

Basics of Early New England Research

*Class 5: Breaking Down Genealogical
Brick Walls in 17th-century New England*

Christopher C. Child, Senior Genealogist of the Newbury Street Press

THE BRUE FAMILY LEARNING CENTER



American Ancestors®
by NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

Meet today's presenter



Christopher C. Child
Senior Genealogist of the
Newbury Street Press

OVERVIEW

- **Presentation (60 mins.)**
 - Using onomastic evidence
 - Tackling various genealogical challenges
 - DNA Case study
- **Q&A (30 mins.)**



Voice of
Christopher C. Child
Senior Genealogist

General Considerations

- You may not find one “smoking-gun” record
- You may need to rely on several records to build a case
- Some records may be less reliable than others
- “A” may lead to “B,” which might lead to “C” and then back to “A” (or more)
- May have working several working theories

Tip

Stay organized!

Using Onomastic Evidence

Onomastic Evidence

- Some cultures may have defined naming patterns, while others may be less rigid
- Surnames as first names or less common first names can be clues of earlier kinships and origins
- Can be circumstantial evidence, but can be a starting point or provide a working theory

Jonathan Pinney of Plymouth, VT

- Was he really born in England?
- Evaluate names from wife's family
- Disregard very common names (usually)
- Had sons John and Jonathan
- Sons Solomon, Amial, and "Deline"

308 EARLY FAMILIES OF PLYMOUTH, VERMONT

JONATHAN¹ PINNEY

JONATHAN¹ PINNEY, b. _____ in England; d. 1812, Plymouth, Vt. and is buried in Plymouth Notch, is supposed to have emigrated from England about 1760 and settled in Guilford, Vt. He m. Priscilla Grover of that town who was b. Apr. 2, 1757, Killingly, Ct.; d. 1820, Plymouth, Vt. Jonathan Pinney learned the trade of carpenter and joiner in England, serving the required seven years with a master. He came from Guilford to Plymouth about the year 1800 settling in a valley in the northern part of the town, to which he gave the name of "Pinney Hollow." They had eleven children, all of whom were born in Guilford and came with their parents to Plymouth, Vt. Jonathan Pinney served in the Revolutionary War.

Issue of Jonathan¹ Pinney and Priscilla (Grover) Pinney:

1. Lizzie² Pinney.
2. John² Pinney. Settled in Boone, N. Y.
3. Jonathan² Pinney, b. Oct. 22, 1779; d. Mar. 2, 1844.
4. Eleazer² Pinney, m. Sept. 20, 1802
5. Priscilla² Pinney, b. _____; d. Oct
6. Solomon² Pinney, b. Nov. 9, 1787, Guilford, Vt.
7. Horatio² Pinney, b. Aug. 25, 1789
8. Gracia² Pinney, b. 1790; d. 1876;
9. Amial² Pinney.
10. Joel² Pinney.
11. Deline² Pinney, d. young.

Delano Pinney

Full Name of Deceased	Helana Pinney		
Age	20 Yrs.	Mos.	Days
Date of Birth			
Names of Parents	Johnathan & Priscilla Pinney		
Name of Husband or wife, if married			
Date of Death			
Name of Cemetery	Plymouth Notch		
Remarks			
A True Copy		Attest: Floyd T. Hadley	
A True Copy		Attest: Vernie S. Moore	
June 30		1921	
		Town Clerk of Plymouth	

John Penney and Elizabeth Delano

PENNEY, John [int. Penny] of Harwich and Elizabeth Delano
[int. Deleno], Oct. 15, 1741. [Penny of Harwich and Eliz-
a[beth] Dellano, P.C.R.]

NYGBR, 2002

- John Penny had a nephew named Amial
- Elizabeth Delano was the daughter and sister of a Jonathan Delano
- Moved to Dutchess Co., N.Y. in 1750s, John died soon after
- Moved back to Mass.; Elizabeth married (2) David Ayres (who had son Solomon)
- Moved with married Penny daughters to Plymouth, Vt.!

2002] *The Penn(e)ys of Harwich, Massachusetts, and Upstate New York* 8

ii. John, b. 15 Jan. 1720/1, d. prob. South Precinct, bet. June 1756 and Feb. 1757; m. Rochester, Plymouth Co., Mass., 15 Oct. (int. Harwich, 15 Aug.) 1741, Elizabeth Delano, b. Rochester, 11 Nov. 1725, d. Warwick, Hampshire Co., Mass., or Guilford, Windham Co., Vt., after 5 Sept. 1760, daughter of Jonathan and Elizabeth (Winslow) Delano.^[14] Elizabeth Penny was admitted to the Harwich Church on 13 June 1742.^[15] John appears on South Precinct tax lists through June 1756 but not that of Feb. 1757 or thereafter.^[16] Their respective burial sites are unknown.

Soon after John Penny's death, widow Elizabeth went to live in New Braintree, Worcester Co., Mass., home of her sister Hannah (Mrs. Sampson) Wetherell and their late brother Jonathan Delano.^[17] There on 20 April 1757 she married, as his second wife, David Ayres.^[18] When on 5 Sept. 1760 David Ayres of Roxbury Canada (Warwick, 1763) sold "the [New Braintree] farm where I lately dwell," Elizabeth relinquished her dower right.^[19] Subsequent records fail to establish whether she lived to accompany Ayers from Warwick to Guilford, where he settled in 1770 (and died, prob. 1792).^[20]

Children (Penny), 1-3 b. Harwich:^[21] 1. *Judab/Judith*³, bap. 24 Oct. 1742, res. Guilford, 1791; m. New Braintree, 23 Nov. 1758, Barnabas Russell.^[22] 2. *Hannah*, bap. 23 Sept. 1744; no further record. 3. *John*, bap. 24 June 1747; no further record. 4. *Elizabeth*, b. South Precinct, c.Apr. 1753, d. Guilford, 8 Feb. 1796, aged 42y 10m; m. Petersham, Worcester Co., Mass., 1 Nov. (int. 25 Aug.) 1775, Abel Whitney.^[23] 5. (unlikely) *Capt. John* (see 2.vii). Perhaps others.

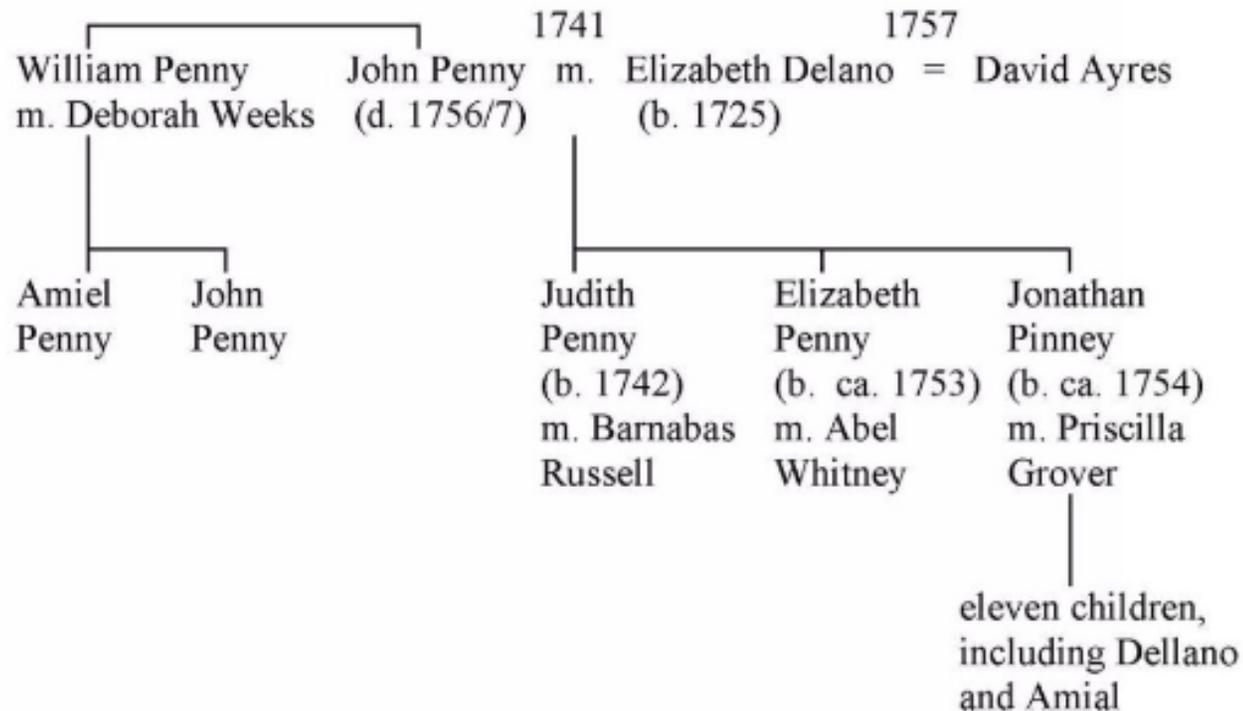
Jonathan Pinney of Plymouth, Vermont; only one still named Penney/Pinney

2009]

Identifying Jonathan Pinney

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PENNY/PINNEY FAMILY



Caswell & Shaw Families of CT

- Ebenezer Rogers of Norwich, CT & Albion, NY

Ebenezer Rogers Bible
Town of Albion, N.Y.
Printed 1823

Present Owner: Mrs. Burt Griswold
West State St., Albion, N.Y.

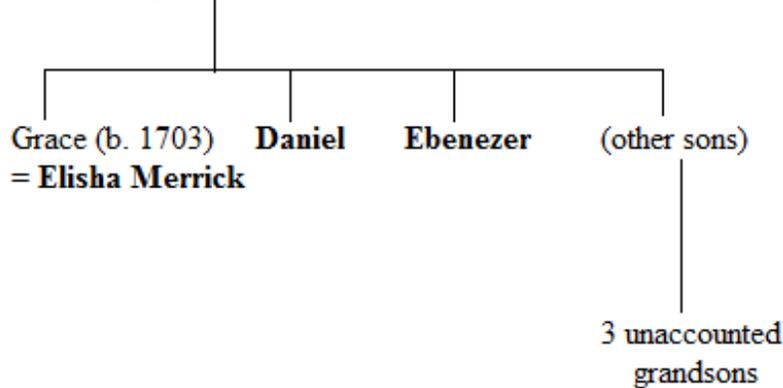
Ebenezer Rogers b Oct 3, 1769
Betsy Lyman b Nov 15, 1771 (wife of E) d Aug 28, 1849
Ebenezer Rogers m Silvia Roberts Feb 12, 1850

Loose page, very old paper:

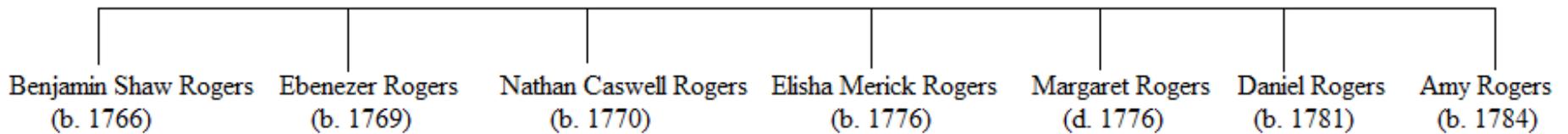
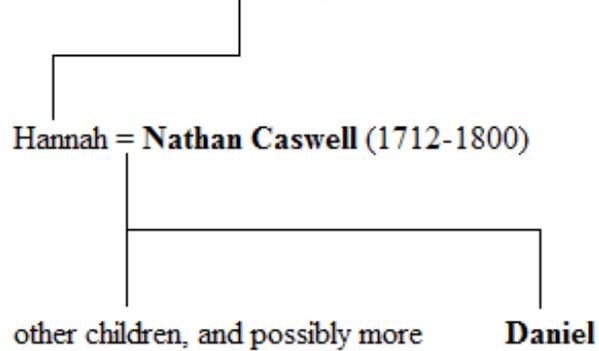
Benjamin Shaw Rogers	b Apr 22, 1756	
Ebenezer Rogers	b Oct 3, 1769	d Jan 28, 1855
Nathan Caswell Rogers	b Oct 11, 1770	
Elisha Merick	b 1776	
Margret Rogers	d 1776	
Daniel	b Jan 16, 1781	
Amy	b Apr 3, 1784	

