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ELIZABETH² MOORE, DAUGHTER OF JOHN¹ MOORE OF NEWTOWN, LONG ISLAND: WIFE OF CONTENT TITUS, WILLIAM OSBORNE, OR BOTH?

BY JERRY WAYNE OSBORNE AND EDWARD H. L. SMITH III, MLS*

SOMETIMES GENEALOGICAL RESEARCH uncovers evidence that points in conflicting directions. Such is the case with the puzzling records concerning William Osborne, Elizabeth Moore, and Content Titus. The puzzle begins with a seventeenth-century Osborne-Moore marriage license, published in 1860 in *New York Marriages Previous to 1784*:

1 January 1670[/1]. William Osborne and Elizabeth Moore, Court of Assize 2:639.¹

The Osbornes of Long Island are discussed in Stillwell's *History of Captain Jeremiah Stillwell*, which mentions William Osborne's marriage to Elizabeth Moore, but does not attempt to identify her further.² William subsequently received a license to marry Alice (Stillwell) Holms, widow of Samuel Holms:

7 February 1679/80. William Osburn and Alice Holm, General Entries 32:67.³

Although the licenses were issued, this does not prove that the marriages actually took place. Evidence suggesting that the Osborne-Moore and Osborn-Holms marriages did occur—plus evidence of Elizabeth Moore's identity—lies in the will of William Osborne of Gravesend:

In the name of God Amen February the tenth one thousand six hundred eighty and two I William Osbourne of Gravesend in the West Ryding of Yorkshire on Long Island in America, . . . Item: I give and bequeath unto my dearly beloved wife Alice Osborn all the land and housing &c which formerly did belong unto her husband, Samuel Holmes with all the stock thereupon as horses, mares, cattle, [] excepting three horses one whereof came from Seatacot, another called Ham, and the other Jinny: Item I give unto my said wife my grey horse with two grey mares and their encrease now running in Hugh Garetson's neck, which said mares did belong unto her former husband Samuel Holmes: I give and bequeath unto my said wife my Negro woman called Maria: . . . {I appoint John Coe, Samuel Spicer, and John Tredwell} as overseers . . . Item: I give unto my eldest son William Osburne a tract of land lying within the Precincts of New Town and now in the

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¹ Names of Persons for Whom Marriages Were Issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784 (Albany: Weed, Parsons and Company, 1860), 288. The entries are alphabetized, but examination of other entries for the same volume show that the Moore-Osborne license was issued in 1670/1, not 1670; see, for example, the Mott-Redman license, Court of Assize 2:589, dated 5 September 1670, which entry precedes the Osborne-Moore license in the original volume.

² John F. Stillwell, *Stillwell Genealogy, Volume IV: History of Captain Jeremiah Stillwell, Anne Stillwell Britton, Alice Stillwell Holmes, Mary Stillwell Mott, Daniel Stillwell, John Stillwell, Children of Lieutenant Nicholas Stillwell and Appendix of Allied Families* (New York: the author, 1931), 152-54.

³ Names of Persons for Whom Marriages Were Issued by the Secretary of the Province of New York, Previous to 1784 (note 1), 288.

possession of John Smith of the same Town as will be due to me, my heirs, Executors, Assigns at decease of the said John Smith and Hannah his wife: Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Elizabeth, two houses and home &c with their accommodations lying in the Town of Flushing, now being in the possession of Thomas Williams, and due to me or my heirs, executors, [] or assigns at the decease of the said Williams, but one of the houses and home lots being in controversy between the said Williams and myself and a suit in law depending thereupon, in the case the said house and lot be not recovered, then the said Elizabeth to have the house and lott of land which I bought of Thomas Davis and twenty pounds more out of my [] provided it will hold out and not wrong the other childrens porcions. Item: I give and bequeath to my daughter Margaret sixty pounds: Item: To my sonn Samuel I give and bequeath eighty pounds, and if my said children shall dye before they come of age then their porcion to be equally divided amongst the surviving. And if in case [] my aforesaid children shall marry contrary to the advice or consent {of my executors and overseers, they shall have power to detain their portions. Executors: Gersham Moore, Samuel Moore, and Daniel Whitehead} . . . [signed] William Osbornn. Signed sealed & published in the presence of: Carsten Jansen, Samuel Spic{er}, and Peter Smith. Recorded 24 August 1683, Peter Smith.

At a Court of Sessions held at Gravesend in the West Ryding of Yorkshire on Long Island by his Majesty's Authority beginning on the 20th day of June 1683. The Last Will and Testament of William Osburn brought into court and proved by Samuel Spicer & Carsten Jansen there being an Article omitted in the will concerning halfe the crop of wheat & rye on the ground, so the said Osburn gave to his wife Alice . . . as also all the whale craft in the Town which hee verbally gave her . . . Gershom & Samuell Moore, Daniell Whitehead admitted Executors, Jno Coe, Samuell S{picer} & Jno Tredwell Overseers according to the will of the deceased.⁴

The four children appear to be minors, suggesting that some of them must have been by Elizabeth Moore, because only three years had elapsed since the issuance of the second license for William to marry Alice. Logic suggests that Gershom Moore and Samuel Moore were named executors to assure protection of the interests of those children, both natural parents being deceased. Gershom and Samuel are traditionally recognized as sons of John Moore of Newtown, in turn suggesting that Elizabeth was their sister.

However, numerous published sources state that Content² Titus, a son of Robert¹ Titus, married Elizabeth² Moore, the daughter of John¹ Moore of Newtown, Long Island, and his wife Margaret Howell. The statement appeared as early as 1852 in Riker's *Annals of Newtown* in his discussion of the Moore family.⁵ Nineteenth-century genealogies did not have documentation as we think of it today, and Riker did not give a reason for this connection, but his substantial knowledge of early New York records and families apparently led subsequent, well-regarded genealogies such as those on the Moore

(1880, 1903, 1934), Titus (1881), and Howell (1968, 1983) families to repeat the claim, but without adding documentation for the statement.⁶

However, before rashly removing Elizabeth, daughter of John Moore, from the Titus family tree, we must ask what it was that made Riker believe that she did indeed belong there. It is strongly likely that he had seen a record that made him believe it to be true. There is, indeed, such a record.

Inheritance of land is often the surest proof of ancestry, and it is the specifics of land transactions that must have prompted Riker's statement:

21 March 1686/7. "A diffirenc between the towne: & Gershom Moore, Samuel Moore, and Content Titus Concerning a rite of Land," resolved 17 December 1687.⁷

26 March 1688. Garsham Moore and Mary his wife of Newtowne . . . sold . . . to the sayd Content Titus, his heyres and assignes, all their right & title to a certaine parcel of land being foure score acres surveyed & layd out to the sayd Garsham Moore Samuel Moore Joseph Moore to the sayd Content Titus & John Moore . . . Garsham Moore and Mary his wife have sold & made over sixteene acres of land being the fift part and their just right."⁸

19 June 1688. This prsent writingt witnesseth that wheras there was a contest or difference betweene Gersham Moore Samuel Moore Joseph Moore John Moore Content Titus with this towne of Newtowne, concerning a certaine parcell of land which formerly was given by the inhabitants thereof unto John Moore senior Minister of the sayd towne deceased being one of the purchasers of the sayd towne, there being now a mutual agreement made betweene the sayd towne and the sd parties that the sd parties shall have four score acres of land being already layd out in consideration of the four score acres of land afore sd being to be equally divided between the sd Gersham Moore Samuel Moore Joseph Moore Content Titus & John Moore . . . [signed by Gersham Moore Samuel Moore Joseph Moore Content Titus & Thomas Petit guardian of John Moore]

I John Moore being the full age of 21 yeares doe ratifie & confirme the above sayd agreement as witnessse my hand this 23d day of February Anno:1688[1689].

[no date, but possibly before 26 March 1686⁹] These are to certifie . . . that wee the within mencioned parties have divided the within mencioned four score acres of land equally by lot as followeth viz: the first lot to Joseph Moore on the north side, the second joyning to it to Thomas Petit in the behalfe of John Moore and Thomas Moore, the third to Content Titus, the fourth to Samuel Moore, & the fifth that is on the south side to Gersam Moore as witnessse our hands; [signed] Samuel Moore Content Titus¹⁰

These records, taken in isolation, might seem to suggest strongly that John Moore left surviving children Gershom, Samuel, Joseph, a daughter who married Content Titus, and John, and that the younger John died before 1686 leaving sons John and Thomas, the latter dying young, and his widow married

⁴ Original will of William Osburn, Surrogate's Court, New York County, Will no. 33. Wills were usually written in anticipation of impending death and probated fairly soon after death, thus this will was probably written in 1682/3. The original on microfilm is extremely difficult to read, with sections obscured by tape. Obscured portions have been inserted, indicated by { }, from *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York*, 17 volumes, Collections of The New-York Historical Society for 1892-1908, 1:469-70, corrected at 16:52. Unfortunately, the obscured sections include the entirety of the language appointing the overseers and the executors. The copy that was abstracted for the Collections of the New-York Historical Society was a loose document, the original will itself, which is not recorded in the New-York City libers that were the main source for the will abstracts. The present whereabouts of the records of the 20 June 1683 sitting of the Court of Sessions for the West Ryding of Yorkshire, in which the will was recorded, are unknown.

