

Excerpted from " The Bayles Family of Long Island and New Jersey"  
By Howard Green Bayles

**THE NEW JERSEY LAND GRANT**

Probably the most picturesque episode in which any of our ancestors played an important role was that of the New Jersey Land Grant in 1664-5. The following brief account, gathered from Archives of N. J., Vol. 6, pp. 206 et seq. and from the Encyclopedia Britannica, is probably substantially correct.

On March 12, 1664, King Charles II of England gave his brother, the Duke of York, all lands lying between the Connecticut River and Delaware Bay. In May, 1664, the Duke of York sent Richard Nicholls to represent him and govern the grant, with headquarters in New York. Among other things, Nicholls had to take New Amsterdam from the Dutch, which he did.

While Gov. Nicholls was still at sea, the Duke of York gave to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret the portion of his grant lying between the Delaware and Hudson Rivers, namely, New Jersey. Gov. Nicholls, of course, knew nothing of this until much later.

On Sept. 26, 1664, a group of Long Islanders, consisting of John Bayles, Daniel Denton, Thomas Benydict, Nathaniel Denton, John Foster and Luke Watson, petitioned Gov. Nicholls for permission to buy land in New Jersey from the Indians. They stated that they had "before been obstructed in their endeavors to settle a plantation where Elizabeth Town now is, by the then ruling Dutch". Gov. Nicholls granted their petition, whereupon they opened negotiations with a group of Staten Island Indians (who had never owned or even lived on the land in question) and bought from them all the waterfront lying between the mouths of the Raritan and Passaic Rivers (about 17 miles) and extending twice as far inland, a total of about 370,000 acres. For a deed to this enormous tract they gave two guns, two iron kettles, 10 bars of lead, 20 handfuls of gunpowder and 240 yards of coarse cloth. It looked like a wonderful bargain.

This deed from the Indians was dated Oct. 28, 1664, and a few weeks later, on December 1, was ratified by Gov. Nicholls. The record states that "Immediately thereafter, John Bayles and his associates entered upon, planted and improved said property."

In August, 1665, Philip Carteret, a relative of Sir George, arrived as his representative and Governor of New Jersey, and promptly repudiated the whole transaction. He pointed out that the Duke of York had transferred title to all of New Jersey before Governor Nicholls gave John Bayles and his friends permission to buy the land from the Indians and furthermore that the Indians in question did not own the land and had no title to transfer.

Very generously, it seems to us, he offered to reimburse the Long Islanders for their outlay, which they placed at  $\text{£}154$  (which looks like a scandalous over-valuation of the trade goods they gave the Indians) and to allow the ousted promoters to settle near Elizabeth Town on reasonable tracts of land. (Note:  $\text{£}$  is equivalent to English Pounds)

We have made no effort to find out whether any of the others decided to stay in New Jersey, but it seems certain that John Bayles accepted the grant of land offered him, sold it and returned to Long Island, as he reappears promptly in the records of Jamaica. There is no reason to suppose that he had ever moved his family to New Jersey.

Everything indicates that the John Bayles who took part in this venture was John (1), the founder of our line. He was forty-seven years old at this time, a wanderer, an inveterate land-trader and always active in community affairs.

His son John (2) was much less adventurous and apparently stayed quietly in Jamaica from about 1663 until his death in 1696. He joined the Masonic Lodge in 1664 and married Ruth Rusco March 12, 1665. He would have been only about twenty-two years old at the time of the New Jersey Land Grant, and certainly not the man to lead a venture of this sort.

## JOHN BAYLES

It is an interesting fact that the record of the first of our ancestors in this country is more fully documented than that of most of his descendants. There is no question that he was of the pioneer type, restless, active in civic affairs and an inveterate land trader. While it would be tedious to list all of the minor activities of his many descendants, it seems worth while to give the history of John (1) in some detail.

1617. Born in England. While we have no information regarding his family or ancestors, it is clear that he came of humble yeoman stock, as he never learned to sign his name. The weight of evidence indicates that he came from the Parish of St. Peters of Mancrofts in Norwich, Norfolk, England.

1635. June 10. Sailed from London on the Truelove for Bermuda at the alleged age of 18.[Hotten.] It is customary for a ship to clear for the first port of call. During the colonial period it was very common for ships to make a triangular voyage, calling first at the West Indies with trade goods, thence to New England with molasses and finally back to England with rum and other New England produce. Their prompt appearance in New England proves beyond question that many, if not all, of the passengers on this trip stayed with the Truelove until it reached Boston.

