

THE MORRILL FAMILY

The Abraham Morrill Family in America - Generation 14.1

By Richard L. Hornor – 25 June 2017

BRANCH OVERVIEW: The Morrill-Moore-Ovitt Branch of the Hornor Family Tree.

NAME	LIFESPAN	POINT OF ORIGIN	MARRIAGES (our line only)
Thomas Morrill	1430-1500	England	No Info
Robert Morrill	1480-1540	Ipswich, Suffolk, England	No Info
Hugh Morrill	1520-1590	England	Married to Elizabeth Carter
Richard Morrill	1561-1615	Hatfield -Broad Oak, Essex, England	Married to Joan Childe
Abraham Morrill	1615-1662	Hatfield -Broad Oak, Essex, England	Married Sarah Clement in Salisbury, MA, 10 June 1645
Jacob Morrill	1648-1718	Salisbury, Essex Co, MA	Married Susannah Whittier in Salisbury, MA, 15 July 1674
Ezekiel Morrill	1675-1732	Salisbury, Essex Co, MA	Married Abigail Wadleigh in Salisbury, MA, 22 Jan 1704
Abner Morrill	1709-1766	Salisbury, Essex Co, MA	Married Lydia Greeley in Amesbury, MA, 20 Nov 1731
Abner Morrill	1741-1829	South Hampton, Rockingham Co, NH	Married Sarah Hoyt in Methuen, MA, 1769
Jonathon Morrill	1776-1860	Methuen, Essex Co, MA	Married Laura Elnora Griswold In Quebec, Canada, 21 Aug 1821
Emily H. Morrill	1825-1906	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Married William H. Moore Jr in Kendall Co, IL, 28 June 1848
Smith Hezekiah Moore	1849-1937	Somonauk, Dekalb Co, IL	Married Ella Ann Ovitt in Little Rock, IL, 25 Dec 1872
Grace Ovitt Moore	1880-1953	Council Grove, Morris Co, KS	Married Guy Lee Hornor in Dry Creek, MO, 14 June 1905
Lee Eldon Hornor	1910-1988	Rolfe, Pocahontas Co, IA	Married Ruby G. Johnson In Reno, NV, 31 July 1931
Richard Lee Hornor	1942-xxxx	Bakersfield, Kern Co, CA	Married Jacquelynn L. Rowell In Minden, NV, 18 May 1962
Stanley Jay Hornor	1966-xxxx	San Mateo, San Mateo Co, CA	Married Crystal King in San Luis Obispo, CA, Feb 1990

HOW ARE WE RELATED TO THE MORRILL FAMILY?

The Morrill family line joined the Hornor Family Tree when William H. Moore Jr. married Emily H. Morrill on 28 June 1848, in Kendall County, Illinois. The paths of the lives of ten generations of our Morrill ancestors leading up to the marriage of William and Emily are described on the following pages and will take us from England and Canada to five states: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Vermont, Illinois and Texas. Note: In the past 400 years the number of Morrills in the U.S. has grown to about 90,000. We have a lot of cousins.

Name:	E. H. Morrill
Spouse:	William, Jr. Moore
Date:	28 Jun 1848
County:	Kendall
State:	Illinois
Source:	Family History Library, Salt Lake City, UT
Microfilm:	1403534
Source Information: Dodd, Jordan, Lathrop Research, comp. <i>Illinois Marriages, 1790-1860</i> [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generous Network, Inc., 2001. Original data. With some noted exceptions all marriage records in this collection can be found at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City, Utah, or available through Family History Centers throughout the United States. For specific source information listed by county see the extended description above or see the source information listed for each entry.	
Description: This database is an index to individuals who were married in the U.S. state of Illinois between 1790 and 1860. Information that may be found in this database for each individual includes their name, spouse's name, marriage date, location, and source. Learn more.	

OUR MORRILL LINE: From Ipswich, England to Fort Worth, Texas

NAME	DATE / PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE / PLACE OF DEATH
Thomas Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England xx-xx-1430 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England xx-xx-1500
Robert Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich, Suffolk, England xx-xx-1480 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ipswich, Suffolk, England xx-xx-1540
Hugh Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England xx-xx-1520 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England xx-xx-1590
Richard Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, England xx-xx-1561 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whitechapel, Middlesex, London, England xx-xx-1615
Abraham Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex, England xx-xx-1615 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roxbury (Boston), MA 20 June 1662 (Eliot Cemetery Roxbury)
Jacob Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 24 Aug 1648 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 23 April 1718
Ezekiel Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 29 Sept 1675 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 11 Oct 1732
Abner Morrill Sr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 12 July 1709 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA 19 Oct 1766 (Meeting House Hill Cemetery)
Abner Morrill Jr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> South Hampton, Rockingham Co, NH 8 May 1741 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanstead, Quebec, Canada 02 Oct 1829
Jonathon Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA xx-xx-1776 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb Co, IL 30 Oct 1860
Emily H. Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stanstead, Quebec, Canada 10 July 1825 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fort Worth, Tarrant Co, TX 7 June 1906

WHERE DID THE MOORES COME FROM?



According to the Morrill Surname, Family Crest and Coats of Arms, it seems that the Morrills were Normans (French) and migrated to England sometime after William the Conqueror defeated the Anglo-Saxons at Hasting in 1066.

“Morrill is an ancient Norman name that arrived in England after the Norman Conquest in 1066. The name Morrill comes from the medieval given name Morel. The name was originally derived from the name More or Moore, a nickname for someone with a dark complexion. This name stems from the Old French word, mean black man.”
Note: Ironically another family name in this branch is Moore.

The reference to dark complexion may indicated that the family was from Southern France, an area that was for a time occupied by Moroccan Arabs (“Moors”) during their 600 year occupation of much of the Iberian Peninsula (Spain and Portugal).

The earliest record that I could find of our Morrill family line is Thomas Morrill (1430-1500), who apparently was from Ipswich, Suffolk County, England. This is an assumption based on the information that his son, Robert, was born there in 1480. The first five generations of Morrills for whom we have records were all from the towns of Ipswich and Hatfield-Broad Oak, in Suffolk and Essex counties respectively, in South-East England, not far from London.

POINT OF ORIGIN: East Anglia, England

Ipswich, Suffolk County

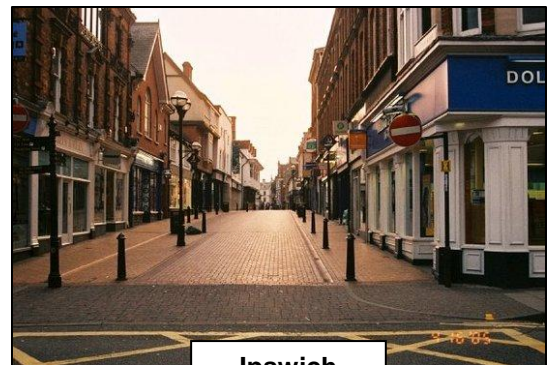


Ipswich is located on the estuary of the River Orwell, about 60 miles north east of London. The town can trace its history back to the Stone-Age. It has been a successive settlement throughout the ages and has been populated by settlers from the Iron-Age, Roman period, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, and Normans. Its port has been one of England's most important for the whole of its history. The modern name is derived from the medieval name *Gippeswic*, probably taken either from an Old Saxon personal name or from an earlier name of the Orwell estuary



Suffolk County

Ipswich is one of oldest, if not the oldest, continuously inhabited town in England. Under the Roman empire, the area around Ipswich formed an important route inland to rural towns and settlements via the rivers Orwell and Gipping. A large Roman fort, part of the coastal defenses of Britain, stood at Walton, and the largest Roman villa in Suffolk stood at Castle Hill. The modern town took shape in Anglo-Saxon times (7th–8th centuries) around Ipswich dock. As the coastal states of north-western Europe emerged from the collapse of the Roman Empire, essential North Sea trade and communication between eastern Britain and the continent (especially to Scandinavia, and through the Rhine) passed through the former Roman ports of London. Ipswich arose as the equivalent to these, serving the Kingdom of East Anglia, its early imported wares dating to the time of King Rædwald, supreme ruler of the English (616–624).



Ipswich

The 7th-century town was centered near the quay. Towards 700 AD, Frisian potters from the Netherlands area settled in Ipswich and set up the first large-scale potteries in England since Roman times. Their wares were traded far across England, and the industry was unique to Ipswich for 200 years, making Ipswich a place of national and international importance.

After the invasion of 869 Ipswich fell under Viking rule. The earth ramparts circling the town centre were probably raised by Vikings in Ipswich around 900 to prevent its recapture by the English. They were unsuccessful. The town operated a mint under royal license from King Edgar in the 970s, which continued through the Norman Conquest until the time of King John, in about 1215. The abbreviation 'Gipes' appears on the coins.

King John granted the town its first charter in 1200, laying the medieval foundations of its modern civil government. In the next four centuries it made the most of its wealth, trading Suffolk cloth with the Continent. During the 14th to 17th centuries Ipswich was a kontor (trading post) for the Hanseatic League (commercial federation of merchant guilds), the port being used for imports and exports to the Baltic.

In the time of Queen Mary the Ipswich Martyrs were burnt at the stake on the Cornhill for their Protestant beliefs. A monument commemorating this event now stands in Christchurch Park. From 1611 to 1634 Ipswich was a major embarkation point for **Puritans** leaving other East Anglian area towns and villages for the Massachusetts Bay Colony during what has become known as **The Great Migration**.

The Puritans

The Puritans were a group of English Reformed Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries who sought to "purify" the Church of England from its "Catholic" practices, maintaining that the Church of England was only partially reformed. Puritanism played a significant role in English history during the first half of the 17th century. One of the most effective stokers of anti-Catholic feeling was John Pym, whose movement succeeded in taking control of the government of London in 1641. However, the Puritans were blocked from changing the established church from within and were severely restricted in England by laws controlling the practice of religion. Their beliefs, however, were transported by the emigration of congregations to the Netherlands, and later to New England in North America.

Hatfield-Broad Oak, Essex County

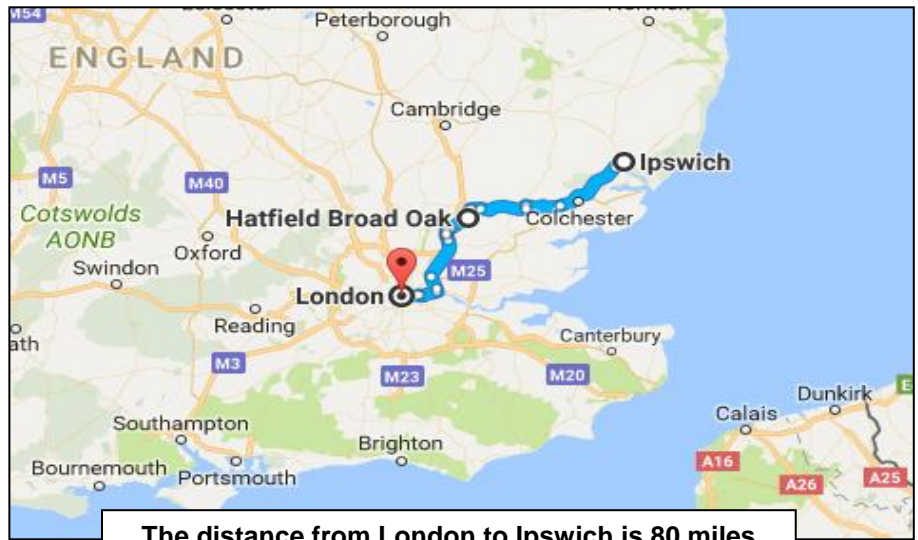


The next three generations of Morrills - Hugh (1520-1590); Richard (1561-1615); Abraham (1615-1662) were all from Hatfield-Broad Oak, which is located between Ipswich and London.

Hatfield Broad Oak is a village in Essex County. It is located near the church of St. Mary the Virgin and former Benedictine priory Hatfield Regis. The settlement of Hatfield was well established by the time of the Norman Conquest in 1066. At one time a royal manor of Harold I (Anglo Saxon King), it fell under the possession of William I (Norman King). Popular for hunting in the neighboring forest, its royal patronage led to its becoming known as Hatfield Regis, or King's Hatfield.



The name Hatfield Broad Oak has been used since at least 1136, and the eponymous oak was mentioned in record in 1295. The forest still contains the fenced remains of a very large oak known as the "Doodle Oak", estimated as 850 years old. Hatfield Forest is an ancient woodland, now in the possession of the National Trust. The modern hedges in Hatfield Broad Oak still follow the boundaries of the ancient forest. The name of the village was recorded in 1381 as "Hatfeld Broodhook". Traces of Bronze Age occupation have been found in the area, including the Portingbury Hills mound in Hatfield Forest.

