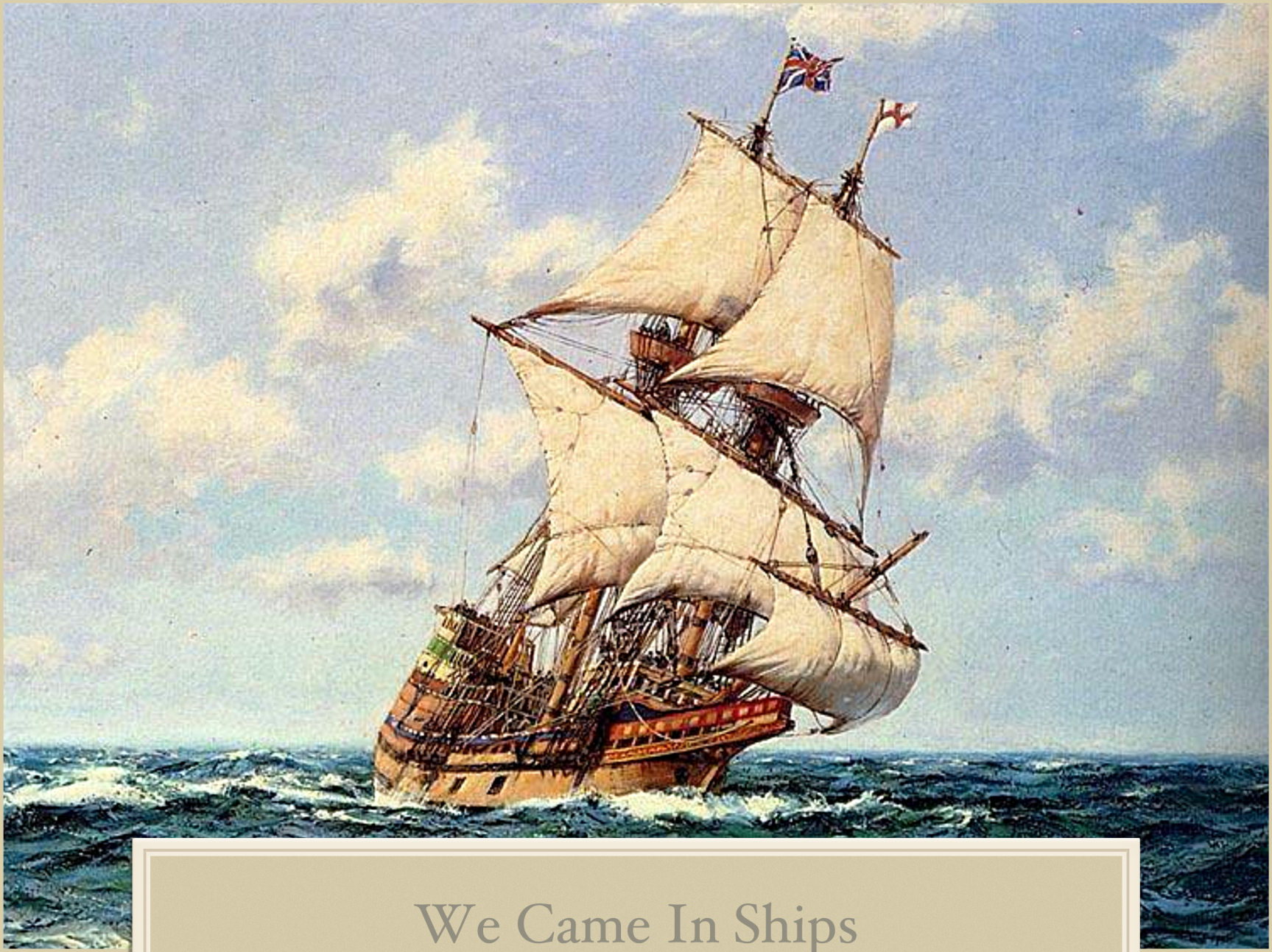


We Came In Ships

This book outlines select stories of the ancestors of Marjorie Cutler and her descendants. Three major lines are represented: the Cutler, Pryor/Prior, and Cushman families.

Together, these three lines include fishermen in Kittery, frontiersmen in Maine, soldiers from the U.S. civil and revolutionary wars, and twelve Pilgrims on the Mayflower.

All three lines arrived in the New World in the early 1600s, after making the arduous North Atlantic crossing in wooden ships. Marjorie's ancestors played key roles in the founding of the Colonies and the spread of Europeans in New England.

It began with a thirst for freedom....
...and it has endured that way.

Their story is written in our lives, our works, our relationships. Like any good story, it starts with heroism, and in this case, an intrepid voyage.

What our ancestors brought to the New World was more precious than courage, although they had an abundant amount of that. They brought the seeds of our ancestry.

As they stepped onto a new land, they brought us into being: America's stalwart pioneers, independent thinkers, and people of faith.

So let us look at the present and dream about the future by examining our past - traveling back to Plymouth Rock in the late fall of 1620.

Marjorie Elaine Cutler

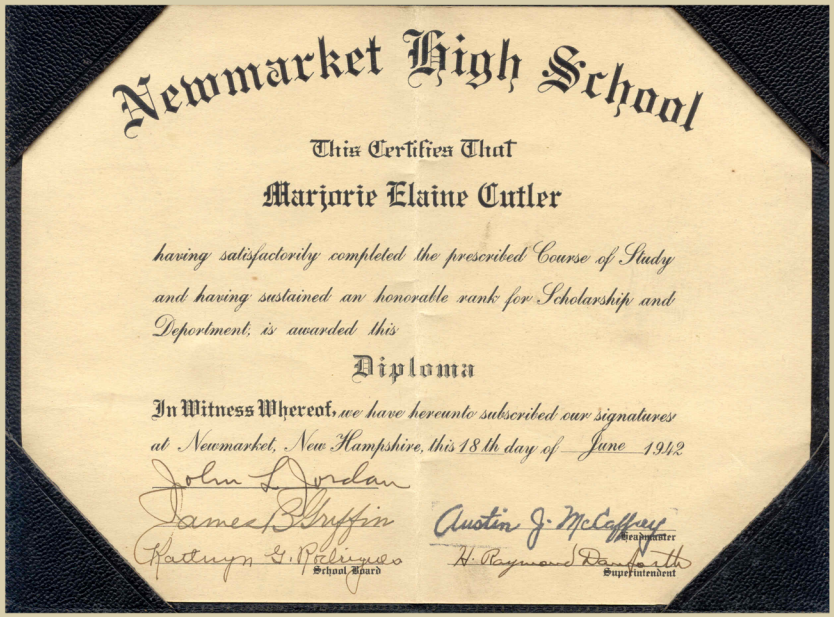
(b. 1924, d. 1993)

Marjorie was the youngest of four girls growing up in rural New England. She was always small for her age and earned the lifelong nickname, Midge. Her childhood was spent on a farm in Epsom, NH, where her mother, Sarah Cutler, worked as a housekeeper. Midge worked after school and summers to bring in a harvest of fruits and vegetables. Later, she would laugh as she told tales of driving a buckboard wagon full of apples down hillside slopes behind an old and half-blind horse, making light of the hard life she endured. More solemnly, she told of taking bricks from the fire to warm her bed in winter and breaking the ice in her chamber pot on cold mornings.

A graduate of Newmarket High School, Midge came of age just as World War II gripped the country. On a Saturday night in February 1941, just a month before her 18th birthday, she met the love of her life, Raymond Wilbur Senechal, at a dance at the Rockingham Ballroom. When Ray was drafted, they were already engaged. Many people rushed to get married before their fiancées went to war, but Ray would have none of it, telling Midge he did not want to leave behind a widow and possibly a child.

With Ray overseas, Midge rushed to join the war effort at home. She trained as a medic and responded to sirens by taking her first-aid bag and standing for hours at her assigned post. She also worked in the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in Kittery, ME, as an overhead crane operator, lowering ballasts into the holds of submarines.

When the war ended, Ray returned and the newlyweds bought a home in Beverly, MA, and later Spartanburg, SC, where they raised a family of five children. When Midge moved to Beverly, little did she know she was less than 70 miles from the first steps of her New World ancestors.



Newmarket High School

This Certifies That

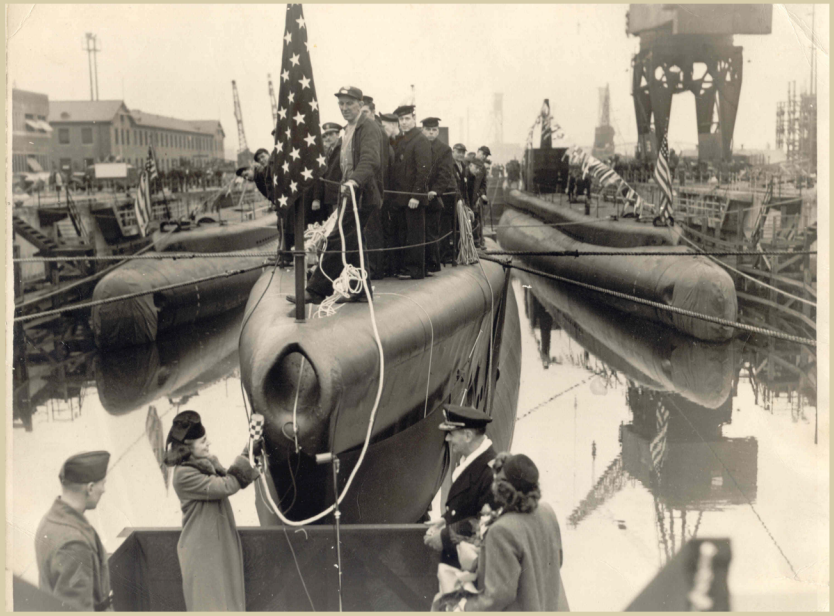
Marjorie Elaine Cutler

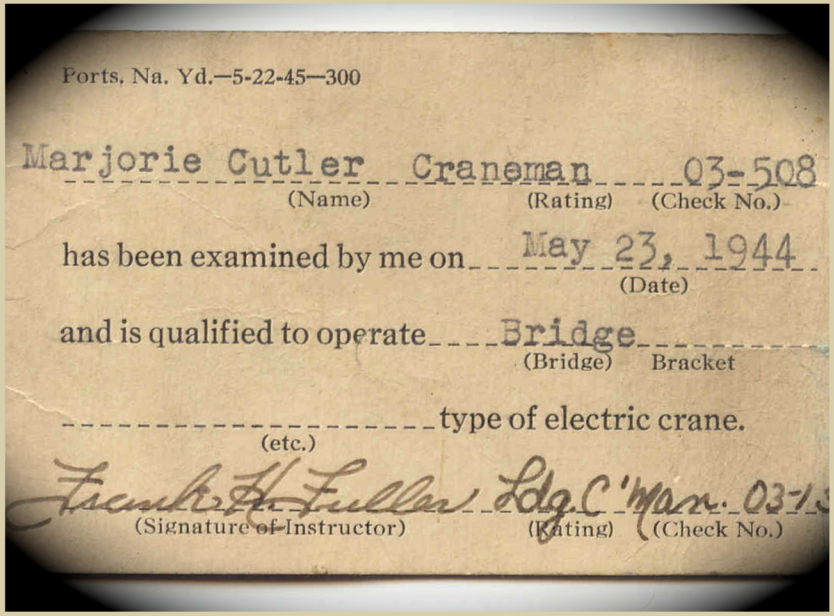
having satisfactorily completed the prescribed Course of Study and having sustained an honorable rank for Scholarship and Deportment, is awarded this

Diploma

In Witness Whereof, we have hereunto subscribed our signatures at Newmarket, New Hampshire, this 18th day of June 1942

John L. Jordan
James B. Griffin
Austin J. McCaffrey, Headmaster
Kathryn G. Rodrigues, School Board
H. Raymond Danforth, Superintendent





Ports, Na. Yd.—5-22-45—300

Marjorie Cutler Craneman 03-508
(Name) (Rating) (Check No.)

has been examined by me on May 23, 1944
(Date)

and is qualified to operate Bridge
(Bridge) Bracket

type of electric crane.
(etc.)

Frank H. Fuller Ldg. C'man. 03-1
(Signature of Instructor) (Rating) (Check No.)

Despite childhood hardships, Marjorie completed high school in Newmarket, NH.
She contributed to the war effort by building submarines at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard.

The Four Girls

If Sarah Cutler wanted sons, she never complained about it. Her four girls were always her pride. When times were tough, Muriel and Corinne lived with relatives, but the family unit never faltered.

Muriel was studious, a lover of books and a deep thinker. She would go on to become a college English professor and marry Dr. James Ladd, a teacher and a minister. His work would take them to Enid, OK, and Mankato, MN, where Muriel taught at local colleges. The couple had six children: David, Stephen, Judy, Linda, Mark and John.

Corinne was outgoing and social. She made friends easily and endured hardships with a grace stronger than most. As a professional beautician, Corinne set up shop in Amesbury, MA, and maintained a vigorous business. Her husband, Leo Bloom, worked at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, and later in Guam. The couple had five children: Shirley, Alan, Janice, Denise, and Bruce.

Ethelyn was described as the happiest and gentlest of the sisters. Her siblings often looked to her for companionship and composure.

Marjorie was athletic and a self-described tomboy. Her husband, Raymond Senechal, often called her one of his children, referring to their 10-year age difference, but also her eagerness to participate in every activity with her five children: Elaine, Cheryl, Donna, Raymond Jr. and Laura.

Sadly, the four girls grew up in a world full of uncertainties. Their father, Harold Cutler, was a house painter tortured by serious bouts of alcoholism. His addiction drove a wedge between him and his spouse and daughters, and left the girls virtually fatherless.

