

## berkshire family history association, inc.

P.O. Box 1437 Pittsfield, MA 01202

Dear Mr Porters

Please excuse this form letter. Our Research Service is staffed solely by volunteers and we are attempting to answer queries as efficiently as possible.

If, in the case of your particular query, no relevant data was found in the course of our search, we are nevertheless enclosing a copy of the worksheet in order that you will have a record of the sources examined in our attempt.

We hope that the enclosed information will prove valuable to you. We are pleased to have you as a member of our Association and hope your membership will prove advantageous to you, both now and in the future.

Stadys M. Ling

Berkshire Family History Association

(raer)

Dear MoParter, There is not much information on the Caney family of Mr. Fachingson There plem to be Carely in nearly Butchess Co. A. 4. & this family may have came from there. The Trashington arean't seem to have markinge preases before 1840. - though you Could Thank the Taron Clerk, Thomas Furcht (4/3) 528-4971 - all tel-nip & names, etc of Town Clerks, Probate office & Rejisteds of Seeks are en incide of back Court of Summer 1992 Del 13 hos of the Berkshise Generly st: (blue cover) as Shepare had no care on the Cavey family probably there is no probate as they may have moned away. The dieds pre 1790 for Berlshen Co are in the Pittefield legistry these after 1790 in the Great Barrington Registry. Athenit the Caneys may be one of Than eluciae families. The aunt falusin of mine Samily the seeking info-level must really finding out for much seeking info-level must have better tuck out to the seeks the fram fouthern burkshire teached to came from My as Cs. married a Carey and prime member of the anything else can helf you with let me trace Sladys Teng

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Berkshire Genealagist Val 10 No 3 Pageg 3

## MASSACHUSETTS MIGRANTS TO MICHIGAN - SOME ADDENDA

[In our recent series of articles, taken from the Elmer I. Shepard Collection, we listed several hundred persons, born in western Massachusetts, and who subsequently moved to Michigan. In response to the listing for Hiram Covey, Donald P. Avery, 3712 Bent Branch Road, Falls Church, VA 22041 has provided us with the following biography, taken from the HISTORY OF OAKLAND COUNTY, MICHIGAN (1877).]

Hiram Covey was born at Mt. Washington, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, January 17, 1802. He remained there until 1814, and then removed to Oswego County, New York, where he continued to reside until 1837. That year he removed to Livingston County, Michigan and settled in the village of Brighton. On the 1st of resided.

In early life Mr. Covey was apprenticed to a carpenter and joiner, subsequently worked at the trade, and was eminently successful. He has for many years been a farmer, having had a farm in Lyon of two hundred and ten acres, one hundred and eighty acres of which he cultivated up to within a few years. He has spend his idle time.

November 1, 1827, he was married to Hannah Fuller, at Dutchess County, New York, by Rev. John Culver. She was born in Columbia County, New York. March 15, 1802.

The family record is as follows: - Juliet, born August 2, 1828, married George W. Button, Esq., March 17, 1846; Hiram S. born March 31, 1830, married Margaret Marlatt, November 11, 1855; Nelson F., born January 25, 1832, married Harriet Curtis, January 1, 1856; Leonora, born August 20, 1833, married John T. Andrews, April 20, 1853; Mary E., born January 17, 1835, married George W. Pennell, July 16, 1857; Frances A., born October 31, 1840, married John R. Sherman; Sarah, born October 13, 1843, married George M. Tucker, December 20, 1861. These all reside in the State, several of them in this County.

#### NEWS RELEASE

STONE WALLS is a quarterly publication containing forty pages of folklore, diaries, pictures, old letters and genealogical queries relating to the Pioneer Valley and Berkshire Hills, Massachusetts towns. For further info call Grace Wheeler (413)-667-3438 or write Stone Walls, Box 85, Huntington, MA 01050.

