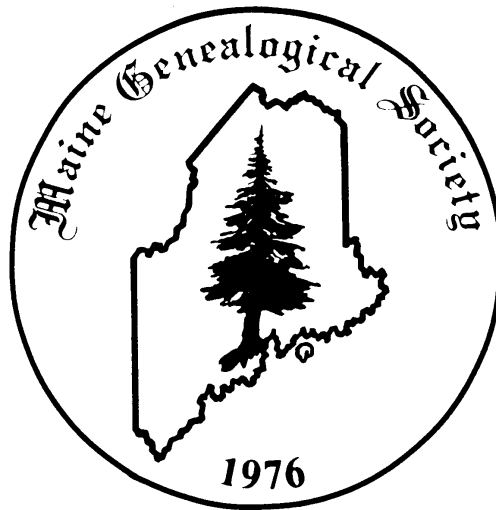


# The Maine Genealogist



February 2016  
Volume 38, Number 1

# The Maine Genealogical Society

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# The Maine Genealogist

Journal of the Maine Genealogical Society

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

This issue begins with an in-depth study by first-time *Maine Genealogist* authors Eben Graves and Norman Eaton of the family of William Briggs of Maine. William moved after the Revolutionary War to the Hallowell area from Massachusetts, and his descendants spread throughout Kennebec County and beyond. While the earlier generations of the Briggses have been treated elsewhere, published information on William's family has been woefully incomplete and often incorrect.

As I was gathering the material for this issue, I did not expect a prominent theme to develop; but within a few days of receiving Sally Nelson's detailed exploration of Maine's treatment of paupers in the nineteenth century, Ralph Wadleigh sent me his study of South Berwick's poor records. Earlier, Carol McCoy had shared with me a copy of the 1836 Almhouse Rules for the town of Windham, which seem more like prison rules than those for a charitable institution. Carol graciously agreed to write a short article on this topic, and I decided to round out this issue with my own examination of a family of paupers living in Bangor in the mid-nineteenth century. Researching impoverished families can be a formidable task, as poor persons typically did not own property and are thus rarely found in land or estate records. They also tended to move around frequently, often leaving little trace of their migrations. A familiarization with the poor laws, however, can point the genealogist to where records might be found. It is hoped that these articles will provide both understanding and practical techniques for tracking Maine's poor.

The Maine genealogical community was saddened to learn of the death of Lewis Bunker Rohrbach on January 2, 2016, after a lengthy fight with cancer. Lew was well known to genealogists as the owner of Picton Press, a book publishing business he established in 1978 in Rockport, Maine. Lew developed Picton Press into the highest-quality genealogical publisher in the country, and one of the largest.

The Maine Genealogical Society owes much of the success of its publication program to its long partnership with Picton Press. While MGS members produced the content of its Special Publications books, Picton Press provided all of the other publishing services—including indexing, final proof preparation, book storage, order entry, shipping, and of course printing—which would have been difficult for a small volunteer society to do by itself. The arrangement was that MGS purchased at cost a fixed number of books to sell to members at discounted prices, while Picton Press sold to everyone else. Lew was always willing to provide MGS with more books or buy back unsold stock, as needed, to ensure the success of MGS's program. The partnership produced some seventy Special Publication books over the years, a feat matched by no other local genealogical society anywhere in the country.

With Lew's death, Picton Press has closed its doors, and its inventory will be distributed to libraries around the country. Nevertheless, MGS's publication program remains strong, and the Society is now publishing its books independently. Recently, MGS issued Volume 11 of the *Maine Families in 1790* series and the *Vital Records of Newcastle, Maine*, available for purchase via the website. New titles will appear soon.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> BRIGGS OF TAUNTON, WALPOLE, AND  
STOUGHTON, MASSACHUSETTS, AND AUGUSTA, MAINE,  
AND HIS CHILDREN

*By Eben W. Graves and Norman D. Eaton*

From 1971 to 1973, Edna Anne Hannibal and Claude W. Barlow published an extensive study of the family of John<sup>1</sup> Briggs of Taunton, Massachusetts.<sup>1</sup> However, they supplied only the most basic information, much of which is incorrect, about the subject of this article, William<sup>5</sup> Briggs, and his children, stating that he died in Kennebec County, Maine, and that his children were born in Augusta. Their work provided little about his sons and only the surnames of his daughters' husbands.<sup>2</sup>

In 2014 and 2015, one of the authors of this paper (Graves), with valuable assistance from the other (Eaton), published a study of a Massachusetts and Maine mixed-race Sewall family, which showed that George Washington<sup>4</sup> Sewall married Lucy E. Briggs, daughter of William Briggs of Freedom and Searsport, Maine.<sup>3</sup> Our study of the Briggs family arose from a desire to identify the ancestry of Lucy's father, who turned out to be a grandson of the subject of this article.<sup>4</sup>

1 **WILLIAM<sup>5</sup> BRIGGS** was born in Taunton, Massachusetts, about 1736,<sup>5</sup> son of Nathaniel<sup>4</sup> (*William<sup>3-2</sup>, John<sup>1</sup>*) and Judith (Guild) Briggs.<sup>6</sup> He died in Augusta, Maine, 11 August 1819, aged 84.<sup>7</sup> He married in Walpole, Massachusetts, 5 November 1761, MARY FISHER,<sup>8</sup> who was born there 17 December 1742, daughter of

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<sup>1</sup> Edna Anne Hannibal and Claude W. Barlow, "Richard, William and Hugh, Sons of John Briggs of Taunton, Massachusetts," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 125(1971):77-90, 200-11, 268-81; 126(1972):30-42, 115-126, 210-21, 267-78; 127 (1973):59-67 (hereafter cited as Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs"). They appear to have followed the family record in the Genealogical Column of the *Boston Transcript*, 6 Oct. 1924, no. 2150, although they do not mention William<sup>5</sup> Briggs's will, which was abstracted in the article.

See also Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Notes on the Briggs Families of Taunton, Mass.," *The American Genealogist* [TAG] 33(1957):76-83. The English origin of immigrant John<sup>1</sup> Briggs of Taunton was published by Douglas Richardson, "The English Origins of John Briggs of Taunton, Massachusetts," TAG 59(1983):175-79.

<sup>2</sup> Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 125(1971):211, 126(1972):211.

<sup>3</sup> Eben W. Graves, "William Sewall of Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and Some of His Descendants: A Reconstruction of a New England Mixed-Race Family," NEHGR 168(2014):290.

<sup>4</sup> Lucy's father William<sup>8</sup> Briggs was a son of Enos<sup>7</sup> Briggs (#7, below).

<sup>5</sup> He was 20 in 1756 when he served in the French and Indian War [note 11], 82 in March 1818 when he applied for a pension, saying that he was b. Taunton (Revolutionary War Pension Application, #S36925), and 84 when he d. in Aug. 1819 (Ethel Colby Conant, ed., *Vital Records of Augusta, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. [Auburn, Maine, 1933-34], 2:246 [hereafter cited as *Augusta VRs*]). A record of his birth is not found in Taunton's vital records.

<sup>6</sup> Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 125(1971):210-1, 126(1972):211.

<sup>7</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:246.

<sup>8</sup> *Vital Records of Walpole, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1902), 99, 125 (hereafter cited as *Walpole MA VRs*). The name appears in Walpole records as *Brigs* as well as *Briggs*.

William and Elizabeth (Daniel) Fisher.<sup>9</sup> She died in Augusta, 21 or 24 December 1828, aged 87.<sup>10</sup>

William Briggs of Taunton served as a private from 31 May to 15 September 1754 in Capt. Thomas Cobb's company during the Eastern Frontier expedition.<sup>11</sup> Of Taunton, aged 20, he also served from 20 March to 5 December 1756 at Crown Point, New York, as a drummer in Capt. Joseph Hodges's company in Richard Gridley's regiment.<sup>12</sup> He was a captain of a company of minutemen from 19 to 29 April 1775 and in Col. Joseph Read's (Worcester County) regiment of Massachusetts troops to the end of January 1776.<sup>13</sup> As "William Briggs, Captain, Augusta," he was included in a list of Revolutionary War pensioners who died during 1819.<sup>14</sup>

William Briggs moved to Walpole about 1761, when he was married and where his first two children were born. He then moved to Stoughton, where more children were born between 1766 and 1775. He was in Hallowell, Maine, in 1790, in Augusta in 1800, and in Winthrop in 1810.<sup>15</sup> He and his son Enos were among the men who signed a petition dated 12 May 1791 for the division of Hallowell into two towns, which resulted in the legislation of 20 February 1797 dividing the town into Hallowell and Harrington—before the end of the year Harrington was renamed Augusta.<sup>16</sup>

The will of Williams Briggs of Augusta, gentleman, dated 9 July 1819, names his wife Mary, sons William, Ezra, Enos, and John, and daughters Irene Moss [*sic*], Mary Goldthwait, and Sarah Smith. On 28 September 1819, William Briggs [Jr.] was appointed executor. The inventory listed \$342.01 of personal and household effects.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>9</sup> *Walpole MA VRs*, 40. William Fisher of Walpole m. Medway, Mass., 21 May 1729, Elizabeth Daniel (*Vital Records of Medway, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston, 1905]), 191. See also Philip A. Fisher, *The Fisher Genealogy: Record of the Descendants of Joshua, Anthony and Cornelius Fisher of Dedham, Mass., 1630–1640* (Everett, Mass., 1898), 53.

<sup>10</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:246. Duplicate records each have one of the two dates.

<sup>11</sup> Robert E. MacKay, ed., *Massachusetts Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1744–1755* (Boston, Mass., 1978), 56.

<sup>12</sup> Muster roll dated Boston, 18 Feb. 1757, Mass. Archives Collection, 94:206 (payroll calculation for service lasting 37w 2d at 13s. 6d. per month); muster roll dated Boston, 5 May 1756, *ibid.*, 95:206 (a single daily muster roll). See also K. David Goss, *Massachusetts Officers and Soldiers in the French and Indian Wars, 1755–1756* (Boston, Mass., 1985), 236. Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," *NEHGR* 126(1972):211, say he was also serving as a drummer, 27 April 1757.

<sup>13</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application, #S36925; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 2:523. The pension file includes his captain's commission, dated 1 July 1775 and signed by John Hancock, and an 1818 deposition signed by Gen. Henry Sewall.

<sup>14</sup> *American Advocate* [Hallowell], 15 Jan. 1820.

<sup>15</sup> "Willm Briggs," 1790 U.S. Census, Hallowell, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 258; 1800 U.S. Census, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 291; 1810 U.S. Census, Winthrop, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 496. In 1810 the household consisted only of an adult couple aged 45 and older.

<sup>16</sup> Charles Elventon Nash, *The History of Augusta: First Settlements and Early Days as a Town* (Augusta, Maine, 1904), 159–68 (hereafter cited as Nash, *History of Augusta*).

<sup>17</sup> Kennebec Co. Probate Records, 19:320 (will), 19:228–29 (inventory) [Maine County Probate Records, 1760–1970, familysearch.org, images 535 (will), 489 (inventory)]; "Notice," *American Advocate* [Hallowell], 20 Nov., 27 Nov., and 4 Dec. 1819.

Children of William<sup>5</sup> and Mary (Fisher) Briggs, i–ii b. Walpole, iii–iv b. Stoughton, v–viii bp. there at the First Church:<sup>18</sup>

- 2 i IRENE<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS, b. 15 Jan. 1763; m. PHILIP MORSE.
- 3 ii MARY BRIGGS, b. 29 Dec. 1764; m. TIMOTHY GOLDTHWAIT.
- 4 iii SARAH BRIGGS, b. 29 Oct. 1766; m. JESSE SMITH 2nd.
- 5 iv WILLIAM BRIGGS, b. 23 March 1769; m. POLLY KING.
- 6 v EZRA BRIGGS, bp. 21 July 1771; m. MARY WADSWORTH.
- 7 vi ENOS BRIGGS, bp. 24 Oct. 1772; m. ABIGAIL MELVIN.
- vii PHILENO BRIGGS, bp. 4 Feb. 1776, apparently d. by 1819 (not named in father's will).
- 8 viii JOHN BRIGGS, bp. 5 March 1780; m. BETSEY CUMMINGS.

2 **IRENE<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was born in Walpole, 15 January 1763,<sup>19</sup> and died in Fayette, Maine, 1 April 1830, aged 67.<sup>20</sup> She married in Fayette, 1 October 1795, PHILIP MORSE,<sup>21</sup> as his second wife. He was born in Newbury, Massachusetts, 24 or 25 May 1755, son of Isaac and Jane (Lunt) Morse,<sup>22</sup> and died in Fayette, 18 February 1847, aged 91.<sup>23</sup> Philip had married first, in 1778, Mary Knowles,<sup>24</sup> who was born 19 August 1753 and died in Fayette, 1 November 1794.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> *Walpole MA VRs*, 19; David Allen Lambert, comp., *Vital Records of Stoughton, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1850* (Braintree, Mass., 2008), 114, 138 (hereafter cited as *Stoughton VRs*); William H. Capen, "Stoughton, Mass., Church Records," NEHGR 128(1974):273–87, at 274 (hereafter cited as Capen, "Stoughton Church Records"). Enos Briggs's place of birth is recorded in a 1799 Clinton, Maine, town census (Ruth Gray, "Families in Clinton, Maine, 1799," NEHGR 111 [1957]:38–44, 112–18, at 112 [hereafter cited as Gray, "Families in Clinton, Maine"]).

Hannibal and Barlow say the children were b. Augusta, list John first (although they have the rest in the correct order), omit Ezra (see discussion of Ezra's parentage, below [note 120]) and Phileno, and say of Enos: "?vi. Enos, b. 1775, d. 1836. We are not sure that Enos belongs here. Nathaniel [an older brother of William<sup>5</sup> Briggs] had a son Enos, and the name was in both families." They show, however, that Nathaniel's son Enos lived in N.H. and R.I., where he d. in 1836 (Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 126[1972]:210–11). Hannibal and Barlow appear to have followed the Genealogical Column of the *Boston Transcript*, 6 Oct. 1924, no. 2150, which has the same details, or lack thereof, including the birth order and the omission of Ezra and Phileno. The births in Stoughton of Sarah and William were correctly attributed to William Briggs, who "removed to somewhere in Maine," in the Genealogical Column, *ibid.*, 4 Jan. 1933, no. 5634.

<sup>19</sup> *Walpole MA VRs*, 19.

<sup>20</sup> "Deaths," *American Advocate* [Hallowell], 17 April 1830, naming her husband Philip Morse.

<sup>21</sup> Fayette, Maine, VRs, 1795–1892 [Family History Library, Salt Lake City (FHL), film #10,862] (hereafter cited as Fayette VRs); m (int.) Hallowell, 18 Sept. 1795 (*Vital Records of Hallowell, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 6 vols. [Auburn, Maine, 1924], 2:52 [hereafter cited as *Hallowell VRs*]).

<sup>22</sup> Recorded as "Morss," *Vital Records of Newbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1911), 1:345. His parents m. there 22 March 1738/9 (*ibid.*, 2:342).

<sup>23</sup> Deaths, *Maine Cultivator and Hallowell (Maine) Gazette*, 27 Feb. 1847: "one of the first settlers of Fayette, a pensioner of the revolution, and an honest and upright man"; Henry Dutch Lord, *Memorial of the Family of Morse* (Cambridgeport, Mass., 1896), "Genealogy: Family of Anthony<sup>1</sup> Morse of Newbury, Mass.," 73–74, 173 (hereafter cited as Lord, "Family of Anthony<sup>1</sup> Morse"), states only the month and year.

Philip Morse served as a private in Capt. Thomas Cogswell's company, Col. Gerrish's regiment; in Col. Loammi Baldwin's regiment of Massachusetts troops, from May 1775 to January 1777; in Capt. Stephen Dearborn's company, Col. Stickney's regiment, from July to September 1777; in Capt. Dearborn's company, Col. Nichols's regiment, from July to September 1778; and was a Revolutionary War pensioner.<sup>26</sup> He was living in Fayette in the censuses from 1800 through 1840.<sup>27</sup>

Children of Philip and Irene<sup>6</sup> (Briggs) Morse, b. Fayette:<sup>28</sup>

- i twin, b. 31 March 1796.
- ii twin, b. 31 March 1796.
- iii SAMUEL MORSE, b. 9 Nov. 1797, d. 23 Oct. 1853;<sup>29</sup> m. (int.) Fayette, 10 Sept. 1820, SARAH LYFORD,<sup>30</sup> b. East Livermore, Maine, 31 Aug. 1798, daughter of Nathaniel Lad and Mary (Johnson) Lyford.<sup>31</sup>
- iv WILLIAM MORSE, b. 23 Nov. 1799.
- v IRENE MORSE, b. 24 July 1802, d. 13 March 1888;<sup>32</sup> m. (int.) Hallowell, 9 May 1847, OLIVER SMITH LYFORD as his 2nd wife,<sup>33</sup> b. Brentwood, N.H., 23 Jan. 1789, d. Livermore, 28 Nov. 1874, son of Nathaniel Lad and Mary (Johnson) Morse and brother of Sarah, above.<sup>34</sup> Oliver Lyford had m. (1) 14 April 1812, Betsey Low,<sup>35</sup> b. 20 Sept. 1793, d. 2 March 1846, daughter of Robert and Judith (Elwell) Low.<sup>36</sup>

3 **MARY<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was born in Walpole, 29 December 1764,<sup>37</sup> and died 29 October 1848, aged 84.<sup>38</sup> She married (as Polly Briggs) in Stoughton, 24 January 1788,

<sup>24</sup> Lord, "Family of Anthony<sup>1</sup> Morse," 173. The birth of their first child is recorded in Fayette, 27 Aug. 1779 (Fayette VRs).

<sup>25</sup> Virginia Knowles Hufbauer and Ruth M. Knowles, *Descendants of John Knowles, 1660–1978* (La Jolla, Calif., 1979), 15; Lord, "Family of Anthony<sup>1</sup> Morse," 173; Fayette VRs (death).

<sup>26</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application, #S18132, images at ancestry.com.

<sup>27</sup> 1800–40 U.S. Censuses, Fayette, Kennebec Co., Maine, pp. 31 (1800), 939 (1810) [indexed as "Philip Moses" at ancestry.com], 658 (1820), 127 (1830), 163 (1840).

<sup>28</sup> Fayette VRs. A barely legible entry at the bottom of the page, after the "berth" of the twins, is apparently a death, "Departed [*illegible*] April [*illegible*]," perhaps of both twins.

<sup>29</sup> Fayette VRs.

<sup>30</sup> Fayette VRs, intentions, Sarah recorded as "Sally"; Lord, "Family of Anthony<sup>1</sup> Morse," 173, stating only the year.

<sup>31</sup> William Lewis Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston and Exeter, and Some of His Descendants* (Salem, Mass., 1902), 25 (hereafter cited as Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston*).

<sup>32</sup> Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston*, 45.

<sup>33</sup> *Hallowell VRs*, 4:87. He was of East Livermore, Maine.

<sup>34</sup> Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston*, 25, 45.

<sup>35</sup> Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston*, 45. Oliver Smith and Betsey (Low) Lyford are named in the death record of their son Nathaniel Lyford, Brookline, Mass., 24 Nov. 1902 (Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910," 530:26, database, americanancestors.org [hereafter cited as Mass. VRs, 1841–1910]).

<sup>36</sup> Welch, *Francis Lyford of Boston*, 45.

<sup>37</sup> *Walpole MA VRs*, 19.

<sup>38</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #38332212.



TIMOTHY GOLDTHWAIT.<sup>39</sup> He was born there, 19 September 1762, son of Jacob and Elizabeth (Nightingale) Goldthwait.<sup>40</sup> He died 16 June 1858.<sup>41</sup> Mary and Timothy are buried in Cummings Cemetery, Manchester, Maine.

