

Combes



A GENEALOGICAL QUEST

FOR

COOMBS - COMBS - COMBE

OF AMERICA

WITH EMPHASIS ON JOHN COMBE OF PLYMOUTH
AND WIFE SARAH PRIEST DAUGHTER OF MAYFLOWER
PILGRIM

COMPILED BY

IRENE TUTTLE BUNNELL

PAST CALIFORNIA STATE GENEALOGICAL CHAIRMAN OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF FOUNDERS & PATRIOTS OF AMERICA

PREFACE

All historians agree that Sarah Priest and John Combs, had many progeny, but because all records were burned during King Phillips war, their children haven't been established, with the exception of Francis and John of Boston. To establish the family of John Combs and Sarah Priest of Plymouth, I have given a brief history of all by the name of Combs, Combe or Coombs, not only in Long Island and Massachusetts, but Virginia and Kentucky, as well, for the first few generations. For the new England States, I used as a guide, the names in Ancestral Heads of New England by Holmes-1620 to 1700.

There were only two early immigrants by this name prior to 1674. Anthony Coombs came to America from France then and did not have issue until after his marriage in 1688, therefore, all names found prior to this date would be either the descendents of Henry of Salem and Marble head in Essex Co. Massachusetts, or John of Plymouth, in Plymouth County, Mass. It has been found the descendents of Henry went in to Maine and New Hampshire and John's went to Long Island and New Jersey. It is interesting to note that Newtown, Long Island, was first known as Middleborough, L.I., before the name was changed by Gov. Nichols, which would indicate who settled this area. Fortunately, Henry, had family names such as Henry, Humphrey, Michael and Joshua, which are easy to identify in addition to the locale.

It has been felt for decades, that John Combe, went back to England, after 1645, but information in 1963, from the College of Arms in London, England, established proof, without doubt, that he went to Hempstead, Long Island, instead. Therefore, it certainly would be reasonable to assume those by this name in Long Island would belong to his household.

Early historians have construed the dates to be a lot later than they actually were in regards to John Combe of Plymouth. Savage felt that Degory Priest's marriage to Sarah Allerton was earlier than shown in the published marriage banns, as he was in Leyden in 1608 and one of the first who settled there. There is no date when John arrived in New England, but he was there long enough to be the owner of land, married and resold this land with his wife, Sarah, as early as 1632 to Thomas Prence. He also was on the assessment rolls of Plymouth on this date. It is felt he was married to Sarah near 1628, as she was still living as a member of the Cuthbertson household, with her sister Mary, when the division of cattle was given, May 22, 1627. All researchers feel their son Francis, was born before or near 1630, as he was well established as a land owner by 1656, according to Plymouth deeds and the journal of Gov. Bradford. All those that research Francis, feel he was married near 1650 and children followed close to this date. It would be unrealistic to assume he married at an advanced

age, for the first time to Deborah Moreton, who was a generation younger than he was in 1673, especially when bachelorhood was looked upon with extreme disfavor regarding the church, which played such an important role in the lives of the early colonists/

Edith Summer, was a certified genealogists and published many books regarding Mayflower lineages. Her work regarding Degory Priest's daughter Mary and Phineas Pratt was "it is extremely hard to prove the second generation because of dates. This is certainly understandable when a recent publication regarding Mayflower lineages states, "Mary Priest m. Phineas Pratt before 1654 and the same publication stated John Combe married Sarah Priest cir. 1640. With such dates, it would be impossible to prove a lineage of the second and third generations.

In the absence of vital records, existing records should be viewed with an open mind and it has been found there were two by the name of Francis Combe in Plymouth records. The following facts have been discovered.

1. Two Proprietors of the township of Middleberry taken at Pilmouth, 28th June 1677
2. Two original proprietors listed for the Sixteen Shilling Purchase. One was assigned Lot 35 and the Lot # 66.-
3. A Francis Combe was assigned lots 185 and 186 of the South Purchase in Middleboro. This land was not opened up and given by lottery until after the death of the senior Francis in 1682. Also, when his vast real estate holdings was distributed to his four daughters by deed, the South Purchase was not among his holdings.
4. In 1674, Colonial Lists by Pierce, shows a Francis Combe as a selectman in Middleboro, Plymouth County and in the same year (1674) a Francis Combe was found as a selectman of Swansea, Bristol County.

The historian, Savage, stated it was felt by him that the Francis of Middleboro Mass and the Francis Combe of Newtown, Long Island was the same person, however, one died in 1682 and the other in 1700, which definitely establishes a father and son relationship, instead of one person. The name Francis is carried on in the family, as it was the name of John Combe's father in England.

Like Savage, historians have blended the two men in to one and Davis in his Landmarks of Plymouth was no exception when he had Francis Combe senior the husband of Deborah Moreton. It is felt the curious "court order", which no researcher can understand it's meaning or logic, indicates clearly, it was the

son, instead of the father that married Deborah Moreton. All researchers feel the court wouldn't remove the two older children and place them with the Moreton family, in 1682, when they were well established with their step mother, Mary Barker Pratt, who survived her husband, also why were the other children, who were younger, completely ignored by the court. At the exact time of the court order, February, 1682, Francis Combe Jr. was given land to ply his trade as a cooper in Long Island by the Hunt family. It would be reasonable to assume he hesitated to take two small girls to a new frontier, so they were placed in the family of his wife. When the court order is viewed in this way, it seems logical and reasonable and not at all irregular. Marcy and Deborah, who were placed by the court did not share in the estate of Francis Combe Sr, which would be customary if they were his daughters. Unfortunately, it is impossible to prove these statements, but logic makes them true. Francis Combe Jr. was born cir. 1650 and so was Deborah Moreton, a marriage of compatible ages. In addition it is quite possible there were more sons by a first marriage, taking into consideration the number of children Francis Sr. had with Mary Barker Pratt. When this fact is considered, maybe other misplaced Comb's names in Long Island and Massachusetts could be placed, using dates, locale and family names as a guide. It was suggested by Savage that the coat of arms of Richard should be compared with that of John Combe of Plymouth,

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DEGORY PRIEST

Degory Priest, was called a hatter from London in Leyden records. The name of Degory Priest or Prust, came from Devon and Cornwall England. Families of this name were living in the parishes of All Hallows the Great, All Hallows on the Wall, St. Augustine, St. Dunstan in the West and St Margaret Patten in London at the period of the emigration. He was born about 1579 and was one of Pastor Robinson's party, who settled in Leyden, in 1608 and took out citizenship there.

