



AMERICAN ancestors

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NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

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On the cover: *Members of G.A.R. Post 26 of Roxbury, Mass., participate in a circa 1910 Decoration Day ceremony in front of the grave of Pvt. Robert Bell of Co. C, 3rd Massachusetts Calvary, at Boston's Forest Hills Cemetery. The soldier pictured with his hat in the air is Francis Blake Perkins (1835-1918) and the kneeling soldier is "Mr. Nason," probably Captain George H. Nason. Both men served in Co. K, 35th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. The image was donated to NEHGS by Catherine Perkins Carter, Francis Perkins's great-granddaughter. Mss A 5089, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS.*



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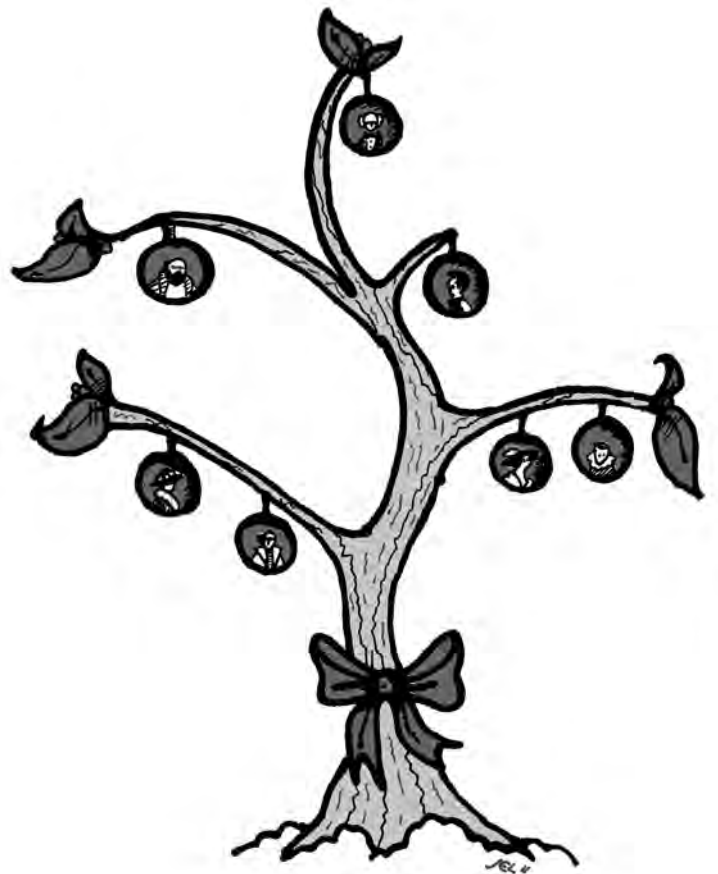
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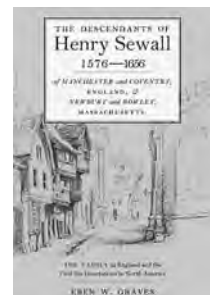


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NEW NEHGS PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTS

In our recent Telly award-winning film “A Farseeing Vision,” I mentioned the Society’s role in publishing books. The age of the book is by no means over; in fact, our publications program is flourishing. Book publications represent one of the most important ways in which we offer scholarship and expertise. Our 44-page, full-color book and gift catalog is chock full of new gift items and the best genealogical sources in print. I interviewed Ginevra Morse, Assistant Editor of Books, and Kelly McCouff, Manager of Administration, about some featured items.

— D. Brenton Simons, President and CEO

DBS: Ginevra, can you talk about any new, special publications featured in this catalog?

GM: We’re proud to announce the final volume in the second series of the Great Migration Study Project, *The Great Migration, Immigrants to New England, 1634–1635*, Volume VII, T–Y, which represents the culmination of over a decade of work by Robert Charles Anderson, FASG, and NEHGS. The series, a crucial reference for any genealogist, provides more than 1,400 profiles of early New England immigrants. We’re also excited about the forthcoming *Guide to Published Genealogies in the Library at the New England Historic Genealogical Society*. NEHGS has collected tens of thousands of genealogies since its founding in 1845. This guide lists each published genealogy alphabetically. Cross-references make it easy to locate families in our collections.

DBS: What books have been updated? GM: The *Genealogist’s Handbook for New England Research* is now in its fifth edition. It features significant updates, including nearly 80 state and county maps, a checklist of published and manuscript records, and a New England gazetteer. The second edition of *Black Families in Hampden County, Massachusetts, 1650–1865* chronicles the lives of African Americans living in a pivotal time and place in history; it’s an important reference for anyone interested in African American history.

DBS: Tell me about Roger Thompson and Bill Fowler’s new books. GM: Thompson’s *From Deference to Defiance: Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1629–1692* recreates the lost world of seventeenth-century Charlestown and the experiences of its first three generations of townspeople. Fowler’s *American Crisis: George Washington and the Dangerous Two Years After Yorktown, 1781–1783*, delves into an important but rarely documented moment in our history when nearly all that was gained in the American Revolution was lost.

DBS: Kelly, could you talk about some of the new gift items and what inspired them?

KM: NEHGS has several wonderful new gift items, inspired by some of our most treasured artifacts. By popular demand, we have a new gold member pin, adorned with the historic NEHGS seal. Vineyard Vines designed a custom ladies silk scarf especially for us, adapted from the family register of Daniel Dodge and Martha Moody. We also have holiday cards, coasters, and paper note cubes with representations from some of the most striking images of our collections, including the Samuel Parkman House painting by Philip Harry, the Peabody Family Tree, and the Family Register for Captain Jonathan Woodbury and his wife, Hannah Dudley.



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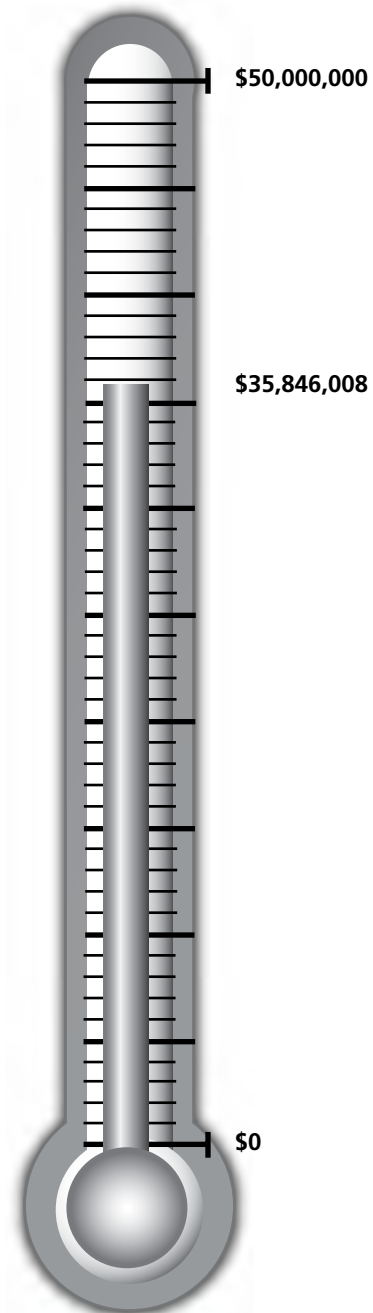
Rescuing Family History

Core to the NEHGS mission is preserving materials that have been donated and collected so that we can interpret, document, and make accessible the histories of families in America. While some material is immediately ready to be archived, other items are in dire need of repair before history is compromised or lost altogether. Although our current efforts have saved some incredible documents, our workspace for these endeavors falls far short of being adequate for the current demand.

Therefore, one of our most important capital campaign initiatives will be a new Conservation Laboratory on the fourth floor of the NEHGS headquarters on Newbury Street. The glass-partitioned facility will provide an expanded, more functional space for the Society's important conservation work. Relocated from a modest niche on the library mezzanine, the new Conservation Laboratory will be highly visible to members and visitors, showcasing the expertise and care necessary to preserve valuable works on paper. Visitors will be able to observe conservation treatments, from basic stabilization to complete restoration, which will take place within a highly-visible room, protecting the integrity of the materials while still providing a "window" to the conservation process.

The climate-controlled laboratory will be responsible for the care and maintenance of all valuable paper-based materials, including manuscripts, diaries, Bible records, books, maps, photographs, works of art, and three dimensional objects that contain paper. An emphasis will be placed upon the conservation of materials that are unique to NEHGS or deemed to be of substantial intellectual, historical or artistic value. The conservator will oversee the storage and display of items and provide training in proper handling of artifacts.

The Conservation Laboratory presents a unique naming opportunity. For more information on supporting this project or other campaign initiatives, please contact Ted MacMahon, Director of Development, at tmacmahon@nehgs.org or 617-226-1218, or Steve Solomon, Manager of Gift Planning, at ssolomon@nehgs.org or 617-226-1238.



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Dr. J. Phillip "Jack" London

Dr. Jack London: A Passion for History

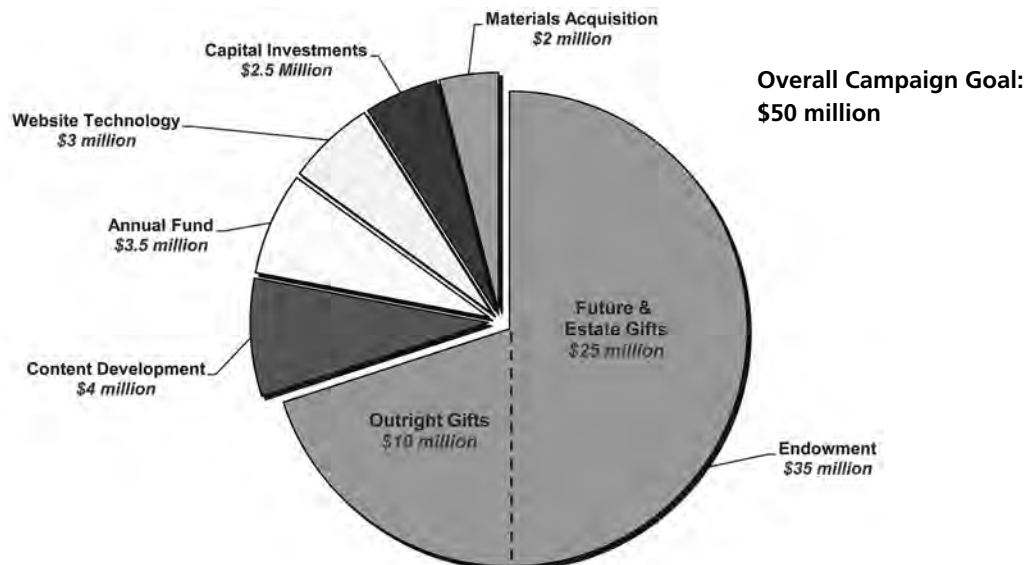
NEHGS member and author Dr. J. Phillip "Jack" London has long been consumed with a passion for history. "I have had an insatiable appetite for linking world affairs with my own family history. I love history and am a detective at heart, and devote all my spare time to researching the many roads I've not yet travelled. Being personally tied to so much world and family history has changed my life and my views of our country and Western civilization."

Jack's genealogical journey began in the early 1970s, when he received a typed manuscript of his early family history from Opal London Cox, a distant cousin in central Pennsylvania. The manuscript contained accounts of the London family's nineteenth-century westward migration through Ohio and Illinois to Oklahoma prior to statehood. Jack still maintains his membership in the Oklahoma 89ers, an organization commemorating those who took part in the "Run of 1889," and literally "ran" to stake out their land.

His current research, and the basis of his next book, goes back to the Crusades. His American gateway ancestor was George Blakiston (1616–1669), who escaped the wrath of Charles II after George's brother, John, signed the death warrant for Charles I. George escaped to Maryland in 1668.

"I vividly remember the early days of my research before the Internet: countless phone calls and letters to relatives, courthouses, and libraries. There was so much to do I often hired local people to help me break through countless 'brick walls.'"

"I am deeply indebted to all the staff at NEHGS for their enthusiasm, and excellent assistance with my research. It was Gary Boyd Roberts [NEHGS senior research scholar] who really opened my royal genealogical door by discovering my ancestral linkage to King Edward III."



TO INTRODUCE OUR CIVIL WAR-THEMED ISSUE, I begin with a family story. Growing up, my husband, Sam Grant Emison, knew he was distantly related to Ulysses S. Grant and believed that his given name — shared by his namesake great-grandfather Samuel Grant Emison (1863–1944) — honored the family connection to the famous Union general. Ulysses S. Grant was nicknamed Sam, and my husband recalled a biography of the general, *Captain Sam Grant*, on family bookshelves. As a genealogist, I was intrigued by this story, and began researching Grants. I found that Samuel Grant Emison’s mother was Anna Elizabeth (Grant) Emison (1836–1913), and that her



Lynn Betlock

grandfather, Peter Grant (1781–1829), was the half-brother of Jesse Root Grant (1794–1873), the father of Ulysses. I was pleased to be able to confirm the family tie.

Then I made an unexpected discovery. In *The Grant Family: A Genealogical History of the Descendants of Matthew Grant of Windsor, Conn., 1601–1898*, by Arthur H. Grant (1898), I read the following entry for Anna Elizabeth’s younger brother: “Samuel Hudson Grant b. nr. Lexington, Mo., July 20, 1843; killed in the battle of Corinth, Miss., Oct. 1, 1862; served in Co. B., Capt. Eugene Erwin’s Regt., C.S.A.” Then, all the puzzle pieces had to be rearranged. My husband’s great-grandfather, born in 1863, was not named for Ulysses S. Grant, Union general. Instead, Anna Elizabeth named her first child Samuel Grant Emison to honor Samuel Grant, her younger brother, who had died just a year earlier fighting for the Confederacy. (I later learned that Peter Grant, a Connecticut native, had supported abolition but his children, born and raised in Kentucky, supported the South.)

This research, from over twenty years ago, taught me an important genealogical lesson, especially relevant for the Civil War years: to be wary of constructing explanations based on conjecture. The most obvious and compelling narrative doesn’t necessarily take you down the correct path. People in the past lived messy

and complicated lives, just as we do today, and when lives are set against the backdrop of war, genealogists should expect the unexpected. Making assumptions about motivations and loyalties can obscure what actually happened.

The epic rift caused by the Civil War is compellingly evoked by the opening sentences of Benson J. Lossing’s 1866 *Pictorial History of the Civil War in the United States of America*: “The task of making a record of the events of the late Civil War in our Republic is not a pleasant one for an American citizen. It would be more consonant with his wishes to bury in oblivion all knowledge of those events which compose the materials of the sorrowful story of a strife among his brethren, of terrible energy and woeful operations.” Written the year after the war ended, these words remind us that behind the facts on enlistment records, pension files, and regimental histories lay both national and personal tragedy.

I have discovered while working on this issue that Civil War stories can still deeply move us — 150 years later. Somehow the Civil War still has the power to feel immediate, even after so many generations have passed. I expect I will find that to be the case when I tell my Boston-born son, Sam Emison (2004–), how, indirectly, he was named after a relative who died fighting for the Confederacy.

Although most of the articles in this issue focus on the Civil War, a few center on other conflicts: the American Revolution and Rhode Island’s Dorr Rebellion. The articles all share the common themes of war, loyalty, and dislocation.

As 2011 draws to a close, we wish to thank everyone who has contributed to AMERICAN ANCESTORS during the past year. We very much appreciate our writers, columnists, editors, proofreaders, photographers, indexer, and advertisers. We look forward to continued member contributions and feedback in 2012.

Lynn Betlock
 Managing Editor
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LETTERS & FEEDBACK

Full circle indeed

In preparation for the 250th anniversary of the coming of planters to the Nova Scotia townships of Londonderry, Onslow, and Truro, we researched and published an article entitled “Planters and Grantees of Cobequid, Nova Scotia, 1761–1780” (Colchester Historical Society, Truro N.S., 2011). One of the most intriguing women was Jemima Polly, daughter of the John Polly who emigrated in 1761 from the Malden/Medford area of Massachusetts. Jemima went through a suspect marriage, bore a child eighteen months after her putative husband left town, took that natural son into the household of an unquestionably legal husband and, after his early death, married a man at least thirteen years younger than herself. We were interested to learn from Diane Rapaport’s article (“The Real Scarlet Letters: Forbidden Love in Puritan Days” [AMERICAN ANCESTORS 12 (2011) 1:50–51] and Ed Hamilton’s letter (“Coming full circle” [AMERICAN ANCESTORS 12 (2011) 3:9]) that Jemima’s ancestor Elizabeth Polly was equally unfettered by convention.

*Carol Campbell and Jim Smith
Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada*

“Coming Home” to Saugus

After reading the article by Walter W. Woodward [“John Winthrop, Jr., and the Alchemy of Colonial Settlement,” AMERICAN ANCESTORS 12 (2011) 2:28–31] I realized the age of the Saugus Iron Works, and decided to visit. My twelve-year-old son and I set for Saugus on a warm June day, and toured the museum and looked at the interesting artifacts.

In the museum I discovered a plaque about iron master Joseph Jencks. I was curious, since I have Jencks ancestors from Rhode Island. After the tour I spoke with our guide, who told me that the Jencks family had moved to Rhode Island. Now I’ve got some more research to do.

I want to thank Walter W. Woodward for writing the article, which led me to an interesting place where one of my ancestors may have walked and worked. It’s a great feeling to know about an ancestor’s life. I only discovered I had New England ancestors in 2008.

I now really understand the NEHGS slogan “Come Home To New England.”

*Virginia Laguerre
Haverhill, Massachusetts*

The usefulness of back issues

I have been receiving this magazine for years and love it. I cannot part with back issues and have saved dozens. Today I re-read six past issues and picked up bits of information, especially sources, that I had missed. I found things that were not important to me three years ago, and now they are. I found mention of ancestors I have just discovered that were mentioned many issues ago. I realize these issues are online, but I love being able to carry the magazines with me. So, thank you so much for adding your high level of genealogical professionalism to the rich history of my family.

*Anne Louise Clap Van Nostrand
Boston, Massachusetts*

Reunited by an AMERICAN ANCESTORS article

After my article [“Tracing My Hidden Family Heritage in Hungary and Serbia,” AMERICAN ANCESTORS 12 (2011) 1:33–36, 43] was published, my Hungarian researcher, Andras Koltai, posted it on his website. In June 2011, a French film maker named Clarisse Hahn was wondering about her origins. Her boyfriend, knowing her grandfather was from Szabadka, googled “Hahn” and “Szabadka” and found the article. Clarisse found herself reading about her great-grandparents Jozsef and Tirza. Clarisse is my second cousin, and after contacting me, she put me in touch with her cousins and her uncle, all French, all named Hahn. She hadn’t known she had Jewish ancestry either. Her grandfather Imre, like my grandfather, married an ethnic Hungarian and walked away from his past. Her uncle knows so much about my grandfather, things I never knew. He sent me a picture of my grandfather in Paris in the 1930s with his brothers Imre and Janos. Suddenly I have found relatives with whom I share a name. My research has reunited us.

*Erica Hahn
Monrovia, California*



MY MOST CHALLENGING "BRICK WALL"

Feedback: What is the most challenging "brick wall" you have encountered through the course of your genealogical research?

Please note that NEHGS does not verify responses.

My great-great-grandmother, Kate Howard Butler, was born June 7, 1849, in New York City and died September 2, 1930, in Oak Park, Illinois. Her parents were **Theobald Butler and Catherine Van Horn**, both apparently born in New York and both of whom I cannot readily trace; Butler and Van Horn are common New York surnames. Theobald, Catherine, and Kate appear together in New York City in the 1850 census. Catherine and Kate are listed as lodgers in New York in the 1860 census. The 1880 census lists Catherine living with Kate and the latter's husband (James Lyman Price) and children in New York City. Catherine died in March 1881 and is buried at St. John's Cemetery in Yonkers. Did Theobald die before 1860? I have searched city directories, death records, and census records after 1850, but find no mention of Theobald. I have been unable to identify Catherine's or Theobald's parents. Is Howard a family surname on either side?

*Laural Price Portz
Tampa, Florida*

My brick wall is **Charity Dickinson**, born October 31, 1788, somewhere in New York. She married Joshua Lane (as his second wife) at age 19 on November 22, 1807. The source for her birth date and marriage date is the entry covering her husband Joshua Lane in *The Lane Genealogies* (1891), which does not name her parents. Her New York birthplace is based on U.S. censuses. Charity and Joshua's children were: Mary Dickinson (from whom I descend), Joshua Dickinson, John Wycliffe, Sarah, Henry Maxwell, Robert Lyell, Charles Augustus, and Harriet.

Another Charity Dickinson, born in New York in the same period, married a Jared Pratt and is the mother of Mormon pioneers Orson and Parley Parker Pratt. I have traced this Charity's ancestry but found no connection to my forebear.

*Nancy Hopkins
Leesburg, Virginia*

For at least twenty years I have searched for the parents of my great-great-great-great-grandfather, **Samuel Wright** (c. 1719–1780). He is listed with his wife Mary in the vital records of Wilmington, Mass. His children were Mary (b. August 27, 1745; married Roger Toothaker), Hannah (b. December 8, 1746; married Timothy French), Alice (b. June 19, 1749), Samuel Jr. (b. February 20, 1751; married Molly Brown), Elizabeth (b. January 11, 1753), Sarah (b. August 27, 1757; married, perhaps, Elephalet Brown), Anna (b. August 16, 1759), and Elisha (b. June 3, 1763; married Anna Saunders). Elisha and Anna were my great-great-great-grandparents. I have a copy of the deed in which Samuel sold his house and property in Wilmington in 1769. He moved to Hollis, New Hampshire, where his sons Samuel Jr. and Elisha are listed with their children in the family register along with other Wright families who may be related.

*Margot Akin Gifford
Valley Falls, New York*

Catherine (Kate) Hayes was born about 1802 in Essex County, New York. She married Josiah Hathaway of Pembroke, Mass., in 1821 in Keeseville, Clinton County, New York. She is listed in census records in Clinton County from 1820 through 1870. She died in Keeseville in 1879. I have been unable to identify her parents. An Aaron Hays (b. 1758 in Connecticut) moved to Essex County after the Revolutionary War (in which he served). In some publications, his children were listed as Aaron (b. 1790), Zimri, Harvey, Chester, Sara, and Sally. Aaron Sr. is buried in Jay, Essex Co., N.Y., very close to where Catherine was buried. He died in 1863 at age 105. Catherine was born and died before New York required statewide registration of vital records, and she might be an unrecorded daughter of Aaron Hayes. All Hayes, Hays, and Hayse families in the Wilmington, Jay, and Lewis area of upstate New York seem to be related.

*Judy Kelly
Peekskill, New York*

Please address letters and brick walls to AMERICAN ANCESTORS magazine, 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116; or email magazine@nehgs.org. We regret that we cannot reply to every letter. Submissions will be edited for clarity and length. Limit brick wall submissions to 200 words or less. Responses will be forwarded to submitters.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

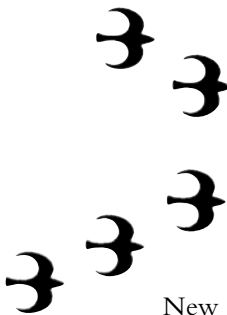


FREE FUN FRIDAY

On July 8, NEHGS participated in Boston's annual "Free Fun Friday" program, in which cultural and historical institutions offered free admission for the day. We provided a variety of special tours, lectures, and consultations to nearly 400 people.

Left: Visitors to the building received an orientation about the day's offerings.

Right: A day camp group assembled in the Education Center to hear a brief talk and make family trees.



Subscribe now for the 2012 Great Migration Newsletter

The Great Migration Newsletter complements the individual Great Migration sketches and addresses the broad issues key to understanding the lives and times of New England's first immigrants (1620–1643). The Newsletter examines the settlement of early New England towns, migration patterns, seventeenth-century passenger lists, church and land records, and more.

Print subscribers to volume 21 (2012) receive a new issue of the Newsletter through the mail each quarter (\$20 per year or \$36 for two years).

Online subscribers can access new issues each quarter as well as view past volumes at GreatMigration.org (\$10 per year or \$18 for two years).

To subscribe, please visit www.GreatMigration.org or call Member Services at 1-888-296-3447.



WE MADE IT!

Priscilla Greenlees, NEHGS Councilor, is shown here with President and CEO D. Brenton Simons. Priscilla made the donation that completed the 2011 Annual Fund goal. Thank you, Priscilla, for your important contribution, and thank you to those who have already donated to the 2012 Annual Fund. With your support, we will continue to preserve and make accessible the rich heritage of American families and be responsible caretakers of family records and storytellers for future generations.



**Rapaport & Anderson on the BBC's
*Who Do You Think You Are?***

Diane Rapaport, “Tales from the Courthouse” columnist for *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*, and Robert Charles Anderson, Director of the Great Migration Study Project, were recently featured on the BBC series *Who Do You Think You Are?* British television celebrity Richard Madeley was surprised to learn that his Canadian mother had roots extending to seventeenth-century Boston, where ancestor Anne Beamsley was born in 1632. At Boston City Hall, Anderson located Beamsley’s birth in the earliest original volume of Boston vital records. At the Massachusetts Archives, Rapaport showed Madeley a 1650 petition signed by Anne and more than 150 other women — the first organized women’s political protest in American history — which obtained release from prison of a midwife they believed wrongly convicted. Madeley also discovered that ancestor Ezekiel Woodward (Beamsley’s husband) was a sergeant in the colonial militia during King Philip’s War, participating in the Great Swamp Fight of 1675, a controversial attack on a Narragansett fort in Rhode Island that killed hundreds of Native Americans. The episode, which aired in the U.K. in September, is not scheduled for U.S. release, but a DVD of the series is expected to be available for purchase from the BBC in a few months.

