

NEWSLETTER JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE



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INTRODUCTION

A special welcome to those who have subscribed to our newsletter since the March 1998 issue. We hope you will find the newsletter informative and helpful.

For many, genealogy takes a rest during the summer with gardening and yard work taking over. I have had my share of the later, however there have been some genealogical highlights over the summer I would like to tell you about.

On June 20, Bert Olmstead of Calgary and his wife Nora visited Regina to take part in Bert's induction into the Saskatchewan Sports Hall of Fame. Bert played 13 years in the National Hockey League (1949-1962) and he played on five Stanley Cup Winning teams, four with Montreal Canadians and one with the Toronto Maple Leafs. Bert is a Jabez descendant through Benjamin (youngest son of Capt. Jabez) and this kinship made a visit with him and his wife all the more enjoyable.

My second highlight was a visit to Ottawa and area for 10 days during July. I met several distant kin for the first

time, visited the area where my ancestors came to Canada around 1795 and spent some time in archives in the area doing research.

My third highlight has been making contact with Bill Samland of Westland, MI. Bill is a descendant of Richard Olmstead, brother of my third great grandfather Gideon. He has been researching our Olmstead kin for some 20 years and has a great deal of information which he is sharing with Doreen Dolleman and me.

The last highlight at time of writing was a birthday party held August 7, 1998 at Hartney MB to celebrate Viola Atkinson's 85 birthday. Viola is a Jabez descendant and she and I are first cousins, once removed.

Summer is over and it genealogy time again. Happy hunting.

Joe Barber.

JABEZ OLMSTED OF WARE

We conclude the article taken from the "History of Ware, Massachusetts, 1911, by Arthur Chase. I have interjected some notes of my own in the text, in brackets, signed COH. Spelling of Olmsted is as in Chase.

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ROADS AND BRIDGES

The earliest settlers followed largely the Indian trails, and the Hadley Path became an important road, in fact the most important road in the economy of our town, passing directly through Ware from east to west. [NOTE - This is now Rt. 9. COH] It may still be traced through nearly its whole length. Starting westward from the lower end of Wekabaug Pond it passed southerly of the present highway through the fields and up the slope of COY's Hill in almost a straight line. The

stone walls bordering it when a highway are still in place for a long distance at the top of the hill. On the west side it descended past the old CONEY place, turning somewhat to follow the valley of a small brook where the Warren road leads down towards Ware River, then to the Narrows and across into Grenville Park, whence its route may be traced through the grove straight toward Highland Street, a portion of which is built on the old road-bed; there crossing Muddy Brook at about the middle of Snow's Pond¹ it may be picked up again on the west side, and still again at the foot of the steep hill that leads up past the cellar-hole of the pest-house, whence it ran through the Centre past the meeting-house, and on to Swift River Bridge. It was early known as "the great road," and was laid out ten rods wide.² The stone walls below the pest-house show the original width of the road as well as its location. West of the Centre

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THE DEERFIELD SCOUT

The GOFA (1912) describes briefly the "scout" which contains the first mention we have of Jabez. We conclude this narrative, taken from Sheldon, George, "A History of Deerfield, Massachusetts: The Times When and the People by Whom it was Settled, Unsettled and Resettled; with a Special Study of the Indian Wars in the Connecticut Valley, with Genealogies", Deerfield, MA, 1895. pp 386-372.

And we also received Several Shoots from those y^t were above us, which Landed on y^e other side of the River. Now we being under no advantage to defend ourselves we every one made y^e best of our way and shirked for our Selves & in a short Time Capt Write & 5 of his men got together, three more yet missing. The next Day came 2 more to us where we hid some of our Provisions & there waiting some hours for the other man. But he came not while we tarried there, whereas Capt. Write thinking best to leave a Suitable quantity of Provisions and other necessaries in Case he ever came it might be of service to him in his journey homeward. It being one John Burt of Northampton. Then seting forward on our Journey homewards & Came to our Canoes that we left on White River then we got into them & came down y^e river to y^e mouth of it, where we left 6 men formally mentioned in our History. And finding them gone, then we set forward homeward & after we had got home, those six men formally mentioned Informed us w^t they had Litt of 6 Days after we left them. These 6 men espied a Cano of 2 Indians Coming Down the River & called to them not knowing but y^t that they was Scattocooks but they refused to come to them & paddled to the contrary shore. Then they fired wounding one, but they geting to the shore Left y^e Canoa & plunder. After that y^e men made y^e best of their way home And some Time after they were got home was Informed y^t they were Scattecooks.