1635-54. We are satisfied that John (1) came to America as an indentured servant of William Wells, born in Norwich in 1605, who was a fellow-passenger on the Truelove. It was common for young men to work their passage in this way. The fact that Hotten gives Wells' age as 17 in 1635 does not alter this conviction. Wells came of a wealthy family, but his older brother John was heir to the estate and all William got was a first-rate legal education and a modest sum of money to start him in life. Wells arrived in Boston in 1635, was in Lynn in 1638, in New Haven in 1639 and in Southold, L. I., in 1640. [Hayes.]

1640, when Wells moved to Southold, John (1) had worked out his passage and was free to do as he pleased, and it was probably about this time that he married Rebecca. The fact that his marriage is not mentioned in Clemens' Marriages Prior to 1699 proves nothing, as this list is by no means complete. Equally the fact that John (1) does not appear in the earlier records as having been in Boston, Lynn and New Haven, together with William Wells, does not disprove our theory, as only masters and heads of households were so listed.

During the period 1640-54 we can only assume that John (1) worked at a trade (we do not know what) and saved what he could.

1654. Southold. The records of the First Church show that John (1) was living there before 1654. [Holgate.] The short trip by boat across Long Island Sound would not have been difficult, even for a man with a wife and several children. Whether he made this move at the urging of his old friend and former employer, or was attracted by Rev. John Youngs, whom he may have known in England, we do not know. It seems more probable that Wells, who may have offered him employment, was the attraction.

1656. Southold. Bought a lot on the Town Street of Thomas Scudder. [Case.] He could very well have lived and worked in Southold for some time until he had saved enough to buy a home-lot.

1657. Southold was first settled in 1640. A Town Street was laid out and trees were felled to open it. In 1657 a resolution was passed at Town Meeting that all who owned property on Town Street must remove the stumps in front of their lots. A study of a few wills indicates that very few of the early settlers had horses, and the fact that the stumps were allowed to remain in place so long is strong evidence that still fewer had any sort of wheeled vehicles.[Case.]

1661. Southold. Sept. 22. Sells his house and home lot to John Tuthill. [Moore.]

1661. Jamaica. July 14. Voted in Town Meeting. [RJ 1-101. ]

Probably the sale of his property in Southold was made or agreed upon before John (1) moved.  
Jan. 30, Jamaica. Candidate for Magistrate. [RJ 1-13. ]

1662. Apr. 3, Jamaica. Licensed to keep an "ordinary." [RJ 1-14 ]

1663. Dec. 3, Jamaica. T. M. voted him a delegate to a meeting of town deputies.[RJ 1-25 ]

1664-5. During this period John (1) was involved in the New Jersey land grant.  
While he probably did not move his family to New Jersey, he was away from Jamaica most of the time during these two years.

1666. Jamaica. Surveys land. [RJ 1-33 ]

1668. Setauket. Accepted as a townsman by T. M. [BR 1-156 ]

1668-74. Setauket. Resident and taxpayer, proved by numerous entries in the Brookhaven Records. In spite of the fact that John (1) spent six years in Setauket, it seems that none of the many Bayleses in Brookhaven Town (Township), of which Setauket was the principal village, are descended from him. Instead, they trace their line back to Elias Baylis (Bayles) who came to Setauket in 1656. See Part 3. [Thompson p. 262 ]  
Whether Elias of Setauket was any relation to John (1) we do not know. We are only sure that he was not the same person as Elias (4) who was the son of John (1).

1672. Jan. 10, Setauket. Elected Constable. [BR 1-131 ]

1674. Apr. 22. "John Bayles, now of Setauket" trades land in Brookhaven with Thos. Bigs for land in Jamaica, "formerly the property of John Bayles". [BR 1-121 ]

1674. May 28, Jamaica. Attended T. M. [RJ 1-94]

1676.-1682. Jamaica. Many references. [RJ ]

1682. Oct. 18. Made his will. [NYW 1-122 ]

1682. Oct. 20. Jamaica. Deed to son Elias. [RJ 1-220]

1682. Dec. 13. Jamaica. Will proved. [NYW 1-122]

John (1) was married to Rebecca, who survived him. The following list of children is given in his will.

They are arranged according to the order given in the will, with due allowance for the fact that sons were always named first, and for the fact that Rebecca (2) must have been old enough to marry, have a child and die before Rebecca (12) was born. The dates of birth are reasonable approximations. The marriages are taken in part from the N. Y. Hist. Soc. Coll., 1892, p. 122.

