

Editorial

Our lead article in this issue is **The English Origins of John¹ Thurber of Swansea in Plymouth Colony and His Descendants**. The authors, Florence Thurber Gargaro, Kathryn Davitt Peters, and Barry R. Smith, provide evidence showing that the progenitor of the American family was baptized in the parish of Littleham cum Exmouth, Devonshire, correcting previous family lore suggesting Lincolnshire as his place of origin. Parish register entries for Littleham and neighboring Withycombe cum Exmouth show that the family was called Thurber alias Shepherd although a connection to the Shepherds has yet to be established, and the alias was never used once the Thurburs arrived in Plymouth Colony in the late 1660s. Building on prior research, the authors delineate the first four generations of the family, disproving several previous assumptions regarding the identification of several family members.

A clue in an English will and an uncommon given name were instrumental in unraveling a longstanding mystery. In 1635, 16-year-old Barbara Ford enrolled in London as a New England-bound passenger on the *Susan & Ellen*. In **Barbara Ford, 1635 Passenger to New England: Her Ancestry and Marriage to Edward¹ Clark of Massachusetts and Maine and to John¹ Smith of Maine**, author Randy A. West found a possible baptism for Barbara in the parish of St. Stephen Coleman Street, London, in 1620. Filling out the family, he came across the 1662 will of her stepfather Rowland Thompson of London that names his “daughter in law” [stepdaughter] “Barbarah Clarke of New England widdowe.” An extract of this will was published in the *Register* in 1895 but the clue was never followed up. A search of Torrey’s Marriage Index for the unusual given name of Barbara and the groom’s surname of Clark(e) yielded just one result: Edward Clark, who died by 1661, and Barbara _____, fitting perfectly with the *Susan & Ellen* passenger.

In **The English Origins and Family of Brothers William¹ French and John¹ French of Cambridge, Massachusetts**, author Kory L. Meyerink carefully analyzes previous research to dispense, once and for all, the long-disproved notion that William¹ French, the 1635 immigrant of Cambridge and Billerica, Massachusetts, was baptized in Halstead, Essex, in 1603. Despite many gaps in early seventeenth-century parish registers, the author builds a convincing case for the brothers’ origins in the parishes of Assington and Bures St. Mary, Suffolk, based on family associations, geography, naming patterns, and most importantly, -Y-DNA research.

In the next article, **Patrick and Sarah Fassett of Billerica, Massachusetts**, author Gale Ion Harris lays out the first three generations of the family. Patrick Fassett, probably a Scotsman, first appears on record in Charlestown, Massachusetts, where his surname is entered as *MacFacie* on the birth record of his eldest child John. He was called a “Scotchman” in four deeds while he lived in Billerica. In spite of this, Patrick led a life similar to his neighbors, and his descendants appear to have quickly blended into the local fabric of the community.

It has long been known that William¹ Hawes of Dorchester, Massachusetts, who arrived in New England on the *Truelove* with his family in 1635, was from Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. An article summarizing these findings, including will and parish register abstracts and published in the *Register* in 1929–1930, asserted incorrectly that the immigrant's father, Richard^A Hawes, was son of a Bennett Hawes. In **Revised Lineage of Richard Hawes of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Dorchester, Massachusetts**, author Clifford L. Stott re-examines the wills and presents newly found parish register entries to show that the father of Richard^A was actually Bennett's first cousin.

In the next article, **Identity of Anne, First Wife of Robert¹ Woodmansey, Schoolmaster of Boston, Massachusetts, and of Her Niece, Anne¹ (Not Storer), Wife of James Truman and Robert Skinner of Maryland**, authors Robert Battle and John C. Brandon demonstrate that Woodmansey's wife was Anne Clarke, daughter and granddaughter of apothecaries in Grantham, Lincolnshire. Further, the authors re-examine the identity of Anne, wife of James Truman and Robert Skinner of Maryland, who is long believed to have been a sister of Arthur¹ Storer of Maryland. They present evidence to show that Anne and Arthur were almost certainly stepsiblings, and that Anne was a daughter of William Clarke, apothecary of Loughborow, Leicestershire, younger brother of Anne (Clarke) Woodmansey.

Randy A. West corrects a long-held assumption in **The Correct English Origin of John¹ Heald of Concord, Massachusetts**. In 1933, Clarence Almon Torrey noted the 1636 marriage of "Johannes Heald & Dorothea Royle" in the parish register of Alderley, Cheshire, and the baptism of a son John in the same parish the following year, facts that appeared to match what was known about the family of the Concord settler. John's 1662 will names "my thre[e] eldest Children" John, Timothy, and Hannah. The author searched English baptismal records and found records corresponding to what is known of these children in New England, in the parish of Wakefield, Yorkshire. While John's younger children were by his wife Dorothy, the mother of his three eldest children was John's first wife Eunice. John Heald and Eunice Blackburn were married in 1631 in Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, a neighboring parish to Wakefield.

We continue **The Journals of James Hodge, Gravestone Cutter of Albany, New York**. James Hodge (1761–1819) provided gravestones for residents of the Hudson River Valley and beyond. Field Horne transcribed the records for the *Register*.

– Henry B. Hoff and David Curtis Dearborn