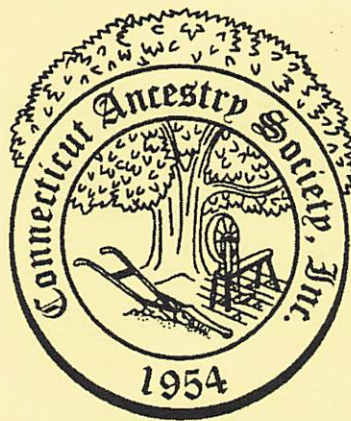


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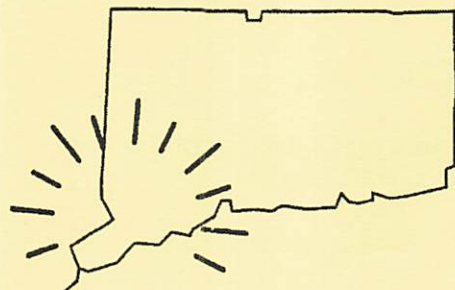
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• *Focus on Southwestern Connecticut* •

Connecticut Ancestry

the Quarterly Journal of the CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY, INC.

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Membership Dues: June 1, 2015 to May 31, 2016

Individual		Library	\$35	Sustaining	\$50
printed journal	\$30	Society	\$35	Patron	\$75
digital journal	\$25				
Add'l family member	\$10				

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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 Consortium.

Genealogy Events Schedule

CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY SOCIETY – www.connecticutancestry.org

Member meetings Held on Saturday mornings, 10:30 am.

- March** Danbury Public Library Workshop March 5, 10:30- 12:30 (two hours)
Robert Locke will present a 2-hour workshop in beginning genealogy. You will get a firm foundation and lots of tips for moving forward. Bring some notes about your family so you can get started. You can bring your laptop or tablet if you have questions about using software.
- April** Trumbull Public Library Genealogy Lecture April 9, 10:30-noon
Frederick C. Hart, Jr. reprises his talk “Cruising Long Island Sound” about how Long Island Sound connected the Connecticut shore families with relatives on New York's Long Island back in the day. This lecture illustrates how much easier it was to travel by water, and how this affects the family history of many Connecticut families.
- May** Annual Meeting Fairfield Museum and History Center 1-4 p.m.
Maureen Taylor, The Photo Detective, will talk about the Last Muster project—photographs of Revolutionary War soldiers. Then she will explain how to get clues from old photos. There will be an opportunity for you to get a personal consultation with Maureen in which she will examine photographs that you bring. Look for details on our Web site.
- June** Stamford Historical Society DNA Workshop 10:30-12:30 (2 hrs.)
Nora Galvin will present a workshop on using autosomal DNA. This will include looking at the Web sites of all three companies that offer the test, downloading raw data, using GEDmatch.com, determining which family members should be tested and learning what it all means.

GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLES

2nd Saturday of each month, 10 to 11 am at Pequot Library, Southport. Reservations required.

Call 203 259-0346.

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

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

Other genealogy programs:

CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS – www.csginc.org

GENEALOGY CLUB of NEWTOWN – www.rootsweb.com/~ctgenc/

MIDDLESEX GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY - www.mgs.darien.org

WESTCHESTER COUNTY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY – www.rootsweb.com/~nywecs

TIME TO RENEW

RENEWAL FORM ON BACK PINK PAGE (V)

Editorial Notes

Another writer makes her debut in this issue. Mary Elizabeth Peterson contributes a review about Jonathan Austin of Pound Ridge and his family to information previously published here. She also contributed a letter from Jonathan Austin to his sister at home, written from his Army post in Louisiana in 1866 long after the end of the Civil War.

Our 1790 Census series continues with an article about Jeremiah Mead junior of Greenwich by Sandra Johnson Witt. This is her first full-length article for our journal. Sandy also submitted some family letters from the 1830s written by children of Jeremiah who are treated in the sketch. The family moved to Ohio in 1817 and the letters describe some aspects of their daily lives. The letters, nearly 200 years old, were discovered in a bureau and were transcribed by Sandy's cousin Robert Franklin.

Harlan Jessup discovered a newspaper article about the last slave in Connecticut and wrote a cover article about the family that owned him and then supported him after his freedom.

Paul Keroack and Merry Park are creating a land-owner index to Norwalk's Hunt Collection. This will be a valuable finding aid for that great genealogical resource.

Kathryn Downs Wolff submitted corrections to her 1790 article about Samuel Ferris (errors are entirely the fault of this editor). She also submitted a query about the Sabini family of Stamford.

Finally, we continue to publish the Baptism Records from Greens Farms Congregational Church transcribed by Barbara Dempsey.

Your editor welcomes comments and submission of articles.

Nora Galvin, CG

We appreciate submission of articles by our readers whether members or not. Sharing 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.

Preferred submission is an electronic file (from a standard word-processing application) sent as an email attachment to editor@connecticutancestry.org. Please email if you have questions.

The editor may make changes for clarity, brevity and accuracy. We will do final formatting to conform to our publication style standards. Please keep your document as simple as possible. Please don't add headers, footers or page numbers. Facts must be documented with source citations in numbered footnotes.

If your submission is intended to be part of a series (e.g., 1790 census), please say so.

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

Jonathan Austin of Pound Ridge, New York, his Two Wives Susanna Bishop and Deborah Ann (Whaley) Thorn and a Possible Previously Unknown Son

Mary Elizabeth (Marvin) Peterson

The author indebted to Frederick C. Hart Jr., for his work in putting to rights the origins of this branch of the Austin family.¹ What follows is a continuation of his article including new information about Jonathan Austin: he was married twice. This fact provides insight into a personal letter from him, written 10 October 1862 from his Army post in Louisiana, that was published here in 2005.² Another Civil-War era letter written by Jonathan Austin is published in a separate article in this edition. Research for this article was mostly done in the large collection of documents amassed by the author's father, the late Clifford E. Marvin, Jr., educator, Civil War buff and genealogist. The author can be reached at maryelizabeth.peterson@gmail.com.

JONATHAN⁷ AUSTIN (Samuel⁶, Samuel⁵, David⁴, David³, Thomas², John¹) was born in Pound Ridge, Westchester County, New York, on 05 April 1831,³ son of Samuel and Hester (James) Austin.⁴ He died at the Fitch Home for Soldiers, Darien, Fairfield, Connecticut, on 30 March 1911 and was buried in Union Cemetery, Stratford, Connecticut.⁵

Jonathan Austin married first, between 1850 and 1860, **SUSANNA BISHOP**.⁶ The occurrence of this marriage has not been published previously. No civil or church record of the marriage or Susanna's birth has been located.

Susanna is presumed to be the girl with that name, age 7, enumerated with likely parents David and Fanny Bishop in the dwelling next to Samuel and Hester Austin on the 1850 US census in Pound Ridge.⁷ Jonathan himself was living with his sister Betsey (Austin) Selleck and her family elsewhere in town at that time.⁸

¹ Frederick C. Hart, Jr., CG, "Descendants of David and Margaret (Stuart) Austin of Stamford, Including the Austins of Pound Ridge," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 56 (May 2014), 149-171. Jonathan is presented on p. 169.

² Judith Green Watson and Harlan R. Jessup, "Jonathan Austin of Pound Ridge: A Stray Letter to His Parents," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 48 (November 2005), 92.

³ Jonathan Austin family Bible (current whereabouts unknown) and other family documents.

⁴ For male lineage, Frederick C. Hart Jr., "Early Austins of Greenwich and Stamford, Connecticut," *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 168(2014): 85-100. For parents: Hart, "Descendants of David and Margaret (Stuart) Austin of Stamford," 168, citing Russell Hall and Brother Burial Books, 3:20, at the New Canaan Historical Society. Also, parents are named in "Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War," Westchester County, Pound Ridge, p. 25, second entry for Jonathan Austin; "New York, Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War, ca 1861-1865," database with images, Ancestry.com.

⁵ "Fitches Home for Soldiers, database, Connecticut State Library (CSL) (<http://ctstatelibrary.org/fitches-home-for-soldiers/>), Jonathon [sic] Austin. Burial: Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Hartford: Connecticut State Library, abt. 1934, Stratford, 29.

⁶ US Pension Office, Widow's Pension Application 966875, filed 15 June 1911, soldier Jonathan Austin, General Affidavit, dated 18 April 1911, "... that Jonathan Austin ... first married Susan Bishop and that she died about 1862 and after his return from the war he married Deborey-Ann Thorn," sworn by Loomis and Adaline M. Scofield of New Canaan, Ct.; copy of document in author's files. Identity of the Scofields is not proven, but Adeline is the right age to be Jonathan's niece Adeline, seen in the same household in 1850 (fn 8).

⁷ 1850 US Census, Westchester County, New York, population schedule, Pound Ridge, p. 151 (stamped) verso, dwelling 1952, family 2147, David Bishop, and dwelling 1953, family 2149, Samuel Austin; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 614.

⁸ 1850 US Census, Westchester Co., NY, pop. sched., Pound Ridge, p. 155 (stamped), dwelling 1999, family 2201, Sands Selleck; NARA M432, roll 614.

The 1860 United States census shows Jonathan and Susanna living with Samuel and Hester Austin in Pound Ridge. No children were listed in the household.⁹ The pair were likely living in neighboring New Canaan, Connecticut, in December, 1861, when Jonathan enlisted in the Union Army there.¹⁰ Susanna died of a chest abscess in New Canaan less than six months later on 17 May 1862.¹¹ Her place of burial is unknown.

Jonathan served in the Civil War with the 13th Connecticut Volunteers. He first enlisted as a private with Company B for three years. He later re-enlisted while in Louisiana as a veteran soldier with the rank of corporal with Company A. He saw active duty with the Connecticut 13th Volunteers from 18 February 1862 until 25 April 1866.¹²

Insight into the published letter

News of Susanna Austin's death reached Jonathan Austin in the Army. His previously cited letter of 09 October 1862 does not mention Susanna by name, but states that prior to her death "she" left some possessions with "John Bishop." Two men with the name were listed nearby: John D. Bishop in Pound Ridge, a merchant,¹³ and John Bishop, a farm laborer, in New Canaan.¹⁴ Any kinship of these men to Susanna (Bishop) Austin is unknown. In that letter Jonathan wrote his parents:

I will write you a order to get those things down to John Bishop and he must gave up every thing that She caired [carried] thair [there]. . . .

Father you must go after those things your self for the order is written in your name and no other person can get them but you. You can get Abraham Wood's horse and wagen and you must tend to this the first oppertunty you have and not fail yours. I owe him a little yet if [he] should say anything a bout that [tell] him that I am going to send it to him the next time I am paid off it is five dollars I owe him now

Why Susanna left possessions with John Bishop and why Jonathan was so eager to get them back is a mystery.

⁹ 1860 U. S. census, Westchester Co., New York, pop. sched., Pound Ridge, p. 102 (between 101 & 103, penned), dwelling 713, family 757, Samuel Austin; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 882.

¹⁰ "Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War," Westchester County, Pound Ridge, p. 25, second entry for Jonathan Austin.

¹¹ New Canaan Vital Records, Deaths 1859-1900, 5, Susanna Austin; Town Clerk office.

¹² Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War, 25, Jonathan Austin. Also, Homer B. Sprague, *History of the 13th Infantry Regiment of Connecticut Volunteers, During the Great Rebellion*, Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Co., 1867, 267; digital copy at <https://archive.org>

¹³ 1860 US census, Westchester Co., NY, pop. sched., Pound Ridge, p. 112 (between 111 and 113, penned), dw. 804, fam. 851, John D. Bishop; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 882.

¹⁴ 1860 US Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, pop. sched., New Canaan, p. 841 (stamped) verso, dw. 1536, fam. 1882, John Bishop; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 74.

The possible son

In the same letter Jonathan tells his parents: "kiss my boy fifty time for me." This is a reference to a previously unknown son, apparently a child of Jonathan and Susanna. He has not been identified in any other records and the search for information about him continues.

Jonathan's second marriage

Following the Civil War, Jonathan Austin married widow **DEBORAH ANN (WHALEY) THORN** at Pound Ridge Presbyterian Church on 05 July 1866.¹⁵ Her first husband was Marenus W. Thorn (m. 31 March 1856).¹⁶ She was born 18 December 1838 in Pound Ridge, daughter of John Whaley and Betsey Jones (b. Pound Ridge).¹⁷ Deborah is a previously unknown member of this Whaley family whose genealogy was previously published in *Connecticut Ancestry*.¹⁸ Her mother's ancestry has also been published in this journal.¹⁹

Jonathan Austin, working as a carpenter, "Mrs. J. Austin," and two children were enumerated in Pound Ridge in 1870.²⁰ By the time of the census in 1880 the family lived in Darien where Jonathan was a shoemaker.²¹

Two Civil War pension applications filed in 1890 attest to hard times in the Austin household. Deborah Austin applied for a pension based on the service of her deceased first husband Marenus Thorn. The documents were filed 28 July 1890.²² A few weeks later on 11 August the Pension Office received an application for an Invalid Pension from Jonathan. In that file is his affidavit declaring, "malarial poisoning, lumbago, heart trouble and total loss of sight of right eye." It also says he "has never been able to perform a day of manual labor since his discharge."²³

In 1900 Jonathan and "Ann D." Austin were living in Bridgeport and Jonathan was working as a shoemaker. Deborah's birth month and year were reported as December, 1843,

¹⁵ Mrs. Sterling B. Jordan and Mrs. Frank W. Seth, transcribers, Poundridge Presbyterian Church, Westchester County, N. Y., Marriages Performed by Rev. William Patterson, 1837-1866, White Plains: typescript, 1939, 27; digital image, Ancestry.com, <http://tinyurl.com/javmf6e>.

¹⁶ Affidavits of Jane S. Finch and James W. Thorn, brother of Marenus, dated May 1891, Widow's Pension Application file # 430789, author's files. This application was made by Deborah based on Marenus' service.

¹⁷ Bridgeport VRs, Deaths Jan-Feb 1931, 249, Deborah Ann Austin. The month and day of birth are reported in the death record and correlate with the month given on the 1900 US Census. The year is calculated from censuses 1850-1880. After 1880 her year of birth was consistently adjusted to make her five to six years younger. See discussion of granddaughter Agnes for an explanation.

¹⁸ Frederick C. Hart, Jr., "The Whaley Family of New Canaan," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 34:4 (May, 1992), 153-16.

¹⁹ Frederick C. Hart, Jr., "Keeping Up With the Stamford Joneses, Part 3: Near the Eight Mile Line So Called: Jones Families of Dantown, High Ridge and Pound Ridge," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 41:4 (May 1999), 161-71 and 42:2 (Nov 1999), 57-77. The connection is made specifically at 42:69.

²⁰ 1870 US Census, Westchester Co., NY, pop. sched., Pound Ridge, p. 130 (stamped) verso, dw. 158, fam. 163, Jonathan Austin; NARA microfilm publication M593, roll 1115.

²¹ 1880 US Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, population schedule, Darien, p. 267 (stamped), household 187, family 200, Jonathan Austin; NARA microfilm publication T9, roll 96.

²² Civil War Pensions Index, card for Marenus W. Thorn, listing Widow's Pension Application # 430789. This application is cross-referenced on Jonathan's card because Deborah later applied for a pension as Jonathan's widow. Application documents in the author's files.

²³ Civil War Pensions Index, card for Jonathan Austin, listing Invalid Pension Application # 931015; "Civil War Pensions Index," fold3.com. Also, copies of application documents in the author's files.

some five years later than previous censuses.²⁴ In 1910, the final year of his life, Jonathan was living at the Fitch Home for Soldiers in Darien and had no occupation.²⁵

In 1910 Deborah Austin was living at the home of her granddaughter Agnes Morgan in Bridgeport but was identified as Agnes' mother, not grandmother.²⁶ Deborah Austin died on 09 February 1931 in Bridgeport and she is buried at Union Cemetery, Stratford.²⁷

Child of Jonathan and Susanna (Bishop) Austin:

- i. Referred to in letter of 09 October 1862 as "my boy." He would have been born between 01 June 1860 (Census Day—he does not appear on this census with Jonathan and Susanna) and the date of Susanna's death, 17 May 1862. No further information.

Children of Jonathan and Deborah (Whaley) (Thorn) Austin, all born in Pound Ridge:

- ii. MINERVA⁸ "MINNIE" ESTELLE AUSTIN, b. 08 April 1867,²⁸ d. 04 February 1949, in Milford, Connecticut, at age 82.²⁹

Child of Minnie Austin by William R. Rover:

1. Agnes Louise Austin b. 20 January 1884 in New Canaan; ³⁰ d. 30 April 1932 in Bridgeport, Connecticut;³¹ m. about 1902 Charles C. Morgan.³² Agnes was raised believing she was a much younger sibling in the Austin family and that Deborah was her mother, not her grandmother.

On 03 July 1890, Minnie Austin married WILLIAM S. MARVIN.³³ He was born 09 April 1856 in Norwalk, Connecticut, and died in Bridgeport 30 April 1917.³⁴ He was the son of Charles and Louisa (Barto) Marvin and was a descendant of Matthew Marvin (1600-1678), one of the first settlers of Hartford and Norwalk.³⁵

²⁴ 1900 US Census, Fairfield County, Conn., pop. sched., Bridgeport (Ward 12), p. 82 (stamped), dwelling 109, family 127, Jonathan Austin; NARA microfilm publication T623, roll 132.

²⁵ 1910 US Census, Fairfield Co., Conn., pop. sched., Darien, p. 91 (stamped) (obscured), institution ("Fitch's Home for the Soldiers," no dwelling or family number; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 127.

²⁶ 1910 US Census, Fairfield Co., Conn., pop. sched., Bridgeport, p. 96 (stamped), dwelling 242, family 339, Charles Morgan; NARA microfilm publication T624, roll 128. Deborah is listed as mother-in-law of head.

²⁷ Bridgeport VRs, Deaths Jan-Feb 1931, 249, Deborah Ann Austin. Her birthdate was reported as 18 December 1844 though the earliest census ages calculate to a birth year of 1838. The informant was her daughter Minnie (Austin) Marvin.

²⁸ Jonathan Austin family Bible (current whereabouts unknown) and other family documents

²⁹ "Connecticut Death Records Index: 1897-1965, Minnie Marvin; CSL, <http://ctstatelibrary.org/death-records/>.

³⁰ New Canaan Vital Records, Births 1852-1900, 102, female child, father William R. Rover, mother Minerva Estelle Austin; Town Clerk Office. Listed in the index under "Rover." The father's residence and birthplace were not provided; his occupation was farmer.

³¹ Bridgeport, Connecticut, Vital Records, Deaths March-April 1932, 38, Mrs. Agnes Louise Morgan; Office of Vital Statistics, Mortenson Government Center. Her grandparents are listed as her parents; informant was her mother.

³² 1910 US Census, Fairfield Co., Conn., pop. sched., Bridgeport, p. 96 (stamped), dwelling 242, family 339, Charles Morgan. First marriage for both, married eight years. No marriage record found in Bridgeport.

³³ Jonathan Austin family Bible (current whereabouts unknown) and other family documents.

³⁴ Certificate of Death, William Marvin, issued 26 Aug 2013, Bridgeport; Office of Vital Statistics. Document, in author's files, includes birth and death dates and burial location: Mountain Grove Cemetery, Bridgeport.

³⁵ William T. R. Marvin, *The English Ancestry of Reinold and Matthew Marvin of Hartford, Ct., 1638: their Homes and Parish Churches*, Boston: T.R. Marvin & Sons Publishers, 1900.

Children of William and Minnie (Austin) Marvin, all events occurred in Bridgeport unless otherwise noted:

2. Lucy M. Marvin b. 19 Jan 1891; d. 07 Dec 1918.³⁶
 3. Myron Frances Marvin, b. 01 Dec 1893; d. 26 Aug 1979;
m. Julia E. McDonough 27 Oct 1920.³⁷
 4. William Edward Marvin, b. 17 Jan 1896; d. 24 May 1957; m. Edith Cockayne.³⁸
 5. Albert P. "Dewey" Marvin b. July 1898; d. 20 Sep 1969 Monroe, Connecticut;
m. Bessie Keyes 16 June 1923, Bridgeport.³⁹
 6. Clifford Eugene Marvin, b. 08 Apr 1909; d. 31 Aug 1987;
m. 20 June 1936 Mary (Mae) Cecelia Lukac.⁴⁰
- iii. WILLIAM H.⁸ AUSTIN, b. 24 April 1870 in Pound Ridge; d. 14 Jan 1957 in Stratford; m. Annie C. Osborne.⁴¹
One child:
1. Wayne Austin⁹ b. 22 Jan 1895 Stratford;⁴² d. 17 Oct 1947, San Francisco, California.⁴³
Unmarried
- iv. EDDY⁸ AUSTIN b. 1874 in Pound Ridge, died at one year, four months and five days of age on 09 May 1875; buried at Selleck's Corner Cemetery, New Canaan.⁴⁴

The author wishes to acknowledge the considerable work done by the editor to fully identify sources and bring the citations up to current genealogical standards.

³⁶ Bridgeport VRs, Births 1890-1892, 124, and Deaths Dec 1918, 502.

