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# Connecticut



# Ancestry

WHOLE NUMBER 250

August 2010  
VOL. 53, NO. 1

## OUR 250<sup>TH</sup> ISSUE!

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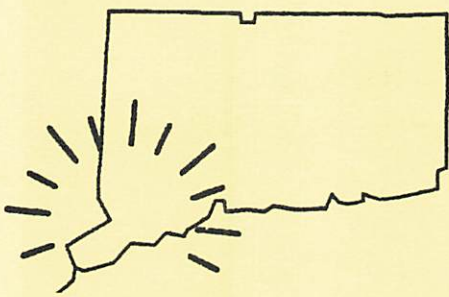
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• *Focus on Southwestern Connecticut* •

## **Connecticut Ancestry**

the Quarterly Journal of the CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY, INC.  
(founded as Stamford Genealogical Society)  
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**Connecticut Ancestry** is indexed in the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI). The Society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference.

## President's Message

Dear Members,

As your new president I first want to thank Rob Locke for his term of service. His enthusiasm for genealogy and his respect for the Society combined to invigorate the Board of Directors and to help guide the organization toward a more solid future. He continues on the Board as treasurer, membership chair and webmaster and his energy will keep us up to date in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

I bring a new genealogical perspective to Connecticut Ancestry. All of my immigrant ancestors came from Ireland. The first four of them came to the United States at the end of the famine period around 1849. The next four came just after the Civil War and the last, my grandfather, came in 1905. They all lived in the Cincinnati area where I was born. I've lived in Connecticut since 1987, and that is the extent of my family history in this state!

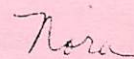
A major goal for my presidency is to increase member participation in the Society. We plan to approach this in two ways. First, we will provide programs or events, ranging from formal lectures to informal discussion groups, at least 9 times a year. (See the back pink page for events now scheduled.) Second, we plan to work on projects that will help to increase access to genealogical materials. Ideas include digitizing the genealogy charts previously submitted by members and creating indexes to useful source materials. We hope to put the results of these projects online in a members-only area of our website. Some of the projects will require work in Fairfield County (such as the index being created for a volume of Norwalk vital records). Others could be done by people living out-of-state. The Board hopes many of you will want to help out with the projects.

Our journal *Connecticut Ancestry* is a respected source for Fairfield County genealogy and history. Many of you have heard of Thomas Jones, Ph.D, CG, CGL. He is a prolific writer and the co-editor of the *NGS Quarterly*. He said recently that he began writing articles for publication so that *his research would be preserved*. This is the same sentiment expressed by our Society Genealogist Fred Hart in his salute to *ConnAn* editors beginning on page 1.

Our Society's mission is to "promote genealogical scholarship, preserve source material, and exchange family histories." What part of *your* genealogical research do you want to preserve? Please contact our editor to discuss how you can put your hard work into print.

I'm delighted to be your president and I'm looking forward to an exciting year of genealogy.

Good luck with your research!



Nora Galvin

## Editorial Notes

Welcome to the 250<sup>th</sup> issue of *Connecticut Ancestry*! While we now publish just four issues a year, our predecessor *Bulletin of the Stamford Genealogical Society* was published monthly, which accounts for this milestone number. See the lead "Salute" by the Society's genealogist, Fred Hart, for an overview of the journal's history.

Beginning this year's focus on the Loyalists of southwest Connecticut, Patricia Reed's article on the family of Daniel and Sarah Burrirt of Newtown and New Milford gives a wealth of detail on the lives of this numerous family. In hopes of encouraging more contributions on Connecticut Loyalists, this is followed by my short article on some relevant sources.

In other articles on families from our area Fred Hart discredits several published accounts which name Mary Reynolds as the wife of Benjamin Brush of Greenwich. Next Paul Finch shows which of earlier published accounts must be wrong and which correct for Martha, wife, in turn, of Thomas Lawrence, of John Chapman, and of Francis Brown, all of Stamford.

Though relatively common in the past, it has been several years since this journal published an article on the holdings of local repositories. Paul Keroack revives the tradition with an article on the local history collection at Norwalk Public Library. This is followed by Paul's summary of older genealogical volumes which may now be found conveniently on the internet. (Though your editor must confess that this is, to him, much less satisfying than holding a century-old volume in hand.)

Ken Rockwell's family interests focus on Ridgefield. Lessons from his examples of findings from that town's land records would apply to almost any Connecticut town. And in this journal we had room for just the first part of his summary of deeds and other sources on early Ridgefield settlers. The full article, to be concluded in our next journal issue, covers just over 100 of these first settlers with clues from these land records and other sources, some published and some found on-line.

*Harlan R. Jessup*

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This is *your* journal on Connecticut families and Connecticut research. Sharing your knowledge of sources, your genealogical techniques, and the results of your research is what keeps the publication going. Reports on work in progress are encouraged—reader response to such an article may advance your research. Whatever you send is appreciated. We will acknowledge all contributions.

Preferred submission is now as an email attachment using any standard word-processing application to [hjessup@charter.net](mailto:hjessup@charter.net). Or send a hard copy in "camera ready" format by mail to the Editor, Harlan R. Jessup, 25 Taunton Ridge, Newtown, CT 06470. As near as possible, please format as follows:

- 1 inch margins all sides of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.
- Titles bold and centered in at least 12pt. or 14pt. type followed by author's name and contact information (address and/or email), also centered. Section titles bold on left margin.
- Use a serif font such as Times, Times New Roman, or Garamond, usually 12pt. or 11pt.
- For most text, justification to both left and right margins looks best.
- For family genealogies we prefer either *Register* or *Modified Register* format.
- Sources should be referenced with numbered footnotes (not endnotes).
- Do not number pages except lightly in pencil on reverse of hard copies.

|           |           |             |             |         |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| DEADLINE: | July 1    | October 1   | January 1   | April 1 |
| For Issue | #1 August | #2 November | #3 February | #4 May  |

## A Salute to ConnAn On the Occasion of Our Journal's 250<sup>th</sup> Issue

Frederick C. Hart Jr., CG, FASG  
hartfc@aol.com

This issue of *Connecticut Ancestry*, affectionately known (locally, anyway) as ConnAn, is the 250<sup>th</sup> in a series that began in September, 1958 as the *Bulletin of the Stamford Genealogical Society, Inc.* Volume 1, Number 1 was a single page that contained only organizational news, meeting notes and schedules. But it also included what we would identify today as a mission statement: "Objectives: This Society, incorporated in 1955, aims to locate and preserve genealogical records, making such available to the public. It aims to encourage and assist members in genealogical research." The actual publication of genealogical records to "preserve" them and make "such available to the public" was still in the future for the young organization.

There were monthly bulletins for the first few years, except in the summer months. Beginning with Volume 8 (1965-1966) editor Paul W. Prindle instituted the quarterly schedule we have today. The transition from a simple one-page newsletter to a serious and respected genealogical journal containing about 200 pages a year was a gradual development by many editors over many years. An excellent overview of the history of the publication will be found at the beginning of our Society's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Issue,<sup>[1]</sup> and the whole first half of that issue is a retrospective of ConnAn's content over the years.

During its first year, in May 1959, the *Bulletin* listed the names of the members at that time: 43 individuals or couples of whom 12 were living outside of Connecticut. Even then, the genealogy of southwestern Connecticut families was important enough to draw membership from residents outside of the area. That trend has continually increased since then to the point where our membership now contains almost equal numbers of Connecticut and non-Connecticut residents, and subscriptions to our journal are maintained in libraries throughout the United States. Far from being "completed," the genealogy of the families of our target area of southwestern Connecticut and its immediate neighborhood seems to have unlimited possibilities for further research: additional problems solved, new relationships discovered, and more original records uncovered and shared. Having gradually understood and developed its function of becoming the vehicle that would be "making such available to the public," the editors of (then) the *Bulletin* and (now) *Connecticut Ancestry* have transformed that publication into the centerpiece of our collective efforts to live up to the original and continuing basic objective of the Society.

Two major issues have been discussed by the Board recently, and the answers are still not evident. One is the pressing need for an overall combined index to these first 52-odd volumes. The other is a decision on electronic publication of the journal, considering both historical issues and current issues, and both for the Internet and for individual members' use. Our experience

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<sup>1</sup> Joyce S. Pendery, "Connecticut Ancestry Through The Years - Forty-six Volumes in Review," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 47(Sep 2004): 1.

with just placing the tables of contents of ConnAn's issues on the Internet, where they can be recognized by the search engines, already tells us that there is widespread interest in these topics, increasing the visibility of the entire organization. Our primary concern here is to improve the benefits of membership, rather than dilute them, because it is only through continuing a strong membership base that the journal will be able to survive.

Finally, when we salute ConnAn we must salute the contributors and editors themselves. The contributors have included many first-time authors venturing into publication for the first time (as I was myself with 5 pages in 1989), many member and non-member established authors, many genealogical project managers who have conducted years of dedicated research and presented their results first to ConnAn readers, and many others who are even now preparing materials that we will be enjoying and learning from in future issues. Maybe this is a good time to extend an invitation to all ConnAn readers to become contributors - 2 pages or 20!

The Society's debt to our editors is immeasurable. 100% of their efforts have been volunteered, amounting to countless hours of perfecting the articles (including contributing many of their own), encouraging and challenging inexperienced writers (and probably enduring some obstreperous ones), checking data, counting pages, fixing punctuation, figuring out how to present tables and illustrations with a professional appearance, verifying the latest address list, meeting deadlines, dealing with the mechanics of publication and mailing, and even doing all the indexing themselves until very recent times. As the journal has progressed from a newsletter to a genuine genealogical journal, it is all the more laudable that 4 of these editors have spent 6 years or longer in the position: Mrs. Hubert, Mrs. Burroughs, Bob Ferry, and now our present editor, Harlan Jessup. Our hats are off to all of them, and they have our sincere thanks for making *Connecticut Ancestry* one of the most respected locally-produced genealogical journals in the country today.

**Editors of *Connecticut Ancestry* and its predecessor,  
*Bulletin of the Stamford Genealogical Society*  
(in chronological order)**

|  |                            |
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| <b>Elizabeth Baldwin (Mrs. Richard) Hubert</b>           | <b>Sep 1958 - May 1961</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Charles W. Hawley</b>                            | <b>Sep 1961</b>            |
| <b>Robert W. Carder</b>                                  | <b>Nov 1961 - Nov 1964</b> |
| <b>Paul W. Prindle, FASG</b>                             | <b>Jan 1965 - May 1966</b> |
| <b>Edith M. (Mrs. Clifford) Wicks and Dorothy Kummel</b> | <b>Sep 1966 - May 1967</b> |
| <b>Elizabeth Hubert (again)</b>                          | <b>Sep 1967 - May 1971</b> |
| <b>Harold B. Hubbell</b>                                 | <b>Sep 1972 - Nov 1974</b> |
| <b>Mrs. Gordon S. Burroughs</b>                          | <b>Feb 1975 - May 1983</b> |
| <b>Glenna Kiner Baptist</b>                              | <b>Sep 1984 - May 1987</b> |
| <b>Thomas Jay Kemp</b>                                   | <b>Sep 1987 - Nov 1988</b> |
| <b>Patricia F. Larrabee</b>                              | <b>Feb 1989 - May 1991</b> |
| <b>Joyce S. Pendery, CG</b>                              | <b>Aug 1991 - May 1994</b> |
| <b>Robert W. Ferry</b>                                   | <b>Aug 1994 - May 2003</b> |
| <b>Harlan R. Jessup</b>                                  | <b>Aug 2003 - present</b>  |

**The Descendants of Daniel and Sarah (COLLINS) BURRITT**  
**United Empire Loyalists**  
 Patricia R. Reed  
 prr924@sbcglobal.net

*At the Council Chamber at Quebec, 09 Nov 1789:* Those Loyalists who have adhered to the unity of the Empire, and joined the Royal Standard before the Treaty of Separation in the year 1783, and all their children and their descendants by either sex, are to be distinguished by the following capitals, affixed to their names: U.E. alluding to their great principle the unity of the Empire.<sup>[1]</sup>

Numbered among the pioneers of the early Loyalist settlements of Upper Canada were descendants of Daniel Burritt of Newtown, Connecticut. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren helped build many of the communities that lie between the St. Lawrence and Ottawa Rivers in present-day Ontario. They cleared and tilled the virgin soil; they built mills, factories, churches and roads. Some served their new-founded communities in appointed and elected civil capacities, others as doctors and lawyers. In the War of 1812 several of them defended their new homeland against invasion by their former countrymen. They were farmers, skilled artisans and middle-class professionals. None of them achieved great fame or fortune but a century after Daniel's arrival there, his descendants were unquestionably part of the old Loyalist establishment of eastern Ontario.

Though he lived his adult years elsewhere, Daniel Burritt's Fairfield County roots went deep. In Connecticut, Vermont and Ontario his life and his children's lives were intertwined with other Fairfield families bearing names such as Hawley, Hurd, Jessup and Sherwood. William<sup>1</sup> Burritt, Daniel's great-great-grandfather, was an early resident of Stratford, Connecticut. It is not known exactly when or where he first arrived in New England. He has not been located in any colonial records of the 1620's or 1630's and his name is not listed among the first Stratford settlers of 1639.<sup>[2]</sup> He probably arrived there in the 1640s and certainly before 28 May 1651, when the inventory of his estate was taken.<sup>[3]</sup> His widow Elizabeth (\_\_\_\_\_) outlived him by thirty years, keeping most of the family property to pass on to her children.<sup>[4]</sup> Daniel's great-grandfather Stephen<sup>2</sup> Burritt was ensign and later lieutenant of the Fairfield trainband, and in that capacity he distinguished himself during King Philip's War.<sup>[5]</sup> His wife Sarah was a member of the Nichols family of Stratford; her father Isaac Nichols served as deputy to the General Court

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<sup>[1]</sup> Lord Dorchester's Proclamation. *United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada*. Website. Accessed 23 Mar 2010.

<sup>[2]</sup> Orcutt, Rev. Samuel. *A History of the Old Town of Stratford and the City of Bridgeport, Connecticut*. New Haven, CT: Press of Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor. 1886. Part 1, p. 187. Hereinafter cited as *Orcutt*; "Stratford First Settlement Map." *The USGenWeb Project - Fairfield County CT*. Website. Accessed 19 May 2010.

<sup>[3]</sup> *Orcutt*, p. 102; "Early Settlers of Stratford, Conn.," *New England Historical & Genealogical Register*. Boston, MA: New England Historic Genealogical Society. 1845-. Volume 27, Number 1 [Jan 1873]. p. 62.

<sup>[4]</sup> Burritt, Lewis L. *The Burritt Family in America: Descendants of William Burritt of Stratford, Conn.* Privately published. 1940. p. 14. Hereinafter cited as *Burritt*.

<sup>[5]</sup> *Orcutt*, pp. 198, 200; Trumbull, J. Hammond, A.M. *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut From 1665 to 1678...* Hartford, CT: F. A. Brown. 1852. p. 367.

during three sessions in 1662 and 1665.<sup>[6]</sup> Daniel's great-uncle Peleg<sup>3</sup> Burritt was one of the original 36 proprietors of Newtown.<sup>[7]</sup> Daniel's grandparents Josiah<sup>3</sup> and Mary (Peat) Burritt also moved their family to Newtown, and Daniel was born there in 1735.

Daniel removed to New Milford, Litchfield County about the time of his 1756 marriage to Sarah Collins, and remained there until approximately 1773. Like other land-hungry Connecticut residents, Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burritt sought opportunity on the northern frontier, once British victory in the French and Indian War had removed the threat of invasion.<sup>[8]</sup> Daniel and his brother Andrew were among the grantees of the Charter of Hinesburg, Vermont 24 Jun 1762, but only Andrew settled there.<sup>[9]</sup> Instead, Daniel and Sarah removed to Arlington, Vermont. Arlington was settled primarily by Anglicans from Roxbury, Newtown and New Milford, Connecticut, who derived their ownership rights from the New Hampshire Grants.<sup>[10]</sup> In the years leading up to the Revolution their titles were called into question by New York, which claimed jurisdiction over Vermont. Though many Arlington settlers were generally sympathetic to the Tory cause, being of "a conservative tendency that 'clung to the established order of things,'"<sup>[11]</sup> most were more concerned with these pressing local issues than politics on a continental scale. Their main desire was for "a stable government under whose protection they could continue to clear their farms in peace," and given the bickering between the governments of New Hampshire and New York "the established British institutions seemed to offer the desired strength and security."<sup>[12]</sup> The legal and political uncertainty created a complicated, fragile situation in which unwavering fidelity to any cause must have been nearly impossible. Even so notable a Patriot as Ethan Allen was charged with treason for his participation in secret negotiations with the British in the 1780's, after the Continental Congress refused to grant recognition to the Vermonters.<sup>[13]</sup> Regardless of whether Allen was playing a cat-and-mouse game or seriously entertaining a return to the royal fold, the episode illustrates the danger in which Vermonters found themselves, battling to preserve their land ownership and caught between two violently opposed forces. The fragility of the situation led to "considerable shuffling about on the part of the inhabitants, following the fluctuations in the fortunes of war. It

<sup>[6]</sup> Orcutt, p. 128; Trumbull, J. Hammond. *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut Prior to the Union with the New Haven Colony, May 1665*. Hartford, CT: Brown & Parsons. 1850. pp. 379, 431, 439.

<sup>[7]</sup> Hoadly, Charles J. *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut From October, 1706, to October, 1716*...Hartford, CT: Press of Case, Lockwood and Brainard. 1870. p. 56

<sup>[8]</sup> "Vermont." *Encyclopedia Britannica Online*. 2010. Website. Accessed 20 May 2010.

<sup>[9]</sup> Hemenway, Abby Maria. *Vermont Historical Gazetteer: a Magazine Embracing a History of Each Town, Civil, Ecclesiastical, Biographical and Military, Volume I*. Burlington, VT: Published by Miss A. M. Hemenway. 1867. pp. 792-793. Hereinafter cited as *Hemenway*.

<sup>[10]</sup> "Arlington, Vermont." *Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia*. Website. Accessed 20 May 2010.

<sup>[11]</sup> Knowles, Norman. *Inventing the Loyalists: The Ontario Loyalist Tradition & the Creation of a Usable Past*. Toronto, ON: University of Toronto Press. 1997. p. 111. Hereinafter cited as *Knowles*.

<sup>[12]</sup> Lampee, Thomas C. "The Missisquoi Loyalists." *Vermont History: The Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*. Volume 11, Number 2. Jun 1938. p. 83. Hereinafter cited as *Lampee*.

<sup>[13]</sup> Sherwood, Captain Justus "Journal, Miller's Bay 26<sup>th</sup> Octr 1780." *Vermont History: The Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*. Volume XXIV, Number 2 [Apr 1956]. pp. 101-109; Volume XXIV, Number 3 [Jul 1956]. pp. 211-219; Winsor, Justin. *Narrative and Critical History of America*. New York, NY: Houghton, Mifflin and Company. 1888. Volume XII, pp. 188-189.



was true that many who flocked to Burgoyne's camp to 'take protection,' as it was termed, were actuated by expedience rather than conviction, but it was the only way that those exposed settlers could ensure the safety of their homes and families."<sup>[14]</sup> Daniel's family were known Loyalists, and in petitions he and his older sons filed after the war they stated that they had joined the British during Burgoyne's 1777 campaign. But Daniel's sons also appeared, albeit sporadically, on the payrolls of the Vermont militia. The Burritts were not the only Loyalist men who served in the militia and many, possibly all of them, were drafted.<sup>[15]</sup> Having witnessed the fates of other Arlington Loyalists whose wealth and prominence failed to protect them, the Burritts may have kept their opinions to themselves and fulfilled their military service when they could not avoid it. It is also possible that they were among those who 'followed the fluctuations in the war', hoping to secure their homes and property. Daniel lost his livestock but held onto his land. For whatever reason, the Burritts appear to have achieved a measure of redemption from local authorities, and they certainly did not suffer as heavily as some. Their story is not atypical. The stereotype of the noble heroes persecuted for their unwavering loyalty, which comes down to us through Canadian lore, is no more true than that of the unscrupulous, mercenary traitors found in the American national myth.<sup>[16]</sup> Such a gulf in time and circumstances separates us that it would be grossly unfair to judge their motivations. Suffice it to say that at some point the family's delicate balancing act became untenable and they had to choose their future course. If the Burritts ever were ambivalent, in the end they decided to stake their fortunes with the British government, a decision which must have made them unwelcome in their native land.

In 1783 Britain was "faced with the draining expenses of the recent war, the maintenance and resettlement of the refugees, and the reluctance of the new American Republic to compensate for property confiscated within its borders."<sup>[17]</sup> Granting the Loyalists free portions of the vast Canadian Crown lands was not only economical; it had the added benefit of diluting Canada's dominant French population. Most Loyalists were reluctant to settle permanently in Quebec, where they would not only be subject to institutionalized Catholicism and a seigneurial landholding system, but without their treasured forms of representative government. The commander in Canada, Major General Haldimand, did not want them in Quebec either; he saw the need for settlements along the upper St. Lawrence River and Great Lakes to facilitate maintenance and supply for the western British forts. With a "surplus and unattached population absolutely under his control,"<sup>[18]</sup> he directed that lands be laid out for them there. Nine townships were surveyed along the St. Lawrence immediately west of the Ottawa River, although for settlement purposes there were considered to be only eight. These were known as the Royal Townships. An additional five were laid out along the Bay of Quinté and became known as the Cataraqui Townships. Land was granted to Loyalist refugees and veterans of Loyalist regiments,

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<sup>[14]</sup> Lampee, pp. 89-90.

<sup>[15]</sup> Hoyt, Edward A. "The Pawlet Expedition, September 1777." *Vermont History: The Proceedings of the Vermont Historical Society*. Volume 75, Number 2 [Summer/Fall 2007]. p. 80.

<sup>[16]</sup> For an analysis of Loyalist reality vs. Loyalist myth see *Knowles*.

<sup>[17]</sup> Merriman, Brenda Dougall. *United Empire Loyalists*. Campbellsville, ON: Global Heritage Press, Inc. 2006. p. 9.

<sup>[18]</sup> Lampee, p. 96.

according to family size and military rank.<sup>[19]</sup> Daniel and Sarah removed to Augusta (Royal Township #7) about 1792,<sup>[20]</sup> where their adult children had settled several years earlier. Their neighbors in Augusta included the families of Phineas and Anna (Hawley) Hurd, Colonel Edward and Abigail (Dibble) Jessup, and Captain Justus and Sarah (Bottum/Longbottom) Sherwood, all of whom had ties to Fairfield County, Connecticut.

In 1784 the St. Lawrence valley from the Ottawa River to the eastern shores of Lake Ontario was truly a wilderness, lacking European or native settlements.<sup>[21]</sup> For the Loyalist settlers, the safety and the comforts of European-style civilization were more than a hundred miles away in Montreal. There were no churches and no government institutions or economic infrastructure; homes, roads, mills and mercantile establishments all had to be created where none had ever existed. Most regimental units settled together in the same townships, and order was initially established along military lines. The earliest marriages were performed by military officers and justices of the peace, though these irregular marriages were later officially confirmed by the government. Winters were long, dark and brutally cold. Animal skins provided the most readily available clothing for both men and women (In his *History of Leeds and Grenville*, Leavitt describes bonnets made of squirrel skin and deerskin petticoats died blue from the bark of maple trees).<sup>[22]</sup> Balancing these hardships were other factors in their favor: the Burritts had been frontier settlers in Vermont, and as such were uniquely suited to their task. Rivers like the St. Lawrence, Rideau and Ottawa facilitated travel, trade and industry. There were no native residents to contest with, allowing the Upper Canada pioneers to flourish undisturbed by war or invasion until 1812.

Writing about any Loyalist family is an endeavor fraught with pitfalls. Neither the chaos of the war nor the conditions in Upper Canada were conducive to comprehensive, accurate record-keeping. Oral traditions are inevitably riddled with errors and often embellished by proud descendants. The Loyalists have been both vilified by American authors and mythologized by Canadian ones for nationalistic or political reasons. The following sketch is an attempt by this writer to recreate some part of the real history of one such family, in an effort to “do the United Empire Loyalists the honour of painting them as they were.”<sup>[23]</sup> Continuing study of American and Canadian records will yield a fuller understanding, but we may never be able to completely comprehend the story of their lives. Though every attempt at accuracy has been made, errors of

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<sup>[19]</sup> “Land for the Loyalists.” *The Merrickville and District Historical Society Newsletter*. Volume 7, Number 1 [Spring 2009].

<sup>[20]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Daniel Burritt Sr. Memorial. Johnstown District. 05 Jan 1808.

<sup>[21]</sup> Eccles, W. J. *The Canadian Frontier 1534-1760*. Revised Edition. Albuquerque, NM: The University of New Mexico Press. 1983. p. 23; “From Indians to Loyalists.” *The Journal of the North Grenville Historical Society*. Volume 1, Number 2 [June 2008]. pp. 1-3.

<sup>[22]</sup> Leavitt, p. 31.

<sup>[23]</sup> Wallace, W. Stewart. *The United Empire Loyalists: A Chronicle of the Great Migration*. Volume 13 of the “Chronicles of Canada” (32 Volumes). Toronto, ON: Glasgow, Brook & Co. 1914. Introduction.

fact and interpretation are all too possible. The author welcomes corrections from any interested parties.

## Generation One

1. **DANIEL<sup>5</sup> BURRITT**, (*Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*) son of Stephen and Mary (Dayton) Burritt,<sup>[24]</sup> was born in Newtown, Connecticut 22 May 1735<sup>[25]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario 04 Feb 1827, “aged 92 yrs 8 ms.”<sup>[26]</sup> He married New Milford, Connecticut 08 Feb 1756,<sup>[27]</sup> **SARAH<sup>4</sup> COLLINS**, daughter of Nathan<sup>3</sup> (*Daniel<sup>2</sup>, Daniel<sup>1</sup>*) and Phebe (\_\_\_\_\_) Collins. She was born New Milford, Connecticut 01 May 1733<sup>[28]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario 02 Jul 1815, “aged 82 yrs.”<sup>[29]</sup>

After his marriage, Daniel worked as a blacksmith in New Milford.<sup>[30]</sup> The last of his children to be recorded there was born in 1767, but the family may not have removed to Vermont until about 1773, when he purchased land in Arlington.<sup>[31]</sup>

Daniel’s activities from 1777 to 1792 are a confusing tangle of conflicting stories. Claims that he fought alongside the British in 1777 are countered by statements that he merely sought protection within their lines. Some authors have stated that he was the Daniel Burritt who served with Captain Matthew Lyons’ Vermont militia in October 1780; it seems more likely to have been his son Daniel, who turned eighteen in March of that year.<sup>[32]</sup> An affidavit presented to the Loyalist Commission in Montreal in 1788 alludes to his presence in Quebec by 1784, yet he clearly remained in or returned to Arlington.<sup>[33]</sup> One history of the family even claims that they spent the war years in hiding, an assertion which is clearly disproven by the documentary record.<sup>[34]</sup> It seems fair to say that Daniel probably *was* with Burgoyne’s army during the ’77

<sup>[24]</sup> Lewis Burritt mistakes her for Anne Sherman, who married Stephen Burwell. See *Wald(1)*, pp. 2-5.

<sup>[25]</sup> *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Vital Records, Volumes 1-55*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1994-2002. Newtown Vital Records, p. 45. Hereinafter cited as *Barbour*.

<sup>[26]</sup> *Wald(1)*, p. 3; Daniel Burritt gravestone, Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario; “Directory of Loyalists.” *United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada*. Website. Accessed 24 May 2010.

<sup>[27]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 67.

<sup>[28]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 67.

<sup>[29]</sup> Stephen Collins Family bible records in possession of Dr. Burt Collins of Manotick, Ontario. Courtesy of Annette Truesdell; Sarah (Collins) Burritt gravestone, Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario.

<sup>[30]</sup> *Orcutt*, p. 495.

<sup>[31]</sup> Curtis, Ellwood Count. *The Descendants of William Burritt (c. 1610-1651) and His Wife Elizabeth (c. 1615-1681)*. Cedar Falls, IA: Galactic Press. 2003, p. 29; Wald, Cynthia. “Daniel and Andrew Burritt: Connecticut Brothers in Arlington, Vermont.” *Vermont Genealogy*. Volume 1, Number 1 [Jan1996]. p. 27. Hereinafter cited as *Wald(2)*.

<sup>[32]</sup> Goodrich, John E. *The State of Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company. 1904. p. 172.

<sup>[33]</sup> Fraser, Alexander. *Second Report of the Bureau of Archives For the Province of Ontario, Part II*. Toronto, ON: L. K. Cameron, Printer to the King’s Most Excellent Majesty. 1905. p. 1100. Hereinafter cited as *Fraser*.

<sup>[34]</sup> “Burritt History.” *The Merrickville and District Historical Society Newsletter*. Volume 3, Number 1 [Spring 2005].

campaign. He may have given some type of service in return for protection, but whether or not it was of a military nature is unclear. Some members of the family probably went to Quebec in the late 1770's and early 1780's, while others remained in Arlington. They may even have traveled back and forth between the two locations.

Daniel Burrirt of Arlington appears on an April 1778 list of estates to be confiscated. According to a June 1778 accounting, only one pair of oxen was taken, valued at £15.0.0.<sup>[35]</sup> He may have entertained hopes of remaining in Vermont: he and his son Adoniram, along with his brother Andrew and cousin Caleb Dayton, signed a June 1781 petition seeking a grant for a new township on the west side of Lake Champlain, near Ticonderoga.<sup>[36]</sup> He was still resident in Arlington in 1790, when he was enumerated on the first U.S. Federal Census with a household composed of 1 adult male, 4 females, and 2 males under 16.<sup>[37]</sup> He filed a Crown Land Petition with the British Government 03 May 1790, and received a grant of 200 acres in the eastern half of Lot 29, 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession, Augusta. At the same time he sold his land in Arlington, preparatory to his removal to Augusta. It has been speculated that his decision to remove to Canada at this time was twofold: the 1792 liberalization of Canada's land policy to grant 200 acres to each descendant of a qualified U.E. Loyalist, and the end of hope for Vermont's reabsorption into the British Empire following statehood in 1791.<sup>[38]</sup>

Daniel had a long struggle to establish his Loyalist *bona fides*. He left a fairly sizable paper trail, which unfortunately does not completely clear up the inconsistencies mentioned above. His entry in the directory of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada states that he fought alongside Burgoyne's forces at the Battle of Saratoga.<sup>[39]</sup> However, he and his son Stephen filed with the British government's Loyalist Claims Commission in 1786, stating only that they "went within Army lines under Gen. Burgoyne," and Daniel's claim for compensation was denied. One must be careful not to read too much into the rejection: the commissioners, following "their mandate to protect the public purse against exaggerated demands or direct fraud," dismissed many legitimate claimants for minor technicalities. Loyalists who had not rendered "substantial service" during the war, or those who remained in or returned to the United States were also rejected out of hand.<sup>[40]</sup> Daniel's 1788 Montreal affidavit stated that he joined the British "when the Rebellion broke out."<sup>[41]</sup> A 1792 Land Board Certificate recognized him as

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<sup>[35]</sup> Nye, Mary Greene ed. "Sequestration, Confiscation and Sale of Estates." *State Papers of Vermont, Volume 6*. Montpelier, VT: Secretary of State. 1941.

<sup>[36]</sup> Nye, Mary Greene ed. "Petitions for Grants of Land, 1778-1811." *State Papers of Vermont, Volume 5*. Montpelier, VT: Secretary of State. 1939. p. 268.

<sup>[37]</sup> 1790 U.S. Federal Census. Original data: The National Archives. Online database: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll: M637\_12; Page: 17; Image: 31; Family History Library Film: 0568152

<sup>[38]</sup> *Wald(2)*, p. 29.; *Leeds & Grenville Land Records*. Courtesy of Larry Driver, Leeds & Grenville Branch Ontario Genealogical Society.

<sup>[39]</sup> "Directory of Loyalists." *United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada*. Website. Accessed 24 May 2010.

<sup>[40]</sup> Knowles, p. 144; Coldham, Peter Wilson. *American Migrations 1765-1799*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 2000. pp. xi, 150. Hereinafter cited as *Coldham*.

<sup>[41]</sup> *Fraser*, p. 1100.

“not stated U.E., only a settler.”<sup>[42]</sup> The British government expunged many actual Loyalists from the U.E. rolls at the end of the 1790’s, in an excess of concern over fraudulent claims. Daniel’s name appeared on the 1797 endorsed “U.E. Roll” for the Eastern District,<sup>[43]</sup> but as late as 05 Jan 1808, Daniel was once again asking to have his name restored to the list. In this last petition he stated that “he did Join the army under the Command of General Burguoin on the Sixteenth day of August 1777 ~ and Remained in the Service of the aforesaid army till the Capitulation” [i.e., the surrender at Saratoga]. His U.E. status was restored by Order in Council 09 Mar 1808.<sup>[44]</sup>

After settling in Augusta, Daniel lived a long but seemingly very quiet life there. His sons and grandsons played active roles in building their communities, but there are no records of Daniel serving in any capacity, civil or military, on juries or even on committees. The same is true of many of the settlers from Daniel’s generation, even though a number of them lived to advanced ages. In his 1786 compensation claim Daniel was described as being “aged and infirm” in 1777, though he would have been just 42 years old at the time. It is not a stretch to imagine that the stresses of the war years may have left him spent.

Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burrirt probably had a grandchild living with them in Augusta, because in 1796 their household included one male child and two female children.<sup>[45]</sup> Their youngest daughters Tamar and Nancy were still unmarried at that date, and were probably the underage females. However their youngest son Major was already married and established in his own household, though he did not reach 21 until October of that year. The underage male may have been Henry Burrirt, oldest child of their son Stephen.

Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burrirt both lived to see their newly adopted country fight yet another war with the Americans. Sarah died at the close of the War of 1812 and Daniel survived her for another twelve years. They are buried in Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario.

#### Children of Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burrirt:

- 2 i. Lois Burrirt, b. 16 Oct 1756; m. Jehiel Hurd.
- 3 ii. Adoniram Burrirt, b. 16 Jul 1758; m. Sarah Read.
- 4 iii. Stephen Burrirt, b. 22 Nov 1759; m. Martha Stevens.

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<sup>[42]</sup> *The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists 1784-1884....With an Appendix, Containing a Copy of the U.E. List, Preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto.* Toronto, ON: Rose Publishing Company. 1885, p. 172.

<sup>[43]</sup> Fitzgerald, E. Keith. *Ontario People: 1796-180.* Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1993. p. 14. Hereinafter cited as *Fitzgerald*.

<sup>[44]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions.* Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Daniel Burrirt Sr. Memorial. Johnstown District. 05 Jan 1808.

<sup>[45]</sup> *1796 Census of Augusta Township, Johnstown District.* Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #C-1345. Transcribed by Pat Martin. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project.* Website. 2007. Accessed 26 May 2010.

5. iv. Edmond Burrirt, b. 07 Dec 1761; m. Philena Hinds.
6. v. Phebe Burrirt, b. 06 Oct 1763; m. Robert Buck.
7. vi. Esther Burrirt, b. 08 May 1765; m. 1) Joseph Young, 2) Ichabod Benedict.
8. vii. Urania Burrirt, b. 13 Feb 1767; m. Ziba Phillips.
9. viii. Sarah Burrirt, b. 20 Jul 1769; m. Asahel Hurd.
10. ix. Tamar Burrirt; b. abt. 1770; m. Daniel Wright.
11. x. Daniel Burrirt, b. 22 Mar 1772; m. Electa Landon.
12. xi. Major Burrirt; b. 13 Oct 1775; m. Mary Towsley.
13. xii. Nancy Burrirt; b. abt. 1777; m. Thomas McIlmoyle.

## Generation Two

**2. LOIS<sup>6</sup> BURRITT**, (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*) was born in New Milford, Connecticut 16 Oct 1756<sup>[46]</sup> and died Nepean, Ontario 21 Dec 1849.<sup>[47]</sup> She married Arlington, Vermont 29 Mar 1785<sup>[48]</sup> (her second cousin) **JEHIEL<sup>6</sup> HURD**, son of Phineas<sup>5</sup> (*Jabez<sup>4</sup>, John<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Adam<sup>1</sup>*) and Anna (Hawley) Hurd. He was born New Milford, Connecticut 18 Nov 1760<sup>[49]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario 02 Apr 1829.<sup>[50]</sup>

Jehiel's father Phineas Hurd and his maternal grandfather Jehiel Hawley were two of the wealthiest men in Arlington, Vermont. Both men declared their loyalty to the crown publicly and early. Despite their prominence, both men met with tragic ends as a result. Jehiel Hawley was born in Newtown, Connecticut and founded Arlington, Vermont about 1764. He had been the commissioner appointed by the deputies of Bennington and the surrounding towns to seek confirmation of the New Hampshire Grants from the British government. His standing as the first citizen of Arlington was undisputed. However, after receiving several anonymous death threats for his political stance, Jehiel Hawley abandoned all his possessions and sought Burgoyne's protection. He was forced to flee for Canada after the surrender at Saratoga, and died of dysentery en route 02 Nov 1777. His estate of 3000 acres was taken by the Committee of

<sup>[46]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51; also *Burrirt*, p. 25.

<sup>[47]</sup> Family bible records of Johnnie Mae Stone Winters. Courtesy of Annette Truesdell; Bartley, Scott Andrew, ed. *Vermont Families in 1791, Volume 2*. St. Albans, VT: Genealogical Society of Vermont. 1997. p. 52. Hereinafter cited as *Bartley*.

<sup>[48]</sup> *ibid*.

<sup>[49]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 118.

<sup>[50]</sup> *Estate Files 1786 to 1931*. Toronto, ON: Archives of Ontario. Roll #MS638\_27 (Da-Ju 1786-1858); *Bartley*, p. 52.

Sequestration and his home became the first Vermont governor's mansion. Stratford-born Phineas Hurd was arrested in the middle of the night for having persuaded the residents of Sandgate, Vermont to deliver up their arms to the British. It is said by some writers that he was held on a prison ship and died when the ship was burned; others state that he was moved from the ship to a jail in the town of Esopus, New York, and died when the jail was burned by the British. Anna (Hawley) Hurd and her twelve children were left destitute when the Committee of Sequestration stripped the family of all their possessions following Phineas' arrest. Finally, on 12 Oct 1778 the General Assembly of Vermont granted the widow and her family the use, but not the ownership, of her late husband's farm "during their pleasure." After the war she and her children went to Canada.<sup>[51]</sup> In 1786 the Loyalty Claims Commission also rejected the claim Anna (Hawley) Hurd filed on behalf of her deceased husband's estate.<sup>[52]</sup> She eventually received a grant of 200 acres in Augusta by Order in Council 05 Mar 1811.<sup>[53]</sup>

During the Revolutionary War Jehiel Hurd served with Sir John Johnson's King's Royal Regiment of New York and held the rank of sergeant by war's end. After settling in Augusta he was an ensign in the Grenville Militia, 1803.<sup>[54]</sup> His name appeared on the 1797 endorsed "U.E. Roll" for the Eastern District.<sup>[55]</sup>

Lois Burritt, alias Hurd, filed as a U.E. Loyalist in 1798. The council engaged in a lengthy investigation of the merits of her claim, which was not approved by the Lieutenant-Governor until 18 May 1804.<sup>[56]</sup> Jehiel Hurd was granted land on Lot 29, 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession Augusta.<sup>[57]</sup>

He was called and sworn to grand juries at the General Sessions of the Peace held for the Johnstown District on 14 Jul 1801, 14 Aug 1804, 20 May 1806, 17 May 1808, 17 May 1814 and 14 Jan 1817; he served as grand jury foreman 15 May 1810.<sup>[58]</sup> There is no mention of him in the court records subsequent to 1817. Jehiel and Lois (Burritt) Hurd had no children; however, in the

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<sup>[51]</sup> *Hemenway*, pp. 129-130; Oliver, Rebekah Deal. *The Bottum (Longbottom) Family Album*. Denver, CO: W. Kelly Oliver, Publisher. 1970. p. 42. Hereinafter cited as *Oliver*.

<sup>[52]</sup> *Coldham*, p. 157.

<sup>[53]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Anna Hurd Memorial. Johnstown District. 09 Jan 1811.

<sup>[54]</sup> Rubincam, Milton. *The Old United Empire Loyalists List*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Company. 1969. p. 197; Pringle, J. F. *Lunenburgh or the Old Eastern District...* Cornwall, ON: The Standard Printing House. 1890. pp. 383, 415.

<sup>[55]</sup> *Fitzgerald*, p. 14.

<sup>[56]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Lois Burritt Hurd Memorial. Johnstown District. 04 Jul 1798.

<sup>[57]</sup> *Leeds & Grenville Land Records*. Courtesy of Larry Driver, Leeds & Grenville Branch Ontario Genealogical Society.

<sup>[58]</sup> Minute Books. *Johnstown District/Leeds & Grenville Court of General Sessions of the Peace, 1800-1834*. Toronto, ON: Archives of Ontario. Roll #MS699\_1. pp. 37, 101, 134, 171, 206, 311, 377. Hereinafter *Minute Books*.

early Augusta censuses their household included underage members, possibly nieces and nephews.<sup>[59]</sup>

Lois Burritt had a son named Stephen Collins who was born about the time the family removed to Vermont, and when she was only 16 years old.<sup>[60]</sup> Leavitt included a short biography of Stephen in his *History*, which makes no mention of Lois but endows him with a descent from an early Hartford, Connecticut family.<sup>[61]</sup> There is no documentation to support this ancestry. A Burritt family genealogy states that Stephen was the son of Lois and “an unknown spouse.”<sup>[62]</sup> If Lois made a first marriage at the age of 15 there is no record of it, and one wonders why she would have gone to Vermont without her husband. A likelier possibility is that Stephen’s surname was taken from his grandmother in an attempt to obscure an out-of-wedlock birth.

**3. ADONIRAM<sup>6</sup> BURRITT**, (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*) was born New Milford, Connecticut 16 Jul 1758<sup>[63]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario 10 Apr 1856.<sup>[64]</sup> He married Augusta, Ontario 21 Nov 1793<sup>[65]</sup> **SARAH READ**, daughter of Moses and Rebecca (Pratt) Read. She was born probably in Cornwall, Vermont 28 Jun 1778<sup>[66]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario 17 Sep 1829, “age 51 yrs 2 ms 19 dys.”<sup>[67]</sup>

Moses Read was one of the Litchfield County men who were original grantees of Cornwall, Vermont.<sup>[68]</sup> His name appeared on the 1797 endorsed “U.E. Roll” for the Eastern District,<sup>[69]</sup> the United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada lists his status as proven.<sup>[70]</sup> He settled on the eastern half of Lot 36 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession of Augusta.<sup>[71]</sup>

Adoniram Burritt’s name appeared on the 1797 endorsed “U.E. Roll” for the Eastern District,<sup>[72]</sup> but he must have been expunged along with his father because he filed a petition in

<sup>[59]</sup> *1796 and 1798 Censuses of Augusta Township, Johnstown District*. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #C-1345. Transcribed by Pat Martin. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project*. Website. 2007. Accessed 26 May 2010.