⁵ James Riker, Jr., *The Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New-York*, . . . (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), 327.

⁶ Charles B. Moore, "Sketch of the Life of Rev. John Moore, of Newtown," RECORD 11(1880):5-12; James W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island, and Some of His Descendants* (Easton, Pa.: Chemical Pub. Co., 1903), 25-35, 375, 376 (the sketch on John Moore was written by Charles B. Moore); L. Effingham deForest and Anne Lawrence deForest, *William Henry Moore and His Ancestry* (New York: de Forest Pub. Co., 1934), 300-12; Rev. Anson Titus, Jr., "The Titus Family in America: Three Generations," RECORD 12(1881):92-99, reprinted in *Genealogies of Long Island Families from the New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1987), 344-51; and Effingham P. Humphrey, Jr., "Descendants of Edward Howell of Westbury Manor, Marsh Gibbon, Co. Buckingham and Southampton, Long Island, New York," *The Genealogist* 5(1983):3-63. A great many other works could be cited as well, all of which seem to draw on these earlier publications.

⁷ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (New York: Historical Records Survey, 1941), 2:356-57, 368.

⁸ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 2:401-2. Mary signed by mark.

⁹ This division may have occurred in anticipation of the actual settlement of the claim with the town. On 26 March 1686 Thomas Petit purchased land on behalf of his son-in-law [stepson] John Moore, with no mention of Thomas Moore (*Town Minutes of Newtown* [note 7], 2:323). It is possible that Thomas was still alive on that date and was excluded from the purchase for some other reason.

¹⁰ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 2:403-4.

Thomas Pettit. These related transactions are probably what led Riker to believe Content Titus married a daughter of John Moore.¹¹

REFOCUS ON MARRIAGES

There are no recorded marriages or licenses for Content, but on 14 May 1672 Hannah Titus of Huntington (on north-central Long Island) wrote her will leaving "to son Content Titus, house and land . . . To my son Content's wife, my skimmer."¹² Thus, Content had a wife in May 1672, but her name is not indicated. In October 1672 he was still a resident of Huntington.¹³

The 1860 publication of licenses has long been known to be deficient.¹⁴ In 1968 an augmented reprint of the earlier book was published. The volume contains additional Osborne licenses that match the names of William's children; it adds, however, nothing to the earlier Osborne licenses:

3 October 1692. Elizabeth Osburne and Jacob Ware of Southampton, Suffolk Co. L.3-4:365

12 December 1698. William Osborn and Elizabeth Way. V:326.

17 December 1702. Samuel Osborn and Katherine Pullion. L.7:65.¹⁵

Fortunately, important additional information from the early licenses, including the full Osborne-Moore license entry, was published in the 1980s as part of the New York Historical Manuscripts series in a section identified as "General Entries, 1669-1671, Bound with Court of Assizes Records."

License granted for William Osborne of Hempstead and Elizabeth Moore, Daughter in Lawe of Francis Doughty Dated, January 1st 1670. A:639.¹⁶

John Moore had died in the fall of 1657; his widow had married Francis² Doughty, son of the well-known Rev. Francis¹ Doughty.¹⁷ In seventeenth-century terminology *daughter-in-law* could mean *stepdaughter*. The full license shows that the conclusion implied by the names of the executors in the will is correct—William Osborne married Elizabeth, daughter of John Moore.

THE PUZZLE

Thus, the question in the title of this article. When conflicting evidence is found, it is necessary to research both options equally, with a focus on chro-

nology and locality. Sometimes the conflict cannot be resolved with certainty but scholarship is best achieved by presenting all pertinent evidence¹⁸ so others may evaluate the case for themselves.

Residence and chronology. Locality is of great concern in any genealogical problem. On Long Island, Newtown (also known as Middleburgh, among other names) lay at the northwest edge of the area that became Queens County in 1683, while the town of Hempstead, which will also figure in this account, lies a little further east, separated from Newtown by the Town of Flushing and at the time occupying land extending from the south shore of Long Island to the north shore.

An examination of early lists of inhabitants on Long Island fails to find William Osborne near John Moore prior to the 1671 license, although all surnames involved were residents of Newtown in 1686. Prior to moving to Newtown, John Moore had resided in Hempstead, where William Osborne first appears on record, albeit several years after Moore's death, and there was a Richard Osborne, relationship to William unknown, living in Newtown when John Moore's widow and daughter were residing there.

- 1654. An analysis of the 1654 list (previously thought to have been for 1659) found in "the Mouse Eaten Book" of the fifty original and sixty-three subsequent proprietors of Hempstead does not name any Moore, Osborn, or Titus.¹⁹
- 1656. John Moore is listed third on the Indian Rate for Middleburg (Newtown), which includes no one named Osborne or Titus.²⁰ This was a tax on land, so it is not a complete record of the adult males in the town.
- 4 December 1666. Gershom More, John More, Tho: More, and Sam More were among the sixty-six names on the "towne rate mad by the constable & overseers" for Newtown.²¹
- 27 "Januarie" 1667. Gershom More, Jo: More, Sam: More, and Ri: Osborn were listed on the rate at Newtown. On 26 February 1667, the same names were among the seventy-nine names listed in the rate for the sessions house at Newtowne. On 26 February 1667/8, Gershom More and Jo: More were among the forty-one names on the rate for defraying town debts at Newtown.²²
- 1673. The Names of Inhabitants of the Town of Hempstead includes William Osborne and Richard Osborne among its 109 names.²³
- September 1675. The List of the Estate of Newtown includes Content Titus, Gershom More, and Samuel More.²⁴
- 1678. In the list of estates of the "Inhabytance of Newtowne on Long Island," the names of Content Titus and Samuel More appear next to each other.²⁵
- 1683. Newtown's list includes Content Titus, Samuell More, and Gershom More, while the list for "Hampsted" shows Rich'd Osbourn among those "which having not brought

¹⁸ There are a substantial number of records concerning the individuals and families who are part of this puzzle. Only those that provide perspective to the problem are given here.

¹⁹ George D. A. Combs, "The 1654 List," in Natalie A. Naylor, *The Roots and Heritage of Hempstead Town* (Interlaken: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1994), 183-91.

²⁰ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 43.

²¹ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:79.

²² *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:96-97 (no indication if 1666/7 or 1667/8), 19-20 (no indication if 1666/7 or 1667/8), 99.

²³ E. B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, 4 volumes (Albany: Weed, Parsons, Public Printers, 1849), 1:658. Two surnames are illegible, and the list mentions "nine others whose names are lost."

²⁴ O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of New York* (note 23), 2:465-67.

²⁵ Peter R. Christoph and Florence A. Christoph, editors, *The Andros Papers: Files of the Provincial Secretary of New York during the Administration of Governor Sir Edmund Andros 1674-1680*, 3 volumes (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1989-91), 3:465.

¹¹ These records, however, do not reveal why Riker believed her given name to be Elizabeth.

¹² *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York* (note 4), 1:65.

¹³ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 2:308.

¹⁴ See, for example, the introduction to Robert H. Kelby, "New York Marriages Licenses," *RECORD* 46(1915):279, which published additional information from 432 original licenses in the New-York Historical Society, but nothing on Moore, Osborne, or Titus licenses.

¹⁵ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784: A Reprint of the Original Edition of 1860 with Additions and Corrections Including Supplementary List of Marriage Licenses*; *New York Marriage Licenses*, index by Kenneth Scott (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1968), 511, 579, 584, 588. The additions were from licenses in the records of wills at the Surrogate's Office that had been published in the earliest volumes of the *RECORD* (1:3, 3:193, 4:31), augmented by Kenneth Scott in 1968 with citations to the original.

¹⁶ Peter R. Christoph and Florence A. Christoph, editors, *Books of General Entries of the Colony of New York, 1664-1673*, 2 volumes, in *New York Historical Manuscripts: English* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), 1:397, 521; 2:208. This key piece of evidence was independently found, and its significance recognized, by the coauthors of the present article and by David L. Blackwell and Joseph R. Klett, the coauthors of a forthcoming article on Content Titus.