Only Bradford and Allerton, enjoyed this distinction also. It was Isaac Allerton, already a citizen of Leyden, who "guaranteed his brother Priest" on 11-16-1615. In a deposition at Leyden, 1619, Degory, gave his age as forty and his occupation as hatter. In 1620, he went back to England with the group which negotiated for a ship for the "Saints" journey to the New World. He participated with the Pilgrims, in their troubles, both in getting off and afterwards in their perilous journey. He was the Twentieth signer of the Mayflower Compact, drawn up at sea by the Pilgrims before landing.

Banns were published three times in Leyden for Degory and Sarah Allerton, 8-10-1611; 15-10-1611 and 22 10, 1611; They were married on Friday, 4th November 1611. Sarah was the sister of Isaac Allerton and widow of John Vincent. There was a double wedding on this date for Isaac Allerton, married Mary Norris also. They were married before William Cornelison Tybault and Jacob Paedts, sheriffs.

He died the first winter of "the first sickness" and was unable to realize his intention of preparing a home for his family. Gov. Bradford, in his journal stated, "Monday, January 10th, was a pleasant day and all hands went back to work again. Before the end of the day, however, another member of the company, Degory Priest died.

Word of his death reached Sarah, in Leyden and she married again the same year. In the summer of 1623, the third Pilgrim ship, the Little James, arrived at Plymouth and among the passengers were Sarah and Cuthbert Cuthbertson, whom Sarah married after the death of her husband, Degory Priest. Cuthbert Cuthbertson had a son Samuel, by a previous marriage and he was among the passengers, along with his two step sisters, Mary and Sarah Priest.

Few records of the family can be found in New England and genealo-

gists have stated the step daughters of Cuthbert Cuthbertson were his own daughters. Davis in his Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth, page 347, says that in 1632, John Come and his wife Sarah, daughter of Cuthbert Cutbertson, sold land to Thomas Prence. In Holland he was known as Godbert Godbertson and was a member of the Pilgrim church in Leyden. It is known that he was a good step father and provided the girls' marriage portions, calling them his daughters and for a long time, it was not known that they were daughters of one of the Pilgrims.

There is no official record of marriages in Plymouth prior to 1645 and the above statement is based upon the following, taken from page 159, Vol 1, of the published Plymouth Records. It is a report of proceeding before the Governor and assistants, held Aug. 3, 1640 and reads as follows.

"For as much as it appeareth by the testimony of Joshua Pratt and otherwisee, that the two acres of upland, lying at Wellingsly Brook, on the north side of the lot, given to Godbert Godbertson, were given by the said Godbert Godbertson, to John Combe, gent., and Phineas Pratt, in marriage with their wives, his daughters, the court doth confirm the said two acres unto the said John Come and Phineas Pratt, their heirs and assigns forever. The case was tried, August 3, 1640 and related to events that had occurred some years previously,

Massachusetts Historical Collections, 2nd series, also states in regards to the husband of Mary Priest. "Phineas Pratt (joiner) was in Plymouth, about 1623. He removed to Charlestown and was living there about 1677. He married at Plymouth the daughter of Cuthbert Cuthbertson, 1630.

The division of cattle, May 22, 1627, gives the name of every man, woman and child in Plymouth, on that date. The grouping is by families. In the 2nd lot (that of Isaac Allerton) Cuthbertson's family is shown to consist of himself, his wife, Sarah, a son Samuel and two step daughters, Mary Priest and Sarah Priest. He had no other daughters.

Governor Bradford listed the early deaths as follows: Moyses Fletcher, Thomas Williams, Digerie Priest, John Goodman, Edmond Margeson, Richard Britterige and Richard Clarke. He states, "all these dyed soon after their arivall, in the generall sickness that befell." But, Digerie Priest, had his wife and children sent hither afterwards, she being Mr. Allerton's sister." The New York Gen. and Bio. Record, Vol. 28, states, "in the face of all the evidence, there cannot be a doubt that the two step daughters of Cuthbertson's, Mary and Sarah, were the daughters of the

Pilgrim, Degory Priest. Some historians say the boat was the Little James they came on and others say it was the Anne. There is no separate list of passengers in regards to the two boats and all passengers are grouped together. Charles Edward Banks, who is the author of the English Ancestry and Homes of the Pilgrim Fathers states, "Not all the passengers have been identified with both the Anne and the Little James, however, in his chapter under Female Passengers, he mentions the female passengers of the two ships, "who married shortly after their arrival". On page 177 the name Mary Priest is listed with that of Phineas Pratt and at the top of page 178 the name of Sarah Priest is shown, "who married John Coombs." Charles Edward Banks names thirteen women passengers who "married shortly after their arrival and eight wives who accompanied their husbands, on these two ships and twelve children, who were brought by their parents.