OBITUARIES

Robert O. F. Bixby, 1926–2011

Council member and former trustee Robert Oliver Fuller Bixby of Arlington, Virginia, died in Arlington August 4, 2011, aged eighty-five. Mr. Bixby became interested in genealogy when he found family records in the attic of his mother’s Watertown, Massachusetts, home after he bought the family residence upon her death. Family records compiled by his father enabled him to trace his paternal ancestry to nine *Mayflower*



In August, television talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres visited Boston with her wife Portia de Rossi. They are pictured here with Brenton Simons (right) and marketing Director Tom Champoux (left). NEHGS has done a significant amount of research on Ellen DeGeneres’s family.

passengers. He also discovered, after seeing an obituary in the *Register*, that his great-uncle, Charles Fuller, had been a Life Member of the Society from 1890 to 1939.

Mr. Bixby became an NEHGS member in 1997 and served as a Trustee from 2000 until 2006, and then as a member of the Council until his death. He became a Life Member in 2008 and was a member of the Ewer Society. He served in various capacities, including as Chairman and later member of the Society’s Audit Committee.

Mr. Bixby was born in Cambridge, Mass., on January 13, 1926, a son of Leland and Edith (Fuller) Bixby. He was raised in Watertown, Mass., and graduated from Watertown High School, Class of 1944. He served in the Army during World War II as a member of the 8th Cavalry Recon Troop. He graduated from Babson College in 1949 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration. He was a Certified Public Accountant and a partner with the accounting firm Price-Waterhouse in Boston until 1970, when he transferred to its New York office, from which he retired in 1986. He served as Chairman and was a member of the Board of Trustees of Babson College, and a member and past president of the Massachusetts Society of CPAs. He and his wife Sally (Johnson), who predeceased him in 1996, spent many summers at their seasonal home in Ogunquit, Maine.

Surviving are his two children, two grandchildren, a brother and a niece.

NEW SEARCHABLE DATABASES ON AMERICANANCESTORS.ORG

Books, journals, and periodicals

- *The Essex Genealogist*, vols. 6–10
- *The Mayflower Descendant*, vols. 16–20
- *New Netherland Connections*, vol. 14
- *The Virginia Genealogist*, vols. 41–45

Local history

- Session Book of Aghadowey, County Londonderry, Northern Ireland

Vital records

- Connecticut vital records: Hartford, Middletown, Milford, and New London
- Providence, R.I.: index to deaths, 1931–1940

Wills and deeds

- Albany County, N.Y., deeds, 1630–1894, vols. 5–8
- Abstracts of New York County wills, 1662–1801



Lee Riordan, 1927–2011

LeRoy (Lee) Edward Riordan, a resident of Carmel Valley, California, died July 2, 2011 in Monterey, Calif., aged 84. He was born to Andrew and Clara (King) Riordan on January 4, 1927 in McKittrick, Calif. A member of a pioneer family that settled in Watsonville, Calif., in 1850, he had a deep interest in his ancestry, and joined the Society with his wife in 1997. He was a member of the Council, Class of 2011.

He graduated from Watsonville High School in 1945 and served in the Pacific Theater until the end of World War II. He earned his Bachelors and Masters Degrees in Political Science and Public Administration from the University of California, Berkeley. Involved in municipal administration, he spent the majority of his career in San Leandro and completed his service in Monterey. He retired in 1991.

Surviving are his wife, the former Katharine Fowle; a daughter, Jennifer; a son, Daniel; and four grandchildren.

Alice Richardson Sloane, 1930–2011

Alice (Richardson) Sloane of Bettendorf, Iowa, wife of former Trustee L. Ted Sloane, died at Davenport, Iowa, August 15, 2011, aged 81. She and her husband shared a passion for genealogy, and became an expert team in Midwestern family history research. The couple became NEHGS members in 1976, following in the footsteps of her great-grandfather, Esek Steere Ballord of Davenport, who joined the Society in 1904. The Richardson-Sloane Education Center in our Newbury Street headquarters, opened in 2000, is dedicated to their commitment to genealogical scholarship and generous long-term support of the Society. Shortly before her death, Mrs. Sloane arranged to have many of her genealogical papers deposited at NEHGS.

Mrs. Sloane was born in Davenport on March 1, 1930, the daughter of David Nelson and Marion Keith (Mason) Richardson. She and her husband were married in 1949. She became a Certified Genealogist in 1979, and specialized in lineage research for numer-

ous hereditary organizations. She was past National Assistant Registrar of The National Society of The Colonial Dames of America. Mrs. Sloane authored the NSCDA Ancestor Index, several genealogies, and numerous articles for genealogical publication. Over the years, the Sloanes created a genealogical library available to the public. In 1999, they endowed the Davenport Public Library with the Richardson-Sloane Area History and Special Collections Room, which contains the Sloane genealogical library as well as newspapers on microfilm, Scott County, Iowa, court records, and a local photography collection.

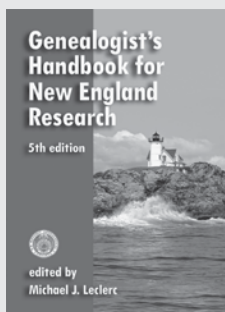
She is survived by her husband, two children and their spouses, five grandchildren, a great-grandchild, and a sister.



NEHGS in Springfield, Illinois September 7–10, 2011

Website administrator Ellie Spinney discusses *AmericanAncestors.org* with a member at the NEHGS booth at the Federation of Genealogical Societies conference in Springfield, Illinois. More than 2,000 people attended the conference, and NEHGS showcased recent additions to content, publications, and resources.

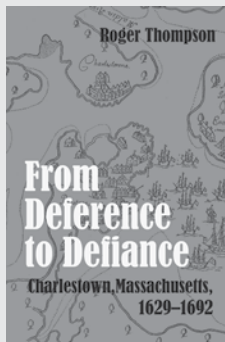
New from NEHGS Books!



Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, 5th Edition

Edited by Michael J. Leclerc

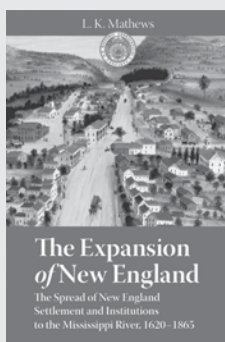
Now in its fifth edition, this handbook is an indispensable resource for research in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. More than just a how-to book, it is a location guide to public records, repositories, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout New England. This new edition also includes introductory essays explaining basics of research and resources unique to each state, nearly eighty state and county maps, a listing of each town's parent and daughter towns, a checklist of published and manuscript vital and church records, a New England gazetteer, and a new user-friendly two-color design. 7 x 10 softcover, 500 pp., *illus.*, \$24.95 (member price \$22.46)



From Deference to Defiance: Charlestown, Massachusetts, 1629-1692

By Roger Thompson

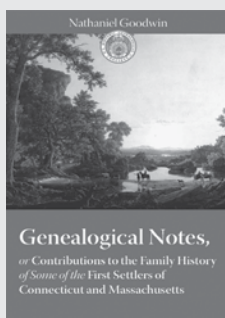
This book recreates the lost world of seventeenth-century Charlestown and the lives and work of the first three generations of its townspeople. By using a variety of surviving records, Thompson presents a colorful history of the town's settlement and governance, its relationship with the land and sea, its church, local crime and violence, the role of women, and ultimately its involvement in the Glorious Revolution of 1688. 6 x 9, 650 pp., softcover \$27.95 (member price \$21.16); hardcover \$44.95 (member price \$40.46)



The Expansion of New England: The Spread of New England Settlement and Institutions to the Mississippi River, 1620-1865

By Lois Kimball Mathews, with a foreword by Ralph Crandall

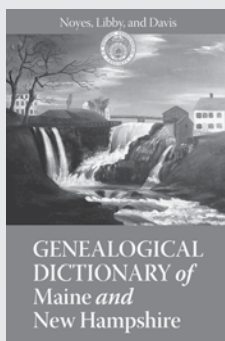
Originally published in 1909, this history of westward expansion provides an important context and framework for anyone researching early New England and pioneer ancestors. Topics include the socio-economic and religious reasons for migrating first to New England and then westward, war's impact on the ever-shifting frontier, the settlers' relationship with Native Americans, the history of the formation of new states, and more. Nearly thirty detailed maps help illustrate settlement patterns east of the Mississippi River in the 17th and 18th centuries, and the migration shift to Ohio, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Wisconsin during the first half of the 19th century. 6 x 9 softcover, xv + 303 pp., *illus.*, \$17.95 (member price \$16.16)



Genealogical Notes: First Settlers of Connecticut and Massachusetts

By Nathaniel Goodwin, with a foreword by D. Brenton Simons

Originally published in 1856, this work is an essential resource for anyone with early Connecticut and Massachusetts ancestry. It presents compiled genealogical notes for more than forty families, through the fourth generation, and sometimes into the sixth. A great starting point for beginning researchers, the detailed notes will have researchers of all levels returning to this book time and time again. 6 x 9 softcover, xx + 362 pp., \$19.95 (member price \$17.95)



Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire

By Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, with a foreword by David Dearborn

Originally published in five parts between 1928 and 1939, this book contains extensive biographical and genealogical information on every family which settled in Maine and New Hampshire prior to 1699. Births, marriages, and deaths are listed through the third, and sometimes the fourth, generation. Sketches also include data on places of origin, residence, wills and deeds, court cases, and careers. This indispensable resource will save you time and provide a greater understanding of the area. 6 x 9 softcover, xii + 795 pp., \$27.95 (member price \$25.16)



EDUCATION PROGRAMS & TOURS

SALT LAKE INSTITUTE OF GENEALOGY: NEHGS ADVANCED NEW ENGLAND COURSE

January 23–27, 2012



Featured NEHGS Experts: David C. Dearborn and Rhonda R. McClure
Researching New England ancestors offers countless opportunities to explore the records of one of America's most historic regions. This course examines methods and sources for researching families in New England from 1620 to 1850 (focusing primarily on the colonial period, 1620–1781). Educational lectures will explore advanced research strategies for each New England state, repositories, and record types. Participants will receive one-on-one research assistance from NEHGS genealogists throughout the week. *Tuition: \$400. Visit www.infouga.org for more information and to register.*

WEEKEND RESEARCH GETAWAYS

Winter: "Beyond Names and Dates,"
February 9–11, 2012

Spring: "Discovering New England's Records,"
March 29–31, 2012

Uncover the wealth of materials available to researchers at the NEHGS Library at 99–101 Newbury Street during our Weekend Research Getaways. The program features extended library hours, individual consultations, and themed lectures. *Tuition (does not include lodging): \$300; single days \$110 each.*



FAMILY HISTORY DAY, TARRYTOWN, NEW YORK
Saturday, March 17, 2012

Join NEHGS and Ancestry.com for a day of learning and exploration as we present our third Family History Day — the first outside of Boston! More than 1,300 participants attended the last Family History Day. Watch your email inbox, *The Weekly Genealogist*, and the NEHGS Facebook page for additional information.

RESEARCH TRIP TO BELFAST May 20–27, 2012

Featured NEHGS Experts: Marie Daly and Judith Lucey
Join NEHGS for our inaugural trip to Belfast, Ireland, as we delve into the resources at the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland (PRONI) and other repositories. In addition to individual consultations, the week in Belfast will also feature group activities and educational opportunities for all participants. Space is limited. *Tuition (includes seven nights' lodging at Jurys Inn, Belfast): single, \$2,700; double, \$2,300 (shared lodging with another participant); double with non-researching guest, \$2,950; no lodging, \$950.*



REGISTERING FOR NEHGS EVENTS HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

Online: Registration for all tours is available online at *AmericanAncestors.org*.

Phone: Call 617-226-1226 to register for any event.

Mail: Download a registration form from *AmericanAncestors.org* or request one via telephone (617-226-1226) or email (*education@nehgs.org*).

Visit *AmericanAncestors.org/events* for additional details on any NEHGS program.

ROOTSTECH 2012 February 2–4, 2012

NEHGS is one of the sponsors of RootsTech 2012, a family history and technology conference in Salt Lake City, Utah. The conference will bring together major technology creators and family history technology users. Participants will discover emerging technologies and devices to improve research; learn from hands-on workshops and interactive presentations; and collaborate with technology creators to advance family history through technology. Sessions are designed to interest novice, intermediate, and advanced technology users. *Tuition: Through November 30, \$129; after December 1, \$189.* For more information, visit *rootstech.org*.

COME HOME TO NEW ENGLAND, June 11–16, 2012 and August 6–11, 2012

Discover the treasures of 99–101 Newbury Street and “Come Home” to the nation’s oldest and largest genealogical society. One of the Society’s most popular programs, “Come Home to New England” features an intensive week of research, lectures, individual consultations, group meals, and other activities. *Tuition (does not include lodging): \$700 per person; \$105 non-researching guest.*



The NEHGS Tour through Ireland and Irish History, July 2011

Clockwise from top left: Toni and Joe Junkin at the Cliffs of Moher, County Clare; newlyweds Cynthia and Bob Hendrickson; Julie Cox, a local fiddler, and Brenton Simons, photographed when the group “stopped in for a pint”; and the tour group at Glin Castle, County Limerick, with tour leader Donald Friary (in white jacket) in the center of the front row, and, to his left, Madam FitzGerald of Glin Castle.

ONLINE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS



NEHGS's online seminars are an effective way to access our programs. No matter where you live, engaging lectures are just a mouse click away. Each seminar is a fully illustrated presentation with narration by NEHGS genealogists. We currently feature thirteen seminars on topics for beginning family historians and seasoned researchers. To access one of the following seminars, visit the Learning Center, under the Resources tab at www.AmericanAncestors.org. Have an idea for a future online seminar? Email education@nehgs.org.

- Applying to Lineage Societies, *Christopher Challender Child*
- Bridging the Atlantic: Methods of Tracing Your Seventeenth-Century Ancestors Across the Water, *David C. Dearborn, FASG*
- Civil War Pension Research: Union Soldiers, *David Allen Lambert*
- Getting Started in Genealogy, Parts 1–3, *Marie E. Daly*
- Getting Started in Irish Genealogy, Part 1, *Marie E. Daly*
- Genealogical Tips: Transcribing Gravestones, *David Allen Lambert*
- Methods of Finding a Wife's Maiden Name, *David C. Dearborn, FASG*
- NEHGS Library Resources, *Marie E. Daly*
- NEHGS Resources Online, *Marie E. Daly*
- An Overview of the NEHGS Manuscripts Collection, *Timothy G.X. Salls*
- Researching Your Newfoundland Ancestors, Part 1, *Judith Lucey*
- Using *AmericanAncestors.org*, *Ryan J. Woods*
- Who Was Your Mother's Mother's Mother's Mother? *Julie Helen Otto*

BOSTON EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

NEHGS invites members, guests, and the general public to participate in our dynamic educational programming.

Wednesday, November 9	Using <i>AmericanAncestors.org</i>	10 a.m.
Saturday, December 3	New Visitor and Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 4	New Visitor and Welcome Tour	10 a.m.
Wednesday, January 11	Using <i>American Ancestors.org</i>	10 a.m.
Saturday, February 4	New Visitor and Welcome Tour	10 a.m.

*Registration and/or fees required. Call 617-226-1226 for more information.

All above programs take place at 99–101 Newbury Street, Boston.

THE ONLINE GENEALOGIST

The Online Genealogist Answers Your Questions

by David Allen Lambert

An 1806 newspaper mentions that my ancestor was a “field driver.” What does this term mean?

A field driver was charged with gathering loose domestic farm animals and placing them in a stockade or the town pound. The job, usually an elected town office, was similar to today’s dog catcher or animal control officer. You might examine local town records for more details about the position and your ancestor’s service. Many stone town pounds still exist. A website, www.stonestructures.org/html/town_pounds.html, features descriptions and photos of several historic town pounds, primarily in Massachusetts and New Hampshire.

I have learned that my grandfather, who lived in Somerville, Massachusetts, was a member of the Royal Arcanum from 1879 to 1921. Can you tell me anything about this organization?

The Royal Arcanum, one of the oldest fraternal benefit societies in the United States, was founded in 1877 to provide members with life insurance — then too expensive for most Americans. More information about the Royal Arcanum, which still exists, can be found at <http://royalarcanum.com>.

My ancestor’s Union Army enlistment papers state that he was born in 1818 in Bain, Pennsylvania. I cannot find Bain on any map — or any other reference to it. Do you have any suggestions?

I consulted *A Gazetteer of the State of Pennsylvania* (1832) by Thomas Francis Gordon, in the Rare Books collection at NEHGS and also available online from Google Books. No town named “Bain” was listed but there was a Bainbridge, Pennsylvania, in Lancaster County. Perhaps your ancestor was born in Bainbridge.

My great-grandfather died in Queens, New York, in 1940. Can you tell me how I can find his death certificate?

I suggest that you search the Italian Genealogical Group’s New York City death index, at www.italiangen.org/NYCDDeath.stm. The index contains such records for Manhattan: 1868 to 1894; Brooklyn: 1862 to 1897; and all boroughs: 1898 to 1948. The webpage provides a link to the New York City Municipal Archives site, which has online and printable forms for ordering certified copies of death certificates.

The Italian Genealogical Group also transcribed many birth and marriage records for New York City. To learn more about the dates and locations of these records, visit www.italiangen.org/vreclist.stm.

My ancestor’s obituary noted that “during the war he served in the commissary department in Newbern,

North Carolina.” I doubt he was a soldier. Do you know what his role might have been?

The Commissary Department was in charge of providing food for the army, and dealt generally with a regiment’s quartermaster. Records of the Commissary Department are at the National Archives [Records of the

Office of the Commissary General of Subsistence, Record Group 192.] An excerpt from *Annals of the Army of the Cumberland* (1863) noted, “The Commissary Department is the great heart that sends the life-blood bounding through the veins of an army.” The entire selection, titled “The Commissary Department,” is available at www.qmfound.com/quartermaster_1861-63.htm. ♦

Contact the online genealogist!

Email David Lambert at onlinegenealogist@nehgs.org. For more questions and answers, visit the Question of the Day archive at www.AmericanAncestors.org/blogs.aspx?blogid=111.



David Allen Lambert



STRATEGIES FOR TRACING UNION CIVIL WAR VETERANS

by David Allen Lambert

THE CIVIL WAR REMAINS A PART OF AMERICA'S collective memory. The last Union soldier, Albert Woolson, only died in the 1950s. Many people can recall meeting Civil War veterans, who may have told tales of their military adventures. Over the years I have met a number of people with vivid stories of ancestors who were at the battle of Gettysburg, saw a glimpse of President Abraham Lincoln, or endured a prison stay at Andersonville. Often, these rich accounts are more detailed and immediate than those from earlier wars, such as the Revolution, because less time and fewer generations have passed. Some descendants of Civil War veterans inherited original family letters, diaries, or photographs from those years. These sources may have provided the first clue that someone from the family served. This article will suggest strategies for expanding your knowledge by using published, local, and federal

records — and online sources — to build the story of a Civil War ancestor.

Using the U.S. Census to Determine Veterans

Although the United States census of 1890 was destroyed by fire, the Special Schedule of Veterans and their Widows survives for some states. The schedule indicates the veteran's regiment or vessel; dates of service; and any disabilities associated with the service. The schedule can be found on microfilm at the National Archives, at NEHGS, or on *Ancestry.com*. (Unfortunately, only the states or territories beginning with the letters K to W survive. The special schedule of the other states and territories was destroyed in the early twentieth century.) The 1910 U.S. census included a column asking if respondents were Union or Confederate veterans (Army or Navy). The 1930 U.S.

Above: Members of G.A.R. Post 26 of Roxbury, Mass., participate in a circa 1910 Decoration Day ceremony in front of the grave of Pvt. Robert Bell of Co. C, 3rd Massachusetts Cavalry, at Boston's Forest Hills Cemetery. The soldier pictured with his hat in the air is Francis Blake Perkins (1835–1918) and the kneeling soldier is "Mr. Nason," probably Captain George H. Nason. Both men served in Co. K, 35th Regiment Massachusetts Volunteers. The image was donated to NEHGS by Catherine Perkins Carter, Francis Perkins's great-granddaughter. Mss A 5089, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections at NEHGS.

census asked respondents whether they were veterans of any war or conflict.

Using Service Records

An essential resource, available from the National Park Service, is the Civil War Soldiers Database, www.itd.nps.gov/cvss/. This free database — currently with 6.3 million soldier names — allows users to search by first and last name; Union or Confederate; state or foreign origin; unit number; and function. My search for Charles Gale produces twenty-four matches, and after selecting Union and Massachusetts, I receive a list of five veterans. My relative is Pvt. Charles W[illiam] Gale, a musician with both Co. B. and Co. I. of the 3rd Massachusetts Cavalry. This information was transcribed from the General Service Index of Soldiers by state, and is cited as National Archives microfilm M544, roll 15.

I now turn to a published source for Massachusetts veterans — the nine-volume *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War*. The index for this set shows three references for Charles Gale, including “Gale, Charles W. – Drummer – Res. Boston; clerk; 16; enlisted June 9, 1862; must[ered] Aug. 5, 1862; disch[arged]. Feb. 12, 1863, to enlist in Regular Army.” Another entry lists his service as “Music Boy” with Co. B., General Service United States Army. These entries provide enough detail for me to be almost certain that Charles William Gale, my great-great-uncle born in 1845 and living in Boston in 1862, was the drummer and “Music Boy” found in the records.

As I follow Charles Gale’s paper trail, my next step is to examine his service record at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., or order it online for \$25. The service file contains cards abstracted from muster rolls showing service from enlistment until mustering out. Since Charles Gale served in two different units, I need to search two separate service records. In one of his files I discover that Charles Gale’s eye was injured but he remained in the service. My grandmother recalled that her uncle was a drummer boy who went blind, later worked as a piano tuner, and lived in Lynn, Massachusetts. So far the service record has provided evidence to support her story. My next step is to document Charles Gale’s injury further.

Pension Records

As early as 1861, U.S. Civil War veterans could apply for pensions based on injury or illness. Veterans and their widows and orphaned children were eligible for these “invalid pensions,” not to be confused with rejected applications. Widow and minor child pensions were

those most commonly granted to a family member, but recipients also included parents or siblings dependent on financial support from the deceased veteran.

The National Archives has two Civil War soldier pension indexes to consult: series T-288, an alphabetical index for all soldiers, and T-289, an organizational index arranged by state, regiment or unit, and company, then alphabetically by surname. T-289 is useful for finding pensions of other members of your ancestor’s regiment. Veterans often wrote descriptive affidavits for fellow soldiers, so you might find one by an ancestor.

Both indexes are available on microfilm at the National Archives in Washington, and at many regional National Archives branches. These indexes can also be searched online. The alphabetical T-288 index is available on *Ancestry.com*, and the organization index can be found on *Fold3.com* (formerly *Footnote.com*). These commercial websites offer a convenient way to quickly determine whether your ancestor received a pension. They also offer a variety of other Civil War databases. (Researchers visiting NEHGS in Boston can access both websites from any computer in the building.) The two indexes include dates, application numbers, and certificate numbers. If only an application number is listed, the pension was rejected or the soldier died during the application process.

Civil War pension files ordered online from the National Archives will contain the complete file. The current charge is \$75. If you consult the original in person, you can make photocopies or use a portable flatbed scanner or digital camera. Copy all pages, on both sides, and keep the documents in their exact order within the folder. Sometimes the date and place of death of the veteran or widow is written on the pension’s docket sleeve, or on a postal card returned from the local postmaster noting that the pensioner had died. For this reason alone reproducing all pages is important. I recommend making two sets of copies — one set in the original order and another set to arrange chronologically. By placing the documents in chronological order, you can create a timeline of your ancestor’s (and possibly his widow’s) life after the Civil War.

If your ancestor’s widow remarried and was widowed again, she could reapply for a pension. Consult the Remarried Widows Pension Index to determine whether this situation applies. The index is available on microfilm from the National Archives and available online from *Ancestry.com*.

Reading the pension of Charles Gale, I confirmed that he indeed the sixteen year-old drummer boy who enlisted in 1862. He was widowed in 1907, and his eye injury eventually led to blindness. For the remainder of

his life he worked as a piano tuner and lived with his family in Lynn. The story from my grandmother (his niece) had stayed true to the facts.

Grand Army of the Republic Records

Charles Gale's pension file noted that he was a member of G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic) Post 144 in Dedham, Massachusetts. Upon locating the original records of this G.A.R. post at the Dedham Historical Society, I found an identified group photo from September 1886 — one that included my great-great-uncle holding his Civil War drum. G.A.R. records often include individual or group photographs, but the challenge is locating the records themselves. Many G.A.R. halls closed between the 1920s and the 1950s and, in some cases, their records were carefully preserved at historical societies, public libraries, and veterans offices in cities and towns throughout the country. However, other records unfortunately ended up with antique dealers or in landfills. Town historians and local historical societies often know the whereabouts of these valuable postwar records, if they survive.

Regimental Histories

Many regiments were fortunate in having their experiences memorialized in print. The NEHGS library holds many originals as well as a microfiche copy of all known New England regimental histories. These histories detail the regiment's organization and battles, and often contain biographies of the officers, a list of all soldiers, and wartime illustrations. Many of these histories even provide soldiers' post-1865 places of residence and death dates. Some regimental histories are available on Google Books (<http://books.google.com/>).

Local History

The commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Civil War, from 1911 to 1915, produced many anniversary publications. Local histories focused on community involvement in the war can be a rich source of information. These books often include first-hand accounts by surviving local soldiers. Searching area newspapers for articles published around Memorial Day (formerly Decoration Day) and obituaries of Civil War soldiers can also be fruitful.

Soldier's Home Records

In their later years some veterans sought to live at one of the many national or state soldiers' homes located throughout the United States. A number of the last soldiers of the Union army spent their final days or years at such facilities, which provided medical care and



Officers of the 14th New Hampshire. A Memorial of the Great Rebellion Being a History of the Fourteenth Regiment of New-Hampshire Volunteers, 1862–1865 (1882), facing page 106.

companionship. Many veterans likely opted for burial at the adjacent cemetery if they did not have a family plot of their own. Many soldier home records are at the regional branches of the National Archives nearest to the facility. A number of these records have been microfilmed and can be ordered from the Family History Library in Salt Lake City. A National Park Service website, www.nps.gov/nr/travel/veterans_affairs/index.html, documents the history and development of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, which was comprised of eleven branches. The only national home in New England, known as the Eastern Branch, was located in Togus, Maine. "Registers of Veterans at the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Eastern Branch in Togus, Maine, 1866–1934," is available through the Family History Library.

