

IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF OUR ANCESTORS ...

WEALTHY SHIPPING MERCHANT IN SEARCH OF HIS OWN COLONY

**John Budd
(c. 1599 – 1670) &
Katherine Browne
(1606 – 1674)**

— *Bradley Rymph*

VISITS TO SOUTHOLD & CUTCHOQUE, NEW YORK:

**August 27, 1995 (with José Baquiran)
July 11, 1999 (with José Baquiran, Albert
and Edna Mae Rymph)
July 7, 2010 (with José Baquiran)**

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In May 1637, a ship called the “Hector” sailed out of London, bound for Boston in England’s newly established American colonies. Aboard this ship was a wealthy British shipping merchant, **John Budd**, his wife **Katherine Browne** (1606 – 1674, a woman possibly of royal ancestry), and their children. Together, they were among my earliest ancestors to sail to America.

Town Founding No. 1: NEW HAVEN COLONY

In August 1637, an exploring party of English settlers sailed out of Boston Harbor, went down the coast several miles, and landed at a place that the Native Americans called “Quinnipiac” (or “Long Water Place”). The explorers liked what they saw and left seven of their men to prepare the area for occupation by Puritan colonizers. On March 30, 1638, a large company of settlers sailed out of Boston for the new site. Among

NOTE: The original version of this text was written and copyrighted by me in 1996 for posting on my personal Web pages. As of June 2010, word-for-word repostings of my original text were on multiple genealogical Web pages attributed not to me as the author and source but to a “Frost Family Genealogy,” pp. 343-44. I have a copy of pp. 343-44 of The Frost Genealogy by Josephine C. Frost (© 1912), and it does contain text about John Budd. That text, however, is completely different from what I wrote in 1996. Apparently, (a) some genealogist used my writing and inaccurately attributed it to Josephine Frost and (b) subsequent genealogists then passed on that initial mistake in their own genealogical writings. / BR



New Haven lot map, 1641, with lot of John Budd marked with burgundy oval

them were the Budds. On April 16, 1638, they landed at the new site to found New Haven Colony. Other ships followed, bringing more settlers. The settlers quickly began their new colony. In late 1638, they purchased the land from the area's Native Americans. John Budd was assigned lot no. 56. On October 25, 1639, the settlers elected their community government. John Budd was among the men signing a Fundamentalist Agreement formally establishing New Haven Colony.

Most of the first settlers at New Haven were Puritans — a strict religious group that later formed the basis for the Congregational Church (United Church of Christ) in the United States. John Budd, however, was a member of the Church of England, which became the Episcopal Church in America. Because he was not Puritan, Budd lived in some tension with his neighbors. At one point, he was fined by the New Haven magistrates for hiding and protecting Quakers, a Christian group that the Puritans opposed and were trying to keep out of New Haven.

Town Founding No. 2: SOUTHOLD, LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK

In September 1640, John Budd left New Haven with his and some other New Haven families on a ship bound for the northeastern edge of Long Island to establish a settlement there, which they named Southold. Once again, Budd was an Anglican adherent amid Puritans set on establishing a new community structured around their specific religious and moral beliefs. Most of the other Southold founders had originally sailed under the leadership of the Puritan cleric Christopher Youngs, first from England to Salem, Massachusetts, in 1637 and then from Salem to New Haven. In New

Haven, Puritan leaders intent on establishing new religious communities in New England persuaded Rev. Youngs to sail across Long Island Sound with his followers to settle land on the island's North Fork that they had acquired from the island's Corchaug natives.

John Budd, who was beyond doubt the wealthiest man in the new settlement, quickly established himself as one of the leaders of the new community. Because Southold was included in the United Colonies of New England, its residents were expected to select Deputies to attend the colonies' General Court in Hartford, Connecticut. Budd was the first deputy appointed to the court by the people of Southold. Budd was also the town's first



Site on Southold Bay where John Budd and his fellow Southold settlers likely would have landed in 1640.

