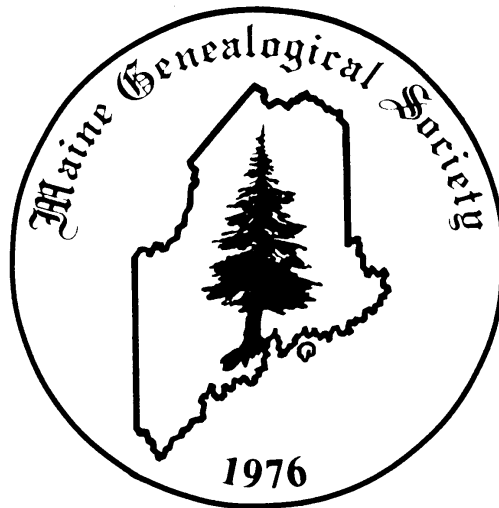


# The Maine Genealogist



November 2021  
Volume 43, Number 4

# The Maine Genealogical Society

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# The Maine Genealogist

Journal of the Maine Genealogical Society

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

This issue completes another year and another volume for *The Maine Genealogist*. In deciding on material to publish, I strive to offer a variety of articles treating families and records in different parts of the state of Maine. In this issue, the articles highlight new research techniques, traditional problem solving, focused family studies, as well as useful resource material.

This issue also includes articles by two past presidents of the Maine Genealogical Society: Nancy Battick, who was President from 2005 to 2007, and Helen A. Shaw, who served from 2013 to 2017. Nancy's article discusses the will of Asa Porter of Hampden, in which he singled out his daughter Sarah for a special bequest. And Helen sets the record straight on the death date of Isaiah Tolman of Thomaston and Matinicus Island, a fact that has been grossly distorted over the years in newspapers and online postings.

In the category of new research techniques, Contributing Editor Michael Dwyer shows how he used mitochondrial DNA to connect himself to two living individuals previously unknown to him and identify their common female ancestor many generations back—in Michael's case, eleven generations. Mitochondrial DNA (or mtDNA) is the portion of our DNA that is passed down through the female line, comparable to our Y-DNA, which is passed down through the male line.

Additionally in this issue, Denise Cross uses traditional research techniques to flesh out the family of Josiah Cross (whose parentage was determined in the August issue), Tom Frank concludes his study of the not-so-small Isaac Small family, and the issue ends with the next installment of the Lincoln County will abstracts.

As genealogists we are always on the lookout for wills our ancestors may have left. Wills are commonly among the most informative genealogical documents we will find, and they will often reveal the names of the spouse and any living children of the testator. In some cases, they can uncover much more. Take for example the will of Timothy Ferrin of Jefferson, abstracted on p. 191. In five simple bequests, we discover the given and maiden names of Timothy's wife, the married names of his sister and of his wife's sister, his wife's brother's name, and the name of a niece. We also learn that Timothy wished to support the poor parishioners of three nearby churches of different denominations.

2021 has been a year of growth for the Maine Genealogical Society. Not only has MGS published two large and important new resources (*Maine Families in 1790, Vol. 12* and the *Lincoln County, Maine, Master Index to Deeds in Volumes 1–100*), the Society also unveiled a new and updated website and brought several online talks and presentations to members in the absence of being able to host live meetings during the pandemic. Our latest published work, *Vital Records of Jefferson, Maine*, is the Society's ninety-first Special Publication and the thirtieth volume of town and county records compiled by the peerless Marlene Groves. In a period in which many genealogical societies are experiencing declining numbers, MGS's membership is growing. We are grateful for the hard work of all of our volunteers and the continued support of our members.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

MITOCHONDRIAL LINES:  
DAUGHTERS OF RACHEL AND MARY RIGGS  
OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

*By Michael F. Dwyer, FASG*

Discovering the entry in Joseph B. Hall's *Genealogy and Descendants of Hate-Evil Hall* that identified Bethiah Phinney, wife of Silas Hall, as the daughter of Seth and Sarah (Cotton) Phinney knocked down a long-standing brick wall in my mother's matrilineal line.<sup>1</sup> A sketch in *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 4* on Seth Finney of Harpswell expressed uncertainty about this Sarah Cotton's parentage: Was she the one born in Bowdoin, Maine, in 1764, daughter of Thomas and Agnes Cotton, or the one born in Brunswick on 15 August 1768, daughter of William and Lucy Cotton?<sup>2</sup> A genealogy of the Cotton family, published in *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* in 1904, settled the question: Sarah Cotton, daughter of William and Lucy (Pennell) Cotton, married Seth Phinney in Harpswell, Maine.<sup>3</sup>

With continued research on the Pennell family, I linked Lucy Pennell's mother, Rachel Riggs, to the Riggs family who migrated from Gloucester, Massachusetts, to Falmouth, Maine, sometime in the 1720s.<sup>4</sup> Rachel Riggs's matrilineal line continued to her great-grandmother, Jane Durin/Durell, who married John Elwell in Salem, Massachusetts, on 1 October 1667.<sup>5</sup> There, the line came to a dead end.

Many genealogical studies have been published on the early generations of the Elwell family, including the sketch on immigrant Robert Elwell, father of John, in *The Great Migration* series.<sup>6</sup> No one has yet ascertained the parentage of Jane Durin, whom I suspect, because of her surname, may have hailed from the Channel Islands.<sup>7</sup>

Having exhausted traditional research methods in pursuit of Jane Durin's parentage, in 2015 I opted for a mtDNA test through FamilyTreeDNA and hoped the results would open new possibilities. Initial notifications left me disappointed. Dozens of distant matches, most without family trees attached, revealed no matrilineal ancestors

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<sup>1</sup> Michael F. Dwyer, "The Return of Reverend Silas Hall," *The Maine Genealogist* 31(2009): 148–49.

<sup>2</sup> Joseph C. Anderson II and Lois Ware Thurston, *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 4* (Camden, Maine, 1994), 219.

<sup>3</sup> Frank Ethridge Cotton, "The Cotton Family of Portsmouth, N.H.," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 58(1904):339–40.

<sup>4</sup> Michael F. Dwyer, "A Tale of Tangled Pennell Lines: from the Isle of Jersey, to Gloucester, Massachusetts, and Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 36(2014):99–122, at 118.

<sup>5</sup> *Vital Records of Salem, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 6 vols. (Salem, 1916–25), 3:333.

<sup>6</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, George F. Sanborn Jr., and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *The Great Migration: Immigrants to New England 1634–1635*, Vol. 2 C–F (Boston, 2001), 427–31.

<sup>7</sup> Michael F. Dwyer, "Mitochondrial Possibilities," *Vita Brevis* blog, 6 Jan. 2021, at [american-ancestors.org](http://american-ancestors.org).

over the last twelve generations. In 2016 only one person, with a lineage documented back to nineteenth century Norway, showed a perfect match to my line but of no help to my New England ancestors. With more promise, in 2019 a second perfect match emerged through Olav Bonesmo of Lillehammer, Norway, with whom I have corresponded. Olav documented her earliest female-line ancestor as Ane Anderdatter, born in Rødven, Norway, circa 1682. With no evidence of anyone in my matrilineal line, over the last 350 years, having a link to Norway, we speculated that while Olav's remote female ancestor remained in coastal Scandinavia, her sister, the ancestor of Jane Durin, migrated or was taken to the British or Channel Islands.

#### MATCHES TO MAINE ANCESTORS

In April 2021, a notification appeared with a new perfect mtDNA match through Dawn D. Beeks. Dawn had traced her line back five generations to Mary (Gray) Pollard, who died in Richmond, Maine, on 26 March 1907, at age 90.<sup>8</sup> Mary's death record listed her birthplace as Brunswick, Maine, her father as Samuel Gray, born in Greene, Maine, and her mother as — Fossett. With these locations in Maine, I felt certain I could establish a link with my matrilineal lines in and around Brunswick. Who was the wife of Samuel Gray? Records of North Yarmouth, Maine, provided the answer: Samuel Gray married Mary Fas[s]jett on 19 August 1800.<sup>9</sup>

Without a corresponding birth record for Mary Fassett, born around 1780 if she married at around age 20, it seemed expedient to look for her as a possible daughter of Richard Fassett, a man over the age of 45, who headed a household in North Yarmouth at the time of the 1800 census.<sup>10</sup> In 1790 Fassett was counted in Durham, Maine, heading a household of ten, including five females.<sup>11</sup> Alas, no documents have been found that list all of Richard's children.

Richard Fassett served in the American Revolution from Gouldsboro.<sup>12</sup> In 1832 he earned a Revolutionary War pension, but the file mentions nothing about his family.<sup>13</sup> Land records provided some helpful clues: on 14 November 1794, Richard Fassett, yeoman of North Yarmouth, purchased a lot of land from Hannah Wyman for "eighteen pounds."<sup>14</sup> In turn, Fassett sold this lot for \$750 to Sherebiah Pratt on North Yarmouth on 13 November 1802. Hannah Fassett, presumably Richard's

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<sup>8</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org.

<sup>9</sup> Ruth Wilder Sherman, ed., *Vital Records of North Yarmouth, Maine, to the Year 1850*, 2nd ed. (Camden, Maine, 1993), 235, citing 2:90. The marriage intentions, dated 15 July 1800 (p. 157, citing 2:12), call him Samuel Gray "of Monmouth."

<sup>10</sup> Richard Fassett household, 1810 U.S. Census, North Yarmouth, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 69.

<sup>11</sup> Richard Fassett household, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* (Washington, 1908), 14, col. a.

<sup>12</sup> *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 5:502–3.

<sup>13</sup> Richard Fassett, Revolutionary War Pension Application #S29150.

<sup>14</sup> Cumberland Co., Maine, Deeds, 23:169–70.

wife, signed with her mark.<sup>15</sup> By 1810 Richard Fassett and family were living in Freeman, Maine, where he was counted adjacent to Richard Fassett Jr.<sup>16</sup>The next step would seek to identify Hannah and the common mtDNA ancestor we shared.

#### CHILDREN OF JOHN WALKER AND MARY RIGGS

A genealogical query in the *Boston Evening Transcript* firmly established the identity of Hannah, wife of Richard Fassett. The query writer sought the parents of John Walker, born 1 October 1728, who married Mary Riggs, born 10 June 1730 in Falmouth, Maine. The query lists John and Mary Riggs's eleven children as follows:

Hannah, born Gorham, 21 Oct. 1752, married Richard Fassett  
Mary, born Falmouth, 14 July 1754, married John Wiedman  
Josiah, born Gorham, 3 July 1756, married Amy F. Keuth  
Lucy, born Gorham, 23 July 1758, married George Burnes  
Rachel Riggs, born Parsonstown, 27 Sept. 1760, married Jacob Clifford  
John, born Falmouth, 23 Oct. 1762, married Olivia Johnson  
Sarah, born 3 May 1765, married Barnabas Whitney  
Jeremiah, born 24 August 1767, married Jane Morton  
William, born 18 Oct. 1770, married Martha Haniford  
Peggy, born 3 Feb. 1774, married William Collen [*sic*: Cotton]  
Abigail, born 3 Sept. 1776, married Henry Whitney  
(the last five born in Gouldsboro, Maine).<sup>17</sup>

These complete birth dates and birthplaces of all eleven children suggest the author, in 1929, had access to a Bible or family record, present location unknown. The marriage intentions of John Walker and Mary Riggs, both of Falmouth, were recorded on 5 October 1751.<sup>18</sup> Mary Riggs's date of birth, as recorded above, varies by three years from the date of 2 May 1733, as recorded in the Falmouth records.<sup>19</sup> Nonetheless, Mary Riggs can be securely placed as a daughter of Jeremiah Riggs who moved from Gloucester, Massachusetts, to Falmouth, Maine, in 1725.<sup>20</sup> She completes an interlocking puzzle piece as the younger sister of my matrilineal ancestor Rachel Riggs who married Thomas Pennell in 1735.<sup>21</sup>

#### ANOTHER MITOCHONDRIAL LINE

A month after Dawn Beeks's line matched mine, FamilyTreeDNA notified me with another perfect match, that of Jeffrey David Mansfield. He had already docu-

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<sup>15</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 38:396. Jeremiah Walker was among the witnesses.

<sup>16</sup> Richard Fassett household, 1810 U.S. Census, Freeman, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 570.

<sup>17</sup> *Boston Evening Transcript*, 9 Sept. 1929, query 8998.

<sup>18</sup> Falmouth Vital Records, 1:61 [DGS #7724782, image 692].

<sup>19</sup> Falmouth VRs [note 18], 1:215 [DGS #7724782, image 262].

<sup>20</sup> William Willis, *The History of Portland from 1632 to 1864* (Portland, Maine, 1865), 353.

<sup>21</sup> Dwyer, "A Tale of Tangled Pennell Lines" [note 4].

mented some of his mtDNA line on Wiki Tree.<sup>22</sup> Jeffrey's earliest-identified mtDNA ancestor was Rachel Woodman Cotton, born in Freeport, Maine, on 7 June 1805. She married in Portland, 4 February 1831, George Weaver. Freeport records include a complete family entry naming Rachel's parents as William and Margaret (Walker) Cotton.<sup>23</sup> "Peggy," tenth child of John and Mary (Riggs) Walker, was listed in the *Boston Evening Transcript* family listing.

These two new matching mtDNA results with mine opened previously undiscovered ancestors for Dawn Beeks and Jeffrey Mansfield. Secondly, the results also support the accuracy of the Walker family summary as published in the *Boston Evening Transcript*. And lastly, they prove that Rachel Riggs, born in Gloucester, was the older sister of Mary Riggs, born in Falmouth, Maine. Significantly, this confirms that Rachel Haskell, born 13 March 1696,<sup>24</sup> wife of Jeremiah Riggs, was the common ancestor of the three of us.

We await future mtDNA results that may win the elusive prize for discovering the birthplace and parents of Rachel Haskell's grandmother, Jane Durin, born sometime in the 1640s.

Note on chart format: The mtDNA lines of Dawn Beeks and Jeffrey D. Mansfield are a perfect match to that of Michael F. Dwyer. Each generation has the name of line carrier, documentation of her birthplace and location, the date and location of her marriage, and the name of her husband.

1. **Jane Durin** married in Salem, Mass., 1 October 1667, John Elwell.<sup>25</sup>
2. **Rachel Elwell** married in Gloucester, Mass., 19 March 1694/5, Joseph Haskell.<sup>26</sup>
3. **Rachel Haskell** married in Gloucester, Mass., 31 December 1716, Jeremiah Riggs.<sup>27</sup>

Michael F. Dwyer Line FTDNA Kit# 347490	Dawn D. Beeks Line FTDNA Kit #MK72352	Jeffrey Mansfield Line FTDNA Kit #947112
<b>4. Rachel Riggs</b> b. Gloucester, Mass. 10 Nov. 1717 m. (int.) Falmouth, Maine 14 June 1735 Thomas Pennell <sup>28</sup>	<b>4. Mary Riggs</b> b. Falmouth, Maine 10 June 1730 m. (int.) Falmouth, Maine 5 Oct. 1751 John Walker <sup>29</sup>	<b>4. Mary Riggs</b> m. (int.) Falmouth, Maine 5 Oct. 1751 John Walker

<sup>22</sup> [www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mansfield-3](http://www.wikitree.com/wiki/Mansfield-3).

<sup>23</sup> Freeport Vital Records, 1:61 [DGS #7595551, image 40].

<sup>24</sup> *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 3 vols. (Topsfield and Salem, Mass., 1917–24), 1:331.

<sup>25</sup> *Salem VRs* [note 5], 3:333.

<sup>26</sup> *Gloucester VRs* [note 24], 2:201.

<sup>27</sup> *Gloucester VRs* [note 24], 2:453.

<sup>28</sup> *Gloucester VRs* [note 24]; Dwyer, "A Tale of Tangled Pennell Lines" [note 4], 117.

<sup>29</sup> Falmouth Vital Records, 1:61 [DGS #7724782, image 692].



<b>5. Lucy Pennell</b> bp. Falmouth, Maine 1742 m. Portland, Maine 5 Nov. 1761 William Cotton <sup>30</sup>	<b>5. Hannah Walker</b> b. Gorham, Maine 21 Oct. 1752 m. probably Maine ca. 1775 Richard Fassett <sup>31</sup>	<b>5. Margaret Walker</b> b. Gouldsboro, Maine 3 Feb. 1774 m. Freeport, Maine 28 Aug. 1791 William Cotton <sup>32</sup>
<b>6. Sarah Cotton</b> b. Brunswick, Maine 15 Aug. 1768 m. Harpswell, Maine 13 April 1788 Seth Phinney <sup>33</sup>	<b>6. Mary Fassett</b> b. Maine say 1780 m. North Yarmouth, Maine 19 Aug. 1800 Samuel Gray <sup>34</sup>	<b>6. Rachel Cotton</b> b. Freeport, Maine 7 June 1805 m. Pownal, Maine 3 March 1831 George Weaver <sup>35</sup>
<b>7. Bethiah Phinney</b> b. Bowdoin, Maine ca. 1795 m. Bowdoin, Maine 15 Sept. 1817 Silas Curtis Hall <sup>36</sup>	<b>7. Mary Gray</b> b. Maine ca. 1807 m. Brunswick, Maine 17 Jan. 1835 Stephen Pollard <sup>37</sup>	<b>7. Charlotte C. Weaver</b> b. Portland, Maine 8 March 1835 m. Pepin, Wisc. 29 April 1862 Rudolf Kayser <sup>38</sup>
<b>8. Lovicy Hall</b> b. Clinton, Maine 28 June 1821 m. Block Island, R.I. 5 Jan. 1847 Reuben Welch Paine <sup>39</sup>	<b>8. Martha Pollard</b> b. Hollis, Maine [calc.] 28 Nov. 1844 m. Gardiner, Maine 17 Feb. 1860 Thomas M. Jordan <sup>40</sup>	<b>8. Emma Kayser</b> b. Danbury, Wisc. 28 Sept. 1875 m. Spring Lake, Wisc. 10 Sept. 1893 Jacob Allen Caniff <sup>41</sup>
<b>9. Mary Bethiah Paine</b> b. Block Island, R.I. 3 April 1848 m. Fairhaven, Mass. 8 Sept. 1879 Marion J. Sylvia <sup>42</sup>	<b>9. Mattie Jordan</b> b. Gardiner, Maine 3 Oct. 1884 m. (2) Gardiner, Maine 17 Dec. 1910 Herbert L. Dunton <sup>43</sup>	<b>9. Marian Vera Caniff</b> b. Pepin, Wisc. 16 July 1916 m. Land O'Lakes, Wisc. 24 Dec. 1937 Alfred Barr Mansfield <sup>44</sup>

<sup>30</sup> Dwyer, "A Tale of Tangled Pennell Lines" [note 4], 118.

<sup>31</sup> See discussion above

<sup>32</sup> "Cotton Family of Portsmouth" [note 3], NEHGR 59(1905):39. Margaret and William are buried in Pownal Center Cemetery, gravestone photos and biography, findagrave.com #31008724 (Margaret) and #31008837 (William).

