

Christopher Youmans (Yeamans/Yeomans):

First Generation:

Christopher¹ YEAMANS was born in England circa 1638. He died about 1720 in Long Island, New York Province as far as is known and his body was interred in Rye, Westchester, New York Province.

Christopher Yeamans left England about 20 years of age and in America Christopher and was employed by Sergeant Jeffreys in New Haven, Connecticut, about Nov 1656 as a PRIVATE.

Greener states "Christopher Yeomans was evidently born in England (probably in Essex or Middlesex) before 1638 for there is a record in 1659 that he had sold land in Hempstead, L.I. It is not known whether he came direct to Long Island from England or whether, like many others, he landed in Connecticut and then crossed the Sound to Queens County, Long Island (then known as 'Nassau Island').

"Hempstead, L.I. was purchased from the Indians in 1643 by John Carman and Rev. Robert Fordham, acting for their associates at Stamford, Connecticut. On Nov. 16, 1644 they procured a patent from William Kieft, the Dutch Governor of the New Netherlands. The first settlement was made in 1644 by between thirty and forty English families from Stamford and Wethersfield, Connecticut. They were joined by other English settlers from the inland including Capt. John Seaman who had secured title to a tract comprising more than twelve thousand acres, which in 1685, under the Dongan patent became part of the town of Hempstead.

"All the surrounding towns had been settled by the Dutch, but the English settlement at Hempstead was allowed considerable liberty in management of its own affairs.

"In 1647 the first recorded division of lands was made among the sixty-two freeholders.

"The minutes of the towns of Hempstead and North Hempstead since the year 1654 are preserved and they were printed in 1896 by order of the Town Board of North Hempstead, L.I. In those records we find the following references to Christopher Yeomans: Vol. 1, p. 117 - On Oct. 19, 1659 there is a record of the sale of fifty acres of land by Christopher Yeomans to Will Smith. Vol. 1, p. 154 - On March 22, 1664 an agreement was made between the townsmen and Christopher Yeomans for the keeping of the "East herd" of cattle for the ensuing year. Vol. 1, p. 201 - On June 18, 1666 a similar agreement was made with

Abraham Smith on the same terms as with Christopher Yeomans. Vol. 1, p. 221 - On Dec. 6, 1669 there is a deed from 'William Theckston' to 'Christoffer Yeomans' of a lot of land on Maddan's Neck, 'being number 43 as laid out at first'. Vol. 1, p. 241 - On the same date (Dec. 6, 1669) there is recorded a deed from 'Heneri Desboro' to 'Christofer Yeamans' of one-fourth of a lot of land at Madnan's Neck 'which was laid out to Mr. Seaman at the first' numbered 42 and containing 170 acres, and adjoining the lot of 'Christofer Yeamans'. Vol. 1, p. 239 - There is a record of a deed dated Oct. 16, 1559 from 'Hereri Desberow' to 'Cornelius Mot' of 20 acres of land with a new dwelling house and tobacco house thereon, adjoining the land sold to 'Christopher Youmans'. Vol. 1, p. 323 - At a town meeting held, April 1, 1679 'The Cow Meadow at near Rockaway' was leased to 'Chrisofir Yeamans'. Vol. 1, p. 369 - There is a note that on May 8, 1665 'Chistyfor Youmans beegeun too Coepe Cooues'. Vol. 1, p. 375 - Deed from Joseph Sutton to 'Christofer Yeamans' a lot of land on Madnan's Neck containing 15 acres begin part of number 44. Vol. 1, p. 460 - 'Christopher Yeamans' is mentioned in the will of Roger Pedly. Vol. 1, p. 479 - On Oct. 6, 1681 the name of 'Christopher Yeamans' appears on a petition for a piece of Commons.

"In the 'Annals of Hempstead' by Onderdonk, page 26, there is a record that on April 5, 1671, Christopher Yeomans brought suit against John Curtis; on page 30 there is mentioned a suit which he brought against Michael Clark on Feb. 2, 1676; on page 34 there are records of two suits, one brought against him by Elias Bailey on July 5, 1682 and the other on action, on the same date, of Ardway vs. ` Mott, in which the witnesses where Christopher Yeomans and Hannah, his wife; at page 54 there is a reference to a petition from him and other settlers at Madnan's Neck for the holding of religious services in that place - this was in January 1687; at page 56 there is given an assessment list dated Oct. 11, 1683 in which he was taxed on 15 acres of land, 2 oxen, 5 cows, 5 hogs and 2 horses.

