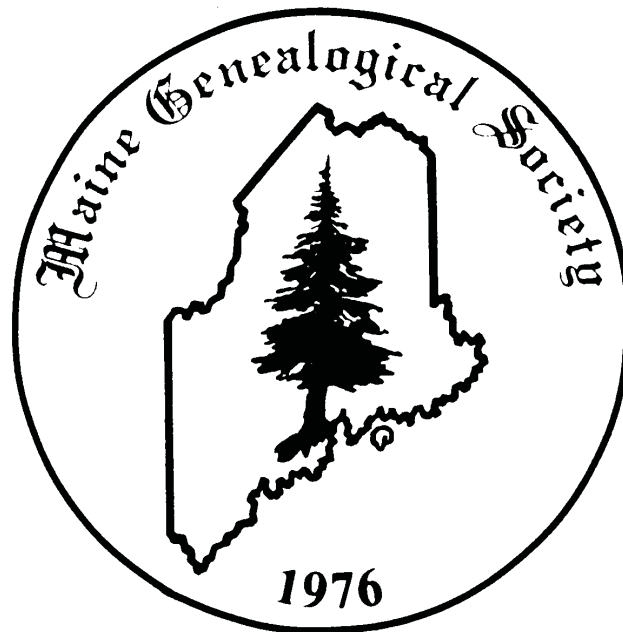


# The Maine Genealogist



May 2024  
Volume 46, Number 2

# The Maine Genealogical Society

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# The Maine Genealogist

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

There is nothing quite like the rush we feel when we find a record that provides rich information about a family we are researching. Such was the case while investigating several persons named Perry, who settled in and around Waterford, Maine, in the late 1700s.

Enoch Perry and Esther Bartlett married in Newton, Massachusetts, on 4 November 1776. Enoch died in Milford, Massachusetts, in 1793, when his estate was probated. The names and birth dates of his children were not recorded in any Massachusetts town record, but a guardianship, filed on behalf of the minor children, contains a treasure-trove of information:

Worcester Ss. March 25<sup>th</sup> 1794

This may certify all whom it doth or may concern that Polly Perry aged 16 years & 2 months & 25 days, & Sally Perry, aged 15 years & 4 days, both Daughters of Enoch Perry late of Milford in said County deceased, personally appeared before me, and severally signified that they have made choice of David Stearns of Milford Gentleman, to be their Guardian. Given under my hand at Milford this 25<sup>th</sup> day of March 1794. Andrew Peters Justice of Peace

The other Children of the above named Perry are as follows

Betsy Perry aged 13 Years & 4 days  
Thomas Perry aged 11 Years & 4 days  
Chandler Perry aged 9 Years 2 months & 27 days  
Enoch Perry aged 6 Years 5 months & 13 days  
Pearley Perry aged 4 Years 8 months & 13 days  
Moses Perry aged 2 Years 9 months & 25 days

and I Esther Perry Mother of the above named children Desire that the above named David Stearns may be Guardian to all my Children witness my hand.

[*signed*] Esther Perry<sup>1</sup>

In another document in the same file, dated eleven years later in Waterford, on 15 March 1805, Chandler Perry, Enoch Perry, and Pearl Perry, "heirs of Enoch Perry late of Milford, deceased," made choice of William Munroe of Waterford for their guardian. Those three were the only surviving children of Enoch and Esther who were still minors in 1805, and thus still required a guardian.

While guardianship records usually provide information as to a child's age and parentage, this record is unusual in that it gives precise information about when each of the children was born and identifies the location of where they lived in later years. A Waterford record shows that they were in Waterford by July 1799, when widow Esther Perry married Jonathan Longley there for her second husband.

Research showed that all of the early Perrys in the Waterford area were members of this family, a conclusion made possible by this guardianship record.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

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<sup>1</sup> Middlesex Co., Mass., Probate #46067 [DGS #101052881, image 780]

# THE PARENTS OF JACOB BEMIS OF LIVERMORE, MAINE

*By Gregory S. Childs*

Jacob Bemis was one of the early settlers of the town of Livermore, arriving there by 1800, only five years after the incorporation of the town. Jacob published an intention to marry Lydia Howard in Livermore on 1 December 1803, and he resided there until his death on 20 July 1858, aged 80 years and 6 months, suggesting a birth between 21 December 1777 and 20 January 1778.<sup>1</sup> Published information about Jacob Bemis's origin is scarce, and online family trees all agree on one point: the identity of his parents is unknown.

Despite the mystery surrounding Jacob's origin, his family in Maine is well documented. A digital image of a framed original family register of the family of Jacob and Lydia (Howard) Bemis appears on the FamilySearch Family Tree profile of Jacob Bemis, listing the couple's children with dates of birth for the entire family and some dates of death, arranged in three columns.<sup>2</sup> The register was created at some point after July 1838, the date of the last original entry (the 1855, 1857, and 1858 death dates below were added in a later hand):

FAMILY RECORD		
Births	And	Deaths
Jacob Bemis	Dec. 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1778	July 20 <sup>th</sup> 1858
Lydia Howard	Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> 1782	J [ <i>blank</i> ]
MARRIED	JAN. 2 <sup>nd</sup> 1804	
Alexander Bemis	Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> 1804	
Charlotte Bemis	Feb. 24 <sup>th</sup> 1806	Feb. 25 <sup>th</sup> 1857
Jacob Bemis J <sup>r</sup>	Jan. 12 <sup>th</sup> 1808	
John Bemis	Aug. 3 <sup>rd</sup> 1810	July 31 <sup>st</sup> 1838
William Bemis	Aug. 21 <sup>st</sup> 1812	
Huldah Bemis	June 12 <sup>th</sup> 1814	
Simeon Bemis	Nov. 26 <sup>th</sup> 1816	July 8 <sup>th</sup> 1818
Eliza Bemis	Jan. 14 <sup>th</sup> 1819	
Sarah Bemis	Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> 1821	
Allura Bemis	July 23 <sup>rd</sup> 1823	
Simeon Bemis	Aug. 31 <sup>st</sup> 1825	June 29 <sup>th</sup> 1855
Ausmer Bemis	Jan. 17 <sup>th</sup> 1827	

The dates presented in the family register align well with information culled from other primary sources, with one exception: the year of birth of Jacob Bemis [Sr.]. As

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<sup>1</sup> Israel Washburn, *Notes, Historical, Descriptive, and Personal, of Livermore, in Androscoggin (formerly in Oxford) County, Maine* (Portland, Maine, 1874), 14; Livermore, Maine, Vital Records, 1762–1810, p. 252 [DGS #7834679, image 289]; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118416612.

<sup>2</sup> FamilySearch Family Tree, ID #LT9S-ZJJ [https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/memories/LT9S-ZJJ], hereafter “Bemis Family Register.” The provenance and current location of the family register are unknown.

noted above, Jacob's age at death indicated on his gravestone, as well as the information provided for Jacob in the 1850 U.S. census—that he was 72 years old and born in Massachusetts—suggests that he was born in late 1777 or early 1778.<sup>3</sup>

#### THE SEARCH IN SUTTON

In his history of Livermore published in 1874, Israel Washburn wrote that Jacob Bemis moved to Livermore from Sutton, Massachusetts, a statement often interpreted to mean that Jacob was *from* Sutton.<sup>4</sup> A search of Sutton records, however, reveals that this conclusion is problematic. The published vital records of Sutton contain only a handful of Bemis entries from the late eighteenth century. Practically all these entries pertain to the large Bemis family of Spencer, Massachusetts, members of which evidently passed through the town of Sutton at some point, but none of whom are known to have had a son named “Jacob.”<sup>5</sup> Of the countless deeds attributed to individuals with the surname Bemis in Worcester County deed indices from 1731 to 1839, only one of the transactions concerned land located in Sutton.<sup>6</sup> The town of Sutton, therefore, does not stand out as fertile ground in the search for Jacob Bemis's origin.

In situations such as this, where published town histories, genealogies, and similar secondary sources lead to dead ends, an effective research strategy is to put them aside and start from scratch, following the trail of information provided by primary sources, working backwards chronologically from a logical starting point.

#### STARTING OVER: JACOB'S ARRIVAL IN LIVERMORE

In the case of Jacob Bemis, the logical starting point is his first appearance in Livermore tax lists in 1801. Jacob was also assessed as a non-resident in Livermore for the Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, so he arrived there between 1798 and 1801, when he would have been roughly between 19 and 23 years of age. The direct tax list indicates that Jacob Bemis was the owner of the 100 acres for which he was assessed; he had therefore acquired this land by 1798.<sup>7</sup> As Livermore was

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<sup>3</sup> Gravestone [note 1]; Jacob Bemis household, 1850 U.S. Census, Livermore, Oxford Co., Maine, p. 253A, dwelling 21, family 23.

<sup>4</sup> Washburn, *Notes of Livermore* [note 1], 39.

<sup>5</sup> *Vital Records of Sutton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass., 1907), 19, 211. For a detailed sketch of the Bemis family of Spencer, Mass., see James Draper, *History of Spencer, Massachusetts, from Its Earliest Settlement to the Year 1860, Including a Brief Sketch of Leicester, to the Year 1753*, 2nd ed. (Worcester, Mass., 1860), 161–73.

<sup>6</sup> Worcester Co., Mass., Deeds, 66:368. The instrument was a quitclaim deed from Samuel Bemis Jr. of Spencer and his wife Mehitable (Waite) (Dwinel) Bemis in her right, releasing Mehitable's right of dower in the estate of her former husband, Jonathan Dwinel. Mehitable Waite had married Jonathan “Dunnill” Jr. in Sutton on 13 Feb. 1750/1 (*Sutton VRs* [note 5], 250).

<sup>7</sup> Livermore 1801 tax valuation list, Livermore, Maine, Town Office (earlier lists no longer extant). The name in the tax list is actually “John Bemos,” the first name doubtless a clerical error, as Jacob was the only resident of Livermore surnamed Bemis at that time. Also, “Direct tax list of 1798

situated within the boundaries of Cumberland County until 1805, Cumberland County deeds are the first place to look, and they contain an essential clue regarding Jacob's past.

On 18 July 1798, Leonard Williams, Esq., of Waltham, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, deeded lot #24 in Livermore, containing 100 acres, to "Jacob Bemis of Waltham, in the County and Commonwealth aforesaid, minor and an apprentice to the aforesaid Leonard Williams," the deed witnessed by "Wm. Peirce" and Ruth Goodwin.<sup>8</sup> Leonard Williams, a Harvard graduate, physician, and Justice of the Peace, was one of the leading citizens of Waltham, "serving frequently as representative, selectman, clerk, treasurer and assessor" of the town. He was also one of the proprietors of the land grant along the Androscoggin River in Maine which would eventually become the town of Livermore. A strong and longstanding bond clearly had developed between Leonard Williams and his apprentice by the time Williams died, unmarried and childless, in Waltham in 1799. In his will dated 19 July 1795, Leonard Williams bequeathed

. . . to Jacob Bemis my lands in the town of Livermore in the County of Cumberland; the cows and young cattle that are in the Possession of Col. Brown and Humphy [*sic*] Farrar are already his, therefore I do not now will and bequeath them to him."<sup>9</sup>

Jacob Bemis later appeared as a witness to a deed for Leonard Williams on 5 July 1797. Jacob likely had been in Williams's household for several years prior to these events: "Leonard Williams Esq<sup>r</sup>." was enumerated in Waltham in the 1790 census, his household consisting only of himself (one male aged 16 years and upwards), and one male aged under 16 years, probably Jacob Bemis.<sup>10</sup>

On 4 August 1807, over three years after the marriage of Jacob Bemis and Lydia Howard in Maine, Jacob Bemis of Livermore, with his wife Lydia consenting, sold a sixteen-acre tract of land within lot #24 in Livermore—the same lot he purchased of Leonard Williams in 1798—to [Jacob's brother-in-law] Simeon Howard of Livermore.<sup>11</sup> Consequently, there can be no doubt that the apprentice of Leonard Williams of Waltham was the same man who married Lydia Howard and resided in Livermore.

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for Massachusetts and Maine, 1798," MS, R. Stanton Avery Special Collections, New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Mass., 2:509 [image, [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org)].

<sup>8</sup> Cumberland Co., Maine, Deeds, 39:179. The deed was also recorded in Middlesex Co., Mass., Deeds, 134:382.

<sup>9</sup> Edmund L. Sanderson, *Waltham as a Precinct of Watertown and as a Town, 1630–1884* (Waltham, Mass., 1936), 152; Washburn, *Notes of Livermore* [note 1], 129. For Leonard Williams's will, see Middlesex Co. Probate Records, #25001 [DGS #7553814, image 379].

<sup>10</sup> Middlesex Co. Deeds, 124:480; 1790 U.S. Census, Waltham, Middlesex Co., Mass., p. 683. Curiously, the male aged under 16 years was omitted in the published transcript of the 1790 census.

<sup>11</sup> Oxford Co., Maine, Deeds, 26:79.



## SHIFTING THE SEARCH TO WALTHAM, MASSACHUSETTS

The vital and church records of Waltham abound with entries for Bemis individuals, but none of these entries include a Jacob Bemis born in 1777 or 1778, nor does Jacob fit into any of the known Bemis families residing in Waltham at the time. The most tempting candidate for the father of Jacob Bemis of Livermore is another Jacob Bemis, born in Waltham on 8 May 1757, son of Abraham and Susanna (Flagg) Bemis. Here again, the trail goes cold: This Jacob married Hepzibah Phillips, his first and only wife, in 1788, long after the birth of Jacob Bemis of Livermore.<sup>12</sup>

That Jacob Bemis of Livermore was an apprentice to Leonard Williams is significant. Apprentices were often poor, illegitimate, or orphaned children who were financial charges to the town in which they lived, and apprenticeships were an advantageous solution to transfer the financial burden to a third party, while at the same time providing the children with an education and a better start in life.<sup>13</sup> The next research destination is therefore the records of the Middlesex County Court of General Sessions of the Peace, which at the time had jurisdiction over cases concerning single mothers accused of the crime of fornication, in most instances resulting in illegitimate children who would become town charges. Often, these single mothers accused a “reputed” father of the child, who would subsequently find himself in court to answer the accusations and, if found guilty, to pay a fine and post bond for the continued financial maintenance of the child.

A search of General Sessions records for the period spanning 1776 to 1780 produces only one relevant entry from the town of Waltham concerning a male child born to a single woman, a case heard at the September 1779 term of court:

Anna Peirce of Waltham in the County of Middlesex, single woman, comes into Court and confesses she has been guilty of the Crime of Fornication at said Waltham, whereof she there afterwards had a bastard male child born of her Body on the 15th day of December 1777. The Court order that she the said Anna Peirce pay a Fine of six shillings to be disposed of as the Law directs and that she pay Fees & Costs, standing committed etc.<sup>14</sup>

The date of birth of Anna Peirce’s son is a near, but not exact, match to the date of birth of Jacob Bemis indicated in his family register. Yet the Court of General Sessions record presents a formidable obstacle: Anna did not name the father of her illegitimate son. As a result, this record alone does little to advance the search, without revealing the name of Anna’s child and without a clear and tangible connection

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<sup>12</sup> *Vital Records of Waltham, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass., 1904), 14; Col. Thomas Waln-Morgan Draper, *The Bemis History and Genealogy, Being an Account, in Greater Part, of the Descendants of Joseph Bemis of Watertown, Mass.* (San Francisco, Cal., 1900), 90–91; photos of the gravestones of Jacob and his wife at findagrave.com #29804435 and #29804891.

<sup>13</sup> John E. Murray and Ruth Wallis Herndon, “Markets for Children in Early America: A Political Economy of Pauper Apprenticeship,” *The Journal of Economic History* 62(2002):356–57, 361–62.

<sup>14</sup> Middlesex Co. Court of General Sessions of the Peace Records, Sept. 1771–Sept. 1790, p. 218 [DGS #8131386, image 19].



to a father surnamed Bemis. The church and town records of Waltham, however, provide that clear and tangible connection.

First, the records of the First Parish Church in Waltham include the baptism, on 20 October 1782, of “Jacob (about 4 yrs. old), s[on of] Anna Peirce.”<sup>15</sup> Second, a warrant for a town meeting in Waltham, dated 2 September 1777, includes a most interesting item on the agenda of subjects to deliberate:

[A]t the request of Abraham Bemis, To chose & impower a Committee to settle with the s<sup>d</sup> Abraham Bemis in behalf of his son Jacob Bemis the affair respecting Anna Peirce’s accusing the said Jacob of being the Father of a Bastard Child begotten of her Body.<sup>16</sup>

The minutes of the actual meeting, held on 22 September 1777, report that the town chose Abner Sanderson, John Sanderson, and Ephraim Peirce to settle with Abraham Bemis and instructed them “to prosecute the said Jacob provided there was no settlement of the affair.”<sup>17</sup> The town records are thereafter silent on the subject, and no presentment of Jacob Bemis is found at the Middlesex County Court of General Sessions, nor was a civil case concerning the affair heard at the Court of Common Pleas. It can thus be inferred that the town of Waltham and Abraham Bemis reached a settlement for the actions of Abraham’s son, who was then still a minor.

The importance of these records cannot be overstated: Anna Peirce’s presentment at the Court of General Sessions provides the date of birth of her illegitimate son. The baptism record provides his first name. The Waltham town meeting entries identify the boy’s father. Taken individually, these records provide disconnected, although useful, information. Taken as a whole, they establish the identity of the boy born to Anna Peirce on 15 December 1777. That boy’s name was *Jacob Bemis*.

#### THE PROTAGONISTS AND JACOB’S APPRENTICESHIP

Over the next seven years, the town continued to pay a portion of expenses towards the support of “Anna Peirce and her Child (Poor of said Town),” until Anna married Silas Robinson in Waltham on 14 December 1784, the marriage performed by none other than Leonard Williams, Justice of the Peace. After one last payment from Waltham to Silas Robinson on 4 March 1785, perhaps for the support of Anna’s son, Anna Peirce, her son Jacob Bemis, and Silas Robinson disappear from Waltham

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<sup>15</sup> Edmund L. Sanderson and Abbie Stearns, “Records of the First Parish in Waltham and the Second Religious Society, 1697–1849: Births, Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths” (typescript, Waltham Room Special Collections, Waltham, Mass. Public Library), p. 86.

<sup>16</sup> Waltham, Mass., Town Records, 1758–1786, p. 312 [DGS #7724354, image 412].

<sup>17</sup> Waltham TRs, 1758–1786, p. 314 [DGS #7724354, image 413].

records.<sup>18</sup> Silas had moved his family to Windsor, Vermont, by the time of the 1790 census, where he remained for the rest of his life.<sup>19</sup>

Exactly when Anna's son Jacob Bemis was apprenticed to Leonard Williams is unknown, but it may have occurred at the time of Silas and Anna (Peirce) Robinson's removal to Vermont, or shortly thereafter. Lacking the original apprenticeship contract linking Jacob to Leonard Williams, it can reasonably be questioned if the Jacob Bemis apprenticed to Williams was really Anna Peirce's illegitimate son, and not another boy with the same name. As shown above, however, no other males with the name Jacob Bemis of an appropriate age have been found in Waltham, nor anywhere else. Furthermore, the sustained and overlapping associations between Leonard Williams and the key individuals and families in the present study are readily observed:

1. Williams often served concurrently as a town official and jointly on town committees with Abraham Bemis, whose son Anna Peirce accused as the father of her child.<sup>20</sup>
2. On 9 March 1778, Leonard Williams, then one of the selectmen of Waltham, was requested "to enquire of the Widow Hannah Brown upon what terms she would take the said Anna Peirce and her Child for one year to come and report the terms to the Selectmen on Monday Next."<sup>21</sup>
3. Leonard Williams officiated at the marriage of Anna Peirce and Silas Robinson in 1784.<sup>22</sup>
4. On 28 Jan. 1793, eight years after Silas and Anna's marriage, Silas Robinson, styled a yeoman of Windsor, Vermont, sold all his right and title to his late father James Robinson's estate to [Silas's brother] Joseph Robinson. Silas acknowledged the deed the same day "before Leonard Williams, Justice of the Peace."<sup>23</sup>
5. Wm. [i.e., William] Peirce, one of the witnesses to the deed by which Leonard Williams transferred lot #24 in Livermore to Jacob Bemis in 1798, was almost certainly the brother of Anna Peirce and a maternal uncle of Jacob Bemis.<sup>24</sup>

In this context, a discreet agreement between Silas Robinson, his wife, and Leonard Williams for the latter to take Jacob Bemis as an apprentice emerges as a logical continuation of events, if not a likely outcome.