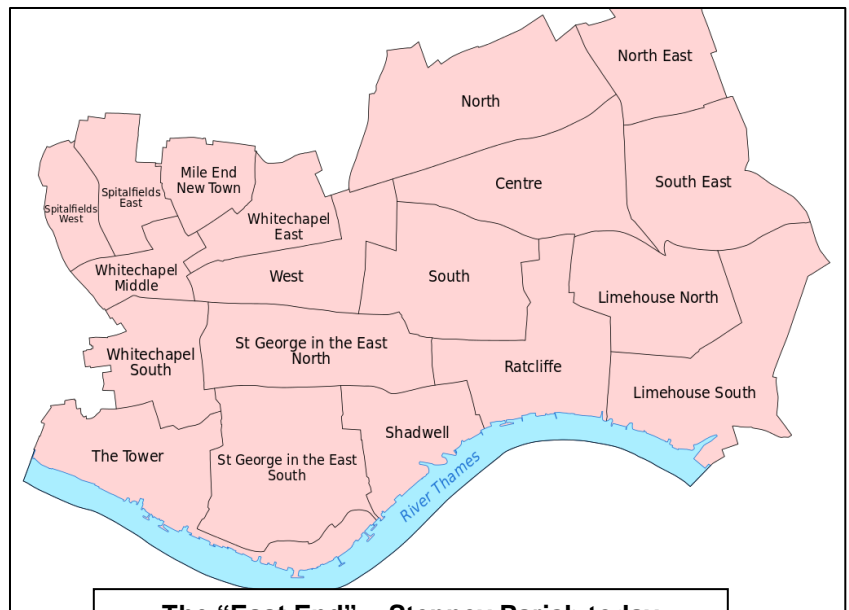


Whitechapel, Stepney Parish, Middlesex County, London, England



Near the end of his life, Richard Morrill, the fourth generation on our list, was living in the Whitechapel District of London, which apparently was quite unsavory place to live at that time. He died there in 1615. We do not know if any of his children had relocated from Hatfield-Broad Oak to London with him, but two of his sons, Isaac and Abaham, may have been there as well. They were Puritans (Protestants) and may have decided upon their father's death to escape religious persecution (and Whitechapel) by immigrating to the Massachusetts Bay Colony, which they did on the ship The Lion, departing from London in 1632.

Stepney Parish, 1.38 miles northeast of the city center of London, is in the Tower division (near the Tower of London), comprising the ancient hamlets of Stratford le Bow, Limehouse, Poplar and Blackwall, Shadwell, St. George's in the East, Wapping, Spitalfields, **Whitechapel**, and Bethnal-Green. Whitechapel, named after a small chapel dedicated to St Mary, which was destroyed in World War II, is a district in the East End of London, near to the London Docklands. (Thames River docks). It is steeped in history.



Whitechapel High Street and Whitechapel Road are now part of the A11 highway, the ancient Roman road between the City of London and Colchester (en-route to Ipswich).

By the late 16th century, the suburb of Whitechapel and the surrounding area had started becoming 'the other half' of London. Located outside the City Walls and beyond official controls, it attracted the less fragrant activities of the city, particularly tanneries, breweries, slaughterhouses and foundries (including the Whitechapel Bell Foundry, which later cast Philadelphia's Liberty Bell and London's Big Ben). Population shifts from rural areas to London from the 17th century to the mid-19th century resulted in great numbers of more or less destitute people taking up residence amidst the industries and mercantile interests that had attracted them. By the mid-18th century, Whitechapel was hampered with poverty and overpopulation, and like many places in The East End it had degenerated into classic "Dickensian" London



Whitechapel

JOURNEY #1: William migrates - London, England to Boston, Massachusetts

Great Puritan Migration: Passengers of the Lyon, 1631 & 1632: Excerpt from Essex and the Lyon –The people who sailed in her to New England in 1632, by Winifred Ashwell, *The Lyon, William Peirce, Master, sailed from London June 22, 1632, and arrived September 16 1632, at Boston. He brought one hundred and twenty three passengers, where of fifty children, all in health. They had been twelve weeks aboard and eight weeks from Land's End.*

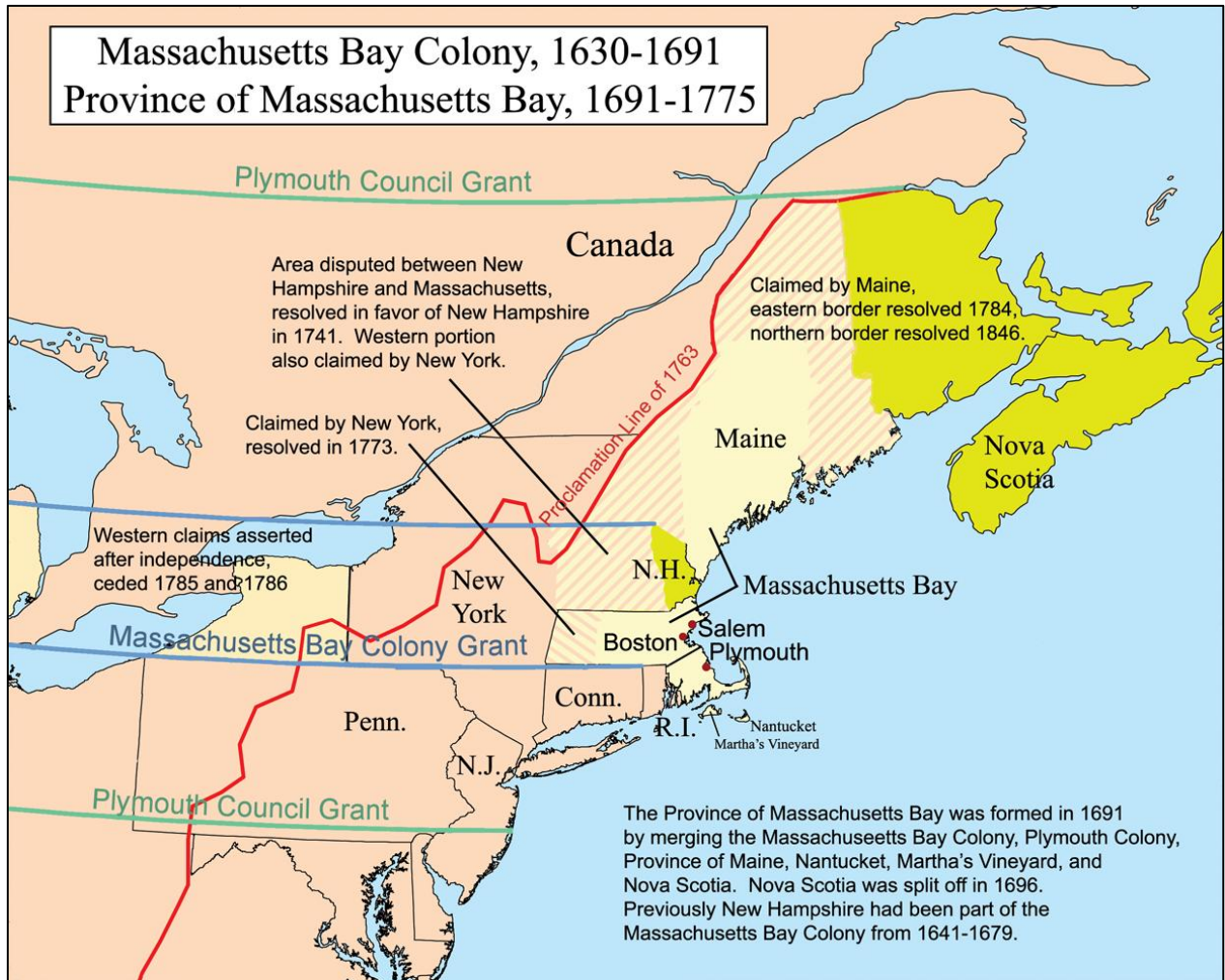
The Lyon: It is not known where the Lyon was built and there is no evidence to suggest that she might have been from an Essex shipyard. However, it is certain that she was larger and more comfortable than the Mayflower (which was unfit for another voyage, after the famous one in 1620 carrying the Pilgrim Fathers, and was broken up) and that the cost of the voyage was not a problem. Most of the passengers were able to afford such comfort as was available in those times....many were people of some substance. They had five days of east wind and fog, but no disaster. According to the records there were sixty men on the Lyon, and as fifty were children, the rest must have been wives and daughters. There were four Lyon trips: 1630, 1631, 1632 (twice). The Lyon hit a reef April 10, 1633 (Peirce was 'driving') and it sunk, replaced by the Rebecca, built in the colonies. Chart note: Roxbury, Massachusetts Bay Colony, is now a district in Boston.



Names	Point of Origin	Destination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isaac Morrill • Mrs.....Morrill • Sarah Morrill • Katherine Morrill 	Hatfield Broad Oak, Essex	Roxbury

DESTINATION #1A: The Massachusetts Bay Colony (Boston)

The Massachusetts Bay Colony (1628–1691) was an English settlement on the east coast of North America in the 17th century around the Massachusetts Bay, the northernmost of the several colonies later reorganized as the Province of Massachusetts Bay. The lands of the settlement were located in central New England in what is now Massachusetts, with initial settlements situated on two natural harbors and surrounding land, in the areas around the present-day cities of Salem and Boston. The territory nominally administered by the colony included much of present-day central New England, including portions of the U.S. states of Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire, and Connecticut.



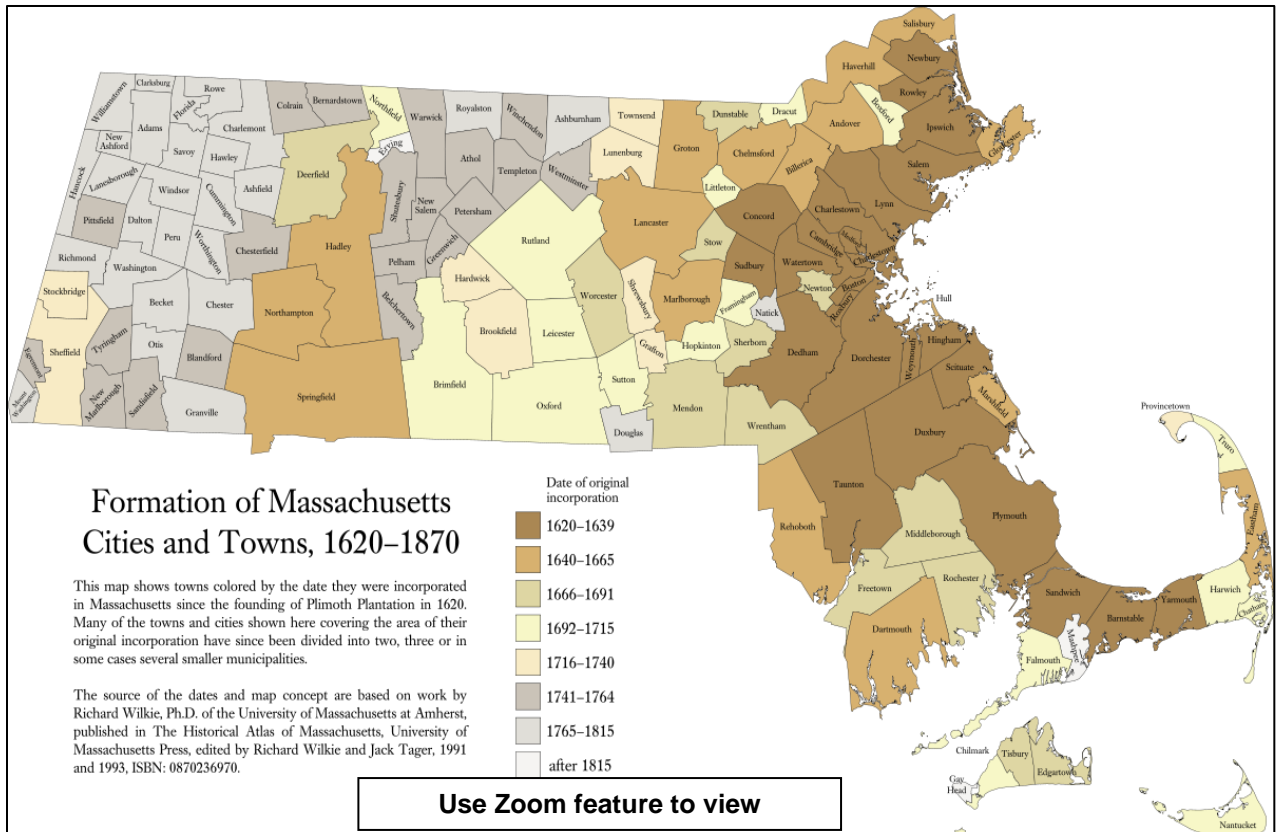
Massachusetts Bay Company

The Massachusetts Bay Colony was founded by the owners of the Massachusetts Bay Company, which included investors in the failed Dorchester Company that had established a short-lived settlement on Cape Ann in 1623. The colony began in 1628 and was the company's second attempt at colonization. It was successful, with about 20,000 people migrating to New England in the 1630s. **The population was strongly Puritan, and its governance was dominated by a small group of leaders who were strongly influenced by Puritan religious leaders.** Its governors were elected, and the electorate was limited to freemen who had been examined for their religious views and formally admitted to the local church. As a consequence, the colonial leadership exhibited intolerance to other religious views, including Anglican, Quaker, and Baptist theologies. The colonial leadership was the most active in New England in the persecution of Quakers. In 1660, one of the most notable instances was English Quaker Mary Dyer who was hanged in Boston for repeatedly defying a law banning Quakers from the colony. Dyer was one of the four executed Quakers known as the Boston martyrs. Executions ceased in 1661 when King Charles II explicitly forbade Massachusetts from executing anyone for professing Quakerism. Note: This is the reason our Quaker Macy ancestors moved to Nantucket Island.

