

Hildreth Names in 1799-1803 Tax Rolls of Southampton, New York

by Mary Ann Schaefer
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First, I've recently realized that the town of Southampton includes the hamlet of Bridgehampton. This clarifies in my mind why some Hildreth's appear in Southampton records when I expected them to be in Bridgehampton instead. They were actually in both. In any case, these tax rolls are definitely for Southampton which I believe includes Bridgehampton.

It appears to me that the names appearing on these tax lists represent people who are related to two of the sons of the original settler to Long Island, Thomas Hildreth, those sons being Joseph-2 and James-2. I descend from the line of Joseph-2, and am less familiar with the line of James-2. Nevertheless, I believe the people we see in these lists are from both these branches and they are at least two generations away from Joseph-2 and James-2, meaning the tax lists show their great-grandchildren.

Let's start with those names on the tax list whom I believe to be descendants of Joseph-2. I think there are two lines represented from two of Joseph-2's sons: Nathan-3 and Isaac-3, broken down like this:

1. Daniel II and Samuel were brothers, and sons of Daniel-4 (supposedly), a son of Nathan-3. But who was Joseph who was shown between Daniel and Samuel in this tax list, since both Joseph Jr's were – supposedly – deceased by 1790? My guess is that he was the son of Daniel II and Samuel's deceased brother Joseph, the Joseph Hildreth (1778-1855) who would later marry Beulah Sayre. That Joseph Hildreth moved to Minisink, Orange, NY from roughly 1810-1825, but then later he returned to Southampton. He is the father of Lewis Hildreth, who would start the Hildreth family store that still exists today.

For reference, the line for these names looks like:

Thomas-1, Joseph-2, Nathan-3, Daniel-4, Daniel & Samuel-5

Thomas-1, Joseph-2, Nathan-3, Daniel-4, Joseph-5, Joseph-6

2. Speculating based on other trees, I think that Luther, Isaac, and John were grandchildren of Isaac Hildreth, a son of Joseph-2. Several public tree claim that Isaac was a son of James-2, but neither the will of James-2 nor the Howell genealogies mention any name of Isaac, so for now, I am going with the idea that he was a son of Joseph-2.

The father of Luther/Isaac/John was apparently Ensign John Hildreth 1729-1795, and possibly this is the John that the DH-III account referred to.

Finally, it is worth noting that “Phebe and son” are listed consistently close to the names of Isaac and John (and in one case Luther), making one think there might be some closer relationship. I will get to this point again soon.

For reference, the line for these names looks like:

Thomas-1, Joseph-2, Isaac-3, John-4, Luther & Isaac & John-5

I have not studied this line of Isaac-3 very much up to this point. It's curious, however, that if Isaac owned as much land as the tax list seems to indicate, almost no deeds pop up for him in the Southampton Books of Record.

Now let's get to the descendants of James.

1. I think David and Peter in the tax lists descended from James-2 for these reasons:
 - a) We have the will of James Hildreth (d. 1720), and it mentions a grandson named Peter, so it's possible and probable that subsequent generations also had that name.
 - b) James-2 potentially had a son named David, but that name was not mentioned in the will of James-2. But the executor of the will was a son named Joshua, which is a name found throughout the Southampton Books of Records. Joshua-3 had a grandson named David. So because David is not a name we find in the Joseph-2 branch, it seems likely that the name does indeed belong to some descendant of James-2.
2. Next, we have "Phebe and son." The 1799 tax list has an additional word after "son," and after much staring I decided that the word starts with "L" and almost looks like Levy. Or maybe Levi? Yes, I believe we could be looking at Levi Hildreth.

For reference, this line looks like:

Thomas-1, James-2, Joshua-3, James-4, Levi-5

James-4 did apparently have a wife named Phebe Howell, and a son named Levi, which is information that can be found in a rather extensive will left by James-4. However, the following might also have been true based on unsourced information I've seen in other public trees:

- Phebe was the second wife of James-4
- Phebe was potentially much younger than James-4, by as much as 30 years if we are to believe some dates in the public trees
- Levi was probably the only child of James-4 and Phebe, but there were numerous other children of James-4 by his previous wife (allegedly named Martha).

Given this situation, why would "Phebe and son" be listed in proximity of Isaac Hildreth's grandchildren, especially given that Isaac's family represented a different branch of the family?

Possible reasons are:

- My speculative conclusions are just plain wrong because they are based on faulty thinking and/or inadequate and incomplete sources. Which is to say maybe there was an Isaac Hildreth from James-2 side of the family who we don't know about. Or maybe Phebe is somebody else entirely and "Levy" is just an ink blob. There's plenty of room for doubt here.
- If, however, we can believe anything about the apparent situation of Phebe Howell, born about 1755, and second wife of an older Hildreth who died leaving her with a very, very young baby, then I might suppose that Phebe turned to other family, not only Hildreth's but possibly also Howell's. If Phebe was born in 1755, she was in the exact same age group with Luther, Isaac, and John. Maybe one of them married a Howell? Maybe a sister of Phebe? So far, I haven't found evidence, but then there's also the possibility that a sister of Luther/Isaac/John married a Howell. It's all speculation at this point.

