

MARTHA (RUGGLES) CURTIS, DAUGHTER OF BENJAMIN AND DORCAS (WHITING) RUGGLES OF NEW BRAINTREE, MASSACHUSETTS

By Steven T. Beckwith and H. Allen Curtis

August 25, 1757 was a glorious day for the Ruggles family of New Braintree, Massachusetts. The Reverend Benjamin Ruggles, minister of the New Braintree Congregational Church, performed two marriages. His known daughter, Dorcas Ruggles,¹ married Edward Smith, and Martha Ruggles married Ebenezer Curtis.² But was Martha a daughter of the minister? Might she be a niece or even a widowed sister-in-law?

The main purpose of this article is to show that Martha was, indeed, an unrecorded daughter of the Reverend Benjamin⁴ (*Samuel*³⁻², *Thomas*¹) and Dorcas (Whiting) Ruggles.³ New Braintree vital records include several Ruggles marriages, the death of Reverend Benjamin on 12 May 1782 at age 81 years, 10 months, 8 days, and the death of “Madam Rugles” on 5 September 1778.⁴ Benjamin Ruggles, Yale 1721, Harvard 1724, was ordained pastor of the West Parish, also called Lakeville, in Middleborough, Massachusetts, then became the first pastor of the First Church at New Braintree in 1754. There he remained the rest of his life.⁵ The births of the first three of Benjamin’s children

¹ Lucius R. Paige, *History of Hardwick, Massachusetts, with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co., 1883), 481; Henry Stoddard Ruggles, *Ruggles Genealogy: The Ruggles Family in England and America* (Boston: T. R. Marvin & Son, 1892), 58; Marston Watson, *Royal Families, Vol. 1, Thomas Dudley* (Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co. 2002), 80-81. Franklin Ladd Bailey, *The Genealogy of Thomas⁴ Ruggles of Roxbury, 1637, to Thomas⁹ Ruggles of Pomfret, Conn. and Rutland, Vt.* (n.p.: n.p., 1896), 19, does not follow Benjamin’s family.

² *Vital Records of New Braintree, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1904), 110.

³ Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 479-81, treats this Ruggles couple but mentions no daughter Martha, nor does Ruggles, *Ruggles Genealogy* [note 1], 58. A second edition of the latter work in two volumes (Wakefield, Mass.: the author, 1917) [FHL 1,454,556] does not treat the Martha Ruggles who married Ebenezer Curtis.

⁴ *Vital Records of New Braintree* [note 2], 110, 152. The inscription on the gravestone of Dorcas Ruggles (photographed by Steven T. Beckwith in June 1994 in the cemetery at the Congregational Church, Oakham and Hardwick Roads in New Braintree) begins, “In memory of Dorcas amiable Confort of Benjamin Ruggles who died Sep^t 5th 1778 in y 76th year of her age.” Thus she was born about 1703. Watson, *Royal Families* [note 1], 81, mistakenly identifies Dorcas (Whiting) Ruggles as the daughter of Oliver Whiting, born 21 March 1692/3. She was instead the daughter of Samuel³ (*Samuel*²⁻¹) and Elizabeth (Read) Whiting, who were married at Dunstable, Massachusetts, 27 January 1686/7 (Frederic W. Bailey, *Early Massachusetts Marriages Prior to 1800*, 3 vols. [New Haven, Conn.: Bureau of American Ancestry, 1897-1914; repr. 3 vols. In 1, Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1968], 3:56. Dorcas married Benjamin Ruggles at Billerica, Massachusetts, 30 December 1725 (Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 481; Rev. Henry A. Hazen, *History of Billerica, Massachusetts, with a Genealogical Register* (Boston: A Williams and Co., 1883), 157; *Vital Records of Billerica, Massachusetts, to the Year 1750* (Boston: NEHGS, 1908), 330, her birth not recorded there). See also William Whiting, *Memoir of Rev. Samuel Whiting, D.D. and of his Wife, Elizabeth St. John* (Boston: Rand, Avery & Co., 1873), 195-200, for this branch of the Whiting family.

