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PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Rice Family Members,

I'd like to tell you of an experience I had a few years ago:

There it was. I don't know why I hadn't seen it before, lying flat alongside the fieldstone foundation of a barn long since torn down, or why I noticed it when I did. It was an old scythe blade with several inches of the tip broken off. The tang was undamaged, but the blade was rusted and pitted badly. I knew that at least fifty years had gone by since that old blade was thrown there, perhaps by the person who had broken off the tip. As I picked the relic up it struck the stone of the foundation, giving forth a clear, ringing, bell-like sound in spite of its rustiness. I was impressed deeply by this characteristic of good quality metal.

So it is with family values. Sometimes they are thrown aside, victims of modern life and its pressures. But these values can be found again. When tested, they ring true and clear--characteristic, one might say, of good mettle.

The Rice Family, perhaps even to Edmund Rice's antecedents in England, has endured and prospered. I believe that early Rices hammered out the values by which they lived, mostly from the need to feel satisfied that they were living life to its fullest and best, and without delusion. This need is with us still, and so is the need to rediscover and live the traditional Rice Family Values. They do ring true.

Hope to see you on September 22nd at the Salem Cross Inn.

Cordially,

  
John S. Bates

P.S. You may be interested to know that I sharpened that old blade, and to my astonishment, it worked! Indeed, it worked well!



REUNION 1991:

The Edmund Rice (1638) Association  
will hold its Annual Meeting  
on Sunday, September 22, 1991, at the  
Salem Cross Inn, Rte.9, Ware Rd.  
West Brookfield, MA 01585

All members and those interested in the Association  
are warmly invited to attend.

\* \* \*

Time is running short, September is only two months away  
and, hopefully, you have made your plans to come to the  
reunion. At the bottom of the next two pages is a  
reservation blank; please fill it out and return it to me  
promptly with your check.

The luncheon will cost \$10.00 per person; there is a  
choice of pot roast or scrod; please note the number of  
each which your family group wishes. Also, if anyone in  
your group has special dietary needs, you will find space  
on the reservation blank to note that also, as well as any  
other problems, such as a hearing deficit or difficulty in  
walking.

If you are coming from a distance, you may wish to  
arrive on Friday night and spend Saturday sampling the  
many places of interest in the area.

Chief among these is Sturbridge Village,  
where, on Saturday, September 21, you may witness  
"Fall Militia Day".

The "home-town militia" will practice marching and  
gunfiring drills, and also stage a mock battle;  
from 11:00 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

There are many motels in the area - phone numbers for  
the Sturbridge Area Tourist Association are:  
1-800-628-8379 and 1-508-347-7594

Phone number for the Salem Cross Inn is: 1-508-867-2345.

REUNION, cont.:

PROGRAM

9:30 A.M. Registration and social hour.

11:00 A.M. Board of Directors' meeting.

12:00 Noon. Luncheon.

1:30 P.M. Business meeting, including reports of  
officers and committees, awards to the youngest and oldest  
member present and the one who has come the farthest, and  
election of officers for the coming year.

2:30 P.M. Talk by our President John Bates, weaving  
tales of our forebears who first settled in this part of  
Massachusetts. Cousin John is a master of this type of  
story telling. If you have ancestors who lived in this  
area (Brookfield, Sturbridge, Spencer, Hardwick, etc.),  
feel free to bring along stories to share.

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RESERVATIONS for RICE FAMILY (1991) REUNION

On the other side of this page is a reservation blank.  
Please fill it out and return it, with your check for the  
luncheon, to:

Edmund Rice (1638) Association  
P.O.Box 440  
West Dover, VT 05356

Thank you. There is room for any further comments below:

