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The Maine Genealogist

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EDITOR'S PAGE

For a number of years I have been working on a genealogy of my grandmother's grandfather, Benjamin F. Dutton of Glen Rock, Malden, Massachusetts. Until now, one of the minor players in the story was my grandmother's Aunt Ellie (1852–1920) who married Joseph B. Claus. They married late in life and had no children. Uncle Joe died when my grandmother was only eight, but she remembered him as a German with a goatee and a love of music. She recalled that when he was not making homemade wine, he was playing in a band that gave concerts around town.

There the story might have ended, but I was curious to learn more about someone so little remembered by the family. From various sources, I learned that Uncle Joe was born in Mainz, Germany, in 1832, and that he immigrated to Boston in May 1871 from Liverpool, England. I was surprised to learn that traveling with him in 1871 were two sons, William and Henry. In the United States, son William made a name for himself as a portrait and landscape painter, and illustrator of the first edition of *Anne of Green Gables*.

Census records indicated that son William was born in Germany and son Henry was born in England, both to a mother born in India! William's marriage record in Boston provided his mother's name, Sophia McKeon. As I learned more, other questions arose. What were the circumstances that led Uncle Joe to marry a woman born in India, and what spurred his move to England and America?

His obituary provided some answers and revealed a fascinating life. On 5 October 1905, the *Boston Globe* reported that Prof. J. B. Claus had died in Paris. The article stated that he had studied music under several of the great masters before coming to America, and that in this country he was on the teaching staff of the New England Conservatory of Music. He had arranged most of the music of his close friend, John Philip Sousa, who made his home with Claus whenever he was in Boston. Prof. Claus had also conducted the combined orchestras at the exercises held in Mechanics Hall in Boston to celebrate the golden jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1887.

The article went on to say that before settling in this country, Claus had served in the British army in the famous 42nd Regiment, known as the Black Watch, which played a major role in suppressing the Indian mutiny at Lucknow in 1857 and 1858. Hypothesizing that he met his first wife while serving in the army in India, I was able to document his marriage to Anne Sophia McKeon in Barrackpore, Bengal, India, on 3 October 1861 (thanks to recent FamilySearch.org abstracts).

An article at influential-musicians.com states that Joseph had studied flute and piano as a child, and at age thirteen joined his father in England who was bandmaster of the 10th Royal Hussars Regiment. He received his first appointment as bandmaster at age nineteen and joined the British army with the 6th Regiment Band.

The morale of the story is, do not ignore those seemingly dull collateral relatives. They may just provide the raw material that makes your genealogy interesting.

Joseph C. Anderson II, FASG, Editor

JOSIE, WIFE OF WILLIAM R. DAY OF MAINE

By Kathleen M. Kirby

For many years I tried in vain to identify the wife of William Rensallear Day.¹ William was born in China, Maine, on 6 February 1857, the second child of Philip Waning and Laura Ann (Haskell) Day.² His mother, Laura, died in China on 1 February 1865,³ while her husband, Philip, was away in Virginia, a soldier in Company G of the Nineteenth Maine Infantry.⁴ A year after his return from the war, Philip married second, at China on 23 September 1866, Adeline Baker (“Addie”) Hodges.⁵ Philip’s four children from his first marriage ranged from age three to thirteen, and Addie maintained close relationships with all of her stepchildren, as well as with her own natural children. Sometime in the early 1870s, Philip moved his family from China to Arrowsic, Maine.

On 12 March 1896 at East Winthrop, Maine, William R. Day, a laborer aged 39, born in China and a resident of Arrowsic, married Josie M. Witham, aged 19, born in Madrid, Maine, and a resident of Winthrop. His parents were recorded as Philip W. Day of Arrowsic and Laura Haskell, deceased, and hers as Joshua L. Witham, deceased, and Charlotte Lowell of Winthrop.⁶ Josie, at 19, would have been born in 1876 or 1877, but in checking the 1880 census there were no Josies, Josephines, or any other derivative or similar name with the surname *Witham* anywhere in the state. There were, however, several Withams living in Madrid, the town Josie listed as her place of birth, including the above Joshua and Charlotte, but the family had only one female—“Missie,” aged 16—enumerated in the household.⁷ Josie would have been only 3 or 4 years old at that time.

¹ In his Civil War pension application, Philip W. Day called his son “William Riley.” In numerous letters written during the Civil War, the family referred to him as “Riley,” just as they called his brother Philip Alden Day by his middle name. On William’s death certificate, however, he is called William “Rensallear” Day. His granddaughter told the writer that his nickname was “Riley,” but that his proper middle name was “Rensallear.” Rensallear is a name that was carried several times within the family, and Philip did have an uncle named William Rensallear Day. The writer has not found any document, besides the Civil War application generated during William’s lifetime, that specifies his middle name.

² Philip W. Day Civil War pension file, application No. 291146, certificate No. 188127, National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), Washington, D.C.

³ Laura A. Day gravestone, Weeks Mills Cemetery, China.

⁴ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles,” database at Ancestry.com, entry for Philip W. Day, enlisted 15 Sept. 1864, citing *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine*, 3 vols. (Augusta, 1862–66) (hereafter cited as “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Maine”).

⁵ “Maine Marriage Records, 1705–1922,” Maine State Archives, Augusta, database at Ancestry.com (hereafter cited as “Maine Marriage Records, 1705–1922”).

⁶ “Maine Marriage Records, 1705–1922,” see note 5.

⁷ Joshua Witham household, 1880 U. S. Census, Madrid, Franklin Co., Maine, E.D. 76, p. 3, #264/278.

William and Josie appear in the 1900 and 1910 censuses in Arrowsic, along with their two children.⁸ By 1920 the couple had separated, both residing in nearby Bath, he with married daughter Laura's family,⁹ and she with son Philip Daye.¹⁰ In 1930 William was back in Arrowsic, divorced, and living alone.¹¹ There is no record of Josie. The divorce index of the Maine State Archives listed a divorce between the two in Oxford County in 1923, but a check of both the marriage and death indices of the Maine State Archives showed no remarriage or death for either a Josie/Josephine Day or Witham.

Next I looked at William and Josie's two children. Daughter Laura Adeline Day was born in Arrowsic on 3 November 1897,¹² named both for her father's natural mother and his stepmother. She married at Damariscotta on 11 December 1917 Harold Vern Fish. Laura's parents were listed as William Day, a resident of Bath, born at China, and Josie Witham, a resident of Bath, born at *Augusta* [emphasis added by the writer here and following to highlight differences in previous information].¹³ Laura and Harold were divorced in 1929, and Laura married second, as "Adeline Fish," at West Paris on 16 June 1940, Raymond Dexter. Her father was listed as William R. Day, born in China, a resident of Bethel, and her mother was *Grace Witham*, born in Augusta, now deceased.¹⁴

Son Philip Wayning Day was born in Arrowsic on 17 March 1899,¹⁵ named for his paternal grandfather. He married at Bethel on 29 June 1923 Nellie Doris Jodrey. His parents on the marriage certificate were recorded as William Day and *Grace J. Witham*.¹⁶

I now suspected that "Josie/Josephine" was her middle not first name. I rechecked the 1880 census, but there still was no child listed by this new name. However, in rechecking the marriage index, there was a marriage record for *Grace Josephine Daye*. She married at Woodstock, Bryant's Pond, on 9 June 1923, Zenas Arthur Merrill. Her parents on the record were Joshua Witham and Charlotte Lowell, and this record also showed her birthplace as Augusta.¹⁷

⁸ William R. Day households, 1900 and 1910 U.S. Censuses, Arrowsic, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 204, sheet 10, #252/264 (1900); E.D. 208, sheet 2, #1/1 (1910).

⁹ Harold Fish household, 1920 U.S. Census, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 140, sheet 12, #217/254.

¹⁰ Grace J. Daye household, 1920 U.S. Census, Bath Ward 4, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 137, sheet 5, dwelling none, family 112.

¹¹ William A. [sic] Day household, 1930 U.S. Census, Arrowsic, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 12-1, sheet 1, #1/1.

¹² Maine Vital Records, 1892–1955, Maine State Archives, "1892-1907," roll no. 11 (hereafter cited as Maine VRs).

¹³ Maine VRs, "1908–1922," roll no. 68.

¹⁴ Maine VRs, "1937–1955," roll no. 183.

¹⁵ Maine VRs, "1892–1907," roll no. 11.

¹⁶ Maine VRs, "1923–1936," roll no. 121.

¹⁷ Maine VRs, "1923–1936," roll no. 142.

Knowing from her daughter's second marriage record that her mother was now deceased, I looked for and found Josie's death certificate, which provided much information. "Grace Merrill" died in Bath on 12 April 1930, following surgery several days earlier. She was called a resident of Bath for a mere five days (the time of her hospitalization), with Bethel given as her prior residence. The informant was her daughter Adeline Fish, who indicated that Grace was born in Augusta and that her parents were *Robert Lee Hill* and *Abigail Chase*, both born in Augusta.¹⁸ This last information was puzzling, as all the other records, including those for Josie's two marriages and her children's births and marriages, had given her maiden name as *Witham*.

Some time later I received an email from Josie's granddaughter, giving me family information and photos of William and Josie. Included in the email was the notation that, "Dad told me that Grammie was originally a Chase and was adopted by the Withams or maybe it was the other way around."¹⁹ Once again I rechecked the 1880 census and found her in Augusta as "Gracie J. Chase." The family consisted of Oliver A. Chase, 67; Rachel B., 65, his wife; George E., 25, son; Abby J., 29, daughter; and Gracie J., 2, granddaughter.²⁰

The 1880 census record seemed to indicate that Grace's parents were not married at the time of her birth. She and her mother shared the same surname, which was the same as her maternal grandparents, and there was no father listed. The 1860 and 1870 censuses confirmed that George and Abby were siblings.²¹ The Augusta vital records showed the marriage of Abby Chase on 22 October 1883 to Robert Hill,²² as well as a marriage for George on 25 July 1880,²³ and the death of their mother Rachel (Trask) Chase on 28 July 1884.²⁴



Grace Josephine Day
1929

Courtesy of Tammy (Daye) Newell

¹⁸ Maine VRs, "1923–1936," roll no. 142.

¹⁹ Email from Tamara (Daye) Newell of Norway, Maine, to the writer, 18 Aug. 2010.

²⁰ Oliver A. Chase household, 1880 U.S. Census, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, E.D. 85, p. 51, #309/361.

²¹ Oliver A. Chase households, 1860 and 1870 U.S. Censuses, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 175, #1300/1364 (1860); p. 159, #1246/1299 (1870).

²² Ethel Colby Conant, *Vital Records of Augusta, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Auburn, Maine, 1933–34), 1:240 (hereafter cited as *Augusta VRs*).

²³ *Augusta VRs*, 1:241.

²⁴ *Augusta VRs*, 2:258.

The parents on the death certificate now made sense, but the identification of her parents raised more questions: What were the circumstances surrounding Josie's birth and childhood? With an extended family around her, what caused Josie's adoption? Was Robert Hill her biological father or her stepfather? Was she formally or informally adopted by the Withams? I had to cast a very wide net and investigate the Chase and Witham families for any possible clues.

Abby Chase came from a large family of fifteen children, nine of whom survived childhood. The family was devastated by the Civil War. Four of the five sons served in the Civil War, with the fifth, born in 1855, being too young to enlist. The four daughters married a total of five Civil War veterans. They suffered death, horrific injuries, dismemberment, imprisonment, and suicide, but they also demonstrated extreme valor and love of country. The family consisted of:

SAMUEL A. CHASE, Co. A, 1st Mass. Cavalry, 29 July 1862–29 Aug. 1863;²⁵ injured at Chancellorsville when he fell under his horse; d. at Togus of meningitis in 1873.²⁶

ANDREW JACKSON CHASE, 5th Battery R.I. Light Artillery, fall 1861–14 Feb. 1862;²⁷ Co. L, 3rd R.I. Heavy Artillery, 14 Feb. 1862–29 July 1862;²⁸ Co. K, 12th Mass. Infantry, 3 Oct. 1863–25 June 1864; Co. H, 39th Mass. Infantry, 25 June 1864–13 June 1865;²⁹ wounded in action with a shell wound to his right leg.³⁰

JOHN F. CHASE, Co. B, 3rd Maine, 20 April 1861–July 1861; 5th Maine Battery, 27 Nov. 1861–25 Nov. 1863;³¹ wounded at Gettysburg, 3 July 1863, losing his right arm and left eye;³² awarded Congressional Medal of Honor in 1888 for valor at Chancellorsville on 3 May 1863.³³

²⁵ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles," database at Ancestry.com, entry for Samuel A. Chase, enlisted 8 Feb. 1862, citing Adjutant General, *Massachusetts Soldier, Sailors and Marines in the Civil War*, 9 vols. (Norwood, Mass., 1931) (hereafter cited as "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Massachusetts").

²⁶ "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938", Registers, Togus, Maine, entry for Samuel A. Chase, number D 1276, digital images of original records at Ancestry.com.

²⁷ Andrew Jackson Chase Civil War pension file, NARA, application no. 2105, certificate no. 10032 (hereafter cited as Andrew J. Chase Civil War pension file).

²⁸ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles," database at Ancestry.com, entry for Andrew J. Chase, enlisted 14 Feb. 1862, citing Adjutant General, *Register of Rhode Island Volunteers, 1861–1865*, 2 vols. (Providence, 1893) (hereafter cited as "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Rhode Island").

²⁹ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Massachusetts," see note 25, entry for Andrew J. Chase, enlisted 2 Aug. 1862.

³⁰ "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938," see note 26, entry for Andrew J. Chase, number 14997.

³¹ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Maine," see note 4, entry for John F. Chase, enlisted 12 April 1861.

³² "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938," see note 26, entry for John F. Chase, number B3266.

³³ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Massachusetts," see note 25, also citing Keydel Beyer, *Deeds of Valor: How Our Soldier-Heroes Won the Medal of Honor* (Detroit, 1903), 157; George Lang, Raymond L. Collins, and Gerard F. White, comps., *Medal of Honor Recipients 1863–1994*, 2 vols. (New York, 1995).

MILES O. CHASE, 5th Light Artillery, Maine, 30 Jan. 1862 to unknown date;³⁴ Co. C, 16th Maine Infantry, 24 July 1863–22 Dec. 1863;³⁵ d. of disease 1863.³⁶

SARAH E. CHASE, m. (1) FREDERICK TOLLSE *alias* FREDERICK H. KELLER, enlisted Co. E, 31st Mass. Infantry, 13 May 1862–16 June 1864;³⁷ lost his right arm and suffered a serious injury to his right thigh at Sabine Cross Roads, La., in April 1864;³⁸ d. 1866;³⁹ she m. (2) MATTHEW P. TAYLOR, Co. B, 138th Pa. Infantry, 29 Aug. 1862–17 April 1864, discharged for wounds;⁴⁰ left forearm was amputated due to gunshot wound.⁴¹

MARY AUGUSTA CHASE, m. GEORGE DEITRICK, enlisted Co. K, 13th N.Y., 27 Sept. 1862–23 June 1863;⁴² transferred to Co. C, 140th N.Y., 26 June 1863–21 March 1865;⁴³ loss of his right arm at the shoulder joint due to a gunshot wound;⁴⁴ captured at Wilderness, 5 May 1864, and imprisoned at Andersonville.⁴⁵

ABBY J. CHASE, m. ROBERT HILL, the subjects of our search.

CARRIE CHASE, m. MORRIS JACKSON, Co. H, 9th N.Y. Cavalry, 11 June 1861–11 Feb. 1865;⁴⁶ lost his right arm at Trevilian Station in June 1864; committed suicide by drowning at Togus Pond in 1881.⁴⁷

³⁴ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Rhode Island,” see note 28, entry for Miles Chase, drafted 24 July 1863.

³⁵ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Maine,” see note 4, entry for Miles Chase, enlisted 30 Jan. 1862.

³⁶ “American Civil War Soldiers,” database at Ancestry.com, entry for Miles O. Chase, drafted 24 July 1863, citing *Annual Report of the Adjutant General of the State of Maine*, 3 vols. (Augusta, 1862–66) (hereafter cited as “American Civil War Soldiers, Maine”).

³⁷ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Massachusetts,” see note 25, entry for Frederick H. Keller, enlisted 13 May 1862.

³⁸ Frederick Tollse, *alias* Frederick Keller, Civil War pension file, application no. 47963, certificate no. 33296 [NARA].

³⁹ Frederick Tollse, *alias* Frederick Keller, Civil War pension file, application no. 47963, certificate no. 33296 [NARA].

⁴⁰ “American Civil War Soldiers,” database at Ancestry.com, citing *History of Pennsylvania Volunteers, 1861–65*, 5 vols. (Harrisburg: State Printer, 1870).

⁴¹ Matthew P. Taylor, Civil War pension file, application no. 823812, no certificate issued; “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Matthew P. Taylor, number B630.

⁴² “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles,” database at Ancestry.com, entry for George Deitrick, enlisted 27 Sept. 1862, citing Adjutant General, *Report of the Adjutant-General*, 43 vols. (Albany, 1895–1906) (hereafter cited as “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, New York”).

⁴³ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, New York,” see note 42, entry for George Deitrick.

⁴⁴ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for George Dietrich, number 706.

⁴⁵ “Andersonville Prisoners of War,” database at Ancestry.com, citing *Andersonville Prisoner of War Database*, Andersonville, Ga., National Park Service, Andersonville National Historic Site.

