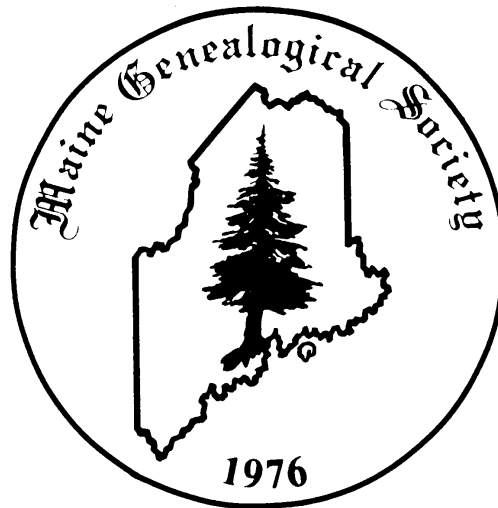


# The Maine Genealogist



November 2019  
Volume 41, Number 4

# The Maine Genealogical Society

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# The Maine Genealogist

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## EDITOR'S PAGE

As we explore our family history, we all seek to trace our ancestry back to the immigrant ancestor—the first in the line to step on American shores. That search may lead us all the way back into Colonial times or perhaps back to the passenger ship that carried our ancestor here in the nineteenth or twentieth centuries. Once the immigrant ancestor is found, however, often the next goal is to try to identify the town or parish where the family originated in the “old country” and to take the line back even more generations.

For those of us who trace our family back to the seventeenth century in America, our search for immigrant origins has been greatly aided in recent years by the ever-increasing number of digitized European records now available online and by sophisticated modern scholarship published in the national genealogical journals and in undertakings such as the Great Migration Study Project of The New England Historic Genealogical Society. Despite these advances, there are still many New England settlers whose origins remain undiscovered.

From time to time in this journal, we have published articles that delve into the European ancestry of settlers to Maine. In this issue, we have two such articles, one by Patricia Law Hatcher, who explores the origin of her ancestor Thomas Sleeper, and another by Michael Leclerc, who traces the English family of Nathan Bedford, who first appeared in Scarborough, Maine, in 1660.

For the uninitiated, searching for an ancestor in another country can be a formidable challenge, as in most cases the laws, customs, and types of records available are different from what we find in America. As Pat Hatcher points out in her article, English settlers to America came from a society where the concept of land ownership was unfamiliar to the common man. Deeds, an indispensable source of family information for American genealogy, are practically nonexistent in English research. Instead, we need to gain familiarity with English parish, manorial, chancery, and testamentary records, and where to find them, as well as learn to decipher the old English script—all essential tools for success, but difficult skills to acquire.

Pat Hatcher, a Contributing Editor of this journal, has published numerous articles over the years identifying the English origin of Colonial American settlers. In her search for the origin of Thomas Sleeper, she takes the reader through the steps that she followed: 1. a survey of the records in the locations where Thomas settled in America, looking for clues and establishing a chronology; 2. an analysis of the frequency of the surname in English records and in what geographic areas the name was concentrated; and 3. in-depth research in the records for those places of interest. While in this example she did not find Thomas Sleeper's origin, she very well *could have* found it, as this process has proved successful for her in other instances. In the case of Thomas Sleeper, it is likely he originated in a parish whose surviving records do not extend back to the time when he would have been baptized. Despite not finding the information she was seeking, we can all benefit from her approach as we explore our own lines.

—Joseph C. Anderson II, Editor

## SEARCHING FOR THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW ENGLAND SLEEPER FAMILY

With an Examination of the Early Settlers of Hampton, New Hampshire

By Patricia Law Hatcher, FASG, FGSP

In 2017 I published an article in this journal tracing my Sleeper ancestry from Ohio to Lincoln and Kennebec counties, Maine, and connecting the line to Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sleeper of Hampton, New Hampshire.<sup>1</sup> A question left for future research was, from where did Thomas emigrate? I used a systematic approach to investigate this question.

*Step 1.* Survey New England records for clues and to establish a chronology for Thomas.

*Step 2.* Survey English records (Thomas was almost certainly English) in the appropriate time period to determine frequency and locality for surname distribution.

*Step 3.* If the survey has any promising results, dig deeper.

### STEP 1: NEW ENGLAND

Identifying Thomas Sleeper's arrival in New England has been confusing because of several misstatements and conflicts. It is commonly said that Thomas Sleeper was in Boston by 1645, which, I am embarrassed to say, I repeated in my article without citation. This is incorrect—a misunderstanding. The 1645 deed below was recorded in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, deeds, but the lot was in Hampton, New Hampshire.

Hampton was settled in the summer of 1639.<sup>2</sup> The first land grants were in 1640. Dow's *History of Hampton* gives an alphabetized list with modern spellings of those receiving grants "in June, 1640," including Thomas Sleeper.<sup>3</sup> Noyes, Libby, and Davis in the *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* say that Dow inserted the names of Sleeper and others and give the 1645 deed below as his earliest record.<sup>4</sup> Both are incorrect. Anderson in *The Great Migration Directory* correctly states that Sleeper arrived by 1640, citing Hampton Town Records, page 48.<sup>5</sup> See "Addendum: Early Settlers of Hampton, New Hampshire," below, for a complete and correct list of those granted land 30 June 1640.

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<sup>1</sup> Patricia Law Hatcher, "Sleepers in Lincoln and Kennebec Counties, Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 39(2017):147–56.

<sup>2</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, "Focus on Hampton," *Great Migration Newsletter* 4(1993):115–17.

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Dow, *History of the Town of Hampton, New Hampshire* (Salem, Mass., 1893), 18–19. Oddly, in the genealogy section on p. 975, Dow says, incorrectly, that land was granted to Sleeper "as early as 1646," although he also says he "was of Hampton soon after the settlement of the town."

<sup>4</sup> Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby; and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Maine, 1928–39), 55, 638.

<sup>5</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Directory* (Boston, 2015), 307.

Thomas was granted his land in Hampton in September 1640 (see below).

23 7m [Sept.] 1640, recorded “To Tho: Sleeper [*page torn horizontally*: is granted . . .] halfe of the lott (lying betweene Broth<sup>r</sup> Wakefeild and that that — Dow was to have had) w<sup>ch</sup> is next adjoining to Bro Wakefield’s lott. gr[anted].<sup>6</sup>

15 5m [July] 1645: “Christopher Lawson of Boston granted unto Thomas Sleeper of Hampton a house lot containing fyve acres of land being bounded w<sup>th</sup> Thomas Lovet North, Goodman Marion South, & the Common west, as also three Acres of Meddow; And all the priviledges thereunto belong[ing]. . . . Acknowledged [the same day] before m<sup>r</sup> John Winthrop dept Gover.”<sup>7</sup>

3 8m [Oct.] 1649, Hampton: Henry Dow of Hampton deeded land adjoining William Ma[r]ston Sr. and John Wedgwood to Thomas Nud his “son in law” [stepson], reserving one acre to “Thomas Sleper so long as he lives upon it.”<sup>8</sup>

3 9m [Nov.] 1669, Hampton: “Tho: Sleeper of Hampton, weaver, was at or about the beginning of Hampton seized of 5 acres of Salt marsh by Birche lland, . . . 3 acres of fresh meadow, and 10 acres of upland, . . . sold to Tho: Chase, sometimes of Hampton, seaman, above 20 years ago.”<sup>9</sup>

There are good records to help establish individual chronology.

Thomas Sleeper was “aged above 80 years” when he d. 30 July 1696 in Hampton, N.H.,<sup>10</sup> hence born by about 1616.

Feb. 1682/3. Thomas deposed he was about 75,<sup>11</sup> hence born about 1605–1610 (deposition ages were commonly rounded).

10 2m [April] 1656, Essex Co., Mass. “Joanna Sleeper aged 33 years or thereabouts,” hence born about 1623, deposed in the witchcraft trial of Eunice Cole of Hampton.<sup>12</sup>

Widow Sleeper, aged about 80, “died the 5<sup>th</sup> of February 1702/3 att Kingstown but Bured att Hampto<sup>n</sup>,”<sup>13</sup> hence born about 1622 or 1623.

The earliest birth records for children of Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sleeper are found in the Old Norfolk County court records. Hampton town records repeat the births of Naomi, Aron, and Luther, plus Luther’s death.<sup>14</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:41–45 (30 June grants), 48 (Sleeper grant) [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #5510722, image 31].

<sup>7</sup> *Suffolk Deeds. Liber I* (Boston, 1880), unpaginated, p. 61 of original. Thomas Leavitt and John Marion were of Hampton.

<sup>8</sup> “Old Norfolk Records,” *The Essex Antiquarian* 1(1897):21.

<sup>9</sup> “Old Norfolk Records,” *The Essex Antiquarian* 7(1903):136.

<sup>10</sup> George Freeman Sanborn Jr. and Melinde Lutz Sanborn, *Vital Records of Hampton, New Hampshire, to the End of the Year 1900*, 2 vols. (Boston, 1992), 1:118.

<sup>11</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 638.

<sup>12</sup> Suffolk Co., Mass., Court Files 2:256a [DGS #8131509, image 231]. See also David D. Hall, *Witch-Hunting in Seventeenth-Century New England* (Boston, 1991). Depositions were taken by Essex Co. officials in April and sent to Boston for the September trial.

<sup>13</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:120.

<sup>14</sup> Vital records from the Old Norfolk County court records were first published in early volumes of *The Essex Antiquarian*, but a verbatim transcription of these same records applying to Hampton are found at the back of Vol. 1 of *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:543–64.

Hampton Births

Ralf [*sic*] y<sup>e</sup> sonne of Tho: Sleeper & Jemina [*sic*] his wyfe was borne y<sup>e</sup> (1<sup>st</sup>) of y<sup>e</sup> (4<sup>th</sup>) M<sup>o</sup>: 1650<sup>15</sup>

Jn<sup>o</sup>: y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of Tho: & Jemina his wyfe was borne y<sup>e</sup> (10<sup>th</sup>) of y<sup>e</sup> (7<sup>th</sup>) M<sup>o</sup> 1652<sup>16</sup>

Naomy the daughter of Tho: Sleeper & Joannah his wyfe was borne the (15) of y<sup>e</sup> 2<sup>d</sup> M<sup>o</sup> 1655<sup>17</sup>

Aron y<sup>e</sup> Sonne of Thomas Sleeper & Joanna his wyfe was borne the 20<sup>th</sup> day of y<sup>e</sup> 12<sup>th</sup> M<sup>o</sup>: 1660<sup>18</sup>

Luther y<sup>e</sup> daughter of Tho: Sleeper & Joanna his wife was born y<sup>e</sup> 14: 9 m<sup>o</sup> 1668<sup>19</sup>

Hampton Deaths

Luther Sleper died y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup>: 3<sup>d</sup> m<sup>o</sup>-1670<sup>20</sup>

Haverhill Births

Moses, son of Thomas Sleper, 13: 1: 165[7/]8<sup>21</sup>

There were two earlier daughters: Mary, born say 1646 (married in 1666/7), and Elizabeth, born say 1648 (married in 1668) surely in Hampton.<sup>22</sup> As can be seen, Thomas and Joanna gave their children biblical names, which are unlikely to be helpful in pointing to his parents.

The records show that Thomas was born between about 1605 and 1616 in England and Joanna was born between about 1622 and 1623 in England. Thomas and Joanna married by say 1645 in New England, likely in Hampton (Thomas's residence).

The records do not reveal close connections to other early settlers. Dow says "His was then a frontier house, no other family living so remote in that direction from the main settlement."<sup>23</sup> He never held a town office, although on 4 12th month [February] 1663 the town "ordered thatt two of the Inhabitans of the towne shall [sit in] the Gallery to keepe the youth in order in time of puplick [*missing*] thatt they keepe their plases and sitt orderly and Inofensively." Thomas Sleeper was assigned for the first Sabbath, the duty to rotate among all the men of the town, while the "Constable is to take care to see that the youth bee all brought into the meeting

<sup>15</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:545. The name *Ralf* or *Ralph* never appears again in the family. Ruth Sleeper, a daughter of Thomas and Joanna, deposed at age 21 or 22 in Dec. 1671 that she had lived at Moses Gilman's, but went back to her father's house in Hampton (*Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.*, 638 [note 4]), her age calculating to a birth about 1650. She was aged "about 76" at her death on 14 Jan. 1725/6 (*Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:77, 206), also suggesting a birth about 1650. Likewise, there is no other indication that Thomas had a first wife, Jemina, with a typical two-and-a-half year span between the birth of John and the next child, for whom the mother was given as Joannah.

<sup>16</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:545.

<sup>17</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:89 (Hampton record), 546 (Old Norfolk record).

<sup>18</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:93 (Hampton record), 549 (Old Norfolk record).

<sup>19</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:100 (Hampton record), 561 (Old Norfolk record).

<sup>20</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:115 (Hampton record), 559 (Old Norfolk record).

<sup>21</sup> "Old Norfolk Records: Haverhill Births," *The Essex Antiquarian* 4(1900):142.

<sup>22</sup> "Old Norfolk Records: Hampton Marriages," *The Essex Antiquarian* 5(1901):133, 134; *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:75, 556.

<sup>23</sup> *History of Hampton, N.H.* [note 3], 976.

house to prevent their playing abroad in time [*missing*] the Exersise or profaning the Sabath” (some things never change!).<sup>24</sup>

There were seventy-six individuals identified with Hampton by 1640.<sup>25</sup> All but eleven of them had been in New England earlier than 1640, with 1639 being the first year of record for twenty-three. *The Great Migration Directory* identifies English origins for thirty-four residents of Hampton,<sup>26</sup> which might prove useful in comparison to results in England.

#### STEP 2: ENGLAND

There is one initially promising set of English records for Thomas. Thomae Slepper married Dorothea Weebster in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, 15 September 1625; they had Gabriel (15 Nov. 1635), Martha (11 April 1639), and Edward (5 Jan 1640) baptized in Ware, Hertfordshire.<sup>27</sup> They can be eliminated. Examination of the original register shows that the last baptism was in January 1640/1,<sup>28</sup> after Thomas Sleeper was already in Hampton.<sup>29</sup>

Sleeper was a very uncommon surname in England.<sup>30</sup> Including the Ware entries, I found fewer than one hundred events for the surname before 1650.<sup>31</sup> Forty-three were widely scattered both geographically and chronologically.<sup>32</sup> None of the parishes match those of documented origins of Hampton residents.

<sup>24</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:113 [DGS #5510722, image 67].

<sup>25</sup> See “Addendum: Early Settlers of Hampton, New Hampshire,” following.

<sup>26</sup> From east to west they came from Norfolk: Denton, Elsing, Norwich, Ormesby St. Margaret, Ormesby St. Michael, Topcroft; Suffolk: Dennington, Kersey, Stratford; Essex: Colchester, Cold Norton, Theydon Garnon; Lincolnshire: Farlsthorne, Laceby; Hampshire: South Stoneham; London; Berkshire: Easthamstead; Surrey: Dorking; Cheshire: Gawsworth; Gloucestershire: Gloucester. See Hampton entry in the *Great Migration Directory* [note 5], 412.

<sup>27</sup> International Genealogical Index (IGI) controlled extraction batches M047431 from Family History Library [FHL], Salt Lake City, film #569725, and C073041 from FHL film #991326. Six early immigrants came from Ware, but they settled in Roxbury, Hingham, and Milford (*Great Migration Directory* [note 5], 97, 158, 185, 233, 267, 269).

<sup>28</sup> Images, now available on findmypast.com.

<sup>29</sup> It would be a very tight fit to make the case that Thomas left a pregnant wife and two children in England.

<sup>30</sup> I searched familysearch.org, ancestry.com, and findmypast.com.

<sup>31</sup> These are what is currently available. It is therefore not an exhaustive list of where the surname is found, but it is indicative.

<sup>32</sup> Listed from east to west: Norfolk: Scoulton (m. 1615); Suffolk: Buxhall (bp. 1625); Essex: Coggeshall (bp. 1644), Great Dunmow (m. 1612), Thaxted (bp. 1573); Hertfordshire: Cheshunt (bur. 1619), Hatfield (m. 1625), Walkern (bur. 1624), Ware (bp. 1635, 1639, 1641); London/Middlesex: London (bp. 1567, 1572; m. 1566, 1574, 1575, 1609, 1636; bur. 1568, 1580, 1591, 1603, 1648), Hampton (bp. 1579), Shoreditch (m. 1563), West Drayton (bur. 1635); Lincolnshire: Broughton (m. 1597), Lincoln (m. 1609), Scampton (bur. 1627), Scotter (m. 1622); Yorkshire: York (m. 1591); Oxford: Bampton (bp. 1562); Wiltshire: Chirton (bp. 1594), Laycock (bur. 1632, 1634), Melksham (m. 1611), Steeple Ashton (m. 1563), Trowbridge (bp. 1633; m. 1629), Warminster (bp. 1630; bur. 1591); Somerset: Dunster (m. 1633), Norton St. Philip (m. 1638).