Timothy Goldthwait served eleven months in 1776, 1777, and 1778 as a private in the Massachusetts state troops.<sup>42</sup> He paid the direct tax at Stoughton in 1798.<sup>43</sup> He moved to Augusta in 1801, where he was a Revolutionary War pensioner, aged 78, in 1840. He was listed in Stoughton in 1790 and 1800, and in Augusta in 1830, 1840, and 1850.<sup>44</sup> The administration of the estate of Timothy Goldthwait, late of Manchester, was granted 9 August 1858 to Timothy Goldthwait.<sup>45</sup>

Children of Timothy and Mary<sup>6</sup> (Briggs) Goldthwait, i–v b. Stoughton, vi–vii b. Augusta:<sup>46</sup>

- i TIMOTHY GOLDTHWAIT, b. [calc.] 6 May [1789?], d. Waltham, Mass., 12 March 1883, aged 83y [*sic*: prob. 93y] 10m 6d;<sup>47</sup> m. Hallowell, 18 Dec. 1814, SOPHIA STEVENS,<sup>48</sup> b. Hallowell, 27 Aug. 1792, daughter of Daniel and Mehitable (Dudley) Stevens,<sup>49</sup> d. Augusta, 15 Oct. 1880, aged 88.<sup>50</sup>

<sup>39</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 224, marriage was performed by Rev. Joel Briggs. Both were of Stoughton.

<sup>40</sup> First Congregational Church Records, Randolph, Massachusetts, Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988, images at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com) (date); declaration dated Augusta, 24 Dec. 1832, Revolutionary War Pension File [note 42] (location). As “Jacob Goldthrite” and “Elezabeth Nightingale,” both of Stoughton, Timothy’s parents m. Stoughton, 1 Jan. 1761 (*Stoughton VRs*, 236) and the Randolph church record says Jacob was admitted to the church there in 1767. The name is frequently spelled *Goldthwaite*.

<sup>41</sup> Gravestone photograph, [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com), memorial #38332224. Timothy, aged 78, is on the Maine Pensioners List, 1840. *Augusta VRs*, 2:310, records a death of Timothy Goldthwait, b. [calc.] Sept. 1766, d. Manchester, 26 March 1863, aged 96y 6m, citing GY1 (“Mt. Vernon, Ben Venue and Mt. Hope Cemeteries”) [Mount Vernon Cemetery, Augusta, per [findagrave.com](http://findagrave.com)]. No Timothy Goldthwait of the right age appears in the 1860 census.

<sup>42</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application, #S29831, images at [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com).

<sup>43</sup> Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, Stoughton, Norfolk Co., 11:472, 493 [database, [americanancestors.org](http://americanancestors.org)].

<sup>44</sup> 1790 U.S. Census, Stoughton, Suffolk Co., Mass, p. 558; 1800 U.S. Census, Stoughton, Norfolk Co., Mass., p. 120; 1830–50 U.S. Censuses, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, pp. 96 (1830), 56 (1840), 89A (1850).

<sup>45</sup> Kennebec Co. Probate Records, 103:415.

<sup>46</sup> Charlotte C. Goldthwaite, *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite, An Early Settler of Salem, Mass.* (Hartford, 1899), 184–85 [hereafter *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*].

<sup>47</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 347:215, recorded as “Goldthwaite” (birth and death). His place of birth and his father are named. He was, however, age 62 in the 1850 census and 91 in the 1880 census, which is much more consistent with his marriage in 1814 (1850 U.S. Census, Augusta, Kennebec Co. Maine, p. 89; 1880 U.S. Census, Manchester, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 320C).

<sup>48</sup> War of 1812 Pension Application Files Index, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), citing pension #s SO-7047 and SC-21872. Intentions were recorded at Hallowell, 25 Nov. 1814 (*Hallowell VRs*, 3:65) and at Augusta, 26 Nov. 1814 (*Augusta VRs*, 1:349). He was of Augusta and she was of Hallowell. *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*, 184, 256, says his wife was Sophia Morrel.

<sup>49</sup> *Hallowell VRs*, 1:279; Maine Birth Records, 1621–1922, [ancestry.com](http://ancestry.com), adds Sophia’s mother’s maiden name.

<sup>50</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:310.

- ii WILLIAM GOLDTHWAIT, b. [calc.] 4 Jan. 1791, d. 27 Oct. 1873, aged 82y 9m 23d;<sup>51</sup> m. Augusta, 4 Feb. 1819, ABIGAIL GILL WADE,<sup>52</sup> b. there 29 Aug. 1800, daughter of William Wade,<sup>53</sup> d. Augusta, 5 Aug. 1873, aged 72y 11m 5d.<sup>54</sup> William and Abigail are bur. in Sampson Cemetery, Gardiner, Maine.
- iii JOHN GOLDTHWAIT, b. [calc.] Dec. 1792, d. 17 April 1868, aged 75y 4m, and bur. in Cummings Cemetery;<sup>55</sup> never married.<sup>56</sup>
- iv JACOB GOLDTHWAIT, b. 1794, d. 17 Feb. 1857; m. 1843 MARY ANN (McCLOUD) BURNS, b. Mirimichi, New Brunswick, 19 May 1814, d. Bucksport, Maine, 8 Jan. 1910, and bur. in Mount Hope Cemetery, Bangor, Maine, daughter of John and Mary Ann (Richmond) McCloud.<sup>57</sup>
- v MARY GOLDTHWAIT, b. [calc.] Aug. 1797, d. Jefferson, Maine, 2 Jan. 1865, aged 67y 5m, and bur. in Cummings Cemetery;<sup>58</sup> m. Augusta, 20 Dec. 1822, EDWARD J. WHITE,<sup>59</sup> b. Mass., [calc.] Aug. 1802, d. 7 Feb. 1875, aged 73y 6m, and bur. in Cummings Cemetery.<sup>60</sup>
- vi THOMAS BALDWIN GOLDTHWAIT, b. ca. 1799, d. in March 1883;<sup>61</sup> m. (1) Hallowell, 15 Feb. 1827, MARY COTTLE,<sup>62</sup> b. [calc.] Sept. 1805, d. Hallowell, 2 Feb. 1829, aged 23y 5m, and bur. in Cottle Cemetery, Augusta;<sup>63</sup> m. (2) Augusta, 2 April 1831, MARY C. JOHNSON, b. Maine, [calc.] 5 May 1806, d. 1 May 1879, bur. in the Village Cemetery, Jefferson, Maine.<sup>64</sup>
- vii ELIZABETH GOLDTHWAIT, b. [calc.] May 1804, d. Cape Elizabeth, Maine, 29 Dec. 1884, aged 80y 7m, and bur. in Cummings Cemetery.<sup>65</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #59634209.

<sup>52</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:349, 2:175.

<sup>53</sup> *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*, 257. Abigail's birth is not in the *Augusta VRs*.

<sup>54</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #59631096.

<sup>55</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #38332240, surname "Goldthwaite."

<sup>56</sup> *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*, 185.

<sup>57</sup> Records of Mount Hope Cemetery, Bangor, www.mthopebgr.com; recorder data, findagrave.com, memorial #119564293, date only; *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*, 257–58, for all facts about Jacob and Mary Ann Goldthwaite except her death.

<sup>58</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org. Her father and place of birth are named in the death record.

<sup>59</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:349.

<sup>60</sup> Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org.

<sup>61</sup> *Descendants of Thomas Goldthwaite*, 258.

<sup>62</sup> *Hallowell VRs*, 3:65. Intentions were recorded at Augusta, 17 Jan. 1827, she of Sidney, Maine (*Augusta VRs*, 1:349), and at Sidney, 13 Jan. 1827, recorded as Thomas Goldthwait of Augusta (Ella M. Hewins, Jessica J. Haskell, and Mrs. Fred Lilly, "Vital Records of Sidney, Maine, Books I & II" (TS, n.d., at Maine State Library, Augusta), Book II:52.

<sup>63</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:310, wife of Thomas; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #99179655.

<sup>64</sup> Mary C. Goldthwaite, wife of Rev. Thomas," Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org.

<sup>65</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, recorded as Elizabeth Goldthwaite; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #38332252.

4 **SARAH<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was born in Stoughton, 29 October 1766,<sup>66</sup> and died 25 August 1858, aged 91 years, 9 months.<sup>67</sup> She married in Stoughton, 3 December 1786, **JESSE SMITH 2nd**,<sup>68</sup> who was born about 1764,<sup>69</sup> and died 20 November 1843, aged 79.<sup>70</sup> They are buried in Moose Hill Cemetery in Livermore Falls, Maine.

Jesse Smith was one of the original members of the Baptist Church in East Livermore in 1811. He was listed in Livermore censuses from 1810 to 1840 and Sarah was in East Livermore in 1850.<sup>71</sup>

Children of Jesse and Sarah<sup>6</sup> (Briggs) Smith, all but the first b. Livermore:<sup>72</sup>

- i **BETSEY SMITH**, b. Stoughton, 26 June 1787, d. Canton, Mass., 5 Dec. 1874, aged 97y 6m 14d;<sup>73</sup> m., as his 2nd wife, (int.) Stoughton, 18 June 1808, **ELIJAH RANDALL**,<sup>74</sup> b. Easton, Mass., 25 Nov. 1772, d. North Easton, 30 June 1850, son of Ephraim and Mary (Blake) Randall.<sup>75</sup> He had m. (1) Canton, 31 Jan. 1802, Bath-

<sup>66</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 114.

<sup>67</sup> “Wife of Dea. Jesse Smith,” gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95001583.

<sup>68</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 225. Intentions were recorded there 21 Oct. 1786 (*ibid.*, 210).

<sup>69</sup> Based on his age at death. Albert Scott Bryant, *Bryant Family Genealogy* (n.p., 1979), 259–60 (hereafter cited as Bryant, *Bryant Genealogy*), says he was b. Stoughton, 5 May 1750, son of Joseph and Experience (Talbot) Smith (cf. *Stoughton VRs*, 141, 79, for his b. and the m. 29 Oct. 1747 of Joseph Smith Jr. and Experience Talbot). The ages of the adult male in the 1810–40 censuses suggest a birth ca. 1759–60 at the earliest. If Bryant is correct, Sarah Briggs was Jesse Smith’s 2nd wife.

<sup>70</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95000287. A biographical note on Gerrie A. Proctor, who m. a granddaughter of Jesse Smith, says he d. in Mars Hill (Aroostook Co.), Maine, 18 Nov. 1843 (*Biographical Review: This Volume Contains Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Oxford and Franklin Counties, Maine* [Boston, 1897], 504 [hereafter cited as *Biographical Review of Oxford and Franklin Cos.*]).

<sup>71</sup> Mitchell and Daggett, *East Livermore and Livermore Register, 1903–4* (Kent Hill, Maine, 1903), 82; 1810–40 U.S. Censuses, Livermore, Oxford Co., Maine, pp. 424 (1810, recorded as Jesse Smyth), 70 (1820), 135 (1830), 165 (1840); 1850 U.S. Census, East Livermore, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 80B. Sarah may not have moved as East Livermore was set off from Livermore in 1843 and adopted the name Livermore Falls in 1929.

<sup>72</sup> All are recorded in Livermore VRs, 1:208. Bryant, *Bryant Genealogy*, 260, says Betsey was b. Livermore. Bryant also attributes another set of twins to Jesse and Sarah: Lemuel and Charles, b. 8 June 1806. The 1810 census shows a male 10–15 (prob. Jesse Jr.) and a male 0–9 (prob. John) living in Jesse’s household, while the 1820 census shows a male 18–25 (prob. Jesse Jr.) and a male 10–15 (prob. John). Purported sons Lemuel and Charles are neither recorded in Livermore nor found in Jesse’s household, so are not included here. There was a Lemuel Smith in Livermore who consistently reported Mass. as his birthplace (1850 U.S. Census, East Livermore, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 86B; 1860–80 U.S. Censuses, Jay, Franklin Co., Maine, p. 1045 [1860], 104A [1870], p. 466C). One researcher says Lemuel was b. Stoughton, son of Nathaniel and Anna (Holmes) Smith (gravestone photographs and recorder data, findagrave.com, memorial #95002847; *Stoughton VRs* do not have this birth); Anna Smith is bur. just to the left of Lemuel and his wife in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Livermore (gravestone photographs, findagrave.com, memorial #97808270).

<sup>73</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 266:235. Her parents, Jesse and Sally, are named.

<sup>74</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 271, he of Easton, she of Stoughton.

<sup>75</sup> William L. Chaffin, *A Biographical History of Robert Randall and His Descendants, 1608–1909* (New York, 1909), 64–5 (hereafter cited as Chaffin, *Robert Randall*); Gerald F. Shepard, *The*

- sheba Shepherd,<sup>76</sup> b. Stoughton, 9 July 1772,<sup>77</sup> d. Easton, d. 23 Sept. 1806, bur. Seth Pratt Cemetery, Easton, daughter of Jacob and Bathsheba (Puffer) Shepard.<sup>78</sup> Betsey and Elijah Randall are bur. in the Washington Street Cemetery, Easton.
- ii MACE SMITH, b. 22 July 1789,<sup>79</sup> d. 12 Feb. 1868, aged 79;<sup>80</sup> m. Fayette, 14 Feb. 1810, SARAH KNOWLES,<sup>81</sup> b. Fayette, 5 Dec. 1789, daughter of David Knowles,<sup>82</sup> d. 21 July 1858, aged 68y 12m,<sup>83</sup> Both are bur. in Moose Hill Cemetery.
- iii IRENE SMITH, twin, b. Nov. 1793, probably living with her parents in 1810.
- iv SALLY SMITH, twin, b. 8 Nov. 1793, living with her mother in 1850, aged 56.
- v POLLY SMITH, twin, b. 28 Feb. 1796, probably living with her parents in 1810.
- vi WILLIAM SMITH, twin, b. 28 Feb. 1796, not in his parents' household in 1810 if the two male youths that year were Jesse Jr. and John. No further information found.
- vii HANNAH SMITH, b. Maine, [calc.] 29 Aug. 1798,<sup>84</sup> d. 13 Dec. 1880, aged 81y 3m 15d,<sup>85</sup> m. (int.) Livermore, 20 Jan. 1821, ALPHEUS W. WHITTEMORE,<sup>86</sup> b. Jay, Maine, 2 Dec. 1799, son of Ebenezer and Nancy (Weston) Whittemore,<sup>87</sup> d. Leeds, Maine, 20 Nov. 1875, aged 77y 23d [*sic*].<sup>88</sup> Hannah and Alpheus Whittemore are bur. in Moose Hill Cemetery.
- viii JESSE SMITH Jr., b. Oct. 1800, d. 20 Oct. 1843, aged 43;<sup>89</sup> m. Corinna, Maine, 15 Aug. 1822, BETSEY ADAMS KNOWLES,<sup>90</sup> b. Fayette, 27 Nov. 1799, daughter of David Knowles,<sup>91</sup> d. 17 Aug. 1875, aged 75.<sup>92</sup> Jesse and Betsey are bur. in Moose Hill

*Shepard Families of New England*, 3 vols. (New Haven, Conn., 1971), 1:134 (death location); gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #73767056, with only the years of birth and death; but Chaffin records the full dates.

<sup>76</sup> Frederic Endicott, *The Record of Births, Marriages and Deaths and Intentions of Marriage, in the Town of Stoughton from 1727 to 1800, and in the Town of Canton from 1797 to 1845 . . .* (Canton, Mass., 1896), 217.

<sup>77</sup> Chaffin, *Robert Randall*, 64; *Shepard Families*, 1:134. Her parents are named, *ibid.*, 1:54.

<sup>78</sup> *Shepard Families*, 1:134; Chaffin, *Robert Randall*, 64.

<sup>79</sup> Death record of his daughter Mary (Smith) Pike, Salisbury, Mass., 19 Nov. 1874 (Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 265:271). Mary's death record names her parents as well as their birth locations.

<sup>80</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95002349.

<sup>81</sup> Fayette VRs, recorded as Macie Smith and Sally Knowles.

<sup>82</sup> Fayette VRs. The death record of her daughter Mary (Smith) Pike, Salisbury, Mass., 19 Nov. 1874 (Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 265:271), says she was b. Livermore.

<sup>83</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #119087733, "Wife of Mace Smith."

<sup>84</sup> Her birth entry in the Livermore VRs says b. Aug. 1798.

<sup>85</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95067461.

<sup>86</sup> Livermore VRs, Intentions and Marriages 1811–1842, n.p.

<sup>87</sup> Virginia Plaisted Moulton, *A History of Jay, Maine, from Its Settlement as Phips Canada* (Jay, Maine, 1995), 110, 724–25, citing Jay VRs.

<sup>88</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95068044.

<sup>89</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95065288, Moose Hill Cemetery.

<sup>90</sup> Angela M. Foster, comp., *Vital Records of Corinna, Maine, 1797–1893* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 17, 140 (hereafter cited as *Corinna VRs*). Jesse Smith and Betsey Knowles, both of Corinna, recorded intentions to marry in Corinna 20 July 1822 (*ibid.*, 16, 140).

<sup>91</sup> Fayette VRs, 1:34.

<sup>92</sup> "Wife of Jesse Smith Jr.," gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #95065425. Betsey's gravestone makes no mention of her 2nd husband.

- Cemetery. Betsey m. (2) as his 2nd wife, (int.) Fayette, 10 May 1851, Uriah A. Proctor of Canton,<sup>93</sup> b. Merrimac, N.H., 18 July 1791, d. Canton, Maine, 22 July 1862.<sup>94</sup>
- ix JOHN SMITH, b. 12 March 1804, apparently living in his father's household in 1810 and 1820. No further information found.

5 **WILLIAM**<sup>6</sup> **BRIGGS** was born in Stoughton, 23 March 1769,<sup>95</sup> and died in Augusta in May 1853, aged 84 years.<sup>96</sup> He married POLLY KING, their intentions recorded at Hallowell, 12 December 1793, certificate issued there 13 January 1794.<sup>97</sup> She was born between 1770 and 1775 and died after 12 November 1845 when she signed a deed and before 1850 when she was not listed in the census.<sup>98</sup>

William and his family living in Augusta from 1800 to 1830, although he apparently lived in Freedom, Maine, for a period in the 1820s; in 1840 they lived in Windsor, Maine; and in 1850 he lived on the poor farm in Augusta.<sup>99</sup>

Children of William<sup>6</sup> and Polly (King) Briggs:<sup>100</sup>

- i twin<sup>7</sup>, b. and d. in early April 1797.<sup>101</sup>
- ii twin, b. and d. in early April 1797.

<sup>93</sup> Fayette VRs, 1:132.

<sup>94</sup> *Biographical Review of Oxford and Franklin Cos.*, 504; Hiram Ellis and Clinton Ellis, "Records of Births and Deaths, Canton, Maine" (TS, n.d., at Maine State Library, Augusta), 146, and Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, for Uriah's death.

<sup>95</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 138.

<sup>96</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:246.

<sup>97</sup> *Hallowell VRs*, 2:52; Nash, *History of Augusta*, 565. Nash also mentions the certificate, which is not in *Hallowell VRs*. An unverified LDS member submission on familysearch.org says Polly was the daughter of John and Elizabeth (Town) King, but William A. Benedict and Hiram A. Tracy, *History of the Town of Sutton* (Worcester, Mass., 1878), 674, say that Polly died unmarried 21 Feb. 1861, which is confirmed in Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 149:297. William Briggs recorded intentions in Hallowell 7 July 1792 to marry Abigail Fuller of Pittston, Maine; this record is annotated "Fell through" (*Hallowell VRs*, 2:52). Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 126(1972):211, and the Genealogical Column of the *Boston Transcript*, 6 Oct. 1924, no. 2150, mention only the marriage [*sic*] to Abigail Fuller.

<sup>98</sup> Census records [note 99] bracket her birth between 1770 and 1775. In 1840 his household consisted of himself, one adult female aged 60–69, and a male aged 15–19. Mary relinquished her dower rights, 12 Nov. 1845, when William sold property (Kennebec Co. Deed 146:371).

<sup>99</sup> 1800–30 U.S. Censuses, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, pp. 293 (1800), 657 (1810), 571 (1820), 88 (1830); 1840 U.S. Census, Windsor, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 340; 1850 U.S. Census, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 36A. William's residency in Freedom in the 1820s is seen in Kennebec Co. Deeds, 61:419 and 85:104, among others. William was also described as a resident of Freedom when he acted as administrator for the estate of his son-in-law Simon Cony.

