



George Mills [1605 - 1694]

of Yorkshire, England and Jamaica, Long Island, NY

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George MILLS⁸³³⁸, 1

Birth: 1605, Yorkshire, England^{17,119,1083,6758,7610}
 Removal1: abt 1630/1, Massachusetts, age: 25^{1089,6775}
 Removal2: 1641, Stamford, Fairfield, Connecticut, age: 36¹⁰⁸⁷
 Removal3: 1656, Jamaica, Queens, Long Island, New York, age: 51¹²¹
 Memo: from Hempstead, Long Island, NY
 Will: 24 Mar 1682, Jamaica, Queens, Long Island, New York, age: 77¹⁰⁸⁹
 Memo: "in the North Rideing of Yorkshire"
 Death: 17 Oct 1694, Jamaica, Queens, Long Island, New York, age: 89^{118,119,1079,1087,1823,6825}
 Residence: 1656, Hempstead, New York⁶⁷⁷⁵
 Residence: Jamaica, Long Island, New York¹⁰⁸⁰
 Occupation: "probably a clergyman"¹⁰⁷⁹
 Occupation: Clergyman, Jamaica, Queens, NY⁶⁷⁷⁵
 URL: https://host.reunionfamilycloud.com/davemillsaz/mills_george_book.pdf
 Flags: Earliest Immigrant

- George Mills of Jamaica, LI, NY, is the ancestral immigrant for many Mills, et al., who trace their ancestry to colonial NY, NJ or Connecticut and to Cumberland Co., NS, Loyalists. Unfortunately, no material regarding his life in England has been found, nor anything regarding his parentage or siblings.

16 Feb 1656 Granted home lot in Hempstead.

10 Mar 1656 Name appears on petition for grant in Jamaica, NY.

25 Nov 1656 Granted home lot in Jamaica, NY.¹⁸²³

- Came from Yorkshire, England in 1630.¹⁸²⁰

- Follower of Rev. Richard Denton. Some researchers call George a Reverend also. He was conservative as records of Jamaica NY indicate one of 17 underwriters of Jamaica in 1656. If he did follow Denton, then this was his route in America:

1. arrived 1630 with Winthrop's fleet (eldest son b. 1631 in MB)

2. 1635 rem to Wethersfield

3. 1641 rem to Stamford Ct

4. 1644 rem to Hempstead LI, NY (in 1656 Geo. sold his lands in Hempstead)

5. 1656 rem to Jamaica // 1659 Denton returned to England leaving his many sons behind.¹⁰⁸⁷

- Not mentioned in the list of settlers who departed Stamford for Jamaica in New Amsterdam Colony.⁷⁶³⁴
- Torrey gives last residence as Jamaica, Long Island. Cites Phillips 36¹⁰⁷⁹ and Keeler-Wood 90²⁸ as his sources.
- GEORGE MILLS, the progenitor of this family of Mills in America, was born in 1600 in a parish in England, the name of which has not been recovered in this essay, and he came over in or before 1631-1632 (in which year his son Samuel Mills was born in this Country, as see page 10 hereof). George Mills appears first, in contemporary records, as a resident of the town of Homestead, Long Island, in 1656, a town which had been settled in 1644 by some thirty or forty families from Stamford, Connecticut. Evidently, he had joined this settlement between those two years, but coming from what previous places, supposedly in New England, searches made for this account have not discovered, as see page 77.⁷⁹⁹⁶
- George Mills was one of the founders of Jamaica, Long Island, New York, and at the first Town Meeting held there February 18, 1656, was granted a home lot.
The first and only mention of his wife was made in his statement of 24 Mar 1682, where he states "my wife Rebecca, shall enjoy my dwelling house and home lot and orchard during her life time, if it please God that she shall live longer.
A statement has been made that he was born in 1585 and died in Jamaica October 17, 1674, but the Town Records do not confirm it.²⁸
- Among the early settlers of Jamaica L. I. was George Mills born in 1585 [sic] and died aged 89, Oct. 17, 1674 at Jamaica. He was probably a descendant of John Mills who was made freeman of Boston in 1632.¹¹⁸
- Witness our hands this 11th day of February, 1661. Stylo novo.
Nath. Denton Andrew Messenger
George Mills¹⁰⁸⁰
- 24 Mar 1682. He writes his "will."¹⁸²³
- On March 24, 1681/2, is the first and only mention we have of his wife. He states that "my wife Rebecca, shall enjoy my dwelling house and home lot and orchard during her life time, if it please God that she shall live longer than I..."²⁸
- Genealogical and Family History of Southern New York and the Hudson River Valley, New York: Lewis Historical Pub. Co., 1913, pp. 803-807. On page 804, it was claimed