"In 'Queens County in Olden Times' by the same author at page 10 there is given a record, copied from Vol. 20 of the Assizes, of a trial of Nathaniel Pearsall, Clerk of the town of Hempstead and Thomas Rushmore for riot trespass etc.: the trial was held on Oct. 3, 1676 and the following is an extract from the testimony:

'Christopher Yeomans being sworn says he was stripping off some tobacco in his house at Great Neck and heard men and Lieut. Mott come up, he asked him if he would go with him and borrowed his canoe. So they got in and rowed over to Cow Neck where he saw Richard Cornell and near twenty Hempstead men among who was the prisoner at the bar, Thomas Rushmore who (Mr. Cornell saith) was the first who laid hold of and struck at the building which they quietly pulled down.

Mr. Cornell first spoke to Yeomans, but he replied, 'I am none of them', Then Cornell said, 'Bear witness what ye see done.'

"In Thompson's 'History of Long Island' (Vol. II, page 18) there is printed an assessment list of the Town of Hempstead in the year 1685 from which it appears that 'Christopher Yeomans' was one of the 160 taxable persons in the town, and that he was taxed on 150 acres of property.

"In the office of the Clerk of Queens Co. New York Province, there is a quaint instrument on file in Liber C, Folio 230. It's wording suggests either a deed or a will. It is dated April 7, 1711, executed Jan. 23, 1717-8. It grants to his son Solomon one-half of the land upon which he lives at Madnan's Neck, with his dwelling house and half of the orchard which Solomon is to have after his decease. He evidently divided his property equally between his two sons Solomon and William."

"Christopher Yeomans, his children and some of his grandchildren left Hempstead about 1719; as will be seen later they evidently sold all their lands there before that date.

"At some time before 1720 they crossed Long Island Sound and settled in 'The White Plains' in the old town of Rye, New York Province (White Plains did not become a separate town until 1788).

"In Scharf's 'History of Westchester County' (Vol. 1, page 720, and Vol. II, page 661) there is printed a map of 'The White Plains' in Rye, New York, made in 1721, showing the sixteen houses comprising the settlement, one of which was the home of CHRISTOPHER YEOMANS (See also 'Baird's Rye' page 499). The situation of the house is thus described by Schard (Vol. 1, page 722) - 'On the north side of the road crossing the Bronx River, near Mr. Champanois' residence, was the home of CHRISTOPHER YEOMANS.' Christopher at that time must have been over eighty-five years of age."

Grant S. Youmans wrote: "Christopher Yeamans, Immigrant, was born about 1638, in England.

"When about twenty years of age, Christopher Yeamans emigrated from abroad. He lived for a time in New Haven, Connecticut. He was employed there by Sergeant Jefferies, before and after 10 Nov. 1656.

"This record, therefore, shows that Christopher first lived, as stated, in New England before crossing the Sound to Queens County, Long Island, then known as Nassau Island, New York Province, where he established a permanent residence in New York Province.

"Having been made a beneficiary under the terms of his brother's English will, and the fact that his brother, William Yeamans, had been living in England at the time of William's death, indicates England strongly as the former boyhood residence of Christopher Yeamans.

Extract of the will is shown:

'William Yeamans of St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, yeoman, 24 Feb. 1656; proved 7 May 1687. I give and bequeath to my brother, Christopher Yeamans of Madnan's Neck in Queens County on Long Island, in the Province of New York in America, yeoman, the sum of five shillings. And whereas there is the sum of one hundred and twelve pounds, fifteen shillings and six pence, silver money of New York aforesaid, due and owing unto me from my said brother, upon bond, as also the sum of three pounds, with the increase thereof, for goods lately sent to him, I do hereby order and appoint that if he my said brother, his executors or assigns, do and shall pay unto my executrix, the said sum of one hundred and twelve pounds, fifteen shillings and six pence, and do also account unteer for the said sum of three pounds &c., then I do give and bequeath unto my said brother, twenty pounds like silver money of New York, to be equally divided between such of my said brother's children as shall then be living.

'I give and bequeath unto my sister, Anne Bakewell, widow, twelve pence; until William Gooden ten shillings to buy him a ring. All the rest of my goods etc., to my wife Elizabeth Yeamans, who I appoint sole executrix. Signed: William Yeamans Witnesses: Robert Crispe, Ric. dibbon, Sir John Turner.'

"The following brief extract may be a clue to the family and former home in England of Christopher Yeamans: The will of Thomas Crane, Gentleman of Kelvedon, Essex, dated 11 Nov. 1653, proved 6 Mar. 1654, mentioned 'certain messages in Colchester which I purchased of Christopher Yeoman and John Yeoman, his son.

He moved to Hempstead, Long Island, New York Province, sometime prior to 19 Oct 1659, when there is a record of sale of fifty acres of land by Christopher to Will Smith. In 1685.

On 14 Nov 1661, Christopher signed with his mark as a witness to a deed. "Payment for services Rendered".

