

OFFICERS 1991-1992

President: John S. Bates
P.O.Box 726, Ashland, NH 03217
(603) 968-3142

First Vice President: Jane Seaver Kirk
555 W. Madison St. Chicago, IL 60661

Second Vice President: Frederick Rice
5406 Terra Heights Dr. Manhattan, KS 66502
(913) 537-2687

Secretary: Virginia Grammer
62 Sullivan St. Charlestown, MA 02129
(617) 241-7931

Treasurer/Book Custodian: William Drury
24 Buckman Drive, Chelmsford, MA 01824
(508) 256-7469

Historian/Newsletter: Corinne Snow
P.O.Box 440, West Dover, VT 05356
(802) 464-8844

Directors:

Cynthia Blomstrom: 38 Indian Hill Dr. Worcester, MA 01601
John E. Rice: 4 Pleasant St. Marlborough, MA 01752
Louise Trudeau: William Street, Chester, MA 01011
Bruce McPherson: P.O.Box 1126, Kingston, NY 12401
Laurence Patterson: R.R. 1, St. Eugene, Ontario, K0B 1P0 Canada
Henry Adams: Box 482 Marshfield, MA 02050

PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Dear Rice Family members,

Our reunion this year, at the Sterling Inn, appears as though it will be one of our best, and I'd like to see even more people attend on 19 September.

Sterling is a nice country town with an active historical group and a historic walk through the central area. The Inn is very near the town common, upon which is located the "Little Lamb" statue. Everyone knows the verse "with fleece as white as snow", but does everyone know that that is a true story?

I'm told that there have been several Rice families in the town. One of the Rice families, chairmakers by occupation, loaded their goods aboard a wagon some time in the mid-1800's and headed 'way out west to some place in Pennsylvania. Other Rices were active in local businesses and property ownership.

Sterling is a "daughter town" of Lancaster, the birthplace of John White. He was the first landholder of the White Farm in West Brookfield, now the Salem Cross Inn, where our 1991 reunion was held.

This year we have the good fortune to have with us Dartmouth College Professor of History Jere Daniell, PhD., a renowned scholar of New England history, and author of one of the set of thirteen volumes of colonial histories commissioned during the Bi-centennial observance. He'll give a talk after luncheon on "America's Love Affair with the New England Town." He is entertaining and technically accurate, a treasured resource person.

Looking forward to seeing you on Saturday, September 19.

Best wishes,



ANNUAL REUNION, 1992

Practical Information

Sterling is near I-190, at the intersection of Mass. Rtes. 12 and 62. The Sterling Inn is on Rte. 12, just south of the Common.

How to get there:

Coming from any direction, Sterling is approached on I-190, an arterial which runs northward from I-290 in Worcester to the Mohawk Trail (Rte.2) near Leominster.

(I-290 is accessed from (south) I-90/Mass.Turnpike, or (east) I-495.)

Sterling is 8 miles northeast of Worcester and about the same distance south of Leominster. On I-190 look for exit signs to Sterling and/or Rte.62 or Rte.12.

Places to stay:

Some who come from a distance may wish to arrive Friday night and/or stay over on Saturday. While formal plans for supper on Saturday are not being made, informal groups of congenial cousins can prolong the pleasure by getting together for a meal.

The following are addresses and phone numbers of nearby hostelries, including

The Sterling Inn

240 Worcester Road, Sterling, MA 01564
508-422-6592

also

Deershorn Manor Estate - Bed and Breakfast

357 Sterling Road, South Lancaster, MA 01561
(on Rt.62, east - nearest)
508-365-9022

Clinton Motor Inn

146 Main St. Clinton, MA 01510
(Rt.110, turn right off Rt.62, east)
508-386-8133

The Deerhorn Farm - Bed and Breakfast

2 Brown Road, Harvard, MA 01451
(Rt.110, turn left off Rt.62, east - farthest.)
508-456-3370

ANNUAL REUNION, 1992

The Annual Meeting of the Edmund Rice (1638) Association will be held on Saturday, September 19, 1992, at the Sterling Inn in Sterling, Massachusetts.

First Church of Sterling



First building ca.1742; this building ca.1843

Blessed with an abundance of lakes and streams, the land that is now Sterling was home to native Americans as far back as 7,000 B.C. In the early 1600's the people living here were known as "Nashaway"; in 1643 and again in 1702 they sold tracts of this land to the founders of Lancaster. The first to move out from Lancaster to this area was Gamaliel Beaman, who in 1720 settled near the road which now bears his name. (cont.)

REUNION, 1992, cont.

Gamaliel Beaman had a daughter, Eunice, born 1712 in Lancaster. In 1733 she married Jonas Wilder, a descendant of Thomas through his daughter Mary, who married Josiah White and had seven children.

Two of these children are of interest here. The oldest child of Josiah and Mary (Rice) White was a daughter, Sarah, born in 1680, and the third child was a son, John, born in 1684.

This John White is the one who settled in West Brookfield, whose story was told so ably by president John Bates last year.

