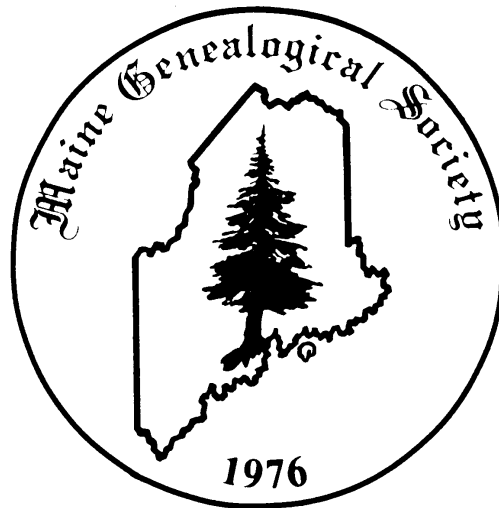


The Maine Genealogist



May 2019
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The Maine Genealogical Society

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EDITOR'S PAGE

Experienced genealogists know the benefit of validation. No source is error free, and it is good practice to gather and compare as much evidence as possible to ensure our conclusions have a sound footing. Errors made inadvertently by sloppy scribes or uninformed witnesses are often easy to identify. More difficult to detect are assertions made with a deliberate objective to conceal the truth.

This was recently brought home to me in research I was conducting for the *Maine Families in 1790* series on Malatiah Cobb (1755–1835) of Charleston, Maine. Malatiah's first wife died in 1823. The next year he married, in Portland, Betsey (Tobey) Coltman. Many years later, in 1859, Betsey applied to obtain a widow's pension based on Malatiah's Revolutionary War service. In her declaration, she reported a remarkable chain of events:

Betsey Cobb was married to James H. Coltman on the 8th of July 1810, and lived with him as his wife till the 24th of January 1817 at which time said Coltman deserted her and was ten years absent from her, and during the whole of that time unheard of and by her supposed to be dead. That she was married to Malatiah Cobb on the 8th of July 1824, Coltman at that time having been absent more than seven years. That while she was living with her husband Cobb, Coltman returned to this State from Canada, and she saw him at Charleston in 1827 where she was then living as the wife of said Cobb, and soon thereafter he returned to Canada as she was informed. She has reason to believe that Coltman is now living, but has no knowledge of the fact, as she has not seen him except as before stated, since he deserted her. (Revolutionary War Pension #R2070)

As I dug further, the truthfulness of Betsey's account came into serious question, in particular her claim that she had not been in contact with her first husband, James Coltman, except for the one instance in 1827. The Portland vital records confirm that Malatiah Cobb and Betsey Coltman were married on 8 July 1824. At the time, according to Betsey, she had not seen Coltman in seven years and she presumed him dead. The very next day, however, on 9 July 1824, James H. Coltman "of Portland," brass founder, sold a parcel of land in North Yarmouth, and he appeared the same day to acknowledge the deed (Cumberland County Deeds, 100:21). Not only was Coltman not at all absent, he was living in the same town where Betsey was married the previous day. That he called himself "of Portland" suggests he had been living there for some time. It strains belief that Betsey was unaware of this.

In 1840, five years after Malatiah Cobb's death, Betsey was using the surname "Coltman" when she headed her household in Portland. Ten years later, James Coltman, aged 79, and Elizabeth Coltman, aged 72, were enumerated in the census as living together in the Portland household of their son John Coltman, aged 31 (Ward 1, p. 42). Betsey's statement in 1859 to the Pension Office that she had not seen her first husband since 1827 was a barefaced lie.

In the end Betsey did not receive the pension she sought. The Pension Office ruled that "the instant that Coltman's life was known to continue after her remarriage the 2d marriage became void & she acquires no marital rights under it." Betsey died in Portland two years later, wiser but likely no richer.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

REFUGEES TO MAINE:
THE FAMILY OF ROGER SR. AND PATIENCE (BURGESS)
MERITHEW, AND THEIR GODFREY AND ROBINSON KIN

By Raymond C. Niro, MLIS, MEd, CG

Among *Mayflower* passenger William Brewster's numerous descendants was Patience Burgess (b. 1715/6), wife of Roger Merithew Sr. (b. 1714/5). That the couple were the forebears of the Merithew families of Maine has been generally accepted, although based almost entirely on hearsay.¹ An application to the Society of Mayflower Descendants required the preparation of an evidence-based case connecting the Maine Merithews to the Brewster lineage via Patience (Burgess) Merithew, specifically to Benjamin Merithew (b. 1786). Available published Merithew genealogies were studied, all statements pertaining to Roger Sr. and Patience and their children were tested, and overlooked sources were explored.² In the course of research, several "new" family members were discovered, and much new data surfaced that shed light on when, why, and under what circumstances the Merithews, with their Godfrey and Robinson kin, went from Massachusetts to Nova Scotia to the Saint John River valley (now in New Brunswick), and finally to Maine. The principle argument concerning lineage is based on indirect evidence in the form of associations, chronology, and onomastics.³ Most compelling is that the Merithews and their kin stayed together through several relocations over the course of nearly four decades. The new evidence passed muster with the Massachusetts and General Societies of Mayflower Descendants.⁴

The Roger Sr. and Patience Merithew family presented the usual challenges associated with colonial-era families:

¹ Barbara Lambert Merrick, *William Brewster of the Mayflower, and the Fifth-Generation Descendants of His Daughter Patience* (Plymouth, Mass., 2001), 5; and Iona Foster Raney, "The Ancestry of Minnie May Merrithew, 1872–1962," MS., Maine Historical Society, Call no. G M553 (n.p., 1996), chapters on Brewster, Burgess, and Merrithew families. Merrick documents the lineage from William Brewster to Patience Burgess, and Raney connects her to Roger Merithew, but cites only an untraceable manuscript by Edward L. Woodward.

² Lenna (Springstun) Gowdey's *Our Sire's Monument: The Merrithews of America* (Seattle, Wash., c1973) is the most influential of Merithew genealogies. All subsequent Merithew genealogical sketches draw on her work, including: Raney [note 1], Marion Fisher, *A Story of the Merrithew Family in America* (Littleton, Col., 1980); and Owen and Gwendolyn Merithew Fenderson, *Genealogy of Miles Readon Merithew and Effie Etta Dickey of Oakland, Maine* (Orono, Maine., 2003); and the Merithew sketches published in *History and Genealogy of the Town of Morrill, Maine* (Somersworth, N.H., 1983).

³ Robert Charles Anderson, *Elements of Genealogical Analysis* (Boston, 2014), Chap. 8.

⁴ General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) membership application #77851 (2), Oct. 2013, Office of the Historian General, Plymouth, Mass.

Surname variations: the Merithew name appears in more than fifty different spellings. The surname is standardized to *Merithew* in this narrative, but transcribed in the footnotes as found in the cited source.

Same-name relatives: there were numerous Merithew contemporaries named William, Jonathan, Benjamin, and even Roger.

Lost records and unrecorded events: the births of only two of Roger Merithew's children were recorded. He lived his entire life on the coastal fringes of northeastern British North America, but seemingly vanished for decades.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

ROGER³ MERITHEW (*Jonathan*², ?*Teeg*¹) was born in Dartmouth, Massachusetts, 14 March 1714/5, son of Jonathan and Mary (Oakman) Merithew.⁵ He died in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 25 February 1773.⁶ He married in Rochester, Massachusetts, 24 February 1736/7, PATIENCE BURG[ESS],⁷ born there 4 October 1716, daughter of Benjamin and Priscilla (Gatchell) Burgess.⁸ Patience died after 13 April 1778, probably in what is now New Brunswick, Canada.⁹

Patience Merithew's maiden name is reported as "Burg" in the Rochester marriage record and "Berry" in Dartmouth records, as has been frequently noted.¹⁰ The couple's marriage was recorded in Rochester, with Patience's surname clearly written *Burg*.¹¹ Her marriage to Roger was also recorded in Dartmouth—but not until more than one hundred and fifty years later.¹² An 1857 Massachusetts law required that all

⁵ Dartmouth, Massachusetts, "Births, marriages, intentions of marriage, and deaths, along with some miscellaneous town records, 1647–1877," p. 119 of vol. titled: "Births, deaths, marriages, intention, 1667–1788" [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #7009647, image 310]. A single entry comprises all the children of Jonathan Merethew but omits their mother's name. Jonathan Merrihue m. Lynn, Mass., 7 Oct. 1701, Mary Oakemun, probably as his second wife (*Vital Records of Lynn, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. [Salem, Mass., 1905–6], 2:251). Children were born at regular two-year intervals following his marriage to Mary. Mary is therefore presumed to be the mother of all of Jonathan's children recorded in Dartmouth vital records beginning with son Timothy, b. 1702.

⁶ Henry E. Scott Jr., ed., *Journal of the Reverend Jonathan Scott* (Boston, Mass, 1980), 40 (diary entry of 27 Feb. 1773). Rev. Scott was pastor of Jeboque Church at Yarmouth and attended Roger's funeral two days after Roger's death. Place of death is not stated, but it was probably Yarmouth given that Roger's home and family were in Yarmouth, that he had been ill for many weeks before his death, and that his body was buried in Yarmouth.

⁷ Rochester, Mass., "Town and vital records of Rochester, Massachusetts, 1673–1893," 2:50[a], Roger Merithew to Patience Burg [DGS #7009291, image 228].

⁸ Rochester, Mass., VRs [note 7], 1:53 [DGS #7009291, image 67].

⁹ Queens County, N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [DGS #7509012, images 270–78]. On 13 April 1778 John Clemmons, acting as attorney for Patience Merithew on the estate of her husband, declared that Patience had moved to the "St. Johns River."

¹⁰ See, for example, Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 2], 3; Fisher, *Merrithew Family* [note 2], 11; Philip R. Bunnelle, *New England Ancestry of Susan Alma Cook, 1866–1934* (Santa Clara, Calif., 1998), 110; and elsewhere.

¹¹ Rochester, Mass., VRs [note 7].

¹² Dartmouth, Mass., VRs [note 5], "Marriages Out of Town, 1700–1799," p. [132] [DGS #4279436, image 87].

pre-1800 marriages be recorded in the Massachusetts home town of each newlywed who was not a resident of the town in which the marriage actually took place.¹³ On 27 January 1858, the Dartmouth town clerk mistranscribed the Rochester marriage entry of Patience Burg as *Berry*. The erroneous surname *Berry* was later reproduced in the published Dartmouth vital records.¹⁴

Roger Merithew, born a twin, was the ninth or tenth of fourteen children, with his oldest (half) brother, John, twenty years his senior.¹⁵ Roger was named in both his father Jonathan's will of 1741 and his brother Samuel's will of 1733.¹⁶

Jonathan Merithew was a Quaker, but his name does not appear in Quaker records at Dartmouth.¹⁷ His second wife, Mary Oakman, Roger's presumed mother, was a member of the First Church (Congregational) of Marblehead, Massachusetts, at the time of her marriage, and had her first child by Jonathan, Timothy Merithew, baptized there.¹⁸ Perhaps Jonathan's marriage to a non-Quaker estranged him from his co-religionists. In any event, Roger Merithew married his bride, Patience Burgess, at the First Church in Rochester, Rev. Timothy Ruggles officiating.¹⁹

While the details of Roger's early life are lacking, some things can be inferred. He was educated well enough to sign his name.²⁰ He must have learned the weaver's craft from his father, but perhaps without the interest or aptitude of his twin Jeremiah,

¹³ "An Act Authorizing Transcripts of Town or City Records," in Commonwealth of Massachusetts, *Acts and Resolves Passed by the General Court of Massachusetts in the Year 1857* (Boston, 1857), Chap. 84, pp. 453–54.

¹⁴ *Vital Records of Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1929–30) 2:62, 316.

¹⁵ Dartmouth, Mass., VRs [note 5] [DGS #7009647, image 310].

¹⁶ Will of Jonathan Merithew, signed April 1741, probated 20 Sept. 1742, City of Providence, R.I., Probate Court, Will Books, 4:48–51 [online at "U.S. Wills and Probate," ancestry.com]. Will of Samuel Merithew, Bristol Co., Mass., Probate Records (1st Series), 8:19–20, dated 20 Sept. 1733, probated 11 Oct. 1733 [DGS #7703532, images 23–24]. Samuel nominated "my father Jonathan Merithew" to be executor.

¹⁷ Bristol Co., Mass., Probate Records [note 16], 8:121 [DGS #7703532, image 80]. Jonathan Merithew made oath "in the form of the Toleration for Quakers" at the court session in which Thomas Briggs's will was probated, 21 May 1734. Several "Merihew" families were members of the Apponegansett Meeting at Dartmouth before 1799, but not Jonathan (Franklyn Howland, *Souvenirs of the Bi-Centennial of the Dartmouth Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends* [n.p., 1899], 6–7, 14, 24).

¹⁸ "First Congregational Church, Marblehead, Mass., Record Book, 1684–1800," MS, p. 20, "New England's Hidden Histories: Colonial-Era Church Records" [www.congregationallibrary.org/nehh/main, which website calls this church the Marblehead "Old North" Church]. Jonathan's name does not appear in the baptismal record; the entry is "Timothy of Mary Meryhew." She was probably the Mary Oakman who was admitted to the church on 26 Feb. 1698 (*ibid.*, p. 18).

¹⁹ Frederick Lewis Weis, *Colonial Clergy and the Colonial Churches of New England* (Lancaster, Mass., 1936), 179. Ruggles graduated Harvard in 1707 and was ordained in 1710.

²⁰ Bristol Co., Mass., Deeds, 41:150 [DGS #7442196, image 91]. Roger signed deeds on 31 Aug. 1752 at Dartmouth, and 26 Feb. 1771 at Yarmouth, N.S. (Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deeds, 1:8 [DGS #8287721, image 9]).

who was the legatee of his father's loom and other weaving implements.²¹ Nevertheless, Roger was in possession of looms at the time of his death in 1773.²²

The Town of Dartmouth before 1787 encompassed the entire south coast of Massachusetts lying on Buzzards Bay, extending west to the present-day Rhode Island border.²³ Because he grew up and lived on the coast and islands of Massachusetts, he must have had some experience with sail and oar. Despite multiple relocations, he obviously preferred to live near an Atlantic coastal estuary, with easy access to both a river and the ocean.

The claim that Roger served in the French and Indian War is plausible but not documented in Massachusetts militia or service records.²⁴ Also, Roger was otherwise employed, at least during 1756 and 1757, as a licensed "inn-keeper" at Tarpaulin Cove, within "Gosnold," then part of the town of Chilmark.²⁵ The cove lies on the east coast of Naushon Island, six miles across Buzzard's Bay from Dartmouth, about four miles from the Martha's Vineyard coast, and four miles southwest of the Cape Cod town of Falmouth. Roger likely prospered as Tarpaulin Cove lay on Vineyard Sound, one of the busiest ocean channels in the world at that time.²⁶

YARMOUTH, NOVA SCOTIA

In 1755, not many years after France ceded almost all its remaining lands in Canada to the British, thousands of French-speaking Acadians were expelled from Nova Scotia.²⁷ Subsequently, land in Nova Scotia was offered to any Protestant men, twenty-one years or older, who agreed to clear and cultivate the land, build a home, bring

²¹ City of Providence, R.I., Probate Court, 4:48–51 [note 16]. His estate included an "Old Loom and Tacklin." Roger received his father's carpentry tools.

²² Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9].

²³ Westport [Mass.] Historical Society, "Colonial Period (1675–1775)" [<http://wpthistory.org/explore-2/chronological/colonial-period-1675-1775/>]. Old Dartmouth included present-day cities and towns of New Bedford (inc. 1787), Westport (inc. 1787), Fall River (inc. 1803), Fairhaven (inc. 1812), and Acushnet (inc. 1860), and eastern fringes of Tiverton and Little Compton, R.I.

²⁴ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 2], 3 (Roger "served on a British Man-o-War"). "Index to French and Indian War Muster Rolls," microfilm roll 31, Massachusetts Archives, Dorchester, and Peter Force Collection, ser. 8 and 9, Dukes Co., Mass., records 1712–1812 [Muster Rolls and Militia Lists], Library of Congress MS 17137, microfilm copy at New England Historic Genealogical Society (NEHGS), Boston, Mass.

²⁵ Dukes Co., Mass., Court of General Sessions of the Peace, [28] Oct. 1757, microfilm, Massachusetts Judicial Archives, Dorchester, Mass. Roger's license was renewed, indicating he held it for at least the previous year; Amelia Forbes Emerson, *Early History of Naushon Island* (n.p., 1935), 438. Emerson identifies Roger "Merihew" as a tavern keeper at Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon. For Naushon island as part of "Gosnold" and within the jurisdiction of Chilmark, see Charles Edward Banks, *The History of Martha's Vineyard, Dukes County, Massachusetts*, 3 vols. (Boston, 1911–25), 2: "Annals of Gosnold," 10 (each town's narrative is paginated independently).

²⁶ Mark Alan Lovewell, "Tarpaulin Cove's Past is Present," *Vineyard Gazette*, 2 Oct. 2014 [<https://vineyardgazette.com/news/2014/10/02/tarpaulin-coves-past-present/>].

²⁷ James H. Marsh, "The Deportation of the Acadians" [<http://www.jamesmarsh.com/2011/11/the-deportation-of-the-acadians/>].

their families, and fulfill other basic conditions.²⁸ Roger Merithew, Benjamin Merithew (Roger's presumed son), Roger's son-in-law Timothy Robinson, and his soon-to-be son-in-law Prince Godfrey responded to the offer and received grants of shares in the new Township of Yarmouth.

