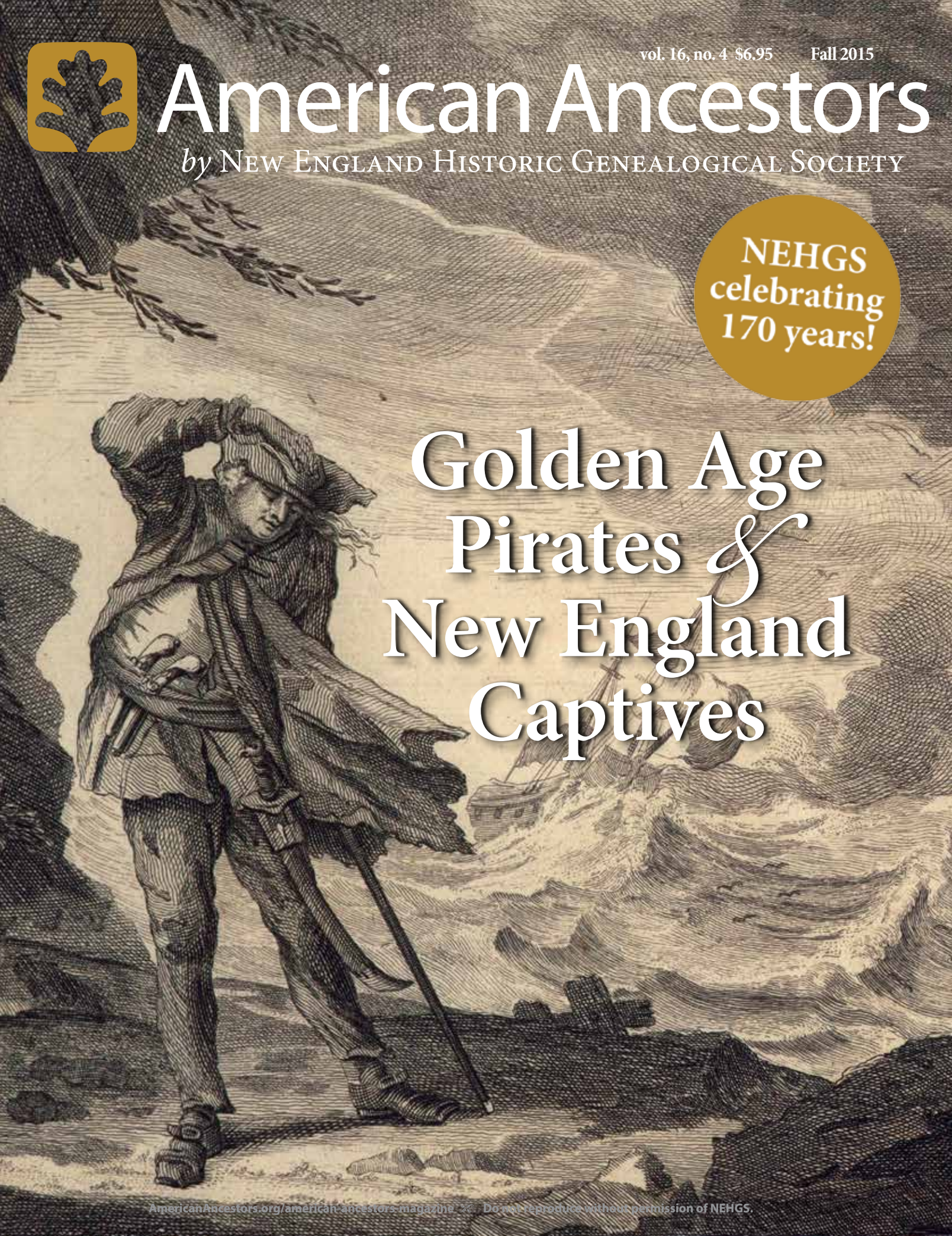
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Scenes from the September 2015 Great Migration tour, which included an Atlantic crossing aboard the *Queen Mary 2* and explorations in Hampshire and Wiltshire led by Robert Charles Anderson. *Clockwise from top left:* Wolf Hall Manor in Burbage, Wiltshire; sunrise view with Portsmouth, Hampshire, on the horizon; Robert Charles Anderson; and (clockwise from top left): Brenton Simons, David Burnham, Toby Webb, and Nancy Maulsby in the Britannia Restaurant on board the *Queen Mary 2*. Images courtesy of tour participant Peter Van Demark.

Fall 2015

VOL. 16, NO. 4

24 **A Long Shadow of Doubt: Pirates and Captives in Atlantic History**
Gregory N. Flemming

32 **Elizabeth King Horton's Fight for Half-pay Pension**
Stephen D. Sanford

37 **Mary Ann Goodrich's Sampler: Chronicling the Beginning and End of a Wethersfield Family**
Dan and Marty Campanelli

41 **For Remembrance and Amusement: Mid-19th-Century Images of the Cutler Family**
Maureen Taylor

47 **The Letter that Led to a Lost Swedish History**
Anne Hanson

On the cover: "Capt. Edward Low. in ye. Hurricane which he and all the Crew had Like to perish'd," in Daniel Defoe, *General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates* (London: Olive Payne, 1736). Courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University.

How to . . .

Get in touch with NEHGS page 2
Visit NEHGS page 15

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Columns

Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight 52
"How Can We Ever Forget Massachusetts?" Abraham Ratshesky and the 1917 Halifax Relief Effort
Stephanie Call

Manuscripts @ NEHGS 57
Preserving One Family's Story: The Button-Treadwell Family Reunion Collection
Judy Lucey

Focus on New York 60
Clues from the Coroner
Meldon J. Wolfgang III

In this issue 5
Connecting Families. Advancing History. 6
Ask our genealogists 8
News 10
Programs & Tours 18
Staff Profile 21
Obituaries 62
Family Focus 63
DNA studies in progress, Family associations, Genealogies recently published, Other books recently published
From our collections 64
Index of Persons 65

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Answers to some frequently asked questions

What is your relationship with AJHS?

We began a strategic partnership with the American Jewish Historical Society's New England Archive (AJHS–NEA) in 2010 by sharing space and archival resources; in 2014, we entered into a new agreement with AJHS and now their New England Archive is one of our departments. This means that members of NEHGS have access to AJHS–NEA's extensive holdings, which include personal papers, organizational records, photographs, immigration records, and other materials for researching the history of the Jewish community of Greater Boston and New England. You can find AJHS–NEA on the fifth floor of the library here in Boston and online at ajhsboston.org.

What is the difference between American Ancestors and NEHGS?

American Ancestors is the public name representing the user experience, broad expertise, and resources provided by the New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS) to family historians of all levels who are researching their origins across the country and around the world. Our online and onsite expertise, resources, and services include early American, Irish, English, Italian, Scottish, Atlantic and French Canadian, African American, Native American, Chinese, and Jewish family history.

AmericanAncestors.org, a component of the American Ancestors experience, has special strength in English, New England (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), New York, Pennsylvania, and Virginia materials.

New England Historic Genealogical Society remains our institutional title, and New England resources continue to be one of our greatest strengths, but we wanted our name to clearly reflect our mission—to advance the study of family history in America and beyond.

Do you offer tours of the library in Boston?

Our Education team offers an hour-long free orientation and tour to introduce you to the resources available at the NEHGS research facility, as well as a monthly tour that focuses on Art and Architecture in our building. More information on these tours can be found at AmericanAncestors.org/education/events-and-programs. Our Member Services team offers a 15-minute introductory tour for first-time visitors. If you are interested in scheduling a tour, email Member Services Representative Jennifer Guerin at Jennifer.Guerin@nehgs.org.

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170 Years at New England Historic Genealogical Society

As our 170th anniversary year draws to a close, we celebrate some of the milestones in our long and rich history.

1845.... NEHGS established as nation's founding genealogical organization
1845.... John Quincy Adams joined—the first of many former U.S. Presidents
1847.... First issue of the *Register*
1859.... First bequest left to NEHGS by Dr. Henry Bond
1870.... Library relocated to 18 Somerset Street
1876.... *Register* format introduced as standard for genealogies
1880.... Membership reached 1,000
1898.... Women elected to membership
1902.... *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* series began
1912.... Library relocated to 9 Ashburton Place
1931.... Largest donation of research materials received: 6,400 volumes given by single donor
1963.... Endowment reached $1 million
1964.... Library relocated to 99–101 Newbury Street
1978.... First NEHGS tour to Family History Library in Salt Lake City
1984.... Member newsletter introduced
1985.... First "Come Home to New England" program
1990.... First $1 million gift received from a single donor
1995.... NEHGS Sesquicentennial conference in Boston
1995.... *Great Migration* series launched
1996.... First NEHGS website
1996.... Newbury Street Press founded
1999.... Weekly electronic newsletter began
2000.... Member magazine introduced
2000.... Website relaunched with major searchable databases
2008.... Capital Campaign commenced
2009.... Historic $7.5 million gift received from single donor
2009.... *Who Do You Think You Are?* filmed first episode at NEHGS
2010.... American Ancestors brand introduced
2010.... Partnership with American Jewish Historical Society
2012.... Adjacent building at 97 Newbury Street purchased
2012.... *Finding Your Roots with Henry Louis Gates, Jr.* debuted with NEHGS as anchor location
2013.... AmericanAncestors.org became most-used genealogical society-sponsored website in world
2014.... Partnership reached with FamilySearch to add 1 billion records to AmericanAncestors.org
2014.... Endowment surpassed $25 million
2015.... NEHGS exceeds 100,000 constituents
2015.... Capital Campaign surpasses $55 million
2015.... Staff grows to 80 employees
2015.... *Family Tree* magazine names our website as Best Large Database website 2015

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Interested in thought-provoking explorations of genealogical topics? The *Vita Brevis* blog offers the opportunity to engage with scholars and professionals who share their unique perspectives and insights. Visit us at **vita-brevis.org**.



The Weekly Genealogist enewsletter

Eager for some genealogical news in your inbox each Wednesday? *The Weekly Genealogist* highlights the latest NEHGS databases and online content, and includes a spotlight on resources around the country, "Ask a Genealogist" questions and answers, stories of interest, a survey, and more. Visit **AmericanAncestors.org** for more information.



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Want to participate in our community and keep up-to-date on our latest news? Join our more than 29,000 friends and follow us on Facebook at **facebook.com/nehgs**.



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In this issue

Throughout 2015 we have celebrated the 170th anniversary of our founding and recognized the remarkable longevity and achievements of the New England Historic Genealogical Society. This year I've also reached my own personal milestone—twenty years as an NEHGS staff member.

In 1991, soon after moving to the Boston area, I became an NEHGS member. After volunteering in the library and at the July 1995 sesquicentennial conference, I was thrilled to be hired as sales manager that October. For me, the mid-1990s was an exciting time to be involved in genealogy because of important new scholarship, a strong sense of community and camaraderie, and heady technological breakthroughs. Little did I realize that we were on the cusp of even more significant innovation; I certainly couldn't have predicted today's easy access to millions of original records.

Taking stock of the last two decades, I'm rather amazed to realize how much has changed in the genealogical field and at NEHGS. I recently paged through copies of our newsmagazine, *NEXUS*, from 1995 and I noticed many differences. Ad copy for the much-heralded *Register* index to names, volumes 51 through 148, declared that using this four-volume 3,823-page set would "eliminate the tedium of working with 98 annual indexes"; our best-selling nine-volume *Register* on CD-ROM set was still in the future. Now, of course, the entire *Register* can be easily viewed and searched on AmericanAncestors.org. A report from then-Director Ralph J. Crandall in the October-November issue noted, "We have been on-line with CompuServe for nearly a year, and have recently developed a home-page on the World Wide Web. The days of file cabinets and binders of family group sheets seem to be ending!"

Yet, despite the vast changes in how genealogical information can be accessed and shared, I believe the fundamental hallmarks of NEHGS remain the same: a commitment to excellent research, an engaged and knowledgeable staff; and the enthusiasm of our members—which, I am pleased to report, has not diminished over the past twenty years.

Two weeks ago, during one of our Research Getaway programs, a group of participants gathered in the hallway outside my office to await the elevator. Fresh from a talk and en route to the library, they discussed research problems and strategies. I listened with half an ear until, provoked by our perennially slow elevator, one woman finally exclaimed in exasperation, "Time's a-wasting!" Clearly, at least one researcher could hardly wait to get to work. The elevator finally arrived and I thought, as I have for many years, how lucky I am—and how fortunate we all are—to be associated with a field and an institution that continues to inspire such passion and dedication.



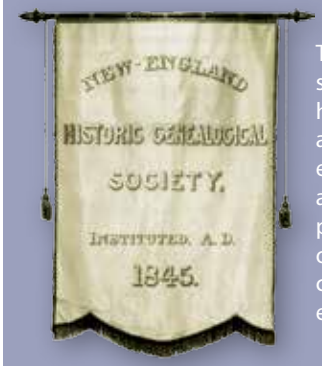
A photo from the article "Staff Profiles: Lynn K. Betlock, NEHGS DIrector of Sales," *NEHGS NEXUS* 14 (1997):53–54.

We extend our thanks to everyone who contributed to American Ancestors during the past year. We very much appreciate our staff and volunteer authors, editors, proofreaders, and photographers. We look forward to more member participation and feedback in our magazine in 2016. To learn how you can contribute, visit tinyurl.com/p7m7au4.

Lynn Betlock
Managing Editor
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American Ancestors

New England, New York & beyond



To advance the study of family history in America and beyond, NEHGS educates, inspires, and connects people through our scholarship, collections, and expertise.

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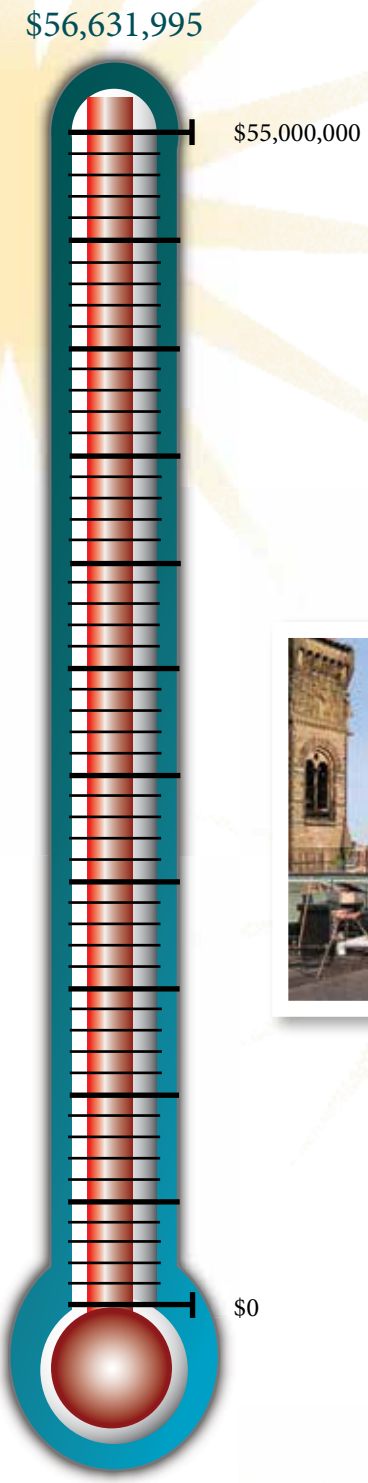
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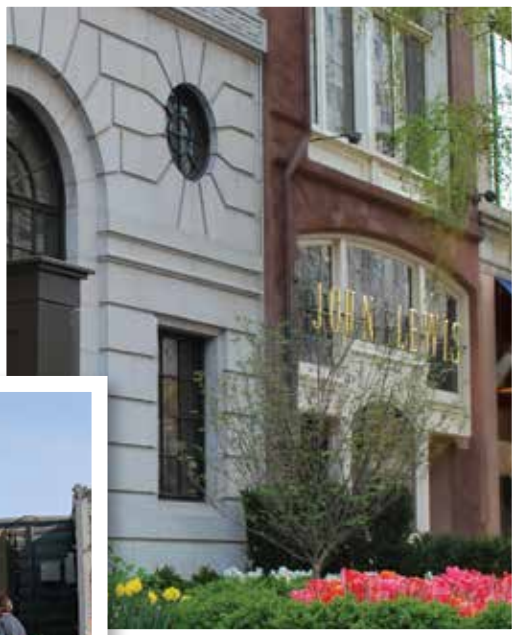
A Heartfelt Thank You



Capital Campaign commitments as of October 8, 2015

Thanks to the generosity of more than 21,800 friends of NEHGS, our capital campaign, "Connecting Families. Advancing History," has surpassed our $55 million goal by almost $700,000. The funds from this campaign have enabled us to implement key elements of our Strategic Plan: to advance our position as the leader in scholarly excellence in family history; to strengthen our relationships and service to our members; to maximize the use of technology; and to ensure our long-term financial sustainability.

President and CEO D. Brenton Simons extends a heartfelt thank you to our many friends who have provided us with such a tremendous outpouring of generosity. Even as we anticipate a strong and bright future, we recognize that your continued support will always be our lifeline.



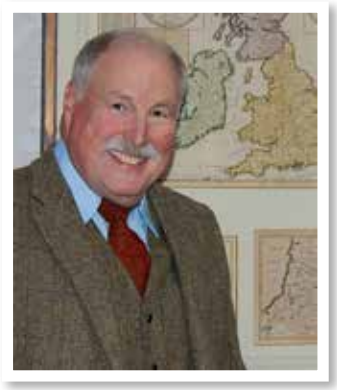




Your gifts have supported such diverse initiatives as the acquisition of 97 Newbury Street, the installation of an efficient HVAC system, and the creation of a state-of-the-art conservation lab at NEHGS.

If you have not yet donated, you can still join in this historic achievement. To speak with a member of our staff regarding a gift to the campaign, please contact Ted MacMahon, Vice President (617-226-1218 or tmacmahon@nehgs.org), Steven Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning (617-226-1238 or ssolomon@nehgs.org), or Beth Emery, Senior Development Officer (617-226-1211 or beth.emery@nehgs.org). ◆

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Jack White

A Map to the Past: Jack White's Pursuit of Ancestral Migrations

Jack L. White's interest in maps began when, as a Boy Scout, he learned to read, use, and depend on USGS topographic maps. That early introduction to cartography, coupled with captivating tales of family lore provided by his English-Irish paternal grandmother, Mary Adeline Markham (1892–1977), led to a fascination with geography and eventually to BA/MA degrees in geography at California State University, Northridge, where he became interested in migration theory.

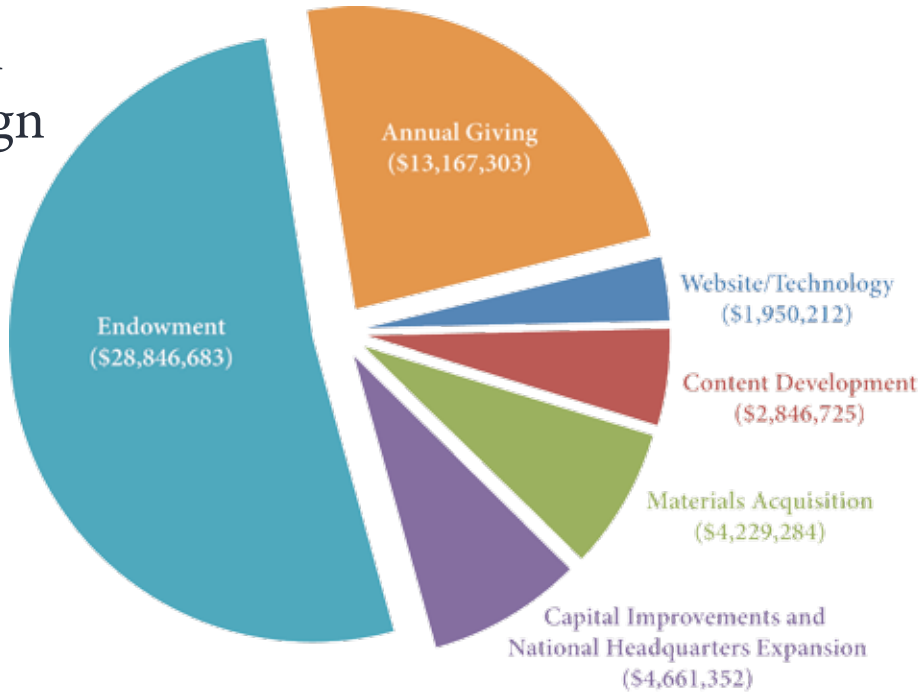
Jack first learned about NEHGS while conducting genealogical research with his parents in the 1960s, and was intrigued that an organization three thousand miles away could provide information about his roots. But his demanding work as an environmental consultant prevented him from fully pursuing his family history research "for too many years." Now able to dedicate himself to genealogy in retirement, his cartographic expertise enhances his genealogical research methodology, enabling him to "better identify, interpret, and organize family relationships."

Jack's first book, *The Bramford-Earls Colne Connection: Explorations into the 16th and 17th Century Origins and Migrations of Deacon Daniel Markham and Cambridge Merchant Edward Collins* (2012), uses historical, socio-political, economic, governmental, and religious contemporary accounts to establish a connection critical to linking the Collins and Markham family lines from two ancestral English villages—Bramford in Suffolk County and Earls Colne in Essex County. Fulfilling a promise he made to his parents, Jack published this book on his father's maternal line, followed by a second book (2014) on his father's German-Bohemian paternal lines. He is currently completing a book on his mother's maternal/paternal German ancestry.

Jack became a member of NEHGS in 1999, and he is now an active and vital participant in our organization, serving on our Council and supporting our work though his contributing membership. "NEHGS is a remarkable resource and I can't wait to get back to Boston for each of the quarterly meetings," he says. "I am enormously proud of my membership and affiliation as a member of the Council and want to do all I can to support this remarkable organization."

—Steven L. Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning

Allocation of campaign gifts



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ask our genealogists



Rhonda R. McClure, *Genealogist, is a nationally recognized professional genealogist and lecturer specializing in New England, Canadian, German, and Italian research, immigration and naturalization, and computerized genealogy. She is the author of ten books.*

My ancestor Jotham Flagg died in 1777 in Boylston, Massachusetts. Worcester County probate records indicate that his widow, Rebeckah (Kendall) Flagg, went to court to obtain guardianship for her children after her husband died intestate. Rebeckah's two brothers apparently acted as sureties in the case. Could you point me to source material that explains why a widow would need to be appointed by the court as the guardian of her own children?



This concept is often difficult for present-day researchers to understand. Upon her husband's death, Rebeckah would have retained physical custody of her children but, due to property laws, widows did not always serve as legal guardians for their children. In her 2004 book, *Women in Early America: Struggle, Survival, and Freedom in a New World*, Dorothy A. Mays explains:

> "It was not assumed that a widow would retain custody of her children. Wealthy men were the most likely to appoint another individual as guardian of minor children. Although fathers' wills usually granted physical custody of the children to the mother, they often appointed another male relative to control the child's estate until sons reached the age of twenty-one, or until a daughter married. An impoverished man might make arrangements for his children to be put into service with another family." [p. 422]

Women in Early America also addresses the issues that arose when individuals died intestate.

Another helpful volume is Marylynn Salmon's *Women and the Law of Property in Early America*, 2nd edition (1989).

My ancestors John Bickerton (b. 1816) and his father Thomas Bickerton were born in England and arrived in Westmorland, New Brunswick, Canada, by 1819. How can I find Thomas Bickerton's origins in England and the name of the ship he and his family sailed on?

Remember that emigrating from Great Britain to Canada was largely like moving from Massachusetts to Connecticut, except for the ocean voyage. Great Britain and Canada shared a monarch and their people were citizens of the same government. As a result, no records of emigration from England to Canada exist for this time period, and no records document a British subject arriving in Canada. As a result, you are unlikely to find any indication of the Bickertons' ship.

Your best chance of locating John Bickerton's English origins lies in exhausting all available records in New Brunswick to see whether you can identify his mother. Consider the names given to any daughters of John Bickerton as potential names for his mother. A Federated Database Search on the New Brunswick Provincial Archives website (archives.gnb.ca/Search/FEDS/Default.aspx?culture=en-CA) might offer you further information on the family.

Additionally, FamilySearch.org has amassed a large database of British baptisms (familysearch.org/search/collection/1473014) and marriages

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Opposite: Detail from September in *Thomas's Almanack for 1797* (Isaiah Thomas: Worcester, Mass.: 1797). *Right:* Detail of *A Map Of Cabotia*. (London, 1814). Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection.

(FamilySearch.org/search/collection/1473015) extracted from Bishops' Transcripts of English parishes. You may be able to locate your John by performing a targeted search for a John Bickerton, born in England, say between 1814 and 1818, with a father named Thomas. If your search returns potential matches, you can research whether each of those individuals still lived in England after 1819, when you know that your Thomas and John are in Canada. This method could potentially eliminate all candidates except for your ancestor John Bickerton, and provide you with the origin in England you are seeking.

In 1770, Thomas Russell, who was born about 1745 in Andover, Massachusetts, purchased Pompey, a five-year-old boy who was born into slavery in Charlestown, Massachusetts. I am looking for any documentation of this transaction.

Often the purchase of slaves—because they were considered property—may be found in the deeds for the county in which the purchaser lived. Massachusetts deeds have been microfilmed by the Family History Library and are now digitized and arranged by county on FamilySearch.org (Familysearch.org/search/collection/2106411).

These records are not indexed; you cannot go to FamilySearch.org, type in a name, and find the records in question. Instead, you must select a county and then choose the appropriate record type, year range, and volume number or letter. You want the deed index (grantee), since you will be searching for a purchase made by Thomas Russell. Once you've opened the file, look through the images until you find the "R"s and then search for Thomas Russell.

Another source of information may be the Felt Collection, also known as the Massachusetts Archive Collection. Most of this collection was organized in the 1830s by the Rev. Joseph Felt, who arranged original records dating from 1629 to 1799 in 328 volumes, roughly by topic. A contents list for each volume is located in the box in the upper right corner of the collection's webpage, at www.sec.state.ma.us/arc/arccol/colmac.htm.

Volume 9, for example, covers Domestic Relations, 1643–1774, including "materials concerning slaves, apprentices and family relations." The finding aids include a database, card catalog, table of contents, and name index. The Collection can only be searched at the Massachusetts State Archives at Columbia Point in Boston.

I suggest that you search the online deeds before making a trip to the Archives to search the Felt Collection. ◆

Do you have a question for our genealogists?

NEHGS members can submit requests for research guidance and suggestions at **AmericanAncestors.org/services/ask-a-genealogist**. (Please note that our genealogists cannot undertake research on your behalf. Please contact NEHGS Research Services for paid research assistance.)

Do you need more in-depth help?

The NEHGS Research Services Team offers in-depth research assistance that is available to everyone. Services cover a wide range of research help, such as hourly research, lineage society applications, assistance with organization and evaluation, photocopying, and accessing our vast collections. Visit **AmericanAncestors.org/research-services** to learn more.

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News

Mayflower DESCENDANT

A Journal of Pilgrim Genealogy & History



Christopher Child named editor of *Mayflower Descendant*

Christopher C. Child has been named editor of the *Mayflower Descendant*. In an agreement with the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, NEHGS has undertaken a ten-year stewardship of the venerable journal, which was founded in 1899 by George Ernest Bowman and is one of the most highly respected genealogical journals. We will begin publishing this winter with Volume 64.

An award-winning genealogist and author of important published studies of American family history, Chris has assumed the mantle of editor while retaining his responsibilities as Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press.

Chris received two awards this year for books he has written: the Brainerd T. Peck Award from the Connecticut Genealogical Society, for *Ancestors and Descendants of George Rufus Brown and Alice Nelson Pratt* (coauthored with Patricia Law Hatcher and Kelvin L. Meyers), and the National Genealogical Society's Award for Excellence in Genealogy and Family History, for *The Nelson Family of Rowley, Massachusetts*. His 2011 book with NEHGS colleague Scott Steward, *Descendants of Judge John Lowell*, won both those awards as well as the prestigious Donald Lines Jacobus Award of the American Society of Genealogists.

An experienced and in-demand lecturer and consultant, Child has contributed many articles to scholarly genealogical journals, including the *Mayflower Descendant*. Chris is also editor of the Genetics & Genealogy column in American Ancestors magazine and contributes to the *Vita Brevis* blog. He joined the NEHGS staff in 1999.

For more information about the *Mayflower Descendant*, including how to subscribe, see AmericanAncestors.org/mayflower-descendant.

NEHGS on the Road

We had a busy and exciting fall season, beginning with the New York State Family History Conference in Syracuse, New York, September 17 to 19, for which we were a sponsor and exhibitor. Chief Genealogist David Allen Lambert and Genealogist Lindsay Fulton gave consultations and sold memberships and books. Henry B. Hoff, Editor of the *Register*, lectured on "Colonial New York Research" and "Research Strategies for Upstate New York."

On October 2 we kicked off Family History Month with an open house and reception at our Newbury Street headquarters for attendees of our October 3 Family History Day conference. Family History Day, held at the Sheraton Boston, was a full day of lectures, consultations, book sales, and giveaways.

Also on October 3, our staff participated in PBS's *Genealogy Roadshow* at Faneuil Hall in Boston. We provided information about NEHGS to the many attendees and enjoyed watching the filming of this fun and informative show.



Above: Genealogist Lindsay Fulton at the New York State Family History Conference. *Right:* Associate Editor Jean Powers and Researcher Christopher Lee at *Genealogy Roadshow*.

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The 2015 NEHGS Summer Dinner

On July 23, more than 100 NEHGS members and guests joined our corporate sponsor Welch & Forbes LLC at the private headquarters of the Colonial Society in Boston for a reception and tour. Built in 1807, the building at 87 Mount Vernon Street is one of just a handful of intact private houses designed by Boston architect Charles Bulfinch. Following the reception, guests enjoyed a lecture by Anthony M. Amore, chief investigator of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum art heist, on his book *Stealing Rembrandts: The Untold Stories of Notorious Art Heists* (2012). Described in *Art & Crime* as "among the most innovative, and most effective, museum security directors in the world," Anthony was previously assistant director with the Transportation Security Administration, and he helped overhaul Logan Airport security following the tragic events of 9/11. As a special agent with the Federal Aviation Administration, he led the response to the attempted bombing of American Airlines flight 63 by Richard Reid, the "shoe-bomber." A dinner at the Somerset Club followed the talk.



Top right: Friends of the Society John Webster and Susan Comeau with Brenton Simons; *bottom left:* NEHGS member Beverly Hector-Smith, Councilor Diana Warren, Chairman David Burnham, Councilors Jocelynne McCall and Judith Halseth; *bottom right:* Diana Warren meets Anthony Amore.






Great Migration Newsletter

Vol. 24 April–June 2015 No. 2

WHERE WERE THEY?

A publication of the New England Historic Genealogical Society

Subscribe now to the 2016 *Great Migration Newsletter*

The *Great Migration Newsletter* complements the individual Great Migration sketches and addresses the broad issues key to understanding the lives and times of New England's first immigrants (1620–1640). The *Newsletter* examines the settlement of early New England towns, migration patterns, seventeenth-century passenger lists, church and land records, and much more.

Print subscribers to volume 25 (2016) receive a new issue of the *Newsletter* through the mail each quarter ($20 per year or $36 for two years).

Online subscribers can access new issues each quarter as well as view past volumes at GreatMigration.org ($10 per year or $18 for two years).

To subscribe, please visit GreatMigration.org or call Member Services at 1-888-296-3447.

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NEW Searchable Databases on AmericanAncestors.org

Books, journals, periodicals

Mayflower Descendant, Vol. 56–59

With the addition of volumes 56 to 59 (2007–2010), the *Mayflower Descendant* database now contains more than 340,000 records. The journal was published by the Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants from 1899 to 2014. (NEHGS will begin publishing the journal with the winter 2016 issue.) An essential source of information on many New England families, it emphasizes, but is not limited to, those with *Mayflower* lineage. The journal also includes transcriptions and abstracts of deeds, wills, vital records, and other original sources.

Compiled genealogies

Early New England Families—four new sketches

In this study project, Alicia Crane Williams uses Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages (and its recent successors) to compile authoritative documented sketches. The focus is on immigrants who arrived in 1641 or later. The sketches are grouped by year of marriage rather than immigration; eventually all marriages through 1700 will be treated.

Western Massachusetts Families in 1790—five new sketches

This database contains genealogical sketches of families enumerated in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (an area that now includes Franklin and Hampden Counties). These sketches, submitted by NEHGS members and staff, were edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG.

Early Vermont Settlers to 1784—ten new sketches

This study project, managed by Scott Andrew Bartley, aims to create modified *Register*-style genealogical sketches for every identifiable head of household who resided within the present-day borders of Vermont by 1784. Each sketch includes spouse(s), children, children's spouse(s), and all known associated vital records.

Vital records

Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850—two new volumes

Two volumes, containing more than 3,600 birth, marriage, and death records, originally published in the *Mayflower Descendant*, have been added to this collection. The Dennis records were transcribed by Mary Abba Baker, and the Wareham records were transcribed by George Ernest Bowman.

Western Massachusetts: Jewish Cemeteries of Western Massachusetts

This database contains records of over 19,000 burials in 21 Jewish cemeteries in the Western Massachusetts counties of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire.

American Canadian Genealogical Society Index of Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1840–2000—19 new repertoires

This index to records of Roman Catholic Church baptisms, marriages, and burials was provided to NEHGS by the American-Canadian Genealogical Society. The original records are contained in ACGS Repertoires, available from ACGS. The entries in this database refer to the number of the original repertoire (e.g., "RP113"), which lists the entire record.

Barnstable, MA: Church Records, 1639–1892

These Barnstable church records were transcribed by Gustavus A. Hinckley and donated to NEHGS in 1905. In 2002, Robert J. Dunkle and Ann Smith Lainhart compiled them in CD-ROM format. Now they are in searchable database format, consisting of a name index of 22,500 records keyed to the 599 pages of transcribed records.



Digital Collections Coordinator Christopher Carter

Vital Records of Clinton, Farmingdale, and West Gardiner, Maine, to 1892

These collections provide name indexes and page images of published compilations of vital records for Clinton, Farmingdale, and West Gardiner, all located in Kennebec County. Clinton was incorporated in 1795 from the area known as Hancock Plantation. Farmingdale was incorporated in 1852, created from parts of Hallowell, Gardiner, and West Gardiner. West Gardiner was incorporated in 1850, separating from Gardiner. Together, these collections contain more than 14,000 records.

New England Vital Records Update

A number of our New England vital record databases have been updated to improve their usability by adding page images of source material and indexing both first and last names.

Norwich CT: Vital Records of Norwich, 1659–1848 contains records of 11,109 births, 9,204 marriages, and 2,140 deaths.

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Bolton and Vernon, CT: Vital Records, 1704–1852 contains records of 2,856 births, 2,202 marriages, and 601 deaths.
Jonesboro, ME: Vital Records, 1765–1891 contains records of 582 births, 530 marriages, and 45 deaths.
Jefferson, ME: Vital Records, 1748–1899 contains records of 1,365 births, 361 marriages, and 352 deaths.
Pepperrellborough [Saco], ME: Records of the First Church, 1762–1799 contains records of 791 baptisms, 570 marriages, and 312 deaths.
Boston, MA: Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths, 1630–1699 contains records of 21,206 births, 2,735 baptisms, 4,068 marriages, and 3,127 deaths.

FamilySearch Collections added to AmericanAncestors.org

These indexes were supplied to NEHGS by FamilySearch.org.

United States Vital Records collections (name count)

Indiana, Births and Christenings, 1773–1933 (103,680)
Indiana, Marriages, 1780–1992 (5,951,441)
Iowa, Deaths and Burials, 1850–1990 (693,974)
Iowa: Marriages, 1809–1992 (7,661,803)

International Vital Records collections (name count)

Costa Rica Deaths, 1787–1900 (69,868)
Costa Rica, Baptisms, 1700–1915 (455,922)
Costa Rica, Marriages, 1750–1920 (358,623)
Denmark Burials, 1640–1917 (1,234,313)
Denmark, Baptisms, 1618–1923 (8,678,994)
Denmark, Marriages, 1635–1916 (6,893,692)
Finland Burials, 1725–1909 (120,985)
Finland, Baptisms, 1657–1890 (13,975,867)
Finland, Marriages, 1682–1892 (2,460,639)
Germany Deaths and Burials, 1582–1958 (7,097,515)
Germany, Births and Baptisms, 1558–1898 (110,047,930)
Germany, Marriages, 1558–1929 (45,547,971)
Guatemala Deaths, 1760–1880 (48,667)
Guatemala, Baptisms, 1730–1917 (1,288,183)
Guatemala, Marriages, 1750–1930 (715,081)
Norway Burials, 1666–1927 (1,023,695)
Norway, Baptisms, 1634–1927 (20,779,946)
Norway, Marriages, 1660–1926 (8,763,660)
Sweden Burials, 1649–1920 (1,878,283)
Sweden, Baptisms, 1611–1920 (38,637,667)
Sweden, Marriages, 1630–1920 (4,610,271)

Census, Tax and Voter Lists (name count)

United States 1880 Census (50,434,696)
United States 1900 Census (76,513,874)

International Censuses (name count)

Germany, Mecklenburg–Schwerin Census, 1900 (733,499)
Germany, Westfalen, Minden Citizen Lists, 1574–1902 (22,580)
Guatemala, Ciudad de Guatemala, Censo, 1877 (21,144)
Norway Census, 1875 (63,959)

From our readers

I read the article about Nancy Washington by Valerie Beaudrault ["Nancy (Minor) Washington: A Woman of Three Centuries," American Ancestors 16 (2015) 3:38–42] and am intrigued about the kidnapping aspect. I've done substantial research on Solomon Northup, who was probably the most well-known victim of kidnapping, and published a book on him, *Solomon Northup: The Complete Story of the Author of Twelve Years a Slave* (2013). I have another book coming out next year called *Solomon Northup's Kindred*, about others who were kidnapped and sold into slavery.

It was common enough for people to be abducted, or conned into going south, to be sold as slaves. Children were frequent victims. However, I had never heard of a kidnapping victim brought back to the north as a slave, as Nancy Washington was, so that part strikes me as unusual. I suppose a victim brought into a free state might have been described as a servant so as not to raise any eyebrows.

