

From: pwallred1@frontiernet.net

Subject: [GENCONNECTICUT] ENSIGN, James - Descendants of (part 1 of 2)

Date: Sat, 06 Oct 2007 02:47:11 +0000

First Generation

1. James ENSIGN was born about 1607 in , , England.¹ He died in Nov 1670 in Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.² Will was proved on 2 Mar 1670/71 in Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.³ Record of the Descendants of James Ensign and His wife Sarah Elson, 1634 - 1939 - 1960, Compiler and Publisher by Martha Bunice Ensign Nelson, 1960, p. 4.

Will of James Ensign of Hartford - Deceased the year 1670.

I James Ensign of Hartford, being at present throw the wise dispensation of my most merifull God weak in body but of sound understanding and memory wayteing for my change. Doe see cause to set my house in order that I may with th more freedom be preparing myself for the Lord's good pleasure, and doe declare this to be my last will and Testament.

First I commend my Soule to the mercy of God in Christ Jesus Through whose merritts alone I expect salvation and the free pardon of all my sins and my body to Christian Buriall according to the discession of my executrix and overseers hereafter named. And that esstate God hath blessed me with my just debts being first payd I dispose as followeth:

Whereas I have Formerly given to my son David the Swamp Lott I bouht of Richard Lyman on the East side of the Great River and Six Acres in the South Meadow near the forty acres & Sixteen acres of upland near Rocky Hill & his dwelling house and part of my Home Lott which he hath had no legal assurzance of I doe now give and confirme the same to him and his heires forever.

I doe aslo confirme to my sonn Joseph Easton and his heirs foever one Acre & half of land in the Indian ground which land I had of the Widdow Watts.

I doe give all the rest of my estate of what-sort-e-soever both Goods & Chatteles to my beloved wife Sarah Ensing During her Naturall life and desire my sonnes David Ensing & Joseph Easton to assist her in the management & Improvement therof so that she may (asmuch as may be) freed from distraction.

I doe make my bleoved wife Sarah Ensing sole executrix of this my last will & Testament.

After the Deceace of my wife it is my will that my sonn David his heirs and assigns shall possess and Injoy my now dwelling house & Home Lott with all the appurtenances belonging thereto as allso all my land in the South Meadow both meadow & Swampe and all the upland I now stand seized of or appertaining to me & lying on the south side of Little River in Hartford.

I also gove and bequeath to my sonn David & his heirs forever Six acres of Goodman Phillips his swampe lott on the east side the River & on Third of teh Barne standing there upon he paying such Legacies as I shall appoynt of the value of Fifty pounds.

I give to my sonn Joseph Easton he remaynder of Goodman Phillips

his swamp Lott on the east side of the Great River with Two Thirds parts of the Barne standing therupon he paying such legacies as I shall appoynt ot the value of Thirty pounds.

I give to my daughter Mary Smit the wife of Samuel Smith what I have layed out towards the buildig of their house & Ten acres of land mrtgaged to Samul Burr & twenty pounds to be payed by my executrix and or seers provided my sonn Samuel Smith give way to have it Bound over so that my sayd Daughter shall dispose of it to her children as she sees cause at ther decease: If he refuse that then I give my sayd sonn & Daughter the use of what I have given her as long as they live, and that at their decease it shall pass to my daughters children.

I give to my Gran child Ruth Rockwell Thrity pounds. To my Gran children Sarah & Lydia Rockwell five pounds apiece. To my sonn John Rockwell as a token of my love forty shillings.

I give as a token of my respect to our Honored Governor Winthrope five pounds.

I give as a Token of my respect to my dear pastor Mr. Whitney five pounds.

I give toward the building of the new meeting house six pounds.

I give to Jiles Aires to buy him tools when his time is cut forty shillings.

I doe allso desire & common my executris & my two sonns to take carethat the Widdow An Phillips her last will be duely & faythfully fulfilled.

Signed James Ensign
Proved 2 Mar, 1670/1

Witness
John Allyn
David Ensing
Joseph Easton

Record of the Descendants of James Ensign and His wife Sarah Elson, 1634 - 1939 - 1960, Compiler and Publisher by Martha Bunice Ensign Nelson, 1960, p. 1.

Born about 1607, in England; came to America in Rev. Thomas Hooker's company.