<sup>33</sup> Joseph C. Anderson II, *Vital Records of Brunswick, Maine, 1740–1860* (Rockport, Maine, 2004), 31; *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 4* [note 2], 219.

<sup>34</sup> *North Yarmouth VRs* [note 9], 234.

<sup>35</sup> Pownal Marriages 1822–43, 19 [DGS #7596427, image 384].

<sup>36</sup> Dwyer, "Return of Reverend Silas Hall" [note 1], 147.

<sup>37</sup> Mary Pollard d. 26 March 1907 (Maine VRs, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org).

<sup>38</sup> Portland Births, 5:155 [DGS # 8203748, image 381]; Wisconsin Marriages, 1836–1930, familysearch.org.

<sup>39</sup> Dwyer, "Return of Reverend Silas Hall" [note 1], 157.

<sup>40</sup> Henry Sewall Webster, *Vital Records of Gardiner, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Gardiner, 1914–15), 2:340.

<sup>41</sup> Wisconsin Birth Index, 1820–1907; Wisconsin Marriages, 1836–1930, familysearch.org.

<b>10. Marian A. Sylvia</b> b. Marion, Mass. 15 June 1887 m. Marion, Mass. 13 July 1904 John William Rhodes <sup>45</sup>	<b>10. Myrtle Mae Dunton</b> b. Gardiner, Maine 24 Feb. 1915 m. Boston, Mass. 16 March 1931 John Owen Clancy <sup>46</sup>	<b>10. Jeffrey D. Mansfield</b> (living)
<b>11. Lois Rhodes</b> b. Marion, Mass. 4 March 1909 m. Rutherford, N.J. 11 May 1931 Emory Maurice Morse <sup>47</sup>	<b>11. Mary E. Clancy</b> b. Lynn, Mass. 21 Aug. 1934 m. Boston, Mass. 1953 Emmett Clayton Beeks <sup>48</sup>	
<b>12. Marilyn Morse</b> (living) m. Maywood, N.J. 13 July 1957 Francis Michael Dwyer <sup>49</sup>	<b>12. Dawn Beeks</b> (living)	
<b>13. Michael F. Dwyer</b>		

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<sup>42</sup> Dwyer, "Return of Reverend Silas Hall" [note 1], 158; Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910 (index and images at [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org)), 307:87.

<sup>43</sup> Maine VRs [note 8].

<sup>44</sup> Gravestone photo and biography, [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com) #137251003.

<sup>45</sup> Baptismal record, St. Gabriel's Church, Marion, Mass; marriage record, Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 42], 548:195.

<sup>46</sup> Mass. Marriage Index, 1901–1955, image, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), full date from Dawn Beeks.

<sup>47</sup> Birth and marriage certificates, personal copies.

<sup>48</sup> Birth from U.S. Social Security Application and Claims Index, 1936–2007, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com); Mass. Marriage Index, 1901–1955, image, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

<sup>49</sup> Marriage certificate, personal copy.

## EMPOWERING SARAH THE WILL OF ASA PORTER OF HAMPDEN, MAINE

*By Nancy C. Battick*

In June 1872, Asa Porter, 82, twice-widowed and a former resident of Hampden, Maine, decided it was time to get his affairs in order and write his will. He called on an attorney in Melrose, Massachusetts, near where Asa resided with his recently widowed daughter, Julia Becket. Asa's will, duly drawn and witnessed, shows a cramped and shaky signature indicating an elderly person with an unsteady hand.<sup>1</sup>

As it was, Asa survived six more years, dying of a stroke on 10 October 1878 in East Boston, Massachusetts, where Julia had moved following her husband's death.<sup>2</sup> Living next door was another of Asa's daughters, Abigail, and her husband, Nathaniel Allen.<sup>3</sup> Asa's body was shipped back to Hampden where funeral services were conducted; Asa was laid to rest beside the remains of his first wife in Nealey Corner Cemetery in West Hampden.<sup>4</sup> His will was then filed in the probate court of Penobscot County where it still resides.<sup>5</sup>

While not wealthy, Asa was a man who had once owned several properties in central Maine. Through the years his generosity to his children and relatives had been considerable. Asa had survived both his wives and the death of his only son, Asa Jr. When facing the end of his life, Asa attempted to divide what remained of his estate fairly among his surviving children. All but one would receive an equal share. For that one, Asa designed a will with a most unusual provision. To use a twentieth century buzzword, he "empowered" his third daughter, Sarah, wife of Royal ("Rial") Batchelder of Troy, Maine.<sup>6</sup> The language of the first provision in Asa's will reads (*emphasis added*):

The farm in Troy Maine belonging to me & now occupied by my daughter Sarah Batchelder, her husband & children, I design for a homestead for her during her natural life, *with such of her family only as she may of her own free will and accord choose to have with her*, the same as it has been for many years past, unless she should voluntarily leave the same for another residence, not to return. In that case as

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<sup>1</sup> Asa Porter last will and testament, Penobscot Co. Probate Records, 1872 [DGS #4127603, images 985–86].

<sup>2</sup> Asa Porter death record, Mass. Vital Records, 1840–1910, 303:225 [image, americanancestors.org].

<sup>3</sup> Nathan<sup>1</sup> W. Allen household, 1870 U.S. Census, East Boston, Suffolk Co., Mass., p. 235, dwelling 174, household 256.

<sup>4</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #169909347.

<sup>5</sup> The schedule of expenses for the administration of Asa Porter's estate includes medical care, undertaking, shipment of the body, gravedigging, etc. (Asa Porter estate [note 1, image 994]).

<sup>6</sup> The spelling of Royal's surname is found in several versions. Rial always spelled it *Bachelor*, but most descendants spell it *Batchelder*, which is the spelling used by Asa and the one used in this article.

at her decease, my executor with the concurrence of any surviving children, Sarah excepted, shall sell the farm, and the proceeds be divided equally among my said surviving children, Sarah excepted, and I commend her to the kind consideration of my other children, in case she should be so situated as to need the same.<sup>7</sup>

This provision is remarkable for a man born in the late eighteenth century when women's property and legal rights followed the old English tradition where a woman's life was governed by men—her father, husband, and perhaps a brother or son when widowed. While Maine had granted married women property rights in 1840, it was still common in the nineteenth century that a woman assumed control of her finances only when widowed.<sup>8</sup> Asa's delegation of power to Sarah was almost unprecedented for a woman on a farm in Maine at that time. She was to be the ultimate authority of who lived and worked on the farm in Troy.

Asa had granted Sarah what is known as a "life estate" in the property. Until recent history, fathers with means had always provided for their daughters by granting their husbands land and/or money. Asa provided a new wrinkle for Sarah, and it was only she among his daughters who was so singled out. Two other daughters are mentioned in Asa's will, but only because he named their husbands as possible executors for the administration of his estate.<sup>9</sup>

Who then was Asa Porter? He was born in May 1790 in Denmark, Maine, the second child and son of David Foster and Susannah (Towne) Porter. His branch of the Porter family traced their descent from John Porter of Dorset, England, who came to Hingham, Massachusetts, in 1635, moving later to Salem. By the time Asa was born, his branch of the family had migrated from Boxford, Massachusetts, to try pioneering in what is now Oxford County, Maine.<sup>10</sup> Asa's family moved to Dixmont, Maine, sometime after 1790. Asa and his brother Benjamin would later move to

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<sup>7</sup> Asa Porter will [note 1].

<sup>8</sup> For more information about married women's property rights in Maine, see *Acts and Resolves Passed by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Maine, A.D. 1847* (Augusta, 1847), chapter 27, pp. 22–23.

<sup>9</sup> Asa's first choice for executor was Ezekiel Cobb, husband of daughter Malinda. Second choice was John Thorndike, husband of Malinda's twin, Philenia. In the event that neither son-in-law could or would serve as executor, Asa also named his brother-in-law from his first marriage, Amasa K. Knowles of Hampden. Ezekiel Cobb agreed to serve and posted a bond of \$2,000 (Penobscot Co. Probate Records [DGS #4127603, images 986, 990]).

<sup>10</sup> Asa Porter's death record [note 2] gives his age as 88 years 5 months on 10 Oct. 1878, calculating to a birth date in May 1790. The record also names his parents as David and Susan Porter and gives his of birthplace as Denmark, Maine. In 1790 when Asa was born, David Porter was enumerated in "Brownsfield Township—in the Gore Adjoining" (*Heads of Families at the First Census, 1790* [Washington, 1908], 58, col. c). Denmark was set off from a part of Brownsfield and incorporated in 1807 (Stanley Bearce Attwood, *The Length and Breadth of Maine* [Orono, Maine, 1977], 136). This Porter family is found in Joseph W. Porter, *A Genealogy of the Descendants of Richard Porter* . . . [Bangor, Maine 1878], 288). The marriage intentions of David Porter and Susannah Towne of Londonderry, N.H., were dated 17 Aug. 1771 (*Vital Records of Boxford, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Topsfield, Mass., 1905], 190).

Hampden by 1811 when Asa began purchasing land in his own name and jointly with his brother.<sup>11</sup> Asa was soon hard at work opening up the wilderness of West Hampden. Mortgages on his property were quickly repaid and in 1812 he and neighboring property owner Nathaniel Myrick Jr. successfully petitioned the town to construct a road.<sup>12</sup> In 1813 and again in 1814, Asa was elected one of the hog reeves for the town.<sup>13</sup>

Asa married in Hampden, 6 March 1814, Miss Sally Walker,<sup>14</sup> born 28 May 1794, daughter of Aaron and Betsey (Knowles) Walker.<sup>15</sup> Later that year, Asa served as a private in Lieutenant Colonel Andrew Grant's Third Regiment, First Brigade, at the Battle of Hampden when the British invaded the town. Asa was fortunately not one of the men taken prisoner by the British.<sup>16</sup>

Asa and Sally had four daughters: Mary, Julia, Sarah, and Abigail. In 1824 Asa's wife Sally died and was buried in Nealey Corner Cemetery in West Hampden.<sup>17</sup> As was common for widowers with small children at the time, Asa married again in 1825. His choice for a second wife was Dorcas (Gould) Doane, a native of Leeds, Maine.<sup>18</sup> Dorcas was herself a widow with two small children, left alone when her first husband, Captain Edward Doane, was lost at sea in 1819.<sup>19</sup> After her marriage to Asa, Dorcas's son, Edward Jr., and daughter, Mary, joined the Porter household.

Asa and Dorcas soon had children of their own to increase the blended family's ranks: Asa Porter Jr., born in 1825, and twins, Fidelia and Philenia, in 1833.

In 1863 their only son, Asa Jr., died. Concerned for the welfare of his "much loved" daughter-in-law, Mary (Luce) Porter, and her two small children, Waldo A.

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<sup>11</sup> For example, Penobscot Co. Deeds, 4:529, in which Asa Porter of Hampden, yeoman, purchased, 6 Feb. 1811, the easterly half of a 100-acre lot in Hampden originally laid out to Nathaniel Myrick Jr.

<sup>12</sup> Town of Hampden, First Book of Records, p. 154, Hampden Town Hall.

<sup>13</sup> Town of Hampden, First Book of Records, pp. 163, 174.

<sup>14</sup> Arthur Gibbs Sylvester and Richard E. Spinney, eds., *Vital Records of Hampden, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockland, Maine, 2007), 10.

<sup>15</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 14], 43; marriage intentions between Mr. Aaron Walker and Miss Bettsy Noles were dated 18 July 1793 (Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Prospect, Maine, Prior to 1892* [Rockport, Maine], 121).

<sup>16</sup> Asa was listed as a private in Capt. Peter Newcomb's company, comprising 49 militia and 8 officers, with military service between 1 and 3 Sept. 1814. Asa's brother Benjamin also served in the same company on the same dates (*Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812* [Boston, 1913], 215–16; U.S., War of 1812 Service Records, 1812–1815 [images, ancestry.com]). A complete treatment of the Battle of Hampden can be found in Harry J. Chapman, "The Battle of Hampden," *Sprague's Journal of Maine History*, 2, No. 4 (Oct. 1914):185–92. Asa would later file for a pension for his service (Asa Porter, War of 1812 Pension File #SO-33494, SC-25199 [images, fold3.com]).

<sup>17</sup> Asa and his brother Benjamin shared a cemetery plot. Sally Porter is buried next to Asa. The stone inscription reads "Sarah, wife, died August 9, 1824, aet 30 yrs. 3 mos" (gravestone photo, Nealey Corner Cemetery, findagrave.com #169909326).

<sup>18</sup> Leeds Marriages, 1803–1869, p. 9 [DGS #7595728, image 12]. They m. 5 Jan. 1825.

<sup>19</sup> Penobscot Co. Probate Records, 1:198.

and Estelle M. Porter, Asa and Dorcas transferred ownership of several lands to her in the hope the rent would provide an income.<sup>20</sup>

Asa's daughter Sarah was married to Royal ("Rial") Batchelder in Bangor, 22 February 1837.<sup>21</sup> The couple were living in Kingfield where their first child, Mercy, was born 6 December 1836.<sup>22</sup> They moved to Hampden and lived with Asa for the next decade. Rial's name appears in several Hampden records from this time period.<sup>23</sup>

In 1847 Asa purchased a farm and a lot in Troy from Hampden neighbor, John P. Wingate.<sup>24</sup> Sarah and Rial took up residence farming the property. By that date they had five children and Sarah was to give birth to five more. The deed does not specify whether they lived there rent free or were expected to pay Asa an annual fee.

The farm in Troy, while modest in size, held its value throughout the nearly forty years of Sarah's life there, but it made no spectacular jumps in value, perhaps because of its small size. The U.S. census returns from 1850 to 1880 show the value going from \$450 to \$800.<sup>25</sup>

Rial's labor on the land was not acknowledged in Asa's will, which left his son-in-law's position legally precarious. The Asa who had provided for his widowed daughter-in-law apparently deemed his son-in-law able to provide for himself or depend on the generosity of his adult children. There is no documentation of hostility between the two men, but only assumptions based on Asa's treatment of Rial. There

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<sup>20</sup> Asa Porter Jr. and Mary F. Luce m. 7 Jan. 1857 in Bangor (Ruth Gray, ed., *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*, 2 vols. [Camden, Maine, 1991], 1:213). The deed given to their daughter-in-law to provide for her maintenance and that of her two young children included a stipulation that the property was to revert to the children or to the surviving child at age 21, and if neither survived it was to be Mary's (Penobscot Co. Deeds, 328:173-74). On 10 April 1873, Mary m. (2) George Damon of Brooks, Maine (*Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, op. cit., 1:600).

<sup>21</sup> The marriage intentions were filed in Hampden (Sylvester and Spinney, *Vital Records of Hampden* [note 14], 66. The marriage was solemnized in Bangor (*Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns* [note 20], 1:34).

<sup>22</sup> Mercy's birth before the marriage is confirmed by her death certificate and census returns.

<sup>23</sup> On 5 Sept. 1838, Royal Batchelder consigned his surplus from the Maine Special 1837 Census to Hannibal Hamlin of Hampden. In it Royal stated that he and his wife were then living with the Asa Porter family (Family Census, 1837, or Distribution of Surplus Revenue, original record in the collection of the Hampden Historical Society, Katherine Trickey Archives). Rial paid road tax in Hampden in 1838 and witnessed a mortgage deed for the purchase of a yoke of oxen on 7 Oct. 1840 (ibid.) When Aaron Walker died in 1838, his daughter Sally's children inherited her share of his estate. Sally's widower, Asa Porter, was appointed guardian for the interest of their minor daughter, Abigail. Rial Batchelder signed as a witness for his father-in-law's bond. Rial also witnessed the bond of William Smith, widower of Aaron's daughter Ruth, who had died just months before her father. William Smith acted as guardian for the interests of his and Ruth's five children (Penobscot Co. Probate Records, 1:299).

<sup>24</sup> Asa purchased several plots of land from J. P. Wingate and Barnet M. Mitchell on 10 Nov. 1847 for the sum of \$500. The main plot consisted of 40 acres and the second 18 acres (Waldo Co. Deeds, 5:431).

<sup>25</sup> Rial Batchelder, 1850-80 U.S. Censuses, Troy, Waldo Co., Maine, pp. 222, 19, 388, 521. In 1880, \$800 value would convert to just over \$20,000 in today's dollars ([www.officialdata.org/US/inflation](http://www.officialdata.org/US/inflation)).

is little doubt Sarah was the most financially needy of Asa's children and Asa may have assumed that Sarah would outlive her husband and the life estate would ensure she had a home and means of survival in her old age. If that were the case, he was mistaken for Sarah died in October 1882 leaving Rial facing an uncertain future.<sup>26</sup> The farm he had worked on for the bulk of his lifetime was no longer his.

Happily, this is not a Charles Dickens novel and Rial was not pushed, shivering and homeless, into the heart of winter onto the back roads of rural Troy. In December 1882, two months after Sarah's death, the heirs of Asa Porter—daughters Mary Doane, Julia Becket, Abigail Allen, Philenia Thorndike, Malinda Cobb, and the husbands of the last three<sup>27</sup>—sold the property in Troy to Benjamin F. Bachelor, Rial and Sarah's fourth son. The purchase price was a modest \$500.<sup>28</sup>

In the 1900 census for Troy, Rial and Sarah's son Rial C. Batchelder was listed as head of household. Others living there were Rial's wife, Annie, his brother Benjamin, and brother-in-law Esbond F. Reynolds.<sup>29</sup> Interestingly, Rial Sr. was not listed with them. He died in Troy, 15 September 1902, of face cancer.<sup>30</sup> It must have been a painful, grim, and disfiguring death. He left no will, nor is there any evidence he possessed property of any sort. He was laid to rest beside his wife, Sarah, in Troy's Webster Cemetery.

The lack of a will suggests either poverty or prudence on the part of Rial. The official record is mute. After a lifetime of hard labor on a farm owned by his father-in-law, let us hope Rial gave what he had to those he loved. But history will probably never know.

#### FAMILY SUMMARY

**ASA DAVID PORTER** was born in Denmark, Maine, [calc.] May 1790, son of David Foster and Susannah (Towne) Porter. He died in Boston, Massachusetts, 10 October 1878, aged 88 years, 5 months.<sup>31</sup> He married first, in Hampden, 6 March 1814, SARAH (“SALLY”) WALKER, daughter of Aaron and Betsy (Knowles) Walker.<sup>32</sup> She died in Hampden, 9 August 1824, and is buried in the Nealey's Corner Cemetery.<sup>33</sup> Asa married second, in Leeds, Maine, 5 January 1825, DORCAS (GOULD) DOANE, born in Leeds, 5 June 1790, daughter of Isaac and Affia (Har-

<sup>26</sup> Sarah's death is not recorded in Troy. Her death date is found on her gravestone in the Webster Cemetery in Troy, which gives b. 10 Nov. 1818, d. 6 Oct. 1882 (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #169909326). Several of their children are buried in the plot as well.