<sup>100</sup> There were no minors in the household in 1800, but daughter Mary and son George are present in 1810 and 1820. In 1830 the household included William and Mary, a female aged 20–30, and a boy aged 5–10 (most likely widowed daughter Mary Cony and her son William Cony).

<sup>101</sup> Robert R. McCausland and Cynthia MacAlman McCausland, eds., *The Diary of Martha Ballard, 1785–1812* (Camden, Maine, 1992), 406–7. On 1 April 1797, Martha wrote: "I was Calld a' 5h morn to See the wife of Wil<sup>m</sup> Briggs, who was Exercised with pains, I made use of means which Seemd to relieve her and by their request I tarried all night." On 15 April 1797, Martha wrote: "was informd . . . that mrs<sup>s</sup> Briggs has been Del[ivere]d of twins sinc I left her and that they are Dead."

- iii MARY BRIGGS, b. ca. June 1802, d. Malden, Mass., 2 Sept. 1874, aged 72y 3m;<sup>102</sup> m. (1) Augusta, 20 May 1821, OTIS CONY,<sup>103</sup> b. ca. 1793, son of John and Susannah (Cummings) Cony,<sup>104</sup> d. as a resident of Freedom, Maine, 15 Dec. 1826, aged 33, and bur. in Malden, Mass.;<sup>105</sup> m. (2) as his 2nd wife, Augusta, 17 Oct. 1838, DANIEL PAGE,<sup>106</sup> b. 22 March 1794, son of Ezekiel and Betsey (Roby) Page,<sup>107</sup> d. 5 July 1845.<sup>108</sup> Daniel had m. (1) Edith Springer.<sup>109</sup> On 6 Aug. 1827, the administration of the estate of Otis Cony, late of Freeman, yeoman, was granted to Mary's father, William Briggs, also of Freeman, yeoman.<sup>110</sup> On 4 Feb. 1829, William Briggs, now of Augusta, sold to Mary Cony of Augusta, widow woman, about 18 acres on the west side of the Kennebec River and on the east side of the county road leading from Augusta to Waterville.<sup>111</sup> Mary and Otis Cony had a son William H. Cony, b. ca. 1822, who d. Malden, Mass., 3 Nov. 1853, aged 31.<sup>112</sup> In 1850 Mary, age 48, was living in William's household in Malden; in 1870 she was living there with her grandson George Cony, age 18, she age 68.<sup>113</sup>
- iv GEORGE ULMER BRIGGS, b. Augusta, [calc.] 20 Sept. 1809, d. China, Maine, 28 Sept. 1895, aged 86y 8d;<sup>114</sup> m. (1) Augusta, 16 May 1830, SOPHRONIA R. WOODWARD,<sup>115</sup> b. there 17 Aug. 1806, daughter of Lemuel and Abigail (Reed) Woodward, d. there 23 Dec. 1831, aged 25, and bur. there in King Cemetery;<sup>116</sup> m. (2) (cert.) Wiscasset, 25 May 1838, EMELINE McKENNEY of Wiscasset, he of

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<sup>102</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 266:143. Mary's death record gives her birthplace as Augusta, but errs in naming her parents as "George" and Mary Briggs. There was no head of household named George Briggs in Maine censuses from 1790 through 1810; "George" was possibly a confusion with Mary's brother George. Mary's only survivor was her grandson George Cony, who would have had no first-hand knowledge of her parents.

<sup>103</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:215.

<sup>104</sup> Recorder data at findagrave.com, memorial #58581618.

<sup>105</sup> Waldo Co., Maine, Probate Records, 2:3; Deloraine P. Corey, *Births, Marriages and Deaths in the Town of Malden, Massachusetts, 1649–1850* (Cambridge, Mass., 1903), 337.

<sup>106</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:262.

<sup>107</sup> James W. North, *The History of Augusta from the Earliest Settlement to the Present Time* (Augusta, 1870), 919–20 (hereafter cited as North, *History of Augusta*).

<sup>108</sup> Daniel Page estate, Kennebec Co. Probate Records, P-1-R.

<sup>109</sup> North, *History of Augusta*, 920.

<sup>110</sup> Waldo Co. Probate Records, 2:3.

<sup>111</sup> Kennebec Co. Deeds, 65:19.

<sup>112</sup> Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 76:94. The record gives his birthplace as Augusta, but does not name his parents. However, Mary's probate record names her "grandson" George H. Coney as her administrator and "only heir at law." George's birth record in Malden in 1851 names his father as William Coney (Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 64:117).

<sup>113</sup> Wm Coney household, 1850 U.S. Census, Malden, Middlesex Co., Mass., p. 327; Mary Page household, 1870 U.S. Census, Malden, Middlesex Co., Mass., p. 374.

<sup>114</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com. His parents and birthplace given, although his mother is identified as Mary "Cummins."

<sup>115</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:212, his name recorded as John N. Briggs.

<sup>116</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:161 (birth; her parents named); *ibid.*, 2:246 (death); gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #115249249, naming her husband. Sophronia's parents m. Augusta, 10 May 1804 (*Augusta VRs*, 2:212).

Windsor,<sup>117</sup> b. Woolwich, Maine, 10 Sept. 1813, d. 16 June 1898, aged 89y 4m 6d, daughter of John and Azubah (Walker) McKenney.<sup>118</sup> George and Emeline are bur. in the Village Cemetery, China.<sup>119</sup>

6 **EZRA<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was baptized at the First Church of Stoughton, 21 July 1771,<sup>120</sup> and died in Winthrop, Maine, 17 February 1844, aged 72.<sup>121</sup> He married in Winthrop, 29 June 1792, **MARY WADSWORTH**,<sup>122</sup> born Stoughton, 14 February 1768, daughter of John and Jerusha (White) Wadsworth.<sup>123</sup> She died in Winthrop, 11 March 1848, aged 80.<sup>124</sup>

Ezra Briggs moved to Winthrop from Massachusetts in 1791 and later to Hallowell. He returned to Winthrop in 1801 and was listed there from 1810 to 1830.<sup>125</sup> Ezra and Mary are buried in the Quaker Cemetery, Manchester.

Children of Ezra<sup>6</sup> and Mary (Wadsworth) Briggs, b. Winthrop:<sup>126</sup>

<sup>117</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Wiscasset, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2011), 355.

<sup>118</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Woolwich, Maine* (Maine Genealogical Society, 2015), 120; Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; recorder data, findagrave.com, memorials #126579745 and 126579846. Her death record names her parents and says that she was b. Wiscasset, which is adjacent to Woolwich; their son Charles's death record in 1901 also says Emeline was b. Wiscasset (Charles Q. Briggs, d. China, Maine, 20 April 1901, Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com). Emeline's parents m. Woolwich 17 Nov. 1791 (Groves, *Woolwich VRs*, op. cit., 476).

<sup>119</sup> Recorder data, findagrave.com, memorials #126579745 and 126579846.

<sup>120</sup> Capen, "Stoughton Church Records," NEHGR 128(1974):274. Everett S. Stackpole, *History of Winthrop, Maine, with Genealogical Notes* (Auburn, Maine, 1925), 301 (hereafter cited as Stackpole, *History of Winthrop*); Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 126 [1972]:33, perhaps relying on Stackpole, say Ezra Briggs of Winthrop was the son of Samuel<sup>5</sup> Briggs. Henry D. Kingsbury and Simeon L. Deyo, eds., *Illustrated History of Kennebec County, Maine*, 2 vols. (New York, 1892), 2:855, however, say Moses Briggs of Winthrop was a son of Ezra<sup>6</sup> Briggs (#6) and a grandson of William<sup>5</sup> Briggs (#1). Ezra<sup>6</sup> Briggs was alive in 1819 when named in William's will and there is only one Ezra Briggs listed in Maine in the 1810–30 censuses. The names of five of Ezra's children are the same as or similar to the names of five of William<sup>5</sup> Briggs's children. The authors conclude that Ezra Briggs of Winthrop was the son of William.

<sup>121</sup> Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org; "Deaths," *Maine Cultivator and Hallowell, Maine, Gazette*, 9 March 1844, giving place of death but no date: "Mr. Briggs was a member of the Society of Friends, was a kind father, a worthy citizen, and a useful man."

<sup>122</sup> Maine Marriages, 1771–1907, familysearch.org, "Polly" Wadsworth.

<sup>123</sup> *Stoughton VRs*, 130, "Mary Wardsworth." Mary's parents m. Stoughton, 18 Oct. 1759 (*Stoughton VRs*, 236). See also Mary Jane (Fry) Wadsworth, *The Wadsworth Family in America* (Utica, Kentucky, 1985), 279–80.

<sup>124</sup> Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org; "Deaths," *Maine Cultivator and Hallowell, Maine, Gazette*, 1 April 1848. The newspaper notice gives the place of death, but says she d. 10 March 1848.

<sup>125</sup> Stackpole, *History of Winthrop*, 301; 1810–30 U.S. Censuses, Winthrop, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 896 (1810), 632 (1820, indexed as "Ezra Buggs" on ancestry.com), 55 (1830).

<sup>126</sup> Winthrop, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1772–1890 [FHL film #12,299]; Henry Sewall Webster, "Records of the Society of Friends at Vassalborough, Me.," NEHGR 69(1915):74. Webster says Irena ("Irene") was b. Winthrop and children ii–v were b. Hallowell.

- i IRENA<sup>7</sup> BRIGGS, b. 15 Nov. 1793, d. 19 Feb. 1880, aged 86y 3m 4d;<sup>127</sup> m. Winthrop, 1 Jan. 1815,<sup>128</sup> DANIEL WINSLOW, b. Falmouth, Maine, 31 March 1789, son of William and Phebe (Pope) Winslow,<sup>129</sup> d. 17 Oct. 1875, aged 85y 6m 16d.<sup>130</sup> Irena and Daniel Winslow are bur. in the Village Cemetery, St. Albans, Maine.
- ii HANNAH BRIGGS, b. 9 Jan. 1796, d. Winthrop, 6 June 1873;<sup>131</sup> m. 25 Nov. 1825, JOSEPH WINSLOW, b. Falmouth, 2 Nov. 1784, son of William and Phebe (Pope) Winslow,<sup>132</sup> d. 7 June 1870.<sup>133</sup> Hannah and Joseph Winslow are bur. in Lakeview Cemetery, Winthrop.
- iii SUSANNA BRIGGS, b. 4 Dec. 1797, d. 17 Sept. 1800.<sup>134</sup>
- iv ENOS BRIGGS, b. 17 Nov. 1799, d. 21 Sept. 1800.<sup>135</sup>
- v EUNICE BRIGGS, b. 5 Aug. 1801, d. before 1829;<sup>136</sup> m. Winthrop, 6 June 1822, WILLIAM FARR,<sup>137</sup> d. 10 July 1880, son of Noah Farr.<sup>138</sup>
- vi EZRA BRIGGS, b. 7 May 1803, d. 4 Aug. 1882, aged 79y 2m 27d;<sup>139</sup> m. Winthrop (as Ezra Briggs Jr.), 22 May 1828,<sup>140</sup> PHEBE GODDARD, b. Litchfield, Maine, 27 May 1806, daughter of Elijah and Sarah (Tabor) Goddard.<sup>141</sup> d. 15 April 1885, aged 78y 10m 18d.<sup>142</sup> Ezra and Phebe are bur. in Mount Clark Cemetery, Central Co., Iowa.
- vii MARY BRIGGS, b. 30 June 1805, d. Fort Fairfield, 5 May 1874, aged 68y 11m;<sup>143</sup> m. March 1818, JOSEPH WINGATE HAINES,<sup>144</sup> b. Hallowell, 21 July 1805, son

<sup>127</sup> Gravestone, Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org.

<sup>128</sup> Winthrop, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1772–1890 [FHL film #12,299]. David Parsons Holton and Frances K. Holton, *Winslow Memorial* . . . , 2 vols. (New York, 1888), 2:948 (hereafter cited as Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*), say they m. 25 Jan. 1815.

<sup>129</sup> Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*, 2:948.

<sup>130</sup> Nathan Hale Cemetery Collection, ca. 1780–1980, familysearch.org.

<sup>131</sup> Death location from Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*, 2:963; birth and death dates from gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #83029706).

<sup>132</sup> Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*, 2:948, for both his birth and marriage.

<sup>133</sup> Death location from Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*, 2:963; birth and death dates from gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #83029682.

<sup>134</sup> Webster, “Friends’ Records at Vassalborough, Maine,” NEHGR 69(1915):74.

<sup>135</sup> Webster, “Friends’ Records at Vassalborough, Maine,” NEHGR 69(1915):74.

<sup>136</sup> Stackpole, *History of Winthrop*, 301.

<sup>137</sup> Winthrop, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1772–1890 [FHL film #12,299].

<sup>138</sup> Stackpole, *History of Winthrop*, 301.

<sup>139</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #73353455, inscribed “BORN 5th Mo. 7th Da. 1803 / DIED 8th Mo. 4th Da. 1882.”

<sup>140</sup> Maine Society of Friends, Litchfield Monthly Meeting Records, 1768–1874 (ms, Maine Historical Society, Portland), p. 138; Winthrop, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1772–1890 [FHL film #12,299]. The marriage is also recorded without a date in *Hallowell VRs*, 2:52. The Society of Friends record names their parents.

<sup>141</sup> Marlene A. Groves, comp., *Vital Records of Litchfield, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2010), 149, 197; Oliver Barrett Clason, *History of Litchfield* . . . (Augusta, Maine, 1897), 132 (hereafter cited as Clason, *History of Litchfield*), for Phebe’s mother’s surname.

<sup>142</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #73354158, inscribed “BORN 5th Mo. 27th Da. 1806 / DIED 4th Mo. 15th Da. 1885.”

<sup>143</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com.

<sup>144</sup> William Richard Cutter, *New England Families, Genealogical and Memorial*, 3rd series, 4 vols. (New York, 1915), 4:2168 (hereafter cited as Cutter, *New England Families*).



- of Daniel and Elizabeth/Betsey (Wingate) Haines,<sup>145</sup> d. Fort Fairfield, 3 Jan. 1876, aged 70y 6m.<sup>146</sup> Both are bur. in Maple Grove Cemetery, Fort Fairfield.<sup>147</sup>
- viii JOSEPH BRIGGS, b. 28 April 1807, d. 20 Jan. 1858, aged 50y 9m, bur. in Oak Grove Cemetery, Vassalboro;<sup>148</sup> m. by 1845, HANNAH ROBINSON,<sup>149</sup> b. Dover, N.H., 29 April 1825, daughter of Timothy and Elizabeth (Tabor) Robinson,<sup>150</sup> d. Riverside, Calif., 13 June 1902, aged 77y 1m 15d, bur. there in Olivewood Cemetery.<sup>151</sup> She m. (2), as Hannah R. Briggs, China, 2 Dec. 1868, Benjamin R. Jepson as his 2nd wife,<sup>152</sup> b. there 24 July 1809, son of John and Lydia (Runnels) Jepson,<sup>153</sup> d. China, 4 Dec. 1882.<sup>154</sup>
- ix PHILENIA BRIGGS, b. 21 April 1809, d. 14 Jan. 1887, aged 77y 8m 23d;<sup>155</sup> m. 21 Nov. 1834, JACOB BAILEY ROBBINS,<sup>156</sup> b. Phillips, Maine, 16 Jan. 1814, son of Aquilla R. and Sarah (Bailey) Robbins,<sup>157</sup> d. Winthrop, 21 Sept. 1899, aged 85y 8m 5d.<sup>158</sup> Philenia and Jacob Robbins are bur. in Lakeview Cemetery, Winthrop.
- x SARAH BRIGGS, b. 24 Aug. 1811, d. Des Moines, Iowa, 23 April 1892;<sup>159</sup> m. Winthrop, 21 Nov. 1834, ZENAS GIFFORD,<sup>160</sup> b. Fairfield, Maine, 13 July 1808, d. 24 Feb. 1876, aged 76y 6m 6d,<sup>161</sup> son of Benjamin and Hannah (Swift) Gifford.

<sup>145</sup> *Hallowell VRs*, 1:129, "Hains." Joseph's parents m. Hallowell, 10 Oct. 1804 (*ibid.*, 3:88).

<sup>146</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, *ancestry.com*, "J. Wingate Haines." Cutter, *New England Families*, 4:2168, says he d. Andover, New Brunswick, 30 Jan. 1876.

<sup>147</sup> Recorder data, *findagrave.com*, memorials #99211882 and 88211851.

<sup>148</sup> Gravestone photograph, *findagrave.com*, memorial #118088147.

<sup>149</sup> The eldest child listed with them in 1850 was aged 5 (1850 U.S. Census, Winthrop, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 38B), although her obituary says she was 18 when they married, which would have been in 1847–1848 ("Obituary, Mrs. Hannah Jepson," *Riverside Daily Press* [Riverside, Calif.], 16 June 1902).

<sup>150</sup> New Hampshire Births and Christenings, 1714–1904, *familysearch.org*. Hannah's surname and her parents' names are also given in her 2nd marriage record.

<sup>151</sup> "Death Record," *Riverside Daily Press* [Riverside, Calif.], 13 June 1902; "Obituary, Mrs. Hannah Jepson," *ibid.*, 16 June 1902; gravestone photograph, *findagrave.com*, memorial #20627673.

<sup>152</sup> Maine Marriage Records, 1713–1937, *ancestry.com*; Henry Sewall Webster, "Records of the Society of Friends at Harlem (China), Me.," NEHGR 70(1916):336, naming their parents. The marriage record says the wedding was done by the Society of Friends.

<sup>153</sup> Webster, "Friends' Records at Harlem (China), Me.," NEHGR 70(1916):270, 322; his parents m. 23 Oct 1806 per "Records of the Society of Friends at Vassalborough, Me.," NEHGR 70(1916):320. His first wife was Patience Meader, who d. 2 March 1866 (*ibid.*)

<sup>154</sup> Recorder data, *findagrave.com*, memorial #84453164.

<sup>155</sup> Gravestone photograph, *findagrave.com*, memorial #83308383, "wife of Jacob B. Robbins."

<sup>156</sup> Stackpole, *History of Winthrop*, 302.

<sup>157</sup> Phillips, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1813–1891 [FHL film #11,744], naming his parents; mother's maiden name from his death record. His death record says he was b. Litchfield.

<sup>158</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, *ancestry.com*, naming his parents and place of birth; gravestone photograph, *findagrave.com*, memorial #83308309.

<sup>159</sup> *Christian Worker* [Chicago, Ill.] 22, no. 18, 5 May 1892. Her place of birth, birth date, and her late husband's name are also given.

<sup>160</sup> Hannibal and Barlow, "Sons of John Briggs," NEHGR 126(1972):33.

<sup>161</sup> Records of the Lycoming, Iowa, Monthly Meeting, Hinshaw Index to Selected Quaker Records, 1680–1949, *ancestry.com*; gravestone inscription [note 162]. Unverified genealogical comments in the gravestone record state his date of birth and name his parents.

Zenas, and probably Sarah also, are bur. in Chester Cemetery, Sully, Jasper Co., Iowa.<sup>162</sup>

- xi MOSES BRIGGS, b. 28 Dec. 1813, d. Winthrop, 31 March 1910, aged 96y 3m 3d;<sup>163</sup> m. (1) (int.) Litchfield, 11 Nov. 1838, LUCY HODGKINS BURR, b. Litchfield, 15 July 1819, daughter of David C. and Catherine (Fuller) Burr of Litchfield;<sup>164</sup> m. (2) China, 24 Jan. 1844, LAVINIA WINSLOW,<sup>165</sup> b. Falmouth, 16 Oct. 1823,<sup>166</sup> daughter of Elijah and Dorcas (Jones) (Rogers) Winslow,<sup>167</sup> d. 21 Jan. 1892, aged 68y 3m 5d.<sup>[168]</sup> Moses and Lavinia are bur. in Lakeview Cemetery, Winthrop.

