

EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION, INC.

NEWS LETTER

SPRING, 1978

NUMBER 36

OFFICERS FOR 1977 - 1978

PRESIDENT. . . . . Henry E. Rice, Jr. 1106 Windsor Drive,  
North Framingham, MA 01701

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT . . C. Whiting Rice, Jr. 21 Farnum Pike #5,  
Esmond, RI 02917

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT. . William Drury 24 Buckman Drive,  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

TREASURER. . . . . John E. Rice, 20 MacKay Drive,  
Marlboro, MA 01752

RECORDING SECRETARY. . . Beatrice W. Johnson, 48 Oak Avenue,  
Northborough, MA 01532

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY  
AND HISTORIAN. . . . . Miss Margaret S. Rice, Lion's Mouth Road,  
Amesbury, MA 01913

LIBRARIAN. . . . . Robert F. Royce, 346 High Street,  
Milford, CT 06460

NEWS LETTER EDITOR . . . Janet Farrar Royce, 346 High Street,  
Milford, CT 06460

DIRECTORS. . . . .

Edward F. P. Brigham, Brigham Building, Miami, FA 33131  
Sidney Brigham, 16 East Dudley Street, Marlboro, MA 01752  
Patricia P. MacFarland, 162 Whitney Street, Northborough, MA 01532  
Janice Parmenter, 15 Hudson Street, Northborough, MA  
Larisa Rice, 21 Farnum Pike #5, Esmond, RI 02917  
Louise Rice Trudeau, William Street, Chester, MA 01011

LIVING PAST PRESIDENTS. . . . .

Margaret E. Allen, 69 Walnut Street, Holden, MA	1973-74
Ray Lowther Ellis, 1137 Mass. Ave. Cambridge, MA	1965-67
William H. Hoefler, 150 Jay Street, Geneva, NY	1963-65
Jeneve M. Melvin, Summit Estates So. Apt. 2E, 100 Paradise Road, Swampscott, MA	pro tem 1968-69
Col. (ret.) Allen F. Rice, Lion's Mouth Road, Ame Amesbury, MA	1969-73
Charles W. Rice, 388 Franklin Street, Wrentham, MA	1955-56
Edgar W. Rice, 411 Linden Street, Wellesley Hills, MA	1974-75 1956-58
Seaver M. Rice, 97 Everett Street, Southbridge, MA	1967-68
Stanley I. Rice, 16 Longmeadow Ave., Worcester, MA	1975-76
Donald Whittmore, Box 158 No. Scituate, MA	1958-59
	1959-60



FRONT COVER: Clara Barton, whose accomplishments as a nurse and through founding the American Association of the Red Cross brought her everlasting fame. She is also a descendent of Edmund Rice and thus is honored in this issue of Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Dear cousins -

Our Board of Directors' meeting was just over a month ago and although we got alot accomplished we were unable to finalize our plans for the reunion coming up in September. Some very nice ideas are afloat, though, and I personally promise you it will be a good one.

At any rate, we have delayed the Spring Newsletter as long as we dared so rather than pass on tentative arrangements I will simply ask you to wait for the announcement we send out in late August. Be sure to save the last weekend in September for us, anyway.

We have gained twelve new members since our last reunion and although we have no genealogies from them yet, we do have two very interesting genealogies of old friends (do they share any of your line?).

In this issue of Newsletter, also, is your own copy of the updated By Laws; and the third and final installment of ROGER E. RICE'S "Treatise." There is a review of The Epistle and some more yummy Rice clan recipes.

Finally, we will introduce you to an old Rice family member, CLARA BARTON and our new Vice President, WILLIAM DRURY.

Have a wonderful summer. Keep an eye open in August for our reunion announcement and I hope to see you all at the reunion in September.

Janet Farrar Royce  
Newsletter Editor

\*\*\*\*\*

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

##### Balance as of March 18, 1978:

In the checking account	\$ 1,701.45
In savings account #1	2,000.00
In savings account #2	2,000.00
Interest from saving accounts	<u>600.00</u>

Total assets	\$ 6,301.45
--------------	-------------



## WELCOME TO THE BOARD: A BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM H. DRURY

At our last Fall reunion and general meeting a new board member was voted in and shot right up to the post of second vice president. You would imagine such a person must be pretty special, and he is.

