# DNA in Practice

*Class 4: Confirming Parentage of Distant Generations*

Chris Child, Senior Genealogist

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER

American Ancestors
by New England Historic Genealogical Society

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## Meet today's presenter

**Christopher C. Child**

Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press;
Editor, *Mayflower Descendant*

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## OVERVIEW

- **Presentation** (60 mins.)
  - Y-DNA tests available
  - What they can prove and what they cannot
  - Successful studies
  - Possibilities with Big Y
  - mtDNA and xDNA studies

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## Basics of Y-DNA

- YDNA is inherited from a person's father
- Patrilineal-related people (even several generations back) share the same mtDNA markers
- People who do not share the same markers are not patrilinealy related within recorded history (a few centuries)
- Most cases involve the solicitation of many people and existing descendants who have already participated

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## STR/SNP tests

- Y-STR (short tandem repeat) have high mutation rates
- Y-SNPs (single nucleotide polymorphisms) have low mutability)

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## Current prices

- 12 markers (not currently offered)
- 25 markers (not currently offered)
- 37 markers ($119)
- 67 markers (not currently offered)
- 111 markers ($249)
- Big Y-700 ($449)

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## FTDNA Tip at 12 markers

In comparing Y-DNA 12 marker results, the probability that **Gerald Linwood Childs** and **William Chapin Child II** shared a common ancestor within the last...

COMPARISON CHART

| Generations | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 4 | 33.57% |
| 8 | 55.88% |
| 12 | 70.69% |
| 16 | 80.53% |
| 20 | 87.07% |
| 24 | 91.41% |

**Refine your results with paper trail input**

If traditional genealogical records indicate that a common ancestor between you and your match could not have lived in a certain number of past generations, your TiP results can be refined. Note, if you are not sure of this information, you should not change the value of "1" below.
Note: "0" or negative values are not accepted in the generations field.

**Gerald Linwood Childs** and **William Chapin Child II** did not share a common ancestor in the last 1 generation(s).

Markers: 12 Display every 4 generations. RECALCULATE

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## FTDNA Tip at 25 markers

In comparing Y-DNA 25 marker results, the probability that **Gerald Linwood Childs** and **William Chapin Child II** shared a common ancestor within the last...

COMPARISON CHART

| Generations | Percentage |
|---|---|
| 4 | 61.17% |
| 8 | 84.92% |
| 12 | 94.15% |
| 16 | 97.73% |
| 20 | 99.12% |
| 24 | 99.66% |

**Refine your results with paper trail input**

If traditional genealogical records indicate that a common ancestor between you and your match could not have lived in a certain number of past generations, your TiP results can be refined. Note, if you are not sure of this information, you should not change the value of "1" below.
Note: "0" or negative values are not accepted in the generations field.

**Gerald Linwood Childs** and **William Chapin Child II** did not share a common ancestor in the last 1 generation(s).

Markers: 25 Display every 4 generations. RECALCULATE

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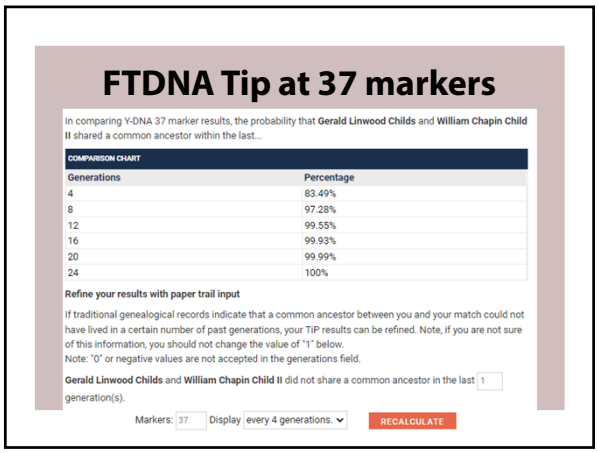


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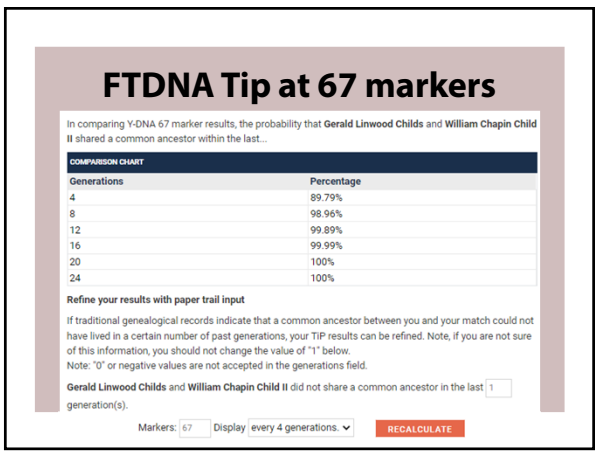


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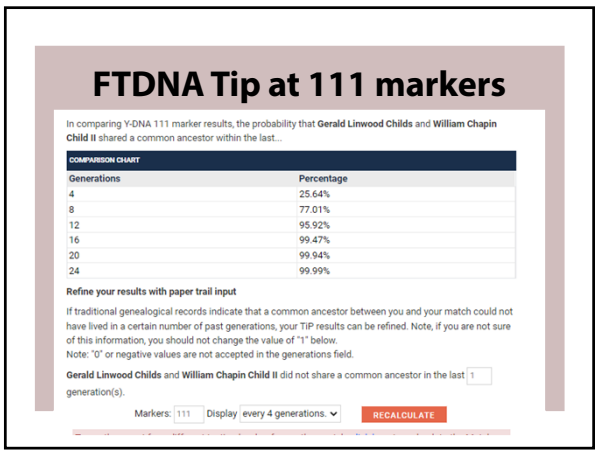


