

With Related Families of
St. Charles Co., Mo.
and
Monroe Co., Ky.

By
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GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY
 OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
 OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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The
SEARS Family

A great many of the Searses in Sullivan Co., Mo., are descended from Ira Sears, one of the earliest settlers in the county, whose proven ancestry stretches back to the first Sears in this country — Richard Sears, who settled in Plymouth Colony before 1633 (he is ancestral to thousands of different American families, including most of those bearing the name Sears). In addition to the Sears line, Ira Sears is descended from dozens of other old New England families, including a couple of the very oldest. Five of his ancestors were aboard the *Mayflower* in 1620 (he is directly descended from William Mullins and his wife, his daughter Priscilla, her husband, John Alden, and Thomas Rogers, all of whom were in the first group of settlers to land at Plymouth); besides these, he has ancestors on two other Pilgrim ships — the *Fortune*, 1621 (Robert Hicks) and the *Anne*, 1623 (Hicks' wife, Margaret, and his daughter, Phebe; and Alice Carpenter — Southworth, who became the second wife of Gov. William Bradford).

Our Sears ancestors settled first on Cape Cod, when it was part of Plymouth Colony, and they remained there until long after Plymouth Colony, having become part of Massachusetts, had ceased to exist. It is important to realize that many Sears descendants still live on Cape Cod, and, even though our particular branch of the family eventually left that area, it was only after a sojourn of well over a century.

In 1769, Judah Sears, Richard's great-grandson, then about 70 years old, left the region of Yarmouth and Harwich (now W. Brewster) on the Cape, to settle in Rochester, a town on the mainland, but still one of the Plymouth Colony towns. His son, Alden, removed for a brief time to Nova Scotia, but returned by 1769 to the Plymouth region to settle near Rochester in Dighton, Mass., a town settled in 1678 by some of the residents of Taunton, another Plymouth Colony town; there Alden married a Dighton girl, descended from many of the Taunton founders, named Phebe Walker. Although our Sears ancestors lived in the Taunton-Dighton area for only one generation, these towns were, nevertheless, founded by our ancestors in maternal lines (and are, no doubt, full of our relatives even today).

By 1807 when Edward Sears, son of Alden and Phebe, moved with his family to the State of New York, the Sears family had been in Mass., about 175 years. This particular branch stayed in New York — first in Oswego Co., then in Bristol, Ontario Co. — for a relatively brief period. Edward's older children were born in New York, but the younger ones in Cincinnati, Ohio, where Edward died.

His sons, Ira and Asahel Parker Sears, were married in Clermont Co., Ohio, just east of Cincinnati, and Ira and his wife, Amanda Stockton, left Ohio to settle briefly in Louisville, Ky., and then permanently in Missouri, first in Linn Co., then in Sullivan Co., where they were among the earliest settlers. Some of Ira's kinfolk eventually lived in Sullivan Co., too: his widowed mother Jemima, his brother

Philo's widow and some of his children, along with his brother Rev. Arthur Elliott Sears (the elder) and his family. (Rev. Sears was a travelling minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church for over 30 years,¹ and he never remained in one place for long. He stayed in Sullivan Co. long enough to marry his second wife and have one child there — then, apparently, he was off again, since he ended up in Santa Clara, Cal.)

At any rate, Ira Sears came to Sullivan Co., Mo., over 200 years after Richard Sears came to this country; the Sears family was moving with the great movement of American expansion during those 200 years; from Sullivan Co., their movement have continued, so that now descendants of Ira Sears are widely scattered, mainly in the western portions of the country, although some of his family have remained in Sullivan Co. now almost 130 years. Every time the family has moved, it has left some members behind "for seed" (in Mass., in N. Y., in Ohio); our Sears relatives are incredibly numerous; they seem to be, quite literally, everywhere. There were more than 30,000 of them in the United States about 10 years ago.²

Because of the unusual antiquity of this particular family line, and the large number of families connected with it, I have chosen to treat it rather differently than some of the other families in this book. The present chapter is divided into three parts: in the first, the Sears line is traced (from Richard Sears, the immigrant ancestor, to Edward Sears, the immediate ancestor of the Sears family in Sullivan Co., Mo.) only through family groups of direct ancestors — no collateral lines are developed, although I have a great deal of information concerning them. In the second part ("Other New England Ancestors of Edward Sears"), I have given a similar treatment of some of the allied families. For example, the two generations of the Alden family covered in this section are both presented in family groups. However, for most of these families I have given only the names of direct ancestors without detailing each family group. Throughout the first two portions of this chapter, names of direct ancestors of Ira Sears are always underlined so that the reader will have no difficulty following the line of descent to the Sears family of Sullivan Co.

The third portion of this chapter presents the family in Sullivan Co. just as other families are presented throughout the book, with as many lines connected to the present day as I was able to complete. Only a few Sears relatives failed to answer my inquiries, so this section includes virtually all the descendants of Ira Sears and Amanda Stockton. I am very sorry that those few people made it impossible for me to give full information concerning the family whose name I am proud to bear.

Sources and Acknowledgements

Part 1 — The early history of the Sears family is available in a multitude of books, but most of these sources, insofar as they are reliable, draw upon the work of Samuel Pearce May, whose monumental study, *The Descendants of Richard Sears*

Sears (Sears) of Yarmouth, Mass. (1890), is definitive. Although I have used many other sources, most of which are listed in the bibliography which follows, I have relied most heavily upon May's book — when sources have disagreed, I have made him my final authority. Virtually all of Part I of this chapter is found in May's book, and he deserves most of the credit for the information, even though many other sources also give the same material. Anyone with a deep interest in the Sears family would do well to consult May's book, which is available in many large genealogical collections, particularly in the eastern United States.

A portion of May's book is devoted to repudiating the Sears pedigree widely accepted earlier in the 19th century — this pedigree, which was presented in a book called *Pictures of Olden Times* by Edmund Hamilton Sears in 1857, purported to show the descent of Richard Sears, the immigrant ancestor, from English nobility and every ruling house in Western Europe in the Middle Ages. Although this genealogy was decisively proven to be false as long ago as 1890, it is still occasionally referred to, and many older works print it as the truth. Since I want none of my relatives to be under any delusions, I issue this warning: any reference to the royal descent of the Sears family is almost certainly mistaken, even if it appears in a published book, such as Charles Henry Browning's *Americans of Royal Descent* (which is one of the largest compilations of errors in the genealogical field anyway). Some of the works cited in the bibliography contain references to the mistaken pedigree, but let anyone who uses these sources be forewarned. The desire to be descended from royalty has been known to overthrow the honesty of some family historians; but I would personally rather be related to honest men, than to kings.

Sears Bibliography

- Cutter, William Richard, ed. *Massachusetts*, pp. 106-110; 657, 658, 2596, 2597.
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 Virkus, Frederick A. *The Abridged Compendium of American Genealogy: The Standard Genealogical Encyclopedia of the 1st Families of America 7 vols.* (1925-1942), Vol. I, pp. 53, 950; IV, pp. 102, 485, 687; V, pp. 121, 168, 169, 390, 477; VII, pp. 388, 560.

Part 2 is derived from a number of published sources, which are listed in the notes in the form of a very brief bibliography for each particular family.

Part 3 depends almost altogether upon original research of my own in the

ton Co. (Cincinnati), Ohio, Clermont Co., Ohio, and Sullivan Co., Mo., but a number of individuals were extremely helpful to me and deserve my thanks — my step-grand mother Rosa (Quigley) Sears told me a great deal about the Sears family years ago as I was just beginning to work on it. Her accurate memories helped a great deal in my further researches. More recently, a distant cousin of mine, Maxine (Farley) Jones of Browning, Mo., gave me invaluable assistance by single-handedly tracking down all the descendants of Arthur Elliott Sears and his wife, Ann Eliza Scott. Other correspondents gave me less information, but I am deeply appreciative to all of them for taking the time to help me — they include: Genevieve (Quigley) Murphy, Hazel (Sears) Taylor, Ronald Sears, Wendell Quigley, Raymond Quigley, Bonnie (Sears) Maulsby, all of Milan, Mo.; Jean (Sears) Rudloff of Browning, Mo.; Glenda (Sears) Christy of St. Catharine, Mo.; Harold R. Sears and Rev. J. Truman Quigley of Kansas City, Mo.; Clifford E. Ogan of Columbia, Mo.; Madeline (Call) Rigen of Allen Park, Mich.; Pernice (Hoffman) Hurdle of Boulder, Colo.; Bernie Dean Sears of Radcliff, Ky.; and Ruby (Hill) Galyon of Berryville, Va.

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Richard Sears — his parentage, exact birthdate and place are all unknown, although some traditions have it that he was a member of the Sayer³ family of Colchester in England; it is also possible that he belonged to the family of Sarres (or Serres) who lived (and perhaps still lives — they did in the 19th century) on the channel islands, Guernsey and Jersey, since many of the families which settled Marblehead were from those islands.

The first reference to Richard in public records is found in a tax list of Plymouth Colony dated Mar. 25, 1633, "when he was one of forty-four in a list of eighty-six persons, who were assessed nine shillings in corn, at six shillings per bushel,"⁴ *Sears* afterward, he crossed over to Marblehead, in Mass. Colony, and was taxed as a resident there in 1637-38. In 1639, he removed to Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, appearing "in the list of inhabitants between the age of 16 and 60 years, able to bear arms. He was made freeman in 1652, chosen on the grand jury, 1653, Constable in 1660, Representative 1662, to the General Court."⁵ His will of 1667, naming his wife and children, is recorded in Plymouth Colony Records, Vol. III of Wills, folio 53, 54, 55. He died in Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, and was buried Aug. 26, 1676.

His wife, Dorothy _____ was buried in Yarmouth, Mar. 19, 1678. Her name was once thought to be Thatcher, but that being disproved she is sometimes identified as Dorothy Jones, or Dorothy Batts, both these latter names based on the assumption that she was sister-in-law of Anthony Thacher, whom Richard Sears calls his 'brother' in his will. In any case, she may have been Richard's second wife, so not necessarily the mother of his children.

Children (it is important to note that both Paul and Deborah Sears are direct ancestors of Ira Sears):

2. i. Paul Sears, b. 1637-8 aft. Feb. 20, prob. in Marblehead

3. ii. Silas Sears,⁶ b. c. 1637-8; d. Jan. 13, 1697-8 in Yarmouth; m. ? Anna (Barsell?)
4. iii. Deborah Sears, b. Sept. 1639, Yarmouth

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Capt. Paul Sears "took the oath of 'Fidellyte' in 1657, held a commission as captain in the militia, and made claim for a horse lost in the Narragansett War," which makes it seem likely that he served in it. "He was one of the original proprietors of lands in Harwich, between Bound and Stony brooks, known as Wing's Purchase"⁶; he married in Yarmouth in 1658, Deborah Willard,⁷ who was bapt. Sept. 14, 1645 in Scituate, Plymouth Colony; d. May 13, 1721, Yarmouth. Paul Sears died Feb. 20, 1707-8 in Yarmouth, leaving a will dated the same day. His monument is the oldest dated memorial in the ancient cemetery in Yarmouth.

Children, all b. in Yarmouth

5. i. Mercy Sears,⁸ b. July 3, 1659
6. ii. Bethia Sears,⁹ b. Jan. 3, 1661-2; d. July 5, 1724, Chatham, Mass.; m. May 27, 1684, John Crowell, Jr., of Nobsussett, b. 1662; d. Oct. 11, 1728
7. iii. Samuel Sears, b. last of Jan. 1663-4
8. iv. a dau., perhaps Lydia,¹⁰ b. Oct. 24, 1666; m. 1st Elcazer Hamblen of Harwich, b. Apr. 12, 1668; d. c. 1697; m. 2nd Thomas Snow
9. v. Paul Sears,¹¹ b. June 15, 1669; d. Feb. 14/17, 1739-40 (bur. W. Brewster); m. 1693 Harwich, Mercy Freeman, b. Oct. 30, 1674, Harwich; d. Aug. 30, 1747 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.)
10. vi. _____ ry Sears (Mary or Margery),¹² b. Oct. 24, 1672; d. 1745, Eastham, Mass.; prob. m. Col. John Knowles of Eastham.
11. vii. Ann Sears,¹³ b. Mar. 27, 1675; d. Nov. 14, 1745; m. Jan. 28, 1703, John Merrick of Harwich
12. viii. Capt. John Sears,¹⁴ b. 1667-8; d. Apr. 9, 1738 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.); m. June 1/5, 1704, Eastham, Mass., Priscilla Freeman, b. Oct. 27, 1686; d. May 8, 1714 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.)
13. ix. Richard Sears,¹⁵ b. 1680-1; d. May 24, 1718 (bur. Chatham, Mass.); m. May 15, 1706, Hope Howes
14. x. Capt. Daniel Sears,¹⁶ b. 1682-3; d. Aug. 10, 1756, Chatham, Mass.; m. Feb. 12, 1708-9 Yarmouth, Mass., Sarah Howes, b. 1685, Yarmouth; d. Nov. 9, 1748, Chatham, Mass.

