

The Maine Genealogist



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The Maine Genealogist

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EDITOR'S PAGE

I made a resolution this year to renew work on my personal genealogy, something I haven't had much time to do in recent years with all of my day-to-day commitments. My first project, an assessment of where things stand, is the construction of an ancestor table (or Ahnentafel) listing all of my ancestral lines as far back as I can take them. Many of the ancestors that I'm listing I haven't reviewed in over twenty years. To my surprise, I'm finding that major research breakthroughs on a large number of these lines have been published since I last looked at them.

Armed with sources such as Robert Charles Anderson's *Great Migration* volumes and Martin E. Hollick's recent *New Englanders in the 1600s*, as well as tapping into the online search engines for *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* and *The American Genealogist*, I am adding literally hundreds of new ancestors to my ancestor table and taking many of the lines back several generations into the Old World. At the same time, but happily not to the same extent, I am wearing away the eraser on my pencil by getting rid of people I used to think were my ancestors—"ex-ancestors" as a friend puts it—who now need to be expunged from the family chart as a result of recent discoveries. The project is taking much longer to finish than I anticipated, but it's been a gratifying experience.

For you readers who have Pennell ancestry, this issue of *The Maine Genealogist* will likely compel you to bring out your eraser and reclassify great great grandpa as an ex-ancestor! Michael Dwyer's evaluation of the early generations of the family is bound to send seismic waves throughout the genealogical community. What is most astounding about the Pennells is the volume and bulk of what has been written about them in the past. For six pages, Dwyer lists and analyzes each of the multitude of sources where the family has been described in the past—including town and county histories, published and unpublished genealogies, magazine articles, even the well-respected *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*. He then exposes serious flaws in each of these sources, showing how errors in one account multiplied and morphed into further errors in other accounts. Having recognized all of these sources as untrustworthy, Dwyer was able to begin the research afresh, examining the primary evidence with an unjaundiced eye. A major discovery in this process was a letter that he uncovered in the Pennell family manuscript collection at the Maine Historical Society in Portland. This letter, combined with sources from the Isle of Jersey and Gloucester, Massachusetts, led to some surprising conclusions.

Also in this issue, Bradley Arthaud's account of Lydia (Bryant) (Fuller) Perham, a member of the Shaker community in New Gloucester, Maine, adds to our knowledge of *Mayflower* ancestry. And Kathleen Nichols, well known to readers for her research into the Hill families of Washington County, offers an in-depth analysis of the probable parentage of David Leighton of Newcastle, Maine.

I hope that this issue and all future issues of *The Maine Genealogist* will result in many more new ancestors than ex-ancestors for our readers.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG, Editor

A TALE OF TANGLED PENNELL LINES:
FROM THE ISLE OF JERSEY,
TO GLOUCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS, AND MAINE

By Michael F. Dwyer

Prolific families, like the Pennells of Maine, sometimes spin mythic stories of origin, which only grow more entrenched with time. Over a century ago, various written accounts about the Pennell family possessed the common denominator of their progenitor, an early eighteenth-century immigrant, Thomas *Pinel*,¹ who sailed, with his brother Clement from the Isle of Jersey to Gloucester, Massachusetts, where they settled among other Channel Island exiles. While there is no evidence of Clement ever touching shore in Massachusetts, Gloucester town records confirm that Thomas Pennell married on 30 January 1718 Sarah Durin,² whom some sources claim also had a pedigree to the Channel Islands. Thomas lived only five years after his marriage, and died at the age of 34. What happened next becomes more problematic. Who were Thomas's progeny? The immigrant's son, also named Thomas, is said to have then settled along with *his* brother Clement in Falmouth, Maine, while other accounts say he went to Biddeford, Maine. Did Thomas the immigrant have two wives named Sarah, conveniently cousins to one another, who each gave birth to two surviving sons named Thomas Pennell? Answers to these questions have been offered in print with little regard for checking validity of sources. Indeed, multiple versions have not brought clarity to this story.

Why have so many narratives, ranging from family genealogies, town histories, historical society bulletins, magazine articles, and Wikipedia pages, been expended on this family? In the middle of the nineteenth century, as increasing numbers of native-born Americans lionized their early forebears, the Pennells were no exception. They had achieved a sturdy and respectable prominence after four generations of shipbuilding in Maine. Falmouth-born Thomas Pennell (1739–1812), following his father's trade as a shipbuilder, bought three acres of marshland on Brunswick's Middle Bay in 1778.³ By 1784 he had purchased an additional sixty-one acres.⁴ His son Jacob Pennell (1778–1841) truly spurred his family's preeminence as builders of ships. Jacob's extensive obituary reflects his stature in the community:⁵

Few men in our community have been more known and respected, at home and abroad than Jacob Pennell. He lived and died almost on the very spot upon which he was born. But

¹ *Pinel* remains the standard spelling in the Channel Islands. Unless noted otherwise, the American spelling has been standardized to *Pennell*.

² *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 3 vols. (Topsfield and Salem, Mass., 1917–1923), 2:419 (hereafter cited as *Gloucester VRs*).

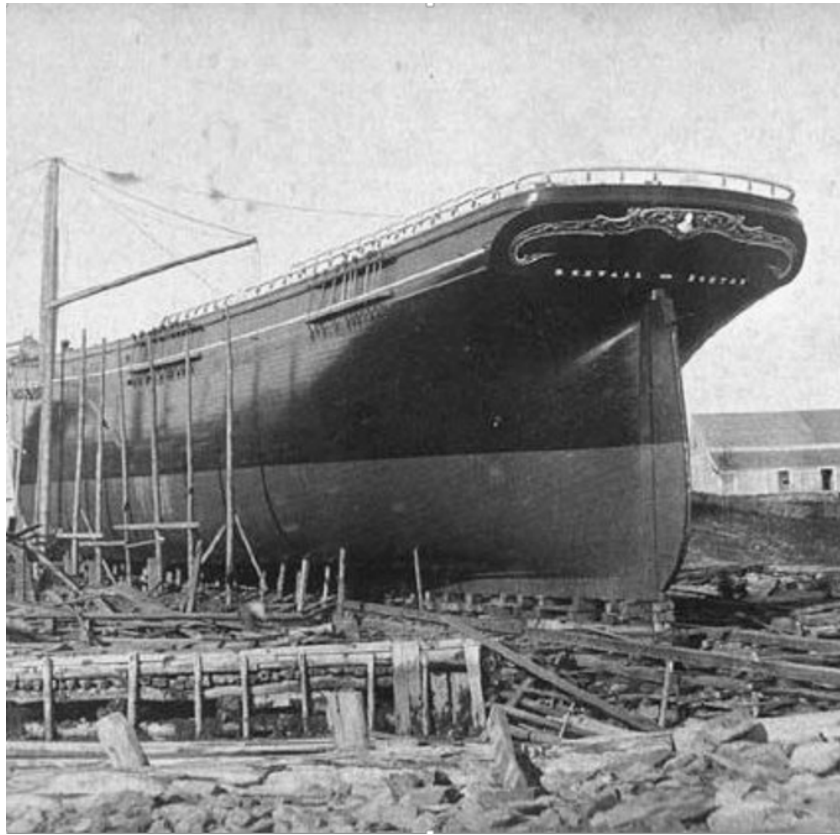
³ Cumberland Co., Maine, Deeds, 10:207.

⁴ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 13:105–7.

⁵ *Portland Weekly Advertiser*, Tuesday, 8 Nov. 1841, p. 3.

*“Erelong we will launch a vessel as goodly, and strong, and stanch,
as ever weathered a wintry sea.”*

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow
“The Building of the Ship”



Glory days of the Pennell Ship Yard, Brunswick, 1874

Figure 1: The ship Benjamin Sewall, “in the ways.” This was the largest of the vessels built by the Pennell Brothers at Middle Bays, weighing 1433 tons and measuring 218 feet in overall length. Storer & Reed of Brunswick originally published the photo as a stereopticon view. Image courtesy of The Pejepscot Historical Society.

being extensively engaged in shipbuilding, his name became familiar, not only to all in his immediate neighborhood, but to great numbers of merchants, ship owners, and others in distant and even foreign cities. . . . Mr. Pennell was a good citizen, a kind neighbor, and a firm supporter of the institution of religion. But perhaps his greatest excellence was at the head of his family. . . . The high estimation in which he was held was witnessed by the numerous attendance at his funeral, and the long line of acquaintances and friends which followed his remains to their last resting place.

Veritably a patriarch, with nearly all his children settled around him, Jacob Pennell died secure in the knowledge the family firm would continue to flourish. His eight sons—Benjamin, Jacob, James, Job, Charles, Joseph, Robert, and John—each toiled for a time in the family shipyard at Middle Bays, Brunswick, and built ships that carried their name, literally, all over the main.⁶ They even named one vessel, *Deborah Pennell*, after their mother. Pennell family lore posits that Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, while a student at Bowdoin, had been inspired to write “The Building of the Ship” from watching the construction of vessels at Pennellville.⁷ The brothers’ most famous launching, that of the *Benjamin Sewall*, on 26 October 1874, was also their last. While the era of wooden hull ships had eclipsed, the age of family sagas had not. A legend would calcify about the Pennells’ Old World origins and who first established this dynasty of shipwrights.

Today, physical evidence of the Pennell brothers’ shipbuilding prosperity survives in an enclave of nine splendid houses in one of Brunswick’s historic districts known as Pennellville. All dwellings, as of February 2014, have passed from family ownership. As the waterfront’s present tranquility belies its former bustle, this area still inspires new takes on the old story. For example, an article titled “A Shipmaker’s Legacy,” published in *Audubon* magazine, captivates the reader with an engaging subtitle: “Centuries ago, Thomas Pennell took an ax to the dark north woods; he left behind the meadows of Pennellville.” Its second paragraph begins: “Yet there were no meadows here until shipwright Thomas Pennell arrived from Gloucester, Massachusetts, in 1760.”⁸ Author John N. Cole beautifully evokes a sense of place, but his knowledge about Thomas Pennell succumbs to local folklore, completely unreliable in this instance. As a perplexed Pennell descendant and stakeholder in the accuracy of these genealogical claims, I have charted the vagaries of Pennell “histories” for many years. My research task has resembled the work of an archaeologist, sifting through the accretions that obscured the true story and noting, along the way, who shaped the tale. Trying to dislodge the statement that Thomas Pennell of Falmouth and Brunswick, Maine, was born in Gloucester, Massachusetts, has been like trying to move a megalith with a crowbar.

⁶ Robert P. Tristram Coffin, *Captain Abby & Captain John* (New York, 1939), 46 (hereafter cited as Coffin, *Captain Abby*).

⁷ Coffin, *Captain Abby*, 36.

⁸ John N. Cole, “A Shipmaker’s Legacy,” *Audubon* 99(Sept.–Oct. 1997):34–35.

THE PENNELL FAMILY IN PRINT

The essential Maine facts in the Pennell tangle look deceptively simple:

Thomas Pennell m. (int.) Falmouth, 14 June 1735, Rachel Riggs.⁹

Clement Pennell m. (int.) Falmouth, 10 Jan. 1741/2, Ruth Riggs.¹⁰

Thomas Pennell m. Biddeford, 28 March 1743, Hannah Brooks.¹¹

How each or all of these men connect to the Isle of Jersey immigrant sets the story in motion. As these legends get deconstructed, it is important to note how much time had elapsed, in fact a century and a half, before any of the stories appeared in published form. Writing in 1878, the brothers George Augustus and Henry Warren Wheeler recount the most fanciful version in their *History of Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell, Maine*. They even added a third brother, named Matthew:¹²

Thomas Pennell and two of his brothers came to America from the Isle of Jersey in the English Channel, about the year 1740. They are supposed to have descended from a Huguenot family, who fled France on account of religious persecution. It is said that these three brothers were orphans who had some property in England, and were sent here by their uncle, who had charge of the property, under pretence of giving them an education, and that they landed at Scituate, Mass., without any money. After stopping there awhile they moved to York, and from there to Capisic (near Portland) where Thomas and one of his brothers bought, each, a farm.

Some of the elements narrated here, such as penniless orphans and the treacherous uncle, evocative of adventures like Robert Louis Stevenson's *Kidnapped*, have become genealogical clichés. Henceforth, the written accounts would influence the oral history and vice versa. William L. Pennell (1821–1896), whose biography and portrait featured in W.W. Clayton's *History of Cumberland County, Maine*, also stated his great grandfather, Clement Pennell, was "one of three brothers who emigrated from the Isle of Jersey and settled in Deering now Falmouth."¹³ Within a few decades though, the elusive third brother vanished from the story. In his place, a new element was added: a generation of Pennells born in Gloucester before they moved to Falmouth. Recognizing that the Wheeler brothers probably heard the account from a credulous descendant, George Thomas Little in his *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Maine* attempted to correct multiple errors. He set the tone typical of many turn-of-the-twentieth-century compiled genealogies: "The

⁹ *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Falmouth, Maine*, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 2005), CD 1, image 583 (hereafter cited as Falmouth VRs).

¹⁰ Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 593.

¹¹ *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Biddeford, Maine*, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine 2005), CD 1, image 772.

¹² George Augustus Wheeler and Henry Wheeler, *History of Brunswick, Topsham and Harpswell, Maine, Including the Ancient Territory Known as Pejepsco* (Brunswick, 1878), 959.

¹³ W.W. Clayton, *History of Cumberland County, Maine, with Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia, 1880), 380.

Pennell family of Maine and the west may justly be proud of its ancestry and of the grand achievements of the many descendants of Clement and Thomas Pennell. These brothers came from the Isle of Jersey, after 1700, and settled in Gloucester, Mass.¹⁴ He dismissed the wicked uncle story primarily because “a family of high character of the Pennells of the Isle of Jersey had no wicked uncles.” From a “letter from Trinity Parish [in Jersey],” he quoted that the Pinel family was “one of the oldest and highest families of Trinity Parish. For above three centuries they held the highest offices and intermarried with the noblest families in the Isle of Jersey.” Having established his credibility with a bona fide, albeit unnamed, Jersey source, one might think that every one of Little’s subsequent facts could be corroborated. He stated that Philippe Pinel of Jersey and his first wife, Ann “Mortes,” were the parents of Thomas who settled in Gloucester, and that is true. Nevertheless, when Little writes that Thomas and his wife Sarah had *four* children born in Gloucester—Sarah, Thomas, Rachel, and Clement—the author plunges into the sea of fiction once again.

By now the reader should be confused between pairs of brothers, Thomas and Clement—the first set born in the Channel Islands, and the second born to Thomas and Sarah in Gloucester. One of the capital errors here is the creation, out of thin air, of a Clement Pennell, born in Gloucester, circa 1723. No proof exists for his insertion into Thomas and Sarah’s family. The fabrication of a Gloucester-born Clement engendered a series of compounding errors.

These declarations from well-established genealogists became part of the accepted foundation for family historians like Clara Pennell Phinney of Portland, Maine. In 1916 she privately published a two-volume typescript family genealogy keeping virtually all of the Jersey–Gloucester–Falmouth associations intact, adding her own embellishments on the immigrant Pennells: “These brothers came to America on the same vessel and landed at Gloucester, Mass., where they were ever regarded as most worthy, industrious, and honourable citizens.”¹⁵ It is important to consider Phinney’s point of view as she amassed information on her subject. Her first notebook focuses exclusively on the Pinels in Normandy and England, and they reflect the author’s infatuation with medieval lineages and heraldry. She claims one Pinel knight was a friend of William the Conqueror!

Few repositories possess both of Phinney’s notebooks. Tracing this source led me to explore the Pennell manuscript collection, housed in four substantial document boxes at the Maine Historical Society’s research library. Besides Phinney’s work, I also found within these holdings a trove of unpublished genealogical sketches and correspondence. For example, Henriette A. Jordan, whose business card described

¹⁴ George Thomas Little, *Genealogical and Family History of the State of Maine*, 4 vols. (New York, 1909), 2:596.

¹⁵ Clara Pennell Phinney, “Pennell Genealogy Manuscripts,” Maine Historical Society, Portland, Coll. 944 (hereafter cited as Phinney). Mrs. Phinney even adopted the British spelling of *honourable*.

her as a “heraldic artist,” planned to create an elaborate Pennell genealogy, which included a hand-colored coat of arms and calligraphied medieval pedigrees. She called her proposed fold-out pages “genesis maps.”¹⁶ Her notebooks reveal access to the papers of Robert Franklin Pennell (1850–1905), a Harvard alumnus, distinguished educator, and classicist.¹⁷ His impeccable academic qualifications did not immunize him from the romanticized view of the Pennell origin, and he would be quoted in the later genealogies. Jordan’s sheaves of pages, in tandem with Phinney, all amplify the Channel Island lineage of the Falmouth Pennells.



Figure 2: The photo of Robert F. Pennell is captioned in the distinctive penmanship of Henriette A. Jordan. She writes further in an adulatory tone, “This marvelous collection of the records of the descendants of Clement and Thomas Pinel of Isle of Jersey, G.B. in the Falmouth branch and the Brunswick are a monument to this man’s unwearying industry and patience. That collection is his labors. I have compiled and arranged them, copied every scrap of value written to everyone in U.S., and Isle of Jersey, London, Eng., etc. Had photos, postals and had sketches. The Genealogical Maps I have made are priceless. This tremendous labor is my pride.”

Maine Historical Society Collections

The fourth box of the Pennell manuscript collection contains the columns of Leonard Bond Chapman (1834–1915), published in the *Deering News* at the turn of the twentieth century. Chapman puts a new twist on the Isle of Jersey tradition, that the Pennell brothers may have been recruited for their shipbuilding skills:

Mill building probably attracted them to the region of Capisic and they may have contracted in Europe to come to this country as it was the custom of General Waldo when there to influence mechanics to come over here and then fail to comply with his obligations. Several cases of this sort are on record.¹⁸

¹⁶ Born in California in 1864, Jordan returned in childhood to Portland with her parents, where she lived for the rest of her life. A letter to her from the Royal College of Arms concerning the Pennell crest is among the ephemera in this collection.

¹⁷ Chico University (Calif.) Archives, <http://www.csuchico.edu/lspr/pres1b.htm#pen1>.

¹⁸ Leonard Bond Chapman, *Grandpa’s Scrapbook, His Genealogical Columns as Published in the Deering (Maine) News from 1894 to 1904*, reformatted and indexed by Thomas Shaw Henley (Bowie, Md., 2001), 227 (hereafter cited as Chapman, *Grandpa’s Scrapbook*).

Chapman's speculation may one day be proven. As a native son of greater Portland born in the first third of the nineteenth century, he preserved vignettes that otherwise might have been lost on individuals who preceded him only by two generations.

Writing a few years after Jordan and Phinney was Rev. Charles Nelson Sinnett (1847–1928), whose compilations were more widely disseminated. Born in Harpswell, Maine, Sinnett undoubtedly knew members of the Pennell family in his youth. More of a compiler than an original researcher, Sinnett composed his typescript "Pennell Genealogy" from his residence in Fertile, Minnesota, around 1920.¹⁹ Some of his introductory information was copied verbatim from George Little, but without attribution of any kind. He cites notes from "The History of Gloucester" for the following statement concerning Thomas Pennell's settlement in Massachusetts: "In 1710, Thomas had a common right 'derived' from his grandfather, Robert Elwell."²⁰ Nothing of the kind comes from Babson's *History of the Town of Gloucester*. Without understanding the original source context of the Essex County deed, Sinnett contributes to mounting errors of interpretation. Robert Elwell, the grantor, sold land that belonged to Elwell's grandfather, Robert Elwell, to Thomas Pennell, the grantee.²¹ A misconstrued pronoun reference, "his grandfather," leads to unfounded speculation as to how Thomas might have been connected to the Elwell family. Ties to old Gloucester families became increasingly confused among Falmouth Pennells because Rachel Riggs, wife of Thomas Pennell, was indeed the granddaughter of Rachel Elwell.²² Some Gloucester families such as the Riggs certainly did move to Falmouth, Maine, but the Pennells were not among them.

Here's why this Pennell tangle truly becomes a Gordian knot. With at least three published genealogists, George Little, Clara Phinney, and Charles Sinnett all maintaining that Gloucester-born Thomas, along with his putative brother Clement, settled in Falmouth, it presents the improbable scenario of fifteen-year-old Thomas Pennell, in 1735 marrying Rachel Riggs. Even more problematic than the young teenage groom, virtually without precedent in eighteenth-century Colonial society, is that Thomas would have only been sixteen when he was the grantee of land in Falmouth from Rachel's parents, Jeremiah and Rachel Riggs.²³

The Pennell muddle was serious enough for Charles Thornton Libby to include it in the "Additions and Corrections" section of the *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire*. His entry in its entirety reads:

¹⁹ Charles N. Sinnett lived in Brainerd, Minn., at the time of the 1920 census. He is listed as a clergyman, affiliated with the People's Church.

²⁰ Charles N. Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," typescript (Fertile, Minn., n.d., copy at Maine Historical Society), 1 (hereafter cited as Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy"). As with other secondary sources, Sinnett does have value in preserving late-18th and early-19th-century family groups that were not recorded in town records.

²¹ Essex Co., Mass., Deeds, 22:279.

²² Rachel Elwell m. Gloucester, Mass., 19 March 1695/6, Joseph Haskall (*Gloucester VRs*, 2:201). Their eldest daughter Rachel Haskell m. Jeremiah Riggs.

²³ York Co., Maine, Deeds, 19:251.

PENNELL 6 Substitute: **THOMAS**, Gloucester, s. of Philip and Ann (Le Montais) Pinel of the Isle of Jersey, m. 1st Sarah Chisemore (Chisholm 1), m. 2nd her cous. Sarah Duren (Durrell 1). By 1st w. sons **Thomas** and **Clement** who m. in Portland 1735, 1742; by 2d w. 3 ch. rec. at Glouc., incl. ano[ther] **Thomas** of Biddeford, and **Rachel** Clay of Bid. and Buxton.²⁴

This discovery could have been the miracle that satisfactorily resolved all the complications of one Thomas in two places. I have spent years looking for the proof of the Chisemore–Pennell marriage because Libby, most uncharacteristically, left no clues as to where this information came from. In 1939 his personal letter to a client who was a Pennell descendant underscores the problem: “You must totally disregard Rev. Sinnett’s book back of the two Pennell brothers who married the two Riggs sisters in the Bradley’s corner section of Deering. The parentage he gives them is false and in trying to make it look right he gets in an extra generation.”²⁵ Anyone’s credibility should have been strained that Thomas of Jersey and Gloucester would have had *two* sons named Thomas, the elder appropriately old enough to avoid a teenaged marriage in Falmouth. Eminent genealogist Sybil Noyes, in her notes on Saco families, cuts to the core of the Thomas problem: “It seems clear that this Thomas (son of Thomas and Sarah) went with, or followed, his mother and Durrell grandparents to Biddeford.”²⁶ Knowing that Libby and Noyes knew the error that Gloucester-born Thomas did not go to Falmouth, it is all the more frustrating that the entry in *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* still yokes the Falmouth Pennells to Thomas, the Jersey emigrant.

The long-standing presence of Pennells in the Saco Valley prompted genealogist Gideon Tibbetts Ridlon, writing in 1895, to introduce his Pennell family sketch in this way: “The family of Pinel or Pennell is one of considerable antiquity and ranked high among the nobility of early times.”²⁷ He then recounts a long pedigree of Jersey Pinels, mentioning Clement and Thomas who settled in America and “were, presumably, ancestors of many families now settled in New England.”²⁸ Ridlon also proposes another Pennell complication, that Walter Pennell, who had a son named Clement, was living in Saco as early as 1647: “I have no proof to show connection between this Walter Pennell and the families in various parts of the state but believe all to be his descendants.” Following a summary of Walter Pennell’s family, he then jumps to Thomas Pennell who married Lydia Sands at Buxton in 1770, but fails to connect this Thomas to his father, ironically the son of the Jersey emigrant.

²⁴ Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Maine, 1928–39), 792 (hereafter cited as *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.*).

²⁵ Charles Thornton Libby Collection, Coll. 1724, Box 21, Maine Historical Society.

²⁶ Sybil Noyes Collection, Coll. 296, Maine Historical Society.

²⁷ Gideon T. Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements and Families* (Portland, 1895), 1103 (hereafter cited as Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*).

²⁸ Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*, 1105.

One of Brunswick's most lauded sons, Pulitzer Prize winner Robert P. T. Coffin,²⁹ also contributed to the lore. Friendship with his Pennell in-laws inspired him to write a popular biography, *Captain Abby and Captain John*, about the seafaring

Figure 3: Robert Coffin purchased this property from Annie Pennell in 1922 and spent many summers here. A plaque purports that the Captain William Pennell House was built circa 1780. In fact, William did not acquire this property until 1805, and thus the house must date from sometime thereafter.



*Captain William Pennell House, built circa "1780"
Author's Photo*

husband and wife who traveled together all over the world. Of course, he commented on the family legend:

As a matter of fact, there were only two brothers who came over, Thomas and Clement. I know why they came, too. It wasn't for an education. It was for the trees. They used up all the available trees on Jersey, and they wanted more to build ships. So they came.³⁰

Coffin repeats the erroneous dynasty of Pennell shipwrights, now adding a *second-generation* Thomas of Gloucester:

He brought his son, Thomas the Third, born at Gloucester in 1739 and second of the Pennells born in America, along with him, gave him a hammer, and put him to work, too. . . . Like Moses, this man led his children into the Promised Land.³¹

Coffin's long residence in Pennellville also exhibits another Pennell anachronism: When was the Captain William Pennell House, the property he bought in 1922, built? Certainly, the house belonged to William, the sixth child of Thomas and Alice (Anderson) Pennell, born in 1781.³² *A Maritime History of Bath* errs in stating, "In 1780 Captain William Pennell bought a large farm on a point in Brunswick at the

²⁹ Robert Coffin's sister Alice Coffin m. Andrew Pennell in 1927.

³⁰ Coffin, *Captain Abby*, 28. Thomas the "third" was b. Falmouth.

³¹ Coffin, *Captain Abby*, 29.

³² Joseph Crook Anderson II, *Vital Records of Brunswick, Maine, 1740–1860, and the Forsaith Book of Brunswick Family Records Compiled 1876–1880 by Jonathan W. Forsaith, Town Clerk* (Rockport, Maine, 2004), 35 (hereafter cited as Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*).

head of Middle Bay and there built his home.”³³ William could have not purchased a farm or bought a house in the year before he was born. Neither birth records nor deeds point to the existence of a William Pennell born long before the American Revolution. Deeds show William Pennell made purchases at Middle Bay in 1805 and 1806, the latter from his father.³⁴ Perhaps someone inserted the Captain into the wrong generation because that researcher may have relied on a plaque cast in stone.

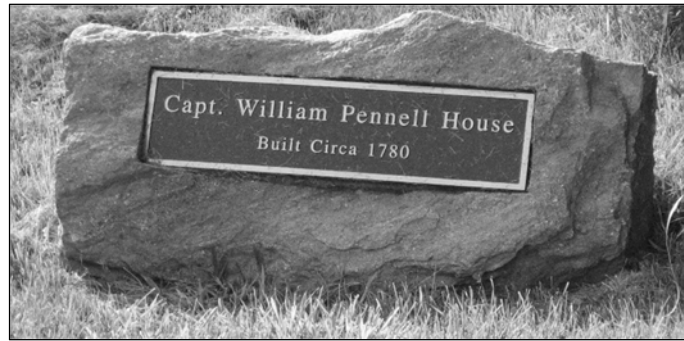


Figure 4: *Capt. William Pennell House, “Built Circa 1780”*

THOMAS PINELL OF TRINITY PARISH, JERSEY AND GLOUCESTER

To extricate the truth from this tangle of Thomas Pennells, one needs to slice boldly through the knot, rather than attempting to unravel it, and examine afresh primary source evidence. Essex County deeds and property contracts from the Jersey Archives begin to illuminate the world of the first Thomas Pennell. An Isle of Jersey contract from October 1713 unequivocally identifies Thomas Pinell:³⁵

Thomas Pinel, son of Philip Pinel and Anne LeMortes of Trinity Parish in The Island of Jersey, now resident at Gloucester in the County of Essex in New England, weaver . . . grant, bargain, and sell . . . rights, interest in certain rents, yearly payments, in right of my father and mother both deceased in consideration of the sum of 1682 livres tournois paid by Charles DuPré of St. Laurent and Jean Arthur of St. Marie.

The contract was ratified in Boston, in the presence of witnesses Thomas Lloyd, Edward Weaver, and Thomas Ballain. It was startling for me to note that Thomas’s occupation is given as a weaver, a fact that debunks the family lore that he was a shipwright.³⁶ Thomas did indeed come from an old Jersey family whose pedigree reached back to the late Middle Ages.³⁷ His parents were married 7 January 1674/5

³³ William Avery Baker, *A Maritime History of Bath*, 2 vols. (Bath, 1973), 1:327.

³⁴ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 44:470, 48:389.

³⁵ Contract Public Livre 29, folio 149, Jersey Archives, St. Helier, Jersey, U.K.

³⁶ Three Essex Co. deeds also confirm Thomas’s occupation as a weaver. It would also be noted in his son’s guardianship record that he was a laborer.

³⁷ J. Bertrand Payne, *Armorial of Jersey* (n.p., 1859), 318–19 [online at Archive.org].

at St. John's Parish Church, Jersey.³⁸ Their last recorded child was Clement baptized at Trinity, 13 January 1681/2.³⁹ Evidence of Thomas's baptism, evidently several years later as deduced from his age at death, has not survived.

Though this Clement and Thomas were brothers, no credible evidence proves they arrived in New England aboard the same ship. In fact, Thomas's earliest documentation in Massachusetts comes through an Essex County deed, on 2 February 1709/10, wherein he purchased from Ezekial Collins ten acres in Gloucester.⁴⁰ Ten months later, Robert Elwell sold Thomas the common right that had belonged to Elwell's grandfather, the first Robert Elwell in Gloucester.⁴¹ On the same day Robert Elwell witnessed his mother, Esther Elwell, selling an adjoining parcel to Moses Durell,⁴² who would become Thomas's father-in-law.⁴³

Thomas did not acquire any more property in Gloucester. As it happened, he would begin selling off his parcels—in 1713, as grantor to John Gardner, and again in 1715, as grantor to Michael Farley.⁴⁴ These deeds make no mention of a wife's thirds. His subsequent spate of selling most likely indicates a decline in his fortunes. On 17 April 1717, Thomas Pennill, weaver, sold a lot to William Andrews for £15.⁴⁵ Finally, in 1721, he sold his dwelling house and the adjacent lot that once had been the property of Robert Elwell to Andrew Robinson.⁴⁶ That means in the few remaining years that Thomas lived, he no longer had the status or the security of owning his own home. When he died at the age of 34, he had no estate to probate.

A few years after the death of her husband, Thomas's widow, Sarah (Durin) Pennell, married Edward Rumery,⁴⁷ and followed her parents, Moses and Sarah (Sampson) Durrell, to Biddeford, Maine. She would have four more children with her second husband.⁴⁸ Proof of Sarah's remarriage and removal to Maine comes through a York County deed wherein Moses Durrell gave half his interest in the new township on Saco River (Buxton) for love and good will to daughter Sarah Rumery.⁴⁹

³⁸ St. John's Parish Church Register, Jersey Archives, St. Helier, Jersey.

³⁹ Trinity Parish Church Register, Jersey Archives, St. Helier, Jersey.

⁴⁰ Essex Co. Deeds, 24:7–8.

⁴¹ Essex Co. Deeds, 22:280.

⁴² Moses Durrell/Durin was a servant of the first Robert Elwell. He served as a soldier in King Philip's War, and his service earned him a claim to Narragansett Township No. 1. [Buxton, Maine] (*Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.*, 212).

⁴³ Essex Co. Deeds, 22:281.

⁴⁴ Essex Co. Deeds, 36:208, 37:24.

⁴⁵ Essex Co. Deeds, 48:260.

⁴⁶ Essex Co. Deeds, 40:11. Sarah Pennell signed by mark her power of thirds.

⁴⁷ Edward Rumery's parentage has not been established. His original surname may have been Romeril with roots in the Channel Islands.

⁴⁸ Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*, 1129. *Durin* is the more common variant in Gloucester, *Durrell* in Maine.

⁴⁹ York Co. Deeds, 30:216.

THOMAS PENNELL OF BIDDEFORD

On 16 February 1726, Samuel Stevens, merchant, of Gloucester, was appointed the guardian of Thomas Pennell Jr., minor, age “about six years.”⁵⁰ Stevens, a contemporary of Thomas Sr., was a coastal mariner, as evidenced by deeds, and he had several children close to Thomas Jr. in age. No documentation has been found that sheds any light on the rest of Thomas’s minority and if he remained in Gloucester.

Without a doubt, young Thomas’s relatives in Jersey knew of his father’s death. A contract of 28 May 1726, refers to “*Jean le Hardy tuteur des enfants de Thomas Pinel habitants de Nouvelle Angleterres.*”⁵¹ The contract further describes Thomas as the deceased as a son of the late Philippe Pinel of Trinity Parish. Hardy may have been a relative by marriage, appointed to oversee any possible inheritance due to Thomas Pinel’s two children. No documents that I have found shed any further light on whether the Pennell children ever received or were entitled to an inheritance from their Jersey grandfather’s estate. By his early twenties, Thomas Jr., though absent from the York County deed indexes, was living in Biddeford where he married Hannah Brooks. Scant contemporary evidence survives for the remainder of his short life, save one extraordinary letter.

In Document Box 3 of the Maine Historical Society’s Pennell collection is a 1743 letter, written in French from Boston by “Thomas Pinel,” to his uncle Philippe Pinel of the Isle of Jersey. Strangely, this primary source, sandwiched between miscellany on the Falmouth and Brunswick families, appears without context or provenance. Its inclusion would seem to bolster the cause of the Falmouth Pennells’ link to Jersey. If someone earlier had translated the letter and understood its implications, the supposed connection between Falmouth and Jersey would have crumbled. Thomas of Biddeford wrote this letter just three months after his marriage.

My Dear Uncle, Boston, June the 4th, 1743

I take the liberty of writing to acquaint you with state of my health and that of my mother and my sister who are in good health thank God, hoping that yours is the same.

I say to you I am sending a letter of power of attorney by Mr. Edward Marrett Esquire to act on my behalf in the affair concerning my inheritance left to me on your island. I beg you to have the goodness to act in concert with the said Mr. Marrett to accomplish this matter with kindness and friendship. I beg you to have the goodness to write to me for the first time and to let me know about the rents which belong to us. I want you to know how obliged I am to you and to be in friendship.

Your affectionate nephew until death.

Thomas Pinel⁵²

⁵⁰ Essex Co. Probate Records, 314:659.

⁵¹ Contract, 28 May 1726, Public Livre 34, Folio 104, Jersey Archives. Translation: John le Hardy, trustee for the children of Thomas Pinel living in New England.

⁵² Author’s translation with assistance of Susan L. Valley.

Mon Cher Oncle, Boston le 4^{em} 1763
 Je prens la liberte de vous écrire
 pour vous faire a sçavoir l'estat de ma santé
 et celle de ma mere et ma sœur, qui sont bonnes
 grace a Dieu esperant quil en soit le mesme d'ici
 Je vous dire que je Envoys une lettre de
 procuration, a mon fr^s Edouard Marrett Esquire
 pour agir pour moy, dans les affaire qui
 concernent l'heritage qui m'est claisé dans vostre
 Tite; je vous prie d'avoir la bonte d'agir de
 concert, avec le Ditt M^r Edouard Marrett; et faire
 les affaire, en amitié et douceur; et je vous
 supplie d'avoir la bonte de m'écrire, par la
 premiere occasion; et me mander comment
 les Prents, &c qui nous appartiennent sont; et
 je vous seroit fort obligé qui, suis avec
 amitié vostre affectionné Neveu jusque
 a la mort
 Thomas Pinel

Figure 5: Author's photo of Thomas Pinel letter,
Maine Historical Society Manuscript Collections

Several considerations point to the authenticity of the letter. First, it uses archaic spelling conventions one would have found in eighteenth-century French. Its formal and polite tone is consistent with the time. Undoubtedly Thomas would have enlisted the assistance of a native speaker to compose the contents. He refers to his only living immediate family, his mother (Sarah Rumery) and his sister (Rachel Clay). The other indisputable allusion in the letter is to Edward Marrett (1713–1780), a tailor turned

prosperous Cambridge merchant.⁵³ Perhaps in the years that Thomas lived with his guardian, Capt. Stevens, he developed acquaintances with other mariners. Nevertheless, Thomas's profession, as an adult, is unknown. This letter, Thomas's sole testament, entreats an uncle he never knew for money. How remarkable that someone kept this letter, handed it down, and generations later, it would make its way to Maine.

Thomas Jr.'s life eerily paralleled that of his father. Only two children, Thomas and Mary, were born to his marriage with Hannah Brooks. By the time these children were baptized at the First Church of Biddeford in 1749, their father was already dead, as can be deduced by Hannah Pennell's second marriage in Biddeford to David Martin on 12 April 1748.⁵⁴ The *only* Thomas Pennell born in Gloucester would nonetheless have his name perpetuated among his descendants.⁵⁵ Ironic too that within the family descended from an Isle of Jersey émigré, the remembrance of remote ancestors did not persist.

THOMAS PENNELL OF FALMOUTH AND BRUNSWICK, MAINE

One of the critical junctures of this story lies in the previous history and lineage of another Thomas Pennell, the shipwright of Falmouth, prior to the publication of his marriage to Rachel Riggs on 14 June 1735.⁵⁶ In short, there isn't any that can be documented. Of course, as noted previously, the first generation of Falmouth-born Pennells did have ancestry in Gloucester through their mothers. Rachel Riggs, born in Gloucester, was the eldest child of Jeremiah and Rachel (Haskell) Riggs, and their fourth child was Ruth Riggs, who married Clement Pennell. The Riggs migrated to Falmouth by 1723, along with a number of other Gloucester families.⁵⁷ Jeremiah Riggs, a tanner, acquired vast tracks of land. Thus, it is understandable that within a generation, Rachel and Ruth's grandchildren may have assumed their Pennell grandparents came from Gloucester. The other fictive strain in this account asserts that Thomas came directly from the Channel Islands. My commissioned searches and print-outs of all Channel Island contracts from 1712 through 1758, of men named Thomas or Clement Pennell, did not establish any link of Thomas "Pennill" of Falmouth to the Isle of Jersey, nor did searching through baptismal records point to another Thomas or Clement who emigrated. Given Thomas and Clement Pennell have not surfaced before their marriage intentions were published in Falmouth, it is

⁵³ Middlesex Co., Mass., Probate Records, #14668. *Marrett* is a Jersey name found in land contracts at the Jersey Archives.

⁵⁴ *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* 6(1889):492.

⁵⁵ Another probable source of confusion among Pennell descendants is that descendants of Clement Pennell of Falmouth moved to Buxton in the early-19th century.

⁵⁶ Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 583.

⁵⁷ York Co. Deeds, 12: 354. Willis, in his history of Portland, omits several of the children, Rachel among them, born to Thomas and Rachel Riggs and recorded in Gloucester records prior to the family's removal to Falmouth (William Willis, *The History of Portland, from 1632 to 1864* [Portland, 1865], 353).

a valid conjecture they emigrated from the British Isles, but there are a number of other places that they could have come from besides the Channel Islands. For example, John Pennell and family settled in Colrain, Massachusetts, in the 1730s, as part of a Scots-Irish migration.⁵⁸ Brunswick, Maine, also had its own Scots-Irish immigrants such as Andrew Dunning and David Giveen whose descendants married into the Pennell family. Dozens of shipbuilding communities have yet to be searched to discover where Thomas Pennell of Falmouth might have learned his trade.

In the meantime, a variety of records help us reconstruct Thomas's life in and around what would become greater Portland. Jeremiah Riggs of Falmouth, tanner, for the sum of £36 paid by Thomas Pennell of Falmouth, shipwright, on 30 January 1735/6, sold a tract of land containing three acres. Rachel Riggs relinquished her thirds.⁵⁹ Three years later, Thomas sold the obviously improved lot and a dwelling house to Charles Frost for £300.⁶⁰ In turn, Thomas then purchased, for "three hundred ninety pounds lawful money of New England," from Thomas Westbrook of Falmouth, sixty acres at Capisic.⁶¹ This "village" had a sawmill, a grist mill, three houses, and two barns.⁶² Little did Thomas Pennell know that less than twenty years later, he would be embattled in an ejection suit because Colonel Samuel Waldo, who had sold the land to Westbrook, did not have a clear title to it. Samuel Small Jr. won the suit, relying on copies of court documents dating back to 1657 wherein Scitery Gussett conveyed meadowlands at Capisic to Francis Small.⁶³ Thomas therefore lost his sixty acres, but was awarded £1117 for improvements. As a result of this action, Thomas and his family would later remove to Brunswick.

Like other members of the Riggs family, Rachel Pennell was admitted to the First Church of Falmouth in 1736,⁶⁴ and three of her children were baptized there: John in 1736, Thomas in 1739, and Lucy in 1742.⁶⁵ No records indicate admission for Thomas or baptism of their other children. Thomas probably had other exigencies more pressing than church membership. Remarkably, in the same year that a letter illumines the world of the other Thomas Pennell, we have the proceedings of this Thomas Pennell's civil court case for trespass. In November 1743, Joshua Bangs, mariner of Falmouth, and John Murphy, husbandman of Arundel, were summoned to court. Thomas claimed these two men beat, wounded, and imprisoned him, and unlawfully entered his dwelling house. He further claims they "broke and spoiled one door and window . . . and they took the value of 100 pounds." The court found

⁵⁸ *History of the Connecticut Valley in Massachusetts*, 2 vols. (Philadelphia, 1879), 2:747.

⁵⁹ York Co. Deeds, 19:251.

⁶⁰ York Co. Deeds, 19:243.

⁶¹ York Co. Deeds, 19:244.

⁶² Chapman, *Grandpa's Scrapbook*, 224.

⁶³ Thomas Pennell, Def. York Court of Common Pleas, April 1759, Ejection Location 130-25, Vol. 14-529-10031, Maine State Archives.

⁶⁴ Marquis F. King, comp., *Baptisms and Admission from the Records of the First Church in Falmouth, Now Portland* (Portland, 1898), 36 (hereafter cited as *Falmouth First Church*).

⁶⁵ *Falmouth First Church*, 91.

the defendants not guilty and made Thomas pay the court costs of £5 4s. 10d.⁶⁶ This episode gives some context for why the Falmouth Town Council in April 1744 granted Thomas Pennell to “have liberty to hang a gate by his House in the Road that leads from Saccarappee to Kapisick.”⁶⁷

During King George’s War, Thomas served as a “centinel” in Capt. George Berry’s Company from 18 May until 29 June 1746.⁶⁸ In 1788, long after his death, his son Thomas Pennell, on behalf of his deceased father, signed a petition, along with dozens of others, for a grant of unappropriated lands earned for service in “the reduction of Cape Breton.”⁶⁹ He would serve again, alongside his son Thomas Jr., during the French and Indian War, in Capt. Samuel Skillings’ company, as noted in a muster roll dated 11 August 1757.⁷⁰

On 16 July 1757, Thomas signed a petition for the establishment of a new parish to serve the people of the Stroudwater, Capisic, and Saccarappa area.⁷¹ It would take

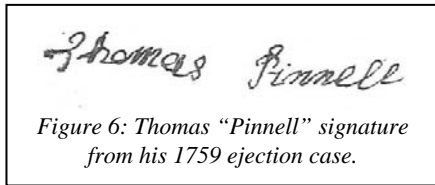


Figure 6: Thomas “Pinnell” signature from his 1759 ejection case.

several years for this new parish to be established. In the aftermath of the lawsuit, Thomas purchased land in Gorham in 1761, but there is no evidence that he moved there.⁷² He was still residing in Falmouth when he purchased ninety acres in Brunswick from Samuel Whitney

in May 1765.⁷³ The last indication of Thomas being alive was when he purchased from Philip Aubins an additional half acre in Brunswick in October 1766.⁷⁴ Neither he nor his wife Rachel have gravestones that survived. Sinnett quotes Robert F. Pennell:

I have made a long and earnest search for the grave of Thomas Pennell. . . . I feel very certain that he was buried in the place where his daughter Affie was laid to rest, in the oldest cemetery in Brunswick. There were found evidences of two graves which were not surely accounted for. . . . I have always understood that the homestead of this first Thomas Pennell of Brunswick, Me. was where William M. Pennell now lives.⁷⁵

From his nine children who lived until marriage, Thomas had 49 grandchildren, 286 great-grandchildren, and 799 great-great-grandchildren.⁷⁶

⁶⁶ Thomas Pennell, Plaintiff, York Court of Common Pleas, April 1744, Location 95–32, Vol. 13-17-7024, Maine State Archives.

⁶⁷ Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 450.

⁶⁸ Mass. Archives Muster Rolls, 92:75.

⁶⁹ Maine Historical Society, *Documentary History of the State of Maine*, Series II, 24 vols. (Portland, 1869–1916), 14:306.

⁷⁰ Mass. Archives Muster Rolls, 95:451.

⁷¹ Chapman, *Grandpa’s Scrapbook*, 56.

⁷² Cumberland Co. Deeds, 1:405.

⁷³ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 4:119

⁷⁴ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 4:556.

⁷⁵ Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 2.

⁷⁶ Phinney, 14, from notation made by Henriette A. Jordan.

CLEMENT PENNELL OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

Descendants of Clement Pennell have long assumed that he was Thomas Pennell's younger brother. While there is no hard evidence to ground this assertion, the following circumstances must be considered in conjecturing a relationship between them. Two men with the same surname, who appeared within eight years of one another in the same frontier community, lived in close proximity to one another, worked in the same trade, and married into the same family are likely to have been related. There's also that strong pull to Jersey with the recurrent pattern over several generations of brothers named Thomas and Clement within the Pinel family, but other nearby families, such as the Skolfields, also had siblings named Thomas and Clement.⁷⁷ Therefore, in the absence of any explicit contemporary reference to the Falmouth men as brothers, their kinship must remain speculative. Since we truly have no idea how old either man was at the time of his marriage, Thomas could have been alternatively Clement's uncle, cousin, or even father.

By comparison to the holdings of Thomas Pennell, Clement seems to have been less prosperous. He did not obtain any land until eight years after his marriage, when in 1750 Thomas Pennell of Falmouth, shipwright, in consideration of 40s. money of the new strain by Clement Pennell, laborer, sold him a half acre.⁷⁸ Clement also served as a private in Capt. Skillings' Falmouth militia in 1757.⁷⁹ Thomas Pennell's ejection suit did not seem to impact Clement, nor did he follow Thomas northward to Brunswick. On 2 May 1766, Clement Pennell, shipwright, acquired ten acres at Capisic from Samuel Waldo for £34.⁸⁰ Three years later, on 10 November 1769, he acquired an additional adjoining parcel from Waldo. Clement would build a one-story house with two front doors.⁸¹ Ruth Pennell is said to have been granted a license for an inn, but Chapman points out it was a retail license.

From the surviving records, it would seem church membership had always been important to Clement. He and Ruth were admitted to the First Church of Falmouth the year of their marriage,⁸² and four of their children had their baptisms recorded. Clement Pennell was among those dismissed from the church at Falmouth when the new parish at Stroudwater was established in 1765.⁸³ Upon moving there, he cared for the meeting house at Stroudwater, at an annual salary of 18s. until 1779, when the care passed to Ruth for the increased salary of 30s. When the caretaker's posi-

⁷⁷ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 20. Clement Skolfield was likely named for Clement Orr, his mother's brother.

⁷⁸ York Co. Deeds, 28:241.

⁷⁹ *Falmouth First Church*, 183.

⁸⁰ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 3:31.

⁸¹ Chapman, *Grandpa's Scrapbook*, 224.

⁸² *Falmouth First Church*, 13.

⁸³ *Falmouth First Church*, 21.

tion was given to “Mrs. Storer” in 1785, it may be an indication that Ruth was deceased by that time.⁸⁴

Ruth Pennell, widow, sole executrix of the will of Clement Pennell, yeoman of Falmouth, deceased, sold her homestead to her son Joseph Pennell in August 1781. The deed lists Clement’s heirs as Abigail Adams, Molly Ficket, Clement Pennell, and Eunice Goold.⁸⁵ Two other children, Samuel and Thomas, were not listed on this deed, perhaps because they were not yet of legal age. From the evidence within other Cumberland County deeds, none of Clement’s sons would list their occupations as shipwright.

PENNELLS AT SEA ONCE AGAIN

My search for the origins of the Falmouth Pennells has sent me, as a doubting Thomas, into many ports of call. This voyage of tangled lines has ruled out Gloucester, Massachusetts, and vastly diminished the Isle of Jersey as ancestral harbors for shipwrights Thomas and Clement Pennell. With their nativity and paternity still eluding discovery, my quest of exploration needs to stay the course. The prize still awaits: indisputable proof of the Thomas and Clement Pennell’s ancestry, capturing evidence “as goodly, and strong, and stanch, as ever weathered a wintry sea.”

FAMILY SUMMARIES

THOMAS PINEL/PENNELL was born about 1688, in Trinity Parish, Isle of Jersey, son of Philippe and Ann (LeMontais) Pinel. He died in Gloucester, Massachusetts, 31 March 1723.⁸⁶ He married in Gloucester, 30 January 1717/8, by John Newman, Justice of the Peace, SARAH DURIN,⁸⁷ born between 1690 and 1696 and baptized in Gloucester, 15 August 1703,⁸⁸ daughter of Moses and Sarah (Sampson) Durin. She married secondly, before 1 February 1731, Edward Rumery,⁸⁹ who died before 5 April 1762 when the administration of his estate was granted to his son Edward.⁹⁰ Sarah died 28 June 1776.⁹¹

Children of Thomas¹ and Sarah (Durin) Pennell, b. Gloucester:

- i SARAH PENNELL, b. 28 Oct. 1718,⁹² prob d. young.

⁸⁴ Chapman, *Grandpa’s Scrapbook*, 225.

⁸⁵ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 12:119.

⁸⁶ *Gloucester VRs*, 3:239.

⁸⁷ *Gloucester VRs*, 2:419.

⁸⁸ *Gloucester VRs*, 1:232. She was bp. with her brother, Jonathan.

⁸⁹ Birth of their son Jonathan Rumery (Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*, 1129).

⁹⁰ John Eldridge Frost, *Maine Probate Abstracts*, 2 vols. (Camden, Maine, 1991), 11/4, citing York Co. Probate Records, 11:2, docket #16406.

⁹¹ Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*, 1129. Ridlon gives her age as 86. More likely it was around 80, given she had Rumery children born through approximately 1740 (*ibid.*, 1129–30).

⁹² *Gloucester VRs*, 1:534.

- ii THOMAS PENNELL, b. 25 Feb. 1719/20,⁹³ d. before 12 April 1748, when his wife remarried; m. Biddeford, 28 March 1743, by Moses Morrill, Clerk, HANNAH BROOKS,⁹⁴ daughter of Robert and Sarah (Sawyer) Brooks.⁹⁵ She m. (2) Biddeford, 12 April 1748, David Martin.⁹⁶
Children of Thomas and Hannah (Brooks) Pennell.⁹⁷ 1. *Thomas Pennell*, bp. Biddeford, 20 Aug. 1749;⁹⁸ m. Buxton, Maine, 15 Nov. 1770, Lydia Sands. 2. *Mary Pennell*, bp. Biddeford, 20 Aug. 1749; m. Buxton, 8 March 1765, Jabez Sawyer.⁹⁹
- iii RACHEL PENNELL, b. 25 Nov. 1721, d. Buxton, after 23 May 1797; m. (int.) Saco, 18 March 1736/7, RICHARD CLAY, who d. 27 Sept. 1801. For more information on this family, see *Maine Families in 1790*, 4:49.

THOMAS PENNELL was born, location unknown, before 1715, based on the assumption he would have been at least twenty-one when he was a grantee in Falmouth in 1736.¹⁰⁰ He died, probably in Brunswick, Maine, after October 1766 when he purchased land there.¹⁰¹ He married RACHEL RIGGS, their Falmouth intentions dated 14 June 1735.¹⁰² Rachel was born in Gloucester, 10 November 1717, daughter of Jeremiah and Rachel (Haskell) Riggs.¹⁰³ Her date of death is unknown.

Children of Thomas¹ and Rachel (Riggs) Pennell, b. Falmouth:

- i JOHN PENNELL, b. Falmouth, 18 July 1736,¹⁰⁴ d. 1 Oct. 1820,¹⁰⁵ m. (int.) Brunswick, 24 Nov. 1760, HANNAH GRAHAM.¹⁰⁶
Children:¹⁰⁷ 1. *Hannah Pennell*, b. 16 Feb. 1763. 2. *Rachel Pennell*, b. 10 March 1765. 3. *Mary Pennell*, b. 8 May 1767. 4. *Lucy Pennell*, b. 4 Jan. 1770. 5. *John Pennell*, b. 13 Dec. 1772. 6. *Mehetable Pennell*, b. 24 April 1775. 7. *Janet Pennell*, b. 16 Feb. 1779. 8. *Margaret Pairpoint Pennell*, b. 6 Feb. 1782.

⁹³ *Gloucester VRs*, 1:534.

⁹⁴ "Vital Records of Saco and Biddeford, Me.," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 71(1917):216.

⁹⁵ Ridlon, *Saco Valley Settlements*, 909.

⁹⁶ *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* 6(1889):294.

⁹⁷ Sybil Noyes Collection, note 26. Thomas and Hannah's children, Thomas and Mary Pennell, have also been melded into the Falmouth family. Their marriage information is added here for clarification.

⁹⁸ *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* 6(1889):492.

⁹⁹ *The Records of the Church of Christ in Buxton, Me., During the Pastorate of Rev. Paul Coffin, D.D.* (Cambridge, Mass., 1868), 19. They had a son named Thomas Pennell Sawyer.

¹⁰⁰ York Co. Deeds, 19:251.

¹⁰¹ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 4:556.

¹⁰² Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 583.

¹⁰³ *Gloucester VRs*, 1:583.

¹⁰⁴ Falmouth VRs, CD 2, image 256; *Falmouth First Church*, 91, gives a conflicting baptismal date of 2 July 1736.

¹⁰⁵ Phinney, 13.

¹⁰⁶ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 121. Phinney and Sinnett give her name as "Harriet."

¹⁰⁷ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 32.

- ii THOMAS PENNELL, b. 21 Feb. 1739,¹⁰⁸ d. 25 Nov. 1812;¹⁰⁹ m. about 1768, ALICE ANDERSON,¹¹⁰ b. North Yarmouth, Maine, 11 Jan. 1748/9, daughter of Jacob and Agnes (Phinney) Anderson,¹¹¹ d. 25 Dec. 1839, aged 91 years.¹¹²
 Children:¹¹³ 1. *Agnis Pennell*, b. 25 Dec. 1769. 2. *Rachel Pennell*, b. 11 Dec. 1771. 3. *Thomas Pennell*, b. 14 Aug. 1774. 4. *Mary Pennell*, b. 28 Aug. 1776. 5. *Jacob Pennell*, b. 17 Jul. 1778. 6. *William Pennell*, b. 17 Sept. 1781. 7. *John Pennell*, b. 21 Jan. 1784. 8. *Ellis Pennell*, b. 22 Aug. 1786. 9. *Robert Pennell*, b. 17 Oct. 1789. 10. *Margaret Pennell*, b. 20 Sept. 1791.
- iii LUCY PENNELL, bp. Falmouth, 1742,¹¹⁴ d. before 6 June 1786 (husband's remarriage);¹¹⁵ m. Portland, 5 Nov. 1761, WILLIAM COTTON,¹¹⁶ b. Portsmouth, N.H., 1736, d. Brunswick, 27 Aug. 1812, son of Thomas and Comfort (Riggs) Cotton.¹¹⁷
 Children:¹¹⁸ 1. *Thomas Cotton*, b. 31 Oct. 1762. 2. *Lucy Cotton*, b. 21 Aug. 1764. 3. *William Cotton*, b. 12 Aug. 1766. 4. *Sarah Cotton*, b. 15 Aug. 1768. 5. *Jeremiah Cotton*, b. 12 July 1770. 6. *Martha Cotton*, b. abt. 1772. 7. *Rachel Cotton*, b. abt. 1775. 8. *John Cotton*, b. 6 May 1777. 9. *Comfort Cotton*, b. 4 May 1779. 10. daughter, d in infancy.
- iv poss. WILLIAM PENNELL, b. say 1743, said to have d. young at sea.¹¹⁹
- v RACHEL PENNELL, b. say 1745, d. 22 Dec. 1770 "of convulsions";¹²⁰ m. Falmouth, 18 June 1764, JOSHUA BOYNTON,¹²¹ b. Wiscasset, 10 July 1743, son of John and Sarah (Hilton) Boynton.¹²² Joshua was a sea captain whose home in Falmouth was burned by the British in 1775.¹²³
 Child of Joshua and Rachel (Pennell) Boynton:¹²⁴ 1. *Theophilus Boynton*, b. say 1765.

¹⁰⁸ Falmouth VRs, CD 2, image 265.

¹⁰⁹ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 35.

¹¹⁰ Phinney, 13.

¹¹¹ Ruth Wilder Sherman, ed., *Vital Records of North Yarmouth, Maine, to the Year 1850*, 2nd ed. (Camden, Maine, 1993), 1 (birth), 215 (parents' marriage on 10 Dec. 1745).

¹¹² Maine Old Cemetery Association, *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Cumberland County*, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 2004), image 266.

¹¹³ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 35.

¹¹⁴ *Falmouth First Church*, 91.

¹¹⁵ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 95.

¹¹⁶ Frank Ethridge Cotton, "The Cotton Family of Portsmouth, N.H.," *NEHGR* 58(1904), 294–99, 337–42, 59(1905):34–40, 188–92, at 339 (hereafter cited as "Cotton Family"); their marriage intentions on 15 Aug. 1761 recorded in Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 573.

¹¹⁷ "Cotton Family," 339. Lucy and her husband were first cousins, once-removed.

¹¹⁸ "Cotton Family," 339–40; Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 31.

¹¹⁹ Phinney, 13. No primary source documentation has been found for William. Phinney states he drowned with Phineas Thompson and William Curtis.

¹²⁰ Phinney, 13.

¹²¹ "Records of Falmouth (Now Portland) Maine," *NEHGR* 14(1860):224.

¹²² Marlene A. Groves, comp., *Vital Records of Wiscasset, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2011), 36.

¹²³ John Farnham Boynton and Caroline (Harriman) Boynton, 1638. *The Boynton Family: A Genealogy of the Descendants of William and John Boynton* (n.p., 1897), 204 (hereafter cited as *Boynton Family*).

¹²⁴ *Boynton Family*, 204.

- vi MATTHEW PENNELL, b. about 1748, d. Portland, 13 Oct. 1817; m. Falmouth, 10 Sept. 1778, NANCY TUKEY, b. Falmouth, 17 April 1750, daughter of John and Abigail (Sweetster) Tukey, d. 20 June 1828. For more information see, *Maine Families in 1790*, 9:360.
- vii STEPHEN PENNELL, b. Jan. 1752, d. Topsham, Maine, 10 Oct. 1822, aged 70;¹²⁵ m. Bowdoin, Maine, 3 Oct. 1778, MARY COTTON,¹²⁶ b. Brunswick, 24 April 1759, daughter of Thomas and Agnes (Smith) (Hinkley) Cotton,¹²⁷ d. 29 July 1818.¹²⁸
 Children of Stephen and Mary (Cotton) Pennell:¹²⁹ 1. *Apphia Pennell*, b. 27 Oct. 1779. 2. *Joshua Pennell*, b. 31 July 1782. 3. *Isaac Cotton Pennell*, b. 27 March 1784. 4. *Agnes Pennell*, b. 3 June 1787. 5. *Thomas Jefferson Pennell*, b. 21 Nov. 1790. 6. *Rachel Pennell*, b. 7 March 1794. 7. *Hannah Pennell*, b. 11 Dec. 1797. 8. *Sarah Pennell*, b. 10 July 1800.
- viii HANNAH PENNELL, b. about 1754, d. after 1828;¹³⁰ m. (int.) Brunswick, 16 March 1776, THOMAS HAM,¹³¹ b. 2 July 1751, son of Tobias and Abigail (Smith) Ham, d. Feb. 1827.¹³² She m. (2) 2 March 1828, JAMES TOMPSON.¹³³ Ezekial Thompson of Topsham wrote in his Day Book on 2 March 1828: “She was the wife of Thomas Ham is 74 years old, and some infirm, she never had any children I can remember well as a young girl.”¹³⁴
- ix SARAH PENNELL, b. 1755;¹³⁵ m. (int.) Brunswick, 8 Nov. 1775, ISAAC HINCKLY,¹³⁶ b. Brunswick, 19 Dec. 1751, son of Edmund and Sarah (Smith) Hinckly.¹³⁷ He served several months in 1775 with Capt. James Curtis’s company, Brunswick.¹³⁸
 Children of Isaac and Sarah (Pennell) Hinkly:¹³⁹ 1. *Thomas Hinckly*, b. 9 Feb. 1776. 2. *Hannah Hinckly*, b. 26 Sept. 1779. 3. *William Hinckly*, b. 22 Dec. 1781.

¹²⁵ Phinney, 13 (birth and death dates).

¹²⁶ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 93.

¹²⁷ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 28 (birth), 117 (mother’s 1st marriage to Isaac Hinkley), 119 (parents’ marriage).

¹²⁸ Phinney, 13.

¹²⁹ Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 37–40.

¹³⁰ Phinney, 13, gives b. 1757, d. 1825. The information from Ezekial Thompson’s Day Book (see note 134) seems more credible.

¹³¹ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 128.

¹³² David Colby Young, “Early Families of Sabattus, Androscoggin County, Maine,” 1st draft online at <http://files.usgwarchives.net/me/androsoggin/sabattus/families/hifiles.txt>. This information conflicts with Wheeler that Hannah (Pennell) Ham remarried James Merryman.

¹³³ “Early Families of Sabattus,” see note 132.

¹³⁴ “Early Families of Sabattus,” see note 132.

¹³⁵ Phinney, 14.

¹³⁶ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 128.

¹³⁷ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 25; his parents m. (int.) Brunswick, 9 Aug. 1744 (*ibid.*, 115).

¹³⁸ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 7:931 (hereafter cited as *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*).

¹³⁹ Marlene A. Groves, *Hinckleys of Maine: The Ancestry and Descendants of Samuel Hinckley of Brunswick, Maine* (Camden, Maine, 1993), 38.

4. *Lucy Hinckly*, b. 9 Sept. 1786. 5. *Edmund Hinckly*, b. 24 July 1790. 6. *Priscilla Hinckly*, b. 9 Sept. 1794.
- x AFFIA COOMBS PENNELL, b. ca. 1763, d. 20 July 1801, aged 38;¹⁴⁰ m. Brunswick, 9 Nov. 1782, DAVID GIVEN,¹⁴¹ b. 15 June 1757, d. prob. Brunswick, 9 July 1835.¹⁴²
- Children of David and Affiah (Pennell) Given:¹⁴³ 1. *William Given*, b. 12 Sept. 1783. 2. *Rachel Given*, b. 23 May 1785. 3. *Jean Given*, b. 18 April 1787. 4. *Thomas Given*, b. 13 Feb. 1789. 5. *David Given*, b. 11 May 1792. 6. *John Given*, b. 4 Sept. 1794. 7. *Samuel Given*, b. 4 Nov. 1796.

CLEMENT PENNELL was born, location unknown, say before 1720. He died before 8 August 1781, probably in Stroudwater, when his widow, Ruth, sold her homestead to her son Joseph.¹⁴⁴ He married RUTH RIGGS, their intentions recorded Falmouth, 10 January 1741/2.¹⁴⁵ Ruth was born in Gloucester, 18 November 1723, daughter of Jeremiah and Rachel (Haskell) Riggs,¹⁴⁶ and sister of Rachel Riggs who married Thomas Pennell. She died after 8 August 1781, probably in Stroudwater.¹⁴⁷

Children of Clement¹ and Ruth (Riggs) Pennell, b. Falmouth:

- i “child,” bp. Falmouth, 1742.¹⁴⁸ No further information found.
- ii ABIGAIL PENNELL, b. 1745, d. 1785; m. abt. 1768, ZEBULON ADAMS,¹⁴⁹ b. Newbury, Mass, 19 Nov. 1744, son of Jacob and Mary (Hills) Adams.¹⁵⁰ He served as a private from Falmouth in 1775 and enlisted again in 1777 as part of Col. Peter Noyes’s First Cumberland Co., reported deceased by 1778.¹⁵¹ Zebulon’s name is on the Maine monument at Valley Forge.¹⁵²
- Child of Zebulon and Abigail (Pennell) Adams: 1. *Ruth Adams*, b. 20 April 1776.¹⁵³
- iii MARY “POLLY” PENNELL, b. 1746, d. 1813;¹⁵⁴ m. (1) Falmouth, 25 June 1764, NATHANIEL FICKETT, son of Thomas and Mary (Moulton) Fickett; m. (2) GEORGE FOGG.¹⁵⁵ Nathaniel served as a private from Cape Elizabeth in 1776.¹⁵⁶

¹⁴⁰ Phinney, 14.

¹⁴¹ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 94.

¹⁴² Phinney, 14.

¹⁴³ Anderson, *Brunswick VRs*, 53.

¹⁴⁴ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 12:119.

¹⁴⁵ Falmouth VRs, CD 1, image 593.

¹⁴⁶ *Gloucester VRs*, 1:583.

¹⁴⁷ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 12:119.

¹⁴⁸ *Falmouth First Church*, 91.

¹⁴⁹ Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 46, 83 (birth, death, and marriage). No baptism recorded.

¹⁵⁰ *Vital Records of Newbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1911), 1:20 (birth), 2:11 (parents’ marriage on 32 Aug. 1742).

¹⁵¹ *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*, 1:83.

¹⁵² *Maine at Valley Forge* (Augusta, Maine, 1910), 64.

¹⁵³ Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 83.

¹⁵⁴ *Falmouth First Church*, 91 (birth); Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 46 (death).

¹⁵⁵ Information on both husbands from Sinnett, “Pennell Genealogy,” 46.

¹⁵⁶ *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*, 5:644.

Children of Nathaniel and Polly (Pennell) Fickett:¹⁵⁷ 1. *Anna Fickett*, b. 1765. 2. *Betsy Fickett*, b. 6 June 1768. 3. *Polly Fickett*. 4. *Clement Fickett*.

- iv JOSEPH PENNELL, b. 14 Feb. 1747, d. Gray, Maine, 1 Nov. 1833;¹⁵⁸ m. (1) 18 July 1773, HANNAH WARD;¹⁵⁹ m. (2) 25 June 1789, EUNICE NASH;¹⁶⁰ m. (3) Falmouth, 21 Nov. 1814, BATHSHEBA BOWKER, b. ca. Oct. 1767, d. Gray, 5

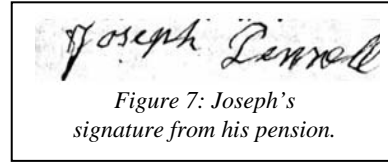


Figure 7: Joseph's signature from his pension.

April 1860, aged 92 years, 6 months.¹⁶¹ Joseph served in Capt. James Johnson's company for eight months in 1775.¹⁶² He collected a Revolutionary War pension from 1832 until his death. Bathsheba was awarded a pension, beginning in 1853.

Children of Joseph and his 1st wife, Hannah (Ward) Pennell:¹⁶³ 1. *Stephen Pennell*, b. 26 Dec. 1774. 2. *Jeremiah Pennell*, b. 15 May 1776, d. young. 3. *Sally Pennell*, b. 7 Aug. 1778, d. in infancy. 4. *Joseph Pennell*, b. 7 Aug. 1778. 5. *Jeremiah Pennell*, b. 20 Sept. 1780. 6. *James Pennell*, b. 2 June 1782. 7. *Sarah Pennell*, b. 20 Nov. 1785. 8. *Abigail Pennell*, b. 5 July 1787.

Children of Joseph and his 2nd wife, Eunice (Nash) Pennell:¹⁶⁴ 9. *Betsy Pennell*, b. 12 May 1790. 10. *John Pennell*, b. 25 Nov. 1791. 11. *Hannah Pennell*, b. 12 June 1793. 12. *Samuel Pennell*, b. 8 Aug. 1796. 13. *Emma Pennell*, b. 29 Nov. 1798. 14. *Eleanor Pennell*, b. 29 Nov. 1798. 15. *Mary Pennell*, b. 4 Feb. 1801. 16. *Thomas Jefferson Pennell*, b. 25 Jan. 1804.

- v JEREMIAH PENNELL, b. about 1753,¹⁶⁵ d. before 1782.¹⁶⁶ Jeremiah served as a sergeant from Falmouth from 1777 to 1780.¹⁶⁷
vi CLEMENT PENNELL, b. about 1758,¹⁶⁸ d. 1835;¹⁶⁹ m. Falmouth, 7 Nov. 1784, ESTHER KINNINGHAM, b. 5 June 1764, d. 1814.¹⁷⁰ Clement served as a private from Falmouth from 1777 to 1780.¹⁷¹ He was a Revolutionary War pensioner.¹⁷²

¹⁵⁷ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 52.

¹⁵⁸ Birth and death dates from Revolutionary War Pension File, Joseph Pennell, #W9222; *Falmouth First Church*, 91, has baptism recorded in 1748.

¹⁵⁹ Chapman, *Grandpa's Scrapbook*, 226.

¹⁶⁰ Howard G. Black, Jr., *Vital Records of Gray, Maine, to the Year 1930* (Bowie, Md., 2001), 155.

¹⁶¹ "Marriages and Deaths," NEHGR 14(1860):371.

¹⁶² *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*, 12:120.

¹⁶³ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 62, 64, 65, 66.

¹⁶⁴ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 66, 67, 69.

¹⁶⁵ Phinney, 24, gives him a birth date of 1742, assuming he was the "child" of Clement and Ruth baptized that year. If he were Clement's eldest child, he likely would have appeared as a land owner before his Revolutionary War service. It is also probable that he would have married. He is placed here in the gap that follows the birth of his brother Joseph.

¹⁶⁶ Jeremiah likely d. shortly after the Revolution because he does not appear as a grantee in the division of his father Clement Pennell's land, nor is he in the 1790 census. He appears in the Sinnett and Phinney genealogies as living until about 1810, a probable confusion with the man of the same name who was the son of his brother, Joseph Pennell.

¹⁶⁷ *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*, 12:120.

¹⁶⁸ Phinney, 25, gives him a birth date of 26 April 1751, but documents in his pension file (#S37295) state he was 59 in 1818 and 62 in 1820.

Children of Clement and Esther (Kinningham) Pennell:¹⁷³ 1. *Rachel Pennell*, b. 23 Nov. 1785. 2. *Thomas Pennell*, b. 29 July 1789. 3. *Clement Pennell*, b. 16 May 1791. 4. *Esther Pennell*, b. 7 Nov. 1793. 5. *Abigail Pennell*, b. 18 March 1799. 6. *Jonathan Pennell*, b. 14 Feb. 1801. 7. *Jeremiah Pennell*, b. 4 Feb. 1804. 8. *Eunice Pennell*, b. 23 June 1809.