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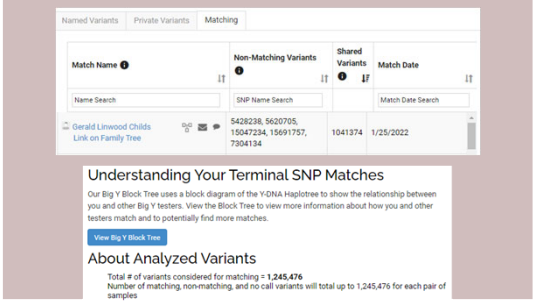
## Big Y Shared Variants

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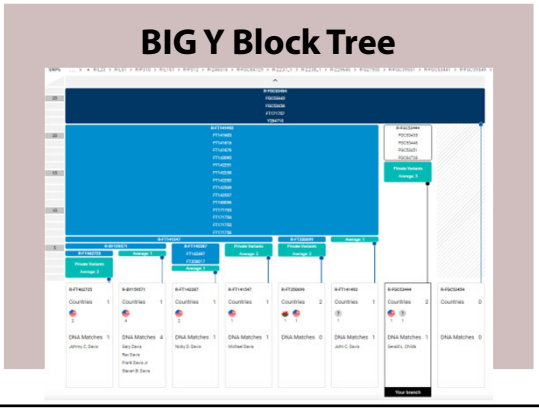
## BIG Y Block Tree



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## Less shared DNA for known kinship

**Child Cousins**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ephraim Child (1683-1756) | |
| Ephraim Child, Jr. | Henry Child |
| Inrease Child | Willard Child |
| Mark Anthony Child | Luther Child |
| Alfred Bosworth Child | Asa Thurston Child |
| Orville Rennsalaer Child | Henry Thurston Child |
| William Alfred Child | William Chapin Child |
| William Warren Child | Henry Thurston Child II |
| Kenneth William Child | William Chapin Child II |
| Rex Brown Child | **Christopher C. Child** |
| **Kelly Boisen Child** | |

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## Kelly's matches

12 MARKERS - 9 - MATCHES

| Genetic Distance ↑ | Name | Earliest Known Ancestor | Y-DNA Haplogroup | Terminal SNP | Match Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Milton K Bass Y-DNA37 | Benjamin Bass b. 1736 d.1791 | R-M269 | | 2/13/2018 |
| 0 | Gary Nolan Bass II Y-DNA37 FF | | R-M269 | | 2/8/2018 |
| 0 | Duane Phillip Bass Jr. Y-DNA111 | James Bass Sr 1710-1771 m. Mary Lanier 1713-1804 | R-M269 | | 8/10/2016 |
| 0 | John Bass Y-DNA67 FF | | R-M269 | | 5/19/2016 |
| 0 | Thomas Van Nathan Bass Sr. Y-DNA25 | Humphry Basse 1656, London , England | R-M269 | | 5/10/2007 |
| 0 | Thomas Van Nathan Bass Jr. Y-DNA12 | | R-M269 | | 12/5/2006 |
| 0 | Willard Dewey Bass Y-DNA12 | | R-M269 | | 8/2/2006 |
| 0 | William Carlton Bass Y-DNA37 | | R-M269 | | 2/10/2006 |
| 0 | Davis | Claude Jackson Davis. US | R-P25 | P25 | 10/10/2005 |

Download CSV

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## My Matches

12 MARKERS - 46 - MATCHES

Page: 1 2 of 2

| Genetic Distance | Name | Earliest Known Ancestor | Y-DNA Haplogroup | Terminal SNP | Match Date ↑ |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Lyle Daniel Ward Y-DNA37 | Isaac Ward b. 1802 d. 1826 | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |
| 0 | Tad D Hendricks Y-DNA37 | Hendrick Willemz, b abt 1637, Barnevald Netherlan | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |
| 0 | Henry Jr... Alva Hughes Y-DNA67 | Meredith Marshall Hughes | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |
| 0 | Deborah Walsh Y-DNA37 | | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |
| 0 | Wayland Marvin Hughes Y-DNA67 | Meredith Marshall Hughes, b1823 d 1910 | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |
| 0 | William A. Hughes Y-DNA67 FF | Meredith Marshall, b 1823 in KY, d 1910 TX | R-M269 | | 2/13/2006 |

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## A mutually distant cousin

Wolstone Child (d. 1600/1) of London, England

| | |
|---|---|
| Benjamin Child | Joshua Child |
| Benjamin Child of Roxbury, MA | John Child of Watertown, MA |
| Benjamin Child | Daniel Child |
| Ephraim Child (1683-1756) | David Child |
| Ephraim Child, Jr. / Henry Child | David Child, Jr. |
| Inrease Child | Willard Child |
| Mark Anthony Child | Luther Child |
| Alfred Bosworth Child | Asa Thurston Child |
| Orville Rennsalaer Child | Henry Thurston Child |
| William Alfred Child | William Chapin Child |
| William Warren Child | Henry Thurston Child II |
| Kenneth William Child | William Chapin Child II |
| Rex Brown Child | **Christopher C. Child** |
| **Kelly Boisen Child** | |

| | |
|---|---|
| Thomas Child | |
| Solomon Proctor Child | |
| Carl Louis Child | |
| Carl Henry Child | |
| **Proctor Louis Child** | |

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## Pat's matches

37 MARKERS - 29 - MATCHES

Page: 1 2 of 2

| Genetic Distance | Name | Earliest Known Ancestor | Y-DNA Haplogroup | Terminal SNP | Match Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2 | Christopher Challender Child<br>Y-DNA37 | Christopher Child | R-M269 | | 4/4/2006 |

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## An "in-between" cousin

Wolstone Child (d. 1600/1) of London, England

Benjamin Child

Benjamin Child of Roxbury, MA

Benjamin Child

Ephraim Child (1683-1756)

Ephraim Child, Jr.

