Leonard Weeks (1633-1707): A biographical & genealogical sketch

This sketch is based on the findings of Janet Ireland Delorey in her article published in the New Hampshire Genealogical Record (“New Thoughts on the Family of Leonard Weeks,” (with Melinde Lutz Sanborn, FASG) Vol. 19, No. 2&3, April & August 2002; and “Which Mary is the Wife of Leonard Weeks of Greenland, N.H.?” Vol. 15, No. 4, October 1998), and on the research of Dr. Neill DePaoli in Three-and-One-Half Centuries in Greenland: The Weeks Brick House Farm in Greenland, N.H.

Leonard Weeks was born in England about 1633, a date based on four depositions to New Hampshire courts between 1672 and 1705. The place of his birth is unconfirmed, and his parents are unknown.

Evidence indicates he was an unmarried teenage servant or hired man of a shipmaster, Capt. Francis Champernowne (1614-1687), and probably arrived in the coastal New Hampshire/Maine region in the late 1640s, but no later than 1655. Leonard Weeks first lived and worked on Capt. Champernowne’s farm, which was located on what is now the grounds of the Portsmouth (N.H.) Country Club.

In 1656 Leonard Weeks received a land grant of eight acres, the first of several grants between 1656 and 1667, in what is now Greenland, N.H., indicating he was no longer a bound servant or employee.

Evidence suggests that Leonard Weeks married first in the 1660s to (unknown first name) Haines, a daughter of his neighbor, Samuel Haines, but she died childless before 1667. Leonard Weeks married, second, Mary Redman (b. 1649, d. betw. 1679-1684) about 1667, with whom he had eight children born in Greenland, N.H.: John (1668-1711), Samuel (1670-1746), Joseph (1671-1735), Joshua (1674-1758), Mary (1676-1748). Margaret (1679-1761), Jonathan (1684-1748), and Sarah (betw. 1685-1688, d. 1755). Evidence indicates Leonard Weeks was a widower by 1694. Sometime between 1694 and 1706, Leonard married, third, Elizabeth (unknown surname).

In 1660 and 1667 Leonard Weeks received four additional grants of between 10 and 44 acres. The location and appearance of his dwelling house are unknown. (At right is a view from the back of the present house toward the far north corner of the open field.) What is known is that the farmstead was at the center of 17th-century activity in Greenland, between the “highway” (now Rte. 33) and the Winnicut River. The Town Landing on the Winnicut, which provided access to Great Bay, the Piscataqua River, and the world beyond, was at the foot of the present Tide Mill Road that borders the Weeks property. The farmstead was known to have at least two barns and one other outbuilding in addition to a house. Grazing land, crop land, salt marsh, and wood lots were located on both sides of present-day Rte. 33. Through the years Leonard Weeks served as surveyor of highways, constable, assessor, and fence-viewer. At the Portsmouth Congregational Church, he was assigned front-row pew #4.

He also appears numerous times in early New Hampshire court records, mostly giving depositions on routine matters. However, in June 1660 at the county court in Portsmouth, Leonard Weeks was charged with “Swareing by god & Calling John Hall of Greenland ould dogg & ould Slave & [saying] that he would knocke him in the head: this is testifie[d] by Thomas Peverly & Joseph Atkinson.” Leonard pleaded guilty and was sentenced to pay ten shillings, “& to have an admonition for his reviling & thretning speechee.” Weeks was tried before a jury that included his neighbor, Samuel Haines.

In 1706 Leonard Weeks willed his 60-acre farm to his second son, Samuel Weeks. Leonard Weeks died in 1707, and most likely is buried in the early settler burying ground at a corner of the farmstead far back in the woods, overlooking the Winnicut River.

Family Group – Leonard Weeks

Leonard Weeks was born in England (location unknown) about 1633. His parents are unknown. He died at Greenland, N.H. (then part of Portsmouth, N.H.) betw. 15 May 1706 and 7 July 1707.

Leonard married 1st at Greenland, N.H. about 1657 Elizabeth Haines. She was born about 1637, daughter of Samuel Haines and Eleanor (Neate) Haines. She died at Greenland, N.H. bef. 1667. (No children)

Leonard married 2nd at Greenland, N.H. about 1667 Mary Redman. She was born at Hampton, N.H. 15 Dec. 1649, daughter of John Redman (Knight) Redman. She died at Greenland, N.H. bef. 13 Mar 1693/4. (8 children)


The children of Leonard and Mary (Redman) Weeks:

i. JOHN WEEKS, b. Greenland, N.H., 14 June 1668; d. Groton, Conn. betw. Feb. 1711-12; m. Groton, Conn. betw. 1691-1693 ELIZABETH (PACKER) STARK (?-?). (3 or more children)


vii. JONATHON WEEKS, b. Greenland, N.H., about 1684; d. 27 June 1748; m. (location) before 1712 ELIZABETH CATR (about 1685-?). (No children)
