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New England, New York, and Beyond
Spring 2012 • Vol. 13, No. 2

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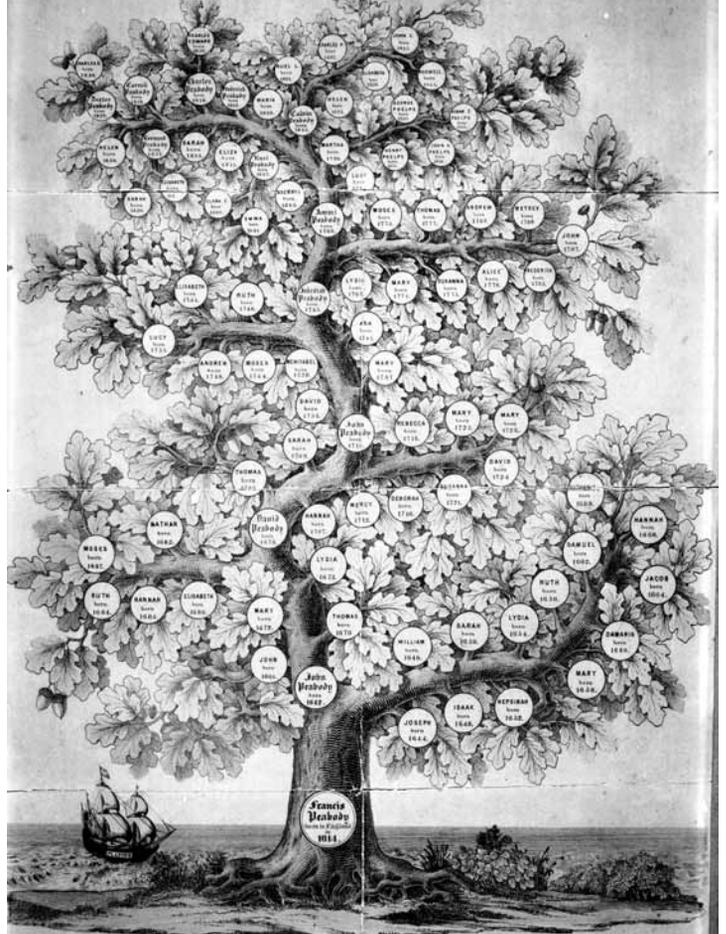
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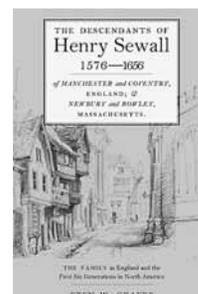
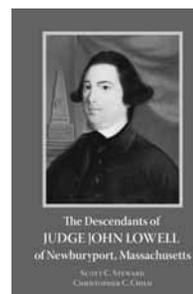


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MAKING CONNECTIONS

This spring has been a time of great activity for NEHGS, both here in Boston and elsewhere, and I take this opportunity to share some highlights with you.

We are pleased to be involved in the PBS television series *Finding Your Roots* with NEHGS Councilor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. I had the honor of attending the premiere in New York City on March 19, and am excited that this powerful and superbly produced series will advance the work we all do in preserving American family history. I want to extend hearty congratulations and special thanks to Professor Gates for developing this important program and including NEHGS so prominently in its production. Please note that Professor Gates hosts each episode directly from the Society's Treat Rotunda at our headquarters in Boston. I urge you to watch the series and tell your friends and family about it as well.

Other collaborations are also flourishing at NEHGS. The Society's third Family History Day in partnership with Ancestry.com, held in Tarrytown, New York, on March 17, was a smashing success. More than 800 registrants were able to see thirty-five of our staff in action: presenting lectures, conducting consultations, and selling books and memberships. We and our Ancestry.com partners sent the participants home enthused about family history and the wiser for their attendance.

NEHGS's programs continue to be popular; a number sold out quickly (the TIARA Irish Genealogy Seminar, Albany Research Tour, Belfast Research Tour, and the Great Migration Tour to England), with only a few spots remaining for the Come Home programs and the Salt Lake City Research Tour.

In 2011, the Society's NEHGS and Newbury Street Press imprints published a record nineteen books, and this year is also off to a strong start. We brought out the much-anticipated fifth edition of the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, as well as *Guide to Published Genealogies in the Library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society* (which complements the *Guide to Manuscripts in the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections of the New England Historic Genealogical Society*) and a new, expanded edition of Martin E. Hollick's best-selling *New Englanders in the 1600s*.

AmericanAncestors.org, the flagship website of the Society, has seen unprecedented usage over the last year, reaching, at times, one million visitors per month. Our aggressive digitization plans produced fifty-two new databases during the same period, including Connecticut Vital Records to 1870 (The Barbour Collection); *The Mayflower Descendant*, *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, and *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*; and New York: Albany County Deeds, 1630–1894. We have recently concluded digitization projects for *The Virginia Genealogist* and *New Netherland Connections*. The Society's online efforts were recognized last fall when *AmericanAncestors.org* was named to a list of the 101 Best Websites for 2011 by *Family Tree Magazine* and was first in the subcategory of best sites for U.S. Resources.

In the coming months we look forward to new opportunities to connect with you — in person, through our publications, and online — to facilitate your family history research.

D. Brenton Simons
President and CEO

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ENSURING THE PAST'S FUTURE

Today's average American will, in 200 years, have 668 descendants. The year will be 2212, and the odds are that many of your descendants will be researching you and your ancestors. Where will they look for the research and family papers you compiled?

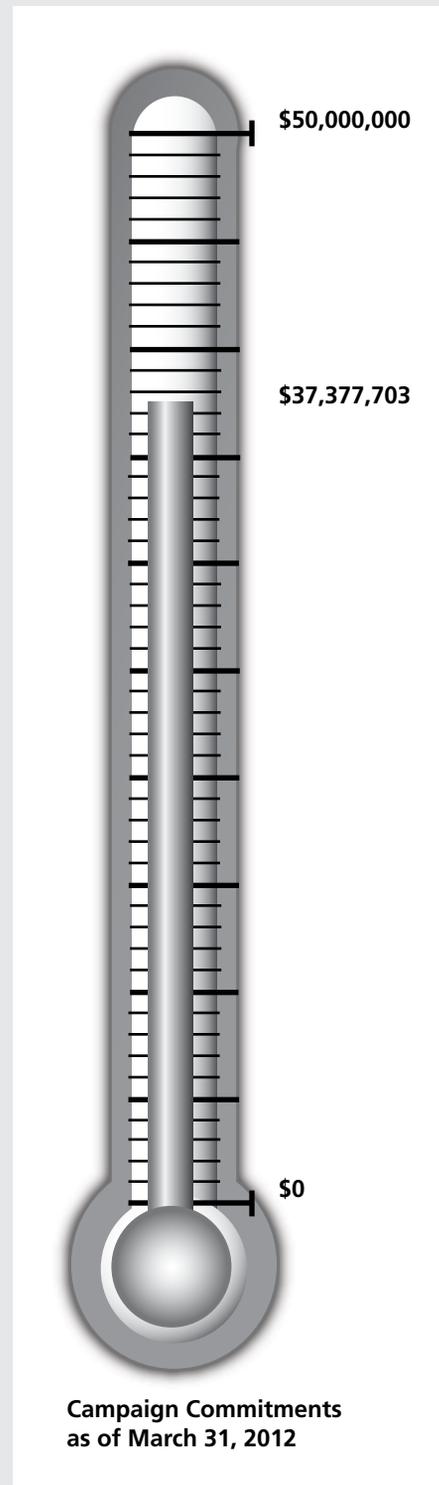
Many options exist for preserving your research, papers, and other memorabilia. The norm, unfortunately, is that no plans are made to safeguard such invaluable resources. Over the past few centuries, your ancestors likely had, at one time, countless letters, deeds, certificates, photographs, and diaries. How many of these documents do you have in your collection? One percent? Two percent? Most likely the vast majority of these materials were lost or destroyed.

All family historians face important decisions about what to do with their life's work. Does the collection go to one person or many? What will happen to it in succeeding generations? No one knows for certain. We do know that the average American moves every five years — and often purges some belongings each time. We also know that natural disasters, fire, theft, and other accidents can cause damage and destruction.

That leaves an enormous amount of uncertainty about the future of what is incredibly important to you — and to us. Since 1845, NEHGS has been collecting, preserving, and interpreting materials to document and make accessible the histories of families in America. With our extensive, climate-controlled archive in Boston, we are uniquely positioned to protect *your* research and family papers for the genealogists of the future — including your 668 descendants in 2212.

The foundation of NEHGS was laid by previous generations of family historians who had the foresight to donate their collections and provide the necessary endowed funds to *ensure the past's future*. The legacies that we all work so hard to create and pass along will be available only in the future if we ensure preservation of our material now.

For more information on donating your collection and endowing its future, please contact Ted MacMahon, Director of Development, at tmacmahon@nehgs.org or 617-226-1218, or Steven Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning, at ssolomon@nehgs.org or 617-226-1238.



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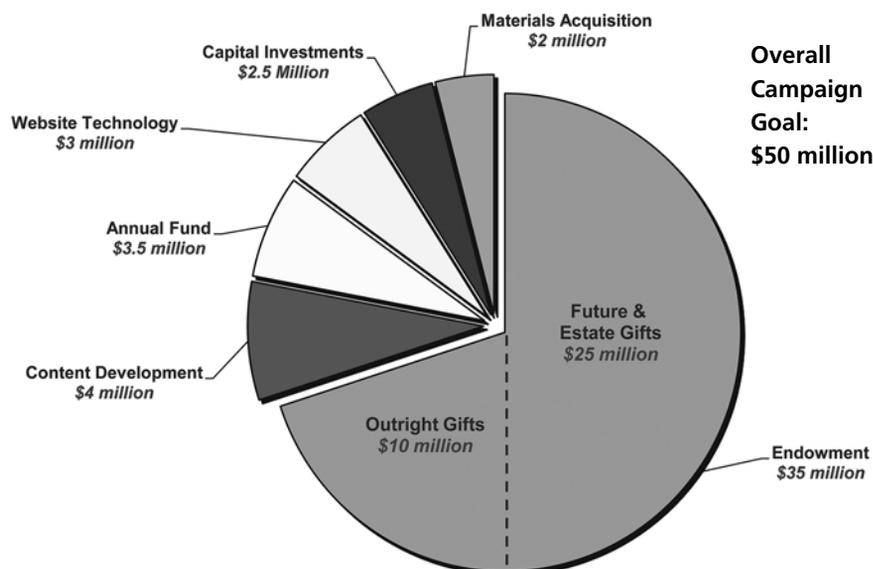
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THE IMPORTANCE OF ARCHIVAL PRESERVATION

Attorneys Diantha C. (D.D.) and George C. Harrington of Framingham, Massachusetts, are longtime members of NEHGS with broad genealogical interests. D.D.'s father researched her family and documented twenty-seven *Mayflower*-connected ancestors, including Robert Cushman, who helped organize the 1620 *Mayflower* and *Speedwell* voyages, and Mary Allerton, the last surviving *Mayflower* passenger, who died in 1699 at age eighty-two. D.D.'s father, William Allerton Cushman (from a Providence, Rhode Island family), instilled in her a passion for genealogy through his love of family, history, and books. Mr. Cushman traveled extensively, visiting cemeteries and town halls, writing letters to family members and historical societies, and accumulating a significant collection of irreplaceable family documents.

The Harringtons recognize the importance of professionally preserving unique documents, and, in memory of William Allerton Cushman, have made gifts to NEHGS for the conservation of books, letters, manuscripts, and other paper documents in need of long-term preservation: "Both George and I are pleased to hear that NEHGS is in the process of planning a new and professionally equipped conservation laboratory, and were happy to help match the grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Facilities Fund for this purpose. We were especially pleased to know that the laboratory will be a 'public space' where visitors to NEHGS can observe the conservation process and learn the importance of caring for works on paper for future generations."

D.D. and George Harrington with NEHGS conservation technician Deborah Rossi



IN THE EDITOR'S NOTE IN THE WINTER 2004 ISSUE of *New England Ancestors* (predecessor to AMERICAN ANCESTORS), I introduced a new column: "Diane Rapaport, an NEHGS member, lawyer, and author of the well-received winter 2003 article 'Scots for Sale: The Fate of Scottish Prisoners in Seventeenth-Century Massachusetts' launches her series 'Tales from the Courthouse.' Each column will feature interesting case studies from colonial New England court records,



Lynn Betlock

beginning this issue with 'The Case of the Purloined Pigs.'" That first article was followed by thirty-five others, and the series, which indeed proved to be most interesting, consistently received accolades and garnered much positive reader feedback. Three articles received "excellence in writing" awards from the International Society of Family History Writers and Editors. Now, eight years later, the "Tales from the Courthouse" column has come to an end, and I would like to wholeheartedly thank Diane for her many years of devotion and hard work on the series.

Diane's signature achievement with "Tales from the Courthouse" was turning 300-year-old court cases into gripping narratives that could arouse both sympathy and scorn for their long-ago protagonists. People often say, "If these walls could talk," but, in her column, Diane made the court records speak. Historical figures leapt off the page to argue, rail against injustice, and plead for readers' sympathy.

"Tales from the Courthouse" also offered a refreshingly realistic, multi-dimensional view of colonial New England society. Genealogists can sometimes find their knowledge of a specific time and place limited to biographical details that don't encompass the totality of the world their ancestors experienced. Just as colonial courts dealt with all facets of crime and all walks of life — from the poor and disenfranchised to the wealthy and privileged — so, too, did "Tales from the Courthouse." The column introduced breakers of the peace, feuding neighbors, debtors, adulterers, accused witches, pirates, runaway servants and slaves, and Native American plaintiffs and defendants — and, no

doubt, expanded readers' understanding of the possibilities and limitations of life in seventeenth-century New England.

Past "Tales from the Courthouse" columns can be accessed in the pages of NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS and AMERICAN ANCESTORS on the *AmericanAncestors.org* website. Diane has also published two books: *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians* (2006) and *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England* (2007). (*The Naked Quaker* contains twenty-five court record tales, many previously published in the NEHGS magazines.) For more information about Diane's work, visit www.dianerapaport.com. Diane continues to lecture and research on genealogical topics and, in the future, I hope that our readers can enjoy an occasional feature article by our "Tales from the Courthouse" columnist emeritus.



The thought of being held hostage by Barbary pirates conjures up mythical and melodramatic images, but such incidents are well rooted in historical fact. Many people likely know about Barbary pirates attacking American merchant vessels and taking prisoners during the first decades of the nineteenth-century, actions which led to the First and Second Barbary Wars. Less well known is how Barbary pirate activity during the last part of the seventeenth century affected colonial Americans — the topic of our cover feature by Beth A. Bower, "Captivity with ye Barbarous Turks: Seventeenth-Century New Englanders Held Hostage." The story of these captives is a fascinating tale and, although only a relatively small number of New Englanders were enslaved, their plight had a wider impact. Relatives of the hostages and their larger communities and churches rallied to the occasion and sought to raise ransom funds. No doubt the stories of these captives contributed to a sense of unease and vulnerability among their contemporaries; today, knowledge of these extraordinary incidents gives us a wider perspective on life for seventeenth-century New Englanders.

Lynn Betlock
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LETTERS & FEEDBACK

Praise for AMERICAN ANCESTORS

I joined NEHGS because I was so impressed with the outstanding quality of AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine when I picked up some old copies available for patrons at the Fairfax County, Virginia, library. The quality of this magazine reflects very well on the whole organization. Keep up the outstanding work!

*Richard English
Arlington, Virginia*

"Her work continues"

I was ecstatic to find the article on Captain Epenetus Platt in the fall issue ["Brought to Great Straits and Reduced to Want": Captain Epenetus Platt, Tory,"

AMERICAN ANCESTORS, 12 (2011) 4:41–43]. Platt is my great-great-great-great-grandfather. I own the old drop-down mahogany desk at which my great aunt Kathleen Hand did all her genealogy research. Every time my dad is at my house, he reminisces about seeing his Aunt Kathleen working at it. Now I look at it with love knowing that her work continues. Thank you for a great article.

*Debbie Derr
Seaford, Delaware*

Editor's note: The author of the article, Mary M. Thacher, began her study of Epenetus Platt with a copy of Kathleen Hand's research journal.



MY MOST CHALLENGING "BRICK WALL"

Feedback: What is the most challenging "brick wall" you have encountered through the course of your genealogical research?

Please note that NEHGS does not verify responses.

According to a family story, in 1872, as teenagers, my great-grandmother, Mary Agnes Power, and her sister (possibly Florence) witnessed an assassination in Ireland. Their Catholic priest spirited them away from possible retaliation, and arranged for passage to New York. Mary paid for her passage by becoming an indentured servant. Mary married Irish immigrant James Joseph Hoolehan in New York City about 1876/7. Their children were Michael Joseph (b. Aug. 18, 1878, in Brooklyn); Mary F. (Mame) (b. 1879 in New York); James Francis (b. 1880 in New York); Richard (b. 1882 in Florida); and William David (b. 1886 in Florida).

Mary Agnes (Power) Hoolehan died in Florida in 1934 at age eighty. Her death certificate listed her parents as David Power and Mary _____. Family tradition says Mary's birth place could have been County Cork or Moneygall,

County Tipperary. **Where in Ireland was Mary born, and who were her ancestors and siblings?**

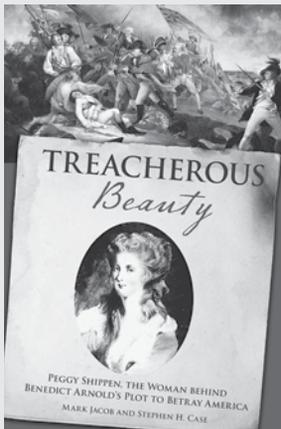
*Charlene Fisher
Rockledge, Florida*

My ancestor, Oliver Bartlett (b. Hadley, Mass., about 1743; d. Chenango Co., N.Y., between 1810 and 1820), was likely a son of the Henry Bartlett from Hadley who died in the Battle of Lake George in 1755. Oliver and his brother, Daniel, b. 1754, are mentioned in Boltwood's *Genealogies of Hadley Families*. Clarence Bowen, in his *Genealogies of Woodstock, Conn., Families* (vol. 2, p. 402), quotes an informant who claimed that Oliver and Daniel were two of Henry's eleven children. This claim is consistent with Henry's 1734 marriage to Martha White, but **what happened to the other nine children**, especially other sons who may have agnate (male-line) descendants? DNA tests have suggested that this line is unrelated to other Bartlett families in early Massachusetts, including those in Northampton and Marlborough.

*Laura Spurrier
Berkeley, California*

Please address letters and brick walls to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; or email magazine@nehgs.org. We regret that we cannot reply to every letter. Submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Limit brick wall submissions to 200 words or less. Responses will be forwarded to submitters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



2012 SUMMER DINNER: YOU'RE INVITED!

Please join us at a special dinner featuring a presentation by NEHGS Councilor Stephen H. Case on his new book, *Traacherous Beauty: Peggy Shippen, the Woman Behind Benedict Arnold's Plot to Betray America* on July 20, 2012.

While histories of the Revolutionary War honor several heroines, including Betsy Ross, Abigail Adams, and Molly Pitcher — this volume is the first biography to focus on one of the most remarkable women of the war, a beautiful society girl named Peggy Shippen. Peggy befriended a handsome British spy and then married a crippled American revolutionary general twice her age. At a crucial juncture in the Revolutionary War, she brought the two enemy warriors together in a treasonous plot that came perilously close to turning George Washington into a prisoner of war and possibly changing the outcome of the conflict. Peggy Shippen was Mrs. Benedict Arnold.

Stephen H. Case, Trustee of the American Revolution Center, is a managing director and general counsel at Emerald Development Managers, LP. He co-authored *Traacherous Beauty* with Mark Jacob.

Space is limited. To register, please visit www.AmericanAncestors.org/summer-dinner.

Free Fun Friday on July 27: Please join us!

NEHGS will be participating in the Highland Street Foundation's "Free Fun Friday" program for the third year in a row. This summer the program will begin on June 29 and run through August 31. Each Friday, five venues in Massachusetts will be open to the public free of charge. NEHGS will welcome guests for a day of discovery on Friday, July 27. For more information about the program, please visit www.highlandstreet.org.



African-American History and Genealogy Day

In celebration of Black History Month, NEHGS hosted an African-American History and Genealogy Day on February 8, 2012. Participants in this free program



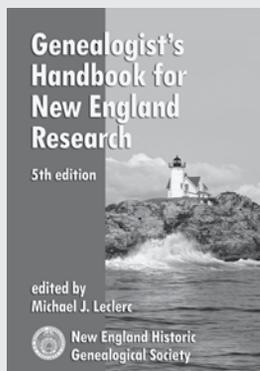
Marie Firmin discovered a ship's manifest listing her father, with assistance from library director Marie Daly. (Photo by Lolita Parker Jr.)

enjoyed presentations by NEHGS Online Genealogist David Allen Lambert on tracing African American ancestors, author and historian Alex R. Goldfeld on Boston's earliest African American community, and former Executive Director of the Springfield Museums and author Joseph Carvalho III, who spoke about his revised edition of *Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts, 1650–1865*, recently published by NEHGS. Many people also took advantage of the opportunity to explore the research library. The day was filled with exciting discoveries as attendees found ancestors in the resources available at NEHGS. For more information on African American resources at NEHGS, visit AfricanAmericanAncestors.org.

NOW AVAILABLE FROM NEHGS:

Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 5th edition

NEHGS is pleased to announce the arrival of the much-anticipated fifth edition of the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*. It's been more than ten years since the last edition and, we can assure you, it was worth the wait! With a new two-color layout, expanded and updated content, and more how-to hints, finding New England records has never been easier. Order your copy today at AmericanAncestors.org. 7 x 10, softcover, 432 pp., illus., \$24.95 (member price \$22.46)



What's new in the fifth edition?

- Introductory essays for each state
- Nearly 80 state and county maps
- Updated repository information
- Listing of parent and daughter towns
- Charts, artwork, and photos
- Two-color design throughout

Now available and selling quickly!

NEHGS hosts Italian partnership

The Consul General of Italy and the MIT Mobile Experience Lab, in partnership with COMITES (Committee of Italians Abroad) of Boston, hosted a special program at NEHGS on December 7 with more than 100 guests. The event showcased *Memory Traces: A Collection of Italian Memories of Boston*, a video interview project featuring recollections from first-generation Italians, including Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Boston Red Sox president and co-owner Larry Lucchino, and co-owner of the Boston Celtics and managing partner of Bain Capital, Steve Pagliuca. To learn more about this project to preserve Italian heritage for future generations, visit <http://locast.mit.edu/memorytraces>.



Pictured here, from left, are: Consul General of Italy Giuseppe Pastorelli, Paul Ferri (founder of Matrix Partners), Salvatore Balsamo (founder and CEO of TAC Worldwide Companies), and Emilio Bizzi (MIT Institute Professor and Investigator in the McGovern Institute).

ASG Scholar Award

The American Society of Genealogists gives an annual \$500 scholarship that can be applied to any of three genealogical institutes: (1) the National Institute of Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.; (2) the Institute of Genealogy and Historical Research at Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.; and (3) the Certificate Program in Genealogical Research at Boston University. For details see the ASG website, www.fasg.org.

The Junior League of Boston at NEHGS

NEHGS Marketing Director Tom Champoux welcomed guests of the Junior League of Boston's Annual Charity Ball at NEHGS on February 11. A VIP reception was held at NEHGS before the "Service and the City" gala at the Fairmont Copley Plaza Hotel. The event raised funds in support of the nonprofit's community service programs for women and girls in Boston.



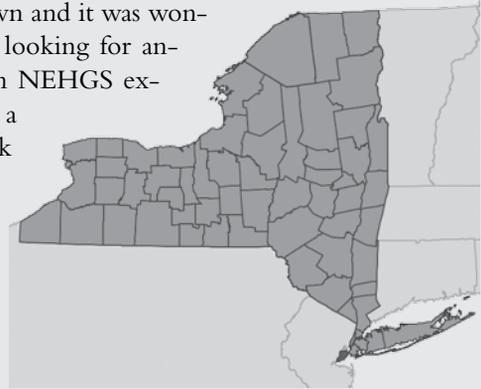
NEHGS Marketing Director Tom Champoux and guests of the Junior League of Boston's Annual Charity Ball in the Society's Treat Rotunda.

New York Family History Day in Tarrytown, N.Y. — A smashing success!

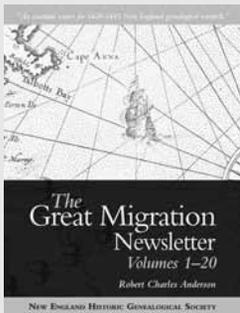
On March 17, NEHGS hosted its third Family History Day with Ancestry.com. Eight hundred family history researchers gathered in Tarrytown, New York, to attend twelve classes taught by experts from NEHGS and Ancestry.com, browse through books from our book store, and learn more about the benefits of membership. Exclusive one-on-one consultations with staff were in high demand and sold out in advance. Participants enjoyed class sessions on topics ranging from “Online Resources for Irish Research” to “Uncovering Your New York Ancestors.” Thirty-five of our staff members traveled from Boston to the Tarrytown event to share resources, expertise, and knowledge with the enthusiastic group.

One participant said, “I just attended the workshop in Tarrytown and it was wonderful! This was my first workshop like this, but I’m already looking for another!” A second participant noted “The consultation with an NEHGS expert was so helpful. It was the best \$25 I’ve ever spent!” And a Facebook user posted on the NEHGS page, “Thank you, thank you for Family History Day in Tarrytown! I learned a lot and felt a part of a larger community!”