Rogers, Merrick, Shaw, and Caswell Families of Norwich, CT

Daniel Rogers = Grace Williams



Benjamin Shaw = Margaret Dean

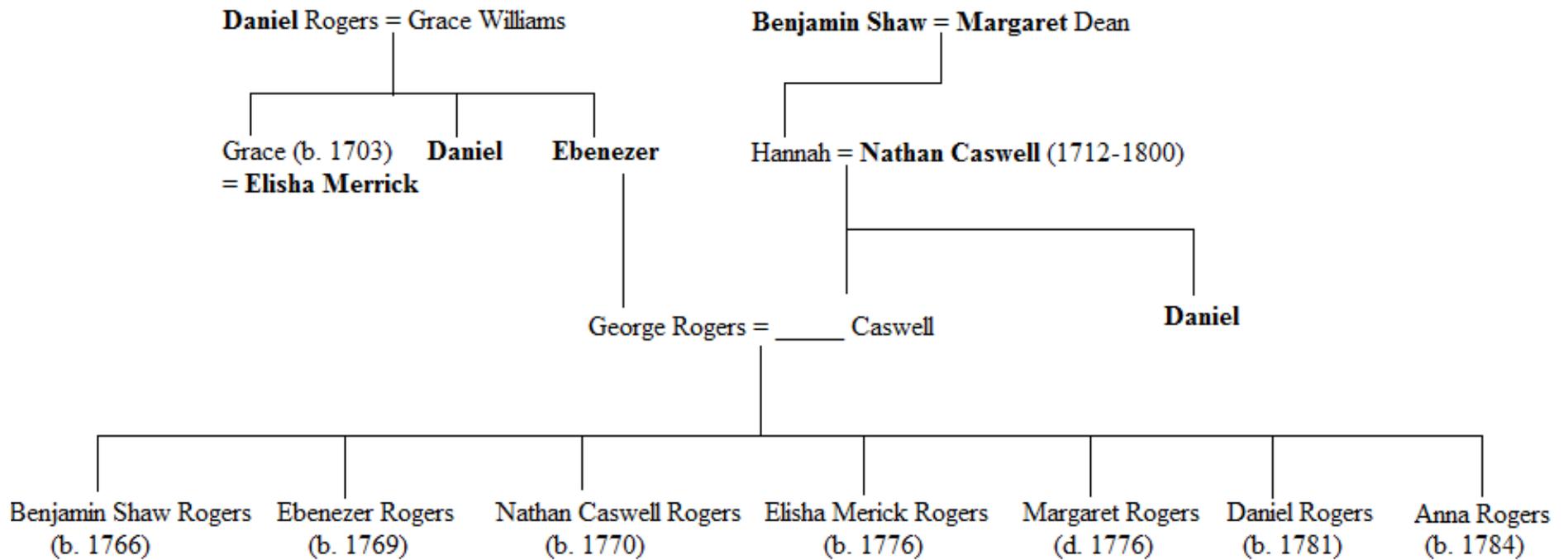


George Rogers of Whatley, MA

to my beloved wife Ann my whole estate both real and personal to have and to hold during her natural life & no longer. Then after her decease I will and bequeath that my son Daniel shall have the whole of my real estate that shall then remain, to have and to hold to him his heirs and assigns forever. I also give and bequeath to my daughter Anne Starks the wife of John Starks the whole of my household furniture after my wife's decease to have and to hold to her, her heirs and assigns forever. I also give and bequeath to my son Benjamin Shew one dollar to be paid within one year after my decease by my executor. I also give and bequeath to my son Eleaner George one dollar to be paid within one year after my decease by my Executor. I also give and bequeath to my son Nathan Caswell one dollar to be paid within one year after my decease by my Executor. I also give and bequeath to my son Elisha Merrick one dollar to be paid within one year after my decease by my executor. I also hereby name, make, constitute and ordain my son Daniel sole Executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal, the day and year above written.

George Rogers Seal

George Rogers family



Tip

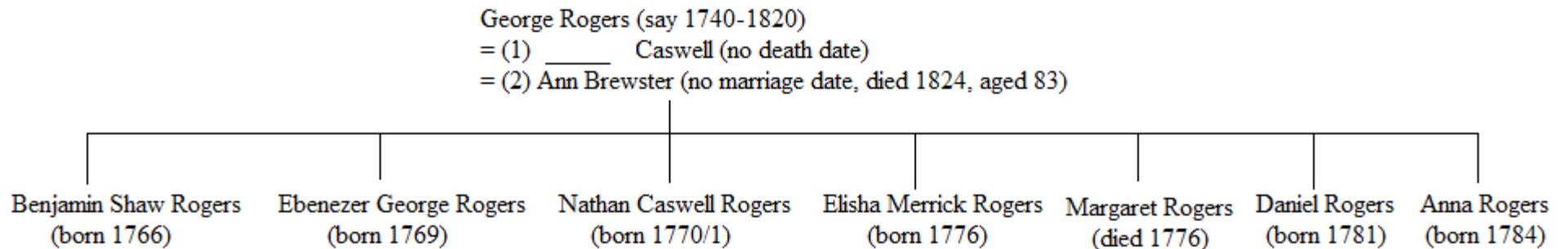
Naming patterns are not
always a guarantee
of kinship.

Challenge:
**Determining maternity
when a father has
two wives**

Challenges

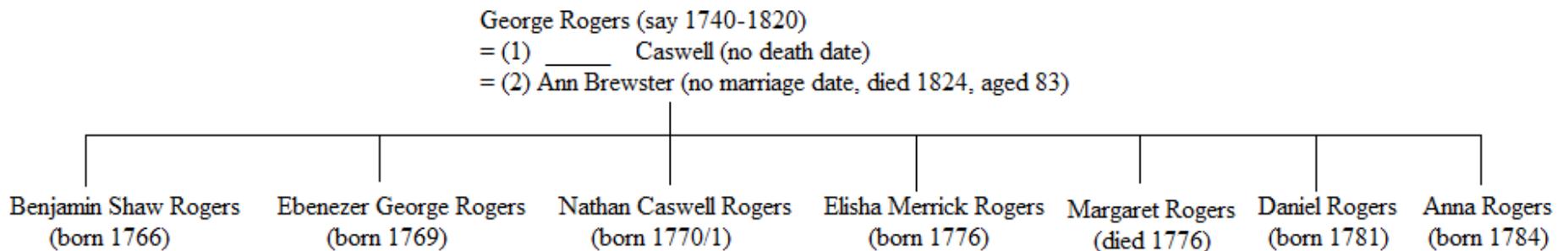
- Sometimes a man may be married to two women with the same first name, two sisters, or even (rarely) women who have the same full name!
- Researching a complete timeline with probate, land records, military, pensions, or any possible record
- Following leads on family members of male subject and both of his wives

Land Records and naming patterns

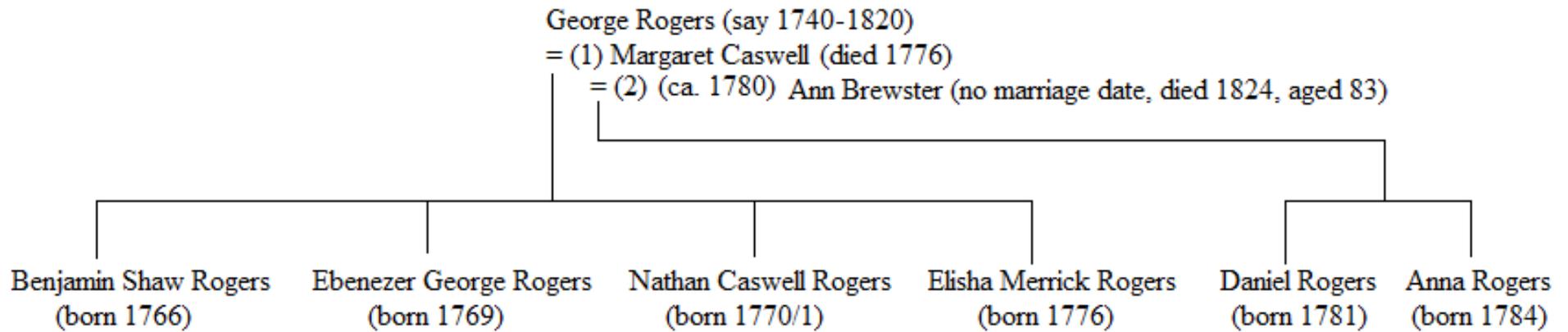


Key Documents

- Probate Record of Ann Brewster's brother Daniel Brewster in 1779 lists sister Ann as still single
- Lebanon Land Records, 1781, "George and Ann Rogers," sell land to Elijah Hyde, Jr.
- 1776 Death date of Margaret: sibling or mother?



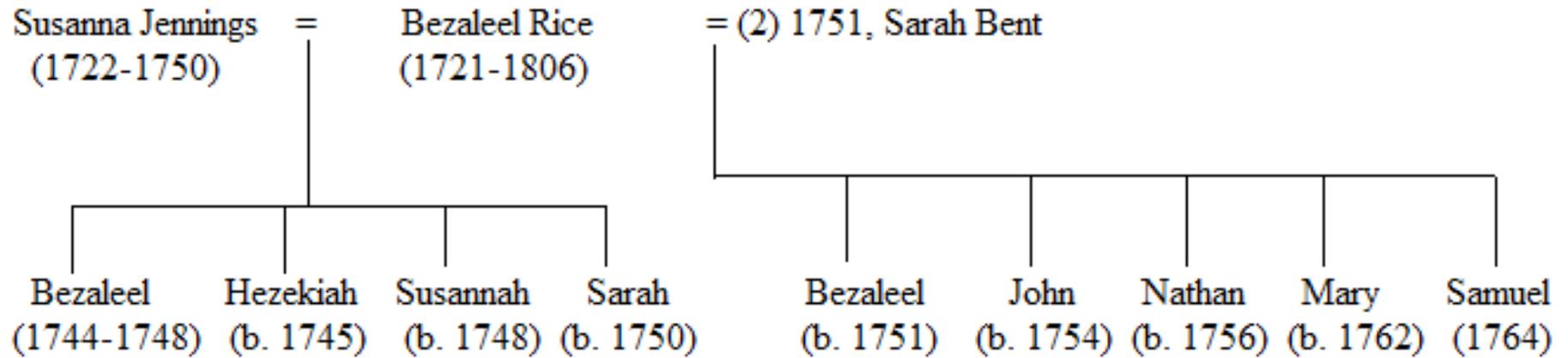
Arranging the two mothers



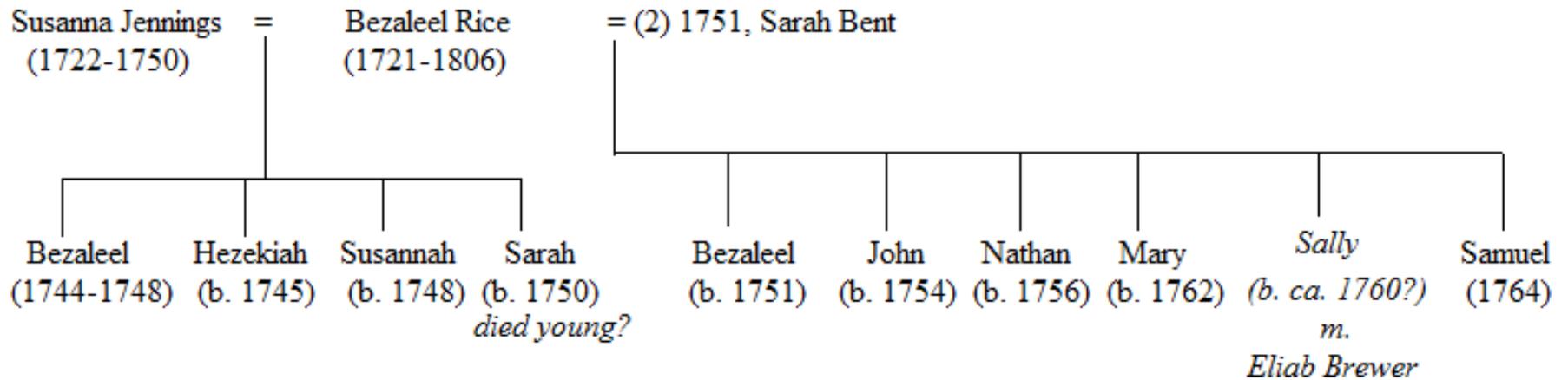
Sally (Rice) Brewer

- Sally Rice married Eliab Brewer in 1782
- Died in 1835, aged 74 (thus born ca. 1760)
- Stated in Rice genealogy as likely the daughter of Bezaleel Rice and his first wife Susanna Jennings
- Bezaleel Rice's 1801 will names a daughter Sarah Brewer
- Bezaleel's recorded daughter Sarah was born 1750