⁴⁶ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, New York,” see note 42, entry for Morris Jackson, enlisted Westfield, N.Y., 11 June 1861.

⁴⁷ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Morris Jackson, number A2175.

The identification of Robert Hill was difficult; two men of that name were found, of the same approximate age, who could be the husband of Abby Chase. Both were Civil War veterans, and both were long-time residents at the nearby National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers at Togus (hereafter referred to simply as Togus).

The Home system, a forerunner of the Veterans Administration, was established in response to the great need for the care of the many Civil War veterans who were disabled through the loss of limbs, wounds, or disease. Originally there were just three facilities nationally, Togus being the first of them. A bankrupt resort, it was already being used to house and care for veterans before the government officially purchased the property in November 1866. It was run like a military establishment with residents wearing surplus blue uniforms and subject to military discipline. Veterans who received care there were required to turn over their pension in return for their housing and treatment.⁴⁸

The first Robert Hill was enumerated in the census at Augusta in 1900 in the household of Wm W. Humphrey. He was a widower, aged 78 (i.e., born circa 1822), and born in New Brunswick, Canada. Also in the household were William's son Luther W. Humphrey and Luther's wife.⁴⁹ Robert Hill died at Augusta on 15 January 1904, widowed, aged 85 (i.e., born circa 1819), born in New Brunswick.⁵⁰ He was buried in the Wall Cemetery in Augusta.⁵¹ He was admitted to Togus on 29 November 1881 at age 45 (i.e., born circa 1836) when he was listed as born in Woodstock, New Brunswick.⁵² Despite the differences in his stated ages, a notice in the *Daily Kennebec Journal* on 16 January 1904, the day after his death, tied the records together, proving they all related to the same man.

Robert Hill, a veteran of the Civil War, died Friday evening from heart disease at the home of Luther W. Humphrey, East River road, aged about 85 years. His service was with the 7th Maine Cavalry.⁵³ The funeral will be held at 2 P.M. Sunday, at the residence of Mr. Humphrey.⁵⁴

At age 27 years (i.e., born circa 1834) and as a resident of Hodgdon in Aroostook County, Robert Hill enlisted in Company L, 7th Maine Infantry, on 21 August 1861; he received a disability discharge on 1 January 1862.⁵⁵ Two years later on 24 Decem-

⁴⁸ "Togus, Maine," Wikipedia.com.

⁴⁹ William H. Humphrey household, 1900 U.S. Census, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, E.D. 107, sheet 12, #272/274.

⁵⁰ "Maine Death Records, 1617-1922," Maine State Archives, database at Ancestry.com (hereafter cited as "Maine Death Records, 1617-1922").

⁵¹ *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Kennebec County*, Maine Old Cemetery Association Special Publication No. 2, Picton Press CD (Rockport, Maine, 1999), 709, Wall Cemetery, Augusta (hereafter cited as *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*).

⁵² "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number C4022.

⁵³ Actually, he served with the 7th Maine Infantry and the 2nd Maine Cavalry.

⁵⁴ *Daily Kennebec Journal*, 16 Jan. 1904, p. 10.

⁵⁵ "U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Maine," see note 4, entry for Robert Hill, enlisted 21 Aug. 1861.

ber 1863, at age 29 and still a resident of Hodgdon, he reenlisted in Company K, 2nd Maine Cavalry, and mustered out at Barancas, Florida, on 6 December 1865.⁵⁶

When he was admitted to Togus, Robert named Mary Cunningham of Fort Fairfield as his “relative or friend.”⁵⁷ Mary, the wife of Robert Cunningham, was enumerated in Fort Fairfield in the censuses of 1860, 1870, and 1880 with her husband,⁵⁸ and in 1900, as a widow, living in her son-in-law’s household.⁵⁹ Mostly they show her born in New Brunswick, born about 1821–22.⁶⁰ The church records at Woodstock, New Brunswick, include the marriage of Robert Cunningham of Houlton, Maine, to Mary Earle Hill of Woodstock on 3 September 1840.⁶¹ Woodstock records also show the marriage of Robert A. Hill to Margaret Elizabeth Engraham, both of Woodstock, on 4 November 1857.⁶² The Woodstock parish records don’t begin until 1832, and I could not find a baptismal record for either person in any of the nearby parishes. While their exact relationship—siblings, cousins, etc.—could not yet be determined, I felt they must be related.

As Robert stated that he was widowed when he was admitted to Togus, I searched for a death record for Margaret Elizabeth Hill or Engraham/Ingraham, but could not find a record, in either New Brunswick or Maine.

The Togus records show that Robert Hill was furloughed for six months starting 6 April 1882 to go to Houlton. He returned “on time,” or by 6 October 1882, and was not furloughed again until 15 September 1884, although it appears that not all absences from Togus were recorded. Robert was discharged from the Home for the last time on 27 April 1892, “for concealing his pension Certificate.”⁶³

The other Robert Hill was born in Ireland about 1835 and was single upon his first admittance to Togus on 7 November 1873.⁶⁴ He was a soldier in Company B, 3rd Rhode Island Heavy Artillery, and was from Woonsocket, Rhode Island, when

⁵⁶ “U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Maine,” see note 4, entry for Robert Hill, enlisted 24 Dec. 1863.

⁵⁷ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number C4022.

⁵⁸ Robert Cunningham households, 1860–80 U.S. Censuses, Letter G, Range 1, Van Buren P.O., Aroostook Co., Maine, p. 11, #51/51 (1860); Fort Fairfield, Aroostook Co., Maine, p. 8, #61/61 (1870); Fort Fairfield, Aroostook Co., Maine, E.D. 205, p. 46, #375/398 (1880).

⁵⁹ Martin Nichols household, 1900 U.S. Census, Fort Fairfield, Aroostook Co., Maine, E.D. 19, p. 8, #375/398.

⁶⁰ The 1860 and 1870 censuses show her b. ca. 1821 in N.B.; the 1880 census shows her b. ca. 1822 in Maine; the 1900 census shows her b. Jan. 1821 in Canada East (see notes 58 and 59).

⁶¹ “Acadia, Canada, Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1670–1946,” database at Ancestry.com, citing Gabriel Drouin, comp., *Drouin Collection* (Montreal, Institut Généalogique Drouin) (hereafter cited as Drouin Collection).

⁶² Drouin Collection, see note 61.

⁶³ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number C4022.

⁶⁴ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number B1959.

he enlisted on 20 September 1861.⁶⁵ Coincidentally, Abby's brother Andrew also served in this regiment, although in a different company. Robert was discharged from the service at New York, New York, on 10 September 1862 due to a gunshot wound to his right foot and a fractured arm. He broke his arm when falling as a result of the gunshot wound.⁶⁶ He was furloughed, returned, discharged, and readmitted to Togus a number of times. He applied for readmission on 4 December 1883 and was readmitted "unconditionally" two days later. He died at Togus "in the Guard House" on 25 April 1884, and was buried in the National Cemetery there.⁶⁷

The Chase family was well acquainted with Togus. Abby's brother Samuel resided there from 20 February 1871 until his death in 1873.⁶⁸ Brother John F. Chase was admitted to Togus on 30 October 1878 and, aside from several furloughs, was there until he voluntarily requested to be discharged on 8 July 1884.⁶⁹ Brother Andrew J. Chase also was a resident there, from 19 June to 1 September 1910. Abby's sister Carrie married Morris Jackson, a soldier who was "of the National Military Home" when they married in Augusta on 12 December 1876, and was in and out until his death there in 1881.⁷⁰ Sister Mary's husband, George Deitrick, resided at Togus from 30 June 1869 to 18 February 1886. Living in nearby Chelsea, it is very possible that the girls worked or volunteered at Togus; certainly they visited family there, providing ample opportunity for them to meet and marry veteran husbands.

I next analyzed the Civil War pension applications of both Robert Hills and Joshua L. Witham, with the hope they would provide answers about which Robert Hill married Abby Chase, the paternity of Grace J. Chase, and the "adoption" of Grace. Immediately upon looking at the file of the Robert Hill of New Brunswick I found one answer. Under prior marriages he wrote that he had been married to Abby Chase who had died in Augusta. Under the question of children, however, the response was left blank. An affidavit included in the file from Robert Cunningham stated that he was Robert Hill's brother-in-law, married to Robert's half-sister. In Hill's pension file there is also information that he had applied for a pension based upon service in the Mexican War, but was denied because he did not serve the required minimum of sixty days, due to "having enlisted fourteen days prior to the close of said war."⁷¹

"U.S. Civil War Soldier Records and Profiles, Rhode Island," entry for Robert Hill, enlisted 5 Oct. 1861.

⁶⁶ Robert Hill Civil War pension file, application no. 13591, certificate no. 23674, NARA.

⁶⁷ "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number B1959.

⁶⁸ "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," see note 26, entry for Samuel A. Chase, number D1276.

⁶⁹ "U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938," see note 26, entry for John F. Chase, number B3266.

⁷⁰ *Augusta VRs*, 1:408.

⁷¹ Robert Hill Civil War pension file, application no. 223034, certificate no. 483868, NARA.

Next I turned my attention to the Witham family. Joshua L. Witham (*alias* Charles H. Smith, per his Civil War pension application) was the adoptive father of Grace. He enlisted in Company G of the 6th Maine Infantry on 27 February 1862. He served until being captured at the second battle of Bull Run. He was paroled and sent to Parole Camp at Annapolis, Maryland, and while there he learned that “his folks were sick at home and that one of his children had died.” He requested a furlough, was denied, so he deserted. After settling his family problems, he went to Boston and enlisted in the 2nd U.S. Cavalry under the name of Charles H. Smith. He had applied for a pension in July 1890, but it was not approved prior to his death in Madrid on 13 November 1890.⁷²

Charlotte Witham then applied for a widow’s pension. She proved that they had been married in Alfred, Maine, on 11 December 1849, he of Alfred and she of Saco. A number of people made affidavits in support of her widow’s pension, stating that her only property was a small house worth \$300–400 for which she received a nominal rent, sufficient only to pay the taxes. She had moved to Vassalboro, then Winthrop after her husband’s death. They also reported that she worked outside the home doing housework to support herself, was not in very good health, and was “having a hard time getting along.”⁷³ Interestingly, the subject of support for “daughter” Grace Josephine Chase/Witham was never mentioned. It appears that Josie remained with her adoptive mother after Joshua’s death, however, as Charlotte was living in Winthrop and Grace was “of Winthrop” when she married William Day there.

Unless new information comes to light, it cannot be established that Robert Hill was the biological father of Grace. At this point he must be considered her stepfather. Some contact between Grace and Robert Hill must have been maintained, though, as her daughter, who would have been sixteen when he died, knew enough to name him as her mother’s father on her own mother’s death certificate. Grace, however, always named the Withams as her parents, always used the surname *Witham* and never *Hill*, and Robert Hill did not list her as a child on his pension application.

It appears that Grace’s “adoption” was unofficial. There is no record of an adoption or even a guardianship in Kennebec or Franklin counties. While it is not completely clear what happened in Grace’s case, it seems probable that she was taken in by another family due to the lack of a family member to care for her. In the space of two years she lost, in quick succession, her grandmother, her grandfather and her mother. Her mother’s brothers and her stepfather were all wounded and disabled Civil War veterans and suffered from ill health for the rest of their lives. Her mother’s sisters all married veterans with lingering disabilities from the war.

⁷² Joshua L. Witham, *alias* Charles H. Smith, Civil War pension file, application no. 938179, NARA.

⁷³ Joshua L. Witham, *alias* Charles H. Smith, Civil War pension file, application no. 938179, NARA; Charlotte Witham Civil War widow’s pension file, application no. 518135, certificate no. 375603, NARA.

There is no indication that her biological father, if alive and if she even knew his identity, had any ongoing contact with her.

The question of how Grace came to be “adopted” by the Withams remains unanswered. There is no known familial connection. Joshua Witham, also a Civil War veteran, did not serve in any of the same units as Grace’s stepfather or uncles and, unlike the Chase family members, never resided at Togus. The two families did not live in close proximity; the Chases lived in Augusta and Chelsea in Kennebec County and the Withams in Madrid in Franklin County. Charlotte moved to Kennebec County only after the death of her husband. We may never know the full story.

FAMILY SUMMARY

1 **OLIVER A. CHASE**⁷ (*Samuel*⁶, *Capt. Oliver*⁵, *Oliver*⁴, *Benjamin*³⁻², *William*¹)⁷⁴ was born in Hallowell, Maine, on 7 May 1813, son of Samuel and Mary (Trask) Chase.⁷⁵ He died on 15 March 1885, aged 71 years, 10 months, 8 days, and is buried in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea, Maine.⁷⁶ He married RACHEL B. TRASK, their intentions recorded at Hallowell on 3 November 1833.⁷⁷ She was born in Hallowell on 22 November 1816, daughter of Samuel and Ann (Fountain) Trask.⁷⁸ She died in Augusta on 28 July 1884, aged 69 years, and is buried with her husband in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.⁷⁹

Children of Oliver A. and Rachel B. (Trask) Chase:⁸⁰

- i SAMUEL A. CHASE, b. Hallowell, 6 Sept. 1834, d. Togus, 7 Aug. 1873,⁸¹ and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea;⁸² m. Boston, Mass., 5 Nov 1855, ELIZA HARNEY, b. Halifax, N.S., April 1834, undoubtedly daughter of George and Ann (Haverstock) Harney and sister of Sarah Harney who married Samuel’s brother Andrew Jackson Chase, below.⁸³ d. Boston, Mass., 10 June 1909.⁸⁴ She m. (2) Augusta, 28 May 1874, John S.

⁷⁴ For Oliver Chase’s ancestry, see George Walter Chamberlain, “Some of the Descendants of William Chase of Roxbury and Yarmouth, Mass.,” *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 87(1933):46–55, 127–141, 242–264, 314–342, 88(1934):7–32, 105–111.

⁷⁵ Mabel Goodwin Hall, *Vital Records of Hallowell, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 6 vols. (Auburn, Maine, 1924–29), 1:57 (hereafter cited as *Hallowell VRs*).

⁷⁶ Oliver A. Chase family Bible record, copy in the possession of Michelle Fuller, Mt. Holly, N.J. (hereafter cited as Oliver A. Chase Bible record); *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

⁷⁷ *Hallowell VRs*, 2:76.

⁷⁸ *Hallowell VRs*, 1:294.

⁷⁹ *Augusta VRs*, 2:258; *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

⁸⁰ First eight recorded in *Hallowell VRs*, 1:56–57; all recorded in Oliver A. Chase family Bible record, see note 76.

⁸¹ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Samuel A. Chase, number D1276.

⁸² *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

⁸³ “Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910” (from original records held by the Mass. Archives), online database, AmericanAncestors.org, 89:153 (hereafter cited as Mass. VRs, 1841–1910). This

- Hodgson,⁸⁵ b. England, ca. 1835, d. Togus, 27 April 1882, and bur. there.⁸⁶ Samuel served in Co. K, 33rd N.Y. Volunteers, from 30 Aug. 1862 to 10 July 1865.⁸⁷
- ii ANDREW JACKSON CHASE, b. Hallowell, 27 July 1836, d. Melrose, Mass., 17 Jan. 1913;⁸⁸ m. Jan. 1856, SARAH A. HARNEY,⁸⁹ b. Halifax, N.S., ca. Jan. 1831, daughter of George and Ann (Haverstock) Harney,⁹⁰ d. Boston, Mass., 19 May 1896.⁹¹
 - iii WILLIAM CHASE, b. Hallowell, 10 June 1837, d. Hallowell, 6 Feb. 1841,⁹² and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.⁹³
 - iv MARY JANE CHASE, b. Hallowell, 10 July 1839, d. Hallowell, 6 Sept. 1839,⁹⁴ and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.⁹⁵
 - v CHARLES H. CHASE, b. 25 July 1841, d. Augusta, 20 March 1860, of smallpox,⁹⁶ and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.⁹⁷
 - vi JOHN F. CHASE, b. Hallowell, 23 April 1843, d. St. Petersburg, Fla., 28 Nov. 1914;⁹⁸ m. Freeport, Maine, 9 Sept. 1866, MARIA CELINDA MERRILL,⁹⁹ b. Freeport, Maine, 12 June 1842, daughter of Ezekiel and Celinda (Talbot) Merrill,¹⁰⁰ d. St. Petersburg, Fla., 7 Aug. 1921.¹⁰¹
 - vii MILES O. CHASE, b. Hallowell, 8 March 1845, d. of disease during Civil War service, 22 Dec. 1863.¹⁰²

marriage record gives her birthplace of Halifax, N.S., but names her father as Michael Harney. However, on her death record, see note 84, she was listed as b. Halifax, N.S., daughter of George and Annie (—) Haverstock. Though confused, it would seem she was the daughter of George and Ann (Haverstock) Harney and a sister of Sarah, below.

⁸⁴ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 1909/13:146.

⁸⁵ *Augusta VRs*, 1:241 (“Mrs. Eliza A. Chase” and “John Hodgson”).

⁸⁶ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for John Hodgson, number 820.

⁸⁷ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for John Hodgson, number 820.

⁸⁸ *Boston Daily Globe*, 20 Jan. 1913, p. 14: “In Melrose, Jan. 17, Andrew Jackson Chase, in his 75th year. Grand Army services, at First Methodist Church, Melrose, Monday, Jan. 20, at 1 o’clock.”

⁸⁹ Andrew J. Chase Civil War pension file, see note 27.

⁹⁰ Death record, see note 91.

⁹¹ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 469:219.

⁹² *Hallowell VRs*, 5:176.