NEHGS is the largest society for New York genealogy and has statewide resources and expertise, with an extensive library collection, staff genealogists, and online databases.



Coming soon from the Great Migration Study Project



The Complete Great Migration Newsletter, Volumes 1–20

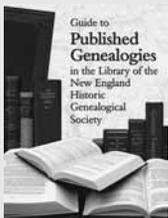
By Robert Charles Anderson

Under the leadership of Robert Charles Anderson, the Great Migration Study Project aims to compile authoritative genealogical and biographical accounts

of every person who settled in New England between 1620 and 1640. The *Great Migration Newsletter* has been a cornerstone publication within this project for the past twenty years and offers researchers essential articles on migration patterns, early records, life in seventeenth-century New England, and more.

Now, for the first time, all twenty volumes of the *Newsletter*, spanning the years 1990 through 2011, are together in one compendium. A comprehensive index provides an easy way to find subjects, place names, surnames, and even first names in these twenty volumes.

8½ x 11, 750 pp., softcover \$27.95 (member price \$25.16). For customers who already have *The Complete Great Migration Newsletter, Volumes 1–15*, a separate compilation for volumes 16–20 only will soon be available: 8½ x 11, 200 pp., softcover \$11.95 (member price \$10.76).



Now available from NEHGS

Guide to Published Genealogies in the Library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

Introduction by Gary Boyd Roberts. 8 ½ x 11, 1528 pp., softcover \$49.95 (member price \$44.96)

NEHGS has collected more than twenty thousand published family histories since its founding in 1845. Here for the first time is a list of all published genealogies the Society acquired prior to 2011. The collection includes almost every published genealogy on New England families, plus works on families throughout the United States, Canada, and thirty-nine other countries around the world. Arranged alphabetically by surname, the book cross-references works with multiple surnames to make it easy to locate your families.

Order at www.AmericanAncestors.org today!



Duck "ConDUCKtors" Breakfast and Tour

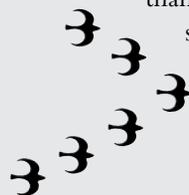
On Wednesday, March 6, 2012, about thirty Boston Duck Tours "ConDUCKtors" visited NEHGS for a breakfast, lecture, and tour of the NEHGS research center. The ConDUCKtors were delighted to learn about NEHGS, and many made their own family history discoveries. When the Boston Ducks drive down Newbury Street on their tours, the ConDUCKtors provide valuable information about NEHGS and other area attractions, and Duck Tour passengers are offered free entrance to NEHGS.

Coming Fall 2012

The Winthrop Fleet

By Robert Charles Anderson

In 1630 John Winthrop led a fleet of eleven ships and about 1,100 Puritans from England to the New World. This forthcoming volume will include more than 200 genealogical and biographical sketches — updated and expanded from *The Great Migration Begins* — of passengers traveling with Winthrop. More information and pricing to come.



Other volumes from the Great Migration Study Project:

- *The Pilgrim Migration: Immigrants to Plymouth Colony, 1620–1633*, 6 x 9, softcover, \$29.95 (member price \$26.96)
- *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols., 6 x 9, hardcover, \$125 (member price \$99)
- *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635*, 7 vols., 6 x 9, hardcover, \$59.95–\$64.95 each (member price \$53.96–\$58.46), complete set: \$375.

To learn more about the Great Migration Study Project, visit www.GreatMigration.org.

NEW SEARCHABLE DATABASES ON *AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG*

Books, journals, and periodicals

- *The American Genealogist*, volumes 59–68
- *The Connecticut Nutmegger*, volumes 42–43
- *The Essex Genealogist*, volumes 16–20
- *The Mayflower Descendant*, volumes 26–30
- *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, volumes 11–15
- *Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine*, volumes 16–20

Cemetery records

- Long Island cemetery inscriptions, 1652–1910

Church records

- New York, N.Y.: Reformed Dutch Church baptisms, 1639–1740

Masonic records

- Massachusetts Grand Lodge of Masons membership cards, surnames U–Z (series concluded)



Vital records

- Connecticut vital records: Derby, Haddam, Killingworth, Lyme, Simsbury, Suffield, Wallingford, Woodbury,
- Massachusetts Deaths, 1914
- Portsmouth, N.H., vital records, 1709–1841

OBITUARIES

Robert Johnston Dunkle, 1929–2012

Robert Johnston Dunkle of Naples, Florida, died there on January 20, 2012. He was born to the late Robert J. and Ruth (Litchfield) Dunkle on May 29, 1929 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He graduated from Noble & Greenough School in Dedham, Massachusetts, in 1947 and received his B.A. in History from Trinity College in 1951.

Robert was a veteran of the U.S. Navy Reserves, and served in the ZP-911 Squadron as a Dirigible radioman and bombardier from 1948 until May 1956. During his business career, Robert was an investment broker and vice-president for Laird, Bissell and Meads of Wilmington, Delaware, and Boston. He later held further positions with R.W. PressPridge & Co. and Tucker Anthony & R.L. Day.

He married Joan Osborn in 1953 and raised his family in the Boston area, later relocating to North Hampton, New Hampshire, and, finally, to Naples, Florida.

Bob was a thirty-eight-year member of the Society. He began working for NEHGS in 1992. During his tenure, Bob made many important contributions to NEHGS and the field of genealogy, especially in editing and transcribing New England church and vital records; his work resulted in eight books (six with Ann S. Lainhart) and eleven CDs. In addition to his publications, Bob spent countless hours indexing and preparing materials for the NEHGS websites, often submitting work all seven days of the week. In this role Bob also provided valuable day-to-day management of volunteer projects related to the websites, overseeing as many as sixty volunteers at any given time.

Surviving are his wife, four children, nine grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Robert A. Jones, 1937–2012

Robert Allan Jones, NEHGS councilor and former trustee, died at his home in Boothbay Harbor, Maine, on February 28, 2012, aged 74, after a long illness.

Mr. Jones joined the Society in 1998 and became a life member in 2001. He served on the Board of Trustees from 2005 to 2010, and served terms as Councilor from 2004 to 2005, and from 2010 until his death.

He was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, on August 11, 1937, son of Guy and Ruth (Workman) Jones. A graduate of Tufts University and a U.S. Navy veteran, Mr. Jones had a long career as a commercial real estate developer. In the early 1970s, he formed his own business, Robert A. Jones & Co., which was later renamed The Athenaeum Group. His company became one of the largest property owners in the city of Cambridge, Mass., and was one of the first to identify the East Cambridge–Kendall Square area, adjacent to M.I.T., as a future office and biomedical research hub. He also took leadership roles in many Cambridge-area philanthropic and charitable organizations.

In the 1990s Mr. Jones and his wife, the former Linda Giles, retired to their summer home in Boothbay Harbor to enjoy life on the ocean. In addition to his wife, he is survived by a brother, three sons, and nine grandchildren.



EDUCATION PROGRAMS & TOURS



Boston Programs

BEHIND-THE-SCENES TOUR OF "OLD IRONSIDES"

Thursday, May 31, 5:30 p.m.

Join NEHGS and the crew at the USS Constitution Museum for a private, after-hours tour of USS *Constitution*, "Old Ironsides," the oldest commissioned warship afloat in the world. After the tour, take a behind-the-scenes look at the museum's collections and archives. Museum president Anne Grimes Rand will share plans for the Bicentennial of the War of 1812. Free for guests of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. RSVP by May 25; rsvp@ussconstitutionmuseum.org or 617-426-1812 ext 167. Free

Courtesy of the USS Constitution Museum.

COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND

Session I: Monday, June 11–Saturday, June 16, 2012

Session II: Monday, August 6–Saturday, August 11, 2012

You are invited to join NEHGS for a week of guided research at our research facility in Boston. You'll have access to personalized one-on-one consultations, lectures, and special participant-only admission hours. The week's lectures include an orientation to NEHGS collections, methodology seminars, and daily discussions. The program includes group meals and social events to meet other members, discuss your research, and share your stories. Space is limited. *Tuition (does not include lodging): \$750.*



PUBLISHING YOUR FAMILY HISTORY SEMINAR — PART I Saturday, September 15, 9–4 p.m.

If you're ready to turn your family history research into a publication, join the experts at NEHGS to learn best practices in publishing your findings. NEHGS offers guidance on writing and publishing your family history project in this two-part seminar. Workshops in Part I include goal setting, using genealogical style, working with images, and adding narrative to your genealogy. Part II, to be held in February 2013, delves into the editorial process and book production, and offers opportunities to consult with experts. Space is limited. *Tuition: \$110.*

FALL WEEKEND RESEARCH GETAWAY — RESEARCHING FEMALE ANCESTORS October 18–20

Uncover the wealth of materials available to researchers at the NEHGS Library at 99-101 Newbury Street during our Weekend Research Getaway. The program features extended library hours, individual consultations, group meals, and themed lectures. Space is limited. *Tuition (does not include lodging): \$300; single days \$110 each.*



Tours

ALBANY RESEARCH TOUR July 11–15, 2012

Featured NEHGS Experts: Christopher C. Child, Henry B. Hoff, David Dearborn. Our first trip to Albany, New York, in July 2011 was such a success we're offering a repeat trip. If you missed your chance last year, sign up now and join NEHGS as we explore the vast resources

Boston Educational Programs

NEHGS invites members, guests, and the general public to participate in our dynamic educational programming.

Wednesday, May 9	Using <i>AmericanAncestors.org</i>	10 a.m.
Thursday, May 31	USS Constitution Tour*	5:30 p.m.
Saturday, June 2	New Visitor Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Monday, June 11–		
Saturday, June 16	Come Home to New England – Session 1*	
Wednesday, June 27	The Title Game: English Royal, Noble, and Honorary Titles	12 p.m.
Wednesday, July 11	New Visitor Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Wednesday, July 18	Using <i>AmericanAncestors.org</i>	10 a.m.
Friday, July 27	Free Fun Friday	9 a.m.
Saturday, August 4	New Visitor Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Monday, August 6–		
Saturday, August 11	Come Home to New England — Session 2*	
Wednesdays,		
August 15, 22, 29	Getting Started in Genealogy*	6 p.m.
Wednesday, September 5	New Visitor Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Wednesday, September 12	Using <i>AmericanAncestors.org</i>	10 a.m.
Saturday, September 15	Publishing Your Family History Seminar, Part I*	9 a.m.
Saturday, October 6	New Visitor Welcome Tour	10 a.m.

*Registration and/or fees required.

of the New York State Archives in Albany. The trip includes individual consultations, lectures, a reception, and a group dinner. Space is limited. *Tuition (includes four nights' lodging at the Albany Hotel): single, \$785; double (shared lodging with another participant), \$585 per person; double with non-researching guest, \$935; commuter (no lodging), \$185.*



SALT LAKE CITY RESEARCH TOUR October 28–November 4, 2012

Visit the world's largest library for genealogy and family history as NEHGS returns to Salt Lake City and the Family History Library for our thirty-fourth annual tour. Daily activities include individual consultations with NEHGS genealogists, lectures, and other special events. Space is limited. *Tuition (includes seven nights' lodging at the Salt Lake Plaza Hotel): single, \$1,550; double (shared lodging with another participant), \$1,350 per person; double with non-researching guest, \$1,850; commuter (no lodging), \$775.*

REGISTER FOR NEHGS EVENTS

Online: Registration for all tours is available online at www.AmericanAncestors.org/events.

Phone: Call 617-226-1226 to register for any event.

Mail: Download a registration form online, or request one at 617-226-1226 or education@nehgs.org

LODGING IN BOSTON

Located a short three-block walk from NEHGS, the Charlesmark Hotel at 655 Boylston Street offers special rates for NEHGS members throughout the year on a space-available basis. The hotel can be reached at 617-247-1212 or www.thecharlesmark.com. Please identify yourself as an NEHGS member when contacting the Charlesmark for reservations and expect to show your membership card upon arrival.

THE ONLINE GENEALOGIST

The Online Genealogist Answers Your Questions

by David Allen Lambert

The Civil War record of my ancestor Joseph Mossey, who served with the Massachusetts Heavy Artillery, shows that he used an alias, Frederick Devoid. When I looked at Frederick Devoid's record, I saw Joseph Mossey listed as his alias. Both men appear in the census of 1870. Why would a man have an alias in the Civil War?

No one answer to this question would fit all cases. Among the hundreds of service records and pension files I have examined, I have occasionally seen aliases listed. Sometimes an alias is used because a soldier is trying to distance himself from some criminal activity, generally desertion from a previous enlistment. If both Mossey and Devoid appear in the 1870 census, I think they are probably two separate men.

My French grandfather arrived in New York as a young man in 1895, and his birth name is on the passenger list and in Ellis Island records. By 1898 he was in Nova Scotia, with a completely different last name which he used for the rest of his life. I have never been able to find out when, where, and how he officially changed his name. At that time could someone simply assume a new surname?

Your ancestor may not have officially changed his name, especially if he never used his original surname legally in North America. Immigrants were given the opportunity to change their names upon being naturalized as U.S. citizens, but your ancestor moved to Canada before the U.S. citizenship waiting period would have lapsed. If your ancestor arrived in Canada by ship, you can search arrival records online at www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/passenger/index-e.html. If your ancestor's name is on an arrival manifest, you

might be able to find whether he assumed a new name prior to his move to Canada. Most likely, though, he came to Canada by land. Prior to April 1908 no records were kept of people who crossed the border from the United States to Canada.

What English ports were used by immigrants departing for New England in the seventeenth century?

The major ports were Barnstaple, Bristol, Dartmouth, Exeter, Ipswich, London, Plymouth, Southampton, Weymouth, and Yarmouth. London was, by several orders of magnitude, the most frequently used port.

For thirty-five years I have looked for the parents of Peter Smith, born 15 Feb. 1760, probably in Brentwood, New Hampshire. He served in the Revolution, married Hannah Sanborn on 2 Aug. 1783 in Brentwood, and died in Knox, Maine, 18 May 1837. Where do you suggest I look?

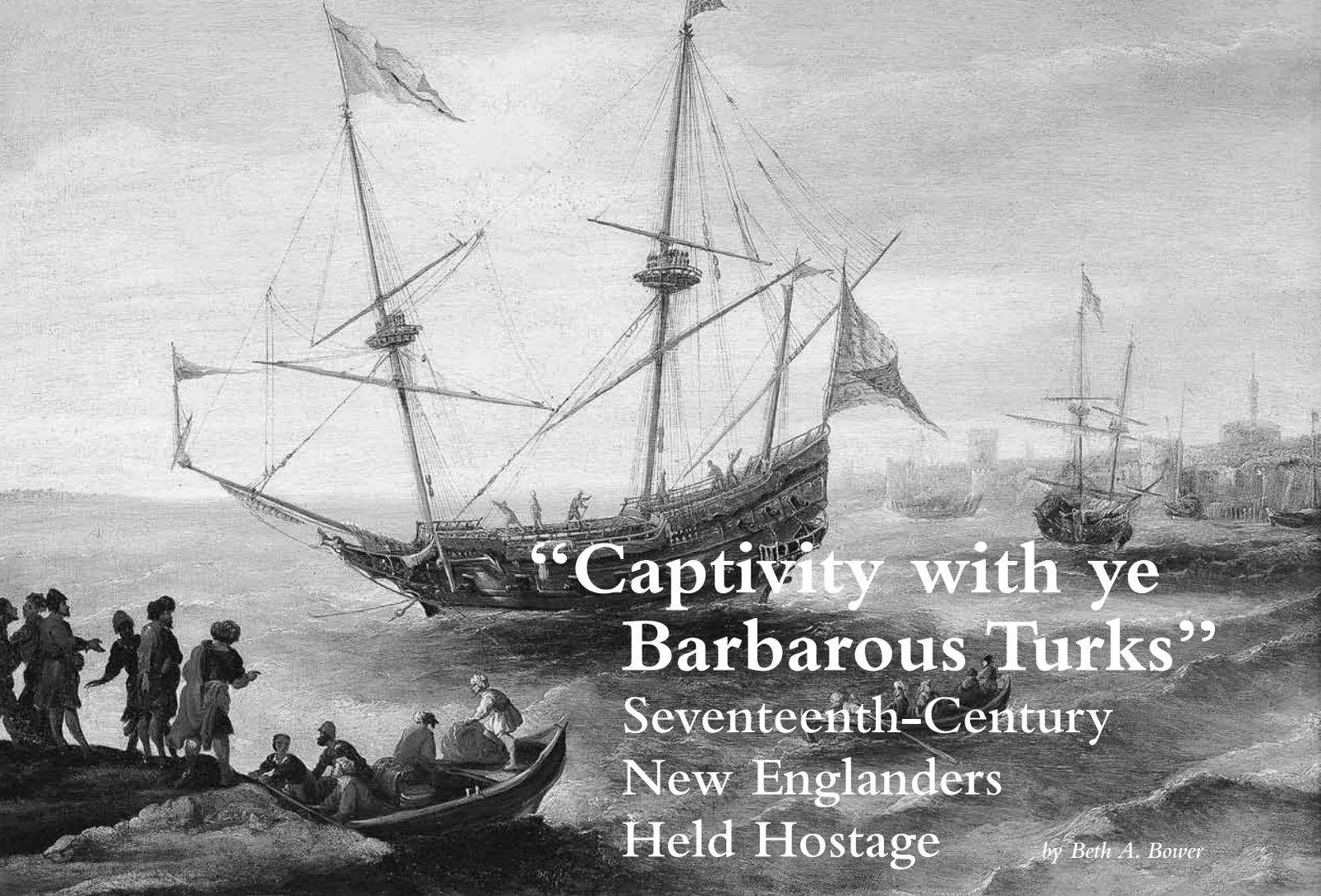
Few New Hampshire towns have published vital records, but most VRs to about the 1840s have been microfilmed. The New Hampshire State Library in Concord has a card index to these records, the *Index to Early New Hampshire Town Records*, which can also be found on microfilm at NEHGS and the Family History Library. I suggest checking this index (or asking a researcher to check it for you) for Smiths living in Brentwood and beyond. I also recommend looking for Brentwood Smiths in Rockingham County probates and deeds. Another useful source for New Hampshire research is William Copeley's 2000 *Index to Genealogies in New Hampshire Town Histories*, published by the New Hampshire Historical Society. This volume indexes the surnames from 202 New Hampshire town histories. The book is available in libraries and for purchase from the New Hampshire Historical Society (www.nhhistory.org/store). More generally, I advise you to research all seventeenth-century Smiths in Brentwood; once you organize them into family groups, a connection to Peter might become more apparent.



Contact the online genealogist

Email David Lambert at onlinegenealogist@nehgs.org.

For more questions and answers, visit the Question of the Day archive at www.AmericanAncestors.org/blogs.aspx?blogid=111.



“Captivity with ye Barbarous Turks” Seventeenth-Century New Englanders Held Hostage

by Beth A. Bower

IN THE AFTERMATH OF KING PHILIP’S WAR (1675–1676), New Englanders had reason to fear a new enemy, North African corsairs, also called “barbarous Turks” and, in the eighteenth century, Barbary pirates. An increase in attacks on English shipping led to the capture of more than 100 New Englanders between 1678 and 1684.^[1] The constantly changing alliances and conflicts between England, European powers, and the Ottoman Empire meant that any ship was in danger of attack from official navies, state-subsidized corsairs, and freelance pirates. The North African principalities of Algeria, Tripoli, and Tunis were under the protection of the Ottoman Empire and were authorized to prey on European shipping.^[2] (Moroccan pirates, a distinct group, were active throughout the seventeenth century, when the independent principality of Morocco sailed fleets of corsairs that brought captives to the cities of Salé and Mequinez.) Historian Robert C. Davis estimates that 1.5 million Christians

were captured and enslaved by the Turks from the fifteenth through the eighteenth centuries.^[3]

The threat to New England

New England mariners were aware of the risk of capture by corsairs. Governor John Winthrop writes of the Austins, who sailed from New Haven en route to England in the early 1640s, only to be captured and sold into slavery in Algiers.^[4] In 1644, the Massachusetts General Court gave Captain Thomas Bredcake a year-long commission to capture any Turkish pirate he encountered.^[5] Abraham Browne, a recent English immigrant to Boston and son of a redeemed captive, was himself captured by the Moroccans and ransomed in 1655. He returned to Boston, married, and wrote a captivity narrative.^[6] Captain William Foster of Charlestown and his son were captured in 1671 and ransomed from Algiers in 1672.^[7]

Between 1677 and 1680, the Algerine [from Algeria] corsairs were particularly active, capturing 153 English ships with an estimated 1,850 men on board and £153,000 of cargo.^[8] Among those ships were four from Massachusetts: the

Above: Andries van Eertvelt, “An Algerine Ship off a Barbary Port.” 17th century. ©National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, UK

NEW ENGLANDERS TAKEN BY ALGERINE PIRATES, 1678–1684

Name	D.O.B.–D.O.D.	City/Town	Year Taken	Fate	References
The Blessing					
Babell, Roger		Boston	1678	Unknown	7
Bastar, Benjamin	1652–?	Boston	1678	Unknown	1, 7
Branstome/Branscombe, Asher or Arthur		Boston	1678	Unknown	1, 3, 6
Corbin, Thomas	1656–bef. 1704	Muddy River	1678	Ransomed 1681	1, 4
Drinker, Philip		Charlestown	1678	Unknown	3, 7
Elson, Captain James	1643–1680	Charlestown	1678	Ransomed 1679	1, 2, 6
Elson, Richard		Charlestown	1678	Unknown	6
Lampson, Loveday			1678	Ransomed 1681	4
March, William	Died by 1695	Charlestown	1678	Unknown	3, 7
Mason, Daniel	1648–1680	Watertown	1678	Died in captivity by 5/1680	5, 6
Merrick/Mirick, Benjamin	1644–aft. 1701	Charlestown	1678	Ransomed by 1684	3, 7
Mitchell, Thomas		Charlestown	1678	Unknown	7
Newcomb, Michael		Charlestown	1678	Ransomed by 1689	7, 8
Smith, George		Boston	1678	Ransomed 1681	1, 4
The Rose					
Fernell/Furnell, Captain John	1654–by 1699	Boston	1678	Escaped	1, 2
Jenner, Thomas Jr.	1658–by 1706	Charlestown	1678	Ransomed 1681	3, 4, 6
Mitchell, Thomas	1628–1709	Malden	1678	Ransomed 1681	3, 4
The Unity					
Condey, Captain William	1638–1685	Boston	1680	Ransomed 1681	1, 2, 4, 5
Chapman, John			1680	Ransomed 1681	4, 5
Harris, William	1610–1681	Providence, RI	1680	Ransomed 1681	5
Johnson, Simon			1680	Ransomed 1681	4
Watts, John		Boston	1680	Ransomed 1681	1, 4
The William and Mary					
Ashley, Captain Edward		Boston	1680	Ransomed by 1685	1, 2, 10
Bumstead, John		Boston	1680	Ransomed 1681	1, 4
Gee, Joshua	Abt. 1654–1724	Boston	1680	Ransomed 1687	1, 10, 11
Hallowell, Benjamin	1656–1751	Boston	1680	Ransomed by 1689	1, 11
Purkis, George	?–by 1682	Boston	1680	Died in captivity	1
John's Adventure					
Monk, Captain Christopher		Boston	1681	Recaptured by English 1681	13
Ship Unknown					
Ayers/Eyres, Moses	Abt. 1664	Dorchester	Before 1680	Ransomed after 1684	6, 12
Bowens, (unknown)		Roxbury	Before 1685	Unknown	12
Dommett/Dommit, Alexander		Boston	1681	Unknown	9
Gould/Gold, Samuel		Boston	Before 1680	Unknown	1, 6
Gould/Gold, Thomas			Before 1680	Unknown	6
Green, John	1657–?	Cambridge	1681	Unknown	9
Guanes, Joseph			Before 1680	Unknown	6
Litchfield, Mary	Abt. 1640–1703	Dorchester	Before 1681	Ransomed by 1683	12
Robinson (son of Widow)		Dorchester?	Before 1683	Ransomed 1684	12
Thatcher, Thomas			Before 1680	Unknown	6
Tucker, (Unknown)		Boston	Before 1685	Unknown	12
Whidden (son of Widow Elizabeth)		Piscataqua	Before 1683	Unknown	11, 12

Key to references (notes refer to the citations on pages 23–24): 1. Thwing [note 37]; 2. A list of ships taken since July, 1677 [note 1]; 3. Thomas B. Wyman Charlestown Genealogies and Estates (1879); 4. Scull [note 12]; 5. Harris Papers [note 19]; 6. Thompson [note 7]; 7. Petition by Thomas Jenner [note 10]; 8. “Record-Book of the First Church of Charlestown” Register 28 (1874): 122; 9. “Copy of the Diary of Noahdiah Russell, Tutor at Harvard College, Beginning Anno Dom. 1682,” Register 7 (1853): 54; 10. Gee [note 14]; 11. “Letter-book of Samuel Sewall” [note 25]; 12. Records of the First Church at Dorchester, 1636-1734 [note 33]; 13. Mather [note 16], 352–354.

Blessing, the *Rose*, the *Unity*, and the *William and Mary*, which sailed from Boston and Charlestown. Captured or killed were at least sixty crew members and an unknown number of passengers, including at least one woman, Mary Litchfield.^[9] Nineteen captives were fortunate enough to be ransomed, and most of these returned to New England to resume their lives. The remainder died in Algiers from disease or from having been worked to death as slaves.

