

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE



Volume 16, Issue 2

JUNE 2013

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Subscriptions:

\$6.00/year US., Paper, to COH *\$7.50/year Can, to JLB*
\$5.00/year US., digital, to COH

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

Here it is almost summer time. With the extremely long winter we had it seems that we have almost missed the spring season.

A couple of interesting things have happened recently. Firstly a descendant of Elizabeth Olmstead (b. 1764) and her husband Daniel Bullis contacted me and I was able to send her some details on that family. Elizabeth and Daniel came to Burritts Rapids, ON in 1795/96 about the same time as her siblings Gideon, Richard and Jabez. Elizabeth & Daniel had at least 13 children so there should be lots of room for research on that family.

After the Olmste(a)d Family Association reunion in Fredericton, New Brunswick, three cousins and myself toured some of the Maritimes including Fort Louisbourg. Fort Louisbourg is quite significant for us as Jabez was a Captain in the 4th Massachusetts regiment when they captured Fort Louisbourg from the French in 1745. Just recently Grade 8 students at Caronport Elementary School partici-

pated in "Canada's Coolest School Trip" contest sponsored by Parks Canada and they were fortunate to be chosen as winners of a trip to Fortress of Louisbourg National Historic Site. Caronport is only some 50 miles from home so I contacted the grade 8 teacher and arranged to take some of my pictures up to them. I had an opportunity to meet the class and I can tell you they are 21 pretty excited students who are going on a four day adventure in Nova Scotia.

Here is some trivia which is reportedly true: Butterflies taste with their feet. Elephants are the only animals that can't jump. A snail can sleep for three years. Women blink nearly twice as much as men. It's impossible for you to lick your elbow. Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our nose and ears never stop growing.

I hope you all have a good summer.

Joe Barber.

Tragedy in the Olmstead Family

By Doreen Dolleman

When I was writing a few articles for Walt Steesy's olmstedfamily.org newsletter, my theme was "Skeletons in the Closet." I will have to admit that it was rather fun tracking down all manner of crimes that involved Olmstead's. I am an avid fan of murder mysteries so it is no wonder that I enjoy this type of research.

One story that I did not cover was that of Elizabeth Olmstead Foster. She was the daughter of John Olmstead and Esther Beadle. John was the son of Jedediah Jr. and Mary Bullard (2nd wife) and grandson of Jedediah Sr and Olive. John's brother was Samuel of whom I have written about in great detail in the past. John's marriage to Esther Beadle was the subject of much contention in the Jedediah Olmstead family. The relatives did not want John to marry her and it was said that they still tried to break up the marriage even after Esther and John had several children. Their daughter Elizabeth Olive Olmstead was born around 1838 in Indiana. She was number 4 of 7 children in the family. She was about 10 years old when her father John died and 7 when her mother Esther died. After the death of both parents the children were separated and raised by various Beadle aunts and uncles. Elizabeth was in the household of Martin and Margaret Baker in the 1850 Vernon Twp., Jackson County, Indiana census. She was 13 years old. Elizabeth married William Marling 17 Aug 1864 in Seymour. She married 18th of July 1866, Joshua Foster, a farmer near Seymour, Jackson County, Indiana. Joshua had previously been married to Jane Bedel and had three children: William Edgar, Sarah Elizabeth (married William Powell) and Frank N.

Elizabeth and Joshua had three children: Mary Luella 1870 – 1947 (married John Milton Kain), Annie Electa 1872 – 1893, and Cora E. 1874 – 1893. The graves of the entire family, including photos are listed on Find-A-Grave. In the 1880 cen-

sus Mary, Annie and Cora were still living at home with their parents. Annie married Clinton Jordan, 6 May 1887. They did not have a very happy marriage, quarreled often with her sometimes returning to her parent's farm. The following is an article from the Brownstown Banner newspaper:

"A Terrible Tragedy

"Clinton Jordan's Wife Leaves Him, Going to Her Parent's Home

"Jordan's Overtures of Reconciliation Was Spurned by the Wife, Whereupon He Fatally Wounded Her Parents, Killed His Wife and Himself.

"Seymour, Ind. Nov. 27, 1893 – A terrible tragedy occurred Saturday evening eight miles south of this city, in what has been named the Heathen nation. Upon a farm lived an old pensioner named Josiah Foster, with his family. Six years ago his daughter Anna married Clinton Jordan, a young man whose parents reside in this city. The couple had many quarrels, and had separated several times.

"Last Sunday they had another of their family quarrels, and Monday morning Mrs. Jordan left the house, saying that she would not live with Jordan any longer. She went to the house of Mr. Foster, a neighbor. Monday night Jordan went to Foster's house and wanted to see his wife and told Mr. Foster (who answered the knock on the door) that he wanted his wife to come outside.