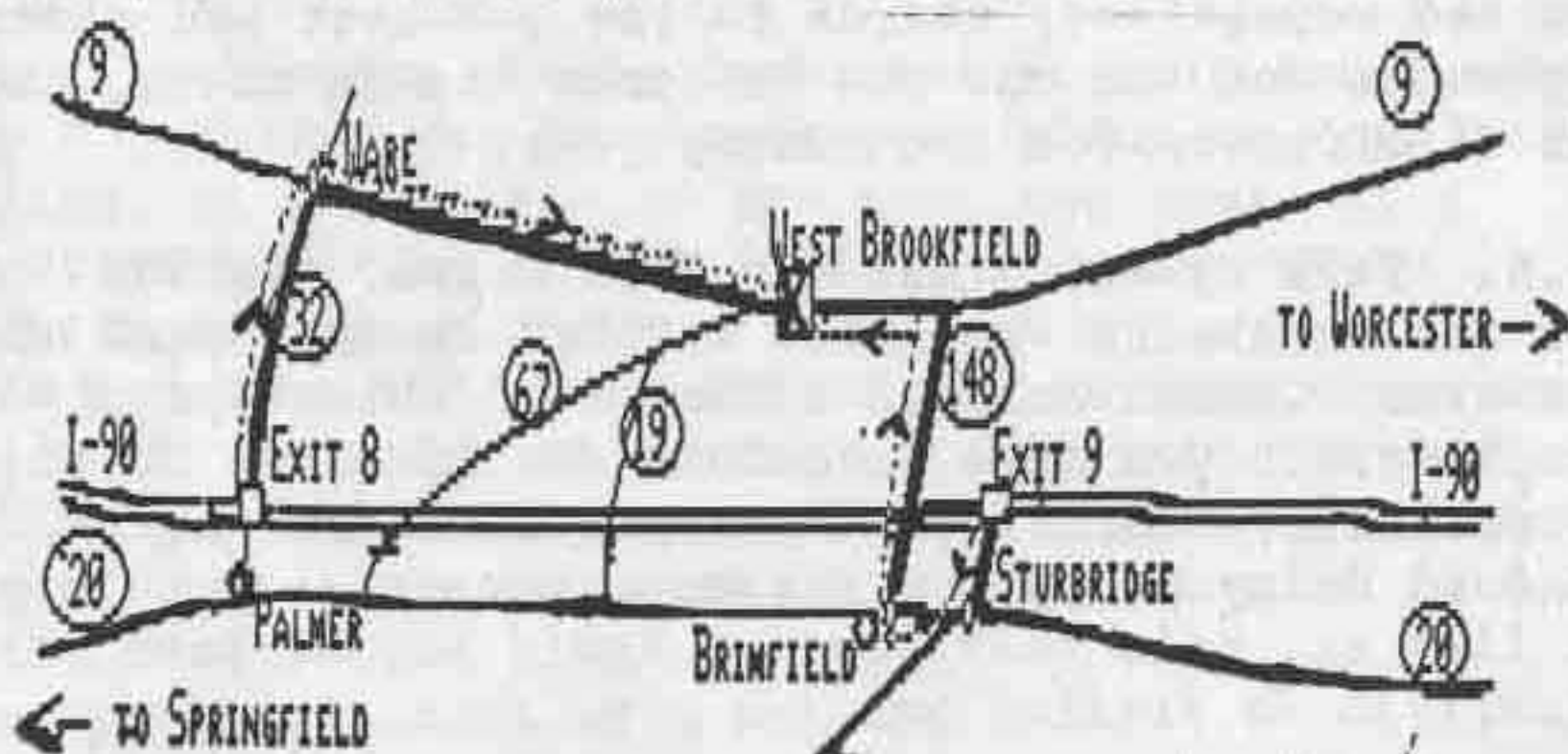


REUNION, cont.:DIRECTIONS to the SALEM CROSS INN

West Brookfield and the SALEM CROSS INN are on Rte. 9, between Ware and Spencer, a few miles north of the Massachusetts Turnpike, I-90.

I-90 Exit 8 is at Palmer; Route 32 north, to Ware, is well marked. Turn right on Rte.9 in Ware.

I-90 Exit 9 is at Sturbridge; this is well marked, but less simple. Bear right after exiting - through "Old Sturbridge Village" onto Rte.20 to Brimfield and Rte.148. Take Rte.148 north to Rte.9 and turn left.



Please fill out and return the reservation blank promptly, so that we can give timely notice to the Salem Cross people of how many to expect.