In 1698 his sister Sarah married John Wilder. They had a son named Jonas, who was the Jonas Wilder who married Eunice Beaman, whose family was the first to settle in what later became Sterling.

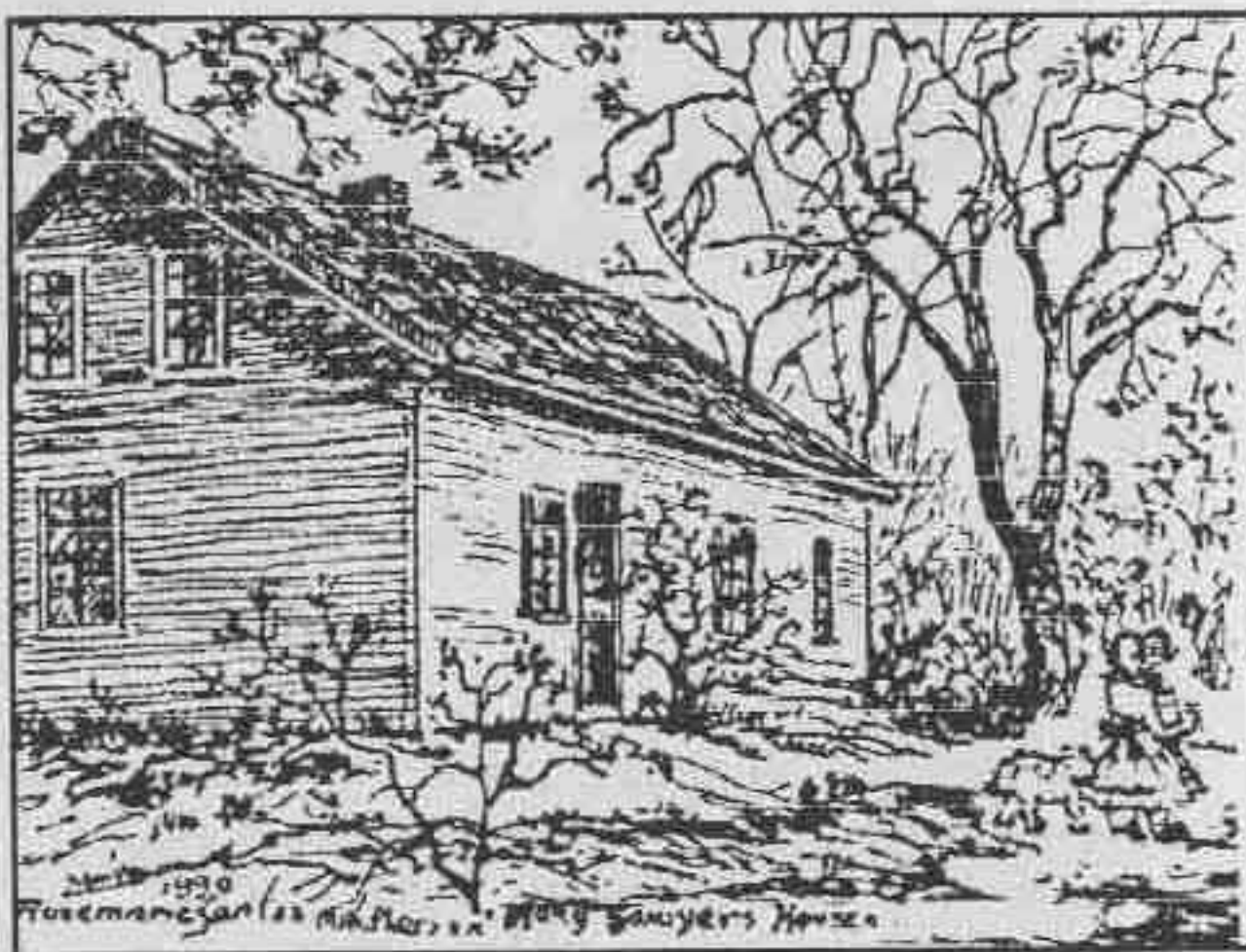
This section of Lancaster grew rapidly, and in 1781 it separated from its "parent" and was incorporated as Sterling, named after Lord Stirling, a Scottish lord who helped the colonists during the Revolutionary War. Agriculture and cottage industries were the main occupations of the townspeople, there not being adequate water power for larger industries. The railroad came to Sterling in the 1850's, opening up new markets and giving the town a new spurt of growth. Several inventors, including Ebenezer Butterick, who first developed dress patterns, flourished in Sterling in the latter nineteenth century.

And then there was
Mary Sawyer -

(Sorry - I can't find
her among the many
"Sawyers" in the
Rice books)

- whose pet lamb inspired
the familiar nursery
rhyme.

This is her house ->



Illustrations, by Rosemarie Santos McPherson, 1990, and the map are from Sterling Historical Society brochure.

REUNION, 1992, cont.

Program schedule:

Registration, with coffee and doughnuts and a social hour will be between 9:30 and 10:30.