<sup>[60]</sup> *Bartley*, p. 52; also see *Wald(2)*, pp. 30-31 for a discussion of the sources confirming Stephen Collins’ parentage.

<sup>[61]</sup> *Leavitt*, p. 7.

<sup>[62]</sup> Curtis, Ellwood Count. *The Descendants of William Burritt (c. 1610-1651) and His Wife Elizabeth (c. 1615-1681)*. Cedar Falls, IA: Galactic Press. 2003. p. 69.

<sup>[63]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51.

<sup>[64]</sup> Adoniram Burritt gravestone, Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario.

<sup>[65]</sup> *Bartley*, p. 52; Reid, William D. *The Loyalists in Ontario: The Sons and Daughters of the American Loyalists of Upper Canada*. Lambertville, NJ: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1973. p. 261 Hereinafter *Reid*.

<sup>[66]</sup> Calculated from age at death.

<sup>[67]</sup> Sarah (Read) Burritt gravestone, Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario.

<sup>[68]</sup> Hornaday, Aline G. “The Landons in Ontario: A Loyalist Family.” *Canadian Genealogist*. Volume 1, Number 1. 1979. p. 6. Hereinafter cited as *Hornaday*; “Cornwall, Addison County.” *Vermont Genealogy*. Website. Accessed 28 May 2010.

<sup>[69]</sup> *Fitzgerald*, p. 23.

<sup>[70]</sup> “Directory of Loyalists.” *United Empire Loyalists’ Association of Canada*. Website. Accessed 24 May 2010.

<sup>[71]</sup> *Leavitt*, p. 162.

<sup>[72]</sup> *Fitzgerald*, p. 14.



1807 to have his status restored. In the petition, which was endorsed by Samuel Sherwood, Adoniram stated that he joined the army of General Burgoyne in August 1777.<sup>[73]</sup> He and his brother Stephen were arrested and taken for trial in 1778, but escaped.<sup>[74]</sup> He must have returned to Arlington at least periodically after the defeat at Saratoga; his name appeared three times on the payroll of Capt. Elijah Galusha's company of Vermont militia: he served four days in Aug 1781, five days in Oct 1781 and 3 days in Dec 1781.<sup>[75]</sup>

It is unknown exactly when he went to Canada, or whether he went first to Quebec. He settled in Augusta by 1789,<sup>[76]</sup> where he was enumerated in the earliest censuses.<sup>[77]</sup> Several published histories of Upper Canada and of the Burritts state that Adoniram was a colonel in the Grenville Militia and saw service in the War of 1812, but his name does not appear on any of the published militia rolls. He would have been in his mid-fifties by then and may have been mistaken for his younger brothers, all of whom did hold commands.

Along with his brother-in-law Jehiel Hurd, he supported a petition presented to the Court 08 Jul 1800 by nephew Stephen Collins, requesting that the road between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> concessions be extended from Lot 22 to Lot 28. He was called and sworn to grand juries 27 Jan 1801, 14 Aug 1804, 20 May 1806, 15 May 1810, 17 May 1814, 14 Jan 1817.<sup>[78]</sup>

Adoniram was still farming in Augusta in 1851, when he shared a household with his oldest son Charles' family.<sup>[79]</sup> His death notice in the Brockville Recorder said he was "the first white settler to locate in the 2<sup>nd</sup> con[cession] of Augusta."<sup>[80]</sup> In 1879 his son and grandson (Charles and probably Alden Burritt) owned land in Lot 29 of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Concession, and at least a portion of that may have been Adoniram's land. Adoniram's son Charles also purchased other land in the same Lot 29, which Jehiel Hurd had once owned. Adoniram may have inherited his father's property on Lot 29 in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Concession, as it was still in the Burritt family's possession in 1879.<sup>[81]</sup>

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<sup>[73]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Adoniram Burritt Memorial. Johnstown District. 02 Feb 1807.

<sup>[74]</sup> *Wald(2)*, p. 28.

<sup>[75]</sup> Goodrich, John E. *The State of Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company. 1904. pp. 428, 438, 550.

<sup>[76]</sup> *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library & Archives Canada. Adoniram Burritt Memorial. Johnstown District. 02 Feb 1807.

<sup>[77]</sup> *1796 and 1798 Censuses of Augusta Township, Johnstown District*. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #C-1345. Transcribed by Pat Martin. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project*. Website. 2007. Accessed 26 May 2010.

<sup>[78]</sup> *Minute Books*. pp. 9, 19, 101, 134, 206, 311, 377.

<sup>[79]</sup> *Census of 1851*. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Online database: [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com). Augusta, Grenville County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule: A. Roll: C\_11724, Page 127, Line: 37. Hereinafter cited as *1851 Census*.

<sup>[80]</sup> *Births, Marriages, Death Notices From the Brockville Papers 1850-1869*. Brockville, ON: The Leeds & Grenville Genealogical Society. p. 37.

<sup>[81]</sup> "Augusta, Grenville County Map." *In Search of Your Canadian Past: The Canadian County Atlas Digital Project*. McGill University. 2001. Website. Accessed 28 May 2010.

Adoniram's wife Sarah was twenty years his junior and died after bearing him eleven children, ten of whom lived to adulthood. He survived her by twenty-seven years, dying at the age of 97. He and Sarah are both buried in Read Cemetery, Augusta, Ontario.

4. **STEPHEN<sup>6</sup> BURRITT**, (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*) born New Milford, Connecticut 22 Nov 1759<sup>[82]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 13 Jan 1844.<sup>[83]</sup> He married, probably in Augusta, Ontario abt. 1790,<sup>[84]</sup> **MARTHA STEVENS**, daughter of Roger and Martha (Doolittle) Stevens. She was born abt. 1772<sup>[85]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 02 Mar 1830, "aged 58 yrs."<sup>[86]</sup>

Martha Stevens' father Roger was an Ensign in the King's Rangers, the same regiment in which Stephen Burritt served.<sup>[87]</sup> His name appeared on the 1797 endorsed "U.E. Roll" for the Eastern District, in which he was listed as deceased.<sup>[88]</sup> He was the first landowner north of the Rideau River, having received large grants in Lanark County and in Marlborough township. He erected a saw mill and was planning a grist mill when he drowned in 1793 on what is now called Stevens' Creek. After several years of legal disputes Stevens' patent grant was given in 1810 to William Merrick, who founded the present-day town of Merrickville, Ontario on the site of Roger Stevens' land.<sup>[89]</sup>

Stephen Burritt was by far the most famous member of his family. Biographies of him have appeared in history books and articles, on radio programs and online. He was a legendary figure in somewhat the same style as Ethan Allen, who the Burritts may have known and whose ascent to heroic stature they would have witnessed. The story that has come down through the centuries is as follows: Stephen Burritt joined Burgoyne's campaign in August, 1777, when he was only seventeen. After the battle of Bennington he and his brother Adoniram came upon a wounded rebel soldier, took him to a safe place and saw to it that he was nursed back to health. Following the defeat at Saratoga Stephen was taken captive and held prisoner for about a year, but as luck would have it the soldier he had cared for was one of his captors. The grateful guard eventually helped Stephen escape, and he made his way to Ft. St. Johns, Quebec, where he was a dispatch runner in Justus Sherwood's company. He

<sup>[82]</sup> *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51

<sup>[83]</sup> Stephen Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritts Rapids, Ontario.

<sup>[84]</sup> Estimate based on birth of eldest child.

<sup>[85]</sup> Calculated from age at death.

<sup>[86]</sup> Martha Stevens Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritts Rapids, Ontario.

<sup>[87]</sup> *The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists 1784-1884....With an Appendix, Containing a Copy of the U.E. List, Preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto*. Toronto, ON: Rose Publishing Company. 1885,

<sup>[88]</sup> *Fitzgerald*, pp. 55, 60, 113.

<sup>[89]</sup> Brown, Howard Morton. *Lanark Legacy: Nineteenth Century Glimpses of an Ontario County*. Renfrew, ON: General Store Publishing House. 1984. pp. 116-117; "About Merrickville." *Rideau Canal Waterway*. Website. Accessed 29 May 2010.

joined the King's Rangers (also known as Roger's Rangers), attaining the rank of Sergeant by war's end. The Rangers were a Loyalist unit employed in intelligence work, and Stephen spent the remainder of the war years spying, scouting and carrying secret dispatches for the British. He was reputed to be an excellent swordsman and a skilled frontier fighter. In 1788 he removed to Augusta, where he drew Lot 29 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession; however, his imagination being fired by the stories of Roger Stevens' exploits north of the Rideau, in 1793 he trekked north to explore opportunities there. At the time the area was outside the line of settlement established by the British, and Stephen was soon discovered by a native who ordered him to leave. A struggle ensued in which Stephen bested the man but, with his axe poised for the fatal blow, the Indian promised eternal fellowship if Stephen would show mercy; thereafter he and Stephen were faithful friends. Stephen and his wife Martha moved to Lot 26 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession of Marlborough Township 09 Apr 1793. They were the first settlers. Shortly after their arrival, they both became deathly ill with fever and were discovered in their pitiful condition by a traveling band of natives, who nursed them back to health. Their son Edmond was born in December of that year, the first child of European descent born north of the Rideau. The Burritts continued to enjoy friendly relations with the native tribes, who were frequent guests in their home. Two of Stephen's brothers joined him on the Rideau, and the village that grew up around them was named in honor of the three men.<sup>[90]</sup>

Some unavoidable facts cast the shadow of doubt on at least a portion of the lore surrounding Stephen Burritt. That he was arrested is not under question: Stephen's 1788 affidavit was accompanied by a certificate from Vermont Governor Thomas Chittenden, affirming his imprisonment.<sup>[91]</sup> But he was taken for trial by Vermont authorities in 1778 rather than captured by the Continental Army after Saratoga, and the story of his year-long imprisonment is also an apparent enhancement. He could not have served the British exclusively from 1777 onwards and he was without doubt in Arlington for part of the war years, because his name appeared with that of his brother Edmond on the payroll of Captain William Hutchins' company of Vermont militia, for sixty-two days service beginning 01 Mar 1779.<sup>[92]</sup> He could not have joined the Rangers before their arrival in Quebec in September 1779; this is consistent with other certificates accompanying his 1788 affidavit, which confirmed that he had served three years with "Rogers Rangers." However, though he filed

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<sup>[90]</sup> Leavitt, pp. 96-97; "Burritt History." *The Merrickville and District Historical Society Newsletter*. Volume 3, Number 1 [Spring 2005]; "Stephen Burritt." *Wikipedia*. 25 Nov 2009. Accessed 04 Jun 2010; "Stephen Burritt: soldier, settler, spy." *Mark Jodoin interview*. North Country Public Radio. Friday, 25 Apr 2008; Caniff, William, M.D., M.R.C.S.E. *History of the Settlement of Upper Canada (Ontario), With Special Reference to The Bay Quinté*. Toronto, ON: Dudley & Burns, Printers, Victoria Hall. 1869. p. 94; Gourlay, J. L. *History of the Ottawa Valley*. Ottawa, ON: Publisher unknown. 1896. pp. 150-152.

<sup>[91]</sup> Fraser, p. 1100; *The Centennial of the Settlement of Upper Canada by the United Empire Loyalists 1784-1884...With an Appendix, Containing a Copy of the U.E. List, Preserved in the Crown Lands Department at Toronto*. Toronto, ON: Rose Publishing Company. 1885, p. 172.

<sup>[92]</sup> Goodrich, John E. *The State of Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company. 1904. pp. 113-116, 318-319.

his claim as a sergeant he received a corporal's grant, and his name is not on any published officer lists for the regiment.

A question looms as to why a known supporter of the enemy or his brothers would have been trusted to serve in the militia, even under compulsion. Another curious item is their illness and rescue by natives: since their son Edmond was born in December 1793, one wonders how Martha survived a near-fatal fever in April without losing her baby. The story also does not account for the whereabouts of their first-born child during that time. Could he have been the underage male living with Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burritt in 1796, or one of the children living with Jehiel and Lois (Burritt) Hurd? Finally, it is uncertain whether Stephen ever actually owned land in Augusta: outside of Leavitt's *History*, there is no record of Stephen having owned Lot 29, 1<sup>st</sup> Concession.<sup>[93]</sup>

Even if much of Stephen Burritt's legend proves to be apocryphal, the fact remains that he was a dynamic figure in early Upper Canada history. It seems that he remained in Canada after the war and was in Augusta by June 1789, when he filed a Crown Land Petition. He was the first Justice of the Peace for his community, and in that capacity was in great demand to perform marriages. He was often employed to represent other U.E. Loyalists before the Council in matters regarding their land petitions. He played an instrumental role in developing Burritt's Rapids into a bustling community in the first half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. From 1809 until 1817 he represented Leeds & Grenville counties in the Legislature at York (Toronto).<sup>[94]</sup> He was major of the Dundas and Grenville 1<sup>st</sup> Flank Company, and later lieutenant-colonel of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Regiment, Grenville Militia. During the War of 1812 his unit was engaged in the battles of Prescott, Salmon River, Ogdensburg and Chrysler's Farm.<sup>[95]</sup>

Stephen Burritt died in 1844 in his 85<sup>th</sup> year, his wife having predeceased him by fourteen years. They had six children. They are buried in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

*To be continued.*

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<sup>[93]</sup> *Leeds & Grenville Land Records*. Courtesy of Larry Driver, Leeds & Grenville Branch Ontario Genealogical Society.

<sup>[94]</sup> Todd, Herbert George. *Armory and Lineages of Canada*. Yonkers, NY: Publisher unknown. 1913. p. 118.

<sup>[95]</sup> Irving, L. Homfray. *Officers of the British Forces in Canada During the War of 1812-1815*. Canadian Military Institute. 1908. pp. 36, 49, 258.

**Loyalists of Fairfield County:  
A Short List of Sources**  
Harlan R. Jessup

During the American Revolution the highest concentration of Connecticut Loyalists was found in Fairfield County. Of the Anglican clergy only John Beach, here in Newtown and Redding, continued to hold public services which included the Prayer Book's prescribed prayer for the destruction of the king's enemies. And of 150 Connecticut claimants for British reparations, 80 were from Fairfield County, with 25 from Norwalk, 18 from Stamford, and 12 from Fairfield.<sup>1</sup>

Ways to identify these Loyalists include: confiscation of their real property, claims to the British government for reparations, and failure to report for military service and/or enlistment in Loyalist regiments. Among the primary Connecticut sources for identifying these men and their families, perhaps the most important are the court records, now held in the State Archives at the State Library in Hartford. Also at the State Library are a score or more of published volumes on Loyalists in Connecticut and the other colonies, just one of which will be noted here.

Other records of confiscated estates may be found in town land records, though these may be hard to locate. For example, on 14 September 1781, John Chandler of Newtown purchased from John Lawrence, Treasurer of the State of Connecticut, for £63, a one-half interest in land at Bryant's Farm "formerly belonging to Andrew Blackman and now forfeit to the State of Connecticut."<sup>2</sup> The town's grantor index does not include either the State, the State Treasurer, or Andrew Blackman's name, and the deed was located only after Chandler's petition was found in the state records.

Here then is our short list:

1) Frederick C. Hart, Jr., CG, FASG, "Loyalists of Norwalk and Stamford, Connecticut: Lois B. Bayles' Individual Summaries." *Connecticut Ancestry*, 52 (Feb. 2010): 117-126.

Not at the State Library, but not to be overlooked, is the collection at the New Canaan Historical Society, reviewed in this journal earlier this year. Though Mrs. Bayles' work was incomplete and never published, this collection includes detailed summaries for 137 Loyalists from Norwalk and 119 from Stamford.

2) John W. Tyler, *Connecticut Loyalists: An Analysis of Loyalist Land Confiscations in Greenwich, Stamford [sic] and Norwalk*. New Orleans: Polyanthos, 1977, 135pp.

This published volume focuses on confiscated estates from this area, listing 19 from Greenwich, 36 from Stamford, and 19 from Norwalk. The study also provides background both on those whose estates were confiscated and on other Loyalists of the area.

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<sup>1</sup> Wallace Brown, *The King's Friends: the Composition and Motives of American Loyalist Claimants*. Providence: Brown University Press, 1965, p. 304.

<sup>2</sup> Newtown Land Records, v. 13, p. 135.

3) Fairfield County Superior Court, Papers by Subject, 1711-1799, Box #3, Confiscated Estates and Loyalists, at the State Archives.

There is no index to this box which includes records of confiscated estates but also other cases involving Loyalists.

4) Fairfield County, County Court Records, vol. 12 and 13, 1773 to 1783, at the State Archives.

Among other citations of Loyalists, the many notices of confiscated estates appear in these volumes, the official record books of the court, and especially in the courts of December 1778 through April 1779.

5) Fairfield County, County Court, Papers by Subject, 1740-1835, Box #153, Confiscated Estates and other Subjects, at the State Archives.

This very full box, once organized by subject, has fallen into disarray and deserves reorganizing and indexing. It includes many warrants for the arrest of men who failed to appear for muster of their militia units and are suspected of having "gone to the enemy." Here, in the case of Benjamin Jackson of Stratford, the sheriff found that he was dead, and in another Stratford case the sheriff or his deputy used more colorful language, reporting that "the within named Elias Cutant has gone amongst the Canker worms & Catterpillars & from thence gone the way of all the Earth."

In his deposition dated 18 May 1779, Nicholas Wilson named six former Ridgefield residents whom he had seen on Long Island including Benj<sup>n</sup> Stebbins "who is now an Inlisted Soldier" (in the Loyalist forces). On 10 November 1779 Jeremiah Olmsted named eight Ridgefield residents seen on Long Island, including some of the same seen by Wilson. Depositions from other towns list several former Norwalk residents, including at least one woman, Widow Mary Raymond, who had "gone to the enemy."

5) *Public Records of the State of Connecticut*, Charles J. Hoadly, ed. Hartford: Case Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1894-, vols. 1 - 5.

These volumes document the legislation relative to the confiscation of Loyalist estates and also special acts such as those granting confiscated lands to Connecticut citizens. One of the earliest relevant entries, from the session of October 1777 is "An act concerning the Real Estate of Aliens and Persons Inimical to the United States of America," one clause of which states that, "none who refuse the oath of fidelity may purchase or transfer any real estate without special licence from the General Assembly."

Special acts from October 1780 to January 1783 provide for the conveyance of confiscated estates to Patriot claimants. Estates of Fairfield County Loyalists conveyed to others include (more or less in chronological order):

Joseph Lyon of Fairfield  
 Ebenezer Leach of New Fairfield  
 Daniel Wilson of Ridgefield  
 Silas Rayment & Stephen Hait of Norwalk  
 Edward Thorp of Stamford  
 Nathaniel Hubbard & Isaac Hubbard of  
 Stamford  
 Andrew Blackman of Newtown  
 David Taylor, Jr., of Danbury

Nathan Barnum & John Cornell of Danbury  
 Joseph Lyon of Fairfield  
 Benjamin Stebbins of Ridgefield  
 John Crofoot of Newtown  
 Elisha Davis of Greenwich  
 Rev. Mr. Jeremiah Leaming of Norwalk  
 Nathan Summers of North Fairfield

Interestingly, from 1785 to 1792 confiscated estates or portions thereof which had not been conveyed were restored to former owners or to their heirs who had remained or returned to the area. This list includes, from Fairfield County:

Jared Betts of Norwalk  
 Joseph Burr of Redding  
 Mary Crofoot, widow of Abel Crofoot of  
 Newtown  
 Abigail Ferriss, wife of Joseph Ferriss of  
 Newtown, now in Nova Scotia  
 Samuel Hait of Danbury  
 Isaac Hoyt of Danbury  
 Nathan Nash of Norwalk  
 Samuel Nash, Jr., of Norwalk  
 Ebenezer Shelton of Stratford

Nathan Summers of Weston  
 Daniel Wilson of Ridgefield  
 Abraham Bates of New York, formerly of  
 Stamford  
 Joshua Burt & Lydia Burt of Ridgefield  
 Theophilus Burt of Ridgefield  
 Zapher (Zophar) Nash of Fairfield  
 James Picket of Norwalk  
 Josiah Stebbins of Redding  
 Gillead Taylor of Danbury  
 Jabez Thorp of Greens Farms

There may well be other mentions of Fairfield County Loyalists in these volumes such as this one: Among the special acts of the general assembly, the session of May 1781 voted to permit Althea Turner and Abigail Camp, both of Newtown, to remove to Long Island with their children to join their husbands "under the direction of the commanding officer of the guards in the town of Fairfield."

## Was Mary Reynolds the Wife of Benjamin Brush of Greenwich, Connecticut?

Frederick C. Hart Jr., CG, FASG  
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In a 1935 article for a respected genealogical journal, Conklin Mann said about Benjamin<sup>3</sup> Brush of Greenwich that, "His wife was MARY REYNOLDS, daughter of Capt. James Reynolds and his wife Sarah Holmes of Greenwich."<sup>[1]</sup> A few years later, Herbert F. Seversmith repeated this claim in almost the same words, "He married Mary Reynolds, daughter of James and Sarah (Holmes) Reynolds of Greenwich."<sup>[2]</sup> When the Rev. Stuart Brush published his comprehensive Brush family genealogy in 1982, he simply listed Mary Reynolds as the wife of Benjamin Brush.<sup>[3]</sup> The claim is perpetuated extensively today on the Internet, but when sources are given, reference is made to one or more of these secondary sources just named. Benjamin Brush certainly did have a wife named Mary as evidenced by his naming her in his will, and by her burial next to him with gravestones in the Stanwich Congregational Church Cemetery in the Stanwich section of Greenwich, near the Stamford town border. But none of these published claims were supported with any evidence or reasoning for her identification as the daughter of Capt. James Reynolds. A search was therefore conducted to obtain that evidence if possible.<sup>[4]</sup>

That search has resulted in entirely negative results. Although some original records have been found that could suggest this identification as a possibility, they all appear upon further examination to be coincidental associations that are more likely explained by geographical rather than genealogical proximity. Instead, there is considerable direct and indirect evidence that tends to argue against this relationship.

The investigation considered the numerous land records left by Benjamin Brush in both Greenwich (40) and Stamford (4). Associations were found with several other families, and several alternatives for Mary's identity were considered, but found to be equally unlikely. More often than not, a wife's identity will become evident in such a large body of land record evidence, either with her co-signing a particular deed, or through mention of her as a relative to another principal, or by some other direct or indirect mention of her parents or one or more of her siblings. Failing that, she could be named in a probate proceeding, again relating one of her parents or a sibling. But none of these solutions have presented themselves in this case. In all of

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<sup>1</sup> Conklin Mann, "Thomas and Richard Brush of Huntington, Long Island," *The New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, 46(1935): 200-1.

<sup>2</sup> Herbert F. Seversmith, *Colonial Families of Long Island, New York and Connecticut*, multiple volumes, consecutively paginated, 1: 441. Other portions of the Seversmith report are almost identically worded with the Mann report, but since the two writers were operating in the same time frame it is impossible to say which version was the first.

<sup>3</sup> Stuart C. Brush and Russell B. Brush, *The Descendants of Thomas and Richard Brush of Huntington, Long Island* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc, 1982), 23. No additional information on her has appeared in the four supplements to this volume (Stuart C. Brush and Russell B. Brush, *Supplements I & II to The...* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 1995; Stuart C. Brush and David M. McDonald, *Supplements III & IV to The...* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, Inc., 2005).

<sup>4</sup> This investigation was conducted for Glen E. Beebe of Mt. Holly, New Jersey, whose permission to publish it for the benefit of others is greatly appreciated.



Benjamin Brush's land records there is not a single mention of a family relationship of any kind for him or for his wife.

This article focuses on the evidence for or against Mary being James Reynolds's daughter.<sup>[5]</sup> Consider the following:

- ❖ The strongest evidence against Mary's identity as the daughter of Capt. James Reynolds was already presented in the article by Conklin Mann: that is, her birth date as shown on her gravestone in the Stanwich Cemetery. That gravestone clearly gives her birth date as 20 October 1704. However, the birth date for Mary Reynolds, daughter of Capt. James Reynolds, was recorded in Greenwich as being "Febuary ye 9: 1704/5."<sup>[6]</sup> Conklin Mann did observe in his 1935 article that this date (9 Feb 1704/5) had been given in the Reynolds Genealogy. That Reynolds Genealogy does indeed mention the birth of Capt. James Reynolds' daughter Mary on that date, but goes on to mention that "nothing further is known," and does not identify her with any husband at all, let alone with Benjamin Brush.<sup>[7]</sup> Mann (and Seversmith) dismissed the discrepancy by saying parenthetically that the gravestone was "(probably a second stone),"<sup>[8]</sup> implying that a later family member might have supplied an incorrect date. This theory falls apart immediately upon a visit to the cemetery. The gravestones for both Benjamin Brush and Mary Brush are identical except for the inscriptions, in excellent condition for their age, of a good quality brownstone, have careful, accurate and legible inscriptions, and are almost certainly both from the same source and of original material typical of the time period.
- ❖ Benjamin Brush did receive three separate parcels of land from Capt. James Reynolds.<sup>[9]</sup> The corresponding deeds are found in volumes of the Greenwich Land Records which, because of fading of ink, are the most difficult of all to read, even on microfilms made many years ago. After studying these three deeds and picking out the essential information with difficulty, it was found that all of them were for rights to upcoming divisions of common land, and all were purchased at a market price. There is no indication that any of them was a gift or a sale from a father to a son-in-law.
- ❖ In contrast, a study of other deeds by Capt. James Reynolds demonstrated a very generous attitude toward his sons. He gave substantial properties to his sons Gideon in 1736,<sup>[10]</sup> Justus in 1738,<sup>[11]</sup> Jeremiah in 1748,<sup>[12]</sup> James Jr.<sup>[13]</sup> and Nathaniel in

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<sup>5</sup> Setting aside the considerable investigation that has taken place regarding possible alternative identities, also resulting in negative results.

<sup>6</sup> Greenwich Early Records, Transcription (1857) of Commonplace Book, 114, original transcription viewed at the Town Hall.

<sup>7</sup> Marion H. Reynolds and Anna C. Rippier, *The History and Descendants of John and Sarah Reynolds (1630? - 1923) of Watertown, Mass., and Wethersfield, Stamford and Greenwich, Conn.* (Brooklyn: The Reynolds Family Association, 1924), 52.

<sup>8</sup> Mann, "Thomas and Richard Brush" (note 1), 46: 201; Colonial Families (note 2), 1: 441.

<sup>9</sup> On 4 March 1739/40 (Greenwich Land Records, 5: 254, 350 [two separate deeds on the same date]), and on 12 February 1744/45 (Greenwich Land Records, 6: 288).

<sup>10</sup> Greenwich Land /Records, 4: 218.

<sup>11</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 4: 487.

<sup>12</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 7: 14.

1749/50,<sup>[14]</sup> and James Jr. again in 1752.<sup>[15]</sup> In each case, he specifically mentioned, for example, "my well beloved and dutifull son [in this case] Gideon Reynolds."<sup>[16]</sup> These gifts were all over and above lands that the sons purchased at various times from their father. It seems very unlikely that such a generous father would not have provided some similar charity toward his daughter and son-in-law, even if the son-in-law had substantial property of his own as did Benjamin Brush.

- ❖ Unfortunately for our purposes in identifying Mary, Capt. James Reynolds did not leave an estate to probate, having disposed of his property during his lifetime.
- ❖ Connecticut's prominent genealogist, Donald Lines Jacobus, made an investigation of the Greenwich Reynolds family sometime in the mid-twentieth century and, although incomplete and unpublished, it survives in the form of a manuscript chart of relationships in the family collections of the Connecticut Historical Society in Hartford. This chart shows the children of Capt. James Reynolds as being only the 5 sons James, Nathaniel, Gideon, Justus and Jeremiah, with the two daughters Sarah and Mary (known from the Reynolds Genealogy and the Greenwich records) not shown at all. Other daughters in other branches on the same chart are shown only where their marriages are known. Mr. Jacobus was making this chart for his own use and not for publication; and it may be that to save time and space he simply left out daughters who could not be carried forward with additional information. Whatever the reason, I feel confident that if there had been any suspicion at all that a daughter Mary could possibly have married Benjamin Brush, she would have been shown on this chart, with a question mark if necessary (as appears on many similar charts in this collection.)
- ❖ During the thorough review of Benjamin Brush's records it was unexpectedly found that he was actually in possession of Capt. James Reynolds' homestead land in 1759 when he sold it to Gideon Reynolds, Capt. James's son. A title search was performed to see how this property had been obtained and the results did not suggest a close Reynolds family relationship for Benjamin Brush. Capt. James Reynolds had sold his homestead to Hezekiah Reynolds (not yet clearly identified but probably a son of his cousin Jonathan<sup>3</sup> Reynolds) on 17 March 1744 (possibly 1744/45).<sup>[17]</sup> Not long afterward (either less than 1 month or less than 13 months), Hezekiah Reynolds sold the homestead to James Winans on 26 April 1745.<sup>[18]</sup> Winans may or may not have lived on the property for a few years before selling it to Benjamin Brush for £50 on 6 September 1748.<sup>[19]</sup> In each of these transactions the property was described as, "at a place called the North Street, that is to say the house & home lot that was lately Captain James Reynolds..."<sup>[20]</sup> Benjamin Brush may or may not have lived in the house, or perhaps other members of his family lived there, because he held the title until 2 April 1759 when he sold it back into the

<sup>13</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 7: 106 (2 separate gift deeds on the same page).

<sup>14</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 7: 140.

<sup>15</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 7: 305.

<sup>16</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 4: 218.

<sup>17</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 6: 245.

<sup>18</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 6: 284.

<sup>19</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 7: 266.

<sup>20</sup> From the previously mentioned deed - spelling and language have been modernizedmodernized,

Capt. James Reynolds family, with Gideon Reynolds as grantee, for a price of £100.<sup>[21]</sup> Taken together, this sequence of events does not fit well with a proposition that Mary Reynolds was Capt. James Reynolds' daughter, and therefore Gideon Reynolds' sister, especially since Benjamin Brush sold the property back into the Reynolds family for twice what he had paid for it. Once again, no relationships at all were mentioned in any of the deeds in this sequence. This temporary ownership of the Reynolds homestead by Benjamin Brush, however, may have led earlier researchers to jump to a conclusion regarding Mary's identity.

- ❖ In defense of those who propose that an error was made on Mary's birth date on her headstone, it should be noted that there is another discrepancy in the headstone information regarding not Mary, but Benjamin Brush himself. The date of death inscribed on his gravestone is "Dec.r 17.th AD 1760."<sup>[22]</sup> Probate records indicate that the time of his actual death was between 19 May 1759 when he signed his will and 4 January 1760 when it was proved in court and his son Edward was approved as his executor, followed by 14 February 1760 when his inventory was taken.<sup>[23]</sup> Since the double-dating convention was no longer in use in 1760, it appears that he must have died either close to the end of 1759 or during the first few days of 1760. One reasonable explanation might be that the stone carver had combined an actual date of death of 17 December with the current year in which he was doing his job, and carved the combined date on the stone incorrectly as 17 Dec 1760 instead of 17 Dec 1759. Although this evidence casts doubt on the entire gravestone inscription accuracy for both Benjamin and Mary Brush's monuments, no similar simple explanation has been found for the differences in Mary Brush's birth date as recorded on her gravestone and Mary Reynolds' birth date as given in the official Greenwich record.

In summary, no direct or even indirect evidence of Mary's identity has been found. While there are some aspects of the land records that initially suggested a possible relationship between Capt. James Reynolds and Benjamin Brush, none of them turned out to have the characteristics one would expect of the proposed relationship, and seem upon closer inspection to be simple business transactions rather than the result of a family tie. The writers of the Reynolds Genealogy and Donald L. Jacobus left sure indications that they could not find any further information on Mary Reynolds, Capt. James' daughter -- even though they could easily have known that Benjamin Brush had a wife named Mary of about the same age and that they lived in the same Stanwich neighborhood in Greenwich as did Capt. James Reynolds' family. Altogether, it is unlikely that Benjamin Brush married Mary Reynolds as often claimed in the literature.

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<sup>21</sup> Greenwich Land Records, 8: 215.

<sup>22</sup> From personal visit and photograph; also as reported by Mann, "Thomas and Richard Brush" (note 1), 46: 201, and other cemetery inscription collections.

<sup>23</sup> Stamford Probate District Records, 2: 336-8.

## John Chapman of Stamford and his Widow Martha: A Case in Erroneous Secondary Sources

Paul R. Finch<sup>1</sup>

**T**HIS ARTICLE IS NOT JUST ABOUT JOHN CHAPMAN, AN EARLY SETTLER OF Stamford, Connecticut, and his thrice-married wife, Martha. It was written as a lesson on the dangers of relying on secondary sources in order to establish genealogical and historical fact. We are first confronted with error concerning this couple when we open the pages of the respected *History of Stamford*, by Elijah B. Huntington:

**Chapman, John**, owned land here in 1640. The inventory of his estate was presented to the magistrates' court in May 1667, and had been taken Jan. 30 or June 13, 1655, and prized by Richard Law and Francis Bell. According to the town records it was attested by oath of the wife of Francis Brown Oct. 30, 166—. The legatees are his widow, and his daughters Mary and Elizabeth. In 1656 Martha Chapman sells to Slawson, a parcel of land lying in Northfield, on the east side of Mill River.<sup>2</sup>

As will be shown, this account is full of error. Indeed, the very first statement, which reports that John Chapman owned land in Stamford in 1640, is immediately suspicious. Whence did Huntington derive that fact? The town of Stamford was established in 1641, not in 1640. John Chapman's name was not even on any of the earliest lists of Stamford. And, as Donald Lines Jacobus reports below, he was still a resident of in New Haven as of 1647.

The date of John Chapman's death is not recorded in any of the extant records, but from the information provided, it would seem that he died in the year of 1655.

Also from Huntington's write-up, in the next year, a Martha Chapman (no relationship specified) sold property. Was this Martha Chapman the widow of John Chapman? It was the view of Donald Lines Jacobus that she was. In fact, Jacobus recorded that Martha (\_\_\_\_) married three times, (1) Thomas Lawrence; (2) John Chapman; (3) Francis Brown.

In his monumental work, *The Families of Old Fairfield*, Donald Lines Jacobus gives us highlights on Martha Chapman's husbands, which will give us a rough baseline to follow:

**Lawrence, Thomas**

Adm. To church at Milford, 4 Dec. 1642, and d. in 1648. His wife Martha was adm. 11 Feb. 1644/5, and was dismissed to Stamford. She m. (2) John Chapman of Stamford, and (3) 17 Dec. 1657, Francis Brown.<sup>3</sup>

Martha (\_\_\_\_) Lawrence next married John Chapman:

**Chapman, John.**

An original settler at New Haven, 1638, sold 1647 and rem. to Fairfield; and soon after to Stamford. . . . Married Martha, widow of Thomas Lawrence of Milford; she m. (3) at Stamford, 17 Dec. 1657, Francis Brown.

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<sup>2</sup> Elijah B. Huntington, *History of Stamford, 1641-1868, including Darien until 1820* (Stamford, Conn.: published by the author, 1868; repr. Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1992), 51.

<sup>3</sup> Donald Lines Jacobus, *History and Genealogy of the Families of Old Fairfield* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976, orig. pub. New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor Co. 1930), 1:376.

Inv. June 1665 attested by the wife of Francis Brown. Widow; daus. Mary and Elizabeth, under 18, only heirs.<sup>4</sup>

And thirdly, Martha (\_\_\_\_) Lawrence Chapman married Francis Brown:

**Brown, Francis . . .**

He was apprentice of Henry Wolcott of Windsor, bought his freedom 1649; m. (1) prob. a relative of Nathaniel Ruscoe; bought and sold at Farmington, 1656. He settled in Stamford, and m. there (2) 17 Dec. 1657, Martha Chapman. She was widow of John Chapman of Stamford, and previously widow of Thomas Lawrence of Milford.<sup>5</sup>

So the first question that we should ask ourselves is, are these write-ups by Jacobus correct? Evidence will be presented that may say that there were two different John Chapmans. So let us move forward and see where the evidence takes us.

The fact that a Martha Chapman married in Stamford, Connecticut, a Francis Brown on 17 December 1657 is verified from the first volume of the Stamford Town Records: "Frances Brown & Martha Chapman, married 17: 10: 57."<sup>6</sup>

So far, it would seem that John Chapman died *ca.* 1655, and that his widow, Martha, married in 1657, but for some reason his inventory of estate was not recorded in Stamford until some ten years later. This brings up a serious question. Since it appears that John Chapman's inventory was submitted in 1655 in New Haven, why would it be submitted again some ten years later? Are we dealing with two different John Chapmans?

That there might be a second John Chapman appears to be the case by the next fact. Spencer P. Mead reported that the actual date of death of a certain John Chapman as occurring on 13 June 1665, as taken from the Fairfield Probate Records.<sup>7</sup> If there was a John Chapman who died in 1665, then we are faced with the fact that the Martha Chapman, who is reported to have married a Francis Brown in 1657, could not possibly be the wife of this John Chapman who died in 1665. From the information gathered so far, it would appear that there must have been two different John Chapmans.

And furthermore, there is another curious fact that would lead us to conclude that there was another John Chapman who died in the mid 1660's. According to *Genealogical References in Stamford, Ct., Land Records*, by Edith M. Wicks, there is a curious excerpt regarding the daughter of John Chapman, Elizabeth Chapman:

CHAPMAN, Elizabeth, aged 19 yrs (and Eleazar Slason) our brother, Thomas Lawrence, now wife of John Judson; YEAR: 1685; VOL.: A, PG: 150.<sup>8</sup>

If Elizabeth Chapman (daughter of John Chapman) was aged 19 in the year 1685, then she must have been born about the year 1666, which would seem to confirm the fact that there was

<sup>4</sup> D. L. Jacobus, *Families of Old Fairfield*, 1:140.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:105-6.

<sup>6</sup> Stamford Town Records, 1:74, citing from the 1882 transcription of the original records, page 87, as published in *Connecticut Ancestry* Microfilm, no. 16. The *Family History Library* number for this microfilm is 005,570. Donald Lines Jacobus also attested to this record from the original record in his "Stamford (Conn.) Town Records" *The American Genealogist* 10:2 (Oct., 1933): 113.

<sup>7</sup> Fairfield Probate Records, 2:9, as cited from Spencer P. Mead, *Abstract of Probate Records at Fairfield, County of Fairfield, and State of Connecticut, 1648-1750* (Greenwich, Conn.: Typescript, 1929), 16.

<sup>8</sup> Edith M. Wicks, *Genealogical References in Stamford, Ct., Land Records, Volumes A thru S, 1666-1800+* (Stamford, Conn.: Connecticut Ancestry Society, 1999), 33.

another John Chapman who was alive in 1665. These dates taken together seem to make a case for revising Jacobus' evaluation. It would appear that one John Chapman died in 1655/6, whose widow Martha married a Francis Brown in 1657, and there was another John Chapman who died in June of 1665 and whose inventory was presented in October of that same year. Then 20 years later, in 1685, this John Chapman has a daughter who is 19 years of age, which would mean that his wife was already pregnant with Elizabeth when he died in 1665.

In any event, it would appear that these facts for a second John Chapman seem to reinforce one another. And if we relied solely on these secondary sources, then we would have to conclude that there were indeed two different John Chapmans at this time.

So, did Jacobus get it wrong? Let's look at the evidence in detail, this time checking it against the original sources to see if we are correctly interpreting the evidence.

Getting back to Huntington's account, he stated that the inventory of John Chapman had been taken on either "Jan. 30 or June 13, 1655," but that it wasn't presented to the magistrates' court until some year in the 1660's. What's going on here?

Let's look at the actual evidence. John Chapman's inventory of estate was actually first presented "At a Court of Magistrats held at Newhaven for the Jurisdiction, the 25<sup>th</sup> 3<sup>d</sup> M<sup>o</sup>: 1657."<sup>9</sup> This is a date that translates into 25 May 1657. So Huntington wasn't even close to getting the year of John Chapman's inventory correct, because he reported the year to be ten years later, *i.e.*, May of 1667. Did Huntington simply mis-transcribe this fact, or was he confused by the seeming contradictory evidence, and thus consciously adjusted this date to suit a scenario that had John Chapman dying in the mid 1660's? Was Huntington trying to merge the two different John Chapmans into one? In any event, what we are faced with is yet another example of a secondary source giving us wrong information that could then be used to misconstrue genealogical history.

The actual Magistrate Court record reads as follows:

An inventorie of the estate of John Chapman, late of Stamford deceased, was presented, taken the 30<sup>th</sup> January, 1655, amount to 270<sup>l</sup>: 17<sup>s</sup>: 08<sup>d</sup>, prised by Richard Law and Francis Bell upon oath, as is therein certified.<sup>10</sup>

This record states clearly that the inventory was taken on 30 January 1655.<sup>11</sup> So from this information alone, we would have to conclude that there was a John Chapman who died perhaps in November or December, 1655.

Another problem that we are confronted with is that Huntington gave an alternate date for the inventory as occurring on either "Jan. 30 or 13 June 1655." Doesn't it seem strange that there would be two differing dates for the same event? We have established that the January 30<sup>th</sup> date came from the *New Haven Town Records*, but where did the date of June 13<sup>th</sup> come from? That date can be traced back to the *Fairfield Probate Records*.<sup>12</sup> But here again, Huntington got the

<sup>9</sup> Charles J. Hoadly, *Records of the Colony or Jurisdiction of New Haven* (Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Co., 1858), 2:201 [131]. Even though Hoadly's transcription of the *New Haven Colony Records* is a secondary source, it is first of all a reputable long standing source that has stood the test of time, and secondly, the dates surrounding this event in that source are consistent with this time period.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 2:204 [133].

<sup>11</sup> In the Old Style calendar the new year began on March 25. Most modern genealogists would record the date as 30 Jan 1655/6.

<sup>12</sup> *Fairfield Probate Records*, 2:9, as viewed from *Family History Library* microfilm no. 004,287.

year wrong. According to the *primary source* record, the year was not 1655, but 1665. So once again, here we have a classic example of a secondary source giving us false information that can be corrected by going to the original source. But the real question is this: is this inventory which occurred in 1665 that of the same John Chapman who died in 1655, or is it of a different John Chapman altogether?

First, we must address the problem mentioned by Spencer P. Mead, and that was the fact that John Chapman, according to Mead's abstract of the *Fairfield Probate Records*, actually died on 13 June 1665. Let us look at how this fact is reported:

Chapman, John, late of Stamford, died June 13, 1665, and on Nov. 1, 1665, letters of administration on his estate granted to Francis Brown, page 9. Inventory taken June 13, 1665, and filed Nov. 1, 1665, and estate ordered distributed to his widow ---, and children Mary and Elizabeth, both minors, page 9.<sup>13</sup>

According to Mead everything concerning this John Chapman occurred in the year of 1665 — John Chapman's death, his inventory, and his distribution of estate. This all seems consistent with the view that there was another John Chapman, especially since we are given here an exact date of death as being 13 June 1665, as opposed to the other John Chapman who died in 1655.