Cemetery and military gravestones

Locating the final resting place of a Civil War soldier may be easier than a similar search for veterans of earlier wars. From the war's earliest days, markers were erected by local families or communities. In southeastern Massachusetts many of these small marble gravestones are inscribed with the name and regiment of the deceased and, on the reverse, carved with the word "Comrade." These earliest marble markers are precursors to the standard white marble markers issued by

the United States government. Many veterans had two gravestones: a central family gravestone and the white marker, which served as a foot marker. Some veterans are buried in Grand Army plots, located in many larger cemeteries. Later military markers often do not bear the death date of the veteran, but simply his name and regiment or vessel. Many of these marble stones are now greatly weathered from acid rain and erosion. The federal government will replace these markers. To make arrangements, first contact the local veterans' agent about the gravestone's condition, or the lack of a marker. Note that although the government will provide a free marker, the installation cost will vary by cemetery. The average cost is \$50 to \$200, depending on the type of monument.

I followed the trail of my relative, Charles W. Gale, to his final resting place at the Pine Grove Cemetery in Lynn. The records I used to research him, which spanned the years from his enlistment in 1862 to his death in 1920, confirmed and expanded the story of his Civil War service and post-war life.

State resources

The following books are the most useful for determining Civil War military service for ancestors within the New England states and New York. These volumes are available at NEHGS and elsewhere.

Connecticut

Connecticut Adjutant General's Office, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion* (Hartford, Conn.: Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889).

Maine

Maine Adjutant General's Office, *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine, 1861–1866*, 7 vols. (Augusta, Me.: Stevens & Sayward, 1862–67).

Massachusetts

Massachusetts Adjutant General's Office, *Massachusetts Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines in the Civil War*, 8 vols. plus index (Norwood, Mass.: Norwood Press, 1931–35).

New Hampshire

New Hampshire Adjutant General's Office, *Revised Register of the Soldiers and Sailors of New Hampshire in the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1865* (Concord, N.H.: State Printer, 1895).

Rhode Island

Rhode Island Adjutant General's Office, *Official Register of Rhode Island Officers and Men Who served in the United States Army and Navy from 1861–1866*, 2 vols. (Providence, R.I.: State Printers, 1893–95).

Vermont

Vermont Adjutant and Inspector General's Office, *Revised Roster of Vermonters who served in the Army and Navy of the United States during the War of the Rebellion, 1861–66* (Montpelier, Vt.: Press of the Watchman Publishing Co., 1892).

New York

New York Adjutant General's Office, *Registers of New York Regiments in the War of the Rebellion*, 43 vols. (Albany, N.Y., 1894–1906).

Websites

Ancestry.com

Pension and other military records

Civil War service and pension records from the National Archives

www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/pre-ww-1-records.html

Civil War Soldier Database (National Park Service)

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/

Civil War Soldier Prison Database

www.itd.nps.gov/cwss/prisoners.htm

Cyndi's List Civil War Links

www.cyndislist.com/cw.htm

Fold3.com

Pension and other military records

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies

<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/waro.html>

Official Records of the Union and Confederate Navies

<http://ebooks.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/ofre.html>

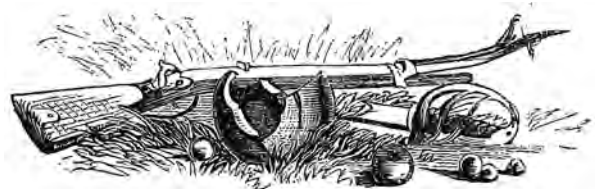
U.S. Army Military History Photograph Database

www.carlisle.army.mil/ahec/USAMHI/PhotoSearch.cfm

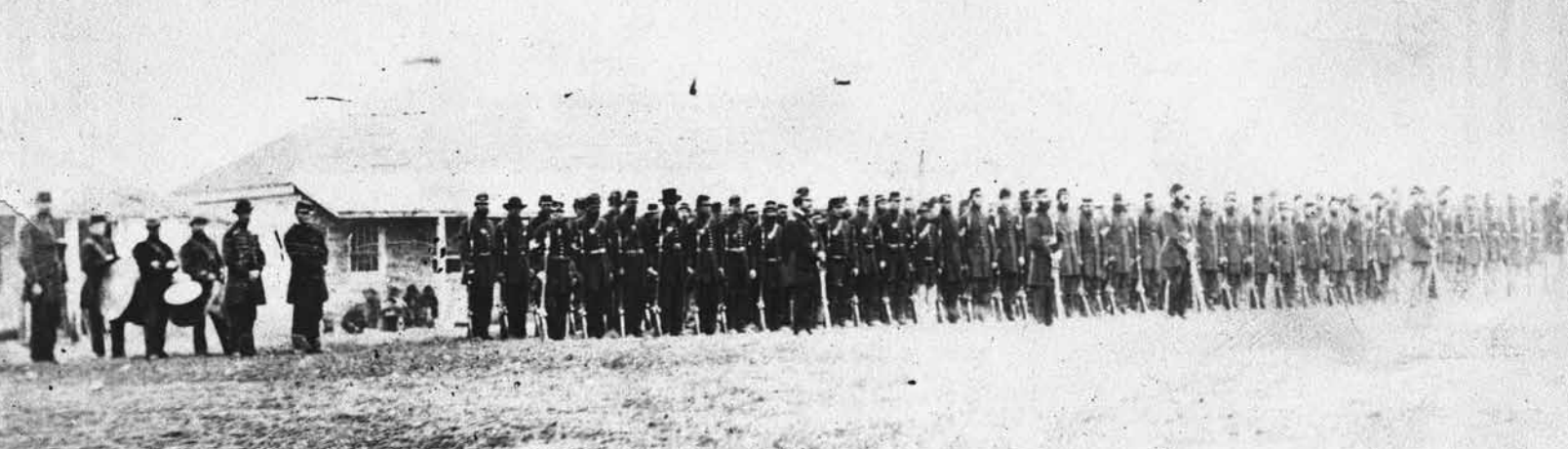
The United States Civil War Center

www.cwc.lsu.edu/ ♦

DAVID ALLEN LAMBERT is the NEHGS online genealogist.



Benson J. Lossing, *Pictorial History of the Civil War* (1868).



A Tale of Two Brothers: *Charles Richmond Shedd* and *Cornelius W. Shedd*

by Susan Kilbride

FOR MANY GENEALOGISTS, OUTLINING THE BARE facts of an ancestor's life is not enough. We want to discover the stories of their lives and learn more personal details. While researching my ancestor Maria (Shedd) Alden, I uncovered a compelling family tale told through a series of letters. A microfilm at the Minnesota Historical Society contains correspondence written during the Civil War from two of Maria's brothers to their sisters and parents in Minnesota.^[1] These vibrant letters chronicle the Shedd family through division, war, and death.

In 1856, Charles and Eliza (Rowell) Shedd moved from Campton, New Hampshire, to Mantorville, Minnesota, where as an ordained Congregational minister, Charles devoted himself to local missionary work. Five of their six children accompanied them: Charles (Richmond); Maria Elizabeth (Lizzie); Mary; Martha; and Henry, who brought his own young family as well. Charles and Eliza's third son, Cornelius Worcester Shedd, had been working in Massachusetts as a machinist and in 1856 moved to Tuscaloosa, Alabama, to install machinery.^[2]

When the Civil War began, Cornelius had lived in the South for five years. Although born in the North to a family that became staunchly Unionist, Cornelius had decidedly different views, as proved by this letter to his sister Maria dated May 6, 1861:^[3]

Above: Second Minnesota Volunteer Infantry standing in front of the Long Barracks, Fort Snelling, [Minnesota]. (Charles Richmond Shedd was a private in Company C.) Courtesy of the Minnesota Historical Society.

Dear Sister

I received your political letter a few days ago and was very glad to hear from you but I had supposed that between your husband and family you had enough to attend to without writing politics.

I have been wishing for some time for an opportunity to express my ideas on things in general and as your letter has raised steam enough to open the safety valve of my pent up views I will now let them "blow off" . . . although I am aware that neither my ideas or mode of expressing them will be entirely satisfactory to you.

You got off one capital joke. I did not think you were such a jester but I like a good joke let it come from whatever source it may. You say "Any one who has been South as long as you have would be likely to get warped ideas on the everlasting Slavery question particularly as you do not have access to Northern papers."

Is not that rich? The expression has an air of sincerity about it but I give you credit for too much sense to really believe that I, having lived in the South Lo these many years have acquired warped ideas on the subject of Slavery - while you, who only read the northern papers, (i.e. the Tribune) most of whose articles are written by men who were never South of Mason & Dixon line in their lives, have perfectly clear and straight grained ideas. . . .



“Alabama Insane Hospital, at Tuscaloosa,” where Cornelius Shedd worked during the Civil War. Saffold Berney, Hand-Book of Alabama (1892), 246.

In August 1861, Cornelius again wrote to one of his sisters:

“ . . . I don’t know when I shall see you but it will certainly not be till the present distraction has subsided — It seems hardly worth while to write any more. As long as you read and believe the Tribune I shall not be likely to agree with you in sentiment. I would like to give you an idea of the enthusiasm existing here, but my pen is incapable and my time too limited to give you an adequate description.

Almost every woman in the land is engaged in spinning, weaving, and making winter garments for the soldiers.

Companies of soldiers — determined to conquer or die — are passing through here constantly. If you could see the encampments of volunteers who are anxiously awaiting marching orders and even the negros contributing their dimes, quarters, and dollars for the defense of the South you might be convinced of the absurdity of trying to conquer a nation composed of ten millions of such people . . .

This letter was the last in the collection written by Cornelius during the war. In the war years he “was superintendant of construction, buildings, and shop and field work at the Alabama Hospital for the Insane, and by his efficient Yankee ingenuity made the institution self-supporting.”^[4] In August 1866 Cornelius wrote to his sister Maria from Meridian, Mississippi:

. . . Meridian is quite a business place — the junction of four rail roads. During the war a gentlemanly fiend incarnate, named Sherman . . . came along here and burned the place . . . You may think I am severe in my selection of terms but many a poor widow when trying to reason with him to save her house from his torch would receive the cool reply —

“Go to Davis, Beauregard, Lee, or Johnston if you want protection, it is out of my line of business.” . . . I don’t know as I blame him much for making war on women for they had too much to do with getting [illegible] the war.

For example — A young lady of my acquaintance and quite a belle in Tuscaloosa on receiving the card of some gentleman caller . . . would send him word that she did not receive the company of any gentleman who did not belong to some military Company. That is the way they get young men into the

army and I don’t care if they brought a little suffering on themselves by it.

. . . This is a ruined and god forsaken country. The Government is crying for taxes on one side and the children crying for bread on the other. There is a splendid prospect ahead for starvation. I hope by hard work and good management to keep the wolf from my own door but there are thousands who will not be able to do as much.

. . . You mention the names of two sisters of mine. I have some faint recollection of their existence but do not recollect having ever seen the handwriting of either of them. [Slocum] told me that he had some talk with Mary last year and that she enquired very particularly if I was a rebel.

I do not know how she would define that term. I never took any part in fighting against the U.S. Government and did all I could to prevent secession. Several of the States when they entered the Union reserved the right to withdraw from it whenever they thought their rights were trampled upon. I always believed that those States had a right to secede but believed that they lacked one thing needful — the power to enforce that right.

If that is sufficient to constitute a rebel I shall always be one but I would like to have my sisters write to me occasionally for all that . . .

Cornelius remained in the South the rest of his life, although he did visit his family in Minnesota at least once, in 1869.^[5] After the war, he resumed his master mechanic work, installed machinery, built mills, constructed bridges, and reclaimed land.^[6]

The Shedd sisters had another correspondent with different sympathies: their eldest brother, Charles Richmond Shedd, who enlisted at age thirty-two as a private in Company C, 2nd Minnesota Volunteer Infantry, on 29 June 1861.^[7] His letters provide a fascinating insight into life in the Union Army.

Gallatin Tenn Dec 26, 1862

Dear Sister

. . . The next day being Christmas we had another rest and the officers celebrated the day by getting roaring drunk and some of them even worse, a Lieut. in the 35th Ohio got dead drunk and some of the boys cut off his shoulder straps and buttons and sent for a pair of scissors to cut off one half of his whiskers, but just as they were about to commence he woke up. Another fell into one of the sinks and when he came out he was the filthiest object you ever saw. If the officers act thus can the privates be expected to keep sober?

. . . The next night we were roused up at 10 o'clock to go out and lay an ambuscade to catch some rebels who were expected to cross the river about 3 miles from here. We avoided the roads as much as possible and cut across the fields. We got fixed behind some fence beside of the road to give them a cross fire while battery was to rake the road lengthways. As soon as we got into place we all laid down and soon one half of the men were snoring, but my sleeping propensity was not great enough to allow me to sleep under such difficulties for there was a chilly rain falling which [illegible] until daylight when we made our way back to camp without having accomplished anything. When we got back and before we had time to get a mouthful of breakfast the pickets were heard firing and out we started again. . . . We marched and counter marched until noon when we went back to camp half starved and found out the alarm proceeded from the pickets firing on some rebels who were getting together for a great dinner and the house was shelled. 72 shells were thrown at it of which 64 hit it and you may judge it was well torn to pieces.

Murfressboro Tenn Feb 26, 1863

Dear Sister

. . . I am very sorry that Mary is so sick but I cannot help contrasting her condition with that of the poor soldiers in the hospitals. . . . I will tell you one story. I know a soldier who was in one of the hospitals at Louisville who had no appetite and he asked the steward to get him some jelly or something that he could eat. The steward went and got him a great jar of currant jelly and wanted \$2.00 for it. The soldier told him that he did not want so much but would like about a quarter of it, but the steward told him that he had got to take the whole or none, and so he took the whole. When he came to break it open he found a note in it to himself from his own folks! It seems that the doctors had stolen it, which they do in nearly every case un-

less the donors are right there to see that they have it.

. . . Whiskey is dealt out every day to those who work and to some of them 3 times a day but I never take any. Some of the boys admire my adherence to my principles, but think I do not know what is good. We have got a violin in our tent so you see we have some amusement.

Chattanooga Tenn Oct 8th 1863

Dear Sister

. . . This is the anniversary of Perryville and though the cannon do not roar as they did one year ago, still the musketry is quite brisk and the bullets whistle quite uncomfortable near. Yesterday we had 2 men wounded, and today 2 more, and one killed. We have had several mules shot and a rifle ball passed through my tent not 10 minutes ago.

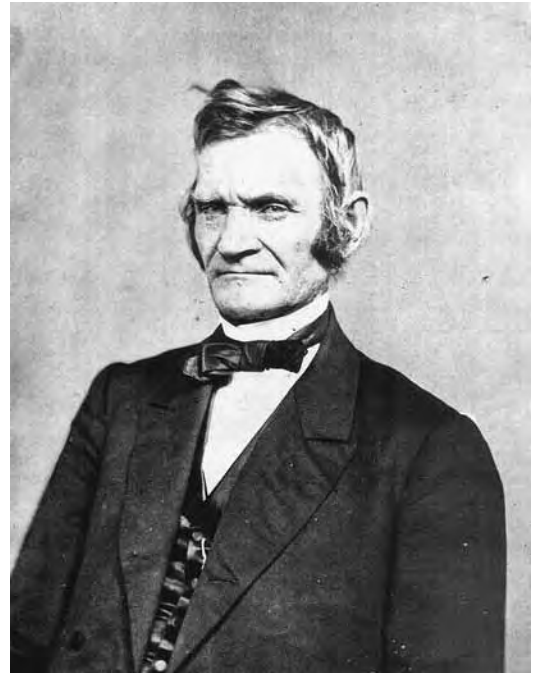
. . . Believe me I would give it all for one good pudding or pie such as I would get at home. Alas for native southern cooking, in my opinion the women here cannot make a decent corn dodger not fit for a hog to eat after it's cold. I have sometimes bought a pie at a private and had my stomach turned nearly inside out before I got it down and then in addition to the charms of the women they are all, young and old, inveterate snuff dippers. This morning I was in a citizen's house here close to camp to get some washing done when a soldier asked me for a chew of tobacco. I told him that I did not use the filthy weed when a young woman about 18 spoke up and said I was just like her as she didn't chew nor smoke. I told her that she was one after my own heart but I did not tell her whether she was likely to catch it or not. . . .

C. Richmond

In January 1864, Maria (Shedd) Alden received the following letter from her father:

My dear Lizzie,

I commissioned Mr. Alden to give you the sad news respecting poor Richmond. I have had my hands & my heart full all the week, so that I could not write you before. Dear boy!



Charles Shedd, Sr. (1802-1885).



God only knows what gloomy scenes he passed through from Chattanooga to Nashville & from the hospital there to the grave. He could not tell me & probably found no friend there to do it for him. His last letter was to Mary, dated Dec. 29th. We saw by that, that he was very feeble & desponding. We dispatched several letters immediately, but too late & several were on the way which he never received. I have ascertained by returned soldiers, that he obtained a furlough & started from Chattanooga

Eliza (Rowell) Shedd (1804–1900). Jan’y 1st. It was a cold time there as well as here.

His clothing was evidently insufficient, considering his state of health. He would be about two days in getting to Nashville, as he died on the 17th. I conclude he was about two weeks in the hospital. The diaerhoea returned upon him.

. . . O if he had only a single ray of true light! Poor boy, how much he needed a kind look from the Savior! I am told that he read his Bible more than any other soldier in the Reg. I hope he loved it. He is now beyond the reach of prayer & human sympathy. It has been a great pleasure to me to write to him, but all is done. Everything about the house & premises reminds me of him. A large part of the time I can do nothing but speak of him to myself & weep. I feel unnerved & unfitted for public duty. How suddenly my hopes were dashed. . . Thus hath the Lord smitten us. May it result in our highest good & his glory. It has convinced me more than ever of a higher life in Christ. The event has frustrated all my temporal plans. I cannot be both a farmer & missionary, indeed I am too old to be either.

. . . Tomorrow is the Sabbath. How I shall get through the services, I know not.^[8]

During the Civil War, the Shedd family was divided, just as the nation was, with one son never to return home. The reality of the conflict — the differences of opinion and the anguish of grief — was made real to me through these letters.

Children of Charles (1802–1885) and Eliza (Rowell) (1804–1900) Shedd:

- i. CHARLES RICHMOND SHEDD, b. Plainfield, N.H., 8 May 1829; d. Nashville, Tenn., 17 Jan 1864, Nashville, Tenn., unmarried.
- ii. HENRY EVARTS SHEDD, b. Plainfield, N.H., 7 May 1831; d. Zumbrot, Minn., 2 Feb 1884; m. Lowell, Mass., 2 Aug 1852, Caroline Little Butler.
- iii. CORNELIUS WORCESTER SHEDD, b. Meriden, N.H., 30 May 1833; d. Steens, Miss., 26 July 1920; m. Caledonia, Miss, 7 Aug 1862, Lucy Eppentine Wood.
- iv. MARIA ELIZABETH SHEDD (Lizzie), b. New Ipswich, N.H., 11 Jan. 1837; d. Spring Valley, Minn., 3 Aug 1871; m. Wasioja, Minn., 25 Jan 1860, Albert Martin Alden.^[9]
- v. MARTHA AMELIA SHEDD, b. Campton, N.H., 9 Apr 1842; m. 3 Sept. 1868, Andrew Beers Mills.
- vi. MARY ADELAIDE SHEDD, b. Campton, N.H., 6 Oct. 1846; d. Stockton, Mo., 27 Mar 1916; m. Denmark, Iowa, 22 June 1871, Sidney Orville Sherwin. ♦

Notes

¹ “Shedd, Charles and Family. Papers, undated, 1857–1933,” M104 Roll 1, Minnesota Historical Society Collection. Thirty-three items (Civil War letters and genealogical data) donated by Mrs. George E. Cook in November 1960.

² Frank E. Shedd, *Daniel Shed Genealogy: Ancestry and Descendants of Daniel Shed of Braintree, Massachusetts, 1327–1920* (1921), 524.

³ All underlined words were underlined in the original letters, which have been excerpted for publication. Letters in this collection were written to at least two of the sisters (Mary and Maria), most apparently to Maria, but it is not always clear to which sister a letter was addressed.

⁴ Shedd, *Daniel Shed Genealogy* [see note 2].

⁵ One of Cornelius’s 1869 letters to Maria mentions the visit.

⁶ Shedd, *Daniel Shed Genealogy* [see note 2].

⁷ Historical Data Systems, comp. *American Civil War Soldiers* [database on-line]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations Inc, 1999.

⁸ This letter was transcribed primarily by Jo Rice, a Shedd family genealogist.

⁹ Memorial card for Albert Martin Alden and Maria (Shedd) Alden, in possession of the author.

SUSAN KILBRIDE has published articles in *The Pennsylvania Genealogical Magazine* and *The Essex Genealogist*. She has also written two genealogies, *The Ancestors of Herbert McCune Richardson* and *The Ancestors of Cushman Kellogg Davis Minar*, and is currently working on her third genealogy, *The Ancestors of Elizabeth (Erikson) Minar*.

*“How could I live &
know that you had been killed”*

A VERMONT FAMILY ENDURES THE CIVIL WAR



by Christopher Benedetto

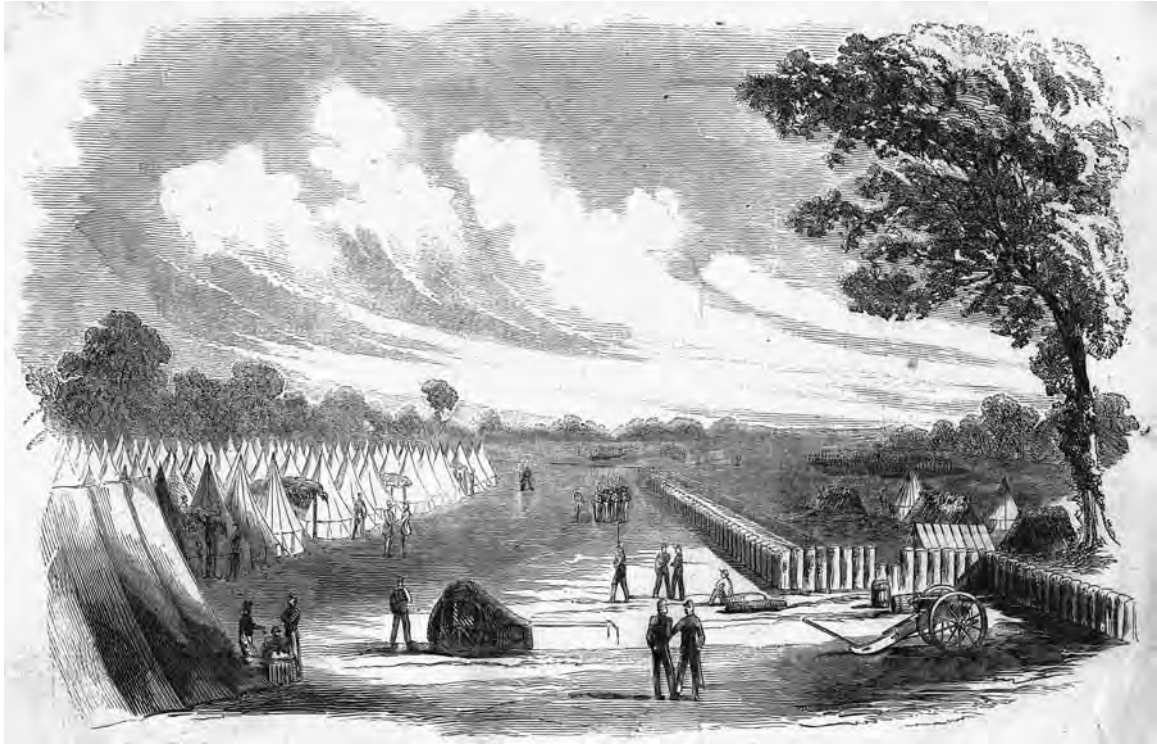
IN MAY 1861, AS SPRING THAWED THE RUGGED PEAKS of the Green Mountains, Martha Nichols of Burlington, Vermont, bid farewell to her husband Alfred, who had just enlisted in the Union Army. Weeks later, in Virginia, Alfred received a letter from Martha and carefully preserved it. For Civil War soldiers, letters from home were perhaps their most cherished possessions, since they served as physical manifestations of the bonds with the families and communities the soldiers left behind.^[1] Somehow, Martha's letter survived for over a century, and in 2006, I was fortunate to acquire it through a Civil War manuscripts dealer. Martha's letter was the key to unlocking the forgotten story of the Nichols family, and led to the discovery of two more Nichols letters and a pension file at the National Archives in Washington. The compelling tale of this Vermont family can finally be told — 150 years later.

For anyone who suspects that a Vermont ancestor served in the Civil War, the best place to begin research is www.vermontcivilwar.org, a vast archive about the men and regiments from the Green Mountain State. The site not only offers enlistment data on individual soldiers, but also contains unit histories, burial informa-

tion, and high quality scans of soldier photographs from many private collections. This invaluable resource revealed that Alfred Nichols and his brother Henry enlisted as privates in Company H of the 1st Vermont Infantry Regiment on May 2, 1861, and were mustered in Rutland for ninety days of federal service on May 9. At that time, people generally believed that the war would only last a few months! The Vermonters boarded a train for New York City, where they took a steamship bound for Fortress Monroe in Hampton, Virginia, the gathering point for Union forces massing for an invasion into the Confederacy. On May 13, 1861, the Vermont troops landed in Virginia, and ten days later, they marched into Hampton, “making the first reconnaissance upon Virginia soil by United States troops, the movement to Arlington Heights and upon Alexandria being made the next day.”^[2]

The military pension file at the National Archives offered additional details on the Nichols family. On November 24, 1851, Alfred, age thirty, married twenty-year-old Martha Foster at her mother's home in Swanton, Vermont. Three years later, on April 17, 1854, their first and only child, Alfred Jr., was born. In

Above: “South view of Burlington,” John Warner Barber & Henry Howe, Our Whole Country or the Past and Present of the United States . . . Volume I (1861), 212.