³⁷ Bridgeport VRs, Births 1892-1893, 273 (recorded as "Magram" Marvin, probably miscopied from doctor's notes), and Marriages Oct-Dec 1920, 159. Death: "Connecticut Death Index, 1849-2011," Myron F. Marvin; database, Ancestry.com.

³⁸ Bridgeport VRs, Births 1894-96, 353; Deaths May 1957, 136. Death record names Edith Cockayne as wife but no marriage record was found in Bridgeport.

³⁹ Birth: 1900 US Census, Fairfield Co., Conn., pop. sched., Bridgeport (Ward 12), p. 82 (stamped), dwelling 112, family 131, William L. Marvin; NARA microfilm pub. T623, roll 132; (no birth record in Bridgeport). Bridgeport VRs, Marriages Apr-Jun 1923, 406. "Connecticut Death Index, 1949-2001," Albert Marvin.

⁴⁰ Bridgeport VRs, Deaths Aug 1987, 179, also provides birth date; Marriages June-July 1936, 76.

⁴¹ Birth: family records. Death and marriage: Stratford Vital Records, Deaths 1957 (1 of 2 unnumbered volumes), p. 8, William Austin; Town Clerk Office. This record gives a birth year of 1872, names wife.

⁴² Stratford Vital Records, Births vol. C, p. 94, Wayne H. Austin; Town Clerk Office.

⁴³ California, Death Index, 1940-1997, Wayne H. Austin; database, Ancestry.com. Gives birthdate in "Connecticut." City of birth from Marvin family records.

⁴⁴ Headstone Inscription for Eddy Austin, Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Stratford, p. 123; "Connecticut, Hale Cemetery Inscriptions, 1675-1934," database, Ancestry.com.

Another Jonathan Austin Civil-War Era Letter
transcribed by Mary Elizabeth (Marvin) Peterson

In 1850 Jonathan Austin was a 20 year old shoemaker living in Pound Ridge, New York,¹ with his sister ANN ELIZABETH "BETSEY" (AUSTIN) SELLECK,² and her husband SANDS SELLECK. He appears to have been close with "Bet and Sands" and even served in the Union Army alongside their son, his nephew, GEORGE BENNETT SELLECK.³ In March of 1866, with his service nearly up, Jonathan Austin penned the following letter to the Sellecks. This letter has been in safekeeping with the Marvin family since around 1910.

Atlanta, GA
March 16th/66

Dear Brother and Sister

I now set down to write you a few lines to inform you that I am well at present. Hoping those few lines may find you all enjoying the same blessing. It is a long time since you have written to me and now I thought I would write you a few lines and see if you would take pains to answer this one and if so I will write again. I am home sick but then that is all the good it dose for I we have to stay until our time is out and if we dose I shall get a furlough about the first of May and come home. It is late and I am sleepy so good night.

March 18th

Now I have come to finish this letter. There is a rummer afloat here now that the 9th regulars are on their way hear to relive all of the volunteer in this department and if that is true, we may get home by the first of May or the middle. Now I hope it is so, for I am sick of being a soldier any longer for it is plaid out and then they are getting to hard for me. What I mean by this is the boys of the regiment, for they are drunk all of the time. If they haven't got any money, they will go to a rum shop and take what they want for to drink and if the bar tender says a word, they will knock him down and take as much as again. I have been on guard today and I have arrested three of the boys for knocking down a negro and robbing him and put them in jail.

¹ 1850 US census, Westchester County, New York, population schedule, Pound Ridge, p. 155 (stamped), dwelling 1999, family 2201, Sands Selleck; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 14.

² This Betsey should not be confused with her Aunt Betsey (Selleck) Austin (b.1816; d. 1905).

³ "Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War," Westchester County, Pound Ridge, p. 25, George Bennett Selleck; "New York, Town Clerks' Registers of Men Who Served in the Civil War, ca 1861-1865," database, Ancestry.com.

We are having fine weather down here for the time of year. Peachtrees are in full blum and every boddy are gardening around here.

I think if nothing happens, I shall be home to spend fourth of July. That is if I am alive and well now Betsey. I will send you my profile in this letter and be careful it don't frighten you when you look at it for it's an awful looking thing. I am going to have some more taken as soon as I get money to do so then. I shall send you another one when you write. Please let me know if Charles Nichols⁴ is at home and also if he stays with his wife or yet Bet. Cann't Charles put on airs for a soldier. When you write let me no how David Bishop and his family is getting a long. I cann't think of any more to write this time, so give my love to all inquiring friends and there now my love to you Sands, Bet and all of the family.

So no more from your Brother
Jonathan Austin

PS Sands, I am thinking that I shall be home this summer to go fishing and clamming with you and go down to Raten⁵ River a few times to wash [watch?] the girls and have a good time with them once more so good by for this time.

⁴ 1860 US Census, Westchester County, New York, population schedule, Pound Ridge, p. 103 (penned), dwelling 723, family 766, Charles Nichols; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 882. Charles Nichols is enumerated as shoemaker with a wife and three children.

⁵ Probably the Rowayton River between Norwalk and Darien.

Fairfield County Families in 1790

Jeremiah Mead, Jr. of Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1790

Sandra Johnson Witt, Ph.D.

sandyjwitt@gmail.com

Mead, Jeremiah, junr.
Greenwich

2 - 2 - 4 - 0 - 0¹

JEREMIAH⁶ MEAD junior (Jeremiah⁵, Caleb⁴, Ebenezer³, John², William¹) was born in 1755 in Greenwich, Fairfield County, Connecticut,² the first son of Jeremiah Mead and Amy (Lockwood) Mead. Jeremiah senior was born 13 February 1726 / 27 and died on 5 February 1815, both in Greenwich.³ Amy was born 11 March 1733/34 and died 29 August 1814, both in Greenwich).⁴

Jeremiah married **ESTHER PECK** ca. 1780 in Greenwich.⁵ She was born 12 July 1756 in Greenwich, the daughter of Captain Nathaniel Peck junr. and Jerusha Curtis;⁶ Nathaniel was born 2 June 1725⁷ and died 1775,⁸ both in Greenwich. Jerusha was born 4 July 1727 in Stratford, Fairfield County, Connecticut,⁹ and died after 15 May 1763, the baptismal date of their eighth child).¹⁰ Nathaniel Peck married Jerusha Curtis 9 Oct 1746 in Greenwich.¹¹

Life in Connecticut

Jeremiah served in the Lexington Alarm List from Greenwich, a company that marched to New York in April 1775. He served as a private in the First Battalion, Wadsworth's Brigade, a battalion created by an act of the Connecticut Legislature in June 1776 to reinforce Washington's army in New York. He later served as an ensign in the Continental Line and Connecticut Forces.¹² He participated in an expedition to Long Island under Colonel David Waterbury.¹³

¹1790 US Census, Fairfield Co., Connecticut, Greenwich, p. 325, col. 1, line 11, Jeremiah Mead junior; NARA microfilm M637, Roll 1.

²Edith M. Wicks and Virginia H. Olson, compilers and Paul W. Prindle, editor, *Stamford's Soldiers: Genealogical Biographies of Revolutionary War Patriots*, Stamford: Stamford Genealogy Society and Ferguson Library, 1976, 170. This publication does not cite specific sources though the authors provide a general list of source materials.

³*DAR Patriot Index*, Washington, DC: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, 1966, 460.

⁴Spencer 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, 282. This is also the source of the previous five generations listed after Jeremiah's name. This family's events are not found in Greenwich records. Please see note at the end of this article about Spencer Mead's work.

⁵*Wicks & Olson*, 170.

⁶Mary Beeler Sawers, *Lineage of Jeremiah Mead of Greenwich, Connecticut, Soldier of the American Revolution*, Middletown, Ct.: typescript, 1958. Digital book at <http://tinyurl.com/jfb5wob>. This is data collected by Emma Walker Mead Beeler (1842-1928) and her mother Mary Brown Mead Hiltz, plus additional research.

⁷*Connecticut Vital Records to 1870*, v. 45, Greenwich, 62, citing original 1:79-80. Hereinafter: *Barbour Collection*.

⁸Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Pardee Genealogy*, New Haven, CT: New Haven Colony Historical Society, 1927, 93.

⁹Barbour Collection, Stratford, 45, citing original LR5:25. Also, Heyward Peck, Esq., "The Parentage of Mehitable Blackman, wife successively of Jonathan Peck and Gen. John Mead," *The American Genealogist*, Vol. 22, 1945, 105-107, specifically 106.

¹⁰First Congregational Church of Stamford, Baptismal Records, 1747-1768, 3:71.

¹¹Barbour Collection, Greenwich, 63, citing original 1:81-82. Also, Heyward Peck, 106.

¹²Mead, *Mead Genealogy*, 74.

¹³*Wicks & Olson*, 169.

He was listed as one of the Connecticut residents who suffered losses in British raids on Danbury and coastal towns during the Revolution. He claimed damages valued at £92 15s 7d. These "Sufferers" were compensated by the General Assembly in 1792 with land grants in the Firelands (the western part of Connecticut's Western Reserve in northeast Ohio).¹⁴

In the 1790 census, the household of Jeremiah Mead, junr., had two males age 16 or older (Jeremiah and an unidentified male), two males under age 16 (sons Walter, born about 1785, and Hugh, born about 1788) and four females (wife Esther (Peck) Mead, daughter Harriet Mead, born 1786, and two unidentified females). He was not found on the 1800 or 1810 censuses.

Jeremiah was appointed surveyor of lands for Fairfield County by the Connecticut General Assembly in January 1799.¹⁵

Migration and life in Ohio

Jeremiah, Esther and their entire family migrated to Butler County, Ohio in 1817.¹⁶ The statement in Spencer Mead's book that they removed to "Springfield, Indiana" is not correct.¹⁷

Esther died in 1819,¹⁸ only a few years after the family moved to Ohio. She was 63 years old. Her burial place is not known.

Members of the family lived fairly close together. Most stayed in or near Butler County. Daughter Harriet lived in Franklin County, Indiana, which borders Butler County, Ohio. One exception was son Hugh who married in Westchester County, New York, in 1818, lived in Butler County, Ohio, for a while, but then settled in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, by 1830 and lived out his life there.¹⁹ His descendants preserved letters from his siblings sent 1831-1856.

In the 1820 census Jeremiah was enumerated as the head of household in Liberty, Butler Co. Of the nine inhabitants only five can be identified with any certainty: Jeremiah, son Benjamin and three daughters Charlotte, Frances and Maria.²⁰ In the 1830 census Jeremiah and possibly Benjamin are the only individuals identified out of three males and two females.²¹

Jeremiah lived until the age of 76 and died intestate on 20 October 1831.²² A letter written in April, 1832, from his son Walter to his brother Hugh provides the cause of their father's death and information about the disposition of Jeremiah's estate.²³ [The letter is published next in this issue.] Jeremiah's burial place is not known.

¹⁴Harlan R. Jessup, "Connecticut Revolutionary War 'Sufferers' Who Received Firelands Grants in 1792," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 57(1), August 2014, 15: "Jeremiah Mead Jr, Greenwich £92 15s 7d."

¹⁵Charles J. Hoadley, *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut from May 1778 to April 1780, Vol. 2*, Hartford: Case, Lockwood & Brainard Co., 1889, Jan.1779, 191.

¹⁶*Wicks & Olson*, 170.

¹⁷*Mead Genealogy*, 282.

¹⁸Sawers, *Lineage of Jeremiah Mead*, 38.

¹⁹See Hugh's information in the genealogical summary (Child iii).

²⁰1820 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Liberty, p. 111, Jeremiah Mead; NARA microfilm M33, Roll 87.

²¹1830 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Union Township, p. 69, Jeremiah Mead; NARA microfilm M19, Roll 127.

²²*Wicks & Olson*, 170. Intestacy: letter from Walter Mead to his brother Hugh Mead, 10 April 1832, original in the possession of Robert Franklin of Greenville, South Carolina. Digital image in the author's files.

²³Walter Mead's letter to Hugh Mead, 10 April 1832.

Fairfield County Families in 1790

In 1833, when Jeremiah's estate was about to be divided equally among his nine heirs, one of his daughters, Frances, and her husband Erastus Close, filed a petition challenging the distribution. Their complaint alleged that Jeremiah had originally owned nearly 480 acres but had already given 112 acres to his son Walter and 161 acres to his son Benjamin.²⁴ Ultimately Jeremiah's land in Butler County and in the Firelands (Huron County) was divided among the seven other siblings leaving Walter and Benjamin with what they already had.²⁵

Children of Jeremiah and Esther (Peck) Mead, all born in Greenwich:²⁶

- i. WALTER P. MEAD, b. about 1785; d. after June 1833, possibly in Butler Co., Ohio.²⁷ He was the administrator of his father's estate in 1831²⁸ and a Justice of the Peace for Union Township in Butler County in 1829 and 1832.²⁹ He invested in real estate and owned a large farm where agricultural products were grown and hogs and cattle were raised.³⁰ He does not appear as a head of household in any census. A man his age lived with Jeremiah Mead in 1820,³¹ but not in 1830.³² Letters that he wrote are extant, the latest dated 10 April 1832 and he is mentioned in his father's probate record as late as June, 1835, but the date of his death is not known.
- ii. HARRIET MEAD, b. 21 December 1786; d. 20 February 1864 probably in Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana;³³ m. ISAAC PECK;³⁴ b. 09 July 1787; d. 30 April 1862 probably in Brookville.³⁵ Isaac was listed as head of a household in Brookville in 1830 with one male 15-19, one male 40-49 and one female 40-49.³⁶ These numbers represent Isaac, Harriet and their only son, William Jackson Peck, born in Connecticut in 1815.³⁷ They were also enumerated in the 1840, 1850, and 1860 census for Brookville. In the 1860 census, Isaac was listed as a 72-year-old farmer who was born in Connecticut. Their real estate was valued at \$5,000.³⁸ In the 1850 census, William J. Peck, age 34, doctor, and his presumed wife Margaret Ann, 25, were enumerated in Brookville in the house next to his parents' house.³⁹ William died on 23 November 1891 and is buried in Brookville.⁴⁰

²⁴Butler County, Ohio, Court of Common Pleas, Chancery Court, June Term 1833, 1.

²⁵Sawers, *Lineage of Jeremiah Mead*, 40.

²⁶Mead, *Mead Genealogy*, 282-283. Also, *Wicks & Olson*, 170.

²⁷Butler County, Ohio Chancery Court, June Term 1833.

²⁸Walter Mead's letter to his brother Hugh from Union, Butler Co., Ohio, 10 April 1832.

²⁹Walter Mead's letter to Hugh Mead, 10 April 1832. Also, Audrey Shields Hancock, *A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler Co., Ohio*, Cincinnati: Western Biographical Publishing Co., 1882, 574.

³⁰Walter Mead's letter to Hugh Mead, dated 5 October 1831 from Ohio, original in the possession of Robert Franklin of Greenville, South Carolina. Digital image in the author's files.

³¹1820 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Liberty, p. 111, Jeremiah Mead.

³²1830 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Liberty, p. 111, Jeremiah Mead.

³³www.findagrave.com, Memorial #68812839, Harriet Peck, buried in Old Brookville Cemetery, Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana. A photo of the stone is posted on this site and the stone appears to be appropriately aged..

³⁴*Wicks & Olson*, 170.

³⁵www.findagrave.com, Memorial #68812822, Old Brookville Cemetery, Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana, gravestone pictured.

³⁶1830 US Census, Franklin Co., Indiana, p. 304, Isaac Peck; NARA microfilm M19, Roll 27.

³⁷www.findagrave.com, Memorial #68812863, Old Brookville Cemetery, Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana, gravestone pictured. Later censuses provide his birthplace.

³⁸1860 US Census, Franklin Co., Ind., Brookville, p. 186, Isaac Peck; NARA microfilm publication M653, roll 259.

³⁹1850 US Census, Franklin Co., Ind., Brookville, p. 279 (stamped), dwelling 35, family 35, Isaac Peck, and dwelling 36, family 36, William J. Peck; NARA microfilm publication M432, roll 146.

⁴⁰www.findagrave.com, Memorial #68812863, Old Brookville Cemetery, Brookville, Franklin Co., Indiana, gravestone pictured.

- iii. HUGH MEAD, b. about 1788;⁴¹ d. 13 February 1856, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania; m. AMELIA RUSSELL on 10 October 1818 in New Rochelle, Westchester Co., New York;⁴² b. 1789, NY; d. 23 June 1841, probably in Susquehanna Co.⁴³ Hugh was enumerated in the 1820 census in Liberty, Butler Co., Ohio.⁴⁴ The family relocated to Harford, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania in 1822⁴⁵, where he was listed in the 1830 census.⁴⁶ Hugh was listed in the 1840 census in Lenox in the same county.⁴⁷ He married 09 May 1848 Mrs. Polly Robbins.⁴⁸ Hugh and Amelia had four daughters and possibly a son: Frances, b. 19 July 1819 Springdale, Hamilton, Ohio, m. Truman Tingley;⁴⁹ the others b. Pennsylvania: Emeline abt. 1824,⁵⁰ Amelia abt. 1826⁵¹ and Priscilla, b. abt 1828.
- iv. LUKE MEAD, b. about 1790,⁵² m. (1) unknown, ca. 1814, probably New York.⁵³ Their two sons, James L. (b. about 1814) and Lot Sorels (b. about 1816; d. 11 March 1898)⁵⁴ listed their birthplace as NY in the 1860 Illinois census.⁵⁵ Luke's daughter Mary was born on 03 January 1818 and died on 20 January 1906.⁵⁶ Luke's first wife died before June 1821, when Luke married (2) MARY TIMBERMAN on 07 June 1821 in Franklin Co., Indiana.⁵⁷ Luke Mead was listed in the 1830 census for Parke Co., Indiana, with a supposed wife, three sons and two daughters.⁵⁸

⁴¹www.findagrave.com., Memorial #103241276, Hugh Mead, Tower Cemetery, West Lenox, Pennsylvania. Gravestone pictured.

⁴²Copy of the Hugh Mead-Amelia Russell marriage certificate prepared by the Rector of Trinity Church: "I Do hereby certify that on the Tenth day of October 1818 was married by me Hugh Mead to Amelia Russell Daughter of Caleb Russell of New Rochelle . . ."

⁴³www.findagrave.com, Memorial #103241264, Tower Cemetery, West Lenox, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania; gravestone pictured. Birth year calculated from age on headstone.

⁴⁴1820 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Liberty, p. 111, Hugh Mead; NARA microfilm M33, Roll 87.

⁴⁵Newspaper obituary for Frances M. Tingley, cut out with no date or publication. Original in the possession of Robert Franklin, Greenville SC.

⁴⁶1830 US Census, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania, Harford, p. 33, Hugh Mead; NARA microfilm M19, Roll 162.

⁴⁷1840 US Census, Susquehanna Co., Pennsylvania, Lenox, p. 398, Hugh Mead; NARA microfilm M704, Roll 476.

⁴⁸Jeanne E. S. Harrington, *Marriage Records and Death Records 1816-1849: Copied from the Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, Newspapers*, Wilkes-Barre, Pa.: E. B. Yordy Co., printers, 1930.

⁴⁹Newspaper obituary for Frances M. Tingley. findagrave.com, Memorial #62048803, Frances Mead Tingley, Tower Cemetery, West Lenox, Pa.

⁵⁰1850 US Census, Susquehanna Co., Pa., Lenox, population schedule, p. 88 (stamped), dw. & fam. 1347, Hugh Mead; NARA microfilm publication M432, Roll 829.

⁵¹findagrave.com, Memorial #103241291, Amelia Mead, Tower Cemetery, West Lenox, Pa.

⁵²*Wicks & Olson*, 170: "Luke, born circa 1790, resided in New York and Indiana."

⁵³Lawrence Meade of Cashmere WA, a 3rd great grandson of Luke Mead, posted the following request on 11 March 2007, <https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/Meadresearchers/info>. "I am trying to find information on Luke Mead, b. 1790 Greenwich, CT who was living in Harrisonstown (now Harrison, Westchester County, NY) in 1813 through 1816. There he married his first wife and had two sons James L. b. in 1814 and Lot Sorels Mead b. 06 Jan 1816. In 1817, Luke joined his father Jeremiah Mead, Jr. and the rest of the family migrating west to Butler County, OH . . . where Jeremiah purchased land in March 1818. I suspect [Luke's daughter] Mary was born in Butler County, OH before their mother died sometime in abt 1820 or early 1821. . . ."

⁵⁴findagrave.com, Memorial #110859972, Riverside Cemetery, Marshalltown, Marshall Co., Iowa, Photo.

⁵⁵1860 US Census, Whiteside Co., Illinois, Genesee, p. 721, NARA microfilm M653, Roll 237.

⁵⁶www.findagrave.com, Memorial #55218820, Smith Grove Cemetery, Towanda, McLean Co., Illinois.

⁵⁷Franklin County, Indiana, Marriage Records, 1819-1824, 32, line 2, Luke Mead to Mary Timberman; "Indiana Marriages, 1811-2007," database with images, Familysearch.org (<https://familysearch.org>).

⁵⁸1830 US Census, Parke Co., Indiana, p. 12, Luke Mead; NARA microfilm M19, Roll 32.