The four ships

The *Blessing* of Charlestown was captured on October 24, 1678. Captained by James Elson of Charlestown, it had twenty men on board, including his brother Richard Elson, Asher Branstome, Thomas Corbin, Loveday Lampson, George Smith, and ship’s surgeon Daniel Mason. A petition by Thomas Jenner to Governor Bradstreet and the council requesting a “favorable pittance” on behalf of Benjamin Bastar,

“house arrest.” Within days the captives were marched to the slave market, similar to such markets in the American colonies. The captives were paraded before potential buyers, physically inspected for strengths and weaknesses, and closely questioned regarding their experience and skills. Algerians bought the captives for work, ransom, or both. The Algerian Dey, who received a percentage of the proceeds of all sales, then decided whether he wanted any of the slaves.

Joshua Gee was so valuable to his masters that he was enslaved for seven years despite continuing efforts to ransom him. Gee and his fellow Bostonian Benjamin Hallowell were skilled shipwrights and literate; Gee was his master’s “little carpenter,” who built ships and served as a ship’s carpenter. Poor, illiterate, low-skilled sailors and passengers with few connections faced slavery until death, usually on one of the corsair ships or in Algerian mines.

Christian slaves were given a certain amount of “freedom.” Some lived in the “slave pen,” others in their master’s compound. All could move about, manage their own businesses (as long as their master shared in the profits), and visit with their compatriots. Gee writes of receiving an English Bible from Bostonian Thomas Corbin shortly after his capture. In his captivity narrative Gee relates, “When we had holy days allowed us, as was usual Christmas and Easter as also their Great feast twice a year . . . we could conveniently meet in some private Garden some miles distant from town carrying with us some provisions and reading and praying and praising God for his goodness and for his manifold mercies to us in that strange land.”^[18]

Christian slaves who went to sea often participated in sea battles against their own countrymen. If the slaves were lucky, the English ships won these battles. William Harris wrote in May 1680: “The English have taken five of the Turkish men-of-war, and thereby have taken many Christians that the Turks had with them and so they are set free, and taken many Turks, and they will serve to redeem English men. . . .”^[19] Many, including Gee, plotted to escape. Some

succeeded; others were caught, whipped until almost dead, or executed.

Also threatening to these New Englanders were the constant efforts of the Muslim Algerines to convert their captives. Gee and his compatriots were surrounded by *renagados*, Christian men who had converted to Islam and thereby won their freedom. Many served as captains of Algerine ships. Before he reached Algiers Gee “greatly feared being left to distrust God and did humbly beg that I might be helped to glorify God in the fire although I should be led through the valley of the shadow of death.”^[20] He writes, “I always found relief in seeking God when I could find it nowhere else: it was a great relief to me that I had learned so much scripture by heart when I was young. It afforded sweet meditations in the night of my pilgrimage.”^[21]

Women in captivity

As terrifying as the Algerine captivity was for men, it promised even greater horrors for women. The treatment of women appears to have depended on the presence or absence of male protection, social status, and age. Among English captives, women were a distinct minority. In the 1680s only five women are listed among more than 400 redeemed.^[22] In 1769, Englishwoman Elizabeth Marsh wrote a narrative entitled *The Female Captive*. Captured in 1756 by Moroccan corsairs while sailing from Gibraltar to England, twenty-one-year-old Marsh pretended to be the wife of one of her fellow



Olfert Dapper, De Stadt Alger. [The City of Algiers.] Circa 1668–70. General Research & Reference Division, Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, The New York Public Library, Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundations.

captives. She wrote that this pretense did not protect her from the advances of the “soon-to-be sultan” Sidi Muhammad, who invited her to his Marrakech palace to be one of his concubines. Elizabeth rebuffed the prince and was later ransomed. Young women “were rare commodities and commanded — if young and healthy and brought to a slave market of some kind — a substantial price.”^[23] If they had no protection or perceived wealth they most likely became sex slaves to their masters and were never ransomed.

In 1685, Mary Litchfield of Dorchester, Massachusetts, petitioned Governor Bradstreet and the Court of Assistants to assist in righting misfortunes that occurred while “Your poor petitioner” was in “Captivity with ye Barbarous Turks.”^[24] While sailing on a ship from Boston to England, Mary Litchfield was captured by the Algerine privateers between 1677 and 1680. Mary Litchfield was about thirty-eight, twice married, and the mother of six children when she was captured.^[25] Her age or the protection of her fellow male passengers made her more likely to have been held for ransom under house arrest or used as a slave attendant in a household or *seraglio*. After several years she was ransomed and returned to Dorchester.^[26]

Ransoms

England did not have a consistent ransom procedure. During the 1670s a ransom fund of £20,000 was created and the Lords of the Treasury directed that £40 would be provided per captive who could pay the remainder of his ransom. Since an estimated 900 English slaves were then held in Algiers alone, the fund would only allow ransom of half those in captivity. Several English merchants with trading ties to North Africa, including William Bowtell, subscribed to an additional fund to assist the captives. Bowtell arranged the ransom of 391 English prisoners, including nine from New England.^[27]

The burden of raising funds to reimburse the government and the English merchants fell to the relatives, friends, and communities of those enslaved. The cost to ransom a captive varied, and could

be as low as £15 and as high as £400. Whether a treaty between the English government and Algiers was in effect; the perceived value of the captive; and the whims of the specific owner affected the price. The English consul and merchants represented the captives, negotiated with the Algerians, and received money and instructions from the home country and families.

William Harris, held in solitary confinement, wrote that they “beat on John Chapman of Boston until they made him promise them twelve hundred [Spanish] dollars, and the man I think hath it not . . . if a [patroon] please he kill his slave and only pays the Kings house their sum.”^[28] Harris wrote to his family and friends; his London and New England business associates; the government of Connecticut on whose behalf he traveled; and William Blathwait, Clerk of the Privy Council, pleading for them to raise his ransom and send twice “by the first ship for speed, and by a second for safety; least the first should miscarry.”^[29] He was ever mindful that he had one year to raise his ransom before he would returned to his “cruel master.” Blathwait wrote the Connecticut government to say that he had thought Harris a “fit object of Charity” and had given him 300 dollars credit to pay ransom and travel to London, but “the Poor man being tired out with the ill-usage of his master has imprudently enough promised a most extravagant ransom (800 dollars).” Blathwait’s postscript baldly states that that no merchant “will concern themselves with Mr. Harris without further order.”^[30]



“Purchase of Christian captives from the Barbary States.” 17th century. Wikimedia Commons.

Petitions to the Massachusetts General Court asking for ransom assistance for the crew of the *Blessing* were apparently put aside, leaving the burden to individual families and churches. Soon after learning of her husband George's capture in 1680, Elizabeth (Pemberton) Purkis arranged letters of credit advancing £160 towards redeeming her husband out of Algier, guaranteed by her father James Pemberton and her brother Thomas Pemberton. In 1682, she secured the loan from them by signing over her and her husband's rights to the Purkis house, grounds, and shop.^[31] Sadly, George Purkis died before returning home. Peter and Grace Gee also mortgaged property for "redeeming our younger son Joshua Gee from out of Turkish slavery in Algier."^[32]

The desperate families seeking to redeem their loved ones turned to their churches and the network of New England ministers. Both Increase and Cotton Mather preached sermons about the captives, and local churches collected ransom contributions. In early 1681, the Dorchester Church records state that "there was a contribution for Goody Litchfield and Mitchell of Malden at which time there was collected and the next day sent in the sum of £11.17.9 of which about 7 pound in particular for Litchfield and the rest to be divided."^[33] Dorchester continued to raise funds for other captives, as did the Cambridge church.^[34]

The funds collected through the churches were given to Boston merchants with English agents in London. Until his death in 1683, Mint master John Hull assisted with the ransoming of several captives. His son-in-law, Samuel Sewall, continued that role after Hull's death and was the force behind the continued efforts to ransom Joshua Gee and Benjamin Hollowell. Gee was finally ransomed July 14, 1687, and arrived in Boston on January 11, 1688. He visited Sewall immediately and directed him to have his London agents apply the unexpended Gee ransom money to the ransom of Benjamin Hollowell, and try to obtain funds from the English ransom commission "because the estate of the Hollowells is but little, and that much exhausted by lawsuits."^[35]

Freedom

Sadly, after their ordeal some captives died on their way home. William Harris survived the overland trek through Spain and France, but he died three days after reaching London. Captain Elson died within a year and Captain Condey within four years of returning to Boston. Despite their ordeal, some mariners returned to seafaring. A few captives, such as Thomas Corbin, relocated to England. In London in 1689, Samuel Sewall was so shocked by the redeemed Hollowell's appearance that he worried Hollowell would never reach Boston alive. But Gee and Hollowell remained shipwrights and became prominent Bostonians.

When Mary Litchfield returned to Boston around 1684, she found that her marriage had fallen apart. While she was in captivity her husband, Thomas Litchfield, had petitioned the town of Dorchester for the liberty to sell his wife's house and ground. He could have been intending to raise funds for her redemption, but the Dorchester selectmen were clearly suspicious and responded that Litchfield could not sell the property "until he should first attain the consent of his wife therein."^[36] Thomas Litchfield divorced his wife "soon after her return from captivity." No full divorce record has been found, but two depositions state that in 1685 Thomas Litchfield lived with a pregnant woman he called his wife and said he would not go to see his ransomed wife. Mary Litchfield married a third time, to Thomas Hooper, and lived in her small house in Dorchester until her death in 1703.^[37]

Joshua Gee wrote a narrative of his captivity and commemorated the date he returned to Boston: January 11, 1688. In 1715, Samuel Sewall wrote in his diary that he went to Gee's house, "where dined Dr. Increase and Dr. Cotton Mather, Mr. Bridge, Mr. Wadsworth, Mr. Thornton, Mr. Jonathan Marion, Deacon Barnard, Mr. Ruck, Captain Martyn, Mr. Hollowell. It seems it was a remembrance of his landing this day at Boston after his Algerine captivity."^[38] Gee took, as his second wife, Elizabeth Thatcher, sister of captive Thomas Thatcher, and Gee's son, Rev. Joshua Gee, married Sarah Rogers, granddaughter of his father's fellow captive George Purkis (*William and Mary*).^[39]

The Algerine attacks waned after the early 1680s, and in 1694 no English prisoners were held in Algiers.^[40] When Moroccan pirates became more active in the late 1680s and 1690s, they captured several Massachusetts ships, prompting a further round of redemptions by Samuel Sewall and others.^[41] After that time the Barbary States' impact on shipping diminished until the late eighteenth century.^[42]

For late seventeenth-century New England families the threat of capture and death during King Philip's war was quickly followed by a similar threat from the sea. At least 100 men and women were lost temporarily or permanently to slavery in northern Africa. Barbary captivity forced wives and a few husbands to work, with the help of their churches, against time and steep odds to ransom their loved ones. Their stories of redemption or untimely death are another fascinating aspect of New England family history. ♦

Notes

¹ *A list of ships taken since July, 1677. from His Majesties subjects, by the corsairs of Algier: with their names, masters names, and places to which they belong'd, and time of taking: with a modest estimate of the loss.* (London: Printed for Richard Janeway, 1682). Held by

the Boston Athenaeum. For additional sources see notes 7, 10, 14, 19, 25, 33.

² Robert C. Davis, *Christian Slaves, Muslim Masters: White Slavery in the Mediterranean, The Barbary Coast, and Italy, 1500–1800* (New York: Palgrave, Macmillan, 2004), 27–33; Linda Colley, *Captives: Britain, Empire and the World, 1600–1850* (New York: Anchor Books); and Sir Robert Lambert Playfair, *The Scourge of Christendom: Annals of British Relations with Algiers prior to the French Conquest* (London: Smith, Elder & Company, 1884).

³ Davis [note 2], 23–24.

⁴ Richard S. Dunn, James Savage, and Laetitia Yeandle, eds., *The Journal of John Winthrop, 1630–1649* (Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1996), 333.

⁵ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England* (Boston: William White, 1853), 83.

⁶ Stephen T. Riley, “Abraham Browne’s Captivity by the Barbary Pirates, 1655,” in Philip C. F. Smith, ed., *Seafaring in Colonial Massachusetts*, Colonial Society of Massachusetts, *Publications*, vol. 52 (1980), 31–42.

⁷ Roger Thompson. *From Deference to Defiance: Charlestown, Massachusetts 1629–1692*. (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), 244–246.

⁸ *A list of ships taken since July, 1677* [note 1].

⁹ *Ibid.*; and petition of Mary Litchfield to the Governor and General Court . . . 5th of March 1684/5. Massachusetts Archives Collection, vol. 9:113.

¹⁰ Petition by Thomas Jenner etc. in behalf of Benjamin Mirick et. Who are in slavery (in Algiers), Suffolk Files #28417 (no date), Massachusetts Archives; and Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633*, volume I (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 508.

¹¹ *A list of ships taken since July, 1677* [note 1]; Thompson [note 7], 220–221. Thomas Jenner Jr. sailed to London with father Thomas Jenner Sr., but appears not to have been on the senior Jenner’s return voyage. (Communication from Roger Thompson.)

¹² G. D. Scull, “Notes and Letters Relating to Early New England,” *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 38 (1884): 384–385.

¹³ *A list of ships taken since July, 1677* [note 1]; and Scull [note 12], 384–385.

¹⁴ *A list of ships taken since July, 1677* [note 1]; and Joshua Gee, *A Narrative of Joshua Gee of Boston, Mass. While he was captive in Algeria of the Barbary pirates 1680–1687* (Hartford, Conn.: Wadsworth Athenaeum, 1943).

¹⁵ John William Harman, *Harman-Harmon Genealogy and Biography* (Parsons, W.Va.: the author, 1928), 23–24.

¹⁶ Cotton Mather, *Magnalia Christi Americana*, vol. 2 (1702; repr. Hartford: S. Andrus and Son, 1853), 352–354. Viewed on Google Books.

¹⁷ Gee, *Narrative* [note 14], 16.

¹⁸ Gee, *Narrative* [note 14], 28.

¹⁹ “Harris Papers,” *Collections of the Rhode Island Historical Society*, 10 (1902), 327–328.

²⁰ Gee, *Narrative* [note 14], 16.

²¹ Gee, *Narrative* [note 14], 27.

²² Linda Colley, “The Narrative of Elizabeth Marsh: Barbary, Sex, and Power” in Felicity A. Nussbaum, ed., *The Global Eighteenth Century* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2003), 140.

²³ Colley [note 22], 140–142; and Linda Colley, *The Ordeal of Elizabeth Marsh: A Woman in World History* (New York: Anchor Books, 2007), 41–86.

²⁴ Petition of Mary Litchfield [note 9].

²⁵ Mary Litchfield was married to Joseph Long of Dorchester in 1662 and had five children by him. She married Thomas Litchfield after 1676; the birth of a daughter was recorded in 1678. *Register* 16 (1862):153 and 104 (1950):37.

²⁶ William John Potts, “Original Documents, 1677–1761,” *Register* 46 (1892):172.

²⁷ Playfair [note 2], 129–130.

²⁸ Harris [note 19], 322.

²⁹ Harris [note 19], 323–324.

³⁰ Harris [note 19], 333–334.

³¹ *Suffolk Deeds*, vol. 12 (Boston: Rockwell & Churchill, 1902), 229–230.

³² *Suffolk Deeds* [note 31], 130–131.

³³ *Records of the First Church at Dorchester 1636–1734*. (Boston: George H. Ellis, 1891), 84. Mitchell of Malden is probably the Thomas Mitchell on board the *Rose* who was ransomed in 1681 by William Bowtell. Also Scull [note 12], 385.

³⁴ Thompson [note 7], 244, n.158.

³⁵ “Letter-book of Samuel Sewall,” in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, 6th Series, 1 (1886): 76–77.

³⁶ “Dorchester Town Records,” in *City of Boston Fourth Report of the Record Commissioners* (Boston: Rockwell & Churchill, 1880), 258.

³⁷ Potts [note 26], 172; also Annie Haven Thwing, *Inhabitants and Estates of Boston 1630–1800* [CD] (Boston: NEHGS and Massachusetts Historical Society, 2001), Mary Litchfield entry.

³⁸ “Diary of Samuel Sewall: 1674–1729,” vol. 3, in *Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society*, vol. 7, 5th series (Boston: the Society, 1882), 32.

³⁹ John R. Totten, *Thacher-Thatcher Genealogy* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1910), 144–147.

⁴⁰ Playfair [note 2], 165.

⁴¹ “Letter-book of Samuel Sewall” [note 35], 278–279. Also *Records of the First Church at Dorchester 1636–1734* [note 33], 107.

⁴² After the American Revolution, the Barbary pirates fought two wars with the new United States of America between 1784 and 1815. Robert J. Allison, *The Crescent Obscured: The United States and the Muslim World, 1776–1815* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1995).

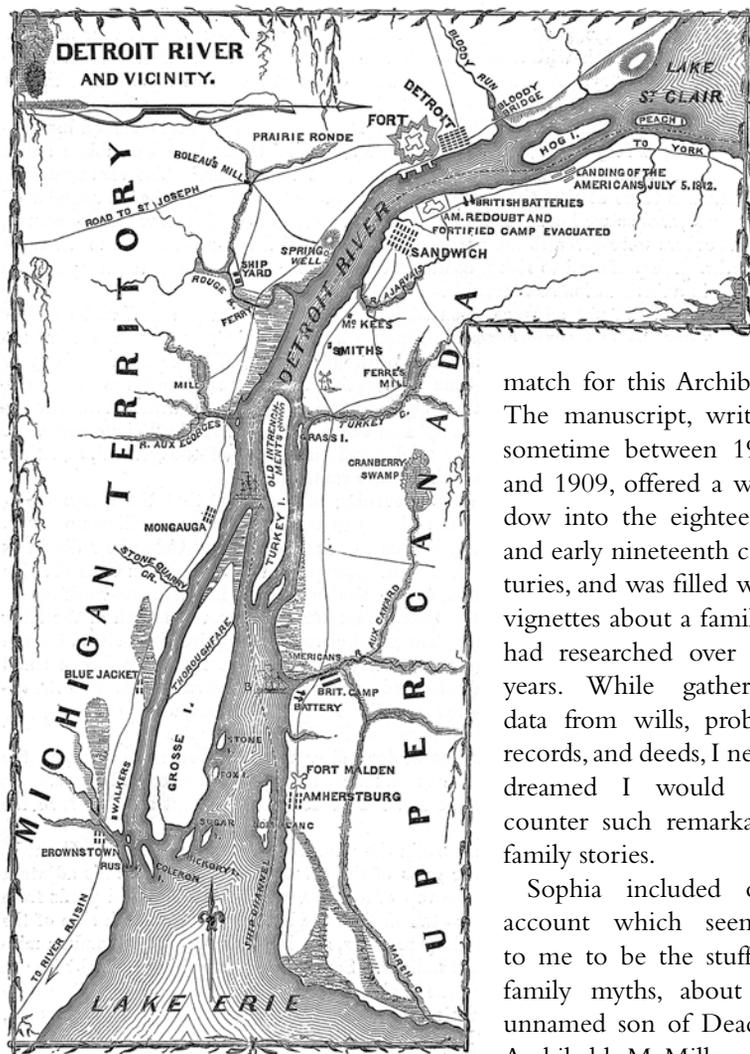
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From Family Myth to Historical Account: The McMillan Incident in 1814 Detroit

by Patricia Dingwall Thompson

I ALMOST DIDN'T REPLY TO THE QUERY posted by Charles McMillan of Missouri on *Genealogy.com*'s Genforum several years ago. I noticed the posting as I prepared for a class I was unexpectedly teaching on beginning genealogy. The query requested information on an Alexander McMillan (1809–1881) of St. Joseph County, Indiana. For sixteen years, I had researched three McMillen^[1] families who had settled in New Boston, New Hampshire, before 1760. Because the families had been incorrectly intermingled in an 1864 town history, I had collected information on all local McMillens to sort them into the correct families and then follow their descendants as far as possible. I hoped to find a connection among the original three McMillen settlers.

Although the writer of the query wasn't aware of it, I knew he was a descendant of Deacon Archibald McMillen (1728–1796), who had fought at the Battle of Bunker Hill. The writer didn't belong to my branch of the family, but I just couldn't let it go. I had the answers he was seeking, so I answered the query. In return, he sent me an account of Archibald's family stories, handwritten by Sophia McMillan Witcheman (1843–1909), a great-granddaughter of Archibald, as told to her by her maiden aunt, one of Archibald's granddaughters, Mary Campbell McMillan (1799–1887). New to genealogy and hampered by the cramped handwriting of the manuscript, Charles had not researched the New Boston, New Hampshire, area for a potential



match for this Archibald. The manuscript, written sometime between 1904 and 1909, offered a window into the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and was filled with vignettes about a family I had researched over the years. While gathering data from wills, probate records, and deeds, I never dreamed I would encounter such remarkable family stories.

Sophia included one account which seemed to me to be the stuff of family myths, about an unnamed son of Deacon Archibald McMillen, no location specified:

In later years that is during the war of 1812 Dr. Alexr McMillan (GrFather) and many of his Family & kin suffered much at the hands of the British & their Allies sympathizers Tories and Indians who were hired by British to do the dirty work. GrFather's [unnamed] Brother being scalped by Indians & his 12 yr Old [son Archibald] taken captive & kept a year, when their

Above: "Detroit River and Vicinity." Benson J. Lossing, *The Pictorial Field-Book of the War of 1812* (1869), 266.

whereabouts was discovered by the Union Federalists who demanded at the point of Bayonets of other Tories & Indian accomplices that they bring little McMillan into camp or they would all be dead men. The Boy Archibald McM after ward lived at Jackson Mich where an Uncle of mine visited him many years ago, he said tales of the treatment of his Father & himself were both thrilling & Interesting. One was that his Indian Captors & himself lived 6 weeks on the scalp Bounty paid them by the British, his Father being a Federal Officer his Scalp was considered more valuable.^[2]

About a year later, Ron Benson from Florida wrote asking about a possible connection to some McMillans in Canada, but none of the data I had collected on New Boston McMillens and their descendants suggested a link to Canada. Then I noticed Mr. Benson mentioned that his great-great-great-grandfather, Ananias McMillan, had been killed by Indians in Detroit in 1814. I thought of Sophia's account. Was it possible this Ananias McMillan was the main character in the story I had assumed to be a family myth? I knew there were unidentified males in the 1790 enumeration of Deacon Archibald McMillen's household.^[3] Could one of those men have been the scalped "GrFather's Brother" from Sophia's account?

Responding to Ron Benson's email, I asked if he knew whether a son of the murdered man had been captured at the same time. To my amazement, he sent me an account from *Landmarks of Wayne County and Detroit* (1898), which recounted the killing and scalping of Ananias McMillen on 15 September 1814, and the simultaneous kidnapping of his eleven-year-old son Archibald. "Archie, after four months' captivity, was brought on January 12, 1815, to Amherstburg [across the river from Detroit] . . . and restored to his frantic mother. . . Archie died at Jackson, Mich., in 1860."^[4]

In 1814, farmer Ananias McMillan lived in Detroit with his wife, Mary "Polly" (Kilborne), and children Sarah "Sally," Archibald, Persis, Joseph, and Ananias, Jr.^[5] Further research led to more details about this story, as recalled by settler B.P.H. Witherell; his account, written in 1853, was published in 1908 by the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society.^[6] According to Witherell, Ananias belonged to Capt. Andrew Westbrook's American company of rangers. With the British having retreated from Detroit only a year earlier, tensions were high between the Americans and the allied British and Native Americans. "The Indians were constantly beleaguering the town, sallying out occasionally and driving off and killing all the cattle, etc., that approached the bushes." On September 10, 1814, the day after Ananias McMillan had returned from an expedition — likely a raiding party — to Rondo in

Upper Canada, he and son Archie had walked to the common to retrieve their cows. Eyewitnesses saw shots fired as the two neared the bushes, and Ananias fell and was immediately scalped. Archie ran back but was seized by a rider on horseback before reaching safety, and taken to the Saginaw area, about a hundred miles away. Townsmen armed themselves and searched for Archie to no avail. Witherell related that after several months, a local military captain took three relatives of Archie's captors hostage, and sent a representative to Saginaw to negotiate an exchange. Archie was returned to his mother on January 12, 1815, and "delivered as one from the dead."

I was pleased to confirm the essential details of Sophia's story. However, Mr. Witherell wrote almost forty years after the event, and I wondered if an earlier account could be found. At first it seemed unlikely. I checked with various libraries in the Detroit area, and found that their earliest Detroit newspaper holdings begin in 1817 — two years too late. Then it occurred to me that such a dramatic story might have been picked up by eastern newspapers. I consulted the "Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690–1876" database, available to NEHGS members on *AmericanAncestors.org*, and searched for "McMillan" in 1814 and 1815. Of eighteen hits, three were relevant. On December 6, 1815, the *Commercial Advertiser* of New York, New York, ran the story, datelined Detroit, Nov. 2, 1815, which began "An affair took place at this post in the month of December, 1814, in regard to the hostile savages, which deserves to be recorded." (Other newspapers also printed the story.)

In this lengthy article — about 1,200 words — the details about Ananias's death and Archie's capture generally matched later retellings. (No date was given — only that the incident occurred in the autumn.) The newspaper account, however, focused on the events that led to the boy's redemption, and differed from later accounts. In this version, no word of Archie was received until late December of 1814, when the band of about 100 Native Americans holding him ran short of food. As they had been hostile to the American cause in the recent war, they couldn't expect provisions from them and "determined to bring with them little McMillan, in hopes by this means of being fed throughout the winter." The group stopped about two miles from Detroit at the home of an Indian interpreter, and Archie was sent to the area's commanding officer, Harris H. Hickman. Archie provided details about his father's killing and his own captivity, and said that two of his father's killers were with the group. Returning to the house, the two men identified by Archie, plus three others, were

marked as hostages to ensure the group's good behavior. At this selection, the interpreters heard threats to kidnap the American officers and the captain quietly ordered that a detachment of 100 regulars from the garrison surround the house, an action completed "with astonishing dispatch and secrecy." When the soldiers were in place, Captain Hickman announced he wished to make a speech. The captain then led some of the group outside and pointed to the charged bayonets, saying, "There is my speech." The mood changed quickly, and the five hostages were placed under guard and sent to be confined in town. The remainder of the group was told to leave the next day, and warned that their future actions could bring retaliation upon the detained men. "The group received some provisions, departed, and were not heard of afterwards; and no hostile act on the part of the savages, was afterwards committed in this territory during the war."