Berlehine Generlageet

## INHABITANTS OF MOUNT WASHINGTON, MASS (Tauconnack Mt.) IN 1786

The following list was copied by Elmer I. Shepard in 1944 from Berkshire Probate #1347A - the estate of Benjamin Osborn. Among the papers of the estate is this list of debts due decedent Osborn. As Osborn was evidently the town blacksmith, the list may be of value as indicating many of the inhabitants in that year. Inventory was made in November, 1786. Names marked with an asterisk were deemed to be uncollectible.

John Barnard James Barnes Peleck Benjamin Elisha Berto Ebenezer Blackman Nathaniel Butler Robert Cambell Benjamin Covey Renjamin Daly Gershom Derling Daniel Dibell John Dibell Samuel Dibell Elias Fraconborough Abraham Graham Thadeus Holbert\*

Japheth Hunt Thomas Jones Adam Kilmer John King John King, Jr. John Lee Samuel Messenger\* Stephen Monson Daniel Osborn Ransib? Osborn Reuben Osborn Stephen Osborn\* Andrew Paterson Job Pickit Andrew Race George Roberson

William Roberson
Joseph Robins\*
John Ruff
Phillip Ruff
Alin Sage
James Smith
Jonah Smith
(Town Clerk)
John Tremin
Widow Vanvolconborough\*
Pierce Walters
Robert Williams
Amos Woodin
John Wright

#### EARMARKS AS GENEALOGICAL TOOLS

[See also issues 9-2-41, 9-3-69 and 10-1-29]

The following earmark registrations are from New Ashford, Mass.

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## HISTORY OF

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY,

MASSACHUSETTS,

---WITH---

Biographical Sketches of its Prominent Men.

VOLUME I.

New York: J. B. BEERS & CO., 36 Vesey Street.

1885.



#### CHAPTER XIII.

## TOWN OF MOUNT WASHINGTON.

BY H. F. KEITH, C. E.

Geographical and Descriptive.—First Settlers.—Roads.—First Meetings of Proprietors.—Incorporation,—Town House and Church.—Schools,—Mills and Manufactories.—The Rebellion.—Summer Visitors.

CCATED in the extreme southwest corner of Berkshire county, and rising in noble grandeur above the valley of the Housatonic, is Mount Everett, or Bald Mountain, rising 2,000 feet above the valley, or 2,624 feet above tide water, and flanked by a short range of mountains extending north and south. Behind them, about four miles to the west, is another range, along the State line of New York, of nearly equal height above the Harlem Railroad which skirts their western base.

Between these two ranges, which form the boundaries of the town, there is an elevated area from two to three miles in width, from east to west, and seven in length, from north to south. This town among the clouds, as it were, is not only rich in picturesque scenery, but has an eventful and interesting history. Its location and height of 1,000 feet above the neighboring towns place it in a disadvantageous position as a business center, but as a popular summer resort no town in Berkshire county is so favorably situated. It is accessible from New York city and vicinity by means of the Harlem and other railroads, to Copake, 104 miles from New York, and a very pleasant drive of three miles up the mountain.

Its business is wholly agricultural, and the keeping of summer boarders. Many of the farmers are far better off than would be expected in such a location.

Who was the first white settler, when he came, and where he was located, are now lost in obscurity; but there is good evidence that several families were living here as early as 1730, if not earlier, for settlements were begun in the adjoining town of Salisbury in 1720, and the Dutch from New York had already pushed their settlements into the Housatonic

valley. In the report to the Massachusetts Legislature of a committee in 1753, in a list of settlers then living west of Sheffield, with a statement of their improvements, time of occupation, etc., are found the following names, most of whom, if not all, were residents on this mountain:

Names.	No. houses,	No. nerves im- proved.	No. bbis, sy- der.	No. yours in possession.	No. years cul- tivated by any person.
Christopher Brazee. John Hallenbeck, son. Michael "father. Andrew Race. Josiah Loomis. James Van Deusen.	1 1 1 1 1	20 60 60 80	9 9 6	15 17 18 16 9	26 60 30 26 9

The number of years of occupation previous to 1753, given by these persons over 130 years ago, indicate a much earlier settlement than is generally supposed; but when we consider the adventurous spirit of our ancestors, the proximity of this territory to the early settlements along the Hudson River valley, its natural facilities for protection and isolation from the Indians, who were generally more numerous in the Housatonic valley, it is not improbable that the earliest settlements of Berkshire county were within its limits.