Sally (Rice) Brewer (ca. 1760-1835)



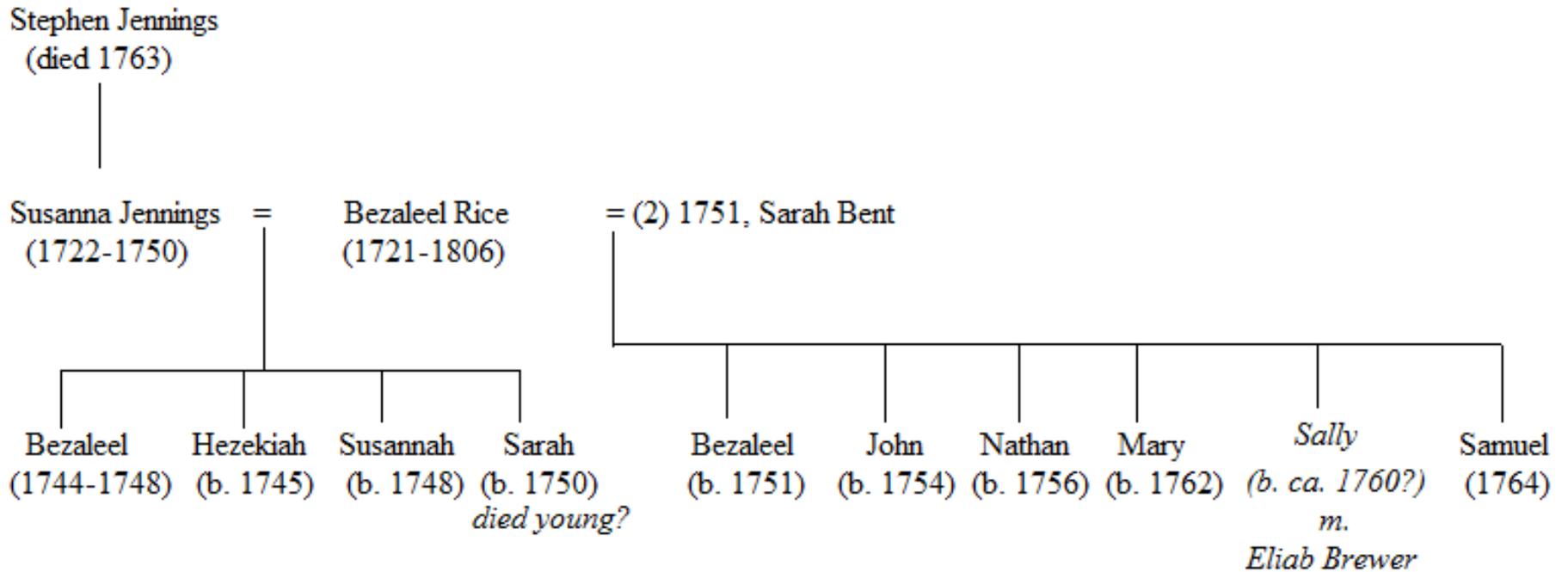
Sally (Rice) Brewer (ca. 1760-1835) working theory



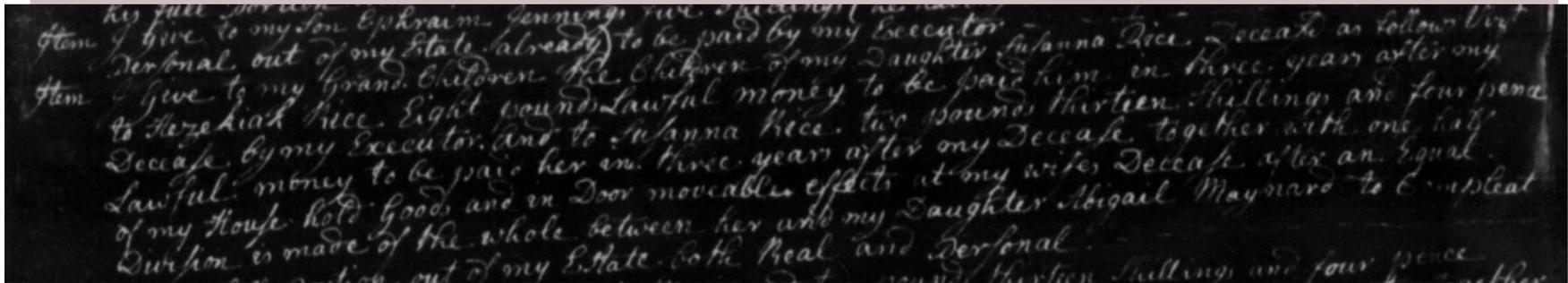
Who is Sally's Mama?

- Will of Bezaleel Rice, no wife, children treated alike
- Other relatives of Bezaleel Rice?
- Other relatives of Sarah (Bent) Rice?
- Other relatives of Susannah (Jennings) Rice?

Stephen Jennings, died 1763



Stephen Jennings, died 1763



- *Item I Give to my Grandchildren the Children of my Daughter Susanna Rice Deceased as follows viz: to Hezekiah Rice and to Susanna Rice*

Stephen Jennings, died 1763

Stephen Jennings
(died 1763)

Susanna Jennings
(1722-1750)

=

Bezaleel Rice
(1721-1806)

Bezaleel (1744-1748) Hezekiah (b. 1745) Susannah (b. 1748) Sarah (b. 1750)

Sally's mother can't be a Jennings

Stephen Jennings
(died 1763)

Susanna Jennings
(1722-1750)

= Bezaleel Rice
(1721-1806)

= (2) 1751, Sarah Bent

Bezaleel (1744-1748) Hezekiah (b. 1745) Susannah (b. 1748) Sarah (b. 1750)

died young

Bezaleel (b. 1751) John (b. 1754) Nathan (b. 1756) Mary (b. 1762) Sally (b. ca. 1760) Samuel (1764)

*m.
Eliab Brewer*

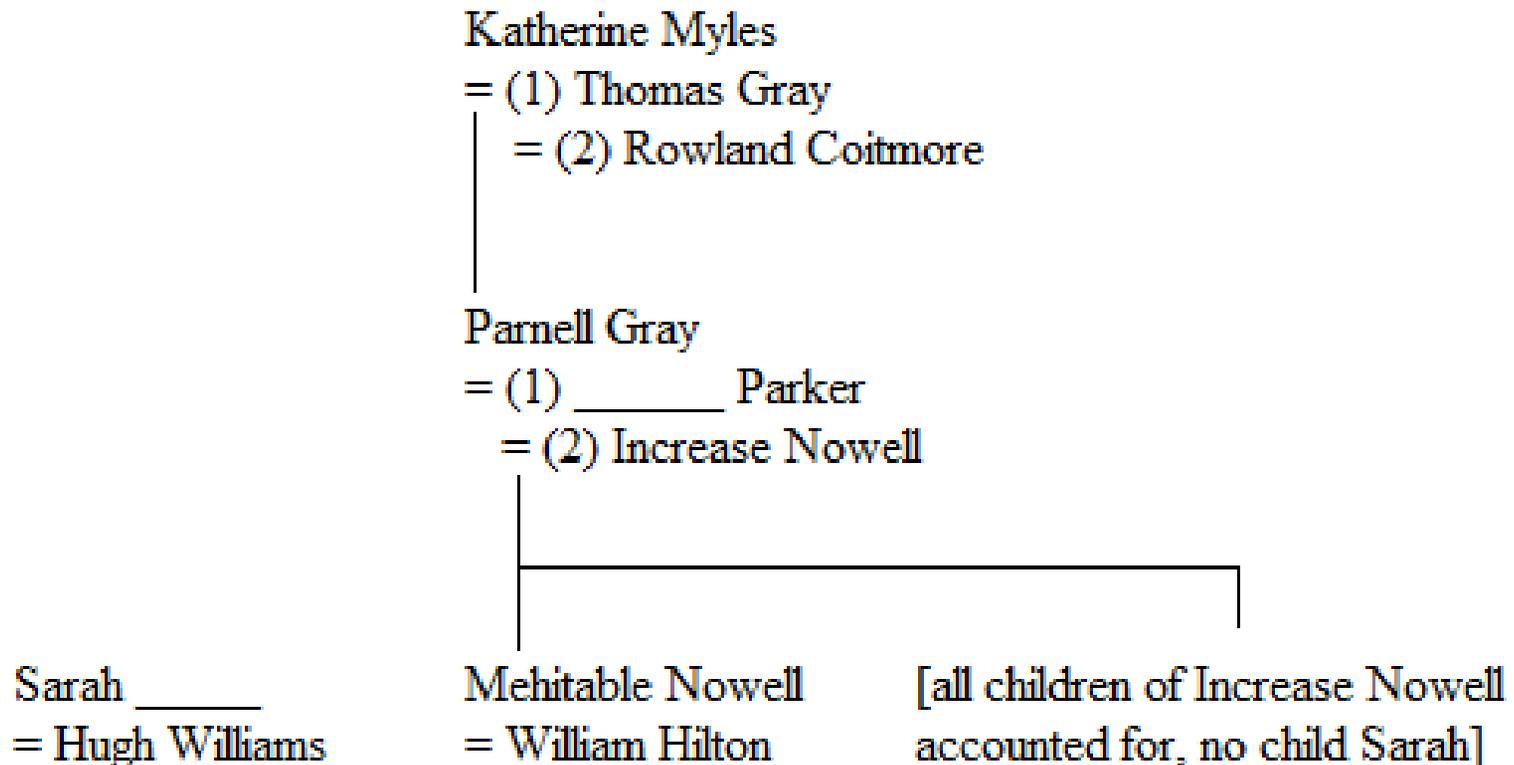
QUESTIONS?

Challenge:
**Determining paternity
when a mother has two
husbands or partners**

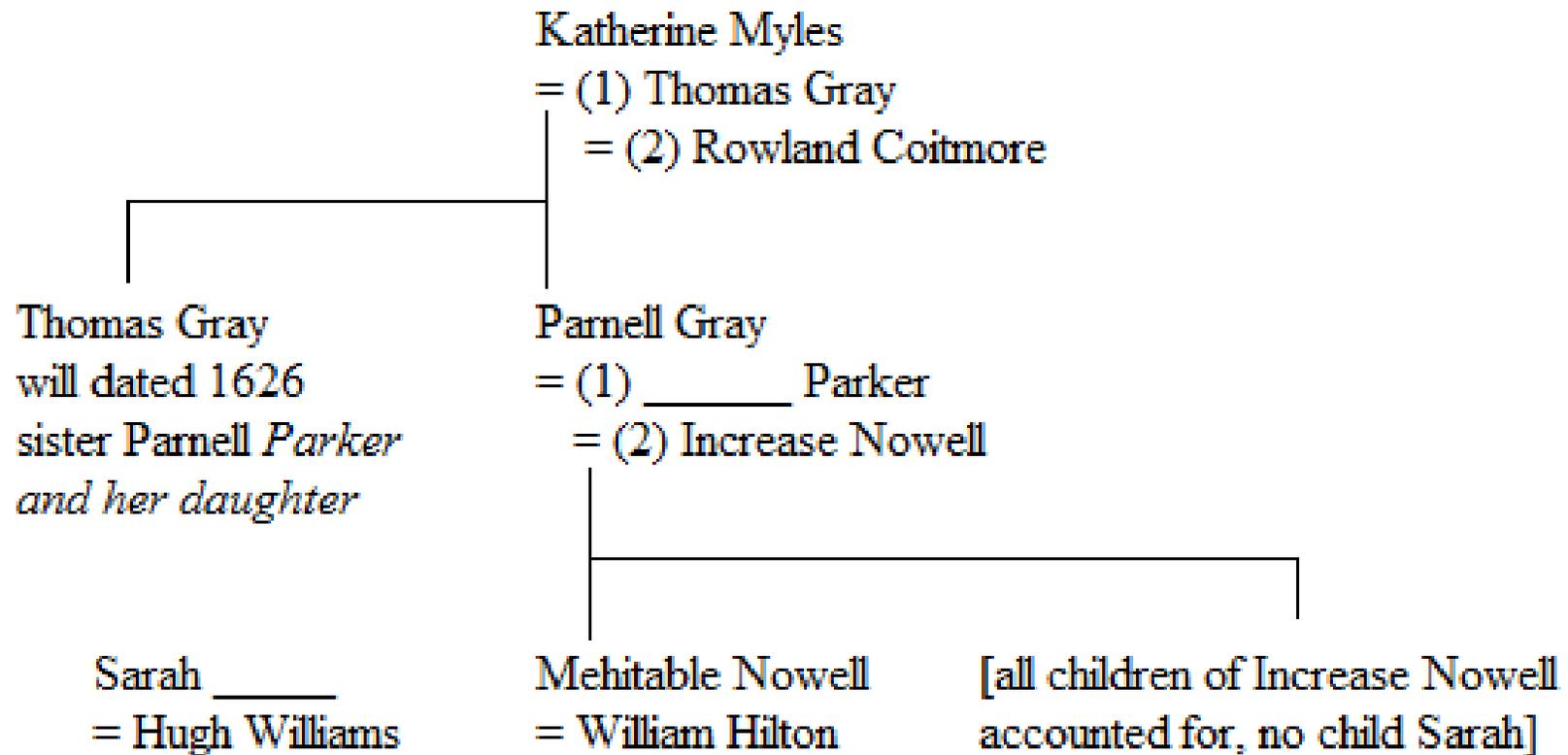
An “incidental relative”

