

# NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE



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## **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this newsletter is to facilitate the exchange of research information among Jabez descendants and to encourage and assist with ongoing research.

## *Joe Barber's Column*

We are experiencing some fine spring weather as I sit down at the keyboard. New life is springing up all around. I hope some of it finds its way into my comments.

In terms of genealogy activity, spring and summer lend themselves to such things as traveling to visit relatives and seeing places that are significant to family. Maybe the occasional reunion and a group of Jabez cousins in Albert are having another reunion this summer. Descendants of Arthur Olmstead of Rumsey, AB have been meeting every second year for some time and some 60 of them got together in 2010. This group trace their family history back through George of Frontenac, ON, Phineas 11, Phineas 1, Timothy, to Israel, son of Capt. Jabez.

Familylink announced a month ago that the official US census for 1940 has been released and is available through them. This census covers the 132 million people who lived in the USA in April 1940. They say it is being

indexed and that in a few months the entire census will be searchable by name. What a great source that will be for researchers. If only we could get similar service in Canada.

Here is some philosophy for you from the Easter edition of a senior's magazine-

*All I need to know about life I learned from the Easter Bunny.*

Don't put all of your eggs in one basket.  
Walk softly and carry a big carrot.  
Everyone needs a friend who is all ears.  
All work and no play can make you a basket case.  
Everyone is entitled to a bad hair day.  
Let happy thoughts multiply like rabbits.  
The grass is always greener in someone else's basket.

I hope you all have a good summer.  
Joe Barber.

# *DOREEN DOLLMAN'S RESEARCH*

## *Family of Job Olmstead By Doreen Dollman*

After the last newsletter I was given some suggestions as to interesting topics for the subject of the next article (one being the subject of Elizabeth Litten, wife of Jeremiah Olmstead). I would have so much liked to attempt any one of them, but I knew it was too much in too little time, so for now it is on a "back burner."

It has been a long while since I wrote the article on Job Olmstead and his family. I did not go into much detail on his children and descendants, but have accumulated a lot since then. In this article and more to come I will add more information on the subject of his numerous children and grandchildren of this family.

**ENOCH** – Enoch was the oldest son of Job and his mystery first wife. He was born 11 April 1800 in Ontario He enlisted along with his father, in Willcock's Canadian Detachment of U.S. Volunteers in the War of 1812 at 13 years of age. Canadian military records show that Job served as a drummer in the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Lincoln Militia. Job's wife and four children were with him and also belonging to the 1<sup>st</sup> Reg. Enoch's mother must have died not long after as his father remarried in 1819 to Judith Masters Merrill in Canton, Ohio, The Olmstead's lived in Crawford County, Ohio for a number of years. It was not until about 1833 that the family migrated to Michigan. Enoch married a widow, Sarah Kimball Bacon, in Crawford County, Ohio. She was the daughter of Daniel and Sarah Kimball. In 1830 Enoch was in the Liberty Twp. census in the same county. In 1833 Enoch and Sarah signed a deed to Perez Hillard (he was married to Sarah's sister Clarissa Kimball). He sold 53 acres to Perez for \$150. In August of 1835 Enoch purchased land in Zilwaukee Twp in Saginaw County, Michigan. In 1886 there was a very interesting article in the "Bay City Tribune" about the settlement of the Saginaw Valley 50 years ago. It tells of a small log house built and occupied by Enoch Olmstead and family. It was the very last home along the Quanicassee River before the open prairie. His family was still there in the 1840 census. The author of "The History of the Saginaw Valley" states that he had some education, held a town office, lived at lower Saginaw, and built a schooner named "The Democrat". In 1840 a court document was filed back in Crawford County, Ohio by Isaac Bacon after the

death of his father, Dexter Bacon, wanting title to his property. By that time Sarah (Sally) was already married to Enoch Olmstead, had already received her dower, and was living in Michigan. Dexter's children, Isaac, Thomas (minor) and Emily Bacon lived in Ohio, and Almira (minor) was a resident of Michigan. It is unclear whether or not Sally and Dexter had any children of their own, but possibly Almira may have been as she was the youngest of the Bacon children. In 1850 Enoch was living in Mackinac County In 1863 he and his wife "Sally" sold land in Sault Ste. Marie to John Comstock. In 1870 Enoch lived in DeTour Village with his daughter Clarissa and family. Sally died in November of 1869 of pneumonia at 63 years of age. Enoch died 15 Oct., 1872 in Detour, Chippewa County, Michigan, age 72 years, 6 months, 17 days. The death record states he was born in Canada and was a sailor. The known children of Enoch and Sally were Richard, Phylinda, Parryander, Sarah, Charlotte, Gardner, Peter Enoch, Clarissa, Elizabeth, and William. There is speculation that Enoch had another wife and family "on the side". An Enoch Olmstead of the same occupation and approximate age is enumerated in the 1860 Sault Ste. Marie, Chippewa County census with a wife Maria S. and seven children (John, Henry, Eliza, Pauline, Bingham, Sixth and Mary Ann). It was not unusual for sailors to have another family, but it is a mystery as to what became of this one.