¹⁷ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 46, 49-50. Ethan Allen Doty, "The Doughty Family of Long Island," *RECORD* 43(1912):273-87, 312-24, at 276-77, 279; also "The Ancestry of the Rev. Francis Doughty," *The American Genealogist* 77(2002):1-17, 127-29, at 129.

in their valuations are guest attr by the Cunstable and overseirs." On Gravesend's rate list, Also Osborne is listed with 10 cows, plus 5 three-year-old cows, 2 two-year-old cows, 5 one-year-old cows, and 5 horses, and was the largest landowner. Danniell Lake, whom she would later marry, had no property.²⁶

- 25 November 1686. The Dongan Patent for Newtown lists among the "present freeholders and inhabitants of the said town of Newtown" Gershom Moore, Samuel Moore, William Osborne, Content Titus, and John Moore.²⁷

- 1698. On the census of Hempstead (1,351 persons), listed together, are: Joh: Titus, Sarah Titus, Mary Titus, John Titus, Samuel Titus, Elizabeth Titus, Phebe Titus, Temperance Titus, Edmond Titus, Martha Titus, Peter Titus, Silas Titus, Hannah Titus, Pasianse Titus, [six names], Richard Osborne, Richard Osborne Jr, William Osborne, Nathaniel Osborne, Jeans Osborne.²⁸ The list for Newtown includes Samuel Moore, with a household of nine; Gersham Moore, with a household of four; and Jonathan Moore, with a household of five (the latter two adjacent). The Hempstead return names all residents, while the Newtown one names only heads of households.²⁹

Although primarily associated with Hempstead (see below), William Osborne's involvement with residents of Newtown by 1670 is demonstrated by a court record, significantly at about the time he married Elizabeth Moore:

1 April 1670. The Council ordered concerning the petition of Abr'm Frost of New Towne for a review of a judgment against him at the suits of Wm. Osborne and John Firman.³⁰

Daughter in Law of Francis Doughty. The sources cited earlier for the marriage of John Moore's widow to Francis Doughty are secondary sources, so that was investigated more thoroughly and shown to be correct by two court records, one of which also provides a death date for John Moore:

23 May [1658]. . . John Marshall demanded by said power of Attorney from Mr. More who died in September last 150 guilders on an obligation dated 10 Sept. 1656 signed John More and as witnesses Nathaniel Hazard & John Rodes.

5 February 1658/[9]. Fort Amsterdam, New Netherlands. . . Appeared Franceys Doughty having married the widow of Mr. More who showed the signature of Mr. More which resembles in no way the signature under the said note of hand and declared therefore the said note to be false; of the witnesses whose hands are signed to the aforesaid obligation the one is in Jamaica [Long Island]; appeared the other viz: Nathaniel Hazard an obligation was never transacted in his presence. . .³¹

Newtown had constructed a townhouse to serve as both residence and church for Moore. He was given title to the property, to which many of the inhabitants objected. They sent a formal complaint to Gov. Stuyvesant, who found the transfer of title to be inappropriate.³² After Moore's death, his

widow and children remained in the house. In 1661 the inhabitants once again objected to the property arrangements, on two grounds: they wanted the house for a schoolmaster, and they wanted the property kept up.³³

. . . As the housing now stands, it is like to go all to wreck and ruin, the fences are falling down, the house and barn decaying and wanteth repair, and Francis Doughty doth not repair it, nor the town. . .³⁴

Their plea was successful. On 18 February 1661 Peter Stuyvesant ordered:

. . . These presents do require and order Francis Doughty, and whoever it may concern, to give and to grant unto the present schoolmaster, Mr. Richard Mills, a quiet possession of the said house and land. . . But if he [Doughty] or his wife hath to demand any remainder of means or salary of her deceased husband, Mr. John Moore, late minister of the aforementioned town, . . .³⁵

Riker says that on 4 March 1665 the townhouse was surrendered to Mrs. Doughty as relict of Rev. Moore.³⁶ It must have been, because in October 1672 Francis Doughty of Newtown sold to Content Titus of Huntington the house, lot, and orchard "which I now posses which was Given my prdesesor mr. John Moore. . ."³⁷

An additional record confirms the connection between Elizabeth Moore and her stepfather. Francis Doughty and John Lawresson/Lorison, another Newtown resident, did not get along. Among a number of lawsuits between the two, at the court 3 February 1668/9, there was much testimony to the effect that:

Mary Lawreson & Elizabeth Moore had a falling out & good wife Lawreson sayd to betty more that her [Mary's] husband did not goe couzoning & sheating [cozening and cheating] up & downe the cuntry as her [Elizabeth's] father did.³⁸

The evidence that the wife of John Moore was indeed Margaret Howell is shown by a record during her second marriage. Members of the family are mentioned in the records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam in 1661. "Margariet, [child of] Franciscus douten" was baptized 9 March 1661 and "Joseph [child of] John Moor, Predic't [predicant, i.e., preacher] tot [died] Middleb. in N. Nederl." was baptized 1 June 1661.³⁹ The membership rolls, in Dutch style, give the maiden names of women:

Mart [March] 1661. Francois Dought, en [and] Margariet Houvel, syn huysvr [his wife].⁴⁰

Another court record reveals a close association between Francis Doughty and William Osborne:

³³ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 39–40, 45–46, 49–50.

³⁴ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 49.

³⁵ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 50.

³⁶ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 76.

³⁷ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 2:308.

³⁸ *Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown, 1656–1690* (New York: Historical Records Survey, 1940), 23.

³⁹ *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York: Baptisms from 25 December, 1639, to 27 December, 1730* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1901), 60–61. There were no sponsors for either baptism. Margaret was born in Newtown prior to 29 December 1660, the date on a "bell of debt doue from francis doughty unto mr thomas hunt," which included "Itim my wife exhersising the ofis of a medwife to his wife 4 gld." (*Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown* [note 38], 23).

⁴⁰ "Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in the City of New York: Church Members' List," *Record 9/1878*:74.

²⁶ O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of New York* (note 23), 2:508–11 (Gravesend), 512–15 (Newtown), 523–28 (Hempstead).

²⁷ Abstracts are in Jerrold Seymann, *Colonial Charters, Patents and Grants to the Communities Comprising the City of New York* (New York: Board of Statutory Consolidation of the City of New York, 1939), 559–67 and Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 109–13. It is not clear if the names are as of the date of the patent or a repetition of names from an earlier date.

²⁸ "The Hempstead Census of 1698," *RECORD* 45(1914):66–67.

²⁹ Charles Carroll Gardner, "Census of Newtown, Long Island, August, 1698," *The American Genealogist* 24:133–37. The surname may be spelled "étos" on the list. Searick Titus and Tunis Titus, also on the list, are from a Dutch family.

³⁰ Berthold Fernow, *Calendar of Council Minutes, 1668–1783*; *New York State Library Bulletin*, 58 (Albany: New York State Library, 1902), 11.

³¹ The details are in Rev. John Moore of Newtown (note 6), 33. The document is in the Council Minutes 8:727, calendared in Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Dutch Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York, 1630–1664* (Albany: Weed, Parsons, Public Printers, 1865), 190–91.

³² Correspondence, 50, calendared in O'Callaghan, *Dutch Historical Manuscripts* (note 31), 283.

22 December 1674. William Osborne and Fran. Dowty were sued by Nathaniell Brittain because they had posted bail for Mr. Fran. Dowty who was imprisoned in New York in 16__ against whom judgment had been passed for 1900 pounds of tobacco with costs, and "the said Francis having absented himself almost ever since and hath not performed the said Judgment."⁴¹

It is not clear if the bailed prisoner, "Mr. Fran. Dowty," was the younger Francis, husband of Margaret (Howell) Moore, posting bail for himself, along with William Osborne, or if the two were posting bail for the former's father, Rev. Francis Doughty, who had left New Amsterdam for Virginia. In either case, the fact that William Osborne joined in posting bond suggests just the type of connection one might expect to see between a man and his in-laws.

HYPOTHESES

Did she marry both? Chronology shows that Elizabeth Moore cannot have been the widowed wife of both William Osborne and Content Titus. Elizabeth did not marry Content Titus as the widow of William Osborne because Osborne married again in 1680. Conversely, Elizabeth did not marry William Osborn as the widow of Content Titus, who lived long after, as shown in the list of elders of the Presbyterian Church of Newtown, which begins:

Content Titus. Chosen 1724. Died Jan. 17, 1730, aged 86.⁴²

No record of divorce for Elizabeth has been found. In this time and place, the "at fault" party could not have remarried without permission until the first spouse had died. If there were such a divorce, Elizabeth could have married Content Titus after William Osborne's death in 1683. This solution is possible but unlikely. If it were fact, and thus explains Content Titus' inclusion in the land grant division, he would not have had an unrestricted right, but only a right on behalf of his children by Elizabeth Moore in conjunction with the rights of children she had by prior marriages, specifically those by William Osborne. Since the records show no such restriction, and the other parties included the executors of William Osborne's will, who were protecting the interests of his children, we feel safe in rejecting this solution.

Did Content Titus marry another daughter of John Moore? No primary record gives the Christian name of Content Titus' wife at the time of the transactions. However, the specific wording describing the equal one-fifth shares means that John Moore had exactly five children who survived or who left heirs. Thus, Content Titus's one-fifth share cannot have come by marriage to a daughter of John Moore other than Elizabeth, because the records show that Elizabeth married William Osborne and had children by him who were alive at the time of the division.