Now returning to our former Story, having an account of two of those Captives y^t were with y^e indians that we Litt of on y^e french river, are now returned home, & gave us an account y^t we then killed 4 Indians. And Moody that we had taken from them we Lost again, we being then in such a fright, every one took to his heals, But moody being so weak & feeble was not able to follow, now after this the Indians all gathered together on the other Shore, & Moody seeing them hallowed to them to fetch him over & one came & after they had got him over they Burnt him on the Spot. We was informed also y^t wⁿ the Indians got to Canada they Burnt one more of these Captives Andrew Gilman by name. Now to say a little more concerning Burt, what became of him, having some Transient stories y^t a mans bones, and a gun was found by some Indians above y^e Great Falls upon Connect^t River about 60 miles above Deerfield, which some think was s^d Burt.

The number of Days we was taking this march was 32, and the men's Names are as follows:

Capt Benjⁿ Write of North^{ton}
Levi^t John Wells, killed, of Deer^d
Henry Write, of Spring^d
Timothy Childs, of Deer^d
Johⁿ Hoit, of Deer^d
Jabez Olmstead, Deer^d
John Burt, Lost, North^{ton}
[John Strong, Northampton, wounded, see above.]
Jose^h Ephraim
Thomas Pagan }Indians of Natick

The other 6 men y^t set out wth us y^t we left at y^e mouth of White River are as follows:

Eben^t Severance of Deer^d
Math^t Clesson of North^{ton} [later of Deerfield.]
Thomas McCranne of Spring^d
Joseph Wait of Hatf^d, [son of Benjamin Waite.]
Josp. Root of Hatfield.
The other we cannot at present call by name. [Doubtless John King of Northampton.]”

In a petition to the General Court of May 28th, 1709, the survivors say concerning the affair on the lake:

"We judge we killed 4 of the enemy, & one in special. One we got and scalped him, which scalp we now present."

Col. Partridge, in forwarding this paper, says: "They also declared that they are very certain that they killed 4 as above & that on French River they killed 4 more—8 in all. This they affirm to me."

De Vaudreuil, giving an account of these affairs, in a dispatch to Ponchartrain says, two were killed on the lake, and one on the river, and that four or five of the English party were killed at the latter place. Possibly one or both of the Naticks were lost.

Captain Wright was allowed £12, and the others £6 each. Bills for losses were paid as follows :—

[Following in Sheldon is a list of losses substained by members of the scout, and the amount allowed them. COH]

Jabez Omstead,	blanket, 10 s
	sapsack, 2s 6d
	hatchet, 2s 6d,
	Total 0 15 0

Judd says that William Moody, whose attempted rescue was attended with such disastrous results, was by the Macqua Indians tortured to death and eaten.

QUIZ

One of the features of our newsletter is a quiz, to test your knowledge of the Olmsted Family. The answer to the quiz is elsewhere in the newsletter. Contributions for future quizzes are welcome. Answers should be documented.

Quiz:

What is relationship of Capt. Jabez's descendants to Henry David Threoreau?

(Continued from page 1)

in the Beaver Brook Valley the road probably forked, the lower route leading to Swift River Bridge, while the northern crossed Beaver Lake above the modern dam but below the ancient one, and led north-westerly. The abutments of a forgotten bridge over Swift River may be seen close to the Ware and Enfield town line. Either here, or a mile below, at West Ware, this upper road crossed Swift River.

The plat of Mr. Samuel PRINCE's farm (the Hollingsworth grant) made in 1714 shows a bit of the Hadley Road as it led through what is now the village. The bridge at the Narrows was built undoubtedly before the town was settled. Remains of old abutments may still be seen at low water. Here undoubtedly Jabez OMSTEAD crossed the river coming from Brookfield in 1729. An ancient cellar-hole recently filled up, traditionally attributed to Jabez, though it more probably belonged to his son Jeremiah, was near the west end of the bridge.

That changes were made very early is shown by a deed of Jeremiah OMSTEAD of 1738³ in which is mentioned an "Old Bridge Spot " and a "New Bridge," the two being some distance apart. The facts are not easy to determine, for the old County Records do not always, in referring to bridges, describe them unmistakably.

Another court record of 1736, describing the road between Hadley and Brookfield, mentioned several unmistakable landmarks:

"...Turning Northeast where the s^d New Rode is marked up to Jabez umsteed House and along where the Road now goes up to the Great Bridge over Ware River towards Richard Burks House a little south of it and so up Coy's hill in the New Cart Road to Brookfield West Line." The bridge at the Narrows was "the Great Bridge," and the Hadley Path has reached the dignity of a "New Cart Road to Brookfield."

Naturally this bridge went the way of all perishable things, and in less than twenty years another order of the same court became necessary.

¹The abutments of the bridge were observed where the old road crossed Muddy Brook, when the water was last out of the pond.

²So stated in the survey of Jeremiah OMSTEAD's original grant of 1733. The road ran through his land 254 rods, and 10 rods wide. His grant of 100 acres was exclusive of road and river.

³Springfield Register

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Mr. GILBERT, in his "Early Grants," has worked out from the Proprietors' Records the location of the several owners on this section which was known as "the north-end addition," and his lines are followed in making the map for this work.

A few matters may require a word of explanation.