When Harold was sober, Sarah would continually take him back into the home until he “fell off the wagon” again. Even that ended when he failed to attend his daughter Ethelyn’s funeral, the final straw for Sarah, who never let him into the family again.




Harold & Sarah Cutler's four girls (clockwise): Muriel, Corrinne, Marjorie, and and Ethelyn.

Death on the Water

"Bodies of five men and an 18-year-old girl were found at Varrill's Point, Rye today after they had apparently been washed up by the surf during the night..."

The Portmouth Herald
Monday, August 21, 1939

On Sunday, August 20, 1939, Ethelyn Cutler, her fiancé, Walter Hargeaves, her uncle Ralph Pryor, Corrinne's husband, Joseph Wojinar, cousin Frank Plante, and another friend went out for fun and fishing off the coast of Rye. The bodies were found the following morning by two children walking the pebbled beach.

Reports later showed that a family nearby heard cries during the night, but when they investigated, the cries had stopped. In addition, numerous vessels had interacted with the party, making it clear that they had moved around seeking favorable fishing.

After a section of charred decking from the 25-foot vessel was found, investigators decided that there was a fire, perhaps an explosion, on board the boat. In a desperate attempt to make it to shore, the five men had clustered around Ethelyn, roping themselves together to keep her warm and protected from being battered against the rocky coast. She was the first to be discovered, on the beach, where she had crawled seeking help.

The tragedy shook the community. At the time, the whole world was watching Hitler and Germany, and wondering what the future might bring. A coast guard station that had been closed due to funding cuts was located only a quarter mile from where the bodies were found. Local residents were certain that the tragedy could have been prevented had that station been operational.

Reports of the tragedy and calls to reopen the coast guard stations were published as far away as San Diego, CA. The recent closures were clearly of great concern to those Americans living near the water.

The Portsmouth Herald

New Hampshire: Partly cloudy, followed by showers Tuesday. Cooler.

PRICE TWO CENTS

OL. LIV., NO. 276. The Times—Merged with THE HERALD, June 6, 1925 PORTSMOUTH, N. H., MONDAY EVENING, AUGUST 21, 1939. Daily Republican Merged with THE HERALD, July 1, 1902

Tragedy Near Rye Harbor Takes Toll Of Six Lives

Developments That May Mean Peace Or War Expected

Intense Diplomatic And Military Activity Under Way Throughout Europe

me papers hinted Polanc
et "save herself" by initiat
acceptable suggestion.
anzig yesterday, Nazi distri
Albert Forster told a crow
formed police the "hour a
es now" and added, "wh
es we will win."
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e military activities on
rs, might advance some p
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s independence, neverth
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s to discuss the situation
rmany. The Polish news
as said this "will be a w
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Some sources felt a plan
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om Rome.
Italian Foreign Minister
alleazzo Ciano has been en
renuous diplomatic activ
lowing talks with German
Hitler and his forei

Sea Casts Up Bodies of Six

rl, Five Men Perish Off Rye Beach, N. H., When Boat Capsizes

ve Beach, N. H., Aug. 21.—(AP)
e sea cast up six bodies on the
h today, revealing the tragic
of an all-day fishing party.
e victims were identified as:
iph Pryor, 55, of Dover, owner
e boat.
s Ethelyn Cutler, of New-
et, a cousin of Pryor.
nk Plante of New Bost

Hitch Hiker From Kittery Vanishes

Ocean Claims Six as Guard Station Closed

RYE BEACH, N. H., Aug. 21 (A. P.)—Finding of the bodies of six drowning victims less than a quarter of a mile from the coast guard station abandoned two years ago as an economy measure led a town official tonight to demand immediate reestablishment of the Rye Beach station. H. Russell Sawyer, ch
man of the Rye Beach
mission, gover
beach

Bodies Of Members Of Fishing Party That Left Dover Point Sunday Found On Beach This Morning

Scene Of Rye Harbor Tragedy

18-Year-Old Ethelyn Cutler Of Newmarket Among Victims—Five Men Were From Dover, Newmarket And New Boston

Bodies of five men and an 18-year-old girl were found Varrill's Point, Rye, today after they had apparently b washed up by the surf during the night from somewhere Rye Harbor where Coast Guards believe their boat sized.

The victims, members of a fishing party from D Point, were first reported missing to Wood Island c guard station early this morning.

They have been identified as follows:

6 Anglers' Bodies Cast Up by Surf

RYE BEACH, N. H., Aug. 22 (AP).—The sea cast up six bodies on the beach yesterday revealing the tragic end of an all-day fishing party.

The victims were identified as:

Ralph Pryor, 55 years old, of Dover, owner of the boat.

Miss Ethelyn Cutler, 16, of Newmarket, a cousin of Pryor.

Frank Plante of New Boston,

All Europe Is Startled By German - Russian Pact

Believe Explosion May Have Caused Tragedy Near Rye Harbor

Everybodys Move

Entire Struct European S

Last Pontoon Is Removed From

BODIES OF 6 ON BEACH

Girl, 5 Men Jumped From Burning Boat

[Special Dispatch to The Herald]

RYE BEACH, N. H., Aug. 21—Sev

The Cutler Family

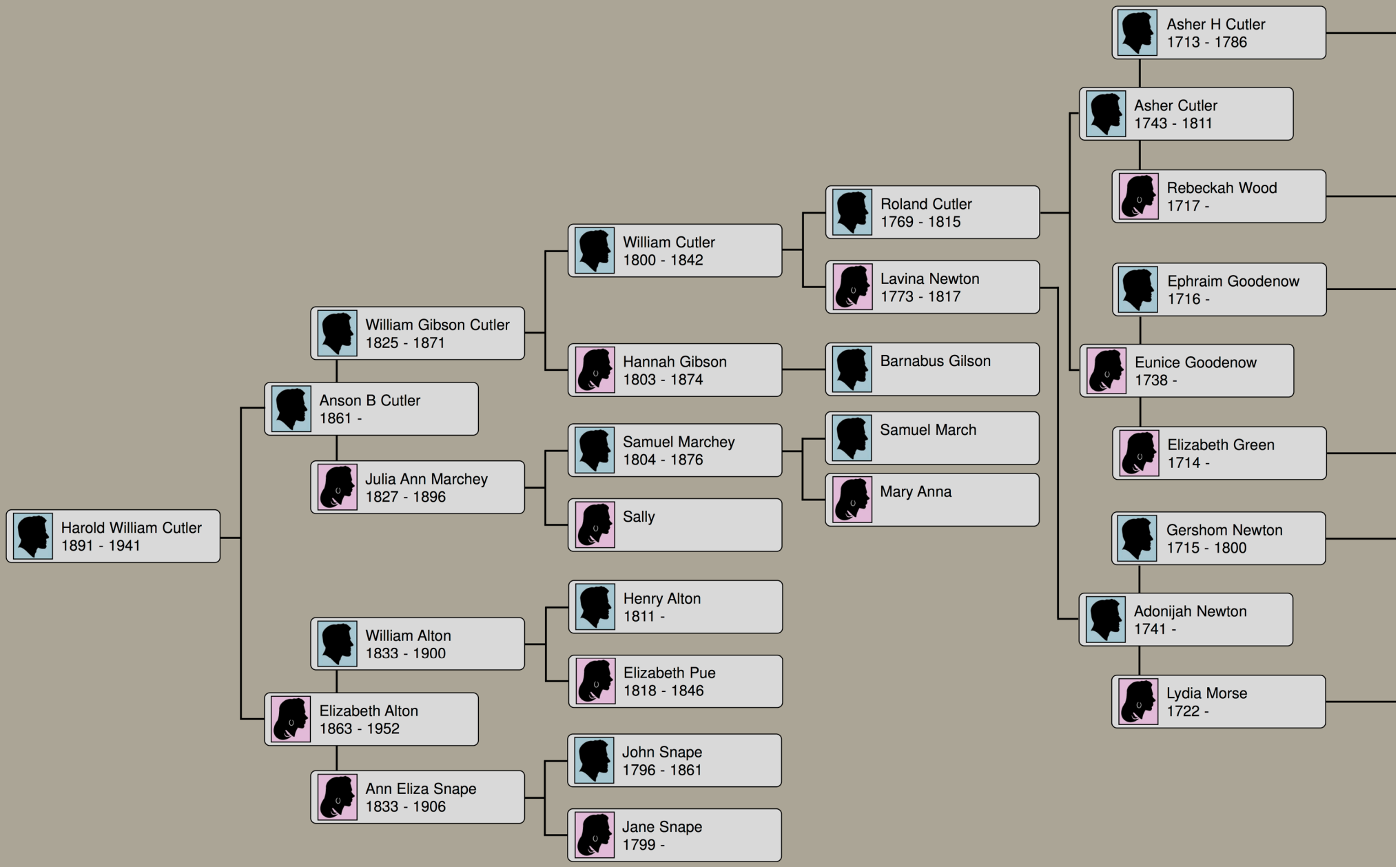
Arrived: 1634

The Cutler line can be traced back to Sprauston (Sprawston), a village outside the city of Norwich, England. While traceable to Norwich, there is no clear evidence that the name has a noble lineage. Indeed, the name likely originated as a description of an occupation, indicating that its bearer was a knife maker, i.e. a maker of cutlery.

The family name made its first appearance in the New World when James Cutler departed Ipswich and arrived at newly-founded Watertown in 1634. At this point the English colonies were less than three decades old, and the town itself was only four years old. James was the first of five heads of English families with the Cutler name to arrive during the early colonial period.

Throughout their time in the colonies, and after the founding of the United States, the Cutlers were frequently embedded in ongoing events of the day. Thomas Cutler Sr. served as a selectman in Lexington. Asher Cutler Jr. was a Minuteman during the American Revolution. And William Gibson Cutler was present at many of the well-known Civil War battles, fighting in the New Hampshire artillery.

The next three pages show the direct line from Harold William Cutler, Marjorie's father, to the earliest known ancestor in England. Branches show the families that married into the family along the way.


Harold William Cutler
1891 - 1941
Anson B Cutler
1861 -
Elizabeth Alton
1863 - 1952
William Gibson Cutler
1825 - 1871
Julia Ann Marchey
1827 - 1896
William Alton
1833 - 1900
Ann Eliza Snape
1833 - 1906
William Cutler
1800 - 1842
Hannah Gibson
1803 - 1874
Samuel Marchey
1804 - 1876
Sally
Henry Alton
1811 -
Elizabeth Pue
1818 - 1846
John Snape
1796 - 1861
Jane Snape
1799 -
Roland Cutler
1769 - 1815
Lavina Newton
1773 - 1817
Barnabus Gilson
Samuel March
Mary Anna
Asher H Cutler
1713 - 1786
Asher Cutler
1743 - 1811
Rebeckah Wood
1717 -
Ephraim Goodenow
1716 -
Eunice Goodenow
1738 -
Elizabeth Green
1714 -
Gershom Newton
1715 - 1800
Adonijah Newton
1741 -
Lydia Morse
1722 -

