

Descendants of Thomas Mede

Working file of Mary Lou Cook, updated 10 Aug 2008

This is a work in progress and there are probably errors of fact or deduction, despite my attempt to be as accurate as possible. Please do your own research and do not copy my biographies into your own files. The writing and research in this file represents many hours of work, but I'm sharing it to help other genealogists just as many people have helped me. If you find mistakes, please let me know and provide a source for your correction. E-mail: collectornuts at aol.com

Generation No. 1

1. THOMAS¹ MEDE was born Abt. 1410 in England.

Notes for THOMAS MEDE:

"Thomas Mede, of St. Mary Redcliffe, was the sherriff of Bristol in 1446" (source Danny M. Chapman, who cites a brass rubbing in Ashmolean Museum, Oxford; inscription is Thomas Mede, Thrice Mayor). Chapman bases the connection between Thomas Mede of Wraxall, Somerset and Thomas in Clavering, Essex on circumstantial evidence.

Children of THOMAS MEDE are:

2.
 - i. THOMAS² MEDE, b. Abt. 1450, Somerset, England; d. 1504, Clavering, Essex, England.
 - ii. WILLIAM MEDE, b. Abt. 1452.

Generation No. 2

2. THOMAS² MEDE (*THOMAS¹*) was born Abt. 1450 in Somerset, England, and died 1504 in Clavering, Essex, England. He married JOHANN. She was born Abt. 1450.

Notes for THOMAS MEDE:

"Thomas Meade migrated from Somerset during the reign of Henry VI [before 1471] and settled in Clavering, Essex. He left a will dated 1504 in Prerogative Canterbury Court. In his will he names his brother William Mede, his wife Johanna, and his four sons Richard, Thomas, Robert and John. Thomas' descendants lived in Clavering, Elmdon, Berden, Great Easton, and Chrishall, which are all within about 10 miles of each other in northwest Essex. His descendant, William Mead, migrated to America in 1635. In 1780, William's descendant Enoch Mead built a house and named it Elmdon" (source: Danny Chapman). Chapman believes this line of Medes descended from Philip Mede, Esq (@1415 - 1475) Mayor of Bristol, and is said to have descended from the Mede family of Wraxall, Somerset. There is a Mede family tomb in St. Mary Redcliffe which is approx. 10 ft. high by 18 ft by 3 ft containing the effigies of Thomas, his wife, and Philip and his two wives.

Children of THOMAS MEDE and JOHANN are:

- i. ROBERT³ MEDE, b. Abt. 1480.
 - ii. RICHARD MEDE, b. Abt. 1485.
3.
 - iii. THOMAS MEDE, b. Abt. 1490, Clavering, Essex, England.
 - iv. JOHN MEDE, b. Abt. 1495.

Generation No. 3

3. THOMAS³ MEDE (*THOMAS², THOMAS¹*) was born Abt. 1490 in Clavering, Essex, England.

Children of THOMAS MEDE are:

4.
 - i. THOMAS⁴ MEADE, b. Abt. 1510, Great Easton or Clavering, Essex Co, England; d. May 20, 1585, Wendon Lofts, Essex Co, England.
 - ii. AGNES MEADE, b. 1515.

Generation No. 4

4. THOMAS⁴ MEADE (*THOMAS³ MEDE, THOMAS², THOMAS¹*) was born Abt. 1510 in Great Easton or Clavering, Essex Co, England, and died May 20, 1585 in Wendon Lofts, Essex Co, England. He married JOHANNA. She was born Abt. 1490.

Notes for THOMAS MEADE:

"The Mead Family was an ancient and honorable English family. Tradition has it that one of their ancestors had been a friend and physician of Queen Elizabeth and lived at the Court in Greenwich, England" (source: The Connecticut Society of the Sons of the American Revolution).

Children of THOMAS MEADE and JOHANNA are:

5.
 - i. SIR RICHARD⁵ MEADE, b. Abt. 1512, England; d. Abt. 1559, Watford, Hertfordshire, England, buried in Watford.
 - ii. THOMAS MEADE, b. Abt. 1534.
 - iii. MARTHA MEADE, b. 1564.
 - iv. JOHN MEADE, b. 1570.
 - v. AGNES MEADE, b. 1574.
 - vi. EDWARD MEADE, b. 1576.
 - vii. MARY MEADE, b. 1577.

Generation No. 5

5. SIR RICHARD⁵ MEADE (*THOMAS⁴, THOMAS³ MEDE, THOMAS², THOMAS¹*) was born Abt. 1512 in England, and died Abt. 1559 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, buried in Watford. He married MARGARET GOULDHURST Abt. 1540. She was born Abt. 1515, and died Aft. 1560.