The Massachusetts Bay Colony became the first English chartered colony whose board of governors did not reside in England. This independence helped the settlers to maintain their Puritan religious practices without interference from the king or the Anglican Church. The charter

remained in force for 55 years, but political differences with England led to the revocation of the colonial charter in 1684 and the consolidation of all the colonies in New England, New York, and New Jersey into the Dominion of New England under firmer crown control. The dominion collapsed after the Glorious Revolution of 1688 deposed King James, and the colony reverted to rule under the revoked charter until the charter for the Province of Massachusetts Bay was issued in 1691, which combined the Massachusetts Bay territories with those of the Plymouth Colony and proprietary holdings on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard. Sir William Phips arrived in 1692 bearing the charter and formally took charge of the new province.

The Formation of Massachusetts Towns



ABRAHAM MORRILL (1615-1662)

Abraham Morrill arrived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony aboard the ship *The Lyon* on 16 September 1632. As a minor, he was accompanied on the voyage by his older brother Isaac, Isaac's wife, Sarah, and their only two children to that date, Sarah and Catherine, also minors. Abraham, Isaac and family settled in Roxbury (part of Boston today). Under the leadership of Puritan Reverend Thomas Hooker, who arrived on the ship *Griffin* in 1633, Abraham settled in the village of Newtown, where Hooker became the pastor of the earliest established church there, known to its members as "The Church of Christ at Cambridge." His congregation, some of whom may have been members of congregations he had served in England, became known as "Mr. Hooker's Company". Newton later became Cambridge (part of Boston today). Abraham settled in Cambridge on lot # 28. Simon Bradstreet, who lived on lot #27, became Governor of the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1679. The Reverend Thomas Hooker lived at #4, the location that is now part of Harvard Yard. Note: Hooker would soon become the founder of Connecticut. More about Cambridge later.

More about Reverend Thomas Hooker, Abraham's mentor:

REVEREND THOMAS HOOKER

Thomas Hooker II (July 5, 1586 – July 7, 1647) was a prominent Puritan religious and colonial leader remembered as one of the founders of the Colony of Connecticut. He has also been called "Father of American Democracy." Thomas migrated to New England during the Puritan Great Migration (1620-1640)

Thomas was probably born at Marefield, Tilton, Leicester, England. He won a scholarship to study at the University of Cambridge, where in time he became the equivalent of a professor of theology. After Hooker's conversion to belief in the authenticity of Scripture and the saving grace of the Christ, his keenly reasoned reflections upon the meanings of Biblical passages and upon the life of a Christian helped his rise into the leadership of the Puritan movement in England. But this status as a leader in the Puritan movement would cause him to immigrate first to Holland and then to New England in 1633, on the ship Griffin, to escape the persecution of Archbishop William Laud for non-conformity.

He was selected pastor of the church at Newtown (now Cambridge), Massachusetts. He is thus attributed as being the first minister of the First Parish in Cambridge, a church that still exists in the present day. His home was on a plot of land which today is part of the yard at Harvard University.

His departure from the Colony of the Massachusetts Bay was one of the key events leading to the creation of the Colony (and State) of Connecticut. In 1635, he was appointed by the General Court of Massachusetts to try to persuade his friend Roger Williams to give up his controversial views. Hooker and Williams took part in a public debate but Williams refused to change his opinions.

In 1636, Thomas Hooker led his congregation west to found the new English settlement at Hartford, Connecticut. One of the reasons he left Massachusetts was his failure to agree with John Winthrop about who should take part in civil government. Winthrop held that only admitted members of the Church should vote and hold office; Hooker maintained that any adult male who owned property should be able to vote and participate in civil government, regardless of church membership.

He and his party traveled on a trail that is now known as the Old Connecticut Path. After settling in Hartford, Hooker continued to be in contact with John Winthrop and Roger Williams. Hooker traveled to Boston often to help settle inter-colonial disputes. He is also remembered for his role in creating the "Fundamental Orders of Connecticut". This document is one of the modern world's first written constitutions and an influence upon the current American Constitution, written nearly a century and a half later.

Regarding Abraham's birth, he was born in Hatfield-Broad Oak, Essex County, England, sometime between 1610 and 1615. I have not found any information regarding Abraham's birth date or a solid explanation of why he was not shown on the Lyon's passenger list. For this reason there is an open question about the actual date of his birth, which is estimated have occurred between 1610 and 1615 based on a combination of factors: (1) Abraham was probably still a minor in 1632 (meaning he was born no earlier than 1610) because he was not on the list of those (adults only) who were required to pledge an oath to the King, and (2) he was probably

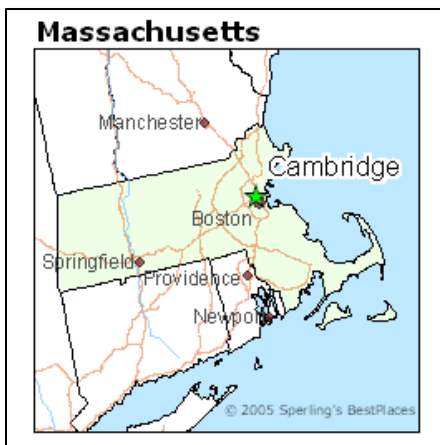
no longer a minor in 1635 because in that year he received a grant of land and was paying taxes (meaning he was born no later than 1615), and (3) the date cannot be any later than 1615 because that was, supposedly, the year that his father, Richard died, and (4) if he were born in 1587 as some have suggested, he would have had his last child (Hepzibah) at the age of 76. Doubtful. We know very little about Abraham's, father, Richard, but he must have been married twice as the age difference between brothers Isaac and Abraham was 20-25 years.

Regarding the passenger list, I have read that these were notorious for being incomplete. It seems that it was common to have uncounted stowaways or people who paid but did not want their names made public. In any event, there are so many dots that are connected that it would be improbable that Abraham did not accompany Isaac and family on the Lyon. Note: Isaac and Abraham are even buried together in Roxbury.

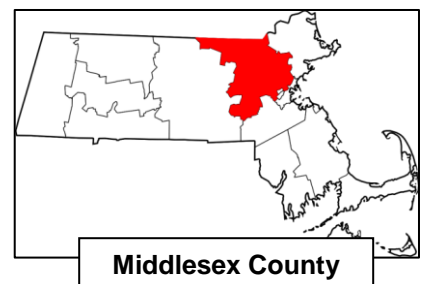
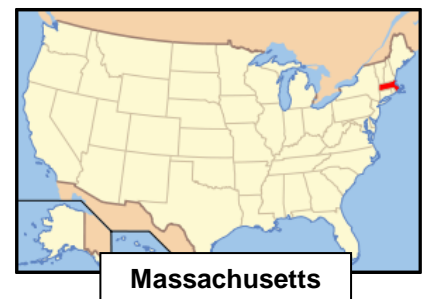
In 1638 Abraham was a member of the "Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company". This is now an expensive fraternity focused on charitable giving. In fact, President John Kennedy was a prominent modern member, so Isaac and Abraham were part of this honorable Company centuries ago.

Note: If there is any doubt that the Puritans came from Suffolk, Essex and Middlesex, East Anglian Counties in England, it can be set to rest by looking at the names of the first counties they created in the Massachusetts Bay Colony: Roxbury is in Suffolk County, Salisbury in Essex County, and Cambridge in Middlesex County.

DESTINATION #1B: Cambridge, Middlesex County, Massachusetts (Boston)



Upon his arrival in the Massachusetts Bay Colony Abraham settled in Cambridge, where he was a blacksmith. Cambridge was not far from his brother, Issac, who settled in Roxbury. These villages, which are five miles apart, were separate in 1632 (see above map – use the zoom feature). Today they are considered part of greater Boston.



Cambridge is located in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, part of the Boston metropolitan area. Situated directly north of the city of Boston, across the Charles River, it was named in honor of the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom, an important center of the Puritan theology embraced by the town's founders. Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), two of the world's most prestigious universities, are located in Cambridge.

The site for what would become Cambridge was chosen in December 1630, because it was located safely upriver from Boston Harbor, which made it easily defensible from attacks by enemy ships. The first houses were built in the spring of 1631. The settlement was initially referred to as "the neue towne". Official Massachusetts records show the name capitalized as Neue Towne by 1632 and a single word Newtowne by 1638. Located at the first convenient Charles River crossing west of Boston, Neue Towne was one of a number of towns (including

Boston, Dorchester, Watertown, and Weymouth), founded by the 700 original Puritan colonists of the Massachusetts Bay Colony under governor John Winthrop. The original village site is in the heart of today's Harvard Square.

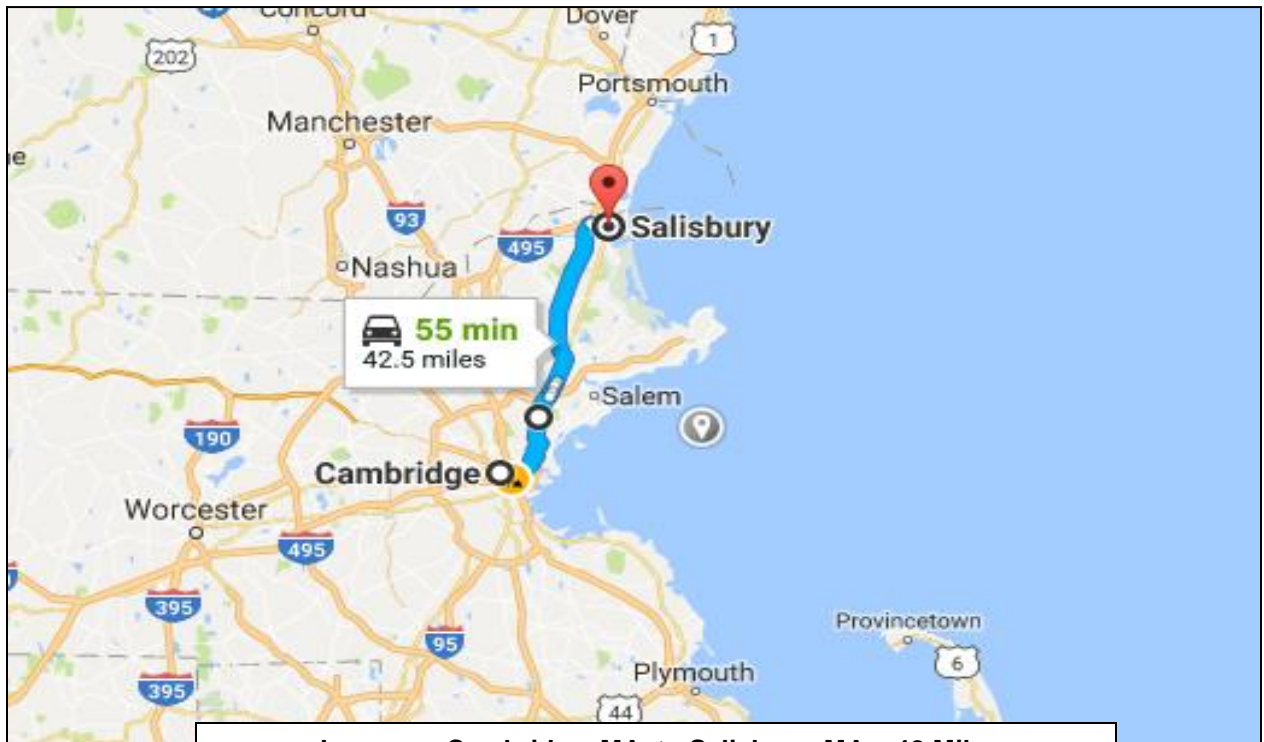
In 1636, the Neve College (later renamed Harvard College after benefactor John Harvard) was founded by the colony to train ministers. Neve Towne was chosen for the site of the college by the Great and General Court (the Massachusetts legislature) primarily to be near the popular and highly respected Puritan preacher Thomas Shepard.



Harvard

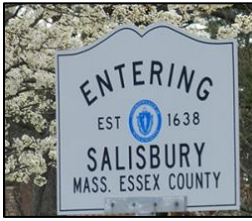
In May 1638, the name of the settlement was changed to Cambridge in honor of the university in Cambridge, England. Newtowne's first ministers, the college's first president, and first schoolmaster were all Cambridge alumni, as was the colony's governor John Winthrop. In 1629, Winthrop led the signing of the founding document of the city of Boston, which was known as the Cambridge Agreement, after the university.