- Hugh Williams 1674 will makes a bequest to the children of his “brother Hilton”
- Hugh’s wife Sarah had a legacy from Catherine Coytmore
- Mehitable (Nowell) Hilton is Catherine’s granddaughter

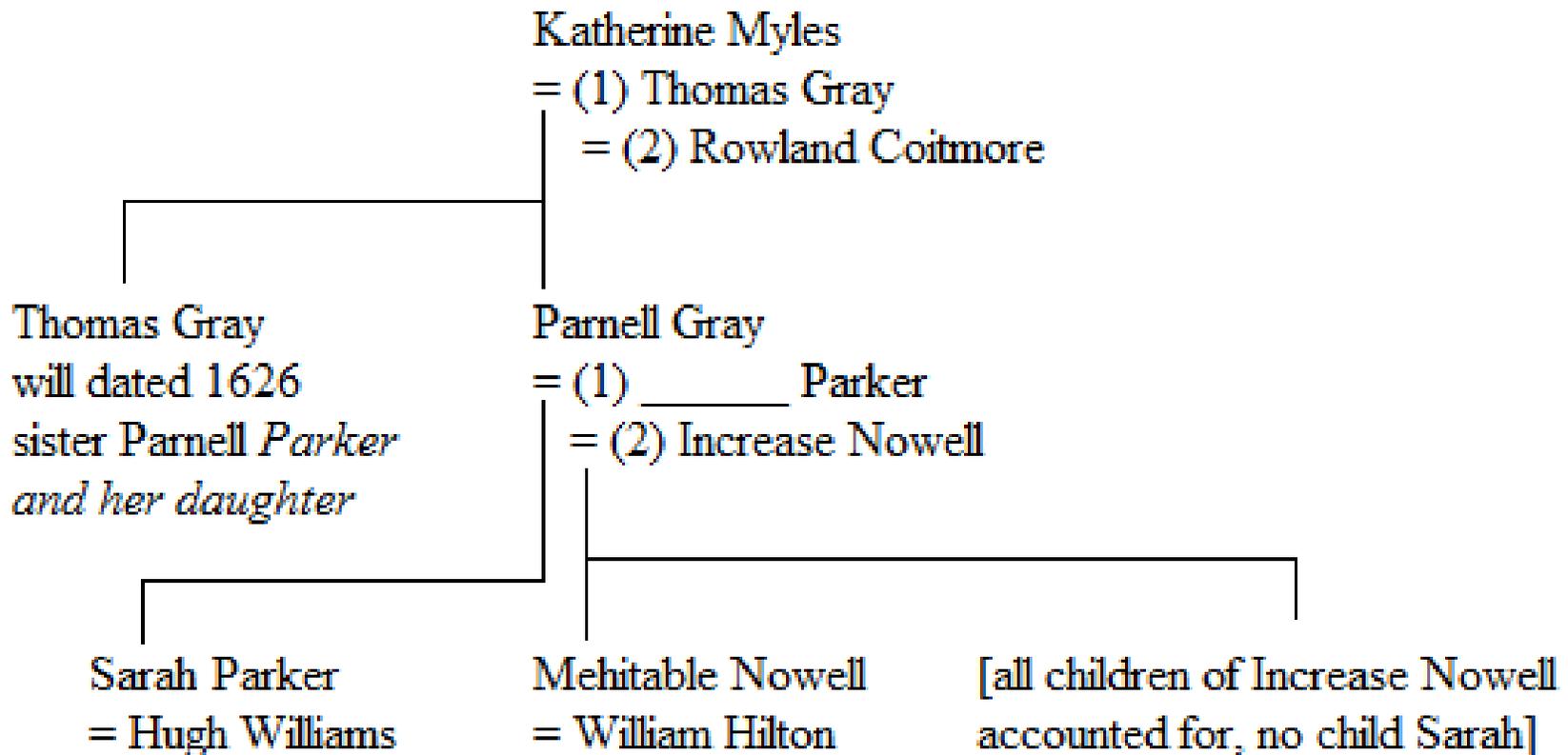
An “incidental relative”



Follow other relatives

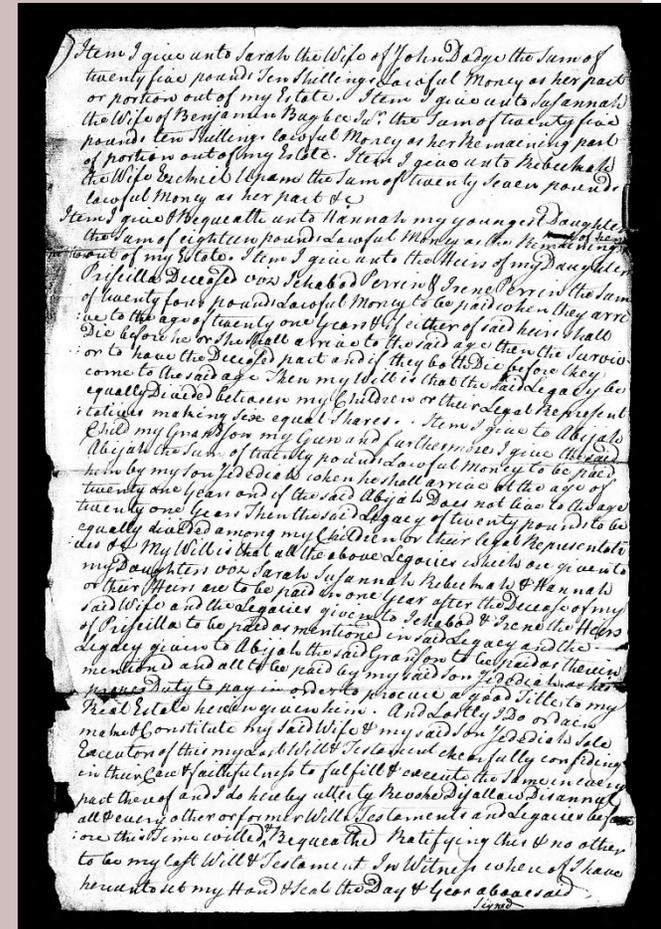


Children of Parnell (Gray) (Parker) Nowell

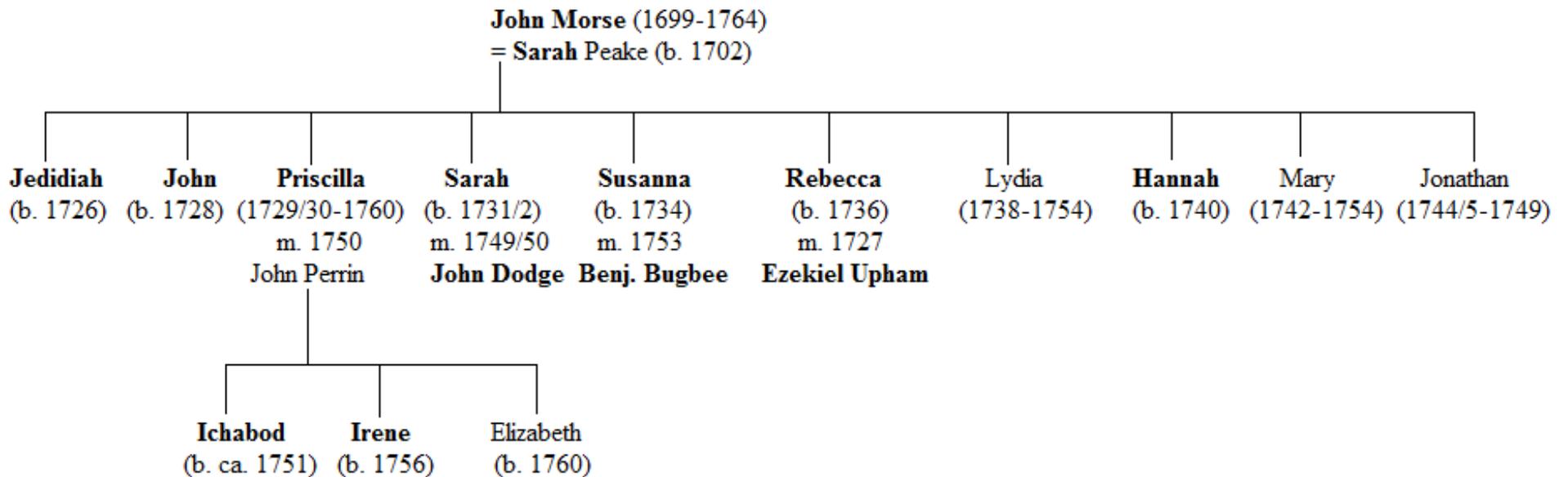


An “incidental relative”

- 1764 will of John Morse
- Names sons (in birth order)
- Living daughters, with spouses or indicating unmarried
- Children of deceased daughter Priscilla Perrin
- “My grandson Abijah Child”



How is Abijah Child the grandson of John Morse?



Abijah Child in Genealogies??

ABIJAH CHILD ⁴

(John ^{3,2}, Benjamin ¹) b. Woodstock Sept. 17, 1726, d. May 18, 1777, m. (1) (int.) Oct. 29, 1748 Priscilla Morse, b. Woodstock Feb. 2, 1730, d. Sept. 3, 1749, daughter of John Morse and Sarah Peake; m. (2) (int.) Sept. 18, 1749 Abigail Johnson, b. Woodstock Aug. 20, 1727, d. Sept. 9, 1774, daughter of Isaac Johnson and Abigail Peake; m. (3) Apr. 13, 1775 Elizabeth Perrin (both of Woodstock), b. Woodstock Sept. 23, 1727, d. May 9, 1777, daughter of John Perrin and Abigail Morris. §

CHILDREN b. WOODSTOCK; OLDEST BY FIRST WIFE:

* 291 ABIJAH ⁵ b. Sept. 3, 1749.

292 EUNICE ⁵ b. May 3, 1750, m. May 17, 1770 Samuel Ruggles Cotes || (both of Woodstock), b. Pomfret Oct. 22, 1745, son of Pingist Cotes of Ashford and Pomfret and Rebecca Holmes of Pomfret.