⁹³ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

⁹⁴ *Hallowell VRs*, 5:176.

⁹⁵ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

⁹⁶ 1860 U.S. Census Mortality Schedules, Augusta, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 2.

⁹⁷ Gravestone, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea. The gravestone is broken with his name not appearing, but it specifies he was a child of Oliver Chase and the date and age agree with Charles on the 1860 Mortality Schedule (see note 96); d. 20 March 1860, aged 19 years, 6 months.

⁹⁸ John F. Chase Civil War pension file, application no. 37925, certificate no. 23685, NARA.

⁹⁹ “Maine Marriages, 1771–1907,” database at familysearch.org.

¹⁰⁰ *Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Freeport, Maine* (Picton Press CD, 2005), image 350).

¹⁰¹ John F. Chase Civil War pension file, application no. 37925, certificate no. 23685, NARA; Florida Death Index, 1877–1998, Florida Department of Health, Office of Vital Records.

¹⁰² “American Civil War Soldiers, Maine,” see note 36, entry for Miles O. Chase, drafted 24 July 1863.

- viii SARAH E. CHASE, b. Hallowell, 1 Nov. 1846, d. Chelsea, 8 April 1905;¹⁰³ m. (1) Augusta, 30 March 1865, FREDERICK TOLLSE *alias* FREDERICK KELLER,¹⁰⁴ b. Deisel, Germany, ca. 1840, son of John Tollse,¹⁰⁵ d. Charleston, S.C., 21 Sept. 1866.¹⁰⁶ Sarah m. (2) Augusta, 7 April 1871, as his 2nd wife, MATTHEW P. TAYLOR,¹⁰⁷ b. Bedford Co., Pa., Dec. 1826,¹⁰⁸ d. Togus, 14 Feb. 1905.¹⁰⁹ He had m. (1) Margaret Diehl, b. Bedford Co., Pa., ca. 1835, daughter of Elias and Mary Ann (Hyde) Diehl,¹¹⁰ d. Bedford Co., Pa., 23 March 1864.¹¹¹
- ix MARY AUGUSTA CHASE, b. 1 Jan. 1849, d. Chelsea, 28 Nov. 1886, aged 36 years, 11 months;¹¹² m. Chelsea, 10 Sept. 1871, GEORGE DEITRICK,¹¹³ b. Rochester, N.Y., ca. 1844, son of George and Victoria (—) Deitrick,¹¹⁴ d. Chelsea, 1 Dec. 1909.¹¹⁵ She is buried in the Trask Cemetery, Chelsea.¹¹⁶
- 2 x ABIGAIL (“ABBY”) J. CHASE, b. Augusta, 13 June 1851; m. ROBERT HILL.
- xi ELLEN CHASE, b. Augusta, 30 March 1853, d. Augusta, 21 Aug. 1854, and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.¹¹⁷
- xii GEORGE E. CHASE, b. Augusta, 17 May 1855, d. Boston, Mass., 15 April 1907;¹¹⁸ m. Augusta, 25 July 1880, ISABELLA HARNEY of Boston,¹¹⁹ b. Halifax, N.S., [calc.] 21 June 1847, daughter of John Harney, d. Boston, Mass., 27 Dec. 1930.¹²⁰ She was living in Boston at the time of the 1920 census, aged 68 [*sic*].¹²¹

¹⁰³ “Maine Death Records, 1617–1922,” see note 50.

¹⁰⁴ *Augusta VRs*, 1:242 (“Sarah E. Chase” and “Frederick Keller of Boston”).

¹⁰⁵ Frederick Tollse *alias* Frederick Keller Civil War pension file, application no. 47963, certificate no. 33296, NARA.

¹⁰⁶ Frederick Tollse *alias* Frederick Keller Civil War pension file, application no. 47963, certificate no. 33296, NARA.

¹⁰⁷ *Augusta VR*, 2:154 (“Matthew P. Taylor” and “Mrs. Sarah E. Kellar”).

¹⁰⁸ Mathew Taylor household, 1900 U.S. Census, Chelsea, Kennebec Co., Maine, E.D. 13, p. 7A, #144/148.

¹⁰⁹ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Matthew P. Taylor, number B 630.

¹¹⁰ *An Account of the Family Reunion of the Descendants of Samuel Diehl of Friend’s Cove, Bedford County, Pennsylvania . . .* (Bedford, Pa., 1891), 17, 19; Elias Diehl household, 1850 U.S. Census, Cumberland Valley Twp., Bedford Co., Pa., p. 72, #65/66.

¹¹¹ Matthew P. Taylor Civil War pension file, NARA, Sarah E. Taylor, widow, application No. 823812, no certificate No.

¹¹² *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1057, Trask Cemetery, Chelsea.

¹¹³ *Augusta VRs*, 1:241 (“Mary A. Chase” and “George Didrick of Chelsea”).

¹¹⁴ George Detrick household, 1850 U.S. Census, Rochester Ward 9, Monroe Co., N.Y., p. 390, #8/9.

¹¹⁵ “Maine Death Records, 1617–1922,” see note 50.

¹¹⁶ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1057, Trask Cemetery, Chelsea.

¹¹⁷ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.

¹¹⁸ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, 1907/11:51.

¹¹⁹ *Augusta VRs*, 1:241.

¹²⁰ Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, Boston, Mass., 1930/26:437.

¹²¹ Frank Fletcher household, 1920 U.S. Census, Boston Ward 12, Suffolk Co., Mass., E.D. 314, p. 7B, #81/140.

- xiv CARRIE E. CHASE, b. Augusta, 12 Oct. 1857, d. Los Angeles Co., Calif., 6 March 1929, aged 71 years;¹²² m. Augusta, 12 Dec. 1876, MORRIS JACKSON of the National Military Home,¹²³ b. Chautauqua Co., N.Y., ca. 1843, son of Josiah and Rosilla (—) Jackson,¹²⁴ d. Togus, 24 June 1881, and bur. in Togus National Cemetery.¹²⁵ Carrie was living in Los Angeles, Calif., 15 Jan. 1920.¹²⁶
- xiv HORACE BEALS CHASE, b. 25 Dec 1859,¹²⁷ d. 13 March 1862, and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.¹²⁸
- xv JULIA H. CHASE, b. Augusta, 6 Sept. 1862, d. Augusta, 29 March 1863, and bur. in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.¹²⁹

2 **ABIGAIL (“ABBY”) J.⁸ CHASE** (*Oliver A.⁷, Samuel⁶, Capt. Oliver⁵, Oliver⁴, Benjamin³⁻², William¹*) was born in Augusta on 13 June 1851.¹³⁰ She died, also in Augusta, on 14 March 1886, and is buried in Chase Cemetery, Chelsea.¹³¹ She married in Augusta, 22 October 1883, ROBERT HILL.¹³² Robert was born in Woodstock, New Brunswick, about 1834, his parentage unknown,¹³³ but as noted above he was a half-brother of Mary Earle (Hill) Cunningham of Woodstock and Fort Fairfield.¹³⁴ He died in Augusta on 15 January 1904,¹³⁵ and is buried in the Wall Cemetery, Augusta.¹³⁶

Child of Abby J. Chase, paternity unknown:

- 3 i GRACE JOSEPHINE CHASE, b. Augusta, 4 Oct. 1878; m. (1) WILLIAM R. DAY, (2) ZENAS ARTHUR MERRILL.

¹²² “1905–1929 Death Index for California,” database at <www.vitalsearch-ca.com>.

¹²³ *Augusta VRs*, 1:241, which indicates the intentions called him of Westfield, N.Y.

¹²⁴ Josiah Jackson household, 1850 U.S. census, Chautauqua, Chautauqua Co., N.Y., p. 291, #458/478.

¹²⁵ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Morris Jackson, number A2175.

¹²⁶ Carrie E. Jackson household, 1920 U.S. Census, Los Angeles Assembly District 66, Los Angeles Co, Calif., E.D. 260, p. 2B, #48/51.

¹²⁷ He was named after Horace Beals, a wealthy granite merchant from Rockland, who attempted to establish a resort area similar to Saratoga Springs at Togus. The enterprise failed due to the Civil War, and the government bought the property in 1866 for the first National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.

¹²⁸ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery.

¹²⁹ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery.

¹³⁰ Oliver A. Chase family Bible record, see note 76.

¹³¹ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 1041, Chase Cemetery.

¹³² *Augusta VRs*, 1:240.

¹³³ “U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866–1938,” see note 26, entry for Robert Hill, number C4022.

¹³⁴ Robert Hill Civil War pension file, application, NARA, No. 223034, certificate No. 483868.

¹³⁵ “Maine Death Records, 1617–1922,” see note 50.

¹³⁶ *Kennebec Co. Inscriptions*, 709, Wall Cemetery, Augusta.

3 **GRACE JOSEPHINE (“JOSIE”)⁹ CHASE** (*Abby J.⁸, Oliver A.⁷, Samuel⁶, Capt. Oliver⁵, Oliver⁴, Benjamin³⁻², William¹*) was born in Augusta on 4 October 1878.¹³⁷ She died in Bath on 12 April 1930.¹³⁸ She was taken in by Joshua and Charlotte (Lowell) Witham of Madrid as a young child and adopted their surname. She married first at East Winthrop, Maine, on 12 March 1896 WILLIAM R. DAY.¹³⁹ William was born in China, Maine, on 6 February 1857, son of Philip Waning and Laura (Haskell) Day.¹⁴⁰ He died in Bethel on 5 July 1941.¹⁴¹ Josie and William were divorced in Oxford County in 1923,¹⁴² and she married second, as his second wife, at Bryant’s Pond in Woodstock, Maine, on 9 June 1923 ZENAS ARTHUR MERRILL.¹⁴³ He was born in Mechanic Falls, Maine, on 1 August 1890,¹⁴⁴ son of Elbridge D. and Lura Etta (Mills) Merrill.¹⁴⁵ He died at Granville, N.Y., in February 1972.¹⁴⁶ Zenas had married first at Norway, Maine, on 4 November 1911, Fannie M. Richardson.¹⁴⁷ He married third in Bethel on 31 August 1941, as her third husband, Florence Pearl (Eastman) Campbell Gill.¹⁴⁸ She was born at Mexico, Maine, in July 1887, daughter of Willard and Anjanett (Flagg) Eastman.¹⁴⁹ She died in Lewiston, Maine, on 21 December 1964.¹⁵⁰

Children of William R. and Grace Josephine (Chase/Witham) Day, born at Arrowsic, surname changed to “Daye”:

- i LAURA ADELINE DAY(E), b. 3 Nov. 1897,¹⁵¹ d. Rumford, Maine, 3 Nov. 1987;¹⁵² m. (1) Damariscotta, Maine, 11 Dec. 1917, HAROLD VERN FISH,¹⁵³ b. Edge-

¹³⁷ Death certificate, Maine VRs, “1923–1936,” roll no. 142, which names “Robert Lee Hill” as her father, but this article addressed her paternity. The writer believes he was her stepfather and not her biological father.

¹³⁸ Maine VRs, “1923–1936,” roll no. 142.

¹³⁹ “Maine Marriage Records, 1705–1922,” see note 5.

¹⁴⁰ Philip W. Day Civil War pension file, application no. 281146, certificate no. 188127, NARA.

¹⁴¹ Maine VRs, “1937–1955,” roll no. 182.

¹⁴² Divorce Index, Maine State Archives.

¹⁴³ Maine VRs, “1923–1936,” roll no. 142.

¹⁴⁴ “World War I Draft Registration cards, 1917–1918,” database at Ancestry.com, citing United States, Selective Service System, “World War I Selective Service Draft Registration Cards, 1917–1918,” NARA.

¹⁴⁵ Maine VRs, “1923–1936,” roll no. 142.

¹⁴⁶ U.S. Social Security Administration, “Social Security Death Index,” database, Ancestry.com, entry for Zenas Merrill, no. 004-05-2336.

¹⁴⁷ “Maine Marriage Records, 1705–1922,” see note 5.

¹⁴⁸ Maine VRs, “1937–1955,” roll no. 208.

¹⁴⁹ Maine VRs, “1937–1955,” roll no. 208.

¹⁵⁰ “Maine Death Index, 1960–1997,” database, Ancestry.com, citing State of Maine, “Maine Death Index, 1960–1997,” State of Maine Department of Human Services, Augusta, Maine.

¹⁵¹ Maine VRs, “1892–1907,” roll no. 11.

¹⁵² “Maine Death Index, 1960–1997,” see note 150.

¹⁵³ Maine VRs, “1908–1922,” roll no. 68.

comb, Maine, 13 Nov. 1895, son of Fred E. and Josie (Burnham) Fish,¹⁵⁴ d. Cornish, Maine, 26 Nov. 1963.¹⁵⁵ Laura m. (2) Bethel, 16 June 1940, RAYMOND DEXTER,¹⁵⁶ b. Fayette, Maine, 8 April 1896, son Ephey C. and Ethel (Knox) Dexter,¹⁵⁷ d. Bethel, 16 Sept. 1956.¹⁵⁸

- ii PHILIP WAYNING DAY(E), b. 17 March 1899,¹⁵⁹ d. Norway, Maine, 21 Sept. 1998;¹⁶⁰ m. Bethel, 29 June 1923, NELLIE DORIS JODREY,¹⁶¹ b. Bethel, 12 June 1906, daughter of Austin Nimrod and Alice May (Silver) Jodrey,¹⁶² d. Rumford, Maine, 28 Aug. 1974.¹⁶³

The writer thanks Tamara (Daye) Newell, granddaughter of Grace J. (Chase) Daye, and Michelle Fuller, 3rd great granddaughter of Sarah E. (Chase) Keller Taylor, for their invaluable assistance in the preparation of this article.

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¹⁵⁴ Maine VRs, "1892–1907, roll no. 14.

¹⁵⁵ "Maine Death Index, 1960-1997," see note 150.

¹⁵⁶ Maine VRs, "1937–1955," roll no. 183.

¹⁵⁷ Maine VRs, "1937–1955," roll no. 183.

¹⁵⁸ Bethel Historical Society, *Bethel, Maine, Cemeteries*, comps. Agnes H. Haines and Mildred O. Jackson (Bethel, 1989), 35, citing gravestone, Riverside Cemetery, Bethel.

¹⁵⁹ Maine VRs, "1892–1907," roll no. 11.

¹⁶⁰ "Maine Death Index, 1960-1997," see note 150.

¹⁶¹ Maine VRs, "1923–1936" roll no. 121.

¹⁶² "Maine Birth Records, 1621–1922," database at Ancestry.com, citing Maine State Archives, Augusta, Maine, Vital Records, roll # 29.

¹⁶³ "Maine Death Index, 1960-1997," see note 150.

INDENTURED SERVITUDE IN MAINE IN THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

By Glenn D. Nasman

When evaluating early census data, we often find there are more people in the household than there are people in the family. A case in point is the Capt. Jeremiah Holton family of Boothbay, Maine. According to the standard history of Boothbay, Jeremiah Holton had nine children, four of whom were born by the time of the 1820 census.¹ There were five children, however, enumerated in the household that year.² The extra male child, in the 10–15 year age range, could be a nephew or another close relative, or he could be a neighbor’s son hired on to help around the farm. In the case of the Jeremiah Holton family, an indentured servant contract has been preserved (see full transcription following this article) showing that Jeremiah Holton of Boothbay signed an indenture with the Boston Overseers of the Poor on 21 August 1812 to take on Andrew McMillen until 15 March 1827, when Andrew would become twenty-one years old.³ It is highly likely, therefore, that the additional male in the household is Andrew McMillen, who would have been aged 14 in 1820:

Jeremiah Holton household, 1820 U.S. Census, Boothbay, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 323:

1 free white male 26–44	Jeremiah Holton, b. 26 Jan. 1784, aged 36
1 free white female 26–44	Mary Holton, b. ca. June 1789, aged 31
1 free white male 10–15	Andrew McMillen , b. 15 March 1806, aged 14
1 free white male under 10	Rufus Holton, b. 3 June 1817, aged 3
3 free white females under 10	Mary Holton, b. 14 Oct. 1812, aged 7
	Margaret Holton, b. 20 June 1815, aged 5
	Cordelia Holton, b. 27 Feb. 1819, aged 1

An indentured servant was a laborer under contract to work for another person for a specified amount of time, often without any pay, but in exchange for lodging, food, and other essentials. In the early-nineteenth century, indentured servitude was primarily restricted to destitute children or orphans who were receiving alms or living in an almshouse. Massachusetts law allowed town selectmen or Overseers of the Poor, with the consent of two Justices of the Peace, to “bind out” poor children

¹ Francis B. Greene, *History of Boothbay, Southport and Boothbay Harbor, Maine, 1603–1905* (Portland, 1906), 548, gives birth dates for all of Jeremiah’s children: 1. *Mary Holton*, b. 14 Oct. 1812. 2. *Margaret Holton*, b. 20 June 1815. 3. *Rufus Holton*, b. 3 June 1817. 4. *Cordelia Holton*, b. 27 Feb. 1819. 5. *Jane Holton*, b. 17 Feb. 1821. 6. *Sarah Holton*, b. 17 April 1823. 7. *Antoinette Holton*, b. 17 Feb. 1826. 8. *Elizabeth Holton*, b. 23 Aug. 1829. 9. *Jeremiah Holton*, b. 23 Jan. 1831. Jeremiah Holton of Boothbay m. Edgecomb, 28 Feb. 1811, Mary Clifford of Edgecomb (*Original Records of Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Edgecomb, Maine* (Picton Press CD, 2005), image 153).