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Deborah Sears, died Yarmouth, Aug. 17, 1732; m. 1659, Zachary Paddock¹⁷ (son of Robert Paddock, who came from Eng. to Duxbury, Mass., 1634, dying 1650, and his wife, Mary), b. Mar. 20, 1636, Plymouth; d. May 1, 1727, Yarmouth, Mass. Children, all b. in Yarmouth, Mass.

15. i. Ichabod Paddock,¹⁸ b. Feb. 2, 1661-2; he was a whaler.
16. ii. Zachariah Paddock,¹⁹ b. Apr. 14, 1664; d. Apr. 8, 1717-18; m. 1st Bethia Hall

Hall, b. 1668; d. Mar. 8, 1708; m. 2nd July 29, 1708, Mary Hedge, b. Mar. 1671, Yarmouth, Mass.

17. iii. Elizabeth Paddock,* b. Aug. 1, 1666; d. bef. 1691; m. Nov. 28, 1689, John Howes, died Apr. 20, 1736

18. iv. Capt. John Paddock,* b. May 5, 1669; d. Feb. 18, 1717-18; m. c. 1694, Priscilla Hall, b. Feb. 1671; d. Jan. 2, 1724-5

19. v. Robert Paddock,* b. Jan. 17, 1670-1; m. Mar. 6, 1701-2, Martha Hall, b. May 24, 1676

20. vi. Joseph Paddock,* b. Sept. 12, 1674

21. vii. Nathaniel Paddock,* b. Sept. 22, 1677; m. Dec. 15, 1706, Nantucket, Mass., Ann Bunker

22. viii. Capt. Judah Paddock, b. Sept. 15, 1681

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Capt. Samuel Sears, one of the earliest inhabitants of Harwich, Mass., b. last of Jan. 1663-4, Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony; d. Jan. 8, 1741-2 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.); his will dated Apr. 7, 1740-Mar. 6, 1741-2; m. Mercy Mayo,⁹ b. 1664; d. Jan. 20, 1748-9 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.)

Children, all b. in Harwich, Plymouth Colony / later Mass.¹⁰

23. i. Hannah Sears,* b. July 1, 1685; m. Nov. 2, 1710, John Vincent

24. ii. Samuel Sears,* b. Sept. 15, 1687; d. Nov. 22, 1726, Harwich, Mass. m. Nov. 2, 1710, Harwich, Mass., Ruth Merrick, died Feb. 13, 1766

25. iii. Nathaniel Sears,* b. Sept. 23, 1689; d. July 19, 1720; m. Oct. 10, 1712, Susannah Gray, died Dec. 7, 1730

26. iv. Tamsen Sears,* b. Nov. 13, 1691; d. July 17, 1761; m. Mar. 19, 1719 John Freeman, b. June 15, 1695; d. June 9, 1772, Eastham, Mass.

27. v. Jonathan Sears,* b. Sept. 3, 1693; d. Sept. 3, 1738 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.)

28. vi. Capt. Joseph Sears,* b. July 15, 1695; d. Aug. 25, 1765; m. Apr. 17, 1718, Harwich, Mass., Elizabeth Paddock, b. Apr. 14, 1698, Yarmouth, Mass. d. June, 1772

29. vii. Joshua Sears,* b. May 3, 1697; d. July 21, 1754, Norwalk, Conn. m. Sept. 17, 1719, Yarmouth, Mass., Mary Thacher, b. at Yarmouth; d. Norwalk, Conn.

30. viii. Judah Sears, b. Oct. 29, 1699

31. ix. John Sears,* b. July 18, 1701; d. 1774; m. Nov. 1734, Yarmouth, Mass., Grace Paddock (Sears 38)

32. x. Seth Sears,* b. May 27, 1703; d. Mar. 5, 1750 (bur. W. Brewster, Mass.)

33. xi. Benjamin Sears,* b. June 16, 1706; m. 1st Mar. 16, 1731-2, Yarmouth, Mass., Lydia Ryder of Yarmouth, died Mar. 24, 1733-4; m. 2nd 1735, Mercy Sears, Nov. 18, 1705, Harwich, Mass.; d. June 29, 1736, Harwich, Mass.; m. 3rd June 1737, Abigail Burgess

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Capt. Judah Paddock, b. Sept. 15, 1861, Yarmouth; d. Mar. 31, 1770; m. Dec. 5, 1706, Alice Alden (see Alden Family note), b. 1685, Duxbury, Mass.; d. July 12, 1774

34. i. Reuben Paddock,* b. Dec. 27, 1707

35. ii. Judah Paddock,* b. Mar. 27, 1709-10

36. iii. Samuel Paddock,* b. Oct. 12, 1711; d. July 27, 1757; m. Dec. 2, 1744, Thankful Howes, died June 27, 1789

37. iv. Mary Paddock,* b. Mar. 5, 1714-15, Yarmouth, Mass.; d. 1775, Rochester, Mass.; m. Nov. 1731, Yarmouth, Mass., Judah Sears (Sears 30)

38. v. Grace Paddock,* b. Jan. 27, 1715-16, Yarmouth, Mass.; d. Sept. 17, 1780; m. Nov. 1731, Yarmouth, Mass., John Sears (Sears 31)

39. vi. Rebecca Paddock,* b. May 12, 1718, Yarmouth, Mass.

40. vii. Nathaniel Paddock,* b. Feb. 27, 1723-4

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Judah Sears, b. Oct. 29, 1699, Harwich, Mass.; d. c. 1776, Rochester, Mass.; will dated Feb. 5, 1773-Sept. 2, 1776; m. 11 Nov. 1731, Yarmouth, Mass., Mary Paddock (Sears 37 above) Children, all b. at Harwich, Mass.¹²

41. i. Ann Sears,* b. Mar. 31, 1733; m. Anthony Gage

42. ii. Judah Sears,* b. Nov. 19, 1734; d. 1782, Rochester, Mass.; m. Yarmouth, Mass., Sept. 21, 1760, Mary Crowell, b. Dec. 15, 1739

43. iii. Mary Sears I,* bapt. Nov. 7, 1735; d. y.

44. iv. Alden Sears, b. Feb. 24, 1738-9

45. v. Nathan Sears,* b. June 18, 1741; d. Feb. 27, 1825, Rochester, Mass.; m. 1st Dec. 1764, Chatham, Mass., Rebecca Crowell, b. Oct. 18, 1742; m. 2nd Sept. 18, 1779, Rochester, Mass., Thankful Bassett of Rochester, b. May 29, 1752; d. Mar. 4, 1818

46. vi. David Sears,* b. May 10, 1744; d. Rochester, Mass.; m. 1st Aug. 26, 1762, Abigail Gerry; m. 2nd Feb. 13, 1766, Rochester, Mass., Susannah Handy, b. Sept. 27, 1746

47. v. Richard Sears,* b. June 8, 1746; m. publ. Mar. 26, 1769, Rochester, Mass., Sarah Bumpus of Warcham, Mass.

48. vi. Mary Sears II,* b. Apr. 15, 1750; m. Nov. 13, 1766, Rochester, Mass., Jonathan Hatch of Falmouth, Mass.

49. vii. Elizabeth Sears,* bapt. Harwich, Mass., July 8, 1752

50. viii. Alice Sears,* m. March 29, 1769, Charles Church

51. ix. Sarah Sears,* bapt. Mar. 30, 1755, East Yarmouth, Mass.

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Capt. Alden Sears, b. Feb. 24, 1738-9, Harwich, Mass.; bapt. Apr. 1, 1739; d. Mar. 25, 1803, Bristol, Ontario Co., N. Y.; m. 1st Hannah Bassett, who d.s.p. before 1769 in Liverpool, Nova Scotia; m. 2nd Dec. 29, 1769, Dighton, Mass., Phebe Walker

203. vi. Kathryn Ruth Sears,* b. July 26, 1957

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Bernice Alpha Hoffman, b. Jan. 11, 1904, Milan, Mo.; m. Apr. 15, 1924, Chester La Verne Hurdle, b. Sept. 21, 1898, Holden, Mo.; d. Dec. 28, 1967, Boulder, Colo.

204. i. Karyl Mae Hurdle,* b. Oct. 15, 1925, Milan, Mo.; m. Sept. 14, 1947, Boulder Colo., Frank Ralph Drexel, b. Oct. 5, 1925, Crawford, Colo.

Children, all b. in Boulder, Colo.:

- i. Sandra Jean, b. Apr. 30, 1954
- ii. Frank Norman, b. July 10, 1957
- iii. Mark Lawrence, b. June 23, 1960

205. ii. Chester Bruce Hurdle,* b. Apr. 20, 1930, Milan, Mo.; m. Feb. 18, 1957, Stratford, Texas, Judith Ann Sherrod, b. July 17, 1931, Tulsa, Okla. Children, all b. in Boulder:

- i. Gary Wayne, b. May 12, 1955
- ii. Keith Alan, b. Apr. 19, 1958
- iii. Janet Elaine, b. Jan. 15, 1960

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Mary Beatrice Farley, b. Oct. 7, 1916 near Milan Mo.; m. Aug. 14, 1940, Milan, Mo. Harlan Adams, died Feb. 2, 1965 (bur. Highland Cem., Kirksville, Mo.)

Children:

206. i. Kitty Sue Adams,* b. Aug. 25, 1947, Kirksville, Mo.; m. 1st May 25, 1959, Alexandria, Mo., Joe Dean White; m. 2nd Nov. 20, 1965, Arkansas, Dale Ray Dover. Child by 2nd marriage: Leora Sue Dover, b. Nov. 12, 1966, Springfield, Mo.

207. ii. Nancy Beatrice Adams,* b. Aug. 25, 1947; m. Sept. 11, 1965, Alexander, Clark Co., Mo., Joseph Spencer Hughes. Child: Matthew Harlan Hughes, b. Sept. 17, 1968, Keokuk, Iowa.

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Anna Maxine Farley, b. Dec. 8, 1921 near Milan, Mo.; m. July 23, 1938, Milan, Mo. John Robert Jones of Chillicothe, Mo., b. 1915

Children:

208. i. Robert Dewayne Jones,* b. Oct. 30, 1942, near Browning, Mo.; m. 1st Apr. 8, 1961, Sullivan Co., Mo., Peggy L. Hansen (dau. of Okey Hansen and Bessie Stufflebean); divorced Oct. 1965; m. 2nd Nov. 23, 1965 at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Shelia Jean Knifong. Children by 1st marriage:

- i. James Wayne, b. Sept. 10, 1961, Milan, Mo.
- ii. Bobby Lee, b. Feb. 15, 1963, Milan, Mo.

209. ii. Dennis Harlan Jones

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Carlton Roland Sears, b. Nov. 23, 1900 near Boynton, Mo.; d. May 20, 1973, near

City, Mo. (bur. Elmwood Cem.); m. Nov. 10, 1921, Milan, Mo., Mary Edith Boyd (Boyd 226); she is living in Bates City, Mo.

Children:

210. i. William Leonard Sears,* b. & d. Dec. 5, 1922 near Boynton, Mo. (bur. Elmwood Cem.)

211. ii. Marvin Paul Sears, b. May 18, 1924 near Boynton, Mo.

212. iii. Nona Jean Sears,* b. Jan. 25, 1929 near Boynton, Mo. Of Bates City, Mo.

213. iv. Richard Duane Sears,* b. Jan. 26, 1940 near Dwight in Morris Co., Kansas; m. June 17, 1966, St. Louis, Mo., Grace Page Harris (dau. of Robert Laird Harris & Elizabeth Kruger Nelson), b. Aug. 31, 1943, Wilmington, Delaware; they have a son, Robert Carlton Sears, b. May 17, 1970, in Berea, Ky.

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Austa Mae Sears, b. Dec. 10, 1902 near Boynton, Mo.; m. 1st Luther Evans Call (son of John Call and Belle Boyd), b. June 3, 1900, Honaker, Virginia; d. July 8, 1955, Milan, Mo. (bur. Oakwood Cem.); m. 2nd July 30, 1967, in Milan Mo., Wade Humphreys. Children by 1st marriage:

214. i. Helen Colleen Call,* b. Jan. 6, 1923, Des Moines, Iowa; m. May 19, 1944, Napoleon, Ohio, Clyde Benny, b. Sept. 19, 1922; they live in California

215. ii. Mildred Madeline Call,* b. Feb. 18, 1925, Des Moines, Iowa, m. Oct. 26, 1945, Lincoln Park, Michigan, Paul ("Mickey") Riggen (son of Raymond Alva Riggen & Anna Elizabeth Caldwell), b. Sept. 21, 1920; they have one son, Douglas Paul Riggen, b. Feb. 3, 1955, Detroit, Mich.