Intention to marry, but no marriage

MORSS[E], Priscilla
& Abijah Child, b. of Woodstock, Int. pub. Oct. 29,
1748

WOODSTOCK
VITAL RECORDS
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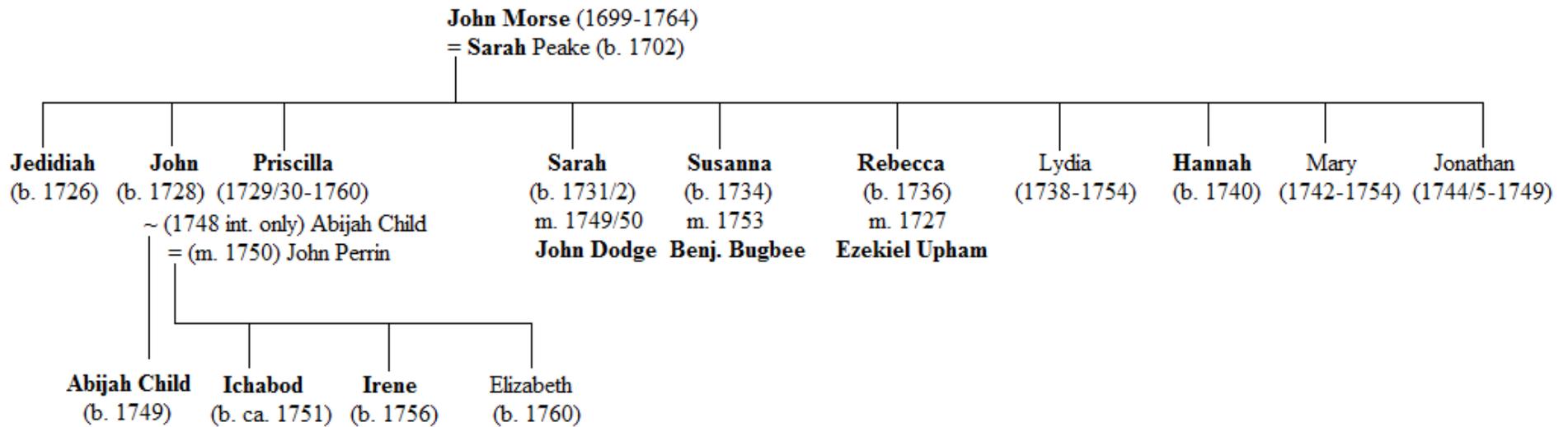
MORSS, Priscilla
had s. Abijah, b. Mar. 27, 1749

WOODSTOCK
VITAL RECORDS
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MORSS[E], Priscilla
m. John Perrin, 3rd, b. of Woodstock, Oct. 11, 1750,
O.S., by Rev. Stephen Williams

WOODSTOCK
VITAL RECORDS
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Children by different fathers



Tip

Think of kinships in a
very broad sense.

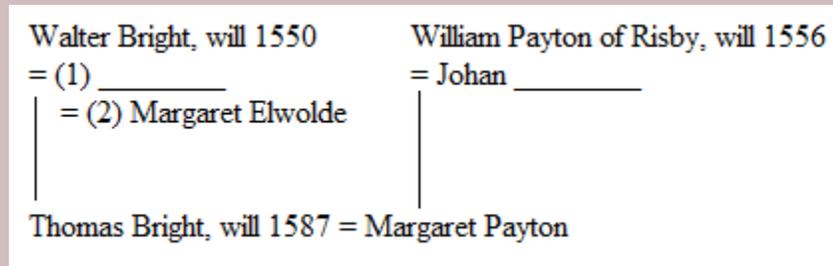
“my father in law Mr. Jervis”

- Will of Thomas Bright of Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk [grandfather of Henry Bright of Mass.]
- Will written 20 August 1587
- Names wife Margaret
- Names several sons, daughters with their spouses
- Eldest son's son; godson (nephew)
- “father in law Mr. Jervis, of Whepstead, supervisor”

How can Mr. Jervis be Thomas Bright's father-in-law?

- Current wife's father
- Earlier wife's father
- Step-father
- Current wife's step-father
- Earlier wife's step-father
- Later husband of step-mother
- Later husband of current wife's step-mother
- Later husband of earlier wife's step-mother

“my father in law Mr. Jervis”



- Chancery proceeding of 1588 identified Margaret Bright as a daughter of William Payton, late of Risby, and all of William’s children were by his only wife Johan, who survived him
- Thomas Bright had only wife and his step-mother outlived Thomas’s father
- Mr. Jervis is perhaps a later husband of Thomas’s step-mother or a later husband of Thomas’s mother-in-law

Incidental relatives

- William Payton's will of 1556 names a brother-in-law John Webbe of Risby
- John Webb of Risby, will dated 1586, names Mr. Jervis of Whepstead, his brother-in-law
- As Margaret (Payton) Bright's father William Payton called John Webb his brother-in-law, who in turn called Mr. Jervis his brother-in-law, since Mr. Jervis was Thomas Bright's father-in-law, then William Payton and Mr. Jervis are married to the same woman, Johan (_____ or Webb) (Payton) Jervis

Walter Bright, will 1550

= (1) _____

= (2) Margaret Elwolde

William Payton of Risby, will 1556

= Johan _____, who m. (2) Robert Jervis

Thomas Bright, will 1587 = Margaret Payton

Tip

Sister, Brother, etc. may
not mean any kinship!

Challenge:
Separating people of the
same name in the same
community

Common families, common problems

- Even when records are abundant, kinship linkages may be problematic
- Records in colonial period and early nineteenth century are often not as detailed as we want
- Try to get additional records when a family name may be too common to rely on a vital record alone

Two Sarah Childs: 1722 and 1724

Child Family

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CAPT. BENJAMIN CHILD^{3*}

(Benjamin^{2,1}) of Woodstock, b. Roxbury July 19, 1685, d. July 25, 1771, age 86, m. Sept. 1712 Patience Thayer of Mendon, d. Mar. 15, 1764. Capt. Benjamin³ is buried East Woodstock Yard with son Benjamin⁴ and the latter's wife Patience. The Benjamin Child house in the village of East Woodstock, opposite the Fowler place, was known later as the Bacon house and was used as the meeting house until the church in East Woodstock was built. It became the home of Nathan E. Morse † and was a structure of two stories with heavy window caps, one of which was over the front door. The house was torn down.

CHILDREN b. WOODSTOCK:

- * 84 BENJAMIN⁴ b. Aug. 28, 1713.
- 85 GRACE⁴ b. July 22, 1715, m. Oct. 10, 1737 Moses Lyon, b. Woodstock Oct. 26, 1712, d. Brimfield Sept. 28, 1778, son of Dea. William Lyon and his first wife Deborah Colburn.
- * 86 NATHANIEL⁴ b. Apr. 3, 1717.
- 87 ELIJAH⁴ b. Aug. 5, 1719, d. Sept. 5, 1736, in 17th year. †
- 88 PATIENCE⁴ b. June 22, 1721, m. Oct. 18, 1748 Joseph Weld, b. Roxbury Apr. 14, 1715, son of Joseph Weld and Elizabeth Chamberlain.
- 89 SARAH⁴ b. Nov. 19, 1722, d. Apr. 5, 1805, m. Feb. 19, 1747 § Dea. Jedidiah Morse, b. Woodstock July 8, 1726, d. Dec. 28, 1819, || son of John Morse and Sarah Peake.
- * 90 MOSES⁴ b. Oct. 27, 1726.

39

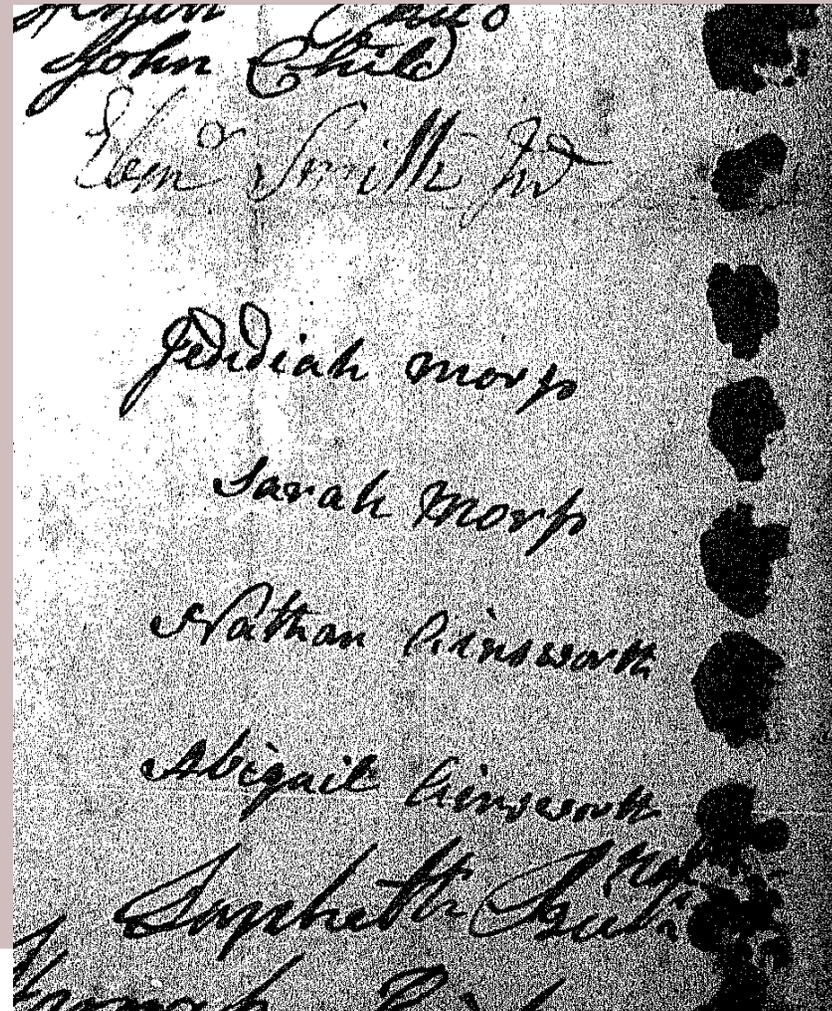
DEACON JEDIDIAH MORSE⁵

(John⁴, Peter³, Anthony^{2,1}) b. Woodstock July 8, 1726, d. Woodstock Dec. 29, 1819, ac. 93, m. Woodstock Feb. 19, 1746/7 Sarah Child, b. Woodstock May 12, 1724, d. Woodstock Apr. 5, 1805 in 81st yr., daughter of John Child, Jr., and Abigail Aspinwall. The *Birthday Reflections* of Deacon Morse, written in 1810 on his 84th birthday, state that at the first Freeman's meeting, Sept. 12, 1749, held after Woodstock had changed from the jurisdiction of Massachusetts to that of Connecticut, Deacon Morse and seventy-three others took the Freeman's oath. He was Surveyor of Highways for six years, Lister for seven years, Constable three years, Collector of Excise two years, Selectman eighteen years, member of thirty-one assemblies of the State Legislature, Town Clerk twenty-seven years and six months. He recorded 2,756 deeds, leases, and executions, 1,804 births, 377 marriages, besides all town votes and other proceedings in Town and Freeman's meetings that were matters of public record, all of which was done without any compensation or reward. He was Clerk and Treasurer of the Church on the Hill twenty years and on the Church Committee for fifteen years. For twenty-five years he was one of the Committee of the South Proprietors of Woodstock and Proprietors' Clerk for seven years. He was Justice of the Peace for Windham County for twenty-seven years. For fifty-six years he was a Deacon of the First Church. Deacon Morse was described as a man strong in body and mind, an able and upright magistrate, and an honored and useful member and officer of the Church.

[490]

No will, but a sibling buyout

- Shubael Child bought out his siblings
- Sarah was born in 1724, daughter of John
- What happened to Benjamin's daughter Sarah is unknown
- More problems!



Hannah (Child) Bicknell

LIEUT. EBENEZER CHILD ³

(Benjamin ^{2,1}) b. Roxbury Sept. 7, 1692, † d. Union, Orange Co., Vt., 1773, m. Nov. 30, 1720 Elizabeth Bacon, b. Roxbury May 10, 1701, d. Nov. 30, 1768, daughter of Ephraim Bacon and Elizabeth Griggs. § He went with his father Benjamin Child ² from Roxbury to Woodstock and later went with his son Ebenezer ⁴, from Woodstock to Vermont.