Another fifty-three, however, were from just eleven parishes in Devonshire, with a considerable number of the entries coming from Goodleigh, which is a very small parish: Barnstaple (bp. 1634), Berrynarbor (bp. 1626; m 1624), Bishops Tawton (m. 1634), Braunton (m. 1631), Fremington (bp. 1635; m. 1614), Goodleigh (bp. 1538, 1564, 1566, 1570, 1571, 1571, 1573, 1574, 1577, 1578, 1580, 1584, 1585, 1587, 1589, 1603, 1606, 1609, 1612; m. 1566, 1571, 1587, 1603, 1613, 1613, 1617, 1632; bur. 1577, 1582, 1596, 1623; will 1570, 1596, 1612, 1623), Instow (will 1636), Landkey (bp. 1635), Newton Tracey (m. 1617), Northam (m. 1645), Pilton (bur. 1645). Highlighting the parishes on a map shows they are all on the west side of northern Devon. The small area is thirteen miles tall from the Bristol Channel on the north to Newton Tracey on the south and ten miles wide from Barnstaple/Bideford Bay on the west to Landkey on the east. With the exception of Berrynarbor, the parishes cluster tightly on both sides of the River Taw, which flows into the bay, and directly east of its head at Barnstaple.

*The Great Migration Directory* lists twenty-eight places in Devon from which immigrants came by 1640. The places included only four parishes within the general area of interest in Devon (Barnstaple, Bideford, Braunton, and Northam). Four of the immigrants from these parishes resided in Maine or New Hampshire, but none in Hampton.<sup>33</sup>

### STEP 3: DIGGING DEEPER

Devon wills were destroyed in the 1942 bombing during World War II, so for the seven wills identified in the survey all we have are index entries.<sup>34</sup>

I looked closely at the eleven Devon parishes identified above, searching for a baptism or marriage for Thomas Sleeper. Six of these eleven parishes had IGI controlled extractions for both baptisms and marriages in the appropriate time periods. I began with them. In case his surname had been garbled, I searched for Thomas [no surname] baptized 1600–1620 and Thomas [no surname] married 1630–1645 (just in case he had a first marriage or went back to England to marry Joanne). No success.

Of those parishes without IGI controlled extractions, only three had available parish register images.<sup>35</sup> FamilySearch has recently acquired digital images from the Devon County Council of bishop's transcripts, which were copied from the church registers and submitted annually to the bishop. Because these are single sheets (sometimes long strips of parchment that could be rolled up and tied), many years are lost, and some are in poor condition. Two parishes have only bishop's

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<sup>33</sup> *Great Migration Directory* [note 5]. See entries for Collicott, Garde, Larkham, and Small.

<sup>34</sup> The Devon will index on findmypast.com is compiled from a variety of sources created before 1942. All entries for Sleeper are from J. J. Beckerlegge, "Index of the Wills and Administrations . . . Archdeaconry Court of Barnstaple . . ." (typescript), except the 1647 entry, which is from Edward Alexander Fry, *Calendar of Wills and Administrations Relating to the Counties of Devon and Cornwall . . .*, Index Library, 35(London, 1908).

<sup>35</sup> These can be viewed at familysearch.org or findmypast.com.

transcripts. I read parish registers and bishop's transcripts for the surname *Sleeper* from about 1595 to 1645 without success.

It is quite possible that an entry for Thomas born 1605–1616 or married 1630–1645 was in Instow (no bishop's transcripts exist for the years 1600–1606, 1609, 1613, 1630–1637, 1639–1645) or Newton Tracey (none 1600–1606, 1609, 1611–1612, 1615–1616, 1631–1637, 1639–1645).

I proceeded with a radius search, which identified eighteen parishes<sup>36</sup> that abutted the eleven parishes with records for the surname *Sleeper*. I repeated the searches described above, again to no avail.<sup>37</sup>

Although Step 3 did not identify the parish of birth for Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sleeper, it eliminated quite a few. Step 2 identified the section of England in which he almost surely was born—northwest Devonshire.

Why did I not find Thomas Sleeper's birth? I suspect he was born in a missing year in one of those parishes with no records or only bishop's transcripts: Instow, Newton Tracey, Ashford, Bratton Fleming, Combe Martin, Horwood, or Tawstock.

On the other hand, Thomas Sleeper arrived in Hampton in the second year of settlement, with his land grant two months after the allotments were made to sixty-five individuals on 30 June 1640.<sup>38</sup> Why did he settle there? How did he know to go there? Perhaps he was not from Devon, but from one of the other locations in England mentioned above, although they all had just a handful of Sleeper records.

Most likely, he was from northwest Devon, but resided briefly in one of the New England localities where Hampton settlers had earlier resided,<sup>39</sup> hence learning about the proposed settlement while there, but left no records.

#### GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY SLEEPER FAMILY OF GOODLEIGH, DEVON

Most of the Sleeper records referenced above could be compiled into a single family group,<sup>40</sup> presented below. The name *Thomas* was used early in the family, lending support to the idea that this is the family of Thomas of Hampton. There are several males for whom it is not known if they survived to adulthood and had fami-

<sup>36</sup> Abbotsham, Alverdiscott, Ashford, Bideford, Bratton Fleming, Combe Martin, East Down, Georgeham, Heanton Punchardon, Horwood, Ilfracombe, Marwood, Sherwill, Stoke Rivers, Swimbridge, Tawstock, West Down, and Westleigh.

<sup>37</sup> Ashford had no records for the time period and four had only bishop's transcripts: Bratton Fleming (none 1605–1606, 1609, 1612–1614, 1616, 1630–1640, 1642–1645), Combe Martin (none 1605–1607, 1612–1616, 1632–1633, 1635, 1637–1645), Horwood (none 1595–1606, 1609, 1611–1629, 1631, 1633–1645), and Tawstock (none 1595–1596, 1598, 1608–1609, 1615–1623, 1625–1642).

<sup>38</sup> See "Addendum: Early Settlers of Hampton, New Hampshire," following.

<sup>39</sup> As noted below in the "Addendum: Early Settlers of Hampton, New Hampshire," these locations included Newbury, Salem, Watertown, Dedham, and Exeter.

<sup>40</sup> A few marriages are assigned tentatively, as the age at marriage is above normal, but there are so many that may have been common (and the unusual surname did not provide options).

lies, so it remains a possibility, although there is no obvious slot for Thomas. All events below were recorded in Goodleigh, Devon, unless specified otherwise.<sup>41</sup>

There was insufficient evidence to indicate where to place two Sleeper individuals. Agnes Sleeper married William Stoley, 21 May 1617, in Newton Tracey. Simon Sleeper was taxed on “terr” (land) on the 1624 Devon Subsidies for Instowe,<sup>42</sup> and Simon Sleeper of Instow had his will probated in 1636.

1 — **SLEEPER** was born by say 1484 (estimating marriage at 25). He married by say 1511 a wife whose name is not found.

Children:

- 2 i THOMAS SLEEPER, b. by say 1512, bur. 27 Dec. 1582; m. by say 1537 — —.
- ii — SLEEPER, b. by say 1515 (estimating marriage at 25); m. by say 1540 — —.  
Child: 1 *William Sleeper*, b. say 1541 (estimating marriage at 25); m. 19 Feb. 1565/6 [his possible cousin] Syslye Sleeper.

2 **THOMAS SLEEPER** was born by say 1512, probably earlier (parish register begins in 1538, so he probably had earlier children). He was buried 27 December 1582. He married by say 1537 a wife whose name is not found.

Children:

- 3 i RICHARD SLEEPER, bp. 20 Dec. 1538 son of Thomas, bur. 16 April 1596; m. 24 Oct. 1563 AGNES HEADDON.
- ii AGNES SLEEPER, bp. 1540/1 as Agnes Sleep[er] daughter of Thomas Sleep[er]; m. 5 Feb. 1570/1 BARTHOLOMEW WELLACOTT.
- iii SYSLYE SLEEPER, bp. 30 May 1543 as Syslye Sleep[er] daughter to Thomas Sleep[er]; m. 19 Feb. 1565/6 [her possible cousin] WYLLYAM SLEEPER.

3 **RICHARD SLEEPER** (*Thomas*) was baptized 20 December 1538. Rychard Sleeper was buried 16 April 1596. As Rychard Sleeper, he married 24 October 1563 AGNES HEADDON. Agness Headdon, daughter of Nycholas, was baptized 6 January 1543/4. Agnis Sleeper was buried 8 May 1623. Agnes Sleeper had a will probated in 1623.

Children of Richard and Agnes (Headdon) Sleeper:

- 4 i NICHOLAS SLEEPER, bp. 7 Sept. 1564 son of Richard, d. between mid-Dec. 1611 and 13 Sept. 1612 (baptism of child of Joane); m. by say 1602 (child bp. 1603) JOHAN/JOANE —.

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<sup>41</sup> All abstracts and images (from South West Heritage Trust) are on findmypast.com. There are occasional spelling errors in the abstracts, reading *Sleeper* as *Slaper*, *Sleper*, or *Sloper*. Sometimes the name was written with a *per* shortcut at the end, but not interpreted properly. There is a missing page in the Goodleigh burials, so there are none between Nov. 1607 and March 1617/8.

<sup>42</sup> “Devonshire Subsidies, 1624,” item 8, roll 1, p. 306, Charles E. Banks manuscripts, Rare Book Collection, Library of Congress.

- ii SABYNE SLEEPER, bp. 20 Feb. 1566/7, daughter of Rychard, Sabbyn Frost was bur. 12 Feb. 1625/6; Sabbin Sleeper m. 8 Oct. 1587 GILES FROST.  
Children: 1. *Nicholas Frost*, bp. 1588, d. 1638; m 1616, Helliner Brother.<sup>43</sup> 2. *Richard Frost*, bp. 1589. 3. *Kateren Frost*, bp. 1591; m 1612, John Down. 4. *Olyver Frost*, bp. 1593, bur. 1596. 5. *George Frost*, bp. 1595. 6. *Edward Frost*, bp. 1598. 7. *Christopher Frost*, bp. 1599; m. 1622, Dorothy Lange. 8. *William Frost*, bp. 1601; m. 1625, Priscilla Knight. 9. *Geils Frost*, bp. 1604. 10. *Hugh Frost*, bp. 1605 (mother Sabbyn). 11. —*ths Frost* (son), bp. 1606 (mother Sabbyn). 12. *Elyn Frost*, bp. 1607/8). *Christian Frost*, bp. 1609 (mother Sabbyna).
- iii GARTERED SLEEPER, bp. 1 Feb. 1570/1, daughter of Richard.
- iv THOMAS SLEEPER (twin?), bp. 27 Jan. 1571/2, son of Rychard.
- v JOHN SLEEPER (twin?), bp. 28 Jan. 1571/2, son of Richard, d. young before his namesake brother was baptized.
- vi AVIS SLEEPER, bp. 8 June 1573, daughter of Richard; m. 14 June 1603 JOHN HANGER.
- vii JONE SLEEPER, bp. 27 Aug. 1574, daughter of Richard.
- viii WILLIAM SLEEPER, bp. 15 Oct. 1577, son of Richard, William Sleeper son of Richard bur. 1 Jan. 1577/8.
- ix JOHN SLEEPER, bp. 18 Feb. 1578/9, son of Rychard.
- x ANNE SLEEPER, bp. 31 July 1580, daughter of Richard; possibly the Agnes Sleeper who m. Newton Tracey, 21 May 1617 WILLIAM STOLEY.
- xi MARY SLEEPER, bp. 25 Dec. 1581, daughter of Richard; m. 20 May 1613, RICHARD HAMLIN.
- xii HUGH SLEEPER, bp. 28 May 1584, son of Rychard; m. Berrynarbor, 22 Sept. 1624, AGNES CUTLIE.  
Child: 1. *Hugh Sleeper*, bp. Berrynarbor, 12 June 1626.
- xiii PHILPOTT SLEEPER, bp. 4 Feb. 1585/6, daughter of Richard.
- xiv DOROTHYE SLEEPER, bp. 3 June 1589, daughter of Richard; m. 16 April 1617 THOMAS SHORT.

4 **NICHOLAS SLEEPER** (*Richard, Thomas*) was baptized 7 September 1564. He died between mid-December 1611 and 13 September 1612 (baptism of child of Joane). He was surely the — Sleeper whose will was probated in 1612. He married by say 1602<sup>44</sup> (child baptized in 1603) JOHAN/JOANE —. Jone Smale the wife of Andrew Smale was buried 1 May 1631. A child of Joane Sleeper was baptized 12 September 1612 and is not indicated as a bastard, as was the practice, showing Nicholas was deceased and it was his child. Jone Sleeper, widdow, married 26 February 1612/3, Andrew Smale. Andrew Smale married Marie Jace, 12 February 1631/2. Andrew was buried 16 March 1638/9 and had a will probated in 1639.

Children of Nicholas and Johan/Joane (—) Sleeper:

<sup>43</sup> Hence, he was not the Nicholas Frost in Damariscove by 1632 and later Kittery (see *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 247).

<sup>44</sup> Possibly earlier, as he would have married at 38.

- i PHYLLIPPE SLEEPER, bp. 4 Sept. 1603, daughter of Nicholas; Philip Sleeper m. Braunton, 6 Feb. 1631/2, ROBERTE KNILLE.
- ii RYCHARD SLEEPER, bp. 5 Oct. 1606, son of Nicholas Sleper and of Johan his wife. It was probably he who had a son *Richard Sleeper*, bp. Barnstaple, 1634.
- iii GYLES SLEEPER, bp. 5 March 1608/9, son of Nicholas Sleeper and of Johan his wiffe; m. (1) Bishops Tawton, 1 Nov. 1634, EMM —. They had a daughter *Mary Sleeper*, bp. Landkey, 1635. The wife of Giles Sleeper bur. Pilton 29 Dec. 1645; Giles Sleeper m. Northam, 2 Feb. 1645[/6], ELIZABETH\_OOE [?HOOE].
- iv DOROTHIE SLEEPER, bp. 13 Sept. 1612, daughter of Joane Sleeper; Doritie Sleeper m. 19 April 1632 PHILLPP WESTACOTE.

#### ADDENDUM: EARLY SETTLERS OF HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

A number of Maine families have roots in Hampton, New Hampshire. There is no correct, complete, organized presentation of the various lists associated with the settlement of Hampton. The early land grants in Dow's history of the town<sup>45</sup> are rearranged, with name changes and errors of both omission and commission. The *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* comments on some of the omissions and commissions, but does not present the corrected lists,<sup>46</sup> so it is difficult to get an overview or even search for a particular individual.<sup>47</sup> Because I have several early Hampton families, I tried to at least get a handle on who was there when, especially seeking clues to the origin and wife of Thomas Sleeper.

On 6 September 1638, the Massachusetts Bay General Court approved the petition by Rev. Stephen Bachiler and fifteen of his followers to be granted land for a new town that was first called Winnacunnet and later called Hampton. The petitioners were: Mr. Steven Bachiler, Christo: Hussey, Mary Hussey vidua [*widow*], Tho: Crumwell, Samuel Skullard, John Osgood, John Crosse, Samu: Greenfeild, John Molton, Tho: Molton, Willi: Estow, Willi: Palmer, Willi: Sergant, Richrd Swayne, Willi: Sanders, Robrt Tucke.<sup>48</sup>

Although it is often stated that Hampton was settled in the summer of 1638, Robert Charles Anderson offers solid logic that the major settlement could not have taken place until the summer of 1639.<sup>49</sup> This is consistent with the entries that a child of John Moulton was baptized in 1st month [March] 1638[/9] at Newbury and

<sup>45</sup> *History of Hampton, N.H.* [note 3], 9, 17–19.

<sup>46</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 55.

<sup>47</sup> Online indexes to the town records do not include all names and have errors.

<sup>48</sup> The list is in Victor Channing Sanborn, "The Grantees and Settlement of Hampton, N.H.," *Essex Institute Historical Collections* 53(1917):228–49, which includes excellent discussions of each of the individuals. Five of the petitioners—Crumwell, Skullard, Osgood, Sergant, and Sanders—cannot be found in Hampton, although it seems almost certain that William Sanders is an error for John Sanders.

<sup>49</sup> Robert Charles Anderson, "Focus on Hampton," *Great Migration Newsletter* 4(1993):115–17.

a child of Robert Saunderson was baptized 29 8th month [October] 1639 at Hampton.<sup>50</sup>

A list of “The First-Comers to Hampton. A memorandum in the handwriting of Edward Colcord,” has four sections listing forty-seven names:<sup>51</sup>

“A note of the Families in Hampton the First summer Mr. Batcheller came to Hampton [1639].” [John Browne], Mr. Husiah, Goodman Johnson, Goodman Tucke, Thomas Jones, Good[man] Sandersin, Good[man] Daves, Good[man] Swaine, Good[man] Grenfield, Abraham Perkins, Isak Perkins, Francis Pebody, Good[man] Cool. (13 names).