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- v. MARIA (MARIAH) C. MEAD, b. about 1791;⁵⁹ d. before 1833, possibly Montgomery Co., Ohio;⁶⁰ m. JOSEPH HAMILTON McMAKEN 25 May 1824 in Butler Co., Ohio;⁶¹ (1789-1857)⁶² He was Justice of the Peace in Butler County in 1823 and 1826.⁶³ Maria and Joseph had one daughter, Maria, who was listed as a minor and "heir of law of Maria M'Maken, late Maria Mead of Montgomery county, Ohio" in Butler County court records in 1833.⁶⁴
- vi. ELIZA PECK MEAD, b. 10 June 1793; d. 10 February 1874, West Liberty, Logan Co., Ohio;⁶⁵ m. DR. JONATHAN DRAKE in 1819, in Ohio;⁶⁶ b. 13 January 1783; d. 21 August 1830, Butler Co., Ohio.⁶⁷ They had at least five children: a daughter, Harriet Amelia Drake (1820-1903)⁶⁸ who married Hamilton J. Cox (1819-1896),⁶⁹ two sons, Lewis and Jeremiah, and two others that did not reach adulthood.⁷⁰
- Jonathan Drake was named in the 1830 census in Union Township, Butler Co., Ohio,⁷¹ and died the same year. In 1840 Eliza was enumerated in Wayne, Township, Butler County, sharing her home with four males aged 15-29 and three females aged 20-30,⁷² one more than accounted for in the list of her children. She relocated to Indiana in 1850 to be near her two sons, Lewis and Jeremiah Mead Drake, who were studying for the ministry in South Hanover.⁷³ Eliza returned to Ohio before 1870, where she was listed in the 1870 census with her son Lewis and his family. Lewis, a 43-year-old minister was the head of a household in West Liberty, Logan Co., Ohio, that included his wife, their six children, and his mother.⁷⁴
- vii. FRANCES "FANNY" MEAD,⁷⁵ b. 30 March 1797; d. 15 April 1868, Springfield, Hamilton Co., Ohio;⁷⁶ m. DR. ERASTUS CLOSE on 10 May 1823 in Butler Co., Ohio.⁷⁷ Erastus was enumerated in the 1830 census in Union Township, Butler Co., Ohio.⁷⁸ Erastus and his family

⁵⁹findagrave.com, Memorial #46258976, Joseph McMacken, Maria is listed as his third wife, Old Middletown Cemetery, Middletown, Des Moines Co., Iowa, gravestone photo.

⁶⁰Butler County Chancery Court, June Term 1833, 1: "Maria M'Maken, late Maria Mead of Montgomery county, Ohio."

⁶¹Butler County, Ohio, Probate Court, Marriage Record, v. 1, 196, entry 11, McMakan-Mead; "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database and images, Familysearch.org. Also, *Wicks & Olson*, 170.

⁶²www.findagrave.com, Memorial #46258976, Old Middletown Cemetery, Middletown, Des Moines Co., Iowa.

⁶³*A History and Biographical Cyclopaedia of Butler Co., Ohio*, 574.

⁶⁴Butler County Chancery Court, June Term 1833, 1.

⁶⁵www.findagrave.com, Memorial #104359865, Fairview Cemetery, West Liberty, Logan Co., Ohio.

⁶⁶*Wicks & Olson*, 170. Also Mead, *Mead Genealogy*, 282.

⁶⁷www.findagrave.com, Memorial #7215679, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale, Hamilton Co., Ohio.

⁶⁸www.findagrave.com, Memorial #18843096, Tamaroa Cemetery, Tamaroa, Perry Co., Illinois, No photo.

⁶⁹Ibid., Memorial #20354369, Tamaroa Cemetery, Tamaroa, Perry Co., Illinois. No photo.

⁷⁰Eliza Drake letter to Hugh Mead, 26 Jan 1851; original in the possession of Robert Franklin, digital image in author's files. ". . . I have been called to part with . . . my husband . . . and two lovely children have been taken by the hand of death . . ."

⁷¹1830 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Union, p. 69, Jonathan Drake; NARA microfilm M19, Roll 127.

⁷²1840 US Census, Butler County, Ohio, Wayne Twp., p. 99 (stamped) verso, Elizabeth Drake; NARA microfilm publication M 704, roll 380.

⁷³Eliza Drake letter to Hugh Mead, 26 Jan 1851.

⁷⁴1870 US Census, Logan Co., Ohio, West Liberty, p. 133A, Lewis Drake; NARA microfilm M593, Roll 1234.

⁷⁵*Mead Genealogy*, 282.

⁷⁶www.findagrave.com, Memorial #7215624, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale, Hamilton Co., Ohio.

⁷⁷Butler County, Ohio, Probate Court, Marriages, vol. 1, p. 181, line 1, Erastus S. Close to Frances Mead; "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database and images, Familysearch.org. (<https://familysearch.org>).

⁷⁸1830 US Census, Butler Co., Ohio, Union Twp., p. 69, Erastus Close, NARA microfilm M19, Roll 127.

Fairfield County Families in 1790

members were listed in the 1850 census in Springfield.⁷⁹ Erastus and Frances were enumerated with their three children, Sarah Hester Close (age 17), Cornelia G. Close (age 9) and Erastus Close (age 16 months). Erastus, Frances and their two daughters were listed in the 1860 Springfield census.⁸⁰

- viii. CHARLOTTE MEAD,⁸¹ b. about 1804;⁸² d. 27 December 1855, Hamilton Co., Ohio;⁸³ m. DAVID GASTON ca. 1829, Ohio.⁸⁴ David B. Gaston was enumerated in Springfield Township, Hamilton Co., Ohio, in 1850, with wife Charlotte, 46, and three daughters, Harriet N., 18, Maria H., 16, and Jane S., 14.⁸⁵ Their oldest daughter, Mary Ann Gaston, b. 09 May 1830 in Hamilton Co., married her first cousin Reverend Lewis Isaac Drake (1826-1904).⁸⁶ Lewis, a minister, was enumerated in 1870 in West Liberty, Logan Co., Ohio. His household included his wife, their six children, and his mother.⁸⁷ Mary Ann died on 23 February 1912 in Iola, Allen Co., Kansas.⁸⁸
- ix. BENJAMIN CHURCH MEAD, b. 1804;⁸⁹ m. (1) ANN CUNNINGHAM ca. 1832, probably Butler Co., Ohio.⁹⁰ She d. 1834.⁹¹ Benjamin m. (2) MARY LIVINGSTON BROWN⁹² on 21 April 1840, Hamilton Co., Ohio.⁹³ Benjamin was enumerated in the 1840 census in Springfield, Hamilton Co., Ohio as the head of a household with his presumed wife and son.⁹⁴ He was listed in the 1850 census as Benjamin Mead, age 46, farmer, born in Connecticut. This document also names his wife and four children including James, 16. Their real estate was valued at \$9,000.⁹⁵ Benjamin died at age 46 on 12 August 1850 in Springdale during a cholera outbreak.⁹⁶ and was buried at Old St. Mary's Cemetery, Springdale.⁹⁷ After Benjamin's death, Mary married William D. Hilts, on 11 May 1856 in Hamilton Co.⁹⁸ Mary Livingston (Brown) (Mead) Hilts died on 03 June 1897 in Cincinnati and was buried in Spring Grove Cemetery there.⁹⁹

Child of Benjamin and Ann (Cunningham) Mead

- a) James Watson Cunningham Mead, b. 19 December 1832 in Butler Co., Ohio;¹⁰⁰

⁷⁹ 1850 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield Twp., p. 1198, Erastus Close, NARA m-film M432, Roll 685.

⁸⁰ 1860 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield Twp., p. 292, Erastus Close, NARA microfilm M653, Roll 979.

⁸¹ Mead, *Mead Genealogy*, 283.

⁸² 1850 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield, p. 124A, David B. Gaston; NARA microfilm M432, Roll 685.

⁸³ Erastus Close letter to Hugh Mead, 3 January 1861, original in the possession of Robert Franklin, electronic copy in author's files. Includes date of death.

⁸⁴ *Wicks & Olson*, 170.

⁸⁵ 1850 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield, p. 124A, David B. Gaston; NARA microfilm M432, Roll 685.

⁸⁶ www.findagrave.com, Memorial #95690435, Iola Cemetery, Iola, Allen Co., Kansas.

⁸⁷ 1870 US Census, Logan Co., Ohio, West Liberty, p. 133A, Lewis Drake; NARA microfilm M593, Roll 1234.

⁸⁸ Ibid., Memorial #95690459, Iola Cemetery, Iola, Allen Co., Kansas, gravestone pictured.

⁸⁹ www.findagrave.com, Memorial #7215959, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale, Hamilton Co., Ohio.

⁹⁰ *Wicks & Olson*, 170, for bride's name. BC Mead letter to Hugh Mead, 11 Oct 1832, original in possession of Robert Franklin, digital image in author's files. He mentions his impending marriage.

⁹¹ *Mead Genealogy*, 282-283.

⁹² Emma Walker (Mead) Beeler, unpublished manuscript dated 25 October 1908, p. 2; in possession of author.

⁹³ *Wicks & Olson*, 170.

⁹⁴ 1840 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield, p. 341, Benj. C. Mead; NARA microfilm M704, Roll 400.

⁹⁵ 1850 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield, p. 105A, Benjamin Mead; NARA microfilm M432, Roll 685.

⁹⁶ Eliza Drake letter to Hugh Mead, 26 January 1851

⁹⁷ findagrave.com, Memorial #7215959, Benjamin C. Mead.

⁹⁸ Hamilton County, Ohio, Probate Court, Marriage Record B 4, 1853, p. 187, Hilts-Mead marriage; "Ohio, County Marriages, 1789-2013," database and images, Familysearch.org.

⁹⁹ findagrave.com, Memorial #68827971, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Plot.

¹⁰⁰ Mead, *Mead Genealogy*, 282.

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Children of Benjamin and Mary (Brown) Mead, two of whom survived until adulthood:

- b) Walter Scott Mead (11 March 1841 - 23 March 1843);¹⁰¹
- c) Emma Walker Mead, b. abt. 1842,¹⁰² m. John Beeler in 1865 in McLean County, Illinois,¹⁰³ and d. after the 1920 census;¹⁰⁴
- d) Eliza Perlee Mead (1844 - 20 October 1902);¹⁰⁵
- e) Frances Mead (1845 - 31 May 1846);¹⁰⁶
- f) Frances Etta Mead (05 July 1846 - 07 August 1849);¹⁰⁷
- g) Elmore Cunningham "B.C." Mead (25 May 1849 - 30 August 1851).¹⁰⁸

Editor's note: None other than Donald Lines Jacobus found fault with Spencer Mead, specifically in regard to information he published in *Ye History of ye Town of Greenwich*.¹⁰⁹ We might hope that Mr. Mead had more accurate information about his own kinsmen when he wrote the Mead genealogy¹¹⁰ which is cited in this article. The point for us is to be suspicious and always look for corroboration of the facts. Sandra Witt has done an excellent job comparing data from multiple sources and citing the Mead genealogy only when there is no other source for the information. She found only one error—the destination of Jeremiah Mead and family when they moved west.
NG

¹⁰¹ www.findagrave.com, Memorial #7215962, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale.

¹⁰² 1850 US Census, Hamilton Co., Ohio, Springfield, p. 105A, NARA microfilm M432, Roll 685.

¹⁰³ Illinois Statewide Marriage Index, 1763-1900, marriage of John Beeler and Emma Mead; Illinois State Archives, <http://www.ilsos.gov/isavital/marriagesrch.jsp>, citing original McLean County record, vol. E, p. 64.

¹⁰⁴ 1920 US Census, Denver Co., Ohio, Denver, p. 4A, NARA microfilm image 310, Roll T625_162.

¹⁰⁵ www.findagrave.com, Memorial #81021493, Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., Ohio. No photo.

¹⁰⁶ *Ibid.*, Memorial #7215960, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale.

¹⁰⁷ *Ibid.*, Memorial #7215961, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*, Memorial #74553856, Old Saint Mary's Cemetery, Springdale. No photo.

¹⁰⁹ A case in point: A letter quoted by *The American Genealogist* editors, *TAG* volume 80(2005): 292.

¹¹⁰ 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.

Introduction to Mead Family Letters

Nora Galvin, CG

The preceding sketch by Sandra Witt provides the backdrop to the letters published here. Her ancestor Jeremiah Mead was a veteran of the Revolutionary War and a “sufferer.” In 1817, at the age of 62, he traveled with his wife and entire family to southwest Ohio to begin a new life. This migration took place during the peak of migration from Connecticut to points west. Many families went to western New York or Pennsylvania or the Western Reserve of Connecticut in northeast Ohio. This one chose a somewhat more unusual destination.

From our vantage point in the 21st century we wonder how they might have traveled. One descendant, Mary Beeler Sawers, great-granddaughter of Benjamin Mead, wrote:¹

It is interesting to speculate on the route which the party traveled between Connecticut and southern Ohio in the fall or winter of 1817. [Seymour Dunbar. *A History of Travel in America*. Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill Co. 1915] notes that winter was a favorite for travel since this not only gave the travelers an opportunity to get in spring crops in the new location, but in this season the roads were no longer “seas of mud.” . . .

They had a choice of routes. They could have joined the throngs traveling from New York to Philadelphia, then across Pennsylvania to Redstone on the Monongahela, and down this river to the Ohio.

Travelers from Boston used a route across Massachusetts which joined the old Catskill Turnpike in New York state, crossed the Hudson at Catskill, continued to the nearest navigable point on the Susquehanna (Wattle’s ferry, now Unadilla, New York), then downstream to Harrisburg, overland to Pittsburgh, and finally down the Ohio.

Jeremiah’s second son, Hugh, was living in Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania, in 1833. This leads to speculation that the family may have used the Susquehanna River for some part of the trip; floating downstream was a good deal less arduous than traveling by land, although more fraught with uncertainties and hazards. . . .

Later, letters from family in Ohio to Hugh in Pennsylvania mention travel by canals. Following the opening of the Erie Canal in New York in 1825, many states built canals to connect large bodies of water and improve transportation before the railroads were built. The Miami and Erie Canal, for example, ran from Toledo to Cincinnati, right through Butler County where the Meads lived.

Besides their genealogical value these letters provide the non-related reader with a wonderful view into the lives of this family from Connecticut in their new home in Ohio. We hear of their illnesses, their crops, their business ventures, their deaths and even their politics. Thank you to Robert Franklin for preserving them.

¹ Mary Beeler Sawers, *Lineage of Jeremiah Mead of Greenwich, Connecticut, Soldier of the American Revolution*, Middletown, Ct.: typescript, 1958, 36. Digital book at <http://tinyurl.com/jfb5wob> .

Letter from Walter P. Mead to Hugh Mead 05 October 1831
transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

The original letter is in the possession of the transcribers. It was passed down through Hugh Mead's daughter Frances (Mead) Tingley and her daughter Juliette (Tingley) Phillips and was discovered by Juliette's grandson Robert Franklin in the old family home. See the preceding article for identification of some of the people mentioned here.

Hamilton Oct 5th 1831

Dear Brother I take this opportunity of writing you a short letter Father received one from Edmund Mead which letter he stated was wrote at your request he stated that you had wrote frequently and had Received no answer which is very strange as I have wrote you two letters and have received no answer and have been anxiously waiting to hear from you. he says you have been expecting money from me which has given no doubt great uneasioness on account of not having received any letter from me but I have not collected any money from Levi nor Erastus. I tried my best to get that of Fitton but to no purpose nor you ever unless you are here in person to attend to it. I have also endeavoured to sell your land in Indiania, but can find no purchaser every person moving west is bound for the Wabash. I don't know but it is a good thing that I have not collected your money as I should have forwarded it to you in the letters I have already sent you and which I understand you have not received it is somewhat

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singular that we have not received your letters nor you mine I have received none from you since the one containing the power of Attorney. I intend to go to your land the last of this month or the first of next and will use my best endeavours to sell the same unless instructed different by you before that time Land as well as all kinds of produce is on the rise here Edmund wrote you had said your plans and had not determined where you would settle. I hope not short of here. If you will come on and feel disposed to buy me out I will give you a bargain. I still continue not able to labour but am making a living and can do it here without. I have this summer burned a Brick Kiln of 60.000. and paid for the same which cost me a great deal more than they would have done had the summer been as dry as last. But it rained incessantly almost. I purchased 20 acres of Land that was sold last time adjoining the Potter farm on the North and the Talbot on the East for which I paid \$105. There is 10 acres of it cleared the balance is in wood which I intend chopping off this winter and putting it on the canal next summer. Wood is worth \$1.25 to 1.50 per cord on the Bank of the canal. I think I have 200 cords at least on said tract. Luke was in the middle of August. He left his family all well a few days before we had all heard he was doing much better than he had formerly done, which encouraged me assist him and prevail our Father to do so which he accordingly done by my

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hireing \$50.. of the money but I think he is Luke Still. I left home on monday morning and shall not return til Saturday unless court adjourns before; I am on the Jury and cannot leave though much against my will as at this season it is to my interest to be at home, more so than in harvest.

I have my hogs in the pen and have been feeding some time and have left them to a person who has no interest more than merely to put in his time. I have I think 240 Dollars worth of pork 5 head of Beef cattle. And about 200 Bushels of Barley worth 43 $\frac{3}{4}$ /per bushel. I am somewhat in debt however. But will be clear by the first day of January. Frost W Hall lives on the farm that Brother Drake purchased from R. H.M. they have all been sick this fall with the chill and fever Levi & Mary Ann is living with them at present they have become citizens of the world in a manner, gave their farm to Nath , turned themselves out of doors and Nath has sold the same and ready to leave for the uneadreath[?] The Daniel Anderson farm was sold at the court house door on Monday for 8.25 per acre in quantity 100 acres. Stephen Schooly lives here and is making a living he enquires after you to day Sam'l Hyndmen [a neighbor] talks of rent his farm and moving to Cincinnati. Eliza & family live in Springfield the youngest child quite unhealthy. Harriet remains poorly Close and family are not very hearty. Father is quite smart he had been to town and returned just as I left on Monday by the canal. Old Tommy Fleming Levi is married Charlotte Miller Hannah Miller Polly Fleming. I expect Harriet Walker[?] _____[?] Fleming and Allen Fleming. W. P. Mead will live old Maude[?] I am writing in the Bar room where there is a great crowd and I fear my letter will not be entertaining. Please to write me if you should receive this immediately. Respects to all enquiring friends, and I must Bid you good night. Walter P. Mead.

This letter was addressed:

Hamilton O

7 Oct 1831

Hugh Mead

Brooklyn

Susquehanna County

Pennsylvania

Letter from Walter P. Mead to Hugh Mead, 10 April 1832

transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

The original letter is in the possession of the transcribers. It and the others were passed down through Hugh Mead's daughter Frances (Mead) Tingley and her daughter Juliette (Tingley) Phillips and was discovered by Juliette's grandson Robert Franklin in the old family home. See the preceding article for identification of some of the people mentioned here.

Union April the 10th 1832

Dear Brother I once more take my pen to write you a short letter which I thought I would not again do until you had answered my last which was wrote in Nov. last. I wrote you immediately after the Death of our Dear father and in it stated the particulars the cause of his Death and the situation of the estate as I expected you would like to have known and never knew but that you had received it until this week E. S. Close received a letter from you stating that you had not received any intelligence from me of any of your friends here. The cause of fathers death was from a violent cold that settled on his lungs and suffocated him. He was not confined to the house but a few days before his death and had been very smart until he caught a very heavy cold— he made no arrangement of his property it remains in the same situation as before his death I mean all the real estate through the persuasion of the family I administered an the the chatted property and had a sale in Decr last. The amount sold was about \$400.00 and there is notes in my hands besides to the amount of \$500.00 in favour of the estate against Brother Benj.

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You wrote to Erastus that you expected to come out here this spring, that you had sold out there and was making preperations to come. I am heartily glad to hear that I hope you will fetch your family and once more become a citizen of Ohio I want you all very much and I certainly think you can live here and never lift a hand to Do any thing but to take care and attend to Business in person with out labouring easier than the most rugged men can do where you are. I however do not think it as healthy immediately in our neighbourhood as where you live but feel satisfied there are places that are equally healthy between the miamies [Great and Little Miami Rivers].

I am about Building me a house this spring 18 ft by 30. Kitchen Back 16 ft. by 18. I have my masons and carpenters engaged and shall begin the first of May. I have 60 thousand Bricks Burned and Near the spot where I intend building. You requested me to enclose my letter in a wrapper and direct it to Thomas Garland which I intend doing. I can not account for my letters not coming to hand the last I believe I directed to Brooklyn Pennsylvania I think I did not mention the county which has never been the case before

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I want you to write me immediately after you receive this and tell me when you are comeing and which way Direct your letter to Springdale H C [Hamilton County] I have been quite Rugged through the winter but at present feel quite feeble and Dread the effects of hot weather I still have a burning pain in my Right side which is getting worse every day. I must conclude as there is some men waiting on me on Business. I must tell you however in the way of Boasting a little that I was relected to the office of Justice of the peace on Monday Last over my opponent Col. Saml McLean by a majority of 140 votes.