Bill Drury is a radar signal processing engineer for M.I.T. Lincoln Laboratory, which is operated by M.I.T. for the Air Force. He and his wife, the former Jane Boyd of Woodbury, CT have been married for almost 23 years and have two children: Beth, who is a senior at Wells College and Bob, a freshman at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (RPI).

Jane likes choir singing and local history. She has been very busy the last few years researching the old houses in Chelmsford. The Massachusetts Historical Commission has detailed the local historical commissions in the state to inventory their respective historical assets and that is where Jane comes in. As you can imagine, there are plenty of them, as Chelmsford was founded in 1655!

Bill is a rail fan. "And," quips Bill, "as any other rail fan can tell you, that takes up as much time as you let it!"

Together Bill and Jane enjoy compiling their genealogies and go square dancing two or three nights a week.

Through his work in genealogy Bill discovered that he is descended from Edmund Rice eleven different ways! He first heard of our association from the article on family associations that appeared in Yankee Magazine several years ago. Margaret Rice was mentioned in that article, along with a picture of her, and Bill wrote to her.

Bill is also a Perry. And, the Perry family is a very close and interesting one. They have their own inn "Camp Eagle" where they meet every year for reunions (more about Camp Eagle in another issue). Fortunately some of the family members have been "savers" and also writers and there is a wealth of material of their family left.

May I also add that Bill is friendly, witty and a real contribution to our board. All in all the kind of guy, and family, you would be glad to be related to and friends with. Welcome, Bill, Jane, Beth and Bob!

\*\*\*\*\*

## CONGRATULATIONS..

To LINDA WARD, daughter of ROBERT WARD who has become MRS. W. O'NEILL. Linda is living in Boxborough, MA with her new husband. We wish you a long and happy life together.

And congratulations are in order for MR. & MRS. WILLIAM AMES RUE of Nine Hillside Road, Plainville, MA who have announced the birth of their first child, RACHEL KELLY RICE, born on September 1, 1977. Proud grandparents are none other than our illustrious past president CHARLES WHITING RICE and his wife, HARRIET from Wrentham, MA. Congratulations, all.



AT PEACE....

MR. ARTHUR BOOTH died last April 2, 1977, leaving behind his wife, ARLENE BOOTH, an Edmund Rice Association, Inc. member.

MARY GAGE RICE also left us shortly after our last reunion, on November 23, 1977. We will remember her fondly.

MISSING PERSONS....

With every mailing of Newsletter we get back a few issues from Rice Association members whose addresses are incorrect. Sometimes the address is misprinted or we misread the address given to us but many people move without leaving us or the post office a forwarding address. It makes me very upset to see these people, who are entitled to their Newsletters, do without.

Last time I put a missing persons bulletin in the Newsletter I got some good results so I am going to keep it up.

But don't forget to send us change of address cards when you move. And, whenever you write out your name and/or address print it clearly, please.

I look forward to the issue when I send out a Newsletter and don't get any back.

Can you help us find:

MRS. FRANK WILES, last known address: 11 Bates Road,  
Lexington, MA

MR. EDWARD A. RICE, Box #53, R.R.#1,  
Orono, Ontario  
Canada

JFR

\*\*\*\*\*

#### CLARA BARTON, A HEROIC WOMAN AND A DESCENDANT OF EDMUND RICE

The following is excerpted from Chapter XX of Elsie Hawes Smith's More About Those Rices. This is just one example of the many interesting chapters in this book.

In connection with the Civil War one is bound to think of Clara Barton whose accomplishments as a nurse during that struggle started a career that brought her everlasting fame.

Miss Barton was nearly thirty years old at the outbreak of hostilities, having been born on Christmas day 1831 at Oxford, Massachusetts. She was descended from Ephraim Rice, one of the first settlers of Worcester and must have inherited a large portion of the dauntless spirit and need for action of her Rice forebears.