- 2\* John b. 1641-2 d. 1696 m. Mar. 12, 1665 Ruth Rusco
- 3\* Rebecca b. abt. 1643 d. before Rebecca (12) was born
  - m. Nicholas Stilwell, leaving a son, Elias
- 4\* Elias b. abt. 1645 d. after 1699 m. abt. 1674 Sarah
- 5 Elizabeth b. abt. 1646 d. after 1682 m. Dec. 31, 1664 James Hubbard
- 6\* Thomas b. abt. 1647 d. abt. 1689
- 7\* Jonathan b. abt. 1650 d. after 1682 m. abt. 1685 Elizabeth Cardell
- 8 Mary b. 1654 d. 1733 [C.A.G. 5-187 ] m. 1680 George Hewlett, 1639-1722
- 9 Damaris b. abt. 1656 d. after 1682 m. Nov. 13, 1679 Nathaniel Lyns of Gravesend
- 10 Abigail b. abt. 1658 d. after 1682 m. before 1682 Daniel Smith
- 11 Ruth b. abt. 1660 d. after 1682
- 12 Rebecca b. abt. 1662 d. after 1694 m. Jan. 11, 1664 Richard More

WILL OF JOHN BAYLES (1)

In the name of God Amen, the Eighteenth Day of October 1682 I John Bayles Senior of Jameca on Long Island in America being in Good and perfect memory thanks be to almight God for the same Doe make Ordaine and Appoint this my Last Will and Testamt in manner and forme following Revoaking by these presents Annulling all and all manner of Former Will and Wills Testamt and Testamt heretofore by me made Either by Writeing or word of mouth and this only to be taken for my Last Will and Testamt First and Principally being hartely Sorrowfull and and Penitent for my Sinns I humbly Committ my Soule unto the hands of Almighty God my Saviour and Redemer trusting in and through the Merrits of Jesus Christ to Obtain Everlasting Life And my Body to be Decently Buried by my Executrix hereafter named and for my wordly Estate which it hath Pleased God to bestow on me. I Doe Give and Dispose of in manner and Form Following. Item I Doe ordanie my Beloved Wife Rebecca Bayles to be whole and Sole Executrix of my Estate Reall and Personall soe Long as she the Said Rebecca Shall after my decease Remaine unmarried, butt in Case of Remarriage I Doe Dispose thereof as follows.

Item I give to my Sonne John Bayles five shillings

Item to my Sonne Elyas the meadow att the ffarthes east neck with the addicon thereunto and three Acres more att the Lower End of the Greate Meadow

Item I Give unto my Sonns Thomas and Jonathan Bayles all the Rest of my Meadow Fresh and Salt to be Equally Divided between them Only my Sonne Jonathan to take his Choice on which Side, as Alsoe all the Rest of my Land and Houseing and Stock to be Likewise Equally Divided between my Said Sonns Thomas and Jonathan they paying out their (share) of all my Debts Legacies and Funerall Charges.

Item I Give to my Daughter Elizabeth Hubbard tenn pounds

Item I Give to my Daughter Mary Hewlett tenn pounds

Item I Give to my Daughter Damares Lyn's five pounds

Item I Give to my Daughter Abigall Smith tenn pounds

Item I Give to my Daughter Ruth Bayles tenn pounds

Item I Give to my Daughter Rebecca Bayles ten pounds

Item I Give unto Elyas Stilwell Sonne of Nicholas Stillwell and my Daughter Rebecca his Wife Deceased ten pounds

I give unto my Grand Child John Bayles one Cow

Item I Give unto my Dearly Beloved Wife Rebecca the Disposall of all my Household Goods in Witness wherof I have hereunto Sett my Hand and Seale the Day and Yeare first Above written:-

Signed Sealed and

Published in prsence off

N. Y. County Wills

Liber 1-2 p. 451-2

The Probate of the will of John Bayles Deceased and Admicon Granted to Rebecca Bayles his Widdow and Relict therein named: Anthony Brockholls Espr Commander in Chiefe and the Councill of the Province of New Yorke To all to whom this Shall come or may Concerne Greetings Whereas John Bayles Late of Jameca on Long Island Deceased Did in his Lifetime make Declare and Cause to be put in writing his Last Will and Testamt Intending to Signe Seale and Publish the Same in Usual forme of Law butt before the Same was Effectted Departed this Life Now know Yee That att a Court of Sessions held att Jameca aforesaid for the North rideing of Yorkshire on Long Island the 13th 14th & 15th Dayes of December Last past the said Will hereunto Annexed being Produced and Mr Peter Smith the Person who Wrott the Same Declareing upon his Corporall Oath that the Same was According to the order and Directions he Received from the said John Bayles and that before his Decease he Declared the Same as his Last Will and Testamt Itt was Approved Admitted and Allowed of accordingly And the Said John Bayles haveing while he Lived and att the time of his Death Goods and Chattles within the said Towne of Jameca and Province and Rebecca Bayles his Widdow and Relict being therein appointed his whole and Sole Executrix the Admicon of all & Singular the Said Goods and Chattles and the said Will is hereby Committed unto the said Rebecca Bayles well and Truly to Administer upon the Same Accordingly to make a full and Just Inventory of all the Goods and Chattles of the Said Deceased and Exhibote the same unto the next Court of Sessions Ensueing the Date and Render A true and Perfect Account of her Admicon in the time by Law Required.

Given under my Hand and Seale in New Yorks the 15th Day of January in the thirty fourth Yeare of his Maties  
Reigne Annoqe Dom 1682                      New York County Wills Liber 1-2 p. 450-1

**JOHN BAYLES (2)**

Desc. John (1)

b. abt. 1642              d. 1696

Dec. 31, 1695 appointed by T.M. to lay out lots. [RJ 1-47 ]

Sept. 8, 1696 mentioned at T.M. as deceased. [RJ 2-371 ]

res. Jamaica, L. I.

m. Mar. 12, 1665 Ruth Rusco [Clemens ]

Children:

1\*. Samuel              b. 1667              d. after 1732              [RJ 3-254]

m. (1) Rebecca

(2) Hannah Goulder

2. John              b. Ap. 11, 1671 Bible record, Scudder mss.

d. 1719 will May 26, 1719

pvd. Dec. 3, 1719-20 [NYW 2-227 ]

m. Elizabeth

3. Elias              b. Jan. 24, 1679 will Jan. 9, 1762

pvd. Apr. 14, 1762

m. (1) Hannah Smith in 1709

(2) Mercy abt. 1727

4. Daniel              b. 1683              d. 1752

m. (1) Sarah Ludlum [J.B.J. ]

(2) Elizabeth Waters

5. Sarah              m. John Lake

John Bayles (2) seems to have been much less adventurous than his father. It seems that he did not move to Jamaica with the rest of the family in 1661, as Oct. 4, 1662, he was still in Southold, where he signed a petition to Connecticut. [P & W 780 ]

He must have decided soon after to join the family, as May 12, 1664, he was made a Freeman of Connecticut in Jamaica. [Assembly Journal]

Less than a year later he m. Ruth Rusco in Jamaica and thereafter seems to have lived out his life quietly in Jamaica. His name appears often in the Records as fence inspector, taxpayer, recipient of allotments of land and in various purchases and sales of property. He was a delegate to the Governor, Tax Assessor and contributor to the Minister's salary.

The evidence for his daughter Sarah is scanty, but seems conclusive. On Sept. 24, 1751, John Lake of Amwell, Hunterdon County, N. J., made a will in which he referred to his wife Sarah and names as executors his wife and his brother-in-law Daniel Baley (Bailis). [N.J.W. ]

This can be no other than Daniel (16), as the next will listed is that of John Lake of New Brunswick (prob. the son of the foregoing) dated Feb. 20, 1752, naming his wife Martinah and appointing as executors his son Richard Lake and Daniel Bayleys (Baylis) Jr. (40) who married Joanna Lake.

### **SAMUEL BAYLES (1)**

Desc. John (2) John (1)  
b. abt. 1667 d. after 1732 [RJ 3-254 ]  
res. Jamaica, prob. to Oyster Bay, L. I., late in life.  
m. (1) Rebecca, who d. before 1699  
(2) Hannah Goulder  
Children by (2)

- 1\*. Benjamin b. 1699-1700 d. Mar. 20, 1783 [MCR ]  
m. Letitia [Scudder p. 28]
2. Samuel bp. 1706 d. 1779 [Rec. Jamaica Ref. Ch. ]  
m. (1) Phebe Platt  
(2) Abigail Concklin [MCR ]
3. Rebecca bp. 1706 [Rec. Jamaica Ref. Ch. ]

Samuel (13) was one of Her Majesty's Justices for a [HTR] number of years, as he is mentioned in that capacity Feb. 1709, Feb. 1710, and Oct. 10, 1713. [RJ 3-430 ]  
He is mentioned frequently in the RJ from 1693 until 1715, during which period he was clearly living in Jamaica. There follows a gap until 1732, when he is mentioned in the RJ as a resident of Oyster Bay.

### **BENJAMIN BAYLES (1)**

Desc. Samuel (13) John (2) John (1)  
b. 1699 or 1700 on Lond Island d. Mar. 20, 1783 [MCR]  
res. Huntington, L. I., to Morristown, N. J., prob. 1737 [Scudder & MCR ]  
m. abt. 1728-9 Letitia  
b. 1703 d. Aug. 11, 1781 [MCR ]  
Children:

1. Hannah b. abt. 1729-30  
m. Jan. 16, 1746, to Benjamin Hathaway  
[MCR ]
2. Sarah bp. Oct. 29, 1732 [HTR ]  
m. Jan. 17, 1754, to John Ayres [MCR ]
3. Rebecca bp. Mar. 18, 1733 [HTR ]  
m. June 21, 1750, to Nathaniel Morris [MCR ]
4. Benjamin bp. May 26, 1734 [HTR ]  
prob. died young, as no mention of marriage,  
nor is he mentioned in wills of his brother or  
father in 1782-3.
5. Letitia bp. Apr. 18, 1736 [HTR ]  
m. Dec. 8, 1756, to Wm. Akeman [MCR]
6. Augustin b. abt. 1740 d. 1782 [MCR]  
m. Feb. 28, 1759, to Kezia Pierson [MCR ]
7. William bp. Feb. 19, 1743 d. Aug., 1802 [MCR]  
m. May 20, 1774, to Hannah Halsey [MCR]
8. Mary bp. Sept. 22, 1745 [MCR ]  
m. (1) Dec. 3, 1765, to Shubael Trowbridge  
[MCR]  
He d. Mar. 12, 1782 [MCR]  
(2) Joseph Williams [MCR]

On Apr. 5, 1737, Benjamin and Letitia sold property in Huntington to William Jarvis. [Scudder p. 38 ]

This is probably when they moved to Morristown, where they were living before 1742.

The MCR start with 1742, so that Augustin could have been born and bapt. there in 1740 without appearing in the existing record. His will, dated Jan. 14, 1782, mentions his wife Kezia, his brother William, his sister Mary, wife of Shubael Trowbridge and his sister Hannah Hathaway.

The will of his father, Benjamin, dated Mar. 11, 1783, mentions his daughter Mary, wife of Joseph Williams.

No record is found of Hannah's birth, but she must have been 16 or older when she married, and is mentioned in her father's will as "my daughter Hannah, wife of Benjamin Hathaway."

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

And Abbreviations of Authorities Cited.  
Also Some Abbreviations Used in the Text.

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- Aitken--Distinguished families in America descended from  
Wilhelmus Beekman and Jan Thomasse Van Dyke. 1912.
- Atkinson--History of Newark, N. J. 1878.
- BR--Brookhaven Records.
- Bergen--Early settlers of Kings County, N. Y. 1881.
- Bolton--History and Genealogical Data of Westchester County,  
N. Y.
- Brumbaugh--Maryland Records.
- C.A.G.--Compendium of American Genealogy. Virkus.
- Case--Records of Southold, Long Island.
- Chambers--Early Germans of New Jersey.
- Clemens--American marriage records before 1699.
- Cox--The Cox Family in America. G. W. Cocks. 1912.
- D.A.R.--Lineage books of the Daughters of the American  
Revolution.
- d.y.--died young.
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- Fernow--Calendar of Wills on file and recorded at Albany,  
N. Y. 1626 to 1836. Pub. 1896.
- Halsey--Thomas Halsey of England and Southampton, by  
Jacob L. Halsey and others. 1895.
- Hayes(???)William Wells of Southold, by Rev. C. W. Hayes.
- Hist. Suff.--History of Suffolk County, N. Y. 1882.
- Holgate--History of early settlers.
- Hotten--Original Lists, etc.
- J.A.B.--James A. Bayles (234) of Kansas City. Much of his  
material was gathered by his mother, whose notes do not  
show where she found the information.
- J.B.J.--Information furnished by Mrs. Jennie Bayless Johnson  
(601) of San Diego, Cal. She does not give the source.
- L.B.P.--From the notes of the late Lewis Bayles Paton (510)  
of Hartford, Conn. They do not show the source.
- L.I.D.--Long Island Democrat. (A newspaper.)
- L.I.F.--Long Island Farmer. (A newspaper.)
- Lee--Genealogical and Personal Memorial of Mercer County,  
N. J., by Francis Bazley Lee.
- M.--Manuscript notes on the Bayles family, collected during  
many years by the Queens Borough Public Library, Jamaica,  
N. Y. In many cases the source of the information

is shown. Where it is not, we have used M to refer to these notes.

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T.--Used as a marginal note indicates that the information was taken from the tombstone.

T.--As part of a serial number, it indicates the line of Thomas in Part 3.

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TM--Town Meeting.

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W.K.B.--From the notes of the late William Keene Bayless of Claremore, Okla. (1-591). Original source of information not given.