

Editorial

This year marks the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, bringing renewed attention to the events of the Revolutionary War and to the people who shaped and lived through those events. This year also marks the 180th volume of the *Register*. When the first issue came out in 1847, almost certainly some of its readers had living memories of the events of the Revolutionary War; and probably most of the rest had been regaled with stories from elderly relatives who took part or lived through it. We no longer have living memories of that time, of course; but part of our goal as genealogists and family historians is to discover and reclaim the histories, and in some sense the memories, of our ancestors.

Our lead article in this issue is **The English Origin and Ancestry of Allen¹ Willey of Boston, Massachusetts, and Isaac¹ Willey of Boston and Charlestown, Massachusetts, and New London, Connecticut**. Author Perry Streeter discovered that both Willey immigrants were baptized in Mumby, Lincolnshire by their maternal grandfather, who was vicar of that parish. Mumby is located in a part of Lincolnshire that was a hotbed for early Puritan migration to New England.

The second article sprang from the preceding one. In the course of canvassing the Lincolnshire parishes in the vicinity of Mumby while editing the Willey article, author Robert Battle discovered **The Probable Identity of Alice Mason, Wife of Allen¹ Willey and Second Wife of Thomas¹ Marshall, Both of Boston, Massachusetts**. Her baptism took place in Saleby, Lincolnshire, the same parish in which she later married Allen¹ Willey.

In the third article, author Polly FitzGerald Kimmitt presents **A New Resource for Vital Records in Marlborough, Massachusetts: Births 1807–1808, and Deaths 1797–1825**. A previously unknown record kept by an unidentified private citizen recorded many vital records in Marlborough, often including details such as suicides and other causes of death, ages at death, and so forth, which have otherwise gone unnoted. This adds substantially to our knowledge of Marlborough events from this time period.

In the fourth article, **The Family of Phineas and Martha (Howd) Pond of Branford and Waterbury, Connecticut**, authors Bryson C. Cook and Janet Porter make use of probate records to identify the wife of Phineas Pond (b. 1715) of Branford and Waterbury, Connecticut as Martha Howd, daughter of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Whitehead) Howd, and to confirm previous corrections that had been made in the literature to the number and identities of their children.

The fifth item in this issue is the first part of Robert Battle's article **From MacDougall to Douglass: Descendants of Alexander MacDougall (later Douglass)—a Scottish Prisoner from the 1650 Battle of Dunbar—in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Connecticut**. Alexander (or the Gaelic equivalent Alastair) MacDougall was one of about 150 Scots captured at the Battle of Dunbar in 1650 and shipped over to New England as indentured servants, in his case to work at the Saugus Iron Works near Lynn, Massachusetts. Alexander's surname was mangled by non-Gaelic scribes (and probably by non-Gaelic speakers) throughout his lifetime, and by the next generation the surname had completed the transition from MacDougall to Douglass.

By contrast, the surname Blood has managed to retain its form for centuries, resulting in a problem that the sixth article seeks to remedy. Due to the fact that the New England Bloods share a surname with the famous Colonel Thomas Blood of Ireland, a close relationship to him has been claimed from time to time, including in a recent popular book. In **The Relationship Between Colonel Thomas Blood and the Colonial Massachusetts Bloods**, author Garry M. Blood sets the record straight, using both documentary and Y-DNA evidence to show that the connection between Colonel Blood and the New England immigrants who shared his surname was not at all close.

Precisely five years ago, the *Register* published an article by author Perry Streeter showing that the parentage in the literature of Thomasine (Clench) Frost, wife of Edmund¹ Frost of Cambridge, Massachusetts, was probably incorrect, and that she was instead a daughter of John and Mary (Marshall) Clench of Colchester, Essex. The seventh article in this issue, by the same author, provides **Confirmation of the Colchester, Essex, Origin of Thomasine¹ (Clench) Frost** provided by the recently discovered 1653 will of her sister Sarah (Clench) Draper of that city.

In the eighth article, author Edward Charles Horton lays out the **Descendants of Moses¹ Seekins and the Seekell Family of Taunton, Massachusetts**. The Seekins family first made their appearance in New England in the early 1700s with progenitors Aaron Seekins and Moses Seekins. Horton seeks to identify which early Seekins/Seekells were children of Moses, tracing them and their descendants through the fourth generation.

Our ninth and final article also deals with the English forebears of a New England immigrant, in this case with a correction of previous work. In **Who Was Isabell Baylie? The Correct Identity of the Mother of Judith (Gater) Perkins, Wife of John¹ Perkins of Boston and Ipswich, Massachusetts**, author Melynie Moody identifies the mother of immigrant Judith (Gater) Perkins as Isabel Smythe, showing by a series of court, parish, and probate records that the "Baylie" surname under which she married Michael Gater was not hers by birth but rather by previous marriage.

– Robert Battle and Christopher Challenger Child