Please remember me to Mr. Tower Mr Millard Mr Jackson and all enquiring friends.

Walter P. Mead

Letter from Walter P. Mead to Thomas Garland 27 June 1832
transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

Nothing has been heard from Hugh who was thought to be moving to Ohio. Walter worries that he and his family may have met with an accident when traveling on "Canal & Lake." We know Hugh did not make the move.

Envelope:

From Franklin O 29 July
Thomas Garland Esq P M
Brooklyn
Susquehanna Co
Pennsa

Letter:

July 27th 1832,

Thomas Garland Esqr

Dear sir I have taken the liberty of addressing a few lines to you Respecting my Brother H. Mead who resided near you. When we heard from him last he wrote that he would be with us here by the 20th of June I immediately answered his letter requesting him to write in what way he would move whether by the Canal & Lake or by land but have received no intelligence from him since, as there has many accidents happened on the lake this summer since Brother wrote me causes me to feel very anxious to know whether he has left Lenox for the west and in what way he intended to travel and knowing that you were a man that he much esteemed and often spoke of in his letters to me I thought it proper to ask you to write me a few lines on the subject and by so doing you will confer a particular favour on your friend and well wisher.

Walter P. Mead

On reverse of letter: (in Walter's handwriting)

Tm garland will please to drop a few lines as soon as possible Direct to Walter P. Mead
Springdale Hamilton County Ohio

(In a different handwriting):

Sir please answer this letter soon as possible you will See your Brother is very anxious to hear from you. I shall write as soon as I can get time.

T Garland

[To] H Mead

Letter from Benjamin C. Mead to Hugh Mead 11 October 1832

transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

Original letter in the possession of Sandra Johnson Witt, Gainesville, Florida.

In addition to some information about the health of family member this letter discusses the crops Benjamin was growing in Ohio. It also mentions the economy, which he suggests was in a downturn, and the upcoming presidential election, which he predicted would be won by Henry Clay (a Republican running against the incumbent Andrew Jackson). Finally, it mentions their brother Walter who is never mentioned again in letters, presumably dying soon after the settlement of their father's estate a few years later. Walter had just built a house and Benjamin says he is "renouncing bachelorism." In fact, he married not long after.

Oct the 11th 1832

Dear Brother

It is with some reluctance that I now for the first time in two years I think take my pen to write A letter to you or any other person now living and if it was not that I fear that you would impute it to a carelessness of your welfare, I should not be at this time writing to you but I do hope you do not intertain such an opinion at least I feel inocent on that score at present we are all in good health and the country in general enjoys that greatest of blessings it has been more healthy here this summer than ever was known notwithstanding the early part of the summer was very cool and dry and the opinion of many people was that it would be very sickly but thanks to him who rules the destinys of man it has been the revers A short time since I heard from Brother Peck & family they were in good health. Hariet more so than common Close & family are living in Springfield yet Eliza and family are well the crops are tolerable good wheat was very good corn is tolerable good if the frost keeps of A few days longer there will be plenty in this section but in other parts it is not so favorable small grain this fall looks fine I have 30 acres of Barly

[Page 2]

wich at this time is good pasture Barly is A grain tha is much more cultivated now than formerly its worth in a general way from 43 to 50 cent per bushel and will yield from 38 to 45 bushels per acre and has been known to go as high as 50 in particular seasons in this neighborhood this season ther is 200 acres sown it is A very disagreeable grain to work with however owing to the long beards wich adheres to the grain and after thrashing it from the sheaf must be tramp off wich makes A very disagreeable dust—corn is worth twenty five cents oats from 25 to 31 Wheat 75 Barly 43 Rye 37 apples 25 cider 1.25 Pork I can say nothin about there is no offers men that have formerly been in that business has nothing to say times are very hard in Cincinnati business of every kind is down and is much more felt

there than in the country at present but the time is coming in my opinion and not far distant when the when the people will get their eyes open to their own interest and by Electing Henry Clay save the country from ruin but I beg pardon for digressing there is A great excitement in Ohio at this time on the Presidential question men are renouncing their former belief and changing sides daily but the contest I consider very doubtful larg bets are making on both sides & I am inclined to think the state of Ohio will go for Clay

[Page 3]

Walter has given up the idea of going out to the lake this fall he had made up his mind to go but was taken unwell at the time and has since concluded not to go I was very sorry to hear that Amelia has enjoyed such poor health I expected to see you this fall with out doubt there has no change taken place as it respects the old Bachelors they are still like the odd half of A pair of cissors but I shall not class myself among that uncharitable set of beings much longer not more that A month at least. Walter has got in his house but has one very assential objet to obtain yet that is a house keeper for my part I am strong in the faith of renouncing bacelorism [bachelorism?] and going over to the popular party. I will now conclude my very imperfect letter & beg you to look ove all mistakes and blunders and conclude that I am not in the habit of writing letters which is realy the case this being the 4 I believe I ever wrote therefore I hope you will forgive me for my neglect to you please to write as soon as can make it convenient for believe me we flil anxious to no how you do and what your calculations are I shall anxiously look for A letter I will send you a papers with this remember we are anxious to hear from you, forever yours, BC Mead

Hamilton O
12 Oct 1832

Hugh Mead
Brooklyn

Onesimus Comstock, the Last Slave in Connecticut

Harlan R. Jessup

I beseech thee for my son Onesimus, whom I have begotten in my bonds: which in time past was to thee unprofitable, but now profitable to thee and to me.

St. Paul's Epistle to Philemon 1:9-10

The State of Connecticut began the gradual emancipation of slaves in 1785, a process not finally completed until 1845. But even then one aged slave, Onesimus¹ of Norwalk and New Canaan, refused his freedom and continued to live with and work for his spinster owner. The article following this introduction, reprinted from the *New Canaan Messenger*, and in turn reprinted from an earlier newspaper, gives a most interesting account of the slave and of his three owners, sisters Sarah and Phebe Comstock and their niece, also named Phebe Comstock.

Onesimus first appears in the "Drummond Visitation" of New Canaan in 29 Jan 1773, listed with his then owner and his presumed mother as follows:²

Cap^l Jonathan Husted, Mary his wife, Azariah Betts & Mabel Tuttle
Residenters, Candace a Niger Wench, Onesimus N Child.

Later that year Jonathan Husted, then of Long Island, sold Onesimus in August to Sarah and Phebe Comstock, the bill of sale reading in part:³

Know all men to whom these presents shall come that I, Jonathan Husted, of Brookhaven on Long Island, for the consideration of thirty-nine pounds...do sell...unto...Sary Comstock and Phebe Comstock, of Norwalk...one certain negro boy aged nine years the first day of November last named Onesimus..."

Onesimus next appears (though not by name) in the 1790 Federal Census of Norwalk as the only slave of Sarah Comstock,⁴ a spinster daughter of Moses and Abigail (Brinsmade) Comstock.⁵ Sarah died in 1796,⁶ and in the censuses of 1800 and 1810 one slave is enumerated in the household of her sister, Phebe Comstock,⁷ who died in 1817.⁸ Then, in the next four Federal censuses of Norwalk,⁹ he is in the household of the younger Phebe Comstock, daughter of Moses (junr.) and Elizabeth (St. John) Comstock¹⁰ and niece of Sarah and the elder Phebe.

¹ Onesimus, Latinized from the Greek, means useful or profitable.

² The Visitation Journey of Rev. W^m Drummond being A Census of the Canaan Parish in the Year 1772; photocopy of the original plus a transcription at New Canaan Historical Society.

³ Charles M. Selleck, *Norwalk*, Norwalk: 1896, p. 260, footnote citing the bill of sale "in the possession of Hon. A. H. Byington of Norwalk."

⁴ 1790 US Census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, Norwalk & Stamford, p. 308, col. 2, Sarah Comstock.

⁵ John Adams Comstock, *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America*, Los Angeles: privately printed by Commonwealth Press, 1949, 9.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ 1800 US census Fairfield Co., Ct., Norwalk, p. 988-989 (stamped), Phebe Comstock. 1810 US Census Norwalk, p. 140, Phebe Comstock.

⁸ Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Norwalk, p. 419, Moses, Sarah and Phebe grouped at bottom of page.

⁹ 1820 US Census, Norwalk, p. 276; 1830 US Census, Norwalk, pp. 514-515; 1840 US Census, Norwalk, p. 276 (as a free black male, age 70-80; 1850 US census, Norwalk, p.

¹⁰ *A History and Genealogy of the Comstock Family in America*, 21.

The 1850 census of Norwalk lists Onesimus Comstock, age 87, as “voluntary slave” in the household of Phebe Comstock, also age 87, with Darius and Elizabeth Ferris, both age 38,¹¹ plus Sarah A Buttery, 11. Sarah Buttery must be one of the long series of orphans who were sheltered by the spinster Phebe.

	Onesimus Comstock	87	on	18	Voluntary Slave	
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The following has been copied from Hall’s *History of Norwalk* and adds to the longer article which follows:¹²

Onesimus, the colored man, who lives with Miss Comstock and lived with the former Phebe Comstock, was 84 years old Dec. 4, 1846. When continental soldiers were quartered in town, the chaplain was at Miss Phebe’s; his waiter died, and Onesimus took his place. The soldiers were billeted round, but assembled for roll-call every day. Onesimus was enrolled.

Onesimus, at one time after the town was burnt, went down to get salt hay at Miss Phebe’s meadow, not far from the old potter’s shop, sometimes called “The Village” below Old Well. Miss Phebe went with him to look out, as the enemy were always lurking round for cattle, horses, and prisoners. Onesimus saw some “Red-coats” stealing along up a creek, and gave the alarm to Miss Phebe. “We put on; we had good horses then, and we ran’ we did not go slow.” They escaped—gave the alarm at the Old Well—the guard pursued, and took tow “Red-coats” prisoners.

Phebe Comstock died on 7 November 1854, aged 91 years, 3 months.¹³ Her will, dated 14 Nov 1840 provides for the support of “my coloured man Onestimas now living with me.”¹⁴ After Phebe’s death Onesimus returned to New Canaan to live on Ferris Hill¹⁵ where he died on 30 May 1857, aged 88 years, 9 months, and is buried near Phebe in the New Richards Cemetery, now known as Canoe Hill Cemetery, New Canaan.¹⁶

The following transcribed article and most of the references cited in this introduction are found in the library of the New Canaan Historical Society, whose permission to publish is gratefully acknowledged.

¹¹ Darius Ferris, Jr., married Elizabeth A. Armstrong on 29 Apr 1840, Norwalk Vital Records, Burton Collection (marriage records 1834-1853), p. 31. Darius is likely a nephew or great-nephew of Phebe.

¹² Edwin Hall, *The Ancient Historical Records of Norwalk, Conn.*, New York: Iveson, Phiney, Blakeman & Co., 1865, p. 173.

¹³ Hale Collection of Headstone Inscriptions, New Canaan, p. 150.

¹⁴ Norwalk Probate Court Record, 9:293.

¹⁵ Mary Louise King, *Portrait of New Canaan*, New Canaan Historical Society, 1981, p. 197.

¹⁶ Hale Collection of Headstone Inscriptions, New Canaan, p. 151.

“The Last Slave in Connecticut”

Article from the *New Canaan Messenger*, November 14, 1885¹
Submitted by Harlan Jessup

The Last Slave in Connecticut by Isaac H. Hall

The following article is taken from the *Independent* and is published by request. We think it will prove interesting reading to those who have not read it, especially as it has a local bearing:²

One does not need to be extremely aged to remember the existence of slaves in New York and New Jersey. The generation has hardly passed that knew what rank consideration a goodly retinue of sable bond-servants conferred upon the wealthy owner, all the way from the Hudson to the Delaware. The books of the Register's office in New York City contain not a few recorded deeds of manumission dated within the first two decades of this century.

But it is not generally known that a few relics of “the system” lingered, even within the borders of New England, for a long time after. It was only in 1857 that the last slave died—and died a slave—in Connecticut; in Norwalk, my native town.

His name was Onesimus; he was one “born in the house,” and, from a date fourteen years earlier than the American Independence, had been the property of as excellent a family of sterling pur-itants as New England ever saw. Long before the days of “abolition agitation” the question of his emancipation had been considered, but his owners thought that he could hardly shift for himself, while he himself did not wish to be emancipated; for the thought that he had freedom enough.

In that happy state he continued till the state emancipation laws found him too old to be turned adrift, and fixed his status as a slave, until death should set him free, and remove the lien of his support from his owner's property.

The children of my time remember him as an aged giant, straight as an arrow and crowned with snowy wool. We rarely saw him, except at church on Sundays, where nothing delighted him more than for the minister to stop and shake hands with him; an attention which would invariably draw from him the comment that “that man is not proud.” We never heard him speak except with courtesy and kindness, but he spoke but little, for he stammered terribly. We all called him “Old O-ne,” (pronounce it O'ny; but I do not dare to reform the spelling of the local newspaper of the time), and probably few of us knew that his full name was Onesimus, conferred in memory of the immortal servant of Philemon.

¹ Microfilmed copies of the *New Canaan Messenger* may be found at the New Canaan Historical Society. The article is reproduced here as in the original, only adding these few footnotes.

² Though there have been a number of journals called the *Independent*, none has been identified from Connecticut with a date between 1865 and 1885. The author of the article, Isaac H. Hall, has not been further identified among the many members of the Hall family residing in Fairfield County.

Old O-ne was the servant of Miss Phebe and Miss Sarah Comstock, two most remarkable maiden ladies, who traced their lineage directly back to immigrants of the “Mayflower” on one of her voyages, and who inherited and retain sundry articles of use that came over in that ship. They owned and worked their hereditary farm, three miles from the town, led lives of piety and large benevolence; adopted, reared, and saw settled in life a great number of orphan boys and girls; and left a pattern of steadiness and excellence whose memory two generations have not been able to obliterate.

Though so far from the town, their house was the “minister’s tavern,” and there President Dwight³ and his contemporaries regularly stopped when on their journeys, and were entertained with courteous hospitality. It is not known that either of these ladies ever missed a Sunday at church, notwithstanding the three rough miles between them and the house of worship—miles which doubled or trebled their length in bad or muddy weather. But it is a fact—a fact that has a written diary to back it—that Miss Phebe was never absent from church a single service in for fifty-one years. The text from which her funeral sermon was preached, and which is to be read on her tombstone to this day, was Psalm xcii, 13: “Those that he planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God.”

The long rough way to church they went on horseback, Onesimus riding a third horse, and carrying in a portmanteau the lunch to be eaten between the services. If it happened to be storm (for umbrellas were not then in vogue), the ladies would come muffled in cloaks and wraps enough to keep them dry; and after alighting, would stand in the meeting-house entry while Onesimus took off wrap after wrap, and cloak after cloak, till he reached an envelope that was dry. Then they would go to their pew, in the unwarmed house, and fear no rheumatism or colds.

Between the services they ate their characteristic lunch; no solitary feeding in the retired pew, but a full meal spread on a white tablecloth in an orderly manner, and the poor of the congregation, black and white, invited to partake with them. Those of the “poor pew” who remained between the services counted upon and received that meal as a substantial kindness. It was offered and received in all simplicity, and blessed both giver and taker.

These good old ladies made it rather dangerous for a minister to preach an old sermon in Norwalk. For example: during the pastorate of the Rev. Roswell B. Swann (1807-1819) the Rev Hezekiah Ripley of Green’s Farms, preached, one Sunday at Norwalk, to relieve the sick pastor. Coming out of the church he was accosted by Miss Phebe, and the following dialogue ensued:

Miss Phebe: “Doctor, do you keep a record of where and when you preached your sermons?”

Dr. Ripley: “Yes I do.”

Miss Phebe: “Then I think you’ll find you preached this sermon here just fifty years ago today.”

Dr. R.: “Well I know you have a remarkable memory, Aunt Phebe, but this time I think you are mistaken, as I see no such record made on the sermon; as there certainly would have been had I ever preached it here before.”

³ Timothy Dwight, President of Yale College, 1795 to 1817.

Miss Phebe: (with entire positiveness) "Oh, I know I've heard it before, Doctor, and 'pears to me certain it was just fifty years ago this very Sabbath day I heard you preach it."

Dr. R.: "Well, let us be sure about it."

Whereupon, pulling down his great ox-bow specs from his massive forehead, he began to scan the back of the ancient roll, when, sure enough, he found that Aunt Phebe was not only right as to the fact, but exact as to the date. He had preached the same sermon from the same desk just fifty years ago that day. As he walked away from the church, he remarked: "Well, Norwalk is a dangerous place to come to, to preach old sermons."

However, the old lady had a memorandum at home, in case her memory had failed. Every Sunday evening the family were brought around the table, and each, with a goose quill pen and a home-made book of sheets of paper stitched together, was required to write down the day of the month and year, the name of the minister who preached, his text, and such "points" of the sermon as each could recall. That was a specimen of the training the ladies gave their orphan proteges.

These were the two old ladies to whom Onesimus belonged, from youth till past middle life; and, so far as his native abilities permitted, he was worthy of his bringing up.

During the Revolutionary War (I had it from his own lips when I was a child) Onesimus was enrolled as a soldier, and served his part with "the Guard" which had continually to be on the watch against British or Tory incursions from Long Island. When Continental soldiers were quartered in town, the chaplain (naturally) was at Miss Phebe's. His waiter died, and Onesimus took the place. The soldiers were billeted round, but assembled every day for roll-call. At one time, after the town was burned (1779) Onesimus went down to the harbor to get salt hay at Miss Phebe's meadow, near a place then called Old Well, but now the city of South Norwalk. Miss Phebe went with him to look out, as the enemy were always lurking about for cattle, horses, and prisoners. Onesimus saw some "Red-Coats" stealing along up a creek, and gave the alarm to Miss Phebe. "We put on," said he. "We had good horses then, and we ran; we did not go slow." They escaped and gave the alarm at the Old Well. The guard pursued and took the Red-Coats prisoners.

Such is the story as he told it to my father and myself; but, after the general mode of evolving history, the story has been greatly magnified and its chronology disjointed. The local tradition now funs that Onesimus was further down the harbor when General Tryon's ship sailed up to burn the town, and, "mounting his horse, ran him up town, and spread the alarm so that thee people could prepare their brave but ineffectual resistance." But the approach of Tryon's fleet was made on a Saturday evening, and seen by many. In the night the people removed their goods, and at daybreak the next morning came the alarm guns, the conflagration, and the battle. There is no doubt that Onesimus was in that battle along with all the other male inhabitants of sufficient age.⁴

⁴ General William Tryon's raids on New Haven, Fairfield, and Norwalk occurred in July 1779.

At the time of the battle and burning of the town, another Miss Phebe, then about seventeen years old, niece of the one already mentioned, lived at Canoe Hill, within the bounds of New Canaan. She used to go over to her uncle's and climb an apple tree whence she could see Norwalk very distinctly. She heard the alarm, went to the apple tree, saw the flames and heard the guns. Her father and four brothers were engaged in the defence. As she described it some 77 years afterwards, "It was the dreadfulest day I ever saw. The guns kept firing a long time. It was a dreadful fight. I saw the Redcoats take up several of their dead or wounded and carry them away to the boats; and I saw the steeple of the meeting-house fall in." It was this younger Miss Phebe who at the close of the former Miss Phebe's fifty-one years' unbroken attendance at church, became heir to the house, the farm and the servant Onesimus. She kept up the character of the ancient household for steadiness, benevolence, piety and all the sterling qualities, till at the age of about ninety, she died, some three or four [years] before her slave Onesimus.

Like her predecessors she held fast the prerogative of adopting orphan youth and entertaining ministers. On Forefather's Day she always set a bountiful table of roast beef and plum-pudding; and if the table was not filled with guests, the feast was eaten by the poor. Two days before Thanksgiving, for every year of her life, she sent her pastor two chickens and a young goose. She provided homes for 26 girls till they were married, and for 13 boys till they entered upon a trade or went to college. One of her boys (they never ceased to be boys to her) was the Rev. James Richards, Prof. of Theology at Auburn, and chairman of the body that passed the famous "Auburn Declaration" of the New School Presbyterians. In her later years though her mind was perfectly unclouded she did not remember "Dr. Richards—No, she did not know such a man." But when asked if she remembered James Richards, who became pastor at Newark in New Jersey, and afterward Professor of Theology at Auburn, "Oh, yes," she replied, "I guess I do remember our JIM."

Little she cared for fame in comparison with duty. Indeed she used to tell a reminiscence, which had been a childhood lesson against pride. During the War of the Revolution her father had taken her down to the New York and Easton turnpike to see General Washington as he passed through. He stopped at a house where that turnpike diverges from West Avenue and took a drink of cider from a "noggin," dipping from a tub that stood on the stoop for the general refreshment. "Father," said little Phebe, "I shouldn't think General Washington would drink cider out of a noggin." "Phebe," replied her father, "General Washington isn't proud."

In all things, just as he had been for her predecessors, Old O-ne was household servant to this Miss Phebe. Grown gray in the service of the deaconate succession, it is doubtful if he could now have done anything else. His round of duties, his goings out and comings in were made of the same regular, steady offices of utility and errands of benevolence, under the mingled impulses of duty and habit. His mistress' behests were performed with a cheerfulness, a mechanical movement and punctuality like the lively and inexorable Yankee clock.

