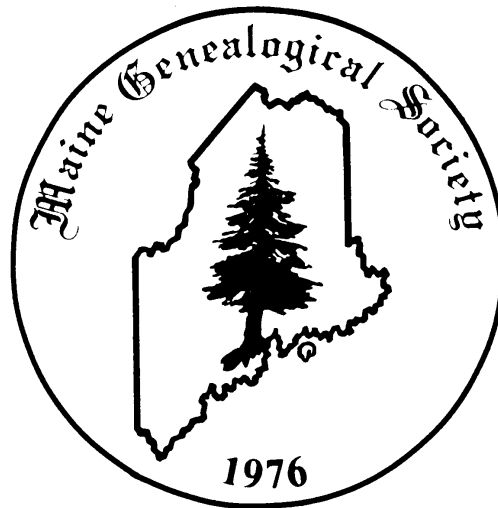


The Maine Genealogist



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EDITOR'S PAGE

The Pembroke, Massachusetts, vital records were published in 1911, as part of the Massachusetts "beige book" vital records series. On page 253, two marriage records are found side by side:

CHILD, Daniel, Dr, and Ruth Reccord, May 9, 1771

Daniel, Dr, and Rebecca Howland, Apr. 10, 1777

In 1781 Daniel Child became the first doctor in what would become the town of Turner, Maine. Anyone researching this family could hardly fail to notice the two marriage records. A small amount of additional research shows that there was only one Dr. Daniel Child in Pembroke, and that both Ruth and Rebecca were his wives.

Despite these records being in print for more than one hundred years, currently there are 349 trees at ancestry.com for Daniel Child and not one of them mentions his first wife, Ruth Record. The focus of those compiling the trees apparently was only on the second wife, Rebecca Howland, who has *Mayflower* ancestry.

How can so many people be so blind to such obvious records? The answer most likely is that the first person to post a tree for Daniel ignored the first marriage, and then the later tree creators simply copied the first tree into their own. In fact, I saw this process in action when I was in the library in Salt Lake City last November. Sitting across from me at a bank of computer terminals were three patrons who were building their own trees by cutting and pasting other trees into their own. Several times they compared notes to see who had found the most "ancestors." They were conducting no research and not evaluating the trees they were copying.

A colleague recently told me he was trying to find the source of information posted to online trees for a husband and wife he was researching. These trees gave names and exact birth dates for their children, but there was no documentation as to where the information originated. Research indicated that the information was most likely correct, but my colleague could find no verification in a primary record. The next step was to contact the person who first posted the information, but identifying that person among a mountain of family trees was a daunting task indeed.

It is not difficult to add documentation to a family tree. I recently made a breakthrough on one of my paternal lines and posted the information to my own Ancestry tree, along with several notations documenting the finding. I was curious to see how many people had copied the information to their own trees. Now, more than a year later, close to a dozen trees have added my findings. But I was dismayed to see that none of those included my documentation.

Online trees can be useful for providing clues and pointing us to where records might be found. But unless they are documented, they should be viewed with a high degree of suspicion and never be used as a standalone citation in our research.

Ancestor collectors who copied the incomplete tree for Daniel Child missed out on all the fun. Research in court records shows he was an unapologetic gold digger and philanderer. His story will be revealed in the next *Maine Families in 1790* volume, projected to be completed around the end of this year.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

WHO WAS ELIZABETH, WIFE OF JOSEPH DAY JR. OF WELLS, MAINE?

By Edward G. Hubbard

The members of the early generations of the Day family of Wells, Maine, and their spouses, are quite well known from the town's vital and church records, with one significant exception. Joseph Day was born on 25 September 1719, the first son of Joseph and Patience (Hilton) Day.¹ For most of his life he was known as Joseph "Jr." and is therefore referred to as such in this article.² His wife is identified as Elizabeth in the records of the baptisms of most of their children,³ as well as in his 17 May 1782 will.⁴ Their first child was born in 1743, so they were probably married about 1742, although no record of their marriage or marriage intentions has been found in Wells, or elsewhere. The marriages (and/or intentions) of all of Joseph's siblings were recorded in Wells or in neighboring Biddeford. It is likely that Joseph and Elizabeth were married in another nearby town, where marriage records for that period are lacking.

WAS ELIZABETH A WENTWORTH?

Despite the lack of a marriage record, Elizabeth's maiden name is given as Wentworth in many online trees. Their source was probably the work of William S. Thompson who, with an evident lack of certainty, gave the name of Joseph Jr.'s wife as "Elizabeth (Wentworth?)."⁵ His question mark suggests that this was only speculation based perhaps on her youngest son being named Moses Wentworth Day.⁶ Might Elizabeth have been a Wentworth?

¹ Hope Moody Shelley, *Vital Records of Wells, Maine 1619–1950, Including Ogunquit and Kennebunk until 1820* (Rockport, Maine, 2005), 10, 18.

² His father, Joseph "Sr.," was still living 14 July 1774, when yet another Joseph (the second son of Joseph Jr.) was described as "Joseph Day the third" in a deed (York Co., Maine, Deeds, 42:274.)

³ "Records of the First Church of Wells, Maine," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 75(1921):110 (John, 1743), 112 (Joseph, 1745, and Benjamin, 1746), 122 (Betty [Elizabeth], 1748), 123 (Phebe, 1750), 311 (Henry, 1754), 315 (Lucy, 1756); 76(1922):104 (Moses Wentworth, 1762). Elizabeth's name was not included in the 1744 record for Mercy (75 [1921]:120). The baptisms of their son Robert (b. 1752) and daughter Hannah (b. say 1759) were not recorded, no doubt because they were born and baptized in years that fall within gaps in the Wells baptismal records. They were mentioned in Joseph's 1782 will as his children (York Co. Probate Records, 14:60).

⁴ York Co Probate Records, 14:60. Will proved 16 Oct. 1783.

⁵ William S. Thompson, "Records of Kennebunk and Kennebunkport Families," 6 vols., TS (1928-29), Maine Historical Society, Portland, 1:325.

⁶ "First Church Wells," NEHGR [note 3], 76(1922):104.

The generally reliable Wentworth genealogy records several Elizabeth Wentworths who were born within a decade or so of 1719,⁷ which is about the time that the wife of Joseph Day Jr. was probably born.⁸ They are as follows, in the order (as far as can be determined) in which they were born:

- 1 Elizabeth⁴ Wentworth (*Thomas*³, *Ezekiel*², *William*¹), b. probably by 1709 (of Boston, and presumably of age, when she sold land in 1730), prob. d. by 1747–48; m. prob. Boston, 31 Dec. 1736, Caleb Phillips.⁹
- 2 Elizabeth⁴ Wentworth (*John*³, *Samuel*², *William*¹), b. 16 Feb. 1710–11, d. 19 Oct. 1790; m. (1) John Lowd, and (2) Capt. Benjamin Underwood; no children.¹⁰
- 3 Elizabeth³ Wentworth (*Benjamin*², *William*¹), b. 8 June 1712; m. by 1737, John Yeaton.¹¹ He died by 1747.¹²
- 4 Elizabeth⁴ Wentworth (*Benjamin*³, *Ezekiel*², *William*¹), b. 15 Feb. 1721, d. 1757; m. between 29 Aug. 1743 and 5 Aug. 1745, Mark Wentworth, her 1st cousin once removed, son of Benjamin².¹³
- 5 Elizabeth⁴ Wentworth (*Aaron*³, *Paul*², *William*¹), b. 9 Oct. 1721, no further information, but her family lived in Norwich, Conn.¹⁴
- 6 Elizabeth³ Wentworth (*Ephraim*², *William*¹), b. prob. 1720s, unmarried as of 16 March 1738 (date of father's will); said to have m. a Twombly.¹⁵

None of the first three could have been Joseph's wife. Not only were they born some years earlier than she probably was, they also had husbands by the time she must have married Joseph. The other three were born nearer the time when Joseph's wife was probably born, but they too cannot be identified with her. The life story of the fourth Elizabeth is well-recorded. Although little is known of the fifth Elizabeth, she lived far afield from Joseph. As for the sixth, her purported marriage, although not proven, is probable, given her family's other ties to the Twombly family.¹⁶

Given the thoroughness of the Wentworth genealogy for the period in question, it is unlikely that there was another Elizabeth. It is reasonable, then, to conclude that Joseph's wife was not a Wentworth daughter.

⁷ John Wentworth, *The Wentworth Genealogy: English and American*, 3 vols., 2nd ed. (Boston, 1878).

⁸ Joseph was born in 1719. She was probably born about the same time, given that their children were born from 1743 to 1762.

⁹ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:202–3.

¹⁰ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:182.

¹¹ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:174.

¹² Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Maine, 1928–39), 774.

¹³ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:219, 284.

¹⁴ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:244.

¹⁵ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 169. She was the ninth (and youngest) child. Her sister Martha, who was the eighth child, m. Joseph Twombly before 1745 (date of first child's birth) (*ibid.*, 1:168–69).

¹⁶ See note 15.

A DIFFERENT WENTWORTH CONNECTION?

It may be that Elizabeth was connected to the Wentworth family in some other way. The name of her youngest son, Moses Wentworth Day, cannot be ignored. Her husband Joseph's immediate family had no Wentworth connections, so the Wentworth name is likely to have somehow come through her. Might she have been the widow of a Wentworth?

Several Wentworth men who lived in the early eighteenth century had wives named Elizabeth, but most of them were of earlier generations than Joseph Day Jr. and his wife.¹⁷ The two of those men who were more or less contemporaries of Joseph and his wife merit closer attention.

Ezekiel³ Wentworth (*Gershom*², *William*¹) was born 4 February 1702, and married an Elizabeth sometime before 1732 when his first child was baptized in Dover, New Hampshire.¹⁸ She cannot subsequently have been Joseph's wife because (1) she bore a child to Ezekiel as late as 1743,¹⁹ and (2) was not widowed until about 1757.²⁰ Her maiden name is not stated, but the genealogy notes that "tradition says that he [Ezekiel] or his brother Moses married Elizabeth Day."²¹ A later work reports that Ezekiel did indeed marry an Elizabeth Day, the daughter of Anthony³ Day (*Timothy*², *Anthony*¹) of Gloucester, Massachusetts.²² As a daughter of Anthony³ Day, Elizabeth was a first cousin of Joseph⁴ Day Jr. (*Joseph*³, *Timothy*², *Anthony*¹).

The account of Ezekiel's brother Moses³ Wentworth in the Wentworth genealogy is terse and but intriguing. It states that he was "said to have married Elizabeth Day and had a son Moses⁴ Wentworth, who died, a soldier, at Crown Point, N.Y."²³ It goes on to say that "there is a confusion between this Moses⁴ and his cousin Moses⁴ (152)." That cousin Moses was the son of the above-mentioned Ezekiel and Elizabeth (Day) Wentworth, baptized 31 May 1741,²⁴ who, the genealogy states, "died single 21 Oct. 1760, in Capt. Gerrish's company at Crown Point" and adds

¹⁷ Examples include the wives of William¹ and the wives of his son, Ezekiel², and the latter's son, Benjamin³. (*Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 107ff, 135, 216.

¹⁸ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:200-1; *Collections of the Dover, N.H., Historical Society, Vol. 1* (Dover, 1894), 140.

¹⁹ *Dover Hist. Soc. Colls.* [note 18], 150.

²⁰ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:200-1 A warrant to appraise Ezekiel's property was issued 29 June 1757.

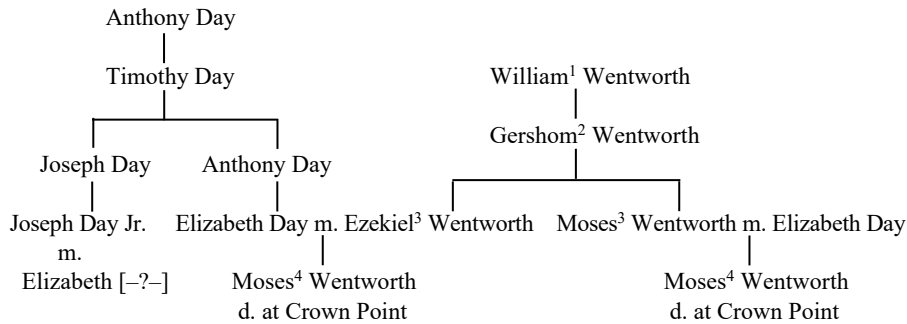
²¹ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:200.

²² *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 12], 189. Her birth, unlike those of Anthony's other children (Mary, b. 29 March 1709; Charity, b. 25 April 1711; Penelope, b. 22 May 1712) was not recorded in Gloucester, but she was no doubt born earlier, during the years for which Gloucester records are missing. Daniel Heard, the executor of her 1777 will (Helen F. Evans, *Abstracts of the Probate Records of Strafford County, New Hampshire 1771-1799* [Bowie, Md., 1983], 183), was her nephew, the son of her sister Charity (Day), wife of John Heard of Dover (Ralph E. Peak, *John Heard [Hurd] of Dover, N.H.* (TS, 1968, Maine State Library, Augusta), 30, 56, 57.

²³ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:135.

²⁴ *Dover Hist. Soc. Colls.* [note 18], 146.

“there is some confusion between him and his cousin Moses⁴ (254), son of Moses³.”²⁵
The following diagram summarizes the above relationships:



The confusion in the Wentworth genealogy prompts two questions: (1) Did two Elizabeth Days marry two Wentworth brothers? (2) Did two Moses Wentworths serve (and die) at Crown Point?

The second question is more readily answered, at least in part. New Hampshire military records reveal that two men named Moses Wentworth did indeed serve at Crown Point in 1760. One entered service on 8 March and died 21 October at Crown Point, while the other entered on 10 March and was discharged on 27 November.²⁶ Both served in the company commanded by Captain Samuel Gerrish in a regiment of eight hundred men raised “for the expedition for the invasion of Canada” and commanded by Colonel John Goffe.²⁷ Only one Moses Wentworth is reported to have died at Crown Point, but whether he was the son of Moses³ or of Ezekiel³ cannot be determined. As seen above, the Wentworth genealogy states that both died there.

As for the first question, an Elizabeth Day did marry Ezekiel³ Wentworth,²⁸ but extensive studies of the Day family reveal no other Elizabeth Day who did or could have married Moses³ Wentworth. The latter’s wife, Elizabeth, was probably from another family. Yet why was there confusion in the genealogy as to which brother (or both) married Elizabeth Day? Consideration of further facts about the families of the two brothers points to an answer.

The Wentworth genealogy reports not only that Ezekiel³ Wentworth died about 1757, but also that when his widow Elizabeth (Day) wrote her will in 1768, none of

²⁵ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:201.

²⁶ Chandler E. Potter, *The Military History of the State of New Hampshire from Its Settlement in 1623 to the Rebellion in 1861* (Concord, N.H. 1866), 237.

²⁷ Chandler, *Military History of N.H.* [note 26], 235, 233. In 1758 a Moses Wentworth—probably one of the two—served from 10 April to 15 Oct. in Capt. John Pickering’s company as part of the 800-man regiment commanded by Col. John Hart “for the Crown Point expedition” (*ibid.*, 202, 199, 198).

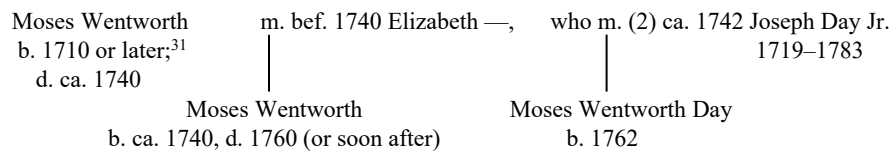
²⁸ See preceding discussion and note 22.

their children were still living.²⁹ Therefore, their son Moses could have been the one who died at Crown Point in 1760.

As for the family of Ezekiel's brother Moses³ Wentworth and Moses's wife, Elizabeth, the genealogy mentions only one child, Moses. This suggests that the senior Moses (who is not found in subsequent records) died at an early age and left Elizabeth a widow. The son, as the other Moses Wentworth who served at Crown Point in 1760, was probably about the same age as his first cousin, i.e., born say 1740. Furthermore, he, rather than his cousin, could have been the Moses who died at Crown Point in 1760. In any case, the lack of any further record of him suggests that he too died at an early age, if not in 1760, then not long thereafter.

Thus, there was an Elizabeth who was probably the widow of a Wentworth (Moses³) in the early 1740s, at the very time Joseph Day married an Elizabeth who, as previously stated, most likely had some connection to the Wentworth family, although not as a daughter. This points to an elegant solution that explains, among other things, why there was confusion as to which Wentworth brother had married an Elizabeth Day. It is hereby proposed that, whereas the wife of one brother, Ezekiel, was indeed born a Day, the wife of the other brother, Moses, as a widow married a Day—Joseph Jr.

This would also explain why the youngest son of Joseph Day Jr. and his wife Elizabeth was named Moses Wentworth Day and why he was the only one of their children who had a middle name. In this scenario, because Elizabeth had (by her first husband) a son, Moses Wentworth, who probably died at Crown Point in 1760 (or else soon afterwards), she would have had good reason to name her youngest Day son, born in 1762,³⁰ after her recently deceased firstborn. The following illustrates the proposed relationships:



This scenario leaves two questions unanswered. The first is just when and where Elizabeth's two marriages took place. No record of them have come to light in Wells or in Dover, New Hampshire, where the Days and Wentworths resided. A

²⁹ *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 201. The children were "Neiobe," bp. 2 July 1732; Moses, bp. 17 Aug. 1735 (d. young); Moses, bp. 31 May 1741 (living 1760); and Aaron, bp. 21 Feb. 1743 (*Dover Hist. Soc. Colls.* [note 18], 140, 141, 146, 150).

³⁰ Shelley, *Wells VRs* [note 1], 251 (b. 10 or 15 Oct. 1762); "First Church Wells," *NEHGR* [note 3], 76(1922):104 (bp. 6 Nov. 1762).

³¹ Based on his presentation in *Wentworth Genealogy* [note 7], 1:135, as the youngest child of Gershom and Hannah (French) Wentworth. Their son Gershom, b. 1705, was followed by a daughter Sarah, then a son Thomas, and then, finally, Moses (*ibid.*, 1:123–35).

possible place is Berwick (adjacent to both of those towns), where a gap in marriage records extends from after the time the town was set off from Kittery in 1713 through the middle of the 1740s. A definitive answer is not likely to come to light.

The second question is, who was Elizabeth by birth? The absence of any marriage record for her would seem to be an insurmountable obstacle to determining her origin. Analysis of other facts, however, provides a means of overcoming that barrier.

UNCOVERING ELIZABETH'S ORIGIN

Joseph Day Jr. and Elizabeth had six sons and five daughters baptized in Wells between 1743 and 1762: John, Mercy, Joseph, Benjamin, Elizabeth, Phebe, Robert, Henry, Lucy, Hannah, and Moses Wentworth.³² The discussion above provides an explanation for the name of their youngest son, but what of those of the other ten children?

In that period, children were often named after their parents or close relatives of their parents. Other branches of the Day family in Wells followed this practice, and Joseph Jr. and Elizabeth seem to have done so as well. They gave their own names to their second son and second daughter, and three of their other children (Benjamin, Phebe and Hannah) bore the names of siblings of Joseph. The names of the other five (John, Mercy, Robert, Henry, and Lucy) are not found in Day family, so at least some of them probably were names used in Elizabeth's family.

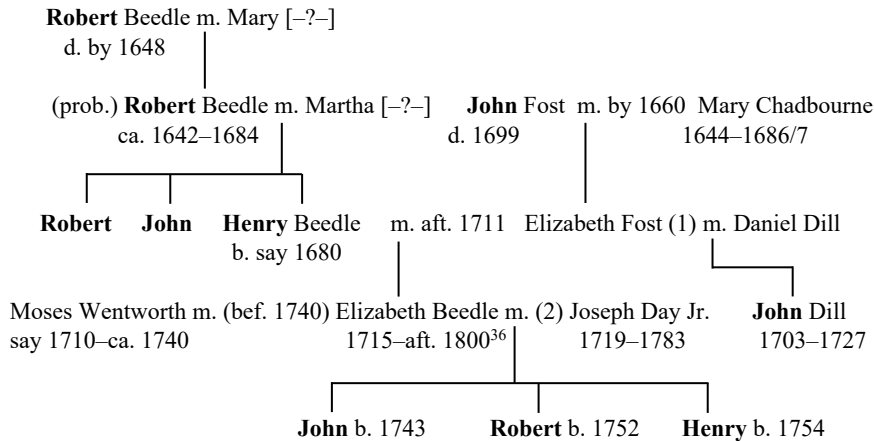
The name John was common, but probably of some significance here since it was given to the first son. Robert, the name of the fourth son, was less common, while the name of the fifth son, Henry, was quite rare at that time and place. It was serendipitous, then, to find (in the course of reviewing for another purpose the published Chadbourne genealogy) that a man named **Henry** Beedle of York had a daughter Elizabeth born 6 September 1715 and thus of an age to be the Elizabeth who is the subject of this article.³³ The genealogy further identifies Henry's father as **Robert** Beedle and his father-in-law as **John** Fost; it also reports that Elizabeth Beedle had a half brother **John** Dill.³⁴ This striking occurrence of names in the family of an Elizabeth born in 1715 would explain the names given to the three aforementioned Day sons. Reinforcing the case are the statements in another source that (1) Robert Beedle's father may have been the Robert Beedle, who received a land grant in Kittery in 1641, and (2) that Robert himself was born about 1642, had sons **Robert** and **John**, and moved by 1680 from Newbury, Massachusetts, to nearby

³² See note 3.

³³ Elaine Chadbourne Bacon, *The Chadbourne Family in America: A Genealogy* (Chadbourne Family Association, 1994), 75–76; *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 12], 75–76.

³⁴ Bacon, *Chadbourne Family* [note 33], 31–32, 75–76. John Fost had married Mary³ Chadbourne (*William*², *William*¹), and was the father of Elizabeth Fost who m. (1) Daniel Dill and (2) Robert Beedle. Elizabeth Fost had, by Daniel Dill, a son **John** Dill, and, by Henry Beedle, a daughter, Elizabeth Beedle.

Amesbury, where Henry was probably born, and where Robert died by 30 September 1684.³⁵



It could be argued that Elizabeth Beedle may have died young, since neither of the cited sources provides any information about her beyond her birth in 1715. That is not conclusive, however, for she could well have contracted marriages that were not recorded, as certainly was the case for the Elizabeth in question. Furthermore, the extensive onomastic evidence presented above is compelling. In addition, the conclusions presented here are reinforced by other facts pertaining to the Day family and to the geography of the area (i.e., the proximity of the towns in question).

As a final consideration, Joseph Day Jr.'s sister Priscilla Day married Ithamar Beedle, their intentions recorded in Wells, 15 December 1750.³⁷ Ithamar Beedle was none other than a brother of Elizabeth Beedle.³⁸ This would not have been the

³⁵ David W. Hoyt, *The Old Families of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts* (Providence, R.I., 1897), 879, 61; see also *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.*, 87. Hoyt noted that Robert had eight children whose births were recorded (the 1st in Salisbury, 1665, and 7 in Newbury 1668–78) and implied that Henry was born in Amesbury, where (he noted) vital records for 1677–85 when Henry was probably born are missing. It is interesting to note that the first Robert Beedle d. before 14 Feb. 1648, when his widow, Mary, married as his 4th wife the well-known Puritan clergyman, Rev. Stephen Bachiler, who “led a most interesting life, filled with unusual twists and turns far beyond the norm” (Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620–1633*, 3 vols. [Boston, 1995], 62–63).

³⁶ Elizabeth was undoubtedly the female aged 45+ in her youngest son's household in 1800 (Moses W. Day household, 1800 U.S. Census, Wells, York Co., Maine, p. 981). Under the terms of her husband Joseph's will [note 4], she and Moses each inherited half of his homestead.

³⁷ Shelley, *Wells VRs* [note 1], 29, his surname spelled “Bedla.” The intention in the York records spells the name “Beedle” (Lester MacKenzie Bragdon and John Eldridge Frost, *Vital Records of York, Maine* [Camden, Maine, 1992], 136).

³⁸ Bacon, *Chadbourne Family* [note 33], 76. Noyes et al., *Genealogical Dictionary* [note 12], 86.

only instance in the family of siblings marrying siblings. Two of Joseph Jr.'s brothers, Hilton and William Day, and a sister, Esther Day, married Littlefield siblings, while yet another sister married a cousin of those Littlefields.³⁹ Also, two of Joseph Jr.'s sisters married Whitneys from Biddeford, who, although not siblings, were first cousins.⁴⁰ The town of York, where Elizabeth Beedle was born, is adjacent to Wells and not far from Dover (the residences of the Days and Wentworths, respectively). Furthermore, it is immediately southeast of Berwick, where her marriages may have taken place.

In conclusion, it appears likely that Elizabeth, the wife of Joseph Day Jr. of Wells, was Elizabeth *née* Beedle and the widow of Moses³ Wentworth (*Gershom*², *William*¹).

Edward G. Hubbard (8638 North 62nd Street, Brown Deer, WI 53223; <eghubbard@att.net>) spent more than forty years in the financial industry. He now pursues his lifelong interest in genealogy, and has contributed articles on the Hubbard, Day, and Hatch families to The York County Genealogical Society Journal and The Maine Genealogist.

³⁹ Priscilla Eaton, *The Littlefield Genealogy: Descendants of Edmund Littlefield of Wells, Maine, Through Six Generations* (Waterville, Maine, 2020), 198–202 (Dependence, William, and Esther Day), 228 (Mary Day).

⁴⁰ Shelley, *Wells VRs* [note 1], Hannah m. 3 Jan. 1733/4, Nathaniel Whitney (p. 19); Phebe m. (int.) 11 Feb. 1737/8, Joshua Whitney (p. 21).

ELIJAH BRAGDON OF SWANVILLE, MAINE

A Man Without a Past or a Future

By Susan Newcomb Rock

Elijah Bragdon married on 18 July 1811 “at Swan Plantation” [Swanville] Sally Seekins.¹ Their son Charles Bragdon was born less than a month after the marriage in Swan Plantation on 12 August 1811, and son Elijah was born there on 12 December 1812.² “On or about” May 1813, Elijah Bragdon enlisted into the Army at Belfast. On 1 May 1814, after serving a year, he died of a fever.³ His army enlistment record and his widow’s pension application contain no birth date or birthplace. On 22 March 1817, Dr. Charles Hall of Belfast was named guardian for the two Bragdon children. He, along with Robert Patterson 2nd and James Gilbreth, provided a surety bond of \$1,000.00.⁴

A search for an Elijah Bragdon born between 1770 and 1795 in Maine indexes was fruitless. Likewise, no deeds in the name of Elijah Bragdon were found and no probate record for Elijah Bragdon is recorded in Hancock County.⁵ Elijah Bragdon is seemingly a man without a past, prompting the questions: Who were the parents of Elijah Bragdon, and where did he come from?

A search for other Bragdon families in the Waldo–Hancock County vicinity revealed a large group of Bragdons living in Sullivan, Maine, in 1790. Those families have been documented, but no Elijah Bragdon is found among them.⁶

One Elijah Bragdon of Durham, Maine, filed marriage intentions with Peggy Larrabee in Durham on 15 February 1806,⁷ but no marriage was recorded. If he was the same Elijah who married Sally Seekins in 1811, then either the marriage never

¹ War of 1812 Pension Application, WF-12050 [images, fold3.com]; Alfred Johnson, *Vital Records of Belfast, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Boston, Mass., 1917–19), 2:42. See also Deborah Kimball Nowers, “The Family of Aaron Seekins of Massachusetts, Vermont, and Augusta, Windsor, and Swanville, Maine” *The Maine Genealogist* 37(2015): 173–92, at 179. Sally Seekins, b. ca. 1792, was a daughter of Aaron Seekins and Tabitha (Raymond) Seekins of Mass., Vt., and Swanville, Maine.

² *Belfast VRs* [note 1], 1:34.

³ War of 1812 Pension [note 1]. The application was made by Elijah’s widow, Sally (Seekins) (Bragdon) Knowlton.

⁴ Hancock Co. Probate Records, #689 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #4138829, image 569].

⁵ Swanville was at that time located in Hancock County. That area of Hancock County later became a part of Waldo County.

⁶ The families of Ebenezer, Jeremiah Jr., and Jethro Bragdon were documented in Vol. 4 of the *Maine Families in 1790* series, and those of Jeremiah Sr. and Joseph Bragdon were documented in Vol. 8 of the series (Joseph C. Anderson II et al., eds., *Maine Families in 1790*, 11 vols. to date [1988–2015], 4:33–37, 8:44–49).

⁷ Carol Prescott McCoy, *Vital Records of Durham, Maine* (Waterville, Maine, 2018), 332, Peggy’s name written “Pegy Laraby.”

took place or Peggy died within a few years. This 1806 record, however, does suggest a place to begin a search for Elijah Bragdon's parents.

The 1790 census for Maine does not list an Elijah Bragdon, nor does one appear in the 1800 or 1810 census indexes. This suggests that Elijah was not the head of a household in those years and that he continued to live either in his father's household or in another household until after 1810.

Based on his service in the War of 1812 and the birth of his first child in 1811, Elijah would have been born probably no later than the early 1790s. His father, therefore, probably would have been born in the period from about 1750 to 1770. The 1790 census was used to locate Bragdon men living in York, Cumberland, and Hancock counties of Maine who seemed to fit these criteria and had an unidentified male of Elijah's probable age living in their household.⁸ Twenty-three such men were found, but for various reasons (never married, married with no unidentified children, children too old or too young) most were eliminated from consideration.⁹ Two Bragdon families remained:

John Bragdon, b. 1759, d. 27 Nov. 1842 and bur. in Highland Cemetery, West Poland, Maine.¹⁰ His parentage is unknown.

Jonathan Bragdon, bp. Scarborough, 20 Jan 1750/1, son of Elijah and Lydia (Hopkins) Bragdon,¹¹ d. prob. in 1840 or 1841 when he was living in Durham.¹²

Was Elijah Bragdon the son of either of these men?

JOHN BRAGDON

John Bragdon and Dorothy Larrabee filed marriage intentions in Scarborough on 28 February 1784.¹³ They were living in Scarborough in 1790,¹⁴ but they moved to Durham by 1800,¹⁵ where they were still living in 1820, when John applied for a Revolutionary War pension.¹⁶

⁸ At that time, what is now Androscoggin Co. was still a part of Cumberland Co. Androscoggin Co. was established in 1854. Waldo Co. was carved out of Hancock Co. in 1827. The Bragdon immigrant ancestor, Arthur Bragdon, first settled in York Co.

⁹ The details of this process of elimination are beyond the scope of this article, but are available from the author upon request.

¹⁰ Gravestone photo, www.findagrave.com #65484584, which gives his dates of 1759–1842; Revolutionary War Pension Application, #W23678, affidavit of Dorothy, widow of John Bragdon.

¹¹ William M. Sargent, transcr., "Records of the First Congregational Church in Scarborough, Maine," *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* 2(1885):32; *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, 6 (3rd ed.): Stephen Hopkins, by John D. Austin (Plymouth, Mass., 2001), 439.

¹² See discussion below.

¹³ James H. Wick, comp., *Vital Records of Scarborough, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2011), 132.

¹⁴ *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* (Washington, 1908), 17, col. a. Their household statistics were 1-2-1-0-0, suggesting 2 sons.

¹⁵ John Bragdon household, 1800 U.S. Census, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 85.

¹⁶ Revolutionary War Pension Application, #W23678 [images, fold3.com].

In 1790 John's family included himself and his wife, Dorothy, and two males under the age of 16. One of these boys was their son Daniel, who was born in Scarborough on 13 July 1789.¹⁷ The other male initially could not be identified. John and Dorothy had son Nathaniel,¹⁸ whose dates are given on his gravestone as 1791–1880 and who is buried in Highland Cemetery, West Poland, where his father was also buried. It is noted that in some areas of Maine, the 1790 census was actually taken in the first few months of 1791, so it is possible that Nathaniel was the other male in the household in 1790.¹⁹ Another son, John Bragdon [Jr.], was born about 1795 in either Scarborough or Durham. He died in New Gloucester, Maine, on 27 September 1842, aged 47.²⁰

In 1800 John Bragdon's Durham household included himself and Dorothy, both over age 45, two males aged 10–15 (who were probably Daniel and Nathaniel), a male aged 0–9 (who was probably John Jr.), and two females aged 0–9.²¹ It appears, therefore, that John's sons are accounted for and that they did not include Elijah.

JONATHAN BRAGDON

Jonathan Bragdon was baptized in Scarborough on 20 January 1750/1, the third son of Elijah and Lydia (Hopkins) Bragdon. He married Lucy Libby, their marriage intentions recorded in Gorham, Maine, on 31 October 1777.²² The births of two of their children are found in the Gorham vital records—William, born on 16 July

¹⁷ Charles M. Starbird, "Vital Statistics of Pejepscot Claim, 1775–1802. . . ." TS (1953), at Androscoggin Historical Society, Auburn, p. 14.

¹⁸ The Highland Cemetery index card for John Bragdon (courtesy of Paul Ducharme, president of the Cemetery Association) names Nathaniel, who also is buried there, as John's son. The dates on Nathaniel's gravestone are 1791–1880 (findagrave.com, #65484855).

¹⁹ See Joseph C. Anderson II, "The Maine 1790 Federal Census . . . Or Was It Really the 1791 Census?" *The Maine Genealogist* 19 (1997):17–21.

²⁰ New Gloucester VRs, deaths, p. 461 [DGS #7595774, image 249]. Evidence connecting John and Dorothy Bragdon to John Bragdon [Jr.] is circumstantial but convincing. John Bragdon is not listed in the 1830 census. The 1830 census for New Gloucester, p. 157, includes John Bragdon Jr.'s household as having a male and female in the correct age bracket to be John and Dorothy Bragdon. John Bragdon "Jr." with wife Ann had 5 children recorded in New Gloucester: 1. *Mary Ann Bragdon*, b. 2 Oct 1829; 2. *Sarah Jane Bragdon*, b. 25 Sept. 1831; 3. *Irene L. Bragdon*, b. 8 Jan. 1833; 4. *Eunice L. Bragdon*, b. 7 June 1834; 5. *Albion J. Bragdon*, b. 27 Dec. 1835 (New Gloucester VRs, births, p. 23 [DGS #7595774, image 20]). The notation that he was John "Jr." suggests the presence of an older John living in town at the same time. Sarah Jane and Albion's death records list their father's birthplace as Durham (Maine Deaths and Burials, 1841–1910, image, familyserach.org: Sarah Jane Bragdon, d. 1912; Albion Bragdon d. 1909). Two of the other children, Eunice Bragdon, age 15, and Albion Jackson, age 14, were living with their uncle Daniel Bragdon and wife Eleanor in Scarborough in 1850 (Daniel Bragdon household, 1850 U.S. Census, Scarborough, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 356). John was also called "Jr." on 27 April 1826 when he purchased land in Durham from Nathaniel Larrabee Jr. (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 122:284).

²¹ John Bragdon household, 1800 U.S. Census, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 85.

²² Marquis F. King, *Publishments, Marriages, Births and Deaths from the Earlier Records of Gorham, Maine*, 2nd ed., edited by Russell S. Bickford (Camden, Maine, 1991), 24.

1778, and Elizabeth, born on 3 August 1780.²³ That same year, Jonathan Bragdon was listed in the census in Gorham. His family consisted of himself, three males under 16, and four females.²⁴ The males under 16 included his son William, possibly his son Jonathan Jr.,²⁵ and an unidentified male.

By 1800 the family was living in Durham. At that time, the household included two male children—one aged 10–15 (unidentified) and one aged 0–9 (probably son Jonathan)—as well as Lucy and two probable daughters, aged 16–25 and 10–15. Son William, who turned 22 in 1800, was not living in the household.²⁶ The same two male children still appear in the household in 1810, now aged 16–25 and 10–15, respectively.²⁷ The unidentified male in the three consecutive census returns—under 16 in 1790, 10–15 in 1800, and 16–25 in 1810—could very well be Elijah Bragdon, born in the period 1785 to 1790. If so, he was presumably named for his paternal grandfather, Elijah⁴ Bragdon (*Arthur*³⁻¹).

The grandfather, Elijah⁴ Bragdon, was born in York, Maine, 3 February 1722/3, son of Arthur³ (*Arthur*²⁻¹) and Mehitabel (—) Bragdon.²⁸ He married about 1746 Lydia Hopkins.²⁹

Children of Elijah⁴ and Lydia (Hopkins) Bragdon, all bp. in Scarborough:³⁰

- i GIDEON⁵ BRAGDON, bp. 29 March 1747, apparently deceased by 1790 when he is not found in the census. No marriage found.
- ii NATHANIEL BRAGDON, bp. 31 July 1748; m. (int.) Topsham, Maine, 19 March 1770, MARGARET ORR, both of Topsham.³¹ Nathaniel and Margaret moved to New Brunswick about 1773. “The Studholm Report,” a 1783 survey of pre-loyalists

²³ King, *Records of Gorham* [note 22], 107.

²⁴ Jon^a Bragdon household, *Heads of Families, Maine, 1790* [note 14], 17, col. a.

²⁵ Jonathan Bragdon Jr. d. Freeport, Maine, 22 Jan 1869, aged 80 years (Freeport VRs, C:11 [DGS #7595551, image 531]), which implies he was b. ca. 1788–89. Census records, however, make him a few years younger, as he was age 57 in 1850 and 69 in 1860 (Jonathan Bragdon household, 1850 and 1860 U.S. Censuses, Freeport, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 16, 33). On 10 May 1841, [Jonathan’s son-in-law] John Edwards of Otisfield sold his right to the 100-acre lot #131 in Durham, “it being the same conveyed by Samuel Freeman Esqr. to Jonathan Bragdon Jr. on the twenty fourth day of November [1813] and by said Jonathan Bragdon Jr. to Jonathan Bragdon at a later date and the same where said Jonathan last named lived and died” (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 171:285). In 1850 Jonathan’s mother, Lucy Bragdon, age 97, was living with him in Freeport.

²⁶ Jonathan Bragdon household, 1800 U.S. Census, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 85.

²⁷ Jonathan Bragdon household, 1810 U.S. Census, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 107.

²⁸ Lester MacKenzie Bragdon and John Eldridge Frost, *Vital Records of York, Maine* (Camden, Maine, 1992), 19.

²⁹ *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, Stephen Hopkins [note 11, 439. No record of the marriage has been found. Lydia, however, can be identified by her father’s will. Nathaniel Hopkins of Truro, Mass., named in his will his 2nd wife, Sarah, and his children Isaac (executor), John, Elisha, Mary Smith, Sarah Smalley, Lydia Bragdin [*sic*], Phoebe Hopkins, Elizabeth Hopkins, and Priscilla Hopkins (Barnstable Co., Mass., Probate Records, 7:248–50).

³⁰ Scarborough 1st Church Records [note 11], pp. 30, 32, 33.

³¹ Mary Pelham Hill, *Vital Records of Topsham, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H., 1929–30), 2:55.

living along the Saint John River, says: “[Township of Burton] Nathaniel Bragden [*sic*] has a wife and 5 children. Been on about 10 years, built a log house and cleared about 7 acres of land.”³² A profile of Nathaniel and his family is found on the website of the New Brunswick Genealogical Society, and reports that “Nathaniel Bragdon [was] born 1747 in Maine, s/o Elijah Bragdon: came to NB and settled at Maugerville in Sunbury County.”³³ The account continues with a list of his children as: 1. *Elijah Bragdon*, b. 1775. 2. *John Bragdon*, b. 1777. 3. *Margaret Bragdon*, b. 1779. 4. *Mary Bragdon*, b. 1779. 5. *Nathaniel Bragdon*, b. 1782.

- iii JONATHAN BRAGDON, bp. 20 Jan. 1751; m. LUCY LIBBY (see full account of Jonathan’s family below).
- iv LYDIA BRAGDON, bp. 29 April 1753; m. (int) Topsham, 20 Dec. 1772, ROBERT ORR, both of Topsham.³⁴ Robert was living in Topsham in 1790 and in Durham in 1800, his household between those of John Orr and Jonathan Bragdon.³⁵

This is the only line of the early Bragdon family in which the name *Elijah* has been found. Not only was Elijah the name of Jonathan’s father, the name was also given by Nathaniel Bragdon to his oldest son.³⁶ It is natural that Jonathan would also name a son Elijah to memorialize his father.

While the case is not proven, a strong circumstantial argument can be made that Elijah Bragdon of Swan Plantation was a son of Jonathan and Lucy (Libby) Bragdon of Scarborough and Durham.

The search began with scant information—a marriage record, his children’s birth records, an army enlistment record, and a marriage intention. Since he was never listed as a head of household in any Maine census, it was theorized that Elijah was living in his parents’ household until just before his 1811 marriage. An analysis of Bragdon households in the surrounding area limited the focus to two families, those of John and Jonathan Bragdon, both of whom lived in Durham. In addition to the fact that Jonathan’s father was named Elijah, Jonathan’s family contained a male child of an appropriate age in 1790, 1800, and 1810 to be a son Elijah.

³² George H. Howard, transcr., “1783 Studholm Report,” <http://sites.rootsweb.com/~cannb/NB_Census_1783Studholm_Report.htm>. The survey was ordered by Major G. Studholm, commandant at Fort Howe, to determine how many people had settled on disputed lands along the St. John River and what claims they might have had to this land.

³³ <https://nbgs.ca/cpage.php?pt=167>, citing *Arrivals 99; Our First Families in New Brunswick* (Saint John Branch, NBGS, 1999), 30.

³⁴ Hill, *Topsham VRs* [note 31], 2:55.

³⁵ Robert Orr household, *Heads of Families, Maine, 1790* [note 14], 46, col. c; Robert Orr household, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 85.

³⁶ The Elijah Bragdon born to Nathaniel and Margaret (Orr) Bragdon is not the Elijah Bragdon who married Sally Seekins in Swan Plantation in 1812. An article in the *Fredricton Evening Capital* identifies him as an elector for the county of York (New Brunswick) for the year 1812 (Provincial Archives of New Brunswick, *Daniel F. Johnson’s New Brunswick Newspaper Vital Statistics*, Vol. 71, No. 1462, *Fredricton Evening Capital*, Fredricton, York Co., N.B., 28 April 1888). It is extremely unlikely that a man who was an elector in New Brunswick in 1812 would have married a woman in Maine in 1811, fathered two children, and then enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1813.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **JONATHAN⁵ BRAGDON** was baptized at the Scarborough First Congregational Church, 20 January 1750/1, son of Elijah⁴ (*Arthur*³⁻¹) and Lydia (Hopkins) Bragdon. He died, probably in Durham, before 10 May 1841.³⁷ He married LUCY LIBBY, their marriage intentions recorded in Gorham, Maine, on 31 October 1777. Lucy, whose parents' names are unknown, was born about 1753, as she was aged 97 when she was enumerated in the 1850 census, living with her son Jonathan Jr.³⁸

Jonathan and Lucy first lived in Gorham, where two children were recorded, but where their first six children were probably born. In 1790 Jonathan Bragdon was living in Gorham, with his wife, Lucy, and three males under 16 and three other females.³⁹ They moved to Durham where Jonathan was taxed in 1799.⁴⁰ In Durham, Jonathan settled on the one-hundred-acre lot #131, which he still owned at the time of his death.

After Jonathan's death, his daughters Elizabeth Orr and Eleanor McKenney, son Jonathan Jr., and son-in-law John Edwards quitclaimed their rights in Jonathan's property to Gideon Bragdon 2nd of Durham.⁴¹

Children of Jonathan⁵ and Lucy (Libby) Bragdon:

- i WILLIAM⁶ BRAGDON, b Gorham, 15 July 1778, prob. deceased by 1841 when he did not quitclaim his right to his father's land in Durham. William Bragdon, aged 50–59, was enumerated in Durham in 1830, apparently unmarried. Living with him were a male, aged 80–89, and a female, aged 70–79, probably his parents.⁴²
- ii ELIZABETH/LISSA BRAGDON, b Gorham, 3 Aug 1780, d. 21 May 1866, aged 85y 9m 21d and bur. in Highland Cemetery, West Poland;⁴³ m. Durham, 9 Jan. 1799, JOHN ORR,⁴⁴ b. ca. 1767, d. 16 Sept. 1843 aged 76y and bur. with Elizabeth in Highland Cemetery.⁴⁵ On 10 May 1841, Elizabeth as the wife of John Orr of Poland quitclaimed her right to her father's land in Durham.⁴⁶
- iii JANE/JENNY BRAGDON, b. say 1782, d. Otisfield, Maine, 27 Jan. 1824;⁴⁷ m. Gorham, 1 Oct. 1801, JOHN EDWARDS,⁴⁸ b ca. 1781, son of Jonathan and Han-

³⁷ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 171:285 [see note 25].

³⁸ Jonathan Bragdon household, 1850 U.S. Census Freeport, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 16.

³⁹ Jon^a Bragdon household, *Heads of Families, Maine, 1790* [note 14], 17, col. a.

⁴⁰ Everett S. Stackpole, *History of Durham, Maine* (Lewiston, Maine, 1899), 156.

⁴¹ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 171:282, 285 [John Edwards]; 173:416 [Eleanor McKenney]; 175:29 [Elizabeth Orr]; 175:30 [Jonathan Jr.]. Gideon Bragdon 2nd was b. Durham, 6 Oct. 1804, son of Ephraim and Abigail (Hunnewell) Bragdon (Stackpole, *History of Durham* [note 40], 156). If his father, Ephraim, was the son of Jonathan Sr.'s brother Gideon⁵ Bragdon, which is not proven, then Gideon 2nd was a first cousin once removed of Jonathan's children.

⁴² William Bragdon household, 1830 U.S. Census, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 48.

⁴³ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #65685889.

⁴⁴ McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], 172.

⁴⁵ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #65685979.

⁴⁶ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 175:29.

⁴⁷ William S. Spurr, *Vital Records of Otisfield, Maine, to the Year 1892* (Portland, 1948), 295.

⁴⁸ King, *Earlier Records of Gorham* [note 22], 79.

nah (Heath) Edwards,⁴⁹ d. Otisfield, 2 Dec 1861, aged 79y, and bur. in South Otisfield Cemetery.⁵⁰ He m. (2) 1 Nov. 1827, Mary Smith, b. July 1809, daughter of Jonathan Jr. and Catherine (Weston) Smith, d. 2 Dec. 1878.⁵¹ John Edwards had 6 children with Jenny and 6 more with Mary.⁵²

- iv ELEANOR BRAGDON, b. ca. 1784, d. Belfast, 16 March 1861, aged 76y;⁵³ m. Durham, 3 Jan 1811, STEPHEN McKENNEY of Pejepscoot,⁵⁴ prob. the Stephen b. Danville [Pejepscoot], 4 Nov. 1783, son of Jacob and Temperance (Jordan) McKenney,⁵⁵ d. Belfast, 6 Aug. 1874, aged 96y [*sic*] 10m.⁵⁶ On 5 Sept. 1841, Stephen McKenney of Unity and his wife Eleanor quitclaimed to Gideon Bragdon 2nd their right to her father's land in Durham.⁵⁷ Census records suggest they had as many as 7 children.
- 2 v (prob.) ELIJAH BRAGDON, b. say 1786; (poss.) m. (1) PEGGY LARRABEE; m. (2) SALLY SEEKINS.
- vi JONATHAN BRAGDON Jr., b. 1789–93,⁵⁸ d. Freeport, Maine, 22 Jan 1869, aged 80 years;⁵⁹ m. (int.) Durham, 11 Feb. 1815, SARAH BRAGDON,⁶⁰ b. ca. 1792,⁶¹ her parentage undetermined, d. Freeport, 17 April 1870.⁶² On 30 Sept. 1841, Jonathan Bragdon of Durham, yeoman, sold to [his prob. father-in-law] Gideon Bragdon 2nd of Durham, yeoman, lot 131 in Durham, "being the same farm I now live on."⁶³ This may be about the time Jonathan and family moved to Freeport, as he and Sarah, aged 57 and 58y, respectively, were living in Freeport in 1850 with several of their children and Jonathan's mother Lucy, aged 97.⁶⁴ Jonathan and Sarah had 9 children recorded in Durham, including sons named Gideon and Elijah.⁶⁵
- vii (poss.) PHEBE BRAGDON, b. say 1792; m. Durham, 1 Aug. 1812, JOSIAH BRAGDON,⁶⁶ b. ca. 1787, his parentage undetermined, prob. d. by 1840 when he is not

⁴⁹ Spurr, *Otisfield VRs* [note 47], 48, which gives b. 16 April 1771, citing an Edwards genealogy, prob. 14 April 1781 was meant.

⁵⁰ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #63083345

⁵¹ William Samuel Spurr, *A History of Otisfield, Cumberland County, Maine* (Oxford, Maine, 1953), 368.

⁵² Spurr, *History of Otisfield* [note 51], 368.

⁵³ *Belfast VRs* [note 1], 2:587.

⁵⁴ McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], 293.

⁵⁵ Danville, Maine, Vital Records, p. 89 [DGS #7595342, image 59]; his parents m. (int.) Falmouth, Maine, 4 Feb. 1758 (Falmouth VRs, 2:83 [DGS #7724782, image 703]).

⁵⁶ *Belfast VRs* [note 1], 2:588. Stephen's age was 66 in 1850 (Stephen McKinney household, 1850 U.S. Census, Unity, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 252), an age that accords with his birth in 1783.

⁵⁷ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 173:416.

⁵⁸ See note 25 for the various sources that disagree on his age.

⁵⁹ Freeport VRs, C:11 [DGS #7595551, image 531].

⁶⁰ McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], 380.

⁶¹ She was aged 58y in 1850, Jonathan Bragdon household (see note 25).

⁶² Freeport VRs, C:11 [DGS #7595551, image 531].

⁶³ Cumberland Co. Deeds, 175:30.

⁶⁴ Jonathan Bragdon household, 1850 U.S. Census [note 25].

⁶⁵ McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], 11–12.

⁶⁶ The marriage is not found in McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], but it is listed as taken from a "marriage record" on a card filed in the Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection under Josiah Bragdon [DGS #7586536, image 1294].

found in the census. Josiah gave his age as 27 and his birthplace as North Yarmouth when he enlisted, along with his brother John, in the 34th Infantry, U.S. Army, at Portland, 30 March 1814.⁶⁷ On 25 May, he was reported to have deserted from Portland, but he returned by 25 July. In Nov. 1814, he had completed his service and was discharged at Plattsburgh. There he represented the interests of “his brother” John Bragdon, who d. 10 Nov. 1814.⁶⁸ Josiah was a head of household in Durham in 1820 and 1830.⁶⁹ The 1830 census, in which his household is listed between Jonathan and Gideon Bragdon, suggests that his wife, Phebe, had died. There is a man aged 40-49 (Josiah), two boys, and two females, the eldest aged 10-15.

2 **ELIJAH⁶ BRAGDON** was probably born in Gorham, say 1786, probable son of Jonathan and Lucy (Libby) Bragdon. He died of fever, 1 May 1814, while serving in Capt. Crossman’s company, 34th Regiment of U.S. Infantry, in the War of 1812.⁷⁰ On 15 February 1806, he and PEGGY LARRABEE filed marriage intentions in Durham,⁷¹ but it is not known if the marriage took place or if Peggy died within a few years. Elijah married (2?) in Swan Plantation, on 18 July 1811, SALLY SEEKINS,⁷² born circa 1792, daughter of Aaron and Tabitha (Raymond) Seekins.⁷³ She was living in Swanville on 17 August 1855, but is not found in the 1860 census.⁷⁴ She married (2) Swan Plantation, 11 November 1816, Ephraim Knowlton,⁷⁵ born about 1790, son of John and Mary (Curtis) Knowlton,⁷⁶ and died in January 1840.⁷⁷ With her second husband, Sally had seven more children and continued to live in Swanville.⁷⁸

The records of the First Congregational Church in Belfast mention the death in 1813 of “Mr. Bragdon of the U.S. Army of a Fevre [*sic*].”⁷⁹ There is no first name given, and the church records contain no mention of Elijah Bragdon’s family.

⁶⁷ U.S. Registers of Enlistments in the U.S. Army, 1798-1914 [DGS #4032437, image 44].

⁶⁸ Josiah Bragdon, War of 1812 [images, fold3.com].

⁶⁹ Josiah Bragdon household, 1820 and 1830 U.S. Censuses, Durham, Cumberland Co., Maine, pp. 409, 54.

⁷⁰ War of 1812 Pension Application, WF-12050 [images, fold3.com].

⁷¹ McCoy, *Durham VRs* [note 7], 332.

⁷² War of 1812 Pension Application, WF-12050 [images, fold3.com]; *Belfast VRs* [note 1], 2:42.

⁷³ Nowers, “The Family of Aaron Seekins” [note 1], 175-80.

⁷⁴ Nowers, “The Family of Aaron Seekins” [note 1], 175-80.

⁷⁵ Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Swanville, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockport, Maine, 1990), 44 (marriage), 32 (intention 12 Oct. 1816 as Widow Sally Bragdon).

⁷⁶ Charles Henry Wright Stocking, *The History and Genealogy of the Knowltons of England and America* (New York, 1897), 158. This work has numerous errors and should be used with caution.

⁷⁷ War of 1812 Pension Application #WF-12050 (Elijah Bragdon). A deposition in the file, dated 1 June 1855, states that Ephraim Knowlton d. “about 15 years ago last January.”

⁷⁸ Stocking, *History and Genealogy of the Knowltons* [note 76], 297.

⁷⁹ Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Records of the First Congregational Church, Belfast, Maine* (Camden, Maine, 1993), 228. This entry appears to have been added at a later date as it is out of chronological order, perhaps accounting for the wrong year of death.

Children, Elijah and Sally (Seekins) Bragdon, b. Swan Plantation.⁸⁰

- i CHARLES BRAGDON, b. 12 Aug. 1811, living Waldo, Maine, in 1880, aged 68y, widower;⁸¹ m. (int.) Swanville, 16 Sept. 1830, his cousin MARY SEEKINS,⁸² b. ca. 1810–11, daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Smith) Seekins.⁸³ Charles was enumerated in Swanville in 1840, living next door to his brother, Elijah Bragdon.⁸⁴ In 1850, Charles and Mary were living in Waldo with 4 children.⁸⁵
- ii ELIJAH BRAGDON, b. 12 Dec. 1812, d. 12 June 1882, age 81y 6m, and bur. in Estes Park Cemetery, Easton, Aroostook Co., Maine;⁸⁶ m. (1) (int.) Swanville, 24 Nov. 1833, his cousin LOIS SEEKINS,⁸⁷ daughter of Benjamin and Abigail (Tyler) Seekins,⁸⁸ d. 4 March 1862, age 47y 5m, and bur. in Estes Park Cemetery, Easton;⁸⁹ m. (2) abt. 1862, his cousin ALICE (SEEKINS) (ROBBINS) GUPTILL, b. ca. April 1807, daughter of Josiah and Sarah (Smith) Seekins,⁹⁰ d. Oct. 1863, age 56y 6m and bur. in Estes Park Cemetery, Easton.⁹¹ In 1850 Elijah Bragdon, aged 36, Lois, aged 33, and three children were living in Enfield, Maine, in the household of Elisha Guptill, aged 60, and wife Phebe, aged 74.⁹² In 1870 Elijah Bragdon, aged 64 years, was living in Enfield in the household of Lemuel and Lucy Ann (Bragdon) Robbins, Lucy Ann being Elijah's daughter and Lemuel being a son of Seth and Alice (Seekins) Robbins.⁹³

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Susan Newcomb Rock (40 Awixa Avenue, Bay Shore, NY 11706; <susannrock@gmail.com>), whose family tree has deep Maine roots, is a retired university administrator and adjunct professor of English. She holds a Certificate in Genealogical Research from Boston University and completed an online Practicum in Genealogical Research through Excelsior College.

⁸⁰ *Belfast VRs* [note 1], 1:34.

⁸¹ Charles Bragdon household, 1880 U.S. Census, Waldo, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 540.

⁸² Mosher, *Swanville VRs* [note 75], 74.

⁸³ Nowers, "The Family of Aaron Seekins" [note 1], 186.

⁸⁴ Charles Bragdon household, 1840 U.S. Census, Swanville, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 407.

⁸⁵ Chas Bragden household, 1850 U.S. Census, Waldo, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 185.

⁸⁶ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #70641183.

⁸⁷ Mosher, *Swanville VRs* [note 75], 78.

⁸⁸ Nowers, "The Family of Aaron Seekins" [note 1], 181–82.

⁸⁹ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #70641309.

⁹⁰ Nowers, "The Family of Aaron Seekins" [note 1], 184–85.

⁹¹ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #180988018.

⁹² Elisha Guptill household, 1850 U.S. Census, Enfield, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 272.

⁹³ Lemuel Robbins household, 1870 U.S. Census, Enfield, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 487; Lemuel's parents are named on his 1915 death record (Maine, Death Records, 1761–1922, image, ancestry.com). Also living in the household in 1870 was Ellen M. Baxter, age 13, who was a daughter of Elijah's daughter Sally Jane (Bragdon) Baxter (d. 1858) and the author's great grandmother.

VITAL RECORDS OF THE SECOND CHURCH
OF WELLS (KENNEBUNK), MAINE

Entered by the Rev. Daniel Little, 1751–1800
As Copied by Daniel Sewall (1838) and Recopied with Corrections and
Additions by William S. Thompson (1884)

Transcribed and Edited by Jon R. Stone, Ph.D.

(concluded from p. 96)

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[1770]

Oct	18	Married	Daniel Larey & Anna Shackley.
	"	"	Jacob Burnham & Mary Goodwin.
	22	"	Eliph ^t Walker & Mary Miller (or Marg Miller). ⁷⁵
[Oct]	18	Baptized	Nathaniel child of Nathaniel and Joan Kimball.
	"	"	Hezekiah c of Hezek Wakefield.
	21	"	Daniel " Nathaniel Conant. ⁷⁶
	"	"	Benjamin " John White.
	"	"	Samuel } " Samuel Scribner.
	"	"	Betty }
	"	"	Hitty " Thomas Kimball.
	"	"	Benjamin } " Benjamin Tripe.
	"	"	Molly }
Dec	2	"	Abraham " Nath ^l Wakefield.
	11	Married	Moses Wadlin & Lydia Whitten.
	20	"	Daniel Smith & Judith Thompson.
	30		Benj Durrell & wife, Benj Thompson & wife, Asa Burbank & wife dismissed to Arundel.

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1771

Jany	6		Daniel Scribner & wife renewed baptismal covenant.
	21	Baptized	Molly, child of Joseph Tiny. ⁷⁷
	"	"	William, " Samuel Waterhouse.
	28	"	Joseph, " John Gilpatrick.
	"	"	Elias, " Benj Stevens.
	31	Married	James Hartwell & Sarah Kimball.

⁷⁵ William Thompson wrote '(or Marg Miller)' at time of copying. In Joseph Thompson, the name is Mary Miller.

⁷⁶ In Joseph Thompson, the father's name is Nathaniel Cousens.

⁷⁷ In Joseph Thompson, the surname Tiny is underlined and a question mark is added.

Feb	3	Baptized	Samuel, c of Sam ^l Gilpatrick.
May	11	"	Ruth, child of Richard Gile.
	"	"	" Daniel Scribner.
	12	"	Huldah, " Obad ^h Littlefield. ⁷⁸
July	19	"	Nicholas, " John Wakefield.
	"	"	Jane, " Samuel Kimball.
Aug	8	Married	John Maddox 3 ^d & Abigail Butland.
	19	Baptized	child of Anthony Littlefield.
Sept	1		Eunice wife of Benj Trip. ⁷⁹ recd to full communion.
			John Emmons renewed bapt covenant.
	26	Baptized	Lydia } child of Joseph Cousens.
			Robert }
	"	"	Diadanna [<i>sic</i>], " Sam ^l Emmons.
	"	"	Hannah } " John Emery.
			John }

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Sept	26	Baptized	Stephen } child of Stephen
			Ezekiel } Thompson (?)
			Molly } (Stimpson ⁸⁰)
	"	"	Benjamin } " Daniel Kimball.
			Thomas }
	"	"	Dorcas } " Burks.
			Eleanor }
Nov	20	Married	Joseph Clark & Sarah Fisk.
Dec	26	"	Aaron Drown & Mary Emmons.
	29	Baptized	Abigail child of Edmund Currier.
1772			
Jany	5	Baptized	William, child of James & Mary Hubbard.
Feb	29	"	David, " Nath ^l Wakefield.
Mar	1	"	Benjamin, " Jesse Larrabee.
	5	Married	Daniel Gile & Abigail Hobbs.
April	19		William Wormwood & wife renewed covenant.
May	17		Eliph ^t Walker & wife ren'd covenant.
	31	Baptized	Eleanor, c of Hez ^h Wakefield.
	"	"	Lucy, " Daniel Hatch.
June	4	Married	Depend ^{cc} Wells & Eleanor Kimball.
	7	Baptized	Abigail, c of James Butland.

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June	14	Baptized	Samuel, child Sam ^l Mitchell.
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⁷⁸ In Joseph Thompson, the father's name is Obediah Littlefield.⁷⁹ Elsewhere and in Joseph Thompson, the surname is Tripe. It is not clear why William Thompson abbreviated it here.⁸⁰ Thompson added in pencil the parenthetical '(Stimpson)' and '(?)' above it. The name Molly does not appear in Joseph Thompson.

July	2	Married	Freeman Scamman and Elizabeth Kimball.
Dec	3	Married	Tobias Lord & Mehitable Cummings. (probably error in copying, should be Char ^s Scamman.) WST ⁸¹
1773			
Jany	7	Married	Elisha Littlefield & Sarah Avery.
Mar	11	Baptized	Daniel, c of Eliphalet Walker.
Apr	13	Married	John Waterhouse & Esther Johnson.
May	23	Baptized	Lydia, c of Eben ^r Rice.
	30	Nath ^l Peabody &	wife ren'd bapt cov't.
June	6	Baptized	Francis, their child.
July	1	Married	Abraham Hill & Mary Mitchell.
	2	"	Levi Kimball & Charity Smith.
Aug	26	Baptized	Jacob, c of Benj & Eunice Tripe.
	"	"	" Joseph White.
	29	"	Samuel, " Samuel Kimball.
Sept	9	Married	Rev Silas Moody & Mary Little.
	16	"	Joel Larrabee & Joanna Littlefield.

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Oct	31	Mary Moody rec'd to full com'.	
Nov		Baptized	Olive, c of Nath ^l Wakefield.
Dec	5	The wife of Samuel Town renewed covenant.	
1774			
Feb	17	Married	Jacob Blaisdel & Susanna Wakefield.
Mar	6	Baptized	David, c of Samuel Cousens. ⁸²
			Probably Mary Webber ⁸³
	10	Married	Joel Stevens & Martha Webber. (?)
	14	Baptized	David, c of Samuel Cousens.
June	8	Married	James Read & Anna Clark.
	9	"	James Ross & Sarah Kimball. ⁸⁴
[June]	26	Baptized	Sarah, child James Hubbard.
	"	"	Martha, " John Butland.

⁸¹ This parenthetical comment with initials WST was written by Thompson at time of copying. Sometime later Thompson penciled in between the lines, but then lined out, the words: 'Bradbury makes this same error. (Why?)'. Joseph Thompson also notes this error: 'The proper name is Meht^b Scammon [*sic*]. She was of Saco. J.P.T.'

⁸² In Joseph Thompson. this entry reads 'David, child of Sam^l Mitchel'. But, because William Thompson's version of this entry is duplicated in March 14, without Little's or Sewall's original, it cannot be not known with certainty whose entry is in error.

⁸³ Thompson later penciled in a parenthetical question mark here and then also wrote in pencil above this entry 'Probably Mary Webber.' Joseph Thompson also notes the same error in pencil.

⁸⁴ An X appears here that corresponds to a note at the bottom of the page that reads: 'X This is an error—should be Scamman. WST.' Joseph Thompson does not mention this error.

[June] [26] [Baptized] John } [child] John Fairfield. ?
 Mary } Stephen⁸⁵
 Oct 13 Married Moses Blasdel & Abigail Wakefield.
 27 " Abraham Day & Hannah Waterhouse.
 Nov 27 Benj Wormwood & Abigail his wife, Ebenr Coburn & wife,
 Sarah Brown & Elizth [*entry cont'd on next page*]

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1774

Brown, made a profession of Religion. Abigail Wormwood,
 Sarah Brown & Elizabeth Brown were baptized.
 Dec 4 Married Elisha Smith Jr and Molly White.

1775

Jany 8 Tobias Lord & wife } renewed baptis covn't.
 John Fisk & wife }
 March 6⁸⁶
~~May 6~~ Baptized Samuel, child of Tobias & Mehitable Lord.

[Page 51]

Mar 6 Baptized Samuel, child of Daniel Hatch.
 Gray⁸⁷
 April 4 Married Abraham Gray & Lucy Day.
 6 John Butland & wife renew bapt covn't.
 30 Joel Stevens & wife after confession received bapt covenant.⁸⁸
 " Baptized Uriah, child of Jered^h Butland.
 " " Benjamin, " Benj Wormwood.
 May 14 Seth Taylor & wife ren'd bapt covn't.
 " Baptized Huldah child of Seth Taylor.
 " Married Jonathan Low & Susanna Gooch.
 21 Baptized Jotham, child of Joel Stevens.
 June 7 " Isaac } " Elisha & Sarah Littlefield.
 Sarah }
 " " Daniel } " Daniel & Mary Kimball.
 Sarah }
 " " Joseph } " Sam^l & Molly Emons.
 Sarah }

⁸⁵ Here Thompson penciled in a question mark and then wrote the name Stephen below it. There is no such notation in Joseph Thompson.

⁸⁶ Originally 'May 6' but lined through and 'March 6' written above it. It is March 6 in Joseph Thompson.

⁸⁷ Thompson originally miswrote the surname Gray as Day, rewrote but squiggled it out, and then wrote Gray above it. It is Gray in Joseph Thompson.

⁸⁸ According to an April 6 announcement by Rev. Little regarding sins of fornication needing to be confessed, their April 30 confession appears to have been for the sin of fornication.

[June]	[7]	[Baptized]	Susanna " John & Dia ^d Emons. ⁸⁹
	"	"	Molly } [child of] Ja ^s & Susanna Burks.
	"	"	Kezia }
	"		Joseph & Meribah Clark renewed bapt covenant.

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1775

June	25	Baptized	Hannah, child of Samul [<i>sic</i>] & Lucy Cluff.
July			Nath ^l Hatch & wife renewed bapt covn't.
"	11	Baptized	Amos }
			Hannah } children of Samuel
			Betty } Townson. ⁹⁰
			Lydia }
	"	"	Susanna " Wm Butland.
	"	"	Hannah " Step ^h Fairfield.
Oct	12	Married	Joseph Wheelwright & Susanna Sayer.
	29		Israel & Eleanor Kimball renewd ⁹¹ covenant.
Dec			James & Sarah Ross renewed baptismal covenant.

1776

Jany	19	Married	Eben ^r Day and Meriam Larrabee.
Feby	11	"	Richard Gilpatrick & Mary Hubbard.
	12	"	Joseph Haley & Esther Town.
Mar	28	"	Ezra Kimball & Lucretia Cousens.
April	11	"	Daniel Gu ile Gile ⁹² & Patience Russel.
	14		Abraham & Jane Littlefield renewed covenant.

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1776

April	20	Baptized	Samuel, child of Sam ^l & Abigail Cousens.
	"	"	John, child of James & Sarah Ross.
May	14	Married	Joseph Russel & Apphia Moody.
	19	Baptized	Sarah, child of Edmund Currier.
June	15	"	Abraham, " Abra ^{hm} & Jane Littlefield.
June	20	Married	Pendleton Evans & Hannah Hutchings. Pen Emmons & Keziah H. ⁹³

⁸⁹ In Joseph Thompson, this entry reads 'Susanna & Molly [children of] John & Diadema Emmons.' In William Thompson, the separate Molly Emons and Molly Burks (below) might have been conflated.

⁹⁰ After the surname Townson, Joseph Thompson inserted a parenthetical question mark.

⁹¹ Or possibly written as 'renewed' with the 'ed' being slurred together.

⁹² The ~~Gu~~ of Guile was lined through and then the surname Gile was written next to it. In Joseph Thompson, it is Gile.

⁹³ Thompson inserted this entry in pencil, apparently as a correction: 'Pen Emmons' for Pendleton Evans and 'Keziah H.' for Hannah Hutchings. An additional word appears with possible insertion mark above 'Pen' but it is indecipherable: possibly 'Pubs' or 'Pules'? In Joseph Thompson the entry is 'Pendleton Evans & Hannah Hutchings.'

July		Baptized	Theodore, child of James Hubbard Kimball. ⁹⁴
	20	"	Ruth, child of Nath ^l Cousens.
	"	"	Nathaniel, " Tobias Lord.
Aug	1	Joseph Emerson & wife }	renewed covn't. ⁹⁵
	16	Joshua & wife }	
Sept	7	Baptized	Ebenezer }
			Joseph }
			Joshua }
			Jesse }
	21	"	Sarah, child of Joseph Emerson.
	29	"	Stephen, " Israel Kimball.
	"	Isaac Kimball & wife	renewed baptismal covenant.
Oct	3	Bapt	Irena child of Seth Taylor.

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1776

Oct	24	Married	Samuel Prentice & Dolly Day.
Nov	21	"	Theodore Lyman & Sarah Emerson.
Dec	2	Ebenezer Shackford, Sarah Shackford, and Susanna Shackford	ren'd bapt covn't.
	8	Bapt	Sarah, child of Samuel Harris.
	"	"	Charity, " Samuel Cousens.
	"	"	Eliza Shackford.
			Susanna "
			Sarah "

1777

Mar	5	Married	Samuel Day & Sarah Drew.
	30	John Shackford & wife	ren'd covenant.
	"	Deborah Shackford	"
	"	Baptized	John Shackford.
	"	"	Deborah "
April	12	"	Joseph, son of John Shackford.
	"	"	James, " James & Sarah Ross.
May	1	Joseph Barnard & Sarah his wife	renewed bapt covenant.
	"	Abraham Hill & Mary his wife	renewed bapt covenant.
Aug	18	Married	John Hubbard & Tabitha Hancock.

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Sept	2	Married	Stephen Webber & Huldah Town.
	23	"	John Meldrum & Sarah Joy.

⁹⁴ Thompson lined through the surname Hubbard and wrote Kimball after it. In Joseph Thompson, the name is James Kimball.

⁹⁵ In Joseph Thompson, these are entered as two separate entries. There is no surname for Joshua but a line instead.

Nov	1		Samuel Waterhouse & wife received to full communion. [?] ⁹⁶
	"		Obadiah Hatch & wife, rec'd to full communion.
1778			
Jan	15	Married	Edward Davis & Mary Barns. ⁹⁷
	"	"	John Clark & Molly Perkins.
April	23	"	Richard Shackley & Hephzibah Hatch. ⁹⁸
July	19	"	Ezekiel Webber & Hannah Wakefield.
Aug	28	"	Amos Sullyway & Mary Mitchell.
1779 ⁹⁹			
Feb	4	Married	Seth Littlefield & Rhoda Hatch.
	12	"	Daniel Gray & Mercy Linscot.
	22	"	Samuel Emons & Eliz Wakefield.
			Jedediah ¹⁰⁰
	25	"	Jered ^h Gooch & Mary Emery.
July	1	"	James Ridley & Hannah Cousens.
	15	"	Andrew Burley & Rhoda White.

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1779			
Aug	4	Married	Samuel Waterhouse & Patience Gilpatrick.
Sept	7	"	Thomas Leach & Hannah Parker.
Oct	21	"	John Martin & Susanna Shackford.
Nov	1	"	Joseph ¹⁰¹
		"	Charles White & Hannah Ricker.
		"	Benj Moor ¹⁰² & Sarah Worster ? see prec ¹⁰³
	14	"	Jacob Waterhouse & Eliz Wakefield.
Dec	9	"	Jerem ^h Hatch & Meribah Hatch.
			Hannah
	16	"	Ezekiel Wakefield & Molly Larrabee ? ¹⁰⁴

⁹⁶ Here Thompson inserted a partially bracketed question mark. There is no question mark in Joseph Thompson.

⁹⁷ In Joseph Thompson, the name is likewise Mary Barns.

⁹⁸ In Joseph Thompson, the name is likewise Hephzibah Hatch.

⁹⁹ Rev. Little only recorded marriages during the year 1779.

¹⁰⁰ Written above the abbreviated name Jered^h is Jedediah, itself corrected by Thompson from what appears to have been Jerediah. In Joseph Thompson, the name is abbreviated as Jered^h.

¹⁰¹ Thompson provided no surname for Joseph nor the name of his wife. Joseph Thompson likewise records only the name Joseph but added a line and question mark after it.

¹⁰² Thompson had begun to write the letters 'Me' before correcting the surname to Moore. He then crossed out the letter 'e,' leaving the surname as Moor. In Joseph Thompson it is Moor.

¹⁰³ Thompson then wrote the question mark and words 'see prec' (or 'prd' or even 'pub') here but without further explanation. Possibly he thought the surname Worster should be Ricker? No such notation appears in Joseph Thompson.

¹⁰⁴ Thompson later wrote the name Hannah in pencil above the name Molly as well as a question mark at the end of this entry. In Joseph Thompson it is Molly Larrabee.

2020]

Records of the 2nd Church of Wells (Kennebunk), Maine

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[Dec]	26	[Married]	William English & Mary Town.
	28	"	Abel Hamilton & Charity Downs.
1780 ¹⁰⁵			
Jany	27	Married	Isaac Drew & Priscilla Lord.
Feby	10 ¹⁰⁶	"	Stephen Webster & Betty Thompson.
June	26	"	Edward Moor & Adah Wormwood.

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1781			
Jany	25	Married	Job Emery & Esther Webber ? ¹⁰⁷
	29	"	Moses Drown & Meribah Wakefield.
Feby	4	"	Lewis Martin & M ^{rs}Wakefield.

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1781			
Sept	8	Baptized	Jeremiah child of widow Buckland.
	6 ¹⁰⁸	Married	Joseph Dennet & Sarah Wakefield.
Oct	1	"	Eliph Boston & Mary Stevens.
Nov	2	"	Joshua Gilpatrick & Lydia Waterhouse.
	7	"	Tobias Lord and Hepzibah Conant.
Dec	17	"	John Kimball & Rachel Wakefield.
	23	"	Joshua Nason & Susanna Currier.
	27	"	Joseph Cousens & Eleanor Littlefield.
1782			
Jany	10	Married	Abraham Kimball and Sarah Smith.
	20	"	Hezekiah Drew & Esther Ross.
Oct	7	Bapt	Hannah Blasdel.
		"	Moses }
			James } children of Moses Hubbard.
			Olive }
			Mary }
	"	"	Benjamin } " Benj Titcomb.
			Hannah }

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Oct	7	Baptized	David, child of Elisha Littlefield.
Dec	11	Married	Henry Maddox & Mercy Bridges.
1783			
Jany	10	Married	Samuel Emons & Abigail Stewart.

¹⁰⁵ Rev. Little only recorded marriages during the year 1780.

¹⁰⁶ In Joseph Thompson, the date is 'Feb. 20.'

¹⁰⁷ Thompson wrote a question mark after this entry without further comment. No such notation appears in Joseph Thompson.

¹⁰⁸ In both William and Joseph Thompson, this entry was entered out of chronological order.

Feby	6	[married]	John Bourn & Nabby Hubbard. Daniel Mitchell & Sarah Titcomb ¹⁰⁹
Mar	1	"	John Mitchell & Sarah Twombly. (?)
June	26	"	Samuel Gooch & Dolly Emery.
	29	Bapt	Luther, child of Joseph Emerson.
July	7	Married	Josiah Simpson & Mary Hubbard.
Aug	7	"	Oliver Noble & Lucy Littlefield.
	14	"	Paul Shackford & Hannah Hatch.
Sept	17	"	Edward Harmon & Mary Gerrish.
Nov	4	"	John Hambleton & Hannah Plaisted.
	7	"	Reuben Littlefield & Sarah Smith.
	24	"	Paul Webber & Mary Friend.
	"	"	Caleb Lasdel & Dorcas White.

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1783

Dec	11	Married	Jere ^h Trafton & Sarah Lewis.
	16	"	James Bracey & Mercy Roberson.
	25	"	Jacob Littlefield & Abigail Smith.
	"	"	Robert Haley & Deborah Taylor.
	"	"	Robert Carr & Susanna Currier.
	30	"	James Hubbard & Dorothy Cousens.

1784¹¹⁰

Feby	12	Married	Moses Drown & Jane Grant.
	26	"	David Thompson & Lydia Perkins.
Mar	4	"	George Webber & Abigail Webber.
July	15	"	Moses Roberts & Eliza th Brown.
Aug	22	"	James Wakefield & Sarah Wilson.
Sept	1	"	Jotham Littlefield & Mary Thompson.
Oct	25	"	Dominicus Lord & Mary ¹¹¹ Currier.
Nov	16	"	Abraham Currier & Lydia Kimball.
	25	"	Abner Wormwood & Molly Gilpatrick.
	"	"	Jotham Mitchel & Eunice Burbank.
Dec	2	"	Samuel Maddox & Nabby Day.
	7	"	Samuel Meldrum ¹¹² & Abigail Denny.
	8	"	Jonathan Lord & Mary Tebbets.
	16	"	John Taylor Jr & Sarah Webber.

¹⁰⁹ Thompson wrote this entry in pencil directly above the following entry. Because he also penciled in a question mark after the following entry, Thompson might have intended the added entry as a correction (as penned, 'Twombly' could also be read as 'Twombey'). In Joseph Thompson, however, this entry appears as 'John Mitchel & Sarah Twombly' with no other entries for that day.

¹¹⁰ No baptisms were recorded for the year 1784.

¹¹¹ In Joseph Thompson 'Mary' is written as 'Mercy' but with an added question mark above it.

¹¹² In Joseph Thompson, the surname is spelled Meldram.

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1785

Mar	11	Married	Anthony Littlefield & Lydia Kimball.
Apr	18	"	Samuel Rhodes & Betty Hatch.
May	19	"	Gershom Boston & Dorcas Cheney [<i>sic</i>]. ¹¹³
June	5	"	William Taylor & Elizabeth Kimball.
	"	Baptized	Moses child of Joseph Emerson. ¹¹⁴
			Jedediah ¹¹⁵
Oct	7	Married	Jered ^h Taylor & Abigail Gowen.
	26	"	Harry Maddox & Elizabeth Littlefield. ¹¹⁶
	28	"	Samuel Smith & Hannah Thompson.
Nov	8	"	Joseph Horn & Betsy Crans. ¹¹⁷
	"	"	Hilton Day & Martha Gowen.
	"	"	And ^w N Pugsley & Meriam Sawyer.
Dec	21	"	John Webber & Lydia Littlefield.
	27	"	(Jotham) ¹¹⁸ Wilson & Mary Wakefield.
	29	"	Hubbard Stevens & Susanna Kimball.

1786¹¹⁹

Jany	26	Married	Joseph Thompson & Lydia White.
	"	"	Jon ^a White & Betsy Harmon.
Feb	23	"	Daniel Wise & Hannah Hubbard.
Mar	2	"	Charles Hill & Martha Day.

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1786

May	18	Married	Obadiah True & Grace Garey.
	22	"	John F Goodwin & Lucy Storer.
June			The wife [<i>sic</i>] of Samuel Mitchel and Samuel Gilpatrick admitted to full communion. ¹²⁰

¹¹³ In Joseph Thompson, this entry reads 'Gershom Baston & Dorcas Cheney.'

¹¹⁴ This entry does not appear in Joseph Thompson.

¹¹⁵ The abbreviation 'Jered^h' was corrected from "Jared^h," with the name Jedediah written above the space between the words Married and Jared^h. Near the bottom of page Thompson then wrote in pencil: 'Note. Jered^h was ab[breviation] for Jedediah.' In Joseph Thompson the abbreviation is Jered^h.

¹¹⁶ This Harry Maddox (his name given elsewhere as Henry/Henery) is likely the son of Pelsgrave and Mary (Huff) Maddox, not of John and Elizabeth (Kimball) Maddox (see Bradbury [note 6], 260–61), and hence this is not a second marriage for the earlier Henry Maddox (who m. 11 Dec. 1782 Mercy Bridges, as per the entry above). Indeed, Henry and Mercy Maddox are recorded by name in an 1813 Wells deed (York Co., Maine, Deeds, 89:224). Incidentally, the present editor's mother is a lineal descendant of the Harry Maddox and Elizabeth Littlefield in this entry.

¹¹⁷ Joseph Thompson adds a question mark after this entry, perhaps for the surname 'Crans.'

¹¹⁸ Sometime later, Thompson penciled in '(Jotham)' in the space before the surname Wilson.

¹¹⁹ No baptisms were recorded for the year 1786.

¹²⁰ In Joseph Thompson, 'wife' is singular but 'and Samuel Gillpatrick' is set off by commas.

2¹²¹

July	9	Married	Joseph Gooch & Izet Hatch.
Oct	19	"	Richard Hill & Ruth Parsons.
Nov	7	"	Jacob Fisher & Hannah Brown.
	20	"	James Gilpatrick & Joanna Kimball . Lydia Ross. ¹²²
[Nov]	[20]	[Married]	Samuel Gowen & Mary Kimball.
	24	"	Natha ^l Gilpatrick & Joanna Kimball.
	28	"	Silvanus Nock ¹²³ & Hannah Burks.
Aug	2	"	Eben ^r Cousens & Sarah Cousens.

1787¹²⁴

N B There were a number of loose leaves in the Book of Church Records, and it is probable that some of them are lost.

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1788¹²⁵

Jan	10	Married	John Mitchell & Meriam Woodbury.
Aug	16	"	Benj Wilson & Hannah Fernald.
	21	"	Isaac Buzzel & Sarah Brown.
	"	"	Samuel Brown & Mary Carr.
Oct	12		Sarah Frost rec'd to full communion.
1789 ¹²⁶			
April	19	Married	Samuel Cole & Hannah Shackley.
July	25	"	Michael Mc Murphy & Susanna Wakefield.
Oct	11	"	Benjamin Day & Abigail Garland.
	15	"	Samuel Dennet & Mary Waterhouse.
Dec	26	"	Stephen Smith & Abigail Thompson.
	29	"	Nath ^l Cousens ¹²⁷ & Eunice Wilson.

¹²¹ Thompson penciled in a question mark above the name Izet and then lined it out. In Joseph Thompson, however, the name is Izel. It is possible that William Thompson had originally written Izel with a question mark and then crossed the l as a t and lined out the question mark.

¹²² As a correction, William Thompson lined through the name Joanna Kimball and wrote Lydia Ross after it, though it could be mistaken for Rose. Thompson then added in pencil what appears to read 'Mass R family?' beside it. Joseph Thompson also makes this same correction, but he had originally written the name Mary Kimball.

¹²³ In Joseph Thompson, the surname Nock is Nocks.

¹²⁴ There were no records for the year 1787. Thompson added a notation (**N B**) to this effect. Joseph Thompson made a similar notation here, entered as a 'Mem^o.' This note would appear to have been original to Daniel Sewall's 1838 copy.

¹²⁵ No baptisms were recorded for the year 1788.

¹²⁶ No baptisms were recorded for the year 1789.

¹²⁷ In Joseph Thompson, the groom is entered as 'Nath^l Cousens, jun^r.'

1790¹²⁸

Jany	21	Married	Moses Wilson & Betsy Fernald.
Mar	22	"	John Mc Cuson & Hannah Townson.
April	13	"	Edmund Wells & Betsey Harding.
Aug	19	"	Edward English & Mary Brown.
Sept	9	"	Abraham Goodwin & Abigail Kimball.
	29	"	Joseph Banks & Irena Cousens.

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1791¹²⁹

April	1	Married	John Brown & Ellery Cluff.
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1792–1793¹³⁰

1794

May			Joseph Moody & wife made a profession of the Christian Religion. Lucy the wife of Dr Oliver Keating professed her belief in the Gospel.
		Baptized	Charles Lyman } Mary Eleanor } children of Dr Keating. Lucy } " Eliza Motey, child of Jo ^s Moody.

1795¹³¹

[no date]		Baptized	Nathaniel, son of Abr ^m Currier.
[no date]		"	Dimon, " Dimon Hubbard.

1796

May	6		Samuel Emerson & wife made a public profession of Religion. (a note by E H E) ¹³²
	9	Baptized	Joseph } child [<i>sic</i>] of Sam ^l Emerson. George }

1797–1799¹³³

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1800

July	10		At a Lecture at Mr Gooches. ¹³⁴
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¹²⁸ No baptisms were recorded for the year 1790.

¹²⁹ There was only one record for the year 1791. From this point until the beginning of 1800, Little's records of admissions, baptisms, and marriages become spotty at best.

¹³⁰ There are no records for the years 1792–1793. Joseph Thompson also leaves these years blank.

¹³¹ In neither William nor Joseph Thompson do dates accompany the 1795 entries

¹³² This parenthetical notation, added by William Thompson, also appears in Joseph Thompson but written out in full: '(Rev. Mr. Edes makes a note here: "This is a mistake: it should be, owned the baptism^l covenant")'. The Rev. Edward H. Edes was minister of the church from 1839 to 1845.

¹³³ In both William and Joseph Thompson, there are no records for the years 1797–1799.

¹³⁴ In Joseph Thompson, the entry reads: '1800 July 10, At a Lecture at Mr. Gooche's.' Also, in Joseph Thompson, this above entry is connected with the two sets of July 10 baptism entries that follow it. In William Thompson, there is a page break and the July 10 date is not carried over to the related sets of baptisms.

[July]	[10]	Baptized	Jeremiah Moor } Hepzibah } Hannah }	Children of John Butland.
[July]	[10]	Baptized	Luther } George } Jeremiah } Samuel } Jerediah }	Children of Joseph Gooch.
July	13	Samuel Gilpatrick recd to full communion.		
Aug	21	At the widow Littlefield's ¹³⁵		
		Baptized	Eliza, child of John Gilpatrick.	
		"	Caleb " Caleb Thompson.	
		"	James " Richard Thompson.	
		"	Samuel " Sam ^l Treadwell.	
		"	Pamelia " Thomas Jones.	
		"	Thomas " Stephen Noble.	
		"	Jacob " Jacob Littlefield.	
		"	Joseph } " Joseph Gilpatrick.	
		"	James }	
		"	Shapling ¹³⁶ " John Webber.	
	24	Lucy, wife of Dr Goddard made a profession of her faith before the Church last Sabbath, and was then baptized.		

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1800

Aug	24	At the house of Dr Goddard. ¹³⁷		
		Baptized	Mary } Elisha } Meranda ¹³⁸ } Eunice } Susanna } John } Thatcher }	children of Dr Goddard.
	"	"	William son of Tobias Lord.	
	"	"	Thomas Perkins son of John Bourn. ¹³⁹	

[Here ends the record of entries by Rev. Daniel Little]

¹³⁵ In both William and Joseph Thompson, the list of ten baptisms below this entry appears to be connected to Rev. Little's August 21st visit with the widow Littlefield.

¹³⁶ The name Shapleigh was miswritten by William Thompson as Shapling. It is Shapleigh in Joseph Thompson.

¹³⁷ From Joseph Thompson, it is clear that all of the Aug 24th baptisms took place at the house of Dr. Goddard.

¹³⁸ In Joseph Thompson, the name Meranda appears as Miranda.

¹³⁹ As written by William Thompson, the surname Bourn also could have been corrected from Dourn. In Joseph Thompson, however, this entry reads 'Thomas Perkins [son of] John Brown.'

WHO WAS STEPHEN DAVIS OF WATERVILLE, MAINE?

By Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG

Stephen Davis of Waterville, Maine, left only a few records in his lifetime, but he had at least eight children and has numerous descendants living today. His daughter Elizabeth C. (Davis) Soule died in Waterville in 1897. Her death record says she was born in Waterville on 22 April 1826, daughter of Stephen and Delania (Penney) Davis.¹ The record adds that her father, Stephen Davis, was born in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and that her mother, Delania Penney, was born in Waterville.

Identifying Delania Penney was easy, given her unusual first name. In an affidavit dated 21 May 1820 for his Revolutionary War pension application, Salathiel Penney of Waterville stated that he was then living with, among others, his wife Margaret, aged 52 years, and his daughter “Delana,” aged 18 years.²

Identifying Stephen Davis was not so simple. His birth was not recorded in New Bedford, nor was a likely birth record found elsewhere. He was probably dead by 1850, when Delany Davis, aged 50, was living in Waterville with seven children, aged 10 to 27.³ Based on the children’s ages, Stephen and Delania were married probably about 1821 or 1822, but no marriage record was found. That was not surprising, since Waterville vital records before 1830 are for the most part nonexistent.