⁵ Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 481; Clifford K. Shipton, *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates*, 18 vols. [Boston: Massachusetts Historical Society, 1873-1999], 7:646-50; Franklin Bowditch Dexter, *Biographical Sketches of the Graduates of Yale College*, 6 vols. (New York: Henry Holt & Co., 1885-1912), 1:257-58; Frederick Lewis Weis, *The Colonial Clergy and the Colonial Churches of New England*,

are recorded in Middleborough vital records: Benjamin on 15 December 1726, Mary on 10 December 1728, and Dorcas on 21 February 1730/1.⁶ Unfortunately, church records, which surely contained their baptisms and those of later children, are lost.⁷ Lucius Paige, in his history of Hardwick, lists several more children referring vaguely to “other sources”: Whiting born in 1733, Lucy born in 1740, Betsey born in 1745, and perhaps Nancy.⁸ Henry S. Ruggles includes Nancy with no qualification and adds Samuel born 13 January 1742.⁹ Marston Watson lists all the above.¹⁰ None of these studies mention Martha. There is no probate record for Benjamin, who outlived his wife. No land records that reveal Martha’s identity have been found.

It is unlikely that Martha Ruggles would have been living alone at New Braintree, but the fact that she married on the same day as Dorcas, does not mean that she was necessarily her sister. Nevertheless, the chances are good that she was closely related to the only Ruggles family living in New Braintree. In fact, following Martha in her married life does lead to a record that identifies her as a daughter of Benjamin and Dorcas (Whiting) Ruggles.

The Lives of Ebenezer and Martha (Ruggles) Curtis

Prior to marrying Martha, Ebenezer Curtis, described as a blacksmith, bought two properties in New Braintree, on 2 July 1756 and 4 May 1757.¹¹ His occupation is a key to tracing the couples many moves. Between the dates of those two deeds, Ebenezer, along with Martha’s brother, Whiting Ruggles, served in the Crown Point Expedition from 20 September to 5 December 1756 under Captain Paul Mandell.¹²

Their first two children were born while Ebenezer and Martha Curtis were still living in New Braintree and a third was born at Athol, Massachusetts, in 1763.¹³ On 7 October 1760 Ebenezer Curtis of New Braintree District, blacksmith, and his wife Martha sold their homestead on the Ware River, seventy acres with house and other buildings, to Wareham Warner.¹⁴ They apparently owned no land in Athol.

By 1765 the Curtis family was living in Warwick, Massachusetts, where they had

(Lancaster, Mass.: Society of Descendants of Colonial Clergy, 1936; repr. Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1977), 178.

⁶ Barbara Lambert Merrick and Alicia Crane Williams, eds., *Middleborough, Massachusetts, Vital Records*, 2 vols. (Boston: Massachusetts Society of Mayflower Descendants, 1986-90), 1:37, 41, 43. Ruggles, *Ruggles Genealogy* [note 1], 58 has only Benjamin’s birth.

⁷ D. Hamilton Hurd, ed., *History of Plymouth County, Massachusetts* (Philadelphia: J. W. Lewis & Co., 1884), 969.

⁸ Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 481; Shipton, *Sibley’s Harvard Graduates* [note 5], 7:649-50, lists all these except Nancy.

⁹ Ruggles, *Ruggles Genealogy* [note 1], 58.

¹⁰ Watson, *Royal Families* [note 1], 81.

¹¹ Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 39:3 (FHL 0,843,175); 38:389 (FHL 0,843,174).

¹² Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 268. A muster roll dated Boston 8 June 1757 for Paul Mandell’s Company says Ebenezer served from 20 September to 12 November 1756 (Massachusetts State Archives, Muster Rolls, 95:69).

¹³ *Vital Records of New Braintree* [note 2], 18; *Vital Records of Athol, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1910), 23.

¹⁴ Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 52:55.

two more children, and lost their son Nathaniel.¹⁵ While no purchase is recorded, in November 1768 Ebenezer Curtis of Warwick, blacksmith, sold a hundred acres, the north half of “Severances farm” in Warwick, to John White of Roxbury.¹⁶

Their next move was to Windsor, Vermont. According to a town history, Ebenezer Curtis “was a *blacksmith* from Warwick in the Province of Massachusetts, an active patriot, a delegate to some of the early conventions, and one of Windsor’s representatives to the first Vermont legislature.”¹⁷ The Curtises lived at Windsor for some seventeen years. On 30 April 1770 Ebenezer Curtis, again called “blacksmith,” purchased “four whole rights [or] shares of land in Windsor.”¹⁸ He and Martha joined the Congregational Church of Cornish, New Hampshire, just across the Connecticut River from Windsor, on 4 May 1770, having been recommended by the Warwick Congregational Church.¹⁹ On 3 April 1774 Ebenezer and Martha were among several couples requesting dismissal in order to form a church at Windsor.²⁰