This second Miss Phebe was regular at church; but she was not able to attain unto the glory of her predecessor. She did sometimes stay away—never from bad weather, but through ill health and old age. But Onesimus was always there. An authentic story on that point has been preserved, though the names of the ministers concerned are not absolutely certain. The

clergyman from New Canaan had exchanged with the Norwalk minister, each going to the other's house on Saturday. Sunday proved to be very tempestuous, and the snow drifts so high as to impede all locomotion; and the New Canaan pastor's courage failed. He remarked to the Norwalk pastor's wife that he did not believe any one would be able to reach the church and so he would not venture out himself. "Yes, there will," said she, "O-ne will be there; for he has not missed a single Sabbath for forty years." "Then I'll go and preach to him," responded the minister. The lady then brought down a pair of huge old-fashioned blue woolen yarn stockings, which she aided the minister in drawing on over his shoes and trousers; and securely tying the tops above the holy man's knees, he plunged out into the snow, and, after a severe struggle waded up to the church. Entering, sure enough, there was the faithful Onesimus sitting patiently besides the box woodstove with the sexton, and both awaiting the regular administrations, despite the terrible and unusual snow tempest raging without. The minister congratulated his two waiting hearers, and then mounting the desk preached a sermon suitable to the occasion but of the usual duration. Everything passed off with the usual decorum, except that the congregation broke down completely in the singing, so that the minister was obliged to relieve the audience by stating that "the singing will be dispensed with." When Onesimus reached home, Aunt Phebe asked him if there was any meeting. "Y-e-e-s," he stammered, "h-a-a-d Doc-doctor Richards. Prpp-proper nice ser-sermon, t-too, on-only a lit-little t-too personal."

Onesimus was one year older than the second Miss Phebe, but he outlived her a few years and died at the age of ninety-five or ninety-six, a year or two before the affair of John Brown in Virginia. Had he lived to see his entire race emancipated by the thirteenth amendment, he would have more than completed a century. But it is not likely that he cast his thoughts so far ahead. He died, as he lived, a willing slave, but the Lord's freeman.

Index to Hunt Collection of Early Norwalk Land Records Now Under Construction and Placed Online

Paul Keroack and Merry Park

The Norwalk History Room at the Norwalk Public Library possesses a unique extraction of early land records from the area first settled in 1651 as colonial Norwalk, which until the early 19th century, included the present town of Wilton and parts of New Canaan and Westport.

Malcolm C. Hunt was a professional land record searcher employed by Norwalk lawyer-historian John C. Cuneo. From about 1961 onwards, Hunt embarked on a methodical project to extract genealogically useful information found in deeds filed in town clerks' offices in Norwalk and adjacent towns. Hunt began with the map showing distribution of "home lots" in 1652 to the first settlers as shown in the 1896 history, *Norwalk*, by Charles Selleck.¹

Hunt transcribed key data from each deed to a formatted sheet topped with the letterhead of Cuneo's firm² – adding sheets for succeeding and neighboring deeds in each designated geographic area or "block" of the original township. Each finished set of sheets was placed in a manila envelope along with occasional probate data and boundary sketch maps. On the outside of each envelope Hunt drew a careful sketch map of that block – usually bounded for convenience by contemporary streets and roads. Envelopes were then numbered and keyed to a larger map of a sub-division of Norwalk or one of the other current towns carved from it. Deeds covered years up to or past 1800 in most areas, and occasionally into the 20th century. Though the data is handwritten, Hunt's neat lettering is quite legible. The subdivisions delineated by Hunt are:

- Norwalk (central)
- East Norwalk (including Saugatuck-Westport)
- New Canaan
- Rowayton
- South Norwalk
- West Norwalk
- Wilton.

The Hunt collection allows a searcher to determine the successive ownership of properties in a given geographical location. Details such as neighbors' names, natural boundaries and dates of purchase are included as well as frequent notations of personal relationships and names of towns to which or from which the purchaser may have relocated.

However, one finding aid was lacking—that of access to the deeds by the land owner's name. The town clerk's office does have grantee / grantor index books, and these have been microfilmed (available at the Connecticut State Library and from the Family

¹ Charles M. Selleck, *Norwalk*, Norwalk, Connecticut: published by author, 1896.

² Lovejoy, Cuneo & Curtis.

History Library), but a combination of the locality as specified by Hunt together with a search by name would offer optimal access to this extensive data trove.

Based on a suggestion by Connecticut Ancestry Society genealogist Fred Hart, we examined an index created in 1939-40 to accompany a survey of Fairfield properties in the “four squares,” as the original colonial center of that town is called.³ Created in the pre-computer era, the neatly typed alphabetical list of names links the successive owners to the properties drawn on the maps included in the collection.

Since the area covered in the Hunt Collection is many times larger than the Fairfield Four Squares, we decided to break the task into smaller units, creating an index of grantors and grantees for each of Hunt’s blocks rather than creating a single comprehensive index. Each block list includes between 6 to over 200 surnames

In order to complete the project in a reasonable amount of time, indexes are limited to names of parties (grantees and grantors sorted alphabetically); area sub-division; block number within that area; year the deed was recorded, town/state residence of any party, if outside of Norwalk, and deed volume and page numbers—the latter two included in most entries and will be added to the others later. Abbreviations and other criteria used in the index are noted in the introduction to the collection on the History Room web page.

The indexing, still in progress, is being posted on the Norwalk History Room website, under Land Records: <http://www.norwalklib.org/index.aspx?nid=557>. Also included are digital images of Hunt’s sub-division maps, with block boundaries shown. Beyond the indexing, we hope to eventually have Hunt’s complete collection of worksheets scanned and posted online.

Some of the sub-division sketch maps have blank sections and some blocks have gaps in sequential numbering, but a survey of the local geography suggests that these areas were either sparsely inhabited by 1800, or perhaps too few relevant deeds were recorded with the towns. Further information, if discovered may settle these questions.

³ *Fairfield, Connecticut Tercentenary, 1639-1939*; compiled by Historical Publications Committee, 1940. includes in its appendix outline maps of the areas indexed; Fairfield Museum and History Center, Fairfield.

Samuel Ferris of Newtown in 1790, Two Daughters' Data Corrected Kathryn Downs Wolff

Ferris, Samuel
Newtown

1-1-6-0-0¹

Editor's Note: When this sketch was printed in the previous issue of the journal, the editor inadvertently used an earlier version. These are new paragraphs about the two youngest daughters of Samuel and Phebe (Beers) Ferris which contain corrected and additional information. The footnote numbers are continued from the previous article.

- i. **Ruthann Ferris**, d 12 Mar 1823, "age 45 years," buried Flat Swamp Cemetery #1, Newtown²⁹ m. Abel N. Nichols. Two daughters: Sarah Ann Nichols, m. William Peabody; and Minerva Nichols, m. Ziba Lyon.³⁰
- ii. **Phebe Ferris**, d 17 Sep 1829, age 41, buried in Stepney Cemetery, Monroe; m. after the distribution of her father's estate, Asa Hayes.³¹ Two children: Edson Hayes and Phebe E. Hayes of Monroe.³²

¹ 1790 US Census, Fairfield County, Conn., Newtown, p. 204, NARA microfilm publication M637, Roll 1.

²⁹ Hale Collection, Newtown, p. 147.

³⁰ Phebe (Beers) (Ferris) Curtis probate record, Newtown Probate District, 1832. Ruthann died eight years before her mother and Ruthann's daughters are named as heirs in Phebe's probate records.

³¹ Findagrave.com. Memorial #111683974, gravestone pictured; accessed 23 Feb 2015. Headstone says "wife of Asa Hayes." The Ferris genealogy (Schofield, Harriet, *A Genealogy of the Ferris Family: Descendants of Zachariah Ferris*, [pub. year] 1954, 21, 38) incorrectly says Phebe Ferris married a cousin. That was a different Phebe Ferris.

³² Phebe (Beers) (Ferris) Curtis probate record, Newtown Probate District, 1932. Names two heirs of her daughter Phebe: Edson and Phebe E. Hayes. Phebe (Ferris) Hayes, the daughter, died two years before Phebe (Beers) (Ferris) Curtis.

Query

Seeking information about
Pellegrino (1880-1934) and Maria (1883-1975) Sabini of Stamford
who owned the P. Sabini Furniture Store (approx 1906-1986)

Please contact **Kathryn Downs Wolff** kathygenealogy@gmail.com

Greens Farms Church Records, 1742 – 1822
Continuation of Baptisms: 1761-1768

Transcribed by Barbara Dempsey

N. B. The Greens Farms Church records were known to Donald Lines Jacobus and were used by him when compiling the data for *Families of Old Fairfield*. The publication of these records here in *Connecticut Ancestry* marks the first time they have been transcribed and published as a whole. Please see previous issues (Vol. 58, No. 1 & 2, August & November 2015) for the introduction and first sets of records from this source. Further records will be published in future issues of this journal.

Date	Surname	Given Name	Parents/relationship	Other notes
22 Feb 1761	Hide	Joseph	s/o Joseph/Betty	
22 Feb 1761	Batison	James	s/o James Jr./Rachel	
01 Mar 1761	Crossman	Joseph	s/o John/Ann	
08 Mar 1761	Bennet	Jabez	s/o Moses/Eunice	
08 Mar 1761	Sturges	Nathanael	s/o David/Charity	
12 Mar 1761	[Hide]	Betty		Negro woman/children bel. to heirs of Deacon John
12 Mar 1761	[Hide]	Moll		Negro woman/children bel. to heirs of Deacon John
12 Mar 1761	[Hide]	Nancy		Negro woman/children bel. to heirs of Deacon John
12 Mar 1761	[Hide]	Cate		Negro woman/children bel. to heirs of Deacon John
19 Apr 1761	Phillips	Thomas	s/o John/Martha	
10 May 1761	Elwood	Sarah	d/o Joseph/Eleanor	
10 May 1761	Frost	Sarah	d/o Benjamin/Mary	
03 May 1761				date listed, but no entry
01 Jun 1761	Meker	Joseph	s/o Seth/Abigail	

01 Jun 1761	[Couch]	Nancy		Negro servant child to Capt. Simon
01 Jun 1761	[Couch]	Tom		Negro servant child to Capt. Simon
12 Jul 1761	Hendrick	Samuel	s/o Samuel/Mary	
12 Jul 1761	Dunkins	Joseph	s/o Daniel/Sarah	
19 Jul 1761	Gray	Lois	d/o Thaddeus/Susanna	
02 Aug 1761	Sherwood	Daniel	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
09 Aug 1761	Gray	Abigail	d/o Hezekiah/Abigail	
16 Aug 1761	Morehouse	David Couch	s/o Levinia	
13 Sep 1761	Hurlbutt	Millisen	d/o Gideon/Hannah	
20 Sep 1761	Batison	Stephen	s/o George/Elizabeth	
08 Oct 1761	Morehouse	Solomon	s/o Solomon/Miriam	
27 Oct 1761	Allen	Salome	d/o Elnathan/Salome	
01 Nov 1761	Beers	Huldah	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
22 Nov 1761	Patchen	Patty	d/o Joseph/Martha	of Wilton [recorded "Pacthin"]
29 Nov 1761	Hazard	Mecy	d/o John/Mary	
29 Nov 1761	Wakeman	Gideon	s/o Gideon/Ann	
07 Feb 1762	Hurlbutt	Asher	s/o Nathaniel/Betty	
14 Feb 1762	Elwood	Stephen	s/o Richard/Rachel	
14 Feb 1762	Ramond	Elizabeth	d/o David/Sarah	
22 Feb 1762	Sherwood	Gabriel	s/o Solomon/Temperance	
23 Feb 1762	Nicols	Temperance	d/o Daniel/Mary	
26 Feb 1762	Munrow	Abigail	d/o Ebenezer/Mary	
09 Mar 1762	[Sturges]	Tom		servant Negro to Gershom
04 Apr 1762	Bennit	William	s/o Deliverance/Mary	
04 Apr 1762	Batison	Tamison	d/o James Jr./Rachel	
18 Apr 1762	Batison	Joseph	s/o James/Elizabeth	
18 Apr 1762	Johnson	William	s/o Nathaniel/Sarah	
18 Apr 1762	Sherwood	Ebenezer	s/o Sarah	

18 Apr 1762	[Andrews]	Amos		Negro servant child to Deacon John
09 May 1762	Person	Daniel	s/o Timothy/Elisabeth	
09 May 1762	Elwood	Nathan	s/o Hezekiah/Sarah	
23 May 1762	Gorham	Jabez	s/o Jabez/Mary	
30 May 1762	[Jennings]	Tony		Negro man servant to Joshua
04 Jul 1762	Sherwood	Asa	s/o John/Mary	
11 Jul 1762	Bennet	Ruth	d/o Nathan/Hannah	
11 Jul 1762	Goodsell	Ephraim	s/o John/Grace	
11 Jul 1762	Batison	William	s/o George/Elizabeth	
25 Jul 1762	[Couch]	Dorcas		Negro child belonging to Capt. Simon
01 Aug 1762	Chapman	Daniel	s/o Dennie/Desire	
15 Aug 1762	Nash	Mable	d/o Sarah	
13 Sep 1762	[Gorham]	Peg		servant Negro child offered by Joseph
19 Sep 1762	Disbrow	Abigail	d/o Jabez/Mable	
26 Sep 1762	Dunkins	Tamy	d/o Daniel/Sarah	
17 Oct 1762	Beers	Rebeckah	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
17 Oct 1762	Oysterbanks	Moses	s/o Isaac/Sarah	
12 Dec 1762	Clenton	Sarah	d/o John/Elizabeth	
26 Dec 1762	Hide	Rachel	d/o Joseph/Elizabeth	
04 Jan 1763	Finch	Salome	d/o John/Mary	
04 Jan 1763	Finch	Mercy	d/o John/Mary	
09 Jan 1763	Cable	Joseph	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
06 Feb 1763	Davis	Abigail	d/o Benjamin/Eunice	
27 Feb 1763	Allen	Joseph	s/o Elnathan/Salome	
24 Apr 1763	Wynkoop	John	s/o Benjamin/Grissel	
08 May 1763	Chapman	Joshua	s/o Phenahas/Sarah	
08 May 1763	Couch	Stephen	s/o Thomas/Elizabeth	

08 May 1763	Bennet	Rhoda	d/o Moses/Eunice	
15 May 1763	Sturges	Mabel	d/o David/Charity	
15 May 1763	Gray	Lucy	d/o Hezekiah/Abigail	
05 Jun 1763	Philips	Salome	d/o John/Martha	
26 Jun 1763	Sherwood	Lydia	d/o Solomon/Temperance	
10 Jul 1763	Couch	Abraham	s/o Joseph/Hannah	
10 Jul 1763	Hendrick	Benjamin	s/o Samuel/Mary	
10 Jul 1763	[Wakeman]	Peg		servant Negro child belonging to Abigail
10 Jul 1763	[Sturges]	Tom		servant Negro boy belonging to Mary
17 Jul 1763	Hendrick	Damaris	d/o John Jr./Eunice	
24 Jul 1763	Bulkley	Deborah	d/o Isaac/Deborah	
14 Aug 1763	Hurlbutt	Seth	s/o Gideon/Hannah	
21 Aug 1763	Morehouse	Lydia	d/o Solomon/Miriam	
11 Sep 1763	[Wakeman]	Pompey		Negro child servant to Sarah
13 Nov 1763	Morehouse	Abraham	s/o Gideon/Eunice	
27 Nov 1763	Hurlbutt	Elijah	s/o Nathaniel/Betty	
27 Nov 1763	Batison	Abijah	s/o James Jr./Rachel	
27 Nov 1763	Crossman	Amy	d/o John/Ann	
12 Feb 1764	Meker	Abigail	d/o Seth/Abigail	
26 Feb 1764	Disbrow	Jabez	s/o Jabez/Mable	
18 Mar 1764	Munrow	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer/Mary	
18 Mar 1764	Batison	Betty	d/o George/Elizabeth	
08 Apr 1764	Beers	Ann	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
08 Apr 1764	Elwood	Elizabeth	d/o Hezekiah/Sarah	
22 Apr 1764	Ramond	Anna	d/o David/Sarah	
06 May 1764	Allen	Thomas	s/o Thomas	
27 May 1764	Bennet	Naomi	d/o Nathan/Hannah	

27 May 1764	Wakeman	Ann	d/o Gideon/Ann	
17 May 1764	Bennet	Hanes	s/o Deliverance	
17 Jun 1764	Sherwood	Levi	s/o John/Mary	
19 Jun 1764	Nicols	Daniel	s/o Daniel/Mary	
24 Jun 1764	Bulkley	Mary	d/o Isaac/Deborah	
25 Jun 1765	Davis	Thomas	s/o Benjamin/Eunice	
01 Jul 1765	Burr	Eunice	d/o Ephraim Jr./Eunice	
29 Jul 1764	Coley	Abigail	d/o Ebenezer/Abigail	
05 Aug 1764	Andrews	George	s/o John Jr./Temperance	
26 Aug 1764	[Andrews]	Bet		Negro child belonging to Deacon Andrews
09 Sep 1764	Goodsel	Grace	d/o John/Grace	
09 Sep 1764	Cable	Thomas	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
09 Sep 1764	Bennet	Abigail	d/o James/Sarah	
30 Sep 1764	Hazard	Anna	d/o John/Mary	
04 Nov 1764	[Couch]	Will		Negro child servant to Capt. Simon
04 Nov 1764	[Lyon]	Prime		Negro child servant to David
18 Nov 1764	Bennet	Sarah	d/o Joseph/Sarah	
02 Dec 1764	Oysterbanks	Rhoda	d/o Isaac/Sarah	
20 Feb 1765	Sturges	Mary	d/o David/Charity	
17 Mar 1765	Batison	Ruhamah	d/o William/Grissel	
14 Apr 1765	Davis	David	s/o John/Olive	
15 Apr 1765	[Hide]	Amos		Negro servant child to Abigail
28 Apr 1765	Allen	William	s/o Elnathan/Salome	
28 Apr 1765	[Sherwood]	Alice		Negro child servant to Jeremiah
05 May 1765	[Wakeman]	Dorcas		Negro servant to Abigail
12 May 1765	Sherwood	Rhoda	d/o Solomon/Temperance	
12 May 1765	Hendrick	Nancy	d/o Samuel/Mary	

12 May 1765	Lewis	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer/Betty	
19 May 1765	Meker	Deborah	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
02 Jun 1765	Batison	Rachel	d/o James Jr./Rachel	
23 Jun 1765	Straten	Molly	d/o Cornelius/Abigail	
23 Jun 1765	Gray	Elen	d/o Hezekiah/Abigail	
23 Jun 1765	Gorham	Samuel	s/o Joseph/Mary	
21 Jul 1765	Morehouse	Jesse	s/o Daniel/Lydia	
11 Aug 1765	Hurlbutt	Sarah	d/o Gideon/Hannah	
18 Aug 1765	Rumsey	Anna	w/o David	
18 Aug 1765	Godfrey	Rhoda	d/o Nathan/Sarah	
30 Sep 1765	Bennet	Jesse	s/o Moses/Eunice	
13 Oct 1765	Allen	Benjamin	s/o Ebenezer Jr./Sarah	
13 Oct 1765	Allen	Stephen	s/o Ebenezer Jr./Sarah	
20 Oct 1765	Couch	Asa	s/o Joseph/Hannah	
10 Nov 1765	Hurlbutt	Eli	s/o Nathaniel/Betty	
24 Nov 1765	Davis	John	s/o John/Olive	
24 Nov 1765	Morehouse	Elen	d/o Solomon/Miriam	
15 Dec 1765	Morehouse	Gershom	s/o Gideon/Eunice	
29 Dec 1765	Hull	Sarah	d/o Daniel	
29 Dec 1765	Meker	Sarah	d/o Benjamin/Abigail	
02 Feb 1766	Disbrow	Thomas	s/o Nathan Jr.	
15 Feb 1766	Beers	Daniel	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
17 Feb 1766	[Bennet]	Tim		servant Negro child to William
23 Feb 1766	Disbrow	Esther	d/o Nathan/Wait	
23 Feb 1766	Sherwood	Elen	d/o John/Mary	
13 Apr 1766	Chapman	Phenehas	s/o Phenehas/Sarah	bap by Mr. Sherwood
13 Apr 1766	Hill	Thomas	s/o Andrew/Abigaill	bap by Mr. Sherwood
13 Apr 1766	Hendrick	Betty	d/o John Jr./Eunice	bap by Mr. Sherwood

20 Apr 1766	Munrow	John	s/o Ebenezer/Mary	
11 May 1766	Crossman	Trowbridge	s/o John/Ann	bap by Mr. Johnson
11 May 1766	Beers	Elizabeth	d/o Nathan/Ann	bap by Mr. Johnson
17 Nov 1766	Godfrey	Jonathan	s/o Nathan/Sarah	
30 May 1766	Philips	Mary	d/o John/wife	"per Mr. Gailord, the name of the child is Mary"
__ Jul 1766	Elwood	Elijah	s/o Hezekiah/Sarah	