Did Content Titus marry a granddaughter of John Moore? An option to consider is that Content Titus acquired the one-fifth right by marriage to a granddaughter rather than a daughter of John Moore. Because, as we've said,

⁴¹ Kenneth Scott, *Minutes of the Mayors Court of New York, 1674-1675*, volume 4 of *New York Historical Manuscripts* (New York: The Holland Society, 1983), 10.

⁴² List of elders of the Presbyterian Church of Newtown in Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 226.

Elizabeth would have had a share, this wife would have had to have been the only surviving child of William Osborne and Elizabeth Moore. As shown below in the Genealogical Summary, three of their children survived, so this solution does not work.

Conveyance rather than inheritance? The most likely explanation is that Content Titus purchased Elizabeth's rights—possibly from the executors of William Osborne's estate on behalf of her children, from William himself, or even much earlier from Elizabeth's stepfather, Francis Doughty. Newtown records show no such transaction, but many land transactions in this time period are unrecorded. Given that the claim to the land was not officially recognized by the Town until 1687 or 1688, it is quite possible that sale of the future rights in such an uncertain claim in return for cash in hand might have seemed like an enticing transaction at an earlier time. It is tempting to wonder if Francis Doughty might have acquired some of his stepdaughter's rights prior to her marriage, perhaps in reimbursement for her maintenance, with those rights then being included in the previously-mentioned 1672 sale from Francis Doughty to Content Titus. However, the wording of the recorded transaction does nothing to support this conjecture.⁴³

As we have conceded, taken by themselves, the documents concerning the grant of the eighty acres and its division into five lots of sixteen acres would seem to strongly suggest that Content Titus had married an heir of Rev. John Moore. But it is never safe to evaluate documents strictly in isolation. As much context as possible must be gathered, some of which may reinforce conclusions and some of which may call conclusions into doubt. Finding the explanation that is most compatible with all available evidence sometimes requires discarding what at first seemed rather obvious. We believe that in this case the conclusion accepted for over one hundred and fifty years—that Content Titus married a daughter of John Moore—must be discarded.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

WILLIAM OSBORNE was born say 1627 (but see discussion below). He died between 10 February 1683 (will) and 29 June 1683 (deed by his executors). He married (1 January 1670/1 license) ELIZABETH² MOORE, the daughter of John¹ Moore and probably Margaret Howell (see below). Elizabeth died apparently prior to 7 February 1679/80 when William obtained a license to marry (7 February 1679/80 license) ALICE (STILLWELL) HOLMES, born say 1640, widow of Lieutenant Samuel Holmes, whom she married 26 October 1665.⁴⁴ Alice married third Daniel Lake.

William first appears on record in 1663. In subsequent years, a series of land and livestock transactions in the Hempstead Town records show his involvement in the economic life of the community, and the following records reveal that significant civic responsibilities were being assigned to him:

⁴³ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 2:308.

⁴⁴ Teunis G. Bergen, *Register in Alphabetical Order, of the Early Settlers of Kings County, Long Island, N.Y. from Its First Settlement by Europeans to 1700; with Contributions to Their Biographies and Genealogies* (New York: S. W. Green's Son, 1881), 144-45.

- 18 May 1663. Covenant and agreement between the Townsmen of Hempstead and William Osburne for his keeping of the west herd "till such time as Indian corn shall bee all gotten out of the Field. . . ."⁴⁵
 - 2 May 1672; reinforced 24 April 1673. There having been "great abuse by the neglect of the officers of severall townes upon Long-Island in not making enquiry into or securing his Royall Highness [the Duke] his part of Drift Whales or Great Fish cast upon the beach or shoate according to the directions in the law," Mr. William Osbourne and Mr. John Smith of Hempstead were appointed to make enquiry either by Indyans or others for any cast up "between the bounds of the towne of Seatacott Eastward and the utmost part of the lymitts of Gravesend or Coney-Island westward."⁴⁶ Both men were referred to by the respectful "Mr." The task they were given—to, in effect, chastise inhabitants and officials in other towns who had been ignoring the law—was one that would be given to men who could command respect from others. John Smith was likely the man referred to as John Smith "Blue," who estimates suggest was born before 1625.⁴⁷ There were several John Smiths then residing in Hempstead, but John Smith "Blue," a Justice of the Peace, was the one whose career most suggests he would have been assigned such responsibilities.
 - 29 July 1673. A warrant was sent to Mr. William Osbourne instructing that the troops at Hempstead must be called up.⁴⁸ This, again, shows responsibility.
 - 30 November 1673. "William osborn aged about 16 [sic] years Inhabitant of Hempstead" deposed.⁴⁹ The age must have been misread by the transcriber. As Stillwell points out, a birth year about 1657 does not work for either the elder William, who married first in 1671, or the younger William, who was born probably about 1672 (see below). The deposition related an incident in October when Osbourne was going with Francis Beado from Rutsdorp to Hempstead. Beado said he had a commission from the King to raise troops; the following day Osbourne inquired to see the commission. Osbourne then said that the "commission was false it being written and signed with one hand & therefore advised him [Beado] to depart & be gone without making any further endeavour or otherwise the officers would take hold of him."
- The incident implies a mature and experienced adult of some authority who would confront a person claiming to be an official, analyze a purported official document, and order the man to depart. The original deposition was probably among the documents destroyed in the fire in Albany in 1911, so cannot be reexamined, but if only one digit were misread, the most likely age would have been 46, based on the usual characteristics of eighteenth-century handwriting, but a reading of 36 is also consistent with our age analysis.
- 1 May 1678. Joseph Langdon testified "his mother desired him to fetch 3 quarts of sack from John skidmors . . . for she said her sone Osburn had Given hur order to send for some and he did fech 3 quarts of sake from skidmors for hur on William Osburns accu't."⁵⁰

Based on seventeenth-century vocabulary and the scant detail in the record, there are several relationships that could account for the terms used. Examining them all is beyond the scope of this article, but some implications must be discussed. The absence of Margaret (Howell) (Moore) Doughty from the October 1672 transaction wherein Francis Doughty sold the house and lot of his "predecessor" John Moore strongly implies she had

died by then.⁵¹ The birth years of Joseph Langdon's parents are not known, but he was born in 1650.⁵² If Joseph and William were half-brothers, then William would not likely have been born as early as 1627, and the misread age in the 1673 deposition may have been 36. If, on the other hand, Joseph Langdon's mother or stepmother was the mother of William Osbourne's spouse, then the latter must have had a brief marriage between his 1671 marriage to Elizabeth Moore and his 1680 marriage to Alice (Stillwell) Holms.

- 31 March 1681. William Osbourne purchased from Nicholas Stillwell [father of his wife] plantation no. 4 in Gravesend.⁵³
- November 1681. William Osburne was named one of the attorneys for Hempstead to sue persons who had settled on Cow Neck, which the town claimed.
- 29 June 1683. Daniel Whitehead of Jamaica, Samuel Moore, and Gershom Moore of Newtown, executors of the will of William Osbourne, deeded land in Gravesend to Daniel Lake of that place.⁵⁴
- 25 November 1686. The Dongan Patent for Newtown lists William Osbourne among the present freeholders and inhabitants of Newtown.⁵⁵
- 12 October 1692. Jacob Ware and wife Elizabeth, "daughter of William Osborne of Gravesend deceased and his wife Elizabeth," released the executors of her father's will.⁵⁶
- 30 November 1693. "Willia. Osbon now residing in Newtowne in Quenes County in the Island of Nasowe Sone & ~~Eare~~ Heyre of William Osbon late of Graves End In Kings County Deceased," gave a release to the executors of his father in exchange for a piece of land in Newtown.⁵⁷ It is likely that William had recently come into his majority, hence was born shortly prior to 30 November 1672, compatible with his parents' marriage license.
- 27 November 1694. Daniell Lake of Gravesend, yeoman, and wife Alse [both sign by mark] mortgaged to Daniel Whitehead and Samuel Moore, gentlemen, as executors of the will of William Osborne, late of Gravesend, land in that place . . . Daniel Lake to bring up and provide for Samuel son of William Osborne.⁵⁸ Although there is no direct statement for the marriage, this record shows that Daniel had married the widow Alse (Stillwell) Holmes Osborne sometime after 1683 (rate list).
- 18 September 1695. Daniel Whitehead and Samuel Moore, both executors to the estate of William Osborne late of Gravesend deceased conveyed five acres of meadow ground at Hawtree Neck and a home lot in Jamaica to John Pettit of Newtown in Queens County and Margaret his wife, daughter to the abovesaid William Osborne.⁵⁹

William's marriage to Elizabeth was his first identified marriage. Regardless of whether William was born circa 1627 or circa 1637, he was of an age to have had a wife prior to 1671. And since we don't know when Elizabeth died, we cannot exclude the possibility of a wife between her and Alice (see Langdon discussion above). Elizabeth, daughter of William, is identified as a daughter of Elizabeth in the 1692 release. Since the name Margaret was not common in the area, she was likely named for Elizabeth (Moore) Osborne's mother, suggesting she was more likely a daughter of Elizabeth. Samuel was probably a son of Alice, named for her deceased husband.