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Helen Blanche Sears, b. May 4, 1906 near Boynton, Mo.; d. Mar. 6, 1950, Wayne, Mich. (bur. Elmwood Cem.); m. 1st Dec. 31, 1921, Sullivan Co., Mo., Everett E. Sterling (son of Henry Sterling & Ellen Caldwell), b. 1898; m. 2nd Edward E. Carter, b. July 10, 1902, whose first wife was Lela Bartley (Payne 575)

216. i. Quentin Alvin Sterling,* b. Sept. 19, 1923; m. 1st Wanda Lebers; divorced; m. 2nd - wife's name unknown. Children by 1st marriage:

- i. Timothy
- ii. Laurel
- iii. Heatherlyn

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John William Sears, b. Dec. 16, 1907 near Boynton, Mo.; d. Aug. 28, 1972, St. Louis, Mo. (bur. Oakwood Cem.); m. Feb. 24, 1931, Sullivan Co., Mo., Claude Anne Morlan (dau. of Silas Morlan and Minnie McDaniel), b. Dec. 16, 1909 near Pollock, Mo.

217. i. Bonnie Lea Sears,* b. Oct. 5, 1932, Pollock, Mo.; m. Ed Maulsby. Children:

²Edson C. Smith, *American Surnames* (New York: Chelton Book Co., 1906), p. 312.

³In the early records of Plymouth, Richard's surname is given as Sares; Paul, seems to have adopted the familiar spelling Sears.

⁴May, p. 23.

⁵Mrs. W. W. McPherson, *The Ancestry of Addie Clark Harding* (196-), p. 43.

⁶May, p. 43.

⁷Deborah Willard's father, George, was bapt. Dec. 1614 at Horsmonden, Kent, England, where his family had lived for several generations; he came to New England in 1638, and took the Oath of Allegiance at Scituate, Mass., Feb. 1, 1640. His wife was almost certainly Dorothy Dunster, dau. of Henry Dunster of Balesham, and sister of Henry Dunster, 1st president of Harvard College (from Aug. 27, 1636 to Oct. 24, 1654). A book concerning the Willard family, Henry Kellogg Willard, *Memorial to Henry Augustus Willard and Sarah Bradley Willard* (1925), has much information about early Willards; see especially pp. 5-7. Also see Lucius R. Packard, *History of Cambridge, Mass., 1630-1877* (Boston, 1877), pp. 537-8, for material concerning the Dunsters.

⁸Material concerning the Paddock family occurs in the following sources: P. May, pp. 33-35; *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 8, p. 220; Virkus *Compendium*, Vol. 7, p. 872.

⁹Mercy Mayo was the dau. of Deacon Samuel Mayo, b. England; d. 1667; Boston; will proved Apr. 26, 1664; & Tamsin/Thomasine Lumpkin, b. 1636, whose second husband was John Sunderland. Deacon Samuel was the son of Rev. John Mayo, b. Eng., who came to Mass., in 1636, and became minister of North Church in Boston. He removed to Yarmouth where he died May 1676. His son who died at Yarmouth Feb. 26, 1682, was named Tamsen. The father of Tamsin/Thomasine Lumpkin was William Lumpkin, whose wife was also a woman named Tamsen or Thomasine; he died 1671. Savage's *Genealogical Dictionary* has entries concerning these people.

¹⁰The birthdates of the children of Samuel and Mercy (Mayo) Sears are given in "Harwich, Mass., Vital Records," *The Mayflower Descendant*, Vol. 3 (1901), p. 175; other information concerning them in Vol. 4, p. 210; and in George E. Bowman's "Records of the First Parish in Brewster formerly the First Parish in Harwich, Mass.," *The Mayflower Descendant*, Vol. 4, pp. 245-9.

¹¹Marriage intention in "Harwich Vital Records," *The Mayflower Descendant*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (Jan. 1911), p. 58.

¹²*Ibid.*, No. 3 (July 1911), p. 148 — listing seven of Judah and Mary (Faneuil) Sears' children.

¹³William R. Cutter, ed., *New England Families: Genealogical and Memorial* (N. Y., 1914), Vol. III, p. 1341. Also in *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 5 (Oct. 1851), pp. 4142, 4143; Vol. 7 (Jan. 1853), pp. 72, 73; Vol. 17, pp. 37, 325; Vol. 32 (July 1859), p. 254.

¹⁴*Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors of the Revolutionary War* (Boston, 1866), Vol. 13, p. 947.

¹⁵May, pp. 120, 121.

¹⁶Alden bibliography: "John Alden Entry," *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. I, pp. 146, 147.

William Richard Cutter, ed., *Genealogical and Personal Memoirs Relating to the Families of the State of Massachusetts* (N. Y. 1910) Vol. II, pp. 1229, 1230; Vol. III, pp. 2001, 2002.

Hubert Kinney Shaw, *Families of the Pilgrims* (Mass. Soc. of Mayflower Descendants, 1956), pp. 20, 21, 28, 29.

¹⁷John A. Goodwin, *The Pilgrim Republic* (Boston, 1888), p. 556.

¹⁸Frederick A. Virkus, *The (Abridged) Compendium of American Genealogy*, Vol. I, p. 17.

¹⁹William Richard Cutter, ed., *Massachusetts*, Vol. III, p. 1692; Vol. IV, p. 2686. "Gov. William Bradford Entry," *Dictionary of American Biography*, Vol. II, p. 562. John A. Goodwin, *The Pilgrim Republic* (Boston, 1888), p. 38.

²⁰William Richard Cutter, ed., *New England Families: Genealogical and Memorial* (N. Y., 1914), Vol. III, pp. 1554, 1555; Vol. IV, p. 2227. "Marriages Birth and Deaths at Taunton, Mass.," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 17, p. 34. *Representative Men and Old Families of Southeastern Mass.* (Chicago, 1912), Vol. II, p. 749. *Taunton, Mass., Vital Records to 1850*, p. 495.

²¹William Richard Cutter, ed., *New England*, pp. 462-463.

Dictionary of American Biography, Vol. 15, p. 583.

"Marriage, Births and Deaths at Taunton, Mass." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 17, p. 327.

Joshua Bailey Richmond, *The Richmond Family: 1594-1895 and Pre-American Ancestors 1040-1594* (Boston, 1907), pp. vii-xv; 1-3; 12, 13.

²²LDS Archives Records — Joseph Tisdale, Sr., Joseph Tisdale, Jr. *The Mayflower Descendant*, Vol. 21 (1919), pp. 29-35.

"Marriages in Taunton, Mass." *New England Historical and Genealogical Register*, Vol. 13 (July 1859), p. 254.

²³Hubert Kinney Shaw, *Families of the Pilgrims* (Mass. Soc. of Mayflower Desc., 1956), p. 127.

Isaac Newton Williams, *The Rogers-Turfler Family: A Search for Ancestors* (1946), pp. 10-13.

²⁴William Richard Cutter, *New England Families: Genealogical and Memorial* (N. Y., 1914), Vol. III, p. 1341.

New England Historical and Genealogical Register, Vol. 5 (Oct. 1851), pp. 4142, 4143; Vol. 7 (Jan. 1853), pp. 72, 73; Vol. 17, pp. 37, 325; Vol. 32 (July 1859), p. 254.

Spurious Leonard pedigree: Charles Henry Browning, *Americans of Royal Descent*, 3rd ed. (Philadelphia, 1894), pp. 40, 41, 305.

²⁵LDS Archives Record (from John L. Reed, *Reed Genealogy: desc. of William Reade*)

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The Sears (variously Seers) families of Dutchess County were extensively studied between 1880 and 1913 and are chronicled in a published genealogy and a revised manuscript. Both works present only one Naomi Sears old enough to have been Naomi Rider's contemporary, and she was not born until 1802.¹¹ Since then, no one seems to have succeeded in connecting Naomi Rider to any family of Sears (or variant spellings). Developing a reasonable hypothesis for her parental family has required careful investigation and analysis of numerous families and relationships, spanning more than a century and extending across a geographic area from Cape Cod to Missouri.

The hypothesis presented here has survived all tests to date. No evidence contradicts it and strong factors support it. However, the meagerness of records found for a few branches of the family precludes their total dismissal from further consideration. This paper examines the identifiable field of candidates for Naomi's father, corrects previously published errors, summarizes the known evidence, and presents the likeliest case for her parentage. This analysis should also provide a firmer basis for future study of the various Sears families in Dutchess County.

IDENTIFYING POSSIBLE FATHERS

Over the course of their marriage, Zadock and Naomi lived in two regions. When they wed in 1793, Zadock was a resident of Southeast in Dutchess. Soon after, they moved into the interior of New York State, to Litchfield in Herkimer County. Although Naomi *could* have been from Litchfield, prompting Zadock to relocate amid her family, marriages commonly occurred in the county of bridal residence. In the absence of evidence that Naomi was a widow at the time of this marriage, logic dictates that any search for her parents should focus upon her husband's immediate neighborhood.

The Sears genealogy demonstrates that more than a dozen related families of that name resided on both sides of the Connecticut–New York boundary line in 1793—as well as a few other Seares who cannot be connected. Most trace back to two fourth-generation Sears males (second cousins): Benjamin⁴, who settled South(ern) Precinct, Dutchess County, as early as 1746; and James, who allegedly settled at Ridgefield or Mill Plain in Fairfield County, Connecticut, about the same time. As figure 1 illustrates, the Connecticut town was contiguous to Southeast in Dutchess. Sons of James were said to be among those who spread across the line into Southeast as well as up to the Connecticut town of Danbury that adjoined

11. Samuel P. May, *The Descendants of Richard Seares (Sears) of Yarmouth, Mass., 1638–1888* (Albany, New York: Joel Munsell's Sons, 1890). May was a knowledgeable and careful researcher at a time that saw the production of much undocumented—and at times highly imaginative—genealogy. Still, his work has its share of errors. The published genealogy does not cite sources for all its information, although some are identifiable from his revised manuscript at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, Boston. Dated 1913, the manuscript contains a number of corrections made by May after the 1890 publication, but none bear on the problem at hand. See also May, "Some Doubts Concerning the Sears Pedigree," *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* 40 (July 1886): 261–68.

Figure 2
Householders Surnamed *Sears* and *Rider*
Fairfield County, Connecticut, 1790

TOWN (TOTAL NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS) NO. NAME OF HEAD	FREE WHITES			NONWHITES	
	MALES 16+	MALES -16	FEMALES	FREE*	SLAVE*
<i>Danbury</i> (569)					
34 Rider, John Sears: none					
<i>Ridgefield</i> (361)					
62 Sears, Comfort	1	1	6	—	—
63 Sears, Knowles	1	3	4	—	—
65 Sears, Daniel Rider: none	1	1	1	—	—

SOURCE: *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Connecticut* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 10–12 (Danbury), 28–29 (Ridgefield).

* In 1790, Fairfield County had 795 slaves and 327 free people of color; none appear in Sears households.

Ridgefield and Mill Plain. However, when the published Sears genealogy is correlated with the Rider genealogy, the only locale in which the two families appear in close proximity is the New York town of Southeast.

As figures 2 and 3 reveal, the 1790 census also spotlights Southeast as the likeliest site for Naomi's birth family.¹² In Fairfield County, no Sears or Rider households appear in close proximity. In adjacent Dutchess County, Searses are found in only three of the towns in which Riders resided: Amenia in the northern part of the county; and Frederickstown and Southeast in the southern part. Only in Southeast, however, are the Riders and Searses enumerated in close proximity; and Zadock Rider's presence amid a cluster of Searses strongly suggests that his wife was attached to one of those neighboring families.

Extant records of Dutchess and Fairfield identify at least twenty-one adult males of the surname Sears who lived in Southeast and adjacent towns in the latter half of the eighteenth century. Most of those in Dutchess—though not all—appear on the tax rolls extracted in figure 4.¹³ However, only ten were adults there at the

12. The tables in figures 2 and 3 show full data for all Sears households, because all are considered potential kin of Naomi Rider. The tables identify Riders, to show proximity. However, the Rider data—except in Zadock's case—are not included here because those details are not intrinsic to the problem of identifying Naomi.

13. The preface to a published study of Dutchess County tax rolls points out: "Some people who resided in the district were never taxed and others were only taxed for part of the time they were there. This situation may have occurred because of the complexities of lease arrangements which were common in Dutchess County." See Arthur and Nancy Kelly, eds., *Dutchess County, NY, Tax Lists, 1718–1787*, by Clifford M. Buck, with Rombout Precinct by William Willis Reese (Rhinebeck, New York: Kinship, 1990), v.