The children of Enoch and Sarah were:

**Richard** – born 8 Feb. 1828, Ohio, died 24 Dec. 1918 at the Soldiers Home in Grand Rapids, MI. He married Adeline. Richard was living with his parents in the 1850 census in Mackinac Co. In the 1860 and 1870 census he resided in Sand Beach, Huron County with his wife and daughters, He was a sailor and then captain of a ship. In 1880 he was in Little Traverse, Emmet Co. with Albert and Emma Rice and was a sailor. Adeline was with her son-in-law in Alcona, Alcona Co., keeping house. Her daughter had just died in childbirth and the new born baby died 17 days later. In 1900 Richard was a widower, residing in Drummond Twp., Chippewa Co. and was a boat builder. In 1910 he was in the same place, but with George and Ella Luther, and was still a boat builder at 82 years of age. His death certificate gives his age as 90 years, 10 months and 16 days. He died from bronchitis. His children were Mary Elizabeth (born Jan. 1854) and Sarah J. (born Sept. 1855). Both girls

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married Churchill brothers, James and Peter respectively. They all lived in Alcona. James and Peter were carpenters. James and Mary were married 3 Nov. 1877 in Oscola, Iosco Co. Peter and Sarah were married 15 May 1879 in Au Sable, Iosco Co. where Sarah was residing. Peter and Sarah resided in Alcona in 1880 and had a 1 month old son enumerated with them. However, a birth record shows that a daughter, Alice, was born 10 April 1880. James was born in 1885 in Alcona. On 28 March 1887 a son was born in Black River. On the 12 June 1888 a daughter was born in Alcona. Another James was born 15 Aug. 1889 in Alcona. A son died 28 March 1887 at 1 day of age. Sarah died 18 June 1893 from consumption in Alcona. James was widower in the 1880 census of Alcona. Mary had just died in childbirth on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of May and their newborn son, James, died 10 May 1880 at 17 days from congestion of the brain. Mary's mother, Adeline, was in James household, presumably helping in the tragic situation. A one year old son, Frank, was also enumerated with his father. I could not find a death record for Adeline, but Richard Olmstead was a widower in the 1900 census.

Phylinda - was born 25 Dec. 1831 in Cleveland Ohio and died 27 June 1870 in Grand Rapids. She married Russell McManners on 21 May 1848 in Portsmouth, Saginaw. She then married Dwight Dutcher. The first mention of Phylinda found was in "The History of Bay County". She was named as a student in Miss Clark's school. In 1842 the first school district was formed and Miss Clark was engaged as the teacher. Phylinda was a student in that year. In the 1850 census she was enumerated with her husband Russell and 2 children in Saginaw Co. The children were 4 and 2. It was difficult to read their names, but might have been Rosele and Minerva. A William McManners, born about 1849, married Minnie Brown and named his parents as Russell and Philinda. By the 1860 census Phylinda was married to Dwight, living in Allegan Co. and had children Frank (2) and Graham (1). In 1870 they were in Manlius, Allegan Co. Their children were Frank (13), Hugh (11), Edith (9), Berton (7), George (4), and Babe (2). Babe was probably Rebecca who was born in 1868. Dwight was a lumberman. Phylinda died at 38 years of age and was buried in Manlius Cemetery, Allegan Co. She has a nice tombstone with a photo at Find A Grave.

*AN IMPORTANT PRIMARY  
SOURCE DOCUMENT:  
THE ISRAEL OLMSTEAD FAMILY  
BIBLE RECORDS  
by Robbie Gorr*

A primary source document is any written evidence pertaining to a person that was memorialized at the time of the event or during the lifetime of the subject. It is the most accurate and trusted source of information because it is contemporary, being recorded as close as possible to the original event that it witnesses. There is such an original document in private possession that serves as a primary source of information about one of the first Olmstead families to settle in Canada.

Members of the family refer to it as the McCaw family bible since it was originally presented as a wedding gift in the McCaw family and has been passed down through generations of that family<sup>1</sup>. For many years it was in the possession of one of those McCaw descendants Alice McGrath Hughes, the prolific and respected local historian and genealogist of the Rideau settlement area (in Leeds, Grenville and Lanark Counties) in Ontario. It was Mrs. Hughes who first made its contents generally known and originally published copies of its pages<sup>2</sup>. Among the information contained in the bible's family record pages were the birth, marriage and death dates of the Israel Olmstead family, pioneers of Grenville County, Ontario.

A transcription of the entries written on the four pages of the McCaw family bible includes the following information.

PAGE 1 MARRIAGES

*William McCaw and Rebecca Edmunds was married by the Rev Wm Brown on Wensday June the 17<sup>th</sup> 1835*

PAGE 2 BIRTHS

*Elisabeth Haskins was Born 1772 July the 23 was married to Israel Omstead June 16<sup>th</sup> 1791*

*Abial Omstead was Born June 2<sup>nd</sup> 1792*

*Ephraim Omstead was Born Sept 15<sup>th</sup> 1794*

*Lurany Omstead was born Nov 25<sup>th</sup> 1797*

*Thankful & Hitte Omstead were Born Aprile 18<sup>th</sup> 1800*

*Solomon Edmunds & Elisabeth Omstead were married on Tuesday July 5<sup>th</sup> 1803*

*Lorenzo D. Edmunds was born Aprile 9<sup>th</sup> on Wednesday P. M. at 6 o Clock - 1804*