The business meeting will begin at 10:30 sharp. This will spare the speaker from sitting through the business meeting, and give us the whole afternoon for socializing, chatting with Dr. Daniell, and possibly engaging in other activities of interest.

Luncheon will be served after the business meeting, between 12:30 and 1:00. The menu includes a choice of Top Sirloin of Beef, Baked Haddock, or a Vegetarian Dish. Please indicate your choice on the Reservation Blank.

Dr. Jere Daniell, Professor of History at Dartmouth will speak on "America's Love Affair with the New England Town". Since Rices, from Edmund down, have been instrumental in founding many Towns, this should be of particular interest.

Social hour to follow, with some planned activities, an opportunity, weather permitting, to explore Sterling, and also the pilgrimage to the Edmund Rice memorial in Sudbury.

RESERVATION BLANK

Please fill out the other side of this blank, detach and send it with your check to the treasurer,

William H. Drury
24 Buckland Drive
Chelmsford, MA 01824

REUNION, 1992, cont.

We hope many of you are making plans to attend this very special event. For those of you who are planning to come, and for those who can't, but enjoy fantasizing, on the opposite page is a map of the Sterling Historic district.

Some of the places marked are:

7. Josiah Leavitt house, c.1778: This house came into the possession of Samuel Wilder, through his father-in-law, and has been in the Wilder family ever since.
A Samuel Sawyer Wilder, also a descendant of Josiah and Sarah (Rice) White, was born in 1809 and lived in Sterling, and may or may not be the same Samuel Wilder.
 9. Moses Smith house/shop. Built c.1788, rebuilt after a fire in 1795. Mr. Smith was the Town Clerk, and the second floor of the shop was used as a meeting hall. Legend has it that the tunnel which connects these buildings was part of the "underground railroad."
 11. Town Hall. Built c.1835. The first building was built in 1801, making Sterling the first Town in Worcester County to separate Church and Town business.
 17. Sterling Historical Society, curator, Mrs. Hopfman.
Built c.1760. Enlarged to its present size during the 1800's. Owned by Gen. Thomas H. Blood until the 1820's and by Dr. William Peck in the latter half of the 1800's. Some of Dr. Peck's Harvard classmates, Thoreau, Holmes and Emerson, were frequent visitors.
- X. Location of Sterling Inn;
On Rt.12, south of the Common and the junction with Rt.62.

RESERVATION BLANK

Luncheon, Sterling Inn, Sterling, Mass. September 19, 1992

Dear Bill,

Please make _____ reservation(s) for me and my party for the luncheon.

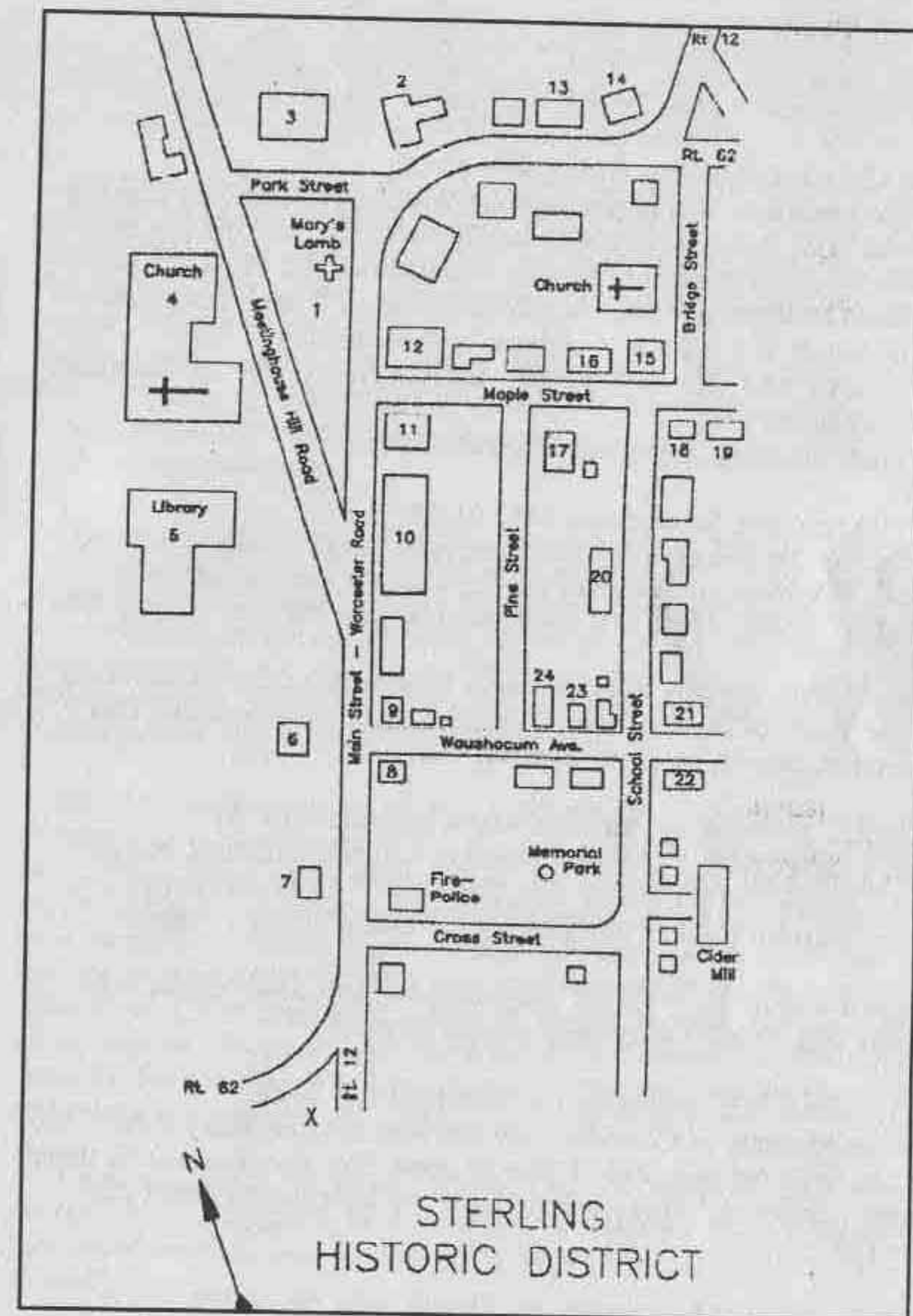
We would like _____ meat, _____ fish and _____ vegetarian entree(s).