Founder's Monument, erected 1890–93. Inscription reads: "This monument marks the site of the first meeting house of Southold and commemorates the founders of the town and of the church which the Rev. John Youngs organized here October Twenty-One 1640. It is part of the 250th anniversary celebration and was erected by the committee of arrangements for that celebration."



authorized officer to train the local home guard, a responsibility which earned him the title of Lieutenant. Budd was apparently so highly respected and successful in this responsibility that, when he made a trip overseas in 1654, colonial records in New Haven recorded that “By reason of Budd’s absence Southold is left destitute of a fitt man to exercise the military company there since Lt. Budd went to England.”

In 1649, Budd built his family a home east of town near a pond which became known as Budd’s Pond. In 1658, he deeded the house to his daughter and son-in-law, Anna and Benjamin Horton, as a wedding gift. They moved the house 10 miles away to the village of Cutchogue.

By some point in the early 1660s, either Budd or his son, John Budd, Jr., had bought a plot of land just west of the Barnabas Horton home plot in Southold as a new home site. The Southold Historical Society’s manual, *Guide to Historic Markers*, described this house as “probably the most pretentious of the early settler homes.”

Despite his civic leadership, Budd’s tenure in Southold apparently was one of controversy as well. He was a major landholder in Southold. As such, he was legally accountable to the local general court (composed solely of church members) who were required to review and approve or deny any settler’s request to sell his home or land. Budd clearly possessed a strong independent spirit, and in 1657 he sold some of his land without asking “permission.” As a result, he was sued by three other Southold settlers; the final disposition of this case is not clear.

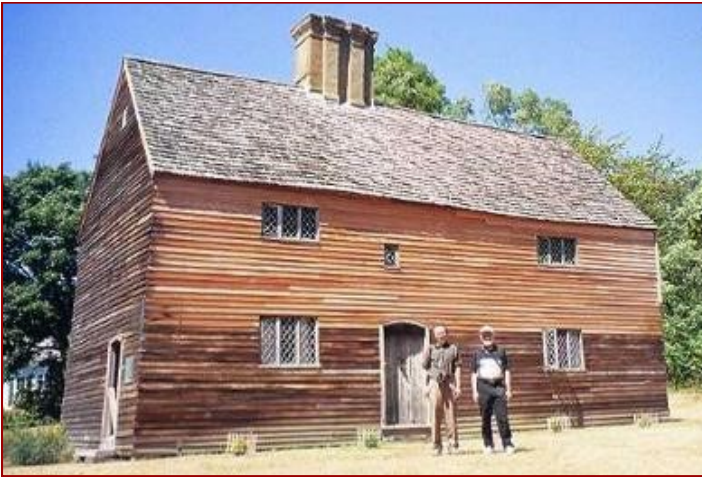
Budd clearly grew restless during his tenure at Southold. As in New Haven,

Town Founding No. 3: RYE, WESTCHESTER COUNTY, NEW YORK

Southold's general court governed the town in accord with strict Puritan standards, and Budd was still an Anglican. He apparently explored the predominantly Anglican settlements in Virginia, but decided against settling there. Budd's true desire seems to have been, in essence, to establish his own colony, where he would have been answerable to no one, and he was willing to use his wealth to create this personal domain. In 1661, he decided to leave Long Island and move to an area that was at the time on the very southwestern edge of the Connecticut Colony.

In January 1660, three residents of Greenwich, Connecticut — Peter Disbrow, John Coe, and Thomas Stedwell — negotiated and purchased from the area's Mohegan natives a tract of land southwest of Greenwich known as Peningo Neck. The land stretched on the west from a stream known as Blind Brook east to Long Island Sound. The sale apparently did not include Manussing Island in the Sound, just off the shore, so in June 1660, the three men purchased this land as well. In May 1661, they purchased additional land on the north edge of Peningo Neck.