Going to Washington to offer her services in caring for the wounded, she was the first woman to enter the field. Many other women followed her example, rendering an aid of untold value to the country. Her ability and courage brought her the admiration of military leaders and gave Miss Barton the name of the Angel of the Battlefield.

One of her most useful and daring exploits occurred in September 1862 when she loaded a wagon with supplies and started out alone in the wake of McLellan's army. At a large barn near Antietam she established her headquarters. The supplies she had brought saved the lives of many soldiers, for the army supplies soon ran out. Among other things she had brought a couple of dozen lanterns which provided the necessary light to work with the wounded after darkness had fallen.

Near the close of the war President Lincoln put Miss Barton in charge of a bureau for locating missing men and the graves of those who had fallen in the fighting. During the Franco-Prussian war she served abroad in caring for the wounded and received many decorations.

It was Clara Barton who conceived the idea of a permanent organization to care for victims of disaster and war. For four years she worked to have her idea accepted until in 1881 the American Association of the Red Cross was formed. President Garfield made Miss Barton the President of this organization for life.

During her lifetime she saw many of her great dreams for service come true. The Red Cross rendered valuable aid at the time of the Johnstown flood; in 1892 she sent representatives of her organization to Russia to relieve the great famine; in 1896 she worked for the assistance of the Armenians during the Turkish massacres; after the battle of Santiago her relief ship was the first to enter the harbor. Her last important work was in connection with the Galveston flood in 1900.

Miss Barton was a friend of all United State Presidents from Lincoln to McKinley. She lived to the age of ninety at her home near Washington. It was proposed that she be buried in the National cemetery at Arlington, but her remains were brought back to be interred in the family lot in Oxford, where several organizations honor her memory and bear her name.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### BARLEY BREAD

contributed by

Corinne M. Snow, M. D.

1 C "quick" pearl barley	2 C boiling water
1/4 C honey	4 C sifted flour
1 Tbs softened shortening	1/4 C warm water
3/4 tsp salt	2 packages dry yeast

In a large mixing bowl place barley, honey shortening and salt. Pour boiling water over them, and let sit for a few minutes. Stir in 2 cups of the flour. Meanwhile dissolve yeast in warm water



and add to first mixture when it is cool enough.

Work in enough of the remaining flour to make a soft dough, and knead for 10 minutes until it is satin smooth. Place in a greased bowl, cover with a damp cloth and set to rise in a warm place - about 1 ½ hours.

Punch down, knead lightly for about five minutes, and shape into loaves. Each loaf should fill about 2/3 of the greased pan you plan to bake it in. Let rise until dough is above the edge of the pan.

Bake in 375° oven for about 40 minutes.

This recipe makes 1 high 9" loaf, 2 not-so-high 8" loaves, or 3 5" loaves.

¼ tsp. dill seed, or

¼ tsp. sesame seed, added with the flour, give a little extra flavor to this bread, although it is deliciously different all by itself.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

New Rice Association members since our Fall Newsletter are:

Mrs. Melva M. Bach  
P.O. Box 88  
Lakeview, OR 97630

Brenton T. Rice  
P.O. Box 568  
Boulder Creek, CA 95006

Mrs. E. B. (Jane) Bickley  
55 North River Road  
Manchester, NH 03104

Chester G. Rice  
98 Walmer Avenue  
East Providence, RI 02914

Mrs. R. Taylor (Margaret) Drake  
643 Park Drive  
P.O. Box 455  
Kenilworth, IL 60043

Mr. & Mrs. Floyd A. Rice, Sr.  
Harmony Road, Box 54  
Charlemont, MA 01339

Mrs. Floyd W. (Margie Rice) Hazen  
5375 Colonial Avenue  
Jacksonville, FL 32210

Hugh J. Rice  
3556 Willis Drive  
Napa, CA 94558

Mrs. Naomi R. Mohn  
1335-C S.E. Walnut Street  
Hillsboro, OR 97123

John L. Rice  
3416 Montclair Circle  
Modesto, CA 95350

Ethel M. Moss  
506 East Sola Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

