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## THE WRONG ISAAC TINKHAM

by Todd A. Farmerie

In tracing a family back from the nation's interior to the east, identifications are often based on a combination of onomastics and chronology. However, when several contemporaries bear the same name, identification can be difficult. In the case of the Tinkham family, an incorrect identification has led to an impossible situation. Accepted Mayflower Society lineage papers trace through Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham 3<sup>d</sup> and a supposed second wife Bethiah Emmons, who he is said to have married after the death of first wife Silva<sup>6</sup> Sturdevant.<sup>[1]</sup> Likewise, descent has been accepted through Francis Bent and his wife Silva<sup>6</sup> Sturdevant, who was formerly the wife of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham. Obviously, one of these solutions must be wrong. A closer examination reveals that Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham 3<sup>d</sup> of Middleboro, Mass., husband of Sylva<sup>6</sup> Sturdevant, has inappropriately been equated with a distinct man, Isaac Tinkham of Greenwich, Mass., and Brandon, Vt., the husband of Bethiah Emmons.

On 25 Jul. 1797, Isaac Tinkham "of Greenwich in the County of Hampshire and State of Massachusetts" purchased land in Brandon, Rutland Co., Vt., from Nathaniel Bacon, and again purchased land there on 19 Aug. 1800 from Levi Jacobs.<sup>[2]</sup> He appears in the 1800 census of Brandon,<sup>[3]</sup> but died there intestate before 11 Aug. 1802.<sup>[4]</sup> After setting off the widow Bethiah's portion, his estate was found to be insolvent, and no division among his heirs took place. The widow subsequently married John Freelove, died on 28 Oct. 1833 at aged 80, and buried at Pittsford, Vt.<sup>[5]</sup>

This Isaac Tinkham's first Brandon deed establishes his Greenwich origin, and allows an earlier period in his life to be documented. On 10 May 1777, a roll

1. Such a relationship is also implicit in DAR lineage papers that trace to Isaac Tinkham said to have married first Sylva Sturdevant and second Bethiah Emmons [*DAR Patriot Index, Centennial Edition*, (Washington, DC: National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution, 1990), pt. 3: 2946], and appears in the most complete summary of the Tinkhams, Kenneth Ira Tinkham, *Tinkham: A Biographical Index, Revised 1994* (Centralia, Wash., 1994), 184, although the author has since come to reject this identification.
2. Brandon Deeds, 3: 25, 348. [FHL #0027976].
3. As Isaac Tinkum, 1800 Census, Brandon, Rutland Co., Vt., 36: Isaac is over 45, his wife (Bethiah) under 45 [*sic*]. They have two males under 10, a male and a female aged 10 to 18, and two females aged 18 to 26.
4. Rutland Co. Probate, Rutland District, 3: 388-390, 449 [FHL #0028782].
5. Tombstone of Bethiah Freelove, Old Congregational Church, Pittsford, which calls her "Bethiah, wife of John Freelove, formerly wife of Isaac Tinkham." He would appear to be the John Freelove warned out of Pittsford, 28 Jan 1809, out of Brandon, 5 Dec. 1810, and again out of Pittsford, 10 Mar 1814. [Alden M. Rollins, *Vermont Warnings Out, Volume 2 - Southern Vermont*, (Camden, Me., 1997), 45, 100, 103.] Alternatively, one or more of these records could refer to Bethiah's stepson of the same name.

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attested at New Salem, Hampshire Co., Mass, bears the name of Isaac Tinkham, as a Corporal in Capt. Jeremiah Ballard's Co., Col. David Wells' Regt., serving with the Northern Army, 2 mos. 10 days.<sup>[6]</sup> Shortly after the termination of his service, on 6 Aug. 1777, Isaac Tinkham of New Salem and Bethiah Emmons<sup>[7]</sup> of Greenwich were married.<sup>[8]</sup> He again enlisted as Private, Capt. Moses Harvey's Co., Col. Woodbridge's Regt. from 22 Aug. 1777 to 27/8 Oct. 1777, serving at Saratoga.<sup>[9]</sup> Isaac Tinkham of Greenwich purchased land in Greenwich, 20 Apr. 1780, from his wife's kinsman John Town, and sold this land 4 Feb. 1792.<sup>[10]</sup> He is listed of Greenwich in 1790, with one male under 16, and four females.<sup>[11]</sup>

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6. *Massachusetts Soldiers and Sailors in the War of the Revolution* (Boston, 1896-1908) [hereafter *MSSR*], 15: 768.
  7. Born about 1752/3 (based on her age at death), Bethiah would seem to associate with Jedidiah and Hannah (Towne) Emmons, who were the only Emmons couple with children of the appropriate age in Greenwich at this time. They had Eunice, b. 1749/50, a dau. (see below), b. 1751, Reuben, b. 1758, d. 1767, Jonathan, bp. 1761, Ruth bp. 1765, and Robert, bp. 1768, plus daughter Hannah d. 1767. [Births, Marriages, and Deaths, Town of Greenwich, Mass., FHL #0186151], *inconsistent pagination*; and *Records of the Church of Christ in Greenwich* [currently held by the Country Bank of Ware, Ware, Mass.], 18, 21, 33, 46). The record of their second daughter, found in the vital records, 15, is troublesome in that it is lightly written and a stain obscures the reading. It has been transcribed into the IGI as "Esthier," but this is problematic, as the initial letter does not match the "E" in "Emons," "Elisabeth," "Elisha," or "Ephrom" found nearby, nor does the ending have the rounded "e" found in "daughter" or "October." Likewise, there is only a single high stroke in the middle of the name. It appears to begin with the "b" as in "born" in the same record, but the remaining letters are little more than indistinct vertical strokes of two different lengths. Possible readings include "behiia" or "betuia," perhaps being a representation of "bethia" written by someone unfamiliar with the name. (That these possible readings differ so significantly from that in the IGI is indicative of the quality of the filmed record, and any such reading of this entry must be viewed with skepticism. Mass. DAR Genealogical Com., "Greenwich Massachusetts Vital Records Prior to 1850," (typescript), 5, as "—uer.") This 12 Aug. 1751 birth would be at least a year before the 1752/3 date predicted from her tombstone, 80 years later, but such a difference is not necessarily unexpected. Likewise, it differs from a birthdate, 18 Feb. 1753, found in *Tinkham: A Biographical Index, Revised*, 184. However, this date is erroneous, a holdover from her misidentification with Bethiah Knowlton, born on that date at Middleboro, Mass. [Barbara Lambert Merrick and Alicia Crane Williams, eds., *Middleborough, Mass. Vital Records* (Boston, 1986) [hereafter *Middleborough VRs*], 1: 95]. If Bethiah (Emmons) Tinkham is not the child born in 1751, it does not exclude her as child of Jedidiah. There is room for at least two additional children between this 1751 daughter and the 1758 birth of Reuben, and at least one other daughter, Hannah, escaped the recording of her birth.
  8. *Greenwich Christ Church Records*, 30.
  9. *MSSR*, 15: 768. This latter service is linked to Isaac of New Salem and Greenwich based on geographic proximity of the commander and several other Company members, as well as the travel distance compensated for. An earlier documented service as Private in Capt. Thomas Turner's Co., Col. Thomas Marshall's Regt., 10 June 1776 through 1 Nov. 1776, may relate to this soldier, although the Company was raised in and around Pembroke, Plymouth Co., Mass., and the several men of this name in Plymouth Co. make such an identification problematic.
  10. Hampshire County Deeds, 5: 169-70 [FHL #0887793]; 7: 129 [FHL #0887794].
  11. *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States taken in the Year 1790*:

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Isaac Tinkham of Greenwich, in turn, has been identified with Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham 3<sup>d</sup> of Middleboro. The basis for this identification remains obscure, but once made, it appears to have been accepted without further question until recently.<sup>[12]</sup> Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham, was born at Middleboro 16 Mar. 1754, the son of Isaac<sup>5</sup> Tinkham Jr. (Isaac,<sup>4</sup> Ephraim,<sup>3</sup> Mary<sup>2</sup> Brown, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Hannah Robbins.<sup>[13]</sup> In May 1776, as "Mr. Isaac Tinkham 3d," he married "Miss Sylva Sturdevant" (published 27 Jan. 1776, as "Mr. Isaac Tinkham [th]e 3d and Mrs. Silva Sturdevant").<sup>[14]</sup> It was supposedly as widower of Sylva that Isaac moved to Greenwich and married Bethiah, but several records together place this solution beyond the realm of possibility.