Alfred Nichols would have received his first letters from Martha while stationed here. "Camp of the Vermont Regiment, Newport News, with stockade and embankment – sketched by Surgeon Sanford," Harper's Weekly, June 29, 1861, 407. Courtesy of the Boston Public Library.

June 1860, the census shows that thirty-nine year old Alfred Nichols worked as an iron worker at a foundry in Burlington, Vermont. Nearly a year later, the family's circumstances had drastically changed. On the evening of Sunday, May 26, thirteen days after he left, Martha expressed her concerns to Alfred:

My own dear husband,

Are you sick or in trouble that you do not write. Every one hereabouts has received letters the past week & although I cannot learn that you are in hospital or anything of that kind, yet I surmise almost everything & really fear that you are too unwell to write. Have you received the case of Medicine & and later the miniatures? O, I wish this terrible war was over & Jeff Davis where he belongs. Such awful retribution as is merited by Southern leaders to bring things to such a pass that peace loving law obeying civilized men must leave all, home & friends & every interest to go & help subdue such men & cowardly foes. They actually run when attacked but with murderous aim kill when they think their own necks safe. Such a loss as Col. Elsworth is to the North & by such a coward!!^[3] How Southern papers will rejoice at the fiendish act. Dear Alfred I do wish you were safely at home. I know you will die of starvation if in no other way, you are sick I am confident, & weak from lack of nourishing food so necessary to your very existence. How all the poor soldiers

must suffer, & we all suffer at home thinking about it. There is plenty in the land & it does seem strange that the instant a man turns to a soldier he is turned over to starvation or what is not much better. God help you all.

This letter also provides insights into the challenges Martha faced at home. Alfred Jr. was evidently born with a medical condition, possibly polio, which affected his legs and ability to walk. In May 1861, Mrs. Nichols brought her son to the University of Vermont, where "I took Freddy before the Medical Class. Professor Styles opened the abscess on his leg . . . Dr. Styles says there is but one thing that will do him any good & that is a set of 'Sayers Splints' which have wrought cures upon children more advanced in deformity than Freddie." The doctor who cared for the Nichols' son was R. Cresson Styles, a Yale graduate who taught at the university in Burlington until 1865.^[4] Dr. Styles recommended a common type of mechanical splint worn to support a deformed or broken limb. But these adjustable splints were not cheap; Martha wrote that they cost about fifteen dollars — a substantial sum, considering the monthly pay for an army private was only thirteen dollars in 1861. But she reminded Alfred that "I think hard of calling for money to try it — it is better to sacrifice a little pride than Freddie's benefit."

Despite her worries, Martha's spirits could not be dampened: "Freddie is full of fun & frolick. The first time he has ever been to Church since the Thanksgiving with us, was tonight with me to the Baptist Church. He sung with all his might when the rest sung — thought he had a right to of course. He liked the meeting & wants to go again." In closing her letter, Martha articulated sentiments felt by women across the North and South: "May God preserve thee my dearest husband. What could I do, how could I live & know that you had been killed . . . I know it is not in you to run from danger but such as you dare more than less courageous ones do or care — There's my fear . . . Love and kisses all over this letter Martha." Fortunately, Alfred was unscathed when the 1st Vermont Regiment finished its service and returned home on August 15. However, on August 30, Nichols accepted a commission to serve for three years as a 1st Lieutenant in Company B of the 4th Vermont Infantry Regiment.^[5] In this unit, Alfred survived some of the worst battles of the war, but the harsh conditions of army life would take a heavy toll.

On the evening of September 16, 1862, Alfred wrote a fascinating letter to Martha, which is preserved today at Navarro College in Corsicana, Texas. The 4th Vermont had fiercely engaged Confederates across Virginia at Lee's Mills in April 1862, Williamsburg in May, and Savage's Station in June.^[6] In September the

regiment marched north to help repulse an invasion of Maryland by Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia. On September 14, the Vermonters assaulted Southern forces at Crampton's Gap, near the town of Burkittsville, and Alfred Nichols' letter offers a vivid account of the fighting:

We received orders from McClelland [*sic*] to move onto the mountain & take a position & divide the Rebel force, we marched on to near Burkettsvill & halted in a grove, made some coffee & ate our dinners when our Brigade & also a part of Slocumbs Corps were ordered forward, we marched out of the grove . . . as we came into the field a Rebel Battery opened on us from the top of the mountain the shells burst all about the Vt 4th which was ahead of all the rest & marched into the village, through the main street, when shell & bullets flew around us . . . (but the Ladies, God bless them, they looked on smiling on us & waved their handkerchiefs to us & said they were not afraid) as soon as we got out of the town we formed a line of battle . . . as skirmishers we advanced through an orchard & out into the middle of an open field, when the Rebs opened on us from behind a stone wall . . . we returned their fire & laid down & practiced some at sharpshooting we picked them off as they showed themselves & finally our Regt. was ordered to charge with skirmishers ahead, the shells from the mountain bursting around us all the while, We made a beautiful charge . . . The Rebs broke & run . . . We charged clear on to the top of the mountain & our



"Battle of South Mountain - Franklin's Corps Storming Crampton's Pass — sketched by Mr. A. E. Waud," Harper's Weekly, October 25, 1862, 677. Courtesy of the Boston Public Library.

Regt. on to the Battery which had been shelling us, they skeedaddled as we came up . . .

Alfred abruptly finished his letter on the morning of September 17: "I have not time to write now the Regt. is falling in under marching orders we hear heavy firing in the direction of Harper's Ferry we are off after the Enemy I suppose good bye my dear, give my love to Freddy." Those ominous sounds of combat probably came from the woods and cornfields of Sharpsburg, Maryland, where Union and Confederate soldiers clashed on the bloodiest single day in American history.

The second and last surviving letter by Alfred Nichols at Navarro College is dated almost a year later, on May 17, 1863, and written from a camp in northern Virginia. The soldier's life had begun to have a serious affect on his health: "I have ben quite unwell . . . there came on a long cold storm & it about used me up I had a cold through & through & then an awful bowell complaint & an attack of my old complaint of intermittent fever or the chill fever & I have hardly ben able to crawl around but I am better now & begin to feel natural again." Despite his ailments, Nichols would persevere until September 30, 1864 when he was mustered out and returned to Vermont to recuperate. In January 1865, however, Alfred accepted a promotion to Captain of Company B in the 4th Regiment. By July 13, 1865, when the 4th Vermont was discharged from duty, thirteen officers and 429 enlisted men had been killed in action or succumbed to illness out of 1,690 men who had served in the regiment over the course of the war. Alfred Nichols had miraculously survived, but the struggle which would cast a shadow over the final decades of his life was just beginning.^[7]

Alfred Nichols' pension file reveals how quickly his health deteriorated during the war. In an affidavit from 1893, James Platt, Nichols' commanding officer, recalled that Alfred "suffered from said jaundice, rheumatism and chronic diarrhea more or less throughout the service, and especially after his collapse from excessive fatigue in the Gettysburg Campaign, which fastened him upon troubles from which he was never after to my knowledge free." After the war, the Nichols family fell upon hard times because Alfred was "disabled from pursuing his old business nine-tenths of the time." In the late 1860s, Platt offered his old comrade a job in Virginia, and the 1870 census lists Alfred Nichols as living in a boarding house and working as a "store-keeper" in Petersburg. (Nichols was probably able to get this post because James Platt had just been elected to represent Virginia in the Forty-first Congress.)^[8] Meanwhile, Martha and her son, Frederick Nichols,

now aged sixteen, were living in Jersey City, New Jersey, with members of the Williams family. By 1880, Alfred's "mind was morbidly affected for several years before his death" and Platt obtained a desk job for him at the Marine Corps office in Philadelphia "at a time when he was completely broken down in health from an effort to do farming."

On February 18, 1884, Alfred Nichols entered the Jefferson Medical College Hospital in Philadelphia. The physician who cared for him painted a haunting image of his last days: "Was sick one hundred and seventy-nine days during which time he languished under the most painful sufferings, dying Aug. 7, 1884 at 4:30 a.m from exhaustion." After Alfred's traumatic death, his destitute widow moved to Washington D.C., where she applied for a widow's pension on November 12, 1890. Initially, the government granted Martha Nichols the paltry sum of eight dollars a month and, soon after, she relocated to Queens, New York, to live with her brother, John Foster. On April 5, 1892, he wrote a moving affidavit which detailed the hardships his sister endured: "Her only possessions are her personal wearing apparel, all other things having been destroyed by fire. Her support or means for necessary living expenses, are provided by relatives and friends on whom she is entirely dependent . . . My means of knowledge of these facts may be inferred when I state that she is my sister . . . She is past sixty years of age — a pension with arrears to date of her husband's death is truly her due — he served his country faithfully . . . and left her with nothing." Foster's touching appeal earned Martha a pension of seventeen dollars a month in 1895.

Five years later, in the 1900 census, Martha and her son Alfred, who was apparently married, were living together in the nation's capital, but sometime during the next decade Freddie died, because the 1910 census indicates that Martha's only child was deceased. Four years later, Martha Nichols herself passed away in Washington D.C., on March 3, 1914, at the venerable age of eighty-three, far from the picturesque Green Mountains and quaint villages of her youth.^[9]

The letters and tragic story of Martha and Alfred Nichols remind us how poignant the study of family history can be. Their lives illustrate the true human cost of the Civil War, which in reality lingered long after the smoke cleared from the battlefields and the Union and Confederate armies passed into legend. ♦

Notes

¹ Reid Mitchell, *The Vacant Chair: The Northern Soldier Leaves Home* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1993), 25–27.

² Theodore S. Peck, compiler, *Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers and Lists of Vermonters Who Served in the Army and Navy of the United States During the War of the Rebellion, 1861–1866* (Montpelier, Vt.: Watchman Publishing Co., 1892), 5–9.

³ Colonel Ephraim Elmer Ellsworth was a New York native who organized the 11th New York Regiment in May 1861. On May 24, after removing a Confederate flag from the roof of a tavern in Alexandria, Virginia, Ellsworth was shot dead by the proprietor James Jackson, who was himself killed moments later by one of Ellsworth's soldiers. That this incident occurred only two days before Martha Nichols mentioned it in her letter indicates how quickly news spread throughout the nation during the war.

⁴ Martin Kaufman, *The University of Vermont College of Medicine* (Hanover, N.H.: University Press of New England, 1979), 57.

⁵ Peck, *Revised Roster of Vermont Volunteers*, 114.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 107.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 106, 114.

⁸ Biographical Directory of the United States Congress, <http://bioguide.congress.gov/scripts/biodisplay.pl?index=P000380>, accessed July 23, 2011.

⁹ Alfred Nichols Pension File, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

CHRISTOPHER BENEDETTO has contributed several articles to the *NEHGS* since 2005. He has also co-authored a book forthcoming (fall of 2011) from Countryman Press of Vermont, entitled, *The Union Soldier of the American Civil War*, which vividly explores the life and times of the common infantryman, featuring primary sources and never-before-published photographs. Chris has been actively involved in the Civil War living history "hobby" since 1993, and in 2001, participated in a reenactment at Crampton's Gap, Maryland, on the very battlefield where Alfred Nichols and the 4th Vermont fought in 1862.

The Night President Lincoln Was Assassinated

by Louise (Heath) Miller (1840–1935)

The summer 2010 issue of this magazine featured a reminiscence written in 1911 by Louise (Heath) Miller entitled, "Country Life in New England — Then and Now" [*AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 11 (2010) 3:32–34]. The brief account below was written in the late 1920s or early 1930s, for the author's daughter, Catherine (Miller) Charles. Louise Miller's great-grandson, Maj. Gen. William M. Charles, Jr. USAF (Ret.), submitted it for publication.

YES, WE WERE LIVING IN WASHINGTON WHEN LINCOLN was assassinated. After your father [Major Adam Miller] was released from Libby Prison, badly wounded, he was transferred from his old regiment, the 2nd Mass. Infantry to the Invalid Reserve Corps, and was assigned to guard duty at the Capitol. We were living in officer's quarters on the south end of the White House grounds. Your father had a severe attack of inflammatory fever after we went there and was still very ill on that night in April. He had fallen asleep and I was sitting by his bedside when, away down the Company



Adam Miller (1839–1915). This Civil War-era photograph was taken for his wife Louise.

Street, I heard a voice shouting. At first I could not hear what it said, but as it came nearer I could tell that it was repeating over and over at each door, first a knock, then the words, "The President has been shot."

At first there was stunned silence, then the people came pouring out of the officer's quarters and there was wild excitement. That was a night of terror in Washington. No one slept. The streets were thronged with people asking each other what it all meant. Wild rumors were flying. "Not only the President, but the whole cabinet were to be assassinated"; "the Rebels were marching on Washington." With only a few troops guarding the city, most of them, like your father, men wounded or otherwise unfit for active service, there was cause for alarm. All night, signal lights flashed back and forth across the Potomac, increasing the feeling of danger.

The next morning, Captain Woodward came to visit your father. When I greeted him, he burst into tears, and could not speak. I was told that men wept on each other's shoulders in the street, so great was the people's grief for the President. Soon crowds stood in the street outside the house where he lay fighting for life, waiting for news. When the end came, the whole city went into mourning. Even the poorest Negro cabins had their bit of black cloth hung in the windows. ♦

Researching Two Herrick Brothers Captured *in the* Civil War

by SuAnn Johnston Thomas

MY HUSBAND'S GREAT-GRANDFATHER, GEORGE Washington Herrick, and his brother, Dr. Orson Quincy Herrick, served in the Union Army during the Civil War. The brothers were the sons of Lott Herrick (1795–1872), an Indiana judge, and Lola (Sutliff) Herrick (1798–1873), a schoolteacher.^[1] Several Civil War items eventually came to my husband, George's great-grandson — two letters from Orson to George in 1864, a black-and-white photograph of Orson in uniform, and one Smith & Wesson revolver.

According to family tradition, Orson was captured in September 1863 at the Battle of Chickamauga when his horse died after a twenty-five-mile chase. He was sent to the infamous Libby Prison in Richmond, Virginia. George was captured in August 1862 at the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky. A few days later he was paroled and discharged,^[2] and then walked home to northeastern Indiana with two revolvers “liberated” from a Confederate officer. George sold one of the revolvers for five dollars to pay for his return to the University of Michigan law school. The other revolver, the letters, and the family stories prompted me to find out more.

Dr. Orson Quincy Herrick (1831–1873)

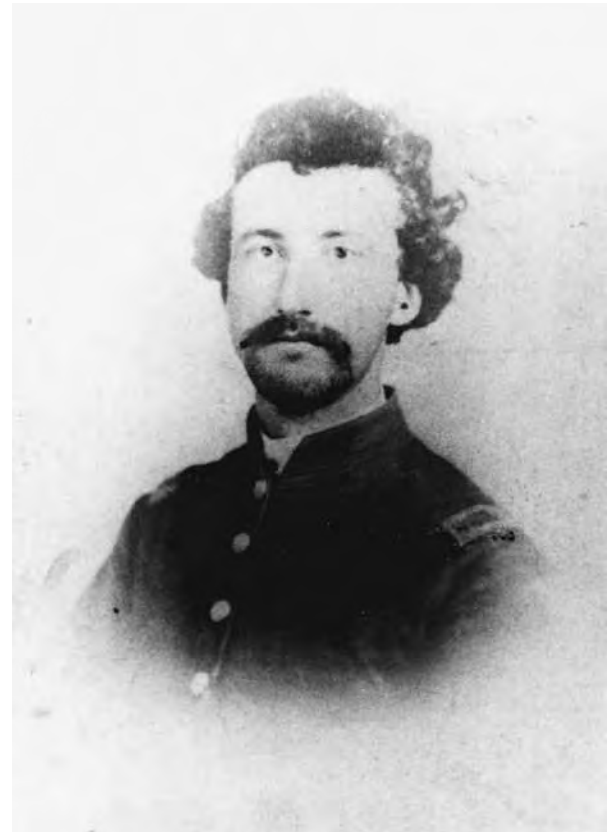
Orson was born July 8, 1831, in Brunson, Huron County, Ohio. A resident of Kansas, Edgar County, Illinois, he joined Co. K, 34th Illinois Infantry Volunteers in 1861 as a captain, was promoted to regimental surgeon, and served on the staffs of General John M. Palmer, who would become Illinois governor in 1868, and General George H. Thomas, “the Rock of Chickamauga.” Orson became Medical Inspector of the 14th Army Corps and acted as Medical Director until the war ended.^[3]

An excellent source for verifying and expanding the family stories was *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and*

Confederate Armies. In it, I found three references to Orson with new information.

The first confirmed that Orson had been captured at Chickamauga. Writing about the battle in September 1863, Major General Joseph Reynolds reported: “Major O. Q. Herrick, medical director, in the hands of the enemy.”^[4]

The second confirmed that Orson was sent to Libby Prison, where his imprisonment lasted less than two months. On November 26, 1863, Orson was one of seven released surgeons who reported on Union prisoner treatment. Their lengthy proclamation, sent



Orson Quincy Herrick.

to President Abraham Lincoln, included the following: “A member of this committee received a letter from a man belonging to the same command, and confined in the building opposite Libby, worded thus: ‘Doctor, we beg of you to try and get us something, either clothes or blankets, to keep us warm; we have no fire in the building to warm us; have nothing either to lie on or cover us, and suffer greatly from the cold.’”^[5]

Three months later, Orson wrote from Headquarters, 14th Army

Corps, Department of the Cumberland, Chattanooga, Tennessee, to his brother George in Ann Arbor, Michigan, and reflected on the country’s future: “The man has read history to little purpose that doubts the change that will be made in our government by this war. The south has staked its all on slavery and so surely as God is just they must fail. The Negro will be in worse condition, more dependent than they are in slavery when freed, but the change is necessary to fit the whole country for self government.”

On March 29, 1864, Orson, still in Chattanooga, looked to his own future in another letter to George: “Constant labor, care and mental anxiety are ever attendant and no hour tells of rest. I intend to quit the service as soon as the spring campaign is ended and as soon as possible get me a little farm and no longer be dependant upon the public for a living. I would not go through again what I have the last ten years for all the world calls fame. Contentment is all that gives happiness but alas no man believes it at the right time . . . Tonight this city is full of Generals. Here are Major Generals Sherman, Thomas, Granger, Buell, Sheridan, Palmer, Barry, McCook, Crittenden, Howard, Hooker and several others. Do you think I would give a quiet little home for all their glory — believe it not.”

The third mention in *The War of the Rebellion* showed Orson did not quit the service after the spring campaign. In December 1864 he helped Confederate and Union soldiers receive medical care following Confederate General John B. Hood’s Tennessee retreat. As superintendent of transportation of the sick and wounded, Orson was in charge of transporting



One of the two revolvers George Herrick “liberated” from a Confederate officer. The Smith & Wesson Number Two Army Tip-up is a .32-caliber six-shot revolver with a spur trigger (no trigger guard) and wood grip. The barrel tips up to remove the cylinder for loading. The shell ejector rod under the barrel is used to punch out fired cartridge cases one by one.

soldiers to hospitals from battlefields that stretched for miles. Surgeon George E. Cooper, U.S. Army, Medical Director, offered this commendation in January 1865: “This was done under the supervision of Surg. O. Q. Herrick; and too much praise cannot be given him from his untiring energy and labor in collecting and bringing in from the houses in the vicinity of the line of march the wounded of our own and the rebel army.”^[6]

Orson was mustered out in 1865 and returned home to his wife and young son in Illinois. The 1870 census showed that instead of farming Orson had resumed his medical practice.^[7] I hope he found the contentment he was seeking. His life, sadly, was short. Orson died unexpectedly of what was thought to be a “slight indisposition” on August 19, 1873. He was 42.^[8]

George Washington Herrick (1839–1904)

George was raised in Concord Township, DeKalb County, Indiana, where he was born on October 6, 1839. He joined Co. E, 55th Regiment, of the Indiana Volunteers in June 1862, and was one of over 4,000 prisoners captured when Union forces lost the Battle of Richmond, Kentucky, August 29–30, 1862.

Family stories recounted how a few days later George was among prisoners being searched before release when the Confederate officer in charge put his weapons on the ground. George stepped out of line, took two revolvers from their holsters, and hooked them on the X where his back suspenders crossed so that the pistols laid flat under his coat. The officer searched the prisoners again, but did not find the weapons.

George returned to law school in fall 1863, and graduated the next spring. He practiced law in Princeton, Missouri, with his brother Henry Jefferson Herrick (1835–1922). In October 1864 Henry, who had enlisted in the Union Army, was called into active service and commissioned assistant adjutant-general of Missouri. Not to be outdone, a few months later George formed and recruited Co. D, 51st Regiment, Missouri Infantry Volunteers. George was elected Captain, and the regiment served in southeastern Missouri until August 1865.

After the war, George settled in Farmer City, DeWitt County, Illinois, married, raised a family, and practiced law. He was killed July 20, 1904, in a horse-and-buggy accident when his horse bolted at the sight of the first automobile in Farmer City^[9]

Researching the Revolver

Before researching the revolver, I knew only that it came from the Battle of Richmond. Patent dates on the cylinder — April 3, 1855, July 5, 1859, and Dec. 18, 1860 — place it in the right time frame to have been used in the Civil War. The barrel is marked “Smith & Wesson, Springfield, Massachusetts.” By studying books about Civil War small arms, I discovered our gun is a Smith & Wesson Number 2 Army Tip-Up Revolver, a model popular with Union forces. I had wondered whether Confederate officers used revolvers made in the North, and I learned that because the South lacked manufacturing facilities and materials, weapons from captured arsenals and captured or killed Union soldiers were an important source of arms for Confederates.

Small arms historian Charles Pate wrote that although Union soldiers usually purchased Number 2s privately, the Union’s 7th Kentucky Cavalry had been issued 736 Number 2s in 1862. At the Battle of Richmond, the 7th had thirty men killed or wounded and 238 captured: “Undoubtedly the 7th lost many of their Number 2 revolvers in this battle.”^[10] I wondered whether our revolver was one of those lost by the 7th Kentucky Cavalry.

Most of Kentucky’s Number 2 order, known as the Kittredge Contract, came from Cincinnati dealer B. Kittredge & Company. Ronald H. Curtis, a Smith & Wesson collector and author, wrote that 2,700 guns were sold to Kentucky, and “Any Model Two from serial number 5400 to 7900 just might be part of the Kittredge contract.”^[11] Our revolver’s number, just above 5400, fell within that range, so I contacted him.

In the end, Mr. Curtis concluded that our revolver was unlikely to have been part of the Kentucky contract. Most Kentucky contract revolvers were marked

with the Kittredge mark on the left side of the barrel flat, but our gun has no such mark. In addition, an article by Earl J. Coates on the Kittredge Number 2s persuasively argued that Kittredge guns began with the number 5700, higher than our number.^[12] Most likely, the Confederate officer from whom George Herrick took the revolvers had himself taken them from a fallen or captured Union soldier at the battle. Based on the information I’ve gathered, it seems unlikely that I’ll learn more about the provenance of our revolver. However, this research on the Herrick brothers and the revolvers, has enhanced, not disproved, our 150-year-old family story. ♦

Notes

¹ This Herrick family is treated in Richard Leon Herrick, comp. *Herrick Genealogical Register*, third ed., vol. 1, part 1 (Holt, Mich.: Herrick Family Association, 2008), 217, 368–369. The author of this article contributed family information and letter transcriptions to this volume.

² “Leading Lawyer of DeWitt County Killed in Runaway,” *Clinton (IL) Register*, July 22, 1904; also online at <http://dewitt.ilgenweb.net/obituaries-name-ghi.html>.

³ Obituary of Orson Q. Herrick, *Effingham (IL) Democrat*, Thursday, September 11, 1873; online at <http://files.usgwararchives.net/il/effingham/news/1873.txt>.

⁴ United States War Department, *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, series 1, volume 30 (part I), (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1890), 443; also online at <http://digital.library.cornell.edu/m/moawar/war.html>.

⁵ *Ibid.*, series 2, volume 6, (1899), 572–574.

⁶ *Ibid.*, series 1, volume 45 (Part I), (1894), 110.

⁷ “Osson” Herrick household, 1870 census, Kansas, Edgar County, Illinois; Roll M593_218; page 130A; viewed at Ancestry.com.

⁸ *Effingham (IL) Democrat*, September 11, 1873 [note 3].

⁹ *Clinton (IL) Register*, July 22, 1904 [note 2].

¹⁰ Charles Pate, “The Smith & Wesson Number 2 Army in the Civil War,” *Bullet ’N Press* 3, no. 1 (March 1998), online at www.millbrook.ruraltel.net/smith2/smith2.htm.

¹¹ Ronald H. Curtis, “The Smith & Wesson Model Number Two Army; A Collector’s Dream,” *Man at Arms Magazine for the Gun and Sword Collector* 31, no. 5 (September/October 2009): 19.

¹² Earl J. Coates, “The Kentucky Model 2s,” *Smith and Wesson Collectors Association Journal* 45, no. 1 (Spring 2011): 8–12.

SUANN JOHNSTON THOMAS, a former medical editor and managing editor of a medical journal, has researched her family history for over twenty years. In the Civil War, her ancestors fought for the South; her husband’s ancestors fought for the North. In 2001 she wrote *The Biography of Lott and Lola (Sutliff) Herrick*.