“Young men that had lots.” Willyam Wakfild, Willyam Fifild, Moses Coxe, Thomas Kinge, Anthony Taylor, Tho. Ward, Gilles Fuler. (7 names)

“Married Men.” Good[man] Daulton, John Hugins, Good[man] Mingy, Tho. Moulton, [John Moulton], Willyam Palmer, Good[man] Maston, Good[man] Esto, Leutenent Houerd, Robt. Casell, Good[man] Cros, Will. Sargent, Author Clark. (13 names)

“The second summer” [1640]. Good[man] Page, Good[man] Maston, Good[man] Auston, Good[man] Smith, Good[man] Fillbroc, Good[man] Sanders, Daniel Hindrake, John Wegod [Wedgewood], Tho. Chaes, Good[man] Fuller, Good[man] Inglish, Good[man] Rooper, Good[man] Ambros, Widdou Parker. (14 names)

On 24 10th month [December] 1639, the town made fifteen grants for specific acreage. The page is damaged, with the left half of two lines torn out, but the missing information can be gleaned from the 30 June 1640 records (described below): Mr Bachiler (300 acres), Mr Dalton (300), Mr Hussey (250), John Crosse (250), John Moulton (250), Wm Palmer (100), Philemon Dalton (100), Richard Swaine ([100]), [Wm. Estow] ([100]), Tho. Moulton (80), [Robert Tucke] ([100]), [Robert] Saunderson (80), Thomas Jones (100), Wm Wakefield (150), James Davis (80). On 14 11th month [January] 1639 Abraham Perkins (80 acres) was added.<sup>52</sup>

On last [30] 4th month [June] 1640, the town made specific allocations for house-lots, meadow, planting ground, etc., beginning with the sixteen individuals above, each entry ending with “(The residue of his [*number of*] acres (given 24 10:39) is yet to be appointed gr.)”: Mr Stephen Bachiler (the p[re]sent Pastor), Mr Timothy Dalton (the p[re]sent Teacher), Mr Christoph<sup>r</sup> Hussey (the p[re]sent Deacon), John Crosse, John Moulton, Willm Palmer, Philemon Dalton, Willm Eastow, Willm Wakefield, Thomas Moulton, Richard Swaine, Robert Tucke, Robert Saunderson, Thomas Jones, James Davis, Abraham Perkins.<sup>53</sup>

Then, on the same day, they made similar allocations to an additional forty-nine individuals: William Howard, Robert Page, Tim: Dalton Jun, Jeffery Mingay, Thomas Ward, Francis Pebody, Arthur Clarke, Samuel Greenfield, Edmond Johnson,

<sup>50</sup> *Hampton, N.H., VRs* [note 10], 1:3, from Hampton Town Book 1.

<sup>51</sup> List 391a in *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 55, from Norfolk Court Files (Salem), 124. Two names in square brackets were “interpolated by another contemporary hand” (*ibid.*).

<sup>52</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:39–40 [DGS #5510722, image 27].

<sup>53</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:41–43 [DGS #5510722, images 27, 28].

the widdow Hussey, [*torn*],<sup>54</sup> Willm Fuller, John Huggin, Willm Marston, John Samborn, John Saunders, [*blank*] Jennery<sup>55</sup> (if he come w<sup>th</sup>in 6 weeks), Willm Coules, Willm Sargeant, Willm English (if he come in [*blank*] weeks), Barnabas Horton, John Browne, Moses Coxe, Thomas Chase, Francis Asten, the widdow Parker, Thomas King, Anthony Taylor, [*blank*] Dow (if he come w<sup>th</sup>in [*blank*] weeks), John Ward (if he come in 5 weeks), William Fifeild, Stephen Samborne, W<sup>m</sup> Samborne, Henry Moulton, Ed: Palmer, M<sup>r</sup> Bright,<sup>56</sup> Daniell Henricke, James Davis Jun<sup>r</sup>, Robt Marston, John Wedgwood, Giles Fuller, John Filbrig, Tho: Smith, Timothy Dwight, Aquila Chase, Daniell Morse, John Brabrooke (if he come), Robt Sawyer, John Eldred.<sup>57</sup>

Thereafter, the town did much tweaking to the grants and gave additional allocations to the original sixteen proprietors. Grants, which included some listed by Dow incorrectly as occurring “in June 1640,”<sup>58</sup> were occasionally made: 4 6th month [August] 1640, a residence was granted to Richard Knight if he build a mill; 23 7th month [September] 1640, to Tho: Sleeper [*damaged entry*]; 30 8th month [October] 1640, grants to Hen: Ambrose Carpenter<sup>59</sup> and to Ri[chard] Carre if he come w<sup>th</sup>in 3 weeks, and John Legat was approved as an inhabitant (and given a houselot on 23 1st month [March] 1640/1); 3 10th month [December] 1640, Francis Wainwright was granted a house lot; 23 1st month [March] 1640/1, a lot was granted to Harry Sawyer<sup>60</sup> “so as he stay in the Towne.”<sup>61</sup>

To summarize these earliest grants: acreage grants were given in the winter of 1639/40 to sixteen individuals. Allotments were made to them and to an additional forty-nine individuals on 30 June 1640, for a total of sixty-five individuals. During the fall and winter seven more grants were made. Colcord’s list includes three names (Isak Perkins, Robt. Casell, and Walter Roper)<sup>62</sup> for whom I have not found grants, for a total of seventy-five individuals (or households) involved in the original settlement of Hampton.

Of these seventy-five households (some of whom were related to each other by blood or marriage and one of whom is nameless), Hampton was the first known

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<sup>54</sup> This entry is surely for — Bristow. The allotment to Thomas Moulton includes 10 acres of fresh meadow of 4 acres by bro: Howards 4, some 4 neare w<sup>d</sup> Bristows houselot. The widow Bristow held proprietary rights in the cow meadow (see below).

<sup>55</sup> *Great Migration Directory* [note 5], 63, identifies him as Lambert Chenery.

<sup>56</sup> *Great Migration Directory* [note 5], 41, identifies him as Henry Bright; *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 88, says he came not.

<sup>57</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:43–45 [DGS #5510722, images 28, 29].

<sup>58</sup> *History of Hampton, N.H.* [note 3], 18–19.

<sup>59</sup> Dow misread this entry and gave a listing for Henry Ambrose, but also created a fictional grantee named “Ambrose Carpenter” (*History of Hampton, N.H.* [note 3], 18).

<sup>60</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 610, identifies him as Henry Sayward, later a millman at York, Maine.

<sup>61</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:46, 48–50 [DGS #5510722, images 30–32].

<sup>62</sup> See note 51.

settlement for twenty-seven of them. The others came from Ipswich (10), Newbury (16 including Rev. Bachiler), and Salem (2) in Essex County, Massachusetts; Wattertown (5) in Middlesex County, Massachusetts; Dedham (11) in Suffolk County, Massachusetts; Exeter (2) in New Hampshire; Sable Island (1) in Canada; and one unknown.

English origins are known for thirty-five individuals: Easthamstead, Berkshire; Chelmsford and Theydon Garnon in Essex; Thornbury in Gloucester; Hampshire (Rev. Bachiler and his grandsons); Denton, Elsing, Hemsby, Norwich, Ormesby St. Margaret, Ormesby St. Michael, and Topcroft in Norfolk; Bures St. Mary, Burgate, Burstall, Bury St. Edmunds, Dennington, Kersey, and Woolverstone in Suffolk; and Dorking in Surrey.

Unfortunately, none of this shed any light on the origin of Thomas Sleeper.

#### LATER LISTS

The surname is unknown of Thomas Sleeper's wife, Joanna, whom he married by say 1645, so I was especially interested in who resided in Hampton at that time.

The *Genealogical Dictionary* mentions a valuation list of about 1645, which includes eleven names: Henry Green, John Merean, Edward Tuck, Thomas Waldo, Edward Colcord, John Wooding, John Clifford, John Bursley, Johnathan Thing, Samuel Getchell, and Henry Sayward.<sup>63</sup> With the exception of Henry Sayward (a.k.a. Harry Sawyer), none of these individuals were original grantees, although Tuck and Sayward were related to the original grantees, so I thought that surely there were additional names on the list.

The list is in Hampton Town Book 1, on three pages, between pages with entries from 1647. It was usual, however, when a clerk needed to record a long list of entries, to enter them on blank pages later in their book. I agree with the statement that the assessment is about 1645, based on a comparison with the list allocating the town's cow commons (see below). The names of those assessed are presented twice on pages 32 and 34 to accommodate the number of columns required. The lists are numbered, but the pages are missing significant parts of their left sides, where the numbers and given names were recorded. Much of the ink is faded to illegibility.<sup>64</sup>

The lists are almost but not quite the same. Names for individuals are not always spelled the same. In a few cases the order is slightly different, or names are on one list but not the other, especially near the end, as noted below. The sixty-eight names here are largely as they are in the first list on page 43, but given names are sometimes interpolated from knowledge of the families: Walter Ropper, Anthony Taylor, Henry Green, Edward Colcord, Jefery Mynggye, Jonathan Thing, Samuel Gitchill, Thomas Lovitt, John Merian, Henry Ambros, Thomas Warde, Giles Fuller, William English, Abraham Perkins, Isaace Perkins, Frances Pebody, William Coole, Phy-

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<sup>63</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 4], 55.

<sup>64</sup> Hampton Town Records, 1:32-34 [DGS #5510722, images 23-24].



lemon Dalton, John Wooding, William Maston Sen<sup>r</sup>, William Maston Ju<sup>r</sup>, Robert Page, Thomas Filbrick Sen<sup>r</sup>, James Davis Sen<sup>r</sup>, James Filbrick, William Moulton, Thomas Masston, William Eastoo, Morrise Hobbs, William Palmer, John Moulton, Henry Moulton [*torn*], Thomas Moulton, Henry Dow, Thomas Slepper, Thomas Chase, [John?] Filbrig, Maniwell [*Emanuel*] Hilyard, Henery Sayword, John Browne, William Samborn, Thomas King, Aquila Chase, William Fifild, Moses Cox, John Wegword, Edm: Jonson, Christopher Hussey, weddow Hussey, weddow Brisstoo, John Samborn & Mr Bachiler [*not on p. 34*], William Fuller, John Hugings, Richard Swayne, William Swayne, John Cleford & John Crosse [*before William Fuller on p. 34*], John Bursley, Frances Swayne, Robert Sayward, Robert Tuck [*swapped on p. 34*], William Howard [*swapped on p. 34*], Nathanill Howard's service [*p. 32 only*], Thomas Waldo [*p. 34 only*], Edward Tuck [*p. 34 only*], widdow Parker [*p. 34 only*].

This means that thirty of the original settlers had died, sold or passed on their property, and/or moved, but that eleven new households were settled in Hampton.

On 23 12th month [February] 1645/6, the town allocated shares of the town's cow commons as follows, holding back eleven shares for future needs: to the Elders Lott, Our Teachers lott, the Almis Lot, and Our Teacher, plus fifty-three individuals: Hen: Ambrose, mr: Bachelor, wid: Bristow, John: Browne, Acquil Chase, Tho: Chase, Ed. Colcord, Will: Coule, Moses: Cocks, John: Crosse, Phile: Dalton, James Davis Sen<sup>r</sup>, Hen: Dowe, Will: Eastow, Will: English, Will: Fifield, Gill: Fuller, Will: Fuller, Sam: Gatchell, Hen: Green, Mor: Hobes, Will: Howard, Chr: Hussey, Mary Hussey, Edm: Jonson, Tho. Louitt, John Marrian, Tho: Marston, Willi Marston, Jef. Mingay, Hen: Moulton, John: Moulton, Tho: Moulton, Will: Moulton, Rob: Page, Will: Palmer, Fran: Peabody, Abra: Perkins, Isa: Perkins, John: Philbrick, Wal: Roper, John: Samborn, Will: Samborn, Rob: Sayword, Hen: Sayward, Tho: Sleeper, Fran: Swaine, Rich: Swaine, Will: Swaine, Ant: Taylor, Rob: Tuck, Tho: Ward, John: Wedgwood.<sup>65</sup> Ten of the fifty-three individuals were not among the original documented settlers, although four of them were relatives of original settlers.

This left ninety-seven family units, one of which probably belongs to Joanna, but none of my search activities had pointed toward any of them and very little is known about many of them.

A grandson and a great-grandson of Thomas<sup>1</sup> Sleeper married descendants of John<sup>1</sup> Sanborn. By 1639 John, William, and Stephen Sanborn were in newly settled Hampton, of which their grandfather Rev. Stephen Bachiler was a founder. But why would the town of Hampton have given each of the boys a houselot on 30 June 1640 when they were in their minority, ages 20, 18, and 16? Robert Charles Anderson suggested the Hampton grants were likely originally intended for their mother, Ann, and her husband, but that they had died shortly before their intended departure from England, at sea, or shortly after arrival.

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<sup>65</sup> Hampton Town Records, 2:120 [DGS #5510722, image 176]; *History of Hampton, N.H.* [note 3], 33.

Recently the question arose again about the age of a recipient of a 30 June 1640 Hampton houselot grant. I noticed two “juniors” on that list. Were the Sanborns not a special case? Were there other grantees not yet twenty-one?

The most likely pointers to such individuals were those with the same surname, those on Colcord’s list of “young men,”<sup>66</sup> and those whose date of earliest record was 1639 or 1640. To determine birth dates, I relied primarily on the genealogical sources listed in *The Great Migration Directory*. Most were probable, possible, and/or estimated; very few were certain; none were unreasonable.

The results were surprising. I found eight to ten men below their majority: John Browne, James Davis jun’r, Thomas Ward, Aquila Chase, Timothy Dalton jr., Henry Moulton, Edward Palmer, and John, William, and Stephen Sanborn. This hovers around 20% of the houselot grants. Was this possible?

Researchers tend to view events of the past either legalistically or pragmatically. Did the law require that the recipient of a town grant be twenty-one? Colonial America’s understanding of legality was based on English common law, which considered twenty-one as the meaningful age for many actions. But it is necessary to realize that the concept of land *ownership* by the common man was virtually nonexistent in England. Hence each colony and portions of colonies struggled with how to convey land ownership to an ordinary person.<sup>67</sup> Massachusetts (as New Hampshire then was) did not dictate the age for town grants. Individual towns determined their criteria for awarding grants, which may have included whether or not an individual was committed to the town and settlement, a character reference (sometimes even a letter from a previous residence), length of residence (for an already settled town), family status (married with children was good)—and just how anxious the town was to ensure it had a sufficient number of residents to survive.

It is the last criterion that is pragmatic.<sup>68</sup> Hampton needed committed settlers to survive and thrive. With the exception of one or two, all of the probable underage twenty-one recipients of houselots had family members who were also original settlers. It should also be noted that houselot grants were made to three widows.

From this we learn that the proprietors of Hampton were definitely pragmatic (practical).

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<sup>66</sup> As it turns out, “young men” meant “single men,” as opposed to “married men.”

<sup>67</sup> See Robert Charles Anderson, “Colonial English Research,” *The Source*, 3rd ed. (Salt Lake City, 2006), 679–81, and Patricia Law Hatcher, *Locating Your Roots; Discover Your Ancestors Using Land Records*, rev. ed. (Baltimore, 2016), 68–78.

<sup>68</sup> Dedham, the prior residence of several of the Hampton proprietors, had faced this problem at one point. See the discussion of “gratification lots” in Robert Charles Anderson, “Focus on Dedham,” *Great Migration Newsletter* 4(1993):6.

## THE OAKLAND, MAINE, 1903 CENSUS SUBSTITUTE

*By John Clarke Bursley*

*The Oakland Register*, published in the second half of 1903, provides a brief history of the town, discusses military matters, outlines church histories, and lists town officers and postal officials over time.<sup>1</sup> This information is certainly of interest to family historians and scholars of social history. The publication, however, also has much to offer genealogists.

The book's census of the town, taken in June and July 1903, provides a snapshot of the population between the 1900 and 1910 decennial Federal censuses. It is not a traditional census giving age and nativity, but it does list occupations. The census includes maiden names, as well as the names and residences of non-residents if a parent was living in town. Familial relations are shown or can usually be inferred. Although not stated or immediately apparent, the Oakland census also portrays multi-generational family structures. For instance, one Pettigrove family consisted of William, Millie J., and Arthur W.<sup>2</sup> The next entry in the census shows another Pettigrove family headed by Arthur W., with spouse Annie R., and apparent daughter Doris L.<sup>3</sup> This illustrates that while the compilers arranged surnames in alphabetical order, within surnames they favored generational precedence. Male descendants of the same family are grouped with their parents, and then enumerated immediately below with their own families. The 1900 and 1910 U.S. censuses validate this deduction. The 1900 census shows two separate Pettigrove families, one headed by William and the other by Arthur, just as structured in the 1903 *Oakland Register*. The 1910 census shows William Pettigrove, father and widower, living with his son Arthur and family.<sup>4</sup>

Importantly, the 1903 census also gives the maiden name of every married or widowed female. This can be a valuable resource for discovering the family history of women who are often not well documented during this time period, or who are difficult to trace if they married more than once. In the case of the Page family, the register lists Mary Page as the wife of Ezekiel G. Page, Clerg[ymen].<sup>5</sup> Mary's

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<sup>1</sup> H. E. Mitchell and E. M. Campbell, comps. *The Oakland Register* (Bryant's Pond, Maine, 1903) [online at archive.org].

<sup>2</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 87.

<sup>3</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 87.

<sup>4</sup> William T. Pettigrove household, 1900 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 12B; Arthur W. Pettigrove household, 1900 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 19A; Arthur W. Pettigrove household, 1910 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 16A. "Millie" was apparently the nickname for William's spouse, variously recorded as Permelia/Parmelia/Pamelia J. (Tilton) Pettigrove. She d. 21 July 1905 in Oakland (Maine Vital Records, 1892–1907 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #4703855, image 841]).

<sup>5</sup> Ezekiel Gilman Page (1814–1909) was the son of Reuben and Elizabeth (Jackson) Page. He is buried in Litchfield Plains Cemetery with his first wife, Mary G[oodspeed?] Bursley (1815–1884), daughter of Lemuel and Lavinia (Spencer) Bursley. See, by this author, "Emma Page Per-

maiden name is given as Hersom.<sup>6</sup> The 1900 Federal census lists Ezekiel and Mary, both born in Maine, in December 1814 and November 1816 respectively.<sup>7</sup> Mary, as Mrs. Mary Bates, married Ezekiel about September 1885.<sup>8</sup> As Mrs. Mary Herbert, she had married Anson Bates in September 1868 in Waterville or Fairfield. She had married, as Mrs. Mary Oliver, Andrew Herbert in October 1860 at Waterville. Mary Oliver then was the Mary Hersom of Fairfield who married first Thomas J. Oliver of Starks in January 1837 in Fairfield.<sup>9</sup> Mary died in November 1909. The inscription on Mary's headstone confirms the linkages to both her first and last husbands.<sup>10</sup>

The Page family listing also demonstrates that offspring shown in the census as part of a family unit could be children of the mother, rather than of the male family head. The Page family includes a "Lafayette O., Far[mer]" in the listing.<sup>11</sup> The example of the Pettigrove family discussed above would indicate that a Lafayette O. Page household might be listed under that of Ezekiel Page, but there is no such entry, and Lafayette was not living with Ezekiel and Mary in 1900, indicating that he likely maintained a separate residence. A search for the forename Lafayette in the Oakland census reveals three potential candidates for a man with the first name of Lafayette living in Oakland in 1903: "Clark, Lafayette D., Far[mer]"; "Cochran, Lafayette, Axe Mk'r"; and "Oliver, Lafayette, Far[mer]."<sup>12</sup> The "Lafayette O." listed with the Page family then is actually Lafayette Oliver, son of Mary Hersom and Thomas J. Oliver.<sup>13</sup> The Lafayette Oliver family in the 1903 Oakland census included his wife Mahala (Shorey) and presumed son George E. George E. Oliver's own family, consisting of spouse Ella M. (Houghton), and sons Clarence E. and Ernest P., is enumerated immediately below Lafayette and Mahala.<sup>14</sup> The 1900 and 1910 censuses mirror these family structures, showing the Lafayette and George

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kins and Abby N. Perkins of Maine," *The Maine Genealogist* 33(2011):185–89, and "Lurena Bursley Leaves the Farm," *The Maine Genealogist* 35(2013):41–46.

<sup>6</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 86.

<sup>7</sup> Ezekiel G. Page household, 1900 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 2B.

<sup>8</sup> They m. (cert.) Oakland, 12 Sept. 1885 (VRs, 1873–1892, p. 164 [DGS #7595777, image 110]).

<sup>9</sup> Mary Hersom m. Fairfield, 20 Jan. 1837, Thomas J. Oliver (VRs, 1834–1846, p. 94 [DGS #7596905, image 62]). Rev. Oliver d. West Waterville, 18 Sept. 1859 (death notice, [Portland] *Zion's Advocate*, 30 Sept. 1859, p. 3, col. 4). She m. (2) (cert.) Waterville, 30 Oct. 1860, Andrew Herbert (VRs, 1816–1866, p. 29 [DGS #7596931, image 175]). Andrew Herbert d. in March 1866 according to his gravestone in Lakeview Cemetery, Oakland (photo, findagrave.com #183062275). Mary m. (3) (cert.) Waterville, 19 Sept. 1868, Anson Bates (VRs, 1813–1893, p. 55 [DGS #7596931, image 216]). Bates d. in Sept. 1881 according to his gravestone inscription in Lakeview Cemetery (photo, findagrave.com #111302900).

<sup>10</sup> Mary d. Oakland, 3 Nov. 1909 (Maine Vital Records 1908–1922 [DGS #5011849, image 1324]); her inscription in Lakeview Cemetery reads: "Mary Wife of Rev. E.G. Page / Former Wife of T.J. Oliver" (photo, findagrave.com #175480344).

<sup>11</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 86.

<sup>12</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 64, 65, 85.

<sup>13</sup> Lafayette Oliver was b. 26 Dec. 1842 (calc.) in Starks, Maine and d. 4 Dec. 1909 in Oakland (Death record extract card, Maine Vital Records 1908–1922 [DGS #5011848, image 56]).

<sup>14</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 85.

Oliver families together in the same household in 1900 and the widowed mother, Mahalah, living with the George E. Oliver family in 1910.<sup>15</sup> It is not known how many other families in *The Oakland Register* may represent similar cases in which the child, as an offspring of a woman's previous marriage, may not bear the surname of the family head. Researchers should bear this possibility in mind if an apparent child does not mesh with the evidence from other documentary sources.

Finally, the 1903 *Oakland Register* census can assist in establishing the complete structure of many dispersed families, as it includes the names and addresses of non-residents if one or both parents were still living in the town. The Dyke family illustrates this point. "Dyke, Mary E. (Haines), Ho[usework]," heads one household and the names of two apparent children, Ethel B., Ho[usework], and Walter E., Far[mer], are preceded with asterisks, indicating that they were not currently town residents. Ethel's and Walter's addresses at the time are listed in the Non-Residents section following the main census.<sup>16</sup> Ethel B. Dyke was living in Winthrop with her grandmother, Eliza A. Haines, at the time of the 1900 census.<sup>17</sup> This confirms her mother Mary's maiden name, Haines, as given in the 1903 *Oakland Register*. The Oakland census shows that by 1903 Ethel had moved to Chesterville, where, as B. Ethel Dyke, she married Roscoe C. Millett in December 1905 in neighboring Farmington Falls.<sup>18</sup> According to the *Oakland Register*, Mary (Haines) Dyke's son, Walter E., was living in Vienna, Maine, in 1903. He married Edith (Butler) Stone, a widow, in April 1907 in nearby Farmington Falls.<sup>19</sup>

In addition to *The Oakland Register*, H. E. Mitchell collaborated with Campbell and other local compilers to publish histories, maps, and other guides for towns in Maine and New Hampshire in the early 1900s.<sup>20</sup> The Internet Archive and Library

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<sup>15</sup> Lafayette Oliver household, 1900 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 14B; George E. Oliver household, 1910 U.S. Census, Oakland, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 17B.

<sup>16</sup> *The Oakland Register* [note 1], 68, 105, 106. The census section overview on p. 55 explains that "non-residents are indicated by the star (\*)" and listed at the end of the census.

<sup>17</sup> Mary E. (Haines) Dyke was the widow of Charles C. Dyke. They m. Fayette, 1 May 1876 (VRs, 1864–1892, p. 29 [DGS #7834656, image 98]). Charles d. Fayette, 1 Jan. 1896 (Maine Vital Records 1670–1920, image, familysearch.org: C. C. Dyke). The inquest regarding his death was described in the newspaper three weeks later: "State Topics of Interest," *Portland Daily Press*, 21 Jan. 1896, p. 4, col. 2). Mary and her son Walter have not yet been found in the 1900 census, but her daughter Ethel was living with her grandmother that year (Eliza A. Haines household, 1900 U.S. Census, Winthrop, Kennebec Co., Maine, p. 4B).

<sup>18</sup> Maine Vital Records 1892–1907 [DGS #4703839, image 345]. Ethel's residence is shown as Farmington in the record.

<sup>19</sup> Maine Vital Records 1892–1907 [DGS #4544447, image 1676]. The same clergyman, J. H. Bartlett, presided over both Ethel and Walter's wedding ceremonies.

<sup>20</sup> These books may be accessed online via Internet Archive, a non-profit library of millions of free books and other media, and can also be referenced via the Library of Congress. See <<https://archive.org/search.php?query=H.E.%20Mitchell>> and <[www.loc.gov/search/?fa=contributor:mitchell,+h.+e.+%28harry+edward%29](http://www.loc.gov/search/?fa=contributor:mitchell,+h.+e.+%28harry+edward%29)>.

of Congress catalogs include numerous town registers published by Mitchell between 1903 and 1908, including for these Maine towns:

Acton, Shapleigh, Parsons- field, Newfield, Lebanon	Fryeburg, Lovell, Sweden, Stow, Chatham	Saco with Old Orchard Scarboro
Addison & Harrington	Gorham & Buxton	Solon & Bingham
Alfred, Lyman, Dayton, Hollis, Waterboro	Gray & New Gloucester	South Berwick
Belfast	Guilford & Sangerville	Standish, Baldwin, Cornish, Limerick, Limington
Bridgton	Harpswell	Thomaston
Brownfield, Denmark, Hi- ram, Porter	Hermon & Carmel	Vassalboro
Canton & Dixfield	Jonesport	Waldoboro, Nobleboro, Jefferson
Cherryfield	Kennebunk & Wells	Waterford, Albany, Green- wood, E. Stoneham
Cumberland & North Yar- mouth	Madison	Windham
Dexter	Mechanic Falls	Winthrop
Dover & Foxcroft	Mexico, Peru, Hartford	Woodstock, Sumner, Buck- field
East Livermore & Liver- more	New Portland	Yarmouth
Fayette & Mount Vernon	North Berwick	York & Kittery
Freeport	Norway	
	Orono	
	Pittsfield	
	Pittston, Chelsea, Randolph	
	Rockport	

These publications appear to follow the same format as that of *The Oakland Register* and may provide similar troves of genealogical data.

*John Clarke Bursley* (jcbursley@gmail.com) traced *Mary (Hersom) (Oliver) (Herbert) (Bates) Page* while researching *Rev. Ezekiel G. Page, husband of his 3rd great-aunt, Mary G. Bursley.*

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#### ROMANCE IN THE 1880 CENSUS

Contributed by Gregory S. Childs of Clamart, France

The following entry was recorded in the 1880 Census of Pittston, Maine:<sup>21</sup>

Pottle, Laura	W F	18		Keeping house	b. Maine
— , Hannah	W F	17	Sister	At home	b. Maine
— , George F.	W M	15	Bro.	At home	b. Maine
— , Estella	W F	13	Sister	At home	b. Maine
Carlisle, John	W M	17	Lover	Works on ice	b. Maine

For what it's worth, John Carlisle and Laura Pottle "made it legal." They filed marriage intentions in 1881 and were living together with five children in 1900.<sup>22</sup>

<sup>21</sup> Laura Pottle household, 1880 U.S. Census, Pittston, Kennebec Co., Maine, E.D. 101, p. 372.

<sup>22</sup> Henry S. Webster, *Vital Records of Pittston, Maine, to the Year 1892* (Gardiner, 1911) 167; John G. Carlisle household, 1900 U.S. Census, Bath, Sagadahoc Co., Maine, E.D. 210, sheet 8.

## TWO EZEKIEL SAWYERS OF FALMOUTH, MAINE

By Lindsay Ham Gillis

The standard treatment of the Sawyer family of Maine is Eleanor Grace Sawyer's *Sawyer Families of New England, 1636–1900*, published in 1995. She presents the family of Ezekiel Sawyer of Falmouth as follows:<sup>1</sup>

EZEKIEL SAWYER, b. 1742 Falmouth, d. 1828 Portland; m (1) (int.) 29 March 1766 Brunswick, SARAH HINKLEY; m (2) 4 Dec 1783 MARGARET COFFIN of Portland. He served in Capt. Benjamin Waite's company, Col. Waldron's regiment, Feb/Mar 1760. Bought/sold land Portland 1771–1799. Joined First Parish Church of Falmouth, 5 Nov 1791. In Brunswick and Standish, Maine.

Children:

- i Edward Sawyer, b 30 May 1767 Westbrook, d. bef. 1807, m. Abigail Curtis of Harpswell. His widow m. 8 Aug 1807 John Owens.
- ii Martha Sawyer, b 2 Jun 1771 Standish, bp. Falmouth, m. 22 Dec 1792 Joseph Clark of Cape Elizabeth.
- iii Sarah Sawyer, b 15 Aug 1773, m. 26 May 1804 Henry Pearson.
- iv Hannah Sawyer, b 24 Aug 1786, m (1) 31 May 1804 William Mulloy, m. (2) 31 May 1809 David Boyd of Portland
- v Nancy Sawyer, b 3 Oct 1787, m 24 Oct 1804 John Sisk.
- vi Dorcas Sawyer, b 16 Nov 1789, m 28 Dec 1806 Israel Linnell.
- vii William Sawyer, b 24 Feb 1793, d bef. 1869 Portland, m 13 July 1813 Hannah Boynton.
- viii Sophia Sawyer, b 7 May 1797, m 2 April 1815 Samuel H. Bell

Most striking in this account is the thirteen-year gap between the births of daughters Sarah and Hannah. In this article, I intend to show that Eleanor Sawyer conflated the families of two different Ezekiel Sawyers, both of whom had connections to Falmouth (now Portland), Maine.

### THE FIRST EZEKIEL SAWYER

The records of the First Church in Falmouth, Maine, include the baptism in 1742 (full date not given) of Ezekiel Sawyer, son of Edward and Abigail (Pitman) Sawyer.<sup>2</sup> This same Ezekiel Sawyer enlisted in Falmouth on 25 February 1760 “for his Majesty's Service for the Total Reduction of Canady 1760.” His surname was rendered “Sawer,” and he was described as being seventeen years old, born in Fal-

<sup>1</sup> Eleanor Grace Sawyer, *Sawyer Families of New England, 1636–1900* (the author, 1995), 384–85, 409–10.

<sup>2</sup> Marquis F. King, comp., *Baptism and Admission from the First Church in Falmouth, Now Portland, Maine* (Portland, 1898), 49; his parents m. (int.) Falmouth, 5 Jan. 1733/4 (VRs [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #7724782, image 886]).

mouth, and the son of Edward “Sawer.”<sup>3</sup> The sixty-six men who enlisted passed muster at Falmouth on 5 March 1760 as members of Capt. Benjamin Waite’s company in Col. Waldo’s regiment (not “Col. Waldron’s regiment” as given in *Sawyer Families of New England*). This same Ezekiel “Sawer” is next found on a military pay-roll list, dated Boston, 24 March 1762.<sup>4</sup> Like on the former list, Ezekiel’s residence was Falmouth and his father’s name was given as Edward “Sawer.”

The marriage intentions of Ezekiel Sawyer and Sarah Hinkley, both of Brunswick, were recorded in Brunswick on 29 March 1766.<sup>5</sup> She was likely the Sarah Hinkley, born in Brunswick on 22 August 1747, daughter of Edmund and Sarah (Smith) Hinkley.<sup>6</sup>

The year after their marriage, on 30 May 1767, “Edward Sayer son to Ezekiel Sayer and Sarah his wife” was born in Brunswick.<sup>7</sup> He was evidently named for Ezekiel’s father, Edward Sawyer. No further children of the couple were recorded in Brunswick, and the couple probably soon moved to Falmouth. The records of the First Church in Falmouth include baptisms for Martha, daughter of Ezekiel Sawyer, on 2 June 1771, and for Sarah, daughter of Ezekiel Sawyer, on 15 August 1773.<sup>8</sup> Ezekiel did not acknowledge the covenant of the church prior to these baptisms, which suggests he was already a member. That would have been the case for the Ezekiel who was baptized there in 1742. There were no other known adult Ezekiel Sawyers in the Falmouth area at this time, and the two daughters undoubtedly were children of Ezekiel and Sarah (Hinkley) Sawyer.

On 29 May 1771, Ezekiel Sawyer of Falmouth, cordwainer, purchased for ten pounds and sixteen shillings from William Owen of Falmouth, cabinet maker, a lot of land in Falmouth on the Neck (the part of Falmouth that became Portland) containing twenty-one square rods.<sup>9</sup> This small parcel of land was perhaps purchased as a location to set up his cordwainer or leather-working trade.

Ezekiel Sawyer’s name is on a number of Revolutionary War lists, including a list of men raised to serve the Continental Army from Col. Jonathan Mitchell’s Second Cumberland County Regiment, in which Ezekiel was described as a resident of Brunswick, but engaging for the town of Falmouth.<sup>10</sup> He was a resident of Falmouth on another list of men raised to serve in the Continental Army from Col.

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<sup>3</sup> Massachusetts Archives, 98:110 [DGS #7705824, image 581].

<sup>4</sup> Massachusetts Archives, 99:135 [DGS #7820594, image 338].

<sup>5</sup> Joseph Crook Anderson II, *Vital Records of Brunswick, Maine, 1740–1760, and the Forsaith Book of Brunswick Family Records Compiled 1876–1880 by Jonathan W. Forsaith, Town Clerk* (Rockport, Maine, 2004), 124.

<sup>6</sup> Anderson, *Brunswick VRs* [note 5], 25; her parents m. (int.) Brunswick, 9 Aug. 1744 (ibid., 115).

<sup>7</sup> Anderson, *Brunswick VRs* [note 5], 34.

<sup>8</sup> King, *First Church in Falmouth* [note 2], 49.

<sup>9</sup> Cumberland Co., Maine, Deeds, 5:385.

<sup>10</sup> *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War*, 17 vols. (Boston, 1896–1908), 13:868. This list is not dated.



Peter Noyes's First Cumberland Regiment.<sup>11</sup> He was also a soldier in 1777 in Capt. William Hudson Bradford's company in Col. Ichabod Alden's regiment, and a corporal in Lieut. Col. John Brooks's Seventh Regiment, also in 1777. He was reported as killed in battle on 7 October 1777.<sup>12</sup> This would have been during the Battle of Bemis Heights, which took place nine miles south of Saratoga, New York, and was one of the key engagements of the war.