The Yarmouth "Planters" were almost entirely families from New England coastal towns.²⁹ The New England grantees arrived on ships, there being no way in or out of Yarmouth but the sea.³⁰ Despite its remote location, it was well known to New Englanders who had long been fishing the waters off Nova Scotia, and several of the first settlers owned their own vessels.³¹

The environs of the Yarmouth's Chebogue settlement must have looked familiar to the Merithews. It was just upriver from the shores of the Gulf of Maine and the Bay of Fundy, and was much like the marshy coastal estuaries (at that time) of Dartmouth's several rivers. They did not face a virgin wilderness, but benefited from the labors of earlier residents, both aboriginal and French. French Acadian settlers had dwelled along Nova Scotia's western coast for more than one hundred and fifty years before the new settlers arrived.³² They had cleared land and imported a variety of plants from their homeland, among which was flax.³³

Roger Merithew's was one of just thirty-four households, altogether totaling 156 souls, present at Chebogue settlement in April 1764.³⁴ With seven acres already cleared, it is probable Roger arrived in 1763.³⁵ His household included nine persons, along with cattle and hogs.³⁶

²⁸ J. R. Campbell, *A History of the County of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia* (St. John, N.B., 1876), 25–31.

²⁹ Campbell, *Hist. of Yarmouth* [note 28], 110–15, and George S. Brown, *Yarmouth, Nova Scotia: A Sequel to Campbell's History* (Boston, Mass., 1888), 159–60. Both authors list early settlers with their towns of origin. See also Erica Gagnon, Jan Raska, et al., "The Forgotten Immigrants: The Journey of the New England Planters to Nova Scotia, 1759–1768," Canadian Museum of Immigration, online at pier21.ca.

³⁰ [Yarmouth Township Proprietors'] Book of Land [and Other] Records, 1764–1858, pp. 32–34 [DGS #8193643, images 19–20]. The first roads were laid out within the township in 1768.

³¹ J. Murray Lawson, *Record of the Shipping of Yarmouth, N.S., Containing a List of Vessels Owned in the County of Yarmouth Since Its Settlement in 1761 . . .* (Yarmouth, N.S., 1876), 19–20; Brown, *Yarmouth Sequel* [note 29], 210.

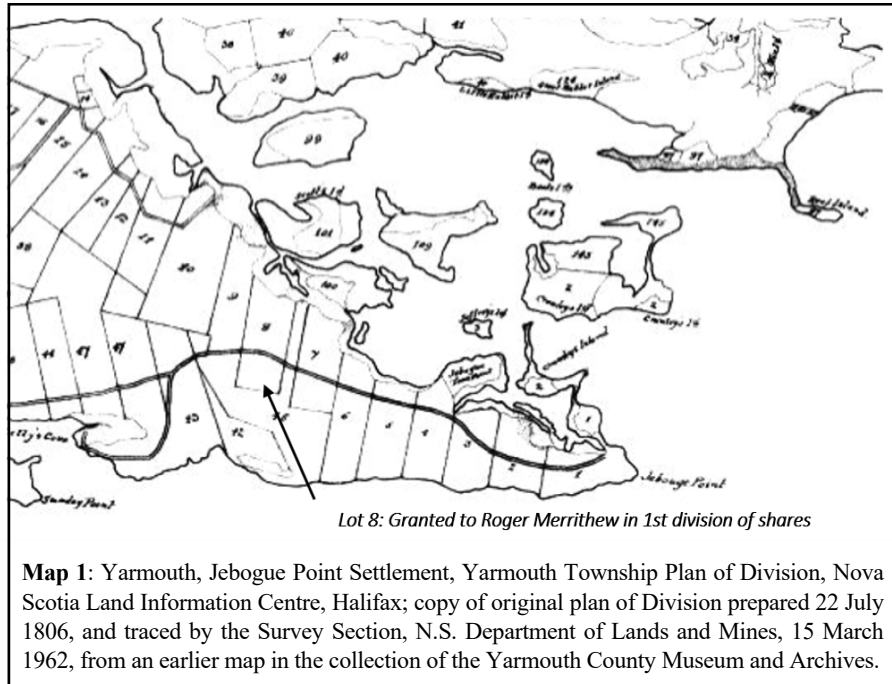
³² Caroline-Isabel Caron, *The Acadians* (Ottawa, 2015), 4–5 [online at Library and Archives Canada with title "Canadian Historical Association Booklet: The Acadians," <http://www.bac-lac.gc.ca>].

³³ Mary-Frances Lynch, "Hardy Flax Has Solid Nova Scotia Roots," *The Chronicle Herald* (Halifax, N.S.), 2 May 2014 [<http://thechronicleherald.ca/thenovascotia>].

³⁴ "Return of Settlers and Stock, Yarmouth, 19 June 1764," RG1, vol. 222, Nova Scotia Archives, Halifax. The report is dated 23 Dec. 1764. Transcripts of the 1764 return were published in Campbell's *History* [note 28], 49–50, and Robert R. McLeod, *Markland or Nova Scotia* (n.p., 1903), 158. Note that the transcription published in Markland has Timothy Robertson/Robinson incorrectly transcribed as Timothy Merithew.

³⁵ Nova Scotia Archives, C.B. Fergusson Coll., MG 1, Vol. 1914 F1/11 (photocopy of original manuscript at Library and Archives Canada, Ottawa). The names Roger Merithew, Timothy Robinson, and Prince Godfrey do not appear in the first count of settlers dated 1 June 1762.

³⁶ "Return of Settlers and Stock, Yarmouth" [note 34].



The first grantees who actually settled at Yarmouth were immediately offered a one-acre tract at Town Point on the Chebogue River, where “his hous [*sic*] or improvement is,” while they waited for their shares in the township land to be officially confirmed.³⁷ The township shares would be distributed in three separate divisions.

Because the story of Roger Merrithew’s Yarmouth land holdings recurs frequently in the reminiscences of his descendants, a brief description of those holdings is warranted.³⁸ The precise location of his one-acre town lot is not known, but in the first division he received Lot 8, comprising one hundred-acres, “eighty rods on the front [of the river Chebogue] and fifty acres joining the back” (see Map 1).³⁹ Roger’s full one-and-one-half share in the township was ultimately realized, long after Roger’s death, as 1,186 acres granted in three divisions of the Yarmouth grant.⁴⁰ Two additional

³⁷ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], p. 181, 9 Sept. 1762 entry [DGS #8193643, image 86].

³⁸ Examples at: Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 2], 3–4, 11a, 101, et passim; Benjamin Lake Noyes, “Genealogical History of Deer Isle Families, Ser. 2a,” 6:120–31 (Merrithew Family), TS [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #908529].

³⁹ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30] [DGS #8193643, image 86].

⁴⁰ Yarmouth Township Plan of Division, Nova Scotia Crown Land Information Centre, Halifax, copy of original Plan of Division prepared 22 July 1806, and traced by the Survey Section, N.S. Department of Lands and Mines, 15 March 1962. The Crown Land lot maps include the official list of grantees and amounts granted in each division. The list was transcribed, alphabetically arranged, and published in Brown, *Yarmouth Sequel* [note 29], 175–78. Subsequent references to Yarmouth grants will cite Brown.

grants of marshland added sixteen acres to Roger's holdings, for a total of 1,204 acres, or the equivalent of nearly two square miles.⁴¹ Roger sold his six and one-quarter acres of marsh to his neighbor George Ring in 1771.⁴² He allegedly sold his entire one and one-half shares in the township before his death in 1773 to Jeremiah Allen, who in November 1774 sold it to James Robbins.⁴³

No occupation is stated for Roger in deeds or town records. With cleared land and cattle, he was clearly involved in farming and husbandry. The inventory of his estate included looms and other items of the weaver's craft, as well as a relatively substantial amount of cash.⁴⁴ Also, Patience Merithew identified herself as a "seamstress and yeoman."⁴⁵ Weaving cloth and making clothes were apparently significant sources of income for the family.

Roger was actively involved in his new community. At the town meeting of February 1771, Roger was voted one of a committee to "run out" the town line, and in September of that year he was voted one of a committee to survey the lakes and ponds in the Township.⁴⁶

Roger Merithew's name is absent from Yarmouth church records kept by pastors Nehemiah Porter, John Frost, and Jonathan Scott.⁴⁷ Perhaps his exposure to Quaker ideals led him to avoid an affiliation with established churches. Yarmouth pastor Jonathan Scott noted in his diary that he attended the funeral of "Mr. Roger Merithew, senior," on 27 February 1773, but he says nothing about a religious service, or at least his having taken part in one.⁴⁸

In April 1774, a census was taken at Yarmouth covering the period from 1 January through 31 December 1773 (see Table 1).⁴⁹ Patience "Merithrew" appears on the census sheet as "Mistress of the Family." Since the 1764 count of settlers, the Merithew household shrank from nine persons to a total of three—two women and one boy.

⁴¹ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], p. 88 [DGS #8193643, images 42, 71]: six and one-quarter acres of marsh land on 1 Feb. 1771; and ten acres of salt marsh "on account of [widow] Abigail Robbins," 4 July 1771.

⁴² Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deeds 1:8 [DGS #8287721, image 9]. Yarmouth Twp. was part of Queens Co., N.S., from 1761 to 1784. When the early deed books were microfilmed they were in the custody of the Yarmouth Co. Register of Deeds. The deed books are now stored at Archives Nova Scotia in Halifax.

⁴³ Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deeds 1:19 [DGS #8287721, images 14–15].

⁴⁴ Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9], inventory presented by John Clemmens [*sic*], 13 April 1778.

⁴⁵ Queens Co. N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9].

⁴⁶ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], pp. 45, 86 [DGS #8193643, images 26, 41].

⁴⁷ Stuart and Gwenn Guiou Trask, *The Records of the Church of Jeboque in Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 1766–1851* (Yarmouth, 1992), which contains records of pastors Frost and Scott. Nehemiah Porter's Yarmouth records for the period 1767–1771 were transcribed by Emily Leavitt (MS A 2383, R. Stanton Avery Coll., NEHGS).

⁴⁸ *Rev. Jonathan Scott* [note 6], 40.

⁴⁹ A Return of the State of the Township of Yarmouth, 1773, RG 1, vol. 443, no. 34, image at [Nova Scotia] Virtual Archives, "Census, Assessment and Poll Tax Records 1767–1887" [<https://novascotia.ca/archives/census/>]. The pages are retrievable by searching on a head of household's name.

Table 1: Extracts from A Return of the State of the Township of Yarmouth from the First of January 1773 unto 31 December Following
(original document at Nova Scotia Archives, see note 49)

The census form includes fifty-two columns, of which nine are extracted below. The other columns include country of origin, stock, produce, arrivals, and departures, etc., for each family during 1773. The preprinted census form has column headings and vertical lines, but lacks horizontal lines, and has many tears and wrinkles.

Names of the Master or Mistress of the Family	Men (col. 3)	Boys (col. 4)	Women (col. 5)	Girls (col. 6)	Born		Died	
					Male (col. 41)	Female (col. 42)	Male (col. 44)	Female (col. 45)
Patines Merithrew* (line 9)		1	2				1	1
Benjmean Merithrew (line 41)	[]**	[]**	1	1				
Jonathan Merithrew (line 37)	1	1	1	3		1***		
Prince Godfrey**** (line 14)	1	2	2	4				
Timothy Robinson**** (line 122)	1	5	1	1				

* It was possible to isolate the entries for vital events relating to Patience Merithrew's household by comparison with other households for whom vital events were recorded in Yarmouth Township records.

** The page is torn away where the entries for Men and Boys were written. Because the Total column entry is "4" (not shown in this extract), and the Women and Girls columns are each marked for one, it can be deduced that missing page piece contained marks for one man (Benjamin) and probably one boy.

*** As best as can be determined, this birth belongs to Jonathan's household.

**** Merithrew son-in-law: wife Phebe (Merithew) Godfrey; wife Joanna (Merithew) Robinson.

Page section missing from original

Patience was one woman, the other woman's identity is unknown, but possibly a daughter. The "boy" was probably son William who would turn eighteen in December 1773.⁵⁰ The deaths of two persons during 1773 are recorded: one male (Roger Sr.) and one female (unidentified).

While *five* persons were accounted for in the 1773 enumeration of Patience's household, in 1764 Roger Merithew's household in Yarmouth had *nine* members. Where are the other four family members? The "missing" four are listed below, the first three in the 1773 census:

1. *Benjamin*, now head of a family with small children, was among the 1767 grantees who received one share in Yarmouth Township, the amount allocated for a single man.
2. *Jonathan*, also head of young family with children, was not among the 1767 grantees.
3. *Phebe Merithew* married Prince Godfrey in 1764 in Yarmouth.⁵¹
4. Not in the 1773 census was *Roger Merithew Jr.*, a sailor then aged twenty-four, of Yarmouth in records signed in 1772 ("Roger Merithew Juner") and 1773 ("Roger Merethew").⁵²

One more family member, not present in the 1764 Roger Merithew household, was *Joanna Merithew*, wife of Timothy Robinson. Joanna and Timothy married in 1762 in Chilmark, Martha's Vineyard.⁵³ She was presumably the woman, with one child, in the Timothy "Robertson" household in 1764.

⁵⁰ William was b. [calc.] 28 Dec. 1755 (from death age, *Republican Journal*, 21 June 1850, p. 3, col. 5, online at "Republican Journal Digitized" [belfastlibrary.org/special-collections]; and gravestone [image, findagrave.com, #19364939], giving same age at death and death date).

⁵¹ Gwen Guiou Trask, ed., *Early Vital Records of the Township of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, 1762–1811, First and Second Books . . .* (Yarmouth, N.S., Yarmouth Co. Hist. Soc., 1982), pp. 1–28; citing Book 1, p. 28, of original town records. Phebe Merithew m. 19 Nov. 1764 Prince Godfrey. The original two manuscript volumes are transcribed in a single published volume. Each page number is preceded with a "1-" or "2-" to indicate from which volume the page was transcribed.

⁵² Yarmouth Co., N.S., Deeds, 1:8 [DGS #8287721, image 9]. Roger Merithew Juner signed as a witness to the signature of Roger Merithew [ibid., image 9]; and on 13 July 1773, after the death of Roger Sr., Roger Merithew was granted 2½ acres by the Yarmouth proprietors' committee (Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], p. 238 [DGS# 8193643, image 114]). The proof arguments identifying the children of Roger and Patience Merithew are presented under "Children," below.

⁵³ Chilmark, Mass., Town Records, 1697–1871, 1:358 [FHL film #911738]. Joanna's unusual surname is written *Marehu*, but was understandably mistranscribed as *Marche* in published vital records (*Vital Records of Chilmark, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* [Boston, 1904], 70). The FHL film image is very clear. The digitized version has been assigned number DGS #7941277, but as of this writing, is not yet posted online. The later filming by Jay Mack Holbrook is much less clear, and has been digitized on Ancestry.com ["Massachusetts Town and Vital Records, 1620–1988" > Browse This Collection-Event Town > Chilmark > Town Records with Births Marriages, and Deaths > image 185].

REVOLUTION

The outbreak of armed rebellion in Massachusetts in 1775 had a major impact on the people and government of Nova Scotia. More than three-fourths of the colony's residents were natives of New England, and sympathies for many were with their first home.⁵⁴ The reaction among British officials in Halifax was to distrust the same people they had invited little more than a decade before: they issued a proclamation in 1775 prohibiting any residents from leaving the province, and "Prohibiting all Commerce with N. England eithe[r] by Word or Letter, or any other way Directly or Indirectly, on pain of being treated as Rebels."⁵⁵ Several of the Merithew men were sailors, and the new sanctions would have adversely affected their livelihood. More ominously, Jonathan Merithew and Timothy Robinson, among others, were hauled before the Justices of the Court of Common Pleas in November 1775 for having attempted to unload a vessel carrying foodstuffs from New England.⁵⁶

In late November, the Nova Scotia government conscripted townsmen into militia service without consideration of their own preferences.⁵⁷ The residents of Yarmouth responded with a plea that Yarmouth might remain neutral, despite the fact that two armed American vessels had recently raided the town and carried off its militia officers.

We were almost all of us born in New England, we have Fathers, Brothers & Sisters in that country, divided betwixt natural affection to our nearest relations, and good Faith and Friendship to our King and Country, we want to know, if we may be permitted at this time to live in a peaceable State, as we look on that to be the only situation in which we with Wives and Children, can be in any tolerable degree safe.⁵⁸

Their petition was bluntly rejected as being "utterly Absurd and Inconsistent with the duties of subjects."⁵⁹ Attacks by American privateers on coastal settlements in Nova Scotia, including Yarmouth, continued as late as 1782 and made life very difficult.⁶⁰ Seven years later, in April 1782, eighty-two Yarmouth men petitioned the Massachusetts General Court to restrain "their Privateers" from attacking Yarmouth.⁶¹

⁵⁴ John Hanc, "When Nova Scotia Almost Joined the American Revolution" [smithsonianmag.com/history/when-nova-scotia-almost-joined-american-revolution-180963564].

⁵⁵ *Rev. Jonathan Scott* [note 6], 70.

⁵⁶ *Rev. Jonathan Scott* [note 6], 71.

⁵⁷ John Bartlett Brebner, *The Neutral Yankees of Nova Scotia* (New York, 1937), 270–71.

⁵⁸ Brebner, *Neutral Yankees* [note 57], 271. The petition is cited as: Nova Scotia Archives A94, item 300. Although the document was signed by eighty-two residents, the Archives' copy lacks the signatures.

⁵⁹ Brebner, *Neutral Yankees* [note 57], 272.

⁶⁰ James S. Leamon, *Revolution Downeast: The War for American Independence in Maine* (Amherst, Mass., 1992), 99: "By the end of 1776, they [New England privateers] had seized almost 350 British vessels and sacked numerous towns along the Nova Scotian coast," citing John D. Faisby, "Privateering and Piracy: the Effects of New England Raiding upon Nova Scotia During the American Revolution, 1775–1783," (Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Mass., Amherst, 1972).