Enclosed is my check for _____ (\$10.00 each)

Signed _____

Address:

Map of Sterling Historic District, showing points of interest:



Copies of the complete brochure will be available at the meeting.

QUERIES:

Note: The queries in this column are printed in the hope that one or more of our members may have relevant information. If you have such information, please correspond with the questioner directly. Also, if your query was not published, or if you wish to try a second time, do not hesitate to send it in again.

Bob Werth, 16560 Ovitt Rd., Bowling Green, OH 43402,

is looking for the birth date and parents of one William H. Rice who married Margaret Kirk. Their son, James K(irk) Rice was born about 1815, died in 1876 and is buried in the Congressional Cemetery in Washington, D.C. He married, first, Susan Angerine Omstrom and second, her sister Sarah Downs Omstrom.

His daughter by Sarah, Ina L. Rice, was born in 1861, possibly in the Poughkeepsie, N.Y. area, and died in 1954. She married Henry William Scammell and lived in the Washington area.

Does anyone know anything about this William Rice?

Cousin Jon Lee, P.O.Box 479, Sunderland, MA 01375

is trying to establish the identity of Anna Rice, born on 27 March 1764, died 17 September, 1833. She married Jonathan Fuller, who was the son of Sarah Chapman and Shubael Fuller. Their first child was Hannah, born on 1 April 1786 in Hawley, Mass.

Cousin Jon was looking for this information in May or June, for an historical presentation for the Town of Hawley, but if anyone knows anything about this Rice/Fuller connection, he will be pleased at any time.

Cousin Joe Comstock, Jr. 650 West Harrison Ave. Claremont CA 91711

is interested in Charles Rice¹⁰⁵, of Westborough and Marlborough, son of Thomas²⁸, son of Thomas⁴; and Charles' son, Zebulon²³⁸, of Westborough and Brookfield. Charles married Rachel Wheeler, and Zebulon married Abigail Forbush.

Cousin Joe would like to know "What are their birth and death dates? Are their homes - farms still intact? Other descendants around?"

Cousin Mildred Henschel, 835 Valentine Dr. Dubuque IA 52003

is looking for descendants of Consider Amsden who married Mary Rice (7-59-164-362-691) and is listed on page 243 of Ward's book. She also wonders "is there an AMSDEN book published?" Does anyone have any information about this branch of the family?

Cousin Jo-anna Rice Horn, 514 Delancey St., Philadelphia PA 19106

has a query which is detailed on page 16, and

Leta Olson, 616 Powell, Pampa, TX 79065

wants to know, Can anyone provide the details of Mary Baker Eddy's descent from Edmund Rice?

COVER STORY and OTHER TID-BITS

On the cover is a photograph of an Iowa gravestone, sent in by Cousin Mildred Henschel, of Dubuque, Iowa. She believes it was taken in the Linwood Cemetery in Dubuque, but does not know who Miss Lucy Rice was. (Nor do I find an unmarried Lucy Rice of the right age in any of our books.)

At the same time, we also received a letter from Cousin Charles Wadsworth Hollister, of Maynard, Mass. Cousin Charles is not yet a member, but is highly eligible, being descended from Edmund in at least six different lines. Not only that, he also traces a line to Thomasine (Frost) Rice's parents, through her brother, Edmund Frost.

What does that have to do with grave stones? Well, cousin Charles also reports finding, "purely by chance, the gravestone of Joseph Rice (son of Edmund) in the Ponobscitucut Cemetery, Stow, Ma., and a number of third generation stones in neighboring cemeteries."