- Thomas Cutler 1678 - 1718
  - Thomas Cutler 1648 - 1722
    - James Cutler 1605 - 1694
      - Thomas Cutler 1578-1640
        - Robert Cutler 1553-1625
          - Robert Cutler
          - Parnell Barker
        - Alice Gardner 1559-1631
          - Thomas Gardner
          - Elizabeth
      - Ann Doundy 1583-1613
        - Thomas Doundy 1553-1580
          - Thomas Doundy
          - John Fastolfe
        - Anne Fastolfe 1558-
          - Ellenor Tyrrell
    - Mary 1607 - 1654
      - Thomas Dewey 1577-1648
        - Simeon Dewey 1555-
      - Joane Fush 1578-1665
        - John Fush 1551-
        - Elizabeth Lineby 1555-
  - Abigail Dewey 1646 - 1711
    - Thomas Dewey 1603 - 1648
      - Philip Randall 1574-1662
        - Goodman Randall 1574-1662
        - Abraham Randall 1556-
      - Joane Fush 1578-1665
        - John Fush 1551-
        - Elizabeth Lineby 1555-
    - Frances Randall 1610 - 1690
      - Edmund Rice 1594-1663
        - Henry Rice 1555-1621
          - William Ap Rhys
          - Thomasine Myal
        - Elizabeth Frost 1564-1594
          - John Frost
          - Thomasine Belgrave
      - Thomasine Frost 1600-1654
        - Edward Frost 1561-1616
          - John Frost
          - Ann Scott
        - Thomasine Belgrave 1516-1653
          - John Belgrave
          - Joanna Strutt
- Tabitha Rice 1683 - 1718
  - John Rice 1651 - 1719
    - Edward Rice 1622 - 1712
      - John Bent 1596-1672
        - Robert Bent 1566-1631
          - John Bent
          - Edith Bent
        - Agnes Gosling 1570-1639
          - John Gosling
          - Nfn Gosling Nln
      - Martha Blanchard 1600-1679
        - John Blanchard 1623-1700
          - Thomas Blanchard
          - Agnes Bent
        - Elizabeth Hills 1627-1674
          - Joseph Hills
          - Rose Clarke
    - Agnes Bent 1631 -1713
      - Gregory Stone 1592-1672
        - David Stone 1550-1625
          - Simon Stone
          - Agnes Speed
        - Ursula 1560-1592
      - Margaret Garrad 1597-1626
        - Thomas Garrad 1561-1626
          - John Garrad
          - Frende
        - Christian Frende 1570-1626
      - Edward Howe 1587-1644
        - Edward Howe 1561-1591
          - William Howe
          - Catherine Sheren
        - Ann Lumpkin 1564-1592
          - Robert Welles
          - Margaret Boshebe
      - Margaret Wells 1599-1660
        - Robert Wells 1540-
        - Margaret Boshebe 1563-1615
      - William Wood 1582-1671
        - William Wood 1556-1581
      - Margaret Gibbons 1600-1659
        - William Hatch 1563-1611
          - Thomas Hatch
          - Joanne Hatch
        - Ann Tilden 1570-1630
          - John Tilden
          - Patience Casslen
  - Tabitha Stone 1655 - 1719
    - John Stone 1618 - 1683
      - John Dakin 1607-1675
        - William Dakin 1580-1611
          - William Dickens
          - Sarah Arnold
        - Alice Mousall 1607-1675
      - Alice Mousall 1607-1675
        - Peter Brown 1597-1633
          - Thomas Browne
          - Joan Gabb
        - Martha Foorde 1580-1634
      - Edward Brown 1586-1610
        - Thomas Leids 1546-1596
          - John Leids
          - William Gibbs
        - Jane Grubbs 1550-1596
          - Jane Gason
      - Jane Leids 1578-1610
        - John Leids 1520-
        - William Gibbs 1531-1599
          - John Gibbs
          - Margaret Champney
      - Thomas Leids 1546-1596
        - Jane Gason 1525-1593
          - Symon Jasson
          - Jane Taylor
      - Jane Grubbs 1550-1596
      - Lambson
      - John Ayer 1582-1657
        - Thomas Eyre 1549-1628
          - Robert Eyre
          - Jane Tourney
        - Elizabeth Rogers 1549-1612
          - John Rogers
      - Hannah Evered 1582-1688
        - John Evered 1580-1668
          - John Evered
          - Margaret Webb
        - Mary Richmond 1562-1575
          - Edmond Richmond
          - Mary Weare
      - Richard Newton 1590-1701
      - Ann Loker 1605-1697
    - Anne Treadway 1620 - 1690
    - Michael Wood 1616 - 1674
    - Mary Harlow 1615 - 1674
    - Thomas Dakin 1624 - 1708
    - Sarah Slater 1622 - 1659
    - Nicholas Brown 1601 - 1694
    - Elizabeth Leids 1605 - 1674
    - William Lamson 1620 - 1659
    - Sarah Ayers 1621 - 1692
    - John Newton 1641 - 1723
    - Elizabeth Larkin 1641 - 1719
    - Edmund Angier 1610- 1692
    - Anne Batt 1630 - 1688
    - Joseph Morse 1637 - 1677
    - Susanna Shattuck 1643 - 1716
    - Daniel Warren 1626 - 1716
    - Mary Barron 1632 - 1716
    - Richard Newton 1590 - 1701
    - Anne Loker 1605 - 1697
    - Joseph Morse 1637 - 1677
    - Susanna Shattuck 1643 - 1716
- Abraham Wood 1684 - 1742
  - Abraham Wood 1660 - 1747
  - Sarah Dakin 1659 - 1748
- Hannah Browne 1680 - 1746
  - Cornelius Brown 1632 - 1701
  - Sarah Lamson 1645 - 1683
- John Goodenow 1670 - 1736
  - John Goodenow 1635 - 1721
  - Mary Axtell 1639 - 1704
- Sarah 1675 - 1723
- John Green
- Elizabeth Core
- Gershom Newton 1690 - 1753
  - Samuel Newton 1668 - 1754
  - Rebecca Concord 1665 - 1728
- Elizabeth Angier 1694 - 1744
  - Joseph Angier 1679 - 1718
  - Elizabeth Angier 1684 - 1732
- Samuel Morse 1696 - 1755
  - Samuel Morse 1670 - 1726
  - Grace Warren 1672 - 1753
- Lydia Newton 1699 - 1733
  - Daniel Newton 1655 - 1739
  - Susanna Morse 1663 - 1729

The Colonist

James Cutler (b. 1605, d. 1694)

James "Cuttler" arrived from Ipswich in about 1634, although there is no existing record of that voyage. He was one of the original grantees of land (8 acres) in the northerly part of Watertown, on the road to Belmont, in the Massachusetts colony. A year later he was assigned another 28 acres.

An unassuming man, James married and began life as a farmer. His wife Anne died giving birth to their fourth child, and a year later he married Mary Barnard. He continued to accumulate land, and, in 1649, sold the whole lot to buy 200 acres in the new settlement of Cambridge Farms (later Lexington, Massachusetts).

James was well respected in the area, and a signatory to the petition for incorporation for the town, which was granted in December, 1691. He died in 1694 at age 88, splitting his estate among his twelve children, sons and daughters alike.

The Town Leader

Lieutenant Thomas Cutler (b. 1648, d. 1722)

Thomas was born in Watertown, where he and Abigail Dewey were married. He appears to have followed his parents when they moved to Cambridge Farms, as all seven of his children were born there.

While his father was one of the earliest settlers in Lexington, Thomas was a member of the first group of subscribers for the construction of a meeting house in the town. On April 22, 1692, he contributed 2 pounds to the effort, one of 41 others, including his father and his brother John. Shortly thereafter, Thomas was elected to the post of tax assessor.

Upon completion of the meeting house, the church was organized in the town and Thomas was one of eleven townsmen who signed the covenant with the incoming pastor.

In June 1711, he also contributed funds to help the town purchase the land surrounding the meeting house to be used as a public commons. The land is still held as a public space by the Town of Lexington.

Thomas held offices in the town from its very earliest organization. During the course of his life he served as a tax assessor, tyhthingman (a type of peace officer), constable, and selectman. He and two others were placed in charge of the munitions for the town, which they stored near the meeting house for ease of access. The storage location was purchased jointly by the three men.

In the town records, Thomas is given the title "Lieutenant," reportedly in recognition for "his service in the eighth campaign and three months to the Jerseys."

The Revolutionary

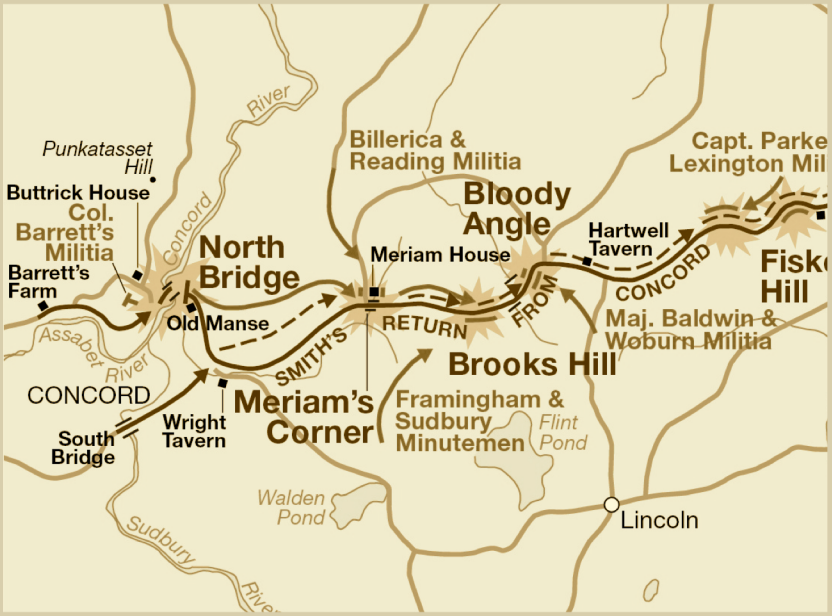
Asher Cutler Jr. (b. 1743, d. 1811)

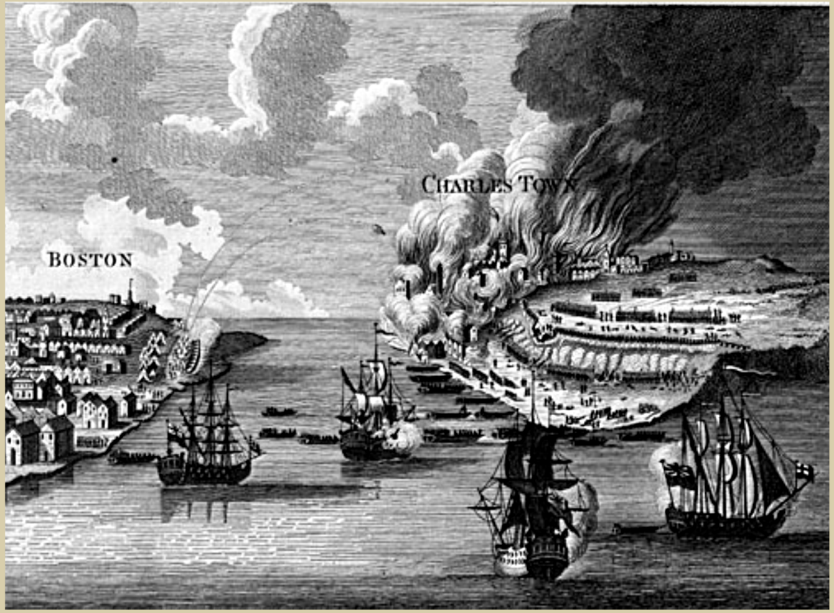
On April 19, 1775, a messenger reached Sudbury between 3 and 4 a.m. bringing news that British Regulars had left Boston the evening before and were headed westward, presumably to Concord in the Massachusetts colony, where military supplies were stockpiled. In response, Captain John Nixon gathered his Sudbury Minutemen, including the young private Asher Cutler, to race to Lexington.

In Lexington shots had been fired, and the colonials had fallen back allowing the British to continue toward Concord. The Sudbury militiamen took the most expedient route to what is now called Battle Road. They arrived after the British had already withdrawn from Concord, and engaged them just east of Miriam's Corner. There, in heavy fighting, Sudbury lost its first resident to battle, Asher's brother-in-law, Josiah Haynes.

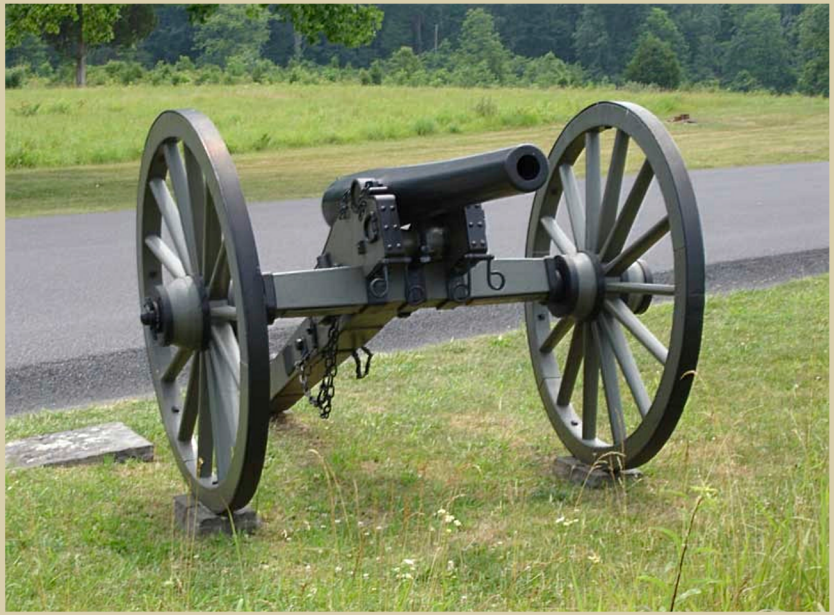
Two months later, Asher was again involved in a famous battle, when now-Colonel Nixon led his men onto Breed's Hill during the Siege of Boston. They arrived just before the British assault and joined the lines of musket men pouring fire onto the British regulars. After surviving three assaults, his unit was one of the last to leave the field, joining those from Bunker Hill and returning to fortified positions in Cambridge.

There is no clear evidence that Asher continued on as a member of the colonial militia in the Revolutionary War. However, the Cutler family continued to be connected to the Nixons, with Asher's brother Abel marrying General Nixon's daughter Sarah.





Minuteman Asher Cutler Jr. fought in the battles of Concord and Bunker Hill



Gettysburg Memorial to the First New Hampshire Light Artillery and artillery used by that unit in the battles of Antietam (above) and later at Gettysburg (below).

The Civil War Patriot

William Gibson Cutler (b. 1825, d. 1871)

In September 1861, at the ripe old age of 36, William Gibson Cutler enlisted in the First New Hampshire Light Battery, just five months after the start of the Civil War, leaving behind his wife and seven children. His son Anson, our ancestor, was only eight months old.

William and his unit fought in many key battles of the war in the East, from Bull Run to Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, Brandy Station, the Wilderness, Spotsylvania Court House, Cold Harbor, and Petersburg.

Throughout much of the war, his battery was part of the Division commanded by General Abner Doubleday - who may or may not have actually invented baseball, but did later patent San Francisco's cable car trolley system. At the Second Battle of Bull Run, the general called William's unit forward to help block the Confederate army on the main road to Washington, DC. Although they stopped the Confederate advance, William was wounded in the face, six of his fellow artillerymen were killed, and his captain was captured. At Antietam his unit fought in front of the Dunker Church at the Cornfield, site of one of the deadliest afternoons of the war. At Gettysburg, William's battery was positioned on Cemetery Hill. His First Sergeant Samuel Piper later wrote, "we withstood the most furious rain of iron hail ever showered upon living men."

William was discharged on Christmas Day in 1863, but he re-enlisted the very next day. He served through the remainder of the war, and his battery was present at the surrender of Robert E. Lee and the end of the Confederacy at Appomattox Court House in April 1865. To celebrate the victory, he marched in the Grand Review of the Armies in Washington, DC.

Newmarket Man Dies After Fall

Late yesterday afternoon Harold W. Cutler, 50-year-old Newmarket man, died in the Portsmouth hospital as a result of a 14-foot fall from a wharf on Ceres street.