Connecting
*Catherine, Duchess
of Cambridge,*
to Sir Thomas Conyers,
9th Bt. of Horden, Durham

by Christopher Challender Child

AS REQUESTED IN THE BOOK'S INTRODUCTION, almost immediately after the publication of William Addams Reitwiesner's *The Ancestry of Catherine Middleton* in April, new information surfaced on the forebears of HRH The Duchess of Cambridge. An additional baptismal, marriage or burial date, and an occasional set of new parents, have all been welcome additions to her ancestor table. Most surprising, however, was new information from Andrew Pattison of Blackhall Colliery, County Durham, England, whose nephew by marriage is a cousin of the Duchess through the Harrison family. Mr. Pattison discovered new ancestry for #114, Anthony Liddle, a pitman and coal miner in County Durham. We knew Anthony was born around 1817, and his 1838 marriage record to Martha Stephenson identified his father as James Liddell, also a pitman.^[1]

Mr. Pattison found the baptism (11 August 1816) of Anthony Liddle at Chester le Street, son of James and Jane Liddle, and the christenings of Anthony's seven siblings.^[2] Also in this parish register was the marriage (6 May 1815) of James Liddle, from Newburn, Northumberland, and Jane Hardy, aged twenty, from Chester le Street, witnessed by William Hardy.^[3] I found Jane's baptism (3 May 1795) at Penshaw, Durham, daughter of William and Jane Hardy.^[4] William Hardy had married Jane Conyers at the Church of St. Margaret Crossgate, Durham, on 19 September 1778.^[5] Jane Conyers was baptized 24 January 1756 at Chester le Street, daughter of Sir Thomas Conyers, 9th Baronet (1731–1810), and his wife Isabel Lambton (1729/30–1779).^[6] Sir Thomas was the subject of a fascinating story.

Sir Thomas was the last of a line of Conyers baronets, whose hereditary knighthood (the definition of a baronetage) was created by Charles I in 1628.^[7]

Above: Chester le Street Church. Robert Surtees, The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham (1820), facing page 138.

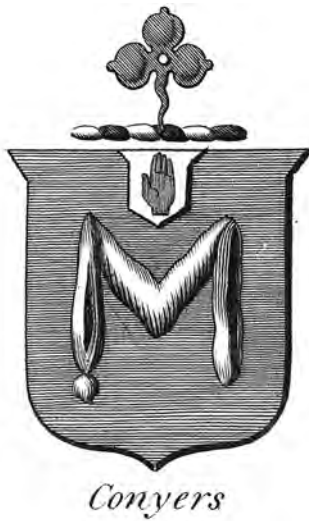
A Gratifying
Discovery



According to Sir Bernard Burke, the family lived in considerable style during the seventeenth century. The fifth baronet, Sir Ralph Conyers of Chester le Street (1697–1767), inherited the baronetcy in 1731 from his second cousin, but did not inherit his cousin's land. Ralph's son, Sir Blakiston Conyers, 6th Bt. (d. 1791), left his estate to his nephew, Sir George Conyers, 8th Bt. (d. ca. 1800); "in three short years this infuriated youth [Sir George] squandered the whole fortune he had derived from his uncle, in scenes of the lowest dissipation." After George's death, the baronetcy was inherited by his uncle, the 9th and last baronet.

Robert Surtees, the historian of Durham, wrote to *The Gentlemen's Magazine* to appeal to local gentry and other worthies to assist the aging baronet, "in his 72nd year, solitary and friendless, a pauper in the parish work-house of Chester-le-Street."

Shortly after Sir Thomas's reduced situation was discovered, the baronet was moved to a place of ease and comfort — but he died within two months of Surtees' solicitation. Surtees added that "In him (the last male heir of a long line of ancestry, whose origin



Conyers of Horden coat of arms. William Betham, The Baronetage of England, vol. V (1805).

may be traced to a period of high and romantic antiquity) the name and title expires, and the blood of Conyers must hereafter flow undistinguished in the channels of humble and laborious life. Sir Thomas has left three daughters, married in very inferior situations, and it is trusted his benefactors will not think the residue of their contributions ill applied in placing some of his numerous grandchildren in the decent occupations of humble life.”

Surtees’ concluding paragraph is worth repeating: “A time may yet come, perchance, when a descendant of one of these simple artizans may arise, not unworthy

of the Conyers’ ancient renown; and it will be a gratifying discovery to some future genealogist, when he succeeds in tracing in the quarterings of such a descendant the unsullied bearing of Conyers of Durham.”^[8]

In the format of “Notable Kin” columns by Gary Boyd Roberts, the descent of the Duchess of Cambridge from Sir Thomas Conyers, 9th Bt., is outlined below (with birth and death years). Following that outline are two (and probably four) descents to Sir Thomas and his wife from Edward IV, King of England (d. 1483). Mr. Pattison’s discoveries and further research by G. B. Roberts and myself have added sixty new sixteenth and seventeenth century ancestors (previously only two of the Duchess’s sixteenth century forebears were known). The nearest kinsman among immigrants to the American colonies is William Howard Taft forebear Mrs. Elizabeth Mansfield Wilson of Massachusetts, for whom see *Register* 155 [2001]: 3–35, and later compendia by Roberts and Douglas Richardson.

Catherine, Duchess of Cambridge, née Catherine Elizabeth Middleton (b. 1982), wife of HRH Prince William Arthur Philip Louis, Duke of Cambridge (b. 1982); Michael Francis Middleton (b. 1949) & Carole Elizabeth Goldsmith (b. 1955); Ronald John James Goldsmith (1931–2003) & Dorothy Harrison (1935–2006); Thomas Harrison (1904–1976) & Elizabeth Mary Temple (1903–1991); John Harrison (1874–1956) & Jane Hill (1875–1957); John Harrison (ca. 1834–1889) & Jane Liddell (ca. 1839–1881); Anthony Liddell/Liddle (1816–1857) & Martha Stephenson (ca. 1818–1896); James Liddell/Liddle (b. 1790) & Jane Hardy (b. 1795); William Hardy (1748–1833) & Jane Conyers (1756–1835); Sir Thomas Conyers, 9th Bt. (1731–1810) & Isabel

Lambton (1729/30–1779); Sir Ralph Conyers, 5th Bt. & Jane Blakiston, James Lambton & Dorothy Austin; John Conyers & Margaret Bayley, Ralph Blakiston & Mary Sampson, James Lambton & ____; (prob.) John Conyers & ____, William Blakiston & Dorothy Lawson, Ralph Lambton & Susan Groves; Sir John Conyers, 1st Bt., & Frances Groves (sister of Susan), Nicholas Blakiston & Jane Porter, William Lambton & Anne ____; Christopher Conyers of Horden & Anne Hedworth, Sir William Blakiston & Jane Lambton, Robert Lambton & Frances Eure (parents of William and Jane); Richard Conyers of Horden & Isabel Lumley, John Hedworth & Jane Belaysye, John Lambton & Agnes Lumley; Roger Lumley & ____ (parents of Isabel and Agnes), Sir Ralph Hedworth & Anne Hilton; Thomas Lumley & Elizabeth Plantagenet (parents of Roger and Sybil), Sir William Hilton & Sybil Lumley; Edward IV, King of England (d. 1483), & his mistress Elizabeth (Wayte) Lucy.

Sir William Blakiston and Jane Lambton were also ancestors of both HM Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother and Diana, Princess of Wales. The above Frances (Eure) Lambton was the daughter of Sir Ralph Eure and Margery Bowes, great-grandparents of Mrs. Elizabeth Mansfield Wilson. See Robert Surtees, *The History and Antiquities of the County Palatine of Durham*, 4 vols. (1816–40), 1:29 (Conyers of Horden), 2:174, 201 (Lambton), 231, 255 (Blakiston), 184–85 (Hedworth), 26–27 (Hilton), 163 (Lumley), and Douglas Richardson, *Plantagenet Ancestry*, 2nd ed., 3 vols. (2011), 3:581–82 (Elizabeth Wayte), 2:17–18 (Eure to Mrs. Wilson). ♦

Notes

¹ William Addams Reitwiesner, *The Ancestry of Catherine Middleton* (Boston: NEHGS, 2011), 26, 35.

² *Chester le Street (Durham) parish register transcripts, 1582–1927*, Family History Library film 1894,221.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ *Chapelry of Painshaw [Penshaw] (Durham) bishops’ transcripts, 1762–1865*, Family History Library film 4047,684.

⁵ *The registers of St. Margaret’s (Durham) in the County of Durham, marriages, 1558–1812*, Family History Library film 0814,230.

⁶ *Chester le Street (Durham) parish register transcripts, 1582–1826*, Family History Library film 091,090.

⁷ George Edward Cokayne, *The Complete Baronetage, 1611–1880*, 5 vols. (Exeter: William Pollard & Co., 1900–6), 2:46–47.

⁸ Sir Bernard Burke, *Vicissitudes of Families*, Second Series (London: Longman, Green, and Roberts, 1861), 14–27 at 26–27.

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Echoes from the Dorr Rebellion

The 1842 Aplin/Carpenter Correspondence

by John D. Tew

WHILE RESEARCHING MY CARPENTER ANCESTRY, I discovered two remarkable letters among the papers of Anna Carpenter (Garlin) Spencer^[1] in the Swarthmore College Peace Collection.^[2] The first letter, written November 2, 1842, was an eviction notice to my ancestor, Joseph Carpenter of Providence, Rhode Island, by his landlady, Emily Aplin. A spirited reply was penned by Joseph's daughter, Nancy Mason Carpenter, two days later. This intriguing correspondence prompted me to research the principal characters in this drama and the context of the times. Emily Aplin's major grievance was that Joseph Carpenter held an opposing view in the contentious "Dorr War," which occurred earlier that year.

In late 1842, Joseph Carpenter was renting a house in Providence from Emily Aplin and her siblings, "Mr. Viall" and "Mrs. Vickery."^[3] (The address of the home is unknown.) At some point after the Carpenters moved there, Emily Aplin wrote to Joseph Carpenter and asked him to vacate the premises by "the end of the quarter." Since the letter was posted in November, I believe the lease was for a calendar year and the

Carpenter family was asked to vacate and find a new home during the 1842 holiday season.

Joseph Carpenter and his wife, Nancy Mason (Bullock) Carpenter, were natives of Rehoboth, Massachusetts. In 1842 he was 53 years old and she was just shy of her 49th birthday.^[4] Nancy had given birth to fourteen children.^[5] Four had died, leaving ten children living in November 1842:

- James Mason Carpenter — 28 years old. Married.
- George Moulton Carpenter — 27 years old.
- Nancy Mason Carpenter — 24 years old.
- Sarah Martin Carpenter — 22 years old.
- Jonathan Bliss Carpenter — 20 years old.
- Lucy Bliss Carpenter — 18 years old.
- William Wallace Carpenter — 16 years old.
- Samuel Carpenter — 13 years old.
- Newton Francis Carpenter — 11 years old.
- Edward Everett Carpenter — 2 years old.

Miss Aplin wrote that the "the age and number" of the Carpenter children contributed to her decision to issue the eviction notice. (Neither letter states how many Carpenter children were living at the house.)

But Miss Aplin was motivated by an issue of even greater significance than "three boys of the most undesirable ages"; she believed Joseph Carpenter was a Dorrite. "My whole soul shrinks from the man, who to gratify his own selfishness would sacrifice the welfare of a community. So having my feelings I proceed without any further ceremony to request you to vacate the tenement as soon as possible."

Miss Aplin's hostility toward Dorrites offers interesting insight into the Dorr Rebellion, a crisis that shook Rhode Island in the early 1840s. According to historian Marvin E. Gettleman, "The most dramatic and bitter battle of the antebellum period took place in Rhode Island, where the movement for political reform took a radical and even revolutionary character."^[6] Under the Charter of 1663, then still in force, less than fifty percent of white men — men who owned landed property worth at least \$134 and their oldest sons — were eligible to vote. With the advent of the Industrial Revolution, Rhode Island had become less agrarian and many people moved from



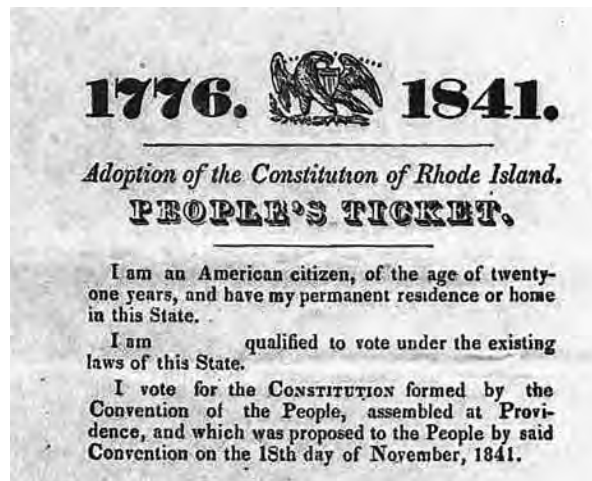
Thomas Wilson Dorr. Courtesy of Russell J. DeSimone.

farms into cities. Large numbers of men owned no land and so had no right to the franchise. From an estimated high of perhaps 75% of white men eligible to vote in the eighteenth century, the number of voters in Rhode Island declined through the early nineteenth century.^[7] (Women and non-white men were not eligible to vote.)

Providence native Thomas Wilson Dorr set out to change the basis for the vote in Rhode Island. In the fall of 1841, Dorr and his followers called a “People’s Convention” and drafted a “People’s Constitution” for Rhode Island that granted the vote to all white men who had resided in the state for a year. (Originally Dorr supported granting voting rights to blacks as well as whites, but under pressure from conservatives in his group he sought only greatly liberalized suffrage for white men.)^[8] The General Assembly responded with a rival convention and drafted the so-called “Landholders’ Constitution,” which made some concessions but not enough for the Dorrites. In December 1841, the People’s Constitution was overwhelmingly successful — but the referendum was largely ignored by its opponents who did not participate in the election. In March 1842, the Landholders’ Constitution was narrowly defeated by an electorate which included non-landholders and, therefore, many Dorrites.

In 1842 both camps organized elections, and two governors were elected — Thomas Dorr and incumbent governor Samuel Ward King. Governor King ordered Dorr arrested, and Dorr temporarily left the state. On May 17, Dorr and about 200 supporters attacked the Providence arsenal. Charter supporters defended it, and the attack on the arsenal failed. Dorr fled to Connecticut but returned in late June to Chepachet, where he gathered his followers and intended to march on Providence. Governor King called out more than 3,500 militia men against Dorr, who disbanded his supporters and went to New Hampshire. Martial law was declared, and the state was on high alert, expecting an attack from Dorr. When Dorr did not act by mid-July, the situation quieted down, and martial law was suspended in September 1842.^[9]

Charter supporters, who had established the Law and Order Party, came to recognize the validity of the suffrage cause and in September 1842 the Rhode Island Assembly met at Newport to draft a new constitution, which offered additional concessions and took effect in May 1843. Under this new constitution, any native-born male (regardless of race) could vote if he paid a \$1.00 poll tax. (“This constitution specifically gave native-born citizens more liberal voting rights than naturalized citizens . . . [Naturalized citizens] could not vote



*An election ticket for “People’s Constitution.”
Courtesy of Russell DeSimone.*

in statewide or federal elections . . . Not until 1928 did naturalized citizens get full political equality.”^[10]

“The ideological debate . . . was not simply an interchange between radical lawyers . . . and conservative jurists. It raged through every level of Rhode Island society, and it took the form of fiery newspaper editorials, bitter personal disputes, and even religious quarrels.”^[11] And in November 1842, Emily Aplin could not abide a Dorrite living in her house. Unfortunately, I have not found definitive information about her or her siblings. An Emily Aplin who lived from 1810 to 16 July 1886 is buried in North Burial Ground Cemetery in Providence. If she wrote the letter, she would have then been thirty-two. The Providence Directory, for the years 1838–39, 1844, 1847–48, 1850, 1852–53, 1853–54, 1854–55^[12], lists an Emily Aplin employed at “Children’s Friend Instit.,” at 88 Pawtuxet. For several years she was listed as an “assistant teacher.”^[13]

Joseph Carpenter’s entry in *A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America* noted “he was a pensioner in the war of 1812, also a member of the Bunker Hill Monument association and much interested in public affairs; a man of strict integrity and much respected.”^[14] Joseph and Nancy Carpenter celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1863. Both died in Attleborough, Massachusetts, in 1880, Nancy, at 86, on May 4, and Joseph, at 91, on November 12.^[15]

The Aplin/Carpenter Correspondence

Transcriptions of Emily Aplin’s letter seeking to terminate the Carpenter tenancy and the reply by Nancy Mason Carpenter, Joseph’s daughter, are presented here in their entirety.^[16] I do not have any additional information about relations between Miss Aplin and the Carpenters, or when or where the Carpenters moved.

Providence Nov. 2d 1842

Mr. Carpenter Sir:

My sister & myself have both felt ever since you moved your family into our house that we had been grossly deceived in respect to the age and number of your children. It is true we understood that you had fourteen but the decided impression you gave my brother Mr. Viall & Mrs. Vickery was, that they were all grown up and out of the way — instead of that you have three boys of the most undesirable ages because they are always reckless then if ever, & a little one beside. We had repeatedly refused the house to otherwise good tenants on account of their children and when we repaired the house, we decided in our own minds, to have no children in it — because we had been exceedingly troubled with them in the family who had previously occupied it, and it was only on account of the smallness of your family that we consented to let it you. [H]ad we have known the circumstances we should have decidedly preferred having it empty until the day of our deaths. I repeat it, we do feel that we have been deceived & we never can consent to have our own homestead, the legacy of a beloved Father, occupied by a family the head of whom would deceive in regard to the children God has given him. My Father's integrity was unimpeachable & we mean that his former home shall be retained to his memory pure. I have another serious objection. I say I because my sister has never named it to me. I say it upon my own responsibility. When the question was asked me if you could have the tenement, I asked at once if you were a Dorrite! My brother thought not for you appeared respectable, but I have learned a different story — now I have no possible objection to an honest suffrage man, but I say without hesitation that were the privilege granted me of choosing a tenant who must be either a Sabbath breaker or Licentious or a gambler or Intemperate or an understanding Dorrite, though I despise them all, still there would be a decided preference for one of the former named. My whole soul shrinks from the man, who to gratify his own selfishness would sacrifice the welfare of a community. So having my feelings I proceed without any further ceremony to request you to vacate the tenement as soon as possible, at all events at the end of the quarter. Sooner would be very agreeable if you can obtain a house, but I repeat, certainly then. I am decided. I know nothing in the world against your family & I sincerely wish you well.

Emily Aplin

Providence Nov. 4th 1842

Miss Aplin

Your letter of Nov. 2d was received by my father the 3d instant, at his request I reply to it. In the first place you say, "we find we have been grossly deceived in respect to the age & number of your children." I cannot understand how you can with truth term it deception as respects the number when in the same line you add "we understood you had fourteen" — there you was not misinformed he is the father of fourteen children four of them however sleep quietly undisturbed in the silent grave. So to the impression he gave you in regard to the remaining children, I think there must be some misunderstanding for he mentioned to your brother (of whom he hired the house) that he had three sons for whom he wished to procure admittance into one of the Public schools. You certainly might have inferred from that that they were not very far advanced in years, & that they would be at home. I suppose it will be unnecessary for me to give you any particulars in regard to their ages, for you have already classed them among the "undesirables" which you certainly would not have done had you been ignorant of their respective ages. You again repeat "we do feel we have been deceived & we never can consent to have our homestead the legacy of our beloved father occupied by a family the head of whom would deceive in regard to the children God has given him." I think I have made it plain to you that it was not my father's intent to deceive you in any form & most assuredly not respecting the age & number of his children. You next say "my father's integrity was unimpeachable & we mean that his former home shall be retained to his memory pure." The correctness of this statement I have no reason to doubt, & had I it would afford me no gratification to injure the feelings of a long departed parent — and though you are a stranger to me I respect you for the love you seem to bear to the memory of your father, I am a daughter & shall strive to the last moments of my existence to sustain from unjust reproach, false accusations, or slander the character of my parents — but however highly I may esteem them it will not be becoming me here to add more than the wish that they may receive from the world their just due. It has always been a rule with my father when occupying a



Samuel Carpenter (1828–1904), pictured in 1861 or 1862, in his Union Army uniform, was one of the "three boys of the most undesirable ages."

house not his own to use it with care & pay the sum required for rent. It has never been binding upon him to hold in uncommon estimation its former occupants or owners — and as he when making the contract with your brother for the house did not hear him allude to the sacredness of the spot we had never supposed that we were desecrating it. But I guess on to “another serious objection,” you speak of the conversation with your brother in regard to the political principles of my father as it respects what your brother may have thought of the respectability of his appearance or your own subsequently formed opinion. I have only to say, I consider it beneath my dignity to reply to such insulting language. You say you have no “possible objection to an honest suffrage man” such is my father & I presume he has never failed to honestly declare his principles whenever asked concerning them. You say in choosing a tenant you should prefer a “Sabbath breaker a licentious a gambler or an intemperate man to an understanding Dorrite.” I cannot agree with you in this preference for I have ever been thought to reverence the Sabbath, to look with detestation upon the crimes of licentiousness & gambling, and I am happy to say the name of every member of our family stands enrolled on the total abstinence pledge. I am acquainted with many whom you probably would term Dorrites whose character I doubt not stands as high as any of those who have opposed them in their struggle to secure for themselves the right of citizenship, therefore I cannot with any candour join you in placing them beneath the lowest & most infamous of mankind. You finally conclude by saying, “I know nothing in the world against your family & sincerely wish you well.” In return for this accept my wish that your feelings may, never be wounded as mine have been by hearing a beloved relative unjustly & falsely accused.

N.M. Carpenter

Acknowledgement

The author and editors thank Russell J. DeSimone for reviewing and commenting on this article. ♦

Notes

¹ Anna Carpenter Garlin was the daughter of Nancy Mason (Carpenter) Garlin and the granddaughter of Joseph and Nancy (Bullock) Carpenter. Anna was the first ordained female minister in Rhode Island and in 1891 became the minister of the independent Bell Street Chapel in Providence. She was an early leader of the Ethical Culture movement, a signer of the NAACP founding document, an active member and officer of the Free Religious Association, and a leader in the woman suffrage and peace movements. Among the positions she held were Associate Director of the New York Society for Ethical Culture (1904), Professor of Sociology and Ethics at the Meadville Theological School (1913–18), lecturer at the University of Chicago (1918), and, from 1920 until her death, a special lecturer at Teachers College, Columbia University. See, www.hds.harvard.edu/library/exhibits/monthly/200403.html.

² Nov. 2, 1842 letter from Emily Aplin and Nov. 4, 1842 letter from N.M. Carpenter, in the Anna Garlin Spencer Papers (DG 034), Swarthmore College Peace Collection.

³ The exact relationship between the three siblings is not clear. As Miss Aplin was presumably unmarried, perhaps Mr. Viall was a half-brother or a brother-in-law.

⁴ Joseph Carpenter was born September 8, 1789. Nancy Bullock was born December 10, 1793. The couple married in Rehoboth on February 21, 1813. James N. Arnold, *Vital Records of Rehoboth, 1642–1895* (Providence, R.I.: Narragansett Historical Publishing Company, 1897), 582, 567, 89.

⁵ Amos B. Carpenter, *A Genealogical History of the Rehoboth Branch of the Carpenter Family in America* (Amherst, Mass.: Press of Carpenter & Morehouse, 1898), 429–430, 618–620. The ages of the Carpenter children in 1842 were calculated from the birthdates in this source.

⁶ Marvin E. Gettleman, *The Dorr Rebellion: A Study in American Radicalism* (New York: Random House, 1973), 3.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 7.

⁸ Erik J. Chaput and Russell J. DeSimone, “Strange Bedfellows: The Politics of Race in Antebellum Rhode Island” *Common-Place* (www.common-place.org) 10 (January 2010): 2.

⁹ Thomas Dorr was arrested in 1843 and the following year was tried, found guilty of treason, and given a life sentence of solitary confinement at hard labor. Due to widespread criticism, Dorr was released in 1845. In 1851 his civil rights were restored and, in 1854, the court judgment against him was set aside. He died in 1854.

¹⁰ William G. McLoughlin, *Rhode Island: A History* (New York: W.W. Norton and Co., 1986), 135–36.

¹¹ Gettleman, *The Dorr Rebellion* [note 6], 77.

¹² *Ancestry.com*. U.S. City Directories [database online] (Provo, Utah: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc., 2010).

¹³ Children’s Friend, founded in 1834, still exists as Children’s Friend & Service in Providence. Such employment would be ironic if this Emily Aplin wrote the above letter, given her complaint about “three boys of the most undesirable ages.” Children’s Friend has a long history as a provider of child welfare, family support, mental health, and youth development.” See www.cfsri.org.

¹⁴ Carpenter, *A Genealogical History* [note 5], 430.

¹⁵ *Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910*. (From original records held by the Massachusetts Archives. Online database: *American Ancestors.org*, New England Historic Genealogical Society, 2004.)

¹⁶ Whether Nancy Mason Carpenter’s reply was actually sent is unknown. The letter in the Anna Carpenter Spencer papers might have — or have not — been delivered. Emily Aplin’s response is unknown.

JOHN D. TEW was born in Providence, Rhode Island. He is the great-great-great grandson of Joseph and Nancy Mason (Bullock) Carpenter.

“Brought to Great Straits and Reduced to Want”

CAPTAIN EPENETUS PLATT, TORY

by Mary M. Thacher

CAPTAIN EPENETUS PLATT (1735–1792) WAS MY great-great-great-great-grandfather. My first source of information about him was a copy of a genealogical research journal written in the early 1900s by Kathleen Hand (1872–1942), his great-great-granddaughter.

In her journal, Miss Hand noted that “Epenetus Platt had bought land in New Milford [Connecticut], in 1756 . . . remained there 10–15 years and probably went directly to the vicinity of Hudson Falls, Washington County [New York], where he died in 1792.” The journal also contained transcriptions of the gravestone inscriptions of Epenetus Platt and his wife, Anna (Bostwick) in the King Burying Ground in Kingsbury, Washington County. Epenetus’s tombstone states he “died on March 12, 1792, in the 57th year of his age” with the verse: “An Angels arm can’t snatch me from the grave/ Legions of angels can’t confine me there.” Anna’s stone bore a more informative inscription:

In memory of Anna, relict of Capt. Epenetus Platt, died at Balston, Jan 6 AD 1825, age 85 years. The mother and nurse of eleven children; she was characterized by energy and fortitude, which made her the main prop and dependence of her family in times of poverty and persecution. She died as she had lived, an unwavering and devoted Christian.