Increase Child

Mark Anthony Child

Alfred Bosworth Child

John Lonson Child

John Columbus Child

John Child

John Theodore Child

**Paul Lorin Child**

Orville Rennsalaer Child

William Alfred Child

William Warren Child

Kenneth William Child

Rex Brown Child

**Kelly Boisen Child**

Henry Child

Willard Child

Luther Child

Asa Thurston Child

Henry Thurston Child

William Chapin Child

Henry Thurston Child II

William Chapin Child II

**Christopher C. Child**

Joshua Child

John Child of Watertown, MA

Daniel Child

David Child

David Child, Jr.

Thomas Child

Solomon Proctor Child

Carl Louis Child

Carl Henry Child

**Proctor Louis Child**

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## Paul's matches

37 MARKERS - 10 - MATCHES

| Genetic Distance | Name | Earliest Known Ancestor | Y-DNA Haplogroup | Terminal SNP | Match Date |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Proctor Louis Child<br>Y-DNA37 | | R-M269 | M269 | 5/8/2007 |
| 3 | Christopher Challender Child<br>Y-DNA37 | Christopher Child | R-M269 | | 5/8/2007 |
| 4 | Mr. Kelly Boisen Child<br>Y-DNA37 | | R-M269 | | 5/8/2007 |

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## A riddle!

- Kelly does not match Chris or Pat
- Chris and Pat match each other
- Paul matches, Chris, Pat, and Kelly!

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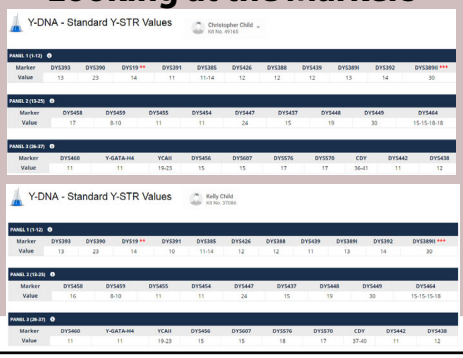
## Looking at the Markers

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## Look at the Markers

- Chris and Pat (9th cousins 2x rem) 35/37
- Paul and Pat (9th cousins 3x rem) 36/37
- Paul and Chris (8th cousins) 34/37
- Paul and Kelly (4th cousins 1x rem) 33/37
- Kelly and Chris (8th cousins 1x rem) 30/37
- Kelly and Pat (9th cousins 4x rem) 32/37

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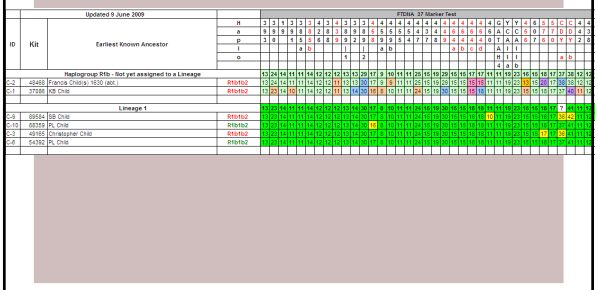
## Quickly Mutating DNA?



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## Conclusions

- Mutations can occur at any generation
- Sometimes each generation can have a mutation
- Some lines may have more "rapidly" mutating markers than what is on average
- All four Child men were agnately related, just not at the level predicted by FamilyTreeDNA

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# "Traditional" Y-DNA Studies

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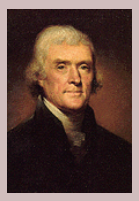
## Thomas Jefferson & Sally Hemings

- First reported in the tabloid press in 1802
- Denied by Jefferson's white family with factually inaccurate claims
- DNA testing done in 1998



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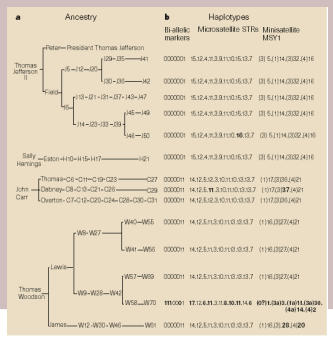
## 25 Marker Results

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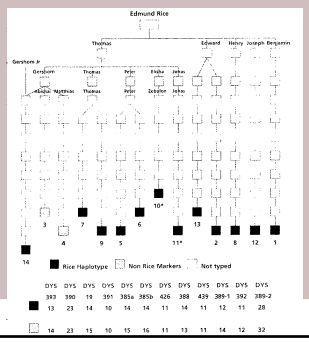
## Misattributed genealogy

**Rice DNA Project – 2nd and 3rd son different Y sequence, but the same sequence**

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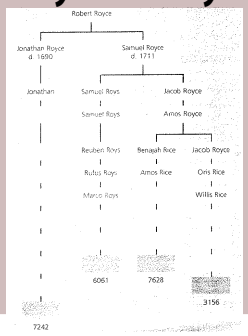
## Royce Family?