This early account placed the incident in context and described the reverberations of the attack on the McMillans. Sophia's account had been proved by a detailed and dramatic contemporary source, and I could now trace the tale's evolution over nearly a century, in both a family manuscript and printed accounts. Sophia had noted that Archibald had died in Jackson, Michigan, perhaps indicating that their families had kept in contact. The 1850 and 1860 censuses corroborate her account and show Archibald McMillan living there with his wife Sophronia and their children Desdemona, Archibald, Sephronia, John, Elenor, and Elmira.^[7]

I always tell my genealogy students that my favorite saying is "Genealogy without documentation is mythology," and I emphasize the need to research all family lines as extensively as possible. Beginners, especially, tend to focus on only their own ancestors. But I remind them that in addition to finding records of the family's movements and life events, collecting information on collateral relatives and putting it on the Internet can help connect them with other family historians who just may have something wonderful to share. I also emphasize that we never know who is out there with "the good stuff." Living in Montana, I connected with a man in Missouri who owns a handwritten family account of events that occurred in Michigan. I then found historical corroboration from a man in Florida, the Bentley Historical Library at the University of Michigan, and a database supplied by NEHGS in Boston. Only the Internet could have set this remarkable chain of events in motion, turning family myth into documented family history. ♦

Notes

¹ The surname is spelled "McMillen" in most New Hampshire documents. Other descendants use "McMillan." The names of some people are spelled both ways in different documents. I have tried to use the spelling found most frequently for each person.

² Sophia McMillan Witche-man, handwritten manuscript in the possession of Charles McMillan of Missouri.

³ Archibald McMillen household, 1790 census, New Boston, Hillsborough, New Hampshire; roll M637_5; p. 275; viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

⁴ Robert B. Ross and George B. Catlin, *Landmarks of Wayne County and Detroit* (Detroit: The Evening News Association, 1898), 352, 354. The story is also recounted in lesser detail in Clarence M. Burton et al., eds., *The City of Detroit, Michigan, 1701–1922* (Detroit: S. J. Clarke Publishing Company, 1922), 1388; in "Reminiscences of the Northwest by B.P.H. Witherell, VII—Incidents, 1807–1814," *Third Annual Report and Collections of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, for the Year 1856*, vol. III (Madison: Wisconsin Historical Society, 1857), 297, 319–325; and in Friend Palmer, *Early Days in Detroit* (Detroit: Hunt and June, 1906), 19–22.

⁵ Burton et al. [note 4], 1388.

⁶ *Collections and Researches Made by the Michigan Pioneer and Historical Society*, vol. 13 (Lansing, Mich.: Wynkoop Hallenbeck Crawford Co., 1908), 502, 504–505, 507.

⁷ Archibald McMillen household, 1850 census, Jackson, Michigan; roll M432_352; p. 332A; viewed on *Ancestry.com*; and Archibald McMillen household, 1860 census, Jackson Ward 4, Jackson, Michigan; roll M653_547; p. 147.

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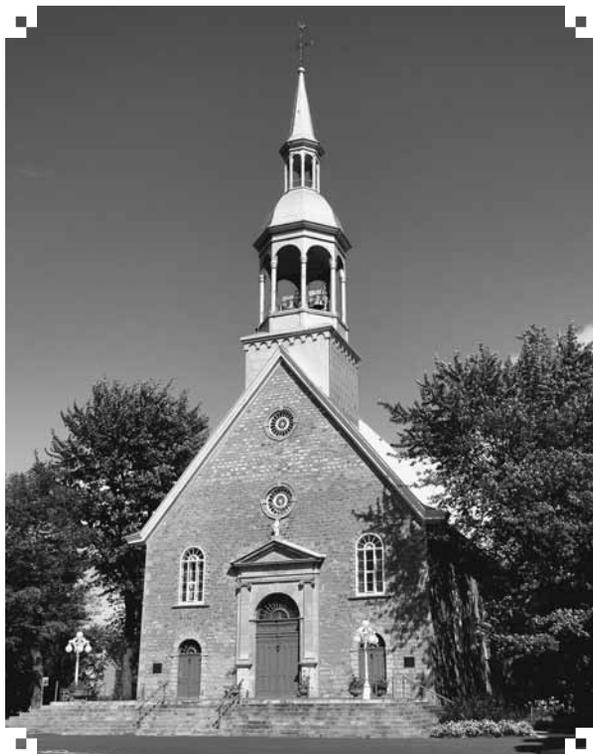
Extract to the Editor.

"Detroit, Nov. 2, 1815.

"An affair took place at this post in the month of December, 1814, in regard to the hostile savages, which deserves to be recorded.—Detroit with its dependencies, was at that time commanded by captain Harris H. Hickman, of the 17th regiment of infantry. During the preceding autumn, several instances had occurred of our citizens being butchered and their property plundered by the savages in the vicinity, and almost under the guns of the fort; and it was ascertained afterwards, that in some instances these depredations were committed by Indians professing friendship, and receiving rations from the public stores. One instance which led to the affair about to be detailed, was this:—A poor man by the name M^cMillan, a citizen of Detroit, together with his little son, a boy about twelve years old, had gone to the common back of the town, to seek their cow, and proceeded to the edge of the forest, about one mile distant, when suddenly a party of savages rose from their ambush, fired upon, killed, and scalped the father, and pursued and made captive of the son. The body of the father was soon after found, but no tidings of the son reached his disconsolate mother until December. Towards the latter end of that month, a band of savages, consisting of upwards of one hundred, who had been uniformly hostile during the war, not being in a situation to receive provisions from their white allies, and being pressed by hunger, determined to visit Detroit with insidious professions of friendship, and to bring with them little M^cMillan, in hopes by this means of being fed through the winter.—This band approached within two miles of the fort, and stopped at the house of Mr. Knages, an Indian interpreter. Mr. Knages immediately rode to town, and informed captain Hickman, the commanding officer of their arrival. The captain caused young M^cMillan to be brought to his quarters, and examined him in the presence of one or two gentlemen, as to the murder of his father, and the circumstances attending his own captivity.

"The little boy stated, in substance, that when his father and himself were near the edge of the woods, suddenly a report of guns like a "platoon fire," to use his own words, was heard; his father fell. He (the boy) attempted to escape, but was pursued and captured by the savages on

The newspaper account that appeared in the December 5, 1815, *Commercial Advertiser*. Viewed on the *Early American Newspapers, Series I*, database on *AmericanAncestors.org*.



The Path to Edward Bird

A Story of Identity, Assimilation, and Discovery

by Michael F. Dwyer

CURIOSITY ABOUT THE ANCESTRY OF ONE OF MY HIGH school students set me on an investigation that lasted two decades. During a parent-teacher conference in 1991, I speculated with the student's mother that we might be related through her maiden name, Bird. Perhaps my seventeenth-century Dorchester, Massachusetts, Bird ancestors were related to her Massachusetts-born grandfather who later moved to Vermont. This initial hunch proved to be wrong because among the various Bird families of Vermont, some traced their origins to Ireland, and others to Canada. But over time, as other descendants of this same extended family became my students and expressed curiosity about their origins, I began to assemble disparate pieces of information that led back five generations to Edward Bird, a Civil War veteran who lived in Rutland County, Vermont, for at least the last forty years of his life. His death certificate listed Canada as his birthplace. Among the rumors of Edward's origins was the possibility of Native American ancestry. Three essential questions would guide my research: exactly who were Edward Bird's parents, where was he born, and why did he settle in Vermont?

Finding Edward Bird's Origins

The investigation worked backwards from Edward's death in 1908. What better place to start than the cemetery? The plain yet substantial gravestone of Edward

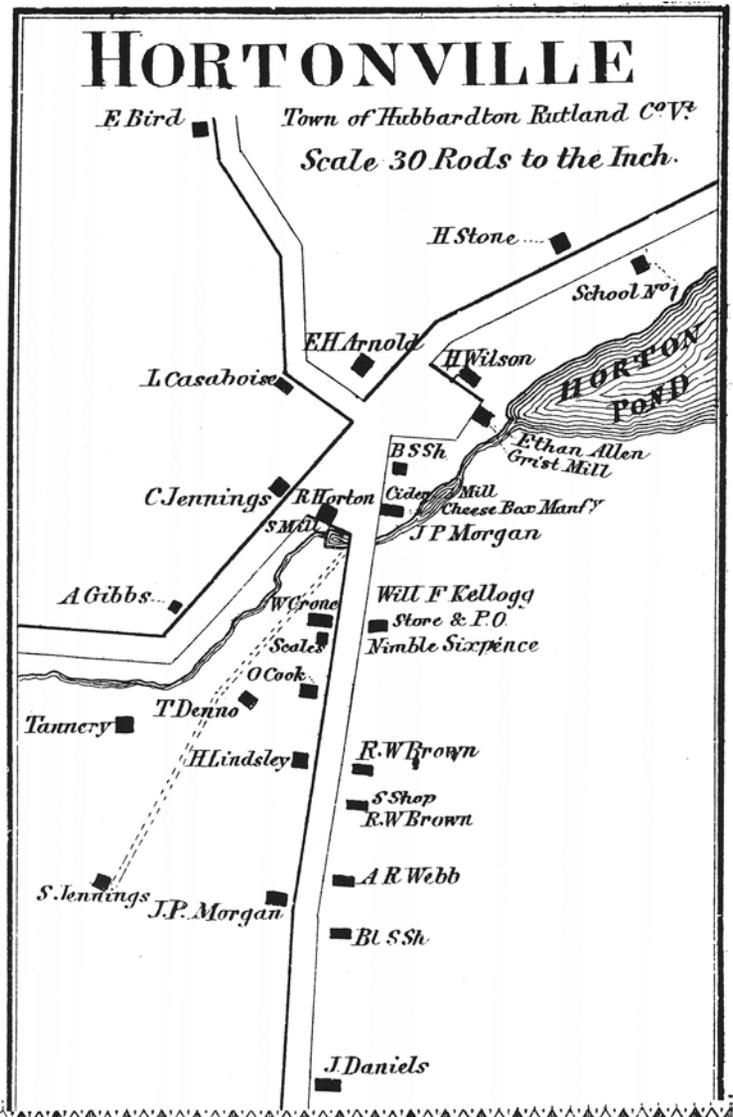
Bird and his wife, Mary, in St. Mary's Cemetery, in Brandon, Vermont, troubled me for two reasons. While the stone bore Edward Bird's name and dates, 1829–1908, only Mary's year of birth, 1828, was given. Why was her death date omitted? Any speculation that Mary died elsewhere ended when I found her death certificate, which showed that she died in Brandon, on 7 December 1910, two years after her husband.^[1] Furthermore, Edward and Mary had six children, three of whom lived in Brandon — but, oddly, none of their offspring were buried in the cemetery. The informant for Edward's death certificate, from the adjoining town of Sudbury, Vermont, was Lottie (Goodrich) Bird, his granddaughter-in-law,^[2] who stated that Edward was born in Canada on 14 October 1829, the son of Joseph Bird and Ersalla Gellane, both born in Montréal.^[3] Was Lottie, who was not of French-Canadian ancestry, correct in her assertions? Gellane may have represented a rough equivalent of a name she had only heard. Edward Bird's full name sounded so thoroughly English — but was that his name at birth? Perhaps his surname was a direct translation of the name Loiseau (Bird). No record, however, was found for a child baptized as Edouard Bird or Loiseau in greater Montréal, nor did I find a probable match to the names of his alleged parents.

Since Edward and Mary Bird had been married for more than sixty years at the time of Edward's

Above: Sainte-Famille Church (1801), Boucherville, Quebec, Canada. Courtesy of Bernard Gagnon, Wikimedia Commons.

death, I hoped that locating them in census records from 1850 to 1900 might provide some clues to their extended family. After marrying in Vermont in 1847, the couple moved to Auburn, Massachusetts, by 1850, and to Putnam, Washington County, New York, by 1860.^[4] By 1864, Edward and Mary had returned to Vermont, where they remained for the rest of their lives. Two census enumerations raised puzzling questions. In 1860, why did Edward and Mary's eldest son, twelve-year-old Edward, born in Vermont, live in the household of blacksmith Lewis Casavaw and his wife Sophia in Hubbardton, Vermont?^[5] Later, this same Lewis Casavaugh, age eighty, appears in Edward and Mary's household in the 1880 census for Sudbury, Vermont, and is listed as Edward's "father-by-law."^[6] A seemingly clear family relationship was, in fact, problematic because at the time of her marriage to Edward, Mary's surname was recorded as Audet, and listed as Lapoint^[7] on her death certificate, offering no association with the name Casavaw. Perhaps Sophia Casavaw was Mary Bird's mother and Lewis Casavaw her step-father. I hoped that probing where and when Edward and Mary married might answer these questions.

Edward Bird and Mary Audet were married in Benson, Vermont, on 28 August 1847, by Rev. Azariah Hyde, longtime minister of Benson's Congregational Church.^[8] If we assume that the bride and groom had both been baptized as Catholics in Québec, they broke with the expected norm in not being married by a priest. More compellingly, why were Edward and Mary living in Benson at ages seventeen and eighteen? It was unlikely they would have live in rural Vermont without other family members. Vermont's 1840 census had no nearby heads of household named Bird/Loiseau or Audet/Lapointe, but Lewis Casavaw was a head of household in Benson.^[9] The similarity to Audet caused me to notice the Benson marriage of Toussaint Odet to Emilie Croto on 16 January 1847.^[10] Conjecturing that Toussaint Odet might be Mary's brother led me to search for these two children born in Québec to the same parents circa 1825 to 1830. Indeed, two children born to Toussaint Audet dit Lapointe and Ursule Quintin dit Dubois, baptized at St-Mathieu, Beloeil, fit the hypothesis: Toussaint Jr. born 23 May 1825, and Marie Zoé, born 4 November 1831.^[11] An 1831 birth date fits with most census records of Mary Bird; only at the very end of her life and on her death certificate does she gain in age, to become, for the first time, a year older than Edward. These discoveries, however, did not prove these children later married in Benson, and they documented no link from Lewis Casavaw to Mary Bird.



F.W. Beers, Atlas of Rutland County, Vermont (1869), p. 39. The properties of "E Bird" and "L. Casaboise" are marked in the upper left corner.

Locating Lewis in the 1850 census proved more difficult. Searching under Sophia, born Canada, circa 1800, led to the discovery of this household in Worcester, Massachusetts: Leander Caswell, age 47, blacksmith, born Canada; Sophia, age 49, born Canada; and Sophia, age 7, born in Vermont.^[12] Was Leander Caswell Lewis Casavaw? Caswell's occupation, blacksmith, was the same as the man in Vermont, and Caswell lived only a few miles from Edward and Mary Bird in Auburn. Would the birth of Leander's daughter Sophie have been recorded in Vermont? Searching for this child produced a very interesting find: the baptism, at age six, of Marie-Sophie Casavant, the child of Léandre Casavant, blacksmith, and his wife Sophie Galaise, on 22 September 1848, in Longueil, Quebec.^[13]

The baptismal record notes the father was living in Benson, thus eliminating any doubt that Leander and Sophie Caswell were Lewis and Sophia Casavaw. Now, with the confirmation of two specific names in their native spelling, I found Léandre and Sophie's marriage in Boucherville, Québec, on 18 September 1832.^[14] Nothing indicated that Sophie had been married previously to a man with the surname of Audet dit Lapointe, so Léandre Casavant could not have been Edward Bird's father-in-law. However, there had to be *some* connection between the two men.

Analyzing every possible document generated by Edward or Mary eventually revealed the answer. The Hubbardton birth record for Edward and Mary's youngest surviving son, Leander Bird, on 19 April 1864,^[15] cites the father's birthplace as "Bushnellville, Canada." Was Bushnellville Boucherville, the town where Léandre Casavant and Sophie Galaise were married? Just ten miles northeast of Montréal, Boucherville fit with the remembered approximate geography. The surname Galaise could have been garbled as Gellane. Searching the town's Sainte Famille parish register produced the marriage of Jean-Baptiste Loiseau and Anastasie Galaise, on 7 November 1826.^[16] Anastasie was the sister of Sophie, who married Léandre Casavant. Twelve children of Jean-Baptiste Loiseau and Anastasie Galaise were baptized and recorded in the parish register from 1827 and 1853, but no Edward (Edouard) was among them. Near the end of his life, Edward Bird seems to have settled on a birth date of 14 October 1829. The closest entry in time within the baptismal register is that of Antoine Loiseau, born and baptized the same day, 20 November 1829.^[17] While the other eleven children of Jean-Baptiste Loiseau and Anastasie Galaise remained in Boucherville, with seven marrying in the parish church, nothing further has been found for Antoine. The Sainte-Famille register scrupulously records the burials of children so the child probably did not die in infancy. Did Antoine become Edward?

This hypothesis seemed even more plausible since Antoine's godmother, unmarried at this time, was Sophie Galaise. Unusually, Sophie married when she

was 32, and was seven years older than her husband, Léandre Casavant. For years, the couple was childless. What forces would have propelled them to immigrate to Vermont between 1832 and 1840, and did they take Sophie's nephew, Antoine Loiseau, with them? The late 1830s were years of tumult in Québec that culminated in the Rebellions of 1837–38, English and French insurgencies against the British government. One of the rebellion's key players was Bonaventure Viger, from Boucherville,^[18] and although no document names Léandre Casavant as a combatant, the close presence of social upheaval likely provided a context for the move to Vermont.

The lifelong bond between "Lewis Casavant" and Edward Bird is noteworthy. Late in their lives, on 8 October 1878, Lewis and Sophia Casavau executed a deed in Hubbardton that stated for the sum of \$600, they would bequeath all their property to Edward Bird provided that Edward care for them for the rest of their lives and provide suitable burial markers.^[19] Given Sophie's absence in the 1880 census and Lewis's designation as a widower, she likely died in 1879 or 1880. The above deed was not actually recorded until 6 February 1885, probably close to Lewis's death date. The deaths of Lewis and Sophia were not recorded at the town level, and if Edward did provide burial markers, they have not survived. All these connections point to Antoine Loiseau's becoming Edward Bird in the same way that Léandre Casavant became Lewis Caswell/Casavau(gh).

Edward Bird's Journey to Assimilation

For Edward Bird, the Civil War irrevocably altered his life. At age thirty-four, he accepted a bounty of \$500



Edward Bird's Civil War sword. Courtesy of Wenda Bird, Edward's great-great-granddaughter.

offered by the town of Hubbardton to fill the town's quota of soldiers. Such a gesture was not without controversy, as Abby Maria Hemingway observed in her *Vermont Gazetteer*: "Whether the sum was too large or too small, let those who have borne the gun and knapsack under a southern sky, as well those who paid it reply. But its principle was unjust and its practice dangerous."^[20] After citing the names of those soldiers who accepted the bounty, Hemingway wrote that most of the soldiers who accepted the bounty were "of humble origin and moving in the lower walks of life."^[21] Shortly after Edward's enlistment, in December 1864, Mary Bird bought their farm in Hubbardton, in a settlement known as Hortonville.^[22] This bounty money, more than Edward ever could have earned as a day laborer, indeed transformed the life of his family and provided stability; the gamble, of course, was that Edward would have to survive the Civil War, and he obviously did. Edward enlisted in Company F, of the Fifth Vermont Infantry, on 16 August 1864 and mustered out on 19 June 1865.^[23] In that final year of the war, the Vermont Fifth fought in Virginia at the Wilderness, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg, and defended Washington, D.C. Years later, Edward recollected his experience: "Overcome by heat or sunstroke . . . [he] had to fall out of the ranks, and he thinks if he had not his canteen with water to wet his head, he thinks he should have stayed there as 13 of their brigade died with sunstroke that day."^[24]

After the war, Edward and Mary remained in Hortonville, their property adjacent to that of Lewis Casavaw, and extending over the town line into Sudbury. Without moving, Edward was enumerated in Hubbardton for the 1870 census but counted in Sudbury in 1880 and 1900. By 1892, Edward applied for a Civil War disability pension: the standards were quite rigorous, and the examining physicians had to determine that Edward's ailments were not from "mean or vicious habits." Thus, the cumulative effects of Edward's rheumatism, injured foot, hernia, and deep wound from a saw mill accident earned Edward a pension, retroactive to 8 August 1890 at the rate of \$8 per month. Neighbors Cyrus Jennings, Charles Morgan, and James Hall all attested to Edward's good character, and John Roberts, who had known Edward for twenty-eight years, stated, "I have heard him complain of being lame from time to time the cause resulting from getting hurt while doing duty in Co. F, 5th Vt. Vols. while his regiment was a Petersburg, Va. War of 1861."^[25]

Edward and Mary's migration falls within the first significant wave of Québec emigration to Vermont, but had the couple migrated later in the nineteenth cen-

"Perhaps the single most telling confirmation of Edward and Mary's assimilation is that none of their children were baptized in infancy as Catholics."

tury, when numbers of French-Canadians were higher, their identity and place in the community might have been very different. I expected to find that Edward and Mary, as Québec immigrants, would have had stronger bonds with other Francophone immigrants, but no evidence indicates that they attempted to retain a French-Canadian identity. To the Catholic Church, their Protestant marriage would not have been considered legitimate. Perhaps the single most telling confirmation of Edward and Mary's assimilation is that none of their children were baptized in infancy as Catholics. As emigration from Québec increased, denunciation from Québec nationalists and the clerical hierarchy increased in virulence: those who left were called cowards, deserters, and renegades, and the United States was a "vast Sodom."^[26] Some couples who had married outside the Catholic Church would later have their marriages "rehabilitated," or their children baptized at a later date, as in the case of six-year-old Sophie Casavaw, but not Edward and Mary.^[27] Mary and Edward's decision to shed Catholicism seems likely to have been based on more than simply the inconvenience of having to travel to find a Catholic church. When their daughter Zoé was born in Auburn, the couple could have brought her to be baptized at the Catholic Church in Worcester, just a few miles away, but did not. When this same daughter became the first of the children to marry a Francophone, her marriage occurred at the Hubbardton Congregational Church.^[28] In fact, only one of Edward and Mary's children, Eris/Aras, was married by a Catholic priest, probably out of deference to his wife, the child of French-Canadian immigrants.^[29] Perhaps later in life, Edward felt some ambivalence about his lapsed Catholicism. For proof of his marriage in his pension application, Edward claimed he was married by the "preste francese" (French priest), which was not true. As baptized Catholics, Edward and Mary could be buried in consecrated ground, but that privilege would not be extended to their children, who were not baptized Catholics. The fact that the couple's burial plot in St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery was only a two-grave lot now makes sense.^[30] No descendant put Mary's death

date on the stone, perhaps because none of them felt connected to that church.

Many aspects of the life of Antoine Loiseau/Edward Bird conform to the American immigration experience. Propelled by economic and social forces to emigrate, Edward worked at a subsistence level for two decades before he chose to enlist as a Vermont soldier. His Civil War service provided the capital for him to be a property owner and then later provided a modicum of financial security for his old age. Edward's metamorphosis began when he crossed the border in the 1840s. At eighteen, he married not as a Loiseau but as a Bird, and he remained faithful to that identity for the rest of his life. Only a few hours by rail from his roots in Boucherville, Québec, he could have maintained family ties, but no evidence suggests that Edward ever returned northward. In the summer that the United States celebrated the centennial of its independence, Edward Bird, an alien and "Frenchman," became an American citizen on 31 August 1876.^[31] That action, in a year infused with patriotic fervor, completed Edward Bird's immigrant journey. ♦

Notes

¹ Death certificate of Mary (Lapoint) Bird, Brandon, Vt. Parents not named. In 1910, Mary Bird resided in the household of her son William Bird in Brandon. The census indicates she came to the U.S. in 1846.

² Lottie Goodrich, daughter of Judson and Alice (Fairman) Goodrich, married Arthur Bird in 1903 in Hubbardton, Vt.

³ Death certificate of Edward Bird, Sudbury, Vt.

⁴ Edward Bird household, 1860 U.S. Census, Putnam, Washington Co., N.Y.; roll M653_874; p. 181; viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁵ Lewis Casewa household, 1860 U.S. Census, Hubbardton, Rutland Co., Vt.; roll M653_1326; p. 160; viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁶ Edward Bird household, 1880 U.S. Census, Sudbury, Rutland Co., Vt.; roll 1348; p. 433A; enumeration district 195; viewed at *Ancestry.com*. The census taker used the term *by-law* instead of *in-law*.

⁷ Death certificate of Mary (Lapoint) Bird, Brandon, Vt. The full surname is Audet dit Lapointe; some family members chose to use only one part of the name.

⁸ Marriage certificate, Hubbardton, Vt.

⁹ Lewis Casavah household, 1840 Census, Benson, Rutland Co., Vt.; roll 545; p. 24; viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

¹⁰ Marriage record, Benson, Vt. Odet/Odit is a phonetic rendering of Audet.

¹¹ Baptisms, St-Mathieu, Beloeil, Drouin Collection

¹² Leander Caswell household, 1850 U.S. Census, Worcester, Ward 1, Worcester Co., Mass.; roll M432_342; p. 114B; viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

¹³ Baptism of Marie-Sophie Casavant, Saint Antoine de Padou, Longueuil, Quebec.