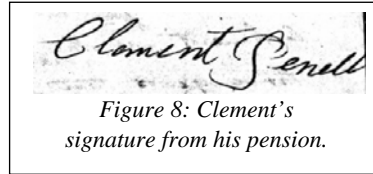


Figure 8: Clement's signature from his pension.

- vii EUNICE PENNELL, b. 1759,¹⁷⁴ d. 1839;¹⁷⁵ m. JOHN GOULD, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Ferguson) Gould.¹⁷⁶ On 15 April 1801, John Gould, yeoman, of Falmouth, and his wife Eunice, for \$10.00 paid by Thomas Pennell, quitclaimed all of their rights to the estate of Clement Pennell, her father. They both signed with their marks.¹⁷⁷ Sinnett records she was blind many years before her death.¹⁷⁸
- Children of John and Eunice (Pennell) Gould:¹⁷⁹ 1. *Clement Gould*, b. 1775. 2. *Eunice Gould*, about May 1781. 3. *Samuel Gould*, b. 1783. 4. *Betsy Gould*, b. 1785. 5. *Sarah Gould*, b. 1788. 6. *Clarissa Gould*. 7. *Abigail Gould*, b. Dec. 1791. 8. *William Gould*, b. 29 April 1795.
- viii SAMUEL PENNELL, b. say 1760, d. after 5 Jan. 1797.¹⁸⁰ Little is known of Samuel apart from his listing as a yeoman of Falmouth in a deed to his brother Thomas, quitclaiming a part of their father's estate.¹⁸¹
- ix THOMAS PENNELL, b. abt. 1767, d. Westbrook, 2 March 1848; m. (1) Falmouth, 5 March 1789, EUNICE KNIGHT; m. (2) Standish, 28 April 1809, SARAH JONES. For more information on this family, see *Maine Families in 1790*, 6:363.

Michael F. Dwyer (389 Orchard Hill, Pittsford, VT 05763; <michaelftdwyer@comcast.net>) is a descendant of Thomas Pennell and Rachel Riggs. A contributing editor of The Maine Genealogist, he writes frequently for genealogical journals. With thanks to Jason Castledine, Archivist of the Jersey, U.K., Archives, and to Tiffany Link and Jamie Rice for their assistance with the Maine Historical Society resources.

¹⁶⁹ Phinney, 25. This death date is consistent with when he was dropped from the pension roll in the "1st qtr. 1835" (Final Payment Vouchers Index for Military Pensions, 1818–1864, fold3.com).

¹⁷⁰ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 46.

¹⁷¹ *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War*, 12:115, 119.

¹⁷² Revolutionary War Pension File, Clement Pennell, #S37295.

¹⁷³ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 79–88.

¹⁷⁴ She may be the "child" of Clement Pennell bp. 17 June 1759 (*Falmouth First Church*, 91).

¹⁷⁵ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 46 (birth and death years).

¹⁷⁶ Everett S. Stackpole, *Old Kittery and Her Families* (Kittery, Maine, 1904), 464. Stackpole claims John Gould probably d. 17 Oct. 1846. If true, there would likely be newspaper death notices for a man who lived to be 100.

¹⁷⁷ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 34:259.

¹⁷⁸ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 36.

¹⁷⁹ Sinnett, "Pennell Genealogy," 46, 47, 48. Spelling has been standardized to Gould.

¹⁸⁰ Chapman, *Grandpa's Scrapbook*, 226, acknowledges Samuel as a son of Clement, but gives no dates.

¹⁸¹ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 27:62.

LYDIA (BRYANT) (FULLER) PERHAM (1741–1819),
SHAKER OF NEW GLOUCESTER, MAINE

By John Bradley Arthaud, FASG

Lydia Bryant, born Plympton, Massachusetts, 12 May 1741, daughter of Samuel and Tabitha (Ford) Bryant,¹ has received accurate coverage in multiple publications through the time of her marriage to Consider⁵ Fuller (*John*⁴, *Samuel*³⁻¹) and the birth of their first nine children.² The Eaton and Fuller *Silver Books* have nothing definitive after the baptism of their ninth child, but mention the probability of a tenth child, Consider⁶ Fuller, born 31 May 1780.³ Confusingly, the Fuller *Silver Book* raises the possibility that Consider⁵ Fuller was the man of that name enumerated in Kingston, Massachusetts, with just a man and a woman in 1790, although their family should have had teenagers and pre-teens.⁴ Consider and Lydia's marriage is noted in the Billington *Silver Book*, but their family is not carried forward.⁵

This article will show that Consider⁶ Fuller was indeed a child of this couple, and that they possibly had an eleventh child. A biographical sketch published in 1882 in the *History of Woodstock, Maine*, of the “probable” son Consider explicitly states that Consider and Lydia (Bryant) Fuller were his parents and that he was born in Plympton, Massachusetts, 31 May 1780.⁶ The sketch recounts that when Consider came of age, he left the Shaker community in New Gloucester, Maine, where his mother had been a member. While this seems adequate to place Consider as the namesake son, Maine records firmly place him as their child. His mother's second marriage opened up the way for complete coverage. Chuck Rand, librarian and archivist, Shaker Library and Archives, New Gloucester, Maine, in emails of 3 March 2014,⁷ provided records that resolve any lingering doubts.

¹ *Vital Records of Plympton, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1923), 47; D. Alden Smith, “The Descendants of Stephen Bryant of Plymouth, and of His Son-in-law, Lt. John Bryant of Plympton,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 153(1999):413–34, 154(2000):41–60, 227–43, 370–74, 477–504, 155(2001):189–211, at 238.

² *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, 10: Samuel Fuller, by Katharine Warner Radasch and Arthur Hitchcock Radasch, rev. ed. by Margaret Harris Stover and Robert S. Wakefield (Plymouth, 2013), 53 (hereafter cited as *MF 5Gs*: Fuller); *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, 9: Francis Eaton, by Lee Douglas Van Antwerp, rev. ed. by Robert S. Wakefield (Plymouth, 1996) 78–79 (hereafter cited as *MF 5Gs*: Eaton), shorter coverage but without discrepancies.

³ *MF 5Gs*: Fuller, 53; *MF 5Gs*: Eaton, 78–79. “Descendants of Stephen Bryant,” NEHGR 154 (2000):238, omits the ninth child and raises the possibility of a final child, Consider, b. 1780.

⁴ The enumerated man was Consider⁶ Fuller (*Ezra*⁵, *John*⁴, *Samuel*³⁻¹).

⁵ *Mayflower Families through Five Generations*, 5: John Billington, by Harriet W. Hodge (Plymouth, 1997), 91.

⁶ William Berry Lapham, *History of Woodstock, Maine, with Family Sketches and an Appendix* (Portland, 1882), 220–21 (hereafter cited as Lapham, *History of Woodstock*).

⁷ Chuck Rand, librarian and archivist, Shaker Library and Archives, 707 Shaker Road, New Gloucester, ME 04260, shakerlibrary@shaker.lib.me.us.

Samuel Perham married in Winthrop, Maine, 8 January 1782, Lydia Fuller.⁸ This marriage clarifies records from the Shaker Archives:

From the “list of the First Believers, New Gloucester, 1783–1796,” Samuel Periham [*sic*] precedes Lydia Fuller Periham in 1785. Lydia Fuller Periham appears again in the 1796 list and below her are listed the names of Concider [*sic*] Fuller, Chrischana [*sic*] Fuller, and Molly Fuller.

Rand then searched the “Index Nominum” and found the following:

Lydia Fuller Perham, b. Plymouth Co., Mass., May 1741, d. 11 July 1819, her husband was Samuel Perham. Lydia signed the Church Family Covenant on 4 Nov. 1801, 15 Jan. 1807, and 31 Jan. 1814.

Samuel Perham, b. Jan. 1742, d. 25 Aug. 1815. Like Lydia, Samuel signed the Church Family Covenant on 4 Nov. 1801, 15 Jan. 1807, and 31 Jan. 1814. Their children (all with the surname Perham) were Christiana, Consider, Eliphalet, John, Joseph, Levi, and Samuel.

Molly Fuller has not been found in any source other than the Shaker record above. All of the Perham children but Samuel correspond to the Fuller children recorded in either Halifax or Kingston. The possibility that Samuel was a namesake son of Samuel Perham (1742–1815) has not been studied. Missing from this non-chronological list are Fuller children: Luna, Lydia, Ezra, and Lusanna.

“A Record of the Deaths” (14-MR-025) includes four Fuller women or girls:

Lois Fuller, b. 1785, d. 9 Dec. 1790
 Christiana Fuller, b. Feb. 1778, d. 15 May 1793
 Azubah Fuller, b. 1764, d. 2 June 1841
 Mary Fuller, b. 4 Jan. 1785, d. 29 May 1852

Whether these women, who are beyond the scope of this article, were single or married is not known. Lois Fuller, born in 1785, cannot be a child of Consider and Lydia (Bryant) Fuller. Consider and Lydia were presumably the parents of Christiana, born in February 1778, as they had a daughter of that name baptized 12 April 1778.

Children of Consider⁵ and Lydia (Bryant) Fuller:⁹

- i LUNA⁶ FULLER, b. Halifax, Mass., 17 Feb. 1760, and bp. Kingston, Mass., 24 Feb. 1760.
- ii ELIPHALET FULLER, b. Halifax, Mass., 23 Oct. 1761.
- iii LYDIA FULLER, bp. Kingston, Mass., 14 Dec. 1766.
- iv JOHN FULLER (twin), bp. Kingston, Mass., 29 March 1767.

⁸ Everett S. Stackpole, *History of Winthrop, Maine, with Genealogical Notes* (Auburn, Maine, 1925), 719.

⁹ The births of the first two recorded in Halifax, Mass. (*Vital Records of Halifax, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Boston, 1905], 36); baptisms of the eldest and children iii–ix in Kingston, Mass. (*Vital Records of Kingston, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston, 1911], 80–83).

- v LEVI FULLER (twin), bp. Kingston, Mass., 29 March 1767.
- vi JOSEPH FULLER, bp. Kingston, Mass., 2 April 1769.
- vii EZRA FULLER, bp. Kingston, Mass., 9 Oct. 1774; m. (1) Winthrop, Maine, 8 Aug. 1793, AVIS BRIGGS;¹⁰ m. (2) Fayette, Maine, 14 Aug. 1814, SARAH (MORSE) STUBBS, widow of William Stubbs.¹¹
- viii LUSANNA FULLER, bp. Kingston, Mass., 29 Sept. 1776; m. Readfield, Maine, 15 Jan. 1795, NATHANIEL STANLEY/STANDLEY.¹²
- ix CHRISTIANA FULLER, b. Feb. 1778,¹³ bp. Kingston, Mass., 12 April 1778, d. 15 May 1793.¹⁴
- x CONSIDER FULLER, b. Plympton, Mass., 31 May 1780,¹⁵ d. 14 March 1873;¹⁶ m. ELIZABETH CUMMINGS, b. Sept. 1781, d. Sept. 1853.¹⁷ Eight children.¹⁸
- xi (poss.) MOLLY FULLER, presumably d. young.¹⁹

John Bradley Arthaud, M.D., FASG (123 Lantana Way, San Antonio TX 78258-2948), is currently expanding, to include the sixth generation, the family of John Billington for the General Society of Mayflower Descendant's Silver Books project.

¹⁰ "Maine, Marriages, 1771–1907," FamilySearch.org.

¹¹ Family of Ephraim Briggs in *Maine Families in 1790 vol. 6* (Rockport, Maine, 1998), 48.

¹² "Maine, Marriages, 1771–1907," FamilySearch.org.

¹³ Shaker records above.

¹⁴ Shaker records above.

¹⁵ Lapham, *History of Woodstock*, 220.

¹⁶ Maine Old Cemetery Association, *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Oxford County*, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockland, Maine, 2006), image 249 (hereafter cited as *Oxford Co. Inscriptions*), citing inscription in Cummings Cemetery, Bryant Pond, Maine, his full dates of birth and death given.

¹⁷ *Oxford Co. Inscriptions*, image 249, her dates given as 1781–Sept. 1853, bur. with her husband.

¹⁸ Lapham, *History of Woodstock*, 221.

¹⁹ Shaker records above.

BIBLE RECORD OF THE THOMAS HOLMES FAMILY,
BERWICK, MAINE

The Holy Bible Containing the Old and New Testament: Translated out of the Original Tongues, and with the Former Translations Diligently Compared and Revised (Boston: printed for Thomas & Andrews by J. T. Buckingham, 1806).

[Page 1, front flyleaf]

Hattie Holmes

[Page 2, front flyleaf]

Thomas Holmes
his book

[Page 3, written on the reverse of the New Testament title page]

Sarah Holmes Borne August 30 1779

Tho Homes Borne July 8th 1780

Samuel Holmes Born August 12th 1806

Timothy Holmes Borne May 17th 1808

Joseph Holmes Borne August 19th 1811

Ichabod Pray Holmes Borne August 2th 1813

Nathaniel S. Holmes Borne August 9th 1816

[Page 4, back flyleaf]

Thomas Holmes of Berwick his book and property
March 20th 1826 steel not this book for fear of Sh[ame?]
this is the holy bible

FAMILY SUMMARY

THOMAS HOLMES was born in Berwick, Maine, 8 July 1780,¹ probable son of Joseph and Abigail (Goodwin) Holmes who married at the Berwick Second Church, 4 January 1773.² Thomas died in Berwick of consumption in November 1849, aged 70 [*sic*].³ He married in Berwick, 25 December 1805, SARAH/SALLY PRAY.⁴ Sally was born in Berwick, 30 August 1779,⁵ a possible (but unproven) daughter of

¹ Bible record.

² Joseph C. Anderson II, ed., *Records of the First and Second Churches of Berwick, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 1999), 252 (hereafter *Berwick 1st and 2nd Church*). Joseph Holmes was enumerated in Berwick in 1790, 1800, and 1810 (Berwick, York Co., Maine, censuses, pp. 223, 715, 945, respectively). In 1790 and 1800, his household contained a male in Thomas's age category. In 1810, Thomas, newly married, resided adjacent to Joseph's household in an enumeration that is not alphabetized. Thomas named a son Joseph, presumably for his father.

³ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 787, line 3.

⁴ *Berwick 1st and 2nd Church*, 269.

⁵ Bible record.

Peter Jr. and Sarah (Libbey) Pray who married at the Berwick Second Church 23 January 1777.⁶ In 1850 and 1860, Sally was living in Berwick in the household of her son Ichabod P. Holmes, and likely died before 1870.⁷

Children of Thomas and Sarah/Sally (Pray) Holmes, b. Berwick:⁸

- i SAMUEL HOLMES, b. 6 or 12 Aug. 1806,⁹ d. Exeter, N.H., 26 June 1900, aged 93;¹⁰ m. Epping, N.H., ca. March 1832, MARY E. STAPLES of Newmarket, N.H.,¹¹ b. So. Newmarket, N.H., 27 July 1809, daughter of Mark and Sally (Rackliffe) Staples, d. Exeter, N.H., 25 Jan. 1903, aged 93 years, 5 months, 29 days.¹² Samuel's occupation was given as farmer (1850), farm laborer (1860), carpenter (1870), lumber dealer (1880), and farmer (1900), and he and Mary lived in Epping, N.H., and after 1848 in Exeter, N.H.¹³ Samuel and Mary reportedly celebrated their sixty-sixth wedding anniversary on 14 Oct. 1897.¹⁴

Children:¹⁵ 1. *Ann S. Holmes*, b. Aug. 1832,¹⁶ enumerated erroneously as Ann S. "Pettingell" in 1910 when she was living in Exeter, N.H., in the household of her sister Mary S. Pettingell;¹⁷ unmarried. 2. *George W. Holmes*, b. Somersworth, N.H.,

⁶ *Berwick 1st and 2nd Church*, 254. In 1810, Peter Pray was enumerated three households away from Joseph and Thomas Holmes (Peter Pray household, 1810 U.S. Census, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 945). In 1790 and 1800 his family listing included a female in Sally's age category (censuses, pp. 219, 715, respectively). In 1993, Donald Everett Pray published a typescript genealogy of the New England Pray family, including the branch that settled in Berwick, entitled "Quinton (Quenton) Pray of Lynn, MA, and His Descendants" (copy available in the library of the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston). While Sally is not documented in this work, the Peter Pray family is the only one of the Berwick heads of household whose children are not listed. It is noted that Sally named a son Ichabod Pray Holmes. No male name Ichabod has been identified in the Pray family before Sally's son was born, but perhaps he was named to memorialize an unrecorded brother.

⁷ Ichabod Holmes household, 1850 U.S. Census, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 166, #49/51; Ichabode P. Homes household, 1860 U.S. Census, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 853, #67/67.

⁸ Bible record; the births of the children are also recorded in John Eldridge Frost and Joseph Crook Anderson, eds., *Vital Records of Berwick, South Berwick and North Berwick, Maine, to the Year 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1993), 250, (hereafter cited as Frost and Anderson, *Berwick VRs*).

⁹ The Bible gives 12 Aug.; Frost and Anderson, *Berwick VRs*, 250, give 6 Aug.

¹⁰ New Hampshire, Deaths and Burials, 1784–1949, FamilySearch.org.

¹¹ Scott Lee Chipman, *New England Vital Records from the Exeter News-Letter, 1831–1840*, 37, citing issue of 6 March 1832.

¹² All information from New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947, FamilySearch.org.

¹³ Samuel Holmes households, 1850 U.S. Census, Epping, Rockingham Co., N.H., p. 136, #49/51; 1860–1900 U.S. Censuses, Exeter, Rockingham Co., N.H., pp. 678, #1200/1340 (1860); p. 163, #327/368 (1870); E.D. 206, p. 128, #28/35 (1880); E.D. 190, p. 145A, #133/141 (1900).

