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**JOSEPH AND HANNAH (CLARK) COBB
OF MIDDLEBOROUGH, MASS., AND FALMOUTH, MAINE**

by Elizabeth Pearson White and Edwin Wagner Coles

By 1715 the population of Plymouth Colony had increased to such an extent that many of the grandchildren of the first Plymouth Colony settlers felt it had become too crowded. They wanted to move to the frontier of civilization to obtain free grants of land. At the very least they wanted cheaper land so they could marry and build a home for themselves and their young families. Many of them, like Joseph Cobb and his brothers, went "down east" from Middleborough and Plymouth and Barnstable to the District of York, or York County, the early names for the area that is now (became Maine in 1820) Maine. It was called "down east" because the prevailing winds along the seacoast of New England come from the west, and sailing northeast along the coast to Falmouth was usually "down wind" from Plymouth. Joseph Cobb, the subject of this article, was one of those venturesome settlers.

JOSEPH COBB, son of Jonathan² (Henry¹ Cobb) and Hope³ (Hope² [Chipman] John¹ Howland) (Huckins) Cobb, was born in Barnstable, Mass., on 24 August 1690^[1] and died between 3 May 1774 and 4 May 1786.^[2] Joseph married **HANNAH CLARK** in Plymouth, Mass., on 5 July 1716.^[3] Hannah, daughter of William and Abiah (Wilder) Clark, was born in Plymouth on 2 August 1697^[4] and died likely before 6 March 1770.^[5]

Joseph moved from Barnstable to Middleborough with his parents before 1695 and spent his boyhood there. He and his wife Hannah spent the first years of their married life in Middleborough where their two children were born.^[6] The *History of Portland* states that Joseph Cobb arrived in Falmouth, Me., with his brothers, Jonathan and Ebenezer, in 1717 or 1718, joining their oldest

1. *The Mayflower Descendant* [hereafter MD], 3: 149-50; Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins, Immigrants to New England, 1620-1833* (Boston, 1995), 1: 392-95; Amos Otis, *Genealogical Notes of Barnstable Families* (Barnstable, Mass., 1888-1890; reprint Baltimore 1979), 1: 166-79; Philip L. Cobb, *A History of the Cobb Family* (Cleveland, 1907), 78-79, in which a "probable" son, Joseph, was erroneously added to this family; Isaac Cobb, "Early History of the Cobb Family," *Mss., Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.*, 2: 347-48.

2. *Post vide*.

3. MD, 14: 38; Lee D. Van Antwerp and Ruth Wilder Sherman, eds., *Plymouth Vital Records* (Camden, Me., 1993) [hereafter *Plymouth VRs*], 91.

4. MD, 13: 203; Plymouth VR, 8; Donald Lines Jacobus, "Thomas Clarke of Plymouth and Boston, Mass.," *The American Genealogist*, 47 [1971]: 5-6.

5. *Post vide*.

6. MD, 3: 86, 233; Barbara Lambert Merrick and Alicia Crane Williams, eds., *Middleborough, Massachusetts Vital Records* (Taunton, Mass., 1986) [hereafter *Middleborough VRs*], 1: 17, 19.

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brother, Samuel Cobb, who had built the second house in Purpooduck [*now part of Cape Elizabeth*].^[7] However, Plymouth court records show that Joseph did not settle permanently in Falmouth until after June 1725, the date Nathan Howland of Middleborough was charged with "absence from worship." His friend, Joseph Cob [*sic*] of Middleborough, informed the court that the defendant "has had sickness in his family." Charges against Nathan Howland were dismissed.^[8]

On 15 February 1725/6, Joseph's father, Jonathan Cob [*sic*] of Middleborough, for love and affection, gave Joseph part of 100 acres he had purchased from Jeremiah Howes on the Tuspaquin Pond, and another parcel in Middleborough. This deed was witnessed by Jacob Tomson and Robert Macfun and was acknowledged the same day.^[9] On 13 March 1728 Joseph Cob of Falmouth, glazier, and Hannah, his wife, sold to Joseph Bennett Jr., of Middleborough, for £250, land on Tuspaquin Pond and another piece "where my dwelling house stands" in Middleborough. Witnesses were Joshua Woodbury, and John White.^[10]

Joseph and Hannah must have moved to Falmouth before they sold the property in Middleborough which had been given to Joseph by his father, for on 17 August 1727, he was officially admitted as an inhabitant of Falmouth. He was granted a house and a one-acre lot in Falmouth, 1 September 1727, on condition he build on the lot within twelve months and was not to sell it for seven years.^[11] On 9 April 1728, the town gave him a tract of land in Falmouth bounded by land owned by James Webster "and thence fronting on the highway that goes to Spurwick, thence to James Davis, and John Sawyer Jr., next a tract of land beginning at Jonathan Cobb's lot, fronting the road" and then back toward the sea, "the said Joseph Cobb taking the said tracts of land for his ten acre lot." The deed was signed by the committee, Benja Larraby, Samll Proctor and Benj. Wright.^[12] This was probably the land Joseph owned at Sandy Point and Barren Hill. Along with Joshua Woodbury, he owned half of a mill stream at Barbery Creek in Falmouth, now Cape Elizabeth, which they sold to Ebenezer Roberts on 2 April 1737. In deeds, Joseph Cobb was called yeoman and glazier. He served as a selectman, tithingman, constable, juryman and fence-viewer in Falmouth. In 1735 he was taxed as a member of the