⁶¹ Edmund Duval Poole, *Annals of Yarmouth and Barrington, Nova Scotia, in the Revolutionary War* (Yarmouth, N.S., 1899), 122–23.

For the widow Patience and her family, privateers were not the only problem. There remained possible repercussions from her son and son-in-law's legal troubles, as well as the threat of her men being conscripted into crown forces, leaving wives and children to their own devices in wartime. Patience and her family decided to leave.

On 4 August 1776, more than three years after her husband's death, the widow Patience Merithew petitioned the Queens County probate magistrate to be appointed administratrix of his estate.⁶² The sureties on her bond for administration were John Clemmons and her son-in-law, Prince Godfrey.⁶³ The inventory of the estate was dated 1 April 1778, and the final accounting was submitted to the court by Clemmons on 13 April 1778 in Patience's stead.⁶⁴ The estate was valued at £9 16*d*, after expenses, while claims against it totaled £83 10*d* 3*p* 1*f*. Clemmons informed Judge Simon Perkins that he had on hand only £6 2*d* 3*p*, the missing amount (about £3 7*d*) being the value of "the house hold furniture and the Looms, Which the Widow Merithew hath caried away With her to St. Johns River."⁶⁵ The Saint John River lay in western Nova Scotia (Sunbury County) within the area that would be set off in 1784 to form the Colony of New Brunswick. Based on the court documents, Patience left Yarmouth by early April 1778. Given the lack of roads and the threat of snow and freshets on the Saint John, and the task of moving furniture and looms, she was no doubt accompanied by several of her children.⁶⁶ By that time, the British had secured the Saint John River from American raiders by constructing Fort Howe at the river's outlet on the Bay of Fundy.⁶⁷

The widow's fate after her departure from Yarmouth is unknown; the younger-generation Merithews, however, departed Yarmouth before or at about the same time as Patience, and possibly in the company of other Yarmouth migrants.⁶⁸ The last record of any of her other family members still in Yarmouth was 6 April 1777, the baptism of her granddaughter Elizabeth Godfrey.⁶⁹ All are documented (with one

⁶² Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9], Petition of Patience Merithew, John Clemmons, and Prince Godfrey, 4 Aug. 1776.

⁶³ Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9].

⁶⁴ Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9], Account of Administration, submitted on behalf of "the Widow Patience Merithew" by John Clemmons, 13 April 1778.

⁶⁵ Queens Co., N.S., Probate Records, Estate File A-33 [note 9].

⁶⁶ Esther Clark, *The Saint John River* (Toronto, 1949), 112. "Travel in colonial New Brunswick was not feasible . . . in autumn when the lakes and rivers were freezing, in spring when they were thawing, and in winter when the snow had drifted across land and ice alike." The present-day average low temperature in southern New Brunswick from Nov. through March is below freezing (Fredericton Climate Normals, 1981–2010 [<https://climate.weather.gc.ca>]).

⁶⁷ William F. Ganong, *A Monograph of Historic Sites in the Province of New Brunswick* (Ottawa, 1899), 321, 327. Construction of Fort Howe began in late 1777 and was completed in 1778 (Parks Canada, "Fort Howe National Historic Site" [<https://www.pc.gc.ca/>]).

⁶⁸ "Sunbury County Documents [Maj. Gilfred Studholme's Report of Committee of Investigation, Claims of Old Inhabitants on St. John River]," *Collections of the New Brunswick Historical Society* 1 (1894):100–19. Samuel Hersey, John Richardson, Moses Clark all "came from Yarmouth," and had been living in "Gage Town" [formerly Grimross] about "7 years" as of July 1783.

⁶⁹ *Records of the Church of Jebogue* [note 47], 42.

exception) living along the Saint John River. That the Merithew family group remained largely intact over the course of multiple migrations provides strong evidence that they were a nuclear family, despite the lack of birth or baptismal records.

The places along the Saint John River where Merithew family members settled are illustrated in Map 2. The Merithew children, spouses, and grandchildren who settled along the Saint John River include: Timothy and Joanna (Merithew) Robinson, Prince and Phebe (Merithew) Godfrey, Jonathan Merithew, Roger Merithew Jr., and William Merithew.

BACK TO MASSACHUSETTS, DISTRICT OF MAINE

By 1790 Prince Godfrey and William Merithew had settled in Jones Plantation on the Kennebec River in Maine,⁷⁰ and a Timothy Robinson, who was perhaps the husband of Joanna Merithew, settled in the adjacent town of Vassalborough (now officially Vassalboro).⁷¹ Roger Merithew Jr. opted to settle closer to the ocean along Penobscot Bay.⁷² In 1794 Roger moved offshore to the Fox Islands (Vinalhaven),⁷³ where he was joined before 1798 by his brother William⁷⁴ and their probable nephew, Salathiel Robinson.⁷⁵ All these Merithew kin spent the remainder of their lives in Maine, where numerous descendants remain to this day.

THE CHILDREN OF ROGER SR. AND PATIENCE (BURGESS) MERITHEW

The births of Roger and Patience's first two children were recorded in Dartmouth, Massachusetts: *Mary*, in February 1737/8, and *Joanna*, in February 1739/40.⁷⁶ No recorded births have been found for any later children, but they are identified based on circumstantial evidence, summarized in the following criteria:

1. At the time of the Merithews' move to Nova Scotia in 1763, any of their children born after their second child, Joanna (born 1740), could have been no older than twenty-two.

⁷⁰ Prince Godfrey and William Marithew households, 1790 U.S. Census, Jones Plantation, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 136, col. [1], line [12] (Godfrey); p. 136, col. [2], line [4] (Marithew).

⁷¹ Timothy Robinson household, 1790 U.S. Census, Vassalborough, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 135, col. [3], line [23].

⁷² Roger Merithue household, 1790 U.S. Census, Frankfort, Hancock Co., Maine, p. 80, line [6].

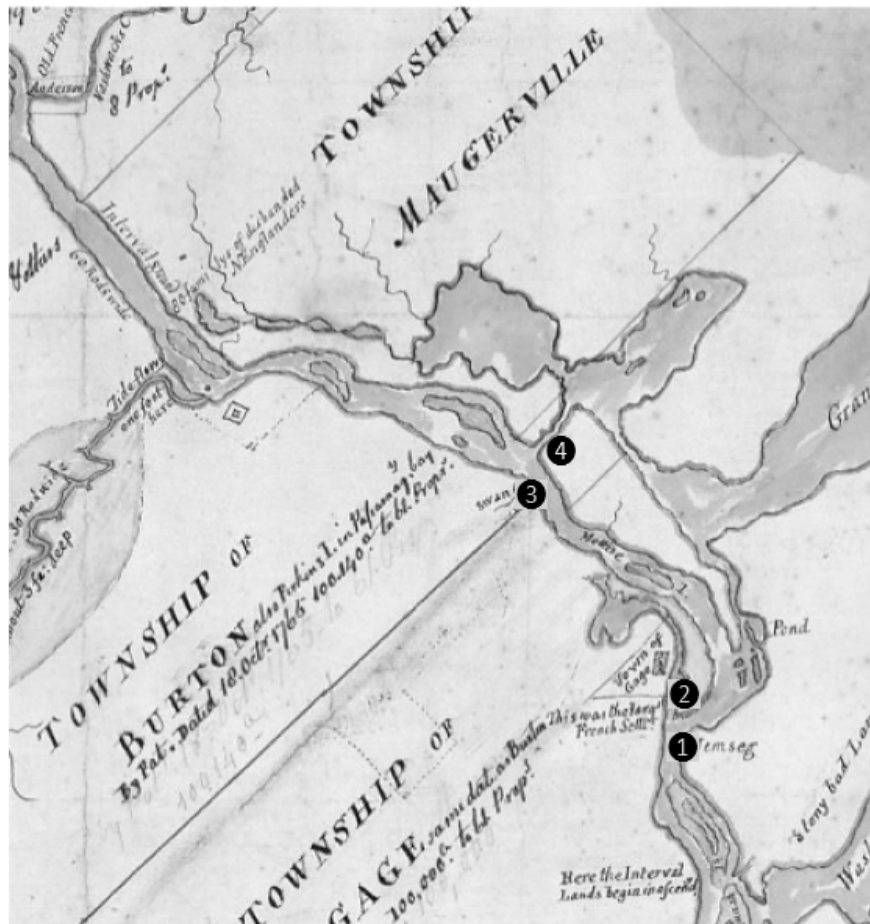
⁷³ Hancock Co., Maine, Deeds, 2:52–3 [DGS #7834663, image 340], Roger Merithew "of Frankfort" to Moses Fessenden and William Dawes, 13 Nov. 1792, rec. 14 Nov. 1792.

⁷⁴ Kennebec Co., Maine, Deeds, 2:287–88 [DGS #7834687, image 449–50], William and Lydia Merithew of Pittston to Samuel Blasdel of Vassalborough, 27 Feb. 1796, rec. 1 Dec. 1800. William was a resident of Vinalhaven as of 1 Oct. 1798 when he was taxed for 100 acres and a building.

⁷⁵ Hancock Co., Maine, Deeds, 6:420–22 [DGS #8128220, images 511–12]. See discussion of Salathiel's Merithew connections under Joanna, below.

⁷⁶ Dartmouth, Mass., VRs [note 5], p. 315 (penned), p. 347 (stamped) [DGS #7009647, image 425], Mary and Johannah Meryhoo, daughters of "Roger Meryhoo and Patience his wife."

Map 2: Saint John River Lots occupied by Merithew kin, ca. 1778–1785: Estimated Lot locations based on land records (cited in the sketch for each Merithew child). The distance between the northernmost lot (4) and southernmost lot (1) is about fifteen miles downriver. Image excerpted from *Map of the River St. John in the Province of Nova Scotia, exhibiting the grant to officers &c. in 1765, with other patents;* Library of Congress [loc.gov/item/74694752].



- ❶ PRINCE GODFREY Lot 15, ROGER MERITHEW Lot 16, both at Jemseg “Spry Hampton”
- ❷ JONATHAN MERITHEW living at “Grimross” (within the Township of Gage) before 1785; purchased lots there in 1787
- ❸ TIMOTHY ROBINSON half of Lot 3 at Burton (on Swan Creek)
- ❹ WILLIAM MERITHEW 125-acre Lot “Below Maugerville”

2. There was only one Merithew household counted at Yarmouth in April 1764, that headed by Roger Merithew comprising nine persons.⁷⁷ Roger received a grant of one-and-one-half shares in Yarmouth, the amount reserved for *families* of seven or more persons.⁷⁸ Therefore, the household members must have been acknowledged as family members by the resident committee appointed to distribute the grants. Besides Roger and Patience, the seven unnamed members in the Merithew household were probably their unmarried and minor children.

3. Patience was in her twenty-fourth year at the birth of Joanna, and could have had as many as eight more children until reaching age forty in 1756, assuming births at two-year intervals. Additional children are less likely after age forty. Given the high infant mortality rates, the number of surviving children was likely fewer. Roger and Patience Merithew turned age forty-eight and forty-seven, respectively, in 1763, and most probably had produced all the children they ever would. Their unmarried and minor children in 1763, therefore, likely would have ranged in age from about twenty-one (born 1741) through about seven (born 1756).

4. The couple's first-born children were named Mary (Roger's mother's name) and Joanna (Patience's next-elder sister, who apparently died young).⁷⁹ If Roger and Patience continued to follow common New England naming patterns, children would likely be named for grandparents or siblings, and for their parents; therefore, sons named *Benjamin* (maternal grandfather), *Jonathan* (paternal grandfather), and *Roger Jr.*, and daughters named *Priscilla* (maternal grandmother) and *Patience* would be expected.

5. As each child reached adulthood or married, their names would likely make an appearance in local records.

All younger-generation persons surnamed Merithew living in Nova Scotia fit the above criteria. Lenna Gowdey, in her Merithew-family genealogy, assigned Roger and Patience ten children: Mary, Joanna, Benjamin, Aaron, Jonathan, William, Roger, Ruth, Rhoda, and Patience, but adds "no record" for Ruth, Rhoda, and Patience.⁸⁰ Gowdey's informants likely confused the children of Roger Merithew Sr. and Jr. Roger Jr. had children name Aaron, Patience, and Rhoda, but Roger Sr. did not.⁸¹ No evidence has been discovered for a daughter Ruth for either Roger Sr. or Jr.

⁷⁷ "Return of Settlers and Stock, Yarmouth" [note 34].

⁷⁸ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], pp. 180–82, entry of 9 Sept. 1762 [DGS #8193643, images 86–87]. The entry also has the date 4 Dec. 1778 written in the margin, which may indicate it was copied from an earlier record.

⁷⁹ Katherine W. Haim, *The Burgess Genealogy* (Boston, 2007), 427.

⁸⁰ Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 2], 4.

⁸¹ Gowdey's informant regarding Aaron was Levi Allen Merithew (b. 1846), Gowdey, *Merrithews* [note 2], 11, 125. See also "Hunting Up Relatives [Merrithew Family]," *Republican Journal* [note 50], 10 Jan. 1889, p. 1.

The identification or misidentification of each child is discussed in the following sketches.

- i MARY⁴MERITHEW, b. Dartmouth, Mass., 17 Feb. 1737/8.⁸² On 19 Jan. 1765 at Dartmouth, a Mary “Merihou” filed intentions to marry Benjamin Burg[ess], both of Dartmouth, but there is no record that the marriage ever took place.⁸³ Other researchers have concluded this Mary Merithew was probably the daughter of Roger and Patience Merithew.⁸⁴ Mary also has been proposed as the first wife of Benjamin Burgess of Rochester who settled in Wayne, Maine.⁸⁵ Despite the uncertainty of both Mary’s identity and her marriage, other evidence is consistent with the possibility that Benjamin’s bride was the daughter of Roger and Patience Merithew.

Dartmouth tax assessments for the years 1762 and 1763 rated polls for only two men named Benjamin Burgess.⁸⁶ One Benjamin was undoubtedly the son of Dr. Benjamin and Mercy (—) Burgess, b. 1739, who m. in 1772 Susanna Manter, and who settled in Goshen, Hampshire Co., Mass.⁸⁷ The second Benjamin taxed was the son of Joseph and Tabitha (Mitchell) Burgess, b. Dartmouth, 10 Oct. 1740.⁸⁸ Joseph Burgess was the brother of Patience Burgess, wife of Roger Merithew, so this Benjamin Burgess was a first cousin to Mary Merithew. By the time of the 1766 tax assessment, one of the two Benjamins had left Dartmouth.⁸⁹

In his 1865 *Burgess Genealogy*, Rev. Ebenezer Burgess identifies Benjamin Burgess of Lanesborough, Mass., as the son of Joseph of Dartmouth, with a wife (unnamed) and six children, including a first-born son named *Roger*, a first-born daughter named *Patience*, and a younger son named *Jonathan*, but Rev. Burgess cites no sources.⁹⁰ Although Lanesborough records begin with its incorporation in 1765, neither the town vital records nor the Congregational church records mention Benjamin Burgess.⁹¹ Neither do Berkshire Co. deed indexes list a Benjamin Burgess of Lanesborough.⁹² On the other hand, there is no doubt that he existed. A Benjamin

⁸² Dartmouth, Mass., VRs [note 5], p. 315 (penned), p. 347 (stamped) [DGS #7009647, image 425].

⁸³ Dartmouth, Mass., VRs, “Marriage Intentions 1748–1821 . . .,” p. [79] (volume lacks page numbers) [DGS #4279436, image 236], marriage intentions of Benjⁿ Burge and Mary Merihou both of Dartmouth.

⁸⁴ Raney, *Minnie May Merrithew* [note 1], 115. Haim, *The Burgess Genealogy* [note 79], 430.

⁸⁵ Haim, *Burgess Genealogy* [note 79], 430.

⁸⁶ Dartmouth, Mass., Town Records, 1674–1868, Tax Collectors’ Records, 1744–1868, MS 53, Subgroup 1, Series H, Sub-sub Group 1, Box 2: v. 3 (1762); vol. 4 (1763), Grimshaw-Gudewicz Reading Room and Archives, New Bedford Whaling Museum, New Bedford, Mass.

⁸⁷ Haim, *Burgess Genealogy* [note 79], 296.

⁸⁸ Haim, *Burgess Genealogy* [note 79], 426–30.

⁸⁹ Dartmouth Tax Collectors’ Records [note 86], Box 2: v. 5 (1766).

⁹⁰ Ebenezer Burgess, *Burgess Genealogy* (Boston, 1865), 45. The identification is clear, though expressed indirectly.

⁹¹ Lanesborough town records, 1749–1897 [DGS #7009238]; “First Book of Records of Congregational Church in Lanesboro [*sic*],” TS [DGS #7578499], citing Rollin H. Cooke Coll., Pittsfield [Mass.] Public Library.

⁹² Berkshire Co., Mass., Northern District [incl. Lanesborough and surrounding towns], grantors/grantees indexes, 1761–1985 [DGS #7454212, 7454213, 7454214, 7454235, 7454237]. There were deeds registered in Lanesborough for other Burgess/Burgis men, but not Benjamin.

Burgess and Abijah Barker “lately of Lanesborough” were found guilty by default for trespass and debt at a Berkshire County court in 1773.⁹³ A Benjamin Burgess was called up for military service from Lanesborough in 1777 and 1780, and the 1790 and 1800 U.S. censuses taken there report a Benjamin Burgis [*sic*] household comprising three males and three females in 1790, and in 1800 comprising two males and one female.⁹⁴ Further research is needed to support or refute the identification of Mary, daughter of Roger, as the wife of Lanesborough’s Benjamin Burgess.

