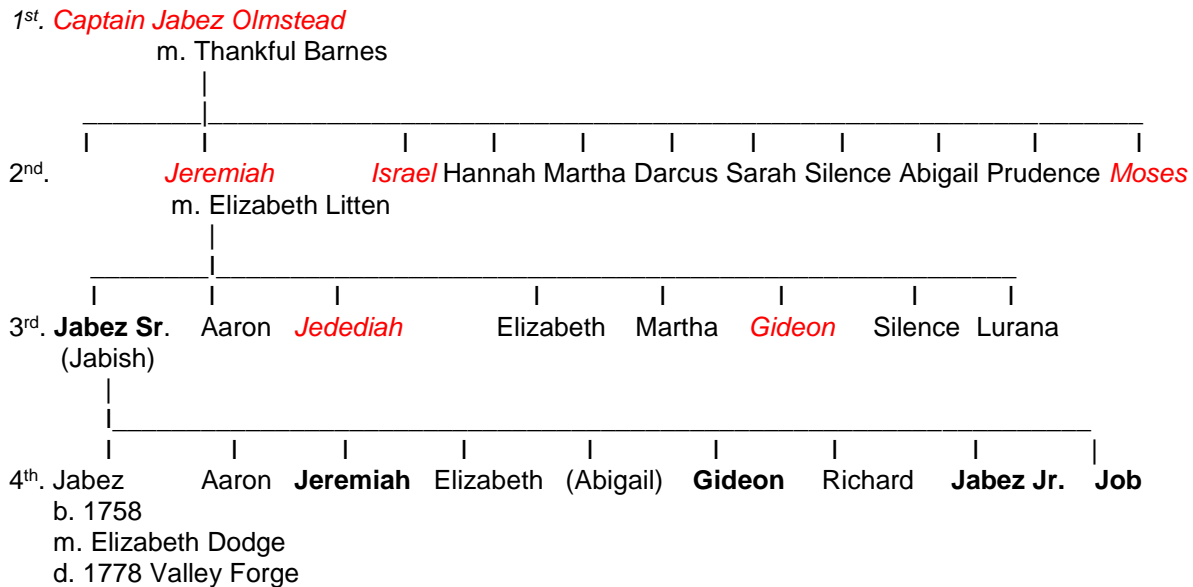


Jabez Olmstead DNA Project

Introduction

A non-paternity event appears in the birth of Jabez Sr., first born son in the 3rd generation illustrated below. Vital Records at Brookfield, Worcester Co. Massachusetts record the marriage of Jeremiah Olmstead to Elizabeth Litten on Dec 11, 1734. The birth of their first child followed on July 29, 1735, seven and a half months later. A normal term pregnancy lasts between 37 and 42 weeks, so Jabez Sr. (a.k.a. Jabish) was probably conceived in October 1734.



A Surname Project traces members of a family who share a common surname. This test is for males taking a Y-DNA test. The Y-chromosome is passed from father to son, but not to daughters, which enables us to follow the male blood line. The Olmsted/Olmstead Surname Study group began in April 2003, in anticipation of the August 2003 Olmste(a)d Family Association of North America (OFA) Reunion in New Brunswick, Canada.

Two distinct Jabez groups appeared in our DNA study at www.familytreedna.com. Group 1 members (*red italics*) trace their ancestry back through to Captain Jabez Olmstead who married Thankful Barnes at Brookfield in about 1711. Group 2 members (**bold**) all trace their ancestry through the sons of Jabez Sr. – Jeremiah, Gideon, Jabez Jr., and Job. The DNA test results from the two groups are totally different.

Family Tree DNA conducts many surname projects and their tests confirmed that Jabez Group 2 results match members of a Nichols family project. The Nichols participants who provided the matching DNA samples descend from William, Joseph and Humphrey, sons of John Nichols and Abigail Sargent described below.

Thomas Nichols b. 1630 England m. Mary Moulton b. 1642 England. They had the following children:

	Sex	Birth
- Ebenezer Nichols	M	3 Aug 1664 in Salisbury, Essex MA
- Thomas Nichols	M	16 Oct 1670 in Amesbury, Essex MA
- Samuel Nichols	M	14 Feb 1672 in Amesbury, Essex MA
- John Nichols	M	1676 in Amesbury, Essex MA
- Rachel Nichols	F	13 Nov 1677 in Rowley, Essex MA
- Sarah Nichols	F	1678 in Amesbury, Essex MA

John Nichols m. Abigail Sargent 1 Jan. 1701/02 in Salisbury, Essex Co. MA. Children of this union were all born in Amesbury, Essex Co. MA. They are as follows:

	Sex	Birth	Age in October 1734
- Mary Nichols	F	19 Oct 1702	32
- John Nichols	M	19 Jul 1704	30
- William Nichols	M	21 Jan 1705-06	abt. 29
- Jacob Nichols	M	16 Jan 1707-08	abt. 27
- Joseph Nichols	M	2 Sep 1709	25
- Daniel Nichols	M	30 Sep 1712	22
- Moses Nichols	M	25 Sep 1714-15	abt. 20
- Anna Nichols	F		
- Aaron Nichols	M	2 Oct 1719	15
- Humphrey Nichols	M	18 Apr 1723	11
- Thomas Nichols	M	18 Jan 1724-25	abt. 9
- Abigail Nichols	F		

Vital statistics suggest that John and Abigail Nichols and their children stayed in the Amesbury area through the 1730s, and Brookfield is about half way across the state from Amesbury.

