From: Robbinsfamilysouthjersey@yahoogroups.com on behalf of Chris Schopfer
To: Robbinsfamilysouthjersey@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [Robbinsfamilysouthjersey] Re: Frances ? wife of William Potter
Date: Sunday, January 01, 2006 11:31:35 PM

Debby/Sara/et.al:

I did some exploring on Ancestry.com <http://ancestry.com/> regarding William Potter's wife's identity, and thought a few observations were worth sharing:

I had privately hypothesized that "Child" may have been written somewhere to note that Frances was a minor, but this is evidently not so; the Abigail's passenger records reportedly state that Frances was 26 at the time of her emigration. This statement is evidently the basis for a frequently estimated birth year of 1609. But one peculiar posting makes me wonder if Frances was indeed married at the time: "A second marriage for this same couple is also recorded in the New Haven Town Hall Records for Aug. 10, 1636." An image of this record in its original form might be enlightening.

Several postings mention that Frances made the voyage to America in 1635 on the ship "Abigail" with her first son, who was just 4 months old. I wonder if the surname "Child" is a misinterpretation of the ship's manifest, which may have intended "Child" to refer to the infant (Joseph, I believe). This record, too, might still be accessible in original form.

Frances' and William's marriage is frequently cited as "abt 1634 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, England"; someposting state 14 April 1630 (often citing New Haven, which is obviously wrong; at least one noted London, England, but gave no specific source).

I saw two men named as Frances' father (below), presumably tied to birth records found by researchers in the past. The first of these is at least nearly consistent with Frances' age noted in The Abigail's manifest. I have to wonder, though, how close these are to William's home in Devon, and if not close, how the marriage might have been made:

- Thomas Child of Roxton, Bedfordshire (with Frances b. 16 Feb 1610/11/Bletsoe, Bedford, England)
- Robert Child of Kent, England (with Frances b. 1616/Kent, England)

The surname "Wood" appears to belong to Elizabeth Wood, b. 14 Apr 1606 in Chesham, Buckinghamshire, who is frequently shown as William Potter's second wife. One listing, by Rita Lace (ritalace@yahoo.com) says William's second marriage was Elizabeth's fourth; her first being to William's brother, John Potter. "She was excommunicated in 1646 because she would not give up Edward Parker", her second husband, with whom she eventually had four children. Her third marriage was purportedly in 1664, to Robert Rose.

One sometimes-named wife of William's, Hannah Beecher, appears to have actually been his mother, Hannah (Hawes) Potter Beecher, who married, second, John Beecher.

Well, that's it. I have no first-hand knowledge of any of the above, but though anyone inclined to do some primary research might be interested. Happy New Year!

Chris

> Date: Mon, 12 Dec 2005 11:05:37 -0700
> From: "july37" < july37@cox.net>
> Subject: Re: Re: Frances ? wife of William Potter
>
> Debby,
>
> You mentioned Wood as a possible maiden name for Frances Potter. Sorting
> through the Frances Potter information, I see the Wood name given by other
> researchers too. Like the name Child, Wood is another family to explore.
> Thanks for adding this information.
> Sara
>
> ----- Original Message -----

> From: july37
> To: Robbinsfamilysouthjersey@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2005 5:35 PM
> Subject: Re: [Robbinsfamilysouthjersey] Re: Frances ? wife of William
> Potter
>
>
> Debby,
>
> Nice to have you join us. Any information you or any one else has on
> Frances ? Potter's maiden name may help. Just comparing notes could lead
us
> to a source. So far, I haven't found anyone on ancestry.com who has
> provided a source for their file on Frances Child or the place of origin
for
> the William Potter family. I haven't pursued it any further & it seems
> there has been no progress in this area to date. Dr. Ben Bloxham's forum
> message on 3/10/05 references this subject. He says, "Where there is
"Hope"
> we can keep smiling". So I remain hopeful that we will eventually find
> correct answers.
>
> Sara
> ----- Original Message -----
> From: debby_muench
> To: Robbinsfamilysouthjersey@yahoogroups.com
> Sent: Saturday, December 10, 2005 2:31 PM
> Subject: [Robbinsfamilysouthjersey] Re: Frances ? wife of William
> Potter
>
>
> Sara,
> I have Frances' name as Wood. Unfortunately, I didn't have the
> source on my hard copy and this is from the reconstructed records
> when my computer crashed. It might provide a place to start.
> Hope that helps.
> Debby Muench
>
>
> --- In Robbinsfamilysouthjersey@yahoogroups.com, "turkeypt2"
> <july37@c...> wrote:
> >
> > Can anyone provide some type of documentation for the
> > maiden name of Frances Potter, wife of William Potter and mother
> of
> > Hope Potter Robins? I see Frances' surname is given primarily as
> > Child by many Robbins researchers. It appears to me this has been
> > perpetuated without any validation. Is someone able to tell me if
> > this is an incorrect assumption on my part or was Frances actually
> a
> > member of the Child family?
> >
> > The subject of Frances' surname became of interest to me again
> after
> > I recently re-read the article by Barbara W. Pitcher,
> > "Father, Farmer, Churchman, Sinner" reprinted
> > with the permission of Ms. Pitcher in John Taylor's book, "Richard
> > Robins - Loyalist." I noticed Ms Pitcher gives no surname for
> > Frances. Should the name Child continue to be used if we
> > have no idea, clue or documentation as to where the surname
> > Child for Frances originated?
> >
> > Sara
>

[Non-text portions of this message have been removed]

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