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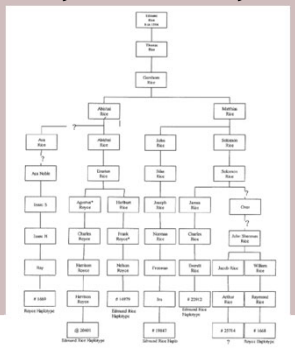
## Yes, actually it is the Royce Family!



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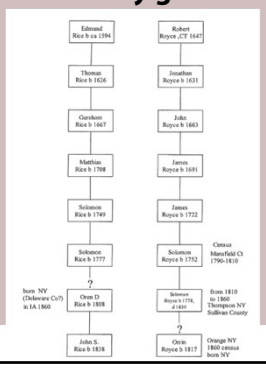
## Similar names many generations later

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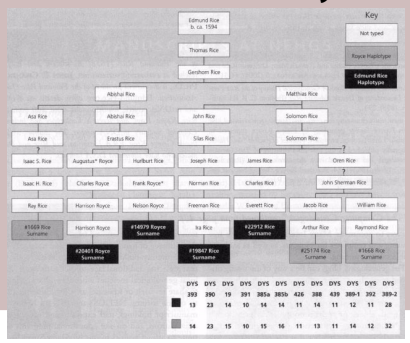
## Rice DNA study

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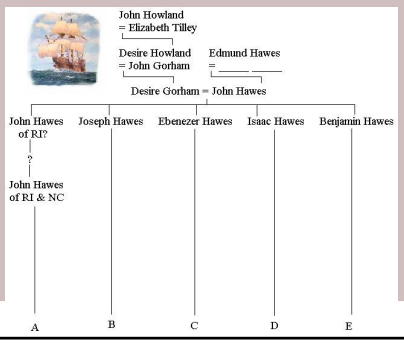
## Hawes Family of New England

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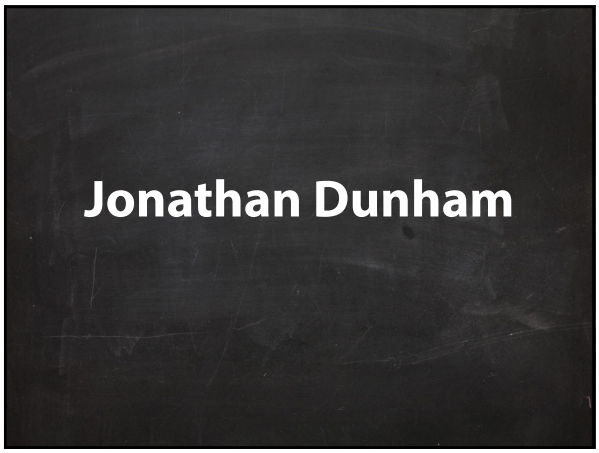
Jonathan Dunham

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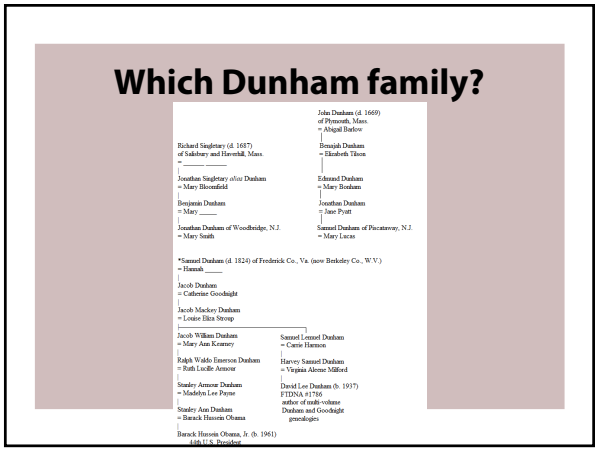
Which Dunham family?
Richard Singletary (d. 1687)
of Salisbury and Haverhill, Mass.
= _____ _____
Jonathan Singletary alias Dunham
= Mary Bloomfield
Benjamin Dunham
= Mary _____
Jonathan Dunham of Woodbridge, N.J.
= Mary Smith
John Dunham (d. 1669)
of Plymouth, Mass.
= Abigail Barlow
Benajah Dunham
= Elizabeth Tilson
Edmund Dunham
= Mary Bonham
Joseph Dunham
= Jane Pyatt
Samuel Dunham of Piscataway, N.J.
= Mary Lucas
*Samuel Dunham (d. 1824) of Frederick Co., Va. (now Berkeley Co., W.V.)
= Hannah _____
Jacob Dunham
= Catherine Goodnight
Jacob Mackey Dunham
= Louise Eliza Stroup
Jacob William Dunham
= Mary Ann Kearney
Ralph Waldo Emerson Dunham
= Ruth Lucille Armour
Stanley Armour Dunham
= Madelyn Lee Payne
Stanley Ann Dunham
= Barack Hussein Obama
Barack Hussein Obama, Jr. (b. 1961)
44th U.S. President
Samuel Lemuel Dunham
= Carrie Harmon
Harvey Samuel Dunham
= Virginia Aleene Milford
David Lee Dunham (b. 1937)
FTDNA #1786
author of multi-volume
Dunham and Goodnight
genealogies