Figure 3
Householders Surnamed Sears and Rider
Dutchess County, New York, 1790

TOWN (TOTAL NO. OF HOUSEHOLDS)	FREE WHITES			NONWHITES	
	MALES 16+	MALES -16	FEMALES	FREE*	SLAVE*
<i>Amenia (444)</i>					
33 Sears, Charles Rider: none	1	—	—	—	—
<i>Frederickstown (851)</i>					
75 Rider, Reuben					
267 Rider, David					
352 Rider, John					
462 Sears, Thomas	3	4	5	—	—
<i>Pauling (677)</i>					
394 Rider, John					
398 Rider, William					
399 Rider, Samuel Sears: none					
<i>Southeast Town (136)</i>					
16 Crane, Issac†					
17 Rider, Eleazer					
21 Sears, Seth, Jun'	2	2	7	—	—
23 Sears, Benjamin	4	1	5	—	—
34 Sears, Stephen	1	—	3	—	—
37 Rider, Mary‡					
40 Rider, Zadoc	1	4	2	—	—
41 Young, Shaw§					
43 Sears, Seth	2	1	3	—	—
48 Rider, Christopher					
51 Rider, Simeon	2	3	2	—	—
<i>Washington (740)</i>					
72 Rider, Thurston					
73 Rider, William					
430 Rider, John					
460 Rider, Jonathan Sears: none					

SOURCE: *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: New York* (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1908), 72–74 (Amenia), 81–85 (Frederickstown), 86–88 (Pauling), 93–94 (Southeast), and 94–96 (Washington). The towns of Beekman, Clinton, Fishkill, Northeast, Philipstown, Poughkeepsie, and Reinbeck had no Rider or Sears families.

* In 1790, Dutchess County had 1,856 slaves and 440 free people of color; however, none appear in Sears households.

† Isaac Crane married Anna Sears, daughter of Stephen⁵ (Benjamin⁶); see sketch herein for Stephen⁵.

‡ Mary Rider, next door to Zadock, was probably his mother, Mary (Paine) Rider.

§ Shaw Young married a daughter of Benjamin⁴ Sears and was a coexecutor of his will, discussed later.

Figure 4
Taxpayers Surnamed Sears
Southern Dutchess County, New York, 1740-79*

TAXPAYER NAMES	DATES		TAX LOCATION
	FROM	TO	
Benjamin "	1746 (Jun.) 1772	1771 1779	South(ern) Southeast
Benjamin "Junt."	1763 (Feb.)	1771	South(ern)
David "	1759 (Feb.) 1772	1771 —	South(ern) Fredericksburg
James	1744/5 (Feb.)	1771	South(ern)
James "Junt."	1771	—	Southern
Uncertain identities† James James	1772 1773‡	1773‡ —	Southeast Fredericksburg
Seth "	1761 (Feb.) 1772	1771 1779	South(ern) Southeast
Seth "Junt."	1773	1779	Southeast
Silas	1745/6 (Feb.)	1756 (Feb.)	South(ern)
Silas	1761 (Feb.)	1761 (Jun.)	South(ern)
Thomas "	1771 1772	—	South(ern) Southeast
Thomas	1772	1779	Southeast

SOURCES:

Dutchess County tax rolls, County Clerk's Office, Poughkeepsie; available as microfilm roll 0,925,907 (1717-47); roll 0,925,054 (1729-57); roll 0,925,902 (1757-64); and roll 0,925,055 (1772-79). Family History Library [FHL], Salt Lake City. A set of manuscript extracts, with some details omitted, is available as Clifford M. Buck, "Southern Tax Lists; Includes: Southern or South, Fredericksburgh, Philipse and Southeast, Dutchess County, NY, Tax Lists, 1718-87" (typescript, Dutchess County Historical Society, Poughkeepsie), later published as part of Arthur and Nancy Kelly, eds., *Dutchess County, NY, Tax Lists, 1718-1787* . . . (Rhinebeck, New York: Kinship, 1990). When extracting the South and Southern lists, Buck added a column called "Removed," in which he suggests the subsequent jurisdiction in which the earlier individuals were taxed. The above coupling of individuals from lists in different years represents Buck's conclusions as well as those of the present writer.

NOTES:

* Rolls for the southern part of Dutchess begin in 1740 and are missing for 1749-52, 1764, 1776, and most of 1777.

† Insufficient data exist for James of Southeast and James of Fredericksburg, 1772-73, to determine whether they should be identified as either James or James "Junt." of 1744/5-71.

‡ In each case, the individual's name is listed on the roll, but no assessment is added beside the name.

time of Naomi's birth; and another two were there during her childhood. The Sears genealogy, for the most part, reliably identifies a birth family for all but a few of these men; although it assigns none of them a daughter who could be Naomi Rider. A brief family grouping of these males follows:¹⁴

Benjamin* (Samuel ¹)*	James ⁴ (Silas ³)*	Unknown Father
Sons:	Sons:	Son:
Benjamin Jr. (1738–1827)	David (1731–1827)	Silas* (1745–61 tax rolls)
Stephen (1738–1791)	Seth (1736–1809)	
Possible Son:	Sons:	
Charles* (1790 census)	Seth* (b. ca. 1769)	
Enoch (1741–1773)	(?)Stephen* (RW militia)	
Reuben (1743/4–ca.1770)	(1790 census)	
Seth (b. c.1746–52)	(?)Reuben* (1790 marriage)	
Samuel* (b. aft. 1746)	Knowles (1738–1817)	
Sunderland* (1749–1827)	Son:	
	Daniel* (1762–1840)	
	Thomas (1745–1804)	
	James* (b. c.1747)	
	Comfort* (b. 1751)	

This project hypothesizes that one of the above men fathered Naomi Rider in 1764—excluding those with asterisks beside their names. (These may be eliminated on the basis that they were too young, too old, or not in the area at the time of Naomi's birth and/or marriage.) Proving or disproving that hypothesis required a reexamination of all extant records and a fresh attempt to reassemble the life of each man as fully as the records permit. For each of these Sears males of viable age, brief summaries follow.

THE BENJAMIN SEARS LINE

Benjamin⁴ Sears Sr.

Born at Harwich, Massachusetts, 16 June 1706, Benjamin was the son of Samuel³ and Mercy (Mayo) Sears.¹⁵ He died in Southeast between 4 September 1786 and 12 January 1787.¹⁶ On 16 March 1731 at Yarmouth, Massachusetts, he married the first of his three wives, **Lydia Rider**, daughter of Ebenezer and Experience Rider.¹⁷ Lydia died on 24 March 1733/4.¹⁸ On 26 July 1735, he filed

14. For the evidence supporting each genealogical statement in this table, see the individual sketches that follow.

15. Louise H. Kelley and Dorothy Straw, comps., *Vital Records: Town of Harwich, Massachusetts, 1694–1850* (Harwich: Harwich Historical Society, 1982), 2.

16. On 4 September 1786, Benjamin's name appears on a newly drafted membership roll of current church members at Philippi (Southeast) Congregational Church. On 12 January 1787, his will was probated. See H. Calkins Jr., contributor, "The Records of Philippi, Now Southeast, Putnam Co., N.Y.," *NYG&B Record* 32 (April 1901): 100–101. Will of Benjamin Sears, City of New York, Abstracts of Wills 39: 426, Surrogate Office. Benjamin died in Southeast, but some wills of that area wound up in New York City.

17. Robert M. Sherman and Ruth Wilder Sherman, comps., *Vital Records of Yarmouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (1975; reprint, Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1993), 146, 495 (marriage), 33 (Lydia's birth).

18. Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 54.

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marriage intentions at Harwich with **Mercy Snow**, daughter of Prince and Hannah Snow of Harwich.¹⁹ Mercy died 29 or 30 June 1736, after the birth of her first child.²⁰ On 30 June 1737, in Yarmouth or Harwich, he wed **Abigail Burgess**, who was born 25 September 1710 to Samuel and Elizabeth Burgess.²¹ Abigail's last known appearance of record is the Philippi membership list of 4 September 1786.²²

At the time of her marriage to Benjamin, Abigail was the young widow of Stephen Sears⁴ (Joseph³, Silas², Richard¹),²³ Benjamin's second cousin. Their daughter Sarah⁵, born at Yarmouth on 31 March 1734,²⁴ is reintroduced later in this paper as the wife of Seth⁵ (James⁴, Silas³). As Abigail's daughter, Sarah would have been reared in the household of Benjamin⁴ and would have regarded his children—her half brothers and sisters—as siblings. This point becomes significant in the discussion of Sarah's husband, Seth⁵.

The family's move to Dutchess County should have occurred before 1746, given Benjamin's emergence that year on the New York tax rolls. Not until 1749, however, was he dropped from Harwich's Congregational Church records. A register entry in Brewster, Harwich's north precinct, reads: "Benjamin Sears [was] dismissed [sic] from this Chh to y^e [sic] chh in Oblong of wh^{ch} R^d M^r Kent is pastor," on 22 October 1749.²⁵ In that interim, no Sears children were baptized.

By his three marriages, Benjamin fathered thirteen known children. Neither the two children of his first marriage nor the one child of his second marriage survived infancy.²⁶ Ten children of Benjamin⁴ and Abigail reached maturity. All are named in his will (dated 25 March 1784 and proved 12 January 1787), except two sons whom the evidence suggests were dead.²⁷ Those ten children are:²⁸

- + i. BENJAMIN⁵ SEARS; born 2 May 1738 at Harwich and mentioned in his father's will.
- + ii. STEPHEN SEARS, twin, born 2 May 1738 at Harwich and mentioned in his father's will.
- + iii. ENOCH SEARS, born 5 September 1741 at Harwich but not mentioned in his father's will; probably died during winter 1773–74.
- + iv. REUBEN SEARS, baptized 19 February 1743/4 at Harwich; last on record in January 1770 and not mentioned in his father's will.

19. Ibid., 4 (birth of Mercy), 58 (birth of Mercy's child), 61 and 495 (marriage intentions).

20. Ibid., 54, citing death of Mercy on 30 June 1736. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 79, gives Mercy's death date as 29 June, citing her gravestone at West Brewster, Massachusetts.

21. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 15 (birth of Abigail), 150 (marriage); Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 495 (marriage). The Sears-Burgess marriage is reported in both publications; the place of marriage is not actually stated in either.

22. Calkins, "Records of Philippi," 101.

23. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 104.

24. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 59.

25. *Records of the Brewster Congregational Church, Brewster, Massachusetts, 1700–1792* (Boston: Merrymount Press for the Brewster Congregational Church, 1911), 94.

26. Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 54 (death of Lydia's son Heman), 57 (birth and death of Lydia's unnamed daughter), 58 (birth and death of Lydia's son Heman; birth and death of Mercy's son, also named Heman).

27. Will of Benjamin Sears, previously cited. One executor named in 1784 (Shaw Young) is identified as a son-in-law; the specific daughter who wed him has not been identified.

28. Unless otherwise suited, the data on children are from May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 79.

- + v. SETH SEARS, born 1746–52 and mentioned in his father's will.
- + vi. SAMUEL SEARS, born after 1746 and mentioned in his father's will; moved to Cortland County, New York. He was too young to be considered as Naomi's father.
- + vii. SUNDERLAND SEARS, born 14 December 1749 in Dutchess; moved to Saratoga County, New York. Named in his father's will. He was too young to be Naomi's father.
- + viii. ABIGAIL SEARS, born in Dutchess; mentioned in her father's will by first name only.
- + ix. LYDIA SEARS, born in Dutchess; mentioned in her father's will by first name only.
- + x. MERCY SEARS, born in Dutchess; mentioned in her father's will by first name only. She is possibly the Mercy Crosby (Crosby) whose name is entered immediately after Abigail Sears on the September 1786 membership roll of Philippi Congregational Church.²⁹

EVALUATION OF BENJAMIN⁴:

Highly improbable candidate for Naomi's father. At Naomi's birth in 1764, Benjamin's wife was too old to bear children.

Benjamin⁵ Sears (Benjamin⁴)

Born at Harwich, 2 May 1738;³⁰ died at Milltown, Putnam County, New York, on 12 March 1827.³¹ About 1762–63, probably at Southeast, he married **Mary Hall**, daughter of Peter and Abigail⁵ (Sears) Hall. Mary, who had been born on 16 July 1741,³² died 26 May 1814.³³

This Benjamin's life, in several ways, intersects that of Zadock and Naomi. He first emerges in the extant records of Dutchess on the 1763 tax roll for Southern Precinct, where he regularly appears through 1771. After that precinct was subdivided, the remaining rolls (1772–79) place him in Southeast. (See figure 4.) He was still there when the 1790 census was taken—just two households from his brother, "Seth Junr.," and seventeen from Zadock Rider. (See figure 2.) The Sears genealogy reports that Benjamin⁵ removed to Litchfield in Herkimer County, New York³⁴—as did Zadock and Naomi. If so, his was a temporary move. He definitely owned a Litchfield lot that he sold in 1808 to his son Peter, at which time Benjamin said he was "of Southeast."³⁵ Perhaps coincidentally but perhaps not, Peter and his wife sold that same property in 1814 to Samuel Rider, son of Zadock Rider's older brother, Reuben.³⁶

29. Calkins, "Records of Philippi," 101.

30. Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 58.

