

JOHN CORWIN

1630-1702

Written and Compiled by Larry Mace

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John Corwin was born about 1630 in Warwickshire, England. He came to America with his parents about 1633 and settled in Salem, Mass. He spent part of his youth growing up in Salem. In 1640, when John was about ten years old, he moved again with his parents to Southold, Long Island, New York. He was with the original party that went to settle Southold. John would have had to work hard as a youth helping his father build a house and the other buildings necessary along with clearing space to farm. Their house was located at the west end of the main street running through Southold and was directly across the street from where the Church was built.

On 4 February 1658, John married Mary Glover, daughter of Charles Glover, a local shipbuilder, who lived out at the south end of Southold. Together, John and Mary had eight children. Their first child, Mary, was born 15 December 1659. Their next child was Sarah Corwin, born about 1660

In 1661, John purchased some land and some meadowland at Oyster Pond and at Aquebogue. In 1662, he was admitted as a freeman of Connecticut at Southold.

A son, John Corwin, was born in 1663 and they had a daughter, Rebecca, born about 1665. A daughter, Hannah, was born about 1667 and another daughter, Abigail, about 1669. A son, Samuel, was born on 12 August 1674.

By 1675, a survey of his holdings included 21 acres of land, 16 cattle, 9 horses, 5 swine, 6 sheep, for an estimated worth of 228 pounds, six shillings.¹ In 1678, he was included in a deed with others sharing some common land and in 1679, he issued a deed to John Sweezy for a lot in the "brush meadow."²

The last child of John and Mary, a son, Samuel, was born about 1676.

In the ensuing years, John had several more land transactions. In 1689, he deeded to John Paine one acre of meadowland at Goose Creek and in 1691, he deeded to R. Howell, a meadow in Aquebogue. In 1695, he deeded to his eldest son, John Jr., fifty acres. The following year, 1696, he deeded to Simon Grover, ten acres on Mill Pond Creek.³

In 1690, their son, John, married a Sarah (last name not known) at Southold.

The will of John Corwin is dated as November 26, 1700 and reads as follows:

WILL OF JOHN CORWIN

November 26, 1700

"In ye name of God, Amen. I, John Corwin, Senr. of Southold, in ye County of Suffolk & Province of New Yorke, being aged, but in health of body & of a sound & pfect memory, doe make this my last Will and Testamt, as followeth.

First, I bequeath my spirit to God that gave it & my body to be decently buried in hope of ye resurrection again with Jesus Christ, at ye last day, &c. And for my worldly estate, after my just debts and funeral charges paid, I doe bequeath as followeth:

¹ Source: Doc. Hist. N.Y. ii 259.

² Source: Doc. Hist. N.Y., i 450.

³ Source: Doc Hist. N.Y., i 450.

Impmus, I give & bequeath to my eldest son, John Corwin, one hundred acres of ye land lying and being at Mattchucke, be it more or less, ye land of Jonathan Reeve on ye west; also one first lot of meadow at ye deep Creeke & all my meadow at ye other side of Peaconnucke River, and also a third lot of upland agt ye Indian field, and one first lot of upland on ye north side of ye high way near ye fresh meadow, and a third lot of upland on ye south side of Hogge Neck, and one lot of Creek thatch at ye Indian Necke; all & every part of upland & meadows as above recited I doe give & bequeath unto my said son John Corwin, his heirs & assigns for ever, to Have & to Hold in his & their own proper right for ever, &c., as also one lot of Commonage to him as above sd, &c.

2dly, I give & bequeath unto my second son Mathias Corwin my dwelling house, barne, & home lot, also one & twenty acres of woodland on ye north side of S-hold, near ye Cleft, and eighteen acres of upland at ye backside lots, and a third lot of meadow eastward from John Budds, and a third lot of meadow at ye head of ye Millpond, & a second lot of meadow in Pine Necke, & one lot of Commonage, all which, housing, barne, & Lands, & meadows I give and bequeath unto my second son Matthias Corwin, & to his Heirs & assigns for ever, to possess & enjoy in his & their owne proper right for ever, &c.

3rdly, I give and bequeath to my youngest son, Samll Corwin, one hundred acres of upland, more or less, lying & being at Mattchucke, east from ye land of Jonathan Reeve, also one first lot of meadow at ye Deep Creek, and a second lot of Creek thatch at Indian Necke, together with on lot of Commonage to him my sd son, Samll Corwin, to have & to hold to him, his heirs, & assigns for ever, &c. As also I give one first lot layd out at ye Wading River, with halfe ye commonage belonging, yet undivided, &c.

4thly, I doe give & bequeath to my daughter Sarah, now ye wife of Jacob Osmon, one cow, to be delivered by my executor hereafter mentioned.

5thly, I doe give & bequeath to my daughter Rebecca, now ye wife of Abram Osmon, one cow, to be delivered on my decease.

6thly, I give & bequeath to my daughter, Hannah Corwin, one young cow or cow kind.

7thly, I give & bequeath to my daughter, Abigail Corwin, one young cow or cow kind.

8thly, I give & bequeath to my grand child Sarah, ye daughter of Jacob Mapes, one cow, all wch is to be delivered after my decease by my executor hereafter mentioned, & my horse & my plow & plow irons, I give to my son Samll Corwin, and all my sheep to be equally divided between my two youngest sons and all my daughters equally, &c., and what carpenters tools I leave to be equally divided between my three sons &c.

I give my oxen, & cart, & wheels, & one plow with irons, & ye bed I ly on to my two youngest sons, Mathias Corwin & Samll Corwin, equally to be divided. Also I doe make & ordein my second son, Mathias Corwin, my sole executor to see this my Last Will & Testamt duly pformed, and this I declare to be my Last Will & Testmt, as witness my hand & seale this 26 day of November, 1700.

JOHN CORWIN (Seal)

Signed & sealed as witness by us--- JOSHUA WELLS, JAMES REEVE, STEPHEN BAYLEY.

By ye tenour of these presents know ye yt on ye 14th day of Octob, Anno Dni, 1702, at ye Mannr of St. Georges, in ye County of Suffolk, before Coll. William Smith, Judge of ye Prerogative Court, in ye sd county, was proved & approved ye Last Will & Testmt of John Corwin, late of Southold, in ye sd county, deceased on ye 25th day of Sept., 1702, who by his sd will did nominate & appoint Mathias Corwin, his son, his sole executor, to whom was granted ye adminsn of all & singular ye goods, chattels, & credits of ye sd deceased.⁴

⁴ Source: The Corwin Genealogy, pp. 116, 117.