Jeremiah OMSTEAD was the oldest son of Jabez. He took up land adjoining his father's farm, probably in 1729 or 30. The farm was confirmed to him by action of the General Court in 1733. The rest of the north-end addition was divided among the Elbow Proprietors by drawings held from time to time. Many of the drawings were sold, as the Proprietors

already had their homes in the southern part of the plantation.

Jeremiah OMSTEAD sold his farm of 100 acres to Noah COLTON in 1738. COLTON in 1740 sold the same to John POST who in 1744 sold to Alexander Mack NEILL. Jabez OMSTEAD in 1733 sells 74 acres at the south-west corner of his farm to Obadiah WOOD. In 1752 he sells 15 acres north of the above to John DOWNING In the same year, 1752, DOWNING bought of Timothy BROWN 36 acres lying between OMSTEAD's farm and the Manour. In 1743 Jabez, "in consideration of the tender respect I bear unto my loving son Israel OMSTEAD" gives him 94 1/2 acres on the east side of the river, "beginning at the end of the bridge below the mill." In 1746 Jabez likewise gives to his "loving son Israel OMSTEAD" 144 acres, it being the north-east corner of the 500 acre tract. The remainder of the farm was sold by OMSTEAD's heirs to Isaac MAGOON, from whom it passed to his son Alexander in 1765, and the mills were known for more than a generation as the MAGOON Mills. The property passed to Alpheus DEMOND, Esq., and Col. Thomas DENNY in 1813.

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Besides the roads laid out and maintained by the county, the town was continually extending the highway system.

1753 - voted and allowed a road from Jacob CUMMING's to the Capt. OLMSTED mills, and so to the meeting house.

- voted and allowed a road for Samual DAVIS to the mill called Capt. OLMSTED's

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It is impossible to state when the first bridge was built across the river below the OLMSTED-MAGOON mills where the South Stree Bridge now stands. It was probably built by the OLMSTED's at the time the mill was constructed for their own convenience. The earliest unquestionable reference to it is in a deed of Jabez OLMSTED to his son Israel in 1743.

[NOTE - The following was copied from a plot made in 1742.]

A Plan of a tract of Land Situate in the County of Hampshire in His Majesties Province of the Mafsachufits Bay in New England (viz.) 1443^a - 1^r - 27^{pt} a Country Grant Belonging to Thomas Marfh and Comp^{ny} Bounding Northerly on Hardwick Wefterly on John Read Efq^f His ten thousand acres Southerly on Kingston & Ealterly on Ware river alfo 2959 acres 2 roods and 25 rods out of Kington Exclufive of Jabez Omfteds farme the said Kingston Land bounds Northerly on Thomas Marfh and Comp^{ny} aforfaid Weft on Efq^f Reads Land and runing Eaft by the Needle from Efq^f reads South Eaft Corner till it Strickes Weftern Line as may be Seen in the plan and Eaft Bounding by Brookfield Line alfo a farme which belongs to Joseph Brooks Jun^f which Lies for Sixty acres within the Bounds of Brookfield on the Weft Side of Ware river alfo a Line Drawn Et from Efq^f Reads South Weft Corner at Swift river through Kingston Et by the Needle till it Strikes Weftern Line Containing 489^a- 1^r- 20^p.

Surveyed Nov 25 and 26-1742 p Nath^{ll} Dwight Surveyor Chainman & Surveyor under Oath. Plated by a Scale of 240^{pt} to one inch.

[Note by COH: This property is shown on the plat of Ware Parish that was in the first issue of this Newsletter.]

MAYFLOWER DESCENDANTS

Subscriber Betty MCCLUSKY, a descendant of Timothy BROWN and Thankful OLMSTED, has written that she used Capt. Jabez's will to prove her descent from William WHITE, a Mayflower passenger. Since Timothy was descended from WHITE, all BROWN-OLMSTED descendants are Mayflower descendants. Betty has written an article on her research, which was published in the August 1997 issue of the Maine Genealogist, a publication of the Maine Genealogical Society.

QUERIES

Janet EGLER, 2415 Sherwood, Trenton, MI 48183, sent the following query: Jedadiah (9090), son of Jeremiah and Elisabeth (LITTEN) OLMSTED, married Mahitable, last name unknown. (Mormon Church Records, baptism for the dead, Nauvoo, Illinois, Reel # 0183379). What was her maiden name?

Mr. Clare A OLMSTED, 620 West. High Street, Hastings, MI 49058-1124, noted there is an OLMSTED Place, a well known historical site, near Ellensburg, WA. It was the homestead of Samuel Benient OLMSTED, a Union veteran, who settled there in 1875. Mr. OLMSTED wants to ask if Samuel OLMSTED is a Jabez descendant.

Sharon RAUWORTHh, 123 E. Milner, DeKalb, IL 60115, is seeking the ancestry of Miriam OLMSTED, who married Benjamin Matteson, Jr., 1819, at Manchester, VT. She believes that Miriam may be the granddaughter of Jabez OLMSTED (9088) and Miriam HUSSE, or perhaps the granddaughter of Aaron OLMSTED (9144), Jabez's son. (See Doreen Dolleman's article in this issue.)

Mrs. Helen Herman, 2153 Cascade Ridge Drive, Jackson, MI 49203, posed several interesting questions about Capt. Jabez's children.

- What was the marriage date and place of marriage of Timothy BROWN and Thankful OLMSTED?
- What was the death date and place of death of Jeremiah OLMSTED?
- What was the death date and place of death of Israel OLMSTED?
- What was the death date and place of death of Hannah MARSH?
- What was the death date and place of death of Dorcas WOLCOT?
- What was the marriage date and place of marriage of Silance OLMSTED and Ephraim BROWM?
- What was the death date and place of death of Silance OLMSTED?
- What was the marriage date and place of marriage of Abigail OLMSTED and Benoni SMITH?
- What was the death date and place of death of Abigail SMITH?
- What was the marriage date and place of marriage of Prudence OLMSTED, and who did she marry?
- What was the death date and place of death of Prudence OLMSTED?
- What was the marriage date and place of marriage of Moses OLMSTED and Abigail ELWELL?
- What was the death date and place of death of Moses OLMSTED and Abigail ELWELL?

I can offer answers to some of Helen's questions:

Thankful OLMSTED and Timothy BROWN were married about 1729 (*Timothy Brown of Brookfield and Ware, Massachusetts, and Swanzey, New Hampshire, A Descendant of William White of the Mayflower*, by Robert S. Wakefield, F.A.S.G., American Genealogist, Vol. 71, No. 3 (July 1996) pp. 155-157), either in Brookfield, where they both lived, or perhaps in Ware. Since the marriage was not recorded in Brookfield, Ware is more likely, as Ware was then not organized even as a parish. However, their first child, Anna, was born April 23, 1730, in Brookfield (Brookfield VR). Timothy was married second to Keziah Cooley GOSS at Brookfield on April 18, 1744 (Brookfield VR). Capt. Jabez's will left 5s to the children of his daughter, Abigail BROWN, deceased (Hampshire Co. Mass, Probates, 8:26). He married, third, Hanna WRIGHT at Lower Ashuelot in 1745 (Hist. Swanzey, 302, as cited in *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations, first edition, Plymouth 1975*). It is interesting that they named their first daughter Thankful (Brookfield VR).

The GOFA shows Isreal's death took place in about 1806, probably in Lyman (now Monroe), NH.

Hannah MARSH ("Old Mrs. MARSH") died in Ware, September 20, 1793 (Ware VR). The VRs has a picture of her tombstone.

Abigail OLMSTED and Benoni SMITH were married before the death of Capt. Jabez., as she was mentioned in his will under her married name (Hampshire Co. Mass, Probates, 8:26). The death of their child, Prudence, was noted in the Ware VR as September 15, 1759.

The marriage date and place of marriage of Moses Olmsted and Abigail Euwell was June 4, 1759, in Hardwick, MA (Ware VR).

VITAL RECORDS OF WARE

We conclude the series of articles on selected portions of the Vital Records of Ware, copied from the Cobin Collection, with marriages and deaths of Jabez's descendants not named Olmsted. (Marriages and deaths of Olmsted's were in the first issue.) The numbers refers to the number of the individual in the GOFA, and were assigned by the editor [COH]. We ask readers to review the assignments. Given names in the first column are as spelled in the VR. We will present only the families of Judah MARSH and Hannah OLMSTED (9073) and of Ephraim MARSH and Sarah OLMSTED (9076). Thomas MARSH and Mary TURNBULL had eight other children.

We will start a series of selected portions of the Brookfield Vital Records in the next issue.

