

## James Harland



No Picture Available

Born: 1625 Durham, England

Married: Rebecca Kirke

Died: 17 Feb 1680 England

Parents: William Harland & Deborah Seamon

James Harland (about 1625-abt 1679) seems to have lived in died in the region of Monkwearmouth, England as a yeoman farmer, but exact dates are not possible to determine. It is likely that he was a member of the Episcopal (Church of England) Faith. The family of James Harland was raised at Monkwearmouth, a small village one-half mile north of Sunderland near the mouth of the River Wear, in the Bishopric of Durham, Durham County England. [A bishopric is a territory ruled by a bishop; in this case the Bishopric of Durham is almost as large as the modern county of Durham. A large Benedictine Abby called Wearmouth was established at Monkwearmouth in 674 A.D. but today only the old St. Peter's Church (with its old tower dating from the time of the Norman Conquest) remains. During the "Dark Ages" the Abby was one of the most important centers of culture and learning; this continued until Viking raiders sacked the Abby. Today Monkwearmouth is incorporated within modern Sunderland.

<> It is difficult to be precise about the dates of birth of the family members as the records of St. Peter's church in Monkwearmouth were burned in a fire at the minister's house in 1790. An effort is underway to recreate these, but this is not finished. As is often the case, there are variations in what various family histories report about the early history of this family.

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As young men (probably about 1670) three of his sons, Thomas, Michael and George Harlan (Harland) crossed over into Ireland and located in the Parish of Donnahlong, County Down, They were members of the Society of Friends or Quakers, possibly having been converted while in Durham. It seems likely that the Harlans leased land from William Waring in his newly acquired holding at Waringstown in the civil parish of Donaghcloney.

The parents of Rebecca Kirk, wife of James Harland, are not known. Although some sources report her surname as Newkirk, Kirk and Kirke are more widely reported. It could be a coincidence, but Roger Kirk, born about 1624, Neshag, (probably Ness Hagg near Moorsholm) Skelton, York, England, was a Quaker member of the Lurgan Meeting, Armagh, Ireland. He died 24 Jan 1697/98, at Lurgan, Armagh, Ireland, and married Elizabeth Duck, in 1644. Roger Kirk would be about the same age as Rebecca Kirk and could be her brother. Roger's father was Alphonsus Kirk, born about 1603 in Skelton Parish, York, England and died there about 1655. Although Rebecca was supposed to be from Durham England, the presence of a Kirk family in Skelton Parish, Yorkshire and in Armagh, Ireland, suggests a possible relationship.

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