David Fiske, Ballston Spa, New York

I was so amazed when I paged through my new issue of American Ancestors to find an article on someone in my Wixon family [Crystal (Medler) Rojas Mora, "Beyond the Family Stories: Reconstructing the Life of Daisy May Lawton," American Ancestors 16 (2015) 3:43–46.] I knew of David and Marilla (Wixon) Lawton from my own research, but nothing beyond them. So it was with great interest that I read your article. Daisy would be my fifth cousin four times removed. Since Wixon isn't that common a name, I have been collecting material on all Wixons for many years. I just love the hunt for information!

Cheryl Wixon Gocken, Milford, Illinois

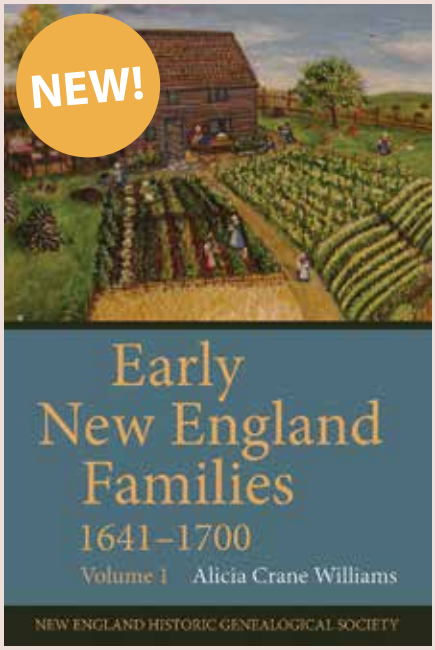
My book, *Looking for LeBarons*, was listed in the Family Focus section of the spring 2015 issue of American Ancestors. A member from California who is a LeBaron descendant saw the listing and contacted me. He graciously shared information that he received from his NEHGS Research Service case about John Hodsoll, an investor in the Virginia Company. This research proved that descendants of James LeBaron and Martha Benson are eligible for membership in the Jamestowne Society, since Martha Benson's ancestor John Hodsoll was an investor in the Virginia Company and signer of the Third Charter of 1612. Many LeBarons are aware of their roots in Plymouth Colony but I wonder how many know that they also have a significant connection to the Virginia Colony?

Karen Basli, Naples, Florida

We want to hear from you!
Respond at **Facebook.com/nehgs**, email **magazine@nehgs.org**, or address letters to American Ancestors magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116.
We regret that we cannot reply to every letter. Submissions will be edited for clarity and length.

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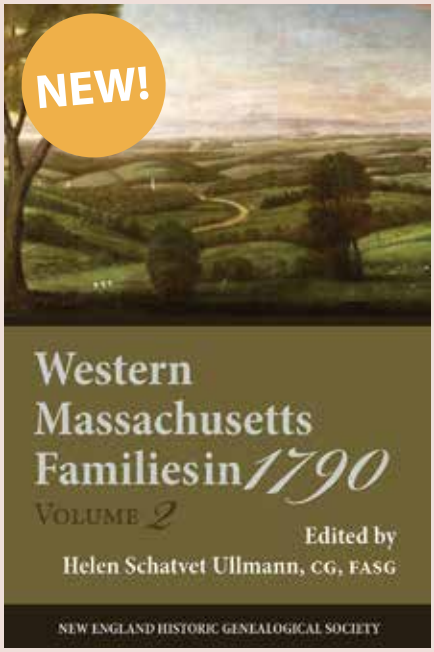
THE *Bookstore* AT NEHGS



Early New England Families, 1641–1700, Volume 1

Alicia Crane Williams
6 x 9 pbk., 500 pp.; $32.95, member $29.66

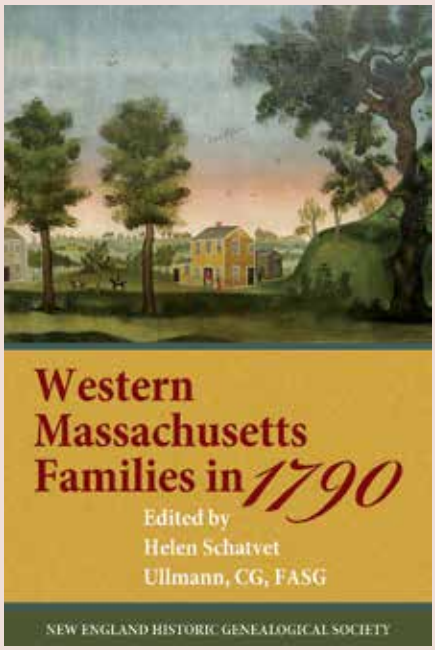
This compilation presents the first sketches written for the Early New England Families Study Project, under the direction of Alicia Crane Williams. The project, created to provide accurate and concise published summaries on seventeenth-century New England families after 1640, uses Clarence Almon Torrey's bibliographic index of early New England marriages (and its recent successors) as a guide to compiling authoritative and documented sketches. The sketches, which will eventually treat all marriages through 1700, are being written in the order of year of marriage.



Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Volume 2

Edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG
6 x 9 pbk., 326 pp.; $32.95, member $29.66

In 1790 Western Massachusetts was a crossroads for New England families heading west to New York or north to Vermont. The transient nature of families living in this area presents certain genealogical challenges. As with the first volume, the seventy-five sketches included here are of families enumerated in the 1790 census for Berkshire and Hampshire Counties (now also including Franklin and Hampden Counties). These sketches, written by NEHGS members, first appeared online in the Western Massachusetts Families in 1790 database on AmericanAncestors.org.



Western Massachusetts Families in 1790, Volume I

Edited by Helen Schatvet Ullmann, CG, FASG
6 x 9 pbk., 326 pp.; $29.95, member $26.96

This first volume contains the first fifty project sketches.

"This compilation of family histories represents some of the finest contemporary genealogical research for Western Massachusetts. Even if you don't have an ancestor treated in one of these sketches, each chapter provides research clues for towns that are in today's Berkshire, Hampden, Hampshire, and Franklin Counties. *Western Massachusetts Families of 1790* is an essential reference for anyone conducting serious historical, biographical, or genealogical research on this vital region of western New England."

—Joseph Carvalho III, author of Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts, 1650–1865 *and former President and Executive Director of the Springfield Museums*

To order, visit shop.AmericanAncestors.org or call 1-888-296-3447.

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Clockwise from top left: Alice Kane, Sheilagh Doerfler, Sarah Liebenrood.

NEHGS staff news

Library team member Alice Kane has been promoted to Library Patron Services and Consultations Manager. Alice joined the NEHGS staff in 2012 as Genealogist, and many of our library visitors have benefited from her valuable research assistance. Alice will continue to help visitors in the library, and also supervise our team of genealogists, manage consultations, coordinate the daily library schedule, and plan and enhance our patron services.

Sheilagh Doerfler has been promoted to Senior Researcher. Specializing in Scandinavian, French-Canadian, and Irish research, Sheilagh has been a valuable member of the NEHGS Research Services team since 2013. She especially enjoys the role of detective and helping people track down their most elusive ancestors. A native of Chelmsford, Mass., Sheilagh studied History and Communication at the University of Massachusetts–Amherst and attended the National University of Ireland at Galway.

In August we welcomed Sarah Liebenrood as our Senior Manager of Member Services. Sarah first joined NEHGS in 2010, when she interned for our publications and technical services teams and began researching her own genealogy. Sarah was a Member Services Representative in 2012 and 2013. Before returning to NEHGS, Sarah served on the development team at the Longyear Museum in Chestnut Hill, Mass., managing operations, gift processing, donor and member communications, and financial reporting.

Visit us in Boston!

Our library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m., and until 9 p.m. on Wednesdays. We are located at 99–101 Newbury Street in Boston's Back Bay neighborhood and can easily be reached by subway or commuter rail. Information about directions, parking, and accommodations is available at AmericanAncestors.org/visit.



Admission to our Research Library is free for our members. Nonmembers are always welcome and may purchase a day pass for $20.

Our genealogical and historical materials number more than 200,000 titles and 28 million items. To check for a particular item, search our catalog at library.nehgs.org. Our general library stacks are open, and visitors can pull books from the shelves and make photocopies of pages themselves. For a detailed library guide, visit AmericanAncestors.org/library-guide.

The R. Stanton Avery Special Collections contain over 6,000 linear feet of material, including unpublished genealogies, diaries, letters, cemetery transcriptions, photographs, and much more. Patrons request manuscripts in advance and an archivist retrieves the requested item. (Access to manuscripts is a benefit of membership, and copying is at the discretion of the archivist.)

Staff genealogists at reference desks on three floors are available to help you locate and use our resources. You can use a flash drive at our computers, copiers, and microfilm scanners, and you can bring laptops and cameras.

Be sure to bring your brick wall questions!

For more information, call 1-888-296-3447.

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FREE FUN FRIDAYS!

HIGHLAND STREET foundation

Free Fun Friday 2015

On July 10 we hosted another very successful Free Fun Friday. Sponsored by the Highland Street Foundation, Free Fun Fridays enable sixty Massachusetts cultural venues to offer free admission to the general public. This year, our program included genealogy-related projects for kids, introductory lectures by our expert genealogists, research assistance, database access, library tours, and membership discounts. With more than 300 participants, it was a wonderful way to introduce NEHGS to new friends.

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NEHGS celebrating 170 years!

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- Outreach to youth

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For further information, please contact Robin Wolfe, Development Associate, 617-226-1217, rwolfe@nehgs.org.

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programs & tours





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2016 RESEARCH TOURS

NEHGS offers a wide range of guided research tours for family history researchers at all skill levels. Research tours include intensive days devoted to research at libraries, archives, and historical institutions; one-on-one consultations; presentations by NEHGS genealogists and local experts; and special activities. Travel with NEHGS in 2016 and maximize your research results!

Hartford, Connecticut

March 7–12, 2016

Explore the Connecticut State Library and Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. NEHGS staff and local experts will provide consultations, lectures, and the information you need to get the most out of Hartford's genealogical resources.

Member registration: $1,700 single; $1,500 double; $1,750 with non-researching guest
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices

London, England & Who Do You Think You Are? Live

April 8–16, 2016

Experience one of the largest family history conferences in the world—Who Do You Think You Are? LIVE—and spend a week of intensive research at some of England's most important genealogical repositories. Visit the British Library, the National Archives, and the Society of Genealogists; attend lectures; and receive one-on-one research assistance.

Member registration: $4,950 single; $4,650 double; $5,650 with non-researching guest; $2,500 commuter
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices

New York City

May 15–22, 2016

Join NEHGS for our inaugural research tour to New York City! The Big Apple can be a genealogist's paradise—you just need to know where to look. We'll research at the New York Public Library, the Ackman & Ziff Family Genealogy Institute, and the Municipal Archives. In addition to lectures and consultations, we'll make group visits to the Tenement Museum, Ellis Island, and other cultural gems.

Member registration: $3,350 single; $2,950 double; $3,450 with non-researching guest; $1,350 commuter
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices

Join us in NYC *and* Albany for the full New York experience!

Albany, New York

May 22–26, 2016

Explore the New York State Library and the New York State Archives. Now in its fifth year, this popular tour includes individual consultations, lectures from experts, and group meals.

Member registration: $1,100 single; $900 double; $1,325 with non-researching guest; $625 commuter
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices

Salt Lake City, Utah

October 16–23, 2016

Experience 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-eighth annual research tour. Activities include individual consultations with NEHGS genealogists, lectures, and other special events.

Member registration: $1,700 single; $1,500 double; $1,950 with non-researching guest; $850 commuter
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices

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RESEARCH PROGRAMS

The NEHGS research library in Boston holds millions of documents, manuscripts, records, books, microfilms, photographs, artifacts, electronic resources, and other items that preserve and reveal our history. Travel to our headquarters and explore the treasures within the NEHGS collections, with personalized assistance and guidance from our expert staff.

Research Getaway

February 25–27, 2016

Escape to NEHGS for three days of research, consultations, lectures, and social events while exploring the rich offerings of the NEHGS research library and benefiting from the knowledge of expert genealogists.

Member registration: $350
Nonmember registration: $500
Guest: $50

Come Home to New England

August 9–13, 2016

For more than thirty years, researchers have learned with NEHGS during *Come Home to New England*, an intensive workshop offering lectures, guided research, extended library hours, and one-on-one consultations. NEHGS has been collecting information about families in America for 170 years. Our collections are international in scope and contain significant materials that cover the United States, especially New England and New York, as well as Canada and Europe. This rigorous research program provides the opportunity for you to "come home" to Boston and work closely with NEHGS staff to find your family.

Member registration: $675 (early); $750
Nonmember registration: Add $150 to the above prices
Guest: $100

Register for NEHGS events

Website: Registration for most programs is available at AmericanAncestors.org/Education

Phone: Call 617-226-1226 or 1-888-286-3447 to register for seminars and research tours.

Online programs: To register for Online Learning Center webinars and courses, visit AmericanAncestors.org/Education/Online-Classes

For more information, email education@nehgs.org or call 617-226-1226 or 1-888-286-3447.

MONTHLY LIBRARY EVENTS

New Visitor Welcome Tour

This free orientation and tour introduces you to the resources available at the NEHGS research facility. Founded in 1845, NEHGS is the country's oldest and largest non profit genealogy library and archive. With more than 15 million artifacts, books, manuscripts, microfilms, journals, photographs, and documents, as well as expert staff to help you navigate it all, NEHGS provides the access you need to research your family history. Tours offered twice monthly. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/education/events-and-programs for a full schedule.

Art & Architecture Tour

NEHGS has been collecting unique items of Americana and fine art since its founding in 1845. Our treasures include the cane of Peregrine White, the first child born to the Pilgrims aboard the *Mayflower*; a mid-eighteenth century easy chair belonging to John Hancock; a mahogany oxbow slant lid desk made by prominent Salem cabinetmaker Elijah Sanderson; and early family registers and portraits of some of New England's known and lesser known heroes and heroines. Learn the story behind many of these pieces and more. Tour offered monthly. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/education/events-and-programs for a full schedule.

First Fridays Brown Bag Lecture Series

First Friday of each month, 12–1 p.m.

Share your lunch hour with experts from NEHGS and other institutions. Learn about New England's early history, discover valuable research techniques, explore useful collections and new resources, and more. Held the first Friday of each month. Visit AmericanAncestors.org/education/events-and-programs for a full schedule.

Bring the Next Generation to NEHGS Day

Share your love of family history with the next generation!

Saturday, December 5

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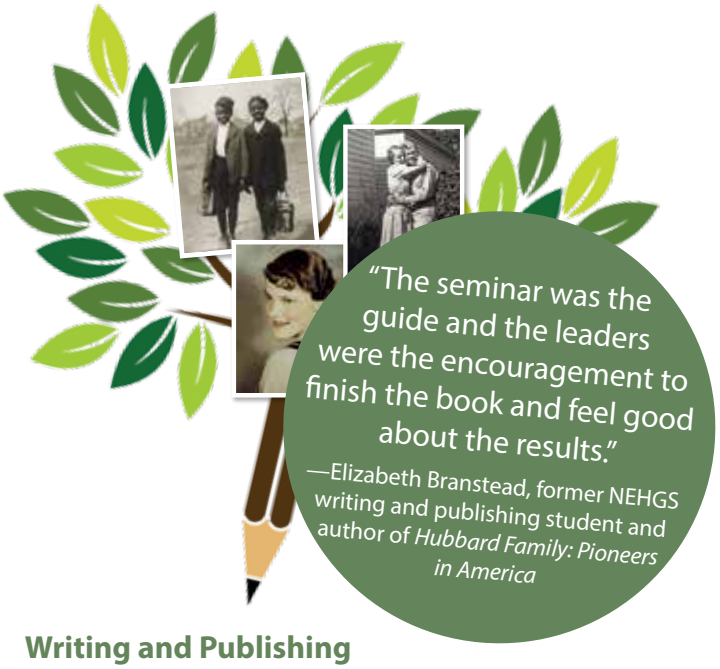
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Presented by the writing and publishing experts at NEHGS
January 13, 20, 27, February 3, 10, 2016

Why is it important to write your family history? Your published work will share your knowledge with family members, leave a legacy for your descendants, and serve as an important resource for current and future genealogical researchers. The ease and affordability of digital printing gives you all the more reason to write and publish! This five-week course led by the experts at NEHGS will provide you with a step-by-step approach to turning your raw data into an illustrated narrative, *Register*-style genealogy, or *ahnentafel*. Topics include: choosing a genealogical format, getting the most out of Microsoft Word, adding citations, indexing, layout, and final steps in self-publishing. **Cost:** $115

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staff profile

Meet STEPHANIE CALL

Collections Management Archivist

American Jewish Historical Society–New England Archives

My job is to manage our collections at every stage and ensure that they are officially processed, digitized, and ready for research—basically I am responsible for transforming haphazard boxes of papers (and artifacts) into useful collections of materials housed in physical boxes and in virtual folders in our digital archive. A lot of that work is management, so I assign particular collections to our hard-working staff and interns.

All processed collections have a written finding aid, which I encode for online access. Finding aids are essentially maps to the collections, so researchers know what's available and how to request the materials they need. I also work with the Director of AJHS–NEA, Judi Garner, on collection policies, and with Sally Benny, the NEHGS Digital Curator, on the digital archive. Another aspect of my role at AJHS is collections-based outreach through social media platforms, exhibits, articles, and educational programs.

As an archivist, I'm trained to identify preservation concerns, like mold, rust, or water damage, and to determine how a collection can be organized for research purposes. As an archivist for a Jewish archival collection, I have a background in Jewish history, particularly the history of American Jewry, and how international events have affected the local Jewish community, particularly throughout the twentieth century.

I completed my undergraduate degree at Mount Holyoke College, where I majored in English and Jewish Studies. After college, I went into social services and education. I then earned a master's degree in Library Science with a concentration in Archives Management from Simmons College School of Library and Information Science and joined the AJHS–NEA staff in 2007.

I think the most rewarding aspect of my job is seeing a researcher or event attendee experience an epiphany while looking through a collection or learning about a collection. These moments make it very clear how powerful archives can be. Any time our collections are a catalyst for someone's work, for understanding Jewish history, or for conveying the importance of preserving the historical record, it is a success story for us.

My eldest brother has done a lot of work on our father's family, and has tasked me with researching our mother's side. My senior thesis in college was an oral history conducted with my mother, who shared information about her grandparents. Substantiating the information is very difficult. We know my great-grandparents left Russia and Poland because of the pograms, that they left family behind, and that many family members were lost in the Holocaust. But beyond that basic outline very little is known. My great-grandparents had no interest in discussing their lives in Russia and Poland, so I focus on what I do know—that one great-grandfather was from Polotsk, Belarus (as was Mary Antin, author of the 1912 immigrant memoir *The Promised Land* [archive.org/details/promisedland00antigoog]). You have to start somewhere! ◆

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Above: Leland family papers, Mss 882, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society.

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Brick Walls *submitted by our members*

We want to hear from you! Describe your brick wall in 200 words or fewer, and send it to **magazine@nehgs.org** or AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116. Please include your NEHGS member number. *We regret that we cannot reply to every submission. Brick walls will be edited for clarity and length. Responses will be forwarded to submitters.*

The earliest documentation I've found for my ancestor **Sullivan Lane** is the 1850 census. He was in Schroon, Essex County, New York, as a 23-year-old laborer living in a large household, perhaps as a boarder. In 1860, he was a farmer in New Sharon, Franklin County, Maine, age 31, and married to Rachel [Carville]. Sullivan Lane lived in New Sharon until his death on March 1, 1880, and was buried in the Village Cemetery. (To make my research more confusing, another Sullivan Lane lived in Anson, Maine, but later moved with his family to California.) Who were the parents of Sullivan Lane of New Sharon, Maine?

Virginia Smith Maurer, Rocklin, California

I am searching for the origins of **James Ennis,** who was born in 1809 in Ireland (possibly County Cork). In Ireland, he married Rosann Ryan (1807–1885), and they had a daughter, Eliza (b. 1835). The family immigrated to Dukinfield, Cheshire, England, where James worked at the Victoria Boiler Works and daughter Mary was born about 1840. The family's next move was to New York, where three sons were born: Lorin (ca. 1842), William (ca. 1844), and James (ca. 1846). The final move was to Mapleton, Wisconsin, where daughter Ellen was born in 1848. James Ennis died in Mapleton in 1888. I would very much like to find his birthplace in Ireland.

Michele Naylor, Jordan, Minnesota

I am searching for the parents of **Lucinda (Maxim/Muxsom) (Hall) (Tinkham) Westgate/Westcott**, who was born about 1792, probably in Plymouth County, Massachusetts. Her three marriages took place in Plymouth. She was the mother of four children: Eunice Russell Hall, with first husband William Hall; Joseph Tinkham, with second husband Asaph Tinkham; and Lucinda Westgate and Levi Westgate, with third husband Benjamin Westgate Jr. Lucinda died in December 1819 in Plymouth.

Anita Curran Guenin, San Diego, California

My ancestor, Molly Dimond (1762–1787), died a week after her son, **Moses Mighill** (1787–1862), was born. Her parents, Isaac and Abigail Dimond, raised him. Moses's father was likely Moses Mighill (1754–1833), a neighbor in Rockingham County, New Hampshire. Family stories report that after Molly's death Moses "went off to the West Indies." However, he married Elizabeth Page in Rochester, Stafford County, New Hampshire, in 1788, almost exactly a year after Molly died. My brick wall is finding proof that the younger Moses Mighill was the son of the older Moses Mighill and Molly Dimond. Did Moses Sr. abandon his son?

Ronald L. Mihills, Irvington, Virginia

Our longtime brick wall is **Jacob Thomas,** who was born between 1750 and 1760, probably in Pennsylvania, and his first wife, whose name is unknown. We can document their five children, Jacob Jr., James, Elizabeth, Rebecca, and our ancestor, Enoch, who was born about 1785 in Pennsylvania, possibly Lancaster County. In 1807, Jacob Thomas bought a section in Belmont County, Ohio, and the receipt was sent to him in Hagerstown, Maryland. In 1815, Jacob married Mary Brown in Guernsey County, Ohio. We have done DNA testing, which shows the family was likely English, or possibly Welsh, in origin. Who were the parents of Jacob Thomas and where was he born?

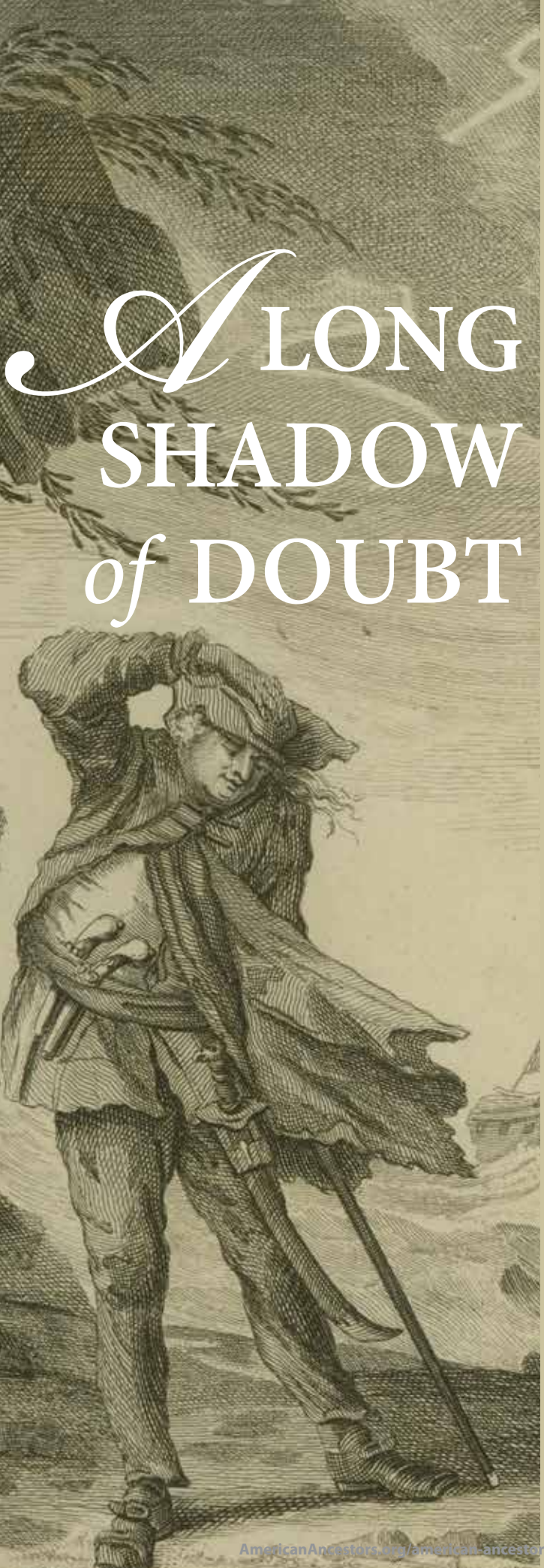
Dave Thomas, East Arlington, Vermont
Pat Thomas, Minneapolis, Minnesota

The NEHGS cartoon



"Your great-grandmother doesn't know who is in the picture either."
Submitted by Erin Kavanaugh Flynn.
Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.

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A LONG SHADOW of DOUBT



Pirates and Captives in Atlantic History

The blade of the axe stopped directly above Ebenezer Mower's head, hesitating for a brief moment to see if he dared to speak. Mower was completely helpless, his head resting on top of a wooden hatch on the deck of the ship. He was surrounded by a number of men who stood watching the spectacle, but they were of no help. Whatever happened next was up to Mower.



Gregory N. Flemming *is the author of* At the Point of a Cutlass: The Pirate Capture, Bold Escape, and Lonely Exile of Philip Ashton *(2014).*

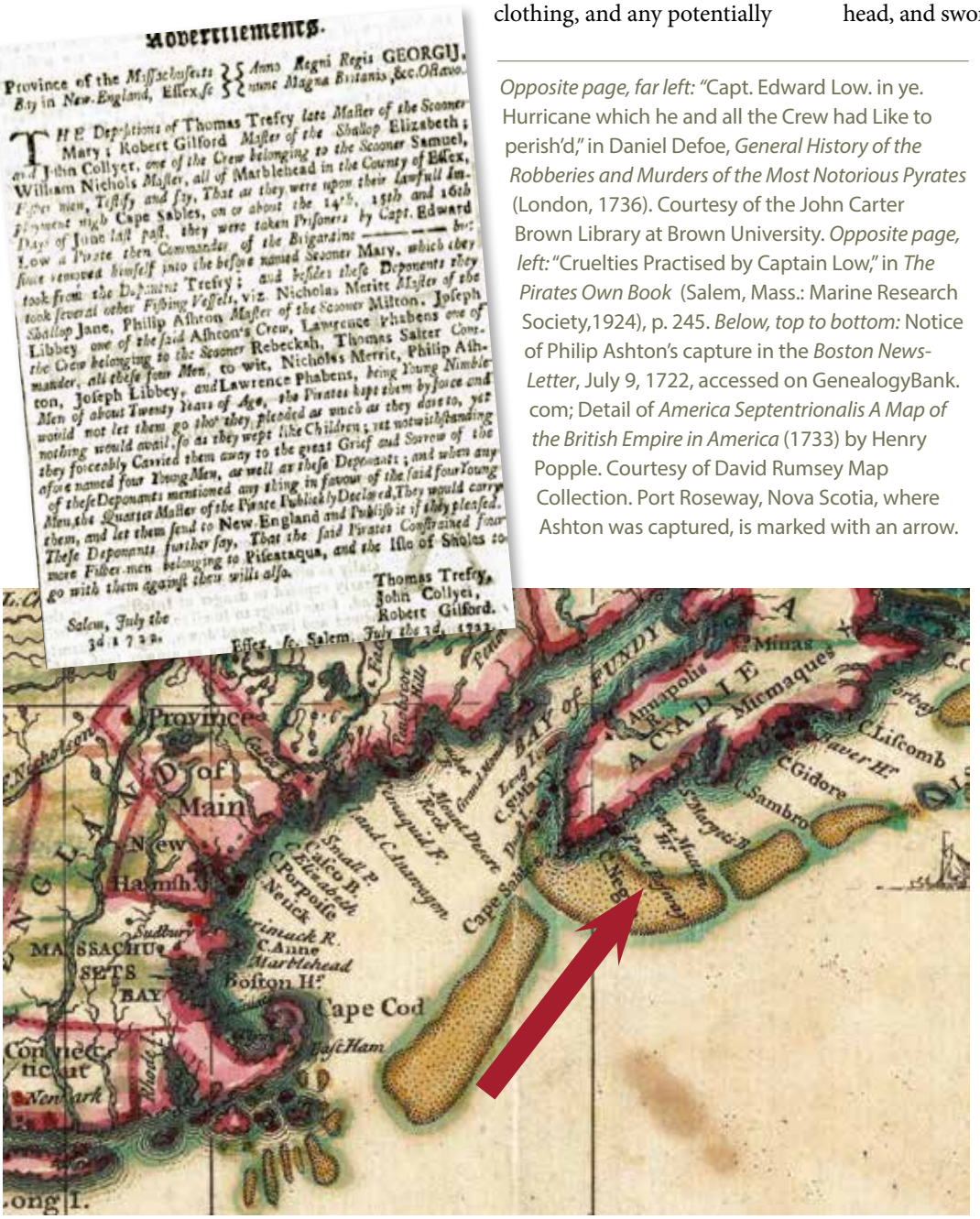
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Only an hour before, Mower had been sailing aboard the trading sloop *Fancy* on a routine run between Rhode Island and the Caribbean island of Martinique. Mower, from Boston, was the cooper aboard the *Fancy*—he was about 30 years old, a small man, short and thin. On the first Thursday in June 1725, Mower and his crewmates suddenly saw another vessel draw alongside—a pirate ship called the *Sea Nymph*, under the command of a man named Philip Lyne. With guns aimed squarely at the deck of the *Fancy*, the pirates ordered its captain, Edmund Casey, to lower the ship's boat and row over. Casey brought with him Mower and another crewmember.

That summer of 1725 would mark the end of the most destructive and deadly decade in the history of Atlantic piracy, a period when trading vessels and fishing boats were captured by lawless sea bandits at the rate of one or two a week. Pirates ransacked captured vessels and tortured their crews in search of money, gold, and other valuables. The pirates seized food, drinking water, clothing, and any potentially useful supplies. But when pirates cornered a vessel, they were almost always also looking for new recruits. That situation spelled disaster for Ebenezer Mower.

As soon as Mower climbed aboard the *Sea Nymph*, the pirates started beating his slight frame— one of them struck Mower repeatedly "with the helve of an axe, whereby his head was much bruised and bloodied." The pirate attacking Mower then made him lay his head on the top of a hatch. The pirate raised the ax again, holding it above Mower's head, and swore that if Mower didn't agree to sign the pirates' articles and join the crew immediately, his head would be chopped off. Mower pleaded desperately, begging for his life, so he was taken into one of the ship's cramped cabins. When he reemerged only minutes later, Mower told his crewmate, James Salter, that he was "ruined and undone." He had been forced to sign the articles and would sail away with the pirates in the *Sea Nymph*.[1]

Tragically, Mower's capture in June 1725 was far from an isolated event. Captives like Mower—"forced" men, as they were known—reveal a little-known side of piracy during the early 1700s. Pirates have long been portrayed as ferocious, rum-drinking, cutlass-waving rovers who wore red kerchiefs tied around their heads, black tri-cornered hats, and the occasional eye patch or peg leg. Many of these colorful details are accurate. But pirate crews did



Opposite page, far left: "Capt. Edward Low. in ye. Hurricane which he and all the Crew had Like to perish'd," in Daniel Defoe, *General History of the Robberies and Murders of the Most Notorious Pyrates* (London, 1736). Courtesy of the John Carter Brown Library at Brown University. *Opposite page, left:* "Cruelties Practised by Captain Low," in *The Pirates Own Book* (Salem, Mass.: Marine Research Society,1924), p. 245. *Below, top to bottom:* Notice of Philip Ashton's capture in the *Boston News-Letter*, July 9, 1722, accessed on GenealogyBank.com; Detail of *America Septentrionalis A Map of the British Empire in America* (1733) by Henry Popple. Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection. Port Roseway, Nova Scotia, where Ashton was captured, is marked with an arrow.

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Uncovering Pirate History from Archival Sources

In September of 1725, a small, 66-page book was printed and sold in Boston entitled *Ashton's Memorial: An History of the Strange Adventures and Signal Deliverances of Mr. Philip Ashton*. Without this rare book, the world might never have known about Philip Ashton's incredible odyssey as a pirate captive and castaway, and I could never have written my book *At the Point of a Cutlass*. Fittingly, the very same 1725 edition of the *Boston News-Letter* that advertised *Ashton's Memorial* also contained a news report about a rash of captures by the pirate Francis Spriggs—one of the very pirates Ashton had escaped from, and who was still on the prowl.

America's largest city at the time, Boston had three newspapers as early as 1721. The pages of these weekly publications contain a treasure trove of information about pirate attacks and captures. Sea captains returning to port often brought word of pirate encounters. Some reports were based on first-hand experience, and others were based on second-hand descriptions or letters collected on sea journeys. When pirates forced one or two men from a captured ship, other members of the crew—those who were set free and sailed back home—would submit statements describing the attack and affirming that their shipmates were impressed against their will. These statements were typically printed as advertisements in one of the weekly papers. Newspapers also contained contemporary accounts of several important pirate trials and executions held during this era in Boston and Newport, Rhode Island.

Beyond newspaper reports, several other types of archival sources were invaluable in my research:

Captives' first-hand narratives

Philip Ashton's description of his capture and escape, as recorded by his Marblehead minister, John Barnard, is probably the most extensive narrative of its type from the early eighteenth century. But other accounts exist, including several by men who sailed with the same pirates who captured Ashton. Two richly detailed letters written by sea captain Richard Hawkins, who was captured by pirate captain Edward Low's former quartermaster, Francis Spriggs, were printed in the *British Journal* in 1724. The narratives of Jonathan Barlow and Nicholas Simmons are preserved in the Massachusetts State Archives. John Fillmore's experiences were recounted in a narrative based on second-hand information in 1790, although a shorter, contemporary report had been printed in the *Boston Gazette* in 1724.

Trial records

As with many historical events, court records provide an important window into pirate activities by preserving the testimony of men accused of being pirates as well as the sea captains and crew members who were their victims. The largest trial of this era was held in Newport in 1723, following the capture of about half of Edward Low's pirate crew, including his quartermaster, Charles Harris. Other trials included those of John Phillips (who captured John Fillmore) and of Matthew Perry and several other men who managed to escape from another pirate crew (the men were all acquitted). Trial records are often the best source of information about captives' names, ages, and the details of pirates' battles and attacks at sea.

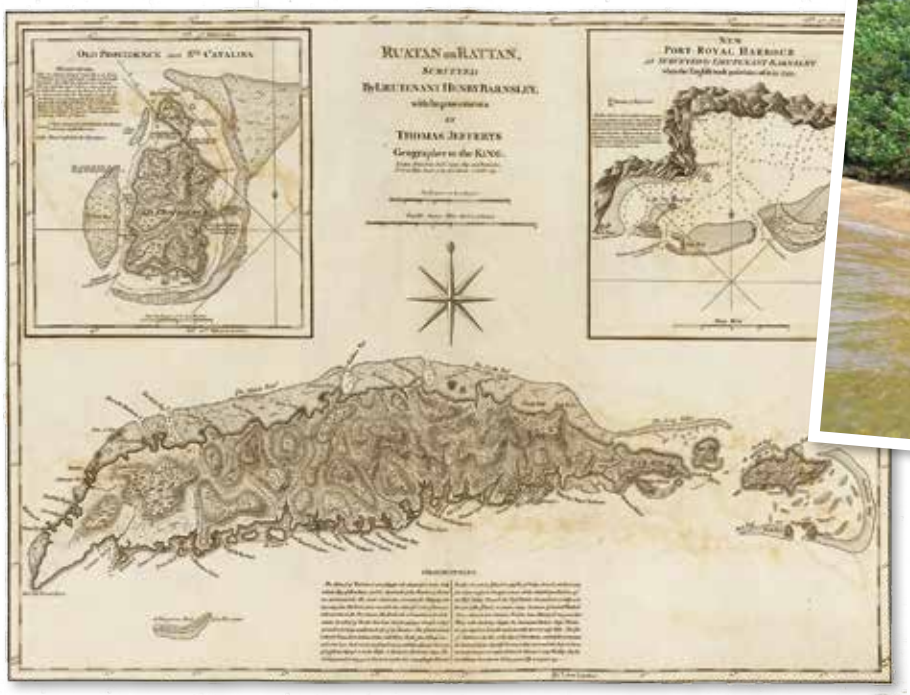
Religious sermons

Puritan church leaders in New England also took a strong interest in piracy, often bringing sensational stories about pirates and their captives—and sometimes the pirates themselves—into the pulpit. The exploits of pirates and the adventures of captives who returned safely home were used time and again by religious leaders to illustrate their stark warnings against a sinful lifestyle. Nobody in colonial America did this more forcefully than Cotton Mather. Throughout his life, Mather offered counsel to a long line of condemned pirates, from Captain William Kidd in 1700 to William Fly, who was executed in Boston in 1726. Mather's sermons provide additional details about pirates—and often, about the final days and hours leading up to their executions. "It was the hand of the Glorious God which brought these criminals to die," Mather proclaimed in his sermon about the pirates from Edward Low's crew executed in Newport. "Take a due notice of what you have seen in the way which these wicked men have trodden, and in the fearful end in which their way has brought them to."

not consist only of pirates. Crews also included captives, hundreds of men like Ebenezer Mower who were dragged aboard and forced on long, violent voyages during the surge of piracy that swept the Atlantic during this era. Most of these captives were working aboard a trading vessel or fishing boat when the pirates chased them down. In the Western World today perhaps no line of work—excepting the armed services—exists in which men and women, in broad daylight, are regularly subject to capture at gunpoint and being forced away from their homes and families for months or even years. But in the early 1720s, pirates regularly seized vessels throughout the Caribbean and up and down the Atlantic coast. The possibility of capture was a frightening and very real fact of life for men who worked at sea.