Children of Mary Priest and Phineas Pratt

1. John----- died before 1738- m. c. 1664, Ann Barker
2. Samuel b-----; died 26 March, 1676 at Rehoboth; m. ----- Mary Barker, b-----' died aft. 1711. She married (2) 1678, Francis Coombs (Sarah Priest 2- Deogry 1) married (3) 5 Mar. 1684/5 at Middleboro David Wood.
3. Daniel born-----; died before 1738; married----- born -----; died-----
4. Peter born-----; died 24 Mar. 1688; married 5 Aug. 1679, Elizabeth Griswold, born----- died-----; she was divorced from John Rogers.
5. Mary born cir. 1632; died 11 Feb. 1702, at Cambridge; married 1 Mar. 1655, at Cambridge, John Swan born cir. 1620; died 5 June 1708 , at Cambridge
6. Joseph born -----; died 24 Dec. 1712 at Charlestown; married 12 Feb. 1674/5 Dorcas Folger, born -----; died -----.
7. Aaron born cir. 1649; died 23 Feb. 1735/6 at Hingham; married (1) -----, Sarah Pratt, born 31 May 1664, at Weymouth; died 22 July 1706 at Hingham; m (2) 4 Sept. 1707, Sarah (Wright) Cummings ; born cir 1668, died Dec. 1752
8. Mercy born -----; died----- married Jeremiah Holman born-----; died -----

All historians agree that Sarah Priest and John Combe had many progeny, but due to King Phillip's war, all records were burned. On page 38 in the History of the Town of Middleboro, the following is stated, "The Eddy note-book says, William Clark had his house burned with that of Mr. Coombs in 1675 and that William Hoskins, lived with him as keeper of the records. Also, the Massachusetts Archives reveal "in the records of the General Court, in 1734, we find a petition of Cornelius Bennett and Lydia Miller, where it is stated about the year 1675, the dwelling house of said Coombs and also the house where the keeper of the records in Middleboro lived was burned and the Indian deed was supposed to be burned also.

Although Sarah Priest and John Combe is thought to have had a large family, only two children have been established, the rest are still to be identified. In a letter, dated July 22nd, 1963, written to Whitney J. Coombs, from the College of Arms, in London England, a startling discovery was revealed, when Windsor Herald of the College of Arms, stated, John Combe, did not return to England from Plymouth, in 1645, but went to Hempstead, New York. Therefore the original immigrant by the name of Combs, was not Richard, but John Combe, Gent. of Plymouth, in New York State. O-Callaghan's List of Inhabitants of Colonial New York, giving the names for the town of Hempstead, in 1673, has just the name Comes, with no given name listed, as he probably wanted to keep a low profile, as he left Plymouth because of so many debts he had against him.

The two children established of Sarah Priest and John Combs.

1. Francis, born cir. 1629 and died 31 Dec. 1682 at Middleboro, married (1)-----
born----- died-----
married (2) 1678, Mary (Barker) Pratt, widow of Samuel Pratt. (Mary ² Priest, Degory ¹) died after 1711. She married (3) 5 March 1684/5 at Middleboro, David Wood.-
2. John- b-----; died cir May 1668; married 24 Feb. 1662, at Boston, Elizabeth (Royal Barlow, b----- died cir. Jan. 1672. She married (3) 1669, John Warren of Boston

In corresponding with the Reference Archivist for Massachusetts, I was told the Archives does not hold many of the vital records of Middleborough. The town records were filmed by the Genealogical Society in Salt Lake City (LDS) and they

do not show any references to the Combe family for births or marriages. However, an index does list the death of Francis Combe on Dec. 31, 1682.

Phineas Pratt, died in Charlestown, Massachusetts, 4-19-1680, he was about 90 years of age. He was survived by Mary, who was probably the "Widow Pratt, lately died," whose inventory was taken in July 1689 in Charlestown.

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Coombs Family Association re; College of Arms

**English Ancestry of
JOHN COMBE**

The Combs pedigree is recorded in the College of Arms

Hempstead, New York, is named for Hemel-Hempstead, Hertfordshire, England. At Hemel-Hempstead, there are records of a family of "Combe", also sometimes spelled "Combes;

The Herts Visitation Pedigrees at the Heralds College in London contain their pedigree, with the arms, etc. in the Visitations of 1572 and of 1634.

The Parish Registers of the Church of St. Mary at Hemel-Hempstead contain records of the baptism of the family of Francis Combe, son of Richard and his wife Jane, daughter of John Pope of Wroxton, Oxford. Her uncle Sir Thomas Pope was the founder of Trinity College, Oxford and her brother was Earl of Down. The children of the Combe family were as follows:-

1. Richard, bapt. July 2, 1582; buried April 24, 1583
2. Francis, bapt. Oct. 1, 1583; married (1st) Barbara, daughter of Henry Ewer Esq. of London. Buried 1635. m. (2nd) Anne, daughter of Thomas Greenhill. Gent. of Abbots Langley. Died No. 6, 1640. Francis, died May 21, 1641. He left no issue and in his will proven May 1, 1641, he left a large part of his estate to the Colleges of Sidney Sussex at Cambridge and Trinity at Oxford, at which he had been educated. Trinity was founded by his maternal great uncle Sir Thomas Pope. The Colleges still hold the Abbots Langley property, which he left in his will.
3. Elizabeth, bapt. July 11, 1585, buried July 2, 1586.
4. Tobias, bapt. July 31, 1586, married Mary, daughter of John Theede of Crofton, Bucks. He died Feb. 12, 1663, she died 1677. They had one son Richard, born about 1630, who was knighted, Feb. 5, 1660. He married (1st) Anne, daughter of John Freere of Stoke, Suffolk, who died April 18, 1658. He married (2nd) to Anne Frow of Oxon, who died without issue. There was a son Richard by the first wife, who died unmarried in 1692.
5. Charles, bapt. Feb. 16, 1589; buried Feb. 2, 1591.
6. William, bapt. May 17, 1590; died 1659, leaving a will in which he mentions his wife Anne and three daughters, Barbara, the wife of John Chishull, Jane, the wife of Edward Herbert and Anne, the wife of Christopher Webb.
7. Mary, bapt. June 21, 1591; married William Brockett and had two children John and Mary. (Chancery papers, Milford 78-20)
8. Elizabeth, bapt. Sept. 10, 1592, buried July 21, 1594.
9. Richard, bapt. May 5, 1594; was an M.A. and Fellow of Trinity College; later Rector of Navestock, Esses, where he died single in 1628.
10. Anna, bapt. July 27, 1595; buried Dec. 12, 1598
11. John, bapt. March 6, 1597, later of Plymouth Mass.
12. Susannah, bapt. Feb. 18, 1599; No further data known.