JOURNEY #2: Abraham relocates – Cambridge, MA, to Salisbury, MA

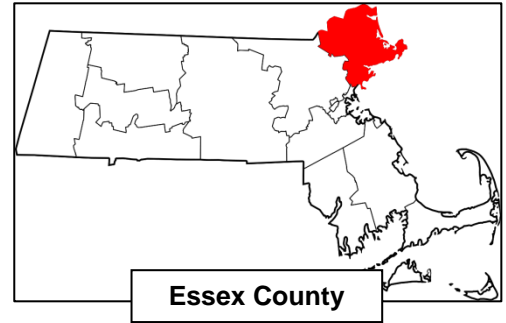


Journey – Cambridge, MA, to Salisbury, MA – 42 Miles

DESTINATION #2: Salisbury, Essex County, Massachusetts



Abraham was a founding member of the "Puritan Plantation" at Salisbury, where he was granted a house lot on the "Green." (See town plot map, below)



In 1639, Abraham left Cambridge, moving to Salisbury, a new Puritan settlement above the Merrimack River on the northern coastline of Massachusetts. There he received a lot in the first division of Salisbury. It must have been difficult at first. There was a great deal of snow in the winter and those who settled close to the ocean found their homes and lands washed into the sea on more than one occasion. Indian attacks were common. The home where Abraham resided is now a church yard. Early graves were covered with a large stone to prevent the wolves from digging up loved ones, and the stones are still found in the "Green" cemetery.



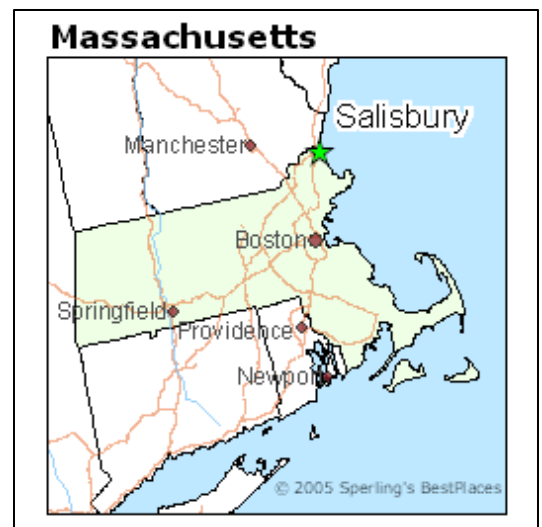
Salisbury - The beach in winter

In 1642, Abraham and Henry Saywood were granted 60 acres to build a corn mill on the Powow River. Although primarily a blacksmith, Abraham kept a farm, cattle and horses. It seems he was industrious. Abraham remained in Salisbury for the remainder of his life.

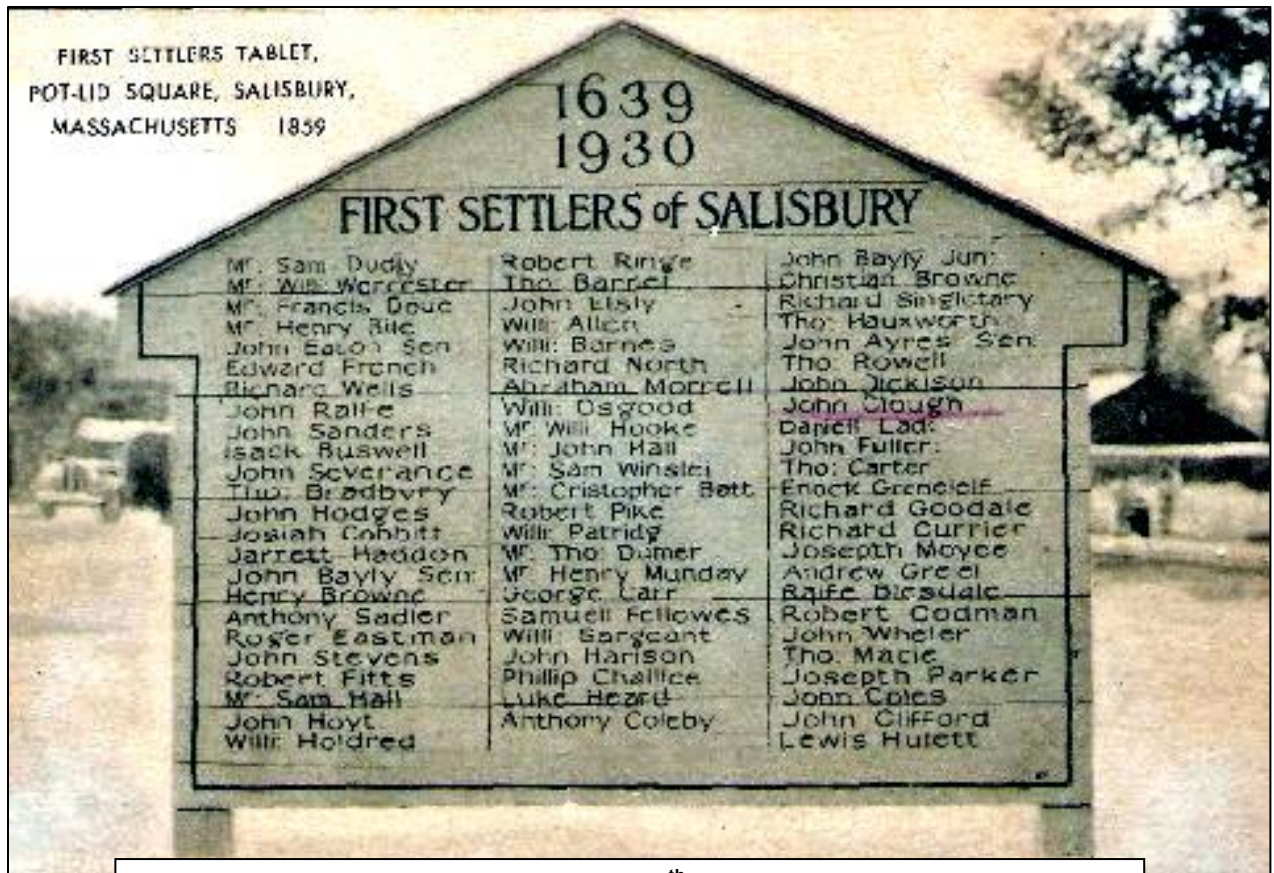
The Founding of Salisbury, Massachusetts

Salisbury, Massachusetts is a small town on the North Shore of Merrimack River, along the Massachusetts - New Hampshire border. It is the northernmost town in Massachusetts.

On September 6, 1638, the Secretary of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, Simon Bradstreet, received an agreement from Governor Winthrop and the General Court giving him and eleven other men the right to begin a plantation north of the Merrimack River. In August of 1638, these men rowed across the Merrimack River from the settlement at Newbury and explored the area that is now Salisbury, looking for a place to establish a new settlement. They found a broad open space on high ground, at what is now Salisbury Square. The area was probably chosen due to its close proximity to various waterways and its vast natural resources:



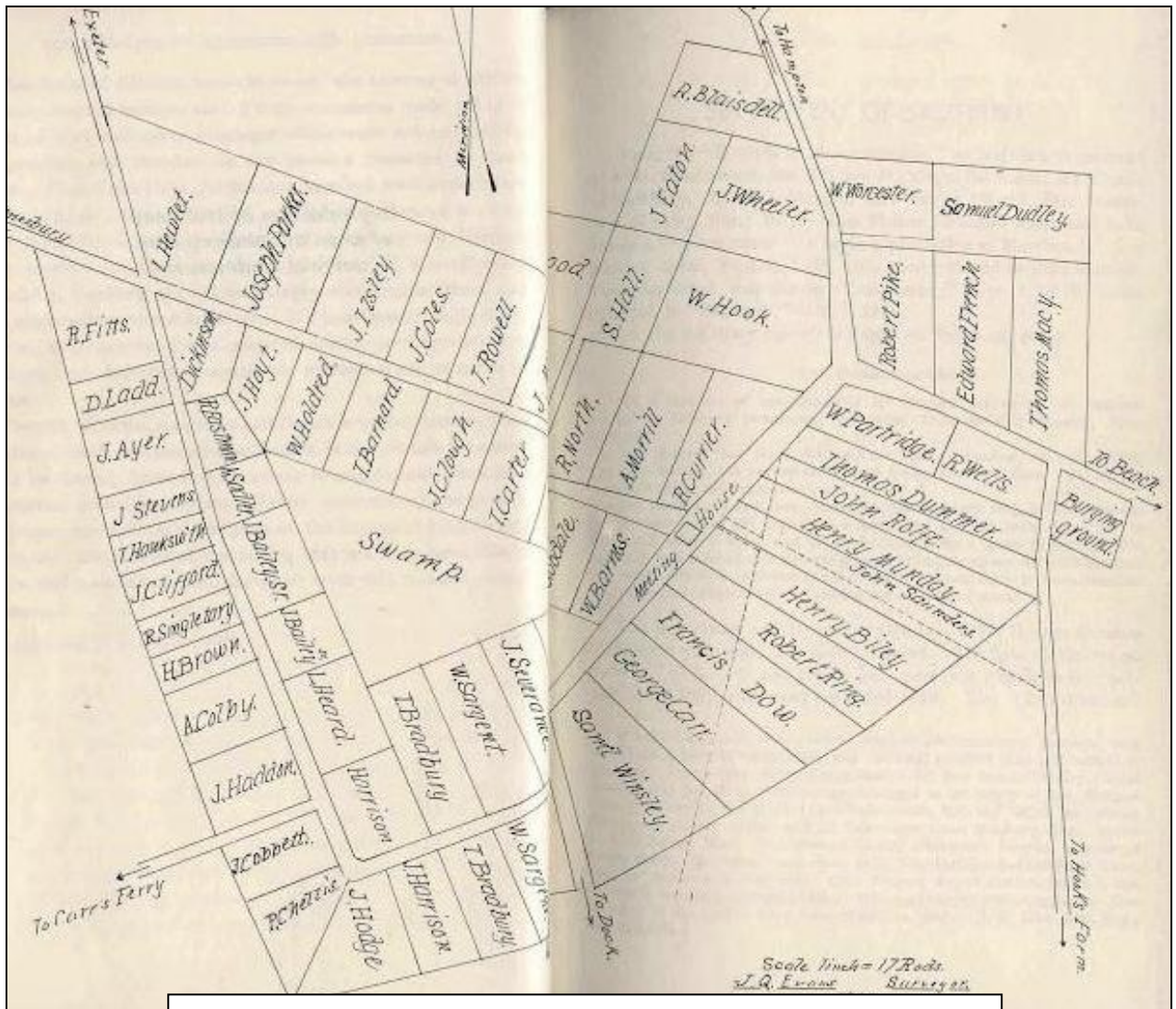
The inducements which led to this new settlement are not quite clear, but there were some advantages which may have had weight in forwarding the movement. The great tract of marsh was near at hand and was a valuable feeding ground for their cattle; clams and fish were within easy reach, and the meadows and beach were alive with various kinds of fowl; indeed tradition has it that at times geese were so plenty as to greatly damage the hay crop. Nor were these alone numerous, but other species of water-fowl were abundant and easily obtained. The soil was rich and of easy cultivation, and water communication by way of the town creek very near and convenient. These were no doubt some of the advantages which induced so many of the colonists at Newbury to remove hither.



Abraham is listed in the middle column, 7th from top. His name is misspelled.

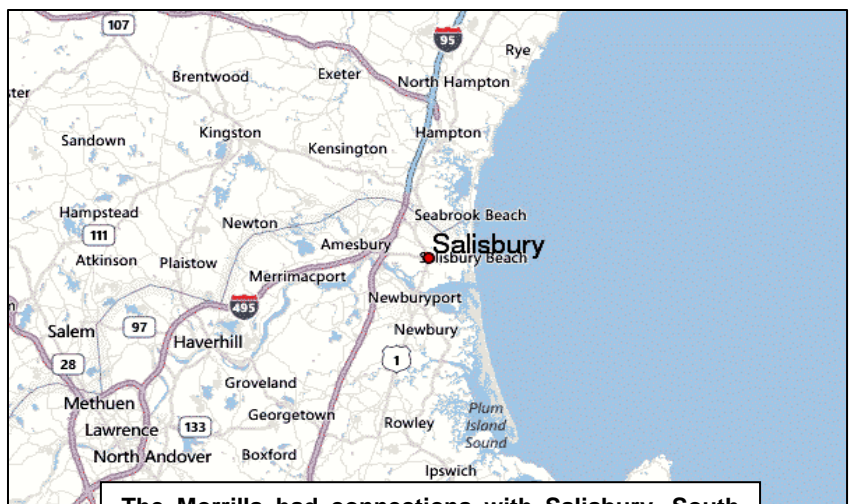
The men were granted permission and began recruiting settlers. The first settlers, including Abraham Morrill (listed as Morrell), arrived in Salisbury in the spring of 1639. Each settler was given one small house lot near the center of town, and one larger planting lot just outside the center for farming. Families also owned large sections of "sweepage lots" near the beach, where apparently they harvested the salt marsh hay. At the time, the area was almost entirely unbroken virgin forest, which had to be cleared for the construction of houses and the planting of fields.

On September 4, 1639, the settlers named the town Colchester, after the East Anglian village of the same name, but then on October 7, 1640, the General Court ordered the settlement to be called Salisbury. Some famous early residents of Salisbury include three accused witches in the Salem Witch Trials, Susannah Martin, George Burroughs and Mary Bradbury. Note: The Macy branch of or family has a major connection with the Salem Witch Trials.



Salisbury lot map – Abraham’s lot was just to the right of center.