With the loss by fire of the Cumberland County probate records, it is not known when the probate for Ezekiel's estate were initiated, but the estate was still under administration as late as the mid-1790s. In 1793 Isaac Snow, "Administrator on the estate of Ezekiel Sawyer a Corporal in Col. Brooks's Regt.," petitioned the General Court of Massachusetts "that he may receive the wages due to the estate of the said Ezekiel Sawyer." On 14 March, the Court passed a resolve to pay the "arrears of pay due to the estate of the said Ezekiel for his Services as a Corporal in Colo. Brooks Regt."<sup>13</sup>

In January 1794, Isaac Snow appeared before the Cumberland County Court of Common Pleas and reported "that the goods and chattles belonging to the said Deceased's Estate are not sufficient by the Sum of Seven Pounds fifteen shillings & one penny three farthings to answer the just Debts which the said Deceased owed at the time of his Death." He requested license to sell so much of Ezekiel's real estate to satisfy the debts.<sup>14</sup>

By January 1795, Isaac Snow had died,<sup>15</sup> and his son John Snow had taken over from his father as administrator. John Snow petitioned the Massachusetts General Court that he be allowed to sell "a certain Lot of Land in Portland lately belonging to the Estate of said Sawyer, decd., to one Barnabas Sherman."<sup>16</sup> Receiving the Court's approval, on 21 April 1795, John Snow, mariner, administrator of the estate of Ezekiel Sawyer, late of Brunswick, cordwainer," sold for thirty-one pounds and twelve shillings to Mary Sherman, the wife of Barnabas Sherman of Portland, cooper, the same twenty-one square rods of land in Portland that Ezekiel had originally purchased in 1771 from William Owen.<sup>17</sup>

Ezekiel and Sarah's son Edward, born 30 May 1767, was described as a yeoman of Harpswell on 16 November 1793 when he purchased fifty acres from the estate of John Ross late of Harpswell.<sup>18</sup> Edward is said to have married Abigail Curtis of

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<sup>11</sup> *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War* [note 10], 13:868.

<sup>12</sup> *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War* [note 10], 13:868.

<sup>13</sup> *Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1792–93* (Boston, 1895), 277, citing Resolves, January Session 1792, Chapter 104.

<sup>14</sup> Cumberland Co. Court of Common Pleas, 1:433–34 [DGS #5668583, image 440–41].

<sup>15</sup> Isaac Snow, late of Harpswell, was deceased by 18 June 1794 when John Snow and Samuel Snow were acting as administrators of his estate ([Portland] *Eastern Herald*, 21 June 1794, p. 3.

<sup>16</sup> *Acts and Laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts 1794–95* (Boston, 1896), 236, citing Resolves, January Session 1794 [sic], Chapter 13.

<sup>17</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 22:516.

<sup>18</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 20:439.

Harpwell, and Abigail's sister Patience Curtis is said to have married Stephen Snow. These relationships are borne out by a deed, dated 18 October 1802, in which the Curtis sons and sons-in-law (named as Mark Small of Harpswell, James Trufant of Harpswell, Stephen Snow of Harpswell, William Curtis of Harpswell, James Curtis of Harpswell, and Edward Sawyer of Lisbon) sold seventy-two acres in Harpswell to Daniel Curtis of Harpswell, mariner.<sup>19</sup> Edward Sawyer and Stephen Snow were therefore brothers-in-law. Isaac Snow, who was the first administrator of the estate of Ezekiel Sawyer, was Stephen's uncle, and John Snow, the second administrator, was Stephen's cousin. In order for a soldier's estate to petition for and receive back pay, the heirs would have needed to find a representative to the General Court to act on their behalf. Isaac Snow was the representative to the General Court from Harpswell. With Edward residing in Harpswell in the early 1790s, it is logical that Isaac Snow of Harpswell would have been the best candidate to represent Edward and his sisters to obtain their fathers' back pay.

This analysis shows that Ezekiel Sawyer, baptized in Falmouth in 1742 as the son of Edward and Abigail (Pitman) Sawyer, was the soldier who died in the Battle of Bemis Heights in the fall of 1777. He married Sarah Hinkley and they were the parents of Edward, Martha, and Sarah Sawyer, born in the period 1767 to 1773. Sarah was widowed at the age of thirty, yet there is no record that she remarried nor is there any indication as to how long she lived. She is not mentioned in any of the petitions made by Isaac and John Snow relating to Ezekiel's estate.

In the period before the Revolutionary War, no other Ezekiel Sawyers appear in the records in and around Falmouth, Brunswick, or Harpswell, Maine.

#### THE OTHER EZEKIEL SAWYER

There was, however, another Ezekiel Sawyer who first appears in Revolutionary War records, and he was likely one or two decades younger than the Ezekiel described above. This second Ezekiel served as a private in Capt. Joshua Jordan's company in Col. Jonathan Mitchell's regiment on the ill-fated Penobscot Expedition, with service from 7 July to 25 September 1779. The muster roll was dated from Cape Elizabeth.<sup>20</sup> There is another entry for an Ezekiel Sawyer as a corporal in Capt. Jonathan Andrews's company in Col. Joseph Prime's regiment, with service from 8 May to 1 November 1780 "at the eastward" under Brig. Gen. Wadsworth. The roll was sworn to in York County and certified at Thomaston.<sup>21</sup> This service cannot apply to the Ezekiel Sawyer described above, who was killed in 1777.

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<sup>19</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 39:194. These Curtises were the children of Daniel and Tabitha (Raymond) Curtis, who m. Harpswell, 16 Aug. 1768 (see Ruth Gray and Alice MacDonald Long, *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 2* [Camden, Maine], 258).

<sup>20</sup> *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War* [note 10], 13:869.

<sup>21</sup> *Mass. Soldiers & Sailors Rev. War* [note 10], 13:869.

Ezekiel Sawyer married in Portland on 4 December 1783 Margaret Coffee.<sup>22</sup> Her name is often given as Margaret “Coffin” in published accounts, but she was not a daughter of Nathaniel Coffin of Portland, the only person of that surname found in the Portland 1790 census.<sup>23</sup>

On 25 August 1800, Ezekiel was described as a laborer of Portland when he and Margaret sold land and a dwelling house in Portland to Isaac Ilsley, Esq.<sup>24</sup> They were the parents of five children, as noted on an old family Bible record as follows:<sup>25</sup>

Hannah Sawyer Born August 25<sup>th</sup> 1786  
 Nancy Sawyer Born October 3<sup>rd</sup> 1787  
 Dorcas Sawyer Born November 16<sup>th</sup> 1789  
 William Sawyer Born February 24<sup>th</sup> 1793  
 Sophia Sawyer Born May 7<sup>th</sup> 1797  
 [in another hand] Anna Mulloy born May 12<sup>th</sup> 1805

The five Sawyer births above are also recorded in the Portland vital records, all listed as the children of Ezekiel and Margaret Sawyer.<sup>26</sup> On 5 November 1791, Ezekiel and Mary [*sic*] Sawyer acknowledged the covenant of the First Church in Falmouth.<sup>27</sup> Seven months later, on 24 June 1792, Hannah, Nancy, and Dorcas were baptized together at the church. William was baptized there on 3 March 1793, and Sophia on 1 September 1805.<sup>28</sup>

In 1790 Ezekiel Sawyer was enumerated in the census in Portland, his household containing a male aged 16 and above and five females.<sup>29</sup> This is a close match to Ezekiel’s family, as Ezekiel would have been living then with his wife Margaret and the three daughters born by 1790. Ezekiel is not found as a head of household in the 1800 census, but he was enumerated in Portland in 1810 and 1820.<sup>30</sup>

<sup>22</sup> Portland VRs, 2:9 [DGS #7595799, image 13].

<sup>23</sup> See Nathaniel Coffin sketch by Clayton R. Adams in Joseph C. Anderson II, *Maine Families in 1790 Vol 8* (Rockport, Maine, 2003), 97–99. The only Coffee head of household in the Maine 1790 census is Edward Coffee, enumerated in Georgetown (*Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* [Washington, 1908], p. 37, column c). His entry shows a household of 7 persons, but no connection of his family to Margaret has been found.

<sup>24</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 33:335.

<sup>25</sup> A copy of the birth record page from the Bible in possession of the submitter. As of the writing of this article, an image of the Bible is available in the galleries of several Ancestry.com trees for Ezekiel and Margaret Sawyer.

<sup>26</sup> Portland VRs, 3:205, 208 [DGS #7595799, images 115–16]. The only difference is that Hannah’s birth date is given as 24 Aug. 1786 on the town record.

<sup>27</sup> King, *First Church in Falmouth* [note 2], 49. “Mary” is an apparent error for “Margaret” or “Marg.”

<sup>28</sup> King, *First Church in Falmouth* [note 2], 49.

<sup>29</sup> *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Maine* (Washington, 1908), p. 23, column c.

<sup>30</sup> Ezekiel Sawyer household, 1810 U.S. Census, Portland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 53; Ezekiel Sawyer household, 1820 U.S. Census, Portland, Cumberland Co., Maine, p. 259.

A death notice for “Mr. Ezekiel Sawyer” was published on page 3 of the Portland *Eastern Argus* on 29 April 1828. The notice gives no information about his survivors and does not report his age at death. There appears to be no gravestone still in existence for him in any cemetery in the Portland area.

#### CONCLUSION

This study reveals that *Sawyer Families of New England* combined the records of two different Ezekiel Sawyers who lived in and around what is today Portland, Maine. The first Ezekiel Sawyer, married to Sarah Hinkley, was born about 1742 and died in service during the Revolutionary War in 1777. He and Sarah had three children. He was a cordwainer by occupation.

The second Ezekiel Sawyer, whose parents and birth date are not known, also served in the Revolution. After the war he lived in Portland where he married Margaret Coffey/Coffin and raised a family of five children. He died in 1828. In deeds, he was described as a labourer and a truckman.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>31</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 33:335 (labourer), 35:138 (truckman). A truckman was “someone who does business in the way of barter or exchange” (Webster’s dictionary, 1913 edition).

#### CORRECTION

Thomas W. Frank, “The Descendants of James and Thomas Frank: Two Brothers of Early Gray, Maine,” *The Maine Genealogist* 40(August 2018):

The last sentence on p. 145 reads: “[Thomas Frank] purchased lots 4 and 6 in the fourth division of lands in Gray in Aug 1824, and one month later in September, he sold this land to his son Joseph and his nephew William Frank.”

There is in fact no recorded deed showing Thomas Frank’s purchase of land in Gray. He was in Gray by 1790 when he was enumerated in the census, and in 1798 he was taxed for 60 acres of land in Gray with no dwelling house.<sup>1</sup> In 1820 he denied owning real estate.<sup>2</sup> In 1824 he sold lot 6 and part of lot 4 in the 4th division to William Frank and on 16 Sept. 1824 he sold the remainder of lot 4 to Joseph Frank.<sup>3</sup> He did, at some point prior to 1824, own a dwelling house in Gray, and the original homestead house and barn, as of this writing, still stands at 361 Shaker Rd.

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<sup>1</sup> Massachusetts and Maine 1798 Direct Tax, Thomas Frank, Gray, 2:351 [image, american-ancestors.org].

<sup>2</sup> Revolutionary War Pension Application #W23067.

<sup>3</sup> Cumberland Co. Deeds, 99:177, 118:236.

## THE DEVON ORIGIN OF NATHAN<sup>1</sup> BEDFORD OF SCARBOROUGH, MAINE

By Michael J. Leclerc, CG

A number of years ago, I published the origin of my ancestor Nathan Webber, also known as Joseph Ouabard, who was carried captive to Canada after a raid by the Indians on Purpoodock, Maine, in 1703.<sup>1</sup> I recently returned to researching this line, specifically his maternal grandfather, Nathan Bedford. Like many other individuals, clues to Nathan's origin have been in print for decades, but they have never been followed up.

The *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* notes that Nathan Bedford first appeared in Scarborough buying marshland from Henry Watts on 15 June 1660. He was associated with Robert Eliot of Newcastle, New Hampshire, in fishing and trading. In the summer of 1681, Nathan was found bruised and drowned. An inquest on 24 August determined that the bruises were not fatal without drowning, and the court accepted the verdict without suspicion of foul play (thus clearing Capt. Joshua Scottow who was under suspicion of having killed him over a disagreement the two were having).<sup>2</sup>

A genealogy on the descendants of Michael Webber states that Webber's father-in-law, Nathan Bedford, was the first constable in Scarborough in 1665, and was also the keeper of the first ordinary in town, but nothing is mentioned of his origin.<sup>3</sup>

Nathan deposed he was about 28 in 1667 and about 37 in 1676, thus born about 1639. He married Anne Munden and they had a son Nathan, a daughter Deborah who married Michael Webber, and possibly a son William. In 1676–77 Nathan Bedford and one Nicholas Bedford of Black Point, Scarborough, were examined in a case against Walter Gendall.<sup>4</sup>

The *Genealogical Dictionary* states that a Nathan Bedford was baptized in Tottes, Devonshire, England, on 26 July 1640.<sup>5</sup> Charles Edward Banks was a well-known genealogist of the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries. He collected large amounts of data and drew conclusions from it. His *Topographical Dictionary* was published posthumously in 1937. In it he states that the Nathan Bedford who

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<sup>1</sup> Michael J. Leclerc, "From Webber to Ouabard: The New England Origins of Joseph Philippe Ouabard dit Langlois of Cap St. Ignace, Québec," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 159[2005]:308–15.

<sup>2</sup> Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Maine, 1928–1939), 86.

<sup>3</sup> George Walter Chamberlain, *Descendants of Michael Webber of Falmouth, Maine, and of Gloucester, Massachusetts* (Wellesley Hills, Mass., 1935), 9.

<sup>4</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 2], 86.

<sup>5</sup> *Gen. Dict. Maine & N.H.* [note 2], 86.

emigrated to “Scarboro, Maine,” was from the parish of Stoke Gabriel, Devonshire.<sup>6</sup> Stoke Gabriel is located just a few miles from Totnes.

On 5 August 1684, Thomas Blackford, dish turner, John Comer, pewterer, and John Gardner, painter, all of Boston, were bondsmen for Thomas Blackford to act as administrator on the “Estate of Nicholas Bedford late of Stoke Gabriel in the County of Devon Seaman Dece<sup>d</sup> intestate on board the ship *Increase* of New England John Holland Master.”<sup>7</sup> No record of the actual administration survives. Nicholas apparently died at sea and his estate was probated when the ship arrived.

#### BEDFORD FAMILY

In spite of the claim in the *Genealogical Dictionary* that a Nathan Bedford was baptized in Totnes, Devon, on 26 July 1640, no such baptism exists for him there. There is a baptism, however, for Nathan Bedford in Stoke Gabriel on the same date. Boosting the case that the origin of Nathan Bedford of Scarborough had been found, the Stoke Gabriel parish records also include Nicholas’s baptism:<sup>8</sup>

1640. July 26 Nathan Son of John & Isat Bedford

1652. June. 15. Nicholas fili[u]s [*son of*] John & Iset Bedford

The baptismal date for Nathan matches Nathan Bedford of Scarborough perfectly. While no marriage record could be found for Nathan’s parents, John and Isat/Iset Bedford, in Devon, five additional siblings were baptized in Stoke Gabriel:

##### Baptisms

1637[/8] Janu:14 Debora filia [*daughter of*] Johannis Bedford & Isette

1643. Septem 24 John Son of John & Isat Bedford

1646. Nov. 23. Hugh fili[us] Joh & Iset Bedford

1649. Elisabeth filia Johannis & Iset Beford ux [*wife*]. Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>

1656[/7]. March 14 Elisabeth daugh of John Bedford & Iset his wife.

##### Marriages

1659. Nov. 22 Robert Dimond & Debora Bedford

[16]64. July.12 David Tolcher & Avisia Bedford

<sup>6</sup> Charles Edward Banks, *Topographical Dictionary of 2885 English Emigrants to New England, 1620–1650* (Philadelphia, 1937), 27, which cites “Banks mss.” The Charles E. Banks manuscripts, Rare Book Collection, Library of Congress, 44 items on 11 rolls of microfilm, does not include any Bedford entries in Devonshire subsidies, 1624 [FamilySearch digital film (DGS) #7957364 (item 8)], so that is not where he got the Stoke Gabriel location for Nathan Bedford.

<sup>7</sup> Suffolk Co., Mass., Probate Records, #1361 [DGS #102889990, image 639].

<sup>8</sup> All uncited references come from South West Heritage Trust, Parish Registers, Stoke Gabriel, Devon, Baptisms, Marriages & Burials, 1539–1636, 1981A/PR/1/1, and Baptisms, Marriages, & Burials, 1636–1781, 1981A/PR/1/2, available at findmypast.com. Records are not paginated, but are in chronological order. They can be accessed via a searchable index, or by browsing page by page through the registers. FamilySearch also provides Parish Register Transcripts for Stoke Gabriel baptisms and marriages, but not burials, from IGI controlled extraction batches C052442 and M052442 [Family History Library, Salt Lake City, film #917,534, item 2; or DGS #7906993].

## Burials

- 1654[/5]. 17 Jan. Elisabeth daughter of John Bedford & Isak his wife  
 [16]62. April.13 John Bedford  
 [16]63. Oct. 4. John. Bedford, filius Johannis & Isaack  
 [16]63. Oct. 7. Elizabeth Bedford  
 1691. December 22 Isat Bedford vid [*widow*]

Stoke Gabriel burial records are fairly consistent with identifying children as such by including parents' names. Adults are listed by name only. It is not until the seventeenth century that widows began to be identified.