The will of Isaac<sup>5</sup> Tinkham (Jr.), written 1 July 1779, leaves equal shares to a list of children, but does not name son Isaac<sup>6</sup> (3d). While wills do not always name all of the children in a family, there are reasons to believe that Isaac<sup>6</sup> has not been intentionally omitted. Not only was Isaac<sup>6</sup> the oldest child of his parents, making him the least likely to be passed over, but there are no other known children who do not appear in the will. Furthermore, the language relating to two other legacies suggests that he was not omitted because he had already received a settlement. The will specifies that son Abel<sup>6</sup> was to receive his portion in addition to the land he already had been given by his father, while a grant previously made to daughter Hannah<sup>6</sup> (Tinkham) Robbins was to count against her share. Certainly one would expect similar language to have been used for the oldest son were he to be intentionally excluded from his equal portion of the inheritance due to prior grant. The clear implication of this omission from the will of his father is that he had died prior to the time it was written.<sup>[15]</sup>

Equally valuable in determining the fate of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham are the records relating to his wife, Silva<sup>6</sup> (Sturdevant) Tinkham. She has been subject to at least one genealogical study, as Sylvia<sup>6</sup> (Sturdevant) Bent, but this analysis failed to detect the records of her marriages, and hence her identity as the former wife of Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham.<sup>[16]</sup> In her 16 Mar. 1757 Plympton birth record, she appears as "A

*Massachusetts* (Washington, 1908) 233.

12. It appears to have further led to Bethiah being incorrectly identified as Bethiah Knowlton of Middleboro, another mistake plaguing early lineage papers. This identification presumably resulted from a search of Middleboro records for a Bethiah born in 1753, the date derived from Bethiah (Tinkham) Freelove's tombstone.
13. *Middleborough VRs*, 1: 126.
14. *Middleborough VRs*, 2: 89, 133.
15. Plymouth Co. Probate Records, 25: 455-456 [FHL #0550713]. His absence was noticed by Robert S. Wakefield in *Mayflower Families through Five Generations, Volume Seven: Peter Brown* (Plymouth, Mass., 1992) [hereafter *MF*, 7], 71, where it is noted that he "prob. d.y.; not in father's will," but he was certainly the Isaac Tinkham 3d who married Sylva Sturdevant in 1776. Similar information appears in Ralph W. Wood Jr., *Francis Cooke of the Mayflower, The First Five Generations* (Camden, Me., 1996), 494-495.
16. Jane Hinchcliffe Schotland, "Sylvia Sturdevant and her Seven Mayflower Lines," in *The Mayflower Quarterly*, 55: 296-297. As the title suggests, she had seven Mayflower descents, being in the sixth (Alden, Standish, Soule, Eaton) and seventh (Mullins, Priest, Warren)

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Child of Church Sturtevant by Hannah Soul: Silve Sturtevant.<sup>17</sup> Her parents were not married, and as a result her mother Hannah<sup>5</sup> Soule was fined 40s for fornication.<sup>18</sup> As we have seen on 27 Jan. 1776, the intention of a Sylva Sturdevant to marry Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham 3d was published in Middleboro, their marriage following in May. On 6 Feb. 1779, the same Middleboro records report the marriage of Francis Bent to "Mrs. Silva Tinkham." The account of the family of Francis Bent appearing in the Wareham Town Records calls his first wife Sylva (and later, in the record of her 5 Aug. 1793 death, Sylvey), giving her a birth date of 16 Mar. 1757,<sup>19</sup> which matches that of the Plympton Silve Sturtevant. That the daughter of Hannah<sup>5</sup> Soule represents the future Mrs. Bent is further proven by the 1795 division of Hannah's estate (as Hannah Hayward), where a share is allotted to "the heirs of Sylvia Bent deceased."<sup>20</sup> Thus this woman, born Sylva<sup>6</sup> Sturdevant, was named Tinkham at the time of her marriage to Francis Bent, and certainly matches the Sylva Sturdevant who married Isaac Tinkham.<sup>21</sup> In light of his absence from his father's will and the remarriage of his wife, both in 1779, there can be little doubt that Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham 3<sup>d</sup> was deceased by that time.<sup>22</sup> We must then conclude that Isaac Tinkham of New Salem, Greenwich, and Brandon, husband of Bethiah Emmons, was distinct from Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham, 3<sup>d</sup> of Middleboro.