So we go from the grave of an unknown lady in Iowa to the graves of our identified ancestors, including the ancestor (Joseph⁷) of the family which Cousin Mildred inquires about on page 10! Grave-stones are fascinating, especially to those who pursue genealogy. They tell us much, not only about the person(s) whose memorial they are, but of the times, the social status, and even some of the feelings of their closest kin. They tell us much, in a poignant, intuitive way, and yet what is untold may be even more fascinating.

Recently in these pages we had a debate about why maiden names are or are not placed on gravestones. When present, they certainly help to identify a man's wife! Other items which may or may not be found on a memorial are the precise date of birth, or the exact age including number of days to the day of death. But what seems most tantalizing is an item one can't expect to find on a gravestone - the rest of the family! Whether in a crowded city cemetery or a little plot along a country road, one finds little groups of stones, memorializing a man, his wife or wives, and two, three or even more babies and minor children. One weeps, inwardly, for the man who buried these loved ones, and for the mother who bore and raised the children until they were taken from her.

Then one thinks, "Someone else was here to bury the parent(s) - was it another son or daughter, or several grown children? What happened to them? Did they come back, to care for the grave, to mourn? Or did they leave, never to return?"

The grave cannot tell us. We must seek elsewhere to learn about the fate of the surviving children. This is the fascination of genealogy; the sense that we are searching the lives of real people, people who lived, loved, laughed and cried,

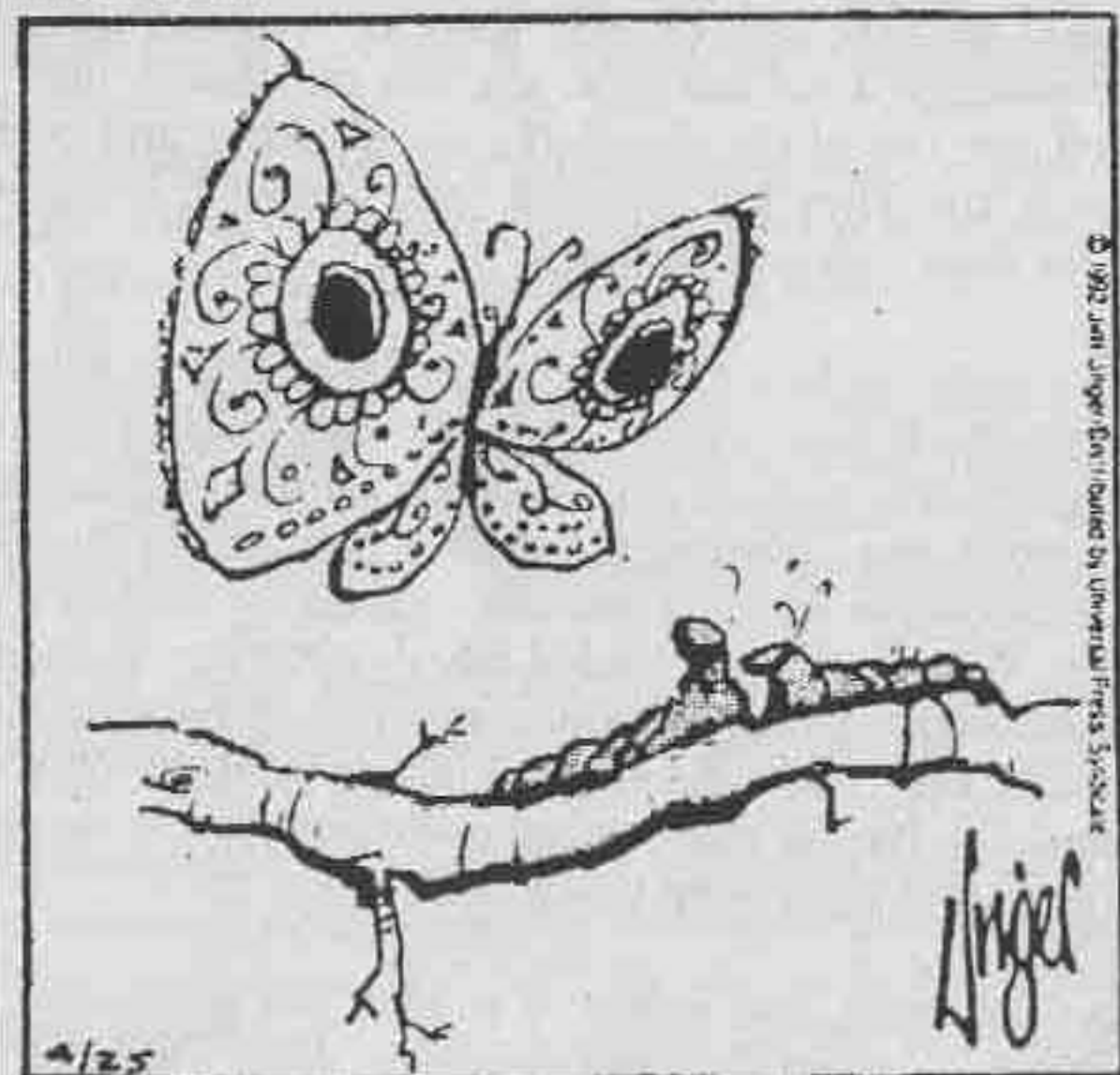
people whose problems may have differed from ours but were very real nonetheless, people about whom we need to know more than just a name and a date on a gravestone.

