

The Correct English Origin of John¹ Heald of Concord, Massachusetts

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In 1933 Clarence Almon Torrey noted there was a marriage recorded on 3 December 1636 in the parish register of Alderley, Cheshire, for “Johannes Heald & Dorothea Royle,” as well as a baptism recorded in this same parish in March 1636/7 for a son John of this couple.^[1] As the immigrant John¹ Heald of Concord, Massachusetts, had a wife named Dorothy and a son John, it has been accepted by Torrey and others that these records in Alderley belong to him.^[2] As will be shown below, these records do not pertain to this immigrant.

John Heald is first of record in New England when he was made a freeman of the Massachusetts Bay Colony on 2 June 1641.^[3] The first mention of his wife is the birth record in Concord on 22 May 1645 of “Dor[c]as the daught[e]r of John and Dorothe Held.”^[4] The will of “John Heald of Concord in the County of Middlesex in Massachusetts Collony” dated 19 April 1662 stated “my thre[e] eldest Children that is to say John my eldest son and Timothy and my daughter Hanah having received their portions of my estate; I doe herby give and bequeath to my five yonger Children.”^[5]

The year of birth for the immigrant’s son John is about 1633 or 1634 based on a 3 October 1681 deposition in which he gave his age as “about seuen or eaight & forty years.”^[6] His daughter Hannah married John Spalding on

¹ Clarence Almon Torrey, “Marriages in England of Early American Immigrants,” *The American Genealogist* 10 (1933):14–15, at 15.

² Clarence Almon Torrey, *The Heald-Hale Genealogy: John Heald of Concord, Massachusetts and Some of His Descendants*, manuscript (1940), 1, NEHGS, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, Mss C 4465; Donald Lines Jacobus and Edgar Francis Waterman, *Hale, House and Related Families, Mainly of the Connecticut River Valley* (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1952), 262; and John Brooks Threlfall, *Fifty Great Migration Colonists to New England & Their Origins* (Madison, Wisc.: the author, 1990), 199–202.

³ Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, *Records of the Governor and Company of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*, 5 vols. in 6 (Boston: William White, 1853–1854), 1:379.

⁴ *Concord, Massachusetts, Births, Marriages, and Deaths, 1635–1850* (Boston: Beacon Press, [1895]), 4.

⁵ Robert H. Rodgers, *Middlesex County in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: Records of Probate and Administration, March 1660/1–December 1670* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 105.

⁶ Middlesex County, Massachusetts, Court Papers, folio 95 [FHL DGS 8131117, image 480]. This deposition was given in the case against John Law of Concord at the Middlesex County Court session that began on 4 Oct. 1681 [David Pulsifer, “Records of the County of Middlesex in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts: County Court Records, Volume 4, 1681–1686,” manuscript (1851), 19 (FHL DGS 7009675, image 645)]. The case against John Law is detailed in Roger Thompson, *Sex in Middlesex: Popular Mores in a Massachusetts County, 1649–1699* (Amherst, Mass.: University of Massachusetts Press, 1986), 135–136.

18 May 1658^[7] and therefore her year of birth can be estimated as say 1638 (assuming age 20 at marriage). A search for English baptismal records for these two children and perhaps that of the immigrant's son Timothy resulted in the following entries in the parish register of Wakefield, Yorkshire:^[8]

18 January 1633/4	Johanes filius Johis Heald
9 April 1636	Tymothos filius Johis Healde
18 May 1639	Anna daughter of John Heald

As these records correspond to what is known about John's three elder children, they must be for the immigrant's family. A marriage was found in the neighboring parish of Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, in 1631 for "John Heald and Vnica [*Eunice*] Blackeburne."^[9] This is almost certainly John's first marriage as Eunice is an uncommon name and two of the immigrant's elder children, John and Hannah, gave this name to one of their daughters.^[10]

The above information, along with other records, are used in the following genealogical summary of the family of John¹ Heald.