Finally, Jacob was styled a "minor" on 18 July 1798 when Leonard Williams deeded lot #24 in Livermore to him. The transfer doubtlessly was executed in

<sup>18</sup> Waltham TRs, 1758–1786, pp. 319, 350, 361, 363, 367, 392, 395, 405, 418, 420, 431, 446 [DGS #7724354, images 415, 431, 436–37, 439, 452–53, 458, 465–66, 471, 479]; Waltham Births, Deaths & Marriages, 1:n.p. [DGS #7009672, image 288].

<sup>19</sup> Silas Robinson household, 1790 U.S. Census, Windsor, Windsor Co., Vt., p. 59.

<sup>20</sup> See, for example, Waltham TRs, 1758–1786, p. 403 [DGS #7724354, image 457].

<sup>21</sup> Waltham Town Records, 1758–1786, p. 319 [DGS #7724354, image 415].

<sup>22</sup> Waltham Births, Deaths & Marriages, 1:n.p. [DGS #7009672, image 288].

<sup>23</sup> Middlesex Co. Deeds, 119:51.

<sup>24</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 39:179; Middlesex Co. Deeds, 134:382. Anna's brother William Peirce is the only man of that name found in Waltham at the time. See Henry Bond, *Genealogies of the Families and Descendants of the Early Settlers of Watertown, Massachusetts, Including Waltham and Weston; to Which is Appended the Early History of the Town, with Illustrations, Maps and Notes*, 2nd ed. (Boston, Mass., 1860), 398.

anticipation of the end of Jacob's apprenticeship which, according to custom, would end when Jacob reached the age of 21 years.<sup>25</sup> This timeline fits perfectly with the date of birth of Anna Peirce's son, who would have been 20 years and 7 months old at the time of the deed, indeed still a minor, but not for much longer.

The evidence presented above establishes an almost unbroken "chain of identity" of Jacob Bemis who settled in Livermore:

1. *Circa Aug. 1777*: Anna Peirce accused Jacob Bemis, son of Abraham Bemis, of being the father of her unborn child.
2. *15 Dec. 1777*: Anna Peirce's illegitimate son was born.
3. *20 Oct. 1782*: Anna Peirce's son Jacob, then aged "about 4 years," was baptized in Waltham.
4. *Circa 1784–1790*: Anna Peirce's son Jacob Bemis was apprenticed to Leonard Williams of Waltham.
5. *1790*: Jacob Bemis was likely the boy aged under 16 years enumerated in the Waltham household of Leonard Williams in the first federal census.
6. *18 July 1798*: Leonard Williams deeded lot #24 in Livermore to his apprentice Jacob Bemis, then still a minor, the deed witnessed by Jacob's probable uncle, William Peirce.
7. *1 Dec. 1803*: Jacob Bemis and Lydia Howard, both of Livermore, published an intention to marry in Livermore.
8. *4 Aug. 1807*: Jacob Bemis, his wife Lydia consenting, deeded part of lot #24 in Livermore to Lydia's brother Simeon Howard.

## CONCLUSION

Jacob Bemis of Livermore, Maine, was the illegitimate son of Anna Peirce and reputed father Jacob Bemis of Waltham, Massachusetts. He was born in December 1777, not in 1778 as indicated in an old family register. He was apprenticed to Leonard Williams, Esq., of Waltham, perhaps around the time Jacob's mother moved with her husband to Vermont. Five months before Jacob reached the age of majority, Leonard Williams deeded land in Livermore to his apprentice Jacob. After the death of Leonard Williams in 1799, Jacob settled permanently in Livermore, where he remained until his death in 1858.

## FAMILY SUMMARIES

1 **JACOB<sup>5</sup> BEMIS** was born in Waltham, Massachusetts, on 8 May 1757 and baptized there on 29 May 1757, son of Abraham<sup>4</sup> Bemis (*John<sup>3-2</sup>, Joseph<sup>1</sup>*) and Susanna (Flagg). He died in Pownal, Maine, on 17 or 18 March 1841 and was buried there at

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<sup>25</sup> Murray and Herndon, "Markets for Children in Early America" [note 13], 357–58. For 21 years as the age of majority, see Winthrop D. Jordan, "Searching for Adulthood in America," *Dædalus: Journal of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* 105–4(1976):2–3.

the First Congregational Cemetery.<sup>26</sup> Jacob married in Waltham on 26 November 1788, HEPZIBAH PHILLIPS of Bedford, Massachusetts, probably she baptized in Weston, Massachusetts, on 27 May 1764, daughter of Ebenezer and Mary (Warren) Phillips. She died in Pownal on 9 December 1834, aged 70 years, and was buried there at First Congregational Cemetery.<sup>27</sup>

“Mrs. Hapsabeth Phillips” (“Mrs.” likely used as an honorific and not an indication of marital status) of Littleton, Massachusetts, and Daniel Tenney of Acton, Massachusetts, presumably the son of Samuel and Sarah (Tyler) Tenney, published intentions to marry at Littleton on 9 April 1785, but there is no evidence that the marriage ever took place. Daniel Tenney, then of Marlborough, New Hampshire, married Lucy Shattuck of Pepperell, Massachusetts, on 14 December 1786, after which the couple resided in Marlborough and Hancock, New Hampshire. The will of Ebenezer Phillips of Boxborough, Massachusetts, dated 26 August 1805, included a bequest to his daughter “Hepsabeth,” confirming that she was then still living, but with no indication that she was married or single. Unfortunately, no document itemizing the distribution of Ebenezer’s estate to his heirs is found in the probate file, the estate evidently insolvent. The age of Jacob Bemis’s wife, Hepzibah, matches that of Ebenezer Phillips’s daughter of the same name, and the first child of Jacob and Hepzibah (Phillips) Bemis was born in Boxborough in 1789, where Ebenezer Phillips was enumerated in 1790. These details, and particularly the dearth of eligible females named “Hepzibah Phillips” in the Bedford area at the time of Jacob Bemis’s marriage, lend support to the probable identification of Hepzibah’s parents.<sup>28</sup>

Jacob and Hepzibah (Phillips) Bemis had five children recorded in Pownal: *Hepsabeth Bemis*, b. Boxborough, Mass., 25 Feb. 1789; *David Bemis*, b. Westtown [*sic*, probably Weston], Mass., 4 July 1793; *Jacob Bemis Jr.*, b. Freeport, 6 Aug. 1797; *Nathan Bemis*, b. Freeport, 25 Sept. 1800; *William Bemis*, b. Freeport, 30 April 1806.<sup>29</sup>

His children’s birthplaces demonstrate that Jacob<sup>5</sup> Bemis (born 1757) settled in Maine only a few years before his reputed illegitimate son of the same name arrived in Livermore. Coincidentally, Jacob<sup>6</sup> Bemis Jr. (born 1797), son of Jacob and Hep-

<sup>26</sup> Draper, *Bemis Genealogy* [note 12], 90–91; *Waltham VRs* [note 12], 14; “Waltham First Parish Records” [note 15], 59; Pownal, Maine, Town & Vital Records, 1:342 [DGS #7596427, image 182] (death 17 March); gravestone photo at findagrave.com #29804435 (death 18 March).

<sup>27</sup> Marriage: *Waltham VRs* [note 12], 203; baptism: *Town of Weston, Births, Deaths and Marriages 1707–1850, Gravestones 1703–1900, Church Records 1709–1825* (Boston, Mass., 1901), 480; parents’ marriage: *Waltham VRs* [note 12], 203; death: Pownal Town & Vital Records, 1:342 [DGS #7596427, image 182]; gravestone photo at findagrave.com #29804891.

<sup>28</sup> *Records of Littleton, Massachusetts* (Littleton, Mass., 1900), 274 (Tenney-Phillips marriage intention); Martha Jane Tenney, *The Tenney Family, or the Descendants of Thomas Tenney of Rowley, Massachusetts, 1638–1904*, rev. ed. (Concord, N.H., 1904), 110; George A. Rice, *Vital Records of Pepperell, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass., 1985), 231 (Tenney-Shattuck marriage); Middlesex Co. Probate Records #17307 [DGS #7553717, image 748] (will of Ebenezer Phillips); “Ebenzr. Philips” household, 1790 U.S. Census, Boxborough, Middlesex Co., Mass., p. 103.

<sup>29</sup> Pownal Town & Vital Records, 1:342 [DGS #7596427, image 182].

zibah (Phillips) Bemis, died in Pownal on 18 June 1858, almost exactly one month before the death of Jacob Bemis of Livermore.<sup>30</sup>

**ANNA<sup>6</sup> PEIRCE** was born in Waltham on 6 April 1759 and baptized there on 8 April 1759, daughter of Jonathan<sup>5</sup> Peirce (*John<sup>4</sup>, Joseph<sup>3</sup>, Anthony<sup>2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) and Abigail (Blanchard).<sup>31</sup> She likely had died by 19 January 1825, presumably in Windsor, Vermont, when her children quitclaimed their right and title to the land that “was set off to our mother Anna Robinson, widow of the said Silas Robinson for her Thirds or Dower,” to [their brother] Elijah Robinson.<sup>32</sup> Anna married in Waltham on 14 December 1784, as his second [?] wife, **SILAS ROBINSON**, born in Lexington, Massachusetts, on 20 February 1757, son of James and Margaret (—) Robinson.<sup>33</sup> Silas died in Reading, Vermont, shortly before 13 April 1812 when his widow declined administration of his estate.<sup>34</sup> Silas had married, first [?], in Cambridge, Massachusetts, on 18 November 1779, Lydia Blodgett, who died at Waltham on 5 February 1784. Children of Silas Robinson named in the division of his estate: *James Robinson, Elijah Robinson, William Robinson, Nathaniel Robinson, Jonas Robinson, Moses Robinson, Sally Robinson* (m. Levi Taylor), *Lydia Robinson* (m. Jeremiah Kendall), *Abigail Robinson* (m. Simeon Taylor), and *Hannah Robinson* (m. Ira Adams). Of these, only William, Moses, Jonas, Lydia, Sally, Abigail, and Hannah were grantors in the quitclaim deed in which Anna Robinson is called their mother.<sup>35</sup>

Illegitimate child of Anna Peirce and reputed father Jacob<sup>5</sup> Bemis:

2 i **JACOB<sup>6</sup> BEMIS**, b. Waltham, 15 or 23 Dec. 1777; m. **LYDIA HOWARD**.

2 **JACOB<sup>6</sup> BEMIS** was born in Waltham on 15 or 23 December 1777 and baptized there on 20 October 1782, illegitimate son of Anna<sup>6</sup> Peirce and reputed father Jacob<sup>5</sup> Bemis. He died on 20 July 1858, aged 80 years and 6 months, and was buried in

<sup>30</sup> Death notice, *Portland Advertiser*, 29 June 1858, p. 3, col. 6.

<sup>31</sup> Bond, *Watertown Genealogies* [note 24], 397–98; “Waltham First Parish Records” [note 15], 61.

<sup>32</sup> Windsor, Vt., Deeds, 14:331.

<sup>33</sup> Waltham Births, Deaths & Marriages, 1:n.p. [DGS #7009672, image 288]; *Lexington, Mass.: Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths to January 1, 1898* (Boston, Mass., 1898), 66; Charles Hudson, *History of the Town of Lexington, Middlesex County, Massachusetts, from Its First Settlement to 1868, with a Genealogical Register of Lexington Families* (Boston, Mass., 1868), 203 [Genealogical Register]. An unnamed child of Silas Robinson d. Lexington, 17 Dec. 1779 (*Lexington BMDs*, op. cit., p. 197), one month after Silas’s first known marriage, which suggests that Silas Robinson may have had a previous wife, although no previous marriage has been found. No other men named Silas Robinson are of record in Lexington at the time.

<sup>34</sup> Death notice, [Windsor] *Spooner’s Vermont Journal*, 13 April 1812, p. 3, col. 3; Windsor District, Vt., Probate Records, 1779–1906, Silas Robinson [DGS #7714631, image 232].

<sup>35</sup> Thomas W. Baldwin, *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, Mass., 1914–1915), 2:337 (Robinson-Blodgett marriage); “Waltham First Parish Records” [note 15], 147 (death of Lydia, wife of Silas Robinson, aged 30 yrs.); Windsor District Probate Records, Silas Robinson [DGS #7714631, image 246] (children); Windsor Deeds, 14:331 (quitclaim deed).



Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore, Maine.<sup>36</sup> Jacob married, probably in Livermore, on 2 January 1804, LYDIA<sup>6</sup> HOWARD. Lydia was born, likely in Sutton, Massachusetts, on 16 January 1782, daughter of Simeon<sup>5</sup> Hayward/Howard (*Simeon*<sup>4-3</sup>, *Joseph*<sup>2</sup>, *George*<sup>1</sup>) and Martha (Brooks). She died in Livermore on 19 October 1876 and was buried with her husband in Hillman Ferry Cemetery.<sup>37</sup>

An interesting aspect of Jacob Bemis's reputed paternity is that it tentatively establishes him as an eighth-generation descendant of *Mayflower* passenger Richard Warren, through his reputed father, Jacob Bemis of Waltham, as follows: *Jacob*<sup>7</sup> *Bemis*, *Susanna*<sup>6</sup> *Flagg* (wife of Abraham Bemis), *Susanna*<sup>5</sup> *Warren* (wife of Bezaleel Flagg), *Rebecca*<sup>4</sup> *Church* (wife of Joshua Warren), *Caleb*<sup>3</sup> *Church*, *Elizabeth*<sup>2</sup> *Warren* (wife of Richard Church), *Richard*<sup>1</sup> *Warren*.<sup>38</sup>

Children of Jacob<sup>6</sup> and Lydia (Howard) Bemis (i–iv recorded in Livermore; v–xii from family register):<sup>39</sup>

- i ALEXANDER<sup>7</sup> BEMIS, b. Livermore, 19 Oct. 1804, d. Lagrange, 26 Aug. 1889, bur. Hill Crest Cemetery, Lagrange;<sup>40</sup> m. Livermore, 26 Jan. 1829, LYDIA HILLMAN, b. Chilmark, Mass., 3 Dec. 1804, daughter of Moses and Lydia (Chase) Hillman, d. Lagrange, 21 April 1895, bur. Hill Crest Cemetery, Lagrange.<sup>41</sup>
- ii CHARLOTTE BEMIS, b. Livermore, 24 Feb. 1806, d. 25 Feb. 1857 and bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore.<sup>42</sup> Never married.
- iii JACOB BEMIS, b. Livermore, 12 Jan. 1808, d. Peru, Maine, 10 Dec. 1892, bur. True Cemetery, South Livermore;<sup>43</sup> m. Livermore, 10 Jan. 1833, ANGELINE ANDREWS, b. Livermore, 14 July 1811, daughter of Lucius and Olive (Gilmere) Andrews, d. East Peru, 16 Sept. 1888, bur. True Cemetery, South Livermore.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>36</sup> Middlesex Co. Court of General Sessions of the Peace [note 14] (birth 15 Dec. 1777); "Bemis Family Register" [note 2] (birth 23 Dec. 1778, year adjusted for Jacob's age at death and 1850 U.S. Census); "Waltham First Parish Records" [note 15], 86; gravestone photo, findagrave.com, #118416612.

<sup>37</sup> Gregory S. Childs, "The Howards of Livermore, Canton & Leeds, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 46(2024):34.

<sup>38</sup> Generations 1–6: Robert S. Wakefield, John Bradley Arthaud, Jane Fletcher Fiske, and Judith Haddock Swan, *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* 18, Part 2: Richard Warren, 2nd ed. (Plymouth, Mass., 2011), 316; generation 7: Draper, *Bemis Genealogy* [note 12], 90–91.

<sup>39</sup> Livermore Births & Deaths, 1:146 [DGS #7834679, image 104]; "Bemis Family Register" [note 2].

<sup>40</sup> Death notice, *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 9 Sept. 1889, p. 3, col. 3; gravestone photo at findagrave.com #33223535.

<sup>41</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 381]; *Vital Records of Chilmark, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, Mass., 1904), 18 (Lydia's birth); Maine Vital Records [DGS #4543972, image 2044] (death); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #33223570. Moses Hillman and Lydia Chase m. Chilmark, 11 Sept. 1794 (*Chilmark VRs*, 55).

<sup>42</sup> Gravestone photo at findagrave.com #118416659.

<sup>43</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #4543972, image 2015]; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #40173652.

<sup>44</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 403]; Livermore Births & Deaths, 1:195 [DGS #7834679, image 129] (Angeline's birth); death notice, *Lewiston*

- iv JOHN BEMIS, b. Livermore, 3 Aug. 1810, d. 31 July 1838 and bur. North Livermore Cemetery, Livermore;<sup>45</sup> m. Livermore, 1 April 1835, CLARINDA P. REED, b. prob. Livermore, ca. 1814, doubtlessly the daughter of that name of David and Prudence (Pitts) Reed, d. July 1836, aged 22y, buried North Livermore Cemetery.<sup>46</sup>
- v WILLIAM BEMIS, b. Livermore, 21 Aug. 1812, d. East Livermore, 10 May 1903, bur. Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Livermore Falls;<sup>47</sup> m. Wayne, 26 Feb. 1853, LOUISA D. BROWN, b. Wilton, 4 May 1833, daughter of Thomas L. and Charlotte B. (Knowles) Brown, d. East Livermore, 8 June 1918, bur. Pleasant Valley Cemetery.<sup>48</sup>
- vi HULDAH BEMIS, b. Livermore, 12 June 1814, d. Monson, 16 or 17 Oct. 1880, bur. Old Abbot Village Cemetery, Abbot;<sup>49</sup> m. Livermore, 31 March 1836, STEVENS HATCH DRAPER, b. Leeds, 1 April 1813, son of Hazarenan and Ruth (Pratt) (Lane) Draper, d. 26 Jan. 1886 and bur. Old Abbot Village Cemetery.<sup>50</sup>
- vii SIMEON BEMIS, b. prob. Livermore, 26 Nov. 1816, d. 8 July 1818 and bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore.<sup>51</sup>
- viii ELIZA BEMIS, b. Livermore, 14 Jan. 1819, d. Canton, 13 May 1910, bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore;<sup>52</sup> m. Sumner, 4 Aug. 1839, ABNER MOORE, b. Jay, ca. 1810, almost certainly an unrecorded son of Asa and Rebecca (Goding) Moore of Jay and Sumner, Maine, d. 30 Aug. 1880, aged 70y, bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery,

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*Evening Journal*, 21 Sept. 1888, p. 3, col. 5; gravestone photo at findagrave.com #40173656. Lucius Andrews and Miss Olive Gilmer [*sic*] m. (int.) Raynham, Mass., 16 Feb. 1810 (Raynham, Massachusetts, Marriage Intentions, 2:9 [DGS #7009290, image 215]).

<sup>45</sup> Photo of gravestone at findagrave.com #40024230.

<sup>46</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 418]; photo of gravestone indicating only month and year of death at findagrave.com #40024245; Jacob Whittemore Reed, *History of the Reed Family in Europe and America* (Boston, Mass., 1861), 256.

<sup>47</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #4543972, image 2088] (death and place of birth), father named as “Simon Bemis” [*sic*]. William’s age at death stated on the certificate, 90y 9m 10d, calculates to a birthdate of 30 July 1812. He indicated his month and year of birth as Aug. 1812, consistent with the Bemis family register, in the 1900 U.S. Census (East Livermore, Androscoggin Co., Maine, ED 9, p. 21, dwelling 399, family 493). Gravestone photo at findagrave.com #98806738.

<sup>48</sup> Wayne, Maine, Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 1819–1853, p. 171 [DGS #7596987, image 287]; Maine Vital Records [DGS #5011561, image 314] (date and place of birth, death); gravestone photo at findagrave.com #98806709; Charles T. Libby, Wilma Libby Rodgers, and David Jotham Trafton, *The Libby Family in America* (Portland, Maine, 1882, 1993), 2:56 (parents).