Curious about the reference to “poverty and persecution,” I set out to learn more about these ancestors. I visited the Connecticut State Library and found that three Epenetus Platts lived in New Milford after 1760 — four, if Epenetus and Anna had a son named Epenetus, which seems likely. (The surviving records of St. John’s Episcopal Church, of which Captain Epenetus was a member, only begin after 1784, which makes a complete identification of his eleven children difficult.) My Epenetus Platt was the oldest of that name, born in Milford, the son of Samuel and Sarah (Beard) Platt, and baptized 8 February 1735.^[1] His wife, Anna Bostwick was born in New Milford, daughter of Lemuel Bostwick of New Milford and Anna Jackson of Stratfield, and was baptized on 30 May 1742.^[2] No record of Epenetus and Anna’s marriage can be found but it likely occurred after 1750 at New Milford’s Episcopal church. Land records show

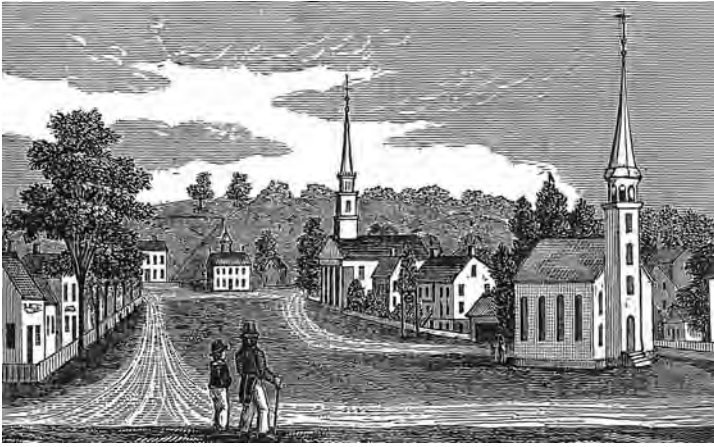
Epenetus Platt acquired 216 acres of land on Mt. Tom from Sherman Boardman on 13 January 1756.^[3] Later, by his father’s will, dated 2 January 1760, Epenetus received “Thirty Pounds Lawful Mony in addition to all the Lands and Rights of Land I have already given him in [unreadable] in sd. New Milford.”^[4] By 1760 Captain Epenetus Platt was an important land owner.

In August 1757, Epenetus Platt served seventeen days as a corporal in the militia company of Captain John Hitchcock in “the alarm for the relief of Fort William Henry [on the southern end of Lake George in New York] and places adjacent.”^[5] In 1760 he was captain of the militia train band in New Milford, and was known thereafter as Captain Platt.^[6]

I was greatly surprised to find Epenetus Platt’s name in the Connecticut Archives’ index of Crimes and Misdemeanors 1662–1789.^[7] Researching further, I found him in *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut*; in May 1781 he was “a prisoner confined in New Gate Prison . . . confined by a sentence of the superior court . . . ordered to pay a fine of 250 pounds and costs, which with some debts he owed, the payment whereof has consumed his estate, and his numerous family brought to great straits and reduced to want; that he upon principal [*sic*] refused to escape . . . when an opportunity presented itself. (Epenetus did not participate in a mass jail break on 22 May 1781; he testified he “stay’d in the Bunk till the fray was over.”) The State Assembly re-



“South view of Newgate Prison Buildings.” John Warner Barber. Connecticut Historical Collections (1836), 94.



“South view of New Milford, (central part.)” John Warner Barber. Connecticut Historical Collections (1836), 479.

solved that “Epinetus Platt be and is hereby liberated and discharged from his imprisonment . . . upon his paying the cost of prosecution and confinement, giving the Treasury of this State a bond for 300 pounds . . . for future peaceable and obedient behaviour . . . during the present war with Great Britain.”^[8]

Further reading in New Milford land records showed that Epenetus was convicted in a document headed “Governor’s and Company’s Record of the State of Connecticut to the Sherriff [sic] in the County of Litchfield,” dated 20 February 1781. The Sheriff was ordered by the Governor and his Company to take Epenetus Platt to New Gate Prison where he was to stay for two years. Epenetus was also fined 250 pounds plus court costs of £42.3s.6d.^[9] The Sheriff, Lynde Lord, reported on 26 February, 1781: “I took the body of . . . Epenetus Platt from the Gaol in Litchfield and transported him to New Gate Prison in Simsbury^[10] and there delivered him to the keeper of said Prison . . .”^[11]

In 1781, Epenetus Platt was a landholder, a farmer, the father of at least seven children, and a respected member of the Episcopal church. The “high handed misdemeanor” mentioned in the Governor’s report to the Sheriff was likely his signing of a document that pledged loyalty to the King, the titular head of the church. The Episcopal church was very strong in Litchfield County, and “loyalty to the church and to its head could be construed as treason to the American cause.”^[12] A 1786 State of Connecticut record recalled that “By the Hon’ble. Superior Court holden at Litchfield on Feby. 1781, Epinetus Platt of New Milford was convicted of “having given leave for his Name to be signed to a treasonable Writing.”^[13] His conviction was likely related to his membership in New Milford’s Episcopal church, which, as noted above, lacks records before 1784.

Kathleen Hand did not refer to the incident in her genealogical journal; perhaps she was not even aware of Epenetus’s conviction. Recently discovered evidence that later generations of the family knew of his imprisonment appears in the Hand Family Letters, now at the Connecticut State Archives, in an undated note by Elizabeth Coit Boswell, the wife of Rev. Aaron Hicks Hand, Epenetus’s grandson:

Grandmother H. [Tamar (Platt) Hand, daughter of Capt. Epenetus] was an Episcopalian. Her parents were English [of English descent] & adhered to their church and Tory principals [sic]. Grandfather Platt [Capt. Epenetus Platt] was a man of stately worth. He was an only child as was his wife Bostwick [sic; each had two siblings]. They moved to the state of N.Y. and there had a large family of children. Altho a Tory, Grandfather Platt never used his influence on that side, but the others were afraid of him on account of his ability & one day, in the presence of his wife & five children, bound him and took him to Salisbury Prison. My husband’s mother [b. 1773, not yet eight years old at the time of her father’s arrest] has often told me of the dreadful scene, his agonized wife & pleading crying children made no impression on the heartless soldiers. I think Grandfather Platt died in prison or soon after his release.

In 1773 the Connecticut General Assembly had created New Gate Prison from a newly abandoned copper mine. The warden’s house was at the entrance to the mine and the prisoners lived underground about fifty feet deep, in small cells equipped with wooden berths and some straw. They were allowed to come up to the surface for only a few hours a day.^[14] Epenetus Platt was a prisoner here from 26 February 1781 until his release after the May 21th jail break.

Epenetus Platt was freed from Newgate Prison by an Act of Assembly in May 1781 and returned to New Milford.^[15] There he was aided by his brother-in-law, Captain Isaac Bostwick (a Patriot who fought at the siege of Boston and the battles of White Plains, Trenton, and Princeton), who bought 110 acres of Epenetus’s Mt. Tom farm for £300 to help him post the required bond.^[16] This sale enabled the Platt family to continue living at home. On the same day Epenetus also sold twelve acres of land on Mt. Tom to Reuben Booth. For five more years Epenetus Platt farmed in New Milford, and he and his wife welcomed at least two more children. He remained an active member of the St. John’s Episcopal Church, and served on several church committees.

In the document recorded in the May 1786 *Public Records of the State of Connecticut*^[17] mentioned above, the Treasury authorized an ample deed of release to Platt for all lands and tenements taken from him at the time

of his imprisonment. However, the wheels of government move slowly. A full two years later the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, John Lawrence, signed on 22 May 1788, a quitclaim for any “lands or tenements on which an Execution in favor of the sd. State against Said Epenetus has been levied” for £138.3s.^[18]

Epenetus Platt must have expected this judgment: on April 16, 1788 Isaac Bostwick quitclaimed “for divers good causes and Considerations” the 110 acres to which he had taken title in September 1781. The same day Epenetus deeded twenty acres to Epenetus Platt, Jr. (possibly a cousin) “with my Dwelling house and Barn standing thereon.”^[19] The elder Epenetus sold other lots that year, and prepared to move to Kingsbury, Washington County, New York, with his wife and unmarried children. Kingsbury had been settled by several families from New Milford, many applicants for the Kingsbury Patent of 1763, organized by Captain James Bradshaw. Members of the Bostwick family also lived in Kingsbury.^[20]

Epenetus Platt appears in Kingsbury in the 1790 census with nine in his household, likely his wife, four sons, and three daughters.^[21] He died in Kingsbury on 12 March 1792, aged 57.^[22] In his 1823 will, the oldest son, Samuel Platt, instructed his wife to care for “his aged and beloved mother Anna Platt,” and provided that if his widow remarried, his mother was to have the use of a cow.^[23] Anna (Bostwick) Platt died in Ballston, N.Y., not far from Kingsbury, on January 6, 1825. Her family, by recognizing her trials on her epitaph, led to me to unravel her story, and that of Epenetus Platt.

Today, enough time has elapsed that we have more understanding for the Tories in the Revolutionary War. When Kathleen Hand was compiling her family history, telling this tale to the public might have been shameful, but perhaps she did not even know of it. Today, this story is simply another stitch in the fabric of our history. ♦

Notes

¹ Church records index, Connecticut State Library.

² New Milford, Conn., First Congregational Church Records, 1716–1938, microfilm of original records at the Connecticut State Library, Hartford [FHL #1011946 Items 1–5].

³ New Milford, Conn., Land Records, 8:163, microfilm of original records in the Town Hall [FHL #5192].

⁴ Milford District Probate, Samuel Platt, 1760.

⁵ *Rolls of Connecticut Men in the French & Indian War, 1753–1762*, 2 vols., vols. 9 and 10 of Collections of the Connecticut Historical Society (Hartford, Conn.: Connecticut Historical Society, 1903–05), 1:225, “Epenetus Platt, Corporal, 6–22 August 1757,

17 days service in the company of Captain John Hitchcock of New Milford in the alarm for the relief of Fort William Henry and places adjacent.”

⁶ Charles Platt, Jr., *Platt Genealogy in America, from the Arrival of Richard Platt in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1638* (New Hope, Penn., 1963), 79.

⁷ Connecticut Archives. Crimes and Misdemeanors, 1662/1663–1789, index, 290.

⁸ Charles J. Hoadly, comp., *The Public Records of State of Connecticut*, vol. 3 (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood, & Brainerd Co., 1922), 3:433.

⁹ New Milford Land Records, 14:434, microfilm of original records in the Town Hall [FHL #5195].

¹⁰ Today the prison is within the bounds of East Granby.

¹¹ New Milford Land Records, 14:434 [FHL # 5195].

¹² Library of Congress, “Religion in the American Revolution,” www.loc.gov/exhibits/religion/rel03.html.

¹³ Leonard W. Labaree, comp., *The Public Records of State of Connecticut*, vol. 6 (Hartford: The Case, Lockwood, & Brainerd Co., 1945), 6:185.

¹⁴ John Warner Barber, *Connecticut Historical Collections . . .* (New Haven, 1836), 94–96; and *Rise and Fall of New Gate Prison*, funded by the Connecticut Humanities Council and broadcast on Connecticut Public Television in 2007.

¹⁵ *Public Records of the State of Connecticut* [note 8], 3:433.

¹⁶ New Milford Land Records, 14:446, September 19, 1781.

¹⁷ *Public Records of the State of Connecticut* [note 13], 6:185.

¹⁸ New Milford Land Records, 18:407, microfilm of original records in the Town Hall [FHL #5197].

¹⁹ New Milford Land Records, 16:469, 16 April 1788, microfilm of original records in the Town Hall [FHL #5196].

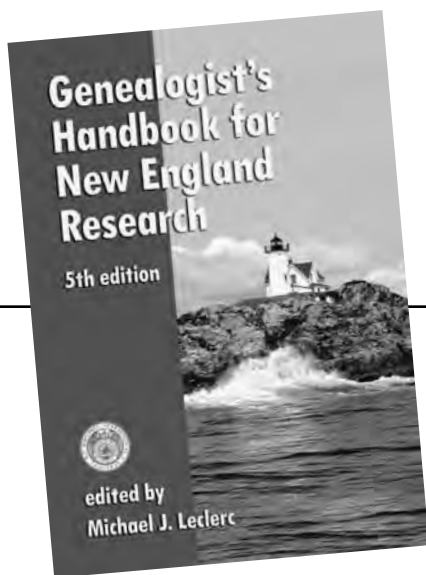
²⁰ Crisfield Johnson, *The History of Washington County, New York* (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott & Co., 1878), 421.

²¹ “Epenetiss” Platt Household, 1790 Census, Kingsbury, Washington Co., N.Y.; roll M637_6; page 211; viewed on *Ancestry.com*.

²² Photographs of his and his wife’s gravestone are online at *findagrave.com*.

²³ Washington County Surrogates Records, Samuel Platt, 13 Nov. 1823, vol. 5, pp. 155–59 [FHL 513862].

MARY M. THACHER, local historian and family genealogist, lives in Stonington, Connecticut. She edited the Aaron Hand Family Papers from the Collection of Van Tuyl Boughton at the Connecticut State Archives, and wrote “Identifying Anna Wheeler of Stonington, Connecticut, (1675–1714), as the First Wife of Jeremiah Halsey of Southampton, Long Island” in the October 2009 Register. Her email address is mthacher@snet.net.



The Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research, *Fifth Edition*

by Penny Stratton

FOR MORE THAN THREE decades, the *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research* has been a perennial bestseller. This popularity is no surprise: the book is the principal research guide for all of New England.

Now NEHGS is publishing a new edition, chock full of enhancements.

Since 1980, when the first edition was published under the editorship of Marcia Wiswall Lindberg, we've made many improvements, always attempting to enable readers to keep pace with the best practices in New England genealogy. Given that the last edition (edited by Marcia D. Melnyk) was published more than a decade ago, just as information technology started revolutionizing genealogical research, this new volume will be welcomed.

In 2009, Michael J. Leclerc began planning the updated edition. Working with volunteers recruited by Helen Herzer, he assembled key information about repositories, libraries, and genealogical societies throughout the region. Because the New England states have different recordkeeping practices — for example, some states register probates and deeds at the county level, some at the district level, and some at the state level — Michael worked to present information in a consistent, user-friendly way. He also invited state experts to contribute introductory essays: David Curtis Dearborn on New Hampshire; Scott Andrew Bartley, Vermont; Christopher C. Child, Connecticut; and Maureen A. Taylor, Rhode Island. Michael himself wrote the essays on Maine and Massachusetts, and Lynn Betlock wrote an introduction to the general New England section that begins the book.

Staff designer Carolyn Oakley developed a clean, easy-to-follow two-color design, with colored “bleed bars” at the edge of each page to help users easily locate a particular state's chapter. Readers thumbing through the new edition will notice a number of illustrations: images from the NEHGS collections, including rare books and maps. More than eighty maps were commissioned especially for this new edition, with clearly legible type and a two-color format.

Finally, we've added a New England gazetteer: a complete alphabetical list of each village, borough, and town in New England.

A walk through the *Handbook*

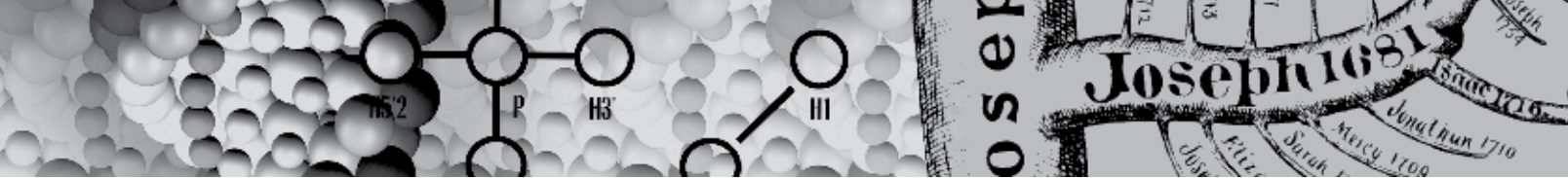
The book begins with a general chapter about New England, covering key source material for the region as a whole, and where to find it.

A chapter on each state follows, and includes:

- An introductory essay on how to conduct research in that state, including locating vital, church, probate, land, court, and military records, plus any state-specific resources, such as state censuses. A sidebar lists key printed resources recommended by NEHGS staff.
- A map of the state showing county boundaries.
- A list of major repositories and organizations, with contact information.
- A table of counties, giving date of formation, parent counties, probate and deed districts, and other noteworthy information.
- Counties, in alphabetical order, each on a two-page spread with a county map showing all towns; a map of the state highlighting the county; date of county formation; list of parent and daughter county(ies); county seat; and list of towns in the county.
- A list of all state government agencies responsible for registration of probates and deeds.
- A table of cities and towns, giving current city/town/plantation name; date of grant or incorporation; current county; parent and daughter town(s); and any special notes (date of settlement, name changes, etc.).

With these information-packed chapters, the gazetteer, and a comprehensive index, this fifth edition of the “New England Guide” is certain to be an indispensable resource for anyone conducting research in New England. ♦

PENNY STRATTON is managing editor for books at NEHGS.



GENETICS & GENEALOGY

Sewall Family DNA: A Project Update

by Eben W. Graves

THE STATUS OF THE SEWALL FAMILY DNA PROJECT, based on five participants, was reported in the summer 2010 issue of *AMERICAN ANCESTORS*.^[1] Subsequently, two other Sewalls thought to be descended from the Massachusetts branch and two other Sewalls thought to be descended from the Maryland branch joined the project. Generally, prior results were confirmed; but a puzzle remains, a surprising discovery occurred, and some new (distant) relations were identified. The kinship of all participants is shown on the chart on page 46. Numbers for the first five descendants in the 2010 report have not changed.^[2]

A family divided remains divided

The five 2010 participants belonged to two unrelated families, even though both were believed to descend from Henry^B Sewall of Coventry. Massachusetts participants were in haplogroup E-V13, but the one Maryland descendant was in haplogroup R1b1a2.^[3]

One of the two new Sewalls from the Massachusetts family is in the same haplogroup, E-V13, as the four prior Massachusetts participants. The 37-marker haplotypes of all five are identical except at two markers.^[4]

Massachusetts ydna results

	DYS 439	YCA 11b	
Descendant (1)	12	21	
Descendant (2)	13	21	
Descendant (3)	12	21	
Descendant (7)	12	21	(New)
Descendant (4)	12	19	

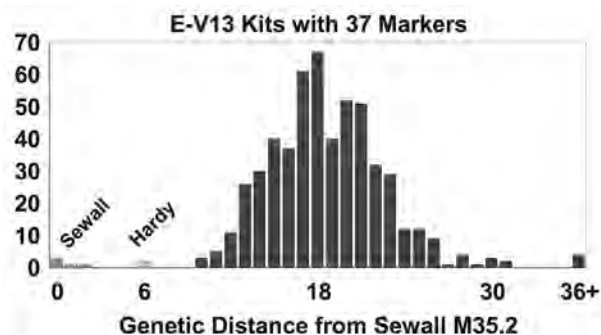
The two new Sewalls from the Maryland family are in the same haplogroup, R1b1a2, as the previous participant. Their 25-marker haplotypes are the same, with an exception at a single marker. The three members of the Maryland family are clearly related to each other, even if not to the Massachusetts group.

Maryland ydna results

	DYS 439	
Descendant (5)	13	
Descendant (8)	12	(New)
Descendant (9)	12	(New)

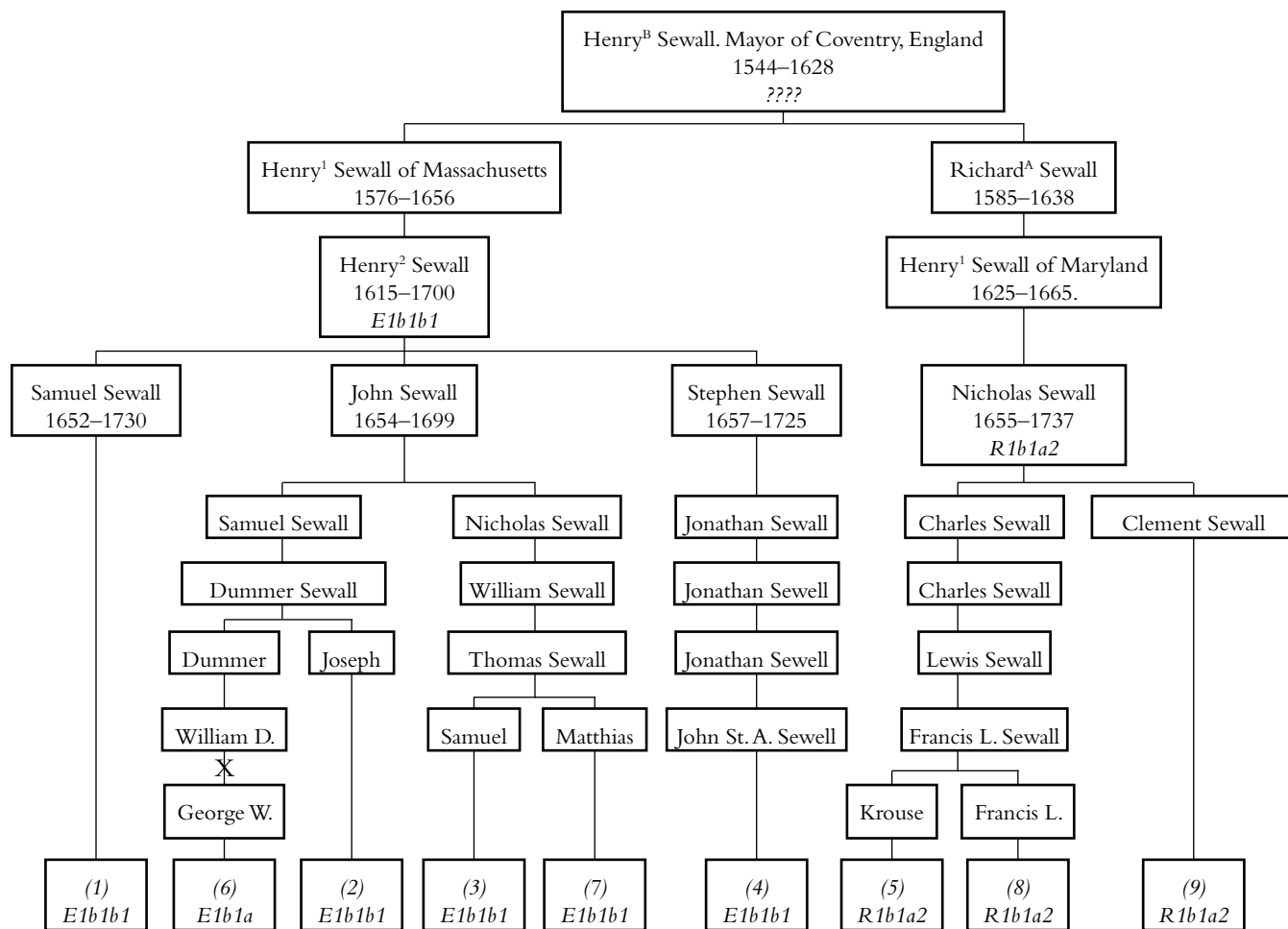
These eight participants represent all currently known lines of living male descendants of Henry^B Sewall. Henry² Sewall of Massachusetts had only three sons and was himself the only surviving son of Henry¹ Sewall. Nicholas² Sewall of Maryland and his grandfather Richard^A Sewall are each known to have had another son (not shown on the chart), both of whom lived to maturity and could have living male descendants, but none are known.^[5] Mayor Henry^B Sewall had only two sons, Henry¹ and Richard^A Sewall. Finally, Henry^B Sewall had an only brother William Sewall, who had only two daughters.^[6]

Which of the two branches carries the Y-DNA of Henry^B Sewall of Coventry, England, is unknown. The break between the documented and biological genealogy could have occurred at the birth (or adoption) of only five men — Henry¹ or Henry² of Massachusetts, or Richard,^A Henry¹ of Maryland, or Nicholas² — two in the Massachusetts line and three in the Maryland line. Current evidence cannot identify where the break occurs.



Right name, wrong family

The name George Washington was given to three Sewalls born in Maine in the 1820s: first, at Scarborough, 9 September 1825, to a son of Stephen⁶ and Polly (Milliken) Sewall. This G.W. Sewall died there, unmarried, 5 September 1847.^[7] The name George Washington Sewall was next given about 1828 to a son of John³ and Paulina (Moore) Sewall of China (Maine); John³ was a grandson of William¹ and Margaret (____) Sewall of Bridgewater, Massachusetts.^[8] The name George Washington Sewall was last given at



Chesterville, 12 November 1829, to a son of William Dunning⁷ and Mary Ann (Killsey?) Sewall.^[9]

Some descendants of a George W. Sewall (ca. 1828–1890) of Rockland and South Thomaston, Maine, believed that their ancestor was the G.W. Sewall of Chesterville. No evidence for either Chesterville or China as his birth place has been published.^[10] Identifying the father of George W. Sewall of Rockland and South Thomaston seemed an appropriate application of Y-DNA testing, because many in the family of John³ Sewall of China were either black or of mixed color, at least until after the Civil War.^[11]

Descendant (6) on the accompanying chart is descended from George W. Sewall of Rockland and South Thomaston. His haplogroup is E1b1a, perhaps the most frequently found haplotype among African-Americans. George W. Sewall of Rockland and South Thomaston was most likely the son of John³ Sewall of China instead of William D.⁷ Sewall of Chesterville.

When DNA is not quite unique

The discovery of an extremely rare second SNP mutation at the location of a prior mutation was described in the previous report. This rare second mutation, car-

ried by the Massachusetts Sewall family, is now called M35.2 and the earlier mutation at the same location is called M35.1. M35.2 has also been found in a descendant of Thomas¹ Hardy (ca. 1605–1678) of Ipswich, Rowley and Bradford, Massachusetts.^[12] The latter's Y-DNA had already been shown to belong to the same haplogroup as that of the Sewalls, E-V13. When shown that his haplotype was closer to the Sewalls than to most other E-V13s (see graph), the Hardy descendant agreed to be tested for M35.2.^[13]

Comparison of the Hardy haplotype to the five Sewall haplotypes suggests that the most recent common ancestor lived 17 to 34 generations ago (at 30 years per generation, 510 to 1,020 years). The M35.2 mutation may have occurred just before the adoption of surnames in England.^[14]

The rare M35.2 SNP mutation shared by Sewalls and Hardys can be used to identify definitively descendants of either Henry¹ Sewall or Thomas¹ Hardy, whose respective lines are unknown. This mutation can also distinguish these descendants from unrelated Sewalls or Hardys.