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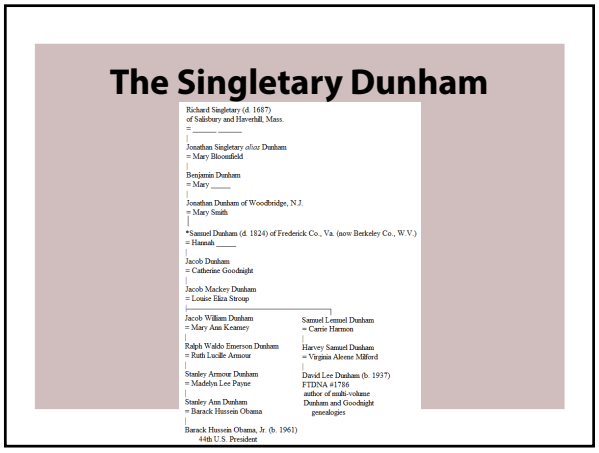
The Singletary Dunham
Richard Singletary (d. 1687)
of Salisbury and Haverhill, Mass.
= _____ _____
Jonathan Singletary alias Dunham
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Dunham and Goodnight
genealogies

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# Adoniram Allen

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## Adoniram Allen (ca. 1751-aft. 1830)

- Lived in North and South Carolina and Kentucky
- David Allen (b. 1712/3), born Suffield, Conn., later of Hanover, N.J., had a brother Adoniram that died young
- A David Allen, from New Jersey, was in Surry County, North Carolina by 1771, with two other Allen men of age to be his sons

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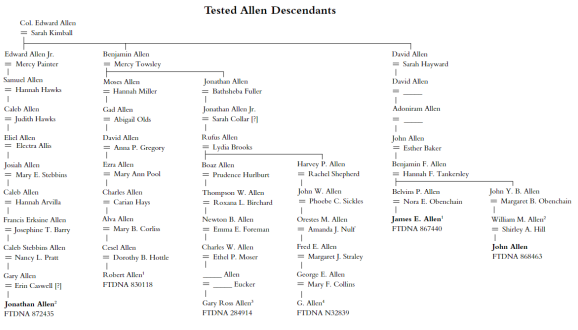
## Y-DNA

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## Extreme examples – the impossibility of finding a clear answer

- Y-Chromosome mismatch between the 5th Duke of Beaufort and Richard III
- 5 Generations from Richard III to Edward III, 16 from the Duke to Edward III
- 19 possible places of "false-paternity"

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## Lt. John Sprague

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## John Sprague's Matches

| Genetic Distance | Name | Earliest Known Ancestor | Y-DNA Haplogroup |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | Michael Alan Sprague Y-DNA67 | Francis Sprague, London, England | R-M269 |
| 1 | Daniel Mason Fuller Y-DNA111 FF Big Y | Edward Fuller b1575 and d.1621 | R-FT14518 |
| 1 | William Joseph Holbrook Y-DNA111 | | R-M269 |
| 2 | Mr. Ted Ames Fuller Y-DNA111 FF | John Fuller b 1400 (John! 1778-1849) | R-M269 |
| 2 | Jim Fuller Y-DNA111 FF Big Y | Lorenzo Dow Fuller, b. 1848 in NY. | R-Y88587 |
| 2 | Robert Fuller Y-DNA111 FF Big Y | | R-FT14518 |
| 2 | Mr. Charles Alonzo Fuller Y-DNA67 | | R-M269 |
| 2 | Eric Raymond Fuller Y-DNA111 FF Big Y | Edward Fuller 1575-1620 Redenhall, Norfolk, Engan | R-Y85916 |
| 2 | Emmett Fuller Y-DNA111 FF Big Y | Eli Fuller 1766-1828 | R-FT14518 |
| 2 | Robert Christopher Fuller Y-DNA111 | Jonathan Fuller b:1785 Mass. d:1853 SaratogaCty, N | R-M269 |
| 2 | Mr. Lahem Ray Fuller Y-DNA111 | | R-M269 |
| 2 | Bruce Larry Fuller Y-DNA67 | Benjamin Fuller b ca 1775 Washington Co., NY | R-M269 |
| 2 | David Richard Fuller Y-DNA111 | Benjamin Fuller b.c.1775 | R-M269 |
| 3 | Patrick Lynch Y-DNA67 FF | Daniel J Lynch, B: 1885 & D: 1966 | R-M269 |
| 3 | David W Fuller | Edward Fuller, b. 1575 and d. 1620 | R-M269 |

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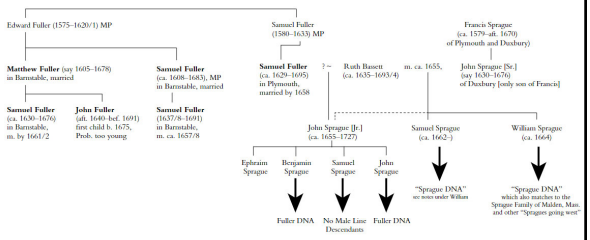
## Y-DNA

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## The Fuller Big-Y Study

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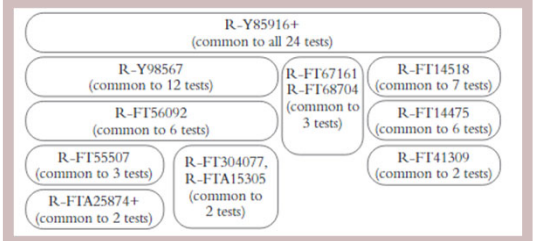
## FTDNA Haplotree and BigY Results

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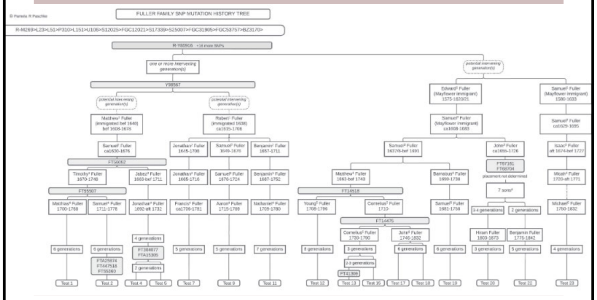
## A massive Big-Y study



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## QUESTIONS?

