

## GENERATION THREE (C)

### JOSEPH ISHAM Jr.

1735-1810

The Isham family tree blossoms with the third generation primarily because much more was recorded about the lives of those who belonged to this branch of the tree. While the names of more than 50 direct Isham ancestors are known, this section will tell the stories of some 25 individuals. And because three families dominate this branch of the Isham tree, much will be told about the

Taintor, Loomis and Foote families. Who was Joseph Isham, Jr.? He was the third child and first son born to Joseph, Sr. and Susannah Swift Isham. When he was born in 1735 the New World of New England was over 120 years old. Ramshackle homes had been replaced with impressive homes with fine appointments. By the time Joseph Jr. came of age, America was coming into its own, and the seeds of rebellion could already be felt in the air. Joseph, Jr. had the distinction of being the first in the Isham line to receive a college degree. His intelligence must have been noticed, because the pastor of the Colchester Congregational Church recommended him for admission to Yale College. He earned an A.B. degree in 1759 and a master's in 1761. His classic education prepared him for a life as a lawyer. The undergraduate class of 1759 numbered 49 young men. Joseph Jr. was ranked 47<sup>th</sup> and not necessarily because he scored low on his exams. At the time of his graduation, colleges ranked students on a social scale. If you happened to have come from a wealthy and established family, you earned a higher ranking.

Joseph Jr. was classified as "filius agricolae," the son of a farmer, a profession not deemed in esteem by the administration at Yale.

Nonetheless, Joseph Isham Jr. is the poster boy for the American dream.

Joseph Jr. married for the first time to **Sarah Bulkeley** in 1765. Her parents were listed as Gershom and Abigail Bulkeley in the famous Isham historical Bible, "A Survey of the Ishams in England and America."

And while what was written in that book has literally been taken as Gospel, the book is wrong on this point.

Joseph Jr's second wife, **Esther Taintor (C 1)**, was the daughter of **John Taintor (C 2) and Esther Clark (C 3)**.

Esther Clark was John Taintor's first wife. His second wife was... **Sarah Bulkeley**, daughter of Gershom and Abigail Bulkeley. John Taintor and Sarah Bulkeley were married in 1758 and were still married when Joseph Jr. supposedly married Sarah Bulkeley. How could this be? If true, then there was bigamy in the early Isham tree. The truth, it is a classic case of a genealogical error that has been passed down. Joseph Jr. married the Sarah Bulkeley who was the daughter of Oliver and Sarah Welles Bulkeley.

Oliver had an older brother, Gershom who had a daughter, Sarah, the Sarah who married John Taintor.

Joseph Jr and the "right" Sarah Bulkeley had four children. Among them were a pair of Alfreds.

The first Alfred died when he was three. The following year Sarah gave birth to another son also named, Alfred.

The second Alfred (m. Clarissa Loomis) was to go into business with his younger step-brother, **Ralph Isham (Generation Four)**.

The only daughter born to them was Sarah, who married Ebenezer Huntington.

Joseph Jr. didn't serve as a soldier in the War of Independence, but he did serve as the captain of a militia and was a conductor of supply teams. Quartermaster records in Washington, DC show that Joseph Jr. was paid 27 pounds for damage done to his corn by marauding cattle and he earned an additional 1150 pounds that he shared with his team of ten men.

During his lifetime in Colchester, Joseph served in a number of elected offices and was also a successful merchant

. Sarah, died in 1773. He married for a second time in 1774 to Esther Taintor.

**Joseph Jr. and Esther** had four children

(all born in Colchester)

**Ralph b: 25 JUN 1776 (D - Generation 4) m. Laura Worthington**

Sarah (Sally) Taintor b: 15 JUL 1796 m. Gardinaer Southworth

Roger Griswold b: 12 DEC 1797 m. Clarissa P. Foote

Charles Taintor (1) b: ABT 15/17 JUN 1799 m. Mary Rogers

**Footnote:** Charles Taintor Isham had another son, Henry Howell Isham who for a time owned a hardware store in Coffeyville, Kansas. One October day in 1892, a notorious band of brothers who robbed banks and raised major mayhem under the name of the Dalton Gang brought their brand of trouble into town, but this time it was their last time because Coffeyville was the Dalton's Waterloo. Henry and his hardware store played lead roles in the drama that left five dead Daltons. Henry is credited with killing the gang leader. Henry Howell Isham changed careers after that, becoming a banker. His bank was never robbed.