Mrs. Richard (Sandra) Rice  
54 Main Street  
Addison, NY 14801

Mrs. Lela Randall  
115 N. Smith Drive  
Woodburn, OR 97071

Mrs. George M. (Doris) Ronald  
62 Island Street  
Stoughton, MA 02072



Mrs. Edward (Glenna Simmons)  
P.O. Box 872  
Mount Dora, FA 32757

Alynne Rhys Wesson  
40 Carole Road  
Springfield, IL 62707

Herbert S. Whitman  
Box 396  
Block Island, RI 02807

Edwin Dannon Witter, Jr.  
One Las Vegas Road  
Orinda, CA 94563

#### OLD MEMBER GENEALOGIES

##### David F. Ash

- 1 Edmund Rice m. Thomasine Frost
  - 2 Thomas Rice m. Mary King
  - 3 Mary (King) Rice m. Josiah White
  - 4 Capt. John White m. Eunice Wilder
  - 5 Dorothy White m. Benjamin Whitcomb
  - 6 Josiah Whitcomb m. Rebecca \_\_\_\_\_ (Chaffin?)
  - 7 Eliza Whitcomb m. David Ash
  - 8 Henry Cummings Ash m. Mary Alice Young
  - 9 Eugene H. Ash m. Mary Fuller
  - 10 David Fuller Ash m. Margaret Smoke
- daughters: Mary Margaret Ash m. John Wright  
Deborah Anne Ash m. Rockne Foreman

##### Louise Marie Rice Trudeau

- |    |                                    |  |
|----|------------------------------------|--|
| 1  | Edmund Rice - - - - - m. - - - - - | Thomasine Frost  |
| 2  | Edward Rice m. Agnes Bent          | Thomas Rice m. Mary King                                       |
| 3  | Anna Rice - - - m. - - -           | Thomas Rice  |
| 4  | Charles Rice m. Rachel Wheeler     |  |
| 5  | Anna Rice - - - - - m. - - - - -   | Ebenezer Rice  |
| 6  |                                    | Benjamin Rice m. Sarah Green                                   |
| 7  |                                    | Elijah Rice m. Rebecca Ann Wilder                              |
| 8  |                                    | Oliver Rice m. Hannah Adaline Chapman                          |
| 9  |                                    | Frank Lewis Rice m. Mary Deett Putnam                          |
| 10 |                                    | David Newton Rice m. Catherine (Kate) May (Maillison) (Pelkey) |
| 11 |                                    | Arthur Edward Rice m. Ethel Louise Ransom                      |
| 12 |                                    | Louise Marie Rice m. Eugene Trudeau                            |



## REVIEWS

THE EPISTLE, Rosemary E. Bachelor, editor. P.O. Box 398,  
Machias, ME 04654

This is a magazine devoted to the history and genealogy of Colonial era Batchelor, Carpenter and Rice settlers and their descendants. It covers all branches of these families in the United States, and all variant spellings of the sur names.

It began as three separate Journals which, in turn, grew out of Rosemary's genealogical inquiries and correspondence with her own relatives.

The Espistle makes no attempt to distinguish family lines and thus the one third of each issue devoted to the Rice family may or may not be of Edmund Rice's line and the reader's personal lineage. It is up to the reader to do this research.

The issue I examined began with a state of the month, followed by the three family sections which each included illustrated articles sent in by readers or researched by Rosemary herself, genealogical findings and some genealogies and letters.

The Epistle is well organized, interesting and a substantial publications (some 60 pages) with a semi professional appearance.

It is published monthly with a subscription rate of \$12.50 a year or \$1.25 an issue. Back issues of both The Epistle and the journals which preceded the larger, combined publication are available. The Epistle back issues are also \$1.25 and there are 36 available. Of the original 16 Rice Journals only 14 are available at \$1.25 a copy, also.

For Rices also related to either the Carpenter or Batchelor families; or for those interested in general early American history and Rices of any line The Epistle is highly recommended as a worthwhile magazine. JFR

THE PEOPLE OF CONCORD, by James Playsted Wood, The Seabury Press,  
NY, \$4.95

The first forty pages of this relatively small book cover the founding of a New England town at the confluence of the Assabet and Sudbury Rivers (only a few miles from where the Edmund Rice family would settle within three years), then on through King Philip's War and the beginning of our Revolution a century later.