*Joseph Edmunds was born May 31<sup>st</sup> on Saturday ten o Clock A. M. 1806*

PAGE 3 BIRTHS

*Caleb Edmunds was Born on Wednesday half past four in the morning Oct 19<sup>th</sup> 1808*

*Tabitha Edmunds was born the 26<sup>th</sup> of Febr on Wednesday one o Clock P. M. Ano 1812*

*Rebekah Edmunds was Born the 29<sup>th</sup> of August on Tuesday*

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half past 11 A. M. 1815

Soloman Edmunds was Born January the 26 1781

#### PAGE 4 DEATHS

Israel Omstead Died on the 7<sup>th</sup> day of Febr 1802

Abial Omstead Died on Nov 9<sup>th</sup> 1795

Tabitha Edmunds Died Dec 5<sup>th</sup> 1826

Thankful Robinson Died Febr 9<sup>th</sup> 1824

Elizabeth Edmunds Died July the 7<sup>th</sup> 1850

Soloman Edmunds Died January the 26<sup>th</sup> 1854

William McCaw Died March 16<sup>th</sup> 1879 Aged 66 years and 8 Months

Rebecca McCaw Died March 17<sup>th</sup> 1877 Aged 73 And 5 Months

The publication date on the bible is 1825<sup>iii</sup>. Family tradition states that the bible was a wedding gift presented at the 1835 marriage of William McCaw and Rebecca Edmunds, as memorialized on the first of the family record pages. But the subsequent pages contain information that predates that marriage by up to forty years and it predates the publication of the bible by up to thirty years. Who then wrote that information about Rebecca Edmunds' parents and older siblings?

Based on handwriting similarities and writing styles, there appear to be four distinct periods when information may have been entered on the family record pages. The first would be the McCaw-Edmunds marriage on the first page. The second period would be all the early Olmstead and Edmunds birth, marriage and death entries that were recorded on the next two and a half pages which predate the marriage. The third entry period would be the deaths of Rebecca Edmunds' parents Solomon and Elizabeth in the 1850s on the fourth page, and the fourth and final entry period would be the deaths of William and Rebecca McCaw in the 1870s. Also, an examination of the handwriting and the style of writing have led to a theory that the information was probably recorded by three different people during the four entry periods.

The first entry recording the marriage of William McCaw and Rebecca Edmunds is different than all the other entries. The handwriting is distinctive and unlike the other records. The colloquial spelling of "Wensday" also differs from the three other occurrences in the second entry period that correctly spell that day. A reasonable suspect for the author of this first entry would be Elizabeth Haskins, the mother of Rebecca Edmunds. A family bible is the kind of gift given by a mother to a daughter, especially at the time of her marriage. And the use of incorrect grammar<sup>iv</sup> and the colloquial spelling might also point to someone with less formal education as Elizabeth must have had<sup>v</sup>. The included facts of the exact date and the presiding clergyman's name would support the theory that this was the original contemporary entry.

The second entry period on the next two and a half pages contains the records that predate the marriage entry. The handwriting and the style are similar leading one to believe that they were entered at one time. The entries of birth contain

so much precise detail, including the day of the week and even the hour of the day, they must have been written by someone immediately involved or they were copied from some other more contemporary source. A prime suspect would be Elizabeth Haskins, the mother of Rebecca Edmunds, again. Those details of each child's birth would only be known to a mother. But the deaths of Solomon Edmunds and Elizabeth Haskins are also written in that same handwriting and so the earlier entries must have been written by someone else. The most logical suspect then would be Rebecca Edmunds McCaw, the owner of the bible, writing at the dictation of her mother or perhaps copying the information about her family from some other earlier source. The use of familiar family nicknames such as "Lurany" instead of Lurana and "Hitte" instead of Mehitabel indicates a more casual familiarity with the subjects as a sibling might speak of them rather than a parent. One interesting detail in the birth records, however, is the spelling of Rebecca's own name as the biblical "Rebekah". If one considers that the other entries, using the commonly spelled version of her name in the marriage and death records, were written by others and that this was the only entry written by her own self, then perhaps this was the spelling variation she preferred. The deaths recorded on the fourth page are also out of chronological order: the 1802 death of Israel Olmstead being listed before the 1795 death of his son Abial and the death of Tabitha Edmunds in 1826 is also listed ahead of the death of her half-sister Thankful Olmstead Robinson. This would also lend support to the theory that these entries were entered not as they occurred but in order of some priority to the writer such as a parent before the child and a full sister before a half-sister.

The third entry period on the fourth page contains the deaths for Elizabeth and Solomon Edmunds. These two entries are written in handwriting that is eerily similar to the second entry period but with some subtle differences; the most notable difference being the straight 'd' at the end of Edmunds instead of the flourishing backward curve of that letter used consistently in the previous entry period. This might suggest the same writer using a more mature style. If Rebecca entered the records in the second entry period at some point soon after her 1835 marriage then these entries of her parents' deaths would have occurred almost twenty years later. It is interesting to note that, although this family bible was a marriage gift, Rebecca did not enter any records of her own children's births, marriages or deaths in the family pages of this bible. However, if she viewed this bible as a record of her own parents and siblings, then it would have been appropriate to enter her parents' deaths when they occurred many years later.