In 1643 Salisbury became a “shire town”, the seat of local government for the Massachusetts Bay Colony villages of Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter, Hampton, South Hampton, Kingston, Plaistow, Seabrook, Newton, Hampstead, Amesbury and Merrimac. These would eventually be split between Massachusetts and New Hampshire when they became states. For example, Salisbury, MA and South Hampton, NH, are only seven miles apart.



The Morrills had connections with Salisbury, South Hampton, Methuen, Haverhill and Amesbury.

Abraham Morrill marries Sarah Clement

Abraham married Sarah Clement, daughter of Robert Clement and Lydia Drummer, in Haverhill, Essex County, MA, on 10 June 1645. She was born in Ansley, Warwickshire, England, in 1626, and died in Salisbury, Essex County, MA, on 16 Jan 1676. Sarah and her father must have been recent arrivals because her mother, Lydia, died in England in 1642.

Abraham and Sarah had nine children:

NAME	DATE / PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE / PLACE OF DEATH
Isaac Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 10 July 1646 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 17 Oct 1713
Jacob Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 24 Aug 1648 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 23 April 1718
Sarah Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 14 Oct 1650 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 11 Sept 1731
Abraham Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 14 Nov 1652 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 1697-1698
Moses Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 28 Dec 1655 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 20 May 1731
Aaron Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 19 Aug 1658 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 31 Jan 1659
Richard Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 6 Feb 1660 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 17 Feb 1660
Lydia Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 6 Mar 1661 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Kingston, Rockingham Co, NH 6 Sept 1737
Hepzibah Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salisbury, Essex Co, MA 8 Jan 1663 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Virginia 1725

The death of Abraham Morrill

Abraham Morrill died on 20 June 1662, in Roxbury (Boston), Suffolk County, Massachusetts, while visiting his brother, Isaac, who was ill. Abraham was also ill at the time and should not have made the trip to Roxbury (about 45 miles), but he did and he died while he was there. Abraham's will was signed two days before his death, the signature being not much more than a scribble. We can only



Eliot Burying Ground - Roxbury



Abraham, Isaac, Sarah & Family

assume he was too ill to sign his will as it was known that he could read and write. He is buried with Isaac, who died just a few months later, on 18 October 1662, at the Eliot Burying Ground Roxbury (aka, "Old First Burying Place" and Eustis Street Burying Ground) in Roxbury.

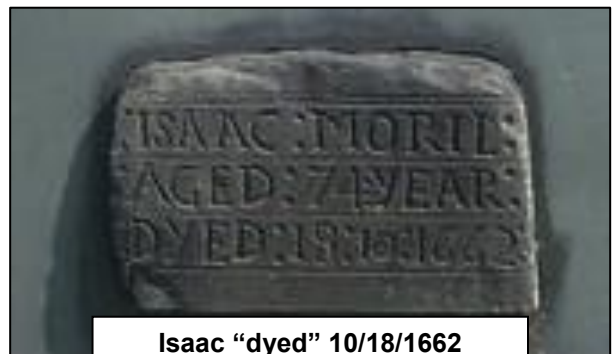
Abraham died several months before his daughter, Hepzibah, was born. In all, his wife, Sarah, was left with four boys and three girls, ranging from an unborn to a 16-year-old. After three years, Sarah remarried Thomas Mudgett.

Regarding Abraham's will, to his "*dear and loving wife*" Abraham left one half of the entire estate. The other half was split between his surviving children: "*Isaack, Abraham, Jacob, Sarah, Moses, and Lidda.*" Being the eldest, Isaack received a double portion once he reached the age of 21. Abraham's wife, Sarah, and son, Isaack, were appointed executors of the estate.

More about Isaac (we have more information about Isaac than Abraham)

Isaac was a blacksmith, member of the first Church of Roxbury (the Church of Christ of Roxbury), Constable (sheriff) of Roxbury (1659), and the towns largest land owner.

Isaac's land holdings: The Roxbury book Of Possessions lists 12 parcels of land for Isaac -- eight of which were granted by the town and five of which he bought: "*Isaack Morrill his two houses, two forges, one barn without housing and two orchards, and a swamp, four acres more or less upon Pine Hill south, six and twenty acres called by the name Foxeholes, fifteen acres more or less called Smithfield, one acre and a half in the lower calves pasture, nine acres of salt marsh....and.... in the second allotment of the last division ... fourth lot ... one hundred and thirteen acres one quarter and ten pole and two hundred and four acres in the four thousand acres, and six acres more or less upon Pine Hill, four acres more of less upon the great hill bought of Griffen Craft, five acres of the fresh meadow ... lately the land of John Scarbrow; two acres and a half ... lately the land of Robert Williams.*"



Isaac "dyed" 10/18/1662

He was co-author of the blacksmith's petition of September 1639, which was drafted with the help of the colonial lawyer Thomas Lechford. *The humble petition of Isaacke Morrell & Thomas Carter, blacksmiths in the behalf of themselves & the rest of the blacksmiths within this colony: showing and informing this court that whereas heretofore coals have been in this country sold them for 30s. a cauldron now of late they are raised to £4 lacking but 2s. cauldron, and moreover that they are forced speedily sell them at that great price or else they cannot be gotten for money but are brought up & sent away into other parts of this continent, - and your petitioners conceive that unless some speedy remedy be found out to help & prevent these mischiefs their trade will be much hurt and the commonwealth deeply prejudiced.* Note: I think that they don't like being overcharged for coal.

In Isaac's will, he *bequeathes to my dear & loving wife the use of his entire estate during her life. After she died, £40 was to be distributed equally between my four grandchildren to wit John Smith, Isaac Smith, Francis Smith and Abraham Smith. To my grandchild Mary Smith ... my farm lying between Reading and Andover being more than two hundred acres. The residue was to go to my two sons (to wit) John Smith & Daniell Brewer & to my grandchild Sarah Davis (with some additional household goods for her). What I have given to John Smith and his wife Katherine if she outlive him was to be enjoyed by them during their lifetimes and then equally to their now*

children and any future children John Smith will have by my daughter Katherine to be carefully used so that the children are not embesselled or disappointed. If my loving wife as a result of sickness or poverty requires the sale of any property for her comfortable supply, it may be sold. He named his loving sons Tobias Davis & Daniel Brewer as executors; and loving friends Thomas Weld & Edward Denison overseers. Witnesses to the will were Samuel Danforth and Elisha Cooke. Note: My two sons John Smith and Daniel Brewer, must be his sons-in-law. He bequeathed his blacksmith tools to *cousin Isaac Morril*", who was Abraham's son.

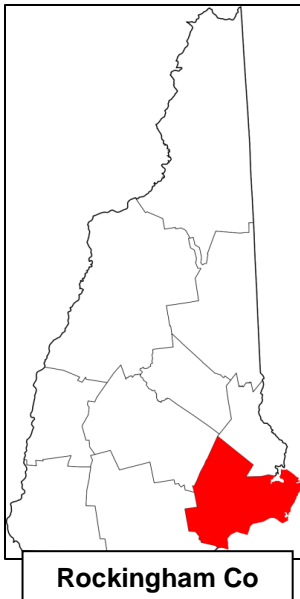
Not much is known about Isaac's wife, Sarah. They were married about 1624. She was born about 1600 and died in Roxbury, Suffolk Co, MA, on 9 January 1672/3. Her death was noted as *Sarah, widow of Isaac Morrill, aged 72*. Unlike her husband, *Sarah could only make her mark whilst swearing to codicils*. It seems that Isaac had a number of children, but none of his sons survived infancy and early adulthood. So, his name was not passed on through generations.

Most people in America who spell their surname "Morrill" are descendants of Abraham. However, during my internet searches I found that many of our ancestors had their names mistakenly spelled "Morrell" on official documents. Our descendants of note, who had their last name spelled correctly, include: David L. Morrill, Governor of New Hampshire 1817-23, and Justin Smith Morrill, Congressman from Vermont for 43 years and responsible for the Morrill Land Grant Act that established the country's agricultural colleges or 'Aggies.'"

The Next Generations

The next three generations of Morrills were all born in Essex County and died there: Jacob (1648-1718); Ezekiel (1765-1732); and Abner Sr.(1709-1766). It was not until Abner Jr. (1741-1829), Abraham's great-great grandson, came along that the family history began to get interesting again.

ABNER MORRILL JR. (1741-1829)



Abner Jr. was born on 8 May 1741, in South Hampton, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, only seven miles from Salisbury, Essex County, MA, the family seat for four generations. He died on 2 October 1829, in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada.

Abner Jr. married Sarah Hoyt in Methuen, Essex County, MA, in 1772. She was born in Shrewsbury, Worcester County, MA, on 25 January 1751, and died in 1808, probably in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada.

Abner Jr. made his home in Methuen, where his first two children, Sarah and Hannah, were born. The other two children, Jonathan and Rhoda, were born in Danville, Vermont.



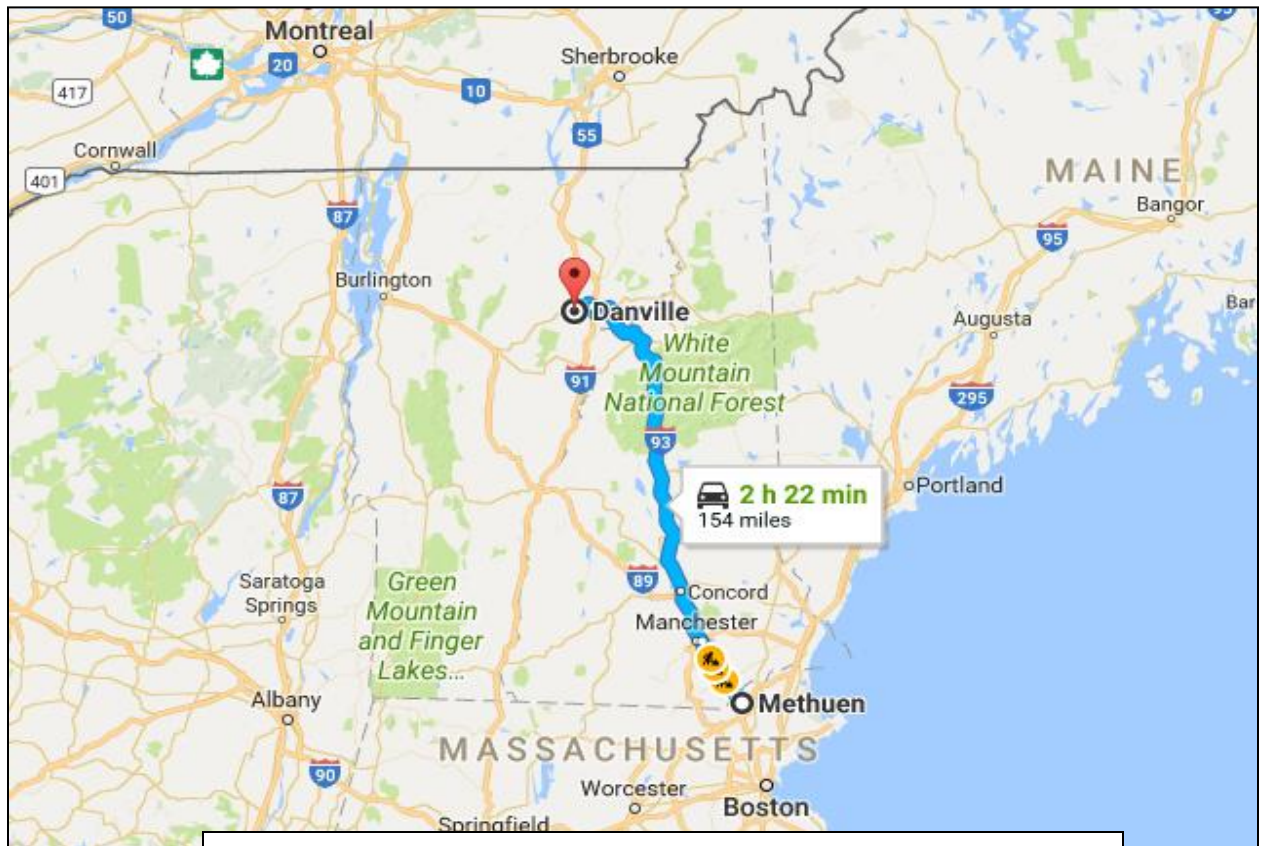
Abner Jr. and Sarah had four children:

NAME	DATE / PLACE OF BIRTH	DATE / PLACE OF DEATH
Sarah Morrill - Stevens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA xx-xx-1767 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Peacham, Caledonia County, VT 05 Aug 1854
Hannah Morrill - Clement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA 1773 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hardin County, Ohio 3 Oct 1846
Jonathan Morrill	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA xx-xx-1776 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Waterman, Dekalb County, IL 10 Oct 1860
Rhoda Morrill - Lee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Methuen, Essex Co, MA 14 Sept 1780 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Probably Stanstead, Quebec, Canada 18 Sept 1856

According to The History of Danville, Abner Jr. moved his family to Danville, Vermont, in 1786. Note: He was still in Methuen in 1774 as his name shows up on the Methuen Militia list dated 6 October 1774. Interestingly, Joshua Stevens, the father of the Joshua Stevens who married Abner's daughter, Sarah, is also on the Militia list and also moved to Danville. Sarah and Joshua were the parents of Thaddeus Stevens, who was born in Danville in 1792. More on the Stevens' later.