The more we know, the more we seem to want to know and try to know, until at last the gravestone becomes, not a symbol of sadness and grief, but a magnificent testimony that these people we have come to know were indeed real, as alive in their time as we are in ours.

* * *

To jump from the sublime to the ridiculous and become a little irreverent but not irrelevant, the following was received recently from Cousin George Ulrich, of Sarasota, Florida:

Herman



"I know he's your cousin, Maurice, but don't you think he's a little strange?"

BOOK LIST

The following books are published by the Rice Association:

THE RICE FAMILY: by Andrew Henshaw Ward (1858)

A genealogical history of descendants of Deacon Edmund Rice (reprint)- 379 pp.
- \$20.00 + \$2.50 postage & packing

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

Additions and corrections to the above. - 110 pages.

- \$3.50 postpaid

INDEX TO *THE RICE FAMILY*

Computer printout, 34 pp.

\$4.00 postpaid

BOTH INDEXES together:

INDEX TO "SUPPLEMENT"

Computer printout, 18 pp.

\$2.50 postpaid

- \$5.00 postpaid

A GENEALOGICAL REGISTER of RICE DESCENDANTS: (1970)

Continues the above to the 12th generation. - 1594 pages

- \$25.00 + \$3.50 postage & packing

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1. (1983)

New information through the first 8 generations. - 224 pages.

- \$12.50 + \$2.50 postage & packing

SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2. (1987)

Continues all of the above into the 14th and 15th generations. - 663 pages.

- \$30.00 + \$3.50 postage & packing

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)

BOOKS cont.

EDMUND RICE and HIS FAMILY: (1938)

by Elsie Hawes Smith,

An historical narrative about the early days of the Rices; contains much genealogical information, as well as being a charming story; and

**WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS: (1949)**

by Rev. Clayton Rice.

Another historical narrative, but based on those Rices who pushed Westward to the prairies after short stays in New Hampshire and Vermont.

These two reprints are combined in one volume, printed by the Association in 1986 - both: 357 pages. - \$17.00 plus \$2.50 postage & packing

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

A sequel to EDMUND RICE AND HIS FAMILY; contains information about Rices who migrated from New England, as well as some of the more famous "cousins".

- 109 pages. - \$3.50 + \$1.00 postage & packing

CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF EDWIN RICE: (1975, soft cover) edited by Ted Perry

A collection of letters written to his mother and aunt in 1861-1862,

- 84 pages. - \$3.00 postpaid

----- ORDER BLANK -----

Book	Price	No.copies	Amount
	(includes mailing)		
THE RICE FAMILY (Ward) and SUPPLEMENT:	\$22.50	_____	_____
SUPPLEMENT only:	\$3.50	_____	_____
INDEXES:	\$5.00	_____	_____
"The" REGISTER:	\$28.50	_____	_____
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 1:	\$15.00	_____	_____
SUPPLEMENT #2, Part 2:	\$33.50	_____	_____
EDMUND RICE and HIS FAMILY, and			
WE SOUGHT THE WILDERNESS:	\$19.50	_____	_____
MORE ABOUT THOSE RICES:	\$4.50	_____	_____
CIVIL WAR LETTERS OF EDWIN RICE:	\$3.00	_____	_____
	Total:	_____	_____

(over)

OBITUARIES:

* * *

Gordon H. Rice "was born in 1908 at Atlantic City and died on January 29, 1992, at the Pennsylvania Hospital - the nation's first hospital, founded in 1751 by Benjamin Franklin and Dr. Thomas Bond."

The above is quoted from the letter from his daughter, Jo-anna Rice Horn, notifying us. The letter is filled with fascinating historical glimpses, which will be found in "STORIES" on the following page. Thank you, Cousin Jo-anna, and our warmest sympathy to you and your family.

* * *

Estelle E. Herington, of Portsmouth, N. H., died June 4, 1992 at the age of 92. A daughter of William and Estelle (Rice) Dickinson, she and her three sisters were members of the Edmund Rice Association. Cousin Estelle, the widow of Fletcher Herington, was also a member of the United Methodist Church, the Eastern Star, and the American Legion Auxiliary, of which she was a past president.

For the past several years she had lived with and was cared for by her nephew, Bruce L. Coutu. As he said in his letter notifying us, "She will be missed, but the suffering is over."

God bless you, Cousin Bruce, and we look forward to welcoming you as a member of the Rice Association.

* * *

STORIES

Cousin Jo-anna Rice Horne, of Philadelphia, Pa., writes in remembering her father, Gordon H. Rice (see Obituaries, page 15);

"Twelve years ago Gordon spent a happy summer in the genealogical library of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, poring over tomes as he traced his ancestry back to Edmund and Edward. He found the crucial connection in Martin Rice, a Revolutionary War fifer, whose son, Martin, left Petersham, Mass. for Philadelphia. The rest was easy, for the sons of Martin, Jr. were already familiar names in the family folklore.