The fourth and final entry period contains the death records for William and Rebecca McCaw which occurred about twenty-five years after the previous entries. These death records were definitely written by a completely different hand. Here they were possibly entered by Ruf Edmunds, the son of William and Rebecca, or by his wife Rebecca Maitland Edmunds, who inherited not only the family farm but this bible among its contents. It was fitting closure to the story of this bible that the deaths of its original owners were also recorded on the last page.

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Of the children of Israel Olmstead and Elizabeth Haskins whose vital records are listed in that family bible, the following information is known.

Abial Olmstead, the first Olmstead to be born in Canada and probably named for his maternal great-uncle Abial Haskins who had died about the time of his birth in 1792, died at the age of three and a half years in 1795. There are no surviving family stories to explain or detail the cause of his death.

Ephraim Olmstead, the only surviving son of Israel and Elizabeth, went on to found a large family with many descendants. He moved from Wolford to the upper Ottawa Valley about 1840 settling in Ross Township, Renfrew County, Ontario. Later he would follow many of his children to central Wisconsin where he died in Matteson Township in Shewano County in the 1860s.

Lurana, the eldest daughter and probably named for her mother's eldest sister Lurana Haskins<sup>vi</sup>, married Charles Tallman and remained with her family at Kilmarnock in the Wolford area where she died on 25 April 1869. She was buried not far from her mother in Wolford Rural Cemetery.

Thankful, a traditional Olmstead family name, was one of a set of twin daughters, and perhaps the elder as her name was written first in the family bible. Her 1824 death, as recorded in the bible, indicated that she had married a Robinson. Prior to this she had been recorded in the 1819 township census with her family and so her marriage occurred sometime after that enumeration. There was only one Robinson family in Wolford Township at that time; the family of Jeremiah Robinson and his first wife Ruby contained four sons of marriageable age. But John Robinson, the oldest son, had married in 1823 to Hannah Gray<sup>vii</sup>, and Oliver Robinson, the second son, had married before 1822 to Susanah VanDusen<sup>viii</sup>. This left the two younger sons Allen, born ca1800, and Jeremiah Jr., born ca1802. Either of these two sons could have been the husband of Thankful. Allen Robinson was married to Sarah [surname unknown] before 1830 when their daughter was born<sup>ix</sup>. There is a marriage record for Jeremiah Robinson to Electa Ann Rowley in 1827<sup>x</sup>. Either brother could have been previously married to Thankful Olmstead and widowed by her 1824 death. Allen Robinson was living in Sweden in Monroe County, New York by 1850 where he died in 1864 and was buried in the West Sweden Cemetery there. Jeremiah Robinson stayed in Wolford Township where he died on 9 September 1862 and was buried in the Wolford Rural Cemetery.

The fate of Thankful's twin sister Mehitabel<sup>xi</sup> Olmstead, named for her paternal grandmother, had long been unknown. It was only recently discovered that she was the wife of Joseph D. Hutchinson of Elizabethtown Township in adjacent Leeds County, and had settled in Macomb in St. Lawrence County, New York where she died on 17 November 1884. She was buried there in the Oldsville Cemetery with her husband and family.

While many family papers, documents and photographs have found their way to local libraries and archives, the McCaw family bible remains a treasured heirloom since it contains much information about the family's pioneer ancestors. No doubt that it will continue to be passed down through future generations of the family as well.

#### REFERENCES

<sup>i</sup>The bible was believed to have been presented as a gift to celebrate the wedding of Rebecca Edmunds, the youngest child of Elizabeth Haskins and her second husband Solomon Edmunds, to William McCaw in 1835. When the original owner [1] **Rebecca Edmunds McCaw** died in 1889, the bible and family farm passed into the possession of her oldest son [2] **William "Rufus" McCaw** (1848 - 1917). Ruf McCaw had married Rebecca Maitland and their only daughter [3] **Helen Maitland McCaw** (1881 - 1966) was a spinster who lived with her parents and following their deaths then, the McCaw family bible came into her possession. The bible was then passed over at some later date to her first cousin [4] **Lillian Lavina McCaw** (1891 - 1959), daughter of Walter Elgin McCaw and his second wife Mary Ann Brocklebank, and another granddaughter of Rebecca Edmunds and William McCaw. Lillian McCaw and her husband Aaron "Adelbert" Ireland had no children and so, in 1958, just before her death, the McCaw family bible was passed on to her niece [5] **Alice Mary McGrath** (1919 - 2011), the daughter of her sister Stella Marion McCaw and John Milburn McGrath, himself a distant cousin. Alice McGrath, wife of James "Lloyd" Hughes, had already shown an early interest in family history and was a good choice as caretaker of this family heirloom. Since the death of Alice last year, the McCaw bible has come into the possession of her daughter [6] **Nancy Dianne Hughes** (1943 - ), wife of Ross Arnold Dulmage of Kemptville, Ontario.

<sup>ii</sup>Copies of the four pages are included in her landmark publication Joseph Haskins 1745-1823 Pioneer of Wolford Township: A Genealogical Record of His Descendants by Alice M. Hughes, self-published, 1990, pp. 293-6.