On 22 Mar 1664, Christopher was chosen by the townsmen of Hempstead to oversee and take care of the cattle owned by said townsmen for which he was to be paid, 'forten shillings a week during the time he keeps the said herd in pay as followeth, for every cow or heifer that giveth milk to the pail or that suckeleth a calf, one pound of butter at six pence and the rest of his pay as followeth; one-third in wheat at five shillings the bushel, one-third Indian corn at three shillings the bushel, one-third oats at two shillings, six pence the bushel'.

On 8 May 1665, Christopher began keeping his own cows.

On 6 Dec 1669, William Theetson sold to Christopher a lot of land at Madman's Neck of forty-three acres. Noted at the same time he purchased, from Henry Desebro forty-four acres.

“Christopher Sues”

On 5 Apr 1671, Christopher sues John Curtis for debts of four pounds, five shillings. The court decides in Christopher's favor.....

From the Annals of Hemstead-- 1671, April 5.-Christopher Yeomans enters a complaint against John Curtis for debt and damage, the debt being Â£4.5 in corn, and pleads great damage for non-payment. The Court having considered the matter, order Curtis to pay the remaining part of his first payment within five days, in any place within this town.

In 1673, Christopher is named among the inhabitants of Hempstead.

At a trial held on 3 Oct 1676, Christopher testified that he saw a group of nearly twenty men pull down a building.

From the Annals of Hemstead--1676-- Feb. 2-Christopher Yeomans declares that Michael Clark owes him upon a account Â£2.10. Referred till next Court.-B., 295.

On 01 Jul 1678, Joseph Sutton sold forty four acres at Madman's Neck to Christopher.

At a court action on 5 Jul 1682, Christopher and his wife were witnesses.

In 1685, Christopher was among 160 taxable persons in the town of Hempstead. He was taxed on 150 acres of property.

In Jan 1687, "the Governor orders Hempstead to have the people of Madman's Neck at their town meetings, to allow them the liberty of commonage for horses and cattle, and that the minister should go over sometimes amongst them, to preach and instruct them and their children in the duties of Christianity. Hempstead had rated Madman's Neck to bear part of the charge of building a

town house and meeting house; and now, Christopher Yeamans, in behalf of said Neck, says that as they were too distant from Hempstead to attend worship there, they had built a house to entertain said minister to preach in, who in three years came but once. Therefore he prays the Governor that Hempstead may bear part of the charge of this new church on the Neck. And that they be not obliged to allow the minister anything for the time past. Had he come over once a month they would have freely contributed. The names of those that paid the patten with the number of acres: Christopher Youmans, £1.3s".

On 30 Jul 1693, Christopher sold and deeded fifty acres of land to William Smith.

In a combined deed and will dated 7 Apr 1711, Christopher names his son, Solomon, as grantee and beneficiary to his lands and house at Madman's Neck.

About 1719, Christopher, his children and his some of his grandchildren removed from Hempstead and settled in the "White Plains" in the old town of Rye, Westchester County, New York Province. He lived "just above the road leading over the Bronx into Philipsburg."

Christopher Youmans/Yeamans, who was born about 1638, married Hannah ___Unknown about 1662, Hannah was born between 1636 and 1638 in St. Giles in the Fields, Middlesex, England and she died in Rye, White Plains, Westchester Co., New York Province. This place is a possibility, not a fact.

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About 1719, Christopher, his children and some of his grandchildren removed from Hempstead and settled on the "White Plains" in the old town of Rye, Westchester County, New York Province.

Christopher died after 1721 at the age of 83 in Rye, Westchester Co., New York Province. He was buried in Rye, Westchester Co., New York Province.

Solomon being the 3rd son and the one who was named in his will is the ancestor of us all in our Youmans line.

2sd Generation:

Solomon was the third son of Christopher & Hannah and was born circa 1667 in Cow Neck, Hempstead, Queens Co., New York Province and died circa 1720 in

White Plains, Westchester Co., New York Province. Solomon married Susannah Ferguson about 1690 in White Plains, Westchester Co., New York Province.

Their children are Hannah, Samuel, Eleazer, Mary, Solomon, Nathaniel, and Moses all born in Cow Neck, Hempstead, Queens Co., New York Province.

Little else is known about Solomon except that he was the father of the first Eleazer of our Youmans line in America.

3rd Generation:

Eleazer Yeoman was born April in 1702 in Queens County, New York Province. He was the 2nd son of Solomon Yeoman. There is some dispute of who Eleazer married, one source says that he married a Maritie Mary Aertse (record #74) at Old Dutch Church Sleepy Hollow Tarrytown, Westchester County New York Province. Ancestry.com lists a Mary Hunt. Their children were Arthur, Abraham, Oliver, Solomon, Eleazer, Gilbert, Moses and Stephen all born in White Plains, Westchester Co., New York Province.

During the Revolution Eleazer was appointed to take charge of all persons of being disloyal and of those arrested or paroled.