7 **ENOS<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was baptized at the First Church of Stoughton, 24 October 1772,<sup>169</sup> and died in Freedom, Maine, 15 June 1859, aged 84. He apparently burned to death in his house, and perhaps his wife also died of injuries suffered in the fire.<sup>170</sup> Enos married, 11 January 1800, ABIGAIL MELVIN, certificate issued at Clinton, Maine,<sup>171</sup> born in Gorham, Maine, 25 March 1776, daughter of John and Abigail (Sawyer) Melvin,<sup>172</sup> and died in Freedom in October 1859, aged 87.<sup>173</sup>

Enos and Abigail moved to Clinton in 1800. He was in Unity, Maine, in 1810 and in Freedom from 1820 to 1850 (Unity and Freedom abut one another along the western boundary of Waldo County and are 10 to 15 miles southeast of Clinton).<sup>174</sup>

<sup>162</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #52048313. Sarah's death notice says she was buried next to her late husband.

<sup>163</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #83075085. The death record names his parents.

<sup>164</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Litchfield, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2010), 233 (intention), 148 (birth); Clason, *History of Litchfield*, 74–75.

<sup>165</sup> Webster, "Friends' Records at Harlem (China), Me.," NEHGR 70(1916):329.

<sup>166</sup> Webster, "Friends' Records at Harlem (China), Me.," NEHGR 70(1916):329.

<sup>167</sup> Holton and Holton, *Winslow Memorial*, 2:967–68.

<sup>168</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #83075053. The death record names her parents and says she was b. China.

<sup>169</sup> Capen, "Stoughton Church Records," NEHGR 128(1974):274. His place of birth is also given in Gray, "Families in Clinton, Maine," NEHGR 111(1957):112. His age at death implies a birth about 1775. The 1830 and 1840 censuses suggest a birth between 1771 and 1780.

<sup>170</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Knox and Freedom, Waldo Counties, Maine, p. 1; James R. Taber, *History of Unity, Maine* (Augusta, Maine, 1916), 143.

<sup>171</sup> Intentions were recorded at Augusta (*Augusta VRs*, 1:215) and at Clinton ("Enoc Briggs") 21 Dec. 1799 (Carleton E. Fisher, ed., *Vital Records of Clinton, Maine, to the Year 1892* [n.p., 1967], 146, [hereafter recorded as *Clinton VRs*]).

<sup>172</sup> "Abigail, --- 25, 1776," Marquis F. King, *Publishments, Marriages, Births and Deaths from the Earlier Records of Gorham, Maine*, 2nd ed. (Camden, Maine, 1991), 147; her parents m. Jan. 1773 per *ibid.*, 89. The 1799 Clinton census says she was b. "Gorhamtown," 25 March 1777 (Gray, "Families in Clinton, Maine," NEHGR 111[1957]:112). Abigail's parents are buried in Pond Cemetery, Unity (gravestone photographs, findagrave.com, memorials #28755557 and 28797911).

<sup>173</sup> 1860 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Knox and Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 1.

<sup>174</sup> 1810 U.S. Census, Freedom, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 727; 1830–50 U.S. Censuses, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, pp. 487 (1830, indexed "Enos Bires" on ancestry.com), 199 (1840), 269A (1850).

Enos and Abigail's early married life must have been troubled, as in 1803 he placed a newspaper advertisement, saying,

Whereas Abigail my wife, has behaved in an unbecoming manner, and has left my bed and board; therefore all persons are forbid harboring her or trusting her on my account as I will not pay one cent of her contracting after this date.<sup>175</sup>

Enos Briggs served as a private at Wiscasset in Lieut. Benjamin J. Radcliffe's company, Lieut. Col. Herbert Moore's regiment of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia from 12 to 27 September 1814.<sup>176</sup>

By his will dated 19 September 1856 and proved at Belfast, Maine, 8 May 1860, Enos Briggs of Freedom left his entire estate to his son Enos Briggs Jr., who was named executor and was instructed to take care of his mother, Abigail Briggs; no part of the estate was to go to Enos's sons Samuel, Benjamin, or William, or to his daughters Mary or Abigail, or to any of their heirs. The probate petition stated that Enos Jr., William, and Samuel were the only surviving sons living in Maine.<sup>177</sup>

Children of Enos<sup>6</sup> and Abigail (Melvin) Briggs:<sup>178</sup>

- i ALBA/ABIGAIL/ABBA<sup>7</sup> BRIGGS, b. Clinton, 18 June 1800;<sup>179</sup> living in 1856 when her father wrote his will.
- ii SAMUEL BRIGGS, b. ca. 1802, d. Freedom, 23 Jan. 1886, aged 87<sup>180</sup>; m. Freedom, 17 Dec. 1837, BETSEY (BARLOW) DANFORD,<sup>181</sup> b. there 4 June 1799, daughter of Nathan and Fannie (Wiggin) Barlow,<sup>182</sup> d. there 4 July 1865, aged 65y 11m.<sup>183</sup>

<sup>175</sup> *Kennebec Gazette (Augusta, Maine)*, 3 and 17 Nov. 1803.

<sup>176</sup> *Records of the Massachusetts Volunteer Militia Called Out by the Governor of Massachusetts to Suppress a Threatened Invasion During the War of 1812–14* (Boston, 1913), 240. The regimental officers were predominantly from Kennebec Co. (*ibid.*, 236).

<sup>177</sup> Waldo Co. Probate Records, 42:526 (will), 531 (petition and grant), 35:75 (probate of will).

<sup>178</sup> Gray, "Families in Clinton, Maine," NEHGR 111(1957):112, names Abba, daughter of "Enas" and Abigail Briggs. Samuel, William Benjamin, Mary, and Enos Jr. are named in Enos's 1856 will. The 1810 and 1820 censuses tally four sons b. 1800–10, and the 1830 census identifies a 5th son b. 1815–20 (probably Enos Briggs Jr.). The birth years of Samuel, William, and Benjamin are estimated from the 1850–80 censuses. John is included as one of Enos's sons because he was listed at Freedom in 1840 and he and his widow m. in Freedom in 1829 and 1859. His birth year is estimated to fill the largest gap in the birth years of the other three sons.

<sup>179</sup> *Clinton VRs*, 23, recorded as "Alba," dau. of Enos, b. Stoughton, and Abigail; called Abigail in her father's will.

<sup>180</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 82.

<sup>181</sup> Ellen J. O'Flaherty, "Nathan Barlow (1776–1816) of Freedom, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 30(2008):99–114, at 109 (hereafter cited as O'Flaherty, "Nathan Barlow of Freedom"); Elizabeth M. Mosher and Isabel Morse Maresh, *Marriage Records of Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1990), 23 (hereafter cited as *Marriage Returns of Waldo County*).

<sup>182</sup> O'Flaherty, "Nathan Barlow of Freedom," 107, citing Franklin C. Thompson, ed., "Wiggin Genealogy: A Combination of Manuscripts in the Library of the New Hampshire Historical Society" (NEHGS, ms G WIG 1265—NEHGS attributes this work to Lincoln Alexander), 45 (hereafter cited as Thompson, "Wiggin Genealogy").

<sup>183</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 82. Although her parents are not named, her middle name is given as Barlow.

- Betsy had m. (1) Freedom, 21 Nov. 1816,<sup>184</sup> Nathaniel Danford, b. Frankfort, Maine, 9 May 1791, son of Philip and Mary (Tibbetts) Danford.<sup>185</sup>
- iii JOHN BRIGGS, b. ca. 1804–5, d. after the 1840 census of Freedom, when he was listed as a head of household, and before 24 Oct. 1840 when Anson Barlow of Palermo, Maine, was appointed administrator of his estate;<sup>186</sup> m. Freedom, 1 April 1830, MARY BARLOW,<sup>187</sup> b. there 26 Feb. 1806, daughter of Nathan and Fannie (Wiggin) Barlow,<sup>188</sup> d. (recorded as Mary Royal) Brooks, Maine, 17 April 1895, aged 89y 1m 23d.<sup>189</sup> Mary m. (2) (as Mary Briggs) Freedom, 30 Oct. 1850, Mitchell Royal,<sup>190</sup> b. 9 Aug. 1791,<sup>191</sup> d. there 9 Sept. 1878.<sup>192</sup>
- iv WILLIAM BRIGGS, b. Unity, ca. 1806–7, d. probably between 1870 and 1880; m. Prospect, Maine, 26 Feb. 1835, MARGARET STIMPSON,<sup>193</sup> b. Rockland or Vinalhaven, Maine, [calc.] 12 Sept. 1817, daughter of Jeremiah and Patience (Merrythew) Stimpson, d. Rockland, 29 Aug. 1903, aged 85y 11m 17d.<sup>194</sup>
- v BENJAMIN BRIGGS, b. ca. 1810; m. Waldo Co., Maine, 10 March 1836, MEHITABLE SYLVESTER,<sup>195</sup> b. Maine ca. 1816,<sup>196</sup> d. Little Falls, Minn., 27 April 1888, daughter of Asa and Sarah (Worthen) Sylvester.<sup>197</sup> Benjamin is not listed

<sup>184</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 42, both of Freedom.

<sup>185</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Unity, Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1995), 120; see Philip Danford or Flanders family, submitted by James B. Vickery, in Ruth Gray and Alice MacDonald Long, eds., *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 2* (Camden, Maine, 1990), 69.

<sup>186</sup> 1840 U.S. Census, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 199; Waldo Co. Probate Records, 2:310.

<sup>187</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 47. Intentions were published there 13 March 1830, both of Freedom (*ibid.*, 32). Maine Marriage Records, 1737–1937, image at ancestry.com, citing “Clerk’s Book No. 1,” say 5 April 1829.

<sup>188</sup> O’Flaherty, “Nathan Barlow of Freedom,” 107, citing Thompson, “Wiggin Genealogy,” 45.

<sup>189</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, her mother called “Tabbie” Wiggin.

<sup>190</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 123. Intentions were published in Monroe, Maine, 5 Oct. 1850 (Elizabeth M. Mosher, *Vital Records of Monroe, Waldo County, Maine, Prior to 1892* [Camden, Maine, 1891], 207 [hereafter cited as *Monroe VRs*]).

<sup>191</sup> *Monroe VRs*, 35, 97, recorded with the births of his first wife and children.

<sup>192</sup> *Monroe VRs*, 97.

<sup>193</sup> Elizabeth M. Mosher, comp., *Vital Records of Prospect, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockport, Maine, 1998), 227 (recorded as Margaret A. Stimson).

<sup>194</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, naming her late husband William Briggs, her place of birth and her parents. Her death record says she was b. Rockland, but her son Sumner’s death record (Sumner A. Briggs, d. Washington, Maine, 27 Sept. 1897, Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com) says she was b. Vinalhaven.

<sup>195</sup> *Marriage Returns of Waldo County*, 17; m. (int.) Freedom, 19 Feb. 1838 (*Freedom VRs*, 36).

<sup>196</sup> She was 37 in 1850 and 46 in 1860 (1850 U.S. Census, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 274A–B; 1860 U.S. Census, Watab, Benton Co., Minn., p. 88).

<sup>197</sup> Genealogical notes, memorial #60047249, findagrave.com. The record does not identify a cemetery. Asa Sylvester was listed in Freedom, 1820–1840 (1820 U.S. Census, Freedom, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 683; 1830–40 U.S. Censuses, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, pp. 484 [1830], 203 [1840]) and, having d. 16 July 1843, was bur. there in Hutchins Cemetery (Maine Death Record, 1617–1922; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #19353672).

with Mehitable Briggs in 1865, 1870, and 1880,<sup>198</sup> but seems to have been alive in 1880 and 1885, when he was listed at Little Falls.<sup>199</sup>

- vi MARY JANE BRIGGS, b. ca. 1815, d. after 1860;<sup>200</sup> m. Freedom, 28 Jan. 1838,<sup>201</sup> SIMON SYLVESTER, b. in Maine, ca. 1811, d. probably between 1850, when he was living in Bangor, and 1860, when his wife and children were in Biddeford.<sup>202</sup>
- vii ENOS BRIGGS, b. ca. 1818–27, d. Jan. 1863, aged about 45.<sup>203</sup> On 23 Oct. 1850 land in Freedom was seized from Enos Briggs Jr. and set off to William Hussey for unpaid debts. On 21 March 1851 he declined to be present for the appraisal of the land.<sup>204</sup> In a petition concerning their father's estate, dated 8 May 1860, he and his brothers Samuel and William stated that they were the only surviving sons who lived in Maine.<sup>205</sup> He died by locking himself in his house and setting it on fire.<sup>206</sup>

8 **JOHN<sup>6</sup> BRIGGS** was baptized at the First Church of Stoughton, 5 March 1780,<sup>207</sup> and died at Corinna, Maine, 1 November 1870, aged 86 years, 3 months, 17 days.<sup>208</sup> He married in Augusta, 25 March 1806, BETSEY CUMMINGS.<sup>209</sup> She was born [calc.] 14 July 1782, and was baptized at Sharon, Massachusetts, 6 October 1782, daughter of Nathaniel and his second wife, Elizabeth (White) Cummings.<sup>210</sup> She died, probably at Corinna, 26 July 1867, aged 84 years, 11 months, 12 days.<sup>211</sup> John Briggs was a yeoman of Augusta on 10 May 1811, when he purchased from [his father-in-law] Nathaniel “Comings” of Augusta twelve acres adjoining

<sup>198</sup> 1870–80 U.S. Censuses, Little Falls, Morrison Co., Minn., p. 7 (1870), E.D. 78, p. 378B (1880); 1865 Minn. State Census, Crow Wing, Crow Wing Co.

<sup>199</sup> 1880 U.S. Census, Little Falls, Morrison Co., Minn., E.D. 78, p. 375C; 1885 Minn. State Census, Little Falls, p. 214. In both censuses he was said to have been born in Maine and was aged 76 in 1880 and 81 in 1885.

<sup>200</sup> Simon and Mary Sylvester and five children were listed in Bangor in 1850; Mary and the four oldest children were listed in Biddeford, Maine, in 1860. In 1850 Mary was aged 35 and 44 in 1860 (1850 U.S. Census, Bangor, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 114B; 1860 U.S. Census, Biddeford, York Co., Maine, p. 29).

<sup>201</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 50, “Siman Silvester.”

<sup>202</sup> See note 200.

<sup>203</sup> He was said to be 28 in 1850 and 33 in 1860 (1850–60 U.S. Censuses, Freedom, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 269A [1850], 34 [1860]), and about 45 in the newspaper notice of his death; “More Results of Intemperance,” *Bangor Daily Whig and Courier*, 15 Jan. 1863.

<sup>204</sup> Maine Supreme Judicial Court, *Maine Reports* 46(Hallowell, Maine, 1861):467–69.

<sup>205</sup> Probate petition, estate of Enos Briggs [note 177].

<sup>206</sup> See note 203.

<sup>207</sup> His age at death suggests a birth about 15 July 1784.

<sup>208</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #92740110.

<sup>209</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:215.

<sup>210</sup> *Thomas W. Baldwin, comp., Vital Records of Sharon, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston, 1909), 21; Nathaniel and Elizabeth's marriage on 27 April 1775, he of Stoughtonham [later Sharon], recorded in Robert Brand Hanson, *Vital Records of Dedham, Massachusetts, 1635-1845*, rev. and expanded ed. (Rockport, Maine, 1997), 245.

<sup>211</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #92740110. The 1850 census says she was b. Maine and the 1860 census says she was b. Mass.

Nathaniel's homestead on lot #7 in Augusta.<sup>212</sup> Soon afterwards John was living in Sidney, where Betsey's brother, Samuel Cummings 2d, and brother-in-law, John Dutton, also lived.<sup>213</sup> John Briggs and his family came to Corinna reportedly in 1816 [but probably slightly later] and were listed there from 1820 to 1870.<sup>214</sup> The will of John Briggs of Corinna, dated 1 August 1870, names daughters Sophia E. Mower of Corinna, Mary Ann Blaisdell of Corinna, and Harriet J. Stinchfield of St. Albans; the children of daughter Nancy D. Emery deceased; and sons John A. of Corinna, Thomas J. of Corinna, William C. of Corinna, and Asa of Dover.<sup>215</sup> John and Betsey are buried in the Corinna Center Cemetery.

Children of John<sup>6</sup> and Betsey (Cummings) Briggs, recorded in Corinna, but probably only the last three were born there:<sup>216</sup>

- i SOPHIA E.<sup>7</sup> BRIGGS, b. 7 Jan. 1807, d. 18 Oct. 1883, aged 76;<sup>217</sup> m. Corinna, 27 June 1843, ARTEMAS MOWER,<sup>218</sup> b. St. Albans, Maine, 1 March 1819, d. 26 Dec. 1851, aged 32, son of Ebenezer and Beulah (Davis) Mower of St. Albans.<sup>219</sup> The administration of the estate of Artemas Mower, late of St. Albans, was granted 10 March 1852 to Eleazer Crocker of St. Albans. The inventory included "one undivided half of the homestead in common with the estate of Ebenezer Mower Deceased."<sup>220</sup> Sophia and Artemas Mower are bur. in Corinna Center Cemetery.
- ii JOHN A. BRIGGS, b. 5 Sept. 1808, d. 3 July 1878, aged 69y 10m;<sup>221</sup> m. (1) Corinna, 13 or 30 March 1842, SARAH McLURE,<sup>222</sup> b. ca. 1815, d. 3 Feb. 1854, aged

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<sup>212</sup> Kennebec Co. Deeds, 23:168.

<sup>213</sup> John Briggs was a resident of Sidney in 1816 and 1817 (Kennebec Co. Deeds, 26:5, 28:368); Samuel "Comings" 2nd and John Dutton of Sidney were administrators of the estate of Nathaniel "Comings" of Augusta (Kennebec Co. Probate Records, C-6-R).

<sup>214</sup> Lilla E. Wood, *A Brief History of Corinna, Maine, from Its Purchase in 1804 to 1916* (Bangor, Maine, 1916), 11 (hereafter cited as Wood, *A Brief History of Corinna*); 1820–30 U.S. Censuses, Corinna, Somerset Co., Maine, pp. 140 (1820), 69 (1830); 1840–70 U.S. Censuses, Corinna, Penobscot Co., Maine, pp. 304 (1840), 56B (1850), 91 (1860), p. 382B (1870, recorded as "Briggs"). In 1870 he was widowed and two of his children were living with him.

<sup>215</sup> Ruth Gray, ed., *Abstracts of Penobscot County, Maine, Probate Records, 1816–1883* (Camden, Maine, 1993), 276 (hereafter cited as Gray, *Penobscot Co. Probate Records*).

<sup>216</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 11, 48. Wood, *A Brief History of Corinna*, 11, notes that Mrs. Briggs and the two youngest children rode to Corinna on a mattress strapped to a horse's back.

<sup>217</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #66836805.

<sup>218</sup> Ruth Gray, ed., *Marriage Returns of Penobscot County, Maine, Prior to 1892*, 2 vols. (Camden, Maine, 1994), 1:65 (hereafter cited as *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*). Intentions were published in St. Albans, 26 May 1843 (Ardell J. Parkman Lynds, *Vital Records of Saint Albans, Maine* [Rockland, Maine, 2010], 94, hereafter cited as *St. Albans VRs*) and in Corinna, 3 June 1843 (*Corinna VRs*, 157). He was of St. Albans and she of Corinna.

<sup>219</sup> Walter Lindley Mower, *Sesquicentennial History of the Town of Greene, Androscoggin County, Maine* (Auburn, Maine, 1938), 316.

<sup>220</sup> Somerset Co. Probate Records, 21:268, 22:437.

<sup>221</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #77741644.

<sup>222</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 154 (13 March); *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*, 1:62, her name recorded as Sarah "M. Luce" (30 March). Both were of Corinna.