The Parish registers contain a lot of information regarding the Combe family. All the preceding information was taken from them. However, they contain no information in regards to John. Careful search, by others, showed that he was not married there, nor did he die there, and no will of a John Combe appears on record which can be identified as his. It is apparent, that the older children of the family, as customary in those days, got the property and the education, while the younger ones did not fare so well.

William, an elder brother to John, died in 1659, leaving a will. It shows that his property was quite modest, as compared to what Francis and Tobias, the two older brothers had, in it he leaves this small bequest. Item, I give and bequeathe to my brother John Combe, gent, also thirty shillings to buy him a ring, if he be then living and not els." The will is dated April 30th, 1656 and Proven July 17, 1660, at the P.C.C. ;

This shows clearly that William, at the date of this will, apparently did not know whether his brother John was alive, nor was the location of John given, while in the same will other bequests are made to certain persons of definite places, it was John alone that had no address. This will should absolutely prove that John of Plymouth, did not return to England in 1645 but went to Hempstead, Long Island instead. He was sued as late as August 1, 1648, by his wife's uncle, Isaac Allerton and the debt was finally satisfied in 1654.

Whitney Coombs, in compiling a genealogy of Anthony Coombs, wrote to the College of Arms, Queen Victoria Street, London, England. He did so, because he was wondering the relationship between Anthony and John Combs of Plymouth. He was informed by Windsor Herald, of the College of Arms, there was no relationship. In a letter, written 22 July, 1963, the following is stated, by the College of Arms.

The family at Hemel Hempstead, showing Richard Combe of Hemel Hempstead (died 1595) who had a son Francis (died 1625) who had Tobias, William Richard and John. This John Combe went to Plymouth Mass. and was LATER AT HEMPSTEAD, NEW YORK. He was admitted a freeman of Plymouth Mass, married Sarah, daughter of Degory Priestly or Priestby and had a son Francis and other children. This is the sole American connection and does not seem to apply to your ancestors. Anthony Coombs, was of French descent.

In a document in 1628, was found "set upon" the church door at Hemel-Hempstead and turned over to the Star Chamber Court of Inquiry. The document in a lengthy but scholarly criticism of the Church practices of the period in quite the Puritan manner. In it, the anonymous writer declared the reasons "why I, with some of my friends, have decided to goe in to New England." It is thought to have been written by Rev. Robert Fordham, the leader of the settlers of Hempstead, in the N.E.H. & G. Reg. Vol. 51 and 53. The church, on which this document was placed is next door to the house where John Combe lived. It is entirely possible that John Combe, was one of the friends who proposed to "goe into New England." with Rev. Robt. Fordham, where he was first at Plymouth and later went to Hempstead, Long Island.

JOHN COMBE OF PLYMOUTH

John Combe, was the owner of an ancient piece of land called Playne dealing and the derivation and meaning, why it was called this name has been a puzzle to students of Pilgrim history. In 1632, this land was sold by John Combe and his wife Sarah, who were then married at this early date. They sold the land to Thomas Prence, who built a house on the land and occupied it until his death.

There is no date when John arrived in New England, but the the date was near 1628, for he was found married and a land owner by 1632 and on the assessment rolls of Plymouth on this date. Francis, thought to be the oldest son of John and Sarah Combes, was established and bought Rocky Nooke in Plymouth from Samuel Cutbert, as early as December 1656 and this was acknowledged before William Bradford. (Plymouth Colony Deeds.)

In 1633, an inventory of the estate of Cutbert Cutbertson, deceased, shows that John Combe was a debtor to the estate. In 1635, a grant of land was given to Mr. Coomes. The list of freemen for that year, shows that John Combe was a freeman although a note in the margin, made at a later date, says: "disfranchised for being drunk".

In 1637, William Spooner, a servant, formerly apprenticed to John Holmes, was assigned to John Combes. December 4th 1638, John Combes, gent, was fined 3 shillings for non appearance at court, and on Sept. 3rd, 1639, "Mr. John Combe, is disfranchised of his freedom, for being drunken. This evidently did not affect his standing in the community, for he received a grant of land from the Colony, Dec. 31, 1641.

April 5, 1642, he was sued by Ralph Goarume and admitted judgement 36.4s.6d., agreeing to pay out of his next crop of corn if Goarume, would furnish the seed, which was agreed to.

In March 1643, it was ordered by the Court that William Spooner should pay for the debt of Mr. Coombs, his master, to Wm. Hanbury (ten shillings)

June 5th, 1644, John Combe, was admitted a freeman of Plymouth

March 3rd, 1645, it was ordered that Major Gibbens shall take order to answer Mr. Combes declaration against Thomas Morton and Mr. Combe's attorney to write unto him.

August 1, 1646, it was ordered that Thomas Cushman should have one third of the increase of corn due to Mrs. Combe from William Spooner. On the same day the Court ordered that the children of Mrs. Combe, now with William Spooner, should be kept by him until further order.

August 5. 1648, Thomas Cushman, as agent for Isaac Allerton, sues and obtains an order that he receive the profits from land of John Combè at Rocky Nook, in payment for debts. On May 6,

1655, Cushman, gave a receipt and accounting of the moneys received by him under the foregoing order showing the debt to have been satisfied in 1654. Cushman's power of attorney from Allerton, who was in Long Island, is dated Oct. 27, 1646 and authorizes "my well-beloved sonne in law- Thomas Cushman to collect a certain debt of 100 £, due from John Combe, Gent.

Some authorities say John Combe, died about 1645, but later researchers, reveal this to be unlikely. It is certain that no information directly regarding him is found in the Plymouth records after that date, which could cause the impression that he died about that time. The order of the Court on August 5th 1648, that Cushman, as an agent for Allerton, should receive the profits of John Combe, does not mention him as being deceased. In any event, it would appear, that he was gone, but not dead. No record in Plymouth, regarding his land or his family refer to him as being deceased and as far as the records of Plymouth are concerned, he never did die there.

