

Research Report for the Milo Andrus Family Organization

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Background Information

Previous research identified the mother of Ruluf Andrews as Sybil Andrews. A potential father of Ruluf was identified as Eber Andrews, father of Sarah Andrews Toms. Sarah Andrews Toms is a potential half-sister of Ruluf.

The goal of this research session was to locate with more certainty the father of Ruluf Andrews. To do this, we planned to examine town, church, and court records for the towns of Hamden, Cheshire, New Haven, Wallingford, and nearby areas.

Research Performed

Previous researchers had identified land transactions for Sybil Andrews in the Cheshire land records. Sybil sold land on 7 April 1784 in Cheshire, which was land she had inherited the year before at the death of her father, Amos Andrews. Joseph Johnson was a witness on the deed. This land record identified Sybil as “of New Haven.” Hamden was split off from New Haven in 1786, so Sybil was probably living in the area of New Haven that was later Hamden. In 1785 in Cheshire, there is a land deed in which the land of Amos Andrews is sold. All of Sybil's sisters are listed with husbands and Sybil is not, indicating that she was a single woman.

The father of Sybil, Amos Andrews, died in 1777 in Cheshire. Her mother had passed away in 1776. In 1784 in a land deed, Sybil is listed as being “of New Haven.” Hamden was split off from New Haven in 1786, so Sybil was probably living in the area of New Haven that was later Hamden. It's very possible that at this time she was living with the family of Joseph Johnson since he was living in the New Haven/Hamden area at this same time, and he was appointed the guardian of Ruluf.

The death of Sybil Andrews was listed in the Cheshire town records and also it's in the Mount Carmel Congregational Church in Hamden. It looks like Sybil attended the Mount Carmel church. I examined the church records for this church. There were many Andrews and Johnsons listed in these church records, all of them related to Joseph Johnson and cousins of Sybil. However, I found only a notice of Sybil's death and no other information about her.

I had previously identified a history of the Mount Carmel Congregational Church of Hamden called “The old Mount Carmel parish : origins and outgrowths” which I found on Ancestry.com. The book states that a large group of Andrews left the Mount Carmel church and moved to Claremont, New Hampshire. There was a group of church records in the Family History for Claremont so I searched those records. I found many Andrews that were distantly related to our Andrews, but nothing about Ruluf or Sybil.

Because the Mount Carmel book also identified Mount Holly VT as a place where many of the congregation from Hamden settled, I look at 2 histories in the Family History Library. There was a Titus Andrus that settled there in the early days, very likely a distant relative of Ruluf, and no Johnsons.

In our previous searches we had missed the Hartford County Court Records for 1772 and also the Litchfield County Court Records for 1772, so I asked the researcher in Connecticut to go to the Connecticut State Library to make sure we had searched everything. He did find some bastardy cases like the type we have been looking for, but nothing for Sybil and Ruluf Andrews.

There is a group of town records found in the Whitney Library in the New Haven Museum in the town of New Haven. I asked our researcher in Connecticut to research these records. He examined all of the available records and didn't find any additional information. The researcher in Connecticut discussed the case with the librarian at the New Haven Museum, who knew a lot about this type of research. He said that unless officials feared that Ruluf might become a ward of the town, there wouldn't have been much incentive for anyone to pursue the matter. If the family owned property, for example, unless they were bringing the alleged father to court, the town/colonial government probably wouldn't bother. He said that if the father was unknown and/or if the family sought to hide the matter, it most probably would not have been taken up by authorities. He suggested that if we have death records and the father was not named there, that more than likely the father was unknown. (Note that we have no death record for Ruluf as there were not deaths recorded in Ohio at that time.)

There are no other records that we can search to learn more, all of the records for this area have now been searched thoroughly.

In reading some of the previous research done by others on Ruluf, some researchers have stipulated that the guardian bond document in Hamden CT in 1789 somehow applies to another Ruluf, not the man who died in 1849 in Henrietta, Ohio, that was in Rutland County VT in 1800. Ruluf is listed as age 16 on this document, and the Ruluf that died in Henrietta County, Ohio, has a gravestone that lists his death date as 12 March 1773, making his age 16 in December of 1789 when this guardian bond was written.

The likelihood of 2 men both born in 1773 named Ruluf Andrus is very slim. Ruluf Andrus is a highly unusual name. I have found no other man named Ruluf Andrus in the United States in any vital or census record anywhere, other than our Ruluf. If there were 2 men named Ruluf Andrus, then there would be a death, marriage, or census record for another Ruluf Andrus, and there has never been one found.

In addition, in a history of the Congregational Church of Hamden where Ruluf would have attended church, it states that some people from this congregation eventually migrated to Rutland County, Vermont, which is where Ruluf ended up as well. So Ruluf moved with other people that he attended church with in Hamden up to Rutland County, Vermont, and it was logical for him to move there.

Some researchers have also pointed out that there are a couple of census records for Ruluf's children where the children listed the place of birth of their parents as Vermont, trying to use this to prove that Ruluf was born in Vermont. Census records are notoriously inaccurate in this regard. You never know who the census taker talked to, whether the father of the family, the mother, a child, or even one of the children, so the information recorded depends on who they talked to and how much they really knew. I have seen errors in the places where parents are born in the census records many, many times. Just because one of the children listed their parent's place of birth as a certain place does not mean it's accurate. Ruluf appears in all other respects to be from Connecticut--his son Milo said he was from CT,

and the Ruluf we've located in Hamden CT matches the Ruluf in VT, NY, and OH in all respects. There was one Ruluf Andrus born in 1773, and he was born in CT, then moved to Rutland County VT, then Essex County NY, then Ohio.