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7. William Willis, *History of Portland, Maine*, 2: 13-14fn.; Wm. Willis, ed., *Journals of the Rev. Thomas Smith and the Rev. Samuel Deane* (Portland, 1849) [FHL #1033825], 57-58, 58fn.
 8. David Thomas Konig, ed., *Plymouth Court Records, General Sessions, 1719-1749* (Wilmington, Del., 1978) [*hereafter Plymouth Court Records*], 2: 59-60.
 9. Plymouth County Land Records, 21: 119.
 10. Plymouth County Land Records, 25: 25, acknowledged 4 April 1729.
 11. Isaac Cobb, "Early History and Genealogy of the Cobb Family," Ms., Maine Historical Society [*hereafter Cobb ms.*], 2: 347-48.
 12. Falmouth Town Records, 2: 84 [FHL #1711364].

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Second Parish (Cape Elizabeth).^[13] On 8 May 1739, Joseph Cobb, with Joshua Woodberry and Archabie Dowglass, witnessed the will of Joseph's nephew, Josiah Cobb of Falmouth, son of Jonathan Cobb.^[14]

On 1 December 1739, Joseph Cobb of Falmouth, glazier, for love and affection, gave his "dutiful children, namely my son-in-law, Joseph Strout, Jun^r, and my daughter, Hannah Strout, of Falmouth," a tract of land in Falmouth containing 30 acres, "being the southwesterly half of a 60-acre lot granted unto me by the Proprietors," on or near Barran Hill. Joseph had previously given the easterly half to Archabel Dowglas. This deed was witnessed by Joseph's older daughter, Mary Woodberry [*sic*] and her husband, Joshua. Joseph Cobb personally appeared and acknowledged this deed 9 October 1740 and it was recorded 15 October 1742.^[15]

About 1745, there was a dispute about the property in Middleborough which Joseph's father Jonathan Cobb Sr., now deceased, had owned during his lifetime. Both Joseph Cobb and his brother Jonathan were called "of Falmouth" when they gave depositions concerning their father's property. Joseph deposed that he was "aged fifty-five years" and testified to the truth of his brother Jonathan's statement saying that he [*Joseph*] was the youngest brother [*of the two*]. He added that when Jabez Wood "entered upon said meadow," he never claimed "any part below the small falls near to the place where Gershom Cobbs' fence comes to the brook."^[16]

Joseph and Hannah were living at Purpooduck in 1747. Twenty-three years later, in a deed dated 6 March 1770, Joseph Cobb of Cape Elizabeth, yeoman, for the sum of £100 lawful money, conveyed to George Deake of Cape Elizabeth, mariner, [*the son-in-law of Joseph's daughter, Mary Woodbury*^[17]], "all my lands lying in the District of Cape Elizabeth with all the buildings thereon and all my Town Rights in the Town of Falmouth, and all my Personal Estate of what Name or Nature soever. Except my Silver Tankard, the Bed on which I lodge, and my own & my wife's wearing apparel." Witnesses were Ephraim Clark and Elizabeth Clark. This deed was acknowledged 3 May 1774 and recorded 29 February 1781.^[18]

This Joseph Cobb was not mentioned in the Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771 because he no longer owned property. His wife, Hannah, may have died before Joseph made the 1770 deed because Joseph mentioned "the bed on which I lodge," but did not mention his wife, only her apparel. Joseph was

13. *Cobb ms.*, 2: 347-348.

14. York County Probate Records, 23: 81 (Josiah Cobb) [FHL #12651].

15. York County Deeds, 5: 175 [FHL #12784].

16. Plymouth County Land Records, 38: 85.

17. For Deake's ancestry, see Scott Andrew Bartley, "The Deake / Dake Family of Westerly, RI, and Their Descendants," *Rhode Island Roots*, 25 [1999]: 1-15.

18. Cumberland County Deeds, 11: 226 [FHL #10647].

living 3 May 1774 when he acknowledged the deed mentioned above, but had died before 4 May 1786, the date his nephew Joseph Cobb, son of his brother, Ebenezer Cobb, was no longer called "Jun" in court records.^[19]

No probate records were found in Maine for Joseph or Hannah Cobb. The deeds mentioned above disposed of their property to their heirs.

Children of Joseph and Hannah (Clark) Cobb born in Middleborough:^[20]

- 1 i. MARY COBB, b. 17 June 1717; m. JOSHUA WOODBURY.
- 2 ii. HANNAH COBB, b. 16 Nov. 1718; m. JOSEPH STROUT.