John Combe, left in a hurried manner and it is felt by historians that his many debts was the reason. As John Combe and Sarah Priest married near 1630, the children were in their advanced teens when John left in 1645 and even older when Sarah left to join her husband in 1648. As so little is known about the children in Plymouth, it is quite possible they went later to join their parents in Long Island.

As the records of the Combe family, ~~were~~ burned during the King Phillips war, only the probate records of the children remain as proof. Location and given names that follow that of the family should have a great influence in determining the names of John Combe's sons.

The requirement of the church, which had such a great influence in colonial Massachusetts, ~~were~~ that all males be married. Therefore to assume that Francis married for the first time in middle life, certainly wasn't in keeping with the times, so the Combe names, both in Mass. and Long Island, could be placed either in the household of John Combe, or his son Francis.-

References

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G.D.A. Combs unpublished manuscript
Ancient Landmarks of Plymouth- Davis

HENRY COOMBS OF SALEM 1635
ANTHONY COOMBS OF MAINE 1674

Before 1674, there was only one other early immigrant by the name of Coombs or Combe in New England and that was Henry of Salem and Marblehead, whose descendents went in to Maine and New Hampshire.

Henry of Salem appears to be first mentioned in the Salem records, when in 1635, he is referred to as a freeman. His records refer to him also as a fisherman and seaman. He mortgaged land at Salem in 1648 and later removed to Marblehead, where he was a proprietor in 1649. He died by accidental drowning at Marblehead in 1669, August 30th, as may be seen from the verdict of a jury which inquired into the cause of his death. His widow, Elizabeth, was appointed Executrix of his estate for herself and children in 1669 and an inventory of the estate, Sept. 16, 1669, shows a valuation of 85L/5s/6d, (Essex Court files b.60.72).

She deeded land in 1670 to her daughter, Susannah, who was married October 22, 1668 to Francis Grant. The inventory of Henry's Estate unfortunately does not name any of the children. It is thought that one Henry Coomes of York, in the County of York, in the Province of Massachusetts Bay.", who, in his will of Jan. 29, 1723, mentions his land at Marblehead; was a son of Henry of Salem. This Henry, of York, mentions in the will only his wife, Sarah and mentions no heirs, leaving his estate to his wife and the Church, so it is concluded there was no issue living. A John Combe, died at Salem, Oct. 25, 1690, age 25 and his estate was returned to his father and Henry.

Another son probably was Humphrey Cooms, seaman of Salem, who married July 29, 1659, to Bathaheba Raiment (Raymond), a daughter of Richard Raymond who gave Cooms land on which to build a house, about 1661. They had a daughter Hannah,

Another son, was Michael Cooms of Salem, who made a deposition in 1662, in which he states he was 28 years old and who is found several times on the Salem records. He was married to Joanna and they had two sons Michael and Joshua. Of these, Michael Jr. was married in 1694 to Ruth Rhoades by whom he had six children; Joanna, Richard, Joshua, Michael, Ruth and Elizabeth.

Other children were two daughters, Deborah and Elizabeth and a son Richard.

Could this Richard, be the same Richard that married Elizabeth Batt? Elizabeth, bap. April 26, 1607, was married at St. Edmunds church in Marblehead, Jan. 29, 1639 to Richard Allwood, by whom she had a daughter Dorcus. Surviving him, she married Richard Combe, July 17th 1650, at St. Edmunds church, Marblehead, Mass. Her sister, Alice, bap. 1604, was married to Peter Thacher, the Reverend of this church (Thacher Thatcher Generalogy). In this genealogy Richard Combe is referred to as the celebrated Ana Baptist. This

Richard, certainly should not be confused with the Richard Combe of Hempstead, Long Island, also, thought by some authorities as being the Combe immigrant of Long Island.

G.D.A. Coombs, worked on the Combe Coombs, lineage, from 1912 to the time of his death in 1945, trying to prove the Long Island branch of the family was connected with John of Plymouth. After his death, his family employed a certified genealogist to carry on his work by the name of Winifred L. Holman, with the thought of publishing his work, but this never came to pass. Mrs. Holeman's comment in regards to Richard of Marblehead is the following.

"It is unfortunate that the Sons of the Founders and Patriots of America have accepted Richard of Hempstead as a qualifying ancestor. He is not identical with the Richard, an Anabaptist, who married 17 July, 1650, Elizabeth (Batt) Allwood, baptised 26 Apr. 1607, place unknown to W.L.H. Born in 1607, Elizabeth could not produce issue in the 1670's:"

It was the opinion of both Mrs. Holeman and GDA. Coombs that there could be no relationship between Henry of Salem and the Long Island branches, the reasons for this being .

1. The settlers of Hempstead, Long Island were not to any extent, from Salem or its vicinity, emigrants from that vicinity, going mainly in to Maine Vermont and New Hampshire, while the Plymouth settlers spread mainly through Rhode Island and Connecticut, thence to Long Island.
2. There is no similarity in the family names used by any of the three long island branches with those of the family of Henry of Salem.

Most of the information, regarding Henry of Salem is in the collections of Essex Institute and the New England Hist. and Genealogical Register and for more information regarding the branch of Henry of Salem and allied branches, these and other works of like nature can be consulted.

The other family in New England was Anthony Coombs, born about 1642, according to the N.E. H. & G. Reg. Vol. 28. page 1874. Genealogical and Family History of Maine, Vol. 3, page 1122, states he was born in France, about 1656 and came to America about 1674. There is quite an extended account of how his father intended him for the priesthood, but he decided to run away to America and was aided in this by his mother. This could indicate that the mother was a Protestant who had married a Catholic and possibly the family was forced to remove to France, during the religious turmoil in England. The account says he belonged to a prominent family and Anthony must have been well supplied with money, for he bought a large tract of

land in Maine at New Meadows near Brunswick.