Disbrow and the others in his party were more interested in securing title to land than in settling it immediately. This created an opportunity for someone else to take the lead in establishing a new community, and as a



A abandoned centuries-old house found in the woods near Cutchogue in the early 1900s was long thought to be the house built by John Budd and given to his daughter and son-in-law. Known as "The Old House," it was listed on the Register of National Historic Sites in 1962 and is still maintained by the Cutchogue-New Suffolk Historical Council. However, two dendrochronology studies done on the house in 2008 and 2017 each confirmed that it was built from trees felled in 1698 and could not possibly have been built until 1699, when Budd's house and the land it stood on had long passed out of Budd and Horton family ownership.



successful and wealthy businessman, John Budd was quick to take advantage of the opportunity. On November 8, 1661, Budd concluded his separate negotiation with a Mohegan chief to buy a large (4,800-acre) piece of land immediately across Blind Brook from the Disbrow company's landholdings. This land became known as Budd's Neck. On November 12, 1661, Budd added to his landholdings by purchasing from the area's natives some islands in the immediate vicinity. In June 1662, Budd then acted with Disbrow, Coe, and Stedwell jointly to purchase yet more land directly north of Budd's Neck.

One of the first buildings constructed in this new community was Budd's Mill, at the mouth of Blind Brook. He operated

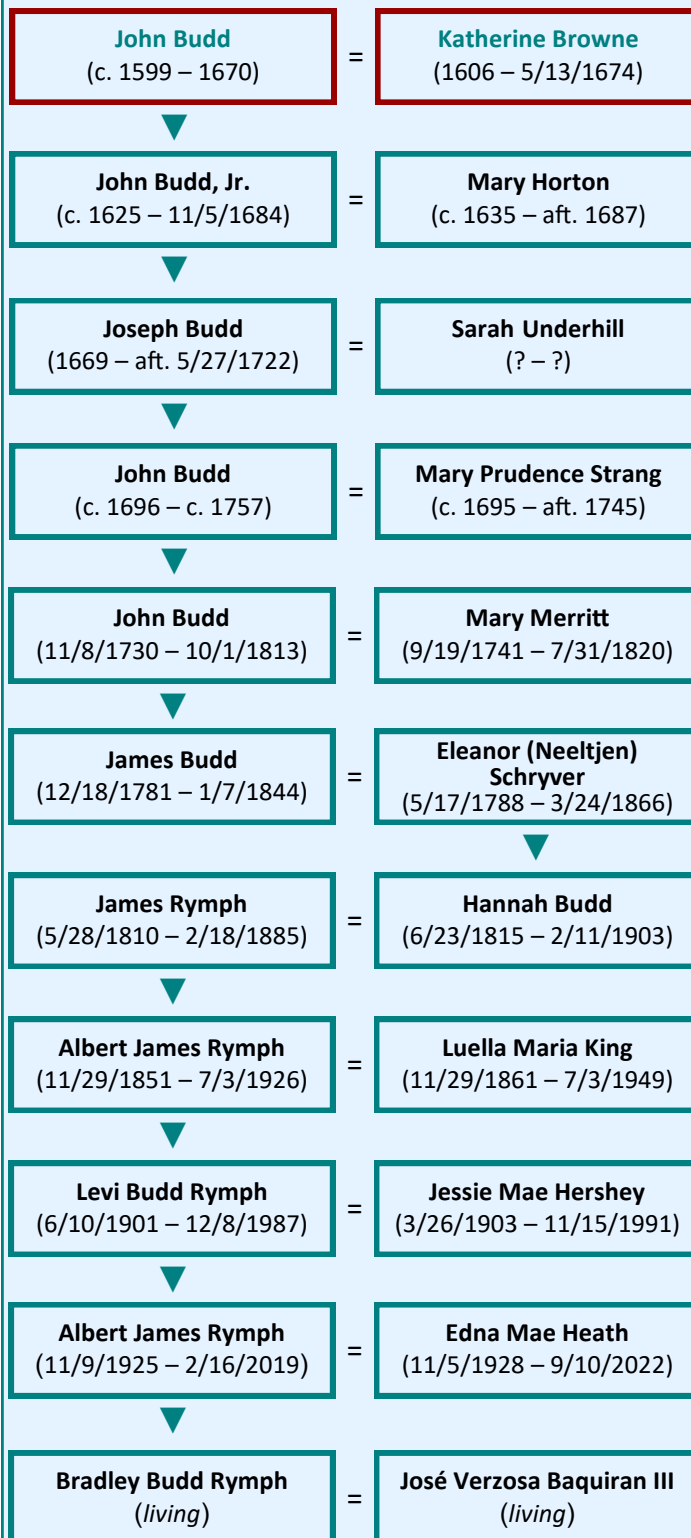
Distant "Cousins"