1. **MARY COBB**, daughter of Joseph⁴ (Joseph,³ Jonathan,² Henry¹) and Hannah (Clark) Cobb, was b. in Middleborough, Mass., on 17 June 1717^[21] and probably died in Cape Elizabeth, Cumberland Co., Me., after 15 July 1771, the date she was called "Mary Woodbury, widow," when she and her children sold land in Cape Elizabeth to her cousin, Joseph Cobb.^[22] Mary married to **JOSHUA WOODBURY/WOODBERY JR.** in Falmouth, then York Co., Me., on 7 June 1738.^[23] Joshua, son of Joshua and Sarah (Woodbery) Woodbery, was born in Beverly, Mass., on 24 April 1713^[24] and probably died before 6 March 1770, the date his father-in-law Joseph Cobb deeded all of his land in Cape Elizabeth to Mary and Joshua's daughter's husband, George Deake.^[25] He was certainly dead by 1771 when his widow was listed in the tax valuation list for Cape Elizabeth under her given name.^[26]

Joshua Woodbury came to Falmouth with his parents before 9 March 1728, the date his father was admitted as a member of the First Church in Falmouth.^[27] Joshua was mentioned by his father, Joshua Woodbury of Falmouth, in his will dated 6 July 1749, probated on 2 October 1749. He was given one-third of his father's land near the Meeting House and an equal share with his brothers and sisters in his father's farm in Beverly, Mass. Joshua Jr. and his

19. Cumberland County Deeds, 11: 226 [FHL #10647]; 16: 312-313 [FHL #10649].

20. MD, 3: 86, 233; Middleborough VRs, 1: 17, 19.

NOTE: Joseph and Hannah (Clark) Cobb did not have a son, Joseph, attributed to them as "probable," by Philip L. Cobb, *A History of the Cobb Family* (Cleveland 1907), 79.

21. MD, 1: 17; 3: 86.

22. Cumberland County Deeds, 10: 435-436 [FHL #10646].

23. Falmouth Town Records, 2: 332 [FHL #1711364]; intention dated 23 December 1737.

24. *Vital Records of Beverly, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849* (Topsfield, Mass., 1907), 1: 388; 2: 352 (surname of mother from parent's marriage); Lora A. Underhill, ed., "Woodbury Genealogy, Descendants of John and William, of England and Massachusetts" (Wakefield, Mass., typescript, 1950-1958), 1: 31, 68, 145.

25. Cumberland Deeds, 11: 226 [FHL #10647].

26. Bettye Hobbs Pruitt, ed., *Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771* (Boston, 1978) [hereafter *Mass. Tax List of 1771*], #1502-0834 in Cape Elizabeth.

27. Marquis F. King, *First Church in Falmouth, Me.* (Portland, Me., 1898) [hereafter *First Church in Falmouth, Me.*], 7.

brother Peter Woodbury were named as co-executors.^[28]

Mary's father, Joseph Cobb, and Joshua Woodbury, either Mary's husband, or his father of the same name, owned half of a mill-stream at Barbery Creek in Falmouth, now Cape Elizabeth, which they sold 2 April 1737.^[29] Mary was admitted as a member of the First Church in Falmouth in 1737 before she was married.^[30] Her husband Joshua Woodbury Jr. was a farmer in Cape Elizabeth and tax collector for the Second Parish in Falmouth, now Cape Elizabeth, in 1743. His carefully preserved "Rate and Bill Book" was inherited by Daniel Pillsbury, a grandson of Joshua and Mary's daughter Hannah, who married Tobias Pillsbury.^[31]

Proof that Mary was the daughter of Joseph Cobb was found in a deed dated 6 March 1770 in which Joseph Cobb of Cape Elizabeth, yeoman, for the sum of £100, conveyed to Mary's daughter's husband, George Deake of Cape Elizabeth, mariner, "all my lands lying in the District of Cape Elizabeth with all the buildings thereon and all my Town Rights in the Town of Falmouth, and also all my Personal Estate of what Name or Nature soever. Except my Silver Tankard, the Bed on which I lodge, and my own and my wife's wearing apparel." The witnesses were Ephraim Clark and Elizabeth Clark.^[32] Mary's father had previously given land in Falmouth to Mary's sister Hannah and her husband Joseph Strout Jr.^[33]

In the *Massachusetts Tax Valuation List of 1771*, Mary Woodbury was listed alone and listed her as widow. She owned one house and her real estate had an annual worth of £5 16s 8p. She had 2.0 cattle, 10.0 goats and sheep, 1 swine, 13.0 acres of pasture, 1 acre of tillage, 2.0 acres of English and upland hay, and 2.0 acres of fresh meadow.^[34]

No probate records have survived for either Joshua or Mary Woodbury. Fortunately, the names of their children were found in a deed dated 15 July 1771, but not recorded until 9 May 1780. Mary Woodbury, widow; George Deake, yeoman, and Mary his wife; Hannah Woodbury, weaver; Jacob Webb, mariner and Sara his wife; all of the District of Cape Elizabeth, in consideration of £18 paid by Joseph Cobb Jr., of Cape Elizabeth aforesaid, husbandman, sold Joseph ten acres of land lying in Cape Elizabeth which was part of a thirty acre lot granted by the Town of Falmouth to Mr. Jonathan Cobb near Maiden

28. William M. Sargent, *Maine Wills, 1640-1760* (Portland, Me., 1887), 607-11 (Joshua Woodbury).

29. *Cobb ms.*, 2: 347-348.