But alas, lest we accept all this information uncritically, based on these secondary sources, we should notice a very curious fact in what Mead reports that should give us pause in accepting his abstract. He stated that the inventory was taken on the very same day that John Chapman died, *i.e.*, 13 June 1665. Isn't that incredible? Think about it! You simply can not have a court assemble an inventory team, complete the inventory, and report that inventory on the very same day as the death of the person being inventoried. Such a detail as this should alert us to the fact that something is wrong in what was reported. It is time to look at the original and see what's going on. The heading reads as follows:

If we run these words together as one continuous line, then Spencer Mead can be forgiven for his misconstruction. A more accurate transcription would be:

Standford, An Inventory of the estate of John Chapman, deceased,  
(June 13<sup>th</sup> 1665 prized upon oath by Richard Lawe & Francis Be[ll]).<sup>14</sup>

From this we can see that Mead apparently read the last word of the top line "deceased" and the date following on the next line as being one continuous statement. So from that perspective, it is understandable that he would have concluded that this was the date of John Chapman's death. But it is not! Why? Because the inventory was taken on this day and therefore simply cannot also refer to the date of John Chapman's death. All that we can say from this information is that John Chapman was "deceased," and that the date of June 13<sup>th</sup>, 1665 should be attached to the word "Standford," and not to "deceased."

<sup>13</sup> Spencer P. Mead, *Abstract of Probate Records at Fairfield, County of Fairfield, and State of Connecticut, 1648-1750* (Greenwich, Conn.: typed manuscript, 1929), 16.

<sup>14</sup> Fairfield Probate Records, 2:9, as viewed from *Family History Library* microfilm no. 004,287. Transcription is that of the author.

But, one could legitimately ask, why would it take ten years from the date of John Chapman's death for this inventory to be recorded into the records? After all, there was already an inventory recorded for a John Chapman in the New Haven records back on 30 January 1655/6. Why would that inventory be presented again some ten years later in Stamford?

Is there a way to resolve these discrepancies? Indeed, there is? At the end of this inventory, it states: "Attested upon oath this 30<sup>th</sup> October Anno 1665 by the wife of *Francis Browne* before me Richard Lawe." This wife of Francis Brown, to be sure, was in fact the Martha Chapman who married Francis Brown back in 1657, as noted above. To believe that there were two John Chapmans would stretch our credibility into believing that there were two different Francis Browns as well. Frankly, this would be beyond credibility.

Why it took ten years for this inventory to be attested again in the Fairfield Probate Court is not known. However, consider this. John and Martha Chapman were originally from New Haven and that is where they must have had familiarity with that court system and where they first submitted this inventory. However, when they moved to Stamford, they then came under the jurisdiction of Fairfield County and the town of Stamford. Apparently, the Probate Court of Fairfield required this inventory to be re-administered under their jurisdiction.

So from the information gathered thus far, we can definitely rule out a second John Chapman, or even a second Martha Chapman for that matter.

The distribution of John Chapman's estate from the Fairfield court reads as follows:

At a Court held at Fairfield on 1 November 1665.

The Inventory of **John Chapman** deceased being this day exhibited to this Court approved thereof. And whereas the said **Chapman dyed intestate** the Courte Distributes the estate as followeth, each being pay<sup>d</sup> the remains Devidable estate two hundred eighty two pounds, ten shillings and eight pence, the Court divides it as followeth; to the widow of the deceased out of the estate a hundred and ten pounds, ten shillings and eight pence; to **Mary Chapman** eighty six pounds. And to **Elizabeth Chapman** eighty six pounds, the widow of the deceased is to have half the housing and Land at Standford of the deceased in part of pay of her portion. And the said **Mary** and **Elizabeth** is to have the other half of the farm devided between them equally in part of their portions and they, viz: **Mary** and **Elizabeth** is to allow each of them twenty five pounds a peece out of their portions for their part of the farm, **they are to receive their portions at eighteen years of age** except they marry soener, then at marriage. And yf either dye before they receive ther portion the survivor is to enjoy the deceaseds protion.

**Francis Browne** is admitted Administrator at this presents.

William Hill, Sen<sup>r</sup> <sup>15</sup>

Apparently, based upon this record, both Mary and Elizabeth Chapman were born in the early 1650's, and in 1665 they could have been around 12 and 14 years of age and still under the age of 18 as stated here.

This inventory was also brought before the town of Stamford and recorded two days previously in the *Stamford Town Records*. It begins by stating: "Inventory of the estatt of John Chapman, deceased, ([app])rised upon oath by Frainces Bell and Rich<sup>d</sup>. Law."<sup>16</sup> Francis Bell and Richard Law are the very same two individuals who certified the inventory that is recorded at New Haven, so at least there is agreement with that fact. At the end of this inventory it states:

<sup>15</sup> Fairfield Probate Records, 2:9.

<sup>16</sup> Stamford Town Records 1:17 (1882 transcription page 23).



“Atested uppon oath by the wife of Frances Browne, This 30 October, 166([5]) before me, Rich Lawe.”<sup>17</sup>

Thus, there can be no doubt that there was only one John Chapman. He died in 1655, and his widow Martha married Francis Brown in 1657. Then, in 1665, she attested to the inventory of her former spouse.

John Chapman’s last recorded transaction in the Stamford Town Records was on 14 March 1654/5:

March the 14<sup>th</sup> 1654.<sup>18</sup> Entry witnesseth that whereas, I, **Samuele Sherman**, now living in Stratford, in the jurisdiction of Coniticu([t]), have sould unto **John Chapman** {now living in Stamford}, all my right in houseing and lands in Stamford, ether devided or to be devided proper to the forsaid deviden, specified by a deed of sale mad & asigned by me the **Samuell Sherman** unto the forsaid<sup>d</sup> **John Chapman**, dated the 12<sup>th</sup> February 1648, and now by these presenc do surrender and pas over, acording to the deed of sale before speciefied, from me & mine to the forsaid **John Chapman** & his forever.<sup>19</sup>

The very next day, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March, 1654/5, in the *Stamford Land Records*, this property is recorded as being sold to Samuel Dean, “the dwelling house & all the housege, *th*<sup>l</sup> formerly belonged unto Sherman of Stamford. . .”<sup>20</sup> Did John Chapman begin to realize that his health was rapidly deteriorating and he was beginning to dispose of his property as a result? On the other hand, John Chapman died “intestate,”<sup>21</sup> so if he was in failing health, why wouldn’t he have made a will?

We can now narrow the date of death of John Chapman to between 15<sup>th</sup> March 1654/5, the date of his last land transaction, and 30 January 1655/6, the date when the inventory of his estate was reported in the court of Magistrates in New Haven.

The next record to note is dated 10 June 1656, where Martha Chapman on her own behalf, sells property:

Stanford Jun 10<sup>th</sup> {1656}

Witnes this presenc *th*<sup>l</sup> I, **Marthah Chapman**, doth sell, allenat, asigny, and sett over from me and mine unto **Georg Slawson** and his for ever, a sertine parsell of land liing in the North feild, tene acers, more or lesse, buted to the hyway, West; and to the Mill River, East; bounded to the North, **Richard Ambler** and **Danil Scolfeild**; and to the Suth, **Petter Firis** and **Danil Sempkins**. I the s<sup>d</sup> **Martha Chapman** du allinat from me and mine to hem and his forever peasably to enjoy w<sup>o</sup>t molestation from me or mine.<sup>22</sup>

This is also recorded in the *Stamford Land Records*,<sup>23</sup> where there the date is clearly “10<sup>th</sup> June 1656.” That record also states: “Subscribed thus Martha *M* (her mark) Chapman, for *th*<sup>l</sup> which George Slason is to pay unto **good wife Chapman** three pounds.” Clearly, “good wife Chapman” was a single woman at this time.

<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

<sup>18</sup> This date should have been double-dated. It could either be 14 March 1653/4 or 14 March 1654/5. The latter date seems more probable based on the fact that the next record cited appears to be in 1654/5.

<sup>19</sup> Stamford Town Records, 1:45 (1882 transcription page 55).

<sup>20</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:43.

<sup>21</sup> Fairfield Probate Records, 2:9, and Stamford Land Records, A:233.

<sup>22</sup> Stamford Town Records, 1:54 (1882 transcription page 66).

<sup>23</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:27.

After this, we see that on 17 December 1657 Martha Chapman married Francis Brown.<sup>24</sup> From this point on there are no longer references to “good wife Chapman.” And on 1 November 1665, Francis Brown, husband of the widow, Martha, was made the administrator of John Chapman’s estate:

The said **Frances Browne** being allowed administrater by *th<sup>c</sup>* County Court at Fairfield held *th<sup>c</sup>* 1<sup>st</sup> of novemb<sup>r</sup> Anno: 1665 on *th<sup>c</sup>* Estate of **John Chapman deces<sup>d</sup>**, the say<sup>d</sup> **Frances Browne** having in pte ministered unto *th<sup>c</sup>* legatees according to his order of *th<sup>c</sup>* courts settlement of *th<sup>c</sup>* say<sup>d</sup> Estate *th<sup>c</sup>* say<sup>d</sup> say<sup>d</sup> (*sic*) legators, viz: **Eleazar Slason, husband of *th<sup>e</sup>* said Mary Chapman** shce freely consenting, & **Elizabeth Chapman** do agree & grant unto her father-in-law **Frances Brown** fore mentioned to enter the record of *th<sup>c</sup>* severall parsells of land to him self & his for ever,  
 . . . .<sup>25</sup>

From this we not only learn that Eleazer Slason was the husband of Mary Chapman, but that Francis Brown is the father-in-law (that is *step-father*) of Elizabeth Chapman. Next, on 12 December 1672, it was recorded:

Witnes these presents *th<sup>l</sup>* I **Eleazar Slason** of Stamford have received of **Frances Brown**, administrat<sup>r</sup> on *th<sup>c</sup>* Estate of **John Chapman** of Stamford, deceased *th<sup>c</sup>* full & Just sum — part & portion of land & meadow grounds p.sonall Estate due to my wife **Mary** out of *th<sup>c</sup>* Estate (excepting & reserving my right & interest, viz: one fourth pte of the house & home lott (belonging to *th<sup>c</sup>* foresaid **John Chapman** still doe to me) to my wife according to *th<sup>c</sup>* courts settlement of *th<sup>c</sup>* Estate & inconsideration of *th<sup>c</sup>* said **Frances Browne** his agreeing, granting & resigning *th<sup>c</sup>* uplands & meadows & according to *th<sup>c</sup>* Division made viz: one fourth pte with all *th<sup>c</sup>* right previlage, common lands, commons & commodities hereto belonging unto me & mine free (\_\_\_\_) my pr.p. right for ever (*th<sup>l</sup>* above mentioned exception, standing good) I the foresaid **Eleazer Slason** doe hereby release, aquit & discharge *th<sup>c</sup>* foresaid **Francis Browne** & his from any further claims, demands, of any more interest in *th<sup>c</sup>* Estate and from any molestation here abouts, In witness of truth I have hereto set my hand this 12<sup>th</sup> of Decemb<sup>r</sup> Anno 1672,

Signed thus **Eleazer Slason**,

Witnes: George Slason,

Samuel Holly.<sup>26</sup>

Certainly, we can see that we are dealing with one family, that of John Chapman, and not two individuals of the same name.

On 23 October 1677, in a bill of sale, John Judson (husband of Elizabeth Chapman) of Stratford sold land to his father-in-law, Francis Brown, which was formerly land belonging to his father-in-law, John Chapman:

Entre *th<sup>c</sup>* Judson the 1th: 12 mo: 77

Copy — be it knowne unto all men by these presents *th<sup>l</sup>* I **John Judson** of Stratford hath sould unto father-in-law **Frances Browne** of Stamford half *th<sup>c</sup>* home lott which now he liveth in, *th<sup>l</sup>* lot formerly was my father-in-law **John Chapman**, the afforsay<sup>d</sup> John doth make over all my right and title from me mine for ev[er] to he & his for ever, pmising for me & mine to free *th<sup>c</sup>* foresaid Frances & his all claimes or Demands or any incombrances w<sup>l</sup>soever, his half lot liing next to John Waterbury, I *th<sup>c</sup>* aforesaid John doo acknowledge *th<sup>l</sup>* I have received valuable consideration in hand for *th<sup>c</sup>* same, In witness of such I have received by bill of sale to be made witness in Stamford, October *th<sup>c</sup>* 23, 1677

Witness: Henry Hill

Signed this **John Judson**

<sup>24</sup> Stamford Town Records, 1:74 (1882 transcription page 87).

<sup>25</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:48, transcription the author’s.

<sup>26</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:47.

John Holly

under written this bill of Sale was owned before me by John Judson in Stamford

Octob<sup>r</sup> 23: 1677, Rich Law Comisioned<sup>27</sup>

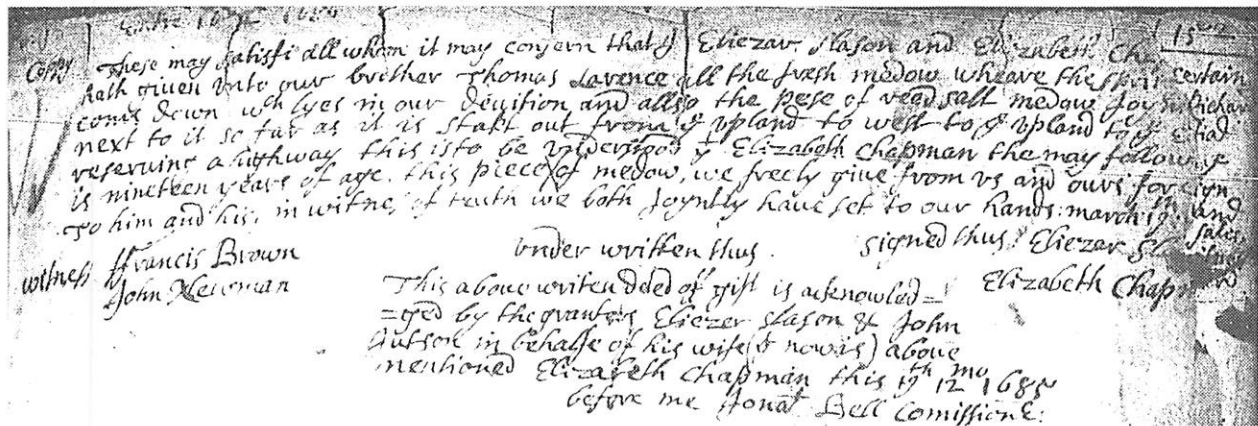
Then on 9 August 1678, in a deed, John Judson of Stratford, again mentions his father (in-law), Francis Brown:

Entre 8<sup>m</sup> 9<sup>th</sup>: 1689

Know all men of these presents th<sup>t</sup> I **John Judson** of Stratford have bargained & sold & p these presence doe bargain & sell, alinate & make over from me and mine unto Jonath Selleck & his for ever all my Right and devison of land situate in Stamford & lying in the open Rocky neck near the landing place it being the Right of five acres of meddow & lying on the open Rocky neck near the landing place it being the Right of five acres to meddow & lying on the Rige Joyning with my **father Francis Brown** . . . dated in Stratford Octob<sup>r</sup> 6<sup>th</sup> 1678.<sup>28</sup>

So, from all this information we have definitely established the fact that Martha Chapman was the widow of John Chapman, who later married Francis Brown in the year of 1657. Also, we know that the daughter of John and Martha, Mary Chapman, married Eleazar Slason, and that their other daughter, Elizabeth Chapman, married John Judson of Stratford, Connecticut.

But we still have not resolved the problem of Elizabeth Chapman seemingly being 19 years old in 1685, which would mean that she was born in 1666, ten years after John Chapman died. Let's look at the original record:<sup>29</sup>



Notice carefully that the right edge of this record has deteriorated, and the writing that appears on the far right (according to the FHL microfilm image) is actually that of a page below (p. 152) the page in question (p. 150). All that we can see from the top page is the date of March 19<sup>th</sup>, but the year that it was written thereafter has dropped off. The only date that we have is the date in which this deed was recorded, which was "19<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>mo</sup> 1685" (19 February 1685/6).

So, it is possible (and much more likely) that this deed was recorded some ten years after it was originally drawn up, and that the missing date in this record could have been, say 1670, which would have resolved the seeming discrepancy. This is a reasonable deduction, since we have already established that Elizabeth Chapman must have been born in the early 1650's.

The full transcription of this record is thus:

<sup>27</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:64.

<sup>28</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:178.

<sup>29</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:150.

These may testifi all whom it may concern that I **Eliezar Slason** and **Elizabeth Chap[man]** hath given unto our brother **Thomas Larence** all the sixth medow where the spri[ng] come down w<sup>ch</sup> lyes in our division and allso the pese of read salt medow joynes ( ) next to it so far as it is stakt out from *th<sup>e</sup>* upland to west to *th<sup>e</sup>* upland to *th<sup>e</sup>* E[ast] reserving a highway. This is to be understood *th<sup>t</sup>* **Elizabeth Chapman** she may following is **nineteen years of age**, this piece of meddow, we freely give from us and ours forever to him and his, in witnes of truth we both Joyntly have set to our hands: march 9<sup>th</sup> ( ).

Signed thus **Eliazer Slason**

**Elizabeth Chapm[an]**

Witness: **Francis Brown**

John Newman Under above written deed of gift is acknowl  
ged by the grantees **Eliezer Slason & John**

**Judson in behalfe of his wife (& now is) above mentioned  
Elizabeth Chapman**, this 19<sup>th</sup> 12<sup>mo</sup> 1685, before me Jon<sup>t</sup> Bell  
Comission<sup>r</sup>.<sup>30</sup>

Do notice that the telling statement that Elizabeth Chapman at the time that this record was entered into the *Stamford Land Records*: “*now* is” the wife of John Judson.

It is clear that when this record was originally drawn up Elizabeth Chapman was not yet the wife of John Judson. The record was most likely drawn up in the year around 1670, when Elizabeth Chapman was still single, was age 18 (as of March 19<sup>th</sup>) and would be turning age 19 in “May.”

All that we can say for certain is that this deed was recorded in the year of 1685, but the date of the original record has been lost from the original text.

And finally, on 21 January 1692, in an agreement, between Joseph Brown and Eleazar Slason, we have the following documented relationships:

Entre ( ) Decemb<sup>r</sup> 1693

Witness these presen<sup>c</sup> an agreement made and concluded by and between Joseph Brown the one party and **Eleazer Slason** the other party, both of Stamford the contents of this agreement is as followith ~ that whereas **John Chapman**, formerly of Stamford now deceased did formerly stand possessed of divers parsells of land he **diing Intestant** the Court of Fairfield made a settlement of the said land & Estate whereupon distribution was made & confirmation of the some as by Records doe appear. Therefore know all whom it may concern that I **Eleazar Slason Jur.** of Stamford, in the County of Fairfield & colony of Connecticut doe p. these presence fully and Absolutely, Resign & make over all my Right, Interest, title or claim to any part of all those lands settled by the Court unto **Francis Brown** now possessed by **his son, Joseph Brown** or in Remarkings for him or his heirs or assigns for ever the foresaid land and every part & parsed thereof with all the Rights, Titles or priviledges *th<sup>t</sup>* come hereby the aforesaid **Eleazer Slason Jun** doe confirm unto the forenamed **Joseph Brown** from me my heirs or assigns or any other by my Right Enterest or order to *th<sup>e</sup>* foresaid **Brown** to him his heirs executors or assigns for ever as his own proper Right title or Interest, & Doe hereby promise to free the said land and every part thereof from all Claims, rights, titles or demands upon any prefenc whatsoever from me or mine for ever, for him quietly to posses and enjoy as his own proper Right & Title and doe acknowledge to have received full satisfaction for the sames. I witness of truth I have caused this deed of confirmation to be made & have hereunto set my hand this 21<sup>st</sup> of Janu<sup>ry</sup> 1692.

Signed thus **Eleazar Slason, J<sup>r</sup>**.

<sup>30</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:150.

Ssealed red wax

Signed, sealed, & Deliverance in  
Presence of us

Under written thus=

Daniel Wescott           The above written deed of Confirmation of Land is  
David Waterbury       acknowledge by the granter the date above written before me  
Jona<sup>th</sup> Bell Comission<sup>r</sup> <sup>31</sup>

Thus, from all this evidence here presented, we can definitely say that there was only one John Chapman, not two.

And another important conclusion that we can make after reviewing all these facts is that Donald Lines Jacobus was indeed correct in his construction of John Chapman's family.

There are a flagrant number of errors in secondary sources about this John Chapman. But they can at least serve as a primary example in driving home this point: There simply is no substitute for original records as our primary sources.

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<sup>31</sup> Stamford Land Records, A:233.

## **The Local History Collection at Norwalk Public Library**

**Paul R. Keroack**

The library has assembled a small collection focused on the history of Norwalk and its families, with additional material relating to the adjacent towns of Wilton, Darien, Westport and New Canaan, all or parts of which were included in the original area of Norwalk as founded in 1651. In recent years the staff has augmented the book collection (fully cataloged under the subject heading "Local History Collection" at <http://catalog.norwalklib.org>) with news clippings, microfilm, CD-ROM and DVDs. The Collection, except for the microfilm and DVDs, is located in a secure room in the Information/Reference Department at 1 Belden Ave. Incidentally, of the over 300 book titles, 41 of the pre-1922 publications are also free online via GoogleBooks, [www.iconn.org](http://www.iconn.org) (from HeritageQuest) or Internet Archive (from the Library of Congress). The DVDs noted above are of area cultural and historical interest, produced for community television by Dolly Curtis. They are in the circulating collection.

Genealogically speaking, research in Norwalk has challenges not found in neighboring towns. While the Congregational church kept baptismal and marriage records from earliest times, those before 1807 were lost when the books were found to have disintegrated from neglect. As with many colonial towns, civil record keeping was never complete and had almost ceased by the Revolutionary War. What records survived were assembled into the Barbour Collection. The library owns most of the area Barbour paperbacks but also possesses the Ricker Compilation of Vital Records of Early Connecticut – a CD-ROM of Barbour and other vital and cemetery records alphabetized in a single searchable index. Following the 1779 burning of the town by British forces, many families relocated north and west. By the mid-nineteenth century Norwalk was home to a burgeoning manufacturing center, bringing in many new residents.

The library owns microfilm copies of city vital records from 1848 to about 1900. These and earlier records are also easily accessible in the nearby town clerk's office (see below). As in many cities newspapers and city directories supplement genealogical research. In Norwalk the directories started late – the microfilm collection covers 1882-1960. The Norwalk "Hour," which commenced as a daily newspaper in 1895 is on microfilm from that date at the library. As with all older papers, there are some gaps and poorly preserved pages to contend with. The "Hour" published a massive special edition on Aug. 7, 1951 in honor of the town's 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which includes many articles of historical interest. A bound paper edition is too fragile to peruse but articles may be digitally photographed with staff permission.

The library has acquired microfilm of death and marriage records extracted by Lester L. Card from an early newspaper, the "Norwalk Gazette", as well as from other area newspapers and vital records, generally from 1790 to mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Microfilm reels of the Hale Headstone Collection covering Norwalk are also in the collection. While census records are now available online from several sources, the library retains microfilm reels of the U.S. census covering Norwalk and some of its vicinity from 1790-1930. The staff has assembled a news clipping file primarily devoted to local history,

some of which may be helpful in genealogical research. Also, a loose-leaf binder includes copies of articles and data extractions relating to Norwalk individuals, families, churches and institutions.

Several other facilities in Norwalk also provide historical resources which may be of interest. The Norwalk Historical Society ([www.norwalkhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.norwalkhistoricalsociety.org)) operates a small museum complex at 2 East Wall Street. It offers frequent programs and exhibits and has publications for sale. The Norwalk Museum, 41 N. Main Street, South Norwalk, [www.norwalkct.org/norwalkmuseum/index.htm](http://www.norwalkct.org/norwalkmuseum/index.htm) houses a collection of former municipal records, the archival collection of the former Lockwood House – including many photographs - and the original bound issues of the “Norwalk Gazette” (1818-1883) and microfilm of “The South Norwalk Sentinel” (1871-1900). Exhibits feature primarily artifacts of the city’s industrial and mercantile past. Access to archival records is granted by appointment with the curator. The museum is owned and operated by the City of Norwalk.

Two offices in Norwalk City Hall at 125 East Avenue deserve special mention as genealogical resources. The Town Clerk’s office (Room 102) has conveniently placed most vital records for public consultation in the spacious Land Records room. All vital records registers with the exception of births after 1898 are located there. A bound index to births 1848-1898 has been created, while indexes to marriages and deaths are included within register volumes from 1870; a volunteer project to create indexes before that date is underway. Other resources include burial records and a nearly complete collection of published city directories to 1990, including that for 1874/75 - the only edition available prior to 1882.

The Norwalk Probate Court (Room 232) has copies of probate court records dating from 1802. The accompanying packets of original estate papers for Norwalk are kept at an off-site repository and have not been microfilmed. They are available only by special request to the clerk of the court. Prior to 1802 the probate district for Norwalk was in Fairfield, and these records, both the record books and the estate papers, are available on microfilm at the State Library.

**Free on the Internet:  
Many Out-of-print Historical and Genealogical Books**  
Paul R. Keroack

In recent years, as a librarian as well as a genealogist, I have become aware of the phenomenon of large-scale book scanning and the display of their digital images on the internet. The process was developed as a means of preservation of older texts as well to disseminate their content to a wider audience. Full access to most books published before 1922 is free due to the lapse of copyright protection. Some titles after that date are also available, depending on their particular copyright status or where permission has been given to freely reproduce them.

The genealogical and local history community can benefit greatly from these developments. While the use of physical books and journals remains valuable and even pleasurable to most researchers who came to maturity before the age of the personal computer, but when time, distance and cost are obstacles, the ability to read "virtual" pages on a computer screen at home can be very convenient.

Taking the Local History Collection of the Norwalk Public Library as an example with which I am very familiar by virtue of my employment there, I proceeded to determine how many of its printed volumes were now freely available online. With slightly over 300 volumes in the collection, 42 were published before 1922. Of these, 39 are online; 3 are not, but another - published in 1925, is available [see table below]. The reason for these exceptions is unknown to me. However, preservation projects at academic and national collections are ongoing so more titles may become available.

The largest online sources of likely interest to American genealogists and historians today are as follows:

- By virtue of its corporate size, mission and agreements with some of the largest academic libraries in the nation, <http://books.google.com> today has the single largest online free book and journal collection. One can use the advanced search to find a particular title or use keywords to uncover titles of interest, specifying "full" to identify which are completely reproduced. Keywords can also locate useful "snippets" within books still under copyright protection or reveal library locations for these same titles.
- [www.archive.org/details/library\\_of\\_congress](http://www.archive.org/details/library_of_congress) has partnered with the Library of Congress to preserve its historical book collection. While scanning has made available only about 60,000 titles so far, the ongoing project offers some titles not available elsewhere.
- HeritageQuest has an historical and genealogical book section available to libraries which subscribe to its content. For a Connecticut resident this access is available at [www.IConn.org](http://www.IConn.org) via one's local library card. For residents of other states access may be available through organizations or state libraries. See: <http://genealogy.about.com/b/2005/12/09/free-access-to-heritagequest-online.htm>
- Brigham Young University in Utah has begun a preservation program featuring genealogical content at [www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu](http://www.familyhistoryarchive.byu.edu).



**Local History Collection of the Norwalk Public Library – titles which are available full-text online without charge at the following websites:**

1. – **GoogleBooks** – <http://books.google.com>
2. – **LOC** – [www.archive.org/details/library\\_of\\_congress](http://www.archive.org/details/library_of_congress)
3. – **ICONN** – Login with library card - chose “HeritageQuest” – chose “Search Books”

| <b>Library Call #</b> | <b>Author -Title</b>   | <b>1</b>    | <b>2</b> | <b>3</b> |
|-----------------------|--|-------------|----------|----------|
| R 369.15 TWE          | 28 <sup>TH</sup> Anniversary roster of Buckingham Post No. 12 ... G.A.R.   |             | LOC      |          |
| R 974.69 BAI          | Bailey - History of Danbury, Conn  | GB          | LOC      | IConn    |
| R 974.69 BEA          | Beard - Historical address in commemoration of the two hundred ...         | GB          |          | IConn    |
| R 929.2 BOU           | Boughton - Bouton—Boughton family  | GB          | LOC      | IConn    |
| R 974.69 BOU          | Bouton - An Historical discourse in commemoration of the two hundredth ... | GB          |          | IConn    |
| R 972.602 BOW         | Bowen - Boundary disputes of Connecticut                                   | GB          | LOC      |          |
| R 720.974 COL         | Colonial and revolutionary homes of Wilton                                 | GB          |          |          |
| R 920.07469 COM       | Commemorative biographical record of Fairfield County, Connecticut         |             | LOC      |          |
| R 970.4 DEF           | De Forest - History of the Indians of Connecticut                          | GB          |          |          |
| R 973.77 CON          | Dedication of the monument at Andersonville, Georgia ...                   | GB          | LOC      |          |
| R 328.973092 UNI      | Ebenezer J. Hill: Memorial address   | GB          | LOC      |          |
| R 974.69 FOU          | Four cities and towns of Connecticut                                       |             |          |          |
| R 974.603 GRU         | Grumman -Revolutionary soldiers of Redding                                 |             | LOC      |          |
| R 282.746 GUI         | Guilbert - Annals of an old parish ...                                     | GB          | LOC      | IConn    |
| R 974.69 HAL          | Hall - Ancient historical records of Norwalk                               |             |          | IConn    |
| R 974.69 HIS          | History of Fairfield County, Connecticut                                   |             | LOC      |          |
|                       | History of the Fire lands  |             | LOC      |          |
| R 974.6 HOL           | Hollister - History of Connecticut   | GB<br>(v.1) |          |          |
| R 974.69 HUN          | Hubbard - Other days in Greenwich  |             |          | IConn    |
| R 920.0746 ILL        | Illustrated popular biography of Connecticut                               | GB          |          | IConn    |
| R 974 JEN             | Jenkins -Old Boston Post Road  | GB          |          | IConn    |
| R 929.2 KEL           | Keeler - Ralph Keeler of Norwalk   |             |          | IConn    |
| R 974.69 MEA          | Mead – History of the town of Greenwich                                    | GB          |          | IConn    |

|                     |   |             |     |       |
|---------------------|---|-------------|-----|-------|
| R 974.69 MEA        | Mead - Ye historie of ye town of Greenwich                                      | GB          |     | IConn |
| R 328.973092<br>UNI | Memorial addresses on the life and character of Orrin S. Ferry                  |             | LOC |       |
| R 976.9 MID         | Middlebrook - History of Maritime Connecticut ... (1925)                        |             |     | IConn |
| R 929.2 RES         | Morris - Resseguie family   | GB          |     | IConn |
| R 974.69 NOR        | Norwalk after two hundred & fifty years   | GB          |     |       |
| R 976.69 NOR        | Norwalk and So. Norwalk and their points of interest                            |             |     |       |
| R 974.69 OLM        | Olmstead - Wilton parish, 1726-1800   |             | LOC |       |
| R 355.0092 REC      | Record of service of Connecticut men (Civil War)                                |             |     | IConn |
| R 355.0092 REC      | Record of service of Connecticut men (Revolutionary War)                        |             | LOC |       |
| R 355.0092 REC      | Record of service of Connecticut men (Spanish-American War)                     |             | LOC |       |
| R 285.874 REC       | Records of the General Association ...  | GB          |     |       |
| R 974.69 SCH        | Schenck - History of Fairfield, Fairfield County                                | GB<br>(v.2) | LOC | IConn |
| R 283.7469 SEL      | Selleck - Address by Rev. Charles M. Selleck at the centenary of St. Paul's ... |             |     |       |
| R 974.6 SEL         | Selleck - Norwalk   | GB          |     |       |
| R 363.61 SOU        | South Norwalk Water Works   |             |     |       |
| R 974.6902 STJ      | St. John - Historical address delivered in the Congregational Church            | GB          | LOC |       |
| R 974.602 STE       | Steiner - History of slavery in Connecticut                                     |             | LOC |       |
| R 974.69 TOD        | Todd - History of Redding, Connecticut  | GB          | LOC |       |
| R 974 FOR           | Towns of New England and old England  | GB          |     |       |
| R 929.5 VAN         | Van Hoosear - Complete copy of the inscriptions found on the monuments ...      | GB          | LOC |       |

**(Selected Norwalk-interest titles available online but not in library collection)**

|  |   |    |     |       |
|--|---|----|-----|-------|
|  | Boyd's Fairfield County directory                                       |    | LOC |       |
|  | Carter - Descendants of Samuel Carter                                   |    |     | IConn |
|  | Gorham - Bates, Selleck and allied families                             |    |     | IConn |
|  | Leading businessmen of Fairfield County                                 |    | LOC |       |
|  | St. John - St. John genealogy   |    | LOC |       |
|  | Townshend - British invasion of New Haven ... and Fairfield and Norwalk | GB | LOC | IConn |
|  | Van Hoosear - Complete genealogy of the Van Hoosear family              | GB | LOC | IConn |
|  | Wright - Reed-Read lineage  |    | LOC |       |

## **Land Records as Sources of Genealogical Information: Examples from Ridgefield, Connecticut**

Kenneth W. Rockwell

Real estate deeds, recording the obtaining and conveying of land parcels, are very useful sources of genealogical information of different kinds. They may work in concert with probate records as the distribution is made of a deceased person's property. The grantor (conveyor of the property) may directly identify a relationship with the grantee (recipient). The maiden name and ancestry of a wife is sometimes revealed through such records. And migration may sometimes be tracked through a series of deeds. One may detect when a landowner moved into and out of a locality, where he came from, or to where he moved afterward. I will provide some examples here from the deed books of the Town of Ridgefield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, which was founded 300 years ago.

The area that comprises Ridgefield was obtained by a series of purchases from the Indians of the area, starting with a deed dated 30 September 1708.<sup>1</sup> The first purchasers were identified as residents of nearby Norwalk (21 of them) or of Milford, New Haven County (3 of them). It so happened that two of the original purchasers bore the name of Samuel Smith, one being of Norwalk and the other of Milford. For this reason, the deeds regarding these men usually included a reference to their town of origin, even decades later. For example, on 11 April 1745, "Milfd. Saml. Smith" sold land to Robert Jacklin;<sup>2</sup> and on 25 March 1751, "Samuel Smith formerly of Norwalk now of Ridgefield" sold land to his son Samuel.<sup>3</sup>

The original purchasers owned equal shares, or "rights," in the lands of the town, and became known as "Proprietors." The number of rights soon grew from 25 to 29, as a few others were allowed to buy into the Town. One of the original 25 was reserved for the first minister and thus fell to Thomas Hawley upon his arrival in 1713. By 22 April 1709 Ebenezer Smith was listed as a proprietor in a division of meadow land.<sup>4</sup> At a subsequent drawing for lots in the "Boggy Meadow Division," there were 28 rights, including that of Joseph Benedict and a "Black Smith's right."<sup>5</sup> In 1712, the proprietors granted a right to "Benjamin Burt, now resident in Norwalk," if he would come to Ridgefield to work his much-needed craft as a blacksmith.<sup>6</sup> Finally, on 30 January 1716/17, Daniel Sherwood, who was already living in Ridgefield, was granted one twenty-ninth of the undivided land, thus becoming the last of the original Proprietors.<sup>7</sup>

Not all of the original Proprietors settled in Ridgefield; some of them sold their right to others. Sometimes two or more individuals bought portions of a single right, and as a proprietor died, his heirs would own a part of a right. But while there might be dozens of proprietors later on, the whole number of rights to the remaining undivided

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<sup>1</sup> Ridgefield deeds, vol. 1, folio 1-2, from FHL Film 5496.

<sup>2</sup> Deeds 3:161; FHL Film 5497.

<sup>3</sup> Deeds 3:367-368; FHL Film 5497.

<sup>4</sup> Deeds 1:6.

<sup>5</sup> Deeds 1:7.

<sup>6</sup> Deeds 1:37.

<sup>7</sup> Deeds 1:61.

land, or “commons,” remained fixed at 29 until all land was distributed or sold. During the periodic divisions of parts of the commonage, lots would be drawn for each right. There is some inconsistency as to how they referred to a given right, sometimes naming the current owners of the rights and at other times referring to the original Proprietor. For example, on 9 July 1711, original Proprietor Benjamin Hickcox sold his whole right in the Town of Ridgefield to Thomas Rockwell of Norwalk.<sup>8</sup> During a division made on 23 January 1740/41, this right was called “the right originally Benjamin Hickcock’s. Similar references were to James Brown and Joseph Crampton, both of whom had sold their rights early and never settled in Ridgefield.”<sup>9</sup>

A Proprietor could also sell portions of his properties without any share of the commons, so that the new purchaser became a landowner and a citizen, but not a Proprietor. These purchasers did not always settle in Ridgefield, and there are examples of long series of transfers in which the grantee-cum-grantor is referred to as a resident of another town. For example:

- Matthew Seamur [Seamour] of Norwalk, one of the Proprietors of Ridgefield, sold to Daniel Arms of Deerfield, Hampshire Co., Massachusetts, half of a right in Ridgefield on 21 March 1713/14.<sup>10</sup>
- Daniel Arms of Deerfield sold to Capt. Henry Dwight of Hatfield, Hampshire Co., Mass., his full half-right in Ridgefield, on 28 Dec. 1716.<sup>11</sup>
- Henry Dwight of Hatfield, on 14 May 1722, sold to Joseph Hobart of Ridgefield, late of Long Island, all his right bought of Daniel Arms.<sup>12</sup>

Even when a landowner never settled in the town, his children might. There are numerous records of purchases and sales by individuals of a given surname, always in another locality. Eventually, someone of the same surname appears in the records, already living in Ridgefield. Investigation of the non-resident family may lead to discovering a link with the Ridgefield settler. The description of the land he sells, for example, may be similar enough to that of land purchased by the out-of-towner, so that a relationship is likely, even if a direct transfer of ownership is not recorded in the deeds.

- Many deeds relate to Ephraim Jackson of Redding Parish, Fairfield, who first purchased land on 22 Sept. 1746.<sup>13</sup> Subsequent deeds always give his residence as Fairfield or Redding, but by 1768, some of his sons were clearly resident in Ridgefield. For example, on 15 September 1768, David Jackson of Ridgefield sold to Joseph Jackson of Ridgefield all his right in 30 acres adjoining the farm where Joseph then lived, “of which my honored father Mr. Ephraim Jackson died seized, which he purchased of Abraham Bennett.”<sup>14</sup>
- As mentioned, Daniel Sherwood, the 29<sup>th</sup> Proprietor, was already “of Ridgefield” when granted land there in 1717. On 5 May 1736/37, John Sherwood of “New

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<sup>8</sup> Deeds 1:38.

<sup>9</sup> Deeds 3:52–54.

<sup>10</sup> Deeds 1:44.

<sup>11</sup> Deeds 1:81.

<sup>12</sup> Deeds 1:92.

<sup>13</sup> Deeds 3:202.

<sup>14</sup> Deeds 5:56.

Milford” [probably Milford], New Haven County, sold the northern part of a 200-acre tract in Ridgefield “originally surveyed & laid out to my honored father Thomas Sherwood of Stratford, deceased.”<sup>15</sup> This record, though not necessarily involving relatives of Daniel Sherwood, provides a possible area in which to look for his ancestry.

Further examples that note the previous residences of Ridgefield grantees include:

- James Brown of Norwalk [an original Proprietor] on 2 March 1712/13 sold half of his whole right in the lands of Ridgefield to Joshua Lobdell of Milford.<sup>16</sup>
- Richard Whitne [Whitney] of Norwalk sold a whole right to Richard Osburne of East Chester, Westchester Co., New York, on 4 June 1713.<sup>17</sup>
- Jonathan Abbott Senior of Ridgefield sold land on 13 March 1722 to Mr. Allexander Ressiguie of Norwalk.<sup>18</sup> For several years, subsequent deeds concerning Ressiguie continued to give his residency as Norwalk, until a deed dated 14 May 1725, in which he was called “of Ridgefield.”<sup>19</sup>
- Benjamin Benedict of Ridgefield, on 28 March 1723, sold land to Lemuel Morehouse of Greens Farms [part of the Town of Fairfield].<sup>20</sup>
- Joseph Harris, “lately of the town and county of New London, Connecticut,” bought land from Samuel St. John Junior on 7 January 1734/35.<sup>21</sup>
- Seth Nickerson, “late of Chatham, in Massachusetts Bay Province, now resident in Ridgefield” bought land from Jeremiah Wayman on 12 March 1746/47.<sup>22</sup>

Early on the records show transactions between relatives. Sometimes they were sales; others were outright gifts, perhaps as a son’s “portion” in his father’s land.

- Matthias Saintjohn [of Norwalk] “in consideration of that Parentall Love and affection which I have and do bear towards my well-beloved son Nathan Saintjohn of Ridgefield” gave to him his whole right of land in Ridgefield on 7 Feb. 1716/17.<sup>23</sup>
- James Benedict of Ridgefield sold land on 19 January 1720/21 to “my brother John Benedict of Norwalk.”<sup>24</sup>
- Joshua Lobdell Senior, and his two sons Samuel and Joshua, exchanged parcels of land on 12 January 1726/27.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> Deeds 3:95.

<sup>16</sup> Deeds 1:39.

<sup>17</sup> Deeds 1:41.

<sup>18</sup> Deeds 1:90.

<sup>19</sup> Deeds 2:26.

<sup>20</sup> Deeds 2:19.

<sup>21</sup> Deeds 2:177.

<sup>22</sup> Deeds 3:201.

<sup>23</sup> Deeds 1:83.

<sup>24</sup> Deeds 1:164.

<sup>25</sup> Deeds 2:36.

- Joseph Keeler of Ridgefield, on 12 March 1750, gave to his seven sons, Isaac, Martin, Lot, Paul, Silas, John and Elijah, “all late of said Ridgefield,” all his right of commonage in Ridgefield (1.5 rights), to be divided equally among them.<sup>26</sup>

Deeds that indicate in-law relationships are particularly interesting and valuable for genealogical purposes. A couple’s reference to “our father” or “our brother” (where their surname differs from his) usually reveals the wife’s maiden name. When a man referred to another man with a different surname as “my brother,” it usually indicates that one of them was married to the other’s sister. Other records may be needed to determine the exact relationship.