About this time, 1752, we find abundant evidence of settlements from the voluminous correspondence and petitions of these and other inhabitants to the Massachusetts government on the one hand, and of Robert Livingston to the government of New York, and the correspondence between the two governments in relation to a continual border war that existed between them and Mr. Robert Livingston for many years thereafter: Livingston's grant from the governor of New York in 1715 including about one third of the present town.

During these title and boundary disputes, the line between the States of Massachusetts and New York not then having been established, many men were carried to the jails at Albany and Springfield by the respective disputants, and one William Race was shot dead by the Livingston party, April 14th, 1755, in the easterly part of the town, probably near Race Mountain, which may have taken its name from him.

May 7th, 1757, Livingston's party burned and destroyed the houses of Jonathan Darby, Andrew Race, Christian Hallenbeck, Christopher and Henry Brazee, and Simon Burton, who fled to the Housatonic settlements for protection.

November 27th, 1753, the following petition was presented to the General Court:

"Petition praying that your honors in your Great Wisdom and in your wonted Goodness, would be Pleased for to setel us in our Possessions, or, if not, for to make

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he was t several tlements Dutch asatonic a Grant of Land to us in a Place to the East of Taghknack (Columbia county) and to the west of Sheffield, to wit in the mountain, where there is a valley of Land Lying betwene two Great mountains, and may contain a few famileys, Even to that number as to make a small Parish: but it will cost a Great Deal of time to make a road in to the mountain on both side, or to Deal with your Poor subjects as in your Great wisdom and wonted Goodness shall think fitt, and we, your Poor Petitioners, as in Duty bound Shall Ever Pray.

"Josiah Loomis, George Robinson, Jan Hollenback, Jacob Loomis, Joseph

Orlcutt, Michael Hollenback." This petition was not granted.

March 15th, 1757, Benjamin Kaukewenakonaunt, sachem, and Mauhanwee Hunter, both of Stockbridge, in consideration of £261 New York money, in hand paid, conveyed to seventy-nine persons, residents of Mount Washington and the adjoining towns, "one certain large Tract of Land, situate and being within the county aforesaid, bounding south on the south Bound Line of the said Province; North on a line drawn parallel to said line seven miles distant from said province Line, which is on the Township sold to Robert Noble and others; in part east on the Great mountain called Taconock Mountain (that is the steep Mountain); West on a Line to be drawn parallel to Hudson River, at twelve Miles distant from said River, &c." Of these seventy-nine purchasers the following appear to have been residents at the time of the purchase, viz.: Christopher and Henry Brasie, Simon Barten (or Barton), Jonathan Darby, Benjamin Franklin, Daniel Webster, Michel and John Halenbach, father and son, Christian Halenbach, Jacob and Josiah Loomis, Joseph Paine, George Robinson, Andries or Andrew Race, William Race, jr., Elezer Stockwell, Jacob Van Gilder, James Van Deusen, Thomas Wollcot, Simon Willard, William Webb.

In a tax list of Egremont, of 1761 (with which Mount Washington voted previous to its incorporation), the following names are given as mountain men: Nathan Benjamin, Joseph Benedict, Francis Belud, John Dibble, James H. Dosser, Jacob Fosbrey, Samuel Griffin, Silas Howard, Charles Miller, David McQuire, Nathan McQuire, Ruben McQuire, Benjamin Osborn, Joseph Osborn, Jonathan Ozbon, Widow Shaw, Philip Welch, Thomas Wolcut, John Wright. This indicates a considerable change in ownership in four years, but when we consider that the former residents were pioneers or squatters, that the lands were first surveyed into lots in 1759-60, and assigned to residents, and that the houses of many of the first named had just been burned and pulled down by the Livingston party, it is not improbable.