31. Barbara Smith Buys, comp., *Old Gravestones of Putnam County, New York* (Baltimore: Gateway Press, 1975), 343. At the time of his death, he was 88. His marker states, however, that he was "aged 90 years."

32. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 81 (Mary's birth), 150 (marriage of Peter and Abigail); May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 125, reports this marriage but does not give a date; the date above is calculated from the birth date of the first known child. Abigail⁵ was a daughter of Samuel⁴ (Samuel³, Paul², Richard¹), according to May, p. 70. Abigail and Peter Hall appear as the first female name and first male-member name on the Philippi Church roll of 1786; Benjamin and Abigail (Burgess) Hall are coupled with them as the second names in each section; see Calkins, "Records of Philippi," 101.

33. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343 (Milltown Cemetery).

34. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 125.

35. Herkimer County Deeds, 3: 457, County Clerk's Office, Herkimer, New York.

36. *Ibid.*, 7: 456.

While the 1790 census attributes five females to Benjamin's household, his will of 1827 suggests a much smaller family. He names four sons, cites one (Heman) as deceased, and leaves a bequest to that son's child (Aaron). He also leaves a bequest to a grown grandson, born to a deceased daughter (unnamed); but in no way does the evidence suggest that other daughters survived him.³⁷

The five children of Benjamin⁵ Sears and Mary Hall are as follows:³⁸

- i. PETER⁶ SEARS, born 20 December 1763 at Southeast; wed Susanah Webb. Lived in Herkimer County, 1790s–1814³⁹; died at Sardinia, Erie County, New York, 9 August 1822.
- ii. HEMAN SEARS, born 7 January 1767 at Southeast; died there 18 August 1817. Heman participated in the Southeast-to-Litchfield migration of the mid-1790s but returned to Southeast.⁴⁰
- iii. DELIVERANCE SEARS, born 19 December 1769 at Southeast; died 17 April 1791. Her adult child, Benjamin Smith, is named in her father's 1827 will.
- iv. ISAAC SEARS, born 2 March 1772 at Southeast; died at Brewster, Putnam County, 27 October 1839. Married Priscilla Bennett.⁴¹
- v. SAMUEL SEARS, born 17 July 1774; died 10 October 1830, possibly at Lisbon, Illinois.⁴² Married (1) 20 May 1798, Phebe Field; (2) Martha Bennett, who died 15 May 1855.

EVALUATION OF BENJAMIN⁵:

Unlikely. Naomi's birth on 23 September 1764 was a scant nine months after the birth of Peter above. Sibling births this close are relatively rare, especially in societies in which mothers nursed their infants. However, significant connections to Zadock and Naomi are found in this Benjamin's family—as later discussed.

Stephen⁵ Sears (Benjamin⁴)

Born at Harwich, 2 May 1738,⁴³ as a twin of Benjamin⁵, Stephen is said to have "died of yellow fever at New York in 1791 while at work upon a contract there."⁴⁴ He married three times: (1) Dillie [—?—], about 1759, who died on 28 February 1766, aged twenty-five; (2) Elizabeth Hide, 2 April 1767, who died 28 October 1767, aged twenty-eight; and (3) Sybil (Hunt) Pardee, 9 March 1769, who died 8 February 1834, at ninety-four.⁴⁵

37. Benjamin Sears will, Putnam County "Record of Old Estates" (3 vols., typescript), B: 242, citing file 459, Surrogate's Office, Carmel.

38. Unless otherwise cited, the details on these children are from May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 125, 206–8.

39. Herkimer County Deeds, 7: 456.

40. "Minutes of Town Meetings, Town of Litchfield, Herkimer Co., N.Y., 1796–1816" in *New York DAR Cemetery, Church and Town Records*, vol. 15, *Unpublished Cemetery, Church and Town Records, Together with Genealogical Notes and Other Unpublished Data* (typescript serial, 1928–29; Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington), 282; Herman [sic] Sears will, Putnam County "Record of Old Estates," A: 257, citing file 209. See also Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343.

41. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343 (Milltown Cemetery, for both Isaac and Priscilla).

42. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 125, 208, places his death in Lisbon, Illinois. However, Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343, records a Samuel who died in his 57th year—apparently this Samuel.

43. Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 58.

44. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 127.

45. The date of Stephen's first marriage is calculated from the birth date of his eldest known child. Dates for the other marriages are from Lawrence van Alostyne, *Born, Married and Died, in Sharon, Connecticut . . . 1721 to 1879 Taken from Ancient Land and Church Records and Other Authentic Sources* (Sharon: privately printed, 1897), 71, 111; death data are from Van Alostyne, *Burying Grounds of Sharon, Connecticut, Amenit and North*

May reports that Stephen, a carpenter, removed to Sharon—on the east side of the Oblong in Litchfield County, Connecticut—about 1760. That time frame is supported by the Dutchess tax rolls, which May does not seem to have used; Stephen came of age in 1759, but he appears on no Dutchess rolls from that time through the end of the series in 1779. According to May, Stephen purchased the “Deacon Hunter Place” (purchase date unstated); and that tract of 150 acres was owned by Stephen’s grandson when May began his research.⁴⁶

The permanence of Stephen’s residence in Sharon introduces a conflict in the biographical details currently attributed to him. During the Revolution, one Stephen Sears served as a private under Colonel John Field in the Third Regiment of the Dutchess County militia;⁴⁷ and the Daughters of the American Revolution credit that service to Stephen³ (Benjamin⁴).⁴⁸ Two factors suggest that this service is misassigned. First, in that era almost all able-bodied men of a legally specified age bracket were required to do militia duty in their *home* community; a Connecticut resident and family head would serve in a Connecticut militia unit, not a New York unit fifty or so miles away. Second, a 2 October 1776 militia roll for a Litchfield light-horse unit, commanded by Ruloff Dutcher of Salisbury, includes a private named *Stephen Sears*.⁴⁹ Given that Salisbury adjoined Sharon, it is reasonable to

East, New York (1903; reprint, Interlaken, New York: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1983), 50. The above marriage data correct May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 126, which reports Stephen’s three marriages as (1) Elizabeth Hyde, at Sharon; (2) Sarah Hunter, daughter of Deacon Hunter of Sharon; and (3) Sybil (Hunt) Pardee, who died 8 February 1834, at 94. May refers to a church record of the first marriage but does not cite the church or the date of the marriage. Van Alstyne, *Born, Married, and Died*, 72, cites a Sarah Hunter marrying James Pardee on 13 November 1754; but he shows no Sarah Hunter marriage to Stephen Sears. According to Donald Lines Jacobus, *The Pardee Genealogy* (New Haven: New Haven Colony Historical Society, 1927), 130, this Sarah Hunter died in 1799, still wed to Pardee.

46. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 126.

47. New York State Comptroller’s Office, *New York in the Revolution, as Colony and State*, 2 vols. (Albany: J. B. Lyon Co., 1901–4), 1: 140. Page 148 also presents a Sixth Regiment roll for Dutchess County with the name Stephen Sears. However, neither roll is dated; and numerous circumstances caused young men to appear on the rolls of multiple militia units. As examples: (1) Stephen could have moved a short distance from one regimental district to another—a very likely situation for a young and propertyless male in a society in which most farmers were tenants rather than landowners and young men were often laborers. (2) Militia districts often split to form new regiments, when an area became more densely settled, and the number of local men obliged to do service exceeded the number that units were supposed to carry.

Possibly, these rolls date during the 1776–78 period, which marked the greatest amount of Revolutionary activity in that area. In May 1776, John Field was appointed colonel of a regiment covering all of Southeast and parts of Pawling and Fredericksburg; he was reappointed in June 1778. See Berthold Fernow, ed., *Documents Relating to the Colonial History of the State of New York*, vol. 15, *State Archives*, vol. 1 (Albany: Weed, Parsons, and Co., 1887), 102, 135, 280. However, in the colonial era, militia units existed whether or not a war was in progress; and a roll considered “Revolutionary” could have been drawn at any point during 1776–82. John Field was appointed

All factors considered, the private on one or both of these Dutchess County rolls was probably the Stephen Sears of smaller family enumerated in Dutchess in 1790 (see figure 3). As subsequently pointed out, there are several significant parallels between the 1776–90 Stephen of Dutchess and the family of Seth¹ (James⁴).

48. DAR Patriot Index, Centennial edition, 3 vols. (Washington: National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Centennial Administration, c.1994), 3: 2602.

49. Adjutant-General’s Office, *Record of Service of Connecticut Men in the 1. War of the Revolution. II War of 1812. III. Mexican War* (Hartford: Connecticut General Assembly, 1889), 482. Stephen of Sharon also appears

connect this service to the Stephen of Sharon. The 1790 Litchfield County census marks the last known record of Stephen before the 1791 death reported by May.⁵⁰

The children of Stephen⁵¹, listed below, showed remarkable disunity as they migrated outward from the Sharon Valley.⁵²

- i. ANNA⁵³ SEARS, born 30 June 1760; married Isaac Crane of Southeast (see figure 3) and later joined the migration from Southeast to Litchfield, Herkimer County, New York.
- ii. ABIGAIL SEARS, married Alpheus Jewett of Sharon, 15 February 1781; removed to Skaneateles, Onondaga County, New York.⁵⁴
- iii. SARAH SEARS, married Elisha Wright; they are possibly the Elisha Wright household enumerated in 1790 in Litchfield Town, near Sharon.⁵⁵ They settled at West Bloomfield, Ontario County, New York.
- iv. (?) CHARLES SEARS, who lived alone at the 1790 census (see figure 3); married 18 February 1795, Elizabeth Warren of Amenia.⁵⁶ Charles's presence in Amenia, New York, whose residents were so interconnected with those of Sharon that Van Alostyne treats the two communities together in his *Burying Grounds*, strongly suggests that he belongs to the nearby Stephen⁵ of Sharon. No other Seares have been found in Amenia before Charles. With no family in 1790 and no marriage before 1795, he is not likely to have been old enough to father Naomi in 1764.
- v. STEPHEN SEARS, born May 1770 at Sharon; married 7 May 1797, Lois Lovell, died at Sharon on 31 March 1812.
- vi. DELIA SEARS, born 10 July 1771, about whom nothing more is known.
- vii. JOHN SEARS, about whom nothing more is known.
- viii. TAMSEN SEARS, born in December 1775; married Allen Pease of Sharon or Sheffield on 20 October 1800.⁵⁷
- ix. AZENATH SEARS, married David Skidmore of Fairfield County, Connecticut; but his Newtown residence does not place him near the Fairfield Seares of this study.
- x. ALMA SEARS, married Stephen Hitchcock and lived in adjacent Amenia, Dutchess County, New York. (In 1790, the only Hitchcock household in Amenia was that of Samuel Hitchcock, who appears just nineteen houses from Charles, above.)⁵⁸

in Joyce Mackenzie Cropsey, *Register of Revolutionary Soldiers and Patriots Buried in Litchfield County* (Canaan, New Hampshire: Phoenix Publishing, 1976), 102. This volume, a compendium of previously published material with no clear indication of what statements come from what source, offers the following on Stephen: "from Barnstable, MA; b 5-20-1738 d 1791 #71; m (1) Sarah Hunter, m (2) 4-2-1767, Elizabeth Hyde/Hide; m (3) 3-9-1769 Sybil Hunt (widow Pardee)."

May, who was in contact with Stephen's offspring in the Sharon area, labels him "Capt. Stephen" and asserts, "He held the office of Sheriff and during the Revolution was a Captain and Commissary"; see *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 127. However, Connecticut's rosters of civil and military commissions do not include a Stephen. See Charles J. Hoadly et al., eds., *The Public Records of the Colony of Connecticut*, 15 vols. (Hartford: Case, Lockwood and Brainard, 1850-90); and Hoadly, ed., *The Public Records of the State of Connecticut, with the Journal of the Council of Safety and an Appendix*, 4 vols. (Hartford: Case, Lockwood and Brainard, 1894-1919).

50. *Heads of Families . . . Connecticut: 1790*, 62.

51. Unless otherwise cited, these details are from May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 126-27.

52. May poses Abigail as the eldest child. If so, then her birth likely occurred in 1758, which implies that her father married at 19. That would have been young for a male in their society. A marriage at 21 (1759) and a first child (Anna) in 1760 are more realistic. Van Alostyne, *Born, Married, and Died in Sharon*, 111, gives the marriage date for Abigail and Alpheus.

53. *Heads of Families . . . Connecticut: 1790*, 62.

54. Van Alostyne, *Born, Married, and Died in Sharon*, 111.

55. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 126-27, states that Tamsen married Allen Pease of Sharon; Van Alostyne, *Born, Married, and Died in Sharon*, 111, identifies Tamsen's husband as Allen Pease of Sheffield.

56. *Heads of Families . . . New York: 1790*, 72. May, 126-27, identifies the groom by surname only; Van Alostyne, 111, calls him Stephen but gives no date and does not cite an actual marriage record.