Genealogical Summary

JOHN¹ HEALD was born say 1606 (assuming age 25 at first marriage). He married first in Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, in 1631 **EUNICE BLACKBURN**. Her parentage has not been discovered. John immigrated to New England by 1640 as he was made a freeman on 2 June 1641. He resided in Concord, Massachusetts, where he held several parcels of land.^[11] John married second, by 1645, **DOROTHY** _____ (birth of eldest known child). He died in Concord on 24 May 1662.^[12] His will dated 19 April 1662 and proved 16 June 1662 gave to "my five yonger Children," £13 6s. 8d. each at age 21, to eldest son John "one shute of cloaths," to son Timothy "my great Coat," to daughter Hannah "a wastcoat," and the rest of the estate to his wife Dorothy, who was named executrix. The inventory of his estate was taken 31 May 1662 and totaled £141 1s.^[13] His widow Dorothy died perhaps in Dedham, Massachusetts, on 29 October 1694.^[14]

⁷ *Vital Records of Chelmsford, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1914), 319. Stephen Waasa Spaulding, "How Edward¹ Spalding, a Puritan Farmer From the Norfolk-Suffolk Border, Came to Prosper in New England," *Register* 173 (2019):220–231, at 230.

⁸ All Saints, Wakefield, Yorkshire, parish register, 1613–1812 [West Yorkshire, England, Church of England Baptisms, Marriages and Burials, 1512–1812, online at Ancestry.com, images 7 of 15 in 1633 (John), 2 of 15 in 1636 (Timothy) and 2 of 13 in 1639 (Anna/Hannah)].

⁹ Sandal Magna, Yorkshire, bishop's transcripts, 1631 [FHL DGS 7574329, image 26] (no day nor month recorded for any events). The parish registers begin in 1651.

¹⁰ John's daughter: *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 17 ("Eunies daughter of John held and Sarah his wife" b. 15 March 1673); Torrey, *Heald-Hale Genealogy* [note 2], 7. Hannah's daughter: *Vital Records of Chelmsford* [note 7], 140 ("Spalden, Unis, d. John and Hannah" b. 27 July 1661); Charles Warren Spalding, *The Spalding Memorial: A Genealogical History of Edward Spalding of Virginia and Massachusetts Bay, and His Descendants* (Chicago: American Publishers Association, 1897), 73 (the year of birth is incorrectly given as 1660).

¹¹ Torrey, *Heald-Hale Genealogy* [note 2], 2–3.

¹² *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 10 ("John held husband to Dority his wife").

¹³ Rodgers, *Middlesex County Probate and Administration, 1660/1–1670* [note 5], 105.

¹⁴ Torrey, *Heald-Hale Genealogy* [note 2], 4.

Children of John¹ and Eunice (Blackburn) Heald (all baptized in Wakefield, Yorkshire):

- i. JOHN² HEALD, bp. 18 Jan. 1633/4; d. Concord 17 June 1689;^[15] m. there 10 June 1661, SARAH DANE,^[16] daughter of Thomas¹ Dane of Concord.^[17]
- ii. TIMOTHY HEALD, bp. 9 April 1636; living 19 April 1662 (his father's will). He is perhaps the "Timothy Hale" of Windsor, Connecticut, and Suffield, Massachusetts (now in Connecticut).^[18]
- iii. HANNAH HEALD, bp. 18 May 1639; d. Chelmsford, Mass., 14 Aug. 1689; m. there 18 May 1658, JOHN SPALDING, bp. Dickleburgh, Norfolk, 13 April 1633, son of Edward¹ and Margaret (Elliott) Spalding.^[19]

Children of John¹ and Dorothy (_____) Heald (all births in Concord):

- iv. DORCAS HEALD, b. 22 May 1645;^[20] d. Concord 1 May 1650.^[21]
- v. GERSHOM HEALD, b. 23 March 164[6/];^[22] d. after 1 Nov. 1723, possibly in Springfield, Mass.;^[23] m. Concord 6 May 1673, ANN VINTON,^[24] daughter of John¹ and Ann (_____) Vinton.^[25]
- vi. DOROTHY HEALD, b. 16 Oct. 1649,^[26] perhaps m. Lancaster, Mass., 3 Aug. 1670, JONATHAN PRESCOTT,^[27] son of John¹ Prescott.^[28]

¹⁵ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 55 ("Sarg^m Heald y^e Husband of Sarah his wife").

¹⁶ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 10 ("John held and Sarah Dane").