"Mrs. Jordan refused to go outside, but went to the door just wide enough so that she could see him. He demanded of her to come home, which she refused to do, telling Mr. Foster that she was afraid to go outside for fear he would kill her, as he had threatened to do so upon several occasions. Jordan left the house. The next morning Mrs. Jordan went to the home of her parents where she intended to stay. Saturday morning Jordan went to the residence of

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Mrs. John Kain, sister-in-law, and stayed all day, in the evening he wanted her to go to the residence of her father and persuade her sister to come and live with him again, saying that if she would not live with him they should die together. Mrs. Kane refused to go and Jordan left the house. After leaving Mrs. Kane, he cut across the country to the residence of his father-in-law, Josiah Foster and going in at the kitchen door he entered the living room in which were Mr. Foster, his wife, Anna Jordan and her sister Cora. After entering the room he pulled out a revolver. Cora, who is seventeen years old, seeing the weapon, jumped up and started out of the front door. Jordan pointed his revolver at her and pulled the trigger. The ball entered her head back of the right ear. She died instantly. Mr. Foster, aged sixty years, also started for the door and he was shot in about the same place, but the ball lodged in his brain. Mrs. Foster, who was sitting before the fireplace, was shot in the left side of neck.

“Mrs. Jordan had gotten under the bed and Jordan, who had also a pocket knife in his hand, began stabbing her in the arm and upon the hand, the third finger of her right hand being almost cut off. He then shot her back of the right ear, the ball going clear through the head and out of the left temple.

“Having, as he supposed, now exterminated the entire family, he got up from the floor and placing the revolver at his left breast, sent a bullet through his heart. The shot ignited his clothing and he fell back upon the body of his helpless wife. His body is almost burned to a crisp and the legs of his wife are also badly burned.

“After the shooting, Mr. Foster was able to go out and give the alarm to a neighbor named _____ who assisted him to the residence of William Powell about a quarter of a mile distant from the place of the tragedy. Mr. Foster was conscious when they arrived there and told the story of the terrible crime. He died at 1 o'clock Sunday.”

I read numerous articles about the crime in various Indiana newspapers. There was added information, some with conflicting details, including misspelling of names. Most told that after spending

time with the Kain's (Annie's sister and brother-in-law), Clinton met up with Joshua Foster and asked to accompany him home to visit his wife. Joshua was reluctant, but told him if he behaved it would be all right. At some point after they arrived there was a quarrel and Clinton pulled out his revolver, aiming at Joshua, but missed, hitting Cora instead. He then killed Joshua and next Elizabeth Foster. Annie tried to come to the rescue of her parents, but Clinton attacked her with his knife, repeatedly stabbing her and then shooting her. Another detail was, the night she left he had beaten her. It sounds like a story that might have taken place in our present generation, but it seems there is nothing really new.

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FAMILY OF JOSHUA & ELIZABETH FOSTER

ELIZABETH (OLMSTED) FOSTER -1838 - 1893

ANNE ELECTRA (FOSTER) JORDAN 1872 - 1893

CORA E. FOSTER 1874 - 1893

JOSHUA FOSTER 118346 - 1893

ALL MURDERED BY CLINTON JORDAN 1893

Continued from Page 3

I was hoping to share some updates on Elizabeth Litten Olmstead, but the research has been very slow and frustrating. Hopefully it will all come together soon.

Last fall I received an exciting big envelope from a descendant of the Josiah Brown/Elizabeth Dodge Olmstead family. He sent me some very exciting information. Somehow his letter disappeared before I could respond. My husband and I turned the house upside down and inside out, but so far

have not found it. I feel so terrible. I don't remember his name or address. All I can hope is will read this article some day and write to me again. I am usually so organized with my genealogy and have no excuse for losing his letter!

I had my fourth and final surgery last month and am now feeling so good. In fact, we are leaving for Hawaii, the "Big Island", soon while I am doing so well. I am hoping that this year will be a much better one for me.

NEHGS REPORT on CAPTAIN JABEZ OLMSTED

The last issue indicated that we hoped to request that the New England Historic Genealogical Society conduct research to determine if there was any historic evidence that Capt. Jabez and Elizabeth Litten had been indentured servants. Four additional subscribers said they would contribute to the cost, so we decided to fund only a search on Capt. Jabez, and hold Elizabeth Litten until later. The report follows:



NEW ENGLAND HISTORIC
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

AmericanAncestors.org

May 15, 2013

Case Number: M012413D

Thank you for your research request to find more information about Jabez Omsted/Olmsted/Olmstead, of Ware, Massachusetts. In your research request, you referenced a series of newsletters that were published regarding information that is known about Jabez Olmstead. From this newsletter, we learned that little is known about the ancestry of Jabez Olmstead and that the earliest record of him in Massachusetts is from 1709. In April of 1709, he was listed as a scout under the command of Captain Benjamin Wright, who was from Deerfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts. We also know that he married Thankful Barnes of Brookfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts, in 1712. Your research request also states that based on DNA testing, Jabez Olmstead is probably not connected to the families of James and Richard Olmstead of Hartford, Connecticut. You are interested in learning if there is any evidence that Jabez Olmstead was an indentured servant sent to America from Europe. You have authorized four hours of research for this task.