RESERVATIONS for RICE FAMILY (1991) REUNION

Enclosed is my check for \$\_\_\_\_\_. Please make \_\_\_\_\_ reservations (\$10.00 each) for me and my family for the reunion luncheon at Salem Cross Inn, West Brookfield, Massachusetts, on Sept. 22, 1991.

We would like \_\_\_\_\_ orders of pot roast,  
and \_\_\_\_\_ of scrod.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Note: dietary restrictions: \_\_\_\_\_  
other problems: \_\_\_\_\_

NEW MEMBERS:

for June, 1991:

Space precluded our taking proper note in the last issue of new "arrivals".

Sarah Ann Labrie, born December 17, 1990, to Cousin Joan and Paul Labrie. Joan is a daughter of Leon Harold Rice. She is the three-year-old "Joanie" in the story in the Spring issue.

William Alan Erdman, born December 20, 1990, to Cousin Edward and Helen Erdman. Ed is your scribe's first cousin once removed, another descendant of Daniel Rice, the first settler of Somerset, Vermont.

Josette Karen Bockelie, born July 7, 1991, to Michael and Nanci Snow Bockelie, grand-daughter of past president Alex Snow and your scribe.

Welcome to Sarah, William and Josette, and congratulations to their families!

\* \* \*

For this issue, we have two new members.

The first, Carolyn J. Heydinger, is from Mansfield Ohio. Carolyn is sending us her genealogy.

The second is Carole Susan Lambert, of Rockport, Mass., daughter of member Francis A. and Ruth Lambert. Carole and her father are descended from Edmund through Thomas's son, Elisha, who married Elizabeth Wheeler.

Cousin Francis made his career in the United States Army, serving in the Pacific theatre and the Phillipines during W.W.II. In 1951 he was stationed in Germany, where he rose in rank to Lieutenant Colonel and Commander of Troops. He retired as a full Colonel in 1960.

A warm welcome to Cousins Carolyn and Carole!



QUERIES:

The BRIGHAM family is thoroughly intertwined with the Rices from the very beginning. Edmund himself married Mercy (Hurd), the widow of Thomas Brigham, and Henry's daughter, Mary, married Thomas, the son of Thomas and Mercy (Hurd) Brigham.

Cousin Elden Brigham  
23261 80th Ave.  
Ewart, MI 49631,

is a descendant of Mary and Thomas Brigham, and would like to correspond with others of Brigham ancestry.

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Cousin Norma J. Fox  
Rt.#6 Box 194-B  
Wapakoneta, OH 45895,

is still wondering about her great-great-great grandmother, Elizabeth (Rice) Stollen. She was born about 1774, and married Henry Staehler/Stollen around 1795. The family lived, most of the time, in Zionsville, Lehigh Co. Penn., and attended the Zionsville Reformed Church there.

Elizabeth and Henry had eight children, all but two born in Zionsville. They were:

Anthony, b.1796 Henry, b.1797  
Susanna, b.1799 Thomas, b.1801  
Samuel, b.1806  
Hannah, b.1808 in Milford, Bucks Co. Penn.  
George, b. ? in Dickinson, Cumberland Co. Penn.  
Elizabeth, b.1819, back in Zionsville.

Can anyone give a clue about the parents of Elizabeth (Rice) Stollen?

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The controversy continues.

Cousin Margaret Rice writes to protest the continuation of the debate regarding Edmund Rice's grandfather. I apologize publicly, Cousin Margaret, and admit that my private inclination is similar to yours. I doubt that we are descended from royalty, legitimately or illegitimately. However, this Newsletter is a forum for the input of our members, not for the editor's personal opinions. Therefore we shall continue to print or report on whatever our readers feel is important or interesting enough to send us.

An example of how confusion about an individual's ancestors can arise, and assume an independent existence as if it were true, is the QUERY in the Autumn, 1990, issue, from Francis Thraen,  
10417 S. 47th St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85044.

Cousin Francis asked about one Henry Rice, son of "Thomas and Anna (Rice) Rice, who were married in St. Peter's Church in Kent Co., Va."