30. *First Church in Falmouth, Me.*, 11.

31. *Cobb ms.*, 2: 370; David B. Pillsbury and Emily A. Getchell, *The Pillsbury Family* (Everett, Mass., 1898; reprinted, 1984) [*hereafter Pillsbury Family*], 62 (son-in-law, Tobias Pillsbury), 116 (grandson Daniel Pillsbury).

32. Cumberland County Deeds, 11: 226 [FHL #10647]. This deed was acknowledged on 3 May 1774 and recorded on 29 February 1781.

33. York County Probate Records, 5: 175 [FHL #12784].

34. *Mass. Tax List of 1771*, #1502-0834 (Cape Elizabeth).

Cove. The ten acres was bounded by Joseph Cobb Jr.'s land and Simon Armstrong's land. The deed was signed by Mary Woodbury, George Deake, Mary Deake, Hannah Woodbury, and Sarah Webb who acknowledged their signatures 29 July 1771. The witnesses were Peter Sawyer and Nathaniel Sawyer.^[35]

The ancestry of Mary Woodbury⁶ was again proven in a deed made in Cape Elizabeth on 5 April 1781 in which Mary stated, "This witnesseth that I quit all my right of dowry to what land my husband, George Deake, hath sold to Mr. Benjamin Thresher which was purchased of Mr. Joseph Cobb, my grandfather." This was attested to by Joseph Mariner and recorded in Cape Elizabeth's "Book of Records."^[36]

Children of Joshua and Mary (Cobb) Woodbury born in Falmouth, Me.:^[37]

- i. MARY WOODBURY, b. 29 May 1739; m. GEORGE DEAKE of Westerly, R.I.; George served in the Revolutionary War.^[38]
- ii. HANNAH WOODBURY, b. 8 Nov. 1743; m. in 1776 TOBIAS PILLSBURY; Tobias served in the Revolutionary War.^[39]
- iii. SARAH WOODBURY, b. ca. 1745; m. JACOB WEBB, mariner.

2. **HANNAH COBB**, daughter of Joseph⁴ (Joseph,³ Jonathan,² Henry¹) and Hannah (Clark) Cobb, was born in Middleborough on 16 November 1718^[40] and died probably in Falmouth, Me., after 25 December 1749, the date she and her husband signed a deed in which they sold land at Barren Hill, Falmouth, and before 7 April 1752, the date the deed was recorded in Falmouth.^[41] Hannah Cobb married **JOSEPH STROUT JR.** in Falmouth, Me., on 7 May 1739.^[42] Joseph, son of Joseph and Rachel (Doane) Strout, was born in Truro on 4 November 1719/20^[43] and Joseph Strout probably died at Granny's Neck, Me., on Back Bay, now called Pinkham's Island, after 8 April 1779, the date he

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35. Cumberland County Deeds, 10: 435-436 [FHL #10646].
 36. Cumberland County, Maine, "Book of Records, Second Parish, Town of Falmouth," 2 [FHL #10813].
 37. Cumberland County Deeds, 10: 435-436 [FHL #10646]; 11: 226 [FHL #10647].
 38. *DAR Patriot Index* (Washington, D.C., 1966) [hereafter *DAR Patriot Index*], 1: 182; *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors*, 4: 592; Underhill, ed., "Woodbury Genealogy," (typescript) 1: 145.
 39. *Pillsbury Family*, 62; *DAR Patriot Index*, 1: 536.
 40. *MD*, 3: 86; *Middleborough VRs*, 1: 19.
 41. "Records of Portland, Me.: Intentions of Marriage at Falmouth previous to 1786," Ms., Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me. [hereafter *Falmouth Intentions*], 3: 30 (alphabetical); *York County Deeds*, 29: 174-175; Minot Cobb Morse Jr., *The Strout Family of Maine* (typescript, Brunswick, Me., 1931) [hereafter *Strout Family*], o620.
 42. Falmouth Town Records, 2: 333 [FHL #1711364].
 43. *Vital Records of the Town of Truro, Massachusetts, to the end of the year 1849* (Boston, 1933), 6 (parents' marriage; no birth record for Joseph); Alfred A. Doane, *Doane Family* (Boston, 1902) [hereafter *Doane Family*], 58; Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 258-259; 17: 256-257 [FHL #10650]; John Eldridge Frost, *Maine Probate Abstracts* (Camden, Me., 1991) [hereafter *Maine Probate Abstracts*], 1: 310: 7/316.

was called "Joseph Strout of Narraugus, yeoman," when he bought land in Cherryfield, Me., from Thomas Armstrong, and before 31 May 1784, when the deed was recorded by Joseph Strout Jr., to clarify the ownership of the property.^[44] Joseph Strout married second SARAH MAYO in Falmouth, Me., where they filed their intention on 20 April 1753.^[45] Sarah Mayo was probably the one born in Provincetown, Mass., 10 April 1732, the daughter of Robert and Deborah (Strout) Mayo.^[46]