830 total baptised by Mr. Buckingham

Names of those who have been baptised since 11 Feb 1767 - H. Ripley

01 Mar 1767	Guyer	Nathan	s/o Stephen/Rebecca	
29 Mar 1767	Hendrick	James	s/o Samuel/Mary	
05 Apr 1767	Bennet	Mary	d/o Deliverance/Mary	
05 Apr 1767	Meker	Daniel	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
19 Apr 1767	Straton	Clarina	d/o Cornelius/Abigail	
19 Apr 1767	Couch	Samuel	s/o Josiah/Eunice	
03 May 1767	Sherwood	Temperance	d/o Solomon/Temperance	
03 May 1767	Gray	Hezekiah	s/o Hezekiah/Abigail	
03 May 1767	Meker	Anna	d/o Benjamin/Abigail	
24 May 1767	Gorham	Abigail	d/o Joseph Jr./Mary	
31 May 1767	[Wakeman]	Cesar		Negro child servant to Widow Abigail
19 Jul 1767	Sturges	Abigail	w/o Andrew	
19 Jul 1767	Raymond	David	s/o David/Sarah	
19 Jul 1767	Sturges	Samuel	s/o Andrew/Abigail	
23 Aug 1767	Hurlbutt	John	s/o Gideon/Hannah	
06 Sep 1767	[Hide]	Michael		Negro child servant to Widow Abigail
06 Sep 1767	[Wakeman]	Cloe		Negro child servant to Widow Sarah
04 Oct 1767	[Disbrow]	Dorcas		Negro child servant to Joseph

04 Oct 1767	[Disbrow]	Nancy		Negro child servant to Joseph
11 Oct 1767	Davis	Joseph	s/o John/Olive	
11 Oct 1767	Gray	Joseph	s/o Elisha/Elen	
18 Oct 1767	Batterson	Zadock	s/o William/Grissel	
25 Oct 1767	Chapman	James	s/o Denie/Desire	
25 Oct 1767	Godfrey	Seth	s/o Nathan/Isabella	
01 Nov 1767	Nash	Thomas	s/o Thomas/Mary	
08 Nov 1767	Gray	William	s/o Elias/Eunice	
15 Nov 1767	Bennet	Abijah	s/o Nathan Jr./Mary	bap by Mr. Sherwood
01 Dec 1767	[Bennet]	Nedd		servant boy to James/Sarah
06 Dec 1767	Bennet	Sarah	d/o James/Sarah	
13 Dec 1767	[Sherwood]	Nancy		servant girl to Jeremiah/Abigail
27 Dec 1767	Allen	Samuel	s/o Ebenezer Jr./Sarah	
27 Dec 1767	Lockwood	Daniel	s/o Gershom/Martha	
24 Jan 1768	Morehouse	Stephen	s/o Gideon/Eunice	
14 Feb 1768	Morehouse	Molly	d/o Solomon/Miriam	
14 Feb 1768	Gray	Gabbiel	s/o Moses/Sarah	
27 Mar 1768	Parsons	Elijah	s/o Timothy/Betty	
27 Mar 1768	Baker	Molly	d/o Ebenezer/Mable	
08 May 1768	Hull	Hannah	d/o Daniel	
08 May 1768	[Jesup]	Will		Negro boy servant to Widow Sarah
15 May 1768	Alling	Olive	d/o Elnathan/Sarah	
29 May 1768	Bulkly	Levi	s/o Isaac/Deborah	
26 Jun 1768	[Cable]	Phillip		servant to Widow Cable
26 Jun 1768	Sturges	John	s/o David/Charity	
03 Jul 1768	Bears	Edmund	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
10 Jul 1768	Batterson	Selek	s/o George/Elisabeth	
10 Jul 1768	[Andrews]	Mike		servant to Deacon Andrews

24 Jul 1768	Redfield	Burr	s/o Ebenezer/Martha	
07 Aug 1768	Ripley	William Brintnal	s/o Hezekiah/Dorothy	
14 Aug 1768	Sherwood	Isaac	s/o John/Mary	
14 Aug 1768	[Disbrow]	Tim		Negro servant to Joseph
28 Aug 1768	Rumsey	Daniel	s/o Lt. David/Anna	
04 Sep 1768	Hazard	John	s/o John/Mary	
04 Sep 1768	Couch	Comfort	d/o Joseph/Hannah	
04 Sep 1768	Bur	Abigail	d/o Ephraim	
18 Sep 1768	Meker	Samuel	s/o Seth/Abigail	
02 Oct 1768	Bennet	Thomas	s/o Nathan/Hannah	
02 Oct 1768	Sturgis	Mary	d/o Peter	
16 Oct 1768	Munrow	Lockwood	s/o Ebenezer/Mary	
19 Oct 1768	Raymond	Jesse	s/o David/Sarah	
23 Oct 1768	Godfree	Abigail	d/o Stephen Jr./Abigail	
13 Nov 1768	Goodsell	Rachel	d/o John/Grace	
27 Nov 1768	Gray	Thomas	s/o Moses/Sarah	
27 Nov 1768	Raymond	Elisabeth	d/o William/Mary	
18 Dec 1768	Hibbard	Molly	d/o Elisha/Elisabeth	
25 Dec 1768	Guyer	Charlotte	d/o Stephen/Rebeckah	
29 Dec 1768	[Morehouse]	Annis		Negro servant to Wid. Mary
29 Dec 1768	[Morehouse]	Ezra		Negro servant to Wid. Mary
29 Dec 1768	[Morehouse]	Ezekiel		Negro servant to Wid. Mary
30 Dec 1768	Gray	Mary	d/o Elisha/Elen	

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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*.

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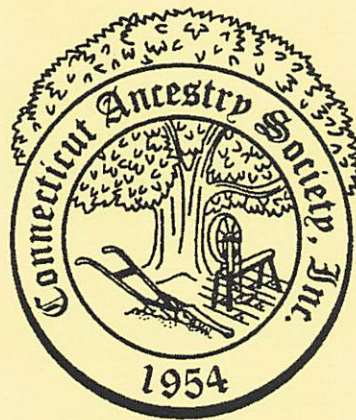
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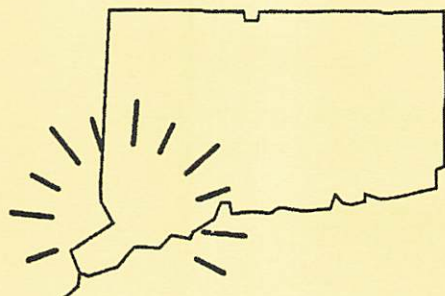
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Member meetings Held on Saturday mornings, 10:30 am.

- June** Stamford Historical Society DNA Workshop 10:30-12:30 (2 hrs.)
 Nora Galvin will present a workshop on using autosomal DNA. This will include looking at the Web sites of all three companies that offer the test, downloading raw data, using GEDmatch.com, determining which family members should be tested and learning what it all means.
- July** No program scheduled. **We need volunteers for a Program Committee!**
- August** No program scheduled.
- Sept** Lecture at our Stamford hub. Watch our website for details.

GENEALOGY ROUNDTABLES

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

3rd Thursday of each month, 12:30 to 1:30 pm at the Bridgeport Public Library, 3rd floor. Call to confirm.

3rd Wednesday of each month, 1:00 to 2:00 pm at the Fairfield Senior Center.

Other genealogy programs:

CONNECTICUT SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS – www.csginc.org

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RENEWAL FORM ON BACK PINK PAGE (v)

Editorial Notes

CA welcomes new contributor Gary Griffith. He corrects earlier published identification of the father of Moss Kent Bostford junior of Newtown and he turns it into a lesson on methodology.

Barbara Mathews, CG, FASG, clears up some misinformation about the two wives of Roger Worden of Greenwich and New York City using an unusual source of information.

After she published an essay on the descendants of Abraham Bennett of Newtown in 2012, Kathryn Downs Wolff found additional information about Richard Bennett, a grandson of Abraham, and about Richard's wife and daughters, which she wrote up for this issue.

Two more Mead family letters, transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin, continue to give us insight into the mid-18th-century lives of people who migrated from Fairfield County.

Fairfield County is rife with people descended from founding families. Many of these families have associations to work on their genealogy and celebrate their heritage. You editor is interested in spotlighting these family associations. If you would like your society mentioned in *Connecticut Ancestry*, please send information to editor@connecticutancestry.org. In this issue you can read about the Seeley Genealogical Society which is 50 years old.

We continue to publish the Baptism Records from Greens Farms Congregational Church (early Fairfield) transcribed by Barbara Dempsey, this time with baptisms that occurred 1769-1775.

Harlan Jessup provides a review of an excellent resource for early New York City research: *Liber A of the Collegiate Churches of New York*, Part 2.

Finally, we have the every-name index for Volume 58.

Your editor welcomes comments and submission of articles.

Nora Galvin, CG

We appreciate submission of articles by our readers whether CAS members or not. Sharing 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.

Preferred submission is an electronic file (from a standard word-processing application) sent as an email attachment to editor@connecticutancestry.org. Please email if you have questions.

The editor may make changes for clarity, brevity and accuracy. We will do final formatting to conform to our publication style standards. Please keep your document as simple as possible. Please don't add headers, footers or page numbers. Facts must be documented with source citations in numbered footnotes.

If your submission is intended to be part of a series (e.g., 1790 census), please say so.

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

**The Father of Moss Kent Botsford, junior, of Newtown, Connecticut:
a Cautionary Tale about Applying 21st-Century Language to 19th-Century Ancestors**

Gary Griffith

What sometimes seems obvious to today's researchers does not always apply to their 18th- and 19th-century ancestors. That was a lesson learned in researching the parentage of Moss Kent Botsford, jr., of Newtown, Connecticut.

A first assumption was that this individual, bearing the names of three old Connecticut families—Moss, Kent, and Botsford—would be the son of someone also named Moss Kent Botsford. That is a familiar 21st-century convention, even something of a dictum. As the editors of America's leading etiquette manual instructed in mid-century:

A man with the same name as his father uses 'Jr.' after his name as long as his father is alive. He may drop the 'Jr.' after his father's death, or if he prefers, he may retain it in order not to be confused with his late father.¹

However, the genealogical researcher should be fully aware of the advice of Donald Lines Jacobus, the New Haven genealogist and author, who explained:

Prior to the nineteenth century it is not safe to assume that the use of the terms "Senior" and "Junior" refers to a father and son. The relationship could have been that of an uncle and nephew or of cousins. Before the use of middle names, it was not uncommon to have two or more men in a family with identical names. The older man was known as "Senior" and the younger as "Junior."²

That, as it turns out, was true in the case of our subject Moss Kent Botsford, jr. (1784-1833). Although he is listed as the son of Capt. Moss Kent Botsford (1768-1829) in the *Botsford Family Genealogy: The Line of John*,³ our research shows that the elder man with the same name was his uncle, not his father.

The elder Moss Kent Botsford was born,⁴ baptized⁵ and buried⁶ in Newtown, and we know something about his life. He was named "Captain of the 5th Company of Militia in the

¹ Elizabeth L. Post, *The New Emily Post's Etiquette*, New York: Funk & Wagnalls, 1975, p. 25.

² "Donald Lines Jacobus on Terms of Relationship," *National Genealogical Society Newsletter*, Vol. 12, No. 6 (Nov/Dec 1986).

³ Botsford Family Historical Association, *Botsford Family Genealogy: The Line of John*, Milford, CT: 2009, pp. 22, 51. This spiral-bound publication was first issued in 1999 as "Draft Volume 5" of a series of genealogies of the five grandsons of "Henry Botsford, Milford, Connecticut Planter, 1639." It was reprinted with corrections in 2000 and 2009. The pagination is from the 2009 printing.

⁴ Lucius Barnes Barbour and Lucius A. Barbour, "The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records prior to 1850," 50 vols., (bound transcripts, Connecticut State Library (CSL), Hartford), Newtown, p. 31: Moses [*sic*] Kent Botsford birth, 22 Jan 1768); www.americanancestors.org : 4 May 2016.

⁵ Connecticut Church Records Index, "Newtown: First Congregational Church," Vol. 80, p. 23; CSL, Hartford.

16th Regiment” by the General Assembly in May 1794.⁷ His military title is on his tombstone in the Newtown Village Cemetery. He purchased a pew in the Newtown Meeting House in 1812 and he was the town’s sheep-master in 1823.⁸

However, when we tried to document that he was the father of Moss Kent Botsford, jr., we found conflicts. One was the presumed father’s age at the birth of the child, according to the dates provided. If the son was born in 1784, as stated,⁹ the presumed father would have been 16 years old at that time. Not impossible, but what we might call a “red flag” today. Another conflict is the absence of any mention of this child in the will of the presumed father. Capt. Moss Kent Botsford died on 24 November 1829 and his will was proved on 7 December 1829. It mentions seven children or their heirs as beneficiaries; but there is no mention of a son named Moss.¹⁰ Thus, we began a search for alternate fathers.

John Botsford was the elder brother of Capt. Moss Kent Botsford.¹¹ John Botsford died young, at the age of 42, on 29 December 1806.¹² The records of his probate case in the District of Danbury (which then included Newtown) show that he died intestate; that is, without a will. The estate papers include an extensive inventory, apparently the contents of a general store, plus a long list of creditors including interest on their accounts and for which the estate is represented insolvent.¹³ The only distribution to a beneficiary was a dower to his widow Huldah Botsford of \$432.78 consisting of 52/100 undivided parts of the dwelling house and the two-acre homelot.

But these estate papers confirm that John Botsford was the father of Moss Kent Botsford, jr. The earliest document in the packet is a “greeting” letter initiated by the judge, dated 31 December 1806, appointing “Moss Kent Botsford, Junr” as the administrator of the estate of “John Botsford, late of Newton ... deceased.” Moss Kent Botsford, jr., initially turned down this appointment as administrator. The record reads in part:

Letters of administration on the Estate of John Botsford, late of Newtown in Danbury District are granted by this court to Moss Kent Botsford and Timothy Shepard of said Newtown, (in the room of Moss K. Botsford Jun^r who resigned)¹⁴

⁶ Charles M. Hale, editor, “Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions,” (bound transcripts, Connecticut State Library, Hartford.), Newtown, p. 60, Capt. Moss K. Botsford inscription.

⁷ Leonard Woods Labaree and Catherine Fenelly, eds., *Public Records of the State of Connecticut: From May 1793 through October 1796*, vol. 8, Hartford: Connecticut State Library (CSL), 1951, p. 152.

⁸ Jane Eliza Johnson, *Newtown's History and Historian*, Ezra Levan Johnson, Newtown, CT: 1917, pp. 41, 182, 185.

⁹ *Botsford Family Genealogy: The Line of John*, p. 22.

¹⁰ Newtown Probate District, Register of Probate Records, Vol. 3 (1827-1832), pp. 359-60, will of Moss Kent Botsford. This record has been microfilmed: Film 4986, images 202-03, CSL .

¹¹ *Botsford Family Genealogy: The Line of John*, p. 9.

¹² Charles R. Hale Collection of Connecticut Headstone Inscriptions, Newtown, Vol. 413, p. 20; CSL, Hartford.

¹³ Danbury Probate District, Probate Files, 1756-1891, Newtown, “Botsford, G. – Cogswell;” Family History Library microfilm 1,016,219, images 690-740, CSL, Hartford.

¹⁴ Danbury Probate District, Register of Probate Records, Vol. 9 (1805-1808), p. 311; microfilm 4027, CSL.

A later note in the probate package, addressed to the judge and penned by Moss Kent Botsford, Jr., over his signature, states: “I have agreed with Moss K. Botsford & Tim^o Shepard Esq^f to administer upon *My fathers Estate*” (italics inserted).¹⁵

Thus we have direct evidence that John Botsford, the deceased, was the father of Moss Kent Botsford, jr. The same note confirms that the elder Moss K. Botsford, who was alive and administering the estate, could not have been the father of Moss the younger.

The fact that John Botsford and Moss Kent Botsford, senior, were brothers—sons of Abiel Botsford (1734-1773)—is correctly stated in the *Botsford Family Genealogy*.¹⁶ It is confirmed by the estate records of Abiel Botsford, which mention “John Botsford, the eldest son,” and “Moss Kent Botsford, younger son.”¹⁷ Thus, in the case of Moss Kent Botsford, jr., the designation of “jr.” was used to distinguish between two people of the same name, both living in Newtown: a nephew and uncle, not a father and son.

By at least 1810 Moss Kent Botsford, the younger, had moved from Newtown to Bridgeport where he ceased to use a suffix after his name. He advertised his comb-making business under the name of just “Moss K. Botsford.”¹⁸ He was no doubt the only person of that name in Bridgeport, making any distinction unnecessary. We find him in Belleville, Illinois, in 1820; and in Wheeling, Virginia, in 1830; but we find no instances in which he used any form of “junior” after his name once he had left Newtown.

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ *Botsford Family Genealogy: The Line of John*, p. 9.

¹⁷ Danbury Probate District, Register of Probate Records, Vol. 3 (1768-1782), pp. 243-45; microfilm 4024, CSL.

¹⁸ “Comb Manufactory” [advertisement], *Republican Farmer* (Bridgeport, Conn.), Vol. 1, No. 11 (July 4, 1810), p. 3.

**Some Notes on Roger Worden (1748-1843) of Greenwich and New York City,
and his Wives Rachel Rundle and Mary Wood**

Barbara Jean Mathews, CG, FASG

Roger Worden, son of Roger and Elizabeth (Holmes) Worden, was born in Greenwich, Connecticut, 08 February 1748 (Old Style).¹ He died 28 January 1843, on Water Street in New York City.²

Roger's wife predeceased him. Mary Worden, wife of Roger, was in her 90th year when she died 8 October 1836 at 49 Avenue A in New York City.³ Possibly because Roger was from Greenwich, many genealogists worked backwards from this death to identify his wife. If this information was correct and Mary was in her 90th year in 1836, then she would have been born between October 1746 and October 1747, as she had not yet reached her 90th birthday. Worden genealogists identified Mary Husted, daughter of Moses Husted, as Roger's probable wife. Husted genealogists, on the other hand, saw little in the way of proof that this could be the case.

Roger was a Revolutionary War soldier. His pension application details his service in the North Castle, Westchester County, New York, and Greenwich, Connecticut, militia units. For some of this time he served in a company of Connecticut Rangers under Capt. David Wood. Because he survived his wife, we have no widow's pension declaration. Such declarations required proof of marriage. His testimony does show that he moved from Greenwich to New York City.⁴

Roger's father Roger died 19 April 1754 in Greenwich.⁵ His mother filed a guardianship bond for the young Roger on 15 May 1763 in Stamford Probate District Court; Epenetus Holmes acted as surety.⁶ When his mother died twelve years later, Roger filed an administration bond on her estate 28 March 1775; Eli Rundle was surety.⁷ Roger was living in Greenwich early in 1790.⁸

¹ Lucius Barnes Barbour and Lucius A. Barbour, "The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Vital Records prior to 1850," 50 vols., (bound transcripts, Connecticut State Library, Hartford), Greenwich: Roger Worden birth, 1748 (father's name only); www.americanancestors.org : 2 May 2016. Spencer P. Mead, Abstract of Records and Tombstones of the Town of Greenwich, County of Fairfield, and State of Connecticut, Part 1, typescript. Greenwich, 1913, p. 74 (parents' marriage in the Second Congregational Church, Rev. Abraham Todd officiating, no date). Spencer L. Mead, *Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich* (New York: Knickerbocker, 1911), 686 (genealogy listing names of both parents).

² Gertrude A. Barber, Deaths taken from the New York Evening Post, 1843, p. 15.

³ Barber, Deaths taken from the New York Evening Post, 1836, p. 39.

⁴ Roger Worden, survivor's pension application no. S14891, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files*, National Archives and Records Administration, Record Group 15, microfilm publication M804, roll 2644 (www.ancestry.com : 2 May 2016).

⁵ Mead, *Ye Historie of ye Town of Greenwich*, 686.

⁶ Guardianship of Roger Worden, 1763, supplemental document envelope, Stamford Probate District. Connecticut Estate Files, Connecticut State Library, filed alphabetically (there are no docket numbers for the files in this district court); Connecticut State Library, Hartford; *Ancestry.com*. http://interactive.ancestry.com/9049/007627983_00770 : 2 May 2016; FHL microfilm 1,018,472.

⁷ Estate of Elizabeth Worden, 1775, Stamford Probate District, Connecticut Estate Files, Connecticut State Library, filed alphabetically; Connecticut State Library, Hartford; *Ancestry.com*, http://interactive.ancestry.com/9049/007627983_00752 : 2 May 2016; FHL microfilm 1,018,472. The bond is the only surviving record in the estate file.

⁸ 1790 U.S. census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, Greenwich, p. 328, 2nd column, 7th from bottom, Roger Worden, NARA microfilm publication M637, roll 1.

Fortunately, Roger's religious views led to his being identified as one of the earliest Universalists in America. Two years after his death several pages constituting a detailed biography were published in a religious newspaper. This biography, signed T.G.S., apparently is produced by someone who knew him well.

In conversation with him some days before his death, I said, in reply to some remark of his, "Then you are not afraid to die?" "Afraid to die!" said he, laying his ha[n]d on my knee, "why, my young friend, I am ready to die now, right here by your side."⁹

The biography provides important facts for the family genealogist.

