

CHAPTER 1

1

The earliest reference that we have been able to find to a Dingee in America is in Hempstead, presently Nassau Co., Long Island, New York on 7 December 1676. On this date, by order of the town meeting, Robert Dinge was given 22 acres of land "aJoyning to John Champins land or thereabouts" [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* B:236]. No Dingees are listed as being in Hempstead in 1673 when a list of inhabitants was made [Carol M. Meyers, *EARLY NEW YORK STATE CENSUS RECORDS*, Gardena, Calif., 1965, pp 97-98]. We have found no record of his wife's given or maiden name. Robert Dingee appears on a rate list showing ownership of land, cattle, horses, and two hogs [Carol M. Meyers, *RATE LISTS OF LONG ISLAND 1675-1676-1683* (Saugus, Calif., 1967), p. 74]. In 1685, Robard Dinge paid 2s 2d for his share of town rates as a patentee [*HEMPSTEAD BOOK OF LAWS AND DEEDS 1684-1686*, p. 9]. His earmark for cattle (a form of branding or identifying) was recorded 26 October 1685 in Hempstead [*Town Records* C:126]. He endorsed, along with many others, a request by John Stuard to settle in Hempstead and be granted land [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* C:252].

In the 31 August 1698 census of Hempstead [Edward Doubleday Harris, "THE HEMPSTEAD CENSUS OF 1698", *NEW YORK GENEALOGICAL & BIOGRAPHICAL RECORD (NYGBR)* 45:54-68 1914, p. 56] we find as a family unit: Robrd Dinge, Sr., Robrd Dinge, Jr., Rebecka Dinge, Robrd Dinge and Richard Dinge. Undoubtedly this census lists the original settler, his second surviving son, and his son's family as of 31 August 1698. The same census, page 58, shows Robert's first son Christopher with his wife Mary and three children Charles, Jane and John. Christopher also had one more known child, Sarah, later the wife of Joseph Wright.

On 15 April 1700, Robert¹ Dinge's 22 acres in Hempstead was conveyed by direction of the Town Meeting to his eldest son Christopher in exchange for Christopher's promise to care for his father for the rest of his life [*QUEEN'S CO. DEEDS*, A:159 same date and Hempstead Town Records D:61]. It is interesting that 8 days later a Robert Dinge sold to John Stevens the land he had been granted by the Town of Hempstead [*QUEENS COUNTY DEEDS* B(1):415, recorded 23 April 1700]. The second transaction may apply to a different tract of land, and/or may be a sale by Robert². Robert¹ was dead within a year, for on 23 May 1701 Christopher Dingee, eldest son of Robert, gave bond as his administrator, the estate being reported as under £50. On 24 May 1701, Letters of Administration were issued to Christopher. The estate inventory, recorded 27 June 1701, reports the value of the estate as £47s and gave the date of death as 2 April 1701 [*QUEENS COUNTY DEEDS*, W. 3 SECTION, A:154].

2

DINGEE FAMILY GENEALOGY

We start our numbering system with the original Robert, assigning him number A1, A for the first generation known in America, and 1 for the first Dingee known in America. His only known descendants are:

- +B2 Christopher Dingee;
- +B3 Robert Dingee, Jr.

Christopher Dingee, B2, son of Robert, A1 was born about 1670. His wife was Mary, maiden name unknown, but there is a suggestion, absolutely no proof, that her father was Charles Abrams or Abrahamson of Hempstead. Cristifer Dinge had an earmark recorded 2 June 1686 (same page as his father's above). He bought 23 acres from Harman Hendricks of Westbury 19 September 1688 [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* C:167]. He witnessed a deed from John Champin [Champion] to Richard Valentine 11 June 1690 [*HEMPSTEAD BOOK OF LAWS & DEEDS* 1684-1696, p. 44]. Adam Mott, Andrew Gibb and William Nicoll conveyed to Christopher Dinge of Hempstead, yeoman, 17 acres, 60 rods of land on 29 September 1705, recorded 24 March 1718 [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* D:328]. On 21 May 1705 he witnessed a deed from the same 3 men to Joseph Mott [E:76-77]. On 22 April 1707 he witnessed an exchange of lands agreement between Richard and Thomas Ellison [D:256-7]. NY State Series-Colonial Service Publication 22, page 497, by Henry Hastings, State Historian, states that as of 17 September 1715, Christopher Dingee was a soldier with Captain Treadmill's Train Band. *NEW ENGLAND MARRIAGES BEFORE 1700*, by Clarence Allen Torrey, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, 1985 lists Robert Dinge (no date or wife's name), Christopher Dinge & Mary (no date or maiden name) and Robert Dinge & Rebecka, estimated 1685-1690 (maiden name not given). The will of Mary Oakley, Monmouth Co. NJ listed Christopher Dingle and Robert Dingle of Queens Co. as debtors [*CALENDAR OF WILLS, NJ*]. (Queens and Suffolk Counties were formed 1 November 1683. Nassau County was carved out of Queens County in 1899). We have found no further references to Robert². On 7 June 1725, Christifir Dinge signed a grant to Captain Joseph Hicks of Rockaway of their common interest in beach property on the south side of the island [E:165-66]. On 9 August 1726 Christifir Dinge was appointed by the town meeting to serve as one of ten men to see that the sheep were not folded (penned up).