<sup>49</sup> Death notice, [Dover] *The Piscataquis Observer*, 28 Oct. 1880, p. 2, col. 4 (death 17 Oct.); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #139182859 (death 16 Oct.). Huldah’s place of birth from the marriage record of her son Fred Hatch Draper (Maine Vital Records [DGS #5011590, image 339]).

<sup>50</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 419]; Leeds, Maine, Town & Vital Records, 1785–1850, p. 148 [DGS #7595728, image 262] (Stevens’s full name; his year of birth obscured by a folded edge of the page); Thomas Waln-Morgan Draper, *The Drapers in America, being a History and Genealogy of Those of that Name and Connection* (New York, N.Y., 1892), 47 (Stevens’s full date of birth and parents); gravestone photo, FindAGrave.com, #139183022.

<sup>51</sup> Photo of gravestone at findagrave.com #118416676.

<sup>52</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #5011840, image 2442]; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118459315.



Livermore.<sup>53</sup> Asa and Rebecca (Goding) Moore had seven children recorded in Jay, the last born in 1807, none of whom were named Abner. A published genealogy of the Goding family, however, includes a son named Abner in the list of Asa and Rebecca (Goding) Moore's children, with no date of birth nor any information concerning his marriage. Several pieces of indirect evidence support the identification. Census tallies in 1810, 1820, and 1830 suggest that Asa and Rebecca had one more son, born between 2 June 1810 and 6 Aug. 1810 (calculation based on a strict adherence to the official enumeration dates). This fits well with Abner Moore, born ca. 1810, reportedly in Jay, at which time Asa's was the only Moore household enumerated in Jay. Between 1830 and 1840, Asa Moore removed to Sumner, where Abner Moore brought his bride in 1839 for the celebration of their marriage, the Rev. Manasseh Lawrence officiating. Rev. Lawrence had married Asa and Rebecca (Goding) Moore's daughter Rebecca in Jay on 26 Aug. 1826.<sup>54</sup>

- ix SARAH BEMIS, b. Livermore Center, 16 Jan. 1821, d. Lagrange, 5 April 1901, bur. Hill Crest Cemetery, Lagrange;<sup>55</sup> m. (cert.) Livermore, 10 July 1842, SAMUEL HERSEY KENNEY, b. Livermore, 10 March 1820, son of Elisha and Mary Putnam (Hersey) Kenney, d. Lagrange, 17 June 1905, bur. Hill Crest Cemetery, Lagrange.<sup>56</sup>
- x ALLURA BEMIS, b. Livermore, 23 July 1823, d. Lagrange, 10 Nov. 1897, aged 74y 3m 17d, bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore;<sup>57</sup> m. (1) Hartford, 2 Sept. 1861, as his second wife, NICHOLAS SWEETSER, b. Gray, 23 March 1793, son of John and Jane (Rideout) Sweetser, d. Livermore, 15 Oct. 1871, bur. Hillman Ferry

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<sup>53</sup> Rev. Donald L. McAllister and Lucille E. Naas, ed., *Marriage Returns of Oxford County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1993), 26 (date of marriage); marriage notice, [Portland] *Eastern Argus*, 24 Aug. 1839, p. 3, col. 1 (place of marriage); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118459266; the 1915 death record of Abner and Eliza's son Wm. S. Moore indicated his father's birthplace as Jay (Maine Vital Records [DGS #5011840, image 2814]).

<sup>54</sup> *Boston Marriages, 1752–1809*, Boston Record Commissioners' Report 30(Boston, Mass., 1903):463 (marriage of Asa Moores and Rebecca "Gorden" [sic]); Frederic Webster Goding, *Genealogy of the Goding Family* (Richmond, Ind., 1906), 21, 28; Jay, Maine, Births & Deaths, 1779–1868, p. 49 [DGS #7763761, image 258] (family record of Asa and Rebecca "Moor"); 1810 U.S. Census, Jay, Oxford Co., Maine, p. 448 [Asa Moor, 3 males aged under 10]; 1820 U.S. Census, Jay, Oxford Co., Maine, p. 92 [Asa Moore, 2 males aged 10–15]; 1830 U.S. Census, Jay, Oxford Co., Maine, p. 183 [Asa Moore, 1 male aged 15–19]; 1840 U.S. Census, Sumner, Oxford Co., Maine, p. 93 [Asar Moor (sic), 1 male and 1 female aged 70–79, no others in household]; Jay Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 1824–1847, unpaginated [DGS #7763761, image 523] (marriage of Manasseh Lawrence and Rebecca Moor).

<sup>55</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #4544486, image 859] (death and place of birth); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #84968557.

<sup>56</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 3:16 [DGS #7834679, image 462]; Livermore Births & Deaths, 2:41 [DGS #7834679, image 230]; Maine Vital Records [DGS #4544486, image 1017] (Samuel's death); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #84968537; Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 342] (parents' marriage); *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths to the End of 1825*, Boston Record Commissioners' Report 21(Boston, Mass., 1890):212 (full name of Samuel's mother).

<sup>57</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #4544482, image 1660] (place of birth: Livermore, parents not named, Allura's age an exact match to her date of birth indicated in the family register); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118458797.

Cemetery.<sup>58</sup> Allura m. (2) Turner, 1 June 1874, as his third wife, SAMUEL PAGE JOHNSON, b. Readfield, 18 Dec. 1801, son of Levi and Mercy (Longfellow) Johnson, d. Lagrange, 24 Sept. 1892, aged 90y 9m 6d, bur. with his first wife in Walpole-Huston-Woodward Cemetery, Damariscotta.<sup>59</sup>

- xi SIMEON BEMIS (again), b. prob. Livermore, 31 Aug. 1825, d. 29 June 1855 and bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore.<sup>60</sup> Never married.
- xii AUSMER BEMIS, b. Livermore, 17 Jan. 1827, d. Livermore, 6 July 1910, bur. Hillman Ferry Cemetery, Livermore;<sup>61</sup> m. East Livermore, 1 Aug. 1858, ELIZA H. WYER, b. Livermore, 20 April 1836, daughter of Charles and Sophronia (Shaw) Wyer, d. Livermore, 2 April 1926, bur. with Ausmer in Hillman Ferry Cemetery.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>58</sup> Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 3:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 550]; Philip Starr Sweetser, *Seth Sweetser and His Descendants* (Philadelphia, 1938), 64–65; death notice, *Portland Daily Press*, 26 Oct. 1871, p. 2, col. 7; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118458775. Nicholas Sweetser m. (1) New Gloucester, 29 Aug. 1824, Celia (Cushman) Dwinal; see New Gloucester, Maine, Marriages (typescript), 1:66 [DGS #7595773, image 592]; Sweetser, *Seth Sweetser Descendants*, 65, which names Celia's first husband as Aaron "Divinal" [*sic*].

<sup>59</sup> Marriage notice, *Lewiston Evening Journal*, 16 June 1874, p. 2, col. 6; Readfield, Maine, Vital Statistics, 1:162 [DGS #7834701, image 84] (Samuel's birth); Samuel's full name from the death record of his daughter Abby Amanda (Johnson) Walker (Massachusetts Vital Records, 1914, Deaths, 25:293 [DGS #4284189, image 1345]); Maine Vital Records [DGS #4544482, image 772] (Samuel's death; place of birth Readfield, father named as "Elisha [*sic*] Johnson," Samuel's age an exact match to his date of birth recorded in Readfield); Nathan Hale cemetery collection [DGS #7586606, image 1187]; Everett S. Stackpole, *History of Winthrop, Maine, with Genealogical Notes* (Auburn, Maine, 1925), 714 (parents' marriage). Samuel m. (1) Bristol, 28 Feb. 1822, Mary Bradstreet "Parsons" (Bristol, Maine, Town & Vital Records, 1:500 [DGS #7592486, image 261]); her correct surname confirmed by the will of her father Sewall Pearson dated 29 Aug. 1848, naming his daughter Mary B. Johnson (Lincoln Co., Maine, Probate Records, 77:204 [DGS #7139031, image 437]). Samuel P. Johnson m. (2) Lewiston, 22 Sept. 1851, Betsey Herrick (Bates) Herrick (Joseph Crook Anderson II, ed., *Maine Families in 1790, Vol. 12* [Waterville, Maine, 2021], 307–8).

<sup>60</sup> Photo of gravestone at findagrave.com #118416709.

<sup>61</sup> Maine Vital Records [DGS #5011561, image 272] (death and place of birth); photo of his gravestone, which indicates his year of birth as "1828," at findagrave.com #118459398.

<sup>62</sup> East Livermore, Maine, Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 1844–1893, p. 71, Livermore Falls, Maine, Town Office; Livermore Births & Deaths, 2:57 [DGS #7834679, image 238] (Eliza's birth); Maine Vital Records, Augusta (Eliza's death); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #118459462. Charles Wyer and Miss Sophronia Shaw m. Livermore, 26 Oct. 1834 (Livermore Marriage Intentions & Marriages, 2:n.p. [DGS #7834679, image 414]).

# SAMUEL BEAL SHEA OF THE 19TH MAINE AT THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

*By Bonnie Wade Mucia*

In 1863, a letter was penned on the battlefield at Gettysburg in Adams County, Pennsylvania. Some eighty years later, in 1945, an overturned monument was reset in the Flying Point Burial Ground in Georgetown, Maine. These two events and locations—decades apart—were connected by a grateful niece of a fallen Civil War soldier, Samuel Beal Shea (1832–1863). Mrs. Susie Shea Tarr of Arrowsic, Maine, expressed her gratitude for the efforts of the five men from the Robinhood section of Georgetown by sharing the battlefield letter authored by her late uncle. The *Bath Independent* newspaper published the interaction and a portion of the letter:<sup>1</sup>

Dear Father and Mother, Brother[s] and Sister[s]: I will write a few lines to you This being the last I ever shall write. I was wounded with a minie ball the second day of July. . . . Tell folks that I die a glorious death. . . . Good bye now and forever. . . . S B Shea.

This article will detail the life of a Gettysburg soldier, his military service, events surrounding his final moments, and the location of the original letter.

## THE 19TH MAINE’S ROAD TO GETTYSBURG

Thirty-year-old Samuel Beal Shea enlisted as a private in the U.S. Army on 7 August 1862 in Georgetown, and mustered in Company K, Nineteenth Maine Volunteer Regiment on 25 August 1862, at Bath, Maine.<sup>2</sup> It was attached to the 1st Brigade, 2nd Division, 2nd Army Corps, Army of the Potomac.<sup>3</sup> A firsthand account of the history of the Nineteenth Maine Regiment during the Civil War, written in 1909 by Corporal John Day Smith of Company F with the help of the Nineteenth Regimental Association, details the Regiment’s movements from 1862 to 1865.<sup>4</sup> The Regiment consisted of native Mainers primarily from the counties of Somerset, Kennebec, Sagadahoc, Waldo, Knox, and Lincoln. Most were farmers, including Samuel.

According to Smith in his book, the Regiment was ordered to head to the train station in Bath early on Wednesday, 27 August 1862. They walked through the streets as their friends and family waved them off. They embarked on the train and started their journey, eventually taking them to Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. They arrived in

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<sup>1</sup> *The Bath Independent*, “Robinhood,” Thurs., 1 Feb. 1945, p. 5, col.4 [image newspaperarchive.com].

<sup>2</sup> Samuel Beal Shea (Pvt., Co. K, 19th Maine Inf., Civil War), Betsey Shea, mother’s pension no. 183,000; Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773–2008, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

<sup>3</sup> “19<sup>th</sup> Maine Volunteer Infantry Regiment,” *The Civil War in the East* [<https://civilwarintheeast.com/us-regiments-batteries/maine/19th-maine/>].

<sup>4</sup> John Day Smith, *The History of the Nineteenth Regiment of Maine Volunteer Infantry 1862–1865* (Minneapolis, Minn., 1909).

Boston that Wednesday afternoon and marched to Providence, Rhode Island, where they took another train to Stonington Neck, Connecticut. From there, they took the *PS Commonwealth* steamboat overnight to New Jersey City. They entered New York harbor and went to Philadelphia and onto Baltimore, where they marched across the city to catch the train for Washington, D.C. On Saturday, August 30th, while at a camp called “Soldier’s Rest,” they received orders to go to Virginia. They marched through the city for Arlington Heights, Virginia, where they witnessed the U.S. Cavalry retreating from the second battle of Bull Run with the Confederates close on their tails. After that incident, orders changed slightly, and the Regiment returned to D.C. The companies were then split up between different forts in and around the District of Columbia. Company K went to Fort Dupont in Washington, D.C., the fort now part of the National Parks Service.<sup>5</sup>

At the end of September 1862, the Regiment was ordered to go to Frederick, Maryland, via train to report to General McClellan and then onto a decimated Harper’s Ferry, West Virginia. They arrived on Friday, 3 October 1862, weeks after the infamous battle that occurred 12–15 September 1862. Smith published Captain Nash’s letter from Camp Bolivar near Harper’s Ferry which gives us a grim view of the town post-battle:

We picked our way through the narrow street, viewing the ruins of the town . . . once stately but now charred and crumbling walls and few remaining windowless and deserted houses. . . . Harper’s Ferry is almost a bed of ashes, and all that remains of its once splendid armory are a few crumbling walls, which will soon fall to the ground. I have passed twenty-four hours among its ruins, where in future years traveller and tourist will eagerly resort, and which history will point out as the spot where many acts in the great tragedy, not yet closed, took place.<sup>6</sup>

Smith’s account states the Regiment left West Virginia and marched down the Shenandoah River south to the Loudon Valley in northern Virginia, continuing movements through other Virginia locations such as Ashby’s Gap, Recortown, and Warrentown heading into the fall of 1862. After leaving Warrentown, the Regiment headed to Fredericksburg, Virginia, stopping in Belle Plain, a steamboat landing on the Potomac River, for provisions at the end of November 1862. They were busy making corduroy roads which were rudimentary roads of logs over swampy areas. Smith says, “most of the men from Maine knew how to handle an axe.” The account also goes on to say, “Thanksgiving Day came on Thursday, 27 November, and it was a cheerless day. The boys’ dinner generally consisted of hard bread and salt pork. Thoughts of home and loved ones and the gloomy outlook in camp, did not add to the day’s enjoyment.”<sup>7</sup>

During a bitterly cold spell in early December, the Regiment camped near Falmouth, Virginia. Days later they would participate in their first battle, the Battle of

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<sup>5</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 6–8.

<sup>6</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 14.

<sup>7</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 23–26.

Fredericksburg, 11–15 December 1862, with very few casualties. It's unclear if Pvt. Shea was one of those soldiers. His military file does not indicate if he participated in the battle. Captain Nash wrote in Smith's account:

As to the recent battle of Fredericksburg, I have little to write. We were there, and came back again. The Nineteenth has elicited much praise for its coolness. While the dead were multiplying by the scores, all around, not a soldier of the Nineteenth was known to flinch notwithstanding a whole brigade, only a few paces in the rear, broke and ran.<sup>8</sup>

Smith's account details the brutal winter of 1862–1863. The men lived in Fal-mouth Camp in log-cabin-type structures with tent roofs and chimneys made from logs and mud. The cold weather and exposure to the low temperatures took a toll on the Regiment. Approximately one hundred died and were buried in a makeshift graveyard near camp just north of Fredericksburg.<sup>9</sup>

Smith's history of the Regiment details a visit by President Lincoln to the Belle Plains camp on 6 April 1863. He was accompanied by his wife, Mary, and ten-year-old son, Thomas.<sup>10</sup> Smith states, "The writer will never forget the President's anxious expression, the deep lines of care and suffering upon his face, the great furrow marked upon his patient features by long months of suffering and disappointment. He looked, indeed, as though he was carrying a great burden." The book *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps* also describes this visit stating, "the Union soldier developed a closeness and loyalty to a man who inspired them to rally to him and his cause."<sup>11</sup>

The Regiment participated in the Chancellorsville Campaign in late April 1863 but it's unknown if Pvt. Shea was part of the battle. The troops of the Nineteenth Maine Regiment were in Fredericksburg, Virginia, on 15 June when they received orders to march north towards Gettysburg.<sup>12</sup> Smith gives an eyewitness account of the challenging march to Gettysburg in his book.

The first day or two we were in Stafford County. . . . Dense woods and thickets of jack pine and scrub oak with occasional clearings, poor roads and old tumbled down houses describe the first day's march. We crossed Acquia creek at a little hamlet called Acquia, marched through Stafford Court House which was a smoking ruin, going into camp about a half a dozen miles north of that point. The day's march was about twenty miles, but owing to the intense heat and clouds of dust and heavy marching order of the soldiers, it was one of the most trying days in the whole summer's campaign. It is pretty hard for a soldier to throw away a new overcoat, a nice woolen blanket or a change of underclothing, especially when nobody knows how far he is going or how soon he may need these articles.<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 33.

<sup>9</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 34-35.

<sup>10</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 44.

<sup>11</sup> Ralph Gary, *Following in Lincoln's Footsteps* (New York, 2001), 313

<sup>12</sup> Tom Huntington, *Maine Roads to Gettysburg* (Guilford, Conn., 2018), 276 [online: <https://maineroadstogettysburg.com/2018/05/16/the-19th-maine-prepares-for-battle/>].

<sup>13</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 56.



Smith goes on to say, “The next day’s march was upwards of twenty miles and carried us across Quantico creek . . . going into camp near Occoquan, on the Occoquan river.” They continued north to Fairfax, Virginia, onto Centerville, and then found themselves crossing the Bull Run battlefield where they saw human remains coming up out of the ground.<sup>14</sup> There was a stark contrast between the barren war-torn lands of Virginia and the lush Maryland countryside. The soldiers marched through a valley full of farms and cherry trees with fresh fruit. The residents came out to bring the soldiers food and drink but they pressed on.<sup>15</sup> It would have been an exhausting hot trudge north in their navy blue flannel coats and woolen pants, having marched thirty-two miles until they rested in Uniontown, Maryland, on the evening of 29 June and all the next day.<sup>16</sup> They were only about twenty miles south of Gettysburg. The Nineteenth Maine Regiment waited for orders to proceed and started moving again on July 1st, where they arrived at Gettysburg and set up camp that night on Taneytown Road.

### THE BATTLE OF GETTYSBURG

The following day, July 2nd, the Nineteenth Maine Regiment headed to Cemetery Ridge where the battle was in full swing. It was a waiting game all day for orders to move. Those orders finally came when they were positioned in a field southeast of the Codori farmhouse between Emmitsburg Road and Taneytown Road. The Nineteenth Maine met up with the men of the Florida Brigade that evening and they were pushed back to Emmitsburg Road.<sup>17</sup> The Regiment defended Pickett’s Charge the next day, the final day of the battle.

The battle lasted three days and was fought by 90,000 Union forces (1,441 of those were the Nineteenth Maine) and 75,000 Confederate troops resulting in more than 50,000 casualties. The Nineteenth Maine lost 376 officers and enlisted men who were killed in action or, like Samuel Beal Shea, mortally wounded.<sup>18</sup>

### SAMUEL BEAL SHEA’S LAST MOMENTS

Pvt. Shea’s letter was penned on July 4th, after the battle was over and the men were taking stock of the magnitude of what had happened. The full letter contains Samuel’s last words to his family:<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>14</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 56.

<sup>15</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 62.

<sup>16</sup> Huntington, *Maine Roads to Gettysburg* [note 12], 276.

<sup>17</sup> Smith, *History of the 19th Regiment of Maine* [note 4], 69-75.

<sup>18</sup> National Park Service, The Civil War, Union Maine Volunteers, 19th Regiment [online: <https://www.nps.gov/civilwar/search-battle-units-detail.htm>].

<sup>19</sup> Civil War Miscellany, George J. Mitchell Department of Special Collections & Archives, Bowdoin College Library, M131:1–Correspondence and Documents, Box 1, Folder 5, 1863 Jul 4, Samuel Beal Shea and Jesse Mitchell [<https://library.bowdoin.edu/arch/mss/cwmg.shtml>].