<sup>iii</sup>The date of publication is recorded on the title page for the New Testament as per information provided by the current owner Nancy Dulmage (email to author dated 30 January 2012).

<sup>iv</sup>The marriage entry is "*William McCaw and Rebecca Edmunds was married*" instead of the correct 'were married' for a plural subject.

<sup>v</sup>Elizabeth Haskins [1772-1850] grew up during the years of the Revolution in the United States where her parents moved frequently. It is likely that formal education was interrupted or that she received home instruction.

<sup>vi</sup>She was also possibly named after her father's paternal aunt Lurana Olmstead, wife of Lawrence Van Surdam.

<sup>vii</sup>From "A Record of Marriages Solemnized by Rev. William Smart, Minister of the Presbyterian Congregation, Brockville, Elizabethtown, Upper Canada"

<sup>viii</sup>Information received from descendant Robert D. Loucks of Dalton, GA in January 2000.

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<sup>ix</sup>Louisa's age in the 1850 census for Sweden, Monroe Co. NY was 20 and her age in the 1860 census for Malone, Franklin Co. NY was 30.

<sup>x</sup>From A Record of Marriages Solemnized by Rev. William Smart, Minister of the Presbyterian Congregation, Brockville, Elizabethtown, Upper Canada"

<sup>xi</sup>Although she was recorded in the family bible as "*Hitte*", earlier census records for Wolford Township list her as Hetty (1802, 1804, 1805 & 1806) and the full version of her name Mehitabel (1807, 1817 & 1819).

## *Henry Olmstead, Part II*

*by Geo. E. Olmstead of Hilton Beach  
(great-great- great grandson of Henry)*

In 1816 Gideon purchased a grist mill and a saw mill in the Wolford area. His sons Jabez and Henry were 17 yrs. and 13 yrs. old respectfully. Both sons and their father operated the mills until 1829. During those years the family must have been traveling back and forth from Aylmer, Que. to the Wolford area where their business was located.

Henry Olmstead served in the Militia when living in Hull Township, in the year 1821, under the command of Philemon Wright.

Henry likely met Charlotte, his wife, through his sister Sally (Olmstead) Wright, as Charlotte was her niece and since her mother died when she was fairly young, she was likely living with Sally in the Hull area.

Henry and his wife were married about 1830 and took up residence in Wolford Township and must have stayed until about 1834 or 1835. Their first two children were born between 1831 and 1833 in Wolford Township, by 1835 the family moved back to Aylmer, Hull Township probably Gideon's farm. The next three children were born from 1835 to 1840 in the Aylmer, Hull Township, Quebec area.

Henry's father, Gideon Olmstead, died May 14, 1837 and his mother, Esther Andrews, passed away Jan. 27, 1839. It appears sometime between the birth of his daughter Huldah, born 31 May, 1840 and the birth of their last child Sarah Charlotte, born 8<sup>th</sup>. October, 1842 the family migrated west to Bristol Twp., Ottawa Co., (now Pontiac Co.) Quebec.

Henry was the only member of Gideon and Esther's family to venture west and settle on the Quebec side of the Ottawa River. His siblings either stayed in the Hull Township area or migrated east or west on the Ontario side of the Ottawa River.

The Village of Bristol within Bristol Twp., Ottawa Co., (to-day known as Pontiac Co.) Quebec, lies west of Aylmer, Ottawa Co., Quebec about 40 miles. In those

days it was sparsely populated and was mainly forest wilderness.

The following is taken from a document provided by "The Pontiac Archives" compiled by C.C. Crouse.

### **HENRY OLMSTEAD**

When Rev. Henry Thaler, Methodist Missionary, visited Bristol Township, Lower Caada, (Quebec) on December 17<sup>th</sup>, 1843 he baptised the following:

Henry, son of Gideon and Esther Umstead (Olmstead) born in Wolford (a Township in Grenville Co., Ontario), born Sept. 8, 1803, and his family as follows:

Abigail, born Jan. 31, 1831 in Wolford Township, dau. of Henry and Charlotte Umstead.

Polly, born Feb. 5, 1833 in Hull (Que.), dau. of Henry and Charlotte Umstead.

William, born Oct. 10, 1835 in Hull (Que.)

Amos, born Oct. 17, 1837 in Hull (Que.)

Huldah, born May 31, 1840 in Hull (Que.)

Sarah C., born Oct. 8, 1843 in Bristol, (Que.)

Sometime between the time of the above Baptism and the first nominal Census (1851) Mrs. Henry Olmstead died. Charlotte (Wright) Olmstead is buried in the St. John the Evangelist's Anglican Church Cemetery in an unmarked grave, in the Village of Quyon, Onslow Township, Pontiac County, Quebec.

In the Township of Bristol Census (1851) in Lower Canada (Quebec) page #7 Reel C1131:

Henry Olmstead, age 45 (?) born Hull (?) Farmer, Widower, Wesleyan Methodist.

William Olmstead, age 18, born Hull.

Amos Olmstead, age 15, born Hull.

Holiday (Huldah), age 14, born Hull.

Abigail and Polly did not appear in the 1851 Census for Bristol Township, as they were both married by 1851. They appear with their husbands on the 1851/52 census for Wolford Township, Grenville Co., Ontario. Abigail married Charles Samuel Cross, a farmer in Wolford Township. Polly married Samuel Lynch, a farmer in Wolford Township, Grenville Co., Ontario. It appears both girls married either prior or after their mother's death.