¹⁴ John Mason Pettingell, *A Pettingell Genealogy: Notes Concerning Those of the Name* (Boston, 1906), 358.

¹⁵ All six children were enumerated in Samuel's household in 1850 and 1860, see note 13.

¹⁶ Samuel Holmes household, 1900 U.S. Census, Exeter, Rockingham Co., N.H., E.D. 190, p. 145A, #133/141.

¹⁷ Herbert Pettingell household, 1910 U.S. Census, Exeter, Rockingham Co., N.H., E.D. 244, sheet 17, #339/453.

25 July 1835, d. East Kingston, N.H., 13 Feb. 1921;¹⁸ m. (1) Frances Ann Stacy, m. (2) Boston, Mass., 9 Sept. 1879, Clara E. Roby.¹⁹ 3. *Mark S. Holmes*, b. ca. 1837, living in 1920 in Haverhill, Mass.;²⁰ m. Portsmouth, N.H., 25 April 1861, Caroline Kimball.²¹ 4. *Charles E. Holmes*, b. Exeter, N.H., 23 March 1841, d. Melrose, Mass., 17 Feb. 1914;²² m. No. Hampton, N.H., 1 July 1866, Lucie E. M. Ransom.²³ 5. *Martha E. Holmes*, b. May 1843,²⁴ living Newburyport, Mass., in 1920, aged 76;²⁵ m. as “Mattie” E. Holmes, Exeter, N.H., 10 Aug. 1867, William S. Marston 2d.²⁶ 6. *Mary S. Holmes*, b. ca. 1848, d. Newburyport, Mass., 1941;²⁷ m. Exeter, N.H., 24 Dec. 1868, Jacob Rowell Pettengill.²⁸

- ii TIMOTHY HOLMES, b. 17 May 1808. He was apparently living in his father’s household in 1820 and 1830,²⁹ but is not found after the latter date.
- iii JOSEPH H. HOLMES, b. 19 Aug. 1811, d. Biddeford, Maine, 30 April 1896, aged 85 years, 8 months, 11 days;³⁰ m. Berwick, 11 Oct. 1837, MARY ANN BROOKS of Berwick,³¹ b. Eliot, Maine, [calc.] 7 Jan. 1816, daughter of Daniel Brooks, d. Biddeford, 9 April 1895, aged 79 years, 3 months, 2 days.³² Joseph, described as a joiner, carpenter, and house carpenter, and his wife Mary moved to Saco after the birth of their first child; they moved to Biddeford before 1870.³³ Joseph and Mary

¹⁸ Birth and death dates and places from his death record, New Hampshire, Death Records, 1654–1947, FamilySearch.org.

¹⁹ Name of 1st wife from death record of daughter Effie Gertrude Peaslee, d. 27 Oct. 1935, New Hampshire, Death and Disinterment Records, 1854–1947, Ancestry.com; 2nd marriage recorded in Massachusetts, Marriage Records, 1840–1915, Ancestry.com.

²⁰ Mark S. Holmes household, 1920 U.S. Census, Haverhill Ward 6, Essex Co., Mass., E.D. 75, p. 51, #84/107.

²¹ New Hampshire, Marriages, 1637–1947, FamilySearch.org.

²² Birth and death dates and places from his death record, Massachusetts, Deaths, 1841–1915, FamilySearch.org.

²³ New Hampshire, Marriages, 1720–1920, FamilySearch.org.

²⁴ William Marston household, 1900 U.S. Census, Newburyport Ward 4, Essex Co., Mass., E.D. 422, p. 2A, #33/40.

²⁵ Charles F. Johnson household, 1920 U.S. Census, Newburyport Ward 4, Essex Co., Mass., E.D. 230, p. 2A, #32/32.

²⁶ New Hampshire, Marriages, 1720–1920, FamilySearch.org.

²⁷ Massachusetts, Death Index, 1901–1980, Ancestry.com.

²⁸ New Hampshire, Marriages, 1720–1920, FamilySearch.org.

²⁹ Thomas Holmes households, 1820 and 1830 U.S. Censuses, Berwick, York Co., Maine, pp.

³⁰ Maine, Death Records, 1617–1922, Ancestry.com.

³¹ Frost and Anderson, *Berwick VRs*, 163.

³² Birth, death, and the name of her father from her death record, Maine, Death Records, 1617–1922, Ancestry.com. Her mother was possibly the Elizabeth Remick who filed marriage intentions with Daniel Brooks Jr. at Eliot, Maine, 29 Dec. 1815 (*Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Eliot*, Picton Press CD-Rom [Rockport, Maine, 2005] image 57). Mary Ann may also have been a daughter of the Daniel Brooks who m. Kittery, Maine, 31 Dec. 1792, Molly Spinney (Joseph Crook Anderson II and Lois Ware Thurston, eds., *Vital Records of Kittery, Maine, to the Year 1892* [Camden, Maine, 1991], 182).

³³ Joseph Holmes households, 1850 and 1860 U.S. Censuses, Saco, York Co., Maine, p. 336, #562/616 (1850); p. 773, #721/722 (1860); 1870 U.S. Census, Biddeford, York Co., Maine, p. 89, #441/498.

were the recipients of the Civil War pension of their son Otis.³⁴ The family is bur. together in Woodlawn Cemetery, Biddeford.³⁵

- Children:³⁶ 1. *Sarah Amanda Holmes*, b. Berwick, 16 March 1838, d. Biddeford, 13 April 1913;³⁷ m. ca. 1872, Charles W. Whiton.³⁸ 2. *Joseph P. Holmes*, b. Saco, 12 July 1841, d. in South Carolina, 22 May 1862, aged 20 years, 10 months.³⁹ 3. *Otis S. Holmes*, b. Saco, 18 March 1845, d. 28 July 1865, aged 20 years, 4 months.⁴⁰ 4. *Frank B. Holmes*, b. [calc.] May 1847, d. 7 Sept. 1872, aged 25 years, 4 months.⁴¹
- iv ICHABOD PRAY HOLMES, b. 2 Aug. 1813, living in 1880 in Somersworth, N.H., aged 65 years, widower;⁴² m. Berwick, 8 Aug. 1836, PAULINA L. FOGG of Somersworth,⁴³ b. ca. 1811, d. in the period 1870–80.⁴⁴ Ichabod was a carpenter.
- Children:⁴⁵ 1. *John Holmes*, b. ca. 1837; prob. the John Holmes of Somersworth, N.H., who m. (int.) Berwick, 18 Nov. 1856, Nancy M. Hide of Berwick.⁴⁶ 2. *Thomas Holmes*, 23 April 1840, d. Sanford, Maine, 20 May 1914;⁴⁷ m. (1) Rochester, N.H., 27 July 1868, Abby Jane Warren;⁴⁸ m (2) Somersworth, N.H., 16 Nov. 1885, Ann Frances (Hersom) Tebbetts.⁴⁹ 3. *Francis/Frank Holmes*, b. ca. 1847, living with his parents in 1870; no further information found. 4. *Perley Holmes*, b. Berwick, [calc.] Dec. 1843, d. Berwick, 17 May 1908, aged 65 years, 5 months, single.⁵⁰
- v NATHANIEL SEAVER HOLMES, b. 9 Aug. 1816, apparently deceased by the time of the 1820 census enumeration.

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³⁴ U.S., Civil War Pension Index: General Index to Pension Files, 1861–1934, Ancestry.com.

³⁵ Maine Old Cemetery Association, *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: York County*, 4 vols. (Camden, Maine, 1995), 1:171 (hereafter cited as *York Co. Inscriptions*).

³⁶ The births and birthplaces of the first three recorded in *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: City of Saco*, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 2005), image 293.

³⁷ Gravestone, *York Co. Inscriptions*, 1:171.

³⁸ Charles W. Whiton household, 1900 U.S. Census, Biddeford, York Co., Maine, E.D. 230, sheet 15B, #296/326. Amanda and Charles reported having been married 28 years.

³⁹ Gravestone, *York Co. Inscriptions*, 1:171.

⁴⁰ Gravestone, *York Co. Inscriptions*, 1:171.

⁴¹ Gravestone, *York Co. Inscriptions*, 1:171.

⁴² Ichabod P. Holmes was enumerated as a boarder in a large household headed by Martha E. Hayes, 1880 U.S. Census, Somersworth, Strafford Co., N.H., E.D. 260, p. 336, #220/403.

⁴³ Frost and Anderson, *Berwick VRs*, 431.

⁴⁴ She was aged 39 in 1850, aged 45 [*sic*] in 1860, and aged 59 in 1870 (Ichabod P. Holmes household, 1850–70 U.S. Censuses, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 166, #49/51 [1850], p. 853, #67/67 [1860], p. 43, #217/233 [1870]).

⁴⁵ Ichabod P. Holmes household, 1850–60 U.S. Censuses, Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 166, #49/51 (1850), p. 853, #67/67 (1860), p. 43, #217/233 (1870).

⁴⁶ Frost and Anderson, *Berwick VRs*, 110.

⁴⁷ His birth and death dates given on his gravestone in Oakdale Cemetery, Sanford, per Findagrave.com; also, Maine, Death Records, 1617–1922, Ancestry.com.

⁴⁸ New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659–1947, Ancestry.com.

⁴⁹ New Hampshire, Marriage and Divorce Records, 1659–1947, Ancestry.com; see also her entry in Findagrave.com, Oakdale Cemetery, Sanford.

⁵⁰ Maine, Death Records, 1617–1922, Ancestry.com.

THE SEARCH FOR THE PARENTS OF DAVID LEIGHTON/LAITEN OF NEWCASTLE, MAINE

By Kathleen Nichols

In the course of my research into the Daniel Hill family of Maine and New Brunswick, I discovered that the wife of descendant James W. Hill of Charlotte County, New Brunswick, was Cynthia Leighton. This couple married on 14 December 1839 in the parish of St. David.¹ A marriage notice appeared in the *St. Andrews Standard*, issue of 28 December 1839, which further stated Cynthia “Layton” was the fourth daughter of David “Layton” of St. David parish.² On the marriage certificate, Cynthia signed her name as “Leighton.” Over time this Leighton family used more than one spelling variation of their name, but in the early years the predominant way the men, including David, signed their name was Laiton or Laiten.

Thus the search for David Leighton and his parents began in New Brunswick. Several records were consulted, including tax, census, probate, newspapers, and land transactions. David’s name does not appear in the 1851 census, though in 1861 he is found living with the James Leighton family in Dumbarton parish (formed in 1856 from St. Patrick parish) in which he is described as aged 83 and born in the United States. A death notice for David Leighton in the *St. Andrews Standard* issue of 6 March 1862 states: “died at the Rollingdam on the 23rd inst. David Leighton in the 84th year of his age, an old and respectable inhabitant of the county.” No probate was found and there is no burial record in any of the area’s cemeteries; the death notice, however, coupled with his age of 83 in the 1861 census, suggested a birth year of about 1778. Four land transactions were found in his name, the first dated in 1821 and the last in 1833. The most significant deed was the last, as it gave the name of his wife: “David Leighton of St. David in the county of Charlotte and Province of New Brunswick, yeoman, and *Esther his wife* of the one part . . .”³

In addition to the deeds, an early land petition in the names of Daniel Hill, David Laiton and others requested settling a tract of land on the east side of Digdequash River. Attached to the petition is a note from the Commissioner dated St. Andrews, 18 May 1810, stating: “. . . I hereby certify that Henry Whittier, Reuben Whittier, David Laiten, Lowel Long [*or Lang*], emigrants from the United States, have been examined by me and I have administered to them the oath of allegiance to His Majesty.”⁴ The oath of allegiance gleaned the most important information on David Laiten. This record, dated 13 April 1810, states David had been in the prov-

¹ Marriage Registers of Charlotte Co., N.B., (1806–1854), B:10 [Family History Library (FHL), film #849,794] (hereafter cited as Marriage Registers of Charlotte Co.).

² Daniel F. Johnson, *Vital Statistics from New Brunswick Newspapers*, 10 vols. (Fredericton, N.B., 1982–2004), 8:58.

³ Charlotte Co. Deeds, N:66.

⁴ Charlotte Co. Land Petitions, Old Government Series 1, petition #435 [FHL film #843,160].

ince for six months and had a wife and four children. When questioned about his prior residences, he stated his nativity was Newcastle, and his last residence was Patricktown. He gave his occupation as shoemaker.⁵

Both Newcastle and Patricktown are located in Lincoln County, Maine, and so the search moved to that county. In the 1790 census, only three individuals with the surname Laiten resided in Newcastle: Richard, Ezekiel, and Rebecca. Possibly one of them was David's parent. David is not found in the 1800 Lincoln County census, at which time he would have been above 21 years of age (if he was born in 1778), and neither is he found in the index for the entire state. Only one land record was found for David Leighton in Lincoln County: On 18 April 1811 David Laiton "of St. Andrews and in the county of Charlotte, Province of New Brunswick, Husbandman" sold to Phillip Grinnell for \$40 a tract of 200 acres in Putnam (now Washington). Putnam was bounded on the west by Somerville, formerly Patricktown Plantation.⁶

Newcastle town records on microfilm include meetings, election of officers, and vital statistics. There are several marriages for the surname *Laiten*, and David's was among them. On 28 February 1800 he was wed to Esther Colby, "both of New Castle."⁷ No other mention of David is found in these records.

The earliest mention of a man with the surname *Leighton* or *Laiten* in the Newcastle town records is Jonathan, who first appears there in 1762, when he was one of three men appointed to inventory the estate of John Ballantine. Jonathan Leighton migrated from Rowley, Massachusetts, to Newcastle about 1761 and died there in 1772. He could not, therefore, have been David's father, but was he his grandfather? Jonathan Leighton married at Newbury, Massachusetts, Mary Boynton, and the couple's twelve children, with the possible exception of the youngest, were all born in Rowley. Of the twelve, five were sons, as follows:⁸

John Laiten, b. 20 Feb. 1740/1
Jonathan Laiten, b. 11 Jan. 1742/3
Moses Laiten, b. 22 Oct 1745
Ezekiel Laiten, b. 14 May 1748
Richard Laiten, b. 3 Dec 1749

⁵ "Oaths (Naturalizations) of Charlotte County, New Brunswick: Return of Persons who have come from the United States to the Province of New Brunswick to whom Oath of Allegiance was given" [FHL film #851,190].

⁶ Lincoln Co., Maine, Deeds, 79:137.

⁷ Newcastle, Maine, Town and Vital Records, p. 460 [FHL film #11,573] (hereafter cited as Newcastle VRs). Esther's surname on the marriage record has been written over and is very hard to read. On the marriage intention, dated 31 Jan. 1800 (*ibid.*, p. 457), she is styled "Mrs." It is probable Esther was the widow Colby when she married David Leighton.

⁸ George Brainard Blodgette and Amos Everett Jewett, *Early Settlers of Rowley, Massachusetts* (Rowley, Mass., 1933), 230 (hereafter cited as Blodgette and Jewett, *Early Settlers of Rowley*). The birth dates also appear in both the vital records of Rowley and Newbury. Jonathan was of Rowley, and Mary Boynton was of Newbury.

In his will, dated Newcastle, 15 May 1772, Jonathan named all of his living children. His son Jonathan is not mentioned, and was probably then deceased. This left four sons, one of whom was probably the father of David. This article will show how David Leighton's parents were identified by a process of elimination.

RICHARD LAITEN

In 1790 Richard "Leighton" was a head of household in Newcastle with a wife and two males under 16 years old.⁹ Over the years he was elected to various town offices, and was evidently an active participant in Newcastle affairs up until 1810 when he was brought to court and declared to be *non compos mentis*. His nephew Samuel Laiten was appointed guardian of his estate. Several Leighton researchers believe Richard was deceased in June 1827, because at that time Samuel petitioned the court to sell Richard's real estate to pay his debts, and the court ordered all heirs to be notified. Richard was a Revolutionary War soldier, however, and in later years he applied for a pension. He signed an affidavit in September 1832 attesting to his duties during the war, saying he was born in Rowley and he was then 83 years old. He is buried in Sheepscot Cemetery in Newcastle. His gravestone has no birth or death dates, and styles him "Corporal." He reportedly married Rebecca Dodge and with her had four children, all of whom died in infancy except son George.¹⁰ George married and had twelve children, so Richard's line has been amply carried on. It is reasonably certain he can be eliminated as the father of David.

EZEKIEL LAITEN

Ezekiel Laiten inherited his father's property in Newcastle and lived out his life there. In Jonathan Laiten's will of 15 May 1772, he states: "I give to my son Ezekiel Laiten . . . all and every of my messuages, lands, and personal estate with all my husbandry tools. . . ." In addition to the 125 acres in Newcastle he inherited, Ezekiel purchased one hundred acres of land in Pownalborough.¹¹ He was active in the town affairs of Newcastle and held several offices. The Newcastle census of 1790 shows his household to consist of four males under 16 years, two males over 16 years, and two females. This is inconsistent with the Newcastle town records, which list only three children for Ezekiel Laiten and wife Anna:¹²

Samuel Laiten, b. 7 May 1779

Joseph Laiten b. 11 April 1781

Jonathan Laiten, b. 18 April 1786

⁹ *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* (Washington, 1908), 41, column a (hereafter cited as *Heads of Families, 1790: Maine*).

¹⁰ David Quimby Cushman, *The History of Ancient Sheepscot and Newcastle . . .* (Bath, Maine, 1882), 398 (hereafter cited as Cushman, *Ancient Sheepscot*).

¹¹ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 9:50.

¹² Newcastle VRs, p. 416.