Gettysburg July 4th / 63

Dear Father and Mother, Brother[s] and Sister[s]

I will write a few lines to you This being the last that I ever shall write. I was wounded with a minie ball the second day of July in the left Brest but I know like hero that I have done my duty in defence of my country. It is a glorious death to die Most all of our Co is killed or wounded it was a hard fought Battle but our men are victorious [*sic*] their has been no fighting to day tell folks that I die a glorious death

I must close Good bye now and forever

Weep not for me

S B Shea

Samuel was a man of deep convictions. An article called “A Worthy Young Man” was printed in the *Portland Daily Advertiser* in August 1863, shortly after his death.<sup>20</sup> A transcription of his letter to his family was included in the article. His last words showed his love for his country and his desire to fulfill his military duty. The article says, “He was a firm, uncompromising Democrat, and volunteered in defence [*sic*] of the glorious OLD FLAG which had been stricken down alike by secession and abolition hands.”

A second letter accompanied the letter dictated by Pvt. Shea. Written in the same penmanship, it was signed by Jesse Mitchell, who gives a firsthand account of Samuel’s death and the battle’s aftermath.

Gettysburg July 10 / 63

Mr. Shea This letter your Son rote [*sic*] to you it was the last he ever had the privilege [*sic*] to tell you he fell. Your Son don his whole duty to his God and his cuntry and diede with his Sences and he did not apear to sufer much He was struck in the left Brest and I think it past through his Lunge He had as good care taken of him as could be expected placd whare we are I have done all I could for him and all the rest of our Com but he like some others of our Com, could mot [*sic*] Live with the Best of care he diede on the 9<sup>th</sup> of this month at ½ 9[?] in the evening and was buried this morning He did not say anything about home. Poor fellow he Fought his last Battle died like all true Soldiers. I was wounded the same day he was but slight. I now am attending on the rest of our company, it is a horred sight to see some of them, we buried poor James Heal this morn with your Son, he likewise died at four yesterday eve he I think did not sense anything he was left of the field for dead, and the fourth day after the fight I reconised him and tried to bring him too but failed he never tasted anything for eight days I tried to get something down but could not and he died the eight day after the fight our Loss is heavy and we all done our duty nobely and our core Save the Battle So dear Sir I say with your Son if we [doe?] all fall we die Like heroes to save our Beloved country and thank God we have come [*illegible*]ctorious with a great victory You to let) With respect to you I write this to you to let you know how he diede and we buried him well. Jesse Mitchell Co K 19<sup>th</sup> Maine Vol.

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<sup>20</sup> “A Worthy Young Man,” *Portland Daily Advertiser*, 27 Aug. 1863, p. 2 [image, genealogy bank.com].



Mitchell paints a grim picture of the events following the battle. Pvt. Shea was mortally wounded on July 2nd when the Nineteenth Maine likely met up with the Florida Brigade near Cemetery Ridge located near what is now Hancock Road. He was hit with a Minié ball in the chest which penetrated his lung. The next day, Jesse Mitchell found Samuel and penned a dictated letter to send to the Shea family. Pvt. Shea died at Second Corps General Field Hospital at Gettysburg, 9 July 1863. He was buried alongside Pvt. James T. Heal.<sup>21</sup> Pvt. Heal was shot in the head on the third day of the battle and died at Second Corp Hospital in Gettysburg the same day as Pvt. Shea.<sup>22</sup>

Samuel's 71-year-old mother, Betsey (Beal) Shea, filed for a Dependent Mother's Pension on 23 December 1869.<sup>23</sup> Her claim was denied in 1870. The investigation found she was not dependent on Samuel for support when he died. The ruling stated she owned a farm worth approximately \$1,200, stocks worth roughly \$3,000, and at the time of the claim was taken care of by her other son, James M. Shea.

Over 1,300 monuments in Gettysburg mark the spots where different regiments fought or commemorate historic events. At least two of these monuments are of interest in the story of Pvt. Samuel B. Shea. The first, dedicated on 3 October 1889 by the State of Maine, commemorates the location where the Nineteenth Maine Regiment fought, and sits south of Gettysburg on Hancock Avenue, named after Union General, Winfield Scott Hancock. The second monument commemorates the Second Corps Hospital erected in 1912 and is located on Hospital Road near the George Bushman Farm.<sup>24</sup>

#### THE AUTHOR AND THE LETTERS

Pvt. Jesse Mitchell penned both letters sent to the Shea family. Mitchell was born in Bath, 26 April 1819, to parents Jesse and Sally (Robinson) Mitchell.<sup>25</sup> While most men who served in the Nineteenth Maine were farmers, Jesse was a joiner—an artisan skilled at making things like doors, tables, and cabinets. Jesse was married with children before his military service. He married Mary A. Todd, both of Bath, on 13 February 1848 in Bath.<sup>26</sup> The couple had at least four children before Jesse went to war.<sup>27</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> Adjutant General, "List of Deceased Soldiers of the 19th Maine Regiment, Gettysburg, 1863" (1863) [[https://digitalmaine.com/cw\\_hr\\_19th\\_me/2/](https://digitalmaine.com/cw_hr_19th_me/2/)]; gravestone photo, James T. Heal, Gettysburg National Cemetery, findagrave.com #23290994.

<sup>22</sup> James T. Heal (Pvt., Co. K, 19th Maine Inf., Civil War), Cordelia Heal, Mother's Pension #WC118811, cert. #154152 [image, <https://www.fold3.com/file/305087150/heal-james-t-us-civil-war-widows-pensions-1861-1910>].

<sup>23</sup> Betsey Shea, Mother's Pension [note 2].

<sup>24</sup> The Historical Marker Database, "Field Hospitals—Second Corps, Medical Department, Army of the Potomac" (Gettysburg, Pa.) [database: <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=17925>].

<sup>25</sup> Bath VRs, 1757–1892, p. 141 [DGS #7592491, image 644]; his parents m. 25 Nov. 1802 in Bath VRs, 1811 [*sic*]–1846, p. 231 [DGS #7592491, image 52].

<sup>26</sup> Bath VRs, 1847–1892, p. 0 [*sic*] [DGS #7592491, image 115].

<sup>27</sup> Jesse Mitchell household, 1860 and 1870 U.S. censuses, Bath, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, p. 71 (1860, penned), p. 21 (1870, penned). Jesse is not to be confused with another Jesse Mitchell who m. in 1840 Mary Ann Mitchell and lived in Unity, Maine (Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Unity, Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* [Camden, Maine, 1995], 126).

On 6 August 1862, forty-three-year-old Jesse enlisted in the U.S. Army, the day before Samuel enlisted and served in the same Regiment and Company together for the duration of their time in the Army. Pvt. Mitchell was also wounded in the battle of Gettysburg in the right shoulder.<sup>28</sup> He was discharged on 8 January 1864, six months after Samuel's death after convalescing in Virginia.<sup>29</sup> Jesse's wife pre-deceased him in 1888.<sup>30</sup> Pvt. Mitchell died at seventy-two years old of liver disease on 18 August 1891 at his home on Middle Street in Brunswick, Cumberland Co., Maine, and was buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Bath next to his wife.<sup>31</sup> Two children, Joseph R. Mitchell and Mary Ellen (Mitchell) Bohan survived him.<sup>32</sup>

The original letters were in the possession of Samuel's niece, Susie (Shea) Tarr, daughter of James Marr Shea, when the story was printed in 1945.<sup>33</sup> Susie married but had no children. The letters were inherited by her grandniece, Carol (Hogan) Ainsworth. Carol donated both letters to Bowdoin College in 1967, where they remain archived.<sup>34</sup>

#### GENEALOGY SUMMARY

**NICHOLAS SHEA** was born at Georgetown, Maine, 18 February 1792, son of Michael and Eleanor (Hogan) Shea.<sup>35</sup> He died in Arrowsic, Maine, 24 or 28 November 1875.<sup>36</sup> He married at Georgetown, 29 February 1816, **BETSEY BEAL**.<sup>37</sup> She was

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<sup>28</sup> Jesse Mitchell (Pvt., Co. K, 19th Maine Inf., Civil War), app. #664130, cert. #446739; Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773–2008, National Archives, Washington, D.C.; “Maine Killed and Wounded,” *Portland Daily Advertiser*, 14 July 1863, p. 2 [image, genealogybank.com].

<sup>29</sup> Jesse Mitchell, 1890 U.S. census, “Special Schedule: Surviving Soldiers, Sailors, and Marines, and Widows,” Bath, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 161, p. 3, house no. 447, family no. 492.

<sup>30</sup> Gravestone photo, Maple Grove Cemetery, findagrave.com #74402847. The stone gives her dates as b. 2 Jan. 1822, d. 23 May 1888.

<sup>31</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #74402794, his dates: b. 26 April 1819, d. 18 Aug. 1891.

<sup>32</sup> “Jesse Mitchell,” *The Times Record* [Brunswick, Maine], 18 Aug. 1891, p. 5, col. 3 [image, newspapers.com]; James Mitchell, Sagadahoc Co. Probate, file M230 [DGS #4231060, image 165].

<sup>33</sup> *The Bath Independent*, “Robinhood,” Thursday, 1 Feb. 1945, p. 5, col.4 [note 1].

<sup>34</sup> Bowdoin College Special Collections and Archives, M131:1, Correspondence and Documents. Box 1 Folder 5 [note 19], email to author from Jennifer Fain (j.fain@bowdoin.edu), 20 Nov. 2023. Correspondence from “LeslieAnn52” to the author “Keeper\_of\_the\_Past” on Ancestry.com dated 7 April 2023. Message received from Anita, Leslie's niece, stated that Leslie passed away and she has her aunt's Ancestry account. Anita's grandmother Carol Ainsworth donated the letters to Bowdoin college. The documentation at the college confirms this information.

<sup>35</sup> Mary Pelham Hill, *Vital Records of Georgetown, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 3 vols. (n.p., 1939–43), 1:147; for Michael and Eleanor (Hogan) Shea, see Joseph Crook Anderson II, *Maine Families in 1790*, 12 vols. to date (1988–2021), 10:553.

<sup>36</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 3:70; Nicholas Shea (Capt., Jeremiah Fisher's Co., District of Maine Militia, War of 1812), Betsey Shea widow's pension #32821, cert. #18956 [images fold3.com].

<sup>37</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 2:150.

born at Georgetown, 14 December 1798, daughter of Jeremiah and Jane (—) Beal,<sup>38</sup> and died in Arrowsic, 26 April 1879.<sup>39</sup>

The Shea family was no stranger to military service and the effects of war. Nicholas served as a Private in the War of 1812 under Capt. Richard Hagan with the Maine Volunteers as well as Capt. Jeremiah Fisher's Company with the Massachusetts Militia.<sup>40</sup> Samuel's pension notes Nicholas was injured in his left hand and suffered from kidney disease.<sup>41</sup> He received a Bounty Land Warrant in Wisconsin for his service which he sold.<sup>42</sup> Nicholas was a farmer like his son Samuel.<sup>43</sup> He owned the family farm in Georgetown, which he deeded to his son James M. Shea in May 1865.<sup>44</sup> Nicholas's father Michael Shea was an Irish immigrant and fought in the Revolutionary War under Capt. John Hinckley in the 1st Regiment.<sup>45</sup>

Children of Nicholas Shea and Eleanor Hall, all b. Georgetown:<sup>46</sup>

- i NATHAN SHEA, b. 1 July 1817, d. Fayette, Maine, 20 Dec. 1886;<sup>47</sup> m. (1) Pittston, Maine, 29 March 1840, SUSAN SHEA,<sup>48</sup> divorced Sagadahoc Co., 6 Jan 1858;<sup>49</sup> m. (2) Bowdoinham, Maine, 31 Jan. 1858, LUCINDA/LUCY (COBB) WILSON of Bowdoinham.<sup>50</sup>

Nathan and Susan's son, Charles Shea, b. 3 Oct. 1841, served in the Civil War as a private in the 15th Maine, Co. B, and d. of dysentery in New Orleans, 15 Jan. 1864.<sup>51</sup>

<sup>38</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 1:17

<sup>39</sup> Debra I. Grana and Marlene A. Groves, comps., *Vital Records of Arrowsic, Maine, to the Year 1939* [Waterville, Maine, 2016], 91; "Died," *Bath Daily Times*, 28 Apr. 1879, p. 3.

<sup>40</sup> Betsey Shea War of 1812 Pension [note 36].

<sup>41</sup> Samuel Beal Shea, Betsey Shea, Mother's Pension [note 2].

<sup>42</sup> Bureau of Land Management, MW-0581053 Nicholas Shea, 40 acres, Wisconsin, 1 Dec. 1854 [<https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/default.aspx?accession=0581-053&docClass=MW&sid=wfxkxg2.umi#patentDetailsTabIndex=1>]; Bureau of Land Management, MW-0155-163 Nicholas Shea, 124 acres, Wisconsin, 30 Oct. 1857.

<sup>43</sup> Nicolas Shea household, 1850 U.S. Census, Georgetown, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 108 (stamped).

<sup>44</sup> Sagadahoc Co. Deeds, 27:130.

<sup>45</sup> Nicolas Shea, Revolutionary War Pension Application #R9448 [images, fold3.com].

<sup>46</sup> Births in *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 1:146–47.

<sup>47</sup> "Died," *Sun-Journal* (Lewiston, Maine), 22 Dec. 1886, p. 3, col. 8 [image, newspapers.com].

<sup>48</sup> Marriage date and place from their divorce petition; the marriage not recorded in Pittston.

<sup>49</sup> Nathan and Susan were 1st cousins; Charles E. Shea (Pvt., Co. B, 15th Maine Inf., Civil War), Susan Shea, Mother's application #122129, cert. #9574, file date 26 Feb 1866; Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773–2008; National Archives, Washington, D.C.; Maine, Sagadahoc Co., Supreme Judicial Court Records, v. 5 (Dec. 1857 cont. to Dec 1858, Shea v. Shea), p. 12 [DGS #4727430, image 42].

<sup>50</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Bowdoinham, Maine* (Waterville, Maine, 2019), 450; Lucy Shea's maiden name from her 1892 death record, Maine VR, 1670–1921 [DGS #4703961, image 3939].

<sup>51</sup> Charles E. Shea (Pvt., Co. B, 15th Maine Inf., Civil War), Susan Shea, Mother's application #122129, cert. #9574, 26 Feb. 1866, Civil War and Later Pension Files, RG 15, Records of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1773–2008, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

- ii JANE SHEA, b. 30 March 1819, d. prob. Somerville, Maine, between 1860 and 1870;<sup>52</sup> m. Georgetown, 9 May 1852, JOHN CLIFFORD of Patricktown Plt. [Somerville].<sup>53</sup>
- iii WARNER McLANATHAN SHEA, b. 27 Feb. 1821, d. Bath, 3 Aug. 1876;<sup>54</sup> m. Arrowsic, 17 Feb. 1845, MARY JANE WEEKS.<sup>55</sup>
- iv JAMES MARR SHEA, b. 18 Aug. 1823, d. 24 May 1882;<sup>56</sup> m. Arrowsic, 20 Oct. 1851, SUSAN ROGERS LAWRENCE of Arrowsic.<sup>57</sup>  
James Marr and Susan R. (Lawrence) Shea had 8 children, of whom the youngest:<sup>58</sup>  
*Susie Alice Shea*,<sup>59</sup> b. Arrowsic, 19 Nov 1871, d. there, 16 June 1957;<sup>60</sup> m. there, 30 June 1897, George Langdon Tarr.<sup>61</sup>
- vi ELIZA ANN SHEA, 6 March 1826, d. Georgetown, 29 Nov. 1890;<sup>62</sup> m. Georgetown, 29 Sept. 1850, SAMUEL F. HALL of Edgecomb, Maine.<sup>63</sup>
- vii MARQUIS ALLEN SHEA, b. 5 June 1828, lost at sea, 5 July 1851;<sup>64</sup> never married.
- viii ELLIOT FLETCHER SHEA, b. 28 Aug. 1830, d. Arrowsic, of Bright's disease, 20 Nov. 1896;<sup>65</sup> never married.
- ix SAMUEL BEAL SHEA, b. 24 July 1832, d. Gettysburg, Pa., 9 July 1863; never married. See above for details of his military service and death.
- x EMMA SHEA, b. 6 May 1834, d. Westport, Maine, 2 July 1878;<sup>66</sup> m. Georgetown, 17 Jan. 1855, NATHANIEL NELSON SHEA of Westport.<sup>67</sup>

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<sup>52</sup> John Clifford household, 1860 and 1870 U.S. Censuses, Somerville, Lincoln Co., Maine, pp. 734 (penned, 1860), 624 (stamped, 1870).

<sup>53</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 2:150.

<sup>54</sup> "Died," *Portland Daily Press*, 7 Aug 1876, p. 2 [image, genealogybank.com].

<sup>55</sup> Judith Holbrook Kelley and Clayton Rand Adams, comps., *Marriage Returns of Lincoln County, Maine, to 1866* (Rockport, Maine, 2002), 158.

<sup>56</sup> Gravestone photo, Shea-Lawrence Cemetery, Arrowsic, findagrave.com #110968350; "Died," *The Times Record* (Brunswick, Maine), 26 May 1882, p. 2, col. 6 [image newspapers.com].

<sup>57</sup> *Arrowsic VRs* [note 39], 24.

<sup>58</sup> *Arrowsic VRs* [note 39], 43.

<sup>59</sup> James Marr Shea had multiple children but only Susie Shea is listed in this summary since her name was in the 1945 article.

<sup>60</sup> "Mrs. Susie A. Tarr," *Evening Express* (Portland, Maine), 17 June 1957, p. 2, col. 4. [image newspapers.com].

<sup>61</sup> *Arrowsic VRs* [note 39], 149.

<sup>62</sup> "Died," *Bath Daily Times* (Bath, Maine), 1 Dec. 1890, p. 4 [image, newspapers.com].

<sup>63</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 2:150.

<sup>64</sup> Gravestone photo, Shea-Lawrence Cemetery, Arrowsic, findagrave.com #204576668.

<sup>65</sup> *Arrowsic VRs* [note 39], 113.

<sup>66</sup> Gravestone, Shea Cemetery, Westport, Maine, documented in "Maine, Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980" [DGS #7586456, image 915].

<sup>67</sup> *Georgetown VRs* [note 35], 2:150.

## THE ORIGINS AND MAINE DESCENDANTS OF JOHN KING AND MARY (STOWELL) OF BOSTON

*By John D. Beatty, CG*

The paternal ancestry of the Hon. Rufus King, U.S. Senator and last Federalist candidate for U.S. President, has eluded discovery. King, who had little interest in his genealogy, answered an inquirer in 1824: "I am a native of Maine, where my relatives reside. My grandfather was English, came to America in the latter part of the seventeenth century, and lived in Boston."<sup>1</sup> The grandfather was apparently John King of Boston.

Dr. Aaron Porter (1757–1832), who married Rufus King's sister, Paulina<sup>3</sup> King, stated that John King came from Kent, settled in Boston, and there followed the trade of a whitesmith.<sup>2</sup> All other subsequent claims of a Kent origin seem to be derivative of Porter. Charles Ray King, Rufus King's grandson, repeated the Kent origin in his edited volumes of Rufus's correspondence.<sup>3</sup> William H. H. Stowell, author of the *Stowell Genealogy*, also said that John was born in Kent and came to Boston in the latter part of the seventeenth century.<sup>4</sup> W. W. Spooner related a similar origin story.<sup>5</sup>

Other researchers have published divergent and ultimately inaccurate information about the family's origins. Harold Minot Pitman echoed Porter's claim of John being a whitesmith but stated that John was born, not in England, but in Boston, the son of an earlier John and Mary King. He offered no evidence for this assertion and conceded that John was too young to have been the John born in 1666.<sup>6</sup> William Richard Cutter claimed that John was born about 1675–80, the son of Thomas King (d. 1713) of Weymouth and Dighton, Massachusetts, and his wife Mary (Sprague), daughter of William Sprague of Hingham.<sup>7</sup> Again, he offered no evidence for the claim other than asserting that Thomas's father was an earlier John King, master of a fishing vessel who had settled at Weymouth as early as 1638. George Walter Chamberlain, an early

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of Rufus King to Nathaniel King, 10 June 1824 in King Family Papers, Box 2, Folder 1820–1829, New-York Historical Society, New York.

