

Peters, Query

6-5-95

Answered by  
Phone 6-5-95.  
Probably no connection.

6021 Summerdale Drive  
Huntington Beach CA 92647-5524  
2 June 1995

Dear Raymond,

Saw your query re: HENRY PETERS in the current issue of NEXUS and felt I should drop you a note and tell you that I am also searching for a Henry Peters, and in doing so have compiled quite a notebook of early New England Peters families...but I don't have an exact answer for you as such, but I do have this much:

Henry Peters, of Brookfield MA (Quobauge 1673, was incorporated in 1718 from "Western, Warren, New Braintree and North Brookfield"), had a wife Captivity.

Children: Aron/Aaron born 16 Jan 1711 Brookfield, Worcester Co. MA

Asahel/Asel/Acel born 20 Sep 1711 Brookfield, probably married Martha ( ),  
by 1736 and had children Mary 1738, Martha 1741 and Hannah 1744.

Moses born 16 Mar 1716 Brookfield.

Dorothy born 2 Jul 1719.

Also, in the Brookfield Vital Records (to 1850), was Captivity Peters who married 29 June 1742 Samuel Rogers, Worcester Co. (which was part of Middlesex Co.)

If she was the widow or daughter of Henry Peters, I could not determine.

Please let me know only if you come up with more information. The Henry I am searching could well be the same, as he, too, was a soldier, supposedly from Suffolk Co. MA (Boston area?) and he died up in Maine at Broad Bay 1763 and left a son Philip, underage, to pick his own guardian, Benjamin Johnson of Woburn MA (Middlesex Co. Court Records). Philip was born about 1747, married 1768 at Wilmington, MDX Co. MA to Susannah Lewis (1746-1801), served in the Revolutionary War in Capt. Isaac Farwell's Company 1776, was at Woburn MA 1790 census, and still living in 1805.

If I can be of any help to you, I live in Huntington Beach and my phone is 847-8341. After June 28th I will be in So. Hamilton MA for the summer, so you can write me there at Box 2606, So. H., MA 01982 if you need me to check vital records.

Sincerely,



Mary Jane Sanborn Lewis

Peters

GNLTR 280

June 8, 1995

Mary Friedlander  
8520 N. Fielding Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Dear Mary:

I was so pleased to receive a letter from someone actually researching my family instead of those fishing (hoping) for a connection based on surname alone. I did receive one other letter from someone who at least had a reasonable chance of being related. She lives in my area so I called her. She turned out to be a member of our local genealogical society, who I was not acquainted with, but her Henry Peters died in Maine probably 30 years after mine. We had a nice long chat, but that's all.

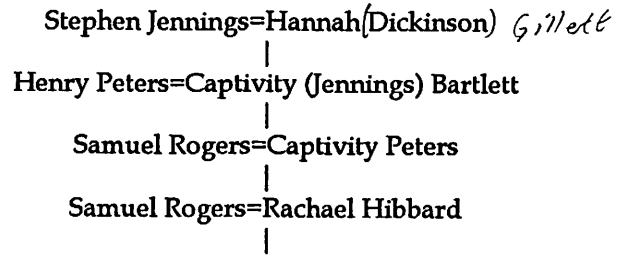
Quite by accident, I discovered last summer that Captivity Peters, my ancestor, was Captivity Jennings. I was back in Westerly, Rhode Island on a research trip when I ran across an account of the Wade-Jennings epic and realized that this child born in Canada was my grandma (I'd have to count on my fingers to figure out which one now). I'd been looking for her and writing queries in vain for about five years. I now have irrefutable proof that Captivity, daughter of Stephen Jennings had an illegitimate child before she married Abijah Bartlett, That she married Abijah Bartlett, and that she married Henry Peters after Abijah Bartlett was killed by Indians. (I counted in the descendency below: Captivity I is my 7gr-grandmother.)

Like you, I have been totally baffled by the ancestry of Stephen Jennings. I find it incredible that anyone could get stuck in Massachusetts about 1700, when good records were being kept, but I have been stuck on Henry Peters and Samuel Rogers for years, and now Stephen Jennings for almost a year. I'm almost willing to bet that the records are there; we just don't know where to look for them. I'm going to scour Hartford, Weathersfield, and environs, because Connecticut assumed responsibility for the safety of the western Massachusetts towns in the Indian wars.

You too must have done some research to find that you are descended from Sarah Jennings. I have her born 29 August 1684 in Hatfield, but I have no information on her marriage, descendants, or death despite many references to Stephen Jennings' family in the history books. I would like to get that information from you as well as the sources to add to my database. Unless we come up with some later connection, I will probably only enter up to Sarah's children and their births, marriages, and deaths as well as those of their spouses into my computer. There's a limit on how far I can go on collaterals and still get the main lines taken care of.

I say that only because I would like any documentation citations that you have for the line that far; I'm a bug on citations. I would like to have your direct line of descent from Sarah just to see how we are related. We are cousins of some degree; it's just a matter of which degree.

Briefly, my descent from Stephen Jennings and Hannah Dickinson is as follows:



Edverdam "Verdy" Rogers=Phebe Baker  
 |  
 James Rogers=Mary Smith  
 |  
 Van Rensselaer Porter=Eliza Rogers  
 |  
 Clarence J. Porter, Sr.=Mary "May" Sutton  
 |  
 Clarence J. Porter, Jr.=Marie Irwin  
 |  
 Raymond J. Porter=Winifred Carlisle

Without taking into account the "removeds," we're about eighth cousins, give or take a couple. The Porters are descended from Robert Porter, one of the original settlers of Hartford along with the Footes, Dickinsons, etc.

Having said above that I'm a bug on citations, I must apologize for what I'm sending to you. You caught me in the middle of trying to pull together all of the information that I have on this branch of my family after a not-too-productive trip to Salt Lake City to try to get the original court records on Captivity's bastard child and to try to get more information on the family. I'm afraid that I came back with not much more than I already had. I want to compare the various sources that I have, resolve any differences, then choose the most relevant of them to cite. This may take me a little while, because I'm going on another research trip to the Brookfield area among others, but they will be updated and I will send you the updated versions.

I'm enclosing the rough FGSs mentioned above for all of the connections that I have to Stephen Jennings. You may or may not already have all of them. I will copy some citations from my bibliography below, in case you have not seen all of them.

#### Dickinson Family

Dickinson, Edward M. *A New England Epic. The Descent of Capt. Richard Dickinson*. Milford, NH: Author, 1945.

Has "ancestry" of Nathaniel; copied 4-19-95  
 FHL SLC

Dickinson, Frederick, comp. *To the Descendants of Thomas Dickinson, son of Nathaniel and Anna Gull Dickinson ...* Chicago: Author, 1897.

Some information on Nathaniel Dickinson and his children other than Thomas. Only Thomas line followed down 1-6-95.  
 NEHGS Loan (Copied parts)

Dickinson, Miss Addie M., comp. *Descendants of Nathaniel Dickinson*. N.p.: The Dickinson Assn., 1955.

Connects Nathaniel-John-Hannah; copied. Does not follow Hannah Jennings line 4-19-95.  
 FHL SLC

Dickinson, Philip Pease. *The Dickinson Family Genealogy ... from 820 A.D. to 1971*. N.p.: Author, 1971.

Copied 4-19-95.  
 FHL SLC

Dickinson, Philip Pease. *The Dickinson Family Genealogy, Nine Charts Covering 37 Generations from 820 A.D. to the Present*. N.p.: Author, 1971.

Copied 4-19-95.  
 FHL SLC

Smith, Dr. Elinor V., comp. *Descendants of Nathaniel Dickinson*. N.p.: The Dickinson Fam. Assoc., 1978.  
Copied part 4-19-95.  
FHL SLC

#### Foote Family

Foote, Abram W. *Foote Family, Comprising the Genealogy and History of Nathaniel Foote of Wethersfield, Conn. and his Descendants ...* Rutland, VT: 1907 (Reprint Baltimore: GPC, 1984)  
Foote, Dickinson, Jennings families (7-7-94).  
CT St Lib (Copied parts)

Dickinson, Philip Pease. *The Dickinson Family Genealogy ... from 820 A.D. to 1971*. N.p.: Author, 1971.  
Copied 4-19-95.  
FHL SLC

Goodwin, Nathaniel. *The Foote Family; or the Descendants of Nathaniel Foote, ...* Hartford: Author, 1849.  
Relatives 1-6-95.  
NEHGS Loan (Copied parts)

#### Jennings Family

Jennings, James R. *The Jennings Family of Haddonfield*. Phoenix, AZ: Author, 1967.  
Mentions our Stephen, but no connection 4-19-95.  
FHL SLC

{12 more citations; all "No connection"}

#### Massachusetts

Bailey, Frederic W., Ed. *Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800*. Reprint Baltimore: GPC, 1968.  
HB Lib (Copied Baker, Hibbard, Peters, Rogers)

Blake, Francis E. *Worcester County, Massachusetts, Warnings, 1737-1788*. Worcester, MA: Systematic Hist. Fund, 1899 (Reprint Camden, ME: Picton Press, 1992).  
Contains Samuel Rogers, Captivity Peters, and children; also Aaron and Moses Peters.  
(11-30-92)  
RJP Lib

Boltwood, Luciusa M., comp. *Genealogies of Hadley Families, ...* Baltimore: GPC, 1979.  
Contains many relatives 1-6-95.  
NEHGS Loan (Copied much)

Bridenbaugh, Carl, ed. *The Pynchon Papers*. Boston: Colonial Socy. of Mass., 1982.  
Mentions Dickinson, Foote, and Rogers 4-22-95.  
FHL SLC (Copied parts)

Judd, Sylvester and Lucius M. Boltwood. *History of Hadley, Including the Early History of Hatfield, South Hadley, Amherst, and Granby, Massachusetts*. Springfield, MA: H. R. Hunting & Co., 1905.  
Has Jennings, Dickinson, Waite, Bartlett; account of Captivity 7-12-94.  
Am Ant Socy (Copied parts): HB Lib (Recopied)

Roy, Louis E., M.D. *History of East Brookfield, Massachusetts, 1686-1970*. E. Brookfield: Town of E. Brookfield, 1970.  
Mentions Abijah Bartlett, Jennings family; no Henry Peters 1-6-95.  
NEHGS Loan (Copied much)

- Sheldon, George. 1636 -- Pocumtuck -- 1886. *A History of Deerfield, Massachusetts ...* (2 Vol.)  
Deerfield: MA:Pocumtuck Valley Mem. Assn., 1895 Reprint Deerfield: 1972)  
No connection (12-30-89). Hinsdale, Jennings, Dickinson, Account of Captivity (7-6-94).  
LA Lib (Copied title): Westerly Pub Lib (Copied to p. 187, selected genealogies)
- Temple, J. H. *History of North Brookfield, Massachusetts ...* Town of North Brookfield, 1887.  
Jennings, Dickinson, Bartlett, Peters, Rogers[?] Families 6-18-94.  
Brkshr Fam Hist Lib (Copied parts)
- Vital Records of Brookfield, Massachusetts to the end of the year 1849.* Worcester, MA:Rice, 1909.  
Relavent Peters, no relavent Rogers 10-22-92.  
NEHGS Lib (Copied title, Peters, Rogers)
- Vital Records of Dudley, Massachusetts to the end of the year 1849.* Worcester, MA: Rice, 1908.  
GS Film 0873747 (Copied Rogers, Hibbard, Peters)
- Vital Records of Sturbridge, Massachusetts, to the year 1850.* Boston: NEHGS, 1906.  
Relavent Hibbard, Peters, Rogers.  
HB Lib (Copied title, Hibbard, Peters, Rogers)
- Wells, Daniel White and Reuben Fields Wells. *A History of Hatfield, Massachusetts, 1660-1910.*  
Springfield, MA: Author, 1910.  
Includes several ancestral families and account of 1677 raid and Jennings-Waite  
expedition. 2-12-95.  
NEHGS Loan (Copied most)
- Whitaker, Geo. M. *Record of Births, Marriages, and Deaths of the Town of Sturbridge from the  
settlement of the town to 1816.* Southbridge, MA: Author, 1879.  
GS Film 0496523, It. 7 (Copied Rogers, Hibbard, Peters)

I didn't include those that had no connection to our families in the above extracts.