- 39;<sup>223</sup> m. (2) (cert.) Corinna, 21 Nov. 1855, MARY GOODWIN,<sup>224</sup> b. Maine, ca. 1811–1812.<sup>225</sup> John A. Briggs's probate file names wife Mary and daughters Hattie M. and Emma.<sup>226</sup> John and Sarah are bur. in the Village Cemetery, Corinna.
- iii THOMAS JEFFERSON BRIGGS, b. 11 April 1810, d. 14 May 1884;<sup>227</sup> m. Corinna, 17 Dec. 1838, MARTHA ANN BUXTON both of Corinna,<sup>228</sup> b. Danvers, Mass., 6 Sept. 1815,<sup>229</sup> d. 2 March 1916, aged 100y 5m 26d, daughter of David and Lydia (Johnson) Buxton.<sup>230</sup> Thomas and Martha are bur. in Corinna Center Cemetery.<sup>231</sup>
- iv WILLIAM C. BRIGGS, b. 24 Nov. 1813, d. Corinna, 2 March 1894, aged 80 years, 3 months, 6 days;<sup>232</sup> m. Corinna, 14 April 1839, LUCINDA ANDREWS,<sup>233</sup> b. 1 March 1818, d. 24 Sept. 1876.<sup>234</sup> They are bur. in Nutter Cemetery, Corinna.
- v MARY ANN BRIGGS, b. 23 Oct. 1815, d. 24 July 1901;<sup>235</sup> m. Corinna, 20 March 1836, JOHN W. BLAISDELL,<sup>236</sup> b. Jay, 2 May 1811, d. 8 May 1889.<sup>237</sup> Mary Ann and John Blaisdell are bur. in the Corinna Center Cemetery.
- vi ASA C. BRIGGS, b. 19 Nov. 1817, d. Portland, 30 March 1868, aged 50y 4m 11d,<sup>238</sup> m. (cert.) Corinna, 26 May 1842, MARGARET M. FULLER,<sup>239</sup> b. Freedom, 8 Dec. 1822,<sup>240</sup> d. 19 Sept. 1885, aged 62y 9m 11d, daughter of Jonathan and Jemima (Cookson) Fuller.<sup>241</sup> Asa and Margaret are bur. in the South Dover Cemetery, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine.

<sup>223</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #77741652.

<sup>224</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 172. Both were of Corinna.

<sup>225</sup> 1860–70 U.S. Censuses, Corinna, Penobscot Co., Maine, pp. 465 (1860), 382 (1870).

<sup>226</sup> Gray, *Penobscot Co. Probate Records*, 276, dated 3 July 1878.

<sup>227</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #68885680.

<sup>228</sup> *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*, 1:44, location not stated; Thomas and Martha Ann were m., however, by Benjamin Winchester, M.O.G., who also m. Thomas's older sister Sophia. Curiously this marriage was not recorded in Corinna.

<sup>229</sup> *Vital Records of Danvers, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass., 1909–1910), 1:59.

<sup>230</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, naming her parents. The death record says that Martha was b. Peabody, Mass. Her parents m. Lynnfield, Mass., 21 May 1807 (*Vital Records of Lynnfield, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* [Salem, Mass., 1907], 47).

<sup>231</sup> Gravestone photographs, findagrave.com, memorials #68885680 and 68885706.

<sup>232</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #81885440. His parents are named in the death record.

<sup>233</sup> *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*, 1:44. Intentions were published 30 March 1839 and a certificate issued 13 April 1839 (*Corinna VRs*, 152). Both were of Corinna.

<sup>234</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #81885452,

<sup>235</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #48785203.

<sup>236</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 148, recorded as John W. Blasdell. Both were of Corinna.

<sup>237</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #48785203. The place of birth is given in son William's death record (d. Lowell, Mass., 8 May 1892, Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 428:234).

<sup>238</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com, which erroneously gives his age as 55y; "Suicide," *Daily Eastern and Argus* [Portland, Maine], 31 March 1868; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #23695240.

<sup>239</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 155. Both were of Corinna.

<sup>240</sup> *Freedom VRs*, 19. Margaret's parents m. there 19 Aug. 1826 (*ibid.*, 29).

<sup>241</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #23695239. Genealogical notes in the memorial name her parents.

- vii HARRIET J. BRIGGS, b. 7 May 1820, d. 16 Nov. 1869, aged 49y 6m;<sup>242</sup> m. (cert.) Corinna, 19 April 1842, ALPHONSO STINCHFIELD,<sup>243</sup> b. Saint Albans, 6 Dec. 1815,<sup>244</sup> d. 29 Oct. 1892, aged 76y 9m 9d, son of John and Maria (Moor) Stinchfield.<sup>245</sup> He m. (2) Cambridge, Mass., 8 Sept. 1871, Caroline L. (Green) (Remick) Wyman, as her 3rd husband, b. Augusta, ca. 1821, daughter of Jesse and Ruth (Cummings) Green.<sup>246</sup> She had m. (1) Augusta, 19 Sept. 1842, James W. Remick,<sup>247</sup> b. [calc.] May 1816, d. Augusta, 31 July 1858, aged 42y 2m;<sup>248</sup> and m. (2) Augusta, 24 Sept. 1863, Greenlief G. Wyman,<sup>249</sup> d. Belgrade, Maine, 1 July 1864.<sup>250</sup> Harriet and Alphonso Stinchfield are bur. in Ireland Cemetery, Hartland, Maine.
- viii NANCY D. BRIGGS, b. 25 July 1822, d. 13 Dec. 1866;<sup>251</sup> m. Corinna, 2 May 1847, THOMAS B. EMERY,<sup>252</sup> b. there 26 March 1828, son of Artemas and Naomi (Weston) Emery,<sup>253</sup> d. in Illinois, probably between 1865 and 1870.<sup>254</sup> Nancy and Thomas Emery are bur. in the North Cemetery, Geneseo, Henry Co., Ill.

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<sup>242</sup> Gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #133923197.

<sup>243</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 155. Intentions were published there 4 April 1843; he was of Hartland, Maine, and she was of Corinna. An unverified family tree on ancestry.com says m. 1 May 1842. See also Roger A. Stinchfield, *The Stinchfield-Stanchfield Family* (Boston, Mass., 1963), 48, 59.

<sup>244</sup> *St. Albans VRs*, 28, recorded as Alonzo Stinchfield.

<sup>245</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com; gravestone photograph, findagrave.com, memorial #133923196. The death record names his place of birth and his parents; his parents m. (int.) St. Albans, 2 July 1815 (*St. Albans VRs*, 7).

<sup>246</sup> Mass. VRs, 236:137. It was his 2nd and her 3rd marriage. Their places of birth, ages (she was 50), and parents' names are given. Her birth is not found in the published Augusta vital records, but her parents m. there, 11 May 1819 (*Augusta VRs*, 1:359).

<sup>247</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 1:356.

<sup>248</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:407.

<sup>249</sup> *Augusta VRs*, 2:83. His given name is spelled "Greenlief" here and in his death record.

<sup>250</sup> Maine Death Records, 1617–1922, ancestry.com.

<sup>251</sup> Recorder data, findagrave.com, memorial #77881288.

<sup>252</sup> *Penobscot County Marriage Returns*, 1:119. Intentions were published Corinna, 29 March 1847 (*Corinna VRs*, 161). Both were of Corinna.

<sup>253</sup> *Corinna VRs*, 21:58. Naomi's parents m. (int.) Corinna, 13 Nov 1824 (*ibid.*, 19, 141).

<sup>254</sup> Thos. B. Emery appears in the 1865 state census in Munson, Henry Co., Ill., and none of his family appear in the 1870 U.S. Census; recorder data, findagrave.com, memorial #77881280. Thomas Emery's record has no dates. Geneseo Twp. borders on the north side of Munson Twp.



FALLEN INTO DISTRESS:  
THE TREATMENT OF PAUPERS IN MAINE TOWNS  
IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

*By Sally Furber Nelson*

What would you do if you were a widow “fallen into distress” in 1835 with young children and no family nearby? What if you were the last surviving member of your family and could no longer farm? What if you were born with a physical or mental defect? What if you were an unwed mother? All of these conditions and more were present in the early days of the state of Maine. How towns addressed these conditions varied from town to town and from year to year.

Maine towns from the earliest days were responsible for roads, schools, and ministers. They were also responsible for the care of their poor. Prior to 1820 when Maine acquired statehood, the care for the poor in Maine was dictated by Massachusetts practices, which in turn were shaped by the English poor laws of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. The term *pauper* is defined as “a person destitute of means except such as are derived from charity.”<sup>1</sup> In the 1500s it was a legal term which allowed the poor to sue in court without legal fees.

In colonial times throughout Massachusetts and Maine, the poor were required to show evidence of “legal settlement” or residency as a prerequisite for receiving care. Newcomers who were not legal residents of the town where they were living were “warned out” by the local constables, the warning being the means of notifying them that the town would not pay for their care should they become in need of assistance. For example, in 1793, only a year after the town of Sidney was incorporated, David Smiley, the town constable, was directed to warn out fifteen persons, including families, widows, and unmarried mothers, because they were living in Sidney without legal settlement. Three more persons were named in 1794. The warning out, however, was not an order to leave town, and many of the warned chose not to depart. Three of the persons warned in Sidney were elected town officers in 1794 and another in 1798.<sup>2</sup>

Prior to statehood, towns addressed the needs of the poor in their town meetings. In April 1805, the town of Mount Vernon “voted to give Mr Titus Philbrick Two hundred dollars to clear the town from the maintenance of an Illegitimate Child by the name of Levi Cobb.”<sup>3</sup> The same year, the town “voted to give Mr Solomon

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<sup>1</sup> *Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed. (2011).

<sup>2</sup> Sidney TRs, Book 1, n.p., accessed from *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Sidney*, 3 CD-Roms (Rockport, Maine, 2005), CD1, images 363–64 (hereafter cited as Sidney TR CDs). An in-depth discussion of the practice of warning out in colonial Boston can be found in Cornelia H. Dayton and Sharon V. Salinger, *Robert Love's Warnings: Searching for Strangers in Colonial Boston* (Philadelphia, 2014).

<sup>3</sup> Mount Vernon TRs, 1:118, accessed from *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Mount Vernon*, 2 CD-Roms (Rockport, Maine, 2005), CD2, image 73 (hereafter cited as

Leighton one dollar per month for or towards the maintenance of his half-brother James Leighton.” And in September 1811, a number of entries relating to the Widow Prudence Emerson appeared in the town meeting reports. It was voted that the Widow Emerson go to the lowest bidder for four shillings and nine pence per week.<sup>4</sup>

Some of the first legislative acts after Maine became a state in 1820 were the laws relating to the poor passed in 1821. These acts were a continuation of the Massachusetts laws, and provided that towns were required to support all paupers who had legal settlement. Towns could raise monies for this purpose and choose overseers of the poor.<sup>5</sup> Overseers in turn had the power to bind out the children of paupers as apprentices or servants, and require that these children be instructed in reading, writing, and arithmetic. In addition, overseers could to bind out adult paupers in certain circumstances, placing them with families as servants or farmhands.<sup>6</sup>

In December 2010, the Prince Memorial Library in Cumberland, Maine, received a grant to process the collection of the Town of Cumberland Overseers of the Poor. This collection includes eleven contracts of indenture, nine for boys between the ages of six and eighteen, one for an infant girl, and one for an adult male. While such contracts separated a child from his or her parents, it also provided for education and training which might not have been available otherwise. Contracts for the boys stipulated that each was to learn the art or trade of a husbandman, farmer, or blacksmith. The infant girl was adopted by John H. Emery of Biddeford.<sup>7</sup>

#### LEGAL SETTLEMENT

As noted, the main criteria for the poor to obtain aid from towns was “legal settlement,” established by statute soon after Maine became a state.<sup>8</sup> Legal settlement or residency was determined as follows:

- 1 Married women had the settlement of their husbands.
- 2 Legitimate children had the settlement of their father.
- 3 Illegitimate children had the settlement of their mother.
- 4 Any person could gain legal settlement by a warrant at a town meeting.
- 5 Persons living in any unincorporated place when that place became a town would gain legal settlement.

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Mount Vernon TR CDs). Levi Cobb appears again as a pauper in the Treasurer of Mount Vernon’s Day Book.

<sup>4</sup> Mount Vernon TRs, 1:115, accessed from Mount Vernon TR CDs, CD2, image 72.

<sup>5</sup> *Laws of the State of Maine*, 2 vols. (Brunswick, Maine, 1821), 2:530–45.

<sup>6</sup> *Laws of the State of Maine* [note 5], 2:535.

<sup>7</sup> Town of Cumberland, Maine, “Cumberland Overseers of the Poor: Documents 1821–1915” (2014) ([http://statedocs.maine.gov/cumberland\\_books/6](http://statedocs.maine.gov/cumberland_books/6)).

<sup>8</sup> *Laws of the State of Maine* [note 5], 2:530.

- 6 If a town was divided, every person would continue to have legal settlement in the area in which he or she resided.
- 7 Minors could gain legal settlement by serving as an apprentice to any lawful trade for four years.
- 8 Furthermore, because Maine was now a separate state, the legislature decreed that residence at the date of the passage of the act would be considered a legal settlement.

Historian Jean F. Hankins wrote that there were two basic principles underlying these laws: “first, the state exempted itself from any responsibility for poor relief, and, second, once a person obtained settlement in a town, the settlement continued until a new one was obtained.”<sup>9</sup> She further explains that these settlement laws were both a benefit and a liability to the poor and the town. Paupers who moved frequently found it difficult to establish legal settlement; however, once established, settlement could not be revoked. Therefore, as long as the family remained in Maine, they could be assured of care. For town officials, the settlement laws kept newcomers off the welfare rolls, but they also kept non-residents “on the town.”

Furthermore, overseers of the poor were required to provide “immediate comfort and relief” to all persons, whether or not they had legal settlement in the town.<sup>10</sup> Expenses for providing such relief could be recovered from the town where the pauper had legal residence. This provision led to much correspondence and many lawsuits between towns.

The Overseers of the Poor in Mount Vernon kept a record of such correspondence between towns; the notebook is now located in the Maine State Archives. The first two letters in the notebook, between Mount Vernon and Readfield, concern the support of one Deborah Gilman:<sup>11</sup>

Readfield April 1<sup>st</sup> 1851

Gentlemen - Deborah Gilman

An Inhabitant of your town has now become chargable [*sic*] in this town as a Pauper.

We consider it necessary to give you this information, and to request that you order her removal, or otherwise provide for her as you may judge expedient. We have charged the expense of her support, which has already arisen, to your town and shall continue so to do, so long as we are obliged to furnish ~~to provide~~ her with supplies.

Oliver Bean {Per order of the overseers of the Poor of the town of  
Readfield

To the overseers of the Poor of the town of Mt Vernon

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<sup>9</sup> Jean F. Hankins, “‘Every Town Shall Maintain Their Own Poor’: New England’s Settlement Laws,” *Maine History* 39(2000):171.

<sup>10</sup> *Laws of the State of Maine* [note 5], 2:537.

<sup>11</sup> Records of Mount Vernon Overseers of the Poor, 1851, accessed at Maine State Archives, Augusta, 2015.

Mt Vernon April 7<sup>th</sup> 1851

To the overseers of the Poor of the town of Readfield - Gentlemen,

Your letter of the 1<sup>st</sup> inst stating that Deborah Gilman has fallen into distress, and been furnished relief by your town at the charge of the town of Mt Vernon was duly received. Upon inquiry we are satisfied that this town is not the place of the lawful settlement of said Deborah Gilman. We cannot therefore cause her removal nor contribute towards her support.

Gilbert Taggart {Per order of the Overseers of the Poor of the town of  
Mt Vernon

To the overseers of the Poor of the town of Readfield

Other letters in the notebook follow the same form.<sup>12</sup> One set of letters, however, dated December 1856 from the town of Orono to the town of Mount Vernon, contains depositions used in a court case against Belgrade for supplies furnished to the Joshua Smith family. Rosanna Smith, mother of Joshua Smith, in her testimony listed where the members of this family were born and lived, information which could be very helpful to genealogists. Mrs. Elmira Smith and Ellen Smith, wife and daughter of Joshua Smith, had become chargeable in Orono as paupers, although they had legal settlement in Belgrade. Because some of the members of this Smith family, including the grandmother Deborah Gilman (see above letters), once lived in Mount Vernon, that town was included in the lawsuit.

The question of legal settlement led to many lawsuits between towns in Maine. G. Wilmot Carruthers, Town Manager of Lincoln, Maine, in 1940, summarized many of these lawsuits in a booklet which can be found in the Law and Legislative Reference Library in Augusta. These include an 1822 lawsuit concerning the marriage of a female pauper involving the inhabitants of Brunswick and the inhabitants of Litchfield. Another lawsuit in 1841 between the towns of Jefferson and Washington reaffirmed the concept of legal settlement. In 1825, the courts upheld the 1821 statute, and declared that the clause “any resident in any town on March 21, 1821, shall thereby gain a settlement” did not apply to non-citizens.<sup>13</sup>

Problems with legal settlement continued as late as 1924. By this time, the state had assumed the responsibility for paupers who had no legal settlement in any town. George W. Ledbetter, Messenger to the Governor and Council, addressed the Annual Assessor’s Convention at the State House in Augusta in November 1924 about this problem. He described the three classes of State paupers as follows: 1. Those who had no settlement for the reason that they lived in unincorporated places five years or more; 2. those who lost their settlement by living outside of the state five years or more; 3. those who became paupers before living in a town five years

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<sup>12</sup> All these letters are listed in Sally Furber Nelson and Janet McCarthy Weymouth, *Vital Records of Mount Vernon, Maine*, Maine Genealogical Society Special Publication No. 74 (Waterville, Maine, 2016), 399–404 (hereafter cited as Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*).

<sup>13</sup> G. Wilmot Carruthers, *Maine Pauper Law: Statutes and Decisions* (Brewer, Maine, 1940), 39, 42.

continuously.<sup>14</sup> He added that there were a few other cases, such as members of the Indian tribes who had fallen into distress while away from their reservations.

#### POOR RELIEF PRACTICES IN MAINE

The 1821 statute giving overseers the power to bind out paupers led to the practice of *vendue*, a public sale or auction in which the town accepted bids from citizens for the care of the pauper. This practice, also known as “outdoor relief,” involved taking care of the needy in private homes. Benjamin J. Klebaner describes the scene as “a gathering of the town worthies, at which the qualities of each pauper were detailed with the same callousness as that shown in discussing the merits of a horse or a slave.” Klebaner also notes that liquor was furnished by the town for these occasions, probably to stimulate bidding and add to the festivity.<sup>15</sup>

Many Maine towns used this practice of “outdoor relief.” In 1829 Cumberland recorded fourteen paupers who were auctioned off at a town meeting on 11 May.<sup>16</sup> On 5 March 1821, Starks “vanded [sic] the town Paupers to the Lowist bidders to be boded one year from the above Date,” listing three paupers.<sup>17</sup>

A most complete set of pauper records is found in a “Day Book” kept by the town treasurer of Mount Vernon and located today at the Maine State Archives. This book includes the town treasurer’s records, bank and other financial records, school district records, and pauper records from 1839 through 1873.<sup>18</sup>

These Mount Vernon records list the number and names of paupers assisted by the town, from five in 1839 to as many as nineteen in 1857.<sup>19</sup> The same names appear repeatedly, with bids of varying amounts. Someone bid 71 cents a week for Levi Cobb in 1839; 83 cents a week in 1848; and 70 dollars a year in the last entry in 1857. The names of the low bidders for Levi Cobb changed almost every year; Joel Hammonds, however, was the low bidder for fourteen out of twenty years for Susan Philbrick. The bids for Perry Wood’s care show much inconsistency: in 1842 he was bid off for 75 cents a week, but in 1850 the bid was only 16<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> cents. There is no record for him in several years.

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<sup>14</sup> George W. Ledbetter, “Support of the State Poor,” typescript of an address at the Eighth Annual Assessor’s Convention, State House, Augusta, Nov. 1924, accessed at the Maine State Library, Augusta.

<sup>15</sup> Benjamin J. Klebaner, “Pauper Auctions: The ‘New England Method’ of Public Poor Relief,” *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 91(1955):195–210.

<sup>16</sup> “List of paupers belonging to Town of Cumberland, 1829,” contributed by the Prince Memorial Library, Maine Memory Network ([www.mainememory.net/artifact/33437/enlarge](http://www.mainememory.net/artifact/33437/enlarge)).