Now Cousin Francis sends us a photocopy of pages from a book named *Cantrell - Rice - Mackie*, by Lucylle Davis Rice (no publisher or date on the title page photocopied). This booklet is uncanny. It begins with the children of Edmund Rice, giving them as given in Ward's book, including spouses. It goes on to name the children of these children, again similar to the listings in Ward's book. Thomas, "3rd son of Edmund, born 1622..... (In the *Register* and in the records from England, Thomas was born in 1625, and died in 1681) .. married Mary King, had 6 children recorded at Sudbury, 8 more at Marlboro. His name is found among the titables in Northhampton County in 1666." The statement does not identify the State (or Colony) Northhampton County was in, but I don't believe there was a county by that name in Massachusetts.

The paragraph goes on to state that this Thomas "returned to England in 1695 to claim a legacy but died at sea." He owned land, at that time, in Hanover and



Gloucester Counties, (sic) apparently in Virginia. The memoirs of "Rev. David Rice, published....Lexington, Ky., 1824" are quoted as saying, "Thomas Rice was an Englishman by birth, of Welsh extraction. He was an early adventurer into Virginia....."

The Thomas from whom Cousin Francis is descended was "born June 30, 1654, baptized at St. Peter's Church, Kent County, Va., June 4, 1688 married Ann Rice, daughter of Edmund, Thomas's brother. He rose to Colonel in the French and Indian Wars." It is apparent to your scribe, being descended from the Thomas who married Anna Rice, daughter of Edward, and extremely familiar with his life, his children and their lives, that the Thomas who married Ann Rice in Virginia in 1688, and his father, Thomas, who returned to England in 1695 and "died at sea", are not descended from Edmund. The Edmund Rice Association has been aware that a Thomas Rice did emigrate to Virginia in the early 1600's, but your scribe has known nothing more of him. Possibly, now we do know a little more.

Space does not permit repeating any more of the discrepancies, but this is enough. Finding this kind of confusion in print makes it easy to understand how a false assumption of identity of someone a century earlier could have continued down to the present. Nevertheless, research into newly uncovered information in England is being continued. Cousins Reginald Rice of Menlo Park, Cal., and Carl Ulrich, of Alberta, Canada, are both actively searching for more definitive information about Edmund. It has even been suggested that someone may eventually find a relationship among Edmund, Robert Royce (who settled in Connecticut) and Thomas, the adventurer who settled in Virginia!

Thank you for sending us the material, Frank, - this may open a door to even more fascinating information!

## BOOK LIST

The following books are published by the Rice Association.

THE RICE FAMILY: by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858) reprint.

A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice.

379 pages.

SUPPLEMENT to THE RICE FAMILY: (1967) (soft cover)

Additions and corrections to the above -

110 pages.

For both: \$20.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER of RICE DESCENDANTS: (1970)

Continues the above to the 12th generation.

1594 pages.

\$25.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1. (1983)

New information through the first 8 generations.

224 pages.

\$12.50 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2. (1987)

Continues all of the above into the 14th and 15th generations.

663 pages.

\$30.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

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ORDER BLANK

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Send, with your check for the total, to:

William H. Drury, Book Custodian  
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION  
24 Buckman Drive,  
Chelmsford, MA 01824

(over)



## BOOK LIST, cont.

Narratives, with much genealogical information:

EDMUND RICE and HIS FAMILY: (1938) by Elsie Hawes Smith,  
and

WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: (1949) by Rev. Clayton Rice.

These two books are reprinted in one volume (1986) - 357 pages.  
\$17.00 plus \$2.50 postage and packing.

MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES: (1954) by Elsie Hawes Smith

A sequel to *Edmund Rice and His Family* - 109 pages.  
\$3.50 plus \$1.00 postage and packing.

