). Those listed below were admitted:

Richard Cutter	15 AUG 1708
John Jaques	20 AUG 1708
Susannah Jaques	20 AUG 1708
Hannah Freeman	20 AUG 1708
Samuel Jaques & wife	20 AUG 1708
wife of Samuel Freeman	3 OCT 1710

Back to one of our previous sources we went - *1st Settlers of Ye Plantations of Piscataway and Woodbridge*, which has seven volumes. We copied the pages out of the "Special Genealogical Treatment" on selected families [Doc.#2]. There was an entry for Jeremiah Bird, where it mentions that he is probably of a Connecticut family and married the daughter of Jeffery Jones; FitzRandolph, where a Samuel FitzRandolph married Mary Jones, the daughter of Jeffery Jones; Jeffery Jones of Elizabethtown whose brother Rev. Eliphalet Jones was of Huntington, Long Island, NY; and Trueman, where it is clearly pointed out that it was John Trueman and NOT Freeman who was in Woodbridge in 1669. John Trueman divided his estate between Hugh March (probably a variant of Marsh) and Hannah Jaquish/Jacques - all of which was in Woodbridge. This Hannah Trueman of course was the wife of Henry Jacques, Jr.



Another copy was made of some additional pages in this same source that referred to settlers in the Woodbridge and Piscataway townships [Doc.#3]. This gives more proof to the premised and what now appears to be fact concerning Hester Freeman. This name did not come from the Jacques or FitzRandolph wives of Joseph Bird, nor from the Bird ancestry. So where did it come from?

Before answering that question, we looked at some cemetery and monumental inscriptions of the area. The first of these was from *1st Settlers* mentioned above, where on page 374 Ursula FitzRandolph is mentioned. She is given as the daughter of Capt. Nathaniel FitzRandolph and wife of Joseph Bird, and died 13 AUG 1798. Samuel Jacques died 1 MAY 1780 aged 72, and his wife Sarah died 15 OCT 1758 aged 48 years.

*Inscriptions of the Burying Grounds of The First Presbyterian Church and St. Johns Church* were looked at next [Doc.#4]. In the section for St. Johns Church, two children of Joseph Bird are mentioned. These are: Samuel, son of Joseph & Susan {Jacques} died 10 SEP 1763 aged 6 years; and Susannah, daughter of Joseph & Susannah {Jacques} died 14 MAR 1772 aged 10 years. The chronology is too tight to allow a previous marriage for Joseph to a Hester Freeman, especially when he has an additional marriage after Susannah must have died.

At this point we decided to digress a moment, and check some Massachusetts records. Many of the families came from Newbury, MA to Woodbridge, so we went to the Newbury town records to check for vital records. There were no Birds or Freemans listed there, only the family of Henry Jaques married to Ann Knight and his son Henry Jaques, Jr. We also checked the *History of Newbury* by Currier and the *Proprietors Records of Newbury*, which verified the same.

Since Jaques seems to be of French derivation (probably Huguenot), we checked a publication entitled *Huguenot Society of New Jersey*. This stated the assumption that Henry Jaques was probably a Huguenot, and that he was a carpenter and settled first in Newbury, Massachusetts. He married Anna Knight there, and then moved to Woodbridge, New Jersey.

At this point we decided to move our search to Elizabeth or Elizabethtown, New Jersey. The first source that was checked was *Notes, Historical and Biographical concerning Elizabethtown* by Murray [Doc.#5]. This document states that sometime after 1665 the

Elizabethtown grant was made, and those who were a part of this original grant were termed the "Elizabeth-town Associates". Familiar names to us by now that were listed were: Samuel Marsh, Jeoffrey Jones, and John Hinds. Three townships were formed from this grant: Elizabeth-town, Woodbridge, and Piscataway - settled chiefly by immigrants from Long Island.