Cutler, who had lived in Portsmouth only five weeks, was walking along the waterfront when he slipped, fell and struck his head on a piece of timber. Portsmouth police took him to the hospital.

A native of Manchester, Cutler had lived in Newmarket at 15 Forest street until he came to this city.

He is survived by his wife; three daughters, Mrs. James Ladd, Mrs. Corinne Wojnar and Miss Marjorie Cutler; his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Coffin, and a brother, Ralph Cutler, all of Newmarket.

Another daughter, Ethelyn, and Mrs. Wojnar's husband, Joseph F. Wojnar's husband, Joseph F. drowned at Varrell's Point in Rye on August 20, 1939.

Harold and Sarah (left), Portsmouth Herald announcement of Harold's death (right)

The House Painter

Harold William Cutler
(b. 1891 d. 1941)

Harold William Cutler, born in 1891 in Manchester, NH, was the second of four sons of Anson Burlingame and Elizabeth Alton Cutler. In 1909, at age 17, he enlisted in the U.S. Navy, having lied about his age. He was discharged in 1910 after serving 15 months, but the reason for his severance is not known. Two years later, he married Agnes Josephine Mugridge. The union only lasted about two years.

In 1916, when he was 25 years old, he married Sarah Elizabeth Prior, 23. He was said to be very handsome for his day with hazel eyes and black hair. He came from a family of comfortable means and held a job as a house painter. The reason Sarah chose to marry Harold has never been part of family lore. Perhaps she was smitten, or felt he offered her security.

Harold's World War I draft registration card requested exemption from service in order to remain home as head of household. He was not drafted. Instead, the couple made their home in York, ME. The 1920 U.S. Census listed their dwelling on Atlantic Avenue in York and Harold's occupation as a driller in the steel industry. Harold worked on and off but was plagued by two maladies: he was an alcoholic, and purportedly, a "momma's boy." The marriage offered little security for his wife and daughters.

Harold died prematurely in 1941 after falling off a wharf in Portsmouth, NH, where he had moved only five weeks before. Family rumors suggest he was inebriated at the time, but his obituary makes no mention of it. His death came two years after his daughter Ethelyn drowned in a boating accident. When Harold failed to attend his daughter's funeral, Sarah refused to let him return to their home in Newmarket (NH).

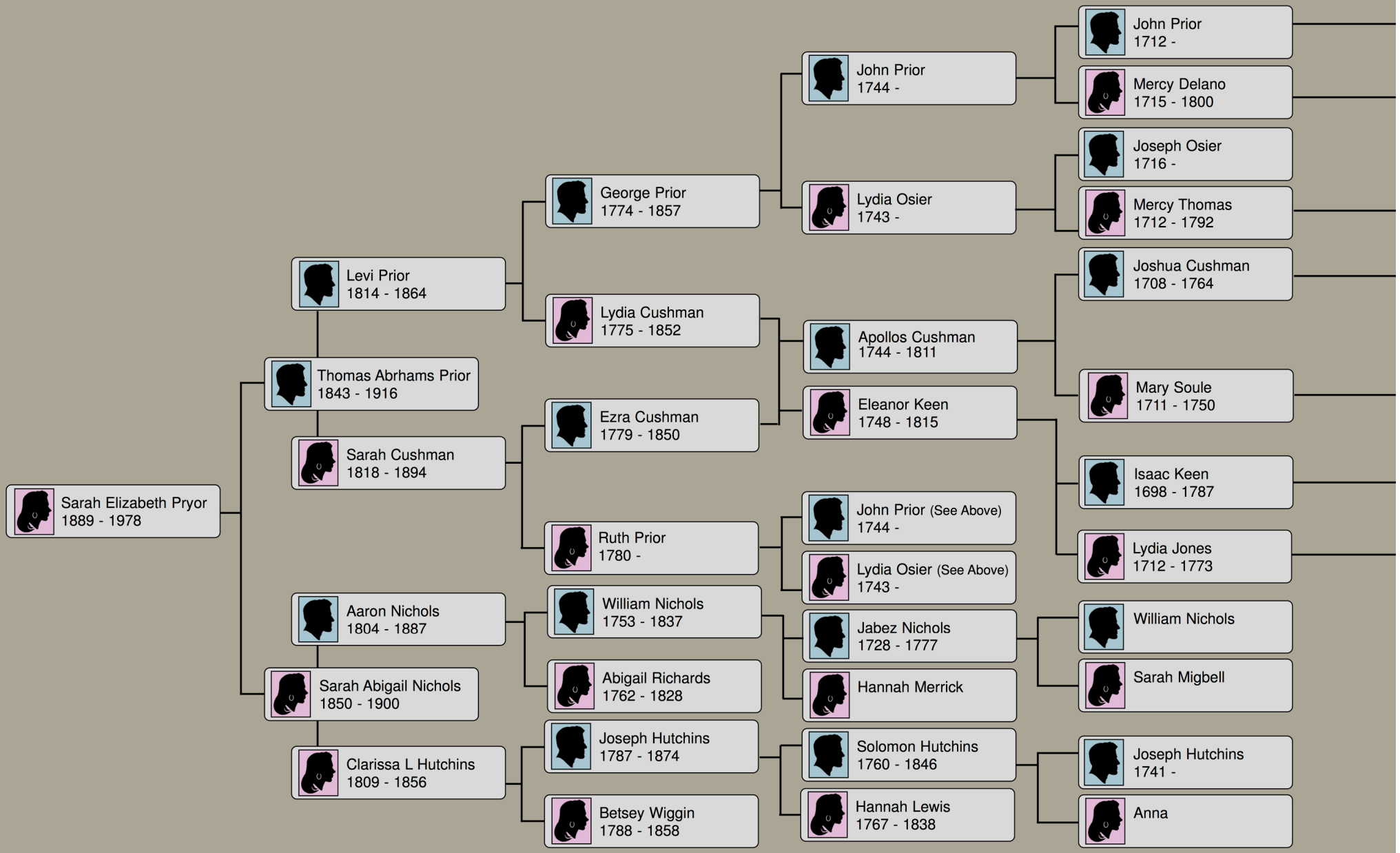
The Priors/Pryors

Arrived: 1635

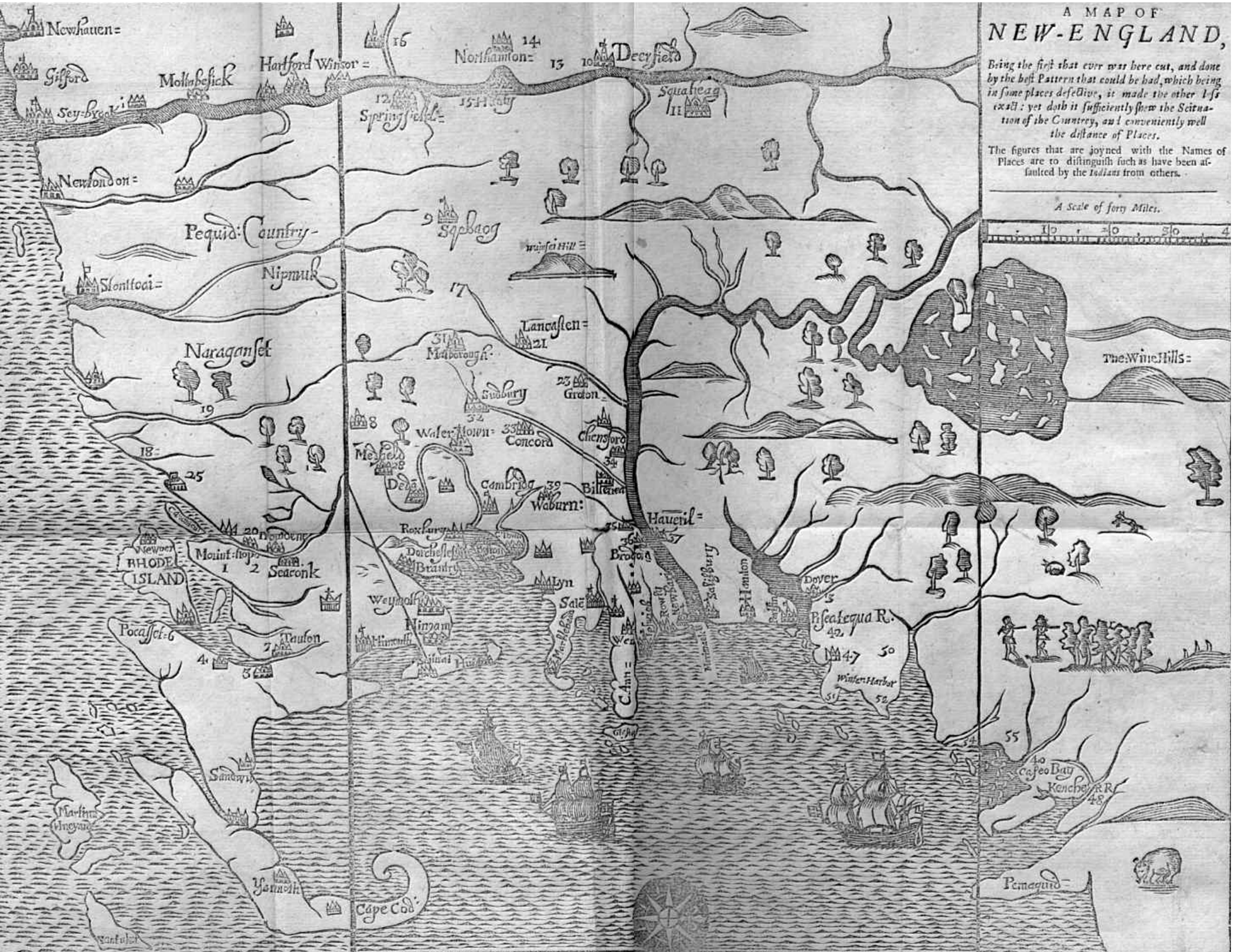
When Thomas Bray Prior's wife, Elizabeth Buckmaster, died, he decided to leave his home in Watford, England, for the New World. He packed up his belongings and set sail with three of his sons aboard the Hopewell in 1635, leaving four other children behind. This marked the arrival of the Prior family name in the colonies.

Men in the Prior family became ship's carpenters, passing the trade down from father to son. They moved every few generations, first to Duxbury, later to the Old Broad Bay region of Maine, south to Kittery, and then finally to Dover, NH. In each of these places they plied their trade - building and repairing boats.

The Prior to Pryor name change happened in the late 1800s with Thomas A. Pryor. This branch of the family line ended when Sarah Elizabeth Pryor married Harold William Cutler on November 11, 1916, in Manchester.


Sarah Elizabeth Pryor
1889 - 1978
Thomas Abrhams Prior
1843 - 1916
Levi Prior
1814 - 1864
Sarah Cushman
1818 - 1894
George Prior
1774 - 1857
Lydia Cushman
1775 - 1852
Ezra Cushman
1779 - 1850
Ruth Prior
1780 -
John Prior
1744 -
Lydia Osier
1743 -
Apollos Cushman
1744 - 1811
Eleanor Keen
1748 - 1815
John Prior (See Above)
1744 -
Lydia Osier (See Above)
1743 -
John Prior
1712 -
Mercy Delano
1715 - 1800
Joseph Osier
1716 -
Mercy Thomas
1712 - 1792
Joshua Cushman
1708 - 1764
Mary Soule
1711 - 1750
Isaac Keen
1698 - 1787
Lydia Jones
1712 - 1773
Aaron Nichols
1804 - 1887
Sarah Abigail Nichols
1850 - 1900
Clarissa L Hutchins
1809 - 1856
William Nichols
1753 - 1837
Abigail Richards
1762 - 1828
Joseph Hutchins
1787 - 1874
Betsey Wiggin
1788 - 1858
Jabez Nichols
1728 - 1777
Hannah Merrick
Solomon Hutchins
1760 - 1846
Hannah Lewis
1767 - 1838
William Nichols
Sarah Migbell
Joseph Hutchins
1741 -
Anna