<sup>27</sup> Daughters Julia and Mary were widows by this time.

<sup>28</sup> Waldo Co. Deeds, 201:285.

<sup>29</sup> Rial C. Batchelder household, 1900 U.S. Census, Troy, Waldo, Maine, Sheet 7A.

<sup>30</sup> Rial Batchelder death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.

<sup>31</sup> Death record, Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910, 303:225 [image, americanancestors.org]. The record names his parents as David and Susan Porter. His parents m. (int.) Boxford, Mass., 27 Aug. 1771 (*Boxford VRs* [note 10], 190).

<sup>32</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 21], p. 10 (marriage). Sally was b. 28 May 1794 (*ibid.*, p. 43).

<sup>33</sup> See note 17.

ding) Gould.<sup>34</sup> Dorcas had married first in Leeds, 1 January 1815, Captain Edward Doane of Hampden, who died at sea in 1819.<sup>35</sup> Dorcas died 13 September 1867 aged 76 years, 3 months, and 8 days. She is buried with her son, Asa Jr., in the Locust Grove Cemetery, Hampden.<sup>36</sup>

Children of Asa and Sarah (Walker) Porter, b. Hampden:

- i MARY ANN PORTER, b. 24 Dec 1815,<sup>37</sup> d. Wellfleet, Mass., 3 April 1895, aged 80y 3m;<sup>38</sup> m. Hampden, 9 Aug. 1835, OBADIAH DOANE Jr.,<sup>39</sup> born Eastham, Mass., 10 Jan. 1805, son of Obadiah and Phebe Young (Atwood) Doane,<sup>40</sup> d. Wellfleet, 21 Nov. 1879, of heart disease, aged 73y 10m.<sup>41</sup> In various censuses, Obadiah gave his occupation as master mariner, farmer, and fish dealer. The couple are buried in the Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Wellfleet.<sup>42</sup> They had four children: *Rachel Doane*, *Asa Porter Doane*, *Isaiah Cole Doane*, and *Mary A. Doane*.<sup>43</sup>
- ii JULIA PORTER, b. [calc.] Dec. 1817, d. Wellfleet, Mass., 7 Sept. 1902, of apoplexy aged 84y 9m;<sup>44</sup> m. JAMES M. BECKETT[T], b. Bath, Maine [calc.] 19 Dec. 1813, son of Thomas and Mary (Whitmore) Becket, d. Melrose, 31 May 1872, of a fever, aged 58y 5m 12d.<sup>45</sup> The couple moved to Melrose, Mass., where James was a merchant. In 1900 Julia was living with her nephew, Warren W. Allen, and his family in Boston along with Warren's widowed mother and Julia's sister, Abbie.<sup>46</sup> The couple had no children.
- iii SARAH PORTER, b. 1 Jan. 1818, d. 6 Oct. 1882;<sup>47</sup> m. Bangor, 22 Feb. 1837, ROYAL ("RIAL") BATCHELDER,<sup>48</sup> b. in Kingfield, Maine, [calc.] 3 Jan. 1815, son of John and Sophia (Wing) Batchelder, d. Troy, 15 Sept. 1902.<sup>49</sup> The couple moved to Troy, Maine, in 1847. They are bur. in Webster Cemetery in Troy. They ten children: *Mercy A. Batchelder*, *Betsey E. Batchelder*, *Esther A. Batchelder*, *Charlotte*

<sup>34</sup> See note 18; Leeds Births & Deaths, 1785–1850, p. 88 [DGS #7595728, image 230]; her parents m. (int.) Scarborough, 2 May 1787 (James H. Wick, *Vital Records of Scarborough, Maine* [Rockland, Maine, 2011], 137).

<sup>35</sup> Leeds Marriages, 1803–1869, p. 199 [DGS #7595728, image 110]; Edward Doane estate, Penobscot Co. Probate Records, 1:198.

<sup>36</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #105552323.

<sup>37</sup> Alfred Alder Doane, *The Doane Family* (Boston, 1902), 315.

<sup>38</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 454:31, her parents named as Asa Parker and Sarah Walker.

<sup>39</sup> Gray, *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns* [note 20], 1:25.

<sup>40</sup> Doane, *Doane Family* [note 37], 175, 315.

<sup>41</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 310:21. The death record names his parents as Obediah and Phebe Doane.

<sup>42</sup> Gravestone photos, findagrave.com #s 70262214, 136732298.

<sup>43</sup> Doane, *Doane Family* [note 37], 315.

<sup>44</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 528:33. The death record names her parents as Asa Parker and Sarah Walker and her husband as James M. Beckett

<sup>45</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 248:225.

<sup>46</sup> Warren W. Allen household, 1900 U.S. Census, Boston Ward 1, Suffolk Co., Mass., E.D. 1154, sheet 13B.

<sup>47</sup> See note 26

<sup>48</sup> See note 21.

<sup>49</sup> All information from his death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.



*Batchelder, Nathaniel Batchelder, Rial O. Batchelder, Sarah Anne Batchelder, Julia M. Batchelder, Benjamin Franklin Batchelder, and Charles E. Batchelder.*

- iv ABIGAIL PORTER, b. [calc.] 12 Jan. 1821, d. Boston, Mass., of cerebral hemorrhage, 27 May 1907, aged 86y 4m 15d;<sup>50</sup> m. Boston, Mass., 26 June 1841, NATHANIEL W. ALLEN,<sup>51</sup> b. Royalston, Mass., [calc.] Jan. 1815, son of Benjamin and Sophia (—) Allen, d. Boston, Mass., 3 Oct. 1892, aged 77y 9m.<sup>52</sup> In the 1860 census, Nathaniel's birthplace was listed as Mass., but in the 1880 census his birthplace was given as Vt.<sup>53</sup> The couple had two children: *Warren W. Allen* and *Abbie M. Allen*.

The children of Asa Porter and Dorcas (Gould) (Doane) Porter, b. Hampden

- v ASA PORTER Jr., b. [calc.] 14 Aug.. 1828, d. 11 Nov. 1862, aged 34y 2m 27d, and bur. in Locust Grove Cemetery, Hampden;<sup>54</sup> m. Bangor, 7 Jan. 1857, MARY F. LUCE.<sup>55</sup> In the 1860 census for Hampden, Asa Jr., Mary, and son Waldo were residing with Asa Jr.'s parents, Asa and Dorcas Porter.<sup>56</sup> At Asa Jr.'s death, Mary was left a widow with two young children, *Waldo Porter* and his sister, *Estelle Porter*. Mary m. (2) Hampden, 10 April 1873, George Damon of Brooks<sup>57</sup>. Mary (Luce) (Porter) Damon d. in Freedom, Maine, 16 March 1884, aged 46y 11m 14d, and is bur. with Asa Jr. in Hampden.<sup>58</sup>
- vi PHILENIA MARILLA PORTER, twin, b. [calc.] 27 April 1833, d. Bangor, 17 July 1893, aged 60y 2m 20d, from cancer of the stomach;<sup>59</sup> m. Hampden, 23 Feb. 1857, JOHN CLARY THORNDIKE of Bangor,<sup>60</sup> b. Dixmont, Maine, 11 June 1828, son of Ebenezer and Betsy (—) Thorndike,<sup>61</sup> d. 17 Feb. 1884 and bur. with Philenia in Mount Hope Cemetery, Bangor.<sup>62</sup> Philenia and John lived in Bangor where John was a partner with Ezekiel Cobb in a grocery store. The couple had two children: *John Albert Thorndike* and *Minnie Etta Thorndike*.
- vii FIDELIA MALINDA PORTER, twin, b. [calc.] 29 April 1833, d. of apoplexy, Bangor, 29 April 1900, aged 67y 0m 0d;<sup>63</sup> m. Bangor, 11 Aug. 1852, EZEKIEL D. COBB,<sup>64</sup>

<sup>50</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 1907/13:7.

<sup>51</sup> Massachusetts, U.S., Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988, image, ancestry.com, citing Boston Marriages 1841–44, p. 43.

<sup>52</sup> All information from his death record, Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 429:375.

<sup>53</sup> Nathaniel W. Allen household, 1860 U.S. Census, Boston Ward 2, Suffolk Co., Mass., p. 470; 1880 U.S. Census, Boston, Suffolk Co., Mass., E.D. 578, p. 92D.

<sup>54</sup> Maine Old Cemetery Association [MOCA], "Cemetery Inscription Project," typescript, Maine State Library, Augusta, Series 3 (1987), Penobscot Co., p. 300.

<sup>55</sup> Gray, *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns* [note 20], 1:213.

<sup>56</sup> Asa Porter household, 1860 U.S. Census, Hampden, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 67.

<sup>57</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 21], 271.

<sup>58</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Freedom, Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1991) 78; MOCA, Locust Grove Cemetery [note 54].

<sup>59</sup> Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.

<sup>60</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 21], 199.

<sup>61</sup> Linda A. Strauss, transcr., Richard E. Spinney, ed., *Vital Records of Dixmont, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2003), 9.

<sup>62</sup> Gravestone photos, findagrave.com #s 58401498 (John), 69316828 (Philenia).

<sup>63</sup> Faylene Hutton Cemetery Collection, Card #5786.

<sup>64</sup> Gray, *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns* [note 20], 1:160, her surname misread as "Patten."

b. Hampden, [calc.] 29 June 1829, son of Levi & Olive (Newcomb) Cobb,<sup>65</sup> d. of bronchitis, 25 April 1903, aged 73y 9m 26d.<sup>66</sup> He was partner in a grocery store with his brother-in-law, John C. Thorndike. The couple are buried in Mount Hope Cemetery in Bangor.<sup>67</sup> Children: *Warren E. Cobb* and *Addie L. Cobb*.

#### THE TWO MARYS

Mary A. Porter and Mary A. Doane have been confused by researchers over the years, as they were two women with the given name *Mary* connected to Asa Porter, one his oldest daughter, the other his stepdaughter by his second wife, Dorcas (Gould) Doane. The two Marys were born a month apart.

As noted above, Asa Porter's daughter Mary Ann Porter, born in 1815, married master mariner Obadiah Doane of Massachusetts. The couple named their first son after Asa Porter, Mary's father. Mary (Porter) Doane died 3 April 1895.<sup>68</sup>

Mary Ann Doane, daughter of Edward and Dorcas (Gould) Doane, was born in Hampden on 7 November 1815.<sup>69</sup> On 2 May 1839, she married Benjamin Miller,<sup>70</sup> born in Hampden, 9 March 1813, son of James and Sarah (Buck) Miller.<sup>71</sup> She is shown in the 1850–1880 censuses with her husband, first in Hampden, then in Belfast. Mary Miller died 13 March 1898 in Belfast from a stroke and her death record lists her father as Edward Doane.<sup>72</sup> On her son Leslie P. Miller's 1916 death certificate, his parents are recorded as Benjamin Miller and Mary Doane, both born in Hampden.<sup>73</sup> The Millers had five children: *Frances Miller*, *George Miller*, *Granville Miller*, *Leslie P. Miller*, and *Catena Miller*.

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<sup>65</sup> A document dated last Tuesday of Jan. 1847 in Ezekiel Cobb's probate file lists his children as Olive S., Ezekiel, Levi, Warren, and Marietta Cobb (Penobscot Co. Probate Records, 15:235). Ezekiel Cobb, aged 21, was living in Hampden in the household of Olive Cobb, aged 55 (Olive Cobb household, 1850 U.S. Census, Hampden, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 349. Levi Cobb of Hampden and Olive Newcomb of Newburg m. (int.) Hampden, 16 Oct. 1825 (*Hampden VRs* [note 21], 82).

<sup>66</sup> Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.

<sup>67</sup> Mount Hope Cemetery Inscriptions, online at <https://mthopebgr.com/>.

<sup>68</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 31], 454:31; gravestone photo, Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Wellfleet, Mass., findagrave.com #136732298.

<sup>69</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 21], 57.

<sup>70</sup> Gray, *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns* [note 20], 2:46; Mary's surname mistakenly shown as "Dean."

<sup>71</sup> *Hampden VRs* [note 21], 49; his parents m. (int.) Hampden, 2 April 1801 (*ibid.*, 13).

<sup>72</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.

<sup>73</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, familysearch.org.

## THE CORRECT DEATH DATE FOR ISAIAH TOLMAN OF THOMASTON AND MATINICUS ISLAND, MAINE

*By Helen A. Shaw, CG*

In 1790 Isaiah Tolman of Thomaston sold his home farm and bought 140 acres on Matinicus Isle,<sup>1</sup> where, it has been widely reported, he died on 15 November 1825 at the age of 104 years. Long's 1926 history of Matinicus appears to be the initial source for Isaiah's death year being 1825.<sup>2</sup> A small white marble monument inscribed with Isaiah's name, birth year, and death year is on his grave, but in form it does not appear to be contemporary with his death.<sup>3</sup> Numerous applications for membership in Revolutionary War lineage societies report Isaiah's death year as 1825. Newspaper articles published in the twentieth century about his longevity and numerous children report the 1825 date and the age of 104 years. None of the statements about his death in 1825 or his age at death are true.

Isaiah Tolman was born 28 May 1721 in Dorchester, Massachusetts, the son of Thomas [Jr.] and Mary (—) Tolman.<sup>4</sup> Isaiah was among the inhabitants who possessed an estate in Thomaston, Maine, when it was incorporated in 1777.<sup>5</sup> He invested heavily in land around Thomaston, becoming quite wealthy. In several deeds (1772–1786) Isaiah's occupation is listed as blacksmith; after moving to Matinicus

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<sup>1</sup> Lincoln Co., Maine, Deeds, 25:194–95 (Tolman to Dodge), 25:255 (Nickels to Tolman).

<sup>2</sup> Charles A. E. Long, *Matinicus Isle, Its Story and Its People* (Lewiston, Maine, 1926), 207.

<sup>3</sup> Gravestones in the Matinicus Cemetery dating before the Civil War are tablets without a base and are either white marble or what appears in photos on findagrave.com to be slate or Thomaston marble. Isaiah's gravestone is a thick stone wider than it is tall (about 18 inches) and rests on a base. It resembles gravestones from the post-Civil War to the modern time period. The author thanks Sarah Rankin of the Matinicus Historical Society for walking the cemetery and providing information on the form of the gravestones.

<sup>4</sup> *Dorchester Births, Marriages, and Deaths, to the End of 1825*, Boston Record Commissioners' Report, 21(Boston, 1890):69. Mary's maiden name cannot be confirmed as no marriage record for her and Thomas Tolman has been located. Unsourced family trees and notes on her findagrave memorial give her parents as John and Elizabeth (Wilson) Rice. This couple did have a daughter Mary, whose birth on 27 Dec. 1695 is recorded in Dedham (Robert Brand Hanson, ed., *Vital Records of Dedham, Massachusetts, 1635–1845* [Camden, Maine, 1997], 168). Thomas Tolman, aged 35y, d. 1 Feb. 1724[5] and is bur. in Canton Corner Cemetery, Canton, Mass. (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #26829281). Widow Mary Tolman m. (2) in Dorchester ten months later, 8 Dec. 1725, Joseph Hartwell (*Dorchester BM&D*, op. cit., 112). In 1743 Isaiah Tolman and his brother Thomas Tolman requested the court to partition land inherited from their father, Thomas Tolman, deceased, intestate, located in the part of Stoughton that had been set off from Dorchester (and later set off from Stoughton as Canton). The land abutted land owned by [their stepfather] Joseph Hartwell and Joseph served as a witness (Suffolk Co., Mass., Deeds, 116:266). Mary, wife of Joseph Hartwell, d. 10 Dec. 1782 "in y<sup>e</sup> 87th year" (compatible with a birth in 1695) and is bur. in Canton Corner Cemetery where Thomas Tolman was also interred (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #171186912).

<sup>5</sup> Thomaston Town Records, 1777–1825 [DGS #7834706, image 7].

he was listed as gentleman and as blacksmith (1790–1795, 1810).<sup>6</sup> He provided patriotic service in Thomaston during the Revolution, holding several town offices between 1777 and 1783.<sup>7</sup> In 1783 he donated an acre of land to the town of Thomaston to be used as a burying ground;<sup>8</sup> today it is known as Tolman Cemetery.

Isaiah married three times and had twenty-one children. He married first in Stoughton, Massachusetts, Hannah Fuller, on 12 September 1745.<sup>9</sup> She died 19 July 1758 in Stoughton.<sup>10</sup> He married second in Stoughton on 26 June 1759, Margaret Rob[b]ins,<sup>11</sup> who died after 1 September 1783 (birth of last child).<sup>12</sup> Isaiah's last wife was Jane (or Jean) Philbrook(s), whom he married 7 November 1796.<sup>13</sup> Isaiah and Jane had two children, only one of whom survived.<sup>14</sup> Jane is not listed as a head of household in the 1820 census for Maine, but she may be the over-45-year-old female in the household of Isaiah's son Luther on Matinicus.<sup>15</sup> Jane's date of death and place of burial have not been determined.

Isaiah died 24 April 1811 on Matinicus Isle and is buried in Matinicus Cemetery.<sup>16</sup> His widow, Jane, was appointed administratrix of his estate on 20 May 1811.<sup>17</sup> Timothy Wellman of Thomastown [*sic*], Abraham Young of Matinicus, and Samuel Rankin were appointed to appraise the estate on 17 May 1811; on 5 July 1811 they reported a value for the estate of \$758.65 which included \$325 for the house and land. The inventory included a long list of blacksmithing tools, farm tools, livestock, household goods, clothing, and three books.<sup>18</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Lincoln Co. Deeds, 10:215, 16:222, 19:131; Hancock Co. Deeds, 25:255, 34:138, 30:154.

<sup>7</sup> Thomaston Town Records, 1777–1825, pp. 3, 4, 7, 10, 14, 30, 34, 39, 40 [DGS #7834706, images 300, 301, 302, 304, 306, 314, 316, 318, 319].

<sup>8</sup> Tolman to Town of Thomaston, Lincoln Co. Deeds, 16:222.

<sup>9</sup> Frederic Endicott, *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Intentions of Marriage in the Town of Stoughton from 1727 to 1800 . . .* (Canton, Mass., 1896), 34; the marriage intentions dated 17 Aug. 1745 (*ibid.*, 57).

<sup>10</sup> Endicott, *Stoughton* [note 9], 83.

<sup>11</sup> Endicott, *Stoughton* [note 9], 177; the marriage intentions dated 9 June 1759 (*ibid.*, 173).

<sup>12</sup> Cyrus Eaton, *History of Thomaston, Rockland, and South Thomaston, Maine*, 2 vols. (Hallowell, Maine, 1865), 2:435.

<sup>13</sup> Vinalhaven, Maine, Vital Records, 1:419 [DGS #7596929, image 230]; the marriage intentions dated 28 Oct. 1796 (*ibid.*, p. 404 [image 222]). Although they are listed as “both of Vinalhaven,” the marriage most likely took place on Matinicus Isle where they lived. Vinalhaven (South Fox Island) in Hancock Co. included Matinicus until 1840 (Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Vinalhaven Knox County, Maine Prior to 1892* [Rockport, Maine, 1994], v).