Some researchers in the past have theorized that the parents of Ruluf were John Andrews and Mary Emmerson. However, this couple was married in Vermont and living there at the time of Ruluf's birth. Ruluf was born in Connecticut, so John Andrews and Mary Emmerson cannot be Ruluf's parents.

One of the questions that other researchers on Ruluf have had in the past is why he has a Dutch name. As I view Sybil's ancestry, I see that her ancestors all had English names, there is no Dutch ancestry there. Most of the people in this part of Connecticut were English as well.

I found an article called the "Dutch Johnsons of Connecticut" by Donald Jacobus, published in the New England Genealogical and Historical Register, volume 66, 1912. In this article he explains that there were a group of Johnsons in the Wallingford area that had a common Dutch ancestor whose surname was originally Jansen. Joseph Johnson was part of this Dutch family.

After the death of Sybil's parents, Ruluf was still a young child. Because she was a single woman, Sybil would likely have lived with a family member. According to the land deed where she sold her father's land in 1784, on which deed Joseph Johnson signed as a witness, she was living in New Haven. In examining her siblings, it appears that they all settled in New York or Cheshire later in life, I'm not seeing that any settled in New Haven. However, the Joseph Johnson family was in New Haven at this time since Hamden was created from New Haven in 1786.

So after the death of Sybil's parents when Ruluf was 4 years old, Sybil and Ruluf may very well have lived with the Johnson family in New Haven. Then after Sybil's death, Joseph Johnson became Ruluf's guardian. If this was the case, then Ruluf was living with a Dutch family from a young age, and so it wouldn't be surprising that the name that he used is a Dutch name.

Conclusion

Ruluf Andrus was an illegitimate child. His mother was Sybil Andrews. Circumstantial evidence suggests that the most likely father of Ruluf is probably Eber Andrews, and his half-sister was probably Sarah Andrews Toms. However, there are not any documents that state this for certain, and it's unlikely that any such document will ever be found.

Ruluf was likely living with the Johnson family as a young boy, who were Dutch. His potential father, Eber Andrews, also had a Dutch name. Either or both of these reasons could be an explanation why Ruluf had an unusual Dutch first name.

In summary, though no direct document listed the parents of Ruluf Andrus, the following circumstantial evidence indicates that his mother was Sybil Andrews and his father was probably Eber Andrews:

1. Ruluf was appointed a guardian in Hamden in December 1789, indicating that he was at that time an orphan

2. Sybil Andrews died in September 1789 3 months earlier. Her death was recorded in the Congregational Church in Hamden and in the Cheshire town records. There isn't another Andrews that died in this area that seems to fit as a parent of Ruluf.
3. Sybil Andrews sold land in Sybil sold land on 7 April 1784 in Cheshire, which was land she had inherited the year before at the death of her father, Amos Andrews. Joseph Johnson was a witness on the deed, the same man that was appointed as a guardian for Ruluf.
4. Joseph Johnson had a daughter named Eunice Johnson. Eunice Johnson married Nathaniel Andrews, who was the brother of Sybil. Thus Joseph Johnson was the great uncle of Ruluf and a likely candidate to be appointed as his guardian.
5. Ruluf named his first daughter Sybil.
6. Sarah Andrus Toms and her husband John Toms lived in the same areas that Ruluf did at around the same times. They were in Rutland County VT, then moved to Essex County NY, and Sarah later moved to Ohio. Family members often moved together so it's possible they were family members. Sarah is the right age to be a sister of Ruluf.
7. The christening record for Sarah Andrus Toms lists her father as Eber Andrews.
8. Eber Andrews attended a Congregational Church in Canaan CT, which later relocated to Stillwater NY. In these church records on 12 September 1772, he and his wife were disciplined for some kind of misdeed and dismissed from the church. The records don't state what the reasons were for the dismissal. However, Ruluf was born 6 months later, so it could be that the reason was that Ruluf's mother Sybil was found pregnant.
9. Sybil Andrews, mother of Ruluf, does not appear to have married in her lifetime, though she had a child. In this time and place, when a woman was found pregnant outside of wedlock, the parents were generally married. However, Sybil didn't marry Ruluf's father. So there would have been a good reason for that. Eber Andrews is a good candidate as he had another wife at the time, certainly he couldn't have married Sybil if he was already married.
10. Sybil Andrews was from Wallingford, and Eber Andrews was from Wallingford also. They had a common ancestor, Samuel Andrews, so they were distant cousins and likely knew each other.
11. Ruluf is a Dutch name, as is the name Eber.

References

Sources Consulted from the Family History Library

- Canaan CT town records, US Film 1503196 Item 1
- Church records, 1758-1894; First Congregational Church (Wallingford, Connecticut), film #6053
- Cheshire Congregational Church records, film #3998
- Hamden CT Congregational church records, film 3054 Item 3
- Church records, 1728-1876 First Congregational Church (Southington, Connecticut) , Film 5662
- Cheshire CT land deeds
- Union Congregational Church (Claremont, New Hampshire) card file index, 1739-1938, film 2313864 Items 2-4
- Mount Holly, it's early days, 974.37/M4 H2h
- History of Mount Holly, Vermont, 974.37/M4 H2t
- "Dutch Johnsons of Connecticut" by Donald Jacobus, published in the New England Genealogical and Historical Register, volume 66, 1912

Connecticut Sources Consulted

- From the Connecticut State Library: Hartford County Court Records 1772, Litchfield County Court Records 1772
- From the Wallingford Town Hall: Wallingford town records 1770-1780
- From the Whitney Library at the New Haven Museum: New Haven town records, MSS 28