- ii JOANNA MERITHEW b. Dartmouth, 17 Feb. 1739/40,⁹⁵ d. after 7 Oct. 1784 (signed deed),⁹⁶ m. Chilmark, 7 July 1862, TIMOTHY ROBINSON,⁹⁷ b. Falmouth, 20 March 1743, son of William and Adre (Gifford) Robinson,⁹⁸ and was perhaps the Timothy Robinson who d. Vassalborough, Maine, 24 March 1796.⁹⁹

Timothy Robinson was a grantee of Yarmouth, as was his father William.¹⁰⁰ They were later joined by Timothy’s brother Joseph and their cousin Jabez Robinson.¹⁰¹ William had returned to Chilmark about 1772 when he and wife “Audrey” leased their shares to son Joseph and nephew Jabez Robinson for ninety-nine years.¹⁰²

Timothy Robinson was both a “fisherman” and “shoemaker.”¹⁰³ He served with Roger Merithew on the Yarmouth Township committee to survey lakes and ponds.¹⁰⁴ Timothy “Roberson” served under Capt. Eleazar Hebbard in a militia raised at

⁹³ Berkshire Co., Mass., Court of Common Pleas, 3A:132–33, David Vaughan v. Benjamin Burgess et al. [DGS #8291892, images 447–448].

⁹⁴ *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 2:839. Benjamin Burgis [*sic*] household, 1790 and 1800 U.S. Censuses, Lanesborough, Berkshire Co., Mass., p. 345 (1790), p. 147 (1800).

⁹⁵ Dartmouth, Mass., VRs [note 5], p. 315 (penned), p. 347 (stamped) [DGS #7009647, image 425].

⁹⁶ Saint John Co., N.B., Deeds, A1:129–30 [DGS #4140695, images 126–27], Timothy Robinson “of Burton” to John Hart.

⁹⁷ Chilmark, Mass., TRs [note 53], 1:358.

⁹⁸ Falmouth, Massachusetts, “Town Meetings, Births, Marriages, Deaths 1668–1758,” p. 34 [DGS #7009643, image 47]. Adre’s name appears in other records as “Ardra,” “Editha,” “Audery.” William Robinson occupied a farm two miles from Tarpaulin Cove on Naushon Island in the 1740s, according to his grandson Samuel (b. 1753) (*Early History of Naushon* [note 25], 432, 488).

⁹⁹ “A melancholy accident . . . [death of Timothy Robinson],” *Massachusetts Mercury* (Boston, Mass.), Tues., 1 March 1796, p. 3, col. 2 [image, genealogybank.com].

¹⁰⁰ Brown, *Yarmouth Sequel* [note 29], 177.

¹⁰¹ Yarmouth, N.S., Proprietors’ Name Book, 30 Sept. 1767, Nova Scotia Archives, microfilm #13537, citing original manuscript at Yarmouth County Museum, Yarmouth. This book contains a concise record summary of grants and acreage allocated to each grantee, and is a separate volume from Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30]. Timothy’s father, William⁴ (*Timothy*³, *John*², *Isaac*¹), and Jabez’s father, Peter⁴ (*Isaac*³, *John*², *Isaac*¹), were first cousins (Robinson Genealogical Society, *Robinson Genealogy: Descendants of Rev. John Robinson, Pastor of the Pilgrims, Volume 1* [Salem, Mass., 1926], 86 [Peter], 89 [William]).

¹⁰² Yarmouth Co. Deeds, 1:67, William Robinson of “New Yarmouth,” N.S., to Jabez Robinson of Chilmark, Mass., signed 22 Aug. 1772 [DGS #8287721, image 42], and 1:30, William Robinson of Chilmark, Mass., to “my son Joseph Robinson,” signed 3 April 1773 [ibid., image 23].

¹⁰³ “Fisherman” in Yarmouth Co. Deeds, 1:62, 64 [DGS #8287721, images 39–41]; “Shoemaker” in Yarmouth Co. Deeds, 1:51 [DGS #8287721, image 34].

¹⁰⁴ Yarmouth Twp. Book of Land [note 30], p. 86, voted at the meeting of 30 Dec. 1771.

Yarmouth on 20 Sept. 1775.¹⁰⁵ He, along with brother-in-law Jonathan Merithew, faced the local judges for attempting to offload a ship arrived from New England despite the government ban of trade with the rebel colonies.¹⁰⁶ Timothy and “Jonna” Robinson sold all their holdings in Yarmouth on 20 June 1776 to Amos Hilton.¹⁰⁷ They were residing in Burton Township [in what would become New Brunswick], across the river from Maugerville in 1783, and described in Gilfred Studholme’s 1783 report of settlers as follows: “Timothy Robertson [*sic*] has a wife and 10 children, has a log house and about 16 acres of cleared land. Claims by possession and purchase of improvements, which have been made about twenty years.”¹⁰⁸ Studholme commented that Timothy was “a very great rebel and of a general bad character.”¹⁰⁹ Also living at Burton was Timothy’s probable son Salathiel Robertson [*sic*] who had “a wife and . . . cleared about three acres of land but made no buildings.”¹¹⁰ Salathiel was also “a rebel,” according to Studholme.¹¹¹

In Oct. 1783 Timothy Robinson “cordwinder” and Salathiel Robinson [*sic*] each leased one half of Lot 3, lying on the Saint John River at Burton.¹¹² The lease required no payment for ten years, but included many restrictions, such as a requirement to use the owners’ grist and sawmills. Given that the two Robinson men leased one-half of the same lot on the same day, Timothy with a wife and ten children, and Salathiel with a wife and no children, it is probable that Salathiel was Timothy’s son. Also, that Salathiel was old enough to sign a lease in his own right means he was probably the one child counted in Timothy’s household at Yarmouth in 1764.¹¹³ In Oct. 1784 Timothy sold his leasehold in Burton, his signature joined with the mark of his wife “Joanna.”¹¹⁴ Salathiel Robinson’s lease dated October 1783 is the last record of him New Brunswick.

When the government of New Brunswick began offering land to the thousands of Loyalist refugees from the new United States, neither Timothy nor Salathiel submitted a petition for a grant, although Timothy’s brothers-in-law Jonathan and Roger Merithew did.¹¹⁵ Rather, they likely joined in-laws William Merithew and Prince and Phebe (Merithew) Godfrey who left for Maine in 1784 (see sketches for Phebe and William, below) and settled sometime before 1790 at Jones Plantation (later Harlem and

¹⁰⁵ Transcript of roll at Online Institute for Advanced Loyalists Studies [http://www.loyalprovincial.com], citing Library and Archives Canada, Earl of Dartmouth Manuscripts MG 23 A 1, 1:375.

¹⁰⁶ *Rev. Jonathan Scott* [note 6], 70–71.

¹⁰⁷ Yarmouth Co. Deeds, 1:64–65, signed 12 June 1776, rec. 28 March 1780 [DGS #8287721, images 40–41].

¹⁰⁸ Studholme’s Report [note 68].

¹⁰⁹ Studholme’s Report [note 68].

¹¹⁰ Studholme’s Report [note 68].

¹¹¹ Studholme’s Report [note 68].

¹¹² Saint John Co., N.B., Deeds, A1:17–18 (Timothy), Thomas Dunn and John Collins to Timothy Robinson, signed 11 Oct. 1783, witnesses were Israel Perley and John Sinnott [DGS #4140695, images 20–21]; and Saint John Co., N.B., Deeds, A1:44–44 (Salathiel), same date and witnesses [DGS #4140695, images 47–48].

¹¹³ “Return of Settlers and Stock, Yarmouth” [note 34].

¹¹⁴ Saint John Co., N.B., Deeds, A1:130 [DGS #4140695, image 127].

¹¹⁵ New Brunswick, Crown Land Office, Land Petitions, 1783–1857, Petitions of Jonathan Merithew, 3 Jan. 1785 [DGS #8130847, images 529–32], and Roger Merrithew, 15 Jan. 1785 (13 Jan. 1785 [ibid., images 533–36]).

China).¹¹⁶ Both men were enumerated there in the 1790 Federal census, as was a man named Timothy Robinson in the adjacent town of Vassalborough.¹¹⁷ Was this Timothy their brother-in-law, husband of Joanna Merithew? The evidence is summarized below.

1. The kinship network that Timothy was part of for over twenty-five years largely persisted in the transition to Maine. Besides brothers-in-law *Prince Godfrey* and *William Merithew* residing in the adjacent settlement of Jonestown, two of Timothy Robinson's siblings also settled in Vassalborough: *Levi Robinson* (b. 25 Sept. 1739),¹¹⁸ and his wife Anna Wing (b. 26 March 1741),¹¹⁹ sister of Gideon Wing another Vassalborough settler.¹²⁰ Timothy's brother *Joseph Robinson* and wife Deborah left Yarmouth before 1795, and settled for several years in Vassalborough.¹²¹ In 1797 Joseph and Deborah purchased Lot 83 in Vassalborough,¹²² adjacent to Lot 84 occupied by brother Levi Robinson.¹²³
2. Only one Timothy Robinson appears in the 1790 U.S. census in Kennebec Co., Timothy of Vassalborough with two males over 16, two males 16 and under, and three females.¹²⁴
3. Timothy Robinson of Vassalborough died in 1796 from injuries in an accident.¹²⁵
4. In 1792 part of Vassalborough was set off to form the town of Sidney. The Timothy Robinson who in 1800 headed a household in Sidney could not have been the Timothy Robinson enumerated in the 1790 census.¹²⁶ He was probably the same man who married Polly Moore at Vassalborough in 1794, and possibly a son of Timothy and Joanna.¹²⁷
5. In 1797, not long after the death of Timothy of Vassalborough, Salathiel Robinson settled in Vinalhaven, Maine.¹²⁸ Salathiel's property comprised 130 acres on

¹¹⁶ 1790 U.S. Census [note 72].

¹¹⁷ 1790 U.S. Census [note 71].

¹¹⁸ Falmouth, Mass., "Town Meetings, Births, Marriages, Deaths 1668–1758" [note 98], p. 34.

¹¹⁹ Falmouth, Mass., "Records, 1750–1831," 2:13 [DGS #7009644, image 540], marriage intentions of Levi Robinson "of Chilmark" and Anna Wing of Falmouth, 8 Sept. 1764.

¹²⁰ Levi Robinson household, 1790 U.S. Census, Vassalborough, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 135, col. [2], line [3]; Gideon Wing household, same page, col. [1], line [22].

¹²¹ Joseph Robinson household, 1800 U.S. Census, Vassalborough, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 411 (stamped), line [12]. Joseph emigrated from Nova Scotia in 1795.

¹²² Kennebec Co. Deeds, 3:192–93, signed 9 Dec. 1799 [DGS #8202810, image 115].

¹²³ Kennebec Co. Deeds, 23:114, signed 24 Dec. 1814 [DGS #7834684, image 86]. Joseph sold to his son Joseph Jr. the southerly half of lot 83 which was "bounded on the south by land of Levi Robinson & Phillip Leash."

¹²⁴ 1790 U.S. census [note 71].

¹²⁵ *Massachusetts Mercury*, 1 March 1796, p. 3 [note 99]: "Mr. Timothy Robinson was loosening the wheel of a mill which was bound in the ice, he unfortunately fell under, and by the wheel's turning, it crushed him in such a manner that he expired the next day. It is a little remarkable, then, notwithstanding his being bruised in such a manner, he extricated himself and made his way home, without any assistance."

¹²⁶ Timothy Robinson household, 1800 U.S. Census, Sidney, Kennebec Co., Maine, p.60, line [18]. Unfortunately, the census column "From whence emigrated" is blank.

¹²⁷ Vassalborough, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1771–1892, "Town and Vital Records, 1764–1827," p. 416 [DGS #7834727, image 708].

¹²⁸ Hancock Co. Deeds, 6:420–21 [DGS #8128220, images 511–12].

the North Island on the Indian Point peninsula, and included most of Burnt Island located a few hundred feet offshore to the east. Less than a half mile southeast of Burnt Island lay Babbidge Island (formerly Ames), where Roger Merithew Jr. was allegedly already settled sometime after 1792.¹²⁹ By 1798 William Merithew had also settled on Babbidge Island, purchasing it 1799.¹³⁰ Another member of the Robinson-Merithew family circle at Vinalhaven was Salathiel's son Benjamin, who married in Vinalhaven in 1802.¹³¹ Benjamin was born in "St. John," N.B., about 1783.¹³² The evidence is persuasive that Salathiel of Vinalhaven was the same man who was formerly in Burton, probably a son of Timothy and Joanna, and that William and Roger Merithew Jr. were his maternal uncles. It is logical to conclude that Salathiel came to Maine because his family was there, not only his parents, but Robinson aunts, uncles, and cousins, as well as Merithew ones.

The above points do not prove that the Timothy Robinson of Vassalborough who died in 1796 was the husband of Joanna Merithew. On the other hand, the presence of both Joanna's and Timothy's siblings settling in close proximity in Maine, the presence in Maine of the same probable son, Salathiel, who was with them in Burton, the timing of Salathiel's decision to resettle (1797, soon after the death of Timothy), and the choice of destination (Vinalhaven) within a mile of Roger and William Merithew all point to that conclusion.

(to be continued)

Ray Niro's grandmother, Alberta Fowles of Belfast, Maine, would entertain him with stories of her eccentric ancestors. Nearly sixty years later, those ancestors continue to surprise, delight, and frustrate him. A librarian and educator (who spent much of his career in corporate management roles), Ray is now retired and recently moved from Massachusetts to Philadelphia (rayniro@hotmail.com).

¹²⁹ George L. Hosmer, *An Historical Sketch of the Town of Deer Isle, Maine* (Boston, 1886), 207.

¹³⁰ "Massachusetts and Maine: Direct Tax, 1798," 1:231 (William Merathew) [image, americanancestors.org]. Hancock Co., Maine., Deeds 7:410, James Cooper to William Merithew, signed 20 May 1799, rec. 30 Aug. 1800 [DGS #8128221, image 224].

¹³¹ Vinalhaven, Maine, Town and Vital Records, 1785–1892, p. 411 [DGS #7596929, image 231].

¹³² Benjamin, d. Townsend, Mass., 13 Dec. 1863 (Massachusetts Deaths, 1841–1915, 166 [DGS #4420473, image 196], place of birth "St. John," age at death: 80y 11m 23d, b. [calc.] 20 Dec. 1782); Benjamin Robinson household, 1850 U.S. Census, Mason, Hillsborough Co., N.H., p. 296[a], age 67, birthplace: New Brunswick.

WHO WAS THE WIFE OF EBENEZER HANDY OF NEW SANDWICH (WAYNE), MAINE?

By Edward G. Hubbard

Prior to its incorporation in 1798, the present-day town of Wayne in Kennebec County, Maine, was known as New Sandwich, because many of its earliest settlers had come there from Sandwich in southeastern Massachusetts.¹ Among them was Ebenezer Handy, who arrived in 1775 “with his wife, Annie Hicks, and their family of eight children,” who were born in “Old Sandwich.”² She is said to have died in their log house in 1818; he in the house of his son Nathan in 1827.³ Ebenezer was born in Sandwich, Massachusetts, 25 October 1732, the first child of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Fish) Handy.⁴ No record of his marriage has been found, but the births of seven of his children were recorded in Sandwich:⁵

Abigail Handy, b. 18 Sept. 1757
Benjamin Handy, b. 10 May 1759
Elizabeth Handy, b. 18 Sept. 1764
David Handy, b. 18 July 1766
Israel Handy, b. 31 Aug. 1768
Nathan Handy, b. 5 Aug. 1770
Ebenezer Handy, b. 13 June 1772

The *History of Wayne* mentions six of these seven children (in a slightly different sequence and without birth dates) and adds two more:⁶

Abigail Handy, m. Nathaniel Billington, raised a family and d. in Wayne
Elizabeth Handy, m. Ichabod Billington, raised a family and d. in Wayne
Israel Handy, never married and d. in Wayne
Benjamin Handy, m. Lucy Powers, raised a family and d. in Phillips
Nathan Handy, d. in Wayne in 1841, m. Elizabeth Fisher
Ebenezer Handy Jr., d. in Wayne in 1808, m. Silva Bonney
Rebecca Handy, never married, “died at the old homestead in Wayne”
Thomas Handy, never married, “died at the old homestead in Wayne”

¹ [George W. Walton, ed.], *History of the Town of Wayne, Kennebec County, Maine: From Its Settlement to 1898* (Augusta, Maine, 1898), Chap. II: “Early Settlers and Their Families,” 13–40. Most of the other early settlers were from towns adjacent to Sandwich, and many of the families were closely related through blood or marriage.

² *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183.

³ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183. Ebenezer was probably one of the two males aged 45 or more enumerated with Nathan in 1810 and 1820 (Nathan Handy household, 1810 and 1820 U.S. Censuses, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, pp. 932 [1810], 668 [1820]). There was no older female in the household in 1810, so the death date for Mrs. Handy is suspect.

⁴ Caroline Lewis Kardell and Russell S. Lovell, Jr., *Vital Records of Sandwich, Massachusetts, to 1885*, 3 vols. (Boston, Mass., 1996), 1:55 (citing Book 2, p. 22).

⁵ *Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:52–53 (citing Book 2, p. 20).

⁶ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183–84.

Possible reasons for the absence of son David Handy from the *History of Wayne* account will be discussed below. The absence from the Sandwich records of Thomas and Rebecca is likely due to their births having occurred after those of their older siblings were recorded, and either shortly before or after the time the family migrated to Maine.

A much more serious issue is the disagreement as to the name of the mother of the children. In the Sandwich records, the mother of each of the seven recorded children is given as “Rebecca,” whereas the *History of Wayne* names “Annie Hicks” as Ebenezer’s wife and the mother of his children. What are we to make of this?