Ebenezer appears to have been continuously involved in the politics of the day in Windsor. In May 1770 he was involved in the famous confrontation between Sheriff Whipple of Cumberland County, New York, and the band of rioters composed of residents of Windsor, upon the issue of the New Hampshire grants.²¹ Ebenezer Curtis of Windsor served as ensign in Lt. William Cooper’s company of the “Upper Regiment [Cumberland Co.],” Vermont, according to a list dated 15 August 1775.²² Although no record of his appointment has been found, Ebenezer was referred to as “Capt.” at a meeting in Windsor on 6 August 1776.²³ In May 1777, Ebenezer as “Town Clark,” recorded that “it was put to vote whether the Town would proceed to Act according to orders from the State of New York: Voted in the negative by a great majority.”²⁴ On 30 April 1779 the Court of Confiscation, whose members were appointed by the general assembly of the State of Vermont, appointed Capt. Ebenezer Curtis “a Commissioner for the sale of Confiscated Estates.” The commission document was signed 16 July 1779 by

¹⁵ “Copy of Records of Births, Marriages and Deaths, in the town of Warwick, No. 1,” 5,7, 191 (FHL 1,888,692).

¹⁶ Hampshire County, Massachusetts, Deeds (housed at Springfield, Hampden County), 9:269. The day and year (9th year of George III) concealed by tape in the margin, but it was acknowledged 9 November 1768.

¹⁷ Henry Steele Wardner, *The Birthplace of Vermont, A History of Windsor to 1781* (New York: Charles Scribner’s Sons, 1927), 185.

¹⁸ Windsor, Vermont, Deeds, 1:1 (FHL 0,029,247), recorded on 11 November 1783 by Ebenezer Curtis himself, who was town clerk at the time.

¹⁹ George Walter Chamberlain, “Church Records and Marriage Records at Cornish, N.H., 1768-1805,” *Register* 72 (1918):281.

²⁰ *Ibid* at 72:280; Ezra Hoyt Byington, *History of the First Congregational Church of Windsor, Vermont* (Windsor, Vt.: Journal Co., 1898), 50.

²¹ Wardner, *The Birthplace of Vermont* [note 17], 150-51, 165. Wardner contains 39 references to Ebenezer Curtis.

²² Vermont General Assembly, *Rolls of the Soldiers in the Revolutionary War, 1775 to 1783*, John E. Goodrich, ed. (Rutland, Vt.: Tuttle Co., 1904), 825, “copied from B.H. Hall’s *History of Eastern Vermont*, Appendix pp. 771-73.”

²³ Lewis Cass Aldrich and Frank R. Holmes, eds., *History of Windsor County, Vermont With Illustrations and Biological Sketches of Some of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers*, 2 vols. (Syracuse, N.Y.: D. Mason & Co., 1891), 1:54.

²⁴ Aldrich and Holmes, *History of Windsor County* [note 23], 1:290.

Governor Thomas Chittenden.²⁵ Finally, Ebenezer served as judge of probate in the Windsor District from 1782 to 1786.²⁶

As town clerk Ebenezer and recorded many deeds. Occasionally, his children acted as witnesses. For instance, his sons John and Ebenezer, Jr. witnessed the signing of a deed on 25 February 1782.²⁷ Then on 1 May 1784 Ebenezer sold land at Windsor to his son John. Nathaniel and Lucy Curtis witnessed the signing of the deed.²⁸ Thus, the next son to be born to Ebenezer and Martha after the death of Nathaniel in 1767 must have been another Nathaniel. On 27 June 1782, Ebenezer, was elected deacon.²⁹ However, on 3 November 1787 Ebenezer and Martha Curtis were dismissed from the Windsor church.³⁰