- Benjamin Prior 1672 - 1748
  - Joseph Prior 1623 - 1692
    - Thomas Bray Prior 1586 - 1639
      - Robert Cushman 1577-1625
        - Thomas Couchman
        - Elinor Hubbard
      - Sara Reder 1585-1616
      - Isaac Allerton 1586-1658
      - Mary Norris 1588-1621
    - Elizabeth Buckmaster 1588 - 1632
      - Henry Howland
      - Margaret
      - John Tilley 1571-1621
        - Robert Tilley
        - Elizabeth
      - Joan Hurst 1567-1621
        - William Hurst
  - Hannah Rogers 1652 - 1690
    - John Rogers
      - Robert Soule
      - Elizabeth Tylson
      - Sylvester Beckett 1560-1620
      - Elizabeth Hill 1560-1620
- Bethia Pratt 1679 - 1756
  - Jonathan Pratt 1635 - 1697
    - Philipp De Delannoy 1603 - 1682
      - Jean De Delannoy
      - Marie Le Mahieu
    - Hester Dewsbury
      - Robert Soule
      - Elizabeth Tylson
      - Sylvester Beckett 1560-1620
      - Elizabeth Hill 1560-1620
  - Abigail Atwood 1645 - 1684
    - Edmund Weston
      - Thomas Little Sr
    - Jane Delano
      - Richard Warren 1579-1628
        - John Warren
      - Elizabeth Walker 1583-1673
        - Augustine Walker
- Nathaniel Delano 1685-1731
  - John Delano 1644 - 1690
    - Henry Samson 1603 -1684
      - James Sampson
      - Martha Cooper
    - Ann Plummer 1615 - 1684
      - Edward Winslow 1560-1631
      - Magdelene Oliver 1566-
  - Mary Weston 1658 - 1686
    - James Pitney
      - Ralph Jones Sr 1600-
    - Sarah Smith
      - Veronica Hilton 1604-
- Mercy Bonney 1694 - 1749
  - Thomas Bonney 1665 - 1735
    - Thomas Cushman 1607 - 1691
      - Matthew Fuller 1603-1678
      - Frances Hyde 1605-1678
    - Mary Allerton 1616 - 1699
  - Dorcas Samson 1660 - 1695
    - John Howland 1591 - 1673
    - Elizabeth Tilley 1607 - 1687
- Daniel Thomas 1659 - 1733
  - John Thomas 1621 - 1699
  - Sarah Pitney 1628 - 1682
- Experience Tilden 1675 - 1712
  - Thomas Tilden 1618 - 1704
  - Mary Holmes 1644 - 1705
  - Thomas Cushman 1637 - 1726
  - Ruth Howland
- Robert Cushman 1664 - 1757
  - Thomas Lewis 1630 - 1709
  - Hannah Baker 1638 - 1717
- Persis Lewis 1671 - 1743
- Joseph Soule 1679 - 1763
  - John Soule 1632 - 1707
    - George Soule 1593 - 1677
    - Mary Beckett 1590 - 1676
  - Esther Nash 1640 - 1735
    - Samuel Nash 1602 - 1683
    - Elizabeth Seymore 1618 - 1646
- Mary Peterson 1680 - 1755
  - John Peterson 1636 - 1720
    - Cornelius Peterson 1600 -
    - Rhoda Scott 1606 -
  - Mary Soule 1624 - 1718
    - George Soule 1593 - 1677
    - Mary Beckett 1590 - 1676
- Josiah Keen Jr 1658 - 1732
  - Josiah Keen Sr 1620 - 1710
    - John Keen 1578 - 1649
    - Martha 1578 - 1638
  - Abigail Little 1634 - 1660
    - Thomas Little Jr 1609 - 1671
    - Ann Warren 1612 - 1675
- Lydia Baker 1659 - 1732
  - Samuel Baker 1638 - 1714
    - Alexander Baker
    - Elizabeth Farrer
  - Eleanor Winslow 1637 - 1676
    - Kenelm Winslow 1599 - 1672
    - Eleanor W Newton 1599 - 1681
- Isaac Jones 1690 - 1731
  - Jedediah Jones 1656 - 1731
    - Ralph Jones Jr 1625 - 1692
    - Mary Fuller -1691
  - Hannah Davis 1653 - 1701
    - John Davis
    - Hannah Lynnel
- Patience Stetson 1687 - 1732
  - Samuel Stetson 1646 - 1723
    - Robert Stetson
    - Honor Tucker
  - Lydia Pickles 1662 - 1704
    - Jonas Pickles
    - Alice Hatch


A MAP OF
NEW-ENGLAND,
Being the first that ever was here cut, and done by the best Pattern that could be had, which being in some places defective, it made the other less exact: yet doth it sufficiently shew the Scituation of the Country, and conveniently well the distance of Places.
The figures that are joyned with the Names of Places are to distinguish such as have been assaulted by the Indians from others.
A Scale of forty Miles.
Newhaven
Gifford
Mollabesick
Hartford
Winsor
Northampton
Decyfield
Sey-brook
Springfield
Squatheag
Newlondon
Pequid Country
Nipmuk
Sloniloai
Sqbaog
Naragansett
Lancasten
Malborough
Sudbury
Groton
Waler-Town
Concord
Chensford
Medfield
Dedh
Cambridge
Billerica
Waburn
Haverill
Roxbury
Dorchester
Boston
Braintry
Brookfield
Lyn
Sale
Weymouth
Ninyam
Hingham
Sagamore Hill
Newport
Mount-hope
Seaconk
RHODE ISLAND
Pocasset
Taulon
Sandwich
Martins Vineyard
Yarmouth
Cape Cod
C. Ann
Salisbury
Hamton
Dover
Piscataqua R.
Winsor Harbor
Cape Bay
Kenchebec R.
Pemaquid
The Wine Hills

The Three Brothers

Daniel Prior, John Prior, and Joseph Prior (born ca. 1620)

In 1632 Elizabeth Buckmaster Prior died in Herfordshire, England, leaving behind her husband, Thomas, and their children. Three years later, in September of 1635, Thomas Prior and his three youngest sons arrived at Scituate in the Massachusetts Bay colony aboard the Hopewell. Thomas died only five years later, having already become a man of note in the church.

John and Daniel both stayed in Scituate and shared equally in their father's estate. John had a son, also John, who moved to Duxbury prior to his marriage in 1696. Daniel was a member of the town militia. He married Mary Hatch in 1656 and soon had a son, also Daniel.

Joseph was not so fortunate. After being left a pittance in his father's will, he left Scituate for Duxbury where, in 1650, he married Hannah Rogers. In that same year he and his friend, Nathaniel Basset, were each fined 20 shillings for "disturbing the church" and sentenced to two hours of public shaming. Whether this event and his marriage are in any way related is, sadly, unknown. Nearly a decade later, Joseph is mentioned in the will of one Rev. Ralph Partridge, so perhaps he found peace with the "chuch."

The Prior lineage remained in Duxbury for two more generations until the 1760s, when Joseph's grandson, John Prior, Sr. joined a flux of Puritans moving to Old Broad Bay in Maine to escape threat during the French and Indian War. He settled near Waldoboro and quickly became an active citizen in the town.

The Revolutionary Patriot

John Prior, Jr.
(b. 1744, d. before 1810)

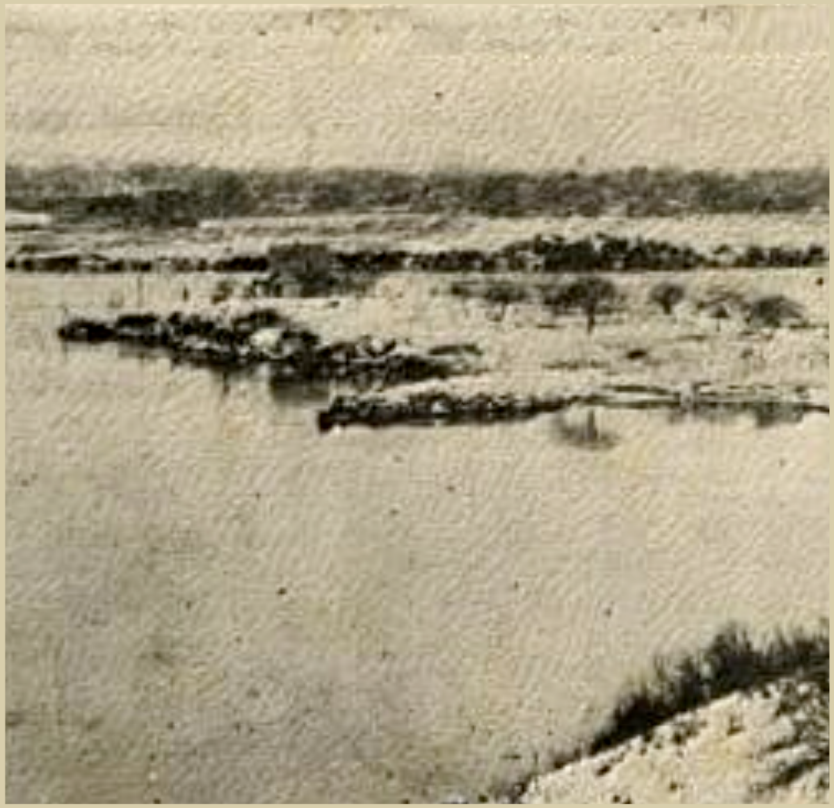
During the Revolutionary War, John Prior served as a private in the Duxbury militia and responded to the alarm of April 19, 1775. As the men of Plymouth were too far from Boston to be of use, they gathered instead against a British garrison at Marshfield. However, by the time they began the attack, the British soldiers had escaped. This non-engagement is now known as "The Almost-Battle of Marshfield."

Just prior to the signing of the Declaration of Independence from the British crown, John joined the Continental Army and served for the second half of 1776 as part of the Tenth Massachusetts infantry regiment on the Massachusetts Line. Luckily for him, his regiment did not fight in any of the major battles during this period. He was discharged in December 1776, after 5 months and 20 days of service.

In September 1777, John was again called to serve the young nation. He joined thousands of men mustering secretly in preparation for a planned stealth attack on the British enclave at Newport, RI. The expedition, led by General Joseph Spencer, managed to secretly muster a full 9,000 troops from the Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts militias. In the end, Spencer cancelled the attack. As he had seen no sign of a counterforce, he was concerned (and, rightly so) that the British had learned of the attack.

In the late 1700's, John moved to Nobleboro, ME, on Muscongus Bay (known at the time as Broad Bay) and was later joined by a number of family members, including his son George and daughter Ruth.

The Colonials during the Revolutionary War were saved from a disastrous attack on Newport, RI, by the keen instincts of General Joseph Spencer



Left: Henderson Point in the 1870s. Right: Levi and Sarah's gravestones in Portsmouth, NH.

The Cod Fisherman

Levi Prior
(b. 1814, d. 1864)

Levi was likely born at home on Long Island in Bremen, ME, but there is no clear birth record currently in existence and no record of his early life. In 1838 he married Sarah Cushman, a woman he had certainly known since childhood. Their grandfathers had been business partners in Muscongus Bay, and both of the couple's parents were Cushman/Prior pairings.

Levi and Sarah soon moved south to Seavey's Island (then called Trefethen Island) in the middle of the Piscataqua River, south of Kittery. Levi's brother, Cushman Prior, already owned land on the island that he had inherited from his father-in-law, James Trefethen. The year before Levi and Sarah married, Cushman had sold Levi the southwestern outcropping on the island known as Henderson's Point. It was there that the young couple began their family.

Over the next few decades Levi worked as a carpenter, likely repairing fishing boats for the many fisherman who lived on Seavey's Island. According to Portsmouth newspapers of the time, he also was a fisherman, active in the New England cod fishery. The Seavey's Island community was incredibly self-sufficient, with residents rarely traveling to Kittery. As a result, there are no official birth records for any of Levi's eleven children.

It's unclear how Levi died, but he left behind a number of minor children, the youngest only three years old. Two years later, his widow, Sarah, was forced to sell the family property to the United States government for the construction of the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. She moved the large family to Portsmouth, where she later died and was buried alongside her husband.

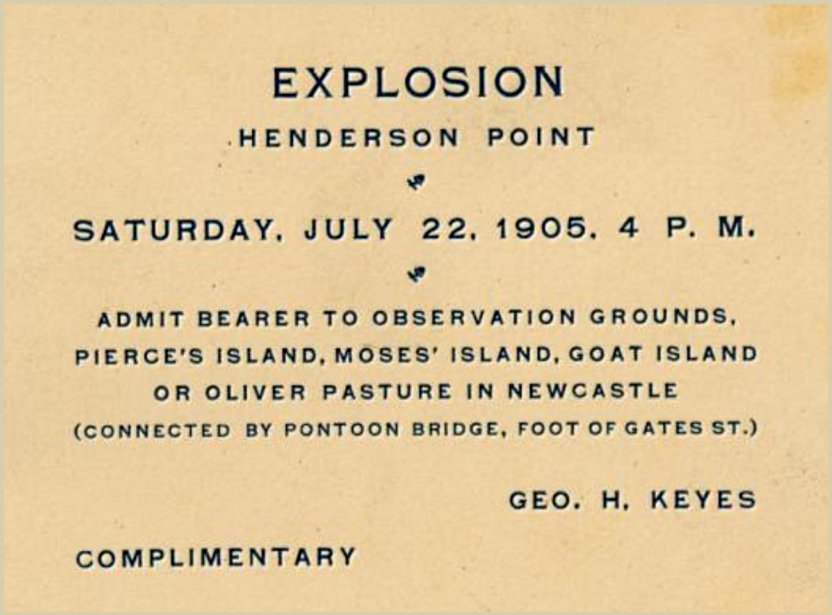
Erasing Henderson's Point

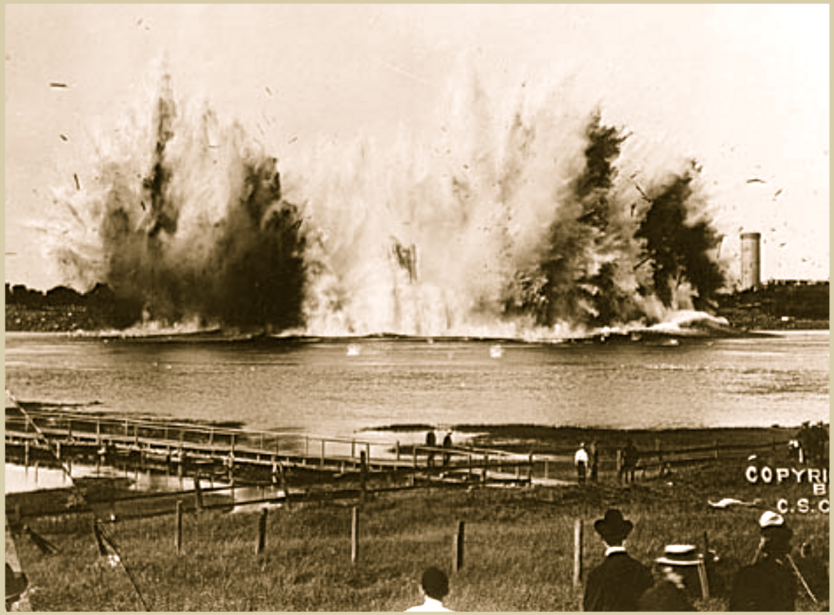
Seavey's Island was a great opportunity for the U.S. Navy, but it was also a problem. They had purchased the island from the various landowners in 1866. The planned expansion of the Navy Yard would use the gap between Seavy's and Dennett's islands as a facility for building submarines. However, Henderson's Point (at the the southern tip of Seavy's) had been a navigation hazard for years, forcing ships to make a sharp, 90+ degree turn to stay in the channel of the Piscataqua River. The point, known to local sailors as "Pull-or-be-Damned," clearly needed to go. So the Navy decided to blow up the rocky point, and use the stone as fill to join the two islands together.