<sup>14</sup> Eaton, *History of Thomaston* [note 12], 2:435.

<sup>15</sup> Luther Tolman household, 1820 U.S. Census, Matinicus Island, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 666.

<sup>16</sup> Deaths, *The Eagle* [Castine, Maine], Tues., 30 April 1811, No. 23, vol. 2, p. 3 [genealogy bank.com]: “On Matinicus Island, on Wednesday last, Isaiah Tolman, AEt. CIV”; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #83962308.

<sup>17</sup> Hancock Co. Probate Records, 2:175.

<sup>18</sup> Hancock Co. Probate Records, 5:402–5.

## ISAIAH'S PROPERTY ON MATINICUS

Isaiah bought 140 acres on Matinicus Isle on 21 April 1790 from Alexander Nickels.<sup>19</sup> On 25 February 1792, he sold twenty acres, presumably part of that land, to Joseph Young,<sup>20</sup> who had married Isaiah's daughter Peggy in December 1791.<sup>21</sup>

On 5 February 1798, Isaiah sold

. . . in consideration of five hundred Dollars paid by Isaac Tolman & Luther Tolman both minor [*sic*] under the age of Twenty one years sons of Isaiah Tolman aforesaid, and residing on Matinicus . . . the full one half part of quantity & quality of my land and Farm lying on the Island of Matinicus . . . , the whole farm containing one hundred acres more or less bounded southwesterly on land of Ebenezer Hall northerly partly by land of Joseph Young and on all other parts by the water, Excepting only & reserving to myself, the free full and entire, occupation and improvement of the aforesaid Land and Farm hereby Conveyed, for and during the full Term of my natural Life.<sup>22</sup>

On 2 October 1810 Isaiah sold to Jacob Smith

. . . the undivided half of a certain parcel or tract of land lying & being on the Island of Matinicus . . . & bounded as follows, viz. Round the Sea Shore of the Northwesterly part of the said Island & on the other side by the land owned by James Hall & land owned by Joseph Young & also by lands owned by Isaac Tolman & Luther Tolman containing one hundred acres, be the same more or less.

The deed was recorded 20 May 1811,<sup>23</sup> the same day Isaiah's widow was appointed administratrix of his estate and three days after men were appointed to appraise his estate. On 7 June 1813 Luther Tolman sold to Isaac Tolman

. . . the undivided half of a lot of land as deeded to the Grantor & said Isaac Tolman by Isaiah Tolman, said lot lying and being on the Island of Matinicus and supposed to contain fifty acres more or less, bounded as followth viz. Southerly on and of Joseph Young & Northerly partly on Land of sd Joseph Young and partly on the Sea Shore and on Jacob Smiths land and land belonging to the said Isaiah Tolman late of the Island of Matinicus deceased.<sup>24</sup>

## WHY 1825? WHY 104 YEARS OLD?

The source of Isaiah's age as 104 has not been determined. He was actually 89 years and 11 months old at the time of his death, yet the notice published 30 April 1811 in *The Eagle* gives his age as CIV.<sup>25</sup> Likewise, the notices in the *Gazette of*

<sup>19</sup> Nickels to Tolman, Lincoln Co. Deeds, 25:255.

<sup>20</sup> Tolman to Young, Hancock Co/ Deeds, 6:320.

<sup>21</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Vinalhaven, Knox County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockport, Maine, 1994), 59. The marriage is recorded without a date on p. 37. The marriage date is reported in Long, *Matinicus Isle* [note 2], 220.

<sup>22</sup> Tolman to Tolman, Hancock Co. Deeds, 5:18.

<sup>23</sup> I. Tolman to J. Smith, Hancock Co. Deeds, 30:154–55.

<sup>24</sup> L. Tolman to I. Tolman, Hancock Co. Deeds, 34:460.

<sup>25</sup> Age at death calculated from date of birth (28 May 1721) and date of death (24 April 1811) as reported in *The Eagle*, Castine, Maine, on 30 April 1811 [note 16].

*Maine and Hancock and Washington Advertiser* (4 May) and the *American Advocate* (15 May) report his age as 104 and CIV respectively.<sup>26</sup> It is presumed all the newspaper notices came from the same source, but who or what was that source? A Tolman family Bible from Matinicus lists births, marriages, and deaths for the family of Isaiah's son Isaac between 1780 and 1903, but does not record any information for Isaiah or Jane.<sup>27</sup>

Confusion about the day and month of death may have come about because of his son of the same name. Isaiah Tolman [Jr.] was born 26 June 1751 in Stoughton, the son of Isaiah and his first wife Hannah.<sup>28</sup> He died in Thomaston on 15 November 1823 and is buried in Tolman Cemetery.<sup>29</sup> The year of death for Isaiah [Sr.] may have been contrived to reach the supposed age at death of 104 years.

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<sup>26</sup> Died, *Gazette of Maine and Hancock and Washington Advertiser*, Bucksport, Maine, Saturday, 4 May 1811, vol. 6, issue 40, p. 3; Died, *American Advocate*, Hallowell, Maine, 15 May 1811, vol II, issue 17, p. 3 [genealogybank.com].

<sup>27</sup> *The Old Testament Translated out of the Original Hebrew and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised Together with the Apocrypha Done by the Special Command of King James of England* (Philadelphia, printed and published by Mathew [torn]), photocopy at the Maine Historical Society, Portland. A handwritten note above the tear says "Pub. A.D. 1811."

<sup>28</sup> Endicott, *Stoughton* [note 9], 70; Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Thomaston, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 15, gives his date of birth as 15 June 1752, but it is part of a family listing likely compiled after the family arrived in Thomaston.

<sup>29</sup> Groves, *Vital Records of Thomaston* [note 28], 15; the date of death is on his gravestone, as is also his age of 71 years.

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## CRASHING A FUNERAL

*Contributed by Thomas W. Frank*

The funeral of Eugene Shuart was held at St. Joseph, Michigan, on 1 August 1895, under the auspices of the St. Joseph camp of the Knights of the Maccabees, of which the deceased was a member and an officer. The occasion soon turned chaotic:

While the funeral services . . . were in progress this afternoon, the floor gave way and the Knights of the Maccabees, mourners, and corpse were all precipitated into the cellar. Several women fainted, but aside from a few bruises no one was hurt. Everything was righted and the services proceeded.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> *The Belding* [Mich.] *Banner*, Thurs., 8 Aug. 1895, p. 3.

IDENTIFYING THE CHILDREN OF JOSIAH CROSS OF  
EDGECOMB, VASSALBORO, NORTHPORT,  
AND DETROIT, MAINE

*By Denise E. Cross*

Land ownership binds families together in multiple ways. Family members purchase land near each other. They sell it within the family. They witness each other's transactions. They often move together and remain in proximity down the generations. Familial associations inferred from deeds link parents to children and siblings to each other in the absence of, and in support of, scant vital records. Josiah Cross, born in Edgcomb, Maine, in 1775, interacted with his children and their spouses. Associations among his children and grandchildren continued, attaching him and his descendants together.

As shown in my former article, Josiah Cross moved as a child with his family from Edgcomb to Vassalboro, Maine.<sup>1</sup> Josiah emerged as an adult in Vassalboro upon his marriage to Hannah Varney on 14 April 1796. Births of their children are not among other Cross family records in Vassalboro. Josiah was in Vassalboro in 1798 and 1799. He does not appear as head of household in 1800, but was likely still in Vassalboro. In November 1801, the "north part of lot no. 1, 4th range of lots in Vassalborough, occupied by Josiah Cross" was taken for non-payment of the 1798 Federal Direct Tax. The loss of land likely led him to seek other opportunities beyond Vassalboro. He was of the "Plantation of Greene" (Belmont and Searsmont today) in 1803 when he purchased and mortgaged land there. Josiah and his family remained in the Plantation of Greene through 1810.

Josiah moved to Northport at some time after the 1810 census. He was apparently there as early as 1814 when he enlisted for militia service. Certainly, he was "of Northport" in 1818 when he sold land. The original purchase of Northport land by Josiah Cross appears to have gone unrecorded, but appears to have happened after the 1816 direct tax was collected from owners of "lands, lots, and dwelling houses for persons residing within the district" in Hancock County.

A record of Hannah (Varney) Cross's death is not among the Vassalboro records or those of towns that formed out of Plantation of Greene. She may have died as early as the birth of her last known child in about 1802, but certainly before 13 October 1806, when the marriage intentions of Josiah and his second wife, Patience Cushman, were published.

Josiah Cross and second wife Patience left Northport after 1830 with some of Josiah's children. His sons purchased land in Chandlerville (later Detroit). Peleg

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<sup>1</sup> All facts on Josiah's life described below are documented in Denise E. Cross, "Establishing the Identity of Josiah Cross of Edgcomb, Vassalboro, Northport, and Detroit, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 43(2021):99–108. That documentation is not repeated here.

and John, both identified as “of Northport” in 1831 transactions for Chandlerville land, clearly tie members of the family to both locations. Although Josiah does not appear in the land records of Chandlerville, nor did he have an earmark recorded, his sons Peleg and John did. Josiah lived on the tract of land that “I [John] and my father now lived [*sic*] upon.”

#### IDENTIFYING JOSIAH’S CHILDREN

The children of Josiah Cross and his first wife, Hannah, are not recorded in the Vassalboro town records, nor in the other towns where Josiah lived. That there were children born to the couple—likely in Vassalboro and the Plantation of Greene—is evident from the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses (see table below), as well as from interactions among younger Crosses and Josiah in land records. The records shown below suggest that there were at least four children from the marriage to Hannah—Josiah Cross Jr., Nancy Cross, Susannah Cross, and Silas Cross—and possibly others who may have died before reaching adulthood.

The children of Josiah and his second wife, Patience, are recorded in the Detroit town records. The entry includes three generations: Josiah and Patience; the couple’s three sons, Elias (b. 1807), Peleg (b. 1812), and John Cross (b. 1814); their son Peleg’s wife, Margaret; and two grandchildren (children of Peleg and Margaret) born by 1837.<sup>2</sup> Except for the two young grandchildren, they could not have been born in Detroit. Josiah and his children did not leave Northport until after 1830.<sup>3</sup> This suggests the entire family record, written in one hand, was created shortly after the second grandchild’s birth in 1837. The record did not include Josiah’s first wife, Hannah, nor her children perhaps because, in 1837, none of those children were living in Detroit.

The composition of Josiah’s household in the Plantation of Greene and Northport in the 1810, 1820, and 1830 censuses provide sufficient information to assign a range of birth years for the tick marks representing children. The identities tracked in the following table correlate with other records to suggest names for these children in the absence of the early Northport records which burned.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> “Earliest record of Detroit 1825,” unpaginated volume [DGS #7595361, image 20]. Josiah Cross, b. 20 Nov. 1775; Patience Cross, b. 21 Oct. 1776; Elias Cross, b. 8 Sept. 1807; John Cross, b. 16 Feb. 1814; Peleg Cross, b. 25 May 1812; Margaret wife of P. Cross, b. 5 March 1806; Josiah Cross, b. 15 April 1835; [unnamed child], b. 27 March 1837. The last birth date entered (for Peleg’s unnamed child) has a blank space for the name of the child. The date of that birth matches the calculated birth date for Benson Cross who was aged 57 years, 3 months, 12 days, upon his 7 July 1894 death (gravestone photo, Detroit Village Cemetery, findagrave.com #22854819).

<sup>3</sup> Josiah Cross household, 1830 U.S. Census, Northport, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 350.

<sup>4</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Northport, Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1995), vii: “The early records of Northport were destroyed by fire, so that the records now extant date from 1837.”



	1810 Census <sup>5</sup>	1820 Census <sup>6</sup>	1830 Census <sup>7</sup>	Combined Data (and proposed child) <sup>8</sup>
Male	10–15 b. 1795–1800			b. 1795–1800 (Josiah Jr., b. 1797)
Female	10–15 b. 1795–1800			b. 1795–1800 (Nancy, b. ca. 1798)
Female	Under 10 b. 1800–10			b. 1800–10 (Susannah, b. 1800)
Male	Under 10 b. 1800–10	16–18 <sup>9</sup> b. 1802–4		b. 1802–4 (Silas, b. ca. 1802)
Female		10–15 b. 1805–10		b. 1805–10 (unknown)
Male	Under 10 b. 1800–10	10–15 b. 1805–10	20–29 b. 1800–10	b. 1805–10 (Elias, b. 1807)
Female		10–15 b. 1805–10		b. 1805–10 (unknown)
Male		Under 10 b. 1810–20	15–19 b. 1810–15	b. 1810–15 (Peleg, b. 1812)
Male		Under 10 b. 1810–20	15–19 b. 1810–15	b. 1810–15 (John, b. 1814)
Male			10–14 b. 1815–20	b. 1815–20 (unknown)

Additional associations among Josiah Cross and his children reinforce their relationships. The associations continued despite the movement of the family members out of Northport:

A junior Josiah emerged in Northport in 1818. Josiah Cross of Northport sold 100 acres to Josiah Jr.<sup>10</sup>

The only Cross family in Northport in 1820 was Josiah's.

Nancy Cross was "of Northport" on 3 July 1821 when her marriage intentions with Nathaniel Clough were certified.<sup>11</sup>

Josiah Cross sold a lot to Jesse Sprague of Lincolnville in 1821. Silas Cross witnessed.<sup>12</sup>

Nathaniel Clough and Josiah Cross jointly sold land in Northport in 1824.<sup>13</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Josiah Cross household, 1810 U.S. Census, Greene, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 599.

<sup>6</sup> Josiah Cross household, 1820 U.S. Census, Northport, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 559.

<sup>7</sup> Josiah Cross household, 1830 U.S. Census, Northport, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 350.

<sup>8</sup> See Genealogical Summary for further information.

<sup>9</sup> The census includes tick marks for one male in the 16–18 category and one male in the 16–25 category, both apparently for the same person. His age therefore was in the 16–18 range.

<sup>10</sup> Hancock Co. Deeds, 38:154 (Josiah Cross to Josiah Cross Jr., 7 March 1818).

<sup>11</sup> Belfast, Maine, Vital Records, 3:17 [DGS 7592498, image 399].

<sup>12</sup> Hancock Co. Deeds, 41:479 (Josiah Cross to Jesse Sprague, 15 Aug. 1821).

<sup>13</sup> Hancock Co. Deeds, 45:434 (Josiah Cross and Nathaniel Clough to Ralph C. Johnson, 30 March 1824).

Josiah and Silas Cross were witnesses to the 1825 sale of the parcel they likely lived on.<sup>14</sup>

Josiah Cross sold a lot to Peleg Cross in 1830.<sup>15</sup>

Peleg and John Cross, both of Northport, purchased and mortgaged Chandlerville land in 1831.<sup>16</sup>

Josiah Jr and Silas Cross of Vassalborough both executed 1837 mortgages for land in Pittsfield.<sup>17</sup>

John Cross sold Chandlerville land to Elias Cross in 1837.<sup>18</sup>

The 1837 Detroit family record includes only Patience's children, Elias, Peleg, and John.<sup>19</sup>

Josiah Cross headed an 1840 Detroit household next to John Cross and Peleg Cross.<sup>20</sup>

Josiah Jr. witnessed the 1843 sale of 34 acres in Detroit by his half-brother Peleg.<sup>21</sup>

Josiah Jr. quitclaimed Troy land to Silas in 1849.<sup>22</sup>

Nancy (Cross) (Clough) (Twist) Taylor was living in Troy in 1880 with her sister Suzannah Sprague and her namesake niece, Nancy.<sup>23</sup>

The children in Josiah's 1810 household likely included the children of his first wife, Hannah, along with second wife Patience's eldest son, Elias. The Detroit record of Cross births appears to include only the living children of Josiah and Patience. No daughters are listed. There is a gap between Elias's birth in 1807 and Peleg's birth in 1812, and this later recording may not have included children who died in childhood. Two females, aged 10–15, appeared in Josiah's 1820 Northport household, neither apparently included in the 1810 household unless the ages were not correct. They may fit into this five-year gap. The two Cross sisters whose husbands were associated with Josiah in Northport—Nancy (Cross) Clough and Suzannah (Cross) Sprague—were alive beyond the probable 1837 family record creation. This suggests their mother was Hannah. The older male child in the 1810 household was also a son of Hannah, probably the Josiah Jr. who interacted with the elder Josiah and various siblings and followed them from Northport to towns adjacent to Detroit.

Josiah Cross, who was born in 1775 in Edgecomb and lived his life in Vassalborough, Northport, and Detroit, Maine, was husband of Hannah Varney and Pa-

<sup>14</sup> Hancock Co. Deeds, 50:364 (Ralph C. Johnson to Reuben Branard, 14 March 1825); Hancock Co. Deeds, 49:66 (Simon Knowles to David Knowles, 12 Oct. 1824).

<sup>15</sup> Waldo Co. Deeds, 7:364–65 (Josiah Cross to Peleg Cross, 2 Aug. 1830).

<sup>16</sup> Somerset Co. Deeds, 29:197 35:472 (Peleg Cross to Nahum Lord, 18 Nov. 1831); 29:192, 30:226 (John Cross to Nahum Lord, 21 Nov. 1831).

<sup>17</sup> Somerset Co. Deeds, 43:11 (Josiah Jr. and Silas Cross to Reuel and Daniel William, 17 June 1837), 43:12 (Josiah Jr. and Silas Cross to Thomas L. Winthrop, 17 June 1837).

<sup>18</sup> Somerset Co. Deeds 35:472, 30:226, 50:514 (John Cross to Elias Cross, 23 March 1837).

<sup>19</sup> See note 2.

<sup>20</sup> Peleg, Josiah, and John Cross, 1840 U.S. Census, Chandlerville, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 216.

<sup>21</sup> Somerset Co. Deeds, 58:150 (Peleg Cross to Oliver W. Plummer, 14 Jan. 1843).

<sup>22</sup> Waldo Co. Deeds, 65:334 (Josiah Cross to Silas Cross, 16 March 1849).

<sup>23</sup> Nancy E. Carter household, 1880 U.S. Census, Troy, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 11.

tience Cushman. Tracing the interactions in land transactions and other records allows for the identities of his children to emerge despite the lack of contemporaneous vital and church records recording their births.

#### GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **JOSIAH CROSS** was born 20 November 1775, probably in Edgecomb, Maine, son of William Cross and an unnamed wife.<sup>24</sup> He died in 1851 and is buried in the Village Cemetery in Detroit.<sup>25</sup> He married, first, in Vassalboro, 14 April 1796, **HANNAH VARNEY**.<sup>26</sup> Her birth and death dates and parentage have not been found. Josiah married, second, 28 December 1806, **PATIENCE CUSHMAN**.<sup>27</sup> She was born 21 October 1774, probably in Middleborough, Massachusetts, daughter of Josiah and Patience (Perkins) Cushman.<sup>28</sup> She died in 1845 and is buried with Josiah in Detroit Village Cemetery.<sup>29</sup>

Children of Josiah Cross and his 1st wife, Hannah (Varney):

- i **JOSIAH CROSS**, b. [calc.] 26 Aug. 1797, probably in Vassalboro, d. 3 March 1868, aged 70y 6m 6d, and bur. in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Bangor, Maine;<sup>30</sup> m. **MARY** — who was b. in New Brunswick, Canada.<sup>31</sup>
- ii **NANCY CROSS**, b. ca. 1799, probably in Vassalboro;<sup>32</sup> m. (1) Belfast, 3 July 1821, **NATHANIEL CLOUGH**;<sup>33</sup> m. (2) Belfast, 19 Nov. 1838, **PATRICK TWIST**;<sup>34</sup> m. (3) (cert.) Troy, 21 Feb. 1850, **EBEN TAYLOR**.<sup>35</sup>
- iii **SUSANNAH CROSS**, b. [calc.] 28 July 1800, d. 18 July 1887, aged 86y 11m 20d, and buried in Troy;<sup>36</sup> m. say 1818, **JESSE SPRAGUE**.<sup>37</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Cross, “Establishing the Identity of Josiah Cross” [note 1].

<sup>25</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #22905656.

<sup>26</sup> Vassalboro Vital Records, 1764–1827, p. 417 [DGS #7834727, image 708].

<sup>27</sup> The marriage date recorded in the Josiah Cushman family record, Winthrop Vital Records 1745–1891, p. 406 [DGS #7834709, image 262].

<sup>28</sup> Winthrop VRs, p. 406 [note 27]. No record of her birth is found in Middleborough records. Her parents’ marriage on 25 Nov. 1773 recorded in Plympton, Mass., Vital Records, p. 636 [DGS #7726431, image 389].

<sup>29</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #22905660. Although her headstone bears the birth year 1776 and the Detroit family record agrees, the year may have been altered so that Patience would appear younger than her husband.

<sup>30</sup> Mount Hope Cemetery Corporation interments [https://mthopebgr.com/].

<sup>31</sup> Josiah Cross household, 1850 U.S. Census, Troy, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 230.

<sup>32</sup> She was aged 51 in 1850 and 70 in 1870 (Ebenezer Taylor household, 1850 U.S. Census, Unity, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 256; Nancy Taylor household, 1870 U.S. Census, Unity, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 406).

<sup>33</sup> Belfast Vital Records, 3:17 [DGS #7592498, image 399].

<sup>34</sup> Belfast Vital Records, 3:146 [DGS #7592498, image 459].

<sup>35</sup> Troy, Maine, Vital Records 1840–1860, unpaginated [DGS #7596923, image 44].

<sup>36</sup> Gravestone photo, Rogers Cemetery, Troy, findagrave.com #46975893. Annotations by the submitter of this entry erroneously places Susannah (Cross) Sprague in the family of David R. and Sarah (Cushman) Cross. Susannah’s birth date predates the 1806 Winthrop marriage of David and Sarah Cross by only five years (Winthrop Marriages, pp. 28–29 [DGS #7596986, image 351]).

- iv SILAS CROSS, b. say 1802. He was living in Troy in 1840 and 1849.<sup>38</sup> No further information.

Children of Josiah Cross and his 2nd wife, Patience (Cushman):<sup>39</sup>

- v ELIAS CROSS, b. prob. Northport, 8 Sept 1807, d. 16 April 1883 and bur. in Owls Head, Maine;<sup>40</sup> m. South Thomaston, 25 Dec. 1836, NANCY ROBBINS,<sup>41</sup> who d. 29 Jan. 1886, buried with Elias.<sup>42</sup>
- vi (poss.) daughter, b. say 1809, poss. one of two females aged 10–15 in Josiah Cross's 1820 household, but not named in the Josiah Cross family record in Detroit.
- vii (poss.) daughter, b. say 1811, poss. one of two females aged 10–15 in Josiah Cross's 1820 household, but not named in the Josiah Cross family record in Detroit.
- v PELEG CROSS, b. prob. Northport, 25 May 1812, d. 6 April 1891, aged 78y 9m [*sic*] 11d, and bur. in Detroit, Maine;<sup>43</sup> m. (int.) Old Town, Maine, 7 June 1834, MARGARET RANDALL,<sup>44</sup> b. 5 March 1806,<sup>45</sup> d. 22 Nov. 1880 and bur. with Peleg in Detroit.<sup>46</sup>
- vi JOHN CROSS, b. prob. Northport, 16 Feb. 1814, d. 6 May 1847, and bur. in Detroit, Maine;<sup>47</sup> m. SUSAN SALLEY,<sup>48</sup> who d. 11 April 1857 and is bur. in Detroit.<sup>49</sup>

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<sup>37</sup> The 1865 Troy marriage record of their son Silas F. Sprague names his parents as Jesse Sprague and Susan Cross (Ralph E. Hillman, *Vital Records of Troy, Maine, Prior to 1892* [Camden, Maine, 1995], 105–6).

<sup>38</sup> Silas Cross household, 1840 U.S. Census, Troy, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 288; Waldo Co. Deeds, 65:334, Josiah Cross to Silas Cross, 16 March 1849. The 1840 census entry gives his age as 40–49 and he was living with a possible wife and 3 children under 10.

<sup>39</sup> Birthdates for Elias, Peleg, and John from the Josiah Cross family record [see note 2].

<sup>40</sup> Gravestone photo, Holiday Beach Cemetery, Owls Head, findagrave.com #42356160.

<sup>41</sup> South Thomaston, Maine, Vital Records, 1780–1893, p. 76 [DGS 8203751, image 44].

<sup>42</sup> Gravestone photo, Holiday Beach Cemetery, Owls Head, findagrave.com #174777798.

<sup>43</sup> Gravestone photo, Detroit Village Cemetery, findagrave.com #22905671.

<sup>44</sup> Old Town, Maine, Vital Records, 2:219 [DGS 7595778 image 184].

<sup>45</sup> Margaret's birthdate is given in the Josiah Cross family record in Detroit [note 2]. Margaret was prob. a daughter of Benjamin and Susannah (Cross) Randall whose marriage intentions were recorded in Vassalboro, 24 Sept. 1805 (Vassalboro Vital Records, p. 482 [DGS #7834727, image 740]). In 1860 Benjamin Randall, 67y, b. N.H., was enumerated in Detroit, his household adjoining that of Peleg and Margaret Cross (Benjamin Randall household, 1850 U.S. Census, Detroit, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 22).

<sup>46</sup> Gravestone photo, Detroit Village Cemetery, findagrave.com #22905675.

<sup>47</sup> Gravestone photo, Detroit Village Cemetery, findagrave.com #22803618.

<sup>48</sup> 1913 death record of Patience A. Sanborn names her parents as John Cross and Susan Salley (Maine Vital Records, 1617–1921, familysearch.org).

<sup>49</sup> Gravestone photo, Detroit Village Cemetery, findagrave.com #22803618.

## SMALL ADDITIONS

Isaac and Susanna (Hobbs) Small of Gray, Maine

*By Thomas W. Frank*

*(continued from p. 122)*

8 **JEREMIAH SMALL** was born in Gray circa 1783. He died there, 11 October 1846, aged 63.<sup>104</sup> He married in Gray, 26 November 1807, JANE FRANK.<sup>105</sup> Jane was born in Gray [calc.] July 1789, daughter of James and Roxalana (White) Frank. She died in Auburn, 28 December 1873, aged 84 years and 5 months.<sup>106</sup>

Until his death, Jeremiah and Jane resided in his father's Dutton Hill homestead.<sup>107</sup> If "good fences make good neighbors," Jeremiah proved that the converse is also true. In 1824 he accidentally burned a rancorous neighbor's fence down and a nasty lawsuit resulted.<sup>108</sup> Generally, his relations with his neighbors, for most of them were indeed his relations (!), were genial. In a 1936 letter, Jeremiah's grandson William A. Small remembered his old neighborhood which was alongside "the Pleasant River on the Dutton Hill Road beyond West Gray [near the] old school house where the Smalls went to school. Ephraim Lawrence's home was off on the north side of the road" and the Frank place was also nearby.<sup>109</sup>

Less than a year before his death, Jeremiah sold to his son James F. Small ten acres of the homestead farm including all his livestock and farming equipment, and his sons Joseph and Gilbert received twenty-five acres of the property.<sup>110</sup> Further

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<sup>104</sup> Gravestone photo, South Gray Cemetery, findagrave.com #44206353.

<sup>105</sup> Hale Papers.

<sup>106</sup> Obituary, *Portland Daily Press*, 20 Jan. 1874, p. 2: "In Auburn, Dec 28, Mrs. Jane Small, aged 84 years and 5 months."

<sup>107</sup> In 1813 Jeremiah received half of his father's homestead farm on lots 36 and 37, excepting portions of the lots that had already been sold to his son William, his daughter-in-law's father Stephen Austin, as well as Timothy Fogg and James Waymouth (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 69:274, Isaac Small to Jeremiah Small). On 2 March 1820, Jeremiah bought his brother William's 53-acre share in the family homestead (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 133:399, William to Jeremiah Small).

<sup>108</sup> Jeremiah Small was sued by neighbor Stephen C. Stiles, with whom he shared lot 61 in the 3rd division, for starting a brush fire on 26 Aug. 1823. The fire burned Stiles's fence and timber. Stiles sought \$400 but the Court, being somewhat less impressed with the extent of the damage, awarded him only \$10.00 plus costs of court of \$26.26. (Cumberland Co. Court of Common Pleas, v. 26, Mar–Oct 1824, June Term, 161–62 [DGS # 5668664, images 166–67]).

<sup>109</sup> Letter, William Armstrong Small to his niece Hila Helen Small, 8 Feb. 1932. From the family papers of Jonathan B. Small, Middletown, R.I., great-grandson to William A. Small. Used with permission.

<sup>110</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 206:237 (Jeremiah Small to James F. Small) and 214:513 (Jeremiah Small to Joseph Small and Gilbert Small), respectively. Jeremiah's widow, Jane, sold her interest in the farm and resided with various family members until her death (Thomas W. Frank, "The Descendants of James and Thomas Frank of Gray," *The Maine Genealogist* 40[2018]:2, 80.)

details on this family are found in “The Descendants of James and Thomas Frank of Gray” [note 110].

Children of Jeremiah and Jane (Frank) Small per the Hale Papers: *James Small, Joseph Small, Gilbert Small, Jeal [Jael] Small, Stephen Small, Eliza Small, Elma [Almer] Small, and Leoruna [Lorana] Small.*

9 **SUSAN SMALL** was born in Gray, 9 February 1787,<sup>111</sup> and died 2 December 1852.<sup>112</sup> She married in Gray, 13 July 1809, **ANDREW LIBBY**.<sup>113</sup> He was born in Gray, 20 November 1786, son of Moses and Anna (Libby) Libby, and died in Gray, 28 May 1872.<sup>114</sup>

Moses Libby moved his family from Scarborough to Gray in March 1782. He was 28-years-old when he was called to the defense of the Maine coast in 1814. He served alongside his brother-in-law Ephraim Lawrence in Capt. Ebenezer Cobb’s company of Lt. Col. Joseph E. Foxcroft’s regiment raised in Gray and with service in Portland.<sup>115</sup> In later years, he became captain of the Gray militia.<sup>116</sup>

Andrew and Susan initially set up house near Moses’s original homestead on Dutton Hill, but in 1817, when about age 31, he decided to relocate. He placed an ad in the local papers announcing:

A farm for sale. In Gray, at Dutton Hill. It contains between 60 and 70 acres of land . . . and is in a very pleasant part of Gray with a two story dwelling house lately built; and only about 15 miles from Portland Market. . . . The purchase of this estate is worthy of the attention of any farmer in this vicinity who wishes to make a settlement for a son, or to have more room for himself on the best of terms.<sup>117</sup>

Andrew subsequently purchased lots 24 and 25 in the second division from David Hunt Jr., and reestablished his homestead farm there.<sup>118</sup> He was evidently a successful farmer and a savvy businessman, as the register of deeds records more than eighty real estate transactions in his name. He was elected a selectman in 1824.<sup>119</sup> Andrew’s mother’s maiden name was also Libby and she had both a brother and a nephew named *Andrew*, both of whom lived in Gray! Thus, between 1803 and 1855, Andrew had a namesake maternal uncle and a namesake first cousin living in Gray; his uncle was eleven years his senior and his cousin seventeen years his junior. While his uncle

<sup>111</sup> Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 363–64.

<sup>112</sup> Gravestone photo, South Gray Cemetery, findagrave.com #119998216.

<sup>113</sup> Hale Papers; Black, *Vital Records of Gray* [note 100], 133; citing original town records, 187.

<sup>114</sup> Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 363–64.

<sup>115</sup> *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia in the War of 1812* (Boston, 1913), 210.

<sup>116</sup> Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 161.

<sup>117</sup> [Portland] *Weekly Eastern Argus*, 1 April 1817, p. 1.

<sup>118</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 76:463 (David Hunt Jr. to Andrew Libby Jr., 20 March 1817); Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 363.

<sup>119</sup> Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 161; George T. Hill, *History, Records, and Recollections of Gray, Maine* (Portland, Maine, 1978), 61.

lived, Andrew was often styled “Jr.” and his cousin the “3<sup>rd</sup>.”<sup>120</sup> When his uncle died, Andrew dropped the “Jr.” and his younger cousin assumed it. He was counted on the census in Gray from 1810 through 1870, Susan appears by name on the census only in 1850.<sup>121</sup>

Children per the Hale Papers: *Ann Libby, Lewis Libby, Emiline Libby, Affey [Aphia] Libby, Matilda Libby, Sofia Libby, Andrew Libby, Susan Libby, Mariah Libby.*

10 **DOROTHY (“DOLLY”) SMALL** was born in Gray circa 1788. She died 16 September 1857, aged 69.<sup>122</sup> She married in Gray, 22 January 1815, SAMUEL NASON.<sup>123</sup> Samuel was born in Gorham, 15 September 1793, son of William and Betsy (Burnell) Nason.<sup>124</sup> He died 23 October 1871 and is buried in Auburn.<sup>125</sup>

Dorothy, known as “Dolly,”<sup>126</sup> was unknown to Nelson as a child of Isaac and Susanna (Hobbs) Small. From 1793 to 1833, her husband, Samuel Nason, had a slightly older namesake second cousin living in the same town (Minot) with whom he is easily conflated.<sup>127</sup> Although they were less than a year apart in age, the suffix “Jr.” was occasionally, albeit inconsistently, appended to the name of Dorothy’s husband to distinguish him from his cousin.<sup>128</sup>

In September 1814, in response to the British threat to the Maine coast, Samuel Nason Jr. enlisted in Capt. Ichabod Reynolds’s company of Col. Cyrus Clark’s 3rd Massachusetts Militia regiment, which was raised in Minot and did two weeks’ service at Portland.<sup>129</sup> In 1816, not long after their marriage, Samuel and Dorothy pur-

<sup>120</sup> His namesake older uncle was b. Scarborough, 27 May 1771, son of Andrew and Miriam (Burns) Libby (Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 189–90). His namesake younger cousin was b. Gray, 7 April 1803, son of David and Mary (Cobb) Libby (*ibid.*, 190).

<sup>121</sup> Andrew Libby Jr. household, 1810–40 U.S. Censuses, Gray, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 260 (1810), 155 (1820), 167 (1830), 552 (1840); Andrew Libby household, 1850–70 U.S. Censuses, Gray, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 215A (1850), 11 (1860), 326A (1870).

<sup>122</sup> Maine Old Cemetery Association [MOCA], “Cemetery Inscription Project,” typescript, Maine State Library, Augusta, Series 1 (1982), Androscoggin Co., p. 37, Evergreen Cemetery, Auburn.

<sup>123</sup> Hale Papers; Black, *Vital Records of Gray* [note 100], 175, citing p. 39 of original town records; intentions, Minot, 18 Dec 1814 (Anderson, *Minot VRs* [note 76], 21).

<sup>124</sup> Hugh D. McLellan and Katharine B. Lewis, *History of Gorham, Maine* (Portland, 1903), 696.

<sup>125</sup> MOCA Series 1 [note 122], Androscoggin Co., p. 37, Evergreen Cemetery, Auburn.

<sup>126</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 119:556 (John Jr. and David Nason to Samuel Nason, Samuel’s wife Dolly, signing by mark, relinquished right of dower). See also Samuel Nason household, 1850–60 U.S. Censuses, Auburn, Androscoggin Co., Maine, pp. 8B (1850), 688 (1860).

<sup>127</sup> This namesake 2nd cousin, also a Minot resident, was a son of Isaac and Sarah (Small) Nason (Everett S. Stackpole, *Old Kittery and Her Families* [Lewiston, Maine, 1903], 629).

<sup>128</sup> The property described in Cumberland Co. Deeds, 129:301 (Samuel Nason to Willard H. Woodbury), is the homestead farm of Samuel Nason [Sr.] as shown by his wife Olive’s relinquishment of dower. The same property is described in Cumberland Co. Deeds, 98:386 (Isaac Nason to Samuel Nason), 98:387 (Samuel Nason to Willard H. Woodbury), and 115:506 (Samuel Nason to Willard H. and Nathan L. Woodbury).

<sup>129</sup> Samuel Nason [Sr.] served in Capt. James Harlow’s company of the same regiment which was also raised in Minot (*Massachusetts Volunteer Militia War of 1812* [note 115], 176–77).

chased one hundred acres of land in Minot.<sup>130</sup> Three years later they expanded their holdings when Samuel's brother John sold them the family homestead farm and a quarter interest in the family business—a sawmill.<sup>131</sup> Samuel's father had owned a sawmill in Gorham, and he and his brothers had been raised to that trade.<sup>132</sup> But due either to poor business acumen or circumstances beyond his control, Samuel Jr. did not prosper. His land transactions and court appearances between 1821 and 1825 painfully document his economic woes. In 1821 he mortgaged his interest in the farm and sawmill,<sup>133</sup> and on 2 June 1823 he mortgaged the rest of his property.<sup>134</sup> Beginning in 1824, numerous suits for debt were filed against him,<sup>135</sup> and in June 1824, he stopped paying on his mortgages.<sup>136</sup> Nearly all of his property was repossessed

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<sup>130</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 93:394–95 (Elizabeth W. Chase to Samuel Nason and Barrett Potter to Samuel Nason, lot number 37 in Minot).

<sup>131</sup> The homestead farm in Minot was held in common with John Jr. and David Nason, probably John Sr.'s sons. Numerous deeds record land transactions between John Nason and John Jr. There are also deeds showing David and John Jr. acting as joint grantors. The relationships are not specifically stated in any of these documents. See, for example, Cumberland Co. Deeds, 44:493 (John Nason of Minot to John Jr. and David Nason, both of Minot, 1805); 84:551 (John Nason of Minot to John Jr. and David Nason, both of Minot, 1819); 113:130 (Thomas Little to John and David Nason both of Minot, 1827); 187:445 (John Jr. and David Nason to Enoch Littlefield, 1834); 84:549 (John Nason to Samuel Nason).