<sup>17</sup> Transcription of Clerk’s Town Meeting Records—1795 to 1836 (<https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B67h-ri8r5qwaV93SUVpUDRSQVU/edit?pref=2&pli=1>).

<sup>18</sup> The pauper records from this Day book are transcribed in Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 405–20.

<sup>19</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 405, 414.

Klebaner notes that “often the successful bidder was himself on the verge of requiring public assistance.”<sup>20</sup> The Mount Vernon records show evidence of this. William C. Jackman, his wife Mary, and their six minor children had legal settlement in Carthage but lived in Mount Vernon, so the town of Carthage paid the town of Mount Vernon for their care through 1879.<sup>21</sup> During this same period, Jackman successfully bid for the care of Augusta Stone in 1845 and for “Mrs Jackman’s child” from 1849 through 1872. In 1851 the child is called Augusta Jackman, leading to the presumption that Augusta Stone and Mrs. Jackman’s child were the same person. One wonders what the circumstances were that led to this bid.

One of the distressing aspects of the auction system was the breaking up of families. Mount Vernon pauper records show several instances of this. In 1842 Widow Bean and her two youngest children were bid off to James Robinson 2nd, while Samuel T. Robinson took one of Widow Bean’s children and Neal Bean took another.<sup>22</sup>

Although the 1821 laws regarding the relief of the poor specify that certain kindred were liable for the support of paupers, families were often paid to take care of their relatives. Apparently the laws regarding support by the family were difficult to enforce. In Otisfield in 1861, one official wrote: “Tarbell Patch called for help for Mrs Betsy Shed. The same day notified Dan & Thomas Shed to provide for her or be held accountable to the town for her support.”<sup>23</sup> It was much more common to pay relatives to support their indigent or disabled parent, child, or spouse. For example, the 1858 Mount Vernon pauper records show that “Lewis B. Griffin is to keep his Father, Mother and Sister during the winter for One dollar & fifty cts per week including all expenses.”<sup>24</sup>

In 1847 the Maine legislature passed an act making the vendue process unlawful. The same act, however, provided that towns could contract for the support of the poor.<sup>25</sup> As a result, the pauper records in Mount Vernon, which continue until 1873, show that the Overseers of the Poor (usually the selectmen) contracted with various townspeople to care for these paupers, without having an actual auction.

From 1859 until 1869 in Mount Vernon, one person assumed responsibility for most of the paupers in the town, including all funeral charges for any that died during the year. These men were paid amounts ranging from \$700 to 450 per year.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Klebaner, “Pauper Auctions” [note 15].

<sup>21</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 405–20.

<sup>22</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 406.

<sup>23</sup> Jean F. Hankins, “A Cage for John Sawyer: The Poor in Otisfield, Maine,” *Maine History* 34(1994):96–115, at 111.

<sup>24</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 415.

<sup>25</sup> *Acts and Resolves Passed by the Twenty-Seventh Legislature of the State of Maine, A.D. 1847* (Augusta, 1847), 8.

<sup>26</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 415–18.

The poor in Maine, as well as elsewhere, were subjected to public indignities. Their names and conditions were discussed openly at town meetings. Their names were listed in reports from the Overseers of the Poor. They could not vote and their property could be sold for their support. Census reports for 1850 and 1860 listed their names as paupers. But the most degrading experience often came after death. *Lewiston Sun-Journal* Staff Reporter Sandy Gregor wrote: “With no family to assume responsibility, and towns ready to finally cash in on the liability they had assumed, pauper cadavers were crated and sold to the medical school at Brunswick’s Bowdoin College.”<sup>27</sup>

Vital records of towns may supplement information about paupers. For example, the Mount Vernon records report the 5 October 1819 intentions of marriage of William C. Jackman of Fayette and Miss Mary Gorden of Mt. Vernon<sup>28</sup>; a family record for this family, showing that their older children were born in other towns, is also recorded;<sup>29</sup> and the deaths of William C. in 1870 and of Augusta Jackman in 1880 are also found.<sup>30</sup>

Levi Cobb, whose name appears on nearly every pauper list in Mount Vernon from 1839 through the time of his death in 1858, is listed as the illegitimate son of Abigail Philbrick.<sup>31</sup> The pauper Perry Wood was probably Oliver Hazard Perry Wood, born 3 May 1823 to Henry Woods and his second wife, Hannah.<sup>32</sup> Henry drowned in 1837 when Perry was only fourteen years old. O. P. Wood was bid off to William Whitten for 75 cents per week on 17 December 1842;<sup>33</sup> Perry Wood was bid off to Randall Currier for 66 cents per week in 1845, 25 cents per week in 1846, and 20 cents per week in 1847.<sup>34</sup> Mr. Oliver Hazard Perry Wood died 6 November 1875, son of Henry, age 52.<sup>35</sup>

Although the practice of vendue or outdoor relief was common in small towns in Maine, the larger cities used other methods to care for the poor. Many established workhouses or almshouses, properties designed to provide a place to live as well as a place to work.

The town of Falmouth established a workhouse about 1760, which was sold by the city of Portland in 1787. Brunswick built a poorhouse in 1807, which was sold in 1812. Bath also established a poorhouse in 1807, which was enlarged in 1837 and survives today as part of a large office-apartment complex. Bangor’s poorhouse

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<sup>27</sup> Sandy Gregor, “19th Century Poverty Full of Indignities,” *Lewiston Sun-Journal*, 14 June 1997 ([www.poorhousestory.com/MAINE\\_PovertyArticle\\_page1.htm](http://www.poorhousestory.com/MAINE_PovertyArticle_page1.htm)).

<sup>28</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 147

<sup>29</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 117

<sup>30</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 117, 450

<sup>31</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 219

<sup>32</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 26

<sup>33</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 406

<sup>34</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 408

<sup>35</sup> Nelson and Weymouth, *Mount Vernon VRs*, 445

was established in 1827, enlarged in 1841 and 1847, and exists today as Beals Business College. Augusta's almshouse was built in 1834 at the head of North Street.<sup>36</sup>

In 1839 the Portland Board of Overseers of the Poor's report described Portland's poorhouse: "The House at this time was a three story brick building, 102 feet long and thirty-nine feet wide, with an ell fifty by thirty feet. Women and children were quartered in the main building and men and boys in the ell. Separate sections were provided for cooking, washing, and eating and special rooms were provided for the sick."<sup>37</sup>

Everyone who lived at the Portland almshouse was expected to work. The men took care of the animals and worked in the brickyard; the women did the housework and knit or sewed clothing for the inmates. A school was kept at the almshouse, taught by one of the inmates.<sup>38</sup> In 1835 the Portland Overseers of the Poor reported that "they found the building clean and comfortable, the sick cared for and the inmates busy making bricks or palm leaf hats or occupied about the duties of the House and the farm associated with it."<sup>39</sup>

An article in the *Portland Advertiser*, published 16 May 1842, notes that 251 persons were living in the almshouse in April 1841. Of these, 139 belonged to Portland, eighty-two were foreigners, and thirty belonged to other towns in Maine. In addition, eight were described as idiots; ten as insane; two as deaf and dumb; one as deaf, dumb, and blind; twenty-seven as colored; and fifty-six were under the age of fourteen.<sup>40</sup>

Towns and cities in Maine were responsible not only for the care of the poor, but also for the care of those persons with physical and mental disabilities. In October 1840, the Maine Hospital for the Insane was built in Augusta and funded by the state. Even after it was built, however, towns had to pay the hospital to care for their insane people. Sometimes, the towns chose instead to keep their insane residents in the local poorhouse or town farm. Otisfield created a town farm in 1865 because it would save them money, according to Otisfield historian Jean Hankins. In the early years, she explained, the Otisfield town farm had to care for criminals, children, demented residents, and the insane. Two Otisfield residents deemed insane were kept on the poor farm in cages.<sup>41</sup>

Towns also paid to send those with impairments to special institutions. In March 1842, Sidney, for example, voted that the selectmen be authorized to send Benjamin

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<sup>36</sup> All information from the files of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Maine State Library, Poverty file.

<sup>37</sup> Constance Carolyn Murray, "Portland, Maine, and the Growth of Urban Responsibility for Human Welfare" (Boston University Graduate School, Ph.D. dissertation, 1960, copy available at Maine State Library), 253.

<sup>38</sup> Murray, "Growth of Urban Responsibility" [note 37], 254.

<sup>39</sup> Murray, "Growth of Urban Responsibility" [note 37], 250.

<sup>40</sup> Murray, "Growth of Urban Responsibility" [note 37], 257.

<sup>41</sup> Gregor, "19th Century Poverty" [note 27].



Lovejoy to the “Deaf and Dum [*sic*] Asylum at Hartford Conn at the expense of the town.”<sup>42</sup>

Census records may also be used to trace paupers, particularly beginning in 1850 when all persons in a household were listed. Names of paupers were included on the population schedules of 1850 and 1860, but not in 1870. In 1880 special schedules “for the Dependent, Defective, and Delinquent Classes” were provided for paupers and indigent inhabitants of institutions, poorhouses, or asylums or boarded at public expense in private homes.

These 1880 supplemental schedules for Augusta list three insane, nine deaf mutes, and two homeless children. In addition, there were twenty occupants of the poor farm, described with such ailments as old age, crippled, kidney complaint, and general debility. The list also includes eight women at St Mark’s Home for Indigent Women from towns such as Ellsworth, Winthrop, Bristol, Brunswick, Hallowell, and Augusta.

We may assume that the town poor were also assisted by churches and local organizations, but such records are difficult to find. Larger cities, however, had well organized benevolent organizations. Responsible citizens, religious societies, and occupational groups formed private organizations to help others in need. Women were often leaders in these projects.

In Portland the oldest charity was organized in 1796 as the Portland Marine Society, designed to help sailors. The Maine Charitable Mechanic Association was formed in 1815. Ministers and wealthy men incorporated the Portland Benevolent Society in 1803 to collect money to help associates or friends who came to sudden poverty. The Female Charitable Society was created in 1812 for ladies only, giving away clothing to immigrants in particular. A city mission was set up by the churches in 1845 and reorganized in 1848. “Churches not only provided immediate help but also tried to reform the individual by giving moral training.”<sup>43</sup>

Towns proposed creating town farms or poor farms as early as the 1820s, but few of these places were actually purchased until later. The town of Sidney had a warrant to buy a house to maintain the poor as early as 1809, and the same proposal was made year after year but always passed over. The town finally voted to buy a town farm in 1869 and to locate a burial site on the same location.<sup>44</sup> In 1870 Sidney began printing their annual reports, which list payments to the superintendent of the town farm, as well as costs for supplies and labor for the same institution. The Sidney town reports also show that the town farm continued to pay the expenses of the poor not living on the farm, including payments for medical care and funeral expenses as well as payments to other towns for paupers with legal residence in Sidney. The 1899 annual report lists the names of those boarded at the town farm and

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<sup>42</sup> Sidney TR CDs, CD2, image 179.

<sup>43</sup> Murray, “Growth of Urban Responsibility” [note 37], 208–10, 227, 229.

<sup>44</sup> Sidney TR CDs, CD2, image 388.

reports twenty-three meals provided for tramps. By 1901 only four women were living on the town farm. The town farm was sold for \$3,000 in 1919.<sup>45</sup>

The town of Skowhegan considered purchasing a poor farm in 1837 and again in 1839, but did not actually buy a farm until 1856. In 1864 it was voted to purchase John Wheeler's farm for a poor farm and to dispose of the present farm. A wood lot was added in 1876 and the town farm buildings were rebuilt in 1878. As late as 1933, Skowhegan made repairs to the town farm situated on the highway to Waterville, which housed only nine people at that time.<sup>46</sup>

Some people were housed on these town farms for many years. A Skowhegan obituary dated 21 April 1892 reads: "Mrs Polly Merrow died at the town farm Friday last, aged 92 yrs. She has been there 28 years and helped by the town 53 years."<sup>47</sup>

In 1837 Cumberland voters approved the purchase of "a suitable farm on which to keep and maintain the paupers belonging to this town."<sup>48</sup> In 1866 they voted to sell the town farm because only one inmate remained. In June 1888 they purchased another town farm and expenditures decreased dramatically, from \$1,830.44 in 1888 to \$206.42 the next year. This was largely due to the sale of produce from the farm. When the last resident died in 1901, the town farm was closed and sold in 1904.

The annual report of Wayne for 1880–81 lists the costs of maintaining their town farm. For the year ending 31 March 1881, costs included \$225 for the salary of the agent and his wife and \$258.62 for supplies and incidentals. These costs were offset by \$88.53 in sales of produce and \$16.46 received for work of the agent and oxen, as well as \$252.27 received for two pairs of oxen. Four people were supported at this town farm.

Paupers were often housed in jails. History House in Skowhegan has a receipted bill against the town of Norridgewock for boarding poor debtors in "close gaol" in 1830. Sometimes town farms were treated as jails. In 1858 Skowhegan voted that "the town farm house be the house of corrections and that the selectmen fit up a room or place for the better security of unruly paupers."<sup>49</sup>

Wars, historical events, and disasters added more people to the pauper lists. The 1816 "year of no summer" caused an increase in the ranks of the poor. During the gold rush in California in 1849, thousands of men left to seek their fortunes, leaving wives and children behind. Few of these men returned rich and many did not return at all. The Civil War soldiers left dependents behind, many of whom were supported by the towns. Maine passed a law in 1875, however, which reads: "No soldier who served by enlistment in the army or navy of the United States, in the war of eighteen hundred and sixty-one, and in consequence of injury sustained in said service, has or may become dependent upon any town, shall be considered a pauper, or be sub-

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<sup>45</sup> Sidney Town Reports 1870–1920, located in the Research Center, Sidney Historical Society.

<sup>46</sup> Town Meetings Notebook, History House, Skowhegan.

<sup>47</sup> Obituary file, History House, Skowhegan.

<sup>48</sup> "Cumberland Overseers of the Poor" [note 7].

<sup>49</sup> Skowhegan Town Meetings [note 46].

ject to disfranchisement for that cause.”<sup>50</sup> The 1901 legislature expanded upon this directive, adding the family of the soldier or sailor.<sup>51</sup> The 1919 Sidney town report includes funds paid to dependents of soldiers and sailors as well as mother’s aid, both reimbursed by the state.

Increased immigration also added to the poor rolls in Maine. Elizabeth Sheehan created an Excel file from Book 1 of the Portland Alms and Work House Ledger, listing general assistance recipients from 1892 to 1903.<sup>52</sup> Using this file, available at the Maine Historical Society, genealogists can find valuable data about their relative’s ages, places of birth, and mother’s maiden names, making it possible to trace a family’s journey as immigrants by reading the birthplace entries from parents down to children.

Mark Richards studied the French Canadians who migrated to New England textile centers. He found that the cultural adhesiveness of the church and the mutual aid societies formed by members of this community helped the poor through tough times. He notes “If kin could not provide the necessary support, nuns did.”<sup>53</sup>

Public Law 1874, Chapter 230, authorized the state to reimburse towns for aid supplied to paupers having no legal settlement in the state. These pauper accounts, thirty boxes of them, are arranged alphabetically by town and are available at the Maine State Archives in Augusta. The records show not only lists of food and supplies furnished, but some also contain biographical information about the pauper and his or her family. For example, the Canaan pauper accounts for 1903–1907 list food, shoes, and medical services for James N. Tuttle, Peter Tuttle, James Sulavan Tuttle, Mrs. Israel Tuttle, and children. The Cornville pauper accounts of 1899 describe one William Later as a pauper for forty years, who lived in Brighton but had legal settlement in Cornville.

#### SUMMARY

Maine towns and cities cared for their paupers in different ways during the nineteenth century. Some auctioned them off to the lowest bidder and some placed them in almshouses or town farms. These measures often caused degradation and embarrassment by listing the individuals’ names at town meetings and in town reports. The Maine law which dictated that “paupers and persons under guardianship” could not vote was not amended until 12 November 1965.<sup>54</sup>

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<sup>50</sup> *The Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, Passed August 29, 1883, and Taking Effect January 1, 1884* (Portland, 1884), 284.

<sup>51</sup> *The Revised Statutes of the State of Maine, Passed September 1, 1903, and Taking Effect January 1, 1904* (Augusta, 1904), 310.

<sup>52</sup> Elizabeth Sheehan, “History of the ‘Outside Poor’ (General Assistance Recipients): Portland, Maine, 1892–1903,” Maine Historical Society, 2002.

<sup>53</sup> Gregor, “19th Century Poverty” [note 27].

<sup>54</sup> Legislative Document No. 9, enacted 2 Nov. 1965, available from the Law and Legislative Digital Library (<http://legislature.maine.gov/lawlib>; see also <http://legislature.maine.gov/9203>).

If there is anything commendable in the way paupers were treated in Maine in the nineteenth century, it is that the town poor were not anonymous. Townspeople could not be oblivious to the poor in their community; they could see how each dollar of poor relief was applied. These same records may be useful to today's genealogist seeking a missing ancestor.

The author wishes to thank the librarians at the Maine State Library, the Law and Legislative Reference Library, and the Maine Historical Society, as well as the archivists at the Maine State Archives, for their friendly and helpful assistance.

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## MARITAL RECONCILIATION?

Contributed by Michael F. Dwyer, FASG

In 1803 Joseph Shackley of Lyman, Maine, married, as his second wife, Judith (Denico) Hall, widow of John Hall.<sup>1</sup> A dozen years later, the following notice appeared in the Kennebunk newspaper:<sup>2</sup>

### Take Notice

WHEREAS JUDEA SHACKLEY, wife of the subscriber has left my bed and board and otherwise conducted in an improper manner—I do therefore forbid all persons harbouring or trusting her on my account as I am determined not to pay any debts of her contracting after this date.

I do also forbid her daughter POLLY, alias MARY HALL, from ever again entering my house.

I also forbid her sister BETSEY from entering my house.

JOSEPH SHACKLEY

Lyman, April 5, 1815.

Whatever the cause of the problem, Joseph and Judith seem to have reconciled. Judith, described as “in tolerable health,” and three children were living with Joseph in 1820 when he applied for a Revolutionary War pension.<sup>3</sup>

389 Orchard Hill, Pittsford VT 05763

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<sup>1</sup> Priscilla Eaton, “The Maxwell Family of Scotch Hill, Ogunquit, and Wells,” *The Maine Genealogist* 32(2010):184–85.

<sup>2</sup> The notice appeared on 15 April, 29 April, and 6 May in the *Kennebunk Weekly Visitor*.

<sup>3</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application #W589..

## CARING FOR THE POOR, SOUTH BERWICK, MAINE, 1814–1880

by *Ralph E. Wadleigh, Jr.*

Genealogists know that impoverished, destitute, or otherwise dependent people sometimes “fall between the cracks” and disappear from family records. Nevertheless, in many cases identifications may be made if one knows where to look. The town of South Berwick, Maine, provides a good example of where records on the poor can be located. Other Maine towns should have similar records.

### HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

A records search necessarily begins with a determination as to in which governmental jurisdiction records might be located. The town of South Berwick was formed from the town of Berwick on 12 February 1814. The town of Berwick was formed by the Massachusetts General Court in 1713 from the town of Kittery. Kittery in turn was established in 1647. Thus, if one is searching for South Berwick’s poor prior to 1814, one would examine the records of Berwick or Kittery.<sup>1</sup>

South Berwick provided for its poor even before Maine attained statehood. In its second town meeting held on 9 May 1814, \$700 was allocated for support of the poor.<sup>2</sup> Once Maine attained statehood in 1820, care for the poor became codified in state law. Specifically, Maine’s legislature spelled out the procedures of caring for the poor in Chapter CXXII, approved 21 March 1821, which defined the terms of legal settlement and oversight, and in Chapter CXXIV, approved 15 March 1821, which allowed the establishment of work houses within each town or group of towns.<sup>3</sup> [*Editor’s note: See the preceding article for more detail on the laws of legal settlement in Maine.*]

Prior to 1826, South Berwick’s poor were the responsibility of the town selectmen. Annually funds were allocated for the support of the poor and disbursed by the selectmen. From a review of the town meeting minutes, it appears that the selectmen found this job somewhat onerous, as committees were formed from time to time to find a better way. In 1826 the town initiated a bidding process wherein bids were solicited each year from those town citizens wishing to care for the poor. Naturally the lowest bid was accepted. Thus on 3 April 1826, the selectmen, who had the multiple title of overseers of the poor and assessors, accepted Mr. Robert

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<sup>1</sup> George J. Varney, *A Gazetteer of the State of Maine* (Boston, 1881), 109, 303, 519.