That's about all I have now. I'm leaving on my trip on the 17th, and my mail may take a while to catch up with me. If I don't reply to your letter(s) for a while, don't think that I'm ignoring you. If I can't write to you on the road, I will write when I get back and bring you up to date on what I've found (or not found). I think that we can dispense with SASEs in the future. We'd just be trading stamps and envelopes.

It's always nice to find a new cousin. Welcome to the known family.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Porter

*Porter*

*Read 7-18-95  
in Blue Book KY*

8520 North Fielding Road  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

June 28, 1995

Raymond J. Porter  
13662 Loretta Drive  
Tustin, CA 92680

Dear Raymond;

I apologize for not answering your letter sooner, but I have been trying hard to finish an article before I leave for a six weeks trip to the northern part of the state, where I have a log house in the forest. My grandchildren call it the Three Bears House, which is often true; but harmless black bears. The article is about some of my many witch ancestors, so it all fits.

My descent from Stephen Jennings is this (I use your form)

Stephen Jennings = Hannah (Dickinson) Gillette  
John Johnson = Sarah (Jennings) Hitchcock  
(Sarah first married Nathaniel Hitchcock and it is this step that I cannot prove, i.e., that the daughter of Stephen Jennings was the same Sarah Jennings as the one who married Nathaniel Hitchcock).

Abel Hall = Ruth Johnson  
James Peck = Elizabeth Hall  
Charles Peck = Elizabeth Cowley  
Edmund P. Banning = Lydia Peck  
Archibald T. Banning = Jessie Lockwood  
A.T. Banning, Jr. = Margaret Culkin  
Gardner Friedlander = Mary Banning

These are all confirmed birth and marriage through the Vital Records of the towns in the early days, and marriage and death certificates for the later ones. ( We have to use the family Bible for one)

The children of John Johnson ( he was the third John Johnson, born in New Haven, 3 Mar 1686) and Sarah Jennings are all in the Vital Records of Wallingford. They are:

Esther b. 4 May 1712  
Barbara b. 5 Feb 1714  
Damaris b. 31 Jan 1716  
Daniel b. 14 Dec 1717  
Phoebe b. 28 Apr 1720  
Jennings b. 6 Jan 1722  
Ruth b. 10 Oct 1723  
Amos b. 4 Mar 1726  
Patience b. 28 Aug 1728

It is a funny story, the way I found Sarah Jennings. I was

looking through all possible Jennings and came across the story of the kidnapping of Hannah and the birth of Captivity, and told my family, "Now that Hannah is one I want for an ancestor!" I was surprised later to find she did have a Sarah that would fill the bill as far as dates go. Also Sarah's half-sister Mary Gillette had married in Wallingford and many Foote relatives lived nearby. I was thrown off for quite a while because the Wallingford one was supposed to be a Sarah Lewis Jennings, but have found that that information stemmed from a history and genealogy of Wallingford by Curtis that is famous for its inaccuracies. Hannah's story in its entirety is the most harrowing one I know, beginning with the first child falling into the fire and burning to death. Is there any proof that Steven was killed by the Indians while haying? It would be a fitting end, but I have not seen proof.

How did you find out about the illegitimate child? I have one, not an ancestor but a close family member ...a mother dying about the same time as her three day old child, no father named. The child was pathetically named Submit and I wonder if her mother or grandparents named her; would there be any way to find out more, do you suppose?

I hope your trip turns up something about Stephen...he was really an ancestor to be proud of and I'm surprised that no one has yet found out where he came from

Sincerely,



Mary Friedlander

My mail is forward while I am gone, but I am taking an enforced vacation from my computer, for lack of room to carry it.