Who, then, might the New Salem Isaac have been? Onomastics provide no help in answering this question. Family tradition assigns to Isaac and Bethiah Tinkham children Calvin, Luther, Louisa, and perhaps Bethiah,<sup>23</sup> none of which are names found previously in the Tinkham family. There are two other known

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generation, with all but the Warren descent being through her mother.

17. Records of the Town of Plympton, 2: 582 [FHL #0910372].
18. David Thomas Konig, ed., *Plymouth County Court Records 1686-1859* (Wilmington, Del., 1978), 3: 89 [from original 2: 246-247].
19. Wareham Town Records, 2: 211 [FHL #0482240].
20. Plymouth Co. Probate Records, 35: 104-107 [FHL #0550718].
21. It is noteworthy that Francis and Sylva Bent named their oldest son Isaac, presumably after her first husband. Wareham Town Records, *op cit*.
22. An attractive possibility is the death soldier of "Isaiah Tinkham," 11 Sept. 1777 [Clarence Stewart Peterson, *Known Military Dead During The American Revolutionary War, 1775-1783*, (Baltimore, 1959), 167], the date of the Battle of Brandywine [Howard H. Peckham, *The Toll of Independence: Engagements & Battle Casualties of the American Revolution*, (Chicago, 1974), 40]. He was enlisted 3 May 1775, and his service was credited to Plympton, but the period of his service appears to have spanned the date of Isaac's marriage, introducing some doubt into this identification [MSSR, 15: 768]. *Tinkham: A Biographical Index* fails to place this Isaiah. The only documented Isaiah of this generation was Isaiah<sup>6</sup> (Nathan,<sup>5</sup> Isaac,<sup>4</sup> cousin of our Isaac,<sup>6-4</sup> but he cannot be the Brandywine casualty, as he is named in the 1807 will of his father Nathan,<sup>5</sup> and bought out the inheritance shares of his siblings [MF, 7: 72]. Isaiah<sup>6</sup> (Nathan<sup>5</sup>) would appear to be the Isaiah Tinkham who marched to Rhode Island twice, 28 Apr. 1777 from Halifax, and 30 July 1778 from Plymouth Co. [MSSR, 15: 768-769].
23. The census records of Isaac make it clear that additional children were members of the family in 1790 and 1800, but birth or baptismal records have not been found for any children of this couple.

Isaacs of the Revolutionary War generation.<sup>[24]</sup> Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup>, Jeremiah<sup>4</sup>, Ebenezer,<sup>3</sup> Mary<sup>2</sup> Brown, Peter<sup>1</sup>) born in Middleboro on 26 Nov. 1741<sup>[25]</sup> and Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Isaac,<sup>5</sup> Helkiah,<sup>4-3</sup> Mary<sup>2</sup> Brown, Peter<sup>1</sup>), born in Plymouth on 22 Oct. 1745.<sup>[26]</sup> Of these, the former can be excluded. The will of Ebenezer<sup>5</sup> names his oldest son Isaac<sup>6</sup> along with the latter's son Ebenezer.<sup>7[27]</sup> This is sufficient to identify his son with the Isaac<sup>6</sup> who married Lucretia Hammond in Dartmouth on 28 Dec. 1765,<sup>[28]</sup> and had seven children born in Middleboro (Elias,<sup>7</sup> Betsey/Elizabeth,<sup>7</sup> Isaac,<sup>7</sup> Ebenezer,<sup>7</sup> Ruth,<sup>7</sup> Nathaniel,<sup>7</sup> and Hannah<sup>7</sup>), and died in Middleboro on 18 Apr. 1818, aged 76.<sup>[29]</sup> Less of Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Isaac<sup>5</sup>, Helkiah<sup>4</sup>) is known. He was born in Plymouth on 23 Oct. 1745, and still "of Plym<sup>o</sup>" when he married Lidia Rider of Middleboro in Rochester on 4 Dec. 1768.<sup>[30]</sup> A possible later occurrence is Isaac Tincom of Reading, who served six days in Capt. John Flint's co., Col. David Green's regt., probably in response to the Lexington and Concord alarms of 19 Apr. 1775.<sup>[31]</sup> While no definitive connection has been found, the deduced decease of Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Isaac<sup>5-4</sup>) and the exclusion of Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup>) render Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Isaac<sup>5</sup>, Helkiah,<sup>4-3</sup> Mary<sup>2</sup> Brown, Peter<sup>1</sup>) the most likely of the identified candidates to be the migrant to central Massachusetts and Vermont. The following summarizes what we know.