Hannah Cobb arrived in Falmouth from Middleborough with her parents after June 1725,^[47] when she was still a child. Joseph Strout's family lived in Truro and Provincetown on Cape Cod, before the settled in Falmouth about 1736.^[48] Joseph's second wife, Sarah Mayo, and her family came from Provincetown around 8 May 1743, the date her father Robert Mayo, "late of Provincetown, mariner," bought one and one-half acres of land in Falmouth for £8 from Thomas Woodbury. This deed was witnessed by Benjamin Allen and Abigail Allen and recorded 24 May 1743.^[49] On 12 November 1744, Robert Mayo, mariner, bought from Lt. Nathaniel Jordan and Mary, his wife, for £203 5s, 67-3/4 acre of land in the Second Parish of Falmouth lying near Deep Brook, in the area which became Cape Elizabeth. Witnesses were Benjamin Allen and Samuel Libbee.^[50] This indicates that the Strouts and the Mayos may have known each other in Provincetown before moving to Maine.

On 1 December 1739, soon after Hannah's marriage, her father Joseph Cobb of Falmouth, glazier, for love and good will, gave his "dutiful children, namely my son-in-law, Joseph Strout Jr., and my daughter, Hannah Strout," a tract of land in Falmouth containing 30 acres, being the southwesterly half of a 60-acre lot granted to him by the Proprietors, on or near Barren Hill, "which easterly half of said lot I formerly gave unto Archabel [*sic*] Dowglas." The witnesses were Joseph Cobb's other daughter and son-in-law, Joshua and Mary (Cobb) Woodberry. This deed was acknowledged by Joseph Cobb on 9 October 1740 and recorded 15 October 1742.^[51] Barren Hill is in the part of Falmouth that was set off as Cape Elizabeth in 1765.^[52] Joseph and Hannah Strout sold this property 25 December 1749 for £3 to Benjamin Parker,

44. Lincoln County Deeds, 16: 315-317.

45. *MD*, 11: 47; 16: 20.

46. *Falmouth Intentions*, 3: 30 (alpha).

47. *Plymouth Court Records*, 2: 59-60, which proves that Hannah's father, Joseph Cobb, was still living in Middleborough, Mass., in 1725.

48. *The New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, 5 [1854]: 221. Joseph's younger brother, Hezekiah, was born in Provincetown, 19 January 1735, before this Strout family moved to Falmouth; *Strout Family*, o600.

49. York County Deeds, 23: 250.

50. York County Deeds, 25: 4.

51. York County Deeds, 23: 81 [FHL #12651].

52. Marcia Wiswall Lundberg, *Genealogists Handbook for New England Research* (Boston, 1985), 29.

yeoman. It was described as "a small piece of land lying at Barren Hill in said Falmouth, where the said Parker now dwells." The witnesses were Josiah Stanford Jr. and Archibald Douglas.^[53] This deed was recorded on 7 April 1752, five years later, which indicates that Hannah (Cobb) Strout had died and Benjamin Parker wanted to establish his clear title to the property which Hannah and her husband had been given by her father.

Joseph Strout was called "Junior" when he published his intentions to marry Hannah Cobb in Falmouth on 7 May 1739. Just two months earlier, Joseph's father, also named Joseph Strout, had published his intentions to marry his second wife Priscilla Thomas on 11 March 1738/9.^[54] Joseph's father, Joseph Strout [Sr.], of Falmouth died intestate before 5 October 1748, the date his widow, Priscilla, and [his son] Joseph Strout, fisherman, were appointed as joint administrators of his estate.^[55]

On 20 October 1752, Joseph Strout of Falmouth, no longer called "Junior," sold for £3 to his cousin Anthony Strout a small parcel of land in Falmouth (name illegible), containing 2¼ acres more or less, adjoining Anthony Strout's meadow. The witnesses were David Strout and Michu(?) Smalley. No wife signed away her dower rights, a legal custom which was sometimes ignored. This deed was recorded on 13 October 1755.^[56]

On 9 March 1757, Joseph Strout of Falmouth, husbandman, sold for £8 13s, paid by his cousin Daniel Strout of Falmouth, "all my right part or share of my Father Joseph Strout, (late of Falmouth, decd), in his estate lying in Falmouth at a place called Deep Brook (except what land I sold to Anthony Strout)." The witnesses were Joseph Stanford and Ephraim Dyer. Joseph Strout acknowledged the deed on 9 March 1757. Again, no wife signed the deed, perhaps because this was property which Joseph had clearly inherited in his own right.^[57] This deed was not recorded until 23 July 1790, the date the purchaser Daniel Strout mortgaged this property to a Boston investor.^[58]

During the next few years, Joseph Strout's siblings also sold their shares to Daniel Strout. On 3 January 1758, Joseph's younger brother Hezekiah Strout of Brunswick, labourer, sold to Daniel Strout of Falmouth, fisherman, for £5, his share in the estate of his deceased father Joseph Strout at Deep Brook. This deed was acknowledged the same day but was not recorded until 23 July 1790.^[59] Another brother Joshua Strout, fisherman, and his wife Sarah

53. York County Deeds, 29: 174-175.

54. Falmouth Town Records, 2: 333 [FHL #1711364].

55. *Maine Probate Abstracts*, 1: 310, 329-331. York County Probate, 7/316, 461, 458, 468 (Joseph Strout).