In 1672, he was an apprentice to Lewis Allen of Wells Maine. A deed dated 1675 from John Wooding of Salem of Nathaniel Clark of Wells Maine, conveys land at Wells, claimed by Anthony Coombs and Nicholas Cole (York deeds 11-29-and 14-108)

He lived in Rochester from 1695 to 1746, his last deed was 30 July, 1746, to his son John, conveying land in Rochester and also at Wells Maine, proving it was the same man. He was on a jury in 1676. He always signed by a mark "N", perhaps intended for an "A". Dorcus Wooden, his wife was born 10 Feb. 1661, at Salem.

Children	Born	Married
Mary	chr.3 Sept, 1689	Thomas Raymond
Peter	18 Aug. 1691	Joanna Hodgkins
Tabitha	1693	Thomas Berry
Anthony	1695	Mercy Hodgkins
John	Mar. 18-1699	Lydia Wooden
Hannah	30 Nov. 1700	Nicholas Hicks
Rosanne	23 Nov. 1702	Nathaniel Whitcomb
Ithamar	20 Nov. 1704	Hannah Andrews
Joshua	23 Jul 1706	Elizabeth Pratt
Frances	20 Jul 1708	James Pratt
Jane	29 Mar 1710	

There also was an Alister and Alexander Coombs, who have been somewhat of a mystery to all genealogists. Mr. William Carey Coombs, of Amelia, Ohio, who has written a carefully prepared book on Anthony Coombs and his descendants, identifies Anthony with Alister and proceeds to show reason for his belief that they are one and the same person and there have been articles by other genealogists who did not agree with him.

The probate records of Alexander were found in the State of New Hampshire, dated Aug. 15, 1707 and letter of Administration was to widow Abigail.

Thomas was also found in Maine as shown in Directory of the Ancestral Heads of New England Families. He came from Newfoundland, in 1662. In order to pay for his passage, he bound himself for 5 years service for Thos Beard, who assigned him to John Woodman. In 1665, he was at Kennebec, Maine.

Reference:-

Gen. Dict. of Maine and N.H.
Archive Rec. of Maine and N.H.
Coombs Family by Minerva Date Coombs
Manuscript, L.A. Library
Manuscript G.D.A. Coombs

THE COMBE'S OF THE SOUTH

Like others, heretofore mentioned by this name, the southern branch of the name was not related to John Combe of Plymouth.-

Richard Combe, of Devon, England, had among other children the following sons, Joseph, William, Austin, Richard and John. All of these names, except, Joseph, show up in and near Jamestown as early immigrants. All of them appear later on the Rappahannock.

It is possible that the Devonshire Combes had connections with the London Archdales, prior to 1587, when John married Margaret Archdale, in London. The Archdale family of London was a prominent one, recording a pedigree at the Visitation of London 1633-34.

John Combe, came to Jamestown, as an indentured servant. He served his term of five years, then sent back to England for Margaret, paying for her passage with tobacco.

The first Combes of Kentucky, were not John and Nicholas. The first ones were Benjamin, Cuthbert, Ennis and Joseph, sons of John of Stafford.

They also were in Virginia and Maryland. Ports of embarkation in England were Bristol, Plymouth and Southampton. They came to Virginia, between 1619-1635. There was a John Combs living in James City, in 1624 and he came over on the Marigold in 1619. Abraham Combes, was at James City in 1624- Richard Combes, is mentioned in Elizabeth City Plantation in 1635. Minutes of the London Company, reads, Capt. Nath. Basse affirms that John Combs and John Ewyne came on the Marigold.

Reference
Combes Genealogy in the
New World by Josiah H.
Combs, P.F.D. Univ. of
Paris.

JOHN COMBES OF BOSTON

John Coombs, believed to be the son of John of Plymouth and Sarah Priest. He was born about 1632 and died in Boston in May 1668. He was called cooper. Married: Eliza Barlow. Children were.-

1. Elizabeth Coombs, born 30 Nov. 1662, died at Plympton, Mass., after 14 Oct. 1723; she married her cousin 12-Jan-1687/8 Eleazer Cushman, son of Thomas Cushman by his Mary Allerton (Isaac¹), b. 20 Feb. 1656, died after 1723. They had several children.
2. John, born 20th July 1664, died at Boston, Jan. Feb. 1709/10. He was a taylor and married 1687-8 Elizabeth Yellings, widow, bor. 8 March 1659, dau. of William Ballentine. She was also a widow of Daniel Greenland, by whom she had a daughter, Elizabeth. b 28 May 1679 and married Nathaniel Conay. She also was a widow of Roger Yellings, by whom she had issue. She died at Braintree, 13 June 1724.
Will of her husband John Coombs (Suffolk Co. Probate 17:14) use and improvement of my housing and lands, wharf in Boston and estate in Great Britain, as long as she is a widow, but if she remarries she is to have her third with three children, Thomas, John and Mary. John Goodwin and Joseph Royal executors- His will was proven 23 Jan. 1709

The children were John, b. 7 Jan. 1688, in Boston, died by 1696. Thomas, b. 10 Sept. 1692, named in will, but died before 1722.- Peter, b. 7 Sept. 1690 and died 1691- Mary, b. 25 Nov. 1695, died before 1737- m. (1) 7 Sept. 1713 John Nutt (d. by 1724) (2) 21 May 1724) James Clough, b. 12 Mar. 1699, son of Samuel and Ruth; had issue. John, born 3 Oct. 1696, Boston; m. 12 April 1716, Elizabeth Bennett, b. ca. 1691, dau. of John and Joanna Bennett. No issue have been found- John died Dec. 27. 1775 age 83 Eliz. died 1779, age 91.

John Coombs and Elizabeth Barlow also had a daughter Mary, born 28 Nov. 1666 and died 2 July 1728, Plympton Mass. She married 18 Dec. 1689, Benjamin³ Eaton (Benjamin², Francis¹) b. before 29 Oct. 1664 and died before 20 Dec. 1745. They had five children. He married (2) 11 March 1728/9, Susanna (Lewis) Beal.

For a complete account of the Barlow- Coombs and Warren of Boston probate records see the American Genealogist, July 1970. Volume 46 No. 3.

