

BURDICK

There is good reason to believe that the surname Burdick is identical with Burditt (also spelled Burdett, Burdette, etc.). The spelling Burdick is not given in English works on surnames, and like many American names it is probably a variation in spelling from the English Burdette, etc.

Add to this the fact that the name of Robert, the emigrant ancestor, appears on the official records of Rhode Island and Massachusetts variously as Birdict, Berdick, Burdett, Burditt, Burdict, and Burdick (as will be shown later), and it seems reasonably certain that his ancestors are to be found among the ancient family of Burdetts in England.

Before the Normans came to England the Bordets, or Burdetts, were Barons of Cuilly, near Falaise, in Normandy. Cuilly or Quilly formed only part of the possessions of the Burdetts. Their name seems to have been adopted from the place name Bourdet. Two brothers of this name, Robert Bordet, Lord of Cuilly, and his brother Hugh, came to England with the Conqueror. On the Roll of Battle Abbey the name is spelled Burdet. Robert and Hugh both appear in the Domesday as sub-tenants in Leicestershire, where Hugh held considerable estates under the Countess Judith. The wife and son of Robert are also on the list of landowners. Robert was dead before 1086, when his widow held land from Hugh de Grantmesnil, in Lincolnshire (Dom. I, 232b). He had a son Hugh, and this Hugh had sons Robert de Cuily, and Walter de Cuily, from whom descended the Guilly, Quilly, De Cuillys, de Culeys, Culey, Cully, Colley, Culai, Cuilys, Caileys, Cayles, and Guiley families.

Dugdale tells of a William Burdet "who flourisht in Henry II's time," and who was undoubtedly an ancestor of the later families of Burdett. "The said William Burdet, being both a valient and devout man, made a journey to the Holy Land for subduing of the Infidells in those parts..." He left two sons: Hugh, whose line expired in the next generation, and Richard, who died in 1223."

Robert Burdick, the Emigrant -- Names of those who may have been his relatives appear very early in Colonial records. A William Burditt, aged 25, came to Virginia in the "Susan" in 1615. George Burditt or Burdett came from Yarmouth, Norfolk, England, where he by popular election had preached two years, and resided for a time at Salem, Mass. William Burdick was master of the ship "Hopewell" which brought many colonists to this country in 1635. A Robert Burditt, who may have been related to the Robert above, was born in England in 1633, came to New England when a young man, and settled in Malden, Mass. There he married, November, 1653, Hannah Winter. The names of his children are similar to those of the Rhode Island family.

The first BURDICK of record in America was Robert Burdick, who was living at Newport, R.I. in 1655. He came from England to Newport in 1651. He was married Nov. 2, 1655, to Ruth Hubbard, the first white child born at Agawam (now Springfield), Mass., Jan. 11, 1640. Her father, Samuel Hubbard, came from England to Salem, Mass., in 1633.

Robert Berdick and Tobia Sanders were admitted as Freemen of Newport, May 22, 1655. Robert Birdict (1656), Tobia Sanders, and Joseph Clarke were all living at Newport in 1655. Robert Burdick was admitted a Freeman of the Colony of Rhode Island, May 20, 1657.

In a westward expansion of the early New England Colonies three of them laid claim to a tract of land called the Pequot Country. In October, 1658, Massachusetts declared a small settlement which had been made there, to be a plantation with the name of Southertown (now Stonington), and annexed it to Suffolk County, Mass. Special commissioners and a constable were appointed to administer it. The Rhode Island Assembly, the next month, retaliated by warning all settlers in the disputed area that if they put their lands under another colonial government their holdings would be confiscated.

Meantime, the Narragansett settlements (of Rhode Island) bought from the Indians, under the name of the Westerly Purchase, land a part of which lay in Southertown, and began to settle it. Among the settlers were Robert Burdick, Tobias Saunders, and Joseph Clarke, farmers of Newport, and they soon found themselves in the thick of the fight between Massachusetts and Rhode Island. They were eventually committed to the Boston jail and kept there two years. Each colony sought to arrest citizens of the other. The two were at last released on being exchanged for two Massachusetts officials taken in retaliation by the Rhode Island authorities.

From this sturdy, conscience-minded ancestor, Robert, sprang all the Burdicks who claim an early Rhode Island ancestry.

When Connecticut was granted a new charter, the disputed area of Southertown (Stonington) was given to her, and Massachusetts retired from the race. Later a compromise was arrived at in England between Connecticut and Rhode Island, whereby the latter was awarded the area of Westerly, where Robert Burdick had built his house, and where he settled on being released by Massachusetts.

He was in a list of free inhabitants of Westerly in May 1669. On May 17, 1671, he and others took the oath of allegiance to the King and to the colony of Rhode Island. Among those who subscribed that day are many of the ancestors of later families of Burdicks: John Crandall, Tobiah Sanders, Joseph Clarke, Robert Burdick, John Maxon, Jeffery Champlin, Sr., John Lewis, George Lanpheare, Nicholas Cotterill, Jr., etc.--"all of which persons did promise to stand to their engagements to his Majesty and this Colony.

On the outbreak of King Philip's Indian War, Westerly was on the exposed frontier. He and his family, in July 1675, went to Newport, but subsequently returned to Westerly.

For the years 1690, 1693, 1695 he was a deputy to the General Court of Rhode Island from Westerly. On May 17, 1691, he and his wife Ruth sold one-hundred acres of land for ten pounds. March 8, 1692, he made an agreement with his son-in-law, Joseph Crandall (husband of daughter Deborah) by which the latter was to take care of his father-in-law and find him suitable meat, drink, washing, lodging and apparel, etc., for life, in consideration of which Joseph Crandall was to have the dwelling house and land adjoining forever, and until Robert Burdick's death, to have also use of oxen, cart, two cows and eight swine, and then to be returned to be disposed of by will, except the cart and wheels.

He was a seceder from the Baptist Church, joining with the Seventh Day Baptists; and "many descendants held membership in the ancient and interesting old Sabbatarian Church."

His death occurred in 1692, 25 October; and his wife died the year before.

"They were progenitors of "the old Rhode Island Burdick family which has been identified with the history of the Colony and the Commonwealth, respectively, for 250 and more years." A glance over the records of the Colony and State shows that persons of the Burdick name have from the start to the present been intrusted with public offices of trust and honor in their communities and towns, and that the name has been continually worthily borne."

--Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society, Vol. III, p. 117

"Burdicks" Salt Lake Genealogical Library

For several generations the following families married and remarried: Clarks, Maxsons, Burdicks, Moshers, Crandalls and Davises. In 1821, Elizabeth Jane Maxson (granddaughter of Ephraim Maxson and Elizabeth Davis) married William Simpkins Furrow. John Furrow (son of William Simpkins Furrow) was the father of Nina Valva Furrow who married John Allen Bagley and were the grandparents of Ira Corbett Stone, Jr.

Robert Burdick married Ruth Hubbard and was grandfather of 14 year old Gideon Burdick who was drummer boy with George Washington when they crossed the Delaware on Christmas Eve, 1776.

-- 1943 "Improvement Era"