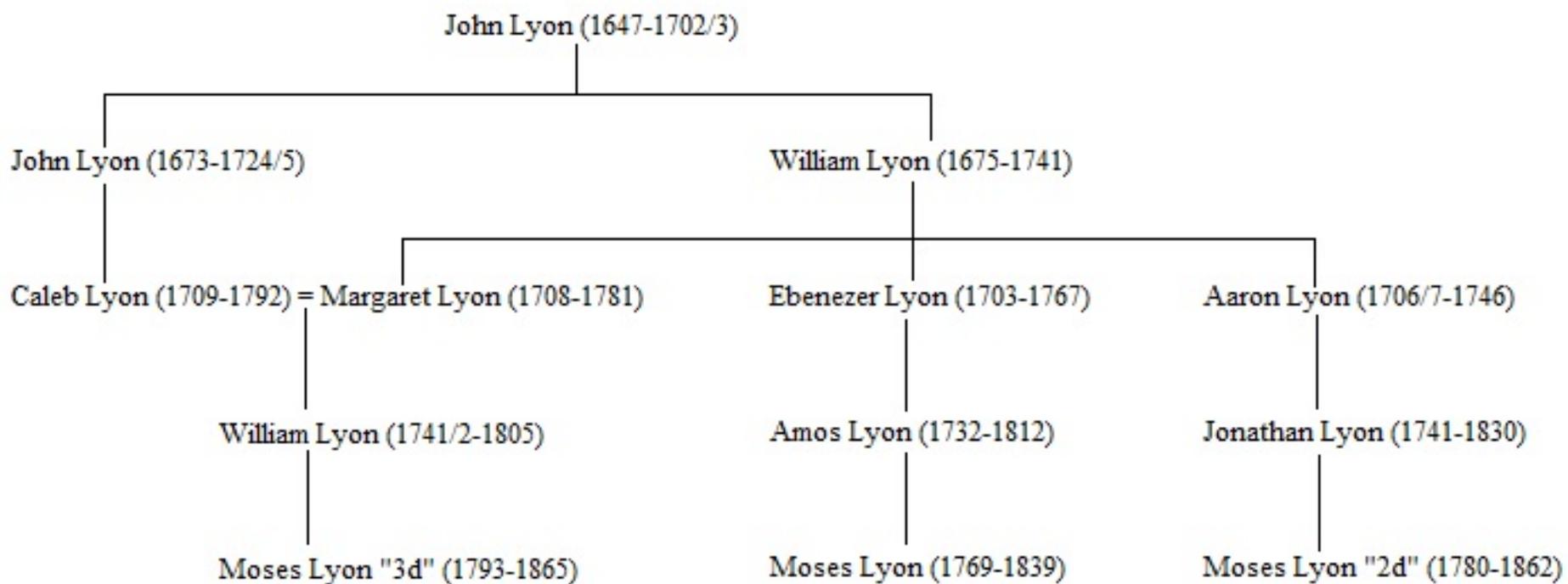
CHILDREN b. WOODSTOCK:

- 96 OBADIAH ⁴ b. Aug. 10, 1721, d. 1722.
- 97 ELIZABETH ⁴ b. May 3, 1723, d. Jan. 20, 1742.
- 98 SUSANNAH ⁴ b. Mar. 24, 1725, d. Aug. 12, 1806, m. (int. Apr. 19, 1744) May 31, 1744 John Newell, both of Woodstock; m. (2) Dec. 30, 1756 Peter Child, || b. Woodstock July 6, 1727, d. Sept. 6, 1810, son of Lieut. Ephraim Child and Priscilla Harris.
- * 99 EBENEZER ⁴ b. Apr. 17, 1727.
- 100 MARY ⁴ b. Feb. 24, 1728, * || m. Col. Benjamin Freeman, who also m. Mary's sisters Jemima and Deborah. **
- 101 KEZIAH ⁴ b. Dec. 19, 1732, m. June 20, 1754 John Bacon, b. Woodstock Apr. 5, 1727, son of Thomas Bacon and his first wife Dinah Spalding.
- 102 HANNAH ⁴ b. Jan. 12, 1734 or 1735, m. June 17, 1762 * Japheth Bicknell (both of Woodstock), b. Rehoboth, Mass., Jan. 6, 1742, "reputed son" of Japheth Bicknell and Rachel Perrin. Hannah and her husband Japheth removed to Albany Co., N. Y., before 1790. †
- 103 JEMIMA ⁴ b. Feb. 12, 1736, m. 1764 Benjamin Freeman, b. Sturbridge Oct. 24, 1744, d. Sturbridge May 22, 1806, son of Lieut. Samuel Freeman and Mary Chubb.
- 104 DEBORAH ⁴ b. Oct. 27, 1738, d. Mar. 8, 1805, m. June 10, 1764 Col. Benjamin Freeman.
- 105 OBADIAH ⁴ b. Oct. 23, 1740, d. Apr. 4, 1820 (buried East Woodstock Yard), unm.
- 106 MARGARET ⁴ d. July 15, 1742.

Tip

When a surname is very common,
plan to use more than vital records,
even if they all seem to be there.

The use of Suffixes Moses Lyon 3rd



The use of suffixes: William Orcutt, Jr.

1761

William Orcutt "Jr." = Ruth Cross

The use of suffixes: William Orcutt, Jr.

William Orcutt = Martha Lane

Andrew Orcutt = Frances Ward

William Orcutt = Sarah Leonard

William Orcutt (born 1725)

1761

William Orcutt "Jr." = Ruth Cross

Two William Orcutts of Stafford

William Orcutt = Martha Lane

Andrew Orcutt = Frances Ward

William Orcutt = Sarah Leonard

William Orcutt (born 1725)

William Orcutt = Hannah Smith

Caleb Orcutt = Mehitable Harvey

William Orcutt (born 1739)

Which William is “William Orcutt Jr.”

William Orcutt = Martha Lane

Andrew Orcutt = Frances Ward

William Orcutt = Sarah Leonard

William Orcutt (born 1725)

1761

William Orcutt "Jr." = Ruth Cross

William Orcutt = Hannah Smith

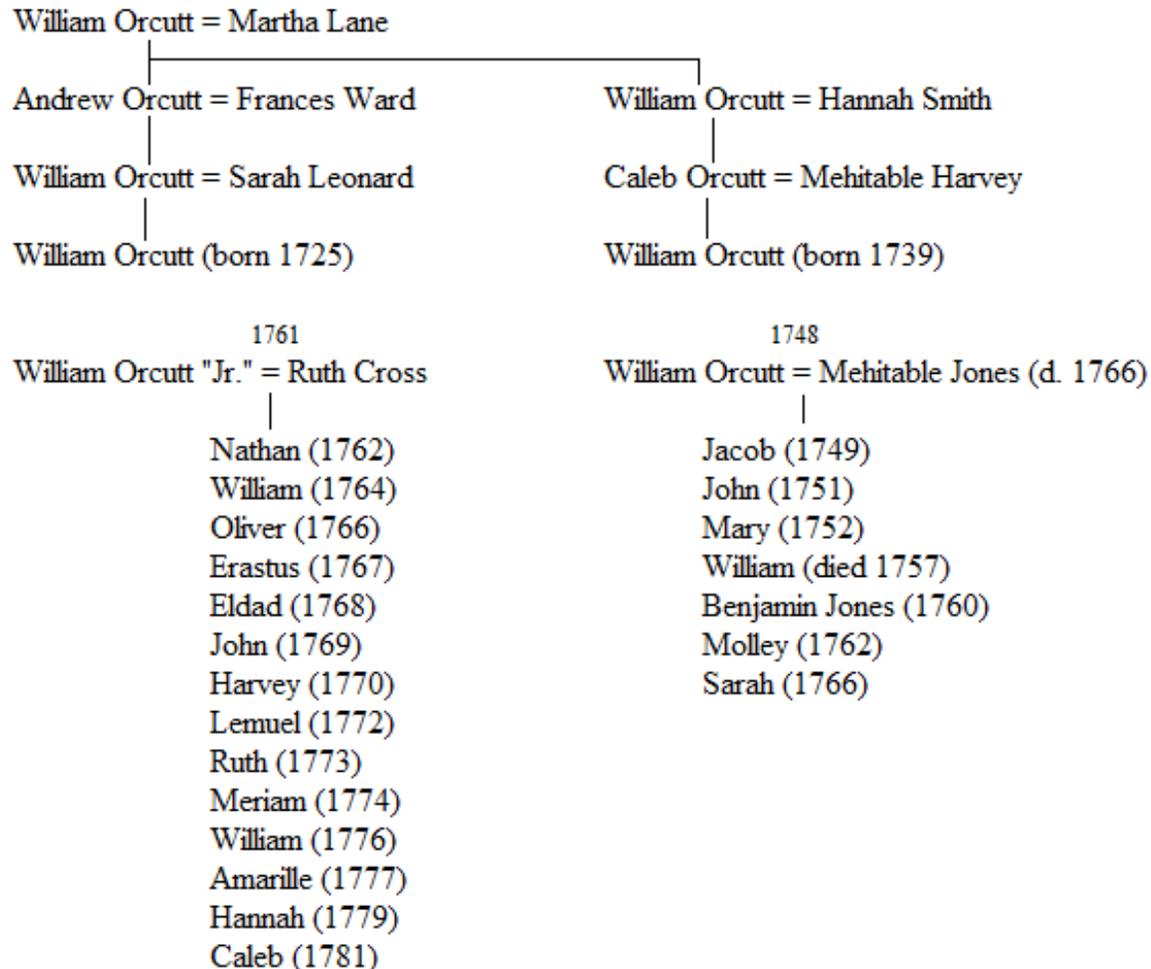
Caleb Orcutt = Mehitable Harvey

William Orcutt (born 1739)

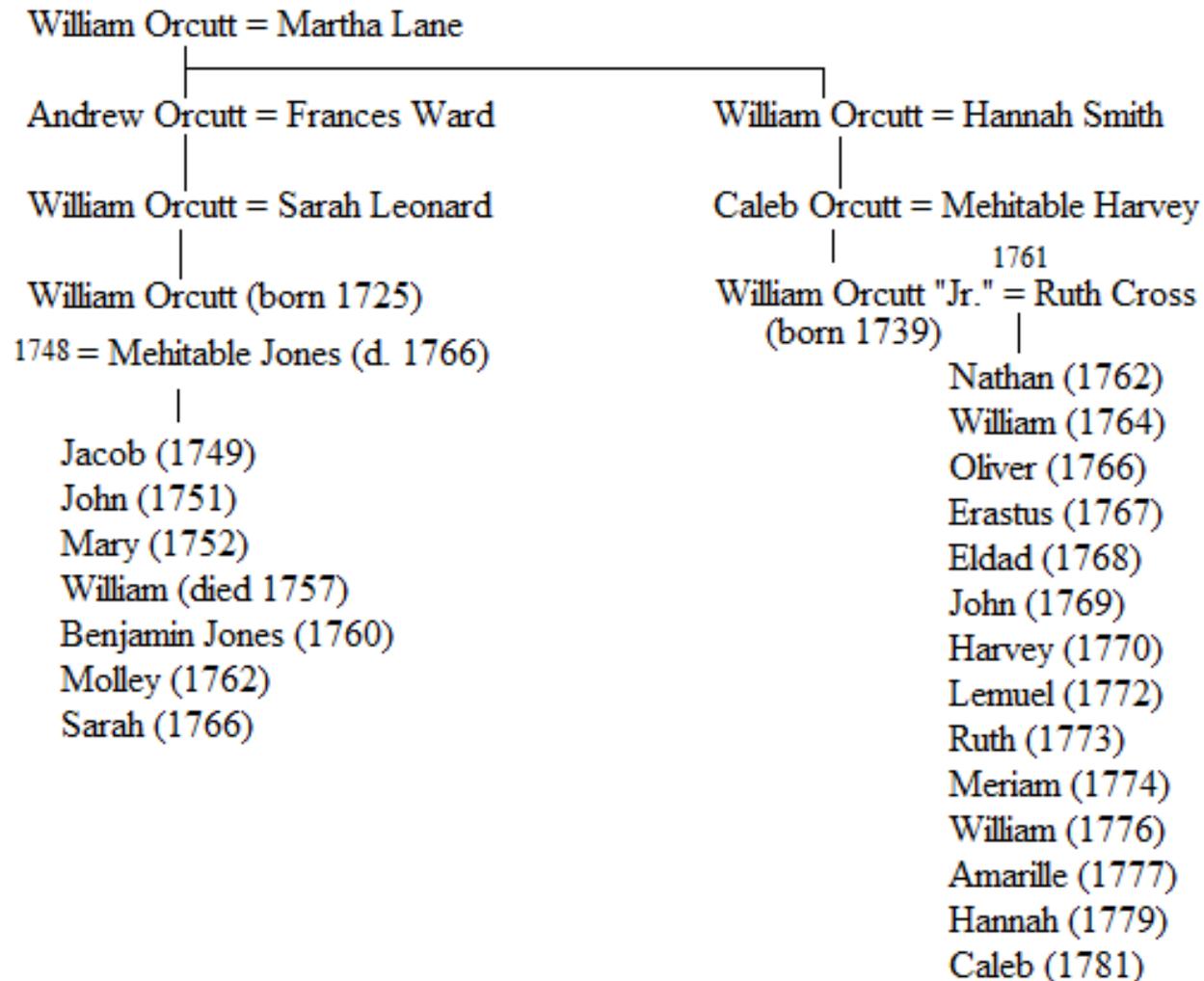
1748

William Orcutt = Mehitable Jones (d. 1766)

The use of suffixes: William Orcutt, Jr.