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For those of you who missed it last year, there are some copies left of the article on Thomazine Frost Rice's background and genealogy. To obtain a copy, send \$2.00 and your name and address to me,

Corinne M. Snow  
P.O. Box 440  
West Dover, VT 05356

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ORDER BLANK

Book	Price	No. copies	Amount
(includes mailing)			
THE RICE FAMILY, (Ward) and its SUPPLEMENT :	\$22.50	_____	_____
"The" REGISTER:	\$27.50	_____	_____
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1:	\$15.00	_____	_____
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2:	\$32.50	_____	_____
EDMUND RICE and HIS FAMILY, and WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS:	\$19.50	_____	_____
MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES:	\$4.50	_____	_____
Total:			_____

(over)

## EDITOR'S NOTE:

On being a grandparent:

This Newsletter is nearly six weeks late in being published. The events which caused the first three or four weeks' delay were relevant to some "big" problems in a "small" town (Dover, Vermont), occupying the time and undivided attention of both Alex and your scribe. Those events are not relevant here, however, but the fact that they were immediately followed by the birth of our third grandchild (see page 7), is relevant.

After a week in Virginia, keeping house for Nanci and caring for the new baby's two-year-old brother, we have returned to our normally hectic life with some new perspectives. These came, not from the event of becoming a grandparent, but rather from living with a two-year-old and observing him in the process of becoming a person. We watched him interact with his playmates and listened as he learned to talk, to express in words not only his needs but also his wishes, interests and concerns, and suddenly we saw the progression of the human race in a clearer, brighter light.

Every complete genealogy entry includes a named individual, his/her date of birth and death, his/her marriage, and, rather incidentally, the names of his/her and the spouse's parents. Of equal importance are the names and birthdates of each one of the couple's children. The resulting complete entry is known as a "family group sheet", the basic unit or "building block" of a genealogical record. A person will eventually be found in at least three of these units, first as one of the children, second in the "star" position as the named individual, and lastly as one of four parents as each child, in turn, marries and becomes the "star" of the next family group.

This, obviously, mirrors life as each generation takes its place in the world and then steps aside to make room for the next. Watching today's children, we realize more clearly that each of the thousands of names in our



genealogy represents a person, a person who was born into a family group and learned, in the same way as we and our children and our children's children have learned, to become a human being. Only minor differences in life-style change from generation to generation. Not all of these persons lived and grew to maturity, but those who did, and especially those who married and had children, entered the long procession of the generations.

When I first came to know the Edmund Rice (1638) Association, I was young. In the *Register* (pg.1237, for the curious) my name is (misspelled) at the bottom of my father's "family group". In Supplement 2 (pg.555), I have "star" billing (spelled correctly, too!). Now my name has dropped to join the names of three other people as one of the parents of the new "star" and spouse. This has happened or will happen to all of us, and, sooner or later, a date of death will be added to the record.

There has been little change in the variability of the age at death of humans since Edmund Rice roamed the forests and worked the fields in eastern Massachusetts some three hundred years ago, although since then the average age at death has risen by some five or ten years. But whether an individual dies young or lives to be over 100 is, ultimately, unimportant.

Although often interesting, the exact details of our lives are, ultimately, unimportant. Whether or not we reached any of the goals we set for ourselves, whether or not we strived and failed or succeeded, all pale in the light of the fact that we existed and lived for our brief time on this earth. We who have lived to see dates of death added to the names of loved ones know that this is not the end. The record of each person's existence remains, as the genetic material of that person continues to live in each passing generation.

We who are part of the Edmund Rice family sense that we are fortunate in "knowing who we are." We know where we fit into the ongoing parade of the generations. More than that, as we learn more about our forebears, we recognize them as persons, persons who lived, grew up, loved, and

begat or bore children, and eventually died, leaving the stage to their children's children and, eventually, to us and our children's children. We can identify with those long-ago people and know that our hopes and dreams are no different from theirs. We can look into the past and see the future.

We look into the bright eyes of a two-year-old as we hear, "I yove you, Gam-ma", and we know that the parade of the generations continues forever.

Thanks for listening,



ADAM

*Mickey*



# Edmund Rice (1638) Association

ESTABLISHED 1851

INCORPORATED 1934



A Family Portrait (pg.7)

## Newsletter

Volume 57, #3, Summer, 1991

Corinne M. Snow, editor

NEWSLETTER  
EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION  
P.O. Box 440  
West Dover, VT 05356