- Joseph Lees of Ridgefield, on 8 March 1726/27 sold land to “my brother John Dibble of Ridgefield.”<sup>27</sup>
- David Osburn of Ridgefield, on 25 Dec. 1728, sold land to “my honored father-in-law Joseph Keeler.”<sup>28</sup>
- Benjamin Stebbins, on 20 January 1729/30, sold land to “my brother Israel Mead of Ridgefield.”<sup>29</sup>
- Joseph Smith and Mary his wife of Stamford, Connecticut, on 17 January 1748/9, sold to Solomon Wood of Norwalk a 15-acre parcel, “being a quarter part of a 60-acre lotment of wood ... & is ours by virtue of a deed obtained of our honored father John Cornwell of Danbury.”<sup>30</sup>
- Nathan Bears and Lydia his wife, of Norwalk, on 23 Dec. 1749, conveyed to Elijah Hauley all the right, title and interest they had to the common lands of Ridgefield “which belonged to our brother Ebenezer Hauley, late of Ridgefield, deceased.”<sup>31</sup>

The Ridgefield vital records include several marriage records in which the maiden name of the bride is left blank. Again, the land records sometimes allow us to identify her family of origin:

- Joseph Foster married Zebiah [ ] on 22 February 1748/49.<sup>32</sup> On 5 July 1757, Thomas Hyatt gave 10 acres to “my daughter Zibiah Foster.”<sup>33</sup> And on 1 April 1773, for money received of Joseph Foster and Zibiah his wife of Ridgefield, Thomas Hyatt confirmed 1 acre to Zibiah.<sup>34</sup>
- Daniel Sherwood [Junior] married Jerusha [ ] on 29 April 1736.<sup>35</sup> On 5 February 1744/45, Daniel and Jerusha Sherwood conveyed to “our brethren John Whitne and Daniel Whitne” their share in father Henry Whitney’s estate.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>26</sup> Deeds 3:276–277.

<sup>27</sup> Deeds 2:42.

<sup>28</sup> Deeds 2:65.

<sup>29</sup> Deeds 2:110.

<sup>30</sup> Deeds 3:239–240.

<sup>31</sup> Deeds 3:275.

<sup>32</sup> Deeds 1:233, published in *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town vital records*, vol. 36, p. 177.

<sup>33</sup> Deeds 4:134.

<sup>34</sup> Deeds 5:173.

<sup>35</sup> Deeds 1:230, in Barbour 36:265.

- John Lobdell married Ruth [ ] on 25 June 1744.<sup>37</sup> On 25 April 1745, Daniel Sherwood [Senior], gave to “my Son in Law John Lobdell” a half-acre parcel near Lobdell’s house.<sup>38</sup>

In some cases, one may have no record of a widowed ancestor after the distribution of her late husband’s estate. Again, the land records may reveal that a widow has remarried and sometimes moved away. Examples:

- Lemuel Morehouse signed a deed on 29 October 1729 stating that “Whereas my honored mother Martha Adams of Fairfield did release unto me ... the use of all her lands and houseings in ye West Society of Fairfield, now know all men that if my said mother after a year from this date be completed be desirous to return to her said house to live there again she shall have the said housing and two and a half acres of land released by me unto her, the said land lying adjoining unto said housing and four acres of land and meadow on the westerly part of my home lott in the Town Street of Ridgfield...”<sup>39</sup>
- On 19 September 1732, “Thomas Rockwell, John Rockwell, and Jabez Rockwell, sons and heirs of Thomas Rockwell of Norwalk long since deceased, and Joseph Hobart, heir also unto the estate of said Thomas Rockwell dec’d, by my wife Sarah, having as yet made no division of that part of our honored father’s estate which was laid out to our honored mother Mrs. Sarah Osborn,” appointed two other Ridgefield proprietors to assess and make a division of their mother’s lands.<sup>40</sup>
- Jonathan and Martha Miller of Ridgefield, on 1 April 1740, released to Daniel Chapman of Fairfield all their right and claim to a homestead of land that “our son Lemuel Morehouse sold to the Rev. Mr. Daniel Chapman...”<sup>41</sup>
- Nathan and Abigail St. John, on 22 February 1765, sold all her right to lands set out in the distribution of the estate of her late husband, Mr. Joseph Hauley.<sup>42</sup>

A more subtle application of the language in the deeds is to note when a man is given the appellation “Senior” or “Junior.” Their use indicates two men of the same name living in the same town, and shows which is older than the other. It does not necessarily refer to a father and son; they might instead be cousins, or uncle and nephew. Occasionally, reference to a man as Senior after no such mention in previous deeds may indicate that his namesake (whether son or another) has just come of age. This, too, is not a hard and fast rule, however. For example, on 30 January 1728/29, Joshua Lobdell Senior sold land to Jonathan Rockwell Senior.<sup>43</sup> This is the first deed that applies “Senior” to Rockwell, one of the original Proprietors. The only other individual of the same name in town was his son, and the Ridgefield vital records show that Jonathan, son

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<sup>36</sup> Deeds 3:159.

<sup>37</sup> Deeds 1:232, in Barbour 36:214.

<sup>38</sup> Deeds 3:163.

<sup>39</sup> Deeds 2:116.

<sup>40</sup> Deeds 2:178.

<sup>41</sup> Deeds 3:26.

<sup>42</sup> Deeds 4:269.

<sup>43</sup> Deeds 2:69.

of Jonathan Rockwell, was born on 31 March 1711<sup>44</sup>; so he was only 18 at the time of this deed.

Probate proceedings for Ridgefield were under the jurisdiction of the Fairfield Probate District until 1740 and the Danbury Probate District until 1841. Many of the early settlers of Ridgefield who died in its early decades never had their estates probated, probably because of the distance to court. The land records may in such cases serve as substitutes, as they record agreements among the family members on how to distribute the decedent's real estate. When the estate did enter probate, the proceedings often included detailed accounts of the distribution of a decedent's real estate. In both cases, the individual heirs sometimes sold the land, and the resulting deeds may record details such as a daughter's husband, a deceased daughter's children, or a residence in another area. These details may not be clearly stated in the probate or vital records, so sometimes the land records provide a crucial breakthrough in a genealogical "brick wall." Some examples from Ridgefield:

- Original proprietor John Sturdevant died on 27 July 1717,<sup>45</sup> and his estate was probated in 1722. His estate distribution in 1722 identified his children as John, Samuel, Elizabeth, and Bulah Sturdevant.<sup>46</sup> On 26 August 1735, Ezekiel Willmott and Bulah Willmot his wife, both of New Haven, sold to "our brother John Sturdevant of Ridgefield" such right, title, and interest as Bulah had "from the estate of our honored father John Sturdevant of Ridgefield deceased."<sup>47</sup> On 16 August 1740, Willet Bishop and wife Elizabeth of New Haven sold to Nathan St. John of Ridgefield "one fifth part or our whole right and interest in the Common and undivided land ... formerly belonging to John Sturdevant of Ridgefield deceased, as said Sturdevant was Father to said Elizabeth Bishop."<sup>48</sup> Elizabeth was to marry again, as on 6 April 1756, Joseph Ruggles and Elizabeth his wife of New Haven sold to Darius Lobdell of Derby a 2-acre parcel, which was "the whole right of said Elisabeth in a certain home lott lying in the Town Platt of Ridgefield... which lot belonged to my honored father John Sturdevant, formerly of Ridgefield deceased."<sup>49</sup>
- Samuel Lobdell, Caleb Lobdell, John Lobdell, Jabez and Sarah Northrup, and Seaborn and Susanna Burt of Ridgefield, and Samuel and Mary Plum of Derby, New Haven Co., Connecticut, and Joshua Lobdell of Cortlands Manor, Westchester Co., New York, on 31 October 1743, sold to Ebenezer Lobdell of Ridgefield, all their right, title, and interest to the half-right in common land at Ridgefield that belonged "unto our father Joshua Lobdell deceased."<sup>50</sup> Neither a death record nor probate records exist for Joshua Lobdell.
- Benjamin Burt, the blacksmith, also lacks any probate or death record. But on 24 May 1759, his heirs signed a series of quit-claim deeds that distributed the real

<sup>44</sup> Deeds 1:200, in *Barbour Collection* 36:252.

<sup>45</sup> Deeds 1:213, in *Barbour Collection* 36:288.

<sup>46</sup> Fairfield Probate Records 6:173; FHL Film #4288.

<sup>47</sup> Deeds 2:181.

<sup>48</sup> Deeds 3:195-196.

<sup>49</sup> Deeds 4:116.

<sup>50</sup> Deeds 3:110.



estate and claims to Ridgefield's undivided lands among them. Their names were Christopher Burt, Daniel Burt, Seaborn Burt, Sarah Cornwell, Daniel Whitney and Thankful his wife, all resident of Ridgefield, and Benjamin Burt of Warwick, Orange County, New York.<sup>51</sup>

Clues to family relationships may sometimes reside in the description of the borders of the parcel being sold. Adjacent owners may have the same surname as the grantor or grantee, and even when not, the description may suggest that these parcels were both part of an estate, so that an adjacent landowner may be a sibling or in-law. Sometimes, a set of related deeds filed and recorded together clearly relate to the same or adjacent parcels and point to some relationship between the various parties.

- Jonathan Morehouse of Rhinebeck, Dutchess County, N.Y., on 9 May 1770, sold to Epenetus How of Ridgefield a 5.5-acre parcel bounded on the south by highway and "the land of my Mother Morehouse," and on the north by land of Benjamin Morehouse. On the same date, Mary Morehouse of Salem, Westchester County, sold to Epenetus How a 1000-rod parcel bounded on the north "by land sold by Jonathan Morehouse to the sd How, by a deed of even date with these presents," along with her right of dower in and unto the land sold by Jonathan to sd How.<sup>52</sup>
- Vivus Dauchy and Mary his wife, on 7 June 1773, quit-claimed to Amos Benedict for 1 shilling all their right in the south half of a 79-acre parcel, described as the 21<sup>st</sup> lot in the 5<sup>th</sup> 20-acre division, "laid out to Capt. Richard Olmsted."<sup>53</sup> On 2 June 1773, Amos Benedict purchased from Benjamin Olmsted, David Olmsted, Benjamin Landon and Jonah and Mary Woodrough of Litchfield, Litchfield County, Connecticut, and Josiah and Hepzibah Osborn of Ridgefield, all their rights in the same lot. This deed refers to "the said Landon's right therein being only a right of courtesie, and the interestes of the other granters being different, as set to them in the distribution & estate of their dec'd father Richard Olmsted."<sup>54</sup> From a comparison of these two deeds, we can assume that Mary Dauchy was another child of Richard Olmsted.
- Esther Seely, wife of Sylvanus Seely of Ridgefield, on 8 May 1783, sold to Hannah, wife of Jeremiah Wilson, a parcel of 5 acres and 25 rods, bound on the north by "Elizabeth wife of Ezekiel Wilson," and on the south by "land distributed to my sister Abigail." On the same date, John and Abigail DeForrest of Norwalk, sold to Hannah Wilson a 5-acre, 25-rod parcel bound on the north by "land distributed to our sister Esther" and on the south by Capt. James Scott's land. Tying the two records together, on the same date, Hannah Hyatt, for 10 shillings, conveyed to Jeremiah and Hannah Wilson all her right of improvement in a tract of 10 acres, 1 rood, bound on the north by Elizabeth Wilson and on the south by Captain James Scott.<sup>55</sup> From this we can surmise that Hannah Hyatt was the mother of Esther and Abigail; and the Ridgefield vital records also show that

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<sup>51</sup> Deeds 4:154-155.

<sup>52</sup> Deeds 5:98.

<sup>53</sup> Deeds 5:166.

<sup>54</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>55</sup> Deeds 6:100.

Hannah and Thomas Hyatt had a daughter Hannah as well—possibly the one who became the wife of Jeremiah Wilson.<sup>56</sup> None of these daughters' marriages are recorded in the vital records.

As noted above, deeds help to track migrations out of town. Early on, residents of Ridgefield relocated to nearby parts of adjacent New York: Salem in Westchester County [now Lewisboro and North Salem], and the "South East Precinct" of Dutchess County [Now the town of South East, Putnam County]. As new areas of New York and northern New England opened up to settlement, Ridgefielders sought out fresh opportunities. Further examples:

- Moses Northrup, late of Ridgefield, now of Worstershire in Duchess Co., New York, sold land to Samuel Lobdell of Ridgefield on 2 August 1746.<sup>57</sup>
- On 16 November 1747, Jabez Morehouse of Ridgefield sold land to James Sears of Dutchess Co., N.Y. He is surely "Jabesh" Morehouse of the Oblong in Dutchess County who, on 26 July 1748, sold more land to James Sears, who by then was residing in Ridgefield.<sup>58</sup>
- "Christopher Burt formerly of Ridgefield, now of Warwick in Orange County, New York" on 10 December 1748 sold land to "my brother Seaborn Burt of Ridgefield."<sup>59</sup>
- Caleb and Ruth Smith of Stockbridge, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, sold 16 acres in Ridgefield to Gamaliel Northrup on 11 October 1773.<sup>60</sup>

The foregoing examples from Ridgefield, Connecticut, show the many ways that land records can fill in genealogical details, both in terms of relationships and residences. I am currently combing through the Ridgefield deeds for such clues and hope to publish in the near future further articles on the families of Ridgefield as a result of my findings. The same principles apply to other localities. While Ridgefield has at least some vital records to help guide the interpretation of the relationships detected in the deed books, for other areas generally lacking in such vital records, such as New York State, the land records may be the best source available for establishing connections between suspected relatives.

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<sup>56</sup> Deeds 1:198, 238, in *Barbour Collection* 36:193–194.

<sup>57</sup> Deeds 3:184.

<sup>58</sup> Deeds 3:240–241.

<sup>59</sup> Deeds 3:249–250.

<sup>60</sup> Deeds 5:177.

**Genealogies of Early Families of Ridgefield, Connecticut: a Bibliographical Essay**  
Kenneth W. Rockwell

Ridgefield was purchased as a townsite by a group of twenty-four men in the year 1708. Most of these men were then residents of Norwalk, Fairfield County, while a few were of Milford in New Haven County. Some of them chose not to settle in Ridgefield and sold to others their rights to a share in the town and its common land. Over the course of the first several decades, new families joined the original settlers, some staying for a generation or less and others becoming well entrenched in the local community.

Many (though not all) of the early families have been included in genealogical works, both published and manuscript. This article seeks to serve as a guide to where information on these families may be found. I will note in passing how the early settlers were related to each other. Reference will be made to certain sources repeatedly, and these will be listed at the end of this series, which is to be concluded in the next issue of *Connecticut Ancestry*. The most important of these sources is the set of land records, and these are specifically cited as footnotes.

**ABBOTT:** Jonathan Abbott (b. c1675 in Norwalk), acquired Joseph CRAMPTON's share in Ridgefield in May 1720 to become a Proprietor,<sup>1</sup> and he died there ca. 1751. His wife was Sarah OLMSTED, sister of two Proprietors and wife of two other Proprietors. Son Lemuel Abbott (1713/14–1791) married Martha WOOD, daughter of Jonathan. See the Abbott pedigree in Phoenix (1878), facing p. 1:602, and Wood pedigree in Phoenix (1878), p. 1:104. They descend from George Abbott of Norwalk, whose line is covered in: Lemuel Abijah Abbott, *Descendants of George Abbott, of Rowley, Mass., of his joint descendants with George Abbot, Sr., of Andover, Mass.; of the descendants of Daniel Abbott, of Providence, R.I.; of some of the descendants of Capt. Thomas Abbott, of Andover, Mass.; of George Abbott, of Norwalk, Ct.; of Robert Abbott, of Branford, Ct.; with brief notes of many others of the name, original settlers in the United States* (Boston, 1906), 2 vol.; FHL Film no. 896615 (vol. 2). Jonathan's entry is in v. 2, p. 981. We note Abbott's caution on 2:977: "Not having followed [the Norwalk George] Abbott's descendants from place to place by deeds and wills, or by town, church, and other records, ... the Compiler feels constrained to say that he cannot vouch for the arrangement of some families beyond the second generation..." I would suggest that even that second generation may be suspect, for, though their names agree with those of George's children in his probate records, they were young enough to be grandchildren. George was in Norwalk as early as 1648 and died c1689, whereas purported son Jonathan, called the father of Jonathan and Lemuel of Ridgefield, married in 1696. So there may be another generation not adequately covered in the 1906 work. Some of its data comes from two histories of Norwalk, by Hall and Selleck, which compiler

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<sup>1</sup> "Ridgefield Register of Deeds," Book 1, folio 149.

Abbott says “have these descendants somewhat confused” (p. 977). Selleck’s supplement covers the Abbotts briefly on pp. 345–346.

**BELDEN** (or Beldin): **John** Belden (1650–1713), a Norwalk resident who came from Deerfield, Mass., was one of the 24 purchasers of Ridgefield. He sold his rights in Ridgefield to Benjamin BENEDICT just prior to his death.<sup>2</sup> The Beldens’ story is covered in Selleck (1896), Supp., pp. 156–157, 160, as well as in “William Belding (Belden) of Wethersfield, Connecticut 1622/3–1655; some of his descendants,” an unsigned typescript available on FHL Film 223984. John is covered on page 9 of the typescript, where he is called the “founder of the Ridgefield and Norwalk Beldens.” His widow married John COPP. Their daughter Elizabeth Ann married Justus Bush of Rye, who purchased land at Ridgefield but did not settle there. John’s brother Daniel, a 1686 prisoner of the Indians, was the father of Sarah, who married Benjamin BURT; Elizabeth, who married Ebenezer BROOKS (father of a 1726 settler of Ridgefield); and William, whose daughter Thankful married Alexander RESSEGUIE, Junior.

**BENEDICT**: **James** Benedict (1685–1762), was one of the 24 purchasers of Ridgefield. His wife was a sister of fellow Proprietor Thomas HYATT. A brother, **Joseph** Benedict (dates not known), purchased a whole right in Ridgefield’s common lands in January 1709/10, becoming the 27th Proprietor.<sup>3</sup> Another brother, **Benjamin** Benedict (1678–1773) also settled at Ridgefield, purchasing John BELDEN’s right. But the sons of these two settled elsewhere, while a fourth brother, John, purchased land there in 1719 and gave it in 1726 to his son **Matthew** Benedict (1703–1757), who settled there.<sup>4</sup> The Benedict family is covered in Henry Marvin Benedict, *The Genealogy of the Benedicts in America* (Albany: Joel Munsell, 1870), FHL Call no. 929.273 B434b 1969; FHL Film no. 824379 Item 2; also available online via Google Books. James’s entry and descendants are on pp. 51–52, 64–67, etc.; Benjamin is at pp. 50–51; Joseph is at p. 51; and Matthew is at p. 57, with descendants at pp. 70–71, 102–107, etc.

**BENNETT**: **James** Bennett (1675–1725) moved from Fairfield to “Bennetts Farm” on the Ridgefield-Danbury line. Details on his family are in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:65–66, 70. Daughters of James Bennett married into other Ridgefield families: BENEDICT, GREGORY, MEAD, SMITH, and WILSON. Considerable detail on the Bennetts has been transcribed into the David Pane-Joyce genealogy web site; James Bennett’s entry number is 25924. Web address: <http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/gen/report/>. See also Timothy L. Warf’s Family Tree Maker page at: <http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/w/a/r/Timothy-L-Warf-NC/PDFGENE2.pdf>

**BETTS**: **Abraham** Betts and wife Mary were having children here by 1753, the same year he first appears in the Ridgefield deeds. His brother **Gideon** Betts both purchased land<sup>5</sup> and married

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:43.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:36.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:142; 2:43.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:31.

Sarah SAINT JOHN in 1752, and children were born there. Nathan Betts purchased land in 1754,<sup>6</sup> and Thaddeus Betts bought from Nathan in 1755.<sup>7</sup> The Betts family is covered in Charles Wyllys Betts, *Thomas Betts and his Descendants* (New York, 1888), FHL Film no. 1405160; available digitally on familysearch.org. Brothers Abraham and Gideon are at pp. 59–60. It is uncertain how Nathan and Thaddeus fit in.

**BIRCHARD/BURCHARD:** James Birchard purchased land in 1752, and soon sold to Isaiah Birchard.<sup>8</sup> Both were of Norwalk. Isaiah and wife Sarah (BETTS) were having children in Ridgefield by 1754. They are not found in several genealogies concerning the family of Thomas Birchard, who settled in Norwich, New London County. Some online trees claim that Isaiah and James were sons of a Joseph Birchard who had been born in Norwich and settled in Wilton, citing “*American Genealogy*, Vol 16 & 17,” a journal not found at the Family History Library. But I wonder if Norwich and Norwalk have been confused, creating an assumed link where none exists?

**BOUTON:** Joseph Bouton of Norwalk was selected along with three others to lay out the “town plot” [the central village] in 1709. He apparently didn’t settle there, but his sister Rachel was married to Matthias SAINT JOHN (1668?–1748), and Mary, a niece by brother John married Lemuel MOREHOUSE. Brother John’s widow Mary was, by a previous marriage, the mother of Proprietor John Stevens. See James Boughton, *Bouton-Boughton Family: Descendants of John Bouton, a Native of France, Who Embarked from Gravesend, England and Landed at Boston in December 1635 and Settled at Norwalk, Connecticut* (Albany, N.Y.: Joel Munsell’s Sons, 1890), FHL Film no. 896880 Item 1. Rachel (Bouton) St. John’s family is discussed on pp. 7–10. This book has numerous mistakes, particularly in the early generations, as noted in William Marvin, “Matthew Marvin and his second wife, widow Alice Bouton,” *NEHGR* 51:3 (July 1897):330–334; and William Jones, “Bouton family of Norwalk, Conn.,” with further notes by D. L. Jacobus, *TAG* 11:2 (Oct. 1934), 114–118. See also Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:94–95. An effort to correct and update the 1890 book is: Willis A. Boughton, *Bouton, Boughton and Farnham Families* (Fort Lauderdale, Fl., 1949); FHL Call no. 929.273 B669b.

**BRADLEY:** Daniel SHERWOOD’s wife was Ruth Bradley. Benjamin Bradley and his wife were having children in Ridgefield by 1738. Possibly, he was the Benjamin son of Samuel of Fairfield, b. March 1715/16, in Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:100, but further research on this family is needed. Daniel Bradley purchased land in 1759, followed by his son Philip Burr Bradley (1738–1820) in 1764.<sup>9</sup> They are in Jacobus, *FOOF* 2, pt. 2, p. 131, 146.

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:83.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:101.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:62.

<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:153, 254.

**BROOKS:** Ebenezer Brooks, formerly of Deerfield, Mass., purchased land in 1726.<sup>10</sup> His mother was a BELDEN. In 1730 he married Jane, daughter of Samuel SAINT JOHN. A brief pedigree is found at: Joel Nelson Eno, "William Brooks of Springfield, Mass., and Some of His Descendants", *NEHGR*, v. 72, no.2 (April, 1918), p. 142. An online pedigree site covers the family; see Christopher Hapgood Brooks, "Tributaries: genealogies of the Brooks family of New England," at <http://www.tributaries.us/index.php>. It notes that Ebenezer's father, also Ebenezer, was another victim of hardship at Deerfield (see BELDEN, BURT, etc), and may have moved to Ridgefield late in life to stay with his son.

**BROWN:** James Brown (d. 1769) was one of the original purchasers and Proprietors of Ridgefield. He never moved there but remained in Norwalk, selling his share in 1713 to Joshua LOBDELL and Joseph Tompkins.<sup>11</sup> He received land from the Ridgefield Proprietors in Salem while the Oblong portion was still considered theirs to allot, and died there in 1769. Some genealogical details on this family will be found in Selleck (1896), Supp., pp. 113–114.

**BURT:** Benjamin Burt (1680–1759), received a share in the common land in 1712 as he arrived to become the first blacksmith of Ridgefield and its 28th Proprietor.<sup>12</sup> He was born in Northampton, Mass., and settled in Deerfield, where he married Sarah BELDEN, daughter of 1786 captives of the Mohawks and French. See under BELDEN for a further description. The Burts were among those captured and marched to Canada in 1704. After that ordeal, they and some of the Beldens relocated to Norwalk, from which Burt answered Ridgefield's call for a blacksmith. The Burt children's births were recorded at Ridgefield, though several of them were born before the family moved there. Descendants through Benjamin's daughter Thankful (m. Daniel WHITNEY) are to be found in Phoenix (1878) 1:27–28, and a pedigree facing 1:28 gives her pedigree, in agreement with Donald F. Clark, who has an essay on the Web that tells the Burts' story: <http://www.genealogy.com/users/c/l/a/Donald-F-Clark/FILE/0001text.txt>. Another interesting online posting, giving the family back to England, is that of Amy Van Hyning, in the Genealogy Forum, at <http://www.genforum.familytreemaker.com/burt/messages/1148.html>.

**BURR:** Peter Burr of Redding was granted land for a grist mill on the Norwalk River in 1737<sup>13</sup> and purchased a whole share in Ridgefield's common land from Joseph LEES.<sup>14</sup> He later conveyed that right (originally that of Matthew St. John) to Benjamin STEBBINS.<sup>15</sup> Possibly he was that Peter Burr who died at Greenfield in 1777, covered by Jacobus, *FOOF*, 2:183–184.

**CANFIELD:** Thomas Canfield, was an original purchaser and Proprietor of Ridgefield, but sold his right to Henry WHITNEY in 1712. Jedediah Canfield of Norwalk bought land in December

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<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.*, 2:31.

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:39, 42.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:37.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.*, 2:201.

<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.*, 2:181.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.*, 3:158, 159.

1721, but sold it to nephew **Timothy** Canfield in 1722.<sup>16</sup> Timothy later moved to nearby Salem. His line can be reconstructed from data in: *Descendants of Thomas Canfield and Matthew Camfield : companion to "a history of Thomas Canfield and Matthew Camfield with a genealogy of their descendants in New Jersey"* compiled by Canfield Family Association. ([S.l.]: Canfield Family Association, c2006) 361, 124 p.; FHL Call no. 929.273 C162cfa. This work continues the 1897 work by Frederick A. Canfield, who did not follow the line that settled in Fairfield County. Like its predecessor, the 2006 work is in a dictionary format, covering those found in the 1897 work and many more (the first 361 pages) plus genealogical charts (the last 124 pages). Timothy's entry is on page 236, and his uncle Jedediah is on page 133–34. Genealogical charts for descent from Timothy through sons David, Elijah, and Joseph are found on charts 51, 52, and 60. Timothy was a nephew of **Abigail**, the wife of Proprietor Jonathan ROCKWELL (p. 2), and a brother of **Patience**, the wife of Proprietor Joseph CRAMPTON (p. 199, and see Hull's article under CRAMPTON). It is unclear in the Canfield book as to which Thomas was the Proprietor, but I suspect it was the one in Milford who married Mary Camp (p. 235), and who not a known relation to Timothy. Thomas and Timothy were descendants of different immigrants, Thomas and Matthew, respectively. The tradition that the two immigrants were brothers has not been proven, and some evidence speaks against it.

**COPP:** **John** Copp, though not an original Proprietor, was selected along with three others to lay out the "town plot" [they central village]. He served as Ridgefield's first Town Clerk before the arrival of Thomas HAWLEY, so he must have lived there, and in 1713 he purchased half a right in the town from Joseph TOMPKINS; but he sold it in 1714 and returned to Norwalk.<sup>17</sup> His wife Ruth was the widow of Proprietor John BELDEN. (Jacobus, *FOOF* v.1, p. 59)

**CRAMPTON:** **Joseph** Crampton, was one of the purchasers and original Proprietors of Ridgefield. In 1720, he sold his land and share in the town to Jonathan ABBOTT, purchased Abbott's Norwalk land, and returned there, only to die shortly. The best write-up on Joseph is Robert W. Hull, "Joseph Crampton, Proprietor of Ridgefield, his (probable) parents John Crampton and Sarah (Rockwell) Crampton, his wife, Patience (Canfield) (Crampton) Wood and the families of their daughters (Bouton, Webster)," *Connecticut Nutmegger*, v.37, no. 4 (March 2005), pp. 542–564. If Hull is right, his mother was a sister of Proprietor Jonathan ROCKWELL, and his wife (daughter of Ebenezer Canfield) was the niece of Rockwell's wife and the sister of Proprietor Timothy CANFIELD. (See the Canfield genealogy.)

**DAUCHY:** **Vivus** Dauchy (1707–1795) was an immigrant from France and a founder of the Episcopal Church in Ridgefield. One web site references Boughton, Whitney, and George Rockwell's *History of Ridgefield*, but there are not that many references in Whitney. But a transcript of a family Bible record that includes Vivus has been posted with the USGenWeb

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<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:139, 143.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:42, 72.

Project's Rensselaer County page by James Corsaro, Librarian, Rensselaer County Historical Society, at: <http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~nyrensse/bible40.htm>. PERSI points to an article in *Your Ancestors*, v. 8, no. 3 (July 1954), though it turns out to be an entry in the series on Thomas Sherwood's descendants. Dauchy married Hannah SHERWOOD, daughter of Proprietor Daniel Sherwood, and their family is listed on p. 1053 but not further traced.

**DIBBLE:** John Dibble (1708–1790), purchased land at Ridgefield in 1726/27 from Joseph LEES, who calls him a “brother.”<sup>18</sup> He was accepted as an inhabitant at a meeting of 27 Dec. 1727 (Welsh, p. 39). Benedict (1870, p. 51) notes that John Dibble married Mary (b. 1711), daughter of Benjamin BENEDICT. A long series on the Dibble family by VanBuren Lamb, Jr., in *Your Ancestors*, v. 2–14, may contain clues, but the nearest geographical references are to families at Danbury and Stratford, Conn. (2:210), and Bedford, N.Y. (2:239). Wakefield Dibble of Danbury had a son John of the right age, though he is said to have married a Sarah, not Mary.

**DOOLITTLE:** Joseph Doolittle (b. 1738 at Wallingford), m. Abigail ROCKWELL in 1757 in Ridgefield, and purchased land in 1759,<sup>19</sup> but they later lived at Salem. A brief pedigree is in Jacobus, *FANH* 3:559. A pedigree of his ancestry appears in Phoenix (1878), 1:81. A son, Reuben, married a Whitney descendant, and that line is carried through the 19th century in Phoenix, 1:232–234, 1:641–643, etc. Ichabod Doolittle bought land in 1764.<sup>20</sup> A brief article on the Wallingford Doolittles, “A genealogical memoir of the Doolittle family,” *NEHGR*, v. 6, no.3 (July, 1852) p. 293–296, does not provide the parents of Joseph and Ichabod, though online pedigrees list them as brothers and suggest the descent from the family covered there.

**FOLLET/FOLLIET:** Joseph Follet married in Ridgefield in 1730 and purchased land there in 1744.<sup>21</sup> He died there in 1794. This family has not been traced, as far as I can tell. An online query claims he came from “Marbelhead,” and sought his ancestry; there were no replies.

**FOSTER:** A group of brothers settled in Ridgefield or passed through: Jonah and Timothy Foster purchased in 1743;<sup>22</sup> Josiah purchased adjacent land in 1746;<sup>23</sup> and Joseph married there in February of 1748/49. They were sons of Josiah Foster of Southampton, Long Island, according to Helen F. Snow, *The Christopher Foster family history, 1603-1953: a history of the descendants of Christopher Foster and Frances, Stevens, his wife, who came to American in 1635 and lived in Southampton, Long Island* (Madison, Conn.: H.F. Snow, 1953), pp. 101–109. FHL Call no.: 929.273 F811f (a thick, bound typescript originally compiled in several parts).

– To be continued (with bibliography) in the next issue of *Connecticut Ancestry* –

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.*, 2:42.

<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:176.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:252.

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.*, 3:143–144.

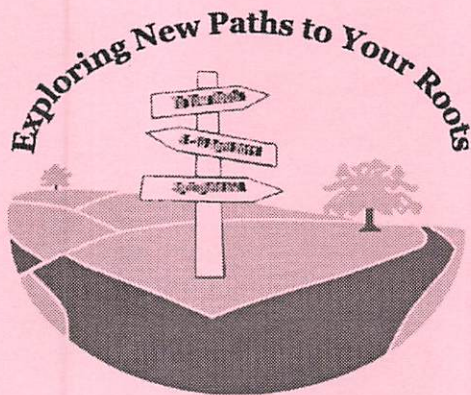
<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.*, 3:116.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*, 3:188.



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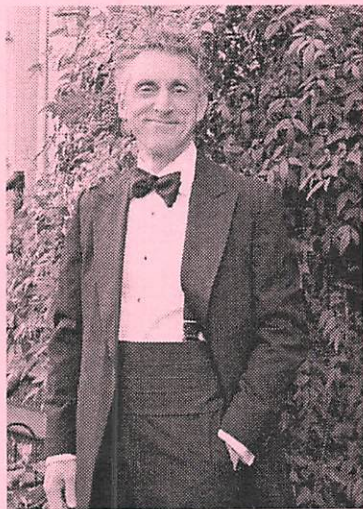
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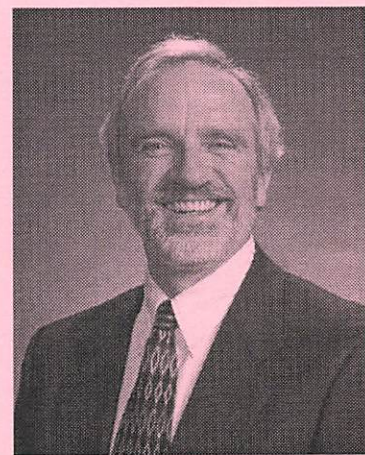
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## Genealogy Events Schedule

### **CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY – [www.connecticutancestry.org](http://www.connecticutancestry.org)**

**September** – Grand reopening of the Stamford Room at Ferguson Library. The date for this event is not yet set, but Connecticut Ancestry will be there to share about genealogy in general terms and about the Society's contributions to this major repository of local family history.

**October 16** – 10:00 am to noon, Trumbull Public Library. "Who Do You Think You Are?" How to find your family history, even if you aren't a celebrity. Bill Stansfield will give us a reality check on family history research.

**November 7** – 2:00 pm, Danbury Museum & Historical Society. Meet Sunday afternoon for a briefing on the historical and genealogical collections of this important repository.

### **GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLES – Hosted by Rod McKenzie and Bill Stansfield**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10 to 11 am at Pequot Library, Southport. Reservations required.  
Call 203 259-0346.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 12:30 to 1:30 pm at the Bridgeport Public Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Fairfield Senior Center.

### **CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS – [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org)**

**October 16** – 8 am to 4 pm, at the Holiday Inn, North Haven. 2010 Family History Seminar with David Mishkin, Leslie Huber, and Crawford Westbrook. Topics include: Preserving your Digital Photographs, Writing a Family History, Unindexed Revolutionary War Sources at the State Library.

### **GENEALOGY CLUB of NEWTOWN – [www.rootsweb.com/~ctgcnc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctgcnc/)**

Meets at Cyrenius H. Booth Library, Newtown, second Wednesday of the month.

**September 8** - CT Irish American Historical Society - Researching Irish Ancestors

**October 13** – Godfrey Staff - Research Opportunities at the Godfrey Library

**November 10** - Nora Galvin - Using Ancestry.com

**December 8** - Leslie Huber - Researching German ancestors

### **WESTCHESTER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – [www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs)**

Meets at Aldersgate Methodist Church, Dobbs Ferry, second Saturday of the month.

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## **Loyalists of Southwestern Connecticut a project for this year's journal**

When you studied the American Revolution you learned that the Patriots were the good guys and the Tories were the bad guys. But if you lived in Fairfield County in 1775, which side would you be on? In this issue we publish the detailed history of a Loyalist family with Fairfield County origins plus a list of sources for Loyalist ancestors.

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Or other stories on Connecticut Loyalists?**

**Please plan an article for publication in *Connecticut Ancestry***

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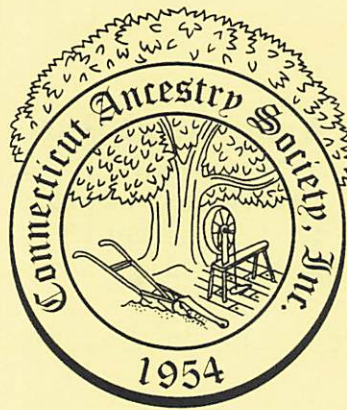
Reel 16: *Stamford Town Meeting Records, Books 1 & 2, 1640-1806*, transcribed ca. 1882; *Stamford Births, Marriages & Deaths, 1641-1852*, Barbour Collection; S. P. Mead, *Abstract of Probate Records for the District of Stamford: 1729-1848*.

Reel 24: *Connecticut Cemeteries 1673-1911*, by William A. D. Eardeley; *Headstone Inscriptions, Town of Stamford*, Hale Collection, S. P. Mead, *Abstracts of Records and Tombstones of the Town of Greenwich*.

Reel 35: S. P. Mead, *Abstracts of Stamford, Conn., Church Records*; S. P. Mead, *Abstract of Darien, Conn., Church Records*; William A. D. Eardeley, *Stamford Congregational Church Records*; *Directory of the Town of Stamford, 1872*; S. P. Mead, *Abstract of Probate Records for the District of Fairfield, 1648-1757*.

JP/LA

# Connecticut



# Ancestry

WHOLE NUMBER 251

November 2010  
VOL. 53, NO. 2

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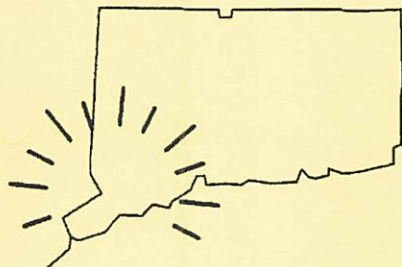
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● *Focus on Southwestern Connecticut* ●

## Connecticut Ancestry

the Quarterly Journal of the CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY, INC.  
(founded as Stamford Genealogical Society)  
PO Box 249, Stamford, CT 06904-0249  
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**Connecticut Ancestry** is indexed in the *Periodical Source Index* (PERSI). The Society is a member of the Federation of Genealogical Societies and of the New England Regional Genealogical Conference.

## Webmaster's Message

Dear Members,

As your webmaster, I wanted to take this opportunity to describe some changes to our web presence and ask for your help.

First, you may have noticed that the design of the website went through a radical change in early October. The changes are intended to make it easier to navigate the information being presented and to make the site more eye appealing with additional color. The danger with website design these days is the wide variety of web browsers that visitors may use to access the site. While I endeavor to test the latest versions of Firefox, Chrome and Internet Explorer running on Linux and Microsoft Windows, I do not have access to a Macintosh, nor can I test older versions of these web browsers. Of course, it is generally a best security practice to upgrade to the latest version of a web browser, but I do understand that many of you may not be "keeping pace". Some of you may have leap-frogged me and are accessing the Web using a new smart phone (i.e. iPhone, Android, Blackberry, HP Pre, etc.). My first request is for you to visit our re-designed website, and if something does not look quite right, please consider taking a screen snapshot and emailing to me the snapshot and what platform/browser version you are using. I need your help in verifying that the site looks good using your web browser.

The second addition to the website are numerous PayPal links that allow visitors to donate and purchase memberships and the various items that our society has available for sale. This has now opened the opportunity for visitors to pay us (via the Web only) using either their checking account or a credit card. The website still allows visitors to download the Membership and Publications order form and send in a check via postal mail. There is a small cost to each Paypal transaction that is absorbed by the society, but we hope to make that back through additional volume.

We have two items of interest coming to the website this membership year. One is a greatly expanded research area that will be publicly available and include some how to articles and information on the various repositories throughout Fairfield County. If you are associated with one of the local repositories, please send me an email as I would like you to contribute and/or proof the information before I publish it.

The second item coming (seen on the home page) is a private Members Area. The Board has been debating what information might be placed here for you. For example, the society used to publish a list of members each year. Another example might be to see what family names various members are researching that may overlap your own. This is a longer term project idea that we would like to roll out before the end of the membership year provided we can develop sufficient interesting content. Please email me with any ideas of what information might be placed in this private Members Area.

Thank you in advance for your help!

Robert (Rob) Locke  
webmaster@connecticutancestry.org

## Editorial Notes

Daniel and Sarah Burritt had their origins in Newtown and New Milford. They left Connecticut for Vermont shortly before the Revolution and sided with the Loyalists in 1777. Patricia Reed's fascinating story of this couple and each of their thirteen children is concluded in this issue.

Through clues in Ridgefield deeds Ken Rockwell has identified the previously unknown husbands of three daughters of Joseph and Sarah Hobart of Ridgefield and Danbury. This is followed by the conclusion of his article on sources for *all* the early families of Ridgefield, sure to be of great help to anyone researching families in this area. Paul Finch then lets us in on his 1975 correspondence with Paul Prindle which resulted in a correction to Prindle's published work on a Stamford family. And in his article Finch also teases us with a glimpse of his planned new transcription of the *Stamford Town Records*.

Moving just beyond our area of focus in Fairfield County, Paul Keroack continues our reporting of Irish origins from tombstones, this time from St. Mary's Cemeteries in Ansonia. Nora Galvin lists nearly 200 burials in Catholic cemeteries in Bridgeport from 1864 to 1866 almost exclusively for Irish immigrant families, some of whom may not have been able to afford the headstones which are documented elsewhere. And finally, we report the discovery of even more records at the State Library which name Connecticut soldiers from the Revolutionary War.

Last but not least, this issue of the journal is, for the first time, being compiled into a single digital document and is being transmitted electronically to our printer. Most immediately this will save a long round-trip auto journey for your editor. But more importantly it is the first step in making the journal accessible on-line to our subscribers. I am immediately grateful, and you will eventually be most grateful to our treasurer and webmaster (and past president) Rob Locke who has managed this digital compilation.

*Harlan R. Jessup*

This is *your* journal on Connecticut families and Connecticut research. Sharing your knowledge of sources, your genealogical techniques, and the results of your research is what keeps the publication going. Reports on work in progress are encouraged—reader response to such an article may advance your research. Whatever you send is appreciated. We will acknowledge all contributions.

