



RFA Dispatch

Reynolds Family Association

1892 - 2023

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January – March, 2023

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Tommy Joe Reynolds

Greetings, Reynolds cousins!

President Tommy Reynolds asked me to apologize to you for not being able to post an article this quarter. He is extremely busy at work, but did want me to let you know that he has uploaded the last reunion videos to YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoprnxKb8ofnrAPtf8OIYyw>

Joe Reynolds



3598 Dr. Roger Smith	January 9
3266 Helen Charlene Johnson Scott	January 12
3603 Jessica Smith	January 13
3455 Marchy January Sewill	January 15
3554 Kimberly Spaulding	January 27
3321 Patricia Rae Van Thomme	February 2
3281 Phyllis Lynne Reynolds Shultz	February 18
3338 Kandice Sherilyn Wallace	February 25
3145 Marchcella Jean Reynolds Rose	March 2
2122 Dorothy Welch Smith	March 2
3395 Debora Walton	March 4
3386 Doris Lucille Evans Wright	March 15
3538 Kim Yarbrough	March 16
3328 Colette H. Taylor	March 19
3532 Joan Elizabeth Van Velsor	March 21

WELCOME NEW AND RETURNING MEMBERS!

3636 - David Steven Reynolds
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3637 - Jennifer Kay Ellison (Edler)
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3638 - Douglas William Reynolds
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bigstymie@comcast.net



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

If you celebrated a birthday this quarter and it was not listed, we do not have it. Please send your birth date to Joe Reynolds at Joe.Reynolds@ReynoldsFamily.org!

We would like to wish Happy Birthday to



STONEWALLS

"Stonewalls" are stubborn Reynolds ancestors of members who refuse to be found or connected with a progenitor. This was an old section of "Reynolds Recollections" that I would like to see revived! We will continue these stonewalls in future issues. Send you Stonewalls to Larry "Joe" Reynolds at Joe.Reynolds@ReynoldsFamily.org. Please send help if you can, including source of information when possible. Responses will be published as received.



WANTED

REYNOLDS MALE FOR YDNA TEST

Some Reynolds history hunters are looking for other collaborator-cousins to share traditional research and test YDNA hypotheses. One Reynolds ancestor that remains a bit of a mystery is the **William Reynolds** that married **Martha Cole** in **Culpeper Co., VA**, and left a will naming over a dozen children in **Pittsylvania Co., VA**, in 1791. While strong evidence exists connecting William as the son of **John Reynolds**—whose will was proven in Culpeper Co. in Aug 1784—we'd like to uncover the YDNA signature of this group of Reynoldses to aid further research. If you are connected to this Reynolds line, please be in touch with tommyjoereynolds@gmail.com.



LINE 11

JOHN REYNOLDS OF WEYMOUTH, MA AND STONINGTON, CT.

by Mrs. Mary Reynolds Fosdick, founder of the RFA
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(Continued from previous Edition)

All the three children of John Reynolds removed early from Stonington. Thomas, the eldest married the daughter of Joseph Clarke of Newport, one of the patentees of the Rhode Island Charter of 1663, and settled on the Rhode Island side of the Pawcatuck in Westerly. The daughter, Hannah, settled also in Westerly, while John the youngest, not many years after his father's death removed to Preston, the town next north of Stonington. The name appears once more in Stonington records when Ebenezer, grandson of John Jr., became owner of a farm lying partly in Preston and partly in North Stonington. John Reynolds' descendants intermarried with those of some of the best-known settlers in that part of Connecticut - those of the present day numbering among their ancestors Capt.

George Denison, William Cheesebro, Thomas Stanton, Capt. James Avery, Lieut. Thomas Tracy, William Billings, Walter Palmer, Roger Sterry, and others.