EVALUATION OF STEPHEN:

Unlikely. Stephen was of appropriate age, but marital and residential data and birth patterns of his children suggest that none of his wives bore Naomi in 1764. Stephen's permanent residence in Sharon makes it improbable that Zadock, a widower with young children at home in Southeast, traveled fifty or so miles to court Stephen's daughter.

Enoch⁵ Sears (Benjamin⁴)

Born at Harwich, 5 September 1741,⁵⁷ Enoch was "lost at sea on Long Island Sound" in 1773 or the winter of 1773–74.⁵⁸ In January 1773, possibly at Kingston, Ulster County, he married **Freelove Underhill**, daughter of the Quakers William and Mary (Bayley) Underhill, who had formerly lived in Fredericksburg, Dutchess County.⁵⁹ Freelove died in 1774, "at or after the birth of their first child," Ira.⁶⁰

No known document places Enoch⁵ Sears in Dutchess once he reached adulthood. As figure 4 shows, he is not named on any extant property- or personal -tax roll, although that does not necessarily rule out his presence there as a propertyless resident. The brief accounts published on him in the Sears and Underhill genealogies—while they state he was "of Dutchess"—actually present evidence that suggests otherwise. The Underhill Society, after decades of extensive work, placed Freelove's family in Dorset, Vermont, at the time of her marriage. According to their compiled genealogy, Freelove's father lived in Dutchess from 1747 but, in 1771, moved to Dorset—a town his older sons had helped to found in 1769. This reconstruction leaves no members of the Underhill family in Dutchess after that removal of William in 1771. The genealogy further states that after Enoch's death in 1773 and Freelove's death in 1774, the infant Ira was taken in by Freelove's brother, William Jr., who reared Ira in Dorset.⁶¹

Those accounts err. If their details were correct, they would strongly imply that the 1773 marriage and the 1774 birth occurred in Vermont, to which the family allegedly had moved. Given that Enoch⁵ appears on no known record of Dutchess County and neither Enoch nor the child Ira are mentioned in the 1787 will of Benjamin⁴, there would be reason to doubt whether Enoch⁵ (Benjamin⁴) lived to adulthood, married, and fathered a child. However, the alleged 1771 removal of Freelove's parents to Vermont did not actually occur until 1775. The Dutchess tax rolls place her father in New York throughout the 1771–75 period, although her brother, "William, Junr.," was dropped from the rolls in 1771. Because unmarried females commonly lived at home with parents so long as the parents lived, the continued presence of Freelove's father in Dutchess during the period of her

57. Kelley and Straw, *Vital Records: Town of Harwich*, 58.

58. Edwin R. Deats, *Underhill Genealogy*, 5 vols., Harry Macy Jr., ed., vol. 5 (Baltimore: Gateway Press for the Underhill Society of America, 1980), 67, gives the date as 1773; May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 127, suggests "winter of 1773–74."

59. May, above, agrees with Deats and Macy, *Underhill Genealogy*, 5: 67, on the date of the marriage; but he adds a place of marriage, without documentation.

60. Deats and Macy, *Underhill Genealogy*, 5: 89–90.

61. *Ibid.*, 67, 89.

marriage is a strong indication that she wed in Dutchess to a local male. Despite the fact that no adult of his name appears in surviving records of Dutchess, a courtship and marriage imply the presence of the groom in the vicinity of the bride.

The only child of Enoch⁵ was

I. IRA⁶ SEARS, born 7 March 1774; died in 1818; married Sally Cushman in 1794.⁶²

EVALUATION OF ENOCH⁵:

Unlikely. Enoch was of appropriate age to father Naomi, but there is no evidence of a wife prior to his 1773 marriage; nor is he named in the extant bastardy court cases of Dutchess County for the period of her birth.

Reuben⁵ Sears (Benjamin⁴)

Baptized at Harwich on 19 February 1743/4,⁶³ Reuben is almost as shadowy as his brother Enoch. He was not a taxpayer in Dutchess during the pre-1780 period for which rolls are extant. He is not listed on surviving Revolutionary rolls of New York, nor is he on known lists of Loyalists in that colony and state.⁶⁴ He is not named in his father's 1784 will; significantly, aside from Reuben, the only other child of Benjamin who lived to adulthood but was omitted from the will was Enoch. As the foregoing sketch shows, Enoch⁵ likely died in 1773; it seems probable that Reuben was not mentioned in his father's will because he, too, was dead. He does not appear on the 1790 census of either New York or Connecticut. Only one known Dutchess County document of that era mentions an adult Reuben that might be this one. In January 1770, one "Seth Sears Junr" was charged with bastardy, with "Benjamin Sears" and "Reuben Sears" paying his assessment.⁶⁵

EVALUATION OF REUBEN⁵:

Unlikely. At Naomi's birth in 1764, he was barely of marriageable age; and no bastardy case exists for him.

Seth⁵ Sears (Benjamin⁴)

Apparently born 1746–52, Seth's birth and baptismal data remain unknown. The Harwich vital records include no child of Benjamin⁴ and Abigail after Reuben's baptism in 1743/4; Seth probably was born after their removal to New York but before 1752, calculating from his 1773 first appearance on the tax rolls. He died after the 1790 census that places him in the town of Southeast (see "Seth Junr.," figure 3). The Sears genealogy contends that he married, although his wife's name is not a matter of record or tradition.⁶⁶

62. *Ibid.*, 90; May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 210.

63. *Records of the Brewster Congregational Church*, 78.

64. *Minutes of the Committee and of the First Commission for Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies in the State of New York, December 11, 1776–September 23, 1778*, 2 vols. (New York: New York Historical Society, 1924), 2: 3–5.

65. Recognizance, Seth Sears Jr., Bastardy Case, Dutchess County Ancient Document 5974, Surrogate's Court Files, Poughkeepsie.

66. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 129.

At his first appearance on the Dutchess tax rolls in 1773, he is also called "Seth, Junr." to distinguish him from an older cousin (Seth⁵ of James⁴) already on the rolls (see figure 4). In January 1770, a bastardy charge was filed against "Seth, Junr." by one Mercy Wickson, at which time "Benjamin Sears" and "Reuben Sears" (apparently his father and brother) were charged for his bond of £80. The case was continued to May 1770 and again until October 1770. On 5 October, one Thomas Baldwin certified that Seth had given sufficient security to indemnify the precinct from any charge concerning the child, and the case was discharged.⁶⁷

Seth⁵ and his unidentified wife are said to be the parents of four children:⁶⁸

- i. WILLIAM⁶ SEARS, born 19 October 1775; it has not been possible to trace him further.
- ii. LYDIA SEARS, born January 1780, who wed Stephen Crosby of Southeast.⁶⁹
- iii. SALLY SEARS, married [—?] Hubbell; it has not been possible to trace them further.
- iv. BETSY SEARS, born 1780; died 1832; married Reuben Green and settled in Southeast.⁷⁰

EVALUATION OF SETH⁵ (BENJAMIN⁴):

Unlikely. At Naomi's birth in 1764, he was not yet of marriageable age; and no bastardy case exists for him prior to the 1770 incident.

THE JAMES SEARS LINE

James⁴ Sears Sr.

Born at Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 30 March 1704, James was the son of Silas³ and Sarah (Crosby) Sears and a second cousin of Benjamin⁴.⁷¹ James is said to have died at Ridgefield, in Fairfield County, Connecticut, on 17 March 1791.⁷² Before moving from Yarmouth, he wed on 28 May 1730, **Desire Tobey**,⁷³ who had been born in 1707 to Thomas and Rebecca (probably Knowles) Tobey.⁷⁴ Desire is said to have died in Ridgefield on 28 July 1781.⁷⁵

During a half-century of marriage, James and Desire made at least three major moves. In 1739, "James Sears, late of Yarmouth, County of Barnstable," arrived in Windham, New London County, Connecticut, where he purchased fifty-two acres near the Shautucket River for £275.⁷⁶ The Sears genealogy places James and

67. Recognizance, Seth Sears Jr. bastardy case.

68. Unless otherwise cited, the information is from May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 129.

69. Sarah Louise Kimball, "Some of the Descendants of David and Reliance (Hopkins) Crosby, of Harwich, Mass., and Southeast, Putnam County, N.Y.," *NYG&B Record* 32 (April 1901): 112–13.

70. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 333 (Milltown Cemetery).

71. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 26.

72. May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 98; May does not cite the source of this information.

73. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 147.

74. Rufus Babcock Tobey and Charles Henry Pope, *Tobey (Tobie, Toby) Genealogy: Thomas of Sandwich and James of Kittery and Their Descendants* (Boston: privately printed, 1905), 36–37, citing the will of Thomas⁶ Tobey, which mentions his wife Rebecca and his daughter Desire and is recorded in Barnstable County Probate Book 9: 174, Registrar of Probate's Office, Barnstable, Massachusetts.

75. May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 98; May does not identify his source for death data.

76. *Ibid.*, in 1890, reported that the deed for this purchase was owned by Oscar Weed, who lived in the "old Sears homestead" at Mill Plain, Fairfield County.

Desire's settlement in Fairfield County between 1740 and 1745; that date seems to err by some thirty years. James's name does not appear on the "listable estates" of Ridgefield for 1746,⁷⁷ while evidence strongly suggests his residence in southern Dutchess. "James Sears" is cited as pathmaster in Kent (southern Dutchess, later Putnam) on 7 April 1747; and in 1756 he was a member of the Old Gilead Church of Fredericksburg (later Carmel, in Putnam).⁷⁸ His name is carried consistently on the tax rolls of Southern Precinct from February 1744/5 through 1771. In that last year, James was joined on the roll by "James Junr."—almost certainly his son James, to whom the family account attributes a marriage by 1771.⁷⁹ Both Jameses were last taxed in Dutchess in 1772—the year that James Jr. and his brother David left for Massachusetts, according to the published Sears genealogy. The elder James's removal to Ridgefield, where his son Knowles resided, seems to have occurred then also. He is found no more in Dutchess County records.

James⁴ Sears and Desire Tobey were parents of ten known children as follows:⁸⁰

- + i. DAVID⁵ SEARS, born 25 August 1731 at Yarmouth.
- ii. SARAH SEARS, born 21 November 1732 at Yarmouth; married Reuben Crosby of Southeast and lived near present Patterson in Putnam. She died 27 July 1772.⁸¹
- iii. THANKFUL SEARS, born 26 November 1734 at Yarmouth; married James Foster and settled at Southeast in Dutchess County.⁸²
- + iv. SETH SEARS, born 31 October 1736 at Yarmouth.
- + v. KNOWLES SEARS, born 1738.
- vi. DESIRE SEARS, likely born in the otherwise unaccounted-for gap between Knowles and Thomas, say 1740–43; married Timothy Foster and removed to western New York.
- + vii. THOMAS SEARS, born 30 April 1745.
- viii. JAMES SEARS, born about 1747; married Abigail Sherwood of southern Dutchess by 1771. Moved to Lenox with his brother David in 1772; died in the "Lake Region" of Canada.⁸³ James was only seventeen at Naomi's birth, and he was not the subject of any bastardy suit in Dutchess.

77. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 99. May states no basis for his dating of James's settlement in Fairfield. The record of "listable estates," which he says omits James, has not been found by the present writer.

78. Pelletreau, *History of Putnam County*, 308. James's name is appended to a list calling one Mr. Knibloe to the pastorate of the Western Society of Philippi (now Carmel). Pelletreau, at p. 290, locates the James Sears house in Fredericksburgh (later Carmel).

79. For tax rolls, see figure 4. For the family account, see May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 99. May, who assumed James⁴ lived in Connecticut during this period, speculates that James of Gilead Church belonged to a different set of Searses. However, the long run of tax rolls (which May does not appear to have used), their placement of James and David⁵ (James⁵) in Fredericksburg (where the man May disregarded attended church in 1756), and the removal of the longtime resident James from those rolls in the same year that two sons of James⁴ (i.e., James⁵ and David⁵) left Dutchess County—all warrant a correction of May's assumptions about James⁴.

80. Unless otherwise stated, the data are from May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 98–99, 173–80.

81. For Reuben, see *Mayflower Families through Five Generations: Descendants of the Pilgrims Who Landed at Plymouth, Mass., December 1620*, vol. 6, John D. Austin, comp., Family: Stephen Hopkins (Plymouth: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1992), 379–80.

82. Buys, *Old Gravesites of Putnam County*, 316 (Old Sears Burying Ground, not Milltown as May reports).

83. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 178–79, calls Abigail the daughter of Jehiel S. Sherwood. However, Donald Lines Jacobus's study of the Sherwoods shows no Abigail for Jehiel. More likely, she was Jehiel's distant cousin, baptized in Fairfield County in 1754 as daughter of Joseph Sherwood, who soon moved to the Oblong and was taxed in Southern Precinct, 1759–71. See Jacobus, *History and Genealogies of the Families of Old Fairfield*, 3 vols. (1930–32; reprint, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1976), vol. 2, pt. 2: 844.