An account of the Handy family published in 1971 addressed this by proposing that Ebenezer was married twice.⁷ The authors acknowledged Rebecca as the mother of the seven children recorded in Sandwich, and posited “Annie Hicks” as Ebenezer’s second wife and the mother of Thomas and Rebecca. They further proposed that Rebecca was an otherwise unknown daughter of Ebenezer’s paternal uncle, Thomas Handy (and therefore Ebenezer’s first cousin). As the basis for this, they noted the absence of Ebenezer and Rebecca’s son David from the *History of Wayne* account and suggested that he was the David Handy of New Bedford, Massachusetts, who was described in a deed executed on 7 April 1790 by Thomas Handy of that town as his grandson.⁸ They further suggested that David remained behind when Ebenezer and the rest of his family moved to Maine; that he grew up in his proposed grandfather’s (i.e., Thomas Handy’s) household; and that his mother, Rebecca, must therefore have been an otherwise unknown daughter of Thomas Handy. The authors acknowledged that this was only hypothetical, and that further study was needed. There are, indeed, facts and considerations that weigh against their hypothesis.

First, as the authors noted, the David Handy who was of New Bedford in 1790 was probably the David Handy of Dartmouth (from which New Bedford was subsequently set off) who, according to a Revolutionary War service record, was 17 in 1780 and therefore three years older than Ebenezer’s son would then have been. Second, whoever provided the Handy family information for the *History of Wayne* believed that Ebenezer had had only one wife, who was not a Handy but rather a Hicks.⁹ Third, it is exceedingly unlikely that, alone of Ebenezer’s children, David (then nine years old at most) would have been left behind when the family migrated to Maine. Fourth, it is possible that David Handy of New Bedford, who does not (as

⁷ Laura B. (Phinney) Brownson and Maclean W. Mclean, “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass. (ca. 1645–1719),” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* [NEHGR] 125(1971): 124–37, 184–94, 246–56, 126(1972):50–63, 103–12, 191–200, at 125:186–87, 126:55–57.

⁸ “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):186–87.

⁹ The source for Handy family information is likely to have been Ebenezer’s granddaughter, Abigail A. (Handy) Huse, the youngest child of his son Nathan. She was born in 1830 and was described in the history as (in 1898) “being the only one living of the family of Nathan, the last of the race remaining in town descended from one of the few earliest settlers” (*History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 185).

the authors noted) seem to have been a child of Thomas Handy's only known son (another Thomas), could instead have been the son of another child of the senior Thomas—a child who has eluded the records.¹⁰

The principle of Occam's razor is applicable here. A simpler—and therefore more likely—explanation for the absence of David from the list of Ebenezer's children in the *History of Wayne* is that he died at an early age and was therefore unknown to the source of that account.

This leaves us with no compelling reason to posit Ebenezer's wife Rebecca as a Handy. Who then might she have been? The lack of a marriage record might seem to preclude an answer, but the *History of Wayne* provides a significant clue. Whoever provided the information for this history clearly attributed only one wife to Ebenezer and remembered her name as Annie Hicks. Could she instead have been "Rebecca" Hicks?

There was, in fact, a Rebecca Hicks in Sandwich who was the right age to have been Ebenezer's wife. Born in that town on 27 February 1736/7, she was one of the three recorded children of Thomas Hicks of Sandwich and his wife Abigail.¹¹ The possibility that she was indeed Ebenezer's wife becomes a probability when we consider the names they gave their children. Two (Ebenezer and Rebecca) must have been named for themselves, while another two (Benjamin and Elizabeth) bore the names of Ebenezer's parents. That yet another two (Abigail and Thomas) bore the names of Rebecca Hicks's parents is unlikely to be a coincidence.

There is further significant information about Rebecca's family in the Sandwich records. In the record of their 2 September 1731 marriage, the surname of Thomas Hicks's wife Abigail is given as *Fish*,¹² yet no such Abigail is found as a daughter in the Fish families of that time and locale. The key to her identity lies in the births recorded in the Sandwich records immediately before and after those of the children of Thomas and Abigail, as transcribed below and shown in the image on the next page.¹³

Deborah Fish Daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail his wife was Born the 29th Day
of July Anno Domini 1726

Patience Fish Daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail his wife was Born the 28 day of
September Anno 1727

Mary Hicks the daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife was Born the 4th Day
of May Anno Domini 1732

¹⁰ The authors of the Handy article concluded their account of Thomas Handy and his family by crediting him with two children: Thomas, b. ca. 1731, and "a child, b. perhaps about 1733, parent of David Handy" ("Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass." [note 7], NEHGR 125[1971]:188). They hesitated to identify that child as Rebecca.

¹¹ *Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:53 (citing Book 2, p. 20), her named spelled "Rebekah." The other two children were daughters Mary, b. 4 May 1732, and Remember, b. 11 Sept. 1733.

¹² *Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:137 (citing Book 2, p. 103).

¹³ Sandwich vital records, Book 2, p. 20 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #4000352, image 166].

Fish Deborah Fish daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail his wife was
 born the 29th day of July Anno Domini 1726.
 Patience Fish daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail his
 wife was born the 28 day of September Anno 1727
 Mary Hicks the daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife
 was born the 4th day of May Anno Domini 1732
 Kember Hicks daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife
 was born the 11th day of September Anno Domini 1733
 Rebecca Hicks the daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife
 was born the 27th day of February Anno Domini 1736 1/2
 Abigail Hicks the daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail
 his wife was born June 15th Anno Domini 1729

Children of Ebenezer Fish and wife Abigail and of Thomas Hicks and wife Abigail
(Sandwich, Mass., vital records, 2:20 [DGS #4000352, image 166])

Remember Hicks daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife was Born the 11th
 Day of September Anno Domini 1733
 Rebekah Hicks the daughter of Thomas Hicks & Abigail his wife was born the 27th
 Day of February Anno Domini 1736/7
 Mehetable Fish the Daughter of Ebenezer Fish & Abigail his wife was born June y^e
 2^d Day Anno Domini 1729

The births of the first two Fish daughters and the three Hicks daughters are in the same hand and comprise a unit that is distinct from the preceding and following entries.¹⁴ It is evident that all five were entered at the same time, most likely based on information provided by the same individual. It is reasonable, then, to conclude that the Abigail in all these records was the same person. She would therefore have been the widow of Ebenezer Fish when she married Thomas Hicks—which explains why “Fish” was her surname in their marriage record.¹⁵

This of course begs the question as to who Abigail was by birth. No record of her marriage to Ebenezer Fish has been found, but the names of their daughters point to an answer. The first, Deborah, bore the name of her paternal grandmother, for Ebenezer was the son of Nathan Fish and his wife Deborah.¹⁶ Could the second daughter, Patience, have been named after her maternal grandmother? In the 1971 article on the Handy family, we find that Richard Handy and his wife Patience (Randall) had a daughter Abigail who was born 8 June 1700.¹⁷ No husband is listed for Abigail, but the account adds that she “may have married.”¹⁸ Based on date and proximity, it is reasonable to posit that Ebenezer Fish’s wife was this Abigail Handy; but there is further, albeit circumstantial, evidence. Another child of Nathan and Deborah Fish was Elizabeth, born 28 October 1705,¹⁹ who was none other than the wife of Benjamin Handy.²⁰ Benjamin, in turn, was a son of Richard and Patience (Randall) Handy, and as such a brother of Abigail Handy.²¹ This would have been a case of siblings marrying siblings, a frequent occurrence at the time. Ebenezer Handy and his wife Rebecca would therefore have been first cousins (see chart).

¹⁴ Mehetable Fish’s birth was recorded later and is in different hand. It had probably been inadvertently omitted when her sisters’ births were recorded.

¹⁵ See note 12 for their marriage. No record of the death of Ebenezer Fish has been found, but few deaths were recorded in that period. Ebenezer last appears in the record of the 1729 birth of his third daughter. He is not found in the 1730 list of heads of families in Sandwich, whereas Thomas Hicks’s name is listed (Simeon L. Deyo, *History of Barnstable County, Massachusetts* [New York, 1890], 272).

¹⁶ Oliver B. Brown, *Vital Records of Falmouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Camden, Maine, 1976), 45 (the original record found at DGS #7009643, image 12, but it is almost too faint to read). Nathan Fish’s wife, Deborah, was identified as Deborah Barrows in Robert E. Bowman, “Nathan and Deborah (Barrows) Fish Revisited,” *The American Genealogist* 80(2005):53–55.

¹⁷ “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):130. The births of Abigail and her siblings are found in *Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:78 (citing Book 2, p. 43).

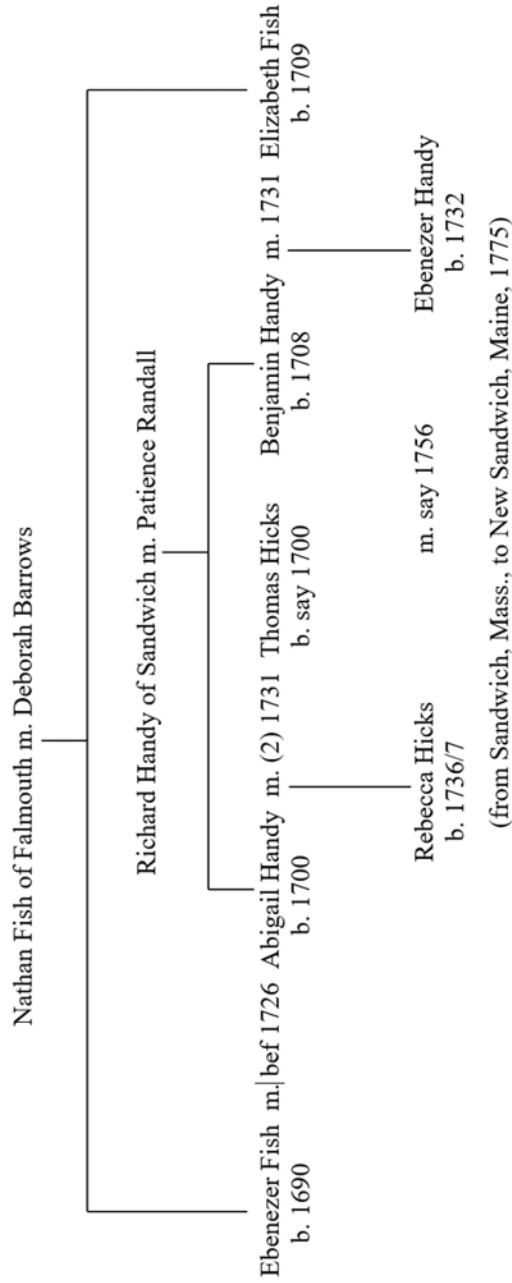
¹⁸ “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):130.

¹⁹ Brown, *Vital Records of Falmouth* [note 16], 44.

²⁰ “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):188.

²¹ “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):130.

PROPOSED FISH-HANDY-HICKS INTERRELATIONSHIPS



Thomas Hicks, the second husband of Abigail (Handy) Fish, was in Sandwich by 1730, when he was recorded as a head of family.²² There are no records of a Hicks family in Sandwich in the preceding decades, so he probably came from elsewhere as a young man. His origin warrants further investigation that is beyond the scope of the present article.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

EBENEZER HANDY was born in Sandwich, Massachusetts, 25 October 1732, son of Benjamin and Elizabeth (Fish) Handy.²³ He died reportedly in 1827 at the house of his son Nathan Handy.²⁴ As proposed in the discussion above, he married, say 1756, REBECCA HICKS. Rebecca was born in Sandwich, 27 February 1736/7, daughter of Thomas and Abigail (Handy?) (Fish) Hicks,²⁵ and died reportedly in 1818, but possibly before the 1810 census when there was no female of her age living in Nathan Handy's household in Wayne.²⁶ According to the *History of Wayne*, Ebenezer Handy moved to Maine in 1775 with his wife and family of eight children. They built a log house in Wayne and "endured many hardships and privations while en route and for some years subsequent to their arrival."²⁷

Children of Ebenezer and Rebecca (Hicks) Handy:²⁸

- i ABIGAIL HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 18 Sept. 1757; m. about 1784, NATHANIEL BILLINGTON,²⁹ b. Middleboro, Mass., c1763, son of Ichabod and Betty (Peck) Billington.³⁰ Abigail died prob. by 1790, when Nathaniel's household included only himself and their two children.³¹ Nathaniel m. (2) (int.) Winthrop, Maine, 6 Dec. 1794, Phebe (Doty) Cary,³² with whom he had five more children.³³ He was still living (aged 60–69) in Wayne in 1830.³⁴
 - Children, b. New Sandwich (Wayne):³⁵ 1. *Seth Billington*, b. 27 Feb. 1785. 2. *Hannah Billington*, b. 3 July 1786.

²² Deyo, *History of Barnstable County* [note 15], 272.

²³ *Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:55 (citing Book 2, p. 22).

²⁴ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183.

²⁵ Sandwich Vital Records, Book 2, p. 20 [DGS #4000352, image 166].

²⁶ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183; Nathan Handy, 1810 [note 3].

²⁷ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183.

²⁸ The births of the first seven were recorded in Sandwich, Mass. (*Vital Records of Sandwich* [note 4], 1:52–53 [citing Book 2, p. 20]). The last two were born either in Sandwich or in New Sandwich, Maine (*History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183).

²⁹ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 183.

³⁰ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 21; *Mayflower Families Through Six Generations*, 21: John Billington Part 3, by John Bradley Arthaud (Plymouth, Mass., 2018), 252–53.

³¹ Nathaniel Bilenton [sic] household, *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* (Washington, 1908), 41, column b.

³² Winthrop Vital Records [DGS #7596986, image 49].

³³ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 21; *Mayflower Fams.:* Billington Part 3 [note 30], 252–58.

³⁴ Nathaniel Billington household, 1830 U.S. Census, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 131.

³⁵ Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2008), 13.

- ii BENJAMIN HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 10 May 1759,³⁶ d. Letter E Plantation, Oxford [later Franklin] Co., Maine, “on the last day of May or the first day of June” 1836;³⁷ m. Pittston, Maine, Jan. or Feb. 1783, LUCY TOWER,³⁸ b. 19 Feb. 1764.³⁹ In an 1832 declaration for his pension application, Benjamin Handy stated that he enlisted for Revolutionary War service from Sandwich, Mass., and that after the war he lived in Wayne, Farmington (where he was enumerated in 1790, the area then called Sandy River, First Township⁴⁰), and Phillips, Maine, and that he moved to Plattsburgh, N.Y., in 1817, before moving to Letter E in 1829.⁴¹ Children, recorded Phillips:⁴² 1. *Benjamin Handy Jr.*, b. 16 April 1787. 2. *David Handy*, b. 1 March 1795. 3. *Sarah Handy*, b. 13 Sept. 1797, d. 26 May 1814. 4. *Alden Handy*, b. 29 Aug. 1806.
- iii ELIZABETH HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 18 Sept. 1764; m. (int.) Winthrop, 18 April 1795, ICHABOD BILLINGTON, both of New Sandwich,⁴³ b. Middleboro, Mass., ca. 1768, son of Ichabod and Betty (Peck) Billington and brother of Nathaniel, above,⁴⁴ d. Wayne, July 1849, ae 81y, a pauper.⁴⁵ Elizabeth was living in 1830 but died before 8 March 1835, when Ichabod filed intentions in Wayne to marry (2) Mrs. Patience Frost.⁴⁶ Children, b. in New Sandwich (Wayne):⁴⁷ 1. *Abigail Billington*, b. 17 Feb. 1792 [sic].⁴⁸ 2. *Abel Billington*, b. 6 March 1795.
- iv DAVID HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 18 July 1766, prob. d. young.
- v ISRAEL HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 31 Aug. 1768. He never married and d. in Wayne, probably after 1810.⁴⁹

³⁶ His birth date given as 4 May 1759 in his family record recorded in Phillips (Phillips Vital Records [DGS #7595792, image 24]).

³⁷ Revolutionary War Pension Application #W23244, Benjamin Handy, wife Lucy.

³⁸ Rev. War Pension Application #W23244 [note 37]. Benjamin Handy of Livermore and Lucy Tower filed marriage intentions in Pittston, 22 Jan. 1783 (Henry Sewall Webster, ed., *Vital Records of Pittston, Maine, to the Year 1892* [Gardiner, Maine, 1911], 205). *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184, errs in giving Lucy’s surname as “Powers.”

³⁹ Benjamin Handy family record [note 36].

⁴⁰ Benjamin Handy household, *Heads of Families, 1790, Maine* [note 31], 44, column b. The Benjamin Handy who was living alone in New Sandwich/Wayne in 1790 and 1800 was probably the younger brother of Ebenezer Handy (Benja. Handey [sic] household, 1790 U.S. Census, New Sandwich, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 44; Benjamin Handy household, 1800 U.S. Census, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 270). According to “Richard Handy of Sandwich, Mass.” [note 7], NEHGR 125(1971):189, he was b. ca. 1742 and d. 15 Oct. 1816 in Sandwich, Mass., where he must have returned in his later years.

⁴¹ Rev. War Pension Application #W23244 [note 37].

⁴² Benjamin Handy family record [note 36].

⁴³ Winthrop Vital Records [DGS #7596986, image 49].

⁴⁴ *Mayflower Fams.: Billington Part 3* [note 30], 259.

⁴⁵ 1850 U.S. Census Mortality Schedule, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, line 6.

⁴⁶ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 146.

⁴⁷ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 1.