Almost three years to the day before Mower was captured, a young fisherman named Philip Ashton found himself in the same perilous situation.[2] Ashton, just 19 years old that summer and from Marblehead, Massachusetts, was captured along the coast of Nova Scotia just before sunset on June 15, 1722. Ashton

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Left: Ruatan by Thomas Jeffreys (London, 1775). Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection. *Above:* Roatan, showing the likely watering spot (based on a 1742 survey) and place where Ashton may have escaped. Photo by the author.

and his five-man crew had finished a week of cod fishing when he was impressed by the pirate captain Edward Low—a man so cruel that John Hart, then British governor of the Leeward Islands, claimed "a greater monster never infested the seas."[3] Ashton's crew had just anchored their wooden schooner in a quiet, protected harbor on the eastern coast of Nova Scotia to rest for the evening. When four pirates from Low's crew rowed over in a boat, Ashton was caught completely off guard. Ashton and one other member of his crew were taken back to the pirate ship, where Low pointed a pistol at their heads and demanded the young fishermen sign the ship's articles and join the crew.[4]

Pirates carefully selected their captives. Mower was almost certainly taken because he was a cooper, since men who were skilled in a trade—carpenters, coopers, navigators, and doctors—were desperately needed aboard a pirate ship. The pirate captain Edward Low only forced young, single men because he believed they would be less likely to try to escape without ties to wives and children back home. One of the first questions Low asked Philip Ashton was whether he was married—a question so strange, Ashton recalled, that it "struck us all dumb, and not a man of us dared to speak."[5] Although Ashton steadfastly refused to join Low's crew, he was forced to sail with the pirates on a brutal, destructive cruise across the Atlantic and back. Ashton and the other captives were treated as servants aboard the ship, and lashed repeatedly with whips, swords, and pistols. Some were tied to a mast for whippings, and others were run in circles below decks while a ring of pirates amused themselves by piercing the men with swords and sharp, nail-tipped poles. For the first few months, Ashton feared for his life. At one point, a member of Low's crew pointed a pistol squarely at Ashton's head and pulled the trigger at point-blank range. Miraculously, the gun misfired, but Ashton worried his next encounter would be fatal. "I looked upon myself, for a long while, but as a dead man among them, and expected every day of examination would prove the last of my life," Ashton later recalled.[6]

But Low had no plans to kill Ashton—and for one simple reason. Ashton and other forced men were indispensable to the pirates. They cleaned and repaired the vessel and helped man the sails. Thomas Mumford, a Wampanoag whaleman from Martha's Vineyard captured just days before Ashton, did much of the cooking for the crew. There were cold, nighttime watches to cover and chores the pirates themselves did not want to do. Sailing a ship required many hands, especially during the capture of another vessel. The pirates often used captives to help unload goods and merchandise from other vessels, particularly when a sizeable haul or large and heavy iron cannon needed to be moved. On some pirate vessels, especially those with small crews, captives were given significant responsibilities, including taking charge of steering the vessel or helping to sail a second ship when it was taken.

The biggest threat facing pirate captives during this era—which often did prove fatal—was guilt by association. When one of the British warships that patrolled the Atlantic or Caribbean cornered a pirate ship, everyone aboard was assumed to be a pirate. And many of them were. When a vessel was captured by a pirate crew, some captured men would decide to join the pirates and sign the ship's articles. Some of these men were unable to endure the whippings and beatings facing those who did not cooperate, but other men were tempted by the promise of an easier and surprisingly democratic lifestyle aboard a pirate ship—a far more relaxed environment than that of the era's typical merchant vessel. John Brown, a 27-year-old sailor from County Durham in northern England, told a crewmate he'd rather "be in a tight vessel than a leaky one," so he signed on with Low. Most of the men who sailed with Low were in their twenties. Some were from the New England colonies,

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Above: John Fillmore headstone at the Plains Cemetery in Franklin, Connecticut. Photo by the author. *Above right: A Narrative of the Singular Sufferings of John Fillmore* (1837) was donated to NEHGS by Fillmore's grandson and future U.S. president Millard Fillmore, in 1845, the year NEHGS was founded.

others from England or Ireland, and a few others were Africans or Native Americans.

In the summer of 1723, one of Low's two sloops was caught by the warship HMS *Greyhound*. About half of Low's crew was aboard the sloop, and the men were put on trial in Newport, Rhode Island. Many of the accused pirates were forced captives, including a friend and former crewmate of Philip Ashton's named Joseph Libbey. At the trial, Libbey showed the court a sworn deposition by several Marblehead captains that had been published in a Boston newspaper, stating that Ashton, Libbey, and several other young fishermen had been forced aboard Low's crew. But even the deposition did not help. The advocate general who prosecuted the Newport trial, John Valentine, took a skeptical view of the captives' claims. "The plea of constraint, or force (in the mouth of every pirate) can be of no avail to them," Valentine told the court, "for if that would justify or excuse, no pirate would ever be convicted." The judges agreed. Libbey and 25 other men were hanged on July 19, 1723, in Newport harbor—one of the largest mass executions in American history.[7]

The only way captives could get away from the pirates was to revolt or escape. Incredibly, Ashton ran away from Low's crew on Roatan, an uninhabited Caribbean island where the pirates stopped for fresh water. Completely alone, Ashton then clawed out a living on the remote island for nearly two years before finding his way back home to Massachusetts where, even today, he is called America's "real-life Robinson Crusoe." Other captives quietly plotted ways to overthrow a pirate crew, but were often thwarted because the pirates, heavily armed, almost always had a pistol, cutlass, or other weapon within reach. "This deters the forced men from seeming inclinable to leave them," wrote one man who was captured by members of Low's crew. "And though there may be a greater number of forced men than pirates, it is not likely they should attempt to rise against them."[8]

Another young fisherman from colonial New England captured by pirates, John Fillmore, was desperate enough to try fighting back. Fillmore was taken by the pirate captain John Phillips in August of 1723 and sailed with the pirates along the Atlantic seaboard for nearly eight months. Age 22, Fillmore had grown up near Ipswich, Massachusetts. Like Ashton and other forced men, Fillmore repeatedly begged to be set free. Instead, he was compelled for months to help sail the ship and to haul heavy weapons and casks off captured vessels, and was beaten with a whip or sword for any perceived infraction.

John Phillips, the captain of the crew that impressed Fillmore, was fueled by rage. Many of the men aboard Phillips's ship—not only the captives but some of the pirates, too—lived in constant fear of their short-tempered captain. "Phillips was completely despotic," Fillmore later recalled, "and there was no such thing as evading his commands." By April of 1724, Fillmore and several other captives aboard Phillips's ship were desperate enough to revolt. That decision sparked one of the most dramatic uprisings against a pirate crew in the history of the Atlantic.[9]

On April 14, 1724, the pirates captured a sloop, the *Squirrel*, and took the new vessel as their own, moving their equipment, supplies, and weapons over the next day. The pirates set most of the sloop's crew free, but kept its young captain, Andrew Harradine, from

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Gloucester, Massachusetts. Within a day of Harradine's capture, Fillmore quietly approached him with the idea of attacking the pirate crew. Seven captives were in on the plot, including Fillmore and Harradine, and it seemed possible that they might be able to overpower the eight pirates if circumstances were right.

Three days later, they were. The pirates were in an especially raucous mood and had spent most of April 17 celebrating a string of recent captures, eating and drinking late into the night. Sometime that evening, Captain Phillips gave two orders: for a captive named Edward Cheesman, the carpenter, to bring his tools up onto the deck so Cheesman could make some repairs early the next morning, and for the crew to take an observation of the sun at noon the next day to determine their position at sea. This set the stage. At daybreak the next day, the captives began their work, but there was no sign of the pirates, who remained fast asleep. Finally, close to noon, Phillips and several other men stumbled out of the cabin. One of the pirates got ready to measure the angle of the sun with a wooden quadrant. Cheesman, the carpenter, was standing with him. The sails were full and the ship was moving through the water at a good rate, with one of the captives at the helm. Fillmore and Harradine were also standing on the deck with several other pirates. Cheesman had intentionally left a broad axe resting on the deck after finishing his work that morning, and Fillmore stood casually spinning the broad axe with his foot.

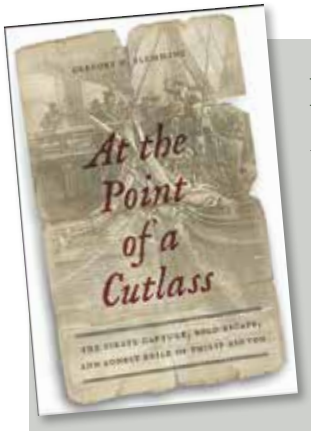
In an instant the captives attacked. Cheesman grabbed the pirate standing next to him and thrust him overboard. Fillmore bent over and picked up the broad axe at his feet and struck another pirate, who was cleaning a gun, over the head and killed him. Alarmed by the shouts and commotion on deck, Phillips came out of his cabin to see what was going on. The captive manning the tiller, a Native American named Isaac Lassen, jumped at Phillips and grabbed his arm while Harradine struck him over the head with an adze. Finally, two French captives jumped a fourth pirate, killed him, and threw him overboard.

In less than two minutes, four of the most active pirates on the crew, including Phillips, had been killed. The remaining pirates, now outnumbered, immediately surrendered. The captives took control of the ship and headed home, arriving in Boston on Sunday, May 3. The captives' stunning overthrow of the pirate crew fascinated the town. The *Boston News-Letter*, the *Boston Gazette*, and the *New England Courant* each published accounts of how Fillmore, Cheesman, and Harradine brought down Phillips and his men. One report even suggested that the captives brought Phillips's head back to Boston. The pirates were put on trial nine days later, on May 12. Two members of Phillips's crew, William White and quartermaster John Rose Archer, were easily convicted. But as in the Newport trial a year earlier, the court struggled over the fate of men who claimed they were forced captives.[10]

One of the captives taken by Phillips was a man named William Phillips (no relation to the pirate captain). The captive William Phillips had suffered terribly during the cruise. Caught up in gunfire during a short battle at sea, Phillips's left leg was torn open by a bullet, and had to be crudely amputated with a saw several days later. At the trial in Boston, William Phillips told the court he had refused to sign his name to the ship's articles at first and ultimately did so only when forced at gunpoint. Phillips knew that signing placed him in a precarious situation. Weeks before, when the captain of a fishing schooner offered to take Phillips after the amputation of his leg left him incapacitated, Phillips refused to go, "saying if he should they would hang him."[11]

At the trial in Boston, testimony by several crewmates seemed to suggest Phillips was by no means an active member of the pirate crew. Fillmore, for example, told the court that he did not see Phillips board a brigantine the pirates captured and robbed. Another sea captain taken by the pirates testified that he did not know whether Phillips helped carry any food the pirates took from plundered vessels. The court split over Phillips' case. When the judges voted, he alone was narrowly convicted by a plurality of the panel, even as six other captives were unanimously acquitted. Phillips then heard the fateful judgment of the court, words that could only drown him with regret: "You, William Phillips, are to go from hence to the place whence you come and from thence to the place of execution, and there you are to be hanged by the neck until you are dead, and God of His Infinite Mercy save your Soul."

The castaway Philip Ashton and the mutineer John Fillmore represent two of the more dramatic stories of men who encountered pirates—and survived—during the early eighteenth century. But many other young men were not so lucky. Joseph Libbey and William Phillips, both convicted of being pirates themselves, represent a less well-known and far more tragic aspect of this period.



How to order

At the Point of a Cutlass: The Pirate Capture, Bold Escape, and Lonely Exile of Philip Ashton by Gregory N. Flemming was published by ForeEdge, an imprint of the University Press of New England in 2014.

"Ashton's account of his travails, published in 1725, became a hit in Colonial New England. Now forgotten, his story is brought back to life by Gregory N. Flemming . . . [T]he book delivers blood-thirsty pirates and plenty of action and excitement on the high seas. Forgoing an 'avast ye swabbies!' approach, Flemming's sober style and scholarly approach ballast his account and keep his story on a steady course."—*Boston Globe*

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Unlike Libbey, however, Phillips was spared at the last moment. Phillips and one of the other convicted pirates were granted a reprieve, and Governor William Dummer wrote to London asking for a royal pardon of the two men. The pardon was granted a year later.[12] ◆

Notes

1 *Boston Gazette,* September 13, 1725; *Boston Gazette,* December 6, 1725. According to newspaper reports based on a deposition, Mower was forced to sail with the pirate Lyne for at least four months, but nothing further is known about his fate.

2 Philip Ashton was born on August 12, 1702, the son of Philip Ashton (d. 1746) and Sarah Hanniford (1671–1744). Although the death of the senior Philip Ashton was recorded in 1746, no evidence concerning the death of the younger Philip Ashton has been found. He lived at least until 1742, the year when the last of his children with Sarah Bartlett (1728–1747) was born. See Sidney Perley, ed., *The Essex Antiquarian* 5 (1901): 185; and "The Henley Families" in the *Magazine of History With Notes and Queries* 18 (January–June 1914): 42.

3 Cecil Headlam, ed., *Calendar of State Papers, Colonial Series, America and West Indies, vol. 34: 1724–1725,* (London, 1936), p. xlv.

4 Gregory N. Flemming, *At the Point of a Cutlass: The Pirate Capture, Bold Escape, and Lonely Exile of Philip Ashton* (Hanover, N.H.: ForeEdge, 2014).

5 Edward Low's obsession with captives' marital status seems to have stemmed from feelings associated with the death of his own wife, Eliza Marble, and pangs of longing—"an uneasiness in the sentiments of his mind"—related to his young daughter still living in Boston. Ashton came to this conclusion much later, after spending months aboard Low's ship. "Upon every lucid interval from reveling and drink he would express a great tenderness for [his daughter], insomuch that I have seen him sit down and weep plentifully upon the mentioning of it," Ashton wrote.

6 John Barnard, *Ashton's Memorial: An History of the Strange Adventures and Signal Deliverances of Mr. Philip Ashton* (Boston: Samuel Gerrish, 1725).

7 "Trials of Thirty-Six Persons for Piracy," in Wilkins Updike, *Memoirs of the Rhode Island Bar* (Boston: Thomas H. Webb & Company, 1842).

8 Letter of Richard Hawkins, captured by Low's quartermaster, Francis Spriggs, in 1724, published in the *British Journal,* August 22, 1724.

9 John Fillmore, *Narration of the Captivity of John Fillmore and His Escape from the Pirates* (Bennington, Vt.: Haswell & Russell, 1790).

10 Fillmore returned briefly to Ipswich, on the north shore of Boston, after the trial and execution of the surviving members of Phillips' crew. Fillmore married Mary Spiller six months after returning home. But Fillmore and his new wife moved almost immediately to a seventy-acre farm in Franklin, Connecticut. Fillmore and his first wife had four children before her death in late 1733 or early 1734. Fillmore soon married again and had twelve more children with his second wife, Dorcas Day. Fillmore died in Franklin in 1777. U.S. president Millard Fillmore was a great-grandson of John and Dorcas (G.B. Roberts, *Ancestors of American Presidents*, 2009 edition, 2012 reprint (Boston: NEHGS, 2012), pp. 36, 515–16.

11 Cases of John Rose Archer and Others, in John F. Jameson, *Privateering and Piracy in the Colonial Period: Illustrative Documents* (New York: MacMillan, 1923).

12 Cases of John Rose Archer and Others, in Jameson, *Privateering and Piracy* [note 10]; Address of Lt. Governor Dummer to the King, America and West Indies: May 1724, *Calendar of State Papers* [note 3], pp. 86–105; Duke of Newcastle to Lt. Governor Dummer, America and West Indies: February 1725, *Calendar of State Papers* [note 3], pp. 320–35; *Boston News Letter,* June 4, 1724.

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Elizabeth King Horton's Fight for Half-pay Pension

On May 24, 1777, Elizabeth (King) Horton, a 28-year-old mother of three from Roxbury, New Jersey, became a widow.

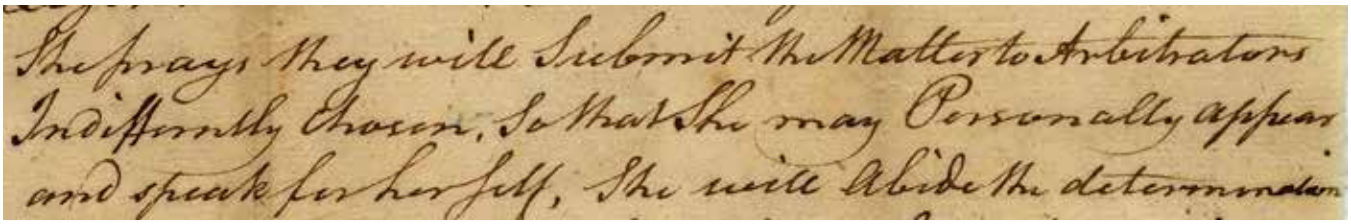
Her husband, surgeon's mate Jonathan Horton, succumbed to a "putrid sickness" he contracted while treating smallpox-ridden Continental troops at the Mendham army hospital located a few miles from his home. Two months earlier, on March 27, 1777, Elizabeth's father-in-law, Rev. Azariah Horton, had contracted smallpox and died ministering to Continental troops at Bottle Hill, New Jersey. On June 11, 1777, eighteen days after Jonathan's death, Elizabeth gave birth to my ancestor, Jonathan K. Horton, who grew up without a father or paternal grandfather. Sadly, in 1777 no provisions were in place to assist widows whose husbands died in service to the newly declared United States of America.

At the time, the Continental Congress was struggling to provide even basic provisions for the Continental Army. With no authority to raise taxes and dependent on cooperation from the thirteen



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Elizabeth Horton's November 1786 petition objecting to the revocation of her pension. "Petition of Elizabeth Horton to the Executive Council and General Assembly concerning the revocation of her widows pension," Morris Co., 10 November 1786, p. 3. New Jersey State Archives; Department of State.

colonies, Congress was severely restricted in its ability to provide pensions. Even so, the first of many pension resolutions by the Continental Congress was passed on August 26, 1776, providing relief for disabled Continental soldiers. The first pension legislation for widows and orphans was passed on August 24, 1780. Due to the limited authority of Congress, individual colonies or states were required to administer Continental soldier pensions until 1789, when the pensions were transferred to federal control. During this period the colonies or states not only administered Continental Army pensions but also funded and administered their own militia pensions.

After 1789, state-held Continental pension documents were transferred to the War Department in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately those papers burned in an 1800 fire, leaving few surviving records. Another fire in 1814 destroyed the previous fourteen years of applications. Subsequent acts of Congress would ultimately provide pensions for all state or federal veterans and their widows.

The vast majority of Revolutionary War pension applications consist of documents submitted after the fires. The original applications are part of the National Archives and digital copies are readily available online at both Ancestry.com and Fold3.com. These records typically contain a wealth of detail about the veteran. Commonly overlooked are documents found in state and local archives. In Elizabeth Horton's case, records of the New Jersey state legislature and petition documents held by the New Jersey State Archives proved to be gold mines of genealogical information.

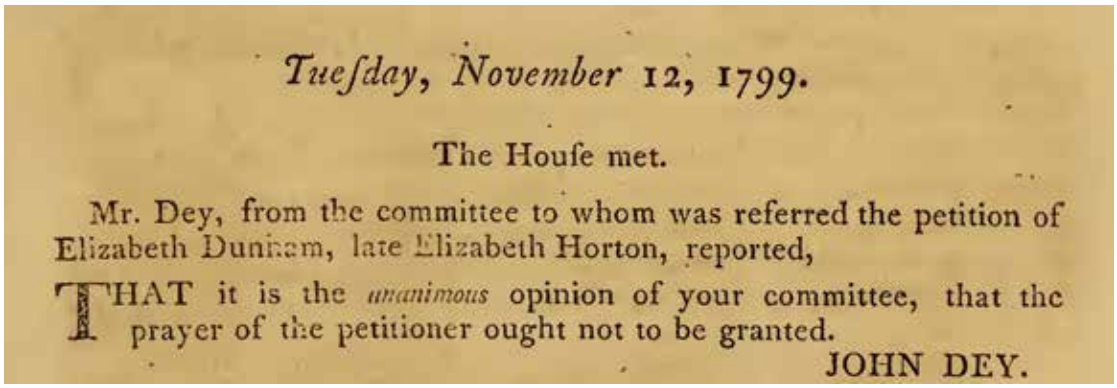
Initially, I knew very little about Jonathan and Elizabeth (King) Horton. His parents' probate records confirmed that Jonathan Horton (1745–1777) was the eldest son of Rev. Azariah Horton[1] and Eunice Foster[2] of Bottle Hill. Probate records for Elizabeth's brother, George King of Morristown, New Jersey, prove that Elizabeth was the daughter of Constant and Phebe (Horton) King[3] of Roxbury, New Jersey. State records listed Jonathan's service as a surgeon in the New Jersey militia from February to December 1776.[4] His unit was encamped with General George Washington during the famed crossing of the Delaware.[5] At the end of December Jonathan's commitment to the state militia ended. The details of Jonathan's subsequent 1777 Continental service did not become clear to me until I began to follow the paper trail created by Elizabeth's pursuit of a pension.

Remarkably, the key to Elizabeth's story and Doctor Horton's Continental Army service was found in a Morristown trash heap in 1915. A manuscript account book of Morris County court records contained requests for pensions submitted by thirty-nine claimants based upon Revolutionary War service. These records were published in 1916 in the *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society*.[6] The very first case was Elizabeth Horton's September 1779 petition for a pension. The record included copies of certificates from Brigadier General Henry Knox and Surgeon General John Cochran attesting to Jonathan Horton's service. The certificates stated that Jonathan was asked to join the Continentals because of the smallpox epidemic in Mendham, that he was appointed assistant surgeon to Dr. Isaac Spafford (of Capt. Jotham Drury's Company of Artillery, 3rd Continental Artillery), and that he died of disease in Mendham as a result of that service. Elizabeth's maternal uncle, Elijah Horton, and her father, Constant King, both New Jersey justices, certified that Elizabeth was the widow of Dr. Jonathan Horton, who died in the service of the United States. Elizabeth's brothers, Fredrick King and C. Victor King, submitted similar affidavits. The court ruled that Elizabeth Horton was entitled to receive the monthly half pay of her husband during her widowhood.

Knowing Elizabeth would have submitted these certificates to the State Assembly, I searched for "Elizabeth Horton" in the *Proceedings of the General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey* and found numerous references.[7] Next, I requested relevant documents from the New Jersey State Archives and received a large number of fascinating documents that detailed Jonathan's Continental Army service and the Horton family's extraordinarily long battle for a pension—a two-generation struggle that stretched over fifty-one years!

Opposite: This marker is located in the Hill Top Cemetery, next to the First Presbyterian Church of Mendham, New Jersey. The meeting house that stood on the church site during the Revolution was used as a smallpox hospital; it was in this building that Jonathan Horton tended to the sick and caught the disease himself. Courtesy of Mary-Jo Solomon. This drawing depicts the first meeting house on the site of the present First Presbyterian Church in Mendham. Built in 1745, it was in use until a new church was dedicated in 1817. The sketch, drawn based on early written descriptions, appears in *Two Hundred Fifty Years on the Hilltop: a History of the First Presbyterian Church, Mendham, New Jersey, 1738–1988* (Mendham, N.J.: First Presbyterian Church, 1988). Courtesy of First Presbyterian Church.

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Tuesday, November 12, 1799.

The House met.

Mr. Dey, from the committee to whom was referred the petition of Elizabeth Dunham, late Elizabeth Horton, reported,

THAT it is the *unanimous* opinion of your committee, that the prayer of the petitioner ought not to be granted.

JOHN DEY.

Elizabeth's final petition was unanimously denied by committee on November 12, 1799. *Votes and Proceedings of the Twenty-Third General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Third Sitting* (Trenton, N.J.: Sherman, Mershon & Thomas, 1799), p. 73. New Jersey State Archives; Department of State.

Elizabeth Horton's pension battle

Elizabeth's adjudicated pension documents from Morris County were approved on March 17, 1780, by the New Jersey State Assembly.[8] She was provided twenty dollars a month for the term of her widowhood, with payments retroactive to Jonathan's death date, May 24, 1777. Elizabeth's first payment was $680 in worthless Continental currency. She received a pension, mostly in "Continentals," until 1784, when the payments stopped for no known reason.

Two years later, on March 22, 1786, the New Jersey General Assembly passed a resolution to revoke her pension, stating that she had received "large sums of money" and that her husband "died by sickness and not in consequence of any wounds."[9] In response Elizabeth submitted a November 1786 petition objecting to the revocation and asking that her pension be renewed. She insisted that the issue be sent to arbitration if the pension was not reinstated. For a second time Brigadier General Henry Knox and Doctor John Cochran wrote affidavits in her favor. Elizabeth, apparently an assertive and educated woman, was determined to speak face to face with the arbitrators.

> But if the Legislature do not Chuse to Grant her request, She prays they will Submit the Matter to Arbitrators Indifferently Chosen, So that She may Personally appear and speak for herself, She will abide the determination of Such Arbitrations. — She thinks hard of having her Warrant revoked without being heard.[10]

Elizabeth's petition attempted to address all of the issues raised by the legislature. The first issue was the apparent loss of the original 1779 adjudicated certificates. (Although the originals would never be found, copies would be rescued from the Morristown dump in 1915.) Elizabeth noted that "the original vouchers were put in the Hands of the Assembly and have not been in her possession since." She argued "they were by the Courts of the County of Morris and the Then Assembly thought Sufficient for a charge to be made against the United States." Perhaps the State of New Jersey couldn't charge the U.S. government for her pension because the original documents were lost. But, as Elizabeth pointed out, she was not the one who lost them.

Another issue for the legislature was that Elizabeth had already received large sums of pension money. On this topic she contended that ". . . the Sums paid on the Warrant were not So large as they might Seem at first Sight to be, as a great part was paid in Continental Money at Minimal Value." Not only were the payments in essentially worthless Continental currency, they appeared large only because they were retroactive.

An important factor in the pension saga may have been a clerical error. Among the documents found in the New Jersey State Archives was a list of "Men from New Jersey in the Medical Department—Continental Army," which incorrectly gave Jonathan Horton's death as *March 1780*.[11] The document is identified as a copy and has no associated date or author. The misinformation was likely a clerical error made by the Medical Department during the war. Such an error could have caused doubts about Elizabeth's retroactive payments.

An additional issue not documented in the Assembly record but noted in Elizabeth's petition concerned Jonathan's name not being found on the rolls of hospital officers:

> It has been told your Petitioner that the Assembly (or some of them) objected to her having allowance because her Husband's Name was not found on the Rolls.

General Knox, Doctor Cochran, and Elizabeth all addressed this issue. General Knox stated that:

> This is therefore to certify that it is the opinion of the subscriber that the widow of the said Doctor Jonathan Horton is entitled in equity and justice to the allowance . . . notwithstanding the name of the said Doctor Jonathan Horton does not appear on the rolls of the Hospital officers of the year 1777 and that there is a propriety in charging the same to the United States.[12]

On November 17, 1786, Elizabeth's petition and certificates were read to the General Assembly. Six months later, on May 28, 1787, the petition was read a second time and "ordered to lie on the Table"[13] meaning the petition was silenced and no further action was taken on it.

On May 10, 1794, Elizabeth married Benue Dunham in Morristown.[14] On February 16, 1795, under the name

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Elizabeth Dunham, she submitted her second extant petition.[15] This petition argued she should be compensated for the payments made to her in worthless Continental currency but less than a month later, on March 13, 1795, she received another rejection.[16] Undaunted, Elizabeth submitted yet another petition on February 11, 1796, along with a "number of vouchers to justify their claim."[17] The petition was read and, again, dismissed. Elizabeth's final petition, submitted on February 9, 1799, was unanimously denied by committee on November 12, 1799.[18]

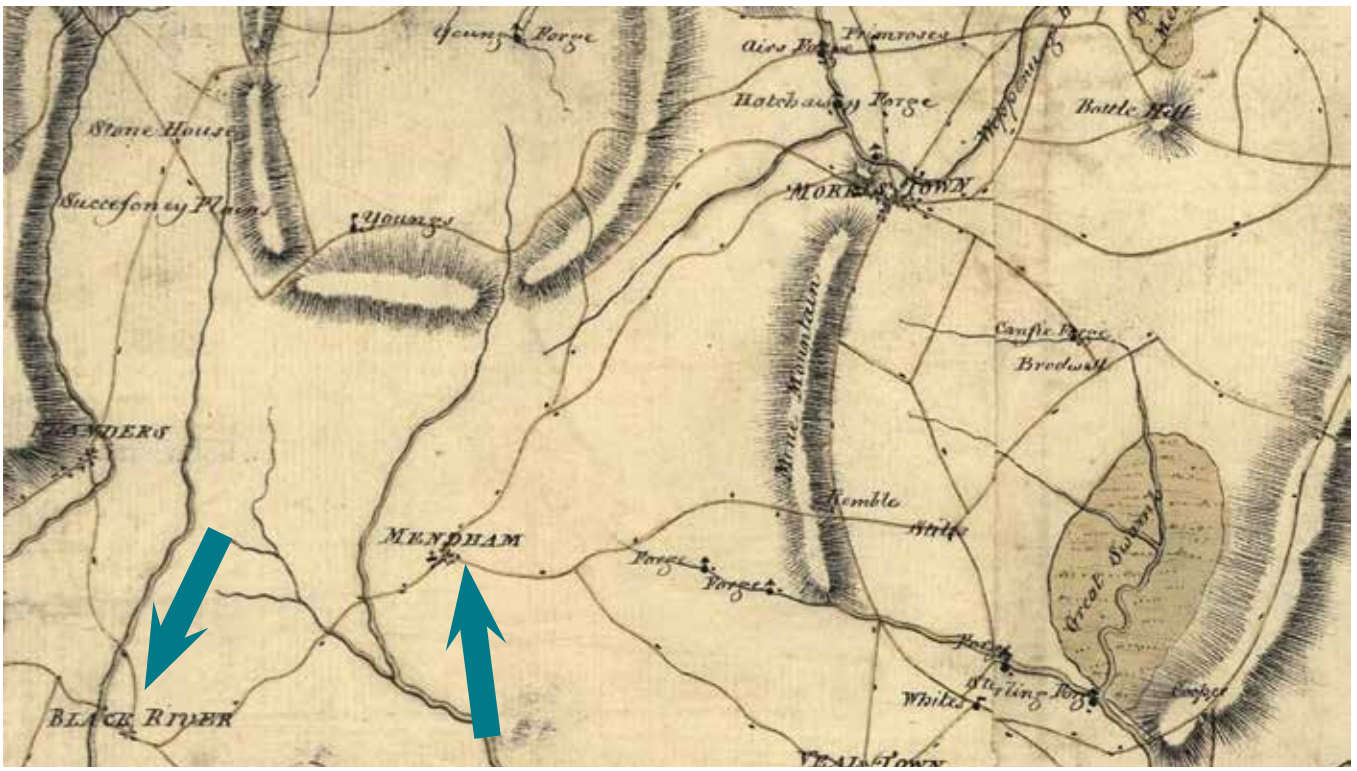
Although the 1796 and 1799 petitions could not be found in the State Archives, several informative documents in the Archives coincided with the 1799 appeal. One, an affidavit dated January 19, 1799, written by John Cary of Mendham noted that Dr. Jonathan Horton, an assistant surgeon in the Continental hospital in Mendham Township, was taken to his brother-in-law's house where he died sometime in the spring of 1777.[19] Another document was a 1799 Morris County copy of the original 1779 voucher the Assembly had lost; apparently the lost documents were still an issue for the State. Yet another document listed the payments Elizabeth received between 1780 and 1784. With this new evidence, Elizabeth attempted to address the issues the legislature had originally cited in 1786.

Elizabeth's unsuccessful protracted battle with the state had spanned fourteen years. Eighteen years after her last petition, on February 7, 1818, with a count of 27 yeas and 15 nays, the New Jersey Legislature passed a bill entitled "An act for the relief of Elizabeth Dunham, late Elizabeth Horton."[20] Her pension was finally reinstated thirty-two years after it was revoked. Although no records in the Legislative journals after 1799 mention Elizabeth Dunham or any petitions on her behalf to further illuminate this part of the story, the 1818 act indicated she had legally been granted a pension of twenty dollars a month in 1780, that she received payments from 1780 to 1784, that her widowhood ended in May 1794, and therefore that she would be compensated for about nine years of missing payments, or until she died. The passage of this act validated Elizabeth's arguments and highlighted the injustice of the earlier revocation.

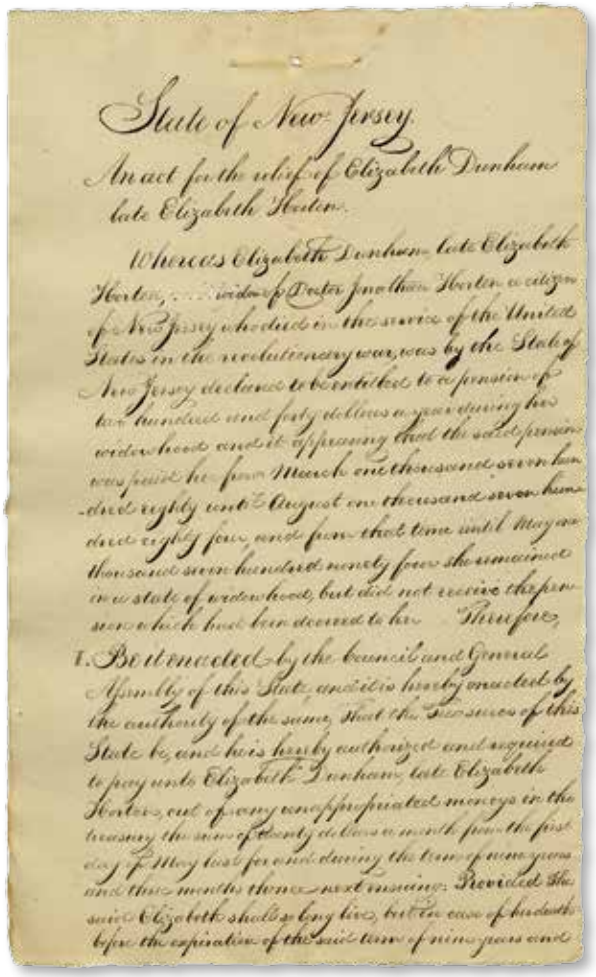
Elizabeth (King) (Horton) Dunham died five years later on October 3, 1823, in Hanover Neck, Morris County.[21]

Surprisingly this long pension saga does not end with Elizabeth's death. On October 29, 1829, the heirs of Elizabeth Dunham—her son Jonathan K. Horton, her daughter Phebe Crosby, and son-in-law Ananias Cooper—took up Elizabeth's claim and petitioned the New Jersey Legislature for additional compensation. The heirs probably argued that Elizabeth had not been compensated for the substantial difference between the value of Continental currency and legitimate specie, as other pensioners had been, and that the State only paid her for about five of the nine years of back pension payments she was owed. This petition failed on January 8, 1830.[22]

Detail of *A Sketch of the Northern Parts of New Jersey* (1781) by Benjamin Morgan and Thomas Millidge. Courtesy of Library of Congress Geography and Map Division, Washington, D.C. The arrows mark Black River, an early name for Roxbury, where the Hortons lived, and Mendham, where Jonathan Horton tended to smallpox victims and caught the disease himself.



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State of New Jersey

An act for the relief of Elizabeth Dunham late Elizabeth Horton.

Whereas Elizabeth Dunham late Elizabeth Horton, widow of Doctor Jonathan Horton a citizen of New Jersey who died in the service of the United States in the revolutionary war, was by the State of New Jersey declared to be entitled to a pension of two hundred and forty dollars a year during her widowhood and it appearing that the said person was paid her for March one thousand seven hundred eighty and August one thousand seven hundred eighty four, and from that time until May one thousand seven hundred ninety four she remained in a state of widowhood, but did not receive the pension which had been deemed to her Therefore

1. Be it enacted by the Council and General Assembly of this State, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that the Treasurer of this State be, and he is hereby authorized and required to pay unto Elizabeth Dunham late Elizabeth Horton, out of any unappropriated moneys in the treasury the sum of forty dollars a month from the first day of May last for and during the time of nine years and three months thence next ensuing. Provided the said Elizabeth shall so long live, but in case of her death before the expiration of the said term of nine years and

Finally, in 1818, Elizabeth's pension was reinstated. "An Act for the Relief of Elizabeth Dunham late Elizabeth Horton, 6 February 1818, p. 1. New Jersey State Archives; Department of State.

Conclusion

In the midst of war, poor recordkeeping and a clerical error in the Continental Army hospital department probably caused Elizabeth (King) (Horton) Dunham's pension troubles. As a result she not only raised her children without a husband, she did so with little assistance—even though a pension should have been paid to her throughout her widowhood.

The paper trail generated for this case by Elizabeth and the State of New Jersey was extensive and exceptionally useful to me, both historically and genealogically. From the heir petition in the legislative journals, I found proof that my ancestor Jonathan K. Horton was the son of Dr. Jonathan and Elizabeth (King) Horton, and I discovered that Doctor Horton served in the Continental Army as assistant surgeon. I also learned the married surnames of the couple's two daughters; the given name of Elizabeth's second husband, Benue Dunham; the month and year of Elizabeth's second marriage; and many other details.

Ultimately, the most poignant discovery was of Elizabeth's long struggle with the state legislature, and the insight into her character. I admire her tenacity and unyielding determination over thirty years to be treated fairly. When I first read in the 1786 petition that she thought "hard of having her Warrant revoked without being heard" and insisted on arbitration so that "she may Personally appear and speak for herself," I knew she must indeed have been exceptional. I am proud she fought so hard. I am glad she eventually prevailed. ◆

Notes

1 Rev. Azariah Horton (1715–1777) of Southold, New York, a1735 Yale graduate, served as a Presbyterian missionary to Native Americans on Long Island in the 1740s, was a founder of the Presbyterian Church in Bottle Hill (now Madison), New Jersey, and a Revolutionary War Patriot. Azariah was a great-grandson of Barnabas Horton (1600–1680) of Southold. See George Horton, *Horton Genealogy* (Philadelphia, 1876), 183–84.

2 Joan Burstyn, *Past and Promise: Lives of New Jersey Women* (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse University Press, 1997), 24. Eunice (Foster) Horton (1722–1778) of Shinnecock, Long Island, was a mother to seven children and an active partner in running the family store and farm. She and her husband also founded a church-affiliated classical school.

3 "F.K. of Rahway, N.J.," "Genealogy of a Branch of the King Family," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 11 (1857): 357–58. Constant King (1711–1780), of Southold, was an early settler of Morris County, N.J., moving to Black River (later Roxbury, now Chester), shortly before 1753. He was known as "Justice King" after becoming a judge in 1771. His wife Phebe (Horton) was a descendant of Barnabas Horton (1600–1680) of Southold.

4 *Minutes of the Provincial Congress and the Council of Safety of the State of New Jersey* (Trenton, N.J., 1879), 394, 485; and B.F. Heitman, *Historical Register of Officers of the Continental Army During the War of the Revolution* (Washington, D.C., 1893), 229.