MARRIAGES

Surname MARSH

Aaron, son of Judah (9116)	to Betsey WETHERILL, dau. of John, of Ware, no date given
Abigail (9187)	to Amos HUNTER, of Enfield, 8/18/1805
Dorcas, daughter of Jacob (9196)	to Lyman ALDEN, no date given (corrected 2010)
Dorothy, of Ware (9114)	to Thomas WINSLOW, of Ware, also says of Hardwick, 12/22/1768
Betsey, dau. of Judah (9116)	to Joel CROSS, son of John, both of Ware, 11/7/1799
Daniel C., son of Zenas (9197)	to (1) Mary WOOD, 1849
	to (2) Martha Elizabeth ALDRIDGE, 1881
Eli C., son of Zenas (9197)	to Sarah D., 1852 (Corrected 4/10)
Elijah (9108)	to Elizabeth DAMEN, both of Ware, 3/14/1759
Ephiam (9182)	to Hannah SIMONS, of Ware, 8/2/1795
Fany Ann, dau. of Zenas (9197)	to Calvin KIMBALL, 1851
Gamaliel, son of Zenas (9197)	to (1) Laura P. CHANDLER, 1846
	to (2) Vasliti Stibbins HITCHCOCK, 1863
Hannah (9112)	to Joseph LUCE, both of Ware, 5/28/1766
Hannah (9112)	to Moses BROWN, 7/4/1762
Hannah, dau. of Judah (9116)	to Bernados Fisherdick BUTTROSS of Germany, in France, 5/30/1825
Jacob (9196), son of Jonathon (9115)	to Abigail HEYARD, both of Ware, 3/21/1801. Also shown as 3/24
James Sullivan (9198)	to Sarah Eddy HOWARD (HARWORD), both of Ware, 1/19/1841
Joel, of Ware (9117)	to Annis or Elizabeth SMITH, of Palmer, no date given
John P., of Ware, son of Jacob (9196)	to (1) Mary _____, no date given
	to (2) Ruth TERREY, of Hardwick, 11/28/1840
Jonathon (9115)	to Anna PIPPER, no date given
Judah	to Hannah OLMSTED (9073), of Brookfield, at Brookfield, 11/4/1736
Judah (9116) (Lieut.)	to (1) Elizabeth SMITH, of Ware, b. 1759, d. of Dea. Maveril, no date given
	to (2) Jerusha COLLINS, of Hardwick, b. 8/5/12778, at Hardwick, 2/20/1800
Judah, son of Judah (9116)	to Betsey BAKER, of New Fane, dau. of Dr. BAKER no date given, resided in Middlefield, NY
Lois (9186)	to John GARDNER, of Ware, 2/26/1802
Mary (9183)	to John OAKES, 7/14/1793
Nabby (9187)	to Amos HUNTER, both of Ware, 2/26/1802 (1801?)
Pliny, son of Zenas (9197)	to Sarah A. PARDONSs, no date given
Prudence (9185)	to Joseph BARNARD, 11/28/1796
Rachel, of Ware (9111)	to Silas ADAMS, of Brookfield, 3/21/1763. Also shown as 3/7
Rachel, dau. of Judah (9116)	to Daniel GATES of Palmer, son of Micah, 4/3/1823
Rachel (9111), of Ware	to (1) Silas ADAMS, of Brookfield, 1763
	to (2) James GILMORE, of Ware, no date given
Samuel, son of Zenas (9197)	to Abbie S. WRIGHT, 6/30/1846
Sarah (9181)	to Elijah CLEVELAND, 4/14/1789
Sewel (9193), of Ware	to (1) Lucine BROWN, of Ware, 2/25/1808
	to (2) Anna HASTINGS, of Hardwick, int., 5/3/1815
Thankful (9113)	to William BRECKENRIDGE, no date given
Thomas (9110)	to (1) Mary THOMAS, both of Ware, dau. of Thomas & Mary, 6/26/1767
	to (2) Lois THEYER, wid. of Mical, no date given
Thayer (9190), of Greenwich	to Lucina JOSLYN, of Ware, 3/29/1812 also 3/29/1811
Thomas, Jr. (9188)	to Demarius BAKER of Ware, 8/18/1805
William C., son of Zenas (9197)	to (1) Eunice FOSTER, 1844

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Wyatt C., son of Zenas (9197)	to (2) Delia B. CONVERSE, 1847
Zenas (9197)	to Olive ANDERSON, 1844
Zenas, son of Zenas (9197)	to Fanny CLIFFORD dau. of Samuel, of Hardwick, no date given
	to Marcia A. BLOOD, 1846