56. York County Deeds, 32: 157.

57. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 258-259 [FHL #10650] (Joseph Strout).

58. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 259-260 [FHL #10650] (Daniel Strout).

59. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 256-257 [FHL #10650] (Hezekiah Strout).

(Sawyer), both signed Joshua's deed on 19 February 1765, when he sold his share of the land he had inherited at Deep Brook to Daniel Strout. It was recorded 23 July 1790.^[60] Joseph's sister Thankful Strout and her husband Peter Combs Jr. of Brunswick, husbandman, both signed their deed when they sold her inheritance to Walter Simonton, Esquire, on 23 October 1760. This deed was recorded 5 April 1763.^[61]

Josiah Sawyer, cordwainer, husband of Joseph's sister, Phebe Strout, and Benjamin Sawyer, mariner, and his wife Mary, all of Cape Elizabeth, signed a single deed 20 April 1770, in which they sold 2 acres and 16 rods of land to Daniel Strout for £6. This was land which Benjamin Sawyer's wife Mary and Josiah Sawyer's wife Phebe had inherited from their father Joseph Strout of Falmouth, deceased. Mary signed the deed with her mark but Phebe did not sign at all. This deed was recorded 23 July 1790.^[62]

On 22 March 1771, Walter Merriman of Harpswell, yeoman, and his wife, "late Betty Webber, one of the granddaughters of Joseph Strout, formerly of that part of Falmouth which is now called Cape Elizabeth, deceased," sold her rights in an eleventh part of the estate, about 3 acres more or less, "with one acre more or less in reversion after the decease of our grandmother, [*Priscilla (Thomas) (Strout) Simmons*], widow of the said Joseph Strout." This deed was also recorded 23 July 1790.^[63] Betty Webber was the daughter of Sarah Strout who married Benjamin Webber.^[64] These deeds were recorded many years later, in 1790, when the purchaser Daniel Strout mortgaged 100 acres of land in Cape Elizabeth to Hannah Rowe of Boston for £332, to be paid before 21 July 1791.^[65]

Joseph Strout and his second wife Sarah Mayo left Cape Elizabeth about 1761 to move to Plantation No. Five, as is shown by the birth of their third daughter, Priscilla in Narragausgus on 4 April 1762.^[66] Sarah's father Robert Mayo also sold his property in Falmouth during these years and settled in Plantation No. Four.^[67] On 16 June 1759, Robert Mayo of Falmouth, Gentleman, sold 20 acres of land at Deep Brook, Falmouth, for £40 to George McLallen [*sic*] of Falmouth, mariner. This deed was witnessed by Christopher

60. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 255-256 [FHL #10650] (Joshua Strout).

61. Cumberland County Deeds, 2: 283 [FHL #10642] (Peter and Thankful Combs).

62. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 253-254 [FHL #10651] (Josiah Sawyer, Benjamin Sawyer, Mary Sawyer). Note that this deed adds another daughter to the family of Joseph Strout and his first wife, Rachel Doane. Mary (Strout) Sawyer shared with her siblings in Joseph Strout, Sr.'s, estate but she was omitted from the family in *Doane Family*, 58, and in *Strout Family*, o600.

63. Cumberland County Deeds, 14: 470 [FHL #10648].

64. *Strout Family*, o600.

65. Cumberland County Deeds, 17: 259-260 [FHL #10650].

66. *Strout Family*, o620.

67. Washington County Deeds, 1: 502.

Strout and David Strout.^[68] Robert Mayo was called "mariner" on 16 September 1763 when he sold 7-3/4 acres of land at Deepbrook, Falmouth, bounded by Thomas Dileo's [*sic*] land, for £33 6s 8p to George McClannen [*sic*], of Falmouth, mariner.^[69]

Joseph Strout and Sarah settled at Back Bay near Granny's Neck, now known as Pinkham's Island. This was originally part of the mainland (Harrington, later Milbridge), but violent storms and rough seas washed away the sandy neck connecting it to the shore.^[70] Deeds for the purchase of land by Joseph Strout and his two sons, Joseph Strout Jr. born to his first wife Hannah Cobb, and Benjamin Strout born to his second wife Sarah Mayo, were found in Lincoln County and in Washington County, Maine. These deeds prove that Joseph and his children moved to Plantation No. Five, which was then called Narragagus, and later became Harrington and Milbridge.

Joseph Strout's son by his first wife Hannah was named "Joseph" for his father and for his maternal grandfather Joseph Cobb. He must have been born in Falmouth about 1739 or 1740. Joseph [*Jr.*] went to Narragagus with his father and step-mother about 1761, but returned to Falmouth to marry Susannah Roberts on 17 November 1763. Susannah was the daughter of Vinson / Vincent and Isabella (Dyer) Roberts.^[71] Joseph was not called "Jr." in the marriage record, showing that he was the oldest of the name in Falmouth at that time since his father had already moved to Narragagus. His son Joseph Strout and his wife Susannah settled at Narragagus where they had ten children, all of whom are descendants of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland of the *Mayflower* as proven in this article and of Henry Cobb of Barnstable. The son Joseph was always called "Deacon Joseph Strout."^[72]