On 5 March 1786, Ebenezer Curtis purchased land in Hardwick, Massachusetts, from Edward and Dorcas (Ruggles) Smith [his sister-in-law and her husband].³¹ At the 1790 census Ebenezer was living at Hardwick with two other males over sixteen, one under sixteen and three females.³² By an undated deed, acknowledged 28 May 1792, Ebenezer Curtis of Hardwick [no occupation stated] and his wife Martha sold two tracts of land, ninety acres and thirty acres, in Hardwick to Ephraim Doane.³³

On 1 July 1792, "Nathaniel Curtis late of the County of Worcester in the State of Massachusetts, now of Schuyler's patent in the County of Otsego, in the State of New York, farmer" purchased land in Otsego County, New York³⁴. Then on 25 June 1793 Nathaniel Curtis, now a resident of Richfield, Otsego County, New York, sold land in Richfield.³⁵ On 1 September 1797 Nathaniel and his wife Huldah sold land in Richfield to Nathaniel's father, Ebenezer. The Joseph Curtis who witnessed the signing of the deed was probably Ebenezer's youngest son.³⁶ In 1800 at Richfield "Eberf Curtice" had a male 16-26, himself over 45, and a female over 45 in his household.³⁷ The first Congregational Church of Richfield was established on 12 September 1803 with Ebenezer and Martha Curtis listed as the first two members. Ebenezer was appointed moderator and clerk of

²⁵ Mary Greene Nye, ed., *State Papers of Vermont, Volume Six, Sequestration, Confiscation, and Sale of Estates*, (n.p.: Rawson C. Myrick, Secretary of State, 1941), 27, 32-33.

²⁶ Hamilton Child, *Gazetteer and Business Directory of Windsor County, Vt., for 1883-1884*, (Syracuse, N.Y.: Hamilton Child, 1884), 36.

²⁷ Windsor, Vermont, Deeds 1:23-24 (FHL 0,029,247).

²⁸ Windsor, Vermont, Deeds 1:25 (FHL 0,029,247).

²⁹ Byington, *First Congregational Church of Windsor* [note 20], 50.

³⁰ *Ibid.*

³¹ Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds 112:143-45 (FHL 0,843,376).

³² *Heads of Families at the First Census of the United States Taken in the Year 1790: Massachusetts* (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1908; repr.: Baltimore: Genealogical Publishing Co., 1973), 221.

³³ Worcester County, Massachusetts, Deeds, 115:258.

³⁴ Otsego County, New York, Deeds, B:161-63 (FHL 1,023,764).

³⁵ Otsego County, New York, Deeds, I:316-18 (copy of this deed and the one cited in note 36 received from the Clerk's Office, Otsego County Court House, Cooperstown, New York).

³⁶ Otsego County, New York, Deeds, H:325-27. Witnesses were Darius Eaton, Joseph Curtis, Sam'l Stewart, and Thaddius Loomis. On 2 March 1805 both Nathaniel and Hulda acknowledged the deed.

³⁷ 1800 U.S. Census, Richfield, Otsego County, New York, roll 25, p. 52. Nathaniel Curtis appears on the same page.

the church.³⁸

Ebenezer Curtis made his last will and testament at Richfield on 8 May 1805 and it was proved at Otsego County on 30 March 1807. Named heirs were Ebenezer's wife Martha and their seven children: John Curtis, Hannah Smith, Ebenezer Curtis, Lucy Brown, Nathaniel Curtis, Sally Clark, and Joseph Curtis. Ebenezer called himself a blacksmith and bequeathed his blacksmith utensils to his son Nathaniel.³⁹

Again Nathaniel Curtis led the way, this time north to Adams, Jefferson County, New York. On 17 March 1807 he purchased property there.⁴⁰ Two sources confirm that this was the same Nathaniel Curtis. In late 1822 Lucinda, daughter of Nathaniel Curtis, joined the Presbyterian Church at Adams and in 1825, with her husband, "Mr. Freeman," left that church to join the Baptist Church.⁴¹ John Freeman, who had been a deacon in the Baptist Church for over forty years, was of Ellisburgh, a town adjacent to Adams. He "married Lucy, daughter of Nathaniel and Huldah (Weston) Curtis."⁴²

Also joining the Adams Church in 1811 was Mrs. Martha Curtis, described as the daughter of "Rev. Mr. Ruggles of New Bedford, Mass."⁴³ While "New Bedford" is disconcerting, it is an understandable error for "New Braintree." Frederick Lewis Weis in his book, *The Colonial Clergy and the Colonial Churches of New England*, listed all the Ruggles men who were clergymen in New England during the colonial era. There were six of them and none had been a minister in New Bedford. Of course, among the six, the Reverend Benjamin Ruggles had been the minister of the New Braintree church from 1754 until his death in 1782.⁴⁴ Since we have followed Martha (Ruggles) Curtis from her marriage in New Braintree to Adams, New York, there seems no reason to doubt that "Rev. Mr. Ruggles of New Bedford, Mass." Was actually Benjamin Ruggles.

The Adams Church records also said that Martha Curtis had been a "professor" (i.e., a church member) for 70 years when she died on 17 December 1826, at the age of 89 years and 3 months.⁴⁵ Thus, if this statement is accurate, Martha Ruggles must have joined the New Braintree church in 1756 (a year before she was married), and been born in August or September 1737. Of the previously known eight children of Benjamin and Dorcas (Whiting) Ruggles, Lucy was born probably about 1735 and Nancy about 1739.⁴⁶ If those dates are at least approximately correct, Martha's 1737 birth date would fit neatly between those of her sisters, Lucy and Nancy.

Genealogical Summary

³⁸ "Records of the First Congregational Church in Richfield, Otsego Co., N. Y., "Presbyterian Historic Society, 425 Lombard Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 1: Church Covenant, 12 (FHL 0,913,446).

³⁹ Otsego County, New York, Wills and Administrations, B:117-19 (FHL 0,947,163).

⁴⁰ Jefferson County, New York, Deeds, C:278 (FHL 0,892,504).

⁴¹ "First Presbyterian Church, Adama, N.Y., Record of Members, Baptisms, Weddings & Funerals, 1802 – 1851," (FHL 0,501,911), pages unnumbered.

⁴² William H. Horton, ed., and Hamilton Child, comp., *Geographical Gazetteer of Jefferson County 1684-1890* (Syracuse, N.Y.: Syracuse Journal Co., 1890), 422.

⁴³ "First Presbyterian Church, Adams" [note 41].

⁴⁴ Weis, *Colonial Clergy* [note 5], 178-79.

⁴⁵ "First Presbyterian Church, Adams" [note 41], "Mrs. Martha Curtis (Widow aged 89, a professor 70 yrs.), 89 yrs., 3 mos., Decr 17, 1826."

⁴⁶ Watson, *Royal Families* [note 1], 81, assigns these dates without documentation.

MARTHA RUGGLES, daughter of Benjamin and Dorcas (Whiting) Ruggles, was born at Middleborough, Massachusetts, about September 1737, based on her age at death. She died at Adams, Jefferson County, New York, 17 December 1826. She married at New Braintree, Massachusetts, 25 August 1757, EBENEZER CURTIS, who was born at Roxbury, Massachusetts, 29 January 1733/4, son of Isaac and Mehitabel (Craft) Curtis.⁴⁷ He died, between 8 May 1805 and 30 March 1807, probably at Richfield, Otsego County, New York.

Children of Ebenezer and Martha (Ruggles) Curtis:

i JOHN CURTIS, b. New Braintree 16 Aug. 1758;⁴⁸ admitted to the church at Windsor, Vt., in 1782;⁴⁹ m. Windsor 19 Dec. 1793 Patty HANNARS and lived there.⁵⁰ He was probably the John Curtis who served as a private in Capt. John Marcy's Co. of militia on a roll dated Windsor 16 March 1781.⁵¹

ii. HANNAH CURTIS, b. New Braintree Feb. 1760,⁵² d. before 7 Dec. 1807;⁵³ m. Windsor 28 Nov. 1782 ASAHIEL SMITH,⁵⁴ b. Farmington, Conn., 5 Oct. 1756, son of Steel and Lois (Spooner?) Smith, d. Windsor 12 June 1846, a Revolutionary pensioner.⁵⁵ Hannah was admitted to the church at Windsor in 1782.⁵⁶

iii. NATHANIEL CURTIS, b. Athol, Mass., 15 May 1763,⁵⁷ d. Warwick, Mass., 2 April 1767.⁵⁸