In 1757 the proprietorship was organized by the choice of Jonathan Darby as clerk, which office he held for ten years or more. He probably lived some three quarters of a mile north of Sky Farm, as he sold a lot there in 1764, and removed farther down the mountain into Egremont.

Most of the roads now in use, with slight changes, were laid out as early as 1760, with the exception of the Bashabish and one or two cross roads. An old road, now impassable, from the Lee place, now P. C. Columbia county) and valley of Land Lying Even to that number to make a road in to as in your Great wisgetitioners, as in Duty

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Garrett's, on the west side of Plantin Pond, to Bear's Rock, was in use as early as 1780. They were all originally laid out four rods wide, but were reduced to three in 1820, with the exception of that from Bear Rock to the Sheffield Line, which is still four.

The early town records, and probably the first proprietors' book, were destroyed at the burning of the town clerk's house some twenty years

since

November 5th, 1778, the first recorded meeting in the second proprietor's book was held at the house of Stephen Bump, which stood near the boarding house of Henry P. Weaver. At this meeting "John Dibble was chosen moderator; John Hulett, proprietor's clerk; and Captain John King and Peter Woodin a committee to receive the money of the proprietors, and apply it to the General Court to secure the lands to the proprietors, or to employ some trusty hand to do the service for them. Voted to call the place Mount Washington."

At a meeting March 1st, 1779, at the vacant house of Mr. Samuel Dibble, "Lieut. John Dibble was chosen moderator, Mr. Samuel Dibble, clerk; Charles Patterson, Capt. John King, Mr. Wm. Campbell, and Sergt. John Woodin a com to take care of the minister and school lots, clear them from incumbrances, let them out and oversee the undivided lands; and Lieut. John Dibble, Chas. Patterson, and Capt. Robert Campbell a com to as-

sist John King and Peter Woodin chosen at the last meeting."

These two meetings were just previous to its incorporation as a town, June 21st, 1779.

Of the doings of the town from its incorporation to 1796 but little is known, as the town records embracing that interval were lost. Charles Patterson was the first town clerk, and the town furnished soldiers for the Revolutionary war. Colonel Elisha Sheldon, a distinguished cavalry officer of that war, was a land owner from 1760 to 1788, and possibly a resident of the town.

Previous to 1806 the inhabitants appeared to have held their meetings at private houses, school house, and barns. Rev. Benjamin Abbott, a Methodist preacher, said that in 1789 he preached at Esquire King's to a fine congregation, considering the place, and had a precious time. Rev. John Culver, in 1791, preached there frequently in dwellings, school house, and barns, and in 1801 the noted Lorenzo Dow preached there.

April 7th, 1806, the town voted "to build a meeting house 24 by 30 feet," and chose "Fenner King, David Booth, and William Lee a committee to oversee the work, and that they proceed to build this spring, and that said house be free for all religious sects not intruding upon each other's appointments." At a subsequent meeting \$284 were appropriated for the building, and it was used September 6th, 1806, for a town meeting. It stood at the west end of the cross road leading west from the present church. The pulpit was not built until 1808, and there were no seats until 1818. About that time the funds derived from the letting of the minister's lot were divided among the Methodists, Presbyterians,

Universalists, and Baptists. The funds derived from the sale of the minister's lot yield an income of about \$70, which is under the control of the town, and is now generally appropriated for the benefit of the new Congregational society, organized December 11th, 1874. The present church was dedicated November 24th, 1869. It was built at a cost of \$2,700, contributed by the townspeople, the benevolent people of Berkshire, and the American Congregational Union. Mr. H. H. Van Dyke, assistant U. S. Treasurer, furnished the bell; Rev. Dr. Gale, of Lee, procured the funds for the pulpit and painting; and he and Rev. Winthrop H. Phelps, of South Egremont, were active in procuring the erection of the building.

A Congregational church was organized here October 6th, 1831; but by deaths and removals it became extinct.