The next hundred pages tell of the nineteenth century literary folks who lived here: Emerson, Thorough, Hawthorne, Bronson Alcott with his precocious and gifted daughter, Louisa May.

The final chapter describes what one can find in this charming, historic village today.

Henry E. Rice, Jr.



BY LAWS  
OF  
THE EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE 1 - NAME and LOCATION

This corporation shall be known as the EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION, INC.; and shall be located at Wayland, Massachusetts.

ARTICLE 2 - PURPOSES

This Association is constituted for the purpose of encouraging antiquarian, genealogical and historical researches, especially with reference to the times, the ancestors and the descendants of Edmund Rice, who settled in Sudbury in 1638 and died in 1663.

ARTICLE 3 - OFFICERS and THEIR ELECTION

The officers of the Corporation shall be chosen by a majority vote at the annual meeting from a slate of candidates, prepared by the Nominating Committee.

There shall be a Board of Directors (twelve) (12); from which shall be chosen a President; one or more Vice Presidents; a Secretary; a Treasurer; a Historian; and a NewsLetter Editor.

The Board of Directors shall serve as a Nominating Committee at the following annual meeting.

If a vacancy occurs in the Board of Directors, a meeting of the Board may be called by the President to fill the vacancy, in the meantime, the remaining Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors.



ARTICLE 3 - OFFICERS and THEIR ELECTION (Continued)

If a vacancy occurs in the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, the office for the unexpired term shall be filled by an appointee of the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 4 - ANNUAL MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Corporation shall be held at a place selected by the officers for the election of officers and such other business as may properly come before it. In case of failure from any cause to hold any annual meeting, a special meeting shall be called as hereinafter provided, to transact the business of such annual meeting.

- SPECIAL MEETINGS/NOTICES

Special meetings may be called by vote of the Board of Directors, or by the President.

Notices of all meetings shall be printed or in writing, shall state the matters to be there considered, and shall be mailed to all the members, addressed at their several addresses of record, at least two weeks before the day of holding the meeting.

- QUORUM

Eleven (11) members shall constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Corporation shall be such persons as claim to be lineal descendants of EDMUND RICE, *(and their spouses)* who settled in Sudbury in 1638 and died in 1663. *9-26-81*



ARTICLE 5 - MEMBERSHIP (Continued)

- CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

The Secretary shall issue to each member a certificate in such form as the Board of Directors shall, from time to time, prescribe and shall enter the name and address on the membership rolls of the Corporation.

The Board of Directors may adopt as the seal of the Corporation such device as they deem proper.

ARTICLE 6 - DUES

Each member shall pay annual dues.

Penalties for Non-Payment of Dues

No member whose dues are in arrears shall be eligible to vote at any meeting of the Corporation. In case of non-payment of his or her dues, a member may be dropped from membership by vote of the Board of Directors after six months written notice, duly mailed, of non-payment of said dues.

ARTICLE 7 - MEETINGS

The Board of Directors shall meet prior to the annual meeting; five (5) Directors shall constitute a quorum of the Board. Said Board shall have all the powers of the Corporation, except as by law or herein otherwise provided.

SECRETARY shall keep the records of the Corporation and of the Board of Directors; shall send the notices for all meetings.



## ARTICLE 7 - MEETINGS (Continued)

TREASURER shall be the custodian of all monies and securities of the Corporation, and shall keep accurate books of account thereof. The Treasurer's accounts shall each year be audited and submitted, with such audit at the annual meeting of the members.

FISCAL YEAR - The fiscal year shall end through August 31, of each year.

PRESIDENT and VICE PRESIDENT - The President, and in his absence the Vice President, shall preside at all meetings of the Corporation and the Board of Directors. In the absence of both of the said officers, a temporary chairman shall be chosen from the Board.

None of the officers of the Corporation shall receive any salaries or compensation.

### AMENDMENTS

All amendments must be proposed in writing at a regular meeting of the Association. In order that an amendment be accepted, a two-thirds vote of the meeting is necessary.