More About SIR RICHARD MEADE:

Will: October 29, 1559, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

Will Recorded: October 25, 1560, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

Children of RICHARD MEADE and MARGARET GOULDHURST are:

6.
 - i. WILLIAM⁶ MEADE, b. Abt. 1546, Watford, Hertfordshire, England; d. September 28, 1592, Watford, Hertfordshire, England.
7.
 - ii. PRICILLA MEAD, b. 1548, Watford, Hertfordshire, England; d. 1606, Watford, Hertfordshire, England.
 - iii. ROGER MEADE, b. 1552.
 - iv. RICHARD MEADE, b. 1554.
 - v. MARTHA MEADE, b. Abt. 1557.
 - vi. JOHN MEADE, b. Abt. 1558.
 - vii. AGNES MEADE, b. Abt. 1564.
 - viii. MARY MEADE, b. Abt. 1568.

Generation No. 6

6. WILLIAM⁶ MEADE (*RICHARD⁵, THOMAS⁴, THOMAS³ MEDE, THOMAS², THOMAS¹*)¹ was born Abt. 1546 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, and died September 28, 1592 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England. He married CICELY TOMSON October 07, 1582 in Watford, England. She was born Abt. 1550 in England, and died Aft. 1592.

Notes for WILLIAM MEADE:

Richard was named in his father's will and received land in Great Chishall, between Elmdon and Orwell (source: Danny Chapman). In the 1592 inventory of his goods, he is called "mealman."

More About WILLIAM MEADE:

Baptised: January 12, 1545/46, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

Burial: September 29, 1592, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

Occupation: Mealeman

Children of WILLIAM MEADE and CICELY TOMSON are:

- i. AMBROSE⁷ MEAD, b. 1583.
- ii. WILLIAM MEAD, b. 1585.
- iii. JOHN MEAD, b. 1587.
- iv. FRANCIS MEAD, b. 1588.
- v. THOMAS MEAD, b. 1590.

7. PRICILLA⁶ MEAD (*RICHARD⁵ MEADE, THOMAS⁴, THOMAS³ MEDE, THOMAS², THOMAS¹*)² was born 1548 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England, and died 1606 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England. He married DOROTHY GREY October 11, 1579 in Watford, England. She was born Abt. 1550.

Notes for PRICILLA MEAD:

His name is spelled Prysly in his will. He was buried on August 08, 1606 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England.

Children of PRICILLA MEAD and DOROTHY GREY are:

- i. SARAH⁷ MEAD, b. 1581.
- ii. RICHARD MEAD, b. 1583.
- iii. ROSE MEAD, b. 1585.
- iv. SUSAN MEAD, b. 1588.
- v. JOHN MEAD, b. 1591; m. MARTHA LOCKEY, September 28, 1615, Watford, England; b. Abt. 1590.

More About MARTHA LOCKEY:

Burial: January 03, 1633/34, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

8. vi. WILLIAM MEAD, b. Abt. 1592, Watford, Hertfordshire, England; d. 1663, Stamford, CT [now Fairfield Co].
- vii. PRICILLA MEAD, b. 1594.
- viii. REBECCA MEAD, b. 1596.

Generation No. 7

8. WILLIAM⁷ MEAD (*PRICILLA⁶, RICHARD⁵ MEADE, THOMAS⁴, THOMAS³ MEDE, THOMAS², THOMAS¹*)³ was born Abt. 1592 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England⁴, and died 1663 in Stamford, CT [now Fairfield Co]⁵. He married PHILIP⁶ Abt. 1620 in England. She was born Abt. 1600, and died September 19, 1657 in Stamford, CT.

Notes for WILLIAM MEAD:

The name Mead is an English translation of the Norman name "de Prato" which means "of the meadow." William is the founder of the Connecticut Mead family, having arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1635. In 1641, William moved to Stamford, CT and on 7 Dec 1641, he received a homelot and 5 acres of land from the town of Stamford (Stamford Town Records). William Mead was one of the 42 original proprietors of Stamford, CT. Spencer Mead has his death in 1663. Note that Fairfield Co. was created in 1666.

More About WILLIAM MEAD:

Baptised: December 27, 1592, Watford, Hertfordshire, England

Land Grant: December 07, 1641, 5 acres with woodland in Stamford, CT

Children of WILLIAM MEAD and PHILIP are:

- i. MARY⁸ MEAD, b. March 17, 1620/21; d. 1626, England and buried in Watford, Hertfordshire, England on November 21, 1626.
- ii. JOSEPH MEAD, b. 1624, Greenwich, Kent Co, England; d. May 03, 1690, Greenwich, Fairfield Co, CT; m. MARY BROWN, December 04, 1654, Stamford, Fairfield, CT⁷; b. Abt. 1634, Stamford, Fairfield, Ct.; d. May 06, 1708, Greenwich, Fairfield Co, CT.

Notes for JOSEPH MEAD:

Joseph was baptized on April 25, 1624 in Watford, Hertfordshire, England. In 1658, he was Assistant Justice of Hempstead, Long Island, NY. He was on a list of public debts for the town of Hempstead in 1659. It seems he took a voyage from Stamford to Fairfield, CT in order to procure the services of a minister, and he carried letters from Hempstead to Rev. Mr. Wakeman. Joseph was a Representative from CT in the Colonial Assembly from 1669-1671. He was one of the original patentees in Greenwich, Ct and was the first lawyer who was a resident of the Town of Greenwich. Joseph and his wife were the ancestors of the Mead family of Norwalk, Ridgefield, and north Fairfield Co, CT. On December 30, 1670 he was granted part of the lowermost meadows lying south of the Westchester path.