² Jeremiah Holton household, 1820 U.S. Census, Boothbay, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 323.

³ Indentured servant contract for Andrew McMillen, copy in author’s possession courtesy of Richard Holton Pierce, a descendant of Jeremiah Holton. Extent indentured servant contracts are quite rare since most people had no reason to preserve them after the contract period was over.

and orphans to masters who would agree to support them, school them, and train them.⁴ It was advantageous for the Overseers to bind the children out as soon as possible after they came under their care to avoid the cost of food, clothing, and housing. The children were bound out to an interested family once they were old enough to perform some work or help out in a household, often between the ages of five and nine.⁵ While the intent was to help the children learn a trade useful to society, most boys were merely trained as laborers and almost all the girls were trained as domestic servants. The Overseers had no reservations about splitting up families, since one of their goals was to break the cycle of poverty by removing children from the negative influence of their pauper parents. In one 1817 case, the Overseers of the Poor in Turner, Maine, bound out at public auction eight members of a single family to eight different bidders.⁶

The indenture, the legal term for a written contract, required the master to provide housing, clothing, necessities, schooling, and training so that a poor child could eventually become a productive member of the community in exchange for the work the child would perform until he or she reached the age of majority (i.e., twenty-one for boys, eighteen for girls). Andrew McMillen's indenture stated that Jeremiah Holton would provide "sufficient and wholesome meat and drink with washing, lodging, clothing and other necessities" and would "teach" Andrew or "cause him to be taught to read, write, and cipher, also the art and mystery of a farmer."⁷ Although there were four different parties affected by the indenture agreement—the indentured child; the parents of the indentured child, if living; the family taking in the indentured child; and the Board of Overseers—it was only the latter two who signed the document and whose interests determined the conditions of the contract. The child had no say whatsoever, while the parents, who usually were absent during contract formation, may have had some input regarding where the child may be sent if the child was to be placed out of town.⁸ Once signed, the indentured servant had to remain with the family into which he or she was placed until the indenture period was over. If the master died, the contract would transfer to his wife or his heirs. The master could buy and sell the contract of an indentured servant, and the right to his or her labor would change hands. The Overseers of the Poor were required to supervise how the children bound out were treated and to protect them from ill treatment,

⁴ Lawrence W. Towner, "The Indentures of Boston's Poor Apprentices: 1734–1805," *The Colonial Society of Massachusetts* (March 1962), 423, online at <www.primaryresearch.org/pr/index.php?option=com_docman&task=cat_view&gid=89&limit=5&order=date&dir=DESC&Itemid=300022&limitstart=10> (hereafter cited as Towner, "Indentures of Boston's Poor").

⁵ Towner, "Indentures of Boston's Poor," 425.

⁶ Sheila A. Culbert, *Sturdy Beggars and the Worthy Poor: Poverty in Massachusetts, 1750–1820*, Ph.D. Dissertation, Indiana University (1985), 124.

⁷ See note 3.

⁸ John E. Murray and Ruth Wallis Herndon, "Markets for Children in Early America: A Political Economy of Pauper Apprenticeship," *The Journal of Economic History*, 62, No. 2 (June 2002): 356.

neglect, or abuse. A finding by the Overseers of such exploitation could result in a court decision to liberate or discharge the child.⁹

It was not unusual for Maine farmers to go to Boston to obtain an indentured servant. Boston had many destitute families who eventually wound up in the care of the Overseers of the Poor. Because of the large number of poor people, Boston went far and wide to place their children into indentured servitude. These children were distributed throughout Massachusetts, including the District of Maine, and into the neighboring states of New Hampshire and Connecticut. Overall the Overseers sent almost seventy-five percent of all indentured children beyond the Boston town limits; in the six years from 1801 to 1806, Boston sent over ninety percent of their destitute children out of town.¹⁰

Another Maine farmer who obtained an indentured servant from Boston was Captain Charles Mustard of Topsham. Boston's Overseers of the Poor placed and bound out Michael Scollay to Captain Mustard to dwell with and serve him from 21 April 1797 to 5 November 1810, when Michael would reach age twenty-one.¹¹

Almost all of the indentures ended with a "payment." At the end of Andrew McMillen's term, he was to receive "two good suits of wearing apparel fitting all parts of his body, one for Sundays, the other for working days" and "seventy dollars in cash." Andrew stayed with the Holttons for the full contract term since the indenture was certified as being completed to full satisfaction on 6 March 1827.¹² There is no record of Andrew remaining in Boothbay after he left indentured servitude. It is possible he was the Andrew McMillen, aged 20–29, living in Dresden, Maine, in 1830,¹³ and/or the Andrew McMillen, aged 45, living in Newport, Maine, in 1850.¹⁴

Another typical contract was signed by the town of Bristol's Justices of the Peace and Overseers of the Poor on 15 February 1813. John Bootman had been living in Bristol with his mother, Susannah, but she was "thought by said overseers to be unable to maintain him."¹⁵ James Blunt agreed to take John into his home as an apprentice to learn the art of farming until John reached age twenty-one. In exchange for faithful service and for abstention from cards, dice, any other unlawful games,

⁹ Thomas C. Bennett, "Maine's Pauper Laws and the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor," online at: <<http://cny.mainememory.net/page/2019/display.html>>.

¹⁰ Towner, "Indentures of Boston's Poor," 426.

¹¹ Mary Pelham Hill, ed., *Vital Records of Topsham, Maine, to the Year 1892*, 2 vols. (Concord, N.H., 1930), 2:29, citing Mustard family papers.

¹² See note 3.

¹³ Andrew McMillen household, 1830 U.S. Census, Dresden, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 385.

¹⁴ Andrew McMillen household, 1850 U.S. Census, Newport, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 16, #61/61.

¹⁵ Susannah Bootman was enumerated heading a household in Bristol, Lincoln Co., Maine, in 1810 and 1820. The 1810 U.S. Census (p. 214) included 1 male under age 10 (undoubtedly John) and 3 females under age 10, while the 1820 U.S. Census (p. 358) included 1 male aged 16–18 (most likely John released from his indenture after the deaths of James and Sally Blunt), 1 female aged 10–15, and 2 females aged 16–25.

taverns, ale houses, gaming houses, fornication, and matrimony, John would be fed, clothed, housed, and be “taught to read and cipher.” His payment at age twenty-one would be two suits of clothes and “one good Cow.”¹⁶ James Blunt, undoubtedly the man who married Sally Clark on 19 April 1809,¹⁷ was probably looking for additional help on his farm while his children were very young. Tragically, James Blunt, aged 42 years, and his wife, aged 44 years, died in Bristol within days of each other in 1829 leaving seven children.¹⁸ John Bootman, aged 30–39, was enumerated in Bristol in 1840 heading a household that included a probable wife, aged 20–29, and three male children: one under 5, one aged 5–9, and one aged 10–14.¹⁹

Extended family members had a responsibility to take on their poor relatives as indentured servants if they were able. An example of this occurred after Richard Webber, a poor fisherman from Cumberland, became unable to support his wife, Lucy, and their children. The Maine Historical Society on their Maine Memory Network has photographs and transcriptions of various documents related to the support of Richard’s family.²⁰ His wife and some of his children were boarded from 23 December 1829 to 21 May 1830 by Simeon Webber, undoubtedly a relative of Richard, who was reimbursed \$70.43 by the town,²¹ while James Hamilton Jr., another relative, was reimbursed \$6.45 for boarding Richard’s son David Webber from 12 February 1830 to 21 May 1830 and for buying him a pair of shoes.²² In June 1830, Richard’s son, Isaac Webber, aged eleven, was bound out to his maternal uncle James Hamilton of Cumberland until 11 May 1839, when he would turn twenty-one.²³ Richard’s son David Webber, aged six, was bound out to Richard’s brother, David Webber of Harpswell, until 5 September 1845, when the boy would turn twenty-one.²⁴ Two years later on 30 June 1832, David, then aged eight, was bound out again until 5 September 1845, this time to his maternal uncle James

¹⁶ John Bootman indentured servant contract, original in the Brooker Collection, Boston College Law Library, online at: <www.bc.edu/schools/law/library/about/rarebook/exhibitions/addl_brooker02.html>.

¹⁷ Christine Huston Dodge, ed., *Vital Records of Old Bristol and Nobleboro in the County of Lincoln, Maine*, 2 vols. (Brunswick, Maine, 1947–51), 2:16.

¹⁸ Death notices for both James Blunt and his wife, Mrs. Blunt, residents of Bristol, were in the 20 Feb. 1829 issue of the *Lincoln Intelligencer & Lincoln Telegraph* of Wiscasset.

¹⁹ John Bootman household, 1840 U.S. Census, Bristol, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 339.

²⁰ See Maine Memory Network search results for Richard Webber, online at <www.maine-memory.net>.

²¹ “Simeon Webber Receipt, Cumberland, 1830,” Maine Memory Network (see note 20).

²² “James Hamilton Receipt, Cumberland, 1830,” Maine Memory Network (see note 20).

²³ “Isaac Webber Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1830,” Maine Memory Network (see note 20).

²⁴ “David Webber Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1830,” Maine Memory Network (see note 20). There is some question as to what year David was born. Both David’s gravestone inscription and his death record state that he was b. 5 Sept. 1823 (see note 31), so he may actually have turned age 21 on 5 Sept. 1844, rather than 5 Sept. 1845.

Hamilton.²⁵ As can be seen, Isaac and David were only bound out to extended family members. David did not remain with his uncle James Hamilton until his indenture period was over, as he shipped out on a vessel working as the cook's helper at age sixteen.²⁶ He married Caroline Augusta Emmons about 1845 with whom he had at least eight children.²⁷ On 1 June 1846, at age twenty-four, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy at Portland but he was discharged five months later, on 19 November 1846, when his vessel, the revenue cutter *Morris*, was wrecked off Key West.²⁸ He worked as a sailor in 1850 and as a fisherman thereafter living in Cumberland and on Bailey Island in Harpswell.²⁹ He was admitted into the Soldiers Home at Togus, Maine, at age seventy-nine, on 13 December 1902, but on 12 May 1907 he was discharged at his own request.³⁰ He lived in Bristol for the last ten years of his life where he died of general collapse due to old age on 13 November 1918, aged 95 years, 3 months, 7 days, the last surviving veteran of the Mexican War from Maine.³¹

The family of Jesse Estes of Portland and Cumberland is an interesting study. The Maine Historical Society's Maine Memory Network contains photographs and transcriptions of six documents related to Jesse Estes and his family.³² On 25 February 1825, the Portland Board of Overseers of the Poor wrote to the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor that Jesse Estes, his wife, and six children had "become chargeable" in Portland "as paupers," and asked that Cumberland "order their removal" from Portland or "otherwise provide for them."³³ The distribution of alms was managed by the Overseers of the Poor for each town and was intended to meet the needs of impoverished residents who were born in that particular town. The Over-

²⁵ "David Webber Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1832," Maine Memory Network (see note 20).

²⁶ "Indentured Servants" broadcast on "Bill Green's Maine" on WCHS Channel 6, 30 March 2011, online at: <www.wch6.com/life/programming/local/bill_greens_maine/article/115650/10/Indentured-Servants>.

²⁷ His oldest child was aged 4 in 1850. The name of his wife and 8 children are found in U.S. Census data: David Webber households, 1850 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 147, #232/247; 1860 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 24, #181/183; 1870 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 204, #261/265.

²⁸ U.S. National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, 1866-1938, record for David Webber, p. 12564, database at Ancestry.com.

²⁹ David Webber households, 1850 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 147, #232/247; 1860 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 24, #181/183; 1870 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 204, #261/265; 1900 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 46, p. 249A, #66/69.

³⁰ See note 28.

³¹ Maine Vital Records, Maine State Archives, Augusta, deaths 1918 (hereafter cited as Maine VRs). Note that David Webber's gravestone inscription in Bailey Island Cemetery, Harpswell, indicates he d. 7 Nov. 1918, but that is incorrect; it was his wife, Caroline, who d. 7 Nov. 1899, aged 75 years, 3 months, per her gravestone inscription in the same cemetery.

³² Search results for Jesse Estes, Maine Memory Network (see note 20).

³³ "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter Regarding Jesse Estes and Family, 1825," Maine Memory Network (see note 32).

seers did not want to use the resources intended for their residents to support people who were from other towns. As a result, the Overseers of the Poor from various towns would bill each other for the cost of supporting outsiders or request that they be removed back to their hometown.

The Estes family were returned to Cumberland, where in 1826 the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor bound out for indenture Samuel, Benjamin, and Jacob Estes, the three oldest sons of Jesse Estes. Samuel, aged eighteen, was bound out to David Spear of Cumberland until 3 August 1829, when he would turn twenty-one;³⁴ Benjamin, aged fifteen, was bound out to Alexander Barr of Cumberland until 12 April 1832, when he would turn twenty-one;³⁵ and Jacob, aged twelve, was bound out to William Buxton of Cumberland until 19 February 1835, when he would turn twenty-one.³⁶ Samuel was to learn the trade of a blacksmith while Benjamin and Jacob were to learn the trade of a farmer. Jacob, however, and possibly also Benjamin, did not remain in servitude for the entire indenture period. On 10 December 1832, the Portland Overseers of the Poor again wrote to the Cumberland Overseers of the Poor advising them that Jesse Estes, his wife Elizabeth, and seven of their children—Benjamin, Jacob, Jesse, Maryann, George, Edward, and Andrew—were now living in the Portland Almshouse and requested that the Cumberland Overseers either “order their removal, or otherwise provide for them” as they might “judge expedient.”³⁷ In spite of the fact that Jesse and Elizabeth had seven sons, only one of them, Benjamin, has been found by name in census returns. In addition, no records been found for them to indicate that they ever got married or had children, or even that they were buried in a marked grave. It is possible they all went to sea and never returned to the area or perhaps some of them died young and were buried in a pauper’s unmarked grave. In any event, they never made a name for themselves beyond the records described above.

JESSE ESTES FAMILY SUMMARY

JESSE ESTES was born in England about 1780.³⁸ He married first ELIZABETH/BETSEY BLAKE of Harpswell, probably she born Harpswell on 13 June 1793, daughter of John and Thankful (Bray) Blake.³⁹ Jesse married second, in

³⁴ “Samuel Easters Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1826,” Maine Memory Network (see note 32).

³⁵ “Benjamin Esters Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1826,” Maine Memory Network (see note 32).

³⁶ “Jacob Easters Indenture Document, Cumberland, 1826,” Maine Memory Network (see note 32).

³⁷ “Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832,” Maine Memory Network (see note 32).

³⁸ Jesse Estes household, 1850 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 272, #227/231.

³⁹ Daughter Mary Ann’s death record states her mother was Betsey Blake of Harpswell (see note 70). She is named Elizabeth in “Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832,” (see note 37). There is only one birth of a Betsey Blake found in Harpswell (*Original Records of*

Harpwell on 2 November 1838, MEHITABLE DINSLOW.⁴⁰ She was born in Harpwell on 5 April 1786, daughter of Benjamin and Sabra (Toothaker) Dinslow.⁴¹

Jesse was living in North Yarmouth in 1820 with his first wife and his four oldest sons, he engaged in agriculture,⁴² but by February 1825 he was in Portland receiving alms.⁴³ In 1830 he was enumerated in Cumberland,⁴⁴ but by December 1832 he was living in the Portland Almshouse with his wife and seven children.⁴⁵ In 1834 he was listed as a mariner in the Portland Directory, living on Mount Joy Street.⁴⁶ In 1840 Jesse headed a household in Harpwell, which included two males aged 20–29 (most likely two of his sons), one female aged 15–19 (probably his daughter Mary Ann), three females aged 50–59 (probably his second wife Mehitable and two unidentified women), and an elderly male, John Coombs, aged 77 years, who is named and his age given because he was a Revolutionary War pensioner.⁴⁷ Only one person in the household is shown to have been employed, that of a trade involving navigation on the ocean. In 1850 Jesse was a fisherman in Harpwell, living with his second wife.⁴⁸

Children of Jesse and Elizabeth/Betsey (Blake) Estes, birth order unknown:⁴⁹

- i SAMUEL ESTES, b. 3 Aug. 1808.⁵⁰ In 1826 he was bound out to David Spear of Cumberland.⁵¹ No further record found.
- ii BENJAMIN ESTES, b. 12 April 1811,⁵² d. Harpwell, 13 Feb. 1873, aged 61 years,⁵³ and bur. in Orr's Island Cemetery, Harpwell; m. Harpwell, 14 Nov. 1841, MARY GILLIAM,⁵⁴ b. Harpwell, 6 Dec. 1811, daughter of William and Mary (Smith) Gil-

Maine Towns and Cities: Town of Harpwell (Picton Press CD, 2005), images 16, 49, 432 (hereafter cited as *Harpwell VR CD*).

⁴⁰ Judith Holbrook Kelley and Clayton Rand Adams, *Marriage Returns of Cumberland County, Maine, Prior to 1892* (Rockport, Maine, 1998), 270 [Jesse "Easter" and Mehitable "Dislow"] (hereafter cited as *Cumberland Co. Marriage Returns*).

⁴¹ *Harpwell VR CD*, image 419.

⁴² Jesse Estes household, 1820 U.S. Census, North Yarmouth, Cumberland Co., p. 463. The westerly part of North Yarmouth was set off as the town of Cumberland in 1821.

⁴³ See note 33.

⁴⁴ Jesse Estes household, 1830 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., p. 138.

⁴⁵ See note 37.