¹⁴ Marriages, Boucherville, Quebec. Leandre Casavant/Sophie Galaise.

¹⁵ Birth record, Hubbardton, Vt.

¹⁶ Marriage of Jean-Baptiste Loiseau/Anastasia Galaise, Boucherville, Québec.

¹⁷ Sainte Famille parish registers; viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

¹⁸ Alain Messier, *Dictionnaire Encyclopédique et Histoire des Patriotes 1837-1838* (Montréal: Guérin, 2006), 478.

¹⁹ Hubbardton, Vt., Deeds, Book 9:444.

²⁰ Abby Maria Hemingway, *The Vermont Historical Gazetteer*, volume III (Claremont, N.H.: Claremont Manufacturing Co., 1877), 774.

²¹ *Ibid.*, p. 773.

²² Hubbardton, Vt., Deeds, Book 8:301.

²³ Civil War pension, Edward Bird, Cert. #758083.

²⁴ Edward Bird pension, testimony received 21 May 1900.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Yves Roby, *Les Francos-Américains de la Nouvelle Angleterre* (Sillery, Québec: Septentrion, 1990), 39.

²⁷ No record has been found for Sophie Casavant/Caswell after 1850. She probably died in childhood.

²⁸ Marriage certificate, Mary Bird, John Fredett, Hubbardton, Vt.

²⁹ Marriage certificate, Orwell, Vt. His name was recorded as Edwin Bird.

³⁰ Cemetery records kept by Miller-Ketcham Funeral Home, Brandon, Vt.

³¹ Naturalization record, Rutland City Court, Rutland, Vt., vol. 2, page 107 ½.

MICHAEL F. DWYER's articles have been published in *The New England Historical Genealogical Register*, *Rhode Island Roots*, and *The Maine Genealogist*. He chairs the English Department of Otter Valley Union High School in Brandon, Vermont, where he continues to teach the descendants of Edward Bird. He may be contacted at michaelftdwyer@comcast.net. Michael wishes to thank Susan L. Valley for her assistance with Québec resources.



WEIGHING THE EVIDENCE

by Henry B. Hoff

MUCH HAS BEEN WRITTEN ABOUT GENEALOGICAL proof, and the Board for Certification of Genealogists has devised a Genealogical Proof Standard (see sidebar on page 34). Nevertheless, since every genealogist is different and every genealogical situation is different, there are still many instances when genealogists disagree on whether to categorize an identification or a connection as definite — or with a modifying word such as *probably*, *likely*, *perhaps*, or *possibly*.

In this article I present some typical genealogical situations in which genealogists often disagree, and then give examples for you, the readers, to decide upon.^[1]

Identifying immigrants

What does it take to convince you, for example, that a man who arrived in America in the colonial period is identical with a person of that name in England? In a 2005 article I described several research methods for finding English origins,^[2] and typically identifying an English (and European) immigrant involves more than one method.

In 2008 an article on Thomas Betterly appeared in the *Register*.^[3] Thomas immigrated to North Carolina by 1715, married in Boston in 1720, and returned to North Carolina, where he died in 1729. He was a feltmaker in North Carolina, and a Thomas Betterley was apprenticed as a feltmaker in 1701 in London. The article reproduces the 1710 signature of a Thomas Betterley in London and compares it to his signatures in North Carolina. The authors point out that Betterley was a “very uncommon surname.”

How would you decide? Definite, probable, or something else?

Many *Register* articles have treated seventeenth-century immigrants to New England who came with children. If the names and approximate ages of the children in England match those in America, a definite identification can often be made. If only one or two

children are born in England and have common first names, you have only a possible match — and you will need other evidence to make a definite match. But if you have, say, four children and the names and ages agree, then you may have a definite match, especially if a will names the children in order.^[4]

One of the traditional ways of identifying an immigrant is referring to an English will specifying that a particular beneficiary is living in New England. This, however, requires that every contemporary of that name in New England must be considered. Sometimes that process is easy,^[5] but sometimes the wrong person has been misidentified for decades.^[6]

Identifying persons of the same name

Frequently at least two people of the same name are in the same place at the same time. If you are lucky, they were carefully identified — but often they were not. Sometimes a family favors a particular first name, and articles have dealt with two, twelve, and even twenty-one men of the same name in a family (though not all living at the same time).^[7] Identification problems are not always fully solved,^[8] but such articles pave the way for future researchers.

Just as frequently two or three women with the same name pose identification problems. In the 1690s two women named Mary Loomis were married in Windsor, Connecticut. One married John Buell on 20 November 1695, the other married Ebenezer Dibble on 16 July 1696. Three potentially relevant women named Mary Loomis were born, on 20 March 1672/3, 14 December 1677, and 5 January 1679/80. While there are two accounts of the Loomis family of Windsor, neither is satisfactory, and neither gives a rationale for assigning which Mary to which husband.^[9] According to her gravestone, Mary (Loomis) Buell died 4 November 1768, aged 90;^[10] her last child was born 22 May 1723.^[11] These two

pieces of information show that Mary (Loomis) Buell was the Mary born 14 December 1677, or less likely, the youngest Mary (who is consistently identified as the Mary Loomis who married in Windsor 6 May 1708 Joseph Barber).

What would you decide for the identification of Mrs. Buell, based on this information?

When there is no other family with that surname

A unique surname is helpful, but often it does not solve all problems. William Whitredge or Whittered, whose surname appears to be unique in colonial New England, immigrated to Massachusetts in 1635 with wife Elizabeth and son Thomas.^[12] William had other children born in Essex County, including sons John and Samuel. Were John and Samuel both killed in King Philip's War? On 18 July 1676 in Salem, "John Whitterig, being slain in the war against the Indians, dying intestate, administration was granted to John Baxter" [who had married Abigail Whitredge]. A John Whitredge died 19 May 1676 in Massachusetts during King Philip's War.

On the other hand, less evidence is available for Samuel Whitredge. He was living in 1672 when mentioned in his brother Thomas's will, and a Samuel Whitredge died 18 September 1675 in Massachusetts during King Philip's War.

Was William's son John the John Whitredge who died in 1676? Was William's son Samuel the Samuel Whitredge who died in 1675? What would you decide?

Proving military service

As demonstrated by the preceding section, assignment of military service to a particular man is often unclear. Sometimes the records themselves are the problem. A 2009 article showed that military files for South Carolina had placed papers for different Revolutionary War soldiers named Jonathan Turner in a single file, and that "derivative sources had merged the identities of three Jonathans."^[13]

Proving the parents of a wife

A typical genealogical problem is whether the wife of so-and-so was the daughter of a known couple. Anna Flint married Timothy Dwight on 9 January 1664/5 in Dedham. Several sources identify her as Hannah Flint, born in Braintree 7 January 1643/4, daughter of Rev. Henry Flint. However, Hannah Flint married in Braintree 15 November 1662 John Dasset, who lived until 1699.^[14] Rev. Henry Flint had a brother, Thomas Flint of Concord (died 1653), whose children have not been fully identified, largely because his will is unin-

The Genealogical Proof Standard

Meeting the Genealogical Proof Standard is a five-step process:

- We conduct a reasonably exhaustive search in reliable sources for all information that is or may be pertinent to the identity, relationship, event, or situation in question;
- We collect and include in our compilation a complete, accurate citation to the source or sources of each item of information we use;
- We analyze and correlate the collected information to assess its quality as evidence;
- We resolve any conflicts caused by items of evidence that contradict each other or are contrary to a proposed (hypothetical) solution to the question; and
- We arrive at a soundly reasoned, coherently written conclusion.

from The BCG Genealogical Standards Manual (Washington, D.C.: Board for Certification of Genealogists, 2000), 1–2.

formative. There were other families named Flint in Massachusetts, but only in Salem.^[15]

Could Anna (Flint) Dwight be a daughter of Thomas Flint of Concord? What would you decide?

Putting the pieces together

Frequently articles involve putting several arguments together to reach a conclusion. A good example of this is a 2009 article proving a father-son relationship in Wilmington, North Carolina. The author presented seven different arguments supporting the father-son relationship and, with reference to the Genealogical Proof Standard, concluded that "[e]ven without direct evidence, the case is overwhelming."^[16]

But rarely is genealogical evidence overwhelming, and frequently we have to use careful language and words beginning with the letter P, such as *probably*, *perhaps*, and *possibly*. You be the judge of when and how to use them in your own research. ♦

Notes

¹ For further opportunities to weigh the evidence, see the series "Enigmas" in *The American Genealogist* since April 1991, as well as many of the articles in genealogical journals such as the *Register*.

² Henry B. Hoff, "Methods for Identifying the English Origins of American Colonists," *NEW ENGLAND ANCESTORS* 6:5–6 (Holiday 2005):31–32. *(continued on page 41)*

Was Susanna (Boylston) Adams Illiterate?



by Harry Faulkner

COMPARATIVELY LITTLE IS KNOWN ABOUT SUSANNA (Boylston) Adams (1708–1797), the mother of President John Adams (1735–1826). Even so, I was surprised by this passage in David McCullough’s Pulitzer Prize-winning biography *John Adams*:

Nothing written in her own hand would survive—no letters, diaries, or legal papers with her signature—nor any correspondence addressed to her by any of her family, and so, since it is known that letters were frequently read aloud to her, there is reason to believe that Susanna Boylston Adams was illiterate.^[1]

In a March 13, 2002, address to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, McCullough reiterated his view that John Adams’s mother “was almost certainly illiterate.”^[2] However, an investigation into this question has uncovered conclusive evidence, both circumstantial and from primary sources, that Susanna could read and write.

Susanna was born on March 5, 1708/9, in Brookline, Massachusetts. Her parents, Peter and Ann (White) Boylston, came from prominent local families and were members of the Congregational church.^[3] Many of the men in the White family graduated from Harvard College.^[4] Peter’s father and brother were physicians, and his youngest brother was a wealthy merchant and philanthropist. Because parental literacy is a key factor in a child’s attaining literacy, that Peter and Ann Boylston each signed their own wills is significant.^[5]

Scholars have estimated that the rate of female reading literacy in early eighteenth-century New England was as high as 70 percent.^[6] The principal driving force for New England literacy stemmed from the Puritan belief that everyone should read the Bible. A 1642 Massachusetts law empowered town selectmen to levy fines to ensure that parents were teaching their children to read. A 1647 law required all townships of fifty or more households to hire a schoolmaster to teach all children to “write & reade,” as “the old deluder, Satan, tried” to keep mankind from knowledge of the scriptures.^[7]

In 1711 the citizens of Brookline voted to allow private individuals to erect two new schoolhouses (in addition to one already built) and “maintain a good school dame half of the year at each house.”^[8] “Once towns funded school dames, we can be confident that little girls as well as boys were admitted.”^[9] By the time Susanna was about seven years old, each of the town’s three precincts had its own schoolhouse supported by a combination of public and private resources.^[10]

Legal documents, such as wills and deeds, are an important source of evidence for women’s literacy. Scholars have examined these documents to compare the proportion of those people who signed by forming the letters of their name (“signature literacy”) with those who could only make their mark, which was as legally valid. Because reading was taught before writing, a signature implied at least a rudimentary level of both literacy skills. The rate of “signature literacy” among white females in early eighteenth-century New England has been estimated by scholars at 45 percent — as not all people who could read learned to write.^[11] Social class was an important determining factor.

Susanna was at least “signature literate.” On March 1, 1733/4, she signed her name as a witness to the last will and testament of her future father-in-law, Joseph Adams, Jr. The original will, preserved at the Massachusetts State Archives, clearly shows Susanna Boylston’s signature, written in a legible and strong cursive hand. Joseph Adams, Jr. set his hand and seal to his will “in the presence of us the Subscribers aver Thomas Baxter, Susanna Boylstone [*sic*], & Richard Thayer.” John Adams and Susanna were married on November 23, 1734, and Joseph lived to see the birth of his grandson John Adams, Jr., on October 19, 1735. After Joseph’s death on February 12, 1736, his will was submitted for probate in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, and on March 22, 1736, Probate Judge Hon. Josiah Willard, Esq. attested the instrument as follows:

The foregoing will being presented for Probate by the Executor therein named. Thomas Baxter & Susanna Boylstone [*sic*] made oath that they saw Joseph Adams

Above: Susanna Boylston’s March 1, 1733/34, signature on the will of her future father-in-law, Joseph Adams, Jr. The will is held by, and photograph reproduced courtesy of, the Massachusetts State Archives.

the Subscriber to this Instrument Sign and Seal & heard him publish and declare the same to be his Last Will & Testament and that when he so did he was of sound disposing mind & memory according to these Deponents best discerning and that they together with Richard Thayer now absent set to their hands as Witnesses thereof in the said Testators presence.^[12] [Emphasis added.]

In his *Autobiography* John Adams wrote that his mother could read. “As my Parents were both fond of reading . . . I was very early taught to read at home. . . .”^[13] Historian E. Jennifer Monaghan notes, “On the rare occasions when we know who taught a child to read at home, the mother is singled out . . . and pious mothers were particularly motivated to teach their children to read.”^[14]

John Adams’s diary described a quarrel between his parents that took place in 1758, shortly after he returned to live at home and start his law practice. Susanna became upset when her husband, Deacon John, in his role as town selectman, brought home two destitute servant girls. Frustrated that she had never been able to persuade her husband to resign his office — with all the headaches it entailed — and concerned about the strain the girls’ upkeep might put on the family finances, Susanna demanded to know what he planned to charge the town for the girls’ board. After he stubbornly refused to tell her, Susanna (who reportedly had a fiery temper) angrily threatened to review her husband’s financial records, exclaiming, “I can read yet.”^[15]

More evidence of Susanna’s literacy is provided in the letters of others:

1. While John and his brother Peter were in Boston in 1764 undergoing the smallpox inoculation procedure (introduced into America in 1721 by Susanna’s uncle, Dr. Zabdiel Boylston), John and his fiancée, Abigail Smith, exchanged letters. Abigail obviously believed her future mother-in-law could read, as she wrote to John, “Your Mama doubtless would rejoice to hear from you, if you write you may enclose to me, I will take good care of it.”^[16]

2. John wrote to Abigail in 1778 that their son, John Quincy, “will write to his Grand ma [meaning Susanna, as Abigail’s mother, Elizabeth Quincy Smith, had died], to whom present, his and my most affectionate and dutiful Respects.”^[17]

3. Abigail wrote to her sister, Mary (Smith) Cranch, in 1784, responding to a report that Susanna had complained about being financially dependent on her sons. Abigail explained, “I know Mr. Adams has written to her [Susanna] desiring her to call upon the dr [Abigail’s uncle, Dr. Cotton Tufts] for what she may want.”^[18]

4. Abigail told John in a 1792 letter, “your Mother was well this day she has been out with me to meeting all day, and bears the cold well. no one appears more anxious or interested in the choice of V P than she does — she sends for the Newspapers and reads them very Regularly.”^[19] (Abigail also described Susanna as possessing an “open, candid mind, with a naturally good understanding.”^[20])

Comparatively few letters written by colonial American women have survived the passage of time. Most people, especially women, had little time or vocational need to write. Paper and ink were expensive, and mail service was slow and unreliable. Susanna’s sphere of life was circumscribed to a short distance from home, and to her roles of wife, mother, and neighbor — none of which required writing. Historian Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, in her extensive research for *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England*, found “the archives contain no female diaries written in New England before 1750 and few female letters.”^[21]

In her later years — she lived to be eighty-nine — Susanna must have needed help reading, having been weakened by several near-fatal illnesses and suffering from a chronic inflammation of the eyes.^[22] Likely this painful condition was hereditary. John Jr. had complained of inflamed eyes and weak vision since 1774.^[23]

The best explanation of why letters were sometimes read to Susanna is that John and Abigail, because of their busy lives and large extended family, often sent expressions of love and remembrance to many family members in a single letter, all or parts of which were intended to be shared and read aloud.^[24] When Abigail was away, her letters home were often addressed to her sister Mary Cranch. The receipt of a letter provided a reason for the family to gather to hear the latest news. McCullough notes that when Abigail wrote home



The home of Deacon John and Susanna (Boylston) Adams in Quincy, Massachusetts, where their son, President John Adams, was born in 1735. Photograph circa 1849. Courtesy of the National Park Service, Adams National Historical Park.

from Paris, “Her every letter was treasured and read aloud to the delight of all. When Mary [Cranch] called on Susanna, to say she had come to read Abigail’s letters to her, the old lady replied, ‘Aya, I had rather hear that she is coming home.’”^[25]

Susanna died in 1797, living just long enough to see her son become the second president of the United States. John grieved, “My Mother’s countenance and conversation was a source of enjoyment to me that is now dried up forever, in Quincy.”^[26] Although no letters to or from Susanna have been found, one should remember the maxim that “the absence of proof is not proof of absence.” And, as presented here, references to letters written to her and about her strongly suggest that she could read, and her signature as a witness on the will of Joseph Adams, Jr., proves that she could write. All this documentation, when considered with the high rate of female literacy in Massachusetts, especially among members of Susanna’s social class in Brookline, provides more than sufficient evidence to conclude that she was literate. ♦

Notes

- ¹ David McCullough, *John Adams* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2001), 30.
- ² David McCullough, “John Adams and the Good Life of the Mind,” *Records of the Academy* (American Academy of Arts and Sciences) (2002), 12, <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3786002>.
- ³ *Muddy River and Brookline Records, 1634–1838* (Boston: J. E. Farwell & Co., 1875), 113.
- ⁴ Thomas J. Lothrop, “John White of Watertown and Brookline, and Some of His Descendants,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 52 (1898): 421–26.
- ⁵ Suffolk County, Mass., Probate Records, Docket #7961, vol. 36, 426–27 (will of Peter Boylston, 13 Aug. 1743) and Docket #15248, vol. 72, 192–95 (will of Ann Boylston, 13 March 1754).
- ⁶ Rosemary Zagari, *A Woman’s Dilemma: Mercy Otis Warren and the American Revolution* (Wheeling, Ill.: Harlan Davidson, Inc., 1995), 10.
- ⁷ Jennifer E. Monaghan, *Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America* (Amherst and Boston: University of Massachusetts Press, 2005), 38.
- ⁸ *Muddy River and Brookline Records* [note 3], 96.
- ⁹ Monaghan, *Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America* [note 7], 44.
- ¹⁰ *Muddy River and Brookline Records* [note 3], 101, 107.
- ¹¹ W. Ross Beales and Jennifer E. Monaghan, “Literacy and School Books,” in Hugh Amory and David D. Hall, eds., *A History of the Book in America, Volume 1: The Colonial Book in the Atlantic World* (Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2007), 380.
- ¹² Suffolk County, Mass., Probate Records, Docket #6956, vol. 33, 83–84 (will of Joseph Adams, Jr., 1 March 1733/4).
- ¹³ L. H. Butterfield, ed., *Diary and Autobiography of John Adams. The Adams Papers*, vol. 3 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1961), 257.



The author taking a break from researching at the Massachusetts State Archives.

- ¹⁴ Monaghan, *Learning to Read and Write in Colonial America* [note 7], 43.
- ¹⁵ Butterfield, *Diary and Autobiography* [note 13], 1:65.
- ¹⁶ L. H. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 1 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1963), 31. Abigail Smith to John Adams, 15 April 1764.
- ¹⁷ Margaret A. Hogan and C. James Taylor, eds., *My Dearest Friend: Letters of Abigail and John Adams* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007), 210.
- ¹⁸ Richard Alan Ryerson, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 6 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1993), 278. Abigail Adams to Mary Smith Cranch, 15 Aug. 1785.
- ¹⁹ Margaret A. Hogan et al., eds., *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 9 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2009), 354. Abigail Adams to John Adams, 23 Dec. 1792.
- ²⁰ Margaret A. Hogan et al., eds., *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 10 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2011), 65. Abigail Adams to Abigail “Nabby” Adams Smith, 3 Feb. 1794.
- ²¹ Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *Good Wives: Image and Reality in the Lives of Women in Northern New England 1650–1750* (New York: Vintage Books, 1991), 5.
- ²² Hogan, *Adams Family Correspondence*, [note 19] 22, 38. Mary Smith Cranch to Abigail Adams, 28 Feb. 1790 and 1 April 1790.
- ²³ L. H. Butterfield, ed., *Adams Family Correspondence*, vol. 2 (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1963), 163. John Adams to Abigail Adams, 18 Feb. 1777.
- ²⁴ Hogan and Taylor, eds., *My Dearest Friend* [note 17], 323. John Adams to Abigail Adams, 1 May 1789.
- ²⁵ McCullough, *John Adams* [note 1], 310.
- ²⁶ Paul C. Nagel, *Descent from Glory: Four Generations of the John Adams Family* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1983), 49–50.

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by Patricia Bravender

ESTABLISHING KINSHIP BETWEEN MEMBERS OF EXTENDED families separated over many generations by time and distance can be challenging, even for experienced researchers. In the absence of vital records or detailed census data, which other sources can show connections between these divergent families? One overlooked resource that can establish kinship and perhaps even some exact relationships is family reunion records. Family reunions were — and remain — popular social events where extended family members gathered, usually once every year in the summer. According to historian Robert M. Taylor, Jr., family reunions “gained popularity after the Civil War in tandem with the blossoming of genealogy.”^[1] At a time of “a rising sentiment for rediscovering and renewing kin ties,” these reunions helped to maintain kin solidarity in response to the rapid social changes sweeping the nation.^[2]

I was researching the Hines family, and beginning to doubt I’d ever be able to reconstruct the family relationships, when I found written accounts of family reunions that helped me establish many connections.

Establishing Kinship with Family Reunion Announcements

Hines family

In just over a century, descendants of Richard and Elizabeth (—) Hines of Rhode Island and Massachusetts spread across the continent. Details about their lives are scarce. Richard served in the 2nd Rhode Island Regiment during the Revolutionary War and died in penury in Colrain, Massachusetts, in 1820. Very little is known about Elizabeth, including her maiden name. Their only known son, Abraham Woodward Hines (1787–1873), and his children were pioneer settlers in Vermont, then in the Western Reserve and the Northwest Territory. Throughout the nineteenth century,

Richard and Elizabeth’s descendants continued to move westward and, as new land opened in Iowa and the Dakotas, settled there. By the turn of the twentieth century, fifth-generation descendants had reached the Pacific Ocean and were living in Oregon, Washington, California, and even Alaska.

Abraham W. Hines supposedly fathered at least twenty-one children by his first two wives over forty years. While he and his sons continually pushed west, his daughters married, changed their surnames, and often remained behind with their new families. Other descendants died early, leaving orphan children whose ties to the family were cut off. Connections between many of Abraham’s descendants were eventually lost. Identifying members of this sprawling family and their exact relationships has been difficult, further complicated since the Hines surname was common and unrelated families often lived in the same communities. And Hines is spelled in a variety of ways in census, land, and vital records, which also causes confusion.

During my research I identified four probable sons of Abraham by his first wife, Hope Titus, whom he married in Shrewsbury, Vermont, in 1805. These four likely sons were: Alanson, Robert T., Abram B., and Sidney, all born in Vermont; at least two — and probably all — were indentured as children to neighboring farmers. Although circumstantial evidence suggests that the four are Abraham’s sons, no vital records definitively identify

Above: The 1936 Hines family reunion.

their parents. Abraham's six sons (Benjamin F., Lewis H., Willis G., Charles, Richard S., and William) with his second wife, Amanda Davis, whom he married in Conway, Massachusetts, in 1821, all served in the Civil War, and each left a substantial paper trail proving kinship to Abraham and to each other. This trail included pension applications and detailed marriage and death records. By the late 1850s, Abraham, his three likely sons,^[3] and his six known sons all lived in Lorain and Lucas Counties, Ohio. Abraham lived with families from both lines at various times. Couldn't I somehow prove brotherhood, or at least kinship, between these men?

Hines family reunions

I knew that the Hines family had held annual reunions because my grandmother, Helen (Nicklas) Hines, told me that she had attended some in the 1930s and 1940s. She even had group photographs. Unfortunately, the quality of the photos was poor and most individuals could not be identified. My grandmother remembered that "Uncle Dick attended" or that "a cousin named Cullen used to come." Her stories and photographs provided clues to the names and relationships of the attendees but no substantive evidence of kinship.

My grandmother and I even attended a revival of the Hines reunions in Lorain County in the late 1980s. We were invited by a Hines researcher who was also seeking a possible connection between our lines. Like me, many members of the Lorain County Hines families believed we had a common ancestor, but no one knew the exact kinship or had records of earlier family reunions. We had a wonderful time at the reunion, but we came no closer to understanding the connection between our families, if one even existed.

My discovery of written accounts of the Hines family reunions was serendipitous. When full-text searchable newspapers became available on *Ancestry.com* and other websites, many Lorain County newspapers were included. Those papers, like others of the time, published information about the daily lives of residents. Sometimes listed under column headlines such as "personals" or "local happenings," the comings and goings of the locals were fully reported. Family reunions were important social events and were often covered with as much detail as weddings and deaths. While searching these newspapers online for Hines family members, I found reports of reunions, ranging from brief announcements to detailed lists of attendees.

Through news items in the Elyria *Chronicle-Telegram* I found that Hines reunions were always held in August, usually on the third Saturday. Most were

held in Lorain County, but occasionally in Michigan, Pennsylvania, or Indiana. A Hines family reunion was first held in 1907; gatherings continued annually for more than fifty years.

