

The Family Parmelee

FAMILY FAQs
(Frequently Asked Questions)

The Alice	Columbus	EGOs	Estates	Finding Your Tree	Guilford, Conn.	Honor Roll	Memorial Park
Notes	The Nursery	Other Albums	Politics	Quilts	The Tudor House		Contact Us

ENGLAND TO CONNECTICUT

The First Generations

Although there are records of earlier Parmelees on the Continent, who probably are our ancestors, their relationships with our known family have not been established with any certainty. With my recent finds in Lewes and the records we've collected over the years about our Colonial ancestors, I now believe these are the last generations of our family in England and the first in America.

Why? Well, there are only two areas of England that the name can be found during this time period: south of London in Lewes, and up north, near the border with Scotland, in Middleton-in-Teesdale. None of the names of the northern family fit in with the Connecticut family, but those in the south found in Lewes parish records. The Parmelee records at All Saints run from 1572-1620; those from St. Michael from 1628-1638 (with one from 1610). No family records can be found after November, 1638, shortly before John Sr. left for America and ended up in Guilford, Conn. There still remains a 12-year gap between the bulk of entries between the two churches, but I think we'll probably find the family in another parish in or near Lewes.

I'm fairly certain now that the vast majority of North American Parmelees of various spellings can call Lewes home, while the smaller Parmley branch that settled first in Pennsylvania and then moved to the Midwest and Salt Lake City, are tied to Middleton-in-Teesdale. The two families may be linked in some way in England but as of yet, I don't know how.

This is how I have entered these English findings into my main data base for the Connecticut family:

I. John (---- -1583)

Probably born before 1554, he was buried May 1, 1583, at All Saints, Lewes. He was married Jan. 11, 1572, at All Saints to Alice RUSSELL. She was born ---- and died ----. I have found no record to indicate that she ever remarried.

Their known children, all baptized at All Saints:

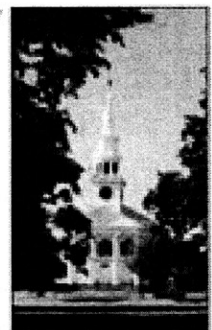
- | | | |
|--------|-----------|--|
| i. | Margaret | baptized Oct. 22, 1573. |
| ii. | Catherine | baptized Jan. 30, 1578; buried at All Saints on April 3, 1579. |
| + iii. | John | baptized Sept. 27, 1584. (See next generation) |

II. John (1584 -1659/60) "John Sr." in Connecticut.

Baptized Sept. 27, 1584, at All Saints, Lewes, and his will, dated Nov. 8, 1659, was filed at New Haven, Conn., with an inventory dated Jan. 2, 1659/60. Yes, he was born after his father died; it also looks as if his mother waited a few months to do the christening. He was a bricklayer in England and the patriarch of the North American Parmelee family.

On Feb. 15, 1616, John was a witness to the marriage of husbandryman Thomas Howell of Kingston Near Lewes, one of his first wife's brothers, to Judith Garrett, of the same, according to records of the Archdeaconry of Lewes.

John is believed to have been a passenger on the *St. John*, setting sail under Capt. Richard Russell from London on May 20, 1639, and arriving July 10-15 at New Haven. John was among the signers of Guilford's Plantation Covenant, dated June 1, 1639. The village just east of New Haven was settled that fall. His home lot was at the north end of the Village Green, the site now occupied by the 1st Congregational Church, seen at right. He appeared at a 1647 New Haven hearing to testify about a shoemaker's shoddy workmanship. John was voted a freeman at Guilford on May 22, 1649. He and his family returned to New Haven, where he was admitted as a freeman there on Aug. 8, 1659.



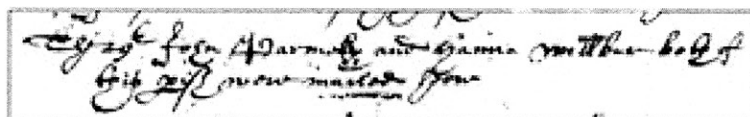
John was married first on May 15, 1608, at All Saints to Anne HOWELL, daughter of John and Anne (Gearc) Howell of Rottingdean, Sussex, England.. She was born about 1585 and was buried Feb. 3, 1629, at St. Wulfran in Overdean, Sussex, England.