John Reynolds' name does not appear on the records of Stonington Church, and it is undoubtedly due to Baptist sentiments that the trouble arose and grew whereby the said Jno. Reynolds Sr., the wife of said Reynolds, and Thomas Reynolds were presented to the Court by the Commissioners of Stonington for using profane and irreligious expressions and aspersions cast by him on Mr. James Noyes and some others, for which they are fined. Thomas Reynolds' alliance with the Clarke family, the founders of the Baptist Church in Newport, helps us to understand the intolerance of the times.

From the records of New London County Court, at Norwich, it appears that the last will and testament of John Rennalds of Stonington, deceased, with his inventory, were exhibited in court, January 14, 1691, when execution was granted to his son, John Reynolds. This will and inventory are not now to be found, and must have been destroyed with the other New London Probate Records when New London was burned by Arnold. John Reynolds Sr. gives deed, Nov. 14, 1690, which fixes the date of his death the last of 1690 or before January 14, 1691. Copy of his will follows:

John Renalls Deed of Gift

Know all men by these presents that I, John Renalls, senior, of the Town of Stonington in the Collony of Connecticut for Divers good causes Reosons me moveing thereunto: in the serious consideration of my own Age & Crasiness and in Consideration yt my younger son and his wife hath & doth & is still free and willing to keep with me & take care of me in this my Age & Crasie Estate. And having formerly Disposed of the Rest of my Children and

given them their portions, but especially until my son Thomas Renalls for whome I have Done According to my Abilitie in lands & other wayes for his settlement, Equivalent unto a Doble portion with the Rest & have given him Deeds Accordingly, and having formerly Designed my Now Manton place for my son John Renalls and did some years since give him a deed thereof which deed hath by some means or other mislaid as that the seal & my Name is torn out & soe that deed made invalled in law; soe that now as the Case is, circumstances, that son who hath showed soe much love & Duty to me in my weak estate & --- whome my hope and expectations Are & have been placed for my future comfort is or may bee in A likely waye to Cose both his portion and reward for his love & care for the preventing such & all manner of inconveniencies upon that Account and for the settlement of my past or in future peace when I shall be layed in the Dust. I count it my Duty as I have settled somewhat upon my Son Thomas for now while I have my reason & understanding to do the something upon my son John Renalls for his future Comfort in order whereunto & for the Reasons forementioned, --

These may signifie unto All & All manor of persons Anyways concerned, that I the aforesayd John Renalls, Senior, have & by These Presents Doe give grant enfeofe & Confirm unto my son John Renalls the whole of that hundred Acres of land which I purchased of John Gallop, senior, as it was bounded layd out & recorded to me in Stonington book of records. As Alsoe a small parcell of land Contayning two Acres more or less, lying on the West side of the Brooke called Calkins his brook, as it is bounded unto me in Robert Holmes his deed of sale, together with my now manton house, barn, mill with All other buildings, sellers, fences, being or standing upon the said Lands with all orchards, woods, timber, swamps, Runs of water, and all privileges and appurtenances thereunto

appertaining: excepting only the lower orchard which is to be, Remayn unto my son Thomas to witt: the fruit thereof untill the year 1691 but after that unto the use and benefitt of my son John Renalls.

Alsoe I doe give unto my son John Renalls the fether bed which I now lodge upon being a bought tiking & not home made with the boulster & all the bedding belonging unto it together with the bedstead. Moreover I doe give unto my son John one large iron pott and by biggest brass chettell which hath A seam around itt: as Alsoe one great bible which I doe order my son to leave to his son and my grandchild John Renalls.