- Roger was born 22 [*sic*, the Old Style birth date from town records would infer the 19th as his birth day] February 1748 in Greenwich.
- At his father's death his mother put him in the family of Mr. Mead, deacon of the church to which his parents belonged.
- At the age of 14 or 15 he was apprenticed as a shoemaker with Mr. Holmes.
- Soon after he reached legal majority (after 22 February 1769), he married Rachel Rundle, daughter of Deacon Rundle.
- With Rachel he had two sons, "one of whom died some years ago, and the other, on the death of his mother, went to live with an uncle in a distant part of the country, and is now unknown to the surviving family."
- His second marriage took place "as early as 1775 or 76, His second wife's maiden name was Mary Wood."
- By Mary Wood, he had four children. "Of these, three were daughters, one of whom died in very early infancy, and the two others survive. The son left home at the age of 19 or 20, and is supposed to have been lost at sea."
- He moved to New York City in "the autumn of 1791."¹⁰

With this enlightening information, it is important to note a few new genealogical possibilities:

- Eli Rundle, who served in 1775 as surety on the administration bond for Elizabeth Worden's estate, may have been either the father or brother of Rachel Rundle.¹¹
- David Wood, one of the captains under whom Roger served, may be the son of Joseph Wood of Greenwich whose will, dated 13 January 1774, names among others both a son David and a daughter Mary.¹²

Roger and Rachel (Rundle) Worden's "son who died some years ago" was probably Isaac Worden, who was living in 1800 in Greenwich.¹³

⁹ T.G.S., "An American Universalist," *Universalist Union*, Vol. 10 (April 1843): 359, 376-7 [page 376 is sequentially after page 359, indicating a typesetting error] (<https://books.google.com/books?id=OwBKAQAAMAAJ> : 2 May 2016).

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ George Ardel Rundall, *The Rundle, Rundel, Randle, Randol, Randall, Rundall, Rundell, Runnell Ancestry of Long Island and Greenwich, 1667-1992* (Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin, 2011), 25.

¹² Stamford Probate District Records, 4:93-94 (http://interactive.ancestry.com/9049/007626804_00063/342212 : 2 May 2016); Stamford Town Hall, Stamford; Family History Library microfilm 5563, item 1.

¹³ 1800 U.S. census, Fairfield County, Connecticut, Greenwich, p. 12 (written), p. 792 (stamped), Isaac Worden; NARA microfilm publication M32, roll 1.

**Richard Bennett and Annis/Anna/Anne Glover of Newtown, Connecticut:
Additional Information**

Kathryn Downs Wolff

Richard Bennett and his wife Annis/Anna/Anne Glover were examined in this journal in 2012.¹ However, questions about the wife's actual given name, her birth and parentage, and what happened to several of their children were not fully answered.

Richard Bennett's wife is listed as "Annis" in Newtown vital records for their family.² However, she signed her will "Anne"³ and her gravestone lists her as "Anna."⁴ These name differences have caused confusion in identifying her family of origin. A newly discovered source identifies her parents and pinpoints her birth date. The fact that she inherited land from her father caused her to write a will of her own. That will names the spouses of her surviving daughters. In addition, Richard Bennett's will was overlooked in previous research but now a copy has been found in the probate record book, and this will also names the surviving children and provides the names of the sons-in-law. The following sketch updates the previously published one. The family numbering is preserved from the original article (but not the footnote numbering).

10. Richard BENNETT (*Abraham*^{5,4}), bp. 07 Feb. 1762; d. Newtown 29 May 1829, *ae* 67;⁵ m. Newtown 27 Dec 1784, **Annis/Anna/Anne GLOVER**. She was born 27 Oct 1765, daughter of Henry and Ann (Sanford) Glover⁶ and died Newtown, Feb. 1837, *ae* 71.⁷ Richard took the Freeman's Oath in 1786.⁸ In his will Richard left Ann her dower, and of the remaining estate, two-fifths was to go to son James and three fifths was to be divided among Richard's five living daughters with the understanding that the married daughters had already received a settlement.⁹ The distribution, however, shows that the widow, son James and only one of his daughters, the unmarried Phebe, actually received property from the estate.¹⁰ The probate record does not include any sale of real estate, but Richard's total debts of \$407.74 exceeded the value of his moveable inventory, so perhaps the older daughters' marital settlements were their total share.

As "Anne" (with no surname), Anne (Glover) Bennett received "meadow land" from the estate of her father Henry Glover in 1801.¹¹ Later, Anne Bennett had "meadow land" to bequeath in her own will, dated 14 Mar 1832. Her estate was divided equally among her five living

¹ Kathryn Downs Wolff, "Descendants of Abraham Bennett and his wife, Christian Botsford, of Newtown, Connecticut," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 54: 4, May 2012, 149-157, specifically 155-156.

² Newtown Vital Records, 1:50; Town Clerk Office.

³ Anne Bennet, Newtown Probate District, 1837, file #187.

⁴ Hale Collection, Newtown, p. 92; www.findagrave.com, memorial #44556669, gravestone pictured.

⁵ Newtown VR 2:142.

⁶ Booth, Walter S., *Booth Family in America*, Minneapolis: 1892, Supplement - My Mother. Anna Glover was the author's great-aunt (sister of his grandmother), so we have some assurance his reporting this woman as the wife of Richard Bennett is correct. An entry for the birth of "Anne" Glover on the same date to the same parents is found in Newtown vital records, 1:1.

⁷ Newtown VR 2:127

⁸ Johnson, Ezra Levan and Jane Eliza Johnson, *Newtown's History and Historian*, Newtown, Conn.: 1917. 124.

⁹ Newtown Probate District, Volume 3, 1828-1832, 268-269.

¹⁰ Richard Bennet probate file, Newtown Probate District, 1829, packet #201.

¹¹ Henry Glover probate file, Danbury Probate District, 1801, packet #1965.

daughters, except Julia received one additional bed. There is no explanation as to why Anna did not include her son James in her bequests. Witnesses to the will included Sarah Ann (Bennett) Curtis (Richard Bennett's niece) and Sarah's husband Nichols Curtis. Executors were Anne's sons-in-law Lue L. Sherman of Newtown and Shelden Wooster of Oxford.¹²

Children of Richard and Annis/Anna/Anne (Glover) Bennett, all recorded in Newtown:¹³

- i. Hannah Bennett, b. 26 Jan. 1786; d. New York 25 Jan 1848 age 63;¹⁴ m. Ransom Johnson. This family moved to New York and some of their children moved to Michigan. Reportedly Hannah had thirteen children.¹⁵
- ii. Lucy Ann Bennett, b. 28 Aug. 1787; d. 6 June 1860 age 73, buried Oxford;¹⁶ second wife of Shelden Wooster, who d. Woodbury¹⁷ 19 Feb 1862 age 76 years, 5 months, 29 days.¹⁸ One son, James S. Wooster.¹⁹
- 31 iii. James Bennett, b. 9 Jan 1790; d. 25 Apr 1837, age 47; m. Esther Sherman who d. 28 Jan 1861.²⁰
- iv. Anna Bennett, b. 8 Sep 1792; d. 12 Dec 1825, age 33 years, 3 months, buried Zoar Cemetery as "Anna Sherman, wife of Lue."²¹
- v. Julia Bennett, b. 24 Jun 1794; alive in 1853;²² m. 18 Mar 1826 in Newtown Lue L. Sherman, as his second wife.²³ He d. Newtown 05 June 1850, *ae* 62.²⁴
- vi. Abraham Bennett (twin), b. 20 June 1797, d. Newtown, 23 July 1806.²⁵
- 32 vii. Sarah "Sally" Bennett (twin), b. 20 June 1797; m. Eli Bennett.²⁶
- viii. Phebe Bennett, b. 20 Sept. 1802. Phebe appears on the Federal Census in 1850 in Monroe, in 1860 in Huntington (now Shelton), and in 1870 in Watertown. She is probably the pauper Phebe Bennet of Watertown who died in Woodbury 01 Apr 1876.²⁷

¹² Anne Bennet, Newtown Probate District, 1837, #187.

¹³ Newtown VR 1:50.

¹⁴ www.findagrave.com, memorial #134795646, gravestone pictured.

¹⁵ Jonathan M. Howard sketch in *Portrait and Biographical Record of Kalamazoo, Allegan, and Van Buren Counties, Michigan*, Chicago: Chapman Bros., 1892, 382-383. Jonathan was a grandson of Hannah and Ransom.

¹⁶ Hale Collection, Vol 40 (Oxford), p. 57. Also, www.findagrave.com #23855905, on same stone as Shelden's first wife, Sally Wooster, who died in 1818.

¹⁷ William Cothren, *History of Ancient Woodbury, Volume III*, Woodbury: 1879, 289. Also, Hale Collection Newspapers, Vol. 49, p. 952, which calls Sheldon "father-in-law of Clement Percy of Woodbury."

¹⁸ www.findagrave.com, memorial #9368240, gravestone pictured, which lists age at death.

¹⁹ Shelden Wooster's will names James S. Wooster and Edwin Wooster as his sons. Edwin was born in 1815, and thus was the son of Sheldon's first wife Sally who died in 1818. No birth record was found for James S. Wooster but he reported his birth date as Aug 1823 (1900 US Federal Census, Oxford, New Haven County) which makes him too young to be Sally's son. The 1823 date is consistent with his age of 24 on the 1850 census when he was living with Sheldon and Lucy A. Wooster.

²⁰ "James, son of Richard & Anna" and "Esther, wife of James," Hale Collection. Newtown, p. 92, Berkshire Cemetery (now Zoar). No marriage record was found. Esther's maiden name is found in the death record of her son: Southbury Vital Records, 1868-1905, death of Abram A. Bennett, p. 518.

²¹ Hale Collection, Newtown, p. 92. She is buried next to her parents.

²² Distribution of the estate of Lue L. Sherman. Newtown Probate District, 1853, #1739.

²³ Newtown VR 3:22.

²⁴ Lorraine Cook White, ed., *The Barbour Collection of Connecticut Town Records, 1711-1852*, Newtown, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Company, 2000, 182, citing the original VR 4:11.

²⁵ Newtown VR 2:167 "Richard, his s. []"

²⁶ Will of Richard Bennett, Newtown Probate District, Volume 3, 1828-1832, 268-269.

²⁷ *History of Ancient Woodbury, Volume III*, 305.

Letter from Benjamin Mead to Hugh Mead 02 April 1839
transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

It appears from all of these letters I have read that either Hugh Mead was not good at answering letters or that some of the letters were lost in transit. Mention is made of accidents on the canals and concern that Hugh and his family would be lost in an accident while traveling on a canal. B. C. was in business and traveled a great deal for his day. This is one of two letters that I have which are nearly not readable. It was possible to enhance them on the computer.

--Robert W. Franklin 2013

April the 2nd 1839

Dear Brother

I once more sit down to write you a line to let you no that I am in health & that your Friends in this Region are all enjoying the like blessing I wrote to you if I mistake not About the first of February stating in my letter that I expected to start for New Orleans the first of March & requested you to write to me on the receipt of my letter As I thought I[t] would have time to get here before my departure for the South, but I started two weeks sooner than I expected left Cincinnati the 16 of Feb arrived in new Orleans the 26th went from there to Mobile done my Business there was in New Orleans About 10 days and arrived in Cin[cinnati] the 24th of March & traveled 3300 miles in the mean time.

I took with me 400 kegs of lard and 38 Bbbs [barrels] for which I Paid 2300 Doll[ar]s for in Cin[cinnati] I did not make my fortune in the speculation just saved my self so that I am pretty well satisfied with the trip I expected to have found a letter from you on my return but was disappointd and I have been some what uneasy for fear that some of you was sick and I have though[t] propper to write again hoping however that it was not the case & that you are all well.

I found on my arrival that James [son of B. C., b. 1832]¹ had been quite sick while I was absent. So much so that it was thought doubtfull wetter he would recover but he is quite well now and going to school he is fond of his books and is learning quite fast.

I expect to board him at his Aunt Eliza [Eliza (Mead)Drake] in Springdale this summer as there is a first rate school in that vilage and it will be better for him than to be in the city more healthy

Harriet Drake [dau. of Eliza] is to be married this day week if nothing happens to prevent [Isaac Peck] is a fine steady young man and a good profesion & I see nothing to hinder them from doing well. I think I spoke of him in A former letter he is A bout 20 years of age

I expect to start in about 3 weeks to Iowa in company with Judge Morse of this city it is My calculation at present if I like the country when I se it to purchase land there I shall probably be gone 2 months I wish you on the receipt of this to write to me with out fail & direct to St Louis Missouri where if nothing happens to prevent I shall be likely to get it when I have seen the country I will give you a description of it give my love to Francis & her husband and Amelia & the girls

And be assured I remain as ever your affectionate Brother

B. C. Mead
Cincinnati Ohio

[to] Hugh Mead

¹ For family relationships see Sandra Johnson Witt, "Jeremiah Mead, Jr. of Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1790," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 58:3, Feb 2016, 96-102.

**Letter from Benjamin Mead to his Brother Hugh Mead 22 August 1846
with note from Benjamin's wife Mary**

transcribed by Robert and Lois Franklin

Springdale August 22nd 1846

Dear Brother

Once More through the blessing of providence I am permitted to address you and to say to you that we are all in good health I hope this may find you enjoying the same blessing your letter came to hand in due time that is on the 28th of March Now I have delayed answering it untill the present time for various reasons but for fear you May think them rather flimsy I will mention but one and acknowledge the coon [cause?] and verily I feel ashamed of it I should have wrote long ago well there was an event to take place in the family that I was anxious to no the ishue before I wrote well it is over and the result is on the 7th day of July we had as fine a little daughter aded to the family as need be and all doing well at this time We now have three girls Emma, Eliza & Frances—James [son of B. C., b. 1832]¹ is well he received a [] Jun th from you he was well pleased I ashure with his present he has but a feint recolection of you on the visit East & South he was to young if he should take the same journey now he would never forget it the wether here this summer has been remarkable hot the crop of every description is good but prices low and the prospect not very flattering for the better notwithstanding the destruction of the tarif of 42 [1842] and free trade war with Mexico & the annexation of California &c &c I wonder how you feel in old Pensylvania I suppose it is all right for it was proclaimed in your state that Mr Poke [Pres. Polk] was a stronger tarif man than Clay hence the elected him, I refer you to Pokes letter to Mr Kane of your state

Wm J Peck [b 1815 in Ct., son of Benjamin's sister Harriet] and wife made us a visit a short time since they were in tolerable health only Wm looks rather slim I should think he has not enjoyed very good health the past summer they have no children we are daily looking for Uncle Isaac & Aunt Harriet out to see us She has not been to see us for Seven or eight years so when she does come I look for a Snow Storm certain—you wish to know who Brother Walker was he is the Son of James Walker I think you used to know him lived on the Hamilton Road west of our place he has been dead a number of years the old Lady is still living with her son Joseph on the homestead Joseph Married Emma Brown sister of Marys. I am glad it is your determination to visit us as soon as you can Make it convenient let me say to you the sooner you can visit us the Moore it will hasten my departure to se the land where in you dwell and for us to visit the place of our Boy hood for if I am permitted to visit you I should like your plan of visiting our old friends in Connecticut for a fishing claming visit Kitch's oyster Bed in the cove & se is old uncle Abram alive yet & do you ever hear from them what has become of Seth it seems to me if my life and yours is spared a few years I should like for us to make one more visit to that Region of Country it would affor[d] us much satisfaction I think to do so I suppose you have had a letter from W J Peck when he was here I gave him your address and he said he should write in a few days lately I have sent you some papers when you write pleas say if you received them I have received some from you

¹ For family relationships see Sandra Johnson Witt, "Jeremiah Mead, Jr. of Greenwich, Connecticut, in 1790," *Connecticut Ancestry*, 58:3, Feb 2016, 96-102.

You wrote to me what it cost the route I came when I visited you I have the exact amount some where but I cannot put my hand on it at this time—it has got mislaid but you can travel much cheaper and speedier now than you could at that time and if you can make it suit the month of Sept I think would be the most Pleasant to travel the fall or the month of May in the spring I should greatly prefer either fall or Spring to winter

In conclusion I remain your affectionate Brother
B. C. Mead

[Addition by Mary Mead on the same page]

Dear Brother, although this is the first time that I have addressed you – yet I trust it will be none the less acceptable on that account-In looking over Benj's letter I see he has been saying something with regard to your making us that visit so long talked of—It has been said by some person (wise undoubtedly) that a woman may sometimes accomplish what a man cannot—and as there was yet some little space I thought I would bring a few words to bear upon the subject. For some years past you have been promising us a visit—and we have been talking thinking and looking for you but now we expect to see you and not yourself alone but one or both the girls with you. I do not know how you are situated with regard to leaving home--but perhaps this season would be as convenient as any future one, for so doing, only make up your mind and arrange matters and things for the purpose and should it be attended with some little sacrifice you will be amply compensated in again seeing near and dear relatives and friends from whom you have been so long separated, at present our friends are tolerably well—at a more distant time it might be otherwise—for it is not often that the family circle remains long unbroken but we will not make the subject gloomy

You said in one of your letters that Emeline talked of coming out with you bring her by all means—I think she could spend a winter amongst her friends quite pleasantly provided she brings her heart with her—we will all be much pleased to see her—I have already encroached upon Benj—could say more had I room but will be content with subscribing myself your affec
Sister Mary

PS if you conclude to come this fall give us timely notice

SEELEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY CELEBRATE 50 YEARS

The Seeley Genealogical Society (SGS) is dedicated to maintaining and increasing SGS genealogical information as well as giving opportunities for Seeley descendants to interact. The Society was founded in 1965 by Rev. Garner Osborn, son of William Osborn and Alice Seelye, eleventh generation in descent from Robert Seeley. Osborn's goal was to preserve vital family information, and he began the quarterly newsletter, a tradition that has continued with 166 newsletters having been published as of November 2015. The Constitution and Bylaws were established in 1986. Our biennial reunions are a great way to get to know cousins! The next SGS Reunion will be in Summer 2017 in the Mid-Ohio Valley (Parkersburg, WV/Marietta, OH).

Research Findings: Alan Phipps found that Robert Seeley was christened 4 July 1602 at Bluntisham-cum-Earith, Huntingdonshire, son of William Seeley. Phipps believed that William's parents were Thomas and Elizabeth Seeley of Great Gransden, who married in 1560.

Fred C. Hart's research focused on New England records and found no connection between Obadiah Seeley (b. 1614) of Stamford and Captain Robert Seeley of New Haven. Clifford L. Stott's research of English records found that, "In 1627/8, Obadiah Seeley, the son of William Seeley of Birmingham, was apprenticed to Nehemiah Wallington of London for the term of nine years to learn the turner's (lathe-furniture) trade." An inventory of Obadiah's estate in Stamford listed several tools of the turner's trade. This and other evidence suggests immigrant Obadiah Seeley is probably the son of William Seeley of St. Martin parish, Birmingham, England. SGS continues to do research on all Seeley lines and all spelling variations.

A Y-DNA Lineage Project established once and for all that there was NOT a close relationship between immigrants Robert and Obadiah Seeley. Results are available on the Seeley website.

Significant SGS Milestones: The Seelye Research Center (SRC) was established in 1995 in Abilene, Kansas, next to the Seelye Mansion. A list of documents located there is contained on the SGS CD ROM and the SGS Website. SGS produced books on the Descendants of Robert Seeley and Obadiah Seeley, One Through Five Generations, as well as Sixth and Seventh Generation Families. These are available on SGS CD ROM.

As of July 2015, the SGS Ancestor File contained 49,628 names in two databases. The "Seeley Surname" database contains 33,901 individuals with the surname Seeley (all spellings), while the "Other Surname" database has 15,737 individuals. DNA tests, queries, answers and updates are all online at our Website www.seeley-society.net. We also have a Facebook page.

In 2004, SGS members made a trip to Robert Seeley's England visiting sites where Robert had lived. In 2007, SGS members toured New England. The tour visited sites important to both Robert and Obadiah Seeley.

If you are a Seeley descendant, we would be happy to hear from you and have you join our Society. Contact us from our Web page.

Greens Farms Church Records, 1742 – 1822
Continuation of Baptisms: 1769-1775

Transcribed by Barbara Dempsey

N. B. The Greens Farms Church records were known to Donald Lines Jacobus and were used by him when compiling the data for *Families of Old Fairfield*. The publication of these records here in *Connecticut Ancestry* marks the first time they have been transcribed and published as a whole. Please see previous issues (Vol. 58, No. 1, 2 & 3, August & November 2015, February 2016) for the introduction and first sets of records from this source. Further records will be published in future issues of this journal.