5 "Sketch of Colonel Ephraim Martin, of the New Jersey Continental Line," *The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography* 34, no. 4 (1910): 481.

6 "Revolutionary Pension Records of Morris County," *Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society,* New Series I (1916): 89–91.

7 *Proceedings of the General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey*. See https://dspace.njstatelib.org/xmlui/browse.

8 *A Journal of the Proceedings of the Legislative-Council of the State of New-Jersey, Third and Fourth Sittings of the Fourth Session* (Trenton, 1780), 64-65; and "Legislative warrant for Elizabeth Horton, widow of Dr. Horton for half pay." 17 Mar 1780. Ms #10409, Revolutionary War Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives, Trenton, New Jersey.

9 *Votes and Proceedings of the Tenth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Second Sitting* (Trenton, 1786), 77–78.

10 "Petition of Elizabeth Horton to the Executive Council and General Assembly concerning the revocation of her widows pension," Morris Co., 10 Nov 1786, Ms 10411 C, Revolutionary War—Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives.

11 "Medical Department, Continental Army: Name, Jonathan Horton; Remarks, Surgeon in General Hospital; Died March 1780," Mss 6007, Revolutionary War Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives. A Jonathan Horton who served as a surgeon in the Continental Army and died in 1780 is listed in William S. Stryker, *Official Register of the Officers and Men of New Jersey in the Revolutionary War* [Trenton, 1872], 73, 377. This man must be Dr. Jonathan Horton (son of Rev. Azariah) who died in 1777, not 1780; no other Dr. Jonathan Horton from New Jersey served in the Continental Army.

12 "Certificate of Brig. Gen H[enry] Knox that Elizabeth Horton, widow of Dr. Jonathan Horton, should receive a widow's pension," New York, 8 Nov 1786, Original, Ms 10411 B1,

(continued on page 46)

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Mary Ann Goodrich's SAMPLER

Chronicling the Beginning and End of a Wethersfield Family

At first glance, we thought this 1816 schoolgirl sampler told us everything we needed to know about one Connecticut Goodrich family: parents' names and births, their marriage date, names and birth dates of their children, the identity of the embroiderer, her age and year of completion, and, finally, the death dates and ages at death of all listed. But when we started to unravel the threads of this sampler's story, further layers of this family's history were revealed.





Dan and Marty Campanelli *of New Jersey are a husband-and-wife team of needlework collectors and researchers. They have written two other articles for* American Ancestors *on family tree embroideries in their collection, as well as the book* A Sampling of Hunterdon County Needlework: the motifs, the makers & their stories *(Hunterdon County [N.J.] Historical Society, 2013). The Campanellis guest-curated the first exhibit of New Jersey needlework at Morven Museum & Garden in Princeton, New Jersey, from October 2014 to March 2015.*

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Stitched in silk thread on linen fabric by Mary Ann Goodrich (b. 1806) when she was ten, the sampler not only records her family details, but also contains a wonderful landscape view of her town, Wethersfield. Situated about four miles south of Hartford, Wethersfield was established in 1634, and is considered one of the first settled towns in the state. Located along the Connecticut River forty miles inland from Long Island Sound, Wethersfield became a busy port town. Shipbuilding was a substantial industry, and vessels carried area farm products to the West Indies and Europe. The ships were filled with molasses, sugar, spices, and other goods on their return voyages. Prosperity abounded in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, and many fine homes were built by the town's merchants, ship owners, and wealthy farmers. The Congregational church, built in 1761, was a prominent anchor for the community, and can be seen on the far side of the cove in Mary Ann's embroidered landscape. John Adams visited and declared, "We went up the steeple of Wethersfield Meeting House, from whence is the most grand and beautiful prospect in the world, at least that I ever saw."[1]

Settlers of a most ancient town

Mary Ann Goodrich was a descendant of generations of Wethersfield Goodrichs; her immigrant ancestors were probably Wethersfield settler William Goodrich (1621/2–1676) of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, England and his wife Sarah Marvin (d. 1701/2).[2] On December 7, 1803, William Goodrich (b. July 17, 1776), son of John and Mary (Hale) Goodrich, married Mary Stoddard (b. November 11, 1778), daughter of farmer Ephaphras Stoddard (1748–1792) and Mary Wells (1753–1825).[3]

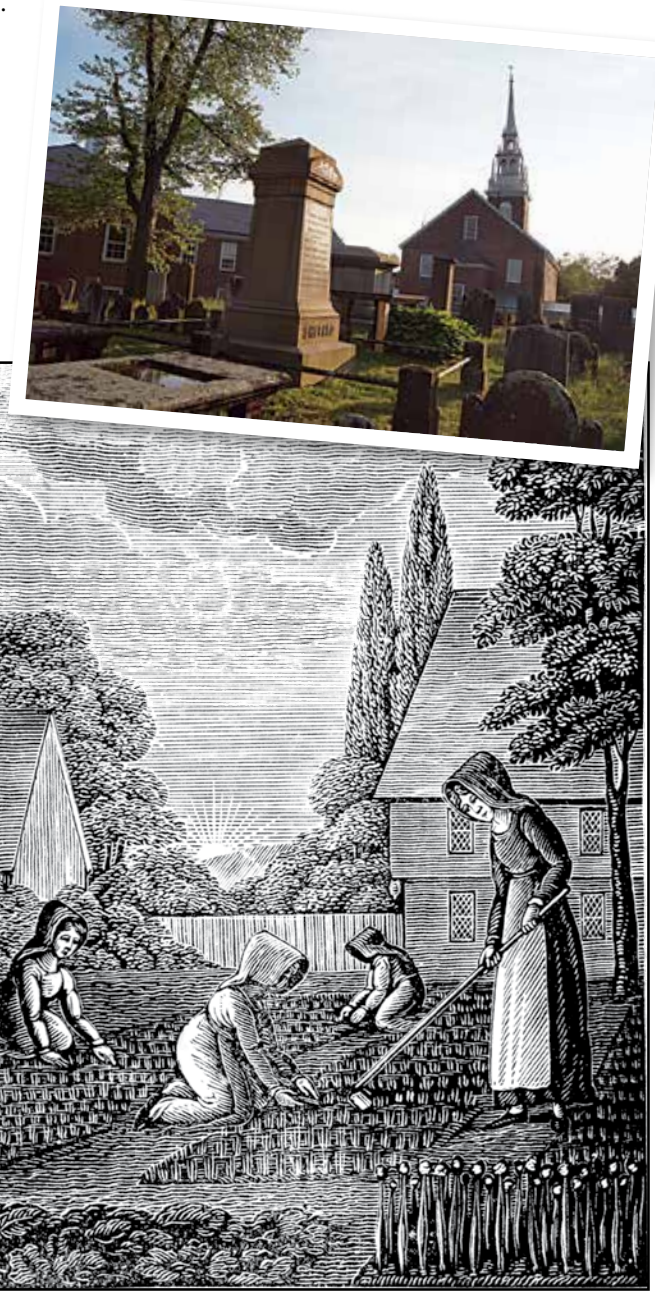
William and Mary (Stoddard) Goodrich had two children: William Wells, born August 27, 1804, and Mary Ann, the sampler maker, born April 15, 1806.[4] All four members of the family were accounted for on the 1810 federal census for Wethersfield, but by 1820 son William Wells was living elsewhere. That year the Goodrich household included one female slave under age fourteen and one person engaged in agriculture.[5]

Sorrows stitched in silk

Mary Ann was schooled in academics and the ornamental branches of learning at the Academy on High Street in the middle of town and undoubtedly within walking distance of her home. At age ten she diligently stitched her sampler, creating a landscape along the bottom that depicted the Wethersfield cove, with tiny fishermen plying their trade upon the glistening crinkled silk waves. Little else is known of Mary Ann's brief life.

Twelve years later, on March 17, 1828, Mary Ann died of an unknown cause at 22. We surmise that after her death her mother, Mary (Stoddard) Goodrich, picked up needle and thread, and, no doubt with great sadness, delicately embroidered her daughter's name, the date Mary Ann died, and her age at death upon the sampler. Although no room had been set aside for deaths below Mary Ann's inscription line, her mother deftly managed to add the information above the townscape in a slightly different shade of silk. Mary Ann's death was also recorded in church

Previous page: Mary Ann Goodrich's 1816 Wethersfield family register and landscape sampler is stitched with silk thread on linen ground, with the later addition of small bits of paper glued to the linen. The unframed size is 11-1/2" high by 20" wide. Collection of Dan & Marty Campanelli. *Below:* Wethersfield First Church of Christ (built 1761) and the village cemetery. Image courtesy of Erin Nikitchyuk. *Bottom:* "Field of Onions at Wethersfield" in Samuel Peters, *A General History of Connecticut*, rev. ed. (1781; repr., New Haven: D. Clark and Co., 1829), p. 136.



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Detail of the Goodrich family register. This image clearly shows the additional paper snippets containing Mary (Stoddard) Goodrich's death information.

records, but we have not located her gravestone.[6]

In 1830, William Goodrich and his family were still residing in Wethersfield and, according to the census, he was 54, his wife Mary 52, and son William Wells was 26. The household also included an unknown female, aged five to nine.[7] The census taker must have visited prior to July 13, for William died on that day. Newly widowed Mary returned to the sampler and added her husband's name and death date under the line of text she had stitched when Mary Ann died. Not enough space remained to add William's age, so she placed it to the right of the white house's roof.

Mary Goodrich must have felt some joy return when her son William Wells Goodrich married Lucy Belden Wells on April 1, 1832.[8] The couple had two sons: James Blinn Goodrich (1833–1898) and William Wells Goodrich (1835–1864).[9] But tragedy struck once more on November 9, 1836, when William Wells Goodrich died at 32, leaving his widow Lucy with two young children. Once more Mary must have taken up a needle and stitched her son's name and death date, omitting the year for lack of space, but adding his age at death under her husband's age to the right of the building. Then Mary, with no one left in her immediate family, made the decision to prepare the sampler for her own demise. She had to squeeze in her first name, putting "Ma" to the left of the Meeting House steeple, and "ry" to its right. As the sampler had become a tangible memorial to her family, she probably wanted to see her name alongside those of her husband and children.

Wethersfield samplers

A large group of recognized samplers from Wethersfield date from about 1804 to 1821. In *Girlhood Embroidery*, needlework scholar and author Betty Ring noted that the group "consists of extraordinarily appealing pieces portraying scenes and townscapes that are occasionally embellished with paint . . . and while there is a kinship between the earlier and later pieces, the guidance of two teachers seems apparent. . . . Circumstantial evidence now suggests that the earlier pieces were worked under the instruction of spinster schoolmistress Abigail Goodrich, and that the later samplers were made under the tuition of one [or more?] of five daughters of schoolmaster Frederick Butler."[1] Since Wethersfield was a small, tightly knit community, it is likely that Abigail Goodrich was distantly related to sampler maker Mary Ann Goodrich. The colorful samplers made under Abigail's instruction consisted of a simple swag at top and a horizontal landscape at bottom, usually featuring a horse and rider, people, trees, houses, and the town's landmark Congregational church.

By 1811 Frederick Butler (1766–1843) had opened a private school in the Academy building and his older daughters are believed to have taught there with him. The Butler girls had been schooled by Goodrich when they were young, and then sent to the famous Miss Patten's school in Hartford at a later date. Betty Ring believed that the Butler sisters may have eventually worked with their former teacher, Abigail Goodrich, combining design elements from both schools they had attended. The later samplers constitute the second group, of which Mary Ann Goodrich's 1816 sampler is a prime example. By this time, the swag at top was more elaborate, with large, luxuriously stitched flowers, bows, and sometimes a foil eagle, reminiscent of the Patten school. The landscape had become more complex, with the church and other buildings in perspective, and sometimes the addition of ships, small boats, and fishermen in the cove. Instead of an alphabet and a four-line verse seen in the early pieces, many of the later samplers were family registers.

Note

[1] Betty Ring, *Girlhood Embroidery: American Samplers & Pictorial Needlework, 1650–1850* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1993), 224–230. The chapter includes examples from both the early and late period of the Wethersfield group.

In 1840, Mary (Stoddard) Goodrich lived alone in Wethersfield, among neighbors she had known for decades. By 1850 she had the companionship of her two unmarried sisters, Harriet Stoddard, age 60, and Martha M. (Mella) Stoddard, age 63.[10] Mary died at 80 on August 16, 1858, and some other family member, probably one of her sisters or her daughter-in-law Lucy, knew that Mary wanted her daughter's sampler completed. This last sampler contributor took three tiny pieces of paper and wrote upon them "Died," "August. 16. 1858," and "80." The snippets of paper were glued onto the linen in the appropriate—and last possible—spaces available. Fortunately, the glue has held all this time, allowing Mary Ann Goodrich's family register sampler to stand as a complete and intact tribute to the family.

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The Family Tree Sampler database (tinyurl.com/qhsw4eg) on AmericanAncestors.org contains images and information from 31 samplers in the collection of Dan and Marty Campanelli.

Perhaps the sampler was left to daughter-in-law Lucy Belden (Wells) (Goodrich) Hills to be passed on to one of her sons. Lucy had remarried in 1839, to carriage painter Frederick Hills. She resided in Hartford until she died at age ninety-one in 1900.[11]

Mary Ann's legacy lives on

We don't know where the sampler was kept or how many times it changed hands, until 1982, when it was featured in an exhibition, *Two Towns: Concord & Wethersfield, A Comparative Exhibition of Regional Culture 1635–1850*, and an accompanying catalog of the same name, written by Peter Benes. The exhibition, on view from February 1982 to January 1983, traveled from the Concord Antiquarian Museum in Massachusetts, to the Connecticut Historical Society, and finally to the Wethersfield Historical Society. Mary Ann's sampler was then owned by West Coast antiques collector Blanche W. Moss.

In September 1985, Mary Jaene Edmonds purchased the sampler from antiques dealer Estelle Horowitz. Edmonds's collection was shown at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art from November 1991 to February 1992 in an exhibition titled *Samplers & Samplermakers: An American Schoolgirl Art 1700–1850*. The companion catalog included Mary Ann Goodrich's Wethersfield sampler.

As needlework collectors, we had always admired the piece, since it was a typical example from the later Wethersfield group, and we already owned an earlier one, made about 1804 under the instruction of teacher Abigail Goodrich.[12] Edmonds's needlework collection was offered for sale at Sotheby's Auction in New York in January 2013, but Mary Ann's needlework was among a selection that did not sell. Those unsold pieces then appeared on the website of well-known antiques dealers and scholars Stephen and Carol Huber. We could not resist the opportunity and, without hesitation, purchased the sampler for our collection.

To continue Mary Ann Goodrich's legacy, we sent a photograph of the needlework to the online sampler database created by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America (nscda.org/historical-activities/samplers/) so that it would be available for textile scholars to study. In the fall of 2013, at our suggestion, the New England Historic Genealogical Society launched a family register sampler database to help with genealogical research; often, an embroidered family register is the only evidence of a crucial piece of vital data. Mary Ann Goodrich's sampler appears on the American Ancestors database with a high-resolution digital image and transcription of family names and dates. Mary Ann and her mother could never have imagined how well-known and widely viewed her sampler would become, and that its bittersweet story would be revealed nearly two hundred years after the needlework was created in 1816. ◆

Notes

1 Lois M. Wieder, "Wethersfield, 'the most auncient town' in Connecticut," *The Magazine Antiques*, March 1976, 516–517.

2 Goodrich genealogical information from Lafayette Case, *The Goodrich Family in America* (Chicago, Ill.: Fergus Printing Co., 1889), 31–35; and Donald Lines Jacobus and Edgar Francis Waterman, *Hale, House, and Related Families* (Hartford: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952), 550-57.

3 *Commemorative Biographical Record of Hartford County, Connecticut*, vol. 1 (Chicago, Ill.: J. H. Beers & Co., 1901), 143. The marriage date of William Goodrich and Mary Stoddard is listed in this source as 9 December 1803 and on the sampler as 7 December 1803.

4 *Connecticut Church Record Abstracts 1630-1920*, viewed at Ancestry.com. Mary Ann's birth and baptism appears on page 113, and William Wells Goodrich's birth and baptism is on page 115.

5 William Goodrich household, 1810 U.S. Census, Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut; roll 1, p. 447; and William Goodrich household, 1820 U.S. Federal census, Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut; roll M33_2, p. 298. Both censuses viewed at Ancestry.com.

6 *Connecticut Church Record Abstracts 1630–1920* [note 3], p. 113: "Goodrich, Mary Ann, d. Mar. 17, 1828, ae 22."

7 William Goodrich household, 1830 U.S. Census, Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut; M19, roll 7, p. 74, viewed on Ancestry.com.

8 *Connecticut Vital Records to 1870*. From original typescripts, Lucius Barnes Barbour Collection, 1928, p. 129; viewed at AmericanAncestors.org.

9 D. Williams Patterson, *John Stoddard of Wethersfield, Conn., and his Descendants, 1642–1872* (Succasunna, N.J.: E. W. Stoddard, 1873), 38.

10 Mary Goodrich household, 1840 U.S. Census, Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut; roll 24, p. 352. Mary Goodrich household, 1850 U.S. Census, Wethersfield, Hartford County, Connecticut; roll M432_40; p. 78A. Life dates for Harriet and Mella Stoddard are from *John Stoddard of Wethersfield, Connecticut* [note 8], 38–39.

11 Lucy's marriage to Frederick Hills on September 25, 1839 at Wethersfield was recorded in the October 4, 1839 issue of *The Christian Secretary* (*U.S. Newspaper Extractions from the Northeast, 1704–1930*, p. 281A, viewed on Ancestry.com.) Lucy is buried at Cedar Hill Cemetery in Hartford.

12 Mary (Polly) Coleman, born about 1794, embroidered an undated Wethersfield sampler under the instruction of Abigail Goodrich. Based on Polly's age, the sampler was stitched about 1804, and can be seen on the sampler database at .nscda.org, ID#463. The maker's grave in the Wethersfield Village Cemetery reads: "In memory of Mary Coleman who died Jan. 30, 1832. AE 38."

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For Remembrance & Amusement

Mid-19th-Century Images of the Cutler Family

A single image of one individual tells only that person's story; a collection of photographs can profile a whole family.

Eight daguerreotypes and two ambrotypes in the Leland Family Collection (Mss 882) of the R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS depict Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler; her daughter-in-law, Nabby (Morse) Cutler; and three adult granddaughters, Betsey Cutler, Abigail (Cutler) Bullard, and Mary (Cutler) Leland. The images date from the early 1840s to the mid-1850s, and each bears a handwritten note identifying the sitter and, sometimes, the occasion being commemorated.

Louis Daguerre introduced his method for capturing permanent images at the January 7, 1839, meeting of the French Academy of Science. When news of Daguerre's invention spread, several companies in the United States tried to duplicate his success. Only in 1840, when Giroux and Company—holders of the exclusive French franchise on the apparatus and materials—sent their agent and Daguerre student François Gouraud to America did the method catch on here. Gouraud traveled around the country giving demonstrations and lessons. The key part of the process involved a silver-coated copper plate being treated with light-sensitive chemicals. While these early portraits lack the clarity of later daguerreotypes, they were enthusiastically embraced by most observers.[1]

Gouraud lectured in Boston from March 27 to April 7, 1840, and held exhibits in the city in March, April, and June. On April 7, he advertised that he had set up facilities to take portraits, and on June 8th he made daguerreotypes during Fair Days at the Hall of the Historical Society on Tremont Street.[2] Following Gouraud's American tour, studios popped up in many major cities, but many men (and a few women) with means to buy the materials and technical inclination tinkered with the daguerreotype process independently.

The person who took the Cutler family images is unknown. The eight images show that the four Cutler women visited photographers to document milestone events like weddings and, in one case, a hobby. In another instance, a caption stated that two of the women sat for a likeness for their "amusement."

No studies exist that examine gender differences in visiting early photography studios, but it's striking that there are no comparable images of these women's husbands, brothers, or sons in the family collection. These men might not have sat for photographic portraits or, if they did, those images may have been divided between other relatives. Donated by family descendants Elise Morenon and E. Pierre Morenon, these daguerreotypes and ambrotypes arrived at NEHGS in 2004 in a shoebox with later snapshots and small card photos. Presented here are descriptions and commentaries for eight of the images.

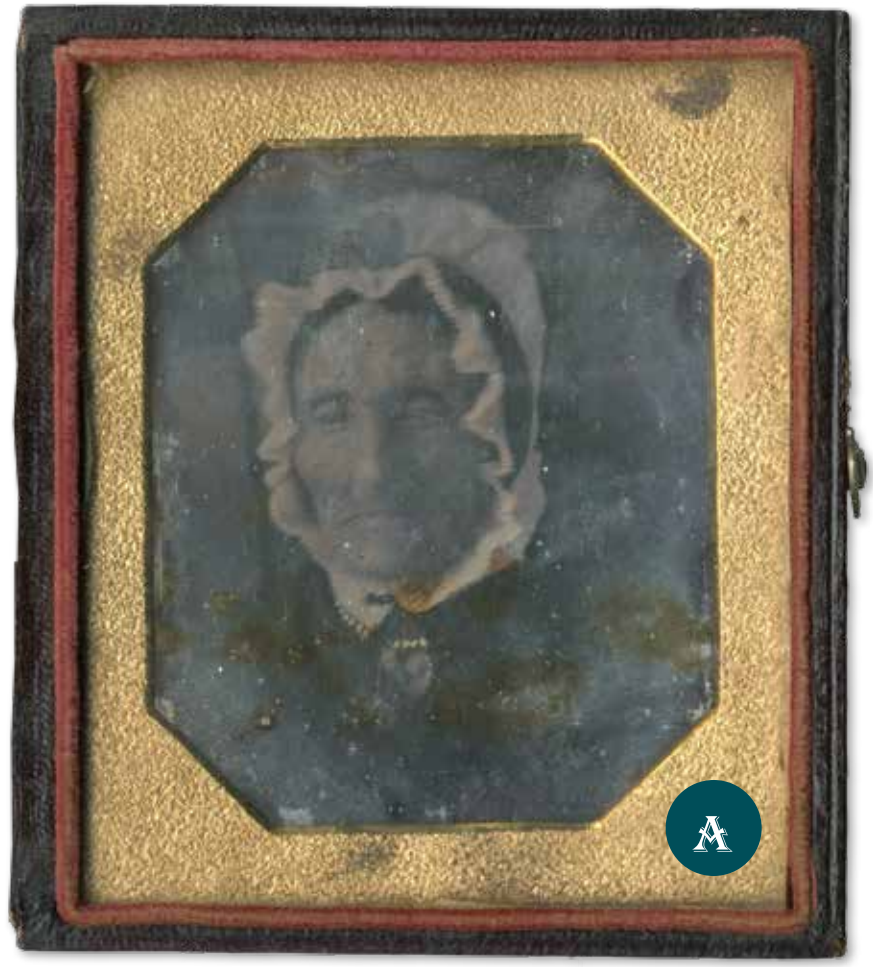


Maureen Taylor *is an internationally recognized expert on historic photograph identification, photo preservation, and family history research. Her focus is on helping people rediscover their family history one picture at a time, and she is passionate about getting folks to dig deep into their family history to tell the story of their ancestors.*

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Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler

Elizabeth Rockwood (b. December 23, 1753), daughter of Timothy and Elizabeth (Perry) Rockwood, married Simeon Cutler (b. July 9, 1749) —the "boy next door" (her nearest neighbor) in Holliston, Massachusetts—on November 22, 1770. Together they ran a public house at the Cutler homestead. An ardent patriot and minuteman, Simeon devised strategies for defending towns in their area. The 1889 *Cutler Memorial and Genealogical History* noted that Elizabeth "was a woman of rare energy and moral worth. At her husband's departure for the war the management of his farm and inn devolved upon her in addition to the care of two small children." In all, the couple had four sons and two daughters: Elihu, Martin, Uriel, Ursula, Sally, and James.[3]



"Mrs. Simeon Cutler, Elisabeth Rockwood Cutler. The War of the Revolution began in her early married life."

The ghostly quality of this daguerreotype suggests it was taken in the early 1840s. In nineteenth-century images like this one, light colored eyes appear pale and transparent. Elizabeth Cutler likely had light blue eyes, based on her appearance here. She is pictured in an eighteenth-century style day cap with a ribbon wrapped around and a bow at the top of her head.

When Elizabeth Cutler posed for this image, she had been a widow for nearly half a century; Simeon died July 13, 1798. By the terms of his will, Elizabeth received the right to use the front room, the cellar beneath it, half the room adjacent to the front room, and half of the garret above that. Her son Martin inherited the homestead, so perhaps she lived with him until his death in 1845.[4] Elizabeth Cutler died in Holliston May 3, 1849, at the age of 95. Reflecting on her life, Nahum S. Cutler (author of *A Cutler Memorial and Genealogical History*) wrote, "It is the lot of but few to see so many and great changes; at her birth the Indians had scarcely left the neighborhood, yet she lived to see a railroad built through the town, and in all such improvements she took an intelligent interest."[5]

No known daguerreotype studios existed in Holliston in the 1840s, and a woman in her late 90s was unlikely to travel to Boston. A family member may have attended one of Gouraud's lectures in Boston, purchased equipment, and tried to duplicate the process at home or perhaps an itinerant photographer traveled to the area. In the mid-nineteenth century, people were interested in photographing elders, especially centenarians or those close to the century mark, before they died. Older generations didn't embrace the new technology of photography as much as their children and grandchildren did. This collection represents this pattern. That just a single image exists of a woman who was born twenty years before the Revolutionary War began is not unusual. She may have had only one opportunity to be photographed.

The article captions are taken from the nineteenth-century descriptions pinned to each of the images.

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"Mrs. Uriel Cutler grandmother"

Nabby (Morse) Cutler

Nabby Morse, daughter of Abner and Mille Morse, was born August 13, 1783, in Medway, Massachusetts. She married Uriel Cutler (b. Holliston October 27, 1776), son of Simeon and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler, on April 25, 1809, in Medway. Uriel Cutler owned real estate in Sherborn, Massachusetts, where he and Nabby settled after their marriage and lived for thirty years before returning to Holliston. The couple had seven children who lived to adulthood: Ursula, Elizabeth, Simeon, Abigail, Uriel, Alfred, and Mary.[6]

B Uriel had the means to indulge his wife and daughters in their interest in sitting for pictures. In the 1850s a daguerreotype could range in price from twenty-five cents to nearly two dollars, a sum not too expensive for the average individual.[7] In this daguerreotype, Nabby smiled for the photographer while her portrait was taken. She wore a white day cap and white collar with a bertha collar. The timing of this picture, which can be dated to circa 1849, is significant. Her husband died September 14, 1849, in Holliston.[8] Nabby's attire is not typical mourning wear, so the image may have been taken shortly before he died.

In the caption for this image the author identified Nabby as "grandmother"—which means the writer was the child of one of Uriel and Nabby's offspring. This type of handwriting script, a round hand characterized by open flowing letters, had been taught since the seventeenth century, and each of the Cutler children likely learned this method. Almost all of the notes appear to be written by the same person.

Nabby (Morse) Cutler and Betsey Cutler

Betsey Rockwood Cutler, born August 22, 1801, was the daughter of Elihu Cutler, the eldest son of Simeon and Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler, and Lavina Newton. Elihu was a wheelwright, ran a water-powered factory to build wheels, owned a tannery, and served as a politician. According to *A Cutler Memorial*, Betsey Rockwood Cutler was an invalid for thirty-five years. Betsey died unmarried, of "old age," on January 28, 1886.[9]

C This image is an ambrotype—not a daguerreotype. Ambrotypes, developed by James Ambrose Cutting, were patented in 1854. While often found in cases, like daguerreotypes, ambrotypes are on glass and appear negative until backed with dark varnish or paper.

Betsey posed with her aunt, Nabby (Morse) Cutler, who grinned for the ambrotypist. The hats and the photographic format date the image to about 1855. Nabby Cutler still wears a mourning veil for her husband, who died in 1849. If the Cutler genealogy is correct and Betsey became an invalid circa 1851, then this ambrotype was taken within a few years of the onset of her disability. Whatever ailed her isn't apparent in this image.



"Mrs. Uriel Cutler grandmother Miss. Betsey Cutler daughter of Elihu but for amusement had their picture taken together"

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Clockwise from top left: "Mrs. O. B. Bullard, circa 1842"; "Mrs. O. B. Bullard taken soon after her marriage circa 1843"; "Born Jan, 15, 1820 Married Jan 11, 1843 Abby Cutler Bullard."

Abigail (Cutler) Bullard

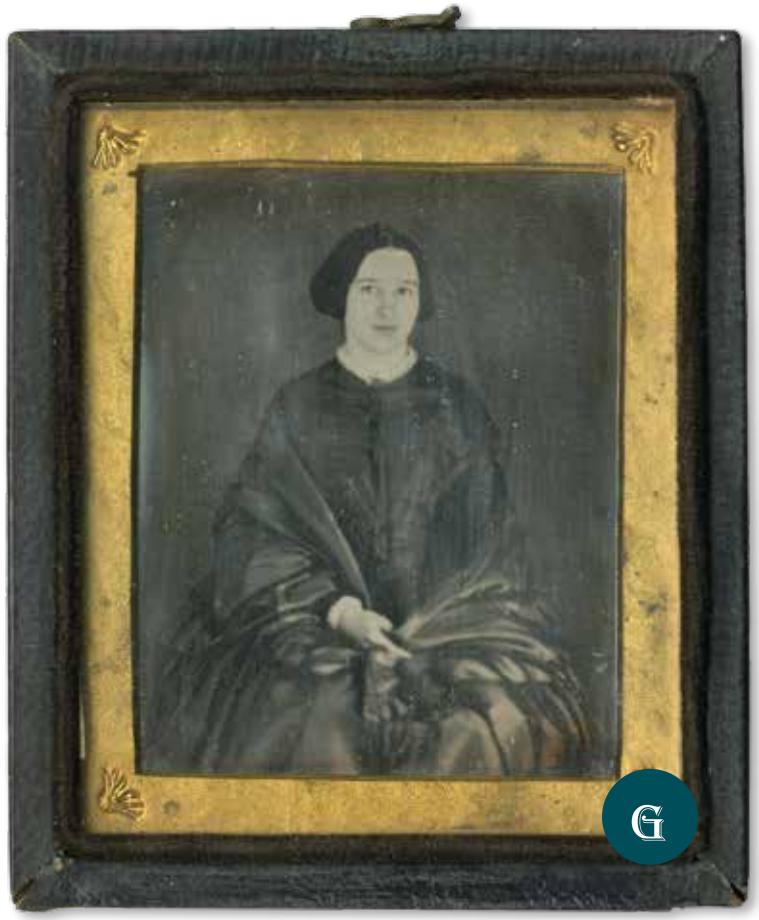
Abigail Cutler, daughter of Uriel and Nabby (Morse) Cutler, was born January 15, 1820, in Sherborn. There she married Otis B. Bullard of Holliston on January 11, 1843. The couple did not have children. They both died in Washington, D.C.—Abigail on November 18, 1904—and are buried in Holliston.[10] The collection contains five daguerreotypes of Abigail taken between the early 1840s and the mid-1850s. We examine three here.

D In this image Abigail wears her hair in long front ringlets with the hair in back gathered in a bun. Her frilled collar accents her dress. The chain around her neck could be for glasses or a watch. Her light-colored eyes are clearly visible in this image. The mat surrounding the image features oak leaves and acorns in each corner—a detail that could help to identify the photo studio if other examples are found.

E Abigail posed for a daguerreotype shortly after her marriage to Otis Bullard. Like the one of Abigail's grandmother Elizabeth Cutler, this image has an octagonal mat. Abigail wears a stylish bonnet with floral trim at the chin. Her wedding ring is visible. While the ring seems to be on her right hand, this daguerreotype is actually reversed. Later, special lenses were invented to fix the mirror-like reversal.

F This label was written later than the others in the collection. It is in a different hand, in pencil on lined paper. The daguerreotypist posed Abigail with her hands on the keyboard of a grand piano playing a piece of music. Both Abby and her husband were musicians. He was a professor of music in Washington, D.C., and *A Cutler Memorial* noted that "Mrs. Bullard is also an accomplished musician and aids her husband in his professional labors."[11] His will left everything to his wife with the stipulation that upon her death three-quarters of his estate would be left to the town of Holliston. The Otis B. Bullard Music Fund was designated for concerts by schoolchildren.[12]

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"Mary L. Cutler taken when eighteen"



"Mrs. Mary L. Leland taken the winter of her marriage by James A Cutting discoverer of the art of making ambrotypes and developed the art of making dagauerreotype [sic] pictures."

Mary (Cutler) Leland

Mary Cutler, daughter of Uriel and Nabby (Morse) Cutler and younger sister of Abigail (Cutler) Bullard, was born in Sherborn on March 24, 1829. She was married in Holliston on February 26, 1853, to Edmund Francis Leland of Boston, a successful wholesaler of manufactured clothing. The couple had four children: Willis Daniel, Ada Eliza, Mary Ann, and Edmund Francis.[13] Mary died March 8, 1922, in Boston and is buried in Holliston.[14]

G With Mary's age provided in the caption, this image can easily be dated to 1847. In this daguerreotype, a simple square mat frames a photographic pose that resembles a formal painted portrait. The image depicts Mary with her hands in her lap clasping her shawl. The mat features small leaves embossed in each corner, a mark that could identify the daguerreotypist. The photographer was also possibly the same one who took the 1842 image of Abigail (Cutler) Bullard.

H The quality and technique of this daguerreotype image clearly exceeds those of the other images in the collection. The daguerreotypist posed Mary in a flattering manner in a three-quarters portrait with her head turned toward the camera. She appears as a fashionable young wife of the 1850s with horizontally puffed hair and an open bodice dress with white chemisette. This dress style was known as "the habit" because it derived from riding outfits.[15] The Lelands lived in Boston at the time that Cutting operated a daguerreotype studio at 41 Tremont St. and 60 Hanover St. in Boston.[16]

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These early photographic portraits of the Cutler women, spanning a little more than a decade, provide viewers with the changing dress of women and the evolving circumstances of the family. We see the simple dress of Elizabeth (Rockwood) Cutler, farm wife and tavern keeper, with her headwear; her middle-class daughter-in-law Nabby in partial mourning costume; and Elizabeth's accomplished granddaughter Abigail and her wealthy granddaughter Mary, who patronized one of the best photographers in Boston. These few images illustrate the development of photography from a portrait-based phenomenon—which, like paintings, was intended to capture the likenesses of family members for posterity—to a means for documenting more frequent milestones like birthdays and weddings. And not only did younger members of the family discover the entertainment value of posing—so, too, did the older Nabby and Betsey who sought amusement one afternoon. The photographic images also illustrate how one family moved from farm to city in two generations, and how the Cutler women reflect rapidly changing mid-nineteenth-century America. ◆

Notes

1 Floyd Rinhart and Marion Rinhart, *The American Daguerreotype* (Athens, Ga.: University of Georgia Press, 1981), 30–31.

2 Chris Steele and Ronald Polito, *A Directory of Massachusetts Photographers 1839–1900* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1993), 58.

3 Nahum S. Cutler, *A Cutler Memorial and Genealogical History* (Greenfield, Mass.: Press of E.A. Hall and Co., 1889), 361–62; and *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org. Elizabeth Cutler's death date was May 3, 1849 in the Massachusetts vital records and May 1, 1849 in the Cutler genealogy.

4 Middlesex County, Massachusetts Probate no. 5563 (Simeon Cutler, administration, 1799, LDS film #0386067).

5 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 362; and *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org.

6 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 396–97 [note 3]; and *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org.

7 American Daguerreotype (americandaguerreotypes.com/ch2.html), accessed July 13, 2015.

8 *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org.

9 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 394–95; and *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org.

10 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 396–97; *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org; and *District of Columbia, Select Deaths and Burials, 1840-1964*, on Ancestry.com.

11 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 396–97.

12 *The Washington Post*, May 11, 1905, 13.

13 *A Cutler Memorial* [note 3], 396–97; and *Massachusetts Vital Records to 1850* on AmericanAncestors.org.

14 Gravestone of Mary Lucretia Leland (#55305483) at FindAGrave.com.

15 Joan L. Severa, *My Likeness Taken: Daguerreian Portraits in America* (Kent, Ohio: Kent State University Press, 2005), 141.

16 Steele and Polito, *Massachusetts Photographers* [note 2], 48.

(Half-pay pension, continued from page 36)

Revolutionary War—Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives.

13 *Votes and Proceedings of the Eleventh General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Second Sitting* (Trenton, 1787), 22.

14 *History of the First Presbyterian Church, Morristown, N.J., Part II Combined Registers, 1742 to 1885* (Morristown, N.J., 1885), 109: "Horton, Elizabeth, wid.; m. 10 May 1794. ____ Benger." (Benue Dunham's given name was mistaken for his surname.)

15 "Petition of Elizabeth [Horton] Dunham, widow of Dr. Jonathan Horton, to the State Legislature concerning the depreciation in value of the Continental currency in which her Widow's pension was paid," 16 Feb 1795, Ms 10411 D, Revolutionary War–Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives. Two petitions from Elizabeth, submitted in 1786 and 1795, are held in the New Jersey State Archives. Entries in N.J. legislative journals show that Elizabeth filed at least two additional petitions which no longer exist.

16 *Votes and Proceedings of the Nineteenth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Second Sitting* (Elizabethtown, N.J., 1795), 63.

17 *Votes and Proceedings of the Twentieth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Second Sitting* (Trenton, 1796), 11.

18 *Votes and Proceedings of the Twenty-Third General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Third Sitting* (Trenton, 1799), 73.

19 "Affidavit sworn by John Cary on Feb 9, 1799, that Jon. Horton died at his broth-in-laws home in the Spring of 1777," Mss 6936, Revolutionary War— Numbered Manuscripts, New Jersey State Archives.

20 *Votes and Proceedings of the Forty-Second General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, Second Sitting* (Morristown, N.J.,1818), 164; and *Acts of the Forty-Second General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, First Sitting* (Trenton, 1818), 99–100.

21 "Registers of Payments for Pensioners, Pupils in Charitable Institutions and Salaries of State Officers, 1821–1870," series STSTR009, Book A, p. 11. New Jersey State Archives.