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## mtDNA Unexpected Results

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## Basics of mtDNA

- mtDNA is inherited from a person's mother
- Matrilineal-related people (even several generations back) share the same mtDNA markers
- People who do not share the same markers are not matrilinealy related within recorded history (a few centuries)
- Most cases involve the solicitation of many people and existing descendants who have already participated

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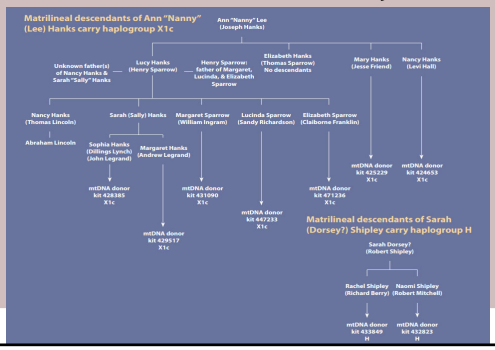
## Lincoln DNA Study

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## When something might be off . . .

- Known, tested kin not showing up as a match
- Haplogroups of a different region than your research indicates (could be pre-1492)

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## A different than expected haploroup

Tableau de descendance matrilinéaire - Matrilinear Outline Genealogies

*Catherine Pillard*

(Pierre Charron dit Ducharme m. 1665-10-19 Montréal, Qc)

| Nicole Boutin | John Croteau |
|---|---|
| Catherine CHARRON DUCHARME (François Chagnon 1678-07-23 Contrecoeur, Qc) | Marie Louise CHARRON DUCHARME (Michel Colin 1703-02-19 Longueuil, Qc) |
| Marie Angélique CHAGNON (François Benoit 1711-02-07 Ile Bouchard, Qc) | Marie Madeleine COLIN dit Laliberté (Charles Charron 1738-02-08 St-Sulpice, Qc) |
| Marie Antoinette BENOIT-LIVERNOIS (Jean-Bte Leduc 1738-10-04 Verchères, Qc) | Marie Judith CHARON dit Larose-Cabana (Gabriel Godu 1763-01-24 Verchères, Qc) |
| Marie Angélique LEDUC (Louis Langevin 1760-10-06 Verchères, Qc) | Marie Judith GODU (Jean-Baptiste Vachon 1780-06-30 St-Mathias, Qc) |
| Angélique LANGEVIN (Joseph Dansereau 1777-11-24 Verchères, Qc) | Marie Judith VACHON (François X Delpé 1830-02-22 St-Hyacinthe, Qc) |
| Marguerite DANSEREAU (Augustin Guyon 1811-10-14 Verchères, Qc) | Angélique DALPÉ dit Parseau (Louis Mérard Minor 1853-06-04 St-Albans, VT) |
| Marguerite GUYON dit Dion (Olivier Cordeau 1844-08-20 Verchères, Qc) | Sophie MINOR (Frederic A. Johnson 1888-04-02 Hillbury, MA) |
| Delphine CORDEAU Camille Daigneault 1877-07-04 St-Dominique, Qc) | Dorothy JOHNSON (George Elmer Brady 1928 Hillbury, MA) |
| Marie Yvonne DAIGNEAULT (Arthur Richard 1920-02-11 St-Hyacinthe, Qc) | Betty Ann BRADY (Bernard Croteau 1952-08-09 Auburn, MA) |
| Thérèse RICHARD (Pierre Boutin 1951-08-04 Vaudreuil, Qc) | John CROTEAU Worcester (MA) |
| Nicole BOUTIN Dean River (ON) | |

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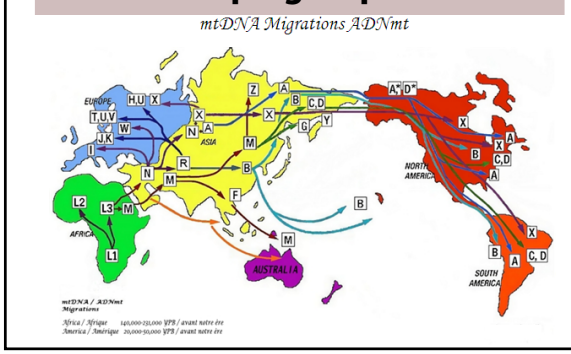
## Haplogroup A

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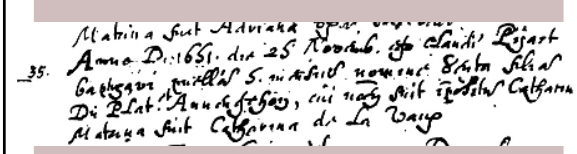
## Catherine Pillard = 8enta, daughter of Du Plat and Annengthon (Hurons) ???