~~CA 44 987~~  
Peters

GNTK 287

September 17, 1995

Mary B. Friedlander  
8520 N. Fielding Rd.  
Milwaukee, WI 53217

Dear Cousin Mary:

I use that salutation on the assumption that you are indeed descended from Captivity's sister, Sarah. However, from reading your letter it is your husband who is my seventh cousin, once removed. I deduced from your lineage, the "Mrs.," and the "Mary B." that you are Mary Banning married to Gardner Friedlander. Oh well, at least we're probably related by marriage. Say hello to my cousin for me (if he's still around). The once removed applies to me; my father would be Gardner's seventh cousin if you have the right Sarah Jennings.

I envy you your log cabin in the North Woods. When I was a kid growing up in Chicago, I used to dream about living in such a cabin and hunting and trapping for a living. Come to think of it, that dream lasted into adulthood. Alas, the realities of supporting a family put an end to it.

My vacation/research trip this summer added nothing to what I have on Stephen Jennings. Despite a week digging around in Springfield, Brookfield, etc. I came up with nothing new on him, the Rogers, or the Peters. I was appalled at the quality of the people I found in charge of splendid collections and had no knowledge of what was in them. I had hoped to find people who were knowledgeable about the history of their area and had an interest in it. No such luck. If they were there, I didn't find them. I guess it's back to the LDS microfilms.

Where did you get the information that Sarah Jennings married Nathaniel Hitchcock? Wallingford is a long ways from Brookfield. I would probably try to locate Hitchcock in Brookfield, then try to trace him to Wallingford by means of town records, deeds, etc. I imagine you have already tried this without success. Probate records might give a clue that there was a widow, Sarah Hitchcock, in Wallingford. On the other hand, the Hitchcocks may have lived somewhere else, and Sarah came to live with her sister after Nathaniel's death. No doubt you've already considered these possibilities also.

As to Stephen Jennings being killed by Indians in a hayfield, the histories are indeterminate. There doesn't appear to be any question that a Stephen Jennings was killed there, but a great deal of uncertainty as to whether it was the father or his son. I tend toward it being the son, but have not formed a conclusion yet.

The information on Captivity's illegitimate child came from Louis E. Roy, M.D. *History of East Brookfield*, p 54. I'll enclose a copy of the copy of the page that I carried around all summer, trying to verify the court records. That and the home town or state of the soldiers guarding Brookfield in Queen Ann's War were my main research objectives in Massachusetts. They were also the reason I was so appalled at not being able to find someone who knew where the records were. When I can get the time, I'll sift through the LDS microfilms again. I've already eliminated one "Volume 1" of Hampshire County court records.

I'll keep you up to date if I find anything more on the Jennings.





Query

GN 17A 286

September 17, 1995

Kyra Jo Hatke  
2605 Sunrise Ave.  
Lafayette, IN 47904-2764

Dear Mary Jo:

Please excuse the long delay in answering your letter. I spent the summer traveling in my motorhome and doing research in several parts of the country. After taking care of many things that accumulated during my absence, I can now turn my attention to my correspondence.

My luck with my *Helper* ad was a little better than yours. I did receive a letter from a lady who is descended from Captivity Jennings Peters' sister. Unfortunately, she had no more information on the Jenningses than I have, and no information on Peters. At least I have a new distant cousin.

I'm afraid that I can't help you with your Peter line. My Henry Peters was born probably about 1675 in Massachusetts. I have a little information on his children, but that's all. He was probably English, but your Catharina Peter Probably was Dutch or German. The spelling of her name and being in Pennsylvania together point to that conclusion. My first guess is Dutch, but then I once found a Peter/Peters book in which the family was Dutch.

I'm enclosing a printout of the Peters family part of my annotated bibliography. Perhaps you will find a clue therein to a book that can help you. several of the families were German. Unfortunately, I didn't note the one that was Dutch.

I'm sorry that I can't be of more help.

Sincerely,

Raymond J. Porter