- iii. JOHN MEAD, b. Abt. 1628, Watford, Hertfordshire, England; d. February 05, 1698/99, Greenwich, Fairfield Co, CT; m. HANNAH POTTER, July 10, 1657, Stamford, Fairfield, CT; b. August 09, 1636, Prob. England; d. November 13, 1700, Greenwich, Fairfield Co, CT.

Notes for JOHN MEAD:

Much of the information in this file is from: Mead, Spencer P., LL.B., History and Genealogy of the Mead Family, (New York: The Knickerbocker Press, 1901).

John Mead is known as the founder of the Greenwich, CT Mead family. Old Greenwich was originally settled in 1640 after the land was purchased from Indians by agents of the New Haven Colony. In 1656, Greenwich became part of Stamford. In 1658, John went with his brother Joseph to Hempstead, LI (source: Lee Meade), but returned to Greenwich, CT in 1660. Lee Meade believes he had two children while in Hempstead. John moved from Long Island to Greenwich (Horse-Neck) in 1660, and purchased land from Richard Crab (Deed is dated 26 Oct 1660). He was made a freeman in 1670.

From Lee Meade's Newsletter (Vol. 1, No. 4, December 1997) "John had visited land just west of Stamford along the Connecticut coast on the Long Island Sound. It was called Hogsneck, but it was to become the City of Greenwich. On Oct. 26, 1660, John purchased "all the lands and housing" in Greenwich previously belonging to Richard Crabb. In turn, he and six others, known as "The Seven Proprietors," made a request of the General Assembly on Feb. 5, 1664, to separate Greenwich from Stamford, to permit Greenwich to support its own minister and lay out its own lands. It is believed to have been the first recorded Town Meeting for Greenwich. The seven were John Mead, Jonathan Renalds, John Hobby, Joseph Ferris, Joshua Knapp, Angell Husted and Jeffrey Ferris. One of the early rules for the community was that 'none shall be admitted as an inhabitant of Greenwich without a certificate testifying to an orderly life, and he must be approved by the minister.' It was enacted on Dec. 1, 1665."

A land grant was given to John on December 30, 1670, described as part of the lowermost meadows lying south of the Westchester Path. He bought more land December 21, 1661 in Greenwich, CT from Thomas Studwell. John was a Representative in the Connecticut General Assembly, and is known as one of the original Seven Proprietors who, on 5 Feb 1664, "made a formal request to the General Assembly in Hartford to be allowed to separate from Stamford and to support its own minister and lay out its own lands." The General Assembly declared Greenwich a separate township on 11 May 1665 and authorized funds to hire an orthodox minister. In 1672, the so-called "27 Proprietors" (including John Mead) bought land from the Indians and it was laid out for home lots and granted to the 27 men (Mead, 1911). "John Mead was a prosperous and self-possessed man with a strong character" (Collins, 1999, p. 58).

(Vance Mead has his dates as 1628-1699) He had two wills. In the first will, dated March 16, 1694/95, he mentioned only his sons and bequeathed land to each one; in the second he bequeathed money to his children and grandson, John (Fairfield Probate Records, Vol 1, p. 196).

Notes for HANNAH POTTER:

Hannah was either the daughter or stepdaughter of William Potter of Stamford.

- iv. MARTHA MEAD, b. November 08, 1632; d. Bef. November 20, 1695, Westchester Co, NY; m. (1) JOHN RICHARDSON, Bef. January 1653/54; b. Abt. 1630; d. Abt. 1697; m. (2) THOMAS WILLIAMS, Abt. 1683; b. Abt. 1630.

More About JOHN RICHARDSON:
Will: November 16, 1679

Endnotes

1. Wentley, Mark, *Legends: Mark's Complete Ancestry on the Web*, "Electronic."
2. Remington, Gordon L., "The English Origin of William Mead of Stamford, Connecticut," *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 1998: 1-10.
3. Mead, Spencer P., LL.B., *Ye Historie of Ye Town of Greenwich, County of Fairfield and state of Connecticut*, (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992, originally published in 1911), Spencer P. Mead.
4. R. Thomas Collins, Jr., *One Life at a Time*, (Fairfax Co, VA: Ravensyard Publishing, Lt., 1999).
5. Ellis, Ruby H., Neel, Anna P., & Brizendine, Linda M. (Compilers), *Lineage Book, Daughters of the American Colonists*, (Vol. I - III, Washington, D.C. 1931).
6. Remington, Gordon L., "The English Origin of William Mead of Stamford, Connecticut," *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 73, No. 1, January 1998.
7. Torrey, Clarence A., *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, (Baltimore, Genealogical Publishing Co. 1985), p. 501.