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## X Chromosome

- Not viewable on Ancestry.com
- Viewable for matches on 23andme, familytreedna (planned for MyHeritage)
- Ethnicity estimates only available on 23andme

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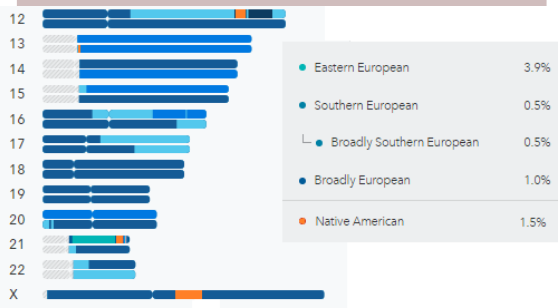
## Why ethnicity along the x can be useful

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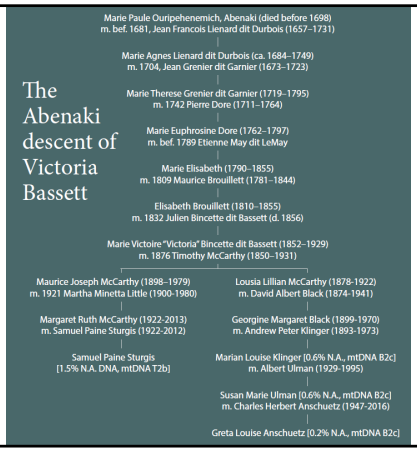


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Tip

mtDNA research will not be applicable for many challenges involving female ancestors (or your own is "useless")

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# Esther (Dyer) Flanders

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## Esther Dyer of Braintree, Vermont

- Born Vermont, about 1790
- Married Braintree, Vermont, 1814, George Flanders, and moved to New York
- In later censuses, Esther lived with Tarrant Dyer, a grandson of Ichabod Dyer, Sr. of Braintree, Vermont
- Based on the 1800 censuses, Esther could be a daughter of Ichabod Dyer, Jr., or his eldest son Ichabod Dyer, Jr.

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## Which family does Esther belong to?

Ichabod Dyer, Sr. (1745-1828)
= Mary Jones (1746-1820)

Ichabod Dyer, Jr. (ca. 1766-1856/7)
= Pheba Nichols (1772-1814)

Samel Dyer (1774-bef. 1870)
= Betsey Gleason (ca. 1783-bef. 1865)

Tarrant King Dyer (1799-1881)

Esther Dyer (ca. 1790-1876)
= George Flanders

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## Matrilineal descendants

Margaret _____
= William Nichols

Priscilla Mullins of the *Mayflower*
= John Alden

3 generations

3 generations

Mary Jones (1746-1820)
= Ichabod Dyer, Sr. (1745-1828)

Esther Dyer (ca. 1790-1876)
= George Flanders

Pheba Nichols (1772-1814) = Ichabod Dyer, Jr. (ca. 1766-1856/7)

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## Matrilineal descendants

Margaret _____
= William Nichols

Priscilla Mullins of the *Mayflower*
= John Alden

Mary Nichols

Hannah Nichols

Ruth Alden

Elizabeth

Sarah

Rebecca

2 generations

Haplogroup H27a

3 generations

Mary Jones
= Ichabod Dyer, Sr.

mtDNA participants
haplo - H6a1a9

Pheba Nichols = Ichabod Dyer, Jr.

Mary Dyer

Esther Dyer
= George Flanders

Polly Dyer

5 generations

6 generations

5 generations

Pheba Nichols
mtDNA

Mary Jones
mtDNA

Esther Dyer
mtDNA

66

## Expected Conclusions

- Matrilineal descendants of Phebe Nichols should match descendants of Margaret (_____) Nichols
- Matrilineal descendants of Mary Jones should match descendants of Priscilla Mullins
- Matrilineal descendants of Esther Dyer should match one of these two groups
- If Esther's descendants match the Nichols bunch, she was a daughter of Phebe Nichols and Ichabod Dyer, Jr.
- If Esther's descendants match the Mullins/Alden bunch, she was a daughter of Mary Jones & Ichabod Dyer, Sr.

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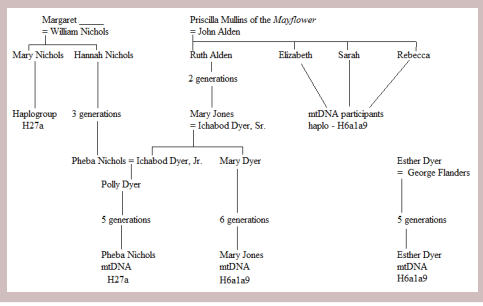
## Results!

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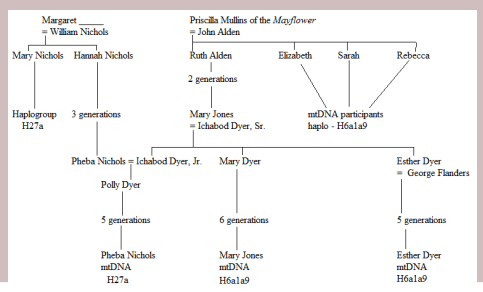
## Esther Dyer is a daughter of Ichabod Dyer, Sr. and Molly Jones

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Tip

Be aware of "recent surprises" that may be learned when soliciting living people

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## Mrs. Daniel Doane ("Constant Snow")