<sup>2</sup> South Berwick, Maine Town Records (1814–1895), part 1, p. 5 [Family History Library, Salt Lake City (FHL), film #12,240]. South Berwick was formed from the South Parish of Berwick on 12 Feb. 1814 by a vote of the Massachusetts Legislature.

<sup>3</sup> *Laws of the State of Maine* (Hallowell, 1822), 424–39.

Hodsdon's bid of \$590 "for support of all the poor that are now and all that may become chargeable to the town for the year ensuing."<sup>4</sup>

Similarly, on 2 April 1827, Jedediah Goodwin was awarded the responsibility of caring for the poor based on his bid of \$690.<sup>5</sup> Altruism may have played a secondary role. Chapter CXXIV stipulated that the manager of the poor farm could retain for his own account one third of any profits derived from the operation of the farm over and above any annual stipend granted. The remaining two thirds were to be used for the care of the poor or sent to the general fund of the town. Accordingly, an enterprising farmer possibly could supplement his labor force by caring for the poor and indigent—providing his charges were able to work.

A permanent home for South Berwick's poor was eventually established as a result of a Town Meeting vote on 23 April 1832 wherein "the Selectmen be instructed to purchase the farm belonging to Mr. George Clark for the use of the poor of the Town."<sup>6</sup> Two thousand two hundred dollars were allocated for the purchase. Furthermore, a volunteer committee of six was chosen to make weekly visits to the farm to oversee its management and governance. The Clark property was deeded to the town on 27 April 1832 for \$1,800.<sup>7</sup> The purchase of the farm provided a permanent home for the poor who, up to this time, had to move from time to time depending on who won the bid for their care. Since town records do not identify individual farm managers, it appears that they were hired by the selectmen to operate the farm on behalf of the town.

At some time in 1849, the town selectmen must have wanted to augment the property bought in 1832, because in the 2 April 1849 Town Meeting it was voted that the town purchase from the selectmen the farm at Rocky Hill they had earlier purchased from Mrs. Elizabeth Abbott and Albert J. Mason. It was also voted that the selectmen decide which property to keep as a home for the poor. The selectmen would also "have charge" of the two farms at Rocky Hill and near Knights Pond.<sup>8</sup> It appears that they decided to keep the property located near Knights Pond, as Lyman Parsons had indicated a willingness to buy.<sup>9</sup> This may have been the property located at 75 Knights Pond Road recently identified as the former poor house/farm to the writer by Norma Keim of the Old Berwick Historical Society.

#### WHO WERE THE POOR?

The actual identities of the poor are revealed in various records. In 1826–27 those cared for by Mr. Robert Hodsdon were identified in the probate accounting

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<sup>4</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 2, p. 128.

<sup>5</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 2, p.135

<sup>6</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 2, p.178.

<sup>7</sup> York Co. Deeds, 145:27, George Clark to Town of South Berwick.

<sup>8</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 2, p. 433.

<sup>9</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 2, p. 440.

provided by Mrs. Fanny (Wadleigh) Hodsdon, executrix of her late husband's estate. Named paupers were Benjamin Frost, Patty Hearl, Abigail Sullivan, Patience Wadley, Caty Light, Hannah Hodsdon, Betsy Wise, Susan Hutchings, Lydia Peirce, and Sally Trefethren. Fanny Hodsdon claimed \$452.86 in her estate accounting for their care.<sup>10</sup>

By 1850, the annual process of determining who would care for the poor was not mentioned in South Berwick's Town Meeting records. By then, the town had a poor farm managed by someone likely appointed by the selectmen. The only item appearing in Town Meeting records was the annual allocation of funds for the support of the poor, which rose steadily to \$2,500 by 1853.<sup>11</sup> South Berwick regrettably does not now seem to have any early account books formerly maintained by selectmen or town treasurers. These would likely contain the identities of those dependent on the town.<sup>12</sup>

Identifying the poor was made simpler in 1850 when Federal census returns began to list complete households. Thus, on 20 August 1850, Howard Harvey was supervisor of South Berwick's poor farm. The immediate household consisted of Howard, his wife Ann, both 36, and their two children, George and Freeman, aged 6 and 2 respectively. Also living there was a Mary Goodwin, 44, and Howard's probable relation and her son, Mary Jane (Harvey) Woodsum, 39, and Charles Woodsum, 2.<sup>13</sup> Those living there who were described as "paupers" were Lucy Bragdon, 60, Sally Trefethern, 76, Betsey Kimball, 71, Sarah Cooper, 70, Sarah Roberts, 40, and Mary M. Robison, 50. Also there were four men, Tobias Shurburn, 83, Hopkin Pierce, 70, Abraham Lord, 51, and Thomas Thurrell, 75.<sup>14</sup> Presumably, the women helped with household chores and the men, despite their ages, assisted Howard Harvey with farm chores.

On 8 June 1860, the manager of the South Berwick poor house (farm) was Isaac Thompson, 39. His immediate family consisted of himself, his wife Seneth, 30, and children Sarah F., 8 and Charles R., 5. There were thirteen residents, some of whom were residents in 1850. Male residents were: Hopkins Pearse, 70, Elizar Boston, 76, Nathan Kimball, 70, and Moses Grant, 21, who, in view of his age, may have been a hired hand rather than a pauper. The nine women were: Betsy Kimball, 81, Matilda Robinson, 60, Lydia Kimball, 81, Mehetable Whitehouse, 85, Sarah Roberts, 60, Peggy Lord, 68, Rosan Sargent, 59, Thedessa Allen, 58, and Lydia Allen, 27. In

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<sup>10</sup> Robert Hodsdon estate, York Co. Probate Records, 39:349–50.

<sup>11</sup> South Berwick Town Records [note 2], part 3, p. 30.

<sup>12</sup> Electronic mail to the writer from Barbara Bennett, Town Clerk, South Berwick, 11 Nov. 2015.

<sup>13</sup> Joseph C. Anderson II, *The Woodsum (Woodsome/Woodsom) Family in America* (Baltimore, Md., 1990), 108–13.

<sup>14</sup> Howard Harvey household, 1850 U.S. Census, South Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 309B.

certain cases, the condition of the individual was noted. Thus Nathan Kimball, Betsy Kimball, and Matilda Robinson were listed as insane.<sup>15</sup>

Supplementing the census years, the identities of the residents of the poor farm, or alms house can be found in South Berwick's published annual town reports of receipts and expenditures. Thus we find for year ending 12 March 1866, Isaac Thompson, as Isaac Thompson Jr., was again manager of the poor farm as he was in 1860. Listed as paupers at the alms house were four males: Elijah Boston, 83, Forrest Warren, 68, Aaron Hogdon, 75, and Sydney Kimball, 4. There were eleven females: Betsey Kimball, 86, Rosanna Sargent, 63, Mary Joy, 55, Matilda Robinson, 71, Rosilla Wells, 28, Addia Kimball, 6 months, Phebe Whitehouse, 69, Theodate Allen, 58, Jane Wells, 6, Sarah Roberts, 53, and Hannah Copp, 69.<sup>16</sup>

This 1866 report is noteworthy because it reveals that the town supported other persons within its borders in addition to those at the poor farm. About fifteen South Berwick residents remained at their principal residences, but received aid by name in the form of groceries, wood, grave clothes, rent, and medical attention. This detail is not on federal census returns.

By 23 June 1870, Josephus Warren had become manager of the South Berwick Poor Farm. His immediate household consisted of himself, 41, his wife Mary A., 40, a daughter, Ida F., 9 and a son, Henry E., 7. What an interesting upbringing these children must have had! The twelve residents of the farm (a number of whom were residents in 1866) consisted of three males: Elijah Boston, 86, Daniel Hodsdon, 55, and Sylvester Wyman, 8; and nine females: Betsey Kimball, 90, Matilda Robinson, 75, Rosilla Wells, 32, Adda Kimball, 4, Theodate Allen, 62, Sarah Roberts, 57, Hannah Copp, 75, Dorcas Kimball, 53, and Judith Hutchins, 85. Dorcas Kimball was listed as idiotic.<sup>17</sup>

A decade later, on 13 June 1880, Samuel Wormwood had taken over as "overseer of the farm." His immediate household consisted of himself, 60, and his wife, Margret, 54. Twelve individuals comprised the remainder of the household. This enumeration provided more personal detail than earlier enumerations. The twelve were: Seth Warren, 79, pauper, laborer, suffering from hemorrhaging of the lungs (one wonders why a person with a possible contagious disease was placed with others in a close family setting); John Kingsbury, 63, pauper, laborer; George Baucher, 50, tailor, crippled; James Spencer, 49, pauper, laborer, insane; Matilda Robinson, 86, pauper, servant, insane; Mary Jay, 73, pauper, servant, crippled; Sarah Roberts,

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<sup>15</sup> Isaac Thompson household, 1860 U.S. Census, South Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 818.

<sup>16</sup> *Report of the Receipts and Expenditures of the Town of South Berwick for the Fiscal Year Ending March 12, 1866* (Biddeford, Maine, 1866), 5–6. The South Berwick Public Library has these reports beginning in 1866, but missing 1870s, 1882–1883, 1904, 1952, 1955, 1970, 1973, and 1974. *Annual Reports of the Municipal Officers of the Town of South Berwick*, found at the Maine Historical Society, Portland, for the years 1861, 1866–67, 1870–75, 1877–1916, may have similar information.

<sup>17</sup> Josephus Warren household, 1870 U.S. Census, South Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 678A.



67, pauper, insane; Edrain Baucher, 13, pauper, laborer; Mark Grant, 83, pauper, wife housekeeper [*sic: this occupation undoubtedly meant for Abigail, next*], mental disability; Abigail Grant, 63, pauper; Fanny Carpenter, 19, pauper, mill operative; and Elroy Carpenter, 7 months, pauper.<sup>18</sup>

The U.S. Federal Census for 1880 also contains a Schedule of Defective, Dependent and Delinquent Persons for each Maine locality. This schedule adds additional detail to the residents listed above. Seth Warren was consumptive; John Kingsbury was both crippled and suffering from a rupture; George Baucher was both crippled and paralytic; James Spencer was ruptured; Matilda Robinson was crippled and insane; Mary Jay (Joy?) was crippled; Sarah Roberts was insane; Mark Grant was elderly, as was Abbe Grant; and Fannie Carpenter was lying in (pregnant). The schedule also revealed that three residents of the poor farm were held in cells. These were Matilda Robinson, Sarah Roberts, and James Spencer.<sup>19</sup>

In addition, this 1880 schedule includes some persons who were not members of the poor farm, but who were considered defective, dependent, or delinquent. These were Neal Brackett, atrophy of the brain; Eliza A. Wadleigh, melancholia; Ida Tibbetts, nymphomania; and Roxanna Hersum, dementia. While these persons likely remained at home with their respective families or in the care of others, Eliza Wadleigh required an attendant and Ida Tibbetts was handcuffed. Roxanna Hersum was considered harmless.<sup>20</sup>

A fictional glimpse into the lives of South Berwick's poor can be found in the writings of its noted former resident, Sarah Orne Jewett. Three short stories seem most representative.<sup>21</sup> "The Flight of Betsey Lane" tells how a poorhouse resident uses an unexpected windfall not to escape the poorhouse, but rather to finance a trip to the 1876 Philadelphia Centennial so upon her return she can share her experiences with her co-residents. "The Town Poor" describes the plight of the Bray sisters who upon reluctantly concluding that they were destitute and needed support are housed at town expense (bid for \$5 per month) at a rural farm with a less than caring couple. Their situation comes to light when they are visited by former acquaintances after which one of whom determines to move them back to their original home. "Aunt Cynthia Dallett" portrays a niece who on New Year's Day, lovingly decides to move from her home in town to care for her aged aunt who resides in a rural farmhouse.

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<sup>18</sup> Samuel Wormwood household, 1880 U.S. Census, South Berwick, York Co., Maine, p. 596A. Additional names in the household follow Samuel and Margret Wormwood's listings.

<sup>19</sup> 1880 U.S. Federal Census, Schedule of Defective, Dependent, and Delinquent Classes, South Berwick, York Co., Maine, South Berwick Town Almshouse, ancestry.com, image 23 of 81.

<sup>20</sup> South Berwick Almshouse [note 19], image 21 of 81.

<sup>21</sup> Sarah Orne Jewett, *The Best Stories of Sarah Orne Jewett*, 2 vols. (Boston and New York, 1925), selected and arranged by Willa Cather.

## CONCLUSION

It is clear that South Berwick's poor definitely were not lost in the records. In fact, in some ways they were recorded with more specifics than other residents. This is especially true within the Annual Town Reports of Receipts and Expenses, which detail by name every penny assessed for their care.

Researchers interested in the poor of other Maine localities should first examine annual town meeting records to determine how each jurisdiction handled its responsibility for the poor, as well as to identify the overseers of the poor. Second, a review of annual town expenditure records will identify those persons contracted to manage the poor farms, as well as identify the names of the town poor. Third, town land records can be studied to determine when the town may have acquired property on which to house its poor. Fourth, federal, state, and local censuses should be examined. Finally, a check of local and state historical archives may uncover account books or other materials related to the poor. The Maine State Archives holds information concerning paupers of certain Maine towns.<sup>22</sup>

[The author acknowledges the kind suggestions received during the preparation of this article from Marian Pierre-Louis and Carol P. McCoy, Ph.D.]

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<sup>22</sup> See Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine, SOS Returns, Pauper accounts, Record Group 2112-0615.

## THE WINDHAM, MAINE, ALMSHOUSE RULES

*by Carol Prescott McCoy, Ph.D.*

Life was harsh for Maine's early settlers. Many poor families, barely managing to scrape by, fell on hard times when disease, debilities, war injuries, or overwork either killed the heads of household or prevented them from caring for the family. Such families and persons left alone depended on others for help. Some children became indentured to masters in order to learn a trade and receive food and shelter. While sometimes neighbors and friends informally provided assistance to the needy, other paupers required more help than could reasonably be given for free. Often widows, children, the elderly, and infirm became the responsibility of the town.

With no government agency to help them, Windham like other Maine towns carefully evaluated those persons needing public assistance. When vagabonds or strangers suddenly appeared in town, the selectmen ordered the constable to issue them a warning out, indicating the town would not support them in the event they needed help. On the other hand, persons with legal inhabitancy in the town were entitled to receive services. Citizens who were willing to provide assistance would engage in a bidding process called *vendue* for the right to receive money from the town in exchange for bestowing services, with the lowest bidder winning.

Fees accepted varied widely based on the amount of services that could be rendered to the bidder and/or the amount of services the pauper needed. The memorandum of town paupers bid off in March 1826 indicates that Robert Estes would receive \$49.00 to care for Nathaniel Mugford and his wife, and Daniel Hussey would receive \$7.00 to care for Sally Mugford. Ebenezer Leighton would receive \$78.00 to care for John Chase, his wife, and Sally Chase, however John Hawkes would receive \$12.00 for John Chase Jr., possibly because John Jr. could render helpful services to Hawkes. Ebenezer Allen would receive \$47.00 for James Campbell but only \$26.00 for Moses Hardy's wife. Meshach Purinton would receive \$40.00 to care for "Black Luce", a ward of the town for many years. For some reason, the town "voted that Stephen Manchesters family be left to the disposal of the selectman."<sup>1</sup> Did no one bid to care for this difficult family?

In the records of the April 1826 Windham town meeting, several items were voted showing the town's desire to treat their paupers humanely:

That the Selectmen be directed to dispose of the town paupers in small lots at auction to the lowest bidder; that the selectmen have the privilege [*sic*] of disposing of the paupers all to one person, provided they find it can be done cheaper; that the selectmen be directed to remove any pauper not well used by the person who keeps him to another place; that the person, who bids of a pauper, have the use of the real & personal

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<sup>1</sup> Letter of 14 March 1826 to Mr. Hawkes regarding Windham town credits for paupers to be presented to the town auditor, Moses Little (Moses Little Collection, Windham Historical Society).

estate, to be returned at the expiration of the year in as good order & condition as when received; and that such as bid of a pauper, receive his pay quarterly.<sup>2</sup>

On 9 April 1827 John Hussey Jr. was to receive \$75.00 for Nathaniel Mugford and his wife, and John Mugford was to receive only \$2.00 to care for Sarah Mugford. Samuel Varney received only \$7.00 to care for the Chase boy, Timothy Robinson Jr. received \$20.00 for Black Luce, and John Sawyer received \$28.00 for James Campbell. Two other women received aid: John Mayberry received \$44.00 for Mrs. Hardy and William Legrow got \$22.00 for Widow Ann Elder.<sup>3</sup>

The memorandum regarding Windham town paupers dated 14 April 1828 indicated that Alex. Lamb would receive \$67.00 to care for Nathaniel Mugford and his wife, but Elisha Jones would receive only \$4.00 to care for Sarah Mugford. Often citizens would provide care for more than one family. Roland Rand would receive \$86.00 to provide care for John Chase, his wife, and Sally Chase, \$39.00 to care for James Campbell, and \$13.00 to care for "Black Luce." Why the change from \$40.00 to \$20.00 to \$13.00 for Black Luce's care from 1826 to 1828? Had she been seriously ill, requiring more care in 1826? Meshach Purinton received \$45.00 to care for William Young, his wife, and their three youngest children. Ebenezer Hawkes Jr. was paid only \$6.00 (half of what was bid in 1826) to care for John Chase Jr.; perhaps by then he was old enough to provide meaningful help to Hawkes.<sup>4</sup>

Noting changes in care over the years is illuminating. In 1830 Tim Hanson received \$69.00 to care for Jane Hardy (presumably wife of Moses Hardy in 1826), which was \$40.00 more than what her care cost in 1826, and \$25.00 more than what her care cost in 1827. Families were often split up by the process. In 1830 William Young was bid off to Levi Hawkes for only 75 cents; his three children, however, were to be cared for by Ebenezer Allen for \$30.00. By 1830 John Chase became the ward of Moses Little for \$12.00, while Widow Chase became the ward of Stephen Webb for \$40.00, and Sally Chase the ward of Meshach Purinton for \$27.00. Since no John Chase Jr. was listed in 1830, one of the John Chase paupers must have died, become self-supporting, or moved away. Meshach Purinton, not Alex. Lamb, was to care for Nathaniel Mugford and his wife for \$88.00. Rowland Rand continued to care for James Campbell for \$39.00. On the other hand, Black Luce must have needed more services since Timothy Robinson Jr. received \$28.00 for her care.<sup>5</sup>

Windham town meetings show that the townsfolk wanted a better solution, and they acquired an almshouse. On 16 April 1836, the town voted to accept very strict rules for an almshouse, which today read more like prison rules or guidelines for treating slaves than workhouse rules. Prohibition of alcohol was an important goal, and punishments for drinking alcohol included solitary confinement and a diet of

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<sup>2</sup> Town Records 1821–1855, Town of Windham, 1826, p. 101. Original record book viewed at the Windham Town Office.

<sup>3</sup> Town Records 1821–1855, Town of Windham, 1827, p. 125.

<sup>4</sup> Windham Town Records Book 1821–1855, 1828, p. 145.

<sup>5</sup> Windham Town Book, 1830, p. 185.

only bread and water. Inmates were not allowed to leave the premises except under strict orders. Arrangements for burials required that fellow inmates attend the funerals of those who died in the workhouse. The rules are transcribed in full below.<sup>6</sup>

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Rules and Regulations for the Government of the Windham Alms house,  
[accepted by the town at a meeting April 16, 1836: Article 38]

Admission

Article 1. All persons admitted into the Alms house shall be examined as to cleanliness from vermin, or any infectious disorder and kept as separate as possible until the difficulty is removed. Their clothes and furniture shall go with them unless otherwise ordered.