The census, therefore, lists additional children. While it is possible one of the extra males under 16 was David Laiten, this appears unlikely. According to Cushman, “James Erskine, born in Alna in 1773, came to Newcastle when an infant and was brought up in the family of Ezekiel Laiten.”¹³ This James Erskine was probably related to Ezekiel’s wife. Ezekiel married Anna McNear, a daughter of Capt. John McNear who settled in Newcastle about 1747.¹⁴ Anna McNear’s brother James married Jane Erskine. The McNear and Erskine families had several intermarriages. Both were mariner families and many of the men were lost at sea. The female enumerated in Ezekiel’s household in addition to his wife could be a daughter not named in the town records or perhaps an orphaned Erskine or McNear child. Even though two males in the 1790 household of Ezekiel Laiten remain unidentified, the known birth date of his son Samuel (7 May 1779) seems too close to the birth date of David Laiten (b. in 1778, after March¹⁵) for the two boys to have been brothers. Though not impossible, it seems the birth dates of Samuel and David are too close for David to have been a son of Ezekiel.

JOHN LAITEN

There is little information found on John Laiten. Though born in Rowley, it is assumed he moved to Newcastle with his parents about 1761, as he served in the Revolutionary War from Newcastle and the births of his children are recorded in the town records. His marriage is not found in either the Newcastle records nor in any of the surrounding communities’ records. He is not found in the censuses of 1790 and 1800. No bounty land nor pension record from his Revolutionary War service was found.

Only one deed is recorded in Lincoln County in his name. On 6 January 1791, John Laiten of Pownalborough purchased land in Balltown from Henry Thomas of that place.¹⁶ Though some descendants of Jonathan Laiten migrated to the area of Pownalborough, there is no way to know with certainty the identity of this John Laiten. The Newcastle town records list the children of John Laiten as follows:¹⁷

Loes Laiten, b. 5 May 1767
 Mary Laiten, b. 30 Aug. 1768
 Jonathan Laiten, b. 8 Dec. 1770
 John Laiten, b. 28 Sept. 1772
 Lemuel Laiten, b. 11 Aug. 1774
 William Laiten, b. 2 March 1777

¹³ Cushman, *Ancient Sheepscot*, 377.

¹⁴ Frank Ernest Woodward, “The Erskine Family of Bristol, Me.,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (NEHGR) 74(1920):16–34, 87–97, at 93.

¹⁵ He was “in the 84th year of his age” when he d. in March 1862 and was 83 in the 1861 Canadian census. This would suggest a birth date in 1778 after March of that year.

¹⁶ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 26:214.

¹⁷ Newcastle VRs, p. 447.

As with Ezekiel's son Samuel, the birth of John's son William seemed too close to that of David Laiten for John to be his father. However, in both cases, it was desirable to attempt to find more information, especially in the case of the elusive John. John's sons Lemuel and Jonathan, fortunately, proved to be the breakthrough to more fully document all the sons of Jonathan Laiten.

Information submitted on Ancestry.com states that John Laiten, born 29 February 1740 in Rowley, Massachusetts, married about 1766 Eunice Worcester and had sons Jonathan Laiten, born 17 January 1770, and Lemuel Laiten, born 11 August 1773. Both sons were reportedly born in Bath, Maine. Son Jonathan married Nancy —, and some of their children moved to Rock County, Wisconsin. Though the dates are slightly off, and the place of birth is way off, this proved to be a valuable clue in the research of this family.

No marriage for John Laiten and Eunice Worcester is found in Maine records. A marriage, however, was discovered for John Laiten and "Louis" Worster in Harvard, Massachusetts, dated 24 December 1766.¹⁸ In addition, the published Harvard births include the baptism of Lois Laiten, daughter of John, on 27 December 1767.¹⁹ No other children of John were recorded. Could this man who married in Harvard possibly be the same man who was the son of Jonathan Laiten of Newcastle? On 3 December 1766, John Laiton was warned out of Harvard (the warrant was returned to court on 6 January 1767), indicating that he was not a Harvard native.²⁰ Further suggesting he came from somewhere else, no Laiten or Leighton families are found in the early vital records of Harvard or Worcester County as a whole. Other than his courtship with Lois Worcester, what were John Laiten's ties to that place? The answer was revealed when the investigation moved to his brother Moses.

MOSES LAITEN

Of the four sons of Jonathan Laiten, the only one whose marriage is recorded in Lincoln County is Moses. He married Rebecca Worcester in Pownalborough on 4 October 1770.²¹ The marriage entry actually reads "John Laiten," but the intentions, dated 15 September 1770, clearly state Moses.²² The confusion is possibly due to John's wife also being born a Worcester and to John possibly having been a resident of Pownalborough at one time, or at least owned land there. Given two brothers

¹⁸ Thomas W. Baldwin, comp., *Vital Records of Harvard, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1917), 189 (hereafter cited as *Harvard VRs*).

¹⁹ *Harvard VRs*, 69.

²⁰ *Worcester County, Massachusetts Warnings, 1737–1788* (Worcester, 1899), 23.

²¹ Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Wiscasset, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2011), 52 (hereafter cited as *Groves, Wiscasset VRs*). Pownalborough, incorporated 1760, included the present-day towns of Dresden, Alna, Wiscasset, and Perkins.

²² "Intentions of Marriage, Copied from the Records of Pownalborough, 1760–1778," *The Bangor Historical Magazine later The Maine Historical Magazine 1885–1894*, 4 vols. (Camden, Maine, 1993), 2:752.

marrying Worcester women, was this a case of brothers marrying sisters? If so, why did one marriage take place in Harvard, Massachusetts?

A literature search uncovered an article entitled “Merrimac Valley Style Gravestones: The Leighton and Worster Families” published in 1994.²³ This article revealed that Jonathan Leighton had been a stone carver when he resided in Rowley, as had his father and grandfather before him. The Worster family of Rowley also had several generations of carvers, one of whom was a Jonathan, who learned the skill from Richard Leighton, grandfather of Jonathan Leighton of Rowley. This was an exciting discovery: to learn not only the Leighton family’s trade, but to discover there was a close association between the Leighton and Worster families through several generations. And it explained how John Laiten would have become acquainted with Lois Worster in Harvard. Additional research into the Worster family of Harvard revealed that a Jonathan Worster married a woman named Rebecca in 1722 “and had eleven children, all born in Harvard, Massachusetts.” Two of those children were girls named Lois and Rebecca, and they were born in the proper time period to have married the Laiten brothers John and Moses.

Moses Laiten is found in the Newcastle town records from 1778 to 1780, and Revolutionary War records state he was of Newcastle in 1777 when he served as a sergeant in Captain Robert Hodge’s company.²⁴ He last appears in the town records when he is chosen a selectman on 22 February 1780. No other records for Moses were found. It is likely he died before the 1790 census, when Rebecca “Leighton” was enumerated as head of household with one male under the age of 16 years, and three females.²⁵ When Rebecca purchased twenty-five acres in Newcastle from her brother-in-law Richard Laiten on 20 May 1791, she was described in the deed as “weaver, the wife of the late Moses Laiten, deceased.”²⁶ On 19 June 1802, Rebecca, “widow woman,” sold this same property to Moses Laiten of Newcastle.²⁷ Soon afterwards, she married Ebenezer Silvestor of Palermo as his second wife.²⁸

Since Moses Laiten was still living in 1780 and perhaps later, he could have been the father of David, born in 1778. In an attempt to piece together the children of Moses and Rebecca Laiten, the town records of Newcastle and surrounding communities were searched, including Pownalborough, Davistown [Montville], New Milford [Alna], Albion, and Balltown/Jefferson [Whitefield]. Cemetery, census, vital

²³ Ralph L. Tucker, “Merrimac Valley Style Gravestones: The Leighton and Worster Families,” *Markers: Journal of the Association for Gravestone Studies* 11(1994):142–67, at 158.

²⁴ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 9:417.

²⁵ *Heads of Families, 1790: Maine*, 41, column a.

²⁶ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 74:139.

²⁷ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 49:213. As will be shown below, this Moses was likely her son.

²⁸ New Milford [Alna], Maine, Town & Vital Records, p. 394 [FHL film #10,406]. This page contains a list of marriages solemnized by Rev. Jonathan Ward, returned in July 1805. There is no specific date for the marriage of Ebenezer and Rebecca; their names appear under the heading “June 1802.”

records, and land records were examined for each of these towns. Using Newcastle town records, it was possible to sort through and eliminate the descendants of Ezekiel and John Laiten, enabling a closer look at those Laitens who remained.

It seems certain one son was Moses, born about 1771, to whom widow Rebecca Laiton sold her property in 1802 (see above). In addition to his property in Newcastle, Moses purchased a thirty-acre tract in Balltown on 2 September 1799 from James Murphy Jr.²⁹ Moses's marriage to Hannah Colby on 11 December 1800 appears in the town records of Whitefield, though both were "of Newcastle."³⁰ They resided in Newcastle until about 1815, when they moved to Fairfax [Albion]. Moses remained in that area for the rest of his life. His four children are recorded in Albion.³¹ He is most likely the male under 16 in the 1790 household of Rebecca Laiten.³²

A daughter was undoubtedly Rebecca, who filed marriage intentions with James Murphy Jr. in Balltown [Whitefield] on 14 May 1796.³³ Even before the above marriage record was located, James Murphy Jr. was a person of interest in the Laiten research for two reasons: (1) The 2 September 1799 land transaction in which James Murphy Jr. of Balltown sold thirty acres in that town to Moses Laiten of Newcastle,³⁴ and (2) both James Murphy and James Murphy Jr. were witnesses to the marriage of James Leighton, son of David, in Charlotte County, New Brunswick, on 13 August 1829.³⁵ This marriage record in particular seemed to indicate James Murphy Jr. had a close tie to the David Leighton family, thus warranting further investigation.

Several published sources name the wife of James Murphy Jr. as Rebecca Norris, daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (Towle) Norris. These sources state the marriage took place in Augusta on 14 May 1796. It is noted that this is the same date as the marriage intentions of James Murphy Jr. and Rebecca Laiten in Balltown. A search of the marriage records for Augusta did not yield the purported marriage of James Murphy and Rebecca Norris. Though Rebecca was claimed to be a daughter of Jeremiah and Hannah (Towle) Norris, the only child found for this couple was a son Benjamin, baptized in Hampton, New Hampshire, on 4 December 1757.³⁶ Jere-

²⁹ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 44:48–49.

³⁰ Maine, Marriages, 1771–1907, FamilySearch.org.

³¹ Elizabeth M. Mosher, comp., *Vital Records of Albion, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1989), 57 (hereafter cited as Mosher, *Albion VRs*).

³² *Heads of Families, 1790: Maine*, 41, column a.

³³ "Intentions of Marriage, Lincoln County Maine," NEHGR 46 (1892):13. These were "communicated by Benjamin N. Goodale Esq. of Saco, Maine—I send some old Lincoln County Intentions of marriage. They were among papers in my care." Their marriage date is recorded as 26 May 1796 in Christine Huston Dodge, comp., "Vital Records of Edgecomb and Newcastle in the County of Lincoln, Maine, to the Year 1892," TS (1979, at the Skidompha Library, Damariscotta, Maine), p. 523. Dodge references "records in possession of Mrs. Leighton."

³⁴ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 44:48–49.

³⁵ Marriage Registers of Charlotte Co., A:200.

³⁶ Leonard Allison Morrison, *Lineage and Biographies of the Norris Family in America: from 1640 to 1892* (Boston, 1892), 30.

miah Norris left New Hampshire for Maine and is found in Parsonsfield in the 1790 census and Balltown in the 1800 census.³⁷ Neither New Hampshire births nor the Whitefield town records provide names of additional children born to Jeremiah and Hannah Norris.

The James and Rebecca Murphy family are found in Whitefield's town records. Though this source does not contain middle names for their children, some patron submissions to Ancestry.com and at least one published source state two sons born to this couple had the middle name "Leighton." (John, b. 1810, and Ezekiel, b. 1815). No sons born to this couple were given a middle name of "Norris."

The final piece of evidence confirming the identity of Rebecca as *Laiten* and not *Norris* is found in the original 1850 census sheets for Washington County, Maine. In that year the census taker for the county recorded both the town and the state of birth for each resident enumerated. In 1850 James and Rebecca Murphy are found in Calais residing with son Ezekiel and family. James is listed as being born in Jefferson, Maine, Rebecca in Newcastle, Maine, and their son Ezekiel in Whitefield, Maine. Rebecca Norris would most likely not have been born in Newcastle in 1776, thus the wife of James Murphy Jr. was assuredly one of the three females enumerated in the household of Rebecca Laiten in the 1790 census of Newcastle.

Another daughter of Moses Laiten, tentatively identified, is Jane Laiten. She is probably the second daughter enumerated in Rebecca Laiten's household in Newcastle in 1790. She filed intentions in New Milford [Alna] on 12 November 1796 to marry Francis Richie Carr.³⁸ It has been accepted in published sources that Francis Richie Carr's wife was Jane Leighton or Laiten, though she has been identified in these sources as a daughter of Benjamin Leighton and Jane Webber. Perley M. Leighton, however, does not include a daughter Jane in listing the children of Benjamin in his comprehensive *Leighton Genealogy*. Instead he states:

Julia Cornman included among his children a Jane, born at Edgcomb 30 Aug. 1774, died at Palermo ME 28 July 1834, who married Francis Richie Carr. Lincoln County records showed intentions filed at Wiscasset 12 Nov. 1796 by Richey Carr and Jane Laiten, both of New Milford (Alna). She appeared elsewhere as of Whitefield. It is almost certain she was a descendant of Jonathan Laiten of Rowley and Newcastle.³⁹

A daughter Jane does not appear in Newcastle family records for Jonathan Laiten's sons Ezekiel and John, and son Richard's only child to survive to adulthood was George. These two pieces of evidence along with Jane's birth in 1774 and her residences in Whitefield and New Milford suggest she would fit into the family of Moses Laiten and was most likely one of his daughters.

³⁷ *Heads of Families, 1790: Maine*, 65, column a; Jeremiah Norris household, 1800 U.S. Census, Balltown, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 349.

³⁸ New Milford [Alna], Maine, Town & Vital Records, p. 382 [FHL film #10,406] (hereafter cited as New Milford VRs).

³⁹ Perley M. Leighton, comp., *A Leighton Genealogy, Descendants of Thomas Leighton of Dover, New Hampshire*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1989) 1:64.

CONCLUSIONS

By carefully evaluating the families of each of the sons of Jonathan Laiten of Newcastle, it became possible through a process of elimination to make a reasonable conclusion as to the identity of the parents of David Laiten of Newcastle and Charlotte County, New Brunswick. David was almost certainly a son of Moses and Rebecca (Worcester) Laiten. Though we would expect him to be enumerated with his widowed mother, Rebecca, in the 1790 census of Newcastle, only one male under the age of 16 years is there and he is most likely Moses Laiten Jr. It is possible David was one of the males under 16 in the household of Richard Laiten or Ezekiel Laiten in 1790, or perhaps he was working and living with another family. In this study, an evaluation of the Moses's daughters yielded supporting evidence. The marriage of his daughter Rebecca to James Murphy Jr. was especially significant.

Families often migrated together. David Laiten migrated to a location in New Brunswick just across the St. Croix River from Calais, Maine. In the early days, the residents of Calais and Charlotte County, New Brunswick, moved freely back and forth across the boundary of the two countries. The proposal that James Murphy Jr. and David Laiten were brothers-in-law is supported by the presence of both families in Calais and Charlotte County in the same time period, as well as the fact that two generations of the James Murphy family were witnesses to the marriage of David's only son. This study serves as a reminder of the importance of researching all the siblings in a family group in order to gain a full picture of the family structure.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

MOSES LAITEN, fourth child of Jonathan and Mary (Boynton) Laiten, was born in Rowley, Massachusetts, 22 October 1745.⁴⁰ He died, probably in Newcastle, Maine, between 1780 and 1790.⁴¹ He married in Pownalborough, Maine, 4 October 1770, **REBECCA WORCESTER**,⁴² born in Harvard, Massachusetts, 16 July 1744, daughter of Jonathan and Rebecca (—) Worcester.⁴³ She died, possibly in Freedom, Maine, sometime after 1820.⁴⁴ The occupation of Moses is not known. He was listed as a property owner on Dyer's Neck in Newcastle, adjacent to his brother Richard.⁴⁵ He was a Revolutionary War soldier, serving as a sergeant under Captain Robert Hodge. He was voted selectman in Newcastle from 1778 to 1780. His widow, Rebecca, married secondly Ebenezer Silvestor of Great Pond Plantation [Palermo],

⁴⁰ Blodgette and Jewett, *Early Settlers of Rowley*, 230; *Vital Records of Rowley, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1928–31), 1:129 (hereafter cited as *Rowley VRs*).

⁴¹ He was a selectman in Newcastle in 1780; not found as a head of household in the 1790 census.

⁴² Groves, *Wiscasset VRs*, 52.

⁴³ *Harvard VRs*, 128.

⁴⁴ Ebenezer Silvester household, 1820 U.S. Census, Freedom, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 683, has both a male and a female, aged 45+. In 1810 the couple still resided in Palermo [formerly Great Pond Plantation] (Eben^r Silvester household, 1810 U.S. Census, Palermo, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 314).

⁴⁵ Cushman, *Ancient Sheepscot*, 112.

their intentions filed 2 June 1802.⁴⁶ Ebenezer's first wife, Ann Hutchins, was born in Harvard, Massachusetts, so possibly the two women were acquainted there.