No marriage record has been found in Devon for John and Izet. There are no births for anyone named *Iset* (or spelling variants) in Stoke Gabriel. It is, however, a common name in Devon. Almost two dozen women of that name were baptized there between 1600 and 1625. It is possible that she was from somewhere other than Devon. Stoke Gabriel is located on the River Dart, about two miles upstream from Dartmouth and the English Channel, providing easy access to many other areas.

No baptismal record has been found in Devon for Avisia Bedford who married David Tolcher in Stoke Gabriel, 12 July 1664, nor are there any baptisms for any children of this couple. "Avis wife of David Tolcher" was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 4 February 1696. David was buried there, 14 February 1697. John's was the only Bedford family in Stoke Gabriel in this time. It is possible that Avisia was born in her mother's home parish. Placing her birth about 1635 would make her about twenty-nine years old when she married. A bit old, but not unusual.

The immigrant Nathan's sister Debora Bedford married Robert Dimond. A John Diamond served on the ship *Gift of God*, which brought settlers to Maine's ill-fated Popham Colony in 1607:

John Diamond of Stoke Gabriel, quartermaster. A family of this name came from Dartmouth, Devon, near Marldon and Stoke Gabriel in the next generation, seafaring men, and settled in Kittery, Me.<sup>9</sup>

While no record of baptism can be found for Robert Dimond, there is a good chance he belongs to this family. This may explain Nathan's departure from Devon to settle in Maine by 1660. Additional Stoke Gabriel records show a small family for the parents of his father, John Bedford. John's father was another Nathan for whom Nathan of Maine was probably named:

## Baptisms

1609. The xiiij<sup>th</sup> of August Nathan Bedford had a child baptised John  
 1612. The xj<sup>th</sup> of December Nathan Bedford had a child baptised Ames  
 1616. The xiiij<sup>th</sup> of November Nathan Bedford had a child baptised Ambrose

## Marriages

1608. The xx<sup>th</sup> of october Nathan Bedford was married to Aves Full  
 1637. Novem: 16. John Miller and Ames Bedford

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<sup>9</sup> Charles Edward Banks, "New Documents Relating to the Popham Expedition, 1607" *Proceedings of the American Antiquarian Society* (Worcester, Mass., 1880- ) 39(1929):316, 323, 333.

## Burial

1648. Nov. 25 Avis Bedford.

No burial or probate record can be found for this elder Nathan Bedford or his son Ambrose. Given that there were only three children, that daughter Ames married in Stoke Gabriel in 1637, and that Avis was buried there in 1648, Nathan may have died as a relatively young man. Tracing another generation back, sixteenth-century records for Stoke Gabriel show only two families: those of John and of Water Bedford.

## Baptisms

1578. The xx<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell John Bedford had a child baptised Water  
 1580. The xix<sup>th</sup> Daye of August John Bedford had a child baptised Nathan  
 1583. The xj<sup>th</sup> of october John Bedford had a child baptised named [*torn*]  
 1586. The xij<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell John Bedford had a child baptised Hugh  
 1589. The xiiij<sup>th</sup> of December John Bedford had a child baptised Elisabeth  
 159[2/]3. The xij<sup>th</sup> of January Water Bedford had a child baptised John  
 1596. The xij<sup>th</sup> of November Water Bedford had a child baptised Elizabeth

## Marriages

1591. The ij<sup>th</sup> of maye water Bedford was married to Richard Lightfoot.  
 1598. The xj<sup>th</sup> of november John Crocker was married to Jone Bedford  
 1622. The xvij<sup>th</sup> of november Richard Stancome was married to Elizabeth Bedford

## Burials

1578. The xxx<sup>th</sup> Daye of July John Bedford had a c[*torn*] [buried?]  
 15[89/]90. The xij<sup>th</sup> Daye of march John Bedford was buried  
 159[2/]3 [*torn*] January the same John [baptized xiiij<sup>th</sup>] was buried  
 1614[15]. The v<sup>th</sup> Daye of march Richard Bedford was buried

John was buried in March 1590. This was just weeks after his youngest daughter, Elisabeth, was baptized, indicating that he may have died young and/or unexpectedly. Water married in 1591. John named a son Water and Water named a son John. John's son Water died as an infant. Their apparent closeness in age makes it likely that they were siblings.

John Bedford left a will that was entered into probate in 1594.<sup>10</sup> This record unfortunately is no longer extant. The Exeter Blitz conducted by the Luftwaffe in 1942 destroyed all pre-1858 probate records for Devon. A small number of these were abstracted or transcribed prior to the destruction, but John's was not among them.

Water had only two children, one of whom died in infancy. Marriage records can be found for only two of John's children, Nathan and Joan. There are no records of baptism for any children of Joan, who married John Crocker, in Stoke Gabriel. Elisabeth Bedford married Richard Stancome in Stoke Gabriel 18 November 1622. Both John and Water had a daughter Elisabeth: John's baptized 14 December 1589

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<sup>10</sup> Edw. Alex. Fry, ed. *Calendar of Wills and Administrations Relating to the Counties of Devon and Cornwall, Proved in the Consistory Court of the Bishop of Exeter, 1532–1800*, British Record Society Index Library, 46 (Plymouth, England, 1914), 13.



and Water's baptized 12 November 1596. John's daughter would have been almost 33 years old at the time of the marriage, which is older than normal for a first marriage. Water's daughter would have been 26, closer to the common age for a first marriage, thus it is likely she who married Richard Stancome.

There is only one additional record for anyone named Bedford in Stoke Gabriel in the sixteenth century:

1546. The last weeke of the same moneth [*October*] Nicholas Badford servant to William Holway was buried.

This burial is far earlier than the other records, with no others in between. There is insufficient information to tie this individual into the subject family.

#### BEDFORD FAMILY GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

##### 1 —<sup>D</sup> BEDFORD.

Children of —<sup>D</sup> Bedford:

- 2 i JOHN<sup>C</sup> BEDFORD, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 12 March 15[89/90].
- 3 ii WATER BEDFORD, m. Stoke Gabriel, 3 May 1591, RICHARD LIGHTFOOT.

##### 2 JOHN<sup>C</sup> BEDFORD (—<sup>D</sup>) was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 12 March 15[89/90].

Children of John<sup>C</sup> Bedford, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i WATER BEDFORD, bp. 20 April 1578, prob. the child of John bur. there, 30 July 1578.
- 4 ii NATHAN<sup>B</sup> BEDFORD, bp. 19 Aug. 1580; m. in Stoke Gabriel, 20 Oct. 1608, AVES FULL.
- iii J[*torn*] BEDFORD, bp. 6 Oct. 1583; almost certainly the Jone Bedford who m. Stoke Gabriel, 11 Nov. 1598, JOHN CROCKER.
- iv HUGH BEDFORD, bp. 8 April 1586.
- v ELISABETH BEDFORD, bp. 14 Dec. 1589.

3 WATER BEDFORD (—<sup>D</sup>) married in Stoke Gabriel, 3 May 1591, RICHARD LIGHTFOOT. She may be the Richarde Lightfoot baptized in Bishopsteignton, Devon, 14 April 1568.<sup>11</sup> She was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 5 March 1614.

Children of Water and Richard (Lightfoot) Bedford, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i JOHN BEDFORD, bp. 13 Jan. 159[2/3], bur. days later.
- ii ELIZABETH BEDFORD, bp. 12 Nov. 1596; prob. the Elizabeth Bedford who m. Stoke Gabriel, 18 Nov. 1622, RICHARD STANCOME.

4 NATHAN<sup>B</sup> BEDFORD (*John*<sup>C</sup>, —<sup>D</sup>) was baptized in Stoke Gabriel, 19 August 1580. He married in Stoke Gabriel, 20 October 1608, AVES FULL. Aves was bap-

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<sup>11</sup> South West Heritage Trust, Parish Registers, Bishopsteignton, Baptisms, Marriages, and Burials, 1558–1653, 2202A/PR/1/1. Records are not paginated, but are in chronological order.

tized there, 18 January 1584, daughter of Henry and Ales (Churchward) Full. She was buried there 25 November 1648.

Children of Nathan<sup>B</sup> and Aves (Full) Bedford, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- 5 i JOHN<sup>A</sup> BEDFORD, bp. 13 Aug. 1609, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 13 April 1662; m. ISET —.
- ii AMES BEDFORD, bp. 11 Dec. 1612; m. Stoke Gabriel, 16 Nov. 1637, JOHN MILLER.
- iii AMBROSE BEDFORD, bp. 14 Nov. 1616.

5 **JOHN<sup>A</sup> BEDFORD** (*Nathan<sup>B</sup>, John<sup>C</sup>, —<sup>D</sup>*) was baptized in Stoke Gabriel, 13 August 1609. He was buried there, 13 April 1662. He married ISET—.

Children of John<sup>A</sup> and Izet (—) Bedford, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i (prob.) AVIS BEDFORD, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 4 Feb. 169[5/6]; m. there, 12 July 1664, DAVID TOLCHER, bur. there, 14 Feb. 169[6/7].
- ii DEBORAH BEDFORD, bp. 14 Jan. 1637; m. Stoke Gabriel, 22 Nov. 1659, ROBERT DIMOND.
- iii NATHAN<sup>I</sup> BEDFORD, bp. 26 July 1640, d. Scarborough, Maine, Aug. 1681;<sup>12</sup> m. ANNE MUNDEN.
- iv JOHN BEDFORD, bp. 24 Sept. 1643, bur. in Stoke Gabriel, 4 Oct. 1663.
- v HUGH BEDFORD, bp. 23 Nov. 1646.
- vi ELISABETH BEDFORD, bp. 24 Sept. 1649, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 17 Jan. 165[3/4].
- vii NICHOLAS BEDFORD, bp. 14 June 1652, d. poss. at sea, ca. 1684.
- viii ELISABETH BEDFORD, bp. 14 March 165[5/6].

#### FULL FAMILY

Nathan<sup>B</sup> Bedford married in Stoke Gabriel, 20 October 1608, Aves Full. Three records in Stoke Gabriel point to the identity of Nathan's wife:

1581. The Seventh Daye of October William Full had a child baptised Aves.  
 1583. The Second Daye of August William Full had a child buried named [*interlined:*  
 Aves] A[~~????~~]  
 158[3/4]. The xviii<sup>th</sup> Day [*of January*] Henry Full had a child baptised Aves.

Since only two women named Aves were baptized there in the correct period, and one of them died, we are left with the daughter of Henry as the woman who married Nathan Bedford. The identities of Henry and his wife are more complex. The following records from the Stoke Gabriel register help us to identify them:

#### Baptisms

1553. The xvi<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell James Churchward William Adam & Henry Full had each of them a child christned named Edward, William & John.

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<sup>12</sup> Sybil Noyes, Charles Thornton Libby, and Walter Goodwin Davis, *Genealogical Dictionary of Maine and New Hampshire* (Portland, Me.: The Southworth–Anthoensen Press, 1928–1939; Reprint: Baltimore, Md.: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1972, 1976) 86.

1553. The xxi<sup>th</sup> Daye of December John Full had a child christned named Henrye  
 1556. The viii<sup>th</sup> Daye of September Henry Full had a child christned named Robert.  
 155[8]/9. The xiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of feberarye Henry Full had a child chrisned named Tamzin.  
 1563. The viii<sup>th</sup> Daye of December Henry Full had a child christned & buried named Joan.  
 1564 The Last Day of november Harry Full had a child baptised named Richard  
 1565. The xvth of maye Henry Full had a child baptised named Allyn  
 1569. [July] The xxii<sup>th</sup> Daye Henry Ful had a child baptised Elnore.  
 1574. The i<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye Henry Full had a child baptised Henry  
 157[6]/7. The ix<sup>th</sup> Daye [of January] Henry Full had a child baptized Hughe.  
 157[8]/9. The xvth Daye of Feberery Henry Full had a child baptized John.  
 1582. The ix<sup>th</sup> of maye Henery Full Jn had a child baptised Joan.  
 1582. The xxvi<sup>th</sup> Daye of November Henry Full Sen had a child baptised Jeffery.  
 158[3]/4. The xviii<sup>th</sup> Day [of January] Henry Full had a child baptised Aves.  
 1585. The xx<sup>th</sup> of June Henrye Full Sen had a child baptised Anne.  
 1586. The second of Apirell Henry Full Jn Had a child baptised James.  
 1588. The xxiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye Henry Full of Aysh had a child baptised G[torn]  
 1588[/9]. The second day of Feberery Henry Full of Stoke had a child baptised Rebecka  
 1591. The vi<sup>th</sup> Daye of october Henry Full of Stoke had a child baptised John.  
 1593. The xvii<sup>th</sup> of Apirell John Full of Aysh had a child baptised Henry.  
 1594. The x<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell Henry Full had a child baptised William.

#### Marriages

1561. The iiiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of maye Henry Full was married to Joan Skinner.  
 1571. The xxi<sup>th</sup> of September Henry Full was married to Anstes Haymom.  
 1581. The xii<sup>th</sup> Daye of June Henry Full was married to Alse Churchward.

#### Burials

1559. The xxvii<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye Henry Full had a child buried named William  
 1564. The xiiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of September Henry Full had a child buried named Edward.  
 1573. The third Daye of Apirell Henry Full had a child buried named Joan  
 1578. The iii<sup>th</sup> Daye of november Henry Full had a child buried named Henry.  
 1581. The xxi<sup>th</sup> Daye of July Harry Full the elder had a child buried named Joane.  
 1588. The xi<sup>th</sup> Daye of September James Full was buried.  
 1596. The iiiii<sup>th</sup> of Apirell Joan Full was buried.  
 1608. The xviii<sup>th</sup> of November Henry Full Sen was buried.  
 1611. The xx<sup>th</sup> of Apirell Alse Full was buried.  
 1621. The xxiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of July Alse Full was buried.  
 1621. The xv<sup>th</sup> Daye [of November] Alse Full was buried.  
 1624. The xxiii<sup>th</sup> of August Henry Full of Stoke was buried.  
 163[4]/5. The xiiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of January Anstes Full of Howoll was buried.  
 163[4]/5. The sixth Daye of march Henry Full was buried.

Baptismal and burial records show nineteen children of a man named Henry Full between 1553 and 1594. The first marriage of a Henry Full recorded in Stoke Gabriel was on 4 May 1561 to Joan Skinner. Joan Full was buried in November 1570.

The second recorded marriage was to Anstes Haymom [*Hayman*], 21 September 1571. The third marriage was ten years later to Alse Churchward, 12 June 1581.

There are three baptisms and one burial for children of Henry Full prior to the 1561 marriage. The first use of a description to differentiate between men named Henry Full occurred in the burial of Joan, daughter of Harry Full the elder, on 21 July 1581. This was just a month after the marriage of Henry Full and Alse Churchward. Six months later, on 9 May 1582, Joan, daughter of Henry Full Jr., was baptised. Six months later, on 26 November, Jeffery, son of Henry Full Sr. was baptised.

Henry the elder was possibly married four times:

1. To an unknown woman prior to 1553, with whom he had two children: John and Robert.
2. To an unknown woman prior to 1558/9, with whom he had two children: Tamsin and William.
3. To Joan Skinner in 1561, with whom he had four children: Joan, Richard, Allyn, and Eleanor.
4. To Anstes Haymom [*Hayman*] in 1571, with whom he had six children: Henry, Hugh, John, Jeffrey, Ame, and one more born in 1588, G. Full.

Henry the younger was married once, to Alse Churchward in 1581, and had six children: Joan, Aves, James, John, William, and probably Rebecka.

The terms elder/younger and senior/junior in modern times are often used for fathers and sons. But in the past, they were used to identify adults with the same name living in the same community who may or may not be related by blood. This was dynamic, with labels changing as individuals died or moved away. Thus, when senior died or left, junior became senior, the third became junior, etc., so one cannot be certain of how many there are at one time.

Although described as senior and junior, the men here do not appear to be father and son. Henry Sr. had only one known son named Henry, baptized in 1574. Obviously he cannot be Henry Jr., who married in 1581. Only one Henry was baptized in Stoke Gabriel before 1561—the son of John Full baptized in 1533. Twenty-eight years old at the time of the marriage to Alse, he is the perfect age to be Henry Jr.

Both had children born in 1588. On 24 May “Henry Full of Aysh” had a child baptized. The page is torn away, and only the first letter of the given name remains, G[?]. A little over eight months later “Henry Full of Stoke” baptized his daughter Rebecka on 2 February 1588/9. The registers are full of designations for individuals referring to hamlets, houses, and farms. In this instance, Aish is a small hamlet about a mile from the center of Stoke Gabriel.

Henry Sr. was buried in 1608. On 23 August 1624, “Henry Full of Stoke<sup>13</sup> was buried.” Henry “junior” would have been 70 years old in that point. If Henry Jr. was

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<sup>13</sup> His designation “of Stoke” probably refers to the place where the actual stoke was in the village, marked today by a street called Stoke Hill.

from Stoke, then Henry Sr. would be the one from Aish. This would make senior the likely father of G[?], and junior the likely father of Rebecka. Another Henry was buried 6 March 1635. This is likely the son of John Full baptized in 1593.

Identifying the John Full, the father of Henry baptized in 1553, is more complicated. The following records from the parish register involve men named John:

#### Baptisms

154[6]/7. [*The third week of March*] The same weeke John Full Junior had a child christned named John.

1551. The xvi<sup>th</sup> Daye of November John Full Jn had a [*torn*]stned named William.

1558. The xxv<sup>th</sup> of november John Full the younger had a child christned named Aise.

1564. [*torn*]Daye [*October*] John Full had a child baptised named Amys.