DEATHS

Surname GATES

Rachel, dau. of Judah MARSH (9116), w/o Daniel d. 7/30/1841, ae. 36 yr 9 mo

Surname MARSH

Aaron, s. of Judah [9116], Feb. 20, 1852
Edwin, s of William C. & Delia, Æ 9 m. 15 d. Oct. 1, 1849 Buried in Burying Ground back of Ware East Congl.Church
Elijah [9108], s. of Judah & Hanna [9073], Nov. 1, 1765
Elijah [9180], s. of Thomas [9110] & Mary, Sept. 24, 1770
Elizabeth, w. of Judah [9116], at Ware, "Judah Marsh's wife", Æ 40, Oct. 11, 1799 (CR-1-225)
Gamaliel, s. of Judah [9116], at Ware, Æ 18, Feb. 12, 1820
George H., s. of Zenas [9197], Feb.20, 1832
Hannah, d. of Judah [9116], Æ 5, Nov. 1, 1793
Hannah [Omsted 9073], "Old Mrs. Marsh"*, Æ 75, 76, Oct. 20, 1793 (CR-1-225) (G5) (TR-1- 36), "Hannah the wife of Judah Marsh departed this life October 20th, 1793, aged 76 (TR-1-36)"
Infant, s. of Judah [9116], Æ 0, June 28, 1795
Jacob [9196], s. of Jonathan [9115], Æ 71, Sept. 13, 1850
Jerusha, w. of Judah [9116], Æ 46, Mar. 22, 1825 (VR-30)
John P., s. of Jacob [9196], Æ 77 y. 8 m., Jan. 1, 1883 (GR-4)
Jonathan [9115], s. of Judah & Hannah [Omsted 9073], Æ 86, Sept. 16, 1835, Buried in Burying Ground back of Ware Center Church
Judah, h. of Hannah Omsted [9073], at Ware, Æ 80 (G5), May 7, 1801 (CR-1-226)
Judah [9116], at Ware, Feb. 10, 1817
Mary, w. of Thomas [9110], Ab 1777-8
Mary, w. of John P., s. of Jacob [9119], Æ 27 y., Sept. 29, 1839 (GR-Illegibly)
Mary, w. of Jonathan [9115], Æ 75, Mar. 27, 1845
Moses, s. of Judah [9116], Æ 27, May 27, 1791
Patty, d. of Judah [9116], June 28, 1795
Polly, d. of Judah, Jr. [9116], Æ 1, Feb. 27, 1800
Rachel, d. of Judah [9116] & Jerishu, Æ 36 y. 9 m., July 30, 1841
Ruth, w. of John P., s. of Jacob [9119], Æ 69 y. 8 m., Nov. 30, 1878 (GR-4)
Thomas, f. of Judah & Ephram, will proven at Ware, (Muddy Brook), Feb. 3, 1759, Thomas [9110]**, June 14, 1813
Zenas [9197], s. of Judah [9116], Æ 41, July 2, 1834

Surname SMITH

Prudence, d. of Benoni Smith & Abigail Omsted [9078], Sept. 15, 1759

A VISIT TO BATH, OHIO

A few months ago, one of our subscribers received a letter and advertisement from Halbert's, of Bath, OH. They were offering a book entitled 'THE NEW WORLD BOOK OF OLMSTEDS', and claimed to have startling news about the Olmsted Family. The letter was signed Lewis S. Olmsted, i.a. The subscriber asked me how this unknown Olmsted could have come up with so many new things.

Fortunately, I had just seen the answer to the question on the Internet. The following article is from Eastman's Online Genealogy Newsletter and is copyright 1998 by Richard W. Eastman and Ancestry, Inc. It is re-published here with the permission of the author. So here is the lowdown on Halbert's of Bath, OH. And I do mean low.

Have you ever received an advertisement from Halbert's of 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio? I suspect that you have, given the volume of advertisements this company sends out every year. These are bulk mailed to addresses in the United States and Canada. Halbert's and their "partners" also send similar advertisements to thousands in England, Germany, Switzerland, Australia and maybe other countries, too. However, these ads normally carry a local return address within each country.

I have written several times before about Halbert's and their competitors, including a full review of one of Halbert's "books" in which I said:

Halberd's of Bath, Ohio, is the most notorious of the mail order companies that send out ads offering to sell you "an astounding new book" with insinuations that the book tells all about your family name.

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Doreen Dolleman's Research

How the time seems to have flown by since the last newsletter! Bill and I were away from home for several months this spring doing volunteer work in Lancaster County PA and then gallivanting around the countryside having some great genealogy adventures. We found lots of exciting new OLMSTEAD information in New York and Ontario. I'll have to save that for a later date as I promised to tell you first of our trips to Berkshire County, Massachusetts.

In the last issue I "lectured" you on the importance of backing up your family history information with recorded proof. Although this is so important, I hope I didn't discourage you from investigating your unconfirmed hunches and clues, even though some of them may be totally contrary to the opinions of others. Through the years I have often had a hunch which motivated me to dig deeper in an area which already seem to be an established fact. This is exactly what I was trying to accomplish in Berkshire County. My hunch, which had bothered me for ages, was possibility that Jabez OLMSTEAD Sr. (9088), son of Jeremiah (9071) and Elizabeth (LITTON), had not died in the Revolutionary War as stated in the OLMSTED "Red Book". In 1987 we had visited the U.S. Archives in Washington DC where we unearthed the Revolutionary War records of all soldiers by the name of Jabez OLMSTEAD. The only death reported was that of a Jabez who served in Col. Joseph VASE's First Massachusetts Regiment, Jeremiah MILLER's Company. He was "reduced" July 30, 1777, and died 26 April, 1778. There is no way to tell which Jabez this was. In my opinion there were a number of reasons to think that it might not have been Jabez Sr. (9088) (son of Jeremiah (9071)). My doubts were based on the following clues: Jabez Sr. (9088) was older than the typical age of a Revolutionary War soldier, plus he had a large family of minor children still living at home; his wife Miriam never applied for a pension; and there was evidence that he had children born after 1778. Also as I mentioned in the last newsletter a Jabez OLMSTEAD held elected positions in Alfred, Massachusetts from 1773 to 1783. The OLMSTEAD family lived in the "Gore" which was situated mainly in Alfred with a portion of their land in Stockbridge. I suspected that Jabez Sr. (9088) left the Gore around 1785 and relocated his family in Hebron, Washington County, New York, where he probably died after the 1800 Census.