⁴⁶ Portland City Directory, 1834, p. 58. Daughter Mary Ann's death record states her father was a sailor (see note 70).

⁴⁷ Jesse "Easters" household, 1840 U.S. Census, Harpwell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 379.

⁴⁸ Jesse Estes household, 1850 U.S. Census, Harpwell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 272, #227/231.

⁴⁹ Birth order is listed in the same order as written in the Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter of 1832. See note 37.

⁵⁰ Based on reaching age 21 on 3 Aug. 1829 (see note 34).

⁵¹ See note 34.

⁵² Based on reaching age 21 on 12 April 1832 (see note 35).

⁵³ Gravestone inscription, Orr's Island Cemetery, Harpwell.

⁵⁴ *Cumberland Co. Marriage Returns*, 271 [Benjamin "Easter" and Mary "Gillam"].

liam.⁵⁵ In 1826 Benjamin was bound out to Alexander Barr of Cumberland,⁵⁶ and in Dec. 1832 he was living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse.⁵⁷ He was a fisherman in Harpswell in 1850, 1860, and 1870.⁵⁸

Child: 1. *Edmund L. Estes*,⁵⁹ b. Harpswell, July 1852,⁶⁰ d. 1923,⁶¹ bur. beside his wife in Bailey Island Cemetery, Harpswell; m. (int.) Phippsburg, 4 May 1874, Clara C. Wallace.⁶² He was a sailor in Phippsburg in 1880, a fisherman in Cumberland in 1900, and in Harpswell in 1910 and 1920.⁶³

- iii JACOB ESTES, b. 19 Feb. 1814.⁶⁴ In 1826 he was bound out to William Buxton of Cumberland,⁶⁵ and he was living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832.⁶⁶ No further record found.
- iv JESSE ESTES, b. prior to the 1820 census,⁶⁷ living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832.⁶⁸ No further record found.
- v MARY ANN ESTES, b. Cumberland, ca. 1823,⁶⁹ d. Portland, 18 July 1898, aged 75 years;⁷⁰ m. Portland, 21 July 1845, DAVID C. FOSS, b. [calc.] 1 April 1824, d. 27

⁵⁵ *Harpswell VR CD*, images 87, 189, 462.

⁵⁶ See note 35.

⁵⁷ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁵⁸ Benjamin Estes household, 1850 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 272, #212/216; "Benjamin Estus" household, 1860 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 15, #106/107; "Benjamin Estus" household, 1870 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 348, #268/284.

⁵⁹ "Benjamin Estus" household, 1870 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 348, #268/284.

⁶⁰ Edmund Estes household, 1900 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 40, p. 159A, #240/245.

⁶¹ Gravestone inscription, Bailey Island Cemetery, Harpswell.

⁶² Mary Pelham Hill, ed., *Vital Records of Phippsburg, Maine, to the Year 1892* (1935), p. 224 ("Edward" L. Estes).

⁶³ "Edmond" Estes household, 1880 U.S. Census, Phippsburg, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 149, p. 149B, #206/235; Edmund Estes household, 1900 U.S. Census, Cumberland, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 40, p. 159A, #240/245; Edmund Estes household, 1910 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 55, p. 80A, #208/211; Edmund Estes household, 1920 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, E.D. 18, p. 282A, #155/165.

⁶⁴ Based on turning age 21 on 19 Feb. 1835 (see note 36).

⁶⁵ See note 36.

⁶⁶ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁶⁷ See note 42.

⁶⁸ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁶⁹ Date of birth based on her age at death. She was not included in Jesse Estes's household in the 1820 census (see note 42), but she was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter Regarding Jesse Estes and Family, 1825" (see note 33). Place of birth is found in her death record (see note 70).

⁷⁰ Mary Ann Foss death record, Maine VRs, deaths 1898; her gravestone inscription in Western Cemetery, Portland, indicates she d. 16 July 1898 (William B. Jordan, Jr., *Burial Records*

Sept. 1899, aged 75 years, 5 months, 26 days, both of Portland.⁷¹ She was living with her parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832,⁷² and probably living in her father's household in 1840.⁷³ After her marriage, they lived in Otisfield in 1850 when David was a laborer, in Portland in 1860 when he was a teamster, in Lawrence, Mass., in 1870 when he was a teamster, and in Windham, N.H., in 1880 when he was a farm laborer.⁷⁴

Children: 1. *Charles Henry Foss*, b. Portland, 2 Feb. 1846;⁷⁵ m. Lawrence, Mass., 18 Nov. 1874, Sarah (Richardson) Glidden as her 2nd husband.⁷⁶ 2. *William P. Foss*, b. Portland, 19 May 1848,⁷⁷ d. Manchester, N.H., 12 Nov. 1921, aged 73 years, 5 months, 23 days;⁷⁸ m. Manchester, N.H., 12 Sept. 1886, as her 2nd husband, Electa Jane (Philo) Miles,⁷⁹ b. Castalia, Ohio, [calc.] 12 Dec. 1853, daughter of Azor and Sarah (Haslett) Philo,⁸⁰ d. Manchester, N.H., 17 June 1923, aged 69 years, 6 months, 5 days.⁸¹ She had m. (1) Ohio, before 2 Oct. 1872, Arthur J. Miles.⁸² 3. *Frances E. Foss*, b. prob. Portland, June 1850,⁸³ d. Portland, 27 Dec. 1851,⁸⁴ bur.

1811–1980 of the *Western Cemetery in Portland, Maine* [Bowie, Md., 1987], 49 [hereafter cited as *Jordan, Western Cemetery*]).

⁷¹ David J. C. Foss and Mary Ann Estes marriage record, Maine VRs, marriages 1845. His date of death and age at death from his gravestone inscription, *Western Cemetery, Portland (Jordan, Western Cemetery, 49)*.

⁷² She was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁷³ Jesse "Easters" household, 1840 U.S. Census, Harpswell, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 379.

⁷⁴ David C. Foss households, 1850 U.S. Census, Otisfield, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 161, #123/129; 1860 U.S. Census, Portland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 317, #1867/2642; 1870 U.S. Census, Lawrence, Essex Co., Mass., p. 296, #27/45; David Foss household, 1880 U.S. Census, Windham, Rockingham Co., N.H., E.D. 238, p. 211A, #40/43.

⁷⁵ Charles Henry Foss birth record, Maine VRs, births 1846.

⁷⁶ "Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910" (from original records held by the Mass. Archives), online database, AmericanAncestors.org, marriages 1874, 262:239 (hereafter cited as *Mass. VRs, 1841–1910*).

⁷⁷ William Foss birth record, Maine VRs, births 1848.

⁷⁸ New Hampshire Death Records, 1654–1947, database at familysearch.org.

⁷⁹ New Hampshire Marriage Records, 1637–1947, database at familysearch.org.

⁸⁰ Her parentage and place of birth given on her death record (see note 81). Electa, age 6, was living in the home of her parents, Azor and Sarah Philo, in 1860 (Azor Philo household, 1860 U.S. Census, Margaretta, Erie Co., Ohio, p. 127, #2000/1935). Her parents m. in Ohio, 11 June 1840 (*Ohio Marriages, 1800–1958*, database at familysearch.org).

⁸¹ New Hampshire Death Records, 1654–1947, database at familysearch.org.

⁸² Marriage notice, *Sandusky Weekly Register*, Sandusky, Ohio, 2 Oct. 1872. Electa, age 26, was living with her 1st husband, Arthur, age 27, and two sons in Manchester, N.H., in 1880 (Arthur J. "Niles" household, 1880 U.S. Census, Manchester, Hillsborough Co., N.H., E.D. 123, p. 37A, #124/162).

⁸³ The 1850 census (David C. Foss household, Otisfield, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 161, #123/129) indicates that Frances was 3 months old when the census was taken in Sept. 1850, suggesting she was b. in June 1850. Her death record (see note 84), however, indicates she d. at age 2 years, 6 months, in Dec. 1851, calculating that she was b. in June 1849. The 1850 date is probably correct, as it provides a more reasonable gap between the births of William and Frances. The census taker probably would not have recorded Frances's age in months unless she was an infant.

with her parents in Western Cemetery, Portland.⁸⁵ 4. *Frederick Foss*, b. Portland, 19 Feb. 1854;⁸⁶ m. Lowell, Mass., 12 April 1880, Elizabeth Yately, b. ca. 1860, daughter of Martin and Johanna (—) Yately.⁸⁷ 5. *Althea/Ellthea/Ella Foss*, b. Portland, 11 Aug. 1859,⁸⁸ d. after 1921, as she was still living when her husband died;⁸⁹ m. Lawrence, Mass., 13 Jan. 1877, Wilbur L. Booker,⁹⁰ b. Canaan 9 May 1855, son of James T. and Tamar (Lambert) Booker,⁹¹ d. Portland, 2 Jan. 1922, of Brights disease, aged 66 years.⁹²

- vi GEORGE ESTES, b. after the 1820 census and prior to Feb. 1825,⁹³ living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832,⁹⁴ but not living in his father's household in 1840.⁹⁵ No further record found.
- vii EDWARD ESTES, b. after Feb. 1825,⁹⁶ living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832,⁹⁷ but not living in his father's household in 1840.⁹⁸ No further record found.
- viii ANDREW ESTES, b. after Feb. 1825,⁹⁹ living with his parents in the Portland Almshouse in Dec. 1832,¹⁰⁰ but not living in his father's household in 1840.¹⁰¹ No further record found.

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⁸⁴ Frances E. Foss death record, Maine VRs, deaths 1851.

⁸⁵ Jordan, *Western Cemetery*, 49.

⁸⁶ Frederick Foss birth record, Maine VRs, births 1854.

⁸⁷ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, marriages 1880, 317:109.

⁸⁸ Ellthea Foss birth record, Maine VRs, births 1859.

⁸⁹ Wilbur L. Booker death record, Maine VRs, deaths 1922, indicates he was married when he died.

⁹⁰ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, marriages 1877, 289:196.

⁹¹ Wilbur L. Booker death record, Maine VRs, deaths 1922.

⁹² Wilbur L. Booker death record, Maine VRs, deaths 1922.

⁹³ He was not included in 1820 census (see note 42), but he was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter Regarding Jesse Estes and Family, 1825" (see note 33).

⁹⁴ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁹⁵ He was not included in 1840 census (see note 47).

⁹⁶ He was not included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter Regarding Jesse Estes and Family, 1825" (see note 33).

⁹⁷ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

⁹⁸ He was not included in 1840 census (see note 47).

⁹⁹ He was not included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter Regarding Jesse Estes and Family, 1825" (see note 33).

¹⁰⁰ He was included in "Portland Overseers of the Poor Letter on Estes Family, 1832" (see note 37).

¹⁰¹ He was not included in 1840 census (see note 47).

ANDREW McMILLEN INDENTURE DOCUMENT, BOSTON, 1812

Following is a transcription of the indenture executed by Captain Jeremiah Holton of Boothbay with the Boston Overseers of the Poor binding out Andrew McMullen as an indentured servant from 21 August 1812 until Andrew's twenty-first birthday on 15 March 1827:

This Indenture Witnesseth, That William Smith, William Phillips, Redford Webster, Thomas Perkins, Samuel Snelling, Ozias Goodwin, William Mackey, Joseph Coolidge junior, Joseph Richards, Bryant P. Tilden, Ephraim Eliot and Jonathan Phillips, Esquires Overseers of the Poor of the Town of Boston in the County of Suffolk and Commonwealth of Massachusetts have placed, and by these presents do place, and bind out Andrew McMullen now in the Almshouse on the Account of the State unto Captain Jeremiah Holton of Boothbay, County of Lincoln, Farmer. And with him after the Manner of an Apprentice to Dwell and Serve, from the Day of the Date of these Presents to until the Fifteenth day of March One thousand Eight hundred and Twenty seven or untill [*sic*] he shall be of lawful age And the said Master Jeremiah Holton doth hereby Covenant and Agree, for himself, His wife & his heirs to teach the said apprentice, or cause him to be taught to read, write, and cipher, also the art and mystery of a Farmer. And also shall and will, well and truly find, allow unto and provide for the said Apprentice, sufficient and wholesome Meat and Drink, with Washing, Lodging, Clothing and other Necessaries neat and convenient for such an Apprentice, during all the Time or Term aforesaid: And at the expiration thereof, shall dismiss the said Apprentice, with two good suits of wearing apparel, fitting all parts of his body, One for Sundays, the other for working days suitable to his degree & seventy dollars in cash or in proportion for the time said Andrew may serve. And also shall and will cancel [*sic*] his Indenture by presenting together with said Andrew to the board of Overseers aforesaid at the expiration of the term aforesaid. In case said Andrew cannot appear to present a certificate from the selectmen of the town in which he resides, certifying that they have examined the subject & found that the said Jeremiah Holton has fulfilled the conditions of this Indenture and for neglecting to do so within thirty days from the said fifteenth day of March 1827, he the said Jeremiah Holton further covenants to pay to said Overseers One Hundred Dollars.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, the said Parties have to these Indentures interchangeably set their Hands and Seals, the Twenty first Day of August in the Year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Twelve.

Signed, Sealed and Delivered
In Presence of
Geo. Deblois
Mary D. Jenkins

W^m Smith
Redf. Webster
Sam^l Snelling
Ozias Goodwin
William Mackay
Jos^h Coolidge Jr
Ephraim Eliot

FOREIGN TRADE ON MAINE'S SHIPS

Researching Department of State Consular Quarterly Returns
for Family and Local History, 1800–1850

By Kenneth W. Heger, Ph.D.

During the nineteenth-century, ships owned and registered in Maine played a major role in America's trans-Atlantic trade. They carried timber, tobacco, cotton, and other raw materials from the United States and the Caribbean islands to Europe, engaging in the brisk commerce across the Atlantic Ocean, a fact often reflected in records American consular officials abroad kept. Consular quarterly returns in particular are an often untapped resource for family and local historians. The returns include a great deal of information on ports Maine ships visited and the cargos they carried, details that can flesh out a family's history. This kind of information has value not just for descendents of ship owners but also for families of seamen and of businessmen involved in such trade.

This article consists of two sections. The first part will be case studies of Maine ships involved in the trans-Atlantic trade. You should note the difference in the amount of information each narrative contains; that illustrates the differences in the kind of information available among the extant records of different consulates. The second part will discuss consular returns relating to merchant ships and how you can use them for family history.

THE MARGARETH

In February 1841 the brig *Margareth*¹ was docked in Baltimore on the eve of its next voyage transporting raw materials from the Western Hemisphere to Europe. The vessel's 1841 voyage illustrates the close connection which existed among businessmen on the east coast of the United States, and the ship's complement highlights Baltimore's role as a major center for providing crews to merchant ships, including those from Maine. Finally, the documents showcase the *Margareth*'s role in trans-Atlantic trading patterns, in particular the sugar and tobacco trades.

The *Margareth* had strong Maine connections. Registered in Bath,² four residents of Maine owned the ship—Edward Swan, Edward B. Swan, and William Swan of Gardiner; and John Blanchard of Hallowell.³

¹ Note, some documents do not include the final "h" on the ship's name. From those documents it is clear, however, that it is the same ship.

² The *Margareth* was recorded on 15 Nov. 1834 in Register No. 42 in Bath, Maine. To research the construction and owners of the *Margareth*, see Kim McKeithan, "Documenting America's Merchant Fleet: The Records of the United States Bureau of Marine Inspection and Navigation, 1789-1907," *Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin* 48(2007): 267–75.

³ 10 July 1841, "Entry Brig Margareth, Gardiner," p. 28, *Arrivals and Departures of American Vessels, March 10, 1841 through June 3, 1843*, Records of the United States Consulate at Bremen,

While in Baltimore, Captain Daniel Smith compiled his crew list for the upcoming voyage on February 2nd. By the 1840s Baltimore was a major port of call and home to a great number of seafaring men. The crew Smith assembled illustrates that fact. It consisted of eight Americans born in four different states, all of whom considered Baltimore their residence; this included Maine-born Merrill Tibbetts. (See the Table I for the full crew list.) With his crew on board, Smith set out on a voyage ultimately destined for the German port city of Bremerhaven.

The *Margareth* left Baltimore laden with ballast and sailed for Cuba where it made two stops. She arrived at Matanzas, her first port of call, on 1 March. The crew offloaded the ballast and replaced it with a cargo of sugar valued at approximately \$6,000. The exchange of cargo, dealing with local merchants, and completing the necessary paper work took almost two months. On 27 April, the ship continued her voyage.⁴ The next stop was Havana, where the ship arrived a mere three days after leaving Matanzas. In Havana the *Margareth* took on the rest of its east-bound cargo, adding tobacco, coffee, rum, and smoking pipes. Not everything went smoothly in Havana. Crewman Peter Silmore deserted, making it necessary for Captain Smith to find a replacement. Being in a foreign port, it was difficult for Smith to find an available American sailor, so he opted to employ William Thompson, a Danish citizen domiciled in New York. With her cargo now on board and a full crew complement, the *Margareth* sailed for Europe on 21 May.⁵

The voyage across the Atlantic was uneventful and took about six weeks. The American consul in Bremerhaven noted the ship's arrival on July 9th. The *Margareth* offloaded a valuable, varied cargo in Germany: 676 boxes of sugar, 175 bales of tobacco, 50 bags of coffee, and an assortment of smoking pipes and rum to local German merchants. Altogether the cargo had an approximate value of \$22,800.⁶

Less than three weeks after its arrival in Bremerhaven, the *Margareth* sailed back to her home port in Gardiner. Apparently the trip was sufficiently profitable so there was little pressure on Captain Smith to find a westbound cargo; the ship carried ballast back to the United States. The records indicate that three of the crew members who

Germany (Volume 174), National Archives and Records Administration Record Group 84, Records of Department of State Foreign Service Posts, National Archives at College Park, Md. (hereafter cited as Bremen, Vol. 174, NARG 84).