Stephen and Delania’s son Stephen W. Davis died in Salem, Massachusetts, in 1903.⁴ According to his death record, he was born in New Sharon, Maine, on or about 23 April 1830. In fact, Stephen Davis [Sr.] was enumerated in New Sharon in 1830, his household made up of himself, aged 30–39, Delania, aged 20–29, and four young children.⁵ The New Sharon census that year was not alphabetized and therefore adjacent households were likely neighbors. Enumerated next to Stephen

¹ Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org. Elizabeth d. 18 July 1897. Her birth date is calculated from her age at death, given as 71y 2m 26d. Elizabeth m. Waterville, 30 April 1843 Benjamin Franklin Soule (Waterville Index to Marriages [women], D–Hik [Family Search digital film (DGS) #7724869, image 92]).

² Revolutionary War Pension Application #S36728 [images, fold3.com]. Salathiel’s wife was Margaret Grant, they marrying in Sanford, 28 Dec. 1788 (“Marriages Solemnized in Sanford, Me., by Rev. Moses Sweat,” *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* 2[1885]:56, her name erroneously recorded as “Martha”).

³ Delany Davis household, 1850 U.S. Census, Waterville, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 91. Delany was then living with seven children: *Stephen W. Davis*, 21, laborer; *Asa T. Davis*, 19, shoe maker; *Charles M. Davis*, 17; *John H. Davis*, 14; *Margaret A. Davis*, 10; and *George W. Davis*, 8. *Arby P. Davis*, 27, shoe maker, was living at the same residence, but in a separate household group. Stephen and Delania’s daughter *Elizabeth C. Davis* was already married in 1850 and living in Waterville with her husband (Franklin Soule household, 1850 U.S. Census, Waterville, p. 115).

⁴ Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910 (from original records held by the Mass. Archives), online database, americanancestors.org, 540:352. He d. 20 March 1903, aged 72y 10m 25d, so he was b. [calc.] 25 April 1830.

⁵ Stephen Davis household, 1830 U.S. Census, New Sharon, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 294.

was Amey Davis, aged 50–59. She was listed with no apparent husband, but her household included a younger couple and a young child—possibly a son or daughter with a spouse and child. Being approximately twenty years older than Stephen, could Amey be Stephen’s mother?

By 1840 Stephen was back in Waterville. In addition to himself, Delania, and six probable children, the household contained an older woman aged between 60 and 69.⁶ It seemed a strong possibility that she was same the Amey Davis who lived next to Stephen in New Sharon ten years earlier.

Amey, “wife of Asa Davis,” died 8 January 1849, aged 72 years, 11 months, and is buried in McClintock Cemetery in Winslow, Maine.⁷ She was born therefore about February 1776. Winslow adjoins Waterville to the east, with only the Kennebec River separating the two towns. No marriage record is found in Maine for Asa Davis and a wife Amey, but they were married by 1799 and living in Augusta where six children were recorded.⁸ No son Stephen was included among those six, but he could have been born earlier somewhere else.

Keeping in mind Elizabeth Soule’s death record giving New Bedford as Stephen’s birthplace, Massachusetts records were searched for the marriage of Asa Davis and a spouse Amey. No such marriage was recorded in New Bedford, but a match was found in the town of Westport, Massachusetts. There, on 13 October 1796, Asa Davis (son of Benjamin Davis) married Amy Butts (daughter of Stephen Butts of Dartmouth, Massachusetts).⁹ Westport, in Bristol County, is located next to the Rhode Island border, with the town of Dartmouth to the east and New Bedford east of Dartmouth. The original township of Dartmouth was bounded by the Acushnet and Taunton rivers, and from that area divisions were made into New Bedford and Westport. When Asa and Amey were married, New Bedford was the largest commercial center nearby with its deep harbor and thriving whaling industry.

New Bedford, located some ten miles from Westport, would have been a logical place for Asa and Amey Davis to have settled and had their first child, Stephen, born, say, in 1797 and named for Amey’s father. They apparently did not establish themselves long enough to have Stephen’s birth recorded there, as they soon left for Maine and settled in Augusta where their other children were recorded.

Joseph C. Anderson II (jca2nd@gmail.com) is editor of The Maine Genealogist, coeditor of The American Genealogist, and editor of the Maine Families in 1790 project of the Maine Genealogical Society.

⁶ Stephen Davis household, 1840 U.S. Census, Waterville, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 318.

⁷ Sara Drummond Lang, *Vital Records of Winslow, Maine, to the Year 1892: Births, Marriages and Deaths* (n.p., 1937), 277.

⁸ Ethel Colby Conant, *Vital Records of Augusta, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Auburn, Maine, 1933–34), 1:44. The children were *Lillis Davis*, b. 11 June 1799; *James Davis*, b. 6 Sept. 1801; *Amey Davis*, b. 11 March 1805; *Louisa Davis*, b. 6 Sept. 1808; *Asa Davis*, b. 21 July 1811; and *Samuel Davis*, b. 21 Feb. 1813.

⁹ *Vital Records of Westport, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1918), 146.

LOST IN THE FOG:
THE IDENTITY OF ANNIS, WIFE OF ROGER MERITHEW JR.
OF VINALHAVEN, MAINE

By Raymond C. Niro, MLIS, MEd, CG

A genealogical identification can be obscured in a fog of dubious evidence, mis-identifications, and misinterpretations that, over time, become accepted as fact. Such were the circumstances of Annis, widow of Roger Merithew Jr.¹ Was her name *Annis*, as documented in records created at her death,² or *Rhoda* as claimed by her descendants?³ Or was *Annis* her given name and *Rhoda* just a nickname?⁴ Or were Annis and Rhoda really two different wives of Roger, as stated in several published genealogies?⁵ Not only is her name subject to disagreement, but so are both her birthplace and birth year. It is no surprise, therefore, that in published sketches and online family trees, a diversity of couples have been identified as her parents.⁶ As of this writing, no identification of Annis/Rhoda Merithew's parents survives scrutiny. To resolve the conflicts, it was necessary to disregard, temporarily, all previous identifications in order to focus on evaluating the evidence.

Beginning with records created during her lifetime and at her death, every relevant source pertaining to Annis/Rhoda (hereafter *Annis*) was analyzed to wring out as much reliable evidence as possible. The resulting set of validated data served as a touchstone for evaluating evidence found both in previous studies, as well as in sources not yet considered. Of particular focus was Lenna Gowdey's published Merithew genealogy, whose sources include several of Annis's great-grandchildren.⁷ Eventually, the accumulation of credible evidence made it possible to recognize and eliminate unsupported evidence, expose misidentifications, and resolve all of the conflicts. The result is a convincing identification of Annis Mallory Merithew's parentage.

Since much of Annis's biography must be inferred from her husband's activities, the following brief sketch provides context for the discussion of Annis's origin.

¹ Roger Merithew Jr. wrote his surname both as Merithew and Merrithew. The shorter version is used in the narrative, while footnotes retain the spelling as found in the cited source.

² 1850 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Belmont, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 685, for example.

³ Lenna Gowdey, *Our Sire's Monument: The Merrithews of America*, (Seattle, Wash., 1973), 4, 11, 11A.

⁴ Marion Fisher, *A Story of the Merrithew Family in America* (Littleton, Colo., 1980), 18,19; Theoda Mears Morse, *A Genealogical History of the Families of Morrill, Maine* (Waterville, Maine, 1957), 252; Iona Foster Raney, *The Ancestry of Minnie May Merrithew, 1872-1962* (n.p., 1996), 117. Raney claimed that "Eunice Mallory was called Rhoda, a popular naming variation in colonial New England" (*ibid.*, 97).

⁵ Fisher, Morse, and Raney [note 4], Roger Merithew family group sheet-6 (Priscilla Jones Coll., Stephen Phillips Memorial Library, Penobscot Marine Museum, Searsport, Maine).

⁶ Fisher [note 4], 19; Morse [note 4], 252; and Raney [note 4], 117, 120.

⁷ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], "The Compiler's Greetings" [Preface].

ROGER MERITHEW JR.⁸

Roger Merithew Jr. was born probably in Massachusetts about 1748, son of Roger Sr. and Patience (Burgess) Merithew. He died in Vinalhaven, Maine, 27 November 1818.⁹ At about age fifteen, Roger Jr. moved with his family to the new coastal township of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Calling himself “a sea-faring man” in adulthood, Roger acquired a mariner’s skills and experience while living there. He relocated to Connecticut in about 1773, and abandoned it about 1776 owing to the outbreak of war.¹⁰ His first known child was born about July 1777, an indication he had married around the same time he left Connecticut.¹¹

Roger settled at Jemseg Point on the Saint John River in New Brunswick (still part of Nova Scotia before 1784), at approximately the same time his mother and siblings moved there from Yarmouth, Nova Scotia. Roger Merithew sold his Jemseg leasehold in late 1784 and, sometime between January 1785 and April 1787, he left with his family for the newly independent United States.¹² By 27 September 1788, he was living at the Marsh Bay (Penobscot River) settlement, which was incorporated the following year as part of the new town of Frankfort.¹³ Roger Merithew’s household in 1790 included Roger, two boys, and three females.¹⁴ The Merithew family moved for a final time after 1792 to Vinalhaven, a town which then encompassed the Fox Islands.¹⁵ No probate was filed for Roger or his widow. No wife is named in Roger’s two registered deeds.¹⁶ The names of his children were recorded in a journal kept by Roger and Annis’s son Roger [3rd]:¹⁷ 1. *Arleney Merithew*, b. abt. 1777.¹⁸ 2. *Rhoda Merithew*, b. 1779.¹⁹ 3. *Patience Merithew*, b.

⁸ Roger Merithew Jr.’s life is covered in more detail in Raymond C. Niro, “Refugees to Maine: The Family of Roger Sr. and Patience (Burgess) Merithew, and Their Godfrey and Robinson Kin,” *The Maine Genealogist* 41(2019):51–69, 135–44.

⁹ Roger Merithew gravestone providing death date (26 Nov. 1818) and age at death (70) (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #137117075).

¹⁰ Yarmouth Township Proprietors’ Book of Land Records, p. 138, grant signed 13 July 1773, rec. 14 July 1806 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #8193643, images 19–20]: Roger was still officially a resident of Yarmouth in April 1773. New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land Petitions, 1783–1857, Petition of Roger Merrithew, 13 Jan. 1785 [DGS #8130847, images 533–36].

¹¹ Proofs of Citizenship Used to Apply for Seamen’s Protection Certificates for the Port of New Orleans, Louisiana [DGS #7782133, image 596]. Arleney Merithew was age 28 on 16 July 1805, i.e., b. about 1777. Arleney’s affidavit was signed and notarized.

¹² Niro, “Refugees to Maine” [note 8], 61–62, 140–41.

¹³ Niro, “Refugees to Maine” [note 8], 141.

¹⁴ Roger Merithue household, 1790 U.S. Census, Frankfort, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 80.

¹⁵ Hancock Co., Maine, Deeds, 2:52–53 [DGS #7834663, image 340].

¹⁶ Saint John Co., N.B., Deeds A-3:187, signed 17 July 1784 [DGS #4141390, image 190], and Hancock Co. Deeds, 2:52–53 [note 15].

¹⁷ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 11, citing a journal created by Annis’s son Roger Merithew 3rd. Independent evidence confirms the existence of the Merithew children as listed in the journal.

¹⁸ Affidavit of Arleney Merithew [note 11]. Arleney was age 28 on 16 July 1805.

¹⁹ Rhoda Morey, gravestone photo, findagrave.com #10518491; birth year calculated from age at death: 81y 4m 9d on 14 April 1861 on gravestone.

1782.²⁰ 4. *Benjamin Merithew*, b. 1786.²¹ 5. *Aaron Merithew*, b. abt. 1788.²² 6. *Ezekiel Merithew*, b. abt. 1791.²³ 7. *Samuel Merithew*, b. say 1793.²⁴ 8. *Roger Merithew* [3rd], b. 1796.²⁵ 9. *Annis Merithew*, b. abt. 1798.²⁶ 10. *Parazanda Merithew*, b. 1802.²⁷ 11. *Bennajah Merithew*, b. 1804.²⁸

ANNIS (MALLORY) MERITHEW

Roger Merithew Jr.'s widow, Annis, died on 17 June 1850, more thirty years after her husband, and her obituary was published the following week:

Died. Mrs. Anis [*sic*] Merithew, widow of the late Roger Merithew, in her 85th year. Mrs. M. was one of the earliest settlers in this section of the State. She removed from Milford, Ct., at the age of 18, and settled in the town of Vinalhaven. She retained her faculties till the time of her death, and the faculty of memory was preserved in vigor to her latest years. She remembered distinctly as far back as the first outbreak of the revolution. In early life she was an associate and schoolmate of the late Joseph Martin, of Prospect. . . .²⁹

Birthplace. Annis was born in New Hampshire according to the 1850 U.S. census mortality schedule.³⁰ Her obituary contradicts the census, stating that she moved

²⁰ Patience [Merithew] Coombs [Stimpson], gravestone photo, findagrave.com #121970100, birth year of 1782 shown on gravestone.

²¹ Orland, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1765–1815, p. 18 [DGS# 7595781, image 16].

²² Register of American Seamen, 8 Dec. 1809–14 Aug. 1812, Salem and Beverly [Mass.] Customs District Records, box 51, folder 418, #2824, 22 Dec. 1809, Aaron Merithew, age 21; RG36, Records of the U.S. Customs Service, NARA, Waltham, Mass. [DGS #102393886, image 419].

²³ Ezekiel was not enumerated in any U.S. census. Approximate birth year is conjectured from his marriage on 10 Oct. 1815 (Vinalhaven, Maine, Town & Vital Records, 1:427 [DGS #7596929, image 50]), and Ezekiel's first appearance at Town Meeting on 1 April 1816 at which he was elected a hog reeve (Ibid., 1:100 [DGS #7596929, image 59]). Ezekiel was at least age 21 to fill a town office, so he was born before April 1795. He married the previous October, an indication he was likely a few years older.

²⁴ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 11. Independent evidence confirms the existence of the Merithew children except for Samuel (Merithew journal [note 17]). The journal is accurate for the other ten Merithew children, and is presumed to be so for Samuel who died young.

²⁵ Morrill, Maine, Vital Records, 1855–1892, p. 72, of Roger Merithew and family with birth dates [DGS#4026558, image 81].

²⁶ Birth year estimated from U.S. censuses taken at Islesborough, Waldo Co., Maine: 1850, John Hutchinson [*sic*] household, p. 245, Annis, age 54; 1860, John Hutchinson household, p. 42, Anise [*sic*], age 64; 1870 John Hutchinson household, p. 23 (penned), 136 (stamped), Annis, age 73; 1880, John Hutchins [*sic*] household, E.D. 80, p. 321D, Annis, age 82.

²⁷ Parazanda [Merithew] Gross, gravestone photo, findagrave.com #22477616; birth year calculated from age at death on gravestone: 80y 4m 25d, on 14 April 1861.

²⁸ Merithew Family Bible, notarized transcript of birth and death pages from *Holy Bible* (Cooperstown, N.Y., H.&E. Phinney, 1834), original Bible owned by Mrs. Lewis P. (Dawes) Collins, granddaughter of Benjah [*sic*] Merithew [supporting doc. image #4440471, Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington, D.C.]

²⁹ "Died" [Anis (*sic*) Merithew] *Republican Journal* (Belfast), 28 June 1850, p. 3 [images at "Republican Journal Digitized," belfastlibrary.org/special-collections].

³⁰ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule [note 2].

from Milford, Connecticut.³¹ Other sources confirm Connecticut as her birthplace.³² Local celebrity and alleged schoolmate of Annis, Joseph Plumb Martin died about six weeks before Annis.³³ There is no question that Martin grew up in Milford, in the home of his grandfather and namesake Joseph Plumb.³⁴ Both Joseph Martin and the Merithews had settled in Frankfort, Maine, before 1790.³⁵ Annis Merithew and Joseph Martin resided within twenty miles of each other for more than sixty years. During that time, next-generation Merithews married into Joseph's wife Jane Clewley's family, creating a kinship network whose members would have known of their common origin in Milford, Connecticut.³⁶

Conclusion: Annis was born in Connecticut, and probably in Milford.

Birth Year. Annis Merrithew's age at death was reported as "in her 85th year"³⁷ and 94.³⁸ These ages reflect a span of possible birth years of 1756–1765. The entries

³¹ *Republican Journal*, 28 June 1850 [note 29]. There were four towns named Milford in New England in 1850 (Conn., Mass., Maine, N.H.). The only one incorporated before 1780 was in Connecticut (Michael J. LeClerc, ed., *Genealogist's Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed. [Boston, 2012]).

³² Roger twice reported he emigrated from Connecticut: 1800 U.S. Census, Vinalhaven, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 9, "Connecticut" is listed in column headed "From whence emigrated"; and New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land Petitions, 1783–1857, Petition of Roger Merrithew, 15 Jan. 1785 [DGS #8130847, images 533–36]; and of Annis's four children who lived to be counted in the 1880 census, none reported N.H. as mother's birthplace. Three have Conn. as their mother's birthplace, one records Maine (Reporting Conn.: Roger Merithew [3rd] household, Morrill, Waldo Co., Maine, E.D. 86, p. 2B; Timothy Robinson household, Morrill Waldo Co., Maine, E.D. 86, p. 3C, Benajah [sic] Merithew; William S. Gross household, Deer Isle, Hancock Co., Maine, E.D. 152, p. 14B, Parazandia [sic] Gross); reporting Maine: John Hutchins household, Islesboro, Waldo Co., Maine, E.D. 80, p. 12D, Annis Hutchins). Annis's son Bennajah reported his mother's birthplace to be Milford, Conn., at his marriage (Old Town, Maine, Vital Records, "Marriage Intentions, 1864–1891," entry of 21 Oct. 1876 [DGS #7595778, image 420]).