<sup>132</sup> Samuel Nason's father, William, built and operated a sawmill in Gorham, so it was a trade in which the family had been raised (McLellan, *History of Gorham* [note 124], 696).

<sup>133</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 91:483 (Samuel Nason to Barrett Potter).

<sup>134</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 95:437 (Samuel Nason to Elizabeth W. Chase, via her guardian).

<sup>135</sup> See for example Cumberland Co. Court of Common Pleas, vol. 26, March–Oct. terms, 1824, p. 132 (Barrett Potter of Portland, Esq. v. Samuel Nason of Minot, yeoman), 432 (Osgood Bradbury of New Gloucester, Esq., recovers against Samuel Nason Jr. of Minot for debt incurred to Amory Leach at Danville 17 Feb 1824, execution issued 18 Oct 1824) [DGS #5668664, images 137, 437]; Cumberland Co. Court of Common Pleas, vol. 27, March–Oct. terms, 1825, 36 (Elizabeth W Chase of Boston via Barrett Potter of Portland recovers against Samuel Nason of Minot for default, execution issued 19 March 1825), 178 (Joshua Abbe of New Gloucester, merchant, recovers against Samuel Nason Jr. of Minot, yeoman, execution issued 19 March 1825), 429 (Charles Orr of Harpswell, gent., recovers debt against Nathaniel and Samuel Nason of Minot, yeomen, execution issued 5 July 1825) [DGS #5668685, images 41, 183, 434]. These represent a sampling of 5 of the 14 cases involving Samuel Nason or Samuel Nason Jr. of Minot recorded in vols. 26 and 27 (1824–1825) of the records of the Cumberland Co Court of Common Pleas. Although some of these records employ the suffix "Jr." and some do not, all the above cases can be shown to refer to the husband of Dorothy Small, as they each involve land recorded in Cumberland Co. Deeds and the lot number in each of the deeds can be tied to Dorothy (Small) Nason's dower rights. Additional volumes of the records of the Cumberland Court of Common Pleas were not examined.

<sup>136</sup> In a perplexing series of three deeds, all dated 8 Jan. 1825, Samuel, for \$1000, sold the land and sawmill rights he had bought from his brother to John Jr. and David Nason, probably his nephews (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 119:556). John Jr. and David Nason then immediately sold the land back to Samuel for \$1000 (*ibid.*, 100:533). Samuel then sold all of his holdings in the sawmill and associated property to one Nathaniel L. Ingersoll for \$500.00! (*ibid.*, 100:531). It seems likely these maneuvers were calculated to exploit real estate law to Samuel's best advantage, but clearly there is more to this story than the deeds alone can tell us.



and sold at public auction on 16 May 1825.<sup>137</sup> He still had interest in a twenty-one-acre lot of land in Minot, which he had jointly purchased with one Nathaniel Nason (relationship to Samuel unknown), but in June 1825, unable to pay a remaining debt, he lost that too.<sup>138</sup> No further land records are found in Samuel's name in either Cumberland or Androscoggin counties. Samuel Nason was enumerated on the census in Minot and later Auburn from 1820 to 1870, though Dorothy last appears in 1850.<sup>139</sup>

Children of Samuel and Dorothy (Small) Nason, per the Hale Papers: *Jeremiah Nason, Susan Nason, Clarissa Nason, Sofiah Nason, Samuel Nason, Nelly Nason, and Chandler Nason*. An eighth child, *Apha Nason*, who died young, is recorded in the vital records, but not noted in the Hale Papers.<sup>140</sup>

11 **SARAH ("SALLY") SMALL** was born [calc.] January 1792 and died 12 July 1854, aged 62 years, 6 months.<sup>141</sup> She married MINION AUSTIN, their intentions recorded in Gray, 21 November 1813.<sup>142</sup> He was born [calc.] 21 June 1793, and died 6 October 1859, aged 66 years, 3 months, 15 days.<sup>143</sup>

<sup>137</sup> *Portland Gazette*, 19 April 1825, p. 3, "Sherriff's Sale."

<sup>138</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 103:156 (Samuel and Nathaniel Nason to Charles Orr, 1825). Nathaniel Nason is probably the man of that name who m. Sarah Libby, daughter of James and Betsey (Small) Libby, in Minot, 23 Nov. 1800 (Anderson, *Minot VRs* [note 76], 33). Although Libby claims that this Nathaniel Nason d. 3 Feb. 1819 (Libby, *Libby Family in America* [note 6], 205), the Nathaniel Nason of Minot who purchased land with Samuel Nason was alive on 27 July 1825 when their land was repossessed to settle their debt to Charles Orr (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 103:156, writ of execution, Charles Orr recovers against Samuel and Nathaniel Nason).

<sup>139</sup> Only one Samuel Nason is enumerated on the census in Minot in 1820, with two boys under ten. As Samuel Nason [Sr.] had three young sons in 1820, the enumerated family most likely represents that of Samuel and Dorothy (Samuel Nason household, 1820 U.S. Census, Minot, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 314). In 1830, both Samuel Nason families were enumerated in Minot. The household with six children under the age of 20 likely represented that of Samuel and Dorothy. Samuel and Dorothy had three older individuals in their household at this time (Samuel Nason household, 1830 U.S. Census, Minot, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 259). By 1840 Samuel's namesake cousin had died, and Samuel presided over a household of 10, including one elderly male. Samuel and Dolly must be the male and female indicated as being between the ages of 50 and 59 when actually Dolly was 52 and Samuel was only 48 (Samuel Nason household, 1840 U.S. Census, Minot, Cumberland, Maine, p. 388). By 1850 that part of Minot in which Samuel resided had been annexed to the town of Auburn and 6 of his children remained in his household (Samuel Nason household, 1850 U.S. Census, Auburn, Cumberland, Maine, p. 8B). By 1860 Dorothy had died, and Samuel presided over a household of 8 (Samuel Nason household, 1860 U.S. Census, Auburn, Cumberland, Maine, p. 688). In 1870, at the end of his life, he was still residing with 4 of his children, though his namesake son was now a head of household (Samuel Nason Jr. household, 1870 U.S. Census, Auburn, Androscoggin, Maine, Wards 4 and 5, p. 60B).

<sup>140</sup> Anderson, *Minot VRs* [note 76], 231, 288.

<sup>141</sup> Gravestone photo, Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, findagrave.com #43094960.

<sup>142</sup> Hale Papers; Black, *Vital Records of Gray* [note 100], 57, citing original town records, 200.

<sup>143</sup> Gravestone photo, Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, findagrave.com #43094959. He is said at findagrave to be a son of Stephen and Lorana (White) Austin, bur. in the same cemetery.

On 2 May 1814, a few months after his marriage, Minion Austin bought about forty-five acres of land (portions of lots 32 and 36) in the 3rd division of lands in Gray (Dutton Hill), a portion of which had originally belonged to his father-in-law, Isaac Small.<sup>144</sup> On 14 September 1814, he joined his brother-in-law Jeremiah Small as a private in Capt. Henry Frost's company of Lieut. Col. William Ryerson's regiment and served for ten days in Portland.<sup>145</sup> Between 1816 and 1818, he sold his homestead farm on Dutton Hill to his brother-in-law Andrew Libby and Andrew's father Moses Libby. Minion's wife, Sally, relinquished her dower rights by mark.<sup>146</sup> The same day he sold the last of his Gray property, he purchased part of lot 93 in Minot from James Small "excepting one acre which was sold by James Small to Samuel Small." James Small retained rights to firewood on the property and James's wife, Mary, relinquished her right of dower by mark.<sup>147</sup> Minion Austin was "of Minot" on 20 March 1820 when he sold a portion of lot 93 to his brother-in-law, David Small of Gray.<sup>148</sup> David was also the husband of Minion's sister Elinor. As noted, this was a case of sister and brother marrying brother and sister.

Minion and Sally led a somewhat peripatetic life. They were in Poland in 1820, but by 1830, possibly following Minion's brother Jonah who preceded them there,<sup>149</sup> they had moved to Parkman in Somerset (later Piscataquis) County where they lived through 1840. By 1850 they had returned to Auburn, and they remained there for the rest of their days.<sup>150</sup> The Hale Papers were compiled by the husband of one of Minion's granddaughters, Almira ("Jennie") B. (Austin) Hale [see note 7].

Children of Minion and Sarah (Small) Austin, per the Hale Papers: *Thomas Austin, Henry Austin, Almira Austin, Luther Austin, William Austin, Lurana Austin, Loantha Austin, Robert Austin, Susan Austin, Clara Austin, and Rosetta Austin.*

12 **LUCY SMALL** was born in Gray, [calc.] 8 February 1794, and died 29 November 1863, aged 69 years, 9 months, 21 days.<sup>151</sup> She married in Gray, 26 November 1812, THOMAS FRANK.<sup>152</sup> He was born in Gray, 7 March 1792, son of

<sup>144</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 72:64 (Minion Austin to Moses Libby), 78:173 (Minion and Sally Austin to Moses Libby).

<sup>145</sup> *Massachusetts Volunteer Militia War of 1812* [note 115], 256.

<sup>146</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 72:64, 78:173 (Minion and Sally Austin to Moses Libby), 92:398 (Minion Austin to Andrew Libby). In 1816 Minion Austin was assessed a tax of 21¢ for 30 acres in Gray ([Portland] *Weekly Eastern Argus*, 6 May 1817, supplement 1, 1816 Direct Tax).

<sup>147</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 82:89 (James Small to Minion Austin).

<sup>148</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 107:164 (Minion Austin to David Small).

<sup>149</sup> Minion's brother Jonah (identified in the Hale Papers) was enumerated in Parkman by 1820 (Jonah Austin household, 1820 U.S. Census, Parkman, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 182).

<sup>150</sup> Minion Austin household, 1820 U.S. Census, Poland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 321; Minion Austin household, 1830 U.S. Census, Parkman, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 90; Minion Austin household, 1840 Census, Piscataquis Co., Maine, p. 29; Minion Austin household, 1850 U.S. Census, Auburn, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 3A.

<sup>151</sup> Gravestone photo, Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, findagrave.com #43009314.

<sup>152</sup> Hale Papers; Black, *Vital Records of Gray* [note 100], 99, citing original town records, 195.

James and Roxalana (White) Frank.<sup>153</sup> He died 13 March 1877.<sup>154</sup> Raised a Methodist in Gray, Lucy joined Danville's Free Will Baptist congregation around 1823 and remained a congregant until her death.<sup>155</sup> Lucy's sons and daughters established homestead farms near their father's home such that a long stretch of Poland's Hard-scrabble Road was once known as the "Frank neighborhood." She died after a three-week illness in November 1863. Thomas and Lucy Frank's family was enumerated on the census in Poland from 1820 through 1870. (For more information on this family, see Thomas W. Frank "The Descendants of James and Thomas Frank," *The Maine Genealogist* 40[2018]:139–41).

Children of Thomas and Lucy (Small) Frank per the Hale Papers: *Royal Frank, Whitney Frank, John Frank, James Frank, Henrietta Frank, David Frank, Ellen [Eleanor] Frank, Thomas Frank, Westin [Alpheus Weston] Frank, Zack [Zachariah] Frank, and Betsy Jane Frank.*<sup>156</sup>

13 **FRANCES ("FANNY") SMALL** was born in Gray, 25 January 1796, and died there, 25 November 1861.<sup>157</sup> She married in Gray, 24 August 1816, EPHRAIM LAWRENCE.<sup>158</sup> He was born in Groton, Massachusetts, 9 April 1783, son of Ephraim and Sarah (Sartell) Lawrence, and died in Gray, 20 September 1874.<sup>159</sup>

A nineteenth-century biographical vignette of Fanny's son David Lawrence notes that "[Fanny Small's] grandparents [David and Sarah (Knight) Small] were among the earliest settlers in Gray, and her parents [Isaac and Susan (Hobbs) Small] were

<sup>153</sup> Application for Widow's Pension, War of 1812, claim #32,365, certificate #24,460 [images fold3.com], "born in Gray, County of Cumberland, March 7, 1792." This date varies by one day from the date calculated by age of death on the gravestone.

<sup>154</sup> Pension application [note 153].

<sup>155</sup> "[Lucy Frank] experienced religion when about 17 years of age, was bp. by Rev. E. Lombard and united with the Methodists in Gray, Maine, with whom she remained about twelve years, and then united with the F. W. Baptist church in Danville and Poland of which she remained a worthy member until death, a period of over forty years" (*The Morning Star*, a Freewill Baptist publication, 13 April 1864).

<sup>156</sup> Lucy's obituary and the census assign 12 children to her, 4 of whom are said to have predeceased her. Only 11 of her children are known by name and 3 of these predeceased Lucy. The 1820 and 1830 censuses show a female born between 1813 (the earliest she could have been born since Thomas and Lucy were married in 1812 and their first child Royal was born that same year) and 1820. This female child is also found in 1830 when she would have been between 10–17 years old, but is no longer recorded in the Frank household by 1840. All of Thomas and Lucy's unmarried children predeceased them and are buried adjacent to their parents in Auburn's Mountain View Cemetery. It seems likely that if this daughter was unmarried at the time of her decease, she would have been buried also in the family plot. Since she was not, it is possible that she married and moved away, but died prior to the 1863 death of her mother.

<sup>157</sup> Her stone in the Gray Village Cemetery provides her full dates of birth and death, photo, findagrave.com #59501678; *Biographical Review . . . Leading Citizens of Cumberland County, Maine* (Boston, 1896), "David Lawrence," 129–30.

<sup>158</sup> Hale Papers; *Vital Records of Gray* [note 100], 128; citing original town records, 207.

<sup>159</sup> His stone in the Gray Village Cemetery provides his full dates of birth and death, as well as his birthplace, photo, findagrave.com #59501622; *Biog. Rev. Cum Co.* [note 157], 129–30.

“natives of the town” and “lifelong residents.”<sup>160</sup> Of her husband, “Ephraim Lawrence,” who was styled “Jr.” until after the death of his father in 1847,<sup>161</sup> this same source reports that: “Ephraim Lawrence, Jr. . . . was born in Groton, Mass., April 9, 1793, and came to Maine with his parents in 1802.” He “settled on a farm in West Gray, where he resided for several years, and later purchased [a second] farm [subsequently] occupied by his son David.” It notes that, in addition to being a successful farmer and businessman, Ephraim Lawrence Jr., was “among the leading men of the town, holding the office of Selectman for several years, and serving as a Republican member of the legislature of 1860. He was also a Justice of the Peace for many years, and during his life settled many estates and did a large amount of business pertaining to that office. He was pre-eminently a self-made man, having attended school but six weeks; but by hard study nights and spare moments he acquired a fair business education.”<sup>162</sup> The Lawrence family were members of the East Gray Methodist congregation.<sup>163</sup>

In September 1814, Lawrence enlisted in Capt. Ebenezer Cobb’s company of Lt. Col. Joseph E. Foxcroft’s regiment which was raised in Gray and saw service in Portland.<sup>164</sup> He began acquiring property even before he was married.<sup>165</sup> In March 1815, his father, Ephraim Lawrence [Sr.], granted him seven and a half acres of lot #45 in the 3rd division, which he in turn sold to William Hustin of Gray, yeoman, on 12 May 1818, with his wife “Fanny” relinquishing dower rights.<sup>166</sup>

On 15 January 1830, while serving as an overseer of the poor along with two fellow citizens, Ephraim Lawrence Jr. was given a piece of property in the 4th division, possibly for the use of the town poor farm as the land was provided “in consideration of future support to be furnished by [the grantees].”<sup>167</sup> Sometime prior to

<sup>160</sup> *Biog. Rev. Cum Co.* [note 157], 129–30.

<sup>161</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 220:190, 17 Nov. 1849, “I Ephraim Lawrence, within named, formerly called Ephraim Lawrence, Jr. . . .” (Ephraim Lawrence to Solomon H. Chandler).

<sup>162</sup> *Biog. Rev. Cum Co.* [note 157], 129. According to Hill’s *Recollections*, Ephraim Jr. and his parents came to Otisfield before moving to Gray. Hill also gives the years Ephraim served as selectman—several terms between 1827–42 (Hill, *Recollections of Gray* [note 119], 161, 311).

<sup>163</sup> Hill, *Recollections of Gray* [note 119], 267. Fanny Lawrence is not independently listed but presumably she was also a member.

<sup>164</sup> *Massachusetts Volunteer Militia War of 1812* [note 115], 210. He should not be confused with either of the two individuals of like name from Falmouth in Barnstable Co., Mass., who served in Fisk’s Co. of Nye’s Regiment and Parker’s Co. of Noyes’s Regiment, respectively (*ibid.*, 75–76).

<sup>165</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 175:283 (Jeremiah Hayden to Ephraim Lawrence Jr.). His first recorded purchase was the 100-acre lot number 63 in the 4th division in Gray. The grantor may have been related to the family of William Small’s wife, Mrs. Sally Hayden, as the deed was witnessed by Martha A. Small and John Hayden, although this is less certain since the transaction was executed before Ephraim and Fanny were married. In Nov. 1841, Ephraim Lawrence financed the mortgage of William Small’s farm on lot #36 in the 3rd division (formerly the homestead farm of Ephraim’s father-in-law, Isaac Small), but William did not pay it off prior to his death in 1848. Ephraim sold the property to one Solomon Chandler in Nov. 1849 (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 219:298, 220:190).

<sup>166</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 83:136 (Ephraim Lawrence to William Hustin).

<sup>167</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 122:404 (Joseph Pennell to Ephraim Lawrence Jr. et. al.).

September 1833, Ephraim Lawrence Jr. received his commission as a justice of the peace. He is generally styled “Esq.” in public records after this date.<sup>168</sup>

For reasons that are unclear, in early February 1841 he teamed up with Alpheus Frank to purchase lot #23 in the 4th division, the ownership of which was split between the two yeomen farmers.<sup>169</sup> Lawrence and Frank were not directly related to one another but they were neighbors, friends, and they also shared a common brother-in-law in Theophilus Stimson.<sup>170</sup> Stimson was married to Lawrence’s sister Mary (Lawrence) Stimson and was a brother of Alpheus Frank’s wife, Naomi (Stimson) Frank. Also, as has been noted already, there were numerous ties between the Franks and Smalls of Gray; Fanny grew up next door to the Franks and would have known all of them. The same is probably also true for her husband Ephraim. On 3 March 1845, Lawrence and Frank again partnered in bankrolling the mortgage of the homestead and blacksmith shop of their brothers-in-law (Theophilus and Woodbury Stimson).<sup>171</sup> In December 1854, Lawrence sold twenty acres of lot 110 in the 2nd division to his sister Mary (Lawrence) Stimson.<sup>172</sup> Ephraim Lawrence’s final appearance in Gray land records was on 27 July 1870 when he and seventeen of his neighbors sold their interest in the West Gray Meeting House to the firm of Smith & Leslie.<sup>173</sup> His detailed obituary appeared in the *Portland Daily Press*.<sup>174</sup> Ephraim and Fanny were enumerated on the censuses from 1820 through 1870 with Fanny last appearing in 1860.<sup>175</sup>

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<sup>168</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 140:58 (Ephraim Lawrence to Amaziah Fogg). Ephraim Jr. officiated for his father’s transaction. At least three deeds (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 175:307 [Ephraim Lawrence Jr. to David L. Libby], 400:384 [Charles Libby to Alpheus Frank and Ephraim Lawrence Jr.], and 190:57 [Woodbury and Theo Stimson to Ephraim Lawrence Jr. and Alpheus Frank]) subsequent to 1833 still refer to Ephraim Lawrence Jr. as “yeoman.”