Their children, baptized at All Saints:

- | | | |
|-----|-----------|---|
| i. | John | probably born 1609; buried at All Saints on Dec. 16, 1609. |
| ii. | Elizabeth | baptized Dec. 3, 1610, at All Saints and also Dec. 2, 1610. |

		at St. Michael, Lewes, buried at All Saints on Feb. 16, 1612/13.
+	iii. John	baptized Sept. 6, 1612. (See next generation.)
	iv. George	baptized Dec. 11, 1614, buried at All Saints on April 14, 1615.
	v. Anne	baptized March 17, 1616, probably died young.
	vi. Mary	baptized June 5, 1620, probably died young.
	vii. Johan / Joane	born ----, buried at St. Michael on July 30, 1628.

From the St. Michael marriage records of April, 1630 (Old Style):



*Ye 29th John Parmally and Hanna Willbur--both of
this parish were married here*

John was married second on April 29, 1630, at St. Michael to Hannah WILBUR. (See parish entry above.) She was born ---- and was buried at St. Michael on Feb. 20, 1634.

Their children:

viii.	Hannah	baptized May 20, 1632, at St. Michael, living as late as 1693, married at New Haven on Sept. 30, 1651, to John JOHNSON (1613-1681), son of Robert and Adeline Johnson. They had 9 children.
ix.	Mary	probably born about 1634, died March 16, 1667, married at Guilford on Sept. 16, 1660, to Dennis CRAMPTON (1630-1689). They had 3 children.

John's wife when he immigrated to America in 1639 has widely been believed to have been Hannah. Yet she is *not* listed on the ship's passenger roster, nor has a record of her death been found in Connecticut. The Guilford marriage records of daughters Hannah and Mary do not give their mother's name, only John's. I think family historians were correct in calling Hannah the mother of these two girls, but erroneously assumed that Hannah came to Connecticut.

John was married the third to Elizabeth HOLTER, on June 1, 1635, at St. Michael. She was born ---- and buried there Sept. 1, 1637.

Their children, whose records are at St. Michael:

x.	Elizabeth	baptized Feb. 1, 1635, may have been buried Sept. 5, 1637, but probably April 13, 1638.
xi.	John	baptized Aug. 30, 1637, buried Dec. 12, 1637.
xii.	Martha	baptized Aug. 30, 1637, possibly buried Sept. 5, 1637.

In order for the above marriage to fit into the genealogy, I'm making a huge assumption that this ninth child John might have been named for his grown half-brother John who left two years earlier for America. Could John Sr. have thought that he'd never see his grown son again and named this infant for him, so that he would still have a namesake in England? One fellow genealogist says it was not as rare as one might think for a man to have more than one surviving namesake sons, virtually always when he had multiple wives. Another researcher has relayed to me that it was the custom in England at the time to name two sons John: one for John the Baptist and one for John the Evangelist.

Young Elizabeth's burial is recorded twice, in 1637 as the "daughter of John," and in 1638 as the "daughter of John and Elizabeth"; I think the first entry is probably for Martha, as John would have been married to his next wife, Joane, when young Elizabeth died, hence the burial entry reading "daughter of John and Elizabeth."

John was married the fourth to Joane COBDEN, on April 3, 1638, at St. Michael. She was born ---- and probably died in England because there is no mention of her in Connecticut.

Their child, whose records are at St. Michael:

xiii.	Rachael	baptized Nov. 5, 1638, buried Nov. 10, 1638.
-------	---------	--

The burial of Rachael is the last Parmelee entry found thus far in Lewes. John is recorded as having set sail from London on May 20, 1639.

John's last wife was Elizabeth ---- BRADLEY, widow of Daniel Bradley, whom he married in 1653 at New Haven. She was born ---- and died in January 1683 at New Haven. (Her maiden name may have been SHEAFFE but this has not been proven.) New Haven Colony appointed a committee Jan. 20, 1661, to seat people in the Meeting House; "Sister Parmely" shares the "little short seat" next to the wall with "Sister Allen." [Mrs. John Allen was Ellen, Elizabeth's daughter with Daniel Bradley.] Elizabeth's third husband was widower John EVARTS (---- 1669), whom she married May 27, 1663, at Guilford.

III. John (1612-1687/88) "John Jr." in Connecticut.

Baptized Sept. 6, 1612, at All Saints, Lewes. His will, dated Dec. 20, 1684, was inventoried Feb. 8, 1687/88, at Guilford. Click [here](#) to see his estate papers.