⁴ 1 July 1841, "Semi-Annual Report of Vessels, January 1–June 30, 1841," enclosure to Despatch No. 12 from the American Consulate at Matanzas, Cuba, to the Department of State, roll 2 of National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publication T339, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls at Matanzas, Cuba, 1820–1889*.

⁵ 16 Sept. 1841, "Semi-Annual Report of Vessels, January 1–June 30, 1841" Enclosure to Despatch No. 182 from the American Consulate at Havana, Cuba, to the Department of State, roll 16 of National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publication M899, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls at Havana, Cuba, 1783–1906*.

⁶ 2 Dec. 1841, "Ship Departures and Arrivals," enclosure to Despatch No. 14 from the American Consulate at Bremen, roll 3 of National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publication T184, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls at Bremen, Germany, 1794–1906*.

sailed from Havana were discharged and replaced with sailors in Bremerhaven. Unfortunately, the records do not provide the names of these new crewmen.

THE CALISTO

In June 1841, the Maine barque *Calisto* was docked in New Bedford and preparing for her next voyage across the Atlantic.⁷ The barque had four owners, all of who lived in Portland: John Purintan, Joshua Richardson, John C. Brooks, and Daniel Woodman Jr. James Blanchard was the captain.

Compared to the *Margareth*, the *Calisto*'s voyage was straightforward. The ship sailed directly from New Bedford to Bremerhaven, a voyage that lasted approximately one month. When he registered with the American consulate in Bremen on July 7th, Captain Blanchard did not report encountering any difficulties en route, and none of the crew deserted once they reached Germany.

The *Calisto*'s cargo illustrates the scope of commerce in which Maine's businessmen were engaged. She carried 377 casks of whale oil and several tons of logwood. In all the cargo was worth approximately \$22,700. Unlike the *Margareth*, however, the *Calisto* secured a cargo of sundry merchandise and some passengers for the return voyage. The consulate cleared her to sail for New York on 3 August.⁸

THE NATCHEZ

In August 1841 the bark *Natchez* of Brunswick, Maine, arrived at the German port of Hamburg. Captain Thomas Snow had captained the vessel on her voyage from New Orleans. The ship's cargo for both legs of its voyage was indicative of a trend in trans-Atlantic trade, whereby vessels would ship raw materials to Europe and return with finished goods. The Hamburg consulate reported that the *Natchez* carried a cargo of 414 hogsheads of tobacco when she arrived in port. When she left Hamburg bound for New York about nine weeks later, the *Natchez* held hardware, glassware, books, linen, plants, several boxes of drugs, and sundry merchandize in its hold. Unfortunately, the quarterly return does not provide the value of the inbound or outbound cargo.

Although the return does not provide the crew members' names, it includes intriguing information about the crew composition. When the *Natchez* arrived at Hamburg, there were eleven crewmen, eight American citizens and three foreigners. When the ship sailed for New York, however, there were thirteen crewmen; six of them were American citizens and seven were foreigners.⁹

⁷ The *Calisto* was recorded in Register No. 22, Portland, Maine, on 10 April 1840.

⁸ 2 Dec. 1841, "Ship Departures and Arrivals," enclosure to Despatch No. 14 from the American Consulate at Bremen, roll 3 of National Archives and Records Administration Microfilm Publication T184, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls at Bremen, Germany, 1794–1906*; 3 Aug. 1841, "Clearance Barque Calisto," Bremen, Vol. 174, NARG 84.

⁹ 2 Feb. 1842, "Quarterly Return of Ships," Enclosure to Despatch No. 56 from the American Consulate at Hamburg, roll 6 of National Archives and Records Administration microfilm publication T211, *Despatches from U.S. Consuls in Hamburg, Germany, 1790–1906*.

CONSULAR RETURNS

The Department of State began establishing consulates soon after American independence, primarily to protect American citizens and economic interests. Hamburg, Bremen, and Havana were among the earliest of these consulates coming into existence in 1790, 1794, and 1783, respectively. One of a consulate's primary administrative duties in port cities was to keep track of American ships and their cargos, and to supply this information to the Department of State quarterly. These returns are a great, underutilized source of information for family historians.

The bulk of the source material in this article came from quarterly returns of the consulates in Bremen, Hamburg, Havana, and Matanzas. Although the format differed slightly from consulate to consulate, quarterly returns of American vessels in the nineteenth century all contained much of the same information. This could include:

- The ship's name,
- The name of the port from which it had sailed,
- The date it had left that port,
- The date the ship arrived in port,
- The ship captain's name,
- Where ship's owners lived in the United States,
- The inbound cargo and its value,
- The outbound cargo and its value, and
- The date the ship left harbor and to where it was bound.

There is usually a reference to the number of crewmen, including how many were American citizens and how many were foreigners. This can be useful when the numbers of crewmen or the numbers of crewmen who were American citizens were different for the inward and outward crews. That indicated the crew composition had changed, or perhaps someone had died or deserted. The returns do not list crewmen's names. As the *Natchez's* story illustrates, not all consulates consistently provided all of the information for which the Department of State asked.¹⁰

Consuls usually sent returns as enclosures to despatches [*sic*, thus spelled] to the Department of State in Washington. When searching through the records, the best strategy is to scan the documents. You can look for endorsements on the cover pages of despatches referring to the returns, or look for the returns themselves. The returns usually resemble a register or ledger book and are easy to identify.

Consular despatches through 1906 are available as National Archives microfilm publications. *Diplomatic Records: A Select Catalog of National Archives Microfilm Publications* lists all of the publications, their publication numbers (the M or T number), and has a roll list for the publications providing the chronological range of each roll of microfilm. You can find additional information on National Archives microfilm publications at our website <www.archives.gov>.

¹⁰ The crew lists included in this article are rare. Generally crew lists do not contain as much personal information.

NOTE ON THE CREW LISTS

Although the consular quarterly returns are the focus of this article, I have also included information from other sources. Those records were ones maintained at consulates and contain information the consulates did not always send to the Department of State in Washington, D.C. These records vary widely from post to post, depending upon how assiduously a consul followed guidelines on how to record information, how busy the consulate was, and how many of the record survived. The records of the American consulate at Bremen are extremely rich in this kind of information, especially for the early 1840s. That is the source of the crew lists in the two tables below. Those records also include information on the ships' owners. The post at Hamburg has very few such records. The consulate at Hamburg suffered from fires, floods, and other afflictions associated with a port city in the nineteenth-century. As a result, that consulate has few consistent records predating 1857. Consequently, the records of the consulate at Hamburg do not include the kinds of crew lists the records from the consulate at Bremen often contain.

TABLE I						
CREW OF THE BRIG <i>MARGARETH</i>, FEBRUARY 1841¹¹						
Name	Birth Place	Residence	Age	Height	Skin Tone¹²	Hair
Merrill Tibbetts	Maine	Baltimore	36	5' 7½"	Dark	Brown
Alfred Freeman	New York	Baltimore	20	5' 5½"	Light	Brown
Alfred Robinson	Virginia	Baltimore	25	5' 5½"	Black	Wooly
Daniel Butler	Maryland	Baltimore	26	5' 8"	Dark	Black
James H. Tucker	Massachusetts	Baltimore	17	5' 7"	Light	Black
John Harris	Maryland	Baltimore	32	5' 3½"	Light	Dark
William Neville	New York	Baltimore	34	5' 5½"	Ruddy	Sandy
Peter Silmore	New York	Baltimore	22	5' 6½"	Ruddy	Black
William Thompson	Denmark	New York	22	5' 10"	Dark	Sandy

¹¹ 10 July 1841, "Entry Brig *Margareth*, Gardiner," p. 28, Bremen, Vol. 174, NARG 84. The crew list had a column for the sailor's county of allegiance; all of the crew listed the United States, except William Thompson who listed Denmark.

¹² Text in document reads "Complexion" rather than skin tone.

TABLE II						
CREW OF THE BARQUE <i>CALISTO</i>, JUNE 1841¹³						
Name	Birth Place	Residence	Age	Height	Skin¹⁴ Tone	Hair
Bela Blanchard	Cumberland	Portland	27	5' 9½"	Light	Brown
Wm. S. Hall	Cumberland	Portland	27	5' 7¾"	Light	Brown
Joseph Richards	Burlington	New Bedford	22	5' 3½"	Dark	Black
Samuel Dixon	Norfolk	New Bedford	26	5' 5½"	Light	Brown
John Thompson	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]
Peter Blaum	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]
Solomon Merrill	Cumberland	Portland	22	5' 10½"	Light	Brown
Reuben Merrill	Cumberland	Portland	22	5' 6¼"	Light	Brown
Timothy Miller	Pennsylvania	New Bedford	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]	[blank]

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¹³ 7 July 1841, "Entry Barque *Calisto*, Portland," p. 27. Bremen, Vol. 174, NARG 84. The crew list had a column for the sailor's county of allegiance; all of the crew listed the United States, except for John Thompson and Peter Blaum for whom no country was recorded.

¹⁴ Text in document reads "Complexion" rather than skin tone.

HUMPHREY AND MEHITABLE (MOODY) WHITE AND THE MINNESOTA FEVER

Based on the Unpublished Papers of the Late John Eldridge Frost

By John E. D'Anieri

The Portsmouth Athenaeum in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, has a collection of unpublished papers of Maine's distinguished genealogist, the late John Eldridge Frost. They are organized by surname in individual file folders in a vertical file, in alphabetical order by various contributors. Judging from three such folders contributed by Frost that have been examined in detail by this author, they appear to contain the results of preliminary research by Frost into certain of his ancestors and allied families. One such folder is the "White" folder. Within it is found among an assortment of papers an incomplete twenty-one-page typescript, undated and entitled simply "White". It was presumably written by Frost and, though somewhat disorganized and in need of a few corrections, it tells the interesting story of his ancestors, Humphrey White and Mehitable Moody, who, at the ages of 58 and 57, respectively, left their home in Corinna, Maine, for the new Minnesota Territory.¹ What follows below is Frost's account, rewritten with additions and corrections by the author. Unless otherwise noted, all source citations have been provided by the author, as Frost gave very few in his typescript.

Frost notes that Humphrey and Mehitable (Moody) White were both born in Ossipee, New Hampshire, and lived there until their marriage in January 1820. By the time of the 1820 census they had moved to Rome, Maine, no doubt following his uncle Samuel White (his father's half-brother) who had been there since 1803.² Sometime between the births of their fourth child, Lucinda, in Rome in July 1824, and their fifth child, Elias, in Corinna in March 1826, they moved to Corinna.³ The 1830 census lists Humphrey White twice, in Corinna and Bingham, Maine, with almost the same family makeup,⁴ implying that he had moved from one town to the other between census counts. If he did move to Bingham, it was only for a short time, as his last six children were born in Corinna in 1827, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1835, and 1837.⁵ There they remained until 1853 when they moved to Minnesota.

What drove them to make such a drastic move, leaving four married children behind, at a time when most people their age were thinking of retirement? They were no doubt influenced by the "Minnesota Fever" that was in the air—a rush by

¹ Hereafter cited as Frost, White typescript.

² Marlene A. Groves, comp., *Vital Records of Rome, Maine* (Rockland, Maine, 2010), 25 (hereafter cited as Groves, *Rome VRs*).

³ Groves, *Rome VRs*, 43; Angela M. Foster, comp., *Vital Records of Corinna, Maine, 1797–1894* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 72–73 (hereafter cited as Foster, *Corinna VRs*).

⁴ Humphrey White household, 1830 U.S. Census, Corinna, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 75; Humphrey White household, 1830 U.S. Census, Bingham, Somerset Co., Maine, p. 264.

⁵ Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 72–73.

many in Maine, including Corinna residents, to migrate to Minnesota and enjoy the cheap government land and perceived opportunities there. The fever was undoubtedly intensified by their son-in-law Alfred Russell “of Minnesota,” a Maine native who married their daughter Elvira in Corinna in 1852,⁶ and would return to Minnesota in 1853, possibly in company with Humphrey and Mehitable.

Some brief historical background is in order.⁷ The earliest settlement of white people in Minnesota was in 1846 when a group of Maine settlers started a community that would later (1853) be named Stillwater after their previous home town in Maine. Minnesota became a territory in 1849. The 1850 census for Minnesota shows that Maine provided the second largest group of pioneers in the state, exceeded only by New York. White settlement began to accelerate rapidly after the Sioux Indians ceded all of their land in the southern part of the state to the United States in 1851. Richfield Township became an area of prime interest for settlers because of the abundance of rich farmland for which it is named; its location next to Fort Snelling provided security against Indian attack; and its proximity to St. Anthony Falls (later to become part of Minneapolis) was soon a center of lumbering and grain milling activity. Land was available from the government at \$1.25 per acre provided it was brought under cultivation. In 1854 the railroad was extended west to Rock Island, Illinois, on the Mississippi River, just a steamboat trip away from Minneapolis. This led to an unprecedented increase of immigrants to Minnesota starting in the spring of 1855, followed by a land and business boom and speculation, and ending with a financial panic in 1857. Possibly the largest fortune in early Minneapolis belonged to a realtor named Levi Stewart, a native of Corinna.

Whatever their motivation, Humphrey and Mehitable started west in the late summer of 1853, accompanied by their unmarried children Lovina, Elias, and Lorenzo, and possibly by their newly married daughter and son-in-law, Elvira and Alfred Russell. Lovina and Lorenzo are found in Humphrey’s household in Richfield in the 1857 census of the Military Reserve of Fort Snelling in Hennepin County; while Elias is found in his own household in Richfield in the same census with a wife (whom he married in Minnesota in 1856) and child.⁸ They traveled presumably by rail to Chicago, by stage to Rock Island, and by steamer to Minneapolis, arriving on 23 September 1853. They settled on a 157-acre plot on Minnehaha Creek in what was then Richfield Township, but which has since been made part of Minneapolis. It is now bounded by Portland and Third Avenues and by 46th and 50th Streets and Minnehaha Creek, about five miles from downtown Minneapolis. In addition to

⁶ So identified on the marriage intentions (Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 168).

⁷ Information in this paragraph comes from William Watts Folwell, *A History of Minnesota*, 4 vols. (St. Paul, 1956–69), 1:246, 352–53, 358–63; Stewart H. Holbrook, *The Yankee Exodus: An Account of Migration from New England* (New York, 1950), 166, 170–71, 173; and Frost, *White typescript*, p. 5, and handwritten comments on p. 7.

⁸ Digital images of these census returns are found in the “Minnesota Territorial and State Censuses, 1849–1905” database at Ancestry.com.

their other married children, they left behind an unmarried daughter Lucinda, who would come later to Minnesota after her marriage in Dexter, Maine, in 1856.

They erected a shanty to get them through the first winter, and began clearing land for planting the next spring. By November 1854 they had built a house described in the official report to the U.S. Land office as a frame building, 17 by 23 feet, with double-pitch board roof, a board floor, three doors and two windows, comprising three rooms in all. More importantly, by that time they had cleared and put under cultivation seven acres of land. On 22 May 1855, having demonstrated his ability to develop his claim, he purchased the 157 acres. He received a patent for the land from Washington, signed by President Franklin Pierce and dated 19 January 1856.⁹ The farm was described as being within the original limits of the Military Reservation at Fort Snelling.

Sadly, within eighteen months of receiving the patent that rewarded their risks and labors, Mehitable died. She was buried on the family farm and later reinterred in Oak Hill Cemetery, then in Richfield, but now at Lyndale Avenue South and 59th Street in Minneapolis. That they were successful is shown by the 1860 census of Richfield, wherein they owned real estate valued at \$2000 and personal estate at \$250.¹⁰ Nearly nine years after his arrival, Humphrey died at Richfield on 13 April 1862. His will was signed 11 November 1861, with a codicil dated 30 November 1861. The will was not probated until 18 August 1866 after the farm was sold. Bequests were made to Humphrey's eight living children—Mehitable Holland, Elias H. White, Lorenzo D. White, Lovina White, Elvira Russell, Betsey Thompson, Julia Ann Weeks, and Lucinda Graffam—and to his sister Betsey White of Ossipee, New Hampshire. Humphrey's son-in-law Francis Graffam of Richfield was made executor. The estate was valued at \$1,395.88. Humphrey was buried next to his wife in Oak Hill Cemetery with a single gravestone engraved as follows:

Our Father	Our Mother
Humphrey White	Mehitable, His Wife
Died	Died
Apr. 13, 1862	June 29, 1857
aged	aged
66 Yrs 7 Ms	61 Yrs 5 Ms

On 6 June 1866 the farm was sold, with one part going to a William Dunsmore, a second part going to Humphrey's son-in-law Francis Graffam, and a third part going to Humphrey's daughter Lovina White. The property continued to grow in value and benefit Humphrey's and Mehitable's descendants for sixty years.

⁹ A copy of the patent, of poor legibility, is in the Frost Collection, "White" folder, at the Portsmouth Athenaeum.

¹⁰ Humphrey White household, 1860 U.S. Census, Richfield Twp., Hennepin Co., Minn., p. 840, #1213/1131.