Research Report:

Since you are interested in learning if Jabez Olmstead came to America from Europe as an indentured servant, we first searched several collections of passenger lists to see if we could find a record of Jabez Olmstead. We

searched the following lists, for the surname Olmstead and all possible spelling variations:

- *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775.*¹
 - o This book is a collection of passenger lists for immigrants who came to America from England either as convicts who were sentenced to labor in America, or as indentured servants. In this book, we did not find any record of anyone with the surname Olmstead, or any variations in spelling.
- *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660.*²
 - o Although this collection may be too early to have a record of Jabez Olmstead, we also searched for other men with the surname Olmstead that may be relatives of Jabez. In our search, we found one record of James Olmstead, who came from London to New England, on 22 June 1632. This is probably the same James Olmstead who you mentioned was not an ancestor of Jabez Olmstead because of DNA results.
- *A List of Emigrants from England to America, 1682-1692.*³
 - o This book is a compilation of various passenger lists for early immigrants who came to America from England. We did not find any records with the surname Olmstead in this book.
- *Some Early Emigrants to America, & Early Emigrants to America from Liverpool.*⁴
 - o This book is a collection of lists that were culled from indenture agreement abstracts from the Middlesex County Record Office and Lancashire Record Office, which were originally published in *The Genealogists Magazine*. We did not find any records of anyone with the surname Olmstead in this book.

We also searched the book *American Colonists in English Records*, since this compilation included records of men whose passage to America was paid through indentured servitude. Once again, we did not find any record of a man with the surname Olmstead.⁵

According to *The Newsletter of Jabez Olmstead of Ware*, the earliest definitive record of Jabez in Massachusetts is when he was recorded as being a member of a group of scouts under the command of Captain Benjamin Wright in April 1709. According to this record, Jabez was from Deerfield, Massachusetts. From this article, we also see that in 1712 he married Thankful Barnes of Brookfield, Massachusetts and a year later on 4 September 1713, he was granted land in Brookfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.⁶ In 1641, a law was enacted in the Massachusetts Bay Colony stating that after seven years of labor a servant "must not be sent away empty," which suggests that at the end of a period of indentured servitude, a payment was also given to the person when they were freed of their labor obligation.⁷ Sometimes, records of indentured servants were included as a part of the general court records, so we then searched for a record of Jabez in early court records of Massachusetts. Since we know that Jabez was in Deerfield, Massachusetts by 1709, we first searched a collection of court records from Hampshire County, since Deerfield was included in this county until 1741.

We first searched the court records of the Hampshire County Court, Court of Common Pleas, and Court of General Sessions of the Peace. In this collection, we found that court records from 1695 to 1726 were missing from the court books.⁸ We also searched a collection of court records from Hampden County, Massachusetts, since when the county was formed in 1812, a copy of records from its parent county, Hampshire County, were included in their court records. In the collection of early court records from Hampden County Court, the earliest record of Jabez was from a General Session of the Peace at the Springfield, Hampshire County, Massachusetts that was held on 20 May 1712. This record shows that Jabez Olmstead paid a fine of 40 schillings after he confessed that he fornicated with his wife before marriage. This record does not list Jabez's residence at the time. If Jabez Olmstead was an indentured servant, it is possible that he lived outside of Hampshire County before he

lived in Deerfield in 1709; therefore, we next searched court records in the adjacent Middlesex and Suffolk Counties. In our search, we did not find any record of anyone with the name Jabez Olmstead, or any variation of that surname.^{10 11}

From the newsletters you provided us with, we know that a lot of research has been done of Jabez Olmstead's life in Massachusetts. Therefore, we next searched for any evidence showing that Jabez was born in England. First, we searched a collection of birth records extracted from parish registers in England. We searched several variations with the spelling of the surname Olmstead; however, we did not find any possible records for the birth of Jabez, nor did we find any records of anyone with a similar surname.¹²

Conclusion:

We were unable to find any evidence showing that Jabez Olmstead was an indentured servant from Europe before he arrived in America. We searched a variety of passenger lists, court records, and vital records, to see if we could find any evidence that he was an indentured servant. In our search of the General Court Records of Hampshire County, Massachusetts, the earliest record we found was from 1712, which was recorded several years after he was documented as a resident of Deerfield in 1709.