Date	Surname	Given Name	Parents/relationship	Other notes
01 Jan 1769	Jesup	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer/Elenor	
08 Jan 1769	Davis	Samuel	s/o John/Olive	
29 Jan 1769	Cable	Grace	d/o George/Esther	
12 Feb 1769	Stratten	Sarah	d/o Cornelius/Abigail	
19 Feb 1769	Hendrick	Peter	s/o John/Eunice	
12 Mar 1769	Crossman	Anne	d/o John/Anne	
19 Mar 1769	Disbrow	Moses	s/o Jabez/Mahitable	
19 Mar 1769	Meker	Siliman	s/o Benjamin/Abigail	
19 Mar 1769	[Sherwood]	Dorcas		servant to Jeremiah
02 Apr 1769	Cable	Samuel	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
02 Apr 1769	Bennet	Rhoda	d/o Joseph/Sarah	
23 Apr 1769	Nash	Charity	d/o Thomas/Mary	
30 Apr 1769	Osterbanks	Adam	s/o Isaac/Abigail	
30 Apr 1769	Couch	Adra	d/o Josiah/Eunice	
30 Apr 1769	Lockwood	Martha	d/o Gershom/Martha	
04 Jun 1769	Taylor	Moses	s/o Samuel/Mary	
04 Jun 1769	Wynekoop	Benjamin	s/o Benjamin/Grissel	
11 Jun 1769	Smith	Abigail	d/o Samuel/Abigail	

18 Jun 1769	Bradley	Molly	d/o Stephen/Abigail	
16 Jul 1769	Gray	Hulda	d/o Elias/Eunice	
23 Jul 1769	Bennet	John Satterly	s/o Doctor Stephen/Elisabeth	
30 Jul 1769	[Wakeman]	Amos		Negro servant to ye Widow Abigail
13 Aug 1769	[Hide]	Priscilia		Negro servant to ye Widow Abigail
27 Aug 1769	Bennet	Nathaniel	s/o Deliverance/Mary	
27 Aug 1769	[Sherwood]	Nedd		servant to Jeremiah
10 Sep 1769	Wakeman	Banks	s/o Jesup/Amelia	
17 Sep 1769	Godfrey	Esther	d/o Lt. Nathan/Sarah	
17 Sep 1769	[Bradley]	Amos		servant to Stephen
01 Oct 1769	[Sherwood]	Quash		servant to Jeremiah
29 Oct 1769	[Godfrey]	Tamar		servant maid to Deacon Stephen
19 Nov 1769	Wakeman	Aaron (twin)	s/o Mr. Gideon/Ann	
19 Nov 1769	Wakeman	Rachel (twin)	d/o Mr. Gideon/Ann	
26 Nov 1769	Elwood	Rachel	d/o John/Anna	
03 Dec 1769	Hendrick	Joseph	s/o Samuel/Mary	
10 Dec 1769	Baker	Lockwood	s/o Ebenezer/Mable	
14 Jan 1770	Bennet	Gershom	s/o James/Sarah	
14 Jan 1770	Morehouse	Sarah	d/o Grummon/Hulda	
28 Jan 1770	Bur	Jonathan	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
04 Mar 1770	Meker	Samuel	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
04 Mar 1770	Baker	Abraham	s/o Joshua/Abigail	
18 Mar 1770	Meker	Elenor	d/o Seth/Abigail	
25 Mar 1770	Morehouse	Benjamin	s/o Deacon Gideon/Eunice	
25 Mar 1770	Ogden	John	s/o Ebenezer	
08 Apr 1770	Beers	Abigail	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
08 Apr 1770	Godfrey	Elisabeth	d/o Nathan/Isabel	
15 Apr 1770	Sherwood	Stephen	s/o Daniel/Charity	

22 Apr 1770	Alling	Gershom	s/o Elnathan/Sarah	
22 Apr 1770	Jesup	Arete	d/o Ebenezer/Elenor	
13 May 1770	Thorp	Abraham	s/o William/Patt	
27 May 1770	Ripley	Hezekiah Augustus	s/o Hezekiah/Dolly	
02 Jun 1770	Batterson	Anna	d/o William/Grissel	
20 Jun 1770	Batterson	Samuel	s/o George/Elisabeth	
01 Jul 1770	Bulkly	David	s/o Isaac/Deborah	
08 Jul 1770	Rumsey	David	s/o David/Anna	
08 Jul 1770	Alling	Sarah	d/o Ebenezer/Sarah	
05 Aug 1770	Goodsell	Abigail	d/o John/Grace	
08 Sep 1770	Frasier	Eunice	s/o Daniel/Eunice	
07 Oct 1770	Hurlbutt	Talour	s/o Capt. Gideon/Hannah	
21 Oct 1770	Sturgis	Chery	d/o David/Charity	
21 Oct 1770	Andrews	Abraham	s/o Abraham/Katy	
21 Oct 1770	Andrews	Wakeman	s/o Abraham/Katy	
21 Oct 1770	[Disbrow]	Lilie		servant maid to Joseph
21 Oct 1770	[Wakeman]	Titus		servant to Mr. Gideon
28 Oct 1770	Sturges	Peter	s/o Peter	
28 Oct 1770	[Sherwood]	Tony		man servant to Jeremiah
28 Oct 1770	[Sherwood]	Mille		Negro child offered by Quash [see above 01 October 1769]
18 Nov 1770	Sherwood	Abigail	d/o John/Mary	
03 Feb 1771	Coley	Ruama	d/o Eliphalet/Eunice	
17 Mar 1771	Persons	Betty	d/o Timothy/Elisabeth	
24 Mar 1771	Wakeman	Jesup	s/o Jesup/Amelia	
21 Apr 1771	Smith	Betty	d/o Samuel/Abigail	
05 May 1771	Davis	Ann	d/o John/Olive	
05 May 1771	Nash	Rebeckah	d/o Thomas/Mary	

09 May 1771	Godfrey	Nathan	s/o Nathan/Isabel	
12 May 1771	Couch	Benjamin	s/o David/Mary	
12 May 1771	Cable	Lewes	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
12 May 1771	Gorham	Mary	d/o Joseph/Mary	
12 May 1771	Lockwood	Seymour	s/o Gershom/Martha	
12 May 1771	Bennet	Lidia	d/o Joseph/Sarah	
19 May 1771	Bur	Silas	s/o Ephraim	
19 May 1771	Nickols	Mary	d/o Moses/Mary	
19 May 1771	Cable	Temperance	d/o George/Esther	
09 Jun 1771	MunRow	Joseph	s/o Ebenezer/Mary	
09 Jun 1771	Stratten	Eunice	d/o Cornelius/Abigail	
16 Jun 1771	Sturges	Abigail	d/o Andrew/Abigail	
30 Jun 1771	Raymond	Molly	d/o William/Mary	
02 Jul 1771	Taylor	Patty	d/o Lt. Samuel/Mary	
14 Jul 1771	Bur	Talcot	s/o Talcot/Mindwell	
21 Jul 1771	Morehouse	David	s/o Lt. Solomon/Miriam	
04 Aug 1771	Elwood	William	s/o Hezekiah/Sarah	
04 Aug 1771	Gray	Seymour	s/o Moses/Sarah	
11 Aug 1771	Batterson	Grace	d/o George/Elisabeth	
01 Sep 1771	Bennet	Esther	d/o Nathan/Hannah	
01 Sep 1771	Bennet	Esther	d/o Deliverance/Mary	
08 Sep 1771	Baker	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer/Mable	
22 Sep 1771	Guire	Thaddy Bur	s/o Stephen/Rebeckah	
29 Sep 1771	Baker	Joseph	s/o Joshua/Abigail	
06 Oct 1771	Wakeman	Pamelia	d/o Mr. Gideon/Ann	
10 Nov 1771	Hendrick	Andrew	s/o Samuel/Mary	
10 Nov 1771	Disbrow	Deborah	d/o Jabez/Mahitabel	
07 Dec 1771	Goodsell	Phebe	d/o John/Grace	

29 Dec 1771	Disbrow	Hannah	d/o Widow Phebe	
29 Dec 1771	[Wakeman]	Cesar		servant boy to Widow Abigail
04 Jan 1772	Andrews	Isaac	s/o Ens. Abraham/Catherine	
19 Jan 1772	Bennet	David	s/o Moses/Eunice	
19 Jan 1772	Hull	Hezekiah	s/o Daniel	
19 Jan 1772	Meker	David	s/o Benjamin/Abigail	
19 Jan 1772	Ogden	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer	
19 Jan 1772	Bennet	James	s/o James/Sarah	
24 Jan 1772	Elwood	Samuel	s/o John/Ann	
26 Jan 1772	King	Esau	s/o Richard/Sarah	
22 Feb 1772	Elwood	Ruhama	d/o Joseph/Naoma	offered by ye grandfather Richard Elwood
01 Mar 1772	Crossman	Esther	d/o John/Anne	
07 Mar 1772	Wakeman	David	s/o Stephen/Mary	
14 Mar 1772	Jesup	Edward	s/o Doctor Ebenezer/Elen	
17 Mar 1772	Godfrey	Ebeneze	s/o Lt. Nathan/Sarah	
22 Mar 1772	Bur	Elizabeth (twin)	d/o Talcot/Mindwell	
22 Mar 1772	Bur	Mary (twin)	d/o Talcot/Mindwell	
22 Mar 1772	Wynekoop	Peter	s/o Benjamin/Grissel	
19 Apr 1772	Rumsey	Benjamin	s/o David/Ann	
30 May 1772	[Sherwood]	Robin		servant child of Jeremiah
07 Jun 1772	Meker	Lyman	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
28 Jun 1772	Chapman	Betsy	d/o Doctor Joseph/Elisabeth	
28 Jun 1772	Allen	Gideon	s/o Benjamin/Rhoda	
05 Jul 1772	Batterson	Molly	d/o William/Grissel	
12 Jul 1772	Rumsey	Aaron	s/o Joseph	
19 Jul 1772	Disbrow	Deborah	w/o Joshua	
26 Jul 1772	Beers	Lidia	d/o Daniel/Abigail	

26 Jul 1772	Sherwood	Daniel (twin)	s/o Daniel/Charity	bap by Mr. Johnson
26 Jul 1772	Sherwood	Charity (twin)	d/o Daniel/Charity	bap by Mr. Johnson
30 Aug 1772	Disbrow	Noah	s/o Widow Phebe	
31 Aug 1772	Bennet	Eliphalet	s/o Doctor Stephen/Elisabeth	
06 Jul 1772	Morehouse	Mary	d/o Grummon/Hulda	
06 Jul 1772	Taylor	Gershom	s/o Lt. Samuel/Mary	
20 Sep 1772	Coley	Mercy	d/o Hezekiah	
27 Sep 1772	Andrews	William	s/o Capt. Samuel/Hannah	
08 Nov 1772	Raymond	Hezekiah	s/o David/Sarah	
15 Nov 1772	Batterson	Eliakim	s/o George/Elisabeth	
27 Dec 1772	Allen	David	s/o Moses/Ann	
10 Jan 1773	Cammel	Elisabeth	d/o Archebel/Isabel	
11 Feb 1773	Wakeman	Rebeckah	d/o Ens. Stephen/Mary	
14 Feb 1773	Wakeman	Sarah	d/o Jesup/Amelia	
28 Mar 1773	Davis	Jerry	s/o John/Olive	
01 Apr 1773	Smith	Hannah	d/o Samuel/Abigail	
01 Apr 1773	Cable	William	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
11 Apr 1773	Disbrow	Mary	d/o Joshua/Deborah	
02 May 1773	Ripley	Bradford	s/o Hezekiah/Dorothy	
02 May 1773	Stratten	Abigail	d/o Cornelius/Abigail	
02 May 1773	Stratten	Jonathan	s/o Jonathan/Mary	
23 May 1773	Lockwood	Phebe	d/o Gershom/Martha	
23 May 1773	Bur	Nathan	s/o John Jr./Martha	
24 May 1773	Thorp	William	s/o William/Pat	
03 Jun 1773	Cable	Isaac	s/o George/Esther	
06 Jun 1773	Ogden	Molly	d/o Ebenezer	
13 Jun 1773	Elwood	Urania	d/o Joseph/Naoma	
20 Jun 1773	Couch	David (twin)	s/o David/Mary	

20 Jun 1773	Couch	Susanna (twin)	d/o David/Mary	
20 Jun 1773	Allen	Benjamin	s/o Benjamin/Rhoda	
24 Jun 1773	Disbrow	Reuben (twin)	s/o Elias/Olive	
24 Jun 1773	Disbrow	Betsy (twin)	d/o Elias/Olive	
04 Jul 1773	Bur	Alva	ch/o Talcot/Mindwell	
11 Jul 1773	[Bur]	Ned		servant man of Mr. John
18 Jul 1773	Andrews	Joseph	s/o Capt. Samuel/Hannah (dec'd)	offered by Abraham Andrews, Esq.
25 Jul 1773	Bradley	David	s/o Daniel	
01 Aug 1773	[Wakeman]	Dorcas		servant child to ye Widow Abigail
20 Aug 1773	Couch	Sarah	d/o Thomas/Sarah	
22 Aug 1773	[Wakeman]	Tom		servant child to Mr. Gideon
10 Sep 1773	[Nash]	Jacob		Negro child belonging to ye Widow Rebeckah
10 Sep 1773	[Nash]	Tite		Negro child belonging to ye Widow Rebeckah
10 Sep 1773	Sherwood	Hezekiah (twin)	s/o John/Mary	
10 Sep 1773	Sherwood	John (twin)	s/o John/Mary	
19 Sep 1773	Andrews	Samuel Wakeman	s/o Abraham Esq./Catharine	
03 Oct 1773	Davis	Mercy	d/o Eunice	
03 Oct 1773	Bur	Salmon	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
03 Oct 1773	[Sherwood]	Silva		servant maid to Widow Jane
10 Oct 1773	Lewes	Sarah	d/o Ebenezer/Betty	
31 Oct 1773	MunRow	Esther	d/o Ebenezer/Mary	
12 Dec 1773	Goodsell	Abigail	d/o John/Grace	
12 Dec 1773	Baker	Daniel	s/o Ebenezer/Mahitable	
23 Jan 1774	Bur	Sarah	d/o Ephraim	
20 Feb 1774	Coley	Eliphalet	s/o Eliphalet/Eunice	
13 Mar 1774	Bennet	Mercy	d/o James/Sarah	

13 Mar 1774	Lockwood	Esther	s/o Stephen/Rebeckah	
27 Mar 1774	Wakeman	Rebecca	d/o Ens. Stephen/Mary	
10 Apr 1774	Bennet	Betty	d/o Deliverance/Mary	bap by Mr. Sherwood
17 Apr 1774	Nicols	Rebeckah	d/o Moses/Mary	
17 Apr 1774	[Chapman]	Dina		servant to Doctor Joseph
22 Apr 1774	Allen	Nathan	s/o Elnathan/Sarah	
01 May 1774	Allen	Joseph	s/o Ebenezer/Sarah	
01 May 1774	Couch	Betty	d/o Benjamin/Naomi	
01 May 1774	[Sherwood]	Nancy		servant child to Jeremiah
29 May 1774	Disbrow	Sarah	d/o Justus/Elizabeth	
05 Jun 1774	Disbrow	Rachel Winton	d/o Damaris	
05 Jun 1774	Canfield	Josiah	s/o Ezekiel/Anne	
26 Jun 1774	Beers	Elias	s/o Daniel/Abigail	
03 Jul 1774	Wakeman	David	s/o Mr. Gideon/Ann	
03 Jul 1774	Nash	William Bur	s/o Thomas/Mary	
10 Jul 1774	Elwood	Anna	d/o John/Anna	
17 Jul 1774	Morehouse	Sarah	d/o Lt. Solomon/Miriam	bap by Mr. Sherwood
24 Jul 1774	Meeker	Abigail	d/o Daniel/Abigail	
31 Jul 1774	Crossman	Elen	d/o John/Ann	
31 Jul 1774	Coley	Sarah	d/o Hezekiah/Sarah	
07 Aug 1774	Bennet	Priscilla	d/o Joseph/Sarah	
07 Aug 1774	Bur	Sillick	s/o John/Martha	
14 Aug 1774	Rumsey	William	s/o Joseph	
21 Aug 1774	Hull	Betsey	d/o Daniel	
28 Aug 1774	Rumsey	Benjamin	s/o Lt. David/Anna	bap by Mr. Tennent
18 Sep 1774	Guyer	Thomas	s/o Stephen/Rebecca	
25 Sep 1774	Hendrick	Mary	d/o Samuel/Mary	

23 Oct 1774	Godfrey	Samuel	d/o Anne MunRow alias Godfrey [see also MunRow]	
23 Oct 1774	MunRow	Samuel	s/o Anne MunRow alias Godfrey [see also Godfrey]	
30 Oct 1774	Sherwood	John	s/o Daniel/Charity	
30 Oct 1774	Couch	Thomas	s/o Thomas/Sarah	
30 Oct 1774	Morehouse	Sarah	d/o Hannah	
06 Nov 1774	Chapman	Joseph	s/o Doctor Joseph/Elisabeth	
18 Dec 1774	Meeker	Rachel	d/o Benjamin/Abigail	
28 Jan 1775	Monroe	Simmons	s/o Elizabeth [surname recorded "Row"]	offered by his grandmother
28 Jan 1775	Row	Simmons	s/o Elizabeth [see also Monroe]	offered by his grandmother
05 Feb 1775	Disbrow	Jesse	s/o Jabez/Mahitabel	
07 Feb 1775	Johnson	Freelove	d/o Nathaniel/Sarah	
12 Feb 1775	Jesup	Elenor	d/o Doctor Ebenezer/Abigail	
19 Feb 1775	Cable	Esther	d/o George/Esther	
26 Feb 1775	Andrews	Catharine	d/o Ens. Abraham/Catharine	
26 Feb 1775	Couch	Eunice	d/o Josiah/Eunice	
26 Feb 1775	Wakeman	Amelia	d/o Joseph/Amelia	
26 Feb 1775	Hanford	Ebenezer	s/o Noah/Elizabeth	
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19 May 1775	Disbrow	Ebenezer Squire	s/o Joshua/Deborah	
19 Mar 1775	Disbrow	Charity	d/o Betty	
26 Mar 1775	Batteson	Data	d/o George/Elizabeth	
26 Mar 1775	Lockwood	Gershom	s/o Gershom/Martha	
30 Mar 1775	Taylor	Nancy	d/o Samuel/Mary	
30 Mar 1775	Batterson	Bekky	d/o William/Grissel	
07 May 1775	Morehouse	Abigail	d/o Grummon/Hulday	bap by Mr. Sherwood

14 May 1775	Cable	Nathaniel Shaw	s/o Thomas/Rhoda	
04 Jun 1775	Stratten	Joseph	s/o Cornelius/Abigail	
11 Jun 1775	Disbrow	Samuel Plat	s/o Asa/Charity	
25 Jun 1775	Gorham	Joseph Barlow	s/o Joseph/Mary	
25 Jun 1775	[Sherwood]	Titus		servant child to Widow Jane
23 Jul 1775	Bennet	Phineas	s/o Moses/Hannah	
03 Jul 1775	Gorham	Ebenezer	s/o Ebenezer/Marha	
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11 Sep 1775	Couch	Benjamin	s/o Benjamon/Naomi	
21 Oct 1775	Carson	Catharine	d/o Walter/Sarah	
28 Oct 1775	Bradley	Wakeman	s/o Daniel/Sarah	
05 Nov 1775	Smith	William Bennet	s/o Samuel/Abigail	
31 Dec 1775	Ramond	Sarah	d/o David/Sarah	

To be continued

Book Review

Francis J. Sypher, Jr., editor. *Liber A of the Collegiate Churches of New York*, Part 2. William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI. 2015. 854 pp. \$75.00.

Though not about our area of southwest Connecticut, this massive volume, contributed for review by the publisher, will be of great interest to anyone who may have early Dutch ancestors from New York. This Part 2, the second volume, documents some 20,000 baptisms, marriages, and names of church members of the Reformed Dutch Church of the City of New York for the period 1639 to about 1700. The first volume, Part 1 and not included here, includes texts of minutes and other church documents for the period.

The records in both volumes were compiled by Henricus Selijns, the Dutch Church's minister from 1682 to 1701, who transcribed earlier records and added those from the period of his own ministry. Baptismal records before about 1655 name the child, the father, and the sponsors, usually at least two but sometimes as many as six. Later records add the mother, always listed by her maiden name. Lists of church members often note those who are since *gestorven* (deceased) and those who have removed to places like *Breuckelen* (Brooklyn) or *Hackinsacq*. Marriage records do not include names of witnesses, but they do note if *beijde wonenende alheir* (both live here) or if one or the other is from some place other than Manhattan. As expected, the names in all but a very few of the records are clearly Dutch.

The language of the transcribed record is entirely Dutch. Though generally not difficult to interpret, some seventy pages of endnotes plus a glossary give explanations (in English) of both common words and abbreviations and of the more difficult passages. It is noteworthy that the index of names (in a small type font with three columns) runs almost 125 pages.

This volume, like others contributed for our review, will become part of the collection of the Ferguson Library in Stamford.

Harlan R. Jessup

CONNECTICUT ANCESTRY Vol. 58, No. 4 (May 2016)

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Excluded from this index, unless they appear in an article, are names of officers, Society members, authors of an article, and names in the publication for sale pages, and book reviews. To the extent known, married women are listed under both their maiden and married names. In a married listing, the maiden surname and the surnames of prior husbands are shown in parentheses () (). Unknown maiden name is shown as (—).

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 Joel Dunning 20
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 Jonathan 7
 Joseph 15 21
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 Maraney 20
 Mary 14 19 20
 Mary (—) 15 21
 Mary/Molly (—) 13
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 Nathan 7
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 Rachel 13
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 Sarah 14 15 16 23
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