⁴⁷ *Vital Records of Roxbury, Massachusetts, to the End of the Year 1849*, 2 vols. (Salem, Mass.: Essex Institute, 1925-26), 1:84 (birth), 2:99 (parents' marriage). James M. and William F. Crafts, *The Crafts Family: A Genealogical and Biographical History of the Descendants of Griffin and Alice Craft of Roxbury, Mass., 1630-1890* (Northampton, Mass.: Gazette Printing Co., 1893), 84-85, does not include Ebenezer's marriage and children. "A Genealogy of the Descendants of William Curtis of Roxbury, Mass., Compiled by Harold E. Curtis with the Assistance of Helen Fitch Emery, being an Extension of and Additions to "Records of the Descendants of William Curtis, Roxbury, 1632,"" typescript at NEHGS #189.5 Ebenezer, pp. 1-2 (the first book, *Records of Some of the Descendants of William Curtis, Roxbury, 1632*, was published at Boston by Samuel C. Clarke in 1869) suggests that he married Martha Ruggles and includes some information on their children. The authors have photocopies of Ebenezer's signature on a document concerning his choice of guardian on 30 March 1753 (Suffolk county, Massachusetts, Probate #10372,47:533) and later examples from his career as town clerk at Windsor, Vermont. They are very similar.

⁴⁸ *Vital Records of New Braintree* [note 2], 18.

⁴⁹ Byington, *First Congregational Church of Windsor* [note 20], 52.

⁵⁰ "Records of the Births, Marriages, & Deaths of the Families & Persons in the Town of Windsor in the State of Vermont," 1:96 (FHL 0,029,246); Aldrich and Holmes, *History of Windsor County* [note 23], 1:308.

⁵¹ Vermont General Assembly, *Rolls* [note 22], 352.

⁵² *Vital Records of New Braintree* [note 2], 18.

⁵³ Her husband remarried on that date (Henry E. Perkins, *A New Edition of the Record of the Family of Roswell Smith and Roswell Smith, Second, of the Family of Steel Smith of Farmington, Conn., Windsor, Vermont, and other Localities* (Washington, D.C.: the author, 1921), 37.

⁵⁴ "Records . . . Windsor" [note 50], 1:63.

⁵⁵ Perkins, *Roswell Smith* [note 53], 7, 37, 47. This little book contains an abstract of Asahel's testimony for his pension, S21979, where he gives his birthdate. Perkins was unsure about the maiden name of Steel Smith's wife.

⁵⁶ Byington, *First Congregational Church of Windsor* [note 20], 52.

⁵⁷ *Vital Records of Athol* [note 13], 23.

⁵⁸ "Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Warwick" [note 15], 191.

iv. EBENEZER CURTIS, b. Warwick 24 July 1765;⁵⁹ he was of Henderson, Jefferson Co., N.Y., when he d. 8 Oct. 1829 age 64 of apoplexy.⁶⁰ He was possibly the Ebenezer Curtis who m. Petersham, Mass., 14 Oct. 1789 Sarah Town.⁶¹ He was probably the Ebenezer Curtis who marched on 16 March 1781 as a private in Capt. John Marcy's Co. of militia on a roll dated Windsor 13 April 1781.⁶²

v. LUCY CURTIS, b. Warwick 24 June 1767;⁶³ m. Windsor 28 Jan. 1787 JAMES BROWN, b. Killingly, Conn., 9 Aug. 1767, d. Windsor 6 Jan. 1805, son of Briant and Molly (Dunbar) Brown.⁶⁴

vi. NATHANIEL CURTIS, b. 26 Aug. 1769, probably at Windsor,⁶⁵ d. 14 June 1848 age 78 years, 9 months, 19 days, bur. Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc Township, Genesee Co., Mich.;⁶⁶ m. (1) New Braintree 8 Feb. 1795 HULDAH WESTON,⁶⁷ b. Middleborough, Mass., 10 Feb. 1767, daughter of James and Abigail (Dunham) Weston,⁶⁸ m. (2) CHLOE (FINNEY) CHASE,⁶⁹ who d. 23 Nov. 1842, age 57 years, 3 months, 11 days, bur. with Nathaniel.⁷⁰ She had m. (1) Richard Chase, who d. 1806, probably at Paris, Oneida Co., N.Y.⁷¹ Nathaniel m. (3) Burton, Mich., 25 Feb. 1844 THANKFUL SALSBURY,⁷² who d. 18 June 1848, aged 69 years, 2 months, bur. with Nathaniel.⁷³

vii. SALLY CURTIS, b. ca. 1773, probably at Windsor; possibly the Sally Curtis who m. Hardwick, Mass., 14 July 1793 Nathaniel Clark,⁷⁴ son of Edward and Anna (Jennison)

⁵⁹ "Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Warwick" [note 15], 5.