So which Nichols male was in contact with Elizabeth Litten?

Our research has since placed members of both families in and around Brookfield in October 1734. Sarah Nichols (*italics previous page*), youngest child of Thomas and Mary Moulton, married Roger Stevens November 24, 1698 in Amesbury, Essex Co. MA. They had the following children:

	Sex	Birth	Age in 1734
- Thomas Stevens	M	1700 in Amesbury, Essex MA	34
- Abigail Stevens	F	17 Jul 1705 in Salisbury, Essex MA	29
- <i>Roger Stevens</i>	M	22 May 1708 in Amesbury, Essex MA	26
- Sarah Stevens	F	31 Jan 1709-10 in Amesbury, Essex MA	abt. 25
- Thomas Stevens	M	21 Nov 1711	23
- Jacob Stevens	M	24 Oct 1713	21
- Nehemiah Stevens	M	26 May 1715	19
- Martha Stevens	F	27 Sep 1717	17
- Christopher.			

“Roger Stevens, clothier, captain, lived in Amesbury, removed to Marlboro, bought the John Perry home lot in Brookfield in November 1729; died December 26, 1730. Roger, son of Roger, came to Brookfield with his father, and settled his estate.” [J.H. Temple, “History of North Brookfield, Massachusetts. Preceded by an Account of Old Quabang, Indian and English Occupation, 1647 – 1676” Brookfield Records, 1686 - 1783 (North Brookfield, 1887) pg. 740.]

Roger married Hannah Woolcott in Brookfield March 14, 1733-4. They had the following children all born in Brookfield:

	Sex	Birth
- Roger Stevens	M	2 Dec 1734
- Isaiah Stevens	M	25 Aug 1736
- Silas Stevens	M	22 Dec 1738
- Ezekiel Stevens	M	24 Aug 1740
- John Stevens	M	25 Apr 1744
- Hannah Stevens	F	7 Feb 1747
- Jemima Stevens	F	17 Nov 1749
- Keziah Stevens	F	25 Apr 1752
- Jude Stevens	M	17 Nov 1754

We know that Elizabeth Litten was impregnated by an individual who's DNA matches the sons of Thomas Nichols and Mary Moulton listed on page 1. It is probable that the contact was made in Brookfield. We also know that Sarah Nichols was living in Brookfield at that time. Did one or more of the Nichols men make the trip from Essex County to Brookfield to see their Aunt Sarah? By this time Aunt Sarah was a widow, and Cousin Roger and his wife Hannah were expecting their first child.

In an email communication dated July 23, 2009 Doreen Dolleman, a researcher for the "Newsletter Jabez Olmsted of Ware" wrote, "Aaron Nichols was the name that jumped out at me. I have a thing about naming patterns and thought many years ago that Aaron was not an Olmstead name and probably became one through Elizabeth Litten. I don't know the financial circumstances of the Stevens family, but could they have afforded servants? If so, my guess would be that Elizabeth was a servant in their household. She was exactly the right age to be in service and Aaron would have been too young for the family to have considered marriage. That is just one possibility."

In a subsequent e-mail dated September 12, 2012, she made the following suggestion: "One thing that no one else seems to keep in mind about Elizabeth Litten getting pregnant by someone in the Nichols family is that it does not necessarily have to be someone in her own age bracket, but could have been a senior member of the family (like William or John). We all know that happens even in today's society."

Where did Elizabeth Litten come from and who would she have been indentured to?

We know very little about Elizabeth Litten. We know from Vital Records that she was married to Jeremiah Olmstead in Brookfield in December 1734. Her appearance recorded in the Marriage Records of Brookfield is the first record we've ever found. Various spellings including Layton, Luyten, Leighton, Lighton, etc. have not turned up any clues, and there do not seem to be any other records of that family name.

There are references in Ancestry.com that she was born December 11, 1719 in Ware, Worcester Co. MA, but there isn't any primary source verification. If this date is accurate, she would have been 15. Brookfield Birth Records indicate that Jeremiah was born 6 January 1714-15, so he would have been about age 20. We know that the child Jabez (a.k.a. Jabish) was born in Brookfield in July 1735. We know that the child was fathered by a man related to Sarah Nichols, and we are reasonably sure that Sarah Nichols was living in Brookfield at that time with her son Roger and his family. We don't know why she married Jeremiah Olmstead.

Our hypothesis was that Elizabeth Litten was an indentured servant, and that is why she hasn't appeared anywhere else. However the NEHGS didn't find any evidence to support this idea, so her origins remain a mystery. A copy of that report appears in the "Newsletter Jabez Olmsted of Ware", Vol. 17 #1, Dec. 2013.

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