ISAAC TINKHAM, perhaps the son of Isaac<sup>5</sup> (Helkiah,<sup>4-3</sup> Mary<sup>2</sup> Brown, Peter<sup>1</sup>) and Keziah (Wormall) Tinkham, was born in Plymouth on 22 Oct. 1745<sup>[32]</sup> and died intestate in Brandon, Vt., before 11 Aug. 1802.<sup>[33]</sup> Isaac married first LIDIA RYDER in Rochester, Mass., on 4 Dec. 1768.<sup>[34]</sup> Nothing more is known of Lidia, nor whether she bore Isaac any children.

Isaac, of New Salem, Mass., married (second?) BETHIAH EMMONS in

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24. *MF*, 7: 81-82, 102.
  25. *Middleborough VRs*, 1: 78; *MF*, 7: 81-82.
  26. Lee D. van Antwerp, Ruth Wilder Sherman, ed., *Vital Records of Plymouth, Massachusetts to the year 1850* (Camden, Me., 1993) [hereafter *Plymouth VRs*], 141; *MF*, 7: 102.
  27. *MF*, 7: 81-82.
  28. Intention filed 28 Dec. 1765 as "Isaac Tinkcom of Middleboro," Dartmouth Intentions, 1743-1821 / Marriages, 1755-1792 [FHL #0903382]. The marriage on 27 Apr. 1766 from the First Congregational Church, Dartmouth as "Issachar Tinkham" of Middleboro [Henry B. Worth, *Vital Statistics compiled from records of the First Congregational Church in Dartmouth*, 28 [FHL #0574881].
  29. *Middleborough VRs*, 1: 247.
  30. Rochester Town Records, unpaginated [FHL #0482220]. Intention filed on 5 Nov. 1768 [*Middleboro VRs*, 2: 66]. On 9 Nov. 1817, a Lydia Tinkham died in the Plymouth almshouse [*Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859* (Baltimore, 1975), 2: 209], but she was "aged more than 90 years," so this Lydia was two decades older than Isaac<sup>6</sup> Tinkham, and probably can be identified with the Lydia Donham who married Jacob<sup>5</sup> (Jacob,<sup>4</sup> Helkiah<sup>3</sup>) Tinkham on 5 Feb. 1746/7 [*MF*, 7: 109].
  31. *MSSR*, 15: 765. This soldier appears to be distinct from Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Isaac<sup>5</sup>) and Isaac<sup>6</sup> (Ebenezer<sup>5</sup>), both of whom remained in Plymouth Co.
  32. *Plymouth VRs*, 141; *MF*, 7: 102.
  33. Rutland District Probate Record, 3: 388-391.
  34. Rochester Town Records, unpaginated [FHL #0482220].

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Greenwich, Mass., on 6 Aug. 1777.<sup>[35]</sup> Bethiah was apparently the daughter of Jedediah and Hannah (Towne) Emmons of Greenwich, perhaps their child born 1751.<sup>[36]</sup> Isaac died intestate at Brandon before 11 Aug. 1802.<sup>[37]</sup> Bethiah married second to JOHN FREELOVE in Brandon on 25 May 1810.<sup>[38]</sup> Bethiah died on 28 Oct. 1833 and buried in the Congregational Cem., Pittsford, Vt., age 80.<sup>[39]</sup>

Children of Isaac and Bethiah (Emmons) Tinkham,<sup>[40]</sup> apparently with others:<sup>[41]</sup>

- i. CALVIN TINKHAM,<sup>[42]</sup> b. in Mass., bet. 1783-1786, d. Sylvania, Bradford Co., Pa., 12 Nov. 1871; m. THEODOSIA (? PALMER) ca. 1810; Theodosia, b. 12 Nov. 1781, d. 5 Dec. 1870.<sup>[43]</sup>