On 8 April 1779, Thomas Armstrong of Cherryfield, Lincoln Co., sold to Joseph Strout of Narragagus, yeoman, for £3, a lot of land in Cherryfield "on both sides of the road which passes from Cherryfield Mills to Pleasant River," agreeable to a plan made by Mr. James Noyes, surveyor, on 13 September 1777. The witnesses were William Sprague and Alexander Campbell. The deed was acknowledged on 11 April 1779 by Thomas Armstrong and was recorded on 31 May 1784. A plat of the area dated 20 June 1775 was filed with the deed. When the map was recorded on 31 May 1784, the center of the 1775 drawing outlining the 200 acres of land had the handwritten words "Mr. Joseph Strout's

68. York County Deeds, 35: 145.

69. Cumberland County Deeds, 2: 415.

70. *Maine Historical Magazine*, (formerly *Bangor Historical Magazine*) (reprinted in 3 vols., 1997) [hereafter *Maine Hist. Mag.*], 3: 2256 [originally 9:223-226]; J. A. Milliken, *The Narragagus Valley, Early Settlement and Settlers* (Machias, Me., 1886; reprinted 1910), 5-6.

71. *Maine Historical and Genealogical Recorder* (9 vols., 1884-98, reprinted in 3 vols., Baltimore, Md., 1973), 3: 100; *Strout Family*, o620.

72. *Strout Family*, o621/M-oo; *Maine Hist. Mag.*, 3: 2256 [originally 9: 223-226].

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200 Acre Lot in the Township No. 5 in Narragaugus Mill River." Below the drawing, perhaps added in 1779, was written, "This is a Plan or description of a 200 Acre Lot of Land owned by Mr. Joseph Strout Jun^r, where he now dwells on part of the same...."^[73] The fact that this Joseph was called "Junior" on the map indicates that in 1779, when the deed was executed, Joseph Strout Sr., was still living. By 31 May 1784, when the deed was recorded, Joseph Strout Sr. had apparently died and ownership of the property had to be clarified, requiring that the deed and plat map be filed together.

In the Federal Census taken in 1790 for Harrington, the surname was misspelled Stout.^[74] Since Joseph Strout Sr. had died, his son Joseph Strout was no longer called "Jr." It was certainly the son who was listed in Harrington as Joseph Stout. In the household were two males over 16: Joseph, the father, born about 1739, and Joseph, the son, who was born in February 1775 and was in his 16th year in 1790. There were four males under 16: Benjamin, born 3 December 1776; Ephraim, born 14 March 1779; Isaac, born in 1783; and Vinson, born in 1785. Apparently, son Barnabas had not yet been born. In addition there were four females: Joseph's wife Susannah Roberts, his two daughters, Isabella, born in 1781 and Deborah, born in 1786,^[75] and possibly Susannah's mother or a hired woman.

On 2 June 1794, Samuel Freeman, agent for the proprietors of Township No. Five, Washington Co., Eastward of Union River, "authorized to assign settlers in said Township the quantity of land and proportion of marsh allowed them by a Resolve of the General Court passed June 21, 1793," sold 200 acres of land and 5 acres and 80 square rods of marsh in the township, "being numbered 37 and 51 upon the Plan of said Township," for £3 to Benjamin Strout, "an heir to [blank] Strout who was a proprietor and settler in said Township." This deed was received to be recorded in Suffolk County, Mass., on 18 June 1794, where the proprietors lived.^[76] Benjamin Strout was the son of Joseph Strout by his second wife Sarah Mayo and born in Narragaugus about 1765. The fact that he was called "heir to [blank] Strout" indicates that his father Joseph Strout, who was born in 1719/20, had died and the clerk, having forgotten the father's given name when he sat down to record the transaction, left a blank space. Benjamin Strout married Elizabeth Cole and died as a young man in Harrington on 27 July 1794, leaving several young children named Elizabeth, Sally, Polly and Lydia.^[77] His widow married, as her second husband, Ebenezer Jourdain [*sic*]. Benjamin Strout's father-in-law Ebenezer Cole

73. Lincoln County Deeds, 16: 315-317.

74. *U.S. Census of Maine: 1790* (Washington, D.C., 1907), York County, Plantation No. 5, 54.

75. *Strout Family*, o621/M-oo.

76. Washington County Deeds, 2: 42-43. The given name of Joseph Strout, father of Benjamin, is missing here but there is no doubt that this deed refers to him.