Preferred submission is now as an email attachment using any standard word-processing application to [hjessup@charter.net](mailto:hjessup@charter.net). Or send a hard copy in "camera ready" format by mail to the Editor, Harlan R. Jessup, 25 Taunton Ridge, Newtown, CT 06470. As near as possible, please format as follows:

- 1 inch margins all sides of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.
- Titles bold and centered in at least 12pt. or 14pt. type followed by author's name and contact information (address and/or email), also centered. Section titles bold on left margin.
- Use a serif font such as Times, Times New Roman, or Garamond, usually 12pt. or 11pt.
- For most text, justification to both left and right margins looks best.
- For family genealogies we prefer either *Register* or *Modified Register* format.
- Sources should be referenced with numbered footnotes (not endnotes).
- Do not number pages except lightly in pencil on reverse of hard copies.

|           |           |             |             |         |
|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|---------|
| DEADLINE: | July 1    | October 1   | January 1   | April 1 |
| For Issue | #1 August | #2 November | #3 February | #4 May  |

## The Descendants of Daniel and Sarah (COLLINS) BURRITT United Empire Loyalists

Patricia R. Reed  
pr924@sbcglobal.net

*(continued from issue #250, August 2010)*

5. **EDMOND<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born New Milford, Connecticut 07 Dec 1761<sup>[1]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario, 25 Sep 1796, in his 35<sup>th</sup> year.<sup>[2]</sup> He married about 1790<sup>[3]</sup> **PHILENA HINDS**, who was born, probably in Vermont, about 1771.<sup>[4]</sup> She may have been the daughter of Jacob Hinds, an early Arlington resident and captain of a Vermont militia company during the Revolutionary War.<sup>[5]</sup>

Edmond served one week in Capt. Ebenezer Wallis' Vermont militia company in Oct 1780, and three days in Capt. Elijah Galusha's company in May 1782.<sup>[6]</sup> There is no indication that he ever served in a Loyalist regiment. He and Philena were established in their own household in the 1790 Arlington census (taken in 1791, upon Vermont statehood). It would seem logical that they removed to Upper Canada with Edmond's parents around 1792, and he did file a land petition that year; curiously, however, they were not listed in the 1796 Augusta township census. Edmond's 1792 petition was filed from Matilda, though none of the family resided there; Edmond's name was in the handwriting of the person who prepared it, which was generally not the petitioner. It stated that he was "desirous of becoming an In habitant [*sic*] of this District."<sup>[7]</sup> It is possible that the petition was filed on his behalf, without him being present, and that they had only recently arrived in Augusta when Edmond died in September of 1796. The widely-quoted legend of the three Burritt brothers who founded the village of Burritt's Rapids ("Col. Stephen, Col. Edmond, Col. Daniel") is clearly incorrect, as Edmond was already deceased. Edmond and Philena (Hinds) Burritt had one son and one daughter in their short married life together.

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1 *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51 (LR7:12).

2 *Bartley*. p. 53; *United Counties of Leeds & Grenville Surrogate Court Records*. Toronto, ON: Archives of Ontario. Estate Files 1786-1931: MS638, Reel 26 (Edmund Burritt, 1797).

3 *Wald(2)*. p. 30 (citing Collins family bible records); *1790 U.S. Federal Census* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: The National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as *1790 U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M637\_12; Page 17; Image 31; Family History Library Film 0568152.

4 estimate based upon the date of their marriage.

5 Goodrich, John E. *The State of Vermont Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War 1775-1783*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company. 1904. Hereinafter cited as *Goodrich*. pp. xiv, 456, 514, 597, 804, 839; Perry, Kenneth A. *Fitch Gazetteer of Washington County, New York, Volume 1*. Westminster, MD: Heritage Books, Inc. 2007. pp. 2, 226.

6 *Goodrich*. pp. 318-319, 602.

7 *Upper Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Hereinafter cited as *UCLP*. Roll C-1635, B Misc. bundle, #233.



After Edmond's death Philena married again, in Ontario about 1797 (as his second wife),<sup>[8]</sup> **WILLIAM SAMUEL ADAMS**, born Connecticut 14 Nov 1756,<sup>[9]</sup> died Augusta, Ontario 28 Sep 1836,<sup>[10]</sup> the son of Dr. Samuel Adams and his wife Martha Curtis. Both of William Adams' parents were originally from Stratford, Connecticut; Dr. Adams' mother was Mary<sup>4</sup> Fairchild (*Samuel<sup>3</sup>, Samuel<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*). The Adams family were among the first Arlington settlers in 1764, where they were principal landholders. Dr. Adams was apparently a man with a belligerent personality.<sup>[11]</sup> He aroused the ire of the Green Mountain Boys, not known for the equanimity of their own temperaments, for advocating that the Hampshire grantees re-purchase their lands from New York. After being warned to desist, Dr. Adams became even more outspoken and threatened violence to any who opposed him. In 1774 he was seized, tried and found guilty by a Committee of Safety. For his punishment he was suspended in a chair from the signpost of Bennington's Green Mountain Tavern (mounted atop the signpost was a stuffed catamount "grinning defiance" in the direction of New York, giving rise to the nickname "The Catamount Tavern"). Dr. Adams was left to hang there for two hours, where he was ridiculed (and quite possibly pelted) by the townspeople. It seems his prominence afforded him some protection, since other Vermonters who espoused the "Yorker" cause were jailed or savagely whipped. Like Jehiel Hawley and Phineas Hurd, Samuel Adams was a committed Loyalist. He went to Canada in 1776, serving Burgoyne's army as captain of his own company of Rangers. Following the capitulation at Saratoga he was paroled and returned to Quebec, where he and his sons joined Edward Jessup's Corps of Loyal Rangers. After the war his sons settled in Augusta township, and Dr. Adams eventually joined them there.<sup>[12]</sup>

Philena (Hinds) (Burritt) Adams had several children with William Samuel Adams, the youngest of whom they named after her first husband. They kept an inn in Augusta.<sup>[13]</sup>

**6. PHEBE<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born New Milford, Connecticut 06 Oct 1763<sup>[14]</sup> and died Arlington, Vermont 24 May 1849.<sup>[15]</sup> She married Arlington,

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8 *Bartley*. p. 53. In the 1798 census for Augusta Twp., William Adams was listed with a household of one male child and two female children, in addition to himself and one adult female; this is consistent with Philena's two children by Edmond Burritt (Harriet, b. 1793 and Calvin, b. 1795) and her first child with William Adams (Morenda, b. 1798).

9 *Bartley*. p. 53.

10 *Bartley*. p. 53.

11 Even in his later years in Augusta, he would be found guilty of assault on more than one occasion. See Johnstown District *Minute Books*, pp. 94, 101-102, 130, 135.

12 *Hemenway*. p. 126; "Biography for Loyalist Samuel Adams," *United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada*. Website [www.uelac.org]. Accessed 13 Sep 2010; "New Frontier 1750-1820: Vermont's Samuel Adams," *Vermont Historical Society*. Website [www.vermonthistory.org]. Accessed 13 Sep 2010; "Adams' Corps of Royalists, Adams' Coy.," and "Post War Settlement, Petition of Samuel Adams," *The On-Line Institute for Advanced Loyalist Studies*. Website [www.royalprovincial.com]. Accessed 13 Sep 2010; Walton, E.P., ed. *Records of the Governor and Council of the State of Vermont, Volume II*. Montpelier, VT: Steam Press of J. & J. M. Poland. 1874. p. 166; Marshall, Benjamin Tinkham, A.M., D.D., ed. *A Modern History of New London County, Connecticut, Volume II*. New York, NY: Lewis Historical Publishing Company. 1922. p. 543.

13 *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). p. 131.

14 *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51 (LR7:12). Her gravestone shows 06 May 1764 as her birth date.

15 Phebe (Burritt) Buck gravestone, West Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

Vermont, about 1786 (as his second wife),<sup>[16]</sup> **ROBERT BUCK**, born New Milford, Connecticut, 18 Oct 1762,<sup>[17]</sup> died Arlington, Vermont, 19 Jun 1848,<sup>[18]</sup> the son of Lemuel Buck and Bethia McEwen. He was the widower of Phebe's second cousin, **ESTHER HURD**, born New Milford, Connecticut, 23 Feb 1767,<sup>[19]</sup> died Arlington, Vermont 28 Dec 1786,<sup>[20]</sup> the daughter of Phineas Hurd and Anna Hawley. Robert's forebears were early settlers of Wethersfield, Connecticut, but his grandfather Joseph had removed to New Milford by 1720. Robert's parents probably settled in Arlington about the same time as the Burritts or shortly thereafter; the birth of their twins was recorded in New Milford (Nathan and Zadock, b. 26 May 1773), but their youngest child's birth was not (Jesse, b. 15 Jun 1776).<sup>[21]</sup>

In 1780 Robert served twice in Capt. Ebenezer Wallis' militia company: five days in the March alarm and 10 days in the October alarm (with his future brother-in-law, Edmond Burritt). He subsequently served two more times of even shorter duration, in Oct 1781 and Dec 1781, both in Capt. Elijah Galusha's company (with another future brother-in-law, Adoniram Burritt).<sup>[22]</sup>

Robert and Phebe lived and farmed in Arlington the rest of their lives<sup>[23]</sup> and had eight children together, some of whom remained in Vermont while others migrated into western New York. Their youngest daughter, Phebe, who was born when her mother was 43, was described as "deformed" in the 1860 census and for decades was cared for by one of her nieces.<sup>[24]</sup> Phebe (Burritt) Buck and her sister Esther (see 7., below) were the only children of Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burritt to remain in the United States; given the close-knit nature of the family in Canada, one can assume they corresponded with the sisters who stayed behind, a suggestion

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16 Wald(2). p. 31; Oliver. pp. 43-44; Curtis, Ellwood Count. *The Descendants of William Burritt (c. 1610-1651) and His Wife Elizabeth (c. 1615-1681)*. Cedar Falls, IA: Galactic Press. 2003. p. 71.

17 Barbour. New Milford Vital Records. p. 47 (LR7:10). His gravestone shows 19 Oct 1762 as his birth date.

18 Robert Buck gravestone, West Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

19 Barbour. New Milford Vital Records. p. 118 (LR10:2).

20 Esther (Hurd) Buck gravestone, West Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

21 Barbour. New Milford Vital Records. pp. 45-47.

22 Goodrich. pp. 318, 438, 550.

23 1790 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M637\_12; Page 17; Image 31; Family History Library Film 0568152; 1800 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as 1800 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll 51; Page 182; Image 107; Family History Library Film 0218688; 1810 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as 1810 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll 64; Page 245; Family History Number 0218668; Image 00147; 1820 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as 1820 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont, Page 250; NARA Roll M33\_126; Image 144; 1830 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as 1830 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont, Page 112; NARA Roll M19-184; Family History Film 0027450; 1840 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Hereinafter cited as 1840 U.S. Census. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll 207; Page 539; Image 431; Family History Library Film 0027438.

24 1860 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2009. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M653\_1316; Page 639; Image 28; Family History Library Film 805316

which is supported by the fact that some of Phebe and Esther's American grandchildren settled in eastern Ontario in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. Robert and Phebe (Burrirt) Buck are buried in West Arlington Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

7. **ESTHER<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born New Milford, Connecticut 08 May 1765<sup>[25]</sup> and died Arlington, Vermont 30 Jun 1835.<sup>[26]</sup> She married 1) about 1783,<sup>[27]</sup> **JOSEPH YOUNG**, of whose birth, death and family nothing is known; she married 2) Arlington, Vermont, 25 Dec 1789 (as his second wife),<sup>[28]</sup> **ICHABOD<sup>5</sup> BENEDICT**, born New Milford, Connecticut, 15 Jan 1756,<sup>[29]</sup> died Arlington, Vermont, 02 Mar 1822,<sup>[30]</sup> the son of Samuel Pitman<sup>4</sup> Benedict (*Joseph<sup>3</sup>, John<sup>2</sup>, Thomas<sup>1</sup>*) and Mercy Bostwick. The Benedicts were another Fairfield County family with deep roots in Norwalk, Ridgefield and Stratford. They were also among the earliest Arlington settlers. Ichabod married 1) 16 Apr 1778,<sup>[31]</sup> **LOIS (SHERWOOD) MITCHELL**, born Ridgefield, Connecticut, 05 Mar 1745,<sup>[32]</sup> died Arlington, Vermont, 17 Mar 1789,<sup>[33]</sup> the daughter of Nathan Sherwood and Lois Hard, and the widow of George Mitchell.

Esther Burrirt's first husband, Joseph Young, enlisted 21 Jan 1776 in Capt. Gideon Brownson's company, Col. Seth Warner's regiment of Vermont militia; part of the Green Mountain Boys, they were called to service after Gen. Montgomery's failed attempt to capture Quebec. They marched to St. John's, then Montreal, and finally to Quebec City, where they arrived in late February or early March. By that time an outbreak of smallpox had decimated the ranks, and Joseph Young was listed as "at Beauport Tending Sick."<sup>[34]</sup> Perhaps his health was ruined by the privations of the campaign: he was dead, at the latest, by the age of 24.

Joseph and Esther (Burrirt) Young had two children together despite the brevity of their marriage. Their son Adoniram may be the 16-25 year old male who was living with Esther and her second husband in 1800 (exactly when he removed to Upper Canada is unknown, but it probably occurred not long after he turned eighteen in February 1802). Adoniram Young was not listed in the 1802 Marlborough township census, taken about May of that year, but by 1804 he was a resident there, in the household of his uncle and aunt, Daniel and Electa (Landon) Burrirt. By 1807 he had established his own household in the community. He settled on Lot 29 in the 1<sup>st</sup>

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25 *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51(LR7:12).

26 Esther (Burrirt) (Young) Benedict gravestone. St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

27 *Bartley*. pp. 29, 31; *Oliver*. p. 44. The date is an estimate based upon the birth of their eldest child.

28 *Bartley*. pp. 29, 53.

29 *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 14 (LR10:1).

30 Ichabod Benedict gravestone. St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

31 Benedict, Henry Marvin. *The Genealogy of the Benedicts in America*. Albany, NY: Joel Munsell Co. 1870. Hereinafter cited as *Benedict*. p. 81.

32 *Bartley*. p. 30. Her gravestone states that she died in her 43<sup>rd</sup> year.

33 Lois Benedict gravestone, St. James Episcopal Church Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

34 *Goodrich*. pp. 635-638, 831-833; "A Brief History of the Original Regiment," *Col. Seth Warner's Extra-Continental Regiment*. Website [www.warnersregiment.org]. Accessed 14 Sep 2010.

Concession, raised a large family, and died there in 1845.<sup>[35]</sup> Joseph and Esther's daughter Rebecca remained in Vermont, but several of her children also removed to eastern Ontario in the 1830's and 1840's.

Esther Burritt's second husband, Ichabod Benedict, came from a family with Loyalist sympathies, and several of his brothers removed to Canada. Ichabod's own military service was as insignificant as that of his Burritt brothers-in-law and one wonders if he, too, was opposed to separation from the crown. During the war he served twice, for just a few days each, in Capt. Elijah Galusha's militia company: first in Oct 1781 and again in Dec 1781 (the latter with his future brother-in-law Adoniram Burritt).<sup>[36]</sup> His first wife was the widow of a Loyalist who died while serving in the British army.<sup>[37]</sup> If Ichabod did hold Loyalist sentiments, his personal circumstances would have precluded him from taking action on them. Between 1779 and 1789 he administered the estates of his father, his first wife's deceased husband, and finally the estate of his first wife, Lois. He was also appointed guardian of his Mitchell stepchildren after their mother's death. In addition to those responsibilities, Ichabod had three handicapped daughters from his marriage with Lois. When Ichabod died intestate in 1822, the Manchester District Probate Court appointed Esther administratrix, and guardian of her two minor children. She petitioned for a guardian for her three adult stepdaughters as well, testifying that they were incapable of caring for themselves. In the 1850 census Lois Benedict, who lived with her half-brother and guardian Samuel, was described as "deaf & dumb."<sup>[38]</sup> Possibly all three women suffered from the same disability. Of necessity then, Ichabod would have been one of those described by Abby Maria Hemenway in the *Vermont Historical Gazetteer* as "pre-eminently men of peace, willing to be satisfied with any sacrifice which promised a return to the reign of law and order."<sup>[39]</sup>

A passage from a family history, written about Ichabod's brother Abel by a Benedict descendant, poignantly describes both the cruelty engendered by so much conflict and the anguished decisions faced by the Arlington settlers, who had already forsaken their Connecticut homes and families for land. No longer just Hampshire grantees against Yorkers, rebellion created divisions within the New York and New Hampshire groups themselves. Former friends became potential enemies, former enemies became uneasy brothers-in-arms, and the danger to one's life or property might come from any number of sources:

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35 1802, 1804 and 1807 Censuses of Woford, Oxford, Marlborough & Montague Townships, Johnstown District. Transcribed by Dave Browne. Ontario GenWeb's Census Project. 2006. Website [www.ontariocensus.rootsweb.ancestry.com]. Accessed 15 Sep 2010. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #LAC MS-2554. Hereinafter cited as 1802 Marlborough Census, 1804 Marlborough Census and 1807 Marlborough Census; Adoniram Young land petitions, #176-206. Township Papers, Marlborough Township, Carleton County, Ontario, 1800-1850. Transcription published on Early Ontario Family History Information. Website [www.mjamesb.com/eofhi]. Accessed 10 Sep 2010. Hereinafter cited as Marlborough Township Papers 1800-1850; Adoniram Burritt Young gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

36 Goodrich. pp. 508, 550.

37 Bartley. p. 30.

38 Bartley. pp. 29-30; 1850 U.S. Federal Census [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2009. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M432\_921; Page 51A; Image 104.

39 Hemenway. p. 130.

*With Ethan Allen and the mass of the settlers on these grants---a brave and hearty race of men---he resisted the claims of New York; and, a decree of a convention of the inhabitants of the counties of Bennington and Rutland, viz.: "that no person should take grants, or confirmation of grants, under the government of New York, etc.," having been violated by one Benjamin Hough, he was selected with John Sawyer to carry out in part the sentence of the Committee of Safety, passed after trial upon said Hough. The judgment was "that the prisoner be taken from the bar of this Com. of Safety and tied to a tree, and there on his naked back to receive two hundred stripes; his back being dressed, he should depart out of the district, and on return to suffer death, unless by special leave of the convention. Hough was tied by Ethan Allen to an apple tree and whipped, the act being witnessed by many of the inhabitants." The instrument of punishment was termed the "beach seal," an allusion to the great seal of New Hampshire affixed to the grants made by the governor of that province, of which the beach rod well laid on the naked backs of the "Yorkers" and their adherents, was humorously considered a confirmation...[up] to Jan. 26, 1775, when Hough was whipped, no division of sentiment with regard to matters of public policy had taken place; and it is significant that Arlington was not represented in any of the conventions of the different towns of Vermont that met to confer upon the Declaration of Independence and other subjects. Her leading men were not prepared for measures so decisive; they had suffered much from New York, but it would have been difficult for them to specify wherein the king had harmed them. The king had given them their farms for a nominal price, had provided reasonably for their religious and secular instruction; in the words of one of them who suffered the loss of all things for his loyalty, "they did not think it right to rebel against a king who had done them no harm." Possibly this feeling and the obligation resting upon churchmen to aid the head of the church---so well known to have influenced great numbers at this trying period, led Abel Benedict to join the Royalist army. He was killed at the battle of Bennington, Aug. 16, 1777.<sup>[40]</sup>*

Like Phebe and Robert Buck, Esther and Ichabod Benedict lived out their post-war lives in Arlington.<sup>[41]</sup> They had seven children together and of the five who survived to adulthood, four remained in Vermont. Their youngest daughter Anna married her third cousin Erastus, a grandson of Loyalists Phineas and Anna (Hawley) Hurd. He was an early railroad engineer who moved his family to Royalton, New York and later to Galesburg, Illinois, where he died in 1857. Erastus and Anna (Benedict) Hurd's children, Tyrus and Lucy Adaline, were two of the six members of the first (1856) graduating class of Lombard College, then known as the Illinois Liberal Institute. Lucy Adaline was selected to present a banner and a short speech to Abraham Lincoln, on the occasion of his fifth debate with Stephen A. Douglas in Galesburg 07 Oct 1858. In 1867 she married William Cornelius Van Horne, who became president of the Canadian Pacific Railway in

40 *Benedict*. pp. 62-63.

41 1790 *U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M637\_12; Page 17; Image 31; Family History Library Film 0568152; 1800 *U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll 51; Page 178; Image 105; Family History Library Film 0218688; 1810 *U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll 64; Page 250; Family History Number 0218668; Image 00152; 1820 *U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont, Page 252; NARA Roll M33\_126; Image 145.

the 1880's. Van Horne was the driving force that made Canada's transcontinental railroad a reality, an essential ingredient to keep British Columbia in the Canadian Confederation. It was also through Van Horne's vision that CP's fabulous chain of "chateau" resort hotels was born. He was immensely wealthy and powerful, and was knighted by Queen Victoria in 1894. Anna (Benedict) Hurd lived with Sir William and Lady Van Horne from the time of their marriage until her death in 1896, and is buried with them in Oakwood Cemetery, Joliet, Illinois.<sup>[42]</sup> Her parents, Ichabod and Esther (Burritt) (Young) Benedict are buried in Saint James Episcopal Church Cemetery, Arlington, Vermont.

**8. URANIA<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born New Milford, Connecticut 13 Feb 1767<sup>[43]</sup> and died Augusta, Ontario between 1818- 1823.<sup>[44]</sup> She married about 1784<sup>[45]</sup> **ZIBA PHILLIPS**, born (probably in New Milford, Connecticut) 17 Jul 1761,<sup>[46]</sup> son of John Phillips and Ann Burden.

John and Ann (Burden) Phillips were from New Milford, Connecticut. They removed to New York in the latter half of 1759 or early in 1760; Ann was recorded among the "Heads of

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42 *Benedict*. p. 82; "The Galesburg Debate." *The Galesburg Democrat*. Saturday, 09 Oct 1858. Transcription from *House Divided: The Civil War Research Engine at Dickinson College*. Website [hd.housedivided.dickinson.edu]. Accessed 17 Sep 2010; *Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900*. 1867-03-26, Will County, License #00002868. Illinois State Archives. Website [www.cyberdriveillinois.com]. Accessed 11 Sep 2010; Knowles, Valerie. *From Telegrapher to Titan: The Life of William C. Van Horne*. Toronto, ON: Dundurn Press, Ltd. 2004. pp. 45-53; "William Cornelius Van Horne," *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online*. A joint project of the University of Toronto and Université Laval. Website [www.biographi.ca]. Accessed 15 Sep 2010; *1880 U.S. Census* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2010. Original data: National Archives and Records Administration Roll T9. Milwaukee, Wisconsin; Roll 1437; Family History Film 1255437; Page 475C; Enumeration District 125; *1891 Census of Canada* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2008. Original data: Library and Archives Canada Series RG31-C-1. St Antoine Ward, Montréal Centre, Quebec. Roll T-6406, Family No 164; *Quebec Vital & Church Records (Drouin Collection) 1621-1967* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2008. Original data: Gabriel Drouin, comp. Drouin Collection. Montreal, QC: Institut Généalogique Drouin. Montreal (Unitarian Messiah), 1896, 6; Anna (Benedict) Hurd gravestone. Oakwood Cemetery, Joliet, Illinois. Knowles states that Erastus Hurd was chief engineer for the "Fort Wayne and Western Railroad," which seems impossible. The *Findlay, Fort Wayne and Western Railroad* only came into being in 1890, long after Erastus' death, and was nowhere near Galesburg. It is more likely that he was with the Central Military Tract Railroad, which was controlled by eastern railroad men. In 1851 the Illinois legislature chartered the CMTR to run a line from Mendota to Galesburg, and construction began in 1853. Since Tyrus and Lucy Adaline Hurd completed Lombard College's 3-year degree program in May 1856, the family must have been in Galesburg no later than the summer of 1853, a date which is in keeping with the CMTR's operations. See Watkins, Albert, Ph.B., LL.B. *Illustrated History of Nebraska, Vol. 3*. Lincoln, NE: Western Publishing & Engraving Co. 1913. pp. 345-346.

43 *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. p. 51 (LR7:12).

44 *Bartley*. p. 53; *Wald(2)*. p. 31 (both citing Augusta census records).

45 *Bartley*. p. 53; *Wald(2)*. p. 31. The *date* of their marriage is an estimate based upon birth of their children; for the *fact* of the marriage, see *UCLP*. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Roll C-2489, P5 bundle, #19; Roll C-2490, P8 bundle, #42.

46 Society of Friends, Oblong Monthly Meeting. *Monthly Meeting Records 1745-1893*. Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Society of Utah. 1950. LDS Microfilm #0017313; *Barbour*. New Milford Vital Records. pp. 166-167 (LR7:21). The birth of Ziba's older brother Elisha (13 Mar 1759) is recorded in both the New Milford Vital Records *and* in the records of the Oblong Monthly Meeting, but Ziba's birth is recorded only in the latter. However, on the King's Rangers' muster rolls, he gave New Milford as his place of birth.

families” who were “1<sup>st</sup> at New Milford” but resided “in the verge of” the Oblong Monthly Meeting in the 3<sup>rd</sup> month 1760.<sup>[47]</sup> That she was listed by herself may mean her husband John had not joined the Quaker society (their 1757 marriage was recorded in New Milford’s Congregational Church). At the outbreak of the war, the Phillips family (John, Ann, and their eleven children) resided in Kingsborough, Charlotte County, New York. John joined General Burgoyne in June 1777 (probably at Skenesborough). His Kingsborough farm was seized 02 Oct 1777, whereupon the family fled to Canada and remained there from that date forward. “Some time after his Coming to Canada” he joined Rogers’ Rangers (i.e., the King’s Rangers, under the command of Major James Rogers, who arrived in Quebec September 1779. This is the same unit in which Stephen Burritt served).<sup>[48]</sup> Four of John Phillips’ sons also served in Rogers’ Rangers, Ziba and Elisha both rising to the rank of sergeant by war’s end. Ziba stated in a 1789 land petition that he, too, had joined Burgoyne at Skenesborough. He returned to Kingsborough after the fall of Saratoga, where he served as a courier and a guide for the British. He continued this work after joining Rogers’ Rangers in 1780.<sup>[49]</sup>

The Burritts probably knew John and Ann (Burden) Phillips; they were of the same generation and both couples had lived in New Milford in the 1750’s. Unlike the many Fairfield County families residing in New Milford however, there is no indication of close ties between the Burritts and the Phillips family, and the latter left New Milford before Urania Burritt was born. Ziba and Urania probably did not meet until they were grown, lending additional support to the belief that some or all of the Burritt family were in Quebec in the 1780’s. One additional piece of supportive evidence is a petition to Lord Dorchester dated Montreal, 09 Jan 1787, from a group of Loyalists seeking settlement lands in Quebec. It was signed by John, Elisha and Ziba Phillips, as well as Daniel Burritt, his sons Adoniram and Stephen, and son-in-law Jehiel Hurd.<sup>[50]</sup> As discussed earlier, Major General Haldimand was resolutely against Loyalist settlement in French-speaking Canada, and the petition came to naught.

Much misinformation has been published about the family of Ziba and Urania (Burritt) Phillips. It is often stated that they settled in Upper Canada in the mid-1780’s, but the Phillips

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47 Frost, Josephine C. Mayou Stillman. *Quaker Meeting Records, State of New York*. LDS Microfilm #873511. Some confusion surrounds the date of this list, as the instructions to prepare it were not given until the 4<sup>th</sup> month of 1761. If the list was retroactive, then Ziba would almost certainly have been born in New York. However, if the date was incorrectly recorded or transcribed, which is more likely, then the family could still have been in New Milford when Ziba was born.

48 John Phillips Memorial. *Lower Canada Land Petitions*. Ottawa, ON: Library and Archives Canada. Hereinafter cited as *LCLP*. Roll C-2495, pp. 2971-2974. Photocopy courtesy of Paul C. Lozo.

49 *ibid*; *UCLP*. Roll C-2737, P Misc. bundle, #115. Photocopy courtesy of Paul C. Lozo; also see Fryer, Mary Beacock and Lieutenant-Colonel William A. Smy, C.D. *Rolls of the Provincial (Loyalist) Corps, Canadian Command American Revolutionary Period*. Toronto, ON: Dundurn Press, Ltd. 1981. pp. 97-104.

50 *LCLP*. Roll C-2505, pp. 15896-15952. A transcription can be viewed on the Washington County, NY GenForum at [www.genealogy.com](http://www.genealogy.com). Item #10523, 21 Jul 2010.

family was not listed in the 1796 or 1798 Augusta censuses.<sup>[51]</sup> *Vermont Families in 1791* places the family in Oswego, New York well into the late 1790's. Cynthia Wald, who uncovered so much of the historical evidence about the Burritts, makes the same claim in her *Vermont Genealogy* article. More than one early history has stated that, shortly after the British surrendered their Oswego garrison in 1796, a Kingston, New York man named Neil McMullin moved his family to Oswego. When he arrived he encountered two other "Americans" and their families, who had been in residence under British occupation: John Love and Ziba Phillips, who both left within a few years following the handover.<sup>[52]</sup> Ziba was no stranger to the Oswego area, either. In the index of the Haldimand Papers, under date of 13 Mar 1783, is the following notation: "Journal of Major Campbell's last scout out from his camp, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 1783. The Journal, signed 'Ziba L. Phillips, sergeant K. R.', (King's Rangers) begins on the 1<sup>st</sup> and ends on the 13<sup>th</sup>. The sergeant reports the failure of Willet's expedition to Oswego, &c."<sup>[53]</sup> However, there is evidence of Ziba's presence in Upper Canada in the late 1780's and early 1790's, which cannot be ignored. Masonic records show that Ziba Phillips was accepted as a member of the New Oswegatchie lodge 13 May 1788 and was in attendance at most of their monthly meetings from then on, though there were periods of absence even after his election as Worshipful Master (interestingly, Masonic history also mentions that Ziba had a residence in Oswego). A history of early Leeds & Grenville Counties states that in 1788 Ziba ("from Oswego") built the first log home in what would become the village of Maitland, Augusta township; finally, there are the land petitions filed by Ziba himself in 1789-1790, in which he states that he and his family were residents in the Johnstown District, where he had drawn some land, and requests the remaining acreage due to him for his war service.<sup>[54]</sup> The resolution to the riddle of the family's whereabouts probably lies in the nature of the Oswego garrison itself. The reason the British refused to surrender it at the end of the war is that it was a key link in the Hamilton-Montreal fur trade route. The civilians in the garrison post were associated with the fur trade, and Ziba was described in the early Oswego histories as an Indian trader. Ziba would have been traveling up and down the St. Lawrence, and across Lake Ontario by schooner, and hence would have been in

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51 *Leavitt*. pp. 161-162; *1796 & 1798 Censuses of Augusta Township, Johnstown District*. Transcribed by Pat Martin. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project*. 2007. Website [www.ontariocensus.rootsweb.ancestry.com]. Accessed 19 Sep 2010. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #C-1345. Hereinafter cited as *1796 Augusta Census* and *1798 Augusta Census*. Urania first appeared in the 1800 Augusta census, as head of household: See *Ontario and Nova Scotia Census 1800-1842* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: The Generations Network, Inc. 2005. Original data: Jackson, Ronald Vern, et al.. *Canada 1800-1842 Census - Miscellaneous*. North Salt Lake, UT, USA: Accelerated Indexing Systems International, Inc., [198?]. Hereinafter cited as *Ontario and Nova Scotia Census*.

52 *Bartley*. p. 53; *Wald(2)*. p. 31; French, John Homer. *Gazetteer of the State of New York*. Syracuse, NY: R. Pearsall Smith. 1860. p. 525; Federal Writers' Project. *Rochester and Monroe County: A History and Guide*. Rochester, NY: Scrantom's. 1937. p. 419; "Oswego County Under Two Flags At Same Time From 1783-1796." *Oswego Palladium-Times*. Tuesday, 25 Jan 1949; "A Scrap of History: Oswego At The End Of The Last Century." *Oswego Palladium-Times*. Sunday, 06 Sep 1857.

53 *Miscellaneous Papers*, Reel 114, B.225.2 *Haldimand Collection*. Website [http://haldimand-collection.ca]. Accessed 19 Sep 2010.

54 Robertson, J. Ross. *The History of Freemasonry in Canada, From Its Introduction in 1749*. 2 volumes. Toronto, ON: George A. Morang & Company, Ltd. 1900. 1:293-305; Harris, Bro. Reginald V. "The History of Early Freemasonry in Eastern Canada." *The Builder Magazine*. Volume X, Number 8 [Aug 1824]; McKenzie, Ruth. *Leeds & Grenville: Their First Two Hundred Years*. Toronto, ON: McClelland and Stewart. 1967. p. 37; UCLP. Roll C-2737, P Misc. bundle, #115. Photocopies courtesy of Paul C. Lozo.



the Johnstown District frequently. It is also possible, even likely, that family migrated back and forth between the two places.

Perhaps because he died so young, Ziba Phillips' identity is often confused with the identity of his son, Ziba Marcus Phillips (1787-1847). However, both Urania (Burrirt) Phillips' 1807 land petition and her daughter's 1809 petition prove that Ziba, Sr. was deceased well before 1810.<sup>[55]</sup> It is generally assumed that Ziba and Urania (Burrirt) Phillips both died and were buried in Augusta, Ontario, though there is no documentation to prove it. Ziba and Urania (Burrirt) Phillips had six children: the oldest, Sarah Ann, may have been born in Quebec. At least two of the children were born in Oswego (Ziba Marcus in 1787 and Elizabeth in 1796); it is possible that some or all of the rest were born in Augusta. Their oldest son, Ziba Marcus, apparently had a disorderly youth: in his 20's he was found guilty of assault at least twice, and was fined on two or three other occasions (it appears they were fines for breaking the peace at various inns, though the records are somewhat ambiguous).<sup>[56]</sup> He was an ensign in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenville Militia and the Volunteer Incorporated Militia in the War of 1812, and commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenville in the 1840's. He was instrumental in furthering the development of Freemasonry in Upper Canada: as president of the 1817 Kingston Convention he re-organized the brotherhood, a watershed event in Canadian Masonic history. He also served as Grand Master of the Knights Templar in Canada. By profession he was a surgeon. Ziba Marcus and his brother Jehiel Hurd Phillips founded the village of Maitland, Ontario.<sup>[57]</sup>

**9. SARAH<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born (probably in New Milford, Connecticut) 20 Sep 1769<sup>[58]</sup> and died Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario 14 Oct 1803.<sup>[59]</sup> She married (probably in Arlington, Vermont) about 1787<sup>[60]</sup> (her second cousin) **ASAHEL HURD**. He was born 14 Nov 1768<sup>[61]</sup> and died Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario 23 Jan 1839,<sup>[62]</sup> son of Phineas Hurd and Anna Hawley, younger brother of Lois Burrirt's husband Jehiel. He married 2)

55 UCLP. Roll C-2490, P8 bundle, #42; Roll C-2126, L9 bundle, #14.

56 *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). pp. 269, 342, 357, 379, 402, 407, 413-414.

57 *Bartley*. p. 53; *Wald(2)*. p. 31; Irving, L. Homfray. *Officers of the British Forces in Canada During the War of 1812=1815*. Welland, ON: Welland Tribune Print. 1908. Hereinafter cited as *Irving*. pp. 37, 49; "Maitland, Ontario." *The Canadian Encyclopedia Online*. Historica-Dominion 2010. Website [thecanadianencyclopedia.com]. Accessed 20 Sep 2010; *Births, Marriages, Deaths Notices From the Brockville Papers, 1830-1849*. Brockville, ON: Leeds & Grenville Genealogical Society. date unknown. p. 77; *Read Cemetery, Bethel, Augusta Township: A Genealogical Resource Listing*. Brockville, ON: Leeds & Grenville Genealogical Society. Date unknown. p. 13; Robertson, J. Ross. *The History of Freemasonry in Canada, From Its Introduction in 1749*. 2 volumes. Toronto, ON: George A. Morang & Company, Ltd. 1900 (Ziba M. Phillips' name appears frequently in both volumes, and the author often confuses him with his father, but for the meeting minutes and rosters this is a very useful history.).

58 Sarah (Burrirt) Hurd gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario (calculated: "aged 34 years 2 mo & 24 days"). The Burrirts apparently did not move to Arlington until about 1773, though Urania was the last child whose birth was recorded in New Milford.

59 Sarah (Burrirt) Hurd gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario.

60 The *date* of their marriage is an estimate based on the birth of their oldest child; for the *fact* of the marriage see UCLP. Roll C-2043, H3 bundle, #35.

61 *Bartley*. p. 54; Asahel Hurd gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario (calculated: "Et. 69 years, 2 Mo. & 9 days"). *Bartley* places his birth in New Milford, though there is evidence placing the Hurds in Arlington by 1764.

62 Asahel Hurd gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario.

in Ontario about 1804, Huldah (Bond) Harris, born in Massachusetts about 1771, widow of William Harris.<sup>[63]</sup>

Asahel and Sarah were not listed in the 1790 Arlington, Vermont census. They may have resided with Asahel's oldest brother, Tyrus, whose household included 3 adult males and 4 females, or they may already have migrated to Augusta by 1791 (when Vermont was enumerated).<sup>[64]</sup> The earliest record documenting Asahel and Sarah (Burritt) Hurd's presence in Upper Canada is Sarah's land petition, dated Marlborough township 27 Jul 1797.<sup>[65]</sup> However, their eldest son Truman, born 20 Feb 1793, gave his place of birth as Canada, and Leavitt places them in Augusta by 1793.<sup>[66]</sup> Asahel held the patent for Lot 26 in the 8<sup>th</sup> Concession of Augusta, which would have been mostly unarable land. He was later awarded Lot 21 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession of Marlborough; it seems clear that at least one of the Burritt sisters also played a part in the founding of Burritt's Rapids.<sup>[67]</sup>

Asahel was elected a town assessor at the second Marlborough township meeting, held 07 Mar 1803; he was appointed a roads surveyor for the Rideau area 24 May 1814; he was called and sworn to a grand jury 13 Jan 1818.<sup>[68]</sup> These are the extent of Asahel's documented civic life in the early Johnstown District. He seems to have lived quietly as a farmer in Burritt's Rapids. A passage about Asahel from Leavitt's *History of Leeds and Grenville* illustrates the sense of urgency the Rideau settlers must have felt to establish their own community infrastructure: "When Mr. Hurd...settled in Marlborough, the nearest point at which wheat could be ground was Jones' Mills, above Brockville. At one time Mr. Hurd was absent from home for fourteen days in going to and returning from the mill."<sup>[69]</sup>

Asahel and Sarah (Burritt) Hurd had six children; when Sarah died in 1803 she left Asahel with a household of children ten years old and under. Huldah (Bond) Harris' husband died around the same time, and she probably married Asahel within the year (Asahel and Huldah were both widowers in the 1804 census, but married by the time the 1805 census was taken). Huldah had five children with her first husband who do not appear to have lived with the Hurds; in the census records subsequent to her re-marriage they were listed in the households of their

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63 1802 *Marlborough Census*; 1804 *Marlborough Census*; 1805 *Census of Wolford, Oxford, Marlborough & Montague Townships, Johnstown District*. Transcribed by Dave Browne. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project*. 2006. Website [www.ontariocensus.rootsweb.ancestry.com]. Accessed 24 Sep 2010. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #LAC MS-2554. Hereinafter cited as *1805 Marlborough Census*.

64 1790 *U.S. Census*. Arlington, Bennington, Vermont; Roll M637\_ 12; Pages 16-17; Image 30; Family History Library Film 0568152.

65 *UCLP*. Roll C-2043, H3 bundle, #35.

66 *Leavitt*. p. 135; 1851 *Census (Canada)*. Oxford, Grenville County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule A. Roll C\_11724, Page 61.

67 *Leavitt*. p. 162; *Marlborough Township Papers 1800-1850*. Documents #96 & #99; *UCLP*. Roll C-2046, H9 bundle, #72.

68 *Leavitt*. p. 135. *Minute Books (Johnstown District)*. pp. 250, 410.

69 *Leavitt*. p. 135.

Harris relatives.<sup>[70]</sup> Asahel had three more children by Huldah. He was buried with Sarah (Burrirt) Hurd in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burrirt's Rapids, Ontario.

**10. TAMAR<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born (probably in New Milford, Connecticut) about 1770<sup>[71]</sup> and died Cornwall, Ontario 28 Dec 1819.<sup>[72]</sup> She married in Ontario about 1796,<sup>[73]</sup> **DAVID WRIGHT**, born Newtown, New Jersey 16 Nov 1763,<sup>[74]</sup> died Cornwall, Ontario 25 Oct 1819,<sup>[75]</sup> son of Ebenezer Wright and Mercy Leach.

David Wright's parents were married in New Fairfield, Connecticut, though neither the Wright nor the Leach families were from the area. Ebenezer Wright and Mercy Leach were both born in Windham, Connecticut, but Mercy's family resided in New Fairfield at the time of their marriage. Ebenezer and Mercy (Leach) Wright relocated their own family several times as well: from Mansfield, Connecticut, where they lived in the 1750's, they removed to Newtown, New Jersey and then to Shaftsbury, Vermont, where they were when war broke out. Ebenezer was one of four known Shaftsbury Loyalists who were harried out of town. He fled with his son Asahel to Burgoyne's army in May 1777. They both engaged as privates in the 84<sup>th</sup> regiment, but Ebenezer was dismissed due to age. Meanwhile, the family's estate was seized by Vermont's Court of Confiscation 23 Apr 1778, and they were made to rent it back. They eventually reunited in Canada, where Ebenezer filed with the Loyalist Claims Commission in St. John, New Brunswick in 1783. The family later settled on lands granted to them in Cornwall, Ontario.<sup>[76]</sup>

David was the sixth of ten children born to Ebenezer and Mercy (Leach) Wright. He and Tamar (Burrirt) Wright also settled in Cornwall.<sup>[77]</sup> They had at least five and possibly eight children. David appears only once in the court records, on 15 Nov 1810, when he was "entered into recognizance in the sum of five pounds....to appear at the next Quarter Sessions as evidence against Henry Harrick." Very little is known about their family, and both David and Tamar died at relatively young ages.<sup>[78]</sup>

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70 1805 *Marlborough Census*; 1807 *Marlborough Census*; 1817 *Census of Wolford, Oxford, Marlborough & Montague Townships, Johnstown District*. Transcribed by Dave Browne. *Ontario GenWeb's Census Project*. 2006. Website [www.ontariocensus.rootsweb.ancestry.com]. Accessed 24 Sep 2010. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Roll #LAC MS-2554. Hereinafter cited as *1817 Marlborough Census*.

71 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 31.

72 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 31.

73 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 31; *Leavitt*. p. 104; Reid, William D. *The Loyalists In Ontario*. Lambertville, NJ: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1973. p. 43; Wright. Rev. Stephen. "Genealogy of Lieut. Abel Wright, of Springfield, Mass." Boston, MA: *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*. 1848-present. Volume 35, pp. 74-82. Hereinafter cited as *Wright*. p. 80; *UCLP*. Roll C-2951, W4 bundle, #62.

74 *Leavitt*. p. 104; *Wright*. p. 80.

75 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Leavitt*. p. 104; *Wright*. p. 80

76 *Hemenway*. p. 233; *Coldham*. p. 166; *Wright*. pp. 74-82; *Barbour*. Windham Vital Records, pp. 219, 391 (1:68, 126); Nye, Mary Greene, ed. "Sequestration, Confiscation and Sale of Estates." *State Papers of Vermont, Volume 6*. Montpelier, VT: Secretary of State. 1941; Andersen, Barbara, transcr. "New Fairfield Congregational Church Marriages." *Fairfield County, Connecticut GenWeb*. Website [www.ctgenweb.org]. Accessed 24 Sep 2010.

77 *UCLP*. Roll C-2951, W6 bundle, #15; Roll C-2952, W10 bundle, #2.