that George was from Yorkshire, England and was in Milford, CT before removing to Jamaica. Weiner recorded George's DOB as 1585 and his DOD as 1674, aged 89. George was one of the first settlers at Jamaica, Queens Co., NY. He was one of the seventeen underwriters of the Certificate of Purchase or Declaration of the Founding of Jamaica, 25 Nov 1656 (from: Mills, S. H. (compiler), 'Samuel Mills Ancestry or George Mills and the Samuel Mills Line of Jamaica, Long Island, New York and Greenwich, Connecticut,' (at the NYG&B Soc., 1958)).⁶⁷⁷⁵

- George Mills was born, surely in England, perhaps about 1605. He died at Jamaica, Long Island, New York, probably on October 17, 1694 age 89. His only known wife was Rebecca ----- who was living on March 24, 1681/2 when he signed a deed providing for her. But the wording of the deed, charging his son Samuel with her care, suggest that perhaps she was not Samuel's mother and that George may have had an earlier wife. Many have assumed that this was a daughter of Nicholas Tanner, but the documents relating to Nicholas Tanner's estate do not show this clearly at all.⁶⁸²⁵

- No probate records exist for George; probably because he transferred his land to his wife Rebecca on March 24, 1681/2, to his son Zachariah on February 22, 1678/9 and apparently to his son Samuel.⁶⁸²⁵

- No record of a Will, or of Administration upon his estate, appears on file; the apparent reason being that he had already transferred his real estate by Deeds to his wife REBECCA MILLS on March 24th., 1681/2; to his son Zachariah Mills on February 22nd., 1678/9; and to his son Samuel Mills, as of record.⁷⁹⁹⁶

Spouse: **Rebecca TANNER?**

Birth: abt 1609, England¹¹⁹

Death: aft 24 Mar 1682, age: 73^{1839,6825}

Flags: Legatee in Will

- Discussion of "Who was George Mills' first wife?"¹⁸¹⁹

- My will [Nicholas Tanner of Rusdorp (the Dutch name of Jamaica)] is that BETHIA MILLS shall have a cow and a calf, and that she and her mother shall have £10 more betwixt them to buy them clothes with.⁷⁹⁹⁶

- The above mentioned Deed is the only record in which the wife of GEORGE MILLS appears; no further account of her has been found.⁷⁹⁹⁶

Marriage: 1628/30, England^{17,28,1083,1823}

They had 6 children...

- i. **Samuel**, 2 (1631-1727)
- ii. **Bethia**, 3 (1633->1669)
- iii. **Nathaniel**, 4 (1635-1728)
- iv. **Jonathan**, 6 (~1636-~1717)
- v. **George**, 5 (1638->1658)
- vi. **Zachariah**, 7 (1644-1696)