The following reports, and others like them, were found in the personal columns of the *Chronicle-Telegram*:

August 18, 1921 — Miss Gladys Hines of the East Side left today with her uncle and his family from Wellington for Richmond, Ind. to attend the Hines family reunion. The trip will be by machine.^[4]

September 5, 1933 — Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Hines, Mr. & Mrs. Myron Hines and family attended the Hines reunion at Cascade Park in Elyria last Saturday.^[5]

August 23, 1935 — The 28th annual reunion of the Hines descendants was held last Saturday at the Town Hall. About fifty four were present from New Castle, Pennsylvania, Elyria, Cleveland, Strongsville, Kalamazoo, Mich., Lorain, Litchfield, Medina, North Oberlin, North Royalton, Wellington, and here. Officers were elected as follows: Pres. Cullen Hines; Sec. & Treas. Mrs. Cullen Hines from Kalamazoo, Michigan. A sumptuous picnic dinner was served at noon. Music and dancing



The author's family at a Hines reunion, circa 1939. The children are James Lewis Hines, the author's father, and his sister, Shirlee Jean Hines. The adults, from left to right, are Helen (Nicklas) Hines, the author's grandmother; James Madison Hines and Ethel (Stringham) Hines, the author's great-grandparents; and James Nelson Hines, the author's grandfather.

were enjoyed. The next reunion for 1936 will be held at Cascade Park, Elyria on the 3rd Saturday in August. Will Girward had the misfortune to fall at the reunion and injure his arm and it was necessary to have the aid of a physician.^[6]

August 22, 1957 — Mr. and Mrs. George Ensign and family attended the 50th annual Hines reunion at Litchfield Town Hall Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hines were host and hostess. The attendance was about 75. A basket lunch was served later.^[7]

August 22, 1957 — About 65 attended the 50th Hines reunion at the town hall Sunday. The birthdays of Chelice Baish and Mrs. Genevieve Welsh of Wellington were observed. A layer cake, beautifully decorated, was cut for the occasion.^[8]

Once I knew the reunions were held each August, I searched newspapers in other locales where family members lived. For example, Abraham and his six sons by his second wife settled near Saranac, Ionia County, Michigan, in the early 1860s. Although the Saranac newspaper, the *Saranac Advertiser*, is not searchable online, weekly issues from 1894 through 1970 have been digitized and the DVD is available at the town library. I downloaded the images onto my computer and read the August and September issues, those most likely to contain reports of the reunions. I did find mention of Hines reunions, including this one:

August 12, 1909 — Richard Hines and son Nelson left Tuesday for Wellington, Ohio where they will attend a reunion of the Hines family.^[9]

I have been researching the Hines family for many years and have a database on the descendants of all suspected children of Richard and Elizabeth. As I read the newspaper reports of Hines family reunions, I immediately recognized names of people I had researched. Some I knew to be descendants of Abram B. Hines, believed to be Abraham W. Hines's son by the first marriage in Vermont, and some were descendants of children by his second wife. While not proving that Abram B.

Hines was a son of Abraham W. Hines, the fact that descendants of children from both wives attended these family reunions is strong evidence of kinship. These

Sources of online digitized historical newspapers

- Historical Newspaper Collection, *Ancestry.com*
- America's Historical Newspapers, Newsbank, Inc. (available to NEHGS members on *AmericanAncestors.org*)
- 19th Century U.S. Newspapers, Proquest
- *Newspaperarchive.com*

Search tip: Be creative with search terms. The original language of some relevant articles contained the phrases "Hines family reunion," "Hines reunion," and "reunion of the Hines family." If a database allows only for name searching, you can fool it into searching for phrases by putting key terms in the first name box and the last name box; for example, first name "Hines" and last name "reunion" or "family."

Sources of historical newspapers in print, microform, or digital format

- Local libraries, archives, and historical societies
- State library and archives
- Newspaper offices

Search tip: Limit your print or microfilm search of historical newspapers to the summer months, the most likely time for reunions. Don't forget September, especially if the paper was weekly. Once you know the layout of the paper, you will quickly recognize the sections most likely to contain reports of reunions. If you can't visit the local library or archive, request microfilm of the newspaper through interlibrary loan.

Other sources of information about family reunions

- Donated reunion papers and records in local libraries, archives and historical societies in your ancestors' communities.
- Reunion records may be found on their own or as part of family association records in national libraries and archives such as the Library of Congress, the National Archives, the Daughters of the American Revolution library, and NEHGS.

Search tip: Find family reunion and family association records by searching union catalogs describing collections at various libraries and archives, such as *Worldcat.org* and *ArchiveGrid.org*.

Don't forget Google

- A general Google search might lead to a posting about previous or current reunions, links to archives, or a fellow reunion researcher.
- The Google News Archive has links to newspapers, both free and fee-based, and a search of Google Books might locate, for instance, a speech given at a 25th family reunion of interest.

reports are also interesting for what they do not contain: they never mention descendants of two other suspected sons of Abraham, Alanson and Robert T., who lived in neighboring Lucas County.

Like many family reunion groups, the Hines family elected a secretary who likely kept reunion records. Although I have not located them in any library or historical society, I am hopeful that they still exist and, if found, will further clarify kinship among descendants of Abraham W. Hines. ♦

Notes

¹ Robert M. Taylor, "Summoning the Wandering Tribes: Genealogy and Family Reunions in American History," *Journal of Social History*, 16:2 (1982): 21.

² *Ibid.*, 22.

³ One probable son, Sidney Hines, disappeared from the records and presumably died.

⁴ *Chronicle-Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), August 18, 1921, 4. Viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁵ *Chronicle-Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), September 5, 1933, 5. Viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁶ *Chronicle-Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), August 23, 1935, 4. Viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁷ *Chronicle-Telegram* (Elyria, Ohio), August 22, 1957, 10. Viewed at *Ancestry.com*.

⁸ *Ibid.*, 14.

⁹ *Saranac (Mich.) Advertiser*, August 12, 1909, 1. Digitized copy available at the Saranac Public Library.

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"Weighing the Evidence," continued from page 34

³ Lawrence McGrath, Esther Whitney Mott, and Phylcia Salisbury, "The Probable English Origins of Thomas Betterley," *Register* 162 (Jan. 2008):8–14.

⁴ See, for example, Edgar Joseph Shaw, "The English Origins of Roger and Ann Shaw of Cambridge, Massachusetts, and Hampton, New Hampshire," *Register* 158 (Oct. 2004):309–18.

⁵ See, for example, Cathy Soughton, "Thomas¹ Burnham of Long Crendon, Buckinghamshire, and Hartford, Connecticut," *Register* 166 (Jan. 2012):5–10, at 5 n. 2.

⁶ See, for example, Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 1:581 (John Drake), and Leslie Mahler, "The English Origins of Edmund¹ Quincy of Boston and His Servants, Thomas and Katherine (Greene) Makins," *Register* 157 (Jan. 2003):31–33.

⁷ Joseph Crook Anderson II, "Eleven Thomas Abbotts of Berwick, Maine, and Vicinity," *The American Genealogist* 70 (April 1995):85–95; William B. Saxbe, Jr., "Twenty-One Jabez Bowens," *Rhode Island Roots* 36 (June 2010):57–78.

⁸ See, for example, Nancy J. Pennington, "Three Men Named Isaac Phelps with Connections to Windsor, Connecticut," *Register* 163 (April 2009):116–33.

⁹ Elias Loomis [and Elisha S. Loomis], *Descendants of Joseph Loomis in America*, 2 vols. (Berea, Ohio: Elisha S. Loomis, 1908), 1:132, 133, 134; Henry R. Stiles, *The History of Ancient Windsor, Genealogies and Biographies*, 2 vols. (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1892; repr. Somersworth, N.H.: New Hampshire Publishing Co., 1976), 2:434, 435. Both sources assign the oldest Mary as the wife of John Buell.

¹⁰ *Register* 1 (April 1847):196; 22 (April 1868):198.

¹¹ Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records, citing Litchfield Vital Records, 1:5.

¹² David A. Whittredge, "The English Origins of William¹ Whitredge of Ipswich, Massachusetts," *Register* 164 (April 2010):139–44; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635: Volume VII, T–Y* (Boston: NEHGS, 2011), 374–80 (William Whittered).

¹³ Rachal Mills Lennon, "Jonathan Turner—More than a Name: A Carolina Case Study in Dissecting Records," *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 97 (March 2009):17–28, at 20–21.

¹⁴ Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635: Volume II, C–F* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 534–37 (Rev. Henry Flint had no other daughter with a name like Anna); Waldo Chamberlain Sprague, *Genealogies of the Families of Braintree, Massachusetts*, CD-ROM (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), card 1344R (Dassett).

¹⁵ James Savage, *Genealogical Dictionary of the First Settlers of New England*, 4 vols. (Boston: Little, Brown & Co., 1860–62), 2:174–75; Clarence A. Torrey, *New England Marriages Prior to 1700*, 3 vols. (Boston: NEHGS, 2011); also CD-ROM (Boston: NEHGS, 2001) and database online at *AmericanAncestors.org*.

¹⁶ Jeffrey L. Haines, "Putting the Pieces Together to Solve the Parentage Puzzle: Using Indirect Evidence to Prove the Link between Oliver L. Kelley and George H. Kelley of Wilmington," *The North Carolina Genealogical Society Journal* 35 (Nov. 2009):293–314, at 307–14. An important aspect to the article was that Oliver (the father) was born in Norwich, Connecticut, and George (the son) was born in Illinois.

HENRY B. HOFF, CG, FASG, is editor of the *Register*.



Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Abstracts, 1706–1863

New Databases on *AmericanAncestors.org*

by Sean Furniss

AFTER PUBLICATION OF MY INITIAL RESEARCH ON the family of Robert Furniss (c. 1732–1800) and his wife Margaret Gardner (c. 1742–1832) of Portsmouth, New Hampshire,^[1] my interest in better understanding the historical context of their lives led me to continue researching Portsmouth records. During the course of my research, I realized that a number of Portsmouth primary sources, which I found online, in libraries, and on microfilm, had no compiled indexes or abstracts. I began to compile individual abstracts and created four databases to store the information. Working from my home in Reston, Virginia, I completed this project in about eighteen months.

By the end, I had created a set of more than 30,000 abstracts, which consisted of vital records (1706–1863); Overseers of the Poor records (1817–1838) from Portsmouth town records; warnings out from the New Hampshire State Archives (1722/3–1769); and extracts from Portsmouth newspapers (1776–1800). Four databases will be separately published on *AmericanAncestors.org*; the first to be released was “Portsmouth, NH: Vital Records, 1709–1841.”

Primarily focused on people and events related to Portsmouth, the abstracts also include references to people and events in other parts of the United States and the world. While the town and state records range from 1706 to 1838, more than two-thirds of the newspaper abstracts appeared between 1776 and 1800.

Each record or newspaper abstract covers a specific person or group, but many of these abstracts can, and

often should, be viewed as a series of records that covers a specific family or various social/political events over time. The abstracts document individuals, but they also reveal insights into Portsmouth’s history and culture.

Abstracts of shorter records include all the information in the original source, but abstracts of longer records contain only a portion of the original. When you find abstracts of interest, you should verify them against the original records cited to check for any additional information.

Vital records

I compiled the vital records abstracts from transcriptions of the records created by the town clerk’s office.^[2] Although the cover page of the record book indicates that the births, burials, and marriages cover 1750 to 1857, the actual range is from 1706 to 1863.^[3] Very few of the records appear to have been recorded on the date of the event, and some records refer to places beyond Portsmouth.

Some examples follow:

- The 1750–1768 births of the children of John and Sarah Penhallow were recorded on 10 May 1770.^[4]
- Marriages performed by Rev. Nathaniel Rogers between 1708 and 1723 were entered in the town records after the entries for 1841, more than a century later.^[5]
- The birthplace of John MacMahon (b. 3 May 1841) is listed as Boston.^[6]

Above: View of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, from across the Piscataqua River. An illustration in The Atlantic Neptune, published for the use of the Royal Navy of Great Britain, by Joseph E.W. Des Barres (London, 1777–1781). Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

- The marriage of George Turner and Elizabeth Cutty on 14 December 1771, at the parish church of St. Nicholas, Church of Ireland, Cork, Ireland, was recorded in the Portsmouth town records on 30 April 1792.^[7]

Overseers of the Poor

I created abstracts of the Overseers of the Poor records, 1817–1838, from the transcription of the Portsmouth town records.^[8] The earliest entries, from 1817 through the 1820s, often detail the goods and services provided to those in need. The 1830s records are more generic and often lack such specific information.

Some of the Overseers records referred to deaths, mental state, marital status, color, children born out of wedlock, and places of origin and/or later residence.

- In February 1830, John Lake paid \$95 “on account of the said Abigail Gott having the above named child by the son of the said John Lake.”^[9]
- A payment of \$2.50, recorded on 23 April 1822, was made to Sexton Benjamin Nutter for the burial of the child of Israel Henderson.^[10]
- The effects of Ann Carpenter and her two children were freighted to Boston by Michael Vaughan; a payment of \$3 was recorded on 15 January 1824.^[11]

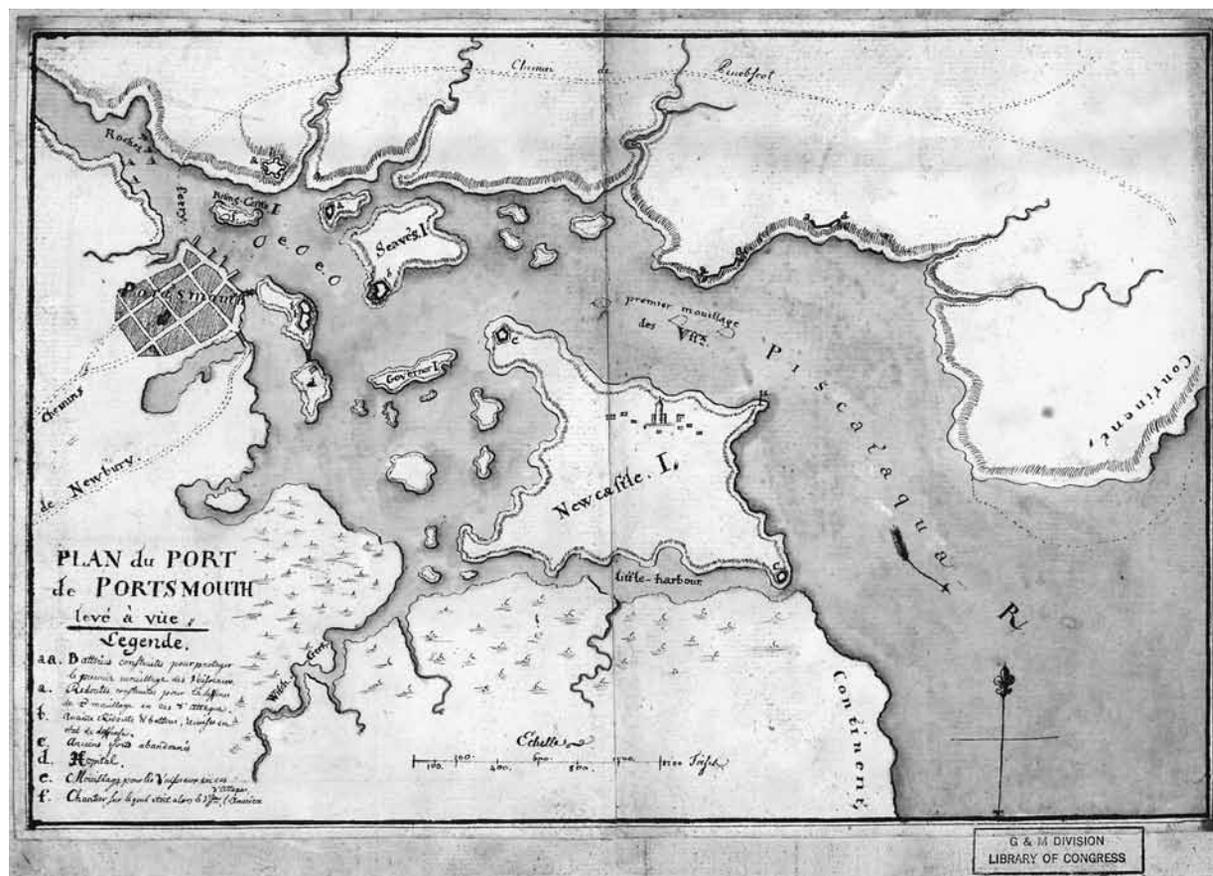
Some beneficiaries, on the same or adjacent pages, with the same surname and receiving board within the same time period, were likely members of the same family, but specific statements about relationships are rare.

Thomas Curtis was provided passage out of state for himself and his unnamed wife and two unnamed children. The cost of his board for nine days was \$1.91. On the same page are entries for Mary Curtis (nine days’ board for \$1.91), Mary Ann Curtis (nine days’ board for \$0.96) and John Curtis (nine days’ board for \$0.96).^[12] The record of payments on 18 January 1828 suggests that Thos. Curtis was married to Mary Curtis, and that their children were Mary Ann and John.

I abstracted all names as they appeared in the transcribed records, some under more than one spelling. Numerous entries appear for Isaac Morris and Isaac Morriss from 1820 to 1823,^[13] and for Violet Cato Mise and Violet Moise from 1823 to 1829.^[14] These names likely relate to only two people.

Warnings out

Like the other New England colonies, New Hampshire regulated town inhabitants through a process known as warning out. These warnings reduced the town’s



“Plan du port de Portsmouth levé à vue,” circa 1782. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

Searching the Portsmouth, NH: Vital Records, 1709–1841 database on *AmericanAncestors.org*

This database is similar to the majority of our vital records databases in that it may be searched by first name, last name, record year (or record year range) and record type. These search parameters may be used individually, or in any combination. In addition, any of these basic search parameters can be combined with a “keyword” search, to narrow the search results. For example, to search for the marriage of William Smith and Elizabeth (unknown surname), you would enter William as first name, Smith as last name, and Elizabeth as a keyword. Since this search would find all records in which William Smith is mentioned with the name “Elizabeth,” results would also potentially include records where “Elizabeth” is a parent or child. The search may be further narrowed by selecting Record Type “Marriage.” In addition, the name and keyword search fields support all the “wildcard” search options as described at www.americanancestors.org/faqs/#Search.

financial responsibilities for people from elsewhere who had no means of support. If someone resided in a New Hampshire town for three months without being warned, then that person was deemed by law to be an inhabitant, and the town would become liable for support. The law provided that, with a warrant from the justice of the peace, people who failed to depart from a town within fourteen days of being warned could be sent from constable to constable until they were returned to the town “where they belonged.”^[15]

The New Hampshire Archives holds seventy-three documents, from 1 February 1722/3 to 16 December 1769, which contain 113 warnings-out records for the town of Portsmouth. All but one document lists only basic information: date of the warrant, date of the warning, and notes.

The Justice of the Peace’s order for the removal of Summers Clark is the only record that specifically documents the forced removal and transportation of someone from Portsmouth. Summers Clark, who resided in town for three months, was ordered to be transported to “where he belonged.” He was delivered to Greenland, New Hampshire, on 31 October 1764 and to Hampton, New Hampshire, on 1 November 1764.^[16]

Newspapers

I compiled newspaper abstracts from 25 May 1776 through 27 December 1800 primarily from the online images in the *Early American Newspapers, Series I 1690–1876* (an external database on www.AmericanAncestors.org), supplemented with newspaper microfilms at the Library of Congress and original newspapers in the Dartmouth College library. The newspaper abstracts are broadly categorized as advertisements, births, deaths, marriages, news, and maritime records. The excerpts are often rich with historic detail, as the following examples show:

- In a series of advertisements between 1778 and 1800, Samuel Bowles offered for sale, at his two shops in Portsmouth and Berwick, Maine, a wide range of goods including leather products, cloth, grocery items, crockery, and West India imports. He also sold items “made by the Portsmouth Manufacturing Society that employs the poor.”^[17]
- Capt. Rich of the *Ruby* arrived at Boston from Calcutta, India, in 1791: “Of her cargo is a considerable quantity of sugars, not produced by the hard toil and sweat of the sable sons of Africa.”^[18]
- Henry Allard, an apprentice between seventeen and eighteen years old with a swarthy complexion and dark brown hair, ran away in November 1786 from Charles Waters, who offered a reward of sixteen bricks for Allard’s return.^[19]
- Mr. George King was married at Patchog [Patchogue], Long Island, to Sally King in 1792. The groom was sixty-six and the bride was twelve years, two months.^[20]
- In 1796, “DIED — At Littleton, Vermont, Mrs. Martha Hall, aged 96, a very noted midwife, she had been at the birth of three thousand children.”^[21]
- Eight members of the brig *Peggy*, from Greenock, Scotland, died on 8 December 1795 when the ship wrecked at Lynn Beach in Massachusetts.^[22]
- Advertisements placed by Josiah Dwight in 1799 noted his pharmacy products “will be sold cheap (considering the unprecedented and still advancing price of Drugs and Medicines).”^[23]

And lest we think that printed genealogical humor is a recent phenomenon, an abstract from a 1788 *New Hampshire Spy* offers “A Burlesque on Genealogy”: “Answered the gate keeper, I can prove my family to have existed before the Deluge. And I mine from Adam, said the Postilion. And I mine before Adam, said the gate keeper. You are right replied the other, the proof is very easy; for before Adam there were no

animals but brutes, and it is certain that you are descended from them.”^[24]

Summary

This new collection on *AmericanAncestors.org* makes eighteenth- and nineteenth-century Portsmouth records more accessible, and helps us gain insight into the lives and times of its people. Life is more than births, marriages, and deaths — and this collection provides a variety of resources that go beyond vital records. Often the information we find is not what we were seeking. The surprise of finding unexpected insights about the people and times adds to the interest and challenge of researching a family history.

Acknowledgments

The assistance of Benoît Pelletier Shoja in helping me understand the history of the transcription of the Portsmouth town records and in making copies of the warnings out is greatly appreciated. I would also like to thank Melinde Lutz Byrne for her encouragement and helpful comments in preparing these abstracts. ♦

Notes

¹ Sean B. Furniss, “The Furniss Family of Portsmouth, New Hampshire, and New York City, New York,” *The New Hampshire Genealogical Record* 38 (1994): 97–107.

² Portsmouth, New Hampshire, State’s Copy of Records of Portsmouth, Vol. 11, 1750–1857, includes Town Records Vol. LL (births 1750–1857), MM (burials 1753–1849), and NN (marriages 1769–1841); FHL microfilm 15289.

³ There is a death record dated 1895, but it appears to be an error for 1805; the next oldest record is an 1863 death, and is the one used for the upper end of the date range.

⁴ Portsmouth, N.H., Town Records 11: 2.

⁵ *Ibid.*, 508–515.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 2.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 186.

⁸ Portsmouth, New Hampshire, State’s Copy of Records of Portsmouth, Vol. 10, Town Records, vol. II Expenses of Overseers of the Poor, 1817–1838; FHL microfilm 15289.

⁹ Portsmouth, N.H., Town Records 10: 317.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 100.



Portsmouth’s Richard Jackson House, built circa 1664, is the oldest surviving wood frame house in New Hampshire. Owned by Historic New England, it is open to the public from June to October. Photographed about 1900. Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, D.C.

¹¹ *Ibid.*, 140.

¹² *Ibid.*, 255.

¹³ *Ibid.*, 44, 45, 56, 70, 79, 97, 105.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*, 105, 140, 285.

¹⁵ Josiah Henry Benton, *Warning Out in New England* (Boston: W. B. Clarke Company, 1911), 88–98.

¹⁶ Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Warnings Out of Town, 1722/3–1769, unnumbered loose pages, warrant for Summers Clark, 31 October 1764, New Hampshire State Archives, Concord.

¹⁷ *New Hampshire Spy*, 29 December 1789, 75.

¹⁸ *Ibid.*, 13 July 1791, 91.

¹⁹ *Ibid.*, 5 December 1786, 49.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 29 December 1792, 3.

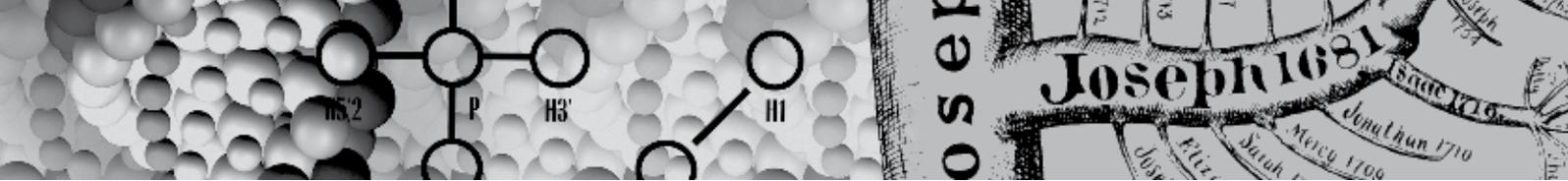
²¹ *Oracle of the Day*, 8 September 1796, 3.

²² *Ibid.*, 16 December 1795, 3.

²³ *Federal Observer*, 23 May 1799, 3.

²⁴ “A Burlesque on Genealogy” (translated from the French), *New Hampshire Spy*, 8 January 1788, 1.

SEAN FURNISS has spent more than thirty years researching his New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and Irish ancestors. He can be contacted at Sean.Furniss@gmail.com.



GENETICS & GENEALOGY

Chasing Harrimans through Y-DNA

by F. Stephen Gauss

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO THE HARRIMAN FAMILY Association was founded to identify descendants of Leonard and John Harriman, purportedly brothers who came from Cumberland, England, in 1638 and settled in Rowley, Massachusetts, and New Haven, Connecticut.^[1] In the nineteenth century, Amos Hadley claimed that “this Leonard was the ancestor of all the Harrimans in New England”;^[2] John’s descendants lived in New Jersey. The surname appears in different forms within even the same family; Harriman, Herriman, Harryman, etc. We have accumulated a database of more than 60,000 persons, but not all Harrimans can be properly assigned a lineage. The progenitors of a John Harryman in Maryland records in the 1690s are unknown and the agnate ancestor of the Harrimans of New York, who include the railroad tycoon E. H. Harriman and his son Averell, arrived near the end of the eighteenth century.