I may All and singular the parts and parcel as before expressed my whole right therein and title unto, I doe hereby give, grant make over & Confirm unto my son John Renalls, his heirs, executors administrators & assigns to be to him or them to his or their proper use & behoof for ever, only reserving unto myselfe the use and improvement of the same as I shall have occasion for my own and their comfort during my natural Life; but at what time it shall please God to take me out of this world by death; then this present deed of gift to stand in full force and virtue unto all interests and purposes not only for the Right and title to but to the uses & improvement thereof to be to him the sayd John Renalls his heirs Executors & assigns freely & absolutely to have Hold possess & enjoy to the World's end without any lett hindrance or molestation by any of my Heirs under any pretensions whatsoever or by any other person or persons whatsoever by from or under me or by any means:

And therefore, for further considerations of this my present Deed of gift unto my son John as above written I have hereunto sett to my hand and seale: in the first yeare of the Reign of their Magesties

William and Mary of England, Scotland, France and Ireland, King and Queen, Defenders of the Fayth, and in the yeare of our Lord, one thousand six hundred and eighty-nine or ninety: the 15th day of februarie.

Signed sealed and delivered in
the presence of

Witnesses

William Denison

Thomas Bell

John X Renalls

his mark

seale

The children of John and Anne (Holbrook)
Reynolds were:

*2. Thomas Reynolds b. 1652, d. Oct. 21,
1723; m. Sarah Clark, Newport, Oct. 29, 1683.

*3. Hannah Reynolds b. 1653, d. after 1711;
m. Dec. 28, 1681 Joseph Wells

4. Mary Reynolds b. Weymouth Mar. 15,
1660; m. tradition says to Benj. Burdick.

*5. John Reynolds b. about 1662, d. Apr. 13,
1734; m. Abigail ---.



LOOKING FOR A WRITER

I'm looking for someone who can do a little research and write an article for this newsletter. In the very first Reynolds Family Association newsletter, published in January 1983, forty years ago, there was an article about Hodges Gardens near Many, LA about 75 miles south of Shreveport. Mr. A. J. Hodges who built the gardens was a son of Addie REYNOLDS Hodges. The park has been permanently closed, however there are tons of information on the Internet about Hodges Gardens, and I thought it may be nice to do a fallow up story. I'm just not up to the task, but I'm sure that there

are many talented Cousins who can do the job!
Please let me know if you're interested.



THE REYNOLDS FAMILY

~ By Jim DeVinney

Modern day Rochester begins with the purchase of a one hundred-acre piece of land. In 1803, three wealthy veterans of the American Revolution set out from their homes in Hagerstown, Maryland. They came up through the Susquehanna Valley, found their way to the headwaters of the Genesee River and traveled along its western shore. They were speculators seeking undeveloped land in western New York as our newly formed nation began its inland expansion.

In those days, at the site where our city is now stands, the Genesee was a boundary between two counties—Ontario to the east with its county seat at Canandaigua; on the western side was Genesee County with its seat at Batavia. After purchasing land farther south, the three men, Colonels Nathaniel Rochester and William Fitzhugh and Major Charles Carroll went to Batavia to register their claims. The land agent suggested that they consider a piece of land located at the falls of the Genesee. He referred to a three-tier waterfall that once existed slightly north of where the Court Street Bridge stands today. It had two drops of three feet and a final drop of seven feet.

Rochester saw potential for tremendous power in in that cascading water, perfect for mills that could saw lumber or grind grain. Fitzhugh and Carroll agreed to be his partners in the purchase although the price was much higher than the \$2-3 per acre they had paid for property farther south. The One Hundred Acre Tract sold for \$17.50 per acre, or

\$1,750 for a small piece of land that would, in three decades, expand into a city. When the men returned home, their wives were not excited by the New York purchases, reluctant to leave behind comfortable lives in Hagerstown to take up residence in a wilderness. Plans were put on hold.

In 1810, Rochester finally moved his family to New York State, settling in the town of Dansville. In short time he created a flourmill, a sawmill, a paper mill, a blacksmith shop, a village store and began clearing a 450-acre farm. With so much accomplished, he considered giving up that expensive tract purchased with Fitzhugh and Carroll, both of whom remained in Maryland until 1816.



In 1811, Nathaniel Rochester laid out lots within the One Hundred Acre Tract of land that he and his partners had purchased eight years earlier. The first lot was sold in November of that year. Despite a delay caused by the War of 1812, the lots were soon in great demand and Rochesterville became a bustling community.

