

30 October 1988

Dear Sherlene:

We really want to thank you for the compilation of Hall pedigree charts that you sent. It is great to have them all put together in one set like this, and less bulky than carrying around a whole Book of Remembrance. (Still, for reading and contemplation Mom's Langford book is still tops. I will never figure out how she was able to pull all that together while riding herd on seven -- shall we say -- extremely individualistic? children.)

Anyway, you asked me to list the common ancestors between the charts you sent for the Halls and my own pedigree. Here is at least a partial compilation:

1. MERRIMAN. Your ancestor Mary Merriman (who married Thomas Curtis in 1674 and became the maternal grandmother of Caleb Hall, father-in-law of Solomon Tracy) was the younger sister of my sixth great-grandmother Hannah Merriman, who married John Ives.

John and Hannah became the great-great-grandparents of Mary Ives who married Jeremiah Bingham, father of my 3rd great grandfather Lucius A. Bingham (discussed below). Therefore, I'm interested in whatever you find in Olde Wallingford about the parents (Captain Nathaniel and Joan Merriman) of these sisters.

So far as I knew, the Merrimans had not been traced to England, even though their rather unusual name would seem to make that easier than for many other families (Wood for example). Do you have a copy of the will George Merriman wrote in London on Halloween in 1655? Does it mention Nathaniel? When was it proved? (The date the will was proved is a better substitute death date than the date the will was executed, since people often live many years after writing their last wills.)

2. BROOKS. Your ancestor Eunice Brooks (wife of Samuel Carter and great-grandmother of Deacon Joseph Fairbanks, father of Molly (Fairbank) Jones, the maternal grandmother of Nancy Naomi (Alexander) Tracy) was the older sister of my seventh great-grandmother Joanna Brooks, who married David Roberts of Woburn, Mass., and became the grandparents of Johannah Roberts, who married Nathan Draper Jr., of Killingly, Connecticut. Their son Nathan Draper Jr. was a Revolutionary War soldier. After the war he moved to Granville, New York, where his daughter Hannah or Hannah Laura Draper married Ephraim Ferrin and gave birth to the first eleven of his twenty-six children. (I hardly ever think of him without Ephraim's blessing from Israel coming to mind -- Ephraim is a fruitful bough, whose branches trail over the wall. In this case, the branches trailed west to Wisconsin and Iowa.)

More local color: the fifth child of the twenty-six, Charles Chauncey Ferrin, was a member of the Mormon Battalion. The ninth child, Sarah Ann,

married my great-great grandfather John Wood in 1841 in Walworth County, Wisconsin. Charles had joined the Church there, and eventually his sister and her family followed him to Western Iowa. Charles' descendants, as far as I know, still own the townsite of Preparation, formed by a splinter group which chose to follow John Thompson rather than Brigham Young. Thompson was exposed as a fraud after a couple of years, and almost all the settlers scattered except for the Perrins, who sunk some serious roots.

I notice that you have Eunice Monsall listed as the mother of the Brooks sisters. My information, which may well be inaccurate, shows the mother's name as Eunice Mousall, the daughter of Dea. John and Eunice Mousell or Mousall. The name is reminiscent of the Moselle region of France and Belgium, and I wonder if John's ancestors might not have been Huguenot refugees from the persecutions which preceded the Edict of Nantes. Or it could be a much older name in England than that -- haven't looked into that aspect of it at all.

On some of these, all I have is simply a copy of the family group sheet Archives from the Genealogy Library in Salt Lake. However, I did some original research on the Perrins, Drapers and their antecedents. In fact, I had a cousin (in Iowa) who longed for many years to join the DAR, but was unable to do so. Going on a reference in an old family letter that indicated that Sarah Perrin's Grandfather Draper (first name unknown) was a Revolutionary War soldier, I finally put bits and pieces together and identified him as Nathan Draper Jr., and researched the family in original records for several generations back. So I feel closer to this line than to some.

I have that Eunice Mousall was the first wife of Dea. John Brooks, and that she died 1 Jan 1684. John died 29 Sept 1691 in Woburn. In addition, I think your listing of Hyrum Brooks as the father of Dea. John Brooks is in error. My notes show that the father was the venerable Henry Brooks, supposed to have been born in Scotland before 1600, and who died 12 Apr 1683 in Woburn.

Henry was responsible for me getting a pizza once. Steve Killpack, a law school friend, was amused at my chart making during some of our more boring classes. He bet me a pizza that I couldn't find a common ancestor between us. It was tough (the challenge, not the pizza) because he had never done any family history research. He knew next to nothing beyond the names of his grandparents. Nevertheless, I was able to find traces of most of his family in the Four Generation Sheets (which surprised him because his parents were totally inactive). Most of the lines went back to Scandinavia or to the English Midlands rather quickly, but once I determined that he had just one great-great-grandparent of New England extraction, so I followed that back. When I was about at the last ancestor discoverable by this method I found that he was descended from Henry Brooks, coincidentally just a couple of weeks after I myself had discovered the Roberts line and the Brooks progenitors. Steve paid up on the pizza.

3. STONE. Your ancestor Gregory Stone (1592), son of David and Ursula Stone, was the kid brother of my ninth great grandfather Deacon Simon Stone, chr 9 Feb 1585/6 at Great Bromley, Essex. Simon moved to Watertown, Mass. and heads my American Stone line, thus:

Simon Jr. (1631-1707/8) md. Mary Whipple;

John Stone (1658-1741) of Groton, a bachelor until age 40, md. Sarah Nutting, the widow of Matthias Farnsworth;

James Stone (1701-1783) married Mary daughter of Joseph Farwell;

James Stone (1727-1788) md his second cousin Deborah Nutting;

Josiah Stone (1771-) md Sarah Daby; they became the parents of

Sarah Stone, b. 21 Apr 1805 or 1806 at Londonderry, New Hampshire, the wife of Lucius Augustus Bingham, great-great-grandfather of Harold Bingham Lee and my 3rd great-grandfather (my father's Grandma McCue's grandfather).

Lucius' daughter Lucia Bingham, my great-great-grandmother, was born in Nauvoo in 1842. She died due to the rigors of crossing Iowa after the expulsion from Nauvoo, and Lucius md (2) Rebecca White. Lucius died between 1853 and 1857, probably due to some other frontier hardship. Rebecca married Charles Laponteur, a Frenchman who had a trading post that was the start of the community of Little Sioux, Iowa. Sometime along in here Charles' Sioux wife (the mother of his seven children) was murdered, and he married Lucius' widow Rebecca. Meanwhile, Lucia (or Lucy) had married John Bagby, a frontiersman who worked for LaPonteur. Lucy had nine children, only two of whom survived childhood. Lucy herself did not live to see her 28th birthday. Her only grandchildren were my Grandmother, Leora McCue Wood (who died in 1927), and her brother Roy.

4. STONE (BIS). A second Stone connection is one that you have with yourself as well as me. Anna Stone, the mother of Josiah Jones of Watertown, was, as you note, the daughter of Deacon Simon and Joan (Clark) Stone. What is not clear from your charts is that Dea. Simon (our common ancestor) was the son of David and Ursula Stone, listed on your chart number 51. So Francis Jones (1766-1844), grandfather of Nancy N. Alexander Tracy, was his own sixth cousin. You may want to add to your chart the date of Simon's death -- 22 Sept 1665, and that his wife Joane Clark was the daughter of William Clark.

5. PARKER. One of your first Hall ancestors who had the chance to get married on American soil had the good sense to marry one of my relatives. As you note on chart 10, John Hall, Jr. married Mary Parker in 1666 in New Haven.

By Mary Parker's birthdate, you have the notation "(he was 50?)." I don't get it. Who was 50? In any event, you have her (apparently) as the daughter of Edward and Elizabeth Parker. They were the parents of my ancestor John Parker who married Hannah Bassett. The only complication I perceive is that while you have the christening date of 27 Aug 1648, I have that my ancestor John Parker (son of Edward and Elizabeth) was christened 8 Oct 1648. It's easier to have two children christened six weeks apart than to have them born six weeks apart, but it seems a bit strange. Can you check this out? Maybe your cryptic note really means "she was born in 1650 -- 1648 is wrong." The family group sheet on Edward and Elizabeth was missing from the Archives when

I was looking for this, so I'm shooting a little in the dark.

In any event, my John Parker was the father of:

Elizabeth Parker who married 1696 Ebenezer Clark who was about 22 years her senior. Their oldest daughter was:

Elizabeth Clark (born 1697 in Wallingford) who married Israel Cook. Israel and Elizabeth had a daughter named:

Anne Cook (b. 1727, Wallingford), who married Enos Ives and became the grandmother of Lucius A. Bingham.

I have a couple of additional Parker lines further back in England (including Sir William Parker, standard bearer and privy councilor to Richard III), but haven't tied them in with William Parker the father of Edward of New Haven. So for now we will consider that there is only one Parker connection.

6. GAYLORD. Now for one that is not proved, but only a supposition. You show no parentage for Sarah Gaylord, the wife of John Alexander. But how can she be anything but a descendant of John and Jane (Mallin) Gaylord of Pitminster, Somerset, whose son William (1585-1673) married Mary Walter of Exeter and came to Dorchester, Mass. in 1630 in the ship Mary and John? Gaylord is no common name like Smith or even Parker. William was one of the founders of Windsor, Connecticut. He served as representative to the General Court of Connecticut from 1637 to 1673 (46 years), when he died at age 88. I wonder if any other colonial legislator had served as long as he by that time, or ever compiled such a record of service at all. William had four sons, at least two of whom came to America. I am descended from the youngest, Walter (1622) who married Mary Stebbins. However, my list of Walter's children does not reflect a Sarah, so I suspect that your Sarah is the daughter of one of Walter's brothers (William (1616-1656), John (1618-1689) or Samuel (____-1690)).

7. TREADWAY. Your ancestor Lydia Treadway (wife of Josiah Jones) was the younger sister of my eighth great-grandmother Elizabeth Treadway, born 3 April 1646 in Watertown, Mass. She married Shadrach Hapgood (one of my favorite ancestral names). Their grandson Shadrach Hapgood (why lose a good name like that?), born 6 Nov 1704 at Harvard, Mass., was the maternal grandfather of Sarah (Daby) Stone, mother-in-law of Lucius A. Bingham.

While we're on the Treadways, I might note that I have a little more than is reflected on your chart. But since this is all from the Salt Lake Archives, it may or may not be correct. I have that Nathaniel Treadway, father of Elizabeth and Lydia, was the son of another Nathaniel Treadway. His wife Sufferance Haynes, of Shaston, Dorset, England, was the daughter of Walter and Elizabeth (Gourd) Haynes. Walter was born in 1583, son of John and Alice (Lambert) Haynes, who were married 23 Oct 1575. John was of Sherborne, Dorset, and she was from Semley, where she died after 2 March 1623. Their son

Walter (the father of Sufferance) died 14 Feb 1664/5..

8. GRISWOLD. Mary Griswold, the wife of Jonathan Tracy, was no doubt named for her Aunt Mary (Griswold) Phelps, wife of Lt. Timothy Phelps (son of William Phelps, one of the five original magistrates of the Colony of Connecticut). Timothy and Mary's daughter Anne Phelps married David Porter, son of John and Joanna (Gaylord) Porter. David and Anne's daughter Jerusha Porter (1712-1754) married Thomas Perrin of Hebron, Connecticut, and was the grandmother of the Ephraim Perrin referred to above.

9. BACKUS. Your ancestor Stephen Backus of Norwich, Connecticut was the youngest son of the elder William Backus, who apparently died in the summer of 1661. His will, dated 12 June 1661, gave the real estate to his son "Steevin" Backus, with the obligation to care for the widow, Anne (Ffenton) Bingham Backus. To his son Lt. William (my ancestor) he gave "the tooles belonging to the trade of a smith and cutler and what Ivory there is with the bellowes...."

This will also mentions William Backus Sr.'s stepson Thomas Bingham, who is my ancestor, having been christened 5 June 1642 in Sheffield, Yorkshire. Thomas was the youngest son of Thomas and Anne (Ffenton) Bingham, so he still would have been at home when his widowed mother married William Backus. (Reportedly Thomas Bingham Sr. died at sea in 1659, and his widow Anne married William Backus Sr. the same year.)

Much later, Thomas' oldest son Thomas Bingham Jr. (my ancestor) married Hannah Backus, daughter of Lt. William and Elizabeth (Pratt) Backus, 17 Feb 1691/2. Because of the prior relationships of the families, this was sort of like first cousins marrying but they were not related by blood at all. Hannah's father William Backus Jr. had married (1) Sarah Charles about 1659, but Sarah evidently died after the birth of the first three children, as William Jr. married (2) Elizabeth Pratt (daughter of Lt. William Pratt, one of the original proprietors of Hartford, and 4th great-grandfather of Parley P. Pratt) about 1664.

I imagine that Stephen Backus and Thomas Bingham were rather close since they were the same age and living in the same house for seven years after Thomas' mother married Stephen's father. They both got married in the same month -- December of 1666. I wonder whether it was a double wedding. Thomas' marriage to Mary Rudd took place 12 December 1666, but I don't have an exact day for the marriage of Stephen Backus and Sarah Spencer. (No known connection there to my Spencer ancestors -- our branch always held that the Connecticut Spencers were no good.)

One more connection: after Sgt. Thomas Bingham died, on April 5 1710, aged only 42, Hannah (Backus) Bingham married (2) 4 March 1711/2 Daniel Tracy, son of Lt. Thomas Tracy. Daniel must have been brave or foolhardy, because he was not only marrying Hannah but also taking on her NINE children, the youngest (my ancestor Joseph Bingham) a terrible two. They evidently took their toll on Daniel, who died 29 June 1728 in Norwich. The hardy Hannah,

still alive, gave marriage a third try with -- what else -- another common relative, Samuel Griswold, the son of Lt. Francis Griswold. They were married 18 Nov 1729, and Samuel died 2 Dec 1740. Hannah lived over eleven more years as a widow.

Incidentally, your chart does not reflect the date of marriage of Rebecca Backus to William Baker -- which my notes show as 13 June 1706, at Canterbury, Connecticut, whence Stephen Backus had moved as a founder in 1692. Also I have 1695 as the year of Stephen's death, at Canterbury. Evidently pioneering one more time did not agree with him. My ancestor (Stephen's bossy older brother) William Backus Jr., on the other hand, stayed put in Norwich, where he died in 1721, evidently close to 90, the last living founder of Norwich.

10. HYDE. Another possibility -- probably less likely than the Gaylords. I am short on information on the Hydes, but I do have that my 8th great grandmother Hester Hyde (born about 1629), who married John Post (grandfather of Ruth Post who married Joseph Bingham in 1731) of Norwich, was the daughter of one William Hyde. Could this William be tied into your Hydes? From your researches in Norwich, do you know anything more about them? I recognize that your Hydes were in Cambridge, Mass. rather than Connecticut, but you know how many of the early Connecticut settlers came from Massachusetts Bay.

In that regard, John and Hester's son Samuel Post married Ruth Lathrop, of the family (originally in Scituate and Barnstable in Massachusetts) featured in that old church film about genealogy -- they (Rev. John Lathrop and his family) were the ancestors of Joseph Smith who were persecuted for their nonconformist religious views. So it is far from unusual to find the earliest landing of an early Connecticut family to be in Massachusetts rather than Connecticut proper.

Further, I note that there is a William Hyde another generation back on your line, so the name was common to both families (and probably three fourths of the English families of the time). Do you have family group sheets on them?

11. ROLFE. Here's one that's a little sketchy. Look at your chart 25. Unfortunately, I do not have family group records at all for my ancestors Daniel and Hannah (Bradstreet) Rolfe, parents of Hannah Rolfe (born 1651) who married Thomas Colburn, parents of Hannah Colburn (b. 1673) who married Joseph Farwell 23 Jan 1695/6 in Chelmsford, Mass. They were the parents of Mary Farwell (b. 5 Feb 1709 in Groton), wife of James Stone. Might not Hannah (Rolfe) Colburn's father Daniel have been the brother of your Hannah (Rolfe) Dole, daughter of Henry Rolfe? It sounds Rolfe with possibilities.

12. THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU. Finally, in looking through all this stuff I discovered a new relationship with myself I had missed before. You

remember Hannah Merriman of Wallingford, born 16 May 1651 (was she born in Wallingford? -- the Archive sheet doesn't show) to Capt. Nathaniel Merriman and his wife Joan. Well, her husband John Ives, christened 29 Dec 1644, was the son of William and Hannah (Dickerman) Ives. OK so far? William, it seems, died about 1648 leaving Hannah (Dickerman) Ives with eight small children. So Hannah (the mother) married (2) 7 Nov 1648 William Bassett. By and by, she had another child, Hannah Bassett, born 13 Sept 1650 at New Haven, who married the John Parker son of Edward and Elizabeth I mentioned earlier. So my ancestor Mary (Ives) Bingham, born in 1766, was her own fourth cousin.

Well, this has been a good way to get reacquainted with my Bingham ancestry, which I haven't done much with for quite a while. Hope you don't get hopelessly lost in the above minutiae. But nine definite common ancestors and two possibles is not bad at all. The storage are on this stupid computer only has room for 17 more words, so I have to sign off.