Knowing that Y-DNA testing might suggest that Leonard and John were indeed brothers, in 2006 we began a surname group through *familytreedna.com*. We first concentrated on association members who had well-documented lineages, and then tested those with more uncertain descents.

Leonard Harriman of Rowley, Massachusetts

Leonard¹ Harriman (ca. 1621–1691) had three sons, Matthew² (the more prolific by almost four to one),

Jonathan², and John² (this last died at “Bloody Brook” in Deerfield). Five known descendants of Matthew² have been tested to 37 markers and match on 36 out of 37, differing only on #458. Two descendants of Jonathan² from two of his sons match on 36 out of 37 markers, with a difference of one on marker CDYb. The descendants of Matthew² and Jonathan² show a consistent difference on both #390 and #607 of only one.

One Matthew descendant has a marker value of 14 for #607; #390 may distinguish the two brothers. All test descendants of Leonard belong to haplogroup R1b1a2.

John Harriman of New Haven, Connecticut

John Harriman (ca. 1623–1683) settled in New Haven, Connecticut, and his descendants lived largely in New Jersey. The one tested descendant matches the five descendants of Leonard at 35 out of 37 markers. Interestingly, #390 matches Matthew², whereas #607 matches Jonathan².

Lois Ware Thurston’s 1996 *Register* article argues compellingly that Leonard and John were children of Matthew^A Harriman of Uldale, Cumberland, England, based largely on the onomastic repetition of first names Matthew, Leonard, and John, in both the English and American families. Local parish registers do not cover the birth years of Leonard or John and no will has been found for Matthew^A.^[3] DNA testing adds supporting evidence, however, and may also be used

Y-DNA test results		DYS393	DYS390	DYS19	DYS391	DYS385	DYS426	DYS388	DYS439	DDYS389I	DYS392	DYS389II	DYS458
	Haplogroup												
John Harriman	R1b1a2	13	25	14	11	11–14	12	12	13	13	13	29	18
Leonard Harriman	R1b1a2	13	25	14	11	11–14	12	12	13	13	13	29	18
John Harryman of Baltimore (Group 1)	R1b1a2	13	23	14	11	11–15	12	12	11	13	13	29	18
John Harryman of Baltimore (Group 2)	I1	13	22	15	10	13–15	11	14	11	12	11	28	15

For further results, please visit www.familytreedna.com/public/harriman.

to help place less well-documented Harriman descendants within the American progeny of Matthew^A.

One test subject is thought to descend from Craig Herriman (b. ca.

1812) of Ontario, whose parents are unknown.^[4] The match is 33 of 37 markers to Jonathan² Harriman. Several attempts to connect Craig to the immigrants Leonard and John have failed, but DNA results imply a connection.

John Harryman of Baltimore County, Maryland

Leonard's third son, John², died in 1675 in the battle at "Bloody Brook" in Deerfield, Massachusetts.^[5] A few accounts suggest that John² left a wife and child, but no corresponding marriage or birth appears in local vital records. Some researchers think that the child of John² founded the Maryland Harryman family. We tested five presumed descendants of this John Harryman of Baltimore County. Two match each other perfectly on 37 markers. Two others match on 36 out of 37 markers (the difference is on marker #449). But the two pairs *do not match each other* — the first is haplotype R1b1a2 and the second is haplotype I1.

The above-mentioned first pair of Maryland Harrymans share a Most Recent Common Ancestor (MRCA) three generations ago. The second pair (if their hypothesized lineages are correct) share an ancestor ten generations ago — to two sons of the first John Harryman of Baltimore County. However, much of the second pair's lineages cannot be confirmed. More research on the Maryland family and more test subjects are needed.

A fifth subject — shown as Subject 3 — has tested only twelve markers, but they do not match any of the other results. Even the haplotype does not match pairs 1 or 2. The fifth subject's lineage is not well documented. None of these five Maryland-derived subjects has any close match to the New England Harrimans.

Other Harrimans

Another subject with the Harriman surname also does not match the Leonard/John pattern, despite a well-documented lineage to Matthew² (Leonard¹). However,

	Haplogroup	Gen 2	Gen 3	Gen 4	Gen 5	Gen 6	Gen 7
Pair 1	R1b1a2	John	Charles	Elijah	Charles	Harvey	William
Pair 1	R1b1a2	John	Charles	Elijah	Charles	Harvey	Roscoe
Pair 2	I1	John	Charles	Charles	Charles	Thomas	Ira
Pair 2	I1	George	George	William	William	Joshua	Thomas
Subject 3	G2a	John	Charles	Charles	Charles	Thomas	Ira

Six tested generations of supposed sons of John Harryman of Baltimore

this subject's 37 markers match perfectly with many participants in the Stiles Y-DNA family project. A Stiles progenitor lived in Rowley at the same time as Leonard¹ Harriman. This Harriman line then moved to Haverhill and New Hampshire, while the Stiles family remained in nearby Boxford and Topsfield for several generations. These results seem to indicate a non-paternity event and research is underway to establish the connection.

We continue to look for male Harrimans — particularly descendants of John of New Haven and William of New York — and can help fund the testing of suitable subjects. ♦

Notes

¹ Lois Ware Thurston, *The Harriman Family: Research in Progress* (The Harriman Family Association, 1992) and www.harriman-family.org.

² Amos Hadley, *The Life of Walter Harriman* (Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin and Co., 1888), 3.

³ Lois Ware Thurston, "The English Ancestry of Leonard¹ Harriman of Rowley, Massachusetts and John¹ Harriman of New Haven, Connecticut," *Register* 150 (1996):29–47.

⁴ Craig Herryman lived in Ontario, Canada. The 1842 census (in Grand River, Ontario) lists him as a Canadian native of British origin; the death record of his son Thomas gives "father's birthplace" as the U.S.

⁵ George M. Bodge, "Soldiers in King Philip's War," *Register* 38 (1884):335; also see George M. Bodge, *Soldiers in King Philip's War* (Leominster, Mass., 1896).

F. STEPHEN GAUSS, a retired astronomer, has researched his family history for more than thirty-five years. He is administrator of the Harriman Y-DNA project and newsletter editor and webmaster for the Harriman Family Association. His own Gauss Y-DNA test has turned up no matches. He can be reached at newsletter@harriman-family.org.



MANUSCRIPTS AT NEHGS

Serving our Members: Manuscript Reference Services at NEHGS

by Judith Lucey

AS ARCHIVISTS AT NEHGS, TIM SALLS AND I WEAR many hats. We oversee acquisitions, arrange collections, and preserve and catalog materials, but as reference archivists we can see the true fruits of our labor. Our rewards come in personal encounters at the reference desk, or via long distance by phone or email as we connect patrons to the many treasures in our Special Collections — when we witness a member's excitement at discovering a letter written by an ancestor or receive a simple thank-you that details how our manuscripts advanced someone's research. Serving the patrons who use our resources is the most important function of the department.

At large institutions, reference duties and collections processing are stand-alone functions performed by separate individuals with little overlap, and someone who processes collections may have little or no contact with the public. Because we have a small staff, Tim and I are involved in every step, from picking up a collection at a donor's home through all phases of preparation to placing it on the shelf for use. This level of involvement helps us develop in-depth knowledge of our collections and translates to better reference service for our patrons. Because of our "hands-on" approach, we get to know our users and what they are seeking. This helps us to prepare descriptions for catalog records and collection guides. We try to include the descriptive terms genealogists want — names, dates, and geographical locations. We'll mention whether a compiled genealogy includes allied and collateral lines, and list those surnames as either subject headings or in the descriptive content note. My daily interaction with genealogists at the reference desk has made me a

better cataloger. And because Tim and I have researched our own family histories, we have experienced both sides of the reference desk.

Access to manuscripts at NEHGS is a benefit of membership, and most users are family historians researching their ancestry. Members are often looking to fill in blanks on a family tree by, perhaps, seeking to identify the unknown parentage of an ancestor or the elusive maiden name of a female ancestor. In some cases, they may have exhausted all online and published sources and are coming to us as a "last resort." The most frequently requested items are Bible, church, and town records, cemetery transcriptions, and compiled genealogies. Large genealogical collections which focus on a specific surname, which often extend beyond a specific location, are also requested regularly. The compiler may have accumulated information on individuals with the same surname across the United States, helping trace migrations from New England to upstate New York, Ohio, Michigan, and beyond.

In addition to members, we also see visiting scholars — historians, Ph.D candidates, and curators from museums and other cultural institutions who consult our manuscripts for their research. These scholars often use less frequently requested items — account books, diaries, commonplace books, ministers' records, sermons, and collections of historical documents.

We're always pleased and proud to find that someone has cited material from our collection, or to see our images and documents published in journals and books. NEHGS recently published one of our own manuscripts, Mss 219, Hannah Mather Crocker's, *Reminiscences and Traditions of Boston: Being*



Horace P. Tuttle with the Bowditch Comet Seeker, 1861. Mss 187. Image published in The Antiquarian Astronomer, January 2012.

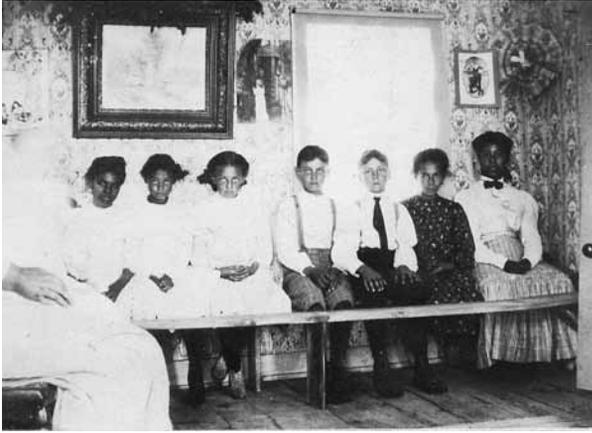


Image from the NEHGS Digital Archive. Schoolchildren on Malaga Island, Maine, 1906–07, from the Capt. Lane scrapbook, Mss A 1900.

an *Account of the Original Proprietors of that Town, & the Manners and Customs of its People*, edited by Eileen Hunt Botting and Sarah Houser of the University of Notre Dame. Authors will sometimes send us copies of their published works with images from our collection. Recently we received the January 2012 issue of *The Antiquarian Astronomer*, a journal of the Society for the History of Astronomy, from Richard E. Schmidt of the U.S. Naval Observatory in Washington, D.C., who consulted the Charles Wesley Tuttle Papers (Mss 187) for his article, “The Tuttle of Harvard College Observatory: 1850–1862.” In addition to genealogy, Mr. Tuttle had an avid interest in astronomy, as did several family members, and in 1851 Charles W. Tuttle was appointed Second Assistant Observer at the Harvard College Observatory. We provided Mr. Schmidt with two images from the collection.

Members and visitors come from all over the world to use our collections. As this article goes to press, I am preparing materials for visitors from the University of Turku in Finland, who are researching “Recorders of the Salem Witch Trial,” and seeking original documents from approximately 1650 to 1720. These researchers are trying to identify more than 150 individuals whose handwriting appears in documents from the trials. During their visit they will consult the military documents from the John Hill Papers (Mss 1055) and a 1692 letter from Cotton Mather to Samuel Sewall (Mss C 2007). These late seventeenth-century documents contain the signatures of some of those involved in the trials, including Isaac Addington Jr., Sir William Phips, and Cotton Mather.

Helpful tips for accessing manuscripts at NEHGS

We often receive questions from patrons about how to locate and use manuscripts at NEHGS. Since provid-

ing access is central to the department’s core mission, here are a few suggestions to help you plan a visit to the library:

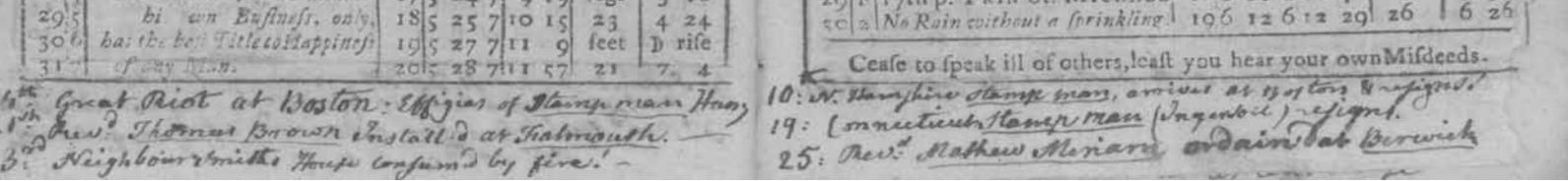
- The online catalog record at <http://library.nehgs.org> serves as the gateway to our material, and can provide a summary of a single manuscript item or an entire collection. We also have a published guide to the collection available in our library, which can be purchased online at www.americanancestors.org/store.
- We are available to researchers during the normal library operating hours, Tuesday through Saturday, including Wednesday evenings. Manuscript items are housed in closed stacks, so you will need to “page” the material by filling out a call slip at the 5th floor reference desk, Tuesday through Friday. You may request manuscripts on floor 5a on Saturdays, and from the 6th floor on Wednesday evenings.
- Photocopying of material is at the discretion of the archivist, and only the archivist can make copies. However, we make every attempt to try to copy as much material as possible. We will not photocopy an entire collection if it consists of a box or more of material. Seventeenth- and eighteenth-century original documents will also not be photocopied. We encourage patrons to use digital cameras (no flash, please!). Paper copies are 25 cents per page.

Providing access to our collections to those who live at a distance is always a challenge, but not impossible. Some of our material — including many cemetery transcriptions — have been digitized and can be found in our online databases. We have many small manuscript items, often only a single page, and our digital archive, available through our library catalog, allows members remote access to items such as Bible and family records, seventeenth- and eighteenth-century documents, some finding aids to large collections, and our newest addition, NEHGS membership forms, 1845–1884. For more in-depth manuscript research needs, members may contact our Research Services department.

Original sources can enrich your genealogical research and add history to the names and dates on your family tree, so I encourage you to talk to the archival staff about your family history. “Chatting up the archivist” can be a valuable way to learn about our resources. Many “hidden gems” within collections may not show up in a catalog record, and we’d like to help you find them.

For more information about Special Collections, please visit www.AmericanAncestors.org/special-collections. ♦

JUDITH LUCEY is archivist at NEHGS.



DIARIES AT NEHGS

An Excerpt from “Inklings of Belknap Street Sabbath School, Vol. 1,” by Josiah Freeman Bumstead, 1834

by Robert Shaw

THIS DIARY RECORDS JOSIAH FREEMAN BUMSTEAD’S experiences as the white superintendent of an African-American “Sabbath School” in Boston. The Belknap Street Church, later known as the First African Baptist Church, the First Independent Baptist Church, and the African Meeting House, was built in 1806 on Boston’s Beacon Hill, then the heart of the city’s African American community. In 1832, William Lloyd Garrison founded the New England Anti-Slavery Society there. The African Meeting House is the oldest black church building still standing in the United States, and is part of The Museum of African American History (www.maah.org).

Josiah Freeman Bumstead was born in Boston on February 10, 1797, son of Josiah and Abigail (Baker) Bumstead. Josiah’s mother died in 1798; his father, Josiah, remarried on March 14, 1799, Mary Greenleaf (possibly Greenough) Andrews. Josiah Freeman Bumstead was married in Boston on July 21, 1823, to Lucy D. Willis (b. 1804; d. Boston, September 18, 1886), and the couple had four children who died young and four children who lived to adulthood (Freeman Josiah Bumstead, b. 1826; Laura Willis [Bumstead] Tuckerman, b. 1830; Nathaniel Willis Bumstead, b. 1834; and Horace Bumstead, b. 1841).

Josiah was in business with his father as an upholsterer, paper stainer, and importer of paper hangings, and was listed as a merchant in the 1850 census. Josiah Freeman Bumstead died in Boston on August 24, 1868.

Bumstead’s diary, cataloged Mss A 5042, was donated to NEHGS on August 4, 1972, by Richard G. Wight of Duxbury, Massachusetts. It covers the first six months of 1834; the excerpt presented is from January. Note: The excerpt has been edited only for clarity.

Sources: *Dexter’s Memoranda of the Town of Boston* (online database: AmericanAncestors.org, *New England Historic Genealogical Society*, 2008); *Boston, MA: Marriages, 1700–1809* (online database: AmericanAncestors.org, *New England Historic Genealogical Society*, 2006), originally published as: Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston, Containing the Boston Marriages from 1700 to 1751, vol. 28 (*Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1898*), and Records Relating to the Early History of Boston, Containing Boston Marriages from 1752 to 1809, vol. 30 (*Boston: Municipal Printing Office, 1903*); *U.S. census records; Massachusetts VRs on AmericanAncestors.org*; and Hazel P. Brook, “The Bumstead Family,” Mss A 4961, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, NEHGS.

Jan^y. 1, 1834. I received a note from Mr Chas. Stoddard informing me of my being chosen Superintendent of the African S.S. in Belknap St.

Sabbath after, Jan 5. I visited the school in the morning & had some conversation with some of the teachers, principally with Mr Sweetser. At the time they did not seem to know me, or my object, until perhaps Mr Quincy informed them. The lesson this morning was the second Comdt. Mr. Sweetser acted as Supdt.

Sabbath Jan. 12. I arrived at the school room abt 20 min before 9. Room not open. Presently Mr Sweetser came along. He obtained the key & opened the door. He & another teacher, Mr. Putnam, made the fire. Room dirty. I opened the school with reading

the Psalm beginning with “The Lord is my shepherd.” Singing the morning hymn — & called on Mr Sweetser to lead in prayer. Lesson today is Luke 12. 41-48. P.M. I led in the prayer at the opening exercise, previous to which the afternoon Hymn was sung. It took some time to bring the school to perfect stillness previous to the prayer. I waited however until it was still altho’ the teachers looked wondering what I waited for.

The children come in during the devotional exercises.

They stand in prayer & in singing. No singing books – only cards with 3 or 4 Hymns.

Some of the female teachers had no scholars. The weather today unfavorable.

In the morning, Mr Bigelow, voice was much too

loud. Mr Jas. Leach, visited the school in the morning and I am inclined to think he would be willing to take charge of this school.

There is an Infant class in an adjoining room. They come in, in the afternoon & join in the closing exercise. There is also I understand a Bible Class in the church above.

The room this afternoon was excessively hot. Some boys came before the time & filled the stove with wood. This should not be.

In the afternoon I called the attention of the school about half an hour before the close. I read about the Choctaw girl from Youth's Comp. On the day she died this was her prayer

"Uba Anka Ma".

"My father above, open the door and let me in."

Just before she died she said, "The door is open, I am going in".

Mr. Sweetser having said to me that he had heard something about a boy who had been in the school

twice & who has just been taken up for stealing two fur caps — I requested him to take some notice and make some remark as he appeared desirous of doing so.

After this, I added a few words & read from the little tract "Be sure Your Sin will find you out". This sentence I particularly requested them to remember. I told them I should inquire.

I read about the man who was found out by having a hole in his shoe. Also the boy who robbed an orchard and dropped his handkerchief.

I forgot this afternoon to give notice respecting the lesson for next sabbath. I gave notice of a teachers meeting to be held at my house tomorrow evening to commence at 7. o'clk & continue one hour.

Names of teachers from Mr. Putnam, Librarian's books

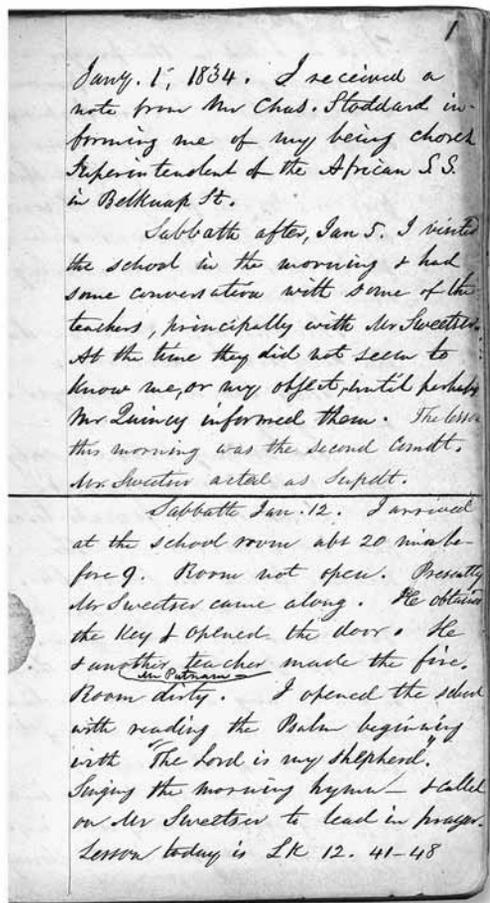
David Carver –
John W. Quincy
Edward M. Putnam
Amos G. Bartlett
Isaac Skinner
John Field
Henry Bigelow
Jared A Joy [in pencil]: Left in Dec
H. B. Sweetser [in pencil]: do Jan^y —

Mary Stevens
Sarah Putnam
Hannah Putnam
Catharine Jenkins
Nancy Wilder
Sarah Kendall.
Harriett J. Putnam.
Ann Giddings
Lucy Richards.
Emmeline Lock
√Anna B. Parker
Eunice H. Howe [in pencil]: Left 2 m^o ago –
√Almira Bowker
Harriet Grew [in pencil]: Left
Hannah Obrien
S. French.
Mary Grew.

Monday eve'g. Jan 13. The following met at my house.

Sweetser
Field
Bartlett
Carver
Bigelow
Quincy

Lincoln a new teacher who is to take Mr Sweetser's class. he being about leaving for Newburyport.



A page from "Inklings of Belknap Street Sabbath School, Vol. 1."

The above with myself make 9 males [*and*] 3 females, viz Miss Kendall, Miss Richards, Miss King.

All the exercises were short. I read first Luke 11, 1-13. Singing 4 or 5 times. Prayers by Bartlett, Quincy, Sweetser & myself. Some conversation. A very pleasant meeting on the whole.

The walking was exceedingly slippery or doubtless there would have been more present.

Thursday evng Jany 16 – was in May St. Stopped at a grocery to inquire where a person lived.

A colored boy about 10 yrs old came in with a mug. [*He said*]: ‘I want a half pint Gin 2 cent’s worth cigars -- good large ones!’ — The man went & got the half pint of Gin & 2 cigars. He went out & I went out at the same time. I asked him what his name was – “Chas Robinson” —

Do you go to Sab. Sch.?

Yes. Where? In Centre St. I told him to tell his father about the Lecture that was to be tomorrow even at the Chapel in B. Street by Mr Frost & ask his father to go.

Friday Jan 17. Attended the Lect. by Mr Frost. Not many there. Understood that there had been some deficiency in giving notice. There is to be another ~~tomorrow~~ or on ~~Monday~~ Tuesday eveg — They obtained 38 names —

The chapel is a very good looking place.

As one way to promote punctuality & constant attendance, how would it do in the afternoon to read the names of those who have been so during the day?

I have procured a bell for the use of the supdt. in calling the school to order.

Saturday Eve. By the Paper this evg. J. M. Plantain & J H Jackson have been sentenced for stealing clothes in Doct Flagg’s house. Plantain to S. Prison for 6 years.

Sab. Jan. 19. I arrived at school 20 min. before 9. At 15. before 9. present [*were*] Putnam and myself — 2 boys & 1 girl. Bartlett came in two minutes after. Fire was made before I came. I read the lesson Luke 13, 23-27. Singing morning Hymn. Mr. Bigelow prayed. A boy put into the stove a part of the Testament. Spoke to the boys about saving every morsel of the Bible.

I am inclined to think that the scholars generally do not commit the lesson to memory.

Present. $\frac{1}{4}$ before 10

4 male teachers beside myself

7 female

13 boys 15 girls. not including Infant class.

P.M. I came to the school 10 min. before 1. – 25 min before the time – Met 2 boys in the alley — “There’s master” s^d one – as I passed them they bowed.

In the school was Johnson who was there early in the morning – He had put some wood into the stove, notwithstanding I told him not to in the morning.

I came early this afternoon to ascertain in regard to the children’s coming at so early an hour & making a noise.

One of the female teachers spoke to me this morning about Bible Class which has been held in the Chapel above. She mentioned that the class wished to meet in this room as they have done I told her I thought it desirable that they should especially while there is sufficient room.

Mr Brewer came in this p.m. to get one of the Record Books to aid him in amending his report.

He stated that the room was too warm for him. He mentioned about the practice of Mr Quincy in using physical force discipline – disapproving it entirely. He said in regard to obtaining order & silence when he addressed the school, he used to wait before he began until the school was silent. Sometimes it would be perhaps 5 minutes.

I read to the school from the Youth’s Comp. about the man’s questioning the boy with a wheelbarrow of chips. Do you think you have a soul? &c

Reviewed what I read last sab. about the Choctaw Indian. Made some remarks about the lesson.

Told them about my seeing a little colored boy at the grocery, buying a $\frac{1}{2}$ pt Gin. Gave notice about the meeting Tuesday eve’g next –

Gave out the lesson & particularly requested all to commit to memory at least one verse, the first.

I found more difficulty in obtaining their attention today than I did last sabbath – Some large boys were unruly – After school they made some little disturbance, two boys quarreled.

The teacher of the infant class sent in for me. I went in, found 13 children. quite decent & orderly they answered some questions by the teacher. Then I said a few words about the Choctaw Indian girl.

There must be some things attended to by the male teachers to obtain order —

When Supdt. addresses the school teachers should have all the books put aside — cards should not be in their hands only when singing.

I think it would be an improvement to be seated while at prayer & singing. Eyes shut & hands folded.