In 1811, Rochester visited the falls to review the property and found other settlements being developed nearby. The Brown brothers were planning to construct a mill just to the north. Across the river, Enos Stone was building a sawmill and had begun construction of a bridge over the

Genesee. Charlotte and Irondequoit on Lake Ontario were also strong contenders. If Rochester didn't act quickly, another location might become the area's dominant town site, reducing the value of the Marylanders' property.

In a way, the One Hundred Acre Tract was an unlikely spot for a successful village. The various waterfalls and rapids in the area, while providing power for mills, prohibited navigation where the Genesee flowed past the eastern end of Rochester's property. Transportation of products to and from the mills would require long portages. A man-made river, the Erie Canal, eventually solved this problem but the canal was a dozen years into the future. Nonetheless, Rochester began laying out streets—one of them was Buffalo Street (today's West Main) that would meet Stone's bridge when it was completed. He divided most of his land into lots for homes and businesses.

In June 1812 the United States went to war against Great Britain. Since the British controlled Canada, their warships patrolled Lake Ontario and the mouth of the Genesee River. Those lake settlements became dangerous places for American families and many fled the waterfront. Earlier that year a Massachusetts man in search of western land, Abelard Reynolds, was on his way to Charlotte when he passed Rochester's tract. He liked what he saw and bought two lots.

In July, Hamlet Scrantom moved his family into a log cabin on the site now occupied by the Powers Building, the first residents within the One Hundred Acre Tract. Shortly thereafter, Reynolds built a frame house on Buffalo Street, opened a saddle shop and became the first postmaster in the area. Scrantom wrote to relatives, "The Village is flourishing beyond all calculation." The Reynolds family played a key role in that success for many years to come. I will continue that story next month.

The winter of 1812-13 was a severe one. Settlers in the area surrounding the One Hundred Acre Tract hunkered down in their homes against icy winds and huge snowdrifts. Families rarely saw anyone beyond household members. An occasional visit from the local postmaster, Abelard Reynolds, was always most welcome. There wasn't much mail arriving in those days; legend claims that Reynolds carried what little there was in his hat. However, the number of recipients grew quickly over the next few years.

In 1817, Nathaniel Rochester hand-carried an application for a village charter to the state legislature in Albany. It was approved on March 21 and Rochesterville was officially recognized. But there was a rival on the east side of the river—a village named Carthage was taking hold farther north where mills were harnessing the water power of the lower falls. Carthage had the backing of Canandaigua merchants and, with access to Lake Ontario, its prospects for becoming a major commercial center seemed more promising than Rochester's little village.

Everything changed in 1823 when the Erie Canal was completed as far as Rochesterville. It would be two more years before the canal reached Buffalo but, with commercial traffic open all the way to Albany, Rochesterville's size, population, and business opportunities grew rapidly. In April 1826, an "act to incorporate the village of Rochester" was passed, dropping the "ville" at the end of the Founder's name, and dividing the community into five wards. The northern limit of the Third Ward was the Erie Canal and a portion of Buffalo Street (today's West Main); the eastern boundary was the Genesee River.

When Abelard Reynolds first settled within the One Hundred Acre Tract, he operated a saddle shop in the front part of his home—the Tract's first frame

house (as opposed to log cabins). In 1828, Reynolds relocated his family and, at a cost of \$30,000, replaced his house with a four-and-one-half story Arcade capped by a turret that looked out over the expanding village. Just one decade after Rochesterville's original incorporation, people were astonished that so much of what they saw from that rooftop could have been accomplished in so short a time. Within the Arcade were shops, offices and, of course, Abelard's post office. For decades, the building served as a center for Rochester's business life. It has been suggested that Reynolds' Arcade might have been the first indoor mall in the country, a claim now being investigated by staff of the Local History department at the Central Library.



The original Arcade, built by Abelard Reynolds in 1828, was torn down in 1932 and replaced by this handsome

10-story Art Deco building, reportedly one of the first buildings in Rochester with central air-conditioning.