# A TREATISE ON THE RICE FAMILY

by

ROGER E. RICE

## PART III

### OUR NEW ENGLAND ANCESTRAL PROGENITOR

The first immigrants to America were English, leading all the other nationalities until the first half of the 19th century when Irish and German immigrants began to come, followed later in the century by Italians and Greeks, and by Scandinavians as the 1900's approached. The English were of two groups who settled in two different places: the Puritans in Massachusetts and the Cavaliers in Virginia. More than just religious freedom brought the Puritans, but they did see the New World as an ideal location for their "experiment in constructive Protestantism." Hence, that famous first voyage to New England, with its historic Fall 1620 landing on the shore of Cape Cod Bay. No Rices came on the Mayflower. By 1775 there were some 32 known Rice families on record of having arrived in the Colonies. Edmund Rice, including a number of sons, arrived in 1637-38, only 18 years after the Mayflower, and they and others do not go unnoticed for their part of propagating the name.

On March 1, 1790, President George Washington signed a law providing for the first census in the United States, and at that time there were already 657 Rice families, 222, the largest number, in Massachusetts. There were also 2,910 adult singles and independent Rices who were not members of the recorded households of the 13 states. Except for the years 1880, 1900, and 1920, with partial indexes for 1910 and 1930, the Bureau of Census no longer indexes names, according to Michael G. Garland, chief of data user services division. The Social Security Administration issued a report in 1974 in which it indicated that social security numbers were assigned to 151,527 people named Rice between 1936, when the program began, and August 1974; that Rice ranked 144th in name appearances in the files. Whatever the actual number of Rices in the land today, Deacon Edmund Rice is not responsible for all of them, but he is forefather of a great number of us.

Fortunate we are that one Andrew Henshaw Ward, Harvard College graduate, lawyer, historian and genealogist of New Weston, MA, delivered into the hands of a group of Edmund Rice descendants in August, 1856, a genealogical manuscript comprising a succession of some 1,400 families and containing the names of about 7,000 individuals having a common ancestry in the person of the No. 1 patriarch. No conditions were annexed to the gift other than it be published in Ward's time and that he be allowed to supervise. A committee promptly caused such to be done, the culmination of which was the original 500 copies of a 380-page book - "A Genealogical History of the Rice Family: Descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice" (C. Benjamin Richardson, Boston, 1858). On the 100th anniversary of the first printing, a second printing was made, and numerous supplements have followed in 1958 and 1970, containing corrections, new information and thousands upon thousands more names.



Fortunate we are, too, that a colorful and great insight into the life and times of Deacon Edmund Rice has been made available in a triumphant and remarkable book -- "Puritan Village: The Foundation of a New England Town," by Sumner Clifton Powell (Wesleyan University Press, Middletown, CT, hardback 1963, paperback 1970). This interesting volume, illustrated with maps and drawings, was winner of the Pulitzer Prize in History, 1964. In her review of the work, Rice Family News-Journal/Epistle editor Rosemary E. Bachelor, Machias, Maine, says of it: "This book recaptures for us conditions faced in England by Edmund Rice and those who accompanied him across the ocean . . . gives us insite into how they attempted to set up a more democratic form of government in Massachusetts towns they settled . . . educates as it informs and gives us the proper background for understanding the role our Rice ancestor and his fellow Sudbury and Marlborough townspeople played in beginning the foundation of a new nation." Probably on your local library selves, "Puritan Village" is "must" reading for all descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice.

Young Edmund Rice, of an open-field farming society in England, was a man intent on being a leader and a land owner. His move from Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, where we first hear of him and where it is recorded he married Thomasine Frost in 1618, was for the purpose of joining a then developing land rush. He arrived in Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire, in 1626, where within a year he had come into possession of three acres, and had increased his holdings to 15 acres as shown in both the 1633 and 1637 tax lists. It was in 1637 that he and others, spurred by dissatisfaction of crown and church interference, joined the flow of Englishmen to New England, where prospects seemed possible for more freedom in their emerging concepts. This Puritan immigration to Massachusetts, and the eventual settlement of Sudbury, though frequently marked with elements fostering continued dissension, did not deter Edmund Rice from his ambitions.