⁴⁸ Abigail’s date of birth is debatable since it would have occurred more than three years before her parents’ marriage. In the Wayne family record, her listing follows that of her brother Abel, suggesting that she was younger than Abel. No further record has been discovered about this Abigail, leaving the question of her correct birth date unresolved.

vi NATHAN HANDY, b. Sandwich, Mass., 5 Aug. 1770, d. Wayne, 19 Oct. 1840, aged 70, and bur. in Evergreen Cemetery, Wayne;⁵⁰ m. (int.) Wayne, 25 May 1805, ELIZABETH/BETSY FISHER,⁵¹ b. ca. 1785–87, daughter of Peter and Thankful (Carlow) Fisher,⁵² d. 5 Oct. 1865, aged 80, and bur. in Evergreen Cemetery, Wayne.⁵³ Nathan was probably the second male enumerated in his brother Israel's household in 1800, but thereafter headed his own household.⁵⁴

Children, b. Wayne:⁵⁵ 1. *Enos Handy*, b. 22 Feb. 1807, d. 6 July 1830. 2. *Prudence Handy*, b. 29 Dec. 1808. 3. *Robert Handy*, b. 16 Nov. 1809. 4. *Benjamin Handy*, b. 6 Feb. 1814, d. 6 Aug. 1819. 5. *Nathan Handy*, b. 19 Aug. 1816, d. 23 July 1875. 6. *Elizabeth Handy*, b. 32 Jan. 1819. 7. *Eleanor Handy*, b. 27 Feb. 1820. 8. *Maria S. Handy*, b. 22 Nov. 1823. 9. *David C. Handy*, b. 18 July 1826, d. 20 Sept. 1829. 10. *Benjamin F. Handy*, b. 22 Aug. 1828, d. 17 Sept. 1829. 11. *Abigail A. Handy*, b. 18 Nov. 1830.⁵⁶

vii EBENEZER HANDY [Jr.], b. Sandwich, Mass., 13 June 1772, d. Wayne, 24 April 1808;⁵⁷ m. Wayne, 24 June 1804, SILV[IN]A BONNEY, both of Wayne.⁵⁸ It would appear that Silva did not remarry, as sometime around 1818–20 Silva Handy was a pauper bid off at public vendue to Jesse Bishop for \$30.⁵⁹

Children, b. Wayne:⁶⁰ 1. *Hanan Handy*, b. 21 Feb. 1805. 2. *Alden Handy*, b. 31 Aug. 1806.

viii THOMAS HANDY, b. say 1775,⁶¹ d. Wayne, 5 Jan. 1808;⁶² never married.⁶³

⁴⁹ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184. A household head in 1800 (Israel Handy household, 1800 U.S. Census, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 270), he was probably one of the older males enumerated in his brother Nathan's household in Wayne in 1810, the other probably being their father, Ebenezer (Nathan Handy household, 1810 U.S. Census, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 932).

⁵⁰ Estate of Nathan Handy (Kennebec Co. Probate Records, file H-3 [DGS #5429147, image 193]); gravestone photo, findagrave.com #112912933.

⁵¹ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 87.

⁵² *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184; her parents m. Pownalborough, 1 March 1781 (Marlene A. Groves, *Vital Records of Wiscasset, Maine* [Rockland, Maine, 2011], 60).

⁵³ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #112912938. In 1860 Elizabeth Handy, aged 73, was living in Fayette, Maine, in the household of her son Nathan, a blacksmith (Nathan Handy household, 1860 U.S. Census, Fayette, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 644).

⁵⁴ 1800 U.S. Census [note 49]; Nathan Handy household, 1810, 1820, 1830, and 1840 U.S. Censuses, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, pp. 932 (1810), 668 (1820), 668 (183), 149 (1840).

⁵⁵ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 20–21.

⁵⁶ She probably provided the Handy material found in the *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1].

⁵⁷ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 14.

⁵⁸ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 77.

⁵⁹ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 105, no date given on the record.

⁶⁰ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 14. Son Hanan's name is given in this source as "Hannah" (p. 14), "Hanan" (p. 80), and "Hannan" (p. 145); as "Elhanan" in *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184; and as "Hanan" in 1840 U.S. Census, St. Albans, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 238.

⁶¹ He was probably the single male under age 16 in his father's household in 1790 (Ebenezer "Handey" household, *Heads of Families, 1790, Maine* [note 31], 41, column b) and one of the two males aged 16–25 in 1800 (Ebenezer Handy household, 1800 U.S. Census, Wayne, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 270).

⁶² Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 82.

⁶³ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184.

- ix REBECCA HANDY, b. say 1777,⁶⁴ d. Wayne, 28 Jan. 1808;⁶⁵ never married.⁶⁶ It is curious to note that Rebecca and her brother Thomas died just 23 days apart from one another.

Child (born out of wedlock, father unknown): 1. *Jane Handy*, “daughter of Rebecca Handy,” b. Wayne, 5 April 1807.⁶⁷

POSTSCRIPT

The Handy family probably had other ties to the Hicks family beyond those involving Rebecca and her parents. Zephaniah Hicks was a resident of New Sandwich on 28 November 1789 when he published marriage intentions in Winthrop with Sarah Stinchfield of Littleborough [Leeds],⁶⁸ and when they were married in Winthrop, 13 December 1789.⁶⁹ Although enumerated in Littleborough in 1790,⁷⁰ they subsequently lived for a time in Wayne before settling in Leeds, where the births of all their children were recorded. A sketch of Zephaniah Hicks and his family can be found in the *Maine Families in 1790* series, but the author of that sketch was unable to determine Zephaniah’s birthplace and parentage.⁷¹ As in the case of Thomas Hicks, Zephaniah’s origin warrants further investigation outside the scope of the present study.

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⁶⁴ She was probably one of four females in her father’s household in 1790 (Ebenezer “Handey” household, 1790 [note 61]) and one of the two females aged 16–25 in 1800 (Ebenezer Handy household, 1800 [note 61]).

⁶⁵ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 82.

⁶⁶ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184.

⁶⁷ Groves, *Vital Records of Wayne* [note 35], 82.

⁶⁸ Winthrop Vital Records [DGS #7596986, image 46], his name spelled “Hix.”

⁶⁹ Winthrop Vital Records [DGS #7596986, image 61], his name again spelled “Hix.”

⁷⁰ Zephaniah Hicks family sketch, authored by Peter M. Smith, in Joseph C. Anderson II, ed., *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 11* (Waterville, Maine, 2015), 285–87.

⁷¹ *History of the Town of Wayne* [note 1], 184.

EFFIE SWEET OR EFFIE BAXTER (1874–1948)

A Tale of Two Names

By *Linda C. Bolen*

When evaluating census data, we often encounter anomalies not easily explained. A case in point is the identity of six-year-old Effie, who was enumerated with the family of Joh [*sic*: John] C. Sweet and Mary (Collins) Sweet of Atkinson, Maine, in 1880.¹ Effie continued to use the *Sweet* family name for many years, despite evidence that John and Mary were not her parents. Who was Effie and why was she living with the Sweets? An amazing stroke of luck led to the discovery of a family letter, which helped reveal the truth about Effie’s biological mother and Effie’s early years.

In 1880, Joh[n] C. and Mary Sweet’s family are found in the census as follows:²

<u>Names</u>	<u>Age</u>	<u>Relationship</u>	<u>Implied birth year</u>
Joh. C. Sweet	44	Self	[about 1836]
Mary Sweet	31	Wife	[about 1849]
Hattie B. Sweet	6	Daughter	[about 1874]
J. Edward Sweet	4	Son	[about 1876]
Cora E. Sweet	2	Daughter	[about 1878]
George T. Sweet	1	Son	[about 1879]
Effie Sweet	6	Daughter	[about 1874]

Absent evidence that Hattie and Effie were twins, the presence of two children of the same age in this family is suspicious. The 1880 census enumerators were instructed to list the head of the household first, while “the children of the family proper should follow in the order of their ages, as will naturally be the case.”³ Effie’s appearance, out of sequence, calls into question her true connection to the Sweet family.

Various records documenting the births and deaths of Hattie and Effie Sweet support the conclusion that the two girls were not siblings. At her death in Medfield, Massachusetts, on 11 February 1948, Effie was 73 years, 11 months, and 19 days old, suggesting a birth date of 22 February 1874.⁴ Her death certificate does not identify her parents. Hattie Sweet, who married Hartwell Speed in 1894,⁵ was born in April 1874, according to the 1900 census.⁶ Hattie (Sweet) Speed’s memorial

¹ Enumerated as “Joh. C. Sweet” in the 1880 census, he was John Sweet in other records.

² “Joh C. Sweet” household, 1880 U.S. Census, Atkinson, Piscataquis Co., Maine, p. 66A.

³ 1880 Census: Instructions to Enumerators [<https://usa.ipums.org/usa/voliii/inst1880.shtml>], under paragraph “Names.”

⁴ Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Boston, Mass., 1948/896445.

⁵ Maine Marriage Records, 1713–1922, image, [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com), identifying Hattie’s parents as John Sweet and Mary Collins; indexed as Hartnell P Speed and Hallie B Swed.

⁶ Hartwell Speed household, 1900 U.S. Census, Atkinson, Piscataquis Co., Maine, p. 171A.

in the North Atkinson Cemetery corroborates her month and year of birth, giving her birth date as 1 April 1874 and death date as 10 April 1923.⁷ Born barely seven weeks apart, Effie and Hattie could not have shared the same mother. And given that John and Mary Sweet married just two years previously, it seems highly unlikely that John Sweet fathered both Effie and Hattie.⁸

Evidence relating to John and Mary Sweet also suggest that Effie was not their daughter. John Sweet's will, written in 1916 and proved in 1933, mentions his wife and children Hattie, Cora, George, and Calvin.⁹ John Sweet's obituary in 1933 notes that he and Mary lived in Atkinson from 1871 to 1909, and that his only living child was son, Calvin, who was born in March 1881.¹⁰ Mary Sweet's obituary in 1937 mentions Calvin as her only living child.¹¹ John Sweet's will and the obituaries of John and Mary Sweet neglect to mention Effie, even though she was alive at the time of their deaths. Almost certainly, Effie was not included because she was not their daughter.

Given that the Sweets lived in Atkinson from 1871 to 1909, it seemed likely that Effie's birth in 1874 might have been recorded there. The town clerk, however, could not find a record of her birth, suggesting either it wasn't recorded or she was born somewhere else.¹² Calvin Sweet's 24 March 1881 birth is recorded in Atkinson (it was apparently recorded at a much later date, the entry made being based on a deposition by H[artwell] P. Speed).¹³ The town clerk did not record any of the earlier births of the Sweet children, who were born 1874–1879.

Despite evidence that Effie was not the daughter of John and Mary Sweet, she gave her parents' names as John Sweet and Mary Collins on her 1894 marriage record with George W. Hall.¹⁴ She would continue to use the maiden name *Sweet* well into her marriage through the births of her first four children. By early 1897, George and Effie had moved from Maine to Mansfield, Massachusetts. By 1902, after Effie and George Hall were well established in Massachusetts, she ceased using the maiden name *Sweet* and began using the name *Baxter* when each of her next four children were born, as shown below:

⁷ Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #60230935.

⁸ John C. Sweet household, 1900 U.S. Census, Atkinson, Piscataquis Co., Maine, E.D. 127, p. 170A (indexed at ancestry.com and familysearch.org as John C. "Scout").

⁹ Piscataquis Co., Maine, Probate Records, file #4960. John Sweet's will names wife, Mary, daughters Hattie and Cora, and sons George and Calvin.

¹⁰ "John C. Sweet—Civil War Veteran and Oldest Resident of Dover-Foxcroft," obituary, *Bangor (Maine) Daily News*, 13 March 1933; John C. Sweet household, 1900 U.S. Census [note 8].

¹¹ "Mrs. Mary Sweet," obituary, *Bangor Daily News*, 1 Dec. 1937.

¹² Atkinson Town Clerk to Linda Bolen, letter, May 2011, explaining that no birth or adoption record could be found for Effie Sweet of Atkinson. Also, Maine, Birth Records, 1715–1922, ancestry.com, Maine Births and Christenings, 1739–1900, familysearch.org, and Charlotte A. (Edgerly) Nicely, Ronald J. Fortier, ed., *Vital Records and Cemetery Records Prior to 1892, Town of Atkinson, Maine* (Madison, Maine, 2004) make no mention of Effie Sweet, b. 1874.

¹³ Maine Birth Records, 1715–1922, ancestry.com.

¹⁴ Maine Marriage Records, 1713–1922, ancestry.com.

Children of George W. and Effie Hall

<u>Names</u>	<u>Birth Date</u>	<u>Birthplace</u>	<u>Mother's name</u>
Bernice Hall	5 June 1895	Atkinson, Maine	Effie Sweet ¹⁵
Beulah Hall	4 Feb. 1897	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie B. Sweet Hall ¹⁶
George Linwood Hall	2 May 1898	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie B. (Sweet) Hall ¹⁷
Wendall Ernest Hall	3 Aug. 1900	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie B. (Sweet) Hall ¹⁸
Helen Viola Hall	22 March 1902	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie Baxter ¹⁹
Clifton Elwood Hall	11 Jan. 1905	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie Baxter ²⁰
Margery Hall	9 April 1907	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie B. Baxter ²¹
Sumner Frederick Hall	23 Feb. 1910	Mansfield, Mass.	Effie Baxter ²²

CHARLES SUMNER NEWCOMB

According to family tradition, Effie's spinster aunt, Hattie L. Baxter, was devoted to her niece, often cooking for the Halls and caring for Effie, especially when a new child was born into the family. While records that illuminate Hattie Baxter's life and her relationship to the Halls are scarce, one document—the record of Charles Sumner Newcomb's birth, which occurred roughly sixteen years prior to Effie's marriage to George Hall—provided a vital clue that helped identify Effie's mother.

Charles Sumner Newcomb was born on 22 January 1878 in Easton, Maine. His parents were William H. Newcomb and Ella L. Baxter.²³ The informant on the birth record was Hattie L. Baxter of Mansfield, Maine [*sic*: Massachusetts], who was described as Charles's aunt. Created many years after the fact, possibly as late as October 1940, when Hattie was living in Mansfield, the accuracy of his birth record might normally be suspect.²⁴ The 1880 census for Easton, Maine, however, corroborates Charles's 1878 year of birth.²⁵

A chance email exchange with the Piscataquis County Register of Probate led to the discovery of a letter which answered many questions about Effie's parentage. In

¹⁵ Maine Birth Records, 1715–1922, ancestry.com.

¹⁶ "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (from original records held by the Mass. Archives), online database, americanancestors.org, 466:271. Beulah was a twin, the other twin was stillborn.

¹⁷ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 475:274.

¹⁸ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 496:277.

¹⁹ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 520:275.

²⁰ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 550:263.

²¹ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 566:269.

²² Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 590:279.

²³ Charles S. Newcomb's mother is identified in Enfield birth records as Lucy E. Baxter, but recorded elsewhere as Ella L. Baxter (her son Charles's birth record) or Ella L. Newcomb (land records, death record). The form Lucy Ella Baxter will be used here, unless quoting directly.

²⁴ Maine Birth Records, 1715–1922, ancestry.com, indexed as Charles Susanna [*sic*] Newcomb. In 1940, Charles Sumner Newcomb likely wished to take advantage of the Social Security Act. Signed into law by President Roosevelt in 1935, this Act created a program designed to pay retired workers age 65 or older a post-retirement income. Charles, who was 62 in 1940, would have needed to produce a birth certificate to apply for the program.

²⁵ William Newcomb household, 1880 U.S. Census, Easton, Aroostook Co., Maine, p. 202.

July 1953, Charles S. Newcomb offered the following description of Effie's early years to Hattie (Sweet) Speed's daughter, Helen Kinney:

“. . . My aunt Hattie L. Baxter brough[t] me to Atkinson after my mother (Lucy Ella Baxter) died in Lowell, Mass. I was six years old then and recovering from typhoid and I lived with the Sweet family for six or seven years. My father (William Henry Newcomb) went west to Colorado after mother died and died in Eureka, Cal about 20 years ago.²⁶ He paid my board etc. while I was living with the Sweets. The same aunt brought Effie there before I came there. She was my sister and a few years older than I and went by the name *Effie Sweet*. She married Geo W. Hall of Atkinson and they went to Mansfield, Mass. . . . Neither Effie [n]or I were any relation to the Sweets.”²⁷

Charles did not explain why Effie would have adopted the name *Sweet*, if, in fact, he and Effie were full, biological siblings. While no primary source attesting to the marriage of William Henry Newcomb to Ella Baxter has surfaced to date, two independent and corroborating items bolster the case for concluding that William and Lucy married about 1877, roughly three years after Effie was born.

A Newcomb genealogy states that William Henry Newcomb married Presque Isle, Maine, 17 March 1877, Ella L. Baxter, who died in April 1882.²⁸ [The marriage, however, is not recorded in the Presque Isle vital records.]

Charles Sumner Newcomb's delayed birth registration states that he was born 22 Jan. 1878 in Easton, Maine, son of William H. Newcomb and Ella L. Baxter.²⁹

On 10 September 1878, “Ella L.” Newcomb described herself as “of Smithfield in the County of Somerset” when she purchased three parcels of land in Easton, comprising part of Lot #73, the “Marston saw mill property,” and the “blacksmith shop of William Cook.”³⁰ This would appear to suggest that she was taking up residence in Easton within two years of her marriage to William Henry Newcomb.

Records detailing the Newcombs' success, or lack thereof, with their Easton properties, are scant. Regardless, William and “Ella L.” Newcomb next appeared in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, on 28 March 1882, where the couple discharged a mortgage on property they had previously owned in Aroostook County.³¹ Quite possibly, they sold the land, sawmill, and blacksmith shop, and moved to Massa-

²⁶ According to his gravestone in Ocean View Cemetery, Eureka, Calif., he died in 1925 (photo, findagrave.com #70639117). See also, Bethuel Merritt Newcomb, *Andrew Newcomb 1618–1686 and His Descendants* . . . (New Haven, Conn., 1923), 614.