Suggestions for Further Research:

We suggest focusing the search for the origins of Jabez Olmstead in England and Europe. Specifically, we recommend researching the Olmstead/Omsted surname to find areas where the family was known to live. We also recommend conducting more detailed research for records of Jabez Olmstead, and other possible ancestors, in England and other parts of Europe by expanding our search to vital, land, and court records in Europe. We recommend another three to five hours of research to complete this work.

Thank you again for your research request. Please let us know if we can be of any further assistance.

The above report was prepared by a member of the NEHGS research services' staff. If you have any questions or would like to research this case further, please contact me at the address, email, or telephone number listed above.

Sincerely,

(signed by)

Suzanne M. Stewart
Director of Research Services

Footnotes

¹ Peter Wilson Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants in Bondage, 1614-1775*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988)

² Peter Wilson Coldham, *The Complete Book of Emigrants, 1607-1660*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1988 , Pg. 103.

³ Michael Ghirelli, *A List of Emigrants from England to America, 1682-1692*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968,1989).

⁴ *Some Early Emigrants to America*, abstracted by Cregoe D.P. Nicholson; &, *Early Emigrants to America from Liverpool*, abstracted by R. Sharpe France. (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1965)

⁵ George Sherwood, *American Colonists in English Records*, (Baltimore, Maryland: Genealogical Pub. Co., 1982)

⁶ "Genealogy of the Olmstead Family in America," *The Newsletter of Jabez Olmstead of Ware*, May 2000 Vol. 3, Issue 3, Pg. 3.

⁷ Abbot Emerson Smith, *Colonists in Bondage: White Servitude and Convict Labor in America, 1607-1776*, (Baltimore, Maryland.: Reprinted for Clearfield Co. by Genealogical Pub. Co., 2003)

⁸ *Hampshire County Court, Court of Common Pleas, and Court of General Sessions of the Peace*, Hampshire County Court, (Northampton, Mass.: Hampshire County Courthouse Clerk of Courts, 1972), citing record book 1 (1677-1694, 1727-1728), Microfilm available at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

⁹ *Hampden County Court Records*, (Springfield, Massachusetts: Hampden County Courthouse Clerk of Courts, 1972), citing typescript copy of records from 1706-1714, Pg. 44. Microfilm available at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts. [Document A]

¹⁰ *Suffolk County, Massachusetts court records 1686-1799*, Suffolk County Court, citing court books for the years 1680 - 1714. Microfilm available at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

¹¹ *Quarterly Court Records of the County of Middlesex, in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, Middlesex County Court, (Salt Lake City, Utah: Reproduction Systems for the Genealogical Society of Utah, 1964.) citing the first series (1659-1692), index & records, Microfilm available at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

¹² *England Births and Christenings, 1538-1975, Index, FamilySearch* (<https://familysearch.org> : accessed 15 May 2013) citing records held at the Genealogical Society of Utah. England, Births and Christenings. Index based on data collected by the Genealogical Society of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Document List: M012413D

A. Hampden County Court Records, (Springfield, Massachusetts: Hampden County Courthouse Clerk of Courts, 1972), citing typescript copy of records from 1706-1714, Pg. 44. Microfilm available at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston, Massachusetts.

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Anno RRginae Annae Undecimo.

Att a Court of General Sessions of the Peace Holden at Springfield within and for the County of Hampshire on the Third Tuesday of May being the 20th day 1712.

Present.

Saml. Partridge)		The Grand jurors all Attended this Sessions.
John Pynchon)		
Aaron Cooke)		
Joseph Parsons)	Esqs. Justices of Said Court,	
John Stoddard)		
Saml. Porter)		

Luke Hitchcock Junr, Sworn Sealers of Wights and measures for the Town of Springfield.

Omstead Jabez Omstead Confessing that he had Comidt the Sin of fornication with his wife before Marriage order'd that he Pay a fine of forty Shillings and Cost.

FUTURE PLANS

We will proceeded with the research on Elizabeth Litten. If anyone would like to contribute to this, it would be very welcome.

If anyone would like to contribute, we will re-consider.

Carl Hommel

We do not believe we will continue further re-search for Jabez Olmsted in Europe at this time.

Doreen Dolleman

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
and to:
OLMSTED-request@rootsweb.com

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:

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OLMSTED/OLMSTEAD's on the Internet

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

Messages from the OLMSTEAD Board are gatewayed to the OLMSTEAD Mailing List, and likewise the messages from the OLMSTED Board are gatewayed to the OLMSTED Mailing List. However, they are not cross-gatewayed.

The Forum, the Rootsweb Mailing Lists and the 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/>

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

<http://www.olmsteadfamily.org>
or
<http://www.olmstedfamily.org>