<sup>2</sup> Dr. Aaron Porter manuscript quoted erroneously as "Adam" Porter in George Austin Morrison Jr., "King Heraldry, with a Brief History of the Origin of the Families of This Name in Old and New England Entitled to Bear Coat-Armor," *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* (NYGBR), 41(1910):274. See also collection of Aaron Porter papers in among the genealogical files of his granddaughter, Elizabeth Clapp (Porter) Longfellow, "Alexander Wadsworth Longfellow Papers, 1730–1950," manuscript no. 28555, Craigie-Longfellow House, Cambridge, Mass. Other papers of Dr. Aaron Porter in the Maine Historical Society, specifically manuscript collection no. 32, are primarily of a business, not a genealogical, nature.

<sup>3</sup> Charles R. King, *Life and Correspondence of Rufus King*, 3 vols. (New York, 1894–1900), 1:1.

<sup>4</sup> W. H. H. Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* (Rutland, Vt., 1922), 49.

<sup>5</sup> W. W. Spooner, "The King Family," *American Historical Magazine* (July 1907): 261–63.

<sup>6</sup> H. Minot Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* (n.p., 1967), 78.

<sup>7</sup> William Richard Cutter et al., *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Connecticut*, 4 vols. (New York, 1911), 2:1004.



historian and genealogist of Weymouth, cited the birth of a John King at Weymouth on 29 August 1670, son of Thomas and Mary, as the founder of this family, but he presented no evidence of this John's later life.<sup>8</sup> Only Rufus King's twentieth-century biographer, Robert Ernst, states accurately that John was "an English cutler and sword-maker who had emigrated [*sic*] to Boston in the late seventeenth century and married Mary Stowell of Newton, daughter of David Stowell, a weaver, and granddaughter of Samuel Stowell, a blacksmith and early settler of Hingham."<sup>9</sup>

Rufus King's use of a coat of arms of a King family in Kent has added some weight to the Kent tradition, but the evidence remains circumstantial and unproven. According to George Austin Morrison Jr., Rufus, when he returned to America after serving as ambassador to Great Britain from 1796 to 1803, adopted the coat of arms of the King family of Bromley, Kent, and had it emblazoned on his silver.<sup>10</sup> David Gary, who has made an extensive study of Rufus King as a book collector and reader, has stated that Rufus had the arms engraved as a bookplate by a New York engraver, Peter R. Maverick, as early as 1786, at least a decade before he went to England,<sup>11</sup> and he continued to use it as late as 1796.<sup>12</sup> Bookplate historian Charles Dexter Allen cites this plate in his catalog of other early American bookplates and declares that it was made in 1789, being part of the ribbon-and-wreath style that Maverick created during this period.<sup>13</sup> Whether the date was 1786 or 1789, it appears that Rufus used the coat of arms well before his journey to England.



*Rufus King bookplate*

<sup>8</sup> George Walter Chamberlain, *Genealogies of Early Families of Weymouth, Massachusetts*. 1923, 2nd ed. (Baltimore, 1984), 352.

<sup>9</sup> Robert Ernst, *Rufus King, American Federalist* (Chapel Hill, N.C., 1968), 4.

<sup>10</sup> Morrison "King Heraldry" [note 2], 274.

<sup>11</sup> Private email message from David J. Gary, American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, Pa., to John D. Beatty, 14 Feb. 2018. See David J. Gary, "Rufus King and the History of Reading: The Use of Print in the Early American Republic" (Ph.D. diss., City University of New York, 2013).

<sup>12</sup> David J. Gary, "Personal Collection to Rare Book Room: The Travels of Rufus King's Library," *Function Follows Form* blog, 14 Feb. 2018, <https://davidjgary.wordpress.com/2013/02/14/personal-collection-to-rare-book-room-the-travels-of-rufus-kings-library/>.

<sup>13</sup> Charles Dexter Allen, *American Book-Plates: A Guide to Their Study* (London, 1895), 144, 233.

This fact begs the question of where Rufus found the coat of arms for his bookplate. Did he discover an engraving, perhaps from an older bookplate or document in the possession of his late father, Richard<sup>2</sup> King, who is known to have owned books? Or, did Rufus or his engraver simply choose one belonging to a King family of Kent without having any connection to the family? The latter path is the most likely. In 1780, Joseph Edmondson published a two-volume work, *Complete Body of Heraldry*, which included a description of the arms of the King family of Bromley, Kent.<sup>14</sup> Perhaps Peter Maverick had these volumes in his New York office and gave his clients a chance to select a coat of arms for engraving work. Laurence Hutton, who has studied bookplates, notes that when creating a heraldic bookplate, “nothing was needed by . . . Maverick but a surname and a work on heraldry, the connection between the coat-of-arms and the man who bore the name being a matter of as much indifference to engraver and to purchaser then as it is, in their grandson’s time, to Tiffany and to Brentano.”<sup>15</sup> Maverick may have selected the heraldic design for Rufus’s bookplate without his client having any genealogical connection to the Kings of Bromley or even to Kent.

The shield and crest are described in heraldic language as follows: “Sable, a lion rampant guardant, ermine, between three crosses pattée fitchée at the boot, or. The crest was a lion’s gamb erect and raised, sable, holding a cross pattée.”<sup>16</sup> Rufus apparently added the motto, “Recte et suaviter,” meaning “Justly and mildly,” since the motto is not associated with the Bromley family.<sup>17</sup>

The arms, recorded as early as 1611,<sup>18</sup> belonged to the family of John King (1552–1603), draper, of London and Bromley. The brass plate marking his grave at Bromley states that he died on 5 September 1603, was “free of the Company of Clothworkers,” married Susan Woodwarde, and left four surviving children: Henry, James, John, and Elizabeth.<sup>19</sup> These children were all baptized in the parish of St. Clement Eastcheap with St. Martin Orgar, London, between 1590 and 1600, as children of “John Kinge, draper.”<sup>20</sup> According to a heraldic visitation of Kent made in 1668, the arms passed to John’s eldest son, Henry, who married Avis, daughter of William Priest of

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<sup>14</sup> Joseph Edmondson, *Complete Body of Heraldry* (London, 1780), 2: n.p., alphabetical list of heraldic descriptions by surname.

<sup>15</sup> Laurence Hutton, *From the Books of Laurence Hutton* (New York, 1892), 22.

<sup>16</sup> Sir Bernard Burke, *The General Armory of England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales* (London, 1884), 565.

<sup>17</sup> For a digitized image of the bookplate, see Gary, “Travels of Rufus King’s Library” [note 12].

<sup>18</sup> Burke, *General Armory* [note 16], Plate II, opposite p. 264, referencing “Camden’s Grants, I.”

<sup>19</sup> Richard Holworthy, *Monumental Inscriptions in the Church and Churchyard of Bromley, Co. Kent* (London, 1922), n.p., inscription no. 12.

<sup>20</sup> A. W. Hughes Clarke, ed., *Register of St. Clement, Eastcheap, and St. Martin Orgar*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., Register Series, 67(London, 1937):12–14. The children included: Suzan, bp. 10 March 1588/9 (apparently d. young); John, bp. 25 Dec. 1590; Elizabeth, bp. 15 May 1595; Henry, bp. 12 March 1598/9; and James, bp. 26 June 1600. The original registers of this parish have not been digitized and have not been seen by this author.



Bromley, and then to his son, Edward, who affirmed the grant of arms in 1663.<sup>21</sup> (The arms were not listed in an earlier visitation made in 1619.)<sup>22</sup> The coat later passed to Edward's son, Richard, then to his son, Curtis, and finally to Admiral Sir Richard King, baronet (1730–1806) of Bellevue, Kent, a contemporary of Rufus King.<sup>23</sup> No evidence exists to show that the two men ever corresponded or that Rufus King affirmed a specific relationship to this family other than his use of the arms.

Morrison, who studied the heraldry of various King families in New England, doubted that a connection existed to John King, stating, "A full pedigree has been compiled of these Beckenham and Bromley Kings to date, and to the best knowledge of the descendants now living in Kent and to the author, no member of this family ever came to New England between 1620 [and] 1720."<sup>24</sup> He added somewhat cryptically, "During investigation of the English King families, however, certain records were discovered which might indicate that the Scarborough, Maine, and Jamaica, New York, King family originally came from Wiltshire, England, but as yet this location of the family cannot be definitely stated."<sup>25</sup> He failed to cite this evidence. Another genealogist, Tunis Garret Bergen, also cited these arms as belonging to the Rufus King family but neglected to show a familial connection to England.<sup>26</sup>

There are two places in the pedigree of the Kings of Bromley that genealogists have not explored and from which John King, the immigrant, *may* have descended. John King, baptized in London on 25 December 1590,<sup>27</sup> son of John King and Susan (Woodward), was living in Fleet Street, London, as late as 2 April 1631. At that time, he and his brother Henry received bequests in the will of their half-brother, Samuel Walton, of St. Mary Cray, Kent, a neighboring parish of Bromley. Walton wrote, "Item I give unto my loving Brothers-in-law Henry Kinge of Fenster Lane [*sic*] London gentleman & John Kinge of Fleet Streete London gentleman the sum of three pounds of lawfull money of England to be payde unto them by Thirty shilling wthn six months next after my decease."<sup>28</sup> The fate of this John is not known. He has not

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<sup>21</sup> Sir George A. Armytage, ed., *Visitation of the County of Kent Begun Anno. Dei. MDCLXIII, Finished Anno Dno. MDCLXVIII*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., Visitation Series, 54(London, 1906):91.

<sup>22</sup> See, for example, John Philipot, *Visitation of Kent, Taken in the Years 1619–1621*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., Visitation Series, 42(London, 1898).

<sup>23</sup> William Betham, *Baronetage of England* (Ipswich, England, 1801), 4. See also William Playfair, *British Baronetage* (London, 1811), 2:448–51.

<sup>24</sup> Morrison "King Heraldry" [note 2], 274.

<sup>25</sup> Morrison "King Heraldry" [note 2], 274.

<sup>26</sup> Tunis Garret Bergen, *Genealogies of the State of New York: A Record of the Achievements of Her People in the Making of a Commonwealth. . .*, 3 vols. (New York, 1915), 2:924.

<sup>27</sup> A. W. Hughes Clarke, ed., *Register of St. Clement, Eastcheap, and St. Martin Orgar*, Harleian Soc. Pubs., Register Series, 67(London, 1937): 12

<sup>28</sup> "Prerogative Court of Canterbury and Related Probate Jurisdictions: Will Registers," Henry Walton will, 1631; National Archives, London; Class PROB 11, piece 159, St. John, Quire numbers 1–68; digital image, "England & Wales, Prerogative Court of Canterbury Wills, 1384–1558" [ancestry.com].

been positively identified in either probate or parish registers, but he could have been the grandfather of the immigrant.

Another possibility is that the immigrant John was the son of John King, son of Henry and Avis (Priest) King. The elder John was baptized at Bromley, Kent, on 12 May 1641,<sup>29</sup> and married there on 21 March 1658[/9], Elizabeth Frennebey.<sup>30</sup> Her parentage is unproven, but she was likely an unrecorded daughter of Nicholas Freneby and wife Bennetta (Godden), who lived in the nearby parish of Chelsfield between 1625 and 1640.<sup>31</sup> An extended Freneby family, likely connected, resided at an earlier period in Bromley and in the neighboring parishes of Orpington and Hayes from the late sixteenth century.<sup>32</sup> John and Elizabeth disappear from the area immediately after their marriage in early 1659. None of their children were baptized in the vicinity of Bromley, and their deaths were not recorded there. Henry King, the father, was buried at Bromley on 20 January 1661/2,<sup>33</sup> but he left no will or administration in the dioceses of Rochester, Canterbury, London, or in the Prerogative Court of Canterbury. Avis (Priest) King, his widow, was buried at Bromley on 29 November 1693, and also left no will or estate.<sup>34</sup> Given Rufus King's use of their coat of arms, a connection to this extended King family of Bromley is remotely possible but ultimately inconclusive.

#### JOHN KING'S PROFESSION AS A CLUE TO HIS ORIGIN

John King was described as a "cutler" and "sword cutler" in two Boston court writs dated 3 September 1717, the only contemporary evidence of his occupation.<sup>35</sup> Richard Bezdek makes no reference of John in his *American Swords & Sword Makers*, so apparently there are no known surviving examples of his work or mark.<sup>36</sup>

John may well have received training as a cutler prior to his coming to Boston. Cutlery was a highly skilled profession in England at this time, requiring apprenticeship and admission into one of two guilds. Already by the seventeenth century, Sheffield in the West Riding District of Yorkshire had become a major center for knife-making. One of its most venerable guilds, the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire,

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<sup>29</sup> Parish Church of Bromley, Kent, General Register 1558–1714, n.p., Kent County Record Office, Maidstone, Kent, England [DGS #4989989, image 190]).

<sup>30</sup> Bromley, Kent, Parish Register [note 29], image 276.

<sup>31</sup> Parish Church of Chelsfield, Kent, General Register 1538–1645, Kent County Record Office, Maidstone, Kent, England [DGS #4989994, especially images 509–12].

<sup>32</sup> See, for example, Herbert Charles Kirby, *Register of the Marriages, Christenings, and Burials in the Parish Church of All Saints, Orpington, in the County of Kent from 1560 to 1754* (London, 1895), 11, 14–15, 21–23, 32, 37, 59, 62. See also Parish Church of Hayes, Kent, 1539–1812, Kent County Record Office, Maidstone, Kent, England [DGS #4989839].

<sup>33</sup> Bromley, Kent, Parish Register [note 29], image 251.

<sup>34</sup> Bromley, Kent, Parish Register [note 29], image 14, Mrs. Avice King, widow.

<sup>35</sup> Suffolk Co., Mass., Court of Common Pleas, 1715–1718, pp. 231–32, Hannah Webber vs. John King, 3 Sept. 1717 [DGS #7896747, image 137].

<sup>36</sup> Richard H. Bezdek, *American Swords & Sword Makers*, 2 vols. (Boulder, Colo., 1994–99).

was chartered by an act of Parliament in 1624. Each year its members elected a master cutler and kept records of apprentices, who were raised to the rank of freeman upon mastery of the trade.<sup>37</sup> London, the other center of knife-making, had an even older guild, the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, chartered in 1416 as one of the ancient livery companies of the city, and also maintained membership and apprenticeship records.<sup>38</sup>

A King family resided in Sheffield at the right time to be John King's family, but a connection cannot be found. John King, the son of Henry King, was baptized at the Cathedral Church of St. Peter in Sheffield on 11 January 1645/6,<sup>39</sup> and was apprenticed as a cutler to John Pearson Jr. in 1660.<sup>40</sup> Becoming a master cutler, he married at Sheffield on 4 November 1673, Cicilia Jepson,<sup>41</sup> and is recorded as the father of at least eight children, including a son, John, baptized at Sheffield on 13 December 1677, and another son, Jonathan, on 1 January 1679/80.<sup>42</sup> Both sons were admitted as Freemen to the Company of Cutlers in 1699 and 1700 respectively.<sup>43</sup> The Sheffield register, however, includes the burial of "Johanes fil' Joh'is Kinge cutler de Sh[ef-field]" (or John son of John King, cutler) on 20 June 1700, thereby eliminating the younger John from consideration as the immigrant John King of Boston.<sup>44</sup> Jonathan King was buried on 16 September 1716, and thus can also be eliminated.<sup>45</sup>

The elder John became a non-conformist later in his life. Two of his latter-born children, Sarah and Joshua, were each baptized, respectively, in September 1687 and January 1691/2, both in the Anglican St. Peter's Cathedral and by the Rev. Timothy Jollie in the Upper Independent Presbyterian Chapel in Sheffield.<sup>46</sup> This fact suggests that the elder John was reform-minded and dissatisfied with the established church, and it would have made a place like Boston more attractive to his children than if he had been an ardent Anglican. He left a will dated 10 February 1714 and proved in the Prerogative and Exchequer Court of York on 20 June 1715.<sup>47</sup> In his will he named his daughter Sarah and her husband, Francis Renshaw, to whom he left three cottages that he had purchased from John Wildsmith. To his son Jonathan, who would die within two years, he left other cottages in Hargate near Sheffield Forest. Finally, to

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<sup>37</sup> "Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire," [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

<sup>38</sup> "Worshipful Company of Cutlers," [www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com).

<sup>39</sup> Charles Drury and T. Walter Hall, eds., *The Parish Register of Sheffield in the County of York* (York, England, 1918), Part 2, 198.

<sup>40</sup> Robert Eadon Leader, *History of the Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire in the County of York*, 2 vols. (Sheffield, 1906), 2:271.

<sup>41</sup> Drury and Hall, *Sheffield Parish Register* [note 39], Part 3, 236.

<sup>42</sup> Drury and Hall, *Sheffield Parish Register* [note 39], Part 3, 151, 158.

<sup>43</sup> Leader, *Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire* [note 40], 2:271.

<sup>44</sup> Drury and Hall, *Sheffield Parish Register* [note 39], Part 5, 65.

<sup>45</sup> Sheffield Cathedral Church of St. Peter and Paul, Yorkshire (Westriding), n.p. [image, findmypast.com].

<sup>46</sup> J. E. Manning, *History of Upper Chapel Sheffield* (Sheffield, 1900), 199; 202. See also Drury and Hall, *Sheffield Parish Register* [note 39], Part 4, 127, 144.

<sup>47</sup> Prerogative and Exchequer Court of York, Will Book 70:198–99 [DGS #8004730].

his son Joseph, he left 20 shillings but included an additional £20 to be paid to Joseph's children, not named, in £5 installments. These facts, considered together, would seem to rule out Sheffield being the origin of immigrant John King.

The records of the other contemporary knife-making guild, the Worshipful Company of Cutlers, are housed in the Guildhall Library in London. Records of apprenticeships of all London guilds have been indexed online as part of a database of livery company records under the heading, "London Apprenticeship Records, 1442–1850." John King, however, does not appear in these records as a cutler, and indeed there are no persons surnamed King among the cutler apprentices in the late seventeenth century.<sup>48</sup> The records show one John King, son of John of Holborn, Middlesex, apprenticed as an ironmonger in 1690. Another John King, son of James of Huntingdon, gentleman, was apprenticed as a founder to John Bowler on 17 August 1696. Yet another John King, son of John of Colney Street, Hertfordshire, yeoman, was apprenticed as a pewterer to John Warren on 7 November 1687. While whitesmiths were sometimes pewterers, none of the records seem to identify the Boston cutler and whitesmith.

This line of research fails to establish John King's origin, giving the researcher no specific place to look conclusively for his birth or parentage.

1 **JOHN<sup>1</sup> KING** was born in England say 1675, a calculated date based on the year of his first marriage and the birth date of his first wife.<sup>49</sup> He died at an unknown location after the baptism of his last known child in New North Church, Boston, on 23 May 1736, and possibly much later, perhaps in Maine.<sup>50</sup>

He married first, at First Church, Boston, by the Rev. Benjamin Wadsworth, on 14 September 1704, ELIZABETH WEBBER.<sup>51</sup> She was born probably in New Hampshire, circa 1677, the daughter of Richard and Lydia (Trickey) Webber,<sup>52</sup> and died in Boston 29 November 1715, aged "about 38 years," according to her gravestone in Copp's Hill Burying Ground.<sup>53</sup> John married second MARY STOWELL of

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<sup>48</sup> "London Apprenticeship Abstracts, 1442–1850," [www.findmypast.com](http://www.findmypast.com).

<sup>49</sup> Letter of Rufus King of Jamaica, N.Y. (grandson of John King), to Nathaniel King of Hamilton, N.Y., 10 June 1824, King Family Papers [note 1]. The letter was once owned by Rufus King's grandson, Charles R. King (Andalusia, Pa., 1884), who quoted from it in "Notes," *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* (MHGR) 1(1884):152.

<sup>50</sup> Thomas Bellows Wyman, comp., *New North Church, 1714–1799* (Baltimore, 1998), 70.