FRANCIS COMBES OF MIDDLEBORO

Francis Combe's was the eldest son of John Combes and is found in the Plymouth Records as early as 1656, when he bought from Samuell Cutbert, Rocky Nooke, in Plymouth. (Gov. Bradford Journal)

In 1670, he was one of six that was freeman in Middleboro. By the laws of the colony "none shall vote in the meetings, but freemen or freeholders of twenty pounds ratable estate and of good conversation having taken the oath of fidelitie. Public acts were undertaken by the voters in connection with the proprietors of the liberties of the town as the owners of land were then called.

A list of the names of the Proprietors of the Liberties of the township of Middleberry, taken at Pilmouth at a meeting of the maine or major part of the proprietors, on the 28th of June, 1677 and the name of Francis Combe revealed there were two by that name that were proprietors, which is quite revealing there was a father and a son.

Mr. G.D.A. Coombs, who researched the Coombs name from 1912 to 1945 and whose unpublished manuscript is on file at the N.E. Gen. and Hist. Soc., states the following in regards to a colonial Plymouth Court Order. "The Plymouth colony records contain a very curious court order "In reference to the two daughters of Mr. Francis Combe, who are left, the one named Deborah Combe, the other named Marcye Combe, the youngest left with Andrew Ringe and Lettice Ringe, his wife, who is grandmother, thereunto and the other, the eldest, left with John Morton, who is her "unkle thereunto."

Mr. Coombs asks the question, why was it that in making disposition of the children of Francis Combes, the Court regarded only the two children known to have been born to a first wife, the other children by the second wife, clearly survived and their mother remarried March 5th, 1684, to one David Wood and continued the inn business of her late husband, Francis Combes, so the children by the first wife really had a home of their own legally. If, not, then why were not the other children placed by the Court also? No date is known of Francis Coombs first marriage, are we to assume that he was married for the first time at the age of 42? Mr. Coombs continues on to say, any one familiar in any way with the customs of those times, consider it extremely unlikely. It was felt by Mr. Coombs, that Francis could have married much earlier than generally thought and the sons of this marriage could be of an age to "shift for themselves"

Boston Transcript, under initials C.T.G. Jan. 20, 1916

"It would seem to the writer, that it would not be impossible that Francis was married earlier and had sons."

It is generally conceded by genealogists that Francis Combe

married Deborah Morton, however, it is in this writer's opinion that it was to the junior Francis Combe, instead of the senior. The American Gen. and Biographical Index, states Francis Combes of Newtown, L.I., was born near 1647 and Davis in his Landmarks of Plymouth, states Deborah Morton was born after 1650, therefore the age would be compatible between the two and certainly reasonable to have two daughters born, one in the middle of May 1673, by the name of Deborah and the other, Marsy Combs, born Jan. 3rd 1674. When one takes in to consideration, these two girls were not the step daughters of Mary Barker Pratt, the second wife, the Court Order, is entirely reasonable, as it was an entirely different family. It is felt this court order clearly establishes there was a son to Francis Combe of Plymouth and Middleboro, more than any other one thing. Riker in his Annals of Newtown, Long Island states, Francis Combe, was invited to go there in 1679 and this was also stated in the reference, ~~Jan's~~ Bergen of N.J. It was probably felt by him, two small girls should be with their mother's family instead of going with their father to a new frontier. Also it would seem unlikely a girl of 18 would marry a man a generation older than she was, when colonial history reveals the age of the man and the woman usually never varied more than one or two years.

Historians have blended the two Francis Combs into one individual. This is quite evident when Weston in his History of Middleboro, states on page 39 "Francis Combe was the owner of Lots 185 and 186 in the South Purchase and in the same book on page 616, he gives the proprietors of the South Purchase. Lots were drawn and affixed to each proprietors name. The lottery was at the home of Isaac Howland, in Middleborough on Tuesday, the 17th day of May 1698. Francis Combe Sr. died Dec. 31, 1682.

Weston states very few of the men who were extensive land owners lived in Middleboro. They lived in other places, without changing their legal residences. In Plymouth County Deeds, there were land transactions from the daughters of Mary Barker Pratt, from 23 May 1706 to 19 July, 1718 and there was no mention of a South Purchase owned by their father Francis Coombs, which would have been listed, if he had been the owner. Those signing the deeds were Mercy and Samuel Barrows (Marcy was the name of the child in the court order, not Mercy), John Miller Junior by Mark and Lydia Miller, by mark, Ebenezer Bennett, Ruth Bennett and Nathan Howland and Frances Howland by mark.

The were two original Proprietors listed for the Sixteen Shilling Purchase, by the name of Francis Combe. One was assigned Lot # 35 and the other was assigned Lot # 66.

In the Boston Transcript, dated Sat. Feb. 3, 1940 # 9755 another researcher feels Francis Combe had a son when he states:

"Francis Combe of New Plymouth, yoeman, sells to Edward Gray for 95 pounds several plots, including "my own dwelling house" and "all the right unto a Lott graunted to my father, Mr. John Combe, by the town of Plymouth in 1641. It would appear from the number of parcels conveyed, that Francis Combe sold

to Edward Gray, for 95 pounds, about all the land he then owned. The date was Dec. 31, 1668. On this same date, in a deed, Edward Gray, sells to Francis Combe of Plymouth, for 36 pounds "my 3 shares or lots westward to Namasackett River and also on the same date, Edward Dotey, of Plymouth, for ten pounds sells to Francis Combe of same, land on the westerly side of of Namasackett River. If this had been an excahange of lands between Edward Gray and Francis Combe, it would have been proper and customary to record that fact. As cash considerations were apparently paid in both deeds and also in the one from Dotey, it is conceivable that perhaps this was not an exchange, but a deed from one Francis Combe to Edward Gray and a deed from Edward Gray to another and a different person, Francis Combe. It would be entirely possible for the one to be the father of the other, and in deed, for the father to have made possible the purchase by his son, through a gift of part of the money he got for his holdings.

