

Looking at Brown-Wood Connections

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NOTE: This is a draft document and contains only my own analysis, conjecture, and opinion. It should not be considered proof of anything at this point.

This article explores the connections between the BROWN and WOOD families of early Gloucester County, New Jersey.

Another surname that appears in various records naming John Brown is WOOD. A wonderful source of information about this family as well as Gloucester County during this time period is:

The Wood family of Lancashire, England and Gloucester County, New Jersey

by Gladys Coupe and F. Lewis Orrell, 1985

This English Wood family is connected to ours in this way:

John Wood (1687-1745) and Mary Whitall Wood had a daughter named Alice Wood who married James Brown, son of our John Brown and Phebe Chatfield. James and Alice had one son, Mark Brown, before Alice died in 1760. James remarried to widow Catherine Webster Andrews, and they had two more sons, Job and George Brown.

There are several interesting details associated with this Wood family:

- The Wood family of Lancashire, England was definitely Quaker. If James Brown was born as a Presbyterian, then he probably would have converted to Quakerism to marry Alice.
- Both the Wood's and Whitall's acquired a good deal of land from Henry Treadway in what was referred to as the "Red Bank plantation" (p. 69). 150 acres of that land was inherited by Alice's father, John.
- It is also worth noting that references to Red Bank Creek apply to Woodbury Creek (p. 18)
- I believe this John Wood is the one named administrator in the will of Phebe Brown (her daughter-in-law's father).

But the story of Wood-Brown connections is more complicated, I think. The following information from the Wood Family source has caught my attention more than once:

The Woods of Woodbury Creek -- Other Wood Families

In attempting to distinguish among the Woods along Woodbury Creek some of the deeds, wills, etc. for the early years present perplexing data until it becomes clear that there was a family of Woods unrelated to Henry Wood of Lancashire who lived and owned land along the Creek when Henry and John were becoming established there. The head of this family was Jonathan Wood, a weaver from Ballyhagen, County of Ardmaugh, Northern Ireland. Apparently Jonathan had little prospect for making an adequate living for his family as a weaver in Ireland as "his stock [was] but small and farme lyttle" so his Monthly Meeting granted him and his

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family a Certificate of Removal to America on July 8, 1683. Because two of their daughters and a son were "of considerable age" they were investigated before the granting of the Certificate and found "clear" of commitments or alliances. Consistent with coming from Ireland, Jonathan settled first around Newton in the "Irish" Tenth but then relocated to Woodbury Creek where he lived at the time of his death in February of 1695. With the names Samuel Ladd, John Wood, Henry Treadway and William Warner appearing prominently in his will, he must have lived close to and been intimately involved with the first settlers of Woodbury Creek.

It is believed that the children of Jonathan [and Ann?] were Joseph, also a weaver, who died without issue in 1691; Jonathan, junior, who died without issue in 1692; Isaac, who was living on Woodbury Creek in 1696 but had moved to Philadelphia by 1701; Sarah, Rachel and Rebecca.

The first Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends between Burlington and Salem was organized at Newton. It was responsible for and served members in both the Third and Fourth Tenth including the Quakers along Woodbury Creek. Although there may have been a marriage at Newton in 1684, the first one recorded by the Monthly Meeting was that between Sarah, the daughter of Jonathan and Ann [?] Wood, and John Ladd. They were married on 10.13.1685 at the house of James Atkinson in Newton.

Mary Ladd, the daughter of John and Sarah (Wood) Ladd, married at Woodbury on 3.21.1730 Joseph Parker of Chester County, Pennsylvania, the son of Thomas Parker of Coldbeck, Cumberlandshire, England. [If this is not another Dornanism, it is an unusual marriage for this era for it puts Mary's age somewhere between 30-45.] Mary died June 4, 1731 after giving birth to a daughter, Mary, on April 29, 1731. Joseph Parker died May 21, 1766.

Mary Parker, the daughter of Joseph and Mary (Ladd) Parker, married at the Chester Meeting on June 21, 1759 Charles Norris, the son of Isaac and Mary (Lloyd) Norris. Charles and Mary (Parker) Norris had issue: Isaac, Deborah, Joseph Parker, and Charles. Mary (Parker) Norris died on December 4.1799. Her husband, Charles, who was born on May 9, 1712, died January 15, 1766.

According to Dornan other issue of John and Sarah (Wood) Ladd may have been: Samuel, who made a second declaration of marriage intention on 8.12.1713 with Mary Medcalf, the daughter of Matthew, deceased, and Dorothy Medcalf; Jonathan, who made a second declaration on 10.9.1723 with Ann Wills, the daughter of John and Hope (Delafosse) Wills; John, junior, who made a second declaration on 9.13.1732 with Hannah Mickle, the daughter of John and Hannah (Cooper) Mickle. Mary (Medcalf) Ladd's

second marriage was with Abraham Moss of Salem and her third with Tobias Holloway by license on March 8, 1732.

Rachel Wood, the daughter of Jonathan and Ann [?] Wood was married twice: first, to Samuel Tomes [Thomas] at the house of James Atkinson in Newton on 6.2.1687 and, second, to William Bromfield in 1691. She and her sister, Rebecca Wood, were living near Woodbury Creek in 1696.

In looking over the colonial conveyances, there were at least a half-dozen transactions between John Brown and combinations of the names John Ladd, Jonathan Wood, Joseph Wood, and Isaac Wood. If the John Brown involved in those conveyances belongs to our family, there were definite connections to both the Irish Quakers and the weaving/cloth profession.