<sup>51</sup> Marriages within the Town of Boston, 1702–1708, p. 63, entry no. 15, 14 Sept. 1704; see also Jay Mack Holbrook, comp., *Marriages Registered in Boston, 1649–1800* (Oxford, Mass., 1984), p. 69, entry no. 92; holographic entries photocopied from an earlier, undated volume, evidently prepared by a Boston clerk, ca. 19th century [images, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com)]. The second source specifies that the marriage was by Wadsworth. The earlier source appears to be the holographic original record.

<sup>52</sup> Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Maine, 1928–39), 729.

<sup>53</sup> Gravestone photo, [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) #8448803. See also William H. Whitmore, *Graveyards of Boston, First Volume, Copp's Hill* (Albany, NY, 1878), 34, no. 647. Her epitaph shows that she was aged "about 38 years."



Newton, Massachusetts, their marriage intention recorded Boston, 2 April 1718.<sup>54</sup> No record of the marriage itself has been found. Mary was born in Newton say 1695 and was baptized with six siblings at Watertown, 20 November 1709, the daughter of David and Mary (Stedman) Stowell of Newton.<sup>55</sup> She was buried from the Second Congregational Church, in Scarborough, Maine, on 7 March 1779.<sup>56</sup>

In Boston, town records provide only brief glimpses of John's life. He did not own land or leave a probate record there. He rented a shop on Fish Street from Dr. Clarks and paid a yearly rent of £5 on 26 June 1707.<sup>57</sup> On 8 March 1707[8], the selectmen appointed "John King, Edward Edwards, Winsor Golding, and James Howard Jr. . . . to Serve as Hoggreeves for the year ensuing."<sup>58</sup> The position required the men to impound stray hogs that fed on garbage in Boston's streets and were deemed a public nuisance. On 14 March 1708[9], John received a second appointment for the same position, joining William Gould, Nathaniel Aires, and John Nichols, shopkeeper.<sup>59</sup> No additional appointments followed, and his disappearance from other records is not explained.

Elizabeth Webber's parents, Richard Webber and Lydia (Trickey), were not, as claimed by Pitman, John and Elizabeth Webber, who had a different Elizabeth born in Boston, 25 January 1677/8.<sup>60</sup> Richard Webber resided in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, as early as 1669, working as a butcher and keeping a tavern there in 1678 and

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<sup>54</sup> Boston Marriage Publications, 1713–1728, Book 2:91, entry no. 7 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>55</sup> W. H. H. Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy: A Record of the Descendants of Samuel Stowell of Hingham, Mass.* (Rutland, Vt., 1922), 32, 49. This book shows Mary's death on 7 March 1770, an erroneous date.

<sup>56</sup> Records of the Second Church, Scarborough, Maine, 1744–1830, p. 53 (verso), Maine Historical Society, Portland, Coll. 1226 [digital images at DGS #7834702]. See also Records of Second Church, Scarborough, Maine, abstracted by A. K. P. Meserve, "King-Southgate," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (NEHGR) 38(1884):342.

Erroneous claims have appeared in print that suggest John was identical to the John King who married Sarah Allen in Boston on 23 March 1714 by the Rev. Samuel Miles, a local Presbyterian minister (Frederick A. Virkus, *The Compendium of American Genealogy*, 7 vols. [Chicago, 1925–42], 7:786. See also William Morrell Emery, *The Families of Perkins, King, and Fairfield* [San Francisco, 1907], 47). This John, the only other adult of this name to appear in the first two decades of Boston vital records, died at Palmer, Hampden County, Massachusetts, in April 1744, in the 63rd year of his age, and was declared "the first settler of the town of Palmer" (*Vital Records of Palmer, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston, 1905], 219). His tombstone in Oak Knoll Cemetery preserves his death date and also cites the death of his son, Benjamin, by Indians (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #48425076). His widow Sarah died there 1 January 1762, with her tombstone describing her as the relict of Mr. John King, in her 71st year (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #126291821).

<sup>57</sup> *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston: Containing Miscellaneous Papers*, Boston Record Commissioners' Report, 10(Boston, 1886) 124.

<sup>58</sup> *Report of the Record Commissioners of the City of Boston: Containing the Boston Records from 1700 to 1728*, Boston Rec. Comm. Report, 8(Boston, 1883):46.

<sup>59</sup> *Boston Records from 1700 to 1728* [note 58], 60.

<sup>60</sup> Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* [note 6], 78.



1681, about the time Elizabeth was born.<sup>61</sup> Perhaps John's cutlery trade brought him into contact with Elizabeth's butcher father, who undoubtedly purchased knives. Webber made his will on 24 February 1719/20 (nearly four years after Elizabeth's death). Describing himself as a butcher, he included a bequest of five shillings to his grandson, John King, whose place of residence was not stated.<sup>62</sup> The will also listed another grandson, John Webber; a granddaughter, Mary Bickam; a daughter, Hannah; and a daughter, Abigail, all of whom received bequests of five shillings each. The remainder of the estate, including house, land, wharf, and "Wharfeidge" he left to his wife, Lydia.

Elizabeth was admitted as a member of New North Church, Boston, on 31 July 1715, shortly before her death.<sup>63</sup> On 3 September 1717, Hannah Webber, spinster, of Boston, Elizabeth's sister, brought two writs against John King of Boston, cutler, for debt.<sup>64</sup> In the first, she claimed that that John "neglects and refuses to pay to the plai[ntif]f the Sum of Eight pounds one shilling and ten pence justly due and owing" to the plaintiff. She demanded total damages of twelve pounds. John did not appear, and the court decided in Hannah's favor, but only for the sum of eight pounds, one shilling and ten pence. In the second writ brought at the same time and recorded sequentially in the court minutes, Hannah claimed that John, now described as a "sword cutler," owed her an additional seven pounds, fifteen shillings, three pence.<sup>65</sup> Again, John was "solemnly called to come into court" but did not appear, and the court rendered judgment for Hannah in this amount. The two court records remain the only formal contemporary records of John's occupation.

John married his second wife, Mary Stowell, sometime after 2 April 1718, the date on which they recorded their intention in Boston.<sup>66</sup> He was of Boston and she of Newton. Her father, David Stowell, had been a weaver in Newton, the son of the immigrant Samuel Stowell, and died there on 9 September 1724, aged 64, without a will or probate record.<sup>67</sup> William Henry Harrison Stowell, who studied the Newton records extensively, concluded that David was married twice, first to Mary Champney, with whom he had two children, Samuel and Ruth, and second to Mary Stedman, daughter of Nathaniel and Temperance (—) Stedman, with whom he had eight children: David, Mary, Jonathan, John, Nathaniel, Josiah, Benjamin, and Elizabeth. All of them, except the youngest, Elizabeth, were baptized together at Second Church of

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<sup>61</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 52], 729.

<sup>62</sup> N.H. Provincial Probate Records, 9:211 [image, "New Hampshire, Wills and Probate Records, 1643-1982," ancestry.com].

<sup>63</sup> New North Church, Boston, Baptisms, Marriages, Deaths, 1714–1797, p. 2, Admission of Jeremiah Belcher, William Owen, Elizabeth King, 31 July 1715 [DGS #7902342]. See also Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>64</sup> Suffolk Co. Court of Common Pleas, 1715–1718, pp. 231–32 [note 35].

<sup>65</sup> Suffolk Co. Court of Common Pleas, 1715–1718, p. 232 [note 35].

<sup>66</sup> Boston Marriage Publications, 1713–1728, 2: 91, entry no. 7 [note 54].

<sup>67</sup> Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 28, 32.

Watertown on 20 November 1709.<sup>68</sup> When Benjamin died unmarried at Newton, the Middlesex County court granted administration to his brother, John, on 22 December 1729, with Samuel Stowell of Watertown, clothier, as surety.<sup>69</sup> Two years later on 11 February 1730/1, the court instructed John Stowell to notify the other heirs, and he recorded on the back of an order that he had notified Samuel Stowell, Ruth Osborn, and Mary King.<sup>70</sup>

The date of John and Mary's marriage intention in April 1718 poses an evidentiary problem regarding the birth of their eldest and most prominent child, Richard King. He is alleged to have been born in Boston in 1718 and is proven to have died in Scarborough, Maine, on 27 March 1775, either aged "57," an age that also suggests 1717 or 1718 as a birth date,<sup>71</sup> or "in his 57<sup>th</sup> year," which more solidly affirms 1718.<sup>72</sup> The second child of John and Mary, a daughter Mary, was born in Boston on 8 June 1719.<sup>73</sup> Thus, if Mary (Stowell) became pregnant with her daughter in early September 1718 after marrying only five months earlier, there is little time for Richard to have been born—and no time to be conceived—within his parents' period of wedlock. By this reckoning then, Richard must have been conceived out of wedlock and born either illegitimately or shortly after the marriage. Perhaps for this reason, his birth was never recorded. It also remains puzzling that he was not baptized with his siblings at the time his parents joined Boston's New North Church in 1725.<sup>74</sup> It also calls into question whether John King was even the biological father of Richard, given that Richard did not give the name John to any of his children.

The question arises further as to whether John and Mary attempted to conceal the circumstances of Richard's birth. Fornication was a crime in Massachusetts Bay in the early eighteenth century. The county Courts of General Sessions had jurisdiction over such matters, and couples adjudged guilty of having sexual relations before marriage received routine fines. A comprehensive search of the records of Suffolk, Middlesex, Essex, and Plymouth counties fails to show that John and Mary King suffered any judgment for their indiscretion, or that Mary Stowell individually was charged

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<sup>68</sup> Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 32.

<sup>69</sup> Middlesex Co., Mass., Probate #15585, cited in Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 28–29.

<sup>70</sup> Middlesex Co., Mass., Probate #15585, cited in Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 28–29.

<sup>71</sup> James H. Wick, comp., *Vital Records of Scarborough, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2011), 159, citing original Scarborough "Births and Deaths, 1690–1873," manuscript p. 1. Charles R. King, in his "Notes," MHGR 1(1884):151, states that Richard died "in his 57<sup>th</sup> year." His burial in Second Church, Scarborough, affirms the date but not his age; see Meserve, "King-Southgate" [note 56], NEHGR 38(1884):342. A memorial of Richard King and his sons, erected many years after Richard's death in Scarborough, Maine, includes both the birth date of 1718 and the death date of 1775; see Cutter, *Gen. and Fam. History of Connecticut* [note 7], 2:1004–5.

<sup>72</sup> Richard King unpublished obituary 28 March 1775, Erving-King Papers, Box 1, Folder 4, New-York Historical Society.

<sup>73</sup> Boston Births Entered Anno 1719, 203, line no. 27, "Mary, daughter of John King and Mary his wife" [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>74</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

with giving birth to a bastard.<sup>75</sup> If Mary had delivered Richard in some location away from Boston or Watertown and then returned to marry John, then perhaps the couple was able to successfully conceal their premarital indiscretion from the authorities. John was, after all, a widower with other living small children. While most King genealogists seem to support the 1718 date for Richard's birth, at least one has expressed doubt about the circumstances surrounding it, alleging that Richard might not have been John's biological son.<sup>76</sup>

Much circumstantial evidence exists to support the view that Richard was indeed Mary (Stowell) King's son. Mary went to live with Richard in her old age,<sup>77</sup> and she was buried from Second Congregational Church, Scarborough, on 7 March 1779, the same church that Richard and his family attended.<sup>78</sup> As a young man, Richard, then of Watertown, joined Samuel and John Stowell, his maternal uncles, in obtaining grants of land in Township No. 4 in what would eventually become Paris, Maine.<sup>79</sup> Richard would later purchase land in Saco from his brother, David King, a proven son of John and Mary, though the deed did not delineate their relationship.<sup>80</sup> David's daughter, Sarah or "Salla" Alden King, recorded her intention to marry her husband, John Hayes, in Scarborough on 20 March 1789, even though none of her immediate family resided there.<sup>81</sup> Collectively, these records support a network of family ties connecting the Scarborough and Saco King families and uniting them under Mary (Stowell). A definitive answer of whether John was Richard's biological father cannot be answered without Y-DNA evidence from his patrilineal descendants and those of his brother, David, which this author has been unable to obtain.

The fate of John after 1736 remains a mystery. On 3 March 1735/6, John King of Fish Street petitioned the Boston selectmen for a license to "retail Strong Liquors out of Doors," but his petition, along with several others, was disallowed.<sup>82</sup> This fact leads to speculation that he left the area soon afterward in order to sell alcohol in some other place. One writer claimed that he spent time at Watertown and Scarborough, Maine, and died in 1744, but he offered no evidence.<sup>83</sup> He was not listed in

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<sup>75</sup> An examination was made of the Suffolk County General Court of Sessions minute books, 1712–1719, and there is no record of either John King or Mary Stowell.

<sup>76</sup> Laura M. Cooper, "Munson, Underwood, Fairfield, Horn, and Allied Families" [online, <http://brazoriaroots.com/p6995.htm>].

<sup>77</sup> Ernst, *Rufus King: American Federalist* [note 9], 6.

<sup>78</sup> Scarborough 2nd Church records [note 56], p. 53 (verso); see also "King-Southgate," NEHGR 38(1884):342.

<sup>79</sup> Rufus King, "King, Hyde, Stowell, Sawyer," NEHGR 48(1894):14; see also Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 50. See also William B. Lapham and Silas P. Maxim, *History of Paris, Maine, from Its First Settlement to 1880* (Paris, Maine, 1884), 24.

<sup>80</sup> York Co., Maine, Deeds, 38:210, David and Elizabeth King to Richard King, 16 Sept. 1765.

<sup>81</sup> Wick, *Vital Records of Scarborough* [note 71], 139.

<sup>82</sup> *Report of the Commissioners of the City of Boston, Containing a Record of the Records of the Boston Selectmen, 1716 to 1736*, Boston Rec. Comm. Report, 13(Boston, 1885):287–88.

<sup>83</sup> Virkus, *Compendium of American Genealogy* [note 56], 6:786.

Boston in the *Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771*, which suggests that he had either died or left the area by that date.<sup>84</sup>

The names of the children of our subject, John King, with the exception of his son Richard, can all be found in the town vital records of Boston. The children from his first marriage to Elizabeth are found in the official birth records as well as the baptismal registers of Old North (Christ) Church, while those from his marriage to Mary Stowell, except Richard, can be found partly in Boston town records and partly in the baptismal records of New North Church.<sup>85</sup>

One of John and Mary (Stowell) King's daughters was blind and was taken in by one of her brothers in middle or old age. Dorcas<sup>4</sup> King Leland (1799–1862), the unmarried daughter of Richard<sup>2</sup> King's daughter Dorcas<sup>3</sup> (King) Leland, left a family memoir in 1848 in which she recalled the following tradition:

An aged & blind sister of my Grandfather, who had the reputation of being a Witch, was rescued by him from the ill treatment she had received in a brother's family & received to his own home, with strict injunctions upon every member of his household to treat her with kindness. I need not add that under the influence of such treatment, all signs of witchcraft disappeared. My Grandfather was above the ignorant & cruel superstition of his times.<sup>86</sup>

The identity of this sister is not known, and her death is not recorded at Scarborough, Maine, in either its town or church records. Dorcas would not have known this great-aunt and likely heard the story from her mother. Given that the aunt was blind and aged, she was apparently single or widowed without children. This fact would seemingly rule out Mary (King) Grandy and Martha (King) (Swan) Kneeland, both of whom had children, and Rebecca (King) Welch, who died in Boston. Perhaps she was Lydia (King) Pritchard, from John's first marriage, or perhaps more likely Sarah King from his second marriage. The identity of the abusive brother is also unknown, but he seems to have had a family, which suggests either David or Josiah.

Children of John<sup>1</sup> King and first wife, Elizabeth (Webber), b. Boston:

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<sup>84</sup> Bettye Hobbs Pruitt, *Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771* (Camden, Maine, 1978), 863.

<sup>85</sup> Stowell adds another daughter, Mehitable King, but offers no evidence for her placement and confuses her with Martha (King) (Swan) Kneeland, who d. at Saco in 1810 (Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 53). Both women married men named John Kneeland, which no doubt resulted in the confusion. The parentage of Mehitable King is unknown, and her birth is not recorded in the Boston records. She married John Kneeland (1694–1774) in Boston, 9 Dec. 1735, as his 2nd wife, and the date suggests a birth year of say 1710 (Stillman Foster Kneeland, *Seven Centuries in the Kneeland Family* [New York, 1897], 54). They had three known children: Benjamin, b. 20 Jan. 1737; Mehitable, b. 23 March 1738; and Mary, b. 19 Oct. 1740 (ibid.). She was deceased by the time Kneeland married a 4th time, to Abigail Martin, on 23 Dec. 1743 (ibid., 55).

<sup>86</sup> Dorcas King Leland, "Sketch of My Grandmother King," Bath, Maine, 14 Jan. 1848, transcript by unknown writer in the Erving-King Papers, Box 23, Folder K48; New-York Historical Society.

- i JOHN<sup>2</sup> KING, b. 2 Jan. 1705/6,<sup>87</sup> and bp. Old North Church, 6 Jan. 1705/6;<sup>88</sup> living on 24 Feb. 1719/20, when he inherited 5s. in his grandfather Richard Webber's will.<sup>89</sup>
- ii ELIZABETH KING, b. 13 Jan. 1706/7,<sup>90</sup> and bp. Old North Church, 19 Jan. 1706/7.<sup>91</sup> Perhaps she was one of the unnamed children of John whose deaths were recorded in the Boston "Old Sexton Bills" (see below).
- iii WILLIAM KING, b. 31 Aug. 1709,<sup>92</sup> and bp. Old North Church, 4 Sept. 1709,<sup>93</sup> d. Boston, poss. 3 Dec. 1718, and recorded in "Old Sexton's Bills" as an unnamed child of John King.<sup>94</sup> It can be reasoned that this was William instead of Richard, who also died young, since this child lived within the time period of the second Richard, below.
- iv RICHARD KING b. 25 Oct. 1711,<sup>95</sup> and bp. Old North Church, 28 Oct. 1711,<sup>96</sup> d. Boston, prob. 16 Jan. 1714/5, and likely recorded in "Old Sexton's Bills" as an unnamed child of John King.<sup>97</sup> It can be reasoned that this was Richard, since his death preceded the birth of the second Richard in 1718, but that attribution cannot be stated with certainty.
- v LYDIA KING, b. 19 Jan. 1713/4,<sup>98</sup> no record of baptism; poss. the Lydia King who m. (int.) (1) Boston, 23 April 1739, SAMUEL PRITCHARD of Boston.<sup>99</sup> No children are recorded in Boston for this couple, and no death record for Samuel or Lydia can

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<sup>87</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1705, p. 95, line 25, John King, "2 Jan<sup>y</sup> 1705" [slash date not shown, but it is grouped with other births from previous months also from 1705] [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>88</sup> Old North Church baptismal records cited in Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* [note 6], 78.

<sup>89</sup> N.H. Province Probate Records, 9:211 [DGS #7636240].

<sup>90</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1709, p. 121, line 13 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com]. This volume represents the earliest, original recording. The entering of this date late in 1709, with scattered other births also from an earlier date, suggests that the birth was reported well after it occurred. This has caused some confusion in other compilations of Boston vital records, where Elizabeth's birth is mistakenly recorded as 1709; see for example, "Boston Births, 1700–1711," [a holographic copy compiled possibly in the 19th century], n.p. [image 116, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>91</sup> Old North Church baptismal records cited in Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* [note 6], 78.

<sup>92</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1709, p. 121, line 14, entered next to the 1706 entry for his sister, Elizabeth [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>93</sup> Old North Church baptismal records cited in Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* [note 6], 78.

<sup>94</sup> "Deaths Registered in the City of Boston (Listed Alphabetically) from 1700 to 1800 Inclusive," [printed register with typescript entries], n.p. [image p. 196], line 2 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com]. William H. H. Stowell concludes that this Richard died when three years old (Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 49).

<sup>95</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1711, p. 138, line 15 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>96</sup> Old North Church baptismal records cited in Pitman, *Boyd-Patterson Ancestry* [note 6], 78.

