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Re: Judith [VASSALL] WHITE

Posted by: [tania vestal](#)

Date: March 05, 2001 at 21:54:39

In Reply to: [Judith \[VASSALL\] WHITE](#) by Loretta Baughan of 24704

The Vassalls

Some of this information was found on the Internet, with embellishments from the book, Abbey Memorial, second edition 1917, and my line descendants line from the LDS web site.

The Vassalls were an ancient Catholic family of Normandy, which included two cardinals and a marshal of France; But Jean Vassall became a Huguenot and fled to England a few years before the massacre of St. Bartholomew. They were of the Episcopalian faith and supports of the revolution against the authority of King Charles.

Most of the Vassals were loyal to the British crown during the American Revolution. In consequence the entire family was exiled and their estates confiscated. After their return to England in 1776 members of the family distinguished themselves in the British army and navy.

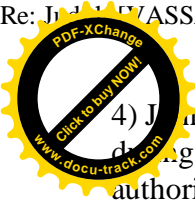
The seven Mansions still standing (in 1917) in Brattle street, Cambridge, Mass. known as "Tory Row," which included the home of Longfellow and "Elmwood" the birthplace of James Russell Lowell, were in 1774 the homes of the Vassall family.

John Vassall

John Vassall was born about in Caen, Normandie, France about 1524. He married at least once, abt 1543, one known son, John, was born to him.

John Vassall, born 1544 in Normandy France married on September 23, 1569 in Ratcliffe, Middlesex, England to Anne Russell. He died in Sept. 13, 1625 at Stepney, Essex, England. Anne died May 5, 1593 in Stepney, England. The records at the parish church of St. Dunstan's states he died "of the plague"

- 1) John Vassall was the builder and owner of the Mayflower that brought the Pilgrims to the shores of Cape Cod.
- 2) John was probably a religious refugee from France, with position and security in England, who fitted out and commanded 2 ships against the Spanish Armada, and was later a member of the Virginia Company. (Dictionary of American Biography, v.19, pg. 230)
- 3) John was an alderman of London, who, in 1588, at his own expense, fitted out and commanded two ships war with which he joined the royal navy to oppose the Spanish Armada... (NEH&GR, Jan 1871, page 39)



4) John describes himself in his will as a mariner, of French extraction. His father John sent him to England during the religious troubles in France from his home in Normandy. He seems to have been recognized as an authority in questions of navigation, as we find him recommended to be examined by the judge of admiralty as to the skill of the pilot in a suit respecting the wreck of a vessel on the Goodwin sands in 1577. In 1588 he fitted out and commanded a vessel of 140 tons to serve against the Spanish Armada.

5) In Harleian MS.168, f.177, his vessel is called the Samuel, while in the state papers in the record office it appears as the Solomon. (Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. XX. Lond; Oxford Univ. press, 1938)

6) He was a member of the Virginia Company, which made the settlement at Jamestown in 1607.

John's spouse Anna Russell, born in Radcliffe, England. Married September 4,1580 in St. Dunstan's, Stepney
Died 1593

John and Ann's Children were:

Judith, John (died as a infant), Samuel 2nd son, John, *William 4th son, and Ann.

Samuel Vassall

Samuel was probably the largest ship owner of his day and was the first to refuse to pay the tax of tonnage and poundage. As a result, his property was seized and he himself thrown into prison for sixteen years by the Star Chamber Court. In 1641 the Long Parliament voted him over ten thousand pounds damages and **resolved** that he should be further recompensed for his personal suffering, but this was never paid.

Other notes relating to William and family

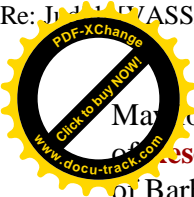
Jun 1657 (Perogative Court of Canterbury) William VASSALL of Barbados, "who had lands in New England." Probate to the son, John VASSALL. (June 1657). Wa. ("American Wills And Administrations in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury 1610-1857" by Peter Wilson Coldham,1989) See 1661-2 below. John VASSALL, son of William, later removed to Old Rappa. Co VA as did his sister, Ann, wife of Nicholas WARE.

03 Jan 1661/2 As a merchant of St. Michael's, Barbados, 3 Jan. 1661/2, Nicholas WARE gave bond to John VASSALL of Barbados to secure payment to VASSALL for "four good negroes."(Adventurers of Purse & Person, Virginia 1607-1624/5 by Virginia M. Meyer/John Frederick Dorman, 1987)

Note: In disagreement with the above is the statement from "Hoskins of Virginia and Related Families by Charles Willard Hoskins Warner, 1971, pg 155, that : "On January 3, 1661 a certificate was recorded in Rappahannock Court that Mr. Nicholas WARE, merchant ahad that day signed a power of attorney to Mr. John WEIR, "beloved friend" of Rappahannock County."

Nicholas WARE had m Anna VASSALL, d/o William VASSAL who d in Barbados in 1657, formerly a resident of Massachusetts, but born in England (s/o John & Ann RUSSELL Vassal). Nicholas WARE & his brother in law, John VASSALL, s/o William, both later removed to Old Rappahannock Co. VA where John VASSALL is found in records with William UNDERWOOD, Sr., step-son of Archdale Combs of Old Rappahannock Co. VA. William VASSALL'S father, John, had married (2)

Judith BORROUGHS, d/o Stephen, niece of William, and widow of Thomas SCOTT of Colchester, Co. Essex, EN. Whether Nicholas WARE & John WEIR of Old Rappahannock Co. VA were kin or not, remains unknown. See Also Abraham Combs & Cuthbert SCOTT of MD



Major Families : "The parentage of Judith is clearly shown in a deed of 18 July 1657 in which she, as wife of **Resolved** White, sells land bequeathed to her as daughter of "William Vassall heretofore of Scituate, and of Barbados deceased, by a will dated 13 July 1655."

More information on the Vassall family can be found in an article in the New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Volume 17 page 56, entitled "The Vassalls of New England," by Edward Doubleday Harris.

Related web sites of interest:

The Charter of Massachusetts Bay : 1629

<http://www.yale.edu/lawweb/avalon/states/mass03.htm>

1630, THE WINTHROP FLEET:

Eleven vessels brought 'the Great Emigration' of this year, viz: ARBELLA the flagship
AMBROSE, WILLIAM AND FRANCIS, TALBOT, HOPEWELL, JEWEL, WHALE, CHARLES, SUCCESS,
MAYFLOWER, TRIAL

The first five ships sailed April 8 from Yarmouth, Isle of Wight, and arrived at Salem, June 13 and following days. The other half of the fleet sailed in May and arrived in July at various dates. Altogether they brought about seven hundred passengers.

<http://members.aol.com/dcurtin1/gene/winthrop.htm>

I found this while looking up my husband's family. (now Vestal instead of Vassall.) I hope it is helpful to everyone.

I have information on John Vassall, William Vassall, thru some of the current Vestals if anyone is interested. I also have a photo of the home of Elizabeth Mercer (widow of William II) and her children built in 1751. It is the home most Vestals of the United States originated.

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