After their parents' deaths, Elvira remained in Minneapolis until after her husband's death, when she returned to Corinna. Her children remained in Minnesota. Lovina never married. She was active in real estate in Minneapolis until her later years when she returned to Corinna a wealthy woman and continued in the real estate business and ran a general store. She lived out her years with her widowed sister Elvira, and bequeathed \$25,000 to the Corinna Methodist Episcopal Church. Lucinda, Elias, and Lorenzo and all their children remained in Minnesota.

GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

HUMPHREY WHITE was born in West Ossipee, New Hampshire, in [calc.] September 1795, son of Timothy and Betsey (French) White.¹¹ He died at Richfield Township (now Minneapolis), Minnesota, aged 66 years, 7 months, and is buried in Oak Hill Cemetery. He married at Tamworth, New Hampshire, on 2 January 1820 MEHITABLE MOODY.¹² She was born in Ossipee in [calc.] January 1796, daughter of Samuel and Catherine (Quimby) Moody.¹³ She died at Richfield Township on 29 June 1857, aged 61 years, 5 months, and is buried with her husband in Oak Hill Cemetery in Richfield.

Children of Humphrey White and Mehitable Moody:¹⁴

- i ELIZABETH/BETSEY WHITE, b. Ossipee, N.H., 1 Sept. 1819, d. Corinna, 1 Nov. 1901, aged 88 years [*sic*], 2 months;¹⁵ m. (1) Corinna, 28 March 1838, PERKINS THOMPSON;¹⁶ m. (2) Skowhegan, Maine, 8 June 1884, EDWARD WALKER, and divorced 1 March 1895.¹⁷

¹¹ Frost, White typescript; birth date calculated from his age at death on his gravestone.

¹² New Hampshire Marriages, 1720–1920, database at familysearch.org.

¹³ Frost, White typescript; birth date calculated from her age at death on her gravestone. Her place of birth is from death records of two of her children, Elvira (White) Russell and Julia (White) Weeks.

¹⁴ Birth dates and birth places of first four recorded in Groves, *Rome VRs*, 43; last seven recorded in Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 72–73. In his White transcript, p. 8, Frost says that the children's dates of birth "are largely from Rome, Me. vital records," with the implication that their birthplaces are from the same records. While his birth dates for the last seven children are correct, he states incorrectly that they were all born in Bangor, Maine. A review of birth records in Michelle E Thomas, *Vital Records of Bangor, Maine, Vol. 1* (Rockport, Maine, 2002) shows no birth records for Whites having any given names of Humphrey's children.

¹⁵ Maine Vital Records, 1892–1922, Maine State Archives, Augusta, deaths 1901 (hereafter cited as Maine VRs). On the 1900 census, she gave her birth date as Sept. 1824, apparently in an attempt to shave a few years off her true age (Elizabeth Walker household, 1900 U.S. Census, Corinna, Penobscot Co., Maine, E.D. 93, sheet 11, #272/274).

¹⁶ Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 150.

¹⁷ Her 2nd marriage and divorce are from the Supreme Judicial Court of Somerset Co., Maine, 28(1895):21–22, microfilm reel no. 23, Maine State Archives. The marriage is not recorded in the Skowhegan vital records (see Sally Furber Nelson, comp., *Vital Records of Skowhegan, Maine (formerly Milburn and a part of Bloomfield)* [Rockland, Maine, 2010]). For information on the 11 children of Perkins & Betsey Thompson's son Aratus, see John E. D'Anieri, "Some Descendants

- ii MARY WHITE, b. Rome, 12 Nov. 1820, d. Rome, 17 Dec. 1820.¹⁸
- iii MEHITABLE WHITE, b. Rome, 12 Oct. 1822, d. Westerly, R.I., 20 Aug. 1904, aged 80 years;¹⁹ m. 10 Feb. 1852, JACOB HOLLAND.²⁰
- iv LUCINDA WHITE, b. 21 July 1824 at Rome, d. Minneapolis, Minn., 17 June 1905 aged 80 years, 11 months, 28 days, and bur. in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis;²¹ m. Dexter, Maine, 12 May 1856, FRANCIS GRAFFAM, both of Corinna,²² b. Maine, Dec. 1829,²³ apparently outlived his wife (her obituary notice). They were living in Minneapolis, Minn., on 11 June 1900.²⁴
- v ELIAS HUTCHINS WHITE, b. Corinna, 30 March 1826, living in Swan Lake, Meeker Co., Minn., in 1870,²⁵ but d. probably before 15 Aug. 1875 when his wife remarried; m. Minn., 22 April 1856, LUCINA GAY, daughter of Volney E. and Lura (Farrington) Gay of Dassel, Meeker Co., Minn.²⁶
- vi JULIA ANN WHITE, b. Corinna, 13 Sept. 1827, d. Corinna, 16 May 1901, aged 74 years,²⁷ and buried in Weeks Cemetery, Corinna;²⁸ m. Corinna, 7 Dec. 1851, LEVI WEEKS,²⁹ b. [calc.] 23 Jan. 1820, son of Samuel & Mehitable (Knight) Weeks of Parsonsfield, Maine, d. Corinna, 27 June 1914, aged 94 years, 5 months, 4 days.³⁰ They lived in Corinna, where Levi was a farmer.³¹
- vii LYDIA ELIZABETH WHITE, b. Corinna, 13 May 1829, d. probably in the period 1840–50 (census). She was not named in her father's 11 Nov. 1861 will.
- viii LORENZO DOW WHITE, b. Corinna, 11 May 1831, d. Kinnikinnick, St. Croix Co., Wisc., 24 Sept. 1900, aged 69 years,³² and bur. in Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis.

of Jabez Rose Bates," *The Maine Genealogist* 23(2001):111–12. Additional information on the Thompson family will be found in *The Paternal Ancestry of Mary Rae Thompson*, to be published.

¹⁸ Groves, *Rome VRs*, 43.

¹⁹ Rhode Island Deaths and Burials, 1802–1950, database at familysearch.org. The death record names her parents, Humphrey and Mehitable White.

²⁰ Frost, White transcript. Her death record gives her place of birth as Bingham, Maine.

²¹ City of Minneapolis Certificate of Death, copy in possession of author (from Frost Collection, "White" folder at Portsmouth Athenaeum, courtesy of Winifred Mitchell); *The Minneapolis Journal*, issue of 19 June 1905, p. 6: "Lucinda Graffam, wife of Francis Graffam, died Saturday at the age of 80 years. Funeral from the residence, 4912 Third avenue S, Tuesday, June 20."

²² Ruth Gray, ed., *Marriage Returns of Penobscot County, Maine, Prior to 1892*, 2 vols. (Camden, Maine, 1994), 1:205.

²³ Francis Graffam household, 1900 U.S. Census, Minneapolis Ward 13, Hennepin Co., Minn., E.D. 126, sheet 14, #252/278.

²⁴ 1900 Census, see note 23.

²⁵ Elias H. White household, 1870 U.S. Census, Swan Lake, Meeker Co., Minn., p. 1, #3/3.

²⁶ Frost, White typescript.

²⁷ Maine VRs, deaths 1901.

²⁸ Gravestone photo in author's possession, courtesy of Winifred Mitchell.

²⁹ Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 166.

³⁰ His parents' names and place of birth given on his death record, Maine VRs, deaths, 1914.

³¹ Levi Weeks households, 1860–80 U.S. Censuses, Corinna, Penobscot Co., Maine, p. 82, #625/626 (1860); p. 379, #64/65 (1870); E.D. 14, p. 549, #114/120 (1880).

³² Wisconsin Deaths and Burials, 1835–1968, database at familysearch.org. The death record names his parents, Humphrey and Mehitable White.

lis.; m. Minneapolis, 23 Feb. 1860, MARY E. WILLIAMSON, daughter of John and Jane (—) Williamson.³³

- ix LOVINA WHITE, b. Corinna, 10 April 1833, d. Corinna 30 Oct. 1925, and bur. in Weeks Cemetery, Corinna;³⁴ never married. She moved to Minn. with her parents and returned to Corinna in her later years. In 1920 she was living alone in Corinna, aged 86 years, single.³⁵
- x ELVIRA WHITE, b. Corinna, 19 April 1835, d. Corinna, 29 Oct. 1911, aged 75 years, 6 months, 9 days, and bur. in Weeks Cemetery;³⁶ m. (cert.) Corinna, 27 Aug. 1852, ALFRED RUSSELL of Minn.,³⁷ b. Maine, reportedly in Feb. 1811 [*sic*], d. Minneapolis, Minn., 15 Jan. 1901, aged 89 years.³⁸ Elvira returned to Corinna after husband's death.
- xi JOB WHITE, b. Corinna, 18 April 1837, d. probably before 1840 (not in census of Corinna nor in father's will).

John E. D'Anieri (15 Piper Road, Apt. K228, Scarborough ME 04074; <danierij@localnet.com>) is a retired engineer who has published articles in The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record, The Maine Genealogist, and The American Genealogist.

³³ Minnesota Marriages, 1849–1950, database at familysearch.org, which gives her name as Mary E. “Williams.” Her death record states she d. in Hennepin Co., Minn., on 10 June 1889, aged 49 years, b. England, and that her parents were John and Jane Williamson (Minnesota Deaths and Burials, 1835–1990, database at familysearch.org). Frost, White typescript, said that she was the daughter of John and Jane (—) Williamson of Richfield.

³⁴ Death is from Corinna Town Records, Deaths, 1892–1940, p. 31. Burial is from gravestone photo in author's possession, courtesy of Winifred Mitchell.

³⁵ Lovina White household, 1920 U.S. Census, Corinna, Penobscot Co., Maine, E.D. 88, sheet 2A, #39/40.

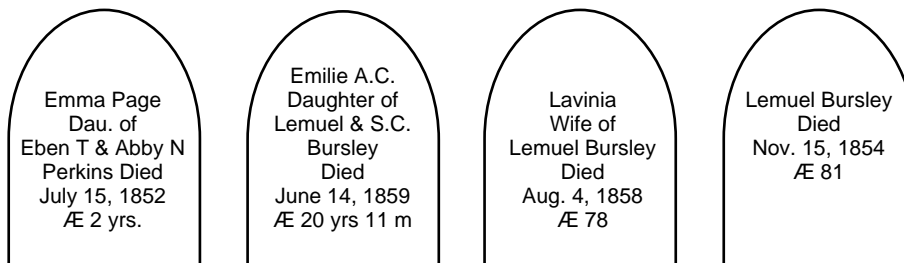
³⁶ Maine VRs, deaths 1911; gravestone photo in author's possession, courtesy of Winifred Mitchell.

³⁷ Foster, *Corinna VRs*, 168.

³⁸ Minnesota Deaths Records, 1866–1916, database at familysearch.org. Alfred's birth date was given as Feb. 1811 on the 1900 census, supporting his age given on the death record, but that same census gave Elvira's birth date as April 1821 (Alfred Russell household, 1900 U.S. Census, Minneapolis Ward 8, Hennepin Co., Minn., E.D. 83, p. 7B, #128/143). On earlier census enumerations, Alfred's age suggests a birth year in the early 1820s (aged 26 in Calvin A. Tutill household, 1850 U.S. Census, St. Anthony, Ramsey Co., Minn., p. 60, #318/318; aged 38 in Alfred Russell household, 1860 U.S. Census, Richfield, Hennepin Co., Minn., p. 845, #1255/1170; and aged 56 in Alfred Russell household, 1880 U.S. Census, Maple Grove Twp., Hennepin Co., Minn., E.D. 212, p. 54C, #94/97).

EMMA PAGE PERKINS AND ABBY N. PERKINS OF MAINE

By J. Clarke Bursley



Four gravestones in Blake Cemetery, Farmington Falls, Maine, are positioned side by side as shown above. Lemuel and Lavinia Bursley, represented by the two stones on the right, were husband and wife and the author's third great grandparents. Emilie A. C. Bursley, represented by the second stone from the left, was Lemuel and Lavinia's granddaughter, daughter of Lemuel and Lavinia's son Lemuel Bursley Jr. who married Sophronia Caroline Haskell.¹ The identity of Emma Page Perkins, represented by the stone on the left, and her relationship to Lemuel and Lavinia were not as straightforward to determine.

Emma Page Perkins was the daughter of Ebenezer Perkins Esq. who married at Edgecomb, Maine, on 11 October 1849 Mrs. Abby Lothrop.² In the 1850 census of Edgecomb, Ebenezer Perkins, aged 58 years, farmer, and Abby, aged 37 years, were enumerated with Augustus Lothrop, aged 11.³ Augustus was evidently a son of Abby by a first Lothrop husband. Emma was probably born shortly after this census enumeration was made, though a birth record has not been found.

A few years earlier, on 5 September 1846, Mrs. Abby Lothrop had filed intentions in Farmington to marry Mr. John V. Turner, both of Farmington. The published Farmington vital records, however, include a notation that the date of the marriage is "erased."⁴ It would therefore appear the marriage never took place. This

¹ "In Phillips, on Sunday last, Mr. Lemuel Bursley [*sic*], Jr. to Miss Sophronia Haskell," marriage notice, *Sandy River Yeoman*, Wednesday, 26 Sept. 1832. Sophronia Caroline (Haskell) Bursley is recorded variously as "S. Caroline," "Sophronia C.," and "S. Carolyn" in census enumerations (Lemuel Bursley households, 1850–1870 U.S. Censuses, Farmington, Franklin Co., Maine, p. 173, #29/33 [1850, "Jr.,"], p. 621, #263/273 [1860], p. 38, #93/104 [1870]; William C. Bursley household, 1880 U.S. Census, Farmington, Franklin Co., Maine, E.D. 70, p. 409B, #239/249).

² Christine Huston Dodge, "Vital Records of Edgecomb and Newcastle in the County of Lincoln, Maine, to the Year 1892," typescript, 4 vols. (1979), vol. 4 Marriages, unpaginated [Family History Library (FHL), Salt Lake City, film #2,056,056] (hereafter cited as Dodge, "VRs of Edgecomb and Newcastle"); the marriage intentions in Edgecomb are dated 29 Nov. 1849 [*sic*] per Edgecomb VRs, 2:24.

³ Ebenezer Perkins household, 1850 U.S. Census, Edgecomb, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 414, #2/2.

⁴ Nancy J. Porter, comp., *Town of Farmington Early Vital Records* (Wilton, Maine, 1994), 114 (hereafter cited as *Farmington VRs*).

conclusion is further supported by the fact that Abby was still named Mrs. Abby Lothrop when she filed intentions to marry Ebenezer Perkins in 1849.

Backtracking the Farmington records further, a marriage for Alson Lothrop and Abby Bursley, both of Farmington, was found dated 21 January 1833.⁵ Four children for them, including a son Alson Augustus Lothrop, were recorded in the Farmington birth records, born in the period 1834–1840.⁶ Alson Augustus Lothrop, born 5 September 1838, is obviously the 11-year-old boy living with Ebenezer and Abby Perkins at the time of the 1850 census.

No death record has been found for Abby's husband Alson Lothrop. He may have died before September 1846 when Abby filed intentions to marry John V. Turner or he may be the Alson Lothrop Jr. who filed intentions at Jay, Maine, to marry Orissa Lothrop of Leeds on 12 June 1842.⁷ Alson and Orissa lived in Jay and had eight children born between 1843 and 1860.

Ebenezer and Abby Perkins' daughter, Emma Page Perkins, was likely named for Emma L. Page, a little girl who died on 9 February 1845, aged 2 years, 1 month, 18 days, daughter of Rev. Ezekiel G. and Mary G. Page.⁸ Like Abby, Mary G. Page's maiden name was Bursley, as shown on her Farmington marriage record to Ezekiel G. Page, dated 26 March 1837.⁹ Ezekiel and Mary Page were living in Edgecomb in 1850,¹⁰ the same town where Ebenezer and Abby Perkins were living that same year and probably the place where Emma Page Perkins was born shortly after the census was taken. It is more than coincidence that Ezekiel Page was the minister who married Ebenezer and Abby. In the 1850 Edgecomb census enumeration, Mary was aged 40 and Abby was aged 37, of age to be sisters.

Ebenezer Perkins died in Edgecomb on 30 August 1854.¹¹ Abby married third at Farmington on 23 August 1857 Gideon B. Dyer of New Sharon, Maine.¹² Gideon died in 1873 and Abby died two years later in 1875.¹³

The grouping of the gravestones in Blake Cemetery—suggesting a small family plot—and the sum of the evidence presented above make a strong circumstantial case that Abby N. (Bursley) (Lothrop) (Perkins) Dyer, named as Emma's mother on

⁵ *Farmington VRs*, 83.

⁶ *Farmington VRs*, 14.

⁷ Virginia Plaisted Moulton, *A History of Jay, Maine, from Its Settlement as Phips Canada* (n.p., 1995), 74.

⁸ *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Kennebec County*, Maine Old Cemetery Association Special Publication No. 2, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 1999), 1818. Emma was buried in Litchfield Plains Cemetery, Litchfield, Maine.

⁹ *Farmington VRs*, 94.

¹⁰ Ezekiel G. Page household, 1850 U.S. Census, Edgecomb, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 418, #69/73.

¹¹ *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Lincoln County*, Maine Old Cemetery Association Special Publication No. 3, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 2006), 443 (hereafter cited as *Lincoln Co. Inscriptions*).

¹² *Farmington VRs*, 59.

¹³ See family summary below.

the gravestone, was an unrecorded daughter of Lemuel and Lavinia Bursley. This conclusion is confirmed by an obituary notice for Abby's brother, Lemuel Bursley Jr., published in the *Farmington Chronicle* on Thursday, 19 August 1875. That notice specifically names Abby Dyer and Mary Page as his sisters. Lemuel and Lavinia Bursley were therefore buried with two of their granddaughters.