<sup>97</sup> "Deaths Registered in the City of Boston (Listed Alphabetically) from 1700 to 1800 Inclusive," [printed register with typescript entries], n.p. [digital p. 196], line 2 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>98</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1713, p. 154, line 28 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>99</sup> Boston Marriage Publications, Book 3, 1728–1741, p. 221, entry 2 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].



be found there. Lydia was perhaps the Lydia Pritchard who m. (int.) (2) Boston 16 June 1749, DAVID OBRIANT of Boston.<sup>100</sup> No further record.

Child of Mary (Stowell), possibly with John King, possibly b. Boston:

- 2 vi RICHARD KING (again), b. ca. 1718, out of wedlock;<sup>101</sup> m. (1) SEBELLA [ISABELLA] BRAGDON; (2) MARY BLACK.

Children of John King and Mary (Stowell), b. and bp. Boston:

- vii MARY KING, b. 8 June 1719,<sup>102</sup> and bp. New North Church, 27 June 1725,<sup>103</sup> d. apparently at Biddeford, according to Charles R. King, who wrote “Mrs. Grundy [*sic*] . . . in her old age lived in Biddeford, Me.”<sup>104</sup> She m. Boston, 25 June 1738, JOSEPH GRANDY of Boston.<sup>105</sup> He was b. say 1710 of unknown parentage. His date and place of death also remain unknown. He is shown as “Granby” in some sources, but this is an error.<sup>106</sup> After her marriage, Mary Grandy affirmed the covenant of the New North Church, 23 Sept. 1739, and was admitted into membership, 12 April 1741.<sup>107</sup>

Children of Joseph<sup>2</sup> and Mary (King) Grandy, bp. New North Church, Boston:<sup>108</sup>

- 1 John<sup>3</sup> Grandy, b. 22 Oct. 1739,<sup>109</sup> and bp. 28 Oct. 1739, d. prob. Boston before 1750, when his brother of the same name was baptized.
- 2 Mary Grandy, bp. 11 Oct. 1741.
- 3 Katharine Grandy, bp. 18 Sept. 1743; she m. at First Congregational Church, Biddeford, 28 Sept. 1762, John Patterson Jr.<sup>110</sup> On 18 Sept. 1763, John and Katharine renewed their covenant to the church.<sup>111</sup> In a deed dated 14 Dec. 1779, John Patterson, mariner, and Robert Patterson, yeoman, both of Pepperellborough, sold to John Googins a tract of 41 acres, “being one fifth part of two hundred acres at the Old Orchard so called,” previously owned by John Patterson, deceased.<sup>112</sup> On 10 July 1780, the York Co. court ordered the division of the estate of John Patterson [Sr.] of Pepperellborough, with Tristram

<sup>100</sup> Boston Marriage Publications, Book 4, 1741– , p. 167, entry no. 5 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>101</sup> King, “Notes,” MHGR 1(1884):151.

<sup>102</sup> Boston Births entered Anno 1719, p. 203, line 27 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>103</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 13; Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>104</sup> King, “Richard King,” MHGR 1(1884):152.

<sup>105</sup> Boston Marriages Anno. 1737, p. 192, line 5 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>106</sup> Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 53.

<sup>107</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 51.

<sup>108</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>109</sup> Boston Births Entered 1739, p. 407, line 10 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>110</sup> John D. Beatty, comp., *Vital Records of Biddeford, Maine, Prior to 1856* (Camden, Maine, 1998), 109, citing the records of First Congregational Church, Biddeford, p. 339.

<sup>111</sup> *Records of the Town of Pepperellborough, Now the City of Saco, Maine*, 2nd ed. (Rockport, Maine, 1998), 254.

<sup>112</sup> York Co. Deeds, 59:26. The deed was executed 14 Dec. 1779 and recorded 2 Feb. 1796.

Jordan, Samuel Scammon, and Paul Hussey making the division.<sup>113</sup> John Patterson was described as the “eldest son” and received the homestead farm and the widow’s dower, except for 15 acres on the northeast end of the farm that went to Robert Patterson, the 2nd son. On 10 Oct. 1780, John Jr. was ordered to pay £22.6.8 to his other siblings, including James Patterson, Abraham Patterson, Daniel Patterson, Margaret, wife of Jeremiah Browne, Elizabeth, wife of Moses Deshon, Mary, wife of Ezra Dearborn, and Jane, wife of Simon Browne. In 1790 John was living in Pepperellborough in a household with four males 16 and above, none below 16, and 6 females.<sup>114</sup> John’s death from “putrid bilious fever” at “West India” on 23 July 1796 was also reported in the *Kennebec Intelligencer* on 16 Sept. 1796, aged “about 60.”<sup>115</sup> John and Katharine had 6 children all bp. at First Church of Christ, Pepperellborough.<sup>116</sup>

4 *Joseph Grandy*, bp. 22 June 1746, d. prob. Boston before 1752.

5 *John Grandy*, bp. 7 Oct. 1750.

6 *Joseph Grandy*, bp. 22 Dec. 1752.

viii SARAH KING, b. 27 Feb. 1720/1,<sup>117</sup> and bp. New North Church, 27 June 1725.<sup>118</sup>

Perhaps she was the sister (cited above) who was treated as a witch by an unidentified brother until being taken in by her eldest brother, Richard, in which case she likely died at Scarborough, Maine.

4 ix WILLIAM KING (again), bp. New North Church, 27 June 1725,<sup>119</sup> d. Boston, 20 June 1768, aged 43.<sup>120</sup> He m. (int.) Boston, 6 Nov. 1751, MARY GOLDTHWAIT of Boston.<sup>121</sup> She was born about 1736, the daughter of Benjamin Goldthwait, merchant and soldier, and wife Charity (Edwards).<sup>122</sup> She was likely the Mrs. Mary King, whose death was reported in Boston in May 1800 in the 64th year of her age.<sup>123</sup> Spooner calls him a sea captain,<sup>124</sup> but little else is known about him, and he did not own land. His tombstone in Copp’s Hill Burial Ground in Boston reads: “Here lyes buried y<sup>e</sup> body of Capt. William King died June 20<sup>th</sup> 1768 aged 43 years. Also William King son to Captain William King and Mrs. Mary King died April 7<sup>th</sup> 1767 aged 14.”<sup>125</sup>

<sup>113</sup> York Co. Probate Records, 13:195–97 [DGS #7600386, images 217–18].

<sup>114</sup> John Patterson household, 1790 U.S. Census, Pepperellborough, York Co., Maine, p. 352 (handwritten), col. 1, line 35.

<sup>115</sup> David C. Young and Elizabeth Keene Young, *Vital Records from Maine Newspapers, 1785–1820* (Bowie, Md., 1993), 456. See also Beatty, *Biddeford VRs* [note 110], 322.

<sup>116</sup> *Pepperellborough Records* [note 111], 260, 264, 265, 370, 271 277, 245.

<sup>117</sup> Boston Births from 1721 to 1733, p. 270, line 16 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>118</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 13; Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>119</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 22.

<sup>120</sup> Thomas Bridgman, *Epitaphs from Copp’s Hill Burial Ground, with Notes* (Boston and Cambridge, 1851), 100.

<sup>121</sup> Boston Marriages Anno 1751, p. 214, line 10 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

<sup>122</sup> Charlotte Goldthwaite, *Goldthwaite Genealogy: Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite, an Early Settler of Salem, Massachusetts* (Hartford, 1899), 86.

<sup>123</sup> *Columbian Phenix and Boston Review* 1(Boston, 1800):387.

<sup>124</sup> Spooner, “King Family” [note 5], 262.

<sup>125</sup> Bridgman, *Epitaphs from Copp’s Hill Burial Ground* [note 120], 100.

Child of William<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Goldthwait) King:

- 1 William<sup>3</sup> King, b. ca. 1753; d. Boston 7 April 1767, aged 14.<sup>126</sup>
- x DAVID KING, bp. New North Church, 21 Aug. 1726,<sup>127</sup> d. Saco, 11 March 1807.<sup>128</sup> He m. First Church of Christ, Biddeford, 12 March 1762, ELIZABETH GRAY of Biddeford.<sup>129</sup> For his family, see *Maine Families in 1790*, vol. 12.<sup>130</sup>
- xi REBECCA KING, bp. New North Church, 10 Nov. 1728,<sup>131</sup> d. Boston, 23 Oct. 1767, and buried in Copp's Hill Burial Ground. Her tombstone, now lost, read: "Here lies y<sup>e</sup> Body of Mrs. Rebekah Welch, Widow to Mr. William [*sic*] Welch, & Dau<sup>r</sup> of Mr. John & Mrs. Mary King of this town, died Oct<sup>r</sup> 23, 1767, in y<sup>e</sup> 38<sup>th</sup> year of her age."<sup>132</sup> In spite of the naming of "William" Welch, Rebecca m. Boston, 23 April 1747, LUKE WELCH of Boston.<sup>133</sup> Their intention was published on 10 March 1746/7.<sup>134</sup>
- 5 xii JOSIAH KING, bp. New North Church, 4 April 1731;<sup>135</sup> d. Boston, 24 March 1786, according to his epitaph in Copp's Hill Burial Ground (now lost), aged "58" [*sic*] years.<sup>136</sup> He m. Christ Church (Old North Church), Boston, 21 Oct. 1757, MARY CANNOR<sup>137</sup> or CONNOR<sup>138</sup> of Boston. He may have m. (2) Boston, 5 Jan. 1784, ABIGAIL TOP.<sup>139</sup> [Perhaps she was Abigail Dickinson, who had previously m. John Montague Topp in Boston on 10 Dec. 1772.<sup>140</sup>] Josiah (poss.) m. (3) Boston 7 Jan. 1785, MARY GLEASON.<sup>141</sup> There is little evidence of Josiah's life in Boston's records, other than that he attended New North Church and baptized his children with Mary Connor there. He was a rigger and was assessed in Boston in the Massachusetts Tax Valuation of 1771 on one poll with a house or adjoining shop, paying a total of

<sup>126</sup> Bridgman, *Epitaphs from Copp's Hill Burial Ground* [note 120], 100. See also Whitmore, *Graveyards of Boston* [note 53], 52. This latter work shows William Jr.'s age as 14 years, while Bridgman's work does not.

<sup>127</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 157; Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>128</sup> *Pepperellborough Records* [note 111], 215.

<sup>129</sup> Beatty, *Biddeford VRs* [note 110], 109, citing First Church of Christ Register, p. 338.

<sup>130</sup> John D. Beatty, "David King," in Joseph Crook Anderson II, *Maine Families in 1790*, 12 vols. to date (1988–2021), 12:377–79.

<sup>131</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 179.

<sup>132</sup> Whitmore, *Graveyards of Boston* [note 53], 34, no. 649.

<sup>133</sup> Register of Marriages Transcribed in 1851 from the Records of Kings Chapel, p. 105, line 6 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>134</sup> *Boston Marriages, 1700–1751*, Boston Rec. Comm. Report, 28(Boston, 1898):285.

<sup>135</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 13; Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>136</sup> Whitmore, *Graveyards of Boston* [note 53], 53. This stone was evidently broken, since subsequent transcriptions of Copp's Hill do not provide Josiah's date of death or age.

<sup>137</sup> Boston Marriages Anno 1757, p. 335, line 3 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>138</sup> Christ Church, Boston, Marriages, p. 90, line 7 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com]. Stowell calls her "Cannon," which is erroneous (Stowell, *Stowell Genealogy* [note 55], 53).

<sup>139</sup> Marriages Registered in Boston [no date], p. 375, last line [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>140</sup> Marriages in Boston from 1763 to 1776, p. 36, line 10 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

<sup>141</sup> Boston Marriages, p. 119, line 27 [image, "Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com].

£16.<sup>142</sup> Though several men named Josiah King served Massachusetts during the Revolutionary War, there is no record that Josiah King of Boston was among them. He does not appear to have owned land and did not leave a will or probate record. A notice of his estate settlement was placed in the *Boston Gazette* by Rebecca Hiler, his daughter and administratrix: “All persons indebted to or that have any demands on the estate of Mr. Josiah King, late of Boston, rigger, deceas’d, are desired to apply to Rebecca Hiler, Administratrix of said Estate, in order for a speedy settlement.”<sup>143</sup>

Children of Josiah<sup>2</sup> and Mary (Connor) King, bp. New North Church, Boston:<sup>144</sup>

1 *Mary/Polly*<sup>3</sup> King [twin], bp. 11 Dec. 1757. She m. New North Church, Boston, 19 Nov. 1776, William Symmes.<sup>145</sup> He was recorded on the census at Boston in 1790 with a male 16+, two males under 16, and 4 females.<sup>146</sup>

2 *Elisabeth King* [twin], bp. 11 Dec. 1757.

3 *Sarah King*, bp. 11 Jan. 1761, d. bef. Nov. 1762.

4 *Sarah King*, bp. 21 Nov. 1762.

5 *Rebecca King*, bp. 6 May 1764; m. New North Church, Boston, 9 March 1786, George Hiler/Heyler.<sup>147</sup> He is probably the same who d. Boston 2 Oct. 1814, aged 49, of “fits.”<sup>148</sup>

xiii MARTHA KING, bp. New North Church, 2 Sept. 1733;<sup>149</sup> d. Saco, as “Widow Kneeland,” 15 May 1810,<sup>150</sup> or 16 May 1810, according to her gravestone in Pepperell Park, Saco.<sup>151</sup> She m. (1) New North Church, Boston, 13 Oct. 1757, BENJAMIN SWAN of Boston.<sup>152</sup> His parentage is uncertain, though he could be the Benjamin Swan, b. Cambridge, Mass., 20 April 1733, son of Ebenezer and Bathsheba (Grant) Swan.<sup>153</sup> He d. before 1772. Martha m. (2) Boston, 30 Aug. 1772, JOHN KNEELAND of Boston.<sup>154</sup> He was not the John Kneeland, b. Boston, 4 Sept. 1729, son of Samuel and Mary (Alden) Kneeland,<sup>155</sup> who m. (int.) Boston, 17 April 1760, Abigail Adams of Milton.<sup>156</sup> That John d. suddenly in Boston, 3 March 1795,

<sup>142</sup> Pruitt, *Massachusetts Tax Valuation of 1771* [note 84], 10–11, #1227.

<sup>143</sup> *Boston Gazette*, 8 May 1786, p. 3.

<sup>144</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>145</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>146</sup> Will<sup>m</sup> Symmes household, 1790 U.S. Census, Boston, Suffolk Co., Mass., p. 40 (handwritten), col. 3, line 24.

<sup>147</sup> Wyman, *New North Church* [note 50], 70.

<sup>148</sup> Deaths and Interments in Boston, 1810–1848, G–O, n.p., line 7 [image, “Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988, ancestry.com].

<sup>149</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 189.

<sup>150</sup> *Pepperellborough Records* [note 111], 217.

<sup>151</sup> Maine, Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980 [DGS #7586612, image 532].

<sup>152</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 6, line 24.

<sup>153</sup> Thomas W. Baldwin, comp., *Vital Records of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1914–15), 1:685.

<sup>154</sup> Boston Marriages 1761–1809, vol. 12: 24, line 10 [image, “Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988, ancestry.com].

<sup>155</sup> *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, 16, Part 3: John Alden, by Esther Littleford Woodworth-Barnes (Plymouth, 2004), 41–42.

<sup>156</sup> Boston Marriage Intentions, Anno 1760, 5:12, line 13 [image, “Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988,” ancestry.com].

according to a citation from an unknown Connecticut newspaper.<sup>157</sup> Probate records show that his wife, Abigail, was still living in 1790, when she was named in the probate administration of her brother, John Adams of Milton.<sup>158</sup> Further, this John Kneeland was not one of the two sons of this name of John Kneeland (1694–1774), who had among his four wives his 2nd wife, Mehitable King.<sup>159</sup> The earlier son John was dead by 1751, and the younger son, John Kneeland Jr., an auctioneer, was born in 1754, died in Boston in 1790, and m. 1 Nov. 1778, Grace Perkins.<sup>160</sup> Two men named John Kneeland in Boston were assessed in the Mass. Tax Valuation of 1771, perhaps the father and son.<sup>161</sup> Another John Kneeland was in Boston in 1790, likely the son of Samuel and Mary (Alden) Kneeland (above), who died in 1795. His household included a male of 16+, a male below 16, and two females.<sup>162</sup> Charles Ray King identified David King, Mrs. Grandy (whom he called “Grundy”), and “a third [daughter], Mrs. — Kneeland, who lived with her daughter, Mrs. — Chadwick, until her death, also at Biddeford.”<sup>163</sup> Another sketch states: “The sisters were named Grandy and Kneeland, both widows, and always known as the ‘English ladies’ because of their stately bearing, and from having ‘come from England’ [sic].”<sup>164</sup>

Child of Benjamin and Martha<sup>2</sup> (King) Swan, b. Boston:

1 Mary<sup>3</sup> Swan, b. say 1765, d. Saco, 22 June 1814.<sup>165</sup> She m. (int.) Biddeford, 2 May 1789, John Chadwick.<sup>166</sup> He was of Biddeford in 1790 and 1800.<sup>167</sup>

xiv KATHERINE KING, bp. New North Church, 23 May 1736;<sup>168</sup> d. no record.

(to be continued)

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<sup>157</sup> “Connecticut Newspaper Notices,” 1:47 [image “Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices,” ancestry.com].

<sup>158</sup> *Mayflower Fams. 5 Gens.*: Alden, Part 3 [note 155], 42.

<sup>159</sup> Kneeland, *Seven Centuries in the Kneeland Family* [note 85], 54–55.

<sup>160</sup> Kneeland, *Seven Centuries in the Kneeland Family* [note 85], 55.

<sup>161</sup> Pruitt, *Massachusetts Tax Valuation of 1771* [note 84], 22 (#2623) and 42 (#5014).

<sup>162</sup> John Kneeland household, 1790 U. S. Census, Boston, Suffolk Co., Mass., p. 43 (handwritten), col. 3, line 39.

<sup>163</sup> King, “Richard King,” MHGR 1(1884):152.

<sup>164</sup> Anonymous, “Notes,” MHGR 2(1885):59.

<sup>165</sup> *Pepperellborough Records* [note 111], 221.

<sup>166</sup> Beatty, *Biddeford VRs* [note 110], 124, 136.

<sup>167</sup> John Chadwick household, 1790 U.S. Census, Biddeford, York Co., Maine, p. 277 (handwritten), col. 1, line 10; John Chadwick household, 1800 U.S. Census, Biddeford, York Co., Maine, p. 937 (handwritten), line 1.

<sup>168</sup> New North Church, Boston [note 63], p. 200.



## SARAH, WIFE OF JAMES GRINNELL OF UNION, MAINE

### Where Was She Born?

*By Stephen LeBel*

Researching Zenas Lothrop's life has been a pet project for several years.<sup>1</sup> Because he was a descendant of John Alden and Priscilla Mullins of the *Mayflower* through his father, all of Zenas's descendants are Mayflower descendants.<sup>2</sup> My wife is descended from Zenas and Sally (Tower) Lothrop through their daughter Sarah, the wife of James Grinnell of Union, Maine.<sup>3</sup> Due to the peripatetic nature of her parents, finding Sarah's place of birth required serious perseverance.

Rev. Flavius V. Norcross of Union recorded Sarah as dying on 16 July 1879 at the age of 83 years.<sup>4</sup> Her gravestone records her death as occurring on 15 July 1879 at age 83 years and 3 months.<sup>5</sup> The local newspaper, erroneously giving her name as "Mary," stated she died on July 15 at the age of 83 years, 3 months, and 12 days.<sup>6</sup> Based on these accounts, her date of birth calculates to 3 or 4 April 1796. All of the available census records from 1800 to 1870 generally agree with this date.<sup>7</sup> Notably, none of the death records give her birthdate or the name of her parents.

Sarah Lothrop married James Grinnell, their marriage intentions recorded in Union on 23 November 1819,<sup>8</sup> and they spent their entire lives there. She is mentioned in five of her children's death records, which disagree on her place of birth:<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> This research was done in order to prove my wife's descent from John Alden and Priscilla Mullins to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. In my pursuit of proving his daughter Sarah's birth, I have assembled a timeline of Zenas's life that records events from nearly every year of his adult life. The biography of his checkered life is beyond the scope of this article.