This massive project was implemented by a Massachusetts firm, and was to be the largest explosion ever attempted by man. Using the outer edge of the point as a dam, the contractor dug out the interior, using rail cars to remove the rock and dirt from the point. Over the course of three years, they excavated to a depth of more than 35 feet, reinforcing the exterior as they went. Finally, they loaded the dam with 46 tons of dynamite and prepared to blast.

Regional press had a field day with the story, hyping the expected size of the explosion to the point that people were afraid it would wipe out the entire eastern seaboard, or start an end-of-the-world chain reaction. Invitations were sent out to notables to attend the event. And many locals, including Sarah Pryor and her sister Blanche, came to the river to watch. At 4:11 p.m. Saturday, July 22, 1905, almost forty years after the government had purchased their grandfather's home, the girls saw Henderson's Point wiped from the map.

During the construction of the new shipyard, the various families were recognized with street names in their honor. Indeed, Prior Street is on the southeastern tip near where Cushman Prior had his home.





The U.S. Navy completely reshaped the island, eliminating Henderson Point entirely.

Sarah Elizabeth Pryor
(b. 1889, d. 1978)

Sarah "Sadie" Pryor bridged the Twentieth Century for a family so deeply rooted in New England that few members left. But hers would be the last generation to stay put. Two World Wars, the Great Depression, fighting in Korea and Vietnam, and the new mobile society would greatly influence the lives of her children.

Amazingly, these difficulties did little to change her spirit that relied on God and common sense, traits that had defined her ancestors from the beginning.

Petite in stature, Sarah was a powerhouse of hard work. She had little education, but was well read and interested in current events. Her turn of a phrase was charming, with a slight lilt of an English accent. For example, she would "clim" up the stairs but "climb" down them, a distinction unclear to her grandchildren.

The Modern Woman

Sarah was born in Dover, NH in 1889. Unfortunately, her father was gone much of her life, working as a carpenter for Boston & Maine railroad. Her sister Mabel, known as Blanche and seven years older, would marry Charles Brown, a brakeman for the railroad.

At age 11, her mother, Sarah Nichols, died, leaving a young Sarah essentially on her own working in jobs appropriate for women of her time. Her later marriage to Harold Cutler was full of disappointment.

Harold was a "momma's boy" and an alcoholic, running home whenever life didn't suit him. His on-again-off-again relationship with Sarah left her with four girls - Muriel, Corinne, Ethelyn and Marjorie - and no husband's support.

When her youngest, Marjorie, was a preschooler, Sarah took a job as a pastry chef in one of the grand hotels on the coast of York, ME. When Marjorie reached school age, Sarah took a position as a housekeeper on a farm in Epsom, NH.

She later joined the throngs of women working in the shoe factories of Newmarket, NH, and Amesbury, MA. The hours were long and the conditions depressing, but Sarah excelled and rose to the position of "fancy stitcher." She was very proud of her accomplishments.

Sarah worked a full life and qualified for Social Security benefits. In her later years, she spent time living with her three surviving children and traveling with Charles Brown after Blanche died.

Sarah contracted pneumonia at the age of 89 and died in Florida on September 4, 1978, where she had been living with her daughter Corinne.

The Cushmans

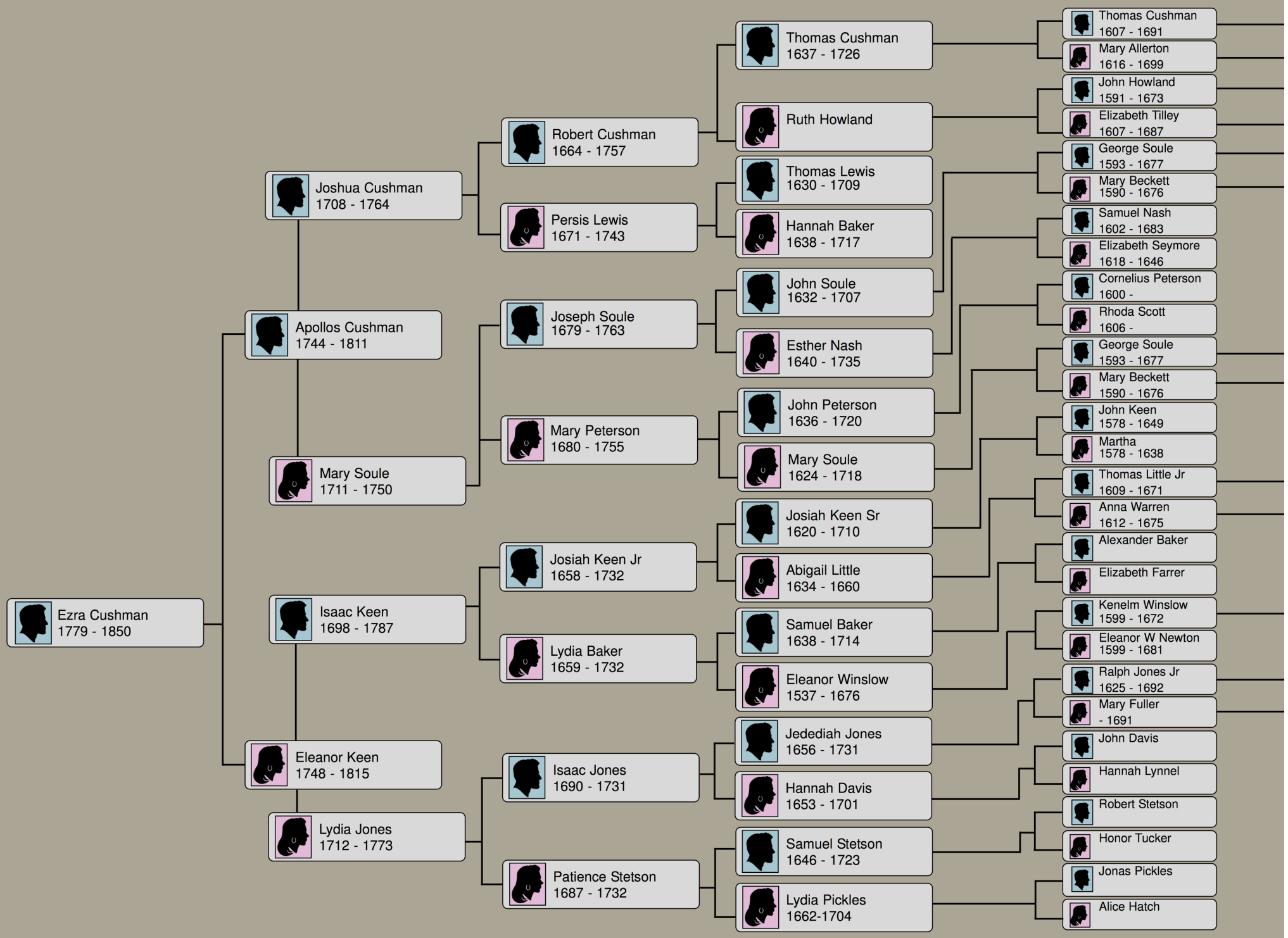
Arrived: 1621

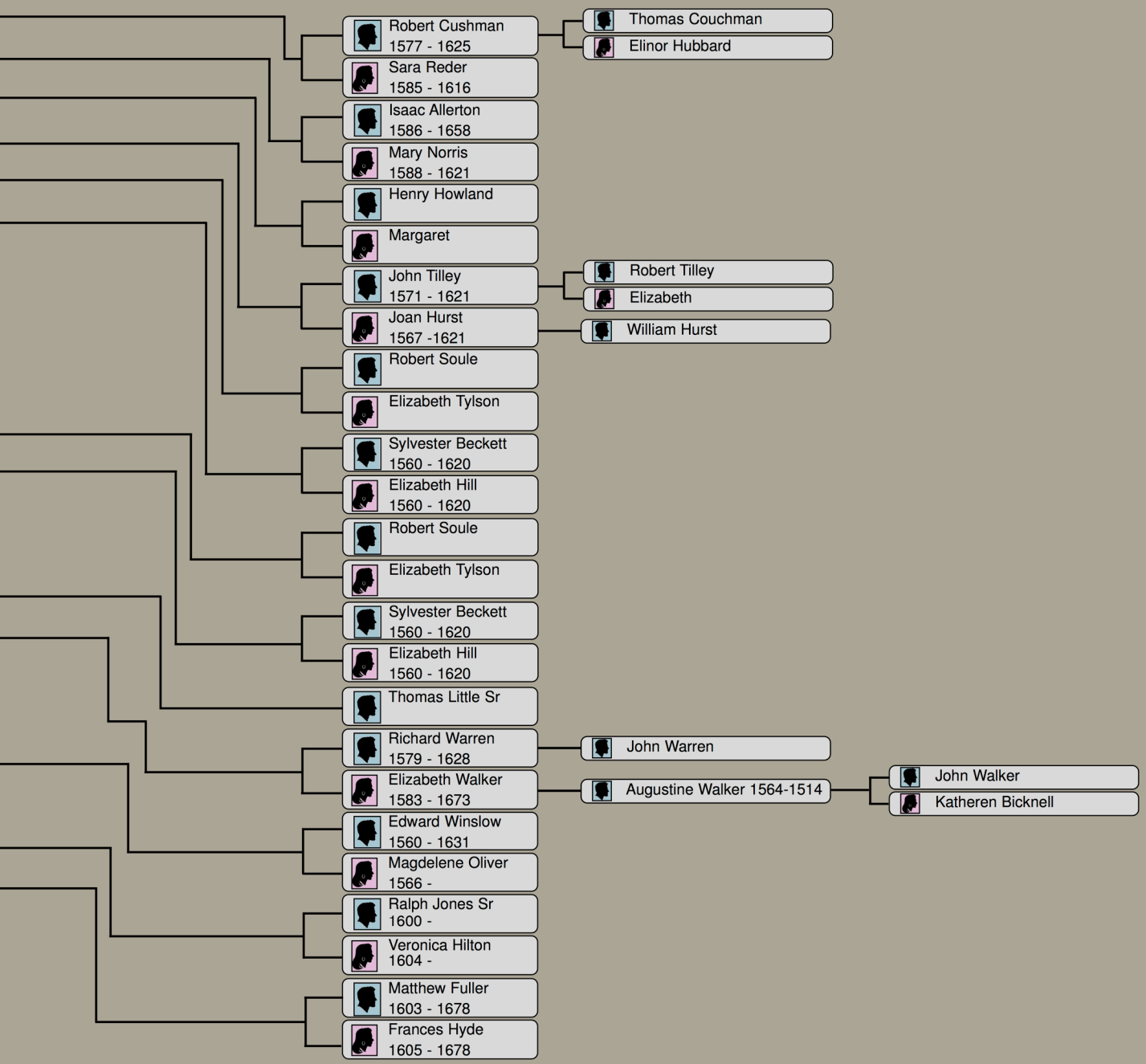
The Cushman name originated in Kent, England, likely as Couchman, in a community of cloth makers. This community was originally Flemish, but was invited to the region in the mid-14th century (during the Hundred Years' War) by King Edward III. There is no indication that the family name existed before their emigration to England.

The Cushmans arrived in the New World the year after the *Mayflower*. In fact, the family was on board the *Mayflower*'s sister ship, the *Speedwell*, when it became clear that the ship was not seaworthy and it was forced to return to England. The Cushman family was well respected, both before their departure from England and through the colonial period, frequently holding civic and ecclesiastical positions in the colonies.

Writing in his 1855 history of thirty-four hundred members of the family, Henry Wyles Cushman states: "I have found but few who have been *very* remarkable for their genius or talents, and few who...have been or are *very* wealthy. On the other hand, I have never found among the descendants of Robert Cushman, the Puritan, *a single pauper, or person of adult age that could not read and write*" (emphasis his).

In short, this is a family of solid character: dependable, educated and productive. They gravitate to professions that support their communities, often performing in multiple capacities (e.g. as farmer and councilman). It is this trait of reliability that made the Cushman family such an integral part of colonial America.


Ezra Cushman
1779 - 1850
Apollos Cushman
1744 - 1811
Eleanor Keen
1748 - 1815
Joshua Cushman
1708 - 1764
Mary Soule
1711 - 1750
Isaac Keen
1698 - 1787
Lydia Jones
1712 - 1773
Robert Cushman
1664 - 1757
Persis Lewis
1671 - 1743
Joseph Soule
1679 - 1763
Mary Peterson
1680 - 1755
Josiah Keen Jr
1658 - 1732
Lydia Baker
1659 - 1732
Isaac Jones
1690 - 1731
Patience Stetson
1687 - 1732
Thomas Cushman
1637 - 1726
Ruth Howland
Thomas Lewis
1630 - 1709
Hannah Baker
1638 - 1717
John Soule
1632 - 1707
Esther Nash
1640 - 1735
John Peterson
1636 - 1720
Mary Soule
1624 - 1718
Josiah Keen Sr
1620 - 1710
Abigail Little
1634 - 1660
Samuel Baker
1638 - 1714
Eleanor Winslow
1537 - 1676
Jedediah Jones
1656 - 1731
Hannah Davis
1653 - 1701
Samuel Stetson
1646 - 1723
Lydia Pickles
1662-1704
Thomas Cushman
1607 - 1691
Mary Allerton
1616 - 1699
John Howland
1591 - 1673
Elizabeth Tilley
1607 - 1687
George Soule
1593 - 1677
Mary Beckett
1590 - 1676
Samuel Nash
1602 - 1683
Elizabeth Seymore
1618 - 1646
Cornelius Peterson
1600 -
Rhoda Scott
1606 -
George Soule
1593 - 1677
Mary Beckett
1590 - 1676
John Keen
1578 - 1649
Martha
1578 - 1638
Thomas Little Jr
1609 - 1671
Anna Warren
1612 - 1675
Alexander Baker
Elizabeth Farrer
Kenelm Winslow
1599 - 1672
Eleanor W Newton
1599 - 1681
Ralph Jones Jr
1625 - 1692
Mary Fuller
- 1691
John Davis
Hannah Lynnel
Robert Stetson
Honor Tucker
Jonas Pickles
Alice Hatch


Robert Cushman
1577 - 1625
Thomas Couchman
Elinor Hubbard
Sara Reder
1585 - 1616
Isaac Allerton
1586 - 1658
Mary Norris
1588 - 1621
Henry Howland
Margaret
John Tilley
1571 - 1621
Robert Tilley
Elizabeth
Joan Hurst
1567 -1621
William Hurst
Robert Soule
Elizabeth Tylson
Sylvester Beckett
1560 - 1620
Elizabeth Hill
1560 - 1620
Robert Soule
Elizabeth Tylson
Sylvester Beckett
1560 - 1620
Elizabeth Hill
1560 - 1620
Thomas Little Sr
Richard Warren
1579 - 1628
John Warren
Elizabeth Walker
1583 - 1673
Augustine Walker 1564-1514
John Walker
Katheren Bicknell
Edward Winslow
1560 - 1631
Magdelene Oliver
1566 -
Ralph Jones Sr
1600 -
Veronica Hilton
1604 -
Matthew Fuller
1603 - 1678
Frances Hyde
1605 - 1678

Plymouth's Agent

Robert Cushman
(b. 1577, d. 1625)

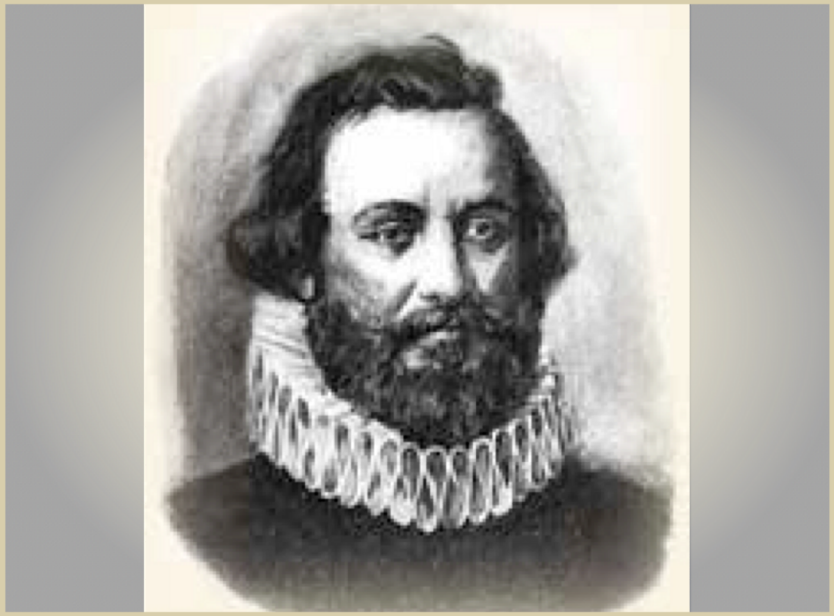
Robert Cushman was a Puritan in the purest sense: he left England for the sole and full purpose of worshipping as he chose, contrary to the dictates of King James.

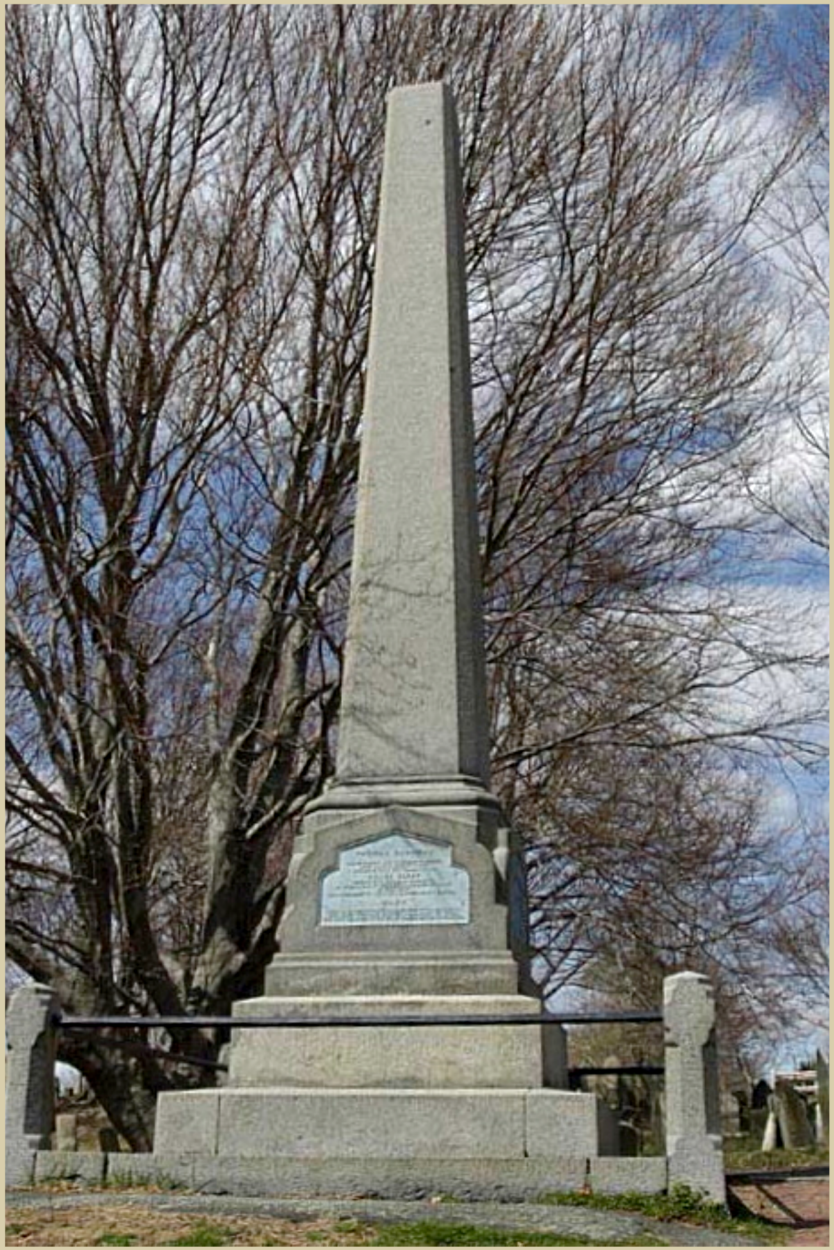
Robert grew up in or near Canterbury, and was apprenticed to a candlemaker named George Weston. At the time, Canterbury was a center for Puritan thinking, with many following the "seditious" belief that church and state should be kept separated. It is possible that Robert's mother, Elizabeth Tilden, may have also followed the Puritan precepts. However, it is certain that the young Robert and his friends were arrested for posting libels throughout the town.

In 1608, Robert moved with the rest of the Puritans to Leiden, Holland, where they felt safe to continue their religious practices, and their numbers increased. Later, when the group decided to attempt a New World venture, Robert and another man, John Carver, were selected to negotiate with the Virginia Company for a colony of their own. In Leiden, Robert's wife, Sarah, and two children died, leaving only one son, Thomas.

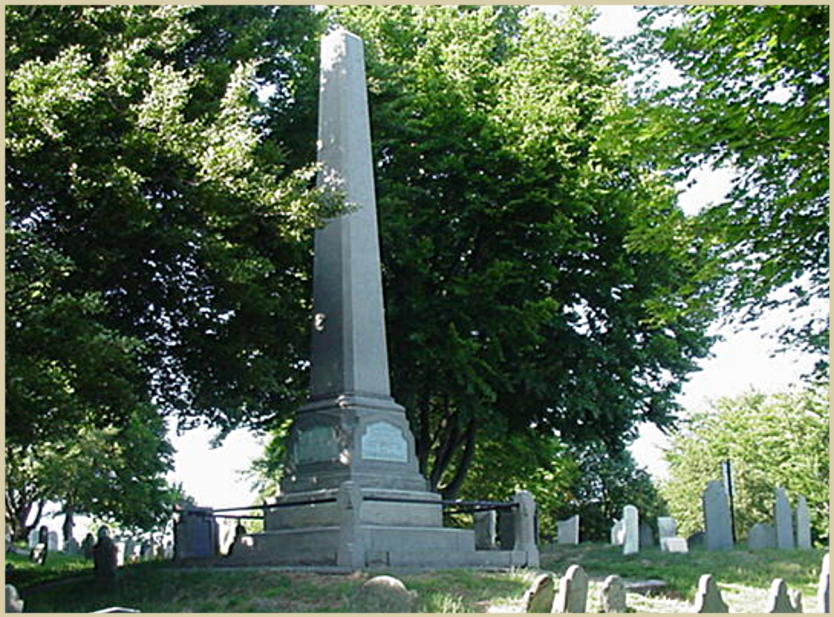
His voyage to the New World was stymied by the *Speedwell*'s unseaworthiness, but Robert and Thomas followed the *Mayflower* in spring 1621 aboard the *Fortune*. Once in Plymouth, he stayed for a mere two weeks, leaving Thomas as a ward of Governor Bradford. Robert returned to England carrying the document known as "Mourt's Relation" that detailed the day-to-day account of the *Mayflower*'s voyage, including the story of the first Thanksgiving.

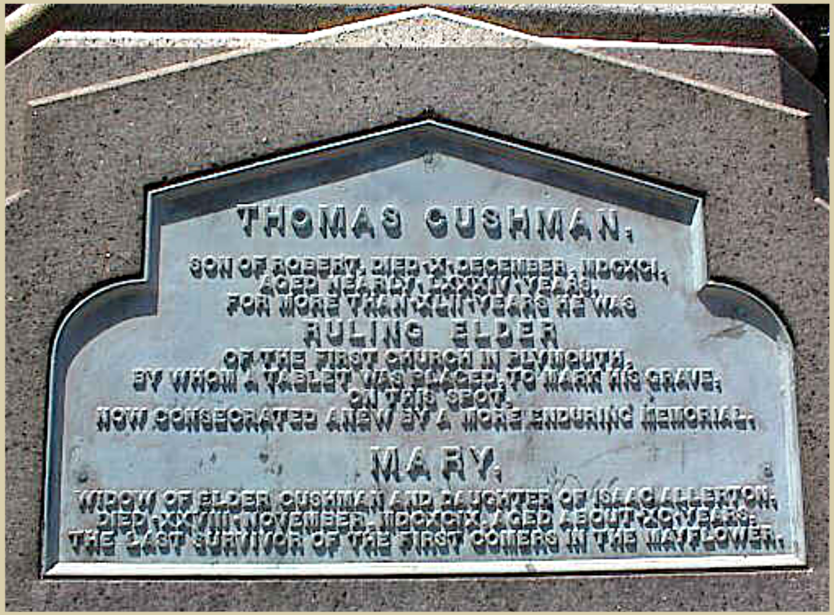
Though he served the colony well in England, the relationship was short. Robert died four years later, in 1625, of the bubonic plague, never again having seen his son.





A portrait of Robert Cushman (upper left) from his last few years in England.
The Cushman monument in Plymouth (right) includes a plaque for this famous ancestor.





Thomas Cushman Sr. is one of the most revered figures from the Plymouth Colony. This is clear from the monument erected to his memory (left), and the preservation efforts for his original headstone (right).

The Elder

Thomas Cushman Sr.
(b. 1607, d. 1691)

Thomas was fourteen years old when he made the four-month-long journey with his father to Plymouth Colony. In the preceding years, he had seen his mother and siblings succumb to disease. Arriving at the colony, they found a sorry lot, as only half of the original colonists survived the first winter.

It was into this situation his father left him as a ward of the governor of the colony, William Bradford. As he grew, Bradford helped secure a future within the colony for Thomas as a property and landowner.

In 1636, after proving himself to the colony and having been named a freeman, Thomas was honored to marry Mary Allerton, daughter of Bradford's secretary, Isaac, and a former passenger of the *Mayflower*. This was a happy, though unusual marriage for the colony, as neither participant was a widow from a former marriage.

The couple was surprisingly long-lived, together for fifty-five years, and bearing eight children: Thomas Jr., Mary, Sarah, Isaac, Elkanah, Feare, Eleazer and Lydia.

During this time, Thomas became more and more a fixture within the church in Plymouth. His father, Robert, had been the deacon for the Pilgrims. In 1649 Thomas was chosen to be their Ruling Elder, the leader of the church in Plymouth.

While Thomas continued to acquire land throughout the colony, and later in the Kingston area, he never relocated. Thomas and Mary remained in Plymouth until his death in 1691. Mary lived another 9 years.

Thomas Cushman's gravestone is one of the six oldest remaining stones on Burial Hill in Plymouth. In recent years it has been protected by an encasing stone.

The Town Elders

Thomas Cushman, Jr.
(b. 1607, d. 1691)

Son of the Elder Thomas Cushman of Plymouth, Thomas Jr. was a vital resident of the town of Plymouth, serving as a surveyor, a councilman, and in other capacities.

He married Ruth Howland, daughter of John Howland, one of the *Mayflower* passengers, in 1664 in Plymouth. Interestingly, prior to their marriage, Thomas was fined five pounds for having made "a mistake" during courtship. Such events were apparently relatively common, and did not negatively affect one's standing in the community.

Thomas and Ruth had three children before she died, possibly in childbirth. Thomas remarried in 1679 to Abigail Fuller, and the couple had another four children. They lived on a large farm north of town, which eventually became part of the town of Plympton, founded after his death.

Robert Cushman
(b. 1664, d. 1757)

The namesake of his great-grandfather, Robert continued the northward progression of the family. He married Persis Lewis in 1697 and they moved to his grandfather's land along the Jones River, which was now part of Kingston, MA. The couple had seven children, and carried on the family tradition of naming their first two sons Robert and Thomas.

Through these generations, the Cushmans maintained a close connection with the church in Plymouth, indeed Isaac Cushman became the Elder there after his father's death. As a result, all these Cushman births and marriages were recorded in Plymouth.

Robert was exceedingly long-lived. The year after Persis's death in 1743, Robert, then age 80 married again, to Prudence Sherman of Marshfield, ten years his junior. Their relationship lasted until his death at age 92.

Joshua Cushman
(b. 1708, d. 1764)

It is unclear what took Joshua Cushman to Connecticut, but his marriage record in 1733 makes it clear that he was recently from Lebanon, Connecticut. He married Mary Soule, another descendant of a Mayflower passenger, and settled on the family land in Duxbury, Mary's hometown. The couple had eight children.

Following in his family tradition, Joshua was a solid member of the town. His only public objection occurred when the town withheld payment to its minister, the Rev. John Robinson. Joshua joined with twelve other notable townsmen to urge the town to resolve the matter, as it was the cause of strife for the community.

After Mary's death in 1750, Joshua married Deborah Ford of Marshfield. He sired another four children, before passing (possibly) while visiting her family home.

Residents of the islands in Muscongus Bay are notorious for their resistance to change. Apollos and his friend, George Prior, fit in quite well with this mentality. (photo by Laura Sebastianelli)

The Frontiersman

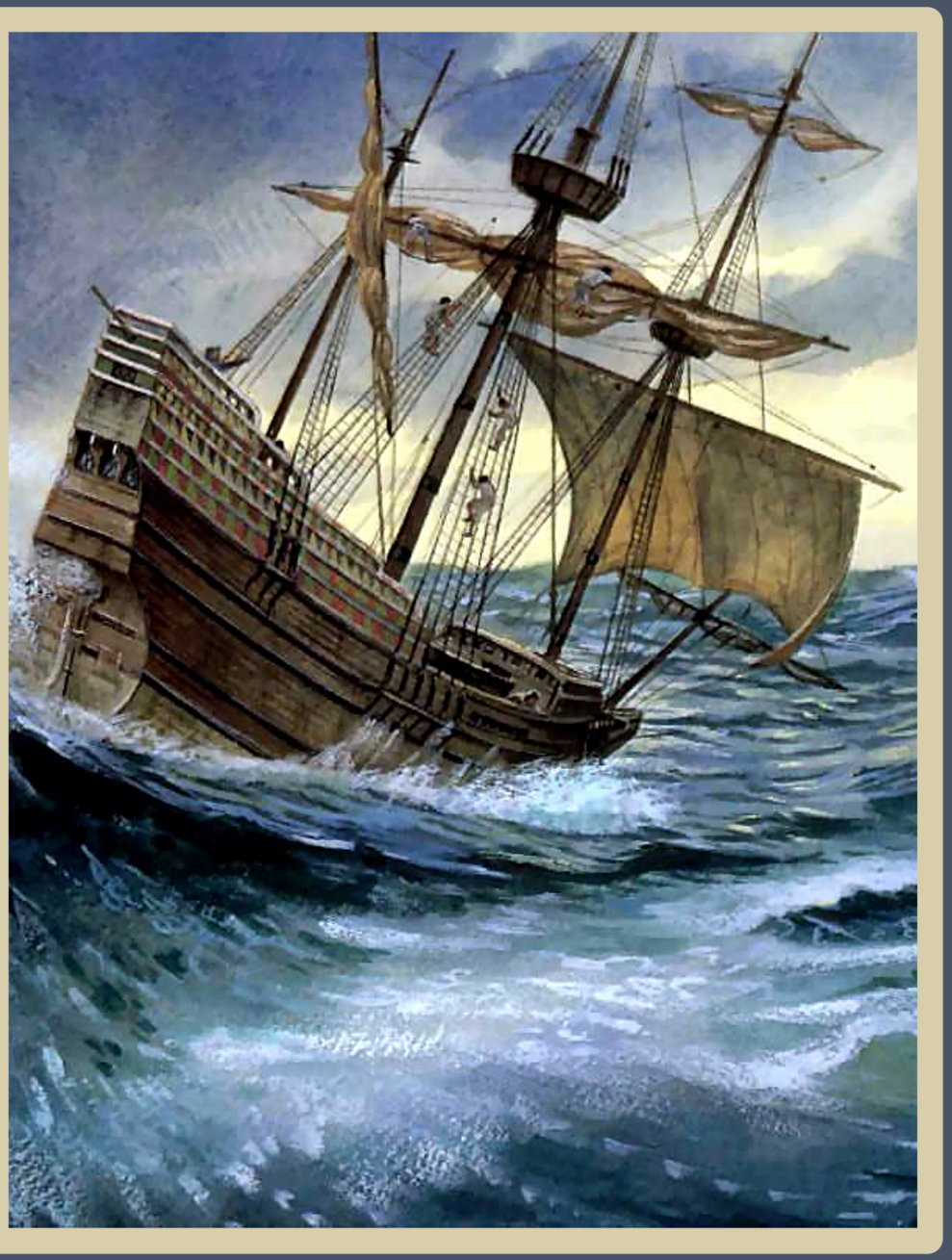
Apollos Cushman
(b. 1744, d. 1811)

Apollos was born in Duxbury, but lived much of his life in Marshfield, MA. He went by the name "Paulus" rather than his given name, which had long been used as a family name by the Cushmans.

In Marshfield/Pembroke, Paulus met and married another *Mayflower* descendant, Eleanor Keene, in 1768. Two years later, the young couple had relocated to the Broad Bay/Muscongus Bay in Maine, as the region was becoming a center for shipbuilding in the wake of the French and Indian War. Their twelve children were all born in Maine.

The region was ripe for new inhabitants. Many of the original German colonists had left after their crops had been destroyed by a plague of insects. This left fully built homesteads empty for the newcomers, and they likely took advantage of that situation. It is also likely that Apollos Cushman and John Prior Jr. knew each other before relocating to Maine. They both had roots in Duxbury, and they both moved north at about the same time. Certainly the two families were close, as Paulus's daughter Lydia married John Prior's son George in 1796, and his son Ezra Cushman married John's daughter Ruth in 1802. Perhaps scandalously, two of the couples' children also married, creating a household of double-first cousins.

Both Apollos and John died in the Waldoboro area around 1810. Their children moved from Waldoboro to Bremen's Long Island, one of the large islands in Muscongus Bay, perhaps in an attempt to escape civilization. These islands are still known for resistance to change (e.g., a nearby island's first flush toilet arrived in 2009).



The Journey

The Mayflower's passage was beset with trouble from the beginning. Its departure was delayed so long that winter storms had set in, making the crossing a wild journey. The ship arrived to an already frozen landscape, and the passengers were forced to remain on board until spring.

Of the 102 Mayflower passengers, five died during the voyage, and another 45 died waiting to disembark. Many more died over the next few years from the difficult conditions they found. In all, only 29 of the passengers survived to bear descendants in the new World.

Twelve of those passengers are direct ancestors of Marjorie (Cutler) Senechal. Of this group, all but one were part of the Puritan congregation, either as parishioners or servants. One, Richard Warren, had been recruited by the London Merchant Adventurers, and was thus considered a "stranger" to members of the church. Today they are all considered Pilgrims.

Our Mayflower Ancestors

Isaac Allerton (c.1586 - 1658)

Isaac, wife Mary, and daughter Mary all took the Mayflower voyage. Upon arriving in Plymouth harbor, Isaac joined the group in signing the Mayflower Compact. The elder Mary died soon after, still aboard the vessel.

Initially, Isaac was Governor Carver's (and later Governor Bradford's) assistant and was heavily involved in trying to repay the debts of the new colony. However, the colony funds under his control were poorly managed, becoming mixed with proceeds from his fur trading enterprises in Pentagoet (now Castine, ME). He was eventually banished from Plymouth, moving to New Haven, CT, where he died.

The young Mary Allerton married Thomas Cushman who had arrived in Plymouth several months after the Mayflower finally disembarked. She was the last surviving Mayflower passenger, and died in Plymouth at the venerable age of 83.

Edward Fuller (c.1575 - 1621)

A signer of the Mayflower Compact, Edward and his wife (name unknown) died in the harsh winter months following their arrival in Plymouth. However, they left behind two sons: Samuel in Plymouth, and Matthew in England. Sometime before 1640, Matthew and his family joined his brother in Plymouth Colony.

The family eventually settled in Barnstable, with Matthew serving as a colony leader, as well as being a doctor and a lieutenant in the militia. Matthew's daughter Mary (who had voyaged with her parents) had met her husband-to-be, Ralph Jones Jr. in Plymouth. They joined her parents when they moved to Barnstable, where they remained for the rest of their lives.

In 1671, Matthew was appointed to the colony's Council of War, which was preparing to counter the Indian threat posed by the self-styled King Philip.

John Howland (c.1591 - 1672)

Originally of Huntindonshire, John joined the Puritan congregation as John Carver's secretary (the two may have been related). Carver was the deacon of the congregation, and became the colony's first governor. In Plymouth, John ran the affairs of the Carver household. Both Carver and his wife died in the first year, leaving Howland a free man.

A signer of the Mayflower Compact, Howland continued the Carver legacy, protecting the minor children of the house. He served in various civil capacities in the colony, and joined the exploration of the Kennbec River in search of fur trading sites, trade that helped the colony pay off its debts after the devastation of the first winter.

John and his wife, Elizabeth, moved from Plymouth to Duxbury, then to Kingston. Their house in Plymouth is the only one remaining that once housed Mayflower passengers.

Henry Samson (c.1603 - 1685)

Henry and his cousin Humility joined their uncle (Edward Tilley) and other cousins aboard the Mayflower. For reasons that remain unknown, Henry left his parents and numerous siblings behind in Henlow, Bedfordshire. He was 16 at the time.

Once he came of age, Henry joined a group of 26 men in Plymouth known as "The Purchasers," men who were invested with the London Merchant Adventurers. He joined the early settlers of Duxbury, working farms there in the summer months, but returning to Plymouth for the winters.

In 1636, he married Anne Plummer, who had only just arrived in Plymouth, and they promptly moved to Duxbury. Henry also was granted land in Bridgewater, but never moved there. He and Anne raised nine children. Henry held several civil positions, including arbiter, surveyor and constable, and was seated on numerous juries.

George Soule (c.1594 - c.1678)

George, perhaps of Bedfordshire, joined the Mayflower enterprise in London as an indentured servant of Edward Winslow. Only allotted one acre of land by the colony, he joined the joint-stock company called the Purchasers, in an effort to increase his holdings.

In 1626, he married Mary Buckett, a single woman who had arrived in the colony three years earlier aboard the Anne. In the early years, he and his young family lived with Richard Warren.

About 1633, George gained his freedom and his land holdings began to grow. The family moved to Duxbury, but also held property in Plymouth, Marshfield, Namaskett, Middleboro and Dartmouth. George and Mary had nine children, seven of whom survived them. One son, Nathaniel, was a bit of a troublemaker, convicted of lies, verbal abuse, and lying with a native woman.

John Tilley (c.1571 - c.1621)

John, his wife Joan, daughter Elizabeth, along with his brother Edward and wife Ann, left their home in Henlow, Bedfordshire, to join the Puritans in the Netherlands as members of their congregation. Records in England give John's occupation as "yeoman," but there is little else known about his life.

Upon arrival at Plymouth Colony, John and Edward both embarked on the early exploration of Cape Cod. Whether from disease, cold, or lack of supplies, both of the men and their wives died in the first cruel winter after landing.

Elizabeth, the only survivor of the line, was left orphaned at age 13. She was taken in by John Carver's family. All of the Carver family members died shortly thereafter. This left Elizabeth in the care of John Howland, whom she married several years later. Together, they produced ten children and 88 grandchildren. Elizabeth lived to age 80.

Richard Warren (c.1578 - 1628)

Originally from Hertfordshire, Richard was one of the few English merchants to make the voyage. At the time, he and his wife, Elizabeth, had five daughters. However, he left them in England and sent for them three years later when conditions in the colony had stabilized.

Richard was not a member of the Leiden Congregation, and so was considered a "stranger," or outsider by them. He spent the first few years in Plymouth exploring for settlement expansions and was likely also a member of the Purchasers. Once Elizabeth arrived, they added two sons to the family before he died in 1628.

Elizabeth carried on his work, making agreements through the Purchasers and the colony, at first in his name, and later in her own right. She remained in Plymouth and outlived her husband by 45 years, dying at more than 90 years of age.

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Dedication

This book is dedicated to Daniel Senechal and Courtney Schuster as they join hands in marriage.

As you sail toward your future, may this story of your past provide courage and confidence that, together, you too can weather the stormy seas.