And finally, who was Jonathan Hildreth? There was, apparently, a son of Joseph-2 named Jonathan, so this Jonathan might descend from him. Currently, I don't have much speculation about this Jonathan Hildreth (hard to believe, but true).

Source Information

Ancestry.com. *New York, Tax Assessment Rolls of Real and Personal Estates, 1799-1804* [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2014.

Original data:

New York (State), Comptroller's Office. Tax assessment rolls of real and personal estates, 1799–1804, Series B0950 (26 reels). Microfilm. Albany, New York: New York State Archives.

1799

Names of Proprietors	Description of Real Estate	Value of	Value of	Tax	
		Real Estate	Personal Estate	Doll.	Cts.
		Dollars	Dollars		
Hildreth Luther	House & Land	524	300		82
Hildreth Phebe & son Levy	" "	725	78		50
Hildreth Isaac	" "	1340	77	1	41
Hildreth John	" "	497	562		44
Hildreth David	" "	260	51		31
Hildreth Peter	" "	382	32		41
Hildreth Jonathan	Land	60	34		7
Hildreth Daniel	House & Land	1031	88	1	12
Hildreth Joseph	" "	500	79		57
Hildreth Samuel DH	" "	671	126		74
Hains Benjamin	" "	571	249		74
Hains Mary	" "				

- Son of Phebe could say "Levy"
- There is some additional notation after Joseph – no idea what it says.
- Notation after Samuel name, "DH" are initials of his father or grandfather?
- Regarding Luther, his name is found on subsequent lists, but in a different grouping on other pages, specifically near Peter Hildreth (for his wife), once next to Mehitabel Hildreth, probably his step-mother, and several times next to Septimus Hildreth, his youngest brother. I am not sure about his story. I know there were several references to Luther Hildreth in the Southampton Books of Records, but those might have been for a descendant or nephew – just not sure at this point.

Highest value of real estate:

Isaac, then Daniel. John had the most personal estate value.

1800

Hildreth William	235	42	277	67
Hildreth Phebe	725	58	783	195
Hildreth Isaac	1340	67	1407	350
Hildreth John Capt	437	612	1049	260
Hildreth David	260	32	292	73
Hildreth Peter	382	48	430	17
Hildreth Jonathan		20	20	5
Hildreth Daniel	1031	92	1123	280
Hildreth Joseph	500	25	525	130
Hildreth Samuel	671	122	793	197
Hildreth Benjamin	500	252	752	188

Note the reference to John as "Capt". I believe this John Hildreth was a whaling captain.

1801

5	Hildreth William				
	Hildreth Phebe and son	700	50	750	131
	Hildreth Isaac	1340		1340	235
	Hildreth John	437	730	1107	209
	Hildreth David	260		260	46
80	Hildreth Peter	382	40	422	73
	Hildreth Jonathan	40		40	07
102	Hildreth Daniel	1030	100	1130	190
	Carried over	1600.82	35999	196075	342.81

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Names of Proprietors	Description of Real Estate	Value of	Value of	Total	To be	
		Real Estate	Personal		Assessed	paid thereon
		Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Dollars	Cents
Pro ^o over		160002	95999	196075	942	81
103 Hildreth Joseph	House & Land	500	50	550		96
Hildreth Samuel		850		850	1	40
5 Hains Benjamin		500	250	750	1	31

Pro ^o over		111108	25152	136310	230	98
136 Hedges Stephen	House & Land	868	100	968	1	69
Hildreth Peter (Wife's Right)		546		546		96
Hedges Stephen Jun ^r		150		150		26
Hedges Jeremiah		250	50	300		53
40 Hildreth Septemius (Heir)			500	500		87
Hildreth Luther		520	260	780	1	96
St. t. O. L.		40	30	70		12

this last snippet shows the different grouping where Luther was listed near Septemius and Peter rather than the other group of Hildreth's.

	Hildreth Thebe and Son	700	50	750	75
80	Hildreth Isaac	1340		1340	134
	Hildreth John	430	1350	1780	170
	Hildreth David	260		260	26
	Hildreth Peter	300	40	420	42
	Hildreth Jonathan	40		40	04
5	Hildreth Daniel	1000	100	1100	110
	Hildreth Joseph	500	50	550	55
	Hildreth Samuel	850		850	85
	Hain Benjamin	450	200	650	65
					10

Henrick William	350				
Hildreth Peter & Son	700	80	780	—	52
Hildreth Isaac	1340	50	1390	—	42
172 Hildreth John	430	1400	1830	1	22
	165110	34300	199410	132	30

Names of Possessors	Real Personal			Mortgage	
	Dollars				Cts
184 Comt. Brod Over	165110	34300	199410	132	30
Hildreth David	260	—	260	—	17
Hildreth Peter	380	40	420	—	28
Hildreth Jonathan	40	30	70	—	4
Hildreth Daniel	1000	100	1100	—	73
5 Hildreth Joseph	500	50	550	—	36
Hildreth Samuel	1000	—	1000	—	66
Hains Benjamin	450	200	650	—	43
Hains Samuel	350	—	350	—	23