78 *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). p. 201; *Bartley*. p. 54; *Leavitt*. pp. 103-104; *Wright*. p. 80; Curtis, Ellwood Count. *The Descendants of William Burrirt (c.1610-1651) and His Wife Elizabeth (c.1615-1681)*. Cedar Falls, IA: Galactic Press. 2003. p. 74.

**11. DANIEL<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born 22 Mar 1772<sup>[79]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 27 Apr 1859.<sup>[80]</sup> He married in Ontario about 1797<sup>[81]</sup> **ELECTA LANDON**, who was born 22 Jul 1778<sup>[82]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 10 May 1857,<sup>[83]</sup> daughter of Samuel Landon and Sarah Sprague.

Electa's mother was a descendant of Francis Sprague, who arrived in Plymouth Colony on the *Anne* in 1623. On her father's side, the Landons were a prosperous family from Southold, Long Island. Electa's great-grandfather, James Landon Sr., had invested in land in Litchfield County, Connecticut in the early 1700's. James Landon Jr., moved his family to Litchfield in the 1730's and later to Salisbury. From the 1750's to the 1770's his stature rose steadily in the Salisbury community. In his prime he was captain of the Salisbury trainband. For over twenty years he was repeatedly appointed a Litchfield County justice of the peace and elected as Salisbury's representative to the Connecticut General Assembly. His older sons James and Asa were respectively captain and lieutenant of the trainband in the early 1770's. However, the family's Tory politics led to a reversal of their fortunes as tensions mounted. James was not re-elected to the assembly after 1774 and held no official positions at all after 1776. His oldest son James was cashiered from his militia captaincy for "a very great unfriendliness to the American cause." His second son Asa served Burgoyne as a courier and scout; he fled to Canada when the British lost at Saratoga. Electa's father Samuel, one of the younger sons, was in the "secret service" for Jessup's Loyal Rangers. Samuel settled in Augusta about 1786, and other members

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79 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 32 (Bartley and Wald concur in thinking that Daniel may have been born before the family moved to Arlington since his parents did not buy land there until 1773, though Bartley leans toward Arlington); Daniel Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario (calculated: "AGED 87 YRS. 1 MON. 5 DYS.").

80 Daniel Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

81 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 32; *Burritt*. p. 43. The *date* of their marriage is an estimate based upon the birth of their eldest child, and the fact that Electa referred to herself as Daniel's wife in her 1797 petition. See *UCLP*. Roll C-1634, B Misc. bundle, #21.

82 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 32; *1851 Census* (Canada). Marlborough, Carleton County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule: A. Roll: C\_11716, Page 49; Electa (Burritt) Landon gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario (calculated: "Aged 78 yrs 9 mos & 18 days"). Samuel and Sarah (Sprague) Landon's family disappeared from the Salisbury records after 1776; Electa may have been born in Vermont, where Samuel's brother Asa owned land, though some Landon descendants believe she was born in New Hampshire.

83 Electa (Landon) Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

of his family also settled in the area.<sup>[84]</sup> Samuel Landon's family was closely connected by marriage to the extended Burritt family: in addition to Electa, his son Reuben married Sarah Ann Phillips, daughter of Ziba and Urania (Burritt) Phillips; his daughter Pamela Landon married Lois Burritt's son Stephen Collins, and his youngest daughter Sarah Landon married David Wright's nephew, Amos.<sup>[85]</sup>

Daniel Burritt Jr., rather than his father, is probably the man of that name who served briefly in Capt. Matthew Lyons' company of Vermont militia in 1780. As the son of a U.E. Loyalist, Daniel received a grant of 200 acres (his petition is dated 1792 but the order in council granting it was dated 21 Aug 1797). He settled on Lot 25 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession of Marlborough township. He was elected town clerk at the second Marlborough township meeting 07 Mar 1803, and also was appointed roads surveyor for the township. Daniel served as captain of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenville Militia in the War of 1812, under the command of his brother Stephen, and saw action at Prescott, Salmon River, Ogdensburg and Chrystler's Farm. In later years he was promoted to major and later colonel of the unit. Like his brother Stephen, Daniel Burritt served as a justice of the peace for Montague, Oxford, Wolford and Marlborough townships. He built a sawmill at the swift-flowing rapids of the Rideau, which produced lumber for the flurry of building that took place as the village of Burritt's Rapids grew. Their stone house lodged the exiled Queen Juliana of the Netherlands during World War II.<sup>[86]</sup>

Five children were born to the family. In 1830, Daniel Burritt donated the land for Christ Church Anglican chapel and burying ground. The chapel, built in 1831, still stands and is in use today.<sup>[87]</sup> Daniel and Electa (Landon) Burritt are buried in the adjacent cemetery.

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84 Hornaday, Aline G., Ph.D. "The Landons in Ontario: A Loyalist Family." *Canadian Genealogist*. Vol. 1, No. 1 [1979]. pp. 5-23; Jefferson, Wayland. *Cutchogue, Southold's First Colony*. Clinton, MA: Colonial Press, Inc. 1940. pp. 25, 31-32; Sprague, Warren Vincent, M.D. *Sprague Families in America*. Rutland, VT: The Tuttle Company, Printers. 1913, pp. 6, 11, 13, 17-18, 29-30; Hoadly, Charles J., LL. D. *Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut, Volumes 10-15*. Hartford, CT: Press of the Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co. 1877-1890. 10:88, 155, 247-248, 358; 11:113-114, 121, 244-245, 372-373, 499; 12:120-121, 126-127, 188-189, 230-231, 247-248, 347, 412-413, 458-459, 552; 13:9, 97, 175-176, 177, 283-284, 290, 359-360, 421, 578; 14:1-3, 71-72, 78-79, 159-160, 169, 213-215, 251-253, 259-260, 505; 15:11, 279-280; Hoadly, Charles J., LL. D. *Public Records of the State of Connecticut From October, 1776 to February, 1778, inclusive...* Hartford, CT: Lockwood & Brainard Company. 1894. p. 487; *Fraser*. Part 2, p. 1084 (1033. Claim of Asa Landon, late of Charlotte Co.); *The Old United Empire Loyalists List*. Baltimore, MD: Genealogical Publishing Co. 1969. p. 203. UCLP. Roll C-2126, L10 bundle, #55. The notes for Samuel's entry on the Loyalist rolls were transposed with those of his nephew, Heman Landon. Consequently, Samuel's notes state that he was Asa's son, when in fact he was his brother; the notes for Heman, who was a child during the war years, state that he served in Jessup's Corps. Unfortunately the mistake has been perpetuated in many subsequent Loyalist histories.

85 UCLP. Roll C-2126, L9 bundle, #14; Roll C-1649, C5 bundle, #116; Roll C-2958, W18 bundle, #187.

86 *Irving*. pp. 49, 172; UCLP. Roll C-1620, B3 bundle, #121; *Burritt*. pp. 42-43; "Founding of Burritt's Rapids." *Historical Plaques of Leeds and Grenville Counties*. Website [www.waynecook.com]. Accessed 02 Dec 2006.; *Leavitt*. pp. 13, 59, 135; "Johnstown District Marriages, 1787-1850." *The Ontario Vital Statistics Project*. Website [http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~maryc]. Accessed 11 May 2010; *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). pp. 162, 164, 167-168, 177, 188-189, 210, 242, 250, 253, 255, 270-271, 290, 330, 346-347, 352, 354, 407, 410-411.

87 Christ Church historical plaque, erected by the Ontario Heritage Foundation, Ministry of Culture and Recreation, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

**12. MAJOR<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born Arlington, Vermont 13 Oct 1775<sup>[88]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 27 Jan 1863.<sup>[89]</sup> He married in Ontario before April 1796<sup>[90]</sup> **MARY TOWSLEY**, born about 1774<sup>[91]</sup> and died Burritt's Rapids, Ontario 04 Jan 1844.<sup>[92]</sup> Nothing is known about her or her parentage, but she may have been related to the "Joseph Towsley/Towsley" enumerated in the Augusta census. He was described by Leavitt as an early Augusta settler, and was one of the original trustees of the first Methodist church there.<sup>[93]</sup>

Major Burritt was a lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grenville Militia in the War of 1812, serving under his brother Stephen's command. He was called and sworn to grand juries 18 May 1814 and 14 Jan 1817; he was fined £5 16 May 1815, possibly for breaking the peace (an innkeeper topped the list of those fined). Major and Mary (Towsley) Burritt lived and farmed in Augusta, at least through 1824. They may have moved to Marlborough township before her death, as they were both buried in Christ Church Anglican Cemetery in Burritt's Rapids.<sup>[94]</sup> They had eight children, all of whom lived to adulthood. Following Mary's death Major lived in Oxford township with his daughter and son-in-law, Truman and Phebe (Burritt) Adams.<sup>[95]</sup>

**13. NANCY<sup>6</sup> BURRITT** (*Daniel<sup>5</sup>, Stephen<sup>4</sup>, Josiah<sup>3</sup>, Stephen<sup>2</sup>, William<sup>1</sup>*), was born Arlington, Vermont about 1777<sup>[96]</sup> and died Edwardsburgh, Ontario before 1842.<sup>[97]</sup> She married before Sep 1808<sup>[98]</sup> (as his second wife) **THOMAS McILMOYL**. He was born about 1761<sup>[99]</sup> in what is now Portglenone, County Antrim, Northern Ireland, and died Edwardsburgh, Ontario, 01 May

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88 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Burritt*. p. 43; *Wald(2)*. p. 32; Major Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario ("Aged 87 Yrs.").

89 Major Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

90 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Burritt*. p. 43; *Wald(2)*. p. 32; *1796 Augusta Census*. They were enumerated in their own household of one adult male and one adult female 05 Apr 1796.

91 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Burritt*. p. 43; *Wald(2)*. p. 32; Mary (Towsley) Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario ("Aged 70 Yrs.").

92 Mary (Towsley) Burritt gravestone, Christ Church Anglican Cemetery, Burritt's Rapids, Ontario.

93 *Leavitt*. p. 155; *1796 Augusta Census*; *1798 Augusta Census*; *Ontario and Nova Scotia Census: 1800, 1823, 1824*.

94 Perhaps they removed from Augusta after his father, Daniel Burritt Sr., died in 1827; in the late 1820's and early 1830's, several of their children married Burritt's Rapids residents. Major was awarded Lot 15 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession Gloucester, on the Rideau River, as early as 1797, but it is uncertain if he ever lived there. See *UCLP*. Roll C-1620, B3 bundle, #156.

95 *Irving*. p. 264; *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). pp. 311, 331, 377; *1796 Augusta Census*; *1798 Augusta Census*; *Ontario and Nova Scotia Census: 1800, 1823, 1824*; *1851 Census of Canada*. Oxford, Grenville County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule A. Roll C\_11724, Page 125; *1861 Census of Canada* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2009. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Hereinafter cited as *1861 Census of Canada*. Oxford, Grenville, Canada West; Roll C-1025; Page 6.

96 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 32.

97 *Bartley*. p. 54; *Wald(2)*. p. 32.

98 *UCLP*. Roll C-2196, M9 bundle, #73. Her petition was signed 05 Sep 1808.

99 *Bartley*. p. 54.

1851,<sup>[100]</sup> son of John McIlmoyl and Mary Dysart. Thomas married 1) in Ontario, 27 Sep 1793,<sup>[101]</sup> **SARAH FAULKNER**, died Edwardsburgh, Ontario 21 Sep 1804,<sup>[102]</sup> daughter of William Faulkner. He had three children by his first wife. Thomas and Nancy (Burritt) McIlmoyl had just one child together, John, born in 1810.<sup>[103]</sup>

The "McElmoyl" and "Disert" families were enumerated in the Ahoghill parish of Ulster, in the 1766 religious census of Ireland. John and Mary (Dysart) McIlmoyl moved their family to Ballston Spa, New York just before the war. They were members of the established church and supporters of the crown. John McIlmoyl and at least one of his older sons fought with Gen. Burgoyne at the battle of Saratoga. John McIlmoyl returned to Ballston Spa, where he provided aid to "his Majestys [sic] Parties on Secret Service" until he was arrested and imprisoned in 1781. The family's livestock and property were confiscated, and they eventually made their way to Canada. After the war they settled in Edwardsburgh township, where Thomas received patents for the west half of Lot 8 and the east half of Lot 11 in the 1<sup>st</sup> Concession.<sup>[104]</sup>

Thomas was called and sworn to grand juries 15 May 1804, 10 Nov 1808, 19 May 1812, 14 Nov 1815 and 08 Jul 1817. He was appointed a constable for Edwardsburgh township in 1800. But, in a community whose court records attest to a widespread predisposition toward violent argument, the McIlmoyl family stands out for the frequency of its disagreeable encounters with the law. Thomas and Nancy were apparently no exceptions. In April 1800 Thomas had his brother-in-law, David Hunter, indicted for assault upon Thomas' person. He also presented the court with a bill for his work as constable in the case (the court granted him only a portion of the charges he submitted). Alex Campbell, who was one of Thomas' witnesses in his case against David Hunter, was himself charged with assault just six months later. Thomas McIlmoyl posted £10 bond as one of Campbell's sureties. Thomas also stood surety in the amount of £10 when a James Covell was indicted for assault in November 1808. Thomas' relationship to these two men is unknown, but it must have been close, possibly familial. On 15 May 1804, Thomas McIlmoyl and his brother-in-law David Hunter stood surety for Thomas' brother James. The court records do not give the cause for James' indictment but it must have been a grievous offense, as the amounts were huge: James posted bond for £1000, while Thomas and David each posted £500 as sureties. James was indicted for trespass and assault again 16 Nov 1810 and 20 Feb 1811. Thomas and Nancy (Burritt) McIlmoyl were indicted together for assault and battery in August 1811. The outcome of James' 1804 indictment was not stated, but guilty verdicts were rendered in the other cases. In 1813, the court finally saw fit to once again appoint Thomas as constable for Edwardsburgh.<sup>[105]</sup>

100 *Bartley*. p. 54.

101 *Bartley*. p. 54.

102 *Bartley*. p. 54.

103 *Bartley*. p. 54; *1851 Census of Canada*. Edwardsburgh, Grenville County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule A. Roll C\_11724, Page 13.

104 *Leavitt*. p. 109; *UCLP*. Roll C-2196, M8 bundle, #163; *Fraser*. part 2, p. 933 (783. Case of James McIlmoyle, late of New York); "A List of the Familys of the Established Church, Parish of Ahoghill, Diocese of Connor, 1766." *Religious census of some Ulster parishes*. Salt Lake City, UT: Genealogical Society of Utah. 1984. LDS Microfilm #1279330; "The Village of Cardinal, Ontario: Cardinal History." *Edwardsburgh-Cardinal Business Association*. Website [www.edwardsburgh-cardinalbusinessassociation.com]. Accessed 28 Sep 2010.

105 *Minute Books* (Johnstown District). pp. 2, 4, 16, 89, 91, 163-164, 224, 233, 244, 253, 256, 262-263, 282, 298, 341, 397.

Though the McIlmoyl family lived in Edwardsburgh, Thomas' four children all received land grants in Marlborough township, possibly through the influence of their uncle Stephen Burritt. In 1833, however, Thomas filed an affidavit that the Marlborough lands given to his two sons were entirely covered by swamp and unfit for cultivation. In the second half of the nineteenth century both of his sons and at least one of his daughters were still residing in Edwardsburgh.<sup>[106]</sup>

## Conclusion

It is remarkable that, of Daniel and Sarah (Collins) Burritt's ten children who emigrated to Canada, none of them nor any of their children returned to live in the United States. Many other Canadian Loyalist families had members in the first or second generations who did. Some of the Canadian Burritts maintained business interests in the new American republic, and at least one of Daniel's Canadian grandchildren attended school there.<sup>[107]</sup> It is also clear that the family members in Upper Canada remained in contact with those in Vermont. However, the family lore the Canadian Burritts passed down to subsequent generations, while enhanced with a fair bit of myth, shows they were proud of their fledgling country and their role in its development. Beginning in the middle of the nineteenth century, the same quest for land that drove Daniel and Sarah from Connecticut to Vermont and then to Canada, propelled several of their great grandchildren and great-great grandchildren out of eastern Ontario, to the Canadian prairie provinces and the American Great Plains. Today their many descendants can be found from coast to coast in both their native and their adopted countries.

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106 *Marlborough Township Papers 1800-1850*. Documents #807, 815, 1256, 1265, 1269; *1851 Census of Canada*. Edwardsburgh, Grenville County, Canada West (Ontario). Schedule A. Roll C\_11724, Page 13; *1861 Census of Canada*. Edwardsburgh, Grenville, Canada West; Roll C-1025-1026; Page 4; *1871 Census of Canada* [ancestry.com online database]. Provo, UT: Ancestry.com Operations, Inc. 2009. Original data: Library and Archives Canada. Edwardsburgh, Grenville South, Ontario; Roll C-10004; Page 29; Family No. 103.

107 Walter Horatio Burritt, son of Daniel and Electa (Landon) Burritt, attended what was known as the "Fairfield Medical College" in Herkimer County, New York, 1834-1835. He left without a degree, though it is possible he finished his medical training elsewhere. He was a practicing physician in Ontario, 1835-1886, as well as a municipal councillor for Smith's Falls and associate coroner for Leeds & Grenville Counties. *A Register of the College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Western District of New York*. Herkimer County Historical Society. Courtesy of Jane Dieffenbacher, Historian of the Town of Fairfield, NY; *Fairfield Academy and Fairfield Medical College Collection*. Syracuse University Library. Website [<http://scrc.syr.edu>]. Accessed 07 May 2010; also see *Burritt*. p. 74; Brown, Howard Morton. *Lanark Legacy: Nineteenth Century Glimpses of an Ontario County*. Renfrew, ON: General Store Publishing House. 1984. p. 166; Patton, James, Esq. *Upper Canada Law Journal, Volume 1*. Barrie, ON: The Barrie Herald. 1855. p. 80.



**The Hobart Family of Ridgefield, Connecticut:  
A Reconstruction Solving the Identities of Three Fairfield County Wives**  
Kenneth W. Rockwell

When a record for a couple's marriage is available, one expects to obtain the previous surname of the wife. But during a certain period in the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century, the marriages recorded at Ridgefield, Connecticut (in the back of the first book of land records) did not include this information. A typical example reads as follows:

Jonathan Brooks was married to his wife Sarah April 9<sup>th</sup>, 1744.<sup>1</sup>

The recorder clearly did not have future genealogists in mind!

For such cases, land records may provide clues to the wife's origins. The Ridgefield deeds come through for us in this instance. A pair of sales by this couple describes the borders of the parcels being sold in terms of neighboring owners, and a comparison with other deeds from the same time period yields several other transactions that appear to involve the same two pieces of land. Such sets of deeds usually indicate siblings or other close kin selling their respective shares in the property.

During this period, the property of a woman became that of her husband upon marriage. In Ridgefield's deeds, as in the rest of Connecticut, the usual pattern is that, if a property came to a man through his wife, both of them were named as grantors. Such is the case with these two sets of deeds, listed here in their respective groups:

[Parcel 1]

- "Know all men by these presents that we, Jonathan Brooks and Sarah his wife of Ridgfield ... for the consideration of eight pounds money old tenor received to our full satisfaction of John Keeler of Ridgfield, do give, grant, bargain, confirm and sell unto the said John Keeler ... all our right, title, & interest in & unto a lotment of land lying in the New Patent, called the New Patent division or 30 Acre Grant, laid out on the right originally Benjamin Hickock's, the whole of said lot is bounded on north by the land of said John Keeler, west by highway or common land, south by the land of Joseph Keeler Junr., east by highway..." They signed this deed with their marks on 19 June 1755.<sup>2</sup> This deed was the only one to refer back to the right of an original Proprietor of Ridgefield, but this reference will prove important.
- James and Phebe Green of Stamford, on 13 April 1756, sold to John Keeler, for 1 pound, 5 shillings, their share in a parcel bound on the north by John Keeler, on the south by Joseph Keeler, and on the east and west by highway.<sup>3</sup>
- Bushnell and Elizabeth Benedict of Woodbury, on 14 April 1756, sold to Lemuel Morehouse

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1 "Ridgefield Register of Deeds," Book 1, p. 232. The deed books have been microfilmed and are available from the Family History Library; volumes 1 and 2 are on film #5496, volumes 3 and 4 are on film #5497.

2 Ibid., 4:104.

3 Ibid., 4:120.

Jr, for 25 shillings, their share in a 35-acre parcel bound on the north by John Keeler, on the south by Joseph Keeler, and on the east and west by highway.<sup>4</sup>

- Ruth Hobart of Woodbury, on 24 June 1761, sold to Jonathan Gates, for 1 pound 7 shillings, all her rights in a 35-acre tract bound on north by John Keeler, east and west by highway, and south by Joseph Keeler and Gideon Smith.<sup>5</sup>

Noticing the slight change, in this last deed, in the description of land lying to the south, I went looking for a sale of land by Joseph Keeler to Gideon Smith, and found it—on 4 Dec 1760. That parcel of land “on Asproom Mountain” describes the north boundary as abutting the land of “Thomas Rockwell’s heirs.”<sup>6</sup> This description is consistent with the reference to the right “originally Benjamin Hickock’s,” because that Proprietor sold his rights in Ridgefield, on 9 July 1711, to Thomas Rockwell.<sup>7</sup> All of this indicates that the grantors of these deeds were among the heirs of Thomas Rockwell, who died within a year of becoming a Proprietor. Records related to his estate include references to daughter Sarah and to Joseph Hobart.

The second parcel was located land in the “New Purchase,” which lies between old Ridgefield and the “New Patent” or Ridgebury. It was not necessarily related to the Rockwell estate but had been sold by Joseph Hobart of Ridgefield on 5 April 1748 to Jabez Rockwell. The parcel was described as covering “17 acres and a half, be it more or less, as it is bounded, west by land of Isaac Smith’s, south by highway, east by land of Jonth. Rockwells, north by land of Lem’ll. Morehouse & common land.” Jabez Rockwell sold the parcel the same day to Isaac Keeler.<sup>8</sup> This appears to have been a straightforward sale, but the following deeds suggest quit-claims by Joseph Hobart’s heirs to confirm the original sale:

- Joseph Hobart Jr. of Danbury, on 16 Jan. 1755/6, sold to Jabez Rockwell his share in a 17.5 acre parcel of land in the “New Purchase” (which lies between old Ridgefield and the “New Patent” or Ridgebury), bounded north by Lemuel Morehouse Jr, east by Jonathan Rockwell [son of Jonathan the brother of Thomas], south by highway, and west by Jabesh Smith.<sup>9</sup>
- Bushnell and Elizabeth Benedict, on 15 March 1756, sold to Isaac Keeler their share in a parcel with the same description.<sup>10</sup>
- James and Phebe Green of Stamford, on 13 April 1756, sold to Isaac Keeler their share in a parcel with the same description.<sup>11</sup>
- Jonathan and Sarah Brooks of Ridgefield, on 14 April 1756, sold to Lemuel Morehouse Jr.,

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4 Ibid., 4:120.

5 Ibid., 4:207.

6 Ibid., 4:226.

7 Ibid., 1:37.

8 Ibid., 3:225–226.

9 Ibid., 4:112.

10 Ibid., 4:126.

11 Ibid., 4:126.

their share in a similarly-described parcel, with the exception that the western boundary abutted land of “Thomas or Isaac Smith.”<sup>12</sup>

- John Hobart of Ridgefield, on 12 May 1756, sold to Lemuel Morehouse Jr, his share in a parcel described the same as in the Brooks deed.<sup>13</sup>

Clearly, several individuals are grantors for both parcels, though some are mentioned in only one of the two. The recurring surname Hobart—including that of a woman acting alone (Ruth)—recommends itself as the maiden name of the three wives mentioned: Sarah Brooks, Phebe Green, and Elizabeth Benedict. A set of birth records at Ridgefield lists several of the named individuals—Joseph, Sarah, and Phebe—as children of Joseph and Sarah Hobart.<sup>14</sup> This couple’s marriage record, dated 29 May 1723, identifies the wife as Sarah Rockwell.<sup>15</sup> She was the daughter of Thomas and Sarah Rockwell of Norwalk, and a sister of Jabez Rockwell, one of the aforementioned grantees.<sup>16</sup> Three of the proposed Hobart siblings—John, Ruth, and Elizabeth—are not listed. This would not be the first time that only some of the children of a couple were recorded. On 19 September 1732, the heirs of Thomas Rockwell, including “Joseph Hobart, heir also unto the estate of said Thomas Rockwell deceased by my wife Sarah” agreed to divide the Ridgefield properties owned by Thomas or deeded to the heirs from the common lands. Joseph Hobart received “the additional division of upland and meadow” and his share in the common lands.<sup>17</sup> On 10 November 1738, Joseph Hobart of Ridgefield sold to Benjamin Stebbins of Ridgefield “all the right, title and interest of commonage which I have in the Township of Ridgfield that was set out & prized to me by right of my wife as she was heir to part of the estate of our Honrd. Father Thomas Rockwell deceased.”<sup>18</sup>

### **Genealogical summary of the Hobart family of Ridgefield and Danbury:**

**Joseph Hobart** (vital dates unknown from any record but perhaps born ca. 1700) was “of Ridgefield” but “late of Long Island” when, on 22 May 1722 he purchased land in Ridgefield.<sup>19</sup> He married at Ridgefield, on 29 May 1723, **Sarah Rockwell** who as born at Norwalk on 21 October 1704, daughter of Thomas and Sarah (Rusco) Rockwell. Joseph and Sarah had several children recorded at Ridgefield and perhaps three more born there but not recorded. No probate records are to be found for Joseph or Sarah Hobart, nor were headstones found by the Hale survey in the 1930s, so we do not know when they died. But both Joseph and Sarah were alive on 4 April 1747 when they both signed a deed conveying a 3-acre parcel in New Purchase Swamp to Jabez Rockwell.<sup>20</sup> Only Joseph and his son Joseph signed the deed to the 17.5-acre parcel the following year, which might indicate that Sarah had died, except that she had not

12 Ibid., 4:117.

13 Ibid., 4:120.

14 Ibid., 1:206.

15 Ibid., 1:227.

16 Norwalk deeds, 4:5; FHL film #5002.

17 Ridgefield deeds, 2:178; FHL film #5496.

18 Ibid., 2:220.

19 Ibid., 1:92.

20 Ibid., 3:203.

signed several earlier deeds. The 1756 quit-claim deeds on the 17.5-acre parcel might indicate Joseph Hobart's death, except that he was still alive in 1761 and living at Danbury when he gave property to his son Hezekiah. (See below.)

Children of Joseph Hobart and (presumably) Sarah (Rockwell) Hobart:

1. Joseph Hobart, born at Ridgefield on 7 July 1724. He was living at Danbury when, on 16 January 1755/56 he sold his share in a Ridgefield property to Jabez Rockwell. Jabez was his maternal uncle. He married, on 3 January 1748/49, Ruth Perry.<sup>21</sup>
2. Sarah Hobart, born at Ridgefield on 27 July 1725. She was the Sarah (maiden name unknown) who married Jonathan Brooks at Ridgefield on 9 April 1744. Another interesting deed is the one dated 29 February 1739/40, in which Ebenezer Brooks of Ridgefield gave his son Jonathan a 23-acre parcel in the "New Purchase," which bordered on two sides the land of Richard Osborn.<sup>22</sup> Osborn was the second wife of Thomas Rockwell's widow Sarah, so it is possible that Jonathan Brooks' proximity to the grandmother of his future wife facilitated their meeting.
3. Rebecca Hobart, b. at Ridgefield on 13 Nov. 1726. No further record.
4. Phebe Hobart, b. at Ridgefield on 25 Feb. 1728. She is surely the "Phebe Green of Ridgefield" who married James Green of Stamford on 27 May 1751 at what became Darien.<sup>23</sup> They were living at Stamford on 13 April 1756 when they sold their share in both parcels at Ridgefield.
5. Thomas Hobart, born at Ridgefield on 6 August 1729. No further record.
6. Jeremiah Hobart, born at Ridgefield on 29 December 1730. No further record.
7. Hezekiah Hobart, likely that Hezekiah, son of Joseph "Hubbard," born at Ridgefield on 3 November 1733.<sup>24</sup> This birth in Danbury was probably recorded decades after the fact. Danbury's vital records for this period were lost to fire during the British raid of April 1777, but some pre-war dates were entered later. Evidence that this was a reference to the Hobarts comes from another Ridgefield deed dated 4 May 1761, in which Joseph Hobart of Danbury gave to his son Hezekiah, "now living at Ridgfield," all claims to lands in Ridgefield.<sup>25</sup>
8. Elizabeth Hobart, birth not recorded, married Bushnell Benedict of Danbury. They lived at Woodbury when, in March and April of 1756, they sold their share in the two Ridgefield parcels. The husband is likely that Bushnell Benedict born in 1734 to James and Mercy (Knapp) Benedict of Danbury.<sup>26</sup> Interestingly, online postings of the family of Bushnell Benedict do not indicate that even the first name of his wife was known.
9. Ruth Hobart, birth not recorded, was living at Woodbury (perhaps with the Benedicts) when, on 24 June 1761, she sold her share in one of the parcels.

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<sup>21</sup> Ibid., 1:234.

<sup>22</sup> Ibid., 2:30.

<sup>23</sup> "Darien marriages," posted by Nancy Washell at the Connecticut Genealogy Trails website; see: [http://genealogytrails.com/conn/fairfield/darien\\_marriages.html](http://genealogytrails.com/conn/fairfield/darien_marriages.html)

<sup>24</sup> Danbury vital records, 1:275, quoted in: *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut town vital records*, compiled by Lorraine Cook White, volume 8 (Baltimore, 1997), p. 81.

<sup>25</sup> Ridgefield deeds, 4:199.

<sup>26</sup> Henry Marvin Benedict, *The genealogy of the Benedicts in America* (Albany, NY, 1870), p. 285.

## Genealogies of Early Families of Ridgefield, Connecticut: a Bibliographical Essay

Kenneth W. Rockwell

*(continued from issue #250, August 2010)*

**GATES: Samuel** Gates (b. 1683) came from Pomfret, Conn., where 6 children were born by his first wife. Purchasing at Ridgefield in 1729, he married 2<sup>nd</sup> wife Sarah and had four children recorded at Ridgefield, 1733–1741. During the same period, his son Samuel married there and had children. A first attempt at a genealogy is Charles Otis Gates, *Stephen Gates of Hingham and Lancaster, Massachusetts, and his descendants: a preliminary work subject to addition and correction* (New York: Willis McDonald, 1898), with Samuel Sr. at p. 14, but not traced. That work's conclusions on the English origins are questioned by Clarence Almon Torrey in *TAG* v.10, no.4 (April 1934), pp. 199–200. Torrey also researched part of the American family in *NEHGR*; Samuel Sr.'s family was covered in v. 120 (1966):261–262, and Samuel Jr.'s family is at v. 121(1967):251–252; reprinted in Judith McGhan (ed.), *Genealogies of Connecticut families from the New England historical and genealogical register* (Genealogical Publishing Co., 1983), v. 1, pp. 687–688, 716–717. Torrey did not trace descents from the children of Samuel Jr., but son David married Jerusha WHITNEY and they are further traced in *Phoenix* (1878), pp. 65, 190–191, 517–526, etc. Another son, James, married a Polly Whitney, but they are not in *Phoenix*. Samuel Gates 3<sup>rd</sup> m. Ruth OLMSTED, (see Olmsted p. 196), and Jonathan, son of Samuel Jr., m. Sarah KEELER.

**GILBERT: Josiah** Gilbert (1699–1781), born at Stratford, son of John and Hannah (Canfield) Gilbert, bought land in Ridgefield in 1726,<sup>1</sup> but was in South Salem by 1752. Details in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:222, 2:354. More in: Homer W. Brainard, H. S. Gilbert, and C. A. Torrey, *The Gilbert Family, Descendants of Thomas Gilbert, 1582(?)–1659 of Mt. Wollaston (Braintree), Windsor, and Wethersfield*; edited with a foreward by Donald Lines Jacobus (New Haven, 1953), 508 p. FHL call no.: 929.273 G377b. A well-organized volume that includes many Gilbert families of Fairfield County. The entry for Josiah (1699–1781) is on pp. 111–112. A second **Josiah** Gilbert (1731–1774), a 1st cousin twice removed of the first Josiah, i.e., a grandson of Moses Gilbert of Fairfield (1666–1713), first cousin of the first Josiah, settled at Ridgefield later. See Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:216–217, 221; 2:355; and Brainard et al. (1953), p. 200. Ebenezer Gilbert, who with wife Rebeckah was having children in Ridgefield by 1740 and who died in 1798 at the age of 85, is not in either Jacobus or Brainard. Rather, they came from New Haven, and are covered in Jacobus' *FANH*, v. 3, pp. 642–643, 650–652. The first two children were born at New Haven, but were recorded after the fact, along with the other seven, at Ridgefield. Jacobus covers some of the children's families, even though they were in Ridgefield.

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<sup>1</sup> Ridgefield Register of Deeds 2:29, 41 (hereafter Ridgefield Deeds).

**GREGORY: Ithamar** Gregory of Fairfield bought land in 1753,<sup>2</sup> and several children's births at Fairfield were recorded in Ridgefield after the fact. While he died there, his son and several daughters with their husbands moved to Hubbardton, Vermont. His brother **Zaccheus** also settled in Ridgefield, purchasing in 1756.<sup>3</sup> Their ancestry is given in Grant Gregory, *Ancestors and descendants of Henry Gregory* (Rutland, Vt., 1938); Ithamar's entry is on p. 101, Zaccheus is on p. 101–102, with descendants on pp. 150–152, 240–242, etc. See also Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:236–37, 239–41. A brief listing for Ithamar at *FOOF* 2:417 notes two of his children were baptized at Greenfield in 1734/35 and 1737. See also the following for their English ancestry: Isaac J. Greenwood, "Gregorys of Leicestershire and Nottingham, England, and of Connecticut," *NEHGR* 23:3 (July 1869), 304–307; and John Insley Coddington, "Some ancestors of Henry Gregory: Worsley and Parr," *TAG* 38:3 (July 1962), 171–175.

**HAIT or HAYT:** See under **HOYT**.

**HAWLEY: Thomas** Hawley (1689–1738). The first minister at Ridgefield, he was born in Northampton, Mass., son of Joseph, grandson of Thomas, immigrant. Covered in Elias S. Hawley, *The Hawley record* (Buffalo, NY: E.H. Hutchinson & Co., 1890), FHL 363872 or 896972 Item 2. This book includes a long tabular section, a more traditionally-arranged section, and a section of genealogical notes with further details. The branch of Rev. Thomas Hawley is covered on pp. 410, 415–418, with genealogical notes (no. 5, 226, and 234) at pp. 437–439, 549–550, 569. The online "Pane-Joyce" genealogy includes a Hawley section, partly dependent on the *Hawley Record*, on Ancestry at:

[http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/gen/report/rr01/rr01\\_149.htm#P21172](http://aleph0.clarku.edu/~djoyce/gen/report/rr01/rr01_149.htm#P21172)

**HICKOK or HICKOCK: Benjamin** Hickok, an original Proprietor of Ridgefield, sold his share in the town to Thomas ROCKWELL and returned to Norwalk (later Wilton), if he lived at Ridgefield at all. But his sister Elizabeth Hickock (b. 1682) became the second wife of Norwalk Samuel SMITH in 1722; see his entry, below. The family is covered in: Charles Nelson Hickok, *The Hickok genealogy: descendants of William Hickoks of Farmington, Connecticut, with ancestry of Charles Nelson Hickok* (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle Publishing, 1938); FHL microfilm #908706, item 1. Benjamin's entry is at pp. 11–12, and Elizabeth is on pp. 10–11.

**HOBART:** Joseph Hobart came from Long Island to purchase land in Ridgefield in 1722.<sup>4</sup> He married Sarah, daughter of Thomas ROCKWELL, and was here for several years before moving to Danbury. He is not found in Margaret Griffith, *Hobart genealogy: the descendants of Edmund Hobart of Hingham* (San Francisco, 1952); that work includes a Joshua who died at Southold, L.I., in 1717 but has little further on that line. Details on Joseph's immediate family have been published by me in a separate article in this issue of *Connecticut Ancestry*.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:50.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, 4:108.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:92.

**HOLLOWAY:** George Holloway was of Ridgefield when he purchased land in 1738.<sup>5</sup> I have not found any published genealogy for this man, either ancestors or descendants.

**HOYT (or HAYT):** Benjamin Hoyt, a refugee from Deerfield, Mass., was an early purchaser of land at Ridgefield. Benjamin's ancestry and descendants are covered in *A genealogical history of the Hoyt, Haight, and HIGHT families: with some account of the earlier Hyatt families* (Boston, 1871; reprinted at Camden, Me.: Picton Press, 1993); FHL Call no. 929.273 H854hd. Benjamin's entry is on p. 329, with descent on p. 352, 389–390, etc. Their children mainly married children of other proprietors; for the daughters, see the references under SMITH, KEELER, and OLMSTED. The surname has varied over the years and generations, and Benjamin himself was usually called "Hait." Another early purchaser was Daniel Hoyt (found in the Hoyt genealogy, p. 324), who bought half of Jonathan Rockwell's right in Ridgefield in 1712. He subsequently sold it to Benjamin Hoyt (a second cousin) and remained in Norwalk. The English home of the immigrant, Simon Hoyt, as reported in the Hoyt genealogy, was incorrect; English researcher Robin Bush recently found the actual home, as reported in Burton Spear, *Search for the passengers of the Mary and John, 1630* (Toledo, Ohio, 1996) v. 25, pp. 38–43; and Robert C. Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633*, pp. 1028–1032. See also the website: <http://doug Sinclair's archives.com/hoyt/shoyt.htm>

**HYATT:** Thomas Hyatt (1680–1759 or 1760) was an original Proprietor of Ridgefield, coming from Norwalk. See the HOYT genealogy (r1993); his entry is on pp. 633–635. While various Hyatts are covered briefly in the Hoyt book, the tradition that they were of the same family as the HOYTs has been dismissed by Robert C. Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England 1620–1633*, v. 2, pp. 1028. See also Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:318–19. Neither gives an extensive descent from the Proprietor. Robert W. Hull, "Thomas Hyatt and Mary (St. John) Hyatt of Norwalk and their family, particularly Rebecca (Hyatt) Sherwood of Norwalk and Mary (Hyatt) Wallace (Wallis) of Ridgefield" (*Connecticut Nutmegger*, v.35, no. 1 [June 2006], pp. 16–25), identifies two sisters of Thomas Hyatt as Ridgefield wives: Mary, wife of James WALLIS; and Sarah, wife of James BENEDICT. Also, his mother was a sister of another proprietor, Matthias SAINT JOHN.

**INGERSOLL:** Jonathan Ingersoll (1713–1778), was the second minister of Ridgefield, arriving in 1738 after the death of Thomas HAWLEY. Details of his immediate ancestry were given in William Richard Cutter's *New England families, genealogical and memorial: a record of the achievements of her people in the making of commonwealths and the founding of a nation* (New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1914), v.3, p. 1277. See also Nathaniel Goodwin, *Genealogical notes, or, Contributions to the family history of some of the first settlers of Connecticut and Massachusetts* (Hartford: F. A. Brown, 1856), FHL Call no. 974 D2g, p. 119, 124, 126–127.

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<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, 1:91.

**JACKSON: Ephraim** Jackson (b. 1704) of Fairfield/Redding purchased land in Ridgefield, but never settled. A likely kinsman (son or younger brother), **Daniel** (b. 1733), did settle, before a son Daniel was born there in 1763. Daniel married Rebecca Whitney, so that branch of the family is covered in Phoenix (1878), 1:57, 162–163, etc. A brief pedigree of the Jacksons is found at 1:57. Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:322–323, 326–327 shows Ephraim and his ancestry. Ephraim’s wife Martha Blackman is at *FOOF* 1:87.

**JONES: Jacob** Jones (1706/7–1791) purchased land in March of 1732/33(2:134), and **Ebenezer** Jones (c1704– ) purchased land in 1757.<sup>6</sup> A recent article on the Jones family (Cornelius<sup>1</sup>, Ebenezer<sup>2</sup>, Benjamin<sup>3</sup>, Jacob<sup>4</sup>) is given by Frederick C. Hart Jr., “Keeping up with the Stamford Joneses, Part 2: Stamford’s earliest Joneses—Cornelius Jones and his family,” *Connecticut Ancestry*, v.41, no.3 (November 1998), pp. 127–133). On page 133 we have brothers Ebenezer and Jacob Jones, sons of Benjamin of Stamford, and Hart proposes that these are the Ridgefield settlers. Hart notes that Jacobus, in *FOOF* (1:345–346) and a manuscript at Conn. Historical Collection, “sorted out this family in excellent shape”. But Jacobus, *FANH* v.5, p. 1059 (originally printed in 1929), suggests another Jacob with a different ancestry. I note that this other Jacob had a brother Ebenezer who died young. Perhaps Jacobus changed his mind after its publication. An online suggestion that Ebenezer’s ancestry is given in *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations* (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants), vol. 4 (Edward Fuller volume), p. 74 is no doubt wishful thinking. Certainly there is no suggestion of it in that book.

**KEELER: Samuel** Keeler (c1655–1713) was an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. His wife, Sarah SAINT JOHN (1660–1714), was a cousin of Matthias St. John, another Proprietor. While covered in the old Rockwell-Keeler genealogy by James Boughton (see under ROCKWELL), a more complete coverage of the family is: Wesley B. Keeler, *Keeler family: Ralph Keeler of Norwalk, Connecticut and some of his descendants, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, c2000); Samuel is on pp. 7–8. Two sons were also original Proprietors: **Samuel** (1682–1763), covered in Keeler (2000), pp. 13–14; and **Joseph** (c1683–1757) whose line is covered in Keeler, pp. 15–16, 31–38, 71–92, etc. Samuel Jr. sold his share in Ridgefield to his father, while Joseph became a settler. Joseph’s wife was Elizabeth Whitney, so their descendants through ten surviving children are also well-covered by Phoenix (1878), pp. 16–17, 28–31, etc. Two younger sons of Samuel Sr. came of age in Ridgefield and established major lines: **Jonah** (c1690), covered in Keeler (2000), pp. 17–18, 38–41, 93–99, etc.; and **Timothy** (1695–1748), covered in Keeler (2000), pp. 18, 41–43, 99–106, etc.

**LEES: Joseph** Lees of Norwalk purchased Matthew SAINT JOHN’s right in Ridgefield in 1722, but left in 1737, conveying the right to Peter BURR. He also sold land to his “brother John DIBBLE,” suggesting some connection through either his wife or a sister. Details on the family

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<sup>6</sup> *Ibid.* 4:127.



(under "Lee") are in *FOOF* 2:2, p. 577–580. Jack F. Sanders (see his website at <http://jackfsanders.tripod.com/names-L.htm>) notes that his father, William Lees of Norwalk was involved in a 1697 petition to the Connecticut Assembly for the purchase of Ridgefield, and Joseph's half-brother William LEE (who dropped the "s" from the name) settled there in 1762.