I was determined to find a record which would prove Jabez

Sr. (9088) to be alive and well after 1778. On our second trip to Berkshire County we searched the civil court records in Pittsfield. The index was loaded with OLMSTEADs and although many had unfamiliar first names I wanted to check them all. The clerk soon grew tired of hauling the heavy, dusty volumes from a far back corner and decided to let us go search ourselves. This was great and we were able to look up every single OLMSTEAD reference quickly without alienating or wearing out the clerk. My big moment came when I found a lawsuit which confirmed that Jabez Sr. (9088) of Alfred was still alive in 1785. Because the complaint, which was filed in 1785, was actually about an unfulfilled promissory note dated February 8, 1773, it could not have been Jabez, Jr. (9145), who would still have been a minor child, but had to be the father, Jabez Sr. (9088). What an exciting discovery!

Of course, this raises the question of just who was the Jabez of the Revolutionary War. There are two possibilities that occur to me. He could have been a Jabez in no way connected to our particular family, as there were also Connecticut OLMSTEADs in Berkshire County. Or he could have been Jabez Jr. (9145) (son of Jabez Sr. (9088) and Miriam HUSSE), who would it been about 16 years old at enlistment and 19 or so if he died in 1778. This is certainly you within the round of possibility. I had no concrete proof, but have come across some interesting clue to justify pursuing this idea.

There was a Joshua BROWN who was a nearby neighbor of Jabez Jr. (9145) according to the 1771 Stockbridge tax valuation list. A Josiah BROWN Jr. (b. 1756) enlisted in Williamstown, Massachusetts, on the same day as Jabez. Their war records are identical, serving in the same Regiments and companies until Jabez was reported ill. After the war Josiah BROWN married the widow Mrs. Elizabeth DODGE OLMSTEAD (b. 1760). Their first son, born July 12th 1783 in Williamstown, was named Josiah OLMSTEAD BROWN. Could Elizabeth possibly have been the widow of young Jabez Jr. (9145)? This fascinating idea has led me to accumulate a mass of information on the BROWN family from Revolutionary war records. The DAR library, correspondence with descendants, and a personal visit with Earl OLMSTEAD BROWN Sr. of Williamstown who began compiling his family history as a child. The OLMSTEAD middle name has amazingly continued in every single generation from Josiah OLMSTEAD BROWN to be present! Still, I don't have all the answers and my imagination never seems to run out of interesting ideas

If any of you have any other thoughts to add to my confusion I would really enjoy hearing from you. May be together will get this puzzle solved yet!

VITAL RECORDS OF WEST STOCKBRIDGE

I found an OLMSTED entry in the West Stockbridge, MA Vital Records.

MARRIAGES

Surname OLMSTED
Gideon (9147) to Ester ANDRUS, February 4, 1788

(Continued from page 6)

These letters, as well as the "books," are all mass produced by computers with family surnames and your name inserted in appropriate places. For instance, a letter sent to me will say:

I have exciting news for you and all Eastmans! Though we are probably not related, I want to tell you about extensive work done throughout the world on a project relating to the distinguished Eastman name. What might be the oldest facts about Eastmans in North America have been discovered. Now, an astounding new book, "THE NEW WORLD BOOK OF EASTMANS," is about to be published for you and it features Eastmans back to 1620."

The advertisement then goes on in breathless prose with lots of exclamation marks scattered about. It claims to present facts about early Eastmans and also asserts that it includes an up-to-date international directory of Eastmans. If your name is Smith, then the letter sent to you will have the name Smith inserted in every place where my letter says Eastman. If you live in England or Germany or some other country, then the geographic references will be changed to match. (Halbert's is an international operation.) All of the advertisements will claim to be "a one-of-a-kind book."

If you are gullible enough to order the book for \$34.50 plus another \$4.88 postage and handling, you eventually receive a booklet of general information about how to get started researching genealogy plus many pages of extracts from old telephone directories listing people with the same last name as yours. The Eastman "book" that I looked at last year had names and addresses listed for some of my relatives who had been deceased for years. The "one-of-a-kind book" lives up to the description; it actually has a cardboard cover and looks like it was glued together on someone's kitchen table. The pages in the 1996 Eastman "book" weren't even aligned properly.

I don't know when Halbert's started this business, but I know they were already notorious in genealogy circles in the mid-1980s. They have frequently received legal injunctions from postal authorities, but that doesn't seem to slow Halbert's down much; apparently they continue to send out thousands of these advertisements every week despite legal efforts to shut them down.