Children of Calvin and Theodosia Tinkham:<sup>[44]</sup>

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35. *Greenwich Christ Church Records*, 30.
  36. See note #7.
  37. Rutland Co. Probate, Rutland District, 3: 388-390, 449 [FHL #0028782].
  38. Vermont Vital Records card file, 1760-1870, reel 98.
  39. Tombstone of Bethiah Freelove, Old Congregational Church, Pittsford. See note #5.
  40. Of the named children of Isaac and Bethiah, the first three are found on a chart compiled from information provided by Perry E. Courtney, great-grandson of Calvin Tinkham, submitted to the Mass. Society of Mayflower Descendants as partial proof of the lineage papers of Caroline Howe DeGroff (#4319), a descendant of Luther.
  41. There was an additional male born between 1790-1800, and two females, between 1774-1782. As these latter dates span the marriage date of Isaac and Bethiah, the daughters may be the daughters of Isaac's first wife Lidia Ryder.
  42. In addition to the chart recording the family tradition, Calvin is linked to Isaac and Bethiah through an erroneous statement in David Heverly, *Pioneer and Patriot families of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, 1800-1825* (Towanda, Pa., 1915) [hereafter *Pioneer & Patriot*], 2: 137, that he arrived in 1807 from Greenwich, Mass. A similar statement, attributing his emigration to Hampshire Co., Mass., is found in David Craft, *History of Bradford County, Pennsylvania* (Philadelphia, 1878), 303. While he was actually coming from Pittsford, Vt., if child of Isaac and Bethiah, who were the only Tinkhams found in the records of that Greenwich, he would have been born there.
  43. 1850 Federal Census, Columbia Twp., Bradford Co., Pa., 357; 1860 Federal Census, Columbia Twp., 265; 1870 Federal Census, Borough of Sylvania, Bradford Co., 179; tombstones of Calvin and Theodosia Tinkham, Sylvania Cem., Columbia Twp. (transcript, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~pabradfo/cemetery/sylvania.htm>); Theodosia is called a Palmer in the Courtney account of Calvin Tinkham's family, and an early neighbor of Calvin was David Palmer [*Pioneer & Patriot*, 2: 137, 200], whose son David Jr. is listed next to Calvin's brother Luther in the 1850 Federal Census, Sullivan Twp., Tioga Co., Pa., 35. However, H. C. Bradsby, *History of Bradford County, Pennsylvania, with Biographical Sketches* (Chicago, 1891), 455, calls her Theodosia Thomas.
  44. All are named in the Courtney account of the Calvin Tinkham family. The names and ages of children educated at the expense of Columbia Twp., Bradford Co., Pa., are found in the Tax Assessment Books confirm Randall (1823, 1826), Lora (1824), Samuel (1824, 1827) and Olive (1823, 1824, 1827), while the 1850 census places "Delighty" and Clark in Calvin's household, with Samuel in the adjacent house, and Randall (p. 359) and Lorenzo (as L. N., p. 361) nearby. Randall appears in the Columbia Tax Assessment Books from 1835, Samuel from 1838, Lorenzo from 1842, and Clark from 1851. Precise birthdates are from cemetery transcripts: Randall, <http://www.rootsweb.com/~patioga/cemetery/mainesb5.htm>, Mainesburg

1. *Randall Tinkham*, b. 16 Dec. 1812.
  2. *Lora A. Tinkham*, b. 4 Sept. 1813.
  3. *Samuel P. Tinkham*, b. 12 Nov. 1816.
  4. *Olive Tinkham*, b. ca. 1818.
  5. *Lorenzo N. Tinkham*, b. ca. 1820.
  6. *Sophronia Tinkham*, b. say 1822.
  7. *Delight Tinkham*, b. ca. 1824.
  8. *Clark Tinkham*, b. 11 Nov. 1829.
- ii. LOUISA TINKHAM,<sup>[45]</sup> b. Greenwich, Mass., ca. 1789, d. Pittsford, Vt., 7 Aug. 1859; m. JACOB SHELDON, 20 Oct. 1822; b. Nelson, N.H., 19 May 1794, d. Pittsford, Vt., 5 Aug. 1851, whose first wife was Joanna Hawley.<sup>[46]</sup>  
 Children of Jacob and Louisa (Tinkham) Sheldon:<sup>[47]</sup>
1. *Jacob Van Ness Sheldon*, b. Pittsford, 8 Sept. 1823.
  2. *Joanna Louisa Sheldon*, b. 25 June 1825.
  3. *Hester Adeline Sheldon*, b. 25 Jan. 1828, d. 12 Feb. 1828.
  4. *Caroline Calista Sheldon*, b. 17 Mar. 1830, d. Pittsford, 18 Nov. 1854.
  5. *Mary Columbiana Sheldon*, b. 28 Oct. 1833, d. Pittsford, 25 June 1860.
  6. *Charles Augustine Sheldon*, b. 18 Jan. 1836, d. Pittsford, 23 July 1856.
- iii. LUTHER TINKHAM,<sup>[48]</sup> b. Mass., 16 Oct. 1790, d. Sullivan Twp., Tioga Co., Pa., 9 May 1859; m. BETSEY GARDNER in Hubbardton, Vt., 15 Feb. 1815; b. 17 Aug. 1793, d. 19 Mar. 1868.<sup>[49]</sup>