In 1809, Reynolds had married the former Lydia Strong of Pittsfield, Massachusetts. They had six children, four of whom survived to maturity—two girls and two boys. The older daughter Clarissa married Dr. Henry Loomis Strong of Illinois (I have no idea if he was related to Lydia's family). She gave birth to three daughters before dying at the age of 41. Mary Eliza married Byron Daniel McAlpine of Rochester; she had one daughter before dying at the age of 40. She is buried in the Reynolds plot of Mount Hope Cemetery.

In 1820, the elder son William Abelard Reynolds began his professional career as a barber (the second one in Rochesterville). Ten years later he pioneered a nursery and seed company. He maintained an office in the Arcade and a nursery on Sophia Street (now South Plymouth Avenue). He hired a young German immigrant named George Ellwanger to manage it for him—the same man who eventually joined with Patrick Barry to create the largest nursery business in America at that time.

In 1845, Abelard was 60 years old and gave management of the Arcade over to his son William. Three years later William built Corinthian Hall behind the Arcade and it would be the scene for many of the city's cultural events, including—just a year after it opened—the first public appearance by the Fox Sisters, spiritualists who dazzled a large audience with their ability to communicate with the dead.

In 1867, at the age of 82, Abelard suffered a paralyzing stroke. The family feared for the worst but he survived. Shockingly, it was 60-year-old William who died unexpectedly in 1872. The baby of the family, Mortimer Fabrius Reynolds, replaced his brother as manager of the Arcade. His Spring

Street mansion was in the heart of the Third Ward's "Ruffled Shirt District"—the subject of my next article.

On June 12, 1829, a year after Abelard Reynolds opened his Arcade, sixty business leaders gathered in a room on its second floor to launch the Rochester Athenaeum. Nathaniel Rochester became its first president, a title he retained until his death two years later. Each member paid a five-dollar fee to fund a library that began with 400 volumes and would subscribe to Eastern newspapers and periodicals. The goal was to encourage adult education particularly in the fields of science and technology.

(Story continues in next Newsletter.)



A BLAST FROM THE PAST

From the 1923 Annual
100 years ago!



WILLIAM EDWARD REYNOLDS
Rear Admiral, Commandant U. S. Coast Guard

William Edward Reynolds was born in Montgomery County, Maryland, January 11, 1860, the third son of Greenbury and Naomi (Fawcett) Reynolds, of the Maryland branch of the Reynolds Family. His father died in 1861, and his mother in 1875.

He lived in Maryland until 1875, when the family removed to Washington, D. C. He attended the public schools in Maryland and in the District of Columbia. In the spring of 1878 he was successful in a competitive examination for a cadetship in the U. S. Revenue-Cutter Service (now the U. S. Coast Guard) and joined the practice cutter S. P. Chase, a bark-rigged sailing vessel, at New Bedford, Massachusetts, in the summer of that year. Two years later he graduated number one in his class and was commissioned a third Lieutenant. He served on a number of vessels on various stations; his last regular sea duty was in command of the *Seneca* at New York. This vessel had just been constructed as a derelict destroyer, the first vessel ever built by any country for such work. He passed through the several grades, attaining his present rank of Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard, on January 12, 1923.

In the spring of 1881, he joined the *Corwin* at San Francisco just prior to the sailing of that vessel on the *Jeannette* Relief Expedition. The *Corwin* also searched the Arctic Ocean that season for the missing whale-ships *Mt. Wollaston* and *Vigilant*. He was one of the party of three sent out from the *Corwin* to proceed along the coast of Siberia in search of the missing vessels. This trip was made by dog sleds on the north coast of Siberia and on the Arctic ice adjacent thereto; the party was absent a month. Information was obtained regarding the fate of the whaleships, and some rumors concerning the *Jeannette*. In August of the same season he was one of the boat's crew from the *Corwin* that made a landing on Wrangell Land, this being the first

known landing on that Island; he planted the flag, taking possession in the name of the United States of America. This was August 12, 1881. He cruised in Alaskan and Arctic waters the following two seasons also.