Charlotte Olmstead (Sally), age 10 was living in the home of Francis & Jane (Armstrong) on the Front Road in Clarendon Township, Ottawa County, Quebec at the time of the 1851 Census.

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In the 1861 Census for Bristol Township taken Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>. 1861 by J.R. Tait, page 9, Dist. 1-Reel C1306 we find:

Henry Olmstead, age 57, Widower, born Upper Canada, Farmer, Wesleyan Methodist.  
Amos “ , age 24, born Lower Canada  
Haldy (Huldah) Olmstead, age 20, born Lower Canada  
Sarah (Charlotte) Olmstead, age 16, born Lower Canada  
William Olmstead, age 26, born Lower Canada, Farmer  
Ann (Hayes) Olmstead, age 20, born Upper Canada (William’s wife)

All appear to be living together in a 1½ story log house. The farm was situated on the Ottawa River adjacent to the Clarendon Township border, and just south of the present day Village of Bristol, Bristol Twp., Pontiac Co., Quebec.

In the 1861 Agriculture Census of Bristol Township, page 293, #17, Reel C1306 is found:

Henry Olmstead, on Lot 1, Concession 1, 50 acres. 20 acres Cultivated, 13 acres crops, 7 acres in pasture and 30 acres in Wildwood.  
Cash Value of farm - \$800.00,  
Equipment – \$20.00,  
Livestock - \$138.00.

Possessions as follows:

2 acres spring Wheat – Produce 35 bushels  
1 acre Peas - “ 15 “  
2 acres Oats - “ 45 “  
1 acre Indian Corn - “ 30 “  
1 acre Potatoes - “ 130 “  
6 Tons Hay, 260 lbs. Butter, 3½ Barrels of Pork, 11 lbs. Wool.  
2 Steers or Heifers, 3 Milk Cows, 6 Sheep, 3 Pigs.

N.B.: This farm was divided into quarters. Henry Olmstead’s sons William and Amos each had a quarter. Henry had the Southwest quarter.

(To be continued.)

*THE FIRST JABEZ DESCENDANTS IN CANADA*  
*by Robbie Gorr*

Israel Olmstead, the pioneer of Wolford Township in Grenville County, Ontario, a great-grandson of Captain Jabez Olmstead, is generally credited as being the first Olmstead to settle in Canada, arriving as early as 1792. But there was another descendant of Jabez Olmstead, a granddaughter named Silence Brown who, with husband Joseph Holmes and family, settled on Campobello Island in the maritime province of New Brunswick by 1772 (and by some accounts as early as 1770), predating her cousin Israel Olmstead’s arrival in Canada by at least twenty years.

Silence Brown, born 19 October 1737 in Brookfield, Middlesex Co. Massachusetts, was the daughter of Deacon Timothy Brown and his first wife Thankful Olmstead, the eldest child of Captain Jabez Olmstead and Thankful Barnes. She was married on 27 March 1760 in Scarborough in Cumberland County, Maine, becoming the second wife of Joseph Holmes, born in 1721.<sup>i</sup> Joseph had previously been married to Sarah Carter and was already the father of six surviving children.<sup>ii</sup>

The baptisms of the first three children born to Joseph Holmes and Silence Brown were also recorded in Scarborough: (1) Silence, baptized 11 January 1761; (2) Luther, baptized 23 May 1762; and (3) Calvin, baptized 27 November 1763. The family relocated in 1765 to Machias in Washington Co. in eastern Maine<sup>iii</sup> where at least one, and probably two, more children were born: (4) Daniel, born circa 1765; and (5) Dolly, born circa 1770.<sup>iv</sup> There is little doubt that the Holmes family had left Machias and settled on Campobello Island in Charlotte County, New Brunswick by 1772. Their final three children were born on Campobello: (6) Jonathan, born circa 1773; (7) John, born circa 1776; and (8) Thankful, born circa 1779.

Campobello Island, one of three scenic islands in the Bay of Fundy, is located off the southern coast of New Brunswick and the eastern coast of Maine. Originally the island was the

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hunting and fishing grounds for a native people called the Passamaquoddy. The first permanent settlers were the French who were on the island they called Port aux Coquilles before 1733 even though the island had been deeded by treaty to the English in 1714. In the 1760s British traders joined the French settlers on the island. In 1767 the island was granted to a Captain William Owen and his family who formed a company for the purpose of founding a colony on what they called Passamaquoddy Island. Three years later in 1770 Captain Owen renamed the island Campobello<sup>v</sup> and brought thirty-eight settlers with various trades, who were mostly indentured servants, as the beginning of his colony. Fishing was the primary industry while agricultural production increased over the years. It was to this colony about 1772 that Joseph and Silence Holmes, along with other British Loyalist sympathizers, relocated their family one last time.

Joseph Holmes died on Campobello about 1788<sup>vi</sup>. Silence's subsequent death has so far been undiscovered. Of their eight children, some stayed on the Island, some went back to Maine, and some have fates yet undiscovered.