Another source for this area that we examined was the *History of Elizabeth, New Jersey* by Hatfield [Doc.#6]. Warrants for land are listed on pages 182-183, and give the following information:

<u>DATE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ACRES</u>
23 MAR 1676	Samuel Marsh, Sr.	270
23 MAR 1676	Samuel Marsh, Jr.	90
25 APR 1676	Jeoffrey Jones	180

Oaths of allegiance were issued to the inhabitants 11 SEP 1673, and those of interest were: Samuell Mash (sic) senior, Samuell Mash (sic) junr., and Jeffrey Jones.

Pages 80-81 gave a biographical and/or genealogical history of both Jeffrey Jones and of Samuel Marsh that are of vital interest. Jeffrey Jones was from Southold, Long Island, and was made a freeman there in 1664. He was the son of Rev. John Jones, and arrived from England 2 Oct 1635. He was living in Concord Massachusetts from 1636-1644 and then moved to Fairfield, Connecticut where he died in 1664. His son Jeffrey moved from Connecticut to Long Island to Elizabeth, New Jersey where he died December 1717.

Samuel Marsh was from New Haven, Connecticut where he took the oath of fidelity 2 MAY 1647. He came to Elizabeth, New Jersey as one of the earliest families from Connecticut and procured land next to Jeffry Jones. Pages 56-58 list those who took the Oath of Fidelity 19 FEB 1665 in Elizabeth Town, listing the above Samuel Marsh and Jeffrey Joanes. There is a good chance that your Bird family indeed came out of Connecticut as well.

During the process of this investigation, we received some additional information from another family researcher. Two major reports were include, one by Kay Kirkham and the other by Naoma Harker. We reviewed each of these, starting with Kirkham's. Mr.

Kirkham believed that your Joseph Bird had two wives, one of them Hester Freeman. This was solely based upon two less than trustworthy sources - the temple work by Benjamin Freeman Bird and the Church Record Archives. (151)

Both of these would be classified today as "hearsay" types of evidence, not proof by any means. Benjamin states that he did the temple work as a grandson, and that he was. The relationship however was misstated, a common problem in the temple records. Most people did temple work based upon memory or family stories rather than documentation. The Archives face this same problem, since many of them were submitted by descendants of these pioneers without proper documentation or research. One thing that he did propose was that the Bird family was from or connected to Connecticut. \*

Naoma Harker's research was actually the better of the two reports, and some of this is based upon better source work that may not have been available to Mr. Kirkham. Her report is most exhaustive, and mostly correct. She found no Hester Freeman, which is of course what we found. She also believes that Ester Cutter Marsh Freeman wife of Benjamin Freeman is the elusive person so many have wondered about - and she is correct here as well. A supporting letter to this is from someone named Louise in 1985, that Benjamin Freeman Bird was named after his mother's stepfather, Benjamin Freeman. \*

### Scottish Lines

We took some time to check your Scottish lines as well, trying to extend any of the Grant connections. We printed out several sets of IGI sheets concerning your families [Doc.#7]. We were able to extend one of your Hamilton lines two generations. There is a lot of area here where we can work and do a lot of good. \*

### S U M M A R Y

We have performed a lot of research that shows Hester or Esther Freeman was the wife of Charles Marsh, whose maiden name was Cutter. Benjamin Freeman was the second husband of Ester Cutter Marsh. Benjamin Freeman Bird was named after his step-grandfather, not after an alleged second wife of Joseph Bird. Using naming patterns and

migration patterns, we constructed a chart that shows how consistent the Bird-Marsh-Jaques families were in naming children after others in their families [Doc.#8].

This is one of the more remarkable examples of this type of naming patterns. It appears that the Marsh and Jones families were from Connecticut, and the Cutter and Jaques families were from Massachusetts. There are several clues that the Bird family also came from Connecticut, so that is where we would search next. You have two major areas of research that are recommended:

1. Bird family - work on connecting the Bird family to Connecticut.
2. ~~Scottish lines - work on extending your Scottish families, especially the Barr~~  
~~line.~~ ~ not our line.

We look forward to assisting you in this research.

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