<sup>169</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 400:383, 384 (Samuel H. Sawyer and Charles Libby to Ephraim Small Jr. and Alpheus Frank).

<sup>170</sup> Attesting to the fact that Ephraim Lawrence Jr. and Alpheus Frank were friends and neighbors is their joint deposition in support of Sarah (Sartell) Lawrence’s Bounty Land Warrant application based on her husband’s service in the Revolutionary War: “We Ephraim Lawrence aged 68 years and Alpheus Frank aged 61 years, both of Gray . . . depose and say that we lived neighbors to Ephraim Lawrence [Sr.] of [Gray] for many years before his death and were intimately acquainted with him and all his family for over fifty years” (Bounty Lane Warrant #49262-160-55, 3 March 1855 [images, fold3.com]).

<sup>171</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 190:57 (Theophilus and Woodbury Stimson to Ephraim Lawrence Jr. and Alpheus Frank).

<sup>172</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds 281:183 (Ephraim Lawrence to Mary Stimson). It is curious that it is Ephraim Lawrence’s sister Mary, rather than her husband Theophilus Stimson, who is grantee in this deed. The transaction occurred in 1854 and Theophilus did not die until 1872 (gravestone photo, Gray Village Cemetery, findagrave.com # 21352623).

<sup>173</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 434:121 (Ephraim Lawrence et al. to Smith & Leslie).

<sup>174</sup> *Portland Daily Press*, Friday, 25 Sept. 1874, p. 2.

<sup>175</sup> Ephraim Lawrence Jr. household, 1820 and 1830 U.S. Censuses, Gray, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 154 (1820), 163 (1830); Ephraim Lawrence household, 1840–1870 U.S. Censuses, Gray, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 545 (1840), 212A (1850), 15 (1860), 327B (1870).

Children of Ephraim and Fanny (Small) Lawrence, per the Hale Papers: *Sally Lawrence, Susan Lawrence, Henry Lawrence, Charlotta Lawrence, David Lawrence, Sattle [Sartell?] Lawrence, Charles Lawrence, Lucy Lawrence, and Amanda Lawrence.*<sup>176</sup>

14 **APPHIA (“AFFEY”) SMALL** was born in Gray, 7 January 1798,<sup>177</sup> and died in Danville, 27 September 1870, aged 70.<sup>178</sup> She married in Cumberland, Maine, 11 January 1821, **ROBERT STARBIRD.**<sup>179</sup> He was born 18 August 1792, son of Samuel and Sarah (Small) Starbird,<sup>180</sup> and died 22 April 1873, aged 80.<sup>181</sup>

<sup>176</sup> *Biog. Rev. Cum Co.* [note 157], 129, names 14 children. In addition to the nine provided by the Hale Papers are given *James Lawrence, Nathaniel S. Lawrence, Mary F. Lawrence*, “and two others who died in infancy.”

<sup>177</sup> Charles M. Starbird, comp., “Starbird’s Records of Danville,” typescript, Androscoggin Historical Society, Lewiston, 3 vols., 2(M–Z): “Starbird.”

<sup>178</sup> Gravestone photo, Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, findagrave.com #43094948.

<sup>179</sup> Hale Papers; Cumberland Marriages, 1720–18, p. 69 [DGS #7763743, image 475], “Robert Starbird of Poland to Apphia Small of Gray.

<sup>180</sup> Starbird, “Records of Danville [note 177]. Robert Starbird’s parentage is mired in controversy. Some sources say his father was Samuel Starbird and others claim Robert’s father was Samuel’s brother, Solomon. Samuel (bp Scarborough, 29 Dec. 1750) and Solomon (bp Scarborough, 13 May 1754) were two of seven children born to Jethro and Annah (Berry) Starbird of Stroudwater and Gray (Alfred A. Starbird, *Genealogy of the Starbird-Starbard Family* [Burlington, Vt., 1942], 36, 40). The Starbird genealogy asserts that Solomon had 12 boys and 1 girl, but only one child, Robert, is identified by name. He, without evidence, is said to be the Robert Starbird who m. Apphia Small. An online genealogy of the descendants of Jethro and Annah (Berry) Starbird recapitulates the Starbird-Starbard lineage for Robert, but likewise without evidentiary support (Thomas Jay Kemp, “Descendants of Jethro Starbird - An Early New England Family” [2010], 9 [https://documents.net/document/starbird-genealogy-descendants-of-jethro-starbird-an-early-new-england-family.html]). Local genealogist and historian Charles M. Starbird (1898–1969), who spent a lifetime amassing a huge collection of genealogical and historical data on Pejepscot and Danville (now part of Auburn) claimed, contrarily, that Robert was the son of Samuel, the 4th of 5 children, who were: William, Samuel, Solomon, Robert and Catherine (Starbird, “Records of Danville [note 177]). The Danville VRs, however, only record 4 children of Samuel and Sarah (Small) Starbird: William, Samuel, Solomon, and Catherine (Danville Family Records, 1:158 [DGS #7595342, image 95]). None of these accounts document sources. A Revolutionary War pension application, filed in 1838 by Sarah Starbird as “the only surviving child of Solomon Starbird” of Falmouth (Westbrook), proves that Solomon Starbird, who m. Falmouth, 9 March 1778, Eunice Crockett, and d. 7 Jan 1780 while on active duty, could not have been the father of Robert, nor could he have been the father of 12 children. He had been married for less than 2 years at the time of his death and he had been away from home on active military service for most of that time (Solomon Starbird & Eunice, Rev War Pension Application #W2508 [images, fold3.com]). There is no record of any other Solomon Starbird of the correct age residing in the area during the period in question. With the exception of one older adult female, noted on the census, the household of Samuel Starbird of Pejepscot, Maine, as described by the 1800 census, conforms demographically to the family described in Starbird, “Records of Danville [note 177] (Samuel Starbird household, 1800 U.S. Census, Pejepscot, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 182). This source is therefore presumed to be correct in identifying Robert as a son of Samuel and Sarah (Small) Starbird. The Danville VRs state that Robert Starbird’s mother, Sarah Small, like her husband was born in Stroudwater, her birthdate given as Jan. 1758 (Danville Family Records,

Samuel and Sarah (Small) Starbird removed from Stroudwater to Pejepscoot (later Danville, now Auburn) probably around 1786 when he was among the earliest settlers there.<sup>182</sup> Samuel's son Robert is probably the soldier of that name who served as a private in Capt. Samuel Fessenden's company of Lt. Col. Joseph E Foxcroft's regiment, which was raised at New Gloucester and in 1814 was garrisoned for two weeks in Portland.<sup>183</sup> He is said to have served in the militia from 1812 to 1815.<sup>184</sup> Robert resided in the family home in Pejepscoot until at least 1820, as he was not enumerated as head of his own household on the census that year. Yet by 1816, the twenty-four-year-old already held a considerable amount of property, being taxed in that year for "one farm containing 110 acres in Pejepscoot, on the northerly side of the Little Androscoggin and adjoining Charles Moody's possession."<sup>185</sup> He likely received this property from his father, but there is no recorded deed. In 1819, two years prior to his marriage, Robert Starbird of Danville purchased more than twenty acres of land in Poland (on what is now the Hardscrabble road).<sup>186</sup> After marrying Apphia Small in Cumberland in 1821, the couple probably moved to Robert's property in Poland. In 1823 he enlarged his holdings with the purchase of eleven additional acres on adjacent land.<sup>187</sup> He appears to have sold all his land to Nathan L Woodbury of Minot on 20 December 1836,<sup>188</sup> but there must have been one or more additional unrecorded transactions, because five years later, on 25 January 1841, he mortgaged this very same land to the same Nathan L. Woodbury with his wife, Apphia, relinquishing dower rights.<sup>189</sup> Robert Starbird's family is enumerated in Poland in each

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1:158 [DGS #7595342, image 95]). Since the family of Joseph and Mary (Libby) Small was the only Small family known to be in Stroudwater at that time, it is likely that Sarah was a granddaughter of Joseph and Mary, possibly through Joseph's son Daniel and his 1st wife, Sarah Nason. Apphia and her husband were therefore probably 2nd cousins, both descendants of Joseph Small of Kittery and Stroudwater. Samuel Starbird was enumerated on the census in Bakerstown in 1790 (*Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* [Washington, 1908], 11, col. b); in Pejepscoot in both 1800 and 1810 (Samuel Starboard household, 1800 U.S. Census, Pejepscoot, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 182; Samuel Starbard household, 1810 U.S. Census, Pejepscoot, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 234 ); and Danville in 1820 (Samuel Starbord household, 1820 U.S. Census, Danville, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 329).

<sup>181</sup> Gravestone photo, Mountain View Cemetery, Auburn, findagrave.com #43094947.

<sup>182</sup> Austin J. Coolidge and John B. Mansfield, *A History and Description of New England, General and Local*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1859), 1:36.

<sup>183</sup> *Massachusetts Volunteer Militia War of 1812* [note 115], 210. Starbird, "Records of Danville [note 177], states that Robert also served as a private in the militia in 1812, 1813, and 1815.

<sup>184</sup> Starbird, "Records of Danville [note 177].

<sup>185</sup> [Portland] *Weekly Eastern Argus*, 19 June 1816, supplement 1, "1816 Direct Tax."

<sup>186</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 84:160 (Josiah Dunn Jr. to Robert Starbird); 84:161 (Robert Starbird to Josiah Dunn Jr., mortgage), lot 26 in the 1st division of lands in Poland; J. Q. Page, *A Topographical Map of Androscoggin County, Maine* (Philadelphia, 1858), "R. Starbird" [image, www.loc.gov/resource/g3733a.la000265/?r=0.159,0.567,0.397,0.224,0].

<sup>187</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 150:385 (Aaron Hodgkins of Minot to Robert Starbird, 18 Oct. 1823).

<sup>188</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 150:386 (Robert Starbird to Nathan L. Woodbury).

<sup>189</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 170:483 (Robert Starbird to Nathan L. Woodbury, deed); 168:561 (Robert Starbird to Nathan L. Woodbury, mortgage).

Federal census from 1830 through 1870, Apphia through 1860.<sup>190</sup> Apphia and Robert Starbird presumably lived on this property for the remainder of their days.<sup>191</sup> (Robert Starbird of Danville and Poland is occasionally conflated with a namesake contemporary, Robert Starbird of Gray, whose relationship to Robert of Danville is not known.<sup>192</sup>)

Children of Robert and Apphia (Small) Starbird per the Hale Papers: *Fanny Starbird, Sarah Starbird, Maria Starbird, Henry Starbird, Royal Starbird, and Irene Starbird.*

#### CORROBORATION

A corroborating list of the children of Isaac and Susan (Hobbs) Small was discovered in 2020 among the typescript genealogical records of Uriel W. and his sister Beulah Small at the Maine Historical Society. The list was copied from a manuscript authored by Newton Small (1846–1943), a great grandson of Isaac Small through his mother Charlotte Pennell Small: Newton<sup>9</sup> Small (*Charlotte P.*<sup>8</sup> *Small, David Jr.*<sup>7</sup>, *Isaac*<sup>6</sup>, *David*<sup>5</sup>, *Joseph*<sup>4</sup>, *Samuel*<sup>3</sup>, *Francis*<sup>2</sup>, *Edward*<sup>1</sup>).<sup>193</sup> The document names thirteen of Isaac and Susan’s children, along with their spouses, omitting Isaac, who, per the Hale Papers, died young, but including Dolly (or Dorothy) who is omitted by Nelson and included by Hale. The Newton Small account gives death dates for four of the children, and these appear to have been copied from gravestones, but otherwise no dates are included. Only the typescript copy of the original document has been preserved, so it is not possible to verify the fidelity of the transcription. With the exception of the identity of William Small’s spouse, the Newton Small

<sup>190</sup> Robert Starbird household, 1830–50 U.S. Censuses, Poland, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 239 (1830), 261 (1840), 210A (1850); Robert Starbird household, 1860 and 1870 U.S. Censuses, Poland, Androscoggin, Maine, pp. 205 (1860), 409A (1870).

<sup>191</sup> Robert Starbird’s residence is identified on the 1858 topographical map of Androscoggin Co. [note 186], and a map published the year of Robert’s death shows his son Henry in possession of the same property (Sanford Everts, *Atlas and History of Androscoggin County, Maine: from Actual Surveys* [Philadelphia, 1873], Town of Poland, “H. Starbird”). One can conclude therefore that the property had remained in Robert Starbird’s possession.

<sup>192</sup> Robert Starbird of Gray was b. ca. 1789 and was enumerated on the census in Gray from 1810 through 1860. His parentage is unknown. It was probably Robert Starbird of Gray who served as a sergeant in Capt. Ebenezer Cobb’s company of Lieut. Col. Joseph E. Foxcroft’s regiment from 10 to 24 Sept. 1814, since that company was raised in his home town of Gray (*Massachusetts Volunteer Militia War of 1812* [note 115], 210). Robert Starbird of Pejepsco/Poland is never known to have lived in Gray. Curiously, though Robert Starbird of Poland signed the War of 1812 bounty land claim of his neighbor Thomas Frank, attesting to Frank’s identity, he does not appear to have submitted a claim for himself (Thomas Frank, War of 1812, bounty land claim #180061 [images, fold3.com]).

<sup>193</sup> Frank, “Small Beginnings” [note 2], 47; Hale Papers; Anderson, *Minot VRs* [note 76], 61; Auburn VRs, p. 465 [DGS #7592470, image 140]. Newton Small was born Nathaniel Newton Small but used his middle name throughout his life.



account agrees with the Hale Papers in every particular. Uriel Small died in 1905, so the list was certainly created before this date.<sup>194</sup>

Children of Isaac and Susan (Hobbs) Small (as given in Newton Small's list):

- i Joseph Small m. Charlotte Goss
- ii William Small m. Sallie Hayden
- iii Nancy Small m. Joseph Rounds
- iv Betsy Small m. Simon Libby
- v David Small m. Eleanor Austin, d. 20 Aug. 1846, aged 69y
- vi Polly Small m. Josiah Frank
- vii Jeremiah Small m. Jane Frank
- viii Dolly Small m. Samuel Nason
- ix Susan Small m. Andsen [*sic*: Andrew] Libby
  - x Sally Small m. Minion Austing [*sic*], d. 12 July 1854, aged 62y 6m
  - xi Lucy Small m. Thomas Frank, d. 29 Nov. 1863, aged 69y 9m 21d
- xii Fanny Small m. Ephraim Lawrence
- xiv Apphia Small m. Robert Starbird, d. Sept 1870, aged 42y

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<sup>194</sup> Papers of Uriel Whitney Small, 1825–1905, Maine Historical Society, Coll. 133, questionnaires M500-477 box 1, folder 20. The papers include correspondence and genealogical notes, largely typescripts, compiled by Uriel Whitney Small and his sister Beulah Small (1833–1914) on the descendants of Edward Small. The notes are typewritten but unorganized and unpaginated. They are divided into about 30 folders, loosely categorized according to generation or document type (e.g., “gen 4” or “questionnaires”). Only one of what must have been several volumes of the actual correspondence with Small descendants, upon which much of this compilation was based, has survived, and most of these letters do not treat the Small families of Gray.

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE, WILL ABSTRACTS  
1800–1830

*(continued from p. 144)*

**155. JOHN PARKS of Bowdoinham (LCP 18:133)**

Being weak in body

To my wife Sarah Parks, a tract of land in Bowdoinham, beg. at S line of lot 27 on the River Kennebeck [bounds described], to have and hold the same dur her nat life except 2a deeded to Capt. Jabez Fletcher, James Richard & Daniel Parks, containing 174a; all my h/h furniture, stock and farming utensils; another tract of land [bounds described] being 53a.

To my youngest son Chetham Parks, one half of all the above described estate.

To Thomas Parks my youngest son but one, the other half of all the above described estate provided Chetham and Thomas well & carefully look after and see to the maintenance of my beloved wife Sarah.

To my oldest daughter Elizabeth Bowker, a parcel of land [bounds described] containing 50a, being the land she now lives upon.

To my oldest son John D. Parks, a tract of land as specified in a deed from me to him.

To my 2nd son William Parks, a tract of land specified in a deed from me to him.

To my 3rd, 4th, and 5th sons James Parks, Richard Parks, and Daniel Parks certain tracts of land as deeded from me to them.

To my 5 youngest daughters Sarah Lee, Charlotte Pottle, Harriet Lewis, Nancy Conner & Sophia Towns a certain tract of land [bounds described] containing 174a to be eq div between the above named daughters.

To my wife Sarah Parks, the rest and remainder of my PE.

Appt my wife Sarah Park sole exec.

Dated: 7 March 1815

Signed with her signature ("John Parks")

Witnesses: Benj. Prescott, Joseph Robinson, W<sup>m</sup> Lewis

In Probate: 16 Aug 1815

**156. DAVID TRUFANT of Bath, yeoman (LCP 18:135)**

Being of sound mind and memory

To my son David, a piece of land bounded on the brook east of the town road entering into Daniel's creek, from sd creek extending W to the W end of my land; also one half of the land I own in Phipsburgh with one half of the meadows.

To my son Joshua, a piece of land beginning at the north line of my farm, then S by Washing Street to a creek and by said creek to the river, thence by the river to my N line, together with all the bldgs thereon standing; also one half of my lands in Phipsburgh with one half of the meadow, one half part of what I own in the double sawmill in Phipsburgh.

To my son Gilbert, the land I bought of Samuel Davis on which my brick store & wharf are; also a piece of land on the S side of my farm to extend from the river

to the W end coming the breadth of 15r; also one half of what I own in the double sawmill in Phipsburgh.

To my son Seth, the residue of my farm not otherwise disposed of and half of the income of the farm during the life of my wife; also one half of the cattle, sheep & utensils of the farm; and one half of the h/h furniture; also the land & store that was Moses Couillard's; and one fourth of the sawmill in Phipsburgh that William Morse built.

To my dau Sarah Snipe \$20 and, in case she should survive her husband Snipe, \$200 more.

To my grandson David Trufant Springer, a lot of land belonging to me in the town of Bowdoin, he the sd David paying to his bro Nathaniel \$50.

To my wife Sarah, one half of the income of the farm during her nat life & one half part of my cattle, sheep & h/h furniture.