¹⁷ "The Dane and Deane Families, of Concord, Mass." *Register* 18 (1864):263–264, at 263. Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn stated that Thomas Dane the immigrant is unlikely to be the same as the 1635 passenger on the *Elizabeth and Ann* to New England [Anderson, Sanborn, and Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635, Volume II, C–F* (Boston: NEHGS, 2001), 281]. The undated will of "Thomas Dane" of Concord, proved 20 June 1676, made a bequest to "my daughter Sarah Heald" [Robert H. Rodgers, *Middlesex County in the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay in New England: Records of Probate and Administration, February 1670/71–June 1676* (Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 2005), 380.

¹⁸ Jacobus and Waterman, *Hale, House and Related Families* [note 2], 273–290.

¹⁹ Spaulding, "Edward¹ Spalding" [note 7], *Register* 173:229–230.

²⁰ See note 4.

²¹ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 6 ("Dorcas daughter of John and Dority Held").

²² *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 5 ("Gershom the sonne of John and Dority Held").

²³ Hampshire County, Massachusetts, deeds, vol. D, p. 373 [FHL DGS 7460606, image 595] (on 15 March 1722/23 "Gershom Heald Sen^r: of Springfield In the County of Hampshire. In Consideration of that . . . Paternal affection which I have . . . to Nathaniel Bancroft my Son In law & Ruth Bancroft my daughter & his wife . . . Confirm. . . to Nathaniel Bancroft & Ruth Bancroft . . . all My . . . interest . . . I Now have . . . In to three Parcells of land In Springfield"; this deed was acknowledged on 1 November. 1723 by "Gershom Heald Subscriber to the foregoing Instrument"). Jacobus and Waterman, *Hale, House and Related Families* [note 2], 263 (noted that Gershom's daughter Ruth married Nathaniel Bancroft).

²⁴ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 17 ("Gershom held and ann Vinton").

²⁵ Jacobus and Waterman, *Hale, House and Related Families* [note 2], 262.

²⁶ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 5 ("Dorothy the daughter of John and Dorithy Held").

²⁷ *The Birth, Marriage and Death Register, Church Records and Epitaphs of Lancaster, Massachusetts, 1643–1850*, Henry S. Nourse, ed. (Lancaster, Mass.: W. J. Coulter, 1890), 14 ("Jonath. Prescott & Dorothy his wife"). Threlfall, *Fifty Great Migration Colonists* [note 2], 201 (evidence not presented for identifying the parentage of the bride).

²⁸ Mary Lovering Holman and Winifred Lovering Holman, *Ancestry of Colonel John Harrington Stevens and His Wife Frances Helen Miller*, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H.: Rumford Press, 1948, 1952), 1:60.

- vii. CHILD HEALD, b. say 1653; living 19 April 1662 (father's will mentioned five younger children).
- viii. ISAAC HEALD, b. say 1657 (assuming age 25 at marriage), d. between 1 June 1717 and 9 July 1717 (will executed and proved);^[29] m. by 1682 (birth of eldest known child), ELIZABETH _____.^[30]
- ix. ISRAEL HEALD, b. 30 July 1660,^[31] d. Stow, Mass., 8 Sept. 1738;^[32] m. by 1686 (birth of eldest known child), MARTHA WRIGHT,^[33] daughter of Edward¹ and Elizabeth (Mellowes) (Barrett) Wright.^[34]

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²⁹ Middlesex County, Massachusetts, probate file #11049 [FHL DGS 7,553,478, image 142].

³⁰ Torrey, *Heald-Hale Genealogy* [note 2], 12.

³¹ *Concord Births, Marriages, and Deaths* [note 4], 9 ("Isarel Sonne of John held and Dority his wife").

³² *Vital Records of Stow, Massachusetts, To the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1911), 249. Photo of gravestone in Lower Village Cemetery, Stow, Mass., reads "Here Lies Buried Y^e Body of M^r Israel Heald Who Departed This Life Septm^{br} Y^e 8th A D 1738 Being About 78 Years Old" [FindAGrave.com, memorial #82077375].

³³ *Vital Records of Stow* [note 32], 51 ("Heale, Oliver, s. Israel and Martha"). Torrey, *Heald-Hale Genealogy* [note 2], 13.

³⁴ Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Bulkeley Genealogy: Rev. Peter Bulkeley* (New Haven, Conn.: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor, 1933), 27–28.