**Christopher, Judith and John Holliman, some Additional concerning their Emigration to Virginia**

**by Joe Parker**

*Joe is a diligent researcher of Holliman family history who traces his ancestry back to Christopher Holyman, Sr. He is extremely learned on the Holyman family from the early 1600s in Bedford, Bedfordshire to his 21st Century relatives in his home state of Texas.  Below, he shares his observations on just who those early Holymans were and what could be their relationships to one another. - Glenn N. Holliman*

**The Headrights of Christopher and Judith Holyman**

In 1650 when they arrived in Jamestown, both Christopher and Judith Holyman received head rights to acreage (usually 50 acres per person) in the Virginia Colony.  My understanding is that when a man received a head right to any block of land, the wife also has ownership of that tract, by privilege of being married to the man who received the acreage.

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| https://lh3.googleusercontent.com/-9synxdKi-x4/TWlGFi-_dqI/AAAAAAAACBg/LWzsAWFkbcQ/s400/1751+dock.JPG |
| *This 1751 work depicts a colonial dock with hogsheads of tobacco on the wharf.  West bound from England, the ships would carry English goods and immigrants.  East bound from Virginia to England, tobacco in casts would be the item transported.* |

Why then would - Judith in this case - receive separate notice of receiving such acreage, unless she was possibly recipient of land as a separate individual?  Conclusion, Judith was not the wife of Christopher, but, yes as the Bedfordshire parish records indicate, more likely was his sister. - **Joe Parker**

Genealogist Robert W. Baird in his web site **Understanding Headrights** publishes the following which helps us to grasp more fully some of the reasons our Holymans might have come to the Virginia colony.

"The headright origin is found in the London Company’s “Greate Charter” of 1618:

*“That for all persons…which during the next seven years after Midsummer Day 1618 shall go into Virginia with the intent there to inhabite, if they continue there three years or dye after they are shipped there shall be a grant made of fifty acres for every person… which grants shall be made respectively to such persons and their heirs at whose charges the said persons going to inhabite in Virginia shall be transported…”*

* There were no restrictions on age or **gender**.  Headrights could be, and often were, children.  In fact, many imported indentured servants were teenagers.
* Persons settled in Virginia who subsequently left the colony and returned were sometimes successfully claimed as headrights.   A number of patents claimed importation of a specific person “the second time” or the “the third time” (or in one case, a total of six times.)   Although this seems contradictory to the spirit of the system, it appears to have been an accepted practice from the very beginning, for several Ancient Planters claimed multiple rights for their own arrivals in Virginia.
* Because there was no system for validating or accounting for headright usage, headrights were often claimed more than once, and persons who had no “intent to inhabit” were used as headrights.  More on this later.”

Hmmm....much to consider here as we look not just to the mid-1600s, but also the late 1600s and early 1700s and observe some of the Holliman family utilizing the 'headright system'. - GNH

**Keeping an Open Mind on Just Who was John Holleman**

As to John Holleman, who died in 1650 in Northampton County, Virginia, I have an open mind on this individual.  The fact that he left no worldly goods to any children should be looked at carefully.  He may have divided his fortune with his children (if any) before his death, and this could have left him virtually penniless.  John left his remaining goods to a friend who would help to settle the estate.  Conversely, this John Holleman could have been the husband of Judith, who arrived two weeks after  his death in Virginia.  Or John could have been her brother, born 1612 in Bedford, Bedfordshire, England.

I am not forming any set opinions until we search more in the Bedfordshire Archives and study additional works.  For now, I will return to my review of passenger lists of boats arriving in the Virginia Colony in the 17th and 18th Centuries.  - **Joe Parker, Texas**

Feb. 26, Saturday 2011

Glenn

I have only a little to add to Joe Parker's thoughts.  I have in my notes to investigate the ship Honor( I believe out of Bristol) which brought Vincent Cox of Bedford, England to Virginia in October 1649. There has been commentary I have come across in the past that i) some of the owners of Honor were Hollimans and/or ii) at one time in the 1600's its Captain was a Richard or Robert Hollyman or Holliman.

I had an aunt who operating on the theory that Christopher and Judith were brother and sister and since Christopher moved from the Northern Neck of Virginia to the area Isle of Wight/Surry in the 1650's that Judith probably did as well. She conducted a search of the wills, administrations and marriages of Isle of Wight and
had identified three possible parties that could possibly have been Judith Holliman who had married someone else, i) Judith Huntt, wife of William Huntt who died in 1668 in Isle of Wight, this widow then married Richard Parker in 1668.; ii) Judith Clay, wife of William Clay who died 1675 and iii) Judith Story, wife of John Story who died 1681. Judith Huntt is possibly eliminated because she had a daughter Judith Huntt who married James Clark in 1669 in Isle of Wight County which means that she would have to had a daughter in the early 1650's, but Huntt family records indicate that when William and Judith married, she already had a daughter and the Lancaster County land patent of Richard Sherlock in 1653 indicates three Hollimans transported, Judith, Christopr and \_\_\_\_\_\_. I had always speculated the \_\_\_\_\_ was probably William since John Cox of Northumberland County would transport him in 1656, but \_\_\_\_ may also  been a child of either Judith or Christopher.

I have attached bio and photo.

Best Regards

Bob

Feb. 26, Saturday, 2011

Note 2:  Found it...!!

In the York Co., VA book, "Wills, Orders & Deeds", 1657 - 1659.

In 1659, Richard Hollman is Capt., of ship *Houn'r"* .  This ship owned by some membrs of the Hollyman family.  Based on dates, ages of Richard, this is questionable if this is the same Richard that is son of Christopher, Sr.  However, this does not rule out this Richard being a brother to our Chris.....

Gotta do some long thinking on this.  Again, also, need to look at the records out of Bedford, England in that time frame.  Another note that I did not write down the reference material, was that this ship may have been originating out of Bedford, England [ I did not know that Bedford was a seacoast town ].

Could be that members of this Hollyman family lived at Bedford ???  When I go back to library, I will check this book, and all written information about what this is written.  I found this note in my 'Clayton notes', when I was searching for Clayton material.

joe