"It is indeed fascinating to see the history of an unassuming family mirrored in part of the history of an entire nation. Before the Civil War, Philadelphia Martin entered a field just starting to develop in America - shoe manufacturing. Philadelphia, beginning to be known as "The Workshop of the World", produced shoes which travelling salesmen sold retail. Martin peddled ladies' shoes throughout the South, docking at plantation wharves and showing his wares to the fair residents of the antebellum mansions. His father had ended his days as a struggling farmer in rural Petersham, Mass., surviving with the help of a Revolutionary War pension. Martin, Jr., however, bettered himself by becoming a Philadelphia shoe salesman.

"His grandson (my father's father) exemplified perfectly the all-American Horatio Alger stories, for Arthur E. Rice at 15 in 1888, began work as a copyboy in the Pennsylvania Salt Manufacturing Company. By 1921 he was Penn. Salt's president.

"The American story, however, continued to be acted out in our family; the Great Depression wiped out most of the inheritance which had been left in trust for my father who had been orphaned at 15. He, therefore, had to begin again in a country and during a century which, while less frequently producing Horatio Alger heroes as previously, still rewards steady and honest effort.

"One other historical footnote... Martin, Jr. (who left Petersham for Philadelphia) was buried in 1871 in Philadelphia's old Roneldson Cemetery where a Scottish tradition was practiced: before the era of clinical precision in determining death, the Scots connected a bell pull between the corpse's big toe and the caretaker's cottage --- to reduce the chance of a Poe-like circumstance occurring!"

As a footnote, Cousin Jo-anna asks... Does anyone have a Rice relative who, at the turn of the century (1900), produced and sold the marble which embellishes most of Philadelphia's stupendous Victorian "wedding cake" --- our beloved City Hall? A tour guide, referring to the beauty, quality and awesome cost of the marble, said it came from John (?) Rice's family quarry in New England.

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Cheryl Branaman, of Loveland, Colorado, is descended from Thomas⁴ through his son, Ephraim³², to a Martha (Rice) Chappel. We await the details of her descent from Martha!

Helen F. Johnson, of Jackson, Tennessee, is descended through Thomas's son, Elisha³⁸, one of the original proprietors of Worcester, Mass. and husband of Elizabeth Wheeler, greatgranddaughter of William White of the Mayflower.

William and Bertha Mustatia are the parents of William Mustatia, Jr. whose new membership was noted in the Spring, 1992, issue. Originally from Michigan, they now live in Quartzsite, Arizona.

Gail Rice Powers, of Watertown, N.Y., is a niece of Anne Rice Jacobsen.

Cousin Anne reports that Gail is a "talented musician. Her husband Raymond and daughter Julia join her Northern Choral that will spend 2 weeks in July on a concert tour in England and Wales."

We welcome Cousin Gail and wish her a most successful tour!

Wilbur Devens Raymond, of New London, N.H. is descended from a Violetta Rice who married Comfort Raymond in New Canaan, Ct. before 1765. (Query in Spring issue) Their son, Samuel Rice Raymond, who emigrated to Canada in 1783 and settled at St. John, New Brunswick, was Cousin Wilbur's grandfather.

Alvin Stowell Rice, of Palm City, Florida, is being given his membership as a "surprise" from his Cousin Eugene R. Rice.

Also;

Joseph S. Baylis, of Menlo Park, California

Glen A. Hubbell, of Thamesville, Ontario

William A. McGilpin, Jr. of Port St. Lucie, Florida

We are most happy to welcome all of you!

POST SCRIPT

Summer is here, and soon it will be September and time for the Annual Reunion. Those of you who come regularly will notice a significant change in the program - instead of a Directors' meeting in the morning, we shall hold the main meeting, with committee reports and election of officers, before lunch. (Those of you who often arrive just in time for lunch, take note! - try for 10:30 A.M.!)

One reason for this is our president John Bates's desire to streamline the operation of our Association, to make it run more smoothly, efficiently, and happily. As he has said, this way there will be more time for enjoyment! In line with this streamlining, some other changes have been made in the functioning of the officers and directors. One of the most important is the development of committees, to give more of our members a chance to have a "hands-on" role in the organization. If you are one who would like to have a more meaningful part, speak up. If you are coming to the Reunion, think about speaking out and offering your skills, whether they be in genealogy, communications, or just plain record-keeping, and becoming a more active member of the team.

Several committees are already at work, and some are getting started. Where you live doesn't matter; the U.S. Postal Service and the Telephone Companies, regardless of reputation, are still the best in the world for transmitting messages back and forth across long as well as short distances.

One important change has been to move the job of Membership Chairman from your scribe to our treasurer, **Bill Drury**. In the future, all inquiries about membership (as well as dues) should be sent to him. Genealogies will remain the responsibility of your scribe, and we have a committee helping with that task.