- ix. REBECCA SEARS, born about 1750; married Eli Crosby of Southeast. On 4 April 1790, she joined the Congregational Church at Philippi (Southeast), which Zadock Rider's mother Mary had joined just a year before.⁸⁴
- x. COMFORT SEARS, born 20 March 1751; too young to be Naomi's father.

EVALUATION OF JAMES⁴:

Highly improbable. Desire was much too old to bear children by the time Naomi was born in 1764. However, their offspring display significant ties to Zadock and Naomi—as later discussed.

David⁵ Sears (James⁴)

Born at Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 25 August 1731;⁸⁵ died at Lenox, Berkshire County, Massachusetts, 12 July 1827. Before 1759, he married Mary Paddock, who died at Lenox on 19 July 1826.⁸⁶

David was an early resident of the Dutchess area but not a permanent one. In 1754 he subscribed ten shillings for support of the minister of the Philippi Congregational Church,⁸⁷ attended by members of both the Benjamin⁴ and the James⁴ branches. He appears on the tax lists for Southern Precinct between 1759 and 1772 but is dropped from Dutchess rolls thereafter. Apparently, 1772 was the year he removed to Lenox, where he joined the Baptist Church.⁸⁸ He is said to have been an active supporter of the Loyalist cause during the Revolution.⁸⁹

David and Mary Sears were the parents of eleven children, most of whom were born in New York before the family's return to Massachusetts and its tradition of vital registration. The Sears genealogy cites the eleven as follows (apparently drawing from a probate record that first cites all sons and then all daughters):⁹⁰

- i. PHILIP⁶ SEARS, born in 1759 at Southeast, Dutchess County; died 17 July 1831, Lenox, Massachusetts.
- ii. DAVID SEARS, for whom nothing more has been found.
- iii. ISAAC SEARS, for whom nothing more has been found.
- iv. ELIJAH SEARS, for whom nothing more has been found.
- v. BETHIA SEARS, birth data unknown; wed Jacob Goodwich of Pittsfield, Massachusetts.
- vi. ELIZABETH SEARS, birth data unknown; wed Jonathan Root of Pittsfield.
- vii. POLLY SEARS, birth data unknown; wed Robert McKnight of Pittsfield.
- viii. CALVIN SEARS, born about 1769 at Lenox.
- ix. LUTHER SEARS, born 1772, Lenox; died July 1857, Volney, Oswego County, New York.
- x. JAMES SEARS, born 15 May 1776 at Lenox.
- xi. ZACHARIAH SEARS, born April 1778 at Lenox.

84. Kimball, "Some of the Descendants of David and Reliance (Hopkins) Crosby," 112; Buys, *Old Grave-stones of Putnam County*, 314–15 (Sears Burying Ground); Calkins, "Records of Philippi," 101–2.

85. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 62.

86. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 173–74, for deaths of both David and Mary.

87. May, *ibid.*, states that David resided in Northeast and compounds that error by locating Northeast in the South Precinct. Northeast lay in North Ward; see Kelley and Kelley, *Dutchess County . . . Tax Lists*, viii, ix.

88. "Report of Azariah Egleston, Minutes of the Town Meeting Held at Lenox, Massachusetts," 3 April 1797, *Records of the Town of Lenox*, 1: 254; FHL microfilm 1,905,868.

89. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 173–74.

90. *Ibid.* The above list does not follow May's implied birth order. Logically, the children without recorded births were born in New York before the move to Massachusetts, where younger children's births are registered.

EVALUATION OF DAVID⁵:

Unlikely. This family left New York when Naomi was eight. No Lenox connection is known for Zadock and Naomi; and it is improbable that Zadock, as a widower with five young children in New York, traveled to Massachusetts to court a wife.

Seth⁵ Sears (James⁴)

Born at Yarmouth, Massachusetts, 31 October 1736,⁹¹ Seth died at Southeast, 2 August 1809.⁹² About 1759, in Dutchess County apparently, he wed his cousin Sarah⁵ Sears,⁹³ born at Yarmouth on 31 March 1734.⁹⁴ Sarah was the daughter of Stephen⁴ (Joseph³, Silas², Richard¹) Sears by his wife Abigail Burgess;⁹⁵ but she was reared from the age of three in the home of her stepfather, Benjamin⁴ Sears (q.v.). The widowed Sarah died testate, at Southeast, shortly before 6 June 1816.⁹⁶

Seth⁵ (James⁴) and his family posed a serious challenge to the compiler of the Sears genealogy. May offers no biographical detail for Seth or Sarah and little information on their place or places of residence. He names only five children for a marriage that lasted some fifty years:⁹⁷

- i. ENOCH HAMLIN⁵ SEARS, birth and death data unknown; wed an unidentified daughter of Jeremiah S. Smith of Charlton, Saratoga County, New York, and left six children.
- ii. SETH SEARS, born about 1769; died 1 May 1819; buried at Milltown Cemetery.
- iii. ELEAZAR H. SEARS, born 1771 in Southeast, New York, or Danbury, Connecticut; died at DeRuyter, Madison County, New York; married Betsy Marvin and left five children.
- iv. SARAH SEARS; nothing offered other than her name.
- v. THANKFUL SEARS, born at Southeast 30 June 1775; died 28 July 1808 at Litchfield in Herkimer County, New York; married 27 December 1793 at Southeast, Reverend Mr. William Smith. Five children, most of whom settled at Arkwright in Chautauqua County, New York.

May's work provides definite dates of birth and death for Thankful only; and his birth and death dates for Seth Jr. are wrong. The only child for whom he had in-depth information was Thankful; for Sarah, he uncovered nothing but her name.

The surviving records for Dutchess and Putnam—scant though they are—do paint a clearer picture of Seth's family. He first appears in Dutchess on the February 1761 roll of Southern Precinct (see figure 4). When that jurisdiction was split (1771–72), he fell into the new town of Southeast, where he was taxed through 1779. His family still lived in Southeast at the 1790 census—*just three households from Zadock Rider and his first wife* (see figure 3). Although that census names only heads of families, the other occupants of Seth's household in that year can be identified—with one important exception. In addition to Seth, the two males

91. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 62.

92. Seth Sears Estate (1809), Dutchess County Estate Records, file 526.

93. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 104, identifies Sarah, apparently from information provided by her grandchildren; the marriage date is approximated from birth of first child.

94. Sherman and Sherman, *Vital Records of Yarmouth*, 59.

95. Ibid.; May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 104.

96. Sarah Sears Will, Putnam County "Record of Old Estates," A: 232, citing file 191.

97. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 174–75.

should be his still-single sons, Seth Jr. and Eleazar. The three females, according to May's account of the family, would be Seth's wife and their daughters, Thankful and Sarah. Yet further research on Sarah—as part of the present project—proves that she wed in 1787.⁹⁸ Who, then, was the third female of Seth's household in 1790?

Seth⁵ died intestate at Southeast on 2 August 1809. His probate file offers three documents. An affidavit by Seth Jr. on 20 October 1809 attests the date of his father's death. Subsequently, the widow Sarah declined to serve as administrator, in favor of her sons Seth and Eleazar II.; she signed with her mark. Those sons were then bonded.⁹⁹ As a widow, Sarah made her own will on 31 May 1810, naming her son Seth as her executor and sole heir. In return, she charged him with her support for her remaining life. Surviving evidence for her other children suggests that she made these arrangements because the others had moved away and only Seth remained to care for her. On 6 June 1816, he probated her will.¹⁰⁰

Building upon the offspring data that May provided for Seth⁵ and Sarah⁵ (Sears) Sears, this project offers both additional and corrective details:

- i. ENOCH⁶ SEARS, born by 1760, married about 1781; both dates are extrapolated from the 9 August 1782 birth date May gives for Enoch's first child, Alexander. Enoch served in the Third Regiment of the Dutchess County militia during the Revolution.¹⁰¹ According to the Sears genealogy, he removed to Ballston, Saratoga County, New York, where he married the daughter of Jeremiah Smith of Charlton; May gives no date, but the age of the first known son suggests a marriage about 1781.¹⁰² Curiously, Enoch does not appear on the 1790 census of either New York or Connecticut—not as Enoch Sears (Seers, Sayers, etc.) or Hamlin Sears or Enoch Hamlin. His firstborn, Alexander, did marry at Ballston on 6 January 1803, Mary How(es).¹⁰³
- ii. STEPHEN SEARS, a probable son born in the seven-year gap between Enoch, above, and Sarah, below. The militia roll that carries Enoch above also carries the name *Stephen Sears*—with both men serving under Enoch's uncle, Lieutenant Thomas Sears. However, this Stephen does not appear on the pre-1780 tax rolls (see figure 4), suggesting he was propertyless. A 1790 Stephen Sears—likely the same man—lived in Southeast (see figure 3), 3 houses from Zadock Rider's mother, 6 from Zadock, and 9 from Seth and Sarah, who are proposed here as his parents. By 1800, he had removed to Litchfield in Herkimer family, where he lived just 4 households from Sarah (below) and 7 from Zadock. This evidence suggests he was too young to father Naomi in 1764.
- iii. (?) REUBEN SEARS, born 1755–74, according to the 1800 census¹⁰⁴—but probably 1763–65 if he does belong to this family. In 1790, allegedly, he married Hannah Benedict of New Penfield in Fairfield County.¹⁰⁵ With her, he moved to Litchfield in Herkimer

98. Zachew Raymond pension file, no. W3719, *Revolutionary War Pension and Bounty-Land Warrant Application Files*, microfilm publication M804 (Washington: National Archives), roll 677.

99. Seth Sears Estate, previously cited.

100. Sarah Sears Will, previously cited.

101. *New York in the Revolution, as Colony and State*, 1: 140.

102. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 274.

103. Royden Woodward Vosburgh, ed. *Records of the First Presbyterian Church at Ballston in Ballston Center, Saratoga County, N. Y.* (New York: New York Genealogical and Biographical Society, 1916), 91.

104. 1800 U.S. census, Herkimer County, New York, town of Litchfield, 541 (157); National Archives microfilm publication 32, roll 21.

105. Henry Marvin Benedict, *The Genealogy of the Benedicts in America* (Albany, New York: Joel Munsell, 1870), 247–48.

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County, as part of the same migration that included his proposed sisters, Thankful and Sarah, as well as Naomi and Zadock Rider. In 1809 he and Hannah signed a deed selling their Litchfield land, after which they moved to Hamilton in Madison County, New York¹⁰⁶—as did his proposed brother Eleazar.

One other Dutchess record may pertain to this Reuben. On 14 August 1791, one Reuben Sears was charged with bastardy by a Sarah Boughton.¹⁰⁷ As subsequently seen in the sketch for Knowles³ (James⁴) Sears, Boughton girls married Zadock Rider's brother and Abijah⁹ Sears, a son of Knowles and a proposed first cousin of this Reuben.

- iv. SARAH SEARS, for whom the Sears genealogy gives no data, was born 4 March 1767 at Southeast; died at Columbus, Warren County, Pennsylvania, 9 December 1844, in the home of her son Seth Raymond.¹⁰⁸ She married in Dutchess County during November 1787, a Revolutionary War veteran named Zacheus Raymond of Danbury, in Fairfield County.¹⁰⁹ *The Raymonds appear on the 1790 census of Southeast only a few houses from his father-in-law (Seth Sears) and Zadock Rider.*¹¹⁰ *Like Zadock and Naomi, they migrated from Southeast to Litchfield in Herkimer County, where they are enumerated on the 1800 census.*¹¹¹ From there, they removed to Chenango County, New York, and finally to Columbus, Warren County, Pennsylvania, in February or March 1826¹¹²—just across the state line from the Chautauque County community settled by children of Sarah's sister Thankful (below) and by sons of Naomi Rider.
- v. SETH SEARS, born 11 August 1769; died 1 May 1817; buried at Milltown. Married first, 23 August 1797, Ruamy Andress of Greenfield in Fairfield County; married second, about 1816, Eunice Paddock.¹¹³ The Sears genealogy places Seth's birth at about 1771, calculating from tombstone data said to cite his death on 1 May 1819, aged forty-eight. However, Seth's will is dated 5 April 1817 and was entered into probate on 16 May 1817—thus advancing both his birth and his death by two years.¹¹⁴ This correction is supported by a "Family Record" preserved by his descendants, which reads, in part "Seth Sears 3d [sic] was born in South East Town, Dutchess County State of New York, August 11th 176_ [tom] . . . Seth Sears deceased May 1st, 1817." That record proceeds to give vital data for both of Seth's wives and seven children: Ebenezer A., Peter H., Naomi (b. 11 October 1802), Rouamy, Lewis, Seth A., and the posthumous Ruhamah.¹¹⁵ Seth's will mentions his wife, Eunice; two daughters, Neomy and Roxana; his deceased wife, Reuhama; and sons named Peter, Lewis, and Seth.