(continued on page 53)



MANUSCRIPTS AT NEHGS

The Charles C. Coffin Papers: Glimpses of Civil War Life

by Timothy G. X. Salls

BECAUSE NEHGS WAS FOUNDED IN 1845, MANY early members participated in the Civil War and some donated wartime records and mementos. One interesting collection with Civil War items is the Charles Carleton Coffin Papers, 1861–1890 (Mss 40). Coffin was born 26 July 1823 in Boscawen, New Hampshire, the ninth and youngest child of Thomas and Hannah (Kilborn) Coffin. He moved to Boston at age twenty-one and worked as a surveyor for the Concord and Portsmouth Railroad. An accidental axe wound would later prevent him from joining the army when the Civil War began.

However, by then Coffin had switched careers and become an editor and journalist. His description of the Battle of Bull Run led to an assignment to cover the war for the *Boston Journal*. With a pass that allowed him to travel through the Union army lines, camps, and battlefields, Coffin specialized in reporting news to his readers as quickly as possible. His dispatches were considered models of accuracy and earned him considerable renown. Charles C. Coffin collected Confederate documents as souvenirs as he accompanied the Union army. His largest haul was obtained on 2 April 1865, when he accompanied Union troops that captured Richmond, Virginia, the capitol of the Confederacy.

After the war, Coffin served in the Massachusetts House (1884, 1885) and Senate (1890), but he was best known as an author of patriotic books and speeches. His books include *Days and Nights on the Battle-field* (1864), *Following the Flag* (1865), *Four Years of Fighting* (1866), *Drum-beat of the Nation* (1887), *Marching to Victory* (1888), *Redeeming the Republic* (1890), and *Freedom Triumphant* (1891). He is said to have delivered more than two thousand speeches and addresses on patriotic and religious subjects. He became a mem-



ber of NEHGS in 1865 and gave the oration on its fiftieth anniversary in 1895. Charles C. Coffin died 2 March 1896 in Brookline, Massachusetts. A memorial biography was printed in the July 1896 *Register*. The Charles Carleton Coffin Papers are divided into two parts. The first part contains draft copies of speeches. The second part consists of souvenirs from his reporting days during the Civil War, organized into several sub-units, including military papers, Confederate government papers, letters to public officials, contributions to Southern newspapers, and retrospective material. The military papers contain three appointments, including a military commission signed by Virginia governor John Letcher (1813–1884) appointing Richard Thomas Zarvona (1833–1875) a colonel of the Virginia Active Forces. The battle reports are from Henry Hopkins Sibley's brigade at Amarillo, Texas (1861); the Louisiana batteries at Pensacola, Florida (1861); Virginia Volunteers at the first battle of Kernstown (1862); a report on John Hunt Morgan's brigade written from Cynthiana, Kentucky (1862); and casualty reports from John S. Marmaduke's raid into Missouri from Arkansas. All of the reports are handwritten copies, often incomplete, and the only engagement covered in depth is the defense of James Island in Charlestown Harbor, 16–20 June, 1862.

The reports are followed by sixteen original letters written to Colonel Francis Henney Smith (1812–1890), superintendent of the Virginia Military Institute. These letters all date from the summer of 1861 and were written by either former students seeking recommendations or parents, including Leonidas Polk (1806–1864), "The Fighting Bishop," inquiring about their sons. Coffin also collected fifty-three letters written between Confederate soldiers in Virginia and their

Above: Charles Carleton Coffin. George M. Adams, "Hon. Charles Carleton Coffin," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 50 (July 1896): 289–295.



Map of a part of the City of Richmond showing the burnt districts, by William Ira Smith. Charles Carleton Coffin Papers (Ms 40, folder 70).

families, including ten letters between Hampton C. Williams and his son Alexander Chapman Williams, a lieutenant with the 17th Virginia Infantry. Hampton provides war reports and political news, describes a trip searching for minerals in the Blue Ridge Mountains, and notes the loss of friends and relations.

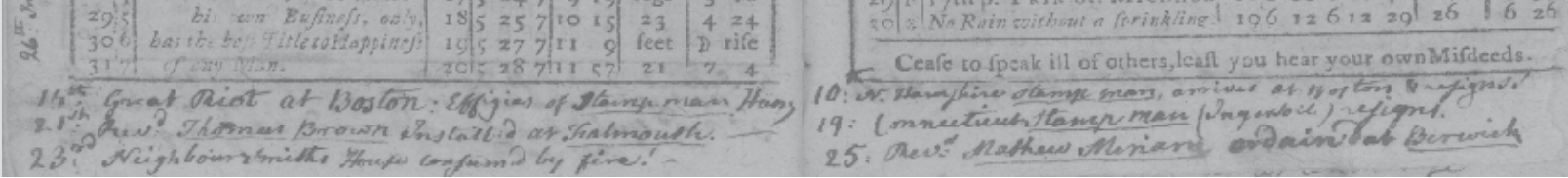
Communications written to public officials include nine letters and five telegraphs to Jefferson Davis (1808–1889), president of the Confederate States of America, as well as two letters and a telegraph for Jefferson's wife, Varina (Howell) Davis (1826–1906). Jefferson Davis' correspondents include Confederate senator Clement Claiborne Clay (1816–1882); Brigadier-General Thomas Fenwick Drayton (1809–1891); Samuel Bassett French (1820–1898), aide to the governor of Virginia; Cuban exile Ambrosio José Gonzales (1818–1893); Robert Mercer Taliaferro Hunter (1809–1877), Confederate secretary of state, 1861–1862; Christopher Gustavus Memminger (1803–1888), Confederate secretary of the treasury, 1861–1864; Virginia McLaurine Mosby, mother of John Singleton Mosby, the "Gray Ghost"; and Confederate agent Nathaniel Beverly Tucker (1820–1890). Clay worried that his asthma would limit his ability to serve, suggested that a cousin would be suitable for promotion to lieutenant, and complained of military promotions granted to old politicians. Gonzales asked for a military position, Tucker sought a reply to his proposal to travel to Europe to procure supplies for the army, and Mrs. Mosby complained of individuals not assisting with the war effort in her section of Virginia. The other letters contain reports on official duties. Mrs. Davis was sent a letter relaying Dr. [Samuel Adolphus] Cartwright's recommendation that President Davis should go to the country for awhile

and a letter from Anne Clarke, a widow with four sons in the army, who sought employment for the fifth, her only source of support. The three letters and telegraph sent to Judah Philip Benjamin (1811–1884), Confederate secretary of war, 1861–1862, then secretary of state, 1862–1865, include a summary of a battle at Greenbrier River and a handwritten copy of a letter from Jacob Thompson (1810–1885), Confederate secret agent in Toronto. The Papers contain 132 letters to Edward Jenkins Harden (1813–1873), Superior Court judge in Savannah, Georgia, and 345 letters to Virginia governors John Letcher (1813–1884) and William Smith (1797–1887).

The contributions to Confederate newspapers, the *Richmond Examiner* and, to a lesser extent, the *Richmond Sentinel* and the *Savannah Morning News*, contain letters sent to the editors for publication. Most contributions were opinion pieces. Several letters from soldiers complained about lacking socks, the poor quality of clothing, late pay, and not receiving letters regularly. Several letters contain complaints about the number of men in government instead of the army. The last section of Coffin's papers contains retrospective material: reminiscences of Gettysburg and a letter by a Mr. Wallace from Liverpool, England, describing a Confederate propaganda office in London that supplied stories to English newspapers in order to influence British public opinion.

The Charles C. Coffin Papers contain a mix of original documents and handwritten copies, often incomplete, since Coffin found many of them loose in the streets of Richmond, Virginia, discarded when the city was abandoned. The documents in this collection, by themselves, provide very limited insight into the historical events that led to their creation. Yet the material has clear value. Prior to donating his collection to NEHGS, Charles Coffin loaned it to the editors of *War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, published by the Government Printing Office from 1880 to 1901. For family historians, the personal letters, especially, provide genealogical details and often compelling biographical data. The letters offer glimpses into American lives, activities, struggles, and hopes during wartime. The preservation of these Papers by Charles Carleton Coffin and NEHGS enables descendants to make significant connections with people of the past. ♦

TIMOTHY G. X. SALLS is manager of manuscript collections at NEHGS.



DIARIES AT NEHGS

From the Personal Narrative of Joseph Brown Read (1830-1903) — Civil War Experiences

by Robert Shaw

JOSEPH BROWN READ (A.K.A. REED) WAS BORN AT Dighton, Mass., May 12, 1830, son of Seth and Matilda (Brown) Read. He married (1) Nov. 27, 1856 Elizabeth E.T. Williams, who was born at Raynham, Mass., Oct. 28, 1834, daughter of Nathan and Lucy (Hall) Williams; she died Jan. 22, 1879. Their only child was Frank Williams Read, who was born June 12, 1858 and died at Fall River, Mass., on Aug. 3, 1875. Joseph married (2) Jan. 26, 1880, Mary Elizabeth Barker, daughter of Deacon Joseph Barker of South Hanson, Mass. Their children were Joseph Barker Read (b. 1881), William Alfred Read (b. 1884), and Albert Cushing Read (b. 1887).

Joseph Brown Read graduated from Bridgewater, Mass., Normal School in 1850, was a teacher until 1867, afterwards a pastor of Baptist churches in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. He was also a Baptist missionary in Colorado in 1883. He served in the 58th Massachusetts Regiment from February 1864 until that regiment was discharged in July 1865.^[1] Mr. Read made it clear at the beginning

of his narrative (which he called an “autobiography”, and probably wrote in the 1880s) that he was writing it for his children, not the “general reader.”^[2] He died at Hanson, Mass. March 17, 1903.^[3]

Note: Every effort has been made to transcribe this text as accurately as possible. Material within [brackets] has been added by the transcriber. Mr. Read’s few minor grammatical and spelling errors have not been corrected.

Notes

¹ John Ludovicus Reed, *The Reed Genealogy – Descendants of William Reade of Weymouth, Massachusetts From 1635 to 1902* (1901), 316-17.

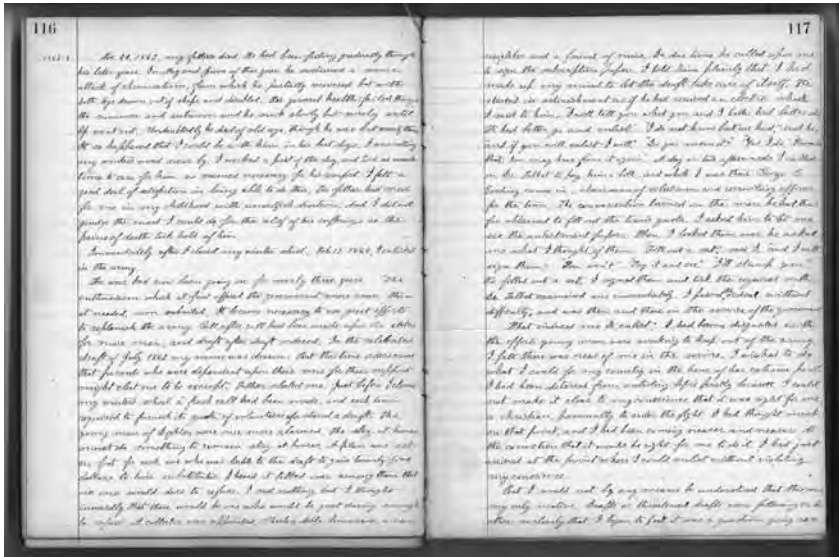
² R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department Mss 39, *Joseph B. and William A. Read Papers, 1830-1926* Volume 1.

³ Source of Joseph’s death information: Unpublished finding aid for Mss 39 in NEHGS, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections Department.

Immediately after I closed my winter school, Feb. 17, 1864, I enlisted in the army.

The war had now been going on for nearly three years. The enthusiasm which at first offered the government more men than it needed, soon subsided. It became necessary to use great efforts to replenish the army. Call after call had been made upon the states for more men, and draft after draft ordered. In the celebrated draft of July 1863 my name was drawn. But this time orders came that parents who were dependent on their sons for their support might elect one to be exempt. Father elected me. [Joseph Read’s father died in November 1863, thus canceling the exemption.] Just before I closed my winter’s school a fresh call had been made, and each town required to furnish its quota of volunteers or stand a draft. The young men of Dighton were once more alarmed. The stay-at-homes must do something to remain stay-at-homes. A plan was set on

foot for each one who was liable to the draft to give twenty five dollars to hire substitutes. I heard it talked over among them that no one would dare to refuse. I said nothing, but I thought inwardly that there would be one who would be just daring enough to refuse. A collector was appointed, Charles Noble Simmons, a near neighbor and a friend of mine. In due time he called upon me to sign the subscription paper. I told him plainly that I had made up my mind to let the draft take care of itself. He started in astonishment as if he had received an electric shock. I said to him, “I will tell you what you and I both had better do. We had better go and enlist.” “I do not know but we had,” said he, “and if you will enlist I will.” “Do you mean it?” “Yes, I do.” “Remember that. You may hear from it again.” A day or two afterwards I called on Dr. Talbot to pay him a bill, and while I was there George E. Gooding came in, chairman of selectmen and recruiting officer for the town. The conversation turned



Two pages from the narrative of Joseph Brown Read.

on the men he had thus far obtained to fill out the town's quota. I asked him to let me see the enlistment papers. When I looked them over he asked me what I thought of them. "Fill out a set," said I, "and I will sign them." "You won't." "Try it and see." "I'll stump you." He filled out a set, I signed them and took the required oath. Dr. Talbot examined me immediately. I passed the ordeal without difficulty, and was then and there in the service of the government.

What induced me to enlist? I had become disgusted with the efforts young men were making to keep out of the army. I felt there was need of me in the service. I wished to do what I could for my country in the hour of her extreme peril. I had been deterred from enlisting before partly because I could not make it clear to my conscience that it was right for me, a christian, personally to enter the fight. I had thought much on that point; and I had been coming nearer and nearer to the conviction that it would be right for me to do it. I had just arrived at the point where I could enlist without violating my conscience.

But I would not by any means be understood that this was my only motive. Drafts or threatened drafts were following each other so closely that I began to feel it was a question going as a volunteer or going as a drafted man. For volunteers large bounties were offered. The drafted man must go without a bounty. The bounties, national, state and town, offered just then, amounted to seven hundred and fifty dollars. This was quite an item in the make up of my decision. I was out of employment. The whole amount I had been able to earn since moving to Dighton, about \$300, lacked a little of enough to pay my expenses. The lack was only

three or four dollars, but enough to put the balance on the wrong side. I could get employment again selling herrings. But I must wait a month. And during that month I should be running in debt for a living. Enlistment would give me immediately financial independence. I always had a great desire to be independent. Further I had refused to contribute to hire substitutes, and had challenged the collector to enlist. If I enlisted I should become a kind of hero in town. If I did not enlist I should bring upon myself a storm of angry denunciation. All these motives and others entered into the make up of my decision to surprise everybody except my wife by enlisting as a common soldier. With Mrs. Read I had talked the matter over. She knew that I was at the point of enlisting. And yet when I had actually

taken the irrevocable step it was an exceedingly hard thing for her to bear. But she endured it as best she could. And we began to make preparations, as I must soon go into camp.

...

Sunday evening [April 24] in the presence of an audience which crowded the church I took occasion to bid farewell to my friends, all of us understanding that there were many chances against our meeting again on this side of death. Monday morning I returned to camp. I took Frankie, now nearly six years old, to ride a little on my way, then let him get out and run back. I looked after him as he was skipping along in his graceful and playful manner. I carried the picture thus impressed upon my mind for the next fourteen months undimmed. I expected then to see him again before leaving the state, but I did not.

Wednesday, Apr. 27, Mrs. Read, brother Alfred and his wife came and spent the day with me in camp. We passed the hours pleasantly together, and then they took the train for Boston. I bade Alfred and Eunice goodby as they passed into the car. Then I kissed my dear wife, while she wept, O, how bitterly! And as the train swept away from the station I turned and said to a soldier friend, "Skinner, that is the hardest thing I ever did in my life." Whether we should meet again in this world was a matter of extreme doubt. I was going into perils the nature of which and the outcome of which were as yet only dimly discerned, or not discerned at all. ♦

ROBERT SHAW is assistant archivist at NEHGS and assistant editor for AMERICAN ANCESTORS.

TALES FROM THE COURTHOUSE

“A Matter of Extreme Regret”: Josiah Witter’s Pension Plight

by Diane Rapaport

ON JANUARY 16, 1816, AT ST. ALBANS, VERMONT, seventy-four-year-old Josiah Witter dipped his quill in an ink pot and wrote the most important letter of his life, to a man he had never met: James Madison, President of the United States. “It is a matter of extreme regret Sir that . . .



Diane Rapaport

necessity compels me to trouble you by requesting your assistance,” the letter began. Josiah was desperate, and he believed that the President was his last hope. In three pages of eloquent script, Josiah told how he had “suffered everything but death in the defence of his Country,” barely surviving wounds and imprisonment during

the Revolutionary War. Josiah had applied for a pension in 1792 and received a certificate entitling him to monthly payments, “but from some cause unknown to me I have never been able to reap one cents advantage from it.” For nearly twenty-five years, the U.S. government had refused to pay. Still much in need and bewildered as to why his country had abandoned him — for there “cannot be a more just claim than mine in any possible case” — Josiah wished that he could “appear at the Seat of Government and be examined by the President, Senate, House of Representatives and all the heads of departments.” But Josiah was poor, old, and disabled, and he lived hundreds of miles from Washington, in a little town near the Canadian border, so he begged Madison to “have the goodness to use your influence that I may obtain justice which is all I ask.”

Josiah’s letter apparently arrived at its destination (the manuscript is now in his pension file at the National Archives), although there is no indication that the President replied or intervened in Josiah’s case. Enough documentation remains, however, to reveal

the sad tale of what happened to Josiah, before and after he penned that plaintive letter. It is too late for justice to be done, but perhaps telling Josiah’s story may offer him (and his descendants, if any remain) a small measure of belated recognition.

Josiah Witter’s wartime record leaves no doubt that he was an exemplary patriot who deserved better treatment from his country. Thirty-four years old^[1] when the Revolution began and already a seasoned veteran of the French and Indian Wars, Josiah immediately enlisted as a first lieutenant and served almost continuously in Massachusetts and Connecticut regiments until the war’s end. He marched in the wilderness expedition to Quebec and “returned with a party of sick,” took charge of stores at Greenwich, helped to build Fort Trumbull at New London, and recruited new soldiers. In February 1783, when the British made an incursion near Saybrook, Connecticut, Josiah commanded a troop of volunteers who fought to repel the invasion. Wounded by four musket balls and left for dead on the battlefield, Josiah was captured by the enemy and carried to a prison camp on Long Island, where he regained enough strength to be released a few weeks later on parole. Josiah was alive but disabled, and his military career was over.

Returning to Connecticut, Josiah tried to support his family by farming. But nearly a decade later, when Congress enacted the Invalid Pensions Act of 1792, Josiah still suffered from his wartime injuries, so he traveled from his home in Brooklyn, Connecticut, to the U.S. Circuit Court in Hartford, and applied for relief. He testified and also submitted affidavits about his disabilities from a surgeon, a fellow soldier, his son Ebenezer, and Henrietta Maria Tyler, a woman who lived in his household; she testified that Josiah “is not only disenabled from labour but is exercised with pain — especially in the cold season of the year.” On October 4, 1792, Josiah received a certificate, signed by commissioners James Iredell and Richard Law, agreeing with the surgeon’s assessment that Josiah was “a proper subject for public compensation” and granting him a pen-

sion of \$10 per month. Josiah forwarded that certificate, as required by law, to the office of the U.S. Secretary of War, so that he could be added to the pension list. He waited for payments to begin, but no money arrived. Unbeknownst to Josiah, a problem had developed.

Josiah's pension was stalled in a quirky constitutional dispute among the branches of the new U.S. government. Under the 1792 pension law, circuit courts were to hear the evidence and issue certificates, but the Secretary of War had the final power to accept or reject pension claims. Judges, however, believed that it was unconstitutional for the Secretary of War to second-guess the court's pension decisions, since the judicial and executive branches were separate and independent. So, until Congress or the Supreme Court could resolve the dispute, some judges opted to call themselves "commissioners" and to decide pension cases "unofficially," apart from their court duties — which Iredell and Law did in Josiah's case. But the Secretary of War, stubbornly insisting on the letter of the law, rejected certificates, like Josiah's, which were signed by "commissioners," accepting only pension certificates issued by a circuit court "judge"!

Whether Josiah understood these political and legal nuances is doubtful. With no money forthcoming, he petitioned Congress for payment of his pension in February 1794. A committee of the House of Representatives, asked to investigate, issued a report sympathizing with Josiah and recommending that an exception be made for veterans in his unfortunate situation. But neither Congress nor the Secretary of War chose to offer any relief, and the U.S. Supreme Court inexplicably agreed with the interpretation that certificates signed by "commissioners" — like Josiah's — were invalid. Josiah, however, seems not to have received that news, or advice that he should reapply, or an explanation of why no one was doing anything about his pension. As far as he knew, he had been forgotten by his country, his pension in limbo, unpaid.

Discouraged and confused, Josiah tried to carry on with his life — at some point he relocated to Vermont — but as he grew older, his health and financial situation deteriorated. Perhaps a friend or relative urged Josiah to inquire once again about his pension; surely bureaucratic mistake or oversight must be the reason he had never received his money. Josiah's impassioned letter to President Madison in 1816, however, failed to reopen his case. And Josiah learned that his original pension certificate no longer existed, having burned in a War Department fire.

But Josiah could not afford to give up. On April 17, 1818, shortly after Congress enacted a law expanding

pension eligibility, Josiah filed a new application, this time in Vermont. Proving financial need was not difficult; Josiah was so impoverished that lawsuits forced him into debtors' prison by May. The Supreme Court of Vermont quickly issued a certificate — signed by a judge — that Josiah met all the pension requirements and should receive a monthly allowance of \$20, plus several hundred dollars in arrears. The file was mailed to the Secretary of War for final approval.

Josiah probably assumed that nothing could go wrong now, so the War Department's response a year later — "Rejected" — must have seemed a cruel joke. Despite multiple affidavits by men who had known Josiah when he was a commissioned officer during the Revolution, the War Department was not convinced that he had served, insisting "that the Applicant should produce his Commission if in existence." Josiah filed more testimony about his war service, explaining that his commission was seized by the British at the time of his capture in 1783, "as by the low state to which I was reduced by loss of blood from my wounds I was incapable of taking charge of my papers." Two surgeons also testified, in case there was any question about the severity of those wounds: part of his lower jaw bone had been shot away, and his body was marked with scars of musket balls that had ruptured his navel, pierced his chest, and passed through and under his left arm.

Finally, later in 1819, the War Department accepted Josiah's pension claim and sent the first payments. Josiah was nearly eighty years old, and he had waited twenty-seven years for this money. In 1820, he filed a schedule of his property, as required by the pension law, a poignant list of his meager possessions, including a few basics recently purchased with pension funds: a horse and harness, a cow and some sheep, a chest and two kitchen chairs, an ax, hoe, and shovel.

Incredibly, the War Department responded to Josiah's schedule by suspending pension payments, on the grounds that he had too much property! Eight of St. Albans' leading citizens — selectmen, justices of the peace, a state attorney and the sheriff — sent a protest letter on May 17, 1821, to John C. Calhoun, Secretary of War. Josiah, they said, "is very poor indeed & is wholly unable to labor or do anything for the support of himself & wife," and most of the property listed in his 1820 schedule, except clothing and furniture, had already been seized and sold by creditors. "If any of the Revolutionary Soldiers need the assistance of Government we think he does." Josiah Witter died in August 1821,^[2] still waiting for his pension. ♦

Notes

¹ Pension records state Josiah Witter was born in 1740, and he was probably born February 19, 1740/41, the son of William and Hannah (Freeman) Witter of Preston, Connecticut. M.W. Carbaugh, comp., and L.C. White, ed., *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*, vol. 35 (Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 2000), 256.

² Vermont. Secretary of State. *General Index to Vital Records of Vermont, Early to 1870* (microfilm). Josiah “Witters” death is recorded in St. Albans, Vermont.

Selected sources

Maeva Marcus, *The Documentary History of the Supreme Court of the United States, 1789–1800: Vol. 6, Cases: 1790–1795* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1998), pp. 44–45.

National Archives and Records Administration:

Record Group 21, Records of the District Courts of the United States, U.S. Circuit Court, Connecticut, Revolutionary War Pension Applicant Case Files and Record Book of Proceedings on Petitions for Pensions, 1792–1797.

Record Group 15, M804, Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty–Land Warrant Application Files, Pension #S.41359.

DIANE RAPAPORT is a professional genealogist, historical consultant and award-winning author of *New England Court Records: A Research Guide for Genealogists and Historians*, and *The Naked Quaker: True Crimes and Controversies from the Courts of Colonial New England*. Visit her websites, www.dianeraport.com and www.quillenhistorical.com.

“Genetics and Genealogy,” continued from page 46

Acknowledgements

The author is especially grateful to the nine Sewall/Sewell — and one Hardy — participants, without whose willingness and forbearance this project could not have continued. ♦

Notes

¹ “Sewall Family DNA: A Project Status Report,” *AMERICAN ANCESTORS* 11, no. 3 (Summer 2010): 45–46, 58.

² FamilyTree DNA, test kits 143,759 for descendant (1); 54,100 for descendant (2); 175,188 for descendant (3); 146,648 for descendant (4); 146,978 for descendant (5); 180,695 for descendant (6); 187,302 for descendant (7); 180,892 for descendant (8); and 202,197 for descendant (9).