⁶⁰ "First Presbyterian Church, Adama" [note 41].

⁶¹ *Vital Records of Petersham, Massachusetts, to the End of the year 1849* (Worcester, Mass.: Franklin P. Rice, 1904), 152.

⁶² *Compiled Service Records of Soldiers who Served in the American Army During the Revolutionary War*, NARA microfilm publication M881, roll 987, Wait's Battalion, card no. 3721335; Vermont General Assembly, *Rolls* [note 22], 352.

⁶³ "Births, Marriages, and Deaths in Warwick" [note 15], 7.

⁶⁴ All this is in "Records . . . Windsor" [note 50], 1:2-3.

⁶⁵ A Nathaniel Curtis witnessed Ebenezer's deed at Windsor in 1784. The birth date is from the age of death on his grave stone.

⁶⁶ Ruth Robbins Monteith, "Cemeteries, Genesee County, Michigan" (1952), 1 (FHL 0,927,481). The heading on this page says "Atherton Cemetry, Atherton Road, City of Flint Owned by Burton Township, Record taken 1927-1928 by Miss Rose Van Tiffin, 1932, All bodies removed to Evergreen Cemetery, Grand Blanc Township"; Franklin Ellis, *History of Genesee County, Michigan. With Illustrations and Biographical Sketches of Its Prominent Men and Pioneers* (Philadelphia: Everts & Abbott, 1879), 313, states that in May 1836 Capt. Nathaniel Curtis arrived in Burton Township from Adams, Jefferson County, New York.

⁶⁷ *Vital Records of New Braintree* [note 2], 77.

⁶⁸ John E. Soule and Milton E. Terry, revised by Louise Walsh Throop, *Mayflower Families in Progress: George Soule of the Mayflower and His Descendants in the Fifth and Sixth Generations*, 1st ed., part 1 (Plymouth, Mass.: General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 2000), 7-8.

⁶⁹ "First Presbyterian Church, Adams" [note 41] (Chloe Curtis, wife of Nathaniel Curtis received in 1821 or soon after, her father's name "Finney"). The obituary of Nathaniel's son Plina Curtis (*Berea Advertiser*, 21 February 1884, at Berea, Ohio, Public Library) revealed that his stepmother was the sister of Charles G. Phinney, a noted evangelist, whose name also appears in Adams Church records.

⁷⁰ Monteith, "Cemeteries, Genesee County" [note 66], 1.

⁷¹ Ellis, *History of Genesee County* [note 66], 352.

⁷² Margaret F. Robinson, "Marriage Records, Genesee County, Michigan, 1835-1851," 20 (FHL 0,927,485).

⁷³ Monteith, "Cemeteries, Genesee County" [note 66], 1.

⁷⁴ *Vital Records of Hardwick, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Boston: NEHGS, 1917), 155.

Clark.⁷⁵

viii. JOSEPH CURTIS, b. probably ca. 1775, probably at Windsor. In the 1810 census of Adams, N.Y., Joseph was listed next to Nathaniel Curtis.⁷⁶ On 25 March 1815 Joseph purchased land in Adams abutting Nathaniel's southeast corner.⁷⁷

Steven T. Beckwith, of Bay Village, Ohio, and H. Allen Curtis, of Williamsburg, Virginia, are both descended from Martha (Ruggles) Curtis and are both members of the Society of Mayflower Descendants through Huldah (Weston) Curtis. Mr. Beckwith, a former president of The Greater Cleveland Genealogical Society; may be contacted at stevenbeckwith@comcast.net; Mr. Curtis may be contacted at buncurtis@juno.com.

⁷⁵ Paige, *History of Hardwick* [note 1], 349

⁷⁶ 1810 U.S. Census, Adams, Jefferson County, New York, roll 602, p. 64.

⁷⁷ Jefferson County, New York, Deeds, G:243-244 (FHL 0,892,506).