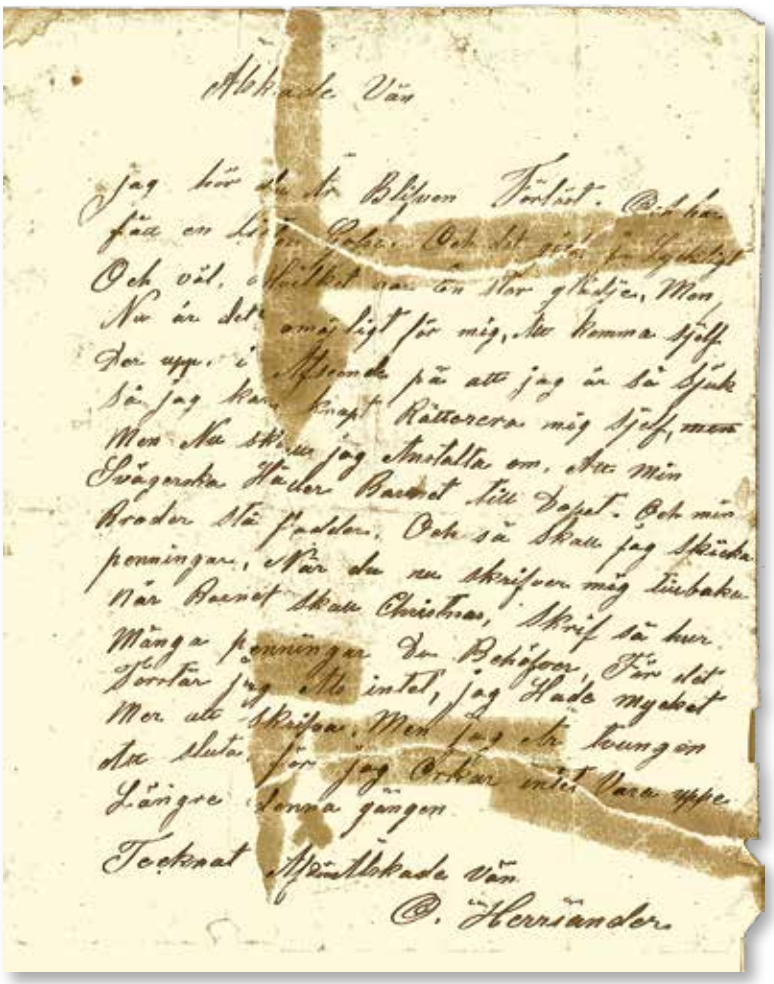
22 *Votes and Proceedings of the Fifty-Fourth General Assembly of the State of New-Jersey, First Sitting* (Trenton, 1830), 85. Jonathan and Elizabeth (King) Horton had four children, probably all born in Roxbury (now Chester), N.J.: Eunice (Horton) Cooper; Phebe (Horton) Crosby; Azariah (1774–1822); and Jonathan K. Horton (1777–1848).

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The Letter That Led to a Lost Swedish Family History

"Nej, nej släng inte det brevet!" [No, no, don't rip up that letter!]

Elsa snatched the crumpled, yellowed scrap of paper that Uncle Edvin was about to rip up and toss into the trash.



"What do you want that for?" Edvin said. A widower in his late eighties, Edvin was cleaning out his house in Orrahus, a tiny community on the southernmost tip of Sweden. That day in 1976 he was preparing to auction off his property and possessions. He didn't care about some ancient letter from a grandfather who had disappeared when Edvin's own father was just an infant.

"I want to keep it—it's part of our family heritage," Elsa replied, smoothing out the creases in the fragile notepaper. The letter, written in 1863, was then 113 years old.

Beloved Friend.

I have been informed that you have been delivered and got a little boy-child and that it went on very well which was a great delight. Right now it is impossible for me to come and visit you because I'm very ill and have difficulties in taking care of myself. I will therefore make arrangements for the baptism by asking my Brother's Wife to hold the child for the Christening in the church and my Brother to act as a Godfather. And I also want to send you some money.

When you answer my letter before the child shall be Christened, write me then how much money you need, that's something I don't know anything about. I wanted to write much more but I cannot go on any longer, I have not the strength to sit up any more this time.

Signed by Your Beloved Friend.
O. Herriander.

Left: The 1863 letter written by Olof Harriander to Elna Månsdotter. Courtesy of Christian Rosenfeldt.



Researcher and writer **Anne Hanson** *is the author of* Buried Secrets: A Journey into a Family Mystery, *the true story of how she uncovered her grandparents' hidden past. Anne's non-genealogical obsessions include history, food, and travel. To learn more, visit annehansonwriter.com, email anne@annehansonwriter.com, or follow @AnneHanson on Twitter.*

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Olof Olsson, his wife Anna, and eldest son Edvin outside Olof's and Anna's home, 1920s. Courtesy of Christian Rosenfeldt.

Olof Harriander, age 27, and new mother Elna Månsdotter, age 33, were unmarried when their son, Olof, was born in the parish of Bosarp, in the southernmost region of Sweden then known as Malmöhus, on July 20, 1863. The pair had become involved in the fall of 1862 when Olof came to work as a blacksmith at Trollenäs Castle, where Elna had been a weaver for several years. Their romance must have progressed rapidly because within weeks Elna was pregnant.

But, as Elna later told the story, her parents did not want her to marry Olof, because he didn't measure up to their idea of a son-in-law. He was just an itinerant journeyman blacksmith who toiled for others, while her father was a prosperous landowner. The class system of the day rendered such a marriage unacceptable. Academic studies of marriage in nineteenth-century southern Sweden confirm that parents could forbid a daughter's marriage—and in a society of stark social divisions, landed peasants were especially eager to prevent a child's marriage to a partner of lower status.[1]

Elna moved back to her parents' home in Bosarp, a few miles east of the castle, and had her baby, whom she named Olof after his father. Christening records indicate that Olof Harriander's brother indeed became the baby's godfather. But no further details exist about Elna's and Olof's relationship.

According to Elna's later stories, Olof vanished from her life in 1864 when he immigrated to the United States. As a Swedish emigrant, Olof Harriander would have been in good company: between 1850 and 1910, more than one million people, or a fifth of Sweden's population, migrated to the U.S., fleeing poverty and landlessness, and lured by jobs and opportunity. Malmöhus County had the highest emigration rate of all Swedish counties; fully half the population left.[2] While economic factors, exacerbated by population growth, were undoubtedly the key reasons behind this mass exodus, many sources also cite avoidance of military conscription, as well as dissatisfaction with the state Lutheran church's domination of all aspects of life.[3]

Elna's son, baby Olof, known as Olof Olsson, took the surname of Elna's father, Måns Olsson, with whom they lived. Elna told her son stories about his absent father. As a young man, Olof Harriander had been a soldier in a cavalry regiment, Elna said, and he had sung in a church choir. Until her death in 1904, Elna, who never married, kept the letter Olof Herriander had written following their son's birth.

In adulthood, Olof Olsson became a forester, married, and had four children. Unlike his absent father, young Olof enjoyed economic security sufficient to forestall migration in search of a better life. He died in 1954 at 90.

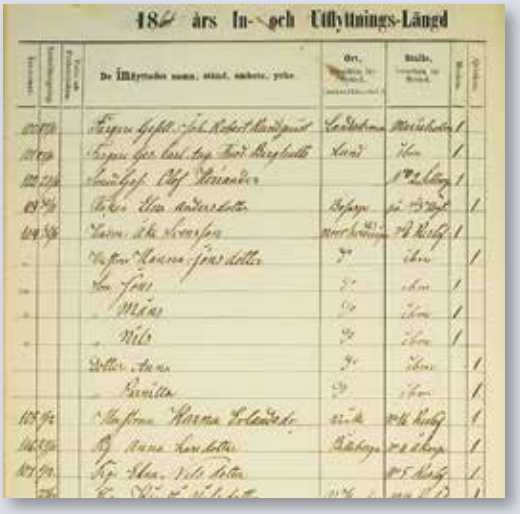
Although the letter was kept and passed down to Edvin, Olof Olsson's eldest son, for years no one thought much about the man who wrote it. Occasionally Elsa Rosenfeldt, Olof Olsson's granddaughter, heard murmurs among older relatives about the blacksmith who had gone to America. But even after Elsa saved Olof's letter from destruction in 1976, neither she nor anyone else in the family tried to learn more.

But as the twentieth century became the twenty-first, Elsa, her husband Per, and their son Christian Rosenfeldt began wondering about this mysterious ancestor. Christian, a journalist for a magazine in Malmö, wrote an article about Swedes who immigrated to America in the late nineteenth-century. By this time, the Internet was also making reams of previously inaccessible information available online and allowing easy electronic communication. Christian posted a query on the Swedish genealogy site Scangen in October 2003.

> **Harriander, O, Stehag**, 14 Oct DST 13:13:08
> Jag söker en anfader som antagligen utvandrade till USA i slutet av förra seklet. Han arbetade dess förinnan som smed på Trolleholms slott (eller Trollenäs) och bodde i Stehagstrakten i Skåne.
> *I am searching for an ancestor who probably immigrated to USA in the end of the last century. Before he left he worked as a blacksmith on the Castle of Trolleholm (or Trollenäs) and lived in the area of Stehag in Skåne.*

On the other side of the ocean, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, I had recently traced one branch of my ancestry back to the Harriander family in Malmöhus County. Using the detailed Swedish church records (see sidebar) then available online through Genline, I had tracked three generations of Harrianders as they moved in and around the small communities of Reslöv and Östra Karaby, north of the city of Lund, in the nineteenth century.

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Moving In record showing Olof's arrival at No. 2 Sibbarp, Reslöv parish, in November 1861. From ArkivDigital.net.

Swedish Church Records

Swedish church records are the single most important source for Swedish genealogical research. As a result of a 1686 royal decree, the Evangelical Lutheran Church—the state church of Sweden—began collecting vital data, tracking migration in and out of parishes, and monitoring residents' religious knowledge. By the mid-nineteenth century, parishes consistently maintained comprehensive and detailed records.

Beyond recording births, baptisms, marriages, deaths, and burials, parish priests, who also were local government representatives, conducted yearly household examinations (husförhör), also known as clerical surveys. Priests evaluated residents' ability to read and understand the Bible and catechism, and noted whether a person had taken communion. The priests entered this information into examination books (husförhörslängder) that listed every household and person in the parish. The priests recorded and updated each resident's name, date and place of birth, marriage and death, previous residence, date of arrival in the parish, and vaccination status, and sometimes added notes.

In addition, moving in (Inflyttade) and moving out (Utflyttade) records track individuals' movements. Before leaving a parish, all persons were supposed to obtain a certificate containing their personal data from their current priest, who recorded the departure in the moving out book. The person moving would subsequently present the certificate to the new parish priest, who kept the certificate, added an entry to the moving in book, and updated the household examination book. Moving records typically included name, gender, move date, the names of the old and new parishes, and, sometimes, occupation.

In the late nineteenth century, a household survey without religious content replaced the clerical examinations. All recordkeeping responsibility was transferred to the Swedish government in 1991. As of 2015, digitized images of Swedish church record books are accessible online via ArkivDigital.net and Ancestry.com. The records are also available on microfilm in nine Swedish regional archives and via the Family History Centers operated by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

The first Harriander, my great-great-great-grandfather Måns, began life as Måns Person in 1802 in the parish of Stora Harrie, a few miles south of Reslöv and Östra Karaby. Since his father's name was Per, Swedish patrilineal conventions gave Måns the surname Person, meaning son of Per. As a young man, Måns, a blacksmith, moved multiple times, finally settling in tiny Östra Karaby, where he lived the remainder of his life. By then he had adopted an additional surname reflecting his Stora Harrie birthplace, becoming Måns Person Harriander: a man from Harrie. His four children—my great-great-grandfather Peter Harriander (b. 1832); Cecelia (b. 1833); Olof (b. 1836); and Nils (b. 1839)—all took the Harriander surname. Beginning in the early 1880s, every member of the then-sizeable Harriander clan (except Nils) immigrated to the United States, settling in New Britain, Connecticut, a prosperous manufacturing city dubbed the "Hardware Capital of the World." The Harriander men, all blacksmiths, readily found work in factories, and the unmarried women mostly worked as domestic servants.



The medieval parish church in Östra Karaby. Photographed by Joakim Andersen.

One Saturday in October 2005, I typed the name "Harriander" into Google. My occasional Google searches were aided by the rarity of the surname, whose numerous alternate spellings include Heriander, Herriander and Herjander.[4] Just a handful of Herjanders live in Sweden today, and all variations of the name have died out among those born in the United States.

Up popped an unfamiliar link to a message forum on the Scangen Swedish genealogy website. After a quick click, I saw the subject line—"Harriander, O." Despite my inability to read Swedish, other key words were also familiar: I knew "smed" was blacksmith, the trade of all the Harriander men, and that the Harriander communities of Reslöv and Östra Karaby are in Skåne province. Two years after Christian posted his query, I sent him an email.

We began corresponding, trading research findings and photos. Within a few weeks we confirmed that our Olof Harrianders were one and the same. Ultimately I would discover that anyone named Harriander living

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The parishes of Reslöv and Östra Karaby lie just north of Lund in Skåne, the southernmost tip of Sweden. Detail of *Schweden, Norwegen* (Leipzig, 1881) by Richard Andree. Courtesy of David Rumsey Map Collection.

in or near Reslöv and Östra Karaby in the nineteenth century was related to Måns Person Heriander. Likewise, anyone born in the United States in the nineteenth or twentieth centuries with a Harriander ancestor is descended from Måns Person Heriander and related to me by blood or marriage.

Before I read Christian's query, Olof Harriander had been a shadowy character on the periphery of my investigation. A childless bachelor—or so I thought—Olof had died at 52, eight years after arriving in the U.S. The *New Britain Herald* reported the unfortunate circumstances of his demise on October 31, 1889:

> This morning at about 1 o'clock Olof Hwriander [sic] fell down a flight of steps in the Aetna block and broke his neck.
>
> Hwriander came home after 12 o'clock in an intoxicated condition. He went up the stairs leading to his room in the tenement occupied by Albert Westling. When he reached the landing he sat down on a trunk or box, and took off his shoes. It is presumed that he then tried to find the door of his room, and the place being dark he moved to the head of the stairway where he lost his balance and fell headlong down. The inmates of the house were awakened by the noise and Mr. Westling on going to see the cause found Hwriander lying at the foot of the stairs, dead. His feet were resting on the lower steps and his head was on the floor.

The *Herald* account quoted Olof's brother-in-law, who reported that Olof's habits were very intemperate and he was frequently drunk.

Christian was surprised to learn that Olof Harriander had not emigrated until 1881. Although Elna claimed he left in 1864, for the next seventeen years Olof likely never lived more than about six miles away from her. However, tracing Olof's trail via Swedish church records was challenging; for extended periods he failed to register his frequent moves with parish priests. I finally determined that from 1863 until 1869, Olof used Näs, as the parish near Trollenäs Castle was then called, as his home base, where he presumably continued to work at least intermittently as a blacksmith at the castle. He also appears to have spent time in Reslöv, where his siblings Peter and Cecelia had settled with their growing families, and likely would have stayed at his parents' home in Östra Karaby as well. From 1869 until his 1881 emigration, Olof made Östra Karaby his primary residence, living with his parents until their deaths.

It is hard to believe that no hint of Olof's whereabouts ever reached Elna. Although the local population was increasing rapidly, the communities remained small: In 1865 Reslöv parish had 2055 residents and Östra Karaby 560, with Bosarp roughly the same size as Reslöv. I began to wonder whether Elna and her parents had known more than they divulged to young Olof Olsson. Was Olof Harriander really a frustrated lover unfairly doomed by class prejudices? Or was he a deadbeat philanderer? Probably a bit of both.

While investigating the Harrianders' lives in New Britain, I uncovered a small but critical piece of information. The records of New Britain's Swedish Bethany Church, to which several of my ancestors belonged, include a name that did not fit: Amanda Harriander. The records showed that Amanda was born on November 4, 1862 in Reslöv, Malmöhus; that she arrived in the United States in 1883; and left New Britain to move west in 1887.

The well-documented family of my great-great-grandfather, Peter Harriander, includes no Amanda. No other Harriander family existed in Reslöv and Östra Karaby in the nineteenth century. The children of Olof's sister Cecelia all took their father's surname, Selander, while Olof's youngest brother, who began life as Nils Harriander, changed his surname to Berglund as a young man.

Reslöv church records show that Amanda was born to Anna Larsdotter, who was unmarried, on November 4, 1862. Amanda's out-of-wedlock status was indicated by the notation "oäkta," meaning illegitimate, as well as by the lack of a father's name. At the time of Amanda's birth, Anna lived at No. 4 Sibbarp, a village within Reslöv parish.

I identified the most likely candidate for Amanda's father when I examined Reslöv moving records for 1861. On November 20, 1861—one year before Amanda's birth—journeyman blacksmith Olof Heriander moved in to No. 2 Sibbarp, adjacent to No. 4, where Anna lived at the time of Amanda's birth. Four years later, in 1866, Anna Larsdotter gave birth to another illegitimate child, Johan. In 1869, still in Sibbarp, Anna gave birth to a final illegitimate baby, Augusta Cecelia Heriander, who died twenty days later.

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Top: Elsa Rosenfeldt examines Olof Harriander's letter, 2007. *Bottom:* American and Swedish Harriander cousins in 2007 in front of Trollenäs Castle, where Olof and Elna met. Left to right: Harley Hanson (the author's father), Anne Hanson, Marianne Andersson, Christian Rosenfeldt, Elsa Rosenfeldt, and Maria Andersson.

Until 1873, Reslöv church records indicated that Anna's household consisted of herself and her two children, Amanda and Johan Heriander. Besides Olof, the only other adult male Heriander in the vicinity was Peter, Olof's older married brother. Peter, father of a growing family that would eventually include ten surviving children, lived in Reslöv village rather than Sibbarp. Although not impossible, Peter was unlikely to be the father of Anna's three children.

Eleven days before Anna Larsdotter gave birth to his first child, Olof left Sibbarp for Trollenäs Castle, and immediately became intimate with Elna. One wonders whether Olof initially attempted to juggle his relationships with Anna and Elna—and how many other women succumbed to the charms of this roving blacksmith. Perhaps Elna's parents learned that only eight months before their grandson's birth, Olof had fathered a child with another woman. One can envision how Elna's parents, furious, might have insisted on her completely severing ties with Olof. Later, Elna might have said that Olof emigrated in 1864 because that year he disappeared from her life. Protecting her son, she would not have wanted him to know that his father was nearby but never visited.

The strong likelihood that Olof also fathered Anna Larsdotter's younger two children indicates that Olof and Anna's relationship continued, however intermittently. Evidently their involvement finally ended and in 1873 Anna married another man. Olof's and Anna's son, Johan, died of pneumonia in 1875.

Olof almost certainly maintained a relationship with his eldest child, Amanda. Not only did she take his surname, but he was in close proximity, and presumably seeing her mother during the first half of Amanda's childhood. Amanda probably was well acquainted with the families of Olof's siblings Peter and Cecelia, who also lived in Reslöv. When the Harrianders began immigrating to New Britain, Amanda joined them and became a member of the same church.

In New Britain Olof worked for P&F Corbin, a major hardware manufacturer, tapping spindles for locks. City directories indicate that before moving into the boarding house where he died, Olof had lived with his sister Cecelia and her family. In 1887 Amanda left New Britain for Manistee, Michigan, where she married a fellow Swedish immigrant. One can only speculate as to whether Olof's drinking had frayed his ties with Amanda and other family members.

Unlike Olof Harrinder, his sister Cecelia and her husband prospered in New Britain, although his brother Peter fell victim to typhoid in 1901. Amanda appears to have led a secure, productive life, ultimately settling in Kenosha, Wisconsin, with her husband and four children. Her marriage certificate listed her father as Olson Herriander; "Olson" was her stepfather's surname. Amanda's 1937 obituary[5] mentioned her November 4, 1862, birth in Sweden to a fictitious couple, Mr. and Mrs. John Harriander. Amanda apparently told her children a carefully curated story of her life and family in Sweden.

Enticed by the past and our newfound relatives, my father and I visited Sweden, where we were welcomed with open arms. During my first visit, our cousins took us on a tour of "Harriander country," the cluster of villages north of Lund where the Harrianders lived. Today, while our ancestors' cottages are long gone, the simple parish churches remain. Traversing the same green, gently undulating landscape that would have existed in the mid-nineteenth century, I imagined Olof, the appealing but flawed blacksmith; Anna and her children, Amanda, Johan, and Augusta; and Elna and her son Olof—their stories known to me only because Elsa Rosenfeldt saved a letter.◆

Notes

1 One such study is Martin Dribe and Christer Lundh, "Finding the Right Partner: Rural Homogamy in Nineteenth-century Sweden," *International Review of Social History* 50 (2005):149–77.

2 Cecilia Thorborg, "Mass Immigration to America a Blow to Sweden," on Statistics Sweden (scb.se/), published Sept. 2, 2013.

3 Per Clemensson and Kjell Andersson, *Your Swedish Roots: A Step by Step Handbook* (Provo, Utah: 2004).

4 In this article I use the Harriander spelling except when referring to sources with an alternate spelling.

5 *Kenosha Evening News*, June 19, 1937, p. 7.

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Jewish Heritage Center Spotlight

Stephanie Call *is Collections Management Archivist at AJHS-NEA*

"How Can We Ever Forget Massachusetts?"[1] Abraham Ratshesky and the 1917 Halifax Relief Effort

Many people know the story of the devastating Halifax Explosion of 1917 and Boston's role in the relief efforts, but very few now know about the Massachusetts men and women who were instrumental to those endeavors. One of those individuals was Abraham Captain (A.C.) Ratshesky, commissioner-in-charge of the Halifax Relief Expedition, who, within two weeks, became a hero to the citizens of Halifax and Boston.

On the morning of December 6, 1917, the SS *Mont-Blanc*, a French cargo ship carrying wartime explosives, collided with a Norwegian relief ship, the SS *Imo*, in the Narrows of Halifax Harbor. The collision started a fire on the *Mont-Blanc*, and within twenty minutes the ship exploded. The pressure wave created by the blast leveled over two square miles of the city's north end, then known as Richmond, and destroyed the Mi'kmaq settlement in Turtle Grove. This devastation, caused by the world's largest man-made explosion prior to the nuclear age, was followed by a twenty-foot tsunami that wreaked further havoc on the city and port. Glass shattered, buildings flattened to rubble, and countless lives were lost or forever changed. Almost 2,000 people were killed and 9,000 injured in the explosion.[2]

Massachusetts, and especially the city of Boston, quickly came to Halifax's aid. In February 1917, when the entry of the United States into World War I seemed certain, a group of government and private citizens formed the Massachusetts Committee on Public Safety. The first organization of its kind in the country, the committee was to serve as a public emergency response unit.[3] Hearing about the emergency in Halifax—without waiting to be asked—Governor Samuel McCall activated the Massachusetts' Public Safety Committee. Governor McCall and Henry B. Endicott, Chair of the Committee, appointed the one man they knew who could organize and supervise the relief workers on the ground: Abraham Ratshesky.

Ratshesky was well-suited for the job, having served as a director of the Metropolitan Chapter of the American Red Cross and as a relief worker after the fires in Chelsea (1908) and Salem (1914), Massachusetts. Born in Boston on November 6, 1864, to Asher and Bertha (Abrams) Ratshesky, Abraham—or "Cap" as he was sometimes called—was a politician, banker, and philanthropist. At age 14, Ratshesky left Boston



George Arthur, wounded in the explosion, sits with nurse Edith Choate, A.C. Ratshesky, and an unnamed man. This photograph, used in a number of papers, was taken by Richard W. Sears of Boston. (All article images are from the Ratshesky Papers.)

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The photos above depict wreckage in Richmond, the area of Halifax obliterated by the explosion on December 6, 1917.

Latin School and went into the mercantile business with his father.[4] He served in the Massachusetts State Senate from 1892 to 1895, establishing his reputation for honesty and fairness, but left political life at the request of his wife, Edith (Shuman), whom he had married in 1894. In 1895, Ratshesky and his brother Israel founded the U.S. Trust Company. Unlike other banks, the U.S. Trust Company provided otherwise unobtainable services to immigrants. He was one of the founding members of Beth Israel Hospital and in 1916, established the A. C. Ratshesky Charity Foundation, which still operates today. The Ratsheskys, who did not have children, lived on Commonwealth Avenue in Boston, but also summered at "The Birches," their home in Beverly, Massachusetts, where they entertained friends and family.

Ratshesky quickly responded to the urgent situation in Halifax. A relief train left Boston's North Station at 10:17 p.m. on December 6—the day of the explosion—with eleven doctors, ten nurses, journalists, and several relief workers from the American Red Cross, as well as much-needed supplies. All passengers had to present credentials to ensure they were not enemies of the United States.[5] Winter storms worked against the train: it encountered heavy snow, a train wreck, engine breakdowns, and blocked tracks. At 7 a.m. on Saturday, December 8, the train finally arrived in Halifax, the first relief train to reach the city from the United States.[6]

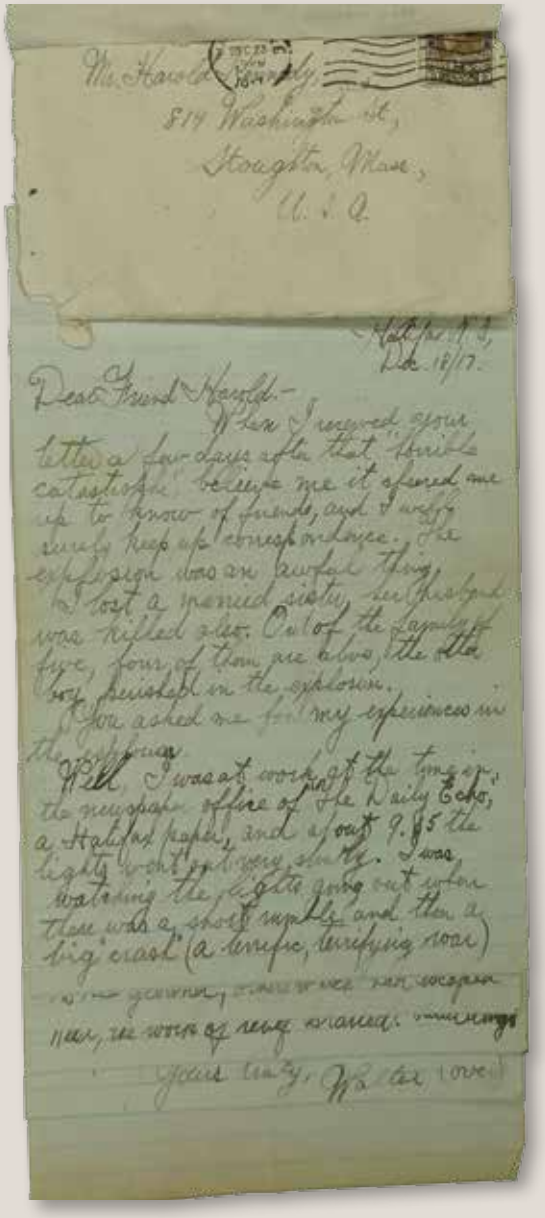
Ratshesky was greeted with a scene of complete devastation, compounded by a blizzard on the night of the explosion that dumped over a foot of new snow. In his report to Governor McCall, Ratshesky wrote of the debris and chaos he saw everywhere, and of his local driver, who had lost his wife and four children.[7] Under Ratshesky's direction Canadian officials—as well as Major Harold Giddings of the Massachusetts State Guard; Lieutenant Colonel Frederick McKelvey Bell, assistant director of medical services for the Canadian armed forces; and fifty of the crew of the U.S. training ship *Old Colony*—managed to turn the old Bellevue Mansion into Bellevue Hospital. Windows were boarded up, floors and walls cleaned, and operating rooms and beds were ready by early evening on December 8. Ratshesky ordered glass to be shipped from Boston to Halifax immediately: without glass, buildings offered no protection from the snow and sleet. Tales of desperation were scattered throughout the newspapers. One paper reported that "half a hundred children, their heads bandaged and their little arms in slings . . . made up a small group of orphans who escaped when their place of abode in Halifax was wrecked. A shower of stone and glass had maimed some of them for life."[8] Ratshesky set about organizing relief efforts under a general committee to alleviate the confusion and duplicated efforts of relief workers already on the scene. Back in Boston, Endicott and the Massachusetts Halifax Relief Committee raised one million dollars for supplies and relief efforts, an amount equal to $20 million today.

Ratshesky was already well-known in Boston, but now he was considered a hero, a source of pride for the state and a much admired friend to Halifax.

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A letter from Halifax

This letter from 17-year-old Walter Hoganson of Halifax to 16-year-old Harold Kennedy of Stoughton, Massachusetts, is preserved in Ratshesky's scrapbook (Ratshesky Papers, P-586, Box 4). After Kennedy received it, his older sister brought the letter into the law office where she worked with attorney Samuel Casson. Casson, a friend of Ratshesky, passed it on to him. Walter Hoganson's older sister, Catherine (Hoganson) Murphy, her husband Patrick, and their eleven-year-old son, Wilfred, perished in the disaster and are listed in the Halifax Explosion Remembrance Book.



The letter sent by Walter Hoganson to Harold Kennedy, December 18, 1917.

Halifax, N.S.
Dec. 18/17

Dear Friend Harold.—

When I received your letter a few days after that "Horrible Catastrophe," believe me it cheered me up to know of friends, and I will surely keep up correspondence. The explosion was an awful thing. I lost a married sister, her husband was killed also. Out of the family of five, four of them are alive, the other boy perished in the explosion.

You asked me for my experiences in the explosion.

Well, I was at work at the time in the newspaper office of "The Daily Echo," a Halifax paper, and about 9.05 the lights went out very slowly. I was watching the lights going out when there was a short rumble and then a big "crash" (a terrific, terrifying roar).

I got as low as I could and the glass and wood flew everywhere, but I didn't get a scratch. Harold, our big steady building rocked like a little cradle. I got out of the building and when I got on the street everybody was running everywhere. People with scratches, cuts, and bruises were yelling, "The Dirty Huns," "There [*sic*] here at Last," and many other things, thinking it was an air raid. Well, getting clear of this my first thoughts were of home, getting home I found everybody alright. The house was all shattered, windows were out, plaster down, and our chimney split, as if a saw had it upped it down the sides. But nobody was cut. Then I made for my sister's house in Richmond, the northern part of the city where the explosion did the most damage. Well, I started off and the further north the worst it got, houses split in half, others down to the ground, others which had escaped the explosion were burning down with a fierce fire that was raging then. Getting to Duffus St. or what was left of it I found my sister's house burned to the ground and not a soul around. Leaving here in despair I went down to the waterfront which was swept as low as a field. My chum Victor James, was working here and he was instantly killed, his body was found since. Making once more for home I left that field of horrors behind. That night a wild storm howled, snow, sleet and wind. I was expecting our chimney to fall any moment but it lasted out alright. The next day the work of relief started, and thank God the noble state of Massachusetts stood the same as ever ready to help us. I tell you I don't know what we would have done without the Americans, because we were left powerless by the explosion. Well, the work of relief started. Buildings were put into shape for the injured and homeless, and a man whose name will always stand sacred in every Canadian's mind took over the Relief Dressing Stations and Hospitals. This man is A.C. Ratshesky, the hero of dear old Halifax. Well, the food stations opened, and also clothing depots. At this time of writing, everything is slowly but surely getting back to normal conditions.

I tell you an American is just like our own, free, easy, cool, and ready. After this is over, and every thing fixed up again and our city gets to be a dear old Halifax again, we will realize what the brothers Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Maine Hospital Units did for us. Hoping you will write as soon as possible.

Yours truly,
Walter (over)

P.S.— I am mailing a book of views of the explosion to you as soon as possible.

P.S.— I have a piece of a shell of the "S.S. Mont Blanc" one of the ships that collided. Would you want me to send it to you it is a great souvenir in its natural shape.

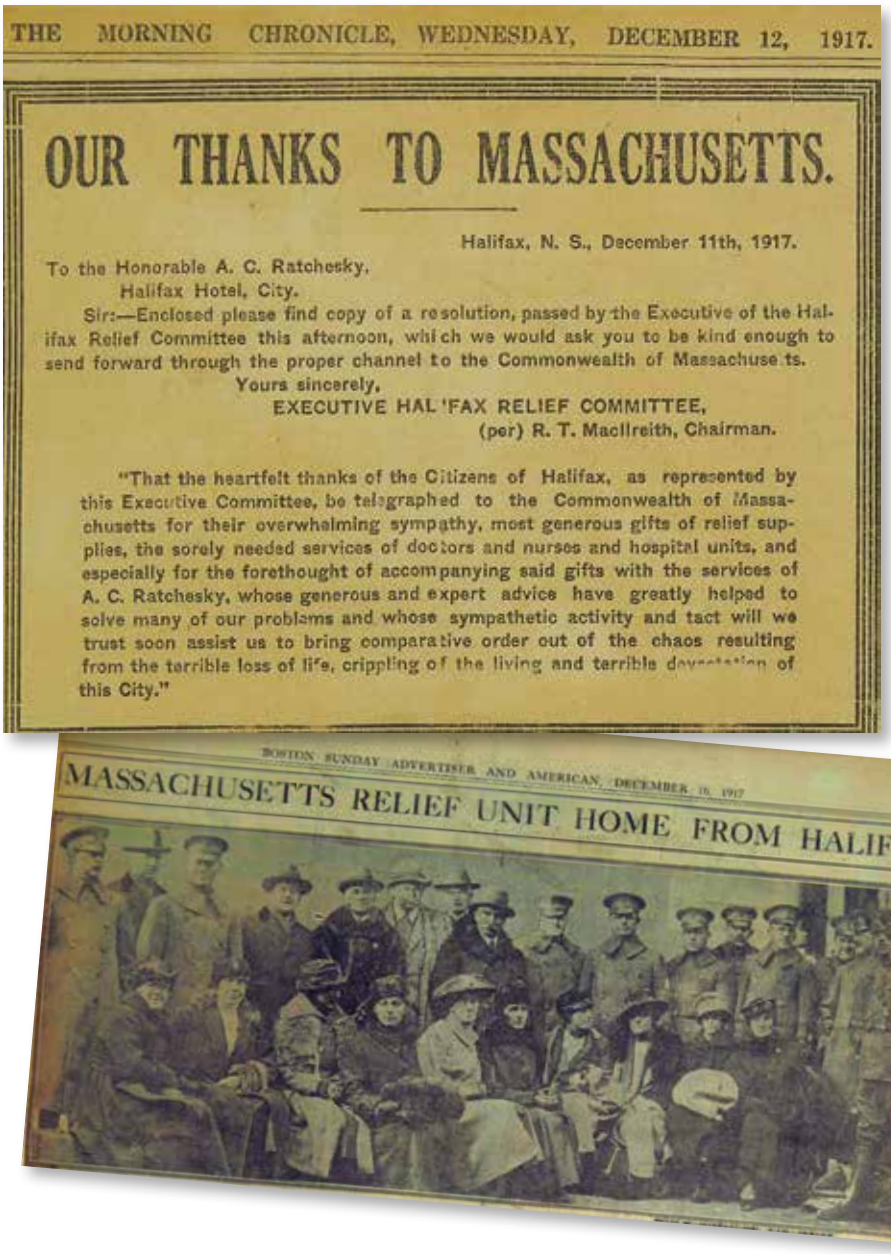
Your Friend,
Walter

My address.—

Walter Hoganson
11 Creighton Street
Halifax, N.S.,
Canada

Excuse scribbling

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THE MORNING CHRONICLE, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1917.

OUR THANKS TO MASSACHUSETTS.

Halifax, N. S., December 11th, 1917.

To the Honorable A. C. Ratchesky,
Halifax Hotel, City.

Sir:—Enclosed please find copy of a resolution, passed by the Executive of the Halifax Relief Committee this afternoon, which we would ask you to be kind enough to send forward through the proper channel to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Yours sincerely,
EXECUTIVE HALIFAX RELIEF COMMITTEE,
(per) R. T. MacIlreith, Chairman.

"That the heartfelt thanks of the Citizens of Halifax, as represented by this Executive Committee, be telegraphed to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts for their overwhelming sympathy, most generous gifts of relief supplies, the sorely needed services of doctors and nurses and hospital units, and especially for the forethought of accompanying said gifts with the services of A. C. Ratchesky, whose generous and expert advice have greatly helped to solve many of our problems and whose sympathetic activity and tact will we trust soon assist us to bring comparative order out of the chaos resulting from the terrible loss of life, crippling of the living and terrible devastation of this City."

BOSTON SUNDAY ADVERTISER AND AMERICAN, DECEMBER 16, 1917

MASSACHUSETTS RELIEF UNIT HOME FROM HALIFAX

Top: Thanks from the Executive Halifax Committee to A.C. Ratshesky. *Bottom:* Photo of the Massachusetts Relief Party in the *Boston Sunday Advertiser and American*.

"Dear 'Cap,'" wrote one of his brothers, "the wonderful work you are doing in Halifax is simply thrilling the Boston people. Your name is on everybody's lips; most of the newspapers are giving you great headlines, and today's *American* had a picture of you and Premier [Sir Robert]Borden, in conversation."[9] Endicott wrote, "Massachusetts will never know how much she owes you but we will try to have them understand a little."[10] Walter Hoganson of Halifax, in a letter to Harold Kennedy of Stoughton, Massachusetts, wrote, "Buildings were put into shape for the injured and homeless, and a man whose name will always stand sacred in any every Canadian's mind took over the Relief Dressing Stations and Hospitals. This man is A.C. Ratshesky, the hero of dear old Halifax."[11] These accolades were well-deserved, and not until much later did reports surface of Ratshesky's own injury, caused by a slip in the snow upon his arrival. Working while hurt and without consideration of his wellbeing inspired the community back home, and further cemented his colleagues' admiration.

On December 14, as Ratshesky began preparing for his journey back to Boston, Halifax's *Morning Chronicle* extolled,

For more information

- *Halifax Explosion 1917 Online Resources, from the Nova Scotia Archives*
  novascotia.ca/archives/explosion/explosion.asp
- *Halifax Explosion Remembrance Book, from the Nova Scotia Archives. The database currently contains 1,946 names of people known to have died as a direct result of the events of December 6, 1917, with supporting information.*
  novascotia.ca/archives/remembrance/
- *From One Moment to the Next: The Halifax Explosion, from the Historical Collections at the Claude Moore Health Sciences Library at the University of Virginia*
  exhibits.hsl.virginia.edu/halifax
- *The Halifax Explosion, from the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation*
  cbc.ca/halifaxexplosion
- *Report of the Halifax Relief Expedition December 6 to 15, 1917 by Abraham C. Ratshesky*
  archive.org/details/reportofhalifaxr00mass
- *The Papers of Abraham Ratshesky*
  Finding aid: findingaids.cjh.org/?pID=338010#a19
  To view the collection online, email reference@ajhsboston.org for access.
- The A.C. Ratshesky Foundation
  Ratsheskyfoundation.org

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A.C. and Edith Ratshesky about to set sail on the SS *Rex,* May 1937.