Children, prob. all b. Newcastle:

- i MOSES LAITEN, b. ca. 1771, d. prob. Freedom, Maine, after 1850;⁴⁷ m. Whitefield, Maine, 11 Dec. 1800, HANNAH COLBY,⁴⁸ b. March 1772, d. Freedom, 25 Dec. 1848, aged 76 years, 9 months.⁴⁹ Moses of Newcastle purchased land from James Murphy Jr. in Balltown, 2 Sept. 1799, but moved by 1820 to Fairfax [Albion].
Children, recorded Albion:⁵⁰ 1. *Hannah Laiten*, b. 2 July 1802; m. (int.) Albion, 12 Jan. 1823, Henry Clifford. 2. *Moses Laiten*, b. 18 July 1804; m. Albion, 20 Nov. 1826, Martha Black, m. (2) Montville, 22 Dec. 1829, Abigail Linscot.⁵¹ 3. *Martha Laiten*, b. 28 Sept. 1806; never married [*note*: Albion records erroneously record her name as "Matthew"]. 4. *Ezekiel Laiten*, b. 26 Sept. 1809; never married.
- ii JANE LAITEN, b. 23 or 30 Aug. 1774,⁵² d. Palermo, 28 July 1834;⁵³ m. (int) New Milford [Alna], 12 Nov. 1796, FRANCIS RICHIE CARR,⁵⁴ born Goffstown, N.H., 25 Jan. 1772, son of Francis Carr.⁵⁵ He d. Palermo, 30 Jan. 1834.⁵⁶
Children:⁵⁷ 1. *Mary Carr*, b. 1 March 1797; m. 1817, Samuel Linnell. 2. *Rebecca Carr*, b. 10 June 1798; m. 4 Dec. 1817, Thomas Barlow. 3. *Hannah Carr*, b. 8 March 1800; m. 5 June 1819, Benjamin Marden. 4. *Benjamin Carr*, b. 1 March 1802; m. 1831, Rozanna Marden. 5. *Daniel Carr*, b. 19 Feb. 1804; d. 27 Dec. 1806. 6. *Eli Carr*, b. 16 April 1806; m. 13 Feb. 1834, Betsey Moore. 7. *Sumner Francis Carr*, b. 21 March 1808; m. Aug. 1832, Mahala Black. 8. *Lavina Carr*, b. 29 Oct. 1810; m. Joseph Bradstreet. 9. *Elizer Carr*, b. 27 July 1814; m. 11 May 1833, Nathan L. Bowler. 10. *Nancy J. Carr*, b. 13 Nov. 1816, d. 8 Dec. 1816.
- iii REBECCA LAITEN, b. 15 Sept. 1776,⁵⁸ living in Calais in 1850;⁵⁹ m. (int) Balltown, 26 May 1796, JAMES MURPHY Jr.,⁶⁰ b. Jefferson, 31 Aug. 1774,⁶¹ living in Calais

⁴⁶ Newcastle VRs, p. 457.

⁴⁷ Moses was aged 79 in Ezekiel Leighton household, 1850 U.S. Census, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 271, #78/80; he is not found there in 1860.

⁴⁸ Maine, Marriages, 1771–1907, FamilySearch.org.

⁴⁹ Maine, Death Records, 1617–1922, Ancestry.com.

⁵⁰ Mosher, *Albion VRs*, 57.

⁵¹ Maine, Vital Records, 1670–1907, FamilySearch.org.

⁵² Sherwood E. Carr and Rinaldo E. Carr, comps., *Carr Genealogy, 8 Generations* (Holden, Mo., 2004), 88 (hereafter cited as Carr and Carr, *Carr Genealogy*).

⁵³ Carr and Carr, *Carr Genealogy*, 88. Jane and Richey Carr are buried in Smith Cemetery, Palermo. The gravestone only gives the years of birth and death.

⁵⁴ New Milford VRs, p. 382 [FHL film #10,406]. The couple was married by Rev. Jonathan Ward, who also married Rebecca Laiten to Ebenezer Silvestor and Lois Laiten to Joseph Creasey. His marriage returns on this film, which include Richey Carr and Jane Laiten, are dated 1 or 7 April 1797.

⁵⁵ Carr and Carr, *Carr Genealogy*, 88.

⁵⁶ Carr and Carr, *Carr Genealogy*, 88.

⁵⁷ All information from Carr and Carr, *Carr Genealogy*, 88–89.

⁵⁸ Whitefield, Maine, Town and Vital Records, p. 49 [FHL film #12,312] (hereafter cited as Whitefield VRs).

⁵⁹ Ezekiel Murphy household, 1850 U.S. Census, Calais, Washington Co., Maine, p. 154, #347/379.

⁶⁰ "Intentions of Marriage Lincoln County, Maine" NEHGR 46(1892):13.

in 1850.⁶² James Murphy resided in Balltown/Jefferson until about 1814, when he moved to Charlotte Co., N.B. He resided there for about 25 years when he and his wife moved to Calais to reside with son Ezekiel and family.

Children, all but Ezekiel recorded Whitefield (sons John and Ezekiel reportedly had the middle name of *Leighton*; son Ezekiel legally changed his name at Calais to *Lyman Leighton King*, stating he thought there were too many men named Murphy, and it was confusing).⁶³ 1. *Mary Murphy*, b. 26 Feb. 1797. 2. *James Murphy*, b. 4 Oct. 1798. 3. *Lois Murphy*, b. 21 Aug. 1800. 4. *George Washington Murphy*, b. 25 July 1802. 5. *Eleanor Murphy*, b. 7 July 1804. 6. *Agnes Murphy*, b. 19 April 1806. 7. *Sawyer Murphy*, b. 4 April 1808. 8. *John Murphy*, b. 4 April 1810. 9. *Ezekiel Murphy*, b. about 1815.

- iv DAVID LAITEN, b. about 1778, d. Rollingdam, Charlotte Co., N.B., 23 Feb. 1862, in his 84th year;⁶⁴ m. Newcastle, 28 Feb. 1800, ESTHER (COWLEY?) COLBY,⁶⁵ possibly widow of Spencer Colby.⁶⁶ She d. prob. in Rollingdam, between 30 Aug. 1833 (named in a deed) and 1861 (when the Charlotte Co. census shows David living with his son James and family). David only lived in Newcastle for a short time after his marriage in 1800. Prior to moving to Charlotte Co. in the fall of 1809, he was a landowner in the area of Palermo, Maine. In his oath of allegiance to Canada, he gave his occupation as “shoemaker.”

Children as found, the first three prob. b. Palermo: 1. *Louisa Laiten/Leighton*, b. about 1800;⁶⁷ m. St. David, N.B., 3 Aug. 1820, Joseph Warren Whittier.⁶⁸ 2. *James Leighton*, b. about 1802;⁶⁹ m. St. Patrick, Charlotte Co., N.B., 13 Aug. 1829, Ann Stewart.⁷⁰ 3. *Climina Leighton*, b. about 1807;⁷¹ m. St. Patrick, 15 Oct. 1831, Benjamin Stalbird,⁷² 4. daughter (marriage notice of daughter Cynthia states she was

⁶¹ Whitefield VRs, page number not legible.

⁶² Ezekiel Murphy household, 1850 U.S. Census, Calais, Washington Co., Maine, p. 154, #347/379.

⁶³ Whitefield, Maine, Town and Vital Records, p. 49 [FHL film #12,312]; Thelma Eye Brooks, *Calais, Maine, Families, They Came and They Went* (Bowie, Md., 2002), 112 (hereafter cited as Brooks, *Calais Families*).

⁶⁴ Death notice, *St. Andrews Standard*, issue of 6 March 1862.

⁶⁵ Newcastle VRs, p. 460.

⁶⁶ She is styled “Mrs.” on the marriage intentions at Newcastle, 31 Jan. 1800. The marriage record leaves off the “Mrs.,” although her surname *Colby* has been written over and is difficult to read. Edgecomb, Maine, records include the marriage intentions of Esther Cowley and Spencer Colby on 9 Dec. 1795 (Mary Kelton Dummer Chapter, DAR, comp., “Edgecomb, Maine—Records,” TS [1942, at Maine Historical Society, Portland, call #Mv 3d 35], p. 11). There is no record of a Spencer Colby as head of household in 1800.

⁶⁷ Aged 50 in Joseph Whittier household, 1850 U.S. Census, Calais, Washington Co., Maine, p. 168, #500/538.

⁶⁸ Brooks, *Calais Families*, 182.

⁶⁹ James was aged 59, b. in the United States, in the David Leighton household, 1861 Census of Canada, Dumbarton, Charlotte Co., N.B., p. 1.

⁷⁰ Marriage Registers of Charlotte Co., A:200.

⁷¹ Aged 53 in Benjamin “Stalbert” household, 1860 U.S. Census, Jefferson, Coos Co., N.H., p. 1009, #470/447.

⁷² Charlotte Co., N.B., Marriage Registers, Reel A154, Charlotte Co. Archives, The Old Gaol, 123 Frederick Street, St. Andrews, N.B.

“4th daughter of David Laiten”). 5. *Cynthia Leighton*, b. St. Patrick, 6 Sept. 1812;⁷³ m. St. David, 14 Dec. 1839, James W. Hill.⁷⁴

In addition to the above named children of Moses and Rebecca Laiten, the couple possibly had two additional children. A search of the vital records of Newcastle and surrounding towns yielded marriage intentions for two individuals who could not be placed as children of Moses’s brothers:

1. LOIS LAITEN, m. New Milford, after 1 Jan. 1801 (intentions) and before 1 June 1801 (marriage return), JOSEPH CREASEY, both of New Milford.⁷⁵ The couple was married by Rev. Jonathan Ward, who also married other members of the Laiten family (Mrs. Rebecca Laiten to Ebenezer Silvestor and Jane Laiten to Richie Carr). This Lois of New Milford was not the known daughter of John Laiten, who m. Newcastle, 23 June 1801, John Day.⁷⁶ In support of a possible relationship, in 1815 one Joseph Cresey of Palermo purchased land there from Stephen Longfellow.⁷⁷ Longfellow’s wife was Abigail Greeley, a daughter of Jacob and Mary (Laiten) Greeley and granddaughter of Jonathan Leighton.⁷⁸ A Joseph Cresey m. China, Maine, 25 Nov. 1802, Zepporah Evans.⁷⁹ It is possible that Lois Laiten died shortly after the marriage, or the marriage in China involved another man named Joseph Creasey.
2. JAMES LAITEN filed marriage intentions with REBECCA CRUMMITT at Whitefield, 7 June 1800, both of Balltown.⁸⁰ Nearly six years later, a Rebecca Crummitt filed marriage intentions at Whitefield, 4 March 1806, with James Day.⁸¹ One James Laiten witnessed a deed between Moses Laiten and James Murphy Jr. at Balltown on 2 September 1799.⁸² No additional information was found for James Laiten.

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⁷³ Family records of Leona Hill Mackley of Fortuna, Calif. Cynthia was aged 70 years, 7 months when she d. 20 March 1883 (death notice, *St. Croix Courier*, 22 March 1883).

⁷⁴ Marriage Registers of Charlotte Co., B:10.

⁷⁵ New Milford VRs, p. 393.

⁷⁶ Maine, Marriages, 1771–1907, FamilySearch.org; Cushman, *Ancient Sheepscoot*, 398.

⁷⁷ Lincoln Co. Deeds, 94:206.

⁷⁸ Russell C. Farnham, *A Longfellow Genealogy: The English Ancestry and Descendants of the Immigrant William* (n.p., 2002), 317; George Hiram Greeley, *Genealogy of the Greeley-Greeley Family* (Boston, 1905), 104; Mary Laiton was b. Rowley, 10 Oct. 1739 (*Rowley VRs*, 129).

⁷⁹ China Historical Society, “Marriages of China, Maine, 1792–1892,” TS (1971, at Bangor Public Library), p. 9.

⁸⁰ Whitefield VRs, page number not legible.

⁸¹ Whitefield VRs, page number not legible.

⁸² Lincoln Co. Deeds, 44:48–49.

NINETEENTH-CENTURY RECORDS OF THE
FIRST AND SECOND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCHES
OF WELLS, MAINE

Submitted by Priscilla Eaton

(Continued from p. 96)

Record of Deaths in the First Parish Church in Wells

20 Aug. 1869	Widow Tabitha Wells (funr. by L. Goodrich)	57	
19 Oct. 1869	Howard Otis Winn (funr. by L. Goodrich)	21	Typhoid Fever
22 Oct. 1869	Wid. Sarah F. Bragdon (funr. by Giles Leach)	94½	Old age
30 May 1870	Wid. Hepsibah Furbish (funr. by L. Goodrich)	84	Gastric fever
30 April 1871	Mary Clark Staples (funr. by L. Goodrich)	49	Consumption
[No date] ¹¹⁹	Widow Abigail Maxwell (funr. by L. Goodrich)		Lung Fever
12 Aug. 1871	Wid. Lydia Bourne (funr. by L. Goodrich)	90	Old age
14 Aug. 1871	Bell Morrison	29	
22 Dec. 1871	Benjamin W. Littlefield (funr. by L. Goodrich)		
22 April 1872	Edna A. Phillips (funr. by L. Goodrich)	3	Croup
22 May 1872	J. Albert Dykeman (funr. by L. Goodrich)	13	Inflam. of bowels
22 May 1872	William Littlefield, (funr. by L. Goodrich)	67	Consumption
1 Aug. 1872	Matthew R. Hill, (funr. by L. Goodrich)	96	Old age
14 Sept. 1872	Daniel Steward, (funr. by L. Goodrich)	88	Old age
8 Oct. 1872	Ivory Littlefield, (funr. by L. Goodrich)	79	Old age
<i>[At this point, the records change hands, probably reflecting the beginning of the ministry of the Rev. William Woodwell (1873–1875).]</i>			
5 Dec. 1873	Deacon Asa Wells	73	Apoplexy

¹¹⁹ She is probably Abigail Maxwell, wife of Barak Maxwell, who d. 22 Jan. 1871, aged 85 months (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2173).

20 June 1874	Olive Libby		Consumption
29 Dec. 1874	David Maxwell		Old age
21 June 1874	Dr. Alvin Libby		Consumption
[No date]	Abigail Maxwell		Dropsy
[No date] ¹²⁰	Joanna Wells		
11 May 1875	Mary Sawyer	89	Fever
10 June 1875	Sarah Hubbard	87	Fever
25 March 1875	Mary Susan Pope	25	Heart Disease
28 Nov. 1875	Nathaniel Buzzell	81	Fever
[No date]	Hannah Jacobs ¹²¹		Fever
[No date]	Sally Bragdon		

[The ministry of the Rev. Woodbury Kimball began in 1875. Rev. Kimball did not devote significant effort to record keeping.]

13 Feb. 1876	Capt. James Donnell	77	
[No date] ¹²²	Olive Pope		Lung Fever
1 March 1876[?]	John Pope		Cancer

[No Deaths Recorded in 1877]

Nov. 1878	Mary Ann Bragdon	72	Lung Fever
Dec. 1878	Wallace Pope ¹²³	24	Consumption
Dec. 1878	Betsy Littlefield	77	
1879	Edward Augustus Pope		Consumption
12 May 1879	Frederick Littlefield		Fever
[No date] ¹²⁴	Solomon Stevens		Apoplexy
[No date]	Hannah J. Dykeman		Consumption
[No date] ¹²⁵	George Dykeman		Burned
[No date] ¹²⁶	George Butland		
19 Feb. 1880	Phebe Hill		Consumption

¹²⁰ She is probably the Joann C., wife of William Wells, who d. 1 Sept. 1874, aged 59 years, 21 days (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2155).

¹²¹ She is probably the Hannah Jacobs, wife of James Jacobs, who d. 22 May 1875, aged 75 years, 9 months (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2137).

¹²² She is probably the Olive Pope, wife of Dominicus Pope, who d. 5 Oct. 1876, aged 66 years, 6 months (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2148).

¹²³ Wallace B., son of John S. and Mary H. Pope, d. 22 Dec. 1878, aged 24 years, 8 months (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2148).

¹²⁴ He is probably the Solomon Stevens, who d. 23 March 1879, aged 55 years (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2152).

¹²⁵ He is probably the Geo. R. "Dikman," who d. 18 April 1879, aged 58 years, 8 months (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2125).

¹²⁶ He is probably the George Butland, who d. 11 Jan. 1880, aged 69 years (*York Co. Inscriptions*, 3:2197).

A List of the members of the First Congregational Church of Wells, Maine as of 25 February 1893.

[The date in the first column is the date the member joined the church. Later hands made the following marks: those with mark “#” are dead; those with mark “+” have removed their relationship to other churches; those with mark “a” are absent.]

Males

1830 July 4	Dominicus Pope	a #
1863 Sept. 6	Joseph D. Wells	a +
1855 May 6	Barak Maxwell	#
1863 5 July	Ivory Littlefield	#
1876 May 7	Gideon R. Littlefield	#
1865 May 7	Nathaniel Barker	#
1876 March 5	Wilbur H. Barker	a
1863 May 3	John W. Hubbard	#
1840 Aug. 2	Albert B. Maxwell	#
1831 Nov. 6	Otis Winn	a #
1831 Nov. 6	John Cutts Bartlett	a #
1863 Sept. 6	J. Evander Bourne	#
1863 Sept. 6	Augustus T. Littlefield	#
1863 Nov. 1	Joseph Winn	#
1863 Sept. 6	Alexander Maxwell	#
1863 Sept. 6	Adoniram Littlefield	a dropped
1870 July 3	Arioch Getchell	#
1870 July 3	Henry A. Pope	#
1870 July 3	Rufus P. Hubbard	a
1876 March 5	Samuel S. Littlefield	#
1876 March 5	Alexander Dykeman	a #
1876 March 5	Samuel S. Littlefield Jr.	a
1876 March 5	Willard J. Littlefield	a dropped
1876 March 5	George P. Hubbard	#
1876 May 7	Frank Jacobs	a +
1876 May 7	Ira Chaney	a dropped
1876 July 2	William A. Stevens	#
1876 July 2	William Goodale	#
1876 July 2	George H. Philips	#
1876 Sept. 3	Oliver J. Williams	#
1876 Nov. 5	Johnson Bragdon	#
1863 Nov. 1	George W. Littlefield	a #
1890 March 2	Moses F. Wheelwright	by letter #
1884 May 4	Frederick W. Bayley	#
1873 Nov. 2	William S. Wells	#
1888 July 1	William F. Lawrence	#
1891 July 5	Rev. James Lade	by letter from 1st Cong. Church Eliot a +
1831 Sept. 4	Hiram Littlefield	#

(to be continued)

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