²⁷ Charles S. Newcomb to Mrs. [Helen] Kinney, letter, 21 July 1953; privately held by Diane Smith of Atkinson, Maine, 2011. Ms. Smith is the granddaughter of Helen Kinney and the great granddaughter of Hartwell and Hattie (Sweet) Speed.

²⁸ Newcomb, *Andrew Newcomb and His Descendants* [note 26], 614.

²⁹ See note 24.

³⁰ Aroostook Co., Maine, Deeds, Southern Registry, 58:232.

³¹ Aroostook Co. Deeds, Southern Registry, 73:474, Ella L. Newcomb and William H. Newcomb of Easton to C.F.A. Johnson and Thomas H. Phair of Presque Isle, 4 Oct. 1881. Also, 72:459, W. H. Newcomb and Ella L. Newcomb of Middlesex Co., Mass., to C.F.A. Johnson and Thomas H. Phair, mortgage released 28 March 1882.

chusetts with a view to starting a new life in Lowell, a town that was prospering by the mid-1800s, thanks in large part to its growing population, booming economy, and status as America's largest industrial center. Lucy Ella died on 1 April 1882,³² only a few days after discharging the mortgage.

Following his wife's death, William H. Newcomb moved west, ultimately settling in Eureka, California, where he lived out the remainder of his life. He died on or about 5 December 1925.³³ In his will, dated 3 December 1925, William Henry Newcomb designated only his son, Charles S. Newcomb, as a beneficiary.³⁴

CONCLUSION

The evidence suggests that Lucy Ella Baxter did not marry Effie's father. Instead, in 1877, when Effie was about three, Lucy Ella married William Henry Newcomb, and the couple had one son together, Charles Sumner, born in early 1878, he being Effie's half brother. Lucy Ella and William subsequently moved from Easton, Maine, to Lowell, Massachusetts, where Lucy Ella died at age 25 in 1882. Effie likely lived with her mother only briefly and may have had minimal contact with her stepfather, William Henry Newcomb. The identity of Effie's father is unknown.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **JOHN HENRY² BAXTER** (*John*¹) was born 18 December 1827 and baptized at All Saints Church in the parish of Sculcoates, East Riding, Yorkshire, England, 1 March 1837, son of John¹ and Harriet (Grantham) Baxter.³⁵ He died after 20 October 1860, when he purchased property from his sister, Harriet G. Woodard, "married woman (formerly Harriet G. Baxter) of Enfield."³⁶ He married SALLY JANE BRAGDON before 13 August 1850, most likely in Maine.³⁷ She was born circa

³² Mass. VRs, 1841–1910 [note 16], 338:105, recorded as Ella F. Newcomb. The death record misstates her age as 22 years [*sic*: 25 years], 3 months. The record also errs in naming Eliz. Baxter as Lucy Ella's mother, but correctly identifies her father as John H. Baxter. See Genealogical Summary.

³³ Humboldt Co., Calif., Probate Records, file #4659, 21 Dec. 1925, at Superior Court Clerk's Office, Eureka.

³⁴ Will of William H. Newcomb, 3 Dec. 1925 [note 33].

³⁵ Sculcoates All Saints Bishop's Transcripts, p. 156 [image, findmypast.com]; his parents m. Holy Trinity, Kingston-Upon-Hull, Yorkshire, England, 15 Sept. 1823, p. 23 [image, findmypast.com]. In 1860 John and Harriet Baxter (aged 60 and 53, respectively) were enumerated in Enfield in the household adjacent to Sally J. (Baxter) Bragdon's parents, Elijah and Lois Bragdon (John Baxter household, 1860 U.S. Census, Enfield, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 874). The Baxter household included daughters Harriet, age 24, married to Isaac Woodard, and Mary F. Baxter, age 16. Elijah Bragdon's household included his three granddaughters: Harriet L., Mary Emma, and Lucy E., now likely orphaned, owing to the death of their mother Sally J. (Bragdon) Baxter in 1858, and the uncertain whereabouts of their father, John Henry Baxter.

³⁶ Penobscot Co. Deeds, 306:412. One John Baxter d. Enfield, 21 June 1874 (Enfield Vital Records, 1836–1899, Maine State Archives [MSA], film #201), but it has not been determined if this was John Henry Baxter or his father John Baxter.

³⁷ Elisha Guptill household, 1850 U.S. Census, Enfield, Penobscot Co., Maine, which includes Elijah and Lois Bragdon, as well as John Baxter, age 22, and Sally A. [*sic*] Baxter, age 15.

1835 in Swanville, Maine, daughter of Elijah and Lois (Seekins) Bragdon.³⁸ Sally Jane died on 18 December 1858 in Enfield.³⁹

Children of John H. and Sally Jane (Bragdon) Baxter:

- i HARRIET L./HATTIE BAXTER, b. Enfield, 6 Dec. 1852,⁴⁰ d. Attleboro, Mass., 5 May 1945, aged 92y 4m 29d,⁴¹ and bur. with the family of George W. Hall in the Spring Brook Cemetery, Mansfield, Mass.⁴²
- ii MARY EMMA BAXTER, b. Enfield, 29 April 1855,⁴³ d. Enfield, 2 May 1928;⁴⁴ m. Passadumkeag, Maine, 20 Dec 1868 (at age 13!), HENRY D. OLDENBURG, both of Enfield,⁴⁵ b. New Brunswick, Canada, 13 Sept. 1843,⁴⁶ son of Henry and Jane M. (Josslin) Oldenburgh, d. Enfield, 26 Nov. 1914, aged 76y [*sic*] 2m 13d, and bur. in Enfield Town Cemetery.⁴⁷
- 2 iii LUCY ELLA BAXTER, b. Enfield, 1 Jan. 1857; m. WILLIAM H. NEWCOMB.

2 **LUCY ELLA BAXTER** was born in Enfield, 1 January 1857.⁴⁸ She died in Lowell, Massachusetts, 1 April 1882, and is buried in Edson Cemetery, Lowell.⁴⁹ Lucy married (reportedly in Presque Isle, 17 March 1877) WILLIAM HENRY NEWCOMB.⁵⁰ William was born in Charlotte, Maine, 20 December 1848, son of Robert and Lydia B. (Lisherness) Newcomb.⁵¹ He died in Eureka, California, 5 December 1925, and is buried at the Ocean View Cemetery, Eureka, California.⁵²

³⁸ Deborah Kimball Nowers, "The Family of Aaron³ Seekins of Massachusetts, Vermont, and Augusta, Windsor, and Swanville, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 37(2015): 173–92, at 181. Also, the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Boston, Mass., 1945/907204, identifies Hattie's mother's place of birth as Swanville, Maine.

³⁹ Enfield Vital Records [note 36].

⁴⁰ Enfield Vital Records [note 36]. Harriet (Hattie's) date of birth is partially illegible.

⁴¹ Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Boston, Mass., 1945/907204, provides Hattie's date of death and her age at death.

⁴² Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #65252060. Hattie L. Baxter is listed on the George Washington Hall memorial.

⁴³ Enfield Vital Records [note 36]. Mary's date of birth is partially illegible.

⁴⁴ Mrs. Mary Oldenburg obituary, *Bangor (Maine) Daily News*, 4 May 1928.

⁴⁵ Penobscot Co. Marriage Records, 5:385 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #8203747, image 462], his name rendered Henry Oldenborough.

⁴⁶ His birth date is inscribed on his gravestone.

⁴⁷ Maine, Death Records, 1761–1922, ancestry.com. His death record gives his place of birth and the names of his parents; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #98450570.

⁴⁸ Enfield Vital Records [note 36].

⁴⁹ See note 32; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #69302389.

⁵⁰ Newcomb, *Andrew Newcomb and His Descendants* [note 26], 614.

⁵¹ Charlotte birth records, p. 50 [DGS #4255380, image 33], recorded as William A. Newcome; 1892 death record of Lydia B. Newcomb gives her maiden name of Lisherness (Maine, Death Records, 1761–1922, ancestry.com).

⁵² Humboldt Co., Calif., Probate Records, file #4659; see also, "William Newcomb Dies in Hospital," obituary notice, *Humboldt (Calif.) Standard*, 5 Dec. 1925; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #70639117.

Child of Lucy Ella Baxter, paternity unknown:

- 3 i EFFIE BAXTER, b. Atkinson, [calc.] 22 Feb. 1874; m. GEORGE W. HALL.

Child of William and Lucy Ella (Baxter) Newcomb:

- ii CHARLES SUMNER NEWCOMB, b. Easton, Maine, 22 Jan. 1878,⁵³ d. Palm Beach Co., Fla., 7 Feb. 1967, and bur. in Masardis Cemetery;⁵⁴ m. Masardis, Maine, 27 Nov. 1901, FANNIE FREEMAN QUINCY,⁵⁵ b. Masardis, 10 Dec. 1881, daughter of Charles and Isalaide (Fitzgerald) Quincy,⁵⁶ d. Palm Beach Co., Fla., 29 Sept. 1958, and bur. with her husband in Masardis Cemetery.⁵⁷

3 **EFFIE BAXTER** was born in Atkinson, [calc.] 22 February 1874, and died in Medfield, Massachusetts, 11 February 1948, aged 73 years, 11 months, and 19 days,⁵⁸ following a lengthy stay at the Medfield State Hospital. She is buried in an unmarked grave in the George Hall lot at Spring Brook Cemetery, Mansfield.⁵⁹ Effie married in Lewiston, Maine, 22 March 1894, GEORGE WASHINGTON HALL, both of Atkinson.⁶⁰ George was born in Atkinson, 8 October 1869, son of James Robert and Dorcas (Jenks) Hall, and died in Medford, Massachusetts, 18 February 1940.⁶¹ He is buried near Effie in Spring Brook Cemetery, Mansfield.⁶²

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⁵³ See note 24.

⁵⁴ Florida Death Index, 1878–1998, familysearch.org; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #70640772.

⁵⁵ Maine Marriage Records, 1713–1922, ancestry.com.

⁵⁶ Maine Birth Records, 1715–1922, ancestry.com. This delayed birth record was created 12 Sept. 1940 from a deposition made by Fanny's sister Myrtie E. Greenlaw.

⁵⁷ Florida Death Index, 1877–1998, familysearch.org; gravestone photo, findagrave.com #76107396.

⁵⁸ See note 4.

⁵⁹ Larry Tetreault, Caretaker, Spring Brook Cemetery, to Linda Bolen, email, 15 March 2011.

⁶⁰ Maine Marriage Records, 1713–1922, ancestry.com. The marriage record identifies George's father as James R. Hall and his mother as Dorcas Jenks.

⁶¹ Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Boston, Mass., 1940/R0012251. George's death certificate correctly identifies his father, but errs in naming his mother Dorcas Leversaler. Dorcas's maiden name was Jenks (note 60), but her mother's maiden name was Levensailor, undoubtedly explaining the mix-up.

⁶² Gravestone photo, findagrave.com #65250618.

RECONSIDERING THE PARENTS OF MARY (TRIPP) HALL OF POLAND, MAINE

By Michael F. Dwyer, FASG

Mary Tripp's identity came from a single sentence in Joseph B. Hall's sketch on Job Hall: "He married (1) when about 33 years of age, MARY TRIPP and settled, we believe in Minot, Me."¹ While many other Hall entries in this compilation identified the parents of spouses, Joseph Hall revealed no further information on Mary Tripp. My article, "Searching for Parents Among Friends: Mary Tripp, Wife of Job Hall, of Poland, Maine," concluded that Mary Tripp was more likely the child of Revolutionary War soldier Stephen Tripp than of his brother Abner Tripp who had associations with the Falmouth, Maine, Quaker community.² Abner's sons Richard and Silas Tripp lived in Poland, Maine, where Job Hall was counted in the 1790 and 1800 censuses, but this proximity alone dissuaded me from including Mary in Abner's family.³ Abner's youngest daughter, Patience (Tripp) Warren, died on 24 November 1876, aged 96, outliving all but two of Mary (Tripp) Hall's children.⁴ Patience's longevity convinced me that she might have been known to Mary's children and therefore would have been a source in naming their Tripp grandparents. Upon further reflection, I should have considered that the remembrance of family relationships may have long frayed by the time Joseph Hall collected information in the late 1860s.

As the number of people contributing their DNA to genealogical databanks continues to grow, I joined their ranks in using autosomal DNA evidence as another tool to support or refute conjectural genealogical relationships like my identification of Mary Tripp's parents. Crucial to my ongoing research has been the contribution of my mother's DNA. She is six generations removed from her fourth great-grandmother Mary Tripp. My mother's generation has often proved the cut-off point of when DNA from distant cousins did not get passed down to me. Thus, in my analysis of Tripp DNA matches, I always use my mother's DNA as the point of comparison.

Seeking confirmation that Mary Tripp was Stephen Tripp's daughter, I have not found any autosomal DNA matches to his descendants. As I looked among Abner Tripp's descendants, however, more evidence pointed in the direction of him being

¹ Joseph B. Hall, "Genealogy of Hatevil Hall and His Descendants," MS (Maine Historical Society, Portland, Colls. 1339 and S-5566), family 305.

² Michael F. Dwyer, "Searching for Parents Among Friends: Mary Tripp, Wife of Job Hall, of Poland, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 38 (2016):51–65.

³ Richard Tripp household, 1790 U.S. Census, Bakersfield Plantation, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 4; Richd Trip, Silas Trip household, 1800 U.S. Census, Poland [not Norway], Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 207. Identification of Richard and Silas as sons of Abner Tripp is circumstantial [note 2].

⁴ Silas P. Maxim, *History of Paris, Maine, from Its Settlement to 1880* (Paris, 1880), 762, states that Patience was the daughter of Abner Tripp of Poland. Patience is buried in Partridge Cemetery, South Paris, Maine (J. Gary Nichols Cemetery Collection, image, familysearch.org).

Mary's father. A distinctive aspect among Abner Tripp and Sarah Sawyer's descendants is the number of intermarriages between the Tripp and Verrill families. The entwining of these families began when two of Abner Tripp's children married a pair of Verrill siblings:

Silas Tripp, m. (int.) New Gloucester, 3 Dec. 1796, Dorcas Verrill.⁵

Lydia Tripp, m. (int.) New Gloucester, 12 Oct. 1799, Jeremiah Verrill.⁶

Three of Silas and Dorcas (Verrill) Tripp's children married Verrill cousins:

John Tripp (1803–1861),⁷ m. New Gloucester, ca. 1828, Deborah Verrill (1806–1881),⁸ daughter of Richard and Polly (Pickett) Verrill.⁹

Lydia Tripp (1807–1889), m. William Nathaniel Verrill (see 4 and 5 below).

Silas Tripp (1807–1869), m. ca. 1836, Deborah Verrill (1815–1903),¹⁰ daughter of John and Polly (Hodgkins) Verrill.¹¹

In turn, William Nathaniel and Lydia (Tripp) Verrill's son Jeremiah Verrill (1825–1907) married his second cousin Mercy Tripp (1828–1889), granddaughter of Silas and Dorcas (Verrill) Tripp. An Ahnentafel chart below for their son William Francis Verrill illustrates the extent of consanguinity among his immediate ancestors:

Generation One

1. William Francis Verrill, b. Raymond, 7 Aug. 1847, d. Poland, 1 April 1916, aged 68y 7m 25d;¹² m. Raymond, 26 Feb. 1866, Mary Susan Thurlow,¹³ b. Raymond, 11 June 1850, daughter of Abraham and Abigail (Elwell) Thurlow, d. Poland, 12 June 1911, aged 61y 1d.¹⁴

Generation Two (Parents)

2. Jeremiah Verrill, b. New Gloucester, 11 March 1825, d. Raymond, 7 Nov. 1907, age 83y 8m 4d;¹⁵ m. New Gloucester, 4 Oct. 1845.¹⁶

⁵ New Gloucester Vital Records [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #7595773, image 412].

⁶ New Gloucester Vital Records [DGS #7595773, image 414].

⁷ John Tripp d. 16 Sept. 1861, aged 57 (North Raymond Cemetery [image, billiongraves.com]).

⁸ John Tripp sketch in Robert L. Taylor, *Early Families of Raymond, Maine* (Bowie, Md., 1998), 199; their oldest child, Mary E. (Tripp) (Verrill) Tenney, was b. [calc.] 19 Sept. 1829 (1913 death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org). This John Tripp should not be confused with the John Tripp who m. (int.) Poland, Maine, 8 July 1830, Nancy Verrill (Poland Vital Records [DGS #7834691, image 180]).

⁹ Harold F. Round, *The History and Genealogy of the Varrell-Verrill and Associated Families* (Bryn Mawr, Pa., 1968), 57; Cumberland Co. Deeds, 303:193, shows Deborah as an heir of Richard Verrill of New Gloucester.

¹⁰ John Tripp sketch in Taylor, *Early Raymond Families* [note 8], 200. Taylor reports their first child, Mary, was b. 18 May 1837.

¹¹ Deborah Tripp death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org.

¹² Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org.

¹³ Taylor, *Early Raymond Families* [note 8], 196.

¹⁴ Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org.

¹⁵ Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org.

¹⁶ New Gloucester Vital Records [DGS #7595774, image 152].