Cem., Mainesburg, Pa.; and Samuel, Clark, and Lora near their parents in the Sylvania Cem., <http://www.rootsweb.com/~pabradfo/cemeterv/sylvania.htm>.

45. Louisa is tied to the family by the Greenwich origin attributed to her in a biography of her husband in A. M. Caverly, *History of the Town of Pittsford, Vt., with Biographical Sketches and Family Records* (Rutland, 1872) [hereafter *Pittsford Hist.*], 344. Likewise her daughter Caroline Sheldon is listed both with Louisa in the 1850 Federal Census, Pittsford, Rutland Co., Vt., 64, and in the same year in Calvin Tinkham's household in Pa.
46. *Pittsford Hist.*, 344; *1850 Census*; tombstones of Jacob and Louisa Sheldon, Old Congregational Cem., Pittsford; Fannie Smith Spurling, *Gravestone Inscriptions*, (Delavan, Wis., 1937) [hereafter *Pittsford Inscriptions*], 23.
47. All children except Hester are found with their parents in the 1850 census. Hester's data and the middle names of other children appearing in the International Genealogical Index. Where the source is provided for these records, reference is made to a file in possession of the Sheldon Family Association. Tombstones of the youngest three are found in Old Congregational Cem. [*Pittsford Inscriptions*, 23].
48. Additional support for the placement of Luther Tinkham as son of Isaac and Bethiah is found in a bible at the American Bible Society (New York, 1826) in possession of the estate of the late Howard Norman of Liberty, Pa. The front page of this bible is inscribed "Miss Bethiah Free loves Bible," and on the subsequent page, it gives an account of Luther's 16 Oct. 1790 birth, his marriage, and children [hereafter to be called *Bethiah Free love Bible*, see <http://www.rootsweb.com/~patioga/bibles/tinkham.htm> for a transcript of the genealogical information]. Likewise the names and Calvin and Luther appear to derive from shared onomastic practice, reflecting Protestant reformist views.
49. *Bethiah Free love Bible*; Dawn D. Hance, *Extracts from the Rutland Weekly Herald 1816-1820*, (Brattleboro, Vt., 1998), 2; 1850 Federal Census, Sullivan Twp., 35; 1860 Federal Census, Sullivan Twp., 615; tombstone of Luther Tinkham, State Road Cem., Sullivan Twp.

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Children of Luther and Betsey (Gardner) Tinkham:<sup>[50]</sup>

1. *daughter Tinkham*, b. 22 Feb. 1817, d. y.
2. *Betsey Miranda Tinkham*, b. 31 Aug. 1818.
3. *Laura Ann Tinkham*, b. 30 Apr. 1821.
4. *Maryette C. Tinkham*, b. 7 Jan. 1824.
5. *Harriet Maria Tinkham*, b. 18 Oct. 1826.
6. *Clarissa Emily Tinkham*, b. 22 Feb. 1830.
7. *Sarah Louisa Tinkham*, b. 21 Feb. 1833.

iv. (perhaps) BETHIAH TINKHAM.<sup>[51]</sup>

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## TOWN CLERK'S THOUGHTS

This comes from Plympton, Mass., Tax Records, 1783-1809 [*sic*] [FHL #912062] written by Lewis Bradford on 25 July 1842:

"To me Adults are always Children as to handling Books; and it is surprising to see in how start a time they will pain a Book by improper handling.

An Embezzler of Town Books and Papers is not a fit person to hold a Town Office; as he violates the Public Trust and confidence committed to him.

Embezzle, to appropriate to one's own use what was intrusted to one's care."

50. *Bethiah FreeLove Bible*.

51. Not reported in the traditional account provided by Calvin's family, she is added by *Tinkham: A Biographical Index*, 184, but the author could supply no documentation for this addition, which must then be viewed with skepticism.