Notable figures in history who share descent with John and Katherine (Browne) Budd include:

- ◆ Anna Tuthill Symmes (Harrison) (1775 – 1864) — First Lady of the United States (March 3 – April 4, 1841); wife of William Henry Harrison, 9th President of the United States (great-great-great-great-granddaughter of John Budd, Jr. and his wife Mary Horton, through their daughter, Mary
- ◆ Benjamin Harrison (1893 – 1901) — 23rd President of the United States (1833 – 1901); grandson of Anna Tuthill Symmes (Harrison)

HOW WE'RE RELATED

John Budd and Katherine Browne were my great-great-great-great-great-great-great-great-grandparents through my father, Albert James Rymph.



the grist mill, which proved to be very successful with the new inhabitants of Peningo Neck.

Disbrow selected the name of Hastings for his new holdings. He apparently also considered Budd's lands to be part of the new Hastings town, whose settlement he intended to oversee. Budd obviously had other ideas. He was determined that his personal landholdings would be a separately governed jurisdiction. By the fall of 1664, he had assigned to his lands the name of Rye, perhaps because of his family's close connections with the town of Rye in his native England. Disbrow regarded this behavior as a threat to the future of "his" colony. For the next several years, Budd and Disbrow battled in court over whose approach was to predominate. In the course of that legal action, it was agreed that the name Rye would be assigned to the entire Peningo Neck settlement area. The more substantial issues, however, were still unresolved in 1669, when John Budd turned over his landholdings in both Southold and Rye to his son, John Budd, Jr., and retired from public life.

Despite his contentiousness with Disbrow and resulting legal conflicts, Budd quickly established himself as a political leader across the entire Hastings/Rye area (again, much as he

had in Southold). Biographer Lily Wright Budd describes his responsibilities:

... John Budd was elected as the first representative when Hastings [formally] submitted to the jurisdiction of Connecticut on 26 January 1662 and he was elected as Hastings' first Deputy to the General Court in Hartford on 26 March 1663.... At the session of the General Court in Hartford on the 8th of October 1663, "Ln^t John Bud" makes his appearance, and "is appointed Commisioner for the Town of Hastings, and is invested with Magistraticall power within the limits of that Town."

As magistrate, Budd was "commis-sioned to grant warrants" and "to marry persons," and he had clear authority to arrest "such as are ouer-taken with drinke, swearing, Sabboath breaking, slighting of the ordinances, lying, vagrant persons, or any other that shall offend in any of these."

As noted above, John Budd retired from public life in 1669. He died in Rye in 1670 and is presumed to have been buried in a private family plot a short distance north of Budd's Mill.

The Budd family estate in Budd's Neck was passed down through the generations to John Budd, Jr., then to Joseph Budd, then to his son John Budd

(1696–1757), my great-great-great-great-great-grandfather. In 1745, this latter John Budd sold the land — the bulk of it (over 250 acres) to a local merchant, Peter Jay, who named it “The Locusts.” The estate then became the childhood home to Peter’s son, John (1745–1827) — who was President of the Continental Congress (1778–1779), U.S. Secretary of Foreign Affairs (1784–1789), the first Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court (1789–1795), and Governor of New York (1795–1801). Thus, much of the original Budd family estate in Rye, New York, is now a National Historic Landmark as the Jay Heritage Center.

TO LEARN MORE

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