William Orcutt Jr. is the son of Caleb



QUESTIONS?

Other challenges

- Earlier marriages of both parties
- Reliance on readily available vital records indices when lesser-known town collections may exist
- Probate or land records are found, but still do not state the needed information

When probate does not work – Elizabeth Cooper

AMOS GREEN ⁴

(Henry ^{3, 2}, Thomas ¹) b. Dec. 30, 1712, bap. as adult July 26, 1747,
m. (1) Apr. 21, 1742 Lydia Johnson; m. (2) Thompson Jan. 3, 1763
Elizabeth Cooper.

CHILDREN b. KILLINGLY (BAP. NORTH KILLINGLY CHURCH,
NOW PUTNAM HEIGHTS): *

58 LUCY ⁵ bap. Jan. 17, 1744.

59 HANNAH ⁵ bap. May 22, 1745.

60 AMOS ⁵ bap. July 19, 1746, d. young.

61 HENRY ⁵ bap. Feb. 6 (or Feb. 14), 1748, d. young.

62 LYDIA ⁵ bap. Jan. 25, 1750, d. Oct. 15, 1822, age 81, † m. June 4, 1767 †
James Hosmer, b. Thompson Sept. 10, 1735, § d. Mar. 26, 1807, age
74, son of Jaazaniah Hosmer and Rachel Pierce.

63 JACOB ⁵ bap. June 9, 1751.

64 ESTHER ⁵ bap. Jan. 13, 1754.

65 AMOS ⁵ bap. Dec. 14, 1755.

66 HENRY ⁵ bap. Aug. 28, 1763.

67 ABRAHAM ⁵ bap. May 4, 1766.

68 WALTER ⁵ bap. Dec. 1, 1770.

Tip

Do not assume a female's
name at marriage is her
birth surname.

Children by an earlier husband

COOPER, COWPER, Aaron, s. John & Phebe, b. June 15, 1780	1	229
Abigail, d. Timothy & Sarah, b. Mar. 13, 1730/31	1	16
Abaga[i] had s. Comfort EATON, b. June 22, 1750	1	41
Ammi, s. Joshua & Elisabeth, b. Oct. 10, 1735	1	18
Ann R., m. Sylvanus GLEASON, b. of Killingly, May 17, 1853, by Rev. Sidney Dean	2	79
Calvin, Jr., m. Harriet KIES, Aug. 26, 1833, by Rev. John Whipple	1	85
Charles, s. Joshua & Hannah, b. May 4, 1747	1	35
Deborah, d. Joshua & Elisabeth, b. Sept. 2, 1738	1	25
Deborah, d. Abraham & Elisebeth, b. Aug. 16, 1757	1	219
Ebenezer, s. Abraham & Elisabeth, b. Dec. 12, 1747	1	41
Elizabth, w. Joshua, d. June 30, 1741	1	73
Elizabth, d. Abraham & Elisebeth, b. Feb. 27, 1755	1	219
Esther, d. Abraham & Elisabeth, b. Dec. 20, 1749	1	41
John, s. Joshua & Elisabeth, b. Oct. 23, 1731	1	14
John, s. Abraham & Elisebeth, b. Feb. 17, 1753	1	219
Judeth, d. Timothy & Sarah, b. Feb. 14, 1736/7	1	21
Louisana, m. Othniel RUSSELL, b. of Killingly, Apr. 5, 1846, by Calvin Cooper, Elder	2	35
Marcella A., m. Frances CALAPIAN, b. of Burrillville, R. I., Oct. 13, 1842, by Rev. Daniel Williams	2	17
Mary, d. Abraham & Elise[b]eth, b. May 15, 1751	1	219
Susce, d. Mary LOCK, b. Apr. 26, 1719, at Lexington	1	1

First marriage record (not in Barbour or CSL index)

Thompson Congregational Church

Town incorporated 1785, having been previously a part of Killingly which dates back to 1708.

The Congregational Church of Thompson was organized in 1730, in what was then the North Society of Killingly and named "Thompson Parish" in honor of a non-resident English proprietor, Sir Robert Thompson, a distinguished nobleman, the first president of the "Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts."

Rev. Marston Cabot, the first pastor, begins the marriage record in 1730.

Alphabetical by Groom:

Cooper, Abraham & Elisabeth Child, Feb. 18, 1746

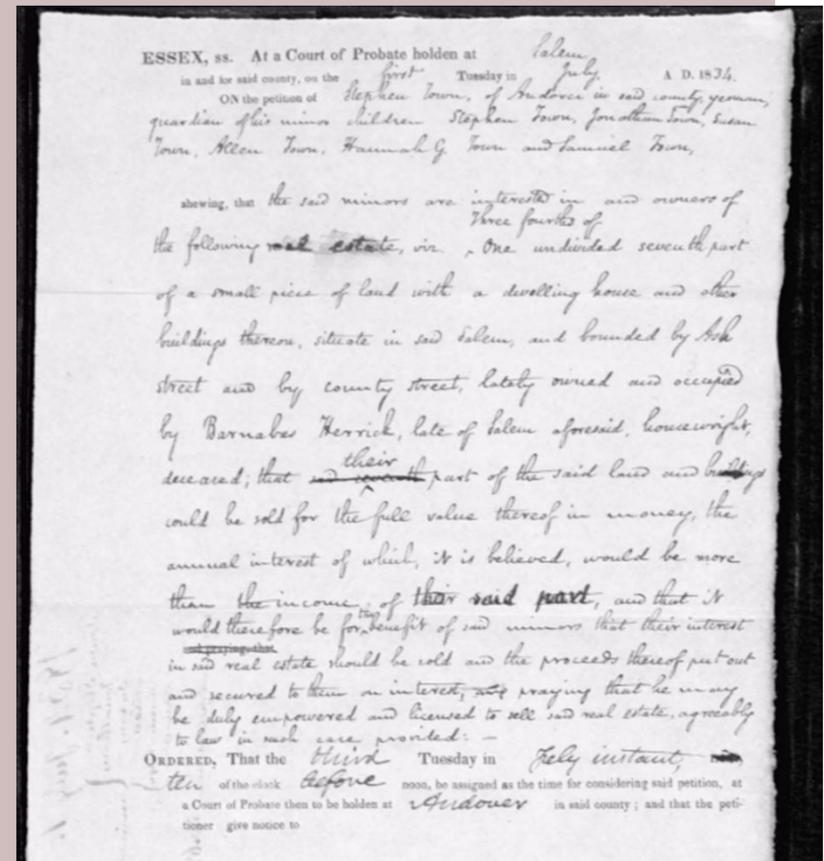
Cooper, Ebenezer & Eunice Elliot, Aug. 30, 1770

Tip

You can have a documented birth, marriage, and death date and the lineage can be wrong; the reverse can also be true.

Six Towne siblings of Salem, 1834

- No records of their birth
- Stephen Towne [father] is appointed guardian of the children to take custody of the estate they are in to inherit “in right of their deceased mother”
- 1/6 of 1/7 of Land of Barnabas Herrick



Four Generations, Missed in VRs

Barnabas Herrick (1738-1832)

left a particular piece of real estate to the heirs of his deceased son Jonathan

Jonathan Herrick (ca. 1763-1803)

Betsey Herrick (died before 1834)

m. Salem 1811 Stephen Towne

(marriage is only known record of Betsey)

6 known surviving children

Stephen, Jonathan, Susan, Allen, Hannah G., Samuel (minors in 1834)

all due to inherit 1/6 of 1/7 of land provided "in right of their

deceased mother" of Barnabas Herrick

Case Study: DNA Study

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 matrilineally related within recorded history (a few centuries)
- For this problem: three people were solicited and existing descendants had already participated

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.

Which family does Esther belong to?

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

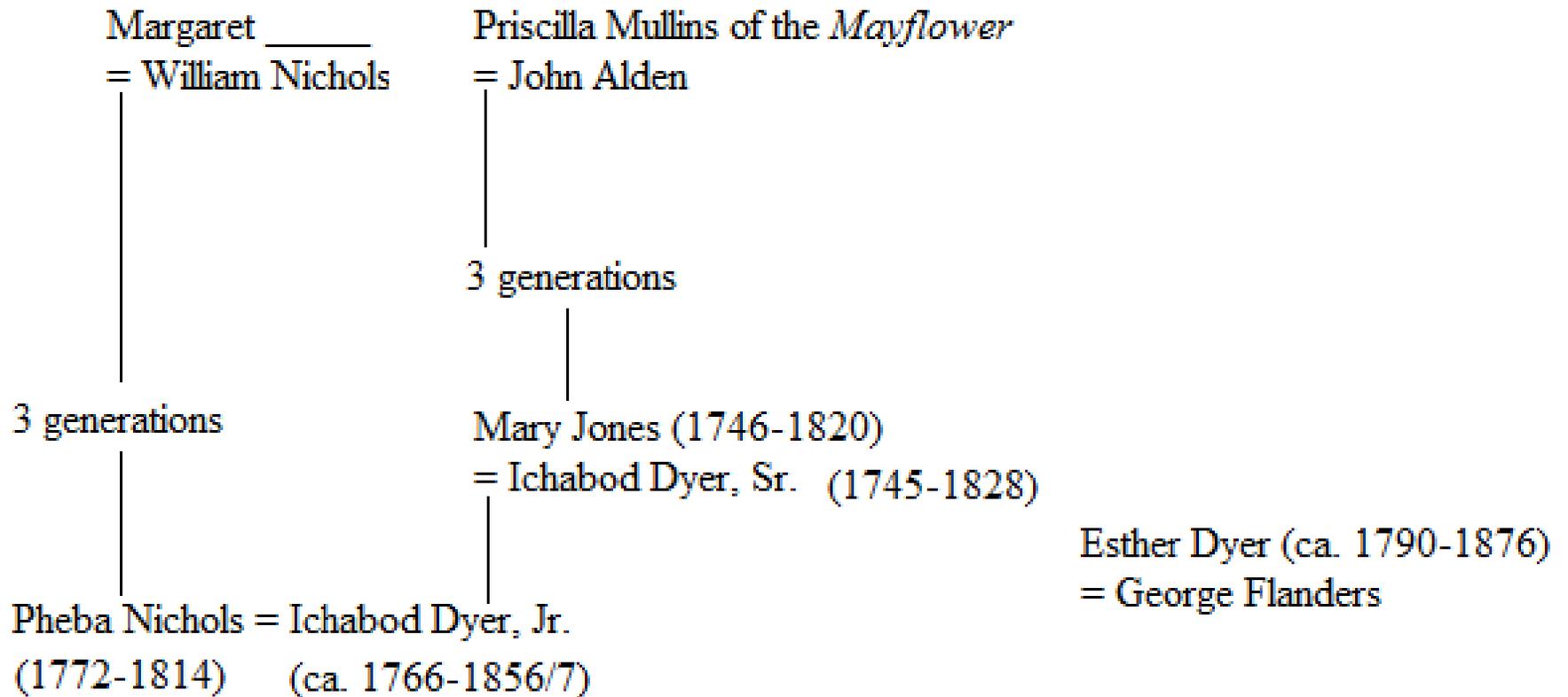
Ichabod Dyer, Jr. (ca. 1766-1856/7)
= Pheba Nichols (1772-1814)