17. **New England Marriages Prior to 1700**, Author: by Clarence Almon Torrey, Publisher: *Genealogical Publishing Co.*, Baltimore, MD, Date: 1987, Date: NEHGS, 17 Feb 1989, Document Location: Mills Library.
28. **Ancestors of Evelyn Wood Keeler, Wife of Willard Underhill Taylor**, Author: by Josephine C. Frost, Publisher: *Privately Published*, Brooklyn, New York, Date: 1939, Date: rcvd 29 Apr 1989 from NEHGS Inquiry Service, Other surname(s): *Mills; Tanner; Denton; Everitt; Everett*.
118. **Genealogies of Long Island Families**, Author: compiled by Charles J. Werner, Publisher: *Charles J. Werner*, New York, N. Y., Date: 1919, Document Location: received 18 Apr 1989 from NEHGS Lending Library., Other surname(s): *Longbotham; Mills*.
119. **FGR of George Mills, b 1605, of Jamaica, LI, New York**, Submitter: compiled by Marjorie M. Clawson, Denver, CO, Date: 1985, Document Location: SL #1396258.
121. Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 15, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT, Date: 10 Oct 1989.
• all pages scanned
1079. **Genealogy of the Family of Rev. George Phillips of Watertown, Mass., 1630**, Publisher: *published abt 1885*, Document Location: received 29 Apr 1989 from NEHGS Inquiry Service, Other surname(s): *Phillips; Mills*.
1080. **History of the Presbyterian Church, Jamaica, Long Island**, Page(s): Page 33, Other surname(s): *Messenger; Mills*.
1083. **Pedigree Chart from John Mills, b 1710**, Submitter: prepared by Jean McIntyre Arris, Date: May 1988, Date: received 19 Feb 1991, Other surname(s): *Palmer*.
1087. **Mills Family History Information**, Submitter: from Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT, Date: received 6 Sep 1988, Other surname(s): *Ennis*.
1089. Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 02, Date: 31 March 1987, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
• all pages scanned
1819. Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 6, Date: 28 Dec 1987, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
• all pages scanned
1820. Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 8, Date: 30 Apr 1988, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
• References to Samuel Mills family are from Samuel Mills Ancestry by Samuel Harold Mills at Long Island Historical Society and Greenwich Public Library

- all pages scanned
- 1823.** Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 12, Date: 7 Jan 1989, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
 - all pages scanned
- 1839.** Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, No. 29-30, Date: 16 Aug 1993, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
 - 20 pages scanned and available
- 6758. FGR of George Mills & Rebecca Tanner**, Publisher: *Descendants of George Mills of Yorkshire and Long Island, New York, Mills Ancestry*, Date: 7 Jun 2012.
- 6775. George Mills of Yorkshire, b 1605**, Publisher: *Bredin Family Tree Site*, Date: 9 Jun 2012, Other surname(s): *Bergen*.
- 6825. A Mills and Kendall Family History**, American Ancestry and Descendants of Herbert Lee Mills and Bessie Delano Kendall, Author: by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, Publisher: *Newbury Street Press*, Boston, Massachusetts, Date: 2002, Submitter: forwarded by David E. Mills, Charlottesville, VA, Date: 24 Oct 2012, Other surname(s): *Wood; Tanner; Messenger; Longbotham; Fiske*.
- 7610. Descendants of George Mills of Yorkshire and Long Island, New York**, Publisher: *Mills Ancestry*, First Generation, Author: by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT, Date: downloaded 23 Apr 2021.
- 7634. History of Stamford, Connecticut**, Author: by Rev. E. B. Huntington, A. M., Date: Stamford, 1868, Document Location: full book downloaded 6 May 2021, Other surname(s): *Denton; Mills; Fountain*.
 - From its Settlement in 1641, to the Present time, including Darien.
- 7996. A Documentary History of the Family of Mills, Descended from George Mills of Hempstead and Jamaica, Long Island, 1656.**, Date: May 1939, Publisher: *Images downloaded from Ancestry, and assembled by David Mills, March 2023*, Submitter: by Lewis D. Cook, B.Sc.; Genealogist., Page(s): 80 pages, Other surname(s): *Wood; Tanner; Rudyared; Messenger; Longbotham; Denton*.
 - Through nine generations from Jonathan Mills.
 - Complete PDF available for sharing.
- 8338. Mills Ancestry**, No. 36, Date: 10 March 1995, Author: edited by Michael Mills, Hinesburg, VT.
 - likely final edition; no later numbers in possession of DWM

England

MILLS, George 4

TANNER?, Rebecca 6

Jamaica, Queens, Long Island, New York

MILLS, George 4

Massachusetts

MILLS, George 4

Stamford, Fairfield, Connecticut

MILLS, George 4

Yorkshire, England

MILLS, George 4