In Sudbury Edmund Rice became the largest individual landholder of all his fellow townspeople, according to research afforded us by Powell, and he represented his town in the capacity of nearly every important office. His holdings at Sudbury once included 47 acres of meadow and 164 acres of upland. He held a total of 22 posts from 1638 to 1655 - 11 as selectman, five as deputy to the General Court, once as a fence viewer, three times as judge of small cases, once as insurance taker and once as surveyor of highways - not to mention holding the deaconship of the church . . . elected to do so in many instances over more experienced men mostly because of his apparent energy in acquisition and administration of duty.

Though initially open-field oriented, in which tilling and pasturing are shared effort with villagers as opposed to closed-field where fences exist and individual management is in competition with neighbors, Edmund Rice finally shifted toward the latter in sympathy with younger generations who were landless. It was this contention, among other things, that split Sudbury assunder and once again in 1656 found Edmund Rice on the side of 13 other petitioners for a new settlement which in 1660 was established fully as Marlborough. Here Edmund Rice received a grant of 50 upland acres and 25 acres of meadow, and here he held office of selectman five times before his death. His sons Thomas (our second generation progenitor), Edward,



Benjamin, Joseph and Samuel, who had held no land in Sudbury, fared well with grants ranging from 35 to 21 upland acres and 17 to 10 acres of meadows. An inventory in probate court, filed May 15, 1663, after the elder Rice's death, showed his holdings to be worth 743.8.4 in English pounds - a tidy sum of accumulated wealth, no doubt, for a 17th century Pilgrim settler of 25 years.

Edmund Rice's residence in Sudbury was, according to Ward, "on the east side of the Sudbury river, in the southerly part of what is now Wayland, and near the border of the extensive meadow through which the river flows in a northeasterly course to the Merrimac." The site today, on the Old Connecticut Path near Wayland, is marked with a tablet of stone, dedicated September 13, 1913. An excellent line drawing of the Wayland (Sudbury) homestead of Edmund Rice has been made available from an old photo of the house taken before it burned in the late 1800's. His house lot at Marlborough, Ward tells us, "was in the westerly part of the town, on the old country road leading from Marlborough to Northborough and in the bend as it passes round the northerly side of the pond, a short distance northerly of the ancient Williams tavern."

Edmund Rice was born about 1594, a date established by a deposition of his own in court files at Cambridge, MA, stating his age April 3, 1656, to be "about 62 years." He would have been about 69 when he died at Marlborough on May 3, 1663. He is buried in the old Sudbury cemetery at Wayland, and his grave is identified by a marker erected and dedicated by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc. on August 28, 1914, replacing an ancient slate tablet.

Records of his exact date of birth or of his parentage have not been uncovered by researchers to date, and since all Rices do not descend from the founder of the second royal tribe of Wales, as some genealogical opportunists would have you believe, any such ancient pedigree given for Edmund Rice is not accepted by the Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc., and will not be until such irreproachable documentation surfaces, according to Miss Margaret S. Rice, Association secretary and historian. Deacon Edmund Rice descendants are cautioned to make no claim of any pedigree farther back than the man himself, and to also be wary of any offers of coats-of-arm, all of which are unauthentic and for the most part phony. Content yourself with the heritage and historic facts that exist.

This, then, is the story of your beginning, your origin, your genealogical heritage. Your ancestral record has been preserved, and your forebearers do not go unremembered. You can truthfully, and with pride, say to the askers that your people have been in America for 338 years on this 200th anniversary of our nation.

The End

\*\*\*\*\*

Beginning in our next Newsletter a new series: excerpts from Civil War Letters of Edwin Rice edited by Ted Perry.



# Newsletter



CLARA BARTON

## Edmund Rice (1638) Association, Inc.

THE EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOC., INC.  
NEWS LETTER EDITOR  
Janet Farrar Royce  
346 High Street  
Milford, CT 06460

NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT NO. 29  
MILFORD, CONN

Mr. William H. Drury  
24 Buckman Drive  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

### Third Class

Address Correction Requested