All PE not disposed of to be div eq amongst my 4 sons.

Appt my sons David & Gilbert execs.

Dated: 10 Feb. 1815

Signed with his signature ("David Trufant")

Witnesses: Sarah Buck, Lydia Sewall, Dum<sup>r</sup> Sewall

Codicil: Whereas in the foregoing will by me made on 10 Feb. now last passed, I gave to my dau Sarah Snipe \$20 and in case she should survive her husband, \$200 more. But now I see fit to give my dau Sarah \$500 without any reserve.

And further I nominate my son Seth as one of my execs with my sons David & Gilbert.

Codicil dated: 18 Dec. 1815

Codicil witnesses: Nath<sup>l</sup> Sprague, Betsey Pettingill, Dum<sup>r</sup> Sewall

In Probate: 4 Jan. 1816

**157. WILLIAM McCobb of Boothbay, Esquire (LCP 18:136)**

Being in perfect and sound mind and memory

To my wife Rachel McCobb, the u & i of my dwelling house wherein I now live, with the garden, barn, and outhouses adj the same and all the h/h furniture dur her nat life; and I further give to sd Rachel \$250 a year dur her nat life, to be pd her by my 2 nephews Joseph McCobb Esq. and Maj. Jacob Auld. And I further will that sd McCobb and Auld furnish for my wife one good cow and all things necessary, comfortable & convenient for her in every situation and circumstance of her life.

To my nephew William McCobb, son of my bro Samuel McCobb, the whole of my farm in Boothbay whereon John Brown Jr. now lives, with the dwelling house, barn, and outhouses, which sd farm I will to be delivered up to my execs by the sd John Brown by the 1st day of May next aft my decease, together with all the manure and a sufficient quantity of hay to winter out the stock, provided the sd William McCobb shall within 1y from the day aforesd pay the sd Brown \$100. And I further give to sd William the blacksmith's shop which he now occupies and all the blacksmith's tools.

To my nephew William McCobb Auld, the whole of the lot of land adj the W side of Damariscotta River which I purchased of Andrew Walls deceased.

To my nephew Maj. Jacob Auld, the whole of the lower pasture as it is now fenced and the field adjoining the NW corner of said pasture and the town road, being a part of that farm now occupied by John Brown aforementioned.

To my 2 nephews Joseph McCobb Esq. and Maj. Jacob Auld, 10a of woodland on the NW corner of my farm now occupied by the aforesd John Brown, adjoining land of David Lennaston. I do further give sd McCobb & Auld the whole of my land on Spruce point in Boothbay and also 2 small islands in the harbor of Boothbay known as Burnt Island & Moose Island. And I do further give to my aforesd nephews McCobb & Auld the store wharf and land adjoining, and at the decease of my wife Rachel, the house, barn, outhouses & appurtenances, and all other bldgs standing thereon. And I further give to the sd McCobb & Auld 1/4 of the schooner *Alert* of Boothbay whereof the sd Jacob Auld is at present master, also 1/4 of the sloop *Industry* whereof Samuel Alley is at present master, as also the whole of the boat *Friendship*, together with all the tackle and apparel in eq halves betw them. And I give to the sd McCobb & Auld that tract of land in Boothbay which I lately purchased of Robert Montgomery.

To James Auld, son of the aforesd Jacob Auld, and Joseph McCobb, son of the aforesd Joseph McCobb Esq., in eq halves 1 share or 1/18th part of Damariscotta Bridge, but if either dies bef he arrives at age 21, the surviving to have the whole.

To my 2 nephews Joseph McCobb Esq. & Maj. Jacob Auld, the residue of my RE and PE on condition of their paying out the foregoing and following bequests.

To my brother John McCobb, \$50.

To my brother James McCobb, \$50.

To my sister Jane Carwin, \$30.

To my brother Samuel McCobb, \$50.

To my sister Betsey or Betrage Brier, \$5.

My brother David McCobb and sister Frances Auld both deceased having received their portion in their lifetime, there remains nothing more for them.

I will that my friend John Rackliff have rent free the 2 lower rooms & 2 chambers which he occupies in my long house, ten years from the day of my decease Appt my well beloved friends Major Jacob Auld, John Murray McFarland, and Edmund Wilson, Esquires, execs.

Dated: 15 Nov. 1815

Signed with his signature ("W<sup>m</sup> M<sup>c</sup>Cobb")

Witnesses: Edmund Wilson, John McKown, Nathan Dole

In probate: 10 Jan. 1816

**158. RUTH SPRAGUE of Topsham, widow (LCP 18:139)**

Being weak and in a low state as to bodily health

To my son Oakman Sprague, my chaise & harness.

To my son Joseph Sprague, my mahogany side board and my sleigh & harness.

To my daughter Elisabeth Stetson, my silver coffeepot, and I give to her daughter Ruth Sprague Stetson, my silver cream pitcher.

To my daughter Mary Sprague, my silver sugar bowl and my set of silver casters & my mahogany light stand and wash stand.

To my son John Sprague, to hold jointly with my sons Willis and David Sprague, 1/3 of all cattle, stock, and farming utensils on the farm which I now possess.

And whereas I have already paid to my daughters Elisabeth Stetson and Mary Sprague all the sums and interest in bank stock which were given to them by their late father Joseph Sprague, being 2/3 of all his capital stock and interest in sd bank. I therefore give to my son John Sprague 1/3 of the aforesaid 2/3 parts of the capital stock and interest now accruing in sd bank.

To my sons Willis Sprague and David Sprague jointly, all my money on hand at my decease, and all that sum of money which has been gained and acquired by me and brought into money and money securities, which may be found to exceed the inventory of money and money securities taken of the PE of my late husband Joseph Sprague. And I further give to my sons Willis Sprague and David Sprague, the remaining 2/3 parts of the aforesaid 2/3 parts of the capital stock and interest in the Hallowell and Augusta bank. And I do further give to my sons Willis Sprague and David Sprague, with my son John, 2/3 of my 1/3 part of all cattle, stock, and farming utensils on the farm which I now possess.

To my daughter Fanny Sprague, \$500, capital stock in the Lincoln bank at Bath and 1/3 of all the capital stock in the Hallowell and Augusta Bank held by my late husband in his lifetime or by me since his decease. And I further give to my daughter Fanny Sprague, my mahogany bureau, dining table, card tables, and sofa; my new carpet, silver teapot, silver plated tray and snuffers, one pair of silver-plated candlesticks, one dozen of my newest silver teaspoons, one pair of silver sugar tongs, and my bed, bedstead, bed clothes and curtains, which are in the W front chamber in my house over the setting room.

To my 2 daughters Elisabeth Stetson and Mary Sprague, my two sets of window curtains and two suits of bed curtains, with all my wearing apparel eq div.

All the rest and residue of the PE may be considered as subject to the disposition among my children which are made to them by the will of their late father Joseph Sprague. And in case there should be any residue not in his sd will nor in this my will disposed of, then my will is that such residue be div eq betw my sd daughters Elisabeth Stetson, Mary Sprague, and Fanny Sprague.

Appt Benjamin Orr and Jehiel Abel both of Topsham joint execs.

Dated: 28 March 1816

Signed with her mark ("X")

Witnesses: Benjamin Orr, Jehiel Abell, Isaac Lincoln

In probate: 1 May 1816

**159. JOHN WALKER of Litchfield (LCP 18:173)**

Being weak in body

To my wife Elisabeth Walker, the income and improvement of all my RE and PE now situated in the town of Litchfield or elsewhere dur her nat life.

To my daughter Elisabeth Walker, the use of one acre of land of the farm that I now live upon [bounds described], and also the use of a front room in the house I now live in.

To my daughter Mary Whiten \$15.

To my daughter Myriam Alexander \$15.

To my daughter Sarah Whiten, \$15.

To my daughter Unice Johnson, \$15.

To my daughter Easter Jewell, \$15.

To my oldest son Lemuel Walker, \$1.

To my daughter Hannah Curtis's 7 children, Mehitable, Jacob, Bracy, Betsey, Sophia, Olive, and Myriam, \$1 each to be pd to them at their coming of age.

To my son Joshua Walker, all my RE in Litchfield or elsewhere at the decease of my wife.

Appt my son Joshua Walker sole exec.

Dated: 7 Feb. 1816

Signed with his signature ("John Walker")

Witnesses: John Neal, Thomas Smith, Benj. White Jun.

In probate: 26 Aug. 1816

**160. JOHN DENNIS of Litchfield, yeoman (LCP 18:174)**

Being of sound mind and memory

To my wife Sallome Dennis, all my h/h furniture dur her nat life to be completed and ended and then to be eq div among my 3 daughters Sallome Lord, Elisabeth Ring, & Lyddia Dennis. I also give to my wife half of all the neat income of my whole farm that I now live upon, with half of the use of the bldgs thereon.

To my son Thomas Dennis, \$200.

To my 3 daughters Sallome Lord, Elisabeth Ring & Lyddia Dennis, \$100 each, and also for the use of my daughter Lydia Dennis the use of the SW room in my dwelling house while she remains unmarried and no longer.

To my son John Dennis, all my message in Litchfield, bounded W by the Town Road leading from Goodwin's Mill to Daniel Nickerson's, N by lot 19, E by James Lord, and S by Levi Harriman, together with all my other freehold estate.

To my son John Dennis, all the residue of my PE.

Appt my son John Dennis sole exec.

Dated: 13 July 1815

Signed with his signature ("John Dennis")

Witnesses: John Neal, Levi Harriman, James Lord

In probate: 26 Aug. 1816

**161. JOSEPH FARLEY of Waldoborough (LCP 18:176)**

Feeling sensible of the entire uncertainty of all earthly things

To my wife Betsey Farley, besides her lawful thirds of my RE, the entire u & i of all my h/h furniture, stock, and other moveables (except money, notes, and other papers) belonging to my homestead estate in Waldoborough; also 1/3 of the net

proceeds of my shares in the factory at Thomaston and of my shares in the Damariscotta toll bridge, dur her nat life

To my wife, the u & i of all my estate for the mutual benefit of herself and the children of our family, for their maintenance, education, clothing and other charges incidental in the support of such a family.

To my children Salley Jewett Farley, William Jewett Farley, Martha Farley, Elizabeth Farley, Susan Farley, Joseph Farley, and Delia Augusta Farley, all my estate subject to the other provisions of this will, the same to be eq div among them; notwithstanding a greater share of the income of my estate may be necessary for the education of my sons than my daughters.

I direct that my execs pay to my children when they are 21 years of age (or if daughters, when they are married) \$1200 to each, and the residue of my estate not herein otherwise disposed of to be eq div among my children when the youngest comes of age and at the decease of my wife.

If it should please God to place my mother or any of my brothers or sisters, or the mother or any of the brothers or sisters of my wife in indigent or very needy circumstances, I direct that my execs allow them such sums as they may judge expedient.

If the English Congregational Society of this town should within 5 years after my decease erect a meeting house for the worship of God by subscription or in any other way, except by town or parish tax, I will \$100 as a donation towards building or finishing such house. It is also my will that my wife take 2 pews in such meeting house for the use of my family, whom it is my sincere desire may be educated in the christian religion, taught to love as well as fear God, and to respect his worship and ordinances.

To my wife, \$200 worth of plate. This present I make as a last token of my unshaken confidence in her fidelity and attachment to myself and family.

Appt my faithful friends Payne Elwell Esq<sup>r</sup> and Capt. Charles Samson, both of Waldoborough execs.

Dated: 19 Oct. 1815

Signed with his signature (“J. Farley”)

Witnesses: Elishah Davis, Eliph Hall, Rebecca Elwell

In probate: 17 Oct. 1816

**162. ROGERS SMITH of Wiscasset, gentleman (LCP 18:178)**

Being of sound & disposing mind and memory

To my son Rogers Smith Jr., the use and occupation of one half in common and undivided of my farm whereon I now live, bounded SW on land of W<sup>m</sup> Taylor, NW on land of Electus Smith, NE on land of Nathan Smith, and SE on the mill creek so called, and contains about 70 acres, for the term of his nat life. At his decease, the said moiety I give to the children of the said Rogers of his body lawfully begotten. But if said Rogers should die leaving no children, I devise said moiety to be eq div between my other children, viz: Silas, Nathan, Electus,

Lucy, Polly, & Melinda, and the children of my daughter Sally, now deceased, to have 1 share.

To my daughter Melinda Smith, the use & occupation of one moiety in common and undivided of the above described farm for her nat life, and at her decease to the children of Melinda lawfully begotten. But if Melinda should die leaving no child of her body, I devise said moiety to my heirs forever.

Whereas I have heretofore given to each of my other children, viz: Silas, Nathan, Electus, Lucy, Polly & Sally their due proportion out of my estate severally, I make no further provision for them.

Appt my son Nathan Smith exec.

Dated: 18 June 1816

Signed with his signature ("Rogers Smith")

Witnesses: Samuel Levey, Sam<sup>l</sup> E. Smith, Manassah Smith

In probate: 7 Sept. 1816

**163. EDMUND FLAGG of Wiscasset, attorney at law (LCP 18:180)**

Being of sound & disposing mind and memory

To my affectionate friend, companion, and wife Harriet Flagg, as long as she shall remain my widow and unmarried, the full authority to use, improve, or sell any of sd estate as she may see fit for the support of herself and the maintenance and education of any child or children which I have or may hereafter have by her.

Should my wife die my widow, in such case I will that all my estate remaining shall be distributed among my right heirs. Should my wife think it proper to marry in order that my children should not be left destitute, I give to my legal heirs all my estate to be distributed according to the rules of law, reserving to my wife at her marriage \$2000 including h/h furniture.

Appt my wife Harriet Flagg sole exec.

Dated 9 Sept. 1815

Signed with his signature ("Edm Flagg")

Witnesses: Warren Rice, Hannah Rice, Sophia Rice

In probate: 15 April 1816

**164. BETSEY GOVE of Edgecomb, widow (LCP 18:181)**

Being of sound & disposing mind and memory

To my daughter Betsey L. Gove, \$700, one high post bedstead, bed, and bed furniture as all the same now stand in the W room, together with the looking glass, set of chairs, dining table, and the articles in the cupboard all in sd room.

To my son John Gove, \$100.

To Betsey Gove Dodge, daughter of Ebenezer and Sally Dodge, one cow.

I give all the rest and residue of my property, goods, and estate to my beloved children Rufus Gove, Gardiner Gove, Hartley Gove, Betsey L. Gove, and John Gove to be eq div among them.

Appt Rev<sup>d</sup> Kiah Bailey of New Castle exec.

Dated: 29 Sept. 1814



Signed with her signature (“Betsey Gove”)  
Witnesses: Jn Merrill Jr., Albert Roby, Daniel F. Harding  
In probate: 15 Aug. 1816

**165. TIMOTHY FERRIN of Jefferson (LCP 18:182)**

Being weak in body

To my wife Abigail Ferrin, all PE and 1/3 of my RE so long as she shall live.

To my sister Molly Kimball, \$20.

To my niece Susanna White, \$20.

To my wife’s brother Benjamin Dow, \$20.

To my wife’s sister Susanna Bragg, \$20.

To the Calvinist Baptist Church, 1/3 of my remaining RE in Jefferson, to be put into the hands of Rev. Joseph Bailey of Whitefield to be distributed for the relief of the poor of sd Church as he in his widom shall think proper.

To the Methodist Church, 1/3 of my remaining RE in Jefferson to be put into the hands of the Rev. David Young Jr. of Pittston to be distributed for the relief of the poor of sd Church as he in his wisdom shall think proper.

To the Freewill Baptist Church, 1/3 of my remaining RE in Jefferson to be put into the hands of Thomas Sweat of Whitefield to be distributed for the relief of the poor of sd Church as he in his wisdom shall think proper.

I also give unto the Churches within name all of my PE and all my RE in Jefferson that shall remain after the decease of Abigail my wife and those legacies within named eq div.

Appt the Rev. David Young Jun. of Pittston sole exec.

Dated: 9 June 1815

Signed with his signature (“Timothy Ferrin”)

Witnesses: Benjamin Fowls, Daniel Knights, Enoch Chase

**166. REBECCA CALLAHAN of Dresden (LCP 18:183)**

Being of sound mind and perfect reason

To my nephew Caleb Hayward of Boston, \$200 out of the money due me from Thomas K. Jones of Boston.

All the residue of my estate I give to my brother James Morton of Bristol.

Appt my brother James Morton exec.

Dated 13 March 1816

Signed with her signature (“Rebecca Callahan”)

Witnesses: James H. Paterson, Eliza Patterson, James F. E. Patterson

In probate: 11 May 1816

**167. ANDREW JACK of Bowdoinham, yeoman (LCP 18:184)**

Being of sound mind and memory

To my wife Fanny Jack, the gold necklace that she now wears and all of her wearing apparel.

To my eldest son Joseph Jack, \$150.

To my son Walter Jack, \$150.

To my son Andrew Jack, \$100.

To my daughter Betsey Harriman, \$100.

To my daughter Polly Patten, \$100.

To my daughter Faney Graves, \$100.

To my daughter Meriam Robinson, \$100.

Which several legacies or sums I will shall be paid in neat stock or corn grain or hay at cash price in 2 years after my decease.

To my son Samuel Jack, all the residue of my RE and PE in Bowdoin or elsewhere, excepting one red chest and the contents that it may there contain setting in the room I now occupy.

Appt my son Samuel Jack sole exec.

Dated: 8 April 1814

Signed with his mark ("X")

Witnesses: John Neal, Isaac Leonard, W<sup>m</sup> Stenson

In probate: 7 June 1816

**168. JOSHUA CROSS of Bristol, yeoman (LCP 18:185)**

Being weak in body

To my wife Mary Cross, my dwelling house and the farm on which it stands in Bristol together with my part of high island (so called) near the same. As to all my personal estate, I give the same to my wife Mary Cross.

Appt my wife Mary Cross my sole exec.

Dated 10 July 1815

Signed with his signature ("Joshua Cross")

Witnesses: W<sup>m</sup> McClintock, William McFarland, Abigail McFarland

In probate 22 May 1816

**169. EBENEZER OTIS of St. George (LCP 19:3)**

Being weak in body

To each of my daughters Thankful Williams and Mary Brown, \$10.

To my daughters Patience, Rebeccah, Mary, Jane & Caroline, a gold necklace and a cow to each.

To my son Ebenezer Otis Jr., one undivided half of my farm in St. George being on St. George's River, he to come into possession at age 21. Also, at the decease of his mother or in case of her marriage, I give my son the other half of my farm and I recommend him to live with his mother & take good care of her.

To my wife Rebeccah, all the residue of my estate.

Appt my wife Rebecca and my son-in-law Isaac Brown my execs.

Dated: 6 May 1816

Signed with his signature ("Ebenezer Otis")

Witnesses: John Simonton, Benjamin Small, Isaac Bunker

In probate: 26 Dec. 1816

*(to be continued)*

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# THE MAINE GENEALOGIST

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