"Boston and Massachusetts will be forever honored names among Nova Scotians, and we beg to say to Mr. Ratshesky, Mr. Moors and their colleagues [that] when they leave for their homes that we shall cherish as one of our dearest memories their manifestations of sympathy for us in our distress. May we venture to ask that they will convey to the people of Boston and Massachusetts an expression of our abiding gratitude for all that they have done for us."[12] Proclamations and statements were made by both Canadian and Massachusetts officials, attesting to the strength of the bond between Halifax and Boston.

Following his service in Halifax, Ratshesky was an assistant to Henry B. Endicott, serving as both assistant Federal Food Administrator and vice-chairman and executive officer of the Public Safety Committee for the remainder of World War I. In 1930, President Herbert Hoover appointed Ratshesky as ambassador to Czechoslovakia, which honored him in 1933 with the Order of the White Lion First Class—the country's highest civil honor. He also served with the Federated Jewish Charities (now Combined Jewish Philanthropies), and the American Red Cross, donating a building on Gloucester Street in Boston to the latter organization. Abraham Ratshesky died in 1943. Although his contributions to the Halifax relief efforts have been forgotten over time, Ratshesky left a philanthropic legacy that continues every December, when Halifax sends Boston the city's official Christmas tree in a gesture of goodwill and remembrance.[13] ◆

The Papers of Abraham Ratshesky (1864–1943) were donated to AJHS by the A.C. Ratshesky Foundation in 1987. The Papers include diaries; photographs; a scrapbook of photographs, letters, and newspaper clippings concerning the Halifax Explosion; the Order of the White Lion First Class medal and certificate; correspondence; estate ledgers; and films. In addition to the Ratshesky material, the collection contains photographs of the Shuman family and of Abraham's sister, Rebecca Morse, and her family. Abraham and Edith (Shuman) Ratshesky were close to their extended family and the Foundation is still operated by descendants of Abraham Ratshesky's siblings. The collection is available online; to request access, email reference@ajhsboston.org.

Notes

1 This quote is taken from a telegram sent to Henry B. Endicott from Ratshesky: "The premier, Sir Robert Borden, after reading your telegram, was so profoundly grateful that he grasped me by both hands, and with tears running down his cheeks, said: "How can we ever forget Massachusetts?" The text of the telegram is published in a newspaper account in "Bay State Unit No. 2 in Halifax," *The Boston Herald*, December 10, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Abraham C. Ratshesky (1864–1943), papers; P-586; Box 4; American Jewish Historical Society, Boston, Mass.

2 "The Halifax Explosion," cbc.ca/halifaxexplosion/index.html.

3 Laura M. MacDonald, *Curse of the Narrows* (New York: Walker & Company, 2005), p. 105.

4 "Ratshesky New Envoy to Prague," *Boston Evening Transcript*, January 9, 1930, 1. News clipping; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 3, Folder 5.

5 Letters presenting the credentials of various reporters are included in Ratshesky's scrapbook. Mention of the credentials also in Atkinson, Roy, "Boston Rushes Relief Special," *The Boston Herald and Journal,* December 7, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

6 MacDonald, *Curse of the* Narrows [note 3], pp. 177–79. Relief trains from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick had begun arriving on Thursday, December 7.

7 "Ratshesky, Abraham C. *Report of the Halifax Relief Expedition December 6 to 15, 1917* (Boston: 1918), p. 11. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

8 "To 'Go the Limit' in Helping Halifax," *The Boston Herald and Journal*, December 8, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586.

9 Letter from an unnamed Ratshesky brother to Abraham Ratshesky, December 11, 1917. Since Israel is mentioned in the letter, it was written by either Max or Harry. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

10 Letter from Henry B. Endicott to A.C. Ratshesky, December 11, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

11 Letter from Walter Hoganson to Harold Kennedy,December 18, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

12 *The Morning Chronicle,* December 14, 1917. From the scrapbook of Abraham Ratshesky; Ratshesky Papers; P-586; Box 4.

13 Halifax sent a Christmas tree to Boston in 1918. The tradition of annual tree-giving began in 1971 and still continues. In Nova Scotia, the gifting of the tree is a valued tradition, and includes guidelines for potential tree donors, a tree-cutting ceremony, and a parade as the tree begins its journey to Boston. The tree even has its own Twitter profile and Facebook page. See "Tree for Boston," novascotia.ca/treeforboston/.

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Judy Lucey *is Archivist at NEHGS.*

Preserving One Family's Stories: The Button-Treadwell Family Reunion Collection

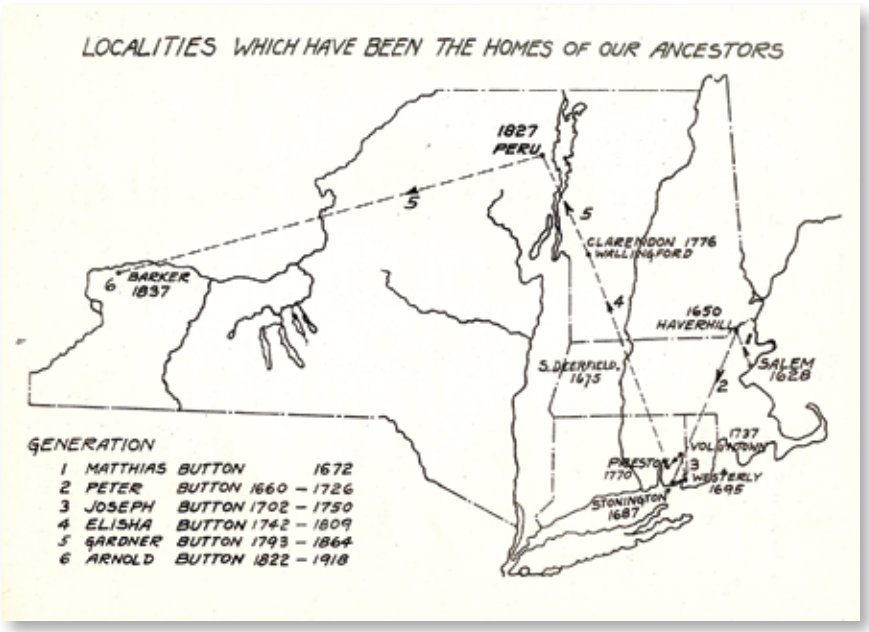
In February 1837, on a bitterly cold day, Gardner Button left Peru, Clinton County, New York, with his wife Lydia, their nine children, and three horse-drawn sleighs containing all their worldly possessions. Ahead was a five-hundred mile journey to a newly purchased farm in Somerset, Niagara County, New York. Along the way they stayed with relatives at Chateaugay and Fort Covington, and passed through many towns and villages including Potsdam, Canton, and Watertown. The group crossed the frozen Irondequoit Bay and the Genesee River at Rochester. After nearly two arduous weeks, the Buttons arrived at the home of their married daughter, Mary (Button) Benedict of Somerset.

This account of the Buttons' journey is one of many family stories preserved in the Button–Treadwell Family Association Collection (Mss 1169), a compilation of genealogical materials and family papers and photographs documenting one male line of descendants from Matthias Button, a Great Migration immigrant,[1] to Gardner Button, and his children, particularly Gardner's son Arnold Button and grandson Frank Button.

Our acquisition of this collection began with an email earlier this year. Long-time member Marilyn Cornish of Brockport, New York, contacted me after reading an issue of *American Ancestors.* Our announcement about donating family materials had caught her eye. In her email, she fondly recalled her two visits to our library to research her husband's Cornish family and the very helpful assistance of genealogist David Dearborn.

Marilyn explained she had been the secretary-treasurer and keeper of the records for the Button Family Association for the past forty-eight years. Her branch of the family has held annual family reunions since 1901, and over the years many family members had contributed records, diaries, letters, photographs, and other material. Marilyn wanted to donate these items to NEHGS. Would we be interested in such a collection? I liked the description of the items—a mix of compiled genealogical materials and family papers with photographs of many individuals mentioned in the personal recollections.

I was also intrigued by the family story where members of an early New England family settled (except for a move to the Nebraska prairies in the 1870s and 1880s) and remained in one area of western New York for many generations. Marilyn also mentioned



Map showing the places where one line of the Button family lived from 1628 to 1837.

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Four generations of Button males photographed at a reunion held August 15, 1913. Great-grandfather Arnold (seated right); grandfather Clarence (seated left); father Arnold (standing); and Stanley, age 9 months.

that in the late 1990s she had donated her book, *Short History of the Gardner & Arnold Button Family: and Including the Barnum Treadwell Family* (1998) to our library. With the Button genealogy on the shelf, the opportunity to acquire the manuscript collection was too good to pass up. I said yes.

Several weeks after our email exchange, one large carton containing two smaller cartons arrived. Although Marilyn had provided a good overview of the types of materials in the collection, I was pleasantly surprised at the overall scope and content, as well as the good condition of many of the items. The materials documented Gardner and Lydia (Ellis) Button and their descendants, with the bulk of the collection focused on their son, Arnold (1822–1918), and his family.

The Button family of Somerset descends from Matthias Button's youngest son, Peter (1660–1726), who left Haverhill, Massachusetts, for Stonington, Connecticut, probably about 1687, when he married Mary Lamphere of Westerly, Rhode Island. Peter eventually purchased 160 acres in Westerly and remained there until his death, as did his son Joseph (1702–1750), who married Abigail Rood. Joseph's sons, including Elisha (1742–1809), left Rhode Island shortly before the outbreak of the Revolutionary War for Clarendon and Wallingford, Vermont. Elisha and his wife, Bethiah Kinne, settled at Wallingford, where their children were born, including their youngest child, Gardner (1793–1864). Following a typical migration path, several of Elisha's children eventually left for New York. Gardner settled in Peru, Clinton County, about 1813 and—except for a brief time in Franklin County—remained in Peru until he removed to Somerset in 1837.

Upon receiving the collection, I began a thorough inventory, as I do with all new accessions. The family charts and compiled genealogies served as my roadmap through the collection, enabling me to identify family members, piece together relationships, and follow the family history. Items included a typescript genealogy on the Button family compiled by Gertrude (Button) Poeller in 1969; an oversized family chart created by Arnold Button in 1913; childhood recollections and autobiographical sketches; histories of family homesteads; over fifty diaries written between 1880 and 1942; Civil War correspondence, 1862–1865; materials and photographs related to family reunions; and numerous family photographs, including tintypes, daguerreotypes, ambrotypes, and cabinet card photographs.

As I went through the materials, taking in the stories or reading a passage from a diary or letter, I couldn't help but step back in time with the Button family. The account of the 1837 journey to Somerset was written by Arnold E. Button in 1903. His *Recollections of My Boyhood* recounted how, at age 13, he "brought up the rear," driving a team of two horses which pulled the sleigh carrying his mother and siblings. He noted that his life—as well as those of his ancestors—was full of hardships but he hoped no "other members of the Button family [will] ever have to undergo the perils we have undergone."

The diaries and family correspondence in the collection were written by Arnold's son, Frank Button (1855–1924); Frank's wife, Mary F. (Hoffman) Button (1867–1938); and their daughter Gertrude (Button) Poeller (1904–1974), who had served as the Button family historian. Like Arnold, Frank documented his life. His handwritten account begins, "I was born in the town of Somerset in a log house one mile south of Barker in the year 1855 July 7th." His mother, Marietta (Treadwell) Button (1828–1865), died when he was 10, and left four children, the youngest only four weeks old.

In 1874, Arnold, Frank's father, and Frank's older brother Clarence left for Nebraska. Land was cheap due to drought conditions and recent grasshopper plagues. Clarence purchased a large farm and remained in Nebraska, while Arnold returned to New York. In 1877, at 21, Frank joined his brother. Their father purchased 160 acres for Frank five miles south of Pawnee City, Nebraska, for $725. Frank cleared the land, built a house, and bought a flock of sheep. In 1880, Frank returned to

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The first Button family reunion, held September 6, 1901 at Arnold Button's house in Gasport, New York.

New York to marry Theresa Benn and they settled down in Nebraska together.

Frank documented the hardships of his life on the prairie in his diaries. The destruction of a wheat crop by a bad wind storm left him "feeling blue" and his wife homesick for New York. They persevered, however, and planted corn. But in the spring of 1883 they sold the land for $4,000 and tried their luck raising cattle and hogs at Elkpoint, Union County, South Dakota, where Frank purchased 320 acres. By the fall of 1885, the hardships of daily life and longing for family back East took their toll. Frank and his family returned to New York, moving to a farm in Middlesex, Yates County. Frank's brother Clarence had had enough, too, and the Button family's life in the West ended.

Frank and his family returned to Niagara County in 1888. He purchased a 132-acre fruit farm near Barker and became a successful fruit producer. Theresa (Benn) Button died in 1898, leaving Frank with four children. Frank married Delia Denton Taylor in 1900 but she died in 1902.

Mary Frances Hoffman, a local Barker schoolteacher, must have caught Frank's eye. Among Mary's papers is a letter written by Frank dated July 15, 1903. He began, "Please excuse my boldness in writing to you," offered reasons for composing the letter, and then finally stated, "I think I will have to get me a nice little wife to make home pleasant. You was the first one I thought of. The girls [his daughters] both think you are just right and so do I." He asked Mary to think and pray about her answer. Her response was clearly "yes," as they married on January 4, 1904, and had two daughters, Gertrude (Button) Poeller (1904–1974) and Ruth (Button) Staples (1907–1982).

Mary F. (Hoffman) Button, born March 11, 1867 in Oswego County, was the daughter of William Palmer Hoffman and his wife, Amanda Jane Darling. Like members of the Button family, Mary, too, was interested in her family history and the preservation of family papers. Among the materials representing Mary and her family are pocket diaries, letters from friends and family, photographs, her wedding book and invitation, and a Hoffman family reunion ledger, as well as her parents' collection of Civil War letters, 1862–1865.

When the war broke out, Mary's parents lived at Red Creek in Cayuga County. William Hoffman enlisted on September 8, 1862 and served as a private in Company A of the 9th Regiment Heavy Artillery. Shortly after he enlisted, William's regiment was called to Washington, D.C. to serve in the defense of the capital. The bulk of the preserved letters were written by William; only a handful from his wife and parents. His letters from June 1864 to July 1865 were sent from Washington-area Army hospitals, where he remained for the duration of the war, suffering from dysentery. Discharged on July 26, 1865, William P. Hoffman returned home to his wife and family. The family eventually moved to Barker, where they purchased a farm in the early 1870s. William died there on June 3, 1926, at the home he shared with Frank and Mary Button.

The first Button reunion was held on September 6, 1901, to commemorate Arnold Button's 79th birthday. The family gathered at his home in Gasport, a hamlet in Royalton, Niagara County. The photographs taken, the stories shared, and the memories made that day are not lost to history. Lovingly preserved by the Button family and passed down from generation to generation, this collection will be safeguarded by NEHGS. The Button family reunions continue—the 111th was held August 8, 2015—so we look forward to acquiring more Button family materials and preserving them for future descendants. ◆

Notes

[1] Button family history claims Matthias Button arrived on the *Abigail* with Governor John Endicott in 1628 but the Matthias Button sketch in Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633* (Boston: NEHGS, 2015), p. 53, places his New England arrival in 1633. His ship name and English origin are unknown.

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focus on New York





Between 2005 and 2013 **Meldon J. Wolfgang III** *(1945–2013) authored a series of excellent articles in New York Archives. Mel was the proprietor of Jonathan Sheppard Books, and he taught and lectured widely, especially on New York genealogy. His articles and blogs continue to be engaging and valuable today.*

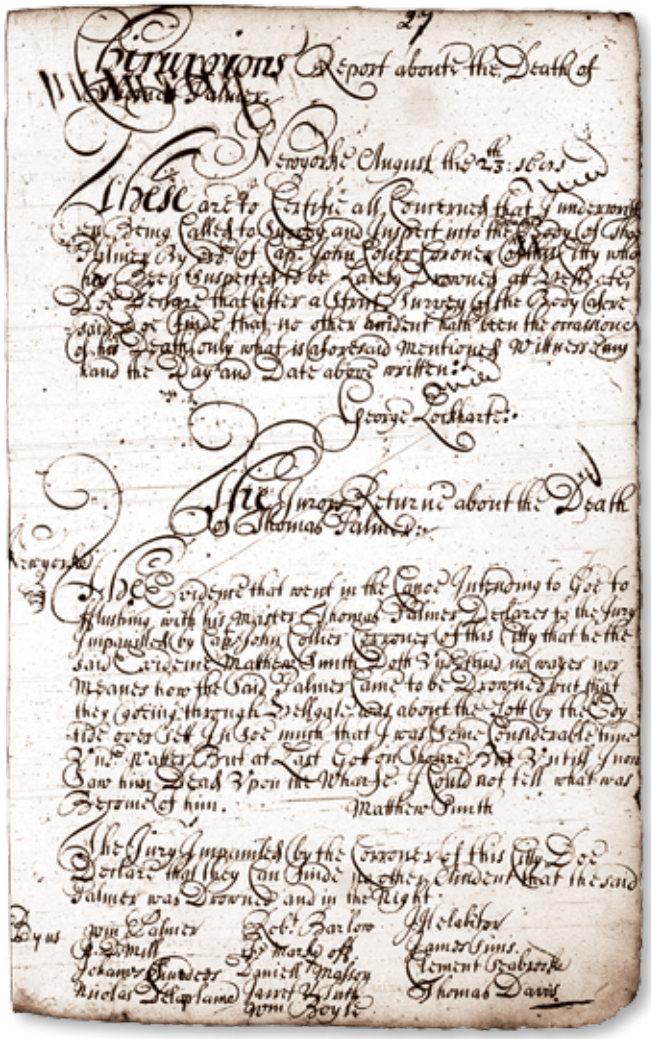
Clues from the Coroner

On a crisp December day in 1702, Jacob van Noorstrant went off into the western woods beyond the City of Albany's stockade to cut trees. Later that afternoon, van Noorstrant lay dead, and the mayor of the city wanted to know why.

In his official role as coroner, Mayor Albert Janse Ryckman instructed Sheriff Jacob Turke to summon twelve "good and lawful" men to investigate van Noorstrant's untimely death. The hastily assembled coroner's jury listened first to fifty-seven-year-old Gerritt van Ness, who swore that he and van Noorstrant were in the woods on the Schenectady Road about three o'clock in the afternoon cutting down pine trees. As the large tree that he was cutting began to lean and fall, van Ness suddenly realized that van Noorstrant was working in the very spot where the falling tree was going to come crashing down. Van Ness shouted a warning to his friend, but his cries were drowned out by the noise of the falling tree which hurtled down onto van Noorstrant and killed him on the spot.

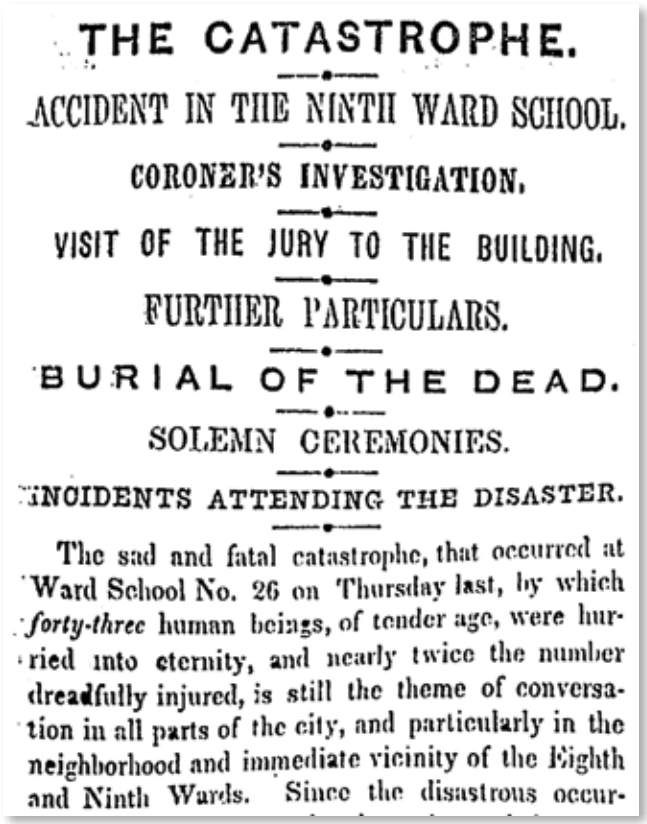
After hearing testimony from van Ness' twenty-one-year-old nephew, who was also in the woods at the same time, the coroner's jury ruled that Jacob van Noorstrant's death was an accident. A summary of the proceedings was entered into the city's official records on Friday evening, December 8, 1702.

Fortunately for genealogists, coroners and coroners' juries have been part of New York's legal framework from the earliest times. Charged with investigating unexpected or suspicious deaths, coroners have been issuing reports on accidental or unexplained deaths, including murders and suicides, for more than three centuries. Often predating official death records, coroners' reports usually contain highly specific information documenting the time, place, and manner of the death in question, and sometimes contain genealogically significant testimony about the deceased that is unavailable elsewhere. In addition, jury reports are signed by each of the jurors, thus providing



New York City Wills, Liber 19B [FHL 0,875,151 Item 1], p. 27, coroner's inquest on August 23, 1681 into the death of Thomas Palmer.

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THE CATASTROPHE.

ACCIDENT IN THE NINTH WARD SCHOOL.

CORONER'S INVESTIGATION.

VISIT OF THE JURY TO THE BUILDING.

FURTHER PARTICULARS.

BURIAL OF THE DEAD.

SOLEMN CEREMONIES.

INCIDENTS ATTENDING THE DISASTER.

The sad and fatal catastrophe, that occurred at Ward School No. 26 on Thursday last, by which *forty-three* human beings, of tender age, were hurried into eternity, and nearly twice the number dreadfully injured, is still the theme of conversation in all parts of the city, and particularly in the neighborhood and immediate vicinity of the Eighth and Ninth Wards. Since the disastrous occur-

An article on the Ninth Ward School catastrophe in *The New York Times*, November 24, 1851, p. 3.

signature specimens for comparison with examples on other documents, like deeds and wills.

Family historians may find that coroners' inquest reports can be helpful to their research even when their ancestor is not the subject of the investigation. Coroners' juries often call many local witnesses, and the testimony presented at an inquest may include both genealogical facts (for example, exact age and place of birth) and further research clues (occupation and residence) about the witnesses themselves.

"Falling Like Grain from a Hopper"

Consider the information that a researcher can glean from the coroner's inquest into what came to be known as the Ninth Ward School Disaster. On November 20, 1851, Miss Abby Harrison, a teacher in a second-floor classroom at Public School 26 on Greenwich Avenue in Manhattan, suffered a stroke-like attack and fell to the floor of her classroom. Her face was paralyzed and contorted, and she was unable to speak. Her class of young children, thinking that their teacher was dying, ran screaming from the room. Children in all the surrounding classrooms on the second floor and on the floor above heard the screams and panicked, believing the building was on fire. In a few minutes, hundreds of wildly screaming children were racing out of their classrooms, trying to escape. Pushing and shoving against each other, the frightened children surged toward the circular staircase in the center of the building. The wooden railings on the stairs and landings gave way, and masses of children began to plummet lemming-like to the stone floor below. The first wave of falling children died on impact, while others were suffocated by the weight of those who landed on top of them. A policeman who arrived at the chaotic scene described the children as falling ". . . like grain from a hopper." By the end of the day, forty-three children were dead and nearly thirty more were seriously injured.

For the next five days, the sixteen men who made up the coroner's jury conducted an inquest into the deaths. The jurors viewed the body of each dead child and took testimony from teachers, parents, and the surviving students. Policemen and firemen offered up information, along with neighbors, workmen, and the school trustees. Every day, newspapers published graphic verbatim accounts of the testimony, which usually included the age, occupation, and residence of each witness. For genealogists tracing families in this neighborhood, the coroner's inquest into the Ninth Ward School Disaster provides a wealth of information.

Unique resources

While early coroners' inquests are unique resources for genealogists, locating them is not always easy, since they are sometimes commingled with other government proceedings or housed in unexpected locations. For example, the inquests conducted by New York City coroner John Burnet for the period 1747 to 1758 are with the Van Cortlandt papers in the Columbia University Library's special collections.

Researchers investigating nineteenth-century New York City families should consider the genealogical information that can be found in coroners' inquests from 1823 to 1898, which are housed in the Municipal Archives. Kenneth Scott's abstracts of nearly 10,000 of these inquest proceedings up to 1849 have been published, and serve as useful finding aids to the actual record.

For areas north of New York City, researchers can consult the coroners' records for the period 1800 to 1911 in the Westchester County Archives, or those in the Putnam County archives covering the years 1820 to 1913. For coroners' records in other counties, a review of the holdings of the local county archives or county clerk's office is usually the best place to start.

Even if all that remain are the printed abstracts of inquests that appear in the annual published proceedings of a county's board of supervisors, coroners' reports are worth investigating for the genealogical clues they contain. ◆

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OBITUARIES

Carolyn A. Lynch, 1946–2015

Carolyn Ann Lynch, NEHGS Trustee Emerita, died at her home in Marblehead, Massachusetts, on October 1, 2015, aged 69. Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on August 29, 1946, she was the daughter of Charles and Wanda (Lopatkiewicz) Hoff. She attended the University of Pennsylvania, where she earned a double major in physics and physiology. Carolyn was the wife of Fidelity Magellan Fund executive Peter Lynch.

As co-creator, President, and Chief Executive Officer of the Lynch Foundation, Carolyn was known for her hands-on approach to philanthropy, carefully vetting and personally nurturing the many causes she supported. Her passionate commitment to education and culture was reflected in her philanthropic support of urban programs, elementary and higher education, cultural and arts programs, and historic preservation. She served in board-level positions at a number of cultural and educational institutions and received four honorary degrees for her commitment to philanthropy and education.



Carolyn and Peter Lynch at our 2010 annual benefit dinner at the Four Seasons, for which they were our event benefactors,

Carolyn joined NEHGS in 1996 and quickly distinguished herself as a passionate family historian and dedicated supporter of our Society. She undertook a major study of her own family, the Hoffs, and also researched her husband's ancestors.

Carolyn served on many important committees here at NEHGS, helping to guide and shape our organization at a pivotal time in our history. In her role as Vice Chairman of our Board of Trustees, Carolyn helped us create our Strategic Plan, as well as our groundbreaking Capital Campaign to support that vision. As Chair of our Garden Committee, she led the redesign of our front garden and entryway, which she opened in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the late Mayor Thomas M. Menino on June 27, 2011. This garden and entryway design was later recognized with two prestigious awards: the Bulfinch Prize and the Magnolia Award.

As our Annual Dinner honorary chair and event benefactor from 2009 to 2012, Carolyn supported gala events featuring Ken Burns, Michael and Kitty Dukakis, Henry Louis Gates Jr., and Thomas Menino. Carolyn and Peter graciously opened their Back Bay home to us for receptions and committee meetings, and also welcomed a group of our tour participants to their home in Ireland. Carolyn's lecture at NEHGS on her Ireland garden, "Hollywood House Demesne: An American Garden Abroad," attracted the largest attendance of any talk in our building, with a full house of visitors



Carolyn Lynch, center, with the late Mayor Thomas Menino (left) and Brenton Simons (right) at our annual benefit dinner at the Algonquin Club, April 24, 2009.

spread throughout three floors. Along with her husband, Carolyn was a member of our Founders' Society for Lifetime Giving of more than $1 million to NEHGS

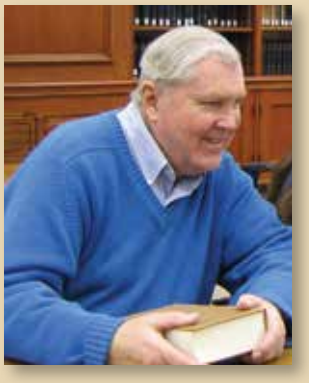
A world-champion contract bridge player and an award-winning gardener, Carolyn was known for her sharp mind, quick wit, and enduring kindness. She was highly regarded by our staff and members of the Board and Council. President and CEO Brenton Simons noted that "The staff and board members of NEHGS are deeply affected by her passing—which reflects upon the simple fact that everyone who knew Carolyn was made to feel special by her."

Carolyn is survived by her husband, Peter, whom she married on May 11, 1968; their three daughters, Mary Witkowski, Annie Carolyn Lukowski, Elizabeth de Montrichard; six grandchildren; two sisters, Melanie Rapp and Madalin O'Brien; and two nephews and a niece.



Kelly McCoulf, former NEHGS Chairman Eric Schultz, late Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Garden Committee Chair and former NEHGS Vice Chairman Carolyn Lynch, Brenton Simons, and Garden Committee members David Bruce and Ginger Koster at our 2011 ribbon cutting ceremony for the new garden and entryway.

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Edwin R. Johnson, 1925–2015

Edwin R. "Ed" Johnson, a former NEHGS staff member and volunteer, died in Norwood, Massachusetts, September 17, 2015, aged 90. He was born in Newton, Massachusetts, March 7, 1925, the son of Swedish immigrants Albert and Emma (Hurtig) Johnson.

Mr. Johnson served as an officer in the United States Marine Corps during World War II (1943–46) and the Korean War (1952–53). He graduated from Dartmouth College in 1946 and its Amos Tuck Graduate School of Business in 1947. His career began in 1948 when he joined the Kendall Company of Walpole, Massachusetts, a manufacturer of textile products. He spent forty years at the company, serving as a planning manager, plant manager, and purchasing manager, in Walpole, Griswoldville, and Boston, Massachusetts; and in South Carolina.

Mr. Johnson joined NEHGS and became a volunteer in 1989. Soon afterwards he was hired as a part-time staff member for the Enquires Services (now called Research Services) to coordinate photocopy requests for records in our holdings. He retired from this position in 2010. Vice President and COO Ryan J. Woods recalled that Ed was always a warm and happy presence in the building, and noted that he will be remembered fondly by all those who knew him.

Mr. Johnson married Betty Thayer in 1949; she died in 2007. He is survived by two children, Thomas Johnson and Elizabeth (Johnson) Kohn; two granddaughters; and a sister.

Genealogies Recently Published

Bowen *Richard Bowen (1594?–1675) of Rehoboth, Massachusetts and His Descendants: Volume Three—Generation Five,* William B. Saxbe Jr., CG, FASG (Hope, R.I.: Rhode Island Genealogical Society, 2015). Hardcover, 708 + xviii pages, library binding, illustrated, maps, bibliography, name and place index. Covers the Bowen diaspora, 1704–1854, within New England and to N.Y., N.J., Pa., N.C., Ga., and the Midwest. RIGS Books, P.O. Box 211, Hope, RI 02831; RIGenSoc.org

Johnston/Mead *Sadie's Story: The Life of Sara Johnston Mead, Including Her Descendants, Siblings, and Ancestors in America,* Susan E. Anderson (Rochester, New York: the author, 2015). Softcover, vi +390 pp., index of names, photos, pedigree chart, endnotes, bibliography. 60+ ancestor families (some from 1630s, includes female lines) residing in New England, Long Island, and Essex, Orange, and Wayne Counties, New York. Lulu.com; sadiesstory15@gmail.com.

Other Books Recently Published

Autobiography *A Life in Two Worlds*, Thomas Hughes (Bloomington, Indiana: AuthorHouse, 2014). Softcover, hardcover, 362 pp. The author depicts his life during WWII, including his abduction by German soldiers who were trying to obtain information from his father, a military commander. AuthorHouse.com.

Clough/Gilfillan *The Clough Sisters*, Gay Quimby Auerbach (San Bernardino, Calif.: the author, 2014). Softcover, 166 pp., illustrated, endnotes, appendices. This history of four Clough sisters, born in New Hampshire in the nineteenth century, chronicles their experiences as teachers, mothers, and missionaries. $10. Amazon.com.

Waterbury, Connecticut *Waterbury Irish: From the Emerald Isle to the Brass City*, Janet Maher and John Wiehn (Charleston, South Carolina: The History Press, 2015). Softcover, 187 pp., illustrations, bibliography, index. The nineteenth-century Irish immigrants of Waterbury, Connecticut. $21.99. Arcadiapublishing.com.

Family Associations

Cox/Hussey/Bachiller Brandywine Crucible, Inc., is a lineage/research organization for descendants of Solomon and Naomi Hussey Cox and related families, including those of Capt. Christopher Hussey and Rev. Stephen Bachiller. Annual reunion and business meeting: Lampasas, Texas, June 3–5, 2016. Contact Ada Stump: 405-751-9475, Blueday13@aol.com.

Winchester Winchester descendants are invited to a Winchester reunion at the Digby Pines, Digby, Nova Scotia, June 17–19, 2016. A genealogy and history will be available for the Nathan Winchester branch, a planter who arrived in Nova Scotia ca. 1760 from Framingham, Mass. Contact Jim Greenwood: thewinchesterreunion@gmail.com.

DNA Studies in Progress

Cotton/Cotten Seeking males with the Cotton or Cotten surname who are direct male-line descendants of a Cotton male to participate in Y-DNA testing. (Spelling variations like Coton, Cottin, Cottone, Cotham, Cottam, etc. are welcome.) Over 150 men who have been tested and results are posted at skylinc.net/users/cottondna. Contact Michael Cotton: cottondna@comcast.net

Submit your notice

Members may submit their relevant books published within the last year. Donation of one copy to NEHGS is required. Please email: surname (genealogies) or subject (other books); title; author/editor/compiler; place of publication; publisher/self-published; year of publication; hardcover/softcover; page count; specify if index, illustrations, or appendixes are included; description in 25 words or less; price; and contact/ordering information.

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

Members may submit notices of 50 words or less. The same notice will be published only once per year. Send Family Association notices at least six months in advance.

To place your listing, email **magazine@nehgs.org**. Send book donations to Family Focus, AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, NEHGS, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116.

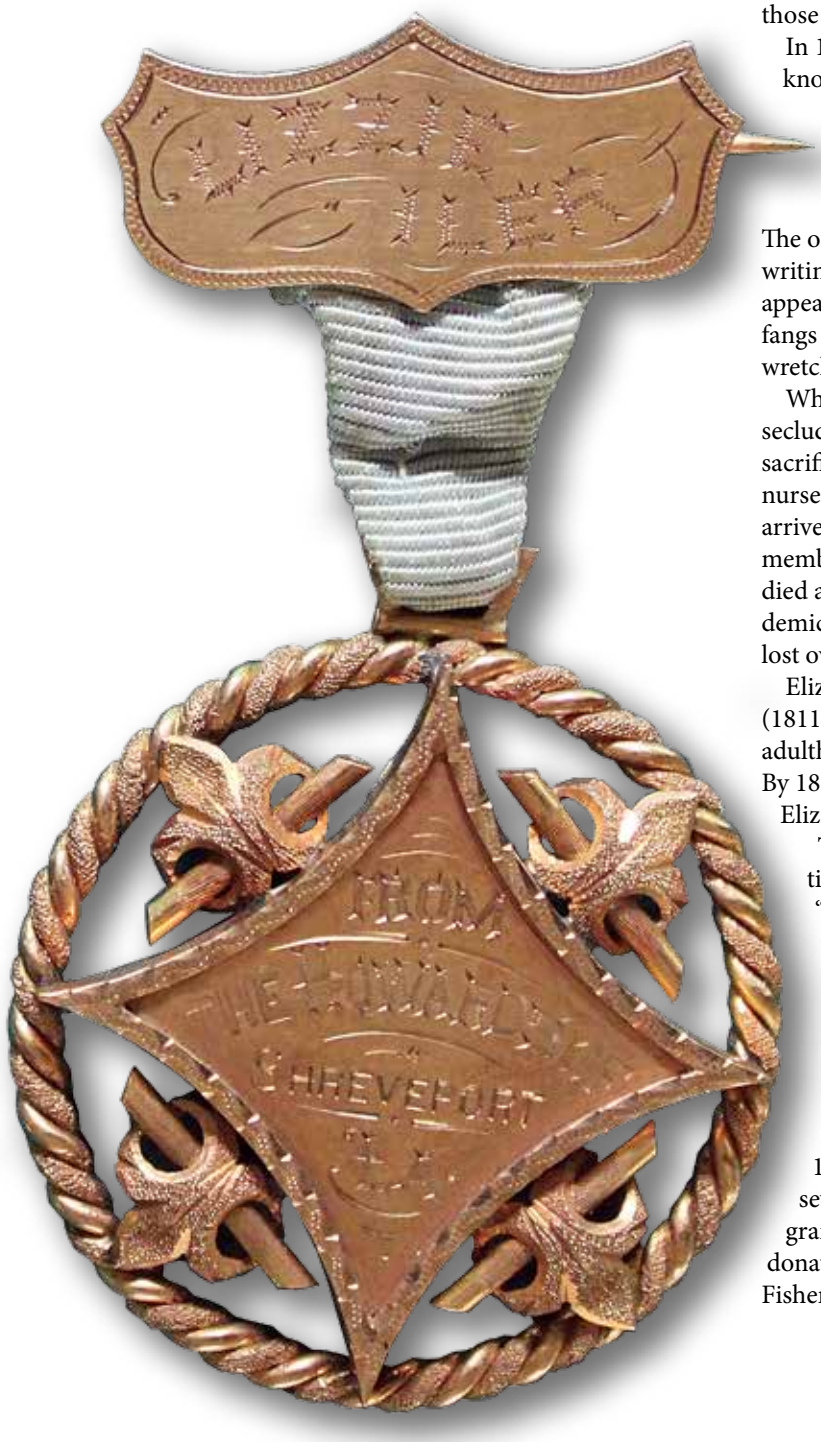
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A medal from the 1873 Yellow Fever Epidemic in Shreveport



This small gold medal, measuring 2.5 in. x 1.75 in., was presented to Elizabeth ("Lizzie") Iler for her "Christian kindness and heroic conduct" during the 1873 yellow fever epidemic in Shreveport, Louisiana. At the time the disease swept the city, Lizzie, a 31-year-old graduate of the Mansfield Female College in Mansfield, Louisiana, had no nursing experience or training, but nonetheless nursed yellow fever victims tirelessly, at considerable risk to herself. Her efforts were recognized by the Shreveport chapter of the Howard Association, an organization founded in 1837 to provide assistance to those suffering from yellow fever in New Orleans.