The Halbert's ad I received in 1989 was signed by "Doris Eastman, i.a." Now, Doris never claimed to be a relative of mine in that advertisement, but the fact that the letter was signed by someone named Eastman lent credence to the "book" title of The New World Book of Eastman. I was intrigued by the letters "i.a." that appeared after Doris Eastman's name. After a fair amount of research, I discovered a Legal Dictionary that listed it

as an abbreviation for the Latin words "in absentia" or, translated into English, "in absence." In other words, Doris Eastman wasn't present when the letter was written, and someone else signed her name to it in Doris' absence.

In 1989 I called Halbert's and asked to speak to Doris Eastman. I was told that "Doris isn't here right now, can someone else help you?" I was suspicious that Doris was a fictitious name and later court documents proved that my assumption was accurate.

I'll point out that calling Halbert's is difficult. Their telephone number isn't in the ad. I was later told that Halbert's mailing address in Bath, Ohio is simply a mail drop; there are no offices at that address for a company called Halbert's. In fact, Halbert's is one of the trade names owned by Numa Corporation in nearby Akron, Ohio. Apparently, mail delivered to the Bath, Ohio, address is simply forwarded to Numa in Akron. I eventually found a number for Numa and called their offices looking for Doris Eastman. Not surprisingly, she wasn't there, either.

A few months ago I received another ad from Halbert's, much like the ones I had received in 1989. Again, it was signed by "Doris Eastman, i.a." and was from the 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio 4410-9953. I purchased this year's "book" as I wanted to see what had changed. To be blunt, I don't see much difference in the 1998 edition. It is the same old stuff. It still has extracts from old telephone directories. It still lists my uncle in Auburn, Maine despite the fact that he sold that house more than ten years ago and then died about seven years ago.

Halbert's has been in court several times to answer charges lodged by the U.S. Postal Service. The court documents always list Halbert's as a subsidiary of the Numa Corporation of Akron, Ohio. In fact, the Numa Corporation of 1566 Akron Peninsula Rd, Akron, OH 44313-5154 does have a telephone listing.

I don't think there is anything illegal about using a mail drop, but I wonder why any company would do that. The next time you receive an ad from 3687 Ira Road, Bath, Ohio, you might ask yourself, "Why do they use this address? What are they trying to hide?"

Answer to Quiz

THOREAU descends from Abigail, daughter of Thomas BARNES Sr., who married Capt. Josiah JONES. Abigail was the aunt of Thankful BARNES, first wife of Capt. Jabez.

"Notable Kin", by Gary Boyd Roberts, NEHDS NEXUS VI #3 & #4.

ERRATUM

The last issue contained a plat which was labeled "Alford, circa 1760". The Doreen Dolleman article referred to a plat of Alford which showed the original Capt. Jabez grant as well as his son's, Jeremiah, land in the "The Gore". Unfortunately, we published the incorrect plat. The one we published was a later one that showed only the property that Jeremiah purchased from John POPHNEHONNUKWOK and Jehoiakim YOKUM of Stockbridge, in "The Gore", and did not show the original Capt. Jabez grant. The plat on the next page is the one that we should have published. Careful examination of the two plats will show that the one we published in the last issue shows only the property north of the dotted line in the center of the correct plat. The Capt. Jabez grant is in the lower right hand corner, labeled "Wm. & Robt. JOYNER (OMSTEAD Grant)", and is Lot # 3.

DEA. BROWN IN CAPTIVITY

FUTURE ISSUES

The GOFA tells how Deacon Timothy BROWN, the husband of Capt. Jabez's oldest daughter, Thankful, was made captive by the Indians. Here is another accounting of the tale, from "A Particular History of the Five Year French & Indian Wars", by Samuel Drake, Boston, 1870., p. 96. Some sources report BROWN remained in captivity for one and a half years, but note his next child, Silance, was born October 19, 1737 (Brookfield VR).

May 6, 1746, at Lower Ashuelet, since Swanzey, Dea. Timothy BROWN and Robert MOFFIT were fired upon as they were leaving the garrison. They returned the fire, breaking the arm of the Indian Leader, but both are made prisoner and taken to Canada, arriving in Quebec June 22nd. They were both exchanged or ransomed later.

Our plans for future issues include, of course, articles by Doreen Dolleman. We have Capt. Jabez's will, and will start a series on the Brookfield Vital Records. We also have Vital Records of other towns in which Capt. Jabez's descendants may have lived, such as Hartwick, West Springfield, Charlemont, Gill, New Braintree, Ashburtnham, and Palmer. We will start a series on the ancestry of Thankful BARNES, tracing her grandfather back to England, and showing her GOODENOW, HOWE and BENT ancestry. We have an article on Thomas BARNES Sr. and Jr., and excerpts from the History of Sudbury, where the GOODENOWs, HOWE and BENTs first settled.

But we need articles from you, the subscribers. We want to hear about **your** research into our family. Otherwise we will dry up when we and Mrs. Dolleman run out of gas.

So let us hear from you!

Carlton Olmsted Hommel

From Jabez, Jeremiah, Jabez, Jeremiah, Isaac, Jeremiah, Andrew, and Dorothy.



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