James Ensign and Sarah, his wife, appear in eastern Massachusetts about the same time that Thomas came to Plymouth. In New England they were associated with the Reverend Thomas Hooker Colony which settled first at Mount Wollaston, probably in 1632, then removed to Newtown, later called Cambridge. Here James Ensign was made a freeman of Massachusetts Bay Colony on March 4, 1634. It is not known that James came to America directly from County Kent. Neither is it known that he and Sarah were original members of the Reverend Thomas Hooker Group, but the popular opionion in the family seems to be that these two men, Thomas and James, were brothers, althoug there is no evidence that their families were associated in this country. The Hooker company is referred to by Governor Winthrop in his "History of New England" as the Braintree Company. It is supposed that the company came from Braintree, a town about forty miles from London, though Mr. Hooker had been for some time a non-conformist preacher in the city of London. It is quite possible that James and Sarah had joined the group in Braintree, and that Thomas had come to New England, possibly on the same ship, but had cast his lot with the Plymouth group rather than with the more powerful Massachusetts Bay Company. It is quite

certain that James and Sarah were with the Hooker company in their migration from Newtown to Hartford in the year 1635 or 1636. It is certain that James was regarded as one of the founders of Hartford, for on the monument in Hartford "burying ground" erected to the founders, the name of James Ensign appears as number seven reading up. The records show that James was one of the original proprietors of the Hartford settlement, and that he was allotted a tract of land on the south side of town. He was prominent in church and community affairs, served as a constable, chimney viewer, then an important office, with the enormous log chimneys made at least partially fire-proof by daubing with mud, and was, apparently, a surveyor, which indicated that he was an educated man. In February, 1669/70, James and his wife Sarah, together with thirty others formed the South, or second church of Hartford.

On 18 April 1659 at Hartford, 59 persons signed an agreement to remove to Hadley, Mass., among whom was James Ensign. He apparently changed his mind as he remained in Hartford.

James ENSIGN and Sarah ELSON were married.⁴ Sarah ELSON was born about 1611 in , , England.¹ She died on 29 May 1676 in Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.^{5,6} Will was proved on 6 Dec 1676 in Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.⁷ Record of the Descendants of James Ensign and His wife Sarah Elson, 1634 - 1939 - 1960, Compiler and Publisher by Martha Bunice Ensign Nelson, 1960, p. 5.

The Last Will & Testament of Sarah Ensing of Hartford.

I Sarah Ensing of Hartford widdow being sick & weak yet of perfect memore through the mercy of God to prevent future trobles doe desire that small portion of this world's goods God has betruusted me with in this my Last will & Testament & first I doe commit my soull to God my Creator & redeemer trusting in his grace for the free remission of my sins in the blood of Christ & a glorious resurection of my body in the day of the lord.

I give to my daughter Hanna Easton my great table & forme & my chest at Mr. Richards.

I give to my Grand Child Ruth Rockwell one feather bed & the bedding belonging to it & my can & cob Irons Tongs & halfe a dozen of napkins & my Brass Kettle.

I give to my Grand Child Sarah Rockwell half a doz of napkins on payre of Sheets & the bed rug.

I give to my Grand Child Lydia Rockwell the Trundle bed & bedding belonging to it & halfe a doz of napkins.

I give to Sarah Smith a Smale Bible as a token of my respect to her.

I will that my woolen wareing Cloathes be qually divided between my daughter Mary Hanah & Mehitbell & my grand children Sarah Ruth & Lydia.

I give to my son David's children halfe a dozen of napkins & Two pewter platters.

The memaynder of my estate I give to my beloved son David & his heires forever he paying my Just Debts & I doe Appoynt him to be executor of this my last will & Testamet.

In Witness here of I have sett my hand this May 1676.

The above written was declared to be the last Will & Testament of Sarah Ensing by her in presence of us.

This will was exhibited in Court December 6, 1676, proved and accepted by the Court. James ENSIGN and Sarah ELSON had the following children:

+2i.Sarah ENSIGN, born between 1630 and 3, Newtown, , Massachusetts⁸; married John ROCKWELL, on 6 May 1651, , ,

Connecticut⁹; died on 23 Jun 1659, Windsor, Hartford, Connecticut¹⁰.
+3ii.Mary ENSIGN, born about 1636, Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut⁸; married Samuel SMITH, in 1662¹¹⁻¹³.
+4iii.David ENSIGN, born on 26 Nov 1644, Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut^{5,14}; married Mehitable GUNN, on 22 Oct 1663^{15,16}; married
Sarah WILCOX¹⁷; died on 13 Dec 1727, West Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut¹⁸.
+5iv.Hannah ENSIGN, born about 1646, Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut⁸; married Joseph EASTON, about 1664, , , Connecticut; died
on 30 Dec 1711, Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut⁵.
6v.Lydia ENSIGN was born about 1649 in Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut. She was Baptized on 19 Aug 1649 in Hartford, Hartford,
Connecticut.¹⁴ She died about 1650 in Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut.