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**WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, PROBATE ABSTRACTS**  
**(continued from volume 49, page 76)**  
*by Shirley Robinson Pizziferri*

Worcester County, Massachusetts, was established in 1731 from parts of Suffolk and Middlesex counties. In addition to the present towns in Worcester County, the Connecticut town of Woodstock (previously part of Suffolk County) was also in Worcester until 1849.

The original file papers of Worcester County's "Series A" Probate and Family Court have recently been moved to a new storage facility in Brookfield because of diminishing storage space in Worcester. Worcester has procured a new microfilm reader/printer and has copies on microfilm of all of its dockets and record books for Series A cases, which cover the period 1731-1881. However, the original file papers have never been filmed, and the case files (over 60,000 of them) take up about 900 boxes. If the original papers are required by researchers, they may be requested from the Worcester Probate Court by filling out a request form. The files will be delivered to Worcester for viewing within a waiting period of seven to ten days. For further information, call John Dolan at the Worcester Probate Court at (508) 756-2441.

The probate records presented here have been abstracted from records listed in the docket books and the numbers in parentheses refer to the record book volume and page. Each record has been compared to the original file for corroboration.

[Case No. 59,657; **EDMUND TOWN**]

A bond dated 12 Oct 1737, signed by Edmund Town of Oxford and witnessed by Jonathan Town and Susan (her mark) Town binds Edmund Town to pay Ebenezer Learned the sum of £11,13:2, with interest, by 12 Oct 1738. Notes made on the bond indicate that Town had made three payments in 1739 and 1747 [615:438].

On 1 July 1745, Patience Town, widow, was appointed to administer the estate of her husband, and posted a bond of £400 that she signed in her own hand. David (mark) Town and John Willson, both of Oxford, were sureties [179:299].

Ebenezer Learned, John Willson and Jeremiah Shumway were appointed to appraise the estate of Edmund Town, cordwainer, late of Oxford, on 6 June 1745 [2:380], and on 8 June 1745 they submitted a list totaling £524:02:3 including £360 for the real estate. Judge Chandler certified to the acceptance of the inventory by Patience Town [2:380].

A bond in the amount of £100 for dividing the land was posted by Edmund Town of Oxford on 8 Apr 1756, with John Gould of Topsfield, county of Essex, as surety [615:437].

Patience Town filed an administrator's account on her late husband's estate,



ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
 GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

which was accepted on 26 Aug 1746 [2:488].

Ebenezer Learned, Esq., Elijah Moore and Moses Gleason, gentlemen, Samuel Eddy and Joseph Phillips, yeomen, all of Oxford, were charged with dividing the estate which they had completed by 7 Apr 1755. All the real estate, which was then appraised at £60, was designated to Edmund Town, the eldest son of the deceased. After paying expenses, he was to pay his sister Elizabeth Town, or her guardian, £19:10 [4:470]. Her guardian, John Tory [*Fery?*] signed a receipt for that amount on 23 Apr 1755 at Sutton [5:508].

A receipt for £50, received of John Gould for her portion of the estate, was signed at Oxford on 16 Mar 1747/8 by Patience Eddy, the former widow, and a receipt for £5:15:11 was signed by Elijah Moore on 15 Mar 1748 for what was owned to him out of Edmund Town's estate [207:277].

[Case No. 34,297: MICAH KEITH]

George Keith, yeoman of Mendon, posted an administrator's bond in the sum of £400 in the case of Micah Keith, late yeoman of Mendon. George Bruce of Mendon and John Curtis of Worcester were sureties. The bond was dated 9 Aug 1745 [177:121].

Bathsheba Keith signed with her mark on 28 May 1745, assenting to her brother-in-law, George Keith, as administrator. James Ball and Samuel Penniman witnessed [459:457].

The inventory is dated 5 June 1745 and is signed by Robert Taft, Benjamin Wheeler and Abraham Fletcher. It includes £500 for the house and land, but the inventory is extremely faded and difficult to read [2:381].

George Keith posted a second bond, to sell the deceased's real estate, with George Bruce and Eleazer Fletcher as sureties. The bond was for £500 and was dated 5 Nov 1745 [190:98].

The executor's account, allowed 21 Aug 1747, included a list of debts compiled by George Bruce and Wm. Rawson, Jr., that came to £410:0:5. The real estate had been sold for £407 O.T., and the widow's thirds, with interest, came to £135:13:4. A state of Insolvency was filed on 21 Aug 1747 [2:620].

[Case No. 9,446: JONATHAN BUSS]

The guardianship of Jonathan Buss of Leominster, *non compos mentis*, was requested by Thomas Houghton, Oliver Wyman and Jonathan Carter, Selectmen of Leominster, on 20 Oct 1745, declaring him "all together unfit to act for himself" [2:382-383]. Benjamin Solomon of Leominster represented Buss, and guardianship was designated on 23 Oct 1745 to Benjamin Whetcomb, Thomas Houghton and Jonathan Carter of Leominster, who posted a £100 bond on 23 Oct 1745 [196:44].

Directed by the General Court to sell Buss' real estate, Benjamin Whetcomb, yeoman, and Abijah Smith, housewright, both of Leominster, posted a license bond on 12 Mar 1746 [220:276].

ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

[Case No. 5,850: **WILLIAM BLAIR**]

According to the Selectmen of Shrewsbury, Nahum Ward, Luke Rice, Cyprian Keyes and Simon Maynard, William Blair of Shrewsbury had "for some Considerable time Been Under Distraction & wholly Uncapable of Managing his Business," and his wife had asked for a guardian to be named for him. The note is dated at Shrewsbury, 14 Apr 1746. An attached letter from Judge Joseph Wilder, dated at Lancaster on 15 Apr 1746, apparently to Judge Chandler, states that Blair's brother-in-law, John Alexander of Pelham has offered himself as guardian and Wilder asks whether or not Alexander is a suitable person [2:383].

The next day, 16 Apr 1746, Robert Barber, clothier, Daniel Haywood, gentleman and William Johnson, blacksmith, all of Worcester, posted a £500 guardian's bond [220:188].

An inventory of Blair's estate is dated 18 Apr 1746 and totals £1,316:47:9, including the "home place, buildings and improvements," at £1,120. Nahum Ward, Simon Maynard and Benj. Eager were the appraisers, and the inventory was allowed on 13 May 1746 [2:475].

On 27 Apr 1746, John (his mark) Alexander signed a receipt for two beds, one quilt, one blanket, one sheet, one table cloth, one napkin, one mare, one colt, a saddle and bridle, a cow and a calf, all received of Robert Barber and listed in the inventory, for which Alexander promises to account to Robert Barber. John Peebles witnessed Alexander's signature [223:130].

Robert Barber's first account appears to indicate that William Blair was moved to Pelham. It also includes payments made to Blair's wife and children, and mentions the wife's "lying in" costs. It is dated 13 May 1747 [2:574].

A note dated 13 May 1747 lists items that were "delivered" to the wife in the amount of £103:12, including two beds and other household items, and is signed by Mary (her mark) Blair.

An account dated 13 Oct 1748 was prepared for Robert Barber by John Chandler. It includes payments to John Blair of Pelham for boarding William Blair from June 1848 to October 1748, "he being sick of the Lung fever," payments to Mary Blair for her and her children's support, a payment to Robert Blair, "his bro" contracted in Jan 1743, and to Robert Blair and Samuel Blair for their 2/3 of their father's estate, leaving a balance of £932:18:6[3:76].

Barber's third account, filed on 12 May 1752, includes further payments to Mary and Robert Blair, to Samuel Patterson for his wife's right, she being a sister to William Blair, and to Samuel Blair for his right "as above" [4:35].

Barber filed three more accounts dated 1 Feb 1757 [5:178], 27 June 1761 [7:213], and 28 Apr 1764 [8:360], showing expenses for "time spent searching for land in Shrewsbury," trips to Pelham, Springfield and Enfield "to buy land," payments to Dr. Gott and Dr. Smith, and further installments to family members. The last account, in 1764, shows payments being made to Thomas Dick and his wife for boarding and taking care of William and Mary Blair. Some of the trips to Pelham were now being made by Barber's son.

[Case No. 30,549; **DAVID HOLMES**]

On 3 Jul 1745, an administrator's bond was issued to Bathshua (mark) Holmes, widow of David Holmes, a clothier of Woodstock. John Holmes, yeoman and John Peake, also of Woodstock, were bondsmen on the £1000 bond, which was allowed on 6 Aug 1745 [176:308]

A committee to appraise the land was made up of Benjamin Child, Thomas Chandler, John Frissell, Edmund Chamberlin Jr., gentlemen, and Jacob Child, yeoman, all of Woodstock, on 18 May 1746, and they were instructed to set off one-third to the widow. This was allowed 3 Jul 1746 [-----]

A note signed on 18 May 1746 by Henry Bowen, John Peake, Nath<sup>l</sup> Sanger, Will Lyon and Edward Morris stated that the land would not admit a division, and suggests one good settlement. The settlement by the above committee, dated 3 Jul 1746, valued the widow's thirds at £135:16:8, including the homestead and land, the use of the new end of the house and below; liberty to set a bedding chamber over the middle room; liberty to bake and brew in the middle room; liberty to the cellar, well and yard room, half the cow barn (south part), and thrashing room, etc. A provision was added by Judge Wilder, dated 21 Aug 1746, that all the remaining property, after the above thirds, be given to the eldest son, David Holmes, plus his mother's thirds when she died, he to pay his brothers, Josiah, Moses and Stephen Holmes £54:6:9 each in one year [2:508].

The inventory, filed 29 Aug 1745, was taken at Woodstock on 13 Aug 1745 by Henry Bowen, Daniel Lyon and Daniel Paine, and valued the home lot at £131; "sundry pieces of Out-Land at £186; the buildings at £100, household goods, fire arms, boards and "Slit Work," for a total of £23:9 [2:392]

The administrator's bond was issued to David Holmes, physician, with John Holmes, yeoman, and David Wallis, blacksmith, all of Woodstock, for £1,000 on 20 Aug 1746 [190:24].

The account of Bathsheba Edmunds, late Bathsheba Holmes, (mark) was approved 19 Aug 1746 [2:485].

[Case No. 66,407; **JEREMIAH WILSON**]

Jeremiah Wilson of Bolton, yeoman, was "very sick and weak of body but of perfect mind and memory" when he made his last will and testament on 26 Jun 1745. To his wife Elizabeth, he left the improvement of half of his whole estate, both real and personal, during her natural life, to dispose of as her own after Abijah Pratt (hereafter mentioned) came of age. The other half of his estate was to go to Abijah Pratt after the death of his wife. If Abijah should die before reading 21, then the entire estate would go to his wife and, at her death, divided among "my brethren & sisters or their heirs."

To Susanah Wild, who was not identified, he left £15 for her to be "decently clothed when she shall arrive at the age of eighteen years." Likewise, he left £15 to Alice Hind to be given to her when Abijah Pratt came of age, and £5 to be given to Margaret Corly when Abijah Pratt came of age.

To Allexander Mcfadden, he left one cow, and named his "faithful kinsman"

Jabez Beaman of Bolton to be his Executor. The will was allowed on 2 Aug 1745 [2:393-394].

The estate was inventoried on 16 Aug 1745 by Nathaniel Holman, James Keyes and John Whitcomb, who presented an untallied inventory. It included a gun and a bayonet, furniture in a household with at least three bedrooms, a large amount of animals, plus £400 for the buildings, land and Town Right [2:395].

Jabez Beaman was appointed executor, and he presented an account to the court on 11 May 1748 stating that £71:15 remained to be disbursed to the heirs. Expenses included payments to Dr. Prentice and Dr. Greenleaf and to John Beaton for "funeral things" [2:701]. There are receipts in the file that show distributions were made to John Hinds, Abraham Rice, Jr., and to Elizabeth Wilson and Abijah Pratt [573:82-84].

[Case No. 61,438; **SAMUEL WALKER**]

The administrator's bond for the estate of Samuel Walker of Brookfield was granted on 4 Apr 1760 to Marcy Walker of Brookfield, widow, who signed her name. Gershom Makepeace of Western and Daniel Hubbard of Worcester, gentlemen, posted the £200 bond [179:262].

The committee to appraise Walker's estate was appointed the same day, and consisted of John Chaney/Cheeney of Western, Comfort Olds and Moses Jennings, both of Brookfield. They performed the inventory on 14 April 1760, totaling £52:09:6 and including wearing apparel and "armory," household furnishings, and animals. It was approved 17 April 1760 [7:276].

An account by Mercy Walker, allowed on 17 Aug 1761, included loss of a cow that sickened and died, but the account is otherwise illegible [2:396].

[Case No. 25,556 - **JOSHUA GREEN**]

Joshua Green of Mendon, housewright, died intestate. On 2 Jun 1745, Lydia (mark) Green of Mendon was appointed administratrix of her husband's estate and posted bond of £500. Ebenezer Boynton of Waltham and John Jackson of Weston, both in Middlesex Co., were bondsmen [216:544].

The inventory, dated at Mendon 6 June 1745, was not totaled. Thomas Tinney, William Torrey and Habijah French listed real estate, housing and land at £600, clothing, animals, and furniture. It was allowed on 22 Aug 1745 [2:396-97].

An account [2:542] was filed on 22 Aug 1745 by Samuel Rawson who had married Lydia Green, listing assets of £276:3:0 and expenses of £267:9:4, plus money for the widow, costs of lying in with a posthumous child and nursing, for a total of £375:9:4 [2:542].

Samuel Rawson and Lydia Rawson filed a second account on 5 Feb 1755, reporting that a piece of meadow had been sold to Jonathan Whitcom and 4 acres to Ichabod Robinson for a total of £80 [4:443].

A settlement, made by William Thayer, Thomas Wiswall, William Torrey, Nathaniel Nelson and Daniel Sumner, all of Mendon, and consented to by Lydia Rawson, Lydia and Reuben Rockwood, was approved 19 Aug 1745. The whole

of the real estate was worth £110, and the committee set out to the widow, 16-1/2 acres of land on both sides of the road leading from Mendon to Sherborn, with house, bounded on one side by Samuel Rawson, valued at £36:13:4. Joshua Green, the son, received about 36 adjoining acres, easterly of the widow's thirds, bounding on Reuben Rockwood, valued at £48:17:9, and Lydia Rockwood, the daughter, received about 21 acres of adjoining land valued at £24:8:10:2 [5:92-93].

A final account of Samuel Rawson, dated simply "1747," listed his expenses in settling the estate as £22:16:6.

An unrecorded and undated note, signed by Samuel Rawson and Lydia Rawson, appears in the file stating that they were now married; that the improvement of the widow's thirds had been given to the daughter of the deceased, or her husband Ruben Rockwood, being a single portion; that Samuel Rawson was guardian for "the son yett under age"; and they wanted to know who should pay for the charge of the division, there being no moveables and the land had been sold to pay debts.

Another note to the court, this one dated 1 May 1756, asks the court to move on the division to the two children, signed by Samuel Rawson as guardian for the son and Reuben Rockwood, husband of the daughter. The son was then said to be about eleven.

On 17 May 1756, a committee of five men was appointed to set off the widow's thirds; a petition is attached, to Judge Joseph Wilder dated 5 Aug 1756, saying that the land which had been laid out to the son, then 11 or 12 years old, had been sold. The daughter Lydia wanted her share, but for the sake of fairness, the land should be divided between the son and the daughter. This was signed by William Torrey, Nathanael Nelson, Daniel Sumner, Nathanael Rawson, Thomas Wiswall, Seth Thayer, Samuel Wheelock, John Perry, Isaac Tenney, James Sumner, Barnabas Rawson, David Peniman, Samuel Ward and Gideon {??} [5:92].

[Case No. 45,252; **WILLIAM PARKER**]

William Parker of Sutton died intestate, and a declination signed by Mary Parker, widow, and witnessed by Benjamin Maynard and Abner Maynard, asked that estate be administered by Mary's father, Simeon Maynard [462:32].

The bond was issued to Simeon Maynard on 20 Sep 1745 and he posted £300 with James Holdin of Rutland, Esq., and John Chadwick, yeoman of Worcester, as sureties [178:454].

The very short inventory, taken 15 Oct and allowed 17 Oct 1745, by Asa Bowker, Ezekiel Knolton and Ephraim Smith, all of Shrewsbury, included real estate of £40 and leather shoemaking tools, but the figures are too smudged to be readable [2:399].

Simeon Maynard's account, dated 11 Jan 1747, listed assets of £730 and expenses of £393 [2:678].

[Case No. 45,253; **WILLIAM PARKER**]

Guardianship of William Parker of Sutton, a minor below aged 8 and son of William Parker above was granted to "Simon" Maynard of Shrewsbury. Isaac Morse of a farm called Switzer's Farm, and Luke Brown, cordwainer of Worcester, were sureties on the £100 bond on [?] Jul 1747 [200:236].

[Case No. 67,098 - **JOSEPH WOODS**]

An administrator's bond was issued on 12 Oct 1745 to Hannah Woods, widow, Josiah White, gentleman, and Joseph White, yeoman, all of Lancaster, on the estate of Joseph Woods, husbandman of Lancaster, for £100 [179:344].

Hannah's first account, dated 10 May 1749, listed assets of £75:4:9 [3:168] Hannah signed another account the next day, which was allowed on 14 May 1752, listing payments to appraisers, expenses for making a new chimney and repairing the house to make it habitable (£6:13:4), mourning [clothes] for herself and children (£2:13:4) [4:51].

The inventory was taken on 9 Oct 1745 and allowed on 18 Oct 1745. It was performed by Peter Atherton, Aaron Willard and John White, and included 52 acres of land, with buildings and fencings, at £87:10 and 1/4 of a single share or right in the Road Town, so called, at £4; detailed itemization of clothing, household furnishings, animals, farm equipment and tools, for a total of £156:8:9 [2:399-400].

[Case No. 10,668; **JOEL CHAFFEE**]

Joel Chaffee of Woodstock died intestate, and a declination to administer was signed by his widow Elizabeth (her mark) Chaffee and dated 5 Sep 1745 [233:128].

An inventory, taken by Samuel Mascraft, Benjamin Bugbee & Thomas Armsbe, all of Woodstock, included clothing, a horse, a colt and other animals, household and husbandry items, flax, shoemaker tools and 75 acres of land valued at £262:10:0 [2:400].

An administrator's bond of £300 was issued on 17 Oct 1745 to Joseph Chaffee, with Ebenezer Chaffee and John Chaffee, Jr., all of Woodstock, as sureties. Benjamin Bugbee and Samuel Chandler were witnesses [176:44].

The first account of the administrator, proved 16 Sep 1746 and allowed 4 Nov 1746, showed assets of £290:9:0, and expenses and debts of £141:7:8 [2:535] A second account, allowed 4 Feb 1747/8, showed a balance of £97:1:9 [2:675].

[Case No. 10,669; **JOEL CHAFFEE**]

Guardianship of Joel Chaffee [Jr.], a minor aged about fifteen and son of Joel Chaffee, late of Woodstock, was granted 18 May 1747 to Ebenezer Paine, with Joseph Chaffe Jr. as surety. Paine and Joseph Chaffee, both husbandmen of Woodstock, posted a £200 bond on that date [197:53].

[Case No. 4,542; **GAMALIEL BEMAN**]

Gamaliel Beman of Lancaster signed & sealed his Last Will and Testament on

20 April 1745 before Samuel Sawyer, Asa Whitcom[b] and Ephraim Bennitt. In it, he left his wife all his debts after funeral charges had been paid, his cattle, horses, swine and sheep, and all his land, meadow at the saw mill, improvements of his home place, together with one half of the house and barn and his right in the meeting house.

To his son Phenehas Beman, he left the other half of the house and barn and his rights in the additional grant to Lancaster; also his husbandry tools and, after his wife's decease, all the home place, the other half of the house and barn, and adjoining land.

Gamaliel left five shillings, Old Tenor, to each of his five daughters, together with what they had already received by deeds of gift and other ways, to be their whole portions. The daughters were: Mary Wilder, wife of Nathan Wilder; Eunice Wilder, wife of Jonas Wilder; Zerruiah Beman; Lois Beman, and Dinah Beman. Granddaughter Elizabeth Jewett, was left all his land in the Town of Harvard if she lived to be 18; otherwise the Harvard land was to be divided among above the five daughters. The will was acknowledged and recorded at Worcester on 25 Oct 1745.

David Osgood was to be the sole executor [2:401-03].

Samuel Sawyer, Samuel Bum(r) pe, and Asa Whitcomb took the inventory at Lancaster on 1 Nov 1745. Items totaling £426:3:0 included Beman's purse and apparel, books, home place (£300), other property (£37), stock, etc. a table, 3 beds and their "furniture," 4 chests, a linen wheel and two woolen wheels, pewter platters, 1 brass spoon, a saddle, lumber, and other misc. items [2:401].

David Osgood's account, dated 12 May 1747, listed debts paid totaling £189:14:7 [2:563].

[Case No. 22,124; **JONATHAN FOSTER**]

Jonathan Foster of Shrewsbury made his will on 14 December 1743 and it was acknowledged and allowed on 5 Nov 1745.

To his wife Mary, he left improvements of all his estate "so long as she remains my widow." To son Thomas, named secondly, he left 20 shillings, and to the rest of his children, viz. Jonathan Foster, Thomas Foster, Hezekiah Foster, Mary Foster, Beulah Foster, Jemima Foster, and Keziah Foster, he left five shillings each. If anything was left over from these distributions, it was to be divided among all the heirs, and if the amount was not sufficient to divide, then an abatement was to be made upon each according to their proportion given.

Foster signed and sealed his will before witnesses John Baker, Judith Baker, and Job Cushing, who all signed with their marks [2:403-4].

On 1 Mar 1764, a £200 bond was issued to the widow Mary (her mark) Foster, with Jesse Haven of Framingham and Daniel Goddard of Shrewsbury as sureties, before witnesses Edward Goddard Jr. and John Mayhew [220:221].

Jonathan Foster of Shrewsbury, Jonathan Hemingway of Framingham and the widow Mary were notified that the will would be allowed. There are no other



papers.

[Case No. 25,065; **ZACHEUS GOULD**]

Zacheus Gould of Lunenburg signed and sealed his will on 5 Mar 1745. It was acknowledged on 12 Oct 1745 and allowed on 5 Nov 1745. Benjamin Bellows Jr., David Stearns and William Stearns were witnesses.

Zacheus left to his "beloved nephew Zaccheus Gould, son of my brother Jonathan Gould, 1/64 part of a township granted to John Tyler, Joseph Pike and other officers and soldiers in the Expedition to Canada [of] 1690 commonly known by the name of Rowley Canada," the house lot laid out as No. 44, and also 5-1/2 yards of wool cloth, provided "I shall not return from the Expedition to Cape Breton in which Expedition I am now going."

He named his brother Jonathan Gould executor [2:405].

The inventory, taken 10 Dec 1745 by Jonathan Hubbard, Benj<sup>a</sup> Bellows Jr. and Thomas Prentice, is not totaled, but includes 5-3/4 yards of blue wool cloth valued at £7; one right of land in Rowley Canada at £50, some clothing, cartouche, box of bullets and powder, a sword, a pair of shoes, and wages and bounty for service done in Cape Breton Expedition, £33 [2:424].

[Case No. 48,638; **BENJAMIN RANDALL**]

Benjamin Randall, husbandman of Lunenburg, made his will on 7 Mar 1745, and signed with his mark before Jonathan Willard, David Stearns and Ruth Stearns. It was acknowledged on 12 Oct 1745 and allowed 5 Nov 1745.

To wife Lydia Randall, he left the whole of his estate, both real and personal, after just debts paid, "improved for her own benefit and advantage and the bringing up and educating my children as she in her wisdom and direction shall think best." Lydia was also to be sole executor with authority to sell property, and the rest of the estate was left "to her own and my childrens advantage" [2:406-07]

The inventory was taken on 25 Jun 1746 by William Snow, Jonathan Wood and John Buss who had been appointed the day before. It totaled assets of £446:12:0 including 30 acres of land and buildings, and debts then known as amounting to £38:4:0 [2:507].

[Case No. 46,759; **JOSHUA PEARCE**]

Joshua Pearce, a housewright of Lancaster, died before 20 Aug 1745, when a bond was issued to Lois "Pirce," widow of Sutton. David Wilder, yeoman, and Peter Green, Dep<sup>l</sup> Sheriff, all of Lancaster, were sureties on the £100 bond [178:453].

An inventory dated 4 Oct 1745 was taken by Josiah White, Benjamin Ballard and Peter Green that came to £148, including £104 for the house and land [2:407].

Lois Pearce filed an account on 5 Nov 1745 for £164:9 in assets and expenses (debts) for a balance of £120 [3:155].

A second inventory, dated 11 Jun 1762, was done by Gardiner Wilder,

yeoman, Richard Steward, gentleman and Abiather Houghton, all of Leominster, who were appointed to set off the widow's thirds and divide the remaining estate between two sons who were the only children. This was filed 28 Feb 1765 and accepted 9 Jul 1770 [11:127].

The final settlement was made on 15 Jun 1765 by Gardiner Wilder, Richard Stewart, Abiathar Houghton and approved by Joshua and Jonathan "Peirce." Joshua Pearce, cooper, eldest son, received £80 value in land in the southerly part of Leominster. Jonathan Pearce, blacksmith, the youngest son, received £40 value in land adjoining his brother's [-----].

[Case No. 34,915; JAMES KEYES]

James Keyes of Bolton made his will on 15 Aug 1756, and it was allowed 4 Nov 1756. It was signed with very shaky hand. The will left to his three daughters, Elizabeth Keyes, Hannah Marble and Patience Keyes, "now living with me," the improvements of all of homeplace and east end of the house during their single state or life of each, 1 cow, oxen and mare between them. To grandson Joseph Marble and my niece [*illegible*] all the moveables, except the surveying tools, all divided among 3 daus. But if any of them shall marry or die, their share to go to grandson Joseph Marble.

To son William he left all the surveying instruments and the power to sell a piece of land near Spectacle Meadows containing 110 acres and to distribute the money equally among all the heirs, viz: Elias Keyes, James Keyes, Matthias Keyes, William Keyes, Elizabeth Keyes, Hannah Marble, Sarah Brookins, and the children of Prudence Wilder and Patience Keyes.

To grandson Joseph Marble, he left a piece of land on Quattock Hill of 12 acres and all his husbandry tools, and after the death of Elizabeth, Hannah and Patience, all the home place, housing, lands and meadows.

Son William Keyes was to be the sole executor.

John (mark) Whitney, Jonathan Rob[b]ins and Dan<sup>l</sup> Greenleaf witnessed the will and Greenleaf and Robbins acknowledged their signatures at Worcester on 27 Oct 1746 [2:519-20].

The inventory, taken by Jabez Beaman, David Whetcomb and Caleb Richardson on 29 Oct 1746 and allowed 29 Oct 1746 totaled £173:9:3, including housing and land at £90; 110 acres in Bolton at £34:7:6; 12 acres at £3; the usual household and husbandry items, and a note due from David Smith of £1:5 [2:408-09].

[Case No. 62,001; JOHN WARNER]

John Warner, a gentleman of Lancaster, died without a will sometime before 18 Oct 1745, when an administrator's bond was issued to Joseph Whitcomb and Peter Green, gentlemen, and Manasseh/Manasses Divoll for £100 [179:329].

The inventory marked "Capt. Warner's Inventory" and dated 5 Nov 1745 was taken by Josiah White, Daniel Knight and John White on 14 Oct 1745 and allowed on 5 Nov 1745. The total of £343:7:0, included many small items and

also £28 in bonds and notes due, £250 for the house and barn, mill and land [2:409].

An account, allowed 7 Feb 1753, of Peter Green and Joseph Whitcomb listed assets of £164:18:9 including the rent on the land until "next April," and £117+ in payments and expenses [4:136].

Another warrant of appraisal, dated 10 Feb 1753, was issued to Samuel Willard, David Wilder, John White and Joseph White [4:337].

Their appraisal of the 135-acre home place was £71:12, the house at £20, barn at £10, a piece of meadow land of 17+ acres at £18:2:8, a 59-acre piece of land north of and adjoining the home place and owned in common with Joseph Wilder, at £17:4, an 81-acre piece of pine land in common with Aaron Willard, Jr. at £1:12, 16+ acres of entervail lying on both sides of the river in common with Aaron Willard Jr. and \_\_\_ [sic] Brooks, for a sum total of £179:12.

On 12 Feb 1754, the committee set off to John Warner, the st son, 42 acres of the place valued at £0:16; also all of the southwesterly or large part of the house except the northerly half of the garret; appraised at £10, and 9 acres of the westerly part of a meadow at £9:1:4, for a grand total £59:17 representing the whole of his share.

To the second son, William Warner, they allotted 23 acres of the home place valued at £15:8 and several other small pieces of land for a total of £29:18:8.

To the third son, Daniel Warner, they set off 70 acres of the home place valued at £25:8 and other pieces of land for a total £29:18:8.

To Hannah Warner and Abigail Warner, together, they distributed the 59-acre tract of land valued at £17:14, plus other lands for a total value of £59:17:4 [4:337].

*Shirley Robinson Pizziferri, former Executive Secretary of the MSMD and retired professional genealogist of Palm City, Florida, can be reached at shirleyinfl@prodigy.net.*

## TWO SUSANNA COLES: ONE MAYFLOWER CONNECTION

by Susan E. Roser

A common dilemma facing genealogists is sorting out the lives of same name persons, some cases being easier to solve than others. In this case, we not only have two Susanna Coles born about the same year, but both women were the daughters of two same-named couples – John and Susanna Cole. Fortunately there are plenty of available records to set the record straight.

Of the two Susanna Coles, one married Robert Harlow, son of William Harlow<sup>4</sup> (*Rebecca Bartlett*,<sup>3</sup> *Mary<sup>2</sup> Warren, Richard<sup>1</sup>*) and Lydia Cushman<sup>3</sup> (*Mary<sup>2</sup> Allerton, Isaac<sup>1</sup>*) while the other married George Round. They are as follows:

### Susanna<sup>4</sup> Cole (John,<sup>3</sup> Hugh,<sup>2</sup> James<sup>1</sup>)

Susanna<sup>4</sup> Cole, daughter of John and Susanna (–?–) Cole, was born in Swansea on 19 November 1696.<sup>[1]</sup> The will of John Cole of Swansea was dated 22 September 1742 and mentions among others a daughter Susannah Round.<sup>[2]</sup> She was the Susanna who married George Round before the birth of their first recorded child in Rehoboth on 19 July 1722.<sup>[3]</sup>

### Susanna<sup>4</sup> Cole (John,<sup>3</sup> James<sup>2-1</sup>)

Susanna<sup>4</sup> Cole, daughter of John and Susannah (Gray) Cole, was born probably in Plymouth where her parents resided.<sup>[4]</sup> The family removed to Plympton by 14 February 1705/6 where the birth of their seventh child, Joseph, was recorded.<sup>[5]</sup> The will of John Cole of Plympton was dated 13 March 1723/4.<sup>[6]</sup> While he does not name his children, they are known from other records. On 16 September 1724, Robert Harlow and wife Susannah quitclaimed to her widowed mother Susannah Cole of Plympton any further claim to the estate of her father John Cole of Plympton.<sup>[7]</sup> On 4 April 1728, the real estate of Mrs. Susannah Cole, deceased, of Plympton, was distributed between her children including Susannah Harlow, the wife of Robert, “in y<sup>e</sup> County aforesd.”<sup>[8]</sup> Susanna’s brother Samuel<sup>4</sup>

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1. Jane Fletcher Fiske and Margaret F. Costello, *Vital Records of Swansea, Massachusetts, to 1850* (Boston, 1992), 19.
  2. Warren, R.I., Probate Records, 1: 35.
  3. James N. Arnold, *Vital Records of Rehoboth, 1642-1896* (Providence, 1897), 733.
  4. *Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859* (New York, 1920-1923), 198, 274, baptisms of siblings John, Thomas, and Elizabeth.
  5. *Vital Records of Plympton, Massachusetts, to the year 1850* (Boston, 1923) [*hereafter Plympton VR*], 75.
  6. Plymouth Co. Probate Records, 4: 442.
  7. *Ibid.*, 4: 450.
  8. *Ibid.*, 5: 440.

Cole died in Plympton on 22 March 1723/4 as the son of John.<sup>[9]</sup> An agreement of his heirs dated 9 January 1730/1 mentions Samuel's siblings, including Robert Harlow and wife Susanna.<sup>[10]</sup>

### Conclusion

There were two different John Cole families, one of Plymouth and Plympton and one of Swansea and Warren, R.I. They each had a daughter Susanna born near the same time. As is clearly shown above, the Susannah Cole born in Swansea on 19 November 1696 was the daughter of John and Susannah (--?--) Cole. This Susanna married George Round.

The wife of Robert Harlow was Susannah Cole, daughter of John and Susannah (Gray) Cole. Susannah's birth was not recorded at Plymouth. Taking into consideration the marriage date of her parents, positioning of siblings in the settlement of her brother Samuel<sup>4</sup> Cole's estate, known ages at death, and her own date of marriage, I have given a birth year for Susanna of *circa* 1695.

While *Mayflower Families* has identified the parentage of Susannah Cole correctly, there is no record of a Susannah Cole born at Plymouth on 19 November 1696. The place and date actually refer to the Susanna Cole of non-*Mayflower* fame born in Swansea. Note that the settlement date of 4 April 1748 for Mrs. Susannah Cole in *Mayflower Families* should read 1728 as I have listed earlier.<sup>[11]</sup>

*Susan E. Roser is Historian of the Canadian Society of Mayflower Descendants, their Deputy Governor, and editor of several volumes of Mayflower primary source abstracts from the files of George Ernest Bowman. This article is part of her ongoing research for a forthcoming book on early Plymouth Colony families. She can be reached at 4137 Tremaine Rd., Milton ONT L9T 2Y1 or roser@iprimus.ca.*

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9. *Plympton VR*, 466.

10. Plymouth Co. Probate Records, 6: 77.

11. *Mayflower Families Through Five Generations*, (Plymouth, 1975+), Richard Warren, 18: 2: 24.



**WORCESTER COUNTY, MASSACHUSETTS, PROBATE ABSTRACTS**  
**(continued from volume 50, page 164)**

*by Shirley Robinson Pizziferri*

Worcester County, Massachusetts, was established in 1731 from parts of Suffolk and Middlesex counties. In addition to the present towns in Worcester County, the Connecticut town of Woodstock (previously part of Suffolk County) was also in Worcester until 1849.

The original file papers of Worcester County's "Series A" Probate and Family Court have recently been moved to a new storage facility in Brookfield because of diminishing storage space in Worcester. Worcester has procured a new microfilm reader/printer and has copies on microfilm of all of its dockets and record books for Series "A" cases, which cover the period 1731 to 1881. However, the original file papers have never been filmed, and the case files (over 60,000 of them) take up about 900 boxes. If researchers require the original papers, they may be requested from the Worcester Probate Court by filling out a request form. The files will be delivered to Worcester for viewing within a waiting period of seven to ten days. For further information, call John Dolan at the Worcester Probate Court at (508) 756-2441.

The probate records presented here have been abstracted from records listed in the docket books and the numbers in parentheses refer to the record book volume and page. Each record has been compared to the original file for corroboration.

[Case No. 41,459 – **LEVI MOORE**]

The will of Levi Moore of Oxford was written on 13 July 1745, and allowed on 20 Aug. 1745. Apparently without heirs, he left two-thirds of all his lands and movables, both real and personal, to his brother Nathan Moore, and the other one-third to his brother Richard Moore. If either brother should die without heirs, the other shall "enjoy the whole." Rev. Mr. John Campbell was named sole executor, and the will was signed by Levi Moor in a shaky hand; witnessed by Moses Gleason, Zacheus (X) Blochet, and Sam<sup>ll</sup> Ware. [2:391-92]

Ebenezer Learned, Esq., Moses Gleason and Sam<sup>ll</sup> Ware, all yeomen of Oxford, were appointed to inventory the estate, which they did on 21 Apr. 1746. The inventory, totaling £65:11:4 Old Tenor, is particularly interesting from an historical point of view, as it is very specific in identifying Levi Moore's clothing. The list includes one great coat; one Jercy [*Jersey*] coat and jacket; one brown Holland coat; another old coat and jacket, a pair of leather breeches and a pair of "fustian" breaches; shirts, stockings, Beaver hat, worsted caps, gloves, shoes, a pair of silver buttons, a neck buckle; a gun, a sword, a belt, a knife, a powder horn, bullets and flint; one chest, three "sticks of mohair" and shoemaker's tools. There was money due from Richard Moore and Silas Robinson. No land is mentioned. [2:458]

The account of John Campbell of Oxford, dated 21 Apr. 1747 and amounting to £51:18, includes a list of payments, mainly debts and payments to Dr. Green and Luke Brown for the funeral charges. Another is "To Samuel Town for keeping & housing Levi Moore in his last months, of £12." This account is for all

but £13:13:3 that appears to be for the heirs, as calculations at the bottom of the page of one third plus two thirds add up to this amount. [2:572]

[Case No. 41,458 – **LEVI MOORE**]

An administrative bond of £500 was granted on 27 Dec. 1743 to Elijah Moore, gentleman, with Thomas Davis and Abell Lamb Jr., yeoman, all of Worcester County [*no town given*] as guardians to Levi Moore, son of Collins Moore, late of Oxford. [199:281]

A document signed by Levi Moore of Oxford on the same day, “a minor aged about twenty years, son of Collins Moore late of Oxford,” disputes “my Uncle Capt. Elijah Moore my Guardian” and asks for another guardian to be appointed by the Judge of Probate. [461:164]

See Case No. 41,317, Collins Moore in *MD*, 47: 93.

[Case No. 20,248 – **ELIZABETH FAY**]

Elizabeth Fay, daughter of John Fay, was a minor of Westboro when a letter of guardianship was issued on 6 Feb. 1733/4 to John Fay, gentleman and James Fay, husbandman, both of Westborough, and Samuel Dudley Esq. of Sutton for £500. [223:16].

Capt. John Fay filed an account on 20 Aug. 1740, but he seems to have ceased being her guardian by then. [2:50]

Meanwhile, on 11 May 1738, Elizabeth, then above the age of fourteen, made choice of Timothy Brigham of Southborough for her guardian, and a bond was posted by him and by Daniel Johnson of Shrewsbury on that date for £500.

On 9 Oct. 1745/6, Elizabeth signed a receipt showing that she had received her full share from her father’s estate from Capt. John Fay. [223:16]

Samuel Lyscom, “Father in law to the children,” paid Capt. John Fay £2:10 but didn’t want it included in the account of 28 Oct. 1740.

[Case No. 20,247 – **JONATHAN FAY**]

Jonathan Fay appears to have been a brother of Elizabeth above, and Capt. John Fay became his guardian also at the same time, but the amount of the bond in this case was £800. [223:83] Capt. Fay filed the same account for Jonathan as he had for Elizabeth. [2:40] Jonathan also chose Timothy Brigham of Southborough for his guardian, and this time the bond was in the sum of £1000. [222:89]

On 3 Mar. 1745/6, Jonathan signed a receipt showing that he had received the full share due him from his father’s estate from Capt. John Fay. [2:412]

[Case No. 63,055 – **EPHRAIM WETHERBEE**]

The will of Ephraim Wetherbee of Lunenburg, gentleman, was written on 2 July 1745 and allowed on 28 Nov. 1745. The witnesses were Thomas Prentice, Abigail Prentice, and David Stearns.

The will allowed for the widow [*not named here*] to benefit from the improvements of all Ephraim’s land “Now Improved” in Lunenburg, one-third of the house and buildings, one-half of the household goods and furniture; all for bringing up the children. The improvements from all the Lunenburg land would be hers only until their son Samuel became seven years old if the widow did not remarry. If she did remarry, the improvements were to go to the eldest son,



Ephraim Wetherbee. The estate as described by Ephraim in the will consisted mainly of house and land in Lunenburg, plus six rights of land in a "New Town" on the east side of the Connecticut River commonly known as "Number Four" and three rights in a township called Goulding's Town [*or Goulding Village, later part of Phillipston*], plus about £600 in Old Tenor bonds, quick stock and husbandry utensils. One-half of all the land was to be divided equally between sons Ephraim and Paul after the daughters' shares had been paid. These bequests, all to be paid by the executors in bills "of latest emission" were: £7:10 to Ruth Woods within six years of Ephraim's death; she having already received part of her share; £25 each to daughters Mary and Rachel to be paid them when they became 21 or married, whichever came first. Daughter Betty, who was living with her grandfather Hall, would receive 25s in the event her grandfather left her a legacy. If not, she would receive a share equal to her sisters Mary and Rachel.

The other half of the land would go to daughters Abigail, Susanna and Joanne, equally on the condition that the sons would not be "Mollested and Hindered ... rights ... in the New Townships above by reason of the Contests and Disputes that is now subsisting between ... Massachusetts Bay and New Hampshire." If the sons were deprived of those lands, then Ephraim and Paul were to have half of the land and the other half was to be divided among the three younger sons, and the younger daughters would have shares equal to their sisters named above. [2:418, 420]

Ephraim's wife Joanne and son Ephraim were named as executors, and were appointed on 28 Nov. 1745. [2:420-421]

An inventory was taken by Edward Hartwell, Jonathan Bradstreet, and Benjamin Bellows Jr. Ephraim seems to have had a collection of small, French guns, a horse and a pair of oxen, a pair of steers valued at £100, four cows and other stock. The home was valued at £258; the six rights in No. 4 at £150, and the three rights in Goulding's Town at £37. The total came to £360:19:11. Joanne Wetherbee signed her acceptance of the inventory on 18 Aug. 1746. [2:510]

On 5 Nov. 1747, Joanne filed an account listing an additional £3:5 received from Ebenezer Putnam, debts to several people, expenses of settling the estate in Boston and in Salem, and £25 to Mary Wetherbee. The total expenses equaled £171:09:24. [2:648]

[Case No. 6,790 – HILKIAH BOYNTON]

Hilkiah Boynton of Lunenburg wrote his will on 10 Dec. 1734 before Thomas Prentice, Amos Robinson & Benj<sup>a</sup> Gould as witnesses. It was acknowledged and allowed on 28 Nov. 1745.

To his wife Priscilla Boynton, he gave the improvements of his buildings during her widowhood "for the Better Enabling of her to Bring up her son Jewet." To his two daughters, Johannah Grout and Sarah Whitney, he left 10s each, they having already received their portions; to daughter Priscilla Page, £5 Old Tenor besides what she has already received; to his youngest daughters Jane and Ruth, £40 each. To "my son Jervet Boynton," he left all his land and buildings in Lunenburg if Jervet lived to the age of 21. If not, they were to be divided among his five daughters. Also to his five daughters, he left his lands in No. 6 in the "line of towns;" his stock was to be sold to pay debts and if that wasn't enough, to sell enough land to cover the difference. The shop tools went to son Jervett, and the household goods to the five daughters after his wife's decease. He named his son-

in-law Philip Goodridge executor. [2:422]

An inventory taken on 25 Nov. 1745 by Samuel Johnson, Thomas Prentice and Jacob Gould, came to a total of £650. It included one lot of land of 45 acres with a mansion house and barn; one horse; cattle, sheep and hogs; clothing; shop tools; 2 guns; a bed, 6 chairs and a spinning wheel; 7 yards of all wool cloth, and one right of land lying in the line of Towns commonly called No. 6, being lot No. 6, at £59. [2:423]

The administrative bond of £500 was dated 4 Nov. 1747 and was for Phillip Goodridge, but lists the names of the sureties as first, Thomas Prentice, Esq.; second, Phillip Goodridge, housewright, and third, Ezekiel Wyman, all yeomen of Lunenburg. [220:113]

An unrecorded notice was sent by the executor Phillip Goodridge on 27 Nov. 1745 to Mrs. Priscilla Boyinton [*sic*], Messrs. John Grout, Zachariah Whitney, David Page and John Darling Jr., all of Lunenburg.

Phillip Goodridge's account lists bonds and other debts paid to nearly 50 people, including legacies named in the will, ranging from under one pound to one for £77 to Humphrey Hobson for a total of £607:8:11; his expenses for travel, and for putting lot No. 6 up for sale. That account was recorded on 10 May 1748, but additional items were added on 1 Nov. 1748. [2:708]

Another account on 6 Feb. 1749 is very short, listing expenses of £306 out of assets of £318. It was witnessed by Caleb Wilder and Lois [?] White. [3:250]

[Case No. 11,672 – JOHN CHILD]

John Child of Worcester died intestate, and a bond of £300 was issued to Tabitha Child, widow, on 14 Nov. 1745, with William Johnson, blacksmith and Samuel Andrews, tanner, all of Worcester, as sureties. [176:514]

Elisha Smith, Joseph Temple and Elisha Flagg, all yeomen of Worcester, were appointed a committee to appraise the estate on 19 Nov. 1745, and it included about 80 acres in Worcester valued at £700; cattle, horses, swine and beef; gun, cutlass & ammunition; beds and bedding; tin, pewter & iron; a chest, [*spinning*] wheels, chairs and tables, for a total of £157:6:4. Tabitha Child signed her approval on 7 Dec. 1745. [2:424-425]

Tabitha Hair, formerly Tabitha Child, administratrix, presented the first account on the estate of her former husband John Child, and she signed her own name on 7 Dec. 1745. It included lying-in with a posthumous child that lived about 12 months and then died, and expenses for taking care of two young children over and above the amount of the estate. [2:575]

A license bond of £100 to sell real estate was issued to Edward Hair, husbandman, Tabitha Hair, spinster, and Robert Barber, clothier, all of Worcester, obtaining liberty to sell real estate on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues of Sept. 1751, if needed. It contains all three signatures. [190:7]

On 9 Apr. 1757, Tabitha prepared another account which called for £16 for payment of an annuity to Experience Child's mother for 9 years; £16 for five years of taking care of the children; £10:16 for making a stone wall on the place by the tenant as part of the rent; repairing the house and probate costs. Expenses came to a total of £11:196 one-fourth out of assets of £65:13:4. A note written in the corner of this document says to pay Joseph Temple as guardian to Mary Child, a minor. [6:119]

The packet includes receipts signed by Tabitha and Edward Hair not listed in the Docket.

[Case No. 11,672 – JONATHAN PEAKE JR.]

The administratrix's bond for Jonathan Peake Jr. was issued to his widow Mehitabell Peake, with Peter Perin and John Peake, sureties. [178:325]

A warrant of appraisal was issued on 21 Sept. 1744, and the inventory by that committee, viz. John Frissel, Daniel Paine and Joseph Griggs, was dated 1 Nov. 1744 and was shown to them by Mehitabell. [2:426]

[Case No. 33,823 – DEARING JONES]

Dearing Jones of Mendon died intestate, and his widow, Lois Jones, signed her mark on an assent in favor of Dearing's brother Abraham Jones' becoming the administrator. The Docket indicates that this is filed in Vol. 2, page 564, but it does not appear on that page in the Record Book.

The administrative bond of £400 was issued on 18 Dec. 1745 to Abraham Jones, yeoman, with Thomas Watts, mariner, and Cromwell Lobdell, yeoman, all of Hull, Suffolk County, as sureties. [177:31]

An extremely short inventory taken on 25 Oct. but allowed on 18 Dec. 1745, by William Torrey, Nathaniel Nelson and Habijah French, came to a total of £673:4:0 and included a homestead of 60 acres worth £490 and 2 acres of meadow; 2 cows, 2 calves, a mare, a colt, 21 sheep and 2 swine; clothing, pots and pans, a gun, and other sundry items. [2:426]

Abraham's account was presented on 11 May 1734, totaling £173:4:0, including land being improved by the widow and children [unnamed]; debts paid; and £30 for his time and travel and probating expenses, "he living 60 miles from Mendon and 85 miles from Worcester." [2:564]

A list of items given to the widow Jones amounted to £34 and is dated 13 Mar. 1745/6; Lois accepted with her mark. The probate packet contains a receipt of Abraham Jones, dated 22 Oct. 1761, stating that he had received what was due him as administrator, and a receipt of David Cutler that he is satisfied with the settlement of the estate. All these receipts appear to be unrecorded.

The appointment of the committee to appraise is dated 9 Apr. 1760, and Nathaniel Nelson, and James Sumner, yeomen, and George Aldrich, blacksmith, all of Mendon; signed a statement to the effect that the estate of 60 acres was not sufficient to divide between one son and five daughters. A statement signed by Abraham Jones and dated 11 June 1760 indicates that the estate had not yet been settled; that the son has gone into the service, and requests that the probate be suspended until he returns.

Nevertheless, a division of the land was accomplished by Nathaniel Nelson, James Sumner, and George Aldrich, showing that the land was abutted by Abraham Jones, Ebenezer Torrey, Amariah Foster, and a town road. Ebenezer Torrey purchased the shares of the son and two of the daughters Mary Benson Elwell and Sarah Carman, widow, and also the widow's right of dower. The other heirs agreed to settle the rest with them, and a deed was recorded in the Registry of Deeds, 41:369. The heirs agreed to pay to Experience Pitcher, wife of [blank] Pitcher, and to Abigail Jones, £11:16:10 one-half being their two-thirds parts. Upon the death of Lois Jones, £5:18:53 would be paid to Experience and Abigail Jones. This partition was allowed on 31 Oct. 1766. [7:353]

## [Case No. 58,743 – MARY THAYER]

Although she called herself "spinster," Mary Thayer of Mendon was a widow when she wrote her will on 12 Aug. 1740 and signed it with her mark. It was allowed on 4 Oct. 1743. In it, she left 20s Old Tenor to her son Thomas and his heirs; to her son Samuel, £4; to her sons David, John and William Thayer, an additional 5s each. All legacies were to be paid by her executor within a year, "in the Medium Specie" which would then be current. To her daughter Mary Albee, she left her feather bed and all its bedding, a brindle cow, black silk gloves and an apron; to daughter Temperance Legg, a white woolen bed blanket; to daughter Elizabeth White, a white woolen blanket, "Fellow to the other," which she wove for me some time ago; to daughter Margaret Smith, 5s; to daughter Jemima Baxter, a white-faced cow and my "Largest Gold Ring;" to granddaughter Priscilla Taft, her silver shoe buckles; to granddaughter Elizabeth Thayer, a new Bible to be bought by the executor; to granddaughter Mary Thayer, daughter of son David, also a new Bible; to granddaughter Ruth White, my "least Gold Ring," her black silk hood and veil and mourning handkerchief, a small featherbed with 2 pillows, one coverlet & white flannel sheet, the largest brass kettle and pair of sheets, one of "Tow" and the other of cotton & linen. The remaining household goods and utensils were to be divided equally among her four daughters, viz Mary Albee, Elizabeth White, Temperance Legg and Margaret Smith.

Her five daughters were to divide all wearing apparel not otherwise described, "except that my Daughter Mary Albee Shall have My Mourning Gown (if She is willing to have it)" as part of her portion of the clothing. All remaining parts of the estate in money and other goods to the five daughters and their heirs "only with this Proviso Respecting my Daughter Margaret Smith that if she shall dye without issue," her share would be divided among the others.

She named her son John Thayer executor, and the will was witnessed by Thomas Sanford, Huldah (mark) Sanford, and Josiah Marshall who acknowledged on 4 Feb. 1745.

An added page called a "schedule" makes the following "Alteration and Exceptions." "A certain legacy" in the original will, left to her daughter Mary Albee, was now to go to Mary's daughters Mary Wood, Martha Sheffield, Elizabeth Albee and Margaret Albee in equal shares.

[*The next sentence is written sideways in the margin.*] What she had left to her daughter Temperance Legg was now to go to Temperance's daughters Margaret Legg and Jemima Legg; the legacy to granddaughter Mary Thayer, now dec'd, daughter of son David Thayer, a new Bible now to go to grandson David Thayer, also son of David Thayer. The witnesses to this "schedule" were Josiah Marshall, John French, and Margaret French. [2:428-430]

An inventory taken by David Lovett, Ebenezer Merriam and John French dated 3 Jan. 1745/6 totals £205:18:11 in O.T. It was verified by John Thayer and allowed on 4 Feb. 1745/6. [2:432]

A notice of the division of the estate, apparently unrecorded but present in the original case packet, went to Messrs. Thomas Thayer, Samuel Thayer, David Thayer and William Thayer, all of Mendon; to James Albee and Mary his wife of Mendon; to John Legg and Temperance his wife, William White and Elizabeth his wife, all of Mendon; to Robert Smith and Margaret his wife of Bellingham, Suffolk County, and Joseph Baxter and Jemima his wife of Uxbridge.

The account of John Thayer on the estate of his mother, also missing from the Docket but found with the original documents, covers two large, detailed pages. It includes going to Uxbridge to obtain the gravestones; going from Uxbridge to Mendon, Holliston and Bellingham "to notify the Division," £1:15 for each of the Bibles which were purchased in Boston and, amusingly, 5s "To half a Day Trying to agree with the Children."

A later account by John Thayer but also recorded on 4 Feb. 1747/8 includes apparent payments of debts in the total amount of £115 plus. [2:677]

[Case No. 24,816 – NATHANIEL GOODWIN]

Nathaniel Goodwin, a "taylor" of Sutton, died intestate and an administrator's bond of £500 was issued to Mary Goodwin, widow [x], Jonathan Bacon & Jonathan Lillie, all of Sutton, on 4 Feb. 1745/6. [176:37]

The warrant dated 4 Feb. 1745/6 for the appraisal named Jonathan Bacon, Obadiah Walker, and Joseph Silby all of Sutton. Goodwin's land of 79 acres and buildings were valued at £227:10; his wearing apparel at £7:4. [2:431]

Jacob Gibbs and Mary Gibbs his wife, formerly Mary Goodwin, of Hopkinton, filed an account that was acknowledged on 26 Oct. 1748. It included assets of £78:2:9; expenses of £36:10:8 (mostly debts paid), "To the Income of ye Place for Support of the family ye place being small & Children Young." [3:78]

A claim by Jacob Gibbs for funeral expenses for one of his present daughters, Sarah Goodwin, a minor daughter of Nathaniel Goodwin, was acknowledged on 30 Mar. 1749. [3:121]

[Case No. 48,584 – SAMUEL RALSTON]

Samuel Ralston, a tailor of Worcester, wrote his will and signed it in his own hand on 7 Nov. 1745. Samuel left all his real and personal estate to his "dearly beloved wife Martha Ralston and to her heirs and assigns forever." It was allowed on 4 Feb. 1745/6 and witnessed by Priscilla [*her mark*] Adams; Thomas Adams and John Chandler Jr. [2:433] The decree and allowance of the will follows. [2:434]

A handwritten executor's bond of £500, granted to the widow Martha Ralston as administratrix, is dated 4 Feb. 1745/6 and was signed by Martha [*her mark*] Ralston, Robert Barber and Matthew Gray Jun., agreeing to pay debts, etc. [184:106]

[Case No. 25,685 – WILLIAM GREEN]

William Green, husbandman of Upton, wrote his will on 2 Mar. 1744/5 and it was allowed on 5 Feb. 1745/6.

By this will, William gave to his son William Green and all his heirs, all of the real estate consisting of housing and lands in Upton; all the stock; one-half part of the household goods, with William [*Jr.*] paying or confirming to his siblings.

To daughter Martha Greene and her heirs, £45 was to be paid by William within one year of his decease, and both children were to agree on someone to divide the land. The other half of the household goods was to go to Martha. The husbandry tools were to go to William and Martha equally.

William Green [*Jr.*] was named executor, and he signed the will before William Thayer, William White, and Josiah Marshall. The decree follows. [2:435-37]

Samuel Nelson, Jonathan Wood and Jonathan Nelson made oath to appraise before John Harwood, Justice of the Peace. Their inventory, dated 20 Feb. 1745/6 is very short. It contains the real estate and housing of £580 in value, and the total of £678. [2:454]

[Case No. 24,985 – JOHN GOULD]

John Gould of Southboro died intestate. On 4 Jan. 1745/6, an assent [233:38] was signed with a mark by Sarah Gould, being “aged and infirm,” asking the Court to allow “my son John, the eldest” to administer the estate. Timothy Johnson and Ezekiel Collins were witnesses. [233:38]

John Gould [*apparently Jr.*] and John How filed an account on 4 Feb. 1745/6 of £100:7:0. Their expenses of £100 included paying off debts, journeys to Stoneham, Charlestown and Reading, and payments to the widow. [2:552]

An administrator’s bond of £800 was issued on 3 Feb. 1745/6 to John Gould [*apparently Jr.*], a gentleman of Southboro, John How, yeoman of Wilmington, Middlesex Co., and Isaac Newton and Ezekiel Collins of Southborough. [176:36]

The inventory has not been totaled but includes a house, barn, orchard and 169 acres of land valued at £1352:0:0. It was taken by Ebenezer Phillips, Isaac Newton, Ezechiel Collins, all of Southborough, and included household and carpentry tools and a note due from William Marett for £65. [2:437-38]

On 9 Apr. 1746, Benjamin Gould of Holliston signed a receipt before Ezekiel Collins and Isaac Newton as witnesses, to the fact that he had received £53 from his brother John Gould of Southborough, representing Benjamin’s full portion of the estate of his father, John Gould, deceased of Southborough. Collins and Newton acknowledged his signature on 7 Mar. 1747. On 30 Jan. 1747, at Holliston, Elizabeth Gould, administratrix, signed a similar receipt for her share of her father’s estate, also £53. These receipts were recorded on 16 Aug. 1748. [3:12]

[Case No. 5,923 – ISAAC BLANCHARD]

On 9 Feb. 1745, Thomas Blanchard signed a request to the Court to have his son Nathaniel Blanchard administer on the estate of his son Isaac, stating that his son Nathaniel and daughter Mehetabel were the proper heirs of the estate of Isaac Blanchard of Lancaster. [218:271]

The probate of Isaac Blanchard is very short. It includes an administrative bond of £50 to Nathaniel Blanchard of “Road Town,” [*early name of Shutesbury*] husbandman, with William Needham of Billerica, Middlesex Co., yeoman, and Asaph Wilder of Lancaster as sureties. It is dated 7 Feb. 1745. [216:357] The inventory consists mainly of £23:9 in apparel, a pair of child’s snowshoes and cassock, smith’s tools and a shop. The inventory, dated 7 Feb. 1745, was performed by David Wilder, Asaph Wilder and Zachariah [*his mark*] Glazier. Nathaniel Blanchard, the administrator, approved it the same day. [2:439]

[Case No. 62,915 – JOHN WELLS]

An administrative bond was issued to Martha Wells, widow of John Wells, husbandman of Hardwick who died intestate and left a complicated probate. The £500 bond, dated 1 Feb. 1745/6, was backed up by John Pratt, yeoman of Hardwick and Asher Rice, yeoman of Leicester. [179:310]

A warrant for appraisal was issued to Nathaniel Whitcomb, Jonathan Warner and Joseph Allen, all gentlemen of Hardwick. The inventory they prepared was very long and detailed, and was approved by Martha Wells on 4 Feb. 1745/6. The major items were the land and a gristmill valued at £1250, a pew in the meetinghouse at £5, and a well-stocked home. [2:439]

The administratrix Martha Hammond, formerly Martha Wells, filed an account which showed £551:4:5 in assets and £551:4:8 in expenses. The expenses included the payment of debts, doctor's fees and sickness charges, and Indian corn, wheat, rye, meat and hay that were purchased for the family. The account was allowed on 19 Aug. 1747. [2:611]

The Selectmen of Hardwick, Jonathan Warner, James Fay, Benjamin Willis, Paul Mandell and Thomas Haskell, testified on 16 June 1749 that after the widow's thirds had been set off, the rest could not be divided without great hurt to or spoiling the whole. [3:360] Therefore, the heirs released to John Wells of Hardwick, the eldest son, for £100 plus £2:11, which represented four single shares and two-thirds part of real estate. Those represented were Jonathan Warner, guardian of "Abijah" Wells, Mary Wells, Lydia Wells and Submit Wells, all minor children of John Wells, deceased. [3:360]

A warrant was issued on 20 June 1749 to Benjamin Ruggles and Samuel Robbinson, both gentlemen, and to Christopher Page, Joseph Warner and Amos Thomas, all yeomen of Hardwick, to assure the widow's thirds. A map of the farm, surveyed by Abner Lee, is dated 20 Mar. 1748. On 2 May 1750, John Wells, Constant Mirick and Jonathan Warner, all gentlemen of Hardwick, posted a division bond of £500 [615:463], and on 21 May 1750, a division of the property was performed and John Wells of Hardwick, the eldest son, was given all lands and buildings, reserving the widow's thirds. He was to pay within a year, £25:10 each to Martha, wife of Elisha Wait; Mary Wells; Abijah Wells; Lydia Wells and Submit Wells, all sharing in two-thirds part of their father's estate. At the death of the widow, £13:6 more was to be distributed to them or their legal representatives. [3:316]

John Wells and Jonathan Warner, both of Hardwick, posted an indemnity bond on 24 Oct. 1750 covering a debt of £600 due Constant Merrick of Hardwick, gentleman. [*This document in very bad shape and should not be handled.*] [615:465].

An unrecorded bond of £1000 was paid to John Wells by Nathaniel and Martha Hammond for performance of the agreement to ensure that the widow would not sell the land. Witnesses to this bond were Jonathan Farr and Bridget Hammond. At the time of this bond, Martha [*the daughter*] was then the wife of Elisha Wait of Hatfield; Martha the widow was then the wife of Capt. Nathaniel Hammond.

A letter from Nathaniel Hammond, dated 12 Feb. 1750, states that "our son John Wells has a great desire to have the whole place settled on him and he will be of age the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March next; that they plan to meet with him" the next day to assure that 15 acres of land set off to the eldest daughter be set off to her and assure the Court that it to be their loss and not hers. The letter refers to the above-mentioned bond that Hammond and his wife were under to keep ... for 8 years to come.

On 10 May 1750, Jonathan Warner was appointed as guardian to the minor children Submit, Lydia and Elijah. [206:451]

On 24 May 1750, Jonathan Warner bought from John Wells the place that was his father's where his mother sometime lived, and apparently after she married she posted bond to pay for 20 years [*illegible*]. Mathematical notes appear to show that John Wells received £2200 Old Tenor and the widow's thirds were £700.

[Case No. 62,914 – **MARTHA WELLS *et al.***]

[Case No. 62, 916 – **JOHN WELLS**]

On 20 Aug. 1747, Nathaniel Hammond was appointed as guardian for the minor children of John Wells, deceased of Hardwick, *viz.* Martha, aged 16, Mary, aged 13, Lydia, aged 9, Submit, aged 5, and Elijah Wells, aged 3, all of Hardwick. He posted a £500 bond with John Sawyer and Nathaniel Russell as sureties. [186:439] John Wells, son of the deceased, being over fourteen, chose Constant Mirick of Hardwick as his guardian. [3:214]

Three years later, as a minor over fourteen years of age, Mary Wells nominated by law her choice of guardian as Jonathan Warner of Hardwick. [185:213-14] On the same day, 20 Aug. 1747, Joseph Allen and Constant Mirick served as sureties on Warner's £200 bond. [103:110]

[Case No. 3,3341 – **DOLE JOHNSON**]

An administrative bond on the intestate estate of Dole Johnson of Harvard was given to Hannah [x] Johnson on 11 Sept. 1745. Israel Taylor and Caleb Wilder helped post the £100 bond. [2:703]

The inventory was taken 12 Sept. 1745 by Timothy Hall and Israel Taylor, and came to £33:14 in personal items, including two chests, a table, books, pots and pans, 6 small chairs, two meat barrels, two spinning wheels, woolen cloth, English corn, a plowshare, a mare, two cows, two swine and a calf. The real estate of about 70 acres with a small house and the frame of a barn valued at £175. Hannah signed her approval on 14 Sept. 1744.

On 1 Apr. 1747, a license bond [190:86] of £300 allowed Hannah Johnson, widow of Harvard, to be named administratrix. This is signed by Hannah [x] Johnson, widow, with Eleazer Robbins of Harvard, gentleman and Ephraim Brown of Stow, gentleman.

Judge Chandler wrote the account which was allowed 10 May 1748, and included journeys to Worcester and Lancaster, probate costs, debts; nothing remarkable. [2:446]

[Case No. 22,446 – **JOHN FOSTER**]

The probate of John Foster of Hardwick contains an assent signed by Joseph Allen, Nathaniel Whitcomb, and Jonathan Warner as Selectmen of Hardwick on 13 Feb. 1745/6, asking that Ensign Mirick of Hardwick be persuaded to act as administrator. [224:5]

A bond of £500 was issued to Constant Mirick of Hardwick as administrator and also guardian, to Daniel Heywood, guardian, and to William Johnson, blacksmith, all of Worcester, on 18 Feb. 1745. [216:276]

A warrant of appraisal on the same day was given to Joseph Allen, Nathaniel Whitcomb, and Jonathan Warner, all yeomen of Hardwick, and their inventory, taken on 27 Feb. 1745/6, read as follows: home lot and buildings £450; 200 acres wild land £120; four bibles belonging to the children, not appraised. [2:447]



Constant Mirick accounted for debts paid [4:146] and the balance of the land and settlement on 7 Feb. 1748; £207:12:8 Old Tenor, expenses to guardians, journeys, etc.; presented 18 May 1750. [3:302]

On 21 Oct. 1751, in Braintree District Court, Benjamin Ruggles, Constant Mirick, Amos Thomas, Eleazer Warner, and Samuel Ware appeared and made oath that they had appraised the estate of the deceased [*apparently in Norfolk Co.*] at £172:4:9:3 including the homestead at £800, one out-lot of 200 acres at £46:13:4:0; personal estate at £24:12:2:3, and money at £20:19:3 for total of £172:4:9:3. The outlot was divided into three equal shares. [3:105]

On 4 Aug. 1752, a warrant was issued to Joseph Wilson to divide the property, but apparently the estate remained undivided for another year, because a £50 bond was issued on 7 Feb. 1753 to Joseph Foster of Hardwick, husbandman, John White and Paul Deland, both yeomen of Brookfield, to settle the estate. [220:220]

On 7 Feb. 1753, the Court ordered that Joseph Foster, the eldest son receive the homestead appraised at £8. The northerly part, or first share, of £200 was awarded to John Foster, the second son, and the property awarded to Jacob Foster, the third son. [4:146]

[Case No. 22,445 – **JOHN FOSTER**]

John Foster of Hardwick, a minor of fifteen signing with his mark (+), chose Joseph Allen of Hardwick, gentleman, as his guardian on 20 Feb. 1745/6. [224:57] Joseph Allen was nominated on the same day, and David White, clerk and Samuel Robinson, yeoman, all of Hardwick, served as sureties on a £200 bond. [222:27]

[Case No. 36,775 – **HENRY LEE**]

Henry Lee of Worcester died intestate prior to 5 Mar. 1745 when the Court appointed his widow, Katherine Lee, as the administratrix of his estate. Abner Lee of Rutland was included with Katherine's appointment and he signed his name at the bottom, but his name was later crossed out. Ebenezer Stearns and John Gates, gentlemen of Worcester, served as sureties on the £200 bond, and Katherine signed with her mark "C." [177:127]

Daniel Heywood, Daniel Ward, and Thomas Stearns were appointed appraisers on 5 Mar. 1745/6, and the inventory was taken on 20 Mar. 1745. It included some pork "about enough for 2 months," the usual tools, a small amount of furniture, a horse and three cows. The total came to £139:15:0. [2:448]

Katherine Lee, as administratrix and Abner Lee as administrator filed an account on 2 June 1749 which included her expenses as £26; expenses of Abner Lee of £60, housekeeping costs, a trip to Leominster to probate the estate, 13 pair of loves for the funeral, payments to Dr. Prescott and Dr. Roby, for total expenses of £161:18:6, or £1:17:9 "overpaid." [*There are mouse holes in this document that prevent some of the words from being read.*] [3:199]

[Case No. 15,401 – **DANIEL DARLING**]

Daniel Darling, a blacksmith of Mendon, wrote his will on 15 Jan. 1745/6; it was acknowledged on 24 Mar. 1745/6, and allowed on 13 May 1746. [2:449-451]

After his debts had been paid by the executor out of his moveable estate, i.e., cattle and other stock, one-third of all property and improvements and the rest of

stock would go to his wife Lydia Darling and her heirs, during her widowhood.

To his son Daniel Darling and his heirs, he devised the land adjoining his own, i.e. the son Daniel's, "north from his dwelling house to the New Road and bounded mainly by Daniel and by the Road until it comes to Samuel Thayer's land," property which had already been settled on Daniel for his support.

To his three other sons, Samuel, Peter and William, he devised the homestead on the northerly side of Great River in equal division after the widow's improvements.

To daughters Abigail Thayer, Lydia Boyce, Susanna Tompson, Kezia Hunt, and their heirs equally, he left his land on the southerly side of the river, and his right in a five-acre lot to be laid out in the eleventh division of common lands in Mendon. After the said division, the said right "to my son William Darling, and other rights equally to sons Samuel & Peter and their heirs."

Sons Daniel, Samuel and Peter received their father's right in the saw mill in the river, owned in partnership with Nicholas Trask.

After the death or remarriage of the widow Lydia, all farming tools, smith tools and stock were to be divided among the sons equally, and what was left of the household goods, divided equally among the daughters.

The son Daniel Darling was named sole executor, and he signed with his mark [+] before Benjamin Darling, Samuel Hunt, and Josiah Marshall.

An inventory, taken 11 Mar. 1745/6, by Benjamin Darling, Esq., Samuel Hunt, and Thomas Muzey, came to £412:18:0. It included clothing, books, three beds, Indian corn and English grain, farming and blacksmith tools, and "his privilage in the saw mill on the River," the land he gave to his son Daniel Darling worth £3, the land he gave to his four daughters on the west side of the river worth £25, and a homestead, house and farm worth £325. The inventory was approved by Thomas Moore on 10 Mar. 1745/6 before Daniel Taft, a Justice of the Peace, and by the executor at Worcester on 24 Mar. 1745/6. [2:451]

An account was filed on 4 Feb. 1747/8 by Daniel Darling, executor, and showed access of £62:18. Expenses for recording a deed, traveling to Worcester and "the Gore" in connection therewith and mourning clothes for the widow came to £19:18:9 for a balance of £42:19:9. [2:676]

*(to be continued)*

*Shirley Robinson Pizziferri, former Executive Secretary of the MSMD and retired professional genealogist of Palm City, Florida, can be reached at shirleyinfl@prodigy.net.*

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