

A HISTORY  
OF  
LONG ISLAND

FROM ITS EARLIEST SETTLEMENT TO THE PRESENT TIME

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meeting that Mr. James should "have for his work in the ministry for the ensuing year £45, and his lands to lie rate free; and for future time £50 a year and rate free for the time of his standing in office in the ministry among them." In 1659 his salary was raised to £60. From that time until age and infirmity had laid their hands upon him he appears to have been an active, public spirited man, who had a deep interest in the affairs of this world as well as of the next. All the information we have concerning his relations with his fellow townsmen tends to show that they were of the most satisfactory nature. Their confidence in his business capacity is exhibited by their conferring upon him offices not connected with his sacred calling. Among other evidences of his mental power he seems to have acquired a knowledge of the Indian language, and a good acquaintance with their customs. This was often of the greatest value. Mr. James prepared a catechism in the Indian language for which he received the thanks of the royal governor, and his services were extremely valuable as an interpreter.

The name of the first wife of Mr. James does not appear, but a contract of marriage was made between his daughter Hannah and James Diamant before August 21, 1677. They were married and had a son Thomas, previous to December 27, 1680. On August 14, 1669, a very business like contract of marriage was made between Mr. James and a widow, Katherine Blux, who was then living in Southampton, and was apparently a relative of the Rev. Robert Fordham. The sequel is thus recorded: "Mr. Thomas James was maryed the second day of September, 1669." The date of her death is unknown, but she was living in 1674. An abstract of the will of Mr. James is here given:

"The last will and Testament of me Thomas James, Preacher of ye Gospel & minister of East Hampton, in ye County of Suffolk, upon ye Isle of Nassau alias Long Island, within ye Province of New York, as followeth: \* \* \* To my eldest daughter, Sarah, wife of Peregrine Stanborough (having already given her more than any of the rest of my children), \* \*

\* four score pounds, in cash current of this Province, also an equal part with my other children of my personal goods, \* \* \* also ye small part I have in ye ship called ye "Speedwell" (being half a quarter), also ye feather bed I lye upon & ye green rug with it. To my second daughter, Mary, wife of John Stratton, an hundred pounds in cash. \* \* \* To my daughter Hannah, wife of James Diamant, one hundred pounds. I, having very lately delivered to my son-in-law Thomas Harris in behalf of his wife, my 4th daughter, Ruth, one hundred pounds upon same conditions, doe confirm it absolutely to her; I also give her my feather bed in ye large chamber, with ye furniture to it. \* \* \* I give to my grandchildren Mary Stanborough and Mary Stratton £50 a piece, and a feather bed and two pairs of sheets, \* \* \* also to each of them a cow and six sheep, and an iron pot of ye bigger sort, \* \* \* two pewter platters, a silver spoon. \* \* \* To my daughter Anne Howell, now wife of Mr. Abraham Howell of Southampton, £20, provided she bring in noe after reckoning on account of her first husband, my son Nathaniel, deceased. \* \* \* To my eldest grandson, John Stanborough, £10. To my two daughters-in-law [step-daughters?] Mary, wife of Mr. John Mulford, and Elizabeth, wife of Joseph Osborn, £10. \* \* \* I appoint Peregrine Stanborough, John Stratton and James Diamant executors. As for what debts is owing to me from this Towne of East Hampton, either former arrears or for last year, amounting to above four score pounds, I give to all my grandchildren excepting those mentioned in this will. Only this—that if ye Towne freely and readily will take ye best and speediest way they can for ye discharge of ye debts afore said, then I give to ye towne £20 towards ye maintaining of a good school-master in this town; otherwise not. \* \* \* I give to my son-in-law John Stratton what time I have in my man Charles Jones, my executors to make good his indenture and allow him 40s. in pay more. \* \* \* To my son-in-law James Diamant my Share in ye horse mill. \* \* \* "THOMAS JAMES."

Dated June 5, 1696.

Tradition states that at his own request he was buried, contrary to the usual custom, with his head to the east, in order that he might face his congregation at the Judgment Day. His tombstone, placed in accordance with his desire, still stands in the ancient graveyard, and near the spot where stood the church which was the