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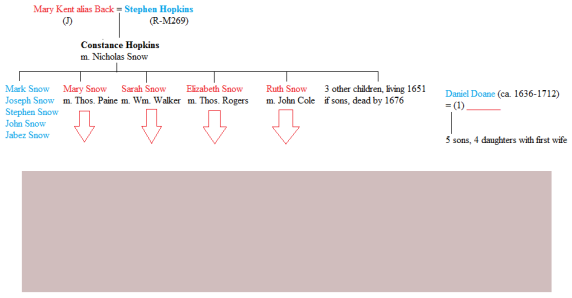
## Bradford's list, J. Paine's claim

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## Other Doane items

John Snow (ca. 1638-1692) = Mary Smalley = Ephraim Doane
grandson of Stephen Hopkins

- Hannah Snow (b. 1670) poss. m. Hezekiah Doane a step-brother 5 sons, 4 daus.
- Abigail Snow prob. m. Daniel Small 6 sons, 2 dau.
- Rebecca Snow m. Benjamin Smalley sons and 3 surv. daus.
- other sons and daughters without mt descendants

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## Mrs. Priscilla Ramsdell

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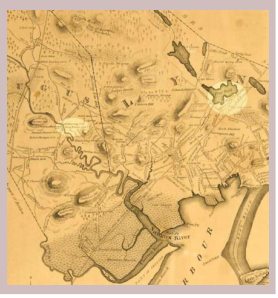
## Priscilla (_____?) Ramsdell

- Married possibly by 1648 to John Ramsdell of Lynn, MA
- Names son Aquila
- Some interactions with the family of Oliver Purchase of Lynn (son of Aquila)
- Could Priscilla be Oliver's sister?



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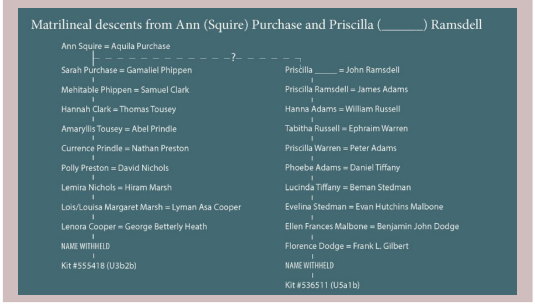
## Tracing matrilineal descendants

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## Going Fishing!

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## Mrs. Hester Daniels of Sherborn, MA

- Hester marries Robert Daniel(s), about 1693
- Matrilineal descendant take mtDNA test on FamilyTreeDNA
- Until this point, only theory on Hester's maiden name has been shown to be demonstrably false.

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## Morse Family of Medfield, Mass.

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## Review

1. YDNA results are most effective when there is a plausible candidate or other candidates are not patrilinealy related. Big Y Studies offer more "open ended" possibilities if in-between generations are unknown
2. mtDNA studies in certain situations, can be more specific at which point a surname enters a generation, to corroborate or dismiss competing theories

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## QUESTIONS?

**Hire Research Services**
*research@nehgs.org*

**Chat with a Genealogist**
*AmericanAncestors.org/chat*

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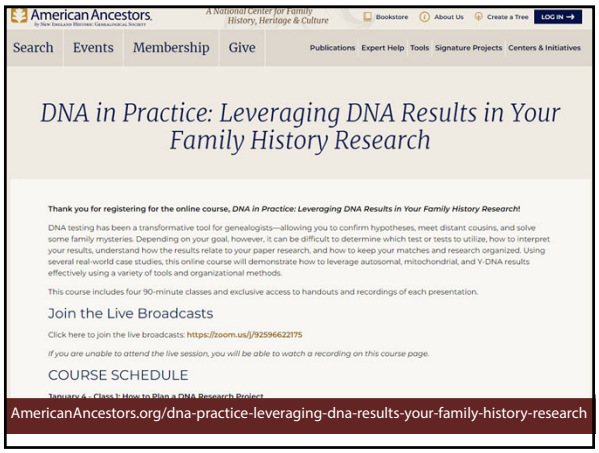
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DNA testing has been a transformative tool for genealogists—allowing you to confirm hypotheses, meet distant cousins, and solve some family mysteries. Depending on your goal, however, it can be difficult to determine which test or tests to utilize, how to interpret your results, understand how the results relate to your paper research, and how to keep your matches and research organized. Using several real-world case studies, this online course will demonstrate how to leverage autosomal, mitochondrial, and Y-DNA results effectively using a variety of tools and organizational methods.
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COURSE SCHEDULE
AmericanAncestors.org/dna-practice-leveraging-dna-results-your-family-history-research

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THANK YOU!
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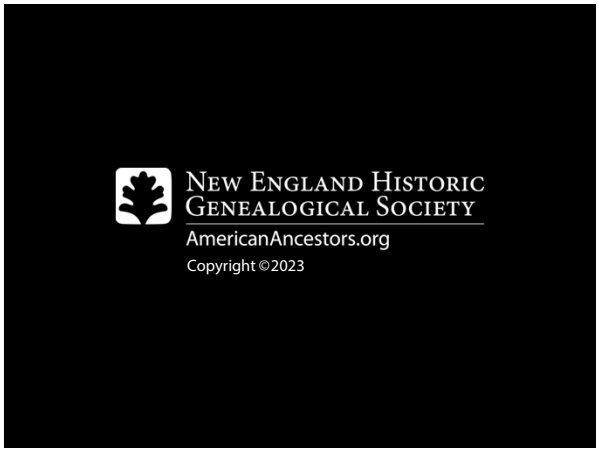
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