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RESEARCH REPORT (#DLZ-208 - JENSEN)

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Research has continued on the ancestry of Ruluf ANDRESS. Evidence was found which supports the previously-held theory that Ruluf is the son of Sybil ANDREWS or ANDRUS, and that she is the daughter of Amos and Content (MORGAN) ANDREWS of Wallingford and Cheshire, Connecticut.

Background

Information provided by the client indicates Ruluf ANDRESS was born on 12 March 1773 at Hamden, Connecticut. He was apparently orphaned at the age of sixteen. On 31 December 1789 Joseph JOHNSON was appointed legal guardian of Ruluf ANDRUS of Hamden. The records of the Mount Carmel Church of Hamden show that Sybil ANDRUS died on 15 August 1789, four months before a guardian was appointed for Ruluf. This and the fact that Ruluf named his eldest daughter Sybil, suggest that Ruluf is the son of Sybil ANDRUS. She has been tentatively identified as the daughter of Amos and Content (MORGAN) ANDREWS of Wallingford, who was born there on 6 July 1754.

Current Strategies

While it seemed probable that Ruluf is the son of Sybil ANDRUS, more evidence would be desirable, and additional records of Ruluf ANDRESS were sought. At the time of Ruluf's birth, the town of Hamden did not exist. Hamden was created in 1786 by a division of New Haven. Therefore, New Haven records as well as Hamden records needed investigation.

The identity of Sybil was also unclear at the onset of this project. Was she a single woman with a child at the time of her death in 1789? Or was she the widow of some unidentified ANDRUS male? If Sybil was in fact the daughter of Amos ANDREWS of Wallingford and Cheshire, the records of these places might yield additional evidence of her identity. Cheshire was created in 1780 by a division of Wallingford. Therefore, searches were conducted in the records of New Haven, Hamden, Wallingford, and Cheshire during the course of this research project.

Ruluf Andress

The surname ANDRESS is rare in Connecticut and is probably a corruption or misinterpretation of the name ANDRUS; that is, reading the "u" as a double "e". Ruluf died in Huron County, Ohio in 1849 the year before the 1850 U.S. census, which would have required him to state his age and state of birth. However, the 1850 U.S. census mortality schedule lists those persons in each household who died during the twelve months preceding the date of the general population census. A search of the 1850 mortality schedule for Ohio did not locate an entry for Ruluf ANDRESS/ANDRUS, however. Nor was any will or estate record found for Ruluf in Carol Willsey Bell's *Ohio Wills and Estates to 1850: An Index*. Previous searches in the church records of Hamden did not find a christening for Ruluf. The index to Connecticut church records in the Connecticut State Library was now searched with negative results. The index is quite incomplete. The Barbour Collection's statewide index to Connecticut vital records was also examined, but no entry was found for Ruluf ANDRESS under any spelling variant.

Despite the lack of progress in locating additional information about Ruluf ANDRESS, there can be little doubt that he is identical to the boy of this name who was placed under the care of Joseph JOHNSON in 1789, as the name is so rare as to probably be unique in the U.S. at this time. Another review of the original guardianship document shows that Ruluf *chose* Joseph JOHNSON to be his guardian, the word "appointed" being deleted. Ruluf was surely well acquainted with JOHNSON. Perhaps Joseph married a sister or cousin of Ruluf.

However, search of the IGI found no Joseph JOHNSON marriage in Connecticut prior to 1789 to an ANDRUS.

The guardianship document is also significant because the words "son of," following the name Ruluf ANDRUS, are crossed out, suggesting that the clerk intended to identify Ruluf's father, which was the standard procedure, but was unable to obtain the information. While too much should not be read into this clerical omission, the crossed out words give weight to the theory that Ruluf's mother was a single woman.¹

Sybil Andrus/Andrews

Attempts to learn more about Sybil, the probable mother of Ruluf, were met with good success. In order to identify Sybil, it was important to find some statement of her age. The Mount Carmel Church records show that she died on 15 August 1789, but the entry does not state Sybil's age at the time of her death. Nevertheless, at least three documents confirm that she was 36 years old in 1789.

The records of the First Congregational Church of Cheshire also record the death of Sybil ANDRUS. The document confirms the death date of 15 August 1789 and adds that she was 36 years old.² The fact that Sybil's death is recorded in Cheshire as well as Hamden is significant because it strongly suggest ties with both towns. Cheshire was split from Wallingford in 1780. Amos and Content ANDREWS lived in Wallingford, but their deaths are not recorded there. They are, however, recorded in the registers of the Cheshire First Congregational Church.³ Amos ANDREWS probably lived in that part of Wallingford which became Cheshire in 1780. The Cheshire church apparently operated as a parish of Wallingford

1. Guardianship bond of Joseph Johnson of Hamden, 31 December 1789, New Haven, CT Probate District file #275. (FHL Film No. 1,022,970). Reference document 12.

2. Register of the First Congregational Church of Cheshire, CT. (FHL Film No. 003,998). Reference document 4.

3. Donald Lines Jacobus, *Families of Ancient New Haven* (repr. ed. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1974), p. 44. Reference document 2.

prior to this time. The age of Sybil in 1789 suggests she was born about 1753. Wallingford vital records show that Sybil, daughter of Amos and Content ANDREWS, was born on 6 July 1754.⁴ However, the birth of Ruluf ANDRESS/ANDRUS was not found in Wallingford vital records or Cheshire Congregational Church registers.