In 1873, the cause of yellow fever was mysterious. Today we know the disease is caused by a virus and spread by mosquitos. When Shreveport's epidemic began in late August, it was attributed to various causes, including the presence of a traveling circus and an unusually large float of timber and rafts on the Red River. The outbreak was particularly virulent and a correspondent writing from Shreveport on September 6, 1873, observed, "It appears as if once the fell monster ever gets its pestilential fangs on its victim, it never lets go its fatal grip until the poor wretch is stiff stark dead."

While a majority of Shreveporters fled the city, others secluded themselves in their homes, and still others risked sacrificing themselves to care for the afflicted. Doctors and nurses from throughout the region, especially New Orleans, arrived to help. Five Catholic priests, three nuns, and fifteen members of the Howard Association were among those who died after attending to yellow fever victims. Before the epidemic ended in late October, Shreveport, a city of 12,000, had lost over 700 residents.

Elizabeth Orinda Iler, one of nine children of William Iler (1811–1882) and Delinda Fuller (1816–1903) who lived to adulthood, was born June 7, 1842 in Woodville, Mississippi. By 1850, the Iler family had relocated to Shreveport, where Elizabeth lived for the remainder of her life.

The yellow fever epidemic had far-reaching implications for Lizzie personally. Her future husband, Levi Hill "L.H." Fisher, contracted the disease, as did his first wife, Sicily Leggett (Wafer) (Dobbs), who succumbed on September 14, 1873.

L.H. and Lizzie were married on February 17, 1880. The couple had three children: Susan Beall (Fisher) Kline (1880–1964); Bessie Iler (Fisher) Attaway (1882–1967); and Delinda Mary (Fisher) Ratcliff (1887–1970). Lizzie died in Shreveport on February 20, 1911. Her treasured medal was passed down through several generations of her descendants before her great-granddaughter Delinda "Lynn" Ratcliff (Bryan) Trowbridge donated it to NEHGS earlier this year, as part of the Howze, Fisher, Bryan Family Collection, Mss 1170.

—Lynn Betlock, Editor

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Credits, 2015

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Volume 16 — Index of Persons

Compiled by Steve Csipke

Note: The first number in each listing refers to the issue number (winter – 1, spring – 2, summer – 3, fall – 4) and the second number refers to the page on which the name appears.

A

ABRAMS
Bertha, 4:52

ACKERMAN
Gulian, 1:60
Hillegond (Verplanck), 1:60

ADAMS
Abigail (Smith), 1:35–1:36, 1:47, 1:48–1:49, 1:50–1:51
George, 3:42
Helen, 3:41, 3:42
John, 1:35–1:36, 1:48, 1:50, 4:38
John Quincy, 1:51, 3:11, 4:3
Louisa Catherine (Johnson), 1:51
Mary Ann (Leach), 3:42

AHLBLAD
Annie, 3:62

AITKEN
Leslie, 3:15

ALDERMAN
Kezia, 3:61

ALDRICH
William Truman, 1:7

ALLEN
family, 1:63
Crisanta (Lopez de Brown), 2:47, 2:48
Joanna, 3:44
William, 2:48

ALMY
Audrey (Barlow), 1:60

AMORE
Anthony M., 4:11

ANDERSON
Andy, 3:15
Jerome, 1:53
Mary Dorothy (Edwards) (Connor), 2:43
Robert Charles, 1:22, 1:26, 1:46, 1:66, 2:5, 2:10, 2:25, 2:30, 3:12, 3:13, 3:30, 4:1
Susan E., 4:63
Walter C., 2:43

ANDERSSON
Maria, 4:51
Marianne, 4:51

ANTHONY
family, 1:16

ANTIN
Mary, 4:21

ARCHER
John Rose, 4:29

ARCHIBALD
John H., 2:47, 2:48

ARNOLD
Charles, 2:45
Emily, 2:45
John, 2:45

ASHDOWN-HILL
John, 3:48, 3:49

ASHTON
Philip, 4:25, 4:26–4:27, 4:28, 4:29, 4:30
Sarah (Bartlett), 4:30
Sarah (Hanniford), 4:30

ATKINSON-MALLORY
Sharon, 2:25, 2:26

ATTAWAY
Bessie Iler (Fisher), 4:64

AUERBACH
Gay Quimby, 4:63

AUSTIN
family, 3:60, 3:61
Benjamin, 3:38
David, 3:61
Jonathan L., 3:38
Margaret (Stuart), 3:61

AVERY
Judith, 3:14

AYER
family, 3:27
Frederick, 3:27

AYERS
Diana M., 2:16

B

BABINGTON
David, 1:14

BACHILLER
Stephen, 1:63, 4:63

BAILYN
Bernard, 1:35–1:36

BAKER
Emerson W., 1:14
James, 3:40
Mary Abba, 4:12
Mary Tremain (Lee), 3:40

BALCH
Galusha, 1:63
John, 1:63

BALDAUF
Heinrich/Henry, 2:37, 2:59
Rosina Ernestine (Dopf), 2:37, 2:59

BARBER
Matilda (Drake), 2:64
Merriam, 2:64

BARENTS
Annetje, 1:60

BARKULOO
Catherine (Lott), 3:61

BARLOW
Audrey, 1:60
Jonathan, 4:26

BARNARD
John, 4:26

BARNES
Edwin, 3:61
Lydia Ann (Elwood), 3:61

BARRETT
Edwin Grant, 1:54

BARTLETT
Sarah, 4:30

BARTLEY
Scott Andrew, 1:27, 2:5, 2:30, 2:31, 4:12

BASCOM
William, 3:40

BASLI
Karen, 2:12, 2:63, 4:13

BASSETT
Mary, 3:63

BATES
Susan Baldwin, 3:61

BEARD
Annette Knowles (Huddleston), 2:62
Natalie Sudler (Turner), 2:62
Stuart-Menteth, 2:62
Timothy Field, 2:62

BEAUDRAULT
Valerie, 2:64, 3:5, 3:38, 4:13

BEAUMONT
Emilie, 3:7

BECKWITH
Harry, 1:7

BEEKMAN
Henry, 2:13

BELL
Frederick McKelvey, 4:53
J. Frank, 3:32
Jane, 1:54
Margaret (Feller) (Glickert) (Stegall), 3:32

BELMONTE
Jeanne S., 1:18–1:19

BEMIS
Jeduthan, 2:34

BENEDICT
Mary (Button), 4:57
BENES
Peter, 2:13, 4:40
BENN
Theresa, 4:59
BENNETT
family, 3:63
BENNY
Sally, 3:13, 4:21
BENSON
Martha, 4:13
Richard H., 3:18
BERGLUND
Nils (born Harriander), 4:49, 4:50
BERNSON
Alexandra, 3:58
BERRY
Lucretia, 3:43
BETLOCK
Lynn, 1:5, 1:64, 2:5, 3:5, 3:61, 3:64, 4:5, 4:64
BICKERTON
John, 4:8, 4:9
Thomas, 4:8, 4:9
BICKNELL
Abby L. (Perry), 3:53
Zachariah L., 3:53
BISHOP
Charles Kay, 3:62
Eloise (Conner), 3:62
Kay Eloise, 3:62
Ruth Chauncey, 3:62
BLACK
Esther (McEwan), 1:62
John Baxter, 1:62
Robert Blymyer, 1:62
BLAKE
Joseph, 1:38
Mehitable, 1:38
William, 2:26, 2:27
BLYTH
Benjamin, 1:35–1:36, 1:48, 1:53
Benjamin, Jr., 1:53
Frank, 1:53
Lucy (Cleveland), 1:53
Mehitabel (Cook), 1:53
Sally (Rolland), 1:53
Samuel, 1:35, 1:36, 1:53
BOND
Henry, 2:34, 2:49, 3:23, 4:3
BORDEN
family, 1:16
Sir Robert, 4:55, 4:56
BOSTICK
Samuel, 2:46
BOUCHER
family, 3:27
BOWDEN
Joyce M., 2:5, 2:41–2:44
BOWEN
family, 4:63
Edgar Campbell, 3:22
Jared, 1:13
Minerva Lydia (Simpson), 3:22
Richard, 1:16, 2:29–2:30, 4:63
BOWMAN
George Ernest, 3:10, 4:10, 4:12
BOYER
Carl, 3rd, 1:16
BRADFORD
family, 1:63
BRADLEY
Julie Campbell, 3:22
BRADSTREET
Anne, 1:47, 1:48
BRADT
Albert Andriessen, 1:60
BRAITHWAITE
Bruce, 2:52
Patricia, 2:52
BRAMWELL
Austin W., 2:62
Elizabeth "Liz" (Reed), 2:62
Hilary F., 2:62
William Moffat, Jr., 2:62
BRANDEIS
Louis, 3:56
BRANDENBURG
Elisabeth of, 3:34
BRANSTEAD
Elizabeth Grace, 3:19, 3:63, 4:20
BREIDENBACH
Baroness von, 3:34
BREWER
Annie (Ahlblad), 3:62
C. Leslie, 3:62
Dorothy "Dottie," 3:62
Edward, 3:62
Fred J., 3:62
Leslie C., 3:62
Thomas, 3:62
BREWITT
Kristen (Kruger), 3:5
BRIMHALL
Dennis, 2:9
BROMBERG
family, 3:56, 3:57
Alice (Goldstein), 3:57
Anna (Insoft), 3:57
Arthur, 3:56
Bertha (Macofsky), 3:56
Bertram L., 3:56, 3:57
Edward J., 3:57
Edward Justin, 3:56
Elsie, 3:57
Henrietta (Livingston), 3:56
Henry L., 3:57
Justin L., 3:56, 3:57
Levi, 3:56
Norna, 3:57
Pauline, 3:56–3:57
Ruth, 3:57
BROWN
Alice Nelson (Pratt), 3:12
Ambrosio, 2:47
Betty, 2:55
Cecelia Elizabeth (Chamagne), 2:55, 2:56
George, 2:34
George Rufus, 3:12, 4:10
Hachaliah/Hackaliah, 1:61
Hampton, 2:46, 2:47–2:48
Harold Victor, 2:56
Isabel Anne King, 2:11
James William, 2:55, 2:56
John, 4:27
Louise Ellen, 2:55, 2:56
Manuel Lopez, 2:47, 2:48
Mary, 4:23
Matilda A., 1:20
Moses, 3:61
Rebeckah, 2:34
Sarah (Mathewson), 3:61
Stella Corine, 2:55
Susanna (Verplanck) (Van Waert) (Garland), 1:60
Victor, 2:55, 2:56
Warren, 2:55
BROWNING
Charles H., 3:12
Elizabeth Tupper, 3:59
Nancy (Bryant), 3:59
BRUCE
David A., 1:12, 1:13, 1:62, 2:11, 3:14, 4:62
Holly, 1:12, 1:13, 1:62, 3:14
BRUNSWICK-LÜNEBURG
Duke of, 3:34
BRUNTON
Richard, 2:13
BRYAN
Delinda "Lynn" Ratcliff, 3:16, 4:64
BRYANT
family, 3:58–3:59
Charles Grandison, 3:58
Edwin Douglas, 3:59
Elizabeth (Thrift), 3:58, 3:59
Elizabeth Dean (Smith), 3:58
Eva Dora, 3:58, 3:59
Gilman, 3:58
Nancy, 3:59
BUERO
Elvina M., 1:52, 1:53
Emanuel, 1:52, 1:53
Louisa (Kossmann), 1:52, 1:53
Theodora, 1:52
BUFFETT
Doris, 3:61
BULFINCH
Charles, 4:11
BULLARD
Abigail (Cutler), 4:41, 4:44, 4:45, 4:46
Otis B., 4:44
BURGESS
John T., 3:13
BURGUNDY
Margaret (of York), Duchess of, 3:49
BURNET
John, 4:61
BURNHAM
Amery, 1:12
David H., 1:12, 3:14, 4:1, 4:11
Esther, 2:64
BURNS
Ken, 4:62
BURR
Frances, 2:29
Jonathan, 2:29
BUSECK
family, 3:34, 3:35–3:36
Cathrin von, 3:37
Georg von, 3:34, 3:35
Hans Philipp von, 3:37
Helwig von, 3:33–3:34, 3:35, 3:36, 3:37
Johann von, 3:37
Maria von (Lehrbach), 3:33
Wilhelm Christoph von, 3:34, 3:35, 3:36, 3:37
Wilhelm Reinhard von, 3:33
BUSH
Lavina, 2:12
Mercy, 2:12
BUTLER
family, 2:7
Frederick, 4:39
BUTTON
family, 4:57–4:59
Abigail (Rood), 4:58
Arnold E., 4:57, 4:58, 4:59
Bethiah (Kinne), 4:58
Clarence, 4:58, 4:59
Delia Denton (Taylor), 4:59
Elisha, 4:58
Frank, 4:57, 4:58–4:59
Gardner, 4:57, 4:58
Gertrude, 4:58, 4:59
Joseph, 4:58
Lydia (Ellis), 4:57, 4:58
Marietta (Treadwell), 4:58
Mary, 4:57
Mary (Lamphere), 4:58
Mary Frances (Hoffman), 4:58, 4:59
Matthias, 4:57, 4:58, 4:59
Peter, 4:58
Ruth, 4:59
Stanley, 4:58
Theresa (Benn), 4:59
BUTTS
Alexander S., 3:40, 3:42
Maria, 3:40
Mary, 3:40, 3:41
Nancy (Minor) (Tucker), 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13

C

CALL
Stephanie, 1:56, 4:21, 4:52
CAMMETT
Thomas, 3:61
CAMPANELLI
Dan, 2:9, 4:37
Marty, 2:9, 4:37

CANNATO
Vincent J., 3:29
CARLETON
Osgood, 3:39
CARLSON
Frank J., 3:22
John, 3:22
CARR
Mary, 1:31
CARTER
Ashbel, 3:61
Christopher, 1:25, 1:26
Thomas, 3:61
CARVALHO
Joseph III, 4:14
CARVILLE
James, 1:8, 3:5, 3:14, 3:15
Rachel, 4:23
CARY
John, 4:35
CASEY
Edmund, 4:25
CASS
family, 3:63
CASSON
Samuel, 4:54
CASTLE
Anna (Hurd), 3:61
CEDERGREN
Alice "Diane" (Porter), 3:45
CHADBOURNE
Charles Gould, 1:18–1:19
Guy G., 1:18
Mary L. (Tibbetts), 1:18
CHALLENDER
Dolores (Horton), 2:54, 2:55
Joy, 2:55
Paul, 2:55
Willard, 2:55
CHAMAGNE
Cecelia Elizabeth, 2:55, 2:56
CHAMPION
Sara Stewart, 3:17
CHAMPLIN
Jane Elizabeth, 3:22
Minerva Lydia (Pomeroy), 3:22
Stephen, 3:22
CHAPMAN
family, 3:13
Abigail (Drake), 2:64
Edwin, 2:64
CHARNOCK
John, 2:50
Mary, 2:50–2:53, 3:19
Mary (King), 2:50
CHEESMAN
Edward, 4:29
CHERNOFF
Allan, 2:9
Rena Margulies, 2:9
CHILD
Christopher C., 1:16, 1:62, 2:54, 2:55, 3:12, 3:13, 3:15, 3:27, 3:51, 4:10
Deborah M., 2:13
Joy (Challender), 2:55
Julia, 1:32
CLAPP
Roger, 1:43, 1:44, 1:45
CLARKE
Albert J., 2:63
Arthur, 3:14
CLARY
Sarah, 3:53
CLEAVELAND
Benjamin, 2:36
CLEMMONS
William, 1:37, 1:39
CLEVELAND
Lucy, 1:53
CLOUGH
family, 4:63
COBB
Gershom, 3:64
COBURN
Frank Warren, 2:35
COCHRAN
John, 4:33, 4:34
COCHRANE
family, 1:62
CODDINGTON
John Insley, 3:12
COFFIN
Charles Carleton, 3:13
COKE
Frances, 2:52
COLEMAN
Andrew, 2:29
Hannah Catherine (Moffat) (Thrift), 3:59
Mary/Polly, 4:40
COLKET
Meredith B., Jr., 2:29, 3:30
COLLINS
family, 4:7
Edward, 4:7
COLTON
G. W., 2:43
COMBS
Ebenezer, 3:61
COMEAU
Susan, 4:11
CONEY
John, 1:49
CONNER
Eloise, 3:62
Frank C., 3:62
CONNOR
family, 2:41, 2:42, 2:44, 2:45
Belinda W., 2:42, 2:45
F. A., 2:44
Francis, 2:43, 2:44
J. M., 2:44
Julia, 2:41, 2:42
L. F., 2:44
Mary Dorothy (Edwards), 2:43
Sarah T., 2:42, 2:45
COOK
Mehitabel, 1:53
COOKE
Nicholas, 3:19
COOLIDGE
Catherine, 1:62
COOPER
Ananias, 4:35, 4:46
Benjamin, 1:54–1:55
Edith Hannah (Lassey), 1:54
Eunice (Horton), 4:46
Jane (Bell), 1:54
John, 2:30
Thomas, 1:54
COPLEY
John Singleton, 2:50, 2:51, 2:52, 2:53, 3:19
John Singleton, 1st Baron Lyndhurst, 2:52, 2:53
CORE
Lyn, 3:49
CORNISH
Marilyn, 4:57–4:58
COTTON/COTTEN
family, 4:63
Michael, 4:63
COUGHLIN
Charles, 2:60, 2:61
Michelle Marchetti, 1:47
COUSINS
family, 3:63
COWAN
Lucretia (Berry), 3:43
COWARD
Nöel, 1:12
COWLES
family, 3:59
COX
family, 4:63
Naomi (Hussey), 1:63, 4:63
Solomon, 1:63, 4:63
CRANDALL
family, 1:63
Ralph J., 1:62, 3:62, 4:5
CRESSY
David, 3:8
CRIM
Catherine, 3:22
CROCKETT
Anne, 1:34
Walter Hill, 2:32
CROSBY
Phebe (Horton), 4:35, 4:46
CROWLEY
family, 3:63
Michael Patrick, 3:63
CUFFE
Paul, 1:64
CUMMINGS
Abbott Lowell, 2:13
CURTIS
family, 1:63
Ellwood Count, 3:63
CUSHMAN
Peter Butler, 2:7
CUTLER
family, 4:41–4:46
Abigail, 4:41, 4:43, 4:44, 4:45, 4:46
Alfred, 4:43
Betsey Rockwood, 4:41, 4:43
Elihu, 4:42, 4:43
Elizabeth, 4:43
Elizabeth (Rockwood), 4:41, 4:42, 4:43, 4:44, 4:46
James, 4:42
Lavina (Newton), 4:43
Martin, 4:42
Mary, 4:41, 4:43, 4:45, 4:46
Nabby (Morse), 4:41, 4:43, 4:44, 4:45, 4:46
Nahum S., 4:42
Sally, 4:42
Simeon, 4:42, 4:43
Uriel, 4:42, 4:43, 4:44, 4:45
Ursula, 4:42, 4:43
CUTTING
James Ambrose, 4:43, 4:45

D

DADY
William, 2:26
DAGUERRE
Louis, 4:41
DALY
Marie, 1:14, 1:62, 3:5, 3:29, 3:31
DANNATT
Sir Richard, 3:50
DARLING
Amanda Jane, 4:59
DAVENPORT
Addington, 1:50
DAVIS
Daniel, 3:22
Elnathan, 1:20
John, 1:20
Joseph, 1:20
Margaret, 1:20
Mathias, 1:20
Nathan, 1:20
William Case, 1:20
DAY
Dorcas, 4:30
DEAN
Clark, 3:22
Eliza Jane Fick, 3:22
H. Clark, 3:61
Mary Benton, 3:22
Merrick Silas Perrien Benton, 3:22
Rosamond J. (Dewey), 3:22

DEARBORN
David Curtis, 1:11, 2:14, 4:57
Nathaniel, 2:15
Sherburne, 2:15

DECROW
Mary (Kuykendall), 2:47, 2:48

DEFOE
Daniel, 4:1, 4:25

DE FOREST
Jesse, 1:60

DELANO/DE LANOY
family, 3:63

DEMARCO
Margaret, 1:14

DE MARE
Barbara, 2:19, 3:25
Tiburce, 2:19, 3:25

DE MARNEFFE
Barbara, 3:11
Francis, 3:11

DE MONTRICHARD
Elizabeth (Lynch), 4:62

DEMPSEY
Barbara, 3:61
John, 3:61

DERBY
Elias Hasket, 1:36

DERICH
John, 3:63
Mary (Bassett), 3:63
Michael, 3:63

DERING
family, 2:63
Frances, 2:63

DEVEREUX
Humphrey, 2:50, 2:52
Mary (Charnock) (Greenwood) (Prince), 2:50–2:53, 3:19

DEWEY
Rosamond J., 3:22

DEWSON
Francis, 3:64

DICKINSON
family, 3:58, 3:59
Hannah Frances, 3:59
Nathaniel, 3:59
Samuel, 3:59
Walter, 3:59

DICOSIMO
Debra, 1:20

DIMAN
Eunice, 1:36

DIMOND
Abigail, 4:23
Isaac, 4:23
Molly, 4:23

DINAN
Jacqueline, 3:63

DOBBS
Sicily Leggett (Wafer), 4:64

DOERFLER
Sheilagh, 4:15

DOHERTY
Frank, 2:13
Rose A., 1:29, 1:32

DOLLARHIDE
William, 3:32

DONNELL
family, 3:63

DONOVAN
William J. "Wild Bill," 1:32

DOOLITTLE
Amos, 2:33

DOPF
Catharina Elisabeth (Reitz), 2:39
Dorothea Marie (Krupp), 2:39, 2:40, 2:59
Elisabetha (Sundhausen), 2:39
George, 2:37, 2:39, 2:40, 2:59
Johann Andreas Theodor, 2:59
Johann Benjamin, 2:39, 2:59
Johann Carl, 2:59
Johann Carl August, 2:59
Johann Casper, 2:59
Juditha Helene, 2:59
Louisa Catharina, 2:59
Maria Magdelena, 2:59
Rosina Ernestine, 2:37, 2:59

DOUGHERTY
Lousie Ellen (Brown), 2:55, 2:56
Michael, 2:55, 2:56
Patrice, 2:55–2:56

DRACHMAN
Samuel H., 2:46

DRAKE
Abigail, 2:64
Abigail (Morton), 2:64
Almira (Gaylord), 2:64
Anne E. (Powe), 2:64
Edward, 2:64
Esther, 2:64
Esther (Burnham), 2:64, 3:19
James, 2:64
John, 2:64
Lemuel, 2:64, 3:19
Lemuel S., 2:64
Matilda, 2:64
Sarah Easton, 3:19

DRURY
Jotham, 4:33

DUDLEY
family, 3:63
Joseph, 1:45
Paul, 1:50, 1:51

DUKAKIS
Kitty, 1:63, 4:62
Michael S., 1:63, 4:62

DULDIG
Wendy, 3:51

DUMMER
William, 4:30

DUNHAM
Benue, 4:34, 4:36
Elizabeth (King) (Horton), 4:32, 4:33–4:36, 4:46

DUNKLE
Robert J., 4:12

DWYER
Michael F., 3:61

DYER
Michael P., 3:8, 3:9

E

ECKFELD
Nan Lauder, 1:34

EDMONDS
Mary Jaene, 4:40

EDWARDS
Mary Blauss, 2:63
Mary Dorothy, 2:43

ELDERTSZEN
Eldert, 1:59
Isbrandt, 1:59
Lucas, 1:59

ELSBERRY
Nancy, 1:13
Terry, 1:13

ELWOOD
Lydia Ann, 3:61

EMERY
Beth, 3:6

ENDICOTT
Henry B., 4:52, 4:56

ENGLAND
Elizabeth I Tudor, Queen of, 1:60
Henry VIII Tudor, King of, 3:51
Richard III, King of, 3:48–3:50

ENGLAND AND SCOTLAND
Charles II, King of, 1:42, 1:43, 1:44, 1:45
James I and VI, King of, 3:34

ENNESON
Peter, 2:46

ENNIS
Eliza, 4:23
Ellen, 4:23
James, 4:23
Lorin, 4:23
Rosann (Ryan), 4:23
William, 4:23

ERIKSON
Carlton, 3:62
Dorothy "Dottie" (Brewer), 3:62
Gordon, 3:62
Gordon "Eric" Jr., 3:62
Nancy, 3:62

F

FAHY
Katrina, 1:24

FAIRBANKS
family, 2:17, 3:62

FALETRA
Angela, 1:62

FANNING
Steven, 1:63

FARINER
Zilpah, 1:38

FAVRETTI
Rudy J., 1:14

FEAKE
Elizabeth (Fones) (Winthrop), 3:61

FEENEY
Leonard, 2:60, 2:61

FELLER
Margaret, 3:32

FELT
Joseph, 4:9

FERM
Mary M., 3:60

FICK
Eliza Jane, 3:22

FILLMORE
Dorcas (Day), 4:30
John, 4:26, 4:28, 4:29, 4:30
Mary (Spiller), 4:30
Millard, 4:28, 4:30

FINCH
Eleanor, 3:44

FISHER
Bessie Iler, 4:64
Delinda Mary, 4:64
Elizabeth "Lizzie" Orinda (Iler), 4:64
Levi Hill "L.H.," 4:64
Scott, 3:10
Sicily Leggett (Wafer) (Dobbs), 4:64
Susan Beall, 4:64

FISK
family, 3:61
Lydia Phippen, 1:36

FITTS
Mary E., 2:57

FITZGERALD
Kelly, 3:50

FLAGG
Jotham, 4:8
Rebeckah (Kendall), 4:8
Susannah, 1:41

FLEMING
John M., 3:16
Theodora (Buero), 1:52, 1:53
William, 1:53

FLEMMING
Gregory N., 4:24, 4:29

FLETCHER
Fannie, 2:14

FLORIO
Emma, 3:58

FLY
William, 4:26

FLYNN
Erin Kavanaugh, 4:23

FONES
Elizabeth, 3:61

FOOTE
family, 1:63

FORD
Gerald R., 1:63

FOSSA
Art, 2:35

FOSTER
Eunice, 4:33, 4:36

FOUNTAIN
John, 3:40, 3:42
Nancy (Minor) (Tucker) (Butts), 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13
FOWLER
Nancy (Minor) (Tucker) (Butts) (Fountain), 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13
Samuel, 3:40, 3:42
FREAKE
family, 1:48
FREEMAN
Judith Waite, 1:8, 3:15
FRENCH
Thomas, 3:53
FRIDAY
Paul, 2:63
FROST
Susan E., 3:48, 3:51
FULLER
Benjamin Apthorp Gould, 3:64
Delinda, 4:64
FULTON
Lindsay, 2:9, 3:13, 4:10

G

GAGE
Lydia, 1:39
GALVIN
Nora, 3:61
GARDNER/GARDINER
Mr. and Mrs. J[onathan?], 1:36
GARLAND
Judy, 1:12
Susanna (Verplanck) (Van Waert), 1:60
GARNER
Judith A., 1:57, 2:60, 3:57, 4:21
GARRETT
Wendell, 2:13
GATES
Henry Louis, Jr., 1:6, 1:9, 1:14, 1:63, 1:64, 2:17 3:12, 4:3, 4:62
GAYLORD
Almira, 2:64
GEDE
Juliet, 3:14, 3:15
Thomas, 3:14, 3:15
GIANTVALLEY
Bernard, 3:44
Daisy May (Lawton), 3:5, 3:43–3:46, 4:13
Harold, 3:43, 3:45, 3:46
Martin, 3:44
Vincent Lawton, 3:43, 3:46
GIBAUT
John, 1:36
GIBBONS
_____ (Mr.), 3:38
GIBBS
family, 1:32, 1:48
Blanche (Lorraine), 1:30, 1:32
James Gordon, 1:30, 1:31, 1:32, 1:34
Katharine Mary (Ryan), 1:29, 1:30–1:33
William, 1:30–1:31
William Howard, 1:31, 1:32
GIDDINGS
Harold, 4:53
GILMAN
family, 3:58
GLEZEN
Samuel, 1:39–1:41
GLICKERT
Margaret (Feller), 3:32
GLIDDEN
Edward Hughes, 3:27
GLOUCESTER
Birgitte van Deurs, Duchess of, 3:50
Prince Richard, Duke of, 3:50
GOCKEN
Cheryl Wixon, 4:13
GODFREY
Benjamin, 3:61
GOGGINS
family, 2:44, 2:45
Ann, 2:44
Columbus, 2:44
Dicy, 2:44
Elenor, 2:44
Laura, 2:44
Lewis, 2:44
Luchion, 2:44, 2:45
Manning, 2:44, 2:45
Marenda, 2:44
Milly, 2:44
Mitchell, 2:44
Queen, 2:44
Rochelle, 2:45
Sucky, 2:44
Susan, 2:44
Talitha, 2:44
GOLDSTEIN
Alice, 3:57
GOODHUE
Amy (Lindsay), 3:59
Charles E., 3:59
Rosalind Dickinson, 3:59
GOODRICH
Abigail, 4:39, 4:40
James Blinn, 4:39
John, 4:38
Lucy Belden (Wells), 4:39, 4:40
Mary (Hale), 4:38
Mary (Stoddard), 4:38, 4:39, 4:40
Mary Ann, 4:37–4:40
Sarah (Marvin), 4:38
William, 4:38, 4:39, 4:40
William Wells, 4:38, 4:39
GOODWIN
Doris Kearns, 1:6
GOURAUD
François, 4:41, 4:42
GRABAU
Johann, 2:38, 2:39, 2:40
GRAY
Hedwiga Regina (Shober), 3:27
GREENE
Fayal, 2:52–2:53
GREENLEES
Priscilla C., 3:17
GREENWOOD
John, 2:51, 3:19
John Danforth, 2:51, 2:53
Mary (Charnock), 2:50–2:53, 3:19
Samuel, 2:50, 2:51, 2:52
GRIFFETH
Bill, 1:9, 3:5, 3:14, 3:15
Cynthia, 1:9
GROVES
Marlene A., 3:63
GRUCZA
Anne Lee, 2:16
GUENIN
Anita Curran, 4:23
GUERIN
Jennifer, 4:2
GUTMAN
Herbert G., 2:43

H

HADLEY
Josiah, 1:39
HADSON
John, 2:27
HALE
Mary, 4:38
HALL
Eunice Russell, 4:23
Gordon, 2:61
Hananiah, 2:15
John, 3:40
Lucinda (Maxim/Muxsom), 4:23
Samuel, 2:27
William, 4:23
HALLETT
Elizabeth (Fones) (Winthrop) (Feake), 3:61
HALLORAN
Peter C., 1:19
HALSETH
Judith Huber, 1:9, 4:11
HAMBLIN
Seth, 1:39
HAMISTER
Virginia M. "Gina," 3:14, 3:18
HAMLIN
Elisha 3:63
Robert E., 3:63
HAMPE
Henry, 1:24
HANCOCK
John, 1:23, 2:19, 3:25, 4:19
HAND
James P., 3:61
HANNIFORD
Sarah, 4:30
HANSON
Anne, 4:47, 4:51
Harley, 4:51
HANSON-DVORACEK
Andrew, 1:26, 2:9, 3:13
HARDMAN
Robert, 3:50
HARDWICK
John, 3:51
HARRADINE
Andrew, 4:28–4:29
HARRIANDER/HERRIANDER
family, 4:48–4:49
Amanda, 4:50, 4:51
Augusta Cecelia, 4:50, 4:51
Cecelia, 4:49, 4:50, 4:51
Johan, 4:50, 4:51
John, 4:51
Måns Person, 4:49, 4:50
Nils (later Berglund), 4:49, 4:50
Olof, 4:47, 4:48, 4:49, 4:50, 4:51
Peter, 4:49, 4:50, 4:51
HARRINGTON
Bridget (Hartnett), 2:16
Catherine, 2:16
Cornelius, 2:16
Margaret, 2:16
Michael, 2:16
Timothy, 2:16
HARRIS
Charles, 4:26
Francis, 2:63
Gale Ion, 3:60
Martha, 3:60
HARRISON
Abby, 4:61
Hannah, 3:54
HART
Frederick C., Jr., 3:60, 3:61
John, 4:27
HARTNETT
Bridget, 2:16
HARTWELL
Jonas, 2:36
HARVEY
family, 3:63
HASKINS
George F., 1:19
HATCHER
Patricia Law, 1:62, 3:12, 3:60, 3:61, 4:10
HAWKINS
Lilla, 3:61
Richard, 4:26
HAYNES
John, 2:29
HAYTER-MENZIES
Grant, 3:33
HAZARD
family, 1:16
HEALY
G. P. A., 2:19, 3:25
HECHT
Lina, 1:57

HECTOR-SMITH
Beverly, 4:11
HEGARTY
Reginald, 3:9
HEISINGER
Charles, 2:17
Ernistine (Kugler), 2:17
HEMENWAY
Abby, 2:32
HEMPHILL
Edward, 2:16
Elizabeth, 2:16
James, 2:16
HEMPHILL-FIELDS
Grizzelle, 2:16
HENNECKER
John, 1:20
HEPBURN
Katharine, 1:12
HERNDON
family, 2:42, 2:44
Belinda W. (Connor), 2:42, 2:45
Ben, 2:44
Benjamin Zachariah, 2:42
Julia (Connor), 2:41, 2:42
Sarah T. (Connor), 2:42, 2:45
Stephen, 2:42, 2:44, 2:45
HERZER
Helen, 1:8
HESSE
Heinrich I, Landgrave of, 3:34
Ludwig VI, Landgrave of, 3:34, 3:35, 3:36
HIGGINS
Ansel, 1:20
Edwin, 1:20
Gary, 1:20
George, 1:20
Hannah, 1:20
Isaiah, 1:20
James S., 1:20
John, 1:20
Luwinda J., 1:20
Reuben, 1:20
Warren, 1:20
William, 1:20
HILLS
Esther (Drake), 2:64
Frederick, 4:40
Hezekiah, 2:64
Lucy Belden (Wells) (Goodrich), 4:39, 4:40
HINCKLEY
Gustavus A., 4:12
HINMAN
Royal R., 1:16
HOAR
family, 2:34
Brister, 2:34
Cuff, 2:34
HOBART
family, 1:63
HODGES
Sharon B., 3:61
HODGKINS
Robin Balch, 1:63
HODSOLL
John, 1:24, 4:13
HOEKE-NISHIMOTO
Sonja, 1:53
HOFF
Carolyn Ann, 2:11, 4:62
Charles, 4:62
Henry B., 1:14, 1:15, 1:59, 2:66, 3:5, 3:29, 3:30, 3:60, 3:61, 4:10
Madalin, 4:62
Melanie, 4:62
Wanda (Lopatkiewicz), 4:62
HOFFMAN
family, 4:59
Amanda Jane (Darling), 4:59
Mary Frances, 4:58, 4:59
William Palmer, 4:59
HOGANSON
Catherine, 4:54
Walter, 4:54, 4:55
HOLBROOK
Laurie Marshall, 1:20
HOLLICK
Martin, 3:30
HOLLISTER
Jim, 2:35
Morna Lahnice, 2:5, 2:41–2:45
HOOVER
Herbert, 4:56
HOPKINS
Beriah, 3:61
HOROWITZ
Estelle, 4:40
HORTON
Alfred Boston, 2:54, 2:55, 2:61
Alfred Vernon, 2:54, 2:55, 2:61
Azariah, 4:32, 4:33, 4:36, 4:46
Barnabas, 3:63, 4:36
Catherine, 2:55, 2:56
Clara (Moore), 2:55, 2:56
Daisy Alice (Wright), 2:55
Dolores, 2:54, 2:55, 2:61
Edward M., 2:54–2:56, 2:61
Elijah, 4:33
Elizabeth (King), 4:32, 4:33–4:36, 4:46
Eunice, 4:46
Eunice (Foster), 4:33, 4:36
Jonathan, 4:32, 4:33, 4:34, 4:35, 4:36
Jonathan K., 4:32, 4:35, 4:36, 4:46
Joseph, 2:54
Michael Eugene, 2:61
Mike, 2:54
Phebe, 4:33, 4:35, 4:36, 4:46
Rosemary, 2:54, 2:55
Vernon A., 2:54, 2:55, 2:61
HOSMER
family, 1:63
HOW
Elizabeth, 1:39–1:41
HOWARD
family, 3:13
Ron, 3:10
HOWE
John, 3:8
HOWELL
Oscar, 2:58
HUBBARD
family, 3:63
Elbert, 3:32
John B., 2:44
HUBER
Carol, 4:40
Stephen, 4:40
HUDDLESTON
Annette Knowles, 2:62
HUGHES
Thomas, 4:63
HULL
John, 1:49
HUMPHREY
Isaac, 3:61
HUNT
Gillian, 1:22
HURD
Adam, 3:61
Anna, 3:61
Anna (Hurd) (Castle), 3:61
Elizabeth, 3:61
Martha (Judson), 3:61
Nathaniel, 1:40
HURST
Kyle, 1:15, 2:66, 3:1, 3:5, 3:28, 3:29, 3:31, 3:60
HURTIG
Emma, 4:63
HUSSEY
Christopher, 1:63, 4:63
Naomi, 1:63, 4:63
HYAMS
Godfrey, 1:56

I

IBSEN
Joy, 3:49
Michael, 3:49
ILER
Delinda (Fuller), 4:64
Elizabeth "Lizzie" Orinda, 4:64
William, 4:64
INSOFT
Anna, 3:57
IWAN
Wilhelm, 2:39

J

JACOBS
family, 3:63
A. J., 3:12
JAQUITH
family, 3:62
JAMES
Victor, 4:54
JEFFERSON
Thomas, 3:11
JEFFREYS
Thomas, 4:27
JOHNSON
Albert, 4:63
Betty (Thayer), 4:63
Catherine Griffin (Van Wyck), 1:61
Edwin R. "Ed," 4:63
Elizabeth, 4:63
Emma (Hurtig), 4:63
Theodore Polhemus, 1:60
Theodorus Van Wyck, 1:60, 1:61
Thomas, 4:63
JOHNSTON
family, 4:63
Sara, 4:63
Sara (Johnston), 4:63
JORDAN
Barbara, 1:12, 3:11, 3:14
JUDD
Keziah, 3:61
JUDSON
family, 3:63
Grace, 3:63
Martha, 3:61
William, 3:63