How Abner Jr. managed to get from Methuen, MA, to Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, and the hardships he dealt with on the way, make for an interesting story.

JOURNEY #3: Abner Jr. relocates – Methuen, MA, to Danville, VT



Journey – Methuen, MA, to Danville, VT – 154 Miles

DESTINATION #3: Danville, Caledonia County, Vermont

Danville is located in Caledonia County, Vermont. It was established on October 31, 1786, and was named for the 18th century French admiral-cartographer Jean Baptiste Bourguignon d'Anville.



During the early struggle with New Hampshire to create a separate state (Vermont), the efforts of Ethan Allen and associates were encouraged and assisted by the French consul then at Boston, Hector St. John Crèvecoeur. Allen and associates, wishing to show their appreciation named several townships in honor of distinguished Frenchmen. Danville, in accordance with this noble intention, was named in honor of D'Anville



The Morrills arrive in Danville



The following text was extracted from the [Vermont Historical Magazine](#) and the [Biography of Thaddeus Stevens](#), and edited for clarity:



*In the spring of 1783, Charles Hackett, the pioneer of this mountain region, cleared a place for his cabin on what became known as the "Isaac Morrill Pitch," an improvement that was made by **Isaac Morrill**, who subsequently settled on the farm.*



*In the spring of 1784, Capt. Charles Sias, with his family, made the first actual settlement here. Also in this year **Sargent Morrill** commenced clearing ("chopping") land for the new town. In the spring of 1786, some 50 emigrants from New Hampshire and Massachusetts, **Essex Co.**, settled here as "squatters." In addition to Charles Sias, the first settlers in Danville were **Sargent Morrill**, Daniel Wheeler, Daniel Cross, **Abraham Morrill**, **Jeremiah Morrill**, **Abner Morrill Jr**, **Paul Morrill**, Joseph Magoon, Timothy Batchelder, E. Howard, James Kiteridge, and Israel Brainard. The Proprietors' Records show the number of settlers to be 54. Note: All of the Morrills listed above were the grandchildren of Capt Ezekiel Morrill: Abner Jr, Jeremiah and Abigail were Abner Sr's children; David, Sargent and Abraham were Ezekiel Jr's children. Isaac Morrill, the original Morrill settler was the brother of Paul Morrill.*

I could only find one possible reason for the Morrill's en-mass move to Danville.....to get a fresh start after being subjected to unfair and over burdensome taxation (which would eventually lead to the historic Shay's Rebellion). The following was extracted from [The History of Shay's Rebellion](#).

When the Revolutionary War ended in 1783, the European business partners of Massachusetts merchants refused to extend lines of credit to them and insisted that they pay for goods with hard currency. Despite the continent-wide shortage of such currency, merchants began to demand the same from their local business partners, including those merchants operating in the market towns in the state's interior. The

rural farming population was generally unable to meet the demands being made of them by merchants or the civil authorities, and individuals began to lose their land and other possessions when they were unable to fulfill their debt and tax obligations. This led to strong resentments against tax collectors and the courts, where creditors obtained and enforced judgments against debtors, and where tax collectors obtained judgments authorizing property seizures.

On October 27, 1786, the township received its charter. The grant covered 73 rights, of 300 acres each, which, with 17 settler's rights, and 4 public rights of same amount, gave an area of about 28,000 acres. At the approach of winter, all those who had come into town during the past year or two, except Charles Sias and Daniel Cross, returned to their former homes and returned in the spring of 1787 to take possession of their grants. During the winter, 40 additional families joined the settlement and from this time the ingress was very rapid.

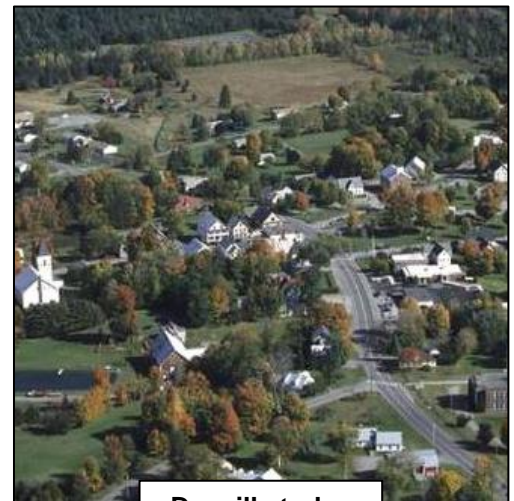


The Vermont countryside near Danville

On March 20, 1787, the town was organized, the meeting being held at the house of Daniel Wheeler, near the center of the town. The first town officers of Danville were: **Sargent Morrill, Moderator; Abraham Morrill, Town Clerk;** Charles Sias, Israel Brainard, **Jeremiah Morrill, Selectmen;** Daniel Wheeler, Constable; Zebediah Parker, Tythingman; **Abner Morrill Jr,** Charles Sias, James Kiteridge, and Joseph Magoon, **Surveyors of Highways;** Samuel Fuller, — Hayward, Timothy Batchelder, Fence Viewers.

By 1789 the large number of arrivals had created a community of no less than 200 families. The result of so rapid an increase of population, and the consequent increased drain upon the limited means of the settlers, accompanied with a severe drought, was a great scarcity of provisions. The sufferings of that time were very severe. Maple sugar formed the chief article of food. Danville was saved by the large quantities of corn and other provisions that were brought from Essex County, Mass., from where many of the settlers had emigrated, a distance of nearly 200 miles, and over roads barely passable.

In 1791, Vermont joined the federal Union as the fourteenth state—becoming the first state to enter the Union after the original thirteen colonies, and as a counterweight to slaveholding Kentucky, which was admitted to the Union later the same year.



Danville today

In 1792 a dispute arose between Danville and Peacham as to which should be the shire town (county seat) of the newly designated Caledonia County. Both towns felt they had a better claim. A compromise was proposed by Vermont Chief Justice Chamberlain that led to the establishment of Danville as the shire town and Peacham as the location for the county grammar

school. Danville was officially made the shire town on November 8, 1796 and a court house was built at Danville Green ("Danville Center"), in 1801.

In 1805 the state Legislature met in Danville. About two hundred legislators descended on Danville to attend this legislative session. There were only about twenty homes in close proximity to Danville Green at the time, which resulted in the fact that many legislators boarded with families in the outlying areas. The legislature met at the courthouse, while the governor and council met at Sarah's uncle, **Abel Morrill's**, tavern that was located just north of the cemetery. It was at this session that the legislature chose Montpelier to be the location of the state capitol. **Abraham Morrill**, a Revolutionary War veteran and Danville's first Town Clerk, was elected the town's first representative to the General Assembly.

More about the children of Abner Morrill Jr. and Sarah Hoyt

- **Sarah Morrill (1767-1854):** Sarah was born in Methuen, Essex County MA, in 1767. She married Joshua Stevens in Methuen in 1784. They relocated to Danville around 1786 and were among the early settlers to arrive in this frontier area of forested wilderness. A shoemaker and surveyor by trade, Joshua began by clearing the land to engage in subsistence agriculture. Transforming a 100-acre lot of forested wilderness into suitable fields for raising crops was a long, arduous process. The first official survey of Danville was undertaken in 1787. In 1790 Danville officials hired Joshua to resurvey the town. He altered the former lines of the first survey slightly; his became the official town survey

The young couple first became parents in 1790 with the birth of Joshua, who was born with two club feet. His birth was followed in 1792 by Thaddeus, who was born with one club foot. A third son, Abner Morrill, born in 1794, named for Sarah's father, was born two years later and a fourth, Alanson, in 1797.

There is no doubt that the birth of two sons with severe physical disabilities had a profound influence on their father, who prided himself for his prowess as a wrestler. It can be reasonably assumed that his masculinity was wounded. In any generation this burden would have been a tragedy, but at that time, based on Calvinist tradition, it was looked upon as a punishment from God for some secret sin. In any of Joshua Stevens' roles in society as a farmer, cobbler, surveyor, or wrestler, he could hardly escape the reality of his sons' disabilities. After the birth of his fourth son, Joshua took to liquor and began straying away from home more and more frequently. He contributed little to the support of the household. About 1804 he disappeared altogether.

Upon Sarah Morrill Stevens fell the burden of raising four boys. She sold the farm and moved the family from Danville to live with her cousin, James. He was a miller who lived in Morrill Village, known today as Greenbank's Hollow, South Danville. In exchange for providing a



Covered Bridge at Greenbanks Hollow

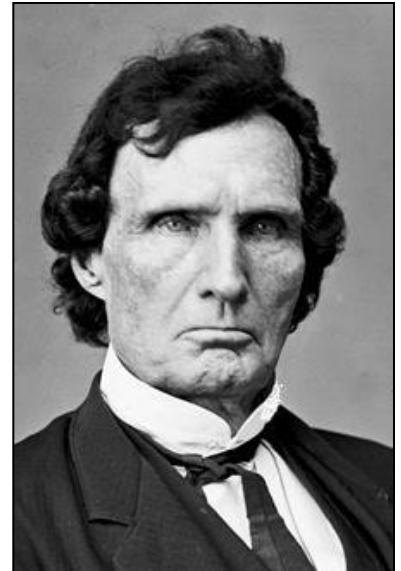
home for her family, Sarah rendered housekeeping services for her cousin. The family lived on the west side of the road, near the covered bridge. Sarah was also supported by her parents Abner and Sarah Hoyt Morrill, who lived nearby, as well as her aunts and uncles.....Abel and his wife, Elizabeth Hibbard Morrill, Jeremiah and his wife, Hannah Kittridge Morrill, Joseph and his wife Ann Varnum Morrill as well as a maiden aunt, Abigail Morrill.

In 1807 Sarah moved with her four boys to Peacham (about 8 miles from Danville), to be closer to their school, where she earned her living as a nurse. Sarah spent the remainder of her life in Peacham and died there on the 8th of August 1854.

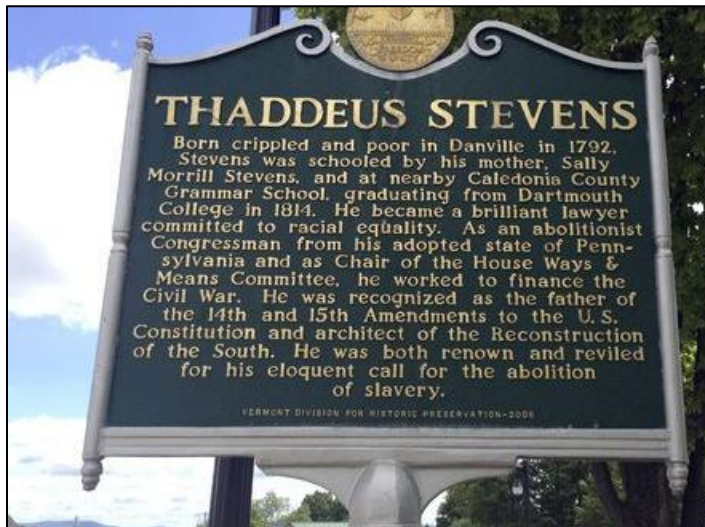
According to Oliver J. Dickey, a Pennsylvania Representative in the U.S. Congress, *Sarah was a woman of great energy, strong will, and deep piety.* As a family member of respected Revolutionary War veterans and a young woman committed to her Baptist values, she received strong support from her family and community.

Thaddeus Stevens (April 4, 1792 – August 11, 1868)

Thaddeus Stevens was a member of the United States House of Representatives from Pennsylvania and one of the leaders of the Radical Republican faction of the Republican Party during the 1860s. A fierce opponent of slavery and discrimination against African-Americans, Stevens sought to secure their rights during Reconstruction, in opposition to President Andrew Johnson. As chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee during the American Civil War, he played a major part in the war's financing.



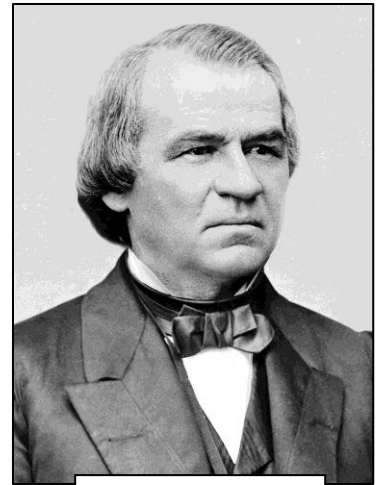
Stevens was born in rural Vermont, in poverty, and with a club foot, giving him a limp he kept his entire life. He moved to Pennsylvania as a young man, and quickly became a successful lawyer in Gettysburg. He interested himself in municipal affairs, and then in politics. He was elected to the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, where he became a strong advocate of free public education. Financial setbacks



in 1842 caused him to move his home and practice to the larger city of Lancaster. There, he joined the Whig Party, and was elected to Congress in 1848. His activities as a lawyer and politician in opposition to slavery cost him votes and he did not seek reelection in 1852. After a brief flirtation with the Know-Nothing Party, Stevens joined the newly formed Republican Party, and was elected to Congress again in 1858. There, with fellow radicals such as Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner, he opposed the expansion of slavery and concessions to the South as war came. Stevens argued

that slavery should not survive the war; he was frustrated by the slowness of President Abraham Lincoln to support his position. He guided the government's financial legislation through the House as Ways and Means chairman. As the war progressed towards a northern victory, Stevens came to believe that not only should slavery be abolished, but that African-Americans should be given a stake in the South's future through the confiscation of land from planters to be distributed to the freedmen. His plans went too far for the Moderate Republicans, and were not enacted.