<sup>2</sup> Zenas's mother was also a Mayflower descendant being the 3rd great granddaughter of Francis Cooke. See *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, 12: Francis Cooke of the *Mayflower*, by Ralph V. Wood Jr., rev. ed. (Rockport, Maine, 1999), 244.

<sup>3</sup> Both mother and daughter were recorded at different times as Sarah and Sally. To distinguish one from the other in this article, the mother will be called Sally and the daughter, Sarah.

<sup>4</sup> Rev. Flavius V. Norcross, Pastor's Records, 1858–1910 [DGS #7596926, image 263].

<sup>5</sup> Gravestone photo, Common Cemetery, Union, findagrave.com #119324067.

<sup>6</sup> Mortuary Notice, *Rockland Gazette* [Rockland, Maine], 21 Aug 1879, p. 3.

<sup>7</sup> Zenas Lathrop household, 1800 U.S. Census, Thomaston, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 572 (female under 10); Zenas Lathrop household, 1810 U.S. Census, Friendship, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 80 (female 10–15); not found in 1820; James Grinnell household, 1830 U.S. Census, Union, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 244 (aged 30–39); James Grinnell household, 1840 U.S. Census, Union, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 82 (aged 40–49); James Grinnell household, 1850 U.S. Census, Union, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 256 (aged 53); Adelbert "Grimel" household, 1860 U.S. Census, Union, Knox Co., Maine, p. 198 (aged 67 [*sic*]); Royal Grinnell household, 1870 U.S. Census, Union, Knox Co., Maine, p. 328 (aged 74).

<sup>8</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Union, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 2005), 163.

<sup>9</sup> No death records have been found for three of her children who predeceased her—William, Martha, and Julia. Death records exist for her sons John and James but nothing is recorded about their mother.

Daughter Olive Thompson d. Union, 29 Jan. 1904. Her death record gives *Hope, Maine*, as her mother's place of birth.<sup>10</sup>

Daughter Sarah Cleveland d. Milton, Mass., 5 April 1901. Her death record gives *Union* as her mother's place of birth.<sup>11</sup>

Daughter Arethusa Daniels d. Waltham, Mass., 25 Nov. 1890. Her death record gives *Friendship, Maine*, as her mother's place of birth.<sup>12</sup>

Son Royal Grinnell d. Union, 15 Aug 1907. His death record gives *Union* as his mother's place of birth.<sup>13</sup>

Daughter Laurretta Grinnell d. Union, 4 March 1865. Her death record gives *Cushing, Maine*, as her mother's place of birth.<sup>14</sup>

Sarah's birth is not recorded in any of the above towns. Each seemed a possible birthplace, as her parents lived in or near those towns at times during her childhood.

A timeline for Zenas and Sally Lothrop shows that in the first thirty years of their marriage, they lived in Bridgewater,<sup>15</sup> Easton,<sup>16</sup> and Braintree, Massachusetts,<sup>17</sup> and then in Hallowell,<sup>18</sup> Prospect,<sup>19</sup> Thomaston,<sup>20</sup> Hallowell (again),<sup>21</sup> Friendship,<sup>22</sup> Union, Maine,<sup>23</sup> and finally from about 1820 onwards in Appleton, Maine,<sup>24</sup> where they both died. None of their children's births are found in any of those towns' records.

Zenas Lothrop worked for Gen. Henry Knox for a few years as the overseer of Brigadier's Island in Prospect, Maine,<sup>25</sup> now known as Sears Island in Searsport. The

<sup>10</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921 [DGS #4703976 image 1764]. Her gravestone in the Union Common Cemetery gives her death date as 29 Jan. 1903 (Faylene Hutton Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1990 [DGS #7586279, image 1171]).

<sup>11</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921 [DGS #4543993, image 905]. Though she died in Massachusetts, the death was recorded in Rockland, Maine.

<sup>12</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 410:298 [DGS #4224894 image 311].

<sup>13</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921 [DGS 4544465 image 628].

<sup>14</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921, Delayed Record of Death [DGS #7015878 image 560].

<sup>15</sup> They m. Bridgewater, 27 April 1788 (*Vital Records of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 2 vols. [Boston, 1916], 2:230).

<sup>16</sup> Zenas Lothrop, yeoman, and family were warned out of Easton, 8 Jan. 1790 ([www.tourtillott.org/easton/warn/warnings34.html](http://www.tourtillott.org/easton/warn/warnings34.html), citing Easton Town Records, 2[1789–1816]: 34–35).

<sup>17</sup> Zenas Lothrop was warned out of Braintree, 12 Jan. 1791 (Samuel Austin Bates, ed., *Records of the Town of Braintree 1640–1793* [Randolph, Mass., 1886], 623).

<sup>18</sup> Birth of son recorded in Robert R. McCausland and Cynthia MacAlmon McCausland, eds., *The Diary of Martha Ballard, 1785–1812* [Camden, Maine, 1992], 260.

<sup>19</sup> See note 25.

<sup>20</sup> Zenas Lathrop household, 1800 U.S. Census, Thomaston, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 572.

<sup>21</sup> *Martha Ballard's Diary* [note 18], 609, entry dated June 1803.

<sup>22</sup> Zenas Lathrop household, 1810 U.S. Census, Friendship, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 80.

<sup>23</sup> Zenas was taxed as a non-resident on \$300 of land 1804–1807 and then paid as a resident highway and other taxes 1811–1817 (Union Maine Tax Records, 1804–1817 [[https://digitalmaine.com/union\\_town\\_records/](https://digitalmaine.com/union_town_records/)]).

<sup>24</sup> Zenas Lathrop household, 1820 U.S. Census, Appleton, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 281.

<sup>25</sup> General Henry Knox correspondence, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, their file 1795Nov2GLC02437.06559. The balance of the correspondence between Gen. Knox and Zenas is found at the Maine Historical Society, Portland, Coll. 166, boxes 20 and 21.

collection of Gen. Knox's correspondence contains a contract between himself and Zenas. Zenas was to take possession of a house on the north end of the island beginning 1 April 1796. The contract, dated 2 November 1795, states Zenas was then living in Hallowell. Zenas sent his first report back to Gen. Knox in May 1796 from Brigadier's Island, which shows that he did take up residence there. At this point, I felt reasonably confident that this was where Sarah must have been born that April.

Sarah had an older brother, Howard, and given his estimated age, he might have been born in Hallowell. Although there are no vital records of his birth, Hallowell midwife Martha Ballard included this entry in her diary on 19 March 1793:

rainy morn. mrs Lathrop had her women & was Del[ivere]d of a Son at 11h 30m morn of a Son which w[eighe]d 12 lb.<sup>26</sup>

This son was most likely Howard. In addition to a son, Mrs. Ballard recorded the birth of a daughter born on 4 April 1795:

Cloudy and Clear by turns. mrs Lat[hro]p was able to work till near SunSet when Shee was more unwell. Shee was safe Del[ivere]d of a Da[u]gt[er] at 8h Ev[e]n[ing] and is Comfortable. this is her 5<sup>th</sup> Child, and one of them is Desceast.<sup>27</sup>

Could this daughter be Sarah? As noted earlier, the various records of Sarah's death suggested she was born 3 or 4 April 1796. Martha Ballard's entry on 4 April 1795, exactly a year earlier, is too coincidental to ignore. The only other Lothrop or Lathrop in Hallowell at this time was James Lathrop. No familial relationship between him and Zenas could be found. In 1800 James was the only person in his household.<sup>28</sup> With no known wife and children, he is ruled out as Sarah's father.

On 11 October 1794, Martha Ballard delivered the son of Nabby Tower. Martha wrote that Nabby declared "that Moses Palmer was the father of [the baby]" and added that the baby had been born "at mr Lathrop[']s."<sup>29</sup> Nabby was Sally (Tower) Lothrop's younger sister.<sup>30</sup> On 19 April 1794, when she was three months pregnant, Nabby had declared to Judge Nathaniel Dummer that she conceived her child in "Zenith [*sic*] Lothrop's chamber" on 5 January 1794.<sup>31</sup> Martha Ballard also records Mr. Lothrop's activities with her family in her diary from 1791–1795 and then again in 1803 and 1804.<sup>32</sup> She did not record any other births of Lothrop children during those years.

<sup>26</sup> *Martha Ballard's Diary* [note 18], 260.

<sup>27</sup> *Martha Ballard's Diary* [note 18], 328.

<sup>28</sup> James Lathrop household, 1800 U.S. Census, Hallowell, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 256.

<sup>29</sup> *Martha Ballard's Diary* [note 18], 313.

<sup>30</sup> Nabby was bp. at the First Church of Randolph, Mass., 2 March 1773, a daughter of Gideon Tower; her sister Sarah was bp. at the same church, 11 June 1769 (Jay Mack Holbrook, *MA Vital Records to 1850 ff.: Randolph 1731–1890* [1983], image 468 of 1728 ["Massachusetts, Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988," ancestry.com]).

<sup>31</sup> Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, *A Midwife's Tale, The Life of Martha Ballard, Based on Her Diary, 1785–1812* (New York, 1990), 152–53.

<sup>32</sup> *Martha Ballard's Diary* [note 18], *passim*.

Zenas and Sally's first child, Mary, was born soon after their marriage. Three other children, including Howard, were born before Sarah's birth in 1795, as she was called the fifth child, of whom one had died. The 1800 census shows one male aged 10–15 (name unknown), two males under 10 (Howard and John), and one female under 10 (Sarah).<sup>33</sup> Thanks to Martha Ballard, we now know that Zenas and Sally's daughter Sarah was born in Hallowell.

#### GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **ZENAS LOTHROP** was born in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, 4 June 1764, son of Joseph and Content (Washburn) Lothrop.<sup>34</sup> He died in Appleton, 23 February 1859.<sup>35</sup> He married in Bridgewater, 27 April 1788, SARAH/SALLY TOWER.<sup>36</sup> She was baptized at the First Church of Randolph, Massachusetts, 11 June 1769, daughter of Gideon Tower,<sup>37</sup> and likely died in the period 1840–50.<sup>38</sup>

Probable children of Zenas and Sally (Tower) Lothrop:

- i MARY LOTHROP, b. Mass., ca. 1788, d. 17 Jan. 1869, aged 80y, and bur. in Hart Cemetery, Appleton;<sup>39</sup> m. Thomaston, Maine, 10 April 1806, OTIS BILLS.<sup>40</sup>
- ii son LOTHROP, b. say 1790. He was presumably male aged 10–15 in Zenas's household in 1800.
- iii child LOTHROP, b. say 1791, not enumerated in his parents' household in 1800.
- iv HOWARD LOTHROP, b. Hallowell, 19 March 1793, delivered by Martha Ballard. In 1815 and 1816, Howard was assessed a highway tax in Union.<sup>41</sup>
- 2 v SARAH LOTHROP, b. Hallowell, 4 April 1795, delivered by Martha Ballard; m. (int.) Union, 23 Nov. 1819, JAMES GRINNELL.
- vi JOHN CALVIN LOTHROP, b. prob. shortly after 4 May 1798,<sup>42</sup> living in Appleton in 1850, aged 52;<sup>43</sup> m. (int.) Vassalboro, Maine, 6 July 1819, REBECCA BURGESS.<sup>44</sup>

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<sup>33</sup> Zenas Lathrop household, 1800 U.S. Census, Thomaston, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 572.

<sup>34</sup> "Errata and Addenda," *The Mayflower Descendant* 35(1985):178, citing family Bible; his parents m. 24 Oct. 1746 per *Bridgewater VRs* [note 15], 2:230.

<sup>35</sup> Royce W. Miller *Register of Deaths, Appleton, Maine* (Gloucester, Mass., 2003); death notice, *Portland Advertiser*, 22 March 1859, p. 3, which gives the date as "1<sup>st</sup> inst."

<sup>36</sup> *Bridgewater VRs* [note 15], 2:230.

<sup>37</sup> See note 30.

<sup>38</sup> She was aged 70–80 in Zenas Lothrop household, 1840 U.S. Census, Appleton, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 279. She was not living with Zenas in 1850 (see note 39) and presumably deceased.

<sup>39</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #85748710. In 1850 Zenas Lothrop, age 85, was living in Otis and Mary's household (1850 U.S. Census, Appleton, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 32).

<sup>40</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Thomaston, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 285–86.

<sup>41</sup> Union Tax Records [note 23]. Howard was likely one of 2 polls assessed to Zenas in Union those years.

<sup>42</sup> Date of Zenas's letter to Gen. Knox "to beg your humanity" and "be bonsman [*sic*] for my appearance at court" [note 25]. Of note, he wrote that his wife was "near the time of travel [*sic*: travail]."

<sup>43</sup> John Lothrop household, 1850 U.S. Census, Appleton, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 27.

<sup>44</sup> Angela M. Foster, *Vital Records of Vassalboro, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 90.

- vii ZENAS LOTHROP, b. poss. Thomaston, say 1801;<sup>45</sup> m. Hope, 14 April 1826, JANE PROCTOR.<sup>46</sup>
- viii ANGELICA LOTHROP, b. poss. Hallowell,<sup>47</sup> [calc.] 4 Oct. 1803, d. 29 Nov. 1863, aged 60y 1m 25d, and bur. in Miles Cemetery, Rutland, Meigs Co., Ohio;<sup>48</sup> m. Appleton, 17 Jan. 1822, EZRA J. PAGE.<sup>49</sup>
- ix NATHANIEL GREEN LOTHROP, b. ca. 1804–5, living Union in 1880, aged 74y<sup>50</sup> m. Appleton, 13 Oct. 1833, ELIZABETH/BETSY ESANCY.<sup>51</sup>
- x ISAAC LOTHROP, b. poss. Union, ca. 1812, living Portland in 1860, aged 48;<sup>52</sup> m. Appleton, 14 Sept. 1832, SARAH WEBSTER.<sup>53</sup>

2 **SARAH LOTHROP** was born in Hallowell, 7 April 1795 and died in Union, 15 or 16 July 1879. She married in Union, 2 December 1819, JAMES GRINNELL. He was born in Union, 1 December 1797, the son of Royal and Hannah (Briggs) Grinnell.<sup>54</sup> He died 25 January 1856, aged 58 years and 2 months, and is buried with his wife in the Union Common Cemetery.<sup>55</sup> All their children were born and subsequently married in Union, except for Arethusa, as noted below.

Children of James and Sarah (Lothrop) Grinnell:<sup>56</sup>

- i OLIVE H. GRINNELL, b. 14 Jan. 1820, d. 29 Jan. 1903;<sup>57</sup> m. (int.) Union, 21 Nov. 1855, WILLIAM THOMPSON.<sup>58</sup>
- ii SARAH ANN GRINNELL, b. 16 March 1822, d. Milton, Mass., 5 April 1901;<sup>59</sup> m. (int.) Union, 28 Dec. 1845, EDWARD LINDLEY CLEVELAND of Camden.<sup>60</sup>
- iii JOHN GRINNELL, b. 17 Feb. 1824, d. Union, 17 March 1892;<sup>61</sup> m. (int.) Union, 25 Nov. 1852, ELMIRA L. CASWELL.<sup>62</sup>

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<sup>45</sup> He was likely one of the 2 males aged 0–9 in his father’s household in 1810 (Zenas Lathrop household, 1810 U.S. Census, Friendship, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 80). He was aged 30–40 in 1840 (Zenas Lothrop household, 1840 U.S. Census, Washington, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 47).

<sup>46</sup> Anna Simpson Hardy, *History of Hope, Maine* (Hope, 1990), 303.

<sup>47</sup> *Martha Ballard’s Diary* [note 18] shows that Zenas was in Hallowell from early 1803 until mid-1804.

<sup>48</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #113905508.

<sup>49</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Appleton, Knox County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockport, Maine, 1994), 21. Ezra S. Page was called a transient man on the intentions (*ibid.*, p. 31).

<sup>50</sup> N. G. Lothrope household, 1880 U.S. Census, Union, Knox Co., Maine, E.D. 114, p. 287C.

<sup>51</sup> Mosher, *Appleton VRs* [note 49], 40.

<sup>52</sup> Isaac Lothrop household, 1860 U.S. Census, Portland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 436.

<sup>53</sup> Mosher, *Appleton VRs* [note 49], 39.

<sup>54</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 40; Royal Grinnell family Bible in Rev. War Pension Application, #W24301.

<sup>55</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #119323399.

<sup>56</sup> Births of i–ix in Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 85.

<sup>57</sup> Faylene Hutton Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1990 [DGS #7586279, image 1171].

<sup>58</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 219.

<sup>59</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 518:69 [DGS #4289819, image 655].

<sup>60</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 197.

<sup>61</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921 [DGS #4544465, image 576].

<sup>62</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 214.



- iv WILLIAM GRINNELL, b. 26 March 1826, d. by July 1862 when his wife filed intentions to remarry;<sup>63</sup> m. (int.) Union, 11 Sept. 1854, SARAH C. BRYANT.<sup>64</sup> He was poss. the W. A. Grinnell, age 34, b. Maine, miner, living alone in 1860 in Greenwood, El Dorado Co., Calif.<sup>65</sup>
- v MARTHA GRINNELL, b. 11 Feb. 1828, d. 23 March 1828.<sup>66</sup>
- vi ARETHUSA KELLOGG GRINNELL, twin, b. 12 April 1829, d. Waltham, Mass., 25 Nov. 1890;<sup>67</sup> m. (1) Palatka, Fla., 30 Sept. 1855, BARZILLA B. GREELEY;<sup>68</sup> m (2) Union, 10 June 1871, FREEDOM DANIELS.<sup>69</sup>
- vii JULIA MARIAH GRINNELL, twin, b. 12 April 1829, d. 1 Sept. 1856.<sup>70</sup>
- viii ROYAL GRINNELL, b. 22 Aug. 1831, d. Union, 5 Aug. 1907;<sup>71</sup> m. (int.) Union, 24 Nov. 1856, SARAH M. MARTIN.<sup>72</sup>
- ix JAMES ADELBERT GRINNELL, b. 22 April 1835, d. Falmouth, Va., 18 or 21 Jan. 1863, and bur. in the Common Cemetery, Union;<sup>73</sup> m. 14 March 1861, SARAH A. HAGER.<sup>74</sup> James was a private in Capt. Atherton W. Clark's Company E, Twentieth Regiment Infantry, Maine Volunteers, during the Civil War when he died.<sup>75</sup>
- x LAURETTA A. GRINNELL, b. [calc.] 17 Feb 1841,<sup>76</sup> d. Union, 4 March 1865, aged 24y 15d.<sup>77</sup> In 1850 Loretta, aged 9, was living with her parents.<sup>78</sup>

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<sup>63</sup> Mrs. Sarah C. Grinnell m. (int.) Union, 31 July 1862, Mr. Samuel Ripley of Washington, Maine (Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 236).

<sup>64</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 218.

<sup>65</sup> W. A. Grinnell, 1860 U.S. Census, Greenwood, El Dorado Co., Calif., p. 726.

<sup>66</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 85.

<sup>67</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 410:298 [DGS #4224894 image 311].

<sup>68</sup> *Florida County Marriages 1830–1957* [DGS #7621329, image 73]

<sup>69</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 264.

<sup>70</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 85.

<sup>71</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921 [DGS #4544465, image 9954].

<sup>72</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 221.

<sup>73</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #119492508; *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine for the Year Ending December 31, 1863* (Augusta, 1863), Appendix D, p. 584.

<sup>74</sup> Graves, *Union VRs* [note 8], 238.

<sup>75</sup> *Annual Report of the Adjutant General* [note 73], Appendix D, p. 584.

<sup>76</sup> Loretta's birth is not recorded in Union, but is in the 1850 and 1860 census household of James and Sarah Grinnell. Her age in those returns calculate to an 1841 birth. Her sister, Sarah, was working in a mill and wrote a letter home on 30 Oct. 1842 saying, "I would give more for one kiss of Laura than all the candy in Newton."

<sup>77</sup> Maine VRs, 1670–1921, Delayed Record of Death [DGS #7015878 image 560]; gravestone photo, Common Cemetery, Union, findagrave.com #119324252.

<sup>78</sup> James Grinnell household, 1850 U.S. Census, Union, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 256.

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