

Editorial

The lead article of this issue is **Descendants of Salem “Witch” Margaret (Jacobs) Foster**, by William Wyman Fiske. The cover of this issue is a painting of the 1692 trial of Margaret’s grandfather, George Jacobs, for witchcraft. Margaret testified against her grandfather but later recanted her testimony. After seven months of imprisonment, she was released, and in November 1699 she married John Foster. The author has presented sketches of their eight children and many grandchildren. The children married into the following Essex County families: Tewksbury, Woodbury, Allen, Knowlton, Carter, Morgan, Norton, and Mayfield.

The next article is **Identifying Judith Finne and the Early Family of William² (William¹) Woodbury of Stepney, Middlesex, England, and Beverly, Massachusetts**, by three of Judith’s descendants: Charla Woodbury, James Hamlin, and “Gene” Preston. This article expands on Part 1 of the Woodbury article that began in the Summer 2021 *Register*.

In **Samuel⁴ and Abigail (Sprague) Call of Charlestown, Massachusetts, and Nova Scotia**, the author, Robert M. Call, has carefully researched this couple and their children. Unknown to previous researchers, Abigail married second in Cape Breton, John Hamen, and promptly filed a divorce petition in May 1748 when she discovered he was a bigamist. As shown by indirect evidence, she married third Moses Barrett in 1750.

Randy A. West identified **Baptisms in England of Two Children of William¹ Ruscoe of Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York**. One baptism was found by an area search, the other during an unrelated search.

Susan Gardner Boyle’s **Proving Martha Wheadon, Not Norton, As the Wife of Ephraim Page of Branford, Connecticut, and Greene County, New York**, clarifies the multiple connections between these three families. Among the estate papers of Abraham Wheadon was a receipt from “Martha Page a Legatee,” evidently the daughter Martha who was named in his will.

It is unusual to find two boys of the same name and same age living in the same area — and when it happens, they are often confused as adults. William Wyman Fiske presents a good example of this in **Confused Cousins: Benjamin Ober, Mariner, of Beverly, and Benjamin Ober, Weaver, of Manchester**.

Some Notes on the Ancestry of Mary¹ Stallon alias Butler, Wife of Abraham¹ Belknap of Lynn, Massachusetts, by Robert Battle, shows that she was the daughter of Thomas Stallon *alias* Butler and his wife, Mary Dalton, who were married in Great Parndon, Essex, in 1594. Mary Dalton’s mother was Margaret (____) (Greygoose) Dalton, and a genealogical summary of the Greygoose family shows the connections between these families.

The English Ancestry of Roger¹ Willis of Dorchester and Sudbury, Massachusetts, and His Sister Mary Willis, Wife of William¹ Peacock of Roxbury, Massachusetts, and of Samuel Shears of Dedham and Wrentham, Massachusetts, is the next article. Author Randy A. West found the 1639 baptism of Roger Willis, son of Samuel and Grace Willis, in Bury St. Edmunds,

Suffolk. The 1657 will of Grace Willis mentioned “Roger Willis my sonne and Mary Pecock my daughter both in newe England.”

The English Origin of William and Margery Hayward of Braintree, Massachusetts, shows that the parish register of Stepney, Middlesex, gives their marriage in 1633 and the baptism of two children prior to the family’s immigration to New England. While the marriage and one baptism are in an online account of the family, this account by Alexander Bannerman is more complete.

We conclude Nathaniel Lane Taylor, ‘**For the Gratification of Her Posterity: George¹ Thorold of Boston, Massachusetts, His Daughters of Newport, Rhode Island, and Their Lost Legacy**. George Thorold, who married in Boston, Massachusetts, in 1700, was the principal legatee of his father (who died in 1693), and George’s daughters hoped in vain to receive legacies.

A Quest to Find the Parents of Cynthia Lovett Leads to a Valuable Probate Record Documenting the Lovett Family of Rhode Island and New York is continued. In order to identify the parents of Cynthia (Lovett) Miller of Schenectady, New York, author Abigail B. Miller had to identify all legatees named or alluded to in the probate of James Lovett of New York City, who died childless in 1850. The author’s arguments are interesting and convincing.

We continue **A Roll of Arms Registered by the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic Genealogical Society: Eleventh Part**. The twenty-four entries (nos. 766–789) are illustrated with four pages of six shields per page. The Introduction is on pages 96–103 of the first installment in the Winter 2022 *Register*.

We rely on the *Register*’s Consulting Editors for help, especially Robert Charles Anderson for Great Migration articles. David Curtis Dearborn, Gary Boyd Roberts, and Jenifer Kahn Bakkala review all the articles for each issue. Leslie Weston prepares the InDesign version of the *Register*, and Steve Csipke indexes the issues. Colleagues at NEHGS are always supportive, especially Sharon Inglis, Ellen Maxwell, Cécile Engeln, Lynn Betlock, and Scott Steward.

– Henry B. Hoff

Helen Schatvet Ullmann, the Associate Editor of the *Register* for 20 years, died on 9 October 2021 after a long illness. A tribute to her is at the beginning of the Fall 2021 issue.