The Newsletter remains your scribe's "first love". For some who may be interested in technology, a word about the production of this Newsletter. It is composed on a Tandy SX^a computer, using WordPerfect 5.0^a word processor and a HP Laserjet IIP^a printer. The varying type-faces were obtained through the courtesy of Cousin George Ulrich, to whom much thanks. The illustrations are incorporated by using a hand-scanner, and the Cover was created on PC-Paintbrush^a. This issue includes a "first" -the cover design and the illustration were both imported into the word-processor and one superimposed on the other - quite successfully, to my pleased surprise. Finally, the copies are made on a Sharp^a copier, on recycled paper.

We keep trying to improve our technique and our product, and want to thank all of you who have written to say you enjoy reading it. We'll try to keep it enjoyable!

Your cousin and scribe,

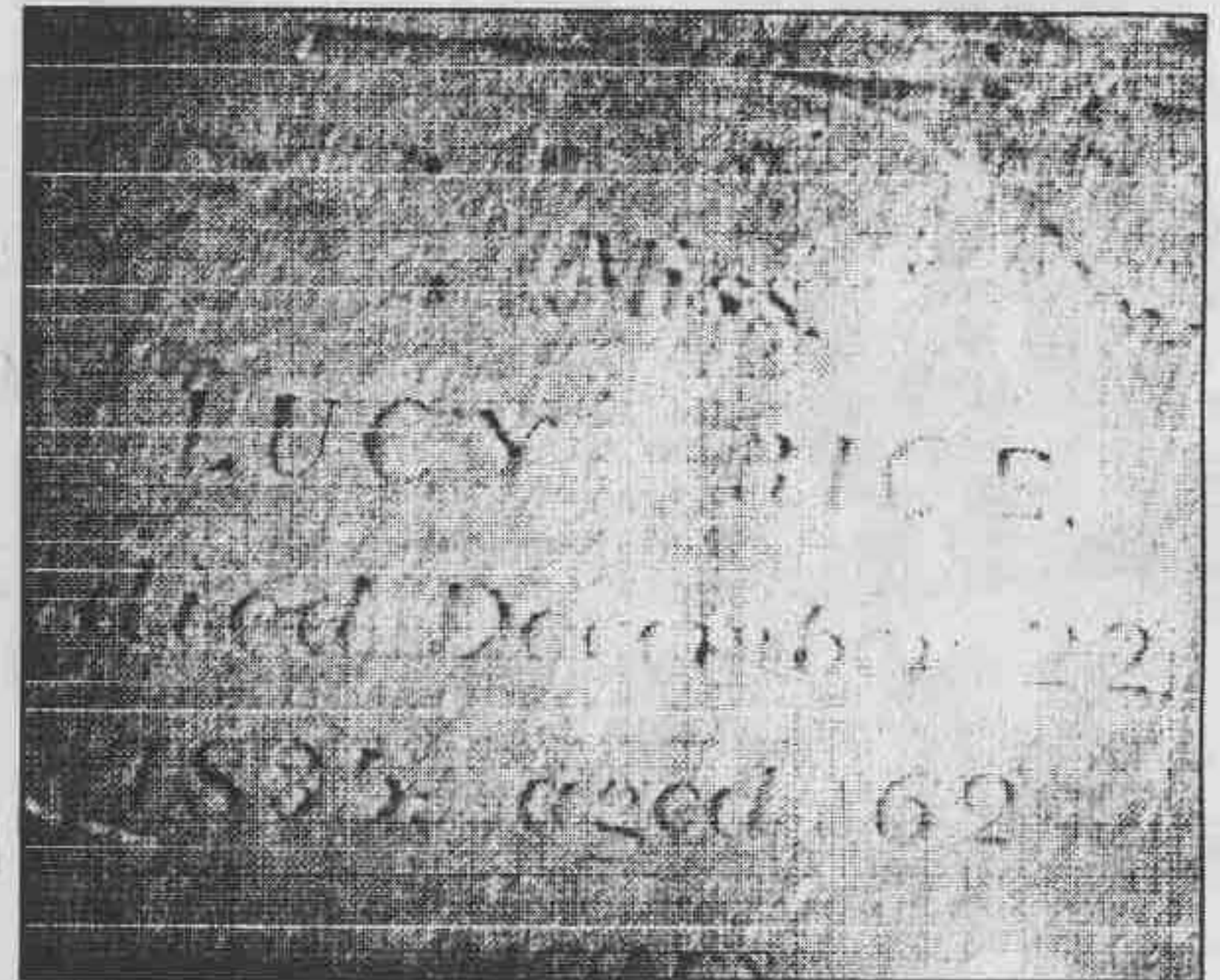
Mickey

Edmund Rice (1638) Association

ESTABLISHED 1851

INCORPORATED 1934

A Gravestone in Iowa:



Newsletter

Volume 58, #3, Summer, 1992

Corinne M. Snow, editor

NEWSLETTER

EDMUND RICE (1638) ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 440

West Dover, VT 05356

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