⁴⁵ *Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.* (Jamaica: Town Board of North Hempstead, 1896), 1:136-37.

⁴⁶ Christoph and Christoph, *Books of General Entries* (note 16), 1:476, 534. Gravesend was the southwestern-most town, with Coney Island lying south of it. Setauker (Setalcot, now Brookhaven) was further east on Long Island. At the time it had not yet acquired all the lands now comprising the southwest portion of the Town of Brookhaven, and thus would have been approximately thirty miles east of Hempstead.

⁴⁷ Frederick C. Hart, Jr., "James Smith of Newtown and His Brother John Smith of Hempstead," *RECORD* 134(2003):168.

⁴⁸ Christoph and Christoph, *The Andrus Papers* (note 25), 1:78.

⁴⁹ *Third Annual Report of the State Historian of New York, 1897* (New York: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., 1898) 2:166.

⁵⁰ *Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.* (Jamaica: Town Board of North Hempstead, 1897), 2:12-13.

⁵¹ *Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown, 1656-1690* (note 38), 1:68.

⁵² Herbert F. Seversmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island New York and Connecticut: Being the Ancestry and Kindred of Herbert Furman Seversmith* (Washington: typescript, 1953), 4:1767.

⁵³ Joseph F. Mullane and Marjorie Decker Johnson, *The Lake Family of Gravesend, Long Island, New York, and Staten Island, Richmond County, New York* (Staten Island: the authors, 1982; revision 1989-1990), 22.

⁵⁴ Conveyances, Brooklyn, Kings County, 2:20; recorded 29 November 1694; abstracted in *RECORD* 54:107.

⁵⁵ See note 27.

⁵⁶ Queens County Conveyances, Liber A:60.

⁵⁷ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:494.

⁵⁸ Conveyances, Brooklyn, Kings County, 2:21; recorded 29 November 1694; abstracted in *RECORD* 54:107.

⁵⁹ Queens County Deeds B2:144; abstracted in Lewis D. Cook, "Notes: Moore-Pettit, Newtown Long Island" *The American Genealogist* 131(1936):112.

Children of William Osborne and Elizabeth Moore:

- i. ELIZABETH OSBORNE, born say 1672 (estimating marriage at 20); married (3 October 1692 license) JACOB WARE of Southampton, Suffolk County.⁶⁰

Children of William Osborne and probably Elizabeth Moore:

- ii. WILLIAM OSBORNE, born probably in 1672 (majority in 1693), called "eldest son" in will; married (12 December 1698 license) ELIZABETH WAY.⁶¹
- iii. MARGARET OSBORNE, born say 1675 (estimating marriage at 20); married by 18 September 1695 JOHN PETTIT of Newtown,⁶² who died between 20 January 1706/7 (will) and 23 November 1726 (probate) probably at Newtown.⁶³

Child of William Osborne and almost surely Alice (Stillwell) Holmes:

- iv. SAMUEL OSBORNE, born say 1681 (if son of Alice); died 1754;⁶⁴ married (17 December 1702 license) KATHERINE PULLION.⁶⁵

The relationship, if any, between William Osborne and his fellow townsman Richard Osborne is not known. Their proximity in the 1670s and Richard's earlier proximity to Francis² Doughty raise the possibility of a connection. On the other hand, Richard, about thirteen years younger than William, did not display a comparable level of civic involvement and responsibility.

RICHARD OSBORNE was born about 1640 (deposition). He married MARY LININGTON, daughter of Henry Linington,⁶⁶ and had sons named Richard, William, Roger, Nathaniel, and James.⁶⁷ No wife is listed in his household in the 1698 census⁶⁸ but his 9 December 1715 will names a wife Mary. In addition to the expected deeds, Queens Conveyances, Liber C, contains a section with transcriptions of early wills, guardianships, and inventories, including the will of Richard "Ozland" of Hempstead. The records in this section were not the original eighteenth-century entries, but rather late-nineteenth-century transcriptions;⁶⁹ this is surely a mistranscription of the will of Richard Osborne. The testator describes himself as "ancient," he signed by mark "R," the given names of four of the five sons listed in the will match the four names listed with Richard Osborne in the 1698 census, Richard Osborne was

known to be alive as late as 2 April 1715,⁷⁰ and no Richard Ozland (nor any other Ozland) appears in the records of Hempstead or neighboring towns. The will names wife Mary, eldest son Richard, youngest son James, sons William, Nathaniel, and Roger, and mentions but does not name eldest daughters of sons Richard and William.

Richard Osborne of Newtown and Hempstead signed with a mark⁷¹ and is identified as a livestock-tender, a cooper, and a hoop-maker. Thus, he was not the same as the Captain Richard Osborn of Westchester with whom he has sometimes been identified.⁷² The latter died by 4 December 1684.⁷³

- 22 August 1659. Richard Osborne witnessed a deed in Newtown from John Burroughes to Obadiah Winter.⁷⁴ This was his first appearance in the records.
- 26 July 1666. John Naper (his s mark) husbandman and Rich Osborn (his r mark) caper [cooper], inhabitants of Newtowne, rented a farm from Caleb Leverich to keep livestock. Samuel More witnessed portions of the agreement.⁷⁵
- 4 January 1666/7. Francis Doughty, John Moore (signing by mark), and Richard Osborn (signing by mark) were among the eleven landholders on the north side of Newtown who enclosed their cropland within a single fence.⁷⁶ This places Richard in proximity to William's brother-in-law and step-father-in-law.
- 5 March 1666/[7]. The "desposicion of Richerd Osborn aged about twenty seven yerres" was made in a case John Lorison/Lawresson brought against Francis Doughtie.⁷⁷ This places his birth about 1640.
- 27 "Januarie" 1667. R: Osborn was listed on the rate at Newtown. On 26 February 1667, he was listed in the rate for the sessions house at Newtowne.⁷⁸
- 1673. William Osborne and Richard Osborne were listed as inhabitants of Hempstead.⁷⁹
- 8 December 1675. In adjacent cases in the Court of Sessions held at Jamaica, Mr. William Osborn sued Ebenezer Jones and Ebenezer Jones sued Richard Osborne.⁸⁰
- 1 April 1678. Richard Osburn was to be given about a dozen acres of land at Newtown if he "come settell among us."⁸¹ Although this could refer to Richard of Westchester, it seems more likely that it refers to Richard of Hempstead.
- 1683. The list for "Hampsted" shows Rich'd Osbourn among those "which having not brought in their valluations are guest att by the Cunstable and overseirs."⁸²
- 1698. The census of Hempstead lists Richard Osborne, Richard Osborne Jr, William Osborn, Nathanel Osborne, Jeans Osborne.⁸³

⁶⁰ *York Marriages Previous to 1784 Including Supplementary List* (note 15), 579.

⁶¹ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784 Including Supplementary List* (note 15), 584.

⁶² Queens County Deeds B2:144; abstracted in Cook, "Moore-Pettit" (note 59), *The American Genealogist* 13:112.

⁶³ Queens County Deeds C:126-27.

⁶⁴ *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New Jersey, First Series, "Abstracts of New Jersey Wills, Administrations, Etc., Volume III, 1715-1760,"* (Somerville, N.J.: Unionist-Gazette Association, 1924), 32:240.

⁶⁵ *New York Marriages Previous to 1784 Including Supplementary List* (note 15), 588.

⁶⁶ Will of Henry Linington of Hempstead, written 10 June 1691, abstracted in Amos Canfield, "Abstracts of Early Wills of Queens County, New York, Recorded in Libers A and C of Deeds, Now in the Registrar's Office, Jamaica, New York," *RECORD* 65(1934):118-19.

⁶⁷ Will of Richard Ozland [sic] of Hempstead, written 9 December 1715, probated 20 March 1716, Queens County Deeds, Liber C:586-84 [pagination runs in reverse order in the wills section of the liber]; also abstracted in Canfield, "Early Wills of Queens County" (note 66), *RECORD* 65(1934):324.

⁶⁸ "The Hempstead Census of 1698," (note 28), *RECORD* 45(1914):59, 66. The fifth son named in the will, Roger, is listed in that census apart from the rest of the family, as Roger Osburn, and an unidentified Rubin Osburn is listed near Roger.

⁶⁹ See discussion in Canfield, "Early Wills of Queens County" (note 66), *RECORD* 65(1934):114.

⁷⁰ *Records of the Towns of North and South Hempstead, Long Island, N.Y.* (note 45), 3:72-73.

⁷¹ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:75, 81, 104, 106, 107, 119; 2:204, 420b; and his will (note 67).