Rising and Retirement for the night

Art. 2. At five o'clock in the morning, every person, the sick and infirm excepted, shall rise, dress and wash themselves clean and repair to their several employments. At 9 o'clock roll in Summer and 8 o'clock roll in winter, every person in the house must repair to their apartment, extinguish the lights, secure the fires and retire to bed.

Meals

Art 3<sup>rd</sup>. At 7 o'clock in the morning, 12 at noon, and 6 in the afternoon, at the call of the master, every person will cease from any occupation they may be engaged in, and repair with clean hands and faces to the dining Room and take such seats as shall be assigned them by the master, where they must strictly observe decency and good order. Half an hour each will be allowed for breakfast and supper, and one hour for dinner, at the expiration of which times, every person shall immediately repair to the work assigned them by the master or keeper. They shall not loiter on the way, but shall proceed with alacrity and at once commence their labour.

Cleanliness

Art. 4<sup>th</sup>. Every tenanted room in the house or houses together with the entries & stairways, cells and cellars must be swept, scoured and kept clean by such person or persons as the master shall appoint.

Labour

Art. 5<sup>th</sup>. Tasks shall be assigned by the keeper to all who are capable of labour, and those who perform them faithfully and cheerfully shall be rewarded according to their merits by such indulgencies as the overseer may direct.

Spiritous Liquors, Disorderly Conduct & Profane Language

Art. 6<sup>th</sup>. The severest punishment will be inflicted on all those, who are guilty of drunkenness, disorderly conduct, profane or obscene language, theft, embezzlement, waste of food, or manufacturing stock, or defacing these Articles, or any other waste whatever. And no rum or other ardent spirits on any occasion or under any pretence whatever will be permitted to be brought into the house, unless by an order of the Physician, and then to be dealt out by the master. For bringing or assisting to bring into the house any spiritous liquors, for being intoxicated or any other breach of these articles, the offender will be punished with solitary confinement and fed on bread and

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<sup>6</sup> Windham Town Book, 1836, pp. 297-99.

water, not exceeding two weeks nor less than one day, according to the aggravation of the offense and increased for the second offence.

#### Solitary Confinement

Art. 7<sup>th</sup>. In all cases of solitary confinement for highly criminal conduct, the prisoner shall be debarred from society or convening with any person, except by permission, and they shall in all these respects be subject to the severest privations, and fed on bread and water. And any tenant of the house, who shall without leave have any communication with a person so confined, or who shall refuse to assist the master when required to carry these rules and regulations into effect, shall suffer the same punishment. All persons confined to the cells shall be previously searched, and every instrument taken from them.

#### Burials

Art. 8<sup>th</sup>. Whenever a person dies in the house, the relatives or friends may remove the body and inter it at their own expense; otherwise it will be buried in some one of the public burying grounds, that now is or may hereafter be laid out for the use of the town. The relatives and friends of the deceased will be allowed, and all paupers who are able must attend the funeral at the discretion of the master, and any unbecoming conduct will be punished.

#### Dismission & Leave of Absence

Art. 9<sup>th</sup>. Dismissions shall be made only by the board of overseers of the Poor. No inhabitant of the house will be permitted to go out on any pretence whatever, except by permission of the master or keeper, and every person so permitted must return at or before the time appointed by the master. For leaving without permission he shall be punished by solitary confinement. For exceeding the granted permission not to be permitted to go out again for three months.

#### Punishment

Art. 10<sup>th</sup>. The master will be vigilant in detecting every negligence or willful violation of these rules, and will promptly inflict the most exemplary punishment at the same time, those, who conduct well, will receive the kindest treatment, and every reasonable indulgence. All persons confined for aggravated intemperance, or abandoned and vicious conduct, shall be separated from the other paupers and have such fare as the overseers, who confined them shall order.

Art. 11<sup>th</sup>. The master shall have a constant and careful eye to the economy of the establishment and the discharge of every duty, in all the departments of the premises and shall punish delinquents with humanity but firmness. We shall send these rules at least once a month to the tenants of the House.

|                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| Thomas Mayberry} | Overseers of |
| Edward Anderson} | The Poor of  |
| Thomas Varney}   | Windham      |

A true copy attest John Eveleth Town Clerk

*Carol Prescott McCoy, Ph.D. (71 Willow Grove Road, Brunswick, Maine 04011; cmccoy3333@aol.com) is owner of Find-Your-Roots.com and a Director of the Maine Genealogical Society. She came across the shocking Windham almshouse rules when conducting research for a client. Thanks to Linda Morrell, Windham Town Clerk, for her helpfulness in this project.*

“INHABITANTS OF YOUR TOWN HAVE BECOME  
CHARGEABLE IN THIS CITY AS PAUPERS”

The Family of Sylvia (Drew) (Hersey) (Ash) Severance

*by Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG*

On 5 March 1858, E. Edison, per order of the Overseers of the Poor of Bangor, Maine, wrote a letter to the Overseers of the Poor of Dexter, Maine, regarding two families living in Bangor. The two families were described as follows:

Sylvia Ash aged about 42 years with her children Keziah aged 15 Robert 12 Sophronia 10 Moses F 7 Elizabeth 5 and James L aged about 2 years, Also Lyman Hersey aged about 23 years Louisa his wife aged about 23 years with their child Luther L aged 9 months.

Mr. Edison notified the Dexter overseers that these people were “inhabitants of your town [who] have become chargeable in this city as paupers” and requested “their removal or otherwise provide for them as you may judge expedient.”<sup>1</sup> That this was in fact one family group is suggested by the 1850 census of Hermon, Maine, which includes both the older Hersey children and younger Ash children living under one roof:<sup>2</sup>

|            |    |        |           |                |          |
|------------|----|--------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Thomas Ash | 53 | male   | shoemaker | \$300 RE value | b. Maine |
| Silva Ash  | 33 | female |           |                | "        |
| L. Hersey  | 14 | male   |           |                | "        |
| A. Hersey  | 12 | female |           |                | "        |
| E. Hersey  | 9  | female |           |                | "        |
| K. Ash     | 6  | female |           |                | "        |
| R. Ash     | 5  | male   |           |                | "        |
| S. Ash     | 3  | female |           |                | "        |
| M. F. Ash  | 1  | female |           |                | "        |
| S. Drew    | 75 | female |           |                | "        |

Edison’s letter and the 1850 census return provide a firm basis for reconstructing Sylvia’s family, shown below. While the family was poor, the children in adulthood apparently were able to break the cycle of poverty. In an ironic twist on life, Sylvia’s daughter Nellie and Nellie’s husband, Abilene Taylor, were managing the St. Albans, Maine, poor farm in 1880.<sup>3</sup> With her own childhood experience as a pauper, we can hope that Nellie treated the needy persons under her care with compassion.

<sup>1</sup> Leslie Dow Sanders, contr., “Stampless Letter to Overseers of the Poor Dexter, Maine,” *The Maine Genealogist* 32(2010):23.

<sup>2</sup> 1850 U.S. Census, Hermon, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 285.

<sup>3</sup> Abilene Taylor household, 1880 U.S. Census, St. Albans, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 531D. Twelve persons described as paupers were living in the household. They were True Bean, 78; C. K. Hopkins, 63; Mary A. Merryman, 43; Andrew J. Welch, 14; Arthur Nickerson, 13; Leafy C. Welch, 10; Carrie Smart, 9; Elmer Leavitt, 20; Simon Ellis, 20; Mary Hawks, 45; Fred Hawks, 18; and Almeda Hawks, 13. With the exception of the four children under 18, all were listed as labourers. C. K. Hopkins was further described as “disabled in hands by saw” and Mary A. Merryman was labeled “insane.”

**SYLVIA DREW** was born in Harmony, Maine, 28 November 1811, daughter of Reuben and Sarah (Page) Drew.<sup>4</sup> She was living in 1861 when she married, but was likely dead by 1870, when she is not found on the census. No gravestone or probate has been located for her. She married first LUTHER HERSEY, their marriage intentions recorded in Harmony, 22 March 1834.<sup>5</sup> It would appear that Luther was dead by 1840, when “Silva” Hersey was enumerated in Harmony without a husband and with a male child aged 5–9 and two female children aged 0–4.<sup>6</sup>

Sylvia married second in Wellington, Maine, 9 May 1842, THOMAS ASH.<sup>7</sup> Thomas was aged 53 in 1850 and 65 in 1860, and thus born about 1795–97.<sup>8</sup> While his parentage has been not proven, he is a good candidate for the Thomas Ash born in roughly this same time period, son of Benjamin Jr. and Betsey (Ash) Ash of Gouldsboro, Maine.<sup>9</sup> While a record of his death has not been located, Thomas died after the 1860 census and likely before the fall of 1861 when Sylvia remarried.

Sylvia married third in Bangor, 22 October 1861, CALEB SEVERANCE, both of Bangor.<sup>10</sup> Caleb was born in Maine about 1793, probably a son of Caleb Severance [Sr.] of Brewer, Maine.<sup>11</sup> He was living as one of three inmates at the almshouse in Brewer at the time of 1870 census, aged 77.<sup>12</sup>

About 1857 or 1858, as evidenced by E. Edison’s letter, Sylvia moved to Bangor with her minor children and with the family of her oldest son Lyman Hersey. Her husband, Thomas Ash, did not accompany her there originally, and both families were living in poverty. Because the Bangor officials charged the family’s expenses to the town of Dexter, it is likely that Thomas had legal settlement in Dexter.<sup>13</sup> Several sources give the birthplace of Sylvia’s youngest son, James, as Wisconsin, so it is likely the family had a short sojourn there in the mid-1850s before arriving in Bangor. Thomas and Sylvia, now reunited, and the rest of the family were still in Bangor in 1860.<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> Harmony Births and Deaths, 1759–1859, p. 41. Reuben’s wife, Sarah Page, is named in the death records of their daughters Patience Wiggins (d. 3 June 1892) and Lydia Leighton (d. 15 Nov. 1894), per Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org. Sarah (Page) Drew, Sylvia’s mother, was the S. Drew, age 75, living with Sylvia in Hermon in the 1850 census.

<sup>5</sup> Harmony Marriage and Marriage Intentions 1803–1837, 1:324.

<sup>6</sup> Sylva Hersey household, 1840 U.S. Census, Harmony, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 115.

<sup>7</sup> Maine Marriages, 1771–1907, familysearch.org.

<sup>8</sup> 1850 U.S. Census [note 2]; Thomas Ash household, 1860 U.S. Census, Bangor Ward 2, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 695.

<sup>9</sup> See discussion in Thomas Ash sketch, submitted by Gerald F. Gower, in Joseph C. Anderson II, ed., *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 5* (Camden, Maine, 1996), 11.

<sup>10</sup> Ruth Gray, ed., *Marriage Returns of Penobscot County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Camden, Maine, 1994), 285 (hereafter cited as *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*).

<sup>11</sup> “Early Settlers in Orrington, Maine,” *Bangor Historical Magazine* 5(1889):13–14.

<sup>12</sup> Samuel E. Head household, 1870 U.S. Census, Brewer, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 309.

<sup>13</sup> As noted on p. 24 of this issue, Maine poor laws in effect dictated that married women had the settlement of their husbands and legitimate children had the settlement of their father.

<sup>14</sup> Thomas Ash household, 1860 U.S. Census [note 8].



## Children of Luther and Sylvia (Drew) Hersey:

- i LYMAN HERSEY, b. ca. 1835, d. 16 June 1884, aged 49y, and bur. in Orrs Island Cemetery, Harpswell, Maine;<sup>15</sup> m. say 1856, LOUISA HOLT.<sup>16</sup> In 1860, Lyman, age 23, mariner, and Louisa, age 25 (her name incorrectly given as “Susan”), and their 3-year-old son Luther resided in Bangor adjacent to his mother and stepfather, Thomas and Sylvia Ash.<sup>17</sup> Lyman, mariner, and Louisa were still in Bangor in 1870, living with their three children Luther, 14, Alice, 9, and Ella, 2.<sup>18</sup> During the Civil War, Lyman served in Company F of the Second Maine Regiment mustered in Bangor, and his widow received a pension on his service.<sup>19</sup>
- ii female child, b. ca. 1838, listed as “A. Hersey” on the 1850 census.
- iii ELLEN/NELLIE M. HERSEY, b. say 1840, d. Skowhegan, Maine, 15 Oct. 1911, age 69y 4m 5d [*sic*];<sup>20</sup> m. (1) Bangor, 22 Aug. 1858, BENJAMIN SPOONER both of Bangor;<sup>21</sup> m. (2) Bangor, 27 April 1861, CYRUS SPOONER of Exeter;<sup>22</sup> m. (3) St. Albans, Maine, 13 June 1875, ABILENE TAYLOR.<sup>23</sup> Nellie resided in Dexter in 1860 with her 1st husband; in Exeter in 1870 with her 2nd husband; and in St. Albans in 1880 with her 3rd husband, at which time they were in charge of the poor farm.<sup>24</sup>

## Children of Thomas and Sylvia (Drew) (Hersey) Ash:

- iv KEZIAH/KATIE ASH, b. 11 March 1844, d. Washington, Maine, 8 Aug. 1908;<sup>25</sup> m. (1) Bangor, 1 Jan. 1859, CHARLES EVERETT both of Bangor;<sup>26</sup> m. (2) (cert.) Washington, 4 Dec. 1872, WILLIAM C. ACHORN.<sup>27</sup> In 1870 Charles and Keziah Everett resided in Bangor with their 4 children and Keziah’s two youngest brothers, Frank Ash, age 20, and James Ash, age 16.<sup>28</sup> Keziah and William Achorn were in Lewiston in 1880 and in Washington in 1900.<sup>29</sup>

<sup>15</sup> Findagrave.com, memorial #38850691, transcription of inscription, but no photo.

<sup>16</sup> Their 1st child b. ca. June 1857 per Edison’s letter; Louisa’s surname from her death record, which states she was the widow of Lyman Hersey and names her parents.

<sup>17</sup> Lyman Hersey household, 1860 U.S. Census, Bangor Ward 2, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 695.

<sup>18</sup> Lyman Hersey household, 1870 U.S. Census, Bangor, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 138B.

<sup>19</sup> Lyman Hersey, Civil War Widow’s Pension #377,450, filed 26 July 1888, Company F, 2 Reg’t, Maine Infantry, Civil War Pensions Index, fold3.com.

<sup>20</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org. While her age at death calculates to a birth date of 10 June 1842, that would have been after her mother’s marriage to Thomas Ash. Since she appears to be in her mother’s household in 1840, perhaps her birth date was 10 June 1840.

<sup>21</sup> *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, 238.

<sup>22</sup> *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, 284.

<sup>23</sup> Maine Marriages, 1771–1907, familysearch.org.

<sup>24</sup> Benjamin Spooner household, 1860 U.S. Census, Dexter, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 58; Cyrus Spooner household, 1870 U.S. Census, Exeter, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 510; Abilene Taylor household, 1880 U.S. Census, St. Albans, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 531D.

<sup>25</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org, “Katie Achorn,” the death record naming her parents; gravestone photo and submitter data, findagrave.com, memorial #73097598.

<sup>26</sup> *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, 235.

<sup>27</sup> Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Washington, Maine* (Rockport, Maine, 2005), 92.

<sup>28</sup> Charles Everett household, 1870 U.S. Census, Bangor, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 66B.

<sup>29</sup> William C. Achorn households, 1880 and 1900 U.S. Censuses, Lewiston, Androscoggin Co., Maine, E.D. 10, p. 211B (1880); Washington, Knox Co., Maine, sheet 6A (1900).

- v ROBERT ASH, b. 10 May 1846, d. Old Town, Maine, 27 Sept. 1901, age 55y, and bur. in Cardville Cemetery, Greenbush, Maine;<sup>30</sup> m. Bangor, 24 Feb. 1863, ALMIRA M. YOUNG.<sup>31</sup> Robert Ash was a farmer and stage driver in Greenbush and Milford, Maine, where he and Almira raised a large family of children.<sup>32</sup>
- vi SOPHRONIA ASH, b. ca. 1847, d. Washington, Maine, 27 April 1912, age 61y 10m 10d [*sic*];<sup>33</sup> m. Greenbush, 16 March 1863, VINAL E. KEEN.<sup>34</sup> In 1870 Sophronia and Vinal Keen were living in Bangor adjacent to her brother-in-law and sister, Charles and Keziah Everett.<sup>35</sup> They were in Somerville, Maine, in 1870, living with his parents, and in Washington in 1900; he was described as a farmer and laborer.<sup>36</sup>
- vii MOSES FRANK ASH, b. ca. 1849–50, d. 1930 and bur. in Pleasant Hill Cemetery, Freedom, Maine;<sup>37</sup> m. ca. 1889, CLARA ANDERSON.<sup>38</sup> Frank was a farmer and lived in Knox and Waldo cos., Maine.<sup>39</sup>
- viii SARAH E[LIZABETH?] ASH, b. ca. 1853, d. Ludington, Mason Co., Mich., 7 Nov. 1908;<sup>40</sup> m. ca. 1880, WILMARTH B. YEAW.<sup>41</sup> She is likely the “Elizabeth” Ash, age 5 on the 1858 Edison letter and age 7 in her parents’ 1860 census household. On her husband’s disability record, she was listed as Mrs. Sarah E. Yeaw.<sup>42</sup>
- ix JAMES TIBBETS ASH, b. Wisc., ca. 1856, d. Ludington, Mason Co., Mich., 29 Dec. 1908;<sup>43</sup> m. Custer, Mason Co., Mich., 29 Sept. 1883, HATTIE A. HAYES.<sup>44</sup> James, an engineer, with Hattie and 4 children, was enumerated in Elk, Mich., in 1900.<sup>45</sup>

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<sup>30</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org; gravestone photo and submitter information, findagrave.com, memorial #136903992.

<sup>31</sup> *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, 311.

<sup>32</sup> Robert Ash(e) households, 1870–1900 U.S. Censuses, Greenbush, Penobscot Co., Maine, pp. 35 (1870), 470A (1880); Milford, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 7A (1900).

<sup>33</sup> Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org. Her age at death, suggesting she was b. 17 June 1850, is probably understated by three years, as she was three years old in the 1850 census.

<sup>34</sup> *Penobscot Co. Marriage Returns*, 320.

<sup>35</sup> Vinal Keen household, 1870 U.S. Census, Bangor, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 66B.

<sup>36</sup> Francis Keene household, 1880 U.S. Census, Somerville, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 550; Vinal Keene household, 1900 U.S. Census, Washington, Knox Co., Maine, p. 5B.

<sup>37</sup> Gravestone photo, findagrave.com, memorial #19389518.

<sup>38</sup> Her maiden name from the 1897 birth record of their son Robert (Maine Vital Records, 1670–1907, familysearch.org); in 1900 they had been married 11y (Frank Ashe household, 1900 U.S. Census, Union, Knox Co., Maine, sheet 8A).

<sup>39</sup> Frank Ash(e) households, 1900–20 U.S. Censuses, Union, Knox Co. Maine, p. 8A (1900), Appleton, Knox Co., Maine, p. 1A (1910), Unity, Waldo Co., Maine, p. 9A (1920).

<sup>40</sup> Michigan, Death Records, 1867–1950, ancestry.com, for Sarah Yeaw, her parents Thomas Ash and “Silver” Drew named on the record.

<sup>41</sup> Wilmarth B. Yeaw household, 1900 U.S. Census, Washington, Knox Co., Maine, sheet 7A.

<sup>42</sup> U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938, ancestry.com.

<sup>43</sup> Michigan, Death Records, 1867–1950, ancestry.com, for James T. Ash, his parents Thomas Ash and “Silver” Drew named. He was aged 2 in the 1858 Edison letter and age 4 on the 1860 census return of his parents’ household.

<sup>44</sup> Michigan Marriages, 1822–1995, familysearch.org.

<sup>45</sup> James Ashe household, 1900 U.S. Census, Elk Twp., Lake Co., Mich., sheet 2A.

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