³³ "The Last Line is Broken [Joseph Plumb Martin obituary]," *Republican Journal*, 4 May 1850, p. 8, col. 4.

³⁴ [Joseph Plumb Martin], *A Narrative of Some of the Adventures, Dangers and Sufferings of a Revolutionary Soldier . . .* (Hallowell, Maine, 1830), 8 [images at wikisource.org]; Robert Carver Brooks, "Joseph Plumb Martin, Soldier-Author," *Journal of the American Revolution*, website, 17 Sept. 2015 [allthingsliberty.com].

³⁵ Joseph Marten [sic] household, 1790 U.S. Census, Frankfort, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 81; Roger Merithue household, 1790 U.S. Census, Frankfort, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 80.

³⁶ Ethel Kenney Lord, "Isaac Clewley, Father and Son," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 114(1960):297–304; John S. Holt and Robert Carver Brooks, "William Merithew," in *Maine Families in 1790 Vol. 11*, ed. Joseph Crook Anderson II (Waterville, Maine, 2015), 401; Frederick Frasier Black, *Searsport Sea Captains* (Searsport, Maine, 1960), 120 (Jeremiah Merithew). These intermarriages included: 1. Joseph P. Martin m. Lucy Clewley, daughter of Isaac and Sarah (Stimpson) Clewley. 2. Roger Merithew Jr.'s daughter Patience m. Jeremiah Stimpson, whose father was Ephraim, brother of Lucy (Clewley) Martin's mother, Sarah, making Jeremiah Stimpson and Lucy first cousins. 3. Lucy Martin's niece, Jane Clewley, daughter of her brother Joseph, m. Jeremiah Merithew, son of William Merithew the brother of Roger Merithew Jr.

³⁷ Obituary, *Republican Journal*, 28 June 1850 [note 29].

³⁸ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule [note 2].

for the eldest female in the household of her husband, Roger Merithew, in 1800 and 1810 reflect the same birth-year range.³⁹

At her death in North Belmont, only one of her children, Roger [3rd], was also a resident there.⁴⁰ Given her age and that she had been ill for many months prior to her death, it is probable she had been living with him for some time.⁴¹ A woman of Annis's age does not appear in the households of any of her surviving Merithew children in the censuses of 1820 and 1840.⁴² In 1830, however, a woman age 70–79 (i.e., born before 1761) was counted in the households of her daughter Parazanda, wife of David Gross, and of her son Roger Merrithew [3rd].⁴³ If Annis was the elderly woman counted in either (or both) of her children's households, her birth-year range would be 1756–1761.

Conclusion: Annis was born no earlier than 1756, no later than 1765, and possibly no later than 1761.

Annis or Rhoda? In her sketch of the Roger Merithew family, Mrs. Gowdey consistently refers to the wife of Roger Merithew Jr. as *Rhoda*, and never as *Annis*. She was likely unaware that the widow Annis Merithew's name was documented in the 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule and in her obituary.⁴⁴ The only source she identifies for the name Rhoda is a written communication from Annis's great-grandson Levi Allen Merithew (1846–1912).⁴⁵

Others have accepted Rhoda as her given name, or responded to the Annis-or-Rhoda conundrum with two different solutions: (1) Rhoda was a nickname for Annis;⁴⁶ or (2) Roger had two wives, the first named Rhoda, and the second, his widow Annis. The latter scenario is explored below. Another possibility is that Mrs. Gowdey misunderstood Levi Merithew's confusing statement that "Rhoda Mallory Merithew lived with her father [*sic*] Roger," and assumed the reference was to the

³⁹ Roger Merrithew household, 1800 U.S. Census, Vinalhaven, Maine [note 32], eldest female age 26–44 (b. 1756–74); and household of Rogers Marithew, 1810 U.S. Census, Vinalhaven, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 545, the eldest female was 45+ (b. no later than 1765).

⁴⁰ Daughter-in-law Nancy (Knowlton) Merithew, widow of son Aaron Merithew, was also living in North Belmont (Levi Merithew household, 1850 U.S. Census, Belmont, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 167), but descendants say she was incapable of caring for herself (Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 62).

⁴¹ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule [note 2], Annis was reported to have been ill for 180 days. Gowdey states: "His [Roger Jr.'s] wife Rhoda died and was buried on the mainland . . . probably at the home of her son Roger [3rd]" (Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 11A).

⁴² Husband Roger d. 1818 according to his gravestone [note 9].

⁴³ 1830 U.S. Census, Maine: David Grouce [*sic*] household, Deer Isle, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 124, and Rogers Merithew household, Islesboro, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 372.

⁴⁴ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule [note 2]; *Republican Journal*, 28 June 1850 [note 29].

⁴⁵ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 11. Both of Levi's grandfathers were Annis's sons. Levi was born in Isle au Haut Maine, about 1846, son of Levi A. and Margaret (Merithew) Merithew (Boston, Mass., Marriages, 1891, entry #2584 [DGS #4277035, image 329]).

⁴⁶ Fisher, Morse, and Raney [note 4], and others echoing Gowdey.

widow “Rhoda” [i.e., Annis], when it could also have applied to Annis’s *granddaughter* Rhoda M. Merrithew, daughter of Roger Merithew 3rd.⁴⁷

For now, neither Levi’s intended meaning nor Gowdey’s interpretation can be divined. What is indisputable is that Annis was the name written in documents created at the time of her death.⁴⁸ Moreover, she was also called Annis in Timothy W. Robinson’s history of the town of Morrill (incorporated in 1855 from Belmont).⁴⁹ Had he erred, his wife, Louisiana Merithew, likely would have corrected him. She was a granddaughter of Annis Merithew, grew up in Morrill, and was 14 when her grandmother died.⁵⁰

Conclusion: Independent contemporary evidence clearly documents Roger Merithew’s widow’s name as Annis, although it is possible she also went by Rhoda. Ultimately, both names proved useful for connecting Annis to her family of origin.

Surname Mallory? Gowdey states *Mallory* was the maiden name of Roger Merithew’s wife, but does not name the six descendants she cites as her sources.⁵¹ Gowdey does acknowledge two descendants, both great-grandchildren, who were in possession of records kept by their grandfather, Roger Merithew 3rd: a Mrs. Knowlton⁵² and Lester Merithew.⁵³

Mrs. Knowlton, born Hellen Augusta Robinson in Morrill, Maine, was Annis Merithew’s great-granddaughter.⁵⁴ She is credited as the source of “much information of this [Roger Merithew 3rd] line, a granddaughter who has a journal in her possession that was kept by this Roger.”⁵⁵ Besides her parents, Mrs. Knowlton had access to several persons intimately acquainted with Annis in life: her grandparents Roger 3rd (d. 1883) and Hannah (d. 1884) Merithew, who died when Hellen was, respectively, age 16 and 17;⁵⁶ and Annis’s son Bennajah (1804–1890), who lived in the same Morrill household as Hellen in his old age.⁵⁷

⁴⁷ Marlene Alma Hinkley Groves, *Vital Records of Islesboro, Maine* (Rockport, 2000), “Record of Roger Merithews [3rd] Children,” 52. Rhoda M. Merithew was b. 10 Dec. 1823.

⁴⁸ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule [note 2] and her obituary [note 29].

⁴⁹ Timothy W. Robinson, *History of Morrill, Maine. . .*, transcribed by Theodora Mears Morse from the original 1887 manuscript (Belfast, Maine, 1944), 187, 25.

⁵⁰ Groves, *Islesboro VRs* [note 47], 52. Louisiana (“Lusena”) was b. Islesboro, 23 July 1836.

⁵¹ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 4, 11.

⁵² Hellen Augusta Robinson was b. Morrill, 26 Nov. 1867, daughter of Timothy W. and Louisiana (Merrithew) Robinson. Louisiana was a daughter of Roger 3rd and Hannah (Coombs) Merrithew.

⁵³ Lester Holbrook Merrithew was b. Morrill, 7 April 1894 (Maine Vital Records, 1892–1907 [DGS #4703837, image 538]).

⁵⁴ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 97. Gowdey wrote Mrs. Knowlton’s birth year as 1868. As noted, Timothy W. Robinson was the author of the *History of Morrill* [note 49].

⁵⁵ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 99.

⁵⁶ Roger [3rd] and Hannah Merithew are buried in a single plot in Morrill Village Cemetery (gravestone photo, findagrave.com #72540374).

⁵⁷ Timothy Robinson household, 1880 U.S. Census [note 32], Benijah Merithew, age 76, Hellen A. Robinson, age 12.

Lester Holbrook Merithew was the child of Roger 3rd's youngest son, William R. Merithew, and wife, Orilla (Robinson).⁵⁸ Lester's source is cited as an "old family Bible."⁵⁹ It was likely the same "old family Bible" his parents cited in an 1885 affidavit to prove the widow Hannah married Roger Merithew 3rd, and was therefore entitled to his War of 1812 pension.⁶⁰

Conclusion: Annis's maiden name was Mallory. Gowdey's informants included descendants who were personally acquainted with those who knew Annis in life and possessed family records allegedly showing Mallory as her maiden name. While a Bible, journal, and other family records may yet be located, there is no reason that multiple descendants would have intentionally misinformed Gowdey.

Marriage: One, Two, or None? No marriage has been found for Roger Merithew in the period 1770 to 1780 in extant Connecticut town, vital, and church records for Milford and other towns,⁶¹ in other pertinent Milford or New Haven County civil records, or in surviving Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and early New Brunswick marriage records,⁶² or relevant Maine record collections,⁶³ or in the indexes of aggregated online databases available from commercial entities, genealogical societies, and others.⁶⁴ Only the claim that Roger's wife had two names (Annis and Rhoda) offers any "evidence" of two wives.

⁵⁸ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 99

⁵⁹ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 88. The present whereabouts of the Bible is unknown, but may still be in the possession of one of his descendants.

⁶⁰ Hannah Merithew, War of 1812 widow's pension app. #43981 [images, fold3.com].

⁶¹ Mallory, Merithew, and surname variants were searched in Milford, Conn., marriage records (Milford City Clerk, vital records abstracts [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #1428120]), Milford town meeting records (vol. 2 [1751–1827], MS, 974.62 M594TM, original volumes held Conn. State Library [CSL], Hartford); Milford church records (Records of the First Church, 1640–1829, and Records of the Second Church, 1749–1829, online transcripts at AmericanAncestors.org; and Amity Parish, set off from Milford in 1784 to town of Woodbridge: Louise Tracy, *Records of the Parish of Amity* [Woodbridge], *Connecticut* [Hartford, 1906]), Milford deeds (for Moses Mallory, Samuel Oviatt, Benjamin Pritchard, at Milford City Clerk's Office), New Haven District probate records (CSL microfilm series, and "U.S. Wills and Probates" at Ancestry.com).

⁶² Gwen Guiou, *Early Vital Records of the Township of Nova Scotia* (Yarmouth, 1982); Stuart and Gwenn Guiou Trask, *The Records of the Church of Jeboque in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 1766–1851* (Yarmouth, 1992); Henry E. Scott Jr., ed., *Journal of the Reverend Jonathan Scott* (Boston, Mass, 1980); and Elizabeth Sewell, *Sunbury County, New Brunswick, Marriages, 1766–1988* (Fredericton, N.B., c1987).

⁶³ Maine State Library; Maine State Archives; Maine Historical Society; town historical societies in Vinalhaven, Deer Isle-Stonington; Belfast Free Library; and Penobscot Marine Museum, Phillips Library, Searsport.

⁶⁴ FamilySearch (records, books, trees, genealogies), Ancestry.com (all sources, including Connecticut vital and church records, local histories, genealogies, and family trees; and all U.S. and international sources under "Records"), the New England Historic Genealogical Society's AmericanAncestors.org (all records, including journals, and Connecticut vital records [abstracts] (Barbour Collection), 1630–1870); DAR Genealogical Research System (GRC, Bibles, descendants, analytics), and Google, among others.

Independent findings, though circumstantial, point instead to Annis being Roger's only wife. The relevant evidence presented and cited in the preceding paragraphs can be summarized as follows: Roger was married about 1775 or 1776, based on the birth date of his first child, Arlene, born about July 1777. He had been living in Connecticut until about 1776, when he left Connecticut for Nova Scotia. Annis Merithew was a native of Connecticut, and left her home there at 18, an age appropriate for a new bride at that time and place. At age 18 in about 1776, Annis's calculated birth year is 1758, which falls within the range of possible dates for Roger's widow. First-child Arlene's birthplace is not recorded, but Roger's second child, Rhoda, was born in Nova Scotia in 1779,⁶⁵ and the next, named Patience, was born in "New Brunswick" (part of Nova Scotia before 1784) in 1782.⁶⁶ Eight more children followed at roughly two- to three-year intervals until the last child, Bennajah, was born in 1804.⁶⁷

No long gap appears between births that might suggest a lost wife and a subsequent marriage. Mrs. Knowlton (née Hellen A. Robinson), Annis's great-granddaughter, copied the names of Roger's children from her grandfather (Roger Merithew 3rd)'s "journal," without any indication that the children were born to more than one wife. Also, none of the many Merithew descendants interviewed by Gowdey and Benjamin Lake Noyes mention the possibility that Roger had more than one wife.⁶⁸ No original birth or baptismal records survive for any of Roger's children. Their mother's name does not appear in the children's death or marriage records, with one exception—youngest child Bennajah's 1876 marriage registration in Old Town, Maine, includes his parents' names, Roger and Annis Merithew, but no maiden name was given for Annis.⁶⁹

Conclusion: Circumstantial evidence implies that Roger Merithew Jr. had one wife, Annis Mallory, whom he married around 1776 in Connecticut. She accompanied him to Nova Scotia, where their first several children were born.

⁶⁵ Rhoda Morey gravestone [note 19]. Rhoda's birthplace is shown in her surviving children's 1880 U.S. Census records: Rocksylany [Morey] Barnes in T. D. Barnes household, Rock Island, Rock Island Co., Ill., E.D. 252, p. 482D, mother's birthplace "Nova Scotia"; John Morey household, Gilroy, Santa Clara Co., Calif., E.D. 254, p. 390B, mother's birthplace "Canada."

⁶⁶ Jeremiah Stimpson household, Searsport, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 123, Patience [Merithew]'s birthplace "N.B."; Elijah Cyphers household, Searsport, Waldo Co., Maine, pp. 13–14, Patience [Merithew] Stimpson, age 77, birthplace "St. John's N.B."

⁶⁷ Merithew Family Bible [note 28].

⁶⁸ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 3], 11, et passim; Benjamin Lake Noyes, "Genealogical History of Deer Isle Families: Merrithew," MS, ser. 2, 26:51–81 (Merrithew Family) [FHL film #896721], and Ser. 2a," 6:120–31 (Merrithew Family), TS [FHL film #908,529]; Benjamin Lake Noyes, Deer Isle Genealogical Records [misc. papers, photos, etc.], Coll. 90, Box 6, folder 3 (Merrithew Family), Brown Library, Maine Historical Society, Portland.

⁶⁹ Old Town, Maine, Vital Records, 1840–1892, Marriages Book, p. [93], B. M. Merrithew to Elizabeth E. Davis, int. 21 Oct. 1876, cert. 10 Nov. 1876 [DGS #7595778, image 420].

ANNIS MALLORY'S BIRTH AND PARENTS

A search of Connecticut sources using all possible variations of *Annis* or *Rhoda* (Ann/Annie/Anna/Eunice/Roda, etc.) and *Mallory* (Malory, Mallery, Malery, Malary, Mallary, etc.) born 1756–1765 in New Haven County, Connecticut, or adjacent counties, produced four possible candidates for Roger Merithew's wife:⁷⁰

1 **Eunice Mallory**, born in Woodbury, Connecticut, 23 March 1756, daughter of Aaron and Joanna (Mitchell) Mallory.⁷¹ She married Comfort Hoyt Jr. in Danbury, Connecticut, 15 May 1776, where she died 6 December 1791.⁷² In his 1783 will, Aaron nominated his widow and Comfort Hoyt, his daughter Eunice's husband, to be co-executors of his will.⁷³

Conclusion: Eunice Mallory, daughter of Aaron and Joanna Mallory, was not wife of Roger Merithew Jr.

2 **Anna Mallory** was baptized at the Woodbury First Congregational Church, 15 July 1758, daughter of Aaron and Joanna (Mitchell) Mallory, and sister of Eunice (above).⁷⁴ There is no further record for her in Woodbury vital or church records. Her husband, Comfort Hoyt, is mentioned in her father's 1783 will, but Anna is not named.⁷⁵ Woodbury is about thirty miles north of Milford. Anna's surname and age are consistent with Annis Merithew, her place of origin is not.

Conclusion: Anna Mallory, daughter of Aaron and Joanna Mallory, was not the wife of Roger Merithew.

3 **Anna Mallory** was born in Waterbury, Connecticut, 5 November 1763, daughter of Thomas and Elizabeth (Catlin) Mallory.⁷⁶ In his 1804 will, Thomas made bequests to his six surviving children, including his daughter Anna Smith.⁷⁷ Although no marriage record has been found, Thomas's daughter Anna was obviously already married by 1804, and could not have been the wife of Roger Merithew Jr.

Conclusion: Anna Mallory, daughter of Thomas Mallory, was not the wife of Roger Merithew.

⁷⁰ The "search" for Annis Mallory candidates was conducted in all the sources already cited above in the section, "Marriage: One, Two, or None?"

⁷¹ Danbury, Conn., Records of births, marriages, and deaths, 1711–1841, p. 465 [DGS #7731324, image 159], Comfort Hoyt Jr. family group, with separate entries for Eunice's birth (naming birth-place and parents), and for her death; "Connecticut, Church Record Abstracts, 1630–1920," vol. 131, Woodbury First Congregational Church, 1760–1908, p. 80, citing 1:116 of original records [image, ancestry.com]: "Eunice [Mallory], d. Aaron, bp. Mar. 28, 1756."