When I called upon the children to close their eyes, they appeared to have been unused to it.

Teachers should also see that hats & caps are put out of the way.

How would it do to remove the larger boys or all of them farther in the room so as to be nearer the supdts desk?

One boy mentioned that he never comes in the morning because he has to go to the shop. (boot black I suppose)

Boys must not be allowed to come too early – & especially not to come in after the school is dismissed & make a disturbance.

Teachers must be punctual. This is of the first importance.

Door should be closed during devotional exercises.

They giggled (some of them) when I mentioned about the boy who bought the ½ pint Gin.

How would it do to consider 9 o,clk the time to

commence Sab. morning and be precisely punctual?

☞ In questioning the school I think it would be well some times ^at least^ to confine my questions to the girls – for a time. or to a single class of boys, and require the rest of the school to be perfectly still during that time.

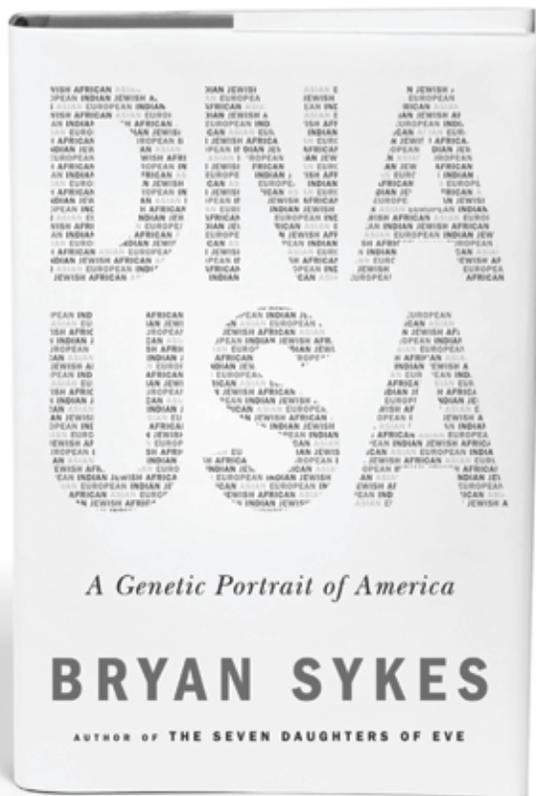
Some one must be hired to sweep the room Saturday afternoon.

No boy should be allowed to have his hat on in the school.

Reading in public by the scholars will be a good exercise perhaps to begin with in acquiring confidence – better perhaps than answering questions. Begin with a part of the school.

The focus of this 250-page diary continues with the Sabbath School and its activities and scholars, constantly reflecting on how to improve them. ♦

ROBERT SHAW is assistant archivist at NEHGS and assistant editor for AMERICAN ANCESTORS.



**“A MILESTONE BOOK GUARANTEED TO IGNITE SPIRITED DISCUSSION.”
—BOOKLIST**

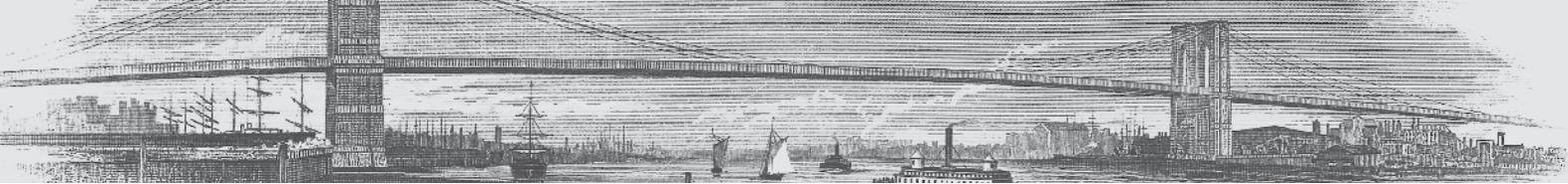
“How did European genes appear in the DNA of Native Americans some 10,000 years ago . . . ? And why does the southwestern Hispanic population contain genes typically found in Jewish people? Ultimately, Sykes suggests, the country is an even richer human mix than we thought.” —NATURE MAGAZINE

“SYKES’S HISTORY OF HIDDEN KINSHIPS AND EPIC WANDERINGS CAPTURES THE IMAGINATION.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

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FOCUS ON NEW YORK

Appreciating the New York State Census

by Henry B. Hoff

ONE OF THE BRIGHT ASPECTS OF RESEARCH IN NEW York is the New York State census. Taken every ten years from 1825 to 1925,^[1] the state census provides remarkably valuable information, especially when combined with research in the Federal census and other sources.

Just like the Federal census, the state census questions changed every ten years. With the 1855 census, New York pulled ahead of the Federal census in asking genealogically important questions. Since many books and articles provide the details of what questions were asked on each state census,^[2] this article will concentrate on giving useful examples of how the 1855 and/or the 1865 censuses were essential for genealogy.

The three questions in the 1855 and 1865 state censuses, not found in the 1850 or 1860 Federal censuses, that provide the most useful information are:

- Relationship to head of household,
- County of birth, if born in New York State, and
- How long a resident of the city or town.

State censuses are often not indexed, but they are well worth searching for the families in which you are interested. Some 1855 and 1865 censuses have been indexed by county genealogical societies or even published in full, either in paper, on CD-ROM, or online. *New York State Censuses & Substitutes* (see note 1) and county websites are good places to begin. Unindexed images of the 1865 census are on *FamilySearch.org*.

Relationships

Although I have been using the state census for many years, it had usually been a supplement to my research until I made this upstate New York discovery, starting with the following:^[3]

1850 census of Genoa, Cayuga County:
Asa Crocker, age 57, born Massachusetts
Prudence ", age 47, born New York
Austin ", age 17, born New York
Irving ", age 10, born New York
(rest of household omitted)

From other research I knew that Asa's first wife Huldah died in 1838, so it looked as if Huldah was the

mother of Austin Crocker, and that Prudence, the second wife, was the mother of Irving. In the 1860 census of Genoa, Irving — but not Austin — was included in the household of Asa Crocker.

Imagine my surprise when I looked at the 1855 state census of Genoa and found:

Asa Crocker, age 62, born Massachusetts, head of household, resident 50 years
Prudence Crocker, age 52, born Greene County, wife, resident 17 years
Austin G. Foster, age 21, born Onondaga County, adopted, resident 17 years
Irving Crocker, age 15, born Cayuga County, child, resident 15 years.
(rest of household omitted)

This listing told me that Austin might be Asa's stepson, the child of Prudence's previously unknown first marriage to a Mr. Foster, as was also suggested by the 1865 state census questions about marriages: both Asa and Prudence are shown as having been married twice.^[4] I already knew that Prudence was born in Greene County, and that her family moved to Onondaga County about 1810.

Name as evidence of relationship

In the nineteenth century it was not unusual for people to tamper with their names, especially reversing first and middle names. This behavior was a valuable clue in the 1855 census, as follows:

1850 census, Kingsbury, Washington County:^[5]

Alonzo W. Griffin, age 2, born New York, was in the household of Shimuel Griffin

1855 census, Kingsbury:^[6]

Wilsey A. Griffin, age 7, born Washington County, child, resident 7 years, was in the household of Shimuel Griffin

1860 census, Kingsbury:^[7]

Alonzo W. Griffin, age 12, born New York, was in the household of Shimuel Griffin

The 1855 census entry for Wilsey A. Griffin supported the probability that his mother Marcena was born Marcena Wilsey.^[8]

Place of birth

A recent article in *The American Genealogist* reminds us that in genealogy time and place are everything: “[T]he origin of this family has always been a puzzle, until a critical clue was found in the 1855 New York State Census. There, in the household of W. H. Haswell of Bethlehem, Albany County, New York, is Arthur Haswell, aged 23, born in Ohio, having lived in Albany County for just 2 months.”^[9]

Similarly, a “crucial breakthrough” was found in the 1855 census of Brooklyn, Kings County, for a recent article in *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*. That census reported that John B. Webb, age 55, was born in Suffolk County.^[10]

The 1855 census may also give good leads for where to find families in the 1850 Federal census. In a *Genealogical Journal* article, David Paul Davenport gives an example of a family that had lived in Albany only a year, with children born in New York and Richmond counties. From the ages and places of birth of the children, he was readily able to find the family’s 1850 census entry.^[11]

As with the Federal census, a few census takers gave extra information, typically a more specific place of birth than required. For example, the 1855 census of Schenectady County includes the following entries:^[12]

- Mary Cillamon, age 5, born Cohoes [instead of Albany County]
- Mary Squires, age 30, born Delhi [instead of Delaware County]
- Adolph R. Vand. Moore, age 39, born Hague [instead of Holland]

Non-population schedules

Non-population schedules may be as valuable as the census questions described above. The 1855, 1865, and 1875 state censuses have separate schedules for marriages and deaths that occurred within the preceding twelve months. Oddly, names are omitted for those schedules for 1855; however, this problem can be overcome using age, gender, and other information.^[13] The 1865 state census asks about “Deaths of Officers and Enlisted Men which occurred . . . since April 1861,” for soldiers or sailors in the Civil War. These questions are more numerous and detailed than those for deaths within the preceding twelve months.

Additional information

As shown above, some census takers reported town of birth instead of county of birth. Some went even further. In the Sixth Ward of Albany in 1855, the census taker frequently gave the maiden names of wives.^[14] In Brookhaven, Suffolk County, in 1865 one census

taker gave the maiden name of widows.^[15] We could not reasonably ask for more! ♦

Notes

¹ No New York State census was taken in 1885, but an abbreviated census was taken in 1892 (though not in 1895). To some extent, the 1892 census compensates for the loss of the 1890 Federal census.

² Among the best of these are William Dollarhide, *New York State Censuses & Substitutes* (Bountiful, Utah: Heritage Creations, 2005); David Paul Davenport, “The State Censuses of New York, 1825–1875,” *Genealogical Journal* 14:4 (Winter 1985–86):172–97; and Joseph M. Silinonte, “State Censuses for New York City, 1855–1925,” *The Irish At Home and Abroad* 3:2 (1995/96):82–86.

³ Henry B. Hoff, “Stephen Horton of Hebron, Conn., and Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N.Y.: Establishing an Edward Fuller Line,” *Mayflower Descendant* 58:1 (Winter 2009):1–10.

⁴ 1865 New York State Census, 1st Election District, Genoa, Cayuga County, p. 27, dwelling 215, family 216.

⁵ 1850 U.S. Census, Kingsbury, Washington County, New York, roll 610, p. 236.

⁶ 1865 New York State Census, 2nd Election District, Kingsbury, dwelling 177, family 197.

⁷ 1860 U.S. Census, Kingsbury, roll 875, p. 614.

⁸ Abbott Lowell Cummings, “Revolutionary War Captain Cornelius Wiltsie of Pittstown, New York,” *American Ancestors Journal: Annual Supplement to The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 163 (Oct. 2009):353–67; 164 (Oct. 2010):363–77, at 164:371 n. 144.

⁹ Todd A. Farmerie, “William A. Haswell of Tuscarawas County, Ohio: A Scion of the Albany, New York, Haswell family,” *The American Genealogist* 85:1 (Jan. 2011):37–43 at 38.

¹⁰ Morrison DeSoto Webb, “Correctly Identifying John, Youngest Son of Thomas Webb (1754–1819) of Southold, Suffolk County, New York, and Updating Thomas Webb’s Family,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 142 (Oct. 2011):245–59 at 245n, 247–48.

¹¹ Davenport, “State Censuses of New York, 1825–1875” [note 2] *Genealogical Journal* 14:4:182–83, 197.

¹² David Paul Davenport, *1855 Census of Schenectady County, New York: An Index* (Rhinebeck, N.Y.: Kinship, 1989), 52, 82.

¹³ Roger D. Joslyn, “Nameless Deaths and Marriages in the 1855 New York State Census,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 12:4 (Fall 2001):41–42.

¹⁴ David Paul Davenport, “Wives’ Maiden Names in 1855 Albany Sixth Ward,” *The Capital* 3:2 (1988):65–71 through 5:1 (1990): 23.

¹⁵ Alycon Trubey Pierce, “Update: More Praise for Census ‘Errors,’” *National Genealogical Society Quarterly* 82 (Sept. 1994):216–20 at 219.

HENRY B. HOFF, CG, FASG, is editor of the Register.

FAMILY FOCUS

GENEALOGIES IN PROGRESS

Please refer to page 57 for submission guidelines.

GENEALOGIES RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Bowen

Richard Bowen (1594?–1675) of Rehoboth, Massachusetts, and His Descendants. Volume 1, Generations 1–3. William B. Saxbe Jr., CG, FASG (Hope, R.I.: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2011). Hardcover, xii + 353 pp., illustrated, bibliography, index of names and places, Register format. Includes five-generation genealogies of Robert¹ Wheaton, Robert¹ Fuller, and George¹ Kendrick, each of whom married a daughter of Richard¹ Bowen. \$35 for RIGS members (\$2.45 sales tax for R.I. residents); \$39 for non-members (\$2.73 sales tax for R.I. residents); \$4.95 S&H for first book, \$1 for each additional. Available from RIGS Books, P.O. Box 211, Hope, RI 02831.

Lavoie

Genealogy of Andrea (Lavoie) Hogan (1907–2002) of Nashua, N.H. and her Ancestors from Nashua and Quebec, Canada, James Francis Hogan (Nashua, N.H.: the author, 2012). Hardcover, 3-ring binder, 618 pp. Illustrations. A genealogy with biographies of seven Lavoies, four Decelles, one Charron, one Grenier, and one Hogan. Includes an 1860 ancestral chart of Andrea's forebears, extending to seventeenth-century France. There is an outline descent tree list with about 100 names. \$42, plus \$10.95 shipping. Available from James Hogan, 51 Pine Hill Ave., Nashua, NH 03064; 613-882-5687.

Nason

Descendants of Abraham and Lydia (Lombard) Nason of Standish, Maine, Douglas W. Chase (Indianapolis, Ind.: Dog Ear Publishing,

2012). Softcover, iv + 487 pp. Index. Documents the descendants of Abraham and Lydia (Lombard) Nason for six generations, with summary genealogies of the ancestry of both, footnoted and indexed. Identifies more than 600 Nason descendants in more than 300 households. The book is print-on-demand, available through book retailers and online sources such as Amazon.com. \$36.95. Contact the author at nasongenealogy@yahoo.com.

Nason

Richard Nason in New England, vol. 1 Descendants of John² Nason, Douglas W. Chase (Indianapolis, Ind.: Dog Ear Publishing, 2011). Hardcover, iv + 628 pp. Index. This first volume in an anticipated series on the descendants of Richard¹ Nason of Kittery, Maine, documents 10 generations of descendants through his son, John Nason, footnoted and indexed. It identifies more than 800 Nason individuals in 443 family groups. The book is print-on-demand, available through book retailers and online sources such as Amazon.com. \$58.95. Contact the author at nasongenealogy@yahoo.com.

Pittsinger (Petzinger)

John Pittsinger (Johannes Petzinger) and His Descendants, the Story of a Hessian Soldier and an American Farmer, Virginia Leeds Pittsinger Shafer, (Hartford, Michigan, self published, 2011). Hardcover, 704 pp., indexed, illustrated. The book contains the genealogy and life stories of John Pittsinger and his sons, John, Jr., William and Jonathan, and their descendants to 2011. \$50, \$10 shipping. Available from the author at Shafer@cybersol.com.

Theinert/Theunert

Forever Cousins – Eight Generations of the Theinert Family, Gail Theinert Harris and Rebecca Baker Thomas (Charleston, S.C.: CreateSpace, 2012). Softcover, 520 pp., photos, Appendixes, chart. This book documents eight generations of the descendants of Johann Karl Gottlieb Theunert and Johanna Rosalie Mennig, emigrants from Prussia (1853) to the United States. \$26.95. Available from Amazon.com. For more information, please visit www.greenerpasture.com/genes/forever_cousins.asp.

OTHER BOOKS & CDs RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Acadian/Cajun history

Cajun by Any Other Name: Recovering the Lost History of a Family and a People, Marie Rundquist (West Conshohocken, Penn.: Infinity Publishing, 2012). Softcover, 166 pp. Photos and references. Readers can follow Rundquist's Acadian ancestors, whose lives were shattered by a forced expulsion from Nova Scotia in 1755, to the present day. Available from Barnes & Noble and Infinity Publishing.

Connecticut

Connecticut Town Meeting Records During the American Revolution, Jolene Roberts Mullen (Westminster, Md.: Heritage Books, 2011). Softcover, Volume I: vii + 742 pp.; Volume II: vi + 803 pp. Map, appendix, index. This two-volume series offers a collection of extracts from the minutes of Connecticut town meetings during the American Revolution, from April 1775 through Nov. 1783, with the addition of the Committees of Inspection, Correspondence, and Safety in 1774. Volume I: Ashford-Milford, \$53; Volume II: New Fairfield-Woodstock, \$55.50. Available from Heritage Books, www.HeritageBooks.com, 800-876-6103; or the author, JoleneM@aol.com.

Dunstable, Mass.

Geographic History of Old Dunstable, Mass. And Nashua, N.H. (1673–1975), James Francis Hogan (Nashua, N.H.: the author, 2012). Hardcover, 3-ring binder. 103 pp. Illustrations, maps. A presentation of maps of Old Dunstable, including a 1730s sheepskin map, discussion 300 years of changes in Old Dunstable, and maps of Nashua. \$18, plus \$10.95 shipping. Available from James Hogan, 51 Pine Hill Ave., Nashua, NH 03064; 603-882-5687.

Marblehead, Mass.

Marblehead and WWI: At Home and Overseas, Margery A. Armstrong (Charleston, S.C.: History Press, 2011). Softcover, 141 pp. Index, bibliography, photographs. The

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Genealogies in Progress, Family Associations, and DNA Studies in Progress

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story of Marblehead, Mass., during WWI, years 1916–1918, from articles and letters published in the *Marblehead Messenger*, and soldiers' letters home. \$19.99 plus \$4 shipping. Available from Margery A. Armstrong: margearm@comcast.net.

Mi'kmaq history

Revisiting Anne Marie: How an Amerindian Woman of Seventeenth-Century Nova Scotia and a DNA Match Redefine "American" Heritage, Marie Rundquist (West Conshohocken, Penn.: Infinity Publishing, 2012). Softcover, 138 pp. Photos and references. Follows the history of a family cut from European and Amerindian (Mi'kmaq) cloth, from their beginnings in Nova Scotia to exile in Snow Hill, Maryland, following the Grand Deportation of 1755. Available from Barnes & Noble and Infinity Publishing.

Tennessee, Civil War

THM: A Memoir, David McCallie (Bloomington, Ind.: Westbow Press, 2011). Hard/softcover, 164 pp. A candid, personal memoir that brings readers back more than 110 years, unveiling the trials and tribulations of one man's life during the Civil War, and the faith that carried him through. Available from Westbow Press: <http://bookstore.westbowpress.com/Products/SKU-000189876/THM-A-Memoir.aspx>.

FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS

Ewing

The Ewing Family Association will have its twelfth gathering Sept. 20–23, 2012, at Gallipolis, Ohio. The Association seeks to discover the history and genealogy of the surnames Ewing, Ewen, Ewan, McEwan, and the like, publishing the *Ewing Family Journal*, conducting a Y-DNA project, and

sponsoring gatherings. The Association welcomes all nationalities and backgrounds. Visit www.ewingfamilyassociation.org. Contact chancellor@ewingfamilyassociation.org.

Delano

The annual Delano Kindred Reunion will be held September 14–15, 2012, in Fairhaven, Mass. For further information please contact Muriel C. Cushing, 605 Via Tunis Drive, Punta Gorda, FL 33950, 941-505-8404; flash1620@comcast.net, or visit www.delanokindred.us.

Sacket-Sackett

The Sackett Family Association's 2012 Reunion will be held in Westfield, Mass., September 20–22, 2012. Anyone interested in this family is invited to attend. Contact Debbie Barbee: dkbarbee@juno.com, or Sharon Powalka: Slp3000gt@cox.net. Visit www.sacketfamily.info for more information.

Wyman

The 112th Annual Meeting of the Wyman Family Association will be held Saturday, Sept. 15, 2012, at the Francis Wyman House, Burlington, Mass. The house will be open on the second Saturday of May through September; Pamela Wyman Skelton, who was born in the house, will be on hand to greet visitors. Private house tours can be arranged with Jonell Kenagy: kenagy@mindspring.com. For further details, or to register for the reunion, contact gabby.mucc@verizon.net; 781-326-5295.

DNA STUDIES IN PROGRESS

Cathcart

The Cathcart DNA Project seeks to find common heritage through sharing of information and y-DNA testing. If you are

a male with the surname Cathcart, or any variation thereof, you will be welcomed with great joy. For additional information, please visit our page at www.familytreedna.com/public/cathcart/.

Crocker

Join the Crocker surname project. Because the current Family Tree DNA project (familytreedna.com) has more than 12 different male Crocker signatures, anyone joining at this point has a fair chance of finding a match, and therefore someone to help coordinate a family history. Order your Y-DNA test kit now. A 37 marker test is best for identification. 67 markers is best for definition. For questions e-mail merischmid@aol.com.

English-Ingliš-Inglish-Ingles

The English-Ingliš-Inglish Y-DNA project welcomes all with this surname and its variants. This surname originated after the Norman Conquest of England when the distinction between Anglo-Saxons (the "English") and Normans (the "French") was politically and legally important; it had many founders. The project has begun to identify some of these families — and has already solved at least seven longstanding genealogical mysteries — but more remains to be discovered. See www.englishdna.com for more information or contact richarddenglish@yahoo.com.

Ewing

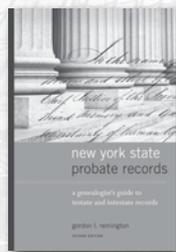
The Ewing Surname Y-DNA Project aims to discover relationships among persons with surnames Ewing, Ewen, Ewan, Ewin, McEwan, McEwin and many others. With more than 125 participants, this project of the Ewing Family Association seeks additional males with any of these surnames. Information is available at www.ewingfamilyassociation.org/genealogy-and-history/y-dna-project. Contact project administrator David Neal Ewing at DavidEwing93@gmail.com.

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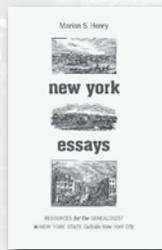


New York State Probate Records A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records, Second Edition

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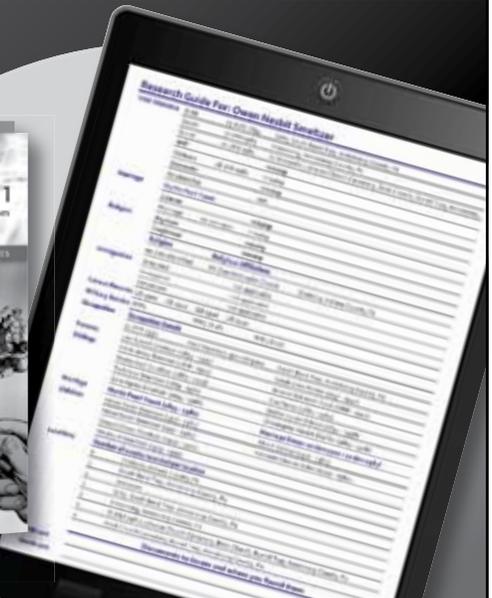
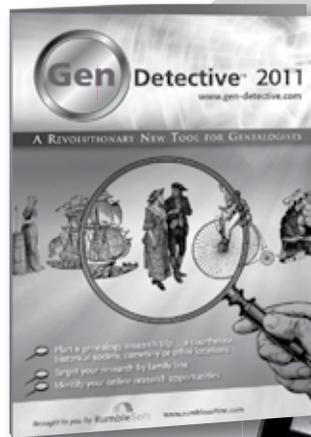
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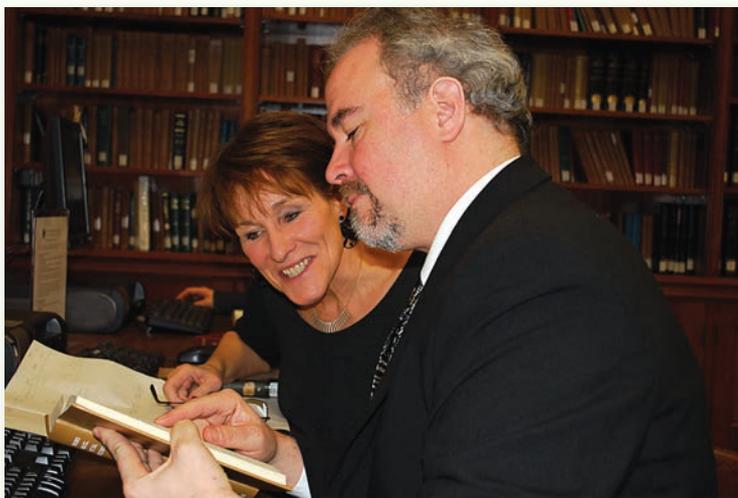


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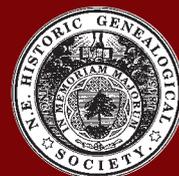
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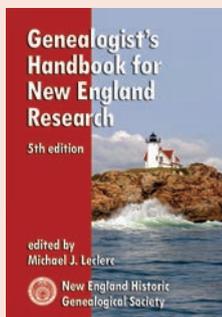
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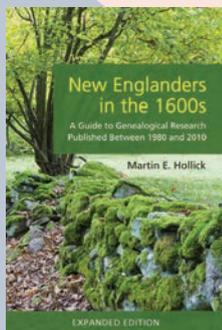


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