**LOBDELL:** Joshua Lobdell, an early settler of Ridgefield, bought half of a right of one 29th part of Ridgefield from original Proprietor James BROWN in March 1712/13.<sup>7</sup> He is mentioned as living there by the time his father Simon's will was probated at Milford in Oct. 1717. He married, first, Mary Burwell, and, second, Eunice OLMSTED, daughter of John and Mary of Norwalk. The family is covered in detail by Julia Harrison Lobdell, *Simon Lobdell-1646 of Milford, Conn. and his descendants* (Chicago: Windermere Press, 1907), FHL Film #1035695 Item 8. Joshua's life is described on pp. 13–14, and his sons are followed in separate lines on pp. 18–23, etc.; 36–41, etc.; 214–219, etc.; 254–255, etc.; 258–259, etc.; and 306–307, etc. The compiler is honest about when assignment of children to a family is based on reasoned guesses rather than documentation. An easier-to-follow discussion of the early generations is found in Ernest C. James, *Ancestors and descendants of the James family, the Lobdell family and collateral families of Baldwin - Bryan - Burwell - Fenn - Heath - Hyatt - Pierce - Prentice - Reynold - Scott* (Sacramento, Calif.: E.C. James, c1996) iii, 163 p. FHL call no. 929.273 L782je; Digital version also available through Family History Library catalog at [familysearch.org](http://familysearch.org). Son **Ebenezer** married a daughter of Proprietor Thomas BENEDICT, and Ebenezer's daughter Elizabeth (b. 1733) married a WHITNEY, so that branch of the family is followed in Phoenix (1878) 1:25, 56–58, etc.

**MEAD:** **Theophilus** Mead purchased land in February 1721/22.<sup>8</sup> **Israel** Mead was buying land in Ridgefield by January 1729/30 from Benjamin STEBBINS, who calls him "my brother."(2:110) They are covered in: Spencer P. Mead, *History and genealogy of the Mead family of Fairfield County, Connecticut, eastern New York, western Vermont and western Pennsylvania from A.D. 1180 to 1900* (New York: Knickerbocker Press, 1901), FHL Call no. 929.273 M461ms. It is easy to get lost in the genealogical section of this book, as the children of one man may be widely separated by multigenerational accounts of their siblings. One must keep track of the descent guide at the head of each page. To be brief, the Ridgefield Meads descend from a Joseph Mead (c1657–1714), whose entry is on p. 126. His first three children (including Theophilus [1700–1760] and a Sarah who married Ridgefield settler Benjamin STEBBINS) are discussed briefly on p. 126; fourth child Jeremiah and his descendants are discussed on pp. 126–150; a fifth child is on p. 150; sixth child Nehemiah (1706–1784) and descendants are on pp. 150–166; and seventh child Israel (b. 1708) and descendants through two sons are on pp. 167–177.

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<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.* 1:39.

<sup>8</sup> *Ibid.* 1:115.

**MOREHOUSE:** Lemuel Morehouse (c1696–1768) bought land in February 1722/23.(1:91). His wife was Mary, niece of Joseph BOUTON (see Selleck (1896), p. 349). Ancestry and descendants in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:418–419, 420, 427, 716; 2:661 for a summary. A daughter Hannah married Aaron Osborn (1735–1810), so their line is followed in Phoenix (1878) 1:69, 202–203, etc. Also covered in: Inez Manzer Sypher Morehouse, *330 years of Morehouse genealogy, 1640-1970* (Hantsport, Nova Scotia: Lancelot Press, c1978) FHL Call no. 929.271 M813m v. 1; see pp. 13–16, 22, 35–36, but it has nothing on Lemuel’s grandchildren.

**NASH:** Abraham Nash (b. c1720) married Rhoda Keeler and a son Abraham’s birth was recorded at Ridgefield 1740. But he was still of Norwalk when he first bought land there, in 1758.<sup>9</sup> Details on the Nash family are in Selleck (1896), p. 104–109; see also Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:429. Patriarch was Edward, from Stamford.

**NORTHRUP:** Three brothers became early Proprietors through purchase: James Northrup (c1692– ) purchased half of the right of Joseph BENEDICT in 1714;<sup>10</sup> Moses Northrup (c1694–c1746) Moses purchased the half-right of John COPP in 1714;<sup>11</sup> and Joseph Northrup (1689–1733) bought land in the winter of 1716/17,<sup>12</sup> and in January 1720/21 purchased half of the right Henry WHITNEY had bought from Thomas CANFIELD.<sup>13</sup> They were all sons of Joseph Northrup of Milford. Moses moved by 1734 to Dutchess County, N.Y. They are covered in a brief genealogy in Abbott’s *Families of Early Milford*, page 487; FHL Call no. 974.67/M2 D2a. Greater detail in: Ansel Judd Northrup, *The Northrup-Northrop genealogy: a record of the known descendants of Joseph Northrup, who came from England in 1637, and was one of the original settlers of Milford, Conn., in 1639...* (New York: Grafton Press, c1908). 461 p. FHL Film no. 962457 Item 2. The three brothers are covered on pp. 7–8, with descendants at pp. 19–23, 39–52, etc. Gamaliel Northrup (c1696–1780s), a first cousin of the Proprietors, settled at Ridgefield by 1717. He had 11 children, but only two daughters are traced in Northrup (1908), pp. 13, 31–32. Nathan Northrup (b. c1705), brother of Gamaliel, married at Ridgefield 1730, a daughter of Capt. Samuel St. John, but was of Salem by 1746 (see p. 14). Jabez Northrup (b. c1710), brother of Gamaliel, married, 1735, Sarah Lobdell of Ridgefield. Four children born there 1735–1744, but not traced, p. 14. John Northrup (b. 1703), first cousin to the above, settled in Ridgefield by 1727, when accepted as an inhabitant. In 1728 he married Rebecca Roberts. Seven children, two traced, pp. 16, 35–36.

**OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD:** Daniel (b. c1682) and Richard (b. c1687) Olmsted, were brothers and original Proprietors of Ridgefield. Their sisters Jane, Rebecca, and Elizabeth married Benjamin WILSON, Samuel SAINT JOHN, and Henry WHITNEY, respectively, three other

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<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.* 4:165.

<sup>10</sup> *Ibid.* 1:53

<sup>11</sup> *Ibid.* 1:72.

<sup>12</sup> *Ibid.* 1:69, 99.

<sup>13</sup> *Ibid.* 1:185.

original Proprietors, while sister Sarah married Jonathan ABBOTT (b. c1675), another early settler. Ancestry and descent is given in Henry King Olmsted, *Genealogy of the Olmsted family in America: embracing the descendants of James and Richard Olmsted and covering a period of nearly three centuries, 1632-1912*, revised and completed by Geo. K. Ward; advisory committee, John Bartow Olmsted...[et al.] (New York: A.T. De la Mare Printing and Publishing, 1912), FHL Film no. 1036036, Item 8 (digital copy available through both Google Books and familysearch.org); see pp. 187–194, 197–200, 210–215, etc. Their ancestry is recapped in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:451, 454 and in Selleck (1896), pp. 266–267, 282; descendants not traced in either. Two grandsons of Richard, cousins Josiah and Matthew Olmsted, married Whitney sisters, so some of their descendants are traced in Phoenix (1878) 1: 56–57, 160–162. An Olmstead pedigree faces 1:160. The family was also written up in *NEHGR*, v. 59 (Oct. 1905), “The descendants of Capt. Richard Olmstead” by Frederick Stam Hammond; the entry for their father, John of Norwalk, is at p. 357.

**OSBORN:** **Richard** Osborn moved from Eastchester, N.Y., to Ridgefield, buying land in 1713.<sup>14</sup> His wife was an Andrews, and his heirs conveyed land from the estate to John Andrews of Fairfield in 1749. He purchased Richard Whitney’s 1/29 right in the Oblong. His ancestry is given in Jacobus, *FOOF* (1930), 1:455–458; descendants not traced there, but they are covered in: William Arthur Owen, “Richard Osborn and some of his descendants,” *NYGBR* v. 62, no. 4 (Oct. 1931), pp. 379–391 [copied in FHL Film 252 Item 4]. Son **David** Osborn (1700–1750) married Rachel Keeler, daughter of original Proprietor Joseph Keeler and his wife, a Whitney, so their line is followed in Phoenix (1878) 1:28–29, 68–70, etc., though they moved to Danbury after 1742. Another version of the ancestry is given in Bryle Jacob Osborn, “The Osborne family of England, New England, New York, and Canada,” 182-page typescript on FHL Film no. 252, item 1.

**PLATT:** **Joseph** Platt of Milford purchased land in Ridgefield in 1714, including half a right in Ridgefield’s common land—which half-right Thomas Hawley had purchased from original Proprietor John Sturdevant.<sup>15</sup> In January 1720/21 he conveyed half of this share in the town to his brother **Gideon** Platt of Milford.<sup>16</sup> Neither settled in Ridgefield. Two distant relatives, brothers **Abel** (b. 1723 in Fairfield) and **Jonas** Platt (b. 1727), both removed to Ridgefield in 1756.<sup>17</sup> Their line is covered in brief in *FOOF* 1:483–485; 2:765–767. This Platt family had settled in Fairfield/Redding. A two-part article by John Insley Coddington, “Richard Platt of Ware, co. Hertford, England, and Milford, Connecticut” (*TAG* 30:4, pp. 232–242; *TAG* 31:3, pp. 155–169), discusses the family’s origins and makes reference to a four-volume manuscript by Alrick H. Man, “The Descendants of Richard Platt, a Founder of New Haven and Milford, Connecticut...”

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<sup>14</sup> *Ibid.* 1:41.

<sup>15</sup> *Ibid.* 1:46.

<sup>16</sup> *Ibid.* 1:168.

<sup>17</sup> *Ibid.* 4:110.

in the Library of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, copied on FHL film no. 269.

**PULLEN/PULLING:** **Abraham** Pulling (1705–1787) is covered briefly by Jacobus, *FOOF*, 2:774–775, who says his father, also Abraham, is said to have died at Ridgebury aged 100 years. The first purchase by an Abraham Pulling “of Fairfield” occurred in May 1761.<sup>18</sup> The younger Abraham’s wife, Abigail Beers (m. 1743), is covered in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1: 57–59, 2:87–88. Son **Beers** Pulling (b. 1763 at Ridgefield) married a Whitney descendant; see Phoenix (1878) 1:229, 634.

**RESSEGUIE:** **Alexander** Resseguie (d. 1754) settled in Norwalk in 1709 and purchased land at Ridgefield in 1722 and later. Deeds indicate he lived there at one point, but he died at Norwalk. Several children lived at Ridgefield at times, but most moved away. His ancestry is uncertain, and he may have been the immigrant; he is the patriarch of the family covered in John E. Morris, *The Resseguie family: a historical and genealogical record of Alexander Resseguie of Norwalk, Conn. and four generations of his descendants* (Hartford, Conn.: Case, Lockwood & Brainard, 1888); FHL Film no. 1036449 Item 6. See pp. 10–19; 23–26; 27–35, etc. Electronic version also available via familysearch.org; see link from FHL catalog.

**ROCKWELL:** **Jonathan** Rockwell (c1665–1732), an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. His son John married a Whitney, and that branch of his family was well-covered by Phoenix (1878), pp. 29, 70–72, etc. The lines of other children of Jonathan were compiled (not always accurately) by James Boughton, *A genealogy of the families of John Rockwell of Stamford, Conn., 1641, and Ralph Keeler of Hartford, Conn., 1639*, posthumously published, 1903. A thorough coverage of all lines, including new data on those already covered in Phoenix and Boughton, may be found in my book, *The Rockwell family in Fairfield County, Connecticut, and beyond: some of the descendants of John Rockwell, an early settler of Stamford* (North Salt Lake: DMT Publishing, 3rd edition, 2009); FHL Call no. 929.273 R594r. See pp. 25–27, 30–40, 50–74, etc. Jonathan’s brother **Thomas** (c1672?–1712), purchased the right of original Proprietor Benjamin Hickock and may have settled in Ridgefield, but he soon died. Some of his children settled there, and are covered by Rockwell (2009); see pp. 38–30, 46–50, 89–95, 100–103, etc.

**SAINT JOHN:** **Matthias** Saint John(1668?–1748) was an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. He married Rachel BOUTON, and ultimately remained in Norwalk. Their son **Matthew** (1686?–1755) was also an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. He married Anne Whitney, sister of Proprietor Henry WHITNEY, so their line is followed in Phoenix (1878) 1:18–19, 34–57, etc. While they settled in Ridgefield, they returned to Norwalk in 1723 and later moved to Sharon, Conn., where they died. Though their older children were born in Ridgefield, they did not settle there. A pedigree is found in Phoenix, facing p. 1:146. They are also written up in Orlin St. John Alexander, *The St. John genealogy: descendants of Matthias St. John of Dorchester*,

<sup>18</sup> *Ibid.* 4:197.

*Massachusetts*, 1634; of Windsor, Connecticut, 1640; of Wethersfield, Connecticut, 1643-1645; and Norwalk, Connecticut, 1650 (New York: Grafton Press, 1907), pp. 29–32, 54–56, 99, etc. A digital copy available through Family History Library catalog at familysearch.org. Samuel St. John, a brother of Matthew, was a third original Proprietor. His wife Rebecca was a sister of Daniel and Richard OLMSTED. His entry in Alexander (1907), is on pp. 57–59, with male descendants at 111–114, 184–193, etc. The daughters are followed through connections with various early Ridgefield families in this list: BROOKS, BURT, LOBDELL, and NORTHRUP. **Nathan St. John**, a third son of Matthias, settled in Ridgefield, and received as a gift all of his father's right in the bounds of Ridgefield. His wife was a daughter of Matthew SEYMOUR, another original Proprietor. His entry in Alexander (1907) is on pp. 59–61, with male descent on pp. 114–116, 193–194, etc.; daughters married into BETTS and JONES families. Sarah St. John (1660–1714), a cousin of Matthias, was the wife of Samuel KEELER (c1655–1713), another original Proprietor of Ridgefield. Her entry in the St. John genealogy is on p. 21.

**SCOTT:** David Scott (1678–1760), an immigrant from Ireland, purchased Jonathan STEVENS's right in 1712 and thus became a Proprietor. His family is covered by: Donald Lines Jacobus, "The Scott Family of Ridgefield, Connecticut," *TAG*, v. 44 (1968), p. 9–14.

**SEYMOUR:** Matthew Seymour (c1690–1768) was an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. He sold half of his share in the town's common land to Daniel Arms in 1713, and conveyed the other half to his son Matthew in January 1715/16, after which references to the name in the town records refer to the latter.<sup>19</sup> For ancestry and descendants, see: *A history of the Seymour family: descendants of Richard Seymour of Hartford, Connecticut, for six generations*, compiled and arranged for publication under the direction of George Dudley Seymour and Donald Lines Jacobus (New Haven: Tuttle, Morehouse & Taylor 1939); FHL Film no. 496633 Item 3. Matthew's entry is on pp. 60–61, 95–96. Third generation listed, but only numbers for their children. In another line, **Daniel** Seymour (1746–1785) of Huntington, L.I., left a widow Phebe, who married a Dean before March 1793. Two daughters married at Ridgefield 1795, 1802; and son Jehiel (b. 1783) lived there and married a Sally Rockwell. The rest of their children lived at Danbury, Redding, and Norwalk. See: *Seymour family* (1939), pp. 106–107.

**SHERWOOD:** Daniel Sherwood (c1686–1749) received 1/29 of the common land as part of an agreement with the town to start a mill, becoming the 29th Proprietor of Ridgefield.<sup>20</sup> His wife was Ruth BRADLEY. Daniel descends from Thomas of Fairfield. His ancestry is covered in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 1:548–560; Daniel is at page 557. The line was also covered in a long series of articles in *Your Ancestors: a national magazine of genealogy and family history*, edited by Harry Ferris Johnston (Buffalo, NY, 1947–1960), vols. 3–11. Daniel the Ridgefield settler is found in v.8, issue 2, p. 1030, and his descendants are in 8:3:1053–4; 8:4:1079–80; 9:1:1105–06;

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<sup>19</sup> *Ibid.* 1:50.

<sup>20</sup> *Ibid.* 1:61–62.

9:2:1131–32; 9:3:1157, with only occasional source citations. His son Daniel (1714–c1770) married Jerusha Whitney, so their line is followed in Phoenix (1878) 1:25, 55–56, etc. The family’s English home was identified in Leslie Mahler, “The English home of Thomas Sherwood of Wethersfield, Stamford, and Fairfield, Connecticut” *TAG*, v.80, no.4 (Oct. 2005), pp. 278–282. Details from Johnston along with other vital records were republished in Donald F. Notley, *Sherwood family genealogy: descendants to the eight generation of Thomas Sherwood (1586-1655) of Fairfield, Connecticut and Thomas Sherwood (d 1656) of Stratford, Connecticut* (Tulsa, Oklahoma: D. Notley, 1983; 5 vol. in 4). FHL Call no. 929.273 Sh58n. This work consists of family group sheets, with each generation arranged alphabetically. See pp. 3, 11, 49, 117, 129, 145, 167, 181, etc.

### **SMITH:**

**Smith, Ebenezer** (1683–1744), a brother of original Proprietor Samuel Smith of Milford, he settled in Ridgefield in 1709, becoming the 26th Proprietor.<sup>21</sup> A marriage between descendants of the brothers yielded a son who married another Smith descended from Norwalk Samuel Smith, whose wife was a Whitney; a pedigree is found in Phoenix (1878), 1:178. Jacobus covers both Milford families in *TAG*, vol. 25, no. 2; Ebenezer’s family is at pp. 104–105, 112–113.

**Smith, Samuel** (Milford, 1679–1763), an original Proprietor of Ridgefield. Two brothers, Ebenezer and Thomas, soon settled there as well. See Jacobus, *TAG*, 25:2:104, 111–112; also Abbott (1979), pp. 655–656. **Smith, Samuel** (Norwalk, c1686–1764): His ancestry is entirely different from the Milford brothers, and is covered by Jacobus, *TAG* 25:2, pp. 70–71, 75–76, 81. He married Sarah Whitney, who died in 1720, leaving one surviving child: Samuel, who had 6 children, three of whom are followed in Phoenix (1878), pp. 19–20, 41–42, 115, etc. Samuel the Proprietor married (2) widow Elizabeth Benedict, born a HICKOK. Details on her ancestry are in Hickok (1938), pp. 10–11. That work doesn’t list any children, and given that she was 40 in 1722, it would seem unlikely, yet Jacobus noted three daughters, readily found in the Ridgefield vital records. They were: Rachel (b 1723, m. James Northrup); Sarah (b. 1724, m. Job Smith, son of Ebenezer Smith); and Patience (b. 1727/8, m. Benjamin Hoyt).

**Smith, Thomas** (1677–1743), an older brother of Milford Samuel Smith, was one of the original Proprietors of Ridgefield. His ancestry and first few generations at Ridgefield are given in Jacobus, *TAG*, 25:2:103–104, 109–111. Also: Abbott (1979), 655.

**STEBBINS: Benjamin** Stebbins, a native of Deerfield, Mass., purchased land at Ridgefield in January 1716/17, and in 1718, married Sarah MEAD, whose brothers settled there. Later, he became a Proprietor by purchasing from Peter BURR the right originally belonging to Matthew SAINT JOHN.<sup>22</sup> His ancestry is covered in Ralph Stebbins Greenlee and Robert Lemuel Greenlee, *The Stebbins genealogy* (Chicago, c1904) 2 vol. (1386 p., [171] leaves of plates); FHL

<sup>21</sup> *Ibid.* 1:6.

<sup>22</sup> *Ibid.* 3:158, 169.

Film no. 928203 and available online through familysearch.com. Benjamin's record is in vol. 1, page 164, with the next generations at 1:210–214, 1:317–325. A write-up on son Nehemiah Stebbins and wife Sarah (dau of Nathan SAINT JOHN) are found in D.L. Jacobus, "Nehemiah and Sarah (St. John) Stebbins," *TAG* 38:2 (April 1957), pp. 100–102. **Joseph** Stebbins arrived from Lebanon, Conn., to purchase land in Ridgefield in 1719.<sup>23</sup> He is not found in the Stebbins genealogy, and any relation to Benjamin is uncertain.

**STEVENS: Jonathan** Stevens, was an original Proprietor, but soon after the founding of Ridgefield, he died unmarried in Norwalk. His estate reverted to his mother, the twice-widowed Mary (-----) (Stevens) BOUTON. She sold his share in the town to David SCOTT in 1712. Published genealogy not found.

**STURTEVANT: John** Sturtevant (1676–1717) was an original Proprietor of Ridgefield, and a son John's birth is recorded there for 1709 (though he may have been born in Norwalk before the family relocated to Ridgefield). Son John married Keziah, a sister of Jonathan and Lemuel ABBOTT. I have not found a good write-up on this family, though these details are posted on John Claude Gummoe's "Hickok, Harris, Brown, Gummoe families" pedigree in Rootsweb WorldConnect. Two marriages are briefly noted in *FOOF* 1:421, 711, providing clues to their ancestries; his first wife was a MOREHOUSE, and first cousin to early settler Lemuel Morehouse. John the original Proprietor sold half of his right to Thomas HAWLEY, who then sold it to Joseph PLATT.

**THOMAS: Recompence** Thomas, b. 1709 in New Haven, purchased land at Ridgefield in 1730. His ancestry may be found in Jacobus, *Families of Ancient New Haven*, vol. 7; he appears on page 1733, but descendants are not further traced there.

**WALLIS/Wallace: James** Wallis purchased a share in the "New Purchase" in February 1714/15(1:44) and eventually settled in Salem. His wife Mary was a sister of Proprietor Thomas Hyatt, as documented in Robert W. Hull's Hyatt article (p. 19), quoting Norwalk deeds 8:338; see under HYATT. Their children's births were recorded at Ridgefield, starting with one born in 1709, but it is possible that this was an after-the-fact recording, as has been done for other families. The Wallis family history is found in James Andrew Phelps, *The Wallace family in America; being an account of the founders and first colonial families, and an official list of the heads of families of the name, resident in the United States in 1790* (New York : W.M. Clemens, 1914), FHL Film 924109 Item 14. A pedigree is given in Charles King Wallace, *Family history of Wallace* (Brevard, North Carolina: T.H. Wallace, 2005), FHL Call. No. 929.273 W155wc (Both of these are available digitally via familysearch.com)

**WHITLOCK: David** Whitlock (c1681–1761), and wife Margaret arrived in Ridgefield about 1722, the date of his first purchase when he was still "of Fairfield." His first child was born in

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<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.* 1:125.

1720, likely in Fairfield, but recorded in Ridgefield with later births to this couple. The family is covered by Jacobus in *FOOF*, 1:686–687; 1033. A cousin John bought land in 1736<sup>24</sup> and his sons Abraham and Jonathan settled in Ridgefield. See *FOOF* 2:1034–35.

**WHITNEY.** This family was the focus of one of the classic genealogies of the 19th century, S. Whitney Phoenix, *The Whitney family of Connecticut and its affiliations : being an attempt to trace the descendants, as well in the female as the male lines, of Henry Whitney, from 1649 to 1878; to which is prefixed some account of the Whitneys in England* (New York: Bradstreet Press, 1878), 3 vol. (2740 p.). Though poorly referenced as to sources, it was well-researched by professional genealogist D. Williams Patterson, who reviewed local records and corresponded or interviewed descendants for family history information. It is also a good source of genealogical information for other early Ridgefield families: Benedict, Gates, Hoyt, Keeler, Mead, Olmstead, Osborn, Rockwell, Saint John, and Smith.

**Joseph** Whitney (1678–1741), an original Proprietor of Ridgefield, often spelled his surname “Whitne,” as did other members of the family. See Phoenix (1878), 1:13. He remained in Norwalk, and in 1713 sold his right in Ridgefield to his brother, Richard. **Richard** Whitney (b. 1687) settled in Ridgefield; his entry is in Phoenix (1878), 1:17, with descendants on 1:32–33, 84–91, etc. Another brother, **Henry** Whitney (1680–1728), purchased Thomas Canfield’s right in Ridgefield in 1712. His wife was Elizabeth OLMSTEAD; two of her brothers were original Proprietors, while her sisters Jane and Rebecca married Proprietors Benjamin WILSON and Samuel SAINT JOHN, respectively. Henry’s line is in Phoenix (1878), 1:13–16, 25–28, 55–68, etc. The three brothers also had sisters who settled in Ridgefield as wives of other proprietors. See: KEELER, SAINT JOHN, SMITH. A fourth brother, **Nathan** Whitney (vital dates unknown) received a gift of land on 5 Feb. 1718–19 from his brother Henry and two brothers-in-law. He and wife Sarah (maiden name unknown) had 11 children, six of whom are followed further in Phoenix (1878), 1:19, 37–41, etc.

**WILSON: Benjamin** Wilson has an entry in Jacobus, *FOOF* 1:698–699, but ancestry not traced; Jacobus speculates he may be related to the Anthony Wilson family of Fairfield; see 1:695–698. Of all the original Proprietors, his ancestry and descendants are the least covered, even in online pedigrees. I have not found a write-up for Wilson himself, covering his ancestors, or a comprehensive account of his descendants. Several online trees claim that he came from Roxbury, Mass., where he was born 6 Oct. 1678. Such a birth is on record and given in James Savage’s *Genealogical dictionary of the first settlers of New England*, v. 4, p. 582, but is there proof that he moved to Norwalk and became the Ridgefield Proprietor? Another online tree has him born at Milford in 1673, son of Thomas Wilson. Benjamin married Jane OLMSTED, a sister to original Proprietors Daniel and Richard Olmsted and two wives of other settlers; see ABBOTT and WHITNEY. Daughter Jane married Joseph KEELER Jr. (b. 1713), whose mother was a

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<sup>24</sup> *Ibid.* 3:31–32.



WHITNEY, so their 7 children are included briefly by Phoenix (1878), 1:72, and more comprehensively by Keeler (2000), pp. 31–32, 71–76, etc. Daughter Rebecca married Benjamin ROCKWELL and their considerable progeny through 7 children are well-covered in Rockwell (2009), pp. 30–31, 50–54, etc. Daughter Abigail married Eli NORTHRUP in 1739; see Northrup (1908), p. 19. A little information on son Benjamin at Phoenix (1878), 1:68; he married Deborah BENNETT (dau of James, above), and a daughter Abiah married a Whitney descendant. (9 other children of that couple are in “Morris/Parsons family tree” by Pam Parsons in Rootsweb’s WorldConnect.)

**WOOD: Jonathan** Wood, previously of Huntington and Jamaica, Long Island, came to Norwalk in 1706. Selleck (1896) has a section on him (pp. 471–476), saying he was an early purchaser of land at Ridgefield, though he remained at Norwalk. He purchased half of Joseph CRAMPTON’s right in 1712. (1:40) Welsh (1976, p. 87), notes that he lived in the Cannondale section of Wilton and received permission to attend church in Ridgefield. A pedigree of some of his descendants is found in Phoenix (1878), vol.1, page 104. Online sites identify Jonathan’s wife as a Titus—usually Mary but sometimes Hannah. See Rosemary C. Bachelor’s writeup at: [http://genealogy.suite101.com/article.cfm/robert\\_titus\\_founded\\_ny\\_new\\_england\\_families](http://genealogy.suite101.com/article.cfm/robert_titus_founded_ny_new_england_families) Jonathan’s ancestry was covered by Matthew Yavner Wood, *Early Wood families on Long Island: the origin and descendants of Edmund Wood and Jonas Wood "Halifax,"* a typescript with good documentation; FHL Call no. 929.273 W85c; FHL Film no. 1036258 Item 1. Jonathan’s chapter begins on leaf 109. Three sons who are found in Ridgefield’s land records were Jonathan, Obadiah, and Titus; a fourth son, Isaac, married the widow of Joseph CRAMPTON and settled at South Salem. **Jonathan** Wood (b. c1691-2) had two children’s births recorded at Ridgefield before returning to Norwalk/Wilton. Three sons (David, Daniel, and Solomon) later moved to Ridgefield’s “New Patent” (Ridgebury), while daughter Martha married Lemuel ABBOTT. The Wood pedigree in Phoenix follows some descendants of Jonathan II, and also includes his brothers Titus and Obadiah, though no descents for them. **Obadiah** Wood is covered briefly in Jacobus, *FOOF*, 2:1063–1064. Selleck notes he purchased land in Ridgefield’s Limestone District, but eventually settled at South Salem; his 1791 death was recorded at the Presbyterian Church there. Daughter Molly “married a Whitlock and went to Ridgebury, Conn.” A granddaughter married a Kellogg, as found in Timothy Hopkins, *The Kelloggs in the Old World and the New* (1901), v. 1, p. 167.

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Keeler (2000): Keeler, Wesley B. *Keeler family: Ralph Keeler of Norwalk, Connecticut and some of his descendants, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, c2000)

*NEHGR*: *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*

Northrup: Ansel Judd, *The Northrup-Northrop genealogy: a record of the known descendants of Joseph Northrup, who came from England in 1637, and was one of the original settlers of Milford, Conn., in 1639...* (New York: Grafton Press, c1908)

*NYGBR*: *New York Genealogical and Biographical Review*

Phoenix (1878): Phoenix, S. Whitney. *The Whitney family of Connecticut and its affiliations : being an attempt to trace the descendants, as well in the female as the male lines, of Henry Whitney, from 1649 to 1878; to which is prefixed some account of the Whitneys in England* (New York: Bradstreet Press, 1878), 3 vol. (2740 p.).

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*TAG*: *The American Genealogist*

Welsh (1976): Welsh, Glenna, *The Proprietors of Ridgefield* (Ridgefield: Ridgefield Historical Society, 1976)

## How I Helped Change Paul Prindle's Book

Paul R. Finch<sup>1</sup>

I BECAME INTERESTED IN MY PERSONAL FAMILY HISTORY IN THE LATE 1960's. In the early 1970's, realizing that my family was one of the earliest settlers of Stamford, Connecticut, I joined the *Stamford Genealogical Society* during that time. As a result, I got to meet one of the most respected and impressionable genealogists of our time, Mr. Paul W. Prindle, FASG.

Paul Prindle was truly a gentleman and a thorough genealogist. He and I had exchanged ideas frequently, especially on matters concerning the Finch Family. Much insightful information was gleaned from Mr. Prindle in those days, and I cherish the insightful comments that I have gained from him as a result.

I remember discussing with Mr. Prindle the work on the Finch family that was done back in 1955 and updated in 1965, by the late Claude B. Thummel, a retired military colonel of the United States Army. I had spoken with Col. Thummel on the phone on several occasions. Col. Thummel was another individual who helped shape my ideas and goals.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. Prindle told me that he had frequently consulted Thummel's work and that Col. Thummel had done, in his words: "not a half bad job." It was (and still remains) my wish that some day I would be able to present my own contribution to the Finch family genealogy that would update and correct Thummel's edition. Mr. Prindle's contribution to the Finch family, as well as a number of other leading early settlers to Stamford, is one of the greatest of genealogical achievements for early Stamford, Connecticut, families.<sup>3</sup>

Currently, I am working on a new published transcription of the *Stamford Town Records*, volume 1.<sup>4</sup> This new edition will not only be strictly a transcription. It will be a critical edition of these vital records, meaning that it will use the 1882 transcription as a baseline in which will be compared with other secondary sources, such as Huntington's *Register*,<sup>5</sup> Donald Lines Jacobus'

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2 A copy of Col. Thummel's typescript manuscript entitled *The Descendants* (sic) of *John Finch* is in the Connecticut State Library, as well as the DAR Library in Washington, D.C. It is now available online at: <http://contentdm.lib.byu.edu./cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/FH13&CISOPTR=20624&REC=12>.

3 Paul W. Prindle, *Ancestry of Elizabeth Barrett Gillespie (Mrs. William Sperry Beinecke)* (New Orleans: Polyantrios, 1976). It would be a worthy endeavor to have this book back in print.

4 The original volumes of the Stamford Town Records, volumes 1 and 2, have never been microfilmed. A transcription of these records has been done by the Stamford Town's Clerks office back in 1882. The Family History Library did microfilm this 1882 transcription and they are now presently available to the general public for purchase through the Connecticut Ancestry Society, online at: <http://www.connecticutancestry.org/>. They are also available for review through a local Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, microfilm no. 0,005,570. See online at <http://www.familysearch.org/eng/library/fh/catalog/printing/titledetailsprint.asp?titleno=443705>.

5 Elijah Baldwin Huntington, *Stamford Registration of Births, Marriages, and Deaths Including Every Name, Relationship, and Date Now Found in the Stamford Registers From the First Record down the Year 1825* (Stamford, Conn.: Wm. W. Gillespie & Co., 1874).

1930's abstraction,<sup>6</sup> the *Barbour Collection*,<sup>7</sup> as well as Paul Prindle's book,<sup>8</sup> David Webster's book,<sup>9</sup> and other sources that cite the original *Stamford Town Records*. So far, over 700 footnotes have been added to this project thus far, correcting many errors that have occurred in other secondary works.<sup>10</sup>

I have long recognized that there have been many discrepancies within the various sources. It is interesting to note that even back in the early 1970's, as a budding genealogist, I had seen discrepancies in the *Stamford Town Records*, against what was stated in two secondary sources, such as the *Barbour Collection* of vital statistics in the Connecticut State Library and Donald Lines Jacobus' abstraction in the 1930's. As a result, when Paul Prindle published an article on some early Finch-Mead problems,<sup>11</sup> it was an article that I had definite interested in.

I then noticed a discrepancy in what Mr. Prindle reported as to what the Barbour Collection stated and what Mr. Jacobus had abstracted in one particular instance. As a result, I was prompted to write to Mr. Prindle in October of 1975 concerning this discrepancy, and Mr. Prindle responded within two weeks.

The problem that I could see was that Mr. Prindle relied on the Barbour Collection (a tertiary source), which in turn relied on the 1882 transcription (a secondary source) to make a conclusion that was completely false. The original record referred to was *Stamford Town Records*, 1:76.

These correspondences, seen for the very first time since they were written, are here presented. The result of these correspondences was that it served Mr. Prindle to present a corrected update not only to his article, but to his book, *Ancestry of Elizabeth Barrett Gillespie*, page 42, as well.<sup>12</sup>

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6 Donald Lines Jacobus, "Stamford (Conn.) Town Records," [Part 1], *The American Genealogist and New Haven Genealogical Magazine* 10:1 (July, 1933): 40-45; [Part 2], *TAG*, 10:2 (Oct., 1933): 110-118; [Part 3], *TAG*, 10:3 (Jan., 1934): 174-183; [Part 4], *TAG*, 11:1 (July, 1934): 32-41; [Part 5], *TAG*, 11:2 (Oct., 1934): 87-98; [Part 6], *TAG*, 11:3 (Jan., 1935): 157-166; [Part 7], *TAG*, 11:4 (Apr., 1935): 220-229.

7 Lucius Barnes Barbour, and Lucius A. Barbour. *Barbour Collection: Connecticut Vital Records prior to 1850*. 50 volumes of bound transcripts, (Hartford: Connecticut State Library, 1874-1934). See online at <http://www.cslib.org/barbour.htm>). These records are also available from the Family History Library, 98 microfilm reels. Salt Lake City: Genealogical Society of Utah, 1949.

8 Paul W. Prindle, *Ancestry of Elizabeth Barrett Gillespie (Mrs. William Sperry Beinecke)* (New Orleans: Polyantrios, 1976).

9 David Webster Hoyt, *A Genealogical History of the Hoyt, Haight, and Hight Families: With Some Account of the Earlier Hyatt Families; A List of the First Settlers of Salisbury and Amesbury, Massachusetts, etc.* (Providence: Providence Press Co., 1871, Repr. Rockport, Maine: Picton Press, 2003).

10 Over 200 errors have been identified in *Huntington's Register* by this author thus far. This fact alone makes this forthcoming project not only a milestone achievement, but one which is essential in replacing previously reported citations that have been in error, including even some reported by Donald Lines Jacobus.

11 Paul W. Prindle, "Some Early Finch-Mead Problems," *TAG* 48:2 (Apr., 1972): 95-9.

12 It is interesting that Mr. Prindle made no mention in his book that this was a correction to his previous view, nor to the fact as to why he changed his mind.

Meriden, Conn.  
Oct. 13, 1975

Dear Mr. Prindle,

I have just read your article with some interest, "Some Early Finch-Head Problems," TAG, 48:93-99.

I would like to inquire about one particular statement which you had made therein which apparently seemed to me to be incorrect. In reference to the marriage of Joseph Finch Jr. and Elizabeth Austin you stated: "Stamford Town Records 1:113 gives the marriage date as 23 Nov. 16--, the last two digits being illegible. Donald Lines Jacobus, in his history and genealogy of the families of Old Fairfield 1:201, shows the year as 1670, but that seems doubtful, for the first-born of that marriage, Elizabeth Finch was born 14 Nov. 1669 (Stamford Town Records 1:76)."

The birth record that you cite of Elizabeth Finch was redacted by Mr. Jacobus in his "Source Material for a Finch Genealogy" as follows: "Elizabeth, dau. of Jsa<sup>c</sup> ffinch, b. 14 Nov. 1669" (TAG, 19:58). This Elizabeth, therefore, appears to be a daughter of Isaac---not Joseph. E. B. Huntington also attributed Elizabeth as the daughter of Isaac (Hist. of Stamf., p. 159).

Having not investigated the actual record myself, I can not draw my own conclusion, however I was curious about this discrepancy. The reason I thought that it was an error on your part is that it seemed to me that if you intended to show that previously it had been thought that this Elizabeth was the daughter of Isaac but was really the daughter of Joseph that you most assuredly would have brought this point out.

I respectfully submit this point for your consideration, especially if it has not been brought to your attention by now.

I would like very much to some day compile a genealogy of the early Finch family. If you have information that would help in this endeavor, it would be most welcomed and certainly appreciated.

Sincerely,

*Paul R. Finch*  
Paul R. Finch

## PAUL W. PRINDLE

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Telephone (203) 655-0025

FELLOW OF  
*The American Society  
of Genealogists*

27 October 1975

CONTRIBUTING  
EDITOR  
*The American Genealogist*

Mr. Paul R. Finch  
110 Coe Avenue  
Meriden, Ct. 06450

Dear Paul:

Your letter of 13 October was awaiting me upon my return last Wednesday from the annual meeting of the American Society of Genealogists at Raleigh, N.C.

I do appreciate your calling to my attention the error of showing Elizabeth, born 14 November 1669, as daughter of Joseph Finch. I was following the transcript of the Stamford Town Records, as did Lucius Barbour in his Collection, which does have Joseph as Elizabeth's father. But the original record itself shows Isaac, Joseph's brother, as her father. I am changing my book to show the correct relationship, thanks to you.

When my book is finally published, hopefully early in 1976, I'll be glad to provide you with a copy of the Finch chapter and with such materials as I have accumulated. Most of them, however, are from printed sources, which you presumably have seen.

Again, many thanks.

ost

Yours,



**St. Mary's (New and Old) Cemeteries, Ansonia, CT:  
Headstone Inscriptions Listing Immigrants' Birthplaces**

Paul R. Keroack

St. Mary's Church was built in Derby in 1845. Cemetery property on Wakelee Ave. (at Burton St.), across the town line in Ansonia, was purchased on August 27, 1847 by a parishioner and transferred to the bishop in 1851. The first burial was in December of 1847. A second cemetery, further south on the same avenue, was purchased in 1861, the first then becoming known as "Old St. Mary's" - "Tercentenary Pictorial and History of the Lower Naugatuck Valley," p. 41-42.

I have compared my readings with the Hale Headstone Collection transcriptions and have arranged them in the order of the page numbers from that collection. Names or numbers in parentheses from Hale that differ from my reading are noted in the right-hand column. I have used some abbreviations to standardize common wording and to save space. Irish place names in parentheses are suggested readings from Brian Mitchell's "A New Genealogical Atlas of Ireland," 2<sup>nd</sup> ed., 2002 or from [www.seanruad.com](http://www.seanruad.com).