⁷² This incorrect connection is made in James Savage, *A Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 volumes (Boston: Little Brown and Co., 1860-62), 3:318-19, and in David M. Riker, *Genealogical and Biographical Directory to Persons in New Netherland from 1613 to 1674* (Mechanicsburg, Pa.: the author, 1999), volume 3, no pagination. Donald Lines Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1976), 1:455-56, does not equate the Westchester man with the Newtown man.

⁷³ Theresa Hall Bristol, "Westchester County, N.Y., Miscellanea," *RECORD* 50(1919):241.

⁷⁴ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:4.

⁷⁵ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:75-77.

⁷⁶ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 5), 78.

⁷⁷ *Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown* (note 38), 68.

⁷⁸ See note 22.

⁷⁹ See note 23.

⁸⁰ Christoph and Christoph, *The Andros Papers* (note 25), 1:296, 299.

⁸¹ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 7), 1:102.

⁸² See note 26.

⁸³ See note 28.

REEXAMINING THE FAMILY OF REV. JOHN¹ MOORE OF NEWTOWN, LONG ISLAND

BY PATRICIA LAW HATCHER, FASG, AND EDWARD H. L. SMITH III, MLS*

ALTHOUGH THE THRUST OF THE RESEARCH for the previous article was to determine the spouse of Elizabeth Moore, questions also arose unexpectedly on the structure of her birth family. John Moore's first definite appearance in records was on 6 April 1641 at Southampton, on the eastern end of Long Island, when a planting lot was ordered laid out to him, probably shortly after his arrival there. He was one of three men chosen by the town to negotiate Southampton's incorporation into the colony of Connecticut in 1644,¹ a position of great responsibility, so it would seem likely that he was at least in his thirties by that time. He was last listed as a resident of Southampton on 8 March 1649 and was not on the list of 9 May 1649. There is no indication of ministerial tasks at Southampton, although he may have filled the pulpit at times. A new minister was appointed 1 April 1649, perhaps prompting his move to Hempstead.²

John Moore called himself "Minister of the church of Heemstede" on 25 September 1651.³ He served there only a few years.⁴ The exact timing of the move from Hempstead to Newtown is unclear, but Moore had left Newtown temporarily by 15 January 1656 when Johannes Megapolensis and Samuel Drisius requested "a person be appointed to supply the vacancy caused by the absence of rev. Mr. Moore."⁵ On 5 August 1657 Megapolensis and Drisius, reporting to the Classis of Amsterdam, wrote:

At Middleburgh, alias Newtown, they are mostly Independents and have a man, called Joannes Moor of the same way of thinking, who preaches there, but does not serve the sacraments. He says, he was licensed in New England to preach, but not authorized to administer the sacraments. He has thus continued for some years.⁶

* Patricia Law Hatcher is the editor of the *RECORD*. Edward H. L. Smith III is coauthor, with Jerry Wayne Osborne, of "Elizabeth² Moore, Daughter of John¹ Moore of Newtown, Long Island: Wife of Content Titus, William Osborne, or Both?" *RECORD* 137:245-57, which contains additional information on the Moore family. Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, and Harry Macy, Jr., FASG, made helpful contributions.

¹ J. Hammond Trumbull, *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Prior to the Union with New Haven Colony, May, 1665*, (Hartford: Brown & Parsons, 1850), 1:566.

² The Southampton records are transcribed in Charles B. Moore, "Sketch of the Life of Rev. John Moore, of Newtown," *RECORD* 11(1880):5-12, and/or in James W. Moore, *Rev. John Moore of Newtown, Long Island, and Some of His Descendants* (Easton, Pa.: Chemical Pub. Co., 1903), 25-35, in which the sketch on John Moore was written by Charles B. Moore.

³ *Rev. John Moore of Newtown* (note 2), 28-29.

⁴ Natalie A. Naylor, *The Roots and Heritage of Hempstead Town* (Interlaken: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1994), 19-20.

⁵ Council Minutes 6:217, calendared in Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Dutch Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York, 1630-1664* (Albany: Weed, Parsons, Public Printers, 1865), 157.

⁶ *Ecclesiastical Records, State of New York* (Albany: James B. Lyon, 1901) 1:397.

Moore may have preached without college education. The common name makes it difficult to be certain, but no obvious likely candidate was found in the alumni lists of Oxford or Cambridge in England.⁷

John Moore did not leave a will naming his children. He apparently died in distressed circumstances. On 23 May 1661 an order was issued to the magistrates of Middleburgh to deliver up certain clothes belonging to the Rev. Mr. Moore, deceased, to be sold by public auction to pay his debts.⁸

In the traditional genealogies, John Moore is shown as having five children, but this is incorrect, as is shown by a Dutch letter dated 22 October 1657 from Johannes Megapolensis and Samuel Drisius reporting on the condition of churches in New Netherlands:

We are at this time in great want of English ministers. It is more than two years since Mr. Doughty, of Flushing which is a town here, went to Virginia, where he is now a preacher. He left because he was not well supported. On Oct. 13, Mr. Moore, of Middleburg, which is another town here, died of a pestilential disease, which prevailed in several of our English towns, and in New England. He left a widow with seven or eight children. A year before, being dissatisfied with the meagre and irregular payments from his hearers, he went to Barbadoes, to seek to find another place.⁹

It is shown in the previous article that the records related to land given to Rev. Moore (page 247) do not necessarily define the five children of John Moore, so the traditional family structure must be reexamined. Four of his children are explicitly documented. Elizabeth's marriage license shows that she was his daughter, as does Joseph's baptism. A deed proves the relationship for Gershom and Samuel:

25 December 1677. Gershom More of Newtowne on Long Island in the west riding of Yourk sheere in amaryca have doe and by these presents alinate & make over to my brother Samuella More of the same place . . . seven acors & a halfe . . . seated and settled now by my brother Samuella More . . . This parcell of land did formerly belong unto my father John More deceased [the document also mentions "half a sheer of meadow lying in Fosters Neck and about eight acors of upland . . . in the same town"].¹⁰

Gershom, John, Thomas, and Samuel More appear on the rateables list of 1666. Name, age, proximity, and presence in the land division establishes John as a likely son. The possibility that Thomas was a son who died childless, perhaps between the 1666 rateables (on which he does appear) and 1667 rateables (on which he does not appear), was investigated. What speaks against this is an item in the Newtown Town Minutes 1 April 1664 that "James Gidions and Thomas More shall be taken in and owened as inhabitance and shall have each of them a six accer lote."¹¹ This suggests an inde-

⁷ John Venn, *Alumni Cantabrigienses, a Biographical List of All Known Students, Graduates and Holders of Office at the University of Cambridge, from the Earliest Times to 1751*, 4 volumes (Cambridge: University Press, 1922-27), 3:206-6, or in Joseph Foster, *Alumni Oxonienses, The Members of the University of Oxford, 1500-1714* . . . , 4 volumes (Oxford: J. Parker & Co., 1888), 3:1023-24.

⁸ Council Minutes 9:618, calendared in O'Callaghan, *Dutch Historical Manuscripts* (note 5), 224.

⁹ *Ecclesiastical Records, State of New York* (note 6) 1:410-11. He was actively job-hunting. A letter to "Mr. Moore a minister in New England," confirming the negotiations that occurred in "Manadus" [Manhattan] between Moore and a ship's captain to secure his services, was recorded in the Lower Norfolk County, Virginia, court records on 17 November 1656 (*New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 47[1893]:354).

¹⁰ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (New York: Historical Records Survey, 1941), 1:139.

¹¹ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 10), 1:55.

pendent adult moving into the town from elsewhere. (Charles B. Moore equates him with Thomas Moore of Southold;¹² Effingham P. Humphrey, Jr., equates him with the Thomas Moore of Elizabeth Town, New Jersey.¹³)

The best estimate of birth order and birth year comes from looking at the life activities of each child in turn. The earliest records are the most useful.