After Lincoln's assassination in April 1865, Stevens came into conflict with the new president, Johnson, who sought rapid restoration of the seceded states without guarantees for freedmen. The difference in views caused an ongoing battle between Johnson and Congress, with Stevens leading the Radical Republicans. After gains in the 1866 election the radicals took control of Reconstruction away from Johnson. Stevens's last great battle was to secure articles of impeachment in the House against Johnson, though the Senate did not convict the President. Historiographical views of Stevens have dramatically shifted over the years, from the early 20th-century view of Stevens as reckless and motivated by hatred of the white South, to the perspective of the neo-abolitionists of the 1950s and afterwards, who applauded him for his egalitarian views.



Andrew Johnson

- **Hannah Morrill-Clement (1773-1846):** Hannah was born in Methuen, Essex County MA, in 1773. She married Merrill Clement in St. Johnsbury, Caledonia County, VT in 1791. Merrill died in 1815 in Danville, the same year and place that the last of his eleven children, Gilbert, was born. Hannah relocated to Hardin County, Ohio, in 1835 and died there in 1846.

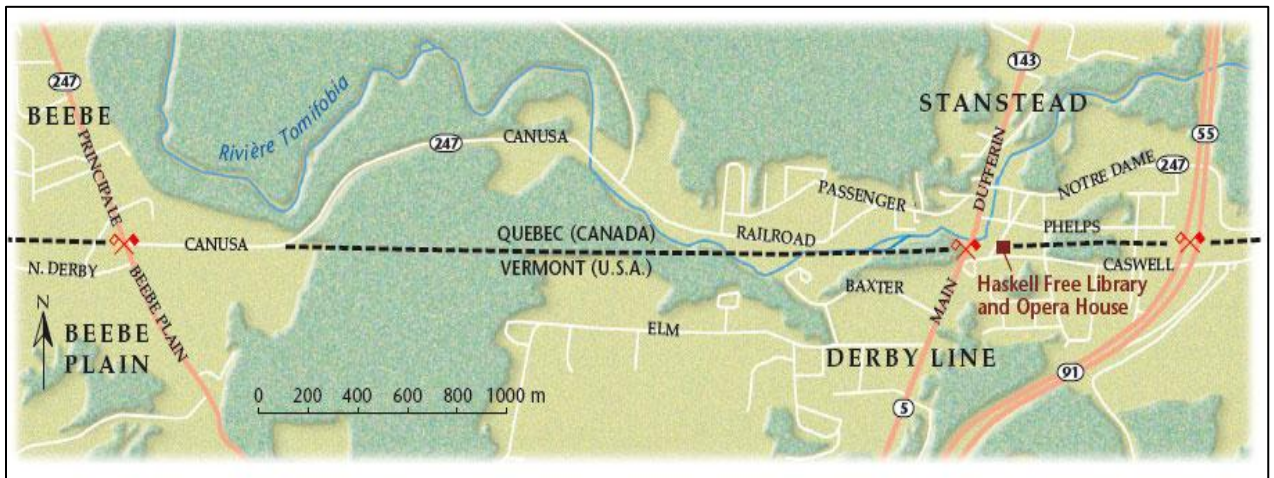
Excerpt from the History of Lamoille Township, Bureau County, Illinois: *In the list of early settlers and long prominent men in the county is **Gilbert Clement**, who came in 1836. Gilbert Clement was reared in Vermont. In 1835 he, accompanied by his mother (**Hannah Morrill**) and oldest brother and family, removed to Hardin County, Ohio, where he resided one year, and then came to Bureau County, Illinois. He traveled by water, coming down the Ohio River, then up the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers, landing in Princeton in December 1836. Here he made farming his principal occupation, but also followed the carpentry trade for ten years. He resided in Lamoille Township with the exception of six years, which he spent in Livingston County. He was married here to Lucy A. Barton, who was born December 4, 1821, in South Hadley, Mass. Hanna Morrill Clement died in Hardin County, Ohio, on October 3, 1846. She was an aunt of Thaddeus Stevens, the statesman and anti-slavery man. Note: If Hannah died in 1846 in Hardin County, Ohio, she must have remained there when Gilbert moved on to Illinois in 1836. Note: Lamoille (aka La Moille) Township is named after Lamoille River and County in Vermont. Lamoille County is adjacent to Caledonia County. Note: Gilbert's Uncle Jonathon (below) relocated to Waterman, Illinois, not too long after Gilbert arrived in Lamoille. These two places are only 45 miles apart.*

- **Jonathon Morrill (1776-1860):** As Jonathan is our direct line ancestor his profile will be covered in detail later.
- **Rhoda Morrill-Lee (1780-1856):** Rhoda was born in Methuen, Essex County, MA, on 14 September 1780. She married Elias Lee in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, in 1805. His family had moved from Vermont to Stanstead in 1797. Elias and Rhoda lived on the Lee family homestead in Stanstead, where their first child was born in 1806. As far as we know, Rhoda lived in Stanstead her whole life and died there on 18 September 1856.

JOURNEY #4: Abner Jr. relocates – Danville, VT, to Stanstead, Quebec, Canada



DESTINATION #4: Stanstead, Quebec, Canada – “A Town on the border”



Both founded in the late 1700's, Stanstead, Quebec (aka, Stanstead Plain), together with Derby Line, Vermont, form one town divided by the Canada–U.S. boundary. They are about 100 miles southeast of Montréal. Until recently the boundary line was meaningless. Roads randomly crossed it and houses were built right on top of it — a family might cook dinner in the United States and eat it in Canada. River mills were set up so that they straddled the line, allowing



Haskell Library

people from both sides to use them. In 1904, Martha Haskell built the Haskell Free Library and Opera House on the boundary so that everyone could use that too. The boundary line runs down the middle of the reading room. An entire tool-and-die factory was established with half the building in Canada and half in the United States. If you'd wanted to give future border security guards nightmares, the whole place could not have been set up any better.



Reading room with boundary line

This Quebec-Vermont border community was first settled by the Taplin family, who arrived in 1796. The Taplins were like virtually every other pioneer family of that era. They came to Stanstead from New England. They were looking for good land, which was becoming scarce in the new American republic. At that time the area was a complete wilderness.



Stanstead is located near the "L" in Montreal

Several waves of settlers to the area soon followed and were welcomed by Canada. The British, who had lost the American Revolutionary War (1776-1783), probably viewed the settlers as pro-British refugees. The first wave was primarily Americans seeking land, but early settlers also included many United Empire Loyalists, mostly farmers, who left New England in the years following the American Declaration of Independence in 1776. The flood of settlers lasted until the 1830s, when there were few loyalists immigrating to the region. However, immigration to

Canada increased again when many disenchanted Americans from the southern states arrived in Stanstead following the end of the American Civil War in 1865. The village owes most of its great houses and particular architecture to its first aristocrats, mostly Americans from south of the Mason-Dixon line.

The preoccupation of the first settlers was to cultivate enough farmland to feed themselves, but by 1807, when the village had grown and gained importance as an international border crossing, the British Crown set up a customs office to take advantage of the opportunity to collect duty. However, officials still complained that Stanstead was "a community where smuggling is popular and the population is shrewd and lawless and ever willing to aid smugglers." It is even said that some early pioneers made their fortunes smuggling.

The Morrills arrive in Stanstead

About 1800 Abner Jr., wife Sarah, and their daughter, Rhoda, relocated to Stanstead, Quebec, Canada. The two older children, Sarah and Hannah, were married and remained in Danville. Their only son, Jonathon, who was 24 and married at the time, probably made the move with Abner and Sarah as he is on record as owning land in Stanstead in 1801.

Two questions come to mind about the Morrill's move to Stanstead: 1) Why did Abner and family leave Danville, a village they had helped create? 2) Why relocate to Quebec?

The answer to the first question seems to have something to do with a disagreement about land ownership. My first clue that this may have been a cause was found in the History of Stanstead County: *Daniel Bachelder married Zevriah Morrill, Danville, VT., 1798. After losing a valuable land grant, emigrated to Stanstead County, Quebec. They settled on No. 9, 12 Range of Stanstead, in 1800.*

More about this from the Charter Records of Danville Vermont: *From the Governor, Council & General Assembly of the State of Vermont to all People to whom the presents shall come, greeting.*

By authority of FREEMEN OF VERMONT and in pursuance of an Act of the Legislature of the state, authorizing the governor of this state to issue a NEW Charter to the proprietor and settlers of the Township of Danville passed this 8th day of the present month of November, in the year of our Lord, 1802, etc. It would help here to define the word "proprietor".

Definition of PROPRIETOR: One granted ownership of a colony (such as one of the original American colonies) and full prerogatives of establishing a government and distributing land.

One of the ironies of 'frontier settlement' is that residents were not settled. The first few years of founding a town offered instability from many directions, including confusion over land ownership. The settlers had to deal with the town proprietors – often a group of absentee landowners who owned much of the town.

More about this from The Village in the Hills - A History of Danville, Vermont 1786-1995. Reading between the lines it appears that the NEW charter was going to disenfranchise many of the early settlers of Danville, perhaps because they had initially been "squatters"? The settlers who were going to be impacted by this decision petitioned the Vermont State government to protect their homes and land, which they had lived on for about 15 years:

The forty-nine settlers, since the granting of the first charter, have possessed and enjoyed their present improvements and have made very large and valuable farms and improvements on their several settlements & do now constitute a very considerable part of the landed interest in said town. The proprietors, moreover, caused various pretend proprietors meetings to be held. They excluded the settlers from voting, and there was no legal record of the same in any of the proprietor's proceedings, nor in fact is there one tract or vestige left in said proceedings, which can be admitted as evidence in a court of law - as they consist wholly in scraps and are generally destitute of any official signature.

The petition concludes with a request that a fair charter be drawn up in such a way that: *Each honest land holder may be quieted (have legal ownership?) in each particular tract which we do now severally claim posses and enjoy.*

The signers of this petition included such well-known Danville names as Kittridge, **Morrill**, Sias, Batchelder, and Harris, all founding families of the town. The lack of inquiry (government consideration?) is particularly unusual because it is the settlers' families, by and large, rather than the proprietors, who built and shaped the town and whose names - **Morrill**, Batchelder, Magoon, Carr and Hoyt – remain forever linked to the community.

Based on the relocation dates (typically 1800) that I have seen in some of the documents associated with this affair, many of the settlers who were impacted by the NEW Charter, apparently seeing the hand writing on the wall, proceeded to relocate even before the new charter was finalized and signed. The bottom line here is that our Danville ancestors relocated to Quebec after being cheated out of their Vermont land and all the improvements they had made over a 15 year period.

The answer to the second question.....why relocate to Stanstead, Quebec.....is a little more straightforward. The short answer is that Stanstead was close (55 miles), plenty of free land was available, and immigration was encouraged by the British, especially with regard to the former residents of their New England colonies. Like the growing number of Americans today who no longer trust the United States government and move to Canada, that attitude seems to have been shared by the Morrills and other former Danville residents when they moved to Stanstead in 1800. In memory of their beloved Danville, Vermont, some of the original settlers founded Danville, Quebec. There are now hundreds of Morrills living in southern Quebec in towns like Stanstead, Hatley and Danville, all founded by the pioneers of the area.....originally Americans.

From the History of Danville, Quebec: *Danville is on a stretch of the Chemin Craig, a road built in the 19th century connecting Quebec to New England. The town is about 70 miles north of the Vermont border. American loyalists from New England began arriving in 1783 and gave the town its name in memory of their hometown in Vermont of the same name: Danville, Vermont. The founder of Danville is Simeon Flint, and he was a resident from Danville, Vermont.*

There is a STANSTEAD PIONEERS' MEMORIAL perched high on Dufferin Heights, about four miles north of Stanstead. The monument is dedicated to the men and women who redeemed this area from the wilderness. The names on the list include, **Paul Morrill, David Morrill, Isaac Morrill, William Morrill and Abner Morrill.**



The Pioneers' Memorial

The death of Abner Morrill Jr: Abner died in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, on the 2nd of October 1829, probably at the home of one of his children, Rhoda or Jonathan, who was still living there at that time.

The death of Sarah Hoyt: The information that I have seen indicates that Sarah died in 1808 in South Hampton, Rockingham County, New Hampshire. However, I am sure that the location is incorrect. It is more likely that Sarah died in Stanstead, Quebec, where she and Abner were living.

JONATHAN MORRILL (1776-1860) My Great-Great-Great Grandfather

While researching Jonathan I was surprised that my internet searches did not turn up nearly as much detailed information as could be found for my earlier ancestors. There was enough to prepare a profile, however, much of what I found had errors. A lot of amateur researchers, like me, tend to perpetuate bad data, and there was a lot for Jonathan. For example, most people assume that Jonathon was born in Danville, Vermont. This is incorrect. As Jonathan was born in 1776, and his parents did not relocate to Danville until 1786, he must have been born in Massachusetts. Also, I found a document supposedly associated with Jonathon that says he joined the U.S. Military in 1813. This is very doubtful as he was living in Canada at the time and would have been hung for treason during the War of 1812. So, in preparing the profile of Jonathan I really had to filter the information.