77. *Strout Family*, o620; "Harrington, Maine, Birth Records" (typescript), 10 [FHL #855272].

was appointed as the administrator of Benjamin's intestate estate on 7 October 1794, and was made guardian of his children.^[78] On 2 March 1801, Ebenezer Cole, as the administrator of Benjamin Strout's estate, sold the same property mentioned above, lots 37 and 51, now in Harrington, Washington Co., Me., for \$128.75 to Thomas Archibald, Esq. The witnesses were Benjamin's half-brother Joseph Strout and Susannah Campbell.^[79]

On 2 June 1794, Samuel Freeman, representing the proprietors of Township No. Five, "eastward of Union River," by a Resolve of the Court passed June 21, 1793, sold 200 acres of land and 5 acres and 80 square rods of marsh in the township for £3 paid by Joseph Strout, "an original Proprietor and a settler in the township, being the lot of land numbered 26 upon the plan of said township, lately taken by Mr. Lothrop Lewis." This was signed by Samuel Freeman, Nathaniel Wells, John Read, and Daniel Cony, and was witnessed by John Storer and Thomas Wallcut. It was acknowledged on 4 June 1794 and received to be recorded in Suffolk Co., Mass., on 6 October 1795.^[80]

On 23 April 1818, Joseph Strout of Harrington, cordwainer, for \$300 paid by [*his youngest son*] Barnabas Strout of Harrington, conveyed to Barnabas the same lot of land, No. 26, containing 200 acres, "with the reservation of 40 acres of land in the southwest part and also five acres of salt marsh." In addition, Barnabas Strout agreed that his father Joseph Strout was to have the "sole use and improvement or incomes or rents and profit of the above bargained premises . . . during the natural life of the said Joseph Strout and the life of Susannah, his wife." The deed was witnessed by James Campbell and William Densmore. Joseph Strout acknowledged the deed the same day and it was recorded on 2 May 1818.^[81]

No probate records have been found for Joseph Strout of Falmouth and Narragausus, for his first wife Hannah Cobb, or for his second wife Sarah Mayo.

Child of Joseph Strout and his first wife Hannah⁵ Cobb, a descendant of John and Elizabeth (Tilley) Howland of the *Mayflower*, and of Henry Cobb of Barnstable, Mass., was born in Falmouth, Me.^[82]

- i. JOSEPH STROUT,⁶ born about 1739; died in Milbridge, Me., 14 October 1821, 83 yrs. [*sic*], [in his 83rd yr.]; buried in Mill River Cemetery, back of the Baptist Church; married in Falmouth, Me., 17 November 1763 (int.) Susan-

78. *Maine Probate Abstracts*, 2: 1308-1311, 1313-1314, 1321-1322; Wn 2/73, 2/77, 2/85, 2/96, 2/104, 2/105, 2/141, 2/143 (Benjamin Stout [*sic*], where Benjamin Strout's surname was mistakenly spelled Stout, as in the census record).

79. *Washington County Deeds*, 3: 92-94.

80. *Washington County Deeds*, 1: 505.

81. *Washington County Deeds*, 10: 24-25.

82. *Falmouth Town Records*, 2: 333 [FHL #1711364] (parent's marriage): Joseph's birth date estimated from date of parents' marriage intentions; *Strout Family*, o621/M-oo.

nah Roberts, who died 14 October 1830 and was buried next to him.^[83]

Children of Joseph and Susannah (Roberts) Strout born in Narraguagus, Me.:^[84]

1. *Barnabas Strout*,⁷ b. ca. 1766, d.y.
2. *Isaac Strout*, b. ca. 1767, d.y.
3. *Joseph Strout*, b. in Feb. 1775.
4. *Benjamin Strout*, b. 3 Dec. 1776.
5. *Ephraim Strout*, b. 14 March 1779.
6. *Isabella Strout*, b. ca. 1781; married *Simeon Smith Brown*.
7. *Isaac Strout*, b. ca. 1783.
7. *Vinson/Vincent Strout*, b. ca. 1785.
8. *Deborah Strout*, b. ca. 1786, died 26 Feb. 1868; married *Elisha Allen*.
9. *Barnabas Strout* [again], b. ca. 1790.

Children of Joseph and Sarah (Mayo) Strout were born in Falmouth, Me. (2-3), and in Narraguagus, Me. (4-5):^[85]

- ii. *Mary Strout*, b. ca. 1754; d. East Limington, Me., 26 Sept. 1791; m. *Nathaniel Sawyer* in Cape Elizabeth, Me., 6 Apr. 1774. Nathaniel was a son of Daniel and Sarah (Woodbury) Sawyer. Nathaniel m. (2) *Shuah Small* on 12 Jan. 1792.
- iii. *Rachel Strout*, b. ca. 1757, d. ca. 1846; m. *William Ray* in Harrington, Me., 15 May 1778.
- iv. *Priscilla Strout*, b. 4 Apr. 1762, d. Cherryfield, Me., 15 Sept. 1855; m. *Elisha Small* 18 Feb. 1782.
- v. *Benjamin Strout*, b. ca. 1765, d. Harrington, Me., 27 July 1794; m. *Elizabeth Cole*.

These last four children by Sarah Mayo were not descendants of John Howland of the *Mayflower* or of Henry Cobb of Barnstable, Mass. Joseph and Hannah (Clark) Cobb had only two daughters, so there were no descendants to carry on the Cobb surname in this branch of the family. Their bloodline and genes, however, have survived for many generations through their daughter Mary's descendants, the Deakes, Pillsburys and Webbs, and through Hannah's son Joseph Strout and his sons and daughters.

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83. Margaret (Kelley) Ashe Colton, "Cemetery Inscriptions at Milbridge, Maine" (typescript, Maine Historical Society, Portland, Me.), 35.
84. *Strout Family*, o621/M-oo.
85. *Strout Family*, o620.