- 27 March 1659. Gershom More witnessed a land transaction between Nathaniel and Joshua Hazard.¹⁴
- 9 March 1660/1. John More to contribute 4 guilders to the Medlbrough agreement about the killing of woules [wolves].¹⁵
- 1661. The Court of Sessions held 16 June 1675 heard a case between the inhabitants of Mashp: Kills and the inhabitants of Flattbush, in which Thomas Wandall deposed that about 14 years ago [i.e., about 1661], the plaintiffs hired and bought of the "Indyans" the land in question. Mr. Ger: Moore stated that he was "not at the laying the land out being then very young but that they have possest it quietly 12 or 14 years."¹⁶
- 18 September 1662. At a town meeting at Newtown it was voted that Gershom More and Sameuell More should each have six ackers of land next to John Reder.¹⁷
- 15 March 1664. Gershom More was chosen one of eight overseers for Newtown.¹⁸
- May 1664. Gershom Moore was admitted a freeman of Connecticut, to which Hastings, otherwise called Middleburg, on Long Island had declared allegiance. Samuel Moore was named as not subscribing to the document, written 4 February 1664.¹⁹
- About April 1665 a local militia was drawn up for newly renamed Newtown, with Gershom More as Ensign.²⁰
- 16 July 1665. John More bought from Catrina Bradish, both of Newtowne on Long Island, house, fencing, lots, and lands. Frances Doughty was a witness.²¹
- 4 December 1666. Gershom More, John More, Tho: More, and Sam More were on the town rate for Newtown.²²
- 4 January 1666/7. Francis Doughty, John Moore, and Richard Osborn were among the eleven landholders on the north side of Newtown who enclosed their cropland within a single fence.²³
- 27 "Januarie" 1667. Gershom More, Jo: More, and Sam: More. On 26 February 1667, the same names were among the seventy-nine names listed in the rate for the sessions house at Newtowne. On 26 February 1667/8. Gershom More and Jo: More were among the forty-one names on the rate for defraying town debts at Newtown.²⁴

- 24 December 1669. John More of Newtowne called Midleburow on Long Island sold to Joshua Hazard all his interest in half a lot containing about nine acres of land. Frances Doughty was a witness. John signed with a mark.²⁵
- September 1675. The Estate of Newtown includes Gershom More and Samuel More.²⁶
- 1678. Samuel More was on the list of estates of the "Inhabytance of Newtowne."²⁷
- 19 December 1678. Court of Sessions. Jeremiah Burroughs of Newtown requested "the Courts Judgment of his father John Burroughs Will, where hee is Left Exec. Sam: ~~Moore~~ produces the widdow Borroughs Will (his mother in Law) Referring it likewise to the Courts Judgment."²⁸
- 1683. Newtown's list includes Samuell More and Gershom More.²⁹
- 8 January 1686. Thomas Pettit "for and in behalfe of his sons in law John and Thomas Moore, here by mutual agreement exchanges with Jeremiah Burrough, both of us belonging to Newtown," two pieces of meadow land. On 26 March 1686, "Thomas Pettit and Hannah my wife, both of Newtown on Long Island . . . make over in the behalfe of my son John Moore, she being formerly the wife and relict of John Moore deceased."³⁰
- 25 November 1686. The Dongan Patent for Newtown lists Gershom Moore, Samuel Moore, and John Moore.³¹
- 1698. On the census of Newtown are Samuel Moore with a household of nine, Gersham Moore with a household of four, and Jonathan Moore with a household of five (the latter two adjacent).³²

John was the first to appear in the records and the first to own land, but his lack of public activity makes it difficult to determine his birth order. Gershom seems to have a more prominent role earlier than Samuel, suggesting that he was the elder of the two. It seems odd that Gershom was "very young" in 1661, yet was given land the next year and made an overseer and freeman two years later. Estimating at least twenty-one at first public act, then John was born by 1640, and Gershom and Samuel were born by 1641.

Published sources, which fail to analyze the chronology, credit Margaret Howell as the mother of all the children of John Moore, but we have found no primary records to support this, and, as shown above, he had at least three sons who were born by 1641. Margaret Howell was baptized, surely as an infant, 24 November 1622 in Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire. Margaret's father, Edward Howell, was in Boston by the spring of 1638/39, then briefly in Lynn before settling Southampton in 1640, when Margaret was about eighteen.³³ John Moore lived near the Howells in Southampton between 1641 and 1649. This Southampton residency, when Margaret was between nineteen and twenty-seven, is the most likely time for the marriage, as the traditional sources have acknowledged.

²⁵ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:164.

²⁶ E. B. O'Callaghan, *The Documentary History of the State of New York*, 4 volumes (Albany: Weed, Parsons, Public Printers, 1849), 2:465-67.

²⁷ Christoph and Christoph, *The Andros Papers* (note 16), 3:465.

²⁸ Christoph and Christoph, *The Andros Papers* (note 16), 3:49-50.

²⁹ O'Callaghan, *Documentary History of New York* (note 26), 2:512-15.

³⁰ Queens County Deeds 1:269, 439, abstracted in Lewis D. Cook, "Notes: Moore-Pettit, Newtown Long Island," *The American Genealogist* 13(1936):111-12.

³¹ Abstracts are in Jerrold Seymann, *Colonial Charters, Patents and Grants to the Communities Comprising the City of New York* (New York: Board of Statutory Consolidation of the City of New York, 1939), 559-67 and Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 19), 109-13.

³² Charles Carroll Gardner, "Census of Newtown, Long Island, August, 1698," *The American Genealogist* 24:134-35.

³³ Humphrey, "Descendants of Edward Howell," *The Genealogist* (note 13) 5:3-5, 36-38. There are full dates of baptism for the first six children of Edward Howell and Frances Paxton, the spacing of which shows that the children were baptized promptly as infants.

¹² Charles B. Moore, *Town of Southold, Long Island, Personal Index Prior to 1698, and Index of 1698* (New York: John Medole, 1868), 102. He adds that the wife of Thomas of Southold was by tradition — Mott of Mamaroneck, married about 1662. This tradition, if true, could certainly account for his presence in Newtown in 1663, Mamaroneck being only about a dozen miles by water from Newtown.

¹³ Effingham P. Humphrey, Jr., "Descendants of Edward Howell of Westbury Manor, Marsh Gibbon, Co. Buckingham and Southampton, Long Island, New York," *The Genealogist* 5(1983):3-63, at 38.

¹⁴ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:37.

¹⁵ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:41.

¹⁶ Peter R. Christoph and Florence A. Christoph, editors, *The Andros Papers Files of the Provincial Secretary of New York during the Administration of Governor Sir Edmund Andros 1674-1680*, 3 volumes (Syracuse: Syracuse University Press, 1989-91), 1:168.

¹⁷ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:50.

¹⁸ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:57; no indication if 1663/4 or 1664/5.

¹⁹ James Riker, Jr., *The Annals of Newtown in Queens County, New York . . .* (New York: D. Fanshaw, 1852), 60-62.

²⁰ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:viii.

²¹ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:84.

²² Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:79.

²³ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 19), 78.

²⁴ Town Minutes of Newtown (note 10), 1:96-97 (no indication if 1666/7 or 1667/8); 1:19-20 (no indication if 1666/7 or 1667/8); 1:99.

This also raises the question of whether Margaret was the mother of Elizabeth and Joseph. Joseph's late baptism suggests he was likely born at about the time of his father's death in 1657, possibly posthumously, explaining why he was not baptized at birth. Another possibly significant fact is that Joseph eventually moved to Southampton, home of Margaret's family, the Howells. Elizabeth married in 1671, so her birth is compatible with her being a daughter of Margaret. Also, Elizabeth apparently named a daughter Margaret, although this could have been for the stepmother who raised her.

The Genealogical Summary below assigns the children based on the records and analysis presented above, but the mother, birth order, and/or birth-year estimate may not be accurate for one or more of them. If this order is correct, then John Moore's first marriage was likely in England and his son John was likely born in England, since Gershom was often the name of the first son born in the colonies.³⁴ If John was instead born after Gershom, then it is possible that the marriage occurred in New England.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

JOHN¹ MOORE was born by say 1611 (estimating marriage at 25). He died in September 1657 (court case³⁵) or 13 October 1657 (letter). He married by say 1636 (estimated birth of child in 1637) the mother of his older children. He married second, probably at Southampton, probably between 1641 and 1649, MARGARET HOWELL, who was baptized 24 November 1622 at Marsh Gibbon, Buckinghamshire, the daughter of Edward Howell and Frances Paxton. She married second by 5 February 1658/9 Francis Doughty.³⁶ She died apparently between 1666[/7] when she was alluded to in a deposition³⁷ and October 1672 when Francis Doughty sold the house, lot, and orchard "which I now possess which was Given my prdesesor mr. John Moore."³⁸

Children of John Moore and probably his first wife:

- i. JOHN MOORE, born say 1637; died between 24 December 1669 (land sale) and 8 January 1686 (widow was remarried), probably closer to the former, given his absence from the town records; married by say 1666 (son age twenty-one in 1688) HANNAH —, who married second Thomas Pettit.
- ii. GERSHOM MOORE, born say 1639; married MARY —.³⁹ James Riker stated she was probably the widow of Jonathan Fish (died circa 1663).⁴⁰ Jonathan Fish, however, was baptized 16 February 1615/6, and Mary his wife was said to have been born 17 April 1616,⁴¹ so unless Jonathan Fish had a second marriage to a younger Mary, Riker's conjecture is most probably wrong.

- iii. SAMUEL MOORE, born say 1641; died 25 July 1717 (on that date Samuel Moore of Newtown dictated his will, naming wife Mary and many children and grandchildren, but died before signing it);⁴² married by 25 November 1678 MARY — (daughter Mary Moore and son-in-law Samuel Moore named in her mother's will⁴³).

Children of John Moore, wife uncertain:

- iv. unidentified child, died between father's death and 26 March 1688.
- v. possibly unidentified child ("seven or eight children"), died between father's death and 26 March 1688.