He was the first member of the family to immigrate to America, arriving four years before his father. "Jo. Palmerley" is listed as a 20-year-old passenger on the *Elizabeth and Anne*. Master Roger Coop/Cowper/Cooper was at the helm when it was cleared to leave the Port of London on April 13, 1635. [The Winthrop Society says it left in mid-May.] and arrived at the Charlestown section of Boston late that spring or early summer. No other family members are listed on that roster. He was one of the original settlers of Guilford, his first home lot being a 1.5-acre parcel on the east side of Crooked Lane, the fourth lot north of Buck Lane. He took the oath of freeman in Guilford on Feb. 14, 1649/50, a little less than a year after his father did. He became the drummer of Guilford's *train band*, the colony's chief defense unit, and served as sexton for many years, "warning" settlers to meetings and church services by beating his drum. His name appears in Guilford's town records, being sued in 1648 by a fellow planter who complained that John's hogs had rooted through his corn, and for reporting to train band practice while intoxicated on Jan. 1, 1656/57.

John was first married to Rebecca ---, probably in England. She was born --- and died Sept. 24 or 29, 1651, at Guilford. (It has not been proven that her maiden name was EATON.)
Their child, born at Guilford:

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--|
| i. | Nathaniel | born in 1645, died in 1676, married Sarah FRENCH on Oct. 24, 1668, To Killingsworth. He served as the town drummer and may have died in King Philip's War. He had 3 children. |
|----|-----------|--|

John was married second to Anna --- PLAINE/PLAIN, the widow of William Plaine/Plain, in Guilford in 1651. William, another signer of the *Plantation Covenant*, was executed in 1646 in New Haven after being found guilty of sodomy and "corrupting boys." Anna was born --- and buried March 30, 1658, at Guilford. John and Anna had no children.

John's third wife was Hannah ---, whom he married in February 1658/59. She was born --- and died Jan. 8, 1687/88. Their children, all born in Guilford, were:

- | | | |
|-------|-----------|---|
| ii. | John | born Nov. 25, 1659, died March 21 or 27, 1725, at Guilford, married Mary MASON on June 27, 1681, at Guilford. His tombstone can be seen at Guilford's Alderbrook Cemetery. He had 7 children. |
| iii. | Joshua | born about 1661, died in June, 1729, in Guilford, married Elsie/Else/Alice EDWARDS on July 10, 1690, at East Guilford; and widow Hannah DeWOLF Stone in 1716, at Guilford. He had 13 children. |
| iv. | Caleb | born about 1663, probably died in 1741, married Abigail JOHNSON on April 11, 1690, at Guilford; Abigail HILL on April 23, 1693, at Guilford, and Mary DURHAM on Jan. 11, 1737/38. (NOTE: Many old genealogies state that he died in 1714, but I believe that these last two digits have been transposed, for he can be found buying and selling land with Caleb Jr. from 1724 to 1740. Also, Mary DURHAM is often listed as Caleb Jr.'s third wife but Caleb Jr.'s estate papers refer to Jemima as his widow, and Jemima's tombstone at Branford calls her the "relict of Caleb.") To Branford. He had 7 children. |
| v. | Isaac | born Nov. 21, 1665, died Jan. 13, 1748/49, at Guilford, married Elizabeth HYLAND/HIGHLAND on Dec. 30, 1689, at Guilford. Their home, the Hyland House, still stands east of the green at Guilford. He had 9 children. |
| vi. | Hannah | born Nov. 5, 1667, died ---, married Tahan HILL in November 1688; and Thomas MERRILL on May 25, 1693, at Saybrook. To Saybrook. She had 6 children. |
| vii. | Stephen | born Dec. 6, 1669, died April 4, 1736, at Newtown, married Elizabeth BALDWIN on June 20, 1693, at Guilford. To Newtown where he was the town <i>drummer</i> . He had 11 children. |
| viii. | Job | born July 31, 1673, died March 6, 1765, at Guilford, married Betty EDWARDS on March 11, 1699, at Guilford. He had 7 children. |
| ix. | Priscilla | born May 8, 1678, died Dec. 10, 1692, at Guilford. |
| x. | Joel | born about 1679/80, died July 20, 1748, at Durham, married Abigail ANDREWS on June 30, 1706, at Durham. To Durham. His tombstone was found at Durham's Old Cemetery near the top of the hill. He had 11 children. |

John Jr.'s 10 children make up the major branches of the largest North American Parmelee family. He had at least 74 grandchildren.