The old town house and church went to decay. In 1876 a new town house was erected.

The Methodists had the earliest church organization here, but the society is now practically extinct.

The first recorded appropriation for schools was in 1800, when \$60 were divided between two districts. There were three districts in 1809, when the town had its largest population, but there are only two now.

At an early day there were saw mills in various parts of the town. There is now only one, which is but little used. There was formerly also a grist mill, but none now. In 1837 there was a forge for the manufacture of bar iron, and an axe factory at what is now called the City; and in 1845, shovels, spades, forks, hoes, and castings were made there; but all this business was abandoned about 1850.

The patriotism of the people in Mount Washington was fully equal to that of the other towns in Berkshire county during the Civil war of 1861-5. The town furnished more than its quota of men and contributed liberally of money. The patriotic ladies of the town contributed many comforts and luxuries for the soldiers in the field.

The increasing annual influx of summer boarders in Mount Washington seems to indicate the dawning of a new era of prosperity for the town. Its population in 1880 was 205.

One of the most popular summer resorts is the "Alandar," Frank S. Weaver, proprietor. This house, formerly called the "South End," is now (1885) in its eighth season. It has accommodations for fifty guests and is a deservedly popular resort for those seeking rest, health, and pleasure among the mountains of old Berkshire. The post office address of the proprietor is Copake Iron Works, N. Y.

# A HISTORY OF MOUNT WASHINGTON, MASSACHUSETTS



By Evelyn Shearn

## BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW

VOLUME XXXI

CONTAINING LIFE SKETCHES OF LEADING CITIZENS OF

## BERKSHIRE COUNTY

### MASSACHUSETTS

Who among men art thou, and thy years how many, good friend? - XENOPHANES

BOSTON BIOGRAPHICAL REVIEW PUBLISHING COMPANY 1899

Just = few lems in 16.

# HISTORY OF TACONIC

## MOUNT WASHINGTON

BERKSHIRE COUNTY

MASSACHUSETTS

ITS LOCATION, SCENERY AND HISTORY

FROM 1692 TO 1892

TO BE PUBLISHED IN SERIAL NUMBERS

Number Two will contain names of the early settlers, 1692 to 1752, and the beginning of the contest for possession with Robert Livingston.

BY HERBERT F. KEITH

BERESURE COURSER PRINT Great Barrington Mass. 1912

## HISTORIC HOMES AND INSTITUTIONS

AND

## Genealogical and Personal Memoirs

# BERKSHIRE COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS.

EDITED BY

#### ROLLIN HILLYER COOKE.

GENEALOGIST, AUTHOR OF "PICTURESQUE BERKSHIEE COUNTY," MEMBER OF THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY, AND SECRETARY OF THE BERKSHIRE COUNTY CHAPTER, MASSACHUSETTS SOCIETY, Sons of the American Revolution.

"And so it is, too, with family recollections. To have had forefathers renowned for honorable deeds, to belong by nature to those who have bravely borne their part in life and refreshed the world with mighty thoughts and healthy admiration, is a privilege which it were mean and self-willed to despise. It is as a security given for us of old. which it were falsehearted not to redeem; and in virtues bred of a noble stock, mellowed as they are by reverence, there is often a grace and ripeness wanting to self-made and brand-new excellence. Of like value to a people are heroic national traditions, giving them a determinate character to sustain among the tribes of men, making them familiar with images of great and strenuous life, and kindling them with faith in glorious possibilities."—Martineau.

#### ILLUSTRATED

VOLUME I

NEW YORK :: CHICAGO THE LEWIS PUBLISHING CO. None in inter

TOMBSTONE INSCRIPTIONS in

SOUTHERN BERKSHIRE TOWNS,

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MONTERRY.

and MOUNT WASHINGTON.

Compiled

by

FIRST RESISTANCE CHAPTER, N.S.D.A.R.

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PASSACFUSETTS.

Typed

by

Elsie M.Huntley,
Genealogical Records Committee.
1942.