

# THE ARMITAGE FAMILY

The Armitage family is English and comes from the Yorkshire area of Northern England. The earliest member of the family that I know about is Thomas Armitage. He came to America in 1635 landing in the Massachusetts Bay Colony in Boston. He went to the Plymouth Bay Colony and from there went to Stamford in the New Haven Colony and then to Long Island. His daughter, Susan or Susannah Armitage married James Pine in Hempstead on Long Island and their daughter, also a Susan, married John Searing in Hempstead. Their lives are told in the **SEARING FAMILY HISTORY**. The Searing line married into the Marsh line and Phoebe Marsh married Reding Putman of my Putman family in 1830 in Illinois.

My history begins with Thomas Armitage in England.

## THOMAS ARMITAGE

Thomas Armitage was born sometime about the year 1600 and most likely near Bradford, Yorkshire, England. No birth records have been found.

There is his marriage record in Bradford. He married Susan Mitchell there on September 25th, 1625. Susan was born about 1605 in Durham, Halifax, England, some five miles from Bradford. I have no information on her parents.

They are listed on a passenger list along with her brother Matthew Mitchell and his wife Susan Field. They sailed from Bristol in Gloucestershire in 1635 on the sailing ship the *JAMES* bound for the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1635 there has been a mention of him being in Lynn, but this seems to be for another Armitage. By at least the following year he was in Sandwich in the Plymouth Colony. On March 7, 1636/7 he was made a Freeman of that Colony. He was in that colony at least through April 16, 1640 when it was noted that he had six and a half acres of land.

From the HISTORY OF STAMFORD, CONNECTICUT, we find:

*Thomas Armitage received 10 acres of land in December 1641. He came from Bristol, England on the ship James with the Reverend Richard Mather and others, and removed in 1637 to Sandwich, Mass, whence he came to Stamford. From Stamford he went with Underhill and Company to Oyster Bay, Long Island. In 1647 he appears on the list of Hempstead settlers.*

Thomas Armitage was in Stamford by December of 1641 and in Long Island shortly afterwards. He probably remained in Oyster Bay a few years and then went to nearby Hempstead.

Sometime in the 1650 time period, his wife Susan died and he remarried to a Martha for a short period. She, too, had died before 1659. Nothing is known about Martha.

It would seem he returned to Oyster Bay, as he appears in the court records there in 1659. It seems his son, Manasseth, who was a student at Harvard, had falsified documents pertaining to

Thomas' will. Thomas declared in court on May 26th, 1659 that the document stating his estate was to go to Manasseth was a forgery. However the actual facts seem to indicate that Thomas had just fallen for a very young woman named Ann Lillestone and wanted to cut his son out of his estate and give it to Ann. On The 30th of the eleventh month (probably February on the old style calendar) of 1663, Thomas Armitage announced he had just married Ann.

It would seem he died shortly thereafter, as this is the last record of him. He is most likely buried in Oyster Bay, New York.

Susan Armitage, his daughter by Susan Mitchell, married James Pine in Long Island about 1650 and this is my direct lineage.