Jonathon was born in 1776 in Methuen, Essex County, Massachusetts, and died in Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, on October 30th, 1860. He married Deborah Haskins (Hoskins), most likely in Danville, Caledonia County, Vermont, in 1797, where he had moved with his parents some twelve years earlier. She was born about 1777. Deborah passed away between 1815 and 1822, most likely in Stanstead, Quebec, where they had been living since at least 1801..... There are records indicating that *Jonathan Morrill began farming on No. 5, 10th Range, in Stanstead, in 1801*. Jonathan married a second time, to Laura Elnora Griswold, on 21 August 1821 in Hatley, Quebec, Canada. She was born about 1800, location unknown.

Jonathan's family with Deborah Haskins (aka, Hoskins): The information that I have found in our own family records is, for the most part, compatible with what I have found on the internet. The spelling of some of the given names (Evelina / Eveline / Adaline) and married names (Cory / Carey and Welch / Welsh) vary slightly but, otherwise, the information seems to be reasonably accurate.

The children of Jonathan and Deborah Haskins:

NAME	LIFESPAN	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEATH
Adeline Morrill Married to Hale Rix	1798-1869	Danville, Caledonia Co, VT	Dalton, Coos Co, NH
Deborah Morrill Married to James Cory	1803-1852	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Sun Prairie, Dane Co, WI
Nancy Morrill-Welch Married to Hills Welch	1813-1885	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada
Lewis Morrill Married to Lucy Flint	1815-1863	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Danville, Quebec, Canada

Jonathan's family with Laura (Elnora) Griswold: Church records prove that Jonathan married Laura B. Grieswald in Hatley, Quebec, in 1821. However, there is a lot of confusion about Laura's true name. Our family records list her as Griswold. In other records I have seen her (German?) last name Anglicized into Griswold and Griswald. Also, our family records consistently list her first name as Elnora. I have found information on the internet that leads me to believe that Laura B. might actually be Laura E., the E. for Elnora.....and I have found information linking her to Jonathan that has her full name listed as Laura Elnora Griswold. Some of the information we have about Jonathon's and Elnora's children is also questionable.

Name:	Jonathan Morrill
Spouse:	Laura B Grisevald
Event Year:	1821
Event:	Marriage (Marriage)
religion:	Church of England
Place of Worship or Institution:	Hatley (Church of England)
Province:	Québec (Quebec)
<p>Source Information: Ancestry.com. Quebec Vital and Church Records (Drouin Collection), 1621-1967 [database on-line]. Provo, UT, USA: The Generations Network, Inc., 2008. Original data: Gabriel Drouin, comp. Drouin Collection. Montreal, Quebec, Canada: Institut Québécois Drouin.</p> <p>Description: Until the late 1900s, church registers in Quebec served as civil and vital records in that province. Throughout the years a second copy of church records, from all denominations, was sent annually to the appropriate courthouse. During the 1940s the vital record collections in courthouses throughout Quebec were filmed by the Institut Québécois Drouin. The filming of vital records continued for some areas up through the 1970s. Consequently, this filmed set of records became known as the Drouin Collection. The majority of the records in this database cover the time period 1621-1947, as most of the filming was done in the 1940s. The records that were filmed up through the 1960s are also included in this database, although they are very few in number. These records that were filmed later cover the years 1948-1967. Names from all years have now been indexed and can be searched on using the search box above. Learn more...</p>	

The children of Jonathon and Laura Griswold:

NAME	LIFESPAN	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEATH
Amanda B. Morrill Married to James Mighell	1822-1899	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Waterman, Dekalb Co, IL
Thaddeus Morrill Unmarried	1823-xxxx	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown-Drowned in the Platt River
Emily H. Morrill Married to William Moore Jr	1825-1906	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Fort Worth, Tarrant Co, TX
Harriet Ann Morrill Married to Mark Bigelow	1830-1865	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada
Fanny Morrill Married to Henry Fraser	xxxx-xxxx	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown
Jonathan Morrill Unmarried	1832-xxxx	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown-Died in the Civil War
Maria Morrill Unmarried	xxxx-xxxx	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown
Daniel Morrill Married to unknown	1834-1894	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown
Laura A. Morrill Married to Mr. Birks	1837-1921	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Marshalltown, Marshall Co, IA
Sarah Morrill Unmarried	1838-xxxx	Stanstead, Quebec, Canada	Unknown

Our family records provide the names of the children, the order of their birth, if and to whom they were married, and sometimes the circumstances surrounding their deaths, especially if untimely, but there are no dates. The dates, mostly the result of many hours of internet searches and sources, are often in conflict and their accuracy is therefore questionable. The only children for whom I have accurate data are Amanda, Emily and Laura (I have a photo of her Laura's headstone, spelled Morrell-Birks). As our direct line ancestor we have much more information about **Emily**. Regarding the place of birth information, this should be accurate as Jonathon did not move to Illinois from Quebec until the 1840's, after all of the children were born. The limited information regarding the place of death should be accurate.

Jonathan's last move was to Waterman, Illinois, where he was living during the 1850 census. His moves to Danville, VT, and Stanstead, Quebec, were already described in Abner's profile. So, I will not repeat that information.

JOURNEY #5: Stanstead, Quebec, Canada, to Waterman, Illinois, USA



DESTINATION #5: Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb County, Illinois



We will never know why Jonathon relocated to Waterman, Illinois. As his sister's (Amanda) sons had moved to Lamoille, Illinois, about 45 miles from Waterman, in the 1830's, perhaps Jonathon's move was part of another Morrill family migration. We know that he arrived in Waterman



sometime between 1838, the year his last child (Sarah) was born, and the 1850 census. Even though Jonathon was in his sixties when he made the move, he still had a fairly young second family to take care of, including my great-great grandmother, Emily, who would have been in her teen years at the time. Jonathon and Laura (Elnora) must have been accompanied by several other children who were younger than Emily and probably some older children as well, especially unmarried daughters. Fortunately for the aging Jonathon he had several sons to help him work the farm.

Even though Jonathon and family were not the first settlers in the Waterman area it was still the frontier in the 1830's and 1840's, mostly wilderness, and stayed that way until civilization arrived with the train system in the 1870's. Waterman is where the Morrill and Moore families met.

Waterman



Located near the juncture of US Rt. 30 and IL Rt. 23 in southern Dekalb County is the village of Waterman. Even though Waterman is not as old as some of the other towns in Dekalb County, it does have a rich history just like many of its neighboring communities. Before settlers moved in, what is now Waterman was part of one large unbroken prairie. One early settler, Charles Marsh, describes eloquently in his recollections what he saw when he first witnessed this Dekalb County prairie:

"We spent the next day in looking over our new country. It was ideal Indian summer weather. We were delighted with the prairie, with its breadth, its freshness and its freedom. We went up on 'Holbrook's Knoll', a short distance southwest of the present village of Waterman, and from that elevated point surveyed the land. Southward an immense tract of treeless, undulating prairie, dotted by scattered cabins near the timber, was spread out before us, the view bounded by Shabbona Grove, Pritchard's Grove and Ross Grove to the right, by Indian Creek timber in front and by Somonauk timber to the left. Eastward was Squaw Grove and northward was the boundless prairie, the view in that direction unbroken by house or tree so far as the eye could reach."



Marsh goes on to explain how in the decades following the prairie was broken up and its landscape became crowded with orchard trees, fences, and houses. He said that few could scarcely imagine what the wild prairie looked like to those first pioneers.



According to the town of Waterman's website, many of the first settlers in the area lived in the abandoned tepees of the Pottawatomie Indians. When building the first log cabins, most pioneers settled first at the border of groves of trees and prairie, which allowed them to have both timber and excellent farm land readily available. Waterman was open farmland for more than thirty years after the first farmers moved into the area until the Chicago and Iowa Railroad was built in 1870. Waterman was surveyed and platted in 1872 and named after Daniel Waterman, the general solicitor of the railroad company.

The death of Jonathan Morrill: Jonathon died in Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb County, Illinois, on October 30th, 1860, at the age of 84. I could not find any additional information about his death or burial location.

The death of Laura (Elnora) Griswold: I could not find any information about the death of Laura Griswold. I assume that she also died in Waterman, but at a much later date than Jonathan due to the difference in their ages.

EMILY H. MORRILL (1825-1906)My Great-Great Grandmother

Emily H. Morrill was born on 10 July 1825 in Stanstead, Quebec, Canada. She married William H. Moore Jr. on 28 June 1848, in Kendall County, Illinois. In the 1840's Emily's father, Jonathan Morrill, relocated the family from Stanstead, Quebec, Canada to Waterman, Illinois, a farming community where the Moore family was living at the time.

It was at this point that the Morrill-Moore lines joined the Hornor Family Tree. More information about Emily's and William's life together can be found in the Moore Family e-file, "Gen 14.3 -The Moore Family". Much of this information will be repeated there.

William H. Moore Jr. and Emily H. Morrill had five children:

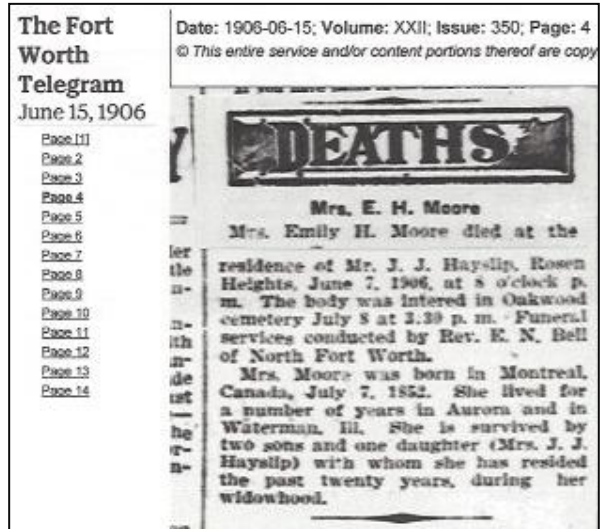
NAME	LIFESPAN	PLACE OF BIRTH	PLACE OF DEATH
Smith Hezekiah Moore	1849-1937	Somonauk, Somonauk Township, Dekalb Co, IL (1)	New Franklin, Howard Co, MO
William H. Moore III	1854-1943	Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb Co, IL	Pittsburgh, Allegheny Co, PA
Emily Gertrude Moore - Hayslip	1862-1952	Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb Co, IL	Los Angeles, Los Angeles Co, CA
Sarah E. Moore	1863-xxxx	Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb Co, IL	Unknown
Lillian Moore-Tressler	1868-xxxx	Waterman, Clinton Township, Dekalb Co, IL	Unknown

The death of Emily H. Morrill-Moore: Emily died at Fort Worth, Tarrant County, Texas, on 7 June 1906. Her obituary, which I have transcribed for easier reading, is below. Emily was the last Morrill in our line.

“Mrs. Emily H. Moore died at the residence of Mr. J. J. Hayslip, Rosen Heights, June 7, 1906, at 8 o’clock p.m. The body was interred at Oakwood Cemetery July 8 at 3:30 p.m. Funeral services conducted by Rev E. N. Bell of North Fort Worth.”

“Mrs. Moore was born in Montreal, Canada, July 7, 1852. She lived for a number of years in Aurora and in Waterman, Ill. She is survived by two sons and one daughter (Mrs. J. J. Hayslip) with whom she has resided for the past twenty years, during her widowhood.”

Corrections: Emily was born in **Stanstead**, Quebec, Canada, about 100 miles from Montreal, on **10 July 1825**.



SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION OF INTEREST

- The Morrill family connection to Thaddeus Stevens.

HORNOR	OVITT	MOORE	MORRILL	STEVENS
Anthony Horner 1573-1632			Richard Morrill 1561-1615	
John Horner 1607-1671			Abraham Morrill 1615-1662	
John Horner 1636-1689			Jacob Morrill 1648-1718	
Joshua Horner 1676-1721			Ezekiel Morrill 1675-1732	
Joseph Horner 1714-1770			Abner Morrill 1709-1766	
Thomas Horner 1749-1828			Abner Morrill 1741-1829	
Joseph Horner 1789-1869	Daniel Ovitt 1784-1868	William Moore Sr 1800-XXXX	Jonathon Morrill 1776-1860	Sarah Morrill + Joshua Sevens 1767-1854 1770-1825
Eber Horner 1818-1907	Squire Addison Ovitt 1813-1900	William Moore Jr + 1825-1885	Emily Morrill 1825-1906	Thaddeus Stevens 1792-1868
Joseph E Horner 1849-1899	Ella Ann Ovitt + 1855-1930	Smith H. Moore 1849-1937		
Guy Hornor 1877-1951	+ Grace Ovitt Moore 1880-1953			
Lee Hornor 1910-1988				
Richard Hornor 1942-XXXX				

As the chart above shows, the sister of my G-G-G Grandfather, Jonathon Morrill, was Sarah Morrill. Sarah (“Sallie”) was Thaddeus Stevens’ mother.