FAMILY SUMMARY

ABBY N. BURSLEY was born about 1813, probably at Farmington, Maine, a daughter of Lemuel and Lavinia (Spencer) Bursley.¹⁴ She died, reportedly at Farmington Falls, probably shortly after 2 February 1875, when she was granted one-fourth of her third husband's estate by the Franklin County probate court.¹⁵

She married first at Farmington on 21 January 1833 ALSON LOTHROP.¹⁶ Very little is known about him. It has not been determined whether he died after their fourth child was born or whether he is the same Alson Lothrop who married Orissa Lothrop in 1842 and afterwards lived in Jay.

Abby married second at Edgecomb on 11 Oct. 1849 EBENEZER PERKINS Esq., the marriage solemnized by Abby's brother-in-law, Rev. Ezekiel G. Page.¹⁷ Ebenezer was born in Newcastle, Maine, on 2 December 1791, a son of Ebenezer and Mercy (Crooker) Perkins.¹⁸ He died on 30 August 1854, aged 63 years, and is buried with his parents and first wife in Ring's Point Cemetery, Edgecomb.¹⁹ He had married first in Newcastle on 30 December 1819 Sarah Burnham, who died on 4 February 1849, aged 47 years.²⁰ With wife Mercy, Ebenezer had at least three children who were named in his will. In his will dated 4 March 1853 and probated 2 Oct. 1854, Ebenezer Perkins of Edgecomb named his son Charles T. Perkins, his son Alvan Perkins, and his daughter Elizabeth B. Dodge, to all of whom he left \$1.

¹⁴ Abby was aged 37 in 1850 and 47 in 1860 (Ebenezer Perkins household, 1850 U.S. Census, Edgecomb, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 414, #2/2; Gideon B. Dyer household, 1860 U.S. Census, New Sharon, Franklin Co., Maine, p. 705, #326/340. Lemuel and Lavinia m. (int.) Provincetown, Mass., 4 Feb. 1797 ("Provincetown MA Records, 1698–1859," online database at AmericanAncestors.org). Abby's father, Lemuel Bursley, was enumerated in Farmington in both 1810 and 1820 (Lemuel "Bussley" household, 1810 U.S. Census, Farmington, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 820; Lemuel "Busley" household, 1820 U.S. Census, Farmington, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 422).

¹⁵ Estate of Gideon B. Dyer, Franklin Co. Probate, #2043. An obituary notice for Abby's brother, Lemuel Bursley Jr., published in the *Farmington Chronicle* on Thursday, 19 Aug. 1875, states that "Abby died at Farmington Falls in 1874, following shortly after the death of her husband, Mr. Barlow Dyer, long one of the most respected citizens of New Sharon, but who had, in the years of declining age, retired to Farmington Falls." While the year is wrong, this would place Abby's death between 2 Feb. and 19 Aug. 1875, probably closer to the former date.

¹⁶ *Farmington VRs*, 83.

¹⁷ Dodge, "VRs of Edgecomb and Newcastle," vol. 4 Marriages, unpaginated.

¹⁸ Dodge, "VRs of Edgecomb and Newcastle," 3:650.

¹⁹ *Lincoln Co. Inscriptions*, 443.

²⁰ *Lincoln Co. Inscriptions*, 443.

To his wife Abby N. Perkins, he left the homestead farm in Edgecomb, about 46 acres of land in Newcastle, and all the residue of his estate.²¹ The inventory, taken 3 Oct. 1854, valued the real estate at \$2,520 and the personal estate at \$991.38.²²

As Mrs. Abby N. Perkins, she married third at Farmington on 23 August 1857 GIDEON BARLOW DYER of New Sharon, Maine.²³ He was born in Truro, Massachusetts, on 17 June 1791, son of James and Mercy (Small) Dyer.²⁴ He died in Farmington on 28 October 1873, aged 82 years, and is buried with his first wife and three daughters from his first marriage in the Village Cemetery, New Sharon.²⁵ Two of Gideon's sons, Samuel and Zaccheus, are also buried in the New Sharon Village Cemetery. He had married first in New Sharon on 7 July 1818 Mahala Sleeper of Loudon, N.H., who died on 16 March 1857, aged 59 years, 6 months, and with whom he had six children.²⁶ On 10 January 1874, Gideon's son Zaccheus A. Dyer of New Sharon was appointed administrator of his father's estate. The inventory, valued at \$599.02, included no real estate.²⁷

Children of Alson and Abby N. (Bursley) Lothrop, b. Farmington:²⁸

- i DANIEL JOHNSON LOTHROP, b. 13 June 1834. No further record found.
- ii ANN CAROLINE LOTHROP, b. 2 Jan. 1836. No further record found.
- iii ALSON AUGUSTUS LOTHROP, b. 5 Sept. 1838, d. Tilton, N.H., 4 Jan. 1903, aged 64 years, 3 months, 29 days,²⁹ and bur. in the Civil War veterans section of Park Cemetery in Tilton; m. Dorchester, Mass., 12 Aug. 1862, CAROLINE/CARRIE LOVEJOY,³⁰ b. Salem, Mass., reportedly 22 Feb. 1842,³¹ daughter of Joseph and

²¹ Lincoln Co. Probate, 92:280–83.

²² Lincoln Co. Probate, 92:146–49.

²³ *Farmington VRs*, 59.

²⁴ George Ernest Bowman, ed., *Vital Records of the Town of Truro, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Boston, 1933), 151.

²⁵ Estate of Gideon B. Dyer, Franklin Co. Probate, #2043; *Maine Cemetery Inscriptions: Franklin County*, Maine Old Cemetery Association Special Publication No. 15, Picton Press CD-Rom (Rockport, Maine, 2006), image 739 (hereafter cited as *Franklin Co. Inscriptions*).

²⁶ *Biographical Review: Containing Biographical Sketches of Leading Citizens of Franklin and Oxford Counties, Maine* (Boston, 1897), 49 [marriage]; New Sharon town records (FHL film #11,578, unpaginated) [marriage intentions on 22 June 1818]; *Franklin Co. Inscriptions*, 739 [death]. The births of the children—Zaccheus Atkins Dyer, Barlow Dyer, Abigail S. Dyer, Mahala Sleeper Dyer, Hannah Atkins Dyer, and Samuel Sleeper Dyer, b. between 1819 and 1835—are recorded in the New Sharon town records, pp. 8, 14, 17, and 35.

²⁷ Estate of Gideon B. Dyer, Franklin Co. Probate, #2043.

²⁸ Their births recorded in *Farmington VRs*, 14.

²⁹ Death record included in his Civil War pension file (see note 38).

³⁰ “Massachusetts Vital Records, 1841–1910” (from original records held by the Mass. Archives), online database, AmericanAncestors.org, Marriages, 1862, 154:234 (hereafter cited as Mass. VRs, 1841–1910).

³¹ In her Civil War widow's pension file (see note 38), Carrie reported her birth date as 22 Feb. 1842. However, her age was given as 9 at the time of the 1850 census on 15 Aug. 1850, 19 at the time of the 1860 census on 24 Aug. 1860, and 28 at the time of the 1870 census on 18 June 1870 (Joseph Lovejoy household, 1850 U.S. Census, Roxbury, Norfolk Co., Mass., p. 49, #608/861;

Nancy (Lang) Lovejoy,³² d. Dorchester, Mass., 18 Feb. 1922,³³ and bur. in Forest Hills Cemetery, Boston, Mass. As Augustus Lothrop, aged 11, he was living with his mother and stepfather, Ebenezer Perkins, in Edgecomb in 1850.³⁴ In 1860 “Augustus Lothrop,” aged 21, nail maker, was living in Dorchester, Mass., in the household of his future bride and in-laws.³⁵ On his son’s birth record in 1863, Alson was described as a “Mass. volunteer,” indicating he was then serving as Civil War soldier. By 1870, “Alson A. Lothrop,” aged 30, “works in curtain factory,” resided in Boston’s 16th Ward, living with Carrie, aged 28, their son George A., aged 6, and his parents-in-law, Joseph and Nancy Lovejoy.³⁶ In 1900 he was living in the N.H. Soldiers Home in Tilton, N.H.³⁷ Alson A. Lothrop, who served in Co. H of the 39th Mass. Infantry, applied for an invalid Civil War pension from N.H. on 15 Jan. 1892; his widow applied for a widow’s pension from Mass. on 14 Jan. 1903.³⁸ In 1920 Carrie was living in the household of her granddaughter, Gladys (Lothrop) Savage in Boston.³⁹

Child: 1. *George Alson Lothrop*, b. Dorchester, Mass., 18 June 1863,⁴⁰ m. Boston, Mass., 1 Jan. 1884, Susan F. Rhodes/Rhoades, b. ca. 1866, daughter of Charles W. C. and Susan Frances (Waldmeyer) Rhodes/Rhoades.⁴¹

iv GEORGIANNA LOTHROP, b. 5 Dec. 1840. No further record found.

Child of Ebenezer and Abby N. (Bursley) (Lothrop) Perkins:

v EMMA PAGE PERKINS, b. ca. 1850, d. 15 July 1852, aged 2 years, and buried in Blake Cemetery, Farmington.

The author thanks Nancy Porter of the Farmington Historical Society and Pepper Ouellette of the Farmington Public Library for their assistance with this research.

J. Clarke Bursley is an amateur family historian living in the Washington, D.C., area who began researching his Maine roots about three years ago.

Joseph Lovejoy household, 1860 U.S. Census, Dorchester, Norfolk Co., Mass., p. 430, #3058/3351; Alson A. Lothrop household, 1870 U.S. Census, Boston 16th Ward, p. 476A, #454/577). On her marriage record on 12 Aug. 1862, she gave her age as 23. Her birth is not recorded in Salem records.

³² Her parents named on her marriage record.

³³ Affidavit in her Civil War widow’s pension file (see note 38).

³⁴ Ebenezer Perkins household, 1850 U.S. Census, Edgecomb, Lincoln Co., Maine, p. 414, #2/2.

³⁵ Joseph Lovejoy household, 1860 U.S. Census, Dorchester, Norfolk Co., Mass., p. 430, #3058/3351.

³⁶ Alson A. Lothrop household, 1870 U.S. Census, Boston 16th Ward, p. 476A, #454/577.

³⁷ 1900 U.S. Census, Tilton, Belknap Co., N.H., E.D. 12, p. 15B.

³⁸ Civil War pension application, #1084589, certificate # 994009 [soldier]; application #776558, certificate #563093 [widow].

³⁹ Albert H. Savage household, 1920 U.S. Census, Boston Ward 21, Suffolk Co., Mass., E.D. 512, p. 13B, #194/292.

⁴⁰ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, Births, 1863, 160:206.

⁴¹ Mass. VRs, 1841–1910, Marriages, 1884, 354:2.

FAMILY RECORDS OF PALMYRA, SOMERSET COUNTY,
MAINE

Transcribed by Sally Furber Nelson

(Continued from page 144)

[unnumbered 109th page]

The following is a list of the deaths returned by the Assessors to this office
May 2d 1865

Amos Baker, Nov 18/64
Henry H. Mitchell, May 19/64
John L. Davis, March 10/65
Jennett A. Hall, Sept 16/64
Frank W. Goodridge, Sept 7/64
Henry A. Goodridge, Sept 26/64
Lucinda Pratt, July 3/64
Abba A. Clark, May 12/64

[unnumbered 110th page]

Return of a Birth

Date of Birth: 1865 Apr 19
Place of Birth: Palmyra
Name of Child: Ellsworth Shaw
Sex: Male
Name of Father: Benja Shaw
Color of Father: White
Occupation of Father: Farmer
Residence of Father: Palmyra
Birth Place of Father: Woolwich, Me
Name of Mother: Louisa N. Shaw
Color of Mother: White
Occupation of Mother: Maid of all work
Birth Place of Mother: Hope, Me.

I do hereby certify that the above return of Birth is correct according to my best knowledge and belief. Signature Benja A. Shaw.
Dated Palmyra, e 25th day of Jan 1865

[unnumbered 111th page]

Births of Children of Danl Prescott and
Margaret M. Prescott
Margaret M. Prescott born May 1st 1849
Joel G. Prescott born July 6th 1851
Herbert D. Prescott born May 22d 1857
William G. Prescott born Dec 13th 1858

Elmer E. Pooler born March 30th 1872, son
of Daniel and Octavia Pooler

Buel D. French born Jan 8th 1877, son of
Edwin & Helen M. French

[unnumbered 112th page]

Children born of Elizabeth G. wife of William Lord in Lebanon, Maine
Rodney J. Lord born July 31st 1865
William E. Lord born March 3d 1857
Martha A. Lord born June 21st 1859
Mary F. Lord born October 5th 1861
Horace M. Lord born March 27th 1863

[unnumbered 113th page]

Lucinda Pratt the wife of James Pratt of Palmyra aforesaid died of Consumption at Palmyra on 24th day of July 1864

[unnumbered 114th page]

Mary Fairbrothe [*sic*] the wife of William Fairbrothe of Palmyra aforesaid died at Palmyra the 13th day of March 1869

Children born of Maroa M. Ridley wife of Jason P. Ridley
George P. Ridley born Sept 8th 1856

[unnumbered 115th page]

Return of births & deaths family of James W. Pratt & Sarah S. Pratt
Christina M. Pratt born in Palmyra July 3d 1868

James N. Pratt died in in[*sic*] Palmyra of consumption December 5th 1871

[unnumbered 116th page]

Births of children of Gillman M. Burleigh & Clara F. Burleigh
Ethel G. Burleigh born in Palmyra April 1st 1881

Births of children of Gustavus J. Mills and
Cora R Mills
Willis C. Mills born Oct 1st 1869
Charles F. Mills born Jan 29, 1871
Etta May Mills born April 19, 1872

[unnumbered 117th page]

Samuel Whitman died Jan 26th 1883

Hiram Sally died in Palmyra May 7, 1877,
aged 45 years

Helen M. Rix wife of Albert S. Rix died
Apr 28th 1884

[unnumbered 118th page]

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[unnumbered 119th page]

Died Feb 7th AD 1865 Joseph B. Palmer,
single man, white, 21 years of age; soldier
Place of death Palmyra
Place of birth Palmyra
Name of father Arnold Palmer
born in Linconville
Name of mother Mary A. Palmer
born in England
Disease or cause of death chronic diarhea
[Signed] Arnold Palmer

[unnumbered 120th page]

Return of a Death

Date of Death: Thursday, May 1st 1864
Full Name of Deceased: Avadana S. Long-
ley
Sex: Female
Color: White
Condition, Single or Married: Single
Age: 22 years, 10 months, 6 days
Occupation: Housekeeper
Place of Death: Palmyra Me
Place of Birth: Palmyra Me
Name of Father: Ithamar Longley
Birthplace of Father: Norridgewock Me
Name of Mother: Louisa Longley
Birthplace of Mother: Palmyra
Disease or cause of death: Consumption.

I do hereby certify that the above return of
the death of the person herein named is
correct according to my best knowledge
and belief – Signature, Jonathan Davis,
Sexton – Dated at Palmyra the 28th day of
Aug 1865

[unnumbered 121st page]

Return of a Death

Date of Death: Wednesday, Feb 22, 1865
Full name of Deceased: Diantha Jane Mil-
ler
Sex: Female
Color: White
Condition, single or married: Single
Age: Sixteen, Eleven months, 11 days
Occupation: Housekeeper
Place of Death: Palmyra Me
Place of Birth: Palmyra Me
Name of Father: Benj Miller
Birthplace of Father: Lincolnville
Name of Mother: Jane Miller
Birthplace of Mother: Albion Me
Disease or cause of death: Typhoid Fever

I do hereby certify that the above return of
the death of the person herein named is
correct according to my best knowledge
and belief . Signature, Jonathan Davis,
Sexton. Dated at Palmyra the 4 day of
March 1864

[unnumbered 122nd page]

Return of Death

Date of Death: November 10, 1864
Full Name of Deceased: Ithamar Berry
Sex: Male
Color: White
Condition, Single or Married: Married
Age: 61
Occupation: Farmer
Place of Death: Palmyra
Place of Birth: New Hampshire
Name of Father: [blank]
Birthplace of Father: [blank]
Name of Mother: [blank]
Birthplace of Mother: [blank]
Disease or cause of death: Typhoid Fever

I do hereby certify that the above return of the death of the person herein named is correct according to my best knowledge and belief. Jonathan Davis, Dated at Palmyra this 20 day of March 1864

[unnumbered 123rd page]

Return of Death

Date of Death: May 3, 1864
 Full name of Deceased: Mary Jane Morrison
 Sex: Female
 Color: White
 Condition, Single or Married: Single
 Age: 26 days
 Occupation: [blank]
 Place of Birth: Palmyra, Me

Place of Death: Palmyra, Me
 Name of Father: William B. Morrison
 Birthplace of Father: Athens, Me
 Name of Mother: Eunice A. Morrison
 Birthplace of Mother: Abbot, Maine
 Disease or cause of death: Supposed to be caused by a sudden cold

I do hereby certify that the above return of the death of the person herein named is correct according to my best knowledge and belief. Jonathan Davis, Sexton, Dated at Palmyra the 5 day of Sept 1865

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Zebulon Manter died May 26th 1866 aged
 77

[Concluded]

Sally Furber Nelson, 70 Habersham Drive, Flagler Beach, FL 32136.

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