The use of the name Naomi amid the children of Seth⁵ (Seth⁵) marks the only time this name has been found among Sears families contemporary with or antecedent to Naomi Rider.

106. Herkimer County Deeds, 4: 252.

107. Plea of Trespas of Shubael Boughton, filed 17 September 1791, Dutchess County Ancient Document no. 13095, Court of Common Pleas.

108. Zacheus Raymond pension file, previously cited. Sarah's birth date is computed from the data on her tombstone on the family farm in Columbus Township, as read by Madeline Dodd of Rotonda West, Florida. Mrs. Dodd's husband, who descends from Zacheus and Sarah, grew up there on a farm handed down in this family. The corrected birth dates provided in the present study move Sarah's birth ahead of those of her brothers Seth and Eleazar.

109. Zacheus Raymond pension file, previously cited.

110. *Heads of Families . . . New York: 1790*, 93.

111. 1800 U.S. census, Herkimer County, New York, town of Litchfield, p. 537 (155), National Archives microfilm publication M32, roll 21.

112. Zacheus Raymond pension file, previously cited.

113. New York DAR Genealogical Records Committee, *Bible Records*, vol. 123, *Unpublished Bible Records of Northern Chenango County, New York* (typescript serial, 1966–67; Daughters of the American Revolution Library, Washington), 88.

114. Seth Sears Will (1817), Putnam County "Record of Old Estates," A: 256, citing file 208. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343, cites his death on 1 May 1819 at 48 years.

- vi. ELEAZAR H. (HAMLIN?) SEARS, born 1771 in Southeast or Danbury; died in 1855 at DeRuyter, Madison County, New York; married Betsy Marvin and left five children.¹¹⁶
- vii. THANKFUL SEARS, born at Southeast, 30 June 1775; died 28 July 1808 at Litchfield in Herkimer County, New York. Thankful married on 27 December 1793 at Southeast, Reverend Mr. William Smith, born 20 March 1770 to Richard and Mary (Brush) Smith of West Farms, Westchester County, New York.¹¹⁷ Three of Thankful and William's five children moved from Litchfield to Arkwright in Chautauqua County, New York, about the same time and to the same place as the sons of Naomi (Sears) Rider.¹¹⁸

EVALUATION OF SETH³ (JAMES⁴):

Strong candidate for father of Naomi. See "ANALYSIS."

Knowles⁵ Sears (James⁴)

Born in 1738, apparently at Yarmouth, Knowles died at Ridgefield, Fairfield County, Connecticut, on 17 June 1817. He lies buried across the state line in Southeast, where his tombstone cites his age at death as seventy-nine.¹¹⁹ Knowles married (1) **Susanna Townsend**; and (2) **Charity Haviland**.¹²⁰

Knowles fathered ten children by his first wife and four by his second. All have been well documented. The following is an abbreviated summary:¹²¹

- i. DANIEL⁶ SEARS, born 14 May 1762 at Ridgefield; died 18 February 1840 at Van Buren, Onondaga County, New York.
- ii. BETTY SEARS, born 31 October 1763 at Ridgefield; married Nathan Hawley; they are possibly the Nathan Hawley family of Frederickstown, Dutchess County, 1790.¹²²
- iii. SUSANNA SEARS, born 9 July 1766 at Ridgefield; married Heman⁶ (Benjamin⁵) Sears of Southeast; removed temporarily to Litchfield, Herkimer County.
- iv. KNOWLES SEARS, born 29 July 1768 at Ridgefield; died unmarried, near Danbury, 24 October 1848.
- v. MARY SEARS, born 7 August 1770 at Ridgefield; married (1) Isaac Townsend of Fredericksburgh; (2) Elijah Benedict; and (3) Forward Stevens; resided at Danbury.
- vi. JOHN SEARS, born 15 October 1772 at Ridgefield; died 1 September 1839; resided at Camillus, Onondaga County, and Wolcott, Wayne County, New York.
- vii. ABIJAH SEARS, born 8 August 1774 at Ridgefield; died near the head of Seneca Lake (perhaps at Hector, Schuyler County, New York). His first wife was Catharine Boughton, whose sister Johanna married Zadock Rider's brother, Christopher of Southeast.¹²³
- viii. ISAAC SEARS, born 7 August 1776 at Ridgefield; died 20 September 1848. He resided at Newfane, Niagara County, New York.
- ix. DESIRE SEARS, born 25 May 1778 at Ridgefield; married Caleb Curtis Gregory of Danbury, Connecticut, and Westchester County, New York.

115. Smith, "Unpublished Bible Records," 88.

116. May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 275. May assigns the middle name Hamlin to Eleazar's brother Enoch; no supporting evidence is known. Meanwhile, Eleazar appears in the estate settlement of his father, Seth, as Eleazar H. One Eleazar Hamlin married Seth's great-aunt, Sarah⁴ Sears. See May, p. 65.

117. *Ibid.*, 175. May places West Farms on Long Island. For correction, see J. H. French, *Gazetteer of the State of New York* (1860; reprint, Interlaken, New York: Heart of the Lakes Publishing, 1981), 706.

118. May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 175–78.

119. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 343.

120. May, *Descendants of Richard Sears (Sears)*, 176.

121. *Ibid.*, 176–77.

122. *Heads of Families . . . New York: 1790*, 82.

123. Gary Alan Boughton and Mary J. Bigelow, "A Line of Matthew Boughtons of Danbury, Conn. (1661–1821)," *The American Genealogist* 65 (April 1990): 105.

- x. CHARLES SEARS, born 3 August 1780 at Ridgefield; died there 22 April 1836.
- xi. CHARITY SEARS, born 14 August 1789 at Ridgefield; married Stephen Crosby.
- xii. ELIZABETH SEARS, born 26 November 1790 at Ridgefield; married Nathaniel Brush and removed to Huron, Wayne County, New York.
- xiii. DAVID H. SEARS, born 1794 at Ridgefield; died at Danbury, 26 September 1830.
- xiv. PHEBE SEARS, born at Ridgefield; died unmarried.

EVALUATION OF KNOWLES¹

Highly improbable. The well-documented birth pattern of his children leaves no reasonable opening for Naomi's 1764 birth. However, the marriage of his son to Zadock's sister-in-law implies close associations.

Thomas⁵ Sears (James⁴)

Born 30 April 1745 in either Connecticut or New York;¹²⁴ died 26 or 28 April 1804 at Southeast.¹²⁵ Married 9 September 1767, apparently in Dutchess County, Deborah Baldwin, who survived him.¹²⁶

Called "Captain" in the Sears genealogy, Thomas appears as a lieutenant on the Revolutionary-era roll of the Third Regiment, Dutchess County militia.¹²⁷ He was one of the few Sears males for whom landownership can be documented. No evidence of the purchase exists; but on 2 November 1782, he conveyed to Nathaniel Scribner ninety-two acres in the Oblong, four of which were part of the property called Burgess's Farm.¹²⁸ In 1790, the census taker found him in adjacent Frederickstown (see figure 3). On 20 December 1801, Thomas and Deborah joined the Congregational Church of Philippi (now Southeast) by profession of faith.¹²⁹ He made his will on 24 April 1804, and it was probated eight days later (3 May).¹³⁰

Thomas and Deborah Sears were the parents of nine children, seven of whom survived Thomas.¹³¹ Those children are as follows:¹³²

- i. ELP⁶ SEARS, born 16 October 1768 at Southeast; resided at Carmel (old Fredericksburgh a.k.a. Frederickstown) in Dutchess (later Putnam) County.
- ii. THOMAS BALDWIN SEARS, born 21 February 1773 at Southeast; died at Carmel, New York, without issue.
- iii. ELIZABETH SEARS, born 3 September 1775 at Southeast; died 23 September 1790.
- iv. JAMES SEARS, born 24 March 1778 at Southeast; died March 1857.
- v. ARCHIBALD SEARS, born 8 August 1780 at Southeast; resided at Carmel.
- vi. SOPHIA C. SEARS, born 12 May 1784 at Southeast; married Archibald Young.
- vii. ISAAC SEARS ("Tanner Ike"), born 23 July 1786 at Southeast; married Susie, daughter of Heman⁶ (Benjamin⁵) Sears and Susanna⁶ (Seth⁵, James⁴) Sears; lived at Southeast.

124. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 178.

125. Buys, *Old Gravestones of Putnam County*, 320 (Sears Burying Ground).

126. May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 178.

127. *New York in the Revolution*, 1: 140.

128. Dutchess County Deed Abstracts, 10: 107-9, County Clerk's Office, Poughkeepsie.

129. Calkins, "Records of Philippi," 103.

130. Thomas Sears estate file, Dutchess County Estate Records (Abstracts), Surrogate's Court file 393½.

131. Ibid.; Helen Wilkinson Reynolds, "Notices of Marriages and Deaths Published in Newspapers Printed at Poughkeepsie, New York, 1778-1825," *Dutchess Historical Society Collections* 4 (Poughkeepsie: Dutchess Historical Society, 1982), 91.

132. Children's data from May, *Descendants of Richard Sares (Sears)*, 173-74, 178, 279, if not otherwise cited.

- viii. DEBORAH SEARS, born 18 October 1789 at Southeast; married (1) [—?—] Craft; and (2) [—?—] Ludington.
- ix. SALLY B. SEARS, born 26 June 1792; married Ezra Young. On 1 April 1809, "Ezra Youngs" and "Sally Sears" both joined the Philippi Church of Christ in Union (formerly the Philippi Congregational Church) at Southeast.¹³³

EVALUATION OF THOMAS⁵:

Unlikely. Aged nineteen when Naomi was born, he was still unmarried and he is not cited in the bastardy records of Dutchess County.

ANALYSIS

Extant records of Dutchess, prior to Naomi's removal, document the presence of twenty-one adult males named Sears. No census identifies members of their households. Vital registration did not occur in the area; and a Bible record seems to exist for only one of the families. Just three of the males left wills, and even they did not always name all children. Yet even without these traditional means of "proving parentage," the field of potential fathers for Naomi can be narrowed, in stages, until one person remains whose probability significantly eclipses any others.

- Stage 1 By age and residence at the time of Naomi's birth and by residence at the time of her marriage, the field of twenty-one was reduced to eleven.
- Stage 2 By analysis of all known, relevant records, the field of eleven can be ranked as follows:
 - 3 men are shown to be highly improbable candidates.
 - 7 men are shown to be unlikely candidates.
 - 1 man presents strongly suggestive circumstances, with no evidence pointing to the contrary.

When developing family connections, genealogists analyze many patterns of behavior—associations, economics, education, family composition and child spacing, migration, names, religion, and residence being among the most common. In the present case, the limited resources restrict the analysis to five of these factors; but all five support one conclusion: *Zadock Rider's wife Naomi was probably the daughter of Seth⁵ (James⁴) Sears and his wife Sarah⁵ Sears, who was the half sister of Benjamin⁵ (Benjamin⁴) Sears.*

Residential Factors

When Zadock Rider sought a wife in 1793, he almost certainly chose one from a nearby family. Widowers of limited means, with a houseful of young children, did not usually go far to court. The 1790 census of Southeast places Zadock three dwellings from that of his proposed father-in-law, Seth⁵ (James⁴).

Family Composition and Child spacing

The 1790 census attributes three females to the household of Seth⁵ (James⁴). In that year, his previously identified family consisted of a wife, one daughter (who is

shown by this study to be already married and, with reasonable certainty, living elsewhere with her husband), and one still-single daughter. While the third female in the household could have been any other relative, a hired servant, or a boarder, the odds are far greater that she was a daughter—heretofore unidentified.

The spacing of Seth and Sarah's known children greatly strengthen the supposition that at least one child remains unidentified. The five known births to them are dated at "by 1760," 4 March 1767, "about 1769," 1772, and 30 June 1775. The birth of Naomi Rider, on 23 September 1764, falls unhampered into the middle of the circa seven-year gap between the known first and second child.

Associations and Migrations

The resources that exist for this problem limit the known associates to those who lived in close proximity and followed the same migration pattern. From the 1750s to the 1820s, nearly three dozen families or unattached males of the Dutchess-area Searses spread into at least thirteen counties in New York, as well as to the states of Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Pennsylvania. Figure 5 summarizes these movements.

Figure 5
Sears Out-migration from the
Dutchess County Area, ca. 1760–1850

DESTINATION		NO. OF FAMILIES* OR UNATTACHED MALES
STATE	COUNTY	
Connecticut	Litchfield	1
Illinois	Kendall	1
Massachusetts	Berkshire	1
New York	Chautauqua	5 [all from Herkimer]
	Chenango	1
	Erie	1
	Herkimer	9 [including Naomi]
	Madison	1
	Niagara	1
	Onondaga	3
	Ontario	1
	Oswego	1
	Saratoga	2
	Seneca	1
	Wayne	2
	Westchester	1
Pennsylvania	Warren	1

*This analysis includes families in which either the husband or the wife was a Sears by birth.

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