#### Marriages

1545. The second weeke [*of July*] John Full was married to Tamsin Tealor

1547. [*The first week of June*] The same Weeke John Full the elder was married.

1581. The xxix<sup>th</sup> of November John Full was married to Margeritt Mychelmore.

#### Burials

154[3]/4. [*The last week of*] January John Full the sonne of John Full was buried.

154[5]/6. The same [*third*] week [*of March*] John Full was buried.

1547. The same [*last*] weeke [*of April*] Tamsin Full was buried.

1561. The xxvii<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell John Full was buried.

1566. The same [*xxiith*] Daye [*of August*] John Full the younger was buried.

1568. the xiii<sup>th</sup> of october John Full had a child buried named Joan.

1589. The xxv<sup>th</sup> Daye of march John Full of Aysh had a child buried named John.

1603. The same Daye [*xxx<sup>th</sup> of November*] John Full of Stoke was buried.

Viewing these records in chronological order shows that there were multiple men named John Full residing concurrently in the parish. A John Full was buried in 1546. In May 1547, John Full Jr. baptized a baby, and John Full the elder was married in June, indicating two adults living in that time. John Full married Tamsin Taylor the second week of July 1545. John Full Jr. baptized his son John the third week of March 1547. Tamsin Full was buried the following week. John Full the elder married the first week of June 1547. It is very unlikely that John Sr. would be marrying just a few weeks after the death of his wife. The timing of the birth and marriages indicates that Tamsin was likely the wife of John Full Jr.

John Jr. likely married again, as he baptized a son William in 1551. The baptism of Henry in 1553 does not clarify whether he was a son of John Jr. or John Sr., but the proximity to the baptism of a child for junior and no other baptisms for senior in this period makes it likely that he was a child of John Jr.

A man named John Full was buried in 1561, likely the John who married in 1547. In 1566 John Full the younger was buried. This indicates that at the time there was still another adult named John Full who was older than this John Full. Lacking probate and land records, it is sometimes difficult to determine which John was who during any given period solely from parish registers.

The parish registers show additional individuals named Full in this early period that indicate the wider family:

#### Baptisms

1539. The last weeke of Apirell John Churchward [*torn*] a child Christned named Will[*torn*] [*torn*]Full had a child Christned [*torn*].  
 1542. The xiii<sup>th</sup> of September Ane the Dafter of William Full was christned.  
 154[3/]4. [*January*] William Full had a child christned named Anthonye  
 1546. The first weeke of Maye William Full had a child christned named William.

#### Marriages

1544. The second weeke of August William Elliott was married to Alse Full  
 156[6/]7. The sixth of Januarye Richard Efford was married to Ann Fulll.  
 1573. The xxvi<sup>th</sup> Daye [*of July*] William Full was married to Aeson Cooke.

#### Burials

- 154[6/]7. The same [*third*] week [*of January*] Margery Full was Buried  
 154[6/]7. The third weeke of marche William Full had a child christned buried named [*torn*]  
 1556. The xxviii<sup>th</sup> Daye of August Emlyn Full was buried.  
 1570. [*torn*]ovember Joan Full was buried.  
 157[0/]1. The xix<sup>th</sup> Daye [*of February*] Ebbett Full was buried.  
 1571. The ix<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell William Full was buried.  
 1583. The second Daye of August William Full had a child buried named Aves.  
 1584. The xiii<sup>th</sup> Daye of August William Full had a child buried named Alsen.  
 [1584] The sixth of July Elizabeth Full wyd was buried.  
 1588. The xi<sup>th</sup> Daye of September James Full was buried.  
 1596. The iiiii<sup>th</sup> of Apirell Joan Full was buried.

These records show three more individuals named Full being married and/or having children in Stoke Gabriel in the early sixteenth century: Alse, Henry, and William. This suggests a likely family of children for the eldest John Full.

### FULL FAMILY GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **JOHN<sup>F</sup> FULL** was buried in Stoke Gabriel, Devon, the third week of March 154[5/]6. He left a will entered into probate.<sup>14</sup> His wife may be the Margery Full, buried there the third week of January 154[6/]7.

Children of John<sup>F</sup> Full:

- 2 i JOHN<sup>E</sup> FULL, m. (1) — —; m.(2) — —.
- 3 ii WILLIAM FULL, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 9 April 1571; m. — —.
- 4 iii HENRY FULL, m. (1) — —; (2) — —; m. (3) JOAN SKINNER; m. (4) ANSTES HAYMOM [HAYMAN].
- iv ALSE FULL, m. Stoke Gabriel, the second week of Aug. 1544, WILLIAM ELLIOTT.

<sup>14</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 71.

2 **JOHN<sup>E</sup> FULL** (*John<sup>F</sup>*) married first an unknown woman who died prior to 1547. He married second in Stoke Gabriel, the first week in June 1547, another woman whose name is not known. He is likely the John Full who was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 17 April 1561.

Child of John<sup>E</sup> Full and his 1st wife:

- 5 i. **JOHN<sup>D</sup> FULL**, m. (1) — —; m.(2) Stoke Gabriel, the second week of July 1545, TAMSIN TEALOR [TAYLOR], who was bur. Stoke Gabriel, the last week of April 1547; m. (3) — —.

3 **WILLIAM FULL** (*John<sup>F</sup>*) was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 9 April 1571. He left a will entered into probate the same year.<sup>15</sup> His wife's name is unknown.

Children of William Full, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i child, bur. third week of March 154[6]/7.
- ii **ANNE FULL**, bp. 13 Sept. 1542; m. Stoke Gabriel, 19 Jan. 156[6]/7, RICHARD EFFORD.
- iii **ANTHONY FULL**, bp. Jan. 154[3]/4.
- iv **WILLIAM FULL**, bp. first week of May 1546; m. Stoke Gabriel, 26 July 1571, AESON COOKE.

4 **HENRY FULL** (*John<sup>F</sup>*) was buried in Stoke Gabriel, 18 November 1608. He married first by 1553 a wife whose name is unknown, but possibly the Emlyn Full buried in Stoke Gabriel, 28 August 1556. He married second an unknown woman who died by 1561. He married third in Stoke Gabriel, 4 May 1561, JOAN SKINNER, who was buried there in November 1570. He married there fourth, 21 September 1571, ANSTES HAYMOM [HAYMAN].

Children of Henry Full and his 1st wife, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i **JOHN FULL**, bp. 16 April 1553.
- ii **ROBERT FULL**, bp. 8 Sept. 1556.

Children of Henry Full and his 2nd wife, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- iii **WILLIAM FULL**, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 27 May 1559.
- iv **TAMSIN FULL**, bp. 13 Feb. 155[8]/9.

Children of Henry Full and his 3rd wife, Joan (Skinner), bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- v **JOAN FULL**, bp. and bur. 5 Dec. 1563.
- vi **RICHARD FULL**, bp. last day [30] Nov. 1564.
- vii **ALLYN FULL**, bp. 16 May 1565.
- viii **ELNORE FULL**, bp. 22 July 1569

Children of Henry Full and his 4th wife, Anstes (Haymom/Hayman), bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- ix **HENRY FULL**, bp. 1 May 1574, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 3 Nov. 1578.

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<sup>15</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 72.

- x HUGHE FULL, bp. 1 Jan. 157[6/]7.
- xi JOHN FULL, bp. 15 Feb. 157[8/]9.
- xii JEFFERY FULL, bp. 26 Nov. 1582.
- xiii ANNE FULL, bp. 20 June 1585.

5 **JOHN<sup>D</sup> FULL** (*John<sup>E-F</sup>*) is possibly the John Full “of Stoke” buried in Stoke Gabriel, 30 November 1603. A will for John of Stoke Gabriel was entered into probate in 1604.<sup>16</sup> He married first an unknown woman, with whom he had in least one child. He married second in Stoke Gabriel, the second week of July 1545, TAMSIN TEALOR [TAYLOR]. She was buried there the last week of April 1547. He had a third wife, whose name is not known.

Child of John<sup>D</sup> Full and his 1st wife:

- i JOHN FULL, bur. Stoke Gabriel, the last week of Jan. 154[3/]4.

Child of John<sup>D</sup> and Tamsin (Tealor) Full, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- ii JOHN FULL, bp. the third week of March 154[6/]7.

Children of John<sup>D</sup> Full and his third wife, baptized in Stoke Gabriel:

- iii WILLIAM FULL, bp. 16 Nov. 1551.
- 6 iv HENRY<sup>C</sup> FULL, bp. 21 Dec. 1553.
- v ALSE FULL, bp. 25 Nov. 1558.
- vi AMYS FULL, bp. Oct. 1564.

6 **HENRY<sup>C</sup> FULL** (*John<sup>D-E-F</sup>*) was baptized in Stoke Gabriel, 21 December 1553. He was buried there, 23 August 1624. An inventory of his estate was recorded in 1626.<sup>17</sup> He married in Stoke Gabriel, 12 June 1581, ALSE<sup>C</sup> CHURCHWARD. She was baptized there, 4 March 1552, daughter of John<sup>D</sup> Churchward (see Churchward Genealogical Summary). She was buried there, 20 April 1611.

Children of Henry<sup>C</sup> and Alse (Churchward) Full, baptized in Stoke Gabriel:

- i JOAN FULL, bp. 9 May 1582.
- ii AVES<sup>B</sup> FULL, bp. 18 Jan. 158[3/]4, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 25 Nov. 1648; m. there 20 Oct. 1608, NATHAN<sup>B</sup> BEDFORD (see Bedford Family Genealogical Summary).
- iii JAMES FULL, bp. 2 April 1586, bur. in Stoke Gabriel 11 Sept. 1588.
- iv REBECKA FULL, bp. 2 Feb. 1588[9].
- v JOHN FULL, bp. 6 Oct. 1591.
- vi WILLIAM FULL, bp. 10 April 1594.

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<sup>16</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 72.

<sup>17</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 74.



## CHURCHWARD FAMILY

The family of Alse<sup>C</sup> Churchward also has deep roots in Stoke Gabriel.<sup>18</sup> She was baptized there in 1552:

## Baptisms

1552[/3]. The iiiij<sup>th</sup> Daye of Marche John churchward of hill had a child baptised named Alse.

There is no marriage record for John, but there are other records that shed light on his family:

## Baptisms

1539. The last weeke of Apirell John Churchward [*torn*] a child Christned named Will[*torn*] [*torn*]Full had a child Christned [*torn*].

15[39/40]. The third weeke of January John Churchward had a Child Christned named Thomas.

1543. The first weeke of Apirell John Churchward had a Child christned named Thamsin

1547. The last weeke of August John Churchward in Hill had a child christned named [*torn*]

1549. The xij<sup>th</sup> Daye of November John Churchward to tomhill the younger had a child christned named Nicholas.

## Marriages

1565. The vi<sup>th</sup> Daye [July?] William Churchward w[*torn*].

1573. The xxiiij<sup>th</sup> of november Nicholas Churchward was married to Jane Kinge.

1578. The x<sup>th</sup> of november Robert Sulter was married to Kateren Churchward.

1581. The xii<sup>th</sup> Daye of June Henry Full was married to Alse Churchward.

## Burials

1539. The last weeke of September John Churchward had a child buried named Richard.

1541. The xxj<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye Sysse the Daughter of John Churchward was buried

1546. The second week of Apirell John Churchward in Hill had a child buried named Thomas.

It appears that John Churchward had at least eight children: Sysse, Richard, William, Thomas, Tamsin, an unnamed child, Nicholas, and Alse. The child baptized in 1547, whose name was in the torn section of a page, is quite possibly the Kateren Churchward who married Robert Sulter in 1578. Although she would have been older than normal for a first marriage, there is no baptism for a child with any version of Kateren/Catherine/etc., nor is there another baptism for anyone named Churchward whose given name is unknown.

Parish records reveal several individuals having children around the same time as John Churchward of Hill:

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<sup>18</sup> The Churchward surname, however, is also found during the sixteenth century in the adjoining parishes of Paignton and Churston Ferrers, and nearby parishes of Brixham, Dartmouth, and Blackawton to a lesser extent.

## Baptisms

153[8/9]. The first weeke of feberary Thomas Churchward Child was christned the Wensdaye in the same weeke whose name was Thamsin.

154[0/1]. The xxij<sup>th</sup> Daye of Marche Petornell Churchward the [*torn*]hter of Thomas Churchward was Christned.

1543. The same weeke [*first week of April*] Thomas Churchward had a Child christned named Anne

1547. The first weeke of June James Churchward had a child christned named Joan.

1550. The xj<sup>th</sup> Daye of October James Churchward had a child christned named Johan.

1551. The xxvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of October Harry Churchward in Brigge had a child christned named Joan.

1553. The xvj<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell James Churchwood William Adam & Henrye Full had each of them a child christned named Edward, William & John.

1555. The xxvj<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye Henry Churchward had a child christned named John.

1556. The xvj<sup>th</sup> Daye of August Henry churchward had a child christned named John.

1557. The vj<sup>th</sup> Daye of feberarye Henrye Churchward had a child christned named James.

1557. The xxvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of October Harry Churchward in Brigge had a child christned named Joan.

1558. the x<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell James Churchward had a child christned named Joan.

1558. [*torn*]aye of August John Churchward in stayre [*torn*]stned named Henrye

1559. The xvj<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell Henry churchward had a child christened named Joan.

15[59/60]. The same Daye [29 January] John churchward at Mill<sup>19</sup> had a child christned named John.

1560. The xxij<sup>th</sup> Daye of November James churchward had a child christned named Andrewe

1561. The xx<sup>th</sup> Daye of Apirell henry churchward had a child christned named John.

156[1/2]. [*torn*]v<sup>th</sup> Daye of January John churchward [*torn*]d christned named william.

156[2/3]. The second Daye of feberarye Harry Churchward had a child christned named Margerye.

1563. The xvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of July James Churchward had a child christned named Elnor.

1565. The xxvj<sup>th</sup> of August James Churchward had a child baptised named James.

1566. The xxij<sup>th</sup> of September John Churchward mil[l]<sup>20</sup> had a child baptised named Thomas.

1567. The first of September Tamsin Churchward had a child baptised Jane.

156[8/9]. The xvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of January John Churchward had a child baptised named Joan.

1571. The xvij<sup>th</sup> of Apirell John Churchward mil[l] had a child baptised Joane

1573. The xth of Apirell John Churchward had a child baptised Josias.

## Marriages

1540. The same weeke [*third week of May*] John Pretor was married to Willmott Churchward.

<sup>19</sup> His designation "of Mill" almost certainly refers to Mill House situated on the river and still in existence today as a bed-and-breakfast inn.

<sup>20</sup> The word ends with a long backward line over the word from the last letter, indicating a letter or letters have been omitted. The 1559/60 baptism reveals that the missing letter was an L.

1545. The second weeke [of June] John Dashper was married unto Joan Churchward in Brige.
1546. The third week of maye James Churchward was married.
1555. The xiiij<sup>th</sup> Daye of Maye John Heaward was married to Joan Churchward.
1557. The x<sup>th</sup> Daye of maye John Churchward in Stayre was married to Anne Gallo-waye.
1561. The v<sup>th</sup> Daye of maye Nicholas Busland was married to Petornell Churchward.
1565. The xxj<sup>th</sup> [April] John Elliott was married to Johan Churchward.
1566. The xiiij<sup>th</sup> of Julye Robert Kinge was married to Margerye Churchward.
- 157[1/]2. The xxj<sup>th</sup> Daye of January William Stone was married to Tamsin Churchward
1579. The xj<sup>th</sup> of June Andrew Churchward was married to Mary Martin.

#### Burials

1541. The iiiij<sup>th</sup> Daye of June Joan the Dauther of Thomas Churchward was buried.
1543. The same weeke [first week of April] John Churchward in Brigge had a servant buried named John Cornyshe.
1543. The same [first] weeke of Maye Richard Churchward had a Child buried named Thomas.
1545. The same [second] weeke [of June] Thomas Churchward had a child buried named Ane.
- 154[5/]6. The third week of february Anne Churchward was buried the Daughter of David Churchwood in E[illegible].
1547. The first weeke of Apirell Thomas H[?]?ward Churchward was buried.
1547. The same [second] weeke [of June] James Churchward had a child buried named Joan.
1550. The xxvj<sup>th</sup> Daye november John Churchward in Stayre was buried.
- 155[0/]1. The xvij<sup>th</sup> Daye of febery John Churchward in tamhill the elder was buried
- 1551 The xxvith Daye of September Jane Churchward in Brigge was buried christned ~~named Joane.~~
1553. The eight Daye of July Henry churchward had a child buried named Joan.
- 155[4/]5. The third Daye of march Henry churchward had a child buried named Margery.
1557. The first Daye of October James churchward had a child buried names Willmott.
1558. The same Daye [6 June] Margery churchward widdow was buried.
1561. The xxvth Daye of the same month [March] John churchward was buried.
1562. The xxij<sup>th</sup> Daye of June Henry churchward had a child buried named John.

Probate indexes are very informative. Most of the individuals in the sixteenth century named Churchward were from Stoke Gabriel. Several of the people appear who are listed as parents in the register, but there are also individuals who do not appear in the register at all:<sup>21</sup>

- Henry Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1539  
 Richard Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1545  
 John Churchward, Hamhill Stoke Gabriel, 1547

<sup>21</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 35–37.

John Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1553  
 Margery Churchward, widow, Stoke Gabriel, 1558  
 John Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1563  
 Henry Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1564  
 Thomas Churchward, Stoke Gabriel, 1571  
 Jacob Churchward, Senior, Stoke Gabriel, 1580

The loss of probate records has impacted the identification of individuals more in this family than the other two, but parish registers show several fathers with children in the first part of the sixteenth century:

Richard Churchward, child buried 1543  
 Thomas Churchward, children baptized 1539–1543  
 John Churchward of Hill, children baptized and buried 1539–1552  
 David Churchward, child buried 1545  
 James Churchward, children baptized and buried 1550–1565  
 Henry Churchward, children baptized and buried 1551–1563  
 John Churchward, children baptized 1558–1562  
 John Churchward, children baptized 1566–69

One conflict we have from the parish registers is the two women named Thamsin Churchward. The daughter of Thomas was baptized the first week of February 1538/9. The daughter of John of Hill was baptized the first week of April 1543. One of these women had a daughter born out of wedlock, Jane, who was baptized 1 September 1567. There is a Thamsin Churchward who married 25 January 157[1/2] William Stone. There is insufficient information, however, to determine which Thamsin had the child out of wedlock, which got married, and whether it was the same Thamsin in both cases or two different Thamsins.

The births of their parents clearly occurred prior to the start of the parish registers in 1539. No ages were given in the burial registers. It is possible that Richard, Thomas, John (later of Hill), and David Churchward had additional children, born prior to the start of registers in 1539. In addition to these men, we have Wilmott Churchward who married John Pretor in 1540 and Joan Churchward of Brige who married John Dashper in 1545. These leave us with six individuals of approximately the same age.

The will of John Churchward who died in 1553 could be John of Hill, whose last child was baptized in 1552. The wills of the 1560s, 70s, and 80s easily belong to the other fathers in the baptismal records. If the Richard who left a will in 1545 is the same man whose child was buried in 1543, we are left with three wills: Henry in 1539, John of Hamhill in 1547, and the widow Margery in 1558. Margery could easily be the widow of either of these men, or of John of Hill.

With wills probated only eight years apart, it is possible that Henry and John Churchward of Hamhill are siblings. But they could also be father and son. If Richard, Thomas, John of Hill, David, Wilmott, and Joan Churchward were siblings, born between say 1510 and 1525, John of Hamhill could be their father, born say

1485 and aged about 62 when he died about 1547. Henry might be his father, born say 1460 and aged about 79 when he died about 1539. Without the missing probate records, it is impossible to determine the exact relationships of these individuals.

#### CHURCHWARD FAMILY GENEALOGICAL SUMMARY

1 **JOHN<sup>D</sup> CHURCHWARD** resided in Hill, Stoke Gabriel. This is likely a reference to the Hill Mansion owned by the Churchward family for centuries. He died in Stoke Gabriel by 1553, when a will for John Churchward of Stoke Gabriel was entered into probate.<sup>22</sup>

Children of John<sup>D</sup> Churchward, bp. Stoke Gabriel:

- i SYSSE CHURCHWARD, bur. Stoke Gabriel, 21 May 1541.
- ii RICHARD CHURCHWARD, bur. Stoke Gabriel, Sept. 1539.
- iii WILLIAM CHURCHWARD, bp. last week of April 1539; m. Stoke Gabriel, 6 July 1565, — —.
- iv THOMAS CHURCHWARD, bp. third week of Jan. 15[39/40
- v THAMSIN CHURCHWARD, bp. first week of April 1543. She may be the mother of Jane Churchward, bp. 1 Sept. 1567. She may be the Thamsin Churchward who m. in Stoke Gabriel, 25 Jan. 157[1/2], William Stone, but see further discussion above.
- vi — CHURCHWARD, bp. last week of Aug. 1547; prob. the Kateren Churchward who m. Stoke Gabriel, 10 Nov. 1578, ROBERT SULTER.
- vii NICHOLAS CHURCHWARD, bp. 14 Nov. 1549; m. Stoke Gabriel, 23 Nov. 1573, JANE KINGE.
- viii ALSE<sup>C</sup> CHURCHWARD, bp. 3 March 155[2/3], bur. Stoke Gabriel, 20 June 1611; m. there, 12 June 1581, HENRY<sup>C</sup> FULL (see Full Family Genealogical Summary).

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<sup>22</sup> *Devon and Cornwall Wills and Administrations, 1532–1800* [note 10], 36.

LINCOLN COUNTY, MAINE, WILL ABSTRACTS  
1800–1830

*(continued from p. 116)*

**105. JOSIAH ROBBINS of Union, husbandman (LCP 15:118)**

[No statement of health]

To my wife Sarah Robbins, one half of the improvement of the farm on which I now live, and the use of half the bldgs thereon dur her nat life. I also give her at her own disposal 2 cows, 6 sheep, and all my h/h furniture, and also the use of my horse whenever she may have occasion therefor.

To my daus Olive Gilmore, Polly Gilmore and Sarah Gilmore, to each of them \$100, to be pd each of them, to the sd Olive Gilmore within 1y aft my dec, to the sd Polly Gilmore within 2y aft my dec, and to the sd Sarah Gilmore within 3y aft my dec with interest aft the expiration of 1y till pd.

To my son Nathaniel Robbins, all my homestead with the bldgs thereon and all my stock of creatures except what is otherwise disposed of in this will, with the farming utensils aft my wife's dec.

To my son Lewis Robbins, my desk and half of my pew in the meeting house, being one of the front pews and the same which I own in partnership with Mr. Alden.

To my sons Nathaniel and Lewis all my wearing apparel to be eq div betw them.

Appt my son Nathaniel exec.

Dated: 29 Aug 1804

Signed with his signature ("Josiah Robbins")

Witnesses: Amos Barret, Abijah Hawes, Stephen March

In Probate: 25 Jun 1811

**106. CALEB GRAY of Wiscasset (LCP 15:121)**

Being weak of body

To my wife Jemima Gray and to her heirs and assigns forever, all the RE & PE wherever situated of which I may die seized and possessed.

Appt my wife Jemima Gray sole exec.

Dated: [will not dated]

Signed with his signature ("Caleb Gray")

Witnesses: Sam<sup>l</sup> Parker, Moses Hilton Jr., John Babson

In Probate: 28 Jun 1811

**107. JOHN FULTON of Topsham, yeoman (LCP 15:186)**

[No statement of health]

To my son David Fulton, in addition to 60a of land which I have given him by deed, also a yoke of oxen, a horse and a [watch?] and the further sum of \$5.

To my dau Margaret, in consideration of the care and labor which she has employed in taking the principal charge of the family for some years, I give \$50, 1 cow, 6 sheep or their value in money as she may choose; and 1/2 of my h/h furniture.

To Agnis Mustard, in addition to what I have already given her, \$30.

To Nathaniel Owen, in addition to what I have already given her [*sic*], I add 6 sheep or their value in money as she [*sic*] may choose.

To Sarah [*no surname or relationship stated*], I give 1 cow and 6 sheep, or the value thereof as she may choose together with the remaining 1/2 of my h/h furniture.

My will is that all the remainder of my RE & PE be div into 9 equal shares and 3/4 parts of another share, to be disposed of in the following manner: to Margaret, 2 shares; to Sarah, 1 1/2 share; to Mary Patten, 1 1/4 share; to Jane Webb, Agnes Mustard, Hannah Copp, Betsey Robinson and Katherine Owen, 1 share each.

Furthermore, if Sarah Soul, dau of my dau Betsey, should continue to live in my family till she arrives to ae 18y, I give her a cow or the value thereof in money.

Appt Joseph Patten sole exec.

Dated: 5 Sep 1807

Signed with his signature (“John Fulton”)

Witnesses: John Morse, Jane Fulton, Jon<sup>a</sup> Ellis

Codicil

Whereas in the above written instrument I appt Joseph Patten to be sole exec, and the sd Joseph having since deceased, I do now constitute Joseph Mustard of Topsham and William Owen of Georgetown to be joint execs.

Codicil dated: 26 Jan 1809

Codicil signed with his signature (“John Fulton”)

Codicil witnesses: Samuel D. Ellis, Jane Fulton, Jonathan Ellis

In Probate: 24 Aug 1811

**108. NYMPHAS STACEY of Wiscasset, gentleman (LCP 15:191)**

[No statement of health]

To my wife Abigail Stacey, the possession, use, occupation and income of all my RE dur her nat life and as long as she remains my wid. I also give her all my PE to hold as her own and at her free disposal; only, if any shall remain at her dec, it is my will that it be eq div betw 3 of my chn, to wit: Abigail Stacey, William Stacey and John Stacey.

To my son Nymphas Stacey Jr., the new house I lately built and the lot on which it stands, sd lot is bd S by land I lately sold sd Nymphas, E by the county road, N by land of Nathaniel Austin, and W by land of Reuben Young, provided the sd Nymphas Stacey Jr. shall pay to my exec hereafter named \$1800 in 3y next aft my dec. And if sd Nymphas Stacey Jr. shall not pay sd sum of \$1800 within sd time, then I will that sd house and house lot be eq div betw my sd 3 chn, Abigail Stacey, William Stacey and John Stacey and their heirs and assigns forever. And if sd Nymphas Stacey shall not pay sd \$1800 as aforesd and take sd house and house lot, then I will that there be pd to him out of my est at the dec of his mother \$400. And should sd Nymphas Stacey Jr. pay sd \$1800 as aforesd and take sd house and house & lot, then the same is to be considered in full of everything I mean to give him out of my est, except the sum of \$5 which I order my exec to pay unto him whenever demanded aft my dec.

And if the sd Nymphas Stacey shall pay the sd \$1800 as aforesd, then I bequeath \$200 out of the same to my granddau Hannah Taylor, to be pd when she becomes ae 18y if she lives so long; and the remaining \$1600 I herebygive to my sd wife, as a part of my PE to hold the same as her own. And should Nymphas Stacey Jr. not pay sd sum of \$1800 as aforesd, I order that there be pd unto Hannah Taylor when she becomes ae 18y, if she lives so long, the sd sum of \$200 out of my RE.

All the residue of my RE & PE I give to my 3 chn Abigail Stacey, William Stacey and John Stacey in eq shares aft the dec or marriage of their mother aforesd.

Appt my wife Abigail Stacey sole exec.

Dated: 23 Mar 1811

Signed with his signature ("Nymphas Stacey")

Witnesses: Alden Bradford, Jere Bailey, Sam<sup>l</sup> Parker

In Probate: 14 Sep 1811

**109. ABIEL WOOD of Wiscasset, merchant (LCP 15:195)**

[No statement of health]

That the true value of all my RE & PE may be come at by sale at public vendue, and that, after paying all my just debts, and my wife Sally S. Wood her right of dower and paying my granddau Lydia Louisa Bowman \$1000 at ae 18y, and that the remainder of all my est may be eq div betw my sons Abiel Wood Jr., Joseph T. Wood and Henry Wood, and my only dau Susan the wife of Mr. Charles Savage.

Appt my son Joseph T. Wood sole exec, and request that he give to each of my sons's wives, Hannah, Sarah, Sophia and Mary, and to my dau Susan and my granddaus Betsey Wood and Louisa, suitable mourning rings.

Dated: 12 Jul 1811

Signed with his signature ("Abiel Wood")

Witnesses: Jere Bailey, Seth Tinkham, Jn<sup>o</sup> Merrill Jr.

In Probate: 22 Aug 1811

**110. DAVID SMALL of Bowdoin, yeoman (LCP 15:197)**

Being weak in body

To my wife Darkes Small, all the RE & PE that I own in Bowdoin after paying all my lawful debts to her sole use and behoof so long as she remains my wid and no longer.

Appt my sd wife Darkis Small sole exec.

Dated: 22 May 1807

Signed with his signature ("David Small")

Witnesses: George Lewis, John Thompson, James Rogers

In Probate: 24 Aug 1811

**111. JOHN KELLY of Georgetown, gentleman (LCP 15:209)**

[No statement of health]

To my wife Jennet, 1 bed & bedding, 6 Windsor chairs, and a square table to her and her heirs forever.



To my dau Nancy Ross of Bowdoinham, 3 pair of sheep.  
To my dau Mary, 1 bed & bedding when she shall arrive at ae 22y, and also \$40 at the same time.  
To my dau Elizabeth, 1 bed & bedding and also \$40 when she shall attain ae 22y.  
To my son Thomas Kelly, \$100 within 1y aft my dec.  
To my son William G. Kelly, \$100 when he shall arrive at ae 21y.  
To my son James Kelly, \$100 when he shall attain ae 21y.  
To my sons Francis Kelly, \$100 when he shall attain ae 21y.  
All the residue of my RE & PE I give to my son John Kelly Jr. on condition that he is to pay all my debts and funeral charges, to provide for the support of my wife, who is to occupy the S lower room in my dwl house and a convenient part of the cellar dur her widowhood, and on condition also that he provide for the support and bringing up of those of my chn who are minors until they come of age, to give my daus a home in my dwl house dur their unkm state, at the same time they to assist as usual in the family concerns, that he pay to each of my chn bef named the legacies which I have herein made to each of them at the times specified.  
Appt my son John Kelly Jr. and Capt. James Percey execs.  
Dated: Georgetown, 9 Feb 1810  
Signed with his signature (“John Kelly”)  
Witnesses: Mark L. Hill, Wm. Coffee, Mary Wyman  
In Probate: 23 Aug 1811

**112. JAMES JEWETT of Edgecomb, gentleman (LCP 15:332)**

[No statement of health]  
To my wife Alice Jewett, \$10.  
To my eldest son [unnamed], \$2.  
To my 4 youngest sons John Jewett, Stephen Jewett, Moses Jewett Moses Jewett [sic], and William Jewett, \$2 apiece.  
To my 3 daus Mary Mahony, Hannah Webber, and Ruth Tarbox, \$2 apiece.  
Which sums of money I will shall be pd to the legatees within 6m aft my dec.  
As to all the rest of my RE & PE, I give the same to my wife Alice Jewett.  
Appt my wife Alice Jewett sole exec.  
Dated: 7 Nov 1811  
Signed with his signature (“James Jewett”)  
Witnesses: John North, Martha White, Lewis Throp  
In Probate: Jan 1812

**113. JOHN DAWES of Boothbay, yeoman (LCP 15:426)**

Being weak in body  
To my bro Jonathan Daws of Mount Desert, to my bro Nathaniel Tibbets and Louis his wife, to my bro Thomas Snell and Lidia his wife, to my bro Jonas Mitchell and Sarah his wife, all of Woolwich, to my sister Hannah Wall of Boothbay, to my bro Benjamin M<sup>c</sup>Farland of Boothbay, to my sister Abigail Stinson of Georgetown, to my bro Samuel M<sup>c</sup>Farland at Kennebeck, and to my bro Robert

M<sup>c</sup>Farland at Gorham, and to their respective heirs, in lieu of all interests, inheritance or legacies, parts, or proportions of my RE & PE, \$1 to each.

To my wife Mary Daws, all my RE & PE (except 24a and 86 sq rods which I shall hereafter mention and dispose of) to be appropriated to her sole use.

To Nancy & Andrew M<sup>c</sup>Collough, heirs of Samuel M<sup>c</sup>Colough of Boothbay, deceased, 24a 86r on the N end of my land lying in Boothbay and bd as follows: beg at an oak marked on 4 sides standing on Robert Montgomery's line, thence W 1° N 33r to a birth tree marked on 4 sides standing on Jeremiah Beath's deceased S line, thence W 5° S 84r to a stake standing in William M<sup>c</sup>Cobb's Esq<sup>r</sup> E line, thence S 35r to a spruce tree marked on 4 sides, thence E 5° N 110r to a pile of stones in sd Montgomery's lines, thence NNE 34r to the first mentioned bounds, containing 24a 86 r, as taken by a survey by Mr. John M<sup>c</sup>Clintock 18 Jun 1804, sd land to be eq div betw them.

Appt my wife Mary and Mr. John M<sup>c</sup>Gown execs.

Dated: 30 Mar 1805

Signed with his signature ("John Daws")

Witnesses: Jenet Leishman, John Leishman Jun<sup>r</sup>, Caty M [her mark] Wall

In Probate: 29 Apr 1812

**114. WILLIAM CHAPMAN of Thomaston, yeoman (LCP 15:468)**

Being very weak in body

To my wife Deborah, 1/3 of all my RE & PE and all the h/h furniture dur her nat life, and at her dec my son Isaac to have the 1/3 part of the RE & PE and the h/h furniture to be at my wife's disposal.

To my dau Deborah Evellath, \$2. I also give to my dau Abigail Chapman, \$2, and Lucy Rust \$2, and also to my son William Chapman \$2, and to my son Ralph Chapman \$2, and also to my dau Prudence Chapman \$2, and to my dau Mary Chapman \$2, and to my dau Exca Chapman \$2, to be pd out of my est, and unto all my un<sup>m</sup> girls or daus so long as they shall remain un<sup>m</sup> 1 room in my dwl house to live in with the privilege of cutting firewood as much as they want to burn to make themselves comfortable, and all the residue of my RE & PE to my son Isaac Chapman.

Appt my son Isaac Chapman exec.

Dated: 7 Nov 1811

Signed with his mark ("X")

Witnesses: Joseph Ingraham, Benj<sup>a</sup> Cooper, William Perry, Elijah Torrey

In Probate: 2 Jun 1812

*(to be continued)*

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