Cheshire vital records also include the death of Sybil "ANDREWS." The document confirms the death date and age of Sybil but adds the title "Mrs." to her name.⁵ In today's usage this title always refers to a married or previously married woman. In 1789 the prefix "Mrs." meant "Mistress," which was a title of respect in a country that still had the remnants of a social class system. Sybil apparently came from a family of social distinction but was not necessarily married. Cheshire vital records were also searched for the birth of Ruluf, but nothing was found.

Sybil was buried in the Hillside Cemetery at Cheshire, not at Hamden where she lived and was a member of the Mount Carmel Church. The inscription on her gravestone confirms her death date of 15 August 1789 at age 36 and again bestows the title "Mrs."⁶ With the discovery of Sybil's age and her apparent ties to Cheshire, it appeared very likely that she is the daughter of Amos and Content ANDREWS. Wallingford vital and church records were searched. Neither the birth nor the baptism of Ruluf is recorded in either place. The birth of Sybil is recorded in Wallingford vital records, 6 July 1754. Wallingford church records were searched for the period 1758-1790. Several ANDRUS/ANDREWS entries were found, but nothing was found concerning Sybil or Ruluf.⁷

4. "Connecticut Vital Records–Wallingford," Barbour Collection, typescript, Connecticut State Library, 1924 (FHL Film No. 002,981). Reference document 3.

5. "Connecticut Vital Records–Cheshire," Barbour Collection, typescript, Connecticut State Library, 1924 (FHL Film No. 002,968). Reference document 7.

6. Charles R. Hale Collection, "Headstone Inscriptions of Cheshire, Connecticut," #205, p. 29. (FHL Film No. 003,326). Reference document 6.

7. First Congregational Church records, Wallingford, CT. (FHL Film No. 006,053). Reference document 8.

It was in Cheshire deeds that significant progress was made. Sybil ANDREWS appears in two documents. On 7 April 1784, Sibyl ANDREWS of New Haven sold 3¼ acres of land in Cheshire to Jonathan WAINWRIGHT for £12 19s 11p. The land was described as that lot which was laid out to her from the estate of her late father Amos ANDREWS, deceased. Joseph JOHNSON was one of the witnesses to the deed.⁸ This document is important for several reasons. First, it shows that Sybil ANDREWS lived in New Haven from which Hamden was split off in 1786. Second, it shows that Sybil is the daughter of Amos ANDREWS of Cheshire. Third, unless Sybil was married to an ANDREWS, she was still a single woman in 1784. Finally, the deed was witnessed by Joseph JOHNSON, the same man Ruluf ANDRUS chose as his guardian in 1789. This shows that JOHNSON was a trusted confidant to both Ruluf and Sybil. When seen in the light of other evidence found previously, there can be little doubt that Ruluf is the son of Sybil, the unmarried daughter of Amos and Content ANDREWS.

Further evidence that Sybil was unmarried is found in a deed dated 16 February 1785 in which the children and grandchildren of Giles ANDREWS quit claimed their interest in six acres of dower land in Cheshire belonging to Abigail ANDREWS, the widow of Giles, to Zealous BRISTOL of Cheshire. Unlike her married sisters, Sybil was not represented on the deed with her husband.⁹

Additional searches in New Haven church and vital records failed to find additional information concerning Sybil and Ruluf. The ANDREWS family can be traced to William ANDREWS, who died in New Haven on 4 March 1675/6. The pedigree is laid out with

8. Deed of sale from Sybil Andrews to Jonathan Wainwright, 7 April 1784, Cheshire, CT Deeds, 2:94 (FHL Film no. 003,986). Reference document 10.

9. *Ibid*, 1:349. Reference document 11.

abbreviated references in Jacobus' *Families of Ancient New Haven*.¹⁰ The families of Amos, Giles, and Joseph ANDREWS can be largely documented with Wallingford vital records.¹¹

Conclusions

During this phase of research, Ruluf ANDRUS was linked to Sybil ANDREWS through Joseph JOHNSON. Joseph witnessed a deed for Sybil in 1784 and was chosen by Ruluf to be his guardian in 1789, four months after the death of Sybil ANDREWS. It was also shown that Sybil, daughter of Amos ANDREWS, lived in New Haven in 1784. Hamden was set off from New Haven in 1786. It is noteworthy that Ruluf named his first daughter Sybil, not a common name. His next daughter was Sarah, apparently named after his wife's mother. Although the case is circumstantial, the evidence is very strong that Ruluf is the son of Sybil ANDREWS.

The age of Sybil on her death and burial records, as well as information found in Cheshire deeds, prove beyond doubt that she is the daughter of Amos ANDREWS and was born at Wallingford on 6 July 1754. She apparently died an unmarried woman.

Suggestions

It might be possible to find direct evidence of the birth of Ruluf ANDRUS and the identity of his father in New Haven County court records. It was a common practice to bond father's for the support of their illegitimate children. These records are not available in the Family History Library but are probably available in the Connecticut State Archives in Hartford. An agent could be directed to search the records there. Although Jacobus' works are

10. Jacobus, *Families*, pp. 40-52. Also see abbreviations lists, pp 4-7. Reference document 2.

11. Reference document 3.

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highly respected, the client may wish to obtain all the documentary evidence of the ANDREWS pedigree from original sources. This could be accomplished during a future research session.

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