³ Short names are often used because new discoveries require frequent updates to the haplogroup tree. In the 2010 tree used for the previous report, E-V13 was E1b1b1a2; in the 2011 tree E-V13 is E1b1b1a1b.

⁴ The 2010 report contained errors. References to marker DYS 456 should have been to marker YCA IIb and the YCA IIb value of descendant (2) should have been 21 instead of 19.

⁵ Richard^A Sewall’s son Samuel was born say 1630, and was alive in 1664; no marriage for him has been found. Nicholas² Sewall’s son Henry married Elizabeth (Lawson?), and had two sons, one of whom produced grandchildren. Two of these grandchildren became Roman Catholic priests. None of the grandchildren has been traced further.

⁶ Eben W. Graves, *Descendants of Henry Sewall (1576–1656) of Manchester and Coventry, England, and Newbury and Rowley, Massachusetts: The Family in England and the First Six Generations in North America* (Boston, Mass.: Newbury Street Press, 2007), 20–21, 28, 32–40, 70–71, 81.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 348.

⁸ An article on the descendants of William¹ Sewall of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, is in preparation for submission to the *Register*.

⁹ Eben W. Graves, *Descendants of Henry Sewall (1576–1656) of Manchester and Coventry, England, and Newbury and Rowley, Massachusetts: The Seventh and Eighth Generations in North America and England* (forthcoming).

¹⁰ *Ibid.* This forthcoming work will show that William D.⁷ Sewall moved to Ohio after 1830, where he died in 1839 and his widow probably remarried in 1840. His son George probably also died in Ohio, as no death was recorded at Chesterville (or elsewhere). The author will also show that the birth record of Adalbert Sewall, a son of George W. Sewall of Rockland and South Thomaston, recorded in a delayed return by Adalbert’s sister in June 1954, states George W. was born at China, Maine.

¹¹ Until 1860, family members were almost always categorized as Negro, black or mulatto. Some of the Sewall men married white women. By the 1870s, vital and census records for most members of this family say white.

¹² FamilyTree DNA, kit 56,091.

¹³ The genetic distance was calculated between three identical Sewall kits and 533 E-V13 kits in the E-M35 Phylogeny Project database with 37 or more markers (see www.familytreedna.com/public/E3b/default.aspx). The Hardy kit had a genetic distance of six from the Sewall kits; the mean of all the other kits was eighteen. When the distance between the Hardy kit and the other 532 E-V13 kits was calculated, no distance was less than eight.

¹⁴ Dean McGee’s “Y-DNA Comparison Utility,” online at www.mymcgee.com/tools/yutility.html (FTDNA mutation rate; infinite allele mutation model). The near end of the range is based on a 50 percent probability that the most recent common ancestor lived within the stated limit, and the far end of the range is based on a 95 percent probability.

EBEN W. GRAVES is working on the second volume of *The Descendants of Henry Sewall (1576–1656)*. He is particularly interested in learning about portraits or photographs of Sewalls and their spouses in the seventh and eighth generations (born between 1763 and 1899). He may be reached at eben@prodigy.net.



FOCUS ON NEW YORK

Navigating New York Probate

by Henry B. Hoff

WITH THE RECENT PUBLICATION BY NEHGS OF the second edition of Gordon Remington’s *New York State Probate Records*,^[1] researchers have an up-to-date road map to lead them through the complex — and sometimes untidy — subject of New York probate. Most of the book is an updated listing for each of New York’s sixty-two counties, including what is available on microfilm for each county at the Family History Library and citations to published, typescript, and online abstracts and indexes.

The key date for New York probate is 1787, the year surrogate’s courts were created for each county to handle probate matters. Before that year there are a variety of places to look for wills, administrations, and guardianships. After 1787 the county surrogate’s court usually has these records, but some separate courts continued to handle certain types of probate matters until 1847.

Legislation effective in 1830 required a petition listing all heirs of a decedent. To quote *New York State Probate Records*:^[2] “The petition to probate or administer an estate is the single most important document in a post-1830 probate packet. The purpose of the petition is to protect the rights of all heirs-at-law, whether or not there was a will, and whether or not an heir-at-law was mentioned in a will.” (See the box for further explanation of these petitions.)^[3]

The petition almost always provides additional information, even if merely the place of residence of each heir already named in the will. More usual is the situation in which a testator’s will mentions only some children or grandchildren — with petition identifying others. For example, the 1831 will of Arnold Willoughby of Norway, Herkimer County, New York, named wife Catherine and children Catherine and Amos, both unmarried. The petition, on the other hand, shows that Arnold had seven married children alive when he made his will.^[4]

If no will exists but someone has applied to administer the estate, the information in the petition will almost always be new. For example, Heyltje Horton, widow, of Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York, died 25 September 1831. Twelve years later in 1843, one of her sons-in-law applied for letters of admin-

istration; the petition listed four daughters and their husbands as well as the children of a deceased son. No other record lists Heyltje’s children or connects all of them.^[5]

To summarize, this chart details what records are available for specific time frames:

	multiple courts	surrogate’s courts	abstracts available	probate petitions
1665–1787	yes	no	yes	no
1787–1830	some	yes	yes	no
1830–present	few	yes	some	yes

Much of pre-1830 probate has been abstracted and is available in print, typescript, or online. Appendix D (“Abstracted Early New York State Material”) in *New York State Probate Records* outlines the pre-1830 material in the principal published sources, mainly *Abstracts of Wills* and Fernow’s *Calendar of Wills*.^[6] The principal online source is “Abstracts of NY Wills, Administrations and Guardianships, 1787–1835,” on *AmericanAncestors.org*.^[7] Sometimes referred to as the Eardeley Collection after the compiler, William A. D. Eardeley (1870–1935), this database consists of handwritten abstracts of wills, administrations, and guardianships from surrogate’s courts (and some other courts) beginning in 1787 and continuing to at least 1835, depending on when the record set ended. The Eardeley Collection is probably the most valuable tool for upstate New York research beside the census. Since every name is searchable, it is relatively easy to find all examples of a surname, using spelling variants and “wild cards.”

Nevertheless, the Eardeley Collection (or at least the microfilm used to produce the database) has limitations which are not obvious at first glance. Kings County was completely omitted, so typed abstracts of wills by another compiler have been included in the database. The coverage of New York County is quite incom-

Information in probate petitions

The petition was supposed to give the following information:

- Name and residence of the decedent
- Date of death of the decedent
- Whether testate or intestate
- Name and relationship of the petitioner
- Names of the heirs-at-law, and their relationship to the decedent
- Residences of heirs-at-law, if known
- Ages of minor heirs (sometimes)

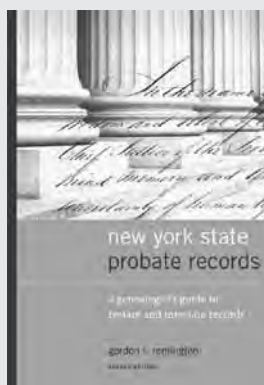
The list of heirs-at-law sometimes begins with “your petitioner” without repeating the name given in the preamble, so it is important to note the person presenting the petition.

There is some variation in the amount of detail given in the list of the heirs-at-law. In some cases, the names of deceased children are provided. Grandchildren may be listed, but the name of their parent may not be included. The record might also simply state that a named son or daughter is deceased and that the heirs are his or her children, but not give the names of such children. When a bachelor or single woman died intestate, the heirs-at-law might include nieces and nephews and even grand-nieces and nephews. Some probate petitions list cousins of varying degrees. Thus these petitions have the potential to provide a wealth of information on several generations of a family residing in a variety of locations.

There are cases where the petitioner, who usually lived near the decedent and was quite frequently a close relative, was unaware of the current residence of an heir-at-law who had relocated. In such cases the residence might be prefaced by “last heard of in” or “last known.” Because the petitioner may be unaware of the death of such an heir, children of the heir would not be listed in the petition.

plete, so printed abstracts of wills for 1787 to 1801 have been included in the database,^[8] and typed abstracts of wills for 1801 to 1849 will be added in 2012.

The actual title of the Eardeley Collection states that the coverage is from 1691 to 1860, and indeed, it is not surprising that Eardeley included a few records as late as 1860. As for the earliest date, he abstracted various records for Albany, Dutchess, and New York counties (and perhaps others), even back as far as 1675. Those records for Albany and New York counties seem to be



New York State Probate Records, A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records (2011) by Gordon L. Remington is available from NEHGS for \$24.95 plus shipping. To order, call 1-888-296-3447 or visit www.americanancestors.org/store-books/.

mostly in print, but those for Dutchess County seem to be court records not in print. Thus, it pays to search for names of interest much earlier than 1787.

Many nuances affect research in New York probate, including the following:^[9]

- Hundreds of wills in the New York State Archives (and elsewhere) do not appear in either *Abstracts of Wills* or Fernow;
- Many wills were unrecorded — and are still being discovered;
- Wills that were appealed may only have survived in the records of the appeals court;
- Pre-1787 wills may have been recorded at the town or county level, especially in deed books;
- Wills may have been recorded in a neighboring colony or state (e.g., Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania) or in London; and
- Wills proved after 1787 may not have been recorded in the surrogate's court of the county of residence for a variety of reasons.

What New York State lacks in vital records it makes up for with its probate records. A wealth of genealogical information is contained not only in the standard wills and administrations, but also in ancillary records, and, most importantly, the petitions required to probate or administer an estate post-1830. ♦

Notes

¹ Gordon L. Remington, *New York State Probate Records: A Genealogist's Guide to Testate and Intestate Records*, 2nd ed. (Boston: NEHGS, 2011). An excellent concise treatment can be found in two articles by Harry Macy, Jr.: “New York Probate Before 1787,” and “Library Resources for Research in New York Probate Records Since 1787,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 2:2 (Spring 1991):11–15; 3:1 (Spring 1992):3–7.

² Remington, *New York State Probate Records* (see note 1), 33.

³ *Ibid.*, 34.

Probate petitions and probate packets at the Family History Library

Gordon L. Remington, FUGA, FASG

The post-1830 probate petitions are most often found in “Probate Packets” at the surrogate’s court in each county, filed with other loose estate papers, such as inventories, accounts, etc. Because such “loose papers” were filed with estates prior to 1830, some packets include records from the beginning of the Surrogate Court system in 1787 or even earlier.

The Family History Library in Salt Lake City has probate petitions and/or probate packets for 29 of New York’s 62 counties. The following table shows the years covered and how these records are referenced in the Family History Library Catalog (FHLC):

County	Packets	Notes
Allegany	1807–1930	In FHLC as “Surrogates Records”
Cayuga	1799–1905	In FHLC as “Surrogates Records”
Chautauqua	Nil	Petitions in “probate of wills books” 1841–1901
Chemung	1836–1900	In FHLC as “Estate Papers”
Columbia	1830–1880	In FHLC as “will papers” & “administration papers”
Cortland	1810–1893	In FHLC as “Estate Files”
Delaware	1797–1915	In FHLC as “Estate papers and proceedings, 1797–1900”
Dutchess	1793–1868	In FHLC as “Probate Packets”
Erie	1800–1929	In FHLC as “Surrogates Records”
Genesee	Nil	Petitions in “probate books” 1856–1908
Greene	yes (alpha) 1800–1883+	In FHLC as “Estate papers”
Hamilton	1861–1908	In FHLC as “Estate papers”
Herkimer	1792–1900	In FHLC as “Estate papers”
Jefferson	1805–1900 (1945)	In FHLC as “Estate papers”
Kings	19th Century	FHL has petitions interfiled by type of estate
Madison	1806–1876	In FHLC as “Estate records”
New York	19th Century	FHL has petitions interfiled by type of estate
Niagara	1822–1932	In FHLC as “Probate Records”
Oneida	yes (1867–1965)	In FHLC as “Probate Proceedings”
Otsego	1829–1934	In FHLC as “Petitions for probate”
Queens	1830–1865	In FHLC as “Probate Proceedings”
Rensselaer	yes (1793–1906)	In FHLC as “Probate Records”
Rockland	1802–1900	In FHLC as “Probate Records”
Seneca	1830–1911	In FHLC as “Stanley I. Reynolds Collection” [typescript]
Tompkins	1818–1900	In FHLC as “Petitions, proof of wills, letters of administration, and estate papers”
Ulster	(1707)1787–1921	In FHLC as “Probate records, 1707–1921 approx.”
Warren	yes (1813–1955)	In FHLC as “Estate records, No. 1–13, 353; book of wills”
Westchester	1775–1900	In FHLC as “Estate tax files, 1775–1900”
Wyoming	1841–1900	In FHLC as “Petition and proofs of wills, 1841–1900” and “Petitions, bonds of administrators, 1841–1900”

⁴ Marjean Holmes Workman, “The Family of Joshua⁴ Stephens/ Stevens and Christiana Dutcher of Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, and New York,” *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* 142 (2011):85–95, 203–18, at 214–18.

⁵ Henry B. Hoff, “Stephen Horton of Hebron, Conn., and Marcellus, Onondaga Co., N.Y.: Establishing an Edward Fuller Line,” *Mayflower Descendant* 58 (2009):1–10. “Heyltje” is a Dutch name.

⁶ *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate’s Office, City of New York*, 17 vols., Collections of The New York-York Historical Society, vols. 25 to 41 for 1892–1906 (New York, 1893–1907) [online at *Ancestry.com* and the Family History Library Catalog]; Berthold Fernow, *Calendar of Wills on File and Recorded in the Offices of the Clerk of the Court of Appeals, of the County Clerk at Albany, and of the Secretary of State, 1626–1836* (New York: Colonial Dames of the State of New York, 1897; reprinted Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1967) [online at *AmericanAncestors.org*].

⁷ Frank J. Doherty, “The Eardeley Collection: Abstracts of Wills, Administrations, and Guardianships in New York State, 1787–1835,” *New England Ancestors* 8:1 (Winter 2007):41 [Mr. Doherty funded the filming of the collection at the Brooklyn Historical Society, and was instrumental in arranging for its digitization by NEHGS]. The Eardeley Collection was not unknown to New York researchers; note B-Ann Moorhouse, “Little Publicized New York City Sources,” *The NYG&B Newsletter* 3:1 (Spring 1992):7.

⁸ These printed abstracts are in vols. 11–15 of *Abstracts of Wills* (see note 6).

⁹ These nuances and conclusions are from Remington, *New York State Probate Records* (see note 1), 4, with minor changes.

HENRY B. HOFF, CG, FASG,
is editor of the Register.

FAMILY FOCUS

GENEALOGIES IN PROGRESS

Minard

Descendants of James & Abigail (Camp) Minard of Ulster County, New York, a work in progress to the seventh generation. The family, pronouncing the name MYnard, were Quakers who were said to have had numerous children, some of whom removed to Ontario, Canada. Persons with an interest may contact the compiler, Ross W. McCurdy at rumcurdy@comcast.net.

Muir

Compiling the descendants of James Muir, a miller who married Marian Hebert at Sorel, Quebec, in 1796, through five generations. Their descendants moved to Burlington, Vt.; Augusta, Maine; Somersworth, N.H.; Worcester, Holyoke, and Fall River, Mass.; Putnam, Conn., and other nearby locations in the mid to late nineteenth century. Research is being conducted to discover James's origins. The book is expected to be published in about a year. Please contact ephillips4064@charter.net with any records that would add to this genealogy.

GENEALOGIES RECENTLY PUBLISHED

Bidwell

The Bidwell Family, Bidwell Family Association (Baltimore, Md.: Otter Bay Books, 2011). Hardcover, 1271 pp., 2 volumes, photos, some charts. This set is a successor to an earlier edition published in 1983, with many additions and corrections as a result of additional information becoming available. It traces all known descendants of the seven children of John Bidwell and Sarah Wilcox, original settlers of Hartford, Conn., arriving probably around 1636. \$75. Available from Zebulon Bidwell, 3903 Hwy. 63, Tama, IA 52339-9414. Contact Zeb at zbidwell@hughes.net.

Bingham/Barber

The Rev. Moore Bingham (1797–1853) and His Wives, Ann Barber and Lucy Barber: Their Ancestors and Descendants, Janey Eaves Joyce, (San Antonio, Texas: J.E. Joyce, 2011). Hard cover, 479 pp., Register format, fully documented with footnotes, illustrations, source list, full-name index, including both maiden and married names of women, if known. Traces back to almost all immigrant ancestors, all New Englanders, and forward through great-grandchildren, who lived all over the United States. Book \$45. PDF on CD, \$15. Available from J.E. Joyce, 16214 Rocky Creek, San Antonio, TX 78247-1143; jojice@sbglobal.net.

Burr

The Descendants of Jehu Burr (c.1600–c.1654) & Miss Cable (c.1600–?), Volume 1, by Ellwood Count Curtis (Cedar Falls, Iowa: Galactic Press, 2011). Softcover, 799 pp. + xii, index of people, index of places, and full-page color photos of over 200 tombstones. Jehu Burr and his wife were early citizens of Fairfield, Conn. Five generations. Female lines are followed. Additional volumes will be available soon for later generations. \$148.50. Available from E. C. Curtis, 145 Summit Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613; www.genealogycentral.net.

Chilson

The Descendants of Walsingham Chilson of Marblehead, Massachusetts and Saco, Maine, Susan Marie Hillier Roe (Seal Beach, Calif.: the author, 2011). Softcover, 1,092 pp., indexed, two appendixes. This book covers known descendants of Walsingham Chilson through ten generations, plus other Chilsons likely connected to Walsingham, and many related families. Available from Susan Marie Hillier Roe, 117 Harvard Lane, Seal Beach, CA 90740-2508; SueMHR@aol.com.

Holmes, Russell

Ancestors of Herbert Allen Holmes and Flora Belle Russell, Calvin H. Whitney (Naples Fl.: the author; 2011). Softcover, 337pp., name and location indexes, photographs. The objective was to present all lines back to the immigrant ancestors. This is accomplished for most lines; many are seven or eight generations, some are ten. Available

from www.lulu.com. \$14.08, plus shipping. Contact chwhitney@gmail.com.

McCarthy

The Six McCarthy Siblings of New Hampshire, Vermont and Massachusetts (1847–1909), James Francis Hogan (Nashua, N.H.: the author, 2011). Hardcover, 320 pp., 157 pages of illustrations (70 in color). A genealogy with biographies of nine McCarthys, eight Hogans, two McWeeneys, one O'Brien, and many more. An outline descendant tree lists more than 400 names. \$45, plus \$10.95 shipping. Available from James Hogan, 51 Pine Hill Ave., Nashua, NH 03064; 603-882-5687.

Sage

The Sage Family Kith and Kin, Descendants of David Sage Born 1639, Donald A. Sage and Caleb Sage Hendrickson (Decorah, Iowa: Anundsen Publishing Company, 2011). Hardcover, 238 pp., sources, name index, descendant charts, timeline charts, illustrations, pictures, appendixes. The book starts with David Sage, born 1639, reportedly in Wales, documented to be in Middletown, Conn., in 1652. The book follows the descendants of David Sage's son, John Sage, as they migrated from Middletown to New York to the upper Midwest. \$60, plus shipping. Available from Donald A. Sage: dsage@usfamily.net.

Wadsworth, Perry/Paré

Ella Blanche Wadsworth; Descendants and Ancestors of Ella Blanche Wadsworth and of her Husband, Alexander Henry Perry, Patricia Crow Payson (Tucson, Ariz.: Imago Press, 2011). Hardcover, 174 pp., person index, illustrations, photographs, maps, appendixes. This genealogy describes the couple's few descendants and attempts to trace their many ancestors back to Europeans who migrated to New England and French Canada in the 1600s. The majority are identified and described for the previous eight generations. Pedigree charts are included. Available from pepayson2530@gmail.com.

Wood

A Wood Family History With Related Families, Second Edition, Robert K. Wood (Rockville, MD: the author, 2011).

Submit your book notice

Members may submit their relevant books published within the last year. The donation of one copy to the Society is required. Please provide: 1) Surname (genealogies), subject (other books); 2) Title; 3) Author(s)/editor(s)/compiler(s); 4) Place of publication; 5) Publisher/self-published; 6) Year of publication; 7) Hardcover/softcover/other; 8) Page count; 9) Specify if index, illustrations, or appendixes are included; 10) Description in 25 words or less; 11) Contact/ordering information, including email address.

Genealogies in Progress, Family Associations, and DNA Studies in Progress

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Hardcover, 206 pp., indexed, illustrations. This book lists the ancestors of the author, of Ardmore, Penn. Chapters on each great grandparent line: Wood, Benson, Sapp, Stanton, Schaffer, Joy, Borie, Luerssen. \$30. Available from Robert K. Wood, 7108 Wolfree Lane, Rockville, MD 20852; bwoodathome@yahoo.com.

OTHER BOOKS & CDs RECENTLY PUBLISHED

1775 expedition to Quebec

Voices from a Wilderness Expedition: The Journals and Men of Benedict Arnold's Expedition to Quebec in 1775, Stephen Darley (Bloomington, Ind.: Author House, 2011). Hardcover/softcover, 305 pp., index, eleven illustrations, three appendixes. The purpose of the book is to reawaken the voices of the brave men who made the historic 1775 march to Quebec with Benedict Arnold. \$24.95 paperback, \$36.95 hardcover Available from www.authorhouse.com or Amazon.com.

Genealogy research

Crash Course in Genealogy, David R. Dowell (Santa Barbara, Calif.: Libraries Unlimited, 2011). Softcover/eBook, viii + 220 pp., index, illustrations, maps and appendixes. This book helps library workers assist family historians and also guides genealogists as they research backward in time; DNA research and people of color included. \$35. Available at www.abc-clio.com/product.aspx?id=2147509279.

Mayflower

Mayflower Passenger References (from contemporary records & scholarly journals), Susan E.

Roser (Milton, Ont.: the author, 2011). Hardcover, xviii + 525 pp.; bibliography; index; pictures. This book contains references to every *Mayflower* passenger found in seventeenth-century New England contemporary writings and records, with scholarly journals cited to provide up-to-date research. \$50, \$15 shipping. Available from the author, 4137 Tremaine Rd., Milton, Ont. Canada L9T 2Y1; rosers@sympatico.ca; www.mayflower-passengers.com.

Research methods

The Family Tree Problem Solver, Marsha Hoffman Rising (New York, N.Y.: Family Tree, a division of F+W Media: 2011). Paperback, 256 pp. This book provides proven methods for overcoming common research challenges using real-life case studies. New appendixes provide readers with best practices for using DNA and on-line research to solve their genealogy problems. \$24.99. Available from Amazon.com.

FAMILY ASSOCIATIONS

Goodenow–Goodenough–Goodnow

The Goodenow Family Association's biennial reunion will be held at the Hilton Hotel in Washington, D.C./Gaithersburg, Md., July 15–22, 2012. Descendants of Goodenow brothers John, Thomas, and Edmund, who came to Sudbury, Mass. on the *Confidence* in 1638, and anyone interested in this family are invited to attend. Contact Kathy Truesdell, 7010 Indian Cove Road, Twentynine Palms, CA 92277; bktrue@roadrunner.com. Visit www.goodenowfamily.org for more information.

DNA STUDIES IN PROGRESS

McCune

Looking for male McCune descendants of either John McCune Sr. (d. between January 1 and June 23, 1766, in Cumberland County, Penn.), Robert McCune Sr. (d. August 29, 1816, in Cumberland County), or Judge James McCune (d. April 1811 in Huntingdon County, Penn.) who would like to participate in a DNA project. Our preliminary work has shown that it is possible that Judge James McCune and John McCune Sr. are related. We would like to expand our sample size to confirm, and find out if there is any possible relation to Robert McCune. Email Sue at zattekcirc@aol.com for more information.

Rich

The Rich DNA project has more than 100 participants with various spellings of the surname. At least nineteen family groups with two or more participants have been identified. Most of these family lines are from western Europe, but others are from eastern and southern Europe and Scandinavia. Most testing was done by DNA Heritage, but Family Tree DNA has taken on the project. The results, identified by the earliest known ancestor, can be seen at <http://www.worldfamilies.net/surnames/rich/results>.

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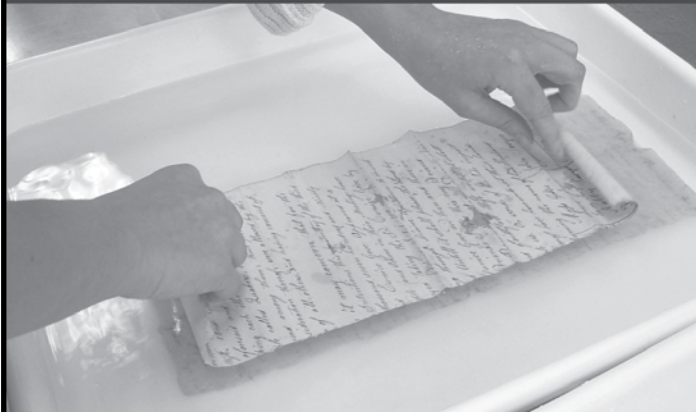
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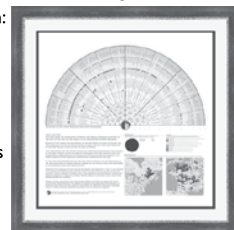
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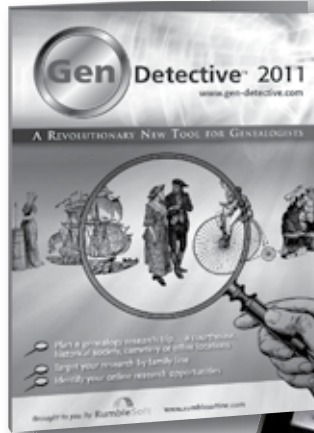
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Volume 12 — Index of Persons

Compiled by Julie Helen Otto

Note: The first number in each listing refers to the issue number (winter – 1; spring – 2; summer – 3; fall – 4) and the second number refers to the page on which the name appears.

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I'll take great-great-grandmother on mother's side for \$1000, Alex.

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Drawing by Jean Powers, NEHGS.