Children of John Moore and probably Margaret Howell:

- vi. ELIZABETH MOORE, born say 1647-54 (marriage at 18-25⁴⁴); died by 1680; married (1 January 1670[/1] license) WILLIAM OSBORNE.⁴⁵
- vii. unidentified child, died between father's death and 26 March 1688.
- viii. JOSEPH MOORE, born probably about 1657, baptized 1 June 1661 at the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam;⁴⁶ Joseph More, belonging to Southampton, gentleman, died between 24 December 1723 (codicil) and 30 May 1726 (probate), his will naming wife Sarah, four daughters (two unmarried), "daughter-in-law" Sarah Gilman, and three More grandsons;⁴⁷ married first SARAH HALSEY, probably the mother of his older children; Mr. Joseph Moore of Mecox married second 26 October 1704 at East Hampton RUTH (JAMES) HARRIS, widow of Thomas Harris,⁴⁸ before his death he married third SARAH (—) GILMAN, probably the mother of his younger children.⁴⁹

⁴² Will of Samuel Moore, abstracted in Amos Canfield, "Abstracts of Early Wills of Queens County, New York, Recorded in Libers A and C of Deeds, Now in the Registrar's Office, Jamaica, New York," RECORD 65(1934):323.

⁴³ Will of Elizabeth Burroughs, written 25 November 1678; the will of John Burroughs, written 7 July 1678, names a daughter Mary Burroughs, but Thomas Reed was living in the mid-1660s, so this Mary was the stepsister of Mary (Reed) Moore (*Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York*, 17 volumes, Collections of The New-York Historical Society for 1892-1908, 1:55-56; corrected at 16:6) if the identification of Mary as Mary Reed, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Pettit) (Reed) Burroughs is correct (Humphrey, "Descendants of Edward Howell," *The Genealogist* [note 13] 5:13, 47).

⁴⁴ Elizabeth may have been a few years younger than was usual at marriage. If her mother was deceased by 1671, leaving her in the care of her stepfather, both she and he may have, for differing reasons, felt an early marriage to be an attractive option.

⁴⁵ Peter R. Christoph and Florence A. Christoph, editors, *Books of General Entries of the Colony of New York, 1664-1673*, 2 volumes, in *New York Historical Manuscripts: English* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 1983), 1:397, 521; 2:208. This key piece of evidence was independently found, and its significance recognized, by the coauthors of the present article and by David L. Blackwell and Joseph R. Klett, the coauthors of a forthcoming article on Content Titus.

⁴⁶ *Records of the Reformed Dutch Church in New Amsterdam and New York: Baptisms from 25 December, 1639, to 27 December, 1730* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1901), 60-61. There were no sponsors for either baptism. Margaret was born in Newtown prior to 29 December 1660, the date on a "bell of debt doue from francis doughty unto mr thomas hunt," which included "Irim my wife exherising the ofis of a medwife to his wife 4 gld." (*Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown* [note 38], 23).

⁴⁷ *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York* (note 43), 2:363-64.

⁴⁸ "Marriages, Baptisms and Deaths in East Hampton, L. I., from 1696 to 1746. Recorded by Rev. Nathaniel Huntington," RECORD 24(1893):185; see also Gale Ion Harris, "Thomas Harris of East Hampton and Killingworth," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 128(1997):13-14.

⁴⁹ Jacob Lafayette Halsey and Edmund Francis Halsey, *Thomas Halsey of Hertfordshire, England, and Southampton, Long Island, 1591-1679* . . . (1895), 39, states that Sarah Halsey was born 29 October 1658, but gives only her husband's surname. See discussion about the two Sarahs in Humphrey, "Descendants of Edward Howell," *The Genealogist* (note 13) 5:14, 48-49.

Edward Howell

³⁴ Gershom was the first son of Moses, by Zipporah, born after he fled from Pharaoh into Midian: "and he called his name Gershom; for he said, 'I have been a sojourner in a foreign land.'" (Exodus 2:22).

³⁵ The details are in Rev. John Moore of Newtown (note 6), 33. The document is in the Council Minutes 8:727, calendared in Edmund B. O'Callaghan, *Calendar of Dutch Historical Manuscripts in the Office of the Secretary of State, Albany, New York, 1630-1664* (Albany: Weed, Parsons, Public Printers, 1865), 190-91.

³⁶ The details are in Rev. John Moore of Newtown (note 2), 33. The document is in the Council Minutes 8:727, calendared in O'Callaghan, *Dutch Historical Manuscripts* (note 5), 190-91.

³⁷ *Minutes of the Town Court of Newtown, 1656-1690* (New York: Historical Records Survey, 1940), 1:68.

³⁸ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 10), 2:308.

³⁹ *Town Minutes of Newtown* (note 10), 2:401-2.

⁴⁰ Riker, *Annals of Newtown* (note 19), 327-28.

⁴¹ Stuyvesant Fish, *Ancestors of Hamilton Fish and Julia Ursin Niemcewicz Kean, His Wife* (New York: The Evening Post Job Printing Office, 1929), 30-51.

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John Moore

7 or 8 children, at least 4

explicit

Eliz

Joseph

Gershom

Samuel

not Thomas

likely John

p. 261

order

John b by 1640

Gershom b by 1641

Samuel

Margaret Howell

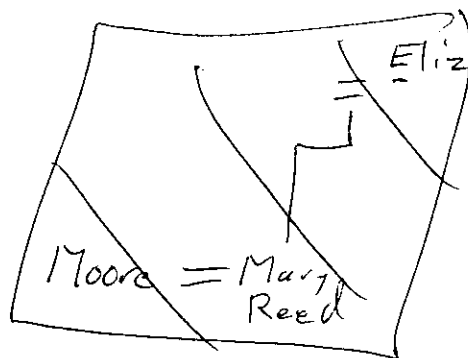
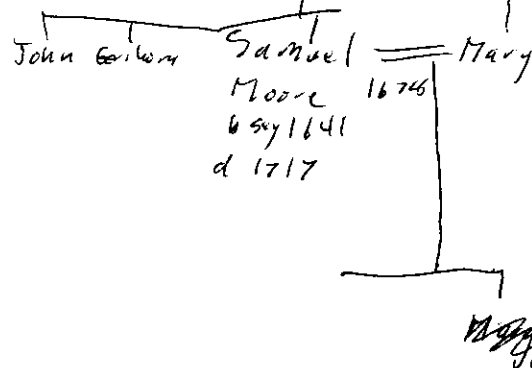
bapt. intent 24 Nov 1622

sc 18 in 1640 Southampton

John Moore at Southampton
1641-1649

John Moore = 1st w.f.

Eliz
Burroughs



Eliz Burroughs

will 1678

daughters Mary [Moore]

son-in-law Samuel Moore

Thomas Reed = Eliz Pettit

John Burroughs

will 1678

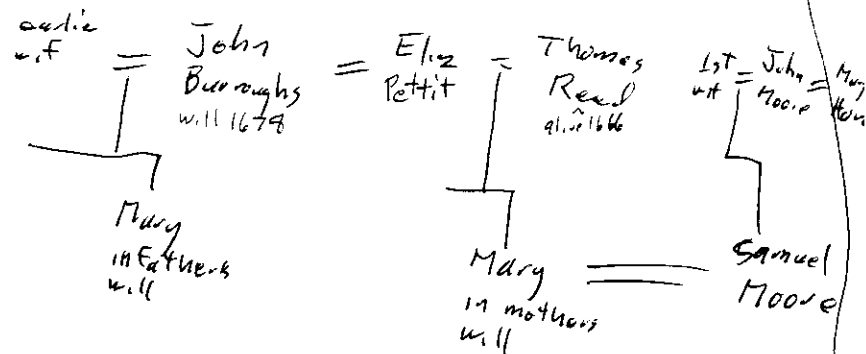
day Mary Burroughs ← step sister

Mary Reed m. Moore

1

Thomas Reed
alive in mid-1660s

JS Rostate: footnote 49:



Alice ²¹ William ^{1st} Elizabeth
Holm 1679/80 Osborne 1670 Morse

will 1682
2 Feb

Evcc

Gersham Morse
Samuel Morse
Daniel W. Tidland

William El. 2 Samuel Margaret
eldest

Newton Hempstead Hempstead
Flushing

p. 251

Francis = Margaret
= Doughtery Moxh 1661
Margaret
bap 7 Mar 1661
John
Moxh
bap 10 Apr 1661

rejoice R. ker
p. 253 Contest = Eliz
Titus Moore

p. 248

Hannah
Titus
will 1672

Contest = wife
T. Titus

p. 252

Contest
Titus
d. 1730 age 86

John
Gersham Samuel Joseph dau = Contest Titus John
d bet 1686 or

p. 248

John
Moxh d 1657
Widow = Rev Franny Doughty

William = El. 2
Osborne = Moxh
lic
Hempstead 1670

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John Moxh
d 3 Sept 1657

p. 253

William Osborne
d. 1683

p. 254

Margaret (Howell)
(Moxh) Doughty
d before Oct 1672