K

KAHN
Eve, 2:9
KANE
family, 3:27
Alice, 3:1, 3:5, 3:8, 3:13, 3:28, 3:29, 3:31, 3:32, 4:15
KEITH
Eleanor Frances, 3:59
KELLOGG
family, 1:63
KELLY
Arthur, 1:59
KENDALL
Rebeckah, 4:8
KENNEDY
Harold, 4:54, 4:55
KENT
Prince Michael of, 3:11
Princess Michael of, 3:11
KEROACK
Paul R., 3:61
KETTENBACH
Cathrin (von Buseck), 3:37
Peter von, 3:37
KIDD
Louisa, 2:16
William, 4:26
KIERSTEDE
Blandina, 1:60
Hans, 1:60
KIMBALL
Henry, 1:41
KIMMITT
Polly FitzGerald, 3:10

KING
C. Victor, 4:33
Charles W., 3:63
Constant, 4:33, 4:36
Elizabeth, 4:32, 4:33–4:36, 4:46
Fredrick, 4:33
George, 4:33
Leander Gage, 3:13
Mary, 2:50
Phebe (Horton), 4:33, 4:36

KINGSBURY
family, 3:58, 3:59
Bruce Fowle, 3:59
Daniel Wild, 3:59
Eleanor Frances (Keith), 3:59
Martha, 3:58, 3:59
Rosalind Dickinson (Goodhue), 3:59

KINNE
Bethiah, 4:58

KLINE
Susan Beall (Fisher), 4:64

KNATCHBULL
Sir Edward, 2:53

KNICKERBOCKER
family, 1:63
Harmon Jansen, 1:63

KNOPF
Betty, 1:63

KNOX
Henry, 4:33, 4:34

KOHN
Elizabeth (Johnson), 4:63

KOSSMANN
Johann Adam, 1:53
Louisa, 1:52, 1:53
Regina (Pracht), 1:53

KOSTER
Bill, 3:11, 3:14
Virginia "Ginger," 2:11, 3:11, 3:14, 4:62

KRAUSE
Leberecht F. E., 2:38, 2:40

KREA
Andrew, 3:52

KRUGER
David W., 1:9, 3:5, 3:14
Jean, 3:5, 3:14
Kristen, 3:5

KRUPP
Dorothea Marie, 2:39, 2:40, 2:59

KRUTCH
Joseph Wood, 1:32

KUGLER
Ernistine, 2:17

KUITEMS
Jane, 3:61

KUYKENDALL
Mary, 2:47, 2:48

KYNASTON
Sir Roger, 3:51

L

LABAN
George, 1:21

LADD
Nancy (Erikson), 3:62

LAINHART
Ann Smith, 4:12

LAMBERT
family, 3:54
Catherine (McKenna), 3:55
David Allen, 1:15, 1:62, 2:9, 2:18, 3:2, 3:10, 3:11, 3:12, 3:13, 3:54, 3:55, 4:10
Garnet, 3:55
George, 3:55
George Richard, 3:55
Hannah (Harrison), 3:54
Harry Clifford, 3:55
James Albert George, Sr., 3:54, 3:55
James Albert George, 3:54–3:55
James C., 3:55
James Charles, 3:55
James John, 3:55
John, 3:54, 3:55
John James, 3:55
Kathleen, 3:55
Margaret (McDade), 3:54
Michael James, 3:55
Patrick, 3:55
Sabina (Pike), 3:54

LAMPHERE
Mary, 4:58

LANE
Rachel (Carville), 4:23
Sullivan, 4:23

LANGLEY
Alice, 3:43, 3:45
Alice "Diane," 3:45
Daisy May (Lawton), 3:5, 3:43–3:46, 4:13
David, 3:44
George, 3:44
Gladys, 3:44
Joanna (Allen), 3:44
Joseph Robert, 3:44, 3:45
Lincoln, 3:44, 3:45, 3:46
Merton, 3:44, 3:45, 3:46
Myrtie/Marie, 3:44
Nellie, 3:44
Philippa, 3:48, 3:49
William, 3:44, 3:46

LANSBURY
Dame Angela, 1:3, 1:6, 1:12, 1:13

LAPHAM
family, 1:63

LARSDOTTER
Anna, 4:50–4:51

LASSEN
Isaac, 4:29

LASSEY
Edith Hannah, 1:54
John W., 1:54
Mary Ellen (Wilson), 1:54

LAUDER
Lois Kathryn Hayes, 1:34
Nan, 1:34

LAUNSPACH
Gertrude, 3:33
Ludwig Caspar, 3:33
Wilhelm, 3:33

LAWTON
Daisy May, 3:5, 3:43–3:46, 4:13
David, 3:43–3:44, 4:13
Marilla (Wixon), 3:43, 3:44, 4:13

LEACH
Andrew, 3:39, 3:40, 3:41, 3:42
Charlotte, 3:41, 3:42
Eliza, 3:41, 3:42
Elizabeth, 3:42
Gary, 3:15
Marilyn, 1:34
Mary Ann, 3:42
Thomas, 3:42

LEARY
Bridget, 3:29

LEAVENWORTH
Elizabeth (Hurd), 3:61

LEBARON
family, 2:63, 4:13
Francis, 2:63
James, 4:13
Joshua, 2:12
William, 2:12

LECHFORD
Thomas, 2:29

LEE
Christopher, 4:10
Mary Tremain, 3:40
Samuel, 3:40

LEHRBACH
Maria von, 3:33

LELAND
family, 4:22
Ada Eliza, 4:45
Edmund Francis, 4:45
Harriott Cheves, 3:61
Mary (Cutler), 4:41, 4:45, 4:46
Mary Ann, 4:45
Willis Daniel, 4:45

LEONARD
James, 1:16

LEPORE
Jill, 1:33

LE ROY
family, 3:27

LESER
family, 1:62
Frederica Fulton, 1:62

LETTIE
Catharina, 3:61

LEWIS
family, 2:63
John, 2:63

LIBBEY
Joseph, 4:28, 4:29, 4:30

LIEBENROOD
Sarah, 4:15

LINCOLN
Lorenzo, 2:63
Nedabiah, Sr., 2:63

LINDBERGH
Charles, 1:32

LINDSAY
Amy, 3:59
Hannah Frances (Dickinson), 3:59

LITCHFIELD
Isaac, 1:39

LITTLE
Tristram, 1:38

LITTLER
family, 2:63
Gilbert J., 2:63

LIVINGSTON
Augusta, 3:56
Henrietta, 3:56
Louis, 3:56

LOCKWOOD
Abigail (Marshall), 3:61
Cecilia, 1:52, 1:53
James Jervey, 1:53
Stephen, 3:61

LOPATKIEWICZ
Wanda, 4:62

LOPEZ
Crisanta, 2:47, 2:48
Juan, 2:47
Manuel, 2:47, 2:48
Manuel Maria, 2:47
Mariana, 2:47

LORRAINE
Blanche, 1:30, 1:32

LOTT
Catherine, 3:61
Charles, 3:61

LOVELL
Elizabeth Jr., 1:39

LOVOLL
Odd S., 2:63

LOW
Edward, 4:1, 4:25, 4:26, 4:27, 4:28, 4:30
Eliza (Marble), 4:30

LOWELL
family, 3:27, 4:10
John, 3:27, 4:10

LUCEY
Judy, 1:15, 3:13, 4:57

LUKOWSKI
Annie Carolyn (Lynch), 4:62

LYNCH
Annie Carolyn, 4:62
Carolyn Ann (Hoff), 2:11, 4:62
Elizabeth, 4:62
Mary, 4:62
Peter, 4:62

LYNDE
Simon, 1:43, 1:46

LYNDHURST
John Singleton Copley, 1st Baron, 2:52, 2:53

LYNE
Philip, 4:25, 4:30

LØVLIEN
Solvar, 3:50
Unni, 3:49–3:50
Vigdis, 3:50

M

MCCAIN
family, 2:63
Barry R., 2:63

MCCALL
Jocelynne, 3:17, 4:11
Samuel, 4:52, 4:53

MCCARTHY
Linda, 2:16

MCCLURE
Rhonda R., 3:5, 3:13, 3:28, 3:29, 3:31, 3:61, 4:8

MACOFSKY
Bertha, 3:56

MCCOULF
Kelly, 1:13, 2:11, 4:62

MCCURDY
Ross W., 2:63

MCDADE
Margaret, 3:54

MACDONALD
Barry J., 1:42

MCDONALD
Capers W., 1:52
Cecilia (Lockwood), 1:52, 1:53
WalBern, 1:53

MCELHINNEY
Maryanne (Mitchell), 1:14

MCEWAN
Esther, 1:62

MCGRATH
Lawrence R., 2:5, 2:37

MCINTIRE
Samuel, 1:36

MACKEEN
John C. "Jack," 3:17

MCKENNA
Catherine, 3:55

MCKIERNAN
Alex, 2:56
John, 2:56
Joseph, 2:56

MACMAHON
Ted, 3:6, 4:6

MCNULTA
Catherine, 1:30

MACY
Harry, Jr., 1:59

MADISON
James, 1:64

MAHER
Janet, 4:63

MAJOR
Ruth Whitney, 3:19

MALENFANT
Janet, 1:34

MÅNSDOTTER
Elna, 4:47, 4:48, 4:50, 4:51

MARBLE
Eliza, 4:30

MARKHAM
family, 4:7
Daniel, 4:7
Mary Adeline, 4:7

MARSH
Alson, 3:22
Cyrus, 3:22
Gus, 3:22
Hiram, 3:22
Isaac, 3:22
Judith, 3:22
Maria, 3:22
Onslow, 3:22
William R., 3:16

MARSHALL
family, 2:63
Abigail, 3:61

MARTIN
Ambrose, 2:27
Benjamin Thompson, 3:59
Deliverance, 3:22

MARVIN
Sarah, 4:38

MASON
Abigail, 1:48
Alice, 1:48, 1:49, 1:51
Arthur, 1:48, 1:49, 1:50, 1:51
David, 1:48
Joanna, 1:48, 1:50
Joanna (Parker), 1:48, 1:49
Mary, 1:47, 1:48–1:51

MATALIN
Mary, 1:8, 3:5, 3:14, 3:15

MATHER
Cotton, 4:26

MATHEWS
Barbara Jean, 3:61

MATHEWSON
Sarah, 3:61

MATTHEWS
Eliza A., 3:52

ELLEN, 3:52
Mary, 1:38
William, 3:52

MAULSBY
Nancy S., 1:12, 1:13, 3:11, 4:1

MAURER
Virginia Smith, 4:23

MAXIM/MUXSOM
Lucinda, 4:23

MAYNARD
Allegra, 1:31

MAYS
Dorothy A., 4:8

MEAD
family, 4:63
Margaret, 1:32
Sara (Johnston), 4:63

MEDLER
Crystal, 3:43

MEIKLE
Nancy Carter, 3:61

MENINO
family, 1:62
Angela (Faletra), 1:62
Carmine "Carl," 1:62
Susan, 1:62
Susan (Sachetti), 1:62
Thomas Jr., 1:62
Thomas Michael, 1:62, 2:11, 4:62

MENZIES
Gertrude (Launspach), 3:33

MERRELL
James H., 3:61

MERRICK
Pauline C., 3:63

MESSENGER
Gertrude L. (Van Wagoner), 1:63
Leon R., 1:63

MEYER
Charles, 2:47–2:48, 4:10

MEYERS
Kelvin L., 3:12

MIGHILL
Elizabeth (Page), 4:23
Molly (Dimond), 4:23
Moses, 4:23

MIHILLS
Ronald L., 4:23

MILLARD
Thomas, 3:30

MILLER
Elizabeth (Hemphill?), 2:16
James, 2:16
Sally, 1:13
William, 2:16

MILLIDGE
Thomas, 4:35

MILLS
Elizabeth Shown, 3:29

MINOR
John, 3:38, 3:39, 3:41–3:42
Joseph, 3:38
Nancy, 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13
Nancy (_____), 3:38

MITCHELL
Jane, 1:14
Maryanne, 1:14

MOFFAT
Hannah Catherine, 3:59

MOHOLY-NAGY
Lazlo, 1:32

MONTGOMERY
Jonathan W., 3:16

MOORE
A. R., 2:55
Barbara, 1:9
Clara, 2:55, 2:56
John A., 1:9
Susan Hardman, 2:27

MOORS
Mr. _____, 4:56

MOREHOUSE
David M., 3:61

MORENON
E. Pierre, 4:41
Elise, 4:41

MORGAN
Benjamin, 4:35
David M., 2:14
David Wesley, 2:14
Fannie (Fletcher), 2:14
Millard, 2:14
William Sydney, 2:14

MORIARTY
George Marshall, 3:17

MORRISON
family, 3:63

MORSE
Abner, 4:43
Ginevra, 2:9
Mille, 4:43
Nabby, 4:41, 4:43, 4:44, 4:45, 4:46
Rebecca (Ratshesky), 4:56

MORTON
Abigail, 2:64
David Wade, 3:61

MOSS
Blanche W., 4:40

MOTT
Esther Whitney, 2:37

MOWER
Ebenezer, 4:24–4:25, 4:26, 4:27, 4:30

MUIRSON
George, 1:60
Gloriana (Smith), 1:60

MULLAN
Fintan, 1:22

MUMFORD
Thomas, 4:27

MURPHY
Catherine (Hoganson), 4:54
Ellen, 3:29
James, 3:29
Mary, 3:29
Patrick, 4:54
Timothy, 3:29
Wilfred, 4:54

MURRAY
James, 3:60
William Henry, 3:60

MÜSIG
Veit, 1:61

N

NASH
Elenor (Goggins), 2:44
Henry, 2:44
Jack W., 2:44

NASSAU-SAARBRÜCKEN
Count Philipp I of, 3:37

NAYLOR
Michele, 4:23

NELLIS
Robert, 1:61
Rupert, 1:61

NELSON
family, 3:12, 3:13
NEU
Daisy May (Lawton) (Giantvalley) (Langley), 3:5, 3:43–3:46, 4:13
John, 3:45
NEVILLE
Cecily, 3:51
NEWHALL
_____, 2:28
NEWTON
Lavina, 4:43
NICHOLS
Mark Kimball, 3:17
NIVEN
David, 1:12
NORMAN
John, 2:31
NORRIS
Edward, 2:27
Mary, 2:27
NORTHUP
Solomon, 4:13
NORTON
Bettina A., 1:35
Elizabeth, 1:49, 1:50, 1:51
John, 1:47, 1:48, 1:49–1:50, 1:51
John Jr., 1:49, 1:50, 1:51
Mary (Mason), 1:47, 1:48–1:51
NOYES
Wilbur Fiske, 1:33

O

O'BRIEN
Madalin (Hoff), 4:62
OLD HAHAWTON
1:43
OLSSON
Anna, 4:48
Edvin, 4:47, 4:48
Måns, 4:48, 4:50
Olof, 4:47, 4:48, 4:50, 4:51
Sandra Marshall, 2:63
ONASSIS
Aristotle, 1:32
ORVIS
Zadock, 3:61
OSGOOD
Frances Sargent Locke "Fanny," 2:53
Samuel Stillman, 2:51, 2:53
OTTO
Julie Helen, 3:61
OWEN
Brent M., 3:61

P

PAGE
Elizabeth, 4:23
PAINE
John, 1:42, 1:45
William, 1:42
PALMER
Thomas, 4:60
PAPPENHEIM
Gottfried Heinrich von, 3:34
PARK
Mercy, 3:61
Rick, 2:5
PARKER
Joanna, 1:48, 1:49
PARRIS
Alexander, 1:62
PARTRIDGE
Priscilla L., 1:63
PASSARO
Gabby, 2:19, 3:25
PATCH
Olivia, 3:61
PAUL
Thomas, 3:40
PEASHA
Emy, 2:16
PEDLOW
Gregory W., 3:36
PEIRCE
Rachel, 3:61
PEMBERTON
Robert, 1:12, 3:11, 3:14
PENNY
Conrad Hugo, 3:51
PERRY
Abby L., 3:53
Catherine "Kate," 3:52
Catherine Matilda, 3:53
Catherine (Thompson), 3:52, 3:53
Charlotte M. "Lottie," 3:52
Ebenezer, 3:52, 3:53
Ebenezer, Jr., 3:53
Eliza A. (Matthews), 3:52, 3:53
Elizabeth, 4:42
George Oliver Hazard, 3:52
George T., 3:52–3:53
John, 3:53
Mary H., 3:53
Matthew, 4:26
Sarah (Clary), 3:53
Stephen H., 3:53
William A., 3:53
PERSON
Måns (later HARRIANDER), 4:49, 4:50
PETURA
Barbara Bradley, 1:14
PHILBRICK
Nathaniel, 3:3, 3:6, 3:10
PHILLIPS
John, 4:26, 4:28, 4:29, 4:30
PIKE
Sabina, 3:54
PIÑA
Davie, 3:14
Jennifer, 3:14
PLUM
Mauny, 3:15
POELLER
Gertrude (Button), 4:58, 4:59
POGOLOFF
Karen L., 3:17
POLHEMUS
Abraham, 1:61
Cornelia, 1:61
Johannes Theodorus, 1:60, 1:61
Theodorus, 1:61
POMEROY
Charles M., 1:20
Edwin C., 1:20
Francis A., 1:20
Francis W., 1:20
Julia A., 1:20
Mary Ann, 1:20
Matilda A. (Brown), 1:20
Minerva Lydia, 3:22
William, 1:20
POND
Robert, 2:29
POPPLE
Henry, 4:25
PORTER
Alice (Langley), 3:43, 3:45
John Wesley, 3:45
POTTER
Capt. _____, 2:7
George, 3:41
Sarah (Tucker), 3:40, 3:41, 3:42
POWE
Anne E., 2:64
POWERS
Jean, 1:20, 2:16, 3:22, 4:10, 4:23
PRAA
Peter, 3:61
PRACHT
Catharina (Stiefel), 1:53
Johannes, 1:53
Regina, 1:53
PRÄTORIUS
Anna Elisabeth (Stein), 3:37
Johannes, 3:37
PRATT
Abby, 3:53
Alice Nelson, 3:12, 4:10
Catherine Matilda (Perry), 3:53
Ebenezer, 3:53
Jean, 3:45, 3:46
John Dyer, 3:53
PRINCE
Joseph, 2:50
Mary (Charnock) (Greenwood), 2:50–2:53, 3:19
Samuel, 3:59
PROWN
Jules, 2:53
PRUSSIA
Frederick Wilhelm III, King of, 2:37, 2:38, 2:39
PURBECK
Frances (Coke), Viscountess, 2:52
PUTNAM
John, 1:21

Q

QUINCY
Anna, 1:49, 1:50, 1:51
Elizabeth, 1:51
Elizabeth (Norton), 1:49, 1:50, 1:51
John, 1:51

R

RABB
Elvina M. (Buero), 1:52, 1:53
George W., Jr., 1:53
Lucy Ambrose, 1:53
RAMOS
Cornelio, 2:47
Mary (Kuykendall) (Decrow), 2:47
RAMSDELL
Mary Sutton, 1:31
RANDOLPH
Heather, 1:9
RAPP
Melanie (Hoff), 4:62
RATCLIFF
Delinda Mary (Fisher), 4:64
RATSHESKY
Abraham Captain (A.C.), 4:52–4:56
Asher, 4:52, 4:53
Bertha (Abrams), 4:52
Edith (Shuman), 4:53, 4:56
Harry, 4:56
Israel, 4:53, 4:56
Max, 4:56
Rebecca, 4:56
REDMONDS
George, 2:25
REED
Clinton, 2:62
Patricia R., 3:17–3:18, 3:61
Thyra (Turnblad), 2:62
Thyra Elizabeth "Liz," 2:62
William Garrison, 1:55
REID
Richard, 4:11
REITZ
Catharina Elisabeth, 2:39
REMINGTON
John, 1:16
RENCHER
David, 3:12
REVERE
Paul, 2:33
REYNIERS
Grietje, 1:14
RICH
family, 3:63
RICHARDS
John, 1:45
RICHARDSON
Harry Bogart, 1:63
RIKER
David, 1:59
RING
Betty, 4:39

RIPLEY
Frank C., 1:9
ROBERTS
Gary Boyd, 3:10, 3:27, 3:61
ROCKWELL
George Lincoln, 2:61
Kenneth W., 3:61
Sarah Easton (Drake), 3:19
ROCKWOOD
Elizabeth, 4:41, 4:42, 4:43, 4:44, 4:46
Elizabeth (Perry), 4:42
Timothy, 4:42
ROJAS MORA
Crystal (Medler), 3:43, 4:13
ROLLAND
Sally, 1:53
ROMBO
Giorgio, 1:53
ROOD
Abigail, 4:58
ROOS
Maria (Vigne), 1:60
ROOSEVELT
Franklin Delano, 3:11
ROPER
L. H., 3:61
ROSE
Charlie, 2:9
ROSENFELDT
Christian, 4:48, 4:49, 4:50, 4:51
Elsa, 4:48, 4:51
Per, 4:48
ROWE
Chip, 3:60
ROYCE
Calvin, 2:16
Cynthia, 2:16
Louisa (Kidd), 2:16
Pascall, 2:16
Silvenus, 2:16
Silvester, 2:16
William, 2:16
RUDDOCK
William T., 3:61
RUGGLES
Joseph, 3:60
RUSSELL
Charles, 2:36
Thomas, 4:9
RYAN
family, 1:32
Catherine (McNulta), 1:30
James, Sr., 1:30
James, Jr., 1:30
James M., 1:30
Katharine Mary, 1:29, 1:30–1:34
Kelly A., 1:37, 1:41, 2:12
Margaret, 1:30
Rosann, 4:23
William, 1:30
RYCKMAN
Albert Janse, 4:60

S

SACHETTI
family, 1:62
Susan, 1:62
SALE
Eliza Jane, 1:20
SALES
Philip, 3:60
SALISBURY
Phylicia, 2:37
SALLS
Timothy G. X., 1:14, 1:54, 2:57, 3:58
SALMON
Marylynn, 4:8
SALTER
James, 4:25
SALTONSTALL
family, 3:27
SANBORN
Melinde Lutz, 3:30
SANDERSON
Elijah, 1:23, 2:19, 3:25, 4:19
SANFORD
Stephen D., 4:32
SAVAGE
James, 2:29, 2:30
Thomas, 1:42–1:43, 1:44, 1:45
SAXBE
William B. Jr., 2:29, 2:30, 4:63
SAYLES
DuWayne, 3:7
Helen E. R., 3:7
SCHMEECKLE
John, 3:22
SCHMID
Marilyn (Leach), 1:34
SCHÖNHERR
Carl-Heinz, 3:33, 3:37
SCHULTZ
Eric B., 1:12, 2:11, 3:18, 4:62
Susan, 1:12
SCHÜRER
Kevin, 3:50, 3:51
SCHWALBACH
Agnes von, 3:37
SCOTLAND
James VI, King of, 3:34
Mary I, Queen of, 3:34
SCOTT
Kenneth, 2:15, 4:61
SCOVILLE
Christopher, 3:15
SEARS
family, 1:62
Catherine (Coolidge), 1:62
David, 1:62
Frederica Fulton (Leser), 1:62
John Winthrop, 1:62–1:63
Richard Dudley, Jr., 1:62
SEASHOLES
Nancy S., 3:29
SEGAL
Robert, 2:60
SELIGSON
Isaac, 2:60
SEMPLE
Betty (Wheat), 2:36, 2:62
John, 2:62
Mary (Wheat), 2:36, 2:62
Robert, 2:62
SERVISON
Kristin, 3:16
SEWALL
Samuel, 1:50, 1:51
SHAKESPEARE
William, 3:51
SHARPE
David J., 2:50
Margy, 2:51, 2:52–2:53
SHAW
Anthony, 1:12, 1:13
Lee (Webster), 1:12, 1:13
SHELDON
family, 1:63
SHEPARD
John Charles, 3:7
Samuel, 1:48
SHEPHERD
Emilie (Beaumont), 3:7
SHERMAN
Agnes, 1:20
Clarence, 1:20
Eliza Jane (Sale), 1:20
Elmer, 1:20
George, 1:20
Lucius, Jr., 1:20
Lucius H., 1:20
SHILLINGBURG
Edward, 2:63
Patricia, 2:63
SHUMAN
family, 4:56
Edith, 4:53, 4:56
SIBLEY
Polly, 1:41
SIEGER
Catharina, 1:52, 1:53
SIEKMAN
Meaghan E. H., 2:17, 3:13
SIMMONS
Nicholas, 4:26
SIMONS
D. Brenton, 1:3, 1:8, 1:12, 1:14, 1:62, 1:64, 2:3, 2:9, 2:11, 2:13, 2:26, 3:3, 3:5, 3:11, 3:12, 3:14, 3:62, 4:1, 4:11, 4:62
SIMPSON
James Hervey, 3:22
Jane Elizabeth (Champlin), 3:22
Minerva Lydia, 3:22
Wallis, 1:32
SINCLAIR
family, 3:58
SINNETT
Charles N., 1:20
SLOAN
Susan P., 1:8, 1:12, 1:13, 3:14
SMALLWOOD
Edwin Augustus, 3:59
SMITH
Abigail, 1:35–1:36, 1:47, 1:48, 1:48–1:49, 1:50, 1:50–1:51
Alfred E., 1:31
Austen, 3:61
Donald Alan, 2:32
Elizabeth (Quincy), 1:51
Elizabeth Dean, 3:58
Gloriana, 1:60
Jesse, 2:36
Margaret, 3:61
Margaret (Smith), 3:61
Thomas, 1:43
William, 1:51
William "Tangier," 1:60
SOLE
Philip, 3:60
SOLOMON
Steven L., 2:6, 2:7, 2:49, 3:6, 3:23, 4:6, 4:7
SOMMERLAD
Bernhard, 3:33
SONIUS
Dennis, 1:20
SOULE
family, 3:63
George, 2:13, 3:63
SPAFFORD
Isaac, 4:33
SPECTOR
Gail, 2:63
SPERRY
Emma Annis (Taylor), 3:59
SPILLER
Mary, 4:30
SPIRO
Lionel, 3:14
Vivian, 3:14
SPRIGGS
Francis, 4:26
STAPLES
Ruth (Button), 4:59
STARBUCK
Alexander, 3:9
STEGALL
Margaret (Feller) (Glickert), 3:32
STEIN
Anna Elisabeth, 3:37
Christina, 3:5, 3:33, 3:34–3:37
Matthäus the Elder (Old Matthäus), 3:34, 3:35, 3:36, 3:37
Matthäus (Young Matthäus), 3:33, 3:34, 3:35, 3:36, 3:37
STEVENS
Edward, 3:38, 3:41
Thomas, 3:38, 3:39, 3:41
STEWARD
Scott C., 3:5, 3:27, 3:32, 4:10
STIEFEL
Andreas, 1:53
Catharina (Sieger), 1:52, 1:53

STODDARD
Ephaphras, 4:38
Harriet, 4:39
Martha M./Mella, 4:39
Mary, 4:38, 4:39, 4:40
Mary (Wells), 4:38

STOKOWSKI
Olga Samaroff, 1:32

STONE
Phil, 3:48, 3:49, 3:51

STRAIGHT
Henry, 3:61

STRANGE
Susan B., 1:34

STRATTON
Penny, 2:9, 2:66, 3:25, 3:29

STREETER
Nina, 3:5

STRICKLAND
Edwin W. II, 3:19

STRUBLE
Shannon, 3:56

STUART
Margaret, 3:61

STUMP
Ada, 1:63, 4:63

STURGIS
Samuel P., III, 1:25, 1:26, 3:21, 3:60

SULLIVAN
James, 3:29
Karen, 1:34

SUNDHAUSEN
Elisabetha, 2:39

SUTTON
Les, 1:63

T

TAGGART
family, 3:58–3:59
Eva Dora (Bryant), 3:58, 3:59
Irene, 3:58
Lucy Martha, 3:58
Martha (Kingsbury), 3:58, 3:59
Thomas, 3:58–3:59

TALLMAN
family, 1:16

TATE
George, 1:20
Ivan, 1:20
Mary, 1:20
Samuel, 1:20
William, 1:20

TAYLOR
Delia Denton, 4:59
Elizabeth Tupper (Browning), 3:59
Emma Annis, 3:59
Maureen, 1:22, 2:13, 4:41

TEAMOH
Robert, 3:38

THALER
Thomas W., 1:13

THAYER
Betty, 4:63
Nathaniel, 1:43
Richard, Sr., 1:42
Richard, Jr., 1:42–1:46
Richard III, 1:46
Thomas, 1:42

THIEL
Homer, 2:46

THOMAS
Dave, 4:23
Elizabeth, 4:23
Enoch, 4:23
Isaiah, 4:9
Jacob, 4:23
Jacob Jr., 4:23
James, 4:23
Mary (Brown), 4:23
Pat, 4:23
Rebecca, 4:23

THOMPSON
Catherine, 3:52, 3:53
Cephas, 1:38

THOMSON
James, 2:26

THORNDIKE
family, 3:27

THORNTON
family, 3:63
John, 3:63

THRIFT
Elizabeth, 3:58, 3:59
Hannah Catherine (Moffat), 3:59

THURINGIA
Elisabeth (of Brandenburg), Landgravine of, 3:34

TIBBETTS
Mary L., 1:18

TIFFANY
Louis Comfort, 3:27

TIMMONS
C. O., 3:44, 3:46
Harold (born Harold Giantvalley), 3:43, 3:45, 3:46
Leona, 3:44

TINKHAM/TINCAM
Asaph, 4:23
Ephraim, 1:43
Joseph, 4:23
Lucinda (Maxim/Muxsom) (Hall), 4:23

TOBEY
Benjamin, 3:22
Deliverance (Martin), 3:22

TORREY
Clarence Almon, 2:10, 2:20, 3:20, 3:26, 3:30, 4:12, 4:14, 4:20

TOWLE
Katharine, 1:31

TOWNSEND
family, 1:60

TREADWELL
family, 4:57
Marietta, 4:58

TREAT
Dutch, 3:15

TROWBRIDGE
Delinda "Lynn" Ratcliff (Bryan), 3:16, 4:64

TUCKER
John, 3:40, 3:42
John J., 3:40, 3:41
Nancy (Minor), 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13
Reuben, 3:40
Richard M., 2:57, 2:59
Sarah, 3:40, 3:41, 3:42

TURNBLAD
Thyra, 2:62

TURNER
Natalie Sudler, 2:62

U

ULLMANN
Helen Schatvet, 1:26, 2:10, 2:31, 3:18, 3:20, 3:61, 4:12, 4:14

ULRICH
Laurel Thatcher, 2:13

UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND
Elizabeth II, Queen of the, 1:12, 3:11

USTINOV
Peter, 1:12

V

VAIL
Claire, 1:25, 1:26, 2:21

VALENTINE
family, 2:57–2:58
Jacob, 2:57
John, 4:28
Mary Elizabeth, 2:57, 2:58

VAN DEMARK
Kate, 2:25, 2:26
Peter, 2:25, 2:26, 4:1

VANDERBILT
family, 1:16

VAN DER POEL
Ariaentje (Verplanck), 1:60
Gulian, 1:60

VAN DER ZEE
Storm, 1:60

VAN DOREN
Mark, 1:32

VAN IMBROECK/ VAN IMBUURGH
family, 3:60

VAN NESS
Gerritt, 4:60

VAN NOORSTRANT
Jacob, 4:60

VAN VOORHEES
Steven Coerte, 1:60

VAN WAERT
Gulian, 1:60
Susanna (Verplanck), 1:60

VAN WAGONER
Gertrude L., 1:63

VAN WYCK
Catherine Griffin, 1:61
Cornelia (Polhemus), 1:61

VERHEEKEN
Jean, 3:59

VERPLANCK
Abraham Isaacszen, 1:60
Ariaentje, 1:60
Gulian Crommelin, 1:60
Hillegond, 1:60
Isaac, 1:60
Maria (Vigne) (Roos), 1:60
Susanna, 1:60

VIEIRA
Meredith, 1:32

VIGNE
Guleyn/Ghislain, 1:60
Maria, 1:60

VON ROHR
Heinrich, 2:38, 2:39, 2:40

VOOLICH
Erica Dakin, 1:63

VOORHEES/VAN VOORHEES
family, 1:60

W

WAFER
Sicily Leggett, 4:64

WAGNER
_____ (magistrate), 2:39

WALKER
Orlando, 3:22

WALTERS
Barbara, 1:32

WAMPATUCK
Josiah/Josias, 1:43, 1:44

WARREN
Diana, 4:11
Mehitable (Wilder), 1:50

WASHINGTON
George, 1:36, 2:36, 3:11, 3:40, 3:42, 4:33
Nancy (Minor) (Tucker) (Butts) (Fountain), 3:5, 3:38–3:42, 4:13

WASMUS
J. F., 1:39

WATSON
Misses _____, 3:41
Caroline, 3:42
Elizabeth (Leach), 3:42
George, 3:42
Jeanette, 3:42

WEBB
Toby, 4:1

WEBSTER
family, 1:63
John W., 1:12, 1:13, 3:14, 3:15, 4:11
Lee, 1:12, 1:13
Nancy Clay, 1:12, 1:13, 3:14, 3:15

WEEKS
Warren Brinson, Jr., 1:12, 3:14

WEISS
Raymond Butler, 2:7

WELCH
Ellen (Murphy), 3:29
WELLMAN
Alford Curtis, 2:55, 2:56
Erica, 2:56
Marilyn, 2:55, 2:56
Robert Curtis, 2:55
Robert Shelby, 2:55, 2:56
Stella Corine (Brown), 2:55
WELLS
Charles Chauncey, 1:63
Lucy Belden, 4:39, 4:40
Mary, 4:38
WESSEX
Princess Sophie (Rhys-Jones), Countess of, 3:50
WESSON
William, 1:41
WESTGATE/WESTCOTT
Benjamin Jr., 4:23
Levi, 4:23
Lucinda, 4:23
Lucinda (Maxim/Muxsom) (Hall) (Tinkham), 4:23
WESTON
Leslie A., 1:15, 2:66
WHARTON
Emily Nichols, 2:49, 3:23
WHEAT
Benjamin, 2:36
Betty, 2:36, 2:62
John, 2:62
Joseph, 2:36
Mary, 2:36, 2:62
WHEELER
Albina (Yale), 2:57
Edward Henry, 2:57, 2:58
Edward Jonathan, 2:57
Elizabeth Yale, 2:57, 2:58–2:59
Harriet E. (Wilcox), 2:57
WHITCHER
Edward, 3:46
WHITE
Jack L., 3:18, 4:7
Peregrine, 1:23, 2:19, 3:25, 4:19
William, 4:29
WHITEFIELD
Edwin, 1:53
WHITEHEAD
Anna, 2:36
Daniel, 2:36
Elisha, 2:36
John, 2:36
WHITMORE
Nabby, 1:37, 1:38, 1:39
WHITTIER
John Greenleaf, 3:42
WIEHN
John, 4:63
WIGGIN
Richard C., 2:5, 2:33, 2:35
WILBORE
family, 1:63
WILCOX
family, 2:57
Alonzo Benjamin, 2:57
Harriet E., 2:57
Thomas R., Jr., 1:9, 2:26, 3:18
WILDBORE
family, 1:16
WILDER
Abel, 1:37
Mehitable, 1:50
WILKAS
Joseph Anthony, 1:14
WILLIAMS
Alicia Crane, 1:27, 3:5, 3:29, 3:31, 4:12, 4:14
WILLIS
Jennifer Thurber, 1:14
WILSON
Anne Ware, 1:63
Isabel Anne King (Brown), 2:11
Mary Ellen, 1:54
Wallace Stedman, 2:11
William Oliver, 1:54, 1:55
WINCHESTER
family, 4:63
Nathan, 4:63
WINDSOR
Prince Edward, Duke of, 1:32
Wallis (Warfield), Duchess of, 1:32
WINN
Willard A., 1:55
WINTHROP
family, 1:62, 1:63, 3:27
Elizabeth (Fones), 3:61
John, 1:63
WITKOWSKI
Mary (Lynch), 4:62
WIXON
Eleanor (Finch), 3:44
Marilla, 3:43, 3:44, 4:13
William, 3:44
WOLFE
Missy, 3:61
Robin, 4:17
WOLFGANG
Meldon J. III, 4:60
WOOD
Hugh J. G., 3:50–3:51
WOODBRIDGE
R., 3:59
WOODMAN
family, 3:63
WOODS
Karen, 3:15
Ryan J., 1:8, 1:12, 2:26, 3:15, 4:63
WOOTTEN
Roy, 2:52
WRIGHT
Daisy Alice, 2:55
Joseph, 2:52
WUNDERLICH
Lilla (Hawkins), 3:61
WYNER
Genevieve, 1:12, 3:14
Justin, 1:12, 3:14

Y

YALE
family, 2:57
Albina, 2:57
Amerton, 2:57
Leroy M., 2:57
Leroy Milton, 2:58
Mary Elizabeth (Valentine), 2:57, 2:58
YORK
Anne of, 3:49
Margaret of, 3:49
YOUNG
family, 3:58
Irene (Taggart), 3:58
Margaret, 3:61

Volume 16 Errata

Winter issue

p. 46: In "Richard Thayer of Braintree, Massachusetts—Town Thief?" by Barry J. MacDonald, note 3 should list H. Hobart Holly, rather than "H. Hobart," as the editor of *Braintree, Massachusetts, Its History*.

Spring issue

pp. 38–40: In "George Dopf and the Old Lutheran Migration of 1839," by Lawrence R. McGrath, the Prussian king referred to is King Frederick Wilhelm III and not King Wilhelm II.



On October 9, 2015, our staff enjoyed an all-day retreat at Plimoth Plantation and the *Mayflower II*.

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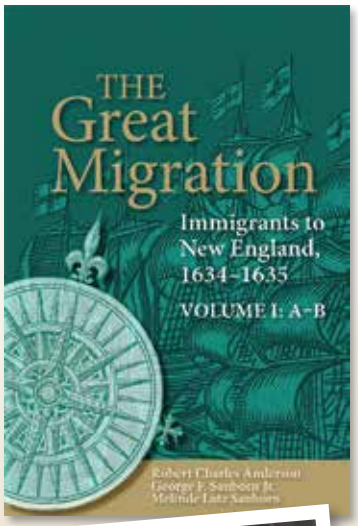
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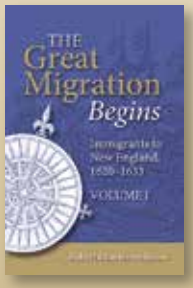
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