**New St. Mary's Cemetery – Hale 201-2**

|     |   |           |                  |
|-----|---|-----------|------------------|
| 136 | Mary <b>McCarthy</b> of London, England d Oct 16, 1873<br>ae 48   | England   |                  |
| 136 | Mary <b>Roach</b> d Nov 2, 1877 ae 65, native of<br>Rockmills, Co Cork; James Roach d Aug 24, 1891 ae<br>58; Mary <b>Magner</b> d July 4, 1878 ae 50; Rosey <b>Smith</b><br>d May 31, 1880[90?] ae 48 | Cork      | Hale has<br>1890 |
| 138 | Daniel <b>Driscoll</b> , native of Carrig----, parish of<br>Kilmalagh [?], Co Cork, d Jan 6, 1871 ae 20[40]   | Cork      | Hale has 40      |
| 139 | James <b>Heffernan</b> d Aug 30, 1885 age 85, native of the<br>parish of Glenroue, Co Limerick; Michael Heffernan<br>& wife d April 17 & 23, 1900   | Limerick  |                  |
| 142 | Cornelius <b>Darrigan</b> d July 24, 1898, native of<br>Limerick  | Limerick  |                  |
| 143 | Michael <b>Costello</b> d July 10, 1874 ae 52, native of the<br>parish of Summerhill, Co Meath  | Meath     |                  |
| 143 | Margaret wife of John <b>Houlihan</b> d July 6, 1871 ae 35,<br>native of the parish of Lisdowny, Co Kilkenny; John<br>Houlihan d June 14, 1880 ae 45  | Kilkenny  |                  |
| 145 | Thomas <b>Lannon</b> d Nov 5, 1877 age 56, native of the<br>parish of Lisdowny, Co Kilkenny; Ellen his wife d<br>Dec 5, 1893  | Kilkenny  |                  |
| 145 | Rev. P. J. <b>McKenna</b> b in the Co Tipperary Feb 10,<br>1844 d July 8, 1873  | Tipperary |                  |
| 145 | Rev. Michael J. <b>McAuley</b> b in the Co Cavan Feb 25,<br>1844, d March 12, 1878  | Cavan     |                  |

|     |   |                  |                              |
|-----|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| 145 | Rev. P.J. <b>O'Dwyer</b> b in the Co Tipperary May 5, 1828, d June 7, 1877  | Tipperary        |                              |
| 145 | Rev. John <b>Lynch</b> b in the Co Cavan Oct 6, 1829, d Oct 11, 1878  | Cavan            |                              |
| 147 | John <b>McMahon</b> b June 12, 1844, d Dec 22, 1876, son of John & Mary McMahon, native of Kilafin, Co Clare  | Clare            |                              |
| 150 | Hanora wife of Patrick <b>O'Dwyer</b> d Aug 2, 1877 ae 65, native of Glenroe, Co Limerick   | Limerick         |                              |
| 152 | Catherine <b>O'Sullivan</b> d Sept 18, 1883 ae 52; erected by her sister Johanna O'Sullivan d Dec 28, 1909 ae 72; Hannah <b>O'Donnell</b> d Dec 21, 1895 ae 52, natives of Mitchelstown, Co Cork  | Cork             |                              |
| 153 | William J. <b>Scully</b> , April 15, 1848-July 14, 1919; Ellen <b>Ryan</b> his wife, b in Co Cork, April 25, 1847-Jan 12, 1896  | Cork             |                              |
| 156 | [John] <b>Don-[ivan]</b> , [d] Oct 11, 1880 ae 29, native of Clonakilty, Co Cork  | Cork             | Hale has Donivan; stone worn |
| 157 | John <b>Bennett</b> d Jan 17, 1884 ae 75, native of Gurthskaugh, parish of Charleville, Co Cork; Ellen his wife d Aug 21, 1893 ae 76  | Cork             |                              |
| 158 | William <b>McCarthy</b> b in London, England, Sept 17, 1825, d Nov 18, 1897; Ann <b>Cassidy</b> his wife, dau of John & Ann Cassidy, b in Co Louth Feb 26, 1826, d Jan 28, 1917   | England<br>Louth |                              |
| 158 | John <b>Pender</b> d Oct 22, 1918 ae 68; Mary <b>Dermody</b> his wife d Feb 19, 1899 ae 45, native of Uppercourt, Freshford, Co Kilkenny; Margaret Dermody d Feb 28, 1884 ae 52, wife of William Dermody who d in Ire   | Kilkenny         |                              |
| 159 | Catherine <b>Crowley</b> wife of William <b>Molan</b> d March 22, 1881 ae 29; William Molan native of Glanworth, Co Cork d July 23, 1898 ae 57; Thomas Molan native of Glanworth, Co Cork d Nov 2, 1901 ae 55; Anne <b>Regan</b> [his] wife native of Clonakilty, Co Cork d July 27, 1904 ae 48 | Cork             |                              |
| 160 | John <b>Lane</b> d Nov 1, 1881 ae 44, native of the parish of Glanworth, Co Cork; Bridget <b>Kelleher</b> his wife d Nov 8, 1905  | Cork             |                              |
| 160 | Patrick B. <b>Fraher</b> d Jan 26, 1880 ae 45, native of Co Cork; Mary <b>Fahy</b> his wife d. Nov 21, 1917 ae 80   | Cork             |                              |
| 164 | William D. <b>Leahy</b> d Oct 31, 1929 ae 73; Anastasia <b>Hart</b> his wife d Aug 9, 1885, ae 32; natives of Co Cork   | Cork             |                              |



|     |   |           |             |
|-----|---|-----------|-------------|
| 168 | Thomas <b>O'Brien</b> d July 18, 1882 ae 82, b in the parish of Ahane, Co Limerick; Mary his wife d June 30, 1893 ae 95[91?]  | Limerick  | Hale has 91 |
| 171 | Christopher <b>Nally</b> d July 8, 1898 aged 88 yrs, native of Mountain Parish, Co Westmeath; Jane <b>Fury</b> wife of Christopher Nally, b Oct 4, 1820, d June 4, 1901                           | Westmeath |             |
| 171 | William <b>Fallon</b> , b in the parish of Kilbeggin, Co Westmeath; d Aug 20, 1901 age 78[73?]; Bridget <b>Daly</b> his wife d Nov 6, 1908 age 72   | Westmeath | Hale has 73 |
| 172 | Bridget <b>Shea</b> d May 13, 1868 ae 46, native of Carrickaholt, Co Clare  | Clare     |             |
| 173 | Michael <b>McLaughlin</b> d May 1, 1866 ae 58; Mrs Margaret McLaughlin d July 29, 1890 ae 85; parish of Kilguffin, Co Roscommon   | Roscommon |             |
| 174 | Michael <b>Condon</b> ; Kate <b>McGee</b> his wife d Feb 28, 1894 ae 31 yrs, native of Co Cavan   | Cavan     |             |
| 175 | John <b>Sullivan</b> d Sept 18, 1865 ae 18[?], native of Booleykeely, parish of Mitchelstown, Co Cork   | Cork      |             |
| 175 | John <b>Reilly</b> d June 5, 1875 ae 80; Bridget his wife d Feb 11, 1875 ae 63; John their son d Feb 18, 1887 ae 43, natives of Co Cavan  | Cavan     |             |
| 176 | In memory of Ann <b>Walsh</b> native of ---llereighan, Co Cavan, d Feb 10, 1864, 16 yrs, 11 mos.  | Cavan     |             |
| 176 | Ellen, wife of Michael <b>O'Connor</b> , d Oct 6, 1865 ae 37, native of Clonkilta[Clonkilty], Co Cork; Michael O'Connor d June 18, 1876 ae 41, native of Ballynihan, parish of Glanworth, Co Cork | Cork      |             |
| 176 | John <b>Canary</b> b in the parish of Castlelyons, Co Cork, d April 15, 1886 ae 48  | Cork      |             |
| 176 | James <b>Condon</b> d Dec 9, 1885 ae 67, native of Killee, parish of Mitchelstown, Co Cork  | Cork      |             |
| 177 | Andrew <b>Buckley</b> , native of Kilmichael, Co Cork, d March 19, 1864 ae 29   | Cork      |             |
| 178 | James <b>Crowley</b> b in the parish of Rinagh [?], Co Cork, d March 21, 1865 ae 53   | Cork      |             |
| 179 | Timothy <b>Hayes</b> , native of Caherline, Co Limerick, d June 30, 1864 ae 66  | Limerick  |             |
| 181 | Richard <b>McMahon</b> d Dec 29, 1871 ae 45, native of Co Clare; Bridget T. <b>O'Brien</b> his wife d Sept 19, 1918 ae 89   | Clare     |             |
| 182 | Patrick <b>Colo</b> , b 1816, d 1886; Ellen his wife b 1818, d 1900; parish of Amper, Co Westmeath  | Westmeath |             |
| 183 | Thomas <b>Tirney</b> d June 19, 1871 ae 33 yrs, native of the parish of Conard [Granard?], Co Longford  | Longford  |             |

|               |  |                 |                         |
|---------------|--|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 183           | Timothy <b>Ryan</b> d July 29, 1879 ae 65; Mary his wife d Oct 19, 1880 ae 65, natives of the parish of Desert, Co Cork  | Cork            |                         |
| 183<br>[185?] | Ellen wife of Michael <b>Donovan</b> d ----, native of Clonakilty, Co Cork ----  | Cork            | Identity in Hale unsure |
| 186           | James <b>Coleman</b> , b in the parish of Fermoy, Co Cork, April 8, 1807, d Nov 15, 1883, ae 76; Bridget his wife b in the parish of Clune, Co Leitrim, Oct 15, 1811, d Jan 30, 1887 | Cork<br>Leitrim |                         |
| 190           | Bridget <b>McLarney</b> d Sept 26, 1880 ae 68, native of Crosserlough, Co Cavan; Margaret <b>McGinnis</b> d April 4, 1877 ae 64, native of Ballymachugh Co Cavan                     | Cavan           |                         |
| 192           | Thomas <b>Brady</b> , b in Co Cavan, d Jan 9, 1888 ae 72   | Cavan           |                         |
| 193           | Daniel <b>Mulrey</b> d Oct 17, 1911 ae 69 yrs; Ann <b>Dolan</b> his wife d April 7, 1905 ae 55 yrs, native of Roscommon  | Roscommon       |                         |
| 193           | Patrick <b>Reardon</b> d March 11, 1881, native of the parish of Kilfinnane, Co Limerick, [ae 65]  | Limerick        | Hale has age 65         |
| 193           | Michael <b>Mahoney</b> b in Colewood, parish of Clonkilty, Co Cork, d April 14, 1884 ae 61 yrs; erected by his wife Julia Mahoney  | Cork            |                         |
| 194           | Thomas <b>Lonergan</b> d March 20, 1885 ae 35 yrs, native of Cashel, Co Tipperary  | Tipperary       |                         |
| 195           | In memory of Patrick <b>McGiveney</b> d July 2, 1901 age 54 yrs; b in Co Cavan; Catherine O. <b>Shea</b> his wife d May 6, 1929 ae 79 yrs  | Cavan           |                         |
| 196           | Catherine <b>Frawley</b> wife of John Frawley d July 2, 1885 age 82 yrs, native of the parish of Kilofin, Co Clare   | Clare           |                         |

**Old St. Mary's Cemetery – Hale 201-5**

|     |  |            |   |
|-----|--|------------|---|
|     | Catherine <b>Doherty</b> , wife of Wm. L____, d. July 21, 1856 ae 28; my brothers Geo. d. Nov 14, 1853 ae 35; John d. Aug. 2, 1857 ae 34, natives of C__ llines [Carrigaline?], Co. Cork | Cork       | Inscribed on reverse of stone of Wm. Tyner, p. 242; not found in Hale |
| 235 | In memory of my mother, Julia <b>Grady</b> , native of Balimore [Ballymore], Co. Westmeath, who d. July 15, 1852 ae 45   | West Meath |   |

|     |  |           |   |
|-----|--|-----------|---|
| 237 | Mary <b>Crowley</b> , wife of Lawrence <b>Ryan</b> , native of Keuch[?], Co. Cork, d. Nov. 18, 1853[7] ae 22   | Cork      | Hale has 1857   |
| 237 | Patrick <b>Dillon</b> d. June[Jan] 25, 1861 ae 45, native of Co. Killarney; erected by his wife Judith <b>Campion</b> , d. Feb. 28, 1892 ae 80   | Killarney | Hale has January  |
| 237 | <b>Winne</b> , Peter...Ire, Killuney... [Killanny?], Co. of Louth, d. [Jan] 27, 1870[5] ae 57; erected by his [son?] William Winne   | Louth     | Hale has 1875; "Jan" from Hale  |
| 238 | Peter <b>Reed</b> , d. Sept. 28, 1871 ae 75[71]; Bridget his wife d. Oct 11, 1842 ae 30; children James and Ann [; James d. Aug 13, 1854 ae 16; Ann d. June 8, 1870 ae 34;] Margaret, their daughter d. Feb. 19, 1887 ae 50; natives of Auch Kilmore [Aghakilmore], parish of Ballymacua [Ballymachugh], Co. Cavan | Cavan     | Hale has 71; Hale has dates for James & Ann – perhaps on adjacent stones? |
| 239 | Michael <b>Reynolds</b> , native of Co. Leitrim, d. Dec. 28, 1884 ae 57; Maria <b>Tiernan</b> his wife d. Mar. 30, 1904 ae 70  | Leitrim   |   |
| 239 | Erected by Patrick <b>Monaghan</b> in memory of his wife Margaret, native of the parish of Anna [Annagh], Co. Cavan, d. July 20, 1859 ae 60  | Cavan     |   |
| 239 | John <b>McEnerney</b> d. Jan. 17, 1854 ae 51[54], native of Castle Sunderson [Saunderson], parish of Anna, Co. Cavan   | Cavan     | Hale has 54   |
| 240 | In memory of Jeremiah <b>Hayley</b> , native of the parish of Fermoy, Co.Cork, d. Aug.[April] 10, 1856 ae 22   | Cork      | Hale has April  |
| 243 | In memory of Timothy <b>Driscoll</b> , d. Sept. 28, 1860 ae 30, native of the parish of Clonkilty [Co. Cork]   | Cork      |   |
| 243 | Alice <b>Grogan</b> d. July 18, 1861 ae 49; Alice d. July 9, 1861 ae 21; Mary d. Dec. 2, 1862 ae 18; John d. ___ 25, 1863 ae 14, children of [Wm.] & Alice Grogan; natives of Kings Co.  | Kings     | Hale has William Grogan as father   |

Additionally, Janet Maher (jlmaher@mac.com), a colleague also researching the St. Mary's cemeteries, transcribed a stone I had apparently overlooked at St. Mary's New Cemetery (201-2):

|  |   |          |  |
|--|---|----------|--|
|  | John J. <b>Butler</b> , b. Kilkenny, Ire, d. May 13, 1907 ae 63; Mary <b>Conaty</b> his wife d. Aug. 27, 1912 ...<br>Thomas Butler d. March 5, 1882 ae 84 | Kilkenny |  |
|--|---|----------|--|

## Burials in Catholic Cemeteries in Bridgeport, Connecticut, 1864-1866

Nora Galvin  
auntlizzie@snet.net

Lists of people buried in Bridgeport cemeteries in the years 1861-1877 are found on unnumbered pages (following p. 108) at the back of a volume of Bridgeport vital records, Deaths 1855-1870. The lists give the name of the deceased, the date of burial and the deceased's age—usually in years for adults, but including months or days for many children. These lists cover all of the cemeteries in Bridgeport.<sup>1</sup> However, the burials in “Catholic Cemeteries” particularly interest this researcher. The Catholic population in Bridgeport in this time period was primarily Irish in origin, as evidenced by the names on the list, and most of the adults were immigrants who had been in the United States for 20 or fewer years. As immigrants they may not have been able to afford headstones. In this time period the Catholic cemeteries were St. James (the older of the two), located on Grove Street in the West End, and St. Augustine, located at Arctic and Helen Streets in east Bridgeport. Since there are few headstones in these cemeteries and cemetery records do not exist, if no burial place was given on a death record, no one would know where those without headstones were buried.

A previous *Connecticut Ancestry* article provided the Catholic cemetery burials in 1862 and stated that of the 96 burials, only nine were found in the Hale Collection (*Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions*) and all of them were located in St. Augustine Cemetery.<sup>2</sup> It is not known when burials began in St. Augustine, but this fact might indicate that St. James Cemetery had reached its capacity and that in the 1860s most if not all Catholic burials took place at St. Augustine. St. Michael Cemetery in Stratford did not open until the 1880s.

A full comparison of the burial lists and the Bridgeport death records was not conducted for the three years reported here. On the 1864 list, however, all of the names of the buried were found in the death records as well. In later years some names were not found in the Bridgeport records, suggesting either that the death was not recorded or that the death occurred in another town that may not have had a Catholic cemetery.

A note about the records themselves: The lists were presented by the sexton or some other representative of each cemetery, apparently after the end of the year. Because the handwriting for different cemeteries was the same, it appears that in each given year the burial lists were copied into the record book by one individual, most likely an employee in the town clerk's office. For the Catholic cemeteries the sexton, also called superintendent, was Thomas J. Synnott, the pastor of St. James parish. Although the names of those buried in Catholic cemeteries were entered in order of burial date, in this article they have been arranged alphabetically by surname to help researchers find names of interest. Images of the burial lists for the Catholic cemeteries were printed from microfilm copies at the Connecticut State Library. Transcriptions were made from these photocopies. Spelling is exactly as found in the burial lists (as well as could be interpreted). Astute readers will note that some of the spelling appears to be phonetic, (for example, Dewire probably is Dwyer).

<sup>1</sup> Bridgeport, Connecticut, Vital Records, Deaths, 1855-1870, Vital Records Office, McLevy Hall, Bridgeport, Connecticut.

<sup>2</sup> Galvin, Nora, “Bridgeport Catholic Cemeteries Burial List for 1862: Most Deaths Not Found in the Vital Records, *Connecticut Ancestry*, 51:4, p. 175.

|                      | <u>Name</u>    | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            |             |
|----------------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                      |                | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> | <u>Days</u> |
| Ellen                | Allen          | 1866               | Dec          | 24         | 18         |            |             |
| James                | Allen          | 1865               | Nov          | 27         | 3          |            |             |
| David W.             | Anderson       | 1865               | Aug          | 14         |            | 6          |             |
| Ann                  | Barry          | 1864               | Aug          | 9          | 34         |            |             |
| Anna Maria           | Barry          | 1864               | Aug          | 12         |            | 4          |             |
| Philip B.            | Beck           | 1866               | Aug          | 25         | 1          | 2          |             |
| John                 | Bee            | 1865               | June         | 18         | 69         |            |             |
| Walter J.            | Blansfield     | 1865               | Dec          | 28         | 11         |            |             |
| Mary                 | Boyle          | 1866               | Jan          | 20         |            | 2          | 26          |
| Patrick              | Boyle          | 1864               | Oct          | 17         | 36         |            |             |
| Still born of Barney | Boyle          | 1864               | May          | 3          |            |            |             |
| Hugh                 | Brady          | 1866               | June         | 14         | 2          |            |             |
| James P.             | Brady          | 1866               | Nov          | 16         | 1          | 8          |             |
| John                 | Brady          | 1866               | Mch          | 17         |            |            | 1           |
| Mary                 | Brien          | 1865               | Jany         | 6          | 50         |            |             |
| Henry                | Brophy         | 1866               | Aug          | 11         |            | 8          |             |
| Anna A.              | Bulger         | 1865               | Sept         | 2          |            | 10         | 17          |
| Barney               | Burns          | 1866               | July         | 5          |            | 11         |             |
| Emma Kate            | Burns          | 1866               | Nov          | 6          |            | 7          | 12          |
| Daniel               | Cakly [sic]    | 1866               | Oct          | 23         | 53         |            |             |
| Julia J.             | Calihan        | 1865               | Dec          | 12         | 1          |            |             |
| Rose                 | Callan         | 1865               | Aug          | 21         |            | 7          |             |
| Patrick J.           | Campana        | 1866               | Dec          | 3          |            | 3          |             |
| Mary                 | Campanna       | 1866               | Sept         | 23         | 24         |            |             |
| John                 | Carey or Casey | 1864               | Aug          | 8          | 62         |            |             |
| Catherine E.         | Carrick        | 1866               | Oct          | 15         |            | 2          |             |
| Elisa A.             | Carroll        | 1866               | Nov          | 2          |            | 3          |             |
| [blank]              | Carton         | 1866               | Dec          | 12         |            |            | 7           |
| James B.             | Casey          | 1866               | Mch          | 17         |            |            | 21          |
| John                 | Casey          | 1865               | Jany         | 30         | 5          |            |             |
| Patrick              | Catter         | 1866               | July         | 25         | 27         |            |             |
| John                 | Cavaney        | 1864               | July         | 7          | 5          |            |             |
| John                 | Coffield       | 1866               | Sept         | 17         |            |            | 1           |
| James                | Coggens        | 1866               | July         | 18         |            | 6          |             |
| Joseph L.            | Cohen          | 1864               | May          | 1          | 3          | 8          |             |
| David                | Cokly          | 1865               | July         | 29         | 22         |            |             |
| Margarett            | Colgan         | 1866               | Dec          | 7          |            | 6          |             |
| Mary                 | Colgan         | 1866               | July         | 3          | 65         | 5          |             |
| Francis              | Conlin         | 1866               | July         | 20         | 9          |            |             |
| Augustus             | Conner         | 1865               | Aug          | 1          |            | 11         |             |
| John                 | Connor         | 1866               | Dec          | 2          | 40         |            |             |
| Ann                  | Connors        | 1864               | Mays         | 24         | 2          | 6          |             |

| <u>Name</u> |                | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            |             |
|-------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|             |                | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> | <u>Days</u> |
| John        | Connors        | 1864               | Sept         | 1          | 6          |            |             |
| Mary        | Connors        | 1864               | Sept         | 1          | 11         |            |             |
| Sarah Ann   | Connors        | 1864               | Nov          | 16         | 1          | 10         |             |
| Ann         | Corrigan       | 1865               | Oct          | 28         | 33         |            |             |
| Patrick     | Costello       | 1866               | Oct          | 22         | 28         |            |             |
| Johanna     | Coughlin       | 1864               | July         | 23         | 2          |            |             |
| James       | Coupland       | 1865               | Apr          | 23         |            | 10         |             |
| William H.  | Croyton        | 1866               | Mch          | 14         |            | 9          |             |
| Christopher | Curley         | 1866               | Dec          | 5          |            |            | 10          |
| Margaret    | Daily          | 1864               | Aug          | 24         | 6          |            |             |
| Elizabeth   | Dennis         | 1866               | May          | 15         | 57         |            |             |
| William E.  | Devitt         | 1864               | Jany         | 15         | 1          | 8          |             |
| Julia E.    | Dewire         | 1866               | Oct          | 21         |            | 9          |             |
| John        | Dolan          | 1866               | May          | 5          | 60         |            |             |
| Mary        | Donohue        | 1866               | Aug          | 1          | 32         |            |             |
| Mary        | Donsworth      | 1865               | Mch          | 19         |            | 1          | 17          |
| Peter       | Doolan         | 1864               | July         | 24         |            | 1          |             |
| Margarett   | Doran          | 1865               | Dec          | 25         |            | 7          |             |
| Ann         | Downey         | 1865               | Jany         | 16         |            | 5          |             |
| John        | Downey         | 1866               | Sept         | 12         | 40         |            |             |
| David T.    | Duane          | 1865               | Aug          | 3          | 2          | 5          |             |
| William     | Dunn           | 1866               | July         | 11         | 55         |            |             |
| Ann         | Eagan          | 1866               | Feb          | 1          | 70         |            |             |
| Michael     | Eagan          | 1866               | Jan          | 16         | 65         |            |             |
| Catherine   | Egan           | 1864               | Dec          | 30         | 31         |            |             |
| John        | Egan           | 1864               | Dec          | 26         |            |            | 1           |
| David       | Ennik or Ennis | 1866               | June         | 11         |            | 10         |             |
| Julia       | Fagan          | 1864               | Jany         | 13         | 48         |            |             |
| Catherine   | Farrall        | 1866               | July         | 15         | 44         |            |             |
| Bernard     | Farrell        | 1866               | Oct          | 22         |            | 3          |             |
| John        | Finn           | 1866               | Nov          | 4          | 46         |            |             |
| Jeremiah    | Flanigan       | 1864               | July         | 5          | 5          | 2          |             |
| Francis     | Flinn          | 1864               | Feby         | 29         | 2          | 4          |             |
| Margaret    | Flinter        | 1866               | Jan          | 11         |            | 5          |             |
| Patrick     | Flynn          | 1865               | Oct          | 16         |            |            | 1           |
| Wm.         | Flynn          | 1865               | Dec          | 2          |            | 9          |             |
| Thomas      | Ford           | 1865               | Jany         | 23         | 7          |            |             |
| Thomas H.   | Ford           | 1866               | Dec          | 21         |            | 3          |             |
| Eliza       | Fritz          | 1864               | Aug          | 10         | 1          | 8          |             |
| Morris      | Galaher        | 1866               | May          | 11         | 40         |            |             |
| Ellen C.    | Gallagher      | 1864               | July         | 25         |            | 8          |             |
| Mary        | Garrigan       | 1864               | Aug          | 13         | 42         |            |             |

|                       | <u>Name</u> | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            |             |
|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|                       |             | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> | <u>Days</u> |
| Catherine             | Garry       | 1866               | Oct          | 11         | 40         |            |             |
| James                 | Garry       | 1866               | June         | 4          | 40         |            |             |
| James                 | Gaul        | 1866               | Sept         | 23         | 4          | 2          |             |
| Thomas                | Gaul        | 1865               | June         | 28         |            |            | 1           |
| John                  | Gilmore     | 1864               | Dec          | 9          | 4          |            |             |
| Thomas                | Glancy      | 1865               | Sept         | 6          | 60         |            |             |
| John                  | Glenard     | 1866               | Feb          | 22         |            |            | 1           |
| Catharine             | Goodman     | 1865               | May          | 7          | 16         |            |             |
| Michael               | Grant       | 1864               | Nov          | 27         | 55         |            |             |
| John                  | Gregg       | 1866               | Nov          | 27         | 66         |            |             |
| Catharine             | Griffin     | 1865               | Nov          | 27         | 85         |            |             |
| Ellen                 | Griffin     | 1866               | Aug          | 8          | 1          |            |             |
| Bridget               | Hanley      | 1864               | Feby         | 14         | 21         | 5          |             |
| John                  | Hanley      | 1864               | Apl          | 13         | 2          | 5          |             |
| Kate                  | Hanley      | 1864               | Apl          | 17         | 9          |            |             |
| Eliza                 | Harmon      | 1865               | Sept         | 2          | 35         | 6          |             |
| Mary Ann              | Haux        | 1866               | Dec          | 18         |            | 10         |             |
| Owen                  | Hearty      | 1864               | Oct          | 19         | 58         |            |             |
| Edward                | Herbert     | 1865               | Aug          | 7          | 1          | 6          |             |
| Margarett             | Herbert     | 1865               | Oct          | 21         | 33         |            |             |
| Catherine             | Hickey      | 1864               | July         | 1          | 1          | 2          |             |
| James                 | Hickey      | 1865               | July         | 20         |            |            | 1           |
| Joseph B.             | Hotchkiss   | 1865               | Oct          | 4          | 1          | 3          |             |
| Jeremiah              | Howard      | 1865               | June         | 5          |            |            | 3           |
| Thomas                | Howard      | 1866               | July         | 18         |            |            | 14          |
| Catherine             | Hughes      | 1864               | Jany         | 15         | 77         |            |             |
| Elisabeth             | Hurley      | 1866               | Oct          | 20         |            |            | 22          |
| Jane                  | Hurley      | 1866               | July         | 20         | 75         |            |             |
| Terissa               | Hurley      | 1866               | Oct          | 18         |            |            | 21          |
| Andrew                | Judge       | 1866               | Feb          | 15         | 25         |            |             |
| Mary L.               | Judge       | 1866               | May          | 6          |            |            | 1           |
| Mary                  | Keefe       | 1865               | Apr          | 23         | 35         |            |             |
| James                 | Kelly       | 1864               | Mch          | 16         | 2          | 6          |             |
| John E.               | Kelly       | 1866               | Mch          | 5          | 4          | 3          |             |
| Lizzy                 | Kelly       | 1864               | Feby         | 15         | 2          |            |             |
| Matthew               | Kelly       | 1866               | May          | 12         | 44         |            |             |
| Michael               | Kelly       | 1865               | Sept         | 29         |            | 6          |             |
| Still born of Michael | Kelly       | 1864               | May          | 13         |            |            |             |
| Thomas                | Kelly       | 1864               | Dec          | 23         | 36         |            |             |
| Joseph                | Kenney      | 1864               | Dec          | 25         | 58         |            |             |
| Mary                  | Kiernan     | 1866               | July         | 8          | 32         |            |             |
| Thomas                | Kiernan     | 1864               | July         | 14         | 28         |            |             |

| <u>Name</u>  |            | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            | <u>Days</u> |
|--------------|------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|              |            | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> |             |
| Frank        | Langdon    | 1866               | Nov          | 19         |            |            | 7           |
| James        | Lawle      | 1865               | Oct          | 26         |            |            | 7           |
| Eddie        | Lawler     | 1866               | Aug          | 10         | 1          | 1          |             |
| Patrick      | Lawler     | 1866               | July         | 14         | 30         |            |             |
| Margaret     | Lee        | 1865               | Aug          | [blank]    |            | 7          |             |
| Margarett A. | Lefferty   | 1865               | Mch          | 9          |            | 8          |             |
| William J.   | Lennon     | 1864               | Aug          | 17         |            | 2          |             |
| Hannah       | Locker     | 1865               | Dec          | 24         | 45         |            |             |
| Mary A.      | Lockhart   | 1864               | Oct          | 10         | 53         |            |             |
| Daniel T.    | Madden     | 1866               | Dec          | 30         | 8          |            |             |
| Thomas       | Madden     | 1864               | Mch          | 22         | 50         |            |             |
| Catherine    | Malone     | 1864               | Apl          | 18         | 10         |            |             |
| Margarett    | Malone     | 1866               | July         | 21         | 9          |            |             |
| Thomas       | Malone     | 1865               | Apr          | 12         | 37         |            |             |
| Mary         | Masterson  | 1864               | Nov          | 30         | 28         |            |             |
| Johanna      | McAuliffe  | 1866               | Nov          | 28         | 62         |            |             |
| Mary Jane    | McAuliffe  | 1866               | Aug          | 5          | 5          | 4          |             |
| William C.   | McAuliffe  | 1866               | Dec          | 18         | 8          |            |             |
| Bernard      | McBride    | 1864               | Sept         | 29         | 19         |            |             |
| Hugh         | McCann     | 1866               | July         | 11         | 1          | 6          |             |
| Catherine    | McCullough | 1864               | Sept         | 15         | 1          |            |             |
| Mary Ann     | McDermott  | 1866               | Jan          | 11         | 4          | 8          |             |
| James        | McElroy    | 1865               | Mch          | 17         |            |            | 1           |
| Ellen        | McEneany   | 1864               | July         | 18         | 55         | 7          |             |
| Alex         | McFarland  | 1865               | Jany         | 14         | 41         |            |             |
| Sarah        | McGuire    | 1866               | Aug          | 13         | 21         | 9          |             |
| Jane         | McMann     | 1865               | Jany         | 30         | 2          |            |             |
| Sarah Jane   | McMullen   | 1866               | Apr          | 4          | 72         |            |             |
| Mary         | McNally    | 1864               | Mch          | 3          | 58         |            |             |
| Cornelius    | McName     | 1864               | Oct          | 13         | 10         | 11         |             |
| Ellen        | Meade      | 1864               | Sept         | 10         | 50         |            |             |
| Edward       | Mooney     | 1865               | Mch          | 8          | 8          | 5          |             |
| Ellen        | Mooney     | 1865               | Feby         | 27         | 7          | 6          |             |
| Margaret     | Mooney     | 1866               | July         | 18         |            | 6          |             |
| Margarett    | Mooney     | 1866               | Dec          | 22         | 32         |            |             |
| William P.   | Moore      | 1864               | July         | 22         | 1          | 4          |             |
| Rosanna      | Morgan     | 1866               | Nov          | 16         | 2          | 4          | 23          |
| Ellen        | Morrissey  | 1864               | July         | 25         |            | 5          |             |
| Thomas A.    | Morrissey  | 1864               | July         | 25         |            | 5          |             |
| Thomas       | Mulloy     | 1865               | July         | 27         |            |            | 7           |
| Jane         | Muray      | 1865               | Oct          | 19         |            | 4          |             |
| Thomas       | Murphy     | 1865               | Apr          | 16         | 11         |            |             |



| <u>Name</u> |           | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            |             |
|-------------|-----------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|             |           | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> | <u>Days</u> |
| Thomas      | Murray    | 1866               | Mch          | 5          | 3          |            |             |
| Charles     | Naber     | 1866               | Oct          | 11         | 1          | 11         |             |
| Thomas      | Navin     | 1866               | Sept         | 25         | 1          | 1          |             |
| Patrick     | Neary     | 1865               | Nov          | 15         | 48         |            |             |
| Peter       | Neary     | 1864               | Aug          | 27         |            | 11         |             |
| Dominick    | Nolan     | 1865               | May          | 12         | 3          | 9          |             |
| Johanna     | Nonan     | 1866               | May          | 18         | 1          | 1          |             |
| Martha      | O'Connell | 1866               | Feb          | 9          | 2          | 8          |             |
| John        | O'Neil    | 1865               | Oct          | 16         | 3          | 10         |             |
| Mary A.     | O'Neil    | 1864               | Feby         | 29         |            | 2          |             |
| Sarah M.    | O'Neil    | 1865               | Nov          | 2          | 1          | 7          |             |
| Mary        | O'Reilly  | 1865               | Feby         | 13         | 22         |            |             |
| Mary        | O'Reilly  | 1865               | Sept         | 9          |            | 7          |             |
| Michael     | Phaelan   | 1866               | Jan          | 12         | 33         |            |             |
| Ellen       | Price     | 1866               | Aug          | 20         | 1          | 7          |             |
| Matthew     | Price     | 1865               | Sept         | 29         | 2          |            |             |
| Rosanna     | Price     | 1866               | Jan          | 10         | 2          | 10         |             |
| Mary        | Quinn     | 1864               | Mch          | 16         | 75         |            |             |
| Peter       | Quinn     | 1866               | Dec          | 12         |            | 11         |             |
| Rosanna     | Quinn     | 1866               | Dec          | 1          | 2          | 7          |             |
| Charlotte   | Rail      | 1865               | Sept         | 19         | 1          | 2          |             |
| Bridget     | Reardon   | 1866               | Aug          | 17         | 40         |            |             |
| Eliza       | Reddy     | 1865               | Mch          | 22         | 6          | 7          |             |
| Ellen       | Reilly    | 1865               | Dec          | 5          | 40         |            |             |
| John        | Reilly    | 1866               | Jan          | 11         | 26         |            |             |
| Malachi     | Reilly    | 1866               | Jan          | 29         | 80         |            |             |
| Mary        | Reilly    | 1866               | Dec          | 20         |            |            | 21          |
| William     | Reilly    | 1866               | Aug          | 18         |            | 11         |             |
| Bridget     | Relly     | 1865               | Dec          | 11         |            | 7          |             |
| Nicholas    | Rhine     | 1866               | Mch          | 25         |            |            | 1           |
| Jane        | Riley     | 1864               | Aug          | 15         | 32         |            |             |
| Mary C.     | Riley     | 1864               | Aug          | 29         |            |            | 25          |
| Thomas      | Ring      | 1864               | July         | 28         | 58         |            |             |
| Clara J.    | Rock      | 1865               | Sept         | 2          |            | 1          | 11          |
| Nancy       | Rock      | 1866               | June         | 30         | 10         |            |             |
| John        | Rourke    | 1866               | May          | 22         | 2          | 7          |             |
| Bridget     | Rowe      | 1864               | Feby         | 13         | 28         |            |             |
| James       | Rowe      | 1864               | Dec          | 30         | 2          | 10         |             |
| Margaret    | Rowe      | 1866               | Mch          | 30         | 22         |            |             |
| Eddie       | Rudden    | 1864               | July         | 11         |            | 6          |             |
| Mary        | Rudden    | 1864               | Jany         | 6          | 40         |            |             |
| Christopher | Ryan      | 1866               | Dec          | 10         | 1          | 11         |             |

|  | <u>Name</u>        | <u>Burial Date</u> |              |            | <u>Age</u> |            |             |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|------------|------------|------------|-------------|
|  |                    | <u>Year</u>        | <u>Month</u> | <u>Day</u> | <u>Yrs</u> | <u>Mos</u> | <u>Days</u> |
|  | Mary E.            | Shannon            | 1864         | May        | 6          |            | 4           |
|  | Alice              | Sheridan           | 1864         | Aug        | 22         | 38         |             |
|  | Edward             | Sheridan           | 1866         | Jan        | 24         | 26         |             |
|  | Rossana            | Sheridan           | 1864         | Mch        | 17         | 85         |             |
|  | John               | Simons             | 1865         | May        | 15         | 48         |             |
|  | William            | Slattery           | 1866         | Aug        | 2          | 60         |             |
|  | Bridget            | Smith              | 1866         | Oct        | 13         | 2          |             |
|  | Wm.                | St. Ledger         | 1865         | Feby       | 19         | 46         |             |
|  | Still born of John | Stevenson          | 1866         | Dec        | 10         |            |             |
|  | James              | Sullivan           | 1865         | Aug        | 8          |            | 10          |
|  | John               | Sullivan           | 1866         | May        | 8          | 5          | 11          |
|  | Mary K. D. S.      | Sullivan           | 1865         | Sept       | 27         | 1          | 4           |
|  | William            | Swazy              | 1864         | May        | 1          | 35         |             |
|  | James M.           | Tracey             | 1865         | May        | 17         |            | 2           |
|  | George W.          | Vack               | 1865         | July       | 13         | 1          | 4           |
|  | John               | Ward               | 1864         | May        | 29         | 15         |             |
|  | Mary               | Welsh              | 1866         | Sept       | 5          |            | 8           |
|  | Peter              | Welsh              | 1864         | June       | 5          | 28         |             |
|  | Henry L.           | Wheeler            | 1864         | Feby       | 14         | 2          | 10          |
|  | Mary Ann           | Woods              | 1864         | Sept       | 6          | 19         |             |

Acknowledgement: Thanks to members of Fréamh Éireann Genealogy Group of the Gaelic-American Club of Fairfield, Connecticut, who helped to proofread these records.

## More Revolutionary War Records from the Connecticut State Archives

Harlan R. Jessup

The February 2010 issue of *Connecticut Ancestry* had a short article on some recently rediscovered Revolutionary War records at the Connecticut State Library. Now that same researcher, Crawford Westbrook, has found even more such records. Like some described earlier, this collection has no index to individual names, and there are some inaccuracies in the cataloguing. Records recognized as significant to Revolutionary War service are in State Archives Record Group No. 007, Office of the State Treasurer, 1743-1960, and in Record Group No. 008, Records of the Comptroller, 1758-1887. Note that these records include names not only for those who gave military service, but also for those who supplied goods and services. And these also qualify as patriot ancestors for the lineage societies.

In Record Group No. 007, significant items include:

|  |               |
|--|---------------|
| Treasury Office note stubs, 1780-82. Receipts for monies paid to individuals who served in the Connecticut Line. | Items 29-53   |
| Army note receipts, 1789-1790  | Items 94-115  |
| Receipt books for interest on soldiers' notes, 1781-1788   | Items 119-131 |
| Register of Army Notes, 1780, 1781, 1790   | Items 222-224 |

Significant items in Record Group No. 008:

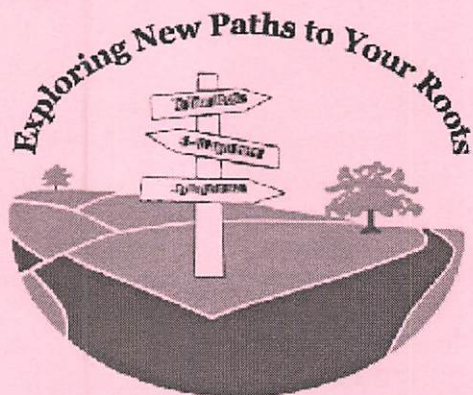
|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| Pay Table Accounts, 1775-1788   | Boxes 5-8     |
| Receipts, 1776-1788   | Boxes 9-12    |
| Orders to pay, 1775-1788  | Box 13        |
| Orders and receipts, 1780-1788  | Boxes 14-21   |
| Register of pay to the New London militia and the coast guard, 1775-1777  | Box 23        |
| Soldiers pay, wages while prisoner, expenses of sick soldiers, 1776-1784  | Boxes 54-55   |
| Redeemed soldier notes, 1780-1796, notes in payment for military service. | Boxes 123-130 |
| Unsorted vouchers, roughly chronological, 1769-1787                       | Boxes 56-63   |
| Soldier notes, 1780-1796  | Boxes 123-130 |
| Town accounts for supplies for soldiers' families                         | Boxes 131-137 |

Our brief description can give only the merest taste of the variety and total volume of these records. Box #54, for example, has folders with vouchers for pay to doctors for wounded and sick soldiers, payments to wives and family members for prisoners of the enemy, and lists of names of recruits from several towns. Boxes #123 and 124 hold hundreds of redeemed notes paid to soldiers. Issued in 1780 and 1781 for one-quarter of the wages due each soldier, these were redeemable in six years. They were traded as currency, and, as often as not, the receipts, signed on the reverse for annual interest, are by current holders other than the soldier. The notes are cancelled by a punched hole about one-half inch in diameter, sometimes obliterating the names.

You can be assured that a search in these records will be both challenging and interesting.

# *Exploring New Paths to Your Roots*

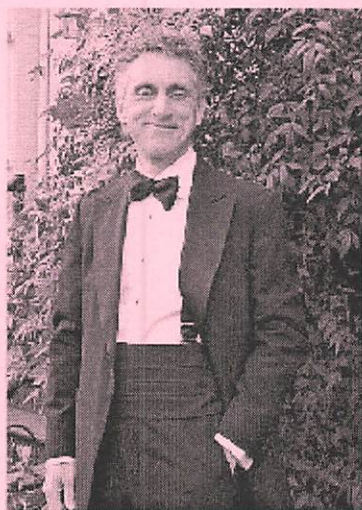
11th New England Regional Genealogical Conference



**6-10 April 2011**  
**Springfield, Massachusetts**

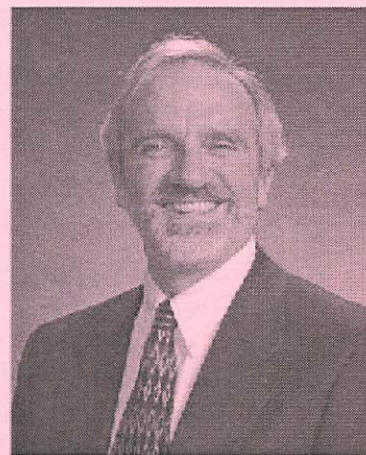
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### **John Philip Colletta**

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### **Paul Milner**

Paul Milner, a native of northern England, is a professional genealogist and lecturer. Paul has specialized in British Isles genealogical research for 30 years. He is the author of several books on English and Scottish genealogical research. He has been designing workshops and lecturing to a wide variety of audiences for over 35 years.

***More information at***  
***www.nergc.org***

## **New Homes for Connecticut Ancestry in Trumbull, Danbury, and Stamford**

Your Board of Directors is pleased to announce the selection of Trumbull Library, Danbury Library, and Stamford Historical Society as homes for our Society in the three “corners” of Fairfield County. The Society hopes to better serve the community with each of these partners hosting two free genealogical events per year on a more consistent schedule. Other events, including our full-day annual meeting in May, will be scheduled at different repositories. Note that the Ferguson Library in Stamford and New Canaan Historical Society remain the primary repositories for books and manuscripts, respectively, donated to our Society.

### **Loyalists of Southwestern Connecticut a project for this year’s journal**

In this issue we conclude the detailed history of a Loyalist family from Fairfield County.

**What about your Tory ancestors?  
Or other stories on Connecticut Loyalists?  
Please plan an article for publication in Connecticut Ancestry**

### **Genealogy Events Schedule**

#### **CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY – [www.connecticutancestry.org](http://www.connecticutancestry.org)**

**February 5, 2011**, 10 am at Stamford Historical Society – Melanie Marks – Finding the History of Your Old House.

**March 12, 2011** at Danbury Library – program to be announced.

**April 16, 2011** at Trumbull Library – program to be announced.

#### **GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLES – Hosted by Rod McKenzie and Bill Stansfield**

2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month, 10 to 11 am at Pequot Library, Southport. Reservations required.

Call 203 259-0346.

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 12:30 to 1:30 pm at the Bridgeport Public Library, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor.

4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Fairfield Senior Center.

#### **CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS – [www.csginc.org](http://www.csginc.org)**

**February 19, 2011** – Olivia Patch & Janet Wallace – Getting the Most from a Genealogy Conference

#### **GENEALOGY CLUB of NEWTOWN – [www.rootsweb.com/~ctgcnc/](http://www.rootsweb.com/~ctgcnc/)**

**December 8** - Leslie Huber - Researching German Ancestors.

**January 12, 2011** – Ray Maki – Researching Maiden Names.

**February 9, 2011** – Marian Wood – Using Blogs & Boards for Genealogy Research.

#### **WESTCHESTER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – [www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs](http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs)**

**December 11** - Dr. Nathan Reiss – Finding People, Living or Dead, on the Internet

**January 8, 2011** – Janet Butler Munch – New York Catholic Protectory

**February 12, 2011** – Tony Lauriano – Navigating Key Genealogy Websites

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