(1) Silence Holmes, their eldest daughter, was married on 20 April 1780 in Machias, ME to "Doctor Edwards"<sup>vii</sup>. Doctor Edwards is recorded in the 1790 census for the "Township East of Machias" with his wife and a male under 16 years in the household. He is recorded again in the 1800 and 1810 census for Eastport, Washington Co. ME with only himself and his wife present in the household. Little information is known about Silence but it is recorded by family researchers that she died on 2 April 1813 in Lubec, Washington Co. ME. By 1820 the only Edwards in the area was a John Edwards of Lubec, of an age to be their son, with a household of 6 people.

(2) Luther Holmes, born 1762, left no record to be found in the area. It is possible that he died young.

(3) Calvin Holmes, born 1763, also left little trail to follow. His name appears on a large land grant dated 29 March 1784 as one of 42 men sharing in the 15,250 acres allotted along the Digdeguash River in what was then Sunbury Co. NS<sup>viii</sup>. "Culven Holmes" was the recipient of the smallest portion containing 100 acres<sup>ix</sup>. There is no further

record of him in the area.

(4) Daniel Holmes, born circa 1765, married 1 March 1795 to Hannah Mitchell, born between 1776-1784 in ME, daughter of William Mitchell & Anna Small. Daniel and Hannah were the parents of 11 children, whose births are all recorded at Eastport, Washington Co. ME, including [1] Sally, born 2 August 1895; [2] John, born 25 April 1797; [3] Dorothy, born 25 January 1799; [4] Joanna, born 10 November 1801; [5] Robert, born 20 September 1803; [6] Daniel, born 21 February 1806; [7] Maria, born 11 March 1808; [8] Silence, born 17 April 1810; [9] Mary, born 16 February 1812; [10] another Sally, born 14 October 1814; and [11] Joseph, born 22 March 1818. Daniel Holmes died on 11 March 1818 just days before the birth of his youngest son.

(5) Dolly Holmes<sup>x</sup>, born circa 1770, married in May 1790 to Robert Wilson, born ca1868. They were the parents of 7 children including [1] John Woodward, born ca1792, married Rachel Parker; [2] Maria, born ca1795, married Benjamin Parker; [3] Daniel, born ca1797; [4] Thankful, born ca1799, married James Burden Brown; [5] Silence Holmes, born ca1801, married Thomas Nash; [6] Jeremiah, born ca1803, married Catherine Sprague; and [7] Robert, born ca1807, married Margaret (surname unknown).

(6) Jonathan Holmes, born circa 1773, married Abigail Matthews. They were the parents of at least 7 children, most of whom were born on Campobello including [1] Jeremiah, born ca1799, married Hannah Hillard; [2] Robert, born ca1804, married Charlotte Chambers; [3] Joseph, born ca1806; [4] Mary, born ca1815; [5] Stephen, born ca1815, married Elizabeth Chambers; [6] Catherine, born ca1817; and (7) Elizabeth, born ca1819. Jonathan, a fisherman and trader, died 18 August 1827 in L'Etete, Charlotte Co. NB.

(7) John Holmes, born circa 1776, married 13 January 1798 in Columbia Falls, Washington Co. ME to Lydia Sarah McDonald, born ca1782 in Addison, Washington Co. ME, daughter of Angus McDonald & Anna Hicks. They were the parents of 11 children including [1] Susan, born ca1898; [2] Anna, born 19 July 1803; [3] Elizabeth, born ca1805, married William Flagg; [4] Angus McDonald, born 17 July 1807, McDonalds Island, married

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Elizabeth Barnes; [5] Dorothy, born ca1808, married Jason Hatt; [6] Catherine, born 25 August 1810 Doyle Island, ME, married John Foley; [7] Thomas L., born 3 March 1812 McDonalds Island, married Mary Elizabeth Randall; [8] John, born 8 June 1814 Campobello, married Penelope Calder; [9] William, born ca1815, married Charlotte (surname unknown); [10] Lewis, born 17 February 1817 McDonalds Island, married Mary Amelia Cross; and [11] Andrew, born ca1825, married Sarah Ann Randall. Lydia died 10 February 1844 in Beaver Harbour, Pennfield Parish, Charlotte Co. NB and John, a fisherman and trader, is believed to have remarried to Sarah Fountain, a daughter of Stephen & Sarah Fountain, of Moose Island (Eastport), ME and Deer Island, NB. If this is true then she died before the 1851 census. He died about 1859 in Pennfield Ridge, Charlotte Co. NB.

(8) Thankful Holmes, the youngest child of Joseph and Silence, was born circa 1799 on Campobello. She married on 1 May 1801 to Ezra Mitchell, born circa 1781, the younger brother of Hannah Mitchell who had married her older brother Daniel Holmes. Ezra and Thankful were the parents of 8 children including [1] Archibald, born ca1801, married Maria Parker; [2] John, born ca1810, married Rachel Parker; [3] Matilda, born ca1812, married John Lake; [4] Thomas, born ca1815; [5] Thankful, born ca1817, married Richard Parker; [6] Jeremiah, born ca1820, married Mary Parker; [7] Ezra, born ca1821, married Susan Malloch; and [8] Maria, born ca1829, also married a Parker. Ezra Mitchell, Sr. died 4 February 1829 and his wife Thankful died 19 August 1857, both on Campobello.