⁷² Danbury, Conn., Records of births, etc., p. 465 [DGS#7731324, image 159].

⁷³ Woodbury, Conn., Probate District, 8:108–9, estate of Aaron Mallory, probated 13 Dec. 1783, will signed 24 June 1783 [DGS #7627182, images 426–27].

⁷⁴ Woodbury First Congregational Church [note 71], p. 79, citing 1:21 of original records.

⁷⁵ Will of Aaron Mallory [note 73].

⁷⁶ Donald Lines Jacobus, *Families of Ancient New Haven*, 9 vols. (Rome, N.Y., and New Haven, 1922–32), 5:1132, citing Waterbury Vital Records.

⁷⁷ Woodbury Probate District, 10:170–71, will of Thomas "Mallery."

4 **Annis Mallory** was born in Milford, Connecticut, 24 January 1758, daughter of Moses and Frances (Oviatt) Mallory.⁷⁸ This Annis Mallory matches the name, birthplace, and predicted age for Annis, wife of Roger Merithew Jr. Two published genealogical sketches, however, concluded differently:

1 In 1996 Iona Foster Raney, citing work by Edward L. Woodyard, identified Roger Merithew's wife as Eunice, born in Stratford, Connecticut, 7 January 1747, daughter of Benajah and Elizabeth (Wakeley) Mallory.⁷⁹ While Raney claimed Eunice was Roger's *second* wife, she was careful to point out the discrepancy in ages between Roger's widow, Annis, and Eunice Mallory of Stratford: Eunice would have been 56 when Roger Merithew's youngest child was born in 1804 and 103 when Roger Merithew's widow died in 1850.⁸⁰ Raney's (or Woodyard's) solution was to add several years to Eunice's birth date to approximate the widow Mallory's age at death.⁸¹ Eunice Mallory, however, married Isaac Hill in Stratford on 29 September 1762.⁸² Isaac and Eunice (Mallory) Hill were members of the same church as her parents, Benajah and Elizabeth, located in the Shelton section of Stratford, and this is where Isaac and Eunice baptized their first-born son Benajah.⁸³

Conclusion: Eunice Mallory, daughter of Benajah and Elizabeth (Wakeley) Mallory, was not the wife of Roger Merithew Jr.

2 On 18 October 1810, Annis Mallory married Jesse Pritchard Jr. at the Second Congregational (Plymouth) Church in Milford, Connecticut.⁸⁴ The couple's ages are not stated, nor are their parents named. Notwithstanding, a genealogical compendium of Milford, Connecticut, families identifies the bride as the daughter of Moses and Frances (Oviatt) Mallory.⁸⁵ This is clearly a case where two women of the same

⁷⁸ Milford, Conn., Reg. of Vital Statistics, indexes to births, marriages, deaths, 1640–1936, "Annes Malary," d. Moses & Frances, b. 24 Jan. 1758; citing 1:138 of original Milford records.

⁷⁹ Raney, *Minnie May Merrithew* [note 4], 97; Lorraine Cook White, *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records*, 55 vols. (Baltimore, 1998–2002), 41 (Stratford):185: "Eunice, d. Benajah & Elizabeth," citing vol. LR5, p. 50 of original Stratford records.

⁸⁰ Raney, *Minnie May Merrithew* [note 4], 97.

⁸¹ Raney, *Minnie May Merrithew* [note 4], 97. Raney cites Annis's obituary [note 29] but misreads the age as 95 rather than the printed "in her 85th year."

⁸² Connecticut Vital Records (Barbour Collection), vol. 41, p. 185 (Stratford) "Eunice, m. Isaac Hill," p. 185, citing vol. LR5, p. 72 of original Stratford town records.

⁸³ "Conn. Church Record Abstracts" [note 71], vol. 102, Shelton-Huntington Congregational Church, 1717–1917, p. 74, citing 3:10 of original records: "Isaac Hill, hus. of Eunice" and "Eunice Hill, w. of Isaac" were admitted to full communion in 1788 and 1787, respectively. Benajah and Elizabeth Mallory, were admitted 27 Oct. 1773 (p. 100, citing 3:5); baptism of "Benajah, s. Isaac Hill (p. 74, citing 3:105).

⁸⁴ Milford, Conn., Second (Plymouth) Church Records, 1:49, microfilm, Conn. State Library, Hartford; Donald Lines Jacobus, "The Roger Pritchard (Prichard) Family," *The American Genealogist* 44:(1968):198.

⁸⁵ Susan Woodruff Abbot, comp. *Families of Early Milford, Connecticut* (Baltimore, 1979), 417. Donald Lines Jacobus agreed that Jesse Pritchard Jr. m. Annis Mallory in 1810, but he did not identify her parents (Jacobus, "Pritchard Family" [note 84], 198).

name were assumed to be the same person. The Annis Mallory who married Jesse Pritchard Jr., however, was a much younger woman than Annis, daughter of Moses and Frances Mallory. Jesse Pritchard Jr. and wife “Annie” remained in Milford after their 1810 marriage.⁸⁶ In 1850 Jesse was age 65 (born about 1785), Annie’s reported age was 63 (born about 1787), and their son Fenn’s age was 35 (born about 1815).⁸⁷ Annie’s age in 1850 is consistent with that of the eldest female in earlier Milford census enumerations of the Jesse Pritchard Jr.’s household.⁸⁸ Jesse Pritchard Jr. was 25 years old in 1810 when he married Annis, at which time Annis, daughter of Moses Mallory, was age 52. She could not have borne Jesse Pritchard’s son Fenn five years later at age 57. It is conceivable that the Jesse Pritchard who married Annis Mallory in 1810 was not Jesse *Jr.*, but was instead Jesse *Sr.*, a man closer in age to Annis, daughter of Moses Mallory. Jesse Sr. and his wife, Eunice (Oviatt) Pritchard, were still alive in 1832, however, when Jesse Pritchard (with Eunice Pritchard as cosignatory) conveyed land for “love and affection which I have for my son” Jesse Pritchard Jr., of Milford.⁸⁹

Conclusion: Annis Mallory, wife of Jesse Pritchard Jr., was not the daughter of Moses and Frances (Oviatt) Mallory.

In the normal course of events, one would expect Annis Mallory to marry in her hometown of Milford. Indeed, Connecticut law required a father (or guardian’s) consent for anyone under age twenty-one to marry, and Annis was age 18 in 1776.⁹⁰ That no marriage record for Annis and Roger has been found in surviving Milford civil or church records has already been discussed. The absence of a marriage record might signify that Annis had died young, but neither a death record nor gravestone have been found for an Annis Mallory born in Milford in 1758.⁹¹ An explanation is warranted. In the period from the Revolution through the early nineteenth century, vital records were often not recorded in Connecticut, and death registrations were not mandated in Connecticut until 1897.⁹² The period when the couple likely married coincided with the start of the American Revolution. Writing in 1840, Milford Town Clerk David L. Baldwin declared: “it appears from the [Milford town records] that

⁸⁶ Jesse Pritchard Jr. household, Milford, New Haven Co., Conn.: 1820 U.S. Census, p. 111, the sole female is age 26–44; 1840 U.S. Census, p. 295, the sole female is age 50–60.

⁸⁷ Jesse Pritchard household, 1850 U.S. Census, Milford, New Haven, Conn., #337/#402, p. 402.

⁸⁸ Jesse Pritchard household, 1850 U.S. Census [note 87].

⁸⁹ Milford Deeds, 36:462. Jesse Pritchard Sr. died in 1837 and Eunice died in 1834 (Jacobus, *Pritchard Family* [note 84], 198).

⁹⁰ Zephania Swift, *A System of the Laws of the State of Connecticut* (Windham, Conn., 1795), 186; Connecticut Office of Legislative Research, *History of Civil Marriage in Connecticut*; “History of Civil Marriage in Connecticut: Selected Changes,” *OLR Backgrounder*, 15 Oct. 2002.

⁹¹ No matches retrieved from “Connecticut, Hale Collection of Cemetery Inscriptions and Newspaper Notices, 1629–1934” and “Connecticut Deaths and Burials, 1772–1934,” ancestry.com; and findagrave.com.

⁹² Christopher C. Child, “Connecticut,” *Genealogist’s Handbook for New England Research*, 5th ed., Michael J. Leclerc, ed. (Boston, 2012), 17.

very few marriages were recorded which took place at [that] time.”⁹³ Milford church records are also wanting for the same period.⁹⁴

Conclusion: The disruption of vital-record registrations due to the Revolutionary War, as well as the loss of church records, explains the absence of a marriage or death record for Moses Mallory’s daughter Annis. The only Connecticut woman found who fits the biographical profile of Roger Merithew Jr.’s widow is Annis Mallory, daughter of Moses and Frances (Oviatt) Mallory. An exploration of the Moses Mallory family provides additional evidence to connect Annis Merithew to this family.

MOSES AND FRANCES MALLORY FAMILY OF MILFORD

Moses Mallory was born in Stratford, Connecticut, 10 March 1724/5, son of Stephen and Mary (—) Mallory, and died in Milford, 7 December 1793.⁹⁵ He married in Milford, 19 August 1744, Frances Oviatt, daughter of Samuel and Rebecca (Pritchard) Oviatt.⁹⁶ Their seventh child, daughter Annis, was born in Milford, 24 January 1758.⁹⁷ No probate was filed for Annis Mallory’s parents or grandparents, except for her maternal grandfather, Samuel Oviatt.⁹⁸ None of her father Moses Mallory’s Milford deeds mention any of his children.⁹⁹

When Annis was born in 1758, her grandfather Samuel Oviatt was married to his second wife, a woman named *Rhoda* (—).¹⁰⁰ Samuel and Rhoda lived within one-half mile of their daughter Frances and son-in-law Moses Mallory and children.¹⁰¹ Follow-

⁹³ Revolutionary War Pension Application #W21885, service of Ebenezer Oviatt, affidavit of David L. Baldwin, Town Clerk, Milford, Conn., 3 April 1840 [fold3.com, image 26].

⁹⁴ First Congregation Church records “are very incomplete (Frederic Bailey, *Early Connecticut Marriages . . . Prior to 1800*, 7 vols. (New Haven, 1896–1906), 5:7); marriage records are missing for the period at the Second “Plymouth” Church (email from archivist to the author, 23 July 2015, reporting that “there is a gap in the marriage records for the time period in question, Dec. of 1765 through Nov. of 1794. There is a note in the volume indicating that seven pages had been lost”); at St. Peter’s (formerly St. George’s) Episcopal Church pre-1832 marriage, burial, and baptismal records were destroyed by fire (Connecticut, *Report of the Temporary Examiner of Public Records*, 1906 [Hartford, 1907], 54).

⁹⁵ Jacobus, *New Haven Families* [note 76], 5:1127.

⁹⁶ Jacobus, *New Haven Families* [note 76], 5:1127.

⁹⁷ Milford, Conn., Vital Statistics [note 78].

⁹⁸ Connecticut, New Haven Probate Court, Probate Record book, case 7735, vol. 10:391, 400–1, 455, 506–7 [DGS #7642437, images 587, 592, 620, 648], and case file (loose papers), at “U.S. Wills and Probate: Connecticut, Wills and Probate Records,” ancestry.com.

⁹⁹ Town of Milford, Deeds, indexes and deed books, vols. 12–20, City Clerk’s Office.

¹⁰⁰ No marriage has been found for Samuel and Rhoda; but the dower portion of Samuel’s estate was granted to widow Rhoda (New Haven Probate Court [note 98], 10:507).

¹⁰¹ Rhoda Oviatt and the Mallory family apparently lived about a half from each other: Moses purchased a home on the Mill River located south of Meeting House Bridge in 1761 (Milford Deeds, 13:399). As administrator of Samuel Oviatt’s estate, Moses sold a lot with a house near Fowler’s Mill “reserving to the widow of the Dec^d the privilege of the whole house during the time of her natural life” (Milford Deeds, 14:166–67). Fowler’s Mill was located about a half mile south of the Meeting House Bridge. The Mallory and Oviatt homes were located somewhere in between.

ing Samuel Oviatt's death in 1767, widow Rhoda Oviatt petitioned the court to appoint her [step] son-in-law, Moses Mallory, administrator of her husband Samuel's estate.¹⁰² Rhoda's choice implies a close and trusting relationship with her husband's family, including step-granddaughter Annis.

Some of the children of Roger Jr. and Annis Merithew were named for his relatives: *Patience*, was given to his second daughter, while a son was named *Benjamin*, possibly for either his maternal grandfather or brother.¹⁰³ Also, the fourth-born daughter and fifth-born son were given their parents' names: *Annis* and *Roger*.¹⁰⁴ It is probable, therefore, that some of the Merithew children were named for their mother's relatives.

Of the twelve different names found among Annis Mallory's siblings, parents, and grandparents, eleven are also found among the children or grandchildren (or both) of Roger Jr. and Annis Merithew (see Table 1). The names *David*, *Mary*, and *Samuel* are too common to count as evidence, and some grandchildren's given names could also have come from their non-Merithew relatives. Nevertheless, the possibility is remote that a cluster of so many names could appear by chance in two unrelated families. Indeed, in the context of other evidence, the recurrence of so many names in both families is compelling.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The search for the birth family of Annis, wife of Roger Merithew Jr., began with exploring previous studies of the Merithew family. The many inconsistencies and contradictory conclusions encountered demonstrated the need for a complete restart. Frequently cited, and especially valuable was the work of Lenna Gowdey, who interviewed or corresponded with many of Annis's great-grandchildren and preserved their comments and recollections. Their statements, as with any evidence, needed to be evaluated.

The identification of Annis (Mallory) Merithew as the daughter of Moses and Frances (Oviatt) Mallory is the result of testing, analyzing, and correlating all the relevant evidence to establish her given name, surname, age, birthplace, life chronology, and associates. The claim that Annis, possibly nicknamed Rhoda, was the second wife of Roger Merithew Jr. is not supported. Conflicting identifications of her birth family have been disproved, and the lack of expected marriage (or death) records explained. The case for her parentage, though almost entirely circumstantial, is nonetheless convincing. It is ironic that the evidence as it stood in 1850 was sufficient to identify Annis's birth family. Only by clearing the fog of later "evidence" could Annis's identity be revealed.

¹⁰² Samuel Oviatt probate file [note 98], petition of "Roda Oviatt," 16 March 1767, signed with her mark; Milford Court Records, March 1767 term, p. 37.

¹⁰³ Niro, "Refugees to Maine" [note 8].

¹⁰⁴ Niro, "Refugees to Maine" [note 8].

Table 1: Mallory and Merithew Families: Shared Given Names Compared

Moses & Frances (Oviatt) Mallory family ¹⁰⁵	Roger ¹ & Annis Merithew children with shared names ¹⁰⁶	Merithew Grandchildren with shared names (<i>not all matches shown</i>)
son Moses , b. 1744/5		Moses ³ , b. 1833, of Roger ² ¹⁰⁷
son Aaron , b. 1753	Aaron ²	Aaron ³ , b. 1808, of Aaron ² ¹⁰⁸
daughter Frances , b. 1748		Frances ³ , b. 1802, of Patience ² ¹⁰⁹ Frances ³ , b. 1835, of Benjamin ² ¹¹⁰
son Benjamin , b. 1750	Benjamin ²	Benjamin ³ , b. 1809, of Benjamin ² ¹¹¹
daughter Rebecca , b. 1755 grandmother Rebecca Pritchard		Rebecca ³ , b. 1815, of Patience ² ¹¹²
daughter Annis , b. 1758	Annis ²	Annis ³ , b. 1817, of Benjamin ² ¹¹³
son David , b. 1760		David ³ , b. 1824, of Parazanda ² ¹¹⁴
son Samuel , b. 1762 grandfather Samuel Oviatt	Samuel ²	
son Benajah , b. 1765	Bennajah ²	
Rhoda (—) Oviatt, 2nd wife of grandfather Samuel Oviatt	Rhoda ²	Rhoda ³ , b. 1823, of Roger ² ¹¹⁵ Rhoda ³ , b. 1845, of Annis ² ¹¹⁶
grandmother Mary (—) Mallory		Mary ³ , b. 1821, of Roger ² ¹¹⁷

Ray Niro (rayniro@gmail.com) lives in Philadelphia and is currently researching the family origins of his other Maine brick-wall gg+grandmothers.

¹⁰⁵ Jacobus, *New Haven Families* [note 76], 5:1127, and other cited sources.

¹⁰⁶ The names of all eleven of their children are listed in the “Roger Merithew Jr.” section above.

¹⁰⁷ Morrill, Maine, Vital Records, 1855–1892, p. 72 [DGS#4026558, image 136].

¹⁰⁸ B.L. Noyes, *Vital Records of Deer Isle, Maine, prior to 1867* (Camden, Maine, 1997), 1.

¹⁰⁹ Vinalhaven Town and Vital Records, p. 355 [DGS #7596929, image 197].

¹¹⁰ Benjamin Lake Noyes, *Deer Isle, Maine, Vital Records* [Salt Lake City, 1950], 9; Benj^a Merrithew household, 1850 U.S. Census, Deer Isle, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 210[B]: Frances A. Merrithew, [age] 15).

¹¹¹ Orland, Maine, Town and Vital Records [note 21].

¹¹² Maine Death Records, 1761–1922: Rebec[c]a B. Cyphers, dau. “Jerry Stinson” and Patience Merrithew, d. 29 April 1899, age 83y 11m 9d.

¹¹³ Maine Death Records, 1761–1922: Annis M. Matthews, dau. Benjamin Merrithew and Sarah Coombs., d. 30 Nov. 1899, age 82y 8m 13d.

¹¹⁴ *Deer Isle Vital Records* [note 110], 89.

¹¹⁵ Groves, *Islesboro VRs*, [note 47], 52.

¹¹⁶ Groves, *Islesboro VRs*, [note 47], 52.

¹¹⁷ Morrill, Maine, Vital Records, 2:72 [DGS #4026558, image 81]: [Roger Merithew family entry] Mary R. Merithew, b 3 May 1821).

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