He served several toms of duty at the Coast Guard Academy, the last being for approximately five years as its Superintendent and as the commanding officer of the practice ship. A number of cruises were made to European waters.

During the years 1890-93, while on duty at Washington, he attended Georgetown University Law School night classes, receiving the degrees of L.L.B. and L.L.M. He was a special student at Cornell University, taking the course in naval architecture and shipbuilding, during the college year 1893-1894. In the summer of 1894, he attended the Naval War College at Newport, Rhode Island. He served as Superintendent of Construction and Repair of the Coast Guard during the period 1909-1912. In 1912 he was assigned to duty in command of the Southern Division, at San Francisco, California. During the three summer seasons of 1912, 1913, and 1914 he had charge of the patrol force in the North Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea, with headquarters at Unalaska.

When war was declared with Spain in 1898, he was in command of a cutter with headquarters at Key West, Florida, and was directed to report to Admiral Sampson, U. S. Navy, for duty. He served actively throughout the war. Upon the entry of the United States into the World War. the Coast Guard (the Revenue-Cutter Service and Life-Saving Service having been combined in 1915 to form the Coast Guard) automatically became a part of the Navy, and he was made Chief of Staff, Twelfth Naval District, with headquarters at San Francisco. Early in the fall of 1919 he was ordered to Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, D. C. and in October of

that year was commissioned as Commandant of the Coast Guard by the President, which office he now holds.

In 1885 he was married (1st) to Minnie G. Collins of Washington, D. C, who died in 1910. In 1912 he married (2nd) Nellie Groome Bates. whose maternal grandmother, before her marriage to Francis Bates, in 1837, at Steubenville, Ohio, was Catharine Anne Reynolds.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Just thought I would send along the picture of my Dad, **Allan Eastman Reynolds**, from his 100th Birthday Celebration on Jan 1, 2023. A pretty gala affair with his three daughters and 9 grandchildren...everyone dressed to the nines! Dad is wearing the tuxedo he wore to his senior prom in high school. How amazing that he kept it and that he fits into it! While dressy, none of the rest of us wore our prom outfits! Dad continues to do well and thoroughly enjoyed his celebration. Cheers!

Board of Director at Large Connie Reynolds Davis.



QUERIES

Upon writer request members' queries will be published without charge and non-members' will be published at discretion of RFA, also without charge. Queries may be edited and RFA assumes no responsibility for their accuracy. [Editor's comments will be in brackets.] Please address all queries to the editor.

Larry Joe Reynolds

2520 Saratoga Drive, Barksdale AFB, LA 71110

Joe.Reynolds@larryjoereynolds.com

I continue to search for the parents of William Reynolds who married Jane Milliken on August 23, 1790 in what is now Greene County, Tennessee. I'm hoping that one of my many cousins who share yDNA with me, and knows more about it than I do, to help me extend my search.

Ned Reynolds

E-MAIL: redreyn@gmail.com

I am looking for the parents of Hezekiah Reynolds, Sr., born in what is now Watertown, CT on July 4, 1756 (at that time, it was the parish of Westbury), both suburbs of Waterbury. He was listed in Conn. Rev. War Records for 1776 in Roxbury, CT. He married Martha Davenport Wolcott, part of a well-known CT family, in 1778 in North Branford, CT, and he died in 1833 and is buried next to her and other members of their family in Wallingford, CT. They had nine children and the house he built for them in North Branford is currently the home for the local historical society. The various local historical societies have no records of his parents.

Notably, he was the author of "Directions for House and Ship Painting; shewing in a plain and concise manner, the best method of preparing, mixing and laying the best colors now in use, designed for use of learners", New Haven, printed by Eli Hudson, 1812. This is one of the early books written by an American artisan explaining their craft.

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