Today there are still Holmes descendants living on Campobello Island. Fishing remains the main industry but tourism has become the second major industry by reason of its scenic beauty and its natural features and parks. The Island also has interesting historical connections with the Irish Fenians and with the family of American President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Campobello Island is accessible via the Roosevelt International Bridge connecting it to

the city of Lubec, Maine and in the summer months it can be reached by ferry from nearby Deer Island connecting it to the New Brunswick mainland near St. George or by ferry from Eastport, Maine.

#### REFERENCES

<sup>i</sup> Joseph Holmes, son of Joseph Holmes & Mary [widow Hall], was baptized 8 October 1721 at Portsmouth, Rockingham Co. NH.

<sup>ii</sup> Joseph Holmes married 16 August 1744 Scarborough, Cumberland Co. ME to Sarah Carter, baptized 20 September 1724, Newington, Rockingham Co. NH, daughter of Richard Carter & Sarah Peavey, buried 30 June 1759 following the birth of her 10<sup>th</sup> child. Among their children, all born in Scarborough, were (1) Richard, bap. 15 June 1746, bur. 20 August 1746; (2) another Richard, bap. 22 August 1746, bur. 24 August 1746; (3) Mary, bap. 20 September 1747, bur. 2 February 1748; (4) Joseph, bap. 6 November 1748, died before December 1752; (5) Benjamin, bap. 29 April 1750; (6) Eleazer, bap. 1 September 1751; (7) another Joseph, bap. 17 December 1752; (8) Hephzibah, bap. 17 August 1755; (9) Sarah, bap. 22 August 1756; and (10) another Mary, bap. 3 June 1759.

<sup>iii</sup> Machias was settled by a group of Scarborough residents who explored the Machias River in the autumn of 1762 and returned to found the town in the spring of 1763. *The Maine Historical Magazine* (April 1893, vol. 8, pp. 70-85) contains an article about Machias, "Sketches of Early Settlers", that mentions Joseph Holmes settled there in 1765.

<sup>iv</sup> Many of Dolly's descendants believe the family tradition that she was not born in Machias, Washington Co. ME but on Campobello Island, Charlotte Co. NB. *The Maine Historical Magazine* (April 1893, vol. 8, pp. 70-85) contains an article "Notes About Machias With Some Account of its Settlers" that mentions the employment of a new preacher in 1771 and the subscription raised to support him; Joseph Holmes is recorded as the donor of two thousand shingles. This means that the Joseph Holmes family was still in Machias in 1771 and that Dolly had probably been born there.

<sup>v</sup> The name Campobello was a conglomeration of the Italian word *bello* meaning 'beautiful' and the surname of the contemporary British governor of Nova Scotia, Lord William Campbell.

<sup>iv</sup> The will of "Joseph Holmes of Parish Campobello" was administered in May 1788 and the executrix was his widow Silence.

<sup>vii</sup> Was "Doctor Edwards" his name or his title?

<sup>viii</sup> This information was from the newspaper series **Glimpses of the Past** and an article called "*Contributions to the History of Charlotte County and the Border Towns*" published in the *Saint Croix Courier* in St. Stephens, NB on 2 February 1893. Digdeguash is now part of Charlotte Co. NB.

<sup>ix</sup> New Brunswick Crown Land Grants, Volume A (NS), Number 133, pp. 304-8. Dated 29 March 1784. Registered (NS) 11 April 1784.

<sup>x</sup> Some family researchers believe her name may actually have been Dorothy and that Dolly was a nickname. There were at least two nieces named Dorothy: one was the daughter of the brother closest in age to her, Daniel, and the other was the daughter of John. However, all available records list her only as Dolly.

## OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD'S ON THE INTERNET

Joe Barber has told us about an OLMSTEAD Forum WEB PAGE at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmstead/>

There is also an OLMSTED Forum WEB PAGE at:

<http://genforum.genealogy.com/olmsted/>

There is an OLMSTEAD RootsWeb Mailing List, and an OLMSTED RootsWeb Mailing List, in which subscribers can exchange information, post queries, etc. To subscribe, send E-Mail to:

[OLMSTEAD-request@rootsweb.com](mailto:OLMSTEAD-request@rootsweb.com)

and to:

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with the command "subscribe" (without the quotes) in the subject block, and in the body of the message, and NOTHING ELSE. Turn off your signature file if you are using one. I (COH) am the List Administrator for both Lists. Posts sent to one Mailing List are not sent to the other List, so one should subscribe to both Lists.

There is also an Ancestry OLMSTEAD Message Board and an Ancestry OLMSTED Message Board, at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmstead/mb.ashx>

and at:

<http://boards.ancestry.com/surnames.olmsted/mb.ashx>

The Forums, the Rootsweb Mailing Lists and the Ancestry Message Boards are not restricted to the Jabez Line, but contain information and queries from all OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD's.

Back issues of this Newsletter, Olmsted/Olmstead ancestor and current member pictures, and historic documents and plats, can be found at <http://www.jabezolmsted.com/>

The Website is now up-to-date through October 2011. To print back issues, drag them off the Internet to your computer, and then print. They will not print when you hit the print command on the Internet copy.

Walt Steesy's Website, Place at the Elms, is at

<http://www.olmsteadfamily.org>

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