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

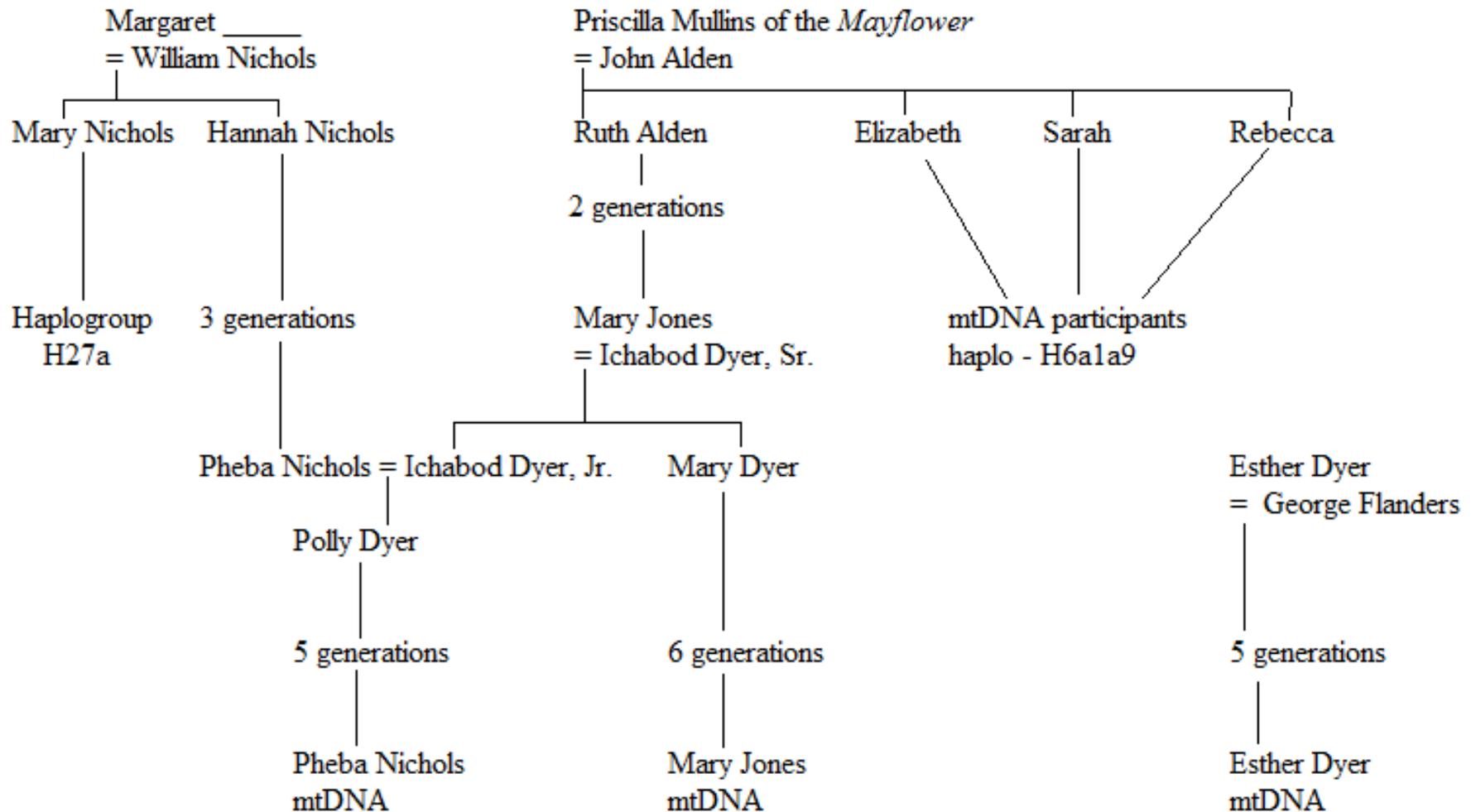
Tarrant King Dyer (1799-1881)

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

Matrilineal descendants



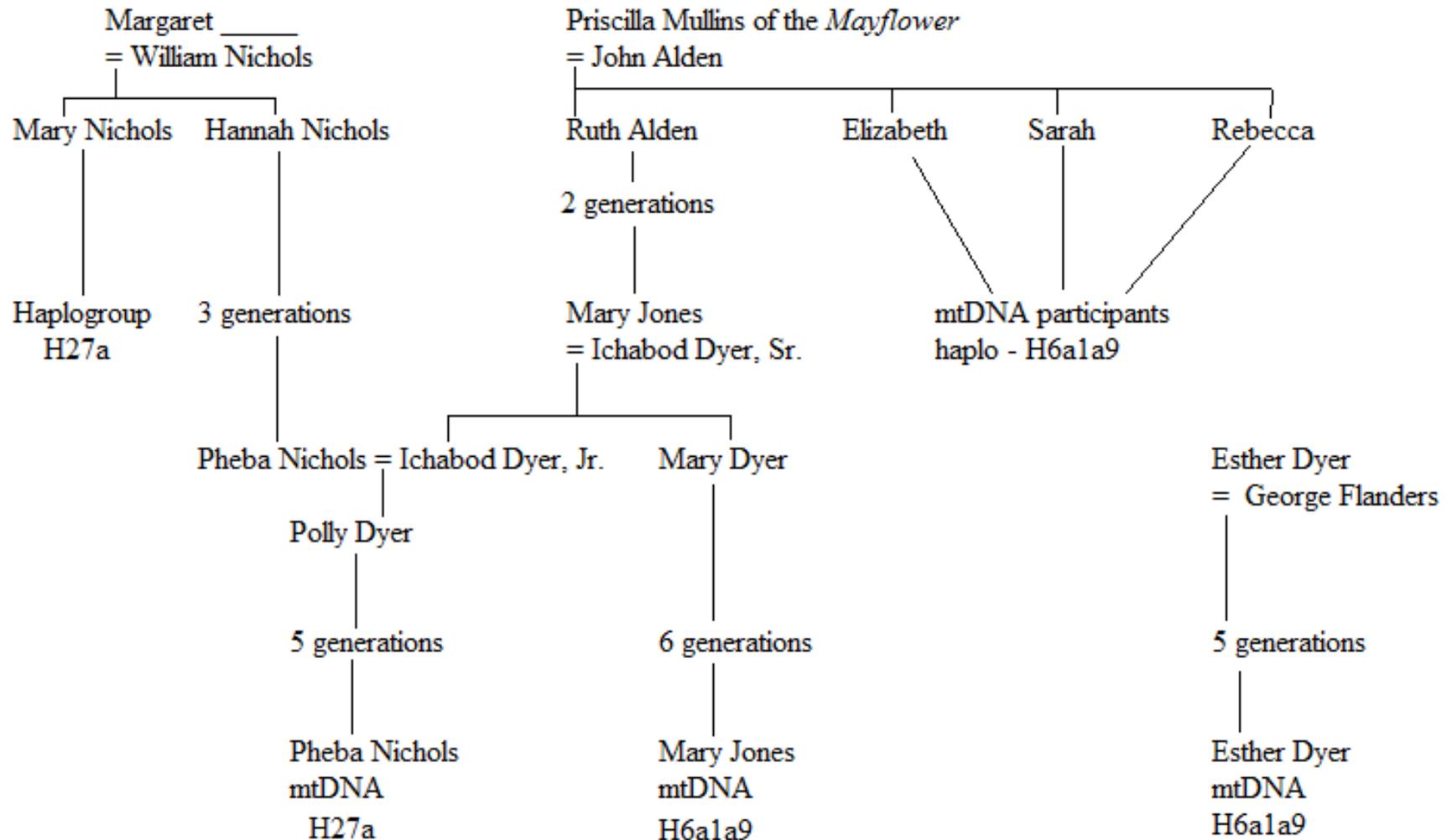
Matrilineal descendants



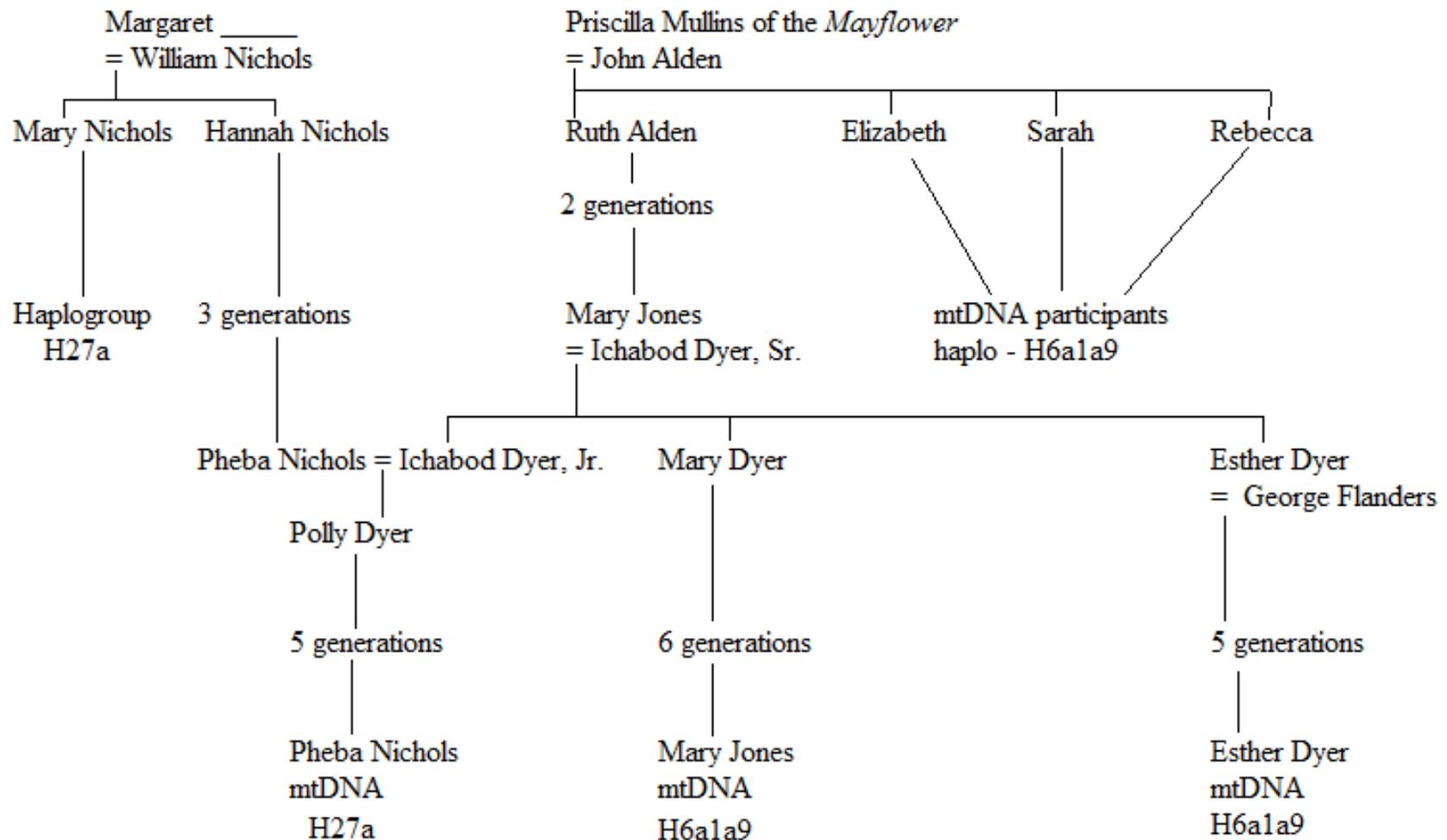
Expected Conclusions

- 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.

Results!



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



When to “Give Up”?

When to give up . . .

- You've searched all available records—published and original
- Broadened scope to look at other relatives, inlaws, friends, and neighbors
- With trial and error, existing theories cannot be confirmed or refuted

... but never give up hope!

- More and more records are being indexed and digitized everyday
- Follow scholarly journals and database updates
- Your solution could be in a collection not yet considered by your research

QUESTIONS?

Hire Research Services

research@nehgs.org

Chat with a Genealogist

AmericanAncestors.org/chat



Search

Events

Membership

Give

Publications

Expert Help

Tools

Signature Projects

Centers & Initiatives

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THANK YOU!

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