3. Mercy Tripp, b. 29 March 1828, d. Raymond, 30 May 1890.¹⁷

Generation Three (Grandparents)

4. William Verrill, b. Raymond, 15 Dec. 1802,¹⁸ d. after 1880;¹⁹ m.
 5. Lydia Tripp, b. Raymond, [calc.] 15 July 1805, d. New Gloucester, 4 June 1896,
 age 90 y 10m 20d.²⁰
 6. Jeremiah Tripp, b. ca. 1796, d. Raymond, Oct. 1879, age 83;²¹ m. Raymond, ca.
 1820.²²
 7. Patience York, b. ca. 1801, d. after 1870.²³

Generation Four (Great-Grandparents)

8. Jeremiah Verrill, b. say 1774,²⁴ d. after 20 March 1838;²⁵ m. (int.) New Gloucester,
 12 Oct. 1799.²⁶
 9. Lydia Tripp, b. ca. 1781, d. Portland, 23 March 1858, aged 76.²⁷
 10. Silas Tripp, b. say 1771,²⁸ d. after 26 March 1842²⁹ and before the 1850 census;³⁰
 m. (int.) New Gloucester, 3 Dec. 1796.³¹
 11. Dorcas Verrill, b. ca. 1773,³² d. New Gloucester, Dec. 1862.³³
 12. Silas Tripp, same person as 10.
 13. Dorcas Verrill, same person as 11.

¹⁷ Taylor, *Early Raymond Families* [note 8], 203; gravestone photo, North Raymond Cemetery, findagrave.com #38357019.

¹⁸ Raymond Vital Records [DGS #7596437, image 73].

¹⁹ William Verrill household, 1880 U.S. Census, New Gloucester, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 40, p. 404D.

²⁰ Death record, Maine Vital Records, 1670–1921, image, familysearch.org. Her parents are listed as Silas Tripp, b. Falmouth, Maine, and Dorcas Verrill, b. New Gloucester.

²¹ Jeremiah Tripp, 1880 U.S. Census, Mortality Schedule, Raymond, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 60, p. 116.

²² Their first child b. Raymond, 11 Nov. 1820 (Raymond Vital Records [DGS #7596437, image 110]).

²³ Taylor, *Early Raymond Families* [note 8], 198; Patience was aged 69 in Jeremiah Tripp household, 1870 U.S. Census, Raymond, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 355.

²⁴ Assuming age 25 at marriage.

²⁵ On this date Jeremiah Verrill and wife Lydia were described as paupers in Raymond (Portland *Weekly Eastern Argus*, 3 April 1838, p. 3 [genealogybank.com]).

²⁶ New Gloucester Vital Records [DGS #7595773, image 414].

²⁷ Portland Deaths 5:142 [DGS #7595803, image 362].

²⁸ Assuming age 25 at marriage.

²⁹ When Silas and Dorcas Tripp of Raymond purchased land from John Tripp (Cumberland Co. Deeds, 185:564)

³⁰ She was aged 77 in 1850 (see note 30) and 87 in 1860 (Jeremiah Tripp household, 1860 U.S. Census, New Gloucester, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 42).

³¹ New Gloucester Vital Records [DGS #7595773, image 412].

³² Aged 77 in Jeremiah Tripp household, 1850 U.S. Census, Raymond, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 149A.

³³ Maine, Death Records, 1761–1922, image, ancestry.com.

Generation Five (Great-Great Grandparents)

16. Richard Verrill, b. Gloucester, Mass., 19 July 1734;³⁴ m. Gloucester, Mass., 19 June 1759.³⁵
17. Hannah Millet, b. Gloucester, Mass., 25 Aug. 1739.³⁶
18. Abner Tripp, b. Tiverton, R.I., 1 June 1738;³⁷ m. Gorham, Maine, 12 May 1767.³⁸
19. Sarah Sawyer, b. say 1745.
20. Abner Tripp, same person as 8.
21. Sarah Sawyer, same person as 19.
22. Richard Verrill, same person as 16.
23. Hannah Millet, same person as 17.

Three of William Verrill's four grandparents are related to one another. Among his eight great-grandparents, Silas Tripp and Dorcas Verrill count twice. Among his sixteen great-great-grandparents, three sets of great-great-grandparents are the same people.

Within families with a high degree of endogamous marriages, there is a greater likelihood of autosomal DNA being passed down to descendants. When a fourth-generation descendant of William Francis Verrill matched one strand of my mother's DNA with twenty shared centimorgans, I checked if there was any other way this person could have intersected with my mother's tree. The only path was through these Tripps and Verrills of Cumberland County, Maine. William Francis Verrill's descendants also matched at least eight other people who were also descendants of Mary Tripp and Job Hall.

Thus, with measurable amounts of DNA among the Tripp descendants of Poland, Maine, I conclude that Mary Tripp was the eldest daughter of Abner and Sarah (Sawyer) Tripp rather than his brother Stephen Tripp. See Figure 1.

Michael F. Dwyer, a Contributing Editor of The Maine Genealogist, hopes to open more of his Maine closed door mysteries with DNA. He may be contacted by email at michaelftdwyer@comcast.net or 389 Orchard Hill, Pittsford, VT, 05763.

³⁴ *Vital Records of Gloucester, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 3 vols. (Topsfield and Salem, Mass., 1917–24), 1:737.

³⁵ *Gloucester Vital Records* [note 34], 2:374.

³⁶ *Gloucester Vital Records* [note 34], 1:473.

³⁷ James N. Arnold, *Vital Record of Rhode Island, 1630–1850*, 21 vols. (Providence, 1891–1912), 4:Part 7: Tiverton, 112, citing Tiverton Births and Deaths, 1:9.

³⁸ Marquis F. King, comp., *Records of Gorham, Maine*, 2nd ed., Russell S. Bickford, ed. (Camden, Maine, 1991), 98.



LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE, WILL ABSTRACTS
1800–1830

(continued from p. 48)

95. RICHARD HISCOCK of Bristol, yeoman (LCP 14:269)

[No statement of health]

To my wife Jane Hiscock, 1/3 of all my home farm & bldgs thereon lying in Bristol dur her lifetime, at her dec to be eq div betw my 2 sons James Hiscock and Richard Hiscock; also all my h/h furniture for her own use dur her lifetime and at her dec to be eq div betw my 2 daus Margaret Huston and Mary Hall.

To my eldest son Daniel Hiscock, \$2.

To my dau [*sic*] William Hiscock \$2 with all my wearing apparel.

To my 2 sons James Hiscock and Richard Hiscock 2/3 of my home farm at my dec, and will that James Hiscock shall have his part of sd farm on the N side so as to include the land whereon his dwl house now stands, and that said 2/3 of sd farm with all my other land in Bristol be eq div betw them.

I also give to my wife 1/3 of all my horses, cattle, sheep & swine to be for her own use dur her lifetime, and whatever may remain at her dec to be eq div betw my 2 sons James Hiscock and Richard Hiscock.

To my 2 daus Margaret Huston and Mary Hall, \$100 to be eq div betw them, sd sum to be pd them by James Hiscock and Richard Hiscock equally.

To my wife, all the rest of my PE.

Appt my 2 sons James Hiscock and Richard Hiscock execs.

Dated: 19 Aug 1800

Signed with his signature (“Richard Hiscock”)

Witnesses: Sam^l Nickels, Charles Nickels, Thomas Nickels

In Probate: 21 Jun 1810

96. JOHN GOVE of Edgecomb, yeoman (LCP 14:277)

[No statement of health]

To my son Rufus Gove, a lot of land in Edgecomb, bd N on land of William Hodge, S on a stone wall dividing it from my homestead, and contains 100a. I also give to my son Rufus \$500 in money to be pd him when he shall arrive at ae 21y with interest from my dec till paid, and to be pd by my executrix.

To my son Gardner Gove, the farm I now live on in Edgecomb called my homestead and is next S adjoining to the lot I have given to sd Rufus above and contains 100a. I also give to Gardner 1 pair of good oxen, 3 cows, and 8 sheep to be delivered to him when he arrives to ae 21y by my executrix.

To my son Hartley Gove, 1/2a of land with the wharf thereon standing and the flats thereto belonging and is situated in Edgecomb and next adjoining land whereon Abraham Kimball now lives southerly; and also all my right, title and interest in another tract of land in Edgecomb containing 1a in common with Polly Hood, my right being 1 moiety of sd acre, and sd acre is bd S on a road and N on land of

Will^m Clifford Jr. I also give to Hartly \$1500 to be pd him when he arrives to ae 21y with interest aft my dec till paid, to be pd by my executrix.

To my dau Betsey Gove, 1 good milch cow, 1 good feather bed & bedstead, and a sufficient quantity of good bedding therefor and \$100 in cash to be pd and delivered to her when she arrives to ae 21y or marries, whichever shall first happen, by my executrix, and interest upon sd cash from my dec till paid.

To my son John Gove, a lot of land in Edgecomb lying N of land of Sam^l Patterson and next adjoining thereto, and S of land of the heirs of Thomas Gove deceased, and contains abt 50a; and also all my right, interest and share in and to my honored mother's thirds in lands in Edgecomb bd N on land I now live on and S on land of the heirs of Thomas Gove deceased. I also give to my sd son John Gove \$600 to be pd to him by my executrix when he arrives to ae 21y with interest from my dec till paid.

I will that my sloop called the Rufus be sold by my executrix as soon as convenient aft my dec and the proceeds to be eq div betw my sd sons and kept at interest by my executrix and by her pd to my sd sons their respective shares as they shall severally come of age with the interest thereof.

I will that my executrix use and improve to the best advantage all my RE as follows: that which I have given as above to my son Rufus till he dies or comes of age as aforesd, whichever first happens, and if he lives to come of age, then to take possession to his own use. The land which I have given to my son Gardner, till he dies or comes of age, as abovesd, whichever first happens and if he lives to come of age, then to take possession to his own use. The land which I have given to sd Hartly, till he comes of age, or dies, whichever first happens, and if he lives till he comes of age as above, then he is to take possession to his own use; and the land I have given to my sd son John, till he comes of age or dies, whichever first happens, and if he lives to come of age, then he is to take possession to his own use. And if any or either of my sd sons shall die bef they come to ae 21y and leaving no chn, then its my will that the share or shares of him or them who shall die and such as represent them, if either of my sd chn die leaving chn, to them their heirs or assigns forever. But in the last case, viz in case of any or either of my sd sons dying bef they come to ae 21y, my executrix is to use and improve such deceased's share till my youngest child surviving shall come of age.

All the income of sd RE, together with all the residue of my PE which I have not given away, and excepting the h/h furniture, shall be at the sole disposal of my executrix for the purpose of bringing up, educating and supporting my sd chn till they shall arrive to ae 21y, unless my sd dau shall marry before she arrives to that age, in which case the others being of such age or dead, her being under age shall not be construed to prevent the division of the PE.

To my executrix, all my h/h furniture for her own use forever.

I do appt my executrix guardian to my chn till they respectively arrive to ae 21y.

It is my will that when all my chn shall be of ae 21y, or all the surviving ones of that age, that then all my PE shall be eq div betw my sd chn or such of them shall then be alive.

Appt my wife Betsey Gove exec.

Dated: 23 Oct 1809

Signed with his signature ("John Gove")

Witnesses: Ezekiel Cutter, Tho^s Nickels, Manasseh Smith

In Probate: 25 Jun 1810

97. JOHN RAYMOND of Lisbon, Trader (LCP 14:327)

Being sick and weak

To my wife Ann Raymond, the use, occupation, income and profits of 2/3 of all my RE dur her nat life; also all my h/h furniture and utensils in the house; also 2/3 of all the remaining part of my PE.

To Melvin Stow of Lisbon, 100a in Oxford Co, it being part of the land I bgt of the Commonwealth, as will appear by deed from Coffin & Reed, agents for the Commonwealth for the sale of Eastern lands, which I now own in company with Stephen Purinton Esqr. and others. Sd Stow to have a lot or 100a as good as my land will average, taking the whole of my land in view after my share is set off from the Co.'s land.

To my dau Nancy Raymond who is my only child, all the residue of my RE & PE. I hereby make known my desire that my wife Ann and my dau Nancy would administer liberally to the necessities and support of sister Elizabeth Ward at their discretion and as compassion shall dictate. I also request them to give John Raymond Tucker, who was named for me, \$100 when he shall attain to ae 21y.

Appt my wife Ann Raymond sole exec.

Dated: 28 Nov 1809

Signed with his signature ("John Raymond")

Witnesses: Samuel L. Whitney, Charles Thompson, Ezekiel Thompson

In Probate: 14 May 1810

98. WILLIAM MARSHALL of Bath (LCP 14:346)

[No statement of health]

To my wife Sarah Marshall, the improvement of 1/3 of my RE dur her nat life and also 1/3 of my PE to her use forever.

To my dau Jane Oliver, \$20.

To my dau Margaret Parker, \$20.

To the chn of my dau Catharine Cornish decd, \$2 each.

To my son John Marshall, \$2.

To my grandson James Marshall, a piece of land in Bath, situated beginning on the W side of the town road at Alexander Robinson's N line, thence N by sd road 30r, thence to extend W from sd road keeping the width of 30r to the W end of my lot, with the bldgs thereon.

To my grandchn Salome Marshall and William Marshall, \$2 each.

To my granddau Hannah Robinson, \$2.

To my grandson James Marshall, all my wearing cloths.

To my ~~grand~~ daus Arabella Gray and Mary Farrow, all the remainder of my RE.

I will that my daus Arrabella Gray and Mary Farrow support my son John Marshall out of the est before devised to them, if he should become unable to labor and support himself.

Appt my friend Denny M^cCobb exec.

Dated: 30 Jan 1810

Signed his signature (“William Marshall”)

Witnesses: Zadoc Lincoln, Alex^r Robinson, John Farrin

In Probate: 12 May 1810

99. GEORGE DEMUTH of Waldoborough (LCP 14:480)

[No statement of health]

I will that my wife Catharina, besides her thirds of my RE, have and improve 1/2 of my PE not herein otherwise disposed of dur the time she may remain my widow.

I will that my son Henry Demuth be pd \$50.

I will that my dau Catharina Sidensperger be pd \$100.

I will that my dau Elizabeth Ulmer be pd \$100.

I will that my son George Demuth be pd \$25.

I will that my son John Demuth be pd \$60.

I will that my son Jacob Demuth be pd \$20.

I will that my dau Margaret Wilson be pd \$100.

I will that my son Charles Demuth be pd \$80.

I will that Polly, the child of my dau Jenny Demuth decd, be pd \$30.

I will that if my son Philip Demuth live until he is ae 21y, he shall at that time have the lot of land which I now own adj the land of my son John Demuth and a pair of steers 4y old.

Note, the reason why the legacies given to my chn are not all equal is because some of them have heretofore received more than others.

I will that the lot of land I now own at Lincolnville be sold by my execs and the legacies herein before given be pd out of the proceeds thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be given to my wife Catharina.

I will that my son Martin Demuth have the lot of land on which I now live, with all the appurtenances and all my other property not otherwise disposed of, on condition that he remains with myself and wife dur nat life, taking due and reasonable care of us both and affording us both while we may live an easy and comfortable living, meaning that at our dec he is to come into possession of all the property we then possess.

Appt my sd wife and my son Martin Demuth execs.

Dated: 28 Jul 1810

Signed with his signature (“George Demuth”)

Witnesses: Paul Lash, Charles Razor, Charles Burkit

In Probate: 10 Jan 1811

(to be continued)

REVIEWS

MAYFLOWER FAMILIES THROUGH SIX GENERATIONS, DESCENDANTS OF THE PILGRIMS WHO LANDED AT PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS, IN DECEMBER 1620, VOLUME TWENTY-ONE, Part 3: FAMILY OF JOHN BILLINGTON, Sixth Generation Descendants, compiled by John Bradley Arthaud, FASG, Edited, Previewed, and Indexed by Jane Fletcher Fiske, FASG (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2018), hardcover, xv+602 pp.; \$50 plus \$12 shipping. Order from www.themayflowersociety.org.

Since the mid-1970s, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants has published a series of books, known familiarly as the “Silver Books,” with the purpose initially of documenting the first five generations of descendants of the *Mayflower* passengers. The goal was to provide primary source evidence for all facts known about the *Mayflower* descendants, which would aid both the Society in evaluating membership applications and the general public in doing research. Over the years the Five-Generations Project has evolved and expanded (and is now renamed officially as the Silver Books Project), and several of the early volumes have been replaced by revised editions incorporating new discoveries. The most recent volumes include descendants of the sixth and sometimes later generations.

A hallmark of this project is that the Society consistently has hired over the years some of the country’s top genealogists to produce the Silver Books. The current volume under review, *Billington Part 3*, was compiled by John Bradley Arthaud and edited by Jane Fletcher Fiske, both Fellows of the American Society of Genealogists and both well known for the quantity and quality of their published scholarship. This volume, which includes most of the Billington descendants who lived in Maine, includes sketches on sixth-generation members of the family, listing the children of the seventh generation and sometimes even the grandchildren and great grandchildren of the eighth and ninth generations—bringing many of these families well into the nineteenth century. Documentation of sources is clear, utilizing short-form in-text citations keyed to a list of sources at the end of every family sketch. This is one thick tome, with the main text comprising more than 450 pages, and the 113-page three-column index attesting to the large number of descendants covered. It is certainly the best compilation to date of this prolific family.

A CHILD’S LIFE 90 YEARS AGO: RECOLLECTIONS OF FLORENCE AND EARLE AHLQUIST 1923–1946, SCARBOROUGH, MAINE, by Earlene Ahlquist Chadbourne (Saco, Maine: Custom Communications, 2019), paperback, 172 pp., \$19.95, available from [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).

This charming memoir details the lives of two siblings, Florence and Earle Ahlquist, and recounts their experiences growing up on a farm in Scarborough from 1923 to 1946. The author gathered much of her material from a series of interviews conducted when both siblings were elderly and living in nursing homes, but with sharp memories intact. The book describes what it was like living on a farm in Maine in the 1920s, and how that lifestyle was changed by the Great Depression and World War II. Short chapters clearly written on a variety of subjects make for easy reading, and the inclusion of many old photographs, poems, and recipes (including one for cough syrup made with vodka!) personalize the account. For anyone wanting to preserve family lore for future generations, this book is a fine example of how to go about it.

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