Francis Combe, the son of John Combe, could be 38 in 1668 and if married at an early date, could have a son 17 or 18. If we are to assume that the Francis, who died in Middleboro, 1682, is the same person, as the son of John of Plymouth, we then have to believe, at the probable age of 42, married in 1672, as his first wife, Deborah Morton, a girl not over twenty at the time and further, that he had to live alone at Rocky Nook from 1656 to 1668 and later at Namasackett, from 1669 to 1672, before his marriage.

It is curious no Sr. or Jr. has been connected with the name, but it is highly significant, that there was, as in the list of Proprietors of the Liberties of Middleberry, taken 1677, the name of Francis Combe, carried two propria-tions and again in the list of original proprietors of the 16 Shilling Purchase, where the name appears twice, one as holder of lot 35 and again as holder of lot 66, no other name is duplicated.

And, in 1695, 13 years after the death of Francis Combes, the names appears on a list of Inhabitants and Proprietors of Middleboro. This as I understand, it does not necessarily mean that the Francis of the list was a resident, but only would indicate that he was living.

The foregoing is an outline of a theory, on which much researcy has been made. Further extention of the above theory is available, together with a mass of references for all statements herein made.

Signed W.L.H.W.
Boston Transcript.Feb. 2-1940

All those that were researching the Combs name in the Boston Transcript, were of the same opinion. It was felt that Francis not only could have had more children by a first family, but a family of five would not be unusual, considering the birth records of his second marriage.

Colonial Lists by Pierce, gives the following information that shows further, that there were two by the name of Francis Combe in Massachusetts.

- 1674- Francis Combe, selectman in Middleborough, Plymouth County.
- 1674 Francis Combe, selectman of Swansea, Bristol County.

Francis Combe, Sr. married second, Mary Barker, Pratt, daughter of John and Anna (Williams) Barker of Duxbury and widow of Samuel Pratt, who was killed in the Indian fight at Pawtucket, March 26, 1676, leaving a son Samuel Pratt, born Nov. 15, 1670. She married third March 5, 1684, David Wood of Middleboro and had a son, John, March 12, 1686, David, March 29, 1688 and a third child July 1, 1691.

No record is available of the marriage date of Francis Combe and Mary Barker Pratt, but Francis died Dec. 31, 1682, which is shown in the records of Plymouth. Years after his death, his daughters, who were all married, were involved in a real estate transaction involving real estate which belonged to their "honoured father, Francis Combs, deceased and now in the possession of our "hondred" mother, Mary Wood," who was to have one fifth during her natural life. There were many transaction between the years 1706 and 1713 and all signed by Samuel and Mercy Barrow, John and Lydia Miller, Ebenezer and Ruth Bennett, and Nathan and Frances Howland. All signed but the Millers and Frances Howland, who made their marks. Lydia, was born May 8, 1679 and married Feb. 12, 1701 to John Miller and died March 6, 1735. Ruth was born March 12th, 1681 and married Ebenezer Bennett, August 26, 1703. Frances was born Jan. 6th 1682 and married Nathan Howland- Marriage and birth date of Mercy is unknown. No mother's name is given for any of the daughters in the Middleboro Mass. vital records. The child that was placed in the Morton home in the court order in 1682 was named Marcy not Mercy.

References

Rec. Col. New Plymouth
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38 to 40 551- 621-622 and 616
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FRANCIS COMBE, NEWTOWN, LONG ISLAND

In 1679, a gift of land was granted to Francis Combe, to induce him to settle in Long Island and ply his trade, for the convenience of the settlement. The date of this invitation was 1679.

The benefit of attracting into their society skillful mechanics and men of useful professions was the ambition of the inhabitants of Newtown and Riker in his Annals of Newtown states the "dominie" of these men were from New England."

From the year 1682 to 1692, there were numerous real estate transactions in Newtown and Jamaica Townships. Theophilus Phillips and Francis Combs, both married the daughters of Ralph Hunt and in April 1684, they exchanged property, Theophilus Philips, married Anna and Francis Combe, married Mary Hunt.

According to the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America, Ralph Hunt, was a son of Thomas Hunt, born about 1588. His son, Lt. Ralph Hunt, was born in London England and came to America in 1635, he then emigrated to Long Island in 1652. He was also one of the party who purchased the land later known as Newtown, L.I. His share of the purchase was one pound and he called the township Middleborough. January 7th, 1662, he was chosen one of seven men to conduct the affairs of the town. It would seem by calling the new purchase, Middleborough, emigration was probably from the same name in Massachusetts. In 1663, Middleborough was changed to Hastings and in 1665, Governor Nicholl again changed the name to be known as Newtown. It could be that Ralph Hunt, was the one that did the "inviting" to Francis Combe, to come to Long Island. However, Ralph Hunt, died in 1677 and Francis Combe, came to Long Island in 1679. His will was dated Jan. 12, 1676 and it would seem his daughter, Mary, wasn't married on this date, as he mentions no grandchildren, as he did with her sister, Anna. For Anna's three children, he gave them each a sheep and for his daughter, Mary, "I doe give her two cows, six sheep and the feather bed I now lye on. In a codicil, Jan. 13, 1678, he wanted Anna's red coat, she has in her possession to be valued and one half given to my daughter, Mary.-

It wasn't until the month of September, 1686, that the inhabitants were fully agreed on the new charter and Francis Combe, is listed as a pantentee. He is also listed in the census of Newtown L.I. in Aug. 1698 as Francis Combe, with a family os six."

He left a will, dated April 26, 1699 and proven, May 23, 1700, in Jamaica, Long Island. "Lands equally to sons Francis and Thomas. Wife Mary to have a third of the personal, the rest to my four daus. Elizabeth, Rachel, Mary and Ann, when they are of age or marry. Wife Mary, sole exx. Overseers: Content Titus and Mr. John Coe. Wits. Thomas Morrell, Samuel Ketcham and Wm. Gleane. The will was found in the book of deeds in the Register's Office at Jamaica N.Y as no separate books were provided for recording of wills.

Children

1. Francis
2. Thomas