Christopher's will [781 in *HISTORIC DOCUMENTS COLLECTION, QUEEN'S COLLEGE, FLUSHING, NY*] dated 17th, 11th month called January, 1723, proved 22nd February 1727/8, mentions his father Robert, his eldest son Charles, his son John, his daughters Jane Balden and Sarah Wright, and grandchildren John & Jane Balden and Christopher Dingee.

CHAPTER 1

3

The original handwritten will uses the spelling Dingee throughout, and mentions all involved were Quakers. His known children are:

- +C4 Charles Dingee;
- +C5 Jane Dingee;
- +C6 John Dingee;
- +C7 Sarah Dingee.

Robert² Dingee, B3, born about 1670-1675, was married to¹Rebecca Stites, also born about 1670-75. The will of Richard Stites (somehow copied as "Sticks" and on occasion misread as "Hicks") of Westbury, dated 6 November 1700 and proved 5 March 1701, left his daughter Rebecah, wife of Robert Dinge, 20s for her marriage portion. The Estate Inventory gives the date of his death as 13 November 1700 [*QUEENS COUNTY DEEDS*, Wills Section, A:152-53]. There is a published account of Richard Stites family in Edwin R. Deats, Compiler, (Harry Macy Jr., Editor) *UNDERHILL GENEALOGY*, 6 (Baltimore, 1983), pages 1071-1074. This account shows that Rebecca's mother was Mary Underhill, baptized in Clifford Chambers, County Gloucester, England, 15 November 1640, and married (1) Thomas Naylor, and as Mary Naylor (2) license 14 May 1668, Richard Stites (not Stiles as in NYM, page 278). Robert² was probably the Dingee of that name to witness a deed from Abel Smith of Hempstead to Henry Allen [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* D:301-03]. Robert and Rebecca had 2 known children:

- +C8 Robert Stites Dingee;
- +C9 Richard Stites Dingee.

Charles Dingee, C4, was born in Hempstead 9 FEB 1692, and the authors have been fairly successful in following his life and the life of many of his descendants. He was married three times. His first wife was named Hannah, but we have not proved her maiden name. There are inferences only, no proof, that she is the daughter of Nathaniel Birdsall, another well known name in Hempstead and Oyster Bay in the late 1600s. We have corresponded with six researchers in the Birdsall family, and they have no records to confirm or deny the suspicion that Hannah was a Birdsall. The first inference stems from the joint purchase of land in Little Egg Harbor, Burlington County, New Jersey by Christopher Dingee and Nathaniel Birdsall. There are definite records of Charles and Hannah, and also Birdsalls living at Little Egg Harbor, but apparently Christopher lived out his days in Hempstead. It appears that this land may have been a wedding gift to the young couple. Charles sold the land to Thomas Ridgway, Sr. in 1724, and moved to Chester County, Pennsylvania. The second inference is that Charles and Hannah named their first two boys Christopher and Nathaniel. The third inference is the marriage of

CHAPTER 1

7

Robert Dingee, C8, born about 1695, son of Robert², is very likely the person by the name of Robert Dingee who died in Cortlandt, Westchester Co. NY in the autumn of 1761. His will is dated 11 September 1761 and proved 9 November 1761. It mentions his wife Sarah, sons Robert, David and Elijah (the last still a minor) and daughters Mary Merritt and Elizabeth [*NEW YORK WILLS* 23:202]. The body of the will, as transcribed, spells the name Dinsee, but the signature, the Probate Act and the Letters Testamentary all read Robert Dingee. On 25 SEP 1747 the Westbury MM in the Town of Hempstead granted a certificate to Mamaroneck MM (Westchester Co.) to Mary, daughter of Robert Dingee, and this seems to tie together the Long Island and the Westchester County Dingee families.

Robert, as well as his cousin John witnessed the deed from Benjamin Seamans to Jeremiah Williams on 20 May 1720 [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* E:175-76]. On 28 October 1730 he witnessed a deed from David Seaman(s) to Jeremiah Williams, not recorded, however, until 15 July 1758 [3:351-53]. He had an earmark recorded in 1738 [E:6] and was one of the Executors of the will of his cousin's husband, Joseph Wright of Westbury dated 13 November 1738, proved 28 February 1739 [*NEW YORK WILLS*, 13:162]. In that capacity he participated in the sale of the decedent's real estate to John Dingee on 25 April 1739, but the deed was not delivered until 15 April 1751 [*HEMPSTEAD TOWN RECORDS* E:265-70]. In addition to records in Westchester Co., Robert Dingee is listed in the Tax Lists for Beekman, Dutchess Co. NY. in February and June 1757. Robert Jr. is also on the Tax Lists for Beekman in February 1758 and February 1761. A George Dingee is on the same tax lists in February 1758 and 1759, and we are not sure where he fits in. The Quakers in Dutchess County disowned a Robert Dingee 15 November 1759 for "prophecyng death for Samuel Dorlan in 9 days, and like imaginations", so apparently he had emotional problems in his late years. Robert's known children are:

- +D37 Robert Dingee;
- +D38 Mary